

Model reduction for molecular diffusion in nanoporous mediaGastón A. González¹, Ruben A. Fritz¹, Yamil J. Colón², and Felipe Herrera^{1,3,*}¹*Department of Physics, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Avenida Victor Jara 3493, Santiago, Chile*²*Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA*³*Millennium Institute for Research in Optics, Concepción, Chile* (Received 26 October 2022; revised 17 January 2023; accepted 25 January 2023; published xxxxxxxxx)

Porous materials are widely used for applications in gas storage and separation. The diffusive properties of a variety of gases in porous media can be modeled using molecular dynamics simulations that can be computationally demanding depending on the pore geometry, complexity, and amount of gas adsorbed. We explore a dimensionality reduction approach for estimating the self-diffusion coefficient of gases in simple pores using Langevin dynamics, such that the three-dimensional (3D) atomistic interactions that determine the diffusion properties of realistic systems can be reduced to an effective one-dimensional (1D) diffusion problem along the pore axis. We demonstrate the approach by modeling the transport of nitrogen molecules in single-walled carbon nanotubes of different radii, showing that 1D Langevin models can be parametrized with a few single-particle 3D atomistic simulations. The reduced 1D model predicts accurate diffusion coefficients over a broad range of temperatures and gas densities. Our work paves the way for studying the diffusion process of more general porous materials such as zeolites or metal-organics frameworks with effective models of reduced complexity.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevMaterials.00.006000](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevMaterials.00.006000)**I. INTRODUCTION**

The simulation of gas diffusion in nanoporous solid-state materials is important for applications such as gas filtering, separation, and storage [1–5]. The self-diffusion coefficient of a gas in a porous medium is an essential physical quantity that characterizes mass transfer and is a relevant parameter for designing industrial separation processes [6], diffusion of gas mixtures [4], and the selectivity of gas separation techniques [3,7–10]. The diffusive properties of gases in porous media are ultimately related to the short- and long-range interaction potentials between gas particles and between gas molecules and the condensed-phase environment [11].

The growing interest in estimating the diffusive properties of target gases in porous materials reported in public databases [5] has stimulated the search for methods to accelerate large scale screening efforts based on fully atomistic simulations, which in general are computationally demanding [8,12,13]. Acceleration strategies based on machine learning are promising because training sets with acceptable predictive power can be constructed with a smaller number of calculations than an exhaustive database search [14,15]. An alternative acceleration strategy would be to develop generalizable physics-based models that are sufficiently accurate for ranking materials based on their transport properties, but at a much lower cost than atomistic simulations.

In this context, we study the dimensionality reduction capabilities of one-dimensional (1D) Langevin dynamics for modeling gas diffusion inside carbon nanotubes at different temperatures. The predictions of the reduced model are

compared to the three-dimensional (3D) molecular dynamics (MD) simulations. For concreteness, we consider the transport of molecular nitrogen in single-walled carbon nanotubes (CNTs) and obtain self-diffusion coefficients with 1D Langevin dynamics for different nanotube radii, temperatures, and gas densities. We show that it is possible to construct effective 1D pore potentials and model parameters that can reproduce the diffusive 3D transport behavior over a broad range of conditions. The proposed parametrization scheme could be extended to other porous materials such as zeolites and metal-organic frameworks.

The rest of the article is organized as follows: Section II describes the theoretical methodology and the settings for the atomistic molecular dynamics simulations. In Sec. III we discuss the results obtained for the diffusion constant of nitrogen in carbon nanotubes, comparing the predictions of the reduced 1D Langevin model, 3D molecular dynamics simulations, and the Lifson-Jackson formula from Brownian motion theory. In Sec. IV, we suggest possible applications and generalization strategies.

II. METHODOLOGY**A. Stochastic Langevin dynamics**

The stochastic motion of Brownian particles can be described by a Langevin equation [16], which for a 1D system of N particles with trajectories $z^{(\alpha)}(t)$ can be written as

$$\dot{p}^{(\alpha)}(t) = -\frac{\partial V(z^N(t))}{\partial z^{(\alpha)}} - \gamma^{(\alpha)} p^{(\alpha)}(t) + \xi^{(\alpha)}(t) \Big|_{\alpha=1,2,\dots,N}, \quad (1)$$

where α is the particle index, p is momentum, V is the total potential, and $z^{(\alpha)}$ the position of the α th particle. The

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76 interaction of particle α with a large ensemble of bath par- 121
 77 ticles is effectively taken into account by introducing the 122
 78 momentum loss (dissipation) term proportional to the damp- 123
 79 ing parameter γ and a random momentum kick given by the 124
 80 random process $\xi(t)$, which induces energy fluctuation. These 125
 81 terms together take into account the multiples collisions of 126
 82 the system (Brownian) particle with the reservoir [1,16]. The 127
 83 random momentum kick has zero bias, i.e., $\langle \xi^{(\alpha)} \rangle = 0$ and its
 84 autocorrelation function is given by

$$\langle \xi^{(\alpha)}(0)\xi^{(\beta)}(\tau) \rangle = 2\delta(\tau)\delta_{\alpha\beta} m^{(\alpha)}\gamma^{(\alpha)} k_B T, \quad (2)$$

