Advanced Materials Modeling:

Molecular dynamics and statistical mechanics

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Molecular dynamics

Equations of motion (classical):

 $(\mathbf{R}_{1}, \mathbf{p}_{1})$ $(\mathbf{R}_{2}, \mathbf{p}_{2})$ $(\mathbf{R}_{3}, \mathbf{p}_{3})$ $(\mathbf{R}_{3}, \mathbf{p}_{3})$

3) Assign new positions and momenta



Molecular dynamics – ensembles

□ Microcanonical (NVE)

Number of particles, Volume, and total Energy are conserved (natural ensemble to simulate MD, follows directly from Hamilton eqs. of motion)

□ Canonical (NVT)

Number of particles, Volume, and Temperature are conserved (system in contact with a heat bath)

□ NPT, NPH (Pressure, H - enthalpy)

For studying phase transitions

□ Grand-canonical (µVT)

For adsorption/desorption



Molecular dynamics – solving eqns. $M_I \ddot{R}_I = F_I(\{R\})$

Many-body problem - need numeric solution (except in very special cases)

Simplest method: "forward Euler":

$$R(t + \Delta t) = R(t) + \dot{R}(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{R}(t)\Delta t^{2}$$

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Many-body problem - need numeric solution (except in very special cases)

Simplest method: "forward Euler":

$$R(t + \Delta t) = R(t) + \dot{R}(t)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{R}(t)\Delta t^{2}$$

will not work!

- 1) is not time-reversible
- 2) suffers from energy drift
- 3) is numerically unstable (error $O(\Delta t^3)$ in *R* and $O(\Delta t^2)$ in \dot{R})

□ (Basic) Verlet algorithm

$$R(t + \Delta t) = R(t) + \frac{p(t)}{m}\Delta t + \underbrace{\frac{\dot{p}(t)}{2m}}_{2m}\Delta t^2 + \frac{\ddot{R}(t)\frac{\Delta t^3}{3!} + O(\Delta t^4)}{3!}$$

□ (Basic) Verlet algorithm

Force Error
$$O(\Delta t^3)$$

$$R(t + \Delta t) = R(t) + \frac{p(t)}{m}\Delta t + \frac{\dot{p}(t)}{2m}\Delta t^2 + \frac{\ddot{R}(t)\frac{\Delta t^3}{3!} + O(\Delta t^4)}{3!} + O(\Delta t^4) + \frac{R(t - \Delta t)}{m}\Delta t + \frac{\dot{p}(t)}{2m}\Delta t^2 - \ddot{R}(t)\frac{\Delta t^3}{3!} + O(\Delta t^4) + \frac{R(t + \Delta t) + R(t - \Delta t)}{m} = 2R(t) + \frac{\dot{p}(t)}{m}\Delta t^2 + O(\Delta t^4) + \frac{R(t + \Delta t)}{m} \approx 2R(t) - R(t - \Delta t) + \frac{\dot{p}(t)}{m}\Delta t^2 + O(\Delta t^4) + \frac{\dot{p}(t)}{m}\Delta t^2$$
1) is time-reversible
2) conserves energy
The first step (R(t)) is obtained from the Euler method

3) numerically stable

Instability of trajectories

Trajectories that differ very slightly in their initial conditions diverge exponentially \rightarrow small discretization errors can lead to very different results:

 $\mathbf{R}(t) = f[\{\mathbf{R}\}(0), \{\mathbf{p}\}(0); t], \, \mathbf{R}'(t) = f[\{\mathbf{R}\}(0), \{\mathbf{p}\}(0) + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}; t]$

 $|\mathbf{R}(t) - \mathbf{R}'(t)| \sim \epsilon \exp(\lambda t)$

Instability of trajectories



Instability of trajectories

Why should anyone believe in molecular dynamics simulations??

Instability of trajectories

Shadowing theorem: Although a numerically computed trajectory diverges exponentially from the true trajectory with the same initial coordinates, there exists an errorless trajectory with a slightly different initial condition that stays near ("shadows") the numerically computed one

This is merely a hypothesis for any realistic many-body system (proven for some special cases)

Does Verlet algorithm generate "shadow" trajectories?

