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**gmso**

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This is the documentation for GMSO, the General Molecular Simulation Object. It is a part of the [MoSDeF](#), the Molecular Simulation Design Framework.



## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

### 1.1 Scope and Features of GMSO

GMSO is designed to enable the flexible, general representation of chemical topologies for molecular simulation. Efforts are made to enable lossless, bias-free storage of data, without assuming particular chemistries, models, or using any particular engine's ecosystem as a starting point. The scope is generally restrained to the preparation, manipulation, and conversion of and of input files for molecular simulation, i.e. before engines are called to execute the simulations themselves. GMSO currently does not support conversions between trajectory file formats for analysis codes. In the scope of molecular simulation, we loosely define a chemical topology as everything needed to reproducibly prepare a chemical system for simulation. This includes particle coordinates and connectivity, box information, force field data (functional forms, parameters tagged with units, partial charges, etc.) and some optional information that may not apply to all systems (i.e. specification of elements with each particle).

GMSO enables the following features:

- Supporting a variety of models in the molecular simulation/computational chemistry community: No assumptions are made about an interaction site representing an atom or bead, instead supported atomistic, united-atom/coarse-grained, polarizable, and other models!
- Greater flexibility for exotic potentials: The `AtomType` (and analogue classes for intramolecular interactions) uses `sympy` to store any potential that can be represented by a mathematical expression. If you can write it down, it can be stored!
- Easier development for glue to new engines: by not being designed for compatibility with any particular molecular simulation engine or ecosystem, it becomes more tractable for developers in the community to add glue for engines that are not currently supported (and even ones that do not exist at present)!
- Compatibility with existing community tools: No single molecular simulation tool will be a silver bullet, so GMSO includes functions to convert objects. These can be used in their own right to convert between objects in-memory and also to support conversion to file formats not natively supported at any given time. Currently supported conversions include `ParmEd`, `OpenMM`, `mBuild`, `MDTraj`, with others coming in the future!
- Native support for reading and writing many common file formats (`XYZ`, `GRO`, `TOP`, `LAMMPSDATA`) and indirect support, through other libraries, for many more!

## 1.2 Structure of GMSO

There are three main modules within the Python package:

- `gmso.core` stores the classes that constitute the core data structures.
- `gmso.formats` stores readers and writers for (on-disk) file formats.
- `gmso.external` includes functions that convert core data structures between external libraries and their internal representation.



## DATA STRUCTURES IN GMSO

Following data structures are available within GMSO.

### 2.1 Core Classes

<i>gmso.Topology</i>	A topology.
<i>gmso.Atom</i>	An atom represents a single element association in a topology.
<i>gmso.Bond</i>	A 2-partner connection between sites.
<i>gmso.Angle</i>	A 3-partner connection between Atoms.
<i>gmso.Dihedral</i>	A 4-partner connection between sites.
<i>gmso.Improper</i>	sA 4-partner connection between sites.
<i>gmso.AtomType</i>	A description of non-bonded interactions between sites.
<i>gmso.BondType</i>	A description of the interaction between 2 bonded partners.
<i>gmso.AngleType</i>	A description of the interaction between 3 bonded partners.
<i>gmso.DihedralType</i>	A description of the interaction between 4 bonded partners.
<i>gmso.ImproperType</i>	A description of the interaction between 4 bonded partners.

#### 2.1.1 Topology

**class** `gmso.Topology`(*name*='Topology', *box*=None)

A topology.

A topology represents a chemical structure wherein lie the collection of sites which together form a chemical structure containing connections (`gmso.Bond`, `gmso.Angle` and `gmso.Dihedral` (along with their associated types)). A topology is the fundamental data structure in GMSO, from which we can gather various information about the chemical structure and apply a forcefield before converting the structure into a format familiar to various simulation engines.

##### Parameters

- **name** (*str*, *optional*, *default*='Topology') – A name for the Topology.
- **box** (*gmso.Box*, *optional*, *default*=None) – A `gmso.Box` object bounding the topology

