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Holonomic constraints: an analytical result

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Abstract

Systems subjected to holonomic constraints follow quite complicated dynamics that could not be described easily with Hamiltonian or Lagrangian dynamics. The influence of holonomic constraints in equations of motions is taken into account by using Lagrange multipliers. Finding the value of the Lagrange multipliers allows us to compute the forces induced by the constraints and therefore, to integrate the equations of motions of the system. Computing analytically the Lagrange multipliers for a constrained system may be a difficult task that depends on the complexity of systems. For complex systems it is, most of the time, impossible to achieve. In computer simulations, some algorithms using iterative procedures estimate numerically Lagrange multipliers or constraint forces by correcting the unconstrained trajectory. In this work, we provide an analytical computation of the Lagrange multipliers for a set of linear holonomic constraints with an arbitrary number of bonds of constant length. In the appendix explicit formulae are shown for Lagrange multipliers for systems having 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 bonds of constant length, linearly connected.

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1. Introduction

The characteristic time scales associated with intramolecular motions are around 10–100 times shorter than the characteristic time scales associated with translational and rotational degrees of freedom of the molecule. In molecular dynamic computations a convenient way to handle the multiple timescale in equation of motions is to treat covalent bonds between atoms as rigid; this procedure introduces constraints on equations of motions; the use of the Lagrange multipliers method allows us to integrate the equations of motion [1].

From a technical point of view, the Lagrange multipliers method is used in SHAKE and RATTLE algorithms: the constrained trajectories of the systems are computed from

unconstrained trajectories, by using an iterative algorithm that allows us to estimate numerically the Lagrange multipliers [2–4]. These algorithms are very efficient and quite convenient. Nevertheless, a closed analytical computation of the Lagrange multipliers is interesting on its own on a theoretical ground and can also be used to improve the iterative estimations done in SHAKE and RATTLE algorithms.

The equations of motions of the constrained dynamics are derived as follows. For a set of holonomic constraints, noted as $\sigma_\alpha \equiv 0$, one defines a constrained Lagrangian $L_c[q, \dot{q}]$ as

$$L_c[q, \dot{q}] = L[q, \dot{q}] - \sum_{\alpha} \lambda_{\alpha} \sigma_{\alpha}(q, \dot{q}), \quad (1)$$

where $L[q, \dot{q}]$ is the Lagrangian of the unconstrained systems and λ_{α} the set of Lagrange multipliers. The equations of motions are given by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L'}{\partial \dot{q}} = \frac{\partial L'}{\partial q} \quad (2)$$

which may also be written as

$$m_i \ddot{q}_i = F_i + \sum_{\alpha} \lambda_{\alpha} \frac{\partial \sigma_{\alpha}}{\partial q_i} = F_i + \sum_{\alpha} G_{i;\alpha}, \quad (3)$$

where the constraint forces are defined by $G_{i;\alpha}$. Since holonomic constraints are conserved quantities, by requiring that the second time derivatives of all σ_{α} vanish, we obtain a set of closed equations that allows us to compute the Lagrange multipliers. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \dot{\sigma}_{\alpha}}{\partial t} &= \sum_i \frac{1}{m_i} \left(F_i + \sum_{\beta} G_{i;\beta} \right) \nabla_i \sigma_{\alpha} + \sum_{i,j} \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_j \nabla_{i,j} \sigma_{\alpha} \\ &= K_{\alpha} + C_{\alpha} + \sum_{\beta} Z_{\alpha\beta} \lambda_{\beta} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where we have set

$$\begin{cases} K_{\alpha} = \sum_i \frac{1}{m_i} F_i \cdot \nabla_i \sigma_{\alpha} \\ C_{\alpha} = \sum_{i,j} \dot{q}_i \dot{q}_j \nabla_{i,j} \sigma_{\alpha} \\ Z_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_i \frac{1}{m_i} \nabla_i \sigma_{\alpha} \cdot \nabla_i \sigma_{\beta}. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Then, Lagrange multipliers are given by finding the inverse of the Z -matrix, as

$$\lambda_{\beta} = - \sum_{\alpha} (Z^{-1})_{\beta\alpha} (K_{\alpha} + C_{\alpha}). \quad (6)$$

Obviously, the structure of the Z -matrix is closely related to the geometrical features of molecules, its computation can be quite complicated and depends on the system.

