

Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Methane Hydrate by Means of the TIP5P-Ewald Water Model

Motohiko Tanaka

Innovative Energy Science and Engineering, Chubu University, Japan.

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Abstract

Microwave heating of methane hydrate is studied with electrostatic molecular dynamics simulations by the five-body translation and rotation system and the TIP5P-Ewald water model. The structure I of methane hydrate is constructed. When the methane hydrate of density 0.91 g/cm^3 and a temperature 273 K is exposed to microwave electric fields of 10 GHz , it is dynamically unstable and collapses to be liquid after a certain period of irradiation. The period of a collapse time in this model is $1.7 \times 10^6 \tau$ and the temperature increase is $\Delta T \cong 61$ degrees, where the external electric field is $3 \times 10^7 \text{ V/cm}$ (i.e. 0.3 V/\AA) and $\tau = 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ s}$. The unstable methane hydrate at the 1 atm pressure corresponds to $1.3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}$ in the $1,000 \text{ V/cm}$ power of microwave ovens.

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1 Introduction

The natural gas resources of methane hydrate that are found in permafrost and the sea floor of the earth may be calling public attention [1]. Methane hydrate is a solid or liquid material and is a light electrolyte like ice. However, the production of methane from methane hydrate will make one order of magnitude more air contamination than carbon dioxide by greenhouse effects [2, 3].

Methane hydrate has a density of 0.91 g/cm^3 at an atmospheric pressure and 0.95 g/cm^3 for an elevated pressure of 50 atm . Methane hydrate dissociates to about 220 ml of methane gas against 1 g water at 1 atm and 273 K . It is stable at pressures higher than 0.1 MPa at 193 K and 2.3 MPa at 273 K . There are three states of methane hydrates [1, 4]. System I has $46 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ molecules that form 5^12 and $5^{12}6^2$ cages containing the guest molecules CH_4 and CO_2 . System II has $136 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ molecules that form 5^{12} and $5^{12}6^4$ tetragonal cages containing oxygen and other molecules. Both systems have cubic lattices. The hexagonal system H has 5^{12} , $5^{12}6^{16}$, and $4^35^66^3$ polyhedron cages of the C_6H_{14} molecules, which exist as a hexagonal lattice.

High-pressure experiments on methane hydrate have been performed using a diamond-anvil cell [5]. Experiments below the melting point of ice surveyed energetically for hydrates. The stability of hydrates in the thermodynamic instability region of the ice Ih clathrate has been discussed [6].

Many traditional equations of state have been utilized to describe thermo-physical properties and phase equilibrium [7]. The multi-scale phase diagram of the Gibbs-Helmholtz constrained equation of state for methane hydrate has been tabulated by density for given pressures and temperatures [8, 9].

The diffusion coefficients and dielectric relaxation properties of water, i.e., the response of electric dipoles to a given initial impulse, have been studied theoretically [10]. The heating and diffusion of water under high-frequency microwaves and infrared electromagnetic waves have been investigated by molecular dynamics simulations using elaborated point-charge models [11]. Molecular dynamics simulation of the ice nucleation and growth process leading to water freezing has been executed [12].

Concerning the microwave heating of water, ice and saline solution, molecular dynamics simulations have been the first publication as microwave heating of water [13]. They have shown that: (i) water in the liquid phase is heated by excitation of water electric dipoles, which is delayed from the microwave electric field, and absorbed the total microwave power; (ii) hot water gains significantly less heat than the water at room temperature because of smaller phase lags due to less friction; (iii) water in the ice phase is scarcely heated because the electric dipoles can not rotate due to the tightly hydrogen-bonded ice crystal; (iv) dilute saline solution gains significantly more heat than pure water because of the rapid heating of salt ions, especially that of the large salt ions Cl^- and Na^+ .

Molecular dynamics employing the density functional method (DFT) to simulate the THz range of electromagnetic wave have been constructed [14]. They have shown, by the self-consistent atomic forces [15], that: (i) liquid water molecules in the electric field has excited rotational motions, as water molecules in the cages can not make free translation motions; (ii) the electron energy is about twice the kinetic energy of the water molecules, which results from the forced excitation of the molecules by the electromagnetic THz external field.

