

The following transitions correspond to the H- $\alpha$  line of the hydrogen spectrum. See “Atomic Transition Probabilities Volume I,” issued May 20, 1966, page 2.

Transition	$\lambda$ (Å)	$A_{ki}$ (second <sup>-1</sup> )
$2p - 3s$	6562.86	$6.313 \times 10^6$
$2s - 3p$	6562.74	$2.245 \times 10^7$
$2p - 3d$	6562.81	$6.465 \times 10^7$

$A_{ki}$  is the spontaneous emission rate where  $i$  is the lower state and  $k$  is the upper state. Orbital names correspond to the following azimuthal quantum numbers  $\ell$ .

Orbital	$\ell$
$s$	0
$p$	1
$d$	2

Each transition in the table has multiple processes due to the magnetic quantum number  $m_\ell$ . (Recall that  $m_\ell = 0, \pm 1, \dots, \pm \ell$ .)

There are three ways to transition from  $3s$  to  $2p$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{3,0,0} &\rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} \\ \psi_{3,0,0} &\rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} \\ \psi_{3,0,0} &\rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1}\end{aligned}$$

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Finally, there are fifