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Nuclear Quantum Effects in Liquid Water: A Highly Accurate *ab initio* Path-Integral Molecular Dynamics Study¹ ROBERT A. DISTASIO JR., BISWAJIT SANTRA, HSIN-YU KO, ROBERTO CAR, Princeton University — In this work, we report highly accurate *ab initio* path-integral molecular dynamics (AI-PIMD) simulations on liquid water at ambient conditions utilizing the recently developed PBE0+vdW(SC) exchange-correlation functional, which accounts for exact exchange and a self-consistent pairwise treatment of van der Waals (vdW) or dispersion interactions, combined with nuclear quantum effects (via the colorednoise generalized Langevin equation²). The importance of each of these effects in the theoretical prediction of the structure of liquid water will be demonstrated by a detailed comparative analysis of the predicted and experimental oxygen-oxygen (O-O), oxygen-hydrogen (O-H), and hydrogen-hydrogen (H-H) radial distribution functions as well as other structural properties. In addition, we will discuss the theoretically obtained proton momentum distribution, computed using the recently developed Feynman path formulation,³ in light of the experimental deep inelastic neutron scattering (DINS) measurements.

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