A gentle introduction to MCTDH

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November 5, 2020



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- Nuclear Quantum Dynamics
 - The Standard method
 - The Time-Dependent Hartree method
- The Multiconfiguration Time-Dependent Hartree method
 - EOMs
 - Relaxation and block-improved relaxation
- 3 Potential energy surface representations
 - Tensor decomposition algorithms
- 4 Code structure and example applications

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Nuclear Quantum Dynamics

What

The subfield of Theoretical Chemistry in which both the **electrons** and the **nuclei** of a molecular system are treated in a **quantum-mechanical** manner.

Nuclear Quantum Dynamics

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The subfield of Theoretical Chemistry in which both the **electrons** and the **nuclei** of a molecular system are treated in a **quantum-mechanical** manner.

When

- Spectroscopy (e.g. IR transitions)
- Quantum tunneling
- Vibronic coupling
- 7PE determination



Nuclear Quantum Dynamics

Find the numerical solution of the TDSE truncating the Hilbert space to a finite dimension (Galerkin's method):

$$i\hbar\frac{\partial\Psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H}\Psi\tag{1}$$

Given a parametric representation of the WF (Ψ) , the optimal solution can be found using the Dirac-Frenkel Variational Principle (DF-VP):

$$\langle \delta \Psi | \hat{H} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} | \Psi \rangle = 0 \tag{2}$$

The Standard method

Most direct representation of the WF:

$$\Psi(q_i, \dots, q_f, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{N_1} \dots \sum_{j_f=1}^{N_f} C_{j_1 \dots j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)$$
 (3)

After plugging this WF into the DF-VP, and performing the corresponding algebra we obtain the following EOMs:

$$i\dot{C}_{L} = \sum_{J} \langle \varphi_{L} | \hat{H} | \varphi_{J} \rangle C_{J}$$

$$C(t) = e^{-iHt}C(0)$$
(4)

where we have introduced the composite indexes $J=(j_1,\ldots,j_f)$.



The Time-Dependent Hartree method

If we now consider time-dependent single-particle functions (SPFs):

$$\Psi(q_1,\ldots,q_f,t) = A(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \underbrace{\sum_{\mu=1}^{N_\kappa} c_\mu^{(\kappa,j_\kappa)}(t) \cdot \chi_\mu^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)}_{\varphi_\kappa(q_\kappa,t)}$$
(5)

and use the DF-VP with arbitrary real constraints $g_{\kappa}=i\,\langle\varphi_{\kappa}(t)|\dot{\varphi}_{\kappa}(t)\rangle$, we get the EOMs:

$$A(t) = A(0) \cdot e^{-i \int_0^t E(t') dt'}$$

$$i \dot{\varphi}_{\kappa} = (\mathcal{H}^{(\kappa)} - E) \varphi_{\kappa}$$
(6)

with
$$\mathcal{H}^{(\kappa)} = \langle \Phi^{(\kappa)} | H | \Phi^{(\kappa)} \rangle$$
.

Limitations of SM and TDH

Standard method

Its application is largely limited due to the **curse of dimensionality**. Only systems up to four atoms (6D) can be addressed in practice.

Time-Dependent Hartree

A simpler approach, but physically inaccurate. The **nuclear correlation** is harder to retrieve than the electronic correlation due to the nuclei's larger mass. The character of the nuclear WF is inherently **multiconfigurational**.

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Ansätze comparison

Standard Method (FCI)

$$\Psi(q_i,\ldots,q_f,t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{N_1} \cdots \sum_{j_f=1}^{N_f} C_{j_1\ldots j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)$$
 (7)

Ansätze comparison

Standard Method (FCI)

$$\Psi(q_i, ..., q_f, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{N_1} \cdots \sum_{j_f=1}^{N_f} C_{j_1...j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)$$
 (7)

Time-Dependent Hartree (HM)

$$\Psi(q_1,\ldots,q_f,t) = A(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_\kappa^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa,t)$$
 (8)

Ansätze comparison

Standard Method (FCI)

$$\Psi(q_i, ..., q_f, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{N_1} \cdots \sum_{j_f=1}^{N_f} C_{j_1...j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)$$
 (7)

Time-Dependent Hartree (HM)

$$\Psi(q_1,\ldots,q_f,t) = A(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_\kappa^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa,t)$$
 (8)

Multiconfiguration Time-Dependent Hartree (MCSCF)

$$\Psi(q_1, \dots, q_f, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{n_1} \dots \sum_{j_f=1}^{n_f} A_{j_1, \dots, j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa, t)$$
 (9)

.

