

Introduction to numerical projects

Here follows a brief recipe and recommendation on how to write a report for each project.

- Give a short description of the nature of the problem and the eventual numerical methods you have used.
- Describe the algorithm you have used and/or developed. Here you may find it convenient to use pseudocoding. In many cases you can describe the algorithm in the program itself.
- Include the source code of your program. Comment your program properly.
- If possible, try to find analytic solutions, or known limits in order to test your program when developing the code.
- Include your results either in figure form or in a table. Remember to label your results. All tables and figures should have relevant captions and labels on the axes.
- Try to evaluate the reliability and numerical stability/precision of your results. If possible, include a qualitative and/or quantitative discussion of the numerical stability, eventual loss of precision etc.
- Try to give an interpretation of your results in your answers to the problems.
- Critique: if possible include your comments and reflections about the exercise, whether you felt you learnt something, ideas for improvements and other thoughts you've made when solving the exercise. We wish to keep this course at the interactive level and your comments can help us improve it. We do appreciate your comments.
- Try to establish a practice where you log your work at the computerlab. You may find such a logbook very handy at later stages in your work, especially when you don't properly remember what a previous test version of your program did. Here you could also record the time spent on solving the exercise, various algorithms you may have tested or other topics which you feel worthy of mentioning.

Format for electronic delivery of report and programs

The preferred format for the report is a PDF file. You can also use DOC or postscript formats. As programming language we prefer that you choose between C++, Fortran95 or Python. Finally, we recommend that you work together. Optimal working groups consist of 2-3 students, but more people can collaborate. You can then hand in a common report.

Project 1, Variational Monte Carlo studies of light atoms, deadline March 22

The aim of this project is to use the Variational Monte Carlo (VMC) method and evaluate the ground state energy of the helium, beryllium and neon atoms. You should however make your code flexible enough to run for two-dimensional systems like electrons confined in so-called quantum dots.

Exercise 1: Variational Monte Carlo calculations of the Helium atom

We label r_1 the distance from electron 1 to the nucleus and similarly r_2 the distance between electron 2 and the nucleus. The contribution to the potential energy from the interactions between the electrons and the nucleus is

$$-\frac{2}{r_1} - \frac{2}{r_2}, \quad (1)$$

and if we add the electron-electron repulsion with $r_{12} = |\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|$, the total potential energy $V(r_1, r_2)$ is

$$V(r_1, r_2) = -\frac{2}{r_1} - \frac{2}{r_2} + \frac{1}{r_{12}}, \quad (2)$$

yielding the total Hamiltonian

$$\widehat{\mathbf{H}} = -\frac{\nabla_1^2}{2} - \frac{\nabla_2^2}{2} - \frac{2}{r_1} - \frac{2}{r_2} + \frac{1}{r_{12}}, \quad (3)$$

and Schrödinger's equation reads

$$\widehat{\mathbf{H}}\psi = E\psi. \quad (4)$$

All equations are in so-called atomic units. The distances r_i and r_{12} are dimensionless. To have energies in electronvolt you need to multiply all results with $2 \times E_0$, where $E_0 = 13.6$ eV. The experimental binding energy for helium in atomic units a.u. is $E_{\text{He}} = -2.9037$ a.u..

- 1a) We want to perform a Variational Monte Carlo calculation of the ground state of the helium atom. In our first attempt we will use a brute force Metropolis sampling with a trial wave function which has the following form

$$\psi_T(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12}) = \exp(-\alpha(r_1 + r_2)) \exp\left(\frac{r_{12}}{2(1 + \beta r_{12})}\right), \quad (5)$$

with α and β as variational parameters.

Your task is to perform a Variational Monte Carlo calculation using the Metropolis algorithm to compute the integral

$$\langle E \rangle = \frac{\int d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2 \psi_T^*(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12}) \widehat{H}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12}) \psi_T(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12})}{\int d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2 \psi_T^*(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12}) \psi_T(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_{12})}. \quad (6)$$

You should parallelize your program. Find the energy minimum and compute also the mean distance r_{12} between the two electrons for the optimal set of the variational parameters. A code for doing a VMC calculation for the helium atom can be found on the webpage of the course, see under programs.