85 where m is the particle mass, k_B is the Boltzmann constant, 129
 86 T is temperature, $\delta(t)$ is the Dirac delta function and $\delta_{\alpha\beta}$ is 130
 87 a Kronecker delta. In other words, momentum fluctuations 131
 88 are Markovian in time and proportional to the thermal energy 132
 89 $k_B T$. 133

90 We solve Eq. (1) numerically for a system of N particles 134
 91 using the impulsive Langevin leapfrog algorithm [1], which is 135
 92 a modification of the classical Verlet algorithm that involves
 93 an intermediate velocity correction at each time step of the
 94 form

$$\Delta v^{(\alpha)} = \dot{v}^{(\alpha)}h - \gamma^{(\alpha)}v^{(\alpha)}(t)h + \sqrt{2k_B T \gamma h / m^{(\alpha)}}\xi, \quad (3)$$

95 where $v^{(\alpha)}$ and $\dot{v}^{(\alpha)}$ are the velocity and acceleration of the 136
 96 α th particle, and h is the time step of the simulation. For a 137
 97 free Brownian particle at thermal equilibrium, the damping 138
 98 coefficient γ can be obtained from the Einstein relation [1] 139

$$D_0 = \frac{k_B T}{m\gamma}, \quad (4)$$

99 where D_0 is the free-particle diffusion coefficient. In this 140
 100 work, the damping parameter γ encodes the interaction of gas 141
 101 molecules with the carbon nanotube walls. 142

102 B. Diffusion from mean squared displacements

103 We calculate the self-diffusion coefficient D_s using the 143
 104 mean squared displacement (MSD) method from the sim- 144
 105 ulated particle trajectories. For a trajectory composed of 145
 106 cartesian vectors $\vec{r}_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$ at times t_i , the MSD can be 146
 107 calculated as [17] 147

$$\text{MSD}(\tau = nh) = \frac{1}{M-n} \sum_{i=1}^{M-n} (\vec{r}_{i+n} - \vec{r}_i)^2, \quad (5)$$

108 which uses all available offsets τ of a given duration nh with 149
 109 n the offset step. The advantage of this definition is that the 150
 110 number of such displacements is $M-n$ and therefore it is 151
 111 large for small n , resulting in well-averaged MSD values. 152
 112 MSD is related to the self-diffusion coefficient by the expres- 153
 113 sion [18] 154

$$\text{MSD} = 2aD_s\tau, \quad (6)$$

114 where a is the system dimensionality ($a = 1$ for 1D, $a = 3$ for 155
 115 3D). By solving Eq. (1) for all the particles in the system at 156
 116 fixed temperature and density, we calculate MSD from Eq. (5) 157
 117 and obtain D_s from the slope of a linear fit plot of Eq. (6) using 158
 118 the least-squares method. 159

119 For short simulation times, particle transport is dominated 160
 120 by the initial condition and the absence of intermolecular 161

122 interactions (ballistic regime). After equilibration is reached 123
 124 through multiple collisions, the linear scaling of MSD with 125
 126 time is established (diffusive regime). Several methods have 127
 128 been proposed to analyze trajectories with coexisting transport 129
 129 regimes [19]. In our work, the diffusive regime is established 130
 131 when a log-log plot of MSD vs τ , averaged over particles and 132
 133 simulation replicas, has unit slope. 134

128 C. Lifson-Jackson model for 1D diffusion

129 The Lifson-Jackson formula is an analytical expression, 130
 131 first derived in Ref. [20], for the diffusion coefficient of a 132
 133 periodic 1D potential in terms of the potential depth. The 134
 135 periodic nature of a pristine carbon nanotube potential along 136
 137 its axis allows us to use this theory directly at different tem- 138
 139 peratures. For a periodic potential $V(z)$ with period L , the 140
 141 Lifson-Jackson diffusion coefficient can be written as [20–22] 142

$$D'_0(T) = \frac{D_0(T)L^2}{\left[\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} e^{-\frac{V(z)}{k_B T}} dz \right] \left[\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} e^{\frac{V(z)}{k_B T}} dz \right]}, \quad (7)$$

143 where D_0 is the free-particle diffusion coefficient from Eq. (4). 144
 145 For a sinusoidal potential $V(z) = A \sin(az)$ with depth A and 146
 147 period $a/2\pi$, the integrals in the denominator can be solved 148
 149 analytically to give 150

$$D'_0(T) = \frac{D_0(T)}{I_0^2(z)}, \quad (8)$$

151 where $I_n(z)$ is a modified Bessel function of the first kind and 152
 153 $z = A/k_B T$. Equation (8) shows that, for sinusoidal potentials, 154
 155 self-diffusion is determined by the ratio between the depth 156
 157 of the potential and the thermal energy, independent of the 158
 159 lattice period. D'_0 reduces to the free-particle limit at high 160
 161 temperatures, and asymptotically vanishes at low tempera- 162
 162 tures, as inferred from the asymptotic forms $I_0(z \rightarrow 0) \sim 1$ 163
 163 and $I_0(z \rightarrow \infty) \sim \infty$. 164

