

# Linked-Cluster Formulation of Electron–Hole Interaction Kernel in Real-Space Representation without Using Unoccupied States

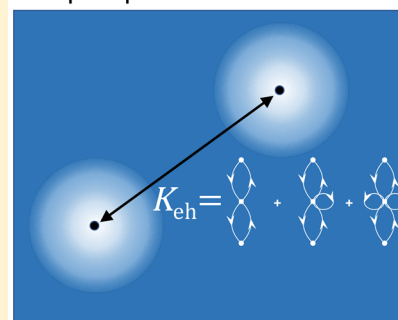
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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Electron–hole or quasiparticle representation plays a central role in describing electronic excitations in many-electron systems. For charge-neutral excitation, the electron–hole interaction kernel is the quantity of interest for calculating important excitation properties such as optical gap, optical spectra, electron–hole recombination, and electron–hole binding energies. The electron–hole interaction kernel can be formally derived from the density–density correlation function using both Green’s function and time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) formalism. The accurate determination of the electron–hole interaction kernel remains a significant challenge for precise calculations of optical properties in the GW+BSE formalism. From the TDDFT perspective, the electron–hole interaction kernel has been viewed as a path to systematic development of frequency-dependent exchange–correlation functionals. Traditional approaches, such as many-body perturbation theory formalism, use unoccupied states (which are defined with respect to Fermi vacuum) to construct the electron–hole interaction kernel. However, the inclusion of unoccupied states has long been recognized as the leading computational bottleneck that limits the application of this approach for larger finite systems. In this work, an alternative derivation that avoids using unoccupied states to construct the electron–hole interaction kernel is presented. The central idea of this approach is to use explicitly correlated geminal functions for treating electron–electron correlation for both ground and excited state wave functions. Using this ansatz, it is derived using both diagrammatic and algebraic techniques that the electron–hole interaction kernel can be expressed only in terms of linked closed-loop diagrams. It is proved that the cancellation of unlinked diagrams is a consequence of linked-cluster theorem in real-space representation. The electron–hole interaction kernel derived in this work was used to calculate excitation energies in many-electron systems, and results were found to be in good agreement with the EOM-CCSD and GW+BSE methods. The numerical results highlight the effectiveness of the developed method for overcoming the computational barrier of accurately determining the electron–hole interaction kernel to applications of large finite systems such as quantum dots and nanorods.

## quasiparticle interaction



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of electron–hole or particle–hole quasiparticle formulation is central to the treatment of electronically excited states in many-electron systems. The electron–hole picture represents excitation from the Fermi vacuum and constitutes the zeroth-order treatment of electronic excitation. In addition, the electron–hole excitation is used extensively in various formulations for treating electron correlation for both ground and electronically excited states.<sup>1</sup>

For charge-neutral excitations, the accurate treatment of electron–hole interaction is extremely important.<sup>2–5</sup> For example, in the Bethe–Salpeter (BSE) approach, the electron–hole interaction kernel is used for calculations of excitation energies.<sup>6–14</sup> The electron–hole interaction kernel can be obtained using both many-body perturbation theory (MBPT)<sup>1,15–21</sup> and time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT).<sup>1,22–26</sup> In both of these approaches, it has been shown convincingly that accurate determination of electron–hole screening is crucial for the accurate calculation of excitation energy.

The overarching objective of this work is the determination of electron–hole screening in excited states without using

unoccupied states. Although the BSE approach has been very successful in predicting the optical spectra of periodic solids and finite-size clusters, it is restricted by the computational effort it takes to construct the electron–hole interaction kernel. In a traditional approach, the construction of the electron–hole interaction kernel requires knowledge of a large number of virtual or unoccupied states. This feature puts severe limitations on the applicability of the BSE and other methods that rely on electron–hole screening for treating large finite-size clusters such as quantum dots and rods. In this work, we present the derivation of the electron–hole interaction kernel that does not require unoccupied states. This is a real-space formulation that uses the connection between electron–hole screening and electron–electron correlation to avoid unoccupied states in the construction of the electron–hole interaction kernel. A similar strategy has also been developed by Nichols and Rassolov using real-space electron correlator approach.<sup>27</sup> We anticipate that using such a kernel will result in significant reduction in

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the cost of the BSE method. This work is also relevant in the TDDFT formulation with respect to the construction of the effective exchange–correlation functional.<sup>5</sup> Because the derivation presented here is using real-space as opposed to occupation-number space, we expect this approach is much more amenable to the development of exchange–correlation functionals.

Recently, in a series of articles, Galli and co-workers have developed the WEST method that addresses the issue of removing contributions of unoccupied states from the GW and BSE equations.<sup>28–30</sup> This method relies on projecting out non-contributing terms from the dielectric matrix. The derivation presented here uses a strategy different than the one used for the WEST method. First, this method is derived from the equation-of-motion approach developed by Simons et al.,<sup>31–37</sup> Cederbaum et al.,<sup>38–42</sup> and Yeager and McKoy.<sup>43–50</sup> This method calculates the electron–hole interaction kernel directly for charge-neutral excitations without requiring the construction or knowledge of the one-particle Green’s function. This derivation also does not assume that it is a post-DFT procedure and in general can be applied to both Hartree–Fock and ground state DFT formulations. In this work, the bare electron and hole quasiparticles are defined with respect to the Fermi vacuum and are constructed from single-particle states of an effective one-electron Hamiltonian. We present two equivalent derivations of the electron–hole interaction kernel. In the first derivation, we show a compact derivation using Hugenholtz diagrams in section 2, and we present the derivation using algebraic representation in Appendix A.

