

Finite-field evaluation of the Lennard-Jones atom-wall interaction constant C_3 for alkali-metal atoms

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A finite-field scaling method is applied to evaluate the Lennard-Jones interaction constant C_3 for alkali-metal atoms. The calculations are based on the relativistic single-double approximation in which single and double excitations of Dirac-Hartree-Fock wave functions are included to all orders in perturbation theory.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The long-range interaction between an atom and a perfectly conducting wall is governed by the Lennard-Jones [1] static image potential

$$V(z) = -\frac{e^2 C_3}{z^3}, \quad (1)$$

where z is the distance between the atom and the wall. The coefficient C_3 in Eq. (1) is the expectation value of the operator

$$\frac{1}{16} \sum_{i,j} (x_i x_j + y_i y_j + 2z_i z_j),$$

in the atomic ground state. Here, $\mathbf{r}_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i)$ is the coordinate of the i th atomic electron with respect to the nucleus. For an atom with a spherically symmetric ground state, one can replace C_3 by the equivalent expression

$$C_3 = \frac{1}{12} \langle 0 | R^2 | 0 \rangle,$$

where $\mathbf{R} = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i$. The Lennard-Jones interaction constant is important in models accounting for the finite conductivity of the wall material by Bardeen [2] and Mavroyannis [3]. Additionally, the wall-atom-wall interaction constant for small wall separation distances is proportional to C_3 [4,5].

Precise values of C_3 for lithium were obtained by Yan and Drake [6] from an elaborate configuration-interaction (CI) calculation and confirmed by an independent calculation by Yan *et al.* [4]. The CI value of C_3 for lithium is in close agreement with the value inferred from a variational calcu-

lation by King [7]. These accurate values of C_3 for lithium are about 2% smaller than the value obtained from a Hartree-Fock (HF) calculation.

An accurate semiempirical value of C_3 for sodium was also obtained by Kharchenko *et al.* [5] from an analysis of the S_{-1} sum rule,

$$S_{-1} = \frac{2}{3} \langle R^2 \rangle = \sum_n \frac{f_n}{E_0 - E_n},$$

where f_n is the oscillator strength of the transition from the ground state to an excited state n . The quantities E_0 and E_n are energies of the ground state and excited state, respectively. This value differs from the HF value of C_3 by about 10%. The more elaborate calculations by Jönsson *et al.* [8] improve the agreement between theoretical and semiempirical values for sodium somewhat.

Third-order many-body perturbation-theory calculations of C_3 for all alkali-metal atoms and all-order single-double calculations of C_3 for Li, Na, and K were given by Derevianko *et al.* [9]. The all-order calculations for Li and Na were in close agreement with other precise values. More recently, Derevianko *et al.* [10] deduced accurate theoretical and semiempirical values of C_3 for all alkali-metal atoms from oscillator-strength sum rules.

In the present work, we use finite-field many-body methods to obtain values of $\langle R^2 \rangle$ and make comparisons with previous work. One advantage of the finite field method is that all-order random-phase approximation (RPA) corrections are included from the start. A second advantage is that n th order corrections to the energy give many-body perturbation-theory (MBPT) corrections to matrix elements of R^2 normally associated with order $(n+1)$. A third advantage is that matrix elements of one- and two-particle operators are essentially trivial to obtain, in contrast to the lengthy calculations ordinarily required.

II. METHOD

The method used here to evaluate the expectation value of the operator

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$$R^2 = \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{r}_i \right]^2 = \sum_i r_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i \neq j} \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j \quad (2)$$

is known as the ‘‘finite-field’’ method and is widely used in quantum chemistry. We evaluate the ground-state expectation value of the operator by adding the scalar operator λR^2 to the many-electron Hamiltonian and calculating the resulting energy $E(\lambda)$. The desired expectation value is then given by

$$\langle R^2 \rangle = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \frac{dE}{d\lambda}.$$

To evaluate the energy, we use standard many-body methods.

