
OpenFF Units

The Open Force Field Initiative

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Units of measure for biomolecular software.

OpenFF Units is based on [Pint](#). Its [*Quantity*](#), [*Unit*](#), and [*Measurement*](#) types inherit from Pint's, and add improved support for serialization and deserialization. OpenFF Units improves support for biomolecular software by providing a [*system of units*](#) that are compatible with [OpenMM](#) and [*providing functions*](#) to convert to OpenMM units and back. It also provides [*atomic masses*](#) with units, as well as some [*other useful maps*](#).

**CHAPTER
ONE**

INSTALLATION

We recommend installing OpenFF Units with the [Conda](#) package manager. If you don't yet have a Conda distribution installed, we recommend [MambaForge](#) for most users. The `openff-units` package can be installed from Conda Forge:

```
conda install -c conda-forge openff-units
```

CHAPTER
TWO

USING OPENFF UNITS

OpenFF Units provides the `Quantity` class, which represents a numerical value with units. A `Quantity` can be created by providing a value and units:

```
>>> from openff.units import unit, Quantity
>>>
>>> Quantity(1.007, unit.amu)
<Quantity(1.007, 'unified_atomic_mass_unit')>
```

The `unit` singleton value is a registry of units, but also exposes the `Quantity`, `Unit`, and `Measurement` classes so you don't have to import them individually. Even easier, multiplying a number by the appropriate unit also provides a `Quantity`:

```
>>> mass_proton = 1.007 * unit.amu
>>> mass_proton == unit.Quantity(1.007, unit.amu)
True
```

`Quantity` can also wrap NumPy arrays. It's best to wrap an array of floats in a `Quantity`, rather than have an array of `Quantities`:

```
>>> import numpy as np
>>>
>>> box_vectors = np.array([
...     [5.0, 0.0, 0.0],
...     [0.0, 5.0, 0.0],
...     [0.0, 0.0, 5.0],
... ]) * unit.nanometer
```

When constructed like this, `Quantity` is transparent; it will pass any attributes it doesn't have through to the inner value. This means that an `Quantity`-wrapped array can be used exactly as though it were an array — the units are just checked silently in the background:

```
>>> from numpy.random import rand
>>>
>>> trajectory = 10 * rand(10, 10000, 3) * unit.nanometer
>>> centroids = trajectory.mean(axis=1)[..., None]
>>> last_water = trajectory[:, 97:99, :]
>>> last_water_recentered = last_water - centroids
```

This transparency works with most container types, so it's usually best to have `Quantity` be the outermost wrapper type.

Complex units can be constructed by combining units with the usual arithmetic operations:

```
>>> boltzmann_constant = 8.314462618e-3 * unit.kilojoule / unit.kelvin / unit.avogadro_
    ↵number
```

Some common constants are provided as units as well:

```
>>> boltzmann_constant = 1.0 * unit.boltzmann_constant
```

Adding or subtracting different units with the same dimensions just works:

```
>>> 1.0 * unit.angstrom + 1.0 * unit.nanometer
<Quantity(11.0, 'angstrom')>
```

But quantities with different dimensions raise an exception:

```
>>> 1.0 * unit.angstrom + 1.0 * unit.nanojoule
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
pint.errors.DimensionalityError: Cannot convert from 'angstrom' ([length]) to 'nanojoule
    ↵' ([length] ** 2 * [mass] / [time] ** 2)
```

Quantities can be converted between units with the `.to()` method:

```
>>> (1.0 * unit.nanometer).to(unit.angstrom)
<Quantity(10.0, 'angstrom')>
```

Or with the `.ito()` method for in-place transformations:

```
>>> quantity = 10.0 * unit.angstrom
>>> quantity.ito(unit.nanometer)
>>> quantity
<Quantity(1.0, 'nanometer')>
```

The underlying value without units can be retrieved with the `.m` or `.magnitude` properties. Just make sure it's in the units you expect first:

```
>>> quantity = (1.0 * unit.k_B).to_base_units()
>>> assert quantity.units == unit.kilogram * unit.meter**2 / unit.kelvin / unit.second**2
>>> quantity.magnitude
1.380649e-23
```

Alternatively, specify the target units of the output magnitude with `.m_as`:

```
>>> quantity = 1.0 * unit.k_B
>>> quantity.m_as(unit.kilogram * unit.meter**2 / unit.kelvin / unit.second**2)
1.380649e-23
```

