# Benchmarking Atomistic Simulations against the ThermoML Data Archive: Neat Liquid Densities and Static Dielectric Constants

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Useful atomistic simulations in the condensed phase require accurate depictions of solvent. While experimental measurements of fundamental physical properties offer a straightforward approach for evaluating forcefield quality, the bulk of this information has been tied up in formats that are not machine-readable. These formats require substantial human effort to compile benchmark datasets which are prone to accumulation of human errors, hindering the development of reproducible benchmarks of forcefield accuracy. Here, we examine the feasibility of benchmarking atomistic forcefields against the NIST ThermoML data archive of physicochemical measurements, which aggregates thousands of experimental measurements in a portable, machine-readable, self-annotating format. As a proof of concept, we present a detailed benchmark of the generalized Amber small molecule forcefield (GAFF) using the AM1-BCC charge model against measurements (specifically liquid densities and static dielectric constants at ambient pressure) automatically extracted from the archive, and discuss the extent of available data for neat liquids. The results of this benchmark highlights a general problem with fixed-charge forcefields in the representation of liquids of low dielectric.

Keywords: molecular mechanics forcefields; forcefield parameterization; forcefield accuracy; forcefield validation; mass density; static dielectric constant

## I. INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in hardware and software for molecular dynamics simulation now permits routine access to atomistic simulations at the 100 ns timescale and beyond. [JDC: Cite something here, like the Amber "routine microsecond" paper? http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ct400314y]. Leveraging these advances in combination with consumer GPU clusters, distributed computing, or custom hardware has brought microsecond and millisecond simulation timescales within reach of many laboratories. These dramatic advances in sampling, however, have revealed deficiencies in forcefields as a critical barrier to enabling truly predictive simulations of physical properties of biomolecular systems.

Protein and water forcefields have been the subject of numerous benchmarks [1] and enhancements [2–4], with key outcomes including the ability to fold fast-folding proteins [JDC: Cite Pande and Shaw papers?], improved fidelity of water thermodynamic properties [18], and improved prediction of NMR observables. Although small molecule force-fields have also been the subject of benchmarks [5] and improvements [6], such work has typically focused on small perturbations to specific functional groups. For example, a recent study found that modified hydroxyl nonbonded pa-

rameters led to improved prediction of static dielectric constants and hydration free energies [6]. There are also outstanding questions of generalizability of these targeted perturbations; it is uncertain whether changes to the paramesters for a specific chemical moiety will be compatible with seemingly unrelated improvements to other groups. Addressing these questions requires establishing a community agreement on shared benchmarks that can be easily replicated among laboratories to test proposed forcefield enhancements and expanded as the body of experimental data grows.

A key barrier to establishing reproducible and extensi-46 ble forcefield accuracy benchmarks is that many experi-47 mental datasets are heterogeneous, paywalled, and un-48 available in machine-readable formats (although notable 49 counterexamples exist, e.g. the RCSB [7], FreeSolv [8], and 50 the BMRB [9]). While this inconvenience is relatively mi-51 nor for benchmarking forcefield accuracy for a single tar-52 get (e.g. water), it becomes prohibitive for studies span-53 ning the relevant chemical space. To ameliorate prob-54 lems of data archival, the NIST Thermodynamics Research 55 Center (TRC) has developed a IUPAC standard XML-based 56 format—ThermoML [10]—for storing physicochemical mea-57 surements, uncertainties, and metadata. Experimental 58 researchers publishing measurements in several journals 59 (J. Chem. Eng. Data, J. Chem. Therm., Fluid Phase Equil., 60 Therm. Acta, and Int. J. Therm.) are guided through a data archival process that involves sanity checks, conversion to a 62 standard machine-readable format, and archival at the TRC 63 (http://trc.nist.gov/ThermoML.html).

Here, we examine the ThermoML archive as a potential source for providing the foundation for a reproducible, extensible accuracy benchmark of biomolecular forcefields.