In this work, by computing the inverse of the Z -matrix, we provide an analytical result for holonomic constraints involved in the dynamic of linear molecules (polymers, etc) or having a linear sequence in its structure (branched polymers, etc). For such systems, the holonomic constraints can be read as

$$\sigma_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{r}_{\alpha-1}) \equiv (\mathbf{r}_{\alpha} - \mathbf{r}_{\alpha-1})^2 - a^2 = 0, \quad (7)$$

where \mathbf{r}_{α} are the coordinates of the atom numbered α in the linear sequence of the molecule and a the length of the bond between atoms α and $\alpha - 1$. N is the number of holonomic constraints; these constraints involve N bonds and $N + 1$ atoms.

In the next section, we provide a closed analytical computation of the Z^{-1} -matrix for the linear holonomic constraints given by equation (7).

2. Analytical computation of Lagrange multipliers for linear holonomic constraints

We set $\mathbf{r}_\alpha - \mathbf{r}_{\alpha-1} = a\hat{u}_\alpha$, where \hat{u}_α is the unitary bond vector linking the atom numbered $\alpha - 1$ to atom α ; the linear holonomic constraints equation (7) gives

$$\nabla_i \sigma_\alpha = 2a(\delta_{i,\alpha} - \delta_{i,\alpha-1})\hat{u}_\alpha, \tag{8}$$

where we use the Kronecker symbol $\delta_{n,p}$. The force acting on atom i due to all holonomic constraints is $G_i = \sum_\alpha G_{i;\alpha}$ and we found easily that

$$\sum_i G_i = 0.$$

This may be easily verified for linear holonomic constraints.

Thus, for a set of linear holonomic constraints, the Z -matrix is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{2a^2}{m} \sum_i (\delta_{i,\alpha} - \delta_{i,\alpha-1})(\delta_{i,\beta} - \delta_{i,\beta-1})\hat{u}_\alpha \hat{u}_\beta \\ &= \frac{4a^2}{m} \left(-\frac{1}{2}(\hat{u}_{\alpha-1} \cdot \hat{u}_\alpha)\delta_{\alpha,\beta+1} + \delta_{\alpha,\beta} - \frac{1}{2}(\hat{u}_{\beta-1} \cdot \hat{u}_\beta)\delta_{\alpha,\beta-1} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

In the following, we set

$$\gamma_\alpha = \frac{1}{2}\hat{u}_{\alpha-1} \cdot \hat{u}_\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{Z}_{\alpha\beta} = -\gamma_\alpha \delta_{\alpha,\beta+1} + \delta_{\alpha,\beta} - \gamma_\beta \delta_{\alpha,\beta-1}. \tag{10}$$

In appendix, computations for $N = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5 are given explicitly. With the linear holonomic constraints the Z -matrix is a banded symmetric matrix. To compute the inverse matrix we take into account the properties of \tilde{Z} . The inverse matrix is built by a sequence of multiplications on the right and the left in such a way that the identity matrix appears progressively on the diagonal. More precisely, according to equation (10), if we perform the transform

$$\tilde{Z} \longrightarrow B_1^t A_1^t \tilde{Z} A_1 B_1 = \tilde{Z}^{(1)} \tag{11}$$

with matrix A_1 and B_1 defined by

$$(A_1)_{ij} = \delta_{i,j} + \gamma_2 \delta_{i,1} \delta_{2,j} \quad \text{and} \quad (B_1)_{ij} = \delta_{i,j} + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\gamma_2^2}} - 1 \right) \delta_{i,2} \delta_{2,j} \tag{12}$$

then, the 2×2 identity matrix appears in $\tilde{Z}^{(1)}$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$ and $1 \leq j \leq 2$. The matrix multiplications by A_1 and A_1^t result in vanishing the non-diagonal coefficient (i.e. $\tilde{Z}_{12} = \tilde{Z}_{21} = -\gamma_2$), while matrix multiplications by B_1 and B_1^t scale to 1 the diagonal coefficient $(A_1^t \tilde{Z} A_1)_{22}$. The matrix $\tilde{Z}^{(1)}$ is similar to the original matrix \tilde{Z} , with γ_2 and γ_3 transformed as

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_2 &\longrightarrow \gamma'_2 = 0 \\ \gamma_3 &\longrightarrow \gamma'_3 = \frac{\gamma_3}{\sqrt{1-\gamma_2^2}} \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

because of equation (11).