Ott, E. Chaos in Dynamical Systems. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 18-19, 1993

Principle of minimal action

A true trajectory minimizes the action:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta x(t)} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \left(\frac{mv^2}{2} - V(x(t)) \right) = 0$$

Introducing discretization:



Principle of minimal action

A true trajectory minimizes the action:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta x(t)} \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \left(\frac{mv^2}{2} - V(x(t)) \right) = 0$$

Introducing discretization:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \sum_i \Delta t \left(\frac{m}{2} \frac{(x_{i+1} - x_i)^2}{\Delta t^2} - V(x_i) \right) = 0$$
$$2x_i - x_{i+1} - x_{i-1} - \frac{\Delta t^2}{m} \frac{\partial V(x_i)}{\partial x_i} = 0$$

But this is Verlet algorithm!

In fact, Verlet algorithm gives a trajectory that is an exact solution of Hamilton eqns with $\tilde{H}(\Delta t) \rightarrow H$ when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$

Statistical sampling

Static equilibrium properties:

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int d^{3N}R \int d^{3N}p e^{-\frac{H}{kT}} A(R,p)$$

Dynamic properties (correlation function):

$$\langle A(0)B(t)\rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int d^{3N}R \int d^{3N}p e^{-\frac{H}{kT}} A(R,p,0) B(R,p,t)$$

It is difficult to calculate ensemble averages, but... ergodic hypothesis \rightarrow need only time average

Statistical sampling

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Thermodynmic integration

How to accurately calculate phase transitions? Need to know accurate $\Delta F = F_B - F_A$



liquid

$$F = -kT \ln Z$$
 $Z = \sum_{R} e^{-E(R)/kT}$

Calculating F_A , then F_B , and taking difference is not accurate if phases are described by different PES E_A and E_B (e.g., different force fields)

Thermodynmic integration

How to accurately calculate phase transitions? Need to know accurate $\Delta F = F_B - F_A$ Consider $E_{\lambda} = E_A + \lambda(E_B - E_A)$ $F_{\lambda} = -kT \ln Z_{\lambda}$ $Z_{\lambda} = \sum_{R} e^{-E_{\lambda}(R)/kT}$

Then

$$\Delta F(A \to B) = \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\partial F_{\lambda}}{\partial \lambda} d\lambda = -\int_{0}^{1} \frac{kT}{Z_{\lambda}} \frac{\partial Z_{\lambda}}{\partial \lambda} d\lambda = \int_{0}^{1} \frac{1}{Z_{\lambda}} \sum_{R} \frac{\partial E_{\lambda}(R)}{\partial \lambda} e^{-E_{\lambda}(R)/kT} d\lambda$$
$$\Delta F(A \to B) = \int_{0}^{1} \left\langle \frac{\partial E_{\lambda}}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle d\lambda$$

Thermodynmic integration

How to accurately calculate phase transitions? Need to know accurate $\Delta F = F_B - F_A$

$$E_{\lambda} = E_A + \lambda (E_B - E_A)$$
 $\Delta F(A \to B) = \int_0^1 \left\langle \frac{\partial E_{\lambda}}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle d\lambda$

- 1) Sample E_{λ} at different values of λ
- 2) Calculate ensemble-averaged $\partial E_{\lambda}/\partial \lambda$
- **3)** Integrate $\langle \partial E_{\lambda} / \partial \lambda \rangle$

→ Accurate free energies and phase transition conditions Can be also used to calculate different contributions to free energy (e.g., harmonic versus anharmonic), and for an approximate versus accurate potential (force field versus DFT)

Statistical sampling

Example: absorption line-shape

 $I(\omega) \sim \omega^2 \int dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \boldsymbol{D}(0) \cdot \boldsymbol{D}(t) \rangle$

with D(t) - instantaneous dipole moment of the system

Can also calculate diffusion coefficients, thermal conductivity, viscosity

Statistical sampling

Example: thermal conductivity Heat current *J*: $J = \lambda \nabla T$ Green-Kubo formula: $\lambda = \frac{1}{3VkT^2} \int_0^\infty \langle j(0)j(t) \rangle dt$ where microscopic heat current j(t) is determined by

$$\boldsymbol{j}(t) = \sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{i} \frac{1}{2} \left(m \boldsymbol{v}_{i}^{2} + \sum_{j} V(\boldsymbol{r}_{ij}) \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} \boldsymbol{r}_{ij} \left(\boldsymbol{F}_{ij} \cdot \left(\boldsymbol{v}_{i} + \boldsymbol{v}_{j} \right) \right)$$

