Installation

Make sure you have Python 3.7 or newer (`python --version`).

If you can't call the qforce executable afterwards, make sure you have the python bin in your PATH.

With pip

To install Q-Force with `pip`:

```
pip install qforce
```

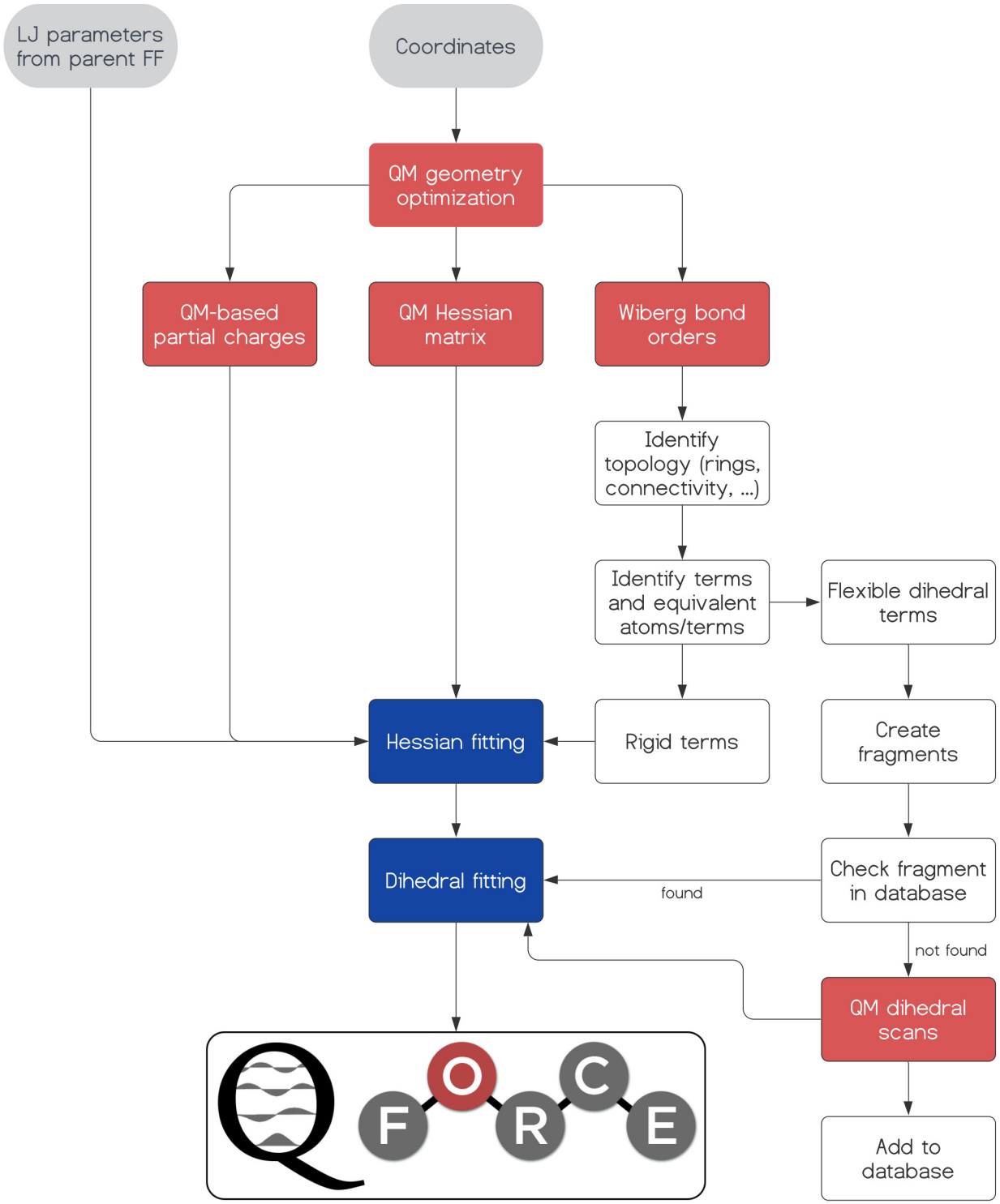
If you work in a shared environment, add `--user`.

From GitHub

To install Q-Force from GitHub:

```
git clone https://github.com/selimsami/qforce.git
cd qforce
python setup.py install
```

Method



Q-Force flowchart. Gray: input, red: QM calculations, blue: fitting

For the detailed methodology, please check the corresponding manuscript:

Sami, S.; Menger, M. F. S. J.; Faraji, S.; Broer, R.; Havenith, R. W. A., Q-Force: Quantum

Mechanically Augmented Molecular Force Fields. Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation 2021, 17 (8), 4946-4960.

Usage

Q-Force is run in multiple stages. These stages are explained below. At each stage, an options file can be provided to change the default settings with `-o file_name`. Possible options are listed in Options.

```
      ____          ______
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usage: qforce [-h] [-o options] file


  positional arguments:
  -----------------------------------------------------
    file                      Input coordinate file mol.ext (ext: pdb, xyz, gro, ...)
                              or directory (mol or mol_qforce) name.


  optional arguments:
  -----------------------------------------------------
    -h/--help                 show this help message and exit
    -o/--options              File name for the optional options.
```

1) Creating the initial QM input

et's assume that we have a coordinate file called **mol.ext** for a molecule named **mol**. The extension (**ext**) can be anything that is supported by ASE (xyz, pdb, gro, ...). reate the initial QM input (choosing the QM Software is described in Options) by running the following command `qforce mol.ext`

This creates a directory called *mol_qforce*. In it, you can find **mol_hessian.inp**. Run this calculation on a cluster or locally, and place the output(s) in the same directory.

