

computational Many-Body Methods in Physics

Anton N. Torgersen

University of Oslo
FYS4480

December 10, 2025

Outline

- 1 Introduction and Formalism
- 2 Full Configuration Interaction (FCI)
- 3 Hartree-Fock Theory
- 4 Many-Body Perturbation Theory (MBPT)
- 5 Density Functional Theory (DFT)
- 6 Coupled Cluster Theory
- 7 Summary

Introduction: The Many-Body Problem

Goal: Solve the Schrödinger equation for N interacting particles.

$$\hat{H} |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle$$

The Challenge: The Hilbert space grows factorially with N .

⇒ Exact diagonalization (FCI) is impossible for large systems.

The Model System: Lipkin-Meshkov-Glick (LMG) We will use the following Hamiltonian, to analyse the HF method.

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_1 + \hat{H}_2$$

Defined using quasi-spin operators $\hat{J}_+, \hat{J}_-, \hat{J}_z$:

$$\hat{H} = \epsilon \hat{J}_z - \frac{1}{2} V (\hat{J}_+^2 + \hat{J}_-^2) - \frac{1}{2} W (\hat{J}_+ \hat{J}_- + \hat{J}_- \hat{J}_+ - \hat{N})$$

The Model System: Pairing Model This model will be used for a full comparison of FCI, HF and MBPT.

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_I$$

Where

$$\hat{H}_0 = \sum_{p,\omega} (p - 1) \hat{a}_{p\omega}^\dagger \hat{a}_{p\omega}$$

and

$$\hat{H}_I = -\frac{1}{2}g \sum_{p,q} \hat{P}_p^+ \hat{P}_q^-.$$

Second Quantization

Second Quantization Is a formalism which greatly simplifies many-body calculations, especially when combined with Wick's theorem. Where we know work in the Fock space of occupation numbers.

- Basis of creation (a_p^\dagger) and annihilation (a_p) operators.
- Anti-commutation relations for fermions: $\{a_p, a_q^\dagger\} = \delta_{pq}$. (Pauli exclusion principle built-in)

Ground State Reference $|\Phi_0\rangle$ is defined as the Slater determinant where all the N -lowest energy states (states below the fermi level) are filled.

$$|\Phi_0\rangle = \prod_{i \leq F} a_i^\dagger |0\rangle$$

Wick's Theorem

Wick's Theorem Allows us to evaluate vacuum expectation values of long operator strings.

$$\hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C}\dots = \{\hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C}\dots\} + \sum \text{all contractions}$$

- **Midterm 1 Application:** We used Wick's theorem to evaluate matrix elements like $\langle \Phi_0 | \hat{H} | \Phi_0 \rangle$ and check commutation relations $[\hat{H}, \hat{J}^2] = 0$.

Diagrammatic Representation

Full Configuration Interaction (FCI)

The Exact Solution

- Expands Ψ in the full basis of all possible Slater Determinants.
- $|\Psi_{FCI}\rangle = c_0 |\Phi_0\rangle + \sum_{ia} c_i^a |\Phi_i^a\rangle + \sum_{ijab} c_{ij}^{ab} |\Phi_{ij}^{ab}\rangle + \dots$

Diagonalization

How it Scales

Is Exact but scales to the power of $N!$

FCI Results

Results from Midterm (Lipkin Model) Exact diagonalization of the Hamiltonian matrix for $N = 4$ particles.

Coupling g	E_{FCI} (Ground State)	Character
-1.0	2.7799	Repulsive
0.0	2.0000	Non-interacting
0.5	1.4168	Attractive
1.0	0.6355	Strong Coupling

Table 1: Exact eigenvalues computed via `numpy.linalg.eigh` (from Calculations.ipynb).

FCI Results

Results from Midterm (Pairing Model) Exact diagonalization of the Hamiltonian matrix for $N = 4$ particles.

Coupling g	E_{FCI} (Ground State)	Character
-1.0	2.7799	Repulsive
0.0	2.0000	Non-interacting
0.5	1.4168	Attractive
1.0	0.6355	Strong Coupling

Table 2: Exact eigenvalues computed via `numpy.linalg.eigh` (from Calculations.ipynb).

