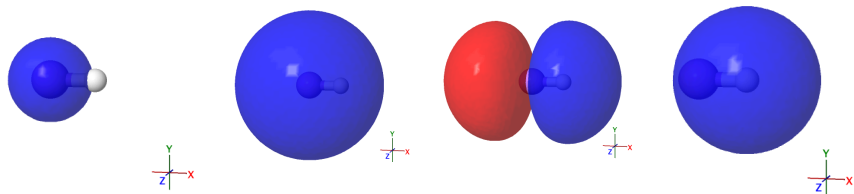


# Algebraic Varieties in Quantum Chemistry

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Paper with [Fabian Faulstich](#) and [Svala Sverrisdóttir](#)  
*Mathematics in Science, CMSA, Harvard, October 27, 2023*

# Linear Algebra

Fix integers  $n \geq d > 1$ .

$$1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_d \leq n.$$

Vector space  $\wedge_d \mathbb{R}^n$  has standard basis  $e_I = e_{i_1} \wedge e_{i_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{i_d}$ ,

Column vectors  $\psi = \sum_{I \in \binom{[n]}{d}} \psi_I e_I$  are called *quantum states*.

A scientist gives us a symmetric matrix  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{\binom{n}{d} \times \binom{n}{d}}$ , called

**Hamiltonian**, and asks us to solve the eigenvalue problem

$$H\psi = \lambda\psi.$$

*This is easy, isn't it?*

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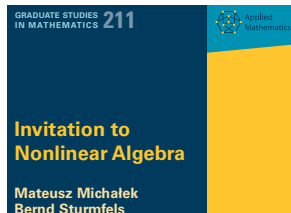
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**Coupled Cluster Theory** replaces a large problem of **Linear Algebra** with a small problem of **Nonlinear Algebra**.



We develop algebraic geometry for coupled cluster (CC) theory of quantum many-body systems. The high-dimensional eigenvalue problems that encode the electronic Schrödinger equation are approximated by a hierarchy of polynomial systems.

The exponential parametrization of the eigenstates gives rise to truncation varieties. These generalize Grassmannians in their Plücker embedding.

$$\psi_{12}\psi_{34} - \psi_{13}\psi_{24} + \psi_{14}\psi_{23} = 0$$
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We explain how to derive Hamiltonians, we offer a detailed study of truncation varieties and their CC degrees, and we present the state of the art in solving the CC equations.

**Electronic structure theory** is a powerful quantum mechanical framework for investigating the intricate behavior of electrons within molecules and crystals. At the core lies the interaction between particles, specifically electron-electron and electron-nuclei interactions. Embracing the essential quantum physical effects, this theory is the foundation for *ab initio* electronic structure calculations . . .

With its diverse applications in chemistry and materials science, electronic structure theory holds vast implications for the mathematical sciences. Integrating methods from **algebra** and **geometry** into this field leads to the development of **precise** and **scalable** numerical methods, enabling extensive *in silico* studies of chemistry for e.g. **sustainable energy**, **green catalysis**, and **nanomaterials**.

The synergy between fundamental mathematics and electronic structure theory offers potential for groundbreaking advances in addressing these **global challenges**.

Sounds promising?

# A Tale of Two Vector Spaces

$$\mathcal{H} = \wedge_d \mathbb{R}^n$$

Vectors  $\psi$  are **quantum states**  
**Reference state**  $e_{[d]}$  = first basis vector

$$\mathcal{V} = \wedge_d \mathbb{R}^n$$

Vectors  $x$  are **cluster amplitudes**

The *exponential parametrization* is a nonlinear bijection

$$\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad x \mapsto \psi, \quad \text{where} \quad \psi = \exp(T(x)) e_{[d]}.$$



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- ▶  $T(x)$  is a strictly lower-triangular  $\binom{n}{d} \times \binom{n}{d}$  matrix.
- ▶ Its entries are  $x_K$  or  $-x_K$  or 0.
- ▶ The matrix  $T(x)$  is nilpotent. We have  $T(x)^{d+1} = 0$ .
- ▶ The matrix exponential  $\exp(T(x))$  is idempotent.
- ▶ Its entries are polynomials in  $x$  of degree  $\leq d$ .