2) Treating the flexible dihedrals

If your molecule contains flexible dihedrals and if the treatment of flexible dihedrals are not turned off, then fragments and the corresponding QM inputs are created for all unique flexible dihedrals inside the subdirectory *fragments* with:

`qforce mol` (or `qforce mol_qforce`, or `qforce mol.ext`)

Run these calculations on a cluster or locally, and place the output in the same subdirectory.

3) Creating the force field

Now that all necessary QM results are available, the fitting of the force field is done with:

`qforce mol` (or `qforce mol_qforce`, or `qforce mol.ext`)

4) Output

Done! Q-Force generates several outputs:

- Force field files in GROMACS format (.gro, .itp, .top)
- Force field validation:
  - QM vs MM vibrational frequencies (frequencies.txt, frequencies.pdf)
  - QM vs MM dihedral profile(s) in the *fragments* subdirectory (.pdf)
- MM vibrational modes (frequencies.nmd) that can be visualized in VMD

Examples

Here are two examples of how Q-Force can be used: In default settings and with some customization. For the purposes of these examples, whenever you need an additional file, QM outputs or otherwise, they are provided in the directory *necessary_files*.

First, please get the example files by:

```
git clone https://github.com/selimsami/qforce_examples.git
```

Default settings

Creating the initial QM input

Find in *examples/gaussian/default_settings* a coordinate file (propane.xyz) for the propane molecule.

Let's first create the QM input file:

```
qforce propane.xyz
```

This will create a *propane_qforce* directory, and in it, you will find 'propane_hessian.inp'. Now run this QM calculation and put the necessary output files (.out, .fchk) in the same directory. (remember: the output files are available in *necessary_files*)

Treating the flexible dihedrals

Now we can run Q-Force again from the same directory to create fragments and the corresponding QM dihedral scan input files by:

```
qforce propane
```

This will create all the necessary input files in the subdirectory *propane_qforce/fragments*. Then, run these calculations and put the output file(s) (.out) in the same subdirectory.

Creating the force field

Now that all necessary QM data is available, let's create our force field:

```
qforce propane
```

You can now find the Q-Force force field files in the *propane_qforce* directory.

Custom settings

Find in *examples/gaussian/custom_settings* a coordinate file (benzene.pdb) for the benzene molecule. In this example, we look at some of the custom settings available with Q-Force and how they can be executed. The custom settings are provided with an external file with:

```
qforce benzene.pdb -o settings
```

Now let's create the **settings** file.

Custom Lennard-Jones interactions

By default, Q-Force determines the atom types for Lennard-Jones interactions automatically. Alternatively, the user can also provide atom types manually, for a force field of their choice. Here, we choose to use the GAFF force field by adding the following line to the **settings** file:

```
[ff]
lennard_jones = gaff
```

With this command, the user also has to provide the atom types manually in the 'benzene_qforce' directory in a file called "ext_lj". In this file, every line should contain the atom type of one atom in the same order as the coordinate file.

Conversion to job script

Often the QM calculations are needed to be submitted as jobs in supercomputers. For large molecules Q-Force can have a large number of QM dihedral scans that needs to be performed and therefore it may be convenient to have input files converted to job scripts. This can be done by adding the **[qm::job_script]** block to the **settings** file:

```
[qm::job_script]
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --time=1-00:00:00
#SBATCH -o <jobname>.out

g16<<EOF
<input>
EOF
```

Here we make a SLURM job script. Two placeholders that can be used are **<outfile>** and **<input>**. **<jobname>** gets replaced by the name of the calculation, for example in the case of the 'benzene_hessian.inp', it will be 'benzene_hessian.out'. **<input>** is where the content of the QM input file will be placed.

Creating the initial QM input

Now that we know what these settings do, let's supply them to Q-Force:

```
qforce benzene.pdb -o settings
```

Again, this will create a *benzene_qforce* directory, and in it, you will find 'benzene_hessian.inp', this time as a job script instead of an input file. Now run this QM calculation and put the output file (.out) and the formatted checkpoint file (.fchk) in the same directory.

Creating the force field

As benzene does not have any flexible dihedrals, the second step is skipped in this case. Make sure you have also added this time the **ext_lj** file in *benzene_qforce* and then we can already create the force field with:

```
qforce benzene -o settings
```

You can now find the necessary force field files in the *benzene_qforce* directory. As you will notice, in this case GAFF atom types are used.

Choosing the QM software

The default QM software is Gaussian. If the user wants to use another QM software (current alternative: Q-Chem), this can be indicated in the same **settings** file:

```
[qm]
software = qchem
```

An example for running Q-Force with Q-Chem can be found in the *examples/qchem /default_settings* directory. This works in the same way as the first example, except the additional argument for choosing the QM software, as shown above.