
SCHOOL ON SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

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Refresher Course in Quantum Mechanics

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Refresher Course in Quantum Mechanics

1. Quantum Mechanics: Who Needs It ?

Experimental facts unaccounted for by classical physics:

- Blackbody radiation (electromagnetic energy in a cavity at temperature T)
- Photoelectric effect

$$\implies E = h\nu$$

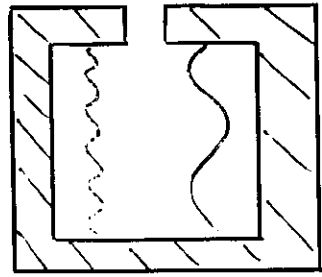
- Stability of the Rutherford atoms against radiation of energy
- Atomic line spectra

$$\implies E \text{ is quantized}$$

- Diffraction of electrons (Davisson-Germer experiments)

$$\implies \text{Electrons are waves}$$

Black body radiation



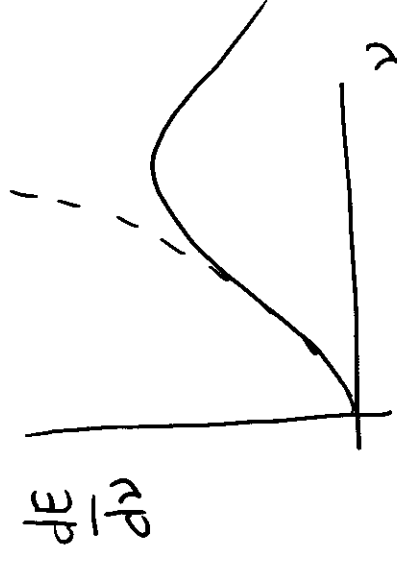
EM field modes in a cavity = harmonic oscillators

At temperature T every oscillator, according to classical statistical physics has average energy $1/2 kT$

How many modes between $\nu, \nu + d\nu$?

$$dN = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{2\pi}{c} \right)^2 \nu^2 d\nu = \frac{V}{c^3} \nu^2 d\nu$$

$$\frac{dE(\nu, T)}{d\nu} = \frac{V}{c^3} kT \nu^2$$

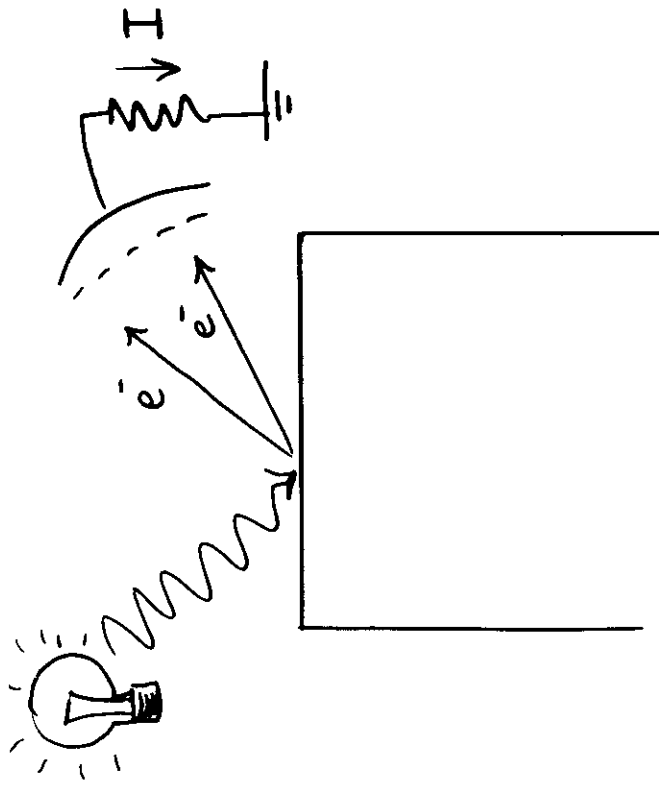


$$\Rightarrow E = h\nu$$

Planck' s constant :

$$h = 6.6252 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ ergs} \cdot s$$

$$\hbar = h / 2\pi = 1.0544 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ ergs} \cdot s$$



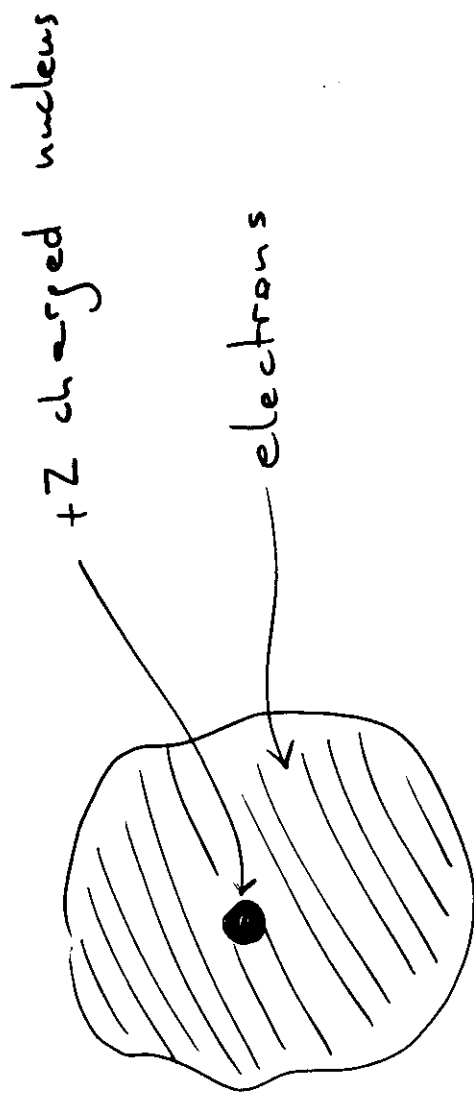
No photoelectrons if

$$\nu < \nu_{\text{threshold}}$$

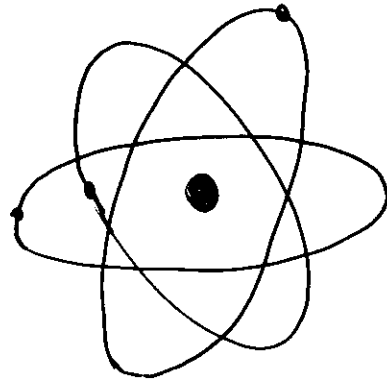
Intensity of light determines
intensity of photocurrent,
but not electron energy.
Electron (kinetic) energy
depends only on ν .

$$E = h\nu$$

Rutherford's α -particles scattering experiments show:



'Planetary Model'



Why electrons do not radiate energy and fall into the nucleus?

