

Contact

Dr. Lester Hedges

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I am a computational physicist with research interests in soft matter, materials science, algorithm development, and data visualisation. I aim to exploit my training and expertise to solve complex data-driven problems.

Education

- 9/2004–12/2007 *University of Nottingham, UK*
PhD in Physics. Thesis: “Aspects of Dynamic Heterogeneity in Models of Supercooled Liquids”
- 9/2000–7/2004 *University of Nottingham, UK*
MSci in Physics. First-class honours. Salmon prize for undergraduate research.

Experience

- 8/2015–8/2016 *Department of Physics, The University of Bath with Dr. Rob Jack and Dr. Alicia Kim*
Research officer
- Developed a theoretical and numerical methodology for a stochastic level-set method.
 - Wrote a fast and flexible C++ library for level-set topology optimisation.
- 10/2014–4/2015 *Department of Physics, The University of Bath with Prof. Nigel Wilding*
Research officer
- Developed a C++ software library for the simulation of lock and key colloids.
 - Implemented overlap finding algorithms and simple effective potentials for novel particle shapes.
- 1/2010–6/2014 *Molecular Foundry, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory with Dr. Steve Whitelam*
Postdoctoral researcher / Project scientist
- Developed model systems and advanced sampling algorithms to study nucleation and self-assembly.
 - Worked as part of the Center for Nanoscale Control of Geologic CO₂ (DOE EFRC).
 - Ran large-scale Monte Carlo simulations on high-performance computing clusters.
 - Defined project goals for and mentored 2 summer interns.
- 1/2008–12/2009 *College of Chemistry, UC Berkeley with Prof. David Chandler*
Postdoctoral researcher
- Developed fast, robust, and versatile molecular dynamics software for model supercooled liquids (faster than a standard physics library for specialised uses).
 - Implemented novel algorithms to selectively access rare jammed configurations.
 - Created smoothed animations of particle motions to aid spatial reasoning.
- 9/2004–5/2007 *School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nottingham, UK*
Programming instructor
- Supervised 3 hrs/wk of introductory MATLAB workshops for classes of ~40 first-year Physics undergraduates.
 - Provided individual assistance with debugging and programming fundamentals.

Languages and Tools

- code/HPC C/C++, Bash/Zsh, Awk, Git, CI (Travis), SGE/PBS/Slurm, MPI, Make/CMake, Doxygen, Screen/Tmux, MATLAB/Octave, Python
- viz/animation MEncoder, FFmpeg, POV-Ray, ImageMagick, Gnuplot, Grace, VMD, PostScript, OpenGL, Keynote, L^AT_EX
- physics/modeling Monte Carlo methods, molecular dynamics, finite-element method, level set method, rare event sampling, phase diagrams, structural analysis, overlap/collision detection, coarse-grained modeling
- web HTML, CSS

