Stability of the Restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan Method

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Newly computed Hartree-Fock-Roothaan wave functions are reported for the atomic negative ions, B⁻, C⁻⁻, N⁻⁻, O⁻⁻, Si⁻⁻, P⁻⁻, S⁻⁻. They are obtained as self-consistently convergent solutions. The implication with regard to the stability of the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothan method is also discussed.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Hartree-Fock approximation is well accepted in physics and chemistry. Sometimes it is taken as something more than a mere approximation that is numerically feasible. It has become a model world in which we tend to see some meaningful reflections of phenomena that would occur in the real physical world. The concept of an electronic phase transition suggested by Mott¹ some 20 years ago may be regarded as one of the earlier examples of this sort.

A more recent example is the paper by Kaplan and Kleiner.² Their argument is based on the use of a single Slater-determinantal wave function and a theorem is proved to the effect that in Hartree-Fock theory an electron may always be added to an N-electron system without raising the energy. The theorem is applied to show that the conventional Hartree-Fock wave function is unstable for certain negative atomic ions (including B^- , N^{--} , O⁻⁻), and that the typical extent of the instability is chemically significant.

The purpose of the present paper is not to discuss directly the points raised by Kaplan and Kleiner² or by Prat,³ who used an unsatisfactory Hartree-Fock wave function of O⁻⁻ as a computational starting point. Instead, a set of new numerical results from the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan calculations on negative atomic ions is presented in the hope that it may have some relevance to the subject matter or that it may be of some use numerically. Among these results are the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan wave functions for B⁻, C⁻⁻, N⁻⁻, and O⁻⁻, which are much lower in total energy than the ones reported earlier⁴ and cited by Kaplan and Kleiner² and also by Prat.³

A precise definition of what we call here the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan method is in order. The total wave function is, in general, a linear combination of several Slater determinants each of which contains (doubly occupied) closedshell cores $\{\psi_k\}$ and open shells $\{\psi_n\}$. The coefficients of the linear combination of the determinants are determined by the requirement that the

total wave function be a proper eigenfunction of both S^2 and S_s spin operators. In Roothaan's expansion method, the orbital ψ_i , or, to be more precise, $\psi_{i\lambda\alpha}$ is expanded in terms of symmetry basis functions $x_{\mu\lambda\alpha}$:

$$\psi_{i\,\lambda\,\alpha} = \sum_{p} x_{p\lambda\,\alpha} C_{\lambda p i}$$

where λ refers to the irreducible representation or symmetry species and α refers to the subspecies. In a simple atomic example, λ stands for l and α for m_{l_1} in the common notation. The Hartree-Fock-Roothaan equation determines the coefficients $\{C_{\lambda\mu}\}$. It is important to remind ourselves that the coefficients do not depend on α . The implications are that in an atomic calculation we will obtain, inevitably, a set of symmetry orbitals and that the radial functions are identical for all subspecies belonging to a particular symmetry. These restrictions are sometimes referred to as the symmetry restriction and the equivalence restriction, respectively.

In Sec. II we report some newly obtained restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan solutions for several negative ions. In Sec. III, an attempt to drop the equivalence restriction in the case of the ^{3}P , ^{1}D , and ^{1}S states of B⁻ will be described.

II. NEGATIVE ATOMIC IONS

Not infrequently it occurs that an attempt to obtain a Hartree-Fock solution is plagued by nonconvergence. Such is the case for the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan solutions of $B^{-}({}^{1}S)$, $N^{--}(^{2}P)$, and $O^{--}(^{1}S)$ as mentioned by Kaplan and Kleiner.² In Tables I–III the solutions of $C^{--}({}^{3}P)$, $N^{--}(^{2}P)$, and $O^{--}(^{1}S)$ are given which have appreciably lower total energies than the ones hitherto reported.⁴ Also given in Tables IV-VI are the solutions of $Si^{-}(^{3}P)$, $P^{-}(^{2}P)$, and $S^{-}(^{1}S)$. In these tables the total energy and the orbital energies are given in atomic units and the abbreviation such as STO (5s, 4p) implies that 5s-type 4p-type Slater-type orbitals are used as the basis functions. The first column under the heading or-

