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# Mixed Basis Functions in Molecular Quantum Mechanics IV. The Linear, Equidistant System of Four Interacting Hydrogen Atoms

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A series of calculations have been carried out for the linear system of four equidistant hydrogen atoms for an internuclear separation of 1.7 a.u. The configuration interaction technique was used, the orbital basis consisting of a mixed set of 1s Slater and floating spherical Gaussian functions. The results obtained are encouraging although the effects of unoptimized non-linear parameters are noticeable.

Es wurde eine Reihe von Rechnungen für ein lineares System von vier äquidistanten Wasserstoffatomen (Kernabstand jeweils 1.7 a.u.) durchgeführt. Dabei benutzt man die Konfigurationswechselwirkungs-Technik, die Orbitalbasis bestand aus einem gemischten Satz von 1s Slater- und "floating" sphärischen Gauß-Orbitalen. Die Resultate sind ermutigend, obwohl die Effekte der nicht optimierten nichtlinearen Parameter merklich sind.

#### Introduction

In the previous papers a series of calculations were reported on 2 and 3 electrons systems, using mixed sets of functions as orbital bases [1-3]. The results were encouraging and as a further test of the method a series of calculations have been carried out on the linear, equidistant system of four hydrogen atoms. Extensive theoretical work on H<sub>4</sub> has been hindered by the difficulties involved in the calculation of the three- and four-centre integrals; so much so that the most sophisticated configuration interaction calculation to date has only made use of a 1s, 1s' STO basis [4]. Another, less formidable problem is the large number of configurations which arise, even if only a moderately small basis were used. Linear H<sub>4</sub> has been used as a convenient model for a one-dimensional metallic crystal [5], although as yet it has not been experimentally observed.

The basis sets used in the current  $H_4$  calculation consist of a 1s, 1s' STO basis enlarged by Gaussians, much the same way as for  $H_2$  and  $H_3$ , so as to improve both the SCF and correlation parts of the CI wavefunction [2, 3]. The calculation of the integrals does not present any fresh problems. The geometry is taken to be identical to the optimum one calculated by Rubinstein and Shavitt [4], i.e. linear, equidistant with an internuclear separation of 1.7 a.u.

#### **Calculations and Results**

A series of configuration interaction type calculations have been carried out for the ground state  $({}^{1}\Sigma_{g}^{+})$  of the linear, equidistant H<sub>4</sub> system, for a fixed internuclear distance of 1.7 a.u., in the Born-Oppenheimer approximation. The orbital bases used consist of a 1s, 1s' type set of Slater orbitals, gradually enlarged by the addition of spherical Gaussian functions arranged spatially so as to allow for both axial and angular correlation, as well as to improve the SCF part of the wavefunction.

In order to keep the number of configurations at a reasonably low level an iterative procedure, very similar to the interative natural orbital method of Bender and Davidson [6], was introduced and found to function successfully. As a first approximation a CI wavefunction is constructed containing a limited number of configurations, the basis consisting of orthonormal symmetry orbitals. After the computation of the energy expectation value and corresponding eigenvector the spinless first order reduced density matrix is calculated and diagonalized resulting in a set of "approximate" natural orbitals; approximate because they were calculated using a limited CI wavefunction. In the next calculation the original symmetry orbital basis is replaced by the set of natural orbitals. The process is then repeated, gradually dropping those configurations which make too small a contribution to the wavefunction after a given iteration, until there is no change in the energy and in the natural orbitals. Hence a self-consistent set of orbitals are determined which are hopefully a good approximation to the exact natural orbitals. The process is essentially a multiconfigurational SCF technique, although a great deal simpler to implement on the computer than the more conventional schemes hitherto proposed [7-9].

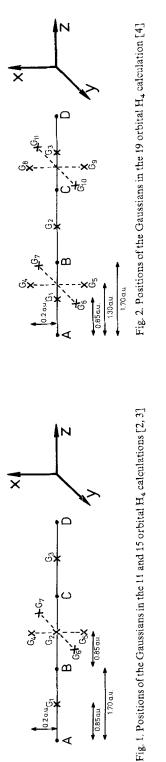
The Hamiltonian matrix elements between the configurations and the natural orbitals were calculated by the procedure already used in H<sub>3</sub> calculations [3]. There are two linearly independent spin eigenfunctions for the singlet state and four types of configurations, listed in the Appendix together with the representation matrices U(P) which were used in these calculations.