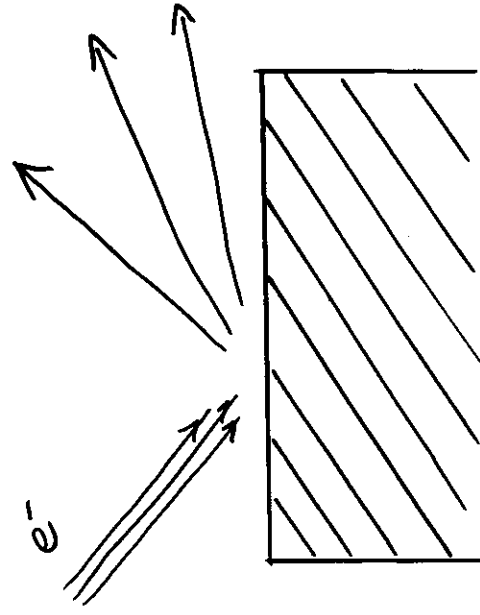
The most intense emission of light from atoms occurs at discrete frequencies, e.g. for H:

$$h\nu = R \left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2} \right)$$

$n, n' = 1, 2, \dots$
 $n > n'$

Quantized energy levels

Electron Diffraction (Davisson - Germer)



"Bragg-like"
diffraction spots

Electrons are waves!

Refresher Course in Quantum Mechanics.

2. The basic formalism of Quantum Mechanics

The mathematical apparatus to describe atomic-scale processes

- State of a physical system: state vectors, wavefunctions, probability density. Hilbert space of state vectors, scalar products, norm of a wavefunction.
- Physical Observables: Hermitian operators, eigenvalues, eigenvectors.
- The superposition principle. The measurement of a physical quantity. The expectation value of a physical quantity.

In *classical physics*, the state of a particle at a given time t is specified by the value of its position, $\mathbf{r}(t)$ and of its velocity $\mathbf{v}(t)$ (or momentum $\mathbf{p}(t)$). Generalization: the state of a system with N degrees of freedom (e.g. $N/3$ particles) is specified by N coordinates q_i ($i=1,2,\dots,N$) and momenta p_i .

In *quantum physics*, the state of a particle at a given time is specified by a complex wavefunction of its coordinates, $\psi(x,y,z,t)$. It embodies all what can be known and specified about the state of the particle. Its physical interpretation:

$|\psi(x,y,z,t)|^2 dx dy dz$ ~ probability that at time t a measurement of the particle position will give a result between x, y, z and $x+dx, y+dy, z+dz$.

Note that $|\psi(x,y,z,t)|^2 dx dy dz$ is equal (and not just proportional) to the probability that a measurement of the particle position will give a result between x, y, z and $x+dx, y+dy, z+dz$, if:

$$\int |\psi(x,y,z,t)|^2 dx dy dz = 1$$

Generalization: for a system of N particles: the wavefunction is $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N, t)$.

Functions such as $\psi(x, y, z)$ can be thought of as "vectors" in a space of functions.

Definition and properties:

Linear combination of 2 functions ψ_1 and ψ_2 , with two arbitrary complex coefficients c_1 and c_2 :

$$\psi(x, y, z) = c_1 \psi_1(x, y, z) + c_2 \psi_2(x, y, z)$$

Scalar product of two vectors ψ_1 and ψ_2 :

$$\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = \int \psi_1^*(x, y, z) \psi_2(x, y, z) dx dy dz$$

Generalization for N particles:

$$\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = \int \psi_1^*(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N) \psi_2(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N) d^3r_1 \dots d^3r_N$$

Properties:

$$\langle \psi_2 | \psi_1 \rangle = \langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle^*$$

$$\langle \psi_1 | c_2 \psi_2 + c_3 \psi_3 \rangle = c_2 \langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle + c_3 \langle \psi_1 | \psi_3 \rangle$$

$$\langle c_1 \psi_1 + c_2 \psi_2 | \psi_3 \rangle = c_1^* \langle \psi_1 | \psi_3 \rangle + c_2^* \langle \psi_2 | \psi_3 \rangle$$

$$\langle \psi_1 | \psi_1 \rangle \geq 0 \quad (\text{and } = 0 \text{ only if } \psi_1(x, y, z) \equiv 0)$$

Definition:

ψ_1, ψ_2 are orthogonal if $\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = 0$

Physical Observables:

- e.g.
- the position x, y, z , of a particle
 - the momentum p_x, p_y, p_z "
 - the z -component of its angular momentum ℓ_z
 - its energy E
 - the total momentum of a system of particles

In Quantum Mechanics, observables correspond to linear, hermitian (or "self-adjoint") operators in the vector space of wavefunctions

Definitions:

$$\text{Operator } \hat{O}: \quad \hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = \psi_1(x, y, z)$$

It operates (i.e. it performs an operation) on function $\psi(x, y, z)$ to transform it into a different function $\psi_1(x, y, z)$.

Examples of operators:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}: \quad \hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x, y, z) = \psi_1(x, y, z)$$

$$e^{i\varphi}: \quad \hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = e^{i\varphi} \psi(x, y, z) = \psi_1(x, y, z)$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x}: \quad \hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x, y, z) = \psi_1(x, y, z)$$

$$|\chi(x, y, z)\rangle \langle \chi(x, y, z)|: \quad \hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = \langle \chi(x, y, z) | \psi(x, y, z) \rangle \chi(x, y, z) \\ = \psi_1(x, y, z)$$

Linear Operators

An operator is said to be linear if, given any two arbitrary functions, $\psi_1(x, y, z)$ and $\psi_2(x, y, z)$, and two arbitrary complex numbers, c_1 and c_2 , it is:

$$\hat{O}(c_1 \psi_1(x, y, z) + c_2 \psi_2(x, y, z)) = c_1 \hat{O}\psi_1(x, y, z) + c_2 \hat{O}\psi_2(x, y, z)$$

A linear operator is said to be Hermitian (or Self-Adjoint) if, for two arbitrary functions $\psi_1(x, y, z)$ and $\psi_2(x, y, z)$, it is:

$$\langle \psi_1 | \hat{O} \psi_2 \rangle = \langle \hat{O} \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle$$

i.e.

$$\int \psi_1^*(x, y, z) (\hat{O} \psi_2(x, y, z)) dx dy dz = \int (\hat{O} \psi_1(x, y, z))^* \psi_2(x, y, z) dx dy dz$$

Examples of hermitian operators:

- $\hat{O} = x_0$ (a real multiplicative constant)

- $\hat{O} = -i \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ (for normalizable functions, i.e.

functions such that $\int |\psi(x, y, z)|^2 dx dy dz < \infty$;

for such functions, $\psi(\vec{r}) \rightarrow 0$ as $|\vec{r}| \rightarrow \infty$)

