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# INVITED ARTICLE 

# Excited states of spherium 

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#### Abstract

We report analytic solutions of a recently discovered quasi-exactly solvable model consisting of two electrons, interacting via a Coulomb potential, but restricted to remain on the surface of a $\mathcal{D}$-dimensional sphere. Polynomial solutions are found for the ground state, and for some higher ( $L \leq 3$ ) states. Kato cusp conditions and interdimensional degeneracies are discussed.


Keywords: exact solution; excited states; spherium; cusp condition; interdimensional degeneracies

## 1. Introduction

A quasi-exactly solvable model is one for which it is possible to solve the Schrödinger equation exactly for a finite portion of the energy spectrum [1]. In quantum chemistry, a famous example of this is the Hooke's law atom [2-5], which consists of a pair of electrons, repelling Coulombically but trapped in a harmonic external potential. This model and others [6-12] have been used extensively to test various approximations [13-20] within density functional theory (DFT) [21-23] and explicitly correlated methods [24-28].

We have recently discovered [29] that a pair electrons, repelling Coulombically but constrained to remain on the surface of a $\mathcal{D}$-sphere of radius $R$ [17,30-37] is also quasi-exactly solvable and we have called this system $\mathcal{D}$-spherium. (We adopt the convention that a $\mathcal{D}$-sphere is the surface of a ( $\mathcal{D}+1$ )-dimensional ball.) We have shown that the Schrödinger equation for the ${ }^{1} S$ and the ${ }^{3} P$ states of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium can be solved exactly for a countably infinite set of $R$ values and that the resulting wave functions are polynomials in the interelectronic distance $0 \leq u \equiv\left|\boldsymbol{r}_{1}-\boldsymbol{r}_{2}\right| \leq 2 R$.

In this article, we extend our earlier results [29] to higher angular momentum (up to $L=3$ ) states of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium ( $\mathcal{D} \geq 2$ ) for both the singlet and triplet manifolds. The $\mathcal{D}=1$ case is anomalous and, for brevity, is not discussed here. We use atomic units throughout.

## 2. Wave function

The Hamiltonian of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{H}=-\frac{1}{2}\left(\nabla_{1}^{2}+\nabla_{2}^{2}\right)+\frac{1}{u}, \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the two first terms represent the kinetic contribution of each electron, and $u^{-1}$ is the Coulomb operator.

Following Breit [38], we write the total wave function as the product

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Phi\left(\left\{s_{1}, s_{2}\right\},\left\{\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{2}\right\}, u\right)=\Xi\left(s_{1}, s_{2}\right) \chi\left(\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{1}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{2}\right) \Psi(u) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Xi, \chi$ and $\Psi$ are the spin, angular and interparticle wave functions, respectively, and $s_{i}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{i}$ are the spin and hyperspherical coordinates [39] of the $i$ th electron. The singlet and triplet wave functions are given by the familiar [40] forms

$$
\begin{align*}
& { }^{1} \Xi\left(s_{1}, s_{2}\right)=\frac{1}{2^{1 / 2}}\left[\alpha\left(s_{1}\right) \beta\left(s_{2}\right)-\beta\left(s_{1}\right) \alpha\left(s_{2}\right)\right],  \tag{3}\\
& { }^{3} \Xi\left(s_{1}, s_{2}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\alpha\left(s_{1}\right) \alpha\left(s_{2}\right), \\
\frac{1}{2^{1 / 2}}\left[\alpha\left(s_{1}\right) \beta\left(s_{2}\right)+\beta\left(s_{1}\right) \alpha\left(s_{2}\right)\right] \\
\beta\left(s_{1}\right) \beta\left(s_{2}\right)
\end{array}\right. \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

The angular part is associated with an energy

$$
\begin{gather*}
E_{\chi}=\frac{\Lambda}{R^{2}}  \tag{5}\\
\Lambda=\frac{\ell_{1}\left(\ell_{1}+\mathcal{D}-1\right)}{2}+\frac{\ell_{2}\left(\ell_{2}+\mathcal{D}-1\right)}{2} \tag{6}
\end{gather*}
$$

[^0]Table 1. Ground state and excited states of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium.

