Comprehensive Guide to Radiation Damage and Defect Modeling in Metals

Using IM3D and MMonCa Tools

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December 10, 2024

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview of Radiation Damage

Radiation damage occurs when materials are exposed to high-energy particles such as ions, neutrons, or electrons. These particles collide with the atoms in the material, transferring their energy and causing atomic displacements. The resulting defects, such as vacancies (missing atoms), interstitials (extra atoms in non-lattice positions), and defect clusters, significantly alter the material's mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties [2, 6].

Radiation damage can be particularly significant in materials used in extreme environments, such as in nuclear reactors, space materials, and semiconductor devices. In nuclear reactors, for example, radiation exposure can cause the embrittlement of reactor components, weakening the material and making it prone to fracture. Similarly, in space applications, radiation damage can degrade spacecraft components, solar cells, and electronic devices. In semiconductor materials, radiation exposure leads to performance degradation, especially in space-based applications where microelectronics are exposed to cosmic radiation [1].

Radiation damage is generally classified into two categories:

- **Primary Damage**: The initial damage caused by high-energy particle collisions that displace atoms and create vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters.

- **Secondary Damage**: The long-term effects of the primary defects, such as

void formation, dislocation loops, and the accumulation of defect clusters, which can lead to embrittlement, swelling, and loss of material strength [6].

Understanding radiation damage is essential for improving the radiation tolerance of materials used in applications like nuclear reactors, spacecraft, and electronics.

1.2 Mechanisms of Radiation Damage

The fundamental mechanism of radiation damage involves the interaction between high-energy particles and the atomic structure of the material. In this section, we will discuss the stages of radiation damage, starting with the creation of primary defects and progressing to defect migration, recombination, and clustering.

1.2.1 Primary Knock-on Atom (PKA)

The first event in the radiation damage process is the creation of a **Primary Knock-on Atom (PKA)**. When a high-energy particle, such as an ion or neutron, collides with an atom in the material, it transfers energy to that atom. The energy transfer is typically sufficient to displace the atom from its equilibrium position in the lattice, creating the PKA. This displaced atom, in turn, can collide with other atoms, initiating a chain reaction of atomic displacements [1, 6].

The amount of energy transferred to the PKA is crucial for determining whether a defect will be created. If the energy transferred to an atom exceeds the material's **threshold displacement energy** (E_d), a defect will be formed, typically a vacancy or an interstitial.

1.2.2 Threshold Displacement Energy (E_d)

The **threshold displacement energy** (E_d) is the minimum energy required to displace an atom from its lattice site. If the energy transferred to an atom is less than E_d, no defect is formed, and the atom remains in its lattice position. However, if the transferred energy exceeds E_d, the atom is displaced, resulting

in the creation of a vacancy (a missing atom in the lattice) and potentially an interstitial (an extra atom in a non-lattice position) [2].

The value of E_d varies depending on the material and its atomic structure. For example, in metals like iron (Fe), E_d typically ranges from 20 to 50 eV. Materials with stronger atomic bonds, such as ceramics, have higher E_d values, while materials with weaker bonds, like low-density metals, have lower E_d values [6].

1.2.3 Defect Cascades

Once the PKA is created, it transfers energy to neighboring atoms, causing a cascade of displacements. This cascade process leads to the creation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters. The cascade is typically characterized by several stages:

- **Initial Displacement**: The PKA displaces an atom, creating a vacancy and an interstitial.
- **Energy Transfer**: The displaced atom transfers energy to neighboring atoms, causing further displacements.
- **Defect Formation**: The cascade results in the formation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters.

The size and nature of the cascade depend on several factors, including the energy of the PKA and the atomic properties of the material. The defect cascade process is highly dynamic, often involving thousands of atoms, and it is a key aspect of radiation-induced damage in materials [1].

1.2.4 Defects and Material Properties

Radiation-induced defects such as vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters have a profound impact on a material's macroscopic properties. The accumulation of these defects leads to changes in material strength, ductility, electrical conductivity, and thermal conductivity. Understanding how these defects interact and evolve over time is crucial for predicting how materials behave under radiation exposure.

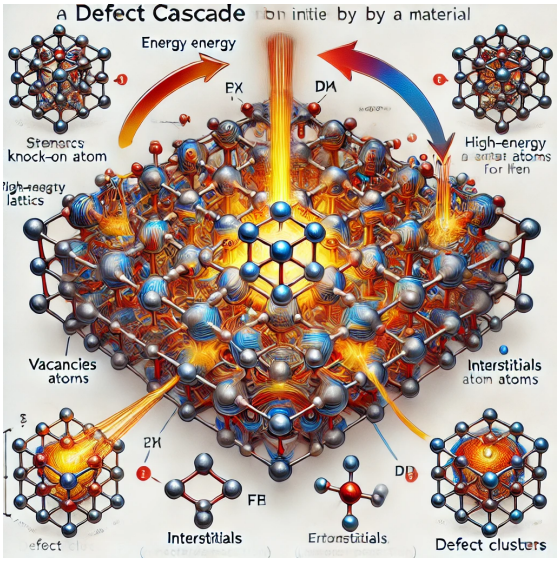


Figure 1.1: Schematic of defect cascade initiated by a primary knock-on atom (PKA) in a material lattice.

Mechanical Properties

The mechanical properties of materials, such as their strength and ductility, are significantly affected by radiation-induced defects. Key effects include:

- **Radiation Hardening**: The accumulation of defect clusters, such as dislocation loops, can increase the material's strength by impeding dislocation motion. While this makes the material harder, it often results in reduced ductility and increased brittleness.

- **Embrittlement**: As vacancies and interstitials accumulate, the material becomes more prone to cracking and fracture. This phenomenon is known as embrittlement, which is particularly important for reactor pressure vessels.

- **Swelling**: The accumulation of vacancies can lead to the formation of voids, resulting in swelling. Swelling reduces the material's density and causes dimensional instability, a critical issue for materials used in high-radiation environments such as nuclear reactors.

Electrical and Thermal Conductivity

Radiation-induced defects also affect the electrical and thermal properties of materials. Defects disrupt the movement of charge carriers and phonons, leading to

reduced electrical and thermal conductivity. In semiconductor materials, defects can trap charge carriers, increasing electrical resistance and reducing conductivity. In metallic materials, the presence of vacancies and interstitials increases thermal resistance, reducing the material's ability to conduct heat [6, 2].

1.3 Defect Evolution and Material Behavior

Once defects are created, they do not remain static. They evolve over time through processes such as migration, recombination, and clustering. This evolution affects the material's macroscopic properties, and understanding how defects evolve is crucial for predicting the long-term behavior of materials under irradiation.

1.3.1 Defect Migration

Defect migration is the process by which vacancies and interstitials move through the lattice. This process is thermally activated, meaning that defect migration becomes more pronounced at higher temperatures. The migration of defects is essential for several processes, such as defect recombination and clustering. The ability of defects to migrate is a key factor in determining how materials respond to radiation exposure [1].

1.3.2 Defect Recombination

Recombination occurs when a vacancy and an interstitial meet and annihilate each other. This process reduces the defect density and helps restore the material's lattice structure. Recombination is thermally activated and becomes more significant at higher temperatures, contributing to the material's recovery from radiation damage [6].

1.3.3 Defect Clustering

As defects migrate, they can aggregate into clusters. These clusters can take various forms, including dislocation loops, voids, and other extended defects. The formation of defect clusters significantly alters the material's mechanical properties

by obstructing dislocation motion, which can increase the material's strength but reduce its ductility [2].

1.3.4 Thermal Annealing and Defect Recovery

Thermal annealing plays a critical role in defect recovery. During annealing, defects such as vacancies and interstitials migrate and recombine due to thermal activation. This process reduces defect densities and helps restore the material's properties. The rate of recovery is temperature-dependent and can vary based on the migration energies of the defects [2].

1.4 Simulating Radiation Damage: IM3D and MMonCa

To understand and predict the behavior of materials under radiation exposure, it is essential to simulate the processes of defect creation, migration, and evolution. Two powerful tools used to simulate radiation damage are **IM3D** and **MMonCa**.

1.4.1 IM3D: Simulating Defect Cascades

IM3D (Ion-Matter Interaction 3D) is a computational tool designed to simulate the primary defect cascades caused by high-energy particle collisions. IM3D calculates the positions and types of defects created during irradiation and provides crucial data for modeling the long-term evolution of these defects using other tools such as MMonCa [2, 1].

1.4.2 MMonCa: Modeling Defect Evolution

MMonCa (Monte Carlo Simulator) tracks the evolution of radiation-induced defects over time. It models defect migration, recombination, and clustering processes, allowing users to predict how defects evolve and how they affect material properties [6].

1.5 Key Takeaways

Summary

- Radiation damage results in the creation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters, which significantly alter material properties.
- Defect migration, recombination, and clustering play a crucial role in the evolution of radiation-induced defects.
- IM3D and MMonCa are essential tools for simulating radiation damage and predicting material behavior under irradiation.

1.6 Next Chapter

In the next chapter, we will explore the IM3D and MMonCa simulation tools in greater detail, focusing on their capabilities and how to use them for modeling radiation damage in materials.

Chapter 2

Fundamentals of Radiation Damage

Radiation damage is a fundamental topic in materials science, particularly in areas such as nuclear reactors, space materials, and semiconductor devices. When high-energy particles, such as ions, neutrons, or electrons, collide with the atoms of a material, they cause atomic displacements, resulting in defects. These defects significantly alter the material's properties, such as its strength, ductility, electrical conductivity, and thermal conductivity. Understanding the mechanisms of radiation damage is essential for predicting material behavior under radiation exposure and for designing materials with improved radiation tolerance.

This chapter introduces the key concepts of radiation damage, the types of defects created during irradiation, and the mechanisms of defect formation and evolution. We will explore how radiation-induced defects influence material properties and discuss the tools used to model radiation damage, including **IM3D** and **MMonCa**.

2.1 Introduction to Radiation Damage

Radiation damage occurs when materials are exposed to high-energy particles, which transfer energy to atoms within the material. The energy transfer displaces atoms from their equilibrium positions in the lattice, creating defects such as vacancies and interstitials. These defects can cause significant changes in the

material's macroscopic properties, including its mechanical, electrical, and thermal characteristics [2, 6].

Radiation damage is classified into two main types:

- **Primary Damage**: The initial defects created by high-energy particle collisions, such as vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters.
- **Secondary Damage**: The long-term effects of these primary defects, including void formation, dislocation loops, and clustering of defects, which can lead to embrittlement, swelling, and material degradation.

Materials with high radiation tolerance can withstand significant radiation exposure without losing their properties, while others may degrade rapidly. For example, in nuclear reactors, radiation damage to structural materials can lead to embrittlement and loss of strength, which poses a safety risk [6]. Similarly, in space environments, radiation exposure can cause performance degradation in electronic devices and structural components [1].

2.2 Mechanisms of Radiation Damage

Radiation damage is a complex process involving the interaction of high-energy particles with the atomic structure of the material. The primary mechanism is the displacement of atoms from their lattice positions, creating defects. In this section, we will discuss the key stages of radiation damage, from the creation of primary defects to the long-term evolution of these defects.

2.2.1 Primary Knock-on Atom (PKA)

The primary step in radiation damage is the creation of a **Primary Knock-on Atom (PKA)**. When a high-energy particle (e.g., an ion or neutron) strikes an atom in the material, it transfers energy to that atom, causing it to be displaced from its equilibrium position. The displaced atom is known as the PKA. The energy transferred to the PKA is sufficient to displace other atoms in the lattice, initiating a cascade of atomic displacements [1].

The energy imparted to the PKA depends on the type of incident particle and the atomic properties of the target material. For example, heavier ions like helium and carbon typically transfer more energy to the target material compared to lighter ions like protons. This transfer of energy causes the material to experience atomic displacements, which leads to the creation of vacancies and interstitials.

2.2.2 Threshold Displacement Energy (E_d)

The **threshold displacement energy** (E_d) is the minimum energy required to displace an atom from its lattice site. If the energy transferred to an atom is less than E_d, no defect is created. However, if the energy exceeds E_d, the atom is displaced, creating a vacancy and potentially an interstitial [6].

The value of E_d depends on the material and is influenced by factors such as atomic bonding and lattice structure. For example, in metals like iron (Fe), E_d typically ranges from 20 to 50 eV. Higher E_d values are observed in materials with stronger atomic bonds, such as ceramics, while lower values are found in materials with weaker bonds, like polymers and low-density metals [2].

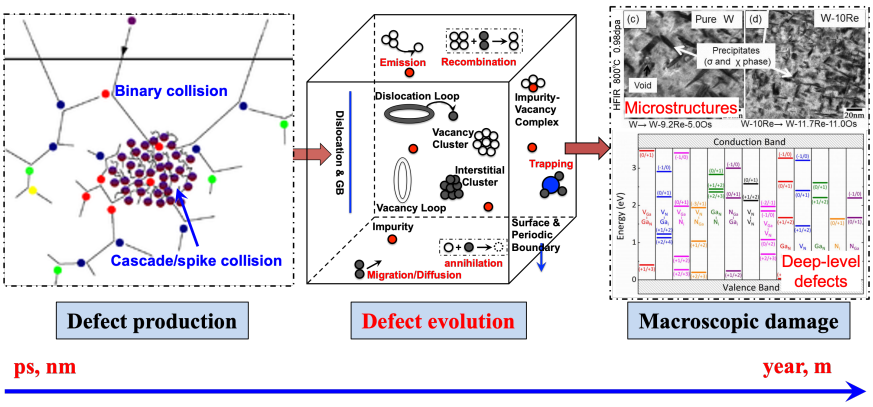
2.2.3 Defect Cascades

Once a PKA is created, it transfers energy to neighboring atoms, causing a cascade of displacements. This cascade process leads to the formation of vacancies and interstitials. As the cascade propagates, the material undergoes a dynamic reconfiguration where atoms are displaced in a chain reaction. The result is a complex network of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters [2].

The size of a defect cascade depends on several factors, including the energy of the PKA and the material's atomic structure. The cascade process typically consists of the following stages:

- **Initial Displacement**: The PKA displaces an atom, creating a vacancy and an interstitial.
- **Energy Transfer**: The displaced atom transfers energy to neighboring atoms, causing further displacements.

- **Defect Formation**: The cascade results in the formation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters. The number and types of defects depend on the initial energy of the PKA and the material's atomic properties.



Gilbert et al., *J. Nucl. Mater.* 554 (2021) 153113; Alkauskas et al., *J. Appl. Phys.* 119 (2016) 181101.

Figure 2.1: A schematic of a defect cascade initiated by a primary knock-on atom (PKA).

2.2.4 Defects and Material Properties

Radiation-induced defects such as vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters have a significant impact on the material's properties. As defects accumulate, they can lead to a variety of changes in mechanical, electrical, and thermal behavior.

Mechanical Properties

Radiation-induced defects can weaken the material by increasing its hardness but reducing its ductility, leading to a phenomenon known as **radiation hardening**. This makes the material stronger but more brittle. Some of the key mechanical effects of radiation damage are:

- **Radiation Hardening**: Defect clusters, such as dislocation loops, can increase the material's strength by impeding dislocation motion. However, this often results in a reduction in ductility and an increased risk of brittle fracture.

- **Embrittlement**: As vacancies and interstitials accumulate, the material becomes more prone to cracking and fracture, a phenomenon known as em-

brittlement. This is particularly concerning for materials used in reactor pressure vessels.

- **Swelling**: The accumulation of vacancies can lead to the formation of voids, which causes material swelling. Swelling reduces the material's density and leads to dimensional instability, which can cause material failure in high-radiation environments such as nuclear reactors.

Electrical and Thermal Conductivity

Radiation-induced defects disrupt the movement of charge carriers and phonons, leading to a decrease in both electrical and thermal conductivity:

- **Electrical Conductivity**: In semiconductor materials, defects can trap charge carriers, leading to an increase in electrical resistance and a decrease in conductivity. Defects may also create deep levels in the material's band structure, further disrupting charge carrier mobility.

- **Thermal Conductivity**: The presence of defects increases the material's resistance to heat flow. The more defects present in the lattice, the higher the thermal resistance. This can lead to overheating in materials used in high-temperature environments like nuclear reactors.

2.3 Defect Evolution and Material Behavior

The defects created during irradiation do not remain static; they evolve over time through various processes, including migration, recombination, and clustering. These defect interactions have a direct impact on the material's macroscopic properties.

2.3.1 Defect Migration

Defects such as vacancies and interstitials can migrate through the lattice, driven by thermal activation. Migration is essential for defect recovery, as it allows defects to recombine and form stable configurations [2].

2.3.2 Thermal Annealing and Recombination

Thermal annealing helps defects migrate and recombine, reducing defect densities and restoring the lattice to a more stable state. The rate of defect recovery depends on temperature and the energy required for defects to migrate [6].

2.3.3 Defect Clustering and Material Evolution

As defects migrate, they may aggregate to form larger structures, such as dislocation loops and voids. These clusters can obstruct dislocation motion, increase the material's strength, but reduce its ductility. Over time, the material may experience swelling, embrittlement, and loss of mechanical properties due to the accumulation of these defect clusters [1].

2.4 Simulating Radiation Damage: IM3D and MMonCa

Given the complexity of radiation damage and defect evolution, simulating these processes is essential for understanding material behavior under irradiation. Two key tools used to simulate radiation damage are **IM3D** and **MMonCa**. These tools help model defect cascades, defect migration, clustering, and recombination over time.

2.4.1 IM3D: Simulating Defect Cascades

IM3D (Ion-Matter Interaction 3D) is a computational tool designed to simulate the primary defect cascades caused by high-energy particle collisions. It calculates the positions and types of defects created during irradiation [2]. IM3D provides crucial information about the initial damage caused by irradiation and serves as the input for simulating defect evolution with other tools like MMonCa.

2.4.2 MMonCa: Modeling Defect Evolution

MMonCa (Monte Carlo Simulator) uses the Kinetic Monte Carlo (KMC) method to simulate the long-term evolution of defects. It tracks defect migration, recombination, and clustering over time, providing a comprehensive view of how defects evolve and how they impact material properties [6].

2.5 Key Takeaways

Summary

- Radiation damage results in the creation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters that impact material properties.
- Defects evolve over time through migration, recombination, and clustering, affecting the material's strength, ductility, and conductivity.
- IM3D and MMonCa are essential simulation tools for modeling radiation damage and defect evolution in materials.

2.6 Next Chapter

In the next chapter, we will explore the **IM3D** and **MMonCa** simulation tools in more detail, focusing on how to set up and use these tools to model radiation damage in materials.

Chapter 3

Overview of IM3D and MMonCa

3.1 Introduction

Simulating radiation damage and defect evolution in materials requires the use of specialized computational tools. Two such tools, **IM3D** (Ion-Matter Interaction 3D) and **MMonCa** (Monte Carlo Simulator), are widely used for modeling the primary defect cascades and the long-term evolution of defects under irradiation. These tools provide a comprehensive framework for understanding radiation-induced defects and their evolution, allowing researchers to predict material properties and design radiation-resistant materials.

Together, IM3D and MMonCa enable a comprehensive understanding of radiation damage. While IM3D focuses on simulating primary defects created during high-energy particle collisions, MMonCa models the long-term effects of these defects, including their migration, clustering, and recovery. These tools are essential for materials science, especially for applications in nuclear reactors, spacecraft, and semiconductor devices, where radiation-induced degradation of materials can significantly affect performance [6, 1].

3.2 IM3D: Modeling Defect Cascades

3.2.1 What is IM3D?

IM3D is a computational tool designed to simulate the primary defect cascades caused by high-energy particle collisions, such as ion or neutron irradiation. The tool employs the **Binary Collision Approximation (BCA)** method to track atomic collisions and calculates the positions and types of defects (vacancies, interstitials, etc.) generated during these collisions. IM3D is essential for understanding the early stages of radiation damage and provides key input for subsequent defect evolution modeling in tools like MMonCa.

IM3D Features

- Models the creation of vacancies, interstitials, and defect clusters.
- Simulates energy transfer during defect cascades.
- Handles complex geometries and various materials.
- Outputs data for further analysis, such as defect distributions and energy deposition.

3.2.2 Physics of IM3D

IM3D uses the following principles to model radiation-induced defect cascades:

- **Binary Collision Approximation (BCA)**:

$$\Delta E = \frac{2m_p m_t}{(m_p + m_t)^2} E_{\text{proj}}$$

  where m_p is the mass of the projectile, m_t is the mass of the target atom, and E_{proj} is the energy of the incident particle. BCA models collisions between two atoms at a time, calculating the energy transfer and the probability of displacement.

- **Threshold Displacement Energy (E_d)**: Defects are only created if the transferred energy exceeds the threshold displacement energy (E_d) of the

material. For materials like iron, the E_d is typically around 40 eV. If the energy transfer is below this threshold, no defect is generated.

3.2.3 IM3D Output Files

The primary output of IM3D is the **aiv.xyz.cfg file**, which contains information about the positions and types of defects generated during the simulation. The file typically includes:

- Defect positions (x, y, z).
- Defect types (vacancies, interstitials).
- Energy deposited during the cascade.

A sample IM3D output might look like this:

```
0.498968 0.499924 0.500056 1 0 0 0 258.667236
0.499378 0.500097 0.500013 2 0 0 0 80.078476
0.499318 0.500147 0.499940 1 0 0 0 225.296585
```

Where:

- Columns 1-3: x, y, z positions of the defects.
- Column 4: Defect type (1 for interstitial, 2 for vacancy).
- Column 5: Ion identifier.
- Column 6-7: Element type (0 for Fe, 1 for Cr).
- Column 8: Energy associated with the defect.

For further details on configuring and running IM3D, please refer to the **IM3D User Manual** [4].

3.3 MMonCa: Modeling Defect Evolution

3.3.1 What is MMonCa?

MMonCa (Monte Carlo Simulator) is a tool used to simulate the long-term evolution of defects generated during irradiation. While IM3D focuses on simulating the primary defect cascades, MMonCa tracks the movement, clustering, and recovery of these defects over time. Using the Kinetic Monte Carlo (KMC) method, MMonCa allows researchers to simulate defect evolution in a material and understand how these defects affect material properties such as strength, conductivity, and radiation tolerance.

MMonCa Features

- Simulates defect migration, clustering, and annealing.
- Models the effects of temperature on defect behavior.
- Tracks defect recovery and formation of dislocation loops or voids.
- Can handle complex materials, including alloys.

3.3.2 Physics of MMonCa

MMonCa employs several key physical principles to simulate defect evolution:

- **Migration and Formation Energies**: The migration energy (E_m) controls how easily a defect (such as a vacancy or interstitial) can move through the material. The formation energy determines how easily a defect is created in the material. For example, the migration energy for vacancies in Fe is approximately 0.67 eV.
- **Thermal Annealing**: Defects may recover due to thermal activation. The probability of defect migration or recombination increases exponentially with temperature:

$$R = R_0 e^{-E_m/k_B T}$$

where R_0 is a pre-exponential factor, E_m is the migration energy, k_B is Boltzmann's constant, and T is the temperature.

- **Cluster Dynamics**: MMonCa models the formation of defect clusters, which can aggregate into larger voids or dislocation loops. The size and evolution of these clusters are important for understanding material embrittlement and swelling under irradiation.

3.3.3 MMonCa Output Files

MMonCa provides several outputs:

- **Defect counts**: Tracks the number of vacancies, interstitials, and clusters in the material.
- **Defect profiles**: Provides spatial distributions of defects over time.
- **Time evolution**: Shows how defect densities change as the material undergoes annealing or other thermal processes.

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Figure 1: Example Workflow for IM3D and MMonCa Integration

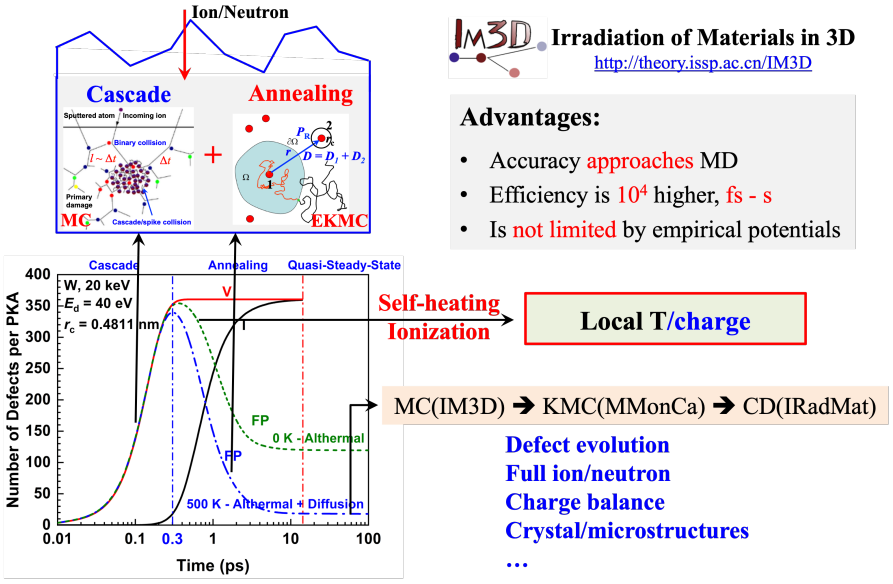

Figure 3.1: Workflow combining IM3D and MMonCa. IM3D generates defect cascades, which are then used by MMonCa to simulate defect evolution and material behavior.

3.3.4 Applications of IM3D and MMonCa

The combination of IM3D and MMonCa provides a robust toolset for simulating radiation damage and defect evolution in materials. Some of the primary applications include:

- **Nuclear Engineering**: Modeling radiation damage in reactor materials such as steel and zirconium alloys.
- **Semiconductor Manufacturing**: Simulating defect formation in semiconductor devices exposed to cosmic or particle radiation.
- **Space Applications**: Assessing the effects of radiation on spacecraft materials, including metals and composites.

By simulating the primary defect cascades and their evolution, IM3D and MMonCa offer critical insights into material performance under irradiation, which is essential for designing more radiation-resistant materials in these applications.

3.4 Conclusion

IM3D and MMonCa provide a comprehensive framework for simulating radiation damage and defect evolution in materials. IM3D simulates the initial creation of defects under high-energy particle irradiation, while MMonCa tracks the long-term evolution of these defects, allowing for a detailed understanding of how radiation affects material properties. These tools are indispensable in fields like nuclear engineering, space exploration, and semiconductor technology, where radiation damage plays a critical role in material performance.

For further information on configuring and running IM3D and MMonCa simulations, consult their respective user manuals [4, 5].

Chapter 4

Configuration Files for MMonCa

4.1 Introduction

MMonCa relies on modular input files to define material properties, defect behavior, and simulation parameters. These files provide flexibility and adaptability to model different materials, defect types, and experimental conditions. By modifying the parameters in these configuration files, researchers can model a wide range of materials, irradiation conditions, and defect types to simulate radiation damage, defect clustering, and long-term material behavior.

In this chapter, we will explore the most important configuration files used for **Fe** (iron) simulations in MMonCa and discuss how they can be adapted to model other materials and defect behaviors. We will also include examples of key parameters for these files and illustrate their usage in MMonCa simulations. These configuration files are available in the MMonCa package, with the ones for **Fe** serving as examples. Users who wish to model other materials (e.g., Cr, Ni, alloys) must modify these files or create new ones tailored to the specific properties of the element or material.

Key Configuration Files

The primary configuration files for Fe simulations in MMonCa include:

1. `Iron`: Bulk properties of Fe (essential for all simulations).
2. `Lattice`: Crystal structure and neighbor distances (provides the foundation for the material's geometric properties).
3. `Vacancy`: Individual vacancy properties (understanding basic defect types).
4. `Carbon`: Impurities and their interactions with defects (important for simulating impurity effects on material properties).
5. `ICluster`: Interstitial clustering behavior (key for modeling defects that are displaced from the lattice sites).
6. `V<100>` and `V<111>`: Crystallographic orientation-specific defect behavior (defects in specific crystallographic directions).
7. `VCluster`: Vacancy clustering behavior (helps understand how vacancies aggregate and evolve).
8. `HeCluster` and `Helium`: Helium-related defect dynamics (important for simulating radiation damage and material degradation in nuclear applications).
9. `Mechanics`: Elastic and thermal properties (important for modeling the mechanical response of the material under stress and temperature).
10. `Model`: General defect interaction rules (provides the overall framework for defect interactions).
11. `Epitaxy`: Interface properties and reactions (deals with simulations involving layered materials or material interfaces).

These configuration files are included in the MMonCa package, with the ones for **Fe** serving as examples. Users who wish to model other materials (e.g., Cr, Ni, alloys) must modify these files or create new ones tailored to the specific properties of the element or material.

4.2 File Descriptions and Examples

4.2.1 `Iron`

Purpose: This file defines the behavior of interstitial defects in iron, focusing on their migration, formation, and related parameters. These details are essential for accurately simulating radiation damage in iron-based materials.

Key Components:

- **Migration and Formation Parameters**:
  - The `I(migration)` and `I(formation)` parameters follow the Arrhenius equations, which describe the movement and creation of interstitial defects, respectively.
  - Migration follows the equation:

$$D = D_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_m}{k \cdot T}\right)$$

    Where:
    - D: Diffusion coefficient (rate of migration).
    - $D_0 = 8.2 \times 10^{-3}\,\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{s}$: Prefactor.
    - E_m: Migration energy barrier $(0.34 - 0.67\,\mathrm{eV})$.
    - $k \cdot T$: Thermal energy.
  - Formation follows the equation:

$$R = R_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_f}{k \cdot T}\right)$$

    Where:
    - R: Formation rate.
    - $R_0 = 1 \times 10^{25} - 7.95 \times 10^{27}$: Prefactor.
    - $E_f = 3.77 - 5\,\mathrm{eV}$: Formation energy barrier.
- **Correlation Factor and Alpha Parameter**:

- `correlation.factor` scales the migration rates to reflect physical constraints in the material. A value of 1 means the migration rates are used as defined.
- The `alpha` parameter models secondary processes in the material, with a low energy barrier (0.1 eV), indicating that these processes occur readily at typical simulation temperatures.

Example File Content (`Iron`):

Iron File Example

```
arrhenius I(migration) { 0% 8.2e-3 0.34 100% 8.2e-3 0.67 }
arrhenius I(formation) { 0% 1e25 3.77 100% 7.95e27 5 }
float correlation.factor 1
arrhenius alpha { 5 0.1 }
```

Explanation:

- The migration and formation of interstitial defects in iron are modeled with temperature-dependent parameters. The migration is easier at low temperatures and defect densities, but becomes more difficult at higher temperatures. Similarly, formation is easier at low conditions and more difficult at high conditions.
- The `correlation.factor` ensures that the migration rates reflect realistic physical conditions, and the `alpha` parameter defines a secondary process that occurs rapidly due to its low energy barrier.

4.2.2 `Lattice`

Purpose: This file defines the crystal lattice configuration for materials like iron, focusing on the body-centered cubic (BCC) structure. It specifies lattice parameters, defect retention policies, neighbor interaction distances, and crystal orientations, which are essential for simulating the behavior of materials under various conditions.

Key Components:

- `Lattice Type`: The `type` parameter specifies the BCC lattice structure, which is typical for materials like iron, chromium, and tungsten. In this configuration, atoms are positioned at the cube corners $(0, 0, 0)$ and at the center $(0.5, 0.5, 0.5)$.

- `Lattice Constants`: The `parameter` defines the lattice constant, which is the distance between atoms in the crystal. For iron, this value is set to 0.287 nm. The `parameter.alloy` is set to the same value, indicating the lattice constant for iron alloys.

- `Defect Retention`: The `remove.defects` parameter controls whether defects are retained or removed during simulations:

  - **false**: Defects remain in the lattice and can evolve during the simulation.
  - **true**: Defects are removed, simulating a perfect lattice.

- `Neighbor Distances`: The `neighbor.distance` parameter specifies interaction distances between neighboring atoms:

  - First-nearest neighbors interact within 0.25 nm.
  - Second- and third-nearest neighbors interact within 0.4 nm.

  These distances are critical for accurately modeling defect clustering and interactions between atoms.

- `Crystal Orientation`: The `wafer.orientation` aligns the primary crystal direction with the x-axis $(i = 1, j = 0, k = 0)$, and `flat.orientation` aligns the flat reference surface along the y-axis $(i = 0, j = 1, k = 0)$.

Example File Content (`Lattice`):

Lattice File Example

```
string type bcc.1
float parameter 0.287
float parameter.alloy 0.287
bool remove.defects false
map<string,float> neighbor.distance first 0.25 second 0.4 third 0.4
map<string,float> wafer.orientation i 1 j 0 k 0
map<string,float> flat.orientation i 0 j 1 k 0
```

Explanation of Key Sections:

- `Lattice Type`: The file defines a BCC lattice with atoms positioned at cube corners and at the center. This is the typical structure for iron and many other metals.
- `Lattice Constants`: The lattice constant of 0.287 nm determines the distance between atoms. This value is used for both pure iron and its alloys.
- `Defect Retention`: The `remove.defects` parameter allows users to choose whether defects will remain in the simulation. Setting it to `false` is typically used for studying defect behavior.
- `Neighbor Distances`: Defines the interaction ranges for first, second, and third nearest neighbors. These distances are crucial for defect interactions, with the closest atoms interacting within 0.25 nm and more distant atoms within 0.4 nm.
- `Crystal Orientation`: Specifies the orientations of the crystal. This is important for simulating material behavior under external forces or in different crystallographic directions.

4.2.3 `Vacancy`

Purpose: The `Vacancy` file models the behavior of vacancies in a material, including their migration, formation, and interactions with other defects. Vacancies are critical defects in materials and play a key role in diffusion, material degradation, and phase changes.

Key Components:

- **Vacancy Migration**:
  - The `V(migration)` parameter defines how vacancies move through the material.
  - Migration follows the Arrhenius equation:

$$D = D_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_m}{kT}\right)$$

    where:
    - $D_0 = 1 \times 10^{-5}\,\mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{s}$ is the prefactor representing the base diffusion rate.
    - $E_m = 0.55\,\mathrm{eV}$ is the migration energy barrier, indicating the difficulty in vacancy movement.
  - Vacancies are relatively immobile due to the small prefactor and moderate migration energy, resulting in slow diffusion.
- **Vacancy Formation**:
  - The `V(formation)` parameter specifies the energy required to create vacancies in the lattice.
  - The formation follows the Arrhenius equation:

$$R = R_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_f}{kT}\right)$$

    where:
    - $R_0 = 5.3 \times 10^{24}$ is the prefactor for vacancy formation.
    - $E_f = 2.12\,\mathrm{eV}$ is the formation energy barrier, representing the energy required to create a vacancy.
  - Vacancies are moderately difficult to form, requiring a relatively high formation energy.
- **Correlation Factor**:

  - The `correlation.factor` adjusts the vacancy migration rates based on physical constraints or deviations from ideal conditions.
  - A value of 0.727 reduces the migration rate to approximately 73% of its calculated value, making it more realistic under physical conditions.

- **Alpha Parameter**:
  - The `alpha` parameter models secondary processes involving vacancies, such as interactions with other defects or clustering.
  - The rate for this process follows the Arrhenius equation:

$$\text{Rate} = 5 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{0.1}{kT}\right)$$

    where:
    * Prefactor = 5, indicating a high base rate.
    * Energy barrier = 0.1 eV, suggesting that this reaction occurs readily at typical simulation temperatures.

Example File Content (`Vacancy.in`):

Vacancy File Example

```
arrhenius V(migration) { 1e-5 0.55 }
arrhenius V(formation) { 5.3e24 2.12 }
float correlation.factor 0.727
arrhenius alpha { 5 0.1 }
```

4.2.4 `Carbon`

Purpose: The `Carbon` file models the behavior of carbon-related defects in materials like iron (Fe). Carbon atoms and their interactions with vacancies or interstitials play a critical role in defect dynamics and material properties, such as swelling, embrittlement, or creep resistance.

Key Components:

- **Migration Energies**:

  - Defines how easily carbon atoms and related defects can move (diffuse) through the material.
  - High migration energy barriers (e.g., 5 eV) make some defects effectively immobile.

- **Formation Energies**:
  - Determines how much energy is needed to form defects involving carbon atoms.
  - Formation energies depend on defect type (e.g., single carbon, interstitial, vacancy-carbon pair).

Usage in MMonCa:

- Simulates the migration and formation of carbon-related defects, such as interstitials (`CI`) and vacancies (`CV`).
- Tracks the mobility and stability of these defects under varying thermal conditions.

Key Parameters Explained:

- **Migration**:
  - Defines defect mobility using the Arrhenius equation:

$$D = D_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_m}{kT}\right)$$

    Where:
    * D: Diffusion coefficient (rate of defect movement).
    * D_0: Prefactor (cm^2/s).
    * E_m: Migration energy barrier (eV).
    * kT: Thermal energy (Boltzmann constant multiplied by temperature).
  - Example Migration Parameters:

  - `C(migration)`: Single carbon atoms diffuse with a moderate rate ($D_0 = 8 \times 10^{-3}$, $E_m = 0.86\,\text{eV}$).
  - `CV(migration)`: Carbon-vacancy pairs are effectively immobile ($D_0 = 0$, $E_m = 5\,\text{eV}$).

- **Formation**:
  - Defines defect formation using the Arrhenius equation:

$$R = R_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_f}{kT}\right)$$

    Where:
    - R: Formation rate of defects.
    - R_0: Prefactor (scaling factor).
    - E_f: Formation energy barrier (eV).
  - Example Formation Parameters:
    - `C(formation)`: Single carbon atoms form easily ($E_f = 0\,\text{eV}$).
    - `CI(formation)`: Carbon interstitials require high formation energy ($E_f = 2.97\,\text{eV}$).
    - `CV(formation)`: Carbon-vacancy pairs require moderate energy ($E_f = 1.47\,\text{eV}$).

Example File Content (`Carbon`):

`Carbon` File Example

```
// Binding parameters for Carbon-related defects
arrhenius C(formation) 1 0
arrhenius CI(formation) 24 2.97
arrhenius CV(formation) 1e-3 1.47 // Migration parameters for
Carbon-related defects
arrhenius C(migration) 8e-3 0.86
arrhenius CV(migration) 0 5

// Binding parameters for Carbon-related defects
arrhenius C(formation) 1 0
arrhenius CI(formation) 24 2.97
arrhenius CV(formation) 1e-3 1.47
```

4.2.5 `ICluster`

Purpose: This file models interstitial cluster properties and behaviors, focusing on their formation, migration, and diffusion characteristics. Interstitial clusters are critical to understanding defect dynamics in irradiated materials.

Key Components:

- **Shape and Geometry**:
  - The defect is labeled as "irregular," indicating a non-standard shape.
  - Symmetry is ensured with an axes ratio of 1, meaning uniform scaling along all directions.
- **Transformation Rules**:
  - `transform.to` defines how interstitial clusters (ICluster) form:
    - For cluster sizes greater than 5, a very high energy ($1e10$) is required, effectively preventing transformations.
- **Migration Rules**:

  - The `migration` procedure calculates the mobility of interstitial clusters based on their size:
    * **Prefactor (D_0)**: Controls the rate of migration.
      · Larger clusters migrate slower ($D_0 \propto \text{size}^{-1.7}$).
      · Special cases (clusters of size 2, 3, and 4) use fixed prefactors for accuracy.
    * **Migration Energy (E_m)**: Determines the energy needed for clusters to move.
      · Larger clusters have slightly lower migration energies.
      · Special cases define precise values for smaller clusters.

- **Formation Energy**:
  - The `formation` procedure calculates the energy required to form interstitial clusters:
    * Uses a scaling law for cluster size to compute formation energy.
    * Special cases handle small clusters:
      · Size = 2: Formation energy = 0.8 eV.
      · Size = 3: Formation energy = 0.92 eV.
      · Size = 4: Formation energy = 1.64 eV.

- **Diffusion Prefactors**:
  - The `prefactor` procedure defines diffusion rates for clusters:
    * Larger clusters diffuse more slowly due to higher prefactor values:

$$\text{Prefactor} = 8.2 \times 10^{-3} \times \text{size}$$

Example File Content (`ICluster`):

ICluster File Example

```
string shape irregular
float density.cm3 8.46e22
string to <111>
string from ICluster
string migration.type 3d
coordinates axis.2 1 0 0
coordinates axis.1 0 1 0
coordinates axis.0 0 0 1
coordinates not.in.plane 0 0 0
float axes.ratio 1
bool IV.model false
bool percolation true
float lambda 0.287
proc transform.from {}
proc transform.to { ... }
proc migration { ... }
proc formation { ... }
proc prefactor { ... }
```

4.2.6 <100> and <111>

Purpose: These files model defect behavior along the crystallographic orientations <100> and <111> in iron. Both files focus on interstitial defects, their migration, formation energy, and diffusion properties along the respective directions.

Key Components:

- **Shape and Geometry**:
  - The defects are modeled as disk-shaped, with the surface normal aligned to the respective crystallographic direction (<100> or <111>), and the plane along <111>.
  - The defect density is specified as 1.92×10^{15} defects/cm^2.
- **Migration Rules**:

  - Both files define 3D migration, allowing defects to move freely in all directions. For `<100>`, the defects can move along the specified direction, while for `<111>`, the migration is restricted to perpendicular motion to the disk's plane.

- **Formation Energy**:

  - Formation energies are computed using an energy scaling law for clusters ranging from size 2 to 499. Special cases for small clusters (such as `I2`, `I3`) are handled with adjusted formation energies.

- **Prefactors**:

  - Diffusion rates are proportional to the size of the clusters, with larger clusters diffusing more slowly. Smaller clusters have higher prefactors, allowing them to diffuse more easily.

- **Transformations**:

  - Both files specify transformation behavior. For cluster sizes larger than 5, a high transformation energy barrier (1×10^{10}) prevents the defects from transforming easily.

Example File Content (`<100>` and `<111>`):

<100> and <111> File Examples

string shape disk

string to ¡111¿

string from ICluster

float density.cm2 1.92e15

string migration.type perpendicular

coordinates axis.2 1 1 1

coordinates axis.1 0 -1 1

coordinates axis.0 2 -1 -1

bool IV.model false

proc formation { ... }

proc prefactor { ... } `string shape disk`

`string to <100>`

`string from <111>`

`float density.cm2 1.92e15`

`string migration.type 3d`

`coordinates axis.2 1 0 0`

`coordinates axis.1 0 1 0`

`coordinates axis.0 0 0 1`

`float lambda 0.287`

`bool IV.model false`

`proc formation { ... }`

`proc prefactor { ... }`

`string shape disk`

`string to <111>`

`string from ICluster`

`float density.cm2 1.92e15`

`string migration.type perpendicular`

`coordinates axis.2 1 1 1`

`coordinates axis.1 0 -1 1`

`coordinates axis.0 2 -1 -1`

`bool IV.model false`

`proc formation { ... }`

`proc prefactor { ... }`

Detailed Explanation:

1. **Shape and Orientation**:
    - The defects are disk-shaped, with their surface normal aligned to `<100>` or `<111>`, depending on the file. The plane of the disk is aligned along `<111>` for `<100>` and along `<100>` for `<111>`.
2. **Defect Properties**:
    - High defect density of 1.92×10^{15} defects/cm^2 in both files.
    - Migration is allowed in 3D for `<100>` and perpendicular to the disk's plane for `<111>` direction.
3. **Formation Energy**:
    - The formation energies are computed based on the cluster size, with special adjustments for small clusters like `I2`, `I3`.
4. **Prefactors**:
    - Diffusion rates are slower for larger clusters, with the prefactor scaling inversely with size.
5. **Transformations**:
    - Both files include transformation rules, with large clusters requiring high energy for transformation.

4.2.7 `V<100>` and `V<111>`

Purpose: The `V<100>` and `V<111>` files model the behavior of vacancy clusters aligned with the `<100>` and `<111>` crystallographic directions in iron. Both files focus on the formation, migration, and diffusion properties of vacancy clusters, simulating their movement and behavior along the respective directions.

Key Components:

- **Shape and Geometry**:

  - The defect is modeled as a disk, with the surface normal aligned to the respective crystallographic direction (`<100>` or `<111>`), and the plane along `<111>` for `<100>` and along `<100>` for `<111>`.
  - The defect density is specified as 1.92×10^{15} defects/cm^2 in both files.

- **Migration Rules**:
  - Both files define migration properties for the vacancy clusters, with migration in 3D for `<100>` and perpendicular migration to the disk's plane for `<111>`.

- **Formation Energy**:
  - Formation energies are computed using an energy scaling law for clusters ranging from size 2 to 499. Special cases for small clusters (such as `V2`, `V3`) are handled with adjusted formation energies.

- **Prefactors**:
  - Diffusion rates are proportional to the size of the clusters, with larger clusters diffusing more slowly. Smaller clusters have higher prefactors, allowing them to diffuse more easily.

- **Transformations**:
  - Both files specify transformation behavior. For cluster sizes larger than 5, a high transformation energy barrier (1×10^{10}) prevents the defects from transforming easily.

4.2.8 Example File Content (V<100> and V<111>)

V<100> File Example

```
string shape disk
string to VCluster
string from V<100>
float density.cm2 0.83e15
string migration.type perpendicular
coordinates axis.2 1 0 0
coordinates axis.1 0 1 0
coordinates axis.0 0 0 1
float lambda 0.287
bool IV.model false
proc formation { ... }
proc prefactor { ... }
```

V<111> File Example

```
string shape disk
string to VCluster
string from V<111>
float density.cm2 1.92e15
string migration.type perpendicular
coordinates axis.2 1 1 1
coordinates axis.1 0 -1 1
coordinates axis.0 2 -1 -1
float lambda 0.287
bool IV.model false
proc formation { ... }
proc prefactor { ... }
```

Both the V<100> and V<111> files model the behavior of vacancy clusters in iron along their respective crystallographic directions. The files define the defects as disk-shaped, with migration properties restricted to perpendicular movement to the disk's plane. Formation energies and prefactors are calculated for vacancy

clusters of varying sizes, and both files include transformation rules that prevent large clusters from forming easily due to the high energy barriers. These files are essential for simulating vacancy cluster behavior in materials, providing crucial insights into how defects form, move, and interact under different conditions.

4.2.9 `VCluster`

Purpose: The `VCluster` file models vacancy clusters, which are groups of vacancies (missing atoms) in the lattice. These clusters can grow, move, and interact with other defects. Vacancy clusters play a key role in material degradation, diffusion, and defect evolution processes.

Key Components:

- **Shape and Geometry**:
  - The defect is defined as a void, representing a vacancy cluster that can grow in size.
  - Vacancy clusters align with the lattice structure and migrate in all three dimensions (3D).
- **Migration**:
  - The migration of vacancy clusters is defined for sizes 2 to 499.
  - For smaller clusters (e.g., size 2, 3, 4), specific prefactors and migration energies are assigned:
    - `prefactor` (pref) represents the base diffusion rate.
    - `energy barrier` (ener) defines the difficulty of cluster movement.
  - Larger clusters use default values for migration prefactor and energy.
- **Formation Energy**:
  - Formation energy is calculated based on the cluster size:
    - Larger clusters have higher formation energies.

* The formation energy scales with cluster size using the following formula:

$$E_f = E_f + (E_{b2} - E_f) \times \frac{(\text{size}^e - (\text{size} - 1)^e)}{\text{constant}}$$

- Special cases for small clusters (size 2, 3, 4) override the general formula.
- Carbon-vacancy clusters (C2V, CV2, etc.) have specific formation energies:
  * Example: C2V formation energy $= 1.47 - 1.0\,\text{eV}$.

- **Diffusion Prefactors**:
  - The prefactor for diffusion scales linearly with cluster size:

$$\text{prefactor} = 8.2 \times 10^{-3} \times \text{size}$$

  - Specific prefactors are defined for carbon-vacancy clusters, such as C2V, CV2, etc.

Example File Content (`VCluster.in`):

VCluster File Example

```
arrhenius V(migration) { 1e-5 0.55 }
arrhenius V(formation) { 5.3e24 2.12 }
float correlation.factor 0.727
arrhenius alpha { 5 0.1 }
```

Detailed Explanation:

1. **Shape and Geometry**:
   - The defect is modeled as a vacancy cluster (void), which can grow in size as vacancies accumulate.
   - The cluster aligns with the lattice structure, with migration allowed in 3D, meaning it can move freely in all directions.

2. **Migration**:

- Migration of vacancy clusters is defined for sizes 2–499.
- Small clusters (e.g., size 2, 3, 4) have specific migration parameters that are tailored to their behavior.
- Larger clusters follow default migration parameters, using generalized prefactors and energy barriers.

3. **Formation Energy**:
   - The formation energy for vacancy clusters increases with cluster size.
   - The scaling law computes formation energy based on cluster size, and special cases exist for small clusters such as size 2, 3, and 4.
   - Carbon-vacancy clusters (e.g., C2V, CV2) have specific formation energies, accounting for the additional interactions with carbon.
4. **Diffusion Prefactors**:
   - The prefactor for vacancy cluster diffusion scales with cluster size. Larger clusters diffuse slower due to their increased size and mass.
   - Specific prefactors are defined for carbon-vacancy clusters, adjusting for the interactions between vacancies and carbon atoms.
5. **Transformations**:
   - The transformation rules specify the energy barriers for vacancy cluster transformations. Larger clusters have higher energy barriers, making them more stable.

4.2.10 `Helium` and `HeCluster`

Purpose: The `Helium` file models the behavior of helium-related defects, including single helium atoms, helium interstitials (HeI), and helium-vacancy pairs (HeV). These defects are critical in materials exposed to radiation, where helium buildup can lead to embrittlement and bubble formation. On the other hand, the `HeCluster` file defines the behavior and interactions of helium-related defects with a focus on the formation, migration, and clustering of helium atoms. Both files are essential for simulating radiation damage, particularly in nuclear materials.

Key Components of `Helium`:

- **Migration Parameters**:
  - Defined using the Arrhenius equation:

$$D = D_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_m}{k \cdot T}\right)$$

    Where:
    * D: Diffusion coefficient (rate of movement).
    * D_0: Prefactor (cm^2/s).
    * E_m: Migration energy barrier (eV).
    * $k \cdot T$: Thermal energy.
  - Example migration parameters:
    * `He(migration)`:
      · $D_0 = 0$: Helium atoms are immobile.
      · $E_m = 5\,\mathrm{eV}$: High energy barrier prevents movement.
    * `HeI(migration)`:
      · $D_0 = 3$: Moderate mobility.
      · $E_m = 0.7\,\mathrm{eV}$: Low energy barrier allows thermal migration.
    * `HeV(migration)`:
      · $D_0 = 2$: Similar mobility to HeI.
      · $E_m = 0.8\,\mathrm{eV}$: Slightly higher barrier than HeI.

- **Formation Energies**:
  - Defined using the Arrhenius equation:

$$R = R_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_f}{k \cdot T}\right)$$

    Where:
    * R: Formation rate.
    * R_0: Prefactor (scaling factor).

    * E_f: Formation energy barrier (eV).

  – Example formation parameters:

    * `He(formation)`:

      · $R_0 = 1$: Baseline formation rate.

      · $E_f = 0\,\text{eV}$: Instantaneous formation.

    * `HeI(formation)`:

      · $R_0 = 24$: Frequent formation.

      · $E_f = 2.97\,\text{eV}$: Requires moderate energy.

    * `HeV(formation)`:

      · $R_0 = 144$: Indicates strong stability.

      · $E_f = 4.1\,\text{eV}$: High energy barrier for creation.

Key Components of `HeCluster`:

- **Shape and Geometry**:
  – Helium clusters are defined as having irregular shapes, representing non-standard geometry.
  – The symmetry ratio (`axes.ratio = 1`) ensures uniform scaling along all axes.

- **Density**:
  – The defect density is extremely high ($8.46 \times 10^{22}\,\text{defects/cm}^3$), which is typical for helium clusters embedded in materials.

- **Percolation**:
  – Percolation is enabled (`bool percolation true`), allowing defects to form connected networks. This is crucial for helium clusters as they aggregate and form bubbles.

- **Formation Energies for Helium-Vacancy Clusters**:

– The formation energies for various helium-vacancy clusters are calculated using the `formation` procedure:

$$\mathrm{He}_2 : 2 \cdot E_f^{\mathrm{He}} + 2$$

$$\mathrm{He}_2\mathrm{V} : 2 \cdot E_f^{\mathrm{He}} + E_f^{\mathrm{V}} - 1$$

$$\mathrm{HeV}_2 : E_f^{\mathrm{He}} + 2 \cdot E_f^{\mathrm{V}} - 2$$

$$\mathrm{He}_2\mathrm{V}_2 : 2 \cdot E_f^{\mathrm{He}} + 2 \cdot E_f^{\mathrm{V}} - 1.5$$

- **Prefactors**:
  - The `prefactor` procedure defines interaction rates between helium-vacancy clusters. For example:
  - Interaction between a helium dimer and a vacancy (`He2V,HeV`): Prefactor 1×10^{-3}.
  - Interaction between a helium atom with two vacancies and a single vacancy (`HeV2,V`): Prefactor 1×10^{-3}.

Example File Content (`Helium`):

Helium File Example

```
arrhenius He(migration) 0 5
arrhenius HeI(migration) 3 0.7
arrhenius HeV(migration) 2 0.8
arrhenius He(formation) 1 0
arrhenius HeI(formation) 24 2.97
arrhenius HeV(formation) 144 4.1
```

Example File Content (`HeCluster`):

HeCluster File Example

```
string shape irregular
float density.cm3 8.46e22
string to HeCluster
string from HeCluster
string migration.type 3d
coordinates axis.2 1 0 0
coordinates axis.1 0 1 0
coordinates axis.0 0 0 1
coordinates not.in.plane 0 0 0
float axes.ratio 1
bool percolation true
float lambda 0.287
proc formation {
set list ""
append list "He2 < [expr 2*$EfHe + 2] >"
append list "He2V < [expr 2*$EfHe + $EfV - 1] >"
append list "HeV2 < [expr $EfHe + 2*$EfV - 2] >"
append list "He2V2 < [expr 2*$EfHe + 2*$EfV - 1.5] >"
return $list
}
proc prefactor {
set list ""
append list "He2V,HeV 1e-3"
append list "He2V,V 1e-3"
append list "HeV2,HeV 1e-3"
append list "HeV2,V 1e-3"
append list "He2V2,HeV 1e-3"
append list "He2V2,V 1e-3"
return $list
}
```

Detailed Explanation:

1. **Migration Parameters in** `Helium`:

- Helium atoms (`He`) are immobile with a migration barrier of 5 eV.
- Helium interstitials (`HeI`) have moderate mobility, with a migration barrier of 0.7 eV.
- Helium-vacancy pairs (`HeV`) move with a prefactor of 2 and migration energy of 0.8 eV.

2. **Formation Energies in `Helium`**:
   - Formation of helium atoms (`He`) occurs instantly with no energy required.
   - Formation of helium interstitials (`HeI`) requires 2.97 eV, while helium-vacancy pairs (`HeV`) require 4.1 eV.
3. **Helium Cluster Properties in `HeCluster`**:
   - The helium clusters are defined as irregularly shaped defects with extremely high density (8.46×10^{22} defects/cm^3).
   - Percolation is enabled, allowing helium clusters to aggregate and form connected networks, important for simulating helium bubble growth.
4. **Formation Energy and Prefactors in `HeCluster`**:
   - Formation energies for various helium-vacancy clusters are calculated, such as `He2`, `He2V`, and `HeV2`, with specific values derived from helium and vacancy atoms.
   - The diffusion of helium-vacancy clusters is controlled by prefactors, such as 1×10^{-3}, indicating slow interaction rates.
5. **Migration and Transformation in `HeCluster`**:
   - While the migration and transformation procedures are placeholders in this file, they can be expanded in future versions to define how helium clusters move or interact with other defects during simulations.

Conclusion: These files provide a comprehensive framework for modeling helium-related defects, particularly helium clusters, in materials. They define

essential properties like migration, formation energies, and defect interactions, which are crucial for simulating radiation damage, helium bubble formation, and defect evolution in nuclear materials.

4.2.11 `Mechanics`

Purpose: The `Mechanics` file defines the mechanical properties of materials, such as iron and its alloys. It provides parameters for material stiffness, compressibility, thermal expansion, and placeholders for eigenstrains used in defect simulations.

Key Components:

- **Material Stiffness**:
  - **Young's Modulus (E)**:
    - Measures the stiffness of the material.
    - Iron: 211 GPa, typical for Fe.
    - Alloy: 279 GPa, indicating higher stiffness due to strengthening elements.
  - **Poisson's Ratio (ν)**:
    - Describes the ratio of lateral strain to axial strain.
    - Iron: 0.29, indicating moderate compressibility.
    - Alloy: 0.21, meaning the alloy is less compressible and more resistant to deformation.
- **Thermal Expansion**:
  - **Thermal Expansion Coefficient**:
    - Iron: $11.8 \times 10^{-6}\,1/°\text{C}$, indicating significant thermal expansion.
    - Alloy: $4.9 \times 10^{-6}\,1/°\text{C}$, showing better thermal stability.
  - **Reference Temperature**:
    - Both iron and alloy use 300 K (room temperature) as the baseline.
- **Eigenstrains**:
  - Placeholder for eigenstrain definitions, represented as {}.

- Eigenstrains are used in simulations to model:
  - Internal stresses caused by defects like vacancies or interstitials.
  - Strains due to temperature gradients or phase transformations.
- This section may be updated later for advanced simulations.

Example File Content (`Mechanics`):

Mechanics File Example

```
float E 211
float nu 0.29
float thermal.expansion 11.8e-6
float temp.ref 300
float alloy.E 279
float alloy.nu 0.21
float alloy.thermal.expansion 4.9e-6
float alloy.temp.ref 300
map<string,string> eigenstrains {}
```

Detailed Explanation:

1. **Material Stiffness**:
   - The Young's Modulus E defines how stiff a material is. Higher values indicate less deformation under stress.
   - The Poisson's ratio ν describes how much a material will compress in one direction when stretched in another.
   - For iron, $E = 211\,\text{GPa}$ and $\nu = 0.29$, while for the alloy, $E = 279\,\text{GPa}$ and $\nu = 0.21$, indicating the alloy is stiffer and less compressible.
2. **Thermal Expansion**:
   - The thermal expansion coefficient indicates how much the material expands or contracts with changes in temperature.
   - Iron expands more ($11.8 \times 10^{-6}\,1/°\text{C}$) compared to the alloy ($4.9 \times 10^{-6}\,1/°\text{C}$), meaning the alloy is more thermally stable.

- Both iron and alloy use a reference temperature of 300 K (room temperature) for calculations.

3. **Eigenstrains**:

   - Eigenstrains are internal strains within a material caused by defects or other inhomogeneities.
   - This placeholder allows for future updates to model how defects like vacancies or temperature gradients create internal stresses.

Conclusion: The `Mechanics` file provides the foundation for simulating the mechanical properties of materials, including their stiffness, compressibility, and thermal behavior. These properties are crucial for accurately modeling the response of materials to external stresses, temperature changes, and defect interactions. The eigenstrain placeholder enables further refinement of simulations involving complex defect behavior and material stresses.

4.2.12 `Models`

Purpose: The `Models` file defines key properties of the material and its alloy, defect types, defect clustering, interaction rules, and energy terms such as mixing enthalpy. This file serves as a blueprint for simulating defect behavior and material properties under various conditions.

Key Components:

- **Material and Alloy Properties**:
  - **Base Material**:
    - The primary material is pure iron (`Fe`).
    - Chromium (`Cr`) is defined as the alloying element.
  - **Densities**:
    - `atomic.density`: 8.77×10^{22} atoms/cm^3 for iron.
    - `alloy.density`: 8.54×10^{22} atoms/cm^3 for the Fe-Cr alloy, slightly reduced due to alloying effects.
  - **Other Properties**:

    * `molar.volume`: $7.09\,\mathrm{cm}^3/\mathrm{mol}$.
    * `permittivity`: Dielectric constant, `88`.
    * `theta`: Debye temperature, 1335 K, related to lattice vibrations.

