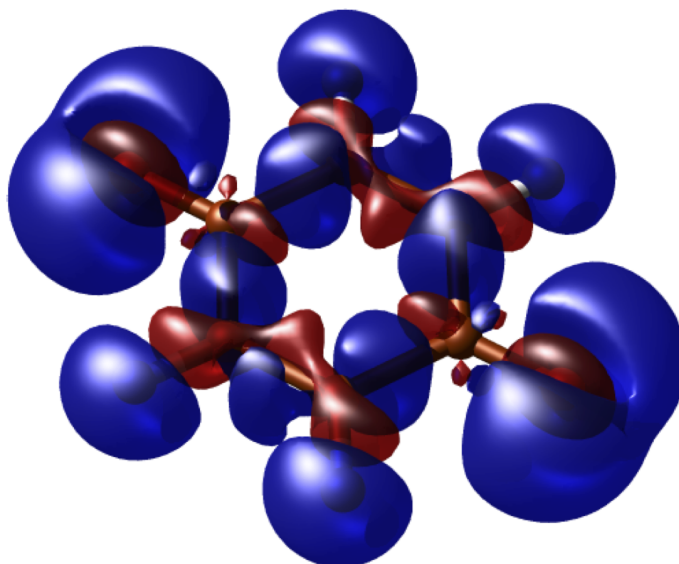


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## **pchem lab 357: spring 2019**

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### **exercice 5: introduction to computational chemistry exercsise problems for gaussian16**

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**adopted from hands-on workshop on density-functional theory and beyond organized by fhi  
der mpg, berlin.**

**adopted for g16 by mateusz marianski, nyc, feb 2019  
written fom fhi-aims code by igor y. zhang et al.**

## *A quick summary of the exercises*

### *A guideline through the tutorial*

This tutorial aims to give a basic introduction to electronic structure calculations for very simple systems. As every quantum chemistry code has its own philosophy, this tutorial should familiarize you with the general-purpose Gaussian16 (hereafter abbreviated as G16) software. The experiments will also demonstrate the predictive power of quantum-chemical calculations.

First, the basic structure of an input file to the G16 software will be explained. The second part will introduce scanning along the binding curve and computing observables. The third part introduces geometric optimization of a small molecule and how to assess reliability of the result.

Prob. I:     **The hydrogen atom**

Prob. II:    **Hydrofluoric acid: bond length and dipole moment**

Prob. III:   **Hydronium cation: geometry relaxation, vibrations, and PES**

**As the first step, please use this link to clone the files into your Jupyter directory:** [https://jupyter.hcpchemlab.org/hub/user-redirect/git-pull?repo=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fmskblackbelt%2Fpchem\\_comp-chem\\_template.git&urlpath=lab%2Ftree%2Fpchem\\_comp-chem\\_template%2F](https://jupyter.hcpchemlab.org/hub/user-redirect/git-pull?repo=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fmskblackbelt%2Fpchem_comp-chem_template.git&urlpath=lab%2Ftree%2Fpchem_comp-chem_template%2F)

**Note: Please do not copy and paste the text in this PDF into your input files. Invisible formatting characters are often copied from the PDF. Gaussian will not understand these characters and your calculations will not start.**

### *A first look at G16*

A good practice is to perform each calculations a separate directory. The calculations are initialized by calling the `g16` command on an input file:

```
1 user:~$ g16 input &
```

By convention, always name the input file as `input.com`, though any name will work. The basic input file is shown below. This file starts a calculation on two processors using 400 MB of memory. The output will be redirected to the `input.log` output file. This file contains the basic information and results of the calculation such as the total energy, atomic forces, and so forth. Additional output files might be generated according to the specified settings. Individual components of the input file are described below.

### Structure of a simple input file

```

1 %nproc=2
2 %mem=400MB
   #<method> <basis-set>
4 #sp scf=tight
   <empty line>
6 <title information>
   <empty line>
8 <charge> <multiplicity>
   <atom1>   <x1>   <y1>   <z1>
10 <atom2>   <x2>   <y2>   <z2>
   ...
12 <atomN>   <xN>   <yN>   <zN>
   <empty line>

```

`%nproc=2` This keyword specifies the number of processors that will be employed for calculations. The computer you are using has 2 processing cores and you should use them all.

`%mem=400MB` This keyword manages the maximum memory usage during the calculations. The most efficient memory specification is beyond this tutorial.

`method` Substitute `method` with the method of choice for electron-electron interactions. In this tutorial, we will use several methods, namely Hartree-Fock (HF), Møller-Plesset second order perturbation theory (MP2) and a few density-functionals. The details of each method will be covered in detail during the lecture.