The modified many-electron Hamiltonian may be written

$$H = \sum_i h_0(i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \left[\frac{1}{r_{ij}} + 2\lambda \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j \right] - \sum_i U(r_i),$$

where

$$h_0 = c \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{p} + \beta m c^2 + V_{\text{nuc}}(r) + \lambda r^2 + U(r).$$

Expressing the Hamiltonian in second-quantized form and normally ordering with respect to the closed core, we find

$$H = E_0 + \sum_i \epsilon_i : a_i^\dagger a_i : + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijkl} v_{ijkl} : a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_l a_k : + \sum_{ij} (V_{\text{HF}} - U)_{ij} : a_i^\dagger a_j :, \quad (3)$$

where

$$E_0 = \sum_a \epsilon_a + \sum_a \left(\frac{1}{2} V_{\text{HF}} - U \right)_{aa}.$$

In the above equations,

$$(V_{\text{HF}})_{ij} = \sum_a [v_{iaja} - v_{iaaj}],$$

with

$$v_{ijkl} = \left\langle ij \left| \frac{1}{r_{12}} + 2\lambda \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j \right| kl \right\rangle.$$

The lowest approximation to the wave function for a closed-shell atom is

$$\Psi_0 = a_a^\dagger a_b^\dagger \cdots a_n^\dagger |0\rangle.$$

The expectation of the Hamiltonian in this state, which gives the first approximation to the ground-state energy, is

$$\langle \Psi_0 | H | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0 = \sum_a \epsilon_a + \sum_a \left(\frac{1}{2} V_{\text{HF}} - U \right)_{aa}.$$

In particular, if we choose $U = V_{\text{HF}}$, then the corresponding value of the closed-shell energy is

$$E_{\text{HF}} = \sum_a \left[\epsilon_a - \frac{1}{2} (V_{\text{HF}})_{aa} \right].$$

III. RESULTS

A. HF level

We consider an atom with one electron beyond closed shells. The core and valence energies are given at the HF level of approximation by

$$E_c^{(\text{HF})} = \sum_a \left[\epsilon_a - \frac{1}{2} (V_{\text{HF}})_{aa} \right], \quad (4)$$

$$E_v^{(\text{HF})} = \epsilon_v, \quad (5)$$

where the summation index a ranges over closed shells, and where ϵ_v is the eigenvalue of the valence ‘‘frozen core’’ (Dirac)-Hartree-Fock equation.

In setting up the HF equations, we add λr^2 to the nuclear potential and add $2\lambda \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j$ to the two-particle interaction that defines the HF potential. The modified electron-electron interaction becomes

$$\frac{1}{r_{12}} + 2\lambda \mathbf{r}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2 = \sum_{L=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^L}{r_{>}^{L+1}} P_L(\cos \theta) + 2\lambda r_1 r_2 P_1(\cos \theta).$$

It follows that only the $L=1$ term in the HF potential is modified and this term becomes

$$v_1(ab, r) \rightarrow v_1(ab, r) + 2\lambda r \int_0^\infty r' [P_a(r') P_b(r') + Q_a(r') Q_b(r')] dr',$$

where $P_a(r)$ and $Q_a(r)$ are large and small component radial Dirac wave functions, respectively. As a practical matter, we choose $\lambda \ll 1$ for neutral atoms to maintain some resemblance to the usual HF picture. The HF energy includes first-order MBPT corrections, together with all second- and higher-order RPA corrections. In columns 2 and 3 of Table I, we list HF valence energies $E_v^{(\text{HF})}(\lambda)$ and the HF core energies $E_c^{(\text{HF})}(\lambda)$ as functions of λ for the alkali-metal atoms from Li to Fr.

B. Second-order MBPT

We can easily go beyond the HF approximation and include the second-order MBPT corrections to the core energy $E_c^{(2)}$ and to the valence energy $E_v^{(2)}$:

TABLE I. Variation of MBPT contributions to energies of alkali-metal atoms with the scaling parameter λ , where $H(\lambda) = H + \lambda R^2$.

