Molecular Dynamics Simulation: Q & A

Aiichiro Nakano

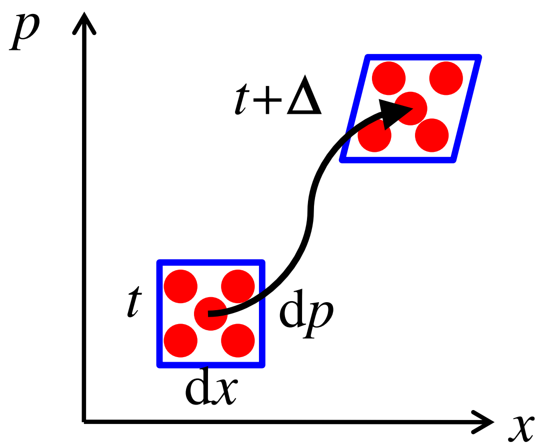
Collaboratory for Advanced Computing & Simulations
Department of Computer Science
Department of Physics & Astronomy
Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science
Department of Quantitative & Computational Biology
University of Southern California

Email: anakano@usc.edu

Liouville's Theorem

Q: Why is it important to preserve the phase-space volume along the molecular-dynamics trajectory?

$$\underset{t}{(x,p)} \rightarrow \underset{t+\Delta}{(x',p')}$$



$$\frac{\partial(x',p')}{\partial(x,p)} = 1$$

A: Exact phase-space-volume conservation tends to provide long-time stability, though formal analysis of long-time accuracy very hard.

cf. **Backward error analysis**

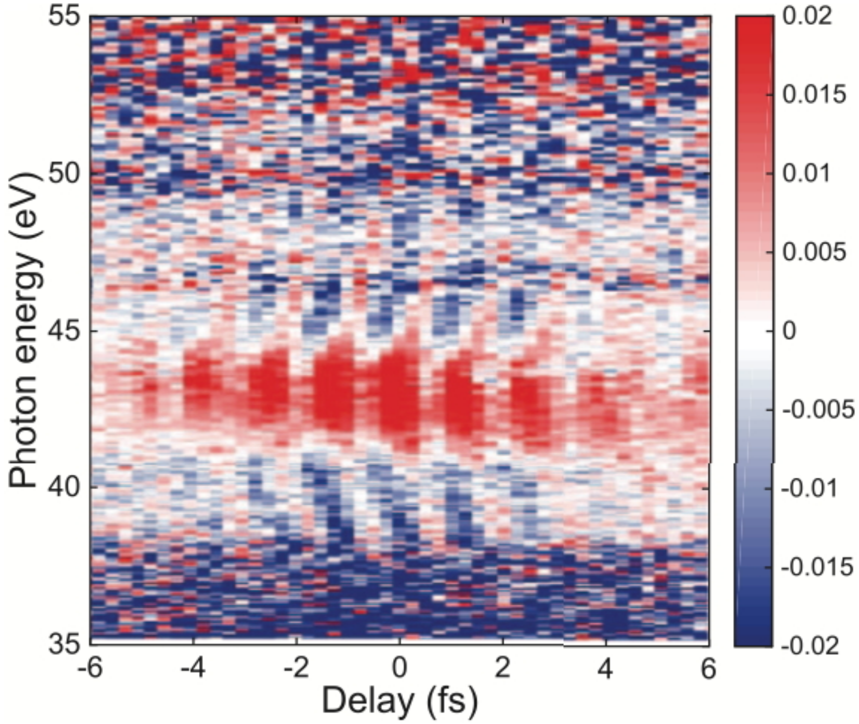
S. Reich, *SIAM J. Numer. Anal.* **36**, 1549 ('99)

Velocity Autocorrelation (VAC)

Q: VAC in nonsteady state?

