

Outline and Study Guide

(names and dates for historical interest; not to be memorized)

I. The Old Quantum Theory

- A. Black body radiation
 - background: electromagnetic radiation
 - Experimental observations and the empirical Wein displacement law (1894)
 - Rayleigh-Jeans theory (1900) and the ultraviolet catastrophe
 - Solution: the Quantum hypothesis (Planck, 1900)
- B. The photoelectric effect
 - Experiment observing the effect (Hertz, 1887)
 - Theory (Einstein, 1905)
 - Refined experiments (Millikan, 1916)
 - Modern experiments using the photoelectric effect.
- C. The heat capacities of solids (Einstein, 1907)
- D. The structure of the atom
 - 1. Early studies on subatomic particles
 - a. Measurement of e/m (J.J. Thomson, 1897)
 - Application to modern mass spectrometry
 - b. Oil drop experiment (Millikan, 1909)
 - c. particle scattering experiment (Geiger and Marsden, 1909)
 - d. Planetary model (Rutherford, 1911)
 - 2. The spectrum of the hydrogen atom (Balmer 1885, Rydberg 1896)
 - 3. Bohr model of the one-electron atom (Bohr, 1913)
 - assumptions:
 - Quantized angular momentum ℓ
 - The Correspondence Principle
 - results:
 - explanation of line spectra
 - quantitative prediction of the Rydberg constant.

Readings: McQuarrie, Chapter 1

II. Elements of Modern Quantum Theory

- A. Wave-particle duality for matter
 - a. The deBroglie hypothesis (deBroglie, 1924): $\lambda = h/p$
 - b. Electron diffraction (Davisson and Germer, G.P. Thomson, 1927)
- B. Heisenberg uncertainty principle (Heisenberg, 1927):
 - Representation of waves: Fourier series and Fourier transforms
 - $\Delta x \Delta p_x \geq \hbar/2$ and $\Delta E \Delta t \geq \hbar/2$
- C. Schrödinger equation (Schrödinger 1926): $\hat{H}\Psi = E\Psi$ or $\mathcal{H}\Psi = E\Psi$ or

$$\left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x) \right\} \Psi(x) = E \Psi(x)$$

- D. Some formal aspects of quantum mechanics
1. Operators and observables. Eigenvalues and eigenfunctions
 2. Wave functions and probability densities. Normalization
 $\Psi(x)$ must be well behaved, continuous, and single valued.
- E. Applications: two exact solutions of the Schrodinger equation
1. The free particle: energies are not quantized
 2. The particle in a box [$x = 0$ to $x = L$] (some books use a instead of L)
 Boundary conditions \rightarrow quantized energy levels
 Result: $E_n = n^2 h^2 / 8mL^2$ and $\Psi_n(x) = (2/L)^{1/2} \sin(n\pi x/L)$
 Nodes and quantum numbers
 Application to spectra of conjugated molecules
 More dimensions: separation of variables; Symmetry and degeneracy

Readings: McQuarrie, Chapters 2 and 3

III. The Postulates of Quantum Mechanics

1. The state of a quantum mechanical system is fully specified by the function $\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$
 $\Psi^*(\mathbf{r}, t)\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) d\tau$ is the probability that the system is in the volume element $d\tau$ at time t .
 \mathbf{r} is a multidimensional position vector for all particles in the system.
 Consequence: Ψ must be *square-integrable*.

2. For every classical observable there is a corresponding linear Hermitian quantum mechanical operator.

Definition: an operator \hat{A} is Hermitian if for well behaved functions f and g

$$\int f^* \hat{A}g d\tau = \int g \hat{A}^* f^* d\tau$$

Theorems:

- A. The eigenvalues of any Hermitian operator are real.
- B. The eigenfunctions of any Hermitian operator form a complete orthogonal set.

3. In any measurement of the observable associated with the operator A (or \hat{A}), the only values observed are the eigenvalues a of the equation

$$A\Psi = a\Psi$$

where Ψ is the wavefunction for the system.

4. The expectation value for the variable a associated with operator A for a system in the state Ψ is given by

$$\langle a \rangle = \int \Psi^* \hat{A}\Psi d\tau$$

5. The function $\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ which describes the complete spatial and temporal system is the solution to the time-dependent Schrodinger equation: $H\Psi = i \hbar \partial\Psi/\partial t$

If H is independent of t , then $\Psi_n(\mathbf{r}, t) = \psi_k(\mathbf{r}) \exp(-iE_n t/\hbar)$

where $\psi_k(\mathbf{r})$ is a solution of the time-independent Schrodinger equation $H\psi_k = E_k\psi_k$

Operators and the Uncertainty principle:

Theorem: Commuting Hermitian operators have simultaneous eigenfunctions.

