

# Modifying & Extending LAMMPS

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# Resources for modifying LAMMPS

- Before you start writing code:
  - be familiar with what is already in LAMMPS
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      - 1st hit: [lammps.sandia.gov/threads/msg20748.html](http://lammps.sandia.gov/threads/msg20748.html)
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      - Ad hit: Thermostats at Lowe's ([www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com))
  - post a “how can I do this” message to the mail list
    - email to [lammps-users@lists.sourceforge.net](mailto:lammps-users@lists.sourceforge.net)

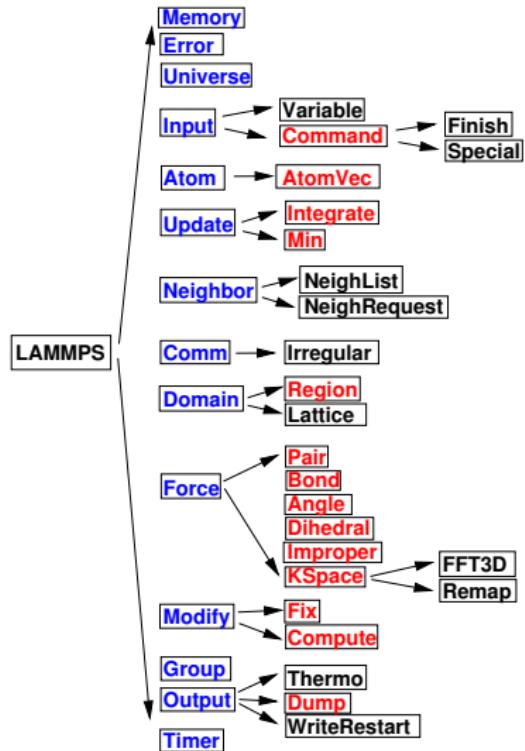
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- Section in manual: **Modifying & Extending LAMMPS**
  - [doc/Section\\_modify.html](http://lammps.sandia.gov/doc/Section_modify.html)

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- Section in manual: **Modifying & Extending LAMMPS**
  - doc/Section\_modify.html
- Developers manual (brief!)
  - [doc/Developer.pdf](#)
  - diagram of class hierarchy
  - pseudo-code & explanation of how a timestep works

# Class structure of LAMMPS



- LAMMPS itself is a class
  - can be instantiated multiple times
  - has library interface
  - callable via C++, C, Fortran, Python
- Blue are core classes
  - visible anywhere in LAMMPS
- Red are style classes
  - one parent class
  - many child classes

# Source files

- Rule of thumb: every **input script command** has corresponding **class** and corresponding **file name**
  - run command ⇒ Run class ⇒ run.cpp + run.h
  - pair\_style lj/cut command ⇒  
PairLJCut class ⇒ pair\_lj\_cut.cpp/h
- **Src** directory
  - core classes are all here
  - many style classes also here
- **Package** sub-directories (type make package to see)
  - package = group of related style classes
  - src/KSPACE = long-range Coulombic solvers
  - src/USER-OMP = OpenMP versions of many classes (Axel)
  - two flavors: **standard** (26) and **user** (13)
- **Lib** directory
  - some packages require auxiliary libraries
  - those included in LAMMPS are under lib
  - examples: lib/gpu, lib/meam, lib/colvars (Axel)

# Core classes

See doc/Developer.pdf for more details

- **Memory** = memory allocation of 1d, 2d, etc arrays
- **Error** = error and warning messages
- **Universe** = partition procs ⇒ multiple “worlds”, one per sim
- **Input** = read input script, variables, added commands
- **Atom** = per-particle data
- **Update** = dynamics and minimization
- **Neighbor** = build neighbor lists
- **Comm** = inter-processor communication
- **Domain** = simulation box and geometric regions
- **Force** = potentials (pair, bond, angle, etc, KSpace)
- **Modify** = fixes and computes
- **Group** = collections of particles
- **Output** = thermodynamics, dump files, restart files
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Look at header files (src/domain.h) to understand core classes  
and LAMMPS generally

## Style classes

90% of source code is extensions via 14 **styles**

See `src/style*.h` or `grep CLASS *.h`

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See src/style\*.h or grep CLASS \*.h

Easy for developers and users to add new features:

- particle types = **atom style**
- force fields = **pair, bond, angle, dihedral, improper** styles
- long range = **kspace** style
- fix = **fix style** = BC, constraint, time integration, ...
- diagnostics = **compute style**
- geometric region = **region** style
- integrator = **integrate** style (Verlet, rRESPA)
- minimizer = **min** style
- snapshot output =
- **dump** style
- input command = **command** style = read\_data, velocity, run

