

PHY 982 - HW 1

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Beryllium-11 is a one-neutron halo nucleus with 4 protons and 7 neutrons. According to the shell model, we would expect 2 neutrons in a $1s_{1/2}$ state, 4 in $1p_{3/2}$, and the seventh neutron in a $1p_{1/2}$ state. Experimentally, we find that the ground state of ^{11}Be is a $2s_{1/2}$ state with the valence neutron bound by roughly 500 keV. This is explained by looking at the evolution of single particle levels across the $N = 7$ isotones (Figure 1). For the more neutron rich isotones, the $2s_{1/2}$ state drops below the $1p_{1/2}$. This reordering of the energy levels has been attributed to residual effective two-body interactions as pointed out by Talmi and Unna [2] who explained the inversion of these two levels by considering the interaction of the valence neutron with the protons in the $1p_{3/2}$ shell.

Slightly above the ground state in energy we find the $1/2^-$ state we otherwise might have expected to be the ground state, and above that is the $5/2^+$ state that follows according to the shell model. After that, things start to diverge more noticeably from shell model predictions, but up to this point, the system behaves almost like one would expect via the shell model except for the ground $1/2^-$ state.

Method

Solving the radial scattering equations involves finding a solution to Schrödinger's equation (eq. 1) numerically out to a range where the interaction between the neutron and the ^{10}Be becomes negligible.

$$u_L''(R) = f(R)u_L(R) \quad (1)$$

where,

$$f(R) = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2}(V(R) - E) + \frac{L(L+1)}{R^2} \quad (2)$$

with $V(R)$ replaced by the Woods-Saxon potential

$$V(R) = \frac{V_0}{1 + \exp \frac{R-R_{ws}}{a_{ws}}} \quad (3)$$

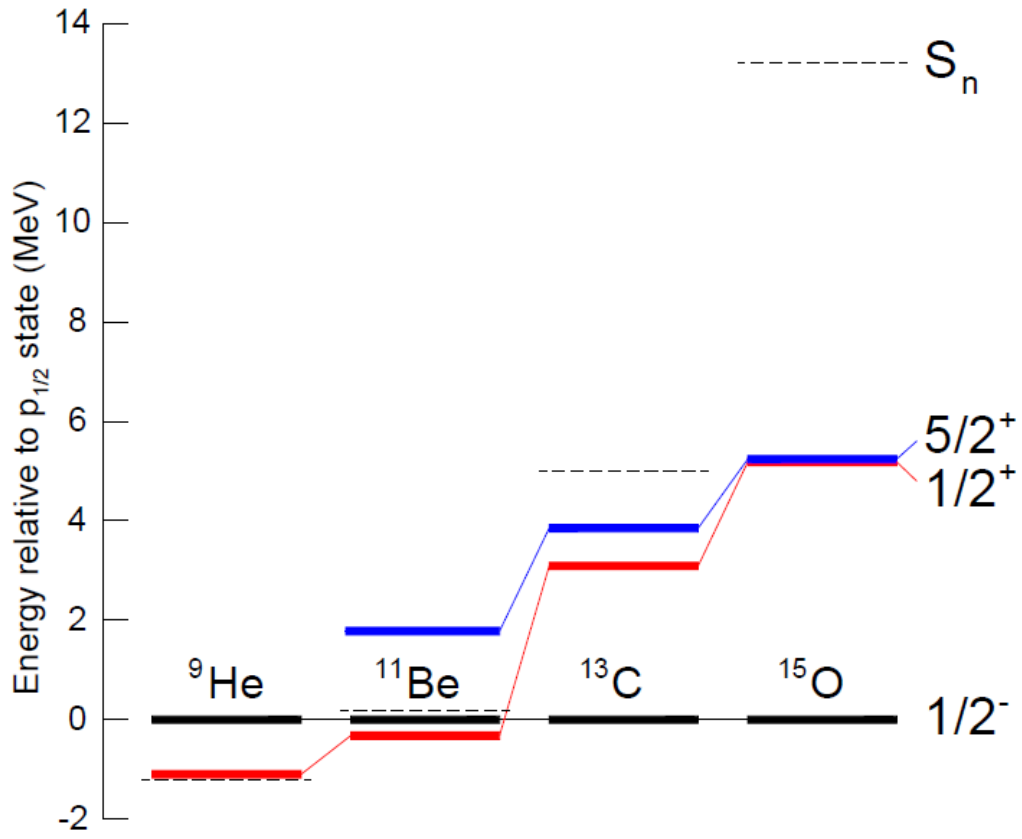


Figure 1: The evolution of single particle levels for the $N = 7$ isotones (from [1]).

