Variational Monte Carlo Calculations of $^3$H and $^4$He with a Relativistic Hamiltonian - II

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Abstract

In relativistic Hamiltonians the two-nucleon interaction is expressed as a sum of $\tilde{v}_{ij}$, the interaction in the $P_{ij} = 0$ rest frame, and the “boost interaction” $\delta v(P_{ij})$ which depends upon the total momentum $P_{ij}$ and vanishes in the rest frame. The $\delta v$ can be regarded as a sum of four terms: $\delta v_{RE}, \delta v_{LC}, \delta v_{TP}$ and $\delta v_{QM}$; the first three originate from the relativistic energy-momentum relation, Lorentz contraction and Thomas precession, while the last is purely quantum. The contributions of $\delta v_{RE}$ and $\delta v_{LC}$ have been previously calculated with the variational Monte Carlo method for $^3$H and $^4$He. In this brief note we report the results of similar calculations for the contributions of $\delta v_{TP}$.
and $\delta v_{QM}$. These are found to be rather small.

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Recently we reported \cite{1} results of variational Monte Carlo calculations of $^3$H and $^4$He with a relativistic Hamiltonian based on the work of Foldy \cite{2}, Krajcik and Foldy \cite{3} and Friar \cite{4}. This Hamiltonian has the form:

$$H = \sum_i \left[ (m^2 + p_i^2)^{1/2} - m \right] + \sum_{i<j} \left[ \tilde{v}_{ij} + \delta v(P_{ij}) \right] + \sum_{i<j<k} V_{ijk}, \quad (1)$$

where $p_i$ label momenta of particles, and $P_{ij} = p_i + p_j$ is the total momentum of the pair $ij$. The two-nucleon interaction $\tilde{v}_{ij}$ is obtained by fitting the scattering data in the $P_{ij} = 0$ frame. The boost interaction $\delta v(P_{ij})$ is zero when $P_{ij} = 0$, and is generally given by:

$$\delta v(P_{ij}) = -\frac{P_{ij}^2}{8m^2} \tilde{v}_{ij} + \frac{1}{8m^2} [P_{ij} \cdot r_{ij} P_{ij} \cdot \nabla_{ij}, \tilde{v}_{ij}] + \frac{1}{8m^2} \left[ (\sigma_i - \sigma_j) \times P_{ij} \cdot \nabla_{ij}, \tilde{v}_{ij} \right] \quad (2)$$

up to order $P_{ij}^2/m^2$. Only the first two terms of this $\delta v(P_{ij})$ were considered in ref. \cite{1}. The last term, having $(\sigma_i - \sigma_j)$, does not have diagonal matrix elements in eigenstates of $S^2 = (\sigma_i + \sigma_j)^2$. Hence it was neglected in \cite{1}. The Urbana model VII of $V_{ijk}$ is used, and its boost correction $\delta V_{ijk}(P_{ijk})$ is neglected. This correction is zero for $^3$H in its rest frame, and in $^4$He it is expected to contribute much less than the $\delta v(P_{ij})$.

In the present work we calculate the expectation value of the $(\sigma_i - \sigma_j)$ term in $\delta v(P_{ij})$. This term can couple the dominant two-nucleon $T, S = 1, 0$ and $0, 1$ waves in the wave function of $^3$H and $^4$He to the small P-waves having $T, S = 1, 1$ and $0, 0$ respectively. The $\tilde{v}_{ij}$ has fourteen terms like those of the Urbana $v_{14}$ interaction \cite{5}. The first six of these have operators $(1, \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j, S_{ij}) \otimes (1, \tau_i \cdot \tau_j)$, and are denoted by $\tilde{v}_{6,ij}$:

$$\tilde{v}_{6,ij} = v_c(r_{ij}) + v_\sigma(r_{ij}) \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j + v_t(r_{ij}) S_{ij}$$

$$+ [v_\tau(r_{ij}) + v_{\sigma\tau}(r_{ij}) \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j + v_{t\tau}(r_{ij}) S_{ij}] \tau_i \cdot \tau_j. \quad (3)$$

The $\tilde{v}_{6,ij}$ gives $> 98\%$ of the $\langle \tilde{v}_{ij} \rangle$ in $^3$H and $^4$He, therefore we approximate the $\tilde{v}_{ij}$ in the $(\sigma_i - \sigma_j)$ term of $\delta v(P_{ij})$ by $\tilde{v}_{6,ij}$.

The commutator can be written as:

$$\frac{1}{8m^2} [(\sigma_i - \sigma_j) \times P_{ij} \cdot \nabla_{ij}, \tilde{v}_{6,ij}] = \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) + \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}) \quad (4)$$
\[ \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) = \frac{1}{8m^2} (\sigma_i - \sigma_j) \times P_{ij} \cdot (\nabla_{ij} \tilde{v}_{0,ij}), \]

and \( \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}) \) contains terms that come from the commutator of \((\sigma_i - \sigma_j)\) with the spin operators in \(\tilde{v}_{0,ij}\). The \( \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) \) originates from the classical Thomas precession [6,7]. The precession of the spin \( s_i \) in the frame moving with velocity \( P_{ij}/2m \) is given by \(-\nabla_{ij} \tilde{v}_{ij} \times P_{ij}/4m^2 \) up to order \( 1/m^2 \). Thus the Thomas precession potential for particle \( i \) is:

\[ -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_i \cdot \frac{\nabla \tilde{v}_{ij} \times P_{ij}}{4m^2} = \frac{1}{8m^2} \sigma_i \times P_{ij} \cdot (\nabla_{ij} \tilde{v}_{ij}). \]