## Variables

- **typed** (*bool*) – True if the topology is typed
- **combining\_rule** (*str*, [*'lorentz'*, *'geometric'*]) – The combining rule for the topology, can be either *'lorentz'* or *'geometric'*
- **scaling\_factors** (*dict*) – A collection of scaling factors used in the forcefield
- **n\_sites** (*int*) – Number of sites in the topology
- **n\_connections** (*int*) – Number of connections in the topology (Bonds, Angles, Dihedrals, Improvers)
- **n\_bonds** (*int*) – Number of bonds in the topology
- **n\_angles** (*int*) – Number of angles in the topology
- **n\_dihedrals** (*int*) – Number of dihedrals in the topology
- **n\_improvers** (*int*) – Number of improvers in the topology
- **connections** (*tuple of gmso.Connection objects*) – A collection of bonds, angles, dihedrals, and improvers in the topology
- **bonds** (*tuple of gmso.Bond objects*) – A collection of bonds in the topology
- **angles** (*tuple of gmso.Angle objects*) – A collection of angles in the topology
- **dihedrals** (*tuple of gmso.Dihedral objects*) – A collection of dihedrals in the topology
- **improvers** (*tuple of gmso.Improper objects*) – A collection of improvers in the topology
- **connection\_types** (*tuple of gmso.Potential objects*) – A collection of BondTypes, AngleTypes, DihedralTypes, and ImproverTypes in the topology
- **atom\_types** (*tuple of gmso.AtomType objects*) – A collection of AtomTypes in the topology
- **bond\_types** (*tuple of gmso.BondType objects*) – A collection of BondTypes in the topology
- **angle\_types** (*tuple of gmso.AngleType objects*) – A collection of AngleTypes in the topology
- **dihedral\_types** (*tuple of gmso.DihedralType objects*) – A collection of DihedralTypes in the topology
- **improper\_types** (*tuple of gmso.ImproperType objects*) – A collection of ImproverTypes in the topology
- **pairpotential\_types** (*tuple of gmso.PairPotentialType objects*) – A collection of PairPotentialTypes in the topology
- **atom\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.AtomType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expressions for the AtomTypes in topology
- **connection\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.Potential.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expressions for the Potential objects in the topology that represent a connection type
- **bond\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.BondType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expressions for the BondTypes in topology

- **angle\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.AngleType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expressions for the AngleTypes in topology
- **dihedral\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.DihedralType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expression for the DihedralTypes in the topology
- **improper\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.ImproperType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expression for the ImproperTypes in the topology
- **pairpotential\_type\_expressions** (*list of gmso.PairPotentialType.expression objects*) – A collection of all the expression for the PairPotentialTypes in the topology

**add\_connection**(*connection, update\_types=False*)

Add a gmso.Connection object to the topology.

This method will add a gmso.Connection object to the topology, it can be used to generically include any Connection object i.e. Bond or Angle or Dihedral to the topology. According to the type of object added, the equivalent collection in the topology is updated. For example- If you add a Bond, this method will update topology.connections and topology.bonds object. Additionally, if update\_types is True (default behavior), it will also update any Potential objects associated with the connection.

**Parameters**

- **connection** (*one of gmso.Connection, gmso.Bond, gmso.Angle, gmso.Dihedral, or gmso.Improper object*)
- **update\_types** (*bool, default=True*) – If True also add any Potential object associated with connection to the topology.

**Returns**

The Connection object or equivalent Connection object that is in the topology

**Return type**

gmso.Connection

**add\_site**(*site, update\_types=False*)

Add a site to the topology.

This method will add a site to the existing topology, since sites are stored in an indexed set, adding redundant site will have no effect. If the update\_types parameter is set to true (default behavior), this method will also check if there is an gmso.AtomType associated with the site and it to the topology's AtomTypes collection.

**Parameters**

- **site** (*gmso.core.Site*) – Site to be added to this topology
- **update\_types** (*bool, default=True*) – If true, add this site's atom type to the topology's set of AtomTypes

**update\_topology**()

Update the entire topology.

## 2.1.2 SubTopology

## 2.1.3 Atom

```
class gmso.Atom(name="", label="", group=None, molecule=None, residue=None,
                position=None, charge=None, mass=None, element=None, atom_type=None)
```

An atom represents a single element association in a topology.

Atoms are the representation of an element within *gmso* that describes any general atom in a molecular simulation. Atoms also contain information that are unique to elements vs other types of interaction sites in molecular simulations. For example, charge, mass, and periodic table information.

### Parameters

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – Name of the atom, defaults to class name
- **label** (*str*, *default=""*) – Label to be assigned to the atom
- **group** (*StrictStr*, *default=None*) – Flexible alternative label relative to atom
- **molecule** (*Molecule*, *default=None*) – Molecule label for the atom, format of (molecule\_name, molecule\_number)
- **residue** (*Residue*, *default=None*) – Residue label for the atom, format of (residue\_name, residue\_number)
- **position** (*Union[Sequence[float], numpy.ndarray, unyt.array.unyt\_array]*, *default=None*) – The 3D Cartesian coordinates of the position of the atom
- **charge** (*Union[unyt.array.unyt\_quantity, float, NoneType]*, *default=None*) – Charge of the atom
- **mass** (*Union[unyt.array.unyt\_quantity, float, NoneType]*, *default=None*) – Mass of the atom
- **element** (*<class 'gmso.core.element.Element'>*, *default=None*) – Element associated with the atom
- **atom\_type** (*<class 'gmso.core.atom\_type.AtomType'>*, *default=None*) – AtomType associated with the atom

---

### Notes

Atoms have all the attributes inherited from the base Site class, The order of precedence when attaining properties *charge* and *mass* is:

1. atom.charge > atom.atom\_type.charge
  2. atom.mass > atom.atom\_type.mass
-

## Examples

```
>>> from gmso.core.atom import Atom
>>> atom1 = Atom(name='lithium')
```

See also:

### gmso.abc.AbstractSite

An Abstract Base class for implementing site objects in GMSO. The class Atom bases from the gmso.abc.abstract site class

#### class Config

Pydantic configuration for the atom class.

#### property atom\_type: AtomType | None

Return the atom\_type associated with the atom.