You should also find a closed-form expression for the local energy. Compare the results of this calculation (in terms of CPU time) compared with a calculation which performs a brute numerical derivation.

- 1b) Introduce now importance sampling and study the dependence of the results as a function of the time step δt . Compare the results with those obtained under 1a) and comment eventual differences. In performing the Monte Carlo analysis you should use blocking as a technique to make the statistical analysis of the numerical data. The code has to run in parallel.
- 1c) With the optimal parameters for the ground state wave function, compute the one-body density and the charge density. Discuss your results and compare the results with those obtained with a pure hydrogenic wave functions. Run a Monte Carlo calculations without the Jastrow factor as well and compute the same quantities. How important are the correlations induced by the Jastrow factor?
- 1d) Repeat step 1b) by varying the energy using the conjugate gradient method to obtain the best possible set of parameters α and β .

Exercise 2: Variational Monte Carlo calculations of the Beryllium and Neon atoms

The previous exercise has prepared you for extending your calculational machinery to other systems. Here we will focus on the neon and beryllium atoms. It is convenient to make modules or classes of trial wave functions, both many-body wave functions and single-particle wave functions and the quantum numbers involved, such as spin, orbital momentum and principal quantum numbers.

The new item you need to pay attention to is the calculation of the Slater Determinant. This is an additional complication to your VMC calculations. If we stick to hydrogen-like wave functions, the trial wave function for Beryllium can be written as

$$\psi_T(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \mathbf{r}_4) = Det(\phi_1(\mathbf{r}_1), \phi_2(\mathbf{r}_2), \phi_3(\mathbf{r}_3), \phi_4(\mathbf{r}_4)) \prod_{i < j}^4 \exp\left(\frac{r_{ij}}{2(1 + \beta r_{ij})}\right), \quad (7)$$

where Det is a Slater determinant and the single-particle wave functions are the hydrogen wave functions for the $1s$ and $2s$ orbitals. Their form within the variational ansatz are given by

$$\phi_{1s}(\mathbf{r}_i) = e^{-\alpha r_i}, \quad (8)$$

and

$$\phi_{2s}(\mathbf{r}_i) = (1 - \alpha r_i/2) e^{-\alpha r_i/2}. \quad (9)$$

For neon, the trial wave function can take the form

$$\psi_T(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_{10}) = Det(\phi_1(\mathbf{r}_1), \phi_2(\mathbf{r}_2), \dots, \phi_{10}(\mathbf{r}_{10})) \prod_{i < j}^{10} \exp\left(\frac{r_{ij}}{2(1 + \beta r_{ij})}\right), \quad (10)$$

In this case you need to include the $2p$ wave function as well. It is given as

$$\phi_{2p}(\mathbf{r}_i) = \alpha \mathbf{r}_i e^{-\alpha r_i/2}. \quad (11)$$

Observe that $r_i = \sqrt{r_{ix}^2 + r_{iy}^2 + r_{iz}^2}$.

- (2a) Write a function which sets up the Slater determinant for beryllium and neon and can be generalized to handle larger systems as well. Compute the ground state energies of neon and beryllium as you did for the helium atom in 1d). The calculations should include parallelization, blocking, importance sampling and energy minimization using the conjugate gradient approach.
- 2b) With the optimal parameters for the ground state wave function, compute again the onebody density and the charge density. Discuss your results and compare the results with those obtained with a pure hydrogenic wave functions. Run a Monte Carlo calculations without the Jastrow factor as well and compute the same quantities. How important are the correlations induced by the Jastrow factor?

Literature

1. B. L. Hammond, W. A. Lester and P. J. Reynolds, Monte Carlo methods in Ab Initio Quantum Chemistry, World Scientific, Singapore, 1994, chapters 2-5 and appendix B.
2. B.H. Bransden and C.J. Joachain, Physics of Atoms and molecules, Longman, 1986. Chapters 6, 7 and 9.
3. S.A. Alexander and R.L. Coldwell, Int. Journal of Quantum Chemistry, **63** (1997) 1001. This article is available at the webpage of the course as the file jastrow.pdf under the project 1 link.
4. C.J. Umrigar, K.G. Wilson and J.W. Wilkins, Phys. Rev. Lett. **60** (1988) 1719.