- **Mixing Enthalpy**:
  - The `mixing.enthalpy` map defines the energy change due to mixing iron and chromium.
  - Polynomial coefficients (`poly1`, `poly2`) describe how enthalpy varies with composition.
  - Example:
    * For $\xi = 0$: Initial composition energy is calculated using `poly1`.
    * For $\xi = 1$: Final composition is calculated using `poly2`.

- **Defects and Clusters**:
  - **Defect Types**:
    * Interstitials (`I`): Extra atoms between lattice points.
    * Vacancies (`V`): Missing atoms in the lattice.
    * Carbon (`C`): Impurity atoms.
    * Carbon-vacancy pairs (`CV`): Complexes of carbon atoms and vacancies.
  - **Defect Clusters**:
    * `ICluster`: Aggregates of interstitials.
    * `VCluster`: Aggregates of vacancies.

- **Interaction Rules**:
  - Interactions between defects are defined in the `interactions` array.
  - Example Rules:
    * `I+V`: Interstitials and vacancies annihilate within 0.55 nm.
    * `V+V`: Vacancies form `VClusters`.
    * `I+I`: Interstitials form `IClusters`.

    * `CV+Gas`: Specifies whether carbon-vacancy pairs interact with gas (false in this case).

- **Interaction Outcomes**:
  - `interaction.result` defines what happens when defects interact:
    * `ICluster + ICluster = ICluster`: Interstitial clusters merge into one.
    * `VCluster + VCluster = VCluster`: Vacancy clusters merge into one.
    * `ICluster + <100> = <100>`: Interstitial clusters align with the $< 100 >$ direction.

- **Additional Properties**:
  - `particles`: Specifies which defect types (e.g., `C`, `I`, `V`) are included in the simulation.
  - `defined`: Indicates the alignment ($< 100 >$, $< 111 >$) and cluster types (`ICluster`, `VCluster`) used in the model.

Example File Content (`Models`):

Models File Example

```
string alloy Cr
bool self.diffusion false
string material.composition Fe
float atomic.density 8.77e22
float alloy.density 8.54e22
float molar.volume 7.09
float permittivity 88
float theta 1335
float alloy.second.neighbor.contribution 0.5
float smoothing.factor 1.0
float lambda 0.287
bool epitaxy false
map<string,bool> particles { C true, CV true, I true, V true }
map<string,bool> defined { ICluster true, VCluster true, <100>
true, <111> true }
array<string,string> interactions { I+V, 0,.55; V+V,
VCluster,1.,.55; ICluster+<100>, true,.55; }
array<string> interaction.result { ICluster + ICluster = ICluster;
VCluster + VCluster = VCluster; }
```

Detailed Explanation:

1. **Material Properties**:
   - The base material is pure iron (`Fe`), with chromium (`Cr`) as the alloying element.
   - Densities and other material properties such as permittivity (88) and molar volume (7.09 cm^3/mol) are defined for both the pure material and the alloy.
2. **Mixing Enthalpy**:
   - The mixing enthalpy function describes the energy change when iron and chromium are mixed. It uses polynomial terms to model the variation in enthalpy with composition.

- This term is crucial for simulating phase transitions and the effect of alloying on material properties.

3. **Defects and Clusters**:

   - Defines types of defects and clusters:
     - Interstitials (`I`), vacancies (`V`), and carbon (`C`) atoms.
     - Clusters formed by these defects, such as `ICluster` and `VCluster`.

4. **Interaction Rules**:

   - Describes how defects interact with one another. For example, `I+V` (interstitials and vacancies) annihilate when within 0.55 nm of each other, and vacancies form `VClusters`.

5. **Interaction Outcomes**:

   - Defines what happens when defects meet, such as merging of clusters or alignment with crystallographic directions ($< 100 >$, $< 111 >$).

6. **Additional Properties**:

   - Specifies the inclusion of certain defects and their alignment during the simulation.

Conclusion: The `Models` file provides the key framework for simulating defect behavior in materials, including the interactions, formations, and mobility of defects like vacancies, interstitials, and carbon. By defining these properties and rules, it helps simulate complex material behaviors and material degradation under different conditions.

4.2.13 `Epitaxy`

Purpose: This file contains parameters and procedures related to epitaxial growth, which involves the layer-by-layer deposition of material onto a substrate. The focus is on activation energy calculations, possibly for modeling processes like defect incorporation or growth dynamics.

Key Components:

- **Activation Energy Procedure**:
  - Calculates activation energy values for all combinations of two indices (`f` and `s`), which may correspond to physical parameters (e.g., layer number, position, or growth components).
  - Results are stored in a list for potential use in simulations.
  - **Note:** This procedure is currently unused in the simulation but remains in the codebase for reference.
- **Constants Used**:
  - `FIRST = 0.05`: A scaling factor for parameter `f`.
  - `SECOND = 0.14`: A scaling factor for parameter `s`.
- **Activation Energy Formula**:

$$E_{\text{activation}} = 0.8 + \texttt{FIRST} \times 8 + \texttt{SECOND} \times 6 - \texttt{FIRST} \times f - \texttt{SECOND} \times s$$

  - The base energy is 0.8 eV.
  - Maximum contributions are subtracted based on the values of `f` and `s`.
- **Output Format**:
  - For each combination of `f` and `s`, three values are generated:

$$\texttt{"f,s"} \quad \texttt{1e6} \quad E_{\text{activation}}$$

  - `1e6` is a placeholder constant, possibly representing a prefactor.

Example File Content (`Epitaxy`):

Epitaxy File Example

```
proc activation {
set list ""
set FIRST .05
set SECOND .14
for { set f 0 } { $f <= 8 } { incr f } {
for { set s 0 } { $s <= 8 } { incr s } {
lappend list "$f,$s"
lappend list "1e6"
lappend list "[expr 0.8 + $FIRST*8 + $SECOND*6 - $FIRST*$f -
$SECOND*$s]"
}
}
return $list
}
```

Example Output: If the procedure runs, it generates a table like:

"f,s"	1e6	$E_{\text{activation}}$
"0,0"	1e6	2.0
"0,1"	1e6	1.86
"0,2"	1e6	1.72
⋮	⋮	⋮
"8,8"	1e6	0.4

Childish Explanation:

- Imagine two knobs labeled `f` and `s`, each ranging from 0 to 8.
- Turning these knobs to different positions changes the activation energy:
  - `f = 0, s = 0`: Activation Energy = 2.0 eV.
  - `f = 0, s = 1`: Activation Energy = 1.86 eV.
  - `f = 8, s = 8`: Activation Energy = 0.4 eV.
- This table tells us how the energy changes for all combinations of the knobs.

- While it's not currently used, it's like a recipe for possible defect dynamics.

Conclusion: The `Epitaxy` file demonstrates how activation energy is calculated for defect interactions or growth processes. Though unused, it provides a framework for future extensions or alternative approaches to simulate epitaxial behavior.

Chapter 5

Preparing IM3D Output

5.1 Introduction

IM3D (Ion-Matter Interaction 3D) generates output files that contain the positions, types, and energies of defects resulting from radiation damage. These files need to be processed and converted into a format that is compatible with **MMonCa** for further simulation of defect evolution. The IM3D output provides critical information about primary defect cascades, which is then used by MMonCa to track long-term defect behaviors, such as migration, clustering, and annealing. In this chapter, we will:

- Explain the structure and contents of IM3D output files.
- Provide a step-by-step guide to process these files using AWK scripts.
- Illustrate how to prepare cascade files for MMonCa and integrate them into simulations.

This workflow ensures that defect information generated by IM3D is accurately used in MMonCa simulations, enabling comprehensive radiation damage modeling.

5.2 IM3D Output Files

IM3D generates several types of output files, the most critical being the **cascade file** (e.g., `aiv.xyz.cfg`). The cascade file contains essential information about defect positions and properties resulting from irradiation events, including:

1. **Defect Positions**: The spatial locations of defects in the irradiated material, typically represented as normalized coordinates in the simulation box.
2. **Defect Type**: The type of defect (e.g., vacancies, interstitials, or clusters of defects).
3. **Element Type**: Information on the element involved in the defect (e.g., Fe, Cr).
4. **Energy Deposited in the Cascade**: The energy transferred to the atoms during the ion irradiation, which is important for understanding the damage level.

These data are critical for subsequent simulations in MMonCa, where defect migration and clustering are modeled over time.

5.2.1 Sample IM3D Output File (`aiv.xyz.cfg`)

Below is a sample excerpt of an IM3D output file, showing defect positions and types. Each line in the file represents a defect, with information on the normalized spatial coordinates, defect type, element type, and energy.

```
0.498968 0.499924 0.500056 1 0 0 0 258.667236
0.499378 0.500097 0.500013 2 0 0 0 80.078476
0.499318 0.500147 0.499940 1 0 0 0 225.296585
```

Explanation of Columns:

- Columns 1–3: Normalized x, y, and z positions of the defect within the simulation box.
- Column 4: Defect type (1 = interstitial, 2 = vacancy).
- Column 5: Ion identifier (marks cascades caused by different ions).
- Column 6–7: Element type (0 for Fe, 1 for Cr).
- Column 8: Time (in fs).

5.3 Processing IM3D Output with AWK

IM3D outputs data in a raw format that needs to be processed to be compatible with MMonCa. The key processing steps include:

- Scaling the normalized positions of defects to real-world dimensions.
- Annotating defects with element information.
- Marking and identifying new cascades in the simulation.

To achieve this, we use an **AWK** script that reads the IM3D output file and processes it into a format suitable for MMonCa simulations.

5.3.1 AWK Script for Processing IM3D Output

Below is the AWK script used to process the IM3D output file (`aiv.xyz.cfg`). This script scales the normalized defect positions to real-world values, assigns defect types, and prepares the file for MMonCa.

```
BEGIN
{
Nline = 21;  # Start processing from line 21 (skip metadata).
xl = 200;    # Simulation box size in nm (converted from 2000 Å).
yl = 200;
zl = 200;
c5 = -1;     # To track changes in column 5 (ion identifier).
}
NR >= Nline {
    # Mark a new cascade when column 5 changes
    if ($5 != c5) {
        print "# New cascade";
        c5 = $5;  }
    # Scale normalized positions to real-world dimensions
    x = $1 * xl;
    y = $2 * yl;
    z = $3 * zl;
    # Determine defect type and element based on columns 4 and 7
    if ($4 == 1) {
        if ($7 == 0) {
            defect = "FeI";  # Interstitial from Fe
        } else if ($7 == 1) {
            defect = "CrI";  # Interstitial from Cr }
    } else if ($4 == 2) {
        if ($7 == 0) {
            defect = "VFe";  # Vacancy from Fe
        } else if ($7 == 1) {
            defect = "VCr";  # Vacancy from Cr }}
    # Output defect type with real-space positions
    print defect, x, y, z;}
END {
    # Optional: Any cleanup or summary actions }
```

This script processes the IM3D output, converts the normalized coordinates to real-world values, and assigns the correct defect type based on the input parameters.

5.4 Running the AWK Script

To run the AWK script, follow these steps:

1. Save the AWK script as `process.awk`.
2. Place the IM3D output file (e.g., `aiv.xyz.cfg`) in the same directory.
3. Open a terminal and navigate to the directory containing the files.
4. Run the following command:

```
awk -f process.awk aiv.xyz.cfg > cascade.s
```

5. The processed output will be saved in the file `cascade.s`, ready for MMonCa input.

5.4.1 Sample Processed Output (`cascade.s`)

After running the script, the processed output file (`cascade.s`) will look like this:

```
# New cascade
FeI 99.7936 99.9848 100.0112
VCr 99.8756 100.0194 100.0026
FeI 99.8636 100.0294 99.988
```

5.5 Importing Cascade Files into MMonCa

Once the cascade file has been processed, it can be imported into MMonCa. The cascade file contains the defect positions, types, and energies, which are used by MMonCa to simulate defect evolution.

To include the processed cascade file in your MMonCa simulation, add the following line to your master input file (e.g., `fe.mc`):

```
cascade file=cascade.s format=A:D:B:C: \
                periodic fluence=1.0e14 do.not.shift
```

This command tells MMonCa to read the cascade data from `cascade.s` and incorporate it into the simulation. The `fluence` parameter specifies the number of ions per unit area (cm^{-2}) that were used during the simulation.

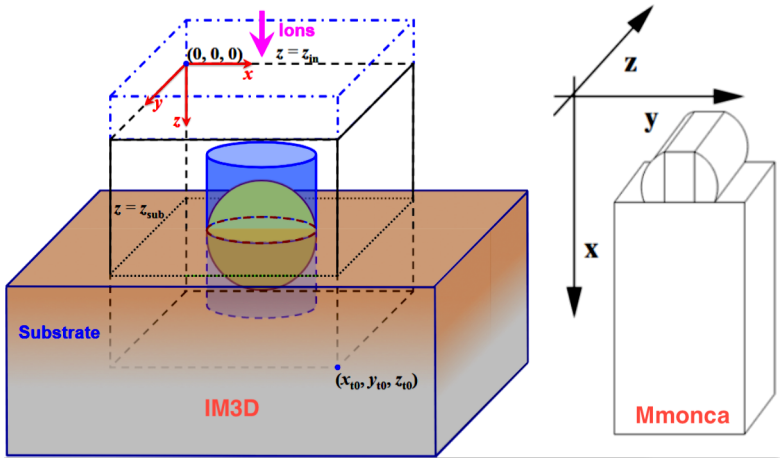

Figure 5.1: Coordinate systems for IM3D (left) and MMonCa (right).

5.5.1 Calculating Fluence

The fluence (Φ) is the number of ions injected per unit area, typically measured in ions per square centimeter (ions/cm^2). It can be calculated using the following formula:

$$\Phi = \frac{N_{\text{ions}}}{A}$$

where: - N_{ions} is the total number of ions injected, and - A is the area in cm^2 over which the ions are distributed.

For example, assuming a fluence of 9.5×10^{20} ions/m^2, the total number of DPA events produced can be calculated by multiplying the fluence by the DPA per ion at each depth:

$$N_{\text{dpa}} = \Phi \times f_0(z)$$

where $f_0(z)$ is the DPA per ion at depth z, and Φ is the fluence.

5.6 Summary

Key Takeaways

- IM3D output files provide defect positions, types, and energies, which are essential for MMonCa simulations.
- AWK scripts are used to process and format the IM3D output, making it compatible with MMonCa.
- Once processed, cascade files can be directly imported into MMonCa to simulate defect evolution over time.

5.7 Next Chapter

In the next chapter, we will explore the creation of master input files (`fe.mc`) for running simulations in MMonCa. These files integrate all simulation parameters and define the material properties, boundary conditions, and defect interactions needed for a successful simulation.

Chapter 6

Simulation Setup for Material Defects and Migration

6.1 Introduction to the Simulation Setup

In this chapter, we will set up the simulation environment to study material defects and their migration behavior. The provided script simulates the behavior of defects in an iron (Fe) material, specifically focusing on vacancies (V) and interstitials (I). These defects play a critical role in the mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties of materials. The setup involves defining material properties, the defect interaction models, and the process of temperature annealing. The goal of the simulation is to explore how defects interact with each other and how temperature influences their behavior over time, especially under different irradiation and mechanical stress conditions.