#### property charge: unyt\_quantity | None

Return the charge of the atom.

#### clone()

Clone this atom.

#### property element: Element | None

Return the element associated with the atom.

#### classmethod is\_valid\_charge(charge)

Ensure that the charge is physically meaningful.

#### classmethod is\_valid\_mass(mass)

Ensure that the mass is physically meaningful.

#### property mass: unyt\_quantity | None

Return the mass of the atom.

## 2.1.4 Bond

```
class gmso.Bond(name="", connection_members=None, bond_type=None, restraint=None)
```

A 2-partner connection between sites.

This is a subclass of the gmso.abc.Connection superclass. This class has strictly 2 members in its connection\_members. The connection\_type in this class corresponds to gmso.BondType.

### Parameters

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – Name of the bond. Defaults to class name
- **bond\_members** (*Tuple*[*gmso.core.atom.Atom*, *gmso.core.atom.Atom*], *default=None*) – The 2 atoms involved in the bond.
- **bond\_type** (*<class 'gmso.core.bond\_type.BondType'>*, *default=None*) – BondType of this bond.
- **restraint** (*dict*, *default=None*) – Restraint for this bond, must be a dict with the following keys: 'b0' (unit of length), 'kb' (unit of energy/(mol \* length\*\*2)). Refer to <https://manual.gromacs.org/current/reference-manual/topologies/topology-file-formats.html> for more information.

---

**Notes****Inherits some methods from Connection:**

`__eq__`, `__repr__`, `_validate` methods.

Additional `_validate` methods are presented.

---

**class Config**

Pydantic configuration for Bond.

**property bond\_type**

Return parameters of the potential type.

**property connection\_type**

Return parameters of the potential type.

**equivalent\_members()**

Get a set of the equivalent connection member tuples.

**Returns**

A unique set of tuples of equivalent connection members

**Return type**

`frozenset`

---

**Notes**

For a bond:

`i, j == j, i`

where `i` and `j` are the connection members.

---

**property restraint**

Return the restraint of this bond.

## 2.1.5 Angle

```
class gmso.Angle(name="", connection_members=None, angle_type=None, restraint=None)
```

A 3-partner connection between Atoms.

This is a subclass of the `gmso.Connection` superclass. This class has strictly 3 members in its connection members. The `connection_type` in this class corresponds to `gmso.AngleType`.

**Parameters**

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – Name of the angle. Defaults to class name
- **angle\_members** (*Tuple[gmso.core.atom.Atom, gmso.core.atom.Atom, gmso.core.atom.Atom]*, *default=None*) – The 3 atoms involved in the angle.
- **angle\_type** (*<class 'gmso.core.angle\_type.AngleType'>*, *default=None*) – Angle-Type of this angle.
- **restraint** (*dict*, *default=None*) – Restraint for this angle, must be a dict with the following keys: 'k' (unit of energy/mol), 'theta\_eq' (unit of angle), 'n' (multiplicity, unitless). Refer to <https://manual.gromacs.org/current/reference-manual/topologies/topology-file-formats.html> for more information.

---

**Notes****Inherits some methods from Connection:**`__eq__, __repr__, _validate` methodsAdditional `_validate` methods are presented

---

**class Config**

Support pydantic configuration for attributes and behavior.

**property angle\_type**

Return the angle type if the angle is parametrized.

**property connection\_type**

Return the angle type if the angle is parametrized.

**equivalent\_members()**

Return a set of the equivalent connection member tuples.

**Returns**

A unique set of tuples of equivalent connection members

**Return type**`frozenset`

---

**Notes**

For an angle:

`i, j, k == k, j, i`where `i, j` and `k` are the connection members.

---

**property restraint**

Return the restraint of this angle.

## 2.1.6 Dihedral

```
class gmso.Dihedral(name="", connection_members=None, dihedral_type=None,
                    restraint=None)
```

A 4-partner connection between sites.

This is a subclass of the `gmso.Connection` superclass. This class has strictly 4 members in its `connection_members`. The `connection_type` in this class corresponds to `gmso.DihedralType`. The connectivity of a dihedral is:

`m1-m2-m3-m4`where `m1, m2, m3`, and `m4` are connection members 1-4, respectively.**Parameters**

- **name** (*str*; *default=""*) – Name of the dihedral. Defaults to class name
- **dihedral\_members** (*Tuple*[*gmso.core.atom.Atom*, *gmso.core.atom.Atom*, *gmso.core.atom.Atom*, *gmso.core.atom.Atom*], *default=None*) – The 4 atoms involved in the dihedral.
- **dihedral\_type** (*<class 'gmso.core.dihedral\_type.DihedralType'>*; *default=None*) – `DihedralType` of this dihedral.

- **restraint** (*dict, default=None*) – Restraint for this dihedral, must be a dict with the following keys: ‘k’ (unit of energy/(mol \* angle\*\*2)), ‘phi\_eq’ (unit of angle), ‘delta\_phi’ (unit of angle). Refer to <https://manual.gromacs.org/current/reference-manual/topologies/topology-file-formats.html> for more information.