A: Present it as a function of two time variables.

$$\langle \vec{v}_i(t) \bullet \vec{v}_i(t') \rangle = vac\left(\tau = t - t', \underbrace{T = \frac{t+t'}{2}}_{\text{No } T \text{ dependence in a steady state}}\right)$$

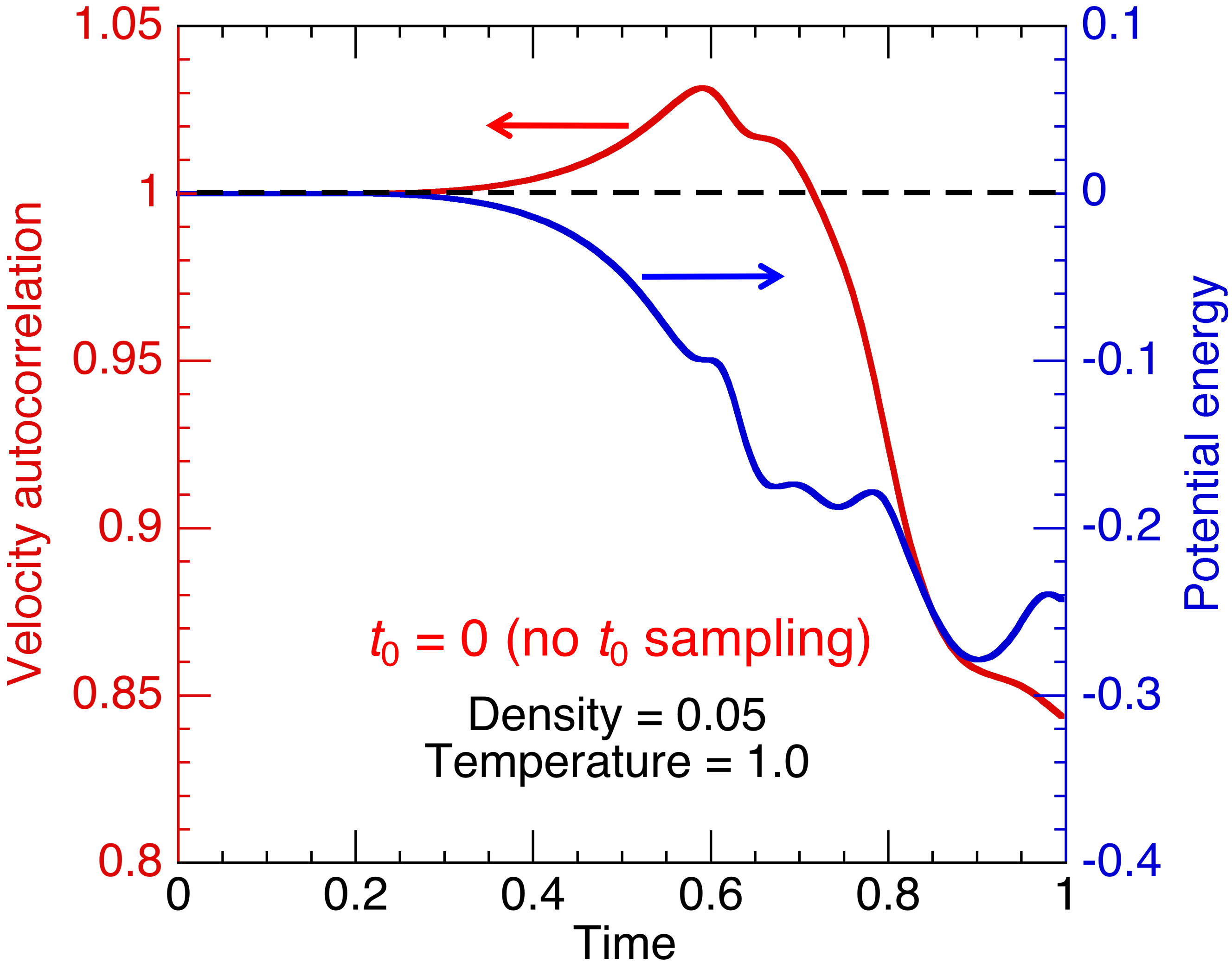


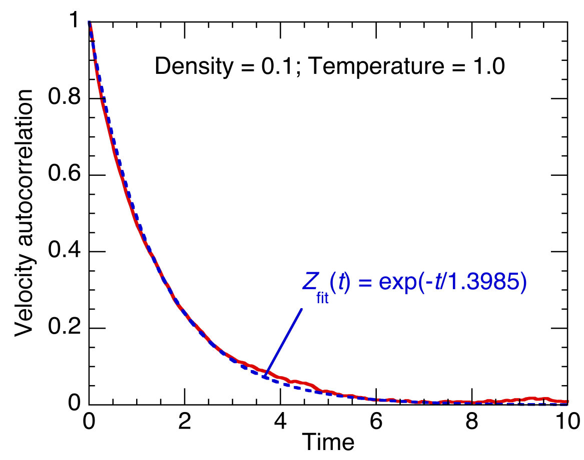