First-principles (ab initio) MD

□ Calculate forces from an *ab initio* potential *V*({*R*})

Different flavors

Born-Oppenheimer MD

Car-Parrinello MD

Beyond Born-Oppenheimer MD (Ehrenfest, surface hopping)

 Reachable time scales (by Born-Oppenheimer MD): tens of picoseconds to few nanoseconds

- **D** Specify initial $R(t_0)$ and $p(t_0)$
- Converge electronic structure via a selfconsistent cycle
- Calculate forces
- Integrate the equations of motion to evolve R(t) and p(t)
- **Determine** $R(t + \Delta t)$ and $p(t + \Delta t)$ and go to -

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Energy fluctuations (arbitrary shifts)

What is a good time step?

Depends on the highest vibrational frequency (smallest mass) in your system ($\omega \approx \sqrt{k/m}$)

Typically, time step is chosen $\sim 1/10 \omega_{max}$ (femtosecond time scale)



- **\Box** Read initial $R(t_0)$ and $p(t_0)$
- Converge electronic structure via a selfconsistent cycle
- Calculate forces
- Integrate the equations of motion to evolve R(t) and p(t)
- **Determine** $R(t + \Delta t)$ and $p(t + \Delta t)$ and go to -

Car-Parinello MD

Self-consistent cycle is computationally expensive - can we avoid it? Yes, but with approximation

Extended Lagrangian: add (fictitious) degrees of freedom for the electrons (KS orbitals) in the Lagrangian and solve coupled equations of motion:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{I} M_{I} \dot{\mathbf{R}}_{I}^{2} + \mu \sum_{i} \int d\mathbf{r} |\dot{\phi}_{i}(\mathbf{r}, t)|^{2} \end{bmatrix} - V \phi, \phi^{*} \mathbf{R} + 2\lambda_{ij} \begin{bmatrix} Lagrange multipliers \\ \int d\mathbf{r} \phi_{i}^{*}(\mathbf{r}, t) \phi_{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \delta_{ij} \end{bmatrix}$$

Fictitious
electron mass

$$M_{I} \ddot{\mathbf{R}}_{I} = -\nabla_{I} V(\phi, \phi^{*}; \mathbf{R})$$

$$\mu \ddot{\phi}_{i} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta V(\phi, \phi^{*}; \mathbf{R})}{\delta \phi_{i}^{*}} + \sum_{j} \phi_{j} \lambda_{ji}$$

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Extended Lagrangian: add (fictitious) degrees of freedom for the electrons (KS orbitals) in the Lagrangian and solve coupled equations of motion

Adiabatic separation: electron "mass" needs to be very small \rightarrow small time step (1/50 fs)

Electrons "follow" nuclei: No self consistency needed (at each step)

Thermostats

Thermostats

Andersen: every n time steps, replace velocity of a random particle by one drawn from a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution at target temperature - canonical ensemble in the long-time limit, but slow equilibration, very sensitive to n, kinetics are not preserved (e.g., wrong diffusion coefficients)

Berendsen: Re-scale velocities by $\sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{\tau} \left(\frac{T}{T(t)} - 1\right)\right)}$ to approach the target temperature $T\left(T(t) = \frac{2\langle E_{\text{kinetic}} \rangle}{3k}\right)$ - quick relaxation to target temperature, does not sample canonical ensemble

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Nosé-Hoover: extended Hamiltonian (or Lagrangian)

$$\widehat{H}_{NH} = \sum_{I} \frac{p_I^2}{2M_I \eta^2} + V(\boldsymbol{R}) + \frac{p_{\eta}^2}{2Q} + 3NkT \ln(\eta)$$

fictitious oscillator

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fictitious oscillator

Momenta are damped by fictitious oscillator $\dot{p}_I = F_I - \frac{p_{\eta}}{O}p_I$

S. Nosé, J. Chem. Phys. 81, 511 (1984) & W. G. Hoover, Phys. Rev. A 31, 1695 (1985)

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A microcanonical simulation in the extended system (including heat bath degrees of freedom) returns a canonical ensemble for the original system; deterministic (as opposed to stochastic)

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Q must be chosen carefully: too small Q \rightarrow noncanonical, too large Q \rightarrow large T fluctuations

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Sampling canonical ensemble

Thermostats

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fictitious oscillator

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Ergodicity problems: system may be stuck in a region of phase space; solution: Nosé-Hoover chains (attach another fictitious oscillator to the first, and another to the second, etc.)