---

**Notes****Inherits some methods from Connection:**

\_\_eq\_\_, \_\_repr\_\_, \_validate methods

Additional \_validate methods are presented

---

**class Config****equivalent\_members()**

Get a set of the equivalent connection member tuples

**Returns**

A unique set of tuples of equivalent connection members

**Return type**

frozenset

---

**Notes**

For a dihedral:

i, j, k, l == l, k, j, i

where i, j, k, and l are the connection members.

---

**property restraint**

Return the restraint of this dihedral.

## 2.1.7 Improper

**class gmso.Improper**(*name=""*, *connection\_members=None*, *improper\_type=None*)

sA 4-partner connection between sites.

This is a subclass of the gmso.Connection superclass. This class has strictly 4 members in its connection\_members. The connection\_type in this class corresponds to gmso.ImproperType. The connectivity of an improper is:

m2 | m1 / m3 m4

where m1, m2, m3, and m4 are connection members 1-4, respectively.

**Parameters**

- **name** (*str, default=""*) – Name of the improper. Defaults to class name
  - **improper\_members** (*Tuple[gmso.core.atom.Atom, gmso.core.atom.Atom, gmso.core.atom.Atom, gmso.core.atom.Atom], default=None*) – The 4 atoms of this improper. Central atom first, then the three atoms connected to the central site.
  - **improper\_type** (*<class 'gmso.core.improper\_type.ImproperType'>, default=None*) – ImproperType of this improper.
- 

**Notes**



**Inherits some methods from Connection:**

`__eq__`, `__repr__`, `_validate` methods

Additional `_validate` methods are presented

---

### **class Config**

Pydantic configuration to link fields to their public attribute.

#### **property connection\_type**

Return Potential object for this connection if it exists.

#### **equivalent\_members()**

Get a set of the equivalent connection member tuples.

##### **Returns**

A unique set of tuples of equivalent connection members

##### **Return type**

`frozenset`

---

#### **Notes**

For an improper:

$i, j, k, l == i, k, j, l$

where  $i, j, k$ , and  $l$  are the connection members.

---

#### **property improper\_type**

Return Potential object for this connection if it exists.

## 2.2 Potential Classes

### 2.2.1 AtomType

```
class gmso.AtomType(name='AtomType', mass=unyt_quantity(0., 'g/mol'), charge=unyt_quantity(0.,
    'C'), expression=None, parameters=None, potential_expression=None,
    independent_variables=None, atomclass="", doi="", overrides=None,
    definition="", description="", tags=None)
```

A description of non-bonded interactions between sites.

#### **Parameters**

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression*, *default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any*, *default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential
- **mass** (*unyt\_array*, *default=0.0 g/mol*) – The mass of the atom type
- **charge** (*unyt\_array*, *default=0.0 C*) – The charge of the atom type
- **atomclass** (*str*, *default=""*) – The class of the atomtype
- **doi** (*str*, *default=""*) – Digital Object Identifier of publication where this atom type was introduced

- **overrides** (*str*, *default=set()*) – Set of other atom types that this atom type overrides
- **definition** (*str*, *default=""*) – SMARTS string defining this atom type
- **description** (*str*, *default=""*) – Description for the AtomType
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]]*, *default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict]*, *default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities
- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]]*, *default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*'s expression.

**class Config**

Pydantic configuration of the attributes for an atom\_type.

**property atomclass**

Return the atomclass of the atom\_type.

**property charge**

Return the charge of the atom\_type.

**clone**(*fast\_copy=False*)

Clone this AtomType, faster alternative to deepcopying.

**property definition**

Return the SMARTS string of the atom\_type.

**property description**

Return the description of the atom\_type.

**property doi**

Return the doi of the atom\_type.

**property mass**

Return the mass of the atom\_type.

**property overrides**

Return the overrides of the atom\_type.

**classmethod validate\_charge**(*charge*)

Check to see that a charge is a unyt array of the right dimension.

**classmethod validate\_mass**(*mass*)

Check to see that a mass is a unyt array of the right dimension.

## 2.2.2 BondType

```
class gmso.BondType(name='BondType', expression=None, parameters=None,  
                   independent_variables=None, potential_expression=None,  
                   member_types=None, member_classes=None, tags=None)
```

A description of the interaction between 2 bonded partners.

This is a subclass of the gmso.core.Potential superclass. BondType represents a bond type and includes the functional form describing its interactions. The functional form of the potential is stored as a *sympy* expression and the parameters, with units, are stored explicitly. The AtomTypes that are used to define the bond type are stored as *member\_types*.

**Parameters**

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression*, *default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any*, *default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential
- **member\_types** (*Tuple[str, str]*, *default=None*) – List-like of of gmso.AtomType.name defining the members of this bond type
- **member\_classes** (*Tuple[str, str]*, *default=None*) – List-like of of gmso.AtomType.atomclass defining the members of this bond type
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]]*, *default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict]*, *default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities
- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]]*, *default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*'s expression.

**Notes**

**Inherits many functions from gmso.ParametricPotential:**

`__eq__`, `_validate` functions

**class Config**

Pydantic configuration for class attributes.

