Non-reversible Markov chains: From statistical mechanics to chemical physics

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Equation of State Calculations by Fast Computing Machines

NICHOLAS METROPOLIS, ARIANNA W. ROSENBLUTH, MARSHALL N. ROSENBLUTH, AND AUGUSTA H. TELLER, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

AND

EDWARD TELLER,* Department of Physics, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (Received March 6, 1953)

A general method, suitable for fast computing machines, for investigating such properties as equations of states for substances consisting of interacting individual molecules is described. The method consists of a modified Monte Carlo integration over configuration space. Results for the two-dimensional rigid-sphere system have been obtained on the Los Alamos MANIAC and are presented here. These results are compared to the free volume equation of state and to a four-term virial coefficient expansion.



Markov chains (2/3)



• Metropolis algorithm (1953, mod.)



PHYSICAL REVIEW

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Phase Transition in Elastic Disks*

B. J. ALDER AND T. E. WAINWRIGHT University of California, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore, California (Received October 30, 1961)

The study of a two-dimensional system consisting of 870 hard-disk articles in the phase-transition region has shown that the isotherm has a van der Waals-like loop. The ensity change across the transition is about 4% and the corresponding entropy change is small.

A STUDY has been made of a two-dimensional results system consisting of 870 hard-disk particles. Simultaneous motions of the particles have been calcuated by means of an electronic computer as described previously.¹ The disks were again placed in a periodically repeated rectangular array. The computer program interchanges it was not possible to average the two branches.

Two-dimensional systems were then studied, since the number of particles required to form clusters of particles of one phase of any given diameter is less than in three dimensions. Thus, an 870 hard-disk system is



Molecular dynamics



• Alder-Wainwright (1957)



Samples



• Alder, Wainwright 1962, see Li et al. (2022)



From 'numerical work' to Kosterlitz-Thouless

Ordering, metastability and phase transitions in two-dimensional systems



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Received 13 November 1972

1. Introduction

Peierls (1935) has argued that thermal motion of long-wavelength phonons will destroy the long-range order of a two-dimensional solid in the sense that the mean square deviation of an atom from its equilibrium position increases logarithmically with the size of the system, and the Bragg peaks of the diffraction pattern formed by the system are broad instead of sharp. The absence of long-range order of this simple form has been shown by Mermin (1968) using rigorous inequalities. Similar arguments can be used to show that there is no spontaneous magnetization in a two-dimensional magnet with spins with more than one degree of freedom (Mermin and Wagner 1966) and that the expectation value of the superfluid order parameter in a two-dimensional Bose fluid is zero (Hohenberg 1967).

On the other hand there is an onclusive evidence from the numerical work on a two-dimensional system of hard discs by Alder and Wainwright (1962) of a phase transition between a gaseous and solid state. Stanley and Kaplan (1966) found that high-temperature series expansions for two-dimensional spin models indicated a phase

Event-chain Monte Carlo



- Box of size $L \times L$, periodic boundary conditions, N disks.
- Onward and Upward...
- Event-chain Monte Carlo: Bernard, Krauth, Wilson (2009).



Equilibrium samples from non-equilibrium MCMC



• 10⁶ disks (Bernard, Krauth 2011), first equilibrated sample



Markov chains (3/3)

- Sample space Ω (e.g. hard disks, water molecules, quarks, \dots)
- Markov chain \leftarrow Sequence of random variables $(X_0 \sim \pi^{\{0\}}, X_1 \sim \pi^{\{1\}}, X_2 \sim \pi^{\{2\}} \dots)$ X_{r+1} depends only on X_t , t is a 'time'
- Transition matrix P:
 - *P_{ij}*: conditional probability to move from sample *i* to sample *j*.
 - $\pi^{\{t+1\}} = \pi^{\{t\}} P$: Evolve probability distribution at time t to probability distribution at time t+1 (with $\pi^{\{t\}}, t > 0$ often non-explicit, even for $t \to \infty$).
- Move set \mathcal{L} : ... from which moves are sampled.
- Equilibrium distribution π : Satisfies global balance:

$$\pi_i = \sum_{j \in \Omega} \pi_j P_{ji} \quad \forall i \in \Omega.$$

NB: *P* irreducible $\implies \pi$ unique.

