Solution model and magnetism in first principle calculations



Igor A. Abrikosov Department of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (IFM), Linköping University, Sweden

In collaboration with:

P. Olsson, A. Ruban, J. Wallenius,
and L. Vitos, KTH, Sweden
A. V. Ponomareva, MIS&A, Russia
O. Vekilova and S. I. Simak, LiU,
Sweden



Linkopingo universitet



Igor Abrikosov



Theoretical Physics

Igor Abrikosov, Professor

•*Ab initio* electronic structure theory Materials simulations

•Mesoscopic physics, semiconductor structures in the quantum regime, transport and chaos •Understanding of fundamental molecular interactions

•Dynamical simulations of metallic heterostructures

•Energy localization in descrete systems



Leonid Pourovskii



Irina Yakimenko



Ferenc Tasnadi



Peter Münger



Karl-Fredrik Berggren



Magnus **Johansson**

Sergei Simak



Students and Postdoctoral Fellows (totally 46 PhDs from Theoretical Physics):



Marcus Ekholm, SeRC



Olga Vekilova



Hans Lind



Tobias Marten Postdoc



Dr. Weine Olovsson, Bitr. Lektror&applicationexpert



Prof. Eyvaz Isaev, ALVA lector



Peter Steneteg



Björn Alling Assistant Professor



Olle Hellman

CONTENTS :

- First-principles simulations: basic idea
- First-principles simulations: treatment of solution phases
- Magnetic effects on the electronic structure
- Fe-Cr alloys: influence of magnetic state on thermodynamic properties and interatomic interactions
- Conclusions



Fe-Cr alloys

- Are the base for many important industrial steels
- Used as cladding material in fast neutron reactors
- Low Cr steels, up to 10 % Cr, show: anomalous stability resistance to neutron radiation induced swelling corrosion resistance increased ductile to brittle transition temperature



Microstructure – Property Relationships





Microstructure - Grains $\approx 1 - 10 \text{ mm}$

- **Properties**
- High cycle fatigue
- Ductility



- Microstructure
- Phases
- \approx 100 500 microns **Properties**
- Yield strength
- Ultimate tensile strength
- High cycle fatigue
- Low cycle fatigue
- Thermal Growth
- Ductility



Microstructure

- Phases
- ≅ 3-100 nanometers Properties
- Yield strength
- Ultimate tensile strengt
- Low cycle fatigue
- Ductility





Cr positions at t=0 s After 30 years at 700 K



Atoms ¹ ≅ 10-100 Angstroms Properties

Thermal Growth

Original idea for this figure belongs to Chris Wolverton Ford Motor Company









Matter@NSC Linköping 4128 cores 37 TFLOPS



Lindgren@PDC KTH 36384 cores 305 TFLOPS





It is NOT a trivial task to run *ab initio* software!

P. E. A. Turchi, I. A. Abrikosov, et al., CALPHAD 31, 4 (2007).

Ordered compounds



Solution phases: supercell method





A. V. Ponomareva et al., Phys. Rev. B 75, 245406 (2007)

3X3X9, segregation energy 0.090 eV



A. V. Ponomareva et al., Phys. Rev. B 75, 245406 (2007)

$$[-\frac{1}{2}\nabla^{2} + U(\vec{r})]\psi = \varepsilon\psi$$
$$U(\vec{r}) = \sum_{j} U_{j}(\vec{r} - \vec{R}_{j})$$
$$U_{j} \text{ are random}$$

 $< R_{i} >= n_{1}\vec{a}_{1} + n_{2}\vec{a}_{2} + n_{3}\vec{a}_{3}$

- Substitutional disorder:
- Topological disorder: $\langle \vec{R}_j \rangle \neq n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$
- Random alloy is a system with equilibrium atomic configuration in the limit $V/T \rightarrow 0$, where *V* is the strongest effective interaction in the system
- Spatial homogenity: $\langle U(\vec{r_1} + \vec{a})U(\vec{r_2} + \vec{a})...U(\vec{r_n} + \vec{a}) \rangle = \langle U(\vec{r_1})U(\vec{r_2})...U(\vec{r_n}) \rangle$
- Disappearance of statistical correlations:

 $< U(\vec{r_1} + \vec{a})U(\vec{r_2} + \vec{a})...U(\vec{r_n} + \vec{a})U(\vec{r_1}')U(\vec{r_2}')...U(\vec{r_n}') > = < U(\vec{r_1} + \vec{a})U(\vec{r_2} + \vec{a})...U(\vec{r_n} + \vec{a}) > < U(\vec{r_1}')U(\vec{r_2}')...U(\vec{r_n}') >$ where $|\vec{a}| \rightarrow \infty$

Self-averaging

- Extensive quantities: $A(V_1 + V_2) = A(V_1) + A(V_2)$
- Examples: total energy, density of states, volume, etc.
- Quantity *A* is self-averaging if it has well-defined, nonrandom value in a random alloy with volume $V \rightarrow \infty$
- Theorem: In a random alloy molar values of extensive quantities are self-averaging.
- Crystal potential or wave function **are not** self-averaging quantities

Cluster expansion of the total energy

$$\Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) = \prod_{i \in f} \sigma_{i}$$

$$F(\sigma) = \sum_{f} F_{f}^{(n)} \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma)$$

$$F_{f}^{(n)} = \left\langle F(\sigma) \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) \right\rangle$$

$$V_{f}^{(n)} = \left\langle E_{tot}(\sigma) \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) \right\rangle$$

$$E_{tot} = \sum_{f} V_{f}^{(n)} \left\langle \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) \right\rangle$$

Special quasirandom structure method [A. Zunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **65**, 353 (1990)]

$$V_{f}^{(n)} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow \left\langle \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) \right\rangle = 0$$
$$V_{f}^{(n)} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \left\langle \Phi_{f}^{(n)}(\sigma) \right\rangle \neq 0$$

A. V. Ruban and I. A. Abrikosov, Rep. Prog. Phys. 71, 046501 (2008).



F. Tasnadi, IAA, and I. Katardjiev, Appl. Phys. Lett. 94, 151911 (2009).

Solution phases: coherent potential



A. V. Ruban and I. A. Abrikosov, Rep. Prog. Phys. 71, 046501 (2008).

A. V. Ruban and I. A. Abrikosov, Rep. Prog. Phys. 71, 046501 (2008).

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A. V. Ruban and I. A. Abrikosov, Rep. Prog. Phys. 71, 046501 (2008).



P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, and J. Wallenius, Phys. Rev. B 73, 104416 (2006)

Locally Self-consistent Green's Functon method (LSGF)



I. A. Abrikosov et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 76, 4203 (1996)





 $\rm FM \ bcc \ Fe_{75} Cr_{25}$

128 atom SQS











From J. M. Wills and O. Eriksson, Los Alamos Science Number 26, 128 (2000).





$$E_{BOND} = E_{tot}^{crystal} - E_{tot}^{atom} = \int_{valence}^{E_F} (E - E_{valence}^{atom}) n(E) dE$$













Ru





Ru



Fe



$$E_{BOND} = -\frac{1}{20} W N_d (10 - N_d)$$

 $E_{BOND} = \int_{Valence}^{E_F} (E - E_{valence}^{atom}) n(E) dE$ spin up band E_F Fe + $\int_{V_{valence}}^{E_F} (E - E_{valence}^{atom}) n(E) dE$ spin *down* band

DIFFERENT PROPERTIES !!!