We are then in a position to build the identity matrix from \tilde{Z} , by transformations similar to equation (11). The matrix $\tilde{Z}^{(n)}$ is computed from $\tilde{Z}^{(n-1)}$ by making

$$\tilde{Z}^{(n)} = B_n^t A_n^t \tilde{Z}^{(n-1)} A_n B_n. \tag{14}$$

With a convenient choice of the matrix A_n and B_n , we will finally obtain $\tilde{Z}^{(N-1)} = I_N$ and therefore, we will have built a matrix C such as

$$C^t \tilde{Z} C = I_N \quad \text{with} \quad C = \prod_{n=1}^{N-1} (A_n B_n) \quad (15)$$

and thus

$$\tilde{Z}^{-1} = C C^t. \quad (16)$$

To this end, taking into account the structure of equation (13) for γ'_3 , we define the sequence Ω_n by

$$\Omega_n^2 = 1 - \frac{\gamma_n^2}{\Omega_{n-1}^2} \quad (17)$$

with $\gamma_1 = 0$, $\Omega_1 = 1$ and, for convenient reasons, $\gamma_{N+1} = 0$, that gives $\Omega_{N+1} = 1$. With these notations the matrices A_n and B_n are given by

$$\begin{aligned} (A_n)_{ij} &= \delta_{i,j} + \frac{\gamma_{n+1}}{\Omega_n} \delta_{i,n} \delta_{(n+1),j} \\ (B_n)_{ij} &= \delta_{i,j} + \left(\frac{1}{\Omega_{n+1}} - 1 \right) \delta_{i,(n+1)} \delta_{(n+1),j}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

From the definition of matrices A_n and B_n and with equation (16), we may easily compute determinants as

$$\text{Det}(A_n) = 1; \quad \text{Det}(B_n) = \frac{1}{\Omega_{n+1}}$$

and

$$\text{Det}(\tilde{Z}^{-1}) = \prod_{n=1}^{N-1} \frac{1}{\Omega_{n+1}^2} = \frac{1}{\text{Det}(\tilde{Z})}. \quad (19)$$

$\text{Det}(\tilde{Z})$ is closely related to the metric determinant that is used in computations of ensemble averages [5–7].

Equations (16) and (17) allow us to compute the \tilde{Z}^{-1} matrix coefficients, the matrix is symmetric $\tilde{Z}^{-1})_{ij} = \tilde{Z}^{-1})_{ji}$, and after some algebra we found

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{For } i = j : \quad \tilde{Z}^{-1})_{ii} = \frac{1}{\Omega_i^2} \left[1 + \sum_{p=i+1}^N \prod_{m=i+1}^p \left(\frac{1}{\Omega_m^2} - 1 \right) \right] \\ \text{For } i < j : \quad \tilde{Z}^{-1})_{ij} = \frac{1}{\Omega_i^2} \left[\prod_{n=i+1}^j \frac{\gamma_n}{\Omega_n^2} \right] \left[1 + \sum_{p=j+1}^N \prod_{m=j+1}^p \left(\frac{1}{\Omega_m^2} - 1 \right) \right]. \end{array} \right. \quad (20)$$

With equations (10) and (20), we may verify that $\tilde{Z}^{-1} \tilde{Z} = I_N$. Equations (19) and (20) are the main results of this paper.

According to equation (6), we have to compute K_α and C_α to achieve the analytical computation of the Lagrange multipliers. With equations (5) and (8), we found

$$K_\alpha = \frac{2a}{m} (\mathbf{F}_\alpha - \mathbf{F}_{\alpha-1}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\alpha \quad (21)$$

and

$$C_\alpha = \frac{2}{m^2} (p_\alpha - p_{\alpha-1})^2 \quad (22)$$

with the momentum of atoms, $\mathbf{p}_\alpha = m\mathbf{v}_\alpha = m\dot{\mathbf{r}}_\alpha$ and notations defined previously. Lagrange multipliers are then given by applying equation (6).