$$d = 2, n = 5$$

$$T(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{14} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{15} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{23} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{24} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{25} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{34} & -x_{24} & x_{23} & 0 & -x_{14} & x_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{35} & -x_{25} & 0 & x_{23} & -x_{15} & 0 & x_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{45} & 0 & -x_{25} & x_{24} & 0 & -x_{15} & x_{14} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\exp(T(x)) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{13} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{14} & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{15} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{23} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{24} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -x_{25} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{14}x_{23} - x_{13}x_{24} + x_{34} & -x_{24} & x_{23} & 0 & -x_{14} & x_{13} & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{15}x_{23} - x_{13}x_{25} + x_{35} & -x_{25} & 0 & x_{23} & -x_{15} & 0 & x_{13} & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{15}x_{24} - x_{14}x_{25} + x_{45} & 0 & -x_{25} & x_{24} & 0 & -x_{15} & x_{14} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Lower-triangular Matrix

The entry of  $T(x)$  in row  $J$  and column  $I$  is zero  
unless  $I \setminus J \subseteq [d]$  and  $(J \setminus I) \cap [d] = \emptyset$ .

If this holds then

$$T(x)_{J,I} = \pm x_K \quad \text{where } K = ([d] \cup J) \setminus I$$

with a combinatorially defined **sign**.

Rows and columns of  $T(x)$  are ordered by increasing level.  
The **level** of a coordinate  $\psi_I$  or  $x_I$  is the cardinality of  $I \setminus [d]$ .

**Example** ( $d = 3, n = 6$ )

**Quantum states  $\psi$  and cluster amplitudes  $x$  or have 20 coordinates:**

Level 0: 123

Level 1: 124, 125, 126, 134, 135, 136, 234, 235, 236

Level 2: 145, 146, 156, 245, 246, 256, 345, 346, 356,

Level 3: 456

# Exponential Parametrization

$$\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, \psi = \exp(T(x)) e_{[d]}$$

$\psi$  = the leftmost column of the matrix  $\exp(T(x))$ .

$$d = 3, n = 6$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{123} &= 1 & \psi_{135} &= -x_{135} & \psi_{145} &= x_{145} - x_{124}x_{135} + x_{125}x_{134} & \psi_{256} &= -x_{256} + x_{125}x_{236} - x_{126}x_{235} \\ \psi_{124} &= x_{124} & \psi_{136} &= -x_{136} & \psi_{146} &= x_{146} - x_{124}x_{136} + x_{126}x_{134} & \psi_{345} &= x_{345} - x_{134}x_{235} + x_{135}x_{234} \\ \psi_{125} &= x_{125} & \psi_{234} &= x_{234} & \psi_{156} &= x_{156} - x_{125}x_{136} + x_{126}x_{135} & \psi_{346} &= x_{346} - x_{134}x_{236} + x_{136}x_{234} \\ \psi_{126} &= x_{126} & \psi_{235} &= x_{235} & \psi_{245} &= -x_{245} + x_{124}x_{235} - x_{125}x_{234} & \psi_{356} &= x_{356} - x_{135}x_{236} + x_{136}x_{235} \\ \psi_{134} &= -x_{134} & \psi_{236} &= x_{236} & \psi_{246} &= -x_{246} + x_{124}x_{236} - x_{126}x_{234} & & \\ \psi_{456} &= x_{456} + x_{124}x_{356} - x_{125}x_{346} + x_{126}x_{345} - x_{134}x_{256} + x_{135}x_{246} - x_{136}x_{245} + x_{145}x_{236} - x_{146}x_{235} \\ &+ x_{156}x_{234} - x_{124}x_{135}x_{236} + x_{124}x_{136}x_{235} + x_{125}x_{134}x_{236} - x_{125}x_{136}x_{234} - x_{126}x_{134}x_{235} + x_{126}x_{135}x_{234} \end{aligned}$$

