



Liaison Chimique '07

Chap. II: The Helium Atom



Some remarks about units

First approximation : $m_e \approx m$ (reduced mass)

1) SI units :
$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$
 (Hamiltonian for H)

Unit of mass : kg; charge : C and angular momentum : kg m²/s

2) Cgs Gaussian units :
$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 - \frac{e'^2}{r}$$
 (Hamiltonian for H)

Unit of mass : g; charge : statcoulomb and g cm²

→ Important remark : $e' = e/4\pi\epsilon_0$ is the most rigorous notation. However, we often use e instead of e'



Some remarks about units (II)

3) Atomic units :
$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r}$$
 (Hamiltonian for H)

Unit of mass : m_e ; charge : e' and angular momentum : \hbar
Therefore : $m_e = e' = \hbar = 1$

Atomic unit of length : 1 bohr $\equiv a_0 = \hbar / (m_e * e'^2) = 0.529177 \text{ \AA}$

Atomic unit of energy : 1 Hartree $\equiv E_h = e'^2 / a_0 = e^2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0 = 27.2114 \text{ eV}$

Alternative (obsolete but still used in spectroscopy) :

$$H = -\nabla^2 - \frac{2}{r} \longrightarrow \text{Atomic unit of energy : 1 Rydberg} = 0.5 \text{ Ha}$$

(Hamiltonian for H)

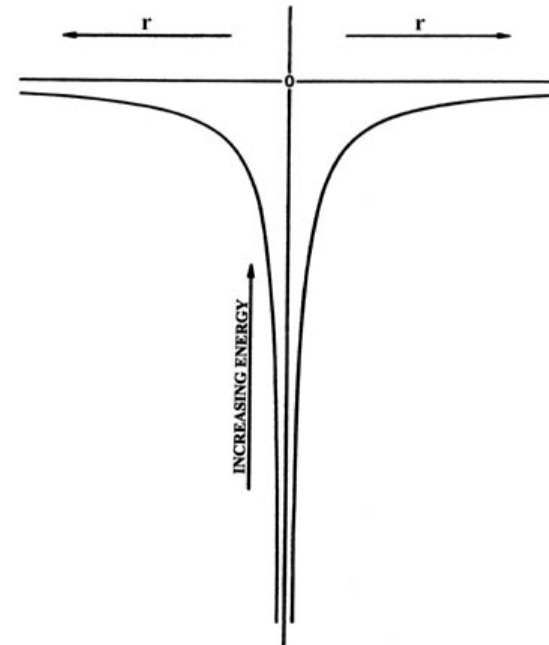
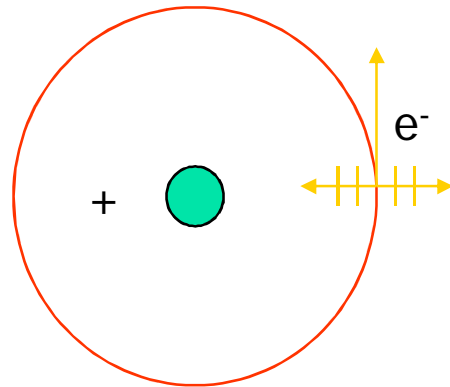
Hydrogen Atom

H

- A simple « two body » problem, with an EXACT solution
- **Prototype** orbitals

A central force problem

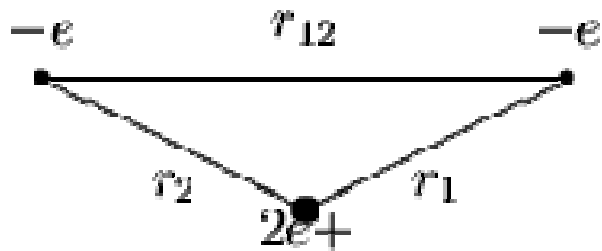
$$V = -e^2/r$$



Helium Atom

He

Two electrons and $Z = +2$



$$H = T + V(r) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad \text{SI units}$$

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_1}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1}}_{\text{electron 1}} - \underbrace{\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_2}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_2}}_{\text{electron 2}} + \underbrace{\frac{e^2}{r_{12}}}_{\text{electron 1 + electron 2}}$$

cgs
Gaussian
units

For atoms with more than one electron, the **Schrödinger Equation cannot be solved exactly** (can't get **formulas!**)