So far, we have considered that all atoms, involved in the set of holonomic constraints, have the same mass m and the length of each bond is equal to a . We consider now that the sequence of atoms mass is $\{m_i\}_{i \in [0, N]}$ and the length of bonds are $\{a_i\}_{i \in [1, N]}$. Then, the momentum of atoms is now $\mathbf{p}_\alpha = m_\alpha \mathbf{v}_\alpha = m_\alpha \dot{\mathbf{r}}_\alpha$ and equation (8) becomes

$$\nabla_i \sigma_\alpha = 2a_\alpha (\delta_{i, \alpha} - \delta_{i, \alpha-1}) \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\alpha. \tag{23}$$

Therefore, the Z-matrix is now given by

$$\begin{cases} Z_{\alpha\beta} = -v_\alpha (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\alpha-1} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\alpha) \delta_{\alpha, \beta+1} + \omega_\alpha \delta_{\alpha, \beta} - v_\beta (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\beta-1} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\beta) \delta_{\alpha, \beta-1} \\ v_\alpha = -\frac{2a_{\alpha-1} a_\alpha}{m_{\alpha-1}} \\ \omega_\alpha = 2a_\alpha^2 \left(\frac{1}{m_{\alpha-1}} + \frac{1}{m_\alpha} \right). \end{cases} \tag{24}$$

Equation (24) is similar to equation (9). We may transform equation (24) to equation (10) with the help of a diagonal matrix D , according to

$$\tilde{Z} = DZD \tag{25}$$

with

$$D_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega_i}} \delta_{ij}. \tag{26}$$

Then, \tilde{Z} is again given by equation (10), but with

$$\gamma_\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{m_\alpha m_{\alpha-2}}{(m_{\alpha-1} + m_\alpha)(m_{\alpha-1} + m_{\alpha-2})}} (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{\alpha-1} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\alpha), \tag{27}$$

where inertia parameters of bonds appear explicitly (the canonical partition function of freely jointed chains depends on inertia parameters of the bonds as defined in [8]). One may also note that if $m_\alpha = m$, equation (27) corresponds to equation (10).

The inverse of the Z-matrix is now given by

$$Z^{-1} = D\tilde{Z}^{-1}D = D(CC^t)D \tag{28}$$

with equations (27), (17) and (20); and K_α and C_α are given by

$$K_\alpha = 2a_\alpha \left(\frac{\mathbf{F}_\alpha}{m_\alpha} - \frac{\mathbf{F}_{\alpha-1}}{m_{\alpha-1}} \right) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\alpha \tag{29}$$

and

$$C_\alpha = 2 \left(\frac{\mathbf{p}_\alpha}{m_\alpha} - \frac{\mathbf{p}_{\alpha-1}}{m_{\alpha-1}} \right)^2. \tag{30}$$

3. Discussion

From an analytical point of view, an interesting result is given by the computation of the determinant of \tilde{Z} (equation (19)). For holonomic constraints, this determinant is known as the metric determinant; and for non-Hamiltonian dynamical systems [5, 6, 9] it can be related

to the Jacobian determinant, some ensemble averages can be formulated with the help of this determinant [5, 6, 10]. According to computations done in [11], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{N-1} \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{n=2}^N d\gamma_n \sqrt{\text{Det}(\tilde{Z}^{-1})} &= 2^{N-1} \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{n=2}^N d\gamma_n \frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{Det}(\tilde{Z})}} \\ &= [^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}] \left(\frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{1}{4}, \dots, \frac{1}{4} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

where $[^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}$ is the multiple hypergeometric function defined in [8], related to the canonical partition function of freely jointed chains. In particular, for $N = 2$, equation (31) is equivalent to the elementary relation

$$2 \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d\gamma_2}{\sqrt{1-\gamma_2^2}} = {}_2F_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{1}{4} \right) = 2 \arcsin \left(\frac{1}{2} \right). \quad (32)$$

In [8], we have shown that the multiple hypergeometric function $[^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}$ is defined for any mass sequence; equation (31) may therefore be extended to any mass sequence, and the multiple hypergeometric function $[^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}$ must be evaluated at a point defined by the inertia parameters of the coupling between bonds [8]. The inertia parameter of the coupling between bonds α and $\alpha - 1$ is given by

$$x_\alpha = \frac{m_\alpha m_{\alpha-2}}{(m_{\alpha-1} + m_\alpha)(m_{\alpha-1} + m_{\alpha-2})}. \quad (33)$$

This parameter appears explicitly in equation (27), so in the integral too (one may also note that if $m_\alpha = m$, for all α , then we have $x_\alpha = 1/4$). For any mass sequence, the relation equivalent to equation (31) is

$$\int_0^{\sqrt{x_2}} d\gamma_2 \dots \int_0^{\sqrt{x_N}} d\gamma_N \sqrt{\text{Det}(\tilde{Z}^{-1})} = \left(\prod_{n=2}^N x_n^{1/2} \right) [^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}] \left(\frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; \{x_i\}_{i \in [2, N]} \right) \quad (34)$$

with γ_α given by equation (27). Equation (34) can be considered as an integral definition of the multiple hypergeometric function $[^{N-1}\text{He}^{[N]}$; this multiple hypergeometric function is quite complicated; an iterative approximation scheme, called independent motions approximation (IMA), is described in [8].

