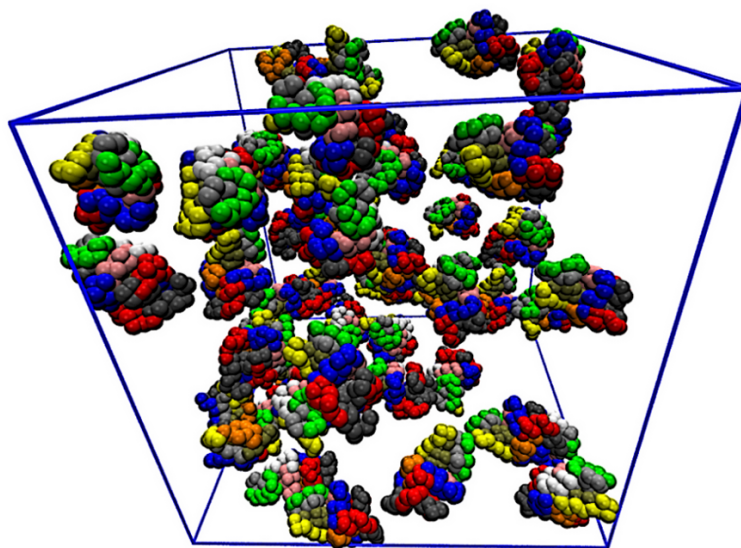
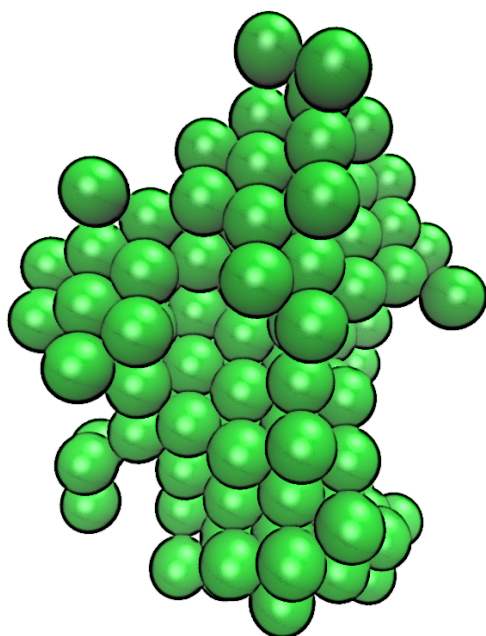


# BD\_BOX version 1.2 user's manual

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Work on the BD\_BOX package is supported by National Science Centre, grant number N N519 646640

BD\_BOX is a scalable Brownian dynamics package for UNIX/LINUX platforms. BD\_BOX is written in C and uses modern computer architectures and technologies:

- MPI technology for distributed-memory architectures
- OpenMP technology for shared-memory systems
- NVIDIA CUDA framework for GPGPU
- SSE vectorization for CPU

Within the BD\_BOX framework macromolecules can be represented with flexible bead models

When flexible models are employed, each molecule consists of a various number of spherical subunits (beads) connected with deformable bonds [1, 2]. Bonded interactions that result in deformations of planar and dihedral angles can be also modeled. Direct, nonbonded interactions between molecules are evaluated using pairwise functions describing screened electrostatics in dielectric media [3] with effective charges assigned to spherical subunits [4] and Lennard-Jones potential types. The far-field hydrodynamic effects are modeled using the configuration dependent Rotne-Prager-Yamakawa mobility tensor [5, 6, 7] or its Ewald-summed form in case of periodic systems [8, 9]. Equations of motions are propagated using either the Ermak-McCammon [10] scheme or the predictor-corrector IG-T algorithm by Iniesta and Garcia de la Torre [11]. Hydrodynamically correlated random displacements are generated either via the Cholesky factorization of the configuration-dependent mobility tensor matrix [10] or, optionally, using the TEA-HI approach proposed by Geyer and Winter [12, 13]. With BD\_BOX one can simulate flexible molecules in homogeneous flows [2] or external electric fields (direct, alternate or rotating fields).

BD\_BOX simulations can be performed without or with boundaries; in the latter case containing or periodic boundary conditions can be used. With BD\_BOX one can effectively simulate either single molecules or multi-molecular systems composed of large numbers of different species. For efficient simulations of dense systems we implemented an algorithm preventing the overlapping of diffusing molecules [14, 15].

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# 1 Requirements

The BD\_BOX package is distributed as source code. A UNIX/LINUX *make* tool is needed to build a working binary from source code (see below). CPU version of the BD\_BOX binary can be run either in a serial mode or in parallel, either on shared-memory machines using OpenMP and MPI libraries or on architectures with distributed memory using the MPI library. GPU version of the BD\_BOX binary require the CUDA Toolkit (obtainable freely at <http://developer.nvidia.com>). Both CPU and GPU versions can be compiled with the support for either single or double-precision floating-point arithmetic.

For the generation of random Gaussian numbers, BD\_BOX uses functions implemented in the GNU Scientific Library (GSL) (<http://www.gnu.org/software/gsl>) that are based on the Mersenne Twister algorithm of Matsumoto and Nishimura [16]. We also implemented a function that uses the standard system routine *drand48()* and the polar Box-Muller transformation [17].

A generic, sequential algorithm implemented in BD\_BOX for the Cholesky factorization, follows the *choldc()* subroutine described in [18]. However, it is better to compile BD\_BOX with the implemented support for the LAPACK (or SCALAPACK) library (<http://www.netlib.org/lapack>) that offers efficient, highly memory-optimized routines for the Cholesky factorization. LAPACK performs the vast amount of operations by exploiting BLAS. Machine-specific implementations of BLAS are available and such implementations can be crucial for the performance of BD\_BOX. The Cholesky factorization on GPU relays on the implemented support for the MAGMA dense linear algebra library (<http://icl.cs.utk.edu/magma>), which provides functionality of LAPACK.