| State | Configuration | $\chi\left(\mathbf{\Omega}_{1}, \mathbf{\Omega}_{2}\right)$ | $\delta$ | $\gamma^{-1}$ | $\Lambda$ | $\kappa$ | Transformation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{1} S^{\text {e }}$ | $s^{2}$ | 1 | $2 \mathcal{D}-1$ | D-1 | 0 | 0 | ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}}$ |
| ${ }^{3} P^{\text {o }}$ | $s p$ | $\cos \theta_{1}-\cos \theta_{2}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+1$ | D +1 | D/2 | 1 | ${ }^{1} D^{\text {o }}$ |
| ${ }^{1} P^{\text {o }}$ | $s p$ | $\cos \theta_{1}+\cos \theta_{2}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+1$ | D-1 | D/2 | 0 | ${ }^{3} D^{\text {o }}$ |
| ${ }^{3} P^{\text {e }}$ | $p^{2}$ | $\sin \theta_{1} \sin \theta_{2} \sin \left(\phi_{1}-\phi_{2}\right)$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+3$ | D +1 | D | 1 |  |
| ${ }^{3} D^{\text {e }}$ | $s d$ | $\chi_{3 P^{\circ}} \cdot \chi_{1 P^{\circ}}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+3$ | D +1 | $\mathcal{D}+1$ | 1 | ${ }^{1} F^{\text {e }}$ |
| ${ }^{1} D^{\text {o }}$ | $p d$ | $\chi^{3} p_{0} \cdot \chi^{3}{ }^{\text {P }}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+5$ | D +3 | $3 \mathcal{D} / 2+1$ | 2 |  |
| ${ }^{3} D^{\circ}$ | $p d$ | $\chi^{1 P^{\circ}}{ }^{\circ} \cdot \chi^{3}{ }^{\text {c }}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+5$ | D +1 | $3 \mathcal{D} / 2+1$ | 1 |  |
| ${ }^{1} F^{\text {e }}$ | $p f$ | $\chi^{3}{ }^{\text {P }} \cdot \chi^{3}{ }^{\text {d }}{ }^{\text {e }}$ | $2 \mathcal{D}+7$ | D +3 | $2 \mathcal{D}+3$ |  |  |

where $\ell_{1}$ and $\ell_{2}$ are the angular momentum quantum numbers of the corresponding one-electron configuration ( $s=0, p=1, d=2, f=3, \ldots$ ). The functions $\chi$, which are dependent on the nature of the state considered $[38,41]$, are gathered in Table 1, where $\theta_{i} \in[0, \pi]$ and $\phi_{i} \in[0,2 \pi]$ are the $(\mathcal{D}-1)$ th and $\mathcal{D}$ th hyperspherical angles of the electron $i$. The corresponding one-electron configurations are also reported. In Table 1, the suffixes e (even) and o (odd) are related to the parity of the states, which is given by $(-1)^{\ell_{1}+\ell_{2}}$. Hence, we label the states with the notation ${ }^{1,3} L^{\mathrm{e}, \mathrm{o}}$, where $L=S, P, D, F, \ldots$

## 3. Polynomial solutions

Substituting the ansatz (2) into the Hamiltonian (1) yields the Schrödinger equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{u^{2}}{4 R^{2}}-1\right) \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2} \Psi}{\mathrm{~d} u^{2}}+\left(\frac{\delta u}{4 R^{2}}-\frac{1}{\gamma u}\right) \frac{\mathrm{d} \Psi}{\mathrm{~d} u}+\frac{\Psi}{u}=E \Psi \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the parameters $\delta$ and $\gamma$ are tabulated for each state in Table 1.

By introducing the dimensionless variable $x=u / 2 R$, Equation (7) can be recast as a Heun's differential equation [42] with singular points at $x=-1,0,+1$. Following the known solutions of this equation [43], we seek wave functions of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Psi(u)=\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{k} u^{k} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

and substitution into (7) yields the three-step recurrence relation

$$
\begin{align*}
a_{k+2}= & \frac{\gamma}{(k+2)[(k+1) \gamma+1]} \\
& \times\left\{a_{k+1}+\left[\frac{k(k+\delta-1)}{4 R^{2}}-E\right] a_{k}\right\} \tag{9}
\end{align*}
$$

with the starting values $a_{0}=1$ and $a_{1}=\gamma$.