MCTDH origins and distribution

MCTDH was originally developed by Meyer and coworkers from the University of Heidelberg, in the early nineties:

THE MULTI-CONFIGURATIONAL TIME-DEPENDENT HARTREE APPROACH
H.-D. MEYER, U. MANTHE and L.S. CEDERBAUM
Theoretische Chemic, Physikalisch-Chemisches Institus, Universität Heidelberg, D-6900 Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany
Received 11 October 1989

There are currently three major implementations of the algorithm:









The MCTDH EOMs

The MCTDH ansatz has a very flexible Sum-of-Products (SOP) form:

$$\Psi(q_1, \dots, q_f, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{n_1} \dots \sum_{j_f=1}^{n_f} A_{j_1, \dots, j_f}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa, t)$$
 (10)

with time dependent SPFs

$$\varphi_{j_{\kappa}}^{(\kappa)}(q_{\kappa},t) = \sum_{\mu=1}^{N_{\kappa}} c_{\mu}^{(\kappa,j_{\kappa})}(t) \cdot \chi_{\mu}^{(\kappa)}(q_{\kappa}) \tag{11}$$

The $\chi_{\mu}^{(\kappa)}(q_{\kappa})$ are typically DVR functions.



The MCTDH EOMs

The ansatz WF is determined up to a multiplicative constant. To derive the EOMs arbitrary constraint operators $(\hat{g}^{(\kappa)})$ are introduced:

$$i \langle \varphi_I^{(\kappa)} | \dot{\varphi}_j^{(\kappa)} \rangle = \langle \varphi_I^{(\kappa)} | \hat{g}^{(\kappa)} | \varphi_I^{(\kappa)} \rangle$$
 (12)

Using once again the DF-VP we get (for $\hat{g}^{(\kappa)} \equiv 0$):

$$i\dot{A}_{J} = \sum_{L} \langle \Phi_{J} | \hat{H} | \Phi_{L} \rangle A_{L}$$

$$i\dot{\varphi}_{j}^{(\kappa)} = (1 - \hat{P}^{(\kappa)}) \sum_{k,l=1}^{n_{\kappa}} (\boldsymbol{\rho}^{(\kappa)^{-1}})_{jk} \langle \hat{H} \rangle_{kl}^{(\kappa)} \varphi_{l}^{(\kappa)}$$
(13)

The MCTDH EOMs

$$i\dot{A}_{J} = \sum_{L} \langle \Phi_{J} | \hat{H} | \Phi_{L} \rangle A_{L}$$

$$i\dot{\varphi}_{j}^{(\kappa)} = (1 - \hat{P}^{(\kappa)}) \sum_{k,l=1}^{n_{\kappa}} (\rho^{(\kappa)})^{-1}_{jk} \langle \hat{H} \rangle_{kl}^{(\kappa)} \varphi_{l}^{(\kappa)}$$
(14)

$$\Phi_J = \prod_{\kappa=1}^t \varphi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)} \tag{15}$$

$$\rho_{kl}^{(\kappa)} = \langle \Psi_k^{(\kappa)} | \Psi_l^{(\kappa)} \rangle = \sum_{J^{\kappa}} A_{J_k^{\kappa}}^* A_{J_l^{\kappa}} \quad \langle \hat{H} \rangle_{kl}^{(\kappa)} = \langle \Psi_k^{(\kappa)} | \hat{H} | \Psi_l^{(\kappa)} \rangle \quad (16)$$

$$\hat{P}^{(\kappa)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\kappa}} |\varphi_j^{(\kappa)}\rangle \langle \varphi_j^{(\kappa)}| \tag{17}$$

MCTDH integration scheme

The MCTDH-EOMs solution is expensive due to the large amount of multidimensional integrals to solve. Since the **mean fields** are not strongly oscillating we can consider (CMF integration):

$$i\dot{\varphi}_{j}^{(1)} = (1 - \hat{P}^{(1)})\{\hat{h}^{(1)}\varphi_{j}^{(1)} + \sum_{k,l=1}^{n_{1}} (\rho^{(1)^{-1}})_{jk} \langle \bar{H}_{R} \rangle_{kl}^{(1)} \varphi_{l}^{(1)} \}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$i\dot{\varphi}_{j}^{(f)} = (1 - \hat{P}^{(f)})\{\hat{h}^{(f)}\varphi_{j}^{(f)} + \sum_{k,l=1}^{n_{f}} (\rho^{(f)^{-1}})_{jk} \langle \bar{H}_{R} \rangle_{kl}^{(f)} \varphi_{l}^{(f)} \}$$

$$(18)$$

Mode combination

Nothing prevents us from grouping physical coordinates into logical particles:

$$Q_{\kappa} \equiv (q_{\kappa,1}, q_{\kappa,1}, \dots, q_{\kappa,d})$$

$$\varphi_{j}^{(\kappa)}(Q_{\kappa}, t) = \varphi_{j}^{(\kappa)}(q_{\kappa,1}, q_{\kappa,1}, \dots, q_{\kappa,d}, t)$$
(19)