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67 In particular, we concentrate on two important physical property measurements easily computable in many simulation codes—neat liquid density and static dielectric constant measurements—with the goal of developing a standard benchmark for validating these properties in fixedcharge forcefields of drug-like molecules and biopolymer 73 residue analogues. These two properties provide sensitive tests of forcefield accuracy that are nonetheless straightfor-<sub>75</sub> ward to calculate. Using these data, we evaluate the generalized Amber small molecule forcefield (GAFF) [11] with the AM1-BCC charge model [12, 13] and identify systematic bi-<sub>78</sub> ases to aid further forcefield refinement.

#### II. RESULTS

## Extracting neat liquid measurements from the NIST TRC ThermoML Archive

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We retrieved a copy of the ThermoML Archive from the NIST TRC (http://trc.nist.gov/ThermoML.html accessed 13 Sep 2014) and performed a number of sequential filtering steps to produce an extract of the ThermoML Archive relevant for benchmarking forcefields describing small organic molecules. [JDC: This is the date I had on the ThermoML.tar.gz archive in GitHub. We should check to make sure this is accurate.] As our aim is to explore neat liquid data with functional groups relevant to biopolymers and drug-like molecules, we applied the following ordered 92 filters, starting with all data containing density or static dielectric constants:

- 1. The measured solution contains only a single component (e.g. no binary mixtures)
- 2. The molecule contains only the druglike elements (defined here as H, N, C, O, S, P, F, Cl, Br)
  - 3. The molecule has  $\leq$  10 heavy atoms
  - 4. The measurement was performed in a biophysically relevant temperature range [K]  $(270 \le T \le 330)$
  - 5. The measurement was performed at ambient pressure [kPA]  $(100 \le P \le 102)$
  - 6. Measured densities below 300 kg m $^{-3}$  were discarded <sup>136</sup> to eliminate gas-phase measurements
  - 7. The temperature and pressure were rounded to nearby values (as described below), averaging all measurements within each group of like conditions
  - 8. Only conditions (molecule, temperature, pressure) for which both density and dielectric constants were available were retained

	Number of measurements remaining			
Filter step	Mass density	Static dielectric		
1. single component	130074	1649		
2. only druglike elements	120410	1649		
3. ≤10 heavy atoms	67897	1567		
4. $(270 \le T \le 330)$ [K]	36827	962		
5. ambient pressure	13598	461		
6. liquid state	13573	461		
7. aggregate T, P	3573	432		
8. density and dielectric	245	245		

TABLE I. Successive filtration of the ThermoML Archive. A set of successive filters were applied to all measurements in the ThermoML Archive (accessed 13 Sep 2014) that contained either mass density or static dielectric constant measurements. Each column reports the number of measurements remaining after successive application of the corresponding filtration step. [JDC: Are all of these filters actually applied sequentially? If not, I think we should rework this table to match the order in which filters are applied successively in the text.]

with a temperature of either 273 K or 273.15 K. Therefore all pressures within the range [kPA]  $(100 \le P \le 102)$  were 117 rounded to exactly one atmosphere. Temperatures were rounded to one decimal place. [JDC: Does this reflect the 119 accuracy of reporting ambient temperatures?] The applica-120 tion of these filters (Table I) leaves 245 conditions—where a condition here indicates a (molecule, temperature, pres-122 sure) tuple—for which both density and dielectric data are <sub>123</sub> available. The functional groups present in the resulting dataset are summarized in Table II.

[JDC: It might be useful to point the users to the scripts that were used to do this extraction. Also, can we automate the downloading of the complete up-to-date archive, per-128 haps with Kenneth's help in identifying the least intrusive way to do so?]

# Benchmarking GAFF/AM1-BCC against the ThermoML Archive

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[JDC: If we lead with a Results section before Methods, we have to start with a small summary of the calculation. We should tell readers the salient details—we ran simulations with a small timestep to minimize integrator error, we used stochastic thermal and pressure control, and we used an 137 adaptive simulation scheme that ensured simulations ran long enough to achieve target accuracy. We can also mention that we used OpenMM, but these calculations can easily <sub>140</sub> be adapted to other codes.]