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Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.110 679 25 10(2)	2s -0.425 753 54 10(0)
1s 0.918 565 07 10(1) 1s 0.526 700 90 10(1) 3s 0.631 618 60 10(1) 2s 0.198 177 27 10(1)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.950\ 545\ 00\ 10(-1)\\ 0.926\ 507\ 75\ 10(0)\\ -0.182\ 100\ 00\ 10(-1)\\ 0.272\ 709\ 47\ 10(-2)\\ 0.464\ 456\ 82\ 10(-2)\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.2073837310(-2)\\ -0.2455149510(0)\\ -0.3398169310(-1)\\ 0.6783193310(0)\\ 0.4175405010(0) \end{array}$
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	-0.464 456 83 10(-3) 2p 0.375 367 01 10(-1)	0.4175405910(0)
2p 0.521 449 98 10(1) 2p 0.193 942 85 10(1) 2p 0.781 040 46 10(0) 2p 0.988 639 61 10(-1)	0.202 628 37 10(-1) 0.384 285 61 10(0) 0.517 191 53 10(0) 0.521 265 31 10(0)	

TABLE I. C⁻⁻ 1s (2)2s (2)2P (4) ³P STO (5s, 4p). Total energy = -0.3748435710(2).

bital indicates the individual characteristics. To be more precise, the basis functions are primitive Slater-type orbitals,

$$\psi = \sum C_{i} x(n_{i}, l_{i}, m_{l_{i}}; \zeta_{1})_{1},$$

$$x(n, l, m; \zeta) = [(2n)!]^{-1/2} (2\zeta)^{n+1/2} \gamma^{n-1} e^{-\zeta r} Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi).$$

It is to be noted that C_i do not depend on the quantum number m. The atomic self-consistent-field program in use has been carefully coded so as to be free as much as possible from instabilities which could be removed by proper numerical precautions. Under careful input preparation and parameter variation, the program functions in an orderly way in most circumstances but it is not claimed that the present solutions are the best obtainable within the framework of the present approximation.

It must be clearly understood that the instability we are referring to here is the one which we en-

TABLE II. N⁻⁻ 1s(2)2s(2)2p(5)²P STO (5s, 4p). Total energy = -0.540 620 11 10(2).

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.152 600 36 10(2)	2s -0.550 441 56 10(0)	
1s 0.105 736 24 10(2)	0.962 356 99 10(-1)	0.443 146 92 10(-2)	
1s 0.618 720 35 10(1)	0.926 767 42 10(0)	-0.257 457 93 10(0)	
3s 0.751 051 90 10(1)	-0.20972488 10(-1)	-0.308 407 74 10(-1)	
2s 0.238 190 56 10(1)	0.302 591 92 10(-2)	0.680 303 88 10(0)	
2s 0.134 058 10 10(1)	-0.332 621 33 10(-3)	0.421 05910 10(0)	
Orbital symmetry	2 <i>p</i>		
Energy exponent	0.53177664 10(-1)		
2p 0.651 366 75 10(1)	0.19674938 10(-1)		
2p 0.244 153 99 10(1)	0.417 042 45 10(0)		
2p 0.985 264 27 10(0)	0.543 373 83 10(0)		
2p 0.137 763 94 10(0)	0.424 430 46 10(0)		

TABLE III. $O^{--} 1s(2)2s(2)2p(6)$ ¹S STO (5s, 4p). Total energy = -0.7450712710(2).

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.2012626810(2)	2 <i>s</i> -0.704 452 59 10(0)
1s 0.1275772110(2)	0.779 085 83 10(-1)	0.417 543 63 10(-2)
1s 0.70933082 10(1)	0.954 842 41 10(0)	-0.263 500 17 10(0)
3s 0.8970814110(1)	-0.335 775 30 10(-1)	-0.26507868 10(-1)
2s 0.2753601910(1)	0.280 791 41 10(-2)	0,693 431 47 10(0)
2s 0.1526654910(1)	-0.109 128 17 10(-3)	0.409 036 05 10(0)
Orbital symmetry	2 <i>p</i>	
Energy exponent	0.656 964 39 10(-1)	
2p 0.49957954 10(1)	0.847 542 97 10(-1)	
2p 0.244 937 82 10(1)	0.481 274 30 10(0)	
2p 0.10421145 10(1)	0.467 025 01 10(0)	
2p 0.165 196 58 10(0)	0.341 915 69 10(0)	

counter within the so-called symmetry and equivalence restrictions. The solutions always remain within the limits of these restrictions. Physically speaking these atomic ions would certainly not exist as free entities, but still it is interesting to to observe that the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan equations yield solutions for them which are self-consistently convergent within the framework of the expansion method. In reality, one outermost electron will move away to infinite distance but in the strange world of the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan approximation all the electrons in the p shell are forced to stay together on an equal footing because the identical radial functions are assigned to them by the very setup of the approximation. This is reflected in the fact that in all cases reported in the present section the highest orbital energy is positive and very close to zero.

III. ³P, ¹D, AND ¹S STATES OF B⁻

A convergence difficulty has been reported in the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan calculation of the ¹S state of B^{-,4} In the present calculation we have overcome this numerical difficulty and obtained a new set of the wave functions for ³P, ¹D, and ¹S states of B⁻, but the 2p orbital energy of the ¹S state remains slightly positive (+0.002164 a.u.). The (¹S -¹D)/(¹D-³P) ratio turns out to be 1.209 while the "experimental" value is estimated to be about 1.10 by extrapolation from the isoelectronic sequence. The numerical data of the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan wave functions are given in Table VII.

The next step we have taken is the relaxation of the equivalence restriction on the *p*-shell orbitals. There is a wide range of possibility of splitting the *p* shell. We have made the following simple choice: For brevity, we shall write down only

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.685 995 48 10(2)	2 <i>s</i> -0.594 027 68 10(1)	3s -0.321 174 80 10(0)
1s 0.140 000 00 10(2) 3s 0.156 854 03 10(2) 3s 0.966 728 92 10(1) 3s 0.873 651 51 10(1) 3s 0.601 198 19 10(1) 3s 0.429 101 27 10(1) 3s 0.192 710 99 10(1) 3s 0.110 363 79 10(1)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9692103610(0)\\ 0.3461829210(-1)\\ 0.3024571110(-1)\\ -0.1946926010(-1)\\ 0.2403092210(-2)\\ -0.2087575010(-3)\\ -0.7765464010(-5)\\ -0.3728318710(-6) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.2579318410(0)\\ -0.1130349410(-3)\\ 0.2021682010(0)\\ 0.1005798610(0)\\ 0.5774222810(0)\\ 0.2074332810(0)\\ 0.3079654610(-3)\\ 0.2990023510(-3) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.6471837810(-1)\\ 0.1712461510(-2)\\ -0.1005531010(0)\\ 0.3707671210(-1)\\ -0.2083190210(0)\\ -0.5882817810(-1)\\ 0.7293571410(0)\\ 0.3782530510(0) \end{array}$
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2¢ -0.4040529610(1)	3¢ 0.256 099 12 10(-1)	
$\begin{array}{c} 2p & 0.700 & 000 & 00 & 10(1) \\ 4p & 0.114 & 484 & 83 & 10(2) \\ 4p & 0.712 & 694 & 73 & 10(1) \\ 4p & 0.487 & 436 & 58 & 10(1) \\ 4p & 0.255 & 289 & 44 & 10(1) \\ 4p & 0.141 & 411 & 08 & 10(1) \\ 4p & 0.673 & 708 & 03 & 10(0) \\ 4p & 0.119 & 281 & 61 & 10(0) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.568\ 291\ 65\ 10(0)\\ 0.230\ 478\ 92\ 10(-1)\\ 0.270\ 777\ 02\ 10(0)\\ 0.262\ 550\ 65\ 10(0)\\ 0.122\ 089\ 37\ 10(-1)\\ -0.147\ 104\ 07\ 10(-2)\\ 0.487\ 874\ 22\ 10(-3)\\ 0.961\ 735\ 41\ 10(-4) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.8394376310(-1)\\ -0.3074067810(-2)\\ -0.3732841410(-1)\\ -0.1790950810(-1)\\ 0.2517074610(0)\\ 0.4720335910(0)\\ 0.3231324310(0)\\ 0.4965382410(0)\end{array}$	

TABLE IV. Si⁻⁻ 1s (2)2s (2)2p (6)3s (2)3p (4) ${}^{3}P$ STO (8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.288 738 19 10(3).

the relevant *p*-electron part of the total wave function:

 $({}^{3}P): \left\{ \left[p_{+}(1)p_{0}'(2) - p_{0}'(1)p_{+}(2) \right] + \left[p_{+}'(1)p_{0}(2) - p_{0}(1)p_{+}'(2) \right] \right\} \alpha(1)\alpha(2),$

 $^{(1}D): \ [p_{+}(1)p_{+}'(2)+p_{+}'(1)p_{+}(2)][\alpha(1)\beta(2)-\beta(1)\alpha(2)],$

 $({}^{1}S): \left\{ \left[p_{+}(1)p_{-}'(2) + p_{-}'(1)p_{+}(2) \right] + \left[p_{-}(1)p_{+}'(2) + p_{+}'(1)p_{-}(2) \right] - \left[p_{0}(1)p_{0}'(2) + p_{0}'(1)_{0}(2) \right] \right\} \left[\alpha(1)\beta(2) - \beta(1)\alpha(2) \right].$

TABLE V. $P^{-1} s(2) 2s(2) 2p(6) 3s(2) 3p(5)^2 P$ STO (8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.3405345510(3).

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.796 696 65 10(2)	2s -0.7205907610(1)	3s -0.392 759 05 10(0)
$\begin{array}{cccccccc} 1s & 0.150 & 000 & 00 & 10(2) \\ 3s & 0.167 & 858 & 64 & 10(2) \\ 3s & 0.105 & 986 & 80 & 10(2) \\ 3s & 0.903 & 353 & 62 & 10(1) \\ 3s & 0.627 & 677 & 70 & 10(1) \\ 3s & 0.438 & 805 & 38 & 10(1) \\ 3s & 0.216 & 787 & 53 & 10(1) \\ 3s & 0.122 & 542 & 83 & 10(1) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.970\ 787\ 06\ 10\ (0)\\ 0.326\ 452\ 63\ 10\ (-1)\\ 0.216\ 378\ 42\ 10\ (-1)\\ -0.111\ 444\ 69\ 10\ (-1)\\ 0.244\ 057\ 96\ 10\ (-2)\\ -0.369\ 063\ 78\ 10\ (-3)\\ 0.120\ 730\ 51\ 10\ (-4)\\ -0.904\ 554\ 43\ 10\ (-5)\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.2635752710(0)\\ 0.2666138310(-3)\\ 0.1759154210(0)\\ 0.1722953010(0)\\ 0.6148049810(0)\\ 0.1232944210(0)\\ -0.6510929410(-3)\\ 0.6643663810(-3) \end{array}$	0.706 351 90 10(-1) 0.206 997 15 10(-2) -0.870 100 80 10(-1) 0.127 058 95 10(-1) -0.261 277 72 10(0) -0.154 642 67 10(-1) 0.759 071 60 10(0) 0.351 413 42 10(0)
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2¢ -0.5096907210(1)	3¢ 0.347 094 80 10(-1)	
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.592\ 300\ 14\ 10(0)\\ 0.200\ 855\ 98\ 10(-1)\\ 0.252\ 059\ 25\ 10(0)\\ 0.250\ 341\ 91\ 10(0)\\ 0.119\ 592\ 75\ 10(-1)\\ -0.924\ 158\ 55\ 10(-3)\\ 0.567\ 274\ 62\ 10(-3)\\ 0.266\ 361\ 54\ 10(-3)\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.108 \ 148 \ 02 \ 10 \ (0) \\ -0.322 \ 287 \ 98 \ 10 \ (-2) \\ -0.426 \ 280 \ 47 \ 10 \ (-1) \\ -0.206 \ 110 \ 02 \ 10 \ (-1) \\ 0.294 \ 228 \ 38 \ 10 \ (0) \\ 0.496 \ 711 \ 88 \ 10 \ (0) \\ 0.313 \ 903 \ 43 \ 10 \ (0) \\ 0.390 \ 808 \ 62 \ 10 \ (0) \end{array}$	