From the point of view of the physical chemistry, the main purpose of this paper was to compute analytically the Lagrange multipliers for a set of linear holonomic constraints in view of applications to molecular simulations or statistical physics of complex systems. For applications of these analytical results in molecular simulation, the main drawback is that the number of coefficients in the \tilde{Z}^{-1} -matrix, that have to be computed and stored, scales as N^2 (the matrix is fully filled, see the appendix for some examples), N being the number of bonds linearly connected in the molecule. Therefore, for practical implementations, this brute force method of computing Lagrange multipliers is certainly not as efficient as SHAKE or RATTLE algorithms, at least when N is rather large. Another point that one should keep in mind in trying to implement these analytical results in a computer code is that, because of C_α , velocities (or momentum) contribute to Lagrange multipliers. This may rise to some technical problems in the Verlet-velocity algorithm and in constant temperature molecular dynamics computations, since forces at $t + \delta t$ have to be computed to obtain the velocity at $t + \delta t$ [1, 2, 4]. Nevertheless, clever uses of these analytical results may certainly be used to improve the efficiency and accuracy of RATTLE algorithms; for instance, when many bonds verify $\hat{u}_{\alpha-1} \cdot \hat{u}_\alpha \simeq 1$.

On general grounds, despite the complexity of analytical formulae of \tilde{Z}^{-1} given by equation (20), we believe that the analytical results presented in this work are of some interest, since matrix similar to \tilde{Z} appears frequently in many models or theories in one dimension or with nearest neighbours' interactions (spin models, harmonic chains, etc).

Appendix. Lagrange multipliers for $N = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5

In this appendix, we give explicitly the analytical formulae for linear holonomic constraints that correspond to $N = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5 bonds. To obtain analytical results for the matrix \tilde{Z}^{-1} , we compute firstly Ω_n^2 from the recursive relation in equation (17),

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \Omega_2^2 &= 1 - \gamma_2^2 \\ \Omega_3^2 &= \frac{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2}{1 - \gamma_2^2} \\ \Omega_4^2 &= \frac{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 - \gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2)}{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2} \\ \Omega_5^2 &= \frac{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 - \gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2) - \gamma_5^2(1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2)}{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 - \gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2)}. \end{aligned} \right. \tag{A.1}$$

The computation of \tilde{Z}^{-1} for $N = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and 5 is done by using equation (20).

• **$N = 1$**

For $N = 1$, $\tilde{Z} = \tilde{Z}^{-1} = (1)$ and, following equations (20) and (21), we have

$$K_1 = \frac{2a}{m}(\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \quad \text{and} \quad C_1 = \frac{2}{m^2}(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)^2. \tag{A.2}$$

Then, the Lagrange multiplier is

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2a} \left[(\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)^2 \right] \tag{A.3}$$

the constraint force acting on atom numbered 1 is given by

$$\mathbf{G}_1 = -\lambda_1 \nabla_1 \sigma_1 = - \left[(\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)^2 \right] \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \tag{A.4}$$

and the force acting on atom 0 is $\mathbf{G}_0 = -\mathbf{G}_1$.

• **$N = 2$**

For $N = 2$, we have

$$\tilde{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma_2 \\ -\gamma_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{Z}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_2^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \gamma_2 \\ \gamma_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{A.5}$$

therefore, with $\gamma_2 = \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2/2$, Lagrange multipliers are given by

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= \frac{1}{2a(1 - \frac{(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2)^2}{4})} \left[(\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2) \left[(\mathbf{F}_2 - \mathbf{F}_1) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_1)^2 \right] \right] \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{1}{2a(1 - \frac{(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2)^2}{4})} \left[\frac{1}{2}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2) \left[(\mathbf{F}_1 - \mathbf{F}_0) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_0)^2 \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\mathbf{F}_2 - \mathbf{F}_1) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 + \frac{1}{ma}(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_1)^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \right. \tag{A.6}$$

The forces acting on atoms are

$$\begin{cases} G_0 = -2a\lambda_1\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \\ G_1 = 2a\lambda_1\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 - 2a\lambda_2\hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 \\ G_2 = 2a\lambda_2\hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