Readings: McQuarrie, Chapter 4

IV. Two more exact solutions to the Schrodinger equation:A. The Simple Harmonic Oscillator $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} k\Delta x^2$

1. SHO as an approximation to real molecular potentials $V(r)$
2. Method of solution

Reduced variables ε and ξ

Asymptotic solution: as $\xi^2 \rightarrow \infty$, $\Psi(\xi) \rightarrow \exp(-\xi^2/2)$

Differential equation for $H(\xi)$:

Series solution, recursion relation, finite polynomials

3. Results: $E_v = \hbar\omega (v+1/2)$ $v = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and

$\Psi_v(\xi) = (2^v v! \pi^{1/2})^{-1/2} H_v(\xi) \exp(-\xi^2/2)$ where $H_v(\xi)$ is Hermite polynomial

Zero point energy, nodes

Penetration of Ψ into nonclassical region

Application to infrared spectroscopy

Readings: McQuarrie, Chapter 5 [note that the order is quite different]

B. The Rigid Rotor

1. Spherical polar coordinates, determination of ∇^2 and $d\tau$
2. Separation of variables θ and φ
3. Results: $E = (\hbar^2/2\mu r^2) \ell(\ell+1)$ $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and $|m| \leq \ell$

$\Psi_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi) = Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi) = \Theta_{\ell m}(\theta) \Phi_m(\varphi)$

$Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi) =$ Spherical Harmonic

$\Theta_{\ell m}(\theta) = N_{\ell m} P_{\ell m}(\cos \theta)$

P = Associated Legendre Polynomial

$\Phi_m(\varphi) = (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(im\varphi)$

Shapes of the spherical harmonics: polar plots

Space Quantization of angular momenta

4. Rotational Spectroscopy: symbols (ℓ, m) often replaced by (J, m_J) .

Pure rotational spectroscopy: microwave region

applications in astrophysics (radiofrequency telescopes).

Readings: McQuarrie, Chapter 6: 6.3-6.7

V. Atomic structure and atomic spectra**A. The Hydrogen Atom**

1. Exact solution of the Schrödinger equation
 - Separation of variables
 - Angular equation same as rigid rotor: spherical harmonics
 - Solution to the Radial equation $R(r)$ [handout]
 - Results: three quantum numbers (n, ℓ, m) $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots; 0 \leq \ell < n; |m| \leq \ell$
 - $E_n = -\mu(z e^2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 / 2\hbar^2 n^2 = -z^2 R / n^2$ (identical to Bohr result)
2. Interpretation of the results
 - a. Orbitals and their properties.
 - Representations of orbitals.
 - b. Degeneracy of levels with same n but different ℓ, m
3. Orbital angular momentum. The effect of external magnetic fields.
4. Electron spin (Goudsmit and Uhlenbeck, 1926)
 - a. The Stern-Gerlach experiment (1921).
 - b. The effect of external magnetic fields.

B. Approximate Methods for many-electron systems

1. Time independent perturbation theory: first order energy correction

$$\Delta E = \int \Psi^0 \hat{H} \Psi^0 d\tau \quad \text{and} \quad E^1 = E^0 + \Delta E$$
 - application to He: comparison with independent electron result.
 - introduction of atomic units for QM calculations
2. Time dependent perturbation theory: electric dipole selection rules
 - If $M_{if} \equiv \int \Psi_i^* \hat{\mu} \Psi_f d\tau$ is zero, the transition $i \rightarrow f$ is forbidden
3. The Variation method
 - a. Theorem: if Φ is an arbitrary normalized function, then $\epsilon = \int \Phi^* \hat{H} \Phi d\tau \geq E_0$
 - b. Application: guess a function Φ with variable parameters
 - Linear combinations of known functions \rightarrow secular determinant
 - c. Calculation of structure of many-electron atoms
 - The self consistent field (SCF) model (Hartree and Fock, 1927-1930)

C. The structure and spectra of many-electron atoms

1. Spin and The Pauli Exclusion Principle
2. Spectra and energy levels
3. Atomic structure and periodic behavior
 - Slater determinants
4. Term symbols and the vector model
5. Fine structure: the spin-orbit interaction

Readings: McQuarrie, chapters 6, 7, and 8

VI. Molecular quantum mechanics: the chemical bond

- A. Types of interactions between atoms
 - closed shell neutrals: Van der Waals forces
 - closed shell ions: Ionic forces
 - open shell atoms: covalent bonds
- B. The Born-Oppenheimer approximation (1927)
 - Separation of electron and nuclear motion
- C. Valence bond (VB) theory for the H₂ molecule (Heitler and London, 1927)
- D. Molecular orbital (MO) theory (Hund, Mullikan et al., 1930's)
 - 1. One electron orbitals: H₂⁺
 - 2. Molecular Orbital (MO) theory for homonuclear diatomics
 - 3. Heteronuclear bonds: polarity and electronegativity
- E. Polyatomic molecules
 - 1. Valence bond treatment of localized bonds
 - Hybrid atomic orbitals and molecular geometry
 - 2. Semiempirical Huckel MO theory for delocalized systems
 - 3. Transition metal complexes: Ligand field theory
- F. Molecular electronic spectroscopy: the Franck Condon Principle
- G. Modern computational methods: examples using PC Spartan
 - basis sets, orbitals, density diagrams

Readings: McQuarrie, chapter 9