First-principles Molecular Dynamics Simulations

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Outline

- Molecular dynamics simulations
- Electronic structure calculations
- First-Principles Molecular Dynamics (FPMD)
- Applications









Molecular Dynamics

- An atomic-scale simulation method
 - Compute the trajectories of all atoms
 - extract statistical information from the trajectories



Atoms move according to Newton's law:

$$m_i \ddot{\mathbf{R}}_i = \mathbf{F}_i$$





Molecular dynamics: general principles

• Integrate Newton's equations of motion for N atoms

$$m_i \ddot{\mathbf{R}}_i(t) = \mathbf{F}_i(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_N) \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$
$$\mathbf{F}_i(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_N) = -\nabla_i E(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_N)$$

• Compute statistical averages from time averages (ergodicity hypothesis)

$$\langle A \rangle = \int_{\Omega} dr^{3N} dp^{3N} A(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) e^{-\beta H(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})} \cong \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} A(t) dt$$

• Examples of A(t): potential energy, pressure, ...





Simple energy model

Model of the hydrogen molecule (H₂): harmonic oscillator

$$E(\mathbf{R}_1, \mathbf{R}_2) = E(|\mathbf{R}_1 - \mathbf{R}_2|)$$
$$= \alpha(|\mathbf{R}_1 - \mathbf{R}_2| - d_0)^2$$

• This model does not describe intermolecular interactions





Simple energy model

• Model of the hydrogen molecule including both intra- and intermolecular interactions:

$$E(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_N) = \sum_{\{i,j\} \in M} E_{\text{intra}}(|\mathbf{R}_i - \mathbf{R}_j|) + \sum_{\substack{i \in M \\ j \in M'}} E_{\text{inter}}(|\mathbf{R}_i - \mathbf{R}_j|)$$

• This model does not describe adequately changes in chemical bonding





Simple energy model

• Description of the reaction $H_2+H \rightarrow H + H_2$



• The model fails!





What is a good energy model?













Atomistic simulation of complex structures

- Complex structures
 - Nanoparticles
 - Assemblies of nanoparticles
 - Embedded nanoparticles
 - Liquid/solid interfaces











A difficult case: Structural phase transitions in CO₂





Molecular phases

polymeric phase





The energy is determined by quantum mechanical properties

• <u>First-Principles Molecular Dynamics:</u> Derive interatomic forces from quantum mechanics







Ni-tris(2-aminoethylamine)



First-Principles Molecular Dynamics





R. Car and M. Parrinello (1985)



Electronic structure calculations

- Problem: determine the electronic properties of an assembly of atoms using the laws of quantum mechanics.
- Solution: solve the Schroedinger equation!





The Schroedinger equation for N electrons

- A partial differential equation for the wave function $\psi {:}$

$$\mathbf{r}_i \in R^3, \qquad \psi \in L^2(R^{3N})$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t) = H(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t)\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t)$$

• *H* is the Hamiltonian operator:

$$H(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\sum_i \nabla_i^2 + V(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t)$$





The time-independent Schroedinger equation

• If the Hamiltonian is time-independent, we have

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N,t)=\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\,e^{iEt/\hbar}$$

• where $\psi(\mathbf{r})$ is the solution of the *time-independent* Schroedinger equation:

$$H(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) = E\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$$
energy





Solving the Schroedinger equation

• The time-independent Schroedinger equation can have many solutions:

$$H(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) = E_n \psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) \quad n = 0,1,2\ldots$$

- The ground state wave function ψ_0 describes the state of lowest energy E_0
- *Excited states* are described by ψ_1 , ψ_2 ,.. and have energies $E_1, E_2, ... > E_0$





Hamiltonian operator for *N* electrons and *M* nuclei

- Approximation: treat nuclei as classical particles
- Nuclei are located at positions R_i , electrons at r_i

$$\begin{aligned} H(\mathbf{r}_{1},...,\mathbf{r}_{N},\mathbf{R}_{1},...,\mathbf{R}_{M}) &= \\ &-\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{e}}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\nabla_{i}^{2} - \sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j=1}^{M}\frac{Z_{j}e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{j}|} + \sum_{i$$