## Mass density

Mass density has been widely used for parameteriz-The temperature and pressure rounding step was motivated 143 ing and testing forcefields, particularly the Lennard-Jones by common data reporting variations; for example, an ex- 144 parameters representing dispersive and repulsive interacperiment performed at water's freezing point at ambient 145 tions [15, 16]. We therefore used the present ThermoML ex-<sub>114</sub> pressure might be entered as either 101.325 kPA or 100 kPA, <sub>146</sub> tract as a benchmark of the GAFF/AM1-BCC forcefield (Fig. 1).

Functional Group	Occurrences
1,2-aminoalcohol	4
1,2-diol	3
alkene	3
aromatic compound	1
carbonic acid diester	2
carboxylic acid ester	4
dialkyl ether	7
heterocyclic compound	3
ketone	2
lactone	1
primary alcohol	19
primary aliphatic amine (alkylamine)	2
primary amine	2
secondary alcohol	4
secondary aliphatic amine (dialkylamine)	2
secondary aliphatic/aromatic amine (alkylarylamine)	1
secondary amine	3
sulfone	1
sulfoxide	1
tertiary aliphatic amine (trialkylamine)	3
tertiary amine	3

TABLE II. Functional groups present in filtered dataset. The filtered ThermoML dataset contained 245 distinct (molecule, temperature, pressure) conditions, spanning 44 unique compounds. The functional groups represented in these compounds (as identified by the program checkmol v0.5 [14]) is summarized here.

## [JDC: Remind readers how mass density is computed.]

148 ments of  $3\pm0.1\%$  (with one standard error of the mean determined by bootstrapping over all measurements), espeset [5]. [JDC: Did that previous study report an uncertainty?] we can say about densities. Some of the densities are quite 186 tronic polarizability can be computed [18] good, while others seem poor, with systematic bias toward nigher densities than experiment. We can also point out that densities at different temperatures for a given molecule seem to be biased in a consistent way.]

## Static dielectric constant

tric constant of neat liquids provides a critical benchmark of the accuracy electrostatic treatment in forcefield mod-

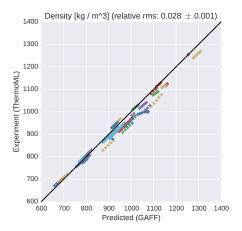


FIG. 1. Comparison of liquid densities between experiment **and simulation.** Liquid density measurements extracted from ThermoML are compared against densities predicted using the GAFF/AM1-BCC small molecule fixed-charge forcefield. groupings represent identical chemical species. Simulation error bars represent one standard error of the mean, with the number of effective (uncorrelated) samples estimated using pymbar. Experimental error bars indicate the standard deviation between independently reported measurements, when available, or authorreported standard deviations in ThermoML entries; for some measurements, neither uncertainty estimate is available. See Appendix B for further discussion of error.

ing substantially smaller than the measured  $\epsilon \approx 2$ . Because Overall, the densities show reasonable accuracy, with a 175 this deviation likely stems from the lack of an explicit treatroot-mean square (RMS) relative error over all measure- 176 ment of electronic polarization, we used a simple empirical polarization model that computes the molecular electronic polarizability  $\alpha$  a sum of elemental atomic polarizability cially encouraging given that this forcefield was not de- 179 contributions [17]. [JDC: I've commented out the equation signed with the intention of modeling bulk liquid properties 180 because I don't think it is central to our point. Essentially, it of organic molecules [11] [JDC: Sig figs issue—this should be list just an atom-based linear model for computing the molecx±0.1%.] This is reasonably consistent with previous stud- <code>is2</code> ular polarizability, and the parameters can be looked up ies reporting agreement of 4% on a different benchmark 183 elsewhere.] From the computed molecular electronic polarizability  $\alpha$ , an additive correction to the simulation-derived [JDC: Discuss outliers here. There must be more things 185 static dielectric constant accounting for the missing elec-

$$\Delta \epsilon = 4\pi N \frac{\alpha}{\langle V \rangle} \tag{1}$$

While a similar polarization correction was used in the development of the TIP4P-Ew water model, where it had a minor effect [18], missing polarizability is a dominant contribution to the static dielectric constant of nonpolar organic molecules; in the case of water, the empirical atomic polar-As a measure of the dielectric response, the static dielec- 192 izability model predicts a dielectric correction of 0.52, while 0.79 was used for the TIP4P-Ew model. [JDC: What were the 193 194 results for nonpolar organic molecules?] For comparison, els. We therefore compare simulations against the measure- 195 we also applied the same empirical correction to the Virtualments in our ThermoML extract. Overall, we find the dielec- 196 Chemistry dataset [5, 19] and saw similarly improved agreetric constants to be qualitatively reasonable, but with clear 197 ment with experiment for both the GAFF and OPLS forcedeviations from experiment. In particular, GAFF/AM1-BCC 198 fields (Fig. 7). [JDC: Not sure if we should keep the Virtusystematically underestimates the dielectric constants for 199 alChemistry stuff here other than to compare our computed nonpolar organics, with the predictions of  $\epsilon \approx 1.0 \pm 0.05$  be-  $_{200}$  pipeline results with Virtual Chemistry as validation to show

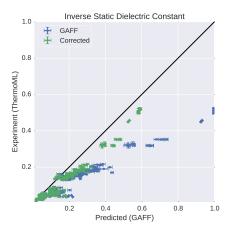


FIG. 2. Measured (ThermoML) versus predicted (GAFF/AM1-BCC) inverse static dielectrics (a). Simulation error bars represent one standard error of the mean estimated via block averaging with block sizes of 200 ps [20]. [JDC: Why are we using block averaging here? Why didn't we just use timeseries.py. We should not be using block averaging, especially without a justification that 200 ps is a reasonable block size for every specific system and condition Let's talk about this.] Experimental error bars indicate the larger of standard deviation between independently reported measurements and the authors reported standard deviations; for some measurements, neither uncertainty estimate is available. See Section B for further discussion of error. The inverse dielectric constant  $\epsilon^{-1}$  is plotted instead of  $\epsilon$  because  $\epsilon^{-1}$  is directly proportional to the Coulomb interaction energy between point charges embedded in a dielectric material [e.g.  $U(r) \propto$  $q_1q_2/r \propto \epsilon^{-1}$ ]. [JDC: We need to trim the whitespace of all sides of the figures that you are outputting in order for the figure to actually fill the column width. There must be some option to set that. See the figure.tight\_layout() option in matplotlib, along with matplotlib.backends.backend\_pdf.PdfPages.]

201 we didn't screw up our pipeline.]

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## DISCUSSION

# **Fitting Forcefields to Dielectric Constants**

Recent forcefield development has seen a resurgence of papers fitting dielectric constants during forcefield parameterization [6, 21]. However, a number of authors have pointed out potential challenges in constructing selfconsistent fixed-charge forcefields [22, 23].

Interestingly, recent work by Dill and coworkers [22] observed that, for CCl<sub>4</sub>, reasonable choices of point charges are incapable of recapitulating the observed dielectric of = 2.2, instead producing dielectric constants in the range of  $1.0 \le \epsilon \le 1.05$ . This behavior is quite general: fixed point charge forcefields will predict  $\epsilon \approx 1$  for many non-215 polar or symmetric molecules, but the measured dielectric 216 constants are instead  $\epsilon \approx 2$  (Fig. 3). While this behavior 217 is well-known and results from missing physics of polariz-218 ability, we suspect it may have several unanticipated con-

