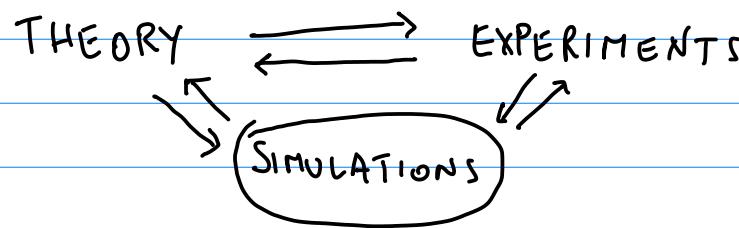


COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS : MOLECULAR DYNAMICS

SIMULATION

1

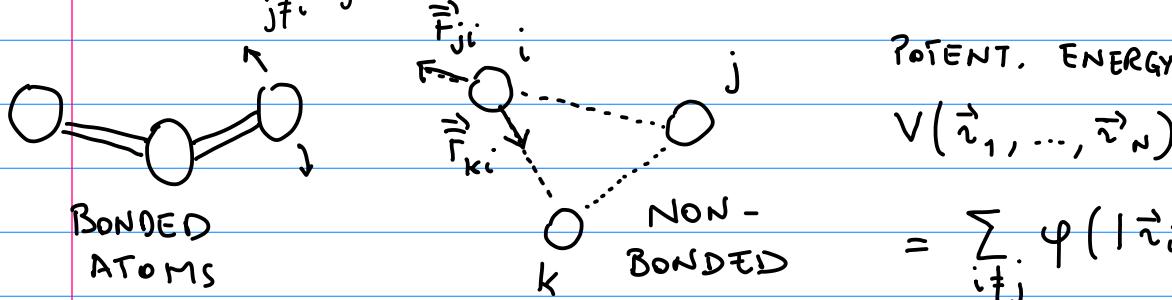
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 arianna.fassino@kuleuven.be



MONTE CARLO : STOCHASTIC METHOD

MOLECULAR DYNAMICS : DETERMINISTIC METHOD TO SOLVE
CALSSICAL EQUATIONS OF MOTION

$$\vec{F}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \vec{F}_{ji} \quad m_i \ddot{\vec{r}}_i = \vec{F}_i \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$$



$m_i \ddot{\vec{r}}_i(t) = \vec{F}_i(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)$

DISCRETE TIME STEP Δt

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}_i(t) &\xrightarrow{\text{MD}} \vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) \\ \vec{v}_i(t) &\xrightarrow{\quad} \vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) \end{aligned}$$

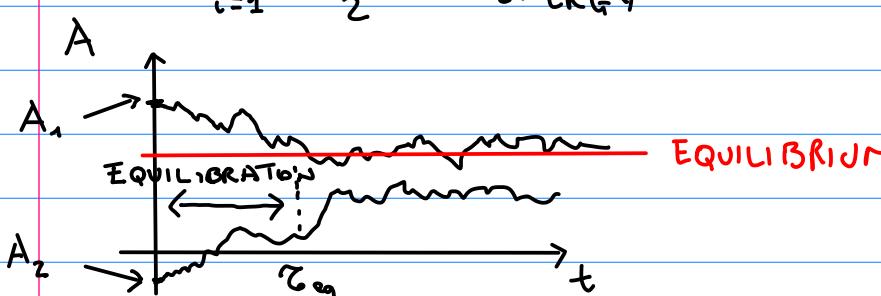
OBSERVABLES $A(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N, \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_N)$

$$K = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{m_i \vec{v}_i^2}{2}$$

KINETIC ENERGY

$$V(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)$$

POTENTIAL ENERGY



$$\langle A \rangle_{eq} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M A(t_0 + m \Delta t)$$

VERLET ALGORITHM

2

$$\vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t) + \vec{v}_i(t) \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_i(t) \Delta t^2 + \frac{1}{6} \vec{g}_i(t) \Delta t^3 + O(\Delta t^4)$$

$$\vec{r}_i(t - \Delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t) - \vec{v}_i(t) \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \vec{a}_i(t) \Delta t^2 - \frac{1}{6} \vec{g}_i(t) \Delta t^3 + O(\Delta t^4)$$

SUM UP:

$$\boxed{\vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) = 2\vec{r}_i(t) - \vec{r}_i(t - \Delta t) + \vec{a}_i(t) \Delta t^2 + O(\Delta t^4)}$$

$$\stackrel{||}{\frac{1}{m_i}} \vec{F}_i(\vec{r}_1(t), \vec{r}_2(t), \dots, \vec{r}_N(t))$$

$$\begin{matrix} \vec{r}_i(t) \\ \vec{r}_i(t - \Delta t) \end{matrix} \longrightarrow \vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) \quad \text{NO VELOCITIES!}$$

$$\vec{v}_i(t) = \frac{\vec{r}_i(t) - \vec{r}_i(t - \Delta t)}{\Delta t}$$

THE VELOCITY VERLET ALGORITHM

VELOCITY
VERLET
ALGORITHM

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t) + \vec{v}_i(t) \Delta t + \frac{\vec{a}_i(t)}{2} \Delta t^2 \\ \vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{v}_i(t) + \frac{\vec{a}_i(t) + \vec{a}_i(t + \Delta t)}{2} \Delta t \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} (1) \\ (2) \end{array}$$

THIS REPRODUCES EXACTLY VERLET (SEE LECTURE NOTES)

a) IMPLEMENT (1) $\vec{r}_i(t) \rightarrow \vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t)$

b) $\vec{v}_i(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) = \vec{v}_i(t) + \frac{\vec{a}_i(t)}{2} \Delta t$

c) CALCULATE $\vec{a}_i(t + \Delta t)$ FROM $\vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t)$

d) FINAL UPDATE $\vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{v}_i(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) + \frac{\vec{a}_i(t + \Delta t)}{2} \Delta t$

→ APPROXIMATING EQ. (2) WITH $\vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) \approx \vec{v}_i(t) + \vec{a}_i(t) \Delta t$
IS A VERY BAD IDEA

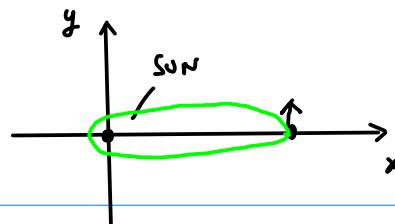
CHECK CONSERVATION OF TOTAL ENERGY $E = k + V$ MUST BE
(ALMOST) CONSTANT IN TIME

VELOCITY VERLET IS A SYMPLECTIC ALGORITHM

3

TIPS ABOUT MD

Problem 13.1 - Halley's comet



① RESCALE UNITS

$$\cancel{m \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt^2} = - \frac{GM_m}{r^3} \vec{r}}$$

$$1 \text{ YEAR} \quad T = 3.156 \cdot 10^7 \text{ s}$$

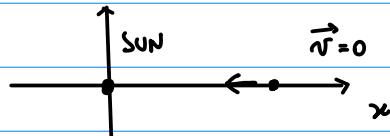
$$\frac{1}{T^2} \frac{d\vec{R}}{d\theta^2} = - \frac{GM}{L^3} \vec{R}$$

$$\text{AU.} \quad L = 1.50 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ m}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \vec{R}}{d\theta^2} = - \pi \frac{\vec{R}}{R^3} \quad T \approx 39$$

y

② CHECK SIMPLER INITIAL CONDITION



CHECK ENERGY CONSERVATION

③ MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF CALCULATIONS

SYMPLECTIC ALGORITHMS

HAMILTONIAN

MECHANICS

$$m \ddot{\vec{q}}_i = \vec{F}_i$$

HAMILTON

$$H = T + V$$

$$H(\vec{p}_i, \vec{q}_i)$$

$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

1D PARTICLE p, q $H(q, p)$

HAMILTONIAN

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(q)$$

KINETIC ENERGY

POTENTIAL ENERGY

$$\dot{q} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \quad \dot{p} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q}$$

$$\dot{q} = \frac{p}{m}$$

$$\dot{p} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q} = \vec{F}$$

$$\dot{p} = m\dot{q}$$

NEWTON'S EQ.