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\psi_{125} = x_{125} & \psi_{234} = x_{234} & \psi_{156} = x_{156} - x_{125}x_{136} + x_{126}x_{135} & \psi_{346} = x_{346} - x_{134}x_{236} + x_{136}x_{234} \\
\psi_{126} = x_{126} & \psi_{235} = x_{235} & \psi_{245} = -x_{245} + x_{124}x_{235} - x_{125}x_{234} & \psi_{356} = x_{356} - x_{135}x_{236} + x_{136}x_{235} \\
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\end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\psi_{456} = & x_{456} + x_{124}x_{356} - x_{125}x_{346} + x_{126}x_{345} - x_{134}x_{256} + x_{135}x_{246} - x_{136}x_{245} + x_{145}x_{236} - x_{146}x_{235} \\
& + x_{156}x_{234} - x_{124}x_{135}x_{236} + x_{124}x_{136}x_{235} + x_{125}x_{134}x_{236} - x_{125}x_{136}x_{234} - x_{126}x_{134}x_{235} + x_{126}x_{135}x_{234}
\end{aligned}$$

## Proposition

The map  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  has a *polynomial inverse*. Namely,  $x_i$  equals  $\pm \psi_i$  plus a polynomial in  $\psi$ -coordinates of strictly lower level.

$$x_{123} = 1, x_{124} = \psi_{124}, \dots, \psi_{236} = x_{236}$$

$$x_{145} = \psi_{145} - \psi_{124}\psi_{135} + \psi_{125}\psi_{134}, \dots, \psi_{356} = x_{356} - x_{135}x_{236} + x_{136}x_{235}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
x_{456} = & \psi_{456} - \psi_{124}\psi_{356} + \psi_{125}\psi_{346} - \psi_{126}\psi_{345} + \psi_{134}\psi_{256} - \psi_{135}\psi_{246} + \psi_{136}\psi_{245} - \psi_{145}\psi_{236} + \psi_{146}\psi_{235} \\
& - \psi_{156}\psi_{234} + 2(\psi_{124}\psi_{135}\psi_{236} - \psi_{124}\psi_{136}\psi_{235} - \psi_{125}\psi_{134}\psi_{236} + \psi_{125}\psi_{136}\psi_{234} + \psi_{126}\psi_{134}\psi_{235} - \psi_{126}\psi_{135}\psi_{234})
\end{aligned}$$

## Combinatorics

All coordinates of the exponential parametrization  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  arise by relabeling from the master polynomial  $\psi_l(x)$ , where  $l = [2d] \setminus [d]$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x_{34}(\psi) &= \psi_{34} - \psi_{13}\psi_{24} + \psi_{14}\psi_{23} \\x_{456}(\psi) &= \psi_{456} - \psi_{124}\psi_{356} + \cdots - 2\psi_{126}\psi_{135}\psi_{234} \\x_{5678}(\psi) &= \psi_{5678} - \psi_{1235}\psi_{4678} + \cdots - 2\psi_{1278}\psi_{1346}\psi_{2345} + \cdots - 6\psi_{1238}\psi_{1247}\psi_{1346}\psi_{2345} \\x_{67890}(\psi) &= \psi_{67890} - \psi_{12346}\psi_{57890} + \cdots - 2\psi_{12890}\psi_{13457}\psi_{23456} + \cdots \\&\quad + 6\psi_{12390}\psi_{12458}\psi_{13457}\psi_{23456} + \cdots + 24\psi_{12349}\psi_{12358}\psi_{12457}\psi_{13456}\psi_{23450}\end{aligned}$$

Number of terms in the master polynomial:

3, 16, 131, 1496, 22482, 426833 for  $d = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$ . (A023998)

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Similarly, all coordinates of the inverse map  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  arise by relabeling from the master polynomial  $x_I(\psi)$ , where  $I = [2d] \setminus [d]$ .