If the series (8) terminates at a certain $k=n$, we obtain the exact wave function

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Psi_{n, m}(u)=\sum_{k=0}^{n} a_{k} u^{k} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

for a particular radius $R_{n, m}$ and energy $E_{n, m}$. This is an $n$th degree polynomial with $m$ nodes between 0 and $2 R$ $(0 \leq m \leq\lfloor(n+1) / 2\rfloor)$ and requires that $a_{n+1}$ and $a_{n+2}$ vanish. If $a_{n+1}=0$, the relation

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{n, m}^{2} E_{n, m}=\frac{n}{2}\left(\frac{n}{2}+\frac{\delta-1}{2}\right) \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

ensures that $a_{n+2}=0$. For a given $n$, the energies are thus determined by finding the roots of the equation $a_{n+1}=0$, which is a polynomial in $E$, of degree $\lfloor(n+1) / 2\rfloor$.

For the ${ }^{1} D^{\mathrm{e}}$ state, we have not been able to obtain polynomial solutions because the Hamiltonian (1) is not separable using the ansatz (2) and the wave function satisfies exchange coupled equations [44]. This applies also to some other states of higher angular momentum.

## 4. Results and discussion

Numerical values of the energies and radii for the ${ }^{1} P^{o}$ and ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}}$ states are reported in Tables 2 and 3. Tables containing results for the ${ }^{1} S^{\mathrm{e}}$ and ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{o}}$ states can be found in [29]. Numerical values of the energies and radii for the higher angular momentum states can be determined using the interdimensional degeneracies (see Section 4.5).

For any given state, as $n$ increases, the radius increases and the energy decreases. The opposite behaviour is observed with respect to $m$. Furthermore, as $R$ (or, equivalently, $n$ ) increases, the electrons tend to localize on opposite sides of the sphere due to the dominance of the Coulomb interaction as the density decreases [34,35]. Such Wigner crystallization [45] has also been observed in other systems [5,10,46].

Table 2. Radii $R_{n, m}$ and energies $E_{n, m}$ for ${ }^{1} P^{\mathrm{o}}$ states of two electrons on a $\mathcal{D}$-sphere $(\mathcal{D}=2,3,4)$.

|  |  | $\mathcal{D}=2$ |  |  |  | $\mathcal{D}=3$ |  |  |  | $\mathcal{D}=4$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $n / m$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Radius | 1 | 1.118 |  |  |  | 1.871 |  |  |  | 2.598 |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 3.162 |  |  |  | 4.637 |  |  |  | 6.083 |  |  |  |
|  | 3 | 6.226 | 1.656 |  |  | 8.376 | 2.520 |  |  | 10.52 | 3.303 |  |  |
|  | 4 | 10.30 | 4.232 |  |  | 13.11 | 5.888 |  |  | 15.93 | 7.440 |  |  |
|  | 5 | 15.38 | 7.847 | 2.159 |  | 18.84 | 10.21 | 3.127 |  | 22.32 | 12.49 | 3.966 |  |
|  | 6 | 21.46 | 12.49 | 5.246 |  | 25.57 | 15.53 | 7.077 |  | 29.72 | 18.51 | 8.732 |  |
|  | 7 | 28.54 | 18.14 | 9.397 | 2.639 | 33.30 | 21.84 | 11.97 | 3.707 | 38.11 | 25.51 | 14.39 | 4.599 |
|  | 8 | 36.63 | 24.80 | 14.59 | 6.222 | 42.03 | 29.15 | 17.86 | 8.220 | 47.49 | 33.49 | 21.01 | 9.976 |
| Energy | 1 | 1.000 |  |  |  | 0.5000 |  |  |  | 0.3333 |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 0.3000 |  |  |  | 0.1860 |  |  |  | 0.1351 |  |  |  |
|  | 3 | 0.1355 | 1.914 |  |  | 0.09622 | 1.063 |  |  | 0.07460 | 0.7562 |  |  |
|  | 4 | 0.07541 | 0.4467 |  |  | 0.05820 | 0.2884 |  |  | 0.04731 | 0.2168 |  |  |
|  | 5 | 0.04757 | 0.1827 | 2.414 |  | 0.03874 | 0.1319 | 1.406 |  | 0.03260 | 0.1041 | 1.033 |  |
|  | 6 | 0.03257 | 0.09620 | 0.5450 |  | 0.02753 | 0.07468 | 0.3594 |  | 0.02378 | 0.06129 | 0.2754 |  |
|  | 7 | 0.02363 | 0.05851 | 0.2180 | 2.764 | 0.02051 | 0.04771 | 0.1587 | 1.656 | 0.01808 | 0.04035 | 0.1267 | 1.241 |
|  | 8 | 0.01789 | 0.03903 | 0.1127 | 0.6200 | 0.01585 | 0.03295 | 0.08781 | 0.4144 | 0.01419 | 0.02853 | 0.07252 | 0.3215 |

