Hylleraas Variational Perturbation Theory: Application to Correlation Problems in Molecular Systems

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Hylleraas variational perturbation theory: Application to correlation problems in molecular systems

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Hylleraas variational perturbation theory is applied through second order in energy to estimate the correlation energy in several molecular systems. The specific choices for \( H \) and \( V \) which are made lead to equations nearly identical to the multireference linearized coupled-cluster method of Laidig and Bartlett. The results obtained are in virtually exact agreement where comparisons have been made. Results from test calculations are presented for \( \text{BeH}_2 \), \( \text{CH}_4 \), and \( \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 \). In addition, the utility of perturbation theory for selecting correlating configurations is examined. This procedure is found to be quite accurate while significantly reducing the size of the system of linear equations to be solved.

I. INTRODUCTION

As the scope of quantum chemical applications increases, the problem of producing "size-consistent" results grows in importance. A size-consistent method is one in which the calculated energy scales linearly with the number of particles. For example, a size-consistent method when applied to a system of \( n \) well-separated \( \text{H}_2 \) molecules obtains an energy equal to \( n \) times the result of a calculation on a single \( \text{H}_2 \). Restricted and unrestricted Hartree-Fock, some forms of complete active space SCF, and full CI are size-consistent methods. However, singles and doubles configuration interaction (SDCI) results are not. This is not merely a problem concerned with examining separated systems, but also arises for the estimation of correlation for individual many-electron systems. That is, the fraction of the correlation energy obtained in any CI treatment using a fixed level of excitation from a set of reference configurations decreases as the number of electrons increases.

Some perturbation theory approaches have the advantage that they can be size consistent. Another method which can be size consistent is the coupled-cluster approach of Coester and Kummel, first applied to chemical problems by Cizek and Paldus. In the coupled-cluster method, the effects of higher excitations are approximated as products of lower excitations (rather than completely neglected as in truncated CIs). The simplest choice of reference space is the single SCF configuration. Pople et al. and Bartlett and co-workers have applied the method to systems with large basis sets and have produced results within the coupled-cluster doubles and coupled-cluster singles and doubles approximations, and even several variants of the inclusion of connected triples (i.e., triple excitations which cannot be written as products of lower excitations). Related methods are the symmetry-adapted cluster and symmetry-adapted cluster CI approaches of Nakatsuji and co-workers. The work of Bartlett and co-workers has shown that the coupled-cluster method is able to compensate for relatively poor reference functions via the approximate inclusion of higher excitations. For chemical accuracy, however, triple excitations are reasonably important when a poor reference function is being used. Since the inclusion of triple excitations can be computationally intensive, multireference coupled-cluster methods have also been explored.

Jezierski and Monkhorst, Lindgren, and Mukerjee and co-workers have explored the requirements for a multireference coupled-cluster approach. Applications of their results have been limited by the computational complexity or to the presence of intruder states when a complete reference space is treated as a quasidegenerate zeroth-order space. However, a number of groups have examined simplified variants of these approaches. In each case the procedure was implemented based on a complete active-space SCF zeroth-order wave function, and all single and double excitations relative to all configurations in the zeroth-order space were considered. In addition, the equations to generate the cluster amplitudes were linearized (except in Ref. 14, where the coupled-cluster equations were truncated at second-order commutators) to simplify the calculations. In the one-reference case it is known that the linearized coupled-cluster approach yields reasonable energies when no near degeneracies arise. In the multireference approach it is believed that the zeroth-order space will accurately treat interactions of near-degenerate low-lying states, thus linearization should not lead to serious errors.

The method presented here is an application of Hylleraas variational perturbation theory to the electron correlation problem. It will be shown to be closely related to the multireference linearized coupled-cluster approaches mentioned above. The choice made for the partitioning of \( H \) into an \( H_a \) and perturbation \( V \) yields equations which are essentially identical to those of Laidig and Bartlett's multireference linearized coupled-cluster approach. The coefficients obtained are those which extremize the Hylleraas second-order energy expression. This expression can, in turn, be written in a form quite similar to the expression used to develop a perturbative correction to the SDCI energy expression. Thus, this expression manifests the similarity between the various approaches to the size-consistency problem.

