

4 Monte Carlo simulation of Hard spheres in the NVT ensemble

In this exercise we have a couple of assignment that have to be done. The web app used for plotting is found at <https://webspace.science.uu.nl/~herme107/viscol/>.

a

Here we had to make code that tiled the space with spheres in a cubic lattice formation. The code for the generation of this lattice is found in Appendix a.

On the web app for plotting this lattice, Figure 1 was made using the file that was generated.

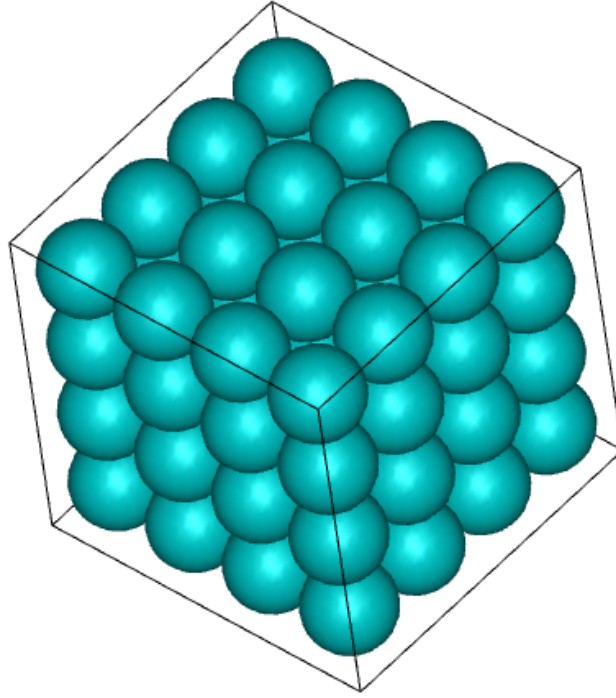


Figure 1: Here the cubic lattice generated by the code is graphed

b

We want to know the maximum packing density for spheres in a cubic lattice.

To get this first we need the lattice vector equation

$$\vec{R} = N_1\vec{a}_1 + N_2\vec{a}_2 + N_3\vec{a}_3. \quad (1)$$

Here the $N_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ is the counting number and \vec{a}_i are the primitive translation vectors.

For the cubic case the vectors are unit vectors times the radius of the atoms. Dividing this up into unit cells gives us that only one atom may exist in the unit cell. meaning that the occupied fraction

$$f_o = \frac{V_p}{V_{uc}} = \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi(\frac{a}{2})^3}{a^3} = \frac{\pi}{6} \quad (2)$$

Here V_p is the volume of particles occupying the unit cell, V_{uc} is the volume of the unit cell and a is the diameter of the particle.

c

Here we had to make code that tiled a space with spheres in a face-centered cubic (FCC) lattice. The code for the generation of this lattice is found in Appendix b.

On the web app for plotting this lattice, Figure 2 was made using the file that was generated.

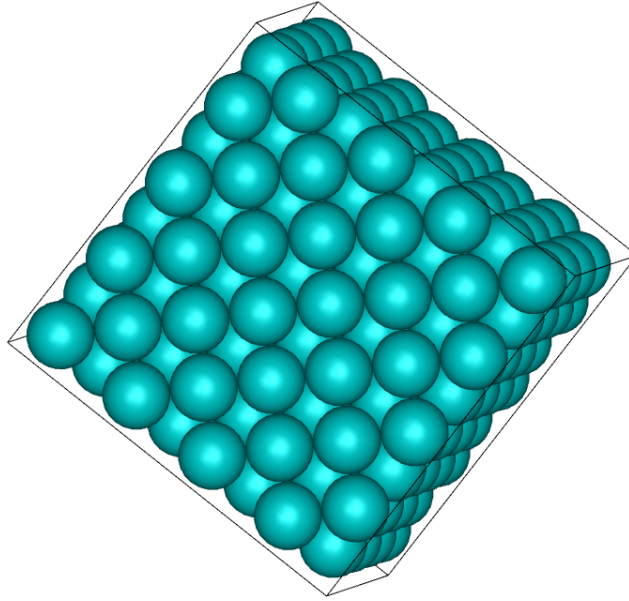


Figure 2: Here the cubic lattice generated by the code is graphed

d

We want to know the maximum packing density for spheres in a FCC lattice.

to get this we will use the same process as in b. We know that our primitive translation vectors are

$$a_1 = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a_2 = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a_3 = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

If we do this we have a problem, choosing the unit cell with length a in each direction leads to a non-translation symmetric unit cell. To get a translation symmetric unit cell we have to chose the length of the unit cell to be $\sqrt{2}a$.