An important connection between electron–hole screening and electron–electron correlation is that electron–hole screening is a consequence of electron–electron correlation. For example, in a hypothetical many-electron system that lacks electron–electron correlation, the electron–hole interaction can be described exactly as the bare Coulomb interaction. Hence, treatment of electron–electron correlation is very important for studying electron–hole interaction. In this work, we use the two-body geminal operator,  $G$ , for treating electron–electron correlation,

$$\Psi = G\Phi_0 \quad (1)$$

where  $G$  is a real-space operator that depends explicitly on the electron–electron separation distance,  $r_{12}$ . An explicitly correlated operator with  $r_{12}$  dependence can be used to provide a better description of the many-electron wave function near the electron–electron coalescence point.<sup>51</sup> For example, both variational Monte Carlo<sup>52,53</sup> and transcorrelated Hamiltonian<sup>54,55</sup> are methods that use the ansatz in eq 1 for the many-electron wave function. The connection between the explicitly correlated wave function (eq 1) and configuration interaction (CI) can be seen by applying the identity operator on the correlated wave function (eq 2),

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\Phi_k\rangle\langle\Phi_k| = I \quad (2)$$

and substituting in eq 1,

$$|\Psi\rangle = IG|\Phi_0\rangle = \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\Phi_k\rangle\langle\Phi_k| \right] G|\Phi_0\rangle \quad (3)$$

Equation 3 is an infinite-order CI expansion which is shown in eq 4,

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k^G |\Phi_k\rangle \quad (4)$$

where the expansion coefficients  $c_k^G = \langle\Phi_k|G|\Phi_0\rangle$  are constrained to be a functional of  $G$ . The inclusion of this explicit  $r_{12}$  dependence in the wave function has been used since the early days of quantum mechanics to achieve accurate ground state energies. Slater<sup>56,57</sup> and Hylleraas<sup>58,59</sup> first used the explicitly correlated wave function calculating the ground state energy in helium atom in 1929. Since then and especially within the past 30 years, the inclusion of explicit correlation has been implemented in various methods such as variational Monte Carlo,<sup>52,53</sup> transcorrelated Hamiltonian,<sup>54,55,60–62</sup> explicitly correlated Hartree–Fock,<sup>63–72</sup> geminal augmented MCSCF,<sup>73</sup> the electronic mean field configuration interaction method,<sup>74</sup> and the strongly orthogonal geminal method.<sup>75,76</sup> The field of explicitly correlated method has been recently reviewed by various authors.<sup>77–80</sup>

## 2. THEORY

In this section, we present the derivation of the electron–hole interaction kernel using Hugenholtz diagrams. We start by defining a zeroth-order Hamiltonian,

$$H_0 = \sum_i^N \left[ \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 + v_{\text{ext}}(i) + v_{\text{eff}}(i) \right] \quad (5)$$

where  $v_{\text{eff}}$  is a one-particle effective potential for which the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of  $H_0$  can be computed exactly. This derivation does not require a specific form of the effective potential, and  $v_{\text{eff}}$  can be obtained using various methods such as Hartree–Fock ( $v_{\text{HF}}$ ), KS-DFT ( $v_{\text{KS}}$ ), pseudopotential ( $v_{\text{ps}}$ ), or empirical model potential ( $v_{\text{emp}}$ ). The ground and excited electronic states in the non-interacting system (described by  $H_0$ ) are represented by  $\Phi_0$  and  $\Phi_i^a$ , respectively.

$$H_0|\Psi_0\rangle = E_0^{(0)}|\Phi_0\rangle \quad (6)$$

$$H_0|\Phi_i^a\rangle = E_{ia}^{(0)}|\Phi_i^a\rangle \quad (7)$$

The excitation energy in the non-interacting system is represented by  $\omega_X^0$  and is calculated from the difference in the eigenvalues of the one-particle Hamiltonian,

$$\omega_X^0 = (E_{ia}^{(0)} - E_0^{(0)}) = \epsilon_a - \epsilon_i \quad (8)$$

Using the effective potential, we define the residual electron–electron interaction operator  $W$  which is the part of the Coulomb operator not included in the effective potential. Mathematically,  $W$  is a two-body operator which is expressed as,

$$W = \sum_{i<j} w(i, j) = \sum_{i<j}^N r_{ij}^{-1} - \sum_i^N v_{\text{eff}}(i) \quad (9)$$

The many-electron Hamiltonian is defined as

$$H = H_0 + W \quad (10)$$

and the corresponding ground and excited state wave functions are defined as

$$H|\Psi_0\rangle = E_0|\Psi_0\rangle \quad (11)$$

$$H|\Psi_X\rangle = E_X|\Psi_X\rangle \quad (12)$$

where the subscript “X” is used to represent excited state. The excitation energy in the correlated system is analogously defined as

$$\omega_X = (E_X - E_0) \quad (13)$$

The ground and excited state correlated wave functions are normalized using the following intermediate normalization condition,

$$\langle \Phi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle = \langle \Phi_i^a | \Psi_X \rangle = 1 \quad (14)$$

In this derivation, we assume that the ansatz for the correlated ground state,  $\Psi_0$ , and the excited state,  $\Psi_X$ , wave functions are defined with respect to their corresponding uncorrelated wave function and correlation operator,  $G$ . The expressions for the correlated ground and excited state wave functions are given by

$$\Psi_0 = G_0 \Phi_0 \quad (15)$$

$$\Psi_X = G_X \Phi_i^a \quad (16)$$

where the correlation operator is a two-body operator with the following form,

$$G_0 = \sum_{i<j}^N g_0(i, j) \quad (17)$$

$$G_X = \sum_{i<j}^N g_X(i, j) \quad (18)$$

The derivation presented here is general and does not depend on the choice of  $g(1,2)$ . However, practical implementation of this method requires specific choice of  $g(1,2)$ , and the functional form used in this work will be discussed in [Results and Discussion](#).

