DC24: A New Density Coherence Functional for Multiconfiguration Density-Coherence Functional Theory

Dayou Zhang, Yinan Shu, Donald G. Truhlar*

Department of Chemistry, Chemical Theory Center, and Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 554550431

*email: truhlar@umn.edu

Abstract: In this study, we explored several alternative functional forms to construct more accurate and more physical density coherence functionals for multiconfiguration density-coherence functional theory. Each functional is parameterized against the same database as used in our previous work. The best density coherence functional, which is called DC24, has a more physical interpretation, and – as a side benefit – it also has a mean unsigned error of 1.72 kcal/mol, which is a 10% improvement as compared to the previous functional. The article also contains a new definition of the unpaired electron density, which may be useful in other contexts as well.

Keywords: density coherence, density functional development, density matrix, multiconfiguration nonclassical-energy functional theory, unpaired density

1. Introduction

Multiconfiguration nonclassical-energy functional theory (MC-NEFT)^{1,2,3} is a low-cost and high-accuracy electronic structure method to recover dynamic correlations in inherently multiconfigurational species. In MC-NEFT, one starts with a multiconfigurational wave function, usually a multiconfiguration self-consistent-field (MCSCF) wave function, such as a complete active space self-consistent field (CASSCF) wave function,⁴ that recovers the static correlation and typically a small portion of the dynamic correlation. Then, a nonclassical energy functional is used to calculate the energy from some properties of the multiconfigurational wave function. The use of a nonclassical energy functional greatly reduces the computational cost compared to traditional post-CASSCF methods such as second-order complete active space perturbation theory (CASPT2),⁵ multireference Møller–Plesset perturbation theory,⁶ or multireference configuration interaction^{7,8} while having comparable or better accuracy in terms of bond dissociation energy,^{9,10,11} reaction barrier height,^{12,13} excitation energies,^{14,15,16,17,18,19} or other chemical properties.^{20,21,22,23,24}

In recent years, we and coworkers have developed various versions of MC-NEFT, including multiconfiguration pair-density functional theory (MC-PDFT),^{1,3} multiconfiguration density-coherence functional theory (MC-DCFT),^{3,25,26} multiconfiguration data-driven functional methods (MC-DDFMs),^{2,3} including hybrid versions of MC-PDFT²⁷ and MC-DCFT.²⁶

MC-DCFT is the most recently developed version of MC-NEFT. It is motivated by the relationship of the off-diagonal elements of the one-body reduced density matrix (1-RDM) to multiconfigurational effects in electronic wave functions,²⁸ and it has an advantage of only using the 1-RDM in the nonclassical energy functional, which in the context of MC-DCFT is called the density coherence (DC) functional. In contrast, the two-body reduced density matrix (2-RDM) is needed in the nonclassical energy functional of MC-PDFT. The reason why one uses the 1-RDM is that it has a physical relation to the number of unpaired electrons, but we should keep in mind that the number of unpaired electrons is an interpretive quantity that has no unique definition, which will be an important consideration in the present work. The use of only the 1-RDM not only improves the physical interpretation and reduces the computational cost, but also it simplifies the development of the theory, making it easier to extend to more complex calculations. In the present article, we present a new functional form for the DC functional and parameterize a hybrid DC functional against the same database of accurate bond dissociation energies and reaction barrier heights as used for our previous²⁶ hybrid DC functional. The new functional will be called DC24. The new functional form improves both the accuracy and the physical interpretability of the functional.

2. Functional Forms of DC Functionals

The total electronic energy of hybrid MC-DCFT (HMC-DCFT) has the following form:^{25,26} $E_{\text{HMC-DCFT}} = E_{\text{class}} + XE_{\text{MC,XC}} + (1 - X)E_{\text{DC}}$ (1)

where E_{class} is the classical energy from the multiconfigurational wave function, $E_{MC,XC}$ is the MCSCF exchange–correlation energy, E_{DC} the nonclassical energy calculated from a DC functional, and X is a parameter. Details of E_{class} and $E_{MC,XC}$ are given in our earlier papers on MC-DCFT;^{25,26} here it suffices to note that E_{class} is the sum of the MCSCF kinetic energy, electron–nuclear attraction, and classical Coulomb interaction of the electronic charge distribution, and $E_{MC,XC}$ is defined such that the sum of E_{class} and $E_{MC,XC}$ is the original CASSCF energy evaluated by the wave function variational principle. Next, we explain E_{DC} .