Mean Field Ansatz

Explanation of the mean field ansatz

Hartree-Fock (HF)

Hartee Fock Equation.

HF Stability Analysis

Stability Condition (Midterm 1) We derived the stability of the HF solution against particle-hole mixing coefficients $C_{\alpha\pm}$.

$$\frac{\epsilon}{3} > -(V + W)$$

- If this holds: The non-interacting ground state is stable.
- If violated: A "mixed" state (deformed solution) lowers the energy.
- For parameter set (2) ($V = -4/3$, $W = -1$), we found a lower energy mixed state $E \approx -7.57$, significantly better than the standard reference.

Hartree-Fock Results

Lower energy for mixed state compared to non-interacting.

Many-Body Perturbation Theory (MBPT)

Formalism of MBPT.

Diagrammatic Representation

linked Diagram Theorem

Third order Corrections

Second Midterm

Benchmarking MBPT With FCI

MBPT vs FCI Results

Convergence Analysis (from Calculations.ipynb)

Method	$g = -1.0$	$g = 0.5$	$g = 1.0$
E_{FCI} (Exact)	2.7799	1.4168	0.6355
$E^{(0+1)}$ (HF)	3.0000	1.5000	1.0000
$E^{(2)}$	-0.4667	-0.0624	-0.2190
$E^{(3)}$	+0.5156	-0.0165	-0.1005
$E^{(4)}$	-0.7527	-0.0056	-0.0588
E_{Total} (order 4)	2.2962	1.4155	0.6217

Table 3: Comparison of Perturbation theory orders vs Exact result.

Observation:

- Excellent agreement for $g = 0.5$ (weak coupling).
- Divergence/oscillations start appearing at strong coupling ($g = -1.0$ or $g = 1.0$).

Motivation for DFT.

The Hohenberg-Kohn Theorems

The Kohn-Sham Equations

The Exchange-Correlation Functional

The exponenttail ansatz

Coupled Cluster Theory (CC)

Approximations

- **CCD (Doubles):** $\hat{T} \approx \hat{T}_2 = \frac{1}{4} \sum t_{ij}^{ab} a_a^\dagger a_b^\dagger a_j a_i$. Relevant for Lipkin model since Hamiltonian connects states by 2p-2h excitations.
- **CCSD (Singles + Doubles):** $\hat{T} \approx \hat{T}_1 + \hat{T}_2$. The "gold standard" for chemical accuracy ($O(N^6)$ scaling).

CC Equations

Energy Equation

$$E_{CC} = \langle \Phi_0 | \bar{H} | \Phi_0 \rangle = \langle \Phi_0 | e^{-\hat{T}} \hat{H} e^{\hat{T}} | \Phi_0 \rangle$$

Amplitude Equations (for t -amplitudes) We project onto excited determinants to solve for amplitudes:

$$\left\langle \Phi_{ij}^{ab} \right| \bar{H} | \Phi_0 \rangle = 0$$

Comparison

Comparison note: While MBPT(4) failed for strong coupling in our previous slide, CCD typically remains robust and closer to FCI in the strong coupling regime because it sums the diagrams to infinite order.

Summary and Comparison

Method	Pros	Cons
FCI	Exact.	Exponential cost ($N!$). Tiny systems.
Hartree-Fock	Simple, defines orbitals.	No correlation ($E_{corr} = 0$).
MBPT	Systematically improvable.	Diverges for strong interaction ($g \rightarrow \infty$).
Coupled Cluster	High accuracy (Gold Standard).	High cost ($O(N^6)$), complex to implement.
DFT	Efficient ($O(N^3)$), includes correlation.	Approx. functional (V_{xc}), no hierarchy.

Conclusion from our work: For the Lipkin model, MBPT works excellently at weak coupling ($g = 0.5$) but breaks down at strong coupling ($g = 1.0$), necessitating non-perturbative methods like Coupled Cluster or FCI.

Thank You!

Questions?