

## Perturbation theory in $1/Z$ for atoms: First-order pair functions in an $l$ -separated Hylleraas basis set

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For the  $1/Z$  perturbation theory of atoms, a partial-wave method is presented for determining first-order pair wave functions. It rests on the fact that the Hylleraas variational principle decouples for the individual partial waves ( $l=0,1,2,\dots$ ) and that all partial waves for  $l \gg 1$  are easily representable (Schwartz, 1962). The  $l$ th partial wave is approximated in basis functions obtained by projecting the well-known Hylleraas functions (containing the powers of  $r_{12}$ ) onto  $P_l(\cos\theta_{12})$ . Results for the  $1s^2$  ground state show rapid convergence. The variational value for the (total) second-order  $1s^2$  energy, which would be provided by 45 Hylleraas functions, is achieved with 10, 12, 9, 8, 5, and 5 basis functions for  $l=0, 1, 2, 3, 4,$  and  $5$ , respectively. For any  $l \geq 6$ , one function is sufficient. Also good convergence is found for three-electron integrals (parts of the second-order lithium energy).

### I. INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the determination of first-order atomic eigenfunctions within the  $1/Z$  perturbation theory.<sup>1-3</sup> Using the Hylleraas variational principle<sup>1,2</sup> and taking up suggestions of Schwartz,<sup>4</sup> we will explore the separate variation of the individual "partial waves" of a first-order pair wave function.

Perturbation theory for atoms can be based either on the bare-nucleus Hamiltonian (the  $1/Z$  ansatz) or the Hartree-Fock Hamiltonian.<sup>5,6</sup> These two methods differ in an important aspect. This is the strict transferability of components (of eigenfunctions and energies) between small and large atoms, which is afforded only by the  $1/Z$  method: The first-order eigenfunction  $\Psi^{(1)}(n)$  of an  $n$ -electron atom can be composed exactly from a finite number of hydrogenic orbitals and helium pair functions  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$  of different electronic states (Sinanoglu,<sup>7</sup> Chisholm and Dalgarno<sup>8</sup>). Similar exact (de)compositions (or "partitions"), which likewise rest exclusively on components arising from physical states, do also exist for the second- and third-order energies  $E^{(2)}(n)$  and  $E^{(3)}(n)$  (Ref. 9). On the other hand, there are the well-known, more technically oriented, decompositions of  $E^{(2)}(n)$  and  $E^{(3)}(n)$  which have frequently been used in calculations for the lithium<sup>8,10,11</sup> and larger atoms up to neon.<sup>12</sup> The components of  $E^{(2)}(n)$  then are two-electron energies  $E^{(2)}(2)$  and "three-electron integrals"; those of  $E^{(3)}(n)$  are two-electron energies  $E^{(3)}(2)$  and (third-order) "three- and four-electron integrals." All of these components can be expressed in terms of the first-order pair functions  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$ . The practical task consists in approximating the  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$  with sufficient accuracy.

Consider now the concrete case of the three-electron ground state [configuration  $(1s)^2 2s$ ]. Let  $E^{(2)}(3) = E_{\text{Li}}^{(2)}$  be its second-order energy. (Third-order energies will not be treated in this paper.) The relevant first-order pair func-

tions  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$  then belong to the  $(1s)^2$  ground state and the  $1s2s$  singlet and triplet states.<sup>8</sup>

The appropriate and mostly applied method of approximating such pair functions is the Hylleraas variational principle.<sup>1,2</sup> Each (entire) pair function  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$  [together with its pair energy  $E^{(2)}(2)$ ] is then determined in one common variation. On the other hand, Schwartz<sup>4(a)</sup> has pointed out (i) the Hylleraas variational principle for  $\Psi^{(1)}(2)$  decouples into separate principles for the individual partial waves  $\Psi_l^{(1)}(2)$  ( $l=0,1,2,\dots$ ), so, one large variational problem will be reduced to a series of small ones. (ii) The  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  for  $l \gg 1$  are of a simple form (compare Sec. II of this paper). Furthermore, as observed by Knight,<sup>12(a)</sup> (iii) the three-electron integrals of  $E_{\text{Li}}^{(2)}$  depend only on the ( $l=0$ ) partial wave of their respective pair function. Therefore, a more compact calculation of these integrals will be possible than if one used a representation for the entire pair function.