`basis-set` Substitute the `basis-set` word with the desired basis set. This specifies a set of basis functions (for instance atomic orbitals, gaussian-type orbitals, plane waves) that will be used to express an electronic configuration. The recommended basis sets are specified in each exercise.

`sp` The `sp` command orders Gaussian to perform single-point calculations, *i.e.*, energy evaluation of a specified structure using `method` and `basis-set`

`scf=tight` The Schrödinger equation is solved in self-consistent manner. The `scf=tight` option specifies tight convergence criteria for the self-consistent cycle.

`your-comment` This line, surrounded by two empty lines, holds your comment, usually a description of the molecule and/or calculation to be performed.

**charge** The **charge** keyword should be substituted with the total (integer-valued) charge of your system.

**multiplicity** The **multiplicity** keyword should be substituted with the multiplicity of your system ( $2S + 1$ , where  $S$  is total spin). This should always be an integer.

**atomX <X> <Y> <Z>** This block specifies the geometry of the system. You can use either symbol or atomic number for specifying the atom type, followed by its cartesian coordinates in units of Angstroms ( $\text{\AA}$ ). This block must be followed by an empty line.

Remember, there are no bonds (sticks) in quantum chemistry. The bonding is the result of the respective positions of atoms in space. The 'stick' visible in visualization programs is simply a rendering for more intuitive display.

### *Additional tools and programs*

**Bash shell** A short list of the basic bash (command line) commands is given in Appendix .

**vi** A number of introductions to the vi editor are available online. Two such examples are <https://www.openvim.com> and <https://vim-adventures.com/>.

**Scripts** For some exercises, scripts are required for dedicated tasks. All scripts you will need for this tutorial can be found in their respective directories.

## Appendix I: Bash and vi

Bash is a Unix shell and command language for the GNU Project and the default shell on Linux and OS X systems. We will use it to execute most programs and exercises. Below you find a list of the most important commands. Items in quotes indicate user-selected input (a directory/file name, a string of text, etc.). Bash furthermore offers a full programming language (often implemented via shell scripts) to automatize tasks *e.g.*, via loops.

- **Basic navigation:**

```
ls
    list all files and folders

ls "dir-name"
    list files in the directory.

ls -lh
    Detailed (long) list, human readable

ls -l mypics/*.jpg
    list only the jpeg files in the "mypics" directory

cd "folderName"
    change directory

cd ..
    go up one folder, tip: string together multiple folders ../ ../ ../
```

- **Basic file operations:**

```
cat "file"
    show all contents of a file

head "file"
    show the top 10 lines of a file

tail -n5 "file"
    show the last 5 lines of a file

mkdir "dir-name"
    creates a new directory entitled "dir-name" (called folder in Windows
    and macOS)

cp "file1" "file2"
    - copy "file1" to "file2"

cp image.jpg mypics/
    - copy the file "image.jpg" to the "mypics" directory

cp *.txt stuff/
    copy all of files ending with ".txt" to the directory "stuff"
```

```
mv "file1" "file2"
    move (rename) "file1" to "file2"
mv "file1" "dir-name>/"
    move "file1" to directory "dir-name"
mv "folderName/" ..
    move directory up one level
rm "file1"
    delete "file1"
rm -r "junk_stuff"
    delete directory "junk_stuff" and all files contained in it
```

- **Extract, sort and filter data:**

```
grep "someText" "file1"
    search for the text "someText" in "file1".1 The -i flag tells grep to
    ignore letter case (upper/lower).
grep -r "text" "folderName/"
    return a list of lines in files contained in "folderName" with occur-
    rences of "text"
```

<sup>1</sup> If your input has spaces, enclosing the input in double quotes (") will preserve the spaces, e.g., "Some quoted text".

- **Flow redirection and chain commands -redirecting results of commands:**

```
>
    at the end of a command to redirect the result to a file
>>
    to append the result to the end of a file
|
    at the end of a command to send the output to another command
&
    run the command in the background
```

- **Basic control:**

```
→
    auto completion of file or command
↑/↓
    See previous/next commands
ctrl + R
    reverse search history
ctrl + L
    clear the terminal
```

!!

repeat last command

**vi** is a terminal-based file edit program. By typing `vi` you open the program and create a new file that can be save later. By typing `vi "fileName"` , you open “fileName” to edit it. If “fileName” doesn’t exist, you will create the new file and edit it immediately with this program.

The editor, despite its simplicity in appearance, is a very powerful terminal-based tool with numerous key-bindings. Therefore, be careful what you press. In order to start editing the file, you first need to press `I` (**insert**) and then you can start typing. In order to save the file, press the `Esc` key to exit the editing mode, then type : (`↑` + `;`) to enter the command mode in the bottom of the editor and type `wq` (for **write quit**). Confirm with Enter. If you want to quit without saving the file, type `q!` in command mode.

## Problem 1: The hydrogen atom

In this exercise, we will look at different basis sets using the hydrogen atom. The hydrogen atom is the only non-trivial system for which the exact analytic solution is known. By the end of the first exercise, we will see how various computational methods compare to each other and to the exact solution. From a technical perspective, we will learn how to compose input files, run basic Gaussian calculations, search for energy in the Gaussian output, and perform basis set convergence tests.

### Getting started - the hydrogen atom

#### Tasks

1. First, go to the `Problem_1` directory by typing in the terminal `cd ~/pchem_comp-chem_template/Problem_1`. There, create a test directory (`mkdir dir-name`) and generate inside a simple `input.com` file by hand, which contains only a single hydrogen atom, using the example shown in the introduction. This corresponds to a single hydrogen atom in a hypothetical ideal gas phase. It is located at the origin of the coordinate system, although its position does not matter here.
2. For the method, use HF (Hartree-Fock method) and minimal STO-3G basis set which represents each available atomic orbital with 3 contracted gaussian functions.<sup>2</sup>
3. Now, inside the directory, run G16 using the command:

```
1 user:~$ g16 input.com &
```

Once the calculation has finished, open the `input.log` file with a text editor (You may click it in the file browser or, for instance, type `vi input.log` in the terminal).<sup>3</sup> You may need to right-click (or `alt`+right-click in Safari) to open the contextual menu in JupyterLab. In that menu, click `Open with` `Editor`. If you find (`Edit` `Find...`) the line “Normal termination of Gaussian” near the end, then your calculation converged. We are now interested in the total energy. Search for “SCF Done:” inside the output file. You should find a following line:

```
SCF Done: E(UHF) = XXXXX A.U. after X cycles
```

This is the computed electronic energy of the H atom using Hartree-Fock theory in the STO-3G basis set. Compare it with the exact result for the hydrogen atom ( $0.5 \text{ Ha} \approx 13.6057 \text{ eV} \approx 313.7545 \text{ kcal/mol}$ ).<sup>4</sup>

4. Redo the calculation with different basis sets (`cc-pVDZ`, `cc-pVTZ`, `cc-pVQZ`) by creating a new directory, copying the input file into

<sup>2</sup> Gaussian commands are not case-sensitive, so HF is the same as hf, Hf, or hF.

<sup>3</sup> If your calculation results in an error, check your input file. The editor in JupyterLab automatically strips off the last empty line of a file, so you need to add two empty lines before saving in that program. An easy test is to run `echo "\n" >> input.com`, then run `g16 input.com &` again. `\n` is the representation for “newline”, and this appends an empty line to the end of your file.

<sup>4</sup> **TIP:** In later exercises, to find this value quickly and efficiently, use the command `grep "Done" input.log`. The `grep` command searches the `input.log` file looking for the phrase ‘Done’ and outputs each line containing that phrase. Since the file contains only one such a phrase (it solved the electron-theory problem only once), there is only one such line. Please note that the capitalization matters (you can use the `-i` flag to perform a case-insensitive search).



the new directory, and changing the respective keyword in the input file. Search the output file to find out how many basis functions are actually used in the calculations. Then, in your Jupyter notebook, plot the total energy as function of the basis set size. At which basis set does the energy converge to the exact solution?

### *Method performance*

Repeat the calculations with different methods using the prepared bash script `performance.sh`. In the script, replace `METHODS` with the following list of density functionals:<sup>5</sup>

```
SWVN PBEPBE PBE1PBE
```

You can add in the `HF` method if you like, to check the results against your previous step. Next, execute the script by typing:

```
1 user:~$ bash performance.sh
```

<sup>5</sup> Edit the script file with the built-in editor or with `vi` in the terminal.

The script will iterate over the specified methods and tested basis sets (STO-3G, cc-pVXZ, where X=D,T,Q) and create nested directories for each method/basis set pair. Next, it will execute the calculations. Finally, it creates a `performance.dat` file which contains a list of basis sets, number of basis functions in the set, and the computed energy for different methods. **Use this data to prepare a plot in your Jupyter notebook showing the convergence of different methods to the exact value of 0.5 Ha.** Do all of them converge correctly to the same solution? The details of the listed theoretical methods to evaluate electron–electron interactions and why they converge to different values for the apparently trivial one–electron system are beyond this tutorial and will be covered in lecture.

## *Problem 2: Hydrofluoric acid (HF): bond length and dipole moment*

### *Hydrofluoric acid (HF)*

In the exercise, we will calculate the binding curve, atomization energy ( $\Delta H_{\text{at}}$ ), and dipole moment for the hydrogen fluoride (HF) molecule with two methods. From a technical perspective, this exercise teaches how simple shell scripting can be used to make your (computational) life easier.

1. The first task of this exercise will be to find the equilibrium bond distance of HF from a series of calculations. Start by creating an input file (name it `input.temp`) which contains a F atom in the center of the coordinate system and a H atom at distance `DIST` along the *z*-axis. `DIST` is a variable name for a H-F distance in different computational

steps. Please note that HF is a neutral closed-shell system (change the multiplicity).

The template file should specify the method and the basis set used for computation. In this exercise, use HF (Hartree-Fock) and 6-31G (d, p) basis set. Use same keywords (`scf=tight` and `sp`) from previous exercise.

- Next, take a look at the bash script `run_scan.sh`, which runs g16 calculations for a series of bond distances between 0.7 Å and 1.3 Å with 0.1 Å steps, and a denser step width of 0.02 Å between 0.85 Å and 0.95 Å.<sup>6</sup>

Run the bash script `bash run.sh`, which will run the calculations and return you a file with a bond length vs energy. Which bond length corresponds to the lowest energy? How does the bond length compare to the experimental bond length of 0.917 Å?

- To compare with experimental values, we compute the atomization energy ( $\Delta H_{\text{at}}$ ). In order to calculate  $\Delta H_{\text{at}}$ , we will also need the total energy of the isolated H and F atoms. Compute the total energies for the single atoms using the methods HF and 6-31G (d, p) basis set.

Next, calculate the atomization energy ( $\Delta H_{\text{at}}$ ) of HF by subtracting the free-atom energies from the predicted total energy of HF (*i.e.*, the minimum total energy found when varying bond distances).

$$\Delta H_{\text{at}} = E_{\text{tot}}^{\text{HF}} - E_{\text{atom}}^{\text{H}} - E_{\text{atom}}^{\text{F}} \quad (1)$$

How does this compare to the experimental value of  $\Delta H_{\text{at}} = 135.2 \text{ kcal/mol}$  (5.86 eV)?

- Now, let us look at the dipole moment. Search for the corresponding line in the output file. You can use a `grep` function for this task:

```
1 user:~$ grep Dipole file-name -A1 | grep Tot |
   ↵ tail -n1 | awk '{print $8}'
```

The above command is a great example of an ugly bash one-liner that does the job and you don't question it. You can test the one-liner part by part (remove the last pipe(|) and everything following it, check the output, repeat) if you want to understand it better.<sup>7</sup> How does the dipole at the equilibrium distance compare with the experimental value of 1.82 Debye? Plot the dipole moment vs. the bond distance. You will find a (mostly) linear correspondence. Do you expect this trend to continue at large distances? Why or why not?

<sup>6</sup> In details, the script performs following tasks:

- create a unique directory for each computation
- copies your template input file
- replace the bond distance place holder `DIST` with the bond distance
- start G16 calculations
- `grep` for distance/energy and write it to a respective file.

<sup>7</sup> Briefly:

- `-A1` in the first `grep` command tells it to output one (1) line after the search term in addition to the line with the search term.
- The next `grep` command just grabs the lines containing **Total** values.
- `tail -n1` grabs the indicated number of lines (1) at the end of the input.
- `awk` is a "pattern-directed scanning and processing language" used in the Unix ecosystem. This command tells `awk` to print out the eighth record on each line of the input (the default record separator is a single space).

5. Next, repeat the bond length determination using `PBE1PBE` method and same basis set. In order to do so, modify the input-template, mv all the results into `HF` directory (`mkdir HF ; mv dist_* HF/`) and rerun the bash script. In addition, you need to compute energies for H and F again using new method. How does the optimal bond length, atomization energy and dipole moment change? In the lab report, prepare a plot with both dissociation curves, dipole moments and computed atomization energies.

### Problem 3: Hydronium cation

#### Planar hydronium cation

This exercise covers how to perform geometry optimizations. Specifically, we will relax the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  molecule starting from an initial planar guess for the geometry.

