Molecular equilibrium sampling and free energy computations: some open topics

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- Joint work with: T. Lelièvre and G. Stoltz (MicMac INRIA project team, ENPC, Marne-la-Vallée, France). Talk mainly based on ideas out of:
 - 11' T. Lelièvre, MR and G. Stoltz: Langevin dynamics with constraints and computation of free energy differences.
 - 10' T. Lelièvre, MR and G. Stoltz: Free energy computation: a mathematical perspective.
- In this talk, I will focus on:
 Errors in equilibrium sampling and free energy computation of molecular systems coupled to a thermostat (NVT = fixed number of particles, volume and temperature).

- Errors is a puzzling aspect of the field: everyone computes but no one knows how far we are from "reality".
- In this talk I will NOT focus on:
 - Extraction of dynamical quantities (exit times, Transition State Theory, etc..)
 - Computation of non-equilibrium steady states.
 - Errors in computation of (effective) potentials quantum chemistry.

- There are still open questions from the mathematical/theoretical side.
- In particular some source of errors remained uncontrolled , e.g.:
 - Time-step errors.
 - Quantum corrections.
 - Model reduction.
- Important in practice:
 - To track the origin of errors/aberrations in simulations.
 - To increase efficiency by focusing on the bottlenecks errors.

OVERVIEW ON MOLECULAR SAMPLING AND FREE ENERGY

REALITY HAS AN EQUATION !!. N = number of atoms. Globally neutral.

• Building block: Full Schrödinger operator (q position of nuclei, x position of electrons, Z_i = number of protons in nucleus i, N_i = number of neutrons in nucleus i) in atomic units:

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon^2 = \frac{m_e}{m_p} \sim 10^{-3}, \\ H_n = -\sum_{i \in \text{nuc}} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2(Z_i + N_i)} \Delta_{q_i} + \sum_{i \in \text{nuc}, j \in \text{nuc}} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|q_j - q_i|}, \\ H_e = -\frac{1}{2} \Delta_x + \sum_{i \in e, j \in e} \frac{1}{|x_j - x_i|}, \\ V_c(x, q) = -\sum_{i \in \text{nuc}, j \in e} \frac{Z_i}{|x_j - q_i|}, \\ H_{tot} = H_p + H_e + V_c \times, \end{cases}$$

- You need to add spin variable to electrons and skew-symmetry constraint.
- Schrödinger equation: $i \varepsilon \partial_t \psi = H_{tot} \psi$.
- Usual temperature, in atomic unit, is small: $\beta \sim 10^3$.

- Standard route: the Born-Oppenheimer approximation:
 - Electrons are fast (in fact stationary) and nuclei are slow.
 - So that you neglect coupling between eigenstates of the electrons (adiabatic assumption).
 - You get the decoupled equations for $k = 0 \dots \infty$:

$$\begin{cases} i \varepsilon \partial_t \Psi_n = H_n \Psi_n + E_e^k(q) \times \Psi_n, \\ (H_e + V_c(.,q) \Psi_{e,q} = E_e^k(q) \Psi_{e,q} & \text{(k-th eigenvalue problem).} \end{cases}$$

• Taking $\varepsilon \to 0$ (semi-classical limit), and k = 0 (groundstate), we get ab-inito classical dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_i \ddot{q_i} &= - \nabla_{q_i} E_e^0(q), \quad i = 1 \dots N. \\ (H_e + V_c(.,q)) \Psi_{e,q} &= E_e^0(q) \Psi_{e,q} \end{aligned}$$
 (eigenvalue/minimization problem).

It is the standard ab-initio model for MD.

- In many cases effective potentials are used with 2,3,4- body effective potentials.
- Even if untrue in practice, we assume that we have a standard matching procedure (MP) to compute effective potentials *n*-body potentials from any *N*-body potential:

molecular system $\xrightarrow{MP} (V_n(q_{i_1}, \ldots, q_{i_n}), i_1 \ldots i_n \in C_N^n, n = 2 \ldots N)$

- In principle: independant of ε , β , Δt . Computed from idealized quantum calculation, not by fitting parameters to reality !!
- This step requires a lot of quantum chemistery, and sometimes kitchen/crystal ball science (CHARMM force field).
- Other topic: Coarse-graining = model reduction in ${}^{6\tilde{N}}$ models ($\tilde{N} < N$ meta-atoms).

