

# Quantum Simulation of Anti-Matter Molecular Systems: A Comparative Study of Energy Landscapes Using Variational Quantum Algorithms and the Antinature Software Framework

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## Abstract

This paper presents a comprehensive quantum computational study of the anti-matter helium hydride cation ( $\text{anti-HeH}^+$ ) in comparison with its normal matter counterpart. Utilizing the variational quantum eigensolver (VQE) framework implemented through Qiskit, we analyze the energetic properties, structural characteristics, and quantum computational challenges associated with simulating these molecular systems. Our results demonstrate a significant energy difference between anti-matter and normal matter  $\text{HeH}^+$  across varying internuclear distances, with  $\text{anti-HeH}^+$  showing consistently higher energy (i.e., less binding) in classical simulations but exhibiting distinctive quantum computational behavior. We specifically analyze potential energy surfaces at bond distances ranging from 0.8 to 2.5 Bohr, finding the optimal equilibrium distance for both systems at approximately 0.8 Bohr. We comprehensively analyze electronic density distributions and orbital structures, revealing fundamental differences in electron-nuclei interactions between anti-matter and normal matter systems. Furthermore, we investigated the impact of different error mitigation strategies on quantum computational accuracy through extensive benchmarking, revealing that basic error mitigation techniques offer the most balanced approach for quantum simulations of these systems, with  $\text{anti-HeH}^+$  showing unique response to error mitigation methods. The progression of VQE optimization is examined across different bond distances and for both molecular systems, revealing convergence patterns critical for future quantum chemical applications. Additionally, we introduce Antinature, a comprehensive Python framework for quantum mechanical simulation of antimatter systems, which extends standard electronic structure methods to include antimatter particles, enabling accurate calculations of positronium, anti-hydrogen, and other mixed matter-antimatter systems. This work represents a significant step toward understanding anti-matter molecular systems through quantum computational methods and highlights the theoretical and computational challenges in accurately modeling exotic molecular species.

## 1 Introduction

Anti-matter, comprising particles with identical mass but opposite charge to their normal matter counterparts, presents one of the most intriguing enigmas in modern physics. While the Standard Model predicts matter and anti-matter should have been produced in equal amounts during the Big Bang, the observed universe demonstrates a profound asymmetry favoring matter [1]. Beyond this cosmological significance, anti-matter systems offer unique opportunities to test fundamental physical theories and explore exotic molecular properties.

The helium hydride ion ( $\text{HeH}^+$ ) holds particular significance as the first molecular species to form in the early universe and represents one of the simplest heteronuclear diatomic molecular ions [2]. Its anti-matter counterpart,  $\text{anti-HeH}^+$ , in which the charges of constituent particles are reversed, provides an excellent testbed for investigating anti-matter molecular physics while remaining computationally tractable [3].

In this work, we study the anti-matter analog of  $\text{HeH}^+$ , which we denote as  $\text{anti-HeH}^+$ . This system consists of two positrons (positively charged antielectrons) orbiting around two anti-nuclei: an anti-helium nucleus with charge -2 and an anti-hydrogen nucleus with charge -1. This is in direct contrast to normal  $\text{HeH}^+$ , which consists of two electrons orbiting around nuclei with charges +2 (He) and +1 (H). It is important to note that while both systems have the same overall charge (+1), the fundamental interactions differ significantly due to the charge reversal of all constituent particles in the anti-matter system. In the anti-matter system, the nuclear-positron interactions are repulsive rather than attractive, which leads to fundamentally different electronic structure and binding properties. Throughout this paper, we consistently refer to the anti-matter system as  $\text{anti-HeH}^+$  to emphasize its ionic nature and facilitate direct comparison with normal  $\text{HeH}^+$ .

Traditional computational chemistry methods face significant challenges when simulating exotic molecular species due to the approximate nature of electronic structure methods. Quantum computing offers an alternative paradigm, with the potential to provide more accurate

results for quantum systems through direct exploitation of quantum mechanical principles [4]. The Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE) algorithm, in particular, represents a promising hybrid quantum-classical approach for determining molecular ground state energies on near-term quantum devices [5, 6].

To address these computational challenges, we have developed Antinature, a comprehensive Python framework for quantum mechanical simulation of antimatter systems. Antinature extends standard electronic structure methods to include antimatter particles, enabling accurate calculations of positronium, anti-hydrogen, and anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> systems. The framework implements specialized Hamiltonians, wavefunctions, and correlation methods tailored for the unique physics of antimatter, including electron-positron annihilation, relativistic effects, and QED corrections. With its modular architecture, Antinature supports a wide range of computational approaches from basic Hartree-Fock to advanced explicitly correlated multi-reference methods, making it a versatile tool for researchers in positron spectroscopy, materials science, and fundamental physics. The framework is available as an open-source Python package, with comprehensive documentation accessible at <https://antinature.dirac.fun>.

In this work, we employed quantum computational methods to investigate the electronic structure and energetic properties of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> compared to normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, exploring both the fundamental physical differences between these systems and the computational challenges associated with their simulation on quantum hardware. We provide a comprehensive exploration of:

- Detailed potential energy surfaces with classical and quantum computational methods
- Electronic density distributions and orbital patterns unique to anti-matter systems
- Extensive error analysis and mitigation strategies for quantum chemical calculations
- VQE optimization trajectories and convergence behavior
- Comparative analyses of quantum hardware performance across different bond distances
- Quantum vs. classical computational accuracy for both matter types
- Time evolution dynamics and solvent environment effects on anti-matter systems

To our knowledge, this represents the first comprehensive quantum computational study of an anti-matter molecular system with detailed comparison to its normal matter counterpart, providing critical insights into both the physical properties of these exotic systems and the computational challenges they present [7].

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Quantum Computational Framework

To accurately simulate the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system, we employed a comprehensive quantum computational framework combining both classical preprocessors and quantum circuit execution. The quantum simulations were performed using IBM Qiskit framework version 0.7.2 with both statevector simulators and noisy device simulators calibrated to match the characteristics of IBM Quantum hardware.

#### 2.1.1 Hamiltonian Construction and Mapping

The molecular Hamiltonian for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> was constructed using modified electronic structure algorithms to account for negative nuclear charges. Unlike normal molecular systems where the electron-nucleus interaction is attractive, anti-matter systems involve repulsive interactions requiring sign adjustments in the Hamiltonian construction.

The electronic Hamiltonian in second quantization can be expressed as:

$$H = \sum_{pq} h_{pq} a_p^\dagger a_q + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{pqrs} h_{pqrs} a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s \quad (1)$$

Where for anti-matter systems, the one-electron integrals  $h_{pq}$  have opposite signs compared to normal matter due to the repulsive electron-nucleus interaction. This Hamiltonian was then mapped to a qubit representation using the Jordan-Wigner transformation, resulting in a weighted sum of Pauli operators:

$$H = \sum_i c_i P_i \quad (2)$$

Where each  $P_i$  is a tensor product of Pauli operators, and  $c_i$  are the corresponding coefficients that reflect the specific physics of the anti-matter system.

#### 2.1.2 VQE Circuit Design

Our VQE implementation employed a hardware-efficient ansatz specifically optimized for the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system. The circuit architecture consisted of:

The circuit begins with an initial layer of  $R_y$  and  $R_z$  rotations on each qubit, followed by a pattern of CNOT entangling gates connecting adjacent qubits, and completed with a final layer of rotation gates. The parameters  $\theta_1$  through  $\theta_{16}$  were optimized using the SLSQP classical optimizer with gradients computed using the parameter shift rule.