The numerical and geometrical details of the various bases used in these calculations are given in Table 1 and in Figs. 1 and 2. The exponents of the orbitals were chosen on the basis of the  $H_3$  results, since  $H_3$  and  $H_4$  have very similar geometries, as were the spatial distributions of Gaussians. No optimization of the non-linear parameters was undertaken at any stage of the calculations. The results are summarized in Table 2.

In calculation Ref. [1] from the 1s, 1s' STO's eight symmetry orbitals were constructed and orthonormalized by the Schmidt method. The first CI wavefunction was taken to consist of a dominant single determinantal function

Calculation Ref.	Number of basis functions	Number of configurations	Orbital basis and exponents
1	8	48	$1S_{A} = 1S_{D} = 1.19, \ 1S_{B} = 1S_{C} = 0.96, \ 1S_{A'} = 1S_{D'} = 1.24, \ 1S_{B'} = 1S_{C'} = 0.90$
2	11	55	STO basis as for calculation $1 + G_1 = G_2 = G_3 = 1.00$
3	15	69	As for calculation 2, $+G_4 = G_5 = G_6 = G_7 = 0.40$
4	19	90	As for calculation 2, $+G_4 = G_5 = \dots = G_{11} = 0.40$

Table 1. The orbital bases used in the  $H_4$  calculations (1S = 1s-type Slater orbital, G = Spherical Gaussian function)



entry	$ \mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{c}}^{\mathbf{H}_{2}} $	
for the last o	$\frac{E_{\rm H4} - 2E_{\rm H2}}{\rm (kcal/mole^{-1})}$	43.08 44.30 49.81
<pre>2 energies required ctively [2]</pre>	Apparent correlation energy	-0.05890 -0.06020 -0.06438 -0.07528
Table 2. Summary of the H <sub>4</sub> calculations (the energies, with the exception of those in the last column, given in atomic units); the H <sub>2</sub> energies required for the last entry were taken from calculations with comparable basis sets, namely the 4, 5 and 9 orbital calculations respectively [2]	Energy of dominant configuration	- 2.17833 - 2.18282 - 2.18282 - 2.18282
column, given in e 4, 5 and 9 orbit	Electron repulsion energy	2.31783 2.32336 2.31557 2.29637
those in the last of sets, namely the	Nuclear attraction energy	-9.33888 -9.34315 -9.34104 -9.33559
le exception of mparable basi	Kinetic energy	2.23480 2.22775 2.22925 2.23210
nergies, with th lations with co	Total energy	- 2.23723 - 2.24302 - 2.24720 - 2.25810
H <sub>4</sub> calculations (the e were taken from calcu	Number of configur- ations	48 55 90
iary of the H <sub>4</sub> c were	Number of basis functions	8 11 15 19
Table 2. Sumn	Calculation Ref.	- 7 m 7

-2.234

8 orbital calculation of Rubinstein and

Shavitt [4]

# Mixed Basis Functions. IV. H<sub>4</sub>

Natural orbital	Occupation	Coefficient of	of atomic orbital		
and its symmetry	number	1 <i>S</i> <sub>A</sub>	1 S <sub>B</sub>	1 <i>S</i> <sub>c</sub>	1 S <sub>D</sub>
$1 \sigma_q$	1.973563	0.304797	0.363791	0.363791	0.304797
$2 \sigma_u$	1.937014	0.269596	-0.007723	-0.007723	- 0.269596
$5 \sigma_g$	0.063171	0.573758	-0.334194	0.334194	0.573758
7 σ <sub>u</sub>	0.017150	-0.078872	-0.166240	0.166240	0.078872
$3 \sigma_{g}$	0.00380	1.070388	1.952159	1.952159	1.070388
$4 \sigma_u$	0.003616	4.272493	0.277069	-0.277069	-4.272493
6 σ <sub>g</sub>	0.000620	5.473303	-2.835818	-2.835818	5.473303
$9 \sigma_{g}$	0.000591	-2.325916	-0.256812	-0.256812	-2.325916
10 $\sigma_u$	0.000274	- 3.626281	-1.229978	1.229978	3.626281
8 σ <sub>u</sub>	0.000196	4.672738	-9.311377	9.311377	-4.672738
11 $\sigma_g$	0.000006	0.300176	4.57332	4.575332	0.300176

