Scaled Schrödinger Equation and the Exact Wave Function

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(Received 27 September 2003; published 16 July 2004)

We propose the scaled Schrödinger equation and the related principles, and construct a general method of calculating the exact wave functions of atoms and molecules in analytical forms. The nuclear and electron singularity problems no longer occur. Test applications are given to some elementary systems.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.93.030403 PACS numbers: 03.65.Ca, 03.65.Ge, 31.10.+z, 31.15.–p

To develop a general systematic method of solving the Schrödinger equation (SE) and the corresponding relativistic equation is of central importance in theoretical physics and chemistry. So far, there was no general method of solving the SE in an analytical form. Only full configuration interaction (CI) is a practical method of calculating the “exact” wave function, but the number of the variables involved is astronomical and therefore the application is limited. Furthermore, the full CI solutions are actually far from the solutions of the SE, because the basis sets are usually far from complete. In our series of papers [1–6], we have studied a general method of solving the SE by investigating the structure of the exact wave function. Here, we introduce a variant of the SE and propose a general method of calculating the exact wave functions of atoms and molecules in analytical forms. Test applications are given to some elementary systems.

In the nonrelativistic Born-Oppenheimer approximation, the atomic and molecular system is defined by the Hamiltonian

\[ H = \sum_i -\frac{1}{2} \Delta_i - \sum_i \sum_A Z_{Ai} r_{Ai} + \sum_{i>j} 1/r_{ij} \]  

and is described by the exact wave function that is a solution of the SE

\[ H \psi = E \psi, \]  

or the inverse Schrödinger equation (ISE) [5]

\[ H^{-1} \psi = E^{-1} \psi, \]  

where \( H^{-1}H = HH^{-1} = 1 \). Note that in the ISE, \( H \) is actually the positive Hamiltonian [5].

We summarize briefly the past results [1–6] to introduce our background. A condition for the wave function \( \psi \) to have the structure of the exact wave function is expressed as follows. When the unknown variables included in \( \psi \) are optimized by the variational principle, and when the resultant \( \psi \) satisfies the \( H \)-square equation [1–3], then this \( \psi \) has the structure of the exact wave function. This is because the variational principle gives the best possible wave function and the \( H \)-square equation is valid only for the exact wave function. From this criterion, we have proposed the iterative CI (ICI) method and the simplest extreme (or extended) coupled-cluster (SECC) method as methods of constructing the exact wave function.

Suppose that we divide our \( H \) into \( N_D \) parts, \( H = \sum_{i=1}^{N_D} H_i \), and define the variable operator \( S \) by \( S = \sum_{i=1}^{N_D} C_i H_i \) with \( N_D \) variables \( \{C_i\} \). Then, the ICI wave function is defined by the recurrence

\[ \psi_{n+1} = (1 + S_i)\psi_n. \]  

The variables are optimized by the variational principle, and, at convergence, \( \psi_n \) is proved to be exact. Since each step of the ICI is variational, its energy converges monotonically to the exact value. When \( N_D = 1 \), it is the simplest ICI (SICI). The ECC wave function is defined by

\[ \psi = \exp(S)\psi_0, \]  

The simplest one (SECC) for \( N_D = 1 \) is proved to be exact, but the optimal \( C \) would be minus infinite from a different argument. On the other hand, the general ECC (\( N_D \neq 1 \)) is not guaranteed to be exact [1,3], though it may happen to become exact because of its highly nonlinear nature [3]. This was in contrast to the conjecture given by Nooijen [7] and Piecuch et al. [8] (CCGSD is a special case of ECCND for second-quantized Hamiltonian). Descriptions of the excited states with the ICI and ECC methods were given in some details in Refs. [2,4]. The above arguments are also valid for the inverse Hamiltonian case [5].

Singularities.—The atomic and molecular Hamiltonians have nuclear and electron singularities in the second and third terms, respectively, of Eq. (1). In the SE of Eq. (2), the right hand side has no singularities, and, therefore, these singularities caused by the Hamiltonian must be canceled out within the left hand side of the SE. (For example, in a hydrogen atom, the attractive Coulomb force is canceled by the centrifugal force.) This consideration leads easily to the nuclear and electron cusp conditions first derived by Kato [9]. The exact wave functions
satisfy these conditions, and, therefore, no singularities exist in the SE. However, for approximate wave functions, this complete cancellation of the singularities in $H\psi$ does not occur and some problems are caused. For example, in Table I, the integrals of the $n$th power of the Hamiltonian of the hydrogen atom give correct values for the exact wave function, but diverge for the approximate wave functions for $n$ larger than 3.