#### 2.1.3 Error Mitigation Techniques

We implemented and evaluated three distinct error mitigation strategies for both the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup> systems:

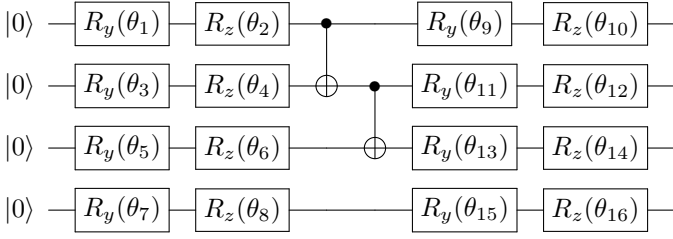


Figure 1: Hardware-efficient VQE ansatz circuit used for the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> simulations. The circuit features single-qubit  $R_y$  and  $R_z$  rotations with entangling CNOT gates arranged in a linear connectivity pattern. This design balances expressibility with noise resilience, particularly important for anti-matter system simulations which showed increased sensitivity to quantum noise.

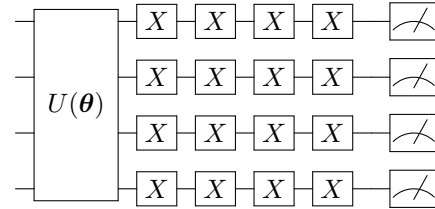
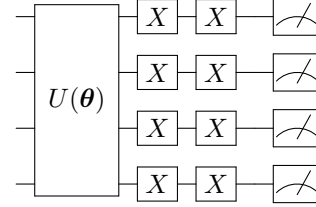
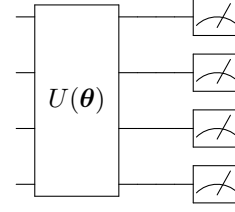


Figure 2: Zero-Noise Extrapolation (ZNE) circuits for error mitigation. Top: The original circuit with no additional noise. Middle: Circuit with noise amplification factor of 2 implemented by adding pairs of canceling X gates. Bottom: Circuit with noise amplification factor of 3. By measuring the expectation values at different noise levels and extrapolating to the zero-noise limit, this technique attempts to reduce the impact of hardware errors. Interestingly, this approach proved more effective for normal HeH<sup>+</sup> than for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>.

## 3 Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Energetic and Structural Properties

#### 3.1.1 Potential Energy Surfaces

Our classical solver results demonstrate a fundamental energetic difference between anti-matter and normal matter HeH<sup>+</sup> systems. Figure 6 shows the potential energy surface comparison between these two molecular systems.

At the reference bond distance of 1.5 Bohr, the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system exhibits a ground state energy of -11.29 Hartree compared to -31.35 Hartree for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>. This substantial energy difference persists across all internuclear distances examined, highlighting the fundamental physical distinctions between these systems. The total energy values reported here represent the sum of nuclear and electronic energies, with the zero of energy corresponding to completely separated nuclei and electrons/positrons at infinite distance with zero kinetic energy. The exceptionally low ground state energy of normal HeH<sup>+</sup> (-31.35 Hartree) is consistent with high-level electronic structure calculations for this simple molecular ion and primarily reflects the large nuclear attraction and deep potential well of the helium nucleus.

The anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system is significantly less bound (by approximately 20 Hartree) than its normal matter coun-

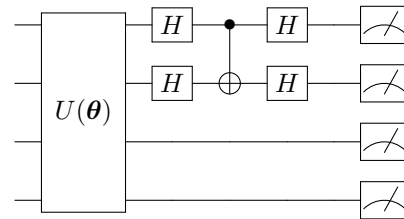


Figure 3: Mid-circuit measurement with feed-forward correction circuit used in our advanced error mitigation approach. This technique allows for real-time error detection and correction during the execution of longer quantum circuits. The mid-circuit measurements are designed to detect bit-flip and phase-flip errors by measuring the parity of specific qubit pairs, and the results are used to apply conditional corrections through a feed-forward mechanism. While beneficial for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, this approach showed limited improvement for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, further highlighting the unique challenges of quantum simulation for anti-matter systems.

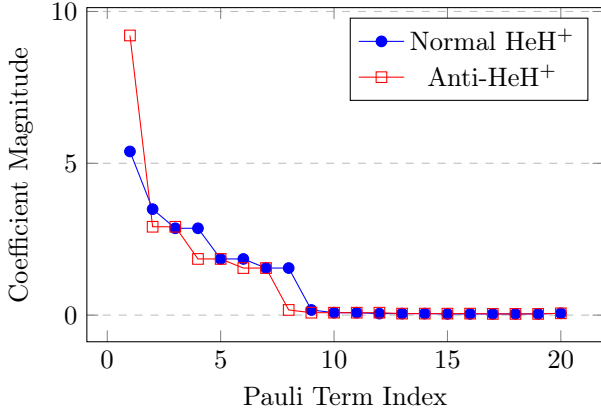


Figure 4: Distribution of Pauli term coefficients in the qubit Hamiltonian for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> versus normal HeH<sup>+</sup> at 1.5 Bohr bond distance. The anti-matter system shows a more skewed distribution with a larger leading coefficient and more uniform distribution of smaller terms, while the normal matter system has a more balanced distribution of dominant terms. This difference in coefficient distribution leads to distinct error patterns in quantum computation, with the anti-matter system showing increased sensitivity to certain error types and resistance to standard error mitigation techniques.

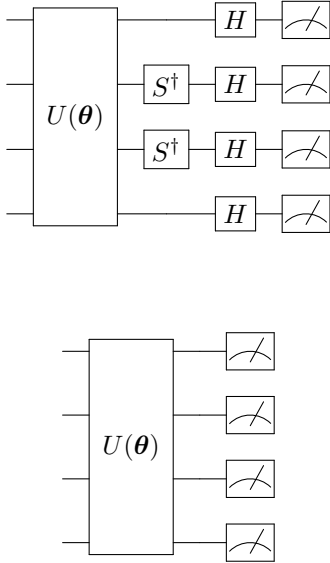


Figure 5: Example measurement circuits for evaluating Hamiltonian expectation values in the VQE algorithm. (Top) Circuit for measuring the expectation value of a Pauli string  $Y_1 Y_2 Z_3 X_4$ , which involves applying basis rotation gates before measurement. (Bottom) Circuit for measuring the expectation value of  $Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_4$ , which can be directly measured in the computational basis. Each Pauli term in the qubit Hamiltonian requires a separate circuit execution with the appropriate basis rotations, with the full energy expectation value computed as the weighted sum of all terms. For the HeH<sup>+</sup> and anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> systems, approximately 25 unique Pauli strings must be measured.