In the previous versions of MC-DCFT, ^{25,26} the DC functional is converted from exchange– correlation functionals used in Kohn–Sham theory. To do this, we define effective spin densities $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ using the following equations

$$\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{2}D(\mathbf{r})$$
(2)

$$\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2}D(\mathbf{r})$$
(3)

where $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and $D(\mathbf{r})$ are the total electron density and the unpaired electron density at a point \mathbf{r} in space. We then evaluate E_{DC} from $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ using Kohn–Sham exchange–correlation functionals. We used the following definition for the unpaired density:^{29,30,31}

$$D(\mathbf{r}) = 2\rho(\mathbf{r}) - \int [\rho(\mathbf{r}|\mathbf{r}')]^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r}'$$

= $\sum_i n_i (2 - n_i) \chi_i^2(\mathbf{r})$ (4)

where n_i is the occupation number of natural orbital *i*, and $\chi_i(\mathbf{r})$ is the magnitude of natural orbital *i* in the MCSCF reference wave function at **r**. Note that eq 4 may also be written as

$$D(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i} f(n_i) \chi_i^2(\mathbf{r})$$
(5)

$$f(n) = n(2-n) \tag{6}$$

The function f(n) can be interpreted as the effective number of unpaired electrons.³²

Since the total density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ may also be evaluated from the natural orbital and natural orbital occupation number using

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i} n_i \chi_i^2(\mathbf{r}) \tag{7}$$

one may encounter points in space where $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) < 0$ if some of the natural orbitals have occupation numbers $0 < n_i < 1$. A negative effective density is not physical, and it can produce spurious results. To tackle this issue in our earlier versions of DC functionals, we set $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ and $\nabla_{\mathbf{r}}\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ to zero for quadrature points \mathbf{r} where $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) < 0$:

$$\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) = \min\left\{\frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2}D(\mathbf{r}), 0\right\}$$
(8)

This gives derivative discontinuities at points where $\tilde{\rho}_b$ passes through zero.

While the earlier versions of DC functionals work reasonably well on a wide range of systems, the derivative discontinuities are unsatisfactory. We therefore experimented with alternative ways to define the unpaired density $D(\mathbf{r})$ and the effective spin densities $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$, and we present an improved scheme in this report.

In **new methods 1 and 2**, we use the same definition of $D(\mathbf{r})$ as the original method but use alternative methods to convert $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and $D(\mathbf{r})$ into $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$.

New method 1: Define $D(\mathbf{r})$ according to eq 4 and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ according to eq 8, but redefine $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ according as

$$\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r}) = \rho(\mathbf{r}) - \tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) \tag{9}$$

Compared to the original method, method 1 changes the definition of $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ to ensure that the total density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ is the sum of the effective spin densities $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$.

New method 2: Define $D(\mathbf{r})$ according to eq 4 and redefine $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ according to:

$$\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r})\exp\left[-\frac{D(\mathbf{r})}{\rho(\mathbf{r})}\right]$$
(10)

Then $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ is defined according to eq 9 using the newly defined $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$. Note that eq 10 can be expanded in a series by

$$\frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r})\exp\left[-\frac{D(\mathbf{r})}{\rho(\mathbf{r})}\right] = \frac{1}{2}\rho(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2}D(\mathbf{r}) + 0\left[\frac{D(\mathbf{r})}{\rho(\mathbf{r})}\right]^2$$
(11)

Equation 11 agrees with eq 9 through the leading two terms in a Taylor series of the exponential, but it has continuous derivatives and is always non-negative; this is the motivation for using eq 10.

In **new methods 3 and 4**, we use the same method as the original MC-DCFT to convert $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and $D(\mathbf{r})$ into $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$, but we use alternative definitions of $D(\mathbf{r})$ by taking advantage of the fact that eq 6 for the effective number of unpaired electrons is not unique. The

effective number of unpaired electrons can be defined in various ways; by changing the definition of f(n), we are able to construct alternative definitions of $D(\mathbf{r})$.

New method 3: In this method, the effective number of unpaired electrons is defined by

$$f(n) = \min(n, 2 - n) \tag{12}$$

and $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$, $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$, and $D(\mathbf{r})$ are defined according to eqs 2, 3, and 5 using the newly defined f(n) in eq 12. The definition of $D(\mathbf{r})$ according to eqs 5 and 12 is equivalent to using the unpaired electron density matrix **U** of Head-Gordon.³² Equation 12 maintains the desirable property that a natural orbital occupancy of one indicates there is exactly one unpaired electron in the orbital.

