

Variational optimization of the second order density matrix derived from a seniority-zero configuration interaction wave function

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Abstract

We perform a direct variational determination of the second-order (two-particle) density matrix corresponding to a many-electron system, under a restricted set of the

5 two-index N -representability \mathcal{P} -, \mathcal{Q} -, and \mathcal{G} -conditions. In addition, we impose a set
6 of necessary constraints that the two-particle density matrix must be derivable from
7 a doubly-occupied many-electron wave function, i.e. a singlet wave function for which
8 the Slater determinant decomposition only contains determinants in which spatial or-
9 bitals are doubly occupied. We rederive the two-index N -representability conditions
10 first found by Weinhold and Wilson and apply them to various benchmark systems
11 (linear hydrogen chains, He, N₂ and CN⁻). This work is motivated by the fact that a
12 doubly-occupied many-electron wave function captures in many cases the bulk of the
13 static correlation. Compared to the general case, the structure of doubly-occupied two-
14 particle density matrices causes the associate semidefinite program to have a very favor-
15 able scaling as L^3 , where L is the number of spatial orbitals. Since the doubly-occupied
16 Hilbert space depends on the choice of the orbitals, variational calculation steps of the
17 two-particle density matrix are interspersed with orbital-optimization steps (based on
18 Jacobi rotations in the space of the spatial orbitals). We also point to the importance of
19 symmetry breaking of the orbitals when performing calculations in a doubly-occupied
20 framework.

21 1 Introduction

22 The main problem in many-body quantum mechanics, which comprises nuclear physics,
23 quantum chemistry and condensed matter physics, is the exponential increase of the dimen-
24 sion of the Hilbert space with the number of particles. Within a given single-particle basis,
25 a complete diagonalization in many-electron space, Full Configuration Interaction (FullCI),
26 will provide the exact answer, but is prohibitively expensive except for small systems¹. The
27 challenge has therefore been to develop approximate methods capturing the relevant degrees
28 of freedom in the system without an excessive computational cost, i.e., with a polynomial
29 increase.

30 Many approximate methods have been developed over the years^{1,2}. A standard approach

31 is to start from a mean-field (Hartree-Fock) solution and improve on this by adding exci-
32 tations of increasing complexity (Coupled Cluster Theory^{3,4}, Perturbation Theory⁴, etc.).
33 These single-reference methods only work well when the wave function is dominated by a
34 single Slater determinant. In bond-breaking processes, e.g., the Hartree-Fock (HF) approx-
35 imation is qualitatively wrong and a multi-reference approximation is needed⁵. In Multi-
36 configuration Self-Consistent Field (MCSCF)^{1,6}, one expands the wave function as a linear
37 combination of Slater determinants (configurations), and the Configuration Interaction (CI)
38 coefficients and the orbitals building the Slater determinants are optimized together. In the
39 last decennia, new methods for strongly correlated systems were developed. Density Ma-
40 trix Renormalization Group (DMRG)⁷⁻¹⁰ is FullCI accurate while extending the limits far
41 beyond what is possible with classical FullCI. Project symmetry-broken Hartree-Fock¹¹⁻¹³
42 is a mean-field scaling method in which all symmetries are broken. While it is difficult to
43 recover symmetries once they are lost, a self-consistent variation-after-projection technique
44 can overcome these issues¹⁴.

45 Also Doubly-Occupied Configuration Interaction (DOCI)¹⁵ received renewed interest¹⁶⁻²⁰.
46 In DOCI, all spatial orbitals are doubly occupied by two (spin-up/down) electrons. This is
47 also called a seniority-zero wave function. The seniority number is the number of unpaired
48 electrons^{15,21,22}. FullDOCI is an exact diagonalization of the Hamiltonian as is FullCI, but
49 in the Hilbert space restricted to Slater determinants where every spatial orbital is doubly
50 occupied or empty. However, FullDOCI still suffers from factorial scaling. The interest in
51 DOCI is motivated by its ability to describe the static correlation^{15,23}. It was also realized
52 that DOCI is the lowest rung on the ladder in a seniority hierarchy leading to FullCI^{24,25}.
53 If one adds configurations of higher seniority (2, 4, ...) in the wave function expansion,
54 one will eventually reach the FullCI limit^{15,25}. Furthermore, it can also be shown that
55 General Valence Bond with perfect pairing is a special case of DOCI¹⁹. An efficient and low-
56 scaling approximation to DOCI is available: antisymmetric product of 1-reference-orbital
57 geminals^{16,18,19} or pair-Coupled Cluster Doubles^{17,20} (they are equivalent). However, like

any truncated CI wave function, DOCI is orbital dependent^{15,23,24} and those approximations need an orbital optimizer. This severely deteriorates the scaling.

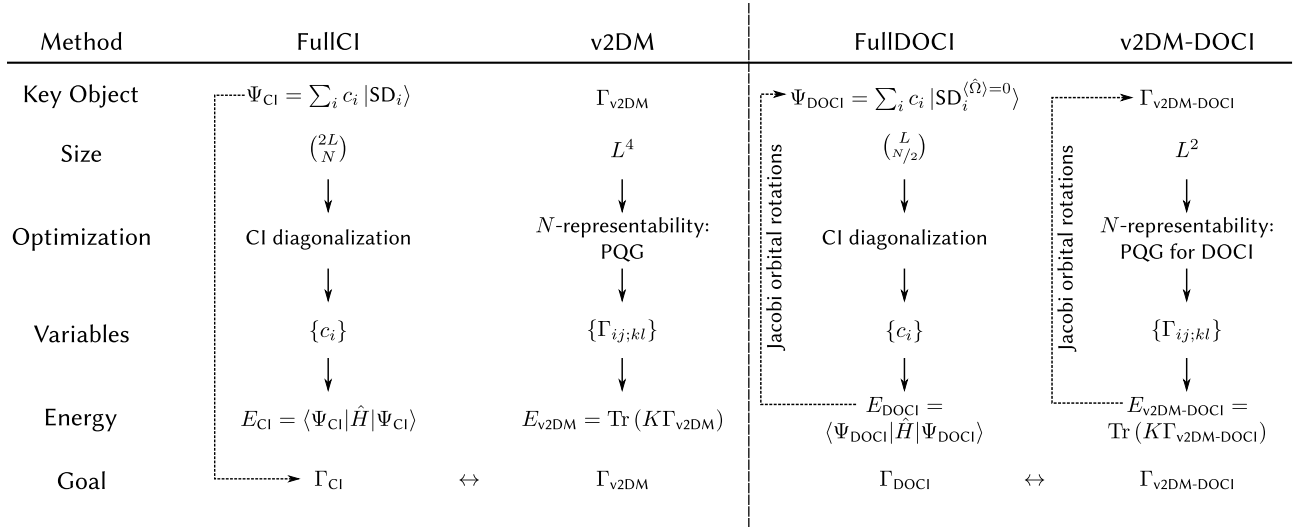


Figure 1: Overview of the methods used in this paper. $\hat{\Omega}$ is the seniority-number operator.

In the present paper, we focus on an alternative way to approximate the ground state of an N -electron system, where we dispense with the wave function altogether and concentrate on the two-particle density matrix (2DM)^{26,27}. The 2DM contains the relevant information, such as all expectation values of two-particle operators, but its dimension only scales as L^4 , with L the dimension of spatial orbital space. Unlike Density (Matrix) functional theory, the energy can be expressed as an exact yet simple linear function of the 2DM and a variational optimization can be used to find the ground-state energy (v2DM)²⁸ where the optimization should be constrained to the class of 2DM's^{29,30} that can be derived from an antisymmetric wave function, the so-called N -representable 2DM's. The wave function is not used in this method and we directly start from a 2DM. Although, the burden is shifted to the characterization of the N -representable class of 2DM's. Since the complete characterization is known to be a QMA complete problem³¹, one has to use a set of necessary but not (in general) sufficient conditions on the 2DM. The role of the necessary N -representability conditions is to enforce that the resulting 2DM approximates a wave function derivable 2DM as best as possible. Since the minimization of the energy is carried out over a too large set,

75 one obtains lower bounds to the exact energy³⁰.

