

# Modeling Thermal Transport and Viscosity with Molecular Dynamics

Steve Plimpton  
Sandia National Labs  
sjplimp@sandia.gov

LAMMPS Users and Developers Workshop  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)  
March 2014 - Trieste, Italy

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

Presentation: SAND2014-2225C



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**

# Tackling a new problem with LAMMPS

- Features: [lammps.sandia.gov/features.html](http://lammps.sandia.gov/features.html)
- Commands page: [doc/Section\\_Commands.html](http://doc/Section_Commands.html)
- Papers: [lammps.sandia.gov/papers.html](http://lammps.sandia.gov/papers.html)
- Mail list: [lammps.sandia.gov/mail.html](http://lammps.sandia.gov/mail.html)
- Adding new features: [doc/Section\\_modify.html](http://doc/Section_modify.html)
- **Howto explanations in manual:**
  - [doc/Section\\_howto.html](http://doc/Section_howto.html)
  - 6.20 Calculating thermal conductivity
  - 6.21 Calculating viscosity

# What is thermal conductivity?

- Propensity of a material to **transmit heat** (thermal energy)
- Solids or liquids or gases
- Temperature and density dependent
- High  $\kappa$  = good heat sink, low  $\kappa$  = good insulator

# What is thermal conductivity?

- Propensity of a material to **transmit heat** (thermal energy)
- Solids or liquids or gases
- Temperature and density dependent
- High  $\kappa$  = good heat sink, low  $\kappa$  = good insulator
- Fundamental equation:

$$J = -\kappa \nabla T$$

$$J = \text{heat flux} = \frac{\Delta KE}{\text{Area time}}$$

$$\nabla T = \text{temperature gradient} = dT/dz$$

$$\kappa = \text{thermal conductivity} = \text{W} / \text{m K}$$

# What is viscosity?

- Propensity of a fluid to **transmit momentum** perpendicular to direction of momentum flow (shear direction)
- Fluid “friction” or **resistance** to flow
- Fluid = Liquids and gases
- High  $\eta$  = honey, low  $\eta$  = water

# What is viscosity?

- Propensity of a fluid to **transmit momentum** perpendicular to direction of momentum flow (shear direction)
- Fluid “friction” or **resistance** to flow
- Fluid = Liquids and gases
- High  $\eta$  = honey, low  $\eta$  = water
- Fundamental equation:

$$J_z(p_x) = -\eta \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial z}$$

$J_z(p_x)$  = momentum flux in perpendicular direction

$$\frac{\partial V_x}{\partial z} = \text{transverse velocity gradient}$$

$\eta$  = **shear viscosity**

## 4 methods for computing thermal conductivity

- **Non-equilibrium** methods:
  - basic idea: induce a temperature gradient or heat flux and monitor the other quantity
  - direct thermostating method of Ikeshoji and Hafskjold
  - reverse perturbation method of Muller-Plathe
  - aggregate variant of Muller-Plathe method
- **Equilibrium** method:
  - Green-Kubo formalism

## 4 methods for computing thermal conductivity

- **Non-equilibrium** methods:
  - basic idea: induce a temperature gradient or heat flux and monitor the other quantity
  - direct thermostating method of Ikeshoji and Hafskjold
  - reverse perturbation method of Muller-Plathe
  - aggregate variant of Muller-Plathe method
- **Equilibrium** method:
  - Green-Kubo formalism
- See **examples/KAPPA** for 4 sample scripts
- 3d LJ fluid, but adaptable to other systems (e.g. solids)



## 4 methods for computing shear viscosity

- **Non-equilibrium** methods:
  - basic idea: induce a flow gradient or momentum flux and monitor the other quantity
  - drag wall over fluid to induce shear
  - NEMD shear deformation with SLLOD thermostating
  - Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method
- **Equilibrium** method:
  - Green-Kubo formalism
  - auto-correlation of pressure tensor component

## 4 methods for computing shear viscosity

- **Non-equilibrium** methods:
  - basic idea: induce a flow gradient or momentum flux and monitor the other quantity
  - drag wall over fluid to induce shear
  - NEMD shear deformation with SLLOD thermostating
  - Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method
- **Equilibrium** method:
  - Green-Kubo formalism
  - auto-correlation of pressure tensor component
- See **examples/VISCOSITY** for 4 sample scripts
- 2d LJ fluid, but adaptable to other systems

