

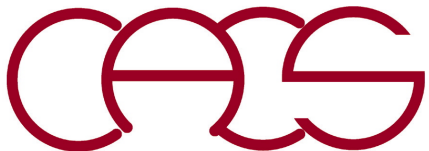
Quantum Monte Carlo Simulation

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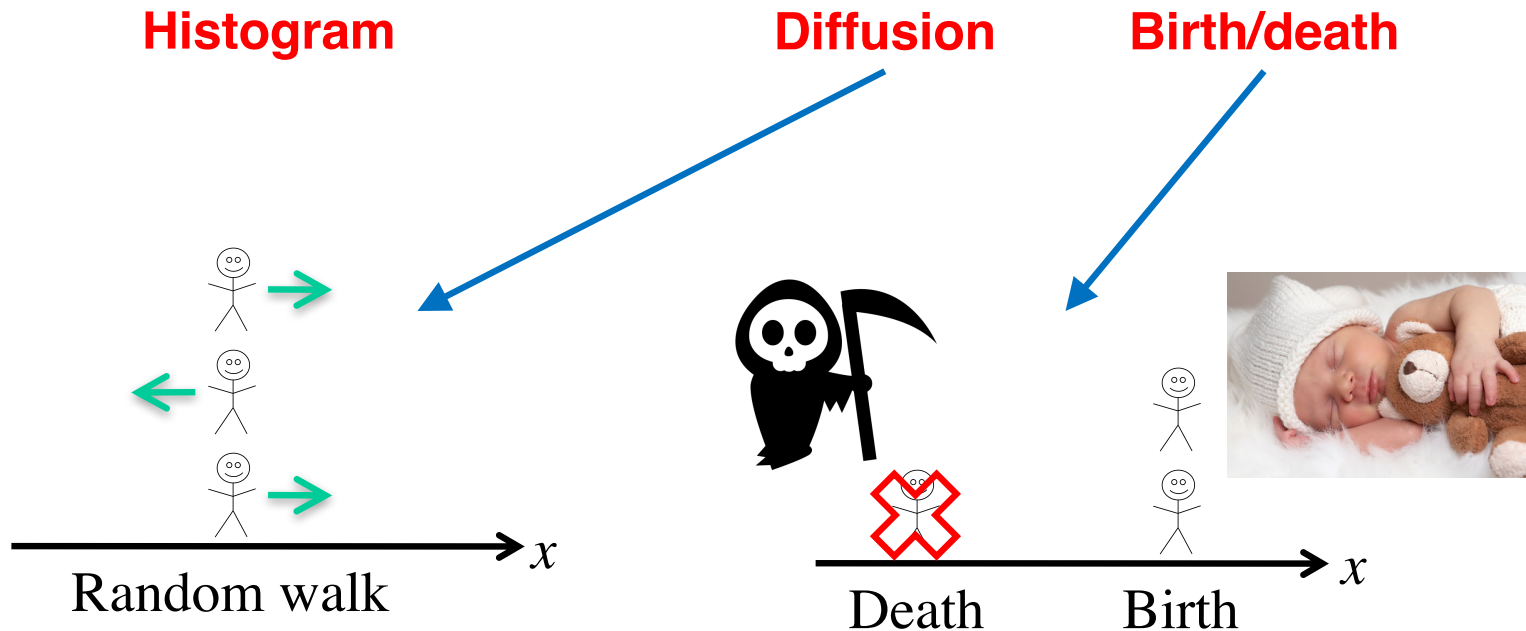
**Random walk to solve quantum
eigenvalue problem**



Imaginary-time Schrödinger Equation

- $\tau = it$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \psi(x, \tau) = -\frac{H}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) = \frac{\hbar}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \psi(x, \tau) - \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau)$$



$$D_{\text{QMC}} = \frac{\hbar}{2m} = 58 \text{ m}^2/\text{s} \gg D_{\text{water}} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

Ground-State Filter

$$\psi(x, \tau) = \exp(-H\tau/\hbar)\psi(x, 0) = \sum_n c_n \phi_n(x) \exp(-E_n \tau/\hbar)$$