In addition, the present method has been implemented...
II. VARIATIONAL PERTURBATION THEORY

The method is based on the Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation theory equations for the correlation energy and coefficients of the wave function. That is, the wave function, energy, and Hamiltonian are all considered functions of the strength of the perturbation, which itself is parametrized using the quantity \( \lambda \) as

\[
H = H_0 + \lambda V,
\]

\[
\Psi = \Psi_0 + \lambda \Psi_1 + \lambda^2 \Psi_2 + \cdots,
\]

\[
E = E_0 + \lambda E_1 + \lambda^2 E_2 + \cdots.
\]

Intermediate normalization is assumed, thus

\[
\langle \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle = 1,
\]

\[
\langle \Psi_0 | \Psi_i \rangle = 0, \quad i \neq 0.
\]

Inserting Eqs. (1) into the Schrödinger equation and collecting all terms with the same \( \lambda \) dependence leads to the familiar results of Eqs. (3):

\[
(H_0 - E_0)\Psi_0 = 0,
\]

\[
(H_0 - E_0)\Psi_1 = (E_1 - V)\Psi_0,
\]

\[
(H_0 - E_0)\Psi_2 = (E_1 - V)\Psi_1 + E_2\Psi_0.
\]

The scalar product of Eqs. (3) with \( \Psi_0 \) yields

\[
\langle \Psi_0 | H_0 - E_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0 - E_1.
\]

The scalar product of Eq. (3b) with \( \Psi_1 \) yields

\[
\langle \Psi_1 | H_0 - E_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle = -\langle \Psi_1 | V | \Psi_0 \rangle.
\]

Adding Eq. (4) (with \( i = 1 \)) and Eq. (5) one obtains

\[
E_2 = 2\langle \Psi_0 | V | \Psi_1 \rangle + \langle \Psi_1 | H_0 - E_0 | \Psi_1 \rangle.
\]

Equation (6) is identical to the result obtained for the coefficient of \( \lambda^2 \) in an expansion of \( \langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle / \langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle \).

Equation (6) is the energy expression (to second order in energy) for Hylleraas variational perturbation theory (VPT). Variation of \( E_2 \) with respect to changes in \( \Psi_1 \) can be shown to yield Eq. (3b); i.e., the solution of the Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation-theory equations for \( \Psi_1 \) also yields a stationary energy for the VPT second-order energy expression. In addition, when \( \Psi_1 \) is the function which yields a stationary value for \( E_2 \), Eq. (6) reduces to Eq. (4). It can also be shown that any approximate \( \Psi_1 \) yields an upper bound for \( E_2 \) of Eq. (6) whenever \( E_0 \) is the lowest eigenvalue of \( H_0 \). That is, whenever \( E_0 \) is the lowest eigenvalue of \( H_0 \), the exact \( \Psi_1 \) yields a minimum for \( E_2 \) evaluated using Eq. (6). We now particularize the choices of \( \Psi_0, H_0 \), and \( V \) to the case at hand.

We assume that \( \Psi_0 \) is some suitable \( n \)-configurational zeroth-order guess, obtained either from a multiconfiguration SCF calculation, an iterative natural orbital calculation, or the dominant configurations obtained in a preliminary CI or previous variational perturbation theory calculation on the state of interest. We write

\[
\Psi_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i^0 \phi_i.
\]

\( d_i^0 \) may be obtained from diagonalizing \( H \) over the zeroth-order space, or chosen on the basis of a prior calculation over the entire configuration space to obtain a specific zeroth-order state. In either case we choose \( E_0 = \langle \Psi_0 | H_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle \). We define projection operators \( P = | \Psi_0 \rangle \langle \Psi_0 | \) and \( Q \), with \( Q \) given by

\[
Q = Q_0 + Q_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} | \Phi_k \rangle \langle \Phi_k | + \sum_{j=n+1}^{N} | \phi_j \rangle \langle \phi_j |.
\]

\[
\Phi_k = \sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i^k \phi_i, \quad k = 1, \ldots, n-1.
\]

That is, the \( \Phi_k \) are the orthogonal complement of \( \Psi_0 \) in the space of the \( n \) reference configurations. The individual \( \phi_i \) are taken as orthonormal, as are \( \Psi_0 \) and \( n-1 \) \( \Phi_k \), and we treat \( d_i^k \) and \( d_i^0 \) as fixed throughout the calculation. The remaining \( N-n \) configurations (which comprise \( Q_1 \)) are selected single and double excitations relative to the reference space. \( H_0 \) and \( V \) are then defined as

\[
H_0 = PHQ + QHQ,
\]

\[
V = PHQ + QHP.
\]

Note that \( H_0 \) contains the full Hamiltonian matrix coupling all configurations other than \( \Psi_0 \). With these definitions we write \( \Psi_1 \) as

\[
\Psi_1 = \sum_{m=1}^{n} C_m \Phi_m + \sum_{m=n+1}^{N} C_m \phi_m.
\]

If \( \Psi_1 \) is substituted into Eq. (6) and the variation of \( E_2 \) with respect to \( C_m \) is set equal to zero, one obtains

\[
Q(H_0 - E_0)QC + QHP = 0,
\]

where \( C \) is the column vector of coefficients defining \( \Psi_1 \). Once \( \Psi_1 \) is obtained one has \( E_2 \) via Eq. (4). Below we desig-
nate $E_0 + E_2$ as $E_{\text{VPT}}$. The numerical method for solving Eq. (12) is a simple modification for the inhomogeneous problem of a standard procedure for the solution of sparse-matrix homogeneous linear equations. It is also quite similar to the method developed by Purvis and Bartlett. The procedure is briefly summarized in the Appendix.