Figure 1 compares f(n) of the original method and method 3. Since $f(n) \le n$ for f(n)under this definition, contribution of $D(\mathbf{r})$ from each natural orbital will always be less or equal to that of $\rho(\mathbf{r})$. This makes $D(\mathbf{r}) \le \rho(\mathbf{r})$ for all points in space. However, this definition of f(n)gives discontinuities at points where n = 1. Because the natural orbital occupation number is a function of the nuclear coordinates, a non-smooth f(n) can lead to a non-smooth potential energy surface. Method 4 modifies the effective number of unpaired electrons for use in obtaining a smooth DC functional.

New method 4: Here we define the effective number of unpaired electrons as

$$f(n) = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\sqrt{m^2 + \frac{1}{m^2} + 4(n-2)n + 2 + m + \frac{1}{m}} \right)$$
(13)

Again, $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$, $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$, and $D(\mathbf{r})$ are defined according to eqs 2, 3, and 5 using the newly defined f(n) in eq 13.

New method 4 is an improvement to new method 3 to remove the discontinuity at n = 1. Details of the construction of f(n) are given in Appendix A, and here we simply mention two key points: (i) Equation 13 is a hyperbola that satisfies $f(n) \le \min(n, 2 - n)$, which also makes $D(\mathbf{r}) \le \rho(\mathbf{r})$ for all points in space. (ii) Equation 13 has one adjustable parameter m, which is the value of f(n) at n = 1; if one sets m = 1, method 4 reduces to method 3.

Below we will discuss the effect of the choice of m on the performance of the DC functional. With some trial and error, we determined that m = 0.96 is the most appropriate value for practical calculations in terms of accuracy and physical interpretation.

Figure 1 compares f(n) of new method 4 with m = 0.96 to f(n) of new method 3, and Figure 2 compares f(n) of new method 4 with different m values. As m increases, the shape of f(n) becomes closer to that of method 3. When m = 0.96, the shape is almost identical to that of method 3.



Figure 1. A plot of f(n) of the original conversion method, method 3, and method 4 with m = 0.96.



Figure 2. A plot of f(n) of method 4 with various m values.

3. Computational Details

To test the performance of DC functionals constructed using the four methods above, we parametrized hybrid DC functionals based on the HCTH³³ functional. We used the same procedure and the same multireference database as used to parameterize the rcHCTHh functional in our previous work.²⁶ The multireference database consists of 59 bond energies and 60 reaction barrier heights calculated from CASSCF wave functions using an automatic active space selection scheme. The ma-TZVP basis set^{34,35} is used for all calculations. The CASSCF calculations were performed in *Molpro*^{36–38} or *OpenMolcas*.³⁹ A Python module based on *PySCF*⁴⁰ and *Libxc*⁴¹ was used to perform MC-DCFT calculations. All MC-DCFT calculations are performed with a grid with 99 radial shells and 590 angular points per shell. The parameters in the DC functionals are optimized using a Python program based on *PyTorch*,⁴² *Numpy*,⁴³ and *Pandas*.⁴⁴ The accuracy of each functional is characterized by the mean unsigned error (MUE) of the predicted bond energies and reaction barrier heights. The MUE is calculated using all 119 data points, as in our previous work.²⁶

Note that we used a slightly different grid as compared to our previous work. We therefore reparametrize the rcHCTHh functional using the new grid and label it as "original".

4. Results and Discussions

The parameters of the DC functional optimized with each of the four methods and the original method are given in Table S1 in the Supporting Information; the entries for method 4 are shown for m = 0.96, which will be justified below. The overall accuracy of the four new methods is compared to the original method in Table 1. The signed errors for the individual data points can be found in Table S2 in the Supporting Information.

Table 1. Mean unsigned error (MUE)	of four new me	ethods to construc	et DC functionals as
compared to the original DC functiona	ıl.		

Method	MUE (kcal/mol)
Original	1.91
Method 1	1.89
Method 2	2.19
Method 3	1.71
Method 4 with $m = 0.96$	1.72

In all four methods, we ensure that the total density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ is the sum of the effective spin densities $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$. This is the only improvement in method 1, which gives a slight improvement in the MUE. As a workaround to overcome the negative $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$, method 2 does not improve the accuracy of the DC functional. In methods 3 and 4, we not only conserve the total density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$, but we also have a more physically well-defined $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$. All four methods have very similar errors as compared to the original method, with only minor differences, but as a side benefit of giving the effective spin densities $\tilde{\rho}_a(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tilde{\rho}_b(\mathbf{r})$ a clearer physical meaning, new methods 1, 3, and 4 have a slight improvement on the MUE, especially for methods 3 and 4, where a 10% decrease in MUE is observed.