Table 3. Radii $R_{n, m}$ and energies $E_{n, m}$ for ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}}$ states of two electrons on a $\mathcal{D}$-sphere $(\mathcal{D}=2,3,4)$.

|  | $n / m$ | $\mathcal{D}=2$ |  |  |  | $\mathcal{D}=3$ |  |  |  | $\mathcal{D}=4$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Radius | 1 | 2.291 |  |  |  | 3.000 |  |  |  | 3.708 |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 5.477 |  |  |  | 6.892 |  |  |  | 8.307 |  |  |  |
|  | 3 | 9.616 | 3.006 |  |  | 11.72 | 3.748 |  |  | 13.84 | 4.478 |  |  |
|  | 4 | 14.73 | 6.851 |  |  | 17.52 | 8.334 |  |  | 20.32 | 9.797 |  |  |
|  | 5 | 20.84 | 11.62 | 3.676 |  | 24.30 | 13.82 | 4.453 |  | 27.78 | 16.01 | 5.208 |  |
|  | 6 | 27.94 | 17.35 | 8.156 |  | 32.07 | 20.26 | 9.708 |  | 36.22 | 23.15 | 11.22 |  |
|  | 7 | 36.04 | 24.05 | 13.54 | 4.315 | 40.83 | 27.66 | 15.84 | 5.128 | 45.65 | 31.25 | 18.10 | 5.909 |
|  | 8 | 45.13 | 31.75 | 19.86 | 9.412 | 50.58 | 36.04 | 22.90 | 11.03 | 56.07 | 40.32 | 25.89 | 12.60 |
| Energy | 1 | 0.3333 |  |  |  | 0.2500 |  |  |  | 0.2000 |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 0.1333 |  |  |  | 0.1053 |  |  |  | 0.08696 |  |  |  |
|  | 3 | 0.07300 | 0.7472 |  |  | 0.06002 | 0.5874 |  |  | 0.05093 | 0.4862 |  |  |
|  | 4 | 0.04607 | 0.2131 |  |  | 0.03908 | 0.1728 |  |  | 0.03390 | 0.1459 |  |  |
|  | 5 | 0.03166 | 0.1019 | 1.018 |  | 0.02752 | 0.08503 | 0.8196 |  | 0.02429 | 0.07315 | 0.6913 |  |
|  | 6 | 0.02306 | 0.05983 | 0.2706 |  | 0.02042 | 0.05117 | 0.2228 |  | 0.01829 | 0.04477 | 0.1906 |  |
|  | 7 | 0.01752 | 0.03932 | 0.1242 | 1.222 | 0.01575 | 0.03432 | 0.1046 | 0.9983 | 0.01428 | 0.03046 | 0.09079 | 0.8522 |
|  | 8 | 0.01375 | 0.02778 | 0.07096 | 0.3161 | 0.01251 | 0.02464 | 0.06102 | 0.2629 | 0.01145 | 0.02215 | 0.05370 | 0.2269 |

The energies of the $S, P$ and $D$ states $(m=0)$ for 3 -spherium are plotted in Figure 1 (the quasi-exact solutions are indicated by markers), while density plots of 2 -spherium ( $n=1$ and $m=0$ ) are represented on Figure 2.