Equation (12) is equivalent to the final equation obtained by Laird and Bartlett in their multireference linearized coupled-cluster (MRLCC) approach when their definition of $Q$ contains the orthogonal complement functions within the reference space $\Phi_k$. Alternatively, defining our $Q = Q_1$ (with $\Psi_0$ an eigenfunction of $H$ within the reference space) causes Eq. (12) to be exactly that solved in Ref. 10 for the MRLCC method. (Where total energies from MRLCC calculations are presented below we denote them as $E_{\text{MRLCC}}$.)

Kutzelnigg has obtained entirely equivalent formal results using a more general partitioning of $H$ than that used above. He also obtained expressions for higher order corrections to the energy and $\Psi$.

We noted above that the expression for $E_2$ can be rewritten in a more suggestive form. Using the fact that $E_0$ is chosen to be $\langle \Psi_0 | H | \Psi_0 \rangle$, one can rearrange the VPT energy expression to yield

$$E_2 = E_{\text{TOT}} - E_0 = \langle \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 | H - E_0 | \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 \rangle. \tag{13}$$

The SD CI expression for the correlation energy ($E_{\text{SD}}$) can similarly be written as

$$E_{\text{SD}} = \langle \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 | H - E_0 | \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 \rangle / (1 + |\Psi_1|). \tag{14}$$

Expanding the denominator in Eq. (14) one obtains

$$E_{\text{SD}} = (1 - |\Psi_1|^2 + \cdots) \times \langle \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 | H - E_0 | \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 \rangle. \tag{15}$$

For small systems an approximate size-consistency correction to $E_{\text{SD}}$ can be made by discarding all but the leading term in Eq. (15), under the assumption that the main contribution of higher excitations would be to cancel the terms which follow. Formally Eq. (13) is identical to the leading term of Eq. (15). For large systems the post-CI size-consistency correction (i.e., adding $|\Psi_2|^2 \times \langle \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 | H - E_0 | \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 \rangle$) deteriorates because $|\Psi_2|^2$ and $\langle \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 | H - E_0 | \Psi_0 + \Psi_1 \rangle$ scale improperly with the number of electrons. However, in VPT one assumes that Eq. (13) is the correct expression for the energy from the outset and extremizes $E_2$. Thus, another way to view the present approximation is that one is optimizing the coefficients of a SDCI under the constraints of a size-consistency correction.

Ahilrichs and Pal dus et al. have shown that when $\Psi_0$ is composed of a single function, the equations defining the extremum of $E_2$ in Eq. (12) reduce to the linearized coupled-cluster equations. The latter authors also related the linearized coupled-cluster equations to VPT in the one-reference case.

As mentioned above, one of the aims in the development of a size-consistent method is to examine the effects of correlation in larger systems. However, as the system size increases one quickly reaches the point where treatment of all single and double excitations within a good quality basis set becomes intractable. Thus, even though a method may be size consistent, large systems can remain out of reach. One could attempt to improve and then truncate the virtual space, performing the final calculation in a smaller MO basis. A second option, one which we have incorporated into our implementation of VPT, is to use second-order Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation theory to select a given subset of configurations which yield the largest energy lowering at second order. That is, for each configuration outside the reference space we calculate

$$\epsilon_2^i = |\langle \Psi_0 | H | \phi_i \rangle|^2 / (E_0 - E_i), \tag{16}$$

where $E_i$ is the average expectation value of the various spin-adapted configurations corresponding to the particular orbital occupation in $\phi_i$. Selecting the subset of configurations with the largest energy lowerings, the VPT equations are then solved treating only this set of configurations. The contribution of the remaining configurations is then estimated via a simple extrapolation formula:

$$(E_2)^{\text{EXTRAP}} = E_0 + (E_{\text{VPT}} - E_0)(1 + E_{\text{PTD}}/E_{\text{PTK}}), \tag{17}$$

where $E_{\text{VPT}}$ is the VPT energy corresponding to the subset explicitly treated and $E_{\text{PTD}}$ and $E_{\text{PTK}}$ are the second-order Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation theory energy contributions obtained via Eq. (16) for those configurations discarded and kept in the VPT calculation, respectively. A similar procedure has been used by Nakatsuji and co-workers in their implementation of the symmetry-adapted cluster and symmetry-adapted cluster CI theories, as well as by several groups in CI approaches. It will be shown below to be a useful approximation for VPT and MRLCC calculations as well.