Figure 2 compares f(n) of method 4 with various m values. Figure 2 shows that as m approaches 1, f(n) shape closer to that of method 3, but a perhaps-unwelcome consequence of this improvement in shape is that the gradient of f(n) changes more rapidly at n = 1. In the limit of m = 1, f(n) of method 4 would become identical to that of method 3, with a discontinuous derivative at n = 1. We wish to avoid discontinuous or very large derivatives because they could cause numerical problems.

Figure 3 compares the MUE of method 4 with various m values. As an overall trend, the MUE decreases as m increases, with m = 1 (i.e., method 3) having the lowest MUE. For practical purposes, it is desirable to have an m value that is low in MUE while having a numerically stable gradient. By analyzing Figures 2 and 3, we empirically selected m = 0.96 as the best-compromise m value. Figure 3 shows that the MUE does not improve very much in going from m = 0.96 to m = 1, while Figure 2 shows f(n) is reasonably smooth at n = 1 when m = 0.96. We therefore chose new method 4 with m = 0.96 as our new functional, and we name it DC24.



Figure 3. A plot of MUE of method 4 with various m values. The m values are sampled between 0.5 and 1.0 at 0.02 intervals.

5. Concluding Remarks

In this study, we evaluated four new functional forms to construct DC functionals. As a result of this evaluation, we presented a new functional called DC24 that supersedes our two previous DC functionals. As compared to our previous functionals, DC24 has improved accuracy and improved physical interpretation. It has a MUE of 1.72 kcal/mol over the database used for parameterization, which is a 10% improvement compared to the earlier version of the DC functional. It also has a much clearer physical meaning than the earlier version and is likely to be more numerically stable due to the lack of discontinuity in the functional gradients.

The development of the new functional also leads to a new expression for the unpaired electron density. Unpaired electron density is an interpretative tool of quantum chemistry, and the literature already contains multiple definitions with various pros and cons.^{29,30,31,32,45,46,47} The new functional form presented here, which is the combination of eqs 5 and 13, has the feature that the density at a point in space is always less than or equal to the density at that point, which is a clearly desirable constraint. This definition of the unpaired electron density may be useful in other contexts as well as for the purpose for which it is used here.

We recommend using DC24 for future DC functional applications, and it can also serve as a starting point for the development of even better DC functionals, for example by adding other ingredients like kinetic energy density, which has been very successful^{48,49} in Kohn–Sham theory.

Appendix A. Construction of f(n) in Method 4

We constructed f(n) as a hyperbola that satisfies the following properties:

- 1. It has a similar shape as $g(n) = \min(n, 2 n)$ for $0 \le n \le 2$.
- 2. The asymptotic slopes are ± 1 .
- 3. It is symmetric about n = 1.
- 4. f(0) = f(2) = 0.
- 5. f(1) = m, where $0 \le m \le 1$.

Hyperbolas satisfying conditions 1–3 have the following general form

$$\frac{(y-b)^2}{a^2} - \frac{(x-1)^2}{a^2} = 1, y \le b$$
(A1)

where a and b are parameters to be solved. Transforming eq A1, we have

$$y = f(x) = b - \sqrt{a^2 + x^2 - 2x + 1}$$
 (A2)
solve for a^2 and b:

Using conditions 4–5, we can solve for a^2 and b:

$$a^2 = \frac{(m^2 - 1)^2}{4m^2} \tag{A3}$$

$$b = \frac{1+m^2}{2m} \tag{A4}$$

This gives

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\sqrt{m^2 + \frac{1}{m^2} + 4(x-2)x + 2} + m + \frac{1}{m} \right)$$
(A5)

which is equivalent to eq 13.

If we set m = 1, f(x) = 1 - |x - 1|, which is equivalent to $g(n) = \min(n, 2 - n)$. This shows that method 3 is a special case of method 4.

We can also prove that $f(x) \le x$ for all $0 \le x \le 2$ and $0 < m \le 1$. The first derivative of f(x) at x = 0 is always less than or equal to 1, with equality if and only if m = 1, as shown by the inequality of arithmetic and geometric means.

$$f'(0) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{m^2 + \frac{1}{m^2} + 2}} \le \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\sqrt{\frac{1}{m^2} \cdot m^2} + 2}} = 1$$
(A6)

We can show that the second derivative of f(x) is always non-positive for all $0 \le x \le 2$ and $0 < m \le 1$.

$$f''(x) = -\frac{2(m^2 - 1)^2}{[m^4 + m^2(4x^2 - 8x + 2) + 1]\sqrt{m^2 + \frac{1}{m^2} + 4(x - 2)x + 2}}$$
(A7)

The numerator and the square root in the denominator are always non-negative. We shall next consider the sign of the first term in the denominator. By substituting $2t = 4x^2 - 8x + 2$, this term can be transformed into

$$m^{4} + m^{2}(4x^{2} - 8x + 2) + 1 = m^{4} + 2tm^{2} + 1$$

= $(m^{2} + t)^{2} + 1 - t^{2}$ (A8)

Since $0 \le x \le 2$, $-1 \le t \le 1$, and $1 - t^2 \ge 0$, which means this term is non-negative.