$$f(q, p) \quad g(q, p)$$

POISSON BRACKET

$$\{f, g\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \frac{\partial g}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial p} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q}$$

$$\dot{q} = \{q, H\} \quad \dot{p} = \{p, H\}$$

$$z = (q, p)$$

$$\dot{z} = \{z, H\} = D_H z$$

↑ LINEAR

$$\text{FORMAL} \quad z(t) = e^{tD_H} z(0)$$

4

APPLY TO A SHIFT Δt

$$z(t + \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t D_H} z(t) \quad H = T + V$$

$$D_H z = \{z, H\} = \{z, T+V\} = \{z, T\} + \{z, V\} = D_T z + D_V z$$

$$e^{\Delta t D_H} = e^{\Delta t (D_T + D_V)}$$

FOR COMPLEX NUMBERS
(FOR COMMUTING VARIABLES)

$$e^{x+y} = e^x e^y = e^y e^x$$

$$e^{\varepsilon(A+B)} = \sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} \frac{\varepsilon^m (A+B)^m}{m!}$$

$$\varepsilon = \Delta t \quad (\text{SMALL QUANTITY})$$

EXACT EVOLUTION $e^{\varepsilon(A+B)} = 1 + \varepsilon(A+B) + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} (A+B)^2 + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$

$$(A+B)^2 = (A+B)(A+B) = A^2 + AB + BA + B^2$$

$$= 1 + \varepsilon(A+B) + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} (A^2 + AB + BA + B^2) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$$

APPROX. 1 $e^{\varepsilon A} e^{\varepsilon B} = \left(1 + \varepsilon A + \frac{\varepsilon^2 A^2}{2}\right) \left(1 + \varepsilon B + \frac{\varepsilon^2 B^2}{2}\right) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$

$$= 1 + \varepsilon(A+B) + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} (A^2 + B^2 + 2AB) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$$

APPROX. 2 $\frac{\varepsilon A}{2} e^{\frac{\varepsilon A}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon B}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon A}{2}} = \dots = 1 + \varepsilon(A+B) + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} (A^2 + AB + BA + B^2) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$

$$e^{\varepsilon(A+B)} = e^{\varepsilon A} e^{\varepsilon B} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2) = e^{\varepsilon B} e^{\varepsilon A} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$$

$$e^{\varepsilon(A+B)} = e^{\frac{\varepsilon A}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon B}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon A}{2}} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3) = e^{\frac{\varepsilon B}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon A}{2}} e^{\frac{\varepsilon B}{2}} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3)$$

....

APPROX. 1 $z(t + \Delta t) = e^{\Delta t(D_V + D_T)} z(t) \approx e^{\Delta t D_V} e^{\Delta t D_T} z(t)$

$$z = (q, p)$$

5

$$e^{\Delta t D_T} q(t) = \left(1 + \Delta t D_T + \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} D_T^2 + \dots\right) q(t) \xrightarrow{\text{EXACT}} \left(1 + \Delta t D_T\right) q(t)$$

$$D_T q = \{q, T\} = \left\{q, \frac{P^2}{2m}\right\} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial P} \frac{\partial}{\partial P} \frac{P^2}{2m} = \frac{P}{m}$$

$$D_T^2 q = D_T (D_T q) = D_T \frac{P}{m} = \left\{\frac{P}{m}, T\right\} = \left\{\frac{P}{m}, \frac{P^2}{2m}\right\} = 0 \quad \underset{m \geq 2}{D_T^n q = 0}$$

$$e^{\Delta t D_T} q(t) = \left(1 + \Delta t D_T\right) q(t) = q(t) + \Delta t \frac{P(t)}{m}$$

$$q(t+\Delta t) = e^{\Delta t D_V} \left(e^{\Delta t D_T} q(t) \right) = e^{\Delta t D_V} \left(q(t) + \Delta t \frac{P(t)}{m} \right) =$$

$$= \left(1 + \Delta t D_V\right) \left(q(t) + \Delta t \frac{P(t)}{m} \right) = q(t) + \Delta t \frac{P(t)}{m} + \Delta t D_V q(t) + \frac{\Delta t^2}{m} D_V P(t)$$

$$D_V P(t) = \{P, V\} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial q} \frac{\partial V}{\partial P} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial P} \frac{\partial V}{\partial q} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q} = \bar{F}(q)$$

$$(1) \quad q(t+\Delta t) = q(t) + \Delta t \frac{P(t)}{m} + \Delta t^2 \frac{\bar{F}(q(t))}{m}$$

$$(2) \quad P(t+\Delta t) = e^{\Delta t D_V} e^{\Delta t D_T} P(t) = e^{\Delta t D_V} P(t) = \left(1 + \Delta t D_V\right) P(t)$$

$$= P(t) + \Delta t \bar{F}(q(t))$$

$$\tilde{r} = \frac{P}{m}$$

REWRITE (1) & (2) AS FUNCTIONS OF \bar{F} , q AND \tilde{r}

$$(1) \quad q(t+\Delta t) = q(t) + \Delta t \tilde{r}(t) + \Delta t^2 \alpha(q(t)) \xrightarrow{\text{Eq. (2)}} q(t) + \Delta t \tilde{r}(t) + \Delta t \left(\tilde{r}(t+\Delta t) - \bar{r}(t) \right)$$

$$(2) \quad \tilde{r}(t+\Delta t) = \tilde{r}(t) + \Delta t \alpha(q(t)) \quad \left. \right\} = q(t) + \Delta t \tilde{r}(t+\Delta t)$$

FIRST ORDER SYMPLECTIC INTEGRATOR

$$\begin{cases} q(t+\Delta t) = q(t) + \Delta t \tilde{r}(t+\Delta t) \\ \tilde{r}(t+\Delta t) = \tilde{r}(t) + \Delta t \alpha(q(t)) \end{cases}$$

PROBLEM 2 USES THIS
FOR HARMONIC OSCILLATOR
 $k=m=1 \quad \bar{F}=-kq$

FOR HARMONIC OSCILLATOR THIS BECOMES
A LINEAR SYSTEM

$$\begin{pmatrix} q(t+\Delta t) \\ \tilde{r}(t+\Delta t) \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} q(t) \\ \tilde{r}(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

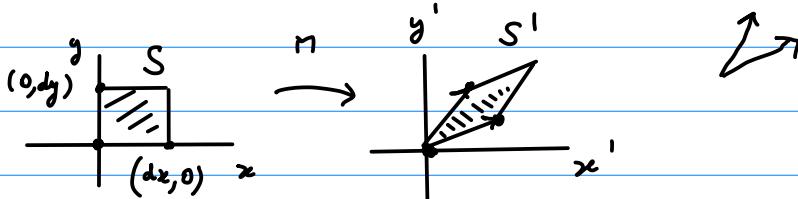
$$\alpha = \frac{\bar{F}}{m} = -\frac{k}{m} q$$

PROPERTY OF SYMPLECTIC ALGORITHM: VOLUME IN PHASE SPACE IS CONSERVED

6

FIRST SIMPLE EXAMPLE ON LINEAR MAP (2D)

