Method for locating errors in Hamiltonian matrices

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A method for locating errors in matrices representing Hermitian operators in Hilbert spaces is discussed. The method is based on invariance properties of the first two moments of the spectral density distribution of these operators with respect to unitary transformations of the basis. In particular, applications to eigenvalue problems of the N-electron Hamiltonians in finite-dimensional spin-adapted Hilbert spaces are studied in detail.

I. INTRODUCTION

Algorithms for constructing matrices representing Hermitian operators in finite-dimensional N-particle spin-adapted Hilbert spaces are, in general, very complex.^{$1-6$} With no limitations imposed upon the Nparticle basis, different matrix elements can be constructed according to many different and to a large extent mutually independent algorithms. Particularly important is the case of Hilbert spaces being antisymmetric subspaces of the N-fold Cartesian products of a one-particle space. In nuclear physics this formulation leads to the nuclearshell model.³ In the theory of N-electron systems the eigenvalue problem of the Hamiltonian in this space is known as the configuration-interaction (CI) method and the space is referred to as the full CI space.⁷ During the past decade an unprecedented advancement in CI methodology has taken place. Several highly sophisticated and general methods for constructing CI matrices have been developed and implemented. $4-\overline{6}$ These new concepts combined with the developments in computer technolog have resulted in new computer codes⁸⁻¹⁵ designed to perform CI calculations using large sets of general Nelectron basis functions. Developing new algorithms of high complexity creates a need for efficient tests of both the formal and numerical correctness of the associated programs and also for simple ways of locating errors. The most common way to prove the correctness of a CI program is to check the invariance of the eigenvalues against unitary transformations of the one-electron functions. This approach is certainly quite useful for globally checking the correctness of a CI program but it is of little or no help in locating the error. Recently, expressions have been derived for the first two moments of the spectral density distribution of the Hamiltonian matrix¹⁶ and have been shown useful in locating the specific sections of a CI program containing errors.¹⁷ The method consists of comparing dispersions of the Hamiltonian matrix calculated by different algorithms. The application of this method to debugging a direct CI program has demonstrated the high efficiency of this approach as well as strated the high efficiency of this approach as well as difficulties associated with round-off errors.^{17,18} It is recalled that the dispersion contains the expression TrH^2 , which is a sum of D^2 terms where D is the dimension of the matrix H. Thus for larger matrices $(D \ge 10^3)$ the contribution of the round-off error of the individual matrix elements to the sum may become comparable to the error of the specific matrix element to be located. The aim of this study is to check the loss of accuracy in calculating TrH^2 due to round-off errors in case of a matrix representing a real quantum-chemical system and to modify the method of locating errors in the Hamiltonian matrix such that the round-off errors do not affect the result or are avoided completely, respectively. It is demonstrated that accumulating TrH^2 in a double-precision variable improves the accuracy by several orders of magnitude. Further, it is shown how to avoid any round-off effects by choosing the interaction integrals entering the matrix elements and the transformation matrices such that the resulting dispersion has integer values. The table of dispersion values supplied may be used as standard reference against which dispersions calculated by a configuration interaction program may be compared. Certainly, the same approach can be used in nuclearshe11-model calculations.

II. METHOD

Let us consider the operator

$$
\hat{H} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{h}_1(i) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i,j = 1}}^{N} \hat{h}_2(i,j) \tag{1}
$$

where $\hat{h}_1(1)$ and $\hat{h}_2(1, 2)$ describe, respectively, one- and two-body interactions. In order to focus attention it is assumed that \hat{H} represents a Hamiltonian and that the particles are electrons. However, since the formalism does not depend upon the explicit form of \hat{h}_1 and \hat{h}_2 , all considerations remain valid for an arbitrary operator containing one- and/or two-body interactions and for any system of N identical Fermions. In particular, either \hat{h}_1 or \hat{h}_2 may be set equal to zero. The operator \hat{H} is represented in an antisymmetric and spin-adapted Hilbert space. The basis for this space is constructed from spin-adapted antisymmetrized products of orthonormal spin-adapted antisymmetrized products of orthonormal
orbitals $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^K$. The spin-adapted basis functions are
the eigenfunctions of the total spin operators \hat{S}^2 and \hat{S}_z with the eigenvalues $S(S+1)$ and M, respectively. The