148 D. Molecular nitrogen in carbon nanotubes

149 Single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWNTs) are cylinders 150
 151 composed of a single wrapped graphene sheet. They are 152
 152 completely described, except for their length, by the notation 153
 153 (n, m) which refers to the direction in which the graphene 154
 154 sheet was rolled [23]. The index n is directly related with 155
 155 the nanotube radius. The self-diffusion of molecular nitro- 156
 156 gen inside a carbon nanotube was computed over a broad 157
 157 range of temperatures in the range $1-10^3$ K, and a range 158
 158 of gas densities spanning from the single-molecule limit to 159
 159 pore saturation. We perform calculations using zig-zag carbon 160
 160 nanotubes (11,0) and (15,0), with radii 4.309 and 5.876 Å, 161
 161 respectively. The nanotube coordinates were obtained with a 162
 162 modeler software [24], for a tube length of 426.3 Å. Figure 1 163
 163 shows representative radial and axial views of the nanotubes 164
 164 used in this work. For MD and Langevin dynamics simula- 165
 165 tions, the thermal motions of carbon atoms in the nanotubes 166
 166 were ignored, which does not introduce significant errors in 167
 167 the evaluation of gas diffusion constants. We set periodic 168
 168 boundary conditions, random initial locations of the gas parti- 169

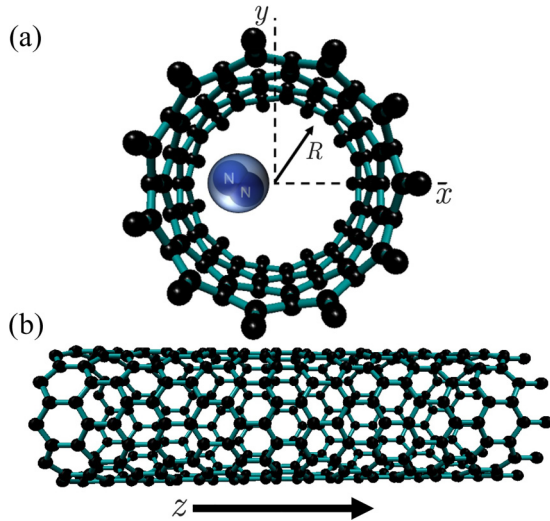


FIG. 1. (a) Radial viewpoint of the nanotube (11,0) with molecular nitrogen molecule (N_2) in its pore volume. (b) Axial viewpoint of the nanotube (11,0).

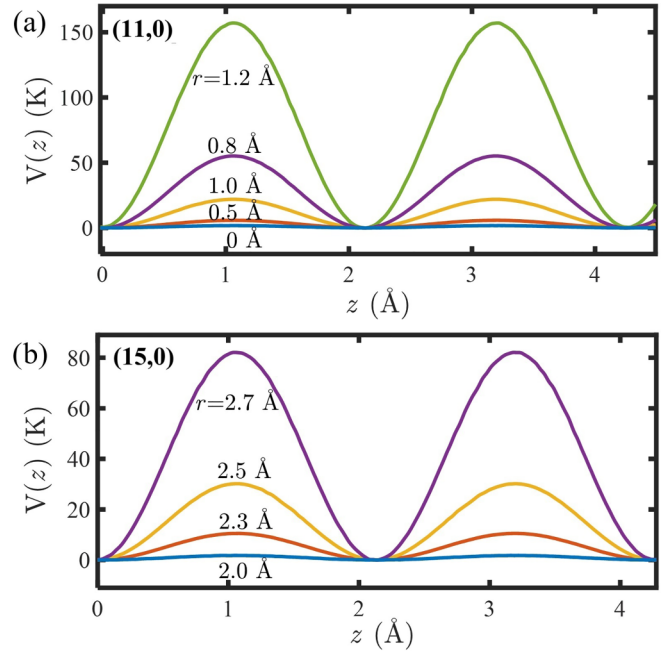


FIG. 2. (a) Axial potentials at different radii from the center of the nanotube (11,0). (b) Axial potentials for (15,0). Curves are labeled by the values of the radial coordinates. The potential is in units of kelvin.

cles, and a thermalization time of 0.5 ns in all simulations.

We model the interaction between nitrogen molecules and between nitrogen and carbon atoms in the nanotube with a Lennard-Jones potential

$$V(R) = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 \right], \quad (9)$$

where R is the interparticle distance. The potential parameters for each particle pair in the problem are listed in Table I.