- Short range interaction (covalent): Rapidly oscillating quantity ($\sim 10^{-15}$ s).
- Large range interaction (electrostatic): ($\sim 10^{-12}$ s).
- Reaction coordinates (slow macroscopic variables $\sim 10^{-9}$ s, limit of computational range):

$$\xi_{\text{slow}}: \mathbb{R}^{3N} \to \mathbb{R}$$

Example:



Dynamical barriers = metastability = exponential slowdown of equilibrium convergence:

Energetic (low temperature) or entropic (high temperature) barriers:





- Introduction of a coupling with a thermostat of temperature, $\beta^{-1} = k_b T$.
- Ergodic assumption:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mbox{Time average} & = & \mbox{Spatial average} \\ \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \varphi(q(t)) \, dt & \xrightarrow{T \to \infty} & \langle \varphi \rangle \end{array}$$

Typical configurations given by Boltzmann Law (NVT case):

$$\langle \varphi \rangle = \frac{\int \varphi(q) e^{-\beta V(q)} dq}{\int e^{-\beta V(q)} dq}$$

- Statistical nature of quantities to be computed:
- Boltzmann gives all equilibrium physical quantities. Ex: pressure $\propto E_c 2\langle q \cdot \nabla V(q) \rangle$.
- Non-ideal equation of state of Argon at 300 K:



• Free energy is defined by the equilibrium (marginal) distribution of $\xi_{slow} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, a "slow" variable, or reaction coordinates. For any observable φ of ξ_{slow}

$$\langle \varphi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_{\text{slow}}(q)) \rangle = \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(z) e^{-\beta F(z)} dz}{Z}$$

- Define $\mathcal{M}_z = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^d | \xi_{slow}(q) = z\}$ the sub-manifold associated with the value z of the raction coordinate ξ_{slow} .
- Define $\delta_{\xi_{slow}(q)=z}(dq)$ the conditional surface measure on \mathcal{M}_z verifying the slice integration $dq = \delta_{\xi_{slow}(q)=z}(dq)dz$

We get, up to an additive constant:

$$F(z) = -\beta^{-1} \ln \int_{\mathcal{M}_z} e^{-\beta V(q)} \delta_{\xi_{\text{slow}}(q)=z}(dq)$$

● Goal: numerical computation of $z \mapsto F(z)$

- In fact in the context of the present talk (error analysis), free energy computation is arguably reducible to the sampling problem.
- We need to add non-equilibrium simulation of Jarzynski type. But, I arguably the discussion on errors is strictly similar to the case of sampling.
- Two main class of methods:
 - Adaptive biasing methods.
 - Non-equilibrium simulation of Jarzynski type (Thermodynamic Integration as a limit).

The ennemy is metastability.

Fixed constraint

Switching constraint

Biasing (with or without adaptivity)



Compute adaptively a biasing potential of the form:

 $F_{\text{approx}}(\xi_{\text{slow}}(q))$

- Perform sampling with the biasing potential F_{approx} .
- The bias is removable since F_{approx} and the equilibrium distribution is known.

- Add a constraining force (switching) to a molecular system of the form $-\nabla_q \xi_{\text{slow}} \lambda(t)$, where $\lambda(t)$ is a Lagrange multiplier with constraints $\xi_{\text{slow}}(q_t) = z(t)$.
- Take care with the thermostat.
- Starts at equilibrium .
- Compute the energy variation of the system which is only due to the switching (denoted W_T = the work).
- Use the identity: $F(z(T)) F(z(0)) = -\beta \ln \mathbb{E}(e^{-\beta(\mathcal{W}_{0,T} + Corr_T Corr_0)})$.
- Requires several replicas to average \mathbb{E} .

ERRORS

Errors in molcular simulations

- Quantum errors:
 - Error in adiabatic decoupling. ("conical crossings"+ ε , β , See later)
 - Non-classical behavior of nuclei. (ε, β , See later)
- Model reduction errors:
 - 1, 2, 3-body effective potentials. (Really a mess).
 - "Constraints" errors (due to "freezing" fast degrees of freedom). (See later).
 - Coarse-graining. (Really model dependent).
- Errors in time-stepping
 - Time-step errors. (Δt , See later)
 - Bonus: efficiency of the sampling method. (See later)

ERRORS FROM TIME-STEP AND SAMPLING EFFICIENCY

- Here: Newton equation with stochastic thermostat. V is assumed to be a known classical potential. N-body system.
- Equilibrium distribution: NVT $\propto e^{-\beta V(q)} dq$ for positions.