P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, L. Vitos, and J. Wallenius, J. Nucl. Mater. 321, 84 (2003)



A first-principles theory of ferromagnetic phase transitions in metals[†]

B L Gyorffy[‡], A J Pindor[§], J Staunton^{||}, G M Stocks[¶] and H Winter^{*}

‡ H H Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, UK

§ Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

|| Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK

[¶] Metals and Ceramics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, USA

* Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Federal Republic of Germany

Received 19 June 1984, in final form 20 November 1984

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 67, 235105 (2003)

Modeling the actinides with disordered local moments

Anders M. N. Niklasson,¹ John M. Wills,¹ Mikhail I. Katsnelson,^{2,3} Igor A. Abrikosov,³ Olle Eriksson,³ and Börje Johansson^{3,4}

Disordered Magnetism



Disordered Local Moment Model



P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, and J. Wallenius, Phys. Rev. B 73, 104416 (2006)



P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, and J. Wallenius, Phys. Rev. B 73, 104416 (2006)



P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, and J. Wallenius, Phys. Rev. B 73, 104416 (2006)





Figure 9 (a) Schematic phase diagram and (b) free energy vs. composition diagram for alloys between the spinodal points which are unstable and can decompose into two coherent phases α_1 and α_2 without overcoming an activation energy barrier. Alloys between the miscibility gap and the spinodal are metastable and can decompose only after nucleation of the other phase.

P. Olsson, I. A. Abrikosov, and J. Wallenius, Phys. Rev. B 73, 104416 (2006)

Exchange parameters

Pair exchange parameter



 $\frac{\Theta}{2}$

Θ



Effective exchange parameter







 $H = -\sum J_{ij}\sigma_i\sigma_j$ $i i \neq i$

Effect of magnetism on phase stability in Fe-Cr system: a model

Chemical and magnetic interactions:

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \left\{ \left(v_{ij}^{AA} - 2\sigma_i^A \sigma_j^A J_{ij}^{AA} \right) c_i^A c_j^A + 2 \left(v_{ij}^{AB} - 2\sigma_i^A \sigma_j^B J_{ij}^{AB} \right) c_i^A (1 - c_j^A) + \left(v_{ij}^{BB} - 2\sigma_i^B \sigma_j^B J_{ij}^{BB} \right) (1 - c_i^A) (1 - c_j^A) \right\}$$

Configurational part

$$H_{conf} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} V_{ij} c_i^A c_j^A \qquad \qquad V_{ij} = V_{ij}^{chem} + V_{ij}^{magn}$$

For a fixed magnetic configuration $(\sigma_i^A = \sigma_A; \sigma_i^B = \sigma_B)$:

$$V_{ij}^{chem} = v_{ij}^{AA} + v_{ij}^{BB} - 2v_{ij}^{AB}$$

$$V_{ij}^{magn} = -2\left[\sigma_{A}^{2}J_{ij}^{AA} - 2\sigma_{A}\sigma_{B}J_{ij}^{AB} + \sigma_{B}^{2}J_{ij}^{BB}\right] - 6 \frac{1}{0}$$





$$\left(\frac{\partial G}{\partial p}\right)_T = V$$

$$\Delta G = G_{\mathrm{Ti}_{1-x}\mathrm{Al}_x\mathrm{N}} - (1-x)G_{\mathrm{TiN}} - xG_{\mathrm{AlN}}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial \Delta G}{\partial p}\right)_T = \Delta V$$

$$\Delta V = V_{\text{Ti}_{1-x}\text{Al}_{x}\text{N}} - (1-x)V_{\text{TiN}} - xV_{\text{AlN}}.$$

B. Alling, M. Oden, L. Hultman, and I. A. Abrikosov, Appl. Phys. Lett. 95, 181906 (2009).



Effect of pressure on the tendency towards the spinodal decomposition in bcc Fe-Cr alloys



Effect of pressure on the structural energy differences in Fe-Cr alloys




CONCLUSIONS:

- Reliable tools have been developed for first-principles theoretical treatment of (magnetic) solution phases.
- First-principles simulations can be carried out for real materials of technological importance. The results allow for the cautious optimism.
- Choice of the methodology depends on the problem at hand.
- The mixing enthalpy for paramagnetic Fe-Cr alloys is positive at all concentrations, in excellent agreement with experiment. On the contrary, ferromagnetic bcc Fe-Cr alloys are anomalously stable at low Cr concentrations.
- The stabilization of Fe-rich Fe-Cr alloys comes essentially from magnetic effects, and it is suppressed with pressure.
- Therefore, magnetic effects must be taken into account in simulations.