



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG



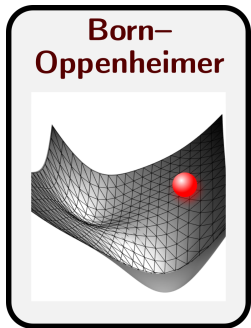
Path-Integral Molecular Dynamics Turning Nuclei Quantum

George Trenins, Hannah Bertschi, Jorge Castro, and Mariana Rossi

MPI for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter, Hamburg

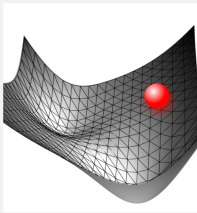
2 July 2025, CNPEM/Illum – Max Planck Meeting

Outline

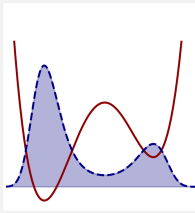


Outline

**Born–
Oppenheimer**

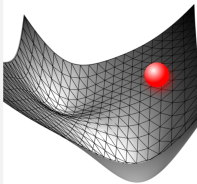


**thermal
equilibrium**

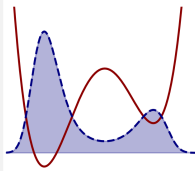


Outline

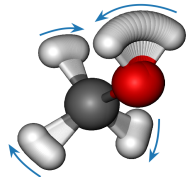
**Born–
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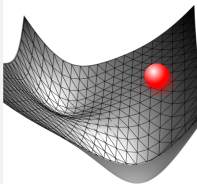


**distinguishable
particles**

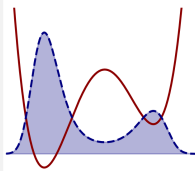


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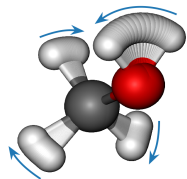
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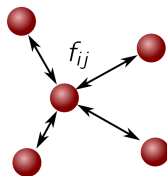
**thermal
equilibrium**



**distinguishable
particles**



**static
properties**



The partition function

$$Z = \text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \right]$$

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$$\beta = 1/k_{\text{B}} T$$

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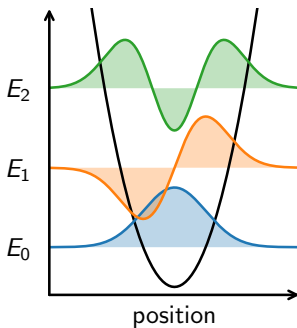
$\hat{\rho}$	$ \psi_0\rangle$	$ \psi_1\rangle$	$ \psi_2\rangle$	\dots
$\langle\psi_0 $	$\rho_{0,0}$	$\rho_{0,1}$	$\rho_{0,2}$	\dots
$\langle\psi_1 $	$\rho_{1,0}$	$\rho_{1,1}$		
$\langle\psi_2 $	$\rho_{2,0}$		$\rho_{2,2}$	
\vdots	\vdots			\ddots

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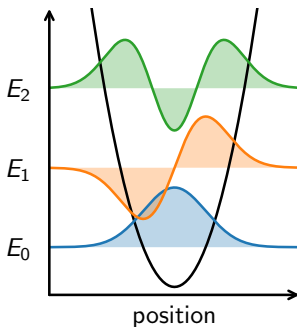


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$$Z = \text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \right] = \sum_n \langle \psi_n | e^{-\beta \hat{H}} | \psi_n \rangle = \sum_n \langle \psi_n | e^{-\beta E_n} | \psi_n \rangle$$

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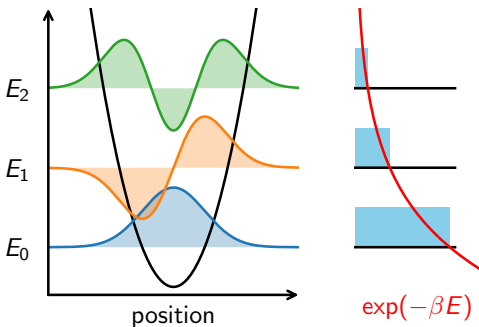