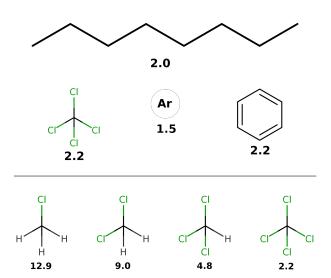


FIG. 3. Typical experimental static dielectric constants of some **nonpolar compounds.** (a). Measured static dielectric constants of various nonpolar or symmetric molecules [?]; fixed-charge forcefields give  $\epsilon \approx 1$  for each species. (b). A congeneric series of chlorosubstituted methanes have static dielectric constants between 2 and 13. [Can we use a better citable source for these numbers instead of Wikipedia? Also, what temperatures/pressures are these measurements cited at? Maybe we can just say "near ambient"?] [JDC: We should not use PNG files for figure graphics—only vector graphics (when possible). Can you use a vector graphics PDF instead?] [JDC: Can we show both experimental and GAFF/AM1-BCC computed dielectric constants for some of these compounds?]

219 sequences. [JDC: Perhaps the free energy of binding to hydrophobic cavities in proteins could be relevant?]

Suppose, for example, that one attempts to fit forcefield parameters to match the static dielectric constants of CCl<sub>4</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and CH<sub>3</sub>Cl. In moving from the tetrahedrally-symmetric CCl<sub>4</sub> to the asymmetric CHCl<sub>3</sub>, it suddenly becomes possible to achieve the observed dielectric constant of 4.8 by an appropriate choice of point charges. However, the model for CHCl3 uses fixed point charges to account for both the permanent dipole moment and the electronic polarizability, whereas the CCl<sub>4</sub> model contains no treatment of polarizability. We hypothesize that this inconsistency in parameterization may lead to strange mismatches, where symmetric molecules (e.g. benzene and CCl<sub>4</sub>) have qualitatively different properties than closely re- $_{234}$  lated asymmetric molecules (e.g. toluene and  $\mathrm{CHCl}_3$ ).

How important is this effect? As a possible real-world example, we imagine that the missing atomic polarizability could be important in accurate transfer free energies involving low-dielectric solvents. The Onsager model for 239 the transfer free energy of a dipole (Eq. 2) gives an error of  $_{ ext{240}}$   $\Delta\Delta G=\Delta G(\epsilon=2.2)-\Delta G(\epsilon=1)$  of -2 kcal / mol for the transfer of water (a=1.93 Å,  $\mu=2.2$ D) into a low dielectric 242 medium such as tetrachloromethane or benzene.

$$\Delta G = -\frac{\mu^2}{a^3} \frac{\epsilon - 1}{2\epsilon + 1} \tag{2}$$

Similarly, we calculated the mean polarization error for 298 for forcefield validation and parameterization. solvation free energies (gas to solvent transfer free energies) of druglike molecules in cyclohexane. For each molecule in the FreeSolv database [8] [JDC: Which version of Free-Solv?], we took the cavity radius a to be the half the maximum interatomic distance and calculated  $\mu = \sum_i q_i r_i$  using the provided mol2 coordinates and AM1-BCC charges. This calculation predicts a mean error of  $-0.9 \pm 0.07$  kcal mol for the 643 molecules (where the standard error is computed from bootstrapping over measurements), [JDC: eed to fix reported sig figs:  $-0.9x \pm 0.07$ .] suggesting that the missing atomic polarizabilty unrepresentable by fixed point charge forcefields could contribute substantially to errors in predicted transfer and solvation properties of druglike molecules.

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Given their ease of measurement and direct connection to long-range electrostatic interactions, static dielectric constants have high potential utility as primary data for forcefield parameterization efforts. Although this will require the 262 use of forcefields with explicit treatment of atomic polarizability, the inconsistency of fixed-charge models in lowdielectric media is sufficiently alarming to motivate further study of polarizable forcefields. In particular, continuum methods [24-26], point dipole methods [27, 28], and Drude methods [29, 30] have been maturing rapidly. Finding the optimal balance of accuracy and performance remains an open question; however, the use of experimentallyparameterized direct polarization methods [31] may provide polarizability physics at a cost not much greater than fixed 272 charge forcefields.