Journal Publications

16. *Crystallization and arrest mechanisms of model colloids*
T.K. Haxton, L.O. Hedges, and S. Whitlam
Soft Matter, **11**, 9307 (2015)
15. *Growth of equilibrium structures built from a large number of distinct component types*
L.O. Hedges, R.V. Mannige, and S. Whitlam
Soft Matter, **10**, 6404 (2014)
14. *Self-assembly at a nonequilibrium critical point*
S. Whitlam, L.O. Hedges, and J.D. Schmit,
Phys. Rev. Lett., **112** 155504 (2014)
13. *Microscopic evidence for liquid-liquid separation in supersaturated CaCO_3 solutions*
A.F. Wallace, L.O. Hedges, A.J. Fernandez-Martinez, P. Raiteri, S. Whitlam,
G.A. Waychunas, J.D. Gale, J.F. Banfield, and J.J. DeYoreo
Science, **341** 885 (2013)
12. *Selective nucleation in porous media*
L.O. Hedges and S. Whitlam
Soft Matter, **9**, 9763 (2013)
11. *Uncovering the intrinsic size dependence of hydriding phase transformations in nanocrystals*
R. Bardhan, L.O. Hedges, C.L. Pint, A. Javey, S. Whitlam, and J.J. Urban
Nature Materials, **12**, 905 (2013)
10. *Self-assembly of multicomponent structures in and out of equilibrium*
S. Whitlam, R. Schulman, and L.O. Hedges
Phys. Rev. Lett. **109**, 265506 (2012)
9. *Patterning a surface so as to speed nucleation from solution*
L.O. Hedges and S. Whitlam
Soft Matter, **8**, 8624 (2012)
8. *Preparation and relaxation of very stable glassy states of a simulated liquid*
R.L. Jack, L.O. Hedges, J.P. Garrahan, and D. Chandler
Phys. Rev. Lett. **107**, 275702 (2011)
7. *Excitations are localized and relaxation is hierarchical in glass-forming liquids*
A.S. Keys, L.O. Hedges, R.L. Jack, J.P. Garrahan, S.C. Glotzer, and D. Chandler
Phys. Rev. X, **1**, 021013 (2011)
6. *Limit of validity of Ostwald's rule of stages in a statistical mechanical model of crystallization*
L.O. Hedges and S. Whitlam
J. Chem. Phys. **135**, 164902 (2011)
5. *Dynamic order-disorder in atomistic models of structural glass formers*
L.O. Hedges, R.L. Jack, J.P. Garrahan, and D. Chandler
Science, **323** 1309 (2009)
4. *Dynamic facilitation explains democratic particle motion of metabasin transitions*
L.O. Hedges and J.P. Garrahan
J. Phys. A **41** 3244006 (2008)
3. *De-coupling of exchange and persistence times in atomistic models of glass formers*
L.O. Hedges, L. Maibaum, J.P. Garrahan, and D. Chandler
J. Chem. Phys. **127**, 211101 (2007)
2. *Dynamic propensity in a kinetically constrained lattice gas*
L.O. Hedges and J.P. Garrahan
J. Phys.: Condens. Matter **19** 3244006 (2007)
1. *Fast simulation of facilitated spin models*
D.J. Ashton, L.O. Hedges, and J.P. Garrahan
J. Stat. Mech. P12010 (2005)

Open Source Projects

LibVMMC	A C++ library to implement the “virtual-move” Monte Carlo algorithm for approximating the dynamical evolution of systems of strongly interacting overdamped particles. [sole developer]
LibSLSM	A C++ implementation of a stochastic level-set method. [sole developer]
AABB.cc	Dynamic AABB trees in C++. Adapted from parts of the Box2D physics engine. [sole developer]
TaskFarmer	A tool for running serial jobs with mpirun on HPC clusters. [sole developer]
LaTeXiT	A command-line tool for producing cropped \LaTeX equations for use in figures and presentations. [sole developer]
cxx-template	A simple template and build system for small C++ libraries. [sole developer]
rectify/flux	Monte Carlo generative art from the command-line. [sole developer]

Scientific Artwork

- Cover art, [Soft Matter 41, 9729-9948, 2013](#)
- Cover art, [Biophysical Journal 105 \(5\), 2013](#)
- Cover art, [PNAS 106 \(36\), 2009](#)
- Using [PostScript](#) for scientific visualisation

Selected Presentations

- *Size-scaling behavior of hydriding phase transformations in nanocrystals*
APS March Meeting (2012)
- *Understanding the microscopic origins of multi-stage nucleation*
Computational Molecular Biology Group: Free University, Berlin (2011)
- *Limit of validity of Ostwald's rule of stages in a model of solution crystallization*
APS March Meeting (2011)
- *Homogeneous and heterogeneous nucleation in the Ising model* [†]
Berkeley Mini Stat-Mech Meeting (2011)
- *Non-classical assembly pathways of anisotropic particles* [†]
Crystallization: from colloids to pharmaceuticals. CECAM, Lausanne (2010)
- *Structure and relaxation of ideal glass states* [†]
Berkeley Mini Stat-Mech Meeting (2010)

[†] denotes poster presentation.

Other interests

- 3/2016–present [Bradford-on-Avon Community Agriculture Volunteer](#)
- Helped plant, maintain, and harvest a wide range of organic fruit and vegetables.
 - Co-organised several volunteer days and pick-your-own events.
 - Maintained the website and news feed.

Links to visualizations, personal projects, and tutorials [here](#).

February 23, 2017