

The LS-coupling scheme

Atomic Physics Chapter 5

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5.0 Hamiltonian & The LS-coupling scheme without fine structure

5.1 Fine structure in the LS-coupling scheme

5.2 The jj-coupling scheme

5.3 Intermediate coupling: the transition between coupling schemes

5.4 Selection rules in the LS-coupling scheme

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5.5.1. The Paschen-Back effect

5.5.2. The normal Zeeman effect

5.5.3. The anomalous Zeeman effect

5.6 Summary

The central-field approximation

$$V_{\text{CF}}(r) = -\frac{Ze^2/4\pi\epsilon_0}{r} + S(r),$$

$$H_{\text{CF}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 + V_{\text{CF}}(r_i) \right\}.$$

The residual electrostatic interaction:

$$H_{\text{re}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \sum_{j>i}^N \frac{e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0}{r_{ij}} - S(r_i) \right\},$$

Hamiltonian:

$$H = H_{\text{CF}} + H_{\text{re}} + H_{\text{s-o}}.$$

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It is generally very difficult to calculate the eigenvalues of the above Hamiltonian, so two extremes are usually discussed.

1. LS-coupling scheme:

$H_{s-o} \ll H_{re} : H_{s-o} \rightarrow \text{perturbation, basic quantum numbers : } LSJM_J,$

2. jj-coupling scheme:

$H_{s-o} \gg H_{re} : H_{re} \rightarrow \text{perturbation, basic quantum numbers : } n_i l_i j_i JM_J.$

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$$H = H_{\text{CF}} + H_{\text{re}}.$$

Consider

$$\mathbf{L} = \sum_i \mathbf{l}_i, \quad \mathbf{S} = \sum_i \mathbf{s}_i, \quad \mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}.$$

No external torque:

$$[\mathbf{L}^2, H_{\text{re}}] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad [L_z, H_{\text{re}}] = 0.$$

 H_{re} doesn't depend on spin:

$$[\mathbf{S}^2, H_{\text{re}}] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad [S_z, H_{\text{re}}] = 0.$$

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Therefore,

good quantum numbers : L, M_L, S, M_S ,
eigenstates of H_{re} : $|LM_LSM_S\rangle$.

Label:

terms : $^{2S+1}L_J$.

e.g. 3p4p in silicon

$$l_1 = 1, \quad l_2 = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad L = 0, 1 \text{ or } 2,$$

$$s_1 = \frac{1}{2}, \quad s_2 = \frac{1}{2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad S = 0 \text{ or } 1,$$

terms (without J) : $^{2S+1}L = ^1S, ^1P, ^1D, ^3S, ^3P, ^3D$.

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Isotropy: degeneracy with respect to M_L and M_S .

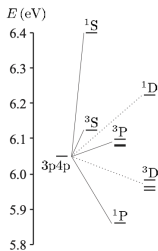


Figure: 3p4p in silicon

Degenerate states

$$(2l_1+1)(2l_2+1)(2s_1+1)(2s_2+1) = 36.$$

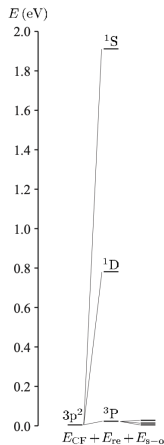


Figure: 3p² in silicon

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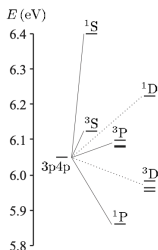


Figure: $3p4p$ in silicon

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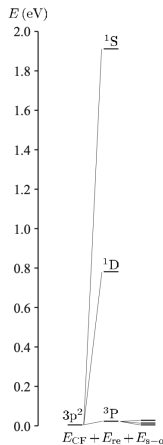


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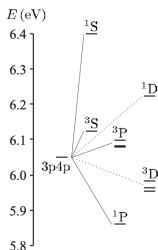


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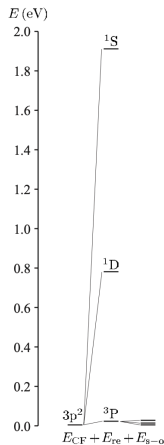


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Spin orbit coupling of electrons

Approximate calculations of relativistic quantum mechanics at low speeds:

$$U_{sl} = \frac{1}{2\mu^2 c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{dU}{dr} \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{l} = \xi(r) \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{l}.$$

The Hamiltonian:

$$H_{s-o} = \sum_i \beta_i \mathbf{s}_i \cdot \mathbf{l}_i = \beta_{LS} \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{L}.$$

$$H = H_{CF} + H_{re} + H_{s-o}.$$

the total electronic angular momentum: $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$.

$$\therefore \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} = \frac{(\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{J} - \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{S})}{2},$$

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Therefore, L_z, S_z are no longer conserved.

good quantum numbers : L, S, J, M_J ,
eigenstates of H : $|LSJM_J\rangle$.

