Examination of single- and multi-reference methods for the calculation of potential surfaces

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For a number of simple molecules, including HF, O₃, CU₂ and NO, potential surfaces are calculated using single- and multi-reference methods and compared where possible with full configuration interaction calculations. Of special interest is the comparison of pseudo-multi-reference coupled cluster methods using a commutative operator-manifold based upon a single reference-determinant with true multi-reference coupled cluster methods using non-commutative operator manifolds. It is shown that the true multi-reference methods and various approximations to these allows the most compact description of accurate wavefunctions.