# 2 Installation

The *configure* shell script, written by GNU Autoconf is used to build the BD\_BOX binary. After unpacking the compressed BD\_BOX archive:

```
gzip -d bd_box-ver.tar.gz
```

```
tar -xvf bd_box-ver.tar
```

the user should execute the *configure* script from within the BD\_BOX directory:

```
cd ./bd_box-ver
```

```
./configure
```

*configure* takes instructions from *Makefile.in* and builds *Makefile* and some other files that work on the user's system. We provide the *INSTALL* file and some other files (consult the *README* file in the *bd\_box-ver* directory) with flags and options that can be passed to the *configure* script to tune the compilation on particular systems. Next, the:

```
make
```

command followed (optionally) by the:

```
make install
```

should be executed. As a result of the compilation process, a single binary: *bd\_flex* should be created, either within the *bd\_box-ver/flex* directory, or in the directory passed by the user to the *configure* script (with the *-prefix* option).

## Units

**charge:** e

**length:** Å

**time:** ps

**temperature:** K

**energy:**  $\frac{kcal}{mol}$

**viscosity** Poise



### 3 Bead Models

The *bd\_flex* module of BD\_BOX utilizes coarse-grained models of molecules (see for example Figure 1). Each model consists of a number of spherical subunits (beads). Beads can be placed for example on repeating units of biomolecules, such as amino or nucleic acids [19, 20]. Various levels of resolution are possible and different modeling approaches can be applied [21]. BD\_BOX does not offer a separate tool dedicated to build and parametrize molecular models based on atomic structures of molecules. However, most of the coarse-grained models share the concept of a reduced representation with pseudo-atoms (beads) that represent groups of atoms and such models can be easily incorporated in BD\_BOX (*bd\_flex*) simulations [22, 2, 23]. Spherical subunits are assigned hydrodynamic radii so that the overall diffusive properties of a coarse-grained model correspond to the measured or computed properties of real molecules. Subunits' hydrodynamic radii values can be parametrized for example using the rigid-body hydrodynamic calculations [29, 26].

Additionally, each subunit is assigned a hard-core radius (Figure 1) used to evaluate Lennard-Jones interactions. The hydrodynamic and the hard-core radius of a given subunit can be different.

## 4 Potentials and Fields

Below we present bonded and nonbonded interactions potentials, currently implemented in the *bd\_flex* module of the BD\_BOX package.

### 4.1 Bonded Potentials

#### 4.1.1 Bonds

The following potential [23] is considered to model connections between spherical subunits (beads)  $i$  and  $j$ :

$$V_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2}Hr_{max}^2 \ln \left( \frac{r_{max}^2 - r_{ij}^2}{r_{max}^2 - r_o^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2}Hr_{max}r_o \ln \left( \frac{(r_{max} + r_{ij})(r_{max} - r_o)}{(r_{max} - r_{ij})(r_{max} + r_o)} \right) \quad (1)$$

where:

$r_o$  – the equilibrium bond length

$r_{max}$  – the maximum bond length

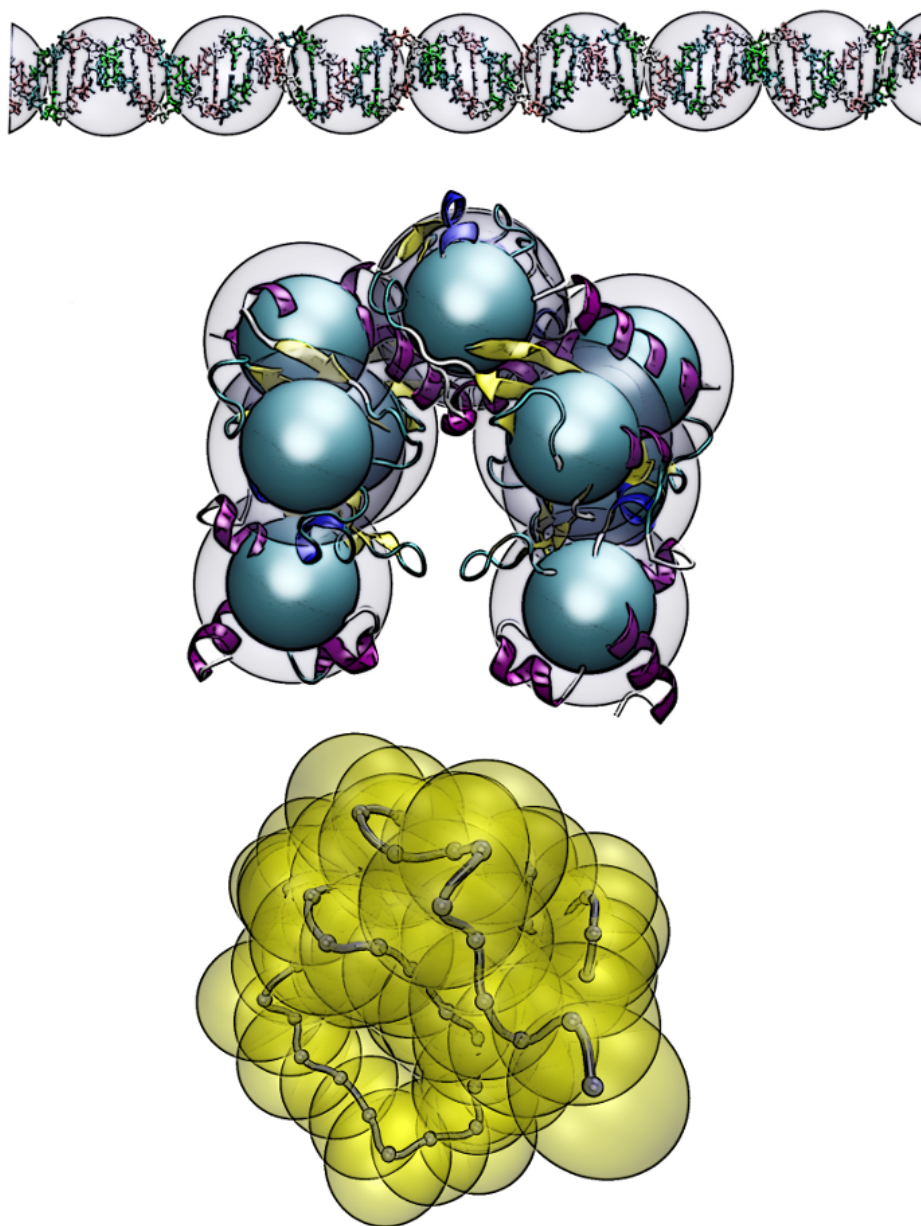


Figure 1: Exemplary bead models (hydrodynamic subunits are shown as transparent spheres). Top: DNA double helix taken from[2]. Middle: EcoRV endonuclease (PDB ID 1E00[24]), radii of opaque beads define excluded volume interactions in multicomponent systems. The presented coarse-grained model of the EcoRV molecule was created using the CG Builder module from the VMD[25] package. Hydrodynamic radii of beads were computed using the HYDROPRO suite[26]. Bottom: Chymotrypsin inhibitor 2 (PDB ID 3CI2[27]). Hydrodynamic radii of beads were parametrized based on BD simulations with experimental data[28] and HYDROPRO[26] calculations as a reference.

$H$  – the force constant

$r_{ij}$  – the distance between beads centers

With an appropriate choice of parameters  $H$  and  $r_{max}$  [23, 2] this potential can describe either harmonic or FENE (finite extensible nonlinear elastic) [1] bonds. The number of bonds originating from a given subunit is unlimited.

#### 4.1.2 Angles

Potential associated with the deformation of a planar angle  $\phi_n$  can be either of form:

$$V_{\phi_n} = \frac{1}{2} k_{\phi_n} (\cos \phi_n - \cos \phi_n^o)^2 \quad (2)$$

or

$$V_{\phi_n} = \frac{1}{2} k_{\phi_n} (\phi_n - \phi_n^o)^2 \quad (3)$$

with  $k_{\phi}$  being the force constant and  $\phi^o$  the value of a given angle at the equilibrium.

#### 4.1.3 Dihedrals

Rotation around a bond connecting beads (the deformation of a dihedral angle  $\theta_n$ ) is currently modeled either using a simple harmonic function:

$$V_{\theta_n} = \frac{1}{2} k_{\theta_n} (\theta_n - \theta_n^o)^2 \quad (4)$$

with  $k_{\theta}$  being the force constant and  $\theta^o$  the equilibrium angle, or more elaborate:

$$V_{\theta_n} = k_{\theta_n} (1 + \cos(\delta_n) \cos(m_n \theta_n)) \quad (5)$$

where  $\delta = 0$  or  $\delta = \pi$  and  $m = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ .

## 4.2 Nonbonded Potentials

Nonbonded interactions implemented in BD\_BOX (*bd\_flex*) include electrostatics and repulsive-attractive Lennard-Jones interactions.

### 4.2.1 Electrostatics

The Debye - Hückel approximation [3] is used to model screened electrostatic interactions. Two spherical subunits with central charges  $Q_i$  and  $Q_j$  interact via a pairwise additive potential of a form:

$$V_{ij} = \gamma \frac{Q_i Q_j}{\epsilon_s r_{ij}} \exp(-\kappa r_{ij}) \quad (6)$$

where  $\epsilon_s$  is the dielectric constant of the immersing medium,  $\kappa$  is the inverse of the Debye screening length, and  $r_{ij}$  is the separation of charges.

### 4.2.2 Lennard-Jones Potentials

Nonspecific interactions between subunits, repulsive at small separations and attractive at large separations are evaluated using standard 6/12 Lennard-Jones potentials:

$$V_{ij} = \alpha \epsilon_{LJ} \left( \left( \frac{\sigma_{LJ}^{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma_{LJ}^{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right) \quad (7)$$

where  $\epsilon_{ij}^{LJ} = \sqrt{\epsilon_i^{LJ} \epsilon_j^{LJ}}$  is the well depth and  $\sigma_{LJ}^{ij} = R_i + R_j$  where  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  are hard-core radii of interacting subunits. It is also possible to model only purely repulsive interactions, without the long-range ( $\sim \frac{1}{r^6}$ ) term.

## 4.3 Electric Fields

It is possible to simulate with *bd\_flex* the interactions of charged molecules with external electric fields:

DC – direct current field

$$\vec{E} = E_o \hat{e}_E \quad (8)$$

AC – alternate current field

$$\vec{E} = E_o \cos(\omega t) \hat{e}_E \quad (9)$$

RF – rotate field

$$\vec{E} = E_o(\cos(\omega t), \sin(\omega t), 0) \hat{e}_E \quad (10)$$

where  $\hat{e}_E = \hat{e}_x$  or  $\hat{e}_E = \hat{e}_y$  or  $\hat{e}_E = \hat{e}_z$ ,  $E_o$  is the magnitude of the external field and  $\omega$  its frequency. Except for the rotate field, all other fields act along the space fixed direction.

#### 4.4 Bounding Sphere

A spherical surface, impenetrable for molecules, that encloses simulated system can be included in *bd-flex* simulations. The influence of such a containing sphere on the studied system is modeled by applying a central force of form:

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{A}{(R_{sphere} - r)^n} \hat{e}_r \quad (11)$$

where  $R_{sphere}$  is the radius of a spherical surface,  $n$  is a nonnegative integer,  $A$  is the amplitude of the force and  $r$  is the distance between a particular subunit and the system's centre of geometry. The above force is applied to each of the studied subunits outside a predefined cutoff.