Under these conditions, the MCTDH *ansatz* will take the form:

$$\Psi(Q_{1},...,Q_{p},t) = \sum_{j_{1}=1}^{n_{1}} \cdots \sum_{j_{p}=1}^{n_{p}} A_{j_{1},...,j_{p}}(t) \prod_{\kappa=1}^{p} \varphi_{j_{\kappa}}^{(\kappa)}(Q_{\kappa},t)
\varphi_{j}^{(\kappa)}(Q_{\kappa},t) = \sum_{i_{1}...i_{d}} C_{i_{1}...i_{d}}^{(\kappa,j)}(t) \prod_{\nu=1}^{d} \chi^{(\kappa,\nu)}(q_{\kappa,\nu})$$
(20)

Multilayer MCTDH (3-layer case)

We can propagate the multidimensional SPFs with MCTDH itself!

$$\Psi(q_1, q_2, q_3, t) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{n_{12}} \sum_{j_3=1}^{n_3} A_{j_{12}j_3}(t) \varphi_{j_{12}}^{(12)}(q_1, q_2, t) \varphi_{j_3}^{(3)}(q_3, t)$$
(21)

where we have introduced:

$$\varphi_{j_{12}}^{(12)}(q_1, q_2, t) = \sum_{k_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{n_2} B_{k_1, k_2}^{(12, j_{12})}(t) \prod_{\mu=1}^{2} \xi_{k_{\mu}}^{(\mu)}(q_{\mu}, t)$$
 (22)

and:

$$\xi_{k_{\mu}}^{(\mu)}(q_{\mu},t) = \sum_{i=-1}^{N_{\mu}} c_{i_{\mu}}^{(\mu,k_{\mu})}(t) \chi_{i_{\mu}}^{(\mu)}(q_{\mu})$$
 (23)

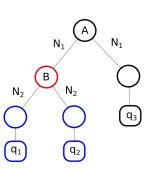


Multilayer MCTDH (3-layer case)

$$\Psi(q_1,q_2,q_3,t) = \sum_{j_1 = 1}^{n_{12}} \sum_{j_3 = 1}^{n_3} A_{j_1 2 j_3}(t) \varphi_{j_1 2}^{(12)}(q_1,q_2,t) \varphi_{j_3}^{(3)}(q_3,t)$$

$$\varphi_{j_{12}}^{(12)}(q_1,q_2,t) = \sum_{k_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{n_2} B_{k_1,k_2}^{(12,j_{12})}(t) \prod_{\mu=1}^2 \xi_{k_\mu}^{(\mu)}(q_\mu,t)$$

$$\xi_{k_{\mu}}^{(\mu)}(q_{\mu},t) = \sum_{i_{\mu}=1}^{N_{\mu}} c_{i_{\mu}}^{(\mu,k_{\mu})}(t) \chi_{i_{\mu}}^{(\mu)}(q_{\mu})$$



Obtaining vibrational orbitals

MCTDH can be also used to solve the TISE. The GS distribution of the system can be obtained by propagation in negative imaginary time $\tau = -it$:

$$\dot{\Psi} = -\hat{H}\Psi \tag{24}$$

The new algorithm can be derived by applying the time-independent variational principle with Lagrange multipliers:

$$\delta\{\langle \Psi|\hat{H}|\Psi\rangle - E(\sum_{J} A_{J}^{*}A_{J} - 1) - \sum_{\kappa=1}^{f} \sum_{j,l=1}^{n_{\kappa}} \epsilon_{jl}^{(\kappa)} [\langle \varphi_{j}^{(\kappa)} | \varphi_{l}^{(\kappa)} \rangle - \delta_{jl}]\} = 0$$
(25)

Obtaining vibrational orbitals

Taking the variations with respect to the complex conjugate of both the A-vector and the SPFs independently we get:

$$\sum_{K} H_{JK} A_{K} = EA_{J}$$

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_{j}^{(\kappa)}}{\partial \tau} = -(1 - \hat{P}^{(\kappa)}) \sum_{k,l} (\rho^{(\kappa)^{-1}})_{jk} \langle \hat{H} \rangle_{kl}^{(\kappa)} \varphi_{l}^{(\kappa)} = 0$$
(26)

The second of these equations implies that we can obtain the updated SPFs simply by relaxation. The A-vector in the first equation can be obtained by Davidson diagonalization algorithm.