Finally, we comment on the conditions under which one can expect $E_2$ obtained via the VPT equations to be a minimum with respect to arbitrary variations in the $C_i$. It was noted above that $E_2$ [evaluated using Eq. (6)] will be an upper bound to the true $E_2$ when $E_0$ is the lowest eigenvalue of $H_0$. For applications to excited states within a given symmetry, where $E_0$ is clearly not the lowest eigenvalue of $H_0$, the VPT $E_2$ will not be a minimum. However, due to the choice of $H_0$, the VPT $E_2$ will most often not be a minimum even for the lowest state of a symmetry. This occurs because $H_0$ allows interactions between the excited configurations, and thus the lowest eigenvalue of $QHQ$ can be below $E_0$, even though no diagonal elements of $H_0$ are lower than $E_0$. This will be true, in particular, for large systems since the correlation energy will become much larger than the separation between zeroth-order states. The fact that the VPT $E_2$ is not, in general, a minimum is not a drawback to the method, it is only noted here for completeness. However, were the present method applied with the usual choice for $H_0$ in Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation theory (i.e., $H_0$ diagonal), $E_2$ would be a minimum for the lowest state in each symmetry independent of the size of the total correlation energy.

### III. RESULTS

All calculations presented below were performed using the MELD suite of electronic structure codes from this labo-
The SCF calculations were from restricted Hartree–Fock, open-shell restricted Hartree–Fock, or two-configuration SCF (= TCS CF) calculations. In all cases except that of the \(B_{1u}\) calculations on ethylene the virtual orbitals used in the correlation treatments were the canonical Hartree–Fock virtual orbitals. In the case of the \(B_{1u}\) states of ethylene the MOs used were the average natural orbitals\(^{30,31}\) of the two lowest states obtained in a “C1” calculation.\(^{32}\) Briefly, in a C1 calculation all single excitations and all double excitations involving the \(\pi^*\) electron are included in the CI and the two lowest roots sought. The average natural orbitals so obtained yield a compact MO description of the two lowest states of \(B_{1u}\) symmetry. We are in no way forced to utilize this procedure by the use of VPT. Rather, past experience\(^{33}\) has shown that this method results in a more balanced description of the two lowest states in either a CI or perturbation-theory based approach.

The basis sets used are as follows. For the calculations on BeH\(_2\) the basis set of Purvis and Bartlett\(^{17}\) was used. It consists of a (10s,3p) set on Be contracted to (3s,lp) and a (4s) set on H contracted to (2s). This allows for simple comparison with the MRLCC results of Laidig and Bartlett\(^{20}\) and the full CI results of Purvis \textit{et al.}\(^{33}\) For CH\(_2\) and for ethylene the Dunning/Huzinaga\(^{34}\) DZ basis sets for C and H were used. For CH\(_2\) the polarization functions used were those used in the Bauschlicher and Taylor\(^{16}\) full CI studies (H: \(2p = 1.0\) for both states; C: \(1^2\) \(A_p\), \(3d = 0.51\); \(1^3\) \(B_{1u}\), 3\(d = 0.74\)). For ethylene the polarization and Rydberg functions used were those of Brooks and Schaefer’s study\(^{35}\) (polarization: C \(3d = 0.75\), H \(2p = 1.0\); Rydberg: two \(\pi\) Rydberg functions with exponents 0.034 and 0.012 on each C).

In the calculations on the \(C_{2v}\) insertion pathway of Be into H\(_2\) to yield BeH\(_2\), the geometries were taken from the study of Purvis \textit{et al.}\(^7\) The geometries used for the two states of CH\(_2\) were those of Ref. 18 and the geometry of ethylene\(^36\) was taken from Ref. 35.

In the correlation treatments below, all single and double excitations were allowed from all reference functions, with the exceptions that no excitations were allowed from the C 1s orbitals of CH\(_2\) and C\(_2\)H\(_4\). Where a size-consistency correction is applied to SDCI results below it is based on the expression of Refs. 25 and 26 and is of the form \((1 - c_0^2) \Delta E_{SDI}\). Here \(c_0^2\) is the sum of the squares of the coefficients of the reference space in the final SDCI wave function, and \(\Delta E_{SDI}\) is the energy lowering in the final SDCI relative to the reference wave function. We designate these corrected results as QCSDCI (quadruples corrected singles and doubles CI). When perturbation-theory selection is used to truncate the CI, \(\Delta E_{SDI}\) is based on the extrapolated SDCI energy, using an expression similar to Eq. (17) above.

### A. BeH\(_2\)

In Table I results are shown from a variety of single-reference calculations along the path chosen by Purvis \textit{et al.}\(^7\). The results designated \(a^2\) are based on the SCF performed having the orbital occupation \(1\alpha^2 2\alpha^2 3\alpha^2\), and those labeled \(b^2\) arise from the SCF having the orbital occupation \(1\alpha^2 2\alpha^2 1\beta^2\). Those results denoted LCC are from single-reference linearized coupled-cluster calculations (i.e., \(\Psi_0\) is composed of a single configuration). It is seen from the SCF results that the nature of the lowest \(1\alpha\) state changes along the reaction path, as would be expected from simple MO arguments. Thus, in comparison with the full CI results of Purvis \textit{et al.},\(^{33}\) the \(b^2\) results tend to be better at short \(r(\text{BeH}_2)\) and the \(a^2\) results tend to be more accurate at long \(r(\text{BeH}_2)\). However, neither could be considered even a semi-quantitative representation of the true surface over the whole path.