λ	$E_v^{(\text{HF})}(\lambda)$	$E_c^{(\text{HF})}(\lambda)$	$E_v^{(2)}(\lambda)$	$E_c^{(2)}(\lambda)$
Li				
-0.00006	-0.1973918	-7.2372588	-0.0016257	-0.0400988
-0.00004	-0.1970331	-7.2372410	-0.0016327	-0.0400995
-0.00002	-0.1966760	-7.2372232	-0.0016397	-0.0401001
0.00002	-0.1959663	-7.2371876	-0.0016535	-0.0401014
0.00004	-0.1956137	-7.2371698	-0.0016603	-0.0401020
0.00006	-0.1952625	-7.2371520	-0.0016671	-0.0401026
Na				
-0.00006	-0.1832811	-161.8961446	-0.0057754	-0.3836680
-0.00004	-0.1828627	-161.8960647	-0.0058073	-0.3836734
-0.00002	-0.1824466	-161.8959849	-0.0058389	-0.3836788
0.00002	-0.1816209	-161.8958252	-0.0059014	-0.3836896
0.00004	-0.1812111	-161.8957454	-0.0059323	-0.3836950
0.00006	-0.1808033	-161.8956655	-0.0059630	-0.3837004
K				
-0.00006	-0.1493919	-601.3789128	-0.0120214	-0.7237274
-0.00004	-0.1487522	-601.3786754	-0.0121561	-0.7237770
-0.00002	-0.1481185	-601.3784379	-0.0122889	-0.7238267
0.00002	-0.1468683	-601.3779630	-0.0125494	-0.7239262
0.00004	-0.1462511	-601.3777256	-0.0126774	-0.7239760
0.00006	-0.1456389	-601.3774882	-0.0128041	-0.7240257
Rb				
-0.00006	-0.1414238	-2979.6664077	-0.0144304	-1.8931869
-0.00004	-0.1407050	-2979.6660442	-0.0146265	-1.8932719
-0.00002	-0.1399943	-2979.6656808	-0.0148194	-1.8933569
0.00002	-0.1385951	-2979.6649539	-0.0151967	-1.8935271
0.00004	-0.1379058	-2979.6645905	-0.0153817	-1.8936122
0.00006	-0.1372228	-2979.6642272	-0.0155647	-1.8936974
Cs				
-0.00006	-0.1299267	-7786.6477893	-0.0168211	-3.1079015
-0.00004	-0.1290615	-7786.6472240	-0.0171307	-3.1080755
-0.00002	-0.1282090	-7786.6466589	-0.0174334	-3.1082495
0.00002	-0.1265379	-7786.6455289	-0.0180225	-3.1085978
0.00004	-0.1257176	-7786.6449640	-0.0183103	-3.1087722
0.00006	-0.1249066	-7786.6443992	-0.0185943	-3.1089466
Fr				
-0.00006	-0.1334806	-24307.9714413	-0.0206103	-5.8273192
-0.00004	-0.1326676	-24307.9707289	-0.0209570	-5.8275533
-0.00002	-0.1318658	-24307.9700168	-0.0212968	-5.8277875
0.00002	-0.1302922	-24307.9685926	-0.0219595	-5.8282563
0.00004	-0.1295191	-24307.9678807	-0.0222839	-5.8284909
0.00006	-0.1287542	-24307.9671690	-0.0226043	-5.8287257

$$E_c^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{abmn} \frac{v_{mnab} \tilde{v}_{abmn}}{\epsilon_m + \epsilon_n - \epsilon_a - \epsilon_b}, \quad (6)$$

$$E_v^{(2)} = -\sum_{bmn} \frac{v_{mnvb} \tilde{v}_{vbmn}}{\epsilon_m + \epsilon_n - \epsilon_v - \epsilon_b} + \sum_{abm} \frac{v_{mvab} \tilde{v}_{abmv}}{\epsilon_m + \epsilon_v - \epsilon_a - \epsilon_b}. \quad (7)$$

In the above equations, indices a and b refer to core orbitals, indices m and n refer to virtual orbitals, and v refers to the valence orbital. The second-order energies include those corrections to the matrix element of R^2 usually associated with third-order MBPT—one interaction with R^2 and two Coulomb interactions. In columns 4 and 5 of Table I, we list $E_v^{(2)}(\lambda)$ and $E_c^{(2)}(\lambda)$ for various values of λ .

