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# Introduction

# Models in Simulation

This chapter introduces general knowledge about the mathematical models used in the simulation. These models include Rydberg Atoms, Two-Body Effect, Dipole-Dipole Interaction Model, THz Pulse Simulation and etc. They compose a mathematical background for the simulation implemented in Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6. Other than specifically mentioned, all the units in this chapter are atomic units.

## Rydberg Atoms

Back to 1885, Balmer found the wavelengths of the visible series of atomic H is given by [1]:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.1) |

where b = 3464.6 . We now know equation (3.1) is the formula for the wavelengths of the Balmer series of transitions from the n = 2 states to the higher lying levels.

After quantitatively describing the wavelengths from H, people started to work on other atoms to unravel the mystery of atomic spectroscopy. Living and Dewar found that the observed spectral lines of Na could be grouped into different series [2]. Hartley found the significance of describing Balmer’s formula in terms of the wavenumber of the observed lines instead of the wavelength during his reach on spectra of Mg, Zn, and Cd [3]:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | . | (3.2) |

Now it’s more clear what Balmer discovered reflects the energy difference between the *n* = 2 states and the higher lying levels.

Following those precedents’ work, Rydberg began to classify the spectra of other atoms, notably alkali atoms, into sharp, principal, and diffuse series of lines [4]. He found the wavenumbers of lines connoting the *s* and p series, for example, are given by:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.3) |

where + sign and constant n describe a sharp series of *s* states and the minus sign and a constant m describe a principal series of *p* states. If and m = 2 we can get Balmer’s formula for the H transition from n = 2.

Due to his significant contribution, people are now naming atoms in states of high principal quantum number “Rydberg Atoms”.

### Modern Model of Rydberg Atoms

If we consider Rydberg states of H and Na, as shown in Figure 3.1, they are essentially similar. The only difference is that Na atom has a core which is composed of 11 positive charges and 10 electrons. For most of the time, the highest external electron (Rydberg electron) is far from the core and the difference between Na, H and all Rydberg atoms is minimal. But when the Rydberg electron comes near the core, it can both polarize and penetrate the core, and change the wavefunctions and energies of Na Rydberg state from their hydrongenic counterparts.



Figure 3.1: Rydberg atoms of (a) H and (b) Na. In H the electron orbits around the point of charge of the proton. In Na it orbits around the +11 nuclear charge and ten inner shell electrons. In high l states Na behaves identically to H, but in low L states the Na electron penetrates and polarizes the inner shell electrons of the core [5].

We know how to calculate wavefunctions of H [6]. This process can be easily extended to generate wavefunctions for single valence electron atoms with spherical ionic cores. Such an approach is called Quantum Defect Theory [7]. Quantum Defect Theory (QDT) assumes that the core is spherically symmetric and frozen in place. So the effective potential, seen by the valence electron is spherically symmetric and only depends on *r*. This potential is lower than the coulomb -1/*r* potential only at small *r*, and the effect is to increase electron kinetic energy and decrease the wavelength of the radial oscillations relative to H. Suppose the phase shift is . The bound state radial wavefunctions are given by:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.4) |

where and are commonly termed the regular and irregular coulomb functions. This radial function will derive the the allowed eigen energies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.5) |

where n is an integer. Equation (3.5) is the equation used in the simulation to calculate the energies of Rydberg atoms. Table 3.1 gives the 0th order approximation of the quantum defect for Rb.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3.13109 | 2.65456 | 2.64145 | 1.347157 | 0.016312 |

Table 3.1:Quantum defects for low-ℓ states of Rb [5].

### Properties of Rydberg Atoms

Table summarizes the properties dependent on principal quantum number n of Rydberg atoms [8].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| property | n dependences |
| Binding energy  Energy between adjacent n states  Orbital radius  Geometric cross section  Dipole moment <ns|er|np>  Polarizability  Radiative lifetime  Fine-structure interval |  |

Table 3.2: Properties of Rydberg Atoms.

As introduced in later sections, dipole-dipole interaction between Rydberg atoms is proportional to . And the Rydberg electrons are far from cores, which makes the them easy to be affect by external forces. The very long enough lifetime of Rydberg atoms also reduces the threshold of detecting development of atoms. All these superior properties make them ideal objects for researching dipole-dipole interaction and electron dynamics.

## Two-Body Model

### What Is Two-Body Model

When talking about Dipole-Dipole interaction (which will be introduced in detail in later sections) between atoms, a simplified two-body model is often used. In this model, we suppose one atom can only be affected by its nearest neighbor. Such an assumption is not very accurate of course, because a nearest neighbor could never block the influence from other atoms. But compared to many-body model, two-body model provides a concise way of thinking dipole-dipole interaction between atoms [5]. Besides, two-body effect has been accepted widely to be the major effect between atoms [9][10]. So in this dissertation, all the calculation and simulation is the based on the two-body model.



Figure 3.2: Schematic of pairs in MOT. For an atom in a MOT, we only consider the effect from its nearest neighbor. One atom and its nearest neighbor is considered to be “a pair of atoms”.

For a two-body model or a pair of atoms, we can write their state, in non-interacting basis, as the combination of their individual states. For example, for a pair of atoms which are in ns state and np state respectively, we can write the state of this pair as nsnp. We call this state “pair state”. Such a convention is followed in all sections of this dissertation.

### Nearest Neighbor Distribution

For a pair of atoms, to get the effect of one atom on the other, we need to find the distance between them. We use the so called “Nearest Neighbor Distribution” theory to find the distance between an atom and its nearest neighbor. The nearest neighbor distribution function H(r) for a D-dimensional system is described by [11][12]:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.6) |

where is the density of the atoms and is the volume of the D-dimensional sphere. For a 3-D system, we get the distribution function:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (3.7) |

From Equation (3.7), we can find the most possible distance between in one pair is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | . | (3.8) |

For a MOT with density , temperature about 100 K, the most possible distance between one atom and its nearest neighbor is about 5 m and the velocity of the atoms is of the order of 10 cm/s. In 1 s, one atom can move about 0.1 m which is much smaller than the distance between two atoms. So we could consider the atoms as “frozen” or static atoms in the MOT for our experiments.

### Förster Resonance Energy Transfer

Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET) is a mechanism describing energy transfer between two atoms or molecules. It happens when two neighboring atoms are dipole-dipole coupled to higher and lower states with equal energy spacing. This mechanism could be described very easily using the two-body model (as shown in Figure 3.3). One atom is acting as a donor and the other one accepter. The atoms exchange energy as the donor is de-excited to a lower state and the accepter excited to a higher state. We utilize this mechanism a lot in our research described in this dissertation.

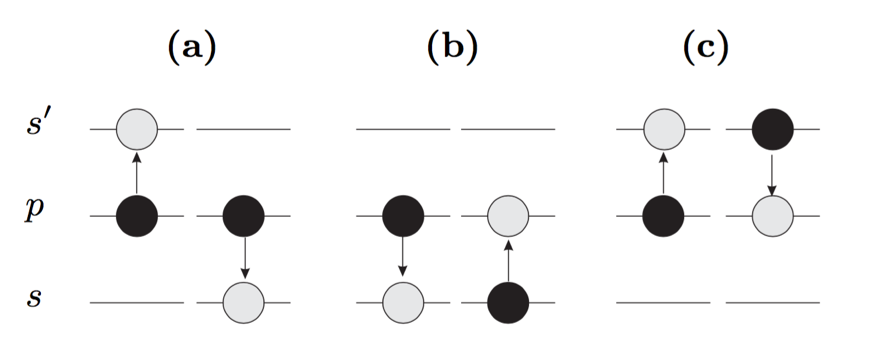


Figure 3.3: Schematic for typical FRETs. Black cycles represent the initial pair states and gray cycles the final pair states. (a) is , (b) and (c) [13].

## Dipole-Dipole Interaction

In the above discussion, dipole-dipole interaction has been mentioned several time. Now with the Rydberg Atoms model and two-body model, it makes easy to describe what exactly dipole-dipole interaction is. For convenience, we continue with the same system as described in Figure 3.3: .

### Dipole Moment

### Dipole-Dipole Interaction In Classic Picture

### Dipole-Dipole Interaction In Quantum Picture

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