***cf*. Transient photoabsorption spectrum: Note the atomic-unit energy, 27.2116 eV = *h*/(0.024 fs); *h* is Planck's constant**

M. Lucchini *et al*., *Science* **353**, 916 ('16)

Velocity Autocorrelation > 1?

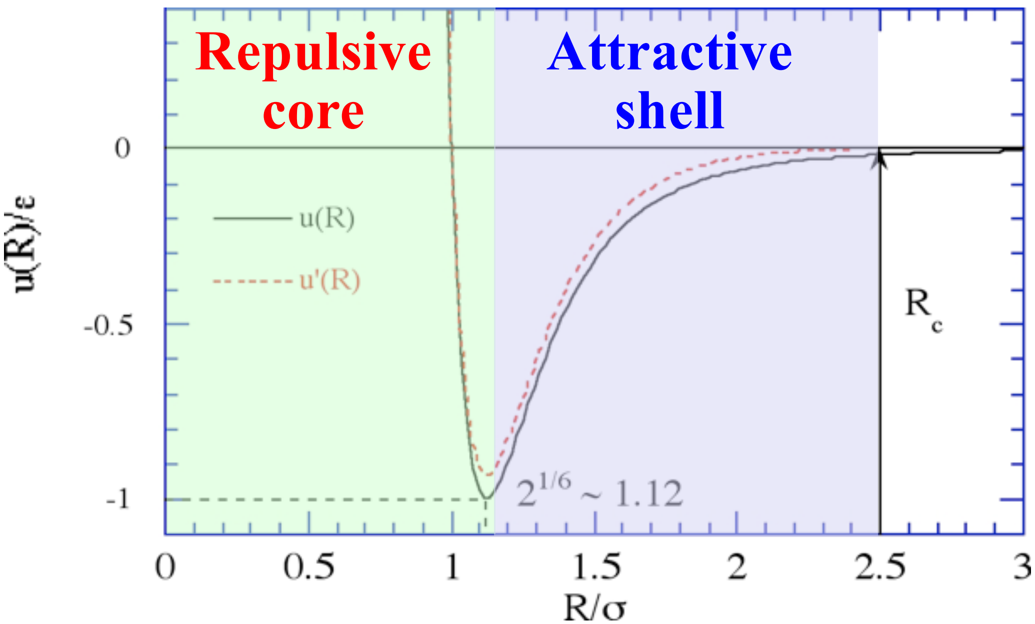
- **Yes, in a gas phase just when starting from an FCC lattice**