## Other code details

- Pointers = ultimate base class
  - all classes (except LAMMPS) derive from it
  - holds pointers to all core classes
  - enables easy access anywhere in code
    - domain→xprd for x box-length
- Everything inside `LAMMPS_NS` namespace
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- MPI communicators
  - pass in from main() or thru library interface as **world**
    - enables a LAMMPS instantiation to run on any set of procs
  - **universe** class partitions allocation into multiple worlds
    - enables multiple simulations to run simultaneously
- C++ vs Fortran
  - pre-2004 LAMMPS was in Fortran
  - re-wrote in C++ for flexibility in adding new features
  - very little fancy C++ (templating, STL, etc)
  - core kernels are C-like, so coding style is really OO C

# 4 ways to extend LAMMPS

- ① Add new styles
  - sky is the limit!
- ② Add code to existing files
- ③ Add new fields to data file as atom properties
- ④ Add methods to the library interface
  - really “extending” external to LAMMPS

# Extending LAMMPS via styles

Again, 90% of source code is extensions via 14 **styles**

- Enabled by C++
  - **virtual parent class** defines interface rest of LAMMPS uses
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  - your new class won't break anything else
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Now discuss nuts & bolts, then show 5 **examples**

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- Find an **existing style** that does something similar
  - ask on mail list or send developers an email
  - especially important if you want to do something complex
    - does functionality you want already exist?
    - is it a good idea to do this in LAMMPS?
    - will it be parallel?
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- Decide which style is most appropriate
  - **computes** calculate at one timestep
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- Understand **how that style works** and is structured
  - examine parent class header file (e.g. pair.h)
  - learn what methods it supports ([doc/Section\\_modify.html](#))
  - look at other \*.cpp and \*.h files of that style
  - if you get stuck, post to mail list

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  - loop over atoms and neighbors
  - calculate energy and forces
- **settings()** method
  - pair\_style lj/cut cutoff
- **coeff()** method
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- **init\_one()** method
  - pre-compute all needed factors, symmetrize  $I,J = J,I$
- **write\_restart()** and **read\_restart()** methods
- **single()** method
  - energy/force for one  $I,J$  pair of particles

# How to write a new compute style

Find a similar compute ...

- What will the compute produce?
  - global or per-atom or local values
  - scalar or vector or array
  - see [doc/Section\\_howto 6.15](#)
  - see compute.h for what flags to set

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  - global or per-atom or local values
  - scalar or vector or array
  - see [doc/Section\\_howto 6.15](#)
  - see compute.h for what flags to set
- Corresponding methods to implement:
  - `compute_scalar()` = single global value
    - compute temp
  - `compute_vector()` = few values
    - compute group/group for force components
  - `compute_array()` = array of few values like
    - compute rdf
  - `compute_peratom()` = one or more values per atom
    - compute coord/atom, compute displace/atom
  - `compute_local()` = one or more values per pair, bond, etc
    - compute pair/local, compute bond/local

## Fixes allow tailoring of timestep

In hindsight, best feature of LAMMPS for flexibility

Allows control of **what** happens **when** within each timestep

Loop over timesteps:

communicate ghost atoms

build neighbor list (once in a while)

compute forces

communicate ghost forces

output to screen and files

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Loop over timesteps:

fix initial NVE, NVT, NPT, rigid-body integration

communicate ghost atoms

fix neighbor insert particles

build neighbor list (once in a while)

compute forces

communicate ghost forces

fix force SHAKE, langevin drag, wall, spring, gravity

fix final NVE, NVT, NPT, rigid-body integration

fix end volume & T rescaling, diagnostics

output to screen and files

# How to write a new fix style

Find a similar fix ...

- `setmask()` method, e.g. for fix nve:

```
int mask = 0;  
mask |= INITIAL_INTEGRATE;  
mask |= FINAL_INTEGRATE;  
return mask;
```