## Theorem

We have explicit formulas for the master polynomials  $\psi_I(x)$  and  $x_I(\psi)$  as integer linear combinations of monomials that represent the uniform block permutations on  $[2d]$ . [Orellana et al, 2022]

## Truncation Varieties

Fix a subset  $\sigma$  of  $[d]$ . Restrict the map  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  to the subspace whose coordinates  $x_I$  whose level is in  $\sigma$ .

Image of this restriction is the *truncation variety*

$$V_\sigma \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{V}) = \mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}.$$

**Remark:**  $\dim(V_\sigma) = \#\{I : \text{level}(I) \in \sigma\}$



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### Example ( $d=3, n=6$ )

The six truncation varieties  $V_\sigma$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{19}$  are

- $\{2\}$   $V_{\{2\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^9 =$  zero set of ten coordinates  $\psi_I$  of level 1 or 3.
- $\{3\}$  Line  $V_{\{3\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$  spanned by the points  $e_{123}$  and  $e_{456}$ .
- $\{2, 3\}$   $V_{\{2,3\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^{10} =$  zero set of nine coordinates  $\psi_I$  of level 1.
- $\{1, 2\}$  Cubic hypersurface  $V_{\{1,2\}}$  defined by master polynomial  $\bar{x}_{456}(\psi)$ .
- $\{1, 3\}$   $V_{\{1,3\}}$  has dim 10, degree 41, defined by 25 quadrics.
- $\{1\}$  Grassmannian  $V_{\{1\}} = \text{Gr}(3, 6)$ , dim 9, degree 42, 35 quadrics.

# Ideals, Varieties and Algorithms

## Theorem

The restriction of  $V_\sigma$  to the affine chart  $\{\psi_{[d]} = 1\}$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}$  is a **complete intersection**, defined by  $x_I(\psi) = 0$  for  $\text{level}(I) \notin \sigma$ .

The homogeneous prime **ideal** of  $V_\sigma$  is the **saturation**

$$\mathcal{I}(V_\sigma) = \langle \bar{x}_I(\psi) : \text{level}(I) \notin \sigma \rangle : \langle \psi_{[d]} \rangle^\infty.$$

*How to be linear ?*

## Theorem

The truncation variety  $V_\sigma$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}$  if and only if the index set  $\sigma$  is **additively closed**,

*i.e. if  $i, j \in \sigma$  with  $i + j \in [d]$  then  $i + j \in \sigma$ .*

# Grassmannians

Theorem ( $\sigma = \{1\}$ )

The truncation variety  $V_{\{1\}}$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}$  equals the *Grassmannian*  $\text{Gr}(d, n)$  in its Plücker embedding.

**Punchline:** The  $V_\sigma$  are generalizations of Grassmannians.

Proposition (Duality)

Fix  $\sigma \subset [d]$  and  $n \geq 2d$ . There is a linear isomorphism between two copies of  $\mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}$  which switches the truncation varieties  $V_\sigma$  for  $(d, n)$  and for  $(n-d, n)$ .

# A Variety of Varieties

Example ( $d = 3, n = 7$ )

The **six varieties** in  $\mathbb{P}^{34}$  correspond to the six columns in this table:

$\sigma$	$\{1\}$	$\{2\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{1, 2\}$	$\{1, 3\}$	$\{2, 3\}$
dim	12	18	4	30	16	22
degree	462	1	1	43	405	1
mingens	$[0, 140]$	$[16]$	$[30]$	$[0, 0, 7]$	$[0, 76, 10]$	$[12]$
CCdeg <sub>3,7</sub>	2883	19	5	1195	3425	23

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## Example ( $d = 4, n = 8$ )

The **14 varieties** live in  $\mathbb{P}^{69}$ . Five are linear spaces:

$$V_{\{3\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^{16}, \quad V_{\{4\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^1, \quad V_{\{2,4\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^{37}, \quad V_{\{3,4\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^{17}, \quad V_{\{2,3,4\}} \simeq \mathbb{P}^{53}.$$

