# 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,  $B^-$ ,  $C^-$ ,  $N^-$ ,  $O^-$ ,  $S$  . 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 mell 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 me 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 Mott' 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.<sup>2</sup> Their argument is based on the use of a single Slater-determinantal wave function and a theorem is proved to the effect that in Haxtree-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-Foek wave function is unstable for certain negative atomic ions (including  $B^-, N^{--}$  $O<sup>-</sup>$ , 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 Kleiner<sup>2</sup> or by Prat,<sup>3</sup> who used an unsatisfactory Hartree-Fock wave function of  $O<sup>-</sup>$  as a computational starting point. Instead, a set of nem 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 earlier' and cited by Kaplan and Kleiner<sup>2</sup> and also by Prat.<sup>3</sup>

A precise definition of what me eall 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  $S_r$  spin operators. In Roothaan's expansion method, the orbital  $\psi_i$ , or, to be more precise,  $\psi_{i\lambda\alpha}$  is expanded in terms of symmetr basis functions  $x_{\mu\lambda\alpha}$ :

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

where  $\lambda$  refers to the irreducible representation or symmetry species and  $\alpha$  refers to the subspecies. In a simple atomic example,  $\lambda$  stands for l and  $\alpha$  for  $m_{l_i}$  in the common notation. The Hartree-Fock-Roothaan equation determines the coefficients  ${C_{\lambda \omega}}$ . It is important to remind ourselves that the coefficients do not depend on  $\alpha$ . 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 me report some nemly obtained restricted Hartree-Foek-Roothaan solutions for several negative ions. In See. III, an attempt to drop the equivalence restriction in the case of the  ${}^{3}P$ ,  ${}^{1}D$ , and  ${}^{1}S$  states of B<sup>-</sup> 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  $N$  (P), and O (S) as mentioned by Kapian and<br>Kleiner.<sup>2</sup> In Tables I–III the solutions of  $C^{-1}(P)$ ,  $N^{-(2}P)$ , and  $O^{-(1}S)$  are given which have appreciably lower total energies than the ones hitherto reported.<sup>4</sup> 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 $-0.1106792510(2)$	2s $-0.4257535410(0)$
$1s$ 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) 2s 0.114 240 69 10(1)	$0.9505450010(-1)$ 0.9265077510(0) $-0.1821000010(-1)$ $0.2727094710(-2)$ $-0.4644568310(-3)$	$0,2073837310(-2)$ $-0.24551495100$ $-0.3398169310(-1)$ 0.6783193310(0) 0.4175405910(0)
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2p $0.3753670110(-1)$	
$2p$ 0.521 449 98 10(1) 2p 0.19394285 10(1) 2p 0.781 040 46 10(0) $2p$ 0.988 639 61 10(-1)	$0.2026283710(-1)$ 0.384 285 61 10(0) 0.51719153 10(0) 0.5212653110(0)	

TABLE I.  $C^{-1}$  1s(2)2s(2)2P(4)<sup>3</sup>P 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,

$$
\psi = \sum C_i x(n_i, l_i, m_{l_i}; \xi_1)_1 ,
$$

8

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

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.  $N^{-1}$  1s(2)2s(2)2p(5)<sup>2</sup>P STO (5s, 4p). Total energy <sup>=</sup> -0.<sup>540</sup> <sup>620</sup> 11 10(2).

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s $-0.1526003610(2)$	2s $-0.55044156100$	
$1s$ 0.105 736 24 10(2)	$0,9623569910(-1)$	$0.4431469210(-2)$	
$1s$ 0.618 720 35 10(1)	0.9267674210(0)	$-0.25745793100$	
3s 0.751 051 90 10(1)	$-0.2097248810(-1)$	$-0.3084077410(-1)$	
2s 0.238 190 56 10(1)	$0.3025919210(-2)$	0.6803038810(0)	
2s 0.134 058 10 10(1)	$-0.3326213310(-3)$	0.4210591010(0)	
Orbital symmetry	2p		
Energy exponent	$0,5317766410(-1)$		
2p0.6513667510(1)	$0.1967493810(-1)$		
2p 0.244 153 99 10(1)	0.4170424510(0)		
2p 0.985 264 27 10(0)	0.5433738310(0)		
2p 0.137 763 94 10(0)	0.42443046100		

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

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s $-0.2012626810(2)$	2s $-0.7044525910(0)$
$1s$ 0.12757721 10(2)	$0.7790858310(-1)$	$0.4175436310(-2)$
1s 0.70933082 10(1)	0.9548424110(0)	$-0.26350017100$
3s 0.897 081 41 10(1)	$-0.3357753010(-1)$	$-0.2650786810(-1)$
$2s$ 0.27536019 10(1)	$0,2807914110(-2)$	0.6934314710(0)
2s 0.152 665 49 10(1)	$-0.1091281710(-3)$	0.40903605100
Orbital symmetry	2p	
Energy exponent	$0.6569643910(-1)$	
$2p$ 0.49957954 10(1)	$0.8475429710(-1)$	
$2p$ 0.244 937 82 10(1)	0.481 274 30 10(0)	
2p 0.10421145 10(1)	0.46702501100	
2p 0.165 196 58 10(0)	0.3419156910(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.  ${}^{3}P, {}^{1}D,$  AND  ${}^{1}S$  STATES OF B<sup>-</sup>