Now that we have proved $f'(0) \le 1$ and $f''(x) \le 0$ for all $0 \le x \le 2$ and $0 < m \le 1$, we have $f'(x) \le 1$. Since f(0) = 0, we have $f(x) \le x$.

By showing $f(x) \le x$, we can further conclude that $D(\mathbf{r})$ defined using the new f(n) satisfies $D(\mathbf{r}) \le \rho(\mathbf{r})$ for all points in space.

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DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available in supporting information.

ORCID

Donald G. Truhlar • orcid.org/0000-0002-7742-7294 *Yinan Shu* • orcid.org/0000-0002-8371-0221 *Dayou Zhang* • orcid.org/0000-0002-5393-657X

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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DC24: A New Density Coherence Functional for Multiconfiguration Density-Coherence Functional Theory

Dayou Zhang,[†] Yinan Shu,[†] and Donald G. Truhlar*[†]

[†]Department of Chemistry, Chemical Theory Center, and Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-0431, United States *truhlar@umn.edu

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Parameter	Original	New method 1	New method 2	New method 3	$DC24^b$
$c_{X\sigma,0}$	8.389816E-1	8.312883E-1	8.884915E-1	8.196504E-1	8.136386E-1
$C_{X\sigma,1}$	2.759639E+0	3.176913E+0	8.111523E-1	3.279298E+0	3.976727E+0
<i>C</i> Xσ,2	-3.648764E+1	-3.982962E+1	-1.643938E+1	-3.313177E+1	-3.710011E+1
$c_{X\sigma,3}$	1.201619E+2	1.291940E+2	7.245867E+1	1.008279E+2	1.108468E+2
$C_{X\sigma,4}$	-1.109976E+2	-1.189056E+2	-7.352780E+1	-8.937243E+1	-9.735308E+1
<i>C</i> Cσσ,0	1.564989E+1	1.624336E+1	2.370240E+1	1.363533E+1	1.386019E+1
<i>C</i> Cσσ,1	-8.579724E+1	-9.223142E+1	-1.553990E+2	-7.024657E+1	-7.155857E+1
<i>C</i> Cσσ,2	3.016037E+2	3.281330E+2	5.176448E+2	2.510407E+2	2.481832E+2
<i>C</i> Cσσ,3	-4.436962E+2	-4.854771E+2	-6.979786E+2	-3.692814E+2	-3.601170E+2
<i>C</i> Cσσ,4	2.280074E+2	2.497807E+2	3.327389E+2	1.874674E+2	1.809044E+2
<i>C</i> Cαβ,0	1.306978E+0	1.316620E+0	-7.331295E-2	1.389379E+0	1.144474E+0
$CC\alpha\beta,1$	1.683738E+1	1.713436E+1	-2.627903E+0	8.884804E+0	1.121295E+1
<i>C</i> Cαβ,2	-6.727569E+1	-6.921491E+1	-9.298603E+0	-1.466935E+1	-2.219679E+1
<i>C</i> Cαβ,3	6.584962E-1	-1.365050E+0	-1.190761E+2	-9.389280E+1	-1.006573E+2
<i>C</i> Cαβ,4	8.021591E+1	8.666794E+1	1.452904E+2	1.291839E+2	1.496412E+2
X	4.631819E-1	4.599322E-1	5.145730E-1	4.499314E-1	4.524298E-1

Table S1. Optimized parameters of selected density coherence functionals^{*a*}

^{*a*}The parameter X is the scaling factor of the CASSCF exchange–correlation energy (see eq 1). All other parameter symbols are the same as in the HCTH paper (ref 1).

^{*b*}New method 4 with m = 0.96.