Table 3. Natural orbitals expressed in terms of the original basis,

 $|1\,\overline{1}\,2\,\overline{2}|$ , plus all the configurations which could be obtained by single and double substitutions in the above determinant, resulting in a total of 49 configurations. Orbitals 1 and 2 are simply given as

$$1 = a + b + c + d + a' + b' + c' + d'$$
  
$$2 = a + b - c - d + a' + b' - c' - d'$$

where a, b, c, d and a', b', c', d' are the 1s and 1s' STO's centred on nuclei a, b, c, d.

The resulting energy was -2.23416 a.u., the coefficient of the leading determinant being 0.945926, all the other coefficients an order of magnitude smaller. This seemed a clear indication that the determinant  $|1 \overline{1} 2 \overline{2}|$  was a fair approximation to the SCF wavefunction, hence the 49 term CI expansion was also expected to be a reasonable approximation to the full CI wavefunction. Next, the natural orbitals were used to construct the same set of configurations, the leading determinant constructed from the two NO's with the highest occupation numbers. After 3 iterations the change in the total energy was less than  $10^{-5}$ , while the change in NO's was of the order of  $10^{-4}$ , dropping to less than  $10^{-8}$  after 6 iterations. In the final wavefunction the coefficient of the leading determinant was 0.977610, while the configurations obtained by single substitutions all had coefficients less than  $10^{-6}$  and could be omitted from the expansion without a significant increase in the energy. Hence it appears that the iterative procedure used gives a set of Brueckner type orbitals such that all single excitations have vanishingly small coefficients [10, 11]. Next, the configuration wavefunction was extended to include triple and quadruple excitations as well, resulting in a total of 64 configurations. The iterations were then repeated, omitting those configurations which had sufficiently small ( $\leq 10^{-3}$ ) coefficients. some of them double excitations, finally resulting in a 48 configuration wavefunction. This final wavefunction contains 4 triple and 4 quadruple excitations. Although these new configurations have zero matrix elements with the leading determinant, they make a small contribution to the energy ( $\sim 0.38$  kcal/mole) through second order effects. The energy terms calculated by this 48 configuration wavefunction are given in Table 2.

In calculation Ref. [2] three Gaussians, placed on the molecular axis, as shown in Fig. 1, were added to the 8 orbital basis. The symmetry orbitals formed from

Coefficient	of atomic orbital					
1 S <sub>A'</sub>	1 S <sub>B'</sub>	1 S <sub>C'</sub>	1 S <sub>D'</sub>	G <sub>1</sub>	<i>G</i> <sub>2</sub>	<i>G</i> <sub>3</sub>
-0.063644	0.042099	0.042099	0.063644	0.022785	0.022593	0.022785
0.220148	0.489810	-0.489810	-0.220148	0.030459	0.0	-0.030459
0.302971	-0.268651	-0.268651	0.302971	-0.000002	0.0	-0.00002
1.087010	-1.747110	1.747110	-1.087010	-0.000164	0.0	0.000164
-0.758486	-2.023819	-2.023819	-0.758486	0.000478	0.000018	0.000478
-4.420480	-0.224360	0.224360	4.420480	-0.004076	0.0	0.004076
-6.470700	3.630527	3.630527	6.470700	-0.000004	0.0	-0.000004
1.777873	0.041838	0.041838	1.777873	1.108409	-0.524337	1.108409
3.443406	-0.780154	0.780154	- 3.443406	1.648924	0.0	-1.648924
- 6.846303	14.24447	14.24447	6.846303	0.000078	0.0	-0.000078
0.165227	-2.970354	-2.970354	0.165227	-1.205726	-2.552824	-1.205726

and their occupation numbers, from the 11 orbital H4 calculation

these new orbitals were Schmidt orthogonalized to the set of natural orbitals from calculation Ref. [1] and used to construct 37 configurations which were added to the 48 of the previous calculation. Four iterations were performed, resulting in a 55 configuration wavefunction, all other configurations found to be negligible. The natural orbitals and their occupation numbers from this calculation are presented in Table 3.