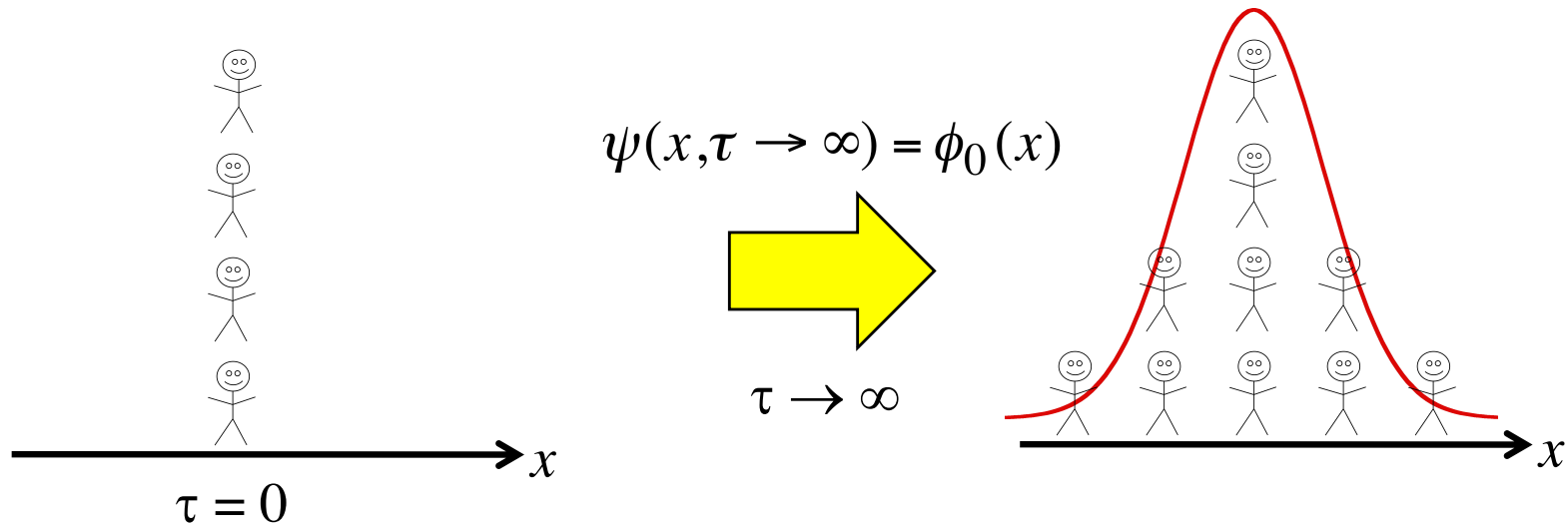
$$c_n = \int dx \phi_n(x) \psi(x, 0)$$

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \psi(x, \tau) = c_0 \phi_0(x) \exp(-E_0 \tau/\hbar)$$

- Energy estimate

$$E_0 = \langle V \rangle = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V(x) \psi(x, \tau) dx}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(x, \tau) dx} \cong \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N V(x_i)$$

It's not $\psi^*(x, \tau) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x) \right) \psi(x, \tau)$



Reference Energy

- Energy measured relative to reference energy to achieve stationary population

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \psi(x, \tau) = \frac{\hbar}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \psi(x, \tau) - \frac{V(x) - V_{\text{ref}}}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \psi(x, \tau) dx &= \left[\frac{\hbar}{2m} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x, \tau) \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx + \frac{V_{\text{ref}}}{\hbar} \int \psi(x, \tau) dx \\ &= - \int \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx + \frac{V_{\text{ref}}}{\hbar} \int \psi(x, \tau) dx \end{aligned}$$

- For $\tau \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\psi(x, \tau) \approx c_0 \phi_0(x) \exp(-(E_0 - V_{\text{ref}}) \tau / \hbar)$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \psi(x, \tau) \approx \frac{V_{\text{ref}} - E_0}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau)$$

$$\int \frac{V_{\text{ref}} - E_0}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx = - \int \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx + \frac{V_{\text{ref}}}{\hbar} \int \psi(x, \tau) dx$$

$$\therefore \frac{E_0}{\hbar} \int \psi(x, \tau) dx = \int \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx$$