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s -0.915 764 51 10(2)	2 <i>s</i> -0.857 215 50 10(1)	3s -0.466 617 66 10(0)
1s 0.160 000 00 10(2) 3s 0.177 524 72 10(2) 3s 0.107 453 76 10(2) 3s 0.994 350 32 10(1) 3s 0.695 770 90 10(1) 3s 0.486 720 98 10(1) 3s 0.240 648 09 10(1) 3s 0.134 643 08 10(1)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.972\ 206\ 81\ 10(0)\\ 0.321\ 215\ 82\ 10(-1)\\ 0.331\ 600\ 23\ 10(-1)\\ -0.241\ 025\ 22\ 10(-1)\\ 0.208\ 583\ 53\ 10(-2)\\ -0.153\ 826\ 52\ 10(-3)\\ -0.399\ 005\ 81\ 10(-4)\\ 0.347\ 411\ 07\ 10(-5) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.268\ 511\ 21\ 10(0)\\ 0.170\ 817\ 25\ 10(-2)\\ 0.356\ 340\ 96\ 10(0)\\ -0.587\ 587\ 06\ 10(-1)\\ 0.649\ 417\ 50\ 10(0)\\ 0.136\ 017\ 21\ 10(0)\\ 0.273\ 089\ 24\ 10(-3)\\ 0.608\ 364\ 42\ 10(-3)\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.755\ 216\ 40\ 10(-1)\\ 0.220\ 728\ 49\ 10(-2)\\ -0.231\ 407\ 37\ 10(0)\\ 0.185\ 427\ 10\ 10(0)\\ -0.314\ 848\ 51\ 10(0)\\ -0.614\ 797\ 86\ 10(-2)\\ 0.777\ 539\ 17\ 10(0)\\ 0.335\ 509\ 16\ 10(0) \end{array}$
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2¢ -0.6252148010(1)	3¢ 0.483 621 68 10(-1)	
$\begin{array}{c} 2p & 0.800 & 000 & 00 & 10 (1) \\ 4p & 0.127 & 934 & 12 & 10 (2) \\ 4p & 0.820 & 141 & 16 & 10 (1) \\ 4p & 0.590 & 101 & 62 & 10 (1) \\ 4p & 0.357 & 711 & 67 & 10 (1) \\ 4p & 0.201 & 819 & 92 & 10 (1) \\ 4p & 0.979 & 827 & 55 & 10 (0) \\ 4p & 0.211 & 002 & 66 & 10 (0) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.613\ 852\ 57\ 10(0)\\ 0.232\ 141\ 44\ 10(-1)\\ 0.249\ 723\ 42\ 10(0)\\ 0.218\ 879\ 47\ 10(0)\\ 0.119\ 329\ 72\ 10(-1)\\ -0.331\ 122\ 68\ 10(-3)\\ 0.141\ 016\ 87\ 10(-3)\\ -0.768\ 77\ 70\ 4\ 10(-5)\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.1271190110(0)\\ -0.5731495310(-2)\\ -0.3924494710(-1)\\ -0.3937506010(-1)\\ 0.2810539710(0)\\ 0.5354101210(0)\\ 0.3321085510(0)\\ 0.3031012010(0)\end{array}$	

TABLE VI. $S^{-1} 1s(2)2s(2)2p(6)3s(2)3p(6)$ ¹S STO (8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.3973683710(3).

In the above wave functions we have two different radial functions indicated by "no prime" and "prime" on the p's. The Hartree-Fock (1s) and (2s) orbitals given in Table VII are used for the s-electron core part of the total wave functions. For p and p' we have tried the following two simple ideas.

A. Primitive Slater-Type Orbitals

We first use the primitive Slater-type p orbitals with separate exponent parameters ζ and ζ' ,

$$p \sim r e^{-\zeta r}, p' \sim r e^{-\zeta' r}$$

For the ground ${}^{3}P$ state we find a split-shell solution as follows:

$$\zeta = 1.3172$$
, $\zeta' = 0.5185 \quad E({}^{3}P) = -24.51342$ a.u.

This compares well with the value -24.47375 a.u. $(\zeta = \zeta' = 0.9536)$. This solution is stable in the mathematical sense that the above set of ζ and ζ' gives a deep minimum point in the total energy. However, for both ¹D and ¹S states the split-shell wave functions turn out to be unstable: The energies continue to get lower as the smaller exponent ζ' tends to zero; that is to say, the system tends to release one electron. This is not an entirely unexpected phenomenon.