The main goal of this TIP5P-Ewald model is the following: the methane hydrate by microwave irradiation at a normal pressure is continued as a crystal or liquid beyond 273 K ? The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The methodology of molecular dynamics with equations of motion and forces is written in Section 2.1. The procedures of the five-body water model are given in Section 2.2. Modeling of present simulations is given in Section 3.1, and heating and collapse of methane hydrate are shown in Section 3.2. The microwave oven at 1,000 V/cm is estimated in Section 3.3. A summary is provided in Section 4. The equations of long-range Coulombic interactions are explained in Appendix A.

2 Methodology of molecular dynamics by the TIP5P-Ewald model

2.1 Equations of motion and forces

Crystal structures are fundamental aspects of solid-state physics [16] which may be melted to liquid for elevated temperatures. Molecules of ice and liquid water are within such categories. Four basic quantities in the CGS units system are used to derive the Newtonian equation of motion which are, (i) time $\tau = 1 \times 10^{-14}$ s, (ii) the length $1 \text{ \AA} = 1 \times 10^{-8}$ cm, (iii) mass of water $M_0 = 3.0107 \times 10^{-23}$ g, and (iv) electronic charge $e = 4.8033 \times 10^{-10}$ esu (1.6022×10^{-19} C in the international units

system). Then, one has the three-dimensional electrostatic version of equations of motion which are written as [13, 17],

$$M_j \frac{d\mathbf{V}_j}{dt} = -\nabla \left\{ \Phi_F(\mathbf{R}_j) + \sum_{k=1}^{N^*} [A/r_{jk}^{12} - B/r_{jk}^6] \right\} + q_j E \sin \omega t \hat{x}, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{R}_j}{dt} = \mathbf{V}_j. \quad (2)$$

The first term of the right-hand side of Eq.(1) is the Coulombic potential $\Phi_F(\mathbf{R}_j)$, and the second term is the Lennard-Jones potential. Here, \mathbf{R}_j and \mathbf{V}_j are the position and velocity of j -th molecule, respectively, M_j and q_j are the mass and charge, respectively, t is the time, and ∇ is the space derivative. The quantity $\mathbf{r}_{jk} = \mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_k$ is the particle spacing between the j -th and k -th atoms. Also, the symbol \sum^* of Eq.(1) means to take the summation of the oxygens, and \sum^\bullet of Eq.(4) later that of the hydrogens. A and B are the coefficients of Lennard-Jones potential, respectively, with $A = 4\epsilon\sigma^{12}$ and $B = 6\epsilon\sigma^6$ where ϵ is the depth of the potential well and σ is the distance at which the particle potential energy becomes zero.

The external electric field E points to the x direction and has the sinusoidal form $\sin \omega t$ where the frequency f is $\omega = 2\pi f$. The time step is $\Delta t = 0.025\tau$ (i.e., 2.5×10^{-16} s). In a time marching fashion, the current step of \mathbf{R}_j and \mathbf{V}_j is forwarded to the next time step. When a sufficient amount of time has elapsed, one analyzes the time development.

To represent the crystal system with high accuracy, one has to separate the Coulombic forces $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{R}_j) = -\nabla\Phi_F(\mathbf{R}_j)$ that occur in the short-range and long-range interactions [18, 19, 20],

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{R}_j) = \mathbf{F}_{SR}(\mathbf{R}_j) + \mathbf{F}_{LR}(\mathbf{R}_j). \quad (3)$$

The short-range interactions are written as,

$$\mathbf{F}_{SR}(\mathbf{R}_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{N^\bullet} q_j q_k \left[\left(\frac{\text{erfc}(r_{jk})}{r_{jk}} + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right) \exp(-(\alpha r_{jk})^2) / r_{jk}^2 \right] \mathbf{r}_{jk}, \quad (4)$$

where the Gauss complimentary error function is

$$\text{erfc}(r) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_r^\infty \exp(-t^2) dt. \quad (5)$$

The α value, a minimization factor, is discussed later.

A primary factor in the long-range interactions is the charge density, $\rho(\mathbf{R}_j) = \sum_k q_k S(\mathbf{R}_j - \mathbf{R}_k)$, which is the near-site grid sum with $S(\mathbf{0}) = 1$, $S(\infty) \rightarrow 0$. Then, the grid summation is converted to the k -space by a Fourier transform $FT^{-1}[\dots]$. Here, $\rho(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \rho_k(\mathbf{k})$ with $\mathbf{k} = 2\pi\mathbf{n}/L$, n the integers ≥ 0 , and L the length. The inverse Fourier transform to return to the coordinate space is executed by the folding operations $FT[\dots]$,

$$\mathbf{F}_{LR}(\mathbf{R}_j) = -FT \left[i q_j (dn(n_x), dn(n_y), dn(n_z)) G(n_x, n_y, n_z) \rho_k(\mathbf{k}) \right], \quad (6)$$

$$dn(n_\gamma) = n_\gamma - dn_{\text{int}}(n_\gamma/M_\gamma) M_\gamma \quad (\gamma = x, y, z). \quad (7)$$

The expressions for the $G(n_x, n_y, n_z)$, $K(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ and $\Delta(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ functions are given in Appendix A. The α value is determined by minimizing the errors of both the short-range and long-range interactions of the electric fields [21]. The value is $\alpha = 0.203$ for the total number of 3^3 methane hydrates.

The five-body molecules are used for water which is known as the TIP5P-Ewald model. A four-water molecule is specified to calculate positive two hydrogens $q_H = 0.241e$ and negative two hydrogens $q_L = -0.241e$ with e the electron charge. The angle and bond, respectively, are $\psi_1 = 104.52^\circ$, $r = 0.9572 \text{ \AA}$ for the H sites and $\psi_2 = 109.47^\circ$, $r = 0.7 \text{ \AA}$ for the dummy L sites whose dynamics motion is not counted. The fifth oxygen atom $q_O = 0$ is to correlate with adjacent molecules using the Lennard-Jones potential $\Psi(r) = A/r^{12} - B/r^6$. The factors of the TIP5P-Ewald water model are $A = 3.8538 \times 10^{-8} \text{ erg \AA}^{12}$ and $B = 4.3676 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg \AA}^6$ [22]. The classic mechanics and related topics are written in the Goldstein's book [23].

2.2 Procedures of the five-body water model

The importance of the five-body water model is first summarized, and a la carte procedures later.

A) Five sites are one oxygen of O site, hydrogens of H_1 and H_2 , and negative hydrogen virtual sites of L_1 and L_2 . Their charges are 0, $0.241e$, $0.241e$, $-0.241e$ and $-0.241e$, respectively. The L_1 and L_2 are called the dummy sites.

B) Separate the translational part \mathbf{R}_j , \mathbf{V}_j for molecules ($j = 1, N/5$) from the rotation part $\mathbf{r}_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$ of atoms ($i = 1, N$) for the five sites. The separation is done at the starting step only; once determined at $t = 0$, they become constant in time.

C) The half time step for the molecules is first executed for a predictor step, and the full time step is made in advancement of time for a corrector step.

D) Before the end of the cycle, the forces are calculated by atomic positions. The dummy sites at L_1 and L_2 are obtained trigonometrically by vector products of O, H_1 and H_2 sites.

E) After correction of quaternions, the kinetic and Coulombic energies are calculated, and go to the beginning of the cycle. The leap-frog method is used for the plasmas and water.

Each step of the simulation cycle of five-body molecules is written, which is (i) translational motion (Step 1), (ii) rotational motion (Steps 2-4), and (iii) the addition of the fields (Steps 5-8).

(0) An extra procedure only at the first time step. Read positions \mathbf{r}_i and quaternions \mathbf{q}_j from files by “*read(17) x_i, y_i, z_i* ” with $i = 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, \dots$ where L_1 and L_2 points are defined by the vector products specified in the item D). Also, read the file by “*read(30) $e_{0j}, e_{1j}, e_{2j}, e_{3j}$* ” ($j = 1, N/5$).