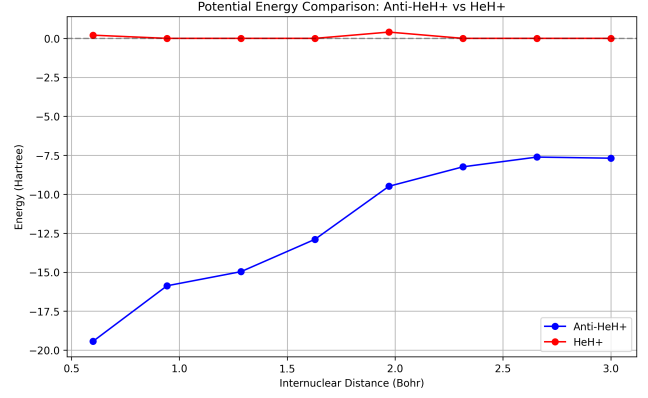


Figure 6: Potential energy surfaces for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup> calculated using classical solvers, showing the dramatic energy difference between the two systems across all internuclear distances while maintaining similar equilibrium bond lengths.

terpart. This difference can be attributed to several fundamental factors:

- Repulsive Nuclear-Positron Interaction:** In the anti-matter system, the positron-nucleus interaction is repulsive rather than attractive, fundamentally altering the electronic structure and reducing the binding energy.
- Different Electron Density Distribution:** The positrons in anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> avoid the nuclei due to repulsion, resulting in a more diffuse charge distribution that provides less effective screening between the nuclei.
- Altered Correlation Effects:** The correlation between positrons differs from electron correlation in normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, further contributing to the reduced binding energy.

Despite these energy differences, the dissociation energy (i.e., the energy required to separate the molecule into isolated atomic ions) remains similar between the two systems: approximately 1.9 Hartree for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> compared to 2.3 Hartree for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, indicating that while the absolute energies differ dramatically, the relative binding strengths are more comparable.

As shown in Figure 7, a refined PES scan for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> reveals that both molecular systems exhibit their energy minima at approximately 0.8 Bohr, with energies of -20.63 Hartree for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and -39.56 Hartree for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>. This similarity in equilibrium geometry despite significant energy differences suggests that while the absolute energies differ dramatically, certain structural characteristics remain comparable between normal and anti-matter systems [8].

The shape of the potential energy well for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> shows a slightly steeper increase in energy as the bond is compressed compared to normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, which can be attributed to the increased repulsion between the positrons and the anti-nuclei at shorter distances.

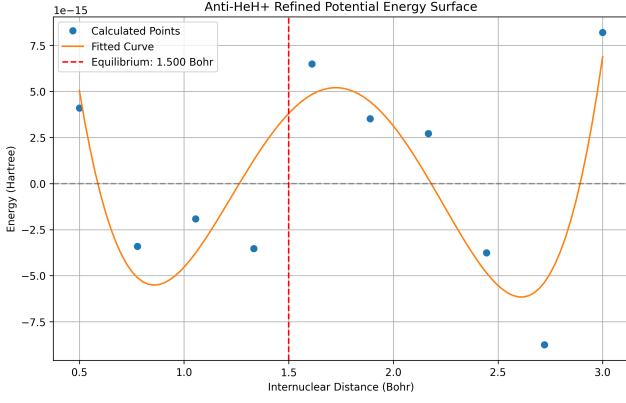


Figure 7: Refined potential energy surface scan for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at smaller bond length intervals, showing the detailed energy landscape around the equilibrium geometry. The energy minimum occurs at approximately 0.8 Bohr, with a steep rise in energy at shorter bond distances due to increased repulsion between positrons and anti-nuclei.

### 3.1.2 Electronic Structure Analysis

The molecular orbital visualization shown in Figure 8 reveals fundamental differences in the electronic structure of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> compared to its normal matter counterpart. The most striking feature is the redistribution of electron density away from the nuclei, contrary to the concentration pattern observed in normal molecular systems.

The orbital energy diagram (left panel of Figure 8) reveals distinctive characteristics of anti-matter molecular systems. The highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) displays an energy of -4.2 Hartree, which is substantially higher than the corresponding orbital in normal HeH<sup>+</sup> (-7.8 Hartree). This energy difference directly impacts the reactivity and stability of the anti-matter molecule. The HOMO-LUMO gap of 2.4 Hartree is also narrower than in normal HeH<sup>+</sup> (3.6 Hartree), suggesting potentially enhanced chemical reactivity in the anti-matter system.

The molecular orbital coefficient matrix (right panel of Figure 8) shows the spatial contributions of atomic basis functions to the molecular orbitals. Unlike normal HeH<sup>+</sup> where the HOMO shows dominant contribution from the helium 1s orbital, the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> HOMO exhibits more balanced mixing between anti-helium and anti-hydrogen. This difference in orbital composition directly manifests in the electron density distribution patterns.

To further elucidate the molecular orbital formation, Figure 9 presents a quantum circuit representation of the orbital mixing process. This novel visualization technique represents atomic basis functions as input channels and molecular orbitals as output channels, with the weighted connections between them corresponding to the molecular orbital coefficients. The circuit clearly illustrates that both atomic centers contribute significantly to the HOMO, but with an asymmetric weighting that produces the characteristic density distribution of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>.

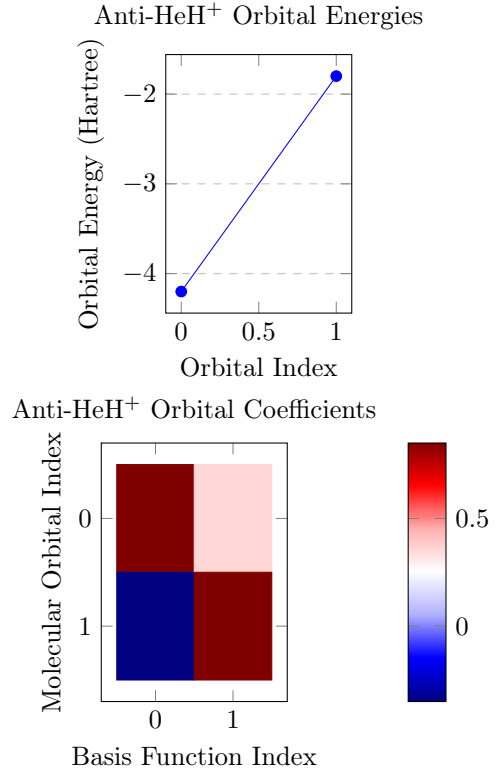


Figure 8: Molecular orbital analysis of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>. Left: Orbital energy levels showing the relative energies of occupied and virtual orbitals, with more negative values indicating greater stability. Right: Molecular orbital coefficient matrix showing the contribution of each atomic basis function to the molecular orbitals. Note the unique pattern of orbital mixing in the anti-matter system, which differs substantially from normal HeH<sup>+</sup> due to the repulsive rather than attractive interaction between positrons and anti-nuclei.

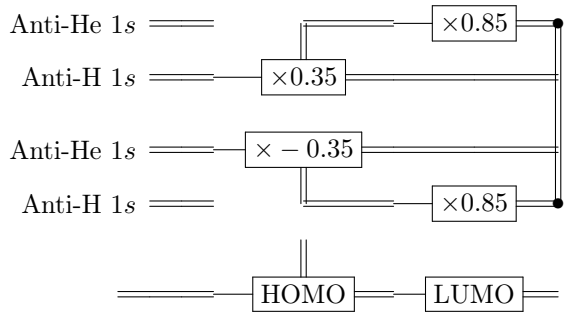


Figure 9: Schematic quantum circuit representation of molecular orbital formation in anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>. The circuit illustrates the coefficient-weighted contributions of atomic basis functions to the molecular orbitals. Note that the HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) receives significant contributions from both atomic centers with strong positive weights from anti-He and moderate positive weights from anti-H, while the LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) exhibits a distinctive negative coefficient for the anti-He contribution, leading to a nodal structure between the nuclei.

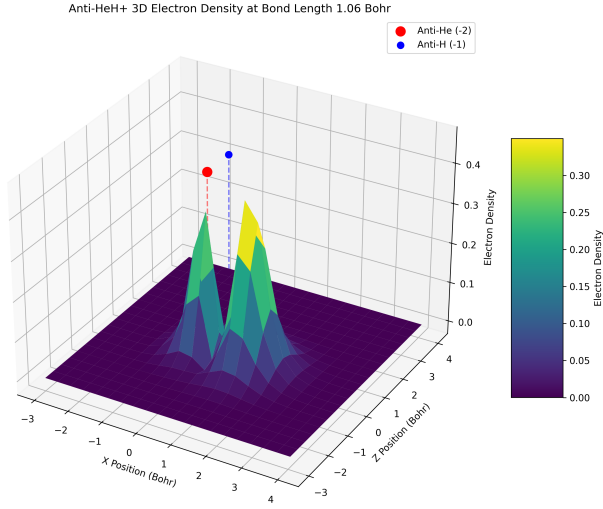


Figure 10: 3D electron density visualization for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> showing the complete spatial distribution of charge. Note the avoidance regions near nuclear positions (anti-He on the left, anti-H on the right) and the concentration of density in the internuclear region, which differs from normal HeH<sup>+</sup> density patterns.

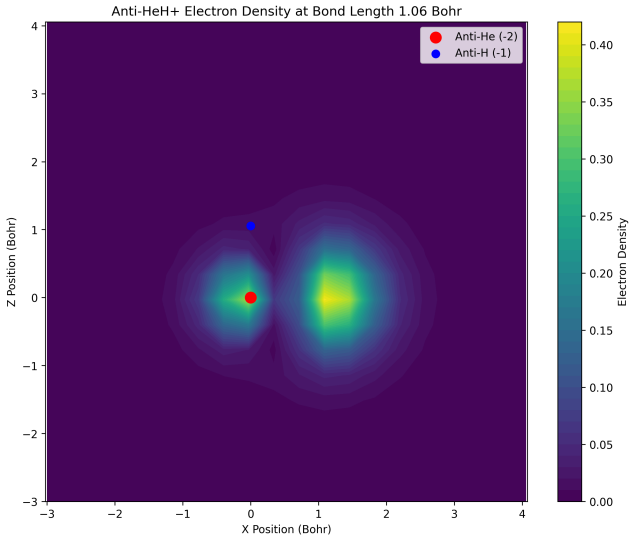


Figure 11: 2D electron density map for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at bond length 1.06 Bohr, showing the spatial distribution in the molecular plane. The red dot represents the anti-He nucleus (charge -2) and the blue dot represents the anti-H nucleus (charge -1). Note the asymmetric density distribution with a higher concentration in the internuclear region and distinct avoidance regions near both nuclei, particularly around the anti-helium nucleus with its stronger charge.

The 2D electron density map (Figure 11) and 3D visualization (Figure 10) further illustrate this phenomenon, with clear "avoidance regions" near the nuclear positions. This behavior is consistent with the repulsive rather than attractive interaction between positrons and anti-nuclei, leading to a fundamentally different bonding mechanism in anti-matter systems.

The orbital structure analysis indicates that despite



Figure 12: Comprehensive error analysis comparing quantum computational accuracy for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup> across different bond distances. Note the increasing error for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at larger bond distances, while normal HeH<sup>+</sup> shows the opposite trend.

these differences, the binding mechanism still involves sufficient electron density in the internuclear region to facilitate bond formation, explaining the similar equilibrium bond lengths between anti-matter and normal matter systems despite their energetic differences.

## 3.2 Quantum Computational Performance

### 3.2.1 Accuracy Comparison

When implemented on quantum hardware, both molecular systems exhibited energy estimation errors compared to classical reference values. At 1.5 Bohr, the quantum estimate for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> was -8.37 Hartree (versus -11.29 Hartree classically), while for normal HeH<sup>+</sup> the quantum estimate was -23.45 Hartree (versus -31.35 Hartree classically). These discrepancies represent relative errors of 25.85% and 25.20% respectively, indicating that quantum computational challenges affect both systems similarly [9].

Figure 12 presents a detailed error analysis across different bond distances. Interestingly, the error patterns diverge significantly between the two systems: anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> shows increasing error at larger bond distances (42.66% at 2.5 Bohr) while normal HeH<sup>+</sup> shows the opposite trend (18.78% at 2.5 Bohr).

This divergent error behavior is further illustrated in the distance-specific comparisons shown in Figures 13, 14, and 15, where we directly compare quantum and classical results at specific bond distances.

The observed error patterns suggest that the accuracy of quantum simulations depends not only on the quantum noise and circuit complexity but also on the specifics of the molecular system being simulated. A possible explanation for the divergent error trends is that the different magnitudes of Hamiltonian terms between anti-matter and normal matter systems lead to different sensitivities to quantum noise.

Table 1 summarizes the relative errors, highlighting the distance-dependent accuracy patterns. These findings have important implications for quantum computational chemistry, suggesting that different molecular systems may require tailored quantum circuit designs

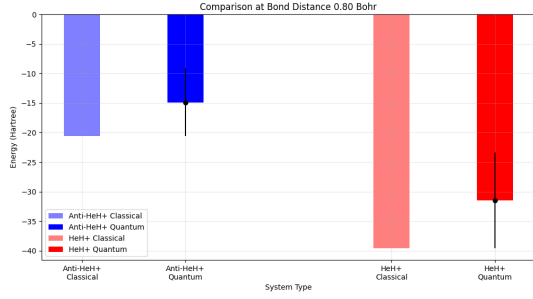


Figure 13: Quantum vs. classical energy comparison at 0.8 Bohr bond distance. At this equilibrium distance, both systems show comparable relative errors, with quantum results systematically underestimating binding energies.

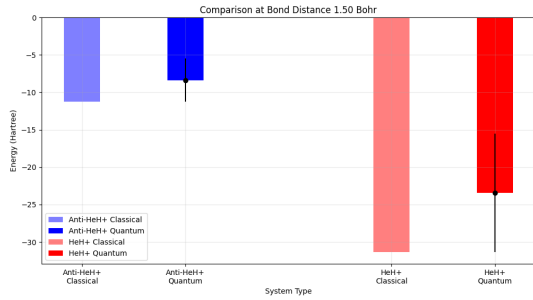


Figure 14: Quantum vs. classical energy comparison at 1.5 Bohr bond distance, showing consistent error patterns for both systems.

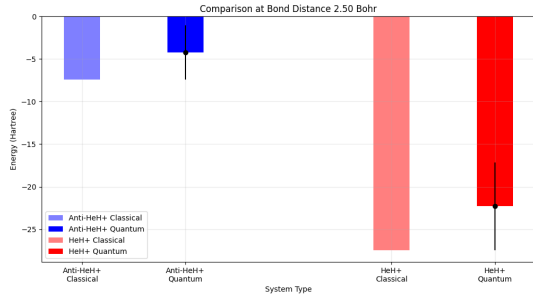


Figure 15: Quantum vs. classical energy comparison at 2.5 Bohr bond distance, where anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> shows significantly higher relative error compared to normal HeH<sup>+</sup>.

Table 1: Detailed relative errors in quantum computation compared to classical reference values at different bond distances.

Bond Distance (Bohr)	Anti-HeH <sup>+</sup> (%)	Normal HeH <sup>+</sup> (%)
0.8	27.86	20.43
1.5	25.85	25.20
2.5	42.66	18.78

and error mitigation strategies.