The goal of this derivation is to find the relationship between the excitation energies of the correlated ( $\omega_X$ ) and the uncorrelated ( $\omega_X^0$ ) systems. We start by left-multiplying the eigenvalue equation for the correlated system (eq 11) by the uncorrelated bra-vectors, shown as follows,

$$\langle \Phi_0 | H | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0 \langle \Phi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle \quad (19)$$

$$\langle \Phi_i^a | H | \Psi_X \rangle = E_X \langle \Phi_i^a | \Psi_X \rangle \quad (20)$$

Using intermediate normalization (eq 14) and expanding the Hamiltonian (eq 10) we get

$$\langle \Phi_0 | [H_0 + W] | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0 \quad (21)$$

$$\langle \Phi_i^a | [H_0 + W] | \Psi_X \rangle = E_X \quad (22)$$

Operating on the bra-vector with  $H_0$  gives

$$E_0^{(0)} + \langle \Phi_0 | W | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0 \quad (23)$$

$$E_{ia}^{(0)} + \langle \Phi_i^a | W | \Psi_X \rangle = E_X \quad (24)$$

Subtracting the two equations gives

$$E_X - E_0 = (E_{ia}^{(0)} - E_0^{(0)}) + \langle \Phi_i^a | W | \Psi_X \rangle - \langle \Phi_0 | W | \Psi_0 \rangle \quad (25)$$

Using eq 8 and eq 13, the above equation can be used to relate the excitation energies of the correlated system with the excitation energies of the uncorrelated system,

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + \langle \Phi_i^a | W | \Psi_X \rangle - \langle \Phi_0 | W | \Psi_0 \rangle \quad (26)$$

Substituting eq 15 and eq 16 into eq 26, we arrive at the following expression of the excitation energy,

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + \langle 0 | \{i^\dagger a\} W G_X \{a^\dagger i\} | 0 \rangle - \langle 0 | W G_0 | 0 \rangle \quad (27)$$

where

$$|\Phi_0\rangle \equiv |0\rangle \quad (28)$$

$$|\Phi_i^a\rangle \equiv \{a^\dagger i\} | 0 \rangle \quad (29)$$

We recognize that the expression in eq 27 involves evaluation of the vacuum expectation value of operators. Using Wick's contraction theorem, we can immediately conclude that only fully contracted terms will contribute to the above expression,<sup>15</sup> because as shown below, the expectation value of uncontracted terms with respect to the Fermi vacuum will have zero contribution,

$$\langle 0 | X | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | X^\dagger | 0 \rangle = 0 \quad (30)$$

( $X$  is any second-quantized operator)

Therefore, we can write the following expression,

$$\langle 0 | \{i^\dagger a\} W G_X \{a^\dagger i\} | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | \{i^\dagger a\} W G_X \{a^\dagger i\} | 0 \rangle_{FC} \quad (31)$$

$$\langle 0 | W G_0 | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | W G_0 | 0 \rangle_{FC} \quad (32)$$

where as the subscript “FC” implies, only fully contracted terms are evaluated in the above expression. The set of all fully contracted terms will contain both linked and unlinked terms and will be discussed later. Substituting eq 31 and eq 32 into eq 27 gives

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + \langle 0 | \{i^\dagger a\} W G_X \{a^\dagger i\} | 0 \rangle_{FC} - \langle 0 | W G_0 | 0 \rangle_{FC} \quad (33)$$

The first term in the above expression represents the excitation energy in the zeroth-order Hamiltonian. The second term contains the electron–hole interaction terms. The expression of this term in terms of electron and hole indices can be obtained using diagrammatic techniques, and in this work we will use the Hugenholtz diagrams<sup>15,72,81</sup> for a compact representation of the diagrams. To derive expression for the second term in eq 33, we note that operator  $W G_X$  is a product of two, two-body operators  $W$  and  $G_X$ . Therefore, this product can be expanded into a sum of two-body, three-body, and four-body operators<sup>72</sup> by substituting the definitions of  $W$  and  $G_X$  from eq 9 and eq 18. The resulting expansion is shown below,

$$W G_X = \sum_{i<j} w(i, j) \times \sum_{i<j} g_X(i, j) \quad (34)$$

$$= \sum_{i<j} \kappa_2^X(i, j) + \sum_{i<j<k} \kappa_3^X(i, j, k) + \sum_{i<j<k<l} \kappa_4^X(i, j, k, l) \quad (35)$$

$$= \Omega_2^X + \Omega_3^X + \Omega_4^X \quad (36)$$

The expression for ( $\kappa_2^X, \kappa_3^X, \kappa_4^X$ ) can be obtained using the operators of the complete symmetric group  $S_N$ , for example,

$$\kappa_2^X(1,2) = w(1,2) g_X(1,2) \quad (37)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2!} [w(1,2) g_X(1,2) + w(2,1) g_X(2,1)] \quad (38)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{P_\alpha \in S_2} P_\alpha [w(1,2) g(1,2)] \quad (39)$$

where  $P_\alpha$  is the permutation operator in  $S_N$  that permutes the symbols  $[1,2]$  to one of the  $N!$  arrangements,

$$P_\alpha[1,2] = [\pi_1, \pi_2] \quad (40)$$

Therefore,

$$\kappa_3^X(1,2,3) = \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{P_\alpha \in \mathcal{S}_3} P_\alpha[w(1,2) g_X(2,3)] \quad (41)$$

$$\kappa_4^X(1,2,3,4) = \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{P_\alpha \in \mathcal{S}_4} P_\alpha[w(1,2) g_X(3,4)] \quad (42)$$