Martyna, Klein, Tuckerman, J. Chem. Phys. 97, 2635 (1992)

Sampling canonical ensemble

Thermostats

Bussi-Donadio-Parrinello: target temperature follows a stochastic differential equation:



G. Bussi, D. Donadio, and M. Parrinello, J. Chem. Phys. 126, 014101 (2007)

NPT ensemble

Barostats

Define instantaneous internal pressure:

$$P = \frac{2}{3V} \left(E_{\text{kinetic}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{I} \boldsymbol{R}_{I} \cdot \boldsymbol{F}_{I} \right)$$

Similar schemes for barostats: pressure rescaling (Berendsen), extended Hamiltonian/Lagrangian (Andersen, Parrinello-Rahman),...

M. Parinello and A. Rahman, J. Appl. Phys 52, 7182 (1981)

Use thermostat together with a barostat to control temperature and pressure

Why is this important?

Protons in water and ice



Path integral simulations: J. Morrone, RC, PRL 2008

Experiment: deep inelastic neutron scattering (DINS), G. Reiter et al., *Braz. J. Phys* 2004

□ When is this important?

• Relation between thermal De Broglie wavelength Λ and interparticle spacing l

$$\Lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2\pi m k_B T}}$$

 $\Lambda \gg l$

Low temperature, low mass \Rightarrow nuclear quantum effects important

High temperature, high mass \Rightarrow classical Boltzmann statistics are fine

 $\Lambda \ll l$

Species	T(K)	Λ(Å)	Species	T(K)	Λ(Å)
е	300	43.03	He	4	4.35
н	300	1.00	Li	100	0.66
He	300	0.50	Cu	10	0.69
Li	300	0.38			

Systems approximately harmonic $\Rightarrow \frac{\hbar\omega}{k_BT} \gg 1 \Rightarrow$ quantum (vibration dominated by ZPE)

T=300K corresponds to $\omega \approx 208 \text{cm}^{-1} \Rightarrow$ vibrations (much) above are influenced by ZPE

Path integral MD

Quantum canonical partition function ($\beta = 1/kT$):

$$Z(\beta) = \int dx \langle x | e^{-\beta(\hat{T} + \hat{V})} | x \rangle$$

configuration coordinate

eigenstates of position operator $(\widehat{V}|x\rangle = V(x)|x\rangle)$

 \hat{V} and \hat{T} do not commute \rightarrow use Trotter decomposition

$$Z(\beta) = \lim_{P \to \infty} \int dx \langle x | \Omega^P | x \rangle \qquad \qquad \Omega = e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{V}}{2P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{T}}{P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{V}}{2P}}$$

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$$\int dx |x\rangle \langle x| = \hat{1} \rightarrow Z(\beta) = \lim_{P \to \infty} \int \prod_{i} dx_i \langle x_1 | \Omega | x_2 \rangle \langle x_2 | \Omega | x_3 \rangle \dots \langle x_P | \Omega | x_1 \rangle$$

Calculate the matrix elements $(\hat{V}|x) = V(x)|x\rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_i | \Omega | x_{i+1} \rangle &= \langle x_i | e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{V}}{2P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{T}}{P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{V}}{2P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle \\ &= e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_i)}{2P}} \langle x_i | e^{-\frac{\beta \widehat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_{i+1})}{2P}} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\int dx | x \rangle \langle x | = \hat{1} \Rightarrow Z(\beta) = \lim_{p \to \infty} \int \prod_{i} dx_{i} \langle x_{1} | \Omega | x_{2} \rangle \langle x_{2} | \Omega | x_{3} \rangle \dots \langle x_{P} | \Omega | x_{1} \rangle$$

$$\langle x_{i} | \Omega | x_{i+1} \rangle = \langle x_{i} | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{V}}{2P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{V}}{2P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle$$

$$= e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_{i})}{2P}} \langle x_{i} | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_{i+1})}{2P}}$$

$$\int dp | p \rangle \langle p | = \hat{1} \Rightarrow \langle x_{i} | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle = \int dp \langle x_{i} | p \rangle \langle p | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle$$
eigenstates of momentum operator $(\hat{T} | p \rangle = (p^{2}/2m) | p \rangle$

