

372(2) : Evaluation for $l=0$ States

First check that the Lagrangian result :

$$\nabla^2 \psi = -\frac{1}{a_0} \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{1}{n^2 a_0} \right) \psi \quad - (1)$$

is the same as the Lamé result for the H atom. Eq.

(1) is:

$$\nabla^2 \psi + \frac{2}{a_0 r} \psi = \frac{1}{n^2 a_0^2} \psi \quad - (2)$$

where the Bohr radius is :

$$a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2}{me^2} \quad - (3)$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \psi + \frac{me^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2 r} \psi &= \frac{me^4}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 \hbar^4 n^2} \psi \quad - (4) \\ &= -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \psi \end{aligned}$$

where the total energy is:

$$E = -\frac{me^4}{32\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 \hbar^2 n^2} \quad - (5)$$

Eq. (4) is the same as Eq. (4.3.4) of Atkin, "Molecular Quantum Mechanics" (OUP, 2nd edition, 1993):

- (6)

$$\frac{d^2 P}{dr^2} + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} - \frac{l(l+1)\hbar^2}{2mr^2} \right) P = -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} P$$

where

$$P = r \psi(r) \quad - (7)$$

where $\phi(r)$ is the radial wavefunction. Eq. (6) is compared with the effective potential:

$$V_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \frac{l(l+1)\hbar^2}{2mr^2} \quad (8)$$

where

$$L^2 \phi = l(l+1)\hbar^2 \phi \quad (9)$$

so the classical equivalent of eq. (8) is:

$$V_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \frac{L^2}{2mr^2} \quad (10)$$

which is the sum of an attractive Coulombic potential and a repulsive centrifugal potential:

$$U(\text{centrifugal}) = \frac{l(l+1)\hbar^2}{2mr^2} \quad (11)$$

When

$$l = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{d^2 P}{dr^2} + \frac{me^2}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2 r} P \sim 0 \quad (13)$$

so

$$P \sim Ar + \frac{1}{2}Ar^2 \quad (14)$$

and

$$\phi(r) \sim A \quad (15)$$

which is a non-zero constant.

There is a non zero probability of finding the electron at the nucleus.

Therefore eq. (1) gives the correct radial

3) wavefunctions of the H atom. The analytical solution of eq. (1) are related to the associated Laguerre functions, and are:

$$\psi(r) = - \left(\frac{2Z}{na_0} \right) \left(\frac{(n-l-1)!}{2n[(n+l)!]^3} \right) \rho^l L_{n+l}^{2l+1} \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right) e^{-\rho/2} \quad (16)$$

where $\rho = \left(\frac{2Z}{na_0} \right) r \quad (17)$
for H-like radial wavefunctions of atomic number

Z . So eq. (1) is true for all H-like atoms.
for atomic H: $Z = 1 \quad (18)$

For $n = 1, l = 0 \quad (15)$

$$\psi_{10}(r) = \frac{2}{a_0^{3/2}} \exp(-\rho/2) \quad (19)$$

For $n = 2, l = 0 \quad (25)$

$$\psi_{20}(r) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2} a_0^{3/2}} (2 - \rho) \exp(-\rho/2) \quad (20)$$

For $n = 2, l = 1 \quad (21)$

$$\psi_{21}(r) = \frac{1}{a^{3/2}} \frac{\rho}{2\sqrt{6}} \exp(-\rho/2) \quad (21)$$

and so on.