- $N = 3$

With $N = 3$, matrices \tilde{Z} and \tilde{Z}^{-1} are given by

$$\tilde{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma_2 & 0 \\ -\gamma_2 & 1 & -\gamma_3 \\ 0 & -\gamma_3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

and

$$\tilde{Z}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \gamma_3^2 & \gamma_2 & \gamma_2\gamma_3 \\ \gamma_2 & 1 & \gamma_3 \\ \gamma_2\gamma_3 & \gamma_3 & 1 - \gamma_2^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

As for $N = 1$, following equations (20) and (21), for $1 \leq i \leq 3$, K_i and C_i are given by

$$K_i = \frac{2a}{m}(\mathbf{F}_i - \mathbf{F}_{i-1}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_i \quad \text{and} \quad C_i = \frac{2}{m^2}(\mathbf{p}_i - \mathbf{p}_{i-1})^2. \quad (\text{A.10})$$

Then using equations (6), (A.9) and (A.10) we may compute Lagrange multipliers and forces acting on atoms

$$\begin{cases} G_0 = -2a\lambda_1\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 \\ G_1 = 2a\lambda_1\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1 - 2a\lambda_2\hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 \\ G_2 = 2a\lambda_2\hat{\mathbf{u}}_2 - 2a\lambda_3\hat{\mathbf{u}}_3 \\ G_3 = 2a\lambda_3\hat{\mathbf{u}}_3. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

The complicated part of the force being held in Lagrange multipliers.

- $N = 4$

For $N = 4$, we have

$$\tilde{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma_2 & 0 & 0 \\ -\gamma_2 & 1 & -\gamma_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_3 & 1 & -\gamma_4 \\ 0 & 0 & -\gamma_4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.12})$$

and the matrix coefficients of \tilde{Z}^{-1} are given by

$$\tilde{Z}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 - \gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \gamma_4^2 - \gamma_3^2 & \gamma_2(1 - \gamma_4^2) & \gamma_2\gamma_3 & \gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4 \\ & 1 - \gamma_4^2 & \gamma_3 & \gamma_3\gamma_4 \\ & & 1 - \gamma_2^2 & (1 - \gamma_2^2)\gamma_4 \\ & & & 1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{A.13})$$

K_i and C_i are given by equation (A.10), but $1 \leq i \leq 4$ and forces by

$$\begin{cases} G_0 = -2a\lambda_1\hat{u}_1 \\ G_1 = 2a\lambda_1\hat{u}_1 - 2a\lambda_2\hat{u}_2 \\ G_2 = 2a\lambda_2\hat{u}_2 - 2a\lambda_3\hat{u}_3 \\ G_3 = 2a\lambda_3\hat{u}_3 - 2a\lambda_4\hat{u}_4 \\ G_4 = 2a\lambda_4\hat{u}_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

where Lagrange multipliers are computed by using equation (A.13).

• $N = 5$

For $N = 5$, the \tilde{Z} -matrix is

$$\tilde{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\gamma_2 & 1 & -\gamma_3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_3 & 1 & -\gamma_4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\gamma_4 & 1 & -\gamma_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\gamma_5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.15})$$

and after some algebra using equation (20), we find

$$\tilde{Z}^{-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 - \gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2) - \gamma_5^2(1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \gamma_5^2 - \gamma_4^2 & \gamma_2(1 - \gamma_5^2 - \gamma_4^2) & \gamma_2\gamma_3(1 - \gamma_5^2) & \gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4 & \gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4\gamma_5 \\ -\gamma_3^2(1 - \gamma_5^2) & 1 - \gamma_5^2 - \gamma_4^2 & \gamma_3(1 - \gamma_5^2) & \gamma_3\gamma_4 & \gamma_3\gamma_4\gamma_5 \\ & & (1 - \gamma_2^2)(1 - \gamma_5^2) & \gamma_4(1 - \gamma_2^2) & \gamma_4\gamma_5(1 - \gamma_2^2) \\ & & & 1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 & \gamma_5(1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2) \\ & & & & 1 - \gamma_2^2 - \gamma_3^2 \\ & & & & -\gamma_4^2(1 - \gamma_2^2) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{A.16})$$

Then, Lagrange multipliers are obtained as previously.

The computations done for $N = 4$ and 5 show how the complexity of Lagrange multipliers grows with the number of holonomic constraints. In equations (A.13) and (A.16), the equivalence of both directions of labelling atoms, for linear holonomic constraints, appears explicitly in the structure of the matrix.

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