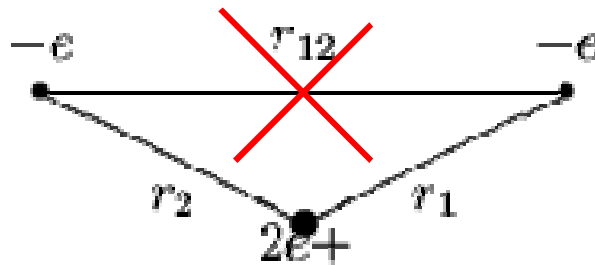
The simplest He

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_1}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_2}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_2} + \cancel{\frac{e^2}{r_{12}}}$$

The simplest approach: neglect the coupling =
two independent e⁻

$$H = T_e + V_{eN}$$

$$V_{eN} = -\frac{2e^2}{r_1} - \frac{2e^2}{r_2}$$





The simplest He (II)

$$\hat{H}^0 y^0 = E^0 y^0 \qquad \hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_1}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_2}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_2}$$

So the w.f. is factorized in two independent (hydrogen-like) parts

$$y^0(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{z}_2) = g_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{z}_1) g_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{z}_2)$$

The Hamiltonian is the sum of two mono-electronic H_e^+

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{8p^2 m_e} \nabla_1^2 g_1 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1} \right] + \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{8p^2 m_e} \nabla_2^2 g_2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_2} \right] = E^0$$



The simplest He (III)

Or

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{8p^2 m_e} \nabla_1^2 g_1 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1} g_1 = E_1 g_1 \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{8p^2 m_e} \nabla_2^2 g_2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_2} g_2 = E_2 g_2$$

The Energy is the sum of H-like contributions $E_0 = E_1 + E_2$

$$E_1 = \frac{4E_H}{n_1^2} \text{ and } E_2 = \frac{4E_H}{n_2^2} \quad \text{Two He}^+ \text{ energies « corrected » } E_H = \frac{-2p^2 m_e e^4}{\hbar^2}$$

vs. experiments $\text{He (ground state)} \rightarrow \text{He}^+ + e^-$

calculated $E_{\text{He}} = -54.4 \text{ eV}$

experimental $E_{\text{He}} = -79.0 \text{ eV}$



Approximations

$$\frac{e^2}{r_{12}}$$

The difference comes from the interaction between electrons

To deal with this term we have to introduce **approximation methods**

These approximate methods are **very good** e.g., the energy of the He atom can be found accurately to **eight significant figures!**

One fruitful approximation method is called the **orbital approximation**. **It describes each electron individually** with one wavefunction (orbital). For each electron, we say that each electron is “in an orbital”. These **orbitals resemble to H-atom orbitals with** three quantum numbers similar shapes, number of nodes, etc.



The variation principle

AIM: Obtain an approximate ground state energy for a system of several interacting particles

We need a criterion of what makes a good approximation.

$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{\langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} \geq E_0$$

The variation principle (II)

$$\langle H \rangle = \frac{\langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} \geq E_0$$

Theorem: The expectation value of a Hamiltonian calculated using a **trial** wavefunction is never lower in value than the true **ground state energy** which is the **expectation** value of H calculated using the true ground state wavefunction.

Glossary:

Ψ = well behaved **trial** w.f.

H = **Hamiltonian** of the system

E_0 = **ground state** energy

$\langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle = E$ = **expectation value** of the system energy

$\langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle$ = **variational integral**



The variation principle (III)

In practice

- a) We try **different trial functions** and look for the one that gives the lowest values of the variational integral

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial E}{\partial \psi} = 0$$

- b) In the chosen function, we have **parameters (e.g. λ)** to vary in order to minimize the variational integral

$$\text{if } \psi = \psi(\lambda) \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial \lambda} = 0$$

It's important to start from a good trial function



He: a variational approach

Strategy: add **one parameter** and **optimize** that parameter to minimize the energy

Starting point: He⁺ wavefunctions but one electron “screens” the nuclear charge from the other

Z' = effective nuclear charge

The three ingredients:

The trial w.f.

$$\tilde{\psi} = A^2 e^{-\frac{z'}{a}(r_1+r_2)}.$$

The variational integral

$$\tilde{E}(z') = \langle \tilde{\psi} | \hat{H} | \tilde{\psi} \rangle,$$

The Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_1}^2 - \frac{z'e^2}{r_1} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \nabla_{r_2}^2 - \frac{z'e^2}{r_2} - \frac{(2-z')e^2}{r_1} - \frac{(2-z')e^2}{r_2} + \frac{e^2}{r_{12}}.$$



He: a variational approach (II)