Then:
$$\int \psi_1^*(x, y, z) \left(-i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_2(x, y, z) \right) dx dy dz =$$

$$= -i \int \psi_1^*(x, y, z) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_2(x, y, z) dx dy dz$$

(Integrate by parts) $\rightarrow = 0$!

$$= -i \int dy dz \left\{ \left[\psi_1^*(x, y, z) \psi_2(x, y, z) \right]_{x=-\infty}^{x=+\infty} \right.$$

$$\left. - \int \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_1^*(x, y, z) \right) \psi_2(x, y, z) dx \right\}$$

$$= \int (-i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_1(x, y, z))^* \psi_2(x, y, z) dx dy dz$$

Examples of correspondence between physical observable quantities and operators:

- Position along x (or y , or z): $\hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = x \psi(x, y, z)$
[or $y\psi$ or $z\psi$]
- Momentum component p_x : $\hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x, y, z)$
- Kinetic energy of a particle with mass m , $T = \frac{1}{2m}(p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2)$: $\hat{O} \psi(x, y, z) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(x, y, z)$
- Laplacian $\nabla^2 \psi(x, y, z) \equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \psi(x, y, z) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \psi(x, y, z) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \psi(x, y, z)$

Observables $\rightarrow$ operator correspondence - continues

- Angular momentum of a particle: $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$

$$L_x = (y p_z - z p_y): \quad -i\hbar \left(y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - z \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \psi(x, y, z)$$

$$L_y = (z p_x - x p_z): \quad -i\hbar \left(z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \psi(x, y, z)$$

$$L_z = (x p_y - y p_x): \quad -i\hbar \left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \psi(x, y, z)$$

$$L^2 = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2$$

In general: $\hat{O}^2 \psi(x, y, z) = \hat{O}(\hat{O}\psi(x, y, z))$

N.B. if $\hat{O}$ is linear, then $\hat{O}^2$ is also linear:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{O}^2(c_1\psi_1 + c_2\psi_2) &\equiv \hat{O}[\hat{O}(c_1\psi_1 + c_2\psi_2)] = \hat{O}[c_1\hat{O}\psi_1 + c_2\hat{O}\psi_2] \\ &= c_1\hat{O}^2\psi_1 + c_2\hat{O}^2\psi_2 \end{aligned}$$

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of Linear Operators.

Definition

Given a linear operator $\hat{O}$, $\psi_n(x, y, z)$ is an eigenvector of $\hat{O}$ with eigenvalue e_n (a number) if, (for all x, y, z)

$$\hat{O} \psi_n(x, y, z) = e_n \psi_n(x, y, z)$$

Examples:

$$\hat{O} = \hat{p}_z = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

Eigenvector, (eigenstate, Eigenfunction): $\psi(x, y, z) = \varphi(x, y) e^{ik_z z}$

$$\hat{p}_z \varphi(x, y) e^{ik_z z} = \hbar k_z \varphi(x, y) e^{ik_z z}$$

Generalizing to components p_x, p_y , show that $e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} = e^{ik_x x} e^{ik_y y} e^{ik_z z}$ is an eigenvector of

$$\begin{array}{ll} \hat{p}_x, & \text{eigenvalue } \hbar k_x \\ \hat{p}_y, & " \quad \hbar k_y \\ \hat{p}_z, & " \quad \hbar k_z \end{array}$$

Compact notation: $\hat{\vec{p}} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} = \hbar \vec{k} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}}$

$$\hat{\vec{p}} = -i\hbar \vec{\nabla} \quad \vec{\nabla} \equiv \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\hat{O} = \hat{T} = \frac{1}{2m} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2$$

Eigenvector: $\psi(x, y, z) = e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}}$
 Eigenvalue: $\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$ (independent of $\vec{k}$ direction!)

$$\hat{O} = \hat{L}^2 = \hat{L}_x^2 + \hat{L}_y^2 + \hat{L}_z^2 \quad (\text{angular momentum})$$

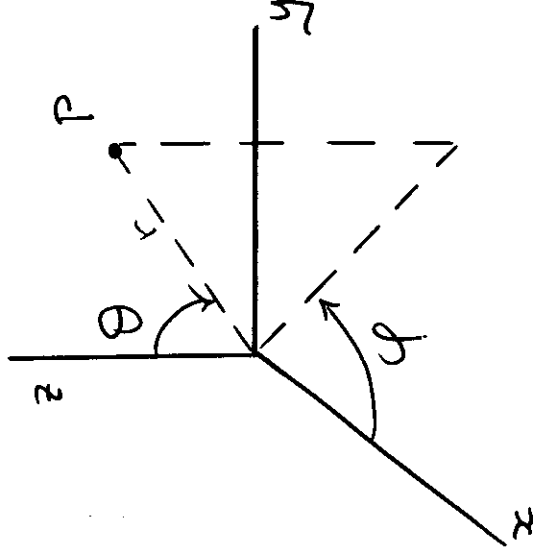
Eigenfunction:

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \chi(r) Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$m = -\ell, -\ell+1, -\ell+2, \dots$$

$$\dots \ell-1, \ell$$



$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} z/r$$

$$\varphi = \cos^{-1} x/\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\hat{L}^2 \chi(r) Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \varphi) = \ell(\ell+1) \hbar^2 \chi(r) Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \varphi)$$

Eigenvalue:

$$\text{Also eigenvector of } \hat{L}_z: \hat{L}_z \chi(r) Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \varphi) = m \hbar \chi(r) Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \varphi)$$

Table 1. Harmonic Polynomials and Spherical Harmonics.

$$y_{lm}(r) = r^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

l, m	$y_{lm}(r)$	$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$
0 0	$\frac{2\sqrt{\pi}}{1}$	$\frac{2\sqrt{\pi}}{1}$
1 0	$\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{3}}z$	$\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{3}}\cos\theta$
1 ± 1	$\pm\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}}(x \pm iy)$	$\pm\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}}\sin\theta e^{\pm i\varphi}$
2 0	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{5}}(2z^2 - x^2 - y^2)$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{5}}(2\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta)$
2 ± 1	$\pm\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{15}}z(x \pm iy)$	$\pm\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{15}}\cos\theta\sin\theta e^{\pm i\varphi}$
2 ± 2	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{15}}(x \pm iy)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{15}}\sin^2\theta e^{\pm 2i\varphi}$
3 0	$\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{7}}(2z^3 - 3xz^2 - 3y^2z)$	$\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{7}}(2\cos^3\theta - 3\cos\theta\sin^2\theta)$
3 ± 1	$\pm\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{21\pi}{21}}(4z^2 - x^2 - y^2)(x \pm iy)$	$\pm\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{21\pi}{21}}(4\cos^2\theta\sin\theta - \sin^3\theta)e^{\pm i\varphi}$
3 ± 2	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{105}}z^2(x \pm iy)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{105}}\cos\theta\sin^2\theta e^{\pm 2i\varphi}$
3 ± 3	$\pm\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{35}}(x \pm iy)^3$	$\pm\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{35}}\sin^3\theta e^{\pm 3i\varphi}$

Irreducible tensors containing in addition the components of some other vector r' may be constructed by polarization of the harmonics with the operator

$$r' \cdot \nabla \equiv x' \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y' \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z' \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

Cf. Rose (1954).

