





## Research at the Institute for Computational Physics

Christian Holm, Rudolf Weeber, Slavko Kondrat, Alexander Schlaich (also at SimTech)

Institut für Computerphysik, Universität Stuttgart Stuttgart, Germany

1

## The Way Physics works today...



## The Way Physics works tomorrow...??



### Institut for Computational Physics (ICP)

C. Holm (Director) Theory and Simulations of Soft charged and dipolar matter Machine Learning for Soft Matter

R. Weeber (permanent staff) Magnetic Soft Matter, ESPResSo Software Suite

S. Kondrat (part time): Soft Matter Theory, Supercapacitor applications

A. Schlaich (SimTech JGL): Multiscale Materials Modelling

- Perform frontier research through high level publications
- Develop scientific computational tools and algorithms
- Education and teaching in theoretical and computational physics

## We teach on a regular basis:

- Computergrundlagen (WS) 1. FS B.Sc
- Physik auf dem Computer (SS) 4. FS B.Sc.
- Simulationsmethoden 1 + 2 elective B.Sc. und M.Sc.(WS+SS)
- Advanced Simulation Methods (SS) elective M.Sc.
- ESResSo summer school (1. week in October before the regular start of the WS semsester !) elective M.Sc.

### Irregulary:

- Physics of Fluids 1+2 (elective Master)
- Soft and Biological Matter 1+2 (elective Master)

## Soft Matter Physics

C. Holm

Institute for Computational Physics Universität Stuttgart



## ....and why is it interesting?

## What is Soft Matter?



## **Definition of Soft Matter**

Wikipedia: Soft matter is a sub-field of condensed matter comprising a variety of physical states that are easily deformed by thermal stresses or thermal fluctuations.



## What is Soft Matter?

- •Colloidal systems: milk, mayonnaise, paints, cosmetics...
- "Simple" plastics: joghurt cups, many car parts, CDs, ...Gummy bears, gels, rubber, low fat food,
- •Fibers (z.B. Goretex, Nylon)...
- •Membranes: cell walls, artificial tissue, vesicles...
- •Many parts of the cell, cytoskeleton, nucleus
- •Most biomolecules (RNA, DNA, proteins, amino-acids)
- •Liquid crystals, magnetic gels and fluids (MSM)
- •Many applications: smart materials (actuators, sensors, photonic crystals), biotechnology, biomedicine (hyperthermia, drug targeting, cell separation techniques), model systems for statistical physics



R. Kanwar et al., *Green Nanotechnology-Driven Drug Delivery Assemblies*, ACS Omega, 2019, doi:10.1021/acsomega.9b00304





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## Length Scales of Soft Matter

1 fm 1 pm 1 Å 1 nm 10 μm 1 mm 1 m 1 km 10<sup>3</sup> km 10<sup>6</sup> parsec



 $10^{-15}m$   $10^{-12}m$   $10^{-9}m$   $10^{-6}m$   $10^{-3}m$   $10^{0}m$   $10^{3}m$   $10^{6}m$ 



## Length Scales of Soft Matter





## Coarse-graining

- A model consists of a number of degrees of freedom (e.g. atomic positions: translation) and the "interactions" between them.
- <u>Coarse-graining</u>:
  - reduce the number of degrees of freedom by keeping only the "important" degrees of freedom,
  - use "effective" interactions
- Classical first step: Atoms and Interactions (*all-atom* or *atomistic*)
- Further coarse-graining is often needed and useful
- For Soft Matter we are often on the molecular and mesoscopic level



## Current Research Fields (C. Holm)

### **Computational Methods and Algorithms**

- ESPResSo (parallel MD package)
- Lattice-Boltzmann for coarse-grained hydrodynamics
- Reaction-Diffusion systems (FEM) for Catalysis
- ML strategies for developing better FF for MD
- Fast long range solvers under various conditions

### **Biophysical Problems**

- Macromolecular complexes
- Nanopore sequencing and separation techniques
- Targeted drug delivery
- Properties of peptides and DNA

### Soft Matter Problems

- Better Batteries (Electrodes, Fluids)
- Active Matter and SPPs
- Charged macromolecules
- Hydrogels

13

- Magnetic colloids and ferrogels
- Transport properties of ions and charged macromolecules in porous media

ESPResSo The Extensible Simulation Package for Research on Soft matter

Christian Holm Florian Weik, Georg Rempfer, Rudolf Weeber Konrad Breitsprecher David Sean Michael Kuron, J. DeGraaf Jonas Landsgesell Kai Szuttor Patrick Kreissl Ingo Tischler R. Kaufmann Ashreya Jayaram Miru Lee Michael Lahnert Milena Smiljanic Robin Bardakcioglu Sebastian Bindgen Steffen Hirschmann And many more

> Talk to Rudolf Weeber weeber@icp or Jean-Noel Grad jgrad@icp

## http://www.espressomd.org

### Molecular Dynamics simulations

ESPRESO is capable of doing classical Molecular dynamics simulations of many types of systems in different statistical ensembles (NVE, NVT, NPT) and non-equilibrium situations, using standard potentials such as the Lennard-Jones or Morse potential. It contains many advanced simulation algorithms, which take into account hydrodynamic (lattice Boltzmann) and electrostatic interactions (P3M, ELC, MMMxD). Rigid bodies can be modelled by virtual site interactions, and it can integrate rotationally non-invariant particles.

### Used all over the world

ESPRESO is used in scientific working groups all over the world both as a production platform as well as a research platform for developing new algorithms and methods and designing new models for coarsegrained simulations. It is mainly developed and maintained at the Institute for Computational Physics (http://www.icp.uni-stuttgart.de) of the University of Stuttgart (http://uni-stuttgart.de) , but has contributors from all over the world.

#### Free and open-source

ESPResSo is free, open-source software published under the GNU General Public License (GPL). It is parallelized and can be employed on desktop machines, convenience clusters as well as on supercomputers with hundreds of CPUs. The parallel code is controlled via the scripting language Tcl, which gives the software its great flexibility and allows for many unconventional simulation protocols, as are often required when studying coarse-grained models.

### Members of Various Research Consortia

SFB 1313 "Interface-Driven Multi-Field Processes in Porous Media – Flow, Transport and Deformation" SFB 1333 "Molecular He Be 2811" Catalysis in Confined Geometries"

CRC

1333

FOR 2811: Adaptive Polymer Gels with Model-Network Structure

2811







FOR

Nanopore technology for the molecular diagnostics of the future



CECAM Node Soft Matter and Statistical Mechanics (SMSM)

## Magnetic Soft Matter

- Magnetic particles suspended in a carrier:
- Ferrofluids: live in a liquid carrier
- Ferrogels: have a gel as carrier
- The investigated magnetic nanoparticles:

size ~ 10 nm



single ferromagnetic domain with a permanent dipole moment (superparamagnetic)



### **Applications**:

mechanical (sealing of rotating shafts); thermal (cooling of loud speakers); medical (cancer treatment, hyperthermia, magnetic cell separation)

C. Alexiou (HNO- Klinikum Erlangen)

## Ferrofluids can be influenced via magnetic fields



## Supercaps

## What is a Supercapacitor



## What is a Supercapacitor





## Application to Supercapacitors.....

Supercapacitors are used for mobile energy storage in Electric Double Layer Capacitors / "Supercapacitors" with high specific capacitance. "Fast and Furious??"



### Our Goal

Understand charging mechanisms and ion dynamics in narrow charged pores for simple model systems

## Nanopore Sequencing

## **DNA** Facts

dsDNA is a charged biopolymer, consisting of paired bases yielding the form of a double helix in water.

The sequence of either strand encodes our genetic information which we want to read out.



persistence length l<sub>p</sub>=50nm



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DNA

## Costs of DNA Sequencing



## Nanopore Sequencing Approach



conductivity measurements can reveal bp translocation of ssDNA

Recognition of binding sites of proteins to DNA

## Oxford Nanopore Technologies and others



Sequencing devices on nanopore technology exists since 2016!



https://nanoporetech.com

Many efforts under way to reduce the fault rate

## Multi-Scale Modelling



## **Investigations via AA Simulations**



Force Field: AMBER03, Water: SPC/E

double-stranded DNA closed over PBC, consisting of 20 GC bps, P-Atoms fixed in space,

generic pore atoms

Electric field 0.2 V/nm applied along pore

## **Results from AA Simulations**



Direct current always larger with DNA inside, no blockage!

Kesselheim, Müller, Holm, Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 018101 (2014)

## Ions and dsDNA in Pore- Iso-density Surfaces





Poly-CG-DNA

Poly-AT-DNA

## ML Approaches for optimizing Nanopores

acts like a more refined Coulter counter for blood cells



Use ML approaches to optimize the current readout to recognize protein sequences from real experimental data provided by collaborators from Freiburg using a different biological nanopore (Aerolysine)

















## What do we expect from you?

- Be curious for new phenomena
- Be open to use the computer as your experimental platform
- Be ready to use your imagination and physical intuition
- Some familiarity with the computer expected:
- Very helpful: Python
- Helpful C++
- We also use ready to use software suits: ESPResSo, ZnTrack, MDSuite, MLSuite, MaiCos, COMSOL, GROMACS, CP2K, PyTorch, TensorFlow...