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mask |= FINAL_INTEGRATE;  
return mask;
```

- Corresponding methods to implement:

- `initial_integrate()`
  - fix nvt, nvt, npt, rigid = first half of Verlet update
- `pre_exchange()`
  - fix deposit, evaporate = insert, remove particles
- `post_force()`
  - fix addforce, shake, fix wall = adjust or constrain forces
- `final_integrate()`
  - second half of Verlet update
- `end_of_step()`
  - fix deform, fix ave/time = change system, diagnostics

# How to write a new fix style (continued)

- Fixes can ...
  - request a **neighbor list** (so can compute)
  - perform **ghost-atom communication** (so can compute)
  - **store values** that migrate with atoms
    - `grow_arrays()`, `copy_arrays()`, `pack_exchange()`,  
`unpack_exchange()`
  - write/read info to/from **restart file**
    - `fix nvt` (global), `fix store/state` (per-atom)

# How to write a new fix style (continued)

- Fixes can ...
  - request a **neighbor list** (so can compute)
  - perform **ghost-atom communication** (so can compute)
  - **store values** that migrate with atoms
    - `grow_arrays()`, `copy_arrays()`, `pack_exchange()`,  
`unpack_exchange()`
  - write/read info to/from **restart file**
    - fix nvt (global), fix store/state (per-atom)
- Will the fix produce any **output**?
  - global or per-atom or local values
    - fix nvt stores thermostat energy contribution
  - scalar or vector or array
  - see **doc/Section\_howto 6.15**
  - same flags to set in fix.h

# How to write a new atom style

Don't do it, if can avoid it ...

- See new **fix property/atom** command
  - add a molecule ID to style without one
    - example: treat granular clusters as rigid bodies
    - instead of atom\_style hybrid sphere bond
  - add arbitrary i\_myflag, d\_sx d\_sy d\_sz
  - access the per-atom values in other classes

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  - add arbitrary i\_myflag, d\_sx d\_sy d\_sz
  - access the per-atom values in other classes
- See new **atom\_style body** command
  - useful for “particles” with internal state
  - example: aspherical particle with sub-particles
  - example: aspherical particle with surface grid
  - end up writing a small body style, not a large atom style
  - see **doc/body.html** for details

# If you really need to write a new atom style (advanced)

Study an existing atom style ...

- **Flags** in constructor: see atom\_vec.h
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- **grow()** method - allocates all per-atom arrays
- **(un)pack\_comm()** method - communicate every step
- **(un)pack\_border()** method - communicate every re-neighbor
- **(un)pack\_exchange()** method - migrate info with atom
- **create\_atom()** method - create one atom
- **data\_atom()** method - read atom from data file

# If you really need to write a new atom style (advanced)

Study an existing atom style ...

- **Flags** in constructor: see `atom_vec.h`
  - molecular, mass\_type, size\_forward, size\_data\_atom, etc
- `grow()` method - allocates all per-atom arrays
- `(un)pack_comm()` method - communicate every step
- `(un)pack_border()` method - communicate every re-neighbor
- `(un)pack_exchange()` method - migrate info with atom
- `create_atom()` method - create one atom
- `data_atom()` method - read atom from data file
- And a dozen others ...
  - variants to work in `atom_style hybrid` mode

Questions?

Take a break and stretch ...

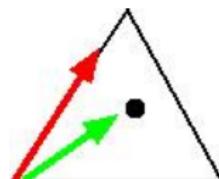
## Five examples of LAMMPS style extensions

- Triangular regions: `region tri`
- Molecule size/shape: `compute rg/molecule`
- Solvent evaporation: `fix evaporate`
- Grain boundary migration: `fix orient/fcc`
- Shock-induced explosive detonation: `fix wall/reflect`

# #1 - Triangular regions

- Derived class: **RegionTri** in region\_tri.cpp/h
- Header file:

```
#ifdef REGION_CLASS
RegionStyle(tri,RegTri)
#else
```
- Input script syntax: (just for 2d problems)
  - region bump tri x1 y1 x2 y2 x3 y3
- **RegionTri**(int narg, char \*\*arg)
  - reads arguments: x1 y1 x2 y2 x3 y3
  - determines bounding box
- **inside(double x, double y, double z)** method
  - determine if (x,y) is inside triangle
  - 3 positive cross products  $\Rightarrow$  inside
- ~35 lines of code

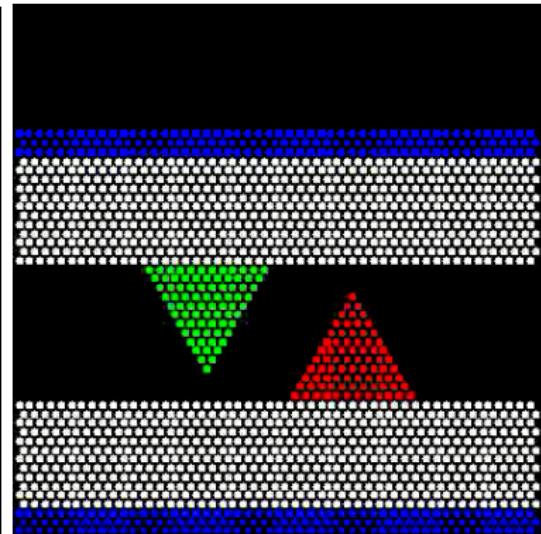
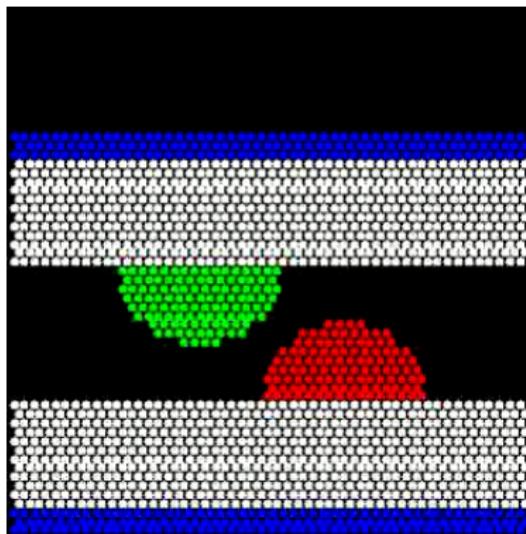


# Friction example

Substitute (twice):

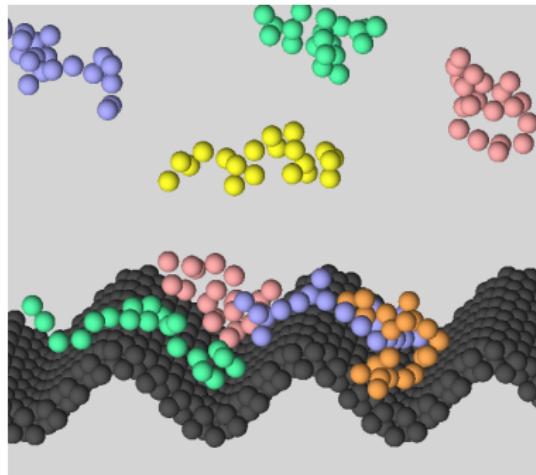
region lo-asperity sphere 32 7 0 8

region lo-asperity tri 26 7 32 14 38 7



## #2 - Molecule size/shape

- Stick-slip flow on corrugated surfaces
- Nikolai Priezjev group at Michigan State U
- Niavarani and Priezjev, *J Chem Phys*, 129, 144902 (2008)



- Flow is function of **corrugation wavelength** and **chain length**
- Monitor **shape** and motion of chains

# Compute gyration/molecule for $R_g$ of each polymer chain

- Input script:

```
compute id all gyration/molecule {tensor}
```

- **compute\_vector()** method (40 lines, one value/molecule):

```
for (int i = 0; i < nlocal; i++)  
    if (mask[i] & groupbit) {  
        imol = molecule[i];  
        domain->unmap(x[i],image[i],unwrap);  
        dx = unwrap[0] - comall[imol][0];  
        dy = unwrap[1] - comall[imol][1];  
        dz = unwrap[2] - comall[imol][2];  
        massone = mass[type[i]];  
        rg[imol] += (dx*dx + dy*dy + dz*dz) * massone;  
    }  
    MPI_Allreduce(rg,vector,nmolecules,...);
```

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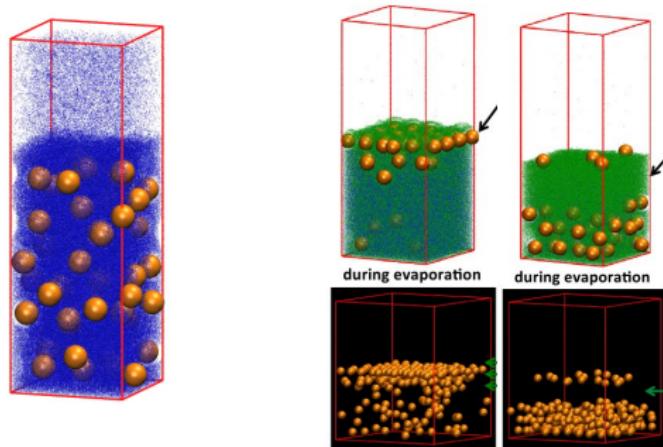
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    if (mask[i] & groupbit) {  
        imol = molecule[i];  
        domain->unmap(x[i],image[i],unwrap);  
        dx = unwrap[0] - comall[imol][0];  
        dy = unwrap[1] - comall[imol][1];  
        dz = unwrap[2] - comall[imol][2];  
        massone = mass[type[i]];  
        rg[imol] += (dx*dx + dy*dy + dz*dz) * massone;  
    }  
    MPI_Allreduce(rg,vector,nmolecules,...);
```