• Model: a stiff Hamiltonian system $H : \mathbb{R}^{6N} \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$H(p,q) = \frac{1}{2}p^T M^{-1}p + V(q)$$

•
$$M = \text{diag}(m_1, ..., m_N).$$

Assume: fastest degrees of freedom (fDOFs) are known

$$\begin{cases} \xi_{\text{fast}} : \mathbb{R}^{3N} \to \mathbb{R}^{n}, \\ \left\{ q \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} | \xi_{\text{fast}}(q) = 0 \right\} ='' \text{ slow manifold}'' \end{cases}$$

• Ex.: Large molecule + slow environment:



• ξ_{fast} can be: bond lengths, bond angles, dihedral angles .



 Coupling with a thermostat: Newton/Hamiltonian motion + Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process.

$$\begin{cases} dQ_t = M^{-1}P_t dt \\ dP_t = \underbrace{-\nabla V(Q_t)}_{Hamilton} - \underbrace{\gamma M^{-1}P_t dt}_{Dissipation} + \underbrace{\sigma dW_t}_{Fluctuation} & \sigma \sigma^T = \frac{2\gamma}{\beta} = 2\gamma k_b T \end{cases}$$

• Equilibrium distribution: $\frac{1}{Z}e^{-\beta H(p,q)}$.

• Newton/Hamilton $H(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^T M^{-1}p + V(q) = \text{kin.} + \text{pot. energy}$:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} q_t \\ p_t \end{pmatrix} = J \nabla_{q,p} H(q_t, p_t) \quad (1) \\ J := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Id \\ -Id & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{cases}$$

- J = symplectic matrix:
 - Conservation of phase-space measure dqdp (Liouville theorem = int. by parts).
 - Conservation of energy H.
- Reversibility $t \mapsto (q_{T-t}, -p_{T-t})$ is still solution of (1).

Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process on momenta (stochastic thermostat):

$$dP_t = -\gamma M^{-1} P_t + \sigma \, dW_t, \quad \sigma \sigma^T = \frac{2\gamma}{\beta}, \quad (1)$$

• Symmetry:
$$t \mapsto -P_t$$
 solution of (1).

Reversibility wrt to equilibrium distribution: If

Law(P₀) =
$$\frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p} dp$$

then the probability distribution of paths is invariant under time reversal:

$$\operatorname{Law}\left(t \mapsto P_t, t \in [0, T]\right) = \operatorname{Law}\left(t \mapsto \pm P_{T-t}, t \in [0, T]\right)$$

Mixing properties Of Ornstein-Uhlenbeck equations

• Ergodicity, whatever P_0 :

$$\lim_{T \to +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \varphi(P_t) dt = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3N}} \varphi(p) \frac{1}{Z_k} e^{-\beta \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p} dp \qquad a.s.$$

• Mixing, whatever P_0 :

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} Law(P_t) \xrightarrow{\exp} \frac{1}{Z_k} e^{-\beta \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p} dp$$

Reversibility up to momenta reversal wrt to invariant distribution: If

$$\operatorname{Law}(Q_0, P_0) = \frac{1}{Z} \mathrm{e}^{-\beta H} \, dq \, dp$$

then the probability distribution of paths is invariant under time reversal:

Law
$$(t \mapsto (Q_t, P_t, t \in [0, T]) = \text{Law} (t \mapsto (Q_{T-t}, -P_{T-t}), t \in [0, T])$$

THIS IS DETAILED BALANCE

Ergodicity + mixing from the hypoellipticity of associated operator:

$$\lim_{T \to +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \varphi(Q_t, P_t) dt = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{6N}} \varphi(q, p) \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta H(q, p)} dq dp \qquad a.s.$$

Hamiltonian dynamics: Verlet explicit integration.

$$\begin{array}{ll} p^{n+1/2} = p^n - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^n), \\ q^{n+1} = q^n + \Delta t \; M^{-1} p^{n+1/2}, \\ p^{n+1} = p^{n+1/2} - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^{n+1}) \end{array}$$

- Conserve qualitative properties of continuous Hamiltonian dynamics:
 - Time-reversible under $p \rightarrow -p$.
 - Conserve symplectic form (2*d* area in all planes) and thus volume dpdq.
 - Quasi-conservation of energy $H_{\Delta t,n} = H + O(\Delta t^2 \times \log(\Delta t n))$
 - Does not work if H is not separable H = T(p) + V(q).