OpenFF Units also provides the `from_openmm` and `to_openmm` functions to convert between OpenFF quantities and OpenMM quantities:

```
>>> from openff.units.openmm import from_openmm, to_openmm
>>>
>>> quantity = 10.0 * unit.angstrom
>>> omm_quant = to_openmm(quantity)
>>> omm_quant
```

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```
Quantity(value=10.0, unit=angstrom)
>>> type(omm_quant)
<class 'openmm.unit.quantity.Quantity'>
>>> quant_roundtrip = from_openmm(omm_quant)
>>> quant_roundtrip
<Quantity(10.0, 'angstrom')>
>>> type(quant_roundtrip)
<class 'openff.units.units.Quantity'>
```

For more details, see the *API reference*.

openff.units

2.1 openff.units

Module Attributes

| | |
|-------------|---|
| <i>unit</i> | Registry of units provided by OpenFF Units. |
|-------------|---|

2.1.1 unit

`openff.units.unit: openff.units.units.UnitRegistry`

Registry of units provided by OpenFF Units.

`unit` may be used similarly to a module. It makes constants and units of measure available as attributes. Available units can be found in the `constants` and `defaults` data files.

Functions

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Measurement</i> | |
| <code>ensure_quantity</code> | Given a quantity that could be of a variety of types, attempt to coerce into a given type. |

2.1.2 Measurement

`openff.units.Measurement(*args, **kwargs)`

2.1.3 ensure_quantity

```
openff.units.ensure_quantity(unknown_quantity: Union[Quantity, openmm_unit.Quantity], type_to_ensure: Literal['openmm', 'openff']) → Union[Quantity, openmm_unit.Quantity]
```

Given a quantity that could be of a variety of types, attempt to coerce into a given type.

Examples

```
>>> import numpy
>>> from openmm import unit as openmm_unit
>>> from openff.units import unit
>>> from openff.units.openmm import ensure_quantity
>>> # Create a 9 Angstrom quantity with each registry
>>> length1 = unit.Quantity(9.0, unit.angstrom)
>>> length2 = openmm_unit.Quantity(9.0, openmm_unit.angstrom)
>>> # Similar quantities are be coerced into requested type
>>> assert type(ensure_quantity(length1, "openmm")) == openmm_unit.Quantity
>>> assert type(ensure_quantity(length2, "openff")) == unit.Quantity
>>> # Seemingly-redundant "conversions" short-circuit
>>> assert ensure_quantity(length1, "openff") == ensure_quantity(length2, "openff")
>>> assert ensure_quantity(length1, "openmm") == ensure_quantity(length2, "openmm")
>>> # NumPy arrays and some primitives are automatically up-converted to `Quantity` objects
>>> # Note that their units are set to "dimensionless"
>>> ensure_quantity(numpy.array([1, 2]), "openff")
<Quantity([1 2], 'dimensionless')>
>>> ensure_quantity(4.0, "openmm")
Quantity(value=4.0, unit=dimensionless)
```

Classes

Quantity

Unit

2.1.4 Quantity