We note that the above expression guarantees that operators are completely symmetric with respect to the permutation of electronic coordinates. We have similar expressions for the  $WG_0$  term,

$$WG_0 = \sum_{i < j} w(i, j) \sum_{i < j} g_0(i, j) \quad (43)$$

$$= \sum_{i < j} \kappa_2^0(i, j) + \sum_{i < j < k} \kappa_3^0(i, j, k) + \sum_{i < j < k < l} \kappa_4^0(i, j, k, l) \quad (44)$$

$$= \Omega_2^0 + \Omega_3^0 + \Omega_4^0 \quad (45)$$

The evaluation of the matrix elements of operators  $\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle$  can then be performed using second-quantized algebra. We note that matrix element is of the general form  $\langle 0\{\dots\}|0\rangle$  and is an expectation value expression with respect to the vacuum state. This allows us to apply Wick's contraction theorem and conclude that only fully contracted terms will have nonzero contributions to the matrix elements. The expressions resulting from Wick's contraction are represented diagrammatically for a compact representation and are presented in Figure 1. An equivalent but longer derivation using algebraic representation is presented in Appendix A, and description of Hugenholtz diagrams are presented in the Supporting Information.<sup>S1</sup> Specifically, fully contracted terms from  $\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle$  are represented by diagrams  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ , and  $D_3$  in panel A of Figure 1,

$$\langle 0|\Omega_2^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_1 \quad (46)$$

$$\langle 0|\Omega_3^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_2 \quad (47)$$

$$\langle 0|\Omega_4^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_3 \quad (48)$$

substituting

$$\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = \langle 0|\Omega_2^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} + \langle 0|\Omega_3^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} + \langle 0|\Omega_4^0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} \quad (49)$$

$$= D_1 + D_2 + D_3 \quad (50)$$

These diagrams do not have any particle–hole lines because these expressions only involve occupied states which are represented by closed loops in the diagrams. Therefore, as shown in Figure 1, all the terms are obtained from linked diagrams,

$$\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = \langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \quad (51)$$

The equivalent algebraic derivation of eq 51 using second-quantized operators is presented in Appendix A.

The fully contracted terms from  $\langle 0|WG_X|0\rangle$  are represented by diagrams  $D_4, \dots, D_{18}$  in panel B of Figure 1,

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_2^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_4 + D_7 + D_{10} + D_{13}D_{16} \quad (52)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_3^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_5 + D_8 + D_{11} + D_{14}D_{17} \quad (53)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_4^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_6 + D_9 + D_{12} + D_{15}D_{18} \quad (54)$$

We note that the diagram pairs  $(D_{13}, D_{16})$ ,  $(D_{14}, D_{17})$ , and  $(D_{15}, D_{18})$  form the set of all unlinked diagrams. However,

analysis of the bubble diagrams  $D_{16}$ ,  $D_{17}$ , and  $D_{18}$  reveals that all these diagrams refer to the same electron–hole pair and are exactly equal to 1. Algebraically, they represent the following Wick's contraction,

$$D_{16} = D_{17} = D_{18} = \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle = 1 \quad (55)$$

Substituting eq 55 in eq 52, we get

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_2^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_4 + D_7 + D_{10} + D_{13} \quad (56)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_3^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_5 + D_8 + D_{11} + D_{14} \quad (57)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}\Omega_4^X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} = D_6 + D_9 + D_{12} + D_{15} \quad (58)$$

Combining all the terms in eq 56

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{FC}} &= D_4 + D_7 + D_{10} + D_{13} \\ &+ D_5 + D_8 + D_{11} + D_{14} \\ &+ D_6 + D_9 + D_{12} + D_{15} \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

We note that all the diagrams in the above expression are linked diagrams, therefore the left-hand side of eq 59 can be expressed solely in terms of linked terms. The summation of loop diagrams  $D_{13}, \dots, D_{15}$  is equal to the vacuum expectation value of the operator,

$$D_{13} + D_{14} + D_{15} = \langle 0|WG_X|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \quad (60)$$

and the summation of the remaining diagrams are related to the following matrix element,

$$D_4 + \dots + D_{12} = \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \quad (61)$$

where the subscript L implies that only linked diagrams are included in that expression. Therefore, we conclude that the matrix elements (summarized in panels A and B of Figure 1) consist of only linked diagrams. Combining the results from eq 60 and eq 61, we conclude that only linked diagrams contribute to the expression as shown in eq 62,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle &= \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \\ &+ \langle 0|WG_X|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

The equivalent algebraic derivation of eq 62 using second-quantized operators is presented in Appendix A.