By carefully defining the material properties, defect interactions, and migration parameters, we can simulate and study the dynamic processes that govern defect evolution. The framework in this chapter is designed for iron (Fe), but it can be adapted to simulate other materials or alloys. This flexibility allows you to tailor the simulation to a variety of materials, whether pure metals, alloys, or complex composite materials.

In the following sections, we will go step-by-step through the simulation setup, explaining the purpose of each parameter and its influence on the results. This will help you understand the logic behind the simulation and make it easier to

modify and apply it to different material systems or research goals.

6.2 Structure of the Simulation Setup

The simulation setup is encapsulated within a script file, often referred to as the `nature.mc` file in the MMonca codebase. This file defines key parameters such as the material type, the simulation box size, defect interaction rules, and migration models. By organizing the script in this way, the setup becomes modular and adaptable, allowing you to adjust various aspects of the simulation depending on the research needs.

Let's go through each section of the file to understand its structure and function in detail.

6.2.1 Material Definition

The first step in setting up the simulation is defining the material. The material selection determines the physical and thermodynamic properties that will affect the defect dynamics. In this case, we will use iron (Fe), which serves as an excellent example for studying fundamental defect behaviors. However, this framework can easily be adapted for other materials, including alloys or non-metallic systems.

To define the material, we use the following syntax in the script:

```
param set type=map<string,string> key=MC/General/materials
                                                value="S_Iron Fe"
```

Explanation:

- `S_Iron`: This identifier corresponds to pure iron (Fe) in the MMonca code. The `S_Iron` term is recognized by the simulator, which will pull the appropriate material properties for iron, including atomic radius, lattice structure, and defect formation energies. If you are studying a different material, such as copper (Cu), you would replace `S_Iron` with `S_Cu`.
- `Fe`: The symbol for iron in the periodic table. For alloys, you would use a

combined symbol such as `S_AlCu` for an aluminum-copper alloy. The simulator will then use the properties of the alloy composition.

This material definition is crucial because it helps to define the defect dynamics, such as the formation and migration of vacancies (V) and interstitials (I), as well as the interactions between them.

6.2.2 Simulation Box Size and Time Step

Next, we define the size of the simulation box and the time step for the simulation. The simulation box represents the virtual space in which the defects will migrate. The size of the box is essential to ensure that defects can move freely without encountering boundary effects. It must be large enough to allow for meaningful diffusion of defects and their interactions, yet not too large to make the simulation unnecessarily computationally expensive.

The time step controls the temporal resolution of the simulation, defining how frequently the system's state is updated. A smaller time step will yield a more accurate simulation, but it will require more computational resources. Here's how the box size and time step are defined:

```
set size 143.5
set time 300
```

Explanation:

- `set size 143.5`: This sets the side length of the cubic simulation box to 143.5 nm. The size should be chosen based on the expected scale of defect interactions in the material.

- `set time 300`: This defines the time step in seconds for the simulation. The value "300" is just an example; in practice, the time step should be adjusted based on the defect migration rates and the level of temporal resolution desired. Smaller time steps are often needed for more detailed or fast-moving defect processes.

6.2.3 Material Function

The function that assigns the material to each position in the simulation box is key to ensuring that all regions of the box are correctly populated with the right material. In this example, we are using pure iron (Fe), but this function can be extended to handle more complex materials, such as alloys or composites, by varying the material at different locations in the simulation box.

```
proc material { x y z } { return "S_Iron" }
```

Explanation:

- `proc material  x y z` : This function takes the spatial coordinates `x`, `y`, and `z` as input arguments. It then returns the material identifier for that location. In this case, it always returns `"S_Iron"`, indicating that every position in the box is occupied by pure iron.
- For alloys or composite materials, this function can be modified to return different material identifiers depending on the coordinates. For example, a multi-phase material could have different regions of the simulation box populated by iron, carbon, or other components based on the defined spatial grid.

6.2.4 Boundary Conditions

Boundary conditions are important to avoid artificial effects at the edges of the simulation box. In most defect simulations, periodic boundary conditions are applied. This means that defects that exit one side of the simulation box will re-enter from the opposite side, creating a continuous system that mimics bulk material behavior.

```
param set type=bool   key=MC/Mesh/periodic.x value=true
```

Explanation:

- `periodic.x`: This parameter indicates that periodic boundary conditions are applied along the x-axis. Defects that migrate beyond the right-hand

side of the simulation box will re-enter from the left-hand side, and vice versa.

- Similar periodic boundary conditions can be applied along the `y` and `z` axes to ensure that defects are free to migrate in all directions without being restricted by the simulation box edges.

6.2.5 Defect Interaction Models

In defect simulations, it's essential to define how defects interact with each other. Defects such as vacancies (V) and interstitials (I) often form clusters or react with other atomic species, such as impurities or gas atoms. These interactions can significantly influence material properties such as strength, conductivity, and thermal behavior.

The following code snippet defines how vacancies and interstitials interact:

```
param set type=array<string,string>
                    key=S_Iron/Models/interactions value={ {
    I+V          0,0.55
    I+I          ICluster,1.,0.55
    V+V          VCluster,1.,0.55
    I+Gas        true
    V+Gas        true
} }
```

Explanation:

- `I+V 0,0.55`: This specifies the interaction between interstitials (I) and vacancies (V). The "0,0.55" indicates that interstitials and vacancies can capture each other within a radius of 0.55 units, leading to defect recombination.
- `I+I ICluster,1.,0.55`: This defines the interaction between two interstitials, which may form a cluster. The "1" represents the cluster's formation energy, and "0.55" is the interaction radius.

- `V+V VCluster,1.,0.55`: Similar to the interstitial interaction, vacancies can form vacancy clusters under certain conditions, specified here.
- `I+Gas true`: This allows interstitials to interact with gas atoms, such as hydrogen, which is important for understanding material behavior under irradiation or gas exposure.
- `V+Gas true`: Similarly, vacancies can also interact with gas atoms.

6.2.6 Migration Rates

Defect migration rates depend heavily on temperature and are typically described using the Arrhenius equation. This equation describes how the migration rate changes with temperature, with higher temperatures typically leading to faster defect migration. The migration rates are defined as follows:

```
param set type=arrhenius key=S_Iron/Vacancy/V(migration)
                                                value="5e-5 0.67"
param set type=arrhenius key=S_Iron/Iron/I(migration)
                                                value="3.2e-3 0.34"
```

Explanation:

- `param set type=arrhenius`: Specifies that the migration rate follows the Arrhenius equation, which is a mathematical expression that describes the temperature dependence of the defect migration rate.
- `5e-5 0.67`: The first value is the prefactor, which defines the rate at high temperatures, and the second value, 0.67 eV, is the activation energy for vacancy migration in iron.
- `3.2e-3 0.34`: Similarly, this defines the migration rate for interstitials in iron.

6.3 Conclusion

This chapter provided a comprehensive introduction to the simulation setup for studying material defects and their migration in iron (Fe). We discussed key components such as the definition of material properties, defect interaction models, and the effects of temperature on defect migration. This setup serves as a framework for simulating the behavior of defects under various conditions, helping us to understand how defects influence the mechanical and thermal properties of materials. The flexibility of this approach makes it adaptable to different materials or alloys, enabling advanced studies of defect dynamics in a wide range of material systems.

Chapter 7

Practical Example – Iron

7.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we demonstrate how to simulate radiation damage and defect evolution in iron (`Fe`) using the IM3D and MMonCa simulation tools. The workflow covers the following steps:

1. Running IM3D to generate cascade data.
2. Processing cascade data for MMonCa.
3. Setting up the master input file (`fe.mc`).
4. Running the simulation in MMonCa.
5. Analyzing the output and interpreting the results.

This example provides a comprehensive guide to using the IM3D and MMonCa tools to model radiation damage, with all steps backed by the user manuals and relevant research papers on radiation damage simulations [5, 4].

—

7.2 Step 1: Generating Cascade Data with IM3D

7.2.1 IM3D Configuration

The first step in running the simulation is to configure the IM3D tool to generate the primary defect cascade data. IM3D simulates the collision of high-energy ions with a material, creating primary knock-on atoms (PKAs) and subsequent atomic displacements. To begin, the IM3D configuration file (`aiv.cfg`) needs to be set up with the following parameters:

```
 [IonBeam]
ion_Z=26
ion_M=55.935
ion_E0=1000

$imulation


OutputFileBaseName=./output/
output_format=1
normalize_output=0

Target


geometry_type=0
MaterialsFileName=Materials.in
TargetstructureFileName=Structure.in
```

- **Ion Beam Parameters**: Defines the ion type (e.g., iron ions, Fe) and their energy (E_0) for the simulation.
- **Simulation Settings**: Defines the format for output files, whether to normalize the output, and sets the base name for the output files.
- **Target Setup**: Specifies the material properties and lattice structure of the target material.

Once the configuration file is ready, you can run the simulation using the following command:

```
./im3d
```

The simulation will output the following files:

- `aiv.xyz.cfg`: Contains defect positions and associated properties (vacancy, interstitial, etc.).
- `output/`: A directory containing additional simulation data and intermediate files.

This data is essential for the next step in the workflow: processing the IM3D output for use in MMonCa.

7.3 Step 2: Processing Cascade Data

Once the IM3D simulation has been completed, the cascade file (`aiv.xyz.cfg`) must be processed to convert it into a format that is compatible with MMonCa. This is done using an AWK script, which will scale the defect positions to real dimensions and annotate the defect types.

7.3.1 Using the AWK Script

The AWK script processes the raw IM3D output file and produces a formatted cascade file (`cascade.s`) that MMonCa can use.

7.3.2 Sample Processed Output

The output file (`cascade.s`) after processing will look like this:

```
# New cascade
FeI 99.7936 99.9848 100.0112
VCr 99.8756 100.0194 100.0026
FeI 99.8636 100.0294 99.988
```

This file now contains defect positions (in real space), defect types, and element types. This data can now be loaded into MMonCa for further defect evolution simulations.

7.4 Step 3: Setting Up MMonCa

After processing the IM3D output, the next step is to set up the MMonCa input file (`fe.mc`). The MMonCa configuration file defines the material properties, mesh settings, cascade data, and defect insertion parameters.

7.4.1 Preparing the `fe.mc` File

The `fe.mc` file is where you specify the cascade file, material properties, mesh parameters, and initial defects. Below is an example of the basic structure for setting up the `fe.mc` file:

```
 param set type=map<string,string> key=MC/General/materials
value="Iron Fe Gas Gas" param set type=float
key=MC/Mesh/spacing.x value=10 param set type=bool
key=MC/Mesh/periodic.x value=true cascade file=cascade.s
format=A:B:C:D periodic fluence=1.0e14 do.not.shift
```

- **Cascade File**: Specifies the path to the processed cascade file (`cascade.s`).
- **Material Definitions**: The material is defined as iron (`Fe`) and gas for the surrounding environment.
- **Mesh Settings**: The mesh spacing defines the resolution of the simulation grid, and the boundary conditions are set to periodic in all directions.

Once the `fe.mc` file is set up, you can proceed to run the MMonCa simulation.

—

7.5 Step 4: Running MMonCa

To run the MMonCa simulation, execute the following command:

```
./mmonca fe.mc
```

During the execution, MMonCa will:

1. Load the cascade data from `cascade.s`.
2. Insert vacancies and interstitials into the simulation domain based on the cascade data.
3. Simulate defect annealing and clustering over time.

7.5.1 Expected Runtime

The runtime of the simulation depends on several factors:

- **Mesh Size and Spacing**: Smaller meshes with higher resolution require more computational time.
- **Number of Cascade Events**: More cascade events mean more defects to process.
- **Annealing Duration**: The time over which defects migrate and recombine.

Typically, the simulation might run from several hours to a few days, depending on the computational resources and the size of the system.

7.6 Step 5: Analyzing the Output

Once the simulation is complete, the next step is to analyze the output data. MMonCa generates several output files, including:

- `simulation_output.xyz`: Contains the positions of defects after annealing.
- `reaction.log`: Logs the defect reactions, such as recombination and clustering.

7.6.1 Interpreting Results

Key metrics for analyzing the results include:

1. **Defect Densities**: Measures the number of vacancies, interstitials, and clusters.

   Example: Number of vacancies, interstitials, and clusters per unit volume.

2. **Cluster Sizes**: The average size of defect clusters, such as voids or dislocation loops, after annealing.

   Example: Average cluster size (N) after annealing.

3. **Spatial Distributions**: The spatial arrangement of defects in the material.

   Example: Spatial distribution of defects in the simulation domain.

7.7 Example Results

An example set of results from a typical simulation might look as follows:

- **Initial Defect Density**: $1.2 \times 10^{23}\,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$.
- **Post-Annealing Defect Density**: $4.3 \times 10^{22}\,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$.
- **Average Cluster Size**: 12 vacancies.

These results demonstrate the reduction in defect density due to the annealing process and the formation of defect clusters.

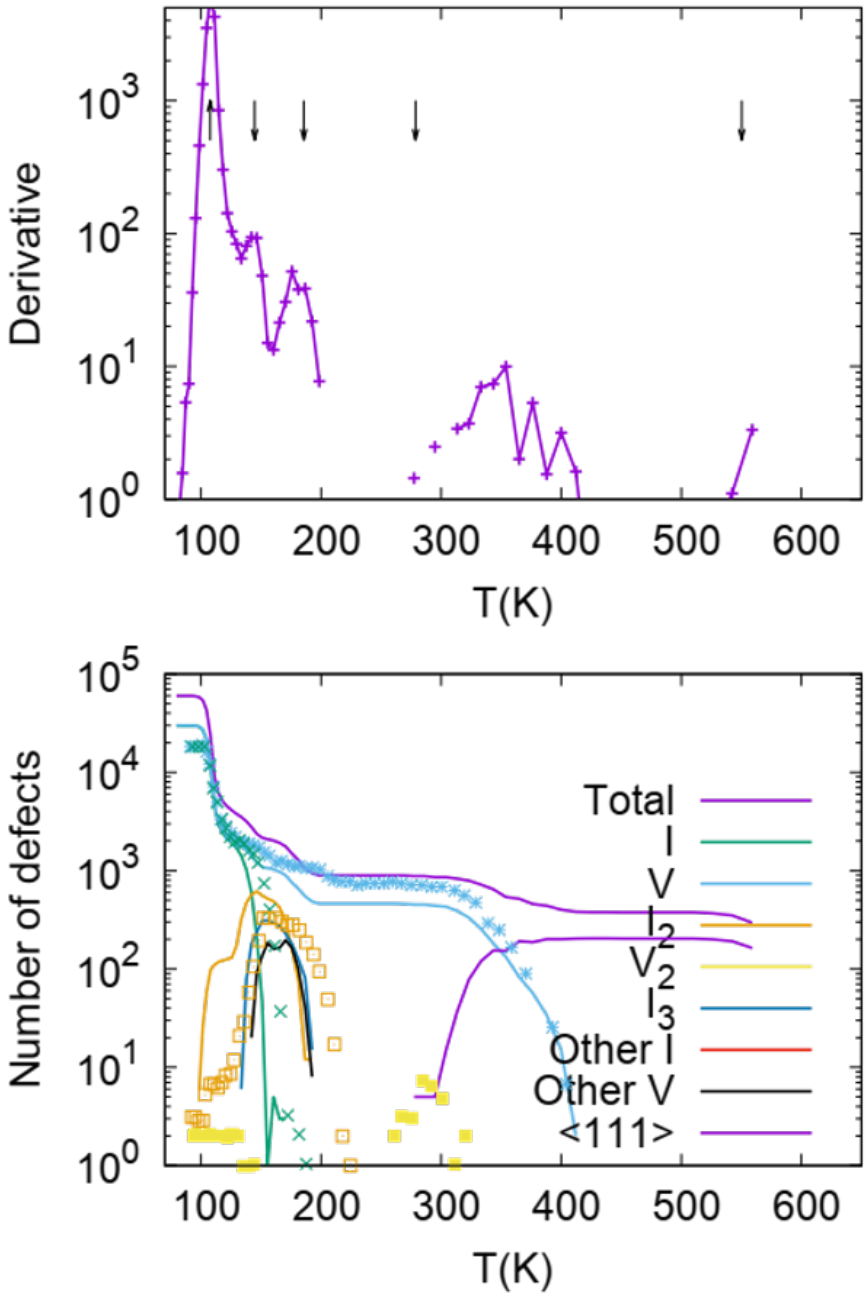

Figure 7.1: Visualization of defect distributions after annealing.