```
class openff.units.Quantity(value: str, units: Optional[UnitLike] = None)
class openff.units.Quantity(value: Sequence, units: Optional[UnitLike] = None)
class openff.units.Quantity(value: PlainQuantity[Magnitude], units: Optional[UnitLike] = None)
class openff.units.Quantity(value: Magnitude, units: Optional[UnitLike] = None)
```

Bases: *Quantity*

Methods

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <code>check</code> | Return true if the quantity's dimension matches passed dimension. |
| <code>clip</code> | |
| <code>compare</code> | |
| <code>compatible_units</code> | |
| <code>compute</code> | Compute the Dask array wrapped by <code>pint.PlainQuantity</code> . |
| <code>dot</code> | Dot product of two arrays. |
| <code>fill</code> | |
| <code>format_babel</code> | |
| <code>from_list</code> | Transforms a list of Quantities into an <code>numpy.array</code> quantity. |
| <code>from_sequence</code> | Transforms a sequence of Quantities into an <code>numpy.array</code> quantity. |
| <code>from_tuple</code> | |
| <code>is_compatible_with</code> | check if the other object is compatible |
| <code>ito</code> | Inplace rescale to different units. |
| <code>ito_base_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity rescaled to plain units. |
| <code>ito_reduced_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity scaled in place to reduced units, i.e. one unit per dimension. |
| <code>ito_root_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity rescaled to root units. |
| <code>m_as</code> | PlainQuantity's magnitude expressed in particular units. |
| <code>persist</code> | Persist the Dask Array wrapped by <code>pint.PlainQuantity</code> . |
| <code>plus_minus</code> | |
| <code>prod</code> | Return the product of quantity elements over a given axis |
| <code>put</code> | |
| <code>searchsorted</code> | |
| <code>to</code> | Return PlainQuantity rescaled to different units. |
| <code>to_base_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity rescaled to plain units. |
| <code>to_compact</code> | "Return PlainQuantity rescaled to compact, human-readable units. |
| <code>to_openmm</code> | Convert the quantity to an <code>openmm.Quantity</code> . |
| <code>to_reduced_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity scaled in place to reduced units, i.e. one unit per dimension. |
| <code>to_root_units</code> | Return PlainQuantity rescaled to root units. |

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| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <code>to_timedelta</code> | |
| <code>to_tuple</code> | |
| <code>tolist</code> | |
| <code>visualize</code> | Produce a visual representation of the Dask graph. |

Attributes

| | |
|--|--|
| <code>T</code> | |
| <code>UnitsContainer</code> | |
| <code>default_format</code> | Default formatting string. |
| <code>dimensionality</code> | returns: <code>dict</code> -- Dimensionality of the PlainQuantity, e.g. |
| <code>dimensionless</code> | |
| <code>flat</code> | |
| <code>force_ndarray</code> | |
| <code>force_ndarray_like</code> | |
| <code>imag</code> | |
| <code>m</code> | PlainQuantity's magnitude. |
| <code>magnitude</code> | PlainQuantity's magnitude. |
| <code>ndim</code> | |
| <code>real</code> | |
| <code>shape</code> | |
| <code>u</code> | PlainQuantity's units. |
| <code>unitless</code> | |
| <code>units</code> | PlainQuantity's units. |
| <code>property T</code> | |
| <code>property UnitsContainer: Callable[..., UnitsContainerT]</code> | |
| <code>check(dimension: UnitLike) → bool</code> | |
| <code>clip(min=None, max=None, out=None, **kwargs)</code> | Return true if the quantity's dimension matches passed dimension. |
| <code>compare(*args, **kwargs)</code> | |

```

compatible_units(*contexts)

compute(**kwargs)
    Compute the Dask array wrapped by pint.PlainQuantity.

    Parameters **kwargs (dict) – Any keyword arguments to pass to dask.compute.

    Returns pint.PlainQuantity – A pint.PlainQuantity wrapped numpy array.

default_format: str = ''
    Default formatting string.

property dimensionality: UnitsContainerT
    returns: dict – Dimensionality of the PlainQuantity, e.g. {length: 1, time: -1}

property dimensionless: bool

dot(b)
    Dot product of two arrays.

    Wraps np.dot().

fill(value) → None

property flat

property force_ndarray: bool

property force_ndarray_like: bool

format_babel(spec: str = "", **kwspec: Any) → str

classmethod from_list(quant_list: List[PlainQuantity], units=None) → PlainQuantity[ndarray]
    Transforms a list of Quantities into an numpy.array quantity. If no units are specified, the unit of the first element will be used. Same as from_sequence.

    If units is not specified and list is empty, the unit cannot be determined and a ValueError is raised.

    Parameters
        • quant_list (list of pint.PlainQuantity) – list of pint.PlainQuantity
        • units (UnitsContainer, str or pint.PlainQuantity) – units of the physical quantity to be created (Default value = None)

    Returns pint.PlainQuantity

classmethod from_sequence(seq: Sequence[PlainQuantity], units=None) → PlainQuantity[ndarray]
    Transforms a sequence of Quantities into an numpy.array quantity. If no units are specified, the unit of the first element will be used.

    If units is not specified and sequence is empty, the unit cannot be determined and a ValueError is raised.

    Parameters
        • seq (sequence of pint.PlainQuantity) – sequence of pint.PlainQuantity
        • units (UnitsContainer, str or pint.PlainQuantity) – units of the physical quantity to be created (Default value = None)

    Returns pint.PlainQuantity

classmethod from_tuple(tup)

```

```
property imag: NumpyQuantity[_MagnitudeType]

is_compatible_with(other: Any, *contexts: Union[str, Context], **ctx_kwargs: Any) → bool
    check if the other object is compatible

Parameters
    • other – The object to check. Treated as dimensionless if not a PlainQuantity, Unit or str.
    • *contexts (str or pint.Context) – Contexts to use in the transformation.
    • **ctx_kwargs – Values for the Context/s

Returns bool

ito(other=None, *contexts, **ctx_kwargs) → None
    Inplace rescale to different units.