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- Implement RL training in real medical environments
- Simulation capillary blocking/clearing
- Run flow simulations using lattice-boltzmann

Samuel Tovey, samuel.tovey@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

- Use Phi-2 language model to guide RL agents.
- Contribute to SwarmRL software.
- Deploy models on GPU infrastructure.

## Language Models and Reinforcement Learning



## Coarse-Graining with Hypergraphs

- Implement new ML architecture.
- Train potentials from DFT to Coarse-grained.
- Run large-scale simulations.



- Identify physics solutions in constrained neural networks (Occams razer).
- Investigate the role of local properties in potential fitting.
- Explore a vast range of neural network architectures.

## Finding Physics in Neural Networks



- On-line protein prediction for cancer diagnosis
- Utilize state-of-the-art time series transformers
- Deploy on data-sets in the millions

# Signal Classification with Transformers



### How do Neural Networks Learn ?

→ Study Learning with Collective Variables





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### <u>Your job is</u>

- Analytically investigate learning behavior of linear models.
- Numerically compare linear vs. nonlinear neural networks

Analytical

Numerical 80

20

### Your will learn

- Use SOTA machine learning software
- Google coding standards
- Clusters and supercomputers

Requirements: Interest

## Machine Learned Potentials

Fabian Zills fzills@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

- Simulate large systems with *ab initio* accuracy.
- Investigate state-of-the-art learning on the fly training approaches.
- Study the benefits of transfer and  $\Delta$  -learning.
- Develop packages for the Machine Learned Potential workflow.
  - Room temperature Ionic Liquids
  - Water
  - System of your choice?



### **Bachelor Project: Inverse Renormalization Group using Machine Learning**

- Renormalization group (RG): powerful tool to study 2nd order PT and critical phenomena
- Recent theoretical work (Bachtis et al., PRL 2022): ML can be used to invert
   RG flow and extract critical exponents
   from small-lattice simulations
- Goal of this project: investigate the asymptotic behaviour of iRG

Contact:

Konstantin Nikolaou (knikolaou@icp.uni-stuttgart.de) David Beyer (dbeyer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)



## Understanding the complexation of dendromicelles with RNA and peptides molecules

- The development of nano-carriers with programmed features is crucial when designing next-generation drug therapies.
- Dendritic micelles are promising candidates when engineering delivery carriers for RNAand peptide-based therapeutics.
- Bachelor/Master Project:
  - Model complexation of linear polymeric chains with dendritic micelles via coarse-grained MD simulations.
  - Explore the effect of branching in the complexation.



### **Contact:** Mariano Brito (mariano.brito@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

### Develop of machine-learning-based reversed coarsegraining for gel dynamic properties

- All-atom simulations of gel systems are very expensive since they involve an enormous number of particles.
- Reverse coarse-graining provides an alternative to reconstruct gel trajectories from much cheaper coarse-grained simulations.
- Master Project:
  - Develop a ML-based reverse-coarsegraining method for reconstruction of gel trajectories.
  - Calculate relaxation rates of gels.



### **Contact:** Mariano Brito (mariano.brito@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

# Electrostatic extension based on ICC\* for constant-potential simulations

### Energy storage: real capacitors are porous



Carbon electrode, DOI: 10.1039/C9NA00374F

Develop a novel electrostatic method based on ICC\* to simulate fixed-potentials on arbitrary surfaces and implement it in ESPResSo

### **Your Job**

- Get familiar with existing electrostatic solvers
- Adapt interfaces to compute potentials
- Implement your model
- Validation and comparison with other solvers
- Apply to complex porous electrode system



Modeling an infinite plate capacitor with Molecular Dynamics

### You will learn

- Molecular Dynamics and electrostatic solvers
- Python and C++
- How to write and document your own contribution to ESPResSo

### Alexander Reinauer (alexander.reinauer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

# Coupling of flexible polyelectrolytes to continuum solvent



How to couple particle method for charged polymers to continuum method for ions and fluid

### **Your Job**

- Improve existing electrostatic coupling
- Verify against Molecular Dynamics simulations
- Implement more advanced couplings if needed

### **Method: Lattice Boltzmann + Lattice Electrokinetics**





#### You will learn

- Mesoscale lattice-based solver for hydrodynamics/Nernst-Planck equation
- Molecular Dynamics and electrostatic solvers
- Python and C++