• Position operator $\vec{r} = (x, y, z)$

Eigenvector: Dirac's δ (delta) function

$$\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = \delta(x - x_0) \delta(y - y_0) \delta(z - z_0)$$

Eigenvalue (x_0, y_0, z_0)

Properties: $\int_A d\vec{r} f(\vec{r}) \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = f(\vec{r}_0)$ if $\vec{r}_0 \in A$

For any $f(\vec{r})$: $= 0$ if $\vec{r}_0 \notin A$

In particular, $f(\vec{r}) \equiv 1$

$$\int_A \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = 1 \quad \vec{r}_0 \in A$$

$$\int_A \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) = 0 \quad \vec{r}_0 \notin A$$

$$\vec{r} \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) \equiv \vec{r}_0 \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0)$$

Important Theorems on Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

Theorem 1

All eigenvalues of a hermitian operator are real

Theorem 2 (Orthogonality theorem)

If $\hat{O}\psi_1 = e_1\psi_1$ and $\hat{O}\psi_2 = e_2\psi_2$
and $e_1 \neq e_2$, then

$$\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = \int \psi_1^*(x, y, z) \psi_2(x, y, z) dx dy dz = 0$$

("Eigenvectors of the same operator corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal").

Important Definitions:

- Degenerate eigenvalue.

If n functions $\psi_{11}(\vec{r}), \psi_{12}(\vec{r}), \dots, \psi_{1n}(\vec{r})$ can be found such that

$$\hat{O} \psi_{1i} = e_1 \psi_{1i} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

and

$$\langle \psi_{1i} | \psi_{1j} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq j$$

then e_1 is a n -fold degenerate eigenvalue of $\hat{O}$

- Easy to prove:

Any linear combination

$$c_1 \psi_{11} + c_2 \psi_{12} + \dots + c_n \psi_{1n}$$

is also an eigenvector of $\hat{O}$ with eigenvalue e_1

• Complete set of functions.

A set of functions $\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_n, \dots$ in a vector space (for instance, the space of complex functions of three real variables x, y, z which are square integrable, i.e.:

$$\int |\psi(x, y, z)|^2 dx dy dz < \infty)$$

is called complete if any function of the space can be written as a linear combination of $\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_n, \dots$

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \sum_i c_i \psi_i(x, y, z)$$

• If $\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_n, \dots$ are also orthonormal, i.e.

$\langle \psi_i | \psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$, they form a complete orthonormal set.

Important theorem:

The eigenfunctions of a hermitian operator form a complete set.

$$\text{So, if } \hat{O} \psi_n = e_n \psi_n$$

Any function ψ can be written

$$\psi = \sum_n c_n \psi_n$$

Linearity of $\hat{O}$ implies

$$\hat{O} \psi = \sum_n c_n \hat{O} \psi_n = \sum_n c_n e_n \psi_n$$

The Physical Interpretation of the Formalism

- Let a physical system be in state described by ψ_n , and let $\hat{O}\psi_n = e_n\psi_n$

Then measurement of observable corresponding to $\hat{O}$ invariably produces the result e_n .

In other words: if the system is in an eigenstate of $\hat{O}$, then the physical variable corresponding to $\hat{O}$ has the well defined value e_n .

- Let a physical system be in a generic state ψ . Write ψ as linear combination of eigenfunctions of $\hat{O}$, $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n, \dots$

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \sum_n c_n \psi_n(x, y, z)$$

If a measurement of the physical variable is performed,

the possible results are:

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e_1 with probability $|c_1|^2 / \sum_n |c_n|^2$

e_2 " " $|c_2|^2 / \sum_n |c_n|^2$

$\vdots$

e_i " " $|c_i|^2 / \sum_n |c_n|^2$

After measurement, with result e_i , the system is left in state ψ_i (Collapse / Reduction of wavefunction)

- Average of results of measurements of physical observable on many identical system in state ψ :

$\langle \psi | \hat{O} | \psi \rangle / \langle \psi | \psi \rangle$ " Expectation value "

Proof: Average is $\sum_i P_i e_i$, but $P_i = \frac{|c_i|^2}{\sum_n |c_n|^2}$.

Using orthogonality, can easily show this is $\langle \psi | \hat{O} | \psi \rangle / \langle \psi | \psi \rangle$.

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The role of Energy

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- In classical physics, a particle of mass m , moving in an external potential has energy which, when expressed as a function of its position and its momentum is

$$H = \underbrace{\frac{p^2}{2m}}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Kinetic} \\ \text{Energy}}} + V(x, y, z) \quad \underbrace{\uparrow}_{\substack{\text{Potential} \\ \text{energy}}} \quad \text{" Hamiltonian "$$

- The corresponding quantum-mechanical operator is

$$\hat{H} = \hat{T} + \hat{V} = -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m} + V(x, y, z)$$

$$\text{where } \hat{V} \psi(x, y, z) = V(x, y, z) \psi(x, y, z) \quad (\text{Multiplicative Operator})$$

- Generalization to system of N particles interacting among themselves with pair interaction (two-body force).

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i=1, N} \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_i} \nabla_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i=1, N \\ j=1, N}} V(\vec{r}_i, \vec{r}_j)$$

- Energy plays a very important role in Quantum Mechanics: it determines the time evolution of systems.

(Time - dependent) Schrödinger Equation:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(x, y, z, t) = \hat{H} \psi(x, y, z, t)$$

- Energy eigenstates.

- Suppose that at $t=0$ $\psi(x, y, z, 0)$ is an eigen-vector of $\hat{H}$. Then

$$\hat{H} \psi(x, y, z, 0) = E_n \psi(x, y, z, 0)$$

where E_n is one of the eigenvalues of $\hat{H}$.

- Then, at $t=0$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(x, y, z, t) \Big|_{t=0} = \hat{H} \psi(x, y, z, 0) = E_n \psi(x, y, z, 0)$$

- Solution:

$$\psi(x, y, z, t) = \psi(x, y, z, 0) e^{-i \frac{E_n}{\hbar} t}$$

Verify: $i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(x, y, z, t) = \psi(x, y, z, 0) i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} e^{-i \frac{E_n}{\hbar} t} = E_n \psi(x, y, z, 0) e^{-i \frac{E_n}{\hbar} t}$

Consequence: for energy eigenstates time dependence is a phase factor.

$$|\psi(x, y, z, t)|^2 \equiv |\psi(x, y, z, 0)|^2$$

$\Rightarrow$ Probability distribution is constant in time

Energy eigenstates are called "stationary states"

N.B. $\psi(x, y, z, t)$ is an eigenstate of $\hat{H}$ at all times t !