MD simulations are implemented in LAMMPS [25]. To compute 3D MSD trajectories, we adopt a non-vibrating diatomic molecule model for nitrogen, with three-dimensional rotational and translational motion inside the CNT. We use a time step $h = 1$ fs in the canonical ensemble. Each replica corresponds to a total simulation time of 5 ns. Depending on the depth of the effective axial potential experienced by a molecule in the nanotube, at very low gas densities (single particle) there is a temperature in which nitrogen molecules behave as quasifree Brownian particles, as seen from the linear scaling of the diffusion coefficient with temperature. In this regime, we assume that the Einstein relation in Eq. (4) holds and extract the effective damping parameter γ from a linear fit. For higher gas densities, nitrogen molecules are added inside the CNT with random locations and orientations. For MD simulations we define the filling ratio $\eta = \rho/\rho_0$ to quantify nitrogen density ρ relative to the tabulated density of bulk liquid nitrogen ρ_0 at the simulation temperature.

TABLE I. Lennard-Jones parameters: N-N and C-N used in LAMMPS [18]; N_2 - N_2 and C- N_2 used in 1D Langevin.

	N-N	C-N	N_2 - N_2	C- N_2
σ (Å)	3.32	3.36	3.63	3.52
$\epsilon/k_B(K)$	36.4	33.4	104.5	56.2

The stochastic 1D simulations were implemented in Matlab with the impulsive Langevin leapfrog algorithm [1], as mentioned previously. As input for the simulation we constructed axial potentials $V(z)$ that capture the interaction of nitrogen molecules with the CNT walls along the transport direction. In Fig. 2 we show effective axial potentials constructed for nanotubes (11,0) and (15,0) at different radial distances from the nanotube center. The potentials are periodic with a lattice constant of about 2.1 Å, which correlates with the equilibrium carbon-carbon distance in the nanotubes. At the center of the nanotubes, the depth of the axial potential becomes negligible, and is higher near the walls.

In Fig. 3 we show representative radial potentials for the nanotubes (11,0) and (15,0). The potentials feature a repulsive wall near the nanotube radius and radial barrier at the center that separates two potential minima with azimuthal symmetry. The central barrier is about 10 K high for (11,0), and 700 K for (15,0). In Figs. 3(c) and 3(d) we show the histograms of the radial positions that nitrogen molecules explore at 100 K, as obtained from 3D MD trajectories. While for (11,0) the nitrogen molecules tend to move near the center of the nanotube, for (15,0) the nitrogen molecules tend to move around the minimum of the radial potential, which has ring shape along the azimuthal coordinates. Practically no trajectories explore the nanotube center in this case.

For projecting the nitrogen molecule degrees of freedom to 1D axial motion, we replace the rotating diatomic nitrogen by a spherical mass at the position of the molecular center of mass, as illustrated in Fig. 1(a). However, the Lennard-Jones parameters in Table I do take into account the orientational dependence of the interaction potential between two nitrogen molecules and between nitrogen diatomic and carbon

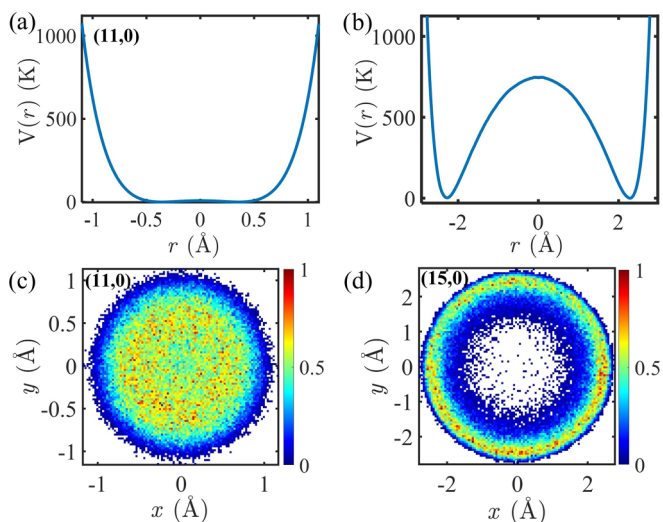


FIG. 3. (a) Effective radial potential of SWCNT(11,0) with a potential barrier in the center of approximately 10 K. (b) Effective radial potential of SWCNT(15,0) with a potential barrier in the center of approximately 700 K. (c) 2D Histogram of the nitrogen positions inside nanotube (11,0). (d) 2D Histogram of the nitrogen positions inside nanotube (15,0), at 100 K; the bar shows normalized number of counts. Blank regions correspond to spaces of the simulation box that are not explored by nitrogen molecules

atoms through a thermal averaging procedure described in the Appendix. The stochastic MSD trajectories were obtained with a damping parameter γ calibrated from a dilute nanotube MD simulation, as previously described. The 1D simulation time step is $h = 30$ fs. The total simulation time is 6.5 ns. To define a 1D filling ratio, we assume the nanotube is saturated ($\eta \approx 1$) when the number of nitrogen molecules in the simulation is equal to the ratio between the van der Waals diameter of molecular nitrogen and the length of the simulation box.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Fig. 4 we show the self-diffusion coefficient for a single nitrogen molecule in carbon nanotubes (11,0) and (15,0), as a function of temperature. We compare the results obtained from 3D MD simulations, 1D Langevin simulations, and the Lifson-Jackson formula. The effective axial potentials $V(z)$ for Langevin and Lifson-Jackson diffusion calculations were evaluated at a minimum of the radial potential. The Langevin damping parameter was obtained via linear fit from the MD diffusion coefficient at 100 K to give $\gamma = 7.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for (11,0), and $\gamma = 6.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for (15,0).