Using the above ingredients we can compute the variational integral

$$\tilde{E}(z') = -\frac{z'^2 e^2}{a} - 2A^2 \int dr e^{-\frac{z'2r}{a}} r^2 \frac{(2-z')}{r} e^2 + A^2 \int dr_1 \int dr_2 \frac{e^{-\frac{2z'}{a}(r_1+r_2)} r_1^2 e^2 r_2^2}{r_1 - r_2},$$

or

$$\tilde{E}(z') = -\frac{z'^2 e^2}{a} - 2z' \frac{(2-z')}{a} e^2 + \frac{5}{8} z' \frac{e^2}{a}.$$

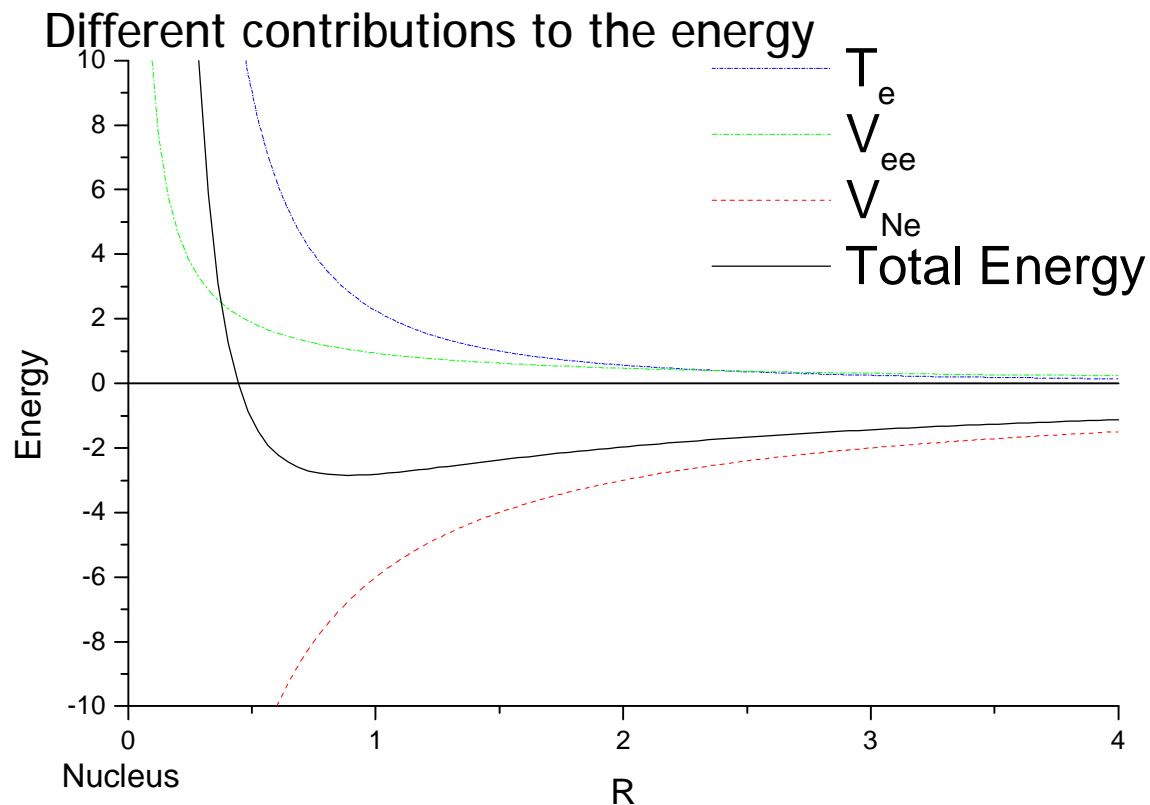
the optimum parameter Z' is then obtained

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{E}(z')}{\partial z'} = 0, \rightarrow z'_{\text{opt}} = 2 - \frac{5}{16}, \rightarrow \tilde{E}(z'_{\text{opt}}) = \left(2 - \frac{5}{16}\right)^2 \frac{e^2}{a} - 2 \left(2 - \frac{5}{16}\right) 2 \frac{e^2}{a} + \frac{5}{8} \left(2 - \frac{5}{16}\right) \frac{e^2}{a}.$$

$$Z' = 1.875 < 2$$

We find : $E_0 = -77.5$ eV, but the experimental energy is -79.0 eV

He: a variational approach (III)