**property member\_types**

Return the members involved in this bondtype.

**2.2.3 AngleType**

```
class gmso.AngleType(name='AngleType', expression=None, parameters=None,
                     independent_variables=None, potential_expression=None,
                     member_types=None, member_classes=None, tags=None)
```

A description of the interaction between 3 bonded partners.

This is a subclass of the `gmso.core.Potential` superclass. `AngleType` represents an angle type and includes the functional form describing its interactions. The functional form of the potential is stored as a *sympy* expression and the parameters, with units, are stored explicitly. The `AtomTypes` that are used to define the angle type are stored as *member\_types*.

**Parameters**

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression*, *default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any*, *default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential

- **member\_types** (*Tuple[str, str, str], default=None*) – List-like of gmso.AtomType.name defining the members of this angle type
- **member\_classes** (*Tuple[str, str, str], default=None*) – List-like of gmso.AtomType.atomclass defining the members of this angle type
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]], default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict], default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities
- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]], default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*'s expression.

---

### Notes

**Inherits many functions from gmso.ParametricPotential:**

\_\_eq\_\_, \_validate functions

---

### class Config

## 2.2.4 DihedralType

```
class gmso.DihedralType(name='DihedralType', expression=None, parameters=None,
                        independent_variables=None, potential_expression=None,
                        member_types=None, member_classes=None, tags=None)
```

A description of the interaction between 4 bonded partners.

This is a subclass of the gmso.core.Potential superclass. DihedralType represents a dihedral type and includes the functional form describing its interactions. The functional form of the potential is stored as a *sympy* expression and the parameters, with units, are stored explicitly. The AtomTypes that are used to define the dihedral type are stored as *member\_types*. The connectivity of a dihedral is:

m1–m2–m3–m4

where m1, m2, m3, and m4 are connection members 1-4, respectively.

### Parameters

- **name** (*str, default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression, default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any, default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential
- **member\_types** (*Tuple[str, str, str, str], default=None*) – List-like of of gmso.AtomType.name defining the members of this dihedral type
- **member\_classes** (*Tuple[str, str, str, str], default=None*) – List-like of of gmso.AtomType.atomclass defining the members of this dihedral type
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]], default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict], default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities

- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]]*, *default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*’s expression.

---

#### Notes

**Inherits many functions from gmso.ParametricPotential:**

`__eq__`, `_validate` functions

---

**class Config**

## 2.2.5 ImproperType

```
class gmso.ImproperType(name='ImproperType', expression=None, parameters=None,
                        independent_variables=None, potential_expression=None,
                        member_types=None, member_classes=None, tags=None)
```

A description of the interaction between 4 bonded partners.

This is a subclass of the `gmso.core.Potential` superclass. `ImproperType` represents a improper type and includes the functional form describing its interactions. The functional form of the potential is stored as a *sympy* expression and the parameters, with units, are stored explicitly. The `AtomTypes` that are used to define the improper type are stored as *member\_types*. The connectivity of an improper is:

m2 | m1 / m3 m4

where m1, m2, m3, and m4 are connection members 1-4, respectively.

#### Parameters

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression*, *default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any*, *default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential
- **member\_types** (*Tuple[str, str, str, str]*, *default=None*) – List-like of `gmso.AtomType.name` defining the members of this improper type
- **member\_classes** (*Tuple[str, str, str, str]*, *default=None*) – List-like of `gmso.AtomType.atomclass` defining the members of this improper type
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]]*, *default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict]*, *default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities
- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]]*, *default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*’s expression.

---

#### Notes

**Inherits many functions from gmso.ParametricPotential:**

`__eq__`, `_validate` functions

---

**class Config**

Pydantic configuration for attributes.

**property member\_types**

Return member information for this ImproperType.

## 2.2.6 PairPotentialType

```
class gmso.PairPotentialType(name='PairPotentialType', expression=None, parameters=None,
                             independent_variables=None, potential_expression=None,
                             member_types=None, tags=None)
```

A description of custom pairwise potential between 2 AtomTypes that does not follow combination rule.

This is a subclass of the `gmso.core.ParametricPotential` superclass. `PairPotentialType` represents a type of pairwise potential between two Atomtypes that does not follow a specific combination rule, and includes the functional form describing its interactions. The functional form of the potential is stored as a *sympy* expression and the parameters, with units, are stored explicitly. The AtomTypes that are used to define the dihedral type are stored as *member\_types*.

**Parameters**

- **name** (*str*, *default=""*) – The name of the potential. Defaults to class name
- **potential\_expression** (*PotentialExpression*, *default=<PotentialExpression, expression:  $a*x + b$ , 1 independent variables>*) – The mathematical expression for the potential
- **tags** (*Any*, *default={}*) – Tags associated with the potential
- **member\_types** (*Tuple[str, str]*, *default=None*) – List-like of strs, referring to `gmso.Atomtype.name` or `gmso.Atomtype.atomclass`, defining the members of this pair potential type
- **expression** (*Optional[Union[str, sympy.Expr]]*, *default=None*) – The mathematical expression of the functional form of the potential.
- **parameters** (*Optional[dict]*, *default=None*) – The parameters of the *Potential* expression and their corresponding values, as *unyt* quantities
- **independent\_variables** (*Optional[Union[set, str]]*, *default=None*) – The independent variables in the *Potential*'s expression.