Path integral MD

Matrix elements:

$$\int dp |p\rangle \langle p| = \hat{1} \rightarrow \langle x_i | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle = \int dp \langle x_i | p \rangle \langle p | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle$$

eigenstates of momentum operator ($\hat{T} | p \rangle = (p^2/2m) | p \rangle$)

$$\begin{split} \langle x|p\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} e^{\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} \rightarrow \\ \langle x_i|e^{-\frac{\beta\hat{T}}{P}}|x_{i+1}\rangle &= \int dp \,\langle x_i|p\rangle \left\langle p \middle| e^{-\frac{\beta\hat{T}}{P}} \middle| x_{i+1} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int dp e^{-\frac{\beta p^2}{2mP}} e^{ip(x_i - x_{i+1})/\hbar} \\ &= \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^2}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{mP}{2\beta\hbar^2}(x_i - x_{i+1})^2\right] \end{split}$$

Path integral MD

Matrix elements:

$$Z(\beta) = \lim_{P \to \infty} \int \prod_{i} dx_{i} \langle x_{1} | \Omega | x_{2} \rangle \langle x_{2} | \Omega | x_{3} \rangle \dots \langle x_{P} | \Omega | x_{1} \rangle$$
$$\langle x_{i} | \Omega | x_{i+1} \rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_{i})}{2P}} \langle x_{i} | e^{-\frac{\beta \hat{T}}{P}} | x_{i+1} \rangle e^{-\frac{\beta V(x_{i+1})}{2P}}$$
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$$\langle x_{i} | \Omega | x_{i+1} \rangle = \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^{2}} \right)^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{mP}{2\beta\hbar^{2}} (x_{i} - x_{i+1})^{2} - \frac{\beta}{2P} (V(x_{i}) + V(x_{i+1})) \right]$$

1 -

Path integral MD

. . . .

Partition function:

$$Z(\beta) = \lim_{P \to \infty} Z_P(\beta),$$

$$Z_P(\beta) = \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^2}\right)^{P/2} \int dx_1 \dots dx_P \exp\left[-\beta U_{eff}(x_1, \dots x_P)\right]$$

$$U_{eff}(x_1, \dots x_P) = \sum_{i=1}^{P} \left[\frac{1}{2}m\left(\frac{\sqrt{P}}{\beta\hbar}\right)^2 (x_i - x_{i+1})^2 + \frac{1}{P}V(x_i)\right]_{x_{P+1} = x_1}$$

Path integral MD

Deutitien function

Partition function:

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No momenta?!? No problem!

fictitious momenta and masses

$$\tilde{Z}_P(\beta) = \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^2}\right)^{P/2} \int \prod_{i=1}^P dp_i \int \prod_{i=1}^P dx_i \exp\left[-\beta\left(\sum_{i=1}^P \frac{p_i^2}{2M_i} + U_{eff}(x_1, \dots x_P)\right)\right)$$

Path integral MD

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$$\tilde{Z}_P(\beta) = \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^2}\right)^{P/2} \int \prod_{i=1}^{P} dp_i \int \prod_{i=1}^{P} dx_i \exp\left[-\beta \left(\sum_{i=1}^{P} \frac{p_i^2}{2M_i} + U_{eff}(x_1, \dots x_P)\right)\right]$$
Gaussians are easy to integrate \Rightarrow

$$\tilde{Z}_P(\beta) = \prod_{i=1}^{P} \left(\frac{2\pi M_i}{\beta}\right)^{\frac{P}{2}} Z_P(\beta)$$
a constant at fixed T

Path integral MD

Sampling the effective potential:

$$\tilde{Z}_P(\beta) = \left(\frac{mP}{2\pi\beta\hbar^2}\right)^{P/2} \int \prod_{i=1}^P dp_i \int \prod_{i=1}^P dx_i \exp\left[-\beta\left(\sum_{i=1}^P \frac{p_i^2}{2M_i} + U_{eff}(x_1, \dots, x_P)\right)\right]$$

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Path integral MD

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$$U_{eff}(x_1, \dots x_P) = \sum_{i=1}^{P} \left[\frac{1}{2} m \left(\frac{\sqrt{P}}{\beta \hbar} \right)^2 (x_i - x_{i+1})^2 + \frac{1}{P} V(x_i) \right]_{x_{P+1} = x_1}$$