76 The most commonly used conditions are derived from positive semidefinite Hamiltonians
77 and express the fact that their expectation value in any wave function should be positive.
78 Examples are the standard \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{G} two-index conditions^{30,32} and the \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 three-
79 index conditions³³. Other kinds of conditions exist, such as subsystem constraints³⁴ or
80 active-space constraints³⁵. The resulting constrained optimization problem is known as a
81 semidefinite program (SDP). This is a well-known class of convex optimization problems^{36–38}
82 for which a large collection of solvers exists³⁹. We created a SDP solver tailored to v2DM^{40–48}:
83 for the two-index conditions, basic matrix operations exhibit a scaling of $(2L)^6$ and for
84 the three-index conditions, $(2L)^9$. Unfortunately, on the whole the v2DM approach is not
85 competitive with e.g. CCSD methods^{49,50}.

86 In this paper, we aim to study the 2DM variational optimization restricted to DOCI space,
87 henceforth called v2DM-DOCI. In Figure 1, we give an overview of all the relevant methods.
88 We impose necessary conditions that the wave function from which the 2DM was derived
89 has the form of a DOCI wave function. This greatly simplifies the structure of the 2DM^{51,52}
90 which in turn leads to a much better scaling. We need an orbital optimization scheme, which
91 is far from trivial as the energy landscape contains a large number of local minima, many
92 very close to or even degenerate with the ground-state energy²⁴. The same problem is also
93 encountered in MCSCF^{53,54} and Valence bond Self-Consistent Field⁵⁵ where several solutions
94 are at hand^{53,56,57}. Most algorithms use the 2DM which still has to be calculated in wave
95 function-based methods while we have it directly, although it is not totally N -representable.
96 If a good starting point in the orbital space is available, a simple local minimizer can generate
97 good results. In this paper we use an algorithm utilizing Jacobi rotations⁵⁸ to avoid the full
98 simultaneous four-index transformation of the two-electron integrals.

99 In section 2, we introduce the v2DM framework and apply it to the case of a DOCI wave
100 function, leading to v2DM-DOCI. In section 3 the orbital optimization scheme is presented in
101 detail, and in section 4 results are shown for several illustrative test cases, including situations

102 where a multi-reference description is needed. A summary and discussion is presented in
 103 section 5.

104 2 Variational 2DM

105 We use Greek letters α, β, \dots to denote a general spinorbital ($2L$ in total), and Roman
 106 letters a, b, \dots to denote the spatial part of the orbital (L in total). With the bar symbol,
 107 the pairing partner of a state is denoted: a and \bar{a} form a pair of the same spatial orbital with
 108 opposite spin, e.g. $a = a \uparrow$ and $\bar{a} = a \downarrow$. All summations runs over either the spinorbitals
 109 or the orbitals depending on whether Greek or Roman summation indices were used. We
 110 use the second-quantization formalism: \hat{a}_α^\dagger (\hat{a}_α) denotes a creation (annihilation) operator
 111 for a fermion in the single particle state α . It is also assumed that the many-electron wave
 112 function is real.

113 2.1 General v2DM

114 In second quantization a Hamiltonian with pairwise interactions can be written as⁵⁹

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \langle \alpha | \hat{T} | \beta \rangle \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \langle \alpha\beta | \hat{V} | \gamma\delta \rangle \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta^\dagger \hat{a}_\delta \hat{a}_\gamma, \quad (1)$$

115 where \hat{T} and \hat{V} are the one- and two-particle operators. It should be noted that the formalism
 116 is completely general for Hamiltonians up to two-body interactions, however all operators
 117 discussed in the present paper concern field-free, non-relativistic electronic structure Hamil-
 118 tonians, i.e. \hat{T} is the sum of the electronic kinetic energy and the nuclei-electron attraction,
 119 whereas \hat{V} represents the interelectronic Coulomb repulsion. The ground-state energy can
 120 be expressed solely in terms of the second order reduced density matrix (2DM)²⁶ Γ ,

$$E = \text{Tr}(K\Gamma) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} K_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta}, \quad (2)$$

121 where

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} = \langle \psi | \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta^\dagger \hat{a}_\delta \hat{a}_\gamma | \psi \rangle , \quad (3)$$

$$K_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{N-1} (T_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta} - T_{\beta\gamma} \delta_{\alpha\delta} - T_{\alpha\delta} \delta_{\beta\gamma} + T_{\beta\delta} \delta_{\alpha\gamma}) + V_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} , \quad (4)$$

with $|\psi\rangle$ the ground-state wave function for the Hamiltonian (1) with matrix elements $T_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \alpha | \hat{T} | \beta \rangle$ and $V_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \langle \alpha\beta | \hat{V} | \gamma\delta \rangle$. N is the number of particles, and (3) and (4) define matrix elements of the 2DM and the reduced Hamiltonian $K_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta}$, respectively. Some elementary properties are easily derived,

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} = -\Gamma_{\beta\alpha;\gamma\delta} = -\Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\delta\gamma} = \Gamma_{\beta\alpha;\delta\gamma} , \quad (5)$$

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} = \Gamma_{\gamma\delta;\alpha\beta} , \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Tr}(\Gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\alpha\beta} = \frac{N(N-1)}{2} . \quad (7)$$

122 The idea of variational 2DM is to minimize the energy functional (2). The 2DM is a much
 123 more compact object than the wave function as its matrix dimension scales as L^2 . However,
 124 a direct approach produces unrealistic energies²⁸. The variation has to be limited to the
 125 class of N -representable 2DM's^{29,30}: for every 2DM, there must exist a wave function $|\psi\rangle$
 126 such that (3) is satisfied. Unfortunately there exists no straightforward way of establishing
 127 whether a 2DM is N -representable. The necessary and sufficient conditions are formally
 128 known^{60,61}: a 2DM is N -representable if and only if, for every two-particle Hamiltonian \hat{H}_ϕ ,
 129 the following inequality is true:

$$\text{Tr}(K_\phi \Gamma) \geq E_0(\hat{H}_\phi) , \quad (8)$$

130 with K_ϕ the reduced Hamiltonian and $E_0(\hat{H}_\phi)$ the exact ground-state energy of the Hamil-
 131 tonian \hat{H}_ϕ . This theorem cannot be used as a sufficient condition for N -representability as
 132 that would require the ground-state energy of every possible two-particle Hamiltonian \hat{H}_ϕ ,
 133 but it can be used as a necessary condition: the theorem (8) can be relaxed to Hamiltonians
 134 for which a lower bound to its ground-state energy is known. A straightforward choice is

$$\hat{H} = \hat{B}^\dagger \hat{B}, \quad (9)$$

135 a class of manifestly positive semidefinite Hamiltonians. If we restrict \hat{B} to the two-particle
 136 space, we find the well-known \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{G} two-index conditions:

- 137 1. The \mathcal{P} condition: $\hat{B} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} p_{\alpha\beta} \hat{a}_\alpha \hat{a}_\beta$, for arbitrary $p_{\alpha\beta}$. This trivial condition imposes
 138 the positive semidefiniteness of the 2DM itself:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}(\Gamma)_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} &= \langle \psi | \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta^\dagger \hat{a}_\delta \hat{a}_\gamma | \psi \rangle \\ \mathcal{P}(\Gamma) &= \Gamma \succeq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

- 139 2. The \mathcal{Q} condition³⁰: $\hat{B} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} q_{\alpha\beta} \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta^\dagger$, for arbitrary $q_{\alpha\beta}$ leading to

$$\mathcal{Q}(\Gamma) \succeq 0, \quad (11)$$

140 where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(\Gamma)_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} &= \langle \psi | \hat{a}_\alpha \hat{a}_\beta \hat{a}_\delta^\dagger \hat{a}_\gamma^\dagger | \psi \rangle \\ &= \Gamma_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} + (\delta_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta} - \delta_{\beta\gamma} \delta_{\alpha\delta}) \frac{2\text{Tr}(\Gamma)}{N(N-1)} \\ &\quad - \delta_{\alpha\gamma} \rho_{\beta\delta} + \delta_{\beta\gamma} \rho_{\alpha\delta} + \delta_{\alpha\delta} \rho_{\beta\gamma} - \delta_{\beta\delta} \rho_{\alpha\gamma}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

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and the single-particle density matrix (1DM) is defined as

$$\rho_{\alpha\beta} = \langle \psi | \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_\lambda \Gamma_{\alpha\lambda;\beta\lambda} . \quad (13)$$

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3. The \mathcal{G} condition³²: $\hat{B} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} g_{\alpha\beta} \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta$, for arbitrary $g_{\alpha\beta}$,

$$\mathcal{G}(\Gamma) \succeq 0 \quad (14)$$

143

with

$$\mathcal{G}(\Gamma)_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} = \langle \psi | \hat{a}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{a}_\beta \hat{a}_\delta^\dagger \hat{a}_\gamma | \psi \rangle = \delta_{\beta\delta} \rho_{\alpha\gamma} - \Gamma_{\alpha\delta;\gamma\beta} . \quad (15)$$

144

Furthermore, there are the so-called three-index commutator conditions^{33,48,62–65} which are

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computationally much more demanding and are not used in this paper. All these conditions

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are necessary but not sufficient: the true N -representable space is much more restricted.