B. Scaled Hartree-Fock-Roothaan Orbitals

We shall apply a special kind of scaling to the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan orbitals. The idea was

	³ P	¹ D	ⁱ S
Ea	-24.51918	-24,490 55	-24.455 94
ζ(1s)	6.773 559	6,786171	6.859 483
(1s)	3.472 672	3.503796	3,570 754
(3 <i>s</i>)	4.414 845	4.429 423	4.479 793
(2s)	1.639 735	1.639874	1.644 566
(2s)	0.903 310	0.926276	0.975 397
ζ(2 p)	4,872 166	4,502706	3,552 350
(2 p)	1.823264	1.695 529	1.436116
(2 p)	0.901 477	0.787265	0.584709
(2 p)	0.415 181	0.306 307	0.156 195
$\epsilon^{b}(1s)$	-7.424 928	-7.471 860	-7.555 665
C(1s)	0.275284	0.270394	0.254 020
	0.860216	0.859975	0.868237
	-0.156 448	-0.150375	-0.140 495
	-0.002 873	-0.002563	-0.002 408
	0.001 022	0.000 949	0.000 948
$\epsilon^{b}(2s)$	-0.242 480	-0.276 009	-0.341 738
C(2s)	-0.027 615	-0.027015	-0.024865
	-0.232 105	-0.236132	-0.242158
	-0.001 753	-0.004291	-0.008 562
	0.603 822	0.619132	0.627718
	0.507 496	0.489895	0.475 979
$\epsilon^{b}(2p)$	-0.026360	-0.007 982	0.002164
C(2p)	0.011 304	0.014114	0.029663
	0.239213	0.287 506	0.380315
	0.542 720	0.542852	0.521424
	0.360 819	0.359199	0.389 232

TABLE VII. $B^{-}({}^{3}P, {}^{1}D, {}^{1}S)$.

^a Total energy in atomic units.

^b Orbital energies in atomic units.

TABLE V	II. Term energies of B	(in atomic units)
with scaled	Hartree-Fock-Roothaan	orbitals.

	$\lambda = \lambda'$	λ ≠ λ′	$\lambda = \lambda'$	λ	λ'
³ P	-24.51918	-24.523 01	1.0	1.294 02	0.668 849
¹ D	-24.49055	-24.496 26	1.0	1.345 42	0.598 314
¹ S	-24.45594	-24.461 88	1.0	1.374 36	0.578 685

explained in detail elsewhere.⁵ The point is that we may insert a scaling parameter into individual Roothaan-type expansions without touching the expansion coefficients C_i . Thus we define a function generated from the expansion in Sec. II as

$$\psi(\lambda) = \sum_{i} C_{i} x(n_{i}, l_{i}, m_{l_{i}}; \lambda \zeta_{i})$$

and regard the original Hartree-Fock-Roothaan orbital as being given by putting $\lambda = 1.0$. By the use of the parameter λ , we can contract or expand the original orbital just as we have done with the primitive Slater-type orbital.

In contrast to the case of primitive Slater-type orbitals in Sec. III A we managed to locate a "local" energy minimum on the (λ, λ') parameter surface even for the ¹S state, but the minimum region is very shallow around the parameter values given in Table VIII. Beyond $\lambda'=0.1$ to smaller values the total energy becomes lower than the local minimum value shown in Table VIII, indicating that the system tends to release one outermost electron. It appears to be difficult to attach any real physical significance to this shallow local minimum. It may be connected with the fact that we use a rather modest size of STO basis functions, although the size has been known to be large enough to produce a near-Hartree-Fock solution for the ground state of the neutral boron atom.

IV. SUMMARY

We have presented some carefully computed Hartree-Fock-Roothaan wave functions for several double-negative free atomic ions. Since the total wave functions are forced to have the symmetry presumed to be characteristic of the ground states by imposing the symmetry and equivalence restrictions on the orbitals, we do not learn much about the instability of the solutions when the restrictions are removed.^{3,6} On the other hand, when one tends to regard the Hartree-Fock approximation as a kind of model world, it is interesting to observe that the restricted Hartree-Fock-Roothaan does have at least quasistable solutions for these double-negative atomic ions.

In order to gain an insight into the problem of the instability of the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan solution we have chosen the case of B⁻. We have demonstrated that if one removes the equivalence restriction on the *p*-shell orbitals both ¹D and ¹S solutions become numerically unstable within the Roothaan-expansion approximation employed in the present calculation. However, it would be hazardous to draw any general conclusion about the stability or instability of the various solutions from the results obtained in the present work.

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