(1) The position \mathbf{R}_j and velocity \mathbf{V}_j of each molecule ($j = 1, N/5$) are advanced by summation over five sites of forces \mathbf{F}_k ($k = 1, N$) for the translational motion,

$$d\mathbf{V}_j/dt = (1/m_j) \sum_{k=1}^5 \mathbf{F}_k, \quad d\mathbf{R}_j/dt = \mathbf{V}_j. \quad (8)$$

(2) Next steps of 2) to 5) are made for half a time steps $\Delta t_1 = \Delta t/2$ by prediction, and then for a full time step $\Delta t_2 = \Delta t$ by correction. The angular momentum of rotational motion is calculated at a

time step Δt_1 or Δt_2 by summation over the torque of five sites,

$$d\mathbf{L}_j/dt_n = \sum_{k=1}^5 (y_k F_k^z - z_k F_k^y, z_k F_k^x - x_k F_k^z, x_k F_k^y - y_k F_k^x). \quad (9)$$

(3) The angular frequency $\omega_{j,\alpha}$ is connected to the angular momentum and inertia moment $Im_{j,\alpha}$ with $\alpha = x, y, z$ and the matrix $A_{\alpha,\beta}$ are,

$$\omega_{j,\alpha} = (A_{\alpha 1} L_x + A_{\alpha 2} L_y + A_{\alpha 3} L_z) / Im_{j,\alpha}, \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_{11} &= e_0^2 + e_1^2 - e_2^2 - e_3^2, & A_{12} &= 2(e_1 e_2 + e_0 e_3), & A_{13} &= 2(e_1 e_3 - e_0 e_2), \\ A_{21} &= 2(e_1 e_2 - e_0 e_3), & A_{22} &= e_0^2 - e_1^2 + e_2^2 - e_3^2, & A_{23} &= 2(e_2 e_3 + e_0 e_1), \\ A_{31} &= 2(e_1 e_3 + e_0 e_2), & A_{32} &= 2(e_2 e_3 - e_0 e_1), & A_{33} &= e_0^2 - e_1^2 - e_2^2 + e_3^2. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

(4) The time derivative of quaternion $\mathbf{q}_j = (e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3)$ is given by the angular frequency by,

$$d\mathbf{q}_j/dt_n = (1/2)\Delta t_n \begin{pmatrix} -e_1 \omega_x - e_2 \omega_y - e_3 \omega_z \\ e_0 \omega_x - e_3 \omega_y + e_2 \omega_z \\ e_3 \omega_x + e_0 \omega_y - e_1 \omega_z \\ -e_2 \omega_x + e_1 \omega_y + e_0 \omega_z \end{pmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

(5) Get a rotation matrix $A_{\alpha\beta}(e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3)$ in half a time steps for prediction and go back to Step 2. In the correction step, it is calculated for a full time step and go to Step 6.

(6) The three sites \mathbf{r}_i and the position \mathbf{R}_j are connected by,

$$\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{R}_j + \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{21} & A_{31} \\ A_{12} & A_{22} & A_{32} \\ A_{13} & A_{23} & A_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ z_i \end{pmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

The positions of dummy sites L_1 and L_2 are calculated by the vector product from the known three sites of O , H_1 and H_2 .

(7) The forces of positions are calculated from Coulombic and Lennard-Jones potentials using the five sites.

(8) Correction to a normalization of quaternions is made at every 10 steps. Go to the new time step of Step 1.

Note that a time step is important and it will be $\Delta t = 0.025\tau$ or less by the time advancing scheme; otherwise the explicit code will be inaccurate or go to overflow.

3 Simulations of methane hydrate at the TIP5P-Ewald model

3.1 Modeling

To represent electrostatic effects for water molecules, one may adopt the three-body model [24, 25], or various four-body to five-body models [26]. Although the three-body model has a lower temperature problem than the real one, it has a stable symplectic integrator scheme in the coordinate space

Table 1: The run series of Runs A's and Run B1, fixed density (g/cm^3), electric field ($\text{V}/\text{\AA}$), microwave heating rate in linear and nonlinear phases (W_0/τ) with W_0 the initial kinetic energy of methane hydrate, heating time before the collapse, and guest molecules. The kinetic energy of Run A's increases but that of Run B1 oscillates around the constant level.