- For generic state, write it as superposition of stationary states:

$$\psi(x, y, z, t) = \sum_n c_n(t) \psi_n(x, y, z)$$

Easy to prove, from Schrödinger's equation, that:

$$c_n(t) = c_n(0) e^{-i \frac{E_n t}{\hbar}}$$

$$\text{i.e. } \psi(x, y, z, t) = \sum_n c_n(0) \psi_n(x, y, z) e^{-i \frac{E_n t}{\hbar}} = \sum_n c_n(0) \psi_n(x, y, z, t),$$

One-dimensional motion examples

Assume particle of mass m bound to move on a line $\psi \equiv \psi(x)$

- Free particle (no potential)

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi(x) \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi(x) = E \psi(x)$$

$\propto x$

General Solution: $\psi(x) = Ae^{\alpha x}$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} Ae^{\alpha x} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \alpha^2 Ae^{\alpha x}$$

$$E = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \alpha^2$$

However, if $\text{Re } \alpha \neq 0$, $\psi(x)$ grows indefinitely either at $x \rightarrow \infty$ or at $x \rightarrow -\infty$: NOT ACCEPTABLE!

Therefore α must be purely imaginary, $\alpha = ik$
 and $E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} > 0 \Rightarrow$ only positive E values
 (cfr. to classical physics $T > 0$)

Note e^{ikx} and e^{-ikx} have same energy.

- Particle bound to move on a segment of length L , i.e. between $x=0$ and $x=L$
 $\psi(x) = 0 \quad x \geq L, \quad x \leq 0.$

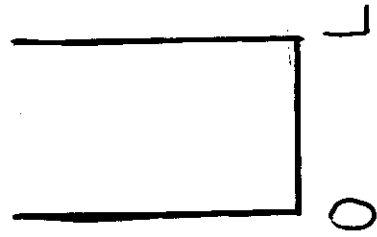
General solution inside $0 < x < L$:

$$e^{ikx} + A e^{-ikx}$$

$$\psi(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A = -1 \quad \psi(x) = 2i \sin kx$$

$$\text{or } \psi(x) = \sin kx$$

$$\psi(L) = 0 \Rightarrow \sin kL = 0 \quad \text{or } kL = n\pi \quad n=1,2,\dots$$



Therefore:

$$\psi(x) = \sin kx$$

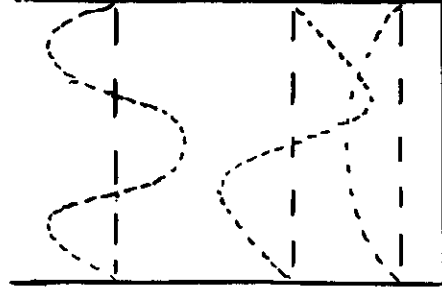
Allowed k values

$$k = \frac{n\pi}{L} \quad n=1, 2, \dots$$

Allowed E

$$E_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{n\pi}{L} \right)^2$$

Quantization of energy!



$n=3$

$n=2$

$n=1$

Comments: $E \propto n^2$

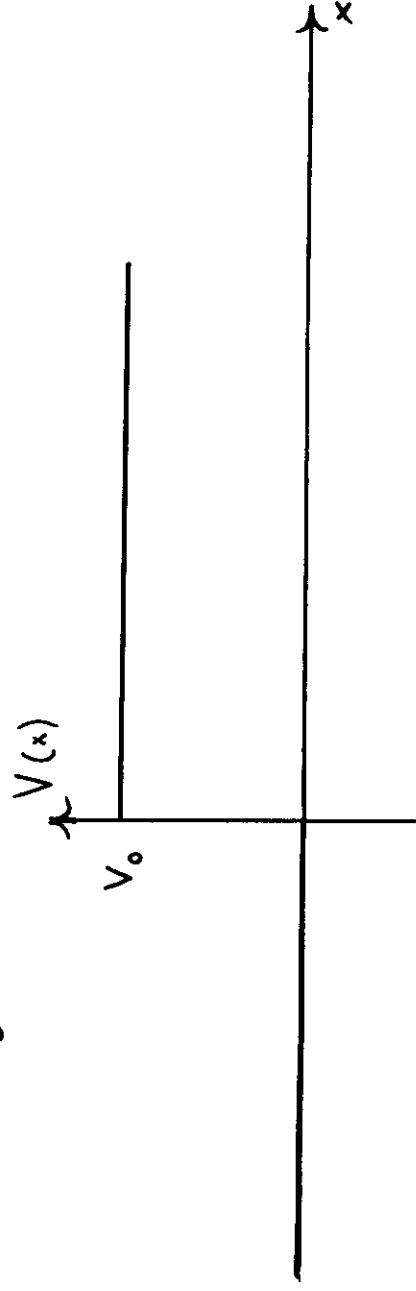
ψ odd or even

of nodes = $n-1$

• Potential step

$$V(x) = 0 \quad x < 0$$

$$V(x) = V_0 \quad x > 0$$



$E < 0$ no solution (wave function unbound)

$$0 < E < V_0 \quad x < 0: \psi(x) \sim e^{ikx} + Ae^{-ikx}$$

$$x > 0 \quad \psi(x) \sim Ce^{-\kappa x}$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}; \quad k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$$

$$\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{2m(V_0 - E)}{\hbar^2}}$$

always ≤ 1 for $x \geq 0$!

Coefficients A, C , determined by conditions at $x=0$:

$\psi(x)$ continuous, $\frac{d\psi(x)}{dx}$ continuous;

$$1 + A = C \quad \text{continuity of } \psi$$

$$ik(1-A) = -kC \quad \text{continuity of } \frac{d\psi}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow ik(1-A) = -k(1+A)$$