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha dx \\ \gamma dx \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ dy \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta dy \\ \delta dy \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S: dx dy$$

$$\hat{x} \times \hat{y} = \hat{z} \quad \hat{x} \times \hat{z} = \hat{y} \times \hat{y} = 0$$

$$\hat{y} \times \hat{x} = -\hat{z}$$

$$(\alpha dx, \gamma dx) \times (\beta dy, \delta dy) = \alpha \delta dx dy \hat{z} - \gamma \beta dx dy \hat{z}$$

$$S': |\alpha \delta dx dy - \gamma \beta dx dy| = |\alpha \delta - \gamma \beta| dx dy$$

$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \pm 1$$

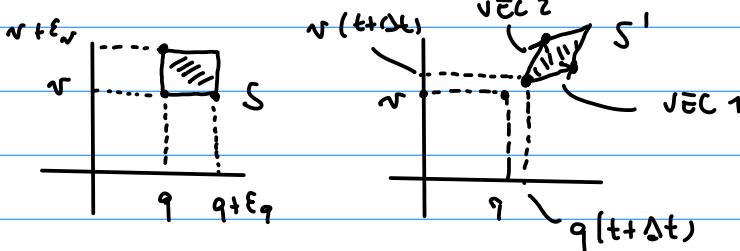
$$\det M$$

eigenvalues

THIS IS ALSO VOLUME PRESERVING

$$q(t + \Delta t) = q(t) + \Delta t \dot{q}(t) + \Delta t^2 \ddot{q}(q(t))$$

$$\dot{q}(t + \Delta t) = \dot{q}(t) + \Delta t \alpha(q(t))$$



$$(q, v) \rightarrow (q + \Delta t \dot{q} + \Delta t^2 \ddot{q}(q), v + \Delta t \alpha(q))$$

$$(q + \epsilon_q, v) \rightarrow (q + \epsilon_q + \Delta t \dot{q} + \Delta t^2 \ddot{q}(q + \epsilon_q), v + \Delta t \alpha(q + \epsilon_q))$$

$$(q, v + \epsilon_v) \rightarrow (q + \Delta t (v + \epsilon_v) + \Delta t^2 \ddot{q}(q), v + \epsilon_v + \Delta t \alpha(q))$$

$$\left| \left(\epsilon_q + \Delta t^2 [\alpha(q + \epsilon_q) - \alpha(q)], \Delta t [\alpha(q + \epsilon_q) - \alpha(q)] \right) \times (\Delta t \epsilon_v, \epsilon_v) \right| =$$

$$= \left| \epsilon_q \epsilon_v + \epsilon_v \Delta t^2 [\dots] - \Delta t^2 \epsilon_v [\dots] \right| = \epsilon_q \epsilon_v$$

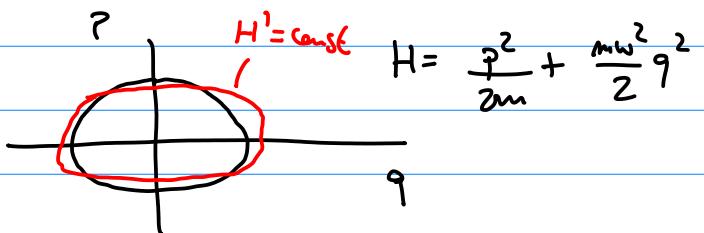
7

RELATED TO THIS THERE IS A CONSERVED QUANTITY

IN HAMILTONIAN DYNAMICS $H = \bar{T} + V$

IN SYMPLECTIC ALGORITHMS H' (PSEUDO-HAMILTONIAN)

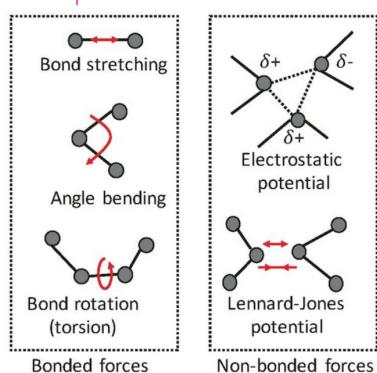
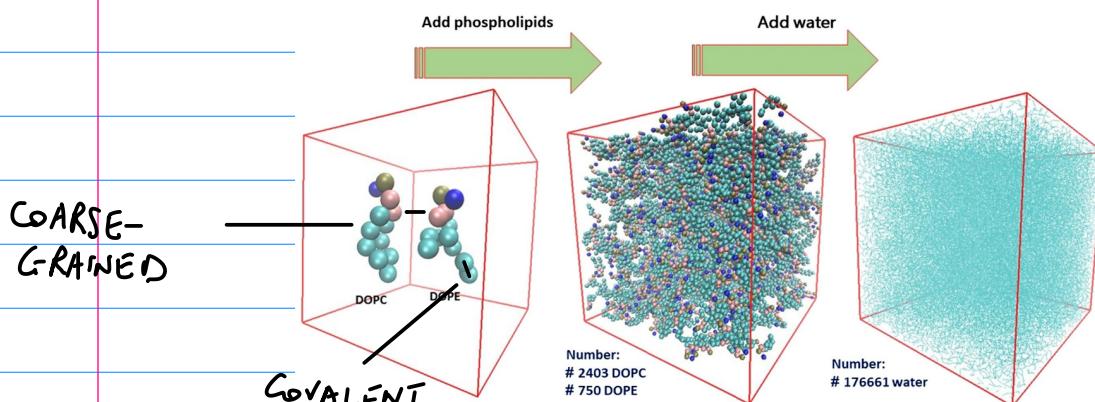
$$H' = H + O(\Delta t^2)$$



1 October
2025

FORCE FIELDS

$$m_i \ddot{\vec{r}}_i = \vec{F}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \vec{F}_{ji} = -\nabla_i V(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)$$



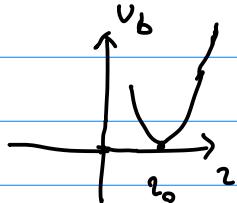
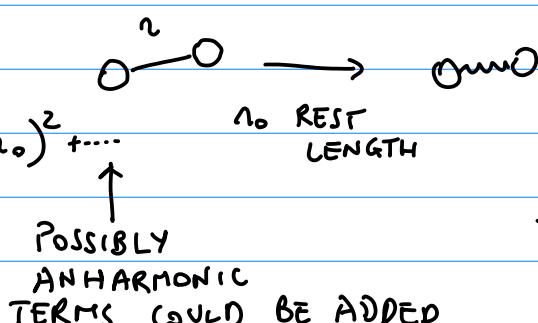
$$V(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N) = V_{\text{bonded}}(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N) + V_{\text{non-bonded}}(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)$$

A) BONDED INTERACTIONS

① MOLECULAR BONDS

HARMONIC POTENTIAL

$$V_b = \frac{k_b}{2} (r - r_0)^2 + \dots$$



FENE: FINITE EXTENSIBLE NON-LINEAR ELASTIC

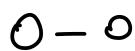
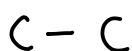
$$V_{\text{FENE}} = -\frac{k_F}{2} b^2 \log\left(1 - \frac{r^2}{b^2}\right)$$

b IS A LENGTH

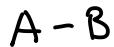
$r \ll b$

$$V_{\text{FENE}} \approx \frac{k_F}{2} b^2 \frac{r^2}{b^2}$$

r CANNOT EXCEED b

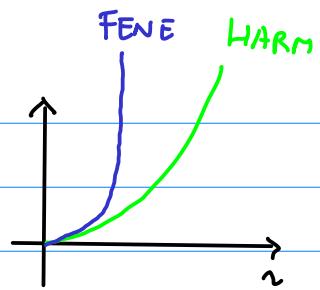


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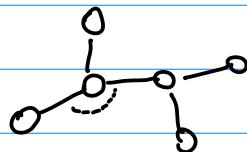


FOR EACH

$$k_b, r_0$$



② ANGLES

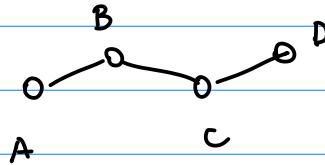


$$V_{\text{angle}} = \frac{k_a}{2} (\theta - \theta_0)^2$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{BC}}{|\vec{AB}| |\vec{BC}|}$$

