

A. Traditional Ewald Sum

Because Coulombic interactions decay very slowly, these interactions are frequently handled using the Ewald (lattice) sum method.^{1,2} In an Ewald sum, the total Coulombic potential U_C is divided into a real space portion U_C^{real} and reciprocal k -space portion U_C^{recip} as

$$U_C = U_C^{\text{real}} + U_C^{\text{recip}} - U_C^{\text{self}}, \quad (1)$$

where U_C^{self} is a self-correction term which must also be included (see below).

The real-space portion of the energy is calculated for $r \leq r_{\text{cut}}$ as

$$U_C^{\text{real}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i,j < i} \frac{q_i q_j \text{erfc}(\alpha r_{ij})}{r_{ij}}, \quad (2)$$

where α is the constant that controls how the potential is divided between real and reciprocal space.

The k -space portion of the energy is efficiently handled using a Fourier series as

$$U_C^{\text{recip}} = \frac{1}{2V\epsilon_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \neq 0} \Gamma(k) \chi(\mathbf{k}), \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{k} are the reciprocal lattice vectors, $k = |\mathbf{k}|$, and $\Gamma(k)$ are Fourier coefficients given as

$$\Gamma(k) = k^{-2} e^{-k^2/4\alpha^2}. \quad (4)$$

The quantity $\chi(\mathbf{k})$ can be defined as a double sum over particle positions as

$$\chi(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N q_i q_j e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij}} \quad (5)$$

where N is the total number of atoms, \mathbf{i} is the imaginary number, and $\mathbf{r}_{ij} = \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j$. However, the double sum in Eq. 5 is very expensive, so normally one reduces the double sum in Eq. 5 to a single sum as

$$\begin{aligned}
\chi(\mathbf{k}) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N q_i q_j e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij}} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^N q_i e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i} \sum_{j=1}^N q_j e^{-\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j} \\
&= S(\mathbf{k}) S(-\mathbf{k}) ,
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where $S(\mathbf{k})$ is the structure factor:

$$S(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i=1}^N q_i e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i} . \tag{7}$$

In the traditional lattice sum, a particle interacts with itself, all periodic images of itself, all of its neighbors, and all periodic images of its neighbors. Because a particle interacts with itself, a energy self-correction term must be subtracted from the total energy:

$$U_C^{\text{self}} = \frac{\alpha}{4\pi^{3/2} \varepsilon_0} \sum_i q_i^2 . \tag{8}$$

B. Group-Group Ewald Sum

Eq. 5 includes a double sum over particles. In order to get interactions of group A atoms on group B atoms, one can restrict the double sum in Eq. 5 to include only groups A and B as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\chi(\mathbf{k}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_A} \sum_{j=1}^{N_B} q_i q_j e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij}} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{N_A} q_i e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i} \sum_{j=1}^{N_B} q_j e^{-\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j} \\
&= S_A(\mathbf{k}) S_B(-\mathbf{k}) ,
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where N_A is the number of atoms in group A, N_B is the number of atoms in group B, $S_A(\mathbf{k})$ is the group A structure factor:

$$S_A(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i=\text{type A}} q_i e^{\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_i} . \tag{10}$$

and $S_B(\mathbf{k})$ is the group B structure factor:

$$S_B(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{j=\text{type B}} q_j e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_j} . \quad (11)$$

One can think of this as all group A atoms and periodic images interacting with all group B atoms and periodic images. If an atom is in both groups A and B, one must also include the energy self-correction for that atom (see Eq. 8). One can obtain group-group forces in a similar manner by using the same group structure factors.

C. Per-atom Ewald Sum

In a similar manner, one can think of per-atom energy as one atom interacting with a group of all other atoms. Per-atom values can therefore be obtained by replacing $\chi(\mathbf{k})$ in Eqs. 9 with a per-atom version³⁻⁵

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_i(\mathbf{k}) &= \sum_j q_i q_j e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{ij}} \\ &= S(-\mathbf{k}) S_i(\mathbf{k}) , \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where $S_i(\mathbf{k})$ is a per-atom structure factor defined as

$$S_i(\mathbf{k}) = q_i e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_i} . \quad (13)$$

One must also include a per-atom version of the self-correction term (Eq. 8).

D. PPPM

In the PPPM method, group-group energy and force can be obtained in a similar manner. One interpolates charges for groups A and B to a mesh and then uses two forward FFTs (one for each group) to obtain group A and B structure factors. Total energy and force are then obtained using these group structure factors in a manner very similar to the Ewald sum.

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