In calculation Ref. [3] four off axial Gaussians were added to the orbital basis, as shown in Fig. 1. As in the analogous  $H_2$  and  $H_3$  calculations [2, 3], the point group of the molecule was taken to be  $D_{4h}$ , hence two  $e_{1u}$ , one  $b_{1g}$  and one  $a_{1g}$  symmetry orbitals could be formed from these new Gaussians. The  $a_{1g}$  orbital was Schmidt orthogonalized to the NO basis from calculation Ref. [2], the other three already orthogonal by virtue of their symmetry properties. 69 configurations were found significant enough to be included in the expansion.

The final  $H_4$  calculation [4] employed two sets of four off-axial Gaussians, as shown in Fig. 2, in addition to the 11 orbitals from calculation Ref. [2]. The orthonormal basis, however, contained only 16 molecular orbitals, since orbital 11 from the 11 orbital NO set and the  $a_{1g}$  and  $a_{2u}$  Gaussian lobe functions were discarded from the set. The omission of these orbitals was not expected to increase the energy by more than 0.0002 a.u., this belief based on similar results for  $H_3$ . The molecular orbitals, constructed from the off-axial Gaussians, are listed in Table 4. The final wavefunction contains 90 configurations, these were selected after a few trial runs testing which new configurations would be important enough to be used. The occupation numbers of the natural orbitals resulting from this calculation are listed in Table 5, while in Table 6 the 90 configurations and their coefficients are presented.

The wavefunctions from the other  $H_4$  calculations are given elsewhere  $[12]^1$ .

#### Discussion

The results of calculation Ref. [1] represent a slight improvement ( $\sim 2 \text{ kcal/}$  mole in the total energy) over the results of Rubinstein and Shavitt [4], despite the small number of configurations in the wavefunction. Clearly, the orbital

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Also available from G. B. Bacskay on request.

Molecular orbital	Coefficient o	Coefficient of atomic orbital			1			
and its symmetry	G4	G <sub>s</sub>	G <sub>6</sub>	G <sub>7</sub>	$G_8$	G <sub>9</sub>	$G_{10}$	$G_{11}$
11 $e_{1,n}(\pi_{n})$	2.404816	-2.404816			2.404816	2.404816		
12 $e_{1u_n}(\pi_{u_n})$	0.0	0.0	2.404816	-2.404816	0.0	0.0	2.404816	-2.404816
13 $e_{1_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_{a_$	3.335528	-3.335528	0.0	0.0	-3.335528	3.335528	0.0	0.0
$[4 \ e_{1a}, (\pi_{a})]$	0.0	0.0	3.335528	-3.335528	0.0	0.0	- 3,335528	3.335528
$15 \ b_{1a}^{-sy} (A_a)$	19.63822	19.63822	-19.63822	-19.63822	19.63822	19.63822	-19.63822	-19.63822
$16 \ b_{1u} \ (\underline{A}_{u})$	26.3699	26.3699	-26.3699	-26.3699	-26.3699	-26.3699	26.3699	26.3699

Natural orbital	Occupation
and its symmetry	number
$1 \sigma_q$	1.966401
$2 \sigma_u$	1.933892
$5 \sigma_g$	0.060481
7 σ <sub>u</sub>	0.016261
11 $\pi_{u_x}$	0.004195
12 $\pi_{u_y}$	0.004195
$3 \sigma_g$	0.003638
$4 \sigma_u$	0.003501
13 $\pi_{g_x}$	0.002857
14 $\pi_{g_{y}}$	0.002857
$6 \sigma_g$	0.000602
$9 \sigma_g$	0.000550
10 $\sigma_u$	0.000262
$8 \sigma_u$	0.000176
15 $\Delta_g$	0.000082
16 A <sub>u</sub>	0.000066