The energy shift: (degeneracy with respect to M_J)

$$\begin{aligned} E_{s-o} &= \beta_{LS} \langle \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{L} \rangle \\ &= \frac{\beta_{LS}}{2} \{ J(J+1) - L(L+1) - S(S+1) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Lande interval rule

The energy interval between adjacent J levels:

$$\Delta E_{FS} = E_J - E_{J-1} = \beta_{LS} J \propto J.$$



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Example: pp electronic configuration

$npn'p$ ($n \neq n'$)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 L = 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \\
 S = 0 \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc} {}^1S_0 & {}^1P_1 & {}^1D_2 \\ 1 & {}^3S_1 & {}^3P_{210} \quad {}^3D_{321} \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

$npn'p$		M_s		
		1	0	-1
M_L	2	$(1\uparrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\uparrow 1\downarrow)(1\downarrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\downarrow 1\downarrow)$
	1	$(1\uparrow 0\uparrow)(0\uparrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\uparrow 0\downarrow)(0\uparrow 1\downarrow)(1\downarrow 0\uparrow)(0\downarrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\downarrow 0\downarrow)(0\downarrow 1\downarrow)$
	0	$(1\uparrow \bar{1}\uparrow)(0\uparrow 0\uparrow)$ $(1\uparrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\uparrow \bar{1}\downarrow)(0\uparrow 0\downarrow)(\bar{1}\uparrow 1\downarrow)$ $(1\downarrow \bar{1}\uparrow)(0\downarrow 0\uparrow)(1\downarrow 1\uparrow)$	$(1\downarrow \bar{1}\downarrow)(0\downarrow 0\downarrow)$ $(1\downarrow 1\downarrow)$
	-1	$(\bar{1}\uparrow 0\uparrow)(0\uparrow \bar{1}\uparrow)$	$(\bar{1}\uparrow 0\downarrow)(0\uparrow \bar{1}\downarrow)(\bar{1}\downarrow 0\uparrow)(0\downarrow \bar{1}\uparrow)$	$(\bar{1}\downarrow 0\downarrow)(0\downarrow \bar{1}\downarrow)$
	-2	$(\bar{1}\uparrow \bar{1}\uparrow)$	$(\bar{1}\uparrow \bar{1}\downarrow)(\bar{1}\downarrow \bar{1}\uparrow)$	$(\bar{1}\downarrow \bar{1}\downarrow)$

^a

^a $\bar{1} = -1$.

Example: pp electronic configuration

$$(np)^2$$

For equivalent electrons the Pauli exclusion principle restricts the states.

$(np)^2$		M_S		
		1	0	-1
M_L	2		$(1 \uparrow 1 \downarrow)$	
	1	$(1 \uparrow 0 \uparrow)$	$(1 \uparrow 0 \downarrow)(1 \downarrow 0 \uparrow)$	$(1 \downarrow 0 \downarrow)$
	0	$(1 \uparrow \bar{1} \uparrow)$	$(1 \uparrow \bar{1} \downarrow)(1 \downarrow \bar{1} \uparrow)(0 \uparrow 0 \downarrow)$	$(1 \downarrow \bar{1} \downarrow)$
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Even rule:

$$2|(L + S).$$

Example: pp electronic configuration

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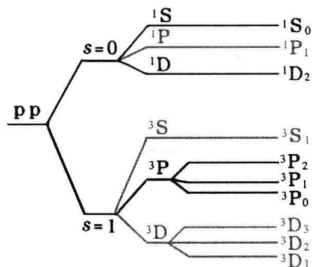
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Black line: $(np)^2$,

Gray line: prohibited by Pauli's principle,

All line: $npn'p$.