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Trotter formula

$$e^{-\beta(\hat{K} + \hat{U})} \sim e^{-\beta\hat{K}} e^{-\beta\hat{U}} \left(1 - \frac{\beta^2}{2} [\hat{K}, \hat{U}] \right)$$

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$$Z = \text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta(\hat{K} + \hat{U})} \right] \sim \text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta\hat{K}} e^{-\beta\hat{U}} \right], \quad \beta \rightarrow 0$$

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Eigenvalue equation

$$\hat{X} |X\rangle = X |X\rangle \quad \Rightarrow \quad e^{-\beta U(\hat{X})} |X\rangle = e^{-\beta U(X)} |X\rangle$$

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Gaining momentum

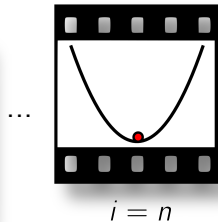
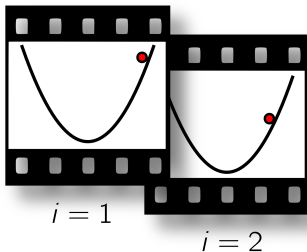
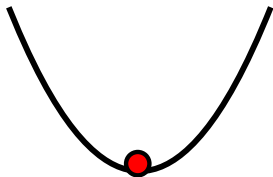
$$Z \sim Z_{\text{cl}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dX \langle X | e^{-\beta \hat{P}^2 / 2M} | X \rangle e^{-\beta U(X)} = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dP e^{-\beta P^2 / 2M} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dX e^{-\beta U(X)}$$

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$$Z = \text{Tr}\left[e^{-\beta(\hat{K}+\hat{U})}\right] \sim \text{Tr}\left[e^{-\beta\hat{K}}e^{-\beta\hat{U}}\right] \quad (\beta \rightarrow 0)$$

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Identity crisis

$$\mathrm{Tr}\left[\left(e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{K}}e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{U}}\right)^N\right] = \mathrm{Tr}\left[\underbrace{\left(e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{K}}e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{U}}\right) \cdots \left(e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{K}}e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{U}}\right)}_{N \text{ times}} \cdot \left(e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{K}}e^{-\frac{\beta}{N}\hat{U}}\right)\right]$$

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Trace formula

$$\mathrm{Tr} \hat{O} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dX_I \langle X_I | \hat{O} | X_I \rangle$$

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Resolution of the identity

$$\hat{I} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dX_I |X_I\rangle \langle X_I|$$

Identity crisis

$$\mathrm{Tr} \left[\left(e^{-\frac{\beta}{N} \hat{K}} e^{-\frac{\beta}{N} \hat{U}} \right)^N \right] = \left[\prod_{l=1}^N \int dX_l \langle X_{l+1} | e^{-\frac{\beta}{N} \hat{K}} | X_l \rangle e^{-\frac{\beta}{N} U(X_l)} \right], \quad X_{N+1} \equiv X_1$$

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Element of surprise

$$Z \sim \left[\prod_{l=1}^N \int dX_l \langle X_{l+1} | e^{-\beta_N \hat{K}} | X_l \rangle e^{-\beta_N U(X_l)} \right]$$
$$\beta_N \equiv \beta/N$$

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$$\beta_N \equiv \beta/N$$

$$\omega_N \equiv 1/\beta_N \hbar$$

Trickery

► Derivation

$$\langle X_{l+1} | e^{-\frac{\beta}{N} \hat{K}} | X_l \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dP_l \exp \left[-\frac{\beta_N P_l^2}{2M} \right] \cdot \exp \left[-\beta_N \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{l+1} - X_l)^2}{2} \right]$$

What's an isomorphism?