## ThermoML as a data source

electric constants have already been widely used in force- 329 script to install all of these versions via conda.] field work, several aspects of ThermoML make it a unique 330 <sub>297</sub> phases and mixtures represent a rich dataset of high utility <sub>348</sub> stantaneous densities were stored every 250 fs, while trajec-

### **METHODS**

## ThermoML Processing

A tarball archive of the ThermoML Archive was 302 obtained from the the NIST TRC on 13 Sep 2014. To explore the content of this archive, we created a Python (version 2.7.9) tool (ThermoPyL: 305 https://github.com/choderalab/ThermoPyL) 306 formats the XML content into a spreadsheet-like format 307 accessible via the Pandas (version 0.15.2) library. First, we 308 obtained the XML schema (http://media.iupac.org/ namespaces/ThermoML/ThermoML.xsd) defining the layout of the data. This schema was converted into a Python object via PyXB 1.2.4 (http://pyxb.sourceforge.net/). Finally, this schema and Pandas was used to extract the 313 data and apply the successive data filters described in 314 Section II A.

#### Simulation

Using an automated tool, boxes of 1000 molecules were constructed using PackMol [34] [JDC: Which AM1-BCC [12, 13] charges were generated using OpenEye Toolkit 2014-6-6 [35], using the 320 oequacpac.OEAssignPartialCharges module with the 321 OECharges\_AM1BCCSym option, which utilizes a confor-322 mational expansion procedure prior to charge fitting to minimize artifacts from intramolecular contacts. selected conformer was then processed using antechamber The present work has focused on the neat liquid den- 325 in AmberTools 14 [36]. The resulting AMBER files were 275 sity and dielectric measurements present in the ThermoML 326 converted to OpenMM [37] ffxml forcefield XML files. Simu-Archive [10, 32, 33] as a target for molecular dynamics force- 327 lation code used libraries gaff2xml 0.6, TrustButVerify 0.1, field validation. While liquid mass densities and static di- 328 OpenMM 6.2 [37], and MDTraj 1.2 [38]. [TODO: Provide a

Molecular dynamics simulations were performed with resource for the forcefield community. First, the aggre- 331 OpenMM 6.2 [37] using a Langevin integrator (with collision gation, support, and dissemination of ThermoML datasets  $_{
m 332}$  rate  $1\,{
m ps}^{-1}$ ) and a  $1\,{
m fs}$  timestep, as we found that timesteps of through the ThermoML Archive is supported by NIST, whose 333 2 fs timestep or greater led to a significant timestep depenmission makes these tasks a long-term priority. Second, 334 dence in computed equilibrium densities (Table III). [JDC: the ThermoML Archive is actively growing, through part- 335 Cite Langevin integrator used in OpenMM.] Pressure connerships with several journals, and new experimental mea- 336 trol to 1 atm was achieved with a Monte Carlo barostat utisurements published in these journals are critically exam- 337 lizing molecular scaling and automated step size adjustined by the TRC and included in the archive. [JDC: Is the 338 ment during equilibration, with volume moves attempted umber of journal here also expanding?] Finally, the files 339 every 25 steps. The particle mesh Ewald (PME) method [39] in the ThermoML Archive are portable and machine read- 340 was used with a long-range cutoff of 0.95 nm and a longable via a formal XML schema, allowing facile access to hun- 👊 range isotropic dispersion correction. [JDC: Can we report dreds of thousands of measurements. Numerous additional 342 the automatically-selected PME parameters to aid reprophysical properties contained in ThermoML—including ac- 343 ducibility in other codes?] Simulations were continued untivity coefficients, diffusion constants, boiling point temper-  $_{344}$  til density standard errors were less than  $2\times10^{-4}$  g / mL, atures, critical pressures and densities, coefficients of ex- 345 as estimated using the equilibration detection module in pansion, speed of sound measurements, viscosities, excess 346 pymbar 2.1 [40]. Trajectory analysis was performed using molar enthalpies, heat capacities, and volumes—for neat 347 OpenMM [37] and MDTraj [38]. [JDC: Which versions?] Intory snapshots were stored every 10 ps. [JDC: Did we plan to make this data available somewhere, or is it sufficient to put out the scripts?]