$$A = -\frac{k+ik}{k-ik}$$

$$C = 1+A$$

$$E > V_0 \quad x < 0 \quad \psi \sim e^{ikx} + Ae^{-ikx}$$

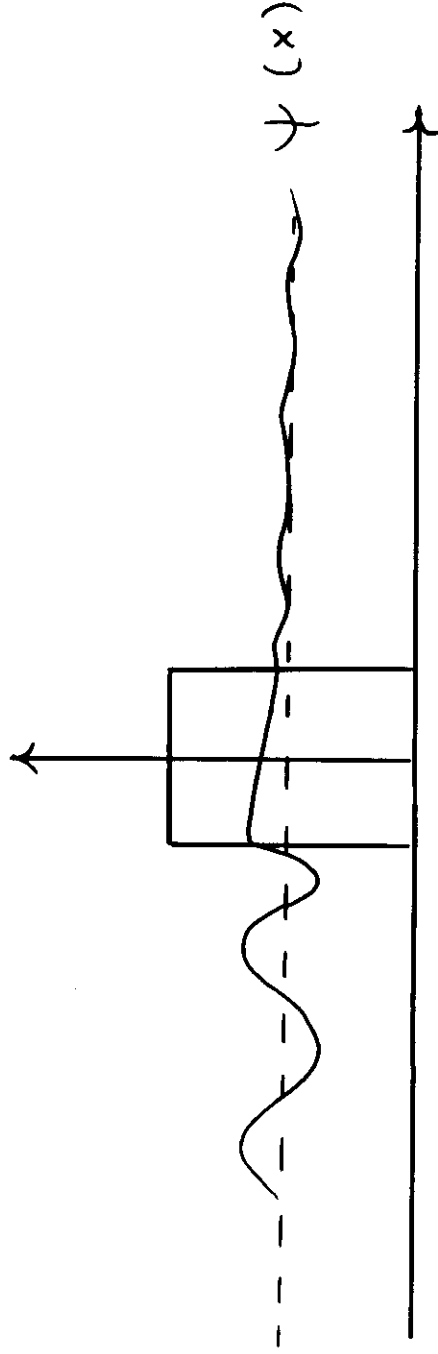
$$x > 0 \quad \psi \sim Ce^{ik'x}$$

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$$

$$k' = \sqrt{\frac{2m(E-V_0)}{\hbar^2}}$$

Note: particle
in classically
forbidden
region !!!

Tunneling:



Particle can access classically forbidden region, it is only exponentially damped.

If barrier is finite, it can "tunnel" through and be observable on the right side of the barrier!!

• Harmonic Oscillator

Particle of mass m attracted to $x=0$ by a force proportional to x , i.e. potential energy proportional to x^2 :

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{m\omega^2 x^2}_{k, \text{ spring constant}}$$

Solutions of $\hat{H}\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$

$$\text{Eigenvalues: } E_n = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hbar\omega \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Note: Minimum energy $\frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega$
"zero-point" motion!

Eigenfunction of energy E_n :

Def. $q = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} x$

$$\psi_n(x) = H_n(q) e^{-q^2/2}$$

↑ Hermite polynomial

$$H_0(q) = 1$$

$$H_1(q) = 2q$$

$$H_2(q) = 4q^2 - 2$$

$$H_3(q) = 8q^3 - 12q$$

...

$$\frac{dH_n}{dq} = 2n H_{n-1}(q)$$

Comment:

of nodes = n

Even and odd solutions
around $x=0$ alternate
with n .

- Generalization to 3 dimensional oscillator easy!

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$$

Separable:

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_x + \hat{H}_y + \hat{H}_z$$

$$\hat{H}_x = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$$

$$\text{Then } \psi(x, y, z) \sim \psi(x) \psi(y) \psi(z)$$

$$\text{Let } \psi(x) = \psi_{n_x}(x) \quad \psi(y) = \psi_{n_y}(y) \quad \psi(z) = \psi_{n_z}(y)$$

$$\text{Then } \hat{H} \psi(x, y, z) = (n_x + n_y + n_z + \frac{3}{2} \hbar \omega) \psi(x, y, z)$$

Comment: degeneracy: there are many different triplets of numbers n_x, n_y, n_z with the same sum $N = n_x + n_y + n_z$

Three-dimensional Central Potentials.

General problem of particle moving in a potential in three-dimensions:

$$\hat{H}\psi(x,y,z) = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(x,y,z) \right] \psi(x,y,z) = E\psi(x,y,z)$$

An important class of potentials are those with rotation invariance:

$$V(x,y,z) = V(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}) = V(r)$$

Examples: Coulomb potential $\frac{Ze^2}{r}$
3-dim. isotropic oscillator $\frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 r^2$
etc.

General Structure of Solutions for Central Potential

$$\hat{H} \psi_{n,\ell,m} = E_{n,\ell} \psi_{n,\ell,m}$$

To describe structure of $\psi_{n,\ell,m}(x,y,z)$ use spherical coordinates $x,y,z \rightarrow r,\theta,\varphi$.

$$\text{Then } \psi_{n,\ell,m}(r,\theta,\varphi) = f_{n\ell}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\theta,\varphi)$$

$\nearrow$ principal quantum number $\rightarrow \ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2$ $\nearrow \hat{\ell}^2 \rightarrow m\hbar$ $\nearrow$ radial function $\nearrow$ spherical harmonic

Define: $\chi_{n\ell}(r) = r f_{n\ell}(r)$

$$\text{Then: } \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + V(r) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} \right] \chi_{n\ell}(r) = E_{n,\ell} \chi_{n\ell}(r)$$

"Radial equation"

A two-body central force problem:
the H atom.

$$M \sim 1850 m$$



$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M} \nabla_P^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_E^2 - \frac{e^2}{|\vec{r}_P - \vec{r}_E|}$$

Transform to centre of mass and relative coordinates:

$$\vec{R} = \frac{M \vec{r}_P + m \vec{r}_E}{M + m}$$

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_P - \vec{r}_E ; \quad \frac{1}{m^*} = \frac{1}{M} + \frac{1}{m}$$

free particle
motion of the
whole atom

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2(M+m)} \nabla_R^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} \nabla_r^2 - \frac{e^2}{r}$$

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_R + \vec{r}_H$$

$\uparrow$ relative

Note: for H atom $\frac{1}{m^*} = \frac{1}{M} + \frac{1}{m} \approx \frac{1}{m}$ because $M \gg m$

Solution of $(\hat{H}_R + \hat{H}_r) \Psi(\vec{R}, \vec{r}) = E \Psi(\vec{R}, \vec{r})$

$$\Psi(\vec{R}, \vec{r}) = \Psi(\vec{R}) \psi(\vec{r}) \quad \Psi(\vec{R}) = e^{i \vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}}$$

Determine $\psi(\vec{r})$ by solving:

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 - \frac{e^2}{r} \right] \psi(\vec{r}) = E \psi(\vec{r})$$

Central Potential

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = \psi_{n\ell m}(\vec{r}) = f_{n\ell}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\frac{me^4}{2\hbar^2} = 13.6 \text{ eV}$$

Rydberg constant.

$E < 0$

$$n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\ell = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

$$m = -\ell, -\ell+1, \dots, 0, \dots, \ell$$

$E > 0$

$$n = i k$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

E independent of ℓ !!

degenerate and contains one $2s$ state and three $2p$ states, the second excited state is nine-fold degenerate and contains one $3s$ state, three $3p$ states and five $3d$ states; and so forth (Fig. XI.1).