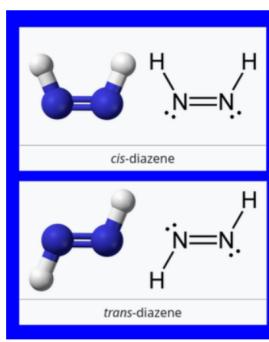
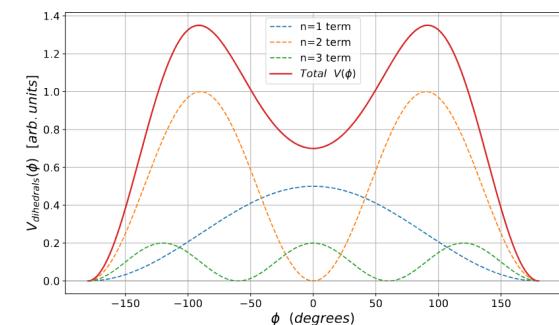
③ DIHEDRAL ANGLES

ABC PLANE
BCD PLANE } φ ANGLE
BETWEEN PLANES



$$\cos \varphi = \frac{(\vec{AB} \times \vec{BC}) \cdot (\vec{BC} \times \vec{CD})}{|\vec{AB} \times \vec{BC}| |\vec{BC} \times \vec{CD}|}$$

$$V_{\text{dih.}} = \sum_m \frac{V_m}{2} [1 + \cos(m\varphi - \gamma_m)]$$



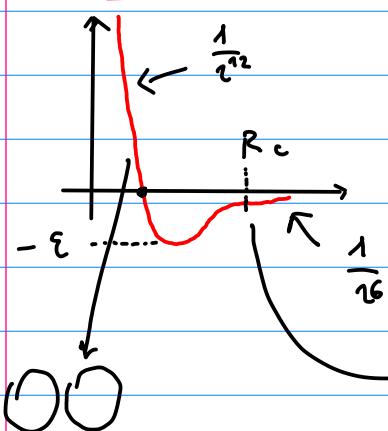
$$m = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} v_1 = 0.5 & \gamma_1 = 0 \\ v_2 = 1 & \gamma_2 = 180^\circ \\ v_3 = 0.2 & \gamma_3 = 0 \end{array}$$

NON-BONDED INTERACTIONS

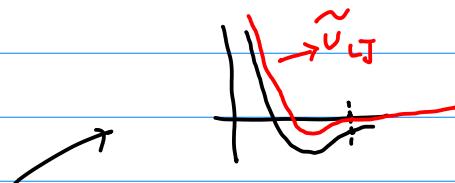
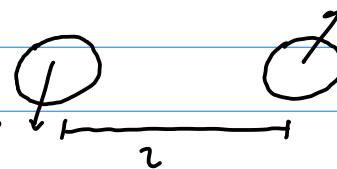
① LENNARD-JONES

$$U_{LJ} = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$



AT LARGE DISTANCES $\sim \frac{1}{r^6}$ ATTRACTION

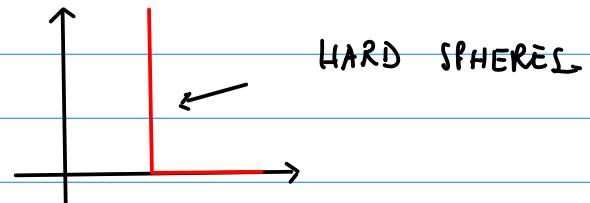
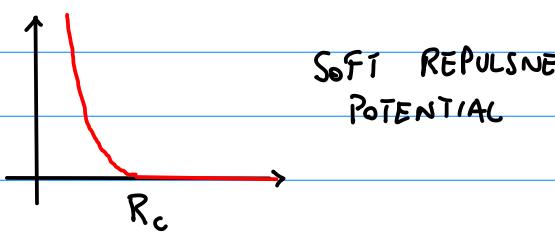
VAN DER WAALS INTERACTION



OFTEN TRUNCATED

$$\tilde{V}_{LJ} = \begin{cases} V_{LJ}(r) - V_{LJ}(R_c) & r \leq R_c \\ 0 & r > R_c \end{cases}$$

TRUNCATION AT MINIMUM (ALSO CALLED WCA)



② CHARGED SYSTEM

$$i \quad j \quad U_{coul} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}}$$

ADVANCED SCHEMES TO DEAL WITH $1/r$ INTERACTION

PARAMETRIZATION

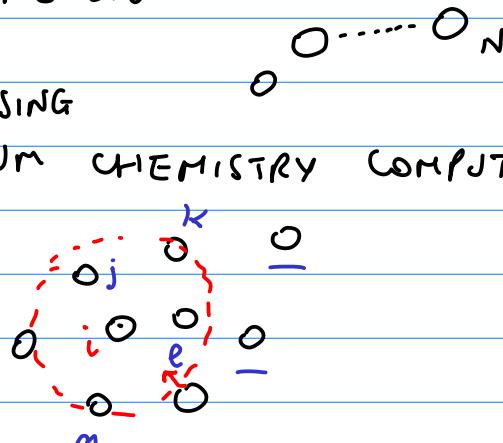
LJ ϵ, σ

U_b k_b, γ_0

SIMULATIONS ON A FEW WELL STUDIED EXPERIMENTAL SYSTEM FOR WHICH QM CALCULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ARE USED TO FIX PARAMETERS

PERIODICALLY REVISED USING MORE EXPT. AND QUANTUM CHEMISTRY COMPUTATIONS

USE LISTS OF INTER. PARTICLES



10

"MEASURING"

$$f(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N, \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_N)$$

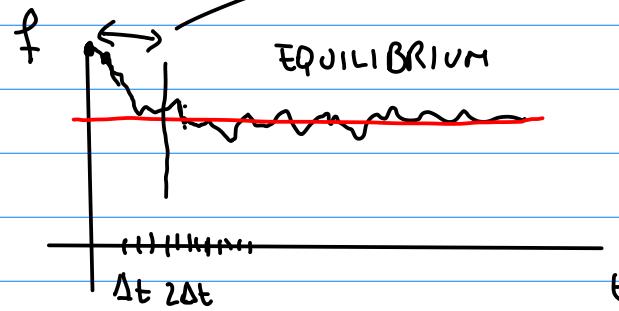
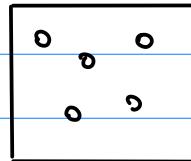
OBSERVABLE

$$K_{\text{TOT}} = \sum_i \frac{m_i \vec{v}_i^2}{2}$$

V_{TOT}

$$r(t) = |\vec{r}_1(t) - \vec{r}_2(t)|$$

POTENTIAL ENERGY

TEMPERATURE?

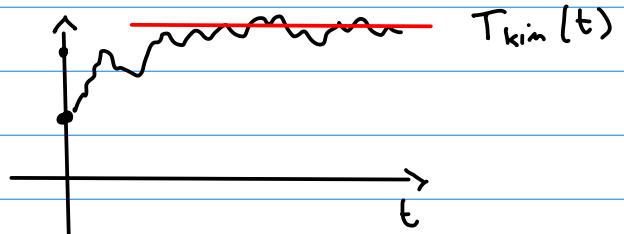
SAY LJ PARTICLES

STAT. MECH. (EQUIPARTITION THEOREM)

$$\langle \sum_i \frac{m_i \vec{v}_i^2}{2} \rangle = \frac{3}{2} N k_B T$$

WE CAN USE THIS TO DEFINE A KINETIC TEMPERATURE

$$T_{\text{kin}}(t) = \frac{1}{3 N k_B} \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i^2(t)$$

PRESSURE?VIRIAL THEOREM
EQ. STAT. MECH.

