

# Volumetric expansion of $\text{Li}_x\text{S}$ compounds and discharge voltage profile with larger polysulfides

MSE 6270: Introduction to Atomistic Simulations  
Final Project

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## 1 Outline

Brief Description Using ReaxFF (bond order) potential study effect of volume expansion when introducing varying concentrations of Li into alpha-phase Sulfur using NPT simulation (previously published by van Duin) and extend to larger polysulfides ( $\text{Li}_2\text{S}_y$  where  $y=1,2,3,4,5,8$ ). Voltage profile relative to  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}^+$  can be calculated from ground state energy using heuristic optimization such as genetic algorithm for structure and phase prediction (GASP).

### 1.1 Project Plan

1. Abstract
2. Introduction/Motivation
3. Details on Building Systems (6  $\text{Li}_x\text{S}$  systems) [Avogadro -> Packmol -> VMD -> LAMMPS]
4. Details on Building Systems (6  $\text{Li}_x\text{S}_y$  systems) [Avogadro -> Packmol -> VMD -> LAMMPS]
5. Heating (annealing) Simulation to get amorphous structure (300K -> 1600K)
6. Discharge Voltage Profile (GC-MC/MD)
7. (If time:) Re-run 3-6 with OPLS-All instead of ReaxFF, compare results
8. Volume Expansion calculation and Comparison with Experiment
9. Diffusion Coefficient Calculation

### 1.2 Questions:

1. Is using LAMMPS in addition to-/instead of- the MSE627-MD code allowed?
2. Need to describe potential in report? To what detail?
3. van Duin uses  $\text{dT} = 0.25$  fs,  $T = 1$  ns (4M timesteps). On Rivanna single-node it will take ~18 hours. Ok to do this?
4. Cannot use GASP+DFT in time to find formation energies, ok to estimate values from figure in published paper? Needed to calculate voltage profile.

### 1.3 Buildling system

1. Build 1 molecule of  $\alpha$ -S<sub>8</sub> (octocyclo...) in Avogardo export as PDB:

```

1  COMPND      UNNAMED
2  AUTHOR      GENERATED BY OPEN BABEL 2.3.90
3  HETATM      1  S      UNL      1      4.721      4.648      2.201      1.00      0.00      S
4  HETATM      2  S      UNL      1      5.762      3.681      3.640      1.00      0.00      S
5  HETATM      3  S      UNL      1      5.595      1.680      3.260      1.00      0.00      S
6  HETATM      4  S      UNL      1      4.151      0.975      4.541      1.00      0.00      S
7  HETATM      5  S      UNL      1      2.418      0.833      3.468      1.00      0.00      S
8  HETATM      6  S      UNL      1      1.300      2.475      3.950      1.00      0.00      S
9  HETATM      7  S      UNL      1      1.532      3.809      2.421      1.00      0.00      S
10 HETATM      8  S      UNL      1      2.911      5.181      3.045      1.00      0.00      S
11 CONECT      1      2      8
12 CONECT      2      1      3
13 CONECT      3      2      4
14 CONECT      4      3      5
15 CONECT      5      4      6
16 CONECT      6      5      7
17 CONECT      7      6      8
18 CONECT      8      7      1
19 MASTER      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      8      0      8      0
20 END

```

Listing 1: PDB file for Sulfur ring.

1. Build 1 molecule of Li in Avogardo export as PDB:

```

1  COMPND      Lithium
2  AUTHOR      GENERATED BY OPEN BABEL 2.3.90
3  HETATM      1  LI      UNL      1      -0.576      1.200      0.000      1.00      0.00      Li
4  MASTER      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      1      0      1      0
5  END

```

Listing 2: PDB file for Lithium atom.

1. Use Packmol to mix 2048 atoms of  $\alpha$ -S<sub>8</sub> and Li in various ratios Li<sub>x</sub>S:

```

1  #
2  # A mixture of Li and S 1:1
3  #
4
5  # All the atoms from diferent molecules will be separated at least 2.0
6  # Anstroms at the solution.
7
8  tolerance 2.0
9
10 # The file type of input and output files is PDB
11
12 filetype pdb
13
14 # The name of the output file
15
16 output Li1S.pdb

```

```

17
18 # 2048 S molecules and 2048 Li molecules will be put in a box
19 # defined by the minimum coordinates x, y and z = 0. 0. 0. and maximum
20 # coordinates 65.96 65.96 65.96 That is, they will be put in a cube of side
21 # 65.96 (the keyword "inside cube 0. 0. 0. 65.96") could be used as well.
22
23 structure S8.pdb
24     number 256
25     inside box 0. 0. 0. 65.96 65.96 65.96
26 end structure
27
28 structure Li.pdb
29     number 2048
30     inside box 0. 0. 0. 65.96 65.96 65.96
31 end structure

```

Listing 3: Packmol input file.