# V. CONCLUSIONS

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- ThermoML is a potentially useful resource for the forcefield community
- We have curated a subset of the ThermoML Data Archive for neat liquids with druglike atoms, with thousands of densities and hundreds of dielectrics
- Empirical polarization models correct a systematic bias in comparing fixed-charge forcefields to static dielectric constants

## VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# **Appendix A: Supplementary Information**

All information below this point will eventually be pulled into a separate SI. This will happen closer to submission, as the formatting may be journal-specific. The references may be split in two as well, depending on journal. [JDC: It may be fine to leave this as an Appendix.]

• Table: Timestep-dependence of density

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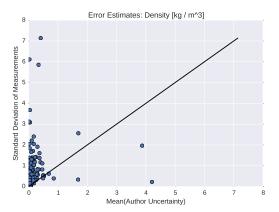
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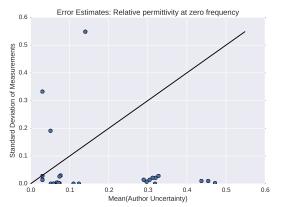
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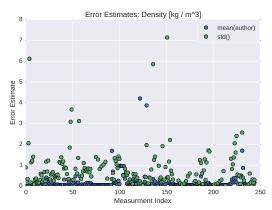
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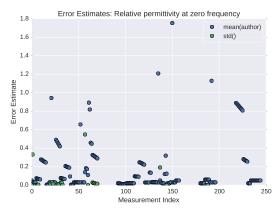
- Figure: Error analysis for ThermoML dataset
- Table (CSV File): ThermoML Dataset used in present analysis.

391 Appendix B: Assessment of experimental error in ThermoML 392 measurements









**FIG. 4.** Assessment of experimental error in ThermoML data. To assess the experimental error in our ThermoML extract, we considered two different approaches. In the first approach, we computed the mean of the uncertainties reported by the measurement authors. LIDC: This is an incorrect way to combine uncertainties.

authors. [JDC: This is an incorrect way to combine uncertainties. If you take the unweighted mean  $\hat{x}=N^{-1}\sum_i x_i$  of N experimental measurements  $x_i$  with associated standard errors or uncertainties  $\sigma_i$ , the resulting uncertainty is  $\hat{\sigma}=N^{-1}(\sum_i \sigma_i^2)^{1/2}$ —the procedure you suggest where uncertainties are simply averaged is incorrect and should not be used. But I think we should

$\Delta t$	$\langle \rho \rangle  ({\rm g/cm^3})$	n	neff	$stddev(\rho)$	stderr	abs error (g/cm $^3$ )	rel error (%)
0.5	0.903701	145510	20358.0	0.007362	0.000052	0.000000	0.0000
1.0	0.903114	159515	21988.5	0.007415	0.000050	-0.000588	-0.0650
2.0	0.901811	108346	15964.1	0.007494	0.000059	-0.001891	-0.2092

**TABLE III. Timestep dependence in computed equilibrium density of butyl acrylate.** To probe the systematic error from finite timestep integration, we examined the timestep dependence of butyl acrylate density. The number of effective samples was estimated using pymbar's statistical inefficiency routine [40]. To approximate the timestep bias, we compare the density expectation ( $\langle \rho \rangle$ ) to values calculated with a 0.5 fs timestep. We find a 2 fs timestep leads to systematic biases in the density on the order of 0.2%, while 1fs reduces the systematic bias to less than 0.1%—we therefore selected a 1 fs timestep for the present work, where we aimed to achieve three digits of accuracy in density predictions. [JDC: I've reformatted this table a bit, paying more attention to sig figs. I think this might actually be better presented as a figure showing the timestep dependence, perhaps for 4 or 5 timesteps from 0.5 to 2.5 fs, rather than just 3.]