In order to implement a method, as outlined by (i)–(iii), suitable basis functions are needed which can compactly represent the individual partial waves. Schwartz<sup>4</sup> has pointed out that products of one-particle functions  $u_m(r_1)u_n(r_2)$  (the ansatz of configuration interaction) must lead to poor convergence for all of the higher  $l$ . Somerville and Stewart,<sup>13</sup> who used products of hydrogenic orbitals, have numerically confirmed this. The basis-function problem has been solved to a certain extent by Byron and Joachain<sup>14</sup> who showed powers of  $r_<$  and  $r_>$  to yield much better convergence than powers of  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ .

In this paper we propose to approximate the particular partial wave  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  in those basis functions which are obtained by projecting, onto the Legendre polynomial  $P_l(\cos\theta_{12})$ , the well-known Hylleraas functions [the powers of  $u=r_{12}$ ,  $s=r_1+r_2$ ,  $t=r_2-r_1$ , multiplied by the zeroth-order pair function  $\Psi^{(0)}(r_1, r_2)$ ]. This projection provides sets (of radial functions) which are different for

different  $l$ . Through the leading Hylleraas function  $r_{12} \cdot \Psi^{(0)}$ , these sets accord exactly with the known behavior<sup>4</sup> of the asymptotic  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  ( $l \gg 1$ ). We will see (for the two-electron ground state) that these “ $l$ -separated Hylleraas functions” have good convergence properties also for the low  $l$ .

The theory given in Sec. II of the paper as well as the calculations of Sec. III will deal with the *ground-state* pair function. Our method can be transferred to excited-state pair functions, first to the singlet and triplet  $1s2s$  states, then also to  $P$  states.

## II. METHOD

We consider the  $1/Z$  expansion<sup>1,2(a)</sup> of the ground state of the two-electron atom (in the fixed-nucleus and non-relativistic approximation):

$$\Psi_{\text{He}} = \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} + Z^{-1} \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)} + \dots, \quad \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-(r_1+r_2)}, \quad (1)$$

$$E_{\text{He}} = -1 + \frac{5}{8} Z^{-1} + E_{\text{He}}^{(2)} Z^{-2} + \dots \quad (2)$$

(Unit of length =  $1/Z$  bohr; unit of energy =  $Z^2$  hartree.)

We assume the first-order eigenfunction  $\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}$  to be expanded in partial waves ( $\theta_{12}$  is the angle between the vectors  $\vec{r}_1$  and  $\vec{r}_2$ ):

$$\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \Psi_l^{(1)} \quad \text{with } \Psi_l^{(1)} = R_l(r_1, r_2) P_l(\cos \theta_{12}), \quad (3)$$

$$E^{(2)} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} E_l^{(2)} \quad \text{with } E_l^{(2)} = \left\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \left| \frac{1}{r_{12}} - \frac{5}{8} \right| \Psi_l^{(1)} \right\rangle. \quad (4)$$

(i) Then the Hylleraas variational principle decouples into separate principles for each partial wave<sup>4</sup>:

$$E_l^{(2)} \leq \tilde{E}_l^{(2)} = 2 \left\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \left| \frac{1}{r_{12}} - \frac{5}{8} \right| \tilde{\Psi}_l^{(1)} \right\rangle + \langle \tilde{\Psi}_l^{(1)} | H^{(0)} + 1 | \tilde{\Psi}_l^{(1)} \rangle, \quad (5)$$

where  $\tilde{\Psi}_l^{(1)}$  is some approximation to  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  and

$$H^{(0)} = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_2^2 - 1/r_1 - 1/r_2.$$

(ii) The asymptotic behavior of  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  for large  $l$  is<sup>4,15</sup>

$$\Psi_l^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} r_{12} | \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} + \dots \quad (l \gg 1) \quad (6)$$

where  $r_{12} | l$  is the projection of the coordinate  $r_{12}$  onto  $P_l(\cos \theta_{12})$ :

$$r_{12} | l = \left[ \frac{1}{2l+3} \frac{r_{<}^{l+2}}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{2l-1} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l-1}} \right] P_l(\cos \theta_{12}) \quad (\text{valid for } l=0,1,2,\dots). \quad (7)$$

(iii) Consider the second-order energy  $E_{\text{Li}}^{(2)}$  for the ground state of the lithiumlike atom<sup>8</sup>:

$$E_{\text{Li}}^{(2)} = E_{\text{He}}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2} E_{\text{He}'}^{(2)} + \frac{3}{2} E_{\text{He}''}^{(2)} + 4M_1 - 2M_2 - M_3 - M_4 + \frac{1}{2} M_5 + \frac{3}{2} M_6, \quad (8)$$

where the three heliumlike energies belong to the ground and the singlet and triplet  $1s2s$  states, respectively, and  $M_1, \dots, M_6$  are “three-electron integrals.” From the latter,  $M_1, M_2$ , and  $M_3$  are expressed in the first-order *ground state*  $\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}$  from Eq. (1). Using the partial-wave expansion (3),  $M_1$  to  $M_3$  are seen<sup>12(a),16</sup> to depend only on  $\Psi_{l=0}^{(1)}$ .