TABLE II. Values of $\langle dE/d\lambda \rangle_{\lambda=0} = \langle R^2 \rangle$ for alkali-metal atoms as order of differentiation formula is increased. Step size, $h = 0.000\ 02$.

Order	$dE_v^{(\text{HF})}/d\lambda$	$dE_c^{(\text{HF})}/d\lambda$	$dE_v^{(2)}/d\lambda$	$dE_c^{(2)}/d\lambda$	$\langle R^2 \rangle$
Li					
3	17.7418	0.8904	-0.3445	-0.0315	18.256
5	17.7415	0.8904	-0.3445	-0.0315	18.256
7	17.7415	0.8904	-0.3445	-0.0315	18.256
Na					
3	20.6433	3.9922	-1.5631	-0.2694	22.803
5	20.6427	3.9922	-1.5629	-0.2694	22.803
7	20.6427	3.9922	-1.5629	-0.2694	22.803
K					
3	31.2556	11.8718	-6.5118	-2.4864	34.129
5	31.2531	11.8718	-6.5105	-2.4864	34.128
7	31.2532	11.8718	-6.5105	-2.4864	34.128
Rb					
3	34.9792	18.1725	-9.4361	-4.2549	39.461
5	34.9755	18.1729	-9.4336	-4.2549	39.460
7	34.9755	18.1730	-9.4337	-4.2549	39.460
Cs					
3	41.7773	28.2500	-14.7337	-8.7108	46.583
5	41.7703	28.2499	-14.7276	-8.7108	46.582
7	41.7704	28.2498	-14.7278	-8.7108	46.582
Fr					
3	39.3401	35.6056	-16.5691	-11.7207	46.656
5	39.3343	35.6068	-16.5634	-11.7207	46.657
7	39.3344	35.6073	-16.5635	-11.7207	46.658

C. Differentiation formulas

The energies are given on the grid

$$\lambda_n = (-3h, -2h, -h, 0, h, 2h, 3h)$$

with spacing $h = 0.000\ 02$. To evaluate $\langle R^2 \rangle$, we make use of a hierarchy of successively more accurate Lagrangian differentiation formulas:

$$\left(\frac{dE}{d\lambda}\right)^{(3)} = \frac{1}{2h} (E[1] + E[-1]),$$

$$\left(\frac{dE}{d\lambda}\right)^{(5)} = \frac{1}{24h} \{16(E[1] - E[-1]) - 2(E[2] - E[-2])\},$$

$$\left(\frac{dE}{d\lambda}\right)^{(7)} = \frac{1}{720h} \{540(E[1] - E[-1]) - 108(E[2] - E[-2]) + 12(E[3] - E[-3])\}$$

to obtain $dE/d\lambda$ at $\lambda = 0$. In the above, we designate $E(\lambda_n)$ by $E[n]$. The k th approximation to the derivative $(dE/d\lambda)^{(k)}$ has an error proportional to h^k . The first two of these formulas are given in Chap. 25 of Ref. [11].

TABLE III. Comparison of the present second-order finite-field ($\text{FF}^{(2)}$) values of R^2 with third-order MBPT values from Ref. [9] and with semiempirical (SE) values from Ref. [10]. The value for Li reported under SE is obtained by rounding the ‘‘exact’’ value 18.216 . . . given in Refs. [6,7].