A two-configurational description yields a better description of the insertion reaction along the whole path. Using this two-configuration SCF as the reference space we performed multireference singles and doubles CIs (MRSOCI), MRLCC, and VPT calculations; the results are presented in Table II. The SDCI results are presented with (QCSDCI) and without the quadruples correction. In general, all methods are reasonably close to the SCF results. The QCSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT results are quite close to, but generally overshoot the full CI values. Interestingly, the smallest variation in error relative to the full CI

### Table I. BeH\(_2\) single reference results,\(^a\) \(C_{2v}\) geometries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(r(\text{BeH}_2))</th>
<th>(r(H_2))</th>
<th>SCF ((a^2))</th>
<th>(\Delta \text{SCFI}((a^2))</th>
<th>(\Delta \text{LCC}((a^2))</th>
<th>SCF ((b^2))</th>
<th>(\Delta \text{SDCI}((b^2))</th>
<th>(\Delta \text{LCC}((b^2))</th>
<th>Full ((\text{hartree}))</th>
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</thead>
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<td>22.0</td>
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<td>(-15.6996)</td>
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<td>(-15.4773)</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>(-4.2)</td>
<td>(-15.3254)</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>425.5</td>
<td>(-15.7609)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) SCF and full CI energies in hartrees. The reference configuration is shown in parentheses.

\(^b\) Distances in bohr. \(r(\text{BeH}_2)\) is the distance from Be to the H\(_2\) midpoint. \(r(H_2)\) is the H\(_2\) bond length.

\(^c\) Energies relative to the full CI result, in millihartrees. LCC denotes a single-reference linearized coupled-cluster calculation, SDCI denotes a single-reference singles and doubles CI.

\(^d\) Results taken from Ref. 33.
TABLE II. BeH₂ two-reference results, C₂v geometries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>r(BeH₂)</th>
<th>r(H₂)</th>
<th>TCSCF</th>
<th>SCF</th>
<th>ΔSDCI</th>
<th>ΔQCSDCI</th>
<th>ΔMRLCC</th>
<th>ΔVPT</th>
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<td>-1.4</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Distances in bohr. The distances are defined as in Table I.

1. Energy of the two-configuration SCF wave function, in hartrees.

2. Correlation energy, in millihartrees, relative to the two-configuration SCF energy, using the full CI energies of Ref. 33.

3. Error relative to the full CI energies of Ref. 33, in millihartrees.

4. Indicates the size-consistency corrected SDCI result. MRLCC denotes multireferece linearized coupled-cluster results, and VPT denotes variational perturbation theory results.

occurs for the uncorrected MRSDCI values (minimum error = 0.0003 hartree, maximum error = 0.0032 hartree). However, the VPT, MRLCC, and QCSDCI results give error variations of similar size.

One surprising result is the change in sign of the VPT error at r(BeH₂) = 2.75b, r(H₂) = 2.55b. In this case, the coefficient of the orthogonal complement of Ψ₀ in the final VPT wave function is quite large (c² = 0.39), indicating that the zeroth-order guess used is a poor one, even though the two configuration SCF wave function was used for Ψ₀. (Since the MRLCC result excludes the orthogonal complement “configuration” this strong mixing does not occur there.) Indeed, the ratios of the two configurations which make up Ψ₀ are quite different between the final MRSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT results. In addition, the VPT energy is above the MRLCC energy. This occurs due to the near degeneracy of Ψ₀ and its orthogonal complement in the reference space, so that E₀ is no longer the lowest eigenvalue of Hamiltonian. Thus, the VPT energy need no longer be monotonically decreasing as the expansion set is augmented.

A series of larger calculations were performed on BeH₂ at r(BeH₂) = 2.75b, r(H₂) = 2.55b to examine the sensitivity of the results to increases in the reference space, the results of which are given in Table III. In the 15-reference function calculation of Table III, the reference space was composed of the dominant spin-adapted configurations in the two-reference VPT result of Table II, the coefficients were obtained by diagonalizing H over these 15 functions. We also include QCSDCI results for these calculations. It is seen that the absolute errors in the VPT and the MRLCC results are similar to the two-reference function case. In the 12-reference case the reference space was composed of the 12 dominant spin-adapted configurations from the MRLCC result of Table II, the coefficients defining Ψ₀ were taken from the results of the two-reference CI calculation. The VPT, MRLCC, and QCSDCI results are quite close to the full CI result. Finally, the dominant 17 spin-adapted configurations from the preceding SDCI were used as a reference space; the coefficients defining Ψ₀ were taken from the results of the preceding large SDCI. It is seen that the VPT and MRLCC results are again quite close to the full CI energy. In parallel, one sees that the ratio of the coefficients of the 1a¹2a¹3b¹ and the 1a¹2a¹b 2 configurations (×) changes along with the form of Ψ₀. This ratio is -0.849 in a

TABLE III. BeH₂ expanded reference space calculations.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>ΔSDCI</th>
<th>ΔQCSDCI</th>
<th>ΔMRLCC</th>
<th>ΔVPT</th>
<th>Δx</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>-0.82</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>-0.84</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>-3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>-0.85</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>-0.85</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The results are for the point r(BeH₂) = 2.75b, r(H₂) = 2.55b. Energy differences (in millihartrees) relative to the full CI values are reported. The labels are defined in Table II.

1. Number of spin-adapted configurations in the reference space.

2. Number of spin-adapted configurations in the final wave function.

3. Ratio of the coefficient of the ω¹a¹2a¹3b¹ configuration to that of the ω¹a¹2a¹b 2 configuration in the final wave function.

4. Results for the present geometry from Table II. The two-reference configurations are from the two-configuration SCF.

5. The 15 spin-adapted reference configurations are taken from the dominant configurations (Ref. 37) in the VPT two-reference result.

6. The 12 spin-adapted reference configurations are taken from the dominant configurations (Ref. 37) in the two-reference SDCI result. The zeroth-order wave function was defined by the coefficients of the two-reference SDCI.

7. The 17 spin-adapted reference configurations are taken from the dominant configurations (Ref. 37) in the 12-reference SDCI results. The zeroth-order wave function was defined by the coefficients of the 12-reference SDCI.
TABLE IV. BeH₂ PT selected results. C₁ᵥ geometries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>r(H₁)</th>
<th>r(H₂)</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>PT</th>
<th>ΔQCSDCI</th>
<th>ΔMRLCC</th>
<th>ΔVPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>&gt; 99.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>&gt; 99.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The entries marked ΔQCSDCI, ΔMRLCC, and ΔVPT are the differences (in millihartrees) between the perturbation-theory selected calculation and the corresponding unselected result of Table II.

** Distances in bohr. The quantities are as defined in Table II.

B. CH₂

Results are presented in Table V from SDCI, QCSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT calculations along with the full CI results of Ref. 18 for the 1B₁ and 1A₁ states of methylene. The 3B₁ state is well described in zeroth order by the HF configuration, thus all calculations concerning it are based on this single-reference function. Results from both one- and two-reference calculations are presented for the 1A₁ state, since the zeroth-order description is known to be markedly improved by including correlation in the C₁₇ pair. It is seen that the QCSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT results all overshoot the full CI energies. The variations in the MRLCC and VPT result in proceeding from the single-reference to the two-reference calculations on the 1A₁ state are somewhat less than the uncorrected SDCI values, but the QCSDCI variation is smaller still. The excitation energies obtained are in quite good agreement with the full CI values, but the variation among the four techniques employed here is admittedly rather small.

The sensitivity of the 1A₁ energies to the size of the reference space was also examined. In Table V results are shown from a calculation where the reference space was expanded to include 11 spin-adapted configurations, chosen as those having the largest coefficients in the two-reference VPT calculation. The coefficients defining Ψ₀ were obtained from diagonalizing H over these 11 configurations. It is seen that the change in energy is largest for the SDCI results, the change in the QCSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT energies being less than 1 mhartree, even though E₀ changed by over 18 mhartree.

C. C₂H₄

Results from second-order Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation theory, SDCI, QCSDCI, MRLCC, and VPT calculations on ethylene are shown in Table VI. The excitation energies based on these calculations are given in Table VII. Several calculations are presented for the 1A₈ state for the purposes of examining the sensitivity of the final energy to the size of the reference space and the use of perturbation-theory selection. In the four-reference calculations the four configurations having the largest coefficients in the single-reference VPT calculation were used as the reference space, the coefficients of the reference space being those obtained from diagonalizing H over the reference space. In the two-reference calculations the MOs were obtained from a two-reference configuration SCF calculation on the π-electron pair.

In the results for the 1A₈ state the VPT and MRLCC methods are least sensitive to variations in the reference space size, or to the use of perturbation-theory selection. Other than the second-order Rayleigh–Schrödinger perturbation-theory results, the SDCI results are most sensitive to variations in the choice of reference space.

For the 1B₁₆ states, a two-reference configuration Ψ₀ was used in each case, the two configurations being those that principally describe the two lowest 1B₁₆ states in zeroth order in the average natural orbital basis. The coefficients for Ψ₀ in the MRLCC and VPT calculations were obtained via

TABLE V. Results for CH₂, C₁ᵥ symmetry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>ΔSDCI</th>
<th>ΔQCSDCI</th>
<th>Δ(MR)LCC</th>
<th>ΔVPT</th>
<th>Full CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 3B₁</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>-0.7²</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>-1.3*</td>
<td>-39.0463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1A₁</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>0.0²</td>
<td>-2.9</td>
<td>-2.9*</td>
<td>-39.0272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1B₁</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>-0.8⁴</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>⋯</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1A₁</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-0.8⁴</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>⋯</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The number of spin-adapted configurations in the reference space.