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The importance of the SOP form

The multidimensional integrals arising from the MCTDH-EOMs are the bottleneck of the propagation. To address this issue, we impose SOP form to **all quantities**:

$$\hat{O} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{S} c_{\alpha} \prod_{\kappa=1}^{f} \hat{o}_{\alpha}^{(\kappa)}$$

$$\langle \Phi_{J} | \hat{O} | \Phi_{L} \rangle = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{S} c_{\alpha} \prod_{\kappa=1}^{f} \langle \varphi_{j_{\kappa}}^{(\kappa)} | \hat{o}_{\alpha}^{(\kappa)} | \varphi_{l_{\kappa}}^{(\kappa)} \rangle$$
(27)

KEO already in the desired form (TANA and TNUM software)

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(27)

- KEO already in the desired form (TANA and TNUM software)
- PES might be challenging to transform



Transforming the PES

Usually the PES needs to be refitted (**tensor decomposed**) before using it. The POTFIT algorithm is an elegant way of achieving this in **Tucker form**:

$$V_{i_{1},...,i_{f}} = V(q_{i_{1}}^{(1)},...,q_{i_{f}}^{(f)})$$

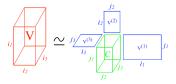
$$V_{i_{1},...,i_{f}} = \sum_{j_{1}=1}^{m_{1}} \cdots \sum_{j_{f}=1}^{m_{f}} C_{j_{1}\cdots j_{f}} \prod_{\kappa=1}^{f} u_{i_{\kappa}j_{\kappa}}^{(\kappa)}$$
(28)

with the core tensor coefficients given by the overlap with the potential:

$$C_{j_1...j_f} = \sum_{i_1...i_f} V_{i_1...i_f} u_{i_1 \ j_1}^{(1)} \cdots u_{i_f \ j_f}^{(f)}$$
 (29)

The Tucker form

The tucker decomposition of a 3D tensor can be represented graphically as¹



which can be contrasted with the algebraic and tensor forms:

$$V_{i_1,\dots,i_f} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} \dots \sum_{j_f=1}^{m_f} C_{j_1\dots j_f} \prod_{\kappa=1}^f u_{i_\kappa j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}$$

$$\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{C} \times_1 \bigcup_1 \dots \times_n \bigcup_n \bigcup_n U_n$$
(30)

Tensor decomposition algorithms

There is a number of tensor decomposition algorithms currently in use (e.g. POTFIT, MGPF, MCPF, MLPF), however, they are all limited by the size of the grids. The **SOP-FBR** method was developed as an alternative to the former:

$$V(q_1, \dots, q_f) = \sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} \dots \sum_{j_f=1}^{m_f} C_{j_1 \dots j_f} \prod_{\kappa=1}^f \Phi_{j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)}(q_\kappa)$$

$$\Phi_{j_\kappa}(q_\kappa) = \sum_{\nu_\kappa=1}^{t_k} B_{\nu_\kappa j_\kappa}^{(\kappa)} T_{\nu_\kappa}(q_\kappa)$$
(31)

This is a fully analytical SOP form, differentiable *ad infinitum*, and that can be directly interfaced with MCTDH.



The POTFIT and HOOI algorithms

Algorithm 1: POTFIT

Result: C, U_1, \ldots, U_n

Input: \mathcal{V} :

for $k \leftarrow 1$ to n do

$$\bigcup_k \leftarrow EVD(V_{(k)}^{\dagger} \cdot V_{(k)})$$

end

$$C \leftarrow V \times_1 U_1^{-1} \cdots \times_n U_n^{-1}$$

Algorithm 2: HOSVD HOOI

Result: C, U_1, \ldots, U_n

Input: \mathcal{V} ;

repeat

$$\begin{cases} \text{for } k \leftarrow 1 \text{ to } n \text{ do} \\ & \mathcal{Y} \leftarrow \mathcal{V} \times_1 \cup_1^{-1} \cdots \times_{k-1} \cup_{k-1}^{-1} \times_{k+1} \\ & \cup_{k+1}^{-1} \cdots \times_n \cup_n^{-1}; \\ & \cup_k \leftarrow SVD(\mathsf{V}_{(k)}) \ SVD(\mathsf{Y}_{(k)}) \end{cases}$$