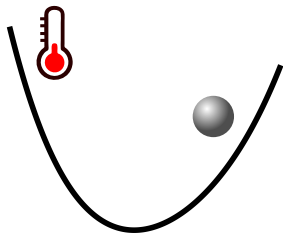
$$Z_{\text{cl}} = \iint \frac{dP_I dX_I}{2\pi\hbar} \exp\left(-\beta \left[\frac{P^2}{2M} + U(X) \right]\right)$$

$$Z_{\text{qm}} = \left[\prod_{I=1}^N \iint \frac{dP_I dX_I}{2\pi\hbar} \right] \exp\left(-\beta_N \sum_{I=1}^N \left[\frac{P_I^2}{2M} + U(X_I) + \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{I+1} - X_I)^2}{2} \right]\right)$$

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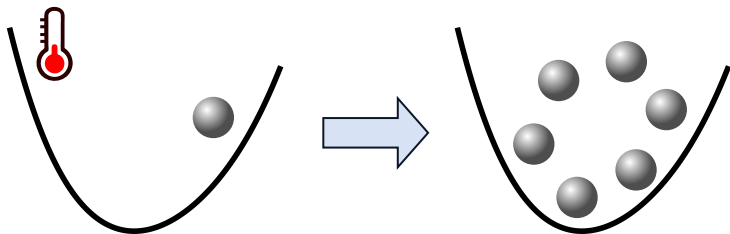
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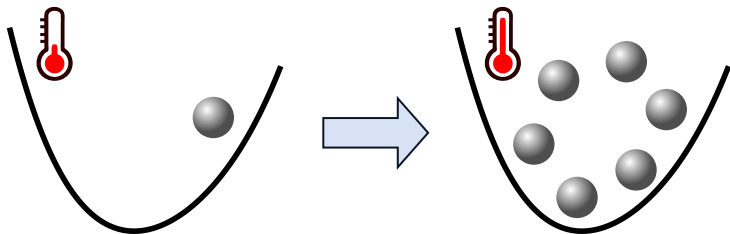
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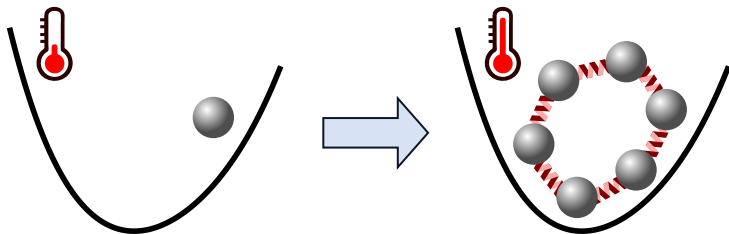
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Thermal averages

$$\langle A \rangle_{\text{qm}} = \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \left[\hat{A} e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \right]$$

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$$\langle A \rangle_{\text{qm}} = \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [\hat{A} e^{-\beta \hat{H}}] = \frac{1}{Z} \iint d^N P d^N X A_N(\mathbf{X}) e^{\beta_N H_N(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{X})}$$

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Position estimators

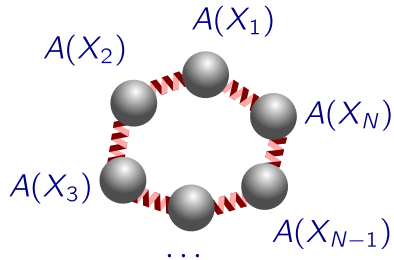
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It's gone virial

$$K_N(\mathbf{P}) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{P_l^2}{2M}$$

It's gone virial

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Trickery!

It's gone virial

Primitive estimator

$$K_N^p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{N}{2\beta} - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{l+1} - X_l)^2}{2}$$

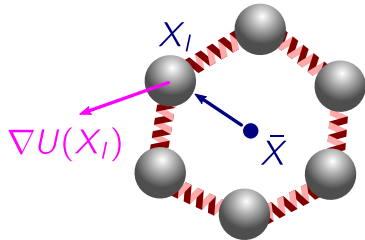
It's gone virial

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Centroid virial estimator

$$K_N^{cv}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{2\beta} + \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{l=1}^N (X_l - \bar{X}) \cdot \frac{\partial U(X_l)}{\partial X_l}$$