Database	Description ^b	Original	New	New	New	DC24: New
Database	Description	Original	method 1	method 2	method 3	(m = 0.06)
DS1	CrH	1.61	1 14	7 49	-0.85	(m = 0.90)
CPO	MnH	2 71	2 66	3 52	-0.05	2 39
010	FeH	-1 24	-1.26	-1 11	-1 77	-0.62
DS1	$H + HCl \rightarrow H_2 + Cl$	-1 34	-1.35	-1.88	-1.86	-1.91
HTBH38	$V_2 H + HC1 \rightarrow H_2 + C1$	-1.97	-2.06	-1.24	-2.43	-2.53
	$V_1 \Pi + \Pi C I \rightarrow \Pi_2 + C I$ $V_2 \Omega H + H_2 \rightarrow H_2 \Omega + H$	-0.39	-0.33	0.11	-0.27	-0.38
	$V_1 \oplus H_2 \oplus H_2 \oplus H_2 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_4$	-1.33	-1.36	-0.44	-1.34	-1.33
	$OH + CH_4 \rightarrow H_2O + CH_3$	3.45	3.34	5.75	3.45	3.45
	$V_r OH + CH_4 \rightarrow H_2O + CH_3$	0.58	0.67	0.90	0.77	0.67
	$H + H_2 \rightarrow H_2 + H$	0.38	0.44	-1.37	-0.40	-0.57
	$OH + NH_3 \rightarrow H_2O + NH_2$	2.64	2.62	2.80	2.77	2.64
	$V_r OH + NH_3 \rightarrow H_2O + NH_2$	0.71	0.79	0.71	0.58	0.36
	$V_r OH + C_2 H_6 \rightarrow H_2 O + C_2 H_5$	0.29	0.32	0.14	0.74	0.61
	$V_r F + H_2 \rightarrow HF + H$	-2.68	-2.68	-3.37	-2.51	-2.19
	$H + PH_3 \rightarrow H_2 + PH_2$	0.44	0.46	-2.56	0.37	0.16
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + PH ₃ \rightarrow H ₂ + PH ₂	-0.82	-0.84	-2.98	-1.41	-1.74
	$H + HO \rightarrow H_2 + O$	-0.09	0.02	0.42	0.02	0.21
	$H + H_2 S \rightarrow H_2 + HS$	2.41	2.42	0.64	1.85	1.85
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + H ₂ S \rightarrow H ₂ + HS	1.41	1.34	0.38	0.73	0.58
	$O + HCl \rightarrow OH + Cl$	7.22	7.21	8.73	7.17	7.37
	$CH_3 + NH_2 \rightarrow CH_4 + NH$	-4.16	-4.13	-4.68	-3.27	-3.22
	$V_{\rm r} \mathrm{CH}_3 + \mathrm{NH}_2\mathrm{CH}_4 + \mathrm{NH}$	-2.97	-3.05	-1.82	-2.34	-2.37
	$C_2H_5 + NH_2 \rightarrow C_2H_6 + NH$	-2.37	-2.39	-2.55	-1.52	-1.39
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm C_2H_5} + {\rm NH_2} \rightarrow {\rm C_2H_6} + {\rm NH}$	-2.92	-2.95	-2.70	-1.70	-1.78
	$NH_2 + C_2H_6 \rightarrow NH_3 + C_2H_5$	0.95	0.89	2.21	0.95	0.99
	$V_r NH_2 + C_2H_6 \rightarrow NH_3 + C_2H_5$	0.35	0.34	-0.29	0.58	0.57
	$V_{\rm r} \rm NH_2 + CH_4 \rightarrow NH_3 + CH_3$	-0.15	-0.12	-0.75	-0.06	-0.08
DS1	LiO-	2.87	2.72	5.05	2.56	2.34
MR-MGM-BE4	MgS	0.50	0.81	-1.29	1.09	1.31
DS1	NO	2.47	2.28	5.04	1.32	1.94
MR-MGN-BE17	$B_2 \rightarrow 2B$	-2.98	-3.16	-3.05	-2.12	-1.95
DS1	VO	-1.57	-1.77	-1.67	-1.50	-1.80
MR-TM-BE12						
DS1	$H + N_2 O \longrightarrow OH + N_2$	3.95	3.76	3.11	3.39	3.59
NHTBH38	$H + FH \rightarrow HF + H$	-1.21	-1.30	0.23	-1.75	-1.71
	$H + ClH \rightarrow HCl + H$	3.70	3.68	2.51	2.24	2.41
DS1	NaO	-0.91	-0.89	-0.92	-0.25	-0.50
SR-MGM-BE8	~	0				
DS1	C_2H_6	0.52	0.44	0.99	0.90	0.69
SR-MGN-BE107	C_2H_6O	-0.48	-0.42	-0.36	-0.25	-0.43

 Table S2. Signed errors of selected density coherence functionals (kcal/mol)