One can thus get detailed balance up to an energy drift, that is to say:

$$e^{-\beta H(q_n,p_n)} \underbrace{\delta_{\Phi(q_n,p_n)}}_{\text{numerical flow}} (dq_{n+1} dp_{n+1}) dq_n dp_n = \\ \underbrace{e^{-\beta (H(q_n,p_n) - H(q_{n+1},p_{n+1}))}}_{\text{energy variation}} \times \\ e^{-\beta (H(q_{n+1},p_{n+1}))} \delta_{\Phi(q_{n+1},p_{n+1})} (dq_n dp_n) dq_{n+1} dp_{n+1},$$

Versions when adding a Orstein-Uhlenbeck thermostat process.

- GHMC = Metropolis for time-step errors of Langevin equations.
 - 1. Evolve momenta according to the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process during Δt compute the energy $H(q^n, p^{n+1/4})$.
 - 2. Integrate the Hamiltonian equations of motion according to the Verlet scheme. Get $(\tilde{q}^{n+1}, \tilde{p}^{n+1})$ and compute the energy $H(\tilde{q}^{n+1}, \tilde{p}^{n+1})$.
 - 3. Accept the proposal with probability

$$\min\left(1, \exp(-\beta(H(\tilde{q}^{n+1}, \tilde{p}^{n+1}) - H(q^n, p^{n+1/4})))\right)$$

otherwise, reject and reverse momenta by setting $(q^{n+1}, p^{n+1}) = (q^n, -p^{n+1/4});$

• Ergodic Markov chain reversible wrt exact stationary distribution $e^{-\beta H(q,p)}dqdp$ up to $p \rightarrow -p$ (detailed balance).

Overdamped dynamics:

- Replace step (1) by immediate equilibrium (high friction limit).
- Verlet yields Euler discretized overdamped stochastic differential equation:

$$Q^{n+1} = Q^n - \Delta t^2 / 2M^{-1} \underbrace{\nabla V(Q^n)}_{drift} + \Delta t \sqrt{\beta^{-1}M^{-1}} \underbrace{\mathcal{N}(0,1)}_{diffusion}$$

- Yields Metropolis algorithm when add the rejection rule.
- Yields a Markov chain reversible wrt $e^{-\beta V(q)} dq$.

- The average rejection rate in Metropolis/ Hybrid Monte Carlo (both Langevin and overdamped) ONLY depend the time-step and NOT on the friction. This enables to define a critical time step with rejection prescribed at 1/50 valid independantly on the friction parameter.
- However, if we denote the mixing time of Langevin dynamics T_{mix} , the computational cost of discretized Langevin without Metropolis step is:

$$N_{mix} = T_{mix} / \Delta t_{crit}.$$

• Now denote the mixing "time" $T_{mix,ov}^2$ of the overdamped dynamics:

$$dQ_s = -M^{-1} \nabla_q V \, ds + \sqrt{2\beta^{-1} M^{-1}} dW_s.$$

 $T^2_{mix,ov}$ is homogenous to $[T^2]$ but independent of Δt_{crit} . Then according to the effective time step of overdamped above:

$$N_{mix,ov} = 2T_{mix,ov}^2 / \Delta t_{crit}^2.$$

• Thus if $\Delta t_{crit} \ll T_{mix,ov}$ then:

$$\frac{N_{mix}}{N_{mix,ov}} = \frac{\Delta t_{crit}}{T_{mix,ov}} \frac{T_{mix}}{T_{mix,ov}} << 1$$

Correcting with Metropolis

- Langevin is much better than overdamped (OPEN: to precise)...
- BUT Momenta flip in GHMC make sampling efficiency similar to overdamped (OPEN: to precise).
- Another porblem: Rejections in Metropolis depends badly on dimensionality of fast-degrees of freedom.
- Open practical/theoretical question: how can we obtain a compromise between time-step bias and sampling efficiency ??
 If your favorite chemists gives you a code, can you construct a black box algorithm which computes the "good" time-step, computes weights and rejections, in order to achieve this compromise ?

d evolving constraints associated with the reaction coordinate; Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{cases} H(p,q) = \frac{1}{2}p^T M^{-1}p + V(q) \\ \xi_{\text{slow}}(q) = z(t) \end{cases}$$
(C)

Verlet explicit integration + constraints solver with Newton/Gauss solver.

$$\begin{cases} p^{n+1/2} = p^n - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^n) - \nabla \xi_{\text{slow}}(q^n) \lambda^{n+1/2}, \\ q^{n+1} = q^n + \Delta t \ M^{-1} p^{n+1/2}, \\ \xi_{\text{slow}}(q^{n+1}) = z(t_{n+1}) \quad (C_q), \\ p^{n+1} = p^{n+1/2} - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^{n+1}) - \nabla \xi_{\text{slow}}(q^{n+1}) \lambda^{n+1} \\ \nabla \xi_{\text{slow}}(q^{n+1})^T M^{-1} p^{n+1} = \frac{z(t_{n+1}) - z(t_n)}{\Delta t} \quad (C_p), \end{cases}$$

• Time-reversible under $p \to -p$ and $z(t_{n+1}) \leftrightarrow z(t_n)$. Conservation of the symplectic structure.

e

- It may seem surprising to obtain symplecticity for a mapping between two different phase-space.
- In fact, the numerical flow is symplectic in the full phase-space \mathbb{R}^{6N} , and symplecticity is inherited on constraints manifolds.
- One can thus get detailed balance up to an energy drift, that is to say:

$$\begin{array}{l} -\beta H(q_{n},p_{n}) \underbrace{\delta_{\Phi_{z_{n},z_{n+1}}(q_{n},p_{n})}(dq_{n+1} dp_{n+1})}_{\text{numerical flow at } z_{n}} \underbrace{\sigma_{z_{n}}(dq_{n} dp_{n}) =}_{\text{phase-space measure}}\\ \underbrace{e^{-\beta (H(q_{n},p_{n})-H(q_{n+1},p_{n+1}))}}_{\text{work = energy variation}} \times\\ e^{-\beta (H(q_{n+1},p_{n+1}))} \delta_{\Phi_{z_{n+1},z_{n}}(q_{n+1},p_{n+1})}(dq_{n} dp_{n}) \sigma_{z_{n+1}}(dq_{n+1} dp_{n+1}), \end{array}$$

Exact discrete Jarzynski identity

- Add carefully a thermostat.
- Define the work as

$$\mathcal{W}_{0,T} = \sum_{n} \Delta H_{n}$$

energy variation of hamiltonian int

This yields a discrete Jarzynski identity:

$$F(z(T)) - F(z(0)) = -\beta \ln \mathbb{E}(e^{-\beta(\mathcal{W}_{0,T} + Corr_T - Corr_0)})$$

Exact discrete Jarzynski identity

- Thus time-reversibility + symplecticity yields:
 - (i) Detailed balance up to a factor.
 - (ii) Metropolis correction in dynamics with rejection.
 - (iii) Time-step correcting weights in non-equilibrium Jarzynski.
- OPEN: Show theoretically following idea: there is an incompressible source of error: bias from time-step in Langevin ~ variance from mixing slow-down in Metropolis ~ variance in Jarzynski work exponential weights. I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO DO BUT I SUSPECT IT IS TRUE IN SOME REGIME.

- OPEN 2: IS THERE A WAY TO ACHIEVE A BIAS/VARIANCE COMPROMISE REGIME ?
- OPEN 3: CAN YOU PROVE THAT NOTHING MORE CLEVER CAN BE DONE (no trick theorem) ?

ERRORS FROM CONSTRAINTS

2-Free energy - p.45

- Many MD codes enforce holonomic constraints on ξ_{fast} to enlarge time-step.
- This is called molecular constraints and introduce errors (assuming you know that the free dynamics is true !!!).
- Assuming that the free dynamics is true, I will show how to recover exact sampling for free (IMMP, MR, P. Plechac 2010).

• Ex.: Large molecule + slow environment:



• $\xi_{\rm fast}$ can be: bond lengths, bond angles, dihedral angles .



Verlet explicit integration + constraints solver with Newton/Gauss solver.

$$\begin{cases} p^{n+1/2} = p^n - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^n) - \nabla \xi_{\text{fast}}(q^n) \lambda^{n+1/2}, \\ q^{n+1} = q^n + \Delta t \ M^{-1} p^{n+1/2}, \\ \xi_{\text{fast}}(q^{n+1}) = 0 \quad (C_q), \\ p^{n+1} = p^{n+1/2} - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \nabla V(q^{n+1}) - \nabla \xi_{\text{fast}}(q^{n+1}) \lambda^{n+1} \\ \nabla \xi_{\text{fast}}(q^{n+1})^T M^{-1} p^{n+1} = 0 \quad (C_p), \end{cases}$$

Same properties as non-constrained case: Time-reversible under $p \rightarrow -p$, conserve $\sigma_{T^*\Sigma}(dpdq)$. Quasi-conserve energy $H_{\Delta t,n} = H + O(\Delta t^2 \times \log(\Delta tn))$. Can be Metropolized to GHMC.