Parameters
    • other (pint.PlainQuantity, str or dict) – Destination units. (Default value = None)
    • *contexts (str or pint.Context) – Contexts to use in the transformation.
    • **ctx_kwargs – Values for the Context/s

ito_base_units() → None
    Return PlainQuantity rescaled to plain units.

ito_reduced_units() → None
    Return PlainQuantity scaled in place to reduced units, i.e. one unit per dimension. This will not reduce compound units (e.g., ‘J/kg’ will not be reduced to  $m^{**2}/s^{**2}$ ), nor can it make use of contexts at this time.

ito_root_units() → None
    Return PlainQuantity rescaled to root units.

property m: pint._typing._MagnitudeType
    PlainQuantity’s magnitude. Short form for magnitude

m_as(units) → _MagnitudeType
    PlainQuantity’s magnitude expressed in particular units.

Parameters units (pint.PlainQuantity, str or dict) – destination units

property magnitude: pint._typing._MagnitudeType
    PlainQuantity’s magnitude. Long form for m

property ndim: int

persist(**kwargs)
    Persist the Dask Array wrapped by pint.PlainQuantity.

Parameters **kwargs (dict) – Any keyword arguments to pass to dask.persist.

Returns pint.PlainQuantity – A pint.PlainQuantity wrapped Dask array.

plus_minus(error, relative=False)

prod(axis=None, dtype=None, out=None, keepdims=np._NoValue, initial=np._NoValue,
      where=np._NoValue)
    Return the product of quantity elements over a given axis

    Wraps np.prod().
```

```
put(indices, values, mode='raise') → None
property real: NumpyQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
searchsorted(v, side='left', sorter=None)
property shape: Tuple[int, ...]
to(other=None, *contexts, **ctx_kwargs) → PlainQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
```

Return PlainQuantity rescaled to different units.

Parameters

- **other** (`pint.PlainQuantity`, `str` or `dict`) – destination units. (Default value = `None`)
- ***contexts** (`str` or `pint.Context`) – Contexts to use in the transformation.
- ****ctx_kwargs** – Values for the Context/s

Returns `pint.PlainQuantity`

```
to_base_units() → PlainQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
```

Return PlainQuantity rescaled to plain units.

```
to_compact(unit=None) → PlainQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
```

“Return PlainQuantity rescaled to compact, human-readable units.

To get output in terms of a different unit, use the `unit` parameter.

Examples

```
>>> import pint
>>> ureg = pint.UnitRegistry()
>>> (200e-9*ureg.s).to_compact()
<Quantity(200.0, 'nanosecond')>
>>> (1e-2*ureg('kg m/s^2')).to_compact('N')
<Quantity(10.0, 'millinewton')>
```

```
to_openmm() → OpenMMQuantity
```

Convert the quantity to an `openmm.unit.Quantity`.

Returns `openmm_quantity` (`openmm.unit.quantity.Quantity`) – The OpenMM compatible quantity.

```
to_reduced_units() → PlainQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
```

Return PlainQuantity scaled in place to reduced units, i.e. one unit per dimension. This will not reduce compound units (intentionally), nor can it make use of contexts at this time.

```
to_root_units() → PlainQuantity[_MagnitudeType]
```

Return PlainQuantity rescaled to root units.

```
to_timedelta() → timedelta
```

```
to_tuple() → Tuple[_MagnitudeType, Tuple[Tuple[str]]]
```

```
tolist()
```

```
property u: Unit
```

PlainQuantity’s units. Short form for `units`

```
property unitless: bool
property units: Unit
PlainQuantity's units. Long form for u
visualize(**kwargs)
Produce a visual representation of the Dask graph.
The graphviz library is required.

