

PH102, 2012W, Lecture Notes: January 23, Mon, Class 6

Hydrogen Atom: Degeneracies, Normalization, Probability Densities, & Hydrogenlike atoms

Objectives:

- List degeneracies for each n state.
- Come up with the normalization condition for a spherically symmetric potential in (r, θ, ϕ) .
- Recognize characteristics of radial and angular probability densities using n, l, m_l .
- Extend the Schrodinger Equation solutions of the hydrogen atom to the hydrogenlike atoms.

In the last class, we learned that the time independent Schrodinger Equation can be turned into three equations after the separation of variable method as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} = -m_l^2 \Phi \\ \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial \theta} \right) + [l(l+1)\sin^2\theta - m_l^2]\Theta = 0 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial R}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{2mr^2}{\hbar^2} (E - U(r))R - l(l+1)R = 0 \end{cases}$$

Three quantum numbers are defined so that the resulting wave functions can satisfy the Schrodinger Equation:

- Principal quantum number, n
- Orbital quantum number, l
- Magnetic quantum number, m_l

where

$$E_n = -\frac{me^4}{32\pi^2\epsilon_0^2\hbar^2} \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0}\right) \left(\frac{me^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 a_0}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -13.6 \text{ eV} \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

$$L^2 = l(l+1)\hbar^2$$

$$L_z = m_l\hbar$$

where Bohr radius $a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{me^2} = 0.053 \text{ nm}$ or 0.53 \AA ; and

Hydrogen atom's ground state energy, $E_1 = -\left(\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 a_0}\right) = -13.6 \text{ eV}$

Wave function = $\psi(r, \theta, \phi) = \psi_{n,l,m_l} = R(r)\Theta(\theta)\Phi(\phi) = R_{n,l}\Theta_{l,m_l}\Phi_{m_l} = R_{n,l}\mathbf{Y}_l^{m_l}$

where $\Theta_{l,m_l}\Phi_{m_l} = \mathbf{Y}_l^{m_l}$ (Spherical harmonics)

These relationships can be simply written using operator notations:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{H}\psi_{n,l,m_l} &= E_n\psi_{n,l,m_l} \\ \mathbf{L}^2\psi_{n,l,m_l} &= l(l+1)\hbar^2\psi_{n,l,m_l} \\ \mathbf{L}_z\psi_{n,l,m_l} &= m_l\hbar\psi_{n,l,m_l}\end{aligned}$$

Note. These equations can be applied to all systems where the Hamiltonian ($H = T+V$) has a spherical symmetry (remember that the hydrogen atom's potential energy has a spherical symmetry). In such a case, the wave function, ψ_{n,l,m_l} , is an eigenfunction of \mathbf{H} , \mathbf{L}^2 , \mathbf{L}_z and E_n , L^2 , and L_z are all **quantized**.

Degeneracies in the Hydrogen Atom

According to the rules related to the three quantum numbers above, the following states (wave functions) are possible in each energy level:

n	l	m_l	E_n (eV)	$ L $	L_z	$\psi_{n,l,m_l} = R_{n,l}Y_l^{m_l}$	degeneracies	Orbital name	
1	0	0	-13.6	0	0	$\psi_{100} = R_{10}Y_0^0$	Non-degenerate	1s	
2	1	0	-3.40	$\sqrt{2}\hbar$	0	$\psi_{200} = R_{20}Y_0^0$	4 ($=2^2$)	2s	
		-1			$-\hbar$	$\psi_{21-1} = R_{21}Y_1^{-1}$			2p
		0			0	$\psi_{210} = R_{21}Y_1^0$			
1	$+\hbar$	$\psi_{211} = R_{21}Y_1^{+1}$							
3	1	0	-1.51	$\sqrt{2}\hbar$	0	$\psi_{300} = R_{30}Y_0^0$	9 ($=3^2$)	3s	
		-1			$-\hbar$	$\psi_{31-1} = R_{31}Y_1^{-1}$			3p
		0			0	$\psi_{310} = R_{31}Y_1^0$			
	1	$+\hbar$	$\psi_{311} = R_{31}Y_1^{+1}$						
	2	2	-2	$\sqrt{6}\hbar$	$-2\hbar$	$\psi_{32-2} = R_{32}Y_2^{-2}$	3d		
			-1		$-\hbar$	$\psi_{32-1} = R_{32}Y_2^{-1}$			
			0		0	$\psi_{320} = R_{32}Y_2^0$			
1			$+\hbar$		$\psi_{321} = R_{32}Y_2^{+1}$				
2	$+2\hbar$	$\psi_{322} = R_{32}Y_2^{+2}$							

Therefore, in the hydrogen atom, there are n^2 degenerate wave functions associated with each E_n .