Both particles have same velocity due to their center of mass motion, but their accelerations due to \( \tilde{v}_{ij} \) are equal and opposite. Therefore the Thomas precession potential for the particle \( j \) is \(-\sigma_j \times P_{ij} \cdot (\nabla_{ij} \tilde{v}_{ij})/8m^2 \), and together with (6) it makes up the \( \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) \). After some algebra we obtain:

\[ \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) = \frac{1}{8m^2} \left[ (v_{c}^r - v_{\sigma}^r + v_{t}^r + 3v_{t}^r \right) \frac{P \cdot r}{r} \times (\sigma_i - \sigma_j) \]

\[ -i \left( 2v_{\sigma}^r + v_{t}^r + \frac{3v_{t}^r}{r} \right) r \times (\sigma_i - \sigma_j) \] + \( \tau_i \cdot \tau_j \) term, \( \gamma \)

where \( v_x \) denotes \( \partial v_x/\partial r \), the \( ij \) subscripts of \( r, P \) and \( v_x \) are omitted for brevity, and the \( \tau_i \cdot \tau_j \) term has \( v_r, v_{\sigma r} \) and \( v_{t r} \) in place of \( v_c, v_{\sigma} \) and \( v_t \).

The \( \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}) \) does not have a classical analogue; it is found to be:

\[ \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}) = \frac{i}{2m^2}(v_t - v_{\sigma}) \left( P \cdot \sigma_i \sigma_j \cdot \nabla - P \cdot \sigma_j \sigma_i \cdot \nabla \right) \]

\[ -\frac{3i}{4m^2} \frac{v_t}{r^2} r \times (\sigma_i \cdot r \sigma_j \cdot \nabla - \sigma_j \cdot r \sigma_i \cdot \nabla) \]

\[ -\frac{3i}{4m^2} \frac{v_t}{r^2} (P \cdot \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_i \cdot \nabla + \tau_i \cdot \tau_j \text{ terms}) \]

from eq. (4).

It is convenient [7] to express \( \delta v(P_{ij}) \) given by eq. (2) as:

\[ \delta v(P_{ij}) = \delta v_{RE}(P_{ij}) + \delta v_{LC}(P_{ij}) + \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) + \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}). \]
Its first term:

$$\delta v_{RE}(P_{ij}) = -\frac{P_{ij}^2 \tilde{v}_{ij}}{8m^2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)$$

comes from the relativistic energy, and the second:

$$\delta v_{LC}(P_{ij}) = \frac{1}{8m^2} P_{ij} \cdot r_{ij} P_{ij} \cdot (\nabla_{ij} \tilde{v}_{ij})$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)$$

from Lorentz contraction. The $[P_{ij} \cdot r_{ij} P_{ij} \cdot \nabla_{ij}, \tilde{v}_{ij}]$ can have terms in addition to those in $\delta v_{LC}$ when $\tilde{v}_{ij}$ depends upon the relative momentum $p_{ij}$. These terms are to be regarded as a part of $\delta v_{QM}$. However, they vanish when $\tilde{v}_{ij}$ is approximated with $\tilde{v}_{6,ij}$.

The expectation values of $\delta v_{TP}(P_{ij})$ and $\delta v_{QM}(P_{ij})$ are calculated with the variational wave function of ref. [1] using the Monte Carlo methods described in [1]. The results are tabulated in table I along with others of interest from [1]. The contributions of $\delta v_{TP}$ and $\delta v_{QM}$ are much smaller than those of $\delta v_{RE}$ and $\delta v_{LC}$ as expected. These contributions would be exactly zero if there were no two-nucleon P-waves in these nuclei.

Stadler and Gross [8] have also estimated these contributions in $^3$H with a different method and obtained similar results.

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### TABLE I. Expectation values in MeV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>$^3$H</th>
<th>$^4$He</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\sum_i (\frac{1}{2}m_i^2 + p_i^2)^{1/2} - \langle m \rangle$</td>
<td>48.7(2)</td>
<td>105.0(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j} \tilde{v}_{ij} \rangle$</td>
<td>-55.9(2)</td>
<td>-127.4(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j&lt;k} \tilde{v}_{ijk} \rangle$</td>
<td>-1.21(2)</td>
<td>-5.43(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j} \delta v_{RE}(P_{ij}) \rangle$</td>
<td>0.23(2)</td>
<td>1.17(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j} \delta v_{LC}(P_{ij}) \rangle$</td>
<td>0.10(1)</td>
<td>0.53(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j} \delta v_{TP}(P_{ij}) \rangle$</td>
<td>0.016(2)</td>
<td>0.074(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle \sum_{i&lt;j} \delta v_{QM}(P_{ij}) \rangle$</td>
<td>-0.004(2)</td>
<td>-0.014(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\langle H \rangle$</td>
<td>-8.07(3)</td>
<td>-25.90(8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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REFERENCES