Below ~ 3 K there is essentially no diffusion in the nanotubes, because the thermal energy is lower than the corresponding axial potential depths (see Fig. 2), so particles

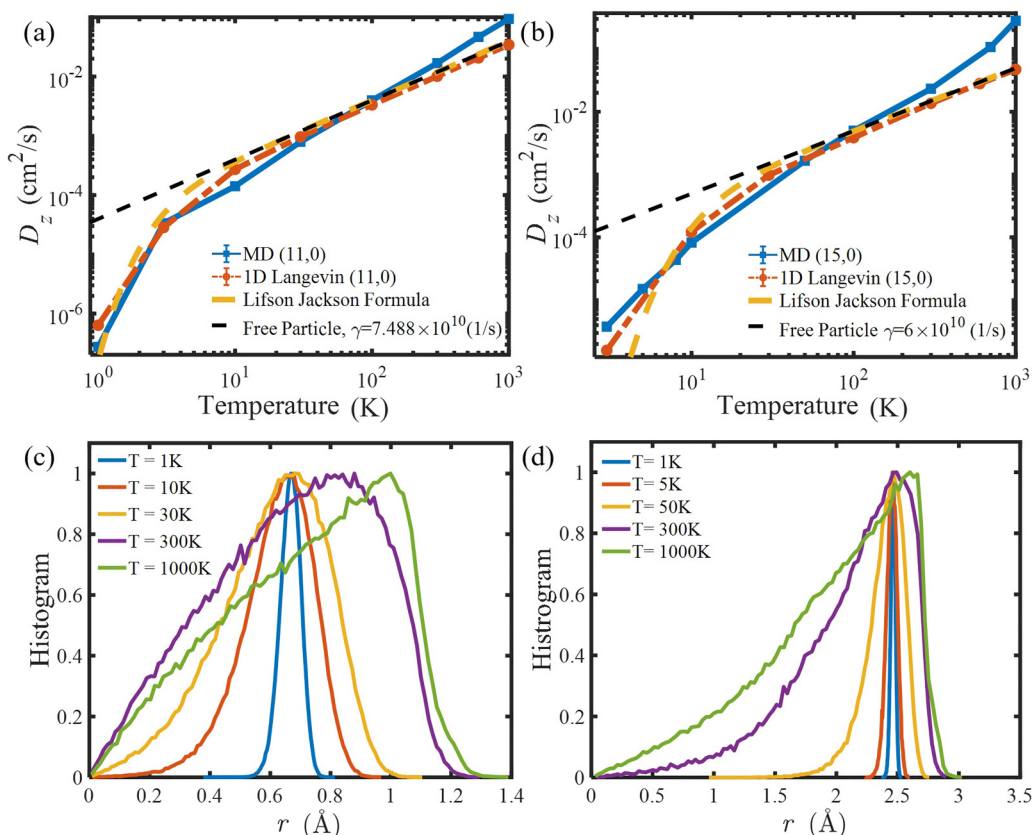


FIG. 4. (a) Single-particle diffusion vs temperature of CNT (11,0). (b) Single-particle diffusion vs temperature of CNT and (15,0). Blue: LAMMPS diffusion. Red: Langevin diffusion. Yellow: Lifson-Jackson formula. Black: free Brownian particle with $\gamma = 7.488 \times 10^{10}$ and $\gamma = 6.0 \times 10^{10}$ respectively. (c) Normalized histogram of the center of mass of each nitrogen molecule inside nanotube (11,0). (d) Normalized histogram of the center of mass of each nitrogen molecule inside nanotube (15,0). Curves are labeled by the value of the temperature.