1. Create the planar  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  geometry in `geom_planar.xyz` file. Use the following coordinates:

Contents of <code>geom_planar.xyz</code>				
1	O	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	H	0.92	-0.53	0.00
	H	-0.92	-0.53	0.00
4	H	0.00	1.06	0.00

2. Create a template `input.com` file, using the template provided in the first problem. Use HF and 6-31G(d,p) basis set. Moreover, we want to relax the geometry and perform the vibrational analysis of the ion. Therefore, replace the `sp` keyword ('single-point') with `opt` ('optimization') and `freq` ('frequency'). Copy the geometry of the cation at the end of the input file. (`cat geom_planar.xyz >> input.com` and add an empty line at the end).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> An empty line can be appended with  
`cat "\n" >> input.com`

3. Run Gaussian.

```
1 user:~$ g16 input.com &
```

4. To visualize the results, open GaussView by typing `gaussview \&` command. Select `file/open` and open the `output` file. What does the fully relaxed structure look like? Do you think that this is the structure of  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  in the gas phase? Save a picture of the ion.
5. Select Results/Summary and note down the total energy of the ion. Next, open Results/Vibrations and you will see a list of normal modes/vibrations sorted by the wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Animate some of the vibration. You should see that one of the frequencies is negative - check to what normal modes it corresponds. Write down all vibrations for the lab report and indicate to what kind of molecular motion they correspond to.

#### Pyramidal hydronium cation

Next, repeat the calculations for a pyramidal hydronium cation:

#### Contents of geom\_pyramidal.xyz

```

1 O      0.00   0.00   0.00
2 H      0.92  -0.53  -0.66
  H     -0.92  -0.53  -0.66
4 H      0.00   1.06  -0.66

```

Visualize the results with Gaussview. You should see the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  in pyramidal conformation now. Select Results/Summary and note down the total energy of the ion and compare it with the planar structure. Which conformation has lower energy? Next, open Results/Vibrations to inspect normal modes/vibrations. If calculations were done properly, all vibrations should have positive wavenumbers. Save the vibrations and describe the motion they correspond to.

#### Potential-Energy Surface Scan

In the final problem, we are going to inspect the potential-energy surface of the hydronium ion along its umbrella mode. In the planar cation problem, you have seen that the negative<sup>9</sup> frequency corresponds to such an ‘umbrella’ mode.

<sup>9</sup> In fact, it’s imaginary, i is dropped by convention

- Change to the PES directory. You will an template input file already prepared. If you open it, you should see that the xyz-cartesian coordinates has been replaced with a z-matrix. The z-matrix allows precise control of the geometry within single calculations.

#### z-matrix in the PES input file

```

1 O
2 X  1 a
  H  1 a  2 HOX
4 H  1 a  2 HOX  3 120.0
  H  1 a  2 HOX  3 -120.0
6
  a=OH
8 HOX= 135. -1. 45

```

- The first column shows the bonding, second shows the angles between atoms and the third column specifies the dihedral angle. X is a dummy (non-existent) atom that enables control of the umbrella motion. Figure 1 explains the z-matrix graphically. First, open the optimized pyramidal ion and measure the O–H distance and replace OH in the input file. Next, run the calculations. The calculations will perform a scan along the X–O–H angle, performing a single point calculations

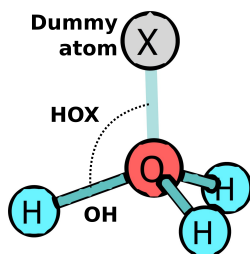


Figure 1: Definition of hydronium ion internal coordinates. The calculations perform a scan along the HOX coordinates for all three hydrogens from  $135^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ . The  $120^\circ$  dihedral angle indicates the relative position of hydrogen atoms.

every  $1^\circ$  from  $135^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ . When the calculations are finished, visualize the results with GaussView (results/scan). Save the results, the Potential-Energy Surface (PES), and the specified coordinate (X–O–H angle). The PES for angles below  $90^\circ$  is the mirror image. Use kcal/mol instead of Ha in the report.

- Localize the lowest-energy and transition structure along the PES and calculate the reaction barrier of the internal flip of the hydronium ion. Whereas the energy of the pyramidal ion is comparable with the minimum on the PES, the energy of the optimized planar cation and the maximum on PES is different. Why? Compare the geometries.
- In the final step, rerun the calculations using MP2 method.

### Lab report

For the lab report, please prepare following data. This is bare minimum, there are couple of open questions in the text that you should try to assess.

1. Plot the Total Energy vs number of basis function for a hydrogen atom for all methods used in Problem 1.
2. Plot the binding curves for HF using Hartree-Fock and PBE1PBE methods. Find the minimum distance and compute the atomization energy. Plot the dipole moment as a function of the bond distance.
3. Prepare tables listing molecular vibrations in a hydronium ion in planar and pyramidal geometries. Assign the wavenumbers to molecular vibrations.
4. Plot the PES along the HOX coordinate using HF and MP2 methods. Use kcal/mol for the y-axis. Compute the height of the barrier separating two pyramidal structures.