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Because of this, v2DM will always find a lower bound to the FullCI energy.

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The variational optimization of the 2DM can now be expressed as:

$$\min \text{Tr} (K\Gamma) \quad \text{while} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\Gamma) \oplus \mathcal{Q}(\Gamma) \oplus \mathcal{G}(\Gamma) \succeq 0$$

$$\text{Tr} (\Gamma) = \frac{N(N-1)}{2} .$$

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This optimization problem can be formulated as a semidefinite program (SDP)^{46,47}, a class of

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well-known convex optimization problems³⁶ for which general-purpose solvers exist^{39,66,67}.

151

Earlier we developed SDP solvers customized for v2DM that exploit the specific structure of

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the problem^{40,43,44,68}. Such solvers are much more efficient than the general-purpose solvers.

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In this paper we use a boundary point method^{41,69,70} to solve the SDP problem. In this

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method, the primal-dual gap is zero by definition, and convergence is reached when both

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primal and dual feasibility is achieved. The computationally most intensive step in this

156 algorithm is the calculation of the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the constraint matrices.
 157 The computational cost of the program scales as L^6 for floating-point operations and L^4 for
 158 memory when using the two-index conditions. A detailed explanation of the solvers can be
 159 found in Ref 68.

160 2.2 DOCI tailored v2DM

161 We now impose the additional condition that $|\psi\rangle$ in (3) is a DOCI wave function. In principle
 162 any pairing scheme can be used, but the natural choice is the singlet pairing scheme, in
 163 which each spatial orbital is occupied by two electrons of opposite spin. This is based
 164 on the assumption that the most important static correlations in a closed-shell molecule
 165 can be captured in this way¹⁵. In CI terms, the wave function can be expanded in Slater
 166 determinants where all spatial orbitals are doubly occupied. This is also called a seniority-
 167 zero wave function. Formally, the DOCI wave function can be written as

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{a_1 \dots a_{(N/2)}} c_{a_1 \dots a_{(N/2)}} \prod_{k=1}^{N/2} \hat{a}_{a_k}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}_k}^\dagger |\rangle, \quad (17)$$

168 where the $a_i = 1 \dots L$ summations are over all spatial orbitals (L) and $|\rangle$ is defined as the
 169 particle vacuum.

170 A simple approach would be to project the reduced Hamiltonian (4) onto DOCI space and
 171 use existing v2DM codes. However, this does not lead to the desired result as internal con-
 172 sistency conditions on the 2DM are needed (see below). Also, any computational advantages
 173 due to the DOCI structure are lost as the scaling of the program remains unaltered.

174 It is much more efficient to adapt the N -representability conditions to the DOCI case
 175 as they are drastically simplified. The adapted DOCI conditions were already derived by
 176 Weinhold and Wilson^{51,52} but to the best of our knowledge never exploited in practical
 177 calculations.

178 Since we work in DOCI space, all operators evaluated between two DOCI wave functions

179 need to have seniority-zero, *i.e.* they cannot change the number of broken pairs. This
 180 immediately implies that the 1DM is diagonal and that the chosen set of orbitals is also the
 181 set of natural orbitals of $|\psi\rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{ab} &= \langle\psi|\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_b|\psi\rangle = \langle\psi|\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_{\bar{b}}|\psi\rangle = \delta_{ab}\rho_a, \\ \langle\psi|\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_{\bar{b}}|\psi\rangle &= \langle\psi|\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_b|\psi\rangle = 0.\end{aligned}\tag{18}$$

182 Furthermore, it is clear that

$$\rho_a \geq 0, \tag{19}$$

$$\sum_a \rho_a = \frac{N}{2}. \tag{20}$$

183 A similar simplification occurs for the 2DM and the $\mathcal{PQ}\mathcal{G}$ conditions:

184 1. The \mathcal{P} condition. The operator \hat{B} in eq. (9) acting on a DOCI wave functions can
 185 create both a seniority-0 and seniority-2 state. The corresponding \hat{B}^\dagger operator can only
 186 connect states of the same seniority and therefore block diagonalization will occur. The
 187 seniority-0 block is the pair density matrix,

$$\forall a, b: \quad \langle\psi|\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_a^\dagger\hat{a}_{\bar{b}}\hat{a}_b|\psi\rangle = \Gamma_{a\bar{a};b\bar{b}} = \Pi_{ab}. \tag{21}$$

188 From the positivity of the Hamiltonian $\hat{B}^\dagger\hat{B}$ with

$$\hat{B}^\dagger = \sum_a p_a \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^\dagger, \tag{22}$$

189 it follows that the $L \times L$ pair density matrix has to be positive semidefinite,

$$\Pi \succeq 0. \tag{23}$$

190

The seniority-2 block is a part of the diagonal of the 2DM:

$$\begin{aligned}
\forall a \neq b : \quad \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_b \hat{a}_a | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_b \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} | \psi \rangle = \\
\langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}} \hat{a}_a | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}} \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} | \psi \rangle = \\
\Gamma_{ab;ab} &= D_{ab} \geq 0
\end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

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For convenience we put $D_{aa} = 0$. Equation (24) provides $\frac{L(L-1)}{2}$ linear inequalities that

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have to be imposed. There are now two independent ways of obtaining the 1DM out

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of the 2DM: via the trace relation (13) and via the diagonal part of the pairing matrix:

$$\rho_a = \frac{2}{N-2} \sum_b D_{ab} , \tag{25}$$

$$\rho_a = \Pi_{aa} , \tag{26}$$

194

as the operators $\hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_a = \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} = \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} \hat{a}_a$ have the same expectation value for a DOCI

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wave function. These consistency conditions have to be separately enforced. Note that

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the trace condition (7) can be written in two alternative ways:

$$\sum_a \Pi_{aa} = \frac{N}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{ab} D_{ab} = \frac{N}{4}(N-2) . \tag{27}$$

197

2. The \mathcal{Q} condition has exactly the same structure as the \mathcal{P} condition. The constraint

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for the seniority-0 block is derived from

$$\sum_{ab} q_a \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}^\dagger \hat{a}_b^\dagger | \psi \rangle q_b \geq 0 , \tag{28}$$

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which leads to the positivity condition $\mathcal{Q}^\Pi \succeq 0$ on a $L \times L$ matrix \mathcal{Q}^Π , with elements

$$\mathcal{Q}_{ab}^\Pi = \delta_{ab}(1 - \rho_a - \rho_b) + \Pi_{ab} . \tag{29}$$

200

The seniority-2 part gives rise to a set of linear inequalities,

$$\forall a \neq b : \quad \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a \hat{a}_b \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_a^\dagger | \psi \rangle = 1 - \rho_a - \rho_b + D_{ab} \geq 0 . \quad (30)$$

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3. The \mathcal{G} condition is somewhat more complex as more combinations are non-zero. We

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work systematically according to seniority and spin.

Spin projections $M_S = \pm 1$ are equivalent, so we only consider the $M_S = +1$ case and always assume $a \neq b$, since in DOCI space $\hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} | \psi \rangle = 0$. The particle-hole operators generating this constraint are of the form $\hat{B}^\dagger = \sum_{ab} g_{ab} \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}$ which lead to the following seniority-2 positivity condition:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{abcd} g_{ab} [\delta_{bd} \delta_{ac} (\rho_a - D_{ab}) - \delta_{ad} \delta_{bc} \Pi_{ab}] g_{cd} = \\ \sum_{ab} g_{ab} [(\rho_a - D_{ab}) g_{ab} - \Pi_{ab} g_{ba}] \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

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This condition is almost diagonal, as g_{ab} is only connected with itself and g_{ba} , leading

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to the following 2×2 positivity condition:

$$\forall a < b \quad \begin{bmatrix} \rho_a - D_{ab} & -\Pi_{ab} \\ -\Pi_{ab} & \rho_b - D_{ab} \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 . \quad (32)$$

205

For the $M_S = 0$ and seniority-2 case, the particle-hole operators are of the form $\hat{B}_1^\dagger =$

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$\sum_{ab} g_{ab} \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_b$ and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger = \sum_{ab} g_{ab} \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}$, with $a \neq b$. These terms are coupled to each other.