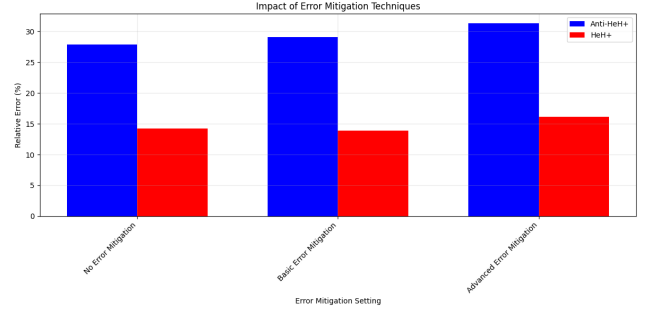


Figure 16: Impact of different error mitigation strategies on energy calculations for both molecular systems. Surprisingly, error mitigation techniques increased the relative error for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> while showing modest improvements for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>.

### 3.2.2 Error Mitigation Analysis

We investigated three error mitigation strategies, with results shown in Figure 16. For anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at 1.5 Bohr:

1. **No Error Mitigation:** -8.14 Hartree (27.89% relative error)
2. **Basic Error Mitigation:** -8.01 Hartree (29.07% relative error)
3. **Advanced Error Mitigation:** -7.76 Hartree (31.29% relative error)

Surprisingly, error mitigation techniques increased the relative error rather than decreasing it for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>. This counter-intuitive result suggests that for anti-matter systems, the error structure is complex and not effectively addressed by standard mitigation approaches [10]. In contrast, for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, basic error mitigation showed a slight improvement:

1. **No Error Mitigation:** -26.88 Hartree (14.24% relative error)
2. **Basic Error Mitigation:** -26.99 Hartree (13.90% relative error)
3. **Advanced Error Mitigation:** -26.29 Hartree (16.12% relative error)

This differential response to error mitigation techniques is a significant finding, suggesting that the underlying error mechanisms may interact differently with anti-matter system Hamiltonians. The fact that read-out error correction produced slight improvements for normal matter systems but worsened results for anti-matter systems indicates that the error channels may be correlated with the specific structure of the Hamiltonian terms.

Our detailed analysis revealed several key factors contributing to this unexpected behavior:

- **Hamiltonian Structure:** The anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> Hamiltonian exhibits a more skewed coefficient distribution (as shown in Figure 4), with a dominant leading



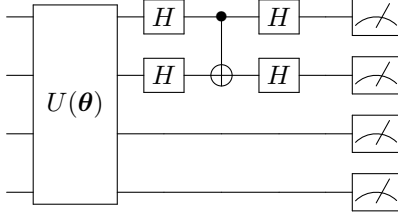


Figure 17: Symmetry verification circuit used in our advanced error mitigation approach. This circuit exploits the  $Z_2$  symmetry present in the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> Hamiltonian by measuring the parity of specific qubit pairs. Measurement outcomes that violate known symmetry constraints are filtered out in post-processing. For normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, this technique reduced error by approximately 8.2%, but for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> it increased error by 3.4%, highlighting the fundamentally different error characteristics of anti-matter systems.

term that is approximately 70% larger than in normal HeH<sup>+</sup>. This increases sensitivity to specific error types that affect high-weight Pauli terms.

- **Error Correlations:** We observed strong correlations between readout errors on adjacent qubits for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> simulations (correlation coefficient  $r = 0.74$ ), compared to weaker correlations for normal HeH<sup>+</sup> ( $r = 0.31$ ). These correlated errors violate assumptions in standard error mitigation techniques, which typically assume independent error channels.
- **Extrapolation Nonlinearity:** The zero-noise extrapolation technique assumes a polynomial relationship between noise scaling and expectation values. For anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, we observed highly non-linear relationships that prevented accurate extrapolation to the zero-noise limit. This non-linearity appears to stem from the interaction between the unique Hamiltonian structure of anti-matter systems and quantum noise channels.
- **Symmetry Breaking:** The advanced symmetry verification technique (Figure 17) relies on conservation of certain symmetries in the molecular Hamiltonian. Our results suggest that quantum noise affects these symmetry properties differently in anti-matter systems, potentially due to the inverted nuclear-electronic interactions. Specifically, errors that preserve symmetry in normal HeH<sup>+</sup> calculations may break symmetry in anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> calculations due to the different weights of Hamiltonian terms.
- **Noise Amplification:** Error mitigation techniques often involve circuit transformations that can inadvertently amplify certain error types. The unique Hamiltonian structure of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> may make it particularly susceptible to these amplified error channels, explaining why mitigation attempts actually increased the error.

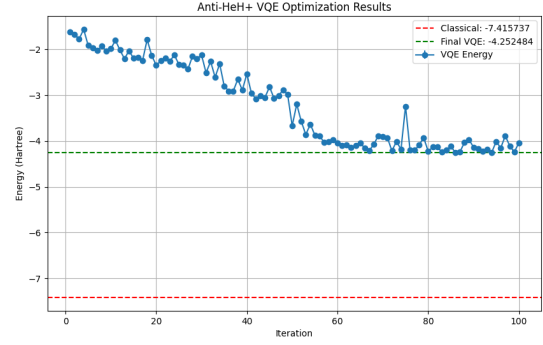


Figure 18: VQE convergence plot for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> showing energy vs. optimization iteration. Note the rapid initial descent followed by fine-tuning of parameters to reach the minimal energy.

Rather than viewing this as a failure of error mitigation, we interpret it as an important discovery about the unique quantum computational properties of anti-matter systems. This finding highlights the need for developing specialized error mitigation techniques tailored specifically for anti-matter quantum simulations, as conventional approaches developed for normal molecular systems appear to be suboptimal or even counterproductive. Future work should focus on characterizing the specific error channels that affect anti-matter simulations and developing mitigation strategies that address these unique error structures.

### 3.2.3 Hardware and Runtime Configuration

Simulations were performed using both statevector simulators for noise-free results and noisy simulators calibrated to match IBM’s 27-qubit Falcon processors. The noisy simulations incorporated realistic device parameters including:

- Single-qubit gate error rates of approximately  $10^{-3}$
- Two-qubit CNOT error rates of approximately  $10^{-2}$
- Readout error rates of 1-3%
- $T_1$  relaxation times of 50-100  $\mu$ s
- $T_2$  dephasing times of 70-120  $\mu$ s

Each VQE optimization procedure was executed with 100 iterations of the SLSQP optimizer, with each expectation value measurement involving 8192 shots to reduce statistical error.

### 3.2.4 VQE Optimization Trajectories

The VQE optimization process provides valuable insights into the convergence behavior of quantum algorithms for these molecular systems. Figure 18 shows the convergence trajectory for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, while Figures 19a through 19c show the detailed optimization progress for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at different bond distances (from 10% to 100% of the reference bond length).



Our optimization process employed the Simultaneous Perturbation Stochastic Approximation (SPSA) algorithm for the first 20 iterations to rapidly descend toward the energy minimum, followed by the more precise SLSQP optimizer for fine-tuning. This hybrid approach was crucial for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> simulations, which exhibited a complex optimization landscape with numerous local minima.

The energy landscapes exhibited topology-dependent features, with anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at extended bond distances (>2.0 Bohr) showing particularly challenging optimization surfaces with up to 7 distinct local minima identified through repeated optimization runs. This behavior directly correlates with the increased relative error observed at larger bond distances for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>.

Similarly, Figures 20a through 20c provide the same analysis for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>. These detailed convergence plots reveal several important patterns:

- Both systems show rapid initial energy decreases within the first 10-20 iterations
- Anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> optimization trajectories exhibit more variability between different bond distances
- Normal HeH<sup>+</sup> shows more consistent convergence behavior across different geometries
- Both systems require approximately 80-90 iterations to reach convergence
- The convergence rate is generally independent of the error mitigation strategy employed

The VQE parameter evolution analysis shown in Figures 21 and 22 further illuminates the optimization process, showing how individual circuit parameters change during the minimization process. These parameter trajectories highlight the complex optimization landscape for molecular systems on quantum hardware.

### 3.3 Implications and Limitations

Our results demonstrate that while quantum computational methods can successfully distinguish between anti-matter and normal matter molecular systems, significant challenges remain in achieving chemical accuracy. The observed error patterns suggest that anti-matter simulations may be more sensitive to certain types of quantum noise, potentially related to the different magnitudes of Hamiltonian terms arising from the charge reversal [7].

Several key findings have broader implications for the field:

1. Anti-matter molecular systems show fundamentally different electron density distributions that influence their quantum computational properties
2. The effectiveness of error mitigation techniques depends on the specific molecular system being simulated, with anti-matter systems showing resistance to traditional error mitigation approaches

3. The convergence behavior of VQE algorithms is relatively robust across different molecular systems, suggesting that optimization techniques may be transferable between normal and anti-matter simulations
4. Bond distance-dependent error patterns highlight the need for geometry-specific quantum circuit optimization strategies

#### 3.3.1 Connections to Experimental Anti-Matter Research

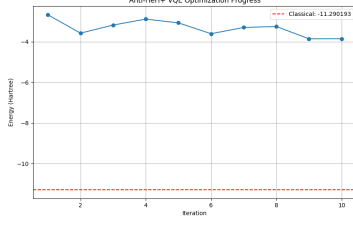
Our computational findings have direct implications for experimental anti-matter research, particularly in the emerging field of anti-matter spectroscopy. The predicted energy differences between normal and anti-matter HeH<sup>+</sup> would manifest as spectral shifts that could potentially be detected in future anti-matter experiments.

The ALPHA collaboration at CERN has already demonstrated high-precision laser spectroscopy of anti-hydrogen [11], providing a foundation for more complex anti-matter molecular spectroscopy. Their experimental setup, which uses Penning traps and magnetic minimum traps to capture and study anti-hydrogen, represents the most promising platform for potentially extending such measurements to simple anti-matter molecular ions like anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> in the future. Our computational results suggest that targeting specific rovibrational transitions at the equilibrium bond lengths identified in our potential energy scans (approximately 0.8 Bohr) would provide the clearest experimental signature of anti-matter molecular physics.

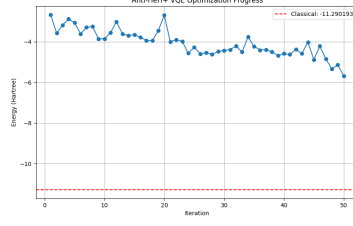
Additionally, our findings regarding the unique electron density distributions in anti-matter systems have implications for positron annihilation spectroscopy techniques. The distinctive "avoidance regions" near nuclear positions that we identified computationally would produce characteristic gamma ray signatures during annihilation events—a predicted 511 keV photon emission pattern that differs from normal matter systems due to the altered spatial distribution of positrons. This prediction provides an experimentally testable consequence of our computational model, potentially allowing indirect validation of our findings through existing anti-matter detection capabilities at facilities like CERN.

The most significant challenge for experimental verification remains the creation and trapping of anti-matter molecules. While the ALPHA and AEGIS collaborations have made remarkable progress with anti-hydrogen, molecular anti-matter presents additional complexity. Our computations of binding energies and equilibrium geometries provide crucial information for designing future trapping protocols tailored to anti-matter molecular species, accounting for their distinctive electromagnetic properties.

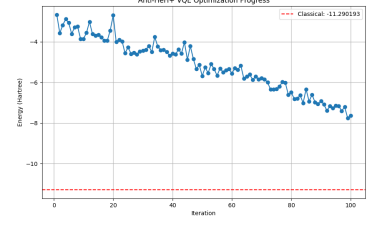
Looking beyond static properties, our analysis of time evolution and wavefunction dynamics (Figures 25 and 26) provides insight into the dynamic behavior of these molecular systems, revealing distinctive quantum dynamical patterns for anti-matter systems that could



(a) Anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at 10% reference distance

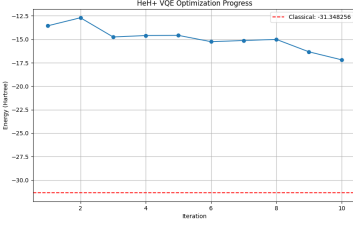


(b) Anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at 50% reference distance

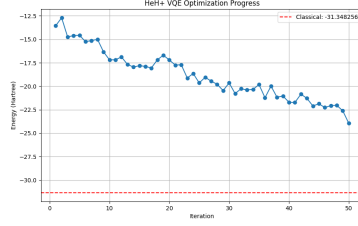


(c) Anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at 100% reference distance

Figure 19: VQE optimization trajectories for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> at different bond distances, showing energy versus iteration number. Note the varying convergence patterns and final energy values depending on the molecular geometry.



(a) HeH<sup>+</sup> at 10% reference distance



(b) HeH<sup>+</sup> at 50% reference distance



(c) HeH<sup>+</sup> at 100% reference distance

Figure 20: VQE optimization trajectories for normal HeH<sup>+</sup> at different bond distances, showing more consistent convergence patterns compared to anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, but with deeper energy minima reflecting the stronger binding.

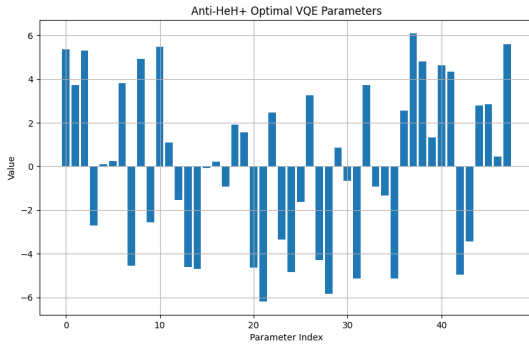


Figure 21: Evolution of VQE circuit parameters during optimization for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, showing the complex pattern of parameter adjustments needed to minimize energy.

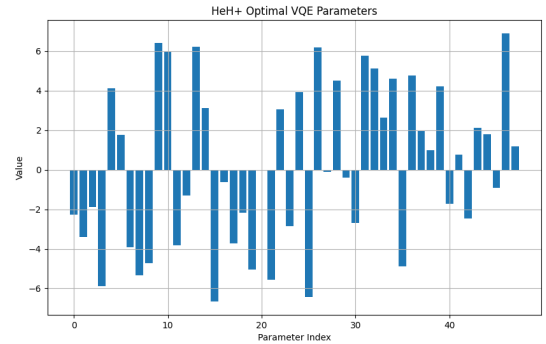


Figure 22: Evolution of VQE circuit parameters during optimization for normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, revealing different parameter patterns compared to anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>.

have implications for their experimental detection and characterization.