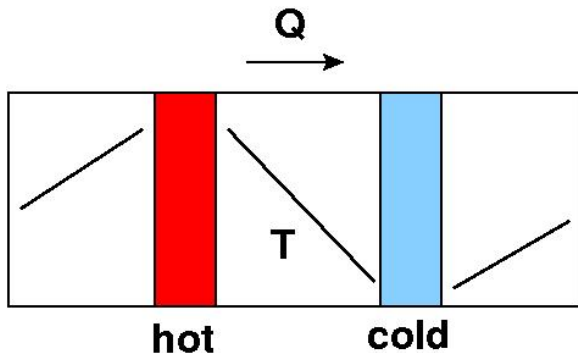
# Caveats for atomistic MD

- ① Missing **electronic effects** for  $\kappa$ 
  - empirical atomistic simulations  $\Rightarrow$  heat is transported by phonons
  - electronic effects included only indirectly in potential
  - if electrons make large contribution to  $\kappa$ , won't see it
- ② Homogeneous vs **heterogeneous** systems
  - formulas are for homogeneous bulk
  - $\kappa$  in graphene sheets is 2d, possibly asymmetric
  - $\eta$  for fluid flowing thru CNTs is radial BC
- ③ Mis-match to **experiment**
  - MD has severe length- and time-scale constraints
  - temperature gradients & shear rates are typically orders of magnitude larger than expt

# (1) Direct thermostating method

*Ikeshoji and Hafskjold, Molecular Physics, 81, 251-261 (1994)*

- 2 thermostats for 2 regions of simulation box
- One **hot**, one **cold**
- Monitor flux of energy needed to maintain  $\nabla T$



# Direct thermostating method

- LAMMPS implementation:
  - `fix langevin` using `compute temp/region` as “bias”
  - `fix langevin` can tally energy each thermostat adds/subtracts
  - `fix ave/spatial` monitors resulting temperature gradient

$$\kappa = \frac{\Delta Q}{2Area\Delta t} \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta T}$$

# Script for direct thermostating method

```
lattice fcc ${rho}
region box block 0 $x 0 $y 0 $z

# heat layers

region hot block INF INF INF INF 0 1
region cold block INF INF INF INF 10 11
compute Thot all temp/region hot
compute Tcold all temp/region cold

# 1st equilibration run

fix 1 all nvt temp $t $t 0.5
run 1000
unfix 1
```

## More script for direct thermostating method

```
# thermal conductivity calculation

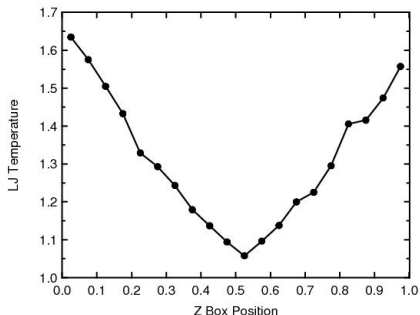
compute ke all ke/atom
variable temp atom c_ke/1.5

fix hot all langevin ${thi} ${thi} 1.0 59804 tally yes
fix cold all langevin ${tlo} ${tlo} 1.0 287859 ...
fix_modify hot temp Thot
fix_modify cold temp Tcold

fix 2 all ave/spatial 10 100 1000 z lower 0.05 v_temp &
  file tmp.profile units reduced

thermo_style custom step temp c_Thot c_Tcold f_hot f_cold
run 20000
```

# Output for direct thermostating method



Step Temp Thot Tcold hot cold

...

30000 1.3011151 1.7275961 1.06067 -0.84589474 0.8965726

31000 1.3002026 1.5313418 1.0526131 -0.8964083 0.93984929

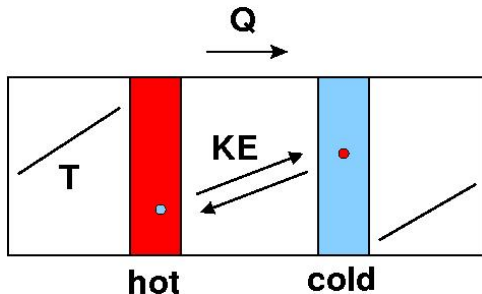
Loop time of 25.7381 on 8 procs for 20000 steps with 8000 atoms



## (2) Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method

*Muller-Plathe, J Chem Phys, 106, 6082 (1997)*

- Define hot and cold regions of simulation box
- Find **hottest atom** in cold region, **coldest atom** in hot region
- Swap velocity vector of these 2 atoms (energy)
- Tally heat flux due to KE exchanges
- Monitor the induced temperature profile
- **Reverse** of previous method



# Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method

- LAMMPS implementation:
  - **fix thermal/conductivity** swaps KE and tallies heat flux
  - **fix ave/spatial** monitors induced temperature gradient

$$\kappa = \frac{\Delta Q}{2Area\Delta t} \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta T}$$

# Script for Muller-Plathe reverse method

```
# thermal conductivity calculation

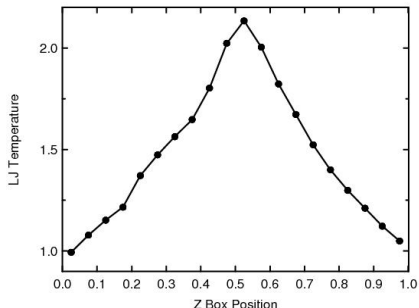
compute ke all ke/atom
variable temp atom c_ke/1.5

fix 1 all nve
fix 2 all ave/spatial 10 100 1000 z lower 0.05 &
    v_temp file tmp.profile units reduced
fix 3 all thermal/conductivity 10 z 20

variable tdiff equal f_2[11][3]-f_2[1][3]
thermo_style custom step temp epair etotal &
    f_3 v_tdiff

run 20000
```

# Output for Muller-Plathe reverse method



Step Temp E\_pair TotEng 3 tdiff

...

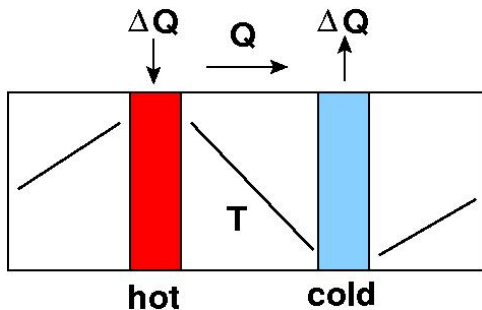
40000 1.4071151 -3.8068479 -1.6964391 14307.339 1.1772366

41000 1.4126121 -3.8153948 -1.6967416 15087.11 1.1408062

Loop time of 23.9599 on 8 procs for 20000 steps with 8000 atoms

### (3) Variant of Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method

- Define **hot** and **cold** regions of simulation box
- Add/subtract **energy** continuously to **all atoms** in these regions
- Equal and opposite heat flux
- Monitor the induced temperature profile



# Variant of Muller-Plathe method

- LAMMPS implementation:
  - **fix heat** adds/subtracts KE in a region
  - **fix ave/spatial** monitors induced temperature gradient

$$\kappa = \frac{\Delta Q}{2Area\Delta t} \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta T}$$

## Script for variant of Muller-Plathe method

```
# thermal conductivity calculation

fix hot all heat 1 100.0 region hot
fix cold all heat 1 -100.0 region cold

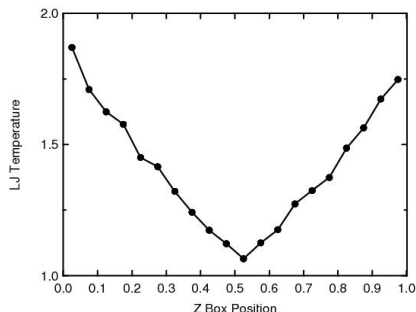
compute ke all ke/atom
variable temp atom c_ke/1.5

fix 2 all ave/spatial 10 100 1000 z lower 0.05 &
    v_temp file tmp.heat.profile units reduced

variable tdiff equal f_2[11][3]-f_2[1][3]

run 20000
```

# Output for variant of Muller-Plathe method



Step Temp Thot Tcold tdiff

...

30000 1.382101 1.9337034 1.0679145 -0.79821576

31000 1.3779178 1.8832819 1.0837774 -0.80611097

Loop time of 24.3193 on 8 procs for 20000 steps with 8000 atoms



## (4) Green-Kubo equilibrium method

- Relate ensemble average of **auto-correlation** of  $J$  to  $\kappa$
- **Equilibrium**  $J$  computable from per-atom KE, PE, virial

$$\kappa = \frac{V}{k_B T^2} \int_0^\infty \langle J_x(0) J_x(t) \rangle dt = \frac{V}{3k_B T^2} \int_0^\infty \langle \mathbf{J}(0) \cdot \mathbf{J}(t) \rangle dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{J} &= \frac{1}{V} \left[ \sum_i e_i \mathbf{v}_i - \sum_i \mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{v}_i \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{V} \left[ \sum_i e_i \mathbf{v}_i + \sum_{i < j} (\mathbf{f}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{v}_j) \mathbf{x}_{ij} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{V} \left[ \sum_i e_i \mathbf{v}_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} (\mathbf{f}_{ij} \cdot (\mathbf{v}_i + \mathbf{v}_j)) \mathbf{x}_{ij} \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Green-Kubo method