In the ICI and ECC formalisms, there appear the integrals over $H^n$ with $n \geq 3$, so that these theories have difficulties for atoms and molecules. This is true for any theories that involve such higher powers of Hamiltonian [10–12]. But, when we use $H^{-1}$ instead of $H$, such a difficulty does not occur [5]; a problem there was how to write the inverse Hamiltonian in a closed form, though even the expanded form worked well [5]. We show in this Letter an approach that is free from such a difficulty.

**Scaled Schrödinger equation.**—We introduce the scaled Schrödinger equation (SSE) by

$$g(H-E)\psi = 0,$$

which is equivalent to the SE. The function $g$, called the scaling function, is a function of electron coordinates. It is a multiplicative operator and generally does not commute with the Hamiltonian. It is always positive (or negative) and nonzero except at the singular points. Even at the singular point $r_0$,

$$\lim_{r \to r_0} gV \neq 0,$$

where $V$ is the potential operator in the Hamiltonian, in order not to eliminate the information of the Hamiltonian at the singular points: the singularity itself is also important information of the Hamiltonian. In other words, if we introduce $1/g$, its singularity at $r_0$ is less steep than or equally steep as that of the potential in the Hamiltonian.

The proof of the equivalence between the SE and SSE is almost self-evident. If SE is valid, SSE is valid. Contrarily, if SSE is valid, by multiplying $1/g$ from the left of the SSE, we obtain the SE. This is valid even at the singular points because of Eq. (7).

A choice of $g$ is $g = 1/(v_{ne} + v_{ee})$, where $v_{ne}$ and $v_{ee}$ are the nuclear-electron attraction operator and electron-electron repulsion operator, respectively. A different choice is $g = -1/v_{ne}v_{ee}$.

**Variational principle and square theorem for the SSE.**—The variational principle and the square theorem are important for developing the theory of the exact wave function. From Eq. (6), the variational formula for the SSE is written as

$$\langle \delta \psi | g(H-E) | \psi \rangle = 0$$

for arbitrary $\delta \psi$. This principle may also be used to calculate the best possible wave function within the given functional form of $\psi$. The energy $E$ may be defined by $E = \langle \psi | gH | \psi \rangle / \langle \psi | g | \psi \rangle$, which is called scaled energy and is different from the Ritz energy, $E = \langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle / \langle \psi | \psi \rangle$. The scaled energy does not necessarily have the stationary property, different from the Ritz energy. For the exact wave function, both scaled and Ritz energies become equal to the exact energy.

The square theorem for the SSE is written as

$$\langle \psi | (H-E)g \cdot g(H-E) | \psi \rangle = 0,$$

which is valid only for the exact wave function that satisfies the SSE or SE. The proof is very simple. This equation is rewritten as $\int |g(H-E)\psi|^2 d\tau = 0$, whose integrand is always positive or zero, and, therefore, the integrand must be zero in order that the sum of them is zero, which leads to the SSE. The converse is self-evident. (Q.E.D.)

If $\psi$ is chosen such that its variation put into the variational principle, Eq. (8), leads to the square theorem, Eq. (9), then this $\psi$ has the structure of the exact wave function, since this $\psi$ is guaranteed to become exact after variational calculation.