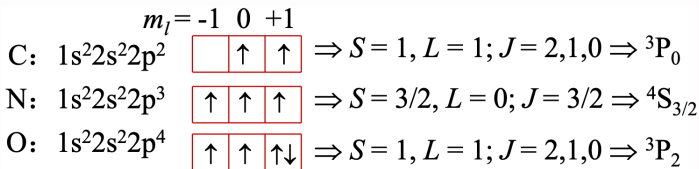
Figure: pp electronic configuration energy levels

Hund's rules

1. $S \nearrow E \searrow$;
2. $L \nearrow E \searrow$;
3.
 - Normal order ($J \searrow E \searrow$) : under half shell layer;
 - Anomalous order ($J \nearrow E \searrow$) : over half shell layer.

However, Hund's rules are empirical and there are exceptions. They are more effective in inferring the ground state, with only a few exceptions. Using it to discuss excited states is not very reliable.

Application: determine the ground state

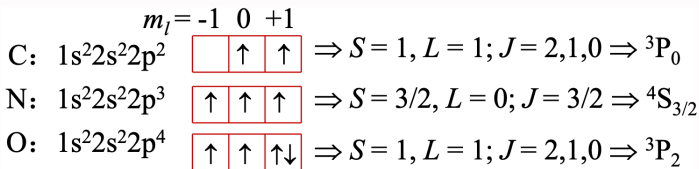


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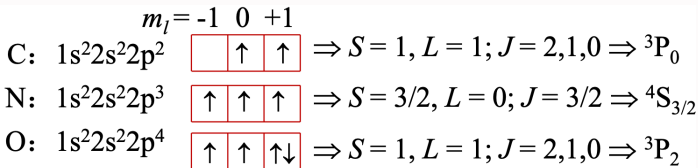


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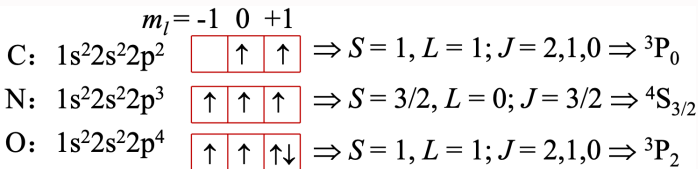


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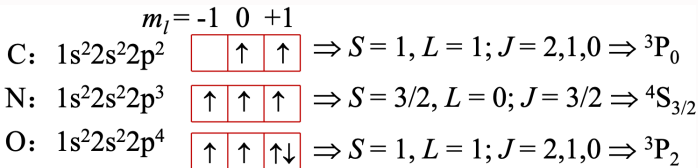


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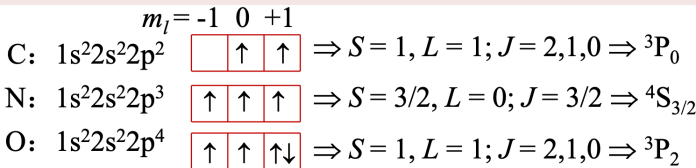


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Theoretical explanation

Generalize the potential expression of spin-orbit coupling to the coupling of any two angular momentum:

$$U_{l_1 l_2} = \frac{1}{2\mu^2 c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{dU}{dr} \mathbf{l}_1 \cdot \mathbf{l}_2, \quad (\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{l}_1 + \mathbf{l}_2)$$

The contribution of the coupling of angular momentum to the interaction potential:

$$\langle \mathbf{l}_1 \cdot \mathbf{l}_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} [L(L+1) - l_1(l_1+1) - l_2(l_2+1)] \hbar^2.$$

Apparently, $L \nearrow \langle \mathbf{l}_1 \cdot \mathbf{l}_2 \rangle \nearrow$, so the key is $\frac{dU}{dr} \geq 0$.

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Apparently, $L \nearrow \langle \mathbf{l}_1 \cdot \mathbf{l}_2 \rangle \nearrow$, so the key is $\frac{dU}{dr} ? 0$.