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rather nontrivial methodology of constructing this basis and of calculating the matrix elements of \hat{H} is discussed in several recent reviews. $1 - 6$

The form of the Hamiltonian matrix depends on the representation chosen. However, the Hamiltonian spectrum and the moments of the spectral density distribution are representation independent. Therefore the values of these invariants calculated by using the Hamiltonian matrix expressed in different representations may be used to check for both formal correctness and numerical accuracy of the algorithm. Different representations may be obtained through unitary transformations of the basis in the D-dimensional Hilbert space. All these transformations form the unitary group $U(D)$. The subgroup of $U(D)$ generated by unitary transformations of the orbitals $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^K$ proves to be particularly useful for the present purpose.

For fixed values of N , K , and S the dimension of the Hilbert space is equal to $1,19$

$$
D(N,K,S) = \frac{2S+1}{K+1} \begin{bmatrix} K+1 \\ N/2-S \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} K+1 \\ N/2+S+1 \end{bmatrix}.
$$
 (2)

The average value of \hat{H} in the Hilbert space is defined as

$$
E[\underline{H}(N,S)] = \frac{1}{D} \mathrm{Tr} \underline{H}(N,S) , \qquad (3)
$$

where $\underline{H}(N, S)$ is the matrix representation of \widehat{H} . The nth moment of the spectral density distribution is defined as

$$
M_n[\underline{H}(N,S)] = \frac{1}{D} \mathrm{Tr} \{ \underline{H}(N,S) - E[\underline{H}(N,S)] \}^n . \tag{4}
$$

In particular, the second moment, or dispersion, of the
spectrum may be expressed in the form
 $\sigma^2(N, S) \equiv M_2[\underline{H}(N, S)]$ spectrum may be expressed in the form

$$
{}^{2}(N, S) \equiv M_{2}[H(N, S)]
$$

= $\frac{1}{D} \text{Tr}H(N, S)^{2} - E[M(N, S)]^{2}$
= $\frac{1}{D} \sum_{i,j=1}^{D} H_{ij} H_{ji} - \frac{1}{D^{2}} \sum_{i,j=1}^{D} H_{ii} H_{jj}$ (5)

The moments are defined by Eqs. (3)—(5) in terms of the Hamiltonian matrix elements. On the other hand, the same quantities may be expressed directly in terms of one- and two-electron integrals involving $\hat{h}_1(1)$ and $\hat{h}_2(1, 2)$ defined, respectively, as

$$
(p|q) = \langle \varphi_p(1) | \hat{h}_1(1) | \varphi_q(1) \rangle \tag{6}
$$

$$
(pq|rs) = \langle \varphi_p(1) | \langle \varphi_r(2) | \hat{h}_2(1,2) | \varphi_s(2) \rangle | \varphi_q(1) \rangle . \tag{7}
$$

By comparing the values of the moments calculated by summation of the matrix elements of \hat{H} with those calculated directly from the list of integrals, both the correctness and the numerical accuracy of the algorithms can be checked.

A. Two-electron case

In the two-electron case the average value of \hat{H} becomes'

$$
E[\underline{H}(2,S)]=2\langle\hat{h}_1\rangle+\frac{1}{K\pm 1}(\langle\hat{\mathcal{J}}\rangle\pm\langle\hat{\mathcal{H}}\rangle)\,,\qquad(8)
$$

where the $+ (-)$ signs correspond to $S = 0$ (1),

$$
\langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{p=1}^{K} (p|p) , \qquad (9)
$$

$$
\langle \hat{\mathcal{J}} \rangle = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{p,q=1}^{K} (pp|qq) , \qquad (10)
$$

$$
\langle \hat{\mathcal{H}} \rangle = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{p,q=1}^{K} (pq|qp) , \qquad (11)
$$

and similarly

$$
\mathrm{Tr}[\underline{H}(2,S)^{2}] = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{p,q,r,s=1}^{K} \left[(pq|rs) \pm (ps|rq) + \frac{1}{N-1} [(i|j)\delta_{kl} + (k|l)\delta_{ij} \pm (i|l)\delta_{kj} \pm (k|j)\delta_{il}] \right]^{2}, \tag{12}
$$

where again the $+ (-)$ signs correspond to $S = 0$ (1).

