

Electrostatic component of solvation energy of two charges embedded in spherical dielectric cavity (particle mesh representation):

See the following reference for more details:

1. Gilson, M. K.; Rashin, A.; Fine, R.; Honig, B. On the Calculation of Electrostatic Interactions in Proteins. *J. Mol. Biol.* 1985, 184 (3), 503-516.
  2. Li, Lin, et al. "DelPhi: a comprehensive suite for DelPhi software and associated resources." *BMC biophysics* 5.1 (2012): 9.
- This example considers a spherical particle mesh with a maximum radius of 9 Å and two charges of +10 eu embedded in the particle mesh.

The corresponding analytical expressions are provided in the references above. One can simplify the analytical expressions, at a particular positioning of the charges . and deliver the corresponding analytical total energy. In this particular case, the analytical total energy is -5083.19 kT.

You can visualize the geometry from the input pdb file: cavity1.pdb

This example illustrates how to use ProNOI (Smith, Nicholas, et al. "Protein Nano-Object Integrator (ProNOI) for generating atomic style objects for molecular modeling." *BMC structural biology* 12.1 (2012): 31. [http://compbio.clemson.edu/downloadDir/ProNO\\_Integrator.zip](http://compbio.clemson.edu/downloadDir/ProNO_Integrator.zip)) to generate a spherical cavity and to place two charges inside. The PDB-like file is then input to DelPhi to calculate electrostatic energy. The electrostatic energy can be calculated via analytical function (Li, Lin, et al. "DelPhi: a comprehensive suite for DelPhi software and associated resources." *BMC biophysics* 5.1 (2012): 9.) and results compared.

How to run:

Check and make sure that you have all the input files: cavity1.pdb, my.crg, my.siz, param\_large\_sphere.prm

To run it, type:

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<path>/delphi param_pronoi.prm > proNOI.log
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Press enter key, you should get the results.

\*Note: <path> is the full path where the delphi executable is located.

In this example, we have created a system of spherical cavity, in which two charges are located. The cavity is centered at (0,0,0) with radius of 10 Å, the two charges are centered at (5,5,0) and (5,-5,0), respectively, and each of them has a +10e charge. In the cavity1.pdb file, the SPH atoms represent the spherical cavity. The N and CA atoms are the two charges, as shown below:

ATOM	3569	SPH	0.504	0.873	-8.943
ATOM	3570	SPH	-0.504	0.873	-8.943
ATOM	3571	SPH	-1.008	0.000	-8.943
ATOM	3572	SPH	-0.504	-0.873	-8.943
ATOM	3573	SPH	0.504	-0.873	-8.943
ATOM	4384	N	5.000	5.000	0.000
ATOM	4385	CA	5.000	-5.000	0.000

The my.siz and my.crg files provide the size and charge information of each entity. The user can run DelPhi to obtain the total electrostatic energy.

Energy> All required energy terms but grid energy : -5230.22 kT

Note that total electrostatic energy (All required energy terms but grid energy: -5104.00 kT) has the following components:

Energy> Corrected reaction field energy : -8040.20 kT

Energy> Coulombic energy : 2809.98 kT

Note that the calculated energy (-5230.22 kT) is very close to the analytical solution (-5083.19 kT).

In this case, the analytical and calculated energies differ slightly more than the 'large sphere' example.

This is due to the fact that the dielectric cavity (represented here) is not a perfect sphere, especially the molecular surface is not a precise spherical surface. One can improve the presentation to make it more spherical by increasing the probe radius (from prbrad=1.4 to say prbrad=10.0) to smooth the protrusions and crevices among the atoms.