- For shape, **compute inertia/molecule** is similar logic

## #3 - Solvent evaporation

- Nanoparticle ordering in polymers w/ solvent evaporation
- S Cheng & G Grest, J Chem Phys, 138, 064701 (2013)
- Spring MRS meeting, 2013



- Evaporate solvent at controlled rate above L/V interface
- Ordering is function of NP/polymer interaction strength

## Fix evaporate removes solvent at specified rate

- Input script:

```
fix id solvent evaporate  
    N M topbox 38277 {molecule yes}
```

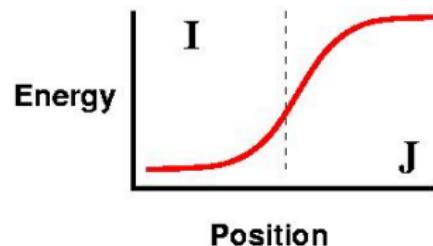
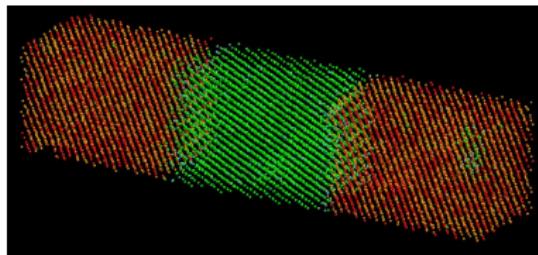
- `pre_exchange()` method

```
identify atoms in region volume  
pick random subset (consistent across procs)  
delete from system  
also remove molecules the deleted particles are in
```

- ~200 lines of code (molecules add some complexity)

## #4 - Grain boundary migration

K Janssens, et al, *Nature Materials*, 5, 124 (2006)

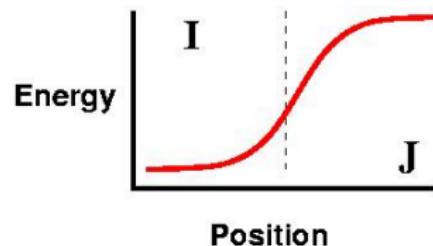
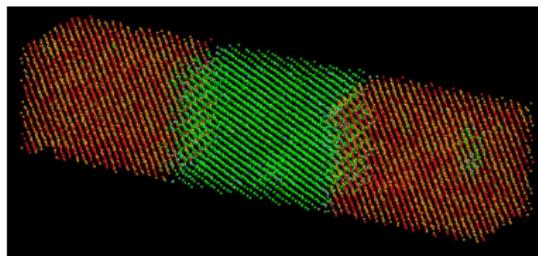


$$\xi_i = \sqrt{\sum_j (r_j - r_j^I)^2}$$
$$\xi_{IJ} = \sqrt{\sum_j (r_j^I - r_j^J)^2}$$
$$u_\xi(i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \xi_i < \xi_l \\ V \sin \omega_i & \text{with } \omega_i = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\xi_i - \xi_l}{\xi_h - \xi_l} \quad \xi_l < \xi_i < \xi_h \\ V & \xi_h < \xi_i \end{cases}$$

- Add **synthetic energy/force** as function of mis-orientation
- Drives atoms near boundary from orientation I to J

## #4 - Grain boundary migration

K Janssens, et al, *Nature Materials*, 5, 124 (2006)



$$\xi_i = \sqrt{\sum_j (r_j - r_j^I)^2}$$
$$\xi_{IJ} = \sqrt{\sum_j (r_j^I - r_j^J)^2}$$
$$u_\xi(i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \xi_i < \xi_l \\ V \sin \omega_i & \text{with } \omega_i = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\xi_i - \xi_l}{\xi_h - \xi_l} \quad \xi_l < \xi_i < \xi_h \\ V & \xi_h < \xi_i \end{cases}$$

- Add **synthetic energy/force** as function of mis-orientation
- Drives atoms near boundary from orientation I to J
- Mobility  $\propto$  migration velocity / driving force
- Extract accurate mobility from **short simulation**

# Build a bi-crystal

Input script commands:

```
region lower box EDGE EDGE EDGE EDGE EDGE EDGE 20.0
region upper box EDGE EDGE EDGE EDGE EDGE 20.0 EDGE

lattice fcc 4.04 origin 0 20 0 orient x -3 1 0 ...
create_atoms 1 region lower

lattice fcc 4.04 origin 0 20 0 orient x 3 1 0 ...
create_atoms 1 region upper

delete_atoms overlap 0.5 all all
```