Our procedure for evaluating  $M_1$  to  $M_3$  will be the following. Their definition<sup>8</sup> is

$$M_1 = \left\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}(1,2) b(3) \left| \frac{1}{r_{13}} \right| a(1) a(2) b(3) \right\rangle, \quad (9a)$$

$$M_2 = \left\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}(1,2) b(3) \left| \frac{1}{r_{13}} \right| b(1) a(2) a(3) \right\rangle, \quad (9b)$$

$$M_3 = \left\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}(1,2) b(3) \left| \frac{1}{r_{13}} \right| a(1) b(2) a(3) \right\rangle, \quad (9c)$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are the  $1s$  and  $2s$  orbitals of hydrogen. In Eqs. (9a)–(9c)  $\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}$  is assumed to fulfill the normalization condition

$$\langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)} | \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \rangle = 0. \quad (10)$$

One integration in each of (9a)–(9c) is carried out to give, for example,

$$M_1 = \langle \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}(1,2) | \omega_1(1,2) \rangle, \quad (11)$$

where

$$\omega_1(1,2) = \frac{1}{r_1} \left[ 1 - \left( 1 + \frac{3}{4} r_1 + \frac{1}{4} r_1^2 + \frac{1}{8} r_1^3 \right) e^{-r_1} \right] a(r_1) a(r_2) \quad (12)$$

is independent of the angle  $\theta_{12}$ . So,  $\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}$  in Eq. (11) can be replaced by  $\Psi_{l=0}^{(1)}$ . Our numerical evaluation will start from this expression for  $M_1$  and similar ones for  $M_2$  and  $M_3$ . The auxiliary functions (12), etc., have been given by Cohen.<sup>17</sup>

For carrying out the separate variations (5) we express the radial function  $R_l(r_1, r_2)$  as a linear combination of basis functions to be constructed in the following way. The well-known Hylleraas basis functions<sup>1,2,4(a),12(a)</sup> used for representing the total  $\Psi_{\text{He}}^{(1)}$  are the powers of  $r_{12} = u$ ,  $r_1 + r_2 = s$ , and  $r_2 - r_1 = t$  multiplied by the zeroth-order wave function:

$$F_{pqr} = u^p s^q t^r \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)}, \quad p, q \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}, \quad r \in \{0, 2, 4, \dots\}. \quad (13)$$

By expanding each of these  $F_{pqr}$  in partial waves similar to (3), a specific set of radial functions is obtained for each  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ; the first three Hylleraas functions  $u$ ,  $s$ , and  $u^2$ , for example, have the following partial-wave projections:

$$u \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} | l = r_{12} | l \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \quad (14)$$

with  $r_{12} | l$  from Eq. (7),

$$s \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} | l = s \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \delta_{l,0}, \quad (15)$$

$$u^2 \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} | l = [(r_1^2 + r_2^2) \delta_{l,0} - 2r_1 r_2 P_1(\cos \theta_{12}) \delta_{l,1}] \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)}. \quad (16)$$

Table I shows how the first 12 Hylleraas functions contribute to the various partial waves. The number of nonzero projections reduces with increasing  $l$ . In some instances there is a linear dependence between projections. Thus for a particular  $l$ , the number of basis functions which derive from a given finite set of Hylleraas functions reduces further. Resulting from the two categories of Hylleraas functions (those containing even and odd powers of  $u$ , respectively), there are two types of radial functions differing in their behavior at  $r_1 = r_2$ ; infinitely differentiable functions like (15) and (16) and functions still having continuous second derivatives like (14). We note that the similar but more elementary functions  $r_{<}^m r_{>}^n \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)}$  which were used by Byron *et al.*,<sup>14</sup> for general  $m$  and  $n$ , are merely continuous and, so, individually are less suitable to represent a  $\Psi_l^{(1)}$  wave function.