### 4.1. Natural/unnatural parity

In attempting to explain Hund's rules [47] and the 'alternating' rule [48,49] (see also [50,51]), Morgan and

Kutzelnigg [52-54] have proposed that the two-electron atomic states be classified thus: $a$ two-electron state, composed of one-electron spatial orbitals with individual parities $(-1)^{\ell_{1}}$ and $(-1)^{\ell_{2}}$ and hence with overall parities $(-1)^{\ell_{1}+\ell_{2}}$, is said to have natural parity if its parity is $(-1)^{L}$. [...] If the parity of the two-electron state is $-(-1)^{L}$, the state is said to be of unnatural parity. [54].

After introducing spin, three classes emerge. In a three-dimensional space, the states with a cusp


Figure 1. Energy of the $S, P$ and $D$ states of 3-spherium $\left({ }^{1} S^{\mathrm{e}}<{ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{o}} \leq{ }^{1} P^{\mathrm{o}}<{ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}}<{ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{e}}<{ }^{1} D^{\mathrm{o}} \leq{ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{o}}\right)$. The quasi-exact solutions are shown by the markers.


Figure 2. Density plots of the $S, P$ and $D$ states of 2 -spherium. The squares of the wave functions when one electron is fixed at the north pole are represented. The radii are $3^{1 / 2} / 2,15^{1 / 2} / 2, \quad 5^{1 / 2} / 2, \quad 21^{1 / 2} / 2,21^{1 / 2} / 2, \quad 3\left(5^{1 / 2}\right) / 2$ and $3\left(3^{1 / 2}\right) / 2$ for the ${ }^{1} S^{\mathrm{e}},{ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{o}},{ }^{1} P^{\mathrm{o}},{ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}},{ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{e}},{ }^{1} D^{\mathrm{o}}$ and ${ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{o}}$ states, respectively.
value of $1 / 2[55,56]$ are known as the natural parity singlet states, those with a cusp value of $1 / 4[57]$ are the natural and unnatural parity triplet states, and those with a cusp value of $1 / 6$ [52], are the unnatural parity singlet states.

In previous work [29], we have observed that the ${ }^{1} S^{\mathrm{e}}$ ground state and the first excited ${ }^{3} P^{0}$ state of 3 -spherium possess the same singlet ( $1 / 2$ ) and
triplet ( $1 / 4$ ) cusp conditions as those for electrons moving in three-dimensional physical space and we have therefore argued that 3 -spherium may be the most appropriate model for studying 'real' atomic or molecular systems. This is supported by the similarity of the correlation energy $E_{\mathrm{c}}$ of 3 -spherium to that in other two-electron systems. Indeed, it can be shown [36] that, as $R \rightarrow 0, E_{\mathrm{c}}$ approaches -0.0476 , which is close to the corresponding values for the helium-like ions $(-0.0467)$ [58], the Hooke's law atom ( -0.0497 ) [59], and two electrons in a ball $(-0.0552)$ [46].

Most of the higher angular momentum states of 3 -spherium, possess the 'normal' cusp values of $1 / 2$ and $1 / 4$. However, the unnatural ${ }^{1} D^{\mathrm{o}}$ and ${ }^{1} F^{\mathrm{e}}$ states have the cusp value of $1 / 6$.

### 4.2. First-order cusp condition

The wave function, radius and energy of the lowest states are given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Psi_{1,0}(u)=1+\gamma u, \quad R_{1,0}^{2}=\frac{\delta}{4 \gamma}, \quad E_{1,0}=\gamma, \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

which are closely related to the Kato cusp condition [56]

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\Psi^{\prime}(0)}{\Psi(0)}=\gamma . \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

We now generalize the Morgan-Kutzelnigg classification [53] to a $\mathcal{D}$-dimensional space. Writing the interparticle wave function as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Psi(u)=1+\frac{u}{2 \kappa+\mathcal{D}-1}+O\left(u^{2}\right), \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

we have

$$
\begin{align*}
& \kappa=0 \text { for natural parity singlet states, } \\
& \kappa=1 \text { for triplet states, }  \tag{15}\\
& \kappa=2 \text { for unnatural parity singlet states. }
\end{align*}
$$

The labels of the $\mathcal{D}$-spherium states are given in Table 1.