- LAMMPS implementation:
  - `compute heat/flux` calculates J tensor
  - `fix ave/correlate` performs auto-correlation
  - variable `trap()` function performs time integration

# Script for Green-Kubo method

```
compute myKE all ke/atom
compute myPE all pe/atom
compute myStress all stress/atom virial
compute flux all heat/flux myKE myPE myStress

fix JJ all ave/correlate $s $p $d &
  c_flux[1] c_flux[2] c_flux[3] type auto &
  file tmp.heatflux ave running

variable k11 equal trap(f_JJ[3])*${scale}
variable k22 equal trap(f_JJ[4])*${scale}
variable k33 equal trap(f_JJ[5])*${scale}

run 100000
```

# Output for Green-Kubo method

Step Temp k11 k22 k33

...

98000 1.3477904 3.2534428 2.8638625 3.8437754

100000 1.3583776 3.3351133 2.859474 3.7715301

Loop time of 52.1737 on 8 procs for 100000 steps with 4000 atoms

```
variable kappa equal (v_k11+v_k22+v_k33)/3.0  
print "thermal conductivity:  ${kappa}"
```

## Comparing the 4 methods for thermal conductivity

Liquid Argon at state point:  $\rho^* = 0.6$ ,  $T^* = 1.35$ ,  $R_c = 2.5 \sigma$   
*D Evans, Phys Rev A, 34, 1449 (1986)*

Method	$\kappa$
Direct thermostat	3.41
Muller-Plathe	3.45
M-P with fix heat	3.39
Green-Kubo	3.78
Evans paper	$\sim 3.3$
Experiment	agrees with Evans

# Comparing the 4 methods for thermal conductivity

Liquid Argon at state point:  $\rho^* = 0.6$ ,  $T^* = 1.35$ ,  $R_c = 2.5 \sigma$   
*D Evans, Phys Rev A, 34, 1449 (1986)*

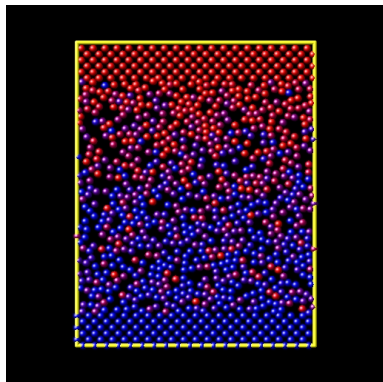
Method	$\kappa$
Direct thermostat	3.41
Muller-Plathe	3.45
M-P with fix heat	3.39
Green-Kubo	3.78
Evans paper	$\sim 3.3$
Experiment	agrees with Evans

- Small systems have boundary effects
- Need to monitor equilibration and statistical noise
- Factors of 2 are easy to miss!

# (1) Shearing via moving wall

LAMMPS methodology:

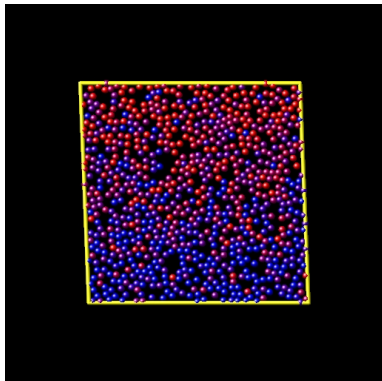
- Rigid, moving wall
- **Fix addforce** can apply load if desired
- Important to thermostat flow since adding energy
  - **fix langevin** on non-sheared dimensions
  - **compute temp/profile** to subtract flow profile
- Monitor  $P_{xz}$  and velocity profile of flow



## (2) Shearing via deforming box

LAMMPS methodology:

- **Fix deform** for box deformation
- Important to thermostat flow since adding energy
  - **fix nvt/sllod** for SLLOD equations of motion
  - *Evans and Morriss, Phys Rev A, 30, 1528 (1984)*
- Monitor  $P_{xz}$  and velocity profile of flow
  - insure flow profile agrees with box deformation