## Fix orient/fcc to impose driving force

- 2 files: src/fix\_orient\_fcc.cpp and fix\_orient\_fcc.h
- Request **full neighbor list**, every timestep:

```
int irequest = neighbor->request((void *) this);
neighbor->requests[irequest]->pair = 0;
neighbor->requests[irequest]->fix = 1;
neighbor->requests[irequest]->half = 0;
neighbor->requests[irequest]->full = 1;
```

## Post\_force() method for fix orient/fcc

```
double loop over atoms and neighbors:  
    compute  $R_{ij}$  and add to list  
    sort list to find 12 nearest neighbors (fcc)  
  
loop over atoms:  
    compute contributions from 12 neighbors  
    derivative of energy → forces on I and J atoms  
  
communicate partial forces induced on ghost atoms  
  
double loop over atoms and neighbors:  
    compute full orientation force on each I atom
```

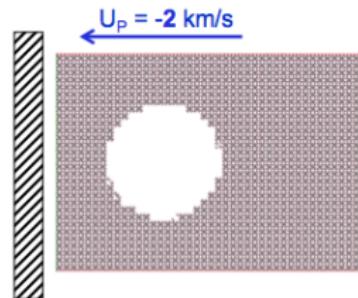
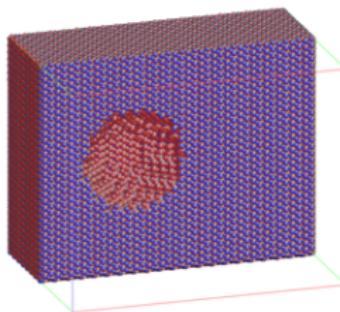
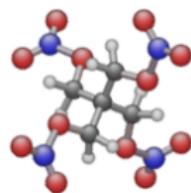
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double loop over atoms and neighbors:  
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```

- LAMMPS provides method to perform communication
- ~250 lines of code

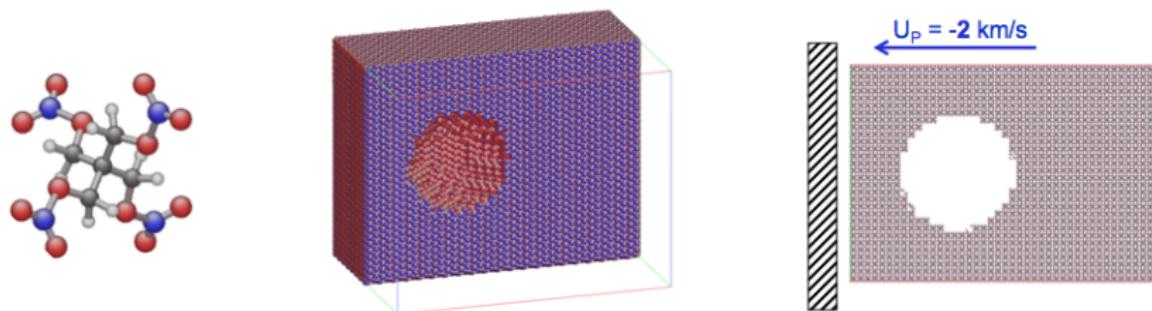
## #5 - Shock-induced detonation of explosives

- *R Shan & A Thompson, March APS meeting (2013)*
- **PETN** is a powerful high explosive
- Simulate “slow” shock wave passing thru PETN crystal



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- Use a **reactive force field** (ReaxFF)
  - detonation is triggered by onset of exothermic reactions
- Quantify detonation **sensitivity** to orientation, defects, impurities ... a safety issue

# Create a void in PETN crystal

Input script commands:

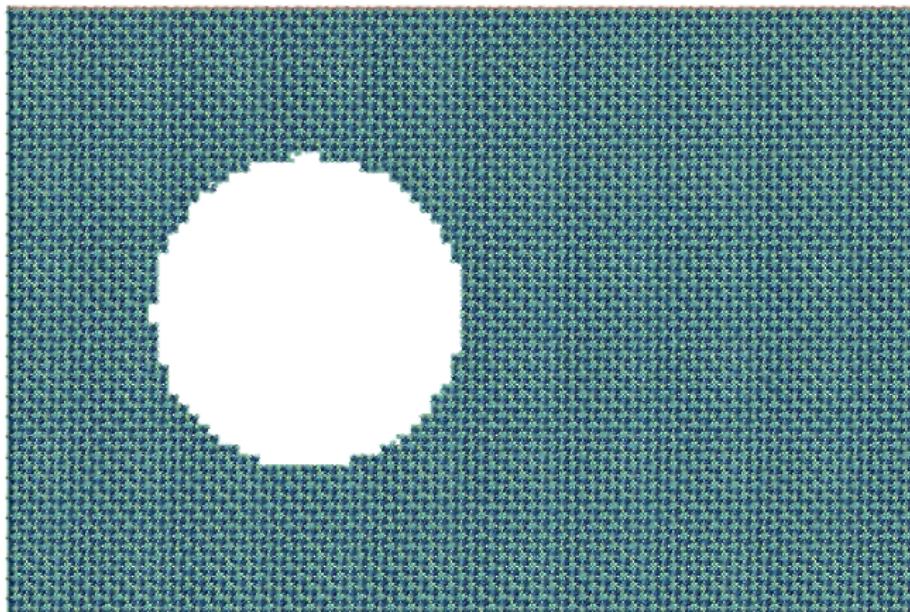
```
read_data data.petn.molecule
replicate 100 50 50

region void sphere 20.0 30.0 30.0 5.0
delete_atoms all region void
```

Largest void size = 20 nm

8.9M atoms (60x40x40 nm)

10 psec (20K steps, 100 hours on 4096 cores)



## Post\_integrate() method for fix wall/reflect command

```
for (int m = 0; m < nwall; m++)
    coord = current wall position (fixed or variable)
    dim = wallwhich[m] / 2; side = wallwhich[m] % 2;

for (i = 0; i < nlocal; i++)
    if (side == 0)
        if (x[i][dim] < coord)
            x[i][dim] = coord + (coord - x[i][dim]);
            v[i][dim] = -v[i][dim];
    else
        if (x[i][dim] > coord)
            x[i][dim] = coord - (x[i][dim] - coord);
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- Entire fix = ~200 lines of code

## Fix reaxc/species command for molecule statistics

- Written by Ray Shan (Sandia)
- Molecules in ReaxFF and a shock explosion are **dynamic**
  - not defined by permanent bonds, angles, etc
  - defined by instantaneous bond-order parameters
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- **Compute cluster/atom** flags clusters based on cutoff
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  - allows use of field in all other commands
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In each case, look for `customize` comments in appropriate src file

# Adding new fields to data file (advanced)

- New header lines and/or new sections
  - 1500 multistates
  - Multistates
  - 1 27 ...
  - ...
  - 1500 13 ...
- Previously required extensions to read\_data.cpp

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- See `fix property/atom` for a working example
- CMAP 5-body interactions are being implemented this way

# Using LAMMPS thru its library interface

See `Section_howto.html` 6.19 and `Section_python.html` in manual

See `src/library.cpp` and `src/library.h`

```
void lammps_open(int, char **, MPI_Comm, void **)
void lammps_close(void *)
void lammps_file(void *, char *)
char *lammps_command(void *, char *)

void *lammps_extract_global(void *, char *)
void *lammps_extract_atom(void *, char *)
void *lammps_extract_compute(void *, char *, int, int)
void *lammps_extract_fix(void *, char *, int, int, int, int)
void *lammps_extract_variable(void *, char *, char *)
int lammps_get_natoms(void *)
void lammps_get_coords(void *, double *)
void lammps_put_coords(void *, double *)
```

# Example with GnuPlot

See [examples/COUPLE/simple](#) for C, C++, Fortran

See [python/examples](#) for Python, Pizza.py for GnuPlot wrapper

