

Nuclear physics tutorial 1

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1 Form factor

We have defined the form factor and the mean square charge radius by :

$$F(\mathbf{q}) \cong \frac{1}{Ze} \int \rho(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} d^3r \quad (1)$$

$$\langle r^2 \rangle \cong \frac{1}{Ze} \int \rho(\mathbf{r}) r^2 d^3r \quad (2)$$

a) Derive the simplified expression of the form factor for distribution with spherical symmetry :

$$F(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{4\pi}{Ze} \int \rho(r) \frac{\sin(qr)}{q} r dr \quad (3)$$

b) Compute the form factor and the mean square charge radius for the following charge density profiles :

i) $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_0 \theta(R - r)$ where θ is the Heaviside step function.

ii) $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_0 e^{-\ln(2) \frac{r^2}{R^2}}$

2 Fermi distribution

A nuclear distribution that is more realistic than the uniform one is the Fermi distribution :

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{\frac{r-R}{a}}} \quad (4)$$

a) Plot this distribution.

b) Show that this distribution is symmetric with respect to the point $(R, \frac{1}{2})$ and has an inflection point.

c) Find the parameter a if the skin thickness is $t = 2.9 \text{ fm}$.

3 Semi-empirical formulae

a) Show that the potential energy of a sphere of radius R with uniform charge distribution is :

$$E(R) = \frac{3}{5} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}, \quad Q \text{ is the total charge of the sphere} \quad (5)$$

b) Considering that the Coulomb energy is given by (5) evaluated in the so-called nuclear radius, estimate it for ^{21}Ne , ^{57}Fe and ^{209}Bi .

c) Estimate the binding energy of ^{21}Ne , ^{57}Fe and ^{209}Bi after the liquid drop model.