V_{Ne} goes as $-R^{-1}$

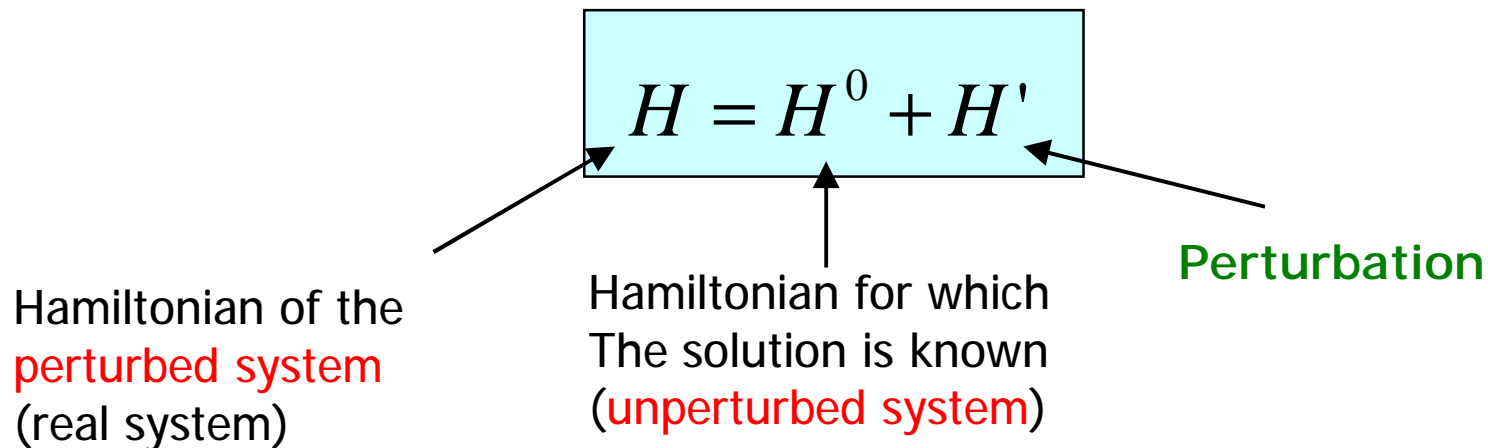
T_{ee} goes as R^{-2}

Equilibrium at $R=1$

The electron does not collapse into the nucleus under the influence of the **attractive coulombic** interaction because of the **repulsive effect** of the kinetic energy

Perturbational approach

- First step : decompose the hamiltonian



Example : anharmonic oscillator :

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2} kx^2 + cx^3 + dx^4$$

H^0 harmonic H' perturbation



Perturbational approach (II)

- n Second step : insert (switch on) the perturbation gradually

$$H = H^0 + \lambda H'$$

Perturbation parameter : $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$

$\lambda = 0$ (unperturbed) $\rightarrow \lambda = 1$ (fully perturbed)



Perturbational approach (III)

Our framework :
the non degenerate perturbation theory (NDPT)

$$H = H^0 + \lambda H'$$

For the unperturbed Hamiltonian H^0 : $H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} = E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)}$ ($\lambda=0$)

$$\text{So : } H \mathbf{y}_n = (H^0 + \lambda H') \mathbf{y}_n = E_n \mathbf{y}_n \longrightarrow \begin{cases} E_n = E_n(\lambda) \\ \mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{y}_n(\lambda, q) \end{cases}$$



Perturbational approach (IV)

Taylor expansion of ψ_n and E_n in powers of λ :

$$y_n = y_n \Big|_{l=0} + \frac{\partial y_n}{\partial l} \Big|_{l=0} l + \frac{\partial^2 y_n}{\partial l^2} \Big|_{l=0} \frac{l^2}{2!} + \dots$$

$$E_n = E_n \Big|_{l=0} + \frac{dE_n}{dl} \Big|_{l=0} l + \frac{d^2 E_n}{dl^2} \Big|_{l=0} \frac{l^2}{2!} + \dots$$

By hypothesis : $\psi_n \Big|_{\lambda=0} = \psi_n^{(0)}$ and $E_n \Big|_{l=0} = E_n^{(0)}$ when $l \rightarrow 0$

and by introducing the abbreviations :

$$y_n^{(k)} = \frac{1}{k!} \frac{\partial^k y_n}{\partial l^k} \Big|_{l=0} \quad \text{and} \quad E_n^{(k)} = \frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^k y_n}{dl^k} \Big|_{l=0} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \quad \textit{We have...}$$

Perturbational approach (V)

Taylor expansion of ψ_n and E_n in powers of λ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_n &= \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + I \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + I^2 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} + \dots + I^k \mathbf{y}_n^{(k)} + \dots \\ E_n &= E_n^{(0)} + I E_n^{(1)} + I^2 E_n^{(2)} + \dots + I^k E_n^{(k)} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Hypothesis : we assume that these series converge for $I=1$ and we hope that, for a small perturbation, taking the first few terms of the series will give a good approximation of the true energy and wavefunction

We take $\langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle = 1$ and $\langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n \rangle = 1$ \rightarrow *Intermediate normalization* simplifies the derivation and does not affect the results

So : $\langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle + I \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle + I^2 \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle + \dots = 1$

True for all values of I!



