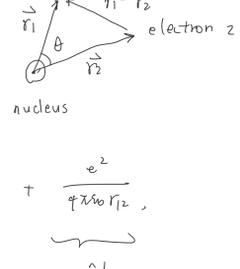


Sol 14.

We use 1st-order perturbation theory to estimate the ground state energy of He-atom.



The Hamiltonian of He-atom:

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1}}_{\hat{H}_0} - \underbrace{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_2^2 - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2}}_{\hat{H}_0} + \underbrace{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{12}}}_{\hat{H}'}$$

where $r_{12} = |\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|$.

The ground state wavefunction for the unperturbed term \hat{H}_0 is:

$$\psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{Z}{a_0} r_1} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{Z}{a_0} r_2} \right)$$

where $Z=2$ for He-atom.

(a) We estimate the 0-th order energy $E^{(0)}$:

$$E^{(0)} = \iint \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_2) \hat{H}_0 \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) d^3r_1 d^3r_2$$

$$= \int \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_1) \hat{H}_0 \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) d^3r_1 + \int \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_2) \hat{H}_0 \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) d^3r_2$$

$$= 2 E_1 = -108.8 \text{ eV} = -4 E_h$$

where $E_1 = -13.6 \text{ eV}$ is the ground state energy of H-atom.

(b) We estimate the 1st-order energy $E^{(1)}$:

$$E^{(1)} = \iint \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{1s}^*(\vec{r}_2) \hat{H}' \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_1) \psi_{1s}(\vec{r}_2) d^3r_1 d^3r_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^6 \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} \left(e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_2} \frac{1}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|} d^3r_1 \right) d^3r_2$$

We first evaluate the inner integral I :

$$I = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} \frac{1}{(r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 2r_1 r_2 \cos\theta)^{3/2}} r_1^2 \sin\theta dr_1 d\theta d\phi$$

the angle θ is the angle between \vec{r}_1 and \vec{r}_2

and we fix \vec{r}_2 here and put it in z-direction and integrate over \vec{r}_1 .



$$= 2\pi \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} r_1^2 \left[(-\frac{1}{2r_1 r_2}) (-2)(r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 2r_1 r_2 \cos\theta)^{-1/2} \right]_0^\pi dr_1$$

ϕ part integral θ part integral

$$= 2\pi \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} \frac{r_1}{r_2} \left(\sqrt{(r_1+r_2)^2} - \sqrt{(r_1-r_2)^2} \right) dr_1$$

We separate the integral into two parts $r_1 > r_2$ and $r_1 < r_2$:

$$I = 2\pi \left(\int_{r_2}^\infty e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} (2r_1) dr_1 + \int_0^{r_2} e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_1} \left(\frac{2r_1^2}{r_2} \right) dr_1 \right)$$

$r_1 > r_2$: $r_1+r_2 - |r_1-r_2| = 2r_2$ $r_1 < r_2$: $r_1+r_2 - |r_1-r_2| = 2r_1$

$$= 2\pi \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^2 e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^3 \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^3 \frac{1}{r_2} e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_2} \right)$$

(We do this step by integration by parts. And we have used the formula $\int_0^\infty e^{-px} x^n dx = \frac{1}{p^{n+1}} n!$)

Then we go back to evaluate $E^{(1)}$:

the θ, ϕ part integral of r_2 : $\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta d\phi = 4\pi$

$$E^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^6 \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} (4\pi) \int_0^\infty 2\pi \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^2 r_2^2 e^{-\frac{4Z}{a_0} r_2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^3 r_2 e^{-\frac{2Z}{a_0} r_2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a_0}{Z} \right)^3 r_2 e^{-\frac{4Z}{a_0} r_2} \right) dr_2$$

$$= \frac{5}{8} Z \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0} \right)$$

$$= \frac{5}{8} Z (E_h) = \frac{5}{4} E_h, \text{ where } Z=2$$

(c) Our estimated He-atom ground state energy is

$$E^{(0)} + E^{(1)} = -4 E_h + \frac{5}{4} E_h = -2.75 E_h$$

which is close to the experimental value $-2.9033 E_h$.

And the estimated energy by perturbation theory is higher than the true value.

Sol 15.

We use the variational method to estimate the ground state energy of He-atom, with the trial wavefunction:

$$\psi_{\text{trial}}(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{\xi}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{\xi}{a_0} r_1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{\xi}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{\xi}{a_0} r_2}$$

which is normalized.

(a) We rewrite the Hamiltonian of He-atom as:

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{\xi e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1}}_{\hat{H}_1} - \underbrace{\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_2^2 - \frac{\xi e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2}}_{\hat{H}_2} + \underbrace{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{12}}}_{\hat{H}'} - \underbrace{\frac{(2-\xi)e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1}}_{\hat{h}_1} - \underbrace{\frac{(2-\xi)e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2}}_{\hat{h}_2}$$

which can simplify our calculation.

Then

$$\langle \hat{H} \rangle = \langle \psi_{\text{trial}}(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) | \hat{H} | \psi_{\text{trial}}(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) \rangle$$

$$= \langle \hat{H}_1 \rangle + \langle \hat{H}_2 \rangle + \langle \hat{H}' \rangle + \langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle + \langle \hat{h}_2 \rangle$$

(1) $\langle \hat{H}_1 \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{H}_2 \rangle$ can be treated as Hydrogen-like atom with $Z=\xi$: $\langle \hat{H}_1 \rangle = \langle \hat{H}_2 \rangle = \xi^2 (-13.6 \text{ eV}) = -\frac{1}{2} \xi^2 E_h$.

(2) Replace Z by ξ , we have done the integral $\langle \hat{H}' \rangle$ in Sol 14.

$$\Rightarrow \langle \hat{H}' \rangle = \frac{5}{8} \xi E_h$$

(3) We evaluate $\langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{h}_2 \rangle$:

$$\langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle = -\frac{(2-\xi)e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left\langle \frac{1}{r_1} \right\rangle$$

$$= -\frac{(2-\xi)e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} (4\pi) \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{\xi}{a_0} \right)^3 e^{-\frac{2\xi}{a_0} r_1} \frac{1}{r_1} dr_1$$

0, ϕ part integral

$$= -\frac{(2-\xi)e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} 4 \left(\frac{\xi}{a_0} \right)^3 \left(\frac{a_0}{2\xi} \right)^2 \quad (\text{again by } \int_0^\infty e^{-px} x^n dx = \frac{1}{p^{n+1}} n!)$$

$$= -\xi(2-\xi) \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0} = \xi(\xi-2) E_h$$

And obviously $\langle \hat{h}_2 \rangle = \langle \hat{h}_1 \rangle = \xi(\xi-2) E_h$.

$$\text{Therefore, } \langle \hat{H} \rangle = -\xi^2 E_h + 2\xi(\xi-2) E_h + \frac{5}{8} \xi E_h \quad (1)$$

$$(1 \text{ atomic unit: } \langle \hat{H} \rangle = -\xi^2 + 2\xi(\xi-2) + \frac{5}{8} \xi \quad (E_h=1))$$

(b) By variational method,

$$\frac{\partial \langle \hat{H} \rangle}{\partial \xi} = -2\xi + 4\xi - 4 + \frac{5}{8} = 2\xi - \frac{27}{8} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \xi = 1.6875$$

where ξ can be viewed as the effective charge of one electron influenced by the nucleus and the other electron.

Replace $\xi = 1.6875$ into eqn. (1), we get

$$\langle \hat{H} \rangle_{\text{min}} \approx -2.848 E_h$$

which is close to but slightly higher than

the experimental value $-2.9033 E_h$ as expected in variational method.