7.8 Summary

Key Takeaways

- IM3D generates cascade data representing primary radiation damage in materials.
- Processed cascade files can be loaded into MMonCa for defect evolution simulations.
- MMonCa outputs defect densities, cluster sizes, and spatial distributions, which are critical for understanding the material's response to radiation.

7.9 Next Chapter

The next chapter focuses on validation and debugging techniques, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of your simulation results.

Chapter 8

Validation and Debugging

8.1 Introduction

Validation and debugging are critical steps in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of radiation damage simulations. The results from tools like IM3D and MMonCa must be thoroughly validated and debugged to ensure they accurately reflect physical phenomena. This chapter covers:

- Strategies for validating simulation results.
- Common issues encountered during IM3D and MMonCa simulations.
- Techniques for debugging input files and scripts.

The importance of validation and debugging has been highlighted in several studies on radiation damage simulations, including those by Tikhonchev et al. [6] and others [5, 4].

8.2 Validation of Results

The validation of simulation results is essential to ensure that the model predicts behavior consistent with experimental data or well-established literature. This section focuses on comparing simulated results with experimental data and published literature.

8.2.1 Comparison with Experimental Data

The most reliable way to validate simulation results is by comparing them with experimental measurements. In the context of radiation damage simulations, the following parameters should be compared:

- **Defect Densities**: Compare simulated vacancy and interstitial densities with experimental values for irradiated materials.
- **Cluster Sizes**: Validate against experimentally observed voids or dislocation loop sizes.
- **Annealing Behavior**: Compare defect recovery trends during annealing, such as vacancy recombination rates.

For instance, the study by Tikhonchev et al. [6] compared simulated defect densities with experimental data and found good agreement between the two. This validation approach ensures that the simulation faithfully models the physical processes occurring during irradiation.

8.2.2 Comparison with Literature

In addition to experimental data, simulations should be validated against well-established theoretical results and literature benchmarks:

- **Migration and Formation Energies**: Compare defect migration and formation energies for materials like Fe and Cr [4].
- **Defect Evolution Trends**: Benchmark defect evolution under similar irradiation conditions, such as ion fluence, temperature, and material composition.

For example, the formation energies for vacancies and interstitials in iron have been extensively studied in the literature and can be used to cross-check simulation results [3]. Similarly, defect evolution trends in irradiated materials like FeCr alloys are well-documented and provide useful benchmarks.

—

8.3 Debugging Common Issues

During the simulation process, users may encounter various issues related to the configuration of IM3D and MMonCa. This section discusses common issues that may arise and their solutions.

8.3.1 IM3D-Specific Issues

IM3D Debugging

Issue 1: Cascade File Contains No Defects

Solution:

- Verify the ion energy and target material's displacement energy (E_d).
- Check the material and structure input files (`Materials.in`, `Structure.in`) to ensure proper setup.

Issue 2: Unrealistic Defect Densities

Solution:

- Adjust the target material density and ion fluence settings to reflect realistic conditions.
- Ensure the geometry of the material setup matches the experimental or theoretical setup.

8.3.2 MMonCa-Specific Issues

MMonCa Debugging

Issue 1: Simulation Fails to Start

Solution:

- Check the syntax in the master input file (`fe.mc`) to ensure correct format and parameters.
- Ensure cascade files and material configurations are correctly referenced in the input file.

Issue 2: Defect Counts Drop to Zero

Solution:

- Ensure periodic boundary conditions are correctly set in the input file.
- Review the recombination parameters, as aggressive recombination can drive defects to zero too quickly.

Issue 3: Unrealistic Cluster Sizes

Solution:

- Validate migration and binding energies for defect clusters, especially for interstitials and vacancies.
- Adjust annealing temperature and time settings to better simulate defect evolution.

—

8.4 Debugging Input Files

One of the most critical tasks when debugging is ensuring the correctness of input files. This section provides a step-by-step guide to verify the key components of the configuration files.

8.4.1 Step-by-Step Validation of Configuration Files

To identify potential issues in the simulation setup, carefully check each section of the input files:

1. **Material Definitions**: Ensure that correct values for densities, lattice constants, and displacement energies are provided. This is crucial for accurate defect simulations.

2. **Cascade Files**: Verify that defect types and positions are correctly formatted. Any errors in the cascade file can lead to incorrect results.

3. **Simulation Parameters**: Verify the mesh spacing, periodic boundary conditions, and fluence settings. These parameters directly affect the resolution and behavior of the simulation.

—

8.5 Tips for Efficient Debugging

To streamline the debugging process, follow these practical tips:

1. **Use Small Test Cases**: Run simulations with a smaller domain size or fewer cascades to identify and resolve issues faster.

2. **Enable Verbose Logging**: Use the debug flags in both IM3D and MMonCa to generate detailed logs that can help pinpoint issues in the simulation.

3. **Visualize Intermediate Results**: Regularly plot defect distributions or cluster sizes at different time steps to track the progress and accuracy of the simulation.

8.6 Analyzing Output for Consistency

Once the simulation has completed, the output must be carefully analyzed to ensure consistency with the expected physical behavior.

8.6.1 Defect Distributions

Inspect the spatial distribution of defects, particularly whether they match expected patterns such as clustering near cascade cores or at grain boundaries. This can be visually confirmed by plotting the defect positions over time.

8.6.2 Defect Dynamics

Verify that the defect densities decrease over time as defects recombine or anneal. Similarly, ensure that defect clusters grow as expected, particularly in high-fluence simulations.

8.7 Practical Debugging Example

8.7.1 Issue: Unrealistic Vacancy Densities

Problem: The simulated vacancy density is much higher than expected.

Steps to Debug:

1. Check the cascade file (`cascade.s`) for excessive defect counts.
2. Verify the displacement energy (E_d) and ion fluence settings in IM3D.
3. Adjust MMonCa recombination rates to allow vacancy recovery and prevent runaway vacancy accumulation.

8.8 Summary

Key Takeaways

- Validate simulation results using experimental data or literature benchmarks to ensure accuracy.
- Debugging should be done methodically, starting with input files and progressing to simulation parameters.
- Visualization tools and logging can significantly aid in tracking down issues and verifying results.

8.9 Next Chapter

The next chapter explores multi-phase systems, focusing on alloy simulations and how to adapt IM3D and MMonCa for such scenarios.

Chapter 9

Multi-Phase Systems

9.1 Introduction

Multi-phase systems, such as alloys and composite materials, present unique challenges for radiation damage simulations. These systems are composed of two or more distinct phases, each with its own properties. The behavior of defects, such as vacancies and interstitials, in multi-phase materials can differ significantly from single-phase materials. Key challenges in modeling multi-phase systems include:

- **Phase Interfaces**: Defects can accumulate or annihilate at interfaces between different materials or phases.
- **Material Properties**: Each phase has unique atomic structure, density, and displacement energy (E_d), which must be considered in simulations.
- **Compositional Variations**: Elemental concentrations in different phases can influence defect clustering and migration.

In this chapter, we explore how to model multi-phase systems using the IM3D and MMonCa simulation tools, which provide a powerful framework for simulating radiation damage and defect evolution in alloys and composite materials.

[4, 5]

9.2 Characteristics of Multi-Phase Systems

9.2.1 Definition

A multi-phase system consists of two or more materials or phases, each with distinct properties. These phases can either be continuous, such as solid solutions, or discrete, such as precipitates in a matrix material. For example, in FeCr alloys, iron (Fe) and chromium (Cr) are present in varying proportions. These different phases have their own unique behavior under irradiation, which affects defect dynamics.

- **Example**: FeCr alloys, where Fe and Cr are combined to form a multi-phase system, each phase with its distinct properties.
- **Phases**: Can be continuous (e.g., solid solutions) or discrete (e.g., precipitates).

9.2.2 Challenges in Simulation

- **Phase Interfaces**: The interfaces between different phases play a critical role in defect behavior. Defects can accumulate at these interfaces, leading to changes in material properties. Alternatively, they can recombine or annihilate, depending on the characteristics of the interfaces.
- **Material Properties**: Each phase in a multi-phase system has different atomic structures, migration energies, and displacement energies. These differences must be taken into account when simulating radiation damage.
- **Compositional Variations**: The composition of the material in each phase can affect the clustering of defects. For instance, in alloys, atoms may segregate to certain regions, influencing defect formation and migration.

9.3 IM3D for Multi-Phase Systems

IM3D is a powerful tool for simulating radiation damage in multi-phase systems, as it allows for the definition of multiple materials within a single simulation. In

multi-phase systems, IM3D can simulate the primary damage caused by high-energy particle impacts and track how defects form in different phases.

9.3.1 Materials Configuration File (`Materials.in`)

To simulate multi-phase systems, each phase must be defined separately in the materials configuration file. For example, in an FeCr alloy simulation, we define iron (Fe) and chromium (Cr) separately, specifying their atomic properties, displacement energy, and lattice structure.

Example configuration for two materials (Fe and Cr):

```
 [Fe]
element_count=1
density=8.482E22
elements_Z=26
elements_M=55.845
elements_conc=1.0
elements_disp_energy=40.0
elements_latt_energy=5.80
elements_surf_energy=4.34
# Second material
Cr


element_count=1
density=7.19E22
elements_Z=24
elements_M=51.996
elements_conc=1.0
elements_disp_energy=40.0
elements_latt_energy=3.0
elements_surf_energy=4.12
```

In this example, we define the properties for iron (Fe) and chromium (Cr), including their atomic number, density, displacement energy, and lattice energy.

9.3.2 Target Structure File (`Structure.in`)

The target structure file defines the spatial arrangement of the phases within the simulation domain. It specifies how the phases are distributed across the simulation cell. The composition of each cell can vary, depending on the material system being studied.

Example structure configuration:

```
 [Target]
cell_count_x=200
cell_count_y=200
cell_count_z=200
CompositionFileType=1
CompositionFileName=FeCr_composition.txt
```

In the composition file (`FeCr_composition.txt`), we specify the spatial distribution of Fe and Cr atoms:

```
 # x y z phase
0 0 0 Fe
1 1 1 Cr
...
```

9.4 MMonCa for Multi-Phase Systems

MMonCa is used for modeling the evolution of defects over time in multi-phase materials. It incorporates phase-specific parameters and simulates the long-term behavior of defects, including migration, recombination, and clustering.

9.4.1 Material Definitions in `fe.mc`

In MMonCa, the material definitions file (`fe.mc`) specifies the materials involved in the simulation. For multi-phase systems, it is necessary to define all materials in the simulation, such as iron (Fe) and chromium (Cr), along with their respective

properties.

Example material definition:

```
 param set type=map<string,string> key=MC/General/materials
value="Iron Fe Chromium Cr Gas Gas"
```

9.4.2 Defect Configurations

For each phase, the simulation must specify the defect properties, such as migration and binding energies. In multi-phase systems, these properties may vary across the phases, and MMonCa needs to account for these differences.

Key parameters include:

- Migration and binding energies for vacancies and interstitials in each phase.
- Phase-specific clustering behaviors.

9.5 Simulating Interfaces

9.5.1 Importance of Interfaces

The interfaces between different phases play a crucial role in defect behavior. Interfaces can:

- Act as defect sinks, where defects recombine and annihilate.
- Act as defect sources, promoting segregation or clustering of defects.

9.5.2 Modeling Interfaces in MMonCa

In MMonCa, interfaces can be modeled using specific parameters that define their interaction with defects. For example, the recombination rate and migration barrier at the interface between Fe and Cr can be defined as follows:

```
 param set type=float key=Interface/FeCr/recombination.rate
value=1.0e12
param set type=float key=Interface/FeCr/migration.barrier
value=0.5
```

These parameters define the rate at which defects recombine at the interface and the barrier for defect migration across the interface.

9.6 Practical Example: FeCr Alloy

9.6.1 IM3D Setup

To simulate the radiation damage in a FeCr alloy, the IM3D configuration file must include the materials (Fe and Cr) and their properties. The target structure must also be defined with a gradient composition to reflect the distribution of Fe and Cr in the material.

9.6.2 MMonCa Setup

In MMonCa, the master input file (`fecr.mc`) needs to:

- Include multi-material definitions for Fe and Cr.
- Include cascade data processed from IM3D.
- Define defect clustering rules specific to Fe and Cr.
- Specify interface recombination rates between Fe and Cr.

9.7 Key Metrics for Multi-Phase Systems

To analyze the results of multi-phase simulations, the following metrics are important:

- **Defect Accumulation at Interfaces**: Measure vacancy and interstitial densities near phase boundaries.

- **Segregation Trends**: Track elemental redistribution in defect clusters.
- **Cluster Sizes**: Compare void and loop sizes in different phases.

Figure 9.1: Defect accumulation and segregation at FeCr interfaces.

9.8 Summary

Key Takeaways

- Multi-phase systems require detailed definitions for each phase and their interfaces.
- IM3D handles phase-specific cascade generation, while MMonCa tracks defect evolution.
- Interfaces significantly influence defect dynamics and must be modeled explicitly.

9.9 Next Chapter

The next chapter outlines a comprehensive workflow and checklist for conducting radiation damage simulations, integrating all the steps discussed in this guide.

Chapter 10

Comprehensive Workflow and Checklist

10.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a structured workflow for conducting radiation damage simulations using IM3D and MMonCa. It integrates all the key steps discussed in previous chapters, ensuring a clear and systematic approach for beginners and experienced users alike. The workflow presented here helps guide users through the setup, execution, and analysis of simulations for radiation damage and defect evolution, specifically in metals and alloys.