## 5 Hydrodynamics and Brownian motion

Brownian dynamics trajectories are generated using either the Ermak-McCammon algorithm (E-M) [10], or the two step predictor-corrector algorithm developed by Iniesta and de la Torre (IG-T) [11].

### 5.1 Equations of Motions - E-M and I-GT Algorithms

An initial position of the  $i^{th}$  bead is described by  $\vec{r}_i^0$ . The position vector  $\vec{r}_i$  after a time step  $\Delta t$  is computed using the following scheme:

**predictor step:**

$$\vec{r}'_i = \vec{r}^o_i + \frac{\Delta t}{k_B T} \sum_{j=1}^N \mathbf{D}^o_{ij} \vec{F}^o_j + \vec{R}_i \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N \quad (12)$$

with:

$$\langle \vec{R}_i \rangle = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, N \quad (13)$$

and

$$\langle \vec{R}_i (\vec{R}_j)^T \rangle = 2 \mathbf{D}^o_{ij} \Delta t \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N \quad (14)$$

The above equations describe the E–M algorithm [10], which is equivalent to the first-order Euler algorithm (except for the Brownian drift term). In the IG–T algorithm [11] an additional corrector step is taken:

**corrector step:**

$$\vec{r}'_i = \vec{r}^o_i + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta t}{k_B T} \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \mathbf{D}^o_{ij} \vec{F}^o_j + \mathbf{D}'_{ij} \vec{F}'_j \right) + \vec{R}'_i \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N \quad (15)$$

with:

$$\langle \vec{R}'_i \rangle = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, N \quad (16)$$

and

$$\langle \vec{R}'_i (\vec{R}'_j)^T \rangle = 2 \left( \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{D}^o_{ij} + \mathbf{D}'_{ij}) \right) \Delta t \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N \quad (17)$$

where prime denotes that forces and diffusion tensors are evaluated for subunits in a configuration given with  $\vec{r}'_i$ .

in equations given above:

$k_B$  - the Boltzmann constant

$T$  - temperature

$\mathbf{D}_{ij}$  -  $3 \times 3$  element of the  $3N \times 3N$  configuration-dependent diffusion tensor

$\vec{R}_i$  - random vector

$\vec{F}$  - total force acting on the  $i^{th}$  subunit

The vector  $\vec{R}$  representing random movement of all beads can be obtained from:

$$\vec{R} = \mathbf{S}\vec{X} \quad (18)$$

where, the  $3N \times 3N$  tensor  $\mathbf{S}$  is derived from tensor  $\mathbf{D}$  by the relation:

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^T \quad (19)$$

and  $\vec{X}$  is a  $3N \times 1$  column vector, the elements of which are random Gaussian numbers with zero mean and  $2\Delta t$  variance. *bd\_flex* uses Cholesky decomposition of  $\mathbf{D}$  to obtain matrices  $\mathbf{S}$ .

## 5.2 Diffusion Tensors

For a system consisting of  $N$  spherical subunits with hydrodynamic radii  $a_i$ , the following form of the  $3N \times 3N$  diffusion tensor is used [5, 6, 7]:

$$\mathbf{D}_{ii} = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta a_i} \mathbf{I} \quad (20)$$

and (for non-overlapping subunits):

$$\mathbf{D}_{ij} = \frac{k_B T}{8\pi\eta r_{ij}} \left[ \mathbf{I} + \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}\vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij}^2} + \frac{a_i^2 + a_j^2}{r_{ij}^2} \left( \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{I} - \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}\vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij}^2} \right) \right] \quad (21)$$

and (for overlapping beads,  $r_{ij} < a_i + a_j$ ,  $a = \frac{1}{2}(a_i + a_j)$ ):

$$\mathbf{D}_{ij} = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta a} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{9}{32} \frac{r_{ij}}{a} \right) \mathbf{I} + \frac{3}{32} \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}\vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij}a} \right] \quad (22)$$

where:

$k_B$  - the Boltzmann constant

$T$  - temperature

$\mathbf{I}$  - unit matrix  $3 \times 3$

$\mathbf{D}_{ij}$  -  $3 \times 3$  element of the  $3N \times 3N$  configuration-dependent diffusion tensor

$a_i$  - the hydrodynamic radius of a bead

$\vec{r}_{ij}$ ,  $r_{ij}$  - the distance between beads

$\eta$  - solvent viscosity

In case of finite-size simulation cells containing the studied system, when periodic boundary conditions are being used, the form of the diffusion tensor presented above is not directly applicable. We implemented in the *bd.flex* module of BD\_BOX the direct Ewald summation procedure that leads to a periodic form of the diffusion tensor as proposed by Smith [8]. Let's consider a cubic box with side  $L$ , containing  $N$  spherical particles (some of them may be connected with bonds) with radii  $a$ . Particle  $i$  has position  $\vec{r}_i$ . With the center of the primary box at  $(0, 0, 0)$ , we construct an array of its copies having centers at  $L\vec{m}$  with  $\vec{m}$  being a vector of integer components:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{m} &= (m_1, m_2, m_3) \quad m_i \in (-\infty, +\infty) \\ |\vec{m}| &= \sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2}\end{aligned}\tag{23}$$