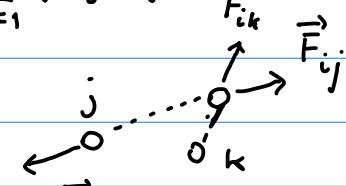
$$\vec{F}_i = \sum_{j \neq i} \vec{F}_{ji}$$

3rd LAW

$$P V = N k_B T + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^N \langle \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{F}_i \rangle \quad \vec{F}_{ik} \quad \vec{F}_{ij}$$

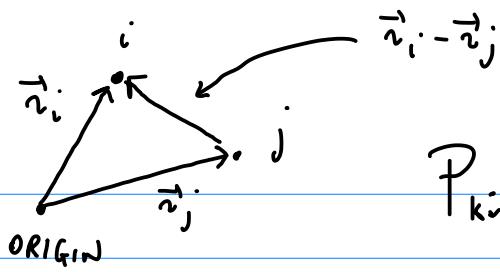
$$\boxed{\vec{F}_{ij} = -\vec{F}_{ji}}$$

$$P_{\text{kin}}(t) = \frac{N k_B}{V} T_{\text{kin}}(t) + \frac{1}{3V} \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{r}_i(t) \cdot \vec{F}_i(t)$$

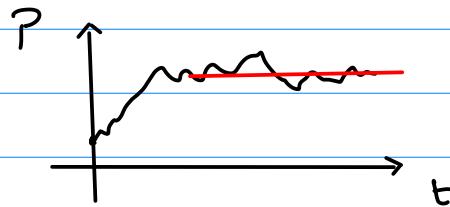


$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{F}_i &= \sum_{ij} \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{F}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (\vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{F}_{ij} + \vec{r}_j \cdot \vec{F}_{ij}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j) \cdot \vec{F}_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

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$$P_{kin}(t) = \frac{Nk_B}{V} T_{kin}(t) - \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i \neq j} \left\langle r_{ij} \frac{dV}{dr_{ij}} \right\rangle$$

15 October
2025

SIMULATIONS AT CONSTANT TEMPERATURE

NVE ENSEMBLE
OR MICROCANONICAL

.	.
.	.
.	.

N PARTICLES
 V VOLUME
 E ENERGY
 $\vec{r}_i(0)$
 $\vec{v}_i(0)$

] FIXES E

$P \propto T$ CAN BE DETERMINED FROM FORMULAS FROM LAST PAGE.

CANONICAL ENSEMBLE

$$\vec{v} = (v_x, v_y, v_z)$$

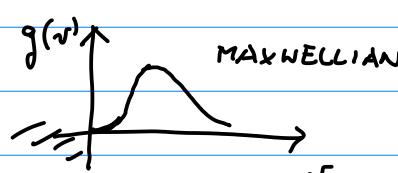
$$P(\vec{v}) = \dots e^{-\beta \frac{mv^2}{2}} = \dots e^{-\frac{\beta mv_x^2}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta mv_y^2}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta mv_z^2}{2}}$$

N_x, N_y, N_z
STAT.
INDEP.

$N = |\vec{v}|$
SPEED 3D

$$g(v) = \dots v^2 e^{-\frac{\beta mv^2}{2}}$$

$v = |\vec{v}| > 0$



$$g(v) = \dots v e^{-\frac{\beta mv^2}{2}}$$



$$P(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N, \vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_N) = \dots e^{-\frac{\sum m_i v_i^2}{2}} e^{-\beta \Phi(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_N)}$$

FOR GAUSSIAN

$$\varphi(x) = A e^{-\alpha x^2}$$

$$\langle \alpha x^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{cases} \langle v_x \rangle = 0 \\ \frac{m}{2} \langle v_x^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{2} \\ 3D: \frac{m \langle \vec{v}^2 \rangle}{2} = \frac{3}{2} k_B T \end{cases}$$

KINETIC TEMPERATURE & EQUILIBRIUM STAT. MECH.

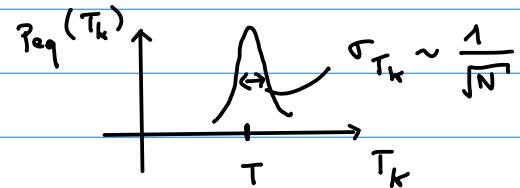
$$T_k(t) = \frac{1}{3Nk_B} \sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{v}_i^2$$

$$\frac{m_i}{2} \langle \vec{v}_i^2 \rangle = \frac{3}{2} k_B T$$

EQUIPARTITION

$$\langle T_k \rangle = T$$

$$\text{VARIANCE } \sigma_{T_k}^2 = \langle T_k^2 \rangle - \langle T_k \rangle^2 = \dots = \frac{2}{3N} T^2$$



USE : VARIANCE OF SUM OF IND. VARIABLES
IS THE SUM OF VARIANCES

$$x \rightarrow \sigma_x^2 = \langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2$$

$$\langle xy \rangle = \langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle$$

$$y \rightarrow \sigma_y^2 = \langle y^2 \rangle - \langle y \rangle^2$$

IND.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{x+y}^2 &= \langle (x+y)^2 \rangle - \langle x+y \rangle^2 = \langle x^2 + y^2 + 2xy \rangle - (\langle x \rangle + \langle y \rangle)^2 = \\ &= \langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle + 2\langle xy \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2 - \langle y \rangle^2 - 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle \\ &= \sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 + 2\cancel{\langle xy \rangle} - 2\cancel{\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

THERMOSTATS* VELOCITY RESCALING

$$T_k(t) = \frac{1}{3Nk_B} \sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{v}_i^2(t)$$

I WANT TO FIX $T = T_0$

AT TIME STEP t $\vec{v}_i(t) \longrightarrow$ CALCULATE $\bar{T}_k(t)$ AND $\lambda(t) = \sqrt{\frac{T_0}{\bar{T}_k(t)}}$
 $\longrightarrow \vec{v}'_i(t) = \lambda(t) \vec{v}_i(t) \longrightarrow$ EVOLVE TO $\vec{v}_i(t+\Delta t)$
 RESCALE ALL VELOCITIES

THIS ENSURES

$$T_k(t) = T_0$$

- ⊕ EASY TO IMPLEMENT
- ⊕ NOT EXACT

* BERENDSEN THERMOSTAT

$$\text{SCALE FACTOR } \lambda^2 = 1 + \frac{\Delta t}{\tau} \frac{T_0 - T_k(t)}{T_k(t)}$$

TIME STEP OF VELOCITY VERLET

CHARACTERISTIC THERMOSTAT TIME

$$\text{IF } \tau_b = \Delta t \Rightarrow \lambda^2 = \frac{T_0}{T_k(t)}$$

$$\text{IF } \tau_b \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \lambda^2 = 1 \quad \text{NOT RESCALING}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{IF } T_k(t) > T_0 & \lambda^2 < 1 \\ T_k(t) < T_0 & \lambda^2 > 1 \end{array} \quad \frac{\tau^2}{T_k} \text{ CAN BE OBTAINED FROM} \\ \text{SIMULATION DATA} \quad \neq \frac{2}{3N} T_0^2$$

⊕ EQUALLY EASY AS VELOCITY RESCALING

⊕ ALLOWS FOR FLUCTUATIONS IN T_k

⊕ DOES NOT REPRODUCE CANONICAL DISTRIBUTION

* ANDERSEN THERMOSTAT

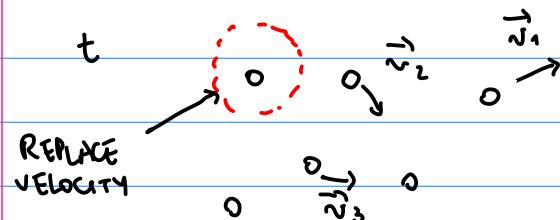
WE HAVE SEEN THAT IN EQUILIBRIUM VELOCITIES ARE

GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTED

$$p(v_x, v_y, v_z) = \dots e^{-\frac{\beta m n_x^2}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta m v_y^2}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta m v_z^2}{2}}$$

- RUN VELOCITY VERLET

- SELECT SOME RANDOM PARTICLES

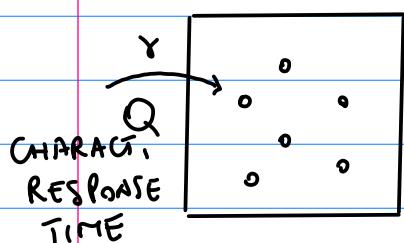
- SUBSTITUTE VELOCITIES WITH \vec{v} SELECTED FROM p IT DOES NOT REPRODUCE
CANONICAL FLUCTUATIONS

* NOSE-HOOVER THERMOSTAT

IDEA: COUPLE THE DYNAMICS TO ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL DEGREES OF FREEDOM

$$\begin{array}{l} E, N, J \text{ FIXED} \\ \ddot{\vec{r}}_i = \frac{\vec{F}_i}{m_i} \end{array} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ddot{\vec{r}}_i = \frac{\vec{F}_i}{m_i} - \gamma \dot{\vec{r}}_i \\ \dot{\gamma} = \frac{1}{Q} \left(\sum_i m_i \dot{\vec{r}}_i^2 - 3Nk_B T_0 \right) \end{array} \right.$$

2 - KINETIC ENERGY



γ CAN HAVE BOTH SIGNS

IT CAN BE SHOWN REPRODUCES EXACTLY THE CANONICAL ENSEMBLE

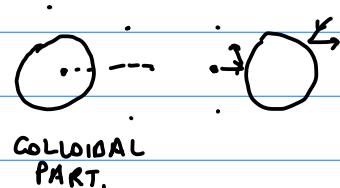
SEE Book FRENKEL & SMIT "UNDERSTANDING MOLECULAR SIMULATIONS"

HERE $\sigma_{T_k}^2 = \frac{2}{3N} T_0^2$

22 October
2025

LANGEVIN DYNAMICS

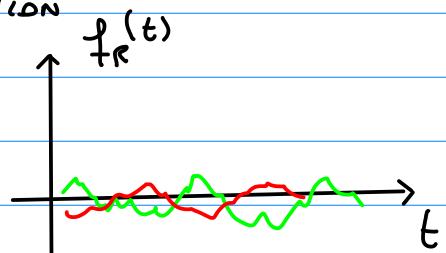
LARGE PARTICLE IMMersed IN A "SOLVANT"



$$m \ddot{\vec{r}} = \vec{F} - m \gamma \dot{\vec{r}} + \vec{f}_R$$

DETERMINISTIC FORCE TRACTION RANDOM FORCE

LANGEVIN EQUATION



$$\rightarrow \langle \vec{f}_R(t) \rangle = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \langle \vec{f}_R(t) \vec{f}_R(t') \rangle = 2A S(t-t')$$

TEMPERATURE
DEPENDENT

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$$m\ddot{r} = F - my\dot{r} + f_R$$

"0"

 $F=0$ LINEAR

$$\text{FIRST SOLVE } m\ddot{r} = -my\dot{r} \Rightarrow r(t) = C e^{-yt}$$

VARIATION OF CONSTANT $r(t) = C(t)e^{-yt}$

$$\dot{r} = -y\dot{r} + \frac{1}{m} f_R$$

~~$$\dot{C}e^{-yt} - yC e^{-yt} = -yC e^{-yt} + \frac{1}{m} f_R$$~~

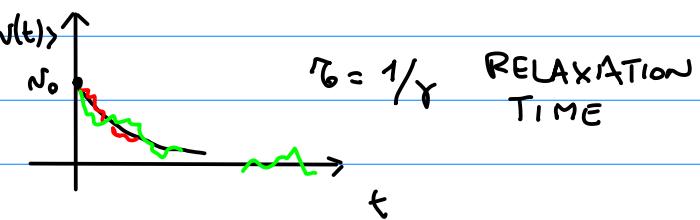
$$\dot{C} = \frac{e^{-yt}}{m} f_R$$

$$C(t) = C_0 + \frac{1}{m} \int_0^t e^{ys} f_R(s) ds$$

$$\Rightarrow r(t) = r_0 e^{-yt} + \frac{e^{-yt}}{m} \int_0^t e^{ys} f_R(s) ds$$

$$r(0) = r_0$$

$$\langle r(t) \rangle = r_0 e^{-yt}$$

REALIZATIONS
OF f_R 

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (r(t) - r_0 e^{-yt})^2 \rangle &= \frac{e^{-2yt}}{m^2} \int_0^t e^{y(s+s')} \langle f_R(s) f_R(s') \rangle ds ds' \\ &= 2A \frac{e^{-2yt}}{m^2} \int_0^t e^{2ys} ds = 2A \frac{e^{-2yt}}{m^2} \frac{1}{2y} (e^{2yt} - 1) = \frac{A}{m^2 y} (1 - e^{-2yt}) \end{aligned}$$

AT LONG TIMES $t \gg \frac{1}{y} = \tau$ RELAXATION TIME

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r^2(t) \rangle &= \frac{A}{m^2 y} \\ \text{Equip.} | &= \frac{k_B T}{m} \end{aligned}$$

IN EQUILIBRIUM STAT. MECH.

EQUIPARTITION HOLDS

$$\langle m \frac{v^2}{2} \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{2}$$

THIS FIXES A \Rightarrow

$$\boxed{A = my k_B T}$$

$$\text{GIVEN } r(t) \text{ WE GET } x(t) = x_0 + \int_0^t r(s) ds$$

MEAN SQUARED DISPLACEMENT

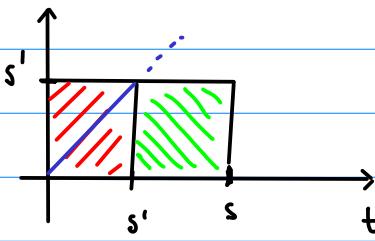
$$\langle (x(t) - x_0)^2 \rangle = \int_0^t \langle r(s) r(s') \rangle ds ds'$$

$$r(s) = r_0 e^{-ys} + \frac{e^{-ys}}{m} \int_0^s e^{\delta t} f_R(t) dt$$

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$$\langle v(s)v(s') \rangle = v_0^2 e^{-\gamma(s+s')} + \frac{e^{-\gamma(s+s')}}{m^2} \int_0^s dt \int_0^{s'} dt' e^{\gamma(t+t')} \langle f_R(t)f_R(t') \rangle$$

||
 $2m\gamma k_B T f(t-t')$



$$= v_0^2 e^{-\gamma(s+s')} + e^{-\gamma(s+s')} \frac{2\gamma k_B T}{m} \int_0^{\min(s,s')} dt e^{2\gamma t}$$

$$= v_0^2 e^{-\gamma(s+s')} + \frac{2\gamma k_B T}{m} e^{-\gamma(s+s')} \frac{1}{2\gamma} \left(e^{2\gamma \min(s,s')} - 1 \right)$$

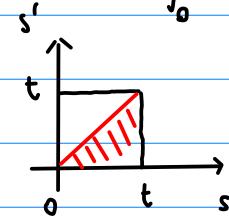
$$\langle v(s)v(s') \rangle = \left(v_0^2 - \frac{k_B T}{m} \right) e^{-\gamma(s+s')} + \frac{k_B T}{m} e^{-\gamma|s-s'|} \quad s+s'-2\min(s,s') = |s-s'|$$

$$\langle (x(t)-x_0)^2 \rangle = \int_0^t \langle v(s)v(s') \rangle ds ds' = \dots$$

$$= \left(v_0^2 - \frac{k_B T}{m} \right) \left(\frac{1-e^{-\gamma t}}{\gamma} \right)^2 + \frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma} \left[t - \frac{1}{\gamma} (1-e^{-\gamma t}) \right]$$