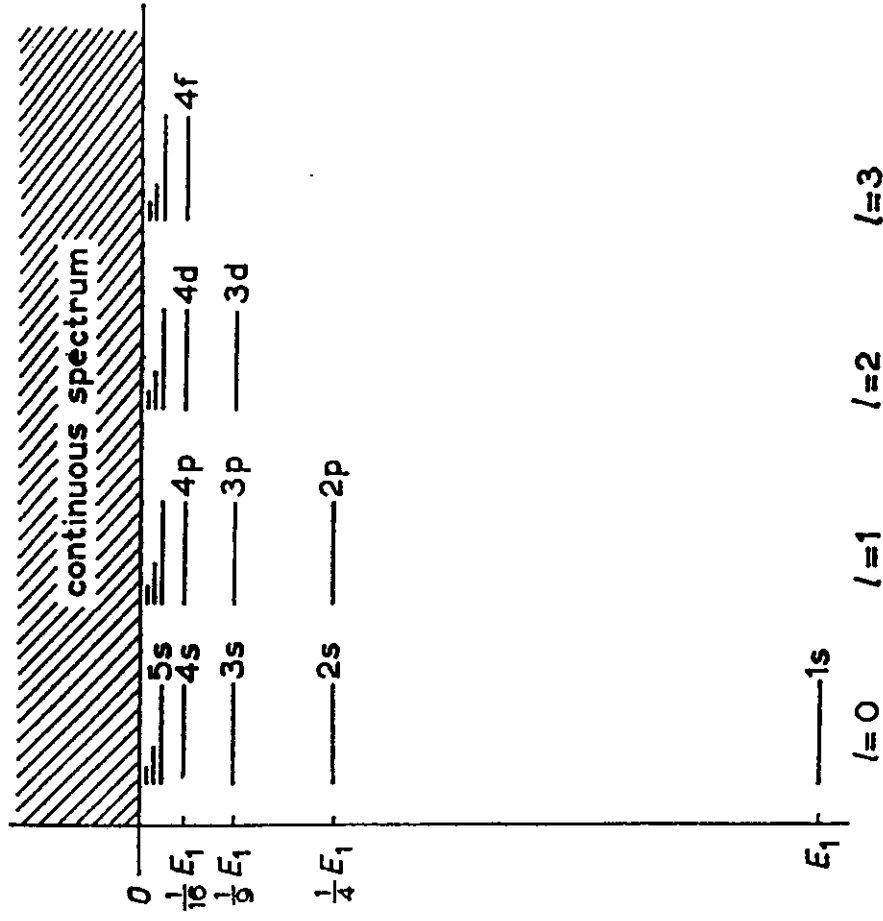


Fig. XI.1. Spectrum of the hydrogen atom.

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Eigenfunctions of the H atom. Discrete Spectrum.

$$\psi_{n\ell m}(\vec{r}) = f_{n\ell}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$f_{n\ell}(r) = \sqrt{\frac{4(n-\ell-1)!}{a^3 n^4 (n+\ell)!^3}} \cdot e^{-\frac{r}{na}} \left(\frac{2r}{na}\right)^\ell L_{n+\ell}^{(2\ell+1)}\left(\frac{2r}{na}\right)$$

where

$$a = \frac{\hbar^2}{me^2} = 0.529 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cm} \quad \text{Bohr radius}$$

$$L_{n+\ell}^{(2\ell+1)}(x) = \frac{d^{(2\ell+1)}}{dx^{(2\ell+1)}} L_{n+\ell}(x)$$

$L_{n+\ell}(x)$ = Laguerre Polynomial

$$L_0 = 1, \quad L_1 = 1 - x, \quad L_2 = 2 - 4x + x^2$$

$$L_3 = 6 - 18x + 9x^2 - x^3 \quad \dots$$

Commutation Relation for Operators

- We already know product of 2 operators:

$\hat{O}_1 \cdot \hat{O}_2$ is the operator which acts on ψ in the following way:

$$\hat{O}_1 \hat{O}_2 \psi = \hat{O}_1 [\hat{O}_2 \psi]$$

- In general operator product is non-commutative,
i.e. $\hat{O}_1 \cdot \hat{O}_2 \neq \hat{O}_2 \cdot \hat{O}_1$

- Definition: Commutator of $\hat{O}_1$ and $\hat{O}_2$

$$[\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_2] = \hat{O}_1 \hat{O}_2 - \hat{O}_2 \hat{O}_1$$

- Example $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] = [x, -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}]$

Consider

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x} \hat{p}_x \psi(x, y, z) &= x \cdot -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi = -i\hbar x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi \\ \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \psi(x, y, z) &= -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x \psi(x, y, z)) = -i\hbar \psi(x, y, z) \\ &\quad - i\hbar x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi\end{aligned}$$

$$[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] \psi = (\hat{x} \hat{p}_x - \hat{p}_x \hat{x}) \psi = i\hbar \psi(x, y, z)$$

Therefore: $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] = i\hbar$

- Some useful properties of commutators:

$$[\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_2] = -[\hat{O}_2, \hat{O}_1]$$

$$[\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_2 \hat{O}_3] = [\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_2] \hat{O}_3 + \hat{O}_2 [\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_3]$$

Physical Meaning of Commutators:

• Theorem

Two operators which commute have a common complete set of eigenvectors, i.e. they correspond to observables which have precisely defined values in the same physical state.

• Example

x and y commute $[\hat{x}, \hat{y}] = 0$

A particle can have perfectly defined simultaneous x and y positions.

However $[x, p_x] = i\hbar$

and there is no state in which both x and p_x are measurable with arbitrary precision.

Uncertainty Relations (Heisenberg)

- Definition: for observable $\hat{O}$, the uncertainty in state ψ is defined as

$$\Delta \hat{O} = \sqrt{\langle (\hat{O} - \langle \hat{O} \rangle)^2 \rangle}$$

where $\langle \dots \rangle$ denotes the expectation (average) value in state ψ

- Theorem:

$$\text{If } [\hat{O}_1, \hat{O}_2] = i\hbar$$

then, for their uncertainty in any state it is:

$$\Delta O_1 \cdot \Delta O_2 \geq \frac{1}{2} \hbar$$

- For example $\Delta x \Delta p_x \geq \frac{1}{2} \hbar$

Commutators of Angular Momenta

• $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$:

$$L_x = y p_z - z p_y$$

$$L_y = z p_x - x p_z$$

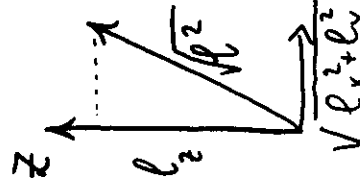
$$L_z = x p_y - y p_x$$

$$L^2 = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2$$

$$[\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = i\hbar \hat{L}_z \quad [\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_x] = i\hbar \hat{L}_y \quad [\hat{L}_y, \hat{L}_z] = i\hbar \hat{L}_x$$

$$[\hat{L}^2, \hat{L}_x] = [\hat{L}^2, \hat{L}_y] = [\hat{L}^2, \hat{L}_z] = 0$$

- Comment: When $\hat{L}^2$ is in eigenstate with eigenvalue $\hbar^2 \ell(\ell+1)$, L_z is at most $\ell^2 \hbar^2$. This is because L_x and L_y are not precisely defined so $L_x^2 + L_y^2 = L^2 - L_z^2$ cannot be zero!