n	l	m_l	$\Phi(\phi)$	$\Theta(\theta)$	$R(r)$	$\psi(r,\theta,\phi)$
1	0	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{2}{a_0^{3/2}} e^{-r/a_0}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2}} e^{-r/a_0}$
2	0	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2} a_0^{3/2}} \left(2 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) e^{-r/2a_0}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi} a_0^{3/2}} \left(2 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) e^{-r/2a_0}$
2	1	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2} \cos\theta$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{6} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/2a_0}$	$\frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/2a_0} \cos\theta$
2	1	± 1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\pm i\phi}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin\theta$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{6} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/2a_0}$	$\frac{1}{8\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2} a_0} e^{-r/2a_0} \sin\theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
3	0	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{2}{81\sqrt{3} a_0^{3/2}} \left(27 - 18\frac{r}{a_0} + 2\frac{r^2}{a_0^2}\right) e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{1}{81\sqrt{3\pi} a_0^{3/2}} \left(27 - 18\frac{r}{a_0} + 2\frac{r^2}{a_0^2}\right) e^{-r/3a_0}$
3	1	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{6}}{2} \cos\theta$	$\frac{4}{81\sqrt{6} a_0^{3/2}} \left(6 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2}} \left(6 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/3a_0} \cos\theta$
3	1	± 1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\pm i\phi}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin\theta$	$\frac{4}{81\sqrt{6} a_0^{3/2}} \left(6 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{1}{81\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2}} \left(6 - \frac{r}{a_0}\right) \frac{r}{a_0} e^{-r/3a_0} \sin\theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
3	2	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{10}}{4} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)$	$\frac{4}{81\sqrt{30} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r^2}{a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{1}{81\sqrt{6\pi} a_0^{3/2} a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)$
3	2	± 1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\pm i\phi}$	$\frac{\sqrt{15}}{2} \sin\theta \cos\theta$	$\frac{4}{81\sqrt{30} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r^2}{a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{1}{81\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2} a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0} \sin\theta \cos\theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
3	2	± 2	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\pm 2i\phi}$	$\frac{\sqrt{15}}{4} \sin^2\theta$	$\frac{4}{81\sqrt{30} a_0^{3/2}} \frac{r^2}{a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0}$	$\frac{1}{162\sqrt{\pi} a_0^{3/2} a_0^2} e^{-r/3a_0} \sin^2\theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$

Normalization

The probability density of the hydrogen atom can be written as:

$$|\psi_{n,l,m_l}|^2 = R(r)^2 \Theta(\theta)^2 \Phi(\phi)^2$$

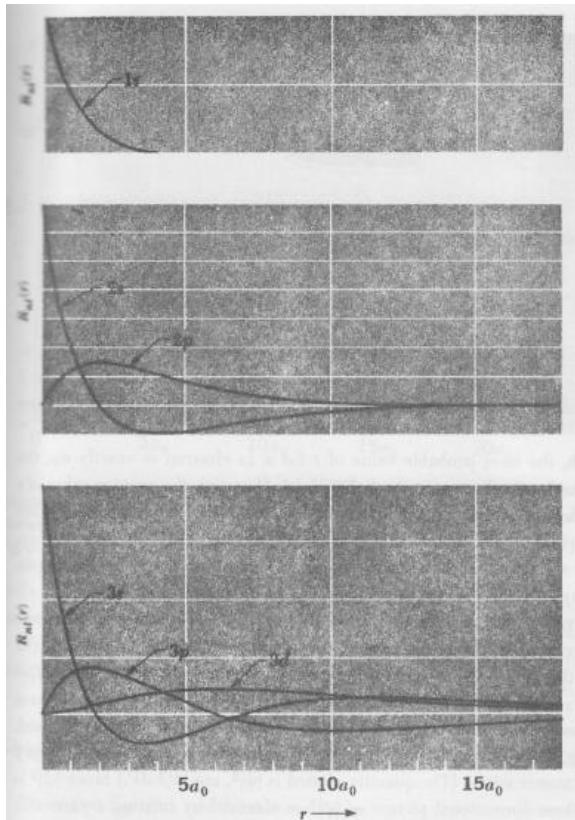
Normalization condition: $|\psi_{n,m,m_l}|^2$ over all space ($dV = r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi$)

$$\begin{aligned} \int |\psi_{n,l,m_l}|^2 dV &= \int |\psi_{n,l,m_l}|^2 r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi \\ &= \int_0^\infty R(r)^2 r^2 dr \int_0^\pi \Theta(\theta)^2 \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\phi)^2 d\phi \\ &\begin{cases} \int_0^\infty R(r)^2 r^2 dr = 1 \\ \int_0^\pi \Theta(\theta)^2 \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\phi)^2 d\phi = 2\pi \int_0^\pi \Theta(\theta)^2 \sin\theta d\theta = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