A convergence difficulty has been reported in the Hartree-Fock-Roothaan calculation of the <sup>1</sup>S state of  $B^-$ .<sup>4</sup> In the present calculation we have overcome this numerical difficulty and obtained a new set of the wave functions for  ${}^{3}P$ ,  ${}^{1}D$ , and  ${}^{1}S$ states of  $B^-$ , but the 2p orbital energy of the <sup>1</sup>S 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, me shall write down only

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s $-0.6859954810(2)$	2s $-0.5940276810(1)$	3s $-0.3211748010(0)$
$1s$ 0.140 000 00 10(2) $3s$ 0.156 854 03 10(2)	0.9692103610(0) $0.3461829210(-1)$	$-0.2579318410(0)$ $-0.1130349410(-3)$	$0.6471837810(-1)$ $0.1712461510(-2)$
$3s$ 0.966 728 92 10(1)	$0.3024571110(-1)$	0.2021682010(0)	$-0.1005531010(0)$
3s 0.873 651 51 10(1)	$-0.1946926010(-1)$	0.1005798610(0)	$0.3707671210(-1)$
$3s$ 0.601 198 19 10(1)	$0.2403092210(-2)$	0.5774222810(0)	$-0.2083190210(0)$
$3s$ 0.429 101 27 10(1)	$-0,2087575010(-3)$	0,2074332810(0)	$-0.5882817810(-1)$
$3s$ 0.192 710 99 10(1)	$-0.7765464010(-5)$	$0,3079654610(-3)$	0.7293571410(0)
$3s$ 0.110 363 79 10(1)	$-0.3728318710(-6)$	$0.2990023510(-3)$	0.3782530510(0)
		3p	
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2p $-0.4040529610(1)$	$0.2560991210(-1)$	
$2p$ 0.700 000 00 10(1)	0.5682916510(0)	$-0.8394376310(-1)$	
$4p$ 0.114 484 83 10(2)	$0.2304789210(-1)$	$-0.3074067810(-2)$	
$4p$ 0.712 694 73 10(1)	0.2707770210(0)	$-0.3732841410(-1)$	
$4p$ 0.487 436 58 10(1)	0.2625506510(0)	$-0.1790950810(-1)$	
$4p$ 0.255 289 44 10(1)	$0.1220893710(-1)$	0.2517074610(0)	
$4p$ 0.141 411 08 10(1)	$-0.1471040710(-2)$	0.4720335910(0)	
$4p$ 0.673 708 03 10(0)	$0,4878742210(-3)$	0,3231324310(0)	

TABLE IV.  $\text{Si}^{-1}$  1s(2)2s(2)2p(6)3s(2)3p(4)<sup>3</sup>P STO(8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.28873819 10(3).

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

(<sup>3</sup>P): { $[p_+(1)p'_0(2)-p'_0(1)p_+(2)]+[p'_+(1)p_0(2)-p_0(1)p'_+(2)]\alpha(1)\alpha(2),$ 

(<sup>1</sup>D):  $[p_+(1)p_+'(2)+p_+'(1)p_+(2)] [\alpha(1)\beta(2)-\beta(1)\alpha(2)],$ 

 $(^1S)\colon\left\{\left[\not p_+(1) p_-'(2)+\not p_-'(1) p_+(2)\right]+\left[\not p_-(1) p_+'(2)+\not p_+'(1) p_-(2)\right]-\left[\not p_0(1) p_0'(2)+\not p_0'(1)_0(2)\right]\right\}\left[\alpha(1)\beta(2)-\beta(1)\alpha(2)\right].$ 

TABLE V.  $P^{-1}$  1s(2)2s(2)2p(6)3s(2)3p(5)<sup>2</sup>P STO(8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.340 534 55 10(3).

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s $-0.7966966510(2)$	2s $-0.7205907610(1)$	3s $-0.3927590510(0)$
$1s$ 0.150 000 00 10(2) $3s$ 0.16785864 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)	0.9707870610(0) $0.3264526310(-1)$ $0.2163784210(-1)$ $-0.1114446910(-1)$ $0.2440579610(-2)$ $-0.3690637810(-3)$ $0.1207305110(-4)$ $-0.9045544310(-5)$	$-0.2635752710(0)$ $0.2666138310(-3)$ 0.1759154210(0) 0.1722953010(0) 0.6148049810(0) 0.1232944210(0) $-0.6510929410(-3)$ $0.6643663810(-3)$	$0.7063519010(-1)$ $0.2069971510(-2)$ $-0.8701008010(-1)$ $0.1270589510(-1)$ $-0.2612777210(0)$ $-0.1546426710(-1)$ 0.7590716010(0) 0.3514134210(0)
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2p $-0.5096907210(1)$	Зp $0.3470948010(-1)$	
$2p$ 0.750 000 00 10(1) $4p$ 0.124 267 39 10(2) $4p$ 0.775 903 60 10(1) $4p$ 0.542 729 59 10(1) $4p$ 0.295 120 91 10(1) $4p$ 0.166 690 12 10(1) $4p$ 0.809 450 07 10(0) $4p$ 0.154 847 91 10(0)	0.5923001410(0) $0.2008559810(-1)$ 0.2520592510(0) 0.2503419110(0) $0.1195927510(-1)$ $-0.9241585510(-3)$ $0.5672746210(-3)$ $0.2663615410(-3)$	$-0.1081480210(0)$ $-0.3222879810(-2)$ $-0.4262804710(-1)$ $-0.2061100210(-1)$ 0.2942283810(0) 0.4967118810(0) 0.3139034310(0) 0.3908086210(0)	

Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	1s $-0.9157645110(2)$	2s $-0.8572155010(1)$	3s $-0.4666176610(0)$
$1s$ 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 $0.2406480910(1)$ $3s$ 0.134 643 08 10(1)	0.9722068110(0) $0.3212158210(-1)$ $0,3316002310(-1)$ $-0.2410252210(-1)$ $0.2085835310(-2)$ $-0.1538265210(-3)$ $-0.3990058110(-4)$ $0.3474110710(-5)$	$-0.2685112110(0)$ $0.1708172510(-2)$ 0,3563409610(0) $-0.5875870610(-1)$ 0.6494175010(0) 0.1360172110(0) $0.2730892410(-3)$ $0.6083644210(-3)$	$0.7552164010(-1)$ $0.2207284910(-2)$ $-0.2314073710(0)$ 0.1854271010(0) $-0.3148485110(0)$ $-0.6147978610(-2)$ 0.7775391710(0) 0.3355091610(0)
Orbital symmetry Energy exponent	2p $-0.6252148010(1)$	3p $0,4836216810(-1)$	
$2p$ 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) $4p$ 0.20181992 10(1) 4p 0.979 827 55 10(0) $4p$ 0.211 002 66 10(0)	0.6138525710(0) $0.2321414410(-1)$ 0.2497234210(0) 0.2188794710(0) $0.1193297210(-1)$ $-0.3311226810(-3)$ $0.1410168710(-3)$ $-0.7687770410(-5)$	$-0.1271190110(0)$ $-0.5731495310(-2)$ $-0.3924494710(-1)$ $-0.3937506010(-1)$ 0.2810539710(0) 0.5354101210(0) 0.332 108 55 10(0) 0,3031012010(0)	

TABLE VI.  $S^{-}$  1s(2)2s(2)2p(6)3s(2)3p(6)<sup>1</sup>S STO (8s, 8p). Total energy = -0.39736837 10(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 VH 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  $\zeta$  and  $\zeta'$ ,

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

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

$$
\zeta = 1.3172
$$
,  $\zeta' = 0.5185$   $E(^3P) = -24.51342$  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  $\zeta$  and  $\zeta'$ gives a deep minimum point in the total energy. However, for both  ${}^{1}D$  and  ${}^{1}S$  states the split-shell wave functions turn out to be unstable: The energies continue to get lower as the smaller exponent  $\xi'$  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  $\boldsymbol{p}$  $n$ 

 $1<sub>S</sub>$ 

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



<sup>a</sup> Total energy in atomic units.

Orbital energies in atomic units.

TABLE VIII. Term energies of  $B^-$  (in atomic units) with scaled Hartree-Fock-Roothaan orbitals.

	$\lambda = \lambda'$	$\lambda \neq \lambda'$	$\lambda = \lambda'$	$\lambda$	y,
3 <sub>D</sub>	$-24.51918$ $-24.52301$ $\frac{1}{2}D -24.49055 -24.49626$ $^{1}S$ -24.455 94 -24.461 88		1.0 1.0 1.0		1.29402 0.668849 1.345 42 0.598 314 1.37436 0.578 685

explained in detail elsewhere.<sup>5</sup> 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

$$
\psi(\lambda) = \sum C_i x(n_i, l_i, m_{i_i}; \lambda \xi_i)
$$

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

In contrast to the case of primitive Slater-type orbitals in Sec. IIIA me managed to locate a "local" energy minimum on the  $(\lambda, \lambda')$  parameter surface even for the  ${}^{1}S$  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 lomer 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 shallom local minimum. It may be connected with the fact that

me use a rather modest size of STO basis functions, although the size has been knomn 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 rerestrictions on the orbitals, we do not learn<br>about the instability of the solutions when the<br>strictions are removed.<sup>3,6</sup> On the other hand when one tends to regard the Hartree-Foek 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-Pock-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  ${}^{1}D$  and  ${}^{1}S$ solutions become numerically unstable within the Roothaan-expansion approximation employed in the present calculation. However, it mould be hazardous to dram any general conclusion about the stability or instability of the various solutions from the results obtained in the present mork.

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