** Errors relative to the full CI, in millihartrees. The labels are defined in Table II.

© Results from Ref. 17, in hartrees.

² The QCSDCI results were calculated to three decimal places.

* In the one-reference case, the LCC and VPT methods are equivalent.
TABLE VI. Results for $C_2H_4$ * $D_{2h}$ symmetry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>PTK</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>RSPT</th>
<th>SDCI</th>
<th>QCSDCI</th>
<th>(MR)LCC</th>
<th>VPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1^4A_g$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.252</td>
<td>78.3863</td>
<td>78.3272</td>
<td>78.353</td>
<td>78.3615</td>
<td>78.3615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^4A_g$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>3.243</td>
<td>78.3863</td>
<td>78.3270</td>
<td>78.353</td>
<td>78.3610</td>
<td>78.3610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^4A_g$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>23.762</td>
<td>78.3784</td>
<td>78.3330</td>
<td>78.356</td>
<td>78.3616</td>
<td>78.3618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^4A_g$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>3.242</td>
<td>78.3784</td>
<td>78.3319</td>
<td>78.354</td>
<td>78.3563</td>
<td>78.3610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^4A_g$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>21.062</td>
<td>78.1398</td>
<td>78.0287</td>
<td>78.053</td>
<td>78.0603</td>
<td>78.0603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>5.814</td>
<td>78.1398</td>
<td>78.0283</td>
<td>78.052</td>
<td>78.0582</td>
<td>78.0582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>21.062</td>
<td>78.0994</td>
<td>77.9911</td>
<td>78.015</td>
<td>78.0217</td>
<td>78.0216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>5.814</td>
<td>78.0994</td>
<td>77.9907</td>
<td>78.004</td>
<td>78.0195</td>
<td>78.0195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>18.904</td>
<td>78.2045</td>
<td>78.1689</td>
<td>78.190</td>
<td>78.1942</td>
<td>78.1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>5.287</td>
<td>78.2045</td>
<td>78.1695</td>
<td>78.188</td>
<td>78.1922</td>
<td>78.1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_u$</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>20.010</td>
<td>78.2016</td>
<td>78.1703</td>
<td>78.189</td>
<td>78.1925</td>
<td>78.1929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All energies are in hartrees.

TABLE VII. Excitation energies for $B_{1u}$ states of $C_2H_4$ *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>RSPT</th>
<th>SDCI</th>
<th>QCSDCI</th>
<th>(MR)LCC</th>
<th>VPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unselected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_{1u}$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2^2B_{1u}$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^3B_{1u}$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT selected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^2B_{1u}$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2^2B_{1u}$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1^3B_{1u}$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All energies are in eV and are relative to the two-reference calculation for the $1^4A_g$ state of Table VI.
small molecules one expects the differences between SDCI and the potentially size-consistent methods to be less in evidence, due to the small number of electrons and thus smaller correlation energy.

Third, the use of the perturbation-theory selection criterion yields results in good agreement with those obtained from the complete calculations. Certainly this approach is not needed for the systems described here, but in examinations of extended systems, where such size-consistent methods will be of greatest use, it may mean the difference between performing and not performing the calculation.

The accuracy obtained for excitation energies was quite good. The results on the $^1B_{1u}$ states of ethylene are particularly intriguing. There it is shown that both VPT and MRLCC are capable of describing two states of the same symmetry that are quite close in energy (within 1.2 eV).

Concerning comparisons between VPT and MRLCC, it is clear that in most instances presented above the distinction is minute. The one case where a true difference arises concerns the anomalous point on the BeH$_2$ potential [$r$(BeH$_2$) = 2.75b, $r$(H$_2$) = 2.55b]. In this case the MRLCC results yield a smoother potential, one for which the variation relative to the full CI result is smaller. On the other hand, this result may be somewhat artificial. In Table III it was seen that even though the VPT and MRLCC energies were reasonably close to the full CI value, the ratios of the coefficients ($\propto$) of the two dominant configurations were quite far from the SDTQ value until the reference space was expanded significantly. This implies that in the two-reference case the MRLCC wave function was still in error, even though no severe discontinuities arose in the surface at this point. In the VPT case large values were obtained for the norm of $Q$,$\Psi$. In fact, the norm of $Q$,$\Psi$ can be used as a signal for the possible inaccuracy of $\Psi$ due to large changes in the relative weights of the reference configurations brought on by correlation.

