

Why write a script?

- Molecular dynamics simulations require a lot of information about
 - Input data
 - coordinates
 - topology
 - which atoms are included in energy terms
 - parameters for functions in energy terms
 - System description
 - periodicity
 - constraints
 - Integrators
 - algorithms to propagate forward in time
 - adjust box size
 - adjust kinetic energy (temperature)
- Simulation
 - how long to run
 - how much output data to store
- OpenMM can be run from widely-used computer programming languages, python and C++, facilitating extension and combination with other code

- This is the default script in the OpenMM script builder: <http://builder.openmm.org>
- Let's go through what the parameters mean and I'll give you values for a simple simulation of ubiquitin, a protein that we looked at during the VMD tutorial
- If you hover your mouse over the parameter names, it'll also give a brief description
- A more detailed description of simulation parameters is available at <http://docs.openmm.org/latest/userguide/application.html#simulation-parameters>

The screenshot shows the OpenMM Script Builder web interface. The top bar includes the title "OpenMM Script Builder", a "Get Help" link, and buttons for "openmm.py" and "Save Script". Below the bar are four tabs: "General" (selected), "System", "Integrator", and "Simulation".

The "General" tab contains the following parameters:

- Input coordinates: input.pdb
- Input topology: input.prmtp
- Forcefield: AMBER99sb-ildn
- Water Model: TIP3P
- Platform: CUDA
- Precision: mixed
- Device index: (empty)
- OpenCL platform indx: (empty)

On the right side, the generated Python script is displayed. It starts with a header comment and then defines the simulation setup:

```
#####
# this script was generated by openmm-builder. to customize it further,
# you can save the file to disk and edit it with your favorite editor.
#####

from __future__ import print_function
from simtk.openmm import app
import simtk.openmm as mm
from simtk import unit
from sys import stdout

pdb = app.PDBFile('input.pdb')
forcefield = app.ForceField('amber99sbildn.xml', 'tip3p.xml')

system = forcefield.createSystem(pdb.topology, nonbondedMethod=app.PME,
    nonbondedCutoff=1.0*unit.nanometers, constraints=app.HBonds, rigidWater=True,
    ewaldErrorTolerance=0.0005)
integrator = mm.LangevinIntegrator(300*unit.kelvin, 1.0/unit.picoseconds,
    2.0*unit.femtoseconds)
integrator.setConstraintTolerance(0.00001)

platform = mm.Platform.getPlatformByName('CUDA')
properties = {'CudaPrecision': 'mixed'}
simulation = app.Simulation(pdb.topology, system, integrator, platform,
    properties)
simulation.context.setPositions(pdb.positions)

print('Minimizing...')
simulation.minimizeEnergy()

simulation.context.setVelocitiesToTemperature(300*unit.kelvin)
print('Equilibrating...')
simulation.step(100)

simulation.reporters.append(app.DCDReporter('trajectory.dcd', 1000))
simulation.reporters.append(app.StateDataReporter(stdout, 1000, step=True,
    potentialEnergy=True, temperature=True, progress=True, remainingTime=True,
    speed=True, totalSteps=1000, separator='\t'))
```