### 4.3. Second-order cusp condition

The second solution is associated with

$$
\begin{gather*}
\Psi_{2,0}(u)=1+\gamma u+\frac{\gamma^{2}(\delta+2)}{2 \gamma(\delta+2)+4 \delta+6} u^{2},  \tag{16}\\
R_{2,0}^{2}=\frac{(\gamma+2)(\delta+2)-1}{2 \gamma},  \tag{17}\\
E_{2,0}=\frac{\gamma(\delta+1)}{(\gamma+2)(\delta+2)-1} . \tag{18}
\end{gather*}
$$

For $\mathcal{D}$-spherium, the second-order cusp condition is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\Psi^{\prime \prime}(0)}{\Psi(0)}=\frac{1}{2 \mathcal{D}}\left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{D}-1}-E\right) \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

Following (19), the classification (15) can be extended to the second-order coalescence condition, where the wave function (correct up to second-order in $u$ ) is

$$
\begin{align*}
\Psi(u)= & 1+\frac{u}{2 \kappa+\mathcal{D}-1} \\
& +\frac{u^{2}}{2(2 \kappa+\mathcal{D})}\left(\frac{1}{2 \kappa+\mathcal{D}-1}-E\right)+O\left(u^{3}\right) \tag{20}
\end{align*}
$$

Thus, we have, for $\mathcal{D}=3$,

$$
\frac{\Psi^{\prime \prime}(0)}{\Psi(0)}= \begin{cases}\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{1}{2}-E\right), & \text { for } \kappa=0  \tag{21}\\ \frac{1}{10}\left(\frac{1}{4}-E\right), & \text { for } \kappa=1 \\ \frac{1}{14}\left(\frac{1}{6}-E\right), & \text { for } \kappa=2\end{cases}
$$

For the natural parity singlet states $(\kappa=0)$, the second-order cusp condition of 3 -spherium is precisely the second-order coalescence condition derived by Tew [60], confirming that 3 -spherium is an appropriate model for normal physical systems.

### 4.4. Third-order cusp condition

The third-order cusp condition of 3 -spherium is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\Psi^{\prime \prime \prime}(0)}{\Psi(0)}=\frac{1}{18}\left(\frac{1}{8}-E+\frac{15}{16 R^{2}}\right) \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is similar, but not strictly equivalent, to the one derived by Tew [60], due to the $R$-dependence of (22). The generalization to $\mathcal{D}$ dimensions is straightforward.

### 4.5. Interdimensional degeneracies

As shown in Table 1, many states of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium have the same Hamiltonian (7) as lower angular momentum states of $(\mathcal{D}+2)$-spherium.

Using the transformation $(\mathcal{D}, L) \rightarrow(\mathcal{D}+2, L-1)$ (see Table 1), one can see that the Hamiltonian of the ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}},{ }^{1} D^{\mathrm{o}},{ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{o}}$ and ${ }^{1} F^{\mathrm{e}}$ states for a given value of $\mathcal{D}$ are respectively identical to those for ${ }^{1} S^{\mathrm{e}},{ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{o}},{ }^{1} P^{\mathrm{o}}$, and ${ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{e}}$ states at $\mathcal{D}+2$. The transformation $(\mathcal{D}, L) \rightarrow$ $(\mathcal{D}+2, L-1)$, preserves the parity of the states, but 'flips' the spin configuration, thereby increasing by one unit the value of $\kappa$. In $\mathcal{D}$-spherium, we note that the Hamiltonians of the ${ }^{3} P^{\mathrm{e}}$ and ${ }^{3} D^{\mathrm{e}}$ states are identical.

Similar interdimensional degeneracies, first noticed by van Vleck [61], have been observed for various systems [44,62-65].

## 5. Conclusion

In this article, we have reported exact solutions of a Coulomb correlation problem, consisting of two electrons on a $\mathcal{D}$-dimensional sphere. The Coulomb problem can be solved exactly for an infinite set of values of the radius $R$ for both the ground and excited states, on both the singlet and triplet manifolds. The corresponding exact solutions are polynomials in the interelectronic distance $u$.

The cusp conditions (up to third-order in the interelectronic distance), which are related to the behaviour of the wave function at the electron-electron coalescence point, have been analysed and classified according to the natural or unnatural parity of the state considered.

Finally, we have shown seen that, as in other one-, two- or three-electron systems, there exist interdimensional degeneracies between some of the states of $\mathcal{D}$-spherium.

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