**Simplest ICI and simplest ECC theories based on the SSE.**—We can formulate the ICI and ECC theories associated with the SSE. From the above argument, the

### Table I. Integrals of the higher powers of the Hamiltonian and the scaled Hamiltonian of the hydrogen atom over the Slater-type and Gaussian-type orbitals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator $O$ in $^{a,b,c}$</th>
<th>Exact (α = 1.0)</th>
<th>Slater-type Approximate (α = 0.8)</th>
<th>Gaussian-type $\alpha = 0.3$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$H$</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-0.48</td>
<td>-0.424 0387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H^2$</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.4608</td>
<td>0.488 653 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$H^3$</td>
<td>-0.125</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$vHv$</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
<td>$-\infty$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Hg \cdot (gH)^2$</td>
<td>-0.5625</td>
<td>-0.624</td>
<td>-0.140 239 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$HgHgH$</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
<td>-0.2624</td>
<td>-0.071 178 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$HgH^2$</td>
<td>-0.1875</td>
<td>-0.245 76</td>
<td>-0.539 667 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$HgH^3$</td>
<td>0.093 75</td>
<td>$\infty$</td>
<td>$\infty$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^{a}H = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} - \frac{1}{2}.$ $^{b}v = -\frac{1}{r}.$ $^{c}g = r.$
The number of the variables is characterized by two features. (1) It generates the functions that converge iteratively to the exact wave function is characterized by two features. (1) It generates the functions that converge iteratively to the exact wave function. (2) The number of the variables is determined by the variational principle.

Square theorem for the partitioned Hamiltonian and the ICIND.—The square theorem is generalized with the partitioned Hamiltonian \( H = \sum_{I=1}^{N_D} H_I \). Namely, when the partitioned square theorem,

\[
\langle \psi | (H - E_n) g \cdot g (H_I - E_I) | \psi \rangle = 0,
\]

for all \( I = 1, \ldots, N_D \). When we do not partition the Hamiltonian, it is SICI, and we see from Table I that all the integrals involved exist.

Free ICI Method.—The ICI method for calculating the exact wave function is characterized by two features. (1) It generates the functions that converge iteratively to the exact wave function. (2) The number of the variables is small and fixed to \( N_D \) throughout the calculations.

Let us now relax the second property. Namely, we use all the independent functions \( \{ \phi_k \}_{k}^{n} \) included in the \( n \)th iteration function of the SICI given by Eq. (11) for expanding our wave function, namely,

\[
\psi_{n+1} = \sum_{k=1}^{M_n} c_{k,n} \phi_k,
\]

where \( M_n \) is the number of the independent functions. The coefficient \( c_{k,n} \) is calculated by the ordinary Ritz variational principle. Since the functions \( \phi_k \) are generated with the scaled Hamiltonian, we no longer have the singularity problem. We call this method the free ICI method. Since the ICI formulation is guaranteed to reach the exact wave function, this free ICI gives the best possible wave function, in a variational sense, at each iteration. When \( M_n \) is not large, we need not keep it to \( N_D \). We further note that in the free ICI, no accumulation of errors occurs, since no variables of the earlier iteration step is used in the later iteration step. We can start \( n \)th iteration step without performing the earlier \( n - 1 \) iterations.

We apply the present ICI method based on the SSE to the analytical calculations of the exact wave functions of hydrogen atom, helium atom, and hydrogen molecule.

Hydrogen atom.—The Hamiltonian for the \( s \) state of the hydrogen atom is \( H = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} - \frac{1}{r} - \frac{2}{r} - \frac{Z}{r}. \) The scaling function is chosen as \( g = r \). We performed the free ICI using \( \psi_0 = \exp(-\alpha r) \) with \( \alpha = 1.5, \alpha = 1.0 \) is the exact wave function. We see from Table I that the singularity problem does not occur in the present method. Table II gives the results. As the iteration proceeds, the number of the independent functions increases one by one and the Ritz energy converges after seven iterations and the scaled energy by eight iterations to the exact energy up to nine decimal figures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iteration</th>
<th>( M_n )^a</th>
<th>Ritz energy</th>
<th>Scaled energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.375</td>
<td>-0.625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-0.491 025 404</td>
<td>-0.512 259 526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-0.499 316 143</td>
<td>-0.501 470 244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-0.499 954 132</td>
<td>-0.500 144 830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-0.499 997 229</td>
<td>-0.500 011 697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-0.499 999 844</td>
<td>-0.500 000 825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-0.499 999 992</td>
<td>-0.500 000 053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-0.500 000 000</td>
<td>-0.500 000 003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-0.500 000 000</td>
<td>-0.500 000 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^a Number of independent functions.
We want to test how good this automatic method is. For general atomic and molecular systems, it is difficult to estimate the functional form of the exact wave function only by intuition as cleverly as in the helium atom case.

