

Exercises Lecture VII

Lattice gas Simulated annealing

1. Self-diffusion coefficient in a lattice gas model

Consider a finite square lattice with sites randomly occupied by particles with a given density ρ . The particles can move randomly to *empty* nearest sites (two particles can not occupy the same site). It is an example of a restricted random walk. A meaningful physical quantity is the *self-diffusion coefficient* D of an individual particle. D is the limit $t \rightarrow \infty$ of $D(t)$, where $D(t)$ is given by:

$$D(t) = \frac{1}{2dt} \langle \Delta R^2(t) \rangle,$$

with d which is the dimensionality of the system and $\langle \Delta R^2(t) \rangle$ is the net *instantaneous* mean square displacement per particle, averaged over all particles, after t units of time ($\langle \dots \rangle$ here indicates the average over particles and not temporal averages).

The dynamical model can be summarized by the following algorithm:

- i)* Occupy at random the $L \times L$ sites of a square lattice with N particles subject to the condition that no double occupancy is allowed, with the desired density $\rho = N/L^2 \leq 1$. Tag each particle, that is, distinguish it from the others, and record its initial position in an array.
- ii)* At each step choose a particle (randomly, or, alternatively, in an ordered way) and one of its nearest neighbor sites at random. If the neighbor site is empty, the particle moves to this site; otherwise it does not. Loop over the particles.

Note 1: The measure of “time” in this context is arbitrary. The usual definition is that during one unit of time or one Monte Carlo step, each particle on average attempts one jump. Time goes on even if the particles do not move, i.e., the tentative move is not accepted.

Note 2: Consider periodic boundary conditions, but note that reliable results can be obtained only for $\langle \Delta R^2(t) \rangle < (L/2)^2$ (this sets a limit to number of MC steps). Otherwise, they could be affected by the imposed periodicity.

Do a Monte Carlo simulation to determine D and its dependence on the particles concentration ρ .

See for instance the code `latticegas.f90`. Internal units for Monte Carlo time step and displacement should be preferred. For comparison with a realistic situation, such as for instance diffusion in solids, we may consider Monte Carlo time step equal to 1 ns and the unit length to 2 Å, properly rescaling the internal quantities at the end of the calculations.

- (a) Study $\langle \Delta R^2(t) \rangle$ as a function of time for a fixed value of $\rho = 0.03$ and for a fixed number of particles (e.g., 13 particles in a 20×20 lattice). What do you see increasing time (within the limit mentioned above)? Make a fit and compare your result (the slope) with the expected behavior of a standard random walk.

- (b) Repeat for $\rho = 0.2$.
- (c) Plot $D(t)$ as a function of time: after a certain equilibration time, it fluctuates. Calculate the amplitude of the fluctuations as a function of t (from the distribution of data over the particles). These fluctuations remain also by increasing t .
- (d) In order to estimate D , which is defined as the limit of $D(t)$ for $t \rightarrow \infty$, do a temporal average $\langle D(t) \rangle_T$ ($\langle \dots \rangle_T$ here indicates a "global" temporal average on t from 0 to T or some block average). Plot together $D(t)$ and $\langle D(t) \rangle_T$. Change the seed, do another run and compare $\langle D(t) \rangle_T$ with the previous results. An estimate of D can be obtained by averaging $\langle D(t) \rangle_T$ over different runs.
- (e) Better statistics for $D(t)$ (and consequently for D) can be obtained by calculating $\langle \Delta R^2(t) \rangle$ as average over many particles (i.e., for a given ρ , considering a lattice with L as large as possible; it is suggested $L \geq 40$). Verify that fluctuations of $D(t)$ (and the deviations of $\langle D(t) \rangle_T$ over more runs from its mean value) are proportional to the inverse square root of the number of particles.
- (f) Study the dependence of D on the concentration, using for instance $\rho=0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5,$ and 0.7 . You should find that D is a monotonically decreasing function of ρ . Why?
- (g) To gain some insight into this dependence, determine the dependence on ρ of the probability that if a particle jumps to a vacancy at time t , it returns to its previous position at time $t + 1$. Is there a qualitative relation between the density dependence of D and this probability?

2. Simulated annealing

Simulated annealing is a stochastic method for global energy minimization, considering the system starting from a sufficiently high temperature; at each temperature it goes towards equilibrium according to the Boltzmann factor (see the application of the Metropolis algorithm in the canonical ensemble); then the temperature is slightly reduced and the equilibration procedure is repeated, and so on, until a global equilibrium state is reached at $T=0$. The method can be efficiently used for function minimization, even if the function is not representing an energy. In program `simulated_annealing.f90` it is implemented for the minimization of $f(x) = (x + 0.2) * x + \cos(14.5 * x - 0.3)$. Initial temperature, initial position and scaling factor for the temperature are input quantities. Test the program by choosing different initial parameters and scaling factor for the temperature. For instance:

- (a) *Annealing rate*: Try different annealing factors (0.8, 0.9, 0.95) with different random seeds. How slowly do you have to anneal to settle down in the global minimum over 90% of the time? Just estimate the quantity, but provide some explanation and data to support your answer.
- (b) *\sqrt{T} scaling*: It is often convenient to scale by \sqrt{T} the step size used in the Metropolis algorithm. Why? *Hint, look at the acceptance ratios, and think about diffusion and thermal distributions in parabolic wells*