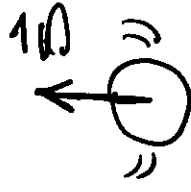


A Quantum Observable without Classical

Analogue: SPIN

- Electrons, besides orbital angular momentum $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$ have an intrinsic angular momentum called "Spin" with one allowed value for its square, $S^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1 \right) \hbar^2$ and two allowed values for its components, i.e. $S_z = +\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ or $S_z = -\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ ("spin up" or "spin down")

- Helpful (but sometimes dangerous!) to think of electron as a "spinning top"



- Complete description of electron state must include spin. General superposition:

$$\psi(x, y, z) (\text{spin up}) + \varphi(x, y, z) (\text{spin down})$$



prob. of presence
of electron at
 x, y, z , with spin up---



.... and with
spin down!

- Write this wavefunction as "two-component spinor"

i.e.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi(x, y, z) \\ \varphi(x, y, z) \end{bmatrix} = \psi(x, y, z) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \varphi(x, y, z) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- In this "two-component" spinor representation, operators become 2×2 matrices.

In particular,

$$S_x = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \sigma_x, \quad S_y = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \sigma_y, \quad S_z = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \sigma_z$$

where

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

"Pauli Matrices"

- Easy to verify: S_x, S_y, S_z have same commutators as L_x, L_y, L_z

All elementary or composite particles have Spin.

- If spin is half-integer (electrons, protons, neutrons, He^3 nuclei, all with $S=1/2$) the particles are called Fermions
- If spin is integer (Photons, $S=1$; He^4 nuclei, $S=0$, etc.) the particles are called Bosons.

Permutation properties of wavefunctions of identical particles:

$$\Psi(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N) = (-1)^P \Psi(P(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N)) \text{ Fermions}$$

$$\Psi(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N) = \Psi(P(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_N)) \text{ Bosons}$$

For fermions, this property implies the Pauli exclusion principle:

- Suppose you have two electrons, one in state a , the other in state b :

Most general wavefunction: $\psi_a(\vec{r}_1)\psi_b(\vec{r}_2) - \psi_a(\vec{r}_2)\psi_b(\vec{r}_1)$
(a and b spinors!)

But if a, b are the same state, $\Psi \rightarrow 0$

Not possible to occupy one state (incl. spin!) with more than one electron

Approximate Methods of Solution.

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1. The Variational Method

Based on following

- Theorem: Let ψ_0 be ground state wavefunction of Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_0$, i.e. $\hat{H}_0 \psi_0 = E_0 \psi_0$, with E_0 smallest eigenvalue of H_0 . Then for any ψ :

$$\frac{\langle \psi | H_0 | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle} \geq E_0$$

and $= E_0$ only for $\psi = \psi_0$.

- Take a wavefunction family, characterized by parameter p , $\psi(x, y, z, p)$ and look for minimum of

$$\frac{\langle \psi(p) | H_0 | \psi(p) \rangle}{\langle \psi(p) | \psi(p) \rangle}, \text{ as a function of } p.$$

This is the best approximation to E_0 and ψ_0 .

2. Perturbation Theory.

Let a problem be characterized by hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}'$ with $\hat{H}'$ "small" compared to $\hat{H}_0$.

Let all eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of $\hat{H}_0$ be

$$\text{known: } \hat{H}_0 \psi_n^{(0)} = E_n^{(0)} \psi_n^{(0)}$$

We want to determine $\hat{H}$ ground state eigenvalue E_0 and wavefunction ψ_0 of $\hat{H}$.

It is:

$$E_0 \simeq E_0^{(0)} + \langle \psi_0^{(0)} | \hat{H}' | \psi_0^{(0)} \rangle + \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{|\langle \psi_0^{(0)} | \hat{H}' | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle|^2}{E_0^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}}$$

$$\psi_0 = \psi_0^{(0)} + \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{\langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \hat{H}' | \psi_0^{(0)} \rangle}{E_0^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)}} \psi_n^{(0)}$$

If $\psi_0^{(0)}$ is degenerate, however, with eigenvectors

$$\psi_{01}^{(0)}, \dots, \psi_{0n}^{(0)}$$

Then one must find the eigenvalues of matrix

$$H'_{ij} = \langle \psi_{0i}^{(0)} | H' | \psi_{0j}^{(0)} \rangle$$

which give correction to (and splitting from) unperturbed value $E_0^{(0)}$

Periodic Perturbations / Fermi's Golden Rule.

- Consider again case in which $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}'$ but now assume $\hat{H}'$ is a periodic perturbation, i.e. it has a time dependence of the form

$$\hat{H}'(t) = \hat{H}'(0) (e^{i\omega t} + \text{c.c.})$$

- Examples: the electric field of an EM wave of frequency ω
the perturbation of the distance and the interaction between atoms caused by an ultrasonic pulse.

• The perturbation can induce transitions between stationary states of $\hat{H}_0$, with energy difference $\pm \hbar\omega$.

• The number of transitions per unit time dN/dt is given by Fermi's "Golden Rule"

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_f \left| \langle \psi_0 | \hat{H}'(0) | \psi_f \rangle \right|^2 \delta(E_f - E_0 \pm \hbar\omega)$$

↑
↑
↑

Sum over
all possible
final states

initial
state

final
state

Conservation of
energy. $+\hbar\omega$
is absorption
of one quantum
- $\hbar\omega$ is emission

- Dipole Approximation (Wavelength longer than dimension of atomic wavefunctions)

$$e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} \sim 1$$

$$H'(t) = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{p} (e^{i\omega t} + \text{c.c.})$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_f |\langle \psi_0 | \vec{E} \cdot \vec{p} | \psi_f \rangle|^2 \delta(E_f - E_0 \pm \hbar\omega)$$

$\begin{matrix} + = \text{absorption} \\ - = \text{emission} \end{matrix}$

- Selection rules for transition between one-electron states:

$$\Delta \ell = \ell' - \ell = \pm 1$$

$$\Delta m = m' - m \quad \text{depends on polarization } \vec{E}$$

$$\Delta n \text{ unrestricted}$$

$$\langle \psi_{n\ell m} | \vec{E} \cdot \vec{p} | \psi_{n'\ell' m'} \rangle \neq 0 \quad \text{if}$$

