

Guided Diffusion Quantum Monte Carlo for Calculating Zero Point Energies

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. The DQMC Algorithm
3. The Guiding Wave Function
4. Input and Output
5. Results
 - 5.1 C_2H_6
 - 5.2 $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$
 - 5.3 $\text{H}_2\text{@C}_{60}$
6. Conclusions and Improvements

Introduction

- ▶ DQMC solves the Schrödinger equation and gives the quantum-mechanical ground state energy to then calculate the zero point energy (ZPE).
- ▶ A Gaussian guiding wave function is used to improve the performance.
- ▶ DFTB+ is used for calculation the energy.[1]

The Unguided DQMC Algorithm [2]

- ▶ The stationary solution of the diffusion equation satisfies the Schrödinger equation and has the propagator $G(x, y; \Delta t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\Delta t}} e^{-(x-y)^2/(2\Delta t)} e^{-\Delta t(V(y)-E_T)}$.
- ▶ We simulate an ensemble of walkers to reach this stationary solution and the Schrödinger equation is solved.
- ▶ The propagator consists of a diffusion term $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\Delta t}} e^{-(x-y)^2/(2\Delta t)}$ and a branching term $e^{-\Delta t(V(y)-E_T)}$.
- ▶ The diffusion term is simulated by randomly displacing the walker from its previous position according to a Gaussian distribution.
- ▶ The branching term updates the weight of a walker according to which the walker survives, reproduces or dies.
- ▶ The trial energy E_T is then adjusted to keep the population of walkers stable.
- ▶ With time, the trial energy E_T converges.

The Guiding Wave Function [3]

- ▶ Harmonic approximation of the potential energy surface with the Hessian matrix.
- ▶ Gaussian guiding wave functions along the normal modes $\psi_T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}e^{-\mathbf{x}^2/(2\sigma^2)}$.
- ▶ The width of the Gaussian is given by $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\omega_m^2}$, where ω^2 is the corresponding eigenvalue of the Hessian matrix.
- ▶ This is incorporated to the algorithm with a drift velocity $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}\psi_T(\mathbf{x})$ which is added to the pure diffusion and a kinetic energy term in the local energy $E_L(\mathbf{x}) = (H\psi_T(\mathbf{x}))/\psi_T(\mathbf{x})$ which replaces the potential energy in the branching step.

The Guiding Wave Function

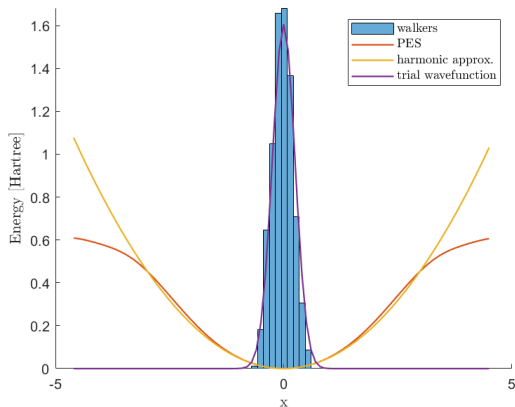


Fig. 1. Typical dimension in the coordinate system of the normal modes.

Input and Output

Input:

- ▶ Equilibrium geometry of the atoms (must not be perfectly accurate as geometry will be optimized by DFTB+ in the beginning)
- ▶ Masses of the atoms

Output:

- ▶ Zero point energy
- ▶ Walker positions give a sample of the nucleonic wave function

Results

C_2H_6 (first test case)

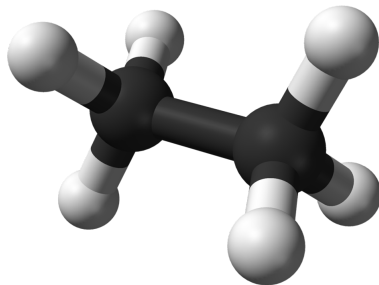


Fig. 2. Input structure of Ethane

First test case to develop the algorithm and check the result with a literature value.

Results

C₂H₆ (first test case)

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

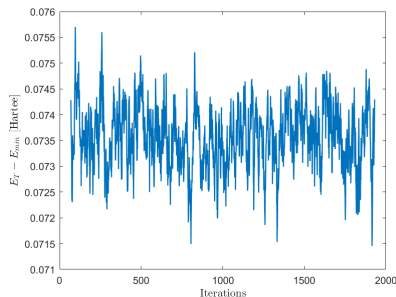


Fig. 3. Fluctuation of the ZPE after equilibration.