• Aperiodicity: Absence of cycles. *P* irreducible and aperiodic:

$$\pi^{\{t\}} o \pi \quad \text{for } t o \infty$$

Total variation distance, mixing time

• Total variation distance:

$$||\pi^{\{t\}} - \pi||_{\mathsf{TV}} = \max_{A \subset \Omega} |\pi^{\{t\}}(A) - \pi(A)| = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in \Omega} |\pi_i^{\{t\}} - \pi_i|.$$

Distance:

$$d(t) = \max_{\pi^{\{0\}}} ||\pi^{\{t\}}(\pi^{\{0\}}) - \pi||_{\mathsf{TV}}$$

• Mixing time:

$$t_{\min}(\epsilon) = \min\{t : d(t) \le \epsilon\}$$

• Usually $\epsilon=1/4$ is taken, $\epsilon=1/e$ would be better.



Shuffling of cards 1/5



• $\Omega_N^{\text{shuffle}} = \{\text{Permutations of } \{1, \dots, N\}\}$

• For
$$N = 3$$
:
 $\Omega_3^{\text{shuffle}} = \{1 \equiv \{1, 2, 3\}, 2 \equiv \{1, 3, 2\}, 3 \equiv \{2, 1, 3\}, 4 \equiv \{2, 3, 1\}, 5 \equiv \{3, 1, 2\}, 6 \equiv \{3, 2, 1\}\}.$
• $\pi^{t=0} = \delta((1, ..., N))$



Shuffling of cards 2/5



moves

procedure top-to-random input $\{c_1, \ldots, c_n\}$ $i \leftarrow \text{choice}(\{1, \ldots, n\})$ $\{\hat{c}_1, \ldots, \hat{c}_n\} \leftarrow \{c_2, \ldots, c_i, c_1, c_{i+1}, \ldots, c_n\}$ output $\{\hat{c}_1, \ldots, \hat{c}_n\}$

- Insert upper card (c_1) after card *i* and before card i + 1
- NB: if i = 1, put it back on top.



Shuffling of cards 3/5

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moves

•
$$\Omega_3^{shuffle} = \{1 \equiv \{1, 2, 3\}, 2 \equiv \{1, 3, 2\}, 3 \equiv \{2, 1, 3\}, 4 \equiv \{2, 3, 1\}, 5 \equiv \{3, 1, 2\}, 6 \equiv \{3, 2, 1\}\}.$$

$$P = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Shuffling of cards 4/5

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$$P_{3}^{shuffle} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

• Eigenvalues of P_N^{shuffle} : $0, \frac{1}{N}, \frac{2}{N}, \dots, 1 - \frac{2}{N}, 1$

• Degeneracies:

$$N = 2 : [1, 0, 1]$$

$$N = 3 : [2, 3, 0, 1]$$

$$N = 4 : [9, 8, 6, 0, 1]$$

$$N = 5 : [44, 45, 20, 10, 0, 1]$$

$$N = 6 : [265, 264, 135, 40, 15, 0, 1]$$

$$N = 7 : [1854, 1855, 924, 315, 70, 21, 0, 1]$$



Shuffling of cards 5/5



moves

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{procedure top2random-stop} \\ \textbf{input } \{c_1, \ldots, c_n\} \\ c_{\text{first-n}} \leftarrow c_n \\ \textbf{for } t = 1, 2, \ldots \ \textbf{do} \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \tilde{c}_1 \leftarrow c_1 \\ \{c_1, \ldots, c_n\} \leftarrow \texttt{top2random}(\{c_1, \ldots, c_n\}) \\ \textbf{if } (\tilde{c}_1 = c_{\text{first-n}}) \ \textbf{break} \\ \textbf{output } \{c_1, \ldots, c_n, t\} \end{array} \right. \end{array}$

- Expected running time: $n \log n$.
- Time scale $n \log n$ larger than inverse gap n/2.



Mixing and Relaxation



- $t_{\text{mix}} = ||\pi^{\{t_{\text{mix}}\}} \pi||_{\text{TV}} = 1/e$, (non-asymptotic time scale).
- $t_{rel} = inverse gap$, (asymptotic time scale).
- $t_{\rm mix} \gg t_{\rm rel}$ leads to cutoff phenomenon.
- Aldous, Diaconis (1986)
- Diaconis, Fill, Pitman (1992)



Coarsening: A non-asymptotic time scale



- Coarsening in hard disks (from Bernard, Krauth 2011)...
- ... an example of a non-asymptotic mixing-time scale



Detailed balance, global balance, lifting



• Reversible transition matrices *P* satisfy the 'detailed-balance' condition:

$$\pi_a P_{ab} = \pi_b P_{ba}$$

• Non-reversible transition matrices *P* only satisfy 'global balance':

$$\pi_{a} = \sum_{b \in \Omega} \pi_{b} P_{ba}$$



Random walk (RW) on the one-dimensional lattice

• In the bulk:



• At the boundary:





Lifted random walk (I-RW)

• Lifting of samples:



In the bulk:



• At the boundary:



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Diaconis, Holmes, Neal (2000)

Random walk, lifted random walk (examples)

Symmetric simple exclusion process (SSEP)

• Move (first part ...)