The simplest one among the so defined basis sets is, for each  $l$ , just the single function (14). Thus

$$\Psi_l^{(1)} = c_l r_{12} | l \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)} \quad (17)$$

with  $c_l$  to be optimized. This approximation has been discussed by Schwartz.<sup>4</sup> Because of the asymptotic behavior (6), (17) becomes exact (together with  $c_l \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$ ) for large  $l$ . Owing to the variable parameter  $c_l$ , the range of validity of (17) extends down to smaller  $l$  values than that of Eq. (6) itself. (Numerical values will be given in Sec. III.) We will call (17) the "one-function approximation."

TABLE I.  $l$  projection of the Hylleraas functions. The projections marked by  $\times$  form the basis set for the specific  $l$ .

Hylleraas function <sup>a</sup>	$u$	$s$	$u^2$	$us$	$s^2$	$t^2$	$u^3$	$u^2s$	$us^2$	$ut^2$	$s^3$	$st^2$	$c$
$l=0$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$b$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$b$	$c$
$l=1$	$\times$		$\times$	$\times$			$\times$	$\times$	$\times$	$\times$			$c$
$l \geq 2$	$\times$			$\times$			$\times$		$\times$	$\times$			$c$

<sup>a</sup>Compare Eq. (13).

<sup>b</sup>This projection is linearly dependent of the preceding ones.

<sup>c</sup>The functions of the fourth degree  $u^4, u^3s, \dots, t^4$  provide 6,5,4,3 linearly independent projections for  $l=0, 1, 2, \geq 3$ , respectively.

### III. CALCULATIONS

The evaluation of the functional (5) for the basis functions (14)–(16), etc., is straightforward and leads to sums of James-Coolidge integrals<sup>18,10(a)</sup>

$$V_{m,n}(\alpha, \beta) = \int_{0 < x < y < \infty} x^m y^n e^{-\alpha x - \beta y} dx dy$$

$$m = 0, 1, 2, \dots; \quad m + n = -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (18)$$

The numerical values of the  $V_{m,n}$  are computed conveniently via the recursion formulas of Refs. 18(a) and 10(a). For reaching high values of  $m$  ( $m \geq 25$  while  $m + n \leq 10$ ) we used double-precision arithmetic (on a Control Data Corporation Cyber-170 computer). The final step in the evaluation of  $E_l^{(2)}$  is the solution of the system of linear equations corresponding to (5).

TABLE II. Partial-wave contributions  $E_l^{(2)}$  to the second-order energy of the two-electron atom. Variational results for three basis sets of different size. All entries in  $10^{-6}$  a.u.

$l$	$A^a$	$B^b$	$C^c$	Byron <i>et al.</i> <sup>d</sup>
0	-124 694	-125 331.2	-125 333.2	-125 334
1	-24 782	-26 471.9	-26 489.9	-26 495
2	-3833	-3895.6	-3903.1	-3906
3	-1070.2	-1076.8	-1077.5	-1077
4	-404.9	-405.3	-406.0	-405
5	-184.7	-184.8	-185.0	-183
6	-95.7			-94
7	-54.4			-53
8	-33.1			-32
9	-21.3			-21
10	-14.3			-14
$l \geq 11$	-43.8 <sup>e</sup>			-42
Sum				
$E^{(2)f}$	-155 231	-157 628 <sup>g</sup>	-157 657 <sup>e</sup>	-157 656

<sup>a</sup>One basis function for each  $l$ .

<sup>b</sup>5, 7, 5, 5, 2, 2 basis functions for  $l=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , respectively.

<sup>c</sup>10, 12, 9, 8, 5, 5 basis functions for  $l=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , respectively.

<sup>d</sup>Reference 14 (variational calculations using 30 basis functions for each  $l$ ).

<sup>e</sup>From the asymptotic formula (21).

<sup>f</sup>The exact value is  $-157 666.40 \times 10^{-6}$  a.u. [Ref. 12(a)].

<sup>g</sup>For  $l \geq 6$  the (almost converged) values of column  $A$  have been used.

For each  $l \leq 5$  we have applied three basis sets  $A, B, C$  of different dimensions. Set  $A$  contains only the function (17). In  $B$  and  $C$  this set is extended by subsequent functions according to Table I. In each case the projections of the Hylleraas functions (13) of a certain polynomial degree  $p + q + r$  have been included completely. Our largest calculation is one for  $l = 1$  with 12 functions ( $p + q + r \leq 4$ ). For  $l \geq 6$  set  $A$  (the "one-function approximation") is found to be sufficient (see below). The numerical results are collected in Table II.