Choice of Reference Energy

- **Number of random walkers:** $N(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(x, \tau) dx$

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} N = \frac{V_{\text{ref}} - \langle V \rangle}{\hbar} N(\tau)$$

$$\therefore \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \psi(x, \tau) dx = - \int \frac{V(x)}{\hbar} \psi(x, \tau) dx + \frac{V_{\text{ref}}}{\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(x, \tau) dx$$

- **Choose new V_{ref} to counter-balance the current population growth**

$$-\frac{d}{d\tau} N|_{\text{current}} = \frac{V_{\text{ref}}^{\text{new}} - \langle V \rangle}{\hbar} N(\tau)$$

$$\frac{V_{\text{ref}}^{\text{new}}}{\hbar} = \frac{\langle V \rangle}{\hbar} - \frac{dN/d\tau}{N(\tau)}$$

$$\therefore V_{\text{ref}} = \langle V \rangle - \frac{N(\tau + \Delta\tau) - \cancel{N_0}(\tau)}{N(\tau)\Delta\tau}$$

Quantum Monte Carlo Algorithm

1. Place N_0 walkers at the initial set of positions x_i .
2. Compute the reference energy, $V_{\text{ref}} = \Sigma_i V(x_i)/N_0$.
3. For each walker,

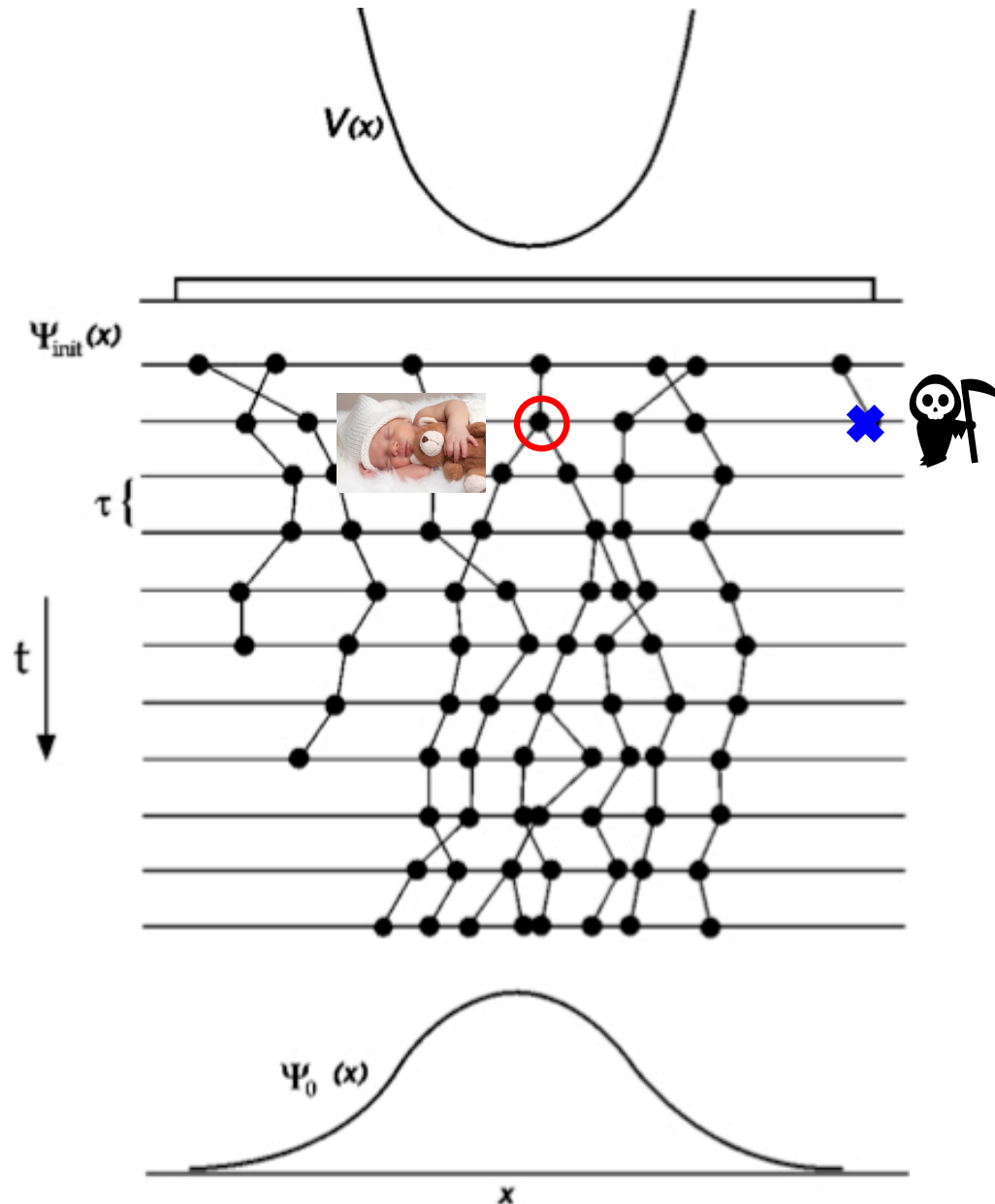
$D = \frac{\hbar}{2m} = \frac{1}{2} (\text{a. u.}) = \frac{(\Delta s)^2}{2\Delta\tau}$