The adiabatic approximation

• The Hamiltonian describing an assembly of atoms is time-dependent because atoms move:

$$H(\mathbf{r},t) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{i} \nabla_i^2 + V(\mathbf{r},t)$$
$$V(\mathbf{r},t) = \sum_{j} V_{\text{ion}}(r - R_j(t)) + V_{\text{e-e}}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$\underbrace{\text{time-dependence}}_{\text{through ionic positions}}$$





The adiabatic approximation

• If ions move sufficiently slowly, we can assume that electrons remain in the electronic ground state at all times

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \psi_0(\mathbf{r})$$

$$H(\mathbf{r}, \{R_i(t)\})\psi_0(\mathbf{r}) = E_0\psi_0(\mathbf{r})$$
Ground state energy
Ground state energy
Ground state wave function





Mean-field approximation

• The problem of solving the *N*-electron Schroedinger equation is formidable (*N*! complexity).

$$H(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)=E_n\psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$$

- Wave functions must be antisymmetric (Pauli principle)

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) = -\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N)$$

- Assuming that electrons are <u>independent</u> (i.e. feel the same potential) reduces this complexity dramatically.
 - The potential is approximated by an *average effective* potential





Independent particles, solutions are Slater determinants

• A *Slater determinant* is a simple form of antisymmetric wave function :

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) = \det\{\varphi_i(\mathbf{r}_j)\}$$

• The one-particle wave functions ϕ_i satisfy the one-particle Schroedinger equation:

$$h(\mathbf{r})\varphi_{i}(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_{i}\varphi_{i}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$h(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m}\nabla^{2} + V_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r})$$

Note: effective potential



Electron-electron interaction

$$\begin{split} H(\mathbf{r}_{1},...,\mathbf{r}_{N},\mathbf{R}_{1},...,\mathbf{R}_{M}) = \\ &-\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{e}}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\nabla_{i}^{2} - \sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{j=1}^{M}\frac{Z_{j}e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{j}|} + \sum_{i< j}^{N}\frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}|} \\ &+\sum_{i< j}^{M}\frac{Z_{i}Z_{j}e^{2}}{|\mathbf{R}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{j}|} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{M}M_{i}\dot{\mathbf{R}}_{i}^{2} \end{split}$$





Density Functional Theory

- Introduced by Hohenberg & Kohn (1964)
- Chemistry Nobel prize to W.Kohn (1999)
- The electronic density is the fundamental quantity from which all electronic properties can be derived $E = E[\rho]$

$$E[\rho] = T[\rho] + \int V(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r} + E_{xc}[\rho]$$

• Problem: the functional $E[\rho]$ is unknown!





The Local Density Approximation

• Kohn & Sham (1965)

$$E[\rho] = T[\rho] + \int V(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r} + E_{xc}[\rho]$$

- Approximations:
 - The kinetic energy is that of a non-interacting electron gas of same density
 - The exchange-correlation energy density depends locally on the electronic density

$$E_{\rm xc} = E_{\rm xc} \left[\rho(\mathbf{r}) \right] = \int \varepsilon_{\rm xc}(\rho(\mathbf{r})) \rho(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$





The Local Density Approximation

$$V_{\text{e-e}} = \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}' + V_{\text{XC}}(\rho(\mathbf{r}))$$

- The mean-field approximation is sometimes not accurate, in particular for
 - strongly correlated electrons
 - excited state properties





The Kohn-Sham equations

• Coupled, non-linear, integro-differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \phi_i + V(\rho, \mathbf{r})\phi_i = \varepsilon_i \phi_i & i = 1...N_{el} \\ V(\rho, \mathbf{r}) = V_{ion}(\mathbf{r}) + \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}' + V_{XC}(\rho(\mathbf{r}), \nabla \rho(\mathbf{r})) \\ \rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{el}} |\phi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2 \\ \int \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r})\phi_j(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} = \delta_{ij} \end{cases}$$