---

**Notes**

**Inherits many functions from `gmso.ParametricPotential`:**

`__eq__`, `_validate` functions

---

**class Config**

## 2.3 ForceField

**class** gmso.**ForceField**(*xml\_loc=None, strict=True, greedy=True, backend='forcefield-utilities'*)

A generic implementation of the forcefield class.

The ForceField class is one of the core data structures in gmso, which is used to hold a collection of gmso.core.Potential subclass objects along with some metadata to represent a forcefield. The forcefield object can be applied to any gmso.Topology which has effects on its Sites, Bonds, Angles and Dihedrals.

### Parameters

- **name** (*str*) – Name of the forcefield, default 'ForceField'
- **version** (*str*) – a canonical semantic version of the forcefield, default 1.0.0
- **strict** (*bool, default=True*) – If true, perform a strict validation of the forcefield XML file
- **greedy** (*bool, default=True*) – If True, when using strict mode, fail on the first error/mismatch
- **backend** (*str, default="gmso"*) – Can be "gmso" or "forcefield-utilities". This will define the methods to load the forcefield.

### Variables

- **name** (*str*) – Name of the forcefield
- **version** (*str*) – Version of the forcefield
- **atom\_types** (*dict*) – A collection of atom types in the forcefield
- **bond\_types** (*dict*) – A collection of bond types in the forcefield
- **angle\_types** (*dict*) – A collection of angle types in the forcefield
- **dihedral\_types** (*dict*) – A collection of dihedral types in the forcefield
- **units** (*dict*) – A collection of unyt.Unit objects used in the forcefield
- **scaling\_factors** (*dict*) – A collection of scaling factors used in the forcefield

See also:

#### [\*gmso.ForceField.from\\_xml\*](#)

A class method to create forcefield object from XML files

#### **gmso.utils.ff\_utils.validate**

Function to validate the gmso XML file

#### **property atom\_class\_groups**

Return a dictionary of atomClasses in the Forcefield.

#### **classmethod from\_xml**(*xmls\_or\_etrees, strict=True, greedy=True*)

Create a gmso.Forcefield object from XML File(s).

This class method creates a ForceField object from the reference XML file. This method takes in a single or collection of XML files with information about gmso.AtomTypes, gmso.BondTypes, gmso.AngleTypes, gmso.PairPotentialTypes and gmso.DihedralTypes to create the ForceField object.

### Parameters

- **xmls\_or\_etrees** (*Union[str, Iterable[str], etree.ElementTree, Iterable[etree.ElementTree]]*) – The forcefield XML locations or XML Element Trees
- **strict** (*bool, default=True*) – If true, perform a strict validation of the forcefield XML file
- **greedy** (*bool, default=True*) – If True, when using strict mode, fail on the first error/mismatch

**Returns**

**forcefield** – A gmso.Forcefield object with a collection of Potential objects created using the information in the XML file

**Return type**

*gmso.ForceField*

**get\_parameters**(*group, key, warn=False, copy=False*)

Return parameters for a specific potential by key in this ForceField.

This function uses the *get\_potential* function to get Parameters

**See also:**

*gmso.ForceField.get\_potential*

Get specific potential/parameters from a forcefield potential group by key

**get\_potential**(*group, key, return\_match\_order=False, warn=False*)

Return a specific potential by key in this ForceField.

**Parameters**

- **group** (*{'atom\_type', 'bond\_type', 'angle\_type', 'dihedral\_type', 'improper\_type'}*) – The potential group to perform this search on
- **key** (*str (for atom type) or list of str (for connection types)*) – The key to lookup for this potential group
- **return\_match\_order** (*bool, default=False*) – If true, return the order of connection member types/classes that got matched
- **warn** (*bool, default=False*) – If true, raise a warning instead of Error if no match found

**Returns**

The parametric potential requested

**Return type**

*gmso.ParametricPotential*

**Raises**

**MissingPotentialError** – When the potential specified by *key* is not found in the ForceField potential group *group*

**group\_angle\_types\_by\_expression()**

Return all AngleTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression.

**See also:**

**\_group\_by\_expression**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of AngleTypes with that expression

**Return type**

*dict*

**group\_atom\_types\_by\_expression()**

Return all AtomTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression.



See also:

**`_group_by_expression`**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of atom\_types with that expression

**Return type**

dict

**`group_bond_types_by_expression()`**

Return all BondTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression.

See also:

**`_group_by_expression`**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of BondTypes with that expression

**Return type**

dict

**`group_dihedral_types_by_expression()`**

Return all DihedralTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression.

See also:

**`_group_by_expression`**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of DihedralTypes with that expression

**Return type**

dict

**`group_improper_types_by_expression()`**

Return all ImproperTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression.