series	density	E	heating rate	heating time	guest molecules
A1	$0.91\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	$0.30\text{ V}/\text{\AA}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-7}W_0/\tau$	$1.7 \times 10^6\tau$ collapsed	CH_4
A2	$0.91\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	$0.35\text{ V}/\text{\AA}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-6}W_0/\tau$	$2.7 \times 10^5\tau$ collapsed	CH_4
A3	$0.91\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	$0.40\text{ V}/\text{\AA}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-5}W_0/\tau$	$6.3 \times 10^4\tau$ collapsed	CH_4
B1	$0.95\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$	$0.35\text{ V}/\text{\AA}$	$\pm 0.2 \times 10^{-7}W_0/\tau$	$2.9 \times 10^5\tau$ running	CH_4

[27, 28]. The microwave heating and collapse of methane hydrate were studied using the three-body SPC/E model [29]. Nowadays the five-body models are used, but there occurs a unrealistic drift to increase the kinetic energy with a time rate $\Delta W_{dr}/\Delta\tau = 1.6 \times 10^{-7}W_0/\tau$ for the null external electric field. The kinetic energy of Run A's in Table 1 is already subtracted.

The initial structure of methane hydrate is installed by the Genice program on the Linux system [30]. The size of structure I methane hydrate has about 12 \AA as the crystal structure. A total of 3^3 methane hydrates exists in the three-dimensional water system. The Lennard-Jones potential parameter for water was argued in Sec.2.2. A system of guest molecules of CH_4 which are the united atoms is used for the Lennard-Jones potential in the second term on the righthand side of Eq.(1). ϵ_{ij} and σ_{ij} are the two-particle interaction potential and the radius of the molecule, respectively, and the potential coefficients are $\epsilon_{\text{CH}_4} = 0.39\text{ kJ/mol}$ and $\sigma_{\text{CH}_4} = 3.82\text{ \AA}$ [31]. In order to perform the molecular dynamics simulation, the frequency is set to 10 GHz ($f = 2\pi \times 10^4/\tau$). The external electric field is $E = 0.30\text{V}/\text{\AA}$ for Run A1, $E = 0.35\text{V}/\text{\AA}$ for Run A2, and $E = 0.40\text{V}/\text{\AA}$ for Run A3.

3.2 Heating and collapse of methane hydrate

The heating of methane hydrates is done under the application of microwave fields. In the heating described, the volume is assumed to be constant. The hydrate used in this simulation is a normal pressure case (1 atm, Run A's), and the density is $0.91\text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ [1, 9]. The run has an initial temperature of 273 K of the crystal. The translational and rotational motions are solved for the water molecules as stated in Sec.2. The kinetic energy of the water molecule is $W_{kin} = (1/2)\sum_{s,j}(M_0\mathbf{V}_{s,j}^2 + I_{s,j}\omega_{s,j}^2)$, where $\mathbf{V}_{s,j}$ and $\omega_{s,j}$ are the velocity and angular frequency, respectively, of the s directions ($s = x, y, z$) and the j -th particle. M_0 is the mass of water, and $I_{s,j}$ is the inertia moment.

After an initial quiet phase of $t < 5 \times 10^4\tau$ is passed, the external electric field of microwaves is applied in the x-direction. The translational and rotational energies of water are almost equal as expected, and Coulombic and Lennard-Jones energies increase in time. The kinetic energies of the water and CH_4 molecules increase over time, but the water and CH_4 (unified atom) molecules behave similarly in the linear phase on the left panels of Fig.1.

The nonlinear growth of methane hydrate occurs for the time $t > 5 \times 10^5\tau$ of Run A1. The