• Move (... second part)



Totally asymmetric simple exclusion process (TASEP)



forward-backward coupling (ad-hoc, or boundary conditions).
 NB: Non-reversible, i.e. non-equilibrium, but samples equilibrium
 Boltzmann distribution.

Lifted TASEP (definition)

- $\Omega^{I-TASEP} = \Omega^{SSEP} \times \{-1, +1\} \times \{1, \dots, N\}, \ \mathcal{L} = \emptyset$
- Move (first part ...)



• Move (second part ...)



TASEP (example)

NB: Consider only the forward-moving sector (pbc):





Lifted TASEP (example)

NB: Consider only the forward-moving sector (pbc):



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Synopsis of mixing and relaxation times

Algorithm	mixing	relaxation (inverse gap)
SSEP	N ³ log N	N ³
TASEP	$N^{5/2}$	N ^{5/2}
Lifted TASEP	<i>N</i> ²	$N^2 - N^{3/2} (\alpha_{\rm crit})$

• Bethe ansatz: Essler, Krauth (2023)



Factorized Metropolis algorithm (pair potential)

• Metropolis filter:

$$p^{Met}(x \to x') = \min \left[1, \exp\left(-\beta \sum_{i < j} \Delta U_{i,j}\right)
ight]$$
 $p^{Met}(x \to x') = \min \left[1, \prod_{i < j} \exp\left(-\beta \Delta U_{i,j}\right)
ight]$

• Factorized Metropolis filter (Michel, Kapfer, Krauth 2014):

$$p^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x} \to \mathsf{x}') = \prod_{i < j} \min \left[1, \exp\left(-\beta \Delta U_{i,j}\right)\right].$$

$$X^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x} \to \mathsf{x}') = X_{1,2} \land X_{1,3} \land \dots \land X_{N-1,N}$$

- i.e.: Accept move if all pairs (i, j) accept it.
- Consensus-based, not gradient-based.



Factorized Metropolis algorithm



• Factorized Metropolis filter

$$p^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x} \to \mathsf{x}') = \prod_{i < j} \min \left[1, \exp \left(-\beta \Delta U_{i,j}\right)\right].$$

• Conjunction of Boolean random variables

$$X^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x} \to \mathsf{x}') = X_{1,2} \land X_{1,3} \land \dots \land X_{N-1,N}$$



Factorized Metropolis algorithm

procedure factorized-metropolis input X (configuration at time t) $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{choice}(\mathbf{X})$ (random particle) $\mathbf{x}' \leftarrow \mathbf{x} + \Delta \mathbf{x}$ (with $|\Delta \mathbf{x}| < \delta$) for $\mathbf{x}'' \in \mathbf{X} \setminus \{\mathbf{x}\}$: $\begin{cases} \Upsilon \leftarrow \mathbf{ran}(0, 1) \\ \text{if } \Upsilon > \exp\left[-\beta \left(U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}'} - U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}}\right)\right]: \text{ goto } 1 \\ \mathbf{X} \leftarrow \{\mathbf{x}'\} \cup \mathbf{X} \setminus \{\mathbf{x}\} \end{cases}$ 1 output X (configuration at time t + 1)

Factorized Metropolis filter

$$p^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x} \to \mathsf{x}') = \prod_{i < j} \min \left[1, \exp\left(-\beta \Delta U_{i,j}\right)\right].$$

• Conjunction of Boolean random variables

$$X^{\mathsf{Fact}}(\mathsf{x}
ightarrow \mathsf{x}') = X_{1,2} \wedge X_{1,3} \wedge \cdots \wedge X_{N-1,N}$$



Long-range interactions 1/4



• Veto probability (for particle in cell z)

$$q_{\mathsf{x}''} = q_{\mathsf{Z}} rac{\left[1 - \exp\left(-eta \Delta U_{\mathsf{x},\mathsf{x}''}
ight)
ight]}{q_{\mathsf{Z}}}$$

• Two-pebble veto.