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The diagonal terms ($\hat{B}_1^\dagger \hat{B}_1$ and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger \hat{B}_2$) are

$$\langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_b \hat{a}_d^\dagger \hat{a}_c | \psi \rangle = \delta_{ac} \delta_{bd} (\rho_a - D_{ab}) . \quad (33)$$

208 The off-diagonal terms ($\hat{B}_1^\dagger \hat{B}_2$ and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger \hat{B}_1$) are

$$\langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_b \hat{a}_d^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{c}} | \psi \rangle = \delta_{ad} \delta_{bc} \Pi_{ab} , \quad (34)$$

209 which leads to the 2×2 constraint matrix

$$\forall a < b \quad \begin{bmatrix} \rho_a - D_{ab} & \Pi_{ab} \\ \Pi_{ab} & \rho_b - D_{ab} \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 , \quad (35)$$

210 which is equivalent to (32).

211 The $M_S = 0$ and seniority-0 part is built by two particle-hole operators $\hat{B}_1^\dagger = \sum_a g_a \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_a$
 212 and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger = \sum_b g_b \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}}$. This leads to a $2L \times 2L$ matrix with diagonal elements ($\hat{B}_1^\dagger \hat{B}_1$
 213 and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger \hat{B}_2$)

$$\langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_a \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_b | \psi \rangle = \delta_{ab} \rho_a + D_{ab} , \quad (36)$$

214 and off-diagonal elements ($\hat{B}_1^\dagger \hat{B}_2$ and $\hat{B}_2^\dagger \hat{B}_1$)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^\dagger \hat{a}_a \hat{a}_b^\dagger \hat{a}_{\bar{b}} | \psi \rangle &= D_{ab} + \delta_{ab} \Pi_{ab} \\ &= \delta_{ab} \rho_a + D_{ab} . \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

215 Both blocks are identical, which means that L eigenvalues will be zero and we only
 216 have to impose the positivity $\mathcal{G}^\Pi \succeq 0$ of a $L \times L$ matrix:

$$\mathcal{G}_{ab}^\Pi = \delta_{ab} \rho_a + D_{ab} . \quad (38)$$

217 The \mathcal{P} conditions correspond to eq. (24a) and (30) in Weinhold and Wilson⁵², the \mathcal{Q}
 218 conditions to eq. (24b) and (34) and the \mathcal{G} conditions to eq. (24c), (44) and (18).

219 We now look at the reduced Hamiltonian (4) which simplifies to the same structure as

220 the \mathcal{P} condition. The DOCI reduced Hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} K_{ab}^{\Pi} &= \frac{2}{N-1} T_{aa} \delta_{ab} + V_{aabb} , \\ K_{ab}^D &= \frac{1}{N-1} (T_{aa} + T_{bb}) + V_{abab} - \frac{1}{2} V_{abba} . \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

221 The energy functional (2) for DOCI becomes

$$E = \sum_{ab} (K_{ab}^{\Pi} \Pi_{ab} + 2K_{ab}^D D_{ab}) . \quad (40)$$

222 An advantage of v2DM-DOCI is that the resulting 2DM belongs to a singlet state, while
223 the general v2DM needs additional constraints to ensure the singlet:

$$\langle \psi | \hat{a}_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{\beta} \hat{S}_z | \psi \rangle = 0 , \quad (41)$$

224 with the \hat{S}_z operator defined as,

$$\hat{S}_z = \frac{1}{2} \sum_a (\hat{a}_a^{\dagger} \hat{a}_a - \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}) . \quad (42)$$

In full v2DM, this constraint needs to be enforced by a zero eigenvalue in the \mathcal{G} matrix^{49,68}.

In v2DM-DOCI however,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | \hat{a}_c^{\dagger} \hat{a}_d \hat{S}_z | \psi \rangle &= \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \delta_{cd} \sum_a^L \left(\langle \psi | \hat{a}_c^{\dagger} \hat{a}_d \hat{a}_a^{\dagger} \hat{a}_a | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | \hat{a}_c^{\dagger} \hat{a}_d \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} | \psi \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_a^L \left(\langle \psi | \hat{a}_a^{\dagger} \hat{a}_a | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | \hat{a}_c^{\dagger} \hat{a}_a^{\dagger} \hat{a}_c \hat{a}_a | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | \hat{a}_c^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{\bar{a}}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_c \hat{a}_{\bar{a}} | \psi \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_a^L (\rho_a + (1 - \delta_{ac}) D_{ac} - \Pi_{ac} \delta_{ac} - (1 - \delta_{ac}) D_{ca}) \\ &= 0 , \end{aligned}$$

225 which means that the singlet condition is automatically fulfilled. It must be noted that (41)
 226 is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the 2DM to be derivable from a $S = 0$ wave
 227 function.

228 In these DOCI N -representability conditions, the largest matrix dimension encountered
 229 is L as compared to $(2L)^2$ in the general case. The remainder of the conditions are linear
 230 inequalities and the positive semidefiniteness of 2×2 matrices which are trivial to impose.
 231 The scaling of our code has been reduced from L^6 to L^3 for the floating point operations
 232 and from L^4 to L^2 for the memory. In Figure 2 the scaling of the v2DM and v2DM-DOCI
 233 (without orbital optimization) is shown for a growing chain of equidistant hydrogen atoms
 234 (interatomic distance = 2 Bohr) in the STO-3G basis. Note that for 30 H-atoms the v2DM-
 235 DOCI is already three orders of magnitude faster than the general v2DM code. We used
 236 a v2DM code that exploits spin symmetry and the singlet conditions are enforced, so we
 237 can make a fair comparison with v2DM-DOCI. The v2DM-DOCI starts to exhibit a smooth
 238 scaling with the number of hydrogen atoms when the runtime was at least 10^4 seconds
 239 whereas the general v2DM reaches this point sooner (10^3 seconds). We performed a linear
 240 fit on a log-log plot to find the power of the leading term in the scaling (αx^β) resulting in
 the coefficients found in table 1. The scaling is two orders better while the prefactor changes

Table 1: The resulting coefficients of the linear fit in Figure 2

	α	β
v2DM	$2.602 \cdot 10^{-5}$	6.485
v2DM-DOCI	$5.268 \cdot 10^{-5}$	3.954

241
 242 little. Note that the actual scaling parameters $\beta = 6.4$ (v2DM) and $\beta = 3.9$ (v2DM-DOCI)
 243 deviate from the theoretical scaling parameters $\beta = 6$ (v2DM) and $\beta = 3$ (v2DM-DOCI)
 244 involved in the v2DM floating point operations as any v2DM algorithm contains an iterative
 245 scheme with a number of loops that slowly increases with L .

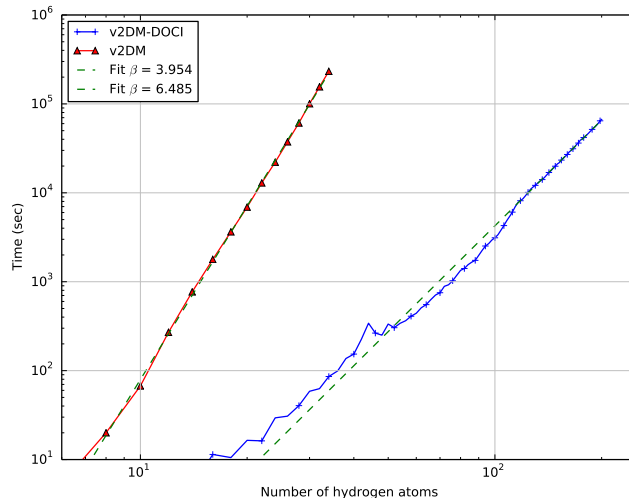


Figure 2: Scaling of v2DM-DOCI vs v2DM on a hydrogen chain (interatomic distance = 2 Bohr) in the STO-3G basis on a log-log plot. We fitted a linear curve ($\beta x + \alpha$) to the data.