Element	$\text{FF}^{(2)}$	MBPT	SE
Li	18.26	18.26	18.22
Na	22.80	22.79	22.45
K	34.13	34.05	34.52
Rb	39.46	39.37	40.92
Cs	46.59	46.35	50.96

In Table II, we show results of applying the differentiation formulas to the data in Table I. The resulting values of $\langle R^2 \rangle$ are numerically stable to about four digits for the cases considered. These values are compared with values from third-order MBPT and other accurate values in Table III.

D. Third-order MBPT

Expressions for third-order correlation corrections to core and valence energies of atoms with a single valence electron were given in Ref. [12] and applied to study ground-state removal energies of Cs and Tl in Ref. [13]. In the present applications, these formulas are used to evaluate, effectively, fourth-order corrections to matrix elements of R^2 . Although we do not expect the third-order calculations presented in this section to be as accurate as the single-double (SD) calculations given in the following section, it is in any case necessary to carry out third-order energy calculations to determine $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$, the correction to the SD energies that accounts approximately for omitted triple excitations in the SD equations.

Third-order corrections for lithium are $dE_v^{(3)}/d\lambda = -0.0297$ and $dE_c^{(3)}/d\lambda = -0.0011$. Adding these values to the earlier second-order result leads to $\langle R^2 \rangle = 18.2250$ for lithium. This slightly improves the agreement of MBPT with the exact nonrelativistic value. However, better agreement can be achieved in the SD approximation. Therefore, here we only calculate $dE_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}/d\lambda$. These contributions are 0.00252 for Li, 0.00201 for Na, 0.72532 for K, 1.10114 for Rb, 2.32450 for Cs, and 2.59698 for Fr.

TABLE IV. Calculated values of $\langle R^2 \rangle$ for Li as the number of partial waves l_{max} included in the SD equations is increased are tabulated along with extrapolated values obtained by applying Aitken’s δ^2 method to $l_{\text{max}} = (2,3,4)$ and $(3,4,5)$.

l_{max}	$d\Delta E_v/d\lambda$	$d\Delta E_c/d\lambda$	$\langle R^2 \rangle$
2	-0.37905	-0.03284	18.2200
3	-0.38362	-0.03279	18.2155
4	-0.38509	-0.03279	18.2140
5	-0.38570	-0.03279	18.2134
2-3-4	-0.38579	-0.03279	18.2133
3-4-5	-0.38612	-0.03279	18.2130

TABLE V. Values of $(dE/d\lambda)_{\lambda=0}$ in the SD+ $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$ approximation as the order of differentiation formula is increased. Step size, $h=0.00002$. The SD equations included all partial waves with $l \leq 6$ for Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs and with $l \leq 5$ for Fr.

Order	$\frac{dE_v^{(\text{HF})}}{d\lambda}$	$\frac{dE_c^{(\text{HF})}}{d\lambda}$	$\frac{d\Delta E_v}{d\lambda}$	$\frac{d\Delta E_c}{d\lambda}$	$\frac{dE_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}}{d\lambda}$	$\langle R^2 \rangle$
Li						
3	17.7418	0.8904	-0.3860	-0.0328	0.0025	18.216
5	17.7415	0.8904	-0.3859	-0.0328	0.0025	18.216
7	17.7415	0.8904	-0.3859	-0.0328	0.0025	18.216
Na						
3	20.6433	3.9922	-1.7038	-0.2922	0.0020	22.642
5	20.6427	3.9922	-1.7037	-0.2922	0.0020	22.641
7	20.6427	3.9922	-1.7037	-0.2922	0.0020	22.641
K						
3	31.2556	11.8719	-5.9711	-2.2866	0.7255	35.595
5	31.2531	11.8718	-5.9703	-2.2866	0.7253	35.593
7	31.2532	11.8718	-5.9703	-2.2866	0.7253	35.593
Rb						
3	34.9792	18.1725	-8.2136	-3.6888	1.1014	42.351
5	34.9755	18.1729	-8.2119	-3.6888	1.1011	42.349
7	34.9755	18.1730	-8.2117	-3.6888	1.1011	42.349
Cs						
3	41.7773	28.2500	-11.6972	-6.6590	2.3254	53.997
5	41.7703	28.2499	-11.6942	-6.6590	2.3245	53.991
7	41.7704	28.2498	-11.6943	-6.6590	2.3245	53.991
Fr						
3	39.3401	35.6056	-12.4105	-8.5968	2.5970	56.536