Parameters **kwargs (dict) – Any keyword arguments to pass to dask.visualize.
```

2.1.5 Unit

```
class openff.units.Unit(*args, **kwargs)
Bases: Unit
```

Methods

`compare`

`compatible_units`

`format_babel`

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <code>from_</code> | Converts a numerical value or quantity to this unit |
| <code>is_compatible_with</code> | check if the other object is compatible |
| <code>m_from</code> | Converts a numerical value or quantity to this unit, then returns the magnitude of the converted value |

Attributes

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <code>default_format</code> | Default formatting string. |
| <code>dimensionality</code> | returns: dict -- Dimensionality of the PlainUnit, e.g. |
| <code>dimensionless</code> | Return True if the PlainUnit is dimensionless; False otherwise. |
| <code>systems</code> | |

`compare(other, op) → bool`

`compatible_units(*contexts)`

`default_format: str = ''`

Default formatting string.

`property dimensionality: UnitsContainer`

returns: dict – Dimensionality of the PlainUnit, e.g. {length: 1, time: -1}

`property dimensionless: bool`

Return True if the PlainUnit is dimensionless; False otherwise.

format_babel(*spec*='', *locale*=None, ***kwspec*: Any) → str

from_(*value*, *strict*=True, *name*='value')

Converts a numerical value or quantity to this unit

Parameters

- **value** – a Quantity (or numerical value if strict=False) to convert
- **strict** – boolean to indicate that only quantities are accepted (Default value = True)
- **name** – descriptive name to use if an exception occurs (Default value = “value”)

Returns *type* – The converted value as this unit

is_compatible_with(*other*: Any, **contexts*: Union[str, Context], ***ctx_kwargs*: Any) → bool

check if the other object is compatible

Parameters

- **other** – The object to check. Treated as dimensionless if not a Quantity, PlainUnit or str.
- ***contexts** (str or *pint.Context*) – Contexts to use in the transformation.
- ****ctx_kwargs** – Values for the Context/s

Returns bool

m_from(*value*, *strict*=True, *name*='value')

Converts a numerical value or quantity to this unit, then returns the magnitude of the converted value

Parameters

- **value** – a Quantity (or numerical value if strict=False) to convert
- **strict** – boolean to indicate that only quantities are accepted (Default value = True)
- **name** – descriptive name to use if an exception occurs (Default value = “value”)

Returns *type* – The magnitude of the converted value

property systems

Modules

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>elements</i> | Symbols and masses for the chemical elements. |
| <i>exceptions</i> | |
| <i>openmm</i> | Functions for converting between OpenFF and OpenMM units |
| <i>utilities</i> | Utility methods for OpenFF Units |

2.1.6 elements

Symbols and masses for the chemical elements.

This module provides mappings from atomic number to atomic mass and symbol. These dicts were seeded from running the below script using OpenMM 7.7.

It's not completely clear where OpenMM sourced these values from [1] but they are generally consistent with recent IUPAC values [2].

1. <https://github.com/openmm/openmm/issues/3434#issuecomment-1023406296>
2. <https://www.ciaaw.org/publications.htm>

```
import openmm.app

masses = {
    atomic_number: openmm.app.element.Element.getByAtomicNumber(
        atomic_number
    ).mass._value
    for atomic_number in range(1, 117)
}

symbols = {
    atomic_number: openmm.app.element.Element.getByAtomicNumber(atomic_number).symbol
    for atomic_number in range(1, 117)
}
```

Module Attributes

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <code>MASSES</code> | Mapping from atomic number to atomic mass |
|---------------------|---|

MASSES

`openff.units.elements.MASSES: Dict[int, Quantity]`

Mapping from atomic number to atomic mass

2.1.7 exceptions

Exceptions

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <code>MissingOpenMMUnitError</code> | Raised when a unit cannot be converted to an equivalent OpenMM unit |
| <code>NoneQuantityError</code> | Raised when attempting to convert <code>None</code> between unit packages as a quantity object |
| <code>NoneUnitError</code> | Raised when attempting to convert <code>None</code> between unit packages as a unit object |

MissingOpenMMUnitError**exception** openff.units.exceptions.MissingOpenMMUnitErrorBases: `Exception`

Raised when a unit cannot be converted to an equivalent OpenMM unit

NoneQuantityError**exception** openff.units.exceptions.NoneQuantityErrorBases: `Exception`Raised when attempting to convert *None* between unit packages as a quantity object**NoneUnitError****exception** openff.units.exceptions.NoneUnitErrorBases: `Exception`Raised when attempting to convert *None* between unit packages as a unit object

2.1.8 openmm

Functions for converting between OpenFF and OpenMM units

Functions

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <code>from_openmm</code> | Convert an OpenMM Quantity to an OpenFF Quantity |
| <code>to_openmm</code> | Convert an OpenFF Quantity to an OpenMM Quantity |
| <code>openmm_unit_to_string</code> | Convert a <code>openmm.unit.Unit</code> to a string representation. |
| <code>string_to_openmm_unit</code> | Deserializes a <code>openmm.unit.Quantity</code> from a string representation, for example: "kilocalories_per_mole / angstrom ** 2" |
| <code>ensure_quantity</code> | Given a quantity that could be of a variety of types, attempt to coerce into a given type. |

`from_openmm`

`openff.units.openmm.from_openmm(openmm_quantity: openmm_unit.Quantity) → Quantity`

Convert an OpenMM Quantity to an OpenFF Quantity

`openmm.unit.quantity.Quantity` from OpenMM and `openff.units.Quantity` from this package both represent a numerical value with units.

Examples