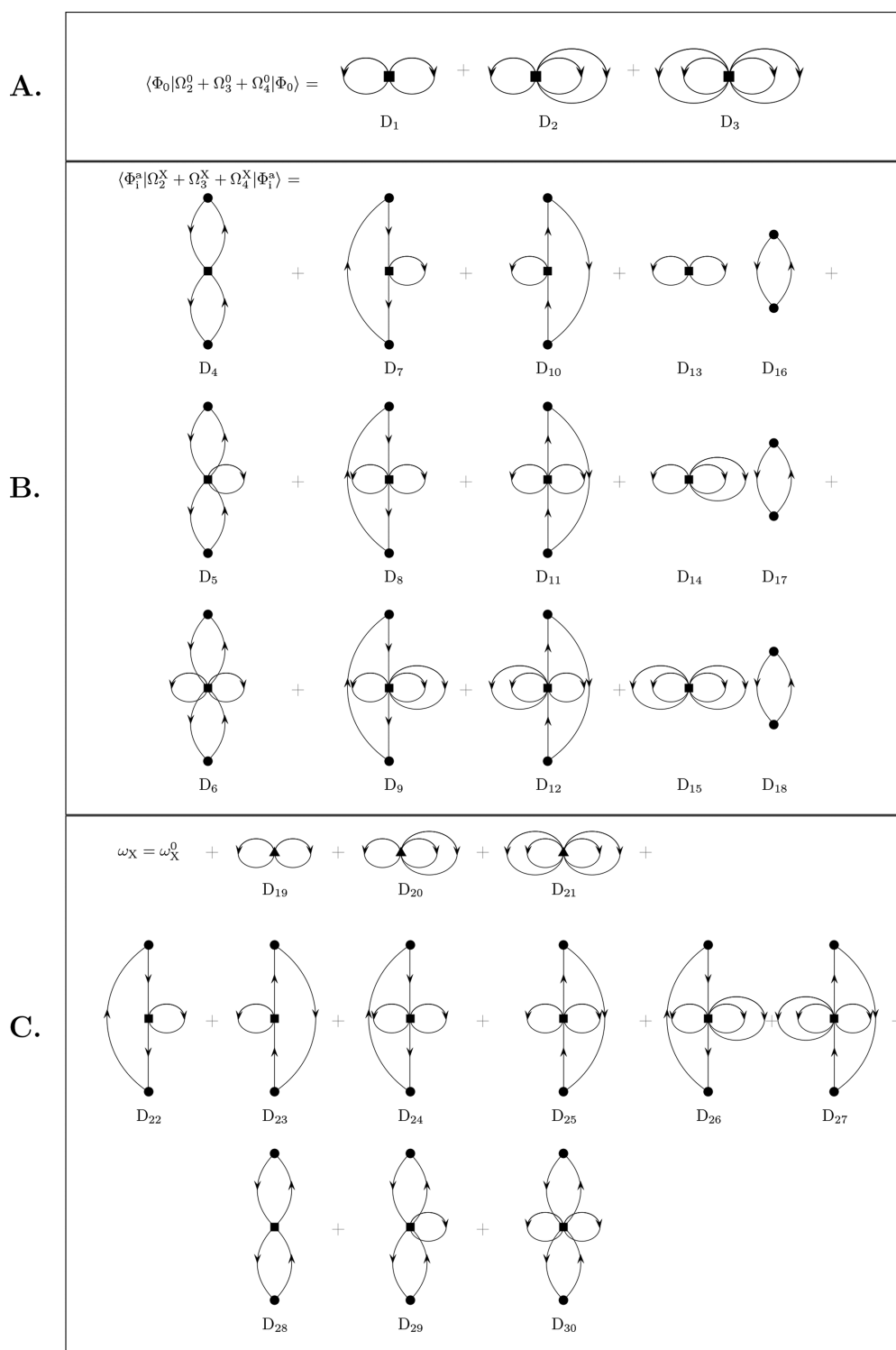
To obtain the expression for  $\omega_X$ , we observe that the  $D_1, \dots, D_3$  and  $D_{13}, \dots, D_{15}$  diagrams have similar structures and can be combined together into a single expression. Mathematically, substituting eq 62 in eq 27 gives the following expression for  $\omega_X$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_X &= \omega_X^0 + \langle 0|W(G_X - G_0)|0\rangle \\ &+ \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{\text{L}} \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

The diagrammatic expression for eq 63 is given in panel C of Figure 1. An important result from this derivation is the proof that the excitation energy of the correlated system can be expressed entirely in terms of linked diagrams. The diagrammatic representation in Figure 1 implies the following expression for the excitation energy,

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + D_{19} + \dots + D_{30} \quad (64)$$

The diagrams can be related to matrix elements of the following one-body and two-body operators,



**Figure 1.** Derivation represented using Hugenholtz diagrams. Diagrams  $D_{19}$  through  $D_{21}$  have the operator represented by  $\blacktriangle$ , which corresponds to the operator  $W(G_X - G_0)$ . Diagrams with  $\blacksquare$  represent operators  $\kappa_2^X$ ,  $\kappa_3^X$ , and  $\kappa_4^X$ .

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + \langle 0 | W(G_X - G_0) | 0 \rangle + \langle i | U_h | i \rangle + \langle a | U_e | a \rangle + \langle i a | K_{eh} | a i \rangle \quad (65)$$

The first term,  $\omega_X^0$  in eq 65 is the excitation energy in the reference system. The remaining terms in the equation are corrections to the reference excitation energy due to the electron–electron correlation effect. The second term in eq 65 is obtained from the following combination of diagrams,

$$\langle 0 | W(G_X - G_0) | 0 \rangle = D_{19} + D_{20} + D_{21} \quad (66)$$

In this diagrammatic representation,  $D_{19} = D_8 - D_1$ ,  $D_{20} = D_{13} - D_2$ , and  $D_{21} = D_{18} - D_3$ , respectively. The expressions of these terms in terms of the one-particle basis functions  $\{\chi_p\}$  are presented in Appendix A. This term is a vacuum expectation value and therefore does not contribute to the electron–hole interaction kernel. Because of the  $W(G_X - G_0)$  term in the above expression (represented by  $\blacktriangle$  in Figure 1), this expression

represents the correction to the reference excitation energy,  $\omega_X^0$ , due to the difference in the treatment of electron–electron correlation in the ground and excited state wave functions. In the limit where the electron–electron correlation operator for both ground and excited states are identical, the contribution from this term will be zero. The terms  $U_h$  and  $U_e$  are obtained from the following diagrams,

$$\langle ilU_h|li\rangle + \langle alU_e|la\rangle = D_{22} + \dots + D_{27} \quad (67)$$