Numerical methods

• Basis sets: solutions are expanded on a basis of N orthogonal functions

$$\phi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_{ij} \varphi_j(\mathbf{r})$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi_j^*(\mathbf{r}) \varphi_k(\mathbf{r}) = \delta_{jk} \quad \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$$

• The solution of the Schroedinger equation reduces to a linear algebra problem





Numerical methods: choice of basis

• Gaussian basis (non-orthogonal)

$$\varphi_i(\mathbf{r}) = e^{-\alpha_i |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|^2}$$

• Plane wave basis (orthogonal)

$$\varphi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}}$$

- Other representations of solutions:
 - values on a grid
 - finite element basis





Numerical methods: choice of basis

• Hamiltonian matrix:

$$H_{ij} = \left\langle \varphi_i \left| H \right| \varphi_j \right\rangle = \int_{\Omega} \varphi_i^*(\mathbf{r}) H \varphi_j(\mathbf{r}) d^3 \mathbf{r}$$

• Schroedinger equation: an algebraic eigenvalue problem

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{c}_n = \varepsilon_n \mathbf{c}_n \qquad \mathbf{c}_n \in C^N$$





Numerical methods: choice of basis

• Non-orthogonal basis sets lead to generalized eigenvalue problems

$$S_{ij} = \left\langle \phi_i \left| \phi_j \right\rangle = \int_{\Omega} \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r}) \phi_j(\mathbf{r}) d^3 \mathbf{r} \neq \delta_{ij}$$

$$\mathbf{H}\mathbf{c}_n = \varepsilon_n \mathbf{S}\mathbf{c}_n \qquad \mathbf{c}_n \in C^N$$





Solving large eigenvalue problems

- The size of the matrix H often exceeds 10³-10⁴
- Direct diagonalization methods cannot be used
- Iterative methods:
 - Lanczos type methods
 - subspace iteration methods
- Many algorithms focus on one (or a few) eigenpairs
- Electronic structure calculations involve many eigenpairs (~ # of electrons)

• robust methods are necessary



Solving the Kohn-Sham equations: fixed-point iterations

• The Hamiltonian depends on the electronic density

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \phi_i + V(\rho, \mathbf{r})\phi_i = \varepsilon_i \phi_i & i = 1...N_{el} \\ V(\rho, \mathbf{r}) = V_{ion}(\mathbf{r}) + \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}' + V_{XC}(\rho(\mathbf{r}), \nabla \rho(\mathbf{r})) \\ \rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{el}} |\phi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2 \\ \int \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r})\phi_j(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} = \delta_{ij} \end{cases}$$





Self-consistent iterations

- For k=1,2,...
 - Compute the density ρ_k
 - Solve the Kohn-Sham equations

• The iteration *may* converge to a fixed point





Simplifying the electron-ion interactions: Pseudopotentials

• The electron-ion interaction is singular

$$V_{\text{e-ion}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{Ze^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|}$$

• Only valence electrons play an important role in chemical bonding



Simplifying the electron-ion interactions: Pseudopotentials

• The electron-ion potential can be replaced by a smooth function near the atomic core

$$V_{\text{e-ion}}(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} -\frac{Ze^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|} & |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}| > r_{\text{cut}} \\ f(|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|) & |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}| < r_{\text{cut}} \end{cases}$$

• Core electrons are not included in the calculation (they are assumed to be "frozen")





Pseudopotentials: Silicon

• Solutions of the Schroedinger equation for Si including all electrons (core+valence):







Pseudopotentials: Silicon

• Solutions of the Schroedinger equation for Si including all electrons (zoom on core region):







Pseudopotentials: Silicon

• The electron-ion potential can be replaced by a smooth function near the atomic core







Summary: First-principles electronic structure

- Time-independent Schroedinger equation
- Mean-field approximation
- Simplified electron-electron interaction:
 - Density Functional Theory, Local Density Approximation
- Simplified electron-ion interaction:
 - Pseudopotentials





