

# Cumulative distribution for hydrogen atom

Start with the ground state wave function.

$$\psi_{100}(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a_0^3}} \exp\left(-\frac{r}{a_0}\right)$$

The cumulative distribution function  $\Pr(r < a)$  is obtained by integrating  $|\psi_{100}|^2$  over the volume element  $r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$ .

$$\Pr(r < a) = \frac{1}{\pi a_0^3} \int_0^a \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{2r}{a_0}\right) r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

Integrate over  $\phi$  (multiply by  $2\pi$ ).

$$\Pr(r < a) = \frac{2}{a_0^3} \int_0^a \int_0^\pi \exp\left(-\frac{2r}{a_0}\right) r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta$$

Transform the integral over  $\theta$  to an integral over  $y$  where  $y = \cos \theta$  and  $dy = -\sin \theta \, d\theta$ . The minus sign in  $dy$  is canceled by interchanging integration limits  $\cos 0 = 1$  and  $\cos \pi = -1$ .

$$\Pr(r < a) = \frac{2}{a_0^3} \int_0^a \int_{-1}^1 \exp\left(-\frac{2r}{a_0}\right) r^2 \, dr \, dy$$

Integrate over  $y$  (multiply by 2).

$$\Pr(r < a) = \frac{4}{a_0^3} \int_0^a \exp\left(-\frac{2r}{a_0}\right) r^2 \, dr$$

Solve the integral over  $r$ .

$$\Pr(r < a) = 1 - \left(\frac{2a^2}{a_0^2} + \frac{2a}{a_0} + 1\right) \exp\left(-\frac{2a}{a_0}\right) \quad (1)$$

For  $a = a_0$  we have

$$\Pr(r < a_0) = 0.32$$

Hence the probability of finding the electron inside the Bohr radius is 32%.