## G. B. Bacskay:

# Mixed Basis Functions. IV. H<sub>4</sub>

Configuration		Coefficient	Configuration		Coefficien
Orbitals	Туре		Orbitals	Туре	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			······································		
Dominant conf	guration		1 6 2 4	3	-0.005128
1 1 2 2	1	0.974926	1 6 2 4	4	-0.009776
1 1 2 2	1	0.974920	1 6 2 7	3	-0.001704
Double substitu	itions		1 6 2 7	4	-0.002517
		0.010570	1 6 2 8	3	-0.004026
1 1 3 3	1	-0.013578	1 1 9 9	1	- 0.009064
1 1 4 4	1	-0.024375	1 1 10 10	1	-0.005558
1 1 5 5	1	-0.144772	2 2 9 9	1	-0.010441
1 1 3 5	2	-0.0182899	2 2 10 10	1	-0.004503
1 1 6 6	1	-0.007985	1 9 2 10	3	-0.007572
1 1 3 6	2	-0.008532	1 9 2 10	4	-0.010026
1 1 5 6	2	0.007147	1 1 11 11	1	-0.014683
1 1 7 7	1	-0.033975	2 2 11 11	1	-0.031975
1 1 4 7	2	0.004494	1 2 11 13	3	0.038503
1 1 8 8	1	-0.003537	1 2 11 13	4	0.012605
1 1 4 8	2	-0.001029			
1 1 7 8	2	0.004358	Trials autotitut	inna	
2 2 3 3	1	-0.019727	Triple substitut		
2 2 4 4	1	-0.009980	7713	2	0.002077
2 2 4 8	2	0.001990	1 6 2 8	4	0.003923
2 2 5 5	1	-0.056799	7715	2	-0.001513
2 2 3 5	2	0.021110	7415	3	-0.003339
2 2 6 6	1	-0.004344	7 4 1 5	4	0.003554
2 2 3 6	2	0.003026	1 5 11 11	2	0.001457
2 2 5 6	1	-0.011914	1 7 11 13	3	0.001140
2 2 7 7	2	-0.039707	2 5 11 13	4	0.001465
1 1 12 12	1	-0.014631	1 5 12 12	2	0.001464
2 2 12 12	1	-0.031911	2 7 12 12	2	-0.000729
1 2 12 14	3	0.038480	1 7 12 14	3	0.001133
1 2 12 14	4	0.012622	2 5 12 14	4	-0.001459
1 1 13 13	1	-0.020239	1 5 13 13	2	-0.001912
2 2 13 13	1	-0.013440	2 7 13 13	2	0.000909
1 1 14 14	1	-0.020240	1 5 14 14	2	-0.001912
2 2 14 14	1	-0.013443	2 7 14 14	2	0.000933
1 1 15 15	1	-0.001788			
2 2 15 15	1	-0.004499	Quadruple subs	titutions	
1 1 16 16	1	-0.003188	Quadrupic subs	intutions	
2 2 16 16	1	-0.002294	5 5 7 7	1	0.013058
1 2 15 16	3	0.005738	5 5 4 4	1	0.003677
1 2 15 16	4	0.001621	7 4 5 3	4	0.002806
2 2 4 7	2	0.007694	5 5 3 3	1	0.004505
2 2 8 8	1	-0.004610	9955	1	0.002191
2 2 7 8	2	-0.007631	10 10 5 5	1	0.000986
1 3 2 4	3	-0.019882	5 5 11 11	1	0.005652
1 3 2 4	4	-0.020626	7 7 11 11	1	0.001697
1 3 2 7	3	0.016904	5 5 12 12	1	0.005765
1 3 2 7	4	0.021685	5 5 13 13	1	0.003126
1 5 2 4	4	0.032073	7 7 13 13	1	0.001253
1 5 2 7	3	-0.084147	5 5 14 14	1	0.003120
1 5 2 7	4	-0.048863	7 7 14 14	1	0.001298

Table 6. Configurations and their coefficients from the 19 orbital  $\mathrm{H}_4$  calculation

exponents used in our calculation are closer to the optimum values. Rubinstein and Shavitt used the exponents 1.230 and 0.615 for the 1s and 1s' orbitals respectively, their ratio kept fixed as 2:1 during the optimization procedure, judged too large by the authors themselves. Furthermore, it appears that the 48 configuration wavefunction may be very close to a good multiconfigurational SCF wavefunction. Hence, no significant improvement in the energy would be expected, were the wavefunction of the full CI type, i.e. containing 176 configurations.