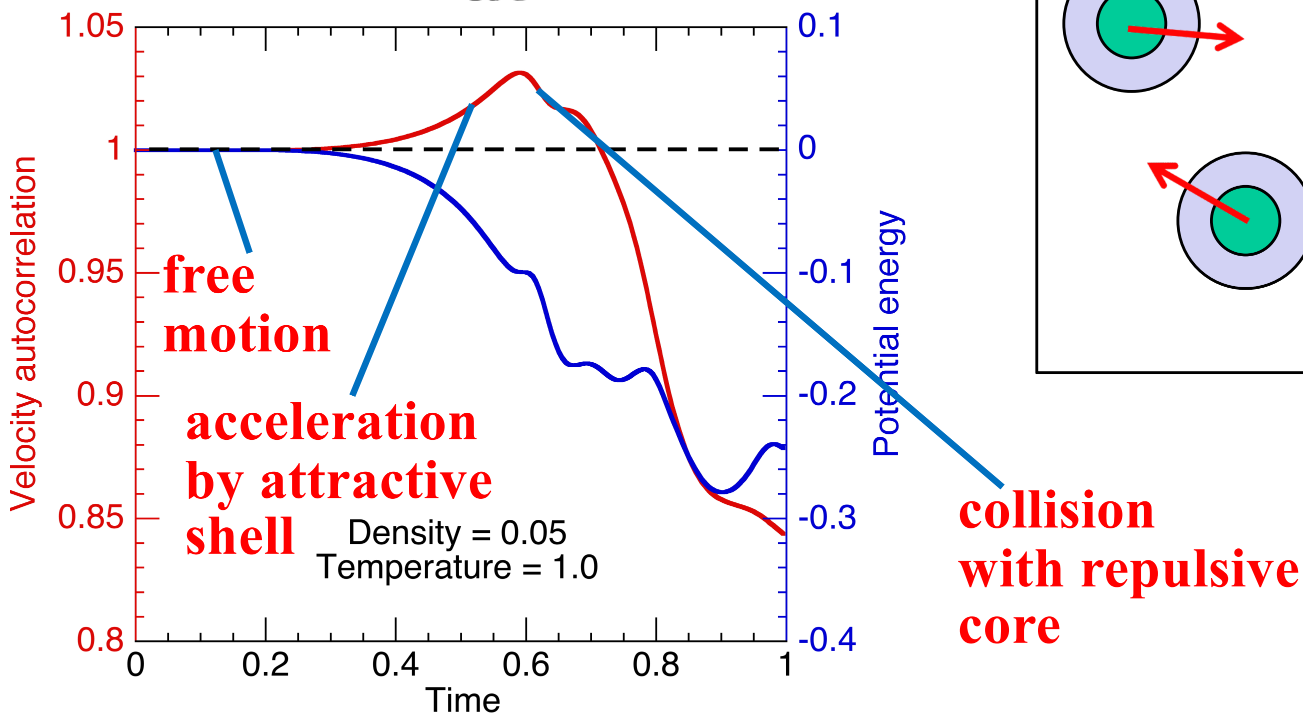


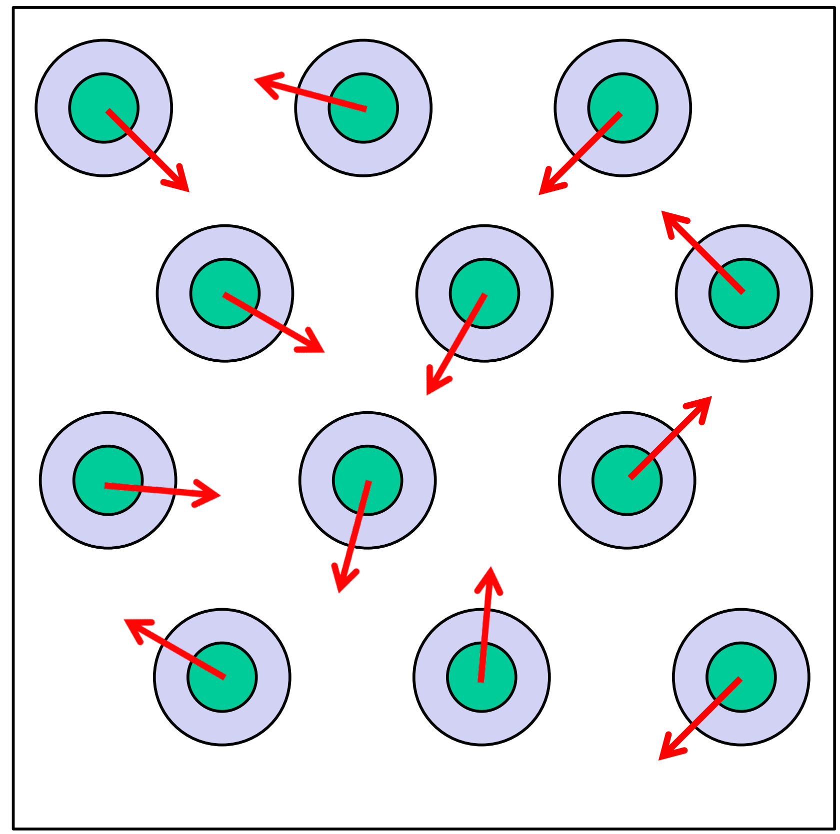


- **Why? Hint = time variation of the potential energy**

Finite-Range Lennard-Jones Potential







Why Taylor Expansion?

