MULTISCALE MODELING OF DEFORMING PHOTO-RESPONSIVE POLYMERS

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Abstract

Liquid crystalline polymers which contain photochromic chromophores show macroscopic mechanical deformation under light irradiations. The light-induced shape change of the photo-responsive polymers (PRPs) comes from the trans-to-cis, or cis-to-trans isomerization of the mesogens or trans-cis-trans reorientation. These two mechanism can be utilized to the microscale opto-mechanical actuation device. Here, we provide a new multiscale model which integrates light input conditions, mesogen alignment, and continuum polymer deformations through sequential multiscale framework combining the DFT(density functional theory), MD(molecular dynamics), and continuum FE(finite element) method. In addition, the multiscale approach is applied to design the photo-mechanical behavior of the PRP nanocomposites with the consideration of the opto-mechanical coupling effect and microscopic interaction between the PRP matrix and fillers. This integrated framework can help to design the PRP and its composites..