```
% python plot.py in.lammps Nfreq Nsteps compute-ID

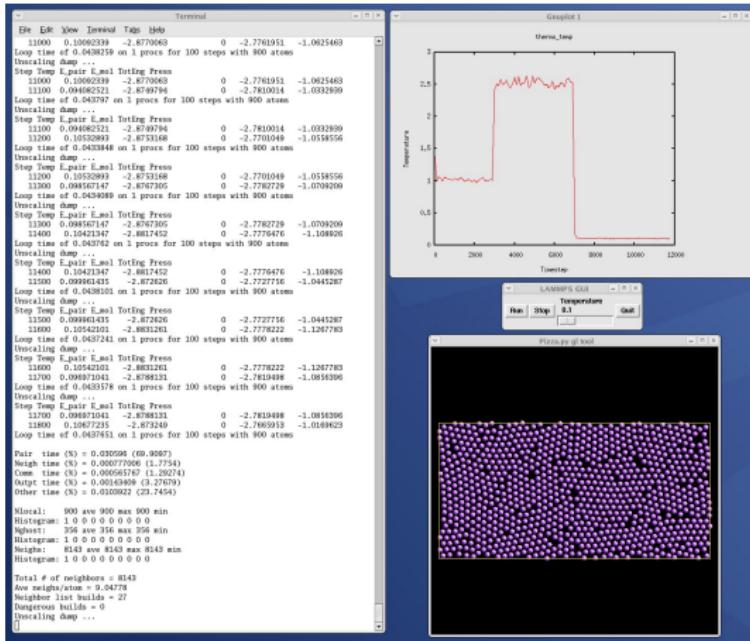
from gnu import gnu
from lammps import lammps
lmp = lammps()
lmp.file(infile)
lmp.command("thermo %d" % Nfreq)

lmp.command("run 0 pre yes post no")
value = lmp.extract_compute(computeID,0,0)
ntimestep = 0
xaxis = [ntimestep]
yaxis = [value]
```

## Example with GnuPlot (continued)

```
if me == 0:  
    gn = gnu()  
    gn.plot(xaxis,yaxis)  
    gn.xrange(0,nsteps)  
    gn.title(computeID,"Timestep","Temperature")  
  
while ntimestep < Nsteps:  
    lmp.command("run %d pre no post no" % Nfreq)  
    ntimestep += nfreq  
    value = lmp.extract_compute(computeID,0,0)  
    xaxis.append(ntimestep)  
    yaxis.append(value)  
    if me == 0: gn.plot(xaxis,yaxis)  
  
lmp.command("run 0 pre no post yes")
```

# What it produces, in real time



This includes GUI slider & dump output to Pizza.py GL tool  
(or AtomEye or Pymol or VMD) - see python/examples scripts

# Extending the LAMMPS library interface

Again, see `library.cpp` and `library.h`

- **Accessor functions** already exist for ...
  - system variables (box, timestep, etc)
  - per-atom pointers (x, v, etc)
  - compute and fix output
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- Accessor functions in `library.cpp` or `atom.h` can be **augmented**
  - one-line addition
  - access a new system variable
  - access a new per-atom property
- **New functions** in `library.cpp` can ...
  - access any public data within LAMMPS
  - invoke any public methods of any classes
- New functions are limited only by your **imagination!**

# How a timestep works - part 1

Most important class to understand: **Verlet** ⇒ src/verlet.cpp

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Look at the **run()** method (in 3 parts)

See doc/Developer.pdf for more details

```
loop over N timesteps:  
    ev_set()  
    fix->initial_integrate()  
    fix->post_integrate()  
    ...
```

## How a timestep works - part 2

```
loop over N timesteps:  
  ...  
  nflag = neighbor->decide()  
  if nflag:  
    fix->pre_exchange()  
    domain->pbc()  
    domain->reset_box()  
    comm->setup()  
    neighbor->setup_bins()  
    comm->exchange()  
    comm->borders()  
    fix->pre_neighbor()  
    neighbor->build()  
  else  
    comm->forward_comm()  
  ...
```

## How a timestep works - part 3

```
loop over N timesteps:  
  ...  
  force->clear()  
  fix->pre_force()  
  pair->compute()  
  bond->compute()  
  angle->compute()  
  dihedral->compute()  
  improper->compute()  
  kspace->compute()  
  comm->reverse_comm()  
  
  fix->post_force()  
  fix->final_integrate()  
  fix->end_of_step()  
  
  if any output on this step:  output->write()
```

# How to get your code added to the LAMMPS distro

- Mail it to us, but first ...
  - see doc/Section\_modify.html
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- Must provide a **doc page** as a \*.txt file
  - one for every command that appears in input script
  - see similar doc/\*.txt file as starting point
  - if needed, equations for doc/Eqs as LaTeX files
  - we auto-convert to HTML (and JPG if needed)

## How to get your code added (continued)

- **Rule:** don't make changes in core of LAMMPS
  - ① if you think you need to, talk to developers
  - ② the more I need to think, the longer it will take to release
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- **USER-MISC package**
  - ① if it compiles, we'll add it (within limits)
  - ② don't really care if written in LAMMPS format
  - ③ you own it, answer Qs, and update it
  - ④ set of related commands can be an entire USER package
- Commands that link to an **external library**
  - ① must become a **package** (standard or user)
  - ② type "make package" for list

What features do you need for your models?

Happy to brainstorm & discuss this week