

27. Another application of angular momentum addition and Wigner-Eckhart Theorem:

(a) The 2p state of a hydrogen atom can have $j=3/2$ and $j=1/2$ if the spin-orbit interaction is included. Each $|jm\rangle$ state is the result of coupling $\ell = 1$ and spin $s = 1/2$. Use Y_{1m} to represent the orbital wavefunction and α and β to represent the spin up and spin down, respectively. Write down explicitly the angular wavefunction for all the $|jm\rangle$ states in terms of linear combinations of products of orbital and spin functions. (Use Clebsch-Gordon coefficients from your favored sources.)

(b) Write down the ground state wavefunction including the spin. Note that the ground states can be expressed as $|j'm'\rangle$ with $j' = 1/2$ and $m' = \pm 1/2$.

(c) The ground state can be excited to the 2p state with $j=3/2$ and $j=1/2$ by absorption of a photon. The transition operator is a dipole operator which is proportional to Y_{1q} with $q=0, \pm 1$. The transition rates from an initial state $|j'm'\rangle$ to a final state $|jm\rangle$ is proportional to $|\langle jm | Y_{1q} | j'm'\rangle|^2$. Calculate the transition rate from each initial to each final state. What is the total rate for transition to $j=3/2$ as compared to transition to $j=1/2$ final states. Assume that initially the $m' = \pm 1/2$ are equally populated.

(Note: you can calculate the relative rates at this point only. Later we will show how to calculate the absolute rates.)

28. Problem 17.6 of Merzbacher. (p.449)-- This one should be rather easy by now.