The magnitude of  $\vec{m}$  is defined as:

$$m = |m_1| + |m_2| + |m_3|\tag{24}$$

In a given copy of the primary simulation box there are  $N$  particles with particle  $i$  at  $L\vec{m} + \vec{r}_i$ . The array consists of those copies for which  $|L\vec{m}| \leq R$ , with  $R \rightarrow \infty$ . In the system defined above, the diffusion tensor is given by [8]:

$$D_{ij} = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta a} \left( \delta_{ij} I + \left( \frac{3a}{4L} O_{PBC} \left( \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}}{L} \right) + \frac{a^3}{2L^3} Q_{PBC} \left( \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}}{L} \right) \right) \right)\tag{25}$$

where  $I$  is  $3 \times 3$  identity matrix and  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker's delta. Following the notation introduced in the work of Smith et al. [8] we introduce:

$$O(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{r} (I + \hat{r}\hat{r}^T) \quad Q(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{r^3} (I - 3\hat{r}\hat{r}^T) \quad \hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{r}\tag{26}$$

and

$$\vec{\sigma} = \frac{\vec{r}_{ij}}{L}\tag{27}$$



Now, for  $\vec{\sigma} \neq \vec{m}'$  (interactions between different particles within the primary cell or between a particular particle in the primary cell with an image of other particle) we have the following Ewald formulas[8]:

$$O_{PBC}(\vec{\sigma}) = \sum_{\vec{m}} \left[ \text{erfc}(\alpha|\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}|) O(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}) + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\alpha^2(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})^2} \frac{(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})^T}{|\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}|^2} \right] + \sum_{\vec{n} \neq 0} \frac{2}{\pi \vec{n}^2} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2}} e^{2\pi i \vec{n} \vec{\sigma}} \left[ I - \left( 1 + \frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2} \right) \hat{n} \hat{n}^T \right] \quad (28)$$

$$Q_{PBC}(\vec{\sigma}) = \sum_{\vec{m}} \left[ \text{erfc}(\alpha|\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}|) + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{\pi}} |\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}| e^{-\alpha^2(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})^2} \right] Q(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}) - \sum_{\vec{m}} \frac{4\alpha^3}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\alpha^2(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})^2} \frac{(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})(\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma})^T}{|\vec{m} + \vec{\sigma}|^2} + 4\pi \sum_{\vec{n} \neq 0} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2}} e^{2\pi i \vec{n} \vec{\sigma}} \hat{n} \hat{n}^T \quad (29)$$

Additionally, for  $\vec{\sigma} = \vec{m}'$  (interactions between a particular particle in the primary cell with its self-images across the array) we have [8]:

$$O_{PBC}(\vec{m}') = \sum_{\vec{m} \neq 0} \left[ \text{erfc}(\alpha|\vec{m}|) O(\vec{m}) + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\alpha^2 \vec{m}^2} \hat{m} \hat{m}^T \right] - \frac{3\alpha a}{2\sqrt{\pi} L} I + \sum_{\vec{n} \neq 0} \frac{2}{\pi \vec{n}^2} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2}} \left[ I - \left( 1 + \frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2} \right) \hat{n} \hat{n}^T \right] \quad (30)$$

$$Q_{PBC}(\vec{m}') = \sum_{\vec{m} \neq 0} \left[ \text{erfc}(\alpha|\vec{m}|) + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{\pi}} |\vec{m}| e^{-\alpha^2 \vec{m}^2} \right] Q(\vec{m}) - \sum_{\vec{m} \neq 0} \frac{4\alpha^3}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\alpha^2 \vec{m}^2} \hat{m} \hat{m}^T - \frac{1}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{\alpha a}{L} \right)^3 I + 4\pi \sum_{\vec{n} \neq 0} e^{-\frac{\pi^2 \vec{n}^2}{\alpha^2}} \hat{n} \hat{n}^T \quad (31)$$

In the equations given above,  $\text{erfc}()$  is the complementary error function. Vectors  $\vec{m}$  and  $\vec{n}$  have integer components. Summations over the vectors  $\vec{n}$  and  $\vec{m}$  give reciprocal and real-space contributions to the diffusion tensor. The above equations can be extended to a system of spherical particles with different radii  $a_i$ . One need

only replace in each of the above equations the radius  $a$  to the first power by  $a_i$  and the radius  $a$  to the third power by  $\frac{1}{2}a_i(a_i^2 + a_j^2)$  [9].

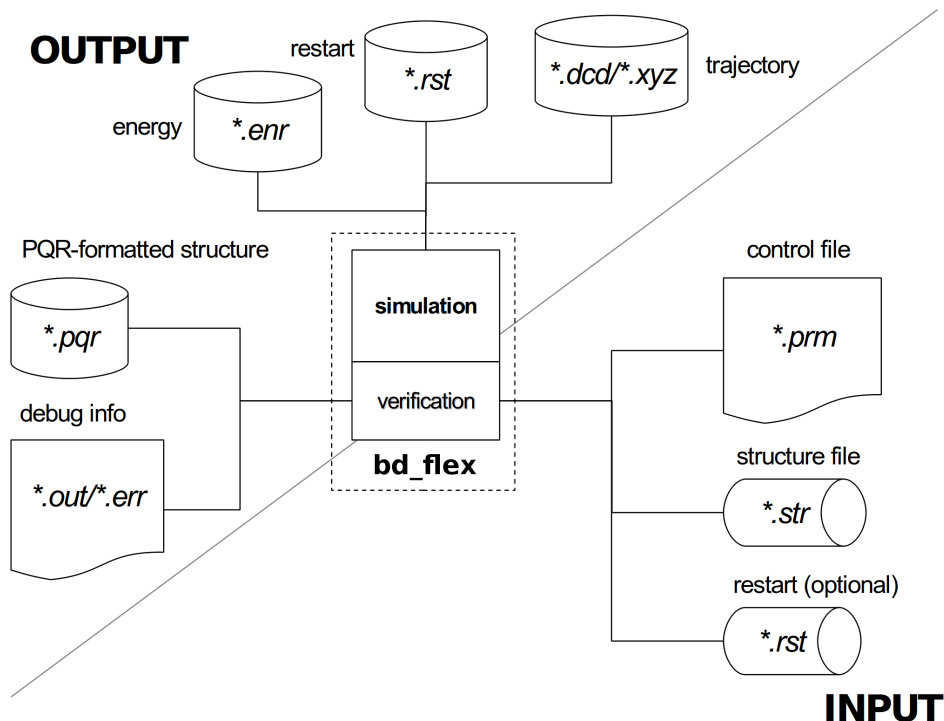
An additional modification of the original formulation of Smith et al. [8] is a correction to the final form of the periodic form of the diffusion tensor that allows for overlaps between spherical particles located within the primary simulation cell [30]. Whenever two beads with radii  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  overlap, the following form of the diffusion tensor is used:

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{ij}^{overlap} &= D_{ij} + A_{ij} - B_{ij} \\
 A_{ij} &= \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta a} \left( \left(1 - \frac{9}{32} \frac{r_{ij}}{a}\right) I + \frac{3}{32} \frac{\vec{r}_{ij} \vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij} a} \right) \\
 B_{ij} &= \frac{k_B T}{8\pi\eta r_{ij}} \left( I + \frac{\vec{r}_{ij} \vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij}^2} + \frac{a_i^2 + a_j^2}{r_{ij}^2} \left( \frac{1}{3} I - \frac{\vec{r}_{ij} \vec{r}_{ij}^T}{r_{ij}^2} \right) \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

where  $D_{ij}$  is the Ewald-summed diffusion tensor given with Equation 25 and  $a = \frac{1}{2}(a_i + a_j)$ .

## 6 Overlaps

The presence of a Gaussian random displacement vector in the BD integration scheme (Equations 12) may lead to nonphysical overlaps between beads. Overlaps occur when the distance between any two subunits is smaller than the sum of their hard-core radii. *bd\_flex* can check whether a particular simulation step leads to an overlap between subunits. Next, positions of subunits are corrected to remove all cases of overlaps. This can be done in one of the three ways. One option is that the current step of a simulation is rejected, positions of all subunits are reset to initial ones and a new step is attempted with different random vector, until there are no cases of overlap. The second option is similar to the first, however, each of the subsequent attempts is made with a smaller time step. After successful removal of overlaps, the time step is restored to its initial value. As a third option, we also implemented the elastic collision method [14], in which all the collisions between subunits are considered explicitly as the elastic collision. A numerical procedure applied at each step of a simulation locates time, collision partners and parameters for every collision occurring in the system in chronological order and corrects positions of spherical subunits accordingly, using laws of classical mechanics.

Figure 2: *bd\_flex* schematics

## 7 Running Simulations with *bd\_flex*

Two input files are needed to perform BD simulations with the *bd\_flex* module of BD\_BOX (Figure 2). The structure file (\*.str) contains the definition of the molecular system to be simulated: initial positions of beads (Cartesian coordinates), their identifiers (name and index), their parameters such as radii, charges, masses, well depths of Lennard-Jones interactions, and their connectivities (bonds, planar angles and dihedrals). Simulation parameters are stored in the text control file (\*.prm) (Figure 2). These include for example the type of the propagation algorithm and its time step, temperature, viscosity, ionic strength, definition of boundaries, the treatment of hydrodynamic interactions, values of cutoffs for nonbonded interactions, specifications of the output (names and types of files, write frequency), path to the input structure file and many others.

The output from *bd\_flex* consists of a few files (Figure 2). The output file (\*.out/\*.err) contains the track of the BD run, error messages (if any) and debugging information. Another file, in the PQR format (\*.pqr), contains the definition (names, coordinates, charges and radii of beads) of the molecular system under study - it can be used to verify the starting configuration of molecules and also (together with a trajectory file) to visualize results. The trajectory file, either in the binary DCD or text XYZ format (\*.dcd/\*.xyz) defines the behavior of

the studied system along time. The energy file (\*.enr) registers different contributions to the total energy of the system during a simulation. The binary restart file (\*.rst) contains all the information needed to continue an interrupted BD run. All files are periodically updated during a BD run with frequencies defined by the user.

Having prepared control and structure files, the user may run the simulation with the command:

```
bd_flex file.prm
```

It is also possible not to use the control file at all or to override all options specified in the control file using command line parameters that correspond to appropriate control file keywords:

```
bd_flex --parameter=value
```

or

```
bd_flex file.prm --parameter=value
```

## 7.1 Input Files

Both input (\*.str, \*.prm) files are loosely formatted text files. Below we describe their structure and some rules that must be followed upon their construction.

### 7.1.1 Structure File

The BD\_BOX structure file contains the definition of the studied system: initial positions of subunits (beads), their parameters (such as charges and radii), their bonded and nonbonded interactions parameters. Meaningful lines in the structure file are these that begin with one of the words: *sub*, *bond*, *angle* or *dihe*.

- *sub* lines - each line describes a single spherical subunit and its parameters:

```
sub name id x y z  $\sigma$  Q 2·R  $\epsilon^{LJ}$  m
```

where:

*name* - the name of the subunit

*id* - an unique identifier assigned to the subunit (integer)

*x y z* - Cartesian coordinates of the subunit

$\sigma$  - the hydrodynamic radius of the subunit

*Q* - the central charge

*R* - the hard-core (Lennard-Jones) radius (note that the value of *R* should be doubled in the structure file)

$\epsilon^{LJ}$  - Lennard-Jones well depth

*m* - mass (mass is only needed when the elastic collision method is to be used during the simulation.

However, this column is obligatory. As only the ratio of masses of different subunits is important during evaluation of collisions within pairs of particles, one does not need to care about units and particular values.)