Evolve several images of the system ("beads") connected by springs

Each bead evolves at temperature $P \cdot T$

P is determined by how "quantum" the system is

 $P > \beta \hbar \omega_{max}$ (typically between 10 and 100)

Calculation of integrals numerically

Consider a multidimensional integral: $I[f] = \int_{\Omega} f(\mathbf{X}) d^{M} \mathbf{X}$

How to calculate it numerically? 1) Choose a regular grid in Ω . However, for a very modest sampling of 10 points per direction, we need to calculate f(X) at 10^M points not practical for M > 10

2) Choose points in Ω randomly - the "curse of dimensions" is alleviated

Is a uniform distribution of the random points a good choice?

Calculation of integrals numerically



$$I[f] = \int_{\Omega} f(\mathbf{X}) d^{M} X$$

Obviously, in this case uniform sampling is not the best choice: the error in I[f] converges very slowly with number of samples N:

$$\delta I \approx \Omega \sqrt{\frac{Var(f)}{N}}, Var(f) = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(f(X_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} f(X_j) \right)^2$$
variance

Importance sampling

Perform a trivial transformation:

$$I[f] = \int_{\Omega} f(\mathbf{X}) d^{M} X = \int_{\Omega} \frac{f(\mathbf{X})}{w(\mathbf{X})} w(\mathbf{X}) d^{M} X$$

If $w(X) \ge 0$, $\int_{\Omega} w(X) d^M X = 1$, this looks like an expectation value of f(X)/w(X) for X distributed according to probability density w(X):

$$I[f] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{f(X_i)}{w(X_i)}, \ w(X) \to X_i$$

This gives freedom to minimize the variance by a proper choice of w(X). In particular, if w(X) = Cf(X), the variance is zero. In practice, $w(X) \approx Cf(X)$ is a very good choice (importance sampling)

Importance sampling

Perform a trivial transformation:

$$I[f] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{f(X_i)}{w(X_i)}, \ w(X) \to X_i$$

How to generate $\{X_i\}$ according to w(X)?

Metropolis algorithm: (1) generate a set of X_i ; (2) choose randomly a displacement ΔX_i for each *i*; (3) replace X_i with $X'_i = X_i + \Delta X_i$ with the probability:

$$P_{accept}(\mathbf{X}_i \to \mathbf{X}'_i) = \min\left(1, \frac{w(\mathbf{X}'_i)}{w(\mathbf{X}_i)}\right)$$

(4) continue until convergence

Metropolis, Rosenbluth, Rosenbluth, Teller, Teller, J. Chem. Phys. 21, 1087 (1953)

Calculation of integrals numerically

$$P_{accept}(\mathbf{X}_i \to \mathbf{X}'_i) = \min\left(1, \frac{w(\mathbf{X}'_i)}{w(\mathbf{X}_i)}\right)$$

This follows from detailed balance in equilibrium:

$$w(X_i)P(X_i \to X'_i) = w(X'_i)P(X'_i \to X_i)$$

Detailed balance is sufficient (although not necessary) for equilibrium:

 $\sum_{X'_i} w(X_i) P(X_i \to X'_i) = \sum_{X'_i} w(X'_i) P(X'_i \to X_i)$

Metropolis, Rosenbluth, Rosenbluth, Teller, Teller, J. Chem. Phys. 21, 1087 (1953)

Monte Carlo sampling – applications

Computing statistical averages

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\int d^{3N} R \int d^{3N} p A(\boldsymbol{R}, \boldsymbol{p}) e^{-H(\boldsymbol{R}, \boldsymbol{p})/kT}}{\int d^{3N} R \int d^{3N} p e^{-H(\boldsymbol{R}, \boldsymbol{p})/kT}}$$

 $\frac{e^{-\frac{H(R,p)}{kT}}}{\int d^{3N}R \int d^{3N}p \ e^{-H(R,p)/kT}} \text{ is a natural choice for } w(X) \text{ for }$

Monte Carlo integration of thermodynamic averages (easily extendable to ensembles other than canonical; kinetic energy integral can often be taken analytically)