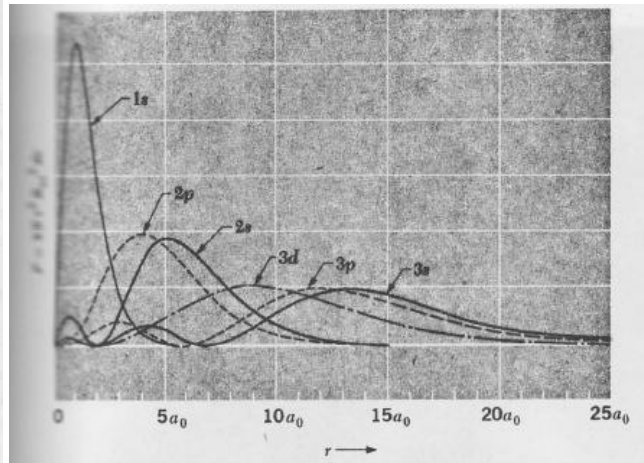
Electron's Whereabouts

Radial Probability Density

$$P(r)dr = R(r)^2 r^2 dr$$



$R_{n,l}(r)$



$r^2 R_{n,l}(r)^2$

- According to $R_{n,l}(r)$, there is a finite probability at the center for all s orbitals ($l=0$).
- Radial probabilities, $4\pi r^2 R_{n,l}(r)^2$, and energies are drawn in the hydrogen atom's Coulomb potential on the right.
- As n increases, the orbital radius increases.
- As n increases, the number of nodes in the same l orbital increases.
- When $l = n-1$, the most probable radius can be shown to have

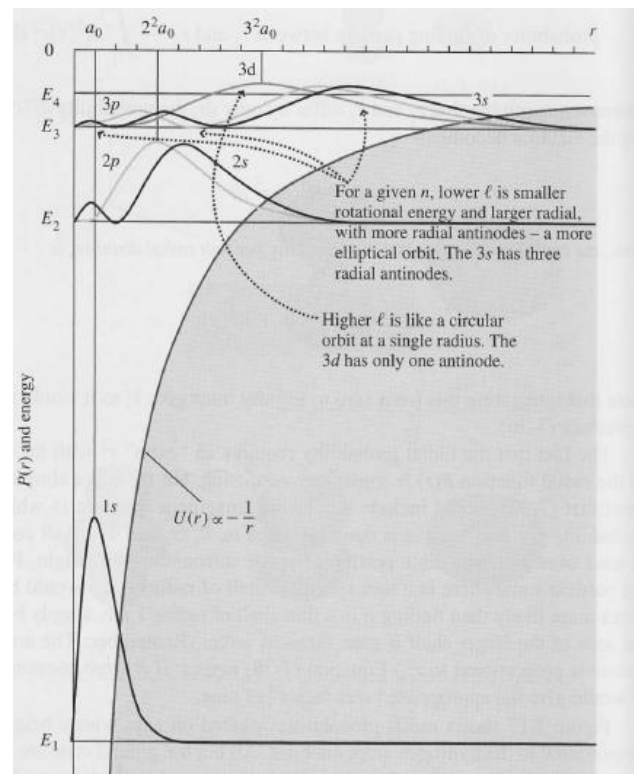
$$r_{n, l=n-1} (\text{most probable}) = n^2 a_0$$