- *bond* lines - each line define a single bond and its parameters (Equation 1)

*bond id(1) id(2) r<sub>o</sub> r<sub>max</sub> H*

where:

*id(1)* and *id(2)* - identifiers of subunits to be connected

*r<sub>o</sub>* - the equilibrium bond length

*r<sub>max</sub>* - the maximum bond length

*H* - the force constant

- *angle* lines - each line defines a single planar angle (between bonds connecting subunits *id(1)*, *id(2)* and *id(2)*, *id(3)*). Currently, two types of the planar angle potential are supported:

*angle angle id(1) id(2) id(3)  $\phi^o$  k <sub>$\phi$</sub>*

*angle cos id(1) id(2) id(3)  $\phi^o$  k <sub>$\phi$</sub>*

where:

*angle* - defines the form of the potential to be used - Equation 3

*cos* - defines the form of the potential to be used - Equation 2

*id(1)*, *id(2)*, *id(3)* - identifiers of subunits in the planar angle

$\phi^o$  - the equilibrium angle value

*k <sub>$\phi$</sub>*  - the force constant

- *dihe* lines - each line defines a single dihedral angle (subunits *id(1)*,*id(2)*,*id(3)*,*id(4)* - rotation around the *id(2)*-*id(3)* bond). Two types of the dihedral angle potential are supported:

*dihe angle id(1) id(2) id(3) id(4)  $\theta^\circ$   $k_\theta$*

*dihe cos id(1) id(2) id(3) id(4)  $k_\theta$   $m$   $\cos(\delta)$*

where:

*angle* - defines the form of the potential to be used - Equation 4

*cos* - defines the form of the potential to be used - Equation 5

$k_\theta$  - the force constant

$\theta^\circ$  - the equilibrium angle value

$\cos(\delta)$  - the phase

$m$  - multiplicity

### 7.1.2 Simulation Control File

The control file contains a number of keywords that allow the user to specify simulations conditions. Only these lines in the control file that begin with a particular keyword are recognized by the program.

Each line of the \*.prm file should contain only one keyword and its value:

*keyword value*

The complete list of available keywords is given in the next section.

## 8 Control File Keywords and Command Line Parameters

Below, a complete list of recognized keywords and their possible values is given. Values of all keywords relevant to a simulation must be specified by the user - default values that are given below are these at which program variables are initialized.

## 8.1 Input/Output Control

*restart* *string* - this keyword indicates that a continuation run should be performed, using the *string* restart file (input)

*out\_filename* *string* - the name of the plain text output file

*save\_xyz\_freq* *integer value* - the frequency for writing to the XYZ trajectory file, default 1

*save\_dcd\_freq* *integer value* - the frequency for writing to the DCD trajectory file, default 1

*save\_rst\_freq* *integer value* - the frequency for writing to the restart file, default 1

*save\_enr\_freq* *integer value* - the frequency for writing to the energy file, default 1

*str\_filename* *string* - the name of the input structure file

*xyz\_filename* *string* - the name of the XYZ trajectory file (output)

*dcd\_filename* *string* - the name of the DCD trajectory file (output)

*enr\_filename* *string* - the name of the energy file (output)

*rst\_filename* *string* - the name of the restart file to be written

*pqr\_filename* *string* - the name of the PQR structure file (output)

## 8.2 Nonbonded Interactions

*alpha\_lj* *float* - the  $\alpha$  (Equation 7) parameter for Lennard-Jones interactions scaling, typically 4.0, default: 4.0

*cutoff\_lj* *float* - the cutoff radius for Lennard-Jones interactions, default: 0.0. Setting the *cutoff\_lj* to -1 results in cutoffs defined for each pair of the subunits as  $2^{\frac{1}{6}}(R_i + R_j)$

*lj\_6\_term* *yes/no* - whether to use the  $(\frac{1}{r})^6$  term in the Lennard-Jones potential (Equation 7), default: yes

*epsilon\_c* *float* - the dielectric constant of the immersing medium (water), default: 78.54

*kappa\_c* *float* - the inverse of the Debye screening length, the  $\kappa$  parameter in Equation 6, default: 0.1

*cutoff\_c* *float* - the cutoff radius for electrostatic interactions, default: 0.0.

*gamma\_c* *float* - unit conversion factor, the  $\gamma$  parameter in the Equation 6, default (conversion to  $\frac{\text{kcal}}{\text{mol}}$ ) 331.842

*elec* *yes/no* - whether electrostatic interactions should be evaluated, default yes

*bond\_lj\_scale* *float* - the scaling factor for Lennard-Jones interactions between bonded (1-2) pseudoatoms, default: 1.0

*bond\_c\_scale* *float* - the scaling factor for electrostatic interactions between bonded (1-2) pseudoatoms, default: 1.0

*nb\_list* *string* - this keyword specifies the algorithm used to create nonbonded interactions lists, *brute* (default, brute force), *spatial* (grid-based), *verlet* (explicit creation of Verlet lists)

*verlet\_count* *integer* - frequency of re-creation of nonbonded interactions (Verlet) lists, default: 1



*verlet\_roff* *float* - outer cutoff for creation of nonbonded interactions (Verlet) lists, default: 10.0

## 8.3 Boundaries

*xbox* *float* - the primary simulation cell, size in the x direction, default: 0.0

*ybox* *float* - the primary simulation cell, size in the y direction, default: 0.0

*zbox* *float* - the primary simulation cell, size in the z direction, default: 0.0

**NOTE: Currently, only cubical boxes are supported in case of Ewald-summed diffusion tensors**

*bc* *string* - boundary conditions to be used, either *none*, *pbc* (in case of periodic boundary conditions) or *sphere*, default: *none*

*sboundary* *yes/no* - whether to use the bounding sphere potential (Equation 11), default: *no*. Note that this keyword has nothing to do with the *bc* keyword; if *bc sphere* is used molecules are not allow to cross a spherical surface around the studied system but no potential is used for that, rather BD moves leading outside the spherical surface are simply rejected an repeated with different random vectors

*sphere\_radius* *float* - the radius of the bounding sphere, default: 0.0. This keyword applies either when *bc sphere* or *sboundary yes* is specified

*sboundary\_A* *float* - the magnitude of the bounding sphere force, the *A* parameter in Equation 11, default: 0.0

