

The ground & excited states of two-electron atoms

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_{r_1}^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_{r_2}^2 - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1} - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2} + \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{12}}$$

1) Independent particle approx $H = H_1 + H_2 + H_{12}$

$$E_0 = E_0^{(0)} + E_0^{(1)} = -Z^2 + \frac{5}{8} Z a.u. \quad \text{perturbation}$$

ground state $E_1 + E_2$

For $(He) \Rightarrow E_0^{(0)} = -4 a.u.$

$$E_{(e)} = -2 a.u., 1 a.u. = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0}$$

$$\Leftarrow E_{(H)} = -\frac{Z^2 E_H}{\hbar^2} = -\frac{1}{2} Z^2 a.u.$$

exact: $-2.904 a.u.$

$$E_0^{(0)} + E_0^{(1)} = -2.75 a.u.$$

2) Variational principle (method)

$$E[\psi] = \frac{\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$$

\Rightarrow choose $\psi_{(\alpha, \beta)}$ trial function (the best guess you can make) with variational parameters

$\frac{\partial E}{\partial \alpha} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \beta} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \delta E = 0 \Rightarrow E[\psi(\alpha_0, \beta_0)]$$

For $(He) \Rightarrow$

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\pi a_0^3} Z^3 e^{-\frac{Z}{a_0}(r_1 + r_2)}$$

\uparrow variational parameter \Leftarrow effective charge

\uparrow derivatives with respect to variational parameters

\Downarrow get an estimate for ground-state energy

$$E[\psi] = Z_e^2 - 2Z Z_e + \frac{5}{8} Z_e \quad (\text{in a.u.}) \quad (2)$$

work through p. 330 of B&J \leftarrow kinetic energies \leftarrow from $\frac{1}{r_{12}}$ term \Rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial Z_e} = 2Z_e - 2Z + \frac{5}{8} = 0 \Rightarrow Z_e = Z - \frac{5}{16} \Rightarrow$$

$$E(Z_e = Z - \frac{5}{16}) = -\left(Z - \frac{5}{16}\right)^2 \quad \text{a.u.} \leftarrow -2.848 \text{ a.u. much closer to exact!}$$

Note: If $Z_e = Z \Rightarrow$ get the same E as with 1st-order perturbation theory $E = E_0^{(0)} + E_0^{(1)}$

What about excited states? \Rightarrow electron 1 2

Consider "genuinely discrete" states $\Rightarrow 1s + nlm$

$$H = \underbrace{H_1 + H_2}_{H_0} + H_{12} \quad \text{treat as } e^2 \leftarrow \text{perturbation}$$

$$H_0 \psi_{\pm}^{(0)} = E_0^{(0)} \psi_{\pm}^{(0)}$$

\uparrow unperturbed states $E_{1s} + E_n$

In principle, $\psi_{\pm}^{(0)} \leftarrow$ exchange degeneracy; also $E_0^{(0)}$ is $l=0, m=0$ - degenerate

So, would need degenerate perturbation theory \Rightarrow

$$\langle \psi^{(0)} | H_{12} | \psi^{(0)} \rangle - \text{find matrix elements}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{nlm}(\vec{r}_2) \pm \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) \psi_{nlm}(\vec{r}_1)) \cdot \chi_{\pm}^{(A)}$$

But $\frac{1}{r_{12}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \dots$ (3)

larger of r_1, r_2 App. 4

$\frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{lm}(\theta_2, \phi_2)$

\Downarrow

Clearly, $\frac{1}{r_{12}}$ won't affect exchange $\Rightarrow \langle \Psi_{\pm}^{(0)} | \frac{1}{r_{12}} | \Psi_{\pm}^{(0)} \rangle_2$

What about $\langle \Psi_{1s, ne'l'm'}^{(0)} | \frac{1}{r_{12}} | \Psi_{1s, ne'l'm'}^{(0)} \rangle ? \Rightarrow$

set terms like $\int \Psi_{ne'l'm'}^*(\vec{r}_2) \Psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) Y_{e''m''}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) \dots$

$Y_{e''m''}^*(\theta_2, \phi_2) \Psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) \Psi_{ne'l'm'}(\vec{r}_1) d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 \sim$

$\sim \int Y_{e'l'm'}^*(\theta_2, \phi_2) Y_{e''m''}(\theta_2, \phi_2) d\Omega_2 \int Y_{e''m''}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) \dots$

$Y_{lm}(\theta_1, \phi_1) d\Omega_1 = \delta_{e'e''} \delta_{m'm''} \delta_{e''e} \delta_{m''m} \Rightarrow$

So, all cross terms cancel \Rightarrow

use non-degenerate perturbation theory \Rightarrow

$m=m'=m''$
 $l=l'=l''$