See also:

**`_group_by_expression`**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of ImproperTypes with that expression

**Return type**

dict

**`group_pairpotential_types_by_expression()`**

Return all PairPotentialTypes in this ForceField with grouped by expression

See also:

**`_group_by_expression`**

Groups a dictionary of gmso.ParametricPotentials by their expression

**Returns**

A dictionary where the key, value -> expression, list of PairPotentialTypes with that expression

**Return type**

dict

**property non\_element\_types**

Get the non-element types in the ForceField.

**to\_xml**(filename, overwrite=False, backend='gmso')

Get an lxml ElementTree representation of this ForceField

**Parameters**

- **filename** (*Union[str, pathlib.Path]*, *default=None*) – The filename to write the XML file to
  - **overwrite** (*bool*, *default=False*) – If True, overwrite an existing file if it exists
  - **backend** (*str*, *default="gmso"*) – Can be “gmso” or “forcefield-utilities”. This will define the methods to write the xml.
-

## FORMATS

This submodule provides readers and writers for (on-disk) file formats.

### 3.1 GROMACS

The following methods are available for reading and writing GROMACS files.

### 3.2 GSD

The following methods are available for reading and writing GSD files.

### 3.3 xyz

The following methods are available for reading and writing xyz files.

### 3.4 LAMMPS DATA

The following methods are available for reading and writing LAMMPS data.



## EXTERNAL

This submodule includes functions that convert core data structures between external libraries and their internal representation.

### 4.1 mBuild

The following methods are available for converting [mBuild](#) objects to and from GMSO.

### 4.2 Parmed

Conversion methods for [Parmed](#) objects to and from GMSO.

### 4.3 OpenMM

Conversion methods for [OpenMM](#) objects to and from GMSO.



## INSTALLATION

### 5.1 Installing with conda

Starting from GMSO version 0.3.0, you can use `conda` to install GMSO in your preferred environment. This will also install the dependencies of GMSO.

```
(your-env) $ conda install -c conda-forge gmso
```

### 5.2 Installing from source conda

Dependencies of GMSO are listed in the files `environment.yml` (lightweight environment specification containing minimal dependencies) and `environment-dev.yml` (comprehensive environment specification including optional and testing packages for developers). The `gmso` or `gmso-dev` conda environments can be created with

```
$ git clone https://github.com/mosdef-hub/gmso.git
$ cd gmso
# for gmso conda environment
$ conda env create -f environment.yml
$ conda activate gmso

# for gmso-dev
$ conda env create -f environment-dev.yml
$ conda activate gmso

# install a non-editable version of gmso
$ pip install .
```

### 5.3 Install an editable version from source

Once all dependencies have been installed and the conda environment has been created, the GMSO itself can be installed.

```
$ cd gmso
$ conda activate gmso-dev # or gmso depending on your installation
$ pip install -e .
```

## 5.4 Supported Python Versions

Python 3.7 is the recommend version for users. It is the only version on which development and testing consistently takes place. Older (3.6) and newer (3.8+) versions of Python 3 are likely to work but no guarantee is made and, in addition, some dependencies may not be available for other versions. No effort is made to support Python 2 because it is considered obsolete as of early 2020.

## 5.5 Testing your installation

GMSO uses `py.test` to execute its unit tests. To run them, first install the `gmso-dev` environment from above as well as `gmso` itself

```
$ conda activate gmso-dev
$ pip install -e .
```

And then run the tests with the `py.test` executable:

```
$ py.test -v
```

## 5.6 Install pre-commit

We use [pre-commit](<https://pre-commit.com/>) to automatically handle our code formatting and this package is included in the dev environment. With the `gmso-dev` conda environment active, pre-commit can be installed locally as a git hook by running

```
$ pre-commit install
```

And (optional) all files can be checked by running

```
$ pre-commit run --all-files
```

## 5.7 Building the documentation

GMSO uses `sphinx` to build its documentation. To build the docs locally, run the following while in the `docs` directory:

```
$ conda env create -f docs-env.yml
$ conda activate gmso-docs
$ make html
```



## USING GMSO WITH DOCKER

As much of scientific software development happens in unix platforms, to avoid the quirks of development dependent on system you use, a recommended way is to use docker or other containerization technologies. This section is a how to guide on using GMSO with docker.

### 6.1 Prerequisites

A docker installation in your machine. Follow this [link](#) to get a docker installation working on your machine. If you are not familiar with docker and want to get started with docker, the Internet is full of good tutorials like the ones [here](#) and [here](#).

### 6.2 Quick Start

After you have a working docker installation, please use the following command to use run a jupyter-notebook with all the dependencies for *GMSO* installed:

```
$ docker pull mosdef/gmso:latest
$ docker run -it --name gmso -p 8888:8888 mosdef/gmso:latest
```

If no command is provided to the container (as above), the container starts a `jupyter-notebook` at the (container) location `/home/anaconda/data`. To access the notebook, paste the notebook URL into a web browser on your computer. When you are finished, you can control-C to exit the notebook as usual. The docker container will exit upon notebook shutdown.