Alexander Reinauer (alexander.reinauer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)Rudolf Weeber(rudolf.weeber@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

# Simulation of imbibition experiments in model-porous media





Method: Lattice Boltzmann + Lattice Electrokinetics





Simulate imbibition of (model) porous media using multi-phase flow model with and without implicit salt

### Your Job

- Validate multi-phase flow model (Color-Gradient) for imbibition systems
- Study imbibition in sample porous media
- Comparison to experiments
- Introduce implicit salt and study surface effects

### You will learn

- Mesoscale lattice-based solver for hydrodynamics and the Nernst-Planck equation
- Python and C++/CUDA
- How to use pystencils to compute on GPUs

Alexander Reinauer (alexander.reinauer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

## Charging dynamics in charged nanopores





Extend existing continuum model and investigate similarity to MD simulation



#### Carbon electrode, DOI: 10.1039/C9NA00374F

### Your Job

- Implement steric extensions to continuum model
- Validate system against MD data
- Apply to more complex porous electrodes

### **Method: Lattice Boltzmann + Lattice Electrokinetics**





### You will learn

- Mesoscale lattice-based solver for hydrodynamics and the Nernst-Planck equation
- Python and C++/CUDA
- How to use pystencils to compute on GPUs

Alexander Reinauer (alexander.reinauer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)



## Implementation of dielectric ELC in ESPResSo



### **Your Job**

- Implement dielectric ELC into ESPResSo
- Validate code for 2D slab systems
- Apply for constant potential and constant charge simulations



### You will learn

- Molecular Dynamics
- How to use ESPResSo
- Python and C++
- How to structure code and how to document it

Alexander Reinauer (alexander.reinauer@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)Rudolf Weeber(rudolf.weeber@icp.uni-stuttgart.de)

### Simulating inhomogeneous systems using load-balancing

- In polymer networks, and many other systems like salt precipitation, soot aggregation and systems in confinement, the material is not homogeneously distributed in space
- The goal of this thesis is to simulate such systems efficiently on parallel computers
- Load-balancing: technique to distribute the work evenly among the CPU cores
- This thesis requires some experience in C++

Contact: J-N. Grad, R. Weeber



(Ide et Fukuda 1999: microgel formation during polymerization)



### Substrate channeling in enzyme-catalysed reactions

Svyatoslav Kondrat <svyatoslav.kondrat@gmail.com>



- Channeling intermediates (I) between two sequential enzymes (E<sub>1</sub> and E<sub>2</sub>) can enhance the overall reaction rate
- We will use Brownian dynamics
   simulations to investigate such channeling effects
- In particular, how does intracellular crowding affects substrate channeling?

Kuzmak et al, Scientific Reports **9,** 455 (2019);

Kondrat, Kraus, von Lieres, Current Research in Chemical Biology 2, 100031 (2022)

### Confined Ionic liquids for energy-related applications



- Confined ionic liquids play the key role in many energy-related applications
- We will use molecular simulations and theory to study nanopore charging
- **Topic 1**: Confined ionic liquid mixtures for supercapacitor applications
- Topic 2: Charging mechanisms and performance optimisation of nanoporous supercapacitors

Breitsprecher, Holm, Kondrat, ACS Nano **12**, 9733 (2018) Breitsprecher, et al, Nature communications **11**, 6085 (2020)

Svyatoslav Kondrat <svyatoslav.kondrat@gmail.com>

# Coarse-graining and machine-learned potentials



Polynipam, a polymer commonly used for hydrogels and polymer suspensions

#### Creating a coarse-grained model for thermo-reversible polymers

\* Some polymers change their properties drastically with temperature \* For example, PNIPAM collapses when driven over the lower critical solution temperature

\* This can be modelled using atomistic simulations, but they are costly
\* In the thesis, using machine learning, an approximate coarse-grained
model should be generated which allows simulating much bigger systems

Contact: Rudolf Weeber weeber@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

## Active particles in viscoelastic fluids





\* Active particles are particles which have a propulsion mechanisms,

e.g., by coating part of the particle surface with a catalyst

\* Experiments have shown that these particles show quite unusual behaviour in viscoelastic fluids

\* Goal of the thesis is to model this using a combination of molecular dynamics and the lattice-Boltzmann method

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## Magnetic gels

Shape-Programable Magneto-Active Elastomers Composites

for Curve and Biomimetic Behavior Imitation

### Supporting Movie 2

**Biomimetic Deformation Behavior of MAEs Composite** 

Mimicking Wing-Flapping of Birds

\* hydrogels are polymer networks swollen by a carrier fluid
 \* magnetic gels additionally contain magnetic nanoparticles