In diagrammatic representation,  $U_{e,h}$  implies that the operators are one-body operators that operate either on the quasidelectron or quasihole particles. The correction to the excitation energy due to  $U_{e,h}$  can be interpreted as the consequence of the renormalization of the electron and hole energy levels due to the presence of the electron–electron correlation. We note that  $U_{e,h}$  depends only on the form of the electron–electron correlation operator for the excited state and not on the ground state correlator operator. The operator (■) in diagrams  $D_{28}$ ,  $D_{29}$ , and  $D_{30}$  operates simultaneously on both electron and hole lines and represents the electron–hole interaction kernel,

$$\langle ialK_{eh}|lai\rangle = D_{28} + D_{29} + D_{30} \quad (68)$$

As shown in panel C of Figure 1, the expression for  $K_{eh}$  is completely described only by linked diagrams. The result from this derivation also shows that  $K_{eh}$  depends only on the correlator operator of the excited state wave function. We note that since we are using Hugenholtz diagrams (as opposed to Goldstone diagrams), the expression for  $K_{eh}$  is a nonlocal operator and includes the antisymmetrized operator in its definition.<sup>81</sup> The loops in diagrams  $D_{29}$  and  $D_{30}$  are associated with the summation over occupied orbital indices and can be interpreted as the renormalization of the three-body and four-body operators into effective two-body particle–hole operators. As claimed in our title, eq 68 and panel C of Figure 1 present the expression of the electron–hole interaction kernel only in terms of the real-space operators,  $w(1,2)$  and  $g_X(1,2)$ , without involving any unoccupied states.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The derived expressions for the electron–hole interaction kernel and excitation energy were used to perform proof-of-concept calculations on molecules, clusters, and quantum dots. Practical implementation required us to make additional approximations to the derived expressions. For the proof-of-concept calculations, all the higher order diagrams were neglected and we included only the lowest order diagrams for describing the electron–hole interaction kernel. Also, for the excitation energy calculations, all contributions from diagrams that do not involve a particle–hole line were ignored. Applying these two approximations, the final expressions for the geminal-screened electron–hole interaction kernel (GSIK) and the excitation energy are given by the following expressions,

$$K_{eh}^{(l)}(1,2) = D_{28} = w(1,2) g_X(1,2)(1 - P_{12}) \quad (69)$$

$$\omega_X = \omega_X^0 + D_{22} + D_{23} + D_{28} \quad (70)$$

$$= \omega_X^0 + \langle ilU_h|li\rangle + \langle alU_e|la\rangle + \langle ialK_{eh}|lai\rangle \quad (71)$$

In this work, the uncorrelated Hamiltonian was defined as the Fock operator obtained from Hartree–Fock calculation. The transition of interest was the HOMO to LUMO transition

and the single-particle (quasi) hole and electron states were defined using the HOMO and LUMO states,

$$|i\rangle \equiv |\chi_{\text{HOMO}}\rangle \quad (72)$$

$$|a\rangle \equiv |\chi_{\text{LUMO}}\rangle \quad (73)$$

The uncorrelated excitation energy was defined as the HOMO–LUMO gap,

$$\omega_X^0 = (\epsilon_{\text{LUMO}} - \epsilon_{\text{HOMO}}) \quad (74)$$

All operators  $U_h$ ,  $U_e$ , and  $K_{eh}$  depend on  $g_X(1,2)$ , which was chosen to be an explicitly correlated Gaussian-type geminal function that depends explicitly on the electron–electron separation distance,

$$g_X(1,2) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_g} b_k^X \exp[-\gamma_k r_{12}^2] \quad (75)$$

where  $N_g$  is the number of Gaussian functions. Geminal functions have been used extensively in the past<sup>27,73,82–85</sup> for treating electron–electron correlation and were used in this work for construction of the correlator operator.

**3.1. Excitation Energy of Water and CdSe Cluster.** The excitation energy of a single water molecule was computed using eq 70, and the results were compared with EOM-CCSD<sup>15</sup> calculations. Both calculations were performed using 6-31G\* basis, and the single-particle states were obtained from Hartree–Fock calculations. Electron–electron correlation effects for both ground and excited states were entirely treated using the explicitly correlated Gaussian-type geminal functions, and only one geminal function was used. We assumed that the correlator operator for the excited state is of a similar form to the ground state and the expansion coefficients,  $(b_k\gamma_k)$ , were obtained from previously published results on ground state calculations and are given in Table 3 (Appendix B).<sup>72</sup> Comparison of the GSIK with the EOM-CC results (Table 1) shows that the excitation

**Table 1. Comparison of Excitation Energy (eV) for H<sub>2</sub>O and Cd<sub>20</sub>Se<sub>19</sub>**

system	this work (GSIK)	existing methods	
H <sub>2</sub> O	8.601	8.539	(EOM-CCSD) <sup>15</sup>
Cd <sub>20</sub> Se <sub>19</sub>	3.139	3.096	(pseudopot.+CI) <sup>86</sup>

energies are in good agreement with each other. We also calculated the excitation energy of a small CdSe cluster, Cd<sub>20</sub>Se<sub>19</sub>, using the LANL2DZ ECP basis and the results were compared with previously reported pseudopotential+CI (pseudopot.+CI) calculations.<sup>86</sup> The geminal parameters for CdSe clusters were obtained from previously reported calculations on parabolic quantum dots.<sup>87,88</sup> In both cases, we found that the excitation energies obtained using the geminal-screened electron–hole interaction kernel were in good agreement with previously reported results (Table 1). These results also highlight the transferability of the geminal parameters from a model potential (parabolic quantum dots in this case) to electronic structure calculations.