Comparing for different  $l$  the convergence of the energy  $E_l^{(2)}$  with increasing basis set, relatively slow convergence is found for  $l = 1$  and 2, a more rapid one for  $l = 0$  and an increasingly rapid convergence for  $l = 3, 4, 5, \dots$ . From the previously calculated  $E_l^{(2)}$  values,<sup>14, 19, 20</sup> the best ones are those of Byron *et al.*<sup>14</sup>: See the last column of our Table II. These are variational results using basis functions  $r^m < r^n > \Psi_{\text{He}}^{(0)}$ , namely, a rigid set of 30 such functions (including negative exponents  $n$ ) for any  $l$ . For  $l = 0, 1$ , and 2 our calculation  $C$  lies behind Ref. 14 by  $9 \times 10^{-6}$  in total. Here our basis sets of 10, 12, and 9 functions, respectively, are too small yet. For all  $l \geq 3$ , however, the superiority of the  $l$ -specific Hylleraas projections over a rigid radial basis set becomes more and more apparent. Taking, for each  $l$ , the lowest  $E_l^{(2)}$  value of Table II (i.e., Ref. 14 for  $l \leq 2$  and  $C$  or  $A$ , respectively, for the remaining  $l$ ), these sum to a total  $E^{(2)}$  of  $-157\,666.1 \times 10^{-6}$ . Comparing this with the exact  $E^{(2)}$  (Knight<sup>12(a)</sup>)

$$E_{\text{exact}}^{(2)} = -157\,666.40 \times 10^{-6} \quad (19)$$

in a.u., we conclude that each of the aforementioned  $E_l^{(2)}$ , within the number of digits given, should be nearly converged. So, the remaining error in our best total  $E^{(2)}$  (see last line in Table II) should be almost entirely due to the  $l \leq 2$ .

Furthermore, our  $E^{(2)}$  (total) can be compared with direct calculations using the (entire) Hylleraas functions. Such results for various numbers of functions are reported in Schwartz's paper [Table I of Ref. 4(a)]: In order to obtain our  $E^{(2)}$  values of the cases  $A, B, C$ , about 6, 30, and 45 Hylleraas functions, respectively, would be required.

The asymptotic region ( $l \geq 6$ ) deserves a further discussion. We have seen that in this region the "one-function approximation" [Eq. (17) and column A in Table II] is sufficient for an accuracy of the total  $E^{(2)}$  of better than  $10^{-6}$  a.u. Equation (17) yields  $E_l^{(2)}$  as the quotient of two sums of James-Coolidge integrals (18) for  $\alpha = \beta = 2$  which can readily be evaluated. Actually this expression for  $E_l^{(2)}$  can be transformed into a very simple formula proposed by Schwartz.<sup>4</sup> We expand  $V_{m,n}(2,2)$  according to

$$V_{m,n}(2,2) = \frac{(\sigma+1)!}{m+1} 2^{-2\sigma-3} \left( \frac{1}{2} + R_2 + R_3 + R_4 + \dots \right), \quad (20)$$

where  $\sigma = m + n$  and

$$R_i = \frac{1}{2^i} \frac{(\sigma+2)(\sigma+3) \cdots (\sigma+i)}{(m+2)(m+3) \cdots (m+i)}.$$

Subsequently, using the terms of (20) up to  $R_7$ , the quotient of  $E_l^{(2)}$  is expanded in powers of  $\lambda = 2/(2l+1)$  to give

$$E_l^{(2)} = -\frac{45}{256} \lambda^4 \left[ 1 - \frac{5}{4} \lambda^2 + \frac{183}{64} \lambda^4 + O(\lambda^6) \right]. \quad (21)$$

The first two terms of (21) agree with Schwartz's formula [in its extended version as communicated in footnote 8(a) of Ref. 14]. The difference between (21) and the exactly evaluated  $E_l^{(2)}$  quotient is very small; for  $l = 6$  it is  $10^{-8}$  a.u., and less for higher  $l$ . The expression (21) can be summed analytically over  $l$  (Ref. 21) and yields  $-43.8 \times 10^{-6}$  a.u. for  $l \geq 11$  as given in Table II. Certainly, for a desired accuracy of  $E^{(2)}$  (total) of  $10^{-6}$  a.u., the one-function approximation, and so formula (21), could be applied already for  $l = 6$ .