Perturbational approach (VI)

From the previous equation, we can prove :

$$\langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle = \dots = 0$$

→ *In other words, the corrections to the wavefunction are orthogonal to $\mathbf{y}_n^{(0)}$ when intermediate normalization is used.*

We can now rewrite the Schrödinger equation using the two series we have developed. If we collect the terms like powers of λ , we have :

$$\begin{aligned} H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + \lambda (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + \lambda^2 (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots = \\ E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + \lambda (E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + \lambda^2 (E_n^{(2)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Note that we must assume a suitable convergence for both series.



Perturbational approach (VII)

$$H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + I (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + I^2 (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots =$$
$$E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + I (E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + I^2 (E_n^{(2)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots$$

We note that the coefficients of like powers must be equal on both sides.

We deduce :

$$H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} = E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \quad \text{for } I^0 \text{ terms}$$

$$H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} = E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \quad \text{for } I^1 \text{ terms}$$

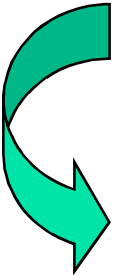
Perturbational approach (VIII)

First-order energy correction (1)

$$H'y_n^{(0)} + H^0 y_n^{(1)} = E_n^{(1)} y_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(0)} y_n^{(1)} \text{ for } l^1 \text{ terms}$$

or

$$H^0 y_n^{(1)} - E_n^{(0)} y_n^{(1)} = E_n^{(1)} y_n^{(0)} - H'y_n^{(0)} \longrightarrow E_n^{(1)} \quad ???$$



$$\underbrace{\langle y_m^{(0)} | H^0 | y_n^{(1)} \rangle - E_n^{(0)} \langle y_m^{(0)} | y_n^{(1)} \rangle}_{\text{left side}} = E_n^{(1)} \langle y_m^{(0)} | y_n^{(0)} \rangle - \langle y_m^{(0)} | H' | y_n^{(0)} \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y_m^{(0)} | H_0 | y_n^{(1)} \rangle &= \langle y_n^{(1)} | H^0 | y_m^{(0)} \rangle^* = \langle y_n^{(1)} | H_0 y_m^{(0)} \rangle^* = \langle y_n^{(1)} | E_m^{(0)} y_m^{(0)} \rangle^* \\ &= E_m^{(0)*} \langle y_n^{(1)} | y_m^{(0)} \rangle^* = E_m^{(0)} \langle y_n^{(1)} | y_m^{(0)} \rangle^* \end{aligned} \quad \boxed{= E_m^{(0)} \langle y_m^{(0)} | y_n^{(1)} \rangle}$$



Perturbational approach (IX)

First-order energy correction (2)

$$\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H^0 | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle - E_n^{(0)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = E_n^{(1)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle$$

$$E_m^{(0)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle - E_n^{(0)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = E_n^{(1)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle$$

$$\longrightarrow (E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}) \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = E_n^{(1)} d_{mn} - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle$$

If $m=n$:

$$E_n^{(1)} = \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle = H'_{nn}$$

First-order correction

Setting $l=1$:

$$E_n \approx E_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} = E_n^{(0)} + H'_{nn}$$



Perturbational approach (X)

First-order wavefunction correction (1)

$$\text{if } m \neq n: (E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}) \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle \longrightarrow \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} ???$$

Expansion in terms of the complete orthonormal set of unperturbed eigenfunctions $\mathbf{y}_m^{(0)}$ of the Hermitian operator H

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Expansion in terms of the} \\ \text{complete orthonormal set of} \\ \text{unperturbed eigenfunctions } \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} \\ \text{of the Hermitian operator } H \end{array} \right\} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} = \sum_k a_k \mathbf{y}_k^{(0)} \text{ where } a_m = \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle$$

$$\text{So : } (E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}) a_m = - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle \quad \text{if } m \neq n$$

$$a_m = \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})}$$

Ok for non-degenerate case !!