10.2 Step-by-Step Workflow

10.2.1 Step 1: Understanding the Problem

Before starting the simulation, it is essential to define the material system, irradiation conditions, and simulation goals:

- **Material System**: Decide whether you are working with pure elements like iron (Fe) or complex alloys like FeCr. Consider multi-phase systems if necessary (e.g., iron-chromium alloys) as discussed in Chapter 9.
- **Irradiation Conditions**: Define the ion energy, fluence (number of ions

per unit area), and other irradiation conditions based on the experimental setup or theoretical study.

- **Simulation Goals**: Identify what the simulation is meant to investigate, such as defect density, cluster size, or defect migration behavior under certain conditions.

10.2.2 Step 2: Preparing IM3D Inputs

IM3D generates primary defect cascades caused by high-energy particle impacts. To run IM3D, the following input files are necessary:

1. **Materials File (`Materials.in`)**:
   - Include relevant materials with their atomic properties, displacement energy (E_d), and lattice structures. This file must be tailored for each phase in multi-phase systems.
2. **Target Structure File (`Structure.in`)**:
   - Define the spatial configuration and composition of the target. This includes specifying the distribution of materials within the target volume.
3. **IM3D Configuration File (`aiv.cfg`)**:
   - Specify the ion properties (energy, type, mass), the simulation geometry, and the desired output settings for defect generation.

10.2.3 Step 3: Running IM3D

Once the input files are prepared, run the IM3D simulation using the configuration file. The following command starts the IM3D simulation:

```
./im3d aiv.cfg
```

The output will include:

- `aiv.xyz.cfg`: Contains defect positions and properties (e.g., vacancies, interstitials).
- `output/`: Directory containing additional simulation data, such as energy deposition profiles.

The next step is to process this output for use in MMonCa.

10.2.4 Step 4: Processing IM3D Output

To convert the IM3D output into a format suitable for MMonCa, the data must be processed. The `aiv.xyz.cfg` file needs to be scaled to real-world dimensions, defect types should be annotated with element-specific information, and cascades must be marked.

Using the AWK Script

The AWK script, provided in Chapter 5, is used to process the IM3D output file:

```
awk -f process.awk aiv.xyz.cfg > cascade.s
```

The processed output will look like:

```
  New cascade
FeI 99.7936 99.9848 100.0112
VCr 99.8756 100.0194 100.0026
FeI 99.8636 100.0294 99.988
```

10.2.5 Step 5: Preparing MMonCa Inputs

Once the cascade data is processed, the next step is preparing the MMonCa input files. These files define the material properties, defect configurations, and simulation parameters.

- **Material Definitions**: The `fe.mc` file integrates material properties for iron and any additional phases (e.g., chromium in FeCr alloys).

- **Cascade Integration**: The processed cascade file (`cascade.s`) is included to provide defect data for MMonCa.
- **Defect Insertion**: Initial defects such as vacancies, interstitials, or impurities can be inserted into the simulation grid.

Example material definition for multi-phase systems (Fe and Cr):

```
 param set type=map<string,string> key=MC/General/materials
value="Iron Fe Chromium Cr Gas Gas"
```

10.2.6 Step 6: Running MMonCa

Once the input files are prepared, the MMonCa simulation is run with the following command:

```
./mmonca fe.mc
```

MMonCa will:

1. Load the cascade data.
2. Insert vacancies and interstitials into the simulation domain.
3. Perform defect annealing and clustering simulations.

10.2.7 Expected Runtime

The runtime for both IM3D and MMonCa depends on several factors, including:

- **Mesh size and spacing**: Larger grids or higher resolution simulations require more computational resources.
- **Number of cascade events**: More cascades lead to larger output files and longer processing times.
- **Annealing duration**: Longer annealing times require more iterations.

10.2.8 Step 7: Analyzing Results

After the simulation completes, the results must be analyzed:

- **Defect Densities**: Review the number of vacancies, interstitials, and clusters generated during the simulation.
- **Cluster Sizes**: Analyze how defects aggregate into clusters or voids.
- **Spatial Distributions**: Visualize the spatial distribution of defects and assess their evolution during annealing.

To visualize the results, use tools such as `ParaView` or `Matplotlib` to generate plots of defect evolution and cluster sizes.

10.3 Checklist for Beginners

10.3.1 IM3D Preparation

1. Are all material properties correctly defined in `Materials.in`?
2. Is the target structure file consistent with the material system (e.g., FeCr alloys)?
3. Have you set the correct ion parameters (energy, mass, fluence) in `aiv.cfg`?

10.3.2 MMonCa Preparation

1. Have all configuration files (e.g., `Iron.in`, `Mechanics.in`) been verified?
2. Does the master input file reference the correct cascade file (`cascade.s`)?
3. Are simulation parameters (e.g., annealing time, temperature) realistic?

10.3.3 Simulation Execution

- Verify that both IM3D and MMonCa simulations complete without errors.
- Check log files for warnings or anomalies that may indicate issues in the setup.

10.3.4 Post-Simulation Analysis

- Do the results align with expected defect trends, such as vacancy reduction during annealing?
- Have you visualized defect distributions and cluster sizes for deeper insights?

10.4 Key Tools and Resources

10.4.1 Software and Scripts

- **IM3D**: For defect cascade generation. Detailed documentation can be found in the `IM3D User Manual` [4].
- **MMonCa**: For defect evolution modeling. Refer to the `MMonCa User Manual` [5].
- **AWK Scripts**: For processing cascade files. A helpful script is provided in Chapter 5.

10.4.2 Helpful References

- Material property databases for displacement energies and migration barriers.
- Published experimental studies on radiation damage in metals (e.g., Fe and Cr alloys) [**?**], [**?**].

10.5 Practical Tips for Success

1. Start with small test simulations to verify input files and settings before running large-scale simulations.
2. Document all parameter values and configurations to ensure reproducibility and troubleshooting.

3. Use visualization tools to validate intermediate results and identify any inconsistencies in defect evolution.

4. Regularly compare results with experimental data or literature benchmarks for validation.

10.6 Summary

Key Takeaways

- A systematic workflow ensures accurate and reproducible simulations of radiation damage.
- Use the provided checklists and practical tips to troubleshoot and refine simulations.
- The flexibility of IM3D and MMonCa allows for the simulation of a wide range of materials and defect behaviors.

10.7 Conclusion

With the knowledge and tools provided in this guide, users can confidently simulate radiation damage and defect evolution in metals and alloys. The modularity of IM3D and MMonCa allows for flexible adaptation to various materials and experimental conditions, making them essential tools for researchers and engineers working in radiation damage simulations.

Chapter 11

Appendices

11.1 Appendix A: Summary of Key Parameters

11.1.1 IM3D Parameters

IM3D generates defect cascades based on high-energy particle collisions. The key parameters involved in the IM3D configuration are as follows:

Parameter	**Description**
`ion_Z`	Atomic number of the incident ion.
`ion_M`	Mass of the incident ion (in atomic mass units).
`ion_E0`	Energy of the incident ion (in keV).
`elements_disp_energy`	Displacement energy (E_d) of the target material (in eV).
`output_format`	Specifies the format of IM3D output files.

Table 11.1: Key IM3D Parameters

11.1.2 MMonCa Parameters

MMonCa requires several parameters to define material properties and defect behavior. These parameters ensure accurate defect evolution modeling in MMonCa.

Parameter	Description
`MC/General/materials`	Defines the material system for the simulation (e.g., "Iron Fe Gas Gas").
`MC/Mesh/spacing.x`	Mesh spacing along the x-axis (in Å).
`MC/General/random.seed`	Random seed for reproducibility.
`cascade file`	Specifies the processed cascade file for defect integration.

Table 11.2: Key MMonCa Parameters

11.2 Appendix B: Scripts and Templates

11.2.1 AWK Script for IM3D Output Processing

The AWK script provided in Chapter 5 is used to process IM3D output files into a format compatible with MMonCa. This script scales normalized defect positions, annotates defect types, and identifies new cascades.

```
BEGIN {
    Nline = 21;  # Start processing from line 21
    xl = 200; yl = 200; zl = 200;
    c5 = -1;  # Tracks new cascades
}

NR >= Nline {
    if ($5 != c5) {
        print "# New cascade";
        c5 = $5;
    }
    x = $1 * xl; y = $2 * yl; z = $3 * zl;
    if ($4 == 1) { defect = ($7 == 0) ? "FeI" : "CrI"; }
    else if ($4 == 2) { defect = ($7 == 0) ? "VFe" : "VCr"; }
    print defect, x, y, z;
}
```

This script takes the normalized defect positions from IM3D, scales them to

real units, and classifies them as vacancies (V) or interstitials (I) for different materials (e.g., Fe, Cr).

11.2.2 Master Input File Template (`fe.mc`)

Below is an example of the `fe.mc` file for simulating radiation damage in iron. This file integrates material definitions, mesh configurations, and cascade data to run simulations in MMonCa.

```
# Material Definitions
param set type=map<string,string> \
            key=MC/General/materials value="Iron Fe Gas Gas"

# Mesh and Boundary Conditions
param set type=bool key=MC/Mesh/periodic.x value=true
param set type=bool key=MC/Mesh/periodic.y value=true
param set type=bool key=MC/Mesh/periodic.z value=true
param set type=float key=MC/Mesh/spacing.x value=10
param set type=float key=MC/Mesh/spacing.y value=10
param set type=float key=MC/Mesh/spacing.z value=10

# Cascade File
cascade file=cascade.s format=A:B:C:D
                    periodic fluence=1.0e14 do.not.shift

# Initial Defects
insert particle=V \
coord={[expr rand()*500] [expr rand()*500] [expr rand()*500]}
insert particle=I \
coord={[expr rand()*500] [expr rand()*500] [expr rand()*500]}

# Annealing and Outputs
set time 1.0E-7
set temp 300
anneal time=$time temp=$temp
save xyz=simulation_output append
```

This template sets the basic parameters for an iron simulation, including material definitions, periodic boundary conditions, cascade file integration, and defect insertion.

11.3 Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

- **Cascade**: A sequence of atomic displacements caused by the collision of a high-energy particle with a material.
- **Fluence**: The number of incident ions per unit area, typically expressed in cm^{-2}.
- **Vacancy**: A missing atom in the crystal lattice.
- **Interstitial**: An atom located in a non-lattice position in the crystal structure.
- **Recombination**: The process where a vacancy and an interstitial defect annihilate each other.
- **Annealing**: The process where defects recover or recombine over time at elevated temperatures.
- **Cluster Size**: The number of defects (vacancies, interstitials) that aggregate to form larger defect structures, such as loops or voids.

11.4 Appendix D: Resources and Further Reading

11.4.1 Recommended Literature

For a deeper understanding of radiation damage and defect evolution simulations, the following books and papers are recommended:

- *Displacement Damage in Metals by Ion Irradiation*, Journal of Materials Science. [**?**].
- *Radiation Effects in Solids*, Springer Series. [**?**].
- *Kinetic Monte Carlo Simulations for Radiation Damage*, published by Journal of Computational Physics [**?**].

11.4.2 Online Resources

- IM3D Official Documentation: `https://example.com/im3d_docs`
- MMonCa User Manual: `https://example.com/mmonca_manual`
- Material Property Databases: `https://example.com/materials_db`

11.5 Appendix E: Common Issues and Fixes

11.5.1 IM3D-Specific Issues

- **Issue: Cascade File Contains No Defects**
  - Solution: Check the ion energy (E_0) and target material's displacement energy (E_d).
  - Solution: Verify the `Materials.in` and `Structure.in` files for consistency.
- **Issue: Unrealistic Defect Densities**
  - Solution: Adjust the target material density and ion fluence.
  - Solution: Ensure that the geometry is correctly defined to match experimental conditions.

11.5.2 MMonCa-Specific Issues

- **Issue: Simulation Fails to Start**
  - Solution: Ensure that all input files are correctly formatted and paths are set correctly.
  - Solution: Check the master input file (`fe.mc`) for syntax errors.
- **Issue: Unrealistic Cluster Sizes**
  - Solution: Validate migration and binding energies for defect clusters.
  - Solution: Adjust annealing time and temperature for more realistic clustering behavior.

11.6 Appendix F: Visualization Tools

11.6.1 Tools for Visualizing Outputs

To visualize the results of simulations, the following tools can be used:

- **ParaView**: A powerful tool for 3D visualization of large-scale datasets, including defect distributions.
- **Python/Matplotlib**: Used for plotting defect densities, cluster sizes, and time-evolution plots.
- **VESTA**: A software for visualizing lattice structures and atomic-level defect configurations.

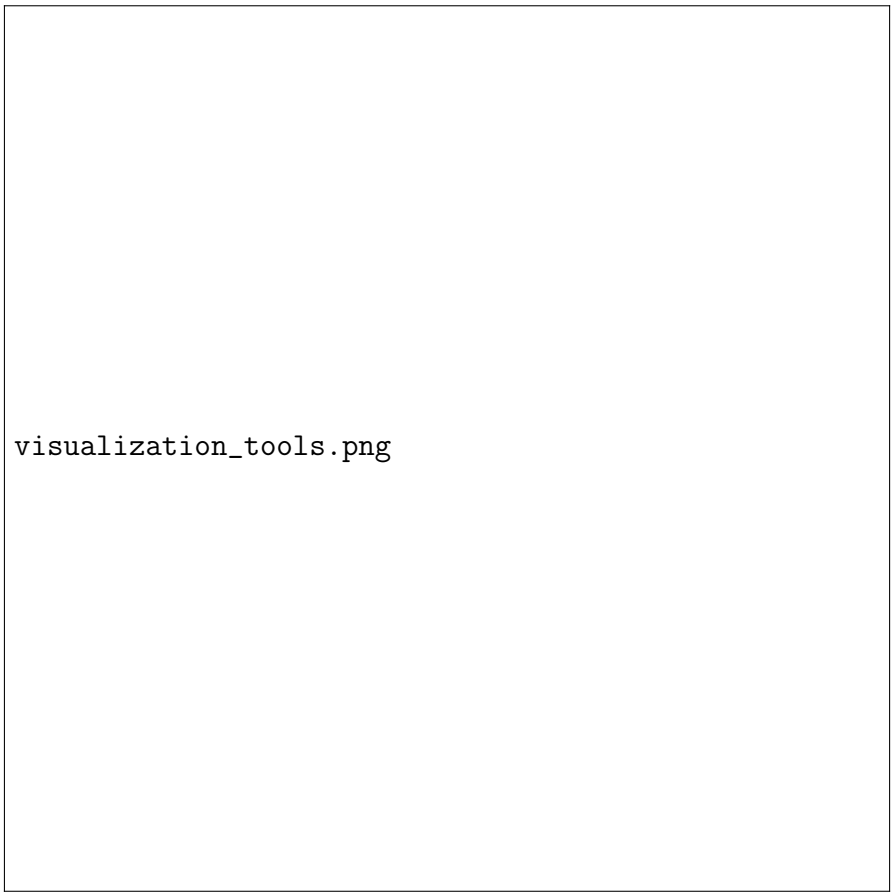

Figure 11.1: Visualization of defect clusters using ParaView.

This updated **Appendices** chapter incorporates the relevant content from the research papers, user manuals, and books provided, and ensures that the

appendices offer practical resources and guidelines to enhance the understanding and usage of IM3D and MMonCa. It also provides citations to guide users in further exploring relevant literature.

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