Theoretical explanation

- Electron-electron Coulomb repulsion: 1&2

$$\frac{dU}{dr} \propto \frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{e^2}{r} \right) \propto -\frac{1}{r^2} < 0,$$

- Electron-nucleon Coulomb attraction: 3-normal order

$$\frac{dU}{dr} \propto \frac{d}{dr} \left(-\frac{e^2}{r} \right) \propto \frac{1}{r^2} > 0,$$

- Hole-nucleon Coulomb repulsion: 3-anomalous order

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5.0 Hamiltonian&The LS-coupling scheme without fine structure

5.1 Fine structure in the LS-coupling scheme

5.2 The jj-coupling scheme

5.3 Intermediate coupling: the transition between coupling schemes

5.4 Selection rules in the LS-coupling scheme

5.5 The Zeeman effect

5.5.1. The Paschen-Back effect

5.5.2. The normal Zeeman effect

5.5.3. The anomalous Zeeman effect

5.6 Summary

Hamiltonian

$H_{s-o} \gg H_{re}$:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= H_{CF} + H_{s-o} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 + V_{CF}(r_i) \right\} + \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i(r_i) \mathbf{l}_i \cdot \mathbf{s}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 + V_{CF}(r_i) + \xi_i(r_i) \mathbf{l}_i \cdot \mathbf{s}_i \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Approximate to an independent particle system.

Use a complete set of quantum numbers for each electron to characterize quantum states: eigenstates of H_{s-o} : $\prod_i^N |n_i l_i j_i (m_j)_i\rangle$.

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Energy:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{s-o}} &= \sum_i^N \langle n_i l_i j_i(m_j)_i | H_{\text{s-o}} | n_i l_i j_i(m_j)_i \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^N \xi_{in_i l_i}(r_i) [j_i(j_i + 1) - l_i(l_i + 1) - \frac{3}{4}]. \\ &\quad (\xi_{in_i l_i}(r_i) = \langle n_i l_i | \xi_i(r_i) | n_i l_i \rangle .) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

good quantum numbers : $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_i, \dots, j_N, J$.

Label:

$$(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_i, \dots, j_N)_J.$$

Considering H_{re} , the energy levels will split according to the total angular momentum \mathbf{J} . (degeneracy with respect to M_J)

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Example: pp electronic configuration



$npn'p$ ($n \neq n'$)

$npn'p$		J_1, J_2			
		$\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$
M_J	3	$(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$			
	2	$(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$	$(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$	
	1	$(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}) (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$
	0	$(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}) (-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}) (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$
	-1	$(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}) (-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	$(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}) (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2})$	$(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$
	-2	$(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}) (-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	$(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	$(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2})$	
	-3	$(-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3}{2})$			
J		3, 2, 1, 0	2, 1	2, 1	1, 0

$(np)^2$

For equivalent electrons the Pauli exclusion principle restricts the states.

$(np)^2$		J_1, J_2		
		$\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$
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	0	$(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}) (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$
	-1	$(-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$	$(-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$	
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J		2, 0	2, 1	0

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5.6 Summary

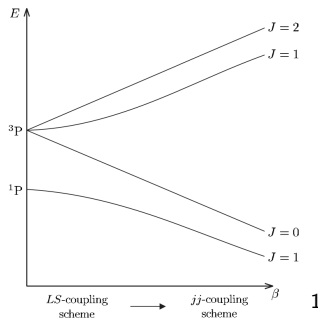


Figure: sp configuration

As β increases further the spin-orbit and residual electrostatic interactions become comparable and the LS-coupling scheme ceases to be a good approximation: the interval rule and (LS-coupling) selection rules break down. At large β the jj-coupling scheme is appropriate.

¹ β : the spin-orbit interaction parameter.

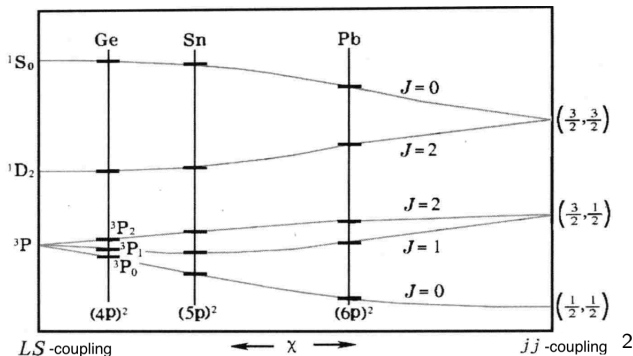
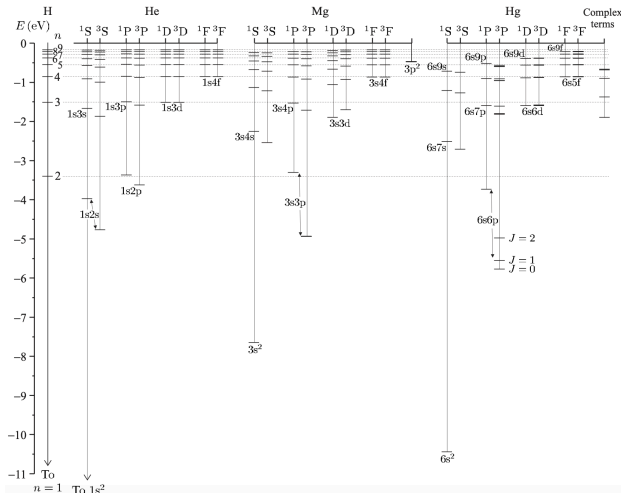