 $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \mathcal{V} \times_1 \mathsf{U_1}^{-1} \cdots \times_n \mathsf{U_n}^{-1}$

until
$$\|\mathcal{V}_{app} - \mathcal{V}\| < \epsilon$$
;

- $EVD(V_{(k)}^{\dagger} \cdot V_{(k)}) \equiv SVD(V_{(k)})$!
- POTFIT optimizes the factor matrices in a slightly different manner:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{j}^{(\kappa)} = \mathbf{v}_{j}^{(\kappa)} + \sum_{l=n_{\kappa}+1}^{N_{\kappa}} \mu_{jl}^{(\kappa)} \mathbf{v}_{l}^{(\kappa)}$$



The SOP-FBR algorithm

```
Function sopfbr (B, C):
     / ← 0:
     for k \leftarrow 0 to D do
          for i \leftarrow 0 to M[k] do
               for i \leftarrow 0 to G_{ab}[:, k] do
                    U_{ii}^{(k)} \leftarrow \text{chebyshev}(G_{ab}[i, k], B(l: l + T[k]));
               end
               I \leftarrow I + T[k];
     end
     E_{\text{sop}} \leftarrow C \times_1 U^{(1)} \cdots \times_D U^{(D)}:
return Eson
```

```
Algorithm 3: SOP-FBR
```

Result: Xont

Input: x_{guess} guess parameters, D dimensionality, M number of basis functions, T degree of Chebyshev series, Ng number of geometries, ϵ threshold;

$$\begin{split} k &\leftarrow 0; \\ x_0 \leftarrow x_{guess}; \\ G_{ab}, E_{ab} \leftarrow \text{geogen}(N_g); \\ &\text{Function target } (B, C); \\ & \left| \begin{array}{c} E_{\text{sop}} \leftarrow \text{sopfbr}(B, C); \\ \rho \leftarrow \|E_{ab} - E_{\text{sop}}\|_{L_2}; \\ \text{return } \rho \end{array} \right. \end{split}$$

repeat

 $x_{opt} \leftarrow x_k$

repeat
$$\begin{vmatrix} B, C \leftarrow \mathrm{split}(x_k, T \times M); \\ B \leftarrow \mathrm{BFGS}(\mathrm{target}(B, \bar{C})); \\ \rho, C \leftarrow \mathrm{Powell}(\mathrm{target}(\bar{B}, C)); \\ x_{k+1} \leftarrow \mathrm{concatenate}(B, C); \\ k \leftarrow k+1; \\ \mathbf{until} \ \rho < \epsilon \lor k < N; \end{vmatrix}$$

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The Heidelberg implementation of MCTDH

The actual implementation is written mainly in $f(or)\text{tr}[\mathbf{an}]$, with some small Θ and \mathbb{C} contributions. The program has a modular structure with a very intuitive and consistent input syntax. Some sections of a POTFIT input file:

```
RUN-SECTION
                                           # System declaration
   name = h2o.pfit
                                           # The file extension only
                                           # suggests a POTFIT calculation
end-run-section
OPERATOR-SECTION
   pes = pjt2{binding}
   vcut < 0.5
                                           # Define Hamiltonian
end-operator-section
PRIMITIVE-BASIS-SECTION
                   1.0
                          3.475
         sin
                34 1 0
                          3 475
                                           # Define coordinates
   theta Leg/R 50
                          all
                               0532
                                           # and basis functions
end-primitive-basis-section
```

Applications

Some interesting applications that showcase the power of MCTDH are 2 :

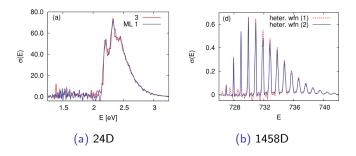


Figure: Power spectrum obtained with ML-MCTDH for (a) pyrazine (b) the Henon-Heiles Hamiltonian

²Vendrell, O., and Meyer, H.D., JCP 134.4 (2011): ⊕44135. ← ≥ → ← ≥ → ∞ へ ⊙

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Beck, M.H., *et al.* The multiconfiguration time-dependent Hartree (MCTDH) method: a highly efficient algorithm for propagating wavepackets. Physics reports 324.1 (2000): 1–105.



Thanks for your attention!
Bedankt voor uw aandacht!

Questions? Vragen?