The nine others:

$\sigma$	$\{1\}$	$\{2\}$	$\{1, 2\}$	$\{1, 3\}$	$\{1, 4\}$	$\{2, 3\}$	$\{1, 2, 3\}$	$\{1, 2, 4\}$	$\{1, 3, 4\}$
dim	16	36	52	32	17	52	68	53	33
mingens	$[0, 721]$	$[32, 1]$	$[0, 0, 63]$	$[0, 237, 200]$	$[0, 668]$	$[16, 1]$	$[0, 0, 0, 1]$	$[0, 46, 120]$	$[0, 236, 200]$
degree	24024	2	442066	24024	24203	2	4	221033	12012
CCdeg <sub>4,8</sub>	154441	73	??	??	177503	105	273	??	245239

# Coupled Cluster Equations

$$(H\psi)_\sigma = \lambda \psi_\sigma$$

for  $\psi \in V_\sigma$

The *coupled cluster degree*  $\text{CCdeg}_{d,n}(\sigma)$   
is the number of complex solutions in  $\mathbb{P}^{\binom{n}{d}-1}$   
for generic symmetric matrices  $H$ .

Back to **Science**: *Where does  $H$  come from ?*

# Electronic Schrödinger Equation

$$\mathbb{H} \Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_d) = \lambda \Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_d).$$

$\Psi$  is an unknown function in positions  $\mathbf{r}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$  of  $d$  electrons.

By **Pauli's Exclusion Principle**,  $\Psi$  is skew-symmetric. The **Hamiltonian** is

$$\mathbb{H} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \Delta_{\mathbf{r}_i} - \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^{d_{\text{nuc}}} \frac{Z_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}_j|} + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq d} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|}.$$

$\Delta$  is the **Laplacian**, and  $\mathbf{R}_j \in \mathbb{R}^3$  are fixed nuclei. **Nuclear charge**  $Z_j$  is the number in the periodic table. We have  $d_{\text{nuc}} \leq d = \sum_{j=1}^{d_{\text{nuc}}} Z_j$ .

## Example (Lithium hydride)

The molecule LiH has  $d_{\text{nuc}} = 2$  atoms: lithium Li and hydrogen H. # electrons is  $d = Z_1 + Z_2 = 3 + 1 = 4$ . Two nuclei at locations  $\mathbf{R}_1$  and  $\mathbf{R}_2$ . Four electrons have variable locations  $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \mathbf{r}_4$ .

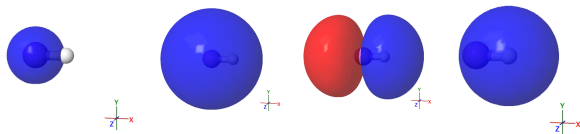
So,  $\Psi$  is a function of 12 scalar unknowns.

## Discretization

Restrict the Hamiltonian  $\mathbb{H}$  to a  $k$ -dim'l space of nice functions  $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $k \geq d$ . Basis of *atomic orbitals*  $\{\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_k\}$   
from [www.basissetexchange.org](http://www.basissetexchange.org)

Example (LiH,  $d = k = 4$ )

Select  $k = 4$  atomic orbitals, three for lithium and one for hydrogen:



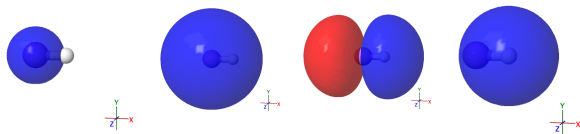


## Discretization

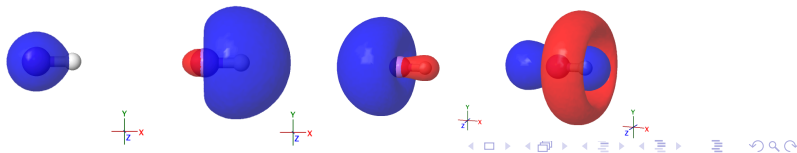
Restrict the Hamiltonian  $\mathbb{H}$  to a  $k$ -dim'l space of nice functions  $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $k \geq d$ . Basis of *atomic orbitals*  $\{\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_k\}$   
from [www.basissetexchange.org](http://www.basissetexchange.org)

Example (LiH,  $d = k = 4$ )

Select  $k = 4$  atomic orbitals, three for lithium and one for hydrogen:



Electronic spin doubles the number of functions, and the LCAO method leads to  $n = 2k$  *molecular orbitals*. Hence for LiH we have  $d = 4$ ,  $n = 8$ .