3 Orbital Optimization

The DOCI energy is orbital dependent, therefore the choice of the orbitals is crucial. Like in many MCSCF methods, we use an iterative two-step algorithm^{1,54,57,71-73} in which we first optimize the 2DM and then the orbitals. Orbital optimization is a hard problem as it requires finding the global minimum in a rough and uncharted landscape²⁴. There are no known computationally feasible techniques for achieving this in a general way. The most often used approach is to pick a good starting point and use a Newton-Raphson based algorithm to find a local minimum^{56,57}. This involves calculating the computationally expensive Jacobian and Hessian. Furthermore, the four-index transformation of the two-electron integrals is not cheap.

We use a different approach: a Jacobi rotation is performed in every step. A Jacobi rotation⁵⁸ is a unitary transformation that rotates in a two-dimensional subspace of the orbital space. While in a Newton-Raphson method all orbitals are updated at every step, in a Jacobi rotation only two orbitals are updated in each step. Jacobi rotations have the advantage of simplicity: only 2 rows and columns need to be updated, which makes the transformation of the two-electron integrals much faster. The Jacobi rotation of orbitals k

268 for the rotation over of an angle θ between orbitals k and l . The constants A, B, C, D, F ,
 269 of which the complete expression is given in the supplementary material¹, depend on the
 270 elements of the 2DM, T_{ab} and V_{abcd} . As eq. (46) has a period of π , we only consider the
 271 interval $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. The N -representability conditions of section 2 are unitarily invariant, so we
 272 are guaranteed that a Jacobi rotation does not affect the N -representability, but the energy
 273 is not necessarily minimal. This means that the calculated energy (46) will always be greater
 274 than or equal to the optimized v2DM minimum.

275 It is easy and cheap to calculate the gradient and Hessian of this equation. Using a
 276 Newton-Raphson algorithm, we can thus easily find the angle for which eq. (46) is minimal.
 277 The constant term (F) in eq. (46) is the only one involving a double sum over the orbitals: it
 278 is the original double sum appearing in eq. (40) over all orbitals except orbitals k and l . This
 279 implies that an evaluation of the energy scales as L^2 , but the energy difference, gradient and
 280 the Hessian only scale computationally as L . If we iterate over all pairs of orbitals (scaling
 281 as L^2) and find the optimal angle for minimization, we have an L^3 algorithm to find the
 282 new Jacobi rotation optimizing the energy decrease. If symmetry-adapted orbitals are used,
 283 only rotations between orbitals in the same irreducible representation are allowed, which
 284 simplifies the two-electron integral transformation even more. A schematic overview is given
 285 in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 The algorithm used to find the optimal Jacobi rotation in pseudocode

```

procedure FINDOPTIMALROTATION( $\Gamma, T, V$ )
  for  $i \leftarrow 1, n_{\text{irrep}}$  do                                ▷ Loop over all irreducible representations
    for all  $(a, b) \in \text{irrep}_i$  do                          ▷ Loop over all pairs of orbitals belonging to irrep  $i$ 
       $(E_{ab}, \theta_{ab}) = \text{FINDMINIMUM}(\Gamma, T, V, a, b)$   ▷ Minimum of (46)
    end for
  end for
   $(k, l, \theta) = \min (E, \theta)$                                ▷ Find the lowest energy over all pairs
  return  $(k, l, \theta_{kl})$                                 ▷ Return the pair of orbitals and the angle
end procedure

```

286 As an example, we consider the BH molecule at equilibrium distance (2.32 Bohr) in the

¹See supplemental material at [INSERT URL] for the complete expression of the constants in eq. (46).

287 STO-3G basis. Figure 3 contains the energy as a function of the rotation angle between
 288 several pairs of orbitals starting from the Hartree-Fock molecular orbitals. The full (red)
 289 curve is the energy as calculated with eq. (46) keeping the 2DM fixed, whereas the dashed
 290 (blue) curve involves a 2DM optimization at each point. We used C_{2v} symmetry for BH
 291 (the largest Abelian point group of BH) and we only consider the 4 orbitals that transform
 292 according to irreducible representation A_1 (the other 2 orbitals transform according to B_1
 293 and B_2). The orbital energies (in Hartree) of the restricted Hartree-Fock solution are given
 in Table 2.

Table 2: The restricted Hartree-Fock solution for BH. The orbital energies are in Hartree. We use C_{2v} symmetry, the orbitals are labelled according to irreducible representations A_1 , B_1 or B_2 .

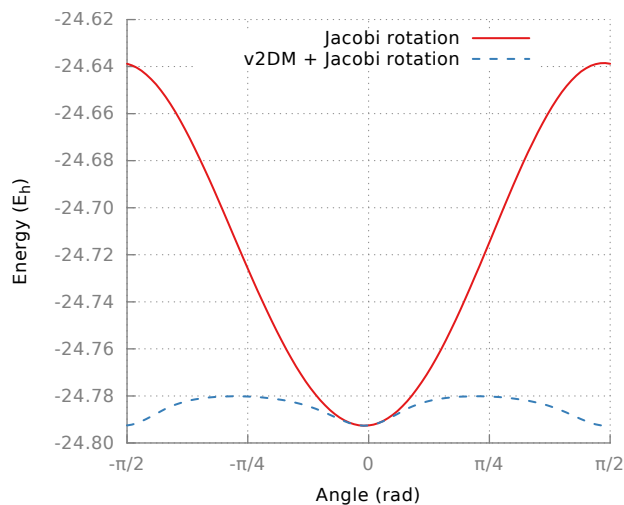
Doubly occupied orbitals					
$1A_1$	-7.339428	$2A_1$	-0.573370	$3A_1$	-0.246546
Virtual orbitals					
$1B_1$	0.269938	$1B_2$	0.269938	$4A_1$	0.701123

294

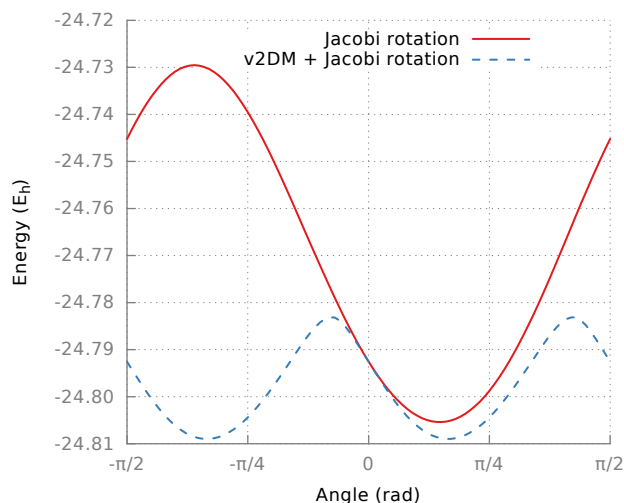
295 The pictures shown for the BH molecule are characteristic for most calculations that we
 296 have done. For most pairs of orbitals, the lowest energy is obtained for very small rotation
 297 angles except for a few where a larger decrease in energy can be achieved. In Figure 3b there
 298 is a clear new minimum and the angle found using (46) is very close to the v2DM optimized
 299 minimum. The $1A_1$ orbital is the localized $1s$ orbital on the Boron atom. The $2A_1$ and $3A_1$
 300 orbitals are a mixture of the $1s$ on the hydrogen atom and the $2s$ and $2p_z$ on the Boron
 301 atom. The largest energy gain can be achieved by mixing these orbitals and this already
 302 brings us very close to the FullCI energy ($-24.810 E_h$).