Using the partial wave  $\Psi_{l=0}^{(1)}$  as determined in our variational calculations  $A, B$ , and  $C$  (compare first line of Table II) the three-electron integrals (9a)–(9c) have been evaluated. Again one is led to sums of James-Coolidge integrals (18), here for different  $(\alpha, \beta)$  combinations. The results are shown in Table III. The accuracy of the sum  $4M_1 - 2M_2 - M_3$  appearing in Eq. (8) is seen to be determined by that of  $M_3$ . In each of the cases  $A, B, C$ , the  $M_3$  is somewhat more accurate than the respective  $E^{(2)}$  (total); compare the last line of Table II.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

In this paper we have defined a method of  $l$ -separated Hylleraas basis functions to be used for the variational determination of first-order pair functions for atoms (within the  $1/Z$ -perturbation theory). The method has been tested for the ground state of the heliumlike atom. It is found to yield, in compact calculations, accurate values for the second-order quantities: the pair energy  $E_{\text{He}}^{(2)}$  and the three-electron integrals  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  (which belong to the energy  $E_{\text{Li}}^{(2)}$  of the lithiumlike atom). The results are in more detail.

(i) The  $l$ -separated Hylleraas functions give rapid convergence for the individual partial-wave energies  $E_l^{(2)}$  for all  $l$ . In the asymptotic region of large  $l$  (this is  $l \geq 6$  for an accuracy of  $10^{-6}$  a.u.) one basis function per  $l$  suffices. For  $E_{\text{He}}^{(2)}$  (the sum of the  $E_l^{(2)}$ ) the value of  $-0.157\,657$  a.u. was obtained by using 10, 12, 9, 8, 5, 5, functions for  $l = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , respectively. To reach the same accuracy in a direct calculation would require 45 of the original Hylleraas functions. We estimate that Knight's<sup>12(a)</sup> very exact  $E_{\text{He}}^{(2)}$  [obtained in 100 Hylleraas functions, Eq. (19)] would be reached in the  $l$ -separated method by using about 25 functions for the  $l = 1$  partial wave and about 20 for those of the remaining low  $l$ .

TABLE III. Three-electron integrals  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  (parts of the second-order energy of the three-electron atom) evaluated in the ( $l = 0$ ) partial wave from variational calculations  $A, B, C$  (which used 1, 5, and 10 basis functions, respectively). All entries in  $10^{-6}$  a.u.

	$A$	$B$	$C$	Exact value <sup>a</sup>
$M_1$	-5124	-5058.3	-5057.73	-5057.704
$M_2$	-6368	-6243.2	-6243.46	-6243.572
$M_3$	-22 784	-23 802	-23 755.8	-23 758.968

<sup>a</sup>Chisholm and Dalgarno, Ref. 8.

(ii) The ansatz in one basis function which is valid for large  $l$  has been shown to go over into Schwartz's asymptotic formula.<sup>4,14</sup> Therefore, while retaining the same method, one can deal very simply with the whole asymptotic  $l$  region.

(iii) The convergence of the three-electron integrals  $M_1$  to  $M_3$  is similar to that found for the  $E_l^{(2)}$  of the low  $l$ .

It appears to us worthwhile to try these  $l$ -separated pair functions for the calculation of third-order energies. Par-

ticularly accurate pair functions are then required. For the third-order lithium energy  $E_{\text{Li}}^{(3)}$  the work of Yung, Sanders, and Knight<sup>11</sup> has shown that the variation of the entire pair functions provides a good  $E_{\text{Li}}^{(3)}$  only with extreme effort.

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<sup>19</sup>For comparison we give some of the older  $E_l^{(2)}$  values which have been obtained through a (configuration-interaction-like) product ansatz for  $\Psi_l^{(1)}(r_1, r_2)$ . Such calculations have been done in Ref. 13 and in part of Ref. 14. In Ref. 13 (table, p. 100, parameter  $t=16$ ) the following  $E_l^{(2)}$  for  $l=0, 4$ , and  $9$  have been calculated (using more than 80 basis functions per  $l$ ):  $-125\,298$ ,  $-279$ ,  $-0.3 (\times 10^{-6} \text{ a.u.})$ . In Ref. 14 (table, p. 3, case III) a different choice of 20 product functions yielded  $-125\,031$ ,  $-292$ ,  $-9 (\times 10^{-6} \text{ a.u.})$  for  $l=0, 4$ , and  $9$ , respectively.

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