Database ^a	Description ^b	Original	New method 1	New method 2	New method 3	DC24: New method 4 $(m = 0.96)$
	Et-H	-0.04	-0.04	0.37	0.00	0.01
	Et-CH ₃	-0.04	-0.05	0.45	-0.01	-0.30
	Et-OCH ₃	3.56	3.62	4.45	3.23	3.16
	Et-OH	-1.61	-1.57	-1.43	-1.51	-1.72
	CH(² ∏)	1.07	1.14	-1.22	0.30	0.15
	NH	0.57	0.66	-0.85	0.18	0.16
	OH	-2.78	-2.63	-2.68	-2.58	-2.47
	HC1	-0.07	0.04	-2.17	0.04	-0.18
	Si ₂ (triplet)	3.22	3.07	1.48	1.10	1.72
	P_2	-1.90	-2.03	-2.37	-2.80	-3.23
	S2	2.10	2.00	3.78	2.64	2.85
	SC	3.92	3.90	2.12	3.68	3.43
	H_2	-1.18	-1.21	-0.96	-1.20	-1.37
	SH	1.38	1.50	0.66	1.60	1.38
DS1	Cu ₂	-1.76	-1.93	-1.88	-1.35	-1.69
SR-TM-BE15	$CrCH_{3}^{+}$	-1.26	-0.97	-1.09	-0.80	-1.60
DS2	MnH	2.73	2.62	4.93	2.79	2.26
CPO	FeH	-0.87	-0.85	0.22	-2.12	-1.17
DS2	$H + HCl \rightarrow H_2 + Cl$	-1.23	-1.21	-2.22	-1.63	-1.70
HTBH38						
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + HCl \rightarrow H ₂ + Cl	-1.06	-1.17	-0.19	-1.74	-1.79
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm OH} + {\rm H_2} \longrightarrow {\rm H_2O} + {\rm H}$	-0.39	-0.33	0.11	-0.27	-0.38
	$V_{\rm r} \operatorname{CH}_3 + \operatorname{H}_2 \rightarrow \operatorname{CH}_4 + \operatorname{H}$	-1.33	-1.36	-0.44	-1.34	-1.33
	$OH + CH_4 \rightarrow H_2O + CH_3$	3.10	3.06	4.33	3.49	3.40
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm OH} + {\rm CH}_4 \rightarrow {\rm H}_2 {\rm O} + {\rm CH}_3$	0.41	0.55	-0.20	0.75	0.55
	$H + H_2 {\longrightarrow} H_2 + H$	0.38	0.44	-1.37	-0.40	-0.57
	$OH + NH_3 {\longrightarrow} H_2O + NH_2$	2.83	2.76	3.69	2.65	2.60
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm OH} + {\rm NH}_3 \rightarrow {\rm H}_2 {\rm O} + {\rm NH}_2$	0.76	0.85	0.79	0.69	0.46
	$OH + C_2H_6 {\longrightarrow} H_2O + C_2H_5$	0.50	0.46	1.30	1.15	1.08
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm OH} + {\rm C_2H_6} \rightarrow {\rm H_2O} + {\rm C_2H_5}$	-2.53	-2.47	-2.84	-2.17	-2.30
	$F + H_2 \rightarrow HF + H$	-0.17	-0.44	1.30	0.15	0.54
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm F} + {\rm H}_2 \longrightarrow {\rm HF} + {\rm H}$	-2.68	-2.68	-3.37	-2.51	-2.19
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm O} + {\rm CH_4} \rightarrow {\rm OH} + {\rm CH_3}$	-3.95	-3.85	-3.37	-3.31	-3.17
	$H + PH_3 \rightarrow H_2 + PH_2$	1.90	1.87	-0.55	1.69	1.63
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + PH ₃ \rightarrow H ₂ + PH ₂	0.76	0.72	-0.98	0.12	-0.08
	$H + HO \rightarrow H_2 + O$	-0.58	-0.45	-0.41	-0.22	-0.05
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + HO \rightarrow H ₂ + O	2.08	1.99	2.94	1.62	1.53
	$H + H_2S \rightarrow H_2 + HS$	2.41	2.42	0.64	1.85	1.85
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + H ₂ S \rightarrow H ₂ + HS	1.49	1.42	0.42	0.82	0.70
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm O} + {\rm HCl} \rightarrow {\rm OH} + {\rm Cl}$	-0.49	-0.45	1.39	-0.26	0.09
	$CH_3 + NH_2 \rightarrow CH_4 + NH$	-2.52	-2.49	-2.57	-1.80	-1.70