## Computing $H$ from $\mathbb{H}$

Basis of molecular orbitals:  $\{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n\}$ .

Inner product on molecular orbit space: **must incorporate spin**

$$\langle \xi_i, \xi_j \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \xi_i(\mathbf{r}) \xi_j(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

Galerkin basis of  $\binom{n}{d}$  skew-symmetric  $d$ -particle functions:

$$\Phi_I = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d!}} \xi_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \xi_{i_d}, \quad \text{where } I = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\}.$$

Inner product:

$$\langle \Phi_I, \Phi_J \rangle = \sum_{\substack{\mu \in S_I \\ \nu \in S_J}} \prod_{p=1}^d \langle \xi_{\mu(i_p)}, \xi_{\nu(j_p)} \rangle$$

Compute entries of the  $\binom{n}{d} \times \binom{n}{d}$  matrix  $H$  by integration:

$$H_{I,J} = \langle \Phi_I, \mathbb{H} \Phi_J \rangle.$$

For Lithium hydride, Hamiltonian  $H$  is a symmetric  $70 \times 70$  matrix.

## Coupled Cluster Equations

$$(H\psi)_\sigma = \lambda \psi_\sigma$$

$$\text{for } \psi \in V_\sigma$$

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Example ( $d = 2, n = 5, \sigma = \{1\}$ )

Determinantal formulation for  $V_\sigma = \text{Gr}(2, 5)$ :

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \psi_{12} & \psi_{13} & \psi_{14} & \psi_{15} \\ -\psi_{12} & 0 & \psi_{23} & \psi_{24} & \psi_{25} \\ -\psi_{13} & -\psi_{23} & 0 & \psi_{34} & \psi_{35} \\ -\psi_{14} & -\psi_{24} & -\psi_{34} & 0 & \psi_{45} \\ -\psi_{15} & -\psi_{25} & -\psi_{35} & -\psi_{45} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \leq 2 \text{ and } \text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} (H\psi)_{12} & \psi_{12} \\ (H\psi)_{13} & \psi_{13} \\ (H\psi)_{14} & \psi_{14} \\ (H\psi)_{15} & \psi_{15} \\ (H\psi)_{23} & \psi_{23} \\ (H\psi)_{24} & \psi_{24} \\ (H\psi)_{25} & \psi_{25} \end{bmatrix} \leq 1$$

Hamiltonian  $H$  is a  $10 \times 10$  matrix.

# solutions in  $\mathbb{P}^9$  equals  $\text{CCdeg}_{2,5}(\{1\}) = 27 = 2 \cdot 14 - 1$ .

# Degree Bound

## Theorem

*The number of isolated solutions satisfies*

$$\text{CCdeg}_{d,n}(\sigma) \leq (\dim(V_\sigma) + 1) \deg(V_\sigma).$$

**Example** ( $d = 2, n = 5, \sigma = \{1\}$ )

For  $\text{Gr}(2, 5)$ , the inequality is strict:  $27 \leq 7 \cdot 5 = 35$ .

## Corollary

*Suppose  $V_\sigma$  is a linear space. Then  $(H\psi)_\sigma = H_{\sigma,\sigma}\psi_\sigma$ , and*

$$\text{CCdeg}_{d,n}(\sigma) = \dim(V_\sigma) + 1.$$

*The CC equations describe the usual eigenvalue problem for the symmetric matrix  $H_{\sigma,\sigma}$ . In particular, all complex solutions are real.*

# Catalan Numbers

2, 5, 14, 42, 132, 429, 1430

Fix  $d = 2, \sigma = \{1\}$ .

