

General information	
Academic subject	Molecular Dynamics
Degree course	Physics (LM)
Academic Year	2021/2022
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	3
Language	English
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	2021/2022
Attendance	Highly suggested

Professor/ Lecturer	
Name and Surname	Antonio Suma
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Telephone	
Department and address	Physics Department
Virtual headquarters	
Tutoring (time and day)	Wednesday, from 16:00 to 18:00 previous appointment via e-mail

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	<i>Extensive knowledge of main molecular dynamics simulation techniques, and knowledge of numerical implementation of these techniques</i>
Course prerequisites	<i>Newtonian dynamics, statistical mechanics</i>
Contents	<p><i>Introduction to molecular dynamics simulations. Basics of Newtonian dynamics and harmonic oscillator.</i></p> <p><i>Sampling microcanonical ensemble: Verlet, Leap-Frog, Velocity Verlet, Liouville equation and Trotter splitting.</i></p> <p><i>Sampling canonical ensemble: Monte Carlo, balance and detailed balance, Metropolis rule, velocity rescaling, Berendsen thermostat, Andersen thermostat, Langevin thermostat, Nosé-Hoover thermostat, stochastic velocity rescaling.</i></p> <p><i>Limits on the choice of timestep, multiple timestepping (RESPA), rigid bonds, shake.</i></p> <p><i>Sampling isobaric ensemble: Andersen and Monte Carlo barostat, pressure estimator.</i></p> <p><i>Periodic boundary conditions, origin of different force terms, neighbors list (Verlet and linked cell list methods), reduced units.</i></p> <p><i>Tutorials on the use of BASH, AWK, Gnuplot and LAMMPS, to write simple molecular dynamics and Monte Carlo codes, analysis codes and to visualize data.</i></p>
Books and bibliography	<p><i>D. Frenkel, B. Smit, Understanding Molecular Simulation, Academic Press, 2001.</i></p> <p><i>M. P. Allen, D. J. Tildesley, Computer Simulation of Liquids, OUP Oxford, 2017.</i></p> <p><i>M. E. Tuckermann, Statistical mechanics: theory and molecular simulation, Oxford Graduate Texts, 2010.</i></p>
Additional materials	

Work schedule			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours

Hours			
75	16	15	44
ECTS			
3	2	1	
Teaching strategy		<i>Frontal teaching, tutorials using the computer</i>	
Expected learning outcomes			
Knowledge and understanding on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main techniques to simulate different physical systems which follow Newton's equations using the computer ○ Distinguish which technique is needed in order to sample each ensemble (microcanonical, canonical, isobaric) 		
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowing how to implement programs in the Linux environment to simulate, analyze and visualize simple molecular systems 		
Soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding which are the typical problems that arise from modelling and implementing codes of molecular dynamics systems, included problems related with sampling and with the choice of the sampling technique. • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informatic competences related to process and analyze data, ○ Present the topics considered using an adequate scientific language • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build more complex programs in the Linux environment. ○ Study individually more advanced molecular dynamics simulation techniques 		

Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	<i>Oral presentation of a topic related to the course. The topic can be a different technique from the ones presented during the lessons, a molecular systems, the results found by simulating this systems. The arguments can be chosen from the suggested books or from scientific articles, and must be agreed-upon with the lecturer.</i>
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity to describe the topic ○ Capacity to answer to comprehension question related to the techniques/results presented • <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity to understand how the techniques described are numerically implemented • <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a critical assessment of the topic presented • <i>Communication skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ quality of presentation ○ competence in the lexicon used • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding the general context of the argument
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	<i>The final mark is out of thirty</i>
Additional information	