In order to check the correctness of an algorithm and the associated computer code the values of σ^2 or of TrH² calculated from Eqs. (8)—(12) are compared with those obtained directly from the matrix according to Eq. (5). Since $Tr \underline{H}^2$ is a sum of non-negative contributions, no fortuitous cancellation of errors can occur. If the values computed in both ways differ from each other, the error can be located easily by a proper choice of the values of the $(p|q)$ and/or $(pq|rs)$ integrals. There are three main classes of matrix elements of H depending on the kind of integrals being involved:^{4,6} (I) the matrix elements depending on $(p|p)$, $(pp|qq)$, and $(pq|qp)$; (II) the matrix ele-

ments depending on $(p|q)$, $(pq|rr)$, $(pr|rq)$, and $(pq|qq)$, $p \neq q$; (III) the matrix elements depending on (pq|rs), $p \neq q \neq r \neq s$. For details concerning this classification see, e.g., Ref. 6. Assuming that only integrals of one selected class are different from zero at a time, each of the three main sections of the program may be checked separately. Finally, taking, for example, just one integral to be different from zero at a time, specific parts of the algorithm and/or associated computer code may be checked.

It is worthwhile to point out a useful consequence of the invariance properties of the moments. If two sets of orbitals, $\{\psi\}$ and $\{\varphi\}$, are connected by a unitary transformation, i.e., if

$$
\psi_m(1) = \sum_{p=1}^{K} U_{mp} \varphi_p(1) , \qquad (13)
$$

where

$$
\sum_{p=1}^{K} U_{mp} U_{np} = \delta_{mn} , \qquad (14)
$$

then also the resulting two sets of N -electron basis functions (the one derived from $\{\psi_m\}_{m=1}^K$ and the other derived from $\{\varphi_p\}_{p=1}^K$) are connected by a unitary transfor mation. In consequence, the moments calculated in the two bases are the same. If $(\overline{k} \overline{l} | \tilde{m} \tilde{n})$ is a two-electron integral (7) calculated in the basis $\{\Psi\}$, then

$$
(\widetilde{k}\,\widetilde{l}|\widetilde{m}\,\widetilde{n}) = \sum_{p,q,r,s=1}^{R} U_{kp} U_{lq} U_{mr} U_{ns}(pq|rs) . \qquad (15)
$$

In particular, if all integrals in the basis $\{\varphi_p\}_{p=1}^K$ are
set equal to 0 except for one, say (11|11), which is set equal to 1, then

$$
(\widetilde{k}\,\widetilde{l}|\widetilde{m}\,\widetilde{n}) = U_{k1}U_{l1}U_{m1}U_{n1}
$$
\n(16)

and $Tr \underline{H}^2 = \frac{1}{4}(11|11)^2 = 1$ in both the bases. The U_{m1} , $m = 1, 2, \ldots, K$, have to fulfil only the normalization condition

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{K} U_{m1}^{2} = 1
$$
 (17) the dispersion is given by
\n
$$
\sigma_{1}^{2}(N, S) = A_{1} \sigma_{1}^{2}(1, \frac{1}{2})
$$

Independently of the choice of U_{1m} , integrals (17) must always lead to an \underline{H} matrix for which $TrH^2 = 1$. Obviously, applying different variations of this idea, specific parts of the algorithm and of the associated computer code can be checked.