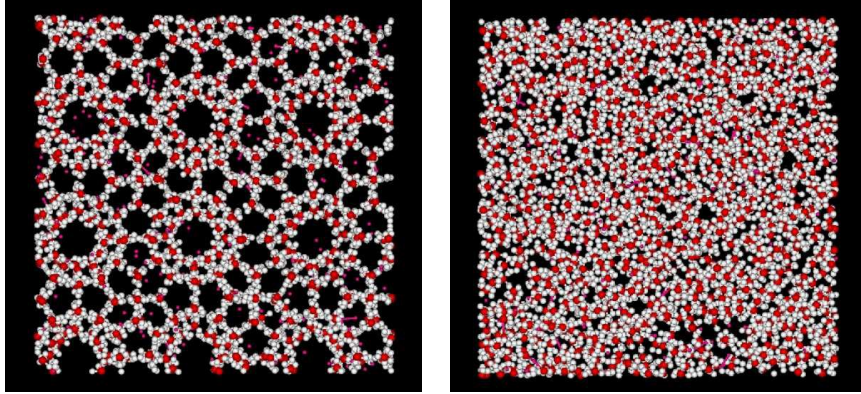


Figure 1: (Left) Methane hydrate of the H (white), O (red), and CH₄ (small red) molecules having density of 0.91 g/cm³ and the external electric field $E = 0.30$ V/Å before collapse at the time $t = 1.65 \times 10^6 \tau$, (Right) Distortion of the methane hydrate in liquid under an applied microwave field observed at $t = 1.70 \times 10^6 \tau$.

increase in the energy of the water is $\Delta W / \Delta \tau \cong 3.0 \times 10^{-7} W_0 / \tau$. The CH₄ molecules without any charges are inert to microwaves, but they interact with water molecules. The energy increases in the Lennard-Jones potential, which was close to the water case. The temperature increase before the microwave collapse for Run A1 is $\Delta T \cong 61$ degrees. The total energy of the kinetic energies of water and CH₄ become very large at $t > 1.7 \times 10^6 \tau$, as depicted in Fig.2. The explosive growth suddenly collapses, and the Lennard-Jones energy decreases chaotically. Methane hydrate turns to be the liquid phase, as the right panel of Fig.1.

The pair distribution functions of the O-O and O-H atoms are shown in Fig.3 for the methane hydrate. Their times are corresponding to before and after the collapse around $\tau \cong 1.7 \times 10^6 \tau_0$. Well separated peaks in the 8 Å regions can be identified as a crystal before the collapse on the top and bottom panels of the left side, respectively. However, one has only one peak as liquid after the collapse, which is entirely buried in the $r > 3$ Å region of the O-O distribution function. Two peaks are seen with curtains in the O-H functions of the right panel.

In the external electric field $E = 0.35$ V/Å, methane hydrate stays in a linear phase, which goes into a nonlinear phase for $t > 2.4 \times 10^5 \tau$ similarly to the case of Run A1. After the nonlinear phase, it is then collapsed at the time $t \cong 2.7 \times 10^5 \tau$. The external electric field $E = 0.4$ V/Å in Run A3 is made large, and the heating rate becomes very large as $3.7 \times 10^{-5} W_0 / \tau$. There is a short nonlinear phase before its collapse at $t \cong 6.3 \times 10^4 \tau$.

A simulation with density 0.95g/cm³ and the pressure 1 atm is executed from a new initial condition of methane hydrate as Run B1 of Table 1. We note that $\Delta W_{dr} / \Delta \tau \cong 2.3 \times 10^{-7} W_0 / \tau$ is subtracted as the baseline. The run has been continued which is listed in the bottom of the table. Its kinetic energy oscillates near the constant level in the elapse of time.

About the five-body water model, it is shown in this simulation that there is a factor of two the difference of the collapse time on the TIP5P-Ewald model from the short collapse time of the SPC/E

