

## Exercise Lecture IX

### Variational Monte Carlo (VMC) - I part 1D examples

#### 1. Quantum oscillator in 1D: variational approach

Consider the hamiltonian of the quantum harmonic oscillator  $\mathcal{H} = p^2/2 + x^2/2$  (having chosen  $m = k = \hbar = 1$ ). We want to solve it numerically with VMC. To this purpose consider two different choices for the trial wavefunction:

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} B(a^2 - x^2), & \text{for } |x| < a; \\ 0, & \text{for } |x| > a. \end{cases} \quad (1.a)$$

or:

$$\psi(x) = Ae^{-\beta x^2} \quad (1.b)$$

with  $a$  and  $\beta$  variational parameters,  $A$  and  $B$  proper normalization constants.

(a) Calculate

$$\langle E \rangle = \langle E_L \rangle = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M E_L(x_i),$$

with

$$E_L(x) = \frac{\mathcal{H}\psi(x)}{\psi(x)} \quad (\text{local energy})$$

and with the  $x_i$  distributed according  $\psi(x)^2$ . Using the trial wavefunction (1.b), firstly do a Metropolis sampling of a gaussian function with fixed parameters; see the code `metropolis_gaussian.f90`. See `metropolis_parabola.f90` for (1.a).

(b) Verify numerically and analytically that the variational solution gives in the two cases:

(1.a):  $a = (35/2)^{1/4} \approx 2.0453$ ;  $\langle E \rangle = 0.6$

(1.b):  $\beta = \frac{1}{2}$ ;  $\langle E \rangle = 0.5$

*(In this case the exact analytic solution is known,  $E_0 = 0.5$ ; however, in case (1.a) the minimum of  $\langle E \rangle$  as a function of  $a$  is rather flat: use steps of 0.01 for  $a$  and  $n = 100000$  Metropolis accumulation steps to appreciate the minimum)*

(c) Instead of solving the problem by minimizing  $\langle E_L \rangle$ , solve it minimizing the variance:

$$\sigma^2 = \langle E_L^2 \rangle - \langle E_L \rangle^2;$$

you should observe that in the case (1.a) the minimum of the variance is positive, whereas in the case (1.b) is zero.

*(Important: note the usefulness of the “zero variance property”; the EXACT minimum of  $\sigma^2$  is 0 is the class of the trial wavefunctions contains the exact result, whereas in general the minimum of  $\langle E \rangle$  is not known!)*

## 2. Anharmonic quantum oscillator 1D

- (a) Consider also an anharmonic part in the potential, i.e.  $V(x) = x^2/2 + bx^4$ . Set for instance  $b = 1/8$ , make a plot of  $V(x)$ . Use the first order perturbation theory to calculate the changes at the lowest order in energy of the ground state due to the anharmonic term. Choose a reasonable form for the trial wavefunction, e.g. (1.b), and calculate  $\langle E \rangle$  with VMC. Compare the result obtained with the one obtained using the perturbation theory.

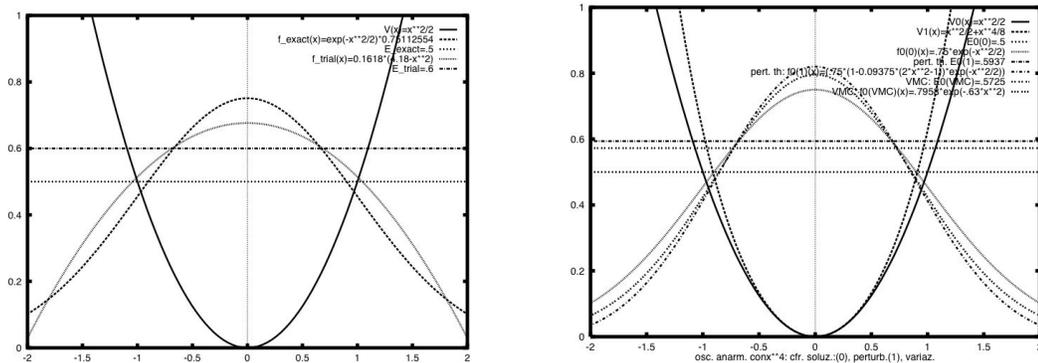


Figure 1: **Left panel: Harmonic oscillator in 1D with VMC (ex. 1):** Ground state Eigenvalue and Eigenstate with two different trial wavefunctions. **Right panel: Anharmonic oscillator in 1D with VMC (ex. 2):** Ground state Eigenstate and eigenvalue with two different trial wavefunctions, and comparison with the analytic solution obtained within the first order perturbation theory.



```

    expxp = - xp**2 / (2*sigma**2) ! metropolis
    p = exp (expxp-expx) ! algorithm
    call random_number(rnd) !
    if (p > rnd) then !
        x = xp !
        !cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc
        acc=acc+1.0_dp
    endif
enddo

var_th = 1._dp/(32*beta**2)+beta**2/2-1._dp/4

write(unit=*,fmt=*)"acceptance ratio = ",acc/n
write(unit=*,fmt=*)"# Results (simulation vs. exact results):"
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"etot = ",etot/n,1.0_dp/(8.0_dp*sigma**2)&
    +0.5_dp*sigma**2
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"ekin = ",ekin/n,1.0_dp/(8.0_dp*sigma**2)
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"epot = ",epot/n,0.5_dp*sigma**2
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"evar = ",etot2/n-(etot/n)**2,var_th
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"<x> = ",x1/n,0.0_dp
write(unit=*,fmt=format1)"<x^2>= ",x2/n,sigma**2

write(7,*)sigma,etot/n,sqrt(abs(etot2/n-(etot/n)**2)),etot2/n-(etot/n)**2

close(7)

end program metropolis_gaussian

```