Monte Carlo sampling – applications

Replica-exchange (parallel tempering) MD



Sampling rough potential-energy surfaces

The time scale for evolving from A \rightarrow B is much larger than practically accessible MD time scales (<1 ns)



For example, a small protein folds in 10^{-4} s $\rightarrow 10^{11}$ time steps (~1 fs)

Sampling rough potential-energy surfaces

The time scale for evolving from A \rightarrow B is much larger than practically accessible MD time scales (<1 ns)



Idea: Introduce a bias potential to push the system out of the local minima

Sampling rough potential-energy surfaces

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$$V(S,t) = \int_{t_0}^t dt' \omega \exp\left(-\sum_i \frac{\left(S_i(R) - S_i(R(t'))\right)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$$

Add a Gaussian every time step at every visited point on PES (continuous direct metadynamics)

 $S_i(R)$ - collective variable

Sampling rough potential-energy surfaces

Idea: Introduce a bias potential to push the system out of the local minima collective variables

 $V(S,t) = \int_{t_0}^t dt' \omega \exp\left(-\sum_i \frac{\left(S_i(R) - S_i(R(t'))\right)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$

Add a Gaussian every time step at every visited point on PES (continuous direct metadynamics)

The "magic" (in fact, rigorously proven):

 $S_i(R)$ - collective variable

 $V(S, t \to \infty) = -F(S) + \text{constant}$

Sampling rough potential-energy surfaces

Idea: Introduce a bias potential to push the system out of the local minima

$$V(S,t) = \int_{t_0}^t dt' \omega \exp\left(-\sum_i \frac{\left(S_i(R) - S_i(R(t'))^2\right)}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)$$

 $V(S, t \rightarrow \infty) = -F(S) + \text{constant}$

To reduce oscillations around F(S): decrease Gaussian deposition rate with time (well-tempered metadynamics)

 $S_i(R)$ - collective variable

Collective variables

"Identifying a set of CVs appropriate for describing complex processes is far from trivial"



Collective variables

"Identifying a set of CVs appropriate for describing complex processes is far from trivial"



1) S(R) = R - inefficient for complex PES

2) Principal component analysis of data from a preliminary sampling

3) Along reaction coordinate (NEB) plus distance from the path

 $S_i(R)$ - collective variable

Applications

- 1) Predicting equilibrium crystal structures at a given thermodynamics condition
- 2) Diffusion
- 3) Solid-liquid interface free energy (difficult to measure experimentally)
- 4) Chemical reactions
- 5) Protein folding



Monte Carlo sampling – applications

Reaction kinetics - kinetic MC (kMC)



Molecular Dynamics: the whole trajectory

ab initio MD: up to 50 ps



Kinetic Monte Carlo: coarse-grained hops

ab initio kMC: up to minutes
Monte Carlo sampling – applications

Crucial ingredients of kMC





2) Process rates

PES accuracy Reaction rate theory 1) Elementary processes

Fixed process list vs. "on-the-fly" kMC Lattice vs. off-lattice kMC



Monte Carlo sampling – applications

	Adsorption:	CO - unimolecular, O ₂ – dissociative no barrier rate given by impingement $k \approx S_0 p / (2\pi m k_B T)$
	Desorption:	CO – 1st order, O ₂ – 2nd order out of DFT adsorption well (= barrier) prefactor from detailed balance
	Diffusion:	hops to nearest neighbor sites site and element specific barrier from DFT (TST) prefactor from DFT (hTST)
	Reaction:	site specific immediate desorption, no readsorption barrier from DFT (TST) prefactor from detailed balance
26 elementary processes considered		K Reuter and M Scheffler Phys Rev B 73 045433 (2006)

K. Reuter and M. Scheffler, Phys. Rev. B 73, 045433 (2006)

Monte Carlo sampling – applications

T = 600 K

 $p_{O2} = 1$ atm

 $p_{\rm CO}$ = 7 atm





K. Reuter, C. Stampfl, and M. Scheffler, Handbook of materials modeling, part A. Methods, p. 149, Springer, Berlin (2005)





Conclusions

□ Molecular dynamics - system dynamics at finite *T*

enslemble average from time average, diffusion coefficients, thermal conductivity, viscosity

Monte Carlo - clever random walks

calculating integrals by random sampling, ensemble averages, electronic problem, long-time kinetics

Combined - replica-exchange (parallel tempering) MD

better sampling of configurational space