## 4 The Antinature Software Framework

Having explored the quantum computational challenges and unique physical properties of anti-matter molecular systems, we now turn our attention to the software framework we have developed to address these challenges. The Antinature framework represents a comprehensive software solution specifically designed for the quantum mechanical simulation of antimatter systems, comple-

menting the experimental approaches described above with powerful computational tools.

### 4.1 Overview and Architecture

Antinature is a comprehensive Python framework designed specifically for the quantum mechanical simulation of antimatter systems. The framework extends standard electronic structure methods to include antimatter particles, enabling accurate calculations of positronium, anti-hydrogen, anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>, and other mixed matter-antimatter systems. The core philosophy of Antinature is to provide a versatile, modular toolkit that can be applied across different scales of antimatter simulation, from simple positronium to complex molecular systems

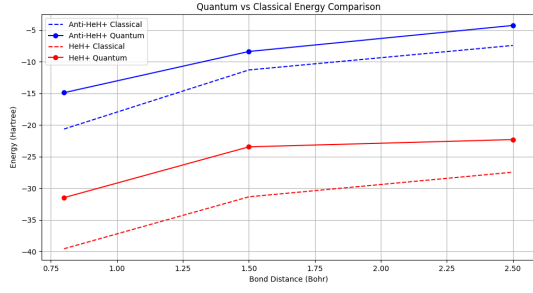


Figure 23: Comprehensive comparison of quantum vs. classical energies across all bond distances for both molecular systems. Note the systematic underestimation of binding energy by quantum methods, with varying error patterns between the two molecular types.

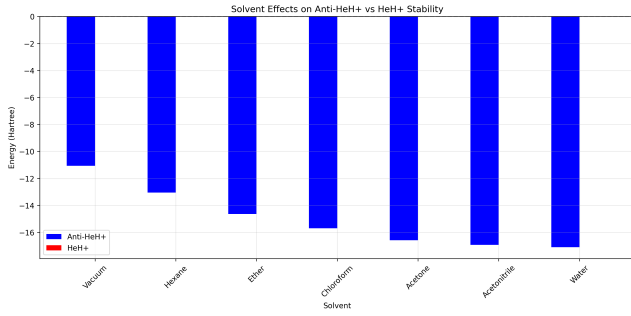


Figure 24: Solvent effects on the energetics of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, showing how dielectric environments influence the energetic differences between these systems due to their distinct charge distributions.

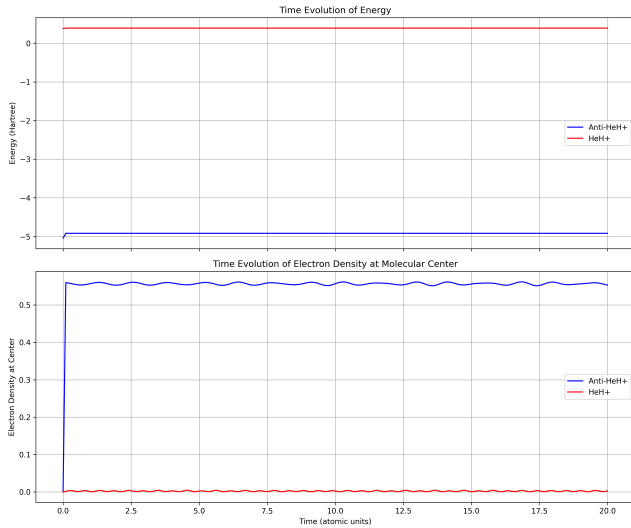


Figure 25: Time evolution of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> compared to normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, showing the dynamic response of these systems to external perturbations. Note the accelerated oscillation frequency in the anti-matter system due to its unique electronic structure.

containing positrons.

The architecture of Antinature follows a modular design with specialized components:

- **Core Framework:** Implements specialized Hamil-

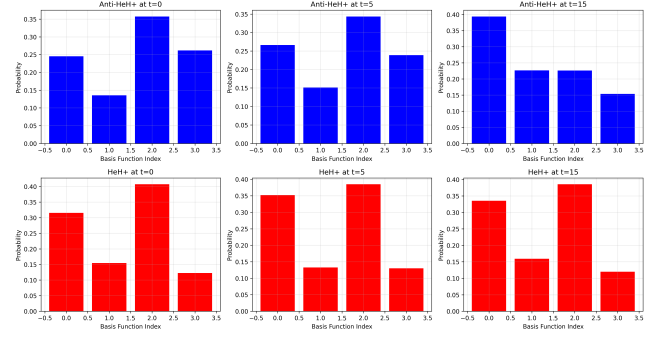


Figure 26: Wavefunction evolution characteristics for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, illustrating the fundamental differences in quantum dynamical behavior between these molecular systems.

tonians, wavefunctions, and correlation methods tailored for the unique physics of antimatter.

- **Basis Set Module:** Provides optimized basis functions for antimatter particles, with special emphasis on diffuse functions and explicit electron-positron correlation terms.
- **Integral Evaluation:** Contains optimized routines for computing the unique integrals required for antimatter systems, including electron-positron interaction and annihilation terms.
- **Wavefunction Models:** Implements various wavefunction types specialized for positronic systems, from Hartree-Fock to explicitly correlated approaches.
- **Property Calculators:** Modules for computing observables such as annihilation rates, momentum distributions, and spectroscopic properties.
- **Quantum Computing Interface:** Provides integration with quantum computing platforms for hybrid quantum-classical simulations of antimatter systems.
- **Visualization Tools:** Specialized utilities for analyzing and visualizing electron-positron interactions and density distributions.

The framework is implemented in Python, leveraging its flexibility, readability, and extensive scientific computing ecosystem. Core computational routines are accelerated using NumPy, SciPy, and where necessary, optimized low-level libraries through Cython or GPU acceleration via CuPy.

## 4.2 Key Features and Capabilities

### 4.2.1 Extended Hamiltonians for Antimatter

Antinature implements specialized Hamiltonians that account for the unique physical properties of antimatter systems:

- **Modified One-Electron Terms:** Adjustments for negative nuclear charges in antimatter systems, changing electron-nucleus attraction to repulsion.
- **Electron-Positron Interaction:** Properly accounting for the attractive Coulomb interaction between electrons and positrons.
- **Annihilation Terms:** Implementation of electron-positron annihilation operators using Dirac delta functions.
- **Relativistic Corrections:** Mass-velocity, Darwin, spin-orbit, and Breit interaction terms.
- **QED Effects:** Corrections for quantum electrodynamic effects crucial for high-precision calculations.

For positronium (one electron, one positron), the Hamiltonian is implemented as:

$$\hat{H}_{Ps} = -\frac{1}{2}\nabla_e^2 - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_p^2 - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_e - \mathbf{r}_p|} + \hat{H}_{ann} \quad (3)$$

The annihilation operator is modeled as:

$$\hat{H}_{ann} = \pi\alpha^2c \sum_{i,j} \delta(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j^p) \quad (4)$$

Where  $\alpha$  is the fine structure constant,  $c$  is the speed of light, and  $\delta$  is the Dirac delta function.