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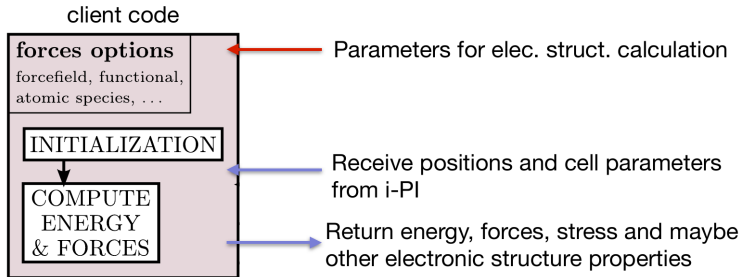
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A companion article has been published: [Updates to i-PI package improve performance in widely used atomistic simulation software](#)

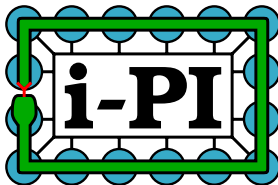
The i-PI code

- The engine *receives forces* and *gives back positions*.
- Works for many kinds of “motion”: dynamics, optimization, phonons, ...
- Electronic structure or ML potential acts as a simple driver (client).



Communication via sockets

- i-PI communicates via internet (or UNIX) sockets
- Interfaced to: CP2K, DFTB+, **LAMMPS**, Quantum ESPRESSO, **Siesta**, **FHI-aims**, Yaff, deMonNano, plumed, **ASE**, TBE, CASTEP, AMS, ...



Visit:

<https://ipi-code.org/>

<https://github.com/i-pi/i-pi>

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01-CONSTANT_PRESSURE.IPYNB

Simulation cell

Temperature and pressure control

Pressure control with a barostat

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Setting up an NPT calculation

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Running the simulation

Post-processing

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Internal energy

Trajectory visualization

01-constant_pressure.ipynb

Python 3 (ipykernel)

Constant-pressure (PI)MD


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adapted from *tutorials for the PIQM-2023 Advanced School*

In this tutorial we explore molecular dynamics simulations at constant temperature and pressure. Using the [i-PI package](#) we will perform classical molecular dynamics (MD) and path-integral molecular dynamics (PIMD) simulations of low-temperature, high-pressure solid hydrogen. By the end, you will learn to set up thermostats and barostats in i-PI, how to restart simulations from checkpoint files, and how to visualize the output data using [chemiscope](#). You will also see the substantial impact of *thermal quantum swelling* on the equilibrium density of solid hydrogen.

Simulation cell

To simulate *bulk* hydrogen we set up a "supercell" containing 108 hydrogen molecules and subject to periodic boundary conditions. This eliminates surface effects, however the (PI)MD simulations may instead be influenced by correlation between different *images* of the supercell not present in the physical bulk material. It is important to monitor such finite-size effects in production calculations by comparing simulation results for different supercell sizes. On this occasion we will be skipping this step in the interest of time.



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“Kinetic” matrix element

1. initial expression

$$\langle X_{I+1} | e^{-\beta_N \hat{K}} | X_I \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dP'_I \exp \left[-\frac{\beta_N P'^2_I}{2M} + \frac{iP'_I}{\hbar} (X_{I+1} - X_I) \right]$$

2. complete the square

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dP'_I \exp \left[-\frac{\beta_N}{2M} \left(P'_I - \frac{iM}{\beta_N \hbar} (X_{I+1} - X_I) \right)^2 \right] \exp \left[-\beta_N \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{I+1} - X_I)^2}{2} \right]$$

3. change integration variable

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty - i\Delta_I}^{\infty - i\Delta_I} dP_I \exp \left[-\frac{\beta_N P_I^2}{2M} \right] \exp \left[-\beta_N \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{I+1} - X_I)^2}{2} \right] \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta_I = \frac{M}{\beta_N \hbar} (X_{I+1} - X_I) \\ P_I = P'_I - i\Delta_I \end{array} \right\}$$

4. deform integration contour

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dP_I \exp \left[-\frac{\beta_N P_I^2}{2M} \right] \exp \left[-\beta_N \frac{M\omega_N^2 (X_{I+1} - X_I)^2}{2} \right]$$