TIP

$$\int_0^t e^{-\gamma|s-s'|} ds ds' = 2 \int_0^t ds \int_0^s ds' e^{-\gamma(s-s')}$$



$$\gamma t \ll 1 \quad \langle (x(t)-x_0)^2 \rangle \approx v_0^2 t^2 \quad \text{BALLISTIC}$$

$$\gamma t \gg 1 \quad \langle (x(t)-x_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \left(v_0^2 - \frac{k_B T}{m} \right) + \frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma} \left(t - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right) = \dots + \frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma} t$$

DIFFUSIVE BEHAVIOR $\approx 2Dt$

\uparrow
DOMINATES

$D = \frac{k_B T}{m\gamma}$

EINSTEIN RELATION

OVERDAMPED LIMIT OF LANGMUIR EQUATION

$$m\ddot{x} = F - m\gamma \dot{x} + f_R$$

IF $F=0$ $\dot{x} = \frac{1}{m\gamma} f_R$

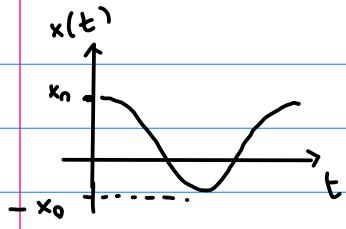
$$x(t) = x_0 + \frac{1}{m\gamma} \int_0^t f_R(s) ds$$

$$\langle (x(t)-x_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{m^2 \gamma^2} \int_0^t \langle f_R(s) f_R(s') \rangle ds ds' = \frac{2m\gamma k_B T}{(m\gamma)^2} t = \frac{2k_B T}{m} t$$

$2m\gamma k_B T \delta(s-s')$

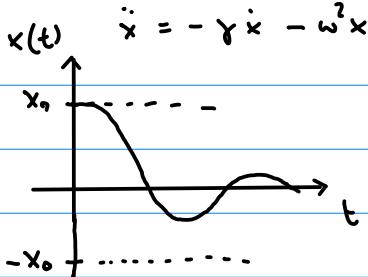
HARMONIC OSCILLATOR

$$m\ddot{x} = -m\omega^2 x$$

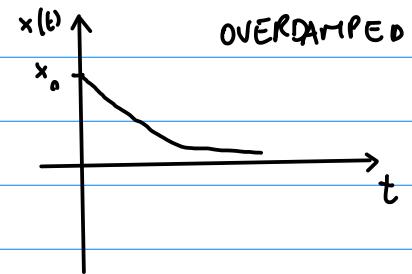


+ FRICTION

$$m\ddot{x} = -m\gamma \dot{x} - m\omega^2 x$$



$$\ddot{x} = -\gamma \dot{x} - \omega^2 x$$



OVERDAMPED

$$y = \dot{x}$$

$$\ddot{y} = -\gamma \dot{y} - \omega^2 x$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\omega^2 & -\gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

IF $\gamma < 0$ PURELY IMAGINARY EIGENVALUES $\lambda_{\pm} = \pm i\omega$

$$e^{\lambda_+ t} \quad e^{\lambda_- t}$$

IF $\gamma > 0$ $\lambda_{\pm} = -\gamma \pm i\sqrt{\omega^2 - \gamma^2}$
(SMALL)OVERDAMPED LIMIT $\dot{x} = -\frac{\omega^2}{\gamma} x$

NUMERICAL INTEGRATION OF LANGEVIN EQUATION

$$m\ddot{x} = F - m\gamma \dot{x} + \sqrt{2m\gamma k_B T} \xi$$

$$\langle \eta(t) \rangle = 0 \quad \langle \eta(t) \eta(t') \rangle = \delta(t-t')$$

$$\dot{w} = \eta \quad w(s) = \int_0^s \eta(t) dt \quad \langle w(s) w(s') \rangle = \min(s, s') \Rightarrow \langle w^2(s) \rangle = s$$

$$\langle (w(t+\Delta t) - w(t))^2 \rangle = \langle w^2(t+\Delta t) \rangle + \langle w^2(t) \rangle - 2 \langle w(t+\Delta t) w(t) \rangle \\ = t + \Delta t + t - 2t = \Delta t$$

WE CAN GENERATE

$$w(t+\Delta t) = w(t) + \sqrt{\Delta t} \xi$$

 ξ GAUSSIAN RANDOM VARIABLE

$$\langle \xi \rangle = 0 \quad \langle \xi^2 \rangle = 1$$

OVERDAMPED LIMIT ($\ddot{x} \rightarrow 0$)

$$\dot{x} = \frac{F}{m\gamma} + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma}} \eta(t) \quad \eta(t) \sim \text{Gaussian}$$

$$\frac{x(t+\Delta t) - x(t)}{\Delta t} = \frac{F(x(t))}{m\gamma} + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma}} \frac{w(t+\Delta t) - w(t)}{\Delta t}$$

RANDOM VARIABLE

$$x(t+\Delta t) = x(t) + \frac{1}{m\gamma} F(x(t)) \Delta t + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma} \Delta t} \xi$$

ASSOCIATED TO STOCHASTIC FORCE

Second order integrator of the Langevin equation

UPDATING
POSITION &
VELOCITIE

$$\sigma \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} r(t + \Delta t) &= r(t) + \Delta t v(t) + C(t) \\ v(t + \Delta t) &= v(t) + \frac{\Delta t}{2} [f(r(t + \Delta t)) + f(r(t))] - \Delta t \gamma v(t) \\ &\quad + \sigma \sqrt{\Delta t} \xi(t) - \gamma C(t) \\ \Rightarrow C(t) &= \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} [f(r(t)) - \gamma v(t)] + \sigma \underline{\Delta t^{3/2}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi(t) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \theta(t) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (98)$$

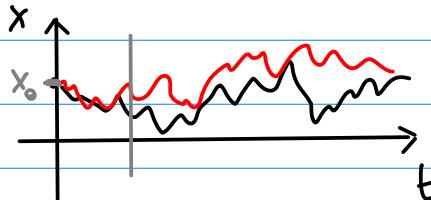
Note: The integrator reduces to the Velocity Verlet integrator if $\gamma = 0$ and $\sigma = 0$.

LANGEVIN
EQUATION

$$\dot{x} = a_1(x) + \sqrt{a_2(x)} \xi(t) \quad \langle \xi \rangle = 0 \quad \langle \xi(t) \xi(t') \rangle = f(t-t')$$

BEFORE $a_1 = 0$ OR $a_1 = -\frac{k}{m\gamma} x$ --- DETERMINISTIC FORCE

$$a_2 = \frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma}$$



$$\frac{\partial P(x,t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[a_1(x) P(x,t) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left[a_2(x) P(x,t) \right] \quad P(x,t) \text{ PROB. DISTRIB.}$$

ALSO CALLED SMOUCHOWSKI EQUATION

$$\text{AT EQUILIBRIUM } t \rightarrow \infty \quad P(x,t) \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} P_{eq}(x) = \dots e^{-\beta V(x)}$$

IN OUR CASE

$$a_1 = \frac{F(x)}{m\gamma} \quad a_2 = \frac{2k_B T}{m\gamma} = 2D$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{F(x)}{m\gamma} P(x,t) \right]$$

* IF $F = 0$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{DIFFUSION EQUATION}$$

* $\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[-D \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{F}{m\gamma} P \right] = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} j \quad \text{CONTINUITY EQUATION}$