B. N-electron case

When checking a CI program for correctness it is wise to start from a two-electron case. Then the spin part is trivial and checking is limited essentially to the orbital part only. More types of elements appear in the matrix if the number of electrons N is increased (consult Refs. 6) and 20 for details). All different types of matrix elements appear in the matrix only if $N \geq 6$. ²⁰ However, a complete check of the program is possible only for $N \ge 9$. This is true because the formula for a matrix element depends not only on the distribution of the occupation numbers over the orbitals but also on the relative arrangement of the orbitals in the two N -electron basis functions involved.

The average value of \hat{H} in the *N*-electron case is¹⁶

$$
E[\underline{H}(N,S)] = a^{+} E[\underline{H}(2,0)] + a^{-} E[\underline{H}(2,1)] - N(N-2)\langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle , \qquad (18)
$$

where

$$
a^{+} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{N}{2} \left[\frac{N}{2} + 1 \right] - S(S + 1) \right],
$$
 (19)

$$
a^{-} = \frac{N(N-1)}{2} - a^{+} \tag{20}
$$

The general expressions for $Tr \underline{H}(N, S)^2$ and for the dispersion $\sigma^2(N, S)$ have been published elsewhere.¹⁶ For the present purpose it is convenient to use separate expressions for the dispersions of the one-body and of the two-body parts of \hat{H} (i.e., assuming that either $\hat{h}_1 = 0$ or $\hat{h}_2=0$). Then, according to Ref. 16, in the case of $\hat{h}_2=0$, the dispersion is given by

$$
\sigma_1^2(N, S) = A_1 \sigma_1^2(1, \frac{1}{2}) \tag{21}
$$

where

$$
A_1 = \frac{2K}{(K+1)(K-1)} \left[\frac{N}{2} \left(1 - \frac{N}{2K} \right) (K+2) - S(S+1) \right],
$$

$$
(22)
$$

$$
\sigma_1^2(1, \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{p,q=1}^K (p|q)^2 - \langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle^2 \ . \tag{23}
$$

Similarly, in the case of $\hat{h}_1 = 0$, the dispersion is given by

$$
\sigma_2^2(N, S) = A_2^+ \sigma_2^2(2, 0) + A_2^- \sigma_2^2(2, 1) + B^+ \sigma_2^2(\mathcal{J} + \mathcal{H}) + B^- \sigma_2^2(\mathcal{J} - \mathcal{H}) + C^+ \sigma_2^2(\mathcal{H}) ,
$$
 (24)

where

$$
A_{2}^{+} = \frac{a^{+}}{K(K-1)} \left[\left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] \left[K - \frac{N}{2} + 1 \right] - S(S+1) \right],
$$
\n
$$
A_{2}^{-} = \left\{ \frac{N}{2} \left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] \left[N \left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] F(1,1,3) - (K+1)F(1,4,-6) \right] - S(S+1) \left[2N \left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] F(1,3,-3) - KF(5,-1,-6) \right] + 2[S(S+1)]^{2} F(1,-3,3) \right\} / K(K+1) - \frac{K-1}{K+1} A_{2}^{+},
$$
\n(26)

$$
B^{+} = \frac{2Ka^{+}}{(K+1)(K-1)(K-2)} \left[\left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] \left[\frac{N}{2} - 1 \right] (2K-1) - S(S+1) \right],
$$
\n(27)

$$
B^{-} = \frac{K^2}{(K+1)(K-1)} \left[N \left[K - \frac{N}{2} \right] \left[\frac{N}{2} - 1 \right] \left[NF(0,2,-1) - 2F(0,1,7) \right] \right]
$$

-2S(S+1)[N²F(0,1,2) - 2NF(0,4,3) + 12F(0,1,0)] - [S(S+1)]²F(0,0,4)] - B^{+}, (28)

$$
F(p,q,r) = \frac{pK^2 + qK + r}{(K-2)(K-3)},
$$
\n(29)

$$
C^{+} = -\frac{2K^{2}a^{+}}{(K+1)(K-1)(K-2)} \left[6\left(K - \frac{N}{2}\right) \left(\frac{N}{2} - 1\right) - S(S+1) \right],
$$
\n(30)