303 4 Results

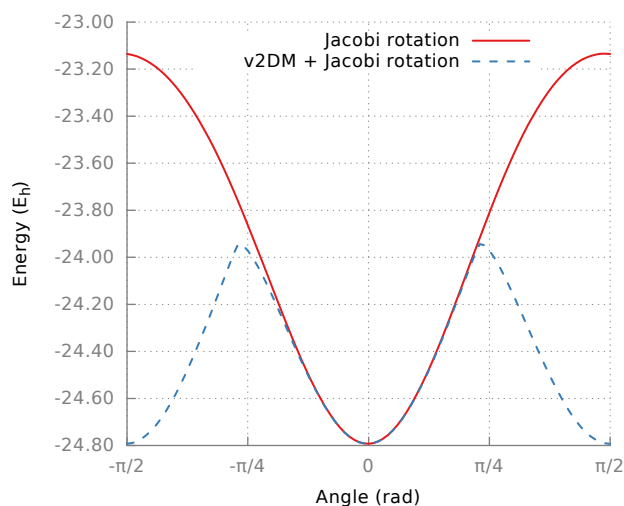
304 We have developed a code to perform variational 2DM optimizations using the DOCI con-
 305 straints derived in section 2.2 in conjunction with orbital optimization according to eq. (46).
 306 The one- and two-particle integrals are transformed with the optimized Jacobi rotation (see



(a) Orbitals $1A_1$ and $2A_1$, min ≈ -0.027 rad



(b) Orbitals $2A_1$ and $3A_1$, min ≈ 0.463 rad



(c) Orbitals $2A_1$ and $4A_1$, min ≈ -0.005 rad

Figure 3: The red curve has been calculated using (46) while the blue curve uses the same transformed reduced Hamiltonian but an optimized 2DM-DOCI. These results are for BH in STO-3G. We used an interatomic distance of 2.32 Bohr. The min refers to the minimum of the eq. (46) (red curve). The FullCI energy is $-24.810 E_h$.

307 Algorithm 1) and a new v2DM optimization is started. We continue this loop until the
 308 ground-state energy is converged to within $10^{-6} E_h$ during at least 25 steps. For the v2DM
 309 calculations, we used a boundary point method with a primal and dual convergence criterion
 310 of 10^{-7} (see ref. 68). The flow of our program is shown in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Schematic overview of the complete v2DM-DOCI algorithm

```

converged  $\leftarrow$  0
while converged < 25 do                                 $\triangleright$  Do 25 steps within convergence criteria
     $E_{\text{new}}, \Gamma = \text{v2DM}(T, V)$      $\triangleright$  Do a v2DM-DOCI optimization with electron integrals  $T$ 
    and  $V$ 
     $(k, l, \theta) = \text{FINDOPTIMALROTATION}(\Gamma, T, V)$      $\triangleright$  Find the optimal rotation
     $T, V = \text{TRANSFORMINTEGRALS}(k, l, \theta, T, V)$      $\triangleright$  Rotate the integrals
    if  $|E_{\text{new}} - E_{\text{old}}| < 10^{-6}$  then                 $\triangleright$  Check convergence
        converged  $\leftarrow$  converged + 1
    end if
     $E_{\text{old}} \leftarrow E_{\text{new}}$ 
end while

```

311 The code used to generate the data presented can be found online⁷⁴ under the GPLv3
 312 license. All simulations were run single-threaded on a Intel Xeon E5-2680 v3 with 64GB of
 313 RAM. We used PSI4⁷⁵ to generate the one- and two-electron integrals in the Gaussian basis
 314 set and the Hartree-Fock molecular orbitals. Unless specified otherwise, the Hartree-Fock
 315 molecular orbitals are the starting point for the orbital optimization. In all calculations,
 316 the cc-pVDZ basis was used. Benchmark results are provided by CheMPS2⁷⁶⁻⁷⁹, an open-
 317 source spin-adapted implementation of Density Matrix Renormalization Group (DMRG) for
 318 ab initio quantum chemistry, that generates results with FullCI accuracy. To monitor the
 319 convergence in CheMPS2, we increased the bond dimension in steps from 500 to 2500 for all
 320 calculations. FullDOCI is the result of a CI solver restricted to the doubly-occupied Slater
 321 determinants, combined with the same orbital optimization scheme as v2DM-DOCI (unless
 322 specified otherwise).

323 4.1 Two- and four-electron systems

324 The DOCI wavefunction for a two-electron system is exact provided that the orbitals are
 325 optimized¹⁵. General v2DM using only the \mathcal{P} condition is also exact for a two-electron
 326 system^{30,49}. It is easy to prove that v2DM-DOCI combined with orbital optimization also
 327 generates exact results for any two-electron system. This is illustrated by the numerical
 328 results in Table 3 for H₂ and He. Note that in Table 3 the FullDOCI results were obtained
 329 with the optimal orbitals produced by v2DM-DOCI.

330 In the dissociated He₂ dimer, the effect of symmetry breaking can be seen in the third
 331 and fourth row of Table 3. When we allow the point-group symmetry to break down from
 332 D_{2h} to C₁, the orbital optimization algorithm is no longer restricted to orbitals transforming
 333 according to the same irreducible representation. When the symmetry is not broken (D_{2h}),
 334 the *s* orbitals of the two He atoms are coupled, in the sense that only (anti-)symmetric
 335 combinations are retained. In this case v2DM-DOCI cannot recover the FullCI energy.
 336 When we decouple the orbitals and use C₁ symmetry, the full correlation energy is found.
 It is important to note the difference with the general v2DM optimization: general v2DM

Table 3: Ground-state energy for some small systems in the cc-pVDZ basis. Energies are in milliHartree, interatomic distance (d) in Bohr. The columns labeled v2DM-DOCI and FullDOCI contain the deviation from FullCI. The orbital optimization is done with the specified Abelian symmetry in the column labeled 'Sym.'

System	Sym.	d	HF	FullCI	Δ v2DM-DOCI	Δ FullDOCI
H ₂	D _{2h}	1.438	-1128.629	-1163.673	0.000	0.000
He	D _{2h}		-2855.160	-2887.595	0.000	0.000
He ₂	D _{2h}	10.000	-5710.321	-5775.190	40.013	40.022
He ₂	C ₁	10.000	-5710.321	-5775.190	0.000	0.000

337
 338 always gives a lower bound to the exact ground-state energy, but in the v2DM-DOCI case,
 339 the energy is orbital dependent. The v2DM-DOCI energy can be higher or lower than the
 340 FullCI result. We almost always find a higher energy. It is still true, however, that the
 341 v2DM-DOCI must be lower than or equal to FullDOCI with the same set of orbitals. In
 342 principle we combine a lower-bound method (v2DM) with an upper-bound method (Jacobi

343 rotations). A cancelation of errors can occur and that is why we always compare to FullDOCI
 344 as it uses an exact energy solver.

345 4.2 Hydrogen chain

346 The symmetric stretching of an equidistant chain of hydrogen atoms is a standard test case for
 347 a new method aimed at strong static correlations. It is simple yet challenging, because of the
 348 strong correlation effects in the transition from metallic hydrogen to dissociated hydrogen.
 349 We use a H_8 chain^{15,19} in the cc-pVDZ basis with D_{2h} (symmetry-adapted) or C_1 (symmetry-
 350 broken) orbitals. The results shown in Figure 4 indicate the importance of the choice of the
 351 starting point in the orbital optimization scheme as this dictates the valley in which the local
 minimizer is active. The underlying basis for the one- and two-electron integrals is always

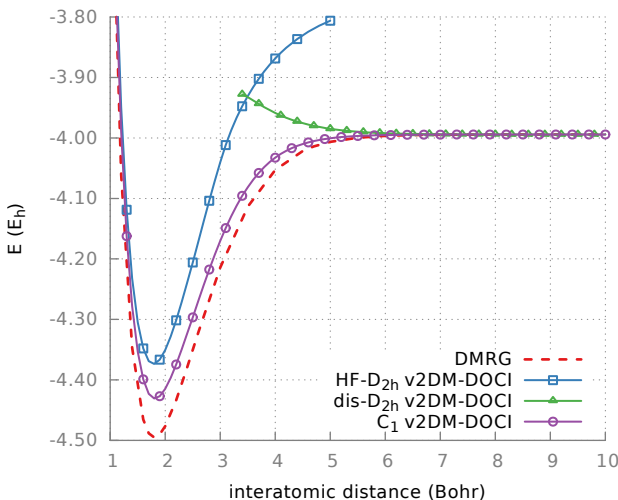


Figure 4: The symmetric stretch of H_8 in the cc-pVDZ basis. Not all calculated points are marked. For the C_1 curve, the largest deviation from DMRG is 45 milliHartree around the minimum at 1.8 Bohr.