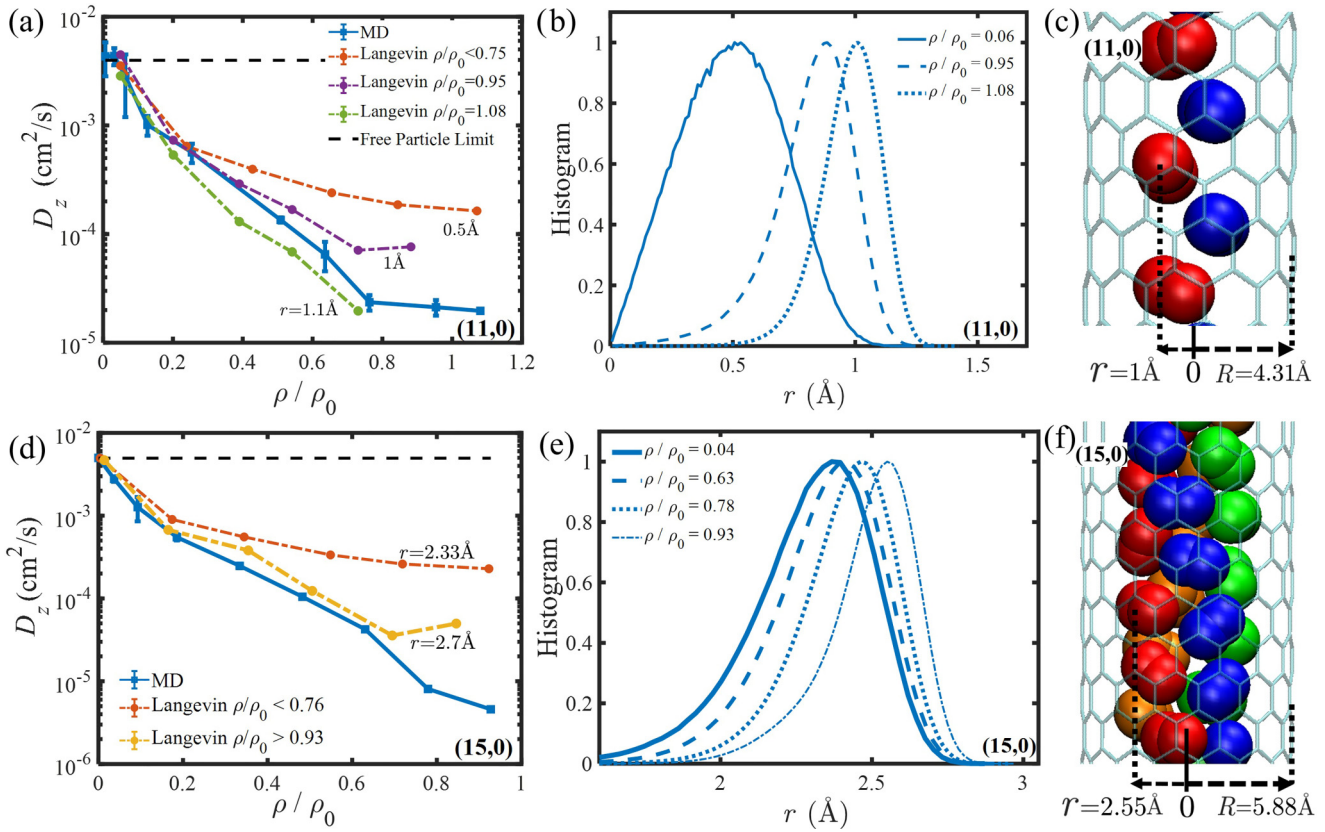


FIG. 5. (a) Diffusion vs density (11,0) at 100 K. Blue: MD. Red, green, and purple: Langevin diffusion with different depths of axial potentials as a function of the radial distance from the center of the nanotube. Black: free particle limit according to Eq. (4) with $\gamma = 7.488 \times 10^{10}$. (b) Histogram of the radial positions of nitrogen molecules at different densities in MD of CNT (11,0). (c) Graphical modeling of the nitrogen molecules inside the (11,0) nanotube at the relative saturation density $\rho/\rho_0 = 1.08$, made with VMD [26] (d) Diffusion vs density (15,0) at 100 K. Blue: MD. Red, green, and purple: Langevin diffusion with different depths of axial potentials as a function of the radial distance from the center of the nanotube. Black: free particle limit according to Eq. (4) with $\gamma = 6.0 \times 10^{10}$. (e) Histogram of the radial positions of nitrogen molecules at different densities in MD of CNT (15,0). (f) Graphical modeling of the nitrogen molecules inside the (15,0) nanotube at the relative saturation density $\rho/\rho_0 = 0.93$, made with VMD [26]

248 become trapped in the axial potential. At higher temperatures, 249 the MSD trajectory analysis gives a diffusive regime with a 250 log-log slope of 1 ± 0.15 [18], from which we obtain converged 251 diffusion coefficients.

252 As the temperature increases, all methods capture a 253 crossover between particle trapping and diffusion around 254 10 K, beyond which the diffusion constant scales linearly with 255 temperature, as expected from Eq. (4) for quasifree Brownian 256 motion. The self-diffusion coefficients for 1D Langevin 257 and Lifson-Jackson formulas coincide in the entire range of 258 temperatures studied. However, while the orders of magnitude 259 are the same, the 3D diffusion coefficients obtained with 260 MD are consistently greater. The similarity in self-diffusion 261 coefficients of the 1D Langevin and Lifson-Jackson formulas 262 can be explained by the fact that both methods use the same 263 one-dimensional axial potential as input data. In addition, at 264 high temperatures they must converge to the value of D_0 . The 265 discrepancy between 3D and 1D results grows with tempera- 266 ture, as Fig. 4(b) illustrates more clearly for the wider (15,0) 267 nanotube.