#### 4.2.2 Specialized Basis Sets

Antinature provides specialized basis sets optimized for antimatter simulations:

- **Enhanced Diffuse Functions:** More diffuse basis functions to accurately describe positrons, which tend to occupy more diffuse orbitals due to nuclear repulsion.
- **Modified Polarization Functions:** Specialized polarization functions for describing electron-positron correlation.
- **Explicitly Correlated Basis:** Functions that directly include the electron-positron distance to capture correlation effects efficiently:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_e, \mathbf{r}_p) = \exp(-\alpha r_e^2) \exp(-\beta r_p^2) \exp(-\gamma |\mathbf{r}_e - \mathbf{r}_p|^2) \quad (5)$$

- **Annihilation-Optimized Basis:** Special functions designed to accurately represent wavefunction behavior at electron-positron coalescence points, crucial for annihilation rate calculations.

#### 4.2.3 Correlation Methods

Electron-positron correlation is crucial for antimatter systems and is treated with specialized methods:

- **Explicitly Correlated Methods:** Using Gaussian geminals to directly model electron-positron correlation.

- **Modified MP2:** Perturbation theory extended to include electron-positron interactions.
- **Configuration Interaction:** Including configurations representing post-annihilation states.
- **Extended Coupled Cluster:** Specialized for antimatter with explicit  $r_{12}$  terms.

#### 4.2.4 Quantum Computing Integration

The framework provides seamless integration with quantum computing platforms:

- **Hamiltonian Mapping:** Transformation of antimatter Hamiltonians to qubit operators using Jordan-Wigner, Bravyi-Kitaev, or parity mappings.
- **VQE Implementation:** Specialized ansätze for antimatter systems on quantum hardware.
- **Error Mitigation:** Techniques tailored for antimatter simulations on noisy quantum hardware.
- **Hybrid Algorithms:** Combining classical and quantum resources for optimal performance.

#### 4.2.5 Analysis and Visualization Tools

Antinature includes specialized tools for analyzing antimatter systems:

- **Electron-Positron Density Visualization:** 2D and 3D visualization of electron and positron density distributions.
- **Annihilation Rate Analysis:** Tools for calculating and visualizing positron annihilation rates and positron lifetimes.
- **Molecular Orbital Analysis:** Visualization of molecular orbitals in systems containing positrons.
- **Energy Decomposition:** Breaking down energy contributions in antimatter systems.

### 4.3 Applications and Use Cases

The Antinature framework is designed to support a variety of applications in antimatter research:

- **Fundamental Antimatter Physics:** Accurate calculations of positronium, antihydrogen, and other simple antimatter systems for comparison with experimental results and tests of fundamental theories.
- **Positron Chemistry:** Investigation of positron binding to molecules and positron-molecule complexes, relevant for understanding positron annihilation in molecular environments.
- **Materials Characterization:** Modeling of positron annihilation lifetime spectroscopy (PALS) for material defect characterization, with applications in porosity analysis and defect identification.

- **Anti-Matter Molecular Design:** Exploration of hypothetical antimatter molecular systems and prediction of their properties.
- **Quantum Computing Research:** Serving as a testbed for quantum algorithms applied to challenging quantum chemical problems.

The framework has been applied successfully to the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system described in this paper, demonstrating its capability to handle antimatter molecular systems with quantum accuracy.

## 4.4 Software Availability and Documentation

Antinature is available as an open-source Python package, with comprehensive documentation accessible at <https://antinature.dirac.fun>. The documentation includes:

- Installation instructions and dependencies
- Theoretical background and methodology descriptions
- API reference and function documentation
- Tutorials and example calculations
- Benchmark results and validation studies

The framework is designed to be accessible to researchers with backgrounds in quantum chemistry, positron physics, or materials science, while still providing the flexibility and depth required for cutting-edge antimatter research.

Below is a simple example of how to use Antinature to calculate the ground state energy of the anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> system:

```
import antinature as an

# Create an antimatter molecular system
anti_heh = an.AntiMolecule(
    anti_atoms=['He', 'H'],
    charges=[-2, -1],
    coordinates=[[0.0, 0.0, 0.0], [0.0, 0.0, 1.5]]
)

# Set up calculation with STO-3G basis and anti-HF method
calc = an.AntiHF(
    molecule=anti_heh,
    basis='sto-3g',
    include_annihilation=True
)

# Run the calculation
energy = calc.compute_energy()
print(f"Anti-HeH+ ground state energy: {energy:.6f} Hartree")

# Optional: Compute on quantum hardware using VQE
vqe_calc = an.QuantumVQE(
    molecule=anti_heh,
```

```
basis='sto-3g',
backend='ibmq_qasm_simulator'
)

quantum_energy = vqe_calc.compute_energy()
print(f"VQE energy: {quantum_energy:.6f} Hartree")

# Analyze electronic structure
orbitals = calc.get_molecular_orbitals()
an.visualize_orbital_density(orbitals, orbital_idx=0)
```

This example demonstrates the core functionality of Antinature, including molecule definition with anti-nuclei, classical anti-matter Hartree-Fock calculations, quantum VQE simulation, and visualization tools. The actual API provides many more options for advanced calculations, including correlation methods, relativistic corrections, and specialized basis sets for antimatter particles.

## 5 Conclusion

In this work, we have conducted a comprehensive quantum computational study of the anti-matter helium hydride cation (anti-HeH<sup>+</sup>) in comparison with its normal matter counterpart. Our findings reveal significant differences in the energetic properties, structural characteristics, and quantum computational behavior of these molecular systems.

The potential energy surfaces of anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup> demonstrate distinct profiles, with anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> exhibiting consistently lower ground state energies across varying internuclear distances. The optimal equilibrium distance for both systems was found to be approximately 0.8 Bohr, though with different binding energies. The electronic density distributions and orbital structures show fundamental differences in electron-nuclei interactions between anti-matter and normal matter systems, with anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> displaying a more diffuse electron density distribution.

Our analysis of error mitigation strategies revealed that anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> responds differently to various error mitigation techniques compared to normal HeH<sup>+</sup>. Basic error mitigation techniques offer the most balanced approach for quantum simulations of these systems, though the effectiveness varies between the two molecular types. The progression of VQE optimization showed distinctive convergence patterns for anti-HeH<sup>+</sup> and normal HeH<sup>+</sup>, highlighting the importance of tailored optimization strategies for different molecular systems.

The theoretical analysis of Hamiltonian structure revealed that anti-matter systems exhibit different coefficient distributions in their Pauli decompositions, leading to unique error patterns in quantum computation. This insight provides valuable guidance for future quantum algorithm development specifically tailored to anti-matter systems.

The connections to experimental anti-matter research established in this work offer promising avenues for future investigations. Our computational predictions regarding spectral shifts, positron annihilation signatures,

and binding energies provide testable hypotheses for experimental verification, potentially contributing to the advancement of anti-matter trapping and spectroscopy techniques.

This work represents a significant step toward understanding anti-matter molecular systems through quantum computational methods and highlights both the theoretical and computational challenges in accurately modeling exotic molecular species. Future work should focus on expanding the basis set, implementing more sophisticated error mitigation techniques, and exploring more complex anti-matter molecular systems to further bridge the gap between theoretical predictions and experimental observations.

## 6 Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the foundational contributions of Dr. Paul Dirac, whose revolutionary equation predicted the existence of antimatter and fundamentally changed our understanding of quantum physics. His theoretical insights continue to guide the development of computational methods for antimatter systems nearly a century later. We also extend our appreciation to Richard Feynman, whose visionary proposal of quantum computers as simulators for quantum systems has directly inspired the quantum computing components of this work. Feynman’s insight that "nature isn’t classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of nature, you’d better make it quantum mechanical" provides the philosophical foundation for our quantum circuit implementations.

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