The introduction of Gaussians with  $\sigma$  symmetry resulted in a relatively small decrease in the total energy (0.00579 a.u.), most of it appearing as an improved energy for the leading configuration, i.e. the "SCF part" of the wavefunction. Compared to the H<sub>3</sub> results [3] where the analogous energy decrease was  $\sim 0.009$  a.u., the above change seems too small. Optimization of the exponents in this case is probably desirable to improve the above results.

The effect of the first set of functions with angular dependence is disappointingly little (calculation Ref. [3]). Obviously the  $\pi_u$  functions are unable to bring about sufficient angular correlation between electrons delocalized over a molecule which is far too long to be efficiently covered by the simple  $\pi_u$  functions. A smaller orbital exponent should have been used for the off-axial Gaussians, or more functions with angular dependence. In the final calculation Ref. [4] we chose the second alternative by the addition of another set of four off-axial Gaussians. The effects are quite marked, obviously the new  $\pi_u$  orbitals especially are much more successful in allowing for angular correlation than the earlier ones, which consisted of only two Gaussians.

The  $H_4$  wavefunctions in these calculations were developed in terms of a dominant configuration (that is expected to approximate to the SCF wavefunction in the given basis) and double, triple and quadruple substitutions in the above single determinant. As pointed out earlier, the absence of single excitations implies Brueckner self-consistency, since in the case of Hartree-Fock self-consistency single excitations could still appear, even though Brillouin's theorem was satisfied, due to second order effects. Quadruple excitations seem an order of magnitude more important than triple excitations, this is not unexpected, since the latter are though to correspond to unlinked clusters of electrons, or "simultaneous binary collisions" between electrons in different regions of space [13].

Unfortunately, no definite new value has been produced for the upper bound of the energy difference of  $H_4$  and two  $H_2$  molecules, apart from the very first entry in Table 2, i.e. 43.08 kcal/mole, resulting from the simplest calculation in this series. As the basis for the  $H_4$  calculations was increased the above energy difference increased also, indicating that the  $H_4$  basis was becoming progressively poorer than the comparable  $H_2$  basis. As pointed out earlier, optimization of the nonlinear parameters should definitely be carried out to improve these results.

#### Conclusion

It has been demonstrated again that mixed basis sets could be very useful for future work on multicentre systems of this kind. The iterative scheme used in this work has proved very useful too; all the CI expansions were successfully kept reasonably short. It would be very interesting and profitable to do some calculations for  $H_4$ , using the set of basic integrals computed for the present work, but employing SCF and multi-configurational SCF techniques. A full CI calculation would also be worth attempting. Such calculations will be undertaken shortly.

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# Appendix

The Representation Matrices U(P), Used in the Evaluation of Matrix Elements between the 4 Electron Configurations

The four types of configurations with S = 0 are defined as

$$\begin{split} & \Phi^{1} = (i\,i\,j\,j)^{1} = |i\,\overline{i}\,j\overline{j}| , \\ & \Phi^{2} = (i\,i\,j\,k)^{2} = 1/|\sqrt{2} \left\{ |i\,\overline{i}\,j\overline{k}| + |i\,\overline{i}\,k\overline{j}| \right\} , \\ & \Phi^{3} = (i\,j\,k\,l)^{3} = 1/2 \left\{ |i\,\overline{j}\,k\,\overline{l}| + |j\,\overline{i}\,k\,\overline{l}| + |i\,\overline{j}\,l\,\overline{k}| + |j\,\overline{i}\,l\,\overline{k}| \right\} , \\ & \Phi^{4} = (i\,j\,k\,l)^{4} = 1/|\sqrt{12} \left\{ |i\,\overline{j}\,k\,\overline{l}| + |j\,\overline{i}\,k\,\overline{l}| + |i\,\overline{j}\,l\,\overline{k}| + |j\,\overline{i}\,k\,\overline{l}| - 2|i\,\overline{k}\,j\overline{l}| - 2|j\,\overline{l}\,i\,\overline{k}| \right\} , \end{split}$$

 $\Phi^2$  could also be written as  $(jkii)^2$ .

The U(P) matrices are:

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