**3.2. Exciton Binding Energies.** In addition to calculation of the excitation energies, proof-of-concept calculations were performed on calculation of exciton binding energies. Exciton binding energies are directly related to the electron–hole interaction kernel and provide a direct route to verify the quality of the derived expression. The exciton binding energies for Cd<sub>6</sub>Se<sub>6</sub> and Cd<sub>20</sub>Se<sub>19</sub> were calculated using the geminal-screened

electron–hole interaction kernel and were compared with previously published results obtained using GW/BSE<sup>89</sup> and pseudopotential+CI calculations.<sup>86</sup> As shown in Table 2, the

**Table 2. Comparison of Exciton Binding Energies (eV)**

system	this work (GSIK)	previously reported
Cd <sub>6</sub> Se <sub>6</sub>	3.374	3.33 (GW/BSE) <sup>89</sup>
Cd <sub>20</sub> Se <sub>19</sub>	0.960	1.003 (pseudopot.+CI) <sup>86</sup>

results from this work were found to be in good agreement with both of these methods.

**3.3. Extension to Spin-Resolved States.** In its present form, the particle–hole excitation operator used in eq 16 is not spin-resolved. As a consequence of that, the excited state ( $\Psi_X$ ) of the correlated system is not an eigenfunction of the total spin operator,  $\hat{S}^2$ . To extend the derivation for spin-resolved states such as singlet and triplet excited states, a modified particle–hole excitation operator with well-defined spin states must be used. For example, the singlet excitation operator is defined as<sup>90</sup>

$$\hat{E}_{ia}^{S=0, M_s=0} = \{a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} i_{\alpha}\} + \{a_{\beta}^{\dagger} i_{\beta}\} \quad (76)$$

where  $\psi_i(\mathbf{r})$  and  $\psi_a(\mathbf{r})$  refer to occupied and unoccupied spatial molecular orbitals, respectively, and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the spin states. Similarly, the triplet excitation operator is defined as<sup>90</sup>

$$\hat{T}_{ia}^{S=1, M_s=1} = -\{a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} i_{\beta}\} \quad (77)$$

$$\hat{T}_{ia}^{S=1, M_s=-1} = \{a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} i_{\beta}\} \quad (78)$$

$$\hat{T}_{ia}^{S=1, M_s=0} = \{a_{\alpha}^{\dagger} i_{\alpha}\} - \{a_{\beta}^{\dagger} i_{\beta}\} \quad (79)$$

Using these particle–hole creation operators, the singlet and triplet excited states can be defined as

$$|\Psi_X^{S=0}\rangle = G_X^{S=0} \hat{E}_{ia} |0\rangle \quad (80)$$

$$|\Psi_X^{S=1}\rangle = G_X^{S=1} \hat{T}_{ia} |0\rangle \quad (81)$$

An important aspect of treating electron correlation in spin-resolved states is the choice of the two-body correlator operator,  $G$ . For example, in the above expression, the two-body correlator operators for the singlet and triplet states have different functional forms. This is a consequence of the different cusp conditions at the electron–electron coalescence point for spin-paired and spin-unpaired electrons. The spin dependence of the functional form near the electron–electron coalescence point has been studied extensively in the past,<sup>91,92</sup> and an excellent review on this topic is presented by Kong et al.<sup>79</sup> Future development of the GSIK method will focus on using the spin-resolved excitation operators for describing electron–hole interaction.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The expression for the electron–hole interaction kernel,  $K_{eh}$ , was derived without using unoccupied states. One key result from this derivation is our proof-by-construction demonstration that  $K_{eh}$  can be expressed entirely in terms of linked diagrams. By factorization of the diagrams, it was shown that contributions from all unlinked diagrams rigorously vanish from the expressions for both excitation energy and electron–hole interaction kernel. It was also shown that the electron–hole interaction kernel depends only on the electron correlator operator associated with the excited state and is independent of the level

and quality of treatment of electron correlation in the ground electronic state. For the excitation energy calculations, the derivation also demonstrated the emergence of effective one-body operators that are responsible for the renormalization of the quasielectron and quasihole states. This is an important point, because in conventional GW/BSE calculations, the quasiparticle energies are obtained from the GW calculations; however, in the present derivation although GW was not performed, the renormalization of the quasiparticle states emerges in the natural course of the derivation. We note that the renormalization of quasiparticle energies also satisfies the link-cluster theorem and they are evaluated as a sum of only linked diagrams. The derived expressions were implemented and proof-of-concept calculations of excitation energies and exciton binding energies were performed for water and CdSe clusters. In all cases, the results were found to be in good agreement with the previously reported calculations. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of the geminal-screened electron–hole interaction kernel method for the efficient calculation of excited state properties in many-electron systems.

## APPENDIX A

In this appendix, we present the derivation of the electron–hole interaction kernel using algebraic representation.

### A.1. Evaluation of $\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{FC}$

To start, we write  $WG_0$  (eq 44) in second-quantized representation,

$$\begin{aligned} WG_0 = & \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2} \langle p_1 p_2 | \kappa_2^0 | q_1 q_2 \rangle p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} q_1 q_2 \\ & + \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 | \kappa_3^0 | q_1 q_2 q_3 \rangle p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} p_3^{\dagger} q_1 q_2 q_3 \\ & + \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3 p_4 q_4} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4 | \kappa_4^0 | q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 \rangle p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} p_3^{\dagger} p_4^{\dagger} q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 \end{aligned} \quad (82)$$