Molecular dynamics: Computation of ionic forces

- Hamiltonian: $H(\lambda)$
- Hellman-Feynman theorem: if $\psi_0(\lambda)$ is the electronic ground state of $H(\lambda)$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial \lambda}\Big|_{\lambda_0} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \Big\langle \psi_0(\lambda) \Big| H(\lambda) \Big| \psi_0(\lambda) \Big\rangle = \Big\langle \psi_0(\lambda_0) \Big| \frac{\partial H(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \Big|_{\lambda_0} \Big| \psi_0(\lambda_0) \Big\rangle$$

• For ionic forces: $\lambda = R_i$ (ionic positions)

$$F_{i} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial R_{i}} = \left\langle \psi_{0} \left| \frac{\partial H}{\partial R_{i}} \right| \psi_{0} \right\rangle = \left\langle \psi_{0} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial R_{i}} \sum_{j} V_{\text{e-ion}} (r - R_{j}) \right| \psi_{0} \right\rangle$$





Integrating the equations of motion: the Verlet algorithm

- The equations of motion are coupled, second order ordinary differential equations
- Any ODE integration method can be used
- Time-reversible integrators are preferred
- The Verlet algorithm (or leapfrog method) is time-reversible

$$x(t + \Delta t) = 2x(t) - x(t + \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{m}F(x(t))$$





Integrating the equations of motion: the Verlet algorithm

• Derivation of the Verlet algorithm: Taylor expansion of *x(t)*

$$x(t + \Delta t) = x(t) + \Delta t \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + \frac{\Delta t^3}{6} \frac{d^3 x}{dt^3} + O(\Delta t^4)$$
$$x(t - \Delta t) = x(t) - \Delta t \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} - \frac{\Delta t^3}{6} \frac{d^3 x}{dt^3} + O(\Delta t^4)$$

• Add the two Taylor expansions:

$$x(t + \Delta t) + x(t - \Delta t) = 2x(t) + \Delta t^2 \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + O(\Delta t^4)$$





Integrating the equations of motion: the Verlet algorithm

• use Newton's law

$$m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = f(x(t))$$

$$x(t + \Delta t) + x(t - \Delta t) = 2x(t) + \Delta t^2 \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + O(\Delta t^4)$$

$$x(t + \Delta t) = 2x(t) - x(t - \Delta t) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{m}F(x(t)) + O(\Delta t^4)$$





First-Principles Molecular Dynamics

Molecular Dynamics

Density Functional Theory



Newton equations

Kohn-Sham equations



R. Car and M. Parrinello (1985)



FPMD: the Recipe

- Choose a starting geometry: atomic positions
- Choose an exchange-correlation functional
- Choose appropriate pseudopotentials
- Run!
- Publish!!





FPMD: the Recipe

- Choose a starting geometry: atomic positions
- Choose an exchange-correlation functional
- Choose appropriate pseudopotentials
- Run!



- Test sensitivity to starting geometry, finite size effects
- Test sensitivity to duration of the simulation
- Test accuracy of the basis set

- Test choice of exchange-correlation functionals UCDAVIS MICCOM

First-Principles Molecular Dynamics applications

- Solid state physics
- Surface physics
- Nanotechnology
- High pressure physics
- Chemical Physics
- Biochemistry
- Mechanisms of drug action
- Solvation processes



The absence of empirical parameters makes this approach widely applicable and *predictive*.





Nanoparticles



- Exploration of multiple locally stable structures
- Electronic properties at finite temperature







Embedded nanoparticles, assemblies of nanoparticles



- Annealing of structures at finite temperature
- Calculation of band gaps and band alignments



S. Wippermann, M. Vörös, A. Gali, F. Gygi, G. Zimanyi, G.Galli,



Phys. Rev. Lett. **112**, 106801 (2014).



Liquids and Liquid-Solid Interfaces



 $H_2O/Si(100)H$

• Structure of water at the interface

- Electronic structure
 - band alignment of bulk solid and liquid
- Spectroscopy
 - IR and Raman spectra





Liquid-solid interfaces

- Water on oxide surfaces
- H₂O/WO₃
- Simulation of
 - surface relaxation and dynamics
 - structure of defects
 - electronic structure
 - spectroscopic signature of water at the interface





Electronic properties: Polarization

 The electronic polarization (per unit cell) of an infinite periodic system is ill-defined

$$P = \frac{1}{\Omega} \left[-e \sum_{l} Z_{l} R_{l} + \int r \rho(r) dr \right]$$

- *P* depends on the choice of origin

- The *change* in polarization caused by a small perturbation is well defined
- The electric current caused by a perturbation (e.g. a deformation) can be computed

R. Resta, Rev. Mod. Phys. 66, 899 (1994).





Electronic properties: Polarization

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R. Resta, Rev. Mod. Phys. 66, 899 (1994).