*The degree of the Grassmannian  $\text{Gr}(2, n)$  is the Catalan number*

$$C_{n-2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \binom{2n-4}{n-2}.$$

**Theorem (arXiv today)**

*The CC degree of the Grassmannian  $\text{Gr}(2, n)$  equals*

$$2 \cdot C_{n-1} - 1 = \frac{4}{n} \binom{2n-3}{n-1} - 1.$$

CCdeg: 9, 27, 83, 263, 857, 2859

Bound: 10, 35, 126, 462, 1716, 6435

This was Conjecture 5.5 in the paper with Fabian and Svala.

Proved in the **new paper** with Svala and **Viktoriia Borovik**.

# Master Polynomial Revisited

## Proposition

If  $n = 2d$  and  $\sigma = \{1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ , then the bound is off by  $d-1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CCdeg}_{d,2d}(V_\sigma) &= (\dim(V_\sigma) + 1) \deg(V_\sigma) - (d-1) \\ &= d \binom{2d}{d} - 2d + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Here the *truncation variety is a hypersurface*.

## Example ( $d = 3$ )

Six truncation varieties in  $\mathbb{P}^{19}$  revisited:

$\sigma$	$\{1\}$	$\{2\}$	$\{3\}$	$\{1, 2\}$	$\{1, 3\}$	$\{2, 3\}$
dim	9	9	1	18	10	10
degree	42	1	1	3	41	1
bound	420	10	2	57	451	11
CCdeg <sub>3,6</sub>	250	10	2	55	420	11

# Previous Literature

Work presented here improves significantly over

- ▶ F. Faulstich and M. Oster: *Coupled cluster theory: towards an algebraic geometry formulation*, SIAM J Appl Algebra Geom, 2024.

Section 6 reports that the **CCSD model for three electrons in six spin-orbitals** ( $d = 3, n = 6, \sigma = \{1,2\}$ ) *supersedes the abilities of state-of-the-art algebraic geometry software*. Theorem 4.10 offers upper bound  $2^{27} = 134217728$  for  $\text{CCdeg}_{3,6}(\sigma)$ .



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## Theorem

*Our formulation of the CC equations is equivalent to the classical equations in [FO] if and only if  $\sigma$  is an arithmetic progression, i.e.  $\sigma = \{m, 2m, \dots, km\}$  for some integers  $m, k \geq 1$  with  $km \leq d$ .*

This covers all models **CCS, CCD, CCSD, CCSDT** studied in the **vast computational chemistry literature**. *Sample reference: [K. Kowalski and P. Piecuch: Complete set of solutions of multireference coupled-cluster equations: The state-universal formalism, Physical Review A (2000)]*

# Numerical Solutions

We solved the CC equations for a range of models with

**HomotopyContinuation.jl**

[P. Breiding and S. Timme: *HomotopyContinuation.jl: A package for homotopy continuation in Julia*, Mathematical Software – ICMS 2018]

[P. Breiding, K. Rose and S. Timme: *Certifying zeros of polynomial systems using interval arithmetic*, ACM Trans. Math. Software **49** (2023)]

## Example ( $d = 3, n = 8$ )

The six CC models for three electrons in eight spin-orbitals:

$\sigma$	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1, 2}	{1, 3}	{2, 3}
$ \tilde{\sigma}  + 1$	16	31	11	46	26	41
$\deg(V_\sigma)$	6006	1	1	3894	4195	1
$\text{CCdeg}_{3,8}$	38610	31	11	145608	58214	41
#real	430	31	11	1376	658	41
solve(sec)	619	8	3	26757	1948	7
certify(sec)	7	3	0	41	8	0

# Scientists Like Figures

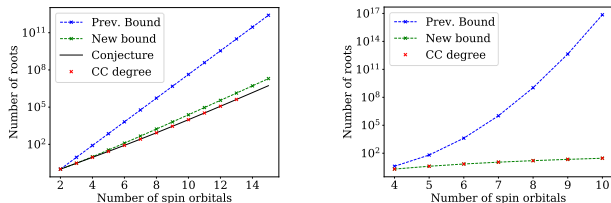


Figure 4: Bounds to the number of roots of CCS (left panel) and CCD (right panel).

chemistry (cf. Section 4) is not generic, but has special structure. Therefore, the obtained number of solutions for the target system can be much smaller than the CC degree.