 - a. Randomly move the walker to the right or left by a fixed step length Δs .
 - b. Compute $\Delta V = V(x) - V_{\text{ref}}$ & a random number $r \in [0, 1]$. If $\Delta V > 0$ & $r < \Delta V \Delta\tau$ ($\Delta\tau = \Delta s^2$), then remove the walker. If $\Delta V < 0$ & $r < -\Delta V \Delta\tau$, then add another walker at x . Otherwise, just leave the walker at x .
4. Compute the mean potential energy $\langle V \rangle = \Sigma_i V(x_i)/N$ & the actual number of random walkers N . The new reference potential is given by

$$V_{\text{ref}} = \langle V \rangle - \frac{N(\tau + \Delta\tau) - N(\tau)}{N(\tau)\Delta\tau} N_0$$

The average $\langle V \rangle$ is an estimate of the ground state energy.
5. Repeat steps 3–4 until the estimates of the ground state energy $\langle V \rangle$ have reached a steady state value with only random fluctuations. Average $\langle V \rangle$ over many Monte Carlo steps to compute the ground state energy.

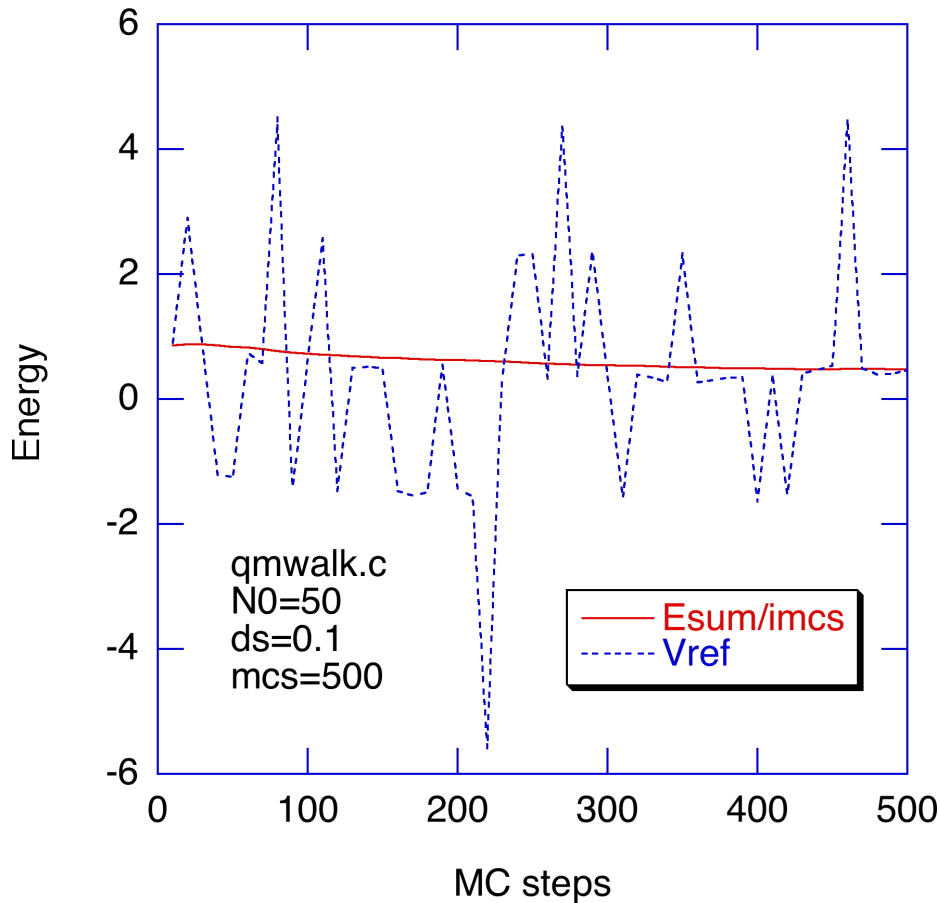
Random Walk + Birth/Death



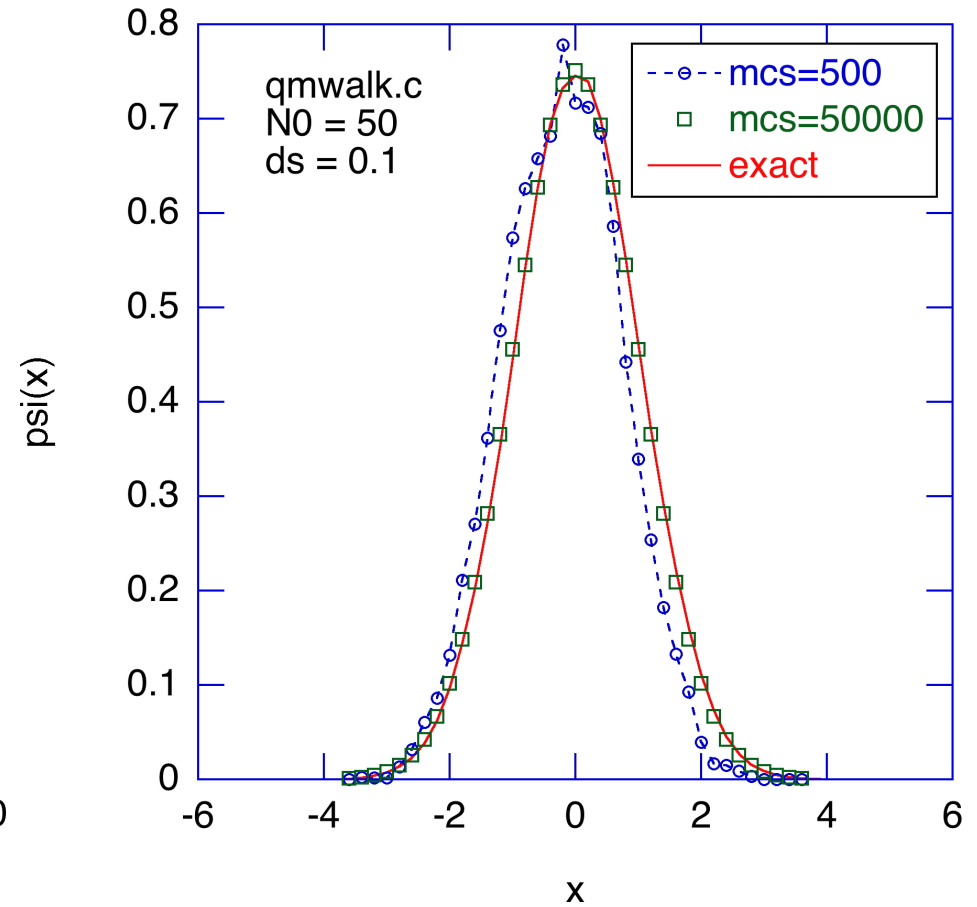
W. M. C. Foulkes *et al.*, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **73**, 33 ('01)

Numerical Example

- $V(x) = x^2/2$ (in atomic unit)



(after $0.4 \times 500 = 200$ MC steps of thermalization)



$$D = \frac{\hbar}{2m} = \frac{1}{2} (\text{a. u.}) = \frac{(\Delta s)^2}{2\Delta\tau}$$