$$
\sigma_2^2(2,s) = \frac{1}{2K(K\pm 1)} \sum_{p,q,r,s=1}^K \left[(pq|rs) \pm (ps|rq) \right]^2 - \left\{ E\left[\underline{H}(2,s) \right] \right\}^2,
$$
\n(31)

where $+ (-)$ corresponds to $s = 0$ (1),

$$
\sigma_2^2(a\,\delta + b\,\mathcal{H}) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{p,q=1}^K (a\,\delta_{pq} + b\,\mathcal{H}_{pq})^2 - \left[\frac{1}{K} \sum_{p=1}^K (a\,\delta_{pp} + b\,\mathcal{H}_{pp}) \right]^2, \qquad (32)
$$

$$
\mathcal{A}_{pq} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} (pq|kk) ,
$$

$$
\mathcal{H}_{pq} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} (pk|kq) .
$$
 (33)

Thus, for a given set of orbitals, the dispersions are expressed as fourth-order polynomials in N and S. Using the same techniques as described for systems of two electrons, the correctness of a program can be checked rather easily by comparing the dispersions calculated directly from the Hamiltonian matrix with those derived from Eqs. (21) and (24).

III. IMPLEMENTATIONS

In this section two sets of calculations of dispersions of spectra of many-electron Hamiltonians are presented. In the first case different states of the $H₂O$ molecule in its ground-state equilibrium geometry are considered. This case has been set by several authors as a benchmark for studying different approaches to solving the Schrödinge equation for molecules. ' $I²²$ In the second case all spin states of a model system of spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ particles (2 \leq N \leq 9) in a regular nonogonal potential are considered.

The one-electron basis for H_2O is formed by 14 orbitals obtained as solutions of the Hartree-Fock equations in the Gaussian double- ζ Huzinaga-Dunning O(9s5p/ $4s2p$), H($4s/2s$) basis.^{23,24} Since the Hamiltonian trans forms according to C_{2v} point-group symmetry, the tenelectron full CI space may be factorized into four subspaces corresponding to the four irreducible representations: A_1 , A_2 , B_1 , and B_2 . However, the moments for the subspaces have been calculated directly from the Hamiltonian matrix $[Eqs. (2)–(5)]$ because Eqs. (18)–(33) in which the moments are expressed directly in terms of the one- and two-electron integrals are valid for complete spaces only.

Values of the dispersions in the complete (i.e., including both one- and two-electron interactions) Hamiltonian spectrum, $\sigma^2(N, S)$, are collected in Table I. The expression for $\sigma^2(N, S)$ may be easily obtained from that for $\sigma_2^2(N, S)$ [Eq. (24)] by replacing all (pq|rs) integrals with¹⁸

$$
(pq|rs)+[\delta_{pq}(r|s)+\delta_{rs}(p|q)]/(N-1).
$$

In the consecutive columns of Table I are displayed the total dispersion $\sigma^2(N, S)$ and the dispersions $[\sigma^2(N, S)]_C$, $C = I, II, III$ obtained assumming that only integrals entering class C of matrix elements (see Sec. II) are different from zero. In a11 cases the same orbitals are used to construct the Hilbert space. Calculations have been performed for all possible values of the total spin. The entries in Table I marked by an asterisk correspond to dispersions calculated using the expressions in terms of the one- and two-electron integrals. All other dispersions have been obtained by summing the Hamiltonian matrix elements. The corresponding numbers calculated in both ways agree up to 11–14 significant figures for $S=5$ $(D = 10³)$, up to 8–10 figures for $S = 4$ ($D = 3 \times 10⁴$), and up to 7-8 figures for $S = 0$ ($D = 10⁶$). The matrix elements have been computed in the CRAY single precision, i.e., they are accurate to at most 14 significant figures. Since the main contribution to $Tr \frac{H^2}{dt^2}$, and to the cumulative error, is due to the diagonal elements of H , the minimum error resulting from the round-off contributions is 10⁻¹⁴D. This estimate leads to the minimum relative error of σ^2 equal to 10⁻¹¹, 3×10^{-10} , and 10⁻⁸ for $S = 5$, $S = 4$, and $S = 0$, respectively. It agrees with the data in Table I and proves that there is virtually no loss of accuracy in the procedure for determining the values of H_{ij} . To check this result independently, the sum of H_{ij}^2 is accumulated in the CRAY double precision, with all other variables in single precision. Then the results are accurate up to at least 14 figures. In Table II the contributions to σ_1^2 and to σ_2^2 (the dispersions due to the oneand two-electron parts of the Hamiltonian, respectively) are displayed. These data are considered to be useful as a reference for locating errors in CI programs.