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CONTINUITY EQ. \Rightarrow CONSERVED QUANTITY

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P(x, t) dx = \text{CONSTANT}$$

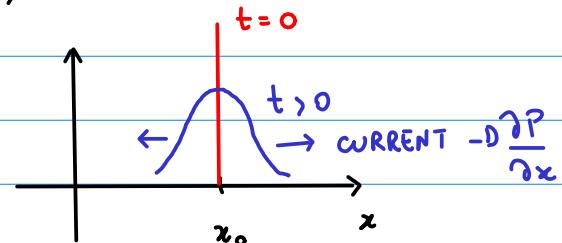
(TIME INDEP.)

$$j = -D \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{F}{m\gamma} P = -D \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{m\gamma} \frac{dV}{dx} P$$

DIFFUSION DRIFT

SOLUTION OF DIFFUSION EQUATION ($\bar{t} = 0$) WITH $P(x, 0) = \delta(x - x_0)$

$$P(x, t | x_0, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi D t}} e^{-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{4Dt}}$$

REWRITE TOTAL CURRENT AS ($D = \frac{k_B T}{m\gamma}$ EINSTEIN RELATION)

$$j = -D \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \beta D \frac{dV}{dx} P = -D \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[e^{\beta V(x)} P(x, t) \right]$$

NOTE: IN EQUILIBRIUM $P_{eq}(x) = \dots e^{-\beta V(x)}$ $\Rightarrow j_{eq} = 0$ AS EXPECTED

SEE (NEW) PROBLEM 13.7

13.7 Overdamped harmonic oscillator

The solution of the Fokker-Planck equation for an overdamped harmonic oscillator with potential energy $V(x) = kx^2/2$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 P(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{kx}{\gamma} P(x, t) \right]$$

NOTE SOMETIMES WE USE $m\gamma$

with initial condition $P(x, 0) = \delta(x - x_0)$ is

$$P(x, t) = \left(\frac{\Omega e^{\Omega t}}{4\pi D \operatorname{sh} \Omega t} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{\Omega}{4D} \frac{(xe^{\Omega t/2} - x_0 e^{-\Omega t/2})^2}{\operatorname{sh} \Omega t} \right]$$

where we defined $\Omega \equiv Dk/k_B T$.

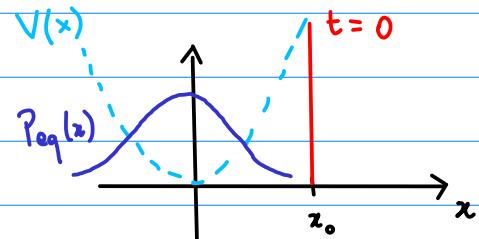
RECALL $\Omega t \ll 1$ $e^{\pm \Omega t} \approx 1 \pm \Omega t$

$\operatorname{sh} \Omega t \approx \Omega t$

INDEED $P(x, t) \rightarrow \delta(x - x_0)$

$\Omega t \gg 1$

$P(x, t) \rightarrow P_{eq}(x)$



```
# Langevin dynamics: overdamped harmonic oscillator
import numpy as np
import scipy.special as spc
import scipy.optimize as opt
import scipy.integrate as integrate
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from scipy.integrate import quad
import cmath

nsteps=20000
# Temperature & timesteps
T=0.1; dt=0.05; sqdt=np.sqrt(T*dt)
plt.title("Overdamped harmonic oscillator")

x=np.zeros(nsteps)
rdd=np.random.randn(nsteps)
x[0]=1;

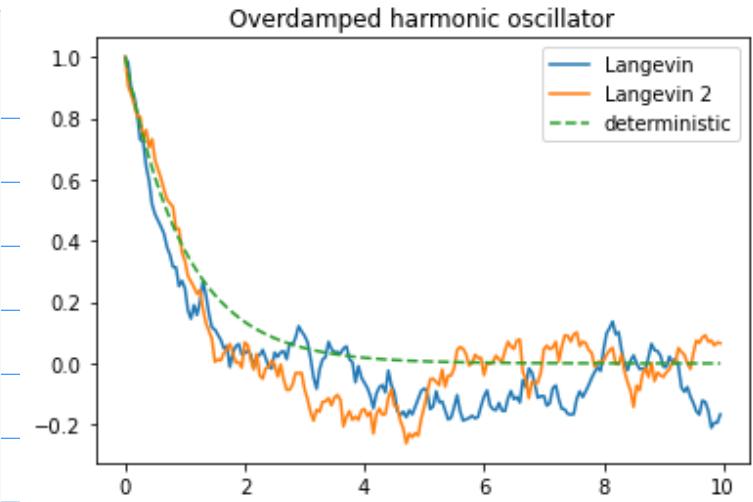
for i in range(nsteps-1):
    x[i+1]=x[i]-x[i]*dt+sqdt*rdd[i]

tmn=np.array(range(nsteps))*dt
plt.plot(tmn,x,label='Langevin')

rdd=np.random.randn(nsteps)
for i in range(nsteps-1):
    x[i+1]=x[i]-x[i]*dt+sqdt*rdd[i]
plt.plot(tmn,x,label='Langevin 2')
plt.plot(tmn,x[0]*np.exp(-tmn), '--', label='deterministic')

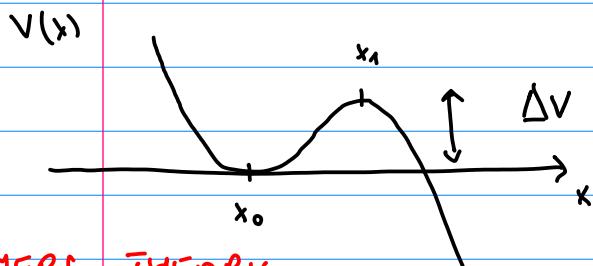
plt.legend()
plt.show()

plt.hist(x[100:],30)
y=np.linspace(-1,1,200)
plt.plot(y,2000*np.exp(-y**2/T))
plt.show()
```



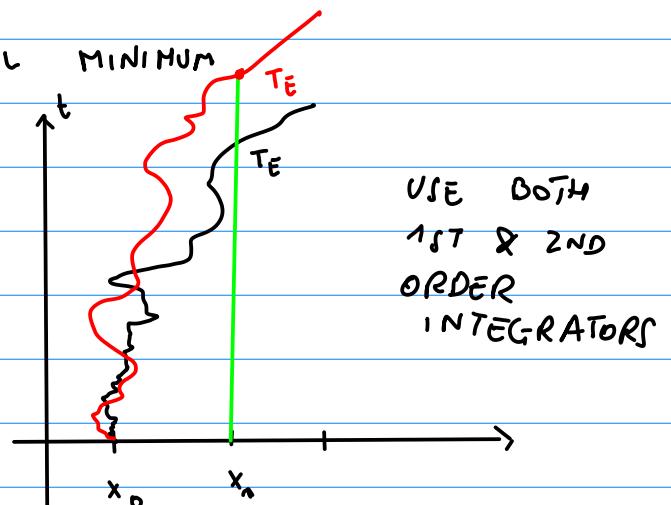
USE THIS TO COMPUTE $P(x,t)$
FOR A FEW TIMES $t_1 < t_2 < \dots$

PROBLEM 13.6 : ESCAPE FROM POTENTIAL



KRAMERS THEORY

$$\text{ESCAPE RATE } K = \frac{1}{N} \sum \frac{1}{T_E(n)} = \frac{\omega_w \omega_r}{2\pi r} e^{-\beta \Delta V}$$



$$V(x) \approx V(x_0) + \frac{\omega_w^2}{2} (x - x_0)^2$$

$$V(x) \approx V(x_1) - \frac{\omega_r^2}{2} (x - x_1)^2$$