\* using an external magnetic field, the shape and elasticity can be controlled

## Application: Drug release





500 μm 500 nm One can store drug molecules in the porous matrix

### Possible thesis topics

\* Model the loading and release of drugs form magnetic gels

\* Understanding the influence of inhomogeneities in the network on experimentally observable properties



Release can be triggered with a magnetic field

Contact: Rudolf Weeber weeber@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

## Measuring chemical potentials from static structure factors – Enabling rapid sampling of the grand canonical ensemble

Background: Simulating in the Grand potential is challenging for

typical systems due to sampling issues

**Goal:** Employ new methods that are emerging which open new ways to use statistical physics to investigate molecular systems.

Static structure factors can be used to calculate the chemical potential in a molecular dynamics simulation.



### What will you do?

- Implement the S0 Method in Python
- Perform Molecular Dynamics simulations
- Adapt the methods for other ensembles/geometries

### Contact

Henrik Stoß (henrik.stooss@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de Alexander Schlaich (alexander.schlaich@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de)



Less finite size effects and better sampling

### You will learn

- Thermodynamics
- Molecular Dynamics
- Python and software development

## Density matrix extrapolation on the Grassmann manifold for BOMD using charge dependent descriptors

New scheme based on Grassmann extrapolation of density matrices for an accurate calculation of initial guesses in Born-Oppenheimer Molecular Dynamics simulations.

The Coulomb matrix is used as a molecular descriptor for the atomic positions.



Can this scheme be applied to fluctuating charges in BOMD?



Constraint manifold

for  $\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{C}_0 = 0$ 

### What you will do?

- Perform Ab-Initio Molecular Dynamics simulations
- Use Python for software development
- Simulate Solid-Liquid interfaces at constant potential

#### Contact

Henrik Stoß (henrik.stooss@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de Alexander Schlaich (alexander.schlaich@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de)

## Multicanonical molecular dynamics simulations using the Wang-Landau algorithm

**Background:** Nano-porous systems are nowadays commonly applied for energy storage. Water-in-salt solutions are a promising candidate for environmentally friendly highefficiency charge carriers. However, compositional changes upon charge/discharge are so far poorly understood.

**Goal:** Implement and apply a Wang-Landau scheme for binary, ternary, ... solutions.



### What will you do?

• Implement the Wang-Landau approach

Salt-in-Water

free water molecules

- Benchmarks and tests
- Study the composition of complex solutions in confinement
- Apply machine-learning approaches to predict the composition

### You will learn

• Cutting-edge energy storage problems, high performance computing, extending simulation packages

### Contact

Philipp Stärk (philipp.staerk@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de) Alexander Schlaich (alexander.schlaich@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de)



water molecules strongly

interact with cations

- Christoph Lohrman <u>clohrmann@icp.uni-stuttgart.de</u>.
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Bacteria in Porous Media, Active Matter Hydrogels and Mean-field Theory ML for Physics, Signal analysis, swarm computing Machine learned potentials ML for Physics 2-Phase LB, Electrokinetic algorithms weack Polyelectrolyes Nanopore aa atom simulations Weak polyeletrolytes, Path integral MD, AA salt crystalization in porous media Quantum Computing algorithms, QML Supercapcitors ESPResSo, Lattice-Boltzmann ESPResSo, Magnetic Soft Matter, Polymer Rheology

Alexander Schlaich <u>alexander.schlaich@simtech.uni-stuttgart.de</u> JGL SimTech, Multiscale Materials Modelling

## Bachelor, Masters or PhD topics



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For more informations visit the ICP website

www.icp.uni-stuttgart.de

For Teaching overview: See https://www2.icp.uni-stuttgart.de/~icp/Teaching/Overview



- Protein functionality is encoded in the amino acid sequence
- Mutations in the sequence can lead to malfunction and diseases (e.g. cancer)
- $\Rightarrow$  Early detection of such mutations can save lifes





https://theory.labster.com/protein-structure/

- Nanopore sequencing: Protein translocates through a biological nanopore
- $\Rightarrow$  Amplitude, duration and frequency of blockade current reveal information about the protein structure

You will learn how to ...

- perform all-atom simulations using NAMD
- extract physics from simulation data
- investigate the mechanism behind protein sequencing
- collaborate with the experimentalist group from Freiburg







For more information, please contact michel.mom@icp.uni-stuttgart.de and visit https://www.icp.uni-stuttgart.de/research/nanopore-sequencing/