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TABLE I. Dispersions of the H₂O Hamiltonian matrix. The positions marked 1 (2) indicate precision of the dispersion achieved within CRAY single (double) precision accuracy.

The results obtained in the case of the model Hamiltonian are intended exclusively as a set of numbers for checking the correctness of arbitrary programs evaluating matrix elements of one- and/or two-electron operators in N -electron spin-adapted Hilbert spaces. All spin states of a model system with $K = 9$ and $N = 2, 3, \ldots, 9$ are considered. The dispersions are calculated using for the one- and two-electron integrals the values

$$
(p|q) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |p - q| = 1 \text{ or } |p - q| = 8\\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
$$
 (34)

and

$$
(pq|rs) = \delta_{pq} \delta_{rs} [3 - \min(|p - q|, 9 - |p - q|)] , \qquad (35)
$$

and for the orbital transformation [according to Eq. (13)] the following matrix:

$$
U = \begin{pmatrix}\na & b & c & 0 & 0 & 0 & d & 0 & e \\
a & b & -c & 0 & 0 & 0 & d & 0 & e \\
a & b & 0 & c & 0 & 0 & -d & 0 & e \\
a & b & 0 & -c & 0 & 0 & -d & 0 & e \\
a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -f \\
a & -b & 0 & 0 & c & 0 & 0 & -d & e \\
a & -b & 0 & 0 & -c & 0 & 0 & -d & e \\
a & -b & 0 & 0 & 0 & c & 0 & d & e \\
a & -b & 0 & 0 & 0 & -c & 0 & d & e\n\end{pmatrix}
$$

where $a = \frac{1}{3}, b = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2}, c = 1/\sqrt{2}, d = \frac{1}{2}, e = \frac{1}{6}\sqrt{2}$, and $f = \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{2}$.

In Table III values for the dispersions in the transformed basis are displayed. The dispersions are multiplied by factors assuring that the resulting numbers are integers. The dispersions σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 are invariant with respect to unitary transformations of the orbitals. However, this is not the case for $\sigma_1^2(N, S)_C$ and $\sigma_2^2(N, S)_C$. In particular, in the original basis the following equations hold: $\sigma_1^2(N, S) = \sigma_1^2(N, S)_{\text{II}}, \quad \sigma_2^2(N, S) = \sigma_2^2(N, S)_{\text{I}},$ and $\sigma_1^{(1)}(N, S)_{\text{I}} = \sigma_2^{2}(N, S)_{\text{II}} = \sigma_2^{2}(N, S)_{\text{III}} = 0$. In general, the following relations hold independently of the unitary transformation:

$$
\sigma_1^2(N, S) = \sigma_1^2(N, S)_I + \sigma_1^2(N, S)_II
$$

and

$$
\sigma_2^2(N,S) = \sigma_2^2(N,S)_I + \sigma_2^2(N,S)_{II} + \sigma_2^2(N,S)_{III}.
$$

The data displayed in Table III are independent of the nature of the interaction. They may be used equally well in atomic physics and in the theory of nuclear structure. In these cases there are other constants of motion than

TABLE III. Scaled dispersions for the model system described in the text; $G = 1944 \times 10^2$.

spin, such as the total angular momentum, orbital angular momentum, or isospin. Unfortunately, formulas for dispersions in subspaces adapted to these constants of motion are not known. However, in each case $\sigma^2(N, S)$ may be calculated combining contributions from different subspaces in the appropriate way.

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