Wannier functions

- A set of <u>localized</u> orbitals that span the same subspace as the Kohn-Sham eigenvectors
- minimize the spread $\sigma^2 = \langle \phi | (x \langle \phi | x | \phi \rangle)^2 | \phi \rangle$
- Wannier centers: centers of charge of each Wannier function
- Polarization can be expressed in terms of the centers
 1

$$P = \frac{1}{\Omega} \left[-e \sum_{l} Z_{l} R_{l} + e \sum_{n} \int r w_{n}(r) dr \right]$$

N. Marzari, A. Mostofi, J. Yates, I. Souza and D. Vanderbilt, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 84, 1419 (2012).



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Time-dependent polarization of nanoparticles

- PBE DFT MD 300K
- dt=1.9 fs

1.5 1 0.5 dipole (a.u.) 12 Debye -1 -1.5 -2 -2.5 -3 Ô 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 MD step

 $Cd_{34}Se_{34}$





IR Spectroscopy

- IR spectra during MD simulations
- Autocorrelation function of P(t)

$$\alpha(\omega) = \frac{2\pi\omega^{2}\beta}{3cVn(\omega)}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\omega t} \left\langle \sum_{\mu\nu} P^{\mu}(0) \cdot P^{\nu}(t) \right\rangle dt$$





Raman Spectroscopy

- Compute the polarizability at each MD step
 - Use Density Functional Perturbation Theory (Baroni, Giannozzi, Testa, 1987)
 - Use a finite-difference formula with *P(t)* and finite field





On-the-fly Computation of Raman spectra



- Position of O-D stretching
 band: PBE functional yields a
 red shifted peak, compared
 to expt.
- Low frequency bands: satisfactory agreement with expt.

MICC

• Peak Intensities in good agreement with expt.

Q. Wan, L. Spanu, G. Galli, F. Gygi, JCTC 9, 4124 (2013)



Solving the Kohn-Sham equations in a finite electric field

• In finite systems: add a linear potential

$$H_{KS} = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(r) - eEx$$

- The spectrum is not bounded below (no "ground state")
- In periodic systems: define the electric enthalpy:

$$F[\phi] = E_{KS}[\phi] - \Omega P[\phi] \cdot E$$

I. Souza, J. Iniguez, D. Vanderbilt, Phys. Rev. Lett. 89, 117602 (2002).





Si(100):H-H2O interface

- DFT MD of the Si/H2O interface under finite field
- Si(100)-(3x3):H-H₂O, canted dihydride surface termination, 116 water molecules
- Analysis of time-dependent polarization
- Comparison with IR spectra



L. Yang, F. Niu, S. Tecklenburg, M. Pander, S. Nayak, A. Erbe, S. Wippermann, F. Gygi, G. Galli





Validation of DFT: PBE vs PBE0 vs ...

• Oxygen-oxygen pair correlation function in (H₂O)₃₂



Is my simulation reproducible?

• D₂O Power spectrum of ionic velocities (32 x 10 ps runs)







Validating/comparing levels of theory

- Need for (quantitative) statistical analysis
 - compute confidence intervals
- An accurate determination of structural and electronic properties requires multiple uncorrelated simulations
- Autocorrelation times may vary for different quantities
- Example: the PBE400 dataset
 - First-principles MD simulations of water
 - http://www.quantum-simulation.org/reference/h2o/pbe400





Summary

- Basic features of FPMD
- Approximations of electronic structure calculations
- Extensions: polarization, finite electric field
- Applications

Next FPMD steps:

- Today 1:45 pm: Qbox tutorial
- Tomorrow 1:30 pm: Qbox hands-on exercises