268 To understand this discrepancy at high temperature, in 269 Figs. 4(c) and 4(d) we show the histograms of the radial po- 270 sitions of the centers of mass explored by nitrogen molecules

271 at different temperatures for the nanotubes (11,0) and (15,0), 272 obtained from 3D MD trajectories. At low temperatures 273 ($T \sim 10$ K), molecules are mostly trapped at the minima of their 274 corresponding radial potentials. At higher temperatures 275 ($T \sim 100$ K), particles have more energy to explore a larger 276 fraction of the nanotube pore volume, broadening the radial 277 distribution and displacing the most-probable radius towards 278 the nanotube walls. This effective increase in the configuration 279 space involved in axial transport cannot be captured by the 280 effective 1D Langevin model, without redefining γ . However, 281 the agreement is excellent between the dilute 1D Langevin 282 with a single value of γ and the 3D MD simulations, over a 283 broad range of temperatures.

284 In Figs. 5(a) and 5(b) we plot the nitrogen diffusion coeffi- 285 cient as a function of the gas filling ratio $\eta = \rho/\rho_0$ for (11,0) 286 and (15,0) nanotubes, respectively. We compare the results 287 obtained from 3D MD and 1D Langevin simulations at 100 K. 288 For the 1D calculations, we approximately capture the density 289 dependence of the effective axial molecule-nanotube axial 290 potential by evaluating the nitrogen-nanotube axial potential 291 at the peak of the radial distribution of MD trajectories shown 292 in Fig. 5(b) for (11,0) and Fig. 5(e) for (15,0). For increasing 293 molecular densities, close to saturation ($\eta > 0.90$), the radial

294 density of trajectories peaks closer to the pore walls. In gen-
 295 eral, both 3D and 1D simulations give diffusion coefficients
 296 that decrease monotonically with the pore occupation for the
 297 two nanotube radii considered.

298 Depending on the radial position used to estimate the depth
 299 of the effective axial potential $V(z)$, the Langevin calculations
 300 can approximate the atomistic 3D results reasonably well
 301 over the entire range of densities up to the saturation regime
 302 ($\eta \sim 1$). For axial potential depths below 30 K ($r < 0.8 \text{ \AA}$),
 303 Fig. 5(a) shows that the agreement between the 1D and 3D
 304 curves is excellent up to $\eta \approx 0.4$ for (11,0) nanotubes. At
 305 these low gas concentrations, nitrogen molecules move prefer-
 306 ably near the center of the nanotube [see the peak at $r = 0.5$
 307 \AA in Fig. 5(b)].

308 At higher densities ($\eta \sim 0.8\text{--}1.0$), there is a sudden shift in
 309 radial density towards the walls of the (11,0) nanotube. This
 310 shift is due to emergence of stacked configurations between
 311 nitrogen molecules, as shown in Fig. 5(c) where the nitrogen
 312 molecules are pushed towards the walls of the nanotube find-
 313 ing different axial potentials. At higher densities, the Langevin
 314 simulations consistently overestimate the diffusion coefficient
 315 relative to atomistic MD, although both 1D and 3D continue
 316 to have similar qualitative behavior, reaching asymptotic satu-
 317 ration for $\eta \sim 1$. By evaluating the axial potential closer to the
 318 peak of the radial trajectory distribution at the corresponding
 319 density [see Fig. 5(b)], the Langevin results can be made to
 320 agree with the MD simulations over a wider range of densities
 321 with the same low-density value of γ .

322 For the wider (15,0) nanotube, we find similar trends when
 323 comparing 1D and 3D diffusion coefficients in Fig. 5(d).
 324 Again the agreement between MD and Langevin simulations
 325 can be improved by sampling the axial potential closer to
 326 the peak of the radial trajectory distribution at a given gas
 327 density [Fig. 5(e)]. The main qualitative difference between
 328 (11,0) and (15,0) nanotubes occurs near saturation, as the
 329 larger pore volume of (15,0) allows for more intricate stack-
 330 ing configurations of the nitrogen molecules, which are more
 331 difficult to capture with 1D effective models than the small-
 332 pore saturation behavior of (11,0). At different densities of
 333 nitrogen molecules, different stacking configurations are cre-
 334 ated, affecting the axial interaction potential. For example,
 335 Fig. 5(f) shows a representative quadruple “helix” configu-
 336 ration that nitrogen molecules adopt at high filling ratios
 337 in the (15,0) nanotube ($\eta = 0.9$). These helical structures
 338 have been reported in carbon nanotubes for nitrogen [18] and
 339 water [27].