**FIG. 5. Comparison of simulated and experimental densities for all compounds.** Measured (blue) and simulated (green) densities are shown in units of kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

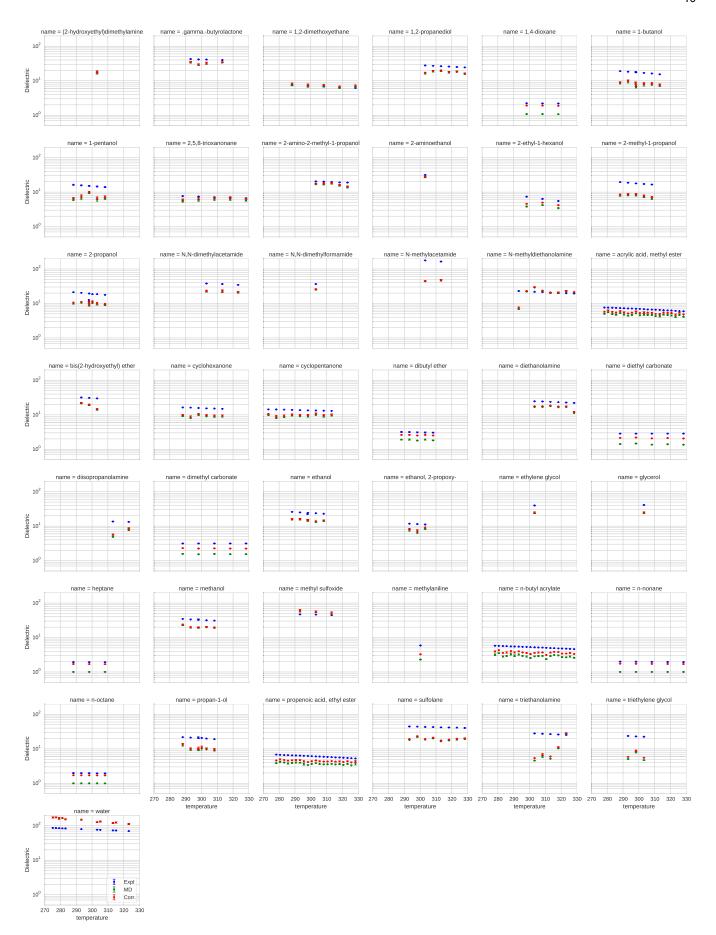
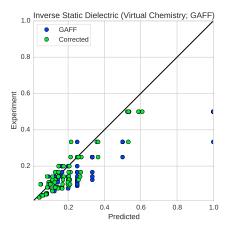
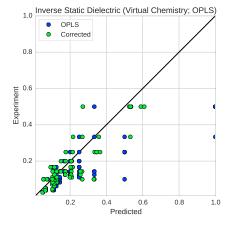


FIG. 6. Comparison of simulated and experimental static dielectric constants for all compounds. Measured (blue), simulated (green), and polarizability-corrected simulated (red) static dielectric constants are shown for all compounds. Note that dielectric constants, rather than inverse dielectric constants, are plotted here. [JDC: Let's plot these as in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, maybe only four plots across so they are larger and more legible. We can also shorten "name = compound" to just "compound".]





**FIG. 7.** Atomic polarizability corrections for the Virtual Chemistry dataset. A comparison of measured (*blue*) and simulated dielectric constants from the Virtual Chemistry dataset [5, 19]. with (*red*) and without (*green*) atomic polarizability corrections are shown. [JDC: What from the Virtual Chemistry dataset did we end up using? The computed values? The parameterized files? Since the story is about the ThermoML Archive, do we really want this here, or do we just want to do a comparison between our computed results for some molecules and the Virtual Chemistry results as a validation or sanity check on our computational pipeline?] [JDC: Plot needs to be adjusted to be more legible if we decide to keep it.]

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