Idea from Bennett 70's. Penalize fDOFs with mass-matrix penalty:

 $M = Diag(m_1, ..., m_d) \to M_{\nu}(q) = M + \nu^2 \nabla_q \xi_{\text{fast}} (\nabla_q \xi_{\text{fast}})^T$

- ν is the penalty parameter ($\nu = 0$ gives back original dynamics).
- The dependance $q \mapsto M_{\nu}(q)$ needs to be corrected to conserve equilibrium distribution:

$$V(q) \to V_{\text{eff},\nu}(q) = V(q) + \frac{1}{2\beta} \ln \det(M_{\nu}(q))$$
$$= V(q) + \frac{1}{2\beta} \ln \det(\nu^{-2}Id + (\nabla_{q}\xi_{\text{fast}})^{T}M^{-1}\nabla_{q}\xi_{\text{fast}})$$

■ Pb: Hamiltonian non longer separable and $q \mapsto M_{\nu}(q)$ can be stiff.

• Extend state-space with *n* new DOFs with mass $1(z, p_z)$ associated with each fDOFs; and *n* constraints. Extended Hamitonian:

$$\begin{cases} H_{\rm IMMP}(p, p_z, q, z) = \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} p_z^T p_z}_{\rm penalty} + V_{\rm eff, \nu}(q) \\ \xi_{\rm fast}(q) = \frac{z}{\nu} \end{cases} \qquad (C) \end{cases}$$

- Formulation equivalent to explicit mass-matrix penalisation M_{ν} .
- When $\nu \to 0$, exact Hamiltonian is recovered.
- When $\nu \to +\infty$, Hamiltonian system with constraints $\xi_{\text{fast}}(q) = 0$.

- Velocities are penalized away from the tangent slow bundle.
- Boltzmann distribution in position is conserved.





Since the model is Hamiltonian, you can recover all the weighting/Metropolis tools and perform (exact sampling) in position:

$$\propto \mathrm{e}^{-\beta V(q)} dq.$$

The fastest degrees of freedom are slowed down as desired !!

$\xi_{\text{fast}} = \text{torsion angles, the rest is constrained. SIMU !!}$

 l^2 decorrelation time of the end-to-end alkane length in terms of Monte-Carlo iteration steps. The ratio between the Verlet integration and the IMMP integration is given. Note that the *y*-axis is in logarithmic scale, and an exponential gain occurs.



2-Free energy - p.53

ERRORS FROM QUANTUM

- The subject IS NOT cleaned up at all.
- (i) Errors from failure of semi-classical limit for nuclei.
- (ii) Errors from failure of adiabatic decoupling.

A simple computation shows that

$$\hbar\omega >> \beta^{-1}$$

where ω is the frequency of most bond oscillations !! (low temperature case). This is in apparent contradiction with the classicality of the nuclei dynamics.

• (i) OPEN: study the commutation of the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ and $\beta \to +\infty$ for a given potential. It is not clear to me what is happening. A possible route: starts directly from the Gibbs quantum state:

$$\frac{\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-\beta H_{\varepsilon}}, \cdot)}{\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-\beta H_{\varepsilon}})}.$$

- (ii) OPEN: study the commutation between the (i) process and the Matching Procedure to compute effective potential.
- (iii) OPEN: Find a non-controversial effective potential for bonded interactions.

- The cause is conical crossing (or "diabolic points"), and is defined as the submanifold where $E_e^0(q) = E_e^1(q)$.
- Many real life examples exhibit case where the chemistery DO USE canonical crossing (coupling with light).
- Here again, the dynamics is quite well-known (surface hopping, Landau-Zener formula ...), but :
- (i) OPEN: expand the semi-classical limit of the quantum Gibbs distribution.
- (ii) OPEN: find all Langevin versions of surface hopping that samples the expanded Gibbs distribution.
- (ii) OPEN: find the most efficient one...

- Even for simple cases there is a lack of benchmarking.
- It would be useful to make a systematic study of ALL sources of errors on simple molecular examples, and a review on the most reasonable methods.