340 To assess the gain in computational resources that a re-
 341 duced Langevin model can potentially introduce for studying
 342 the transport properties of porous materials, we note that the
 343 density dependence of the diffusion constants in Figs. 5(a) and
 344 5(d) can be reproduced with the 1D Langevin model from the
 345 dilute regime up to the nanotube saturation limit using, in prin-
 346 ciple, only 3 MD simulations: two low-density simulations
 347 to calibrate γ , and one additional simulation for a selected
 348 saturation level ρ/ρ_0 to calibrate the choice of the radius r (a
 349 free parameter) at which the effective axial potential $V(z, r)$
 350 should be evaluated. These MD calculations fully parametrize
 351 the Langevin model and allow for predictions of the diffusion
 352 coefficient over a broader range of temperatures and densities
 353 than the original simulation conditions.

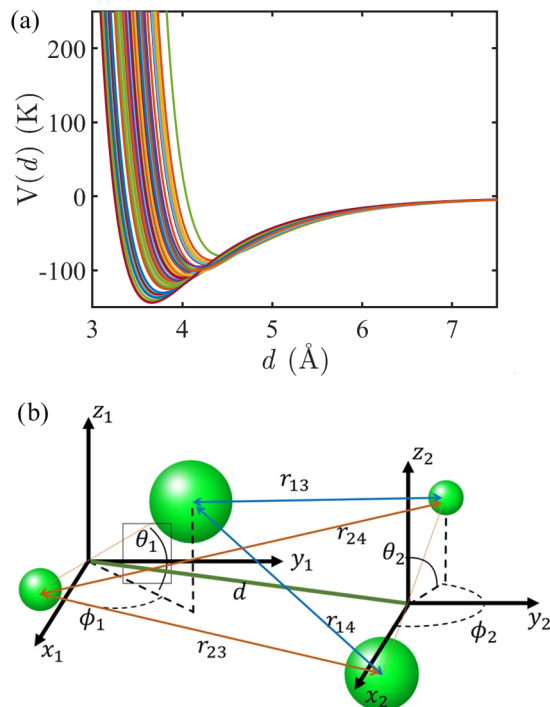


FIG. 6. (a) Interaction potentials of for a pair of nitrogen molecules considering all possible orientations. (b) Scheme of spatial coordinates for a pair of nitrogen molecules

IV. CONCLUSIONS

354 In this work we developed an effective one-dimensional
 355 Langevin equation model for the diffusive transport for di-
 356 lute and dense molecular gases inside carbon nanotubes, as
 357 a function of tube radius and temperature. By parametrizing
 358 the Langevin model using atomistic molecular dynamics simu-
 359 lations over a limited range of densities and temperatures,
 360 we find that the reduced stochastic approach can accurately
 361 extrapolate the behavior of the diffusion coefficient over a
 362 broader range of temperatures and nanotube filling ratios.
 363 For higher densities closer to saturation, we show that the
 364 effective potential that drives the Langevin dynamics along
 365 the nanotube axis can be adjusted to account for the in-
 366 teraction between gas particles over transverse degrees of
 367 freedom, and propose criteria to obtain effective Langevin
 368 potentials and damping parameters using nitrogen transport
 369 in carbon nanotubes as an example. We envision future exten-
 370 sions of the proposed dimensionality reduction methodology
 371 to study diffusive transport of gases and liquids in complex
 372 nanoporous media such as metal-organic frameworks, zeo-
 373 lites, and structured electrodes, which could facilitate the
 374 large-scale screening of materials for applications in energy,
 375 catalysis, and gas separation.
 376

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384 APPENDIX: EFFECTIVE INTERACTION POTENTIAL

385 We want to find the effective potential between the di-
386 atomic molecules of N_2 and $C-N_2$. If we simulate a large set
387 of potentials of N_2-N_2 considering all possible configurations
388 or orientations with equal probability, we obtain a wide range
389 of potential values, as shown in Fig. 6(a). Linearly adding the
390 interactions between each pair of molecules ($r_{13}, r_{14}, r_{23}, r_{24}$)
391 for random orientations of each molecule [Fig. 6(b)] and then
392 averaging with a Boltzman weight, it is possible to find an
393 effective total potential at a certain temperature:

$$V(T, d) = \frac{\sum_i e^{-\frac{\min(V_i(d))}{k_B T}} \times V_i(d)}{\sum_i e^{-\frac{\min(V_i(d))}{k_B T}}}. \quad (A1)$$

This effect is easily explained if we consider the effect of
the spatial orientations of the N_2 molecules. At low tempera-
tures, the possible spatial orientations experienced by the N_2
molecule are “limited.” They are arranged in such a way as to
minimize energy. The opposite is the case at high temperatures
that experiences almost equally all possible spatial orienta-
tions, including (for example) a system of two interacting
 N_2 molecules arranged collinearly in space (system where
energy is maximized). Replicating the previous calculation,
the interaction potential between $C-N_2$ can be determined, we
can calculate the potential as a function of the radius of the
interior of the nanotube. Finally, by finding the minima of the
potentials and their intersection with zero, we can determine
their potential analog of Lennard-Jones; the parameters ob-
tained are found in Table. I.

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