Using eq 33 and eq 82,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{FC} = & \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2} \langle p_1 p_2 | \kappa_2^0 | q_1 q_2 \rangle \langle 0|p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} q_1 q_2|0\rangle_{FC} \\ & + \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 | \kappa_3^0 | q_1 q_2 q_3 \rangle \langle 0|p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} p_3^{\dagger} q_1 q_2 q_3|0\rangle_{FC} \\ & + \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3 p_4 q_4} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4 | \kappa_4^0 | q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 \rangle \langle 0|p_1^{\dagger} p_2^{\dagger} p_3^{\dagger} p_4^{\dagger} q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4|0\rangle_{FC} \end{aligned} \quad (83)$$

where the subscript “FC” implies that only fully contracted terms are evaluated. Inspection of the expressions show that the only nonzero terms in the above expressions must involve only occupied state indices. Including all possible nonzero contractions gives us the following expression,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{FC} = & \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{i_1 i_2} \langle i_1 i_2 | \kappa_2^0 | i_1 i_2 \rangle_A \\ & + \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{i_1 i_2 i_3} \langle i_1 i_2 i_3 | \kappa_3^0 | i_1 i_2 i_3 \rangle_A \\ & + \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \langle i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 | \kappa_4^0 | i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 \rangle_A \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

where subscript “A” in  $\langle \dots \rangle_A$  implies an antisymmetrized matrix element. Comparing to a diagrammatic representation, the

above expression corresponds to the following closed-loop diagrams,

$$\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle_{FC} = D_1 + D_2 + D_3 \quad (85)$$

### A.2. Evaluation of $\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC}$

$WG_X$  (eq 35) in second-quantized representation is written as

$$\begin{aligned} WG_X &= \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2} \langle p_1 p_2 | \kappa_2^X | q_1 q_2 \rangle p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger q_2 q_1 \\ &+ \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 | \kappa_3^X | q_1 q_2 q_3 \rangle p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger q_3 q_2 q_1 \\ &+ \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3 p_4 q_4} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4 | \kappa_4^X | q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 \rangle p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger p_4^\dagger q_4 q_3 q_2 q_1 \end{aligned} \quad (86)$$

Using eq 33 and eq 86, we get the following expression,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_X\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} &= \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2} \langle p_1 p_2 | \kappa_2^X | q_1 q_2 \rangle \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} \\ &+ \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 | \kappa_3^X | q_1 q_2 q_3 \rangle \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger q_3 q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} \\ &+ \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{p_1 q_1 p_2 q_2 p_3 q_3 p_4 q_4} \langle p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4 | \kappa_4^X | q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 \rangle \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger p_4^\dagger q_4 q_3 q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} \end{aligned} \quad (87)$$

To analyze the various resulting contracted terms, we introduce the following shorthand notation,

$$A = \{i^\dagger a\} \quad (88)$$

$$B = (p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger \dots) \quad (89)$$

$$C = (\dots q_2 q_1) \quad (90)$$

$$D = \{a^\dagger i\} \quad (91)$$

Using the above notation, the operator strings can be compactly expressed as,

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} = \langle 0|AB_2 C_2 D|0\rangle_{FC} \quad (92)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger q_3 q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} = \langle 0|AB_3 C_3 D|0\rangle_{FC} \quad (93)$$

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\} p_1^\dagger p_2^\dagger p_3^\dagger p_4^\dagger q_4 q_3 q_2 q_1 \{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} = \langle 0|AB_4 C_4 D|0\rangle_{FC} \quad (94)$$

We note that, in all cases, the set of fully contracted terms can be factored in the following two non-overlapping subsets,

$$ABCD = \overbrace{ABCD} + \overbrace{ABCD}. \quad (95)$$

The first term in eq 95 represents pairwise contraction of only the excitation operators  $A$  and  $D$ , whereas the second term represents terms that involve all the operators. Substituting in earlier expression, we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0|ABCD|0\rangle_{FC} &= \langle 0|\overbrace{AB_2 C_2 D} + \overbrace{AB_3 C_3 D} + \overbrace{AB_4 C_4 D}|0\rangle_{FC} \\ &+ \langle 0|\overbrace{AB_2 C_2 D} + \overbrace{AB_3 C_3 D} + \overbrace{AB_4 C_4 D}|0\rangle_{FC}. \end{aligned} \quad (96)$$

The above expression can be simplified by noting that the contraction involving the excitation operators contributes “1” to the total expression,

$$\overbrace{AD} = \delta_{ii} \delta_{aa} = 1. \quad (97)$$

The remaining contractions link all of the four different types of operators and are collectively referred to as the linked terms. This implies the following simplification,

$$\langle 0|ABCD|0\rangle_{FC} = \langle 0|BC|0\rangle_{FC} + \langle 0|ABCD|0\rangle_L \quad (98)$$

where subscript “L” implies only *linked*, fully contracted terms. Because  $\langle 0|BC|0\rangle_{FC}$  does not contain any terms from excitation operators, it is similar to the expression of  $\langle 0|WG_0|0\rangle$  derived earlier. Consequently, we can write the expression for  $\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_n\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_n\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} &= \langle 0|WG_n|0\rangle_{FC} + \langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_n\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_L \end{aligned} \quad (99)$$

Comparing to the diagrammatic representation, the fully contracted terms can be compactly represented as

$$\langle 0\{i^\dagger a\}WG_n\{a^\dagger i\}|0\rangle_{FC} = D_4 + \dots + D_{18} \quad (100)$$

## APPENDIX B

The  $b$  and  $\gamma$  values used in this work are presented in Table 3.

Table 3.  $b$  and  $\gamma$  Values (a.u.) Used in GSIK Method<sup>a</sup>

system	$b$	$\gamma$
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.186766	0.557658
Cd <sub>6</sub> Se <sub>6</sub>	0.128975	0.052184
Cd <sub>20</sub> Se <sub>19</sub>	0.867863	0.010425

<sup>a</sup>The form of the correlation operator used in this work is of similar form to the ground state correlation operator presented in earlier work.<sup>72</sup>

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.jctc.8b00123.

Description of the Hugenholtz diagrams, its connection to Goldstone diagrams, and derivation of matrix elements (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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