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    print *, 'Number of particles > number of sites !!!'
    STOP 'Too small lattice'
endif

allocate(lattice(0:L-1,0:L-1))
allocate(x(Np),y(Np))
allocate(dx(Np),dy(Np))

! Mark all positions as empty
do i=0,L-1
  do j=0,L-1
    lattice(i,j) = .false.
  enddo
enddo

! Enumeration of directions: 1=right; 2=left; 3=up; 4=down
dxtrial(1)=+1; dytrial(1)= 0;
dxtrial(2)=-1; dytrial(2)= 0;
dxtrial(3)= 0; dytrial(3)=+1;
dxtrial(4)= 0; dytrial(4)=-1;

Nfail=0; njumps=0;
! Generate particles on lattice
do i=1,Np
  do ! Loop until empty position found
    ! To be on safe side, check that upper limit not reached
    call random_number(rnd)
    x(i)=int(rnd(1)*L); if (x(i)>=L) x(i)=L-1;
    y(i)=int(rnd(2)*L); if (y(i)>=L) y(i)=L-1;
    if (lattice(x(i),y(i))) then
      ! Position already filled, loop to find new trial
      cycle
    else
      lattice(x(i),y(i))=.true.
      ! Success, go to next particle
      exit
    endif
  enddo
  dx(i)=0.0d0; dy(i)=0.0d0;
enddo

T=0.0;
do istep=0,Nsteps-1 ! Loop over MC steps
  do isubstep=1,Np ! Do all particles on average once every MC step
    ! Pick one particle at random
    call random_number(rnd1)

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i=int(rnd1*Np)+1; if (i>Np) i=Np;

! Find possible directions, store it in free()
Nfree=0
do j=1,4
  xnew(j)=x(i)+dxtrial(j);
  if (xnew(j) >= L) xnew(j)=0; if (xnew(j)<0) xnew(j)=L-1;
  ynew(j)=y(i)+dytrial(j);
  if (ynew(j) >= L) ynew(j)=0; if (ynew(j)<0) ynew(j)=L-1;
  if (.not. lattice(xnew(j),ynew(j))) then
    ! Success: position free
    nfree=nfree+1
    free(nfree)=j
  endif
enddo

! If no possible directions, get new particle
If (nfree == 0) then
  nfail=nfail+1
  cycle
endif
njumps=njumps+1

! Pick one of the possible directions randomly
! Note that the dir>nfree check here really is needed!
call random_number(rnd1)
dir=int(rnd1*nfree)+1; if (dir>nfree) dir=nfree
j=free(dir)

! Now x(i),y(i) is old position and xnew(j),ynew(j) new
! Double check that new site really is free
if (lattice(xnew(j),ynew(j))) then
  print *,'ERROR: THIS SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE'
  print *,i,j,dir,nfree
  print *,free
  print *,x(i),y(i),xnew(j),ynew(j)
  STOP 'ERROR new site bug'
endif
!Empty old position and fill new
lattice(x(i),y(i))=.false.
lattice(xnew(j),ynew(j))=.true.

X(i)=xnew(j); y(i)=ynew(j);
dx(i)=dx(i)+dxtrial(j); dy(i)=dy(i)+dytrial(j);
enddo

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If (mod(istep*Np,1000000) == 0) then
! Calculate and print intermediate results
! Get total displacement from dx,dy
dxsum=0.0d0; dysum=0.0d0;
dxsqsum=0.0d0; dysqsum=0.0d0;
do i=1,Np
  dxsum=dxsum+dx(i);  dysum=dysum+dy(i);
  dxsqsum=dxsqsum+dx(i)*dx(i);
  dysqsum=dysqsum+dy(i)*dy(i);
enddo
drsqave=(dxsqsum+dysqsum)/(1.0*Np)

if (t>0.0) then
! Get diffusion coefficient by proper scaling
D=drsqave*a*a/(4*t)
write(*,fmt='(3(a,1pe10.2))')&
  'At ',t,' <dR^2>=',drsqave*a*a,' D=',D,' cm^2/s'
endif

endif

t=t+deltat
enddo

! Get total displacement from dx,dy
dxsum=0.0d0; dysum=0.0d0;
dxsqsum=0.0d0; dysqsum=0.0d0;
do i=1,Np
  dxsum=dxsum+dx(i);  dysum=dysum+dy(i);
  dxsqsum=dxsqsum+dx(i)*dx(i);  dysqsum=dysqsum+dy(i)*dy(i);
enddo
print *,'dxsum',dxsum,' dysum',dysum
print *,'dxsqsum',dxsqsum,' dysqsum',dysqsum

drsqave=(dxsqsum+dysqsum)/(1.0*Np)
print *,'drsqave',drsqave
print *,'Number of failed jumps',nfail,' number of successes',njumps
! Get diffusion coefficient by proper scaling
D=drsqave*a*a/(4*t)
write(*,fmt='(a,f6.4,a)')'For Np/L^2=',real(Np)/L**2,' : '
write(*,fmt='(3(a,1pe10.2))')&
  'at ',t,' <dR^2>=',drsqave*a*a,' D=',D,' cm^2/s'

deallocate (lattice,x,y,dx,dy)

end program latticegas

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