We introduce the coordinate defined by \( s = r_o + r_i \), \( t = -r_1 + r_2 \), \( u = r_1 \) with \( s \geq u \geq |t| \). We choose the initial function by \( \psi_0 = \exp(-\alpha s) \) with \( \alpha \) as a variational parameter and the scaling function by \( g \equiv u^{2 - \frac{2}{\gamma}} \) to prevent nuclear and electron singularity problem.

Table III summarizes the result of the free ICI based on the SSE. As the iteration proceeds, the Ritz energy approaches the best variational value, \(-2.903724377\) a.u., reported in the literature [16]. At the fifth iteration, the free ICI energy was \(-2.903724373\) a.u. with 291 independent functions, and at \( n = 6 \), it was \(-2.903724376\) a.u. with 481 functions. These energies were higher by only 4 and 1 nhartrees, respectively, from the best value, which guarantees the validity of the present method. We particularly note that these results were obtained automatically by the ICI algorithm as described above. The present ICI wave function included the terms of both positive and negative powers of the variable \( s \). It is different from the Hylleraas expansion that includes only positive powers of \( s \), \( t \), and \( u \), but closer to the Kinoshita one, though different in higher-order terms. The functional form of the ICI wave function depends on the choices of the zero-order wave function \( \psi_0 \) and the \( g \) factor, and, in this sense, it supports the general Thakkar-Koga expansions [16]. The Hylleraas expansion actually corresponds to choosing \( g = u(s^2 - t^2) \) different from the present one. Examinations of the dependence on \( \psi_0 \) and \( g \) will be given in a forthcoming paper.

**Hydrogen molecule.**—The free ICI method has also been applied to a hydrogen molecule with \( R_{12} \equiv R_{13} = 1.4 \) a.u. Using elliptic coordinate [17], the second iteration of the free ICI with the initial function \( \psi_0 = \exp[-\alpha(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)/2](1 + \rho + \rho^2) \) with \( \alpha = 2.2 \) and \( g = \rho(\lambda_1 - \mu_1^2)(\lambda_2^2 - \mu_2^2)/\lambda_1\lambda_2 \) gave the Ritz variational energy of \(-1.174475703 \) a.u. with 609 independent functions. This energy is lower than the (nonrelativistic) value of \(-1.174475686 \) a.u. obtained by Kolos in 1994 [18]. More details will be published in the near future.

**Conclusion.**—Good performance of the calculations particularly for the helium atom and the hydrogen molecule implies a high potentiality of the proposed method. It is noteworthy that their ICI wave functions are different from the existing ones. Thus, the present ICI formalism based on the SSE provides a general systematic method for calculating the exact wave functions of atoms and molecules in an analytical form. For He and \( \text{H}_2 \), Hylleraas, James-Coolidge, Kolos, and others were clever enough to imagine the exact wave functions only with intuition. But for general molecules, it is difficult to estimate the analytical form of the exact wave function only by intuition, but the present method generates it automatically, since the differentiations (involved in the Hamiltonian) are always possible, and, furthermore, the integrals in the secular equation step have no singularity problem. It is guaranteed that at convergence we will get the exact wave function. When (analytical) integrations are difficult, the Monte Carlo method [19] may provide a useful tool.

The author thanks Mr. H. Nakashima and Y. Kurokawa for some help in the calculations of helium atom and hydrogen molecule, respectively. This research was supported by the Grant for Creative Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of Japan.

**TABLE III.** Free ICI calculation based on the sSE for the helium atom with \( \psi_0 \) and \( g \) given in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iteration</th>
<th>( M_n ) (^a)</th>
<th>Ritz energy</th>
<th>Optimal ( \alpha )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(-2.847656250)</td>
<td>1.6875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(-2.901577012)</td>
<td>1.6728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>(-2.903708675)</td>
<td>1.8803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>(-2.903723901)</td>
<td>2.0330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>(-2.903724347)</td>
<td>2.1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>(-2.903724373)</td>
<td>2.3307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>(-2.903724376)</td>
<td>2.4862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best value (^b)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(-2.903724377)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\)Number of independent functions. \(^b\)Reference [16].

**References**