

Free energy estimate by thermodynamic integration.

Write a MD or Lajevin code sampling the canonical probability distribution at a temperature $T=1$ of a three-dimensional potential of the form

$$V(x, y) = -5 \log \left(3 \exp \left(-2x^2 - \frac{1}{4}y^2 - z^2 \right) + 2 \exp \left(- \left(x - \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 - \left(y - \frac{5}{2} \right)^2 - z^2 \right) \right)$$

1. Compute the free energy $F(s)$ as a function of the collective variable $s = x^2 + y^2$ by thermodynamic integration.
2. Estimate the error of the derivative of the free energy for each value of the CV, and estimate the error on the free energy difference $F(10) - F(0)$ by error propagation.
3. Estimate the error on the same free energy difference by performing a thermodynamic cycle. Comment