Alternatively, you can also start a Bourne shell to use python from the container's terminal:

```
$ docker run -it --mount type=bind,source=$(pwd),target="/home/anaconda/data" mosdef/
↪ gmso:latest sh
~ $ source .profile
(gmso-dev) ~ $
```

**Warning:** Containers by nature are ephemeral, so filesystem changes (e.g., adding a new notebook) only persist until the end of the container's lifecycle. If the container is removed, any changes or code additions will not persist. See the section below for persistent data.

Note

The `-it` flags connect your keyboard to the terminal running in the container. You may run the prior command without those flags, but be aware that the container will not respond to any keyboard input. In that case, you would need to use the `docker ps` and `docker kill` commands to shut down the container.

## 6.3 Persisting User Volumes

If you will be using *GMSO* from a docker container, a recommended way is to mount what are called user volumes in the container. User volumes will provide a way to persist all filesystem/code additions made to a container regardless of the container lifecycle. For example, you might want to create a directory called *gmso-notebooks* in your local system, which will store all your *GMSO* notebooks/code. In order to make that accessible to the container(where the notebooks will be created/edited), use the following steps:

```
$ mkdir -p /path/to/gmso-notebooks
$ cd /path/to/gmso-notebooks
$ docker run -it --name gmso --mount type=bind,source=$(pwd),target=/home/anaconda/data -
↳p 8888:8888 mosdef/gmso:latest
```

You can easily mount a different directory from your local machine by changing `source=$(pwd)` to `source=/path/to/my/favorite/directory`.

---

**Note:** The `--mount` flag mounts a volume into the docker container. Here we use a `bind` mount to bind the current directory on our local filesystem to the `/home/anaconda/data` location in the container. The files you see in the `jupyter-notebook` browser window are those that exist on your local machine.

---

**Warning:** If you are using the container with jupyter notebooks you should use the `/home/anaconda/data` location as the mount point inside the container; this is the default notebook directory.

## 6.4 Running Python scripts in the container

Jupyter notebooks are a great way to explore new software and prototype code. However, when it comes time for production science, it is often better to work with python scripts. In order to execute a python script (`example.py`) that exists in the current working directory of your local machine, run:

```
$ docker run --mount type=bind,source=$(pwd),target=/home/anaconda/data mosdef/
↳gmso:latest "python data/test.py"
```

Note that once again we are `bind` mounting the current working directory to `/home/anaconda/data`. The command we pass to the container is `python data/test.py`. Note the prefix `data/` to the script; this is because we enter the container in the home folder (`/home/anaconda`), but our script is located under `/home/anaconda/data`.

**Warning:** Do not bind mount to `target=/home/anaconda`. This will cause errors.

If you don't require a Jupyter notebook, but just want a Python interpreter, you can run:

```
$ docker run --mount type=bind,source=$(pwd),target=/home/anaconda/data mosdef/
↳gmso:latest python
```

If you don't need access to any local data, you can of course drop the `--mount` command:

```
$ docker run mosdef/gmso:latest python
```

## 6.5 Cleaning Up

You can remove the created container by using the following command:

```
$ docker container rm gmso
```

---

**Note:** Instead of using *latest*, you can use the image `mosdef/gmso:stable` for most recent stable release of GMSO and run the tutorials.

---



## CONTRIBUTING

Contributions are welcomed via [pull requests on GitHub](#). Developers and/or users will review requested changes and make comments. The rest of this file will serve as a set of general guidelines for contributors.

### 7.1 Features

#### 7.1.1 Implement functionality in a general and flexible fashion

GMSO is designed to be general and flexible, not limited to single chemistries, file formats, simulation engines, or simulation methods. Additions to core features should attempt to provide something that is applicable to a variety of use-cases and not targeted at only the focus area of your research. However, some specific features targeted toward a limited use case may be appropriate. Speak to the developers before writing your code and they will help you make design choices that allow flexibility.

### 7.2 Version control

We currently use the “standard” Pull Request model. Contributions should be implemented on feature branches of forks. Please try to keep the *master* branch of your fork up-to-date with the *master* branch of the main repository.

#### 7.2.1 Propose a single set of related changes

Small changes are preferred over large changes. A major contribution can often be broken down into smaller PRs. Large PRs that affect many parts of the codebase can be harder to review and are more likely to cause merge conflicts.

### 7.3 Source code

#### 7.3.1 Use a consistent style

It is important to have a consistent style throughout the source code. The following criteria are desired:

- Lines wrapped to 80 characters
- Lines are indented with spaces
- Lines do not end with whitespace
- For other details, refer to [PEP8](#)

To help with the above, there are tools such as `flake8` and `Black`.

### 7.3.2 Document code with comments

All public-facing functions should have docstrings using the numpy style. This includes concise paragraph-style description of what the class or function does, relevant limitations and known issues, and descriptions of arguments. Internal functions can have simple one-liner docstrings.

## 7.4 Tests

### 7.4.1 Write unit tests

All new functionality in GMSO should be tested with automatic unit tests that execute in a few seconds. These tests should attempt to cover all options that the user can select. All or most of the added lines of source code should be covered by unit test(s). We currently use `pytest`, which can be executed simply by calling `pytest` from the root directory of the package.

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