

# Project - FYS4411

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## Abstract

## 1 Introduction

The goal of this project is to perform Hartree-Fock computations in order to find an optimal basis for the single particle wave-functions for Helium, Beryllium and Neon.

## 2 The Hartree-Fock method

### 2.1 Approximations

There are five main approximations in the Hartree-Fock method:

- The Born-Oppenheimer approximation
- Relativistic effects are neglected
- The solution is a linear combination of (typically orthogonal) basis functions
- Each energy eigenfunction is assumed to be describable by a single Slater determinant
- The mean field approximation is implied.

The Hartree equation in atomic units:

$$\left[ -\frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 - \sum_n \frac{Z_n}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_n|} + \sum_{l=1}^N \int d\mathbf{x}' |\psi_l(\mathbf{x})|^2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right] \psi_k(\mathbf{x}) = E' \psi_k(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1)$$

Note that  $\mathbf{x}' = (\mathbf{r}', s')$ , so that  $\int d\mathbf{x}' = \sum_{s'} \int d\mathbf{r}'$ .

The last term on the left side is called the *Hartree potential*.

The Hartree-Fock functional in our case reads:

$$E[\Phi] = \sum_{\mu=1}^N \langle \mu | h | \mu \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu=1}^N \sum_{\nu=1}^N \left[ \langle \mu\nu | \frac{1}{r_{ij}} | \mu\nu \rangle - \langle \mu\nu | \frac{1}{r_{ij}} | \nu\mu \rangle \right] \quad (2)$$

## 2.2 The Slater determinant

Since electrons are indistinguishable, the Hamiltonian commutes with the particle-exchange operator  $P_{ij}$ :

$$\mathbf{P}_{ij}\Psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i, \dots, \mathbf{x}_j, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) = \Psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_j, \dots, \mathbf{x}_i, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) \quad (3)$$

The eigenvalue of  $P$  is  $-1$  (experimental) for fermions. We are working with an independent-particle Hamiltonian, so the electron state can be written as a product of single-electron states:

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) = \psi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \cdots \psi_N(\mathbf{x}_N) \quad (4)$$

Many-electron states are required to be antisymmetrical with respect to the particle exchange. We assume the many-body electronic state to take form of an anti-symmetrized sum of permutations of the single-particle wave function.

$$\Psi_{AS}(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{\mathbf{P}} \epsilon_P \mathbf{P} \psi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \cdots \psi_N(\mathbf{x}_N) \quad (5)$$

This is known as a Slater determinant.

## 3 Bases and transformations

We start out by using spin-orbitals  $\psi_k$  as a basis for our approximation to the many-body electronic wave function. We assume the basis functions are orthonormal, i.e.  $\langle \psi_i, \psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ . We can construct a new basis of spin-orbitals by applying a unitary transformation, given by a unitary matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ . Since unitary matrices preserve inner products, then the orthonormality property of the basis is preserved through the unitary transformation.

Let us then look at the relation between the Slater determinant of  $\{\psi\}$  and that of  $\{\psi'\}$ : We start by defining a matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  as

$$M_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \psi_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \quad (6)$$

We want to show that the Slater determinant constructed from the spin orbitals  $\{\psi'\}$  can be written as the determinant of the matrix product  $\mathbf{C}\mathbf{M}$ . Remember  $\det(AB) = \det(BA) = \det(BA^T)$ , so we can work with  $\mathbf{M}' = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{C}^T$ .

If we write out this product, we find:

$$(MC^T)_{ij} = \sum_k M_{ik} C_{jk} \quad (7)$$

$$= \sum_k \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} C_{jk} \psi_k(\mathbf{x}_i) \quad (8)$$

We originally assumed  $C$  to be taking  $\{\psi\}$  to  $\{\psi'\}$ , so:

$$\psi'_k = \sum_{l=1}^N C_{kl} \psi_l \quad (9)$$

Which means

$$(MC^T)_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \psi'_j(x_i) \quad (10)$$

The determinant of this matrix will be the same as the Slater determinant constructed from the new basis  $\{\psi'\}$ .

Now we want to find the relation between  $\det M$  and  $\det M'$ . They are different by a factor of  $\det C^T = \det C$ . Since  $C$  is unitary,  $|\det C| = 1$ .

## 4 Minimizing the Hartree-Fock functional

We will apply some sort of variational scheme to the Hartree-Fock functional in order to find an optimal basis  $\{\psi'\}$  for the single-particle wave functions. We remember the unitary basis-change matrix  $C$ . We now write the Hartree-Fock functional in terms of the new basis obtained from equation 9. We represent this new basis with latin letters, whereas the old basis is represented by greek letters.

$$E[\Psi] = \sum_{a=1}^N \langle a|h|a \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ab} \left[ \langle ab|\frac{1}{r_{ij}}|ab \rangle - \langle ab|\frac{1}{r_{ij}}|ba \rangle \right] \quad (11)$$

We now expand all these basis functions in the old basis:

$$\begin{aligned} E[\Psi] &= \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} C_{a\alpha}^* C_{a\beta} \langle \alpha|h|\beta \rangle \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_a \sum_b \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{\delta} C_{a\alpha}^* C_{b\beta}^* C_{a\gamma} C_{b\delta} \left[ \langle \alpha\beta|\frac{1}{r_{ij}}|\gamma\delta \rangle - \langle \alpha\beta|\frac{1}{r_{ij}}|\delta\gamma \rangle \right] \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

We then apply orthogonality:

$$E[\Psi] = \quad (13)$$

# Appendices

## A Terms

### A.1 Unitary transformation

A unitary transformation is a transformation that preserves the inner product of two vectors. A unitary matrix has the property  $U^*U = I$ .