352

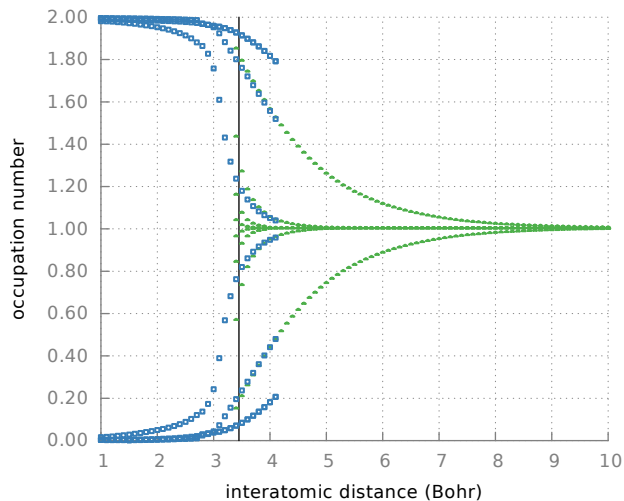
353 taken to be the Löwdin orthogonalized Gaussian basis set (symmetry-adapted if specified).
 354 For the HF-D_{2h} curve, we first performed a calculation at equilibrium distance starting
 355 from the Hartree-Fock molecular orbitals. The resulting orthogonal transformation matrix,
 356 describing the transition from the Löwdin orthogonalized Gaussian basis set to the optimal
 357 set of orbitals at equilibrium, was used as a starting point in the orbital optimization for all

358 other points on the curve. It is clear from the figure that this procedure does not lead to
359 a satisfactory description of the metallic to the non-interacting region, as the dissociation
360 limit is much higher in energy than the FullCI curve.

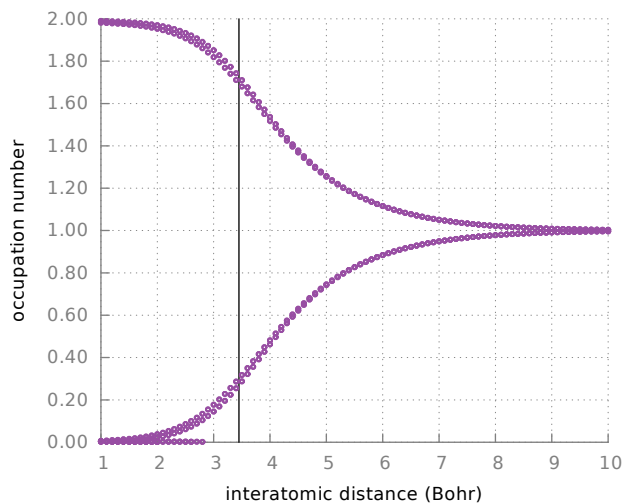
361 For the curve labeled dis- D_{2h} , we performed a calculation at 10 Bohr determining the
362 optimal orbital transformation with a random search and used this orbital transformation
363 as a starting point for all other distances in the curve. This procedure correctly describes
364 the dissociation limit but the energy rises artificially when we go into the metallic regime.
365 So symmetry-adapted D_{2h} orbitals cannot describe the transition from metallic to non-
366 interacting, localized hydrogen atoms. When starting from several random points, we could
367 not find a lower energy curve for the D_{2h} case. The whole picture changes when we break the
368 symmetry (the curve labeled C_1), and v2DM-DOCI now gives a physically correct description
369 of the transition. This curve was found by starting from the optimal orbital transformation
370 of a v2DM-DOCI calculation at 10 Bohr using localized orbitals as starting point. Similar
371 results were already reported by Bytautas et al.¹⁵: they verified that the behaviour is not a
372 two-state crossing or avoided crossing between the ground state and an excited state.

373 In Figure 5, we have plotted the natural orbital occupation numbers from the 1DM ex-
374 tracted from v2DM-DOCI, for both symmetries. In the C_1 symmetry there is a smooth
375 transition from doubly-occupied hydrogen to singly-occupied hydrogen. In the D_{2h} sym-
376 metry the 'localized' orbitals corresponding to dis- D_{2h} curve in Figure 4 have a branch of
377 singly-occupied hydrogen that is not present in the C_1 symmetry. The 'molecular orbitals'
378 corresponding to the HF- D_{2h} curve in Figure 4 also have branches with no counterpart in the
379 localized orbitals. It is clear that only v2DM-DOCI results with symmetry-broken optimized
380 orbitals provide a correct description of the transition.

381 As far as the details of the orbital optimization scheme are concerned, we found that
382 the procedure can be accelerated by not performing a v2DM-DOCI optimization at each
383 rotation: in practice we see that the energy decreases considerably in the first steps. In
384 subsequent steps, the convergence goes more slowly as the algorithm can only update two



(a) The natural occupation numbers of H_8 for the D_{2h} symmetry



(b) The natural occupation numbers of H_8 for the C_1 symmetry

Figure 5: The v2DM-DOCI natural orbital occupation numbers for both symmetries of the symmetric stretch of H_8 . Only points with an occupation number larger than 10^{-3} are shown. The black line marks the energy crossing of the D_{2h} curves in Figure 4. The colors also match the curves in Figure 4.

385 orbitals at a time. In this tail of the minimization, we can safely skip the optimization of the
386 2DM for a number of updates as all rotation angles are small, only to restart the algorithm
387 with the optimal solution from the previous step at the very end. This technique partially
388 circumvents the downside of the Jacobi rotations, i.e. that only two orbitals are updated at
389 the same time.

390 4.3 Molecular systems

391 Another interesting test is the dissociation of a diatomic molecule in which static correlation
392 is of paramount importance at dissociation. The cc-pVDZ basis is used for all molecules.
393 The nomenclature used for the results is as follows: v2DM-DOCI refers to v2DM with the
394 DOCI constraints on the 2DM (see section 2.2) and with the Jacobi orbital optimization (see
395 section 3). FullDOCI uses the same orbital optimization algorithm. v2DM-DOCI/FullDOCI
396 is a single-shot v2DM-DOCI calculation using the optimal set of orbitals from a FullDOCI
397 calculation. FullDOCI/v2DM-DOCI is exactly the opposite: a single-shot FullDOCI calcu-
398 lation using the optimal set of orbitals from v2DM-DOCI.

399 We first present the dissociation of N_2 . This is challenging because of the breaking of a
400 triple bond and is often used as a test case^{15,80-83}. In the cc-pVDZ basis, N_2 has 28 orbitals
401 and we perform calculations with both D_{2h} and C_1 symmetry. The results are presented in
402 Figure 6 and detailed in Table 4. The results are to be compared to DMRG calculations⁷⁶⁻⁷⁹
403 which are to be considered as the FullCI reference. In order to appreciate the performance
404 of v2DM-DOCI, results of other methods such as Coupled-Cluster with Singles, Doubles and
405 perturbative Triples (CCSD(T))⁸⁴ and density functional theory with B3LYP functional^{85,86}
406 are also presented. All DOCI curves give a qualitatively correct description of the dissociation
407 process. In Table 4 one can notice that v2DM-DOCI is a better approximation to FullDOCI
408 than v2DM is to FullCI. The effect of symmetry breaking is very small for N_2 : the energy
409 gains are in the milliHartree region. Note that N_2 dissociates into two N atoms with an odd
410 number of electrons. This forms no problem for FullDOCI as the orbital optimization can

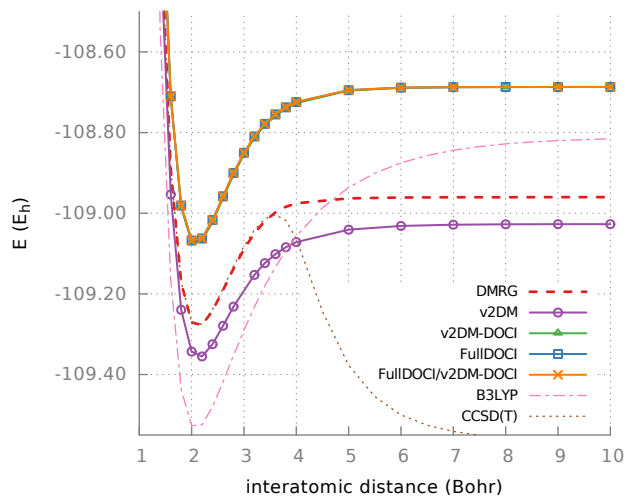


Figure 6: The dissociation of N_2 in the cc-pVDZ basis. The DOCI curves shown are for the C_1 symmetry. Note that three curves (v2DM-DOCI, FullDOCI, FullDOCI/v2DM-DOCI) coincide visually.