Long-range interactions 2/4



```
 \begin{array}{l} \mbox{procedure cell-veto} \\ \mbox{input } \mathbf{X} \ (\mbox{configuration of } N \ \mbox{particles}) \\ \mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mbox{choice}(\mathbf{X}) \\ \mathbf{x}' \leftarrow \mathbf{x} + \Delta \mathbf{x} \ (\mbox{with } |\Delta \mathbf{x}| < \delta) \\ \mbox{for } \mathbf{x}'' \in \{\mbox{neighbor}\} \cup \{\mbox{surplus}\} \ (\mbox{see Fig. 6b}) \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{\hat{Y}} \leftarrow \mbox{ran}(0,1) \\ \mbox{if } \mathbf{\hat{Y}} > \exp[-\beta \left(U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}'} - U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}}\right)] \ ; \ \mbox{goto } 1 \\ \mbox{for } \mathbf{Z} \in \mathcal{F}, \mbox{non-empty: (loop over far-away cells } \mathcal{F}) \\ \end{array} \right. \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{\hat{Y}}_1 \leftarrow \mbox{ran}(0,1) \\ \mbox{if } \mathbf{\hat{Y}}_1 > qz; \\ \mbox{goto } \mathbf{\hat{Y}}_2 \leftarrow \mbox{ran}(0,1) \\ \mbox{if } \mathbf{\hat{Y}}_1 < \mbox{particle in cell } Z \\ \mbox{if } \mathbf{\hat{Y}}_2 < \frac{1 - \exp[-\beta \left(U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}'} - U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}}\right)] \\ \mbox{goto } 1 \\ \mbox{x} \leftarrow \{\mathbf{x}'\} \cup \mathbf{X} \setminus \{\mathbf{x}\} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right. \label{eq:second}
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Long-range interactions 3/4



procedure cell-veto(patch)

 $\begin{array}{l} & \dots \\ (\text{treating neighbor and surplus particles as in Alg. 3}) \\ & \dots \\ & \mathcal{S}_{\text{veto}} \leftarrow \text{sampled from } \pi(\mathcal{S}_{\text{veto}}) \text{ (see eq. (13))} \\ \text{for } Z \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{veto}}, \text{non-empty: (patch of cell-veto loop)} \\ & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Upsilon \leftarrow \text{ran}(0, 1) \\ \mathbf{x}'' \leftarrow (\text{unique) particle} \in Z \\ \text{ if } \Upsilon < \frac{1 - \exp\left[-\beta\left(U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}'} - U_{\mathbf{x}''\mathbf{x}}\right)\right]}{q_Z}; \text{ goto } 1 \\ \mathbf{X} \leftarrow \{\mathbf{x}'\} \cup \mathbf{X} \setminus \{\mathbf{x}\} \\ 1 \text{ output } \mathbf{X} \end{array} \right. \end{array}$

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Long-range interactions 4/4



- Walker's algorithm (1977): O(1) sampling from a constant distribution.
- Cell-veto algorithm (Kapfer, Krauth, 2017): sampling $\exp(-\beta U)$ without evaluating U.
- See Tartero, Krauth (2024b) for introduction.



Water simulation (SPC/fw 1/3)



(a): Native sampling for long-range interactions without cutoffs, space discretizations, time-step errors, thermostat (Höllmer, Maggs, Krauth (2023))
(b): Yet to be done...

Water simulation (SPC/fw 2/3)



• Architecture of open-source JeLLyFysh Python package



Water simulation (SPC/fw 3/3)



• Efficiency between Lammps and Python package 'JeLLyFysh'



Conclusions

- Time scales in sampling: $||\pi^{\{t\}} \pi||_{\mathsf{TV}} \lesssim 1$ for $t \lesssim \tau_{\mathsf{mix}}$.
- Not much to learn from too short simulations.
- Relaxation time (inverse gap) governs asymptotic approach.
- Lifting can realize important speed-ups.
- Rejection-free, exact, non-reversible Markov chains.
- Exactly solved models available.
- Sampling $\exp(-\beta U)$ without evaluating U.
- 'Natively cutoff-free' MCMC (Coulomb, LJ) in $\mathcal{O}(1)$.
- Applications in chemical physics.



Thanks to:

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