Diffusion Monte Carlo

The trajectories.

We're going to write a series of implementations of diffusion Monte Carlo. Each implementation will generate data in the following form:

tau	step	local energy average	weight	local energy variance	weight variance	reference energy

We will do our initial testing for $\tau \simeq 1$ and using $\alpha = 2, \beta = 0.5$ in the Slater-Jastrow wave function.

1 Importance sampling

For 1000 walkers, generate dynamics as follows:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \sqrt{\tau}\chi + \tau \frac{\nabla \Psi_T(x_n)}{\Psi_T(x_n)}, \tag{1}$$

where χ is a random variable. You can add an acceptance/rejection step to this just like in VMC, although the reasoning is quite different. Set all weights to one. Make a CSV file and use Pandas to analyze your data.

Remember:

$$a(x' \leftarrow x) = \min\left(1, \frac{\Psi_T^2(x')T(x \leftarrow x')}{\Psi_T^2(x)T(x' \leftarrow x)}\right) \tag{2}$$

$$T(x' \leftarrow x) = \frac{\left(x' - x - \tau \frac{\nabla \Psi_T(x)}{\Psi_T(x)}\right)^2}{2\tau} \tag{3}$$

- You should be able to get the VMC result for your trial wave function. Does it match?

2 Importance sampling with weights

Now we will update the weights w_i. Set

$$w* = \exp[-\tau E_L(x_{n+1})] \tag{4}$$

each step. You probably don't need to perform this for too many steps!

- Track the weights of the walkers and their values as a function of step. What happens?

3 Fixing the normalization

We want the weights to average around 1. Use a shift

$$w* = \exp[-\tau(E_L(x_{n+1} - E_{\text{ref}})] \tag{5}$$

We can adjust E_{ref} to ensure the weights average to one:

$$E_{\text{ref}} = E_{\text{ref}} - \log(\langle w \rangle) \tag{6}$$

where $\langle w \rangle$ is the average weight.

- Now plot the weights. They should average to 1 but what happens to the variance?

4 Branching

We now want to split the walkers with too-large weights and kill the walkers with too-small weights. There are many ways to do this; we will choose one that lets us keep the number of walkers constant. Every step:

1. Stack up weights (np.cumsum)
2. Throw random numbers for each walker (np.random.random)
3. Copy the walker corresponding to where each random number landed (np.searchsorted)
4. Assign new walkers (slicing)
5. Set all weights to the average weight.

5 Using the algorithm

Congratulations! We have now implemented the DMC algorithm. Let's check some things:

- The exact energy is -2.903724. Do we get that in the $\tau \to 0$ limit?

6 More things to do

- As you change the number of walkers, how does the behavior of E_{ref} change?
- Implement a triplet wave function and fixed node. What is the node of this wave function?
- What might you change to improve the timestep error?