Table 4: Some points on the N_2 curve from Figure 6. The interatomic distance (d) is in Bohr. The DMRG energy is in Hartree. For v2DM, v2DM-DOCI and FullDOCI, the deviation from DMRG is given in milliHartree.

d	Sym.	DMRG	Δ_{v2DM}	$\Delta_{v2DM-DOCI}$	$\Delta_{FullDOCI}$
2.2	D_{2h}	-109.278	-77.375	222.578	224.455
2.2	C_1	-109.278	-77.375	209.891	214.787
4.0	D_{2h}	-108.975	-96.213	257.013	258.842
4.0	C_1	-108.975	-96.213	248.396	250.991
10.0	D_{2h}	-108.960	-66.384	282.966	283.108
10.0	C_1	-108.960	-66.384	273.371	273.464

411 handle this²⁴. The difference between the DOCI curves and the DMRG reference is due to
 412 dynamical correlations and can be added in a subsequent stage, as shown in Ref. 87.

413 Another interesting case is cyanide, CN^- . This heteronuclear molecule also has a triple
 414 bond and dissociates in C^- and N . The effect of breaking the C_{2v} symmetry is again minimal
 (see results in Table 5) so in Figure 7 we restrict ourselves to the C_1 curve. For this het-

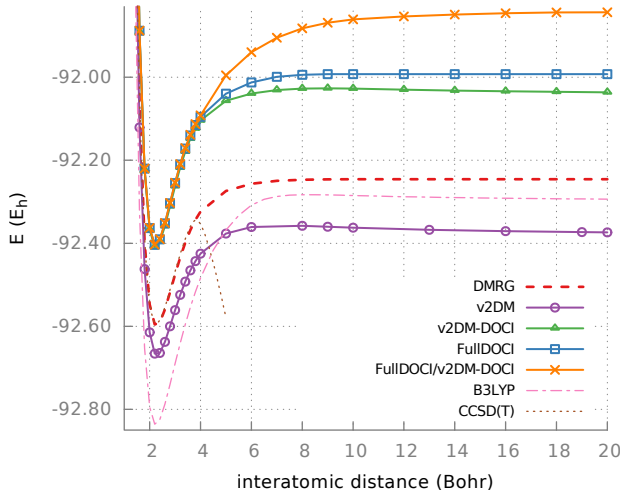


Figure 7: The dissociation of CN^- in the cc-PVDZ basis. The DOCI curves shown are for the C_1 symmetry.

Table 5: Some points on the CN^- curve from Figure 7. The interatomic distance (d) is in Bohr. The DMRG energy is in Hartree. For v2DM, v2DM-DOCI and FullDOCI, the deviation from DMRG is given in milliHartree.

d	Sym.	DMRG	Δ v2DM	Δ v2DM-DOCI	Δ FullDOCI
2.2	C_{2v}	-92.596	-70.208	186.967	192.202
2.2	C_1	-92.596	-70.208	186.967	192.192
4.0	C_{2v}	-92.324	-101.281	219.639	228.307
4.0	C_1	-92.324	-101.281	219.639	228.300
10.0	C_{2v}	-92.246	-116.686	218.333	253.131
10.0	C_1	-92.246	-116.686	218.333	253.130
20.0	C_{2v}	-92.246	-127.996	209.275	253.135
20.0	C_1	-92.246	-127.996	209.275	253.133

415

416 eronuclear molecule, the dissociation limit for v2DM and v2DM-DOCI is incorrect. This is a
 417 known failure for v2DM-based techniques⁸⁸: the energy of the isolated atoms as a function of
 418 fractional charge is a convex curve in v2DM whereas it should be a piecewise linear curve⁸⁹.

419 Because of this, v2DM will favour fractional charges on dissociated atoms and thus give a
 420 physically incorrect picture. This can be seen clearly on the FullDOCI/v2DM-DOCI curve:
 421 if we use the optimal basis of v2DM-DOCI, the FullDOCI energy is much higher than the
 422 true FullDOCI energy as the FullDOCI solution cannot use the artificial non-integer atomic
 423 charges. A Mulliken population analysis⁹⁰ confirms this: at an interatomic distance of 20
 424 Bohr, the net charges are $C^{-0.48}N^{-0.52}$. Using so-called subsystem constraints^{34,91} one can
 425 force the E vs N curve to be piecewise linear. However, this would require a v2DM(-DOCI)
 426 optimization at each nearby integer value of N . In Figure 8, we have used the FullDOCI
 optimal orbitals for the v2DM-DOCI calculation. In this case, v2DM-DOCI gives the cor-

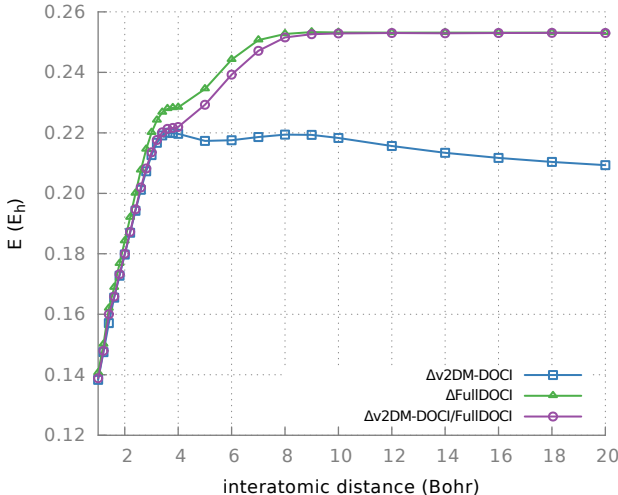


Figure 8: The dissociation of CN^- in the cc-PVDZ basis: comparing the v2DM-DOCI/FullDOCI results with v2DM-DOCI and FullDOCI. The deviation from DMRG is plotted.

427
 428 rect DOCI dissociation limit. This suggests that it might be possible to find specific DOCI
 429 constraints to solve the problem of fractional charges in v2DM-DOCI.

430 5 Conclusion

431 In this paper we applied specific necessary N -representability constraints for a second order
 432 density matrix derived from a seniority-zero CI wavefunction. The standard two-particle

433 conditions \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{G} reduce to a simpler form that allows for a better theoretical scaling: L^3
434 instead of L^6 . As any truncated CI wavefunction is orbital dependent, an orbital optimization
435 scheme has been included. We use an orbital optimizer based on elementary Jacobi rotations.
436 Only two orbitals are optimized at each step, implying that the associated two-electron
437 integral transformation is much more efficient. The theoretical scaling of the orbital optimizer
438 is L^3 . In practice, the molecular systems in this manuscript needed less than 50 Jacobi
439 rotations with optimization to convergence. The runtime was on average less than one hour.
440 Both of course are very dependent on the used starting point. We have tested our method
441 on several challenging cases. For the H_8 equidistant chain, we find that the symmetry of the
442 system must be broken in order to find the correct DOCI energy curve. The orbital optimizer
443 needs the additional degrees of freedom to find the physically correct set of orbitals. For the
444 dissociation of N_2 , v2DM-DOCI gives good results, and symmetry breaking hardly gives any
445 improvement. It is seen that v2DM-DOCI provides a good approximation to FullDOCI: the
446 v2DM-DOCI and FullDOCI energies are consistently closer to each other than the v2DM and
447 FullCI energies. In the dissociation of CN^- , v2DM and v2DM-DOCI fail due to fractional
448 charges although FullDOCI still gives a good description. We note that v2DM-DOCI with
449 the FullDOCI optimal basis can reproduce the correct FullDOCI energy. This indicates
450 that there could exist specific DOCI constraints to fix the problem of fractional charges in
451 v2DM-DOCI.

452 The orbital optimizer works well provided it is given a suitable starting point. Near
453 equilibrium, the Hartree-Fock molecular orbitals are usually a good choice, whereas in the
454 dissociation limit localized orbitals often give a better starting point. Unfortunately this
455 does not always hold: for instance for the H_8 chain the equilibrium energy could only be
456 found by starting from the localized orbitals. However, if a single optimal point is found in
457 the correct DOCI valley, it can usually be used as a starting point for all other calculations
458 on the same system.

459 The main results of this paper support the idea that DOCI combined with orbital op-

460 timization captures the lion's share of the static correlations. Subsequently, the missing
461 dynamic correlations can be added through perturbation theory. We find that v2DM-DOCI
462 is a good and fast approximation to FullDOCI.

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477 **Supporting Information Available**

478 In the supporting information a complete expression of eq. (46) including the constants
479 A, B, C, D, F can be found. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at
480 <http://pubs.acs.org/>.

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