Figure: p^2 configuration

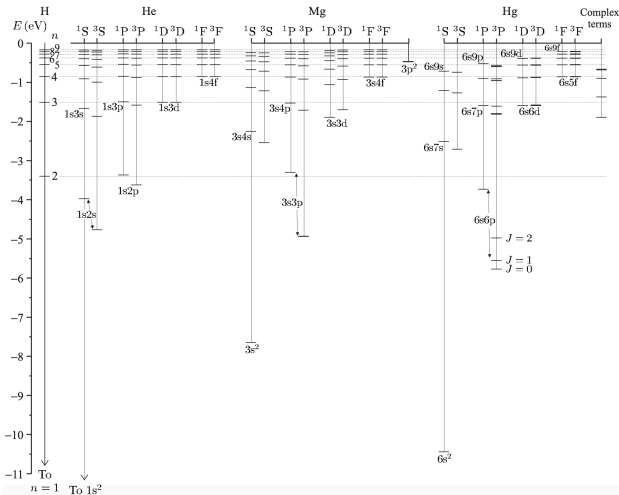
A evident transition by χ .

$^2\chi$: characteristic parameter.



Even for Hg, the LS-coupling scheme gives a closer approximation than the jj-coupling scheme.

In experiment



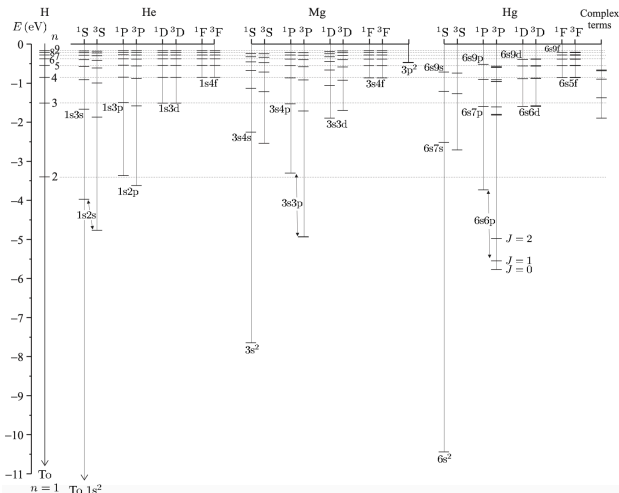
3s3p, Mg	6s6p, Hg
2.1850	3.76
2.1870	3.94
2.1911	4.40
3.5051	5.40

Table: E/m^{-1}

e.g. for the 6s6p configuration the $E_{\text{re}} > E_{\text{s-o}}$ but the interval rule is not obeyed because the spin-orbit interaction is not very small compared to the residual electrostatic interaction.

Even for Hg, the LS-coupling scheme gives a closer approximation than the jj-coupling scheme.

In experiment



J	$E \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)}$
2	16908687
1	16908694
0	16908793
1	17113500

Table: The $1s2p$ configuration in helium

The interval rule is not obeyed: This occurs in helium because spin-spin and spin-other-orbit interactions have an energy comparable with that of the spin-orbit interaction.

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5.6 Summary

Single electron

From conservation laws and quantum mechanics calculations:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta j = 0, \pm 1 \quad (j = 0 \nleftrightarrow j' = 0), \\ \Delta m_j = 0, \pm 1, \quad (m_j = 0 \nleftrightarrow m_{j'} = 0 \text{ if } \Delta j = 0), \\ \Delta l = \pm 1, \\ \Delta m_l = 0, \pm 1. \end{array} \right.$$

LS-coupling scheme:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta J = 0, \pm 1 & (J = 0 \leftrightarrow J' = 0), \\ \Delta M_J = 0, \pm 1 & (M_J = 0 \nleftrightarrow M_{J'} = 0 \text{ if } \Delta J = 0), \\ \text{Parity changes,} \\ \Delta l = \pm 1 & \text{One electron jump,} \\ \Delta L = 0^1, \pm 1 & (L = 0 \leftrightarrow L' = 0), \\ \Delta S = 0^2. \end{array} \right.$$

1. $\Delta L = 0$ is possible in principle, but more than one electron must be excited to a high-energy state.