ZPE = 0.07356 hartree with a standard deviation of 0.00060 hartree. The literature value is 0.073927 hartree [4].

Results

C_2H_6 (first test case)

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

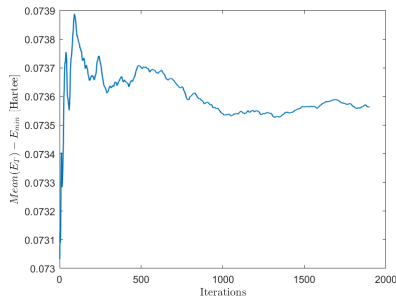


Fig. 4. Convergence of the ZPE after equilibration.

Simulation time: 14 hours. ≈ 0.02 seconds per energy calculation.

Results

$C_{12}H_{10}O$

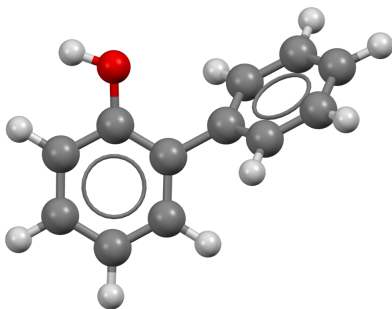


Fig. 5. Input structure of 2-Phenylphenol

Slightly larger molecule to test the performance of the algorithm.

Results

$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

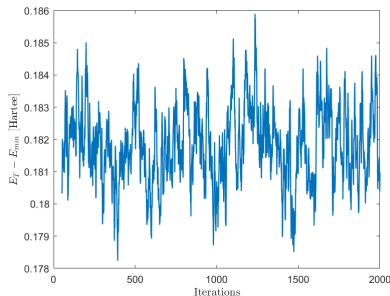


Fig. 6. Fluctuation of the ZPE after equilibration.

ZPE = 0.18184 hartree with a standard deviation of 0.00117 hartree.

Results

$\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

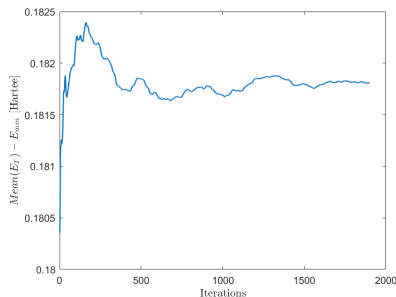


Fig. 7. Convergence of the ZPE after equilibration.

Simulation time: 57 hours. ≈ 0.11 seconds per energy calculation.

Results

$\text{H}_2@C_{60}$

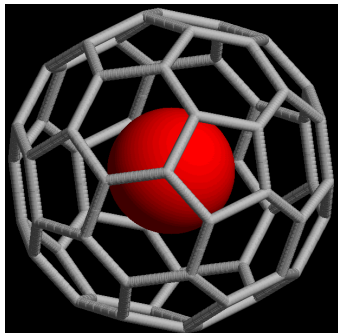


Fig. 8. Input structure of the dihydrogen endofullerene

The dihydrogen endofullerene is expected to show strong anharmonic effects on the zero point energy.

Results

$\text{H}_2@\text{C}_{60}$

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

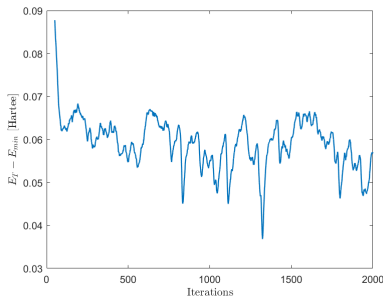


Fig. 9. Fluctuation of the ZPE after equilibration.

ZPE = 0.05914 hartee with a standard deviation of 0.00569 hartee.

Results

H₂@C₆₀

Simulation with 1000 walkers for 2000 time steps

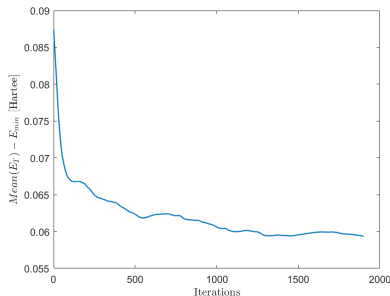


Fig. 10. Convergence of the ZPE after equilibration.

Simulation time: 51 hours. ≈ 0.10 seconds per energy calculation.

Conclusions and Improvements

Conclusions:

- ▶ DQMC delivers moderately accurate results for the ZPE in reasonable time.
- ▶ DQMC is very versatile and can calculate the ZPE of most molecules.

Improvements:

- ▶ Adjustments for periodic structures
- ▶ Parallelization
- ▶ Making it more user-friendly

References



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