

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/>.

4.1

Here we had to make code that tiled the space whit spheres in a cubic lattice formation. The code for the generation of this lattice is found in Appendix A.1.

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

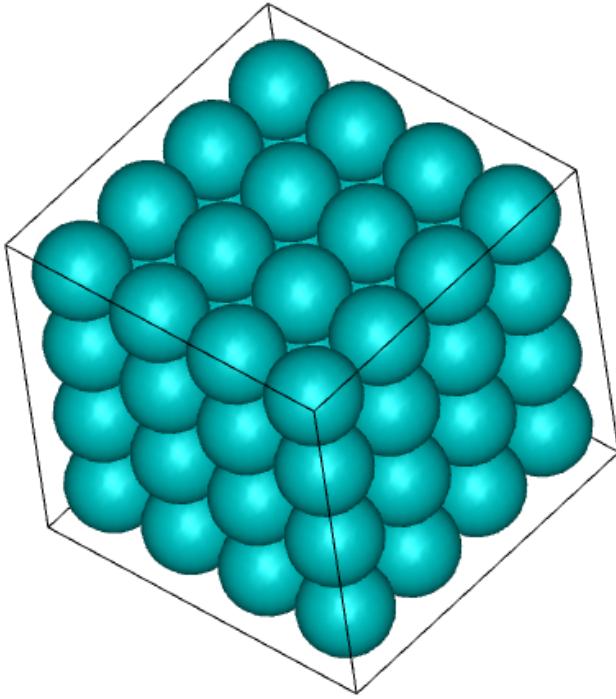


Figure 1: Here the cubic lattice generated by the code is graphed

4.2

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.

4.3

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 A.2.

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

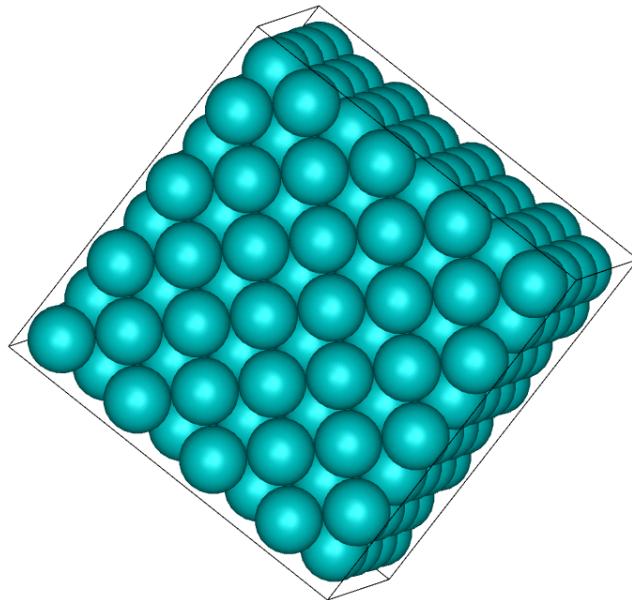


Figure 2: Here the cubic lattice generated by the code is graphed

4.4

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 4.2. 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 1/8th 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

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

4.5

A Code Exercise 4

A.1 Code 4.a)

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <math.h>
3 // in this file we will make the cubic lattice
4
5 int main(){
6     int N = 4; // The number of particles in each direction
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; // initialises a file variable
12    print_coords = fopen("cubic_xyz.dat","w"); // defining the file variable to be the opening
13        of some file cubic.xyz
14
15    // Let us print some initial coordinates
16    fprintf(print_coords, "%i\n", N*N*N); // the total number of particles
17    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The occupied space in the x direction
18    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The occupied space in the y direction
19    fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -0.0, 1.0*d*N); // The occupied space in the z direction
20
21    // we first initialise the particle possision saving arrays
22    float x[N*N*N], y[N*N*N], z[N*N*N], r[N*N*N];
23
24
25    // now we start generating particle possisions and radiuses
26    int n = 0; // this is our counting variable, it wil index which particle we will consider
27
28    /*
29    The lattice points are described by
30    R= a_x n_x + a_y n_y + a_z n_z
31    a_x = i a
32    a_y = j a
33    a_z = k a
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++){
30            // sweeping over the N_z particles
41            for(int k=0; k<N; k++){
42                // generating the possition for i,j,k lattice 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
57    fclose(print_coords);
58    return 0;
59 }
```

A.2 Code 4.c)

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <math.h>
3 // in this file we will make the cubic lattice
4
5 int main(){
6     int N = 4; // The number of particles in each direction
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 less 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 // defining a variable such that the outline of the box aligns with the border of the
17 // particles
18 float s = 0.5*d;
19
20 // Make a file where we can save the position data
21 FILE *print_coords; // initialises a file variable
22 print_coords = fopen("FCC_xyz.dat","w"); // defining the file variable to be the opening of
23 // some file cubic.xyz
24
25 // Let us print some initial coordinates
26 fprintf(print_coords, "%i\n", 4*N*N*N); // the total number of particles
27 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The occupied space in the
28 // x direction
29 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The occupied space in the
30 // y direction
31 fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\n", -s, x_max-sqrt(2)*s+0.5*d); // The occupied space in the
32 // z direction
33
34 // we first initialise the particle possision saving arrays
35 float x[4*N*N*N], y[4*N*N*N], z[4*N*N*N], r[4*N*N*N];
36
37 // now we start generating particle possisions and radiuses
38 int n = 0; // this is our counting variable, it wil index which particle we will consider
39
40 /*
41 The lattice points are described by
42 R= a_1 n_x + a_2 n_y + a_3 n_z
43 a_1 = a/2 (j + k)
44 a_2 = a/2 (i + k)
45 a_3 = a/2 (i + j)
46 i, j, k are the unit vectors in x, y and z directions respectively (not the counts)
47 */
48
49
50 // sweeping over the N_x particles
51 for(int i=0; i<N; i++){
52     // sweeping over the N_y particles
53     for(int j=0; j<N; j++){
54         // sweeping over the N_z particles
55         for(int k=0; k<N; k++){
56             // generating the possition for i,j,k lattice cite, also the radius of the particle
57
58             // first we start on the base vector because we know this patern reapeats every 2*unit
59             // vector in each direction
60             x[n]=(i)*l;
61             y[n]=(j)*l;
62             z[n]=(k)*l;
63             r[n]= a;
64
65             // saving the x,y,z possition and radius of the particle
66             fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n],z[n],r[n]);
67
68             n++;
69
70             // here we will add the a_1 vector and make the same spacing
71             x[n]=(i)*l;
72             y[n]=(j+0.5)*l;
73             z[n]=(k+0.5)*l;
74             r[n]= a;
75
76             // saving the x,y,z possition and radius of the particle
77             fprintf(print_coords, "%lf\t%lf\t%lf\t%lf\n", x[n], y[n],z[n],r[n]);
78
79             n++;
80
81             // here we will add the a_2 vector and make the same spacing
82             x[n]=(i+0.5)*l;
83             y[n]=(j)*l;
84             z[n]=(k+0.5)*l;

```

```

80     r[n]= a;
81
82     // saving the x,y,z possition 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)*l;
89     y[n]= (j+0.5)*l;
90     z[n]= (k)*l;
91     r[n]= a;
92
93     // saving the x,y,z possition 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 }
```