2. Exception: In the mercury atom, however, transitions with $\Delta S = 1$ occur, such as $6s^2 \ ^1S_0 - 6s6p \ ^3P_1$, that gives a so-called intercombination line with a wavelength of 254 nm.

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jj-coupling scheme (two electrons) :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta j_1 = 0, \quad \Delta j_2 = 0, \pm 1, \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta j_1 = 0, \pm 1, \quad \Delta j_2 = 0, \\ \Delta J = 0, \pm 1 \quad (J = 0 \nleftrightarrow J' = 0), \end{array} \right.$$

In fact, many elements fall between these two extreme situations, and the selection rules on both sides are not strictly followed.

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According to the multipole expansion of electromagnetic interactions, the magnetic dipole interaction can be described as the interaction between magnetic moment and vector radius, with the coefficient being the first-order spherical harmonic function.

Therefore, the interaction can be expressed as

$$H' \propto \cos \theta Y_{10}(\theta, \phi) \propto Y_{00}(\theta, \phi).$$

Therefore, apart from having the same selection rules as electric dipole transitions, there are also angular momentum selection rules:

$$\Delta l = 0.$$

Directly generalized to multi-electron atoms:

$$\Delta n = 0, \begin{cases} \Delta L = 0, & \Delta S = 0, \\ \Delta J = 0, \pm 1, & \Delta M_J = 0, \pm 1. \end{cases}$$

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5.6 Summary

Original concepts

A atomic spectral lines split in an external magnetic field:

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3 : \text{The normal Zeeman effect.} \\ \text{the other} : \text{The anomalous Zeeman effect.} \end{array} \right.$

Modern:

In a strong field: Paschen-Back effect.

In a weak field:

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For LS-coupling scheme, the atom's magnetic moment:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = -\mu_B \mathbf{L} - g_s \mu_B \mathbf{S}.$$

The interaction of the atom with an external magnetic field is described by

$$H_{ZE} = -\boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{B}.$$

In a strong field: consider total magnetic moment along the z-direction

$$\mu_z = \mu_{sz} + \mu_{lz} = -2\mu_B m_s - \mu_B m_l = -(2m_s + m_l)\mu_B.$$

Energy:

$$E_{ZE} = -\mu_z B = (2m_s + m_l)\mu_B.$$

Selection rules

$$\begin{cases} \Delta m_s = 0 \\ \Delta m_l = 0, \pm 1 \end{cases}$$

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Example

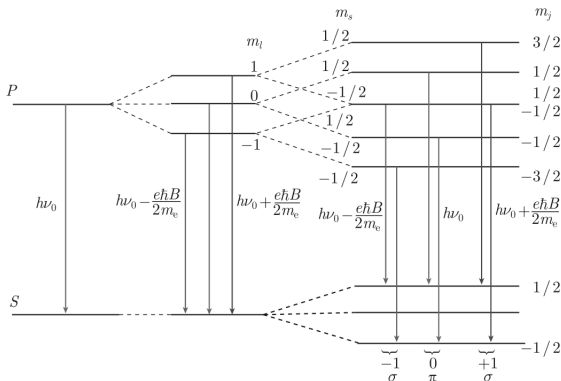


Figure: $m_l = 1, m_s = -\frac{1}{2}, m_j = \frac{1}{2}$ & $m_l = -1, m_s = \frac{1}{2}, m_j = -\frac{1}{2}$ are degenerate

In weak magnetic field, Hamiltonian:

$$H_{\text{ZE}} = -\frac{\langle \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{J} \rangle}{J(J+1)} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \frac{\langle \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{J} \rangle + g_s \langle \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{J} \rangle}{J(J+1)} \mu_B B J_z.$$

Energy:

$$E_{\text{ZE}} = g_J \mu_B B M_J.$$

Lande g -factor:

$$g_J = \frac{\langle \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{J} \rangle + g_s \langle \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{J} \rangle}{J(J+1)}.$$

Assuming that $g_s \simeq 2$:

$$g_J = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{S(S+1) - L(L+1)}{2J(J+1)}.$$

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No magnetic field

Consider $2 \rightarrow 1$:

$$h\nu = E_2 - E_1.$$

External magnetic field B :

$$E'_2 = E_2 + g_2 M_{J2} \mu_B B, \quad E'_1 = E_1 + g_1 M_{J1} \mu_B B.$$

Spectral line splitting:

$$E'_2 - E'_1 = h\nu + (g_2 M_{J2} - g_1 M_{J1}) \mu_B B.$$

Selection rules

$$\Delta M_J = 0, \pm 1.$$

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The normal Zeeman effect

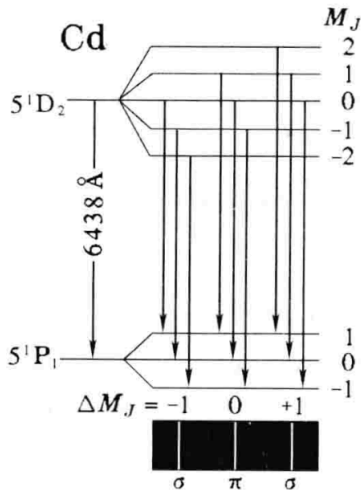


Figure: Cd $5^1D_2 \rightarrow 5^1P_1$: $S_1 = S_2 = 0 \Rightarrow g_1 = g_2 = 1$

The anomalous Zeeman effect

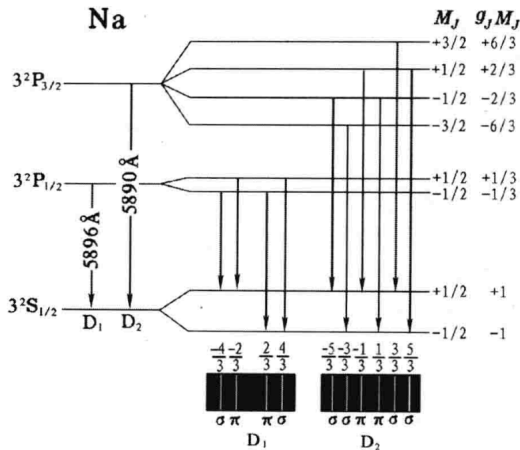


Figure: Na $3^2P_{3/2} \rightarrow 3^2S_{1/2}$ / $3^2P_{1/2} \rightarrow 3^2S_{1/2}$

5.0 Hamiltonian&The LS-coupling scheme without fine structure

5.1 Fine structure in the LS-coupling scheme

5.2 The jj-coupling scheme

5.3 Intermediate coupling: the transition between coupling schemes

5.4 Selection rules in the LS-coupling scheme

5.5 The Zeeman effect

5.5.1. The Paschen-Back effect

5.5.2. The normal Zeeman effect

5.5.3. The anomalous Zeeman effect

5.6 Summary

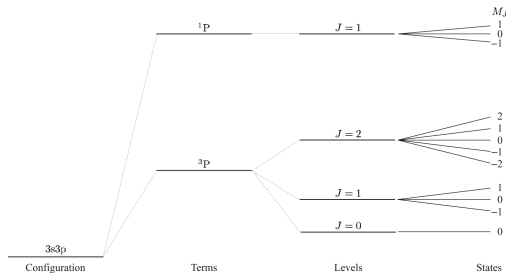


Figure: The hierarchy of atomic structure for the $3s3p$ configuration of an alkaline earth metal atom.

Break down:

- (a) The residual electrostatic interaction is not small compared to the energy gap between the configurations.
- (b) The jj -coupling scheme is a better approximation than LS-coupling.
- (c) The Paschen–Back effect arises.

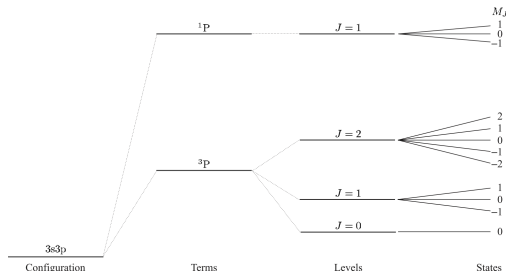


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刘玉鑫, 曹庆宏编著, 量子力学. 科学出版社, 2023.

Q&A

Thank you for listening!