Looking at the unit cell we can see that for each corner $1/8$ th of a sphere exists and we get $1/2$ for each face of the cube, meaning the cube contains $8 * 1/8 + 6 * 1/2 = 4$ spheres

From this we know that if we look at how much particles would be in a unit cell we see that this would be

$$f_o = \frac{4V_p}{V_{uc}} = \frac{\frac{16}{3}\pi(\frac{a}{2})^3}{(\sqrt{2}a)^3} = \frac{\pi}{3\sqrt{2}} \quad (3)$$

e

A Code Exercise 4

a Code 4.a)

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <math.h>
3 // in this file we will make the cubic latice
4
5 int main(){
6     int N = 4; // The number of particles in each dirrection
7     float d = 1.0; // the distance between two spheres
8     float a = 1.0; // the radius of an sphere
9
10    // Make a file where we can save the position data
11    FILE *print_coords; // inititilises a file variable
12    print_coords = fopen("cubic_xyz.dat","w"); // defining the file variable to be the opening
        of some file cubic.xyz
13
14    // Let us print some initial coordinates
15    fprintf(print_coords, "%i\n", N*N*N); // the total number of particles
16    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The ocupied space in the x direction
17    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The ocupied space in the y direction
18    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The ocupied space in the z direction
19
20    // we first initialise the particle possision saving arrays
21    float x[N*N*N], y[N*N*N], z[N*N*N], r[N*N*N];
22
23
24    // now we start generating particle possitions and radiuses
25    int n = 0; // this is our counting variable, it wil index which particle we will consider
26
27    /*
28    The latice points are described by
29    R= a_x n_x + a_y n_x + a_z n_z
30    a_x = i a
31    a_y = j a
32    a_z = k a
33    */
34
35
36    // sweeping over the N_x particles
37    for(int i=0; i<N; i++){
38        // sweeping over the N_y particles
39        for(int j=0; j<N; j++){
40            // sweeping over the N_z particles
41            for(int k=0; k<N; k++){
42                // generating the possition for i,j,k latice cite, also the radius of the particle
43                x[n]= (i+0.5)*d;
44                y[n]= (j+0.5)*d;
45                z[n]= (k+0.5)*d;
46                r[n]= a;
47
48                // saving the x,y,z possition and radius of the particle
49                fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n],z[n],r[n]);
50
51                n++;
52            }
53        }
54    }
55
56    fclose(print_coords);
57    return 0;
58 }
59 }
```

b Code 4.c)

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <math.h>
3 // in this file we will make the cubic latice
4
5 int main(){
6     int N = 4; // The number of particles in each dirrection
7     float d = 1.0; // the distance between two spheres
8     float a = 1.0; // the radius of an sphere
9 }
```

```

10 // creating an distance variable that makes les typing
11 float l = sqrt(2.0)*d;
12
13 // defining the size of the box that will be spanned
14 float x_max = N*l;
15
16 // definging a variable such that the outline of the box aligns with the border of the
   particles
17 float s = 0.5*d;
18
19 // Make a file where we can save the position data
20 FILE *print_coords; // initialises a file variable
21 print_coords = fopen("FCC_xyz.dat","w"); // defining the file variable to be the opening of
   some file cubic.xyz
22
23 // Let us print some initial coordinates
24 fprintf(print_coords, "%i\n", 4*N*N*N); // the total number of particles
25 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The ocupied space in the
   x direction
26 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The ocupied space in the
   y direction
27 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The ocupied space in the
   z direction
28
29 // we first initialise the particle possision saving arrays
30 float x[4*N*N*N], y[4*N*N*N], z[4*N*N*N], r[4*N*N*N];
31
32 // now we start generating particle possitions and radiuses
33 int n = 0; // this is our counting variable, it wil index which particle we will consider
34
35 /*
36 The lattice points are described by
37  $R = a_1 n_x + a_2 n_y + a_3 n_z$ 
38  $a_1 = a/2 (j + k)$ 
39  $a_2 = a/2 (i + k)$ 
40  $a_3 = a/2 (i + j)$ 
41  $i, j, k$  are the unit vectors in x, y and z directions respectively (not the counts)
42 */
43
44
45
46 // sweeping over the N_x particles
47 for(int i=0; i<N; i++){
48     // sweeping over the N_y particles
49     for(int j=0; j<N; j++){
50         // sweeping over the N_z particles
51         for(int k=0; k<N; k++){
52             // generating the possition for i,j,k lattice cite, also the radius of the particle
53
54             // first we start on the base vector because we know this pattern reapeats every 2*unit
   vector in each direction
55             x[n] = (i)*l;
56             y[n] = (j)*l;
57             z[n] = (k)*l;
58             r[n] = a;
59
60             // saving the x,y,z possition and radius of the particle
61             fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n], z[n], r[n]);
62
63             n++;
64
65             // here we will add the a_1 vector and make the same spacing
66             x[n] = (i)*l;
67             y[n] = (j+0.5)*l;
68             z[n] = (k+0.5)*l;
69             r[n] = a;
70
71             // saving the x,y,z possition and radius of the particle
72             fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n], z[n], r[n]);
73
74             n++;
75
76             // here we will add the a_2 vector and make the same spacing
77             x[n] = (i+0.5)*l;
78             y[n] = (j)*l;
79             z[n] = (k+0.5)*l;

```

```

80     r[n]= a;
81
82     // saving the x,y,z position and radius of the particle
83     fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n],z[n],r[n]);
84
85     n++;
86
87     // here we will add the a3 vector and continue the same spacing
88     x[n]= (i+0.5)*1;
89     y[n]= (j+0.5)*1;
90     z[n]= (k)*1;
91     r[n]= a;
92
93     // saving the x,y,z position and radius of the particle
94     fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n],z[n],r[n]);
95
96     n++;
97
98
99
100
101 }
102 }
103 }
104 }
105
106
107 fclose(print_coords);
108 return 0;
109 }

```