V. CONCLUSIONS

An application of Hylleraas variational perturbation theory is presented for the treatment of the many-electron correlation problem in molecular systems. The choice made for the partitioned Hamiltonian leads to equations similar to the MRLCC approach of Laidig and Bartlett.\textsuperscript{10} The method has been implemented with the use of a perturbation-theory selection criterion for the configurations to be explicitly treated.

Results are presented for three systems, BeH$_2$, CH$_2$, and C$_2$H$_4$. In general, the results are in good agreement with either full CI or good truncated CI results for these systems. The method is shown to be relatively insensitive to expansion of the zeroth-order space and the perturbation-theory selected results are in close agreement with the unselected results, suggesting that the method will be useful for large systems where the unselected calculation is intractable. The excitation energies obtained are in good agreement with past results and it is shown that excited states within a given symmetry can be obtained with no greater effort than the lowest state of a symmetry.

Note added in proof: In further applications of variational perturbation theory to the calculation of one-electron properties we have shown that inclusion of the orthogonal complement functions of the reference space causes the method not to be strictly size consistent. In test calculations this size inconsistency manifests itself most strongly in changes in the one-electron properties, while the total energy remains very nearly size consistent. In a forthcoming article on one-electron properties we will examine the origins of this size inconsistency for variational perturbation theory.

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APPENDIX

The method used to solve the inhomogeneous linear equations of Eq. (12) is briefly summarized here. It is entirely analogous to the method used in this group to obtain the lowest eigenvalues of large real-symmetric matrices.\textsuperscript{22} We rewrite Eq. (12) as

$$ MC = -B $$

with $B = QHP (N - 1\times1)$ and $M = Q(H - E_0)Q (N - 1\times N - 1)$. At present it is assumed that $Q$ is in terms of the $\Phi_k (k = 1, n - 1)$ and the $\phi_i (i = n + 1, N)$. We write

$$ C = \sum_{i=1}^N q_i X_i, $$

where $X_i$ are normalized vectors of length $N - 1$, where $N - 1$ is large. For $r < N - 1$ one forms the scalar product of Eq. (A1) with each $X_i$ and obtains a set of $r$ linear inhomogeneous equations that can then be solved using some standard in-core algorithm for the solution of simultaneous equations. To obtain the correction vector $X_{r+1}$ we proceed as follows. Assume $C_r$ is the present approximate to $C_{\text{exact}}$ and $\delta C$ the difference between $C_r$ and $C_{\text{exact}}$. Then Eq. (A1) can be rearranged to give

$$ M\delta C = -(B + MC_r). $$

Of course, $M$ is too large to invert, otherwise one could immediately obtain $\delta C$. Instead we approximate $M$ on the left-hand side by a matrix $(M_D)$ containing only the diagonal elements of $M$, and obtain

$$ \delta C = - M_D^{-1}(B + MC_r). $$

Orthogonalization of $\delta C$ to $\psi$, and the preceding $X_i$ and normalization of the result yields $X_{r+1}$. One then projects with $X_{r+1}$ on $H X_i$ ($i = 1, r + 1$) and solves the small set of linear equations to obtain a new set of $a_i$. This process is repeated until convergence is reached.

In practice, we have implemented the above procedure to be used with the output of our CI program, which produces $H (N \times N)$ in untransformed form over $\phi_i$ ($i = 1, N$). To avoid transforming $H$ into the form corresponding to the
configurations $\Psi_0$, $\Phi_k (k = 1, n - 1)$, and $\phi_i (i = n + 1, N)$ we have made the following modifications. First, the $n - 1$ $\Phi_k$ are treated as the first $n - 1$ $X_i$, $M$, and $M_D$ are taken to be in their untransformed form, and $B$ is taken in the form $H\Psi_0$, i.e., it is half-transformed. Since $C_r$ is written in terms of the $n - 1$ $\Phi_k$ and any additional expansion vectors, Eq. (A4) may be viewed as a half-transformed version of the system of equations from Eq. (13). One can show that the only components of $\delta C$ in Eq. (A4) that would differ from those obtained using a fully transformed $B$, $M$, and $M_D$ are those of the $\Phi_k$ and possible contributions from $\Psi_0$. However, each $\delta C$ is orthogonalized to all preceding $X_i$ and to $\Psi_0$. Thus, all components of $\Phi_k$ and $\Psi_0$ are removed from $\delta C$, and no errors arise through the use of the untransformed $M$.

29. The MELD series of electronic structure codes was developed by L. E. McMurchie, S. T. Elbert, S. R. Langhoff, and E. R. Davidson, and was extensively modified by D. Feller and D. C. Rawlings.
37. The dominant configurations are defined as follows. The configurations were ordered on the basis of the size of the square of the coefficients in the final wave function. Where two or more spin couplings exist for a given orbital occupation the sum of the squares of all spin couplings was used to order the configuration. Thus, it is more accurate to say that the dominant $n$-electron orbital products were selected, and all spin-adapted configuration state functions associated with them were included in the reference space.