			Norr	Nam	New	DC24: New
Database ^{<i>a</i>}	Description ^b	Original	method 1	method 2	method 3	method 4
			method 1	methou 2	method 5	(m = 0.96)
	$V_{\rm r} {\rm CH}_3 + {\rm NH}_2 \longrightarrow {\rm CH}_4 + {\rm NH}$	-2.97	-3.05	-1.82	-2.34	-2.36
	$C_2H_5 + NH_2 \rightarrow C_2H_6 + NH$	-2.37	-2.39	-2.55	-1.52	-1.39
	$V_{\rm r} \ {\rm C_2H_5} + {\rm NH_2} \rightarrow {\rm C_2H_6} + {\rm NH}$	-3.45	-3.52	-2.67	-2.24	-2.26
	$NH_2 + C_2H_6 \longrightarrow NH_3 + C_2H_5$	-0.65	-0.69	0.44	-0.17	-0.12
	$V_{\rm r} \rm NH_2 + C_2H_6 \rightarrow \rm NH_3 + C_2H_5$	-1.16	-1.15	-2.04	-0.68	-0.67
	$NH_2 + CH_4 \rightarrow NH_3 + CH_3$	0.34	0.28	2.02	0.19	0.25
	$V_{\rm r} \rm NH_2 + CH_4 \rightarrow NH_3 + CH_3$	-0.30	-0.28	-0.42	-0.26	-0.19
DS2	LiO ⁻	-2.41	-2.54	-1.76	-2.07	-2.06
MR-MGM-BE4						
DS2	SiO (singlet)	0.43	0.17	0.05	1.32	1.89
MR-MGN-BE17	CO	0.94	0.86	-0.37	1.78	1.63
	ClO	2.79	2.84	4.57	2.99	3.30
	$O_3 \rightarrow O_2 + O$	-5.79	-5.76	-6.37	-5.45	-5.30
	\mathbf{N}_2	1.81	1.57	3.14	0.78	1.60
	O_2	2.40	2.24	5.94	0.95	1.17
	$B_2 \rightarrow 2B$	2.73	2.57	2.71	2.66	2.91
	$C_2 \rightarrow 2C$	-9.01	-8.62	-10.05	-9.75	-10.33
DS2 MR-TM-BE12	CuCl	-1.61	-1.84	-2.67	-1.92	-1.48
DS2	$H + FH \rightarrow HF + H$	-1.21	-1.30	0.23	-1.75	-1.71
NHTBH38	$H + ClH \rightarrow HCl + H$	3.70	3.68	2.51	2.24	2.41
	$V_{\rm r}$ H + FCH ₃ \rightarrow HF + CH ₃	-2.19	-2.21	-2.78	-1.85	-2.02
	$H + F_2 \rightarrow HF + F$	4.67	4.39	5.02	3.98	4.90
DS2	NaO	3.47	3.50	4.04	3.80	3.56
SR-MGM-BE8	ZnCl	-3.39	-3.52	-3.93	-3.58	-2.89
DS2	C_2H_6	0.52	0.43	0.99	0.90	0.69
SR-MGN-BE107	C_2H_6O	5.57	5.57	6.14	5.46	5.41
	Et-H	-0.15	-0.09	-0.54	-0.10	-0.18
	Et-CH ₃	-0.05	-0.05	0.45	-0.01	-0.30
	Et-OCH ₃	-1.47	-1.35	-1.58	-1.39	-1.64
	Et-OH	0.42	0.51	-0.02	0.41	0.16
	CH(² ∏)	1.08	1.15	-1.18	0.28	0.12
	NH	0.18	0.26	-0.74	-0.32	-0.18
	ОН	-0.30	-0.16	0.09	-0.15	-0.01
	HCl	0.09	0.14	-1.09	0.17	-0.05
	Si_2 (triplet)	-5.66	-4.84	-4.51	0.39	0.51
	\mathbf{P}_2	-1.90	-2.03	-2.37	-2.80	-3.23
	\mathbf{S}_{2}^{-}	2.06	1.97	3.73	2.59	2.85
		-3.37	-3.21	-4.24	-1.91	-2.07
	sc	3.58	3.57	1.87	3.29	2.99
	H_2	-1.18	-1.21	-0.96	-1.20	-1.37

Database ^a	Description ^b	Original	New method 1	New method 2	New method 3	DC24: New method 4 (<i>m</i> = 0.96)
	SH	3.48	3.55	3.20	3.43	3.34
DS2 SR-TM-BE15	FeCl	-3.76	-3.68	-4.47	-3.82	-4.42

^{*a*}DS1 denotes Data Set 1, for which CASSCF reference wave functions were generated by *Molpro*; DS2 denotes Data Set 2, for which CASSCF reference wave functions were generated by *OpenMolcas*. The database labeled CPO is from the corelated-participating-orbital paper (ref. 2). The other databases are from Minnesota Database 2019.³

^{*b*}For reactions preceded by V_r , the energies and errors are for the reverse barrier height.

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