*sboundary\_n* *integer* - the power of the radial distance dependence of the bounding sphere force, the *n* parameter in Equation 11, default: 0.0

*sboundary\_cutoff* *float* - the bounding sphere force is applied outside this cutoff radius, default: 0.0

*ewald\_real* *integer* - the magnitude of the real lattice vectors (Equation 24, Equations 28-31), default: 0

*ewald\_recip* *integer* - the magnitude of the reciprocal lattice vectors (Equation 24, Equations 28-31), default: 0

*ewald\_alpha* *float* - this parameter controls the convergence of the Ewald summation ( $\alpha$  in Equations 28-31), default:  $\sqrt{\pi}$

*ewald\_method* *string* - the method used to build the Ewald-summed diffusion tensor, default: *smith* as in [8]

## 8.4 External Electric Fields

*E\_ext* *yes/no* - whether to switch on/off the external electric field, default: *no*

*E\_magn* *float* - the magnitude of the external electric field, default: 0.0

*E\_type* *string* - a choice between different types of the electric field (Equations 9, 8 and 10), possible values are AC, DC or RF, default: DC

*E\_freq* *float* - the frequency (where applicable) of the external electric field (units  $\left[\frac{1}{ps}\right]$ ), default: 0.0

*E\_dir1* *string* - the direction of the external electric field, x, y or z, default: x

*E\_dir2* *string* - the second direction of the external electric field (RF), x, y or z, default: y

*E\_factor* *float* - the unit conversion factor for the external electric field (to  $\frac{kcal}{mol} \cdot e^{-1} \text{\AA}^{-1}$ ), default: 1.0

## 8.5 Flows

*vel\_grad\_tensor* *float float float float float float float float float* - the velocity gradient tensor  $G(i,j)$  where  $i$  runs over rows and  $j$  runs over columns,  $G(1,1) G(1,2) G(1,3) G(2,1) G(2,2) \dots G(3,3)$ , default:  $9 \times 0.0$

## 8.6 Devices Control

*MPI\_npro* *integer* - the number of rows in the processor grid, default: 0

*MPI\_npcol* *integer* - the number of columns in the processor grid, default: 0

*MPI\_block* *integer* - the size of a block in the processor grid, default: 0, this value should be less than the rank of the diffusion tensor matrix

*cuda\_devices* *integer integers* - this keyword specifies CUDA devices to use, their number followed by their system identifiers

*cuda\_block* *integer* - this is the dimension of the thread block, possible values are 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024. The value of the *cuda\_block* parameter depends on the hardware device and the number of beads in the simulated system, default: 256; this keyword is relevant in case of devices with compute capability less than 2.0

### NOTE:

***MPI\_npro* × *MPI\_npcol* should be equal or lesser than the number of computational nodes used**

**Keywords *MPI\_npro*, *MPI\_npcol* and *MPI\_block* are relevant only when SCALAPACK is being used.**

## 8.7 Algorithms

*dt* *float* - the time step, in [ps], default: *0.0*

*bdsteps* *integer* - the total number of simulation's steps, default: *0*

*hydro* *string* - the method used to evaluate hydrodynamic interactions, can be set to *none* (a diagonal form of the diffusion tensor will be used throughout the simulation), *cholesky* (Cholesky decomposition of the diffusion tensor matrix [10]) or *geyer* (the TEA-HI method of Geyer and Winter [13])

*algorithm* *string* - algorithm for the trajectory generation. Possible values are: *igt\_const*, *igt\_var*, *ermak\_const*, *ermak\_var*, *ermak\_newton*; *igt(ermak)* means that either the Ermak algorithm or the IG-T algorithm will be used, either with a constant or variable time step (*const(var)*). The elastic collision method can be switched on by setting *algorithm* to *ermak\_newton*.

*rand\_seed* *integer* - a seed for the random number generator, default: *12345*

*check\_overlap* *yes/no* - whether to check for overlaps in the studied system after each simulation's step, default: *yes*.

*move\_attempts* *integer* - the number of attempts of repeating a particular simulation step (with a different random vector) when overlaps between beads are detected in the system. When this number is exhausted and there still are overlaps, the program will stop, default: *10000*

*geyer\_on\_the\_fly* *yes/no* - whether to compute hydrodynamically correlated random displacements (within the TEA-HI framework) using the whole diffusion tensor matrix (*no*) or, to save memory, using  $3 \times 3$  submatrices (*yes*), default: *yes*

*e\_collision* *float* - the restitution parameter used in the elastic collision approach, falls between *0.0* (perfectly inelastic collisions) and *1.0* (perfectly elastic collisions), default: *1.0*

## 8.8 Physical Conditions

*T* *float* - temperature [K], default: 298.15

*visc* *float* - viscosity [Poise], default: 0.01

*vfactor* *float* - factor for conversion of viscosity units, default: 14.4, (to convert from Poise to  $\frac{\text{kcal}}{\text{mol}}$  ps  $\text{\AA}^3$  should be set to 14.4)

## 9 Examples distributed with BD\_BOX

Examples are distributed separately. A single archive containing a few exemplary applications can be downloaded from the BD\_BOX web page. There is a README file inside the archive containing the description of exemplary simulations.

## 10 Final Notes

We did our best to ensure that the BD\_BOX code is bug-free. We have tested implemented features using rather simple and thus predictable models (such as single spheres, dumbbells, chains) but also more elaborate models of proteins. Properties of these models derived from BD simulations (such as for example translational and rotational diffusion coefficients at different conditions of temperature and viscosity, chains end-to-end distances and their radii of gyration) were validated using theoretical/analytical predictions and available literature data. Additionally, we have also cross-examined BD\_BOX using various hardware platforms.

We invite users to send comments and questions regarding their own applications of BD\_BOX. Reports on possible bugs are also welcomed.

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