```
>>> from openff.units import Quantity as OpenFFQuantity
>>> from openff.units.openmm import from_openmm
>>> from openmm import unit
>>> length = unit.Quantity(9.0, unit.angstrom)
>>> from_openmm(length)
<Quantity(9.0, 'angstrom')>
>>> assert isinstance(from_openmm(length), OpenFFQuantity)
```

to_openmm

`openff.units.openmm.to_openmm(quantity: Quantity) → openmm_unit.Quantity`

Convert an OpenFF Quantity to an OpenMM Quantity

`openmm.unit.quantity.Quantity` from OpenMM and `openff.units.Quantity` from this package both represent a numerical value with units. The units available in the two packages differ; when a unit is missing from the target package, the resulting quantity will be in base units (kg/m/s/A/K/mole), which are shared between both packages. This may cause the resulting value to be slightly different to the input due to the limited precision of floating point numbers.

Examples

```
>>> from openff.units import unit
>>> from openff.units.openmm import to_openmm
>>> from openmm import unit as openmm_unit
>>> length = unit.Quantity(9.0, unit.angstrom)
>>> to_openmm(length)
Quantity(value=9.0, unit=angstrom)
>>> assert isinstance(to_openmm(length), openmm_unit.Quantity)
```

openmm_unit_to_string

`openff.units.openmm.openmm_unit_to_string(input_unit: openmm_unit.Unit) → str`

Convert a `openmm.unit.Unit` to a string representation.

Parameters `input_unit` (A `openmm.unit`) – The unit to serialize

Returns `unit_string` (`str`) – The serialized unit.

string_to_openmm_unit

`openff.units.openmm.string_to_openmm_unit(unit_string: str) → openmm_unit.Unit`

Deserializes a `openmm.unit.Quantity` from a string representation, for example: “kilocalories_per_mole / angstrom ** 2”

Parameters `unit_string` (`dict`) – Serialized representation of a `openmm.unit.Quantity`.

Returns `output_unit` (`openmm.unit.Quantity`) – The deserialized unit from the string

Raises `MissingOpenMMUnitError` – if the unit is unavailable in OpenMM.

ensure_quantity

```
openff.units.openmm.ensure_quantity(unknown_quantity: Union[Quantity, openmm_unit.Quantity],
                                    type_to_ensure: Literal['openmm', 'openff']) → Union[Quantity,
                                    openmm_unit.Quantity]
```

Given a quantity that could be of a variety of types, attempt to coerce into a given type.

Examples

```
>>> import numpy
>>> from openmm import unit as openmm_unit
>>> from openff.units import unit
>>> from openff.units.openmm import ensure_quantity
>>> # Create a 9 Angstrom quantity with each registry
>>> length1 = unit.Quantity(9.0, unit.angstrom)
>>> length2 = openmm_unit.Quantity(9.0, openmm_unit.angstrom)
>>> # Similar quantities are be coerced into requested type
>>> assert type(ensure_quantity(length1, "openmm")) == openmm_unit.Quantity
>>> assert type(ensure_quantity(length2, "openff")) == unit.Quantity
>>> # Seemingly-redundant "conversions" short-circuit
>>> assert ensure_quantity(length1, "openff") == ensure_quantity(length2, "openff")
>>> assert ensure_quantity(length1, "openmm") == ensure_quantity(length2, "openmm")
>>> # NumPy arrays and some primitives are automatically up-converted to `Quantity` objects
>>> # Note that their units are set to "dimensionless"
>>> ensure_quantity(numpy.array([1, 2]), "openff")
<Quantity([1 2], 'dimensionless')>
>>> ensure_quantity(4.0, "openmm")
Quantity(value=4.0, unit=dimensionless)
```

2.1.9 utilities

Utility methods for OpenFF Units

Functions**get_defaults_path**

Get the full path to the defaults.txt file

get_defaults_path

```
openff.units.utilities.get_defaults_path() → str
```

Get the full path to the defaults.txt file

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