#### 1. Open pdb file with VMD:

- /Applications/VMD\ 1.9.3.app/Contents/vmd/vmd<sub>MACOSXX86</sub> Li1s.Pdb
- Command: package require topotools
- Command: topo writelammpsdata data.Li1S molecular

x	Atoms of S : Atoms of Li ratio	Square Box Size [Å]
0.4	2048 S : 820 Li	41.32
0.8	2048 S : 1611 Li	44.42
1.0	2048 S : 2048 Li	45.96
1.2	2048 S : 2428 Li	47.22
1.6	2048 S : 3222 Li	49.66
2.0	2048 S : 1024 Li	52.09

- To calculate simulation box size:

1. Molar Volume of Sulfur is  $15.53 \text{ cm}^3/\text{mole} = 25.78 \text{ Angstrom}^3/\text{atom}$
2. Molar Volume of Lithium is  $13.02 \text{ cm}^3/\text{mole} = 21.62 \text{ Angstrom}^3/\text{atom}$
3. Cube root of (Molar Volume (in  $\text{Angstrom}^3/\text{atom}$ ) \* # of atoms (Li,S))

### 1.4 Create amorphous structure

1. Slowly heat to  $T = 1600 \text{ K}$  using NVT ( $V = ???$ )

see LAMMPS Tdamp in fix nvt doc page also Tstart Tstop

```

1 # LAMMPS Input file: ReaxFF potential for LiS system
2
3 # Intialization
4 units          real
5 boundary       p p p
6 atom_style     charge
7 read_data      data.Li1S
8
9 # Atom Definition
10 # reax args:

```

```

11 # hbcut hbnewflag tripflag precision
12 pair_style reax 6.0 1 1 1.0e-6
13 pair_coeff * *ffield.reax 7 4
14
15 compute reax all pair reax
16
17 variable eb equal c_reax[1]
18 variable ea equal c_reax[2]
19 variable elp equal c_reax[3]
20 variable emol equal c_reax[4]
21 variable ev equal c_reax[5]
22 variable epen equal c_reax[6]
23 variable ecoa equal c_reax[7]
24 variable ehb equal c_reax[8]
25 variable et equal c_reax[9]
26 variable eco equal c_reax[10]
27 variable ew equal c_reax[11]
28 variable ep equal c_reax[12]
29 variable efi equal c_reax[13]
30 variable eqeq equal c_reax[14]
31
32 # Neighbor list cutoff
33 # 2.5 Angstrom (2 is more typical?)
34 neighbor 2.5 bin
35
36 # Rebuild neighbor list:
37 # delay value = N
38 # N = delay building until this many steps since last build
39 # every value = M
40 # M = build neighbor list every this many steps
41 # check value = yes or no
42 # yes = only build if some atom has moved half the skin distance or more
43 # no = always build on 1st step that every and delay are satisfied
44 neigh_modify every 10 delay 0 check no
45
46 # Timestep of iteration [fs]
47 # van Duin paper uses 0.25 fs
48 timestep 1.0
49
50 dump 1 all custom 10 dump.Li1S.lmp id type q xs ys zs
51
52 dump 2 all image 25 image.*.jpg type type &
53 axes yes 0.8 0.02 view 60 -30
54 dump_modify 2 pad 3
55
56 #dump 3 all movie 25 movie.mpg type type &
57 # axes yes 0.8 0.02 view 60 -30
58 #dump_modify 3 pad 3
59
60 # Run for # of timesteps (NOT [fs])
61 # Example: with 0.25 fs timestep, 1 ns = 4,000,000 timesteps
62 run 100

```

Listing 4: Annealing simulation in LAMMPS

1. Quench heated structure to  $T = 300$  K using NPT ( $P = 1$  atm)

## 2 Reference values

Density of a-Si<sub>8</sub> = 2.07 g/cm<sup>3</sup> = 0.086 g/Angstrom<sup>3</sup>

Volume of 1 S<sub>8</sub> = 0.086 Angstrom<sup>3</sup> Total volume = (2048 Atoms / 8 Atoms/Molecular) \* Volume of 1 Molecular = 22.016

## 3 Changes to van Duin ReaxFF Force Field file

1. Had to remove off-diagonal parameters between irrelevant atoms (Rivanna compiles with max=20 off-diagonal elements, van Duin has 31 in his 11-atom potential. We only need to look at 2 atoms).

## 4 Notes

- Use \$LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH to find LAMMPS lib dir!
- **Library path on Rivanna:** /apps/software/standard/mpi/intel/16.0/openmpi/2.1.1/lammps/2017-08-11:/share/rciapps/intel/2016.2/openmpi-2.1.1/lib:/share/rciapps/intel/2016.2/openmpi-2.1.1/lib/openmpi:/share/rciapps/intel/2016.2/openmpi-2.1.1/lib/openmpi
- export above at \$MYTEST
- find \${MYTEST}/:/ } -name reax<sub>inout</sub>.F -print -quit
- Rearrange Packmol output data file columns via: awk '{ print \$1 " " \$3 " " \$2 " " \$4 " " \$5 " " \$6}' test > new<sub>test</sub>