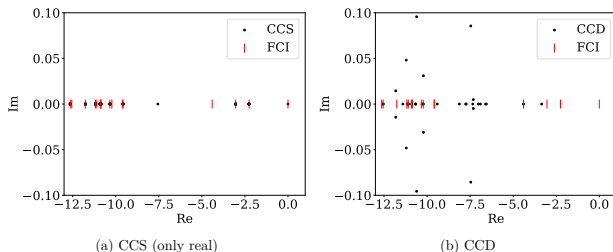


Figure 5: Energy spectra from exact diagonalization (FCI) and from CCS and CCD.

**Example 6.4** (Lithium hydride ( $d = 4, n = 8$ )). We use the Hamiltonian from Example 4.3.

# Lithium Hydride

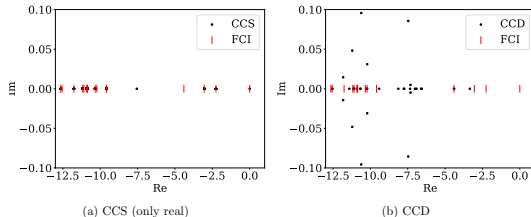
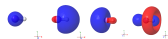


Figure 5: Energy spectra from exact diagonalization (FCI) and from CCS and CCD.

## CCS model for $d = 4$ , $n = 8$

We use the Hamiltonian ( $70 \times 70$  matrix) derived from



Solving generic start system for  $\sigma = \{1\}$  takes 82 minutes and yields 154441 solutions – the CC degree for  $\text{Gr}(4, 8)$ .

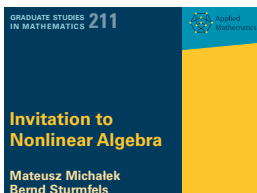
Tracking all paths yields 3 non-singular solutions, all real. We also find 104641 singular solutions. Only 399 of them yield real energies. Use these for comparison to exact eigenvalues. Takes 11 minutes and 32 seconds.

Figure 5 compares the exact eigenvalue spectrum with the energies obtained from CCS and CCD. Interesting observation: these appear to approximate different subsets of eigenvalues that cover the whole spectrum..... etc...etc...

$$(H\psi)_\sigma = \lambda \psi_\sigma$$

for  $\psi \in V_\sigma$

- ▶ Algebraic Geometry and Combinatorics are essential ingredients for **Mathematics in Science**.
- ▶ Polynomial equations with  $\sim 100,000$  zeros can now be solved routinely, with certification.
- ▶ Everybody loves Grassmannians and Catalan numbers.
- ▶ Quantum chemistry offers very interesting problems.
- ▶ Our equations make sense for any projective variety  $V$



**Thank You**  
for Listening

We develop algebraic geometry for coupled cluster (CC) theory of quantum many-body systems. The high-dimensional eigenvalue problems that encode the electronic Schrödinger equation are approximated by a hierarchy of polynomial systems at various levels of truncation. The exponential parametrization of the eigenstates gives rise to truncation varieties. These generalize Grassmannians in their Plücker embedding. We explain how to derive Hamiltonians, we offer a detailed study of truncation varieties and their CC degrees, and we present the state of the art in solving the CC equations.

$$\psi_{12}\psi_{34} - \psi_{13}\psi_{24} + \psi_{14}\psi_{23} = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \star & \star & \star & \star \\ \star & \star & \star & \star \end{pmatrix}$$