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Gamma = \hat{L}\Gamma$$

$$\Downarrow \quad \exp\left(\hat{L}t\right) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\left(\hat{L}t\right)^n$$

$$\Gamma(t) = \exp\left(\hat{L}t\right)\Gamma(0)$$

A: Exponentiation of a differential operator is "defined" through Taylor expansion, in which the power of the operator is operationally well defined as successive applications of the operator

$$\left(t\left(F(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\right)^3 f(x,p) =$$

$$t\left(F(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\left\{t\left(F(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\left[t\left(F(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)f(x,p)\right]\right\}$$

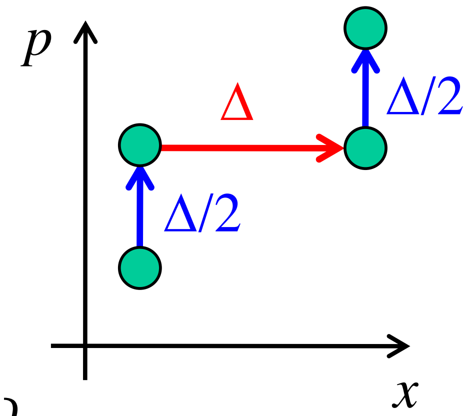
But, it is very hard to obtain a closed form

$$\{?\,,?\} = \exp\left[t\left(F(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\right]\{x,p\}$$

Velocity Verlet Time Propagator?

freeze p value;
shift x value by Δp

freeze x value;
shift p value by $F(x)\Delta/2$



operators
(functions)

$$\overbrace{\exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2}F(\hat{x})\frac{\partial}{\partial p}\right)\exp\left(\Delta\frac{\hat{p}}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2}F(\hat{x})\frac{\partial}{\partial p}\right)}^{\text{operators (functions)}}\underbrace{\{x,p\}}_{\text{operands}}$$

$$\left\{x, p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right\}$$

operands
(arguments,
return values)

$$\left\{x+\Delta\frac{p}{m}, p\right\}$$

```
for (n=0; n<nAtom; n++)
  for (k=0; k<3; k++)
    rv[n][k] += DeltaTH*ra[n][k];
```

$$\left\{x, p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right\}$$

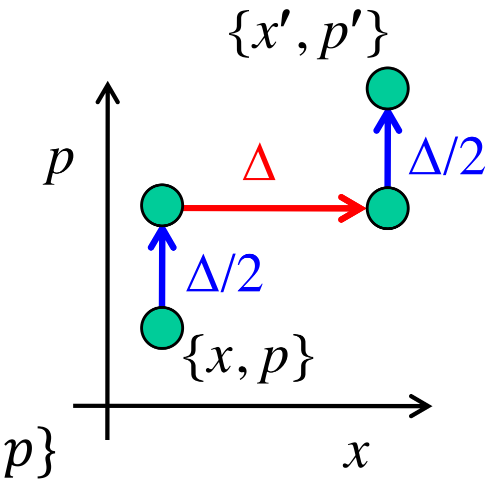
```
for (n=0; n<nAtom; n++)
  for (k=0; k<3; k++)
    r[n][k] += DeltaT*rv[n][k];
```

It's shift operation!

Explicit Form of Mapping?

keep p value constant;
shift x value by Δp

keep x value constant;
shift p value by $F(x)\Delta/2$



$$\overbrace{\exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2}F(\hat{x})\frac{\partial}{\partial p}\right)\exp\left(\Delta\frac{\hat{p}}{m}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)\exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2}F(\hat{x})\frac{\partial}{\partial p}\right)}^{\text{operators (functions)}}\underbrace{\{x,p\}}_{\text{operands (arguments, return values)}}$$

$$\left\{x, p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right\}$$

$$\left\{x+\frac{\Delta}{m}\left(p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right), p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right\}$$

$$\left\{x+\frac{\Delta}{m}\left(p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right), p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)+\frac{\Delta}{2}F\left(x+\frac{\Delta}{m}\left(p+\frac{\Delta}{2}F(x)\right)\right)\right\} = \{x', p'\}$$