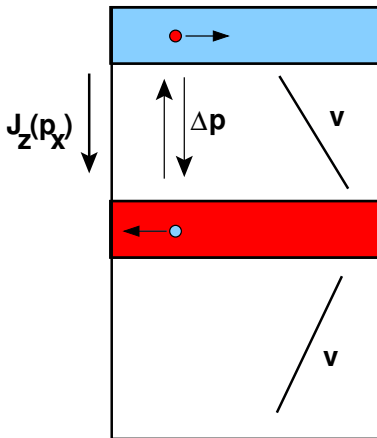




### (3) Muller-Plathe reverse perturbation method

Muller-Plathe,  
*Phys Rev E*, 59, 4894 (1999)

- Define two slabs within simulation box
- Find  $\max V_x$  in one region,  $\max -V_x$  in other region
- **Fix viscosity** swaps momenta of these 2 atoms (or molecules)
- Tally momentum flux due to exchanges
- Monitor the induced velocity profile
- **Reverse** of previous methods



## (4) Green-Kubo equilibrium method

- Relate ensemble average of **auto-correlation** of  $P_{xz}$  to  $\eta$

$$\eta = \frac{V}{k_B T} \int_0^\infty \langle P_{xz}(0) P_{xz}(t) \rangle dt$$

- $P_{xz}$  computable from virial
- **Fix ave/correlate** performs auto-correlation
- Variable **trap()** function performs time integration

## Comparing the 4 methods for viscosity

LJ at state point:  $\rho^* = 0.6$ ,  $T^* = 1.0$ ,  $R_c = 2.5 \sigma$   
*Woodcock, AIChE Journal, 52, 438 (2006)*

Method	$\eta$
Moving wall	0.946
Deforming box	1.18
Muller-Plathe	0.997
Green-Kubo	1.07
literature value	$\sim 1.0$

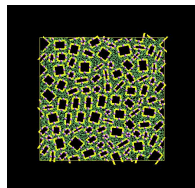
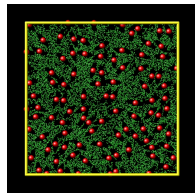
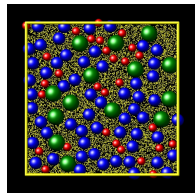
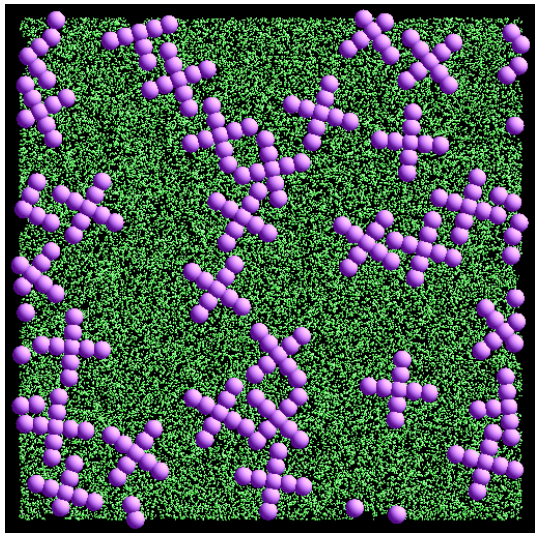
# Comparing the 4 methods for viscosity

LJ at state point:  $\rho^* = 0.6$ ,  $T^* = 1.0$ ,  $R_c = 2.5 \sigma$   
*Woodcock, AIChE Journal, 52, 438 (2006)*

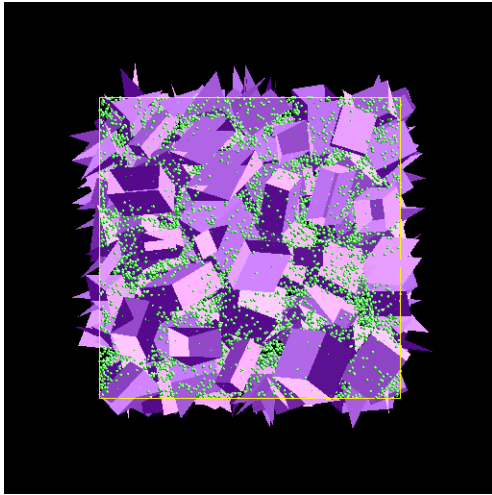
Method	$\eta$
Moving wall	0.946
Deforming box	1.18
Muller-Plathe	0.997
Green-Kubo	1.07
literature value	$\sim 1.0$

- Small systems have boundary effects
- Need to monitor equilibration and statistical noise
- Factors of 2 are easy to miss!

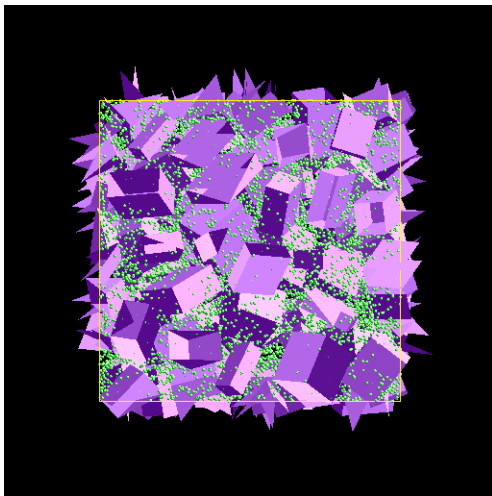
# Shear viscosity for rigid-bodies in SRD fluid



# Shear viscosity for aspherical bodies in SRD fluid



# Shear viscosity for aspherical bodies in SRD fluid



Any of these examples could use **short-chain polymer solvents**

# Trade-offs between methods

- NEMD methods **pros**:
  - intuitive to understand
  - quick to converge
- NEMD methods **cons**:
  - unphysically large temperature gradients and heat fluxes
  - bigger systems to allow for gradient



# Trade-offs between methods

- NEMD methods **pros**:
  - intuitive to understand
  - quick to converge
- NEMD methods **cons**:
  - unphysically large temperature gradients and heat fluxes
  - bigger systems to allow for gradient
- Green-Kubo method **pros**:
  - equilibrium simulation
  - can use smaller system
- Green-Kubo method **cons**:
  - slow to converge
  - hard to tell when correlation integral has converged

# Hands-on exercise #1

- Focus on viscosity (or thermal conductivity) (or both!)
  - viscosity simulations are more visual to animate
- Study scripts in [examples/VISCOSITY](#) (or [examples/KAPPA](#))
  - 4 scripts, for each of 4 methods
  - understand what each command and parameter represents
- Figure out how to [analyze output](#) to get  $\eta$  (or  $\kappa$ )

# Hands-on exercise #1

- Focus on viscosity (or thermal conductivity) (or both!)
    - viscosity simulations are more visual to animate
  - Study scripts in [examples/VISCOSITY](#) (or [examples/KAPPA](#))
    - 4 scripts, for each of 4 methods
    - understand what each command and parameter represents
  - Figure out how to [analyze output](#) to get  $\eta$  (or  $\kappa$ )
- 
- Reproduce 4 values in [examples/VISCOSITY/README](#)
  - Do scripts run faster in [parallel](#)?
  - Do they produce the same answers in parallel?

## Hands-on exercise #2

- **Change parameters** in input scripts:
  - size of system, density, temperature
  - shear rate, cutoff of potential
- **IMPORTANT** - When you change script and do a new run:
  - visualize to insure system dynamics are normal
  - monitor velocity (or temperature) profile
  - check convergence of G-K integrations
  - are you running long enough?
- Otherwise your  $\eta$  or  $\kappa$  values may be **bogus**

## Hands-on exercise #2

- **Change parameters** in input scripts:
  - size of system, density, temperature
  - shear rate, cutoff of potential
- **IMPORTANT** - When you change script and do a new run:
  - visualize to insure system dynamics are normal
  - monitor velocity (or temperature) profile
  - check convergence of G-K integrations
  - are you running long enough?
- Otherwise your  $\eta$  or  $\kappa$  values may be **bogus**
- Choose one larger/smaller value of a parameter
  - how much larger or smaller?
- Does  $\eta$  (or  $\kappa$ ) change with that parameter?
- Do all methods still agree?
- Does variation make physical sense?

## Hands-on exercise #3

- Make a plot as vary a parameter over a wide range
  - size of system, density, temperature
  - shear rate, cutoff of potential
- E.g.  $\eta$  versus shear-rate for shear-thinning
- What other parameters should remain constant?
  - e.g. temperature, pressure
- How much can parameter vary before dynamics break down?
  - e.g. liquid crystallizes at too high a density

## Hands-on exercise #3

- **Make a plot** as vary a parameter over a wide range
  - size of system, density, temperature
  - shear rate, cutoff of potential
- E.g.  $\eta$  **versus shear-rate** for shear-thinning
- What other parameters should remain constant?
  - e.g. temperature, pressure
- How much can parameter vary before dynamics break down?
  - e.g. liquid crystallizes at too high a density
- Bonus: modify script to run **series of simulations** as parameter varies
  - see Section\_howto.html 6.4 and **variable** command
- Bonus: run/viz M-P viscosity scripts in **examples/ASPHERICAL**