

$$V(r) = \frac{A}{r^{12}} - \frac{B}{r^6}$$

General form of the LJ potential

$$\frac{dV(r)}{dr} = \frac{-12A}{r^{13}} + \frac{6B}{r^7} = -F(r)$$

$F(r_0) = 0$ as $r=r_0$ at equilibrium

$$\therefore 0 = \frac{-12A}{r_0^{13}} + \frac{6B}{r_0^7}$$

$$\frac{12A}{r_0^{13}} = \frac{6B}{r_0^7} \Rightarrow B = \frac{2A}{r_0^6}$$

Also, $V(r_0) = -\epsilon$

$$\therefore V(r_0) = -\epsilon = \frac{A}{r_0^{12}} - \frac{B}{r_0^6}$$

$$-\epsilon = \frac{A}{r_0^{12}} - \frac{2A}{r_0^{12}}$$

$$\therefore \epsilon = \frac{A}{r_0^{12}} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} A &= \epsilon r_0^{12} \\ B &= 2\epsilon r_0^6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore V(r) = \epsilon \left[\frac{r_0^{12}}{r^{12}} - \frac{2r_0^6}{r^6} \right]$$

Lots of different ways to do the algebra...

can get A in terms of B, or ϵ and r_0 in terms of A + B (as we did in the lectures).