That is,

$$r_{10} (1s, \text{ most probable}) = a_0$$

$$r_{21} (2p, \text{ most probable}) = 4a_0$$

$$r_{32} (3d, \text{ most probable}) = 9a_0$$



The most probable r value is different from the expected r value since

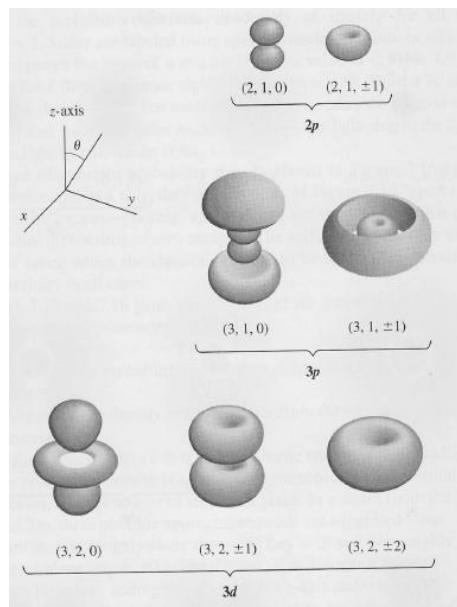
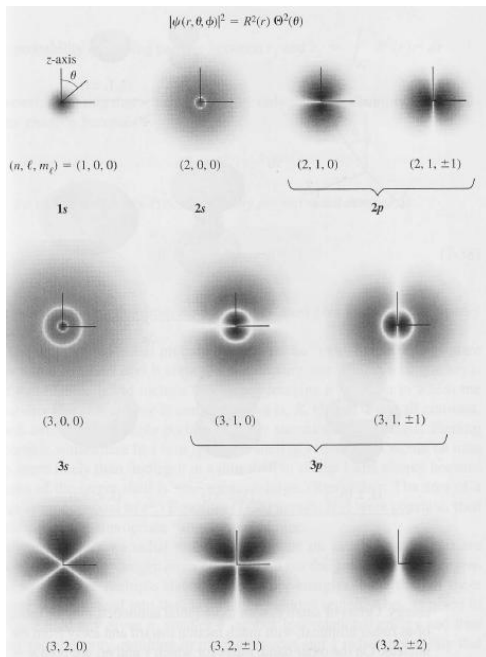
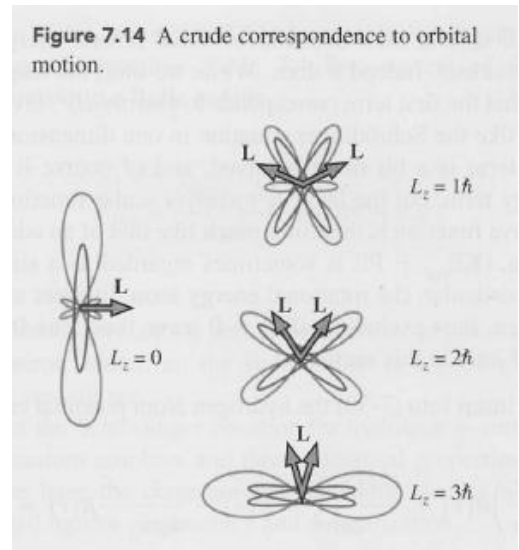
The most probable r value is obtained when $\frac{dP(r)}{dr} = \frac{dr^2 R_{n,l}(r)^2}{dr} = 0$

And the expected r value is obtained when $\langle r \rangle = \int_0^\infty r \cdot r^2 R_{n,l}(r)^2 dr$

- According to the radial probability distribution, the expected r value is larger than the most probable r value for a given orbital.

Angular Probability Density

- The probability density is a diffuse cloud spread over space.
- The probability density extends farther from the origin (where the proton is) as n increases.
- The probability density should be symmetric along the ϕ axis.
- In s states where $l = 0$, the kinetic energy is solely radial, so the probability density is spherically symmetric. No orbital motion.
- Note that the electron is orbiting the plane perpendicular to the direction of L_z . See Figure on the right.
- In p states where ($l=1$), three possible probability distributions: $L_z = 1, 0, -1$. See Figure below.
- In d states where ($l=2$), five possible probability distributions $L_z = 2, 1, 0, -1, -2$.



- There is no probability at the center when $l \neq 0$. Take a look at the p, d, f orbitals as compared to s orbitals.
- At fixed l , the number of radial anti-nodes increases as n increase because of increasing radial energy without increasing rotational energy
 - 1s vs. 2s vs. 3s
 - 2p vs. 3p vs. 4p
- At fixed n , the number of radial anti-nodes decreases as l increases because of increasing rotational energy while the total energy is fixed.
 - 2s vs. 2p
 - 3s vs. 3p vs. 3d

Hydrogenlike Atom

Hydrogen like atoms are atoms containing one electron but with a nucleus more than a single proton (Ze). The potential becomes

$$U(r) = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e \cdot Ze}{r} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Ze^2}{r}$$

Example: ionized Helium where the nucleus has a charge of $+2e$ and the orbiting electron has a charge of $-e$.

In that case,

$$E_{n \text{ hydrogen}} = -\frac{m(e^2)e^2}{32\pi^2\epsilon_0^2\hbar^2} \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0}\right) \left(\frac{me^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 a_0}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -13.6 \text{ eV} \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

$$E_{n \text{ hydrogenlike}} = -\frac{m(Z^2 e^2)e^2}{32\pi^2\epsilon_0^2\hbar^2} \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{Z^2 e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0}\right) \left(\frac{me^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -\left(\frac{Z^2 e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 a_0}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) = -13.6 \text{ eV} \left(\frac{Z^2}{n^2}\right)$$

The most probable r value for the orbital $l = n - 1$

$$r_{n, l=n-1} \text{ (most probable) hydrogen} = n^2 a_0$$

$$r_{n, l=n-1} \text{ (most probable) hydrogenlike} = \frac{1}{Z} n^2 a_0$$

Bound energies are deeper by Z^2 , the orbital most probably radii smaller by $\frac{1}{Z}$