The resulting wavefunction must then be matched to the asymptotic form of the solution (eq. 4).

$$\chi_L^{ext}(R) = A_L[H_L^-(0, R) - S_L H_L^+(0, R)] \quad (4)$$

$$H_L^\pm(R) = G_L(R) \pm iF_L(R) \quad (5)$$

where $F_L(R)$ and $G_L(R)$ are the spherical Bessel functions times R .

The matching involves equating the logarithmic derivative of the numerically determined interior wavefunction to that of the exterior asymptotic wavefunction. Since the interior wavefunction is computed numerically, its logarithmic derivative can be used to compute the R-matrix element (eq. 6) and, subsequently, the S-matrix element for a given value of L .

$$\mathbf{R}_L = \frac{1}{a} \frac{u_L(a)}{u_L'(a)} = \frac{1}{a} \frac{H^- - \mathbf{S}_L H^+}{H'^- - \mathbf{S}_L H'^+} \quad (6)$$

Numerical Integration

We performed the numerical integration of eq. 1 using the Runge-Kutta method implemented in a Python program (outlined in the following section). Application of the Runge-Kutta method requires writing the second-order differential equation as coupled first-order equations $y(R)$ and $w(R) = y'(R)$. This allows us to apply the method to each first order equation and find the wavefunction and its derivative over the region of interaction.

The Runge-Kutta method solves a first order DE iteratively. For a known $y(R)$, the desired $y(R+h)$ may be approximated:

$$y(R+h) \approx y(R) + h \sum_{i=1}^N \omega_i y'(R + \nu_i h, y(R + \nu_i h)) \quad (7)$$

where h is some small step size and primes denote differentiation with respect to R . Let $\nu_i = 0$ so that the first term in the sum becomes $k_1 = h y'(R, y(R))$ - this is known from the initial conditions. Now use k_1 to approximate the second term $k_2 = h y'(R + \alpha h, y(R) + \beta k_1)$. Now, eq. 7 may be written

$$y(R+h) \approx y(R) + \omega_1 k_1 + \omega_2 k_2 \quad (8)$$

Taylor expanding the LHS of eq. 8, substituting for $k_{1,2}$ and denoting y' as f

$$hf + \frac{h^2}{2} \left(f' + f \frac{df}{dy} \right) = \omega_1 hf + \omega_2 \left(hf + \alpha h^2 f' + \beta h^2 f \frac{df}{dy} \right) \quad (9)$$

Equate coefficients of hf , f' , $f df/dy$ to constrain $\alpha, \beta, \omega_{1,2}$. This procedure may be used to produce higher order, more accurate Runge-Kutta formula by keeping more terms in the sum from eq. 7 and going to higher order in the Taylor expansion of the LHS of eq. 8 to determine the constants.

Python Code

The python code we wrote to compute the radial wavefunctions and phase shifts follows the basic outline:

1. Define the matching radius, L , step size, and physical parameters
2. Set initial conditions ($y_0 = 0, y'_0 = 0.1$)
3. Define functions to compute $f(R)u_L(R)$ (from eq. 1), the Hankel functions and their derivatives
4. Create an array to hold values of the wavefunction and its derivative at each step along our grid
5. Apply the Runge-Kutta formula to populate the array
6. Compute S_L from the matching condition
7. Apply this routine for a range of energies to plot phase shift versus energy

Wavefunction plots

Phase Shifts and Resonances

References

- [1] Kyle Thomas Schmitt. *Population of low-lying levels in the one-neutron halo nucleus ^{11}Be via the neutron transfer reaction $^{10}\text{Be}(d,p)$* . PhD thesis, University of Tennessee, 2011.
- [2] I. Talmi and I. Unna. Order of levels in the shell model and spin of be^{11} . *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 4:469–470, May 1960.