Perturbational approach (XI)

First-order wavefunction correction (2)

if $m \neq n$

$$a_m = \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})}$$

else

$$a_n = \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = 0$$

(intermediate normalization)

First-order correction

$$\mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} = \sum_m a_m \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})} \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)}$$



Setting $l = 1$:

$$\mathbf{y}_n \approx \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})} \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)}$$




Perturbational approach (XII)

Second-order energy correction (1)

We start again from :

$$H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + I (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + I^2 (H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots =$$
$$E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + I (E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}) + I^2 (E_n^{(2)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)}) + \dots$$




$$H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} = E_n^{(2)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} + E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \text{ for } I^2 \text{ terms}$$
$$H^0 \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} - E_n^{(0)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} = E_n^{(2)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} - H' \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)}$$



Perturbational approach (XIII)

Second-order energy correction (2)

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H^0 | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle - E_n^{(0)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle \\ &= E_n^{(2)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle + E_n^{(1)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

For the first-order correction, we have proved that : $\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H^0 | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = E_m^0 \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle$

Similarly, we can show that : $\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H^0 | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle = E_m^0 \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle$



Perturbational approach (XIV)

Second-order energy correction (3)

We can then deduce (see again first-order correction to the energy) :

$$(E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}) \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(2)} \rangle = E_n^{(2)} d_{mn} + E_n^{(1)} \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle$$

If $m=n$:
$$E_n^{(2)} = -E_n^{(1)} \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle$$

→
$$E_n^{(2)} = \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle$$
 Second-order correction

Important remark : corrections to the wavefunctions through the k th order allow to calculate the corrections to the energy through order $2k+1$.



Perturbational approach (XV)

Second-order energy correction (4)

We know that :

$$\mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} = \sum_m a_m \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})} \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)}$$

$$E_n^{(2)} = \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(1)} \rangle = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})} \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} \rangle$$

Moreover, it's easy to prove that : $\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle \langle \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} \rangle = \left| \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle \right|^2$

And finally :

$$E_n^{(2)} = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle \right|^2}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})}$$

**Second-order correction
in terms of the unperturbed
wavefunctions and energies**



Perturbational approach (XVI)

Second-order energy correction (5)

$$E_n^{(2)} = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|\langle \mathbf{y}_m^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_n^{(0)} \rangle|^2}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})} = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|H'_{mn}|^2}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})}$$

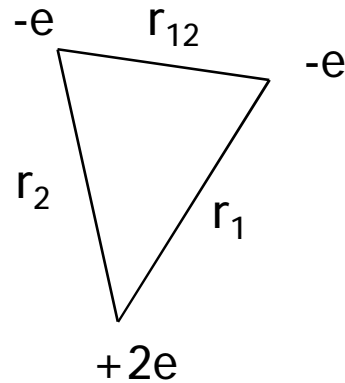
Setting $l = 1$:

$$E_n \approx E_n^{(0)} + H'_{nn} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|H'_{mn}|^2}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})}$$

Comment: the largest contributions come from the states m near to n in terms of energy

Application of NDPT

Back to He :



$$y_0 = y_0(r_1, q_1, j_1; r_2, q_2, j_2)$$

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{2}{r_1} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_2^2 - \frac{2}{r_2} + \frac{1}{r_{12}}$$

(in atomic units, energy in Hartree)

Perturbation approach : $H = H^0 + H'$

$$H^0 = H_1^0 + H_2^0 = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{2}{r_1} \right) + \left(-\frac{1}{2} \nabla_2^2 - \frac{2}{r_2} \right)$$

$$H' = \frac{1}{r_{12}}$$

Application of NDPT (II)

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_0 &= \langle \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} | H | \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} | H_1^0 | \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} | H_2^0 | \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} | H' | \mathbf{y}_0^{(0)} \rangle \\
 &\quad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\
 &\quad E_1 = -2 \text{ u.a.} \qquad E_2 = -2 \text{ u.a.} \qquad \langle \mathbf{y}_0 | \frac{1}{r_{12}} | \mathbf{y}_0 \rangle \\
 &\quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\
 &\quad E_0^{(0)} = -4 \text{ u.a.} \\
 &\quad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\
 &\quad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad E_0^{(1)} = +5/4 \text{ u.a.}
 \end{aligned}$$

→ See details in TD1

We find : $E_0 = -11/4 \text{ u.a.} = -74.8 \text{ eV}$, including first-order energy correction

This result has to be compared to -77.5 eV (variational approach with 1 parameter) and -79.0 eV (experimental)