E. All-order single-double calculations

The SD equations, also referred to as all-order pair equations (see Chap. 15 of Ref. [14]), provide a method of including important correlation corrections to the atomic wave function to all orders in perturbation theory. One solves a set of coupled equations for single excitation coefficients ρ_{ma} , ρ_{mv} and double excitation coefficients ρ_{mnab} , $\rho_{mnv a}$ of the HF ground state, see Ref. [15], for example. Once these expansion coefficients have been determined, the correlation correction to the core energy ΔE_c is given by

$$\Delta E_c = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{mnab} v_{abmn} \tilde{\rho}_{mnab} \quad (8)$$

and the correlation correction to the valence energy is given by

$$\Delta E_v = \sum_{ma} \tilde{v}_{vavm} \rho_{ma} + \sum_{mab} v_{abvm} \tilde{\rho}_{mvab} + \sum_{mna} v_{vbm n} \tilde{\rho}_{m n v b}. \quad (9)$$

The core energy is exact through third order in MBPT and contains important fourth- and higher-order corrections. The valence energy also includes important fourth- and higher-

TABLE VI. Final results for $\langle R^2 \rangle$ for alkali atoms.

Li	Na	K	Rb	Cs	Fr
18.216	22.641	35.593	42.349	53.991	56.536

order corrections but is missing small third-order corrections (written out explicitly in Ref. [15]) referred to as $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$. These missing terms have their origin in omitted triple excitations (single-valence—double-core excitations) of the HF ground state. Numerical values of $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$ for the alkali-metal atoms are given at the end of Sec. III D.

a. Lithium. Calculations for Li include all partial waves with $l \leq 6$. To estimate higher l contributions we use Aitken's δ^2 method. Table IV shows contributions to $\langle R^2 \rangle$ evaluated with l_{max} ranging from 2 to 5. The final extrapolated value $\langle R^2 \rangle = 18.213$ from Table IV differs from the "exact" non-relativistic value (18.216004) for lithium given by Yan and Drake [6], but is in precise agreement with an earlier SD result by Derevianko *et al.* [9]. The small difference with the exact nonrelativistic value is dominated by the contribution from $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$, evaluated in the preceding subsection, which has the value $dE_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}/d\lambda = 0.0025$. When this correction is added to the SD result 18.2130 for lithium, we obtain the value 18.2155, differing from the exact nonrelativistic result by only -0.0005 . The residual difference has the sign and order of magnitude expected for a relativistic correction to R^2 .

b. Other alkalis. In Table V, we show the derivatives of valence and core energies of alkali atoms from Li to Fr calculated in the SD approximation with $l_{\text{max}} = 6$ as the order of the differentiation is increased. We also include the contribution from the missing third-order energy $E_{\text{extra}}^{(3)}$ evaluated in the preceding section.

The SD result for sodium $\langle R^2 \rangle = 22.6425(3)$ agrees well with the earlier SD result 22.6293 from Derevianko *et al.* [9] and with the semiempirical value 22.65 from Kharchenko *et al.* [5]. Note, however, that present results for all alkali atoms other than lithium are substantially larger than semiempirical values obtained in Ref. [10] (see Table III).

The resulting values $\langle R^2 \rangle$ from the SD calculation, which are our most accurate predictions, are summarized in Table VI.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper we present the most complete fully *ab initio* all-order calculations of the Lennard-Jones interaction constant C_3 for alkali-metal atoms. Incorporating of the rescaled R^2 operator into original Hartree-Fock Hamiltonian allows us to stay within standard SD technique while also including important subclasses of higher-order contributions. Results for Li agree precisely with the "exact" CI results of Yan and Drake [6], while results for other alkali atoms are probably the most accurate available to date.

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