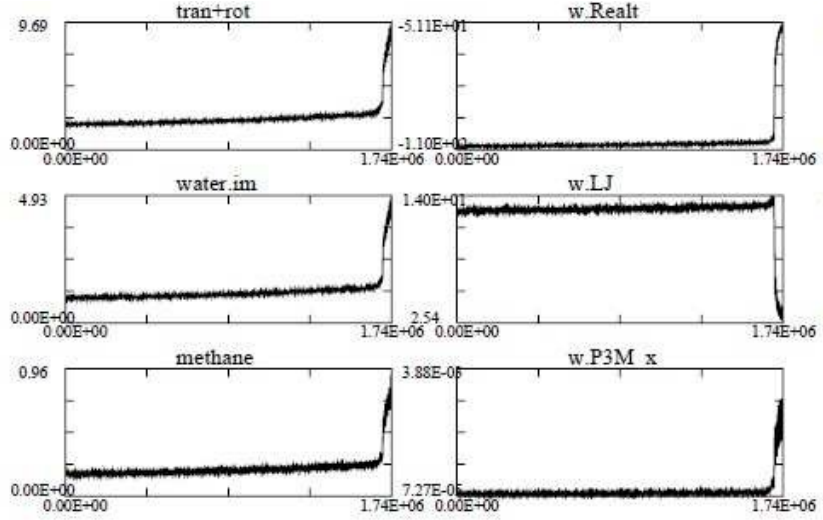


Figure 2: Microwaves are applied to methane hydrate with density of 0.91 g/cm^3 , the initial temperature $T = 273 \text{ K}$ and the external electric field $E = 0.30 \text{ V/\AA}$. Left: The kinetic energy of translation+rotation, that of rotation, that of CH_4 (top to bottom, respectively). Right: The short-range Coulomb interaction energy, the Lennard-Jones potential energy, and P3M energy (top to bottom, respectively). The abscissa is linearly scaled in all plots. The kinetic energy of water increases with a time rate of $\Delta W/\Delta \tau = 3.0 \times 10^{-7} W_0/\tau$, and the short and long-range energies eventually collapse to be liquid at the time $t \cong 1.7 \times 10^6 \tau$, whereas the Lennard-Jones energy decreases at the same time.

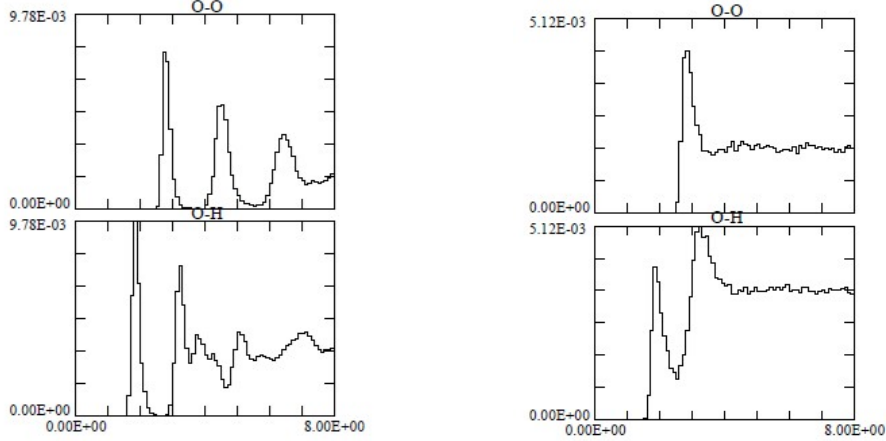


Figure 3: The pair distribution functions between the O-O atoms (top) and O-H atoms (bottom) of the methane hydrate for the density 0.91 g/cm^3 and the external electric field $E = 0.30 \text{ V/\AA}$. The time is before the collapse at $t = 1.65 \times 10^6 \tau$ (left), and after the collapse at $t = 1.70 \times 10^6 \tau$ (right). The three peaks for the O-O atoms show that the atoms have almost aggregated by the collapse in the right panel, and the two giant peaks indicate the O-H atoms.

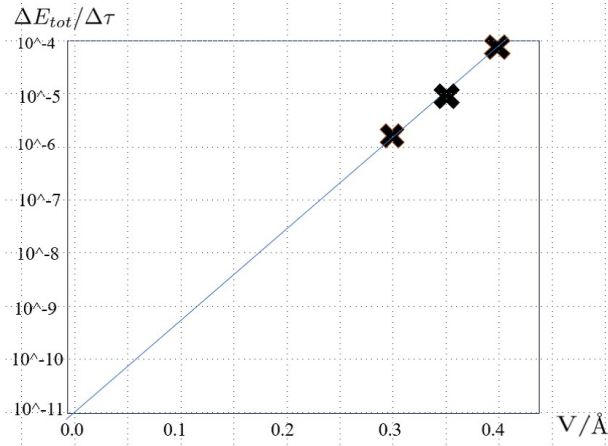


Figure 4: The time derivative of kinetic and potential energies for the external electric field $E = 0.30$ V/Å (Run A1) and $E = 0.40$ V/Å (Run A3) is plotted against the run at $E = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ V/Å = 1,000 V/cm.

model in the same parameters [29].

3.3 A microwave oven of 1,000 V/cm input power

The microwave oven at the normal input power is estimated. The time derivative of kinetic and potential energies for Run A1 - Run A3 is plotted against the microwave oven which has 1×10^3 V/cm in Fig.4. The data of $\Delta E_{tot}/\Delta \tau = 1.5 \times 10^{-6} W_0/\tau$ of Run A1 is shown to be reduced to $0.4 \times 10^{-11} W_0/\tau$, which is dynamically unstable of methane hydrate on the left side of the figure. The conversion from 10 GHz to 2.45 GHz together becomes the final collapse time as $(1.7 \times 10^6 \times 10^{-14} \text{s}) \times (1.5 \times 10^{-6}/0.8 \times 10^{-11}) \times (10/2.45) \cong 1.3 \times 10^{-2}$ s.

4 Summary

Methane hydrate was simulated by molecular dynamics with periodic boundary conditions. The normal density of 0.91 g/cm^3 represented sea level conditions. The microwave electric field was applied while the volume was held constant. For Run A1, the external electric field was $E = 0.30 \text{ V/Å}$ and the heating rate was $3.0 \times 10^{-7} W_0/\tau$. The unstable methane hydrate collapsed to be liquid for the pressure 1 atm, and the temperature increase was $\Delta T \cong 61$ degrees at $t \cong 1.7 \times 10^6 \tau$. In the external electric field $E = 0.35 \text{ V/Å}$, methane hydrate collapsed at the time $t \cong 2.7 \times 10^5 \tau$. For Run A3 of $E = 0.40 \text{ V/Å}$, the heating rate was very large as $3.7 \times 10^{-5} W_0/\tau$, and methane hydrate collapsed shortly at $t \cong 6.3 \times 10^4 \tau$. For the Run B1 with high density at 0.95 g/cm^3 and the pressure 1 atm, the kinetic energy oscillated in a small fashion around the constant level.

The methane hydrate contained in the device of $E = 1,000 \text{ V/cm}$ and the pressure 1 atm was shown to be unstable and collapsed in 1.3×10^{-2} s, which might be consistent with the current microwave ovens.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix A: Long-range Coulombic interactions

The long-range Coulombic interactions $F_{LR}(\mathbf{r})$ are defined in the Fourier space using $dn(n_\gamma)$, $G(n_x, n_y, n_z)$, $\mathbf{K}(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ and $\Delta(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ functions in Eq.(6), Eq.(7), which are written in the periodic boundary conditions,

$$G(n_x, n_y, n_z) = (2M_x M_y M_z / L^2) \times [dn(n_x)K_x + dn(n_y)K_y + dn(n_z)K_z] / (\Lambda \Delta^2), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K}(n_x, n_y, n_z) = \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3} (n_1, n_2, n_3) \left\{ \exp\left(-\left(\pi/(\alpha L)\right)^2\right) / \Lambda \right\} \times \\ \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_x + M_x n_1}{M_x}\right) \right)^{2P} \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_y + M_y n_2}{M_y}\right) \right)^{2P} \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_z + M_z n_3}{M_z}\right) \right)^{2P} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(n_x, n_y, n_z) = \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3} \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_x + M_x n_1}{M_x}\right) \right)^{2P} \times \\ \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_y + M_y n_2}{M_y}\right) \right)^{2P} \left(\text{sinc}\left(\frac{n_z + M_z n_3}{M_z}\right) \right)^{2P}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$\Lambda = dn(n_x)^2 + dn(n_y)^2 + dn(n_z)^2. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

The first Brillouin zone should take the summation of $-1 \leq n_1 \leq 1$ (the degree is $P = 3$), and M_x is the mesh in the x direction; the same procedures should be taken in the other directions due to the tetragonal crystal symmetry. The sinc function is used to account for the long slopes of the $\mathbf{K}(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ and $\Delta(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ functions. The index ranges for the $G(n_x, n_y, n_z)$ function are $0 \leq n_x \leq M_x/2$, $0 \leq n_y \leq M_y - 1$ and $0 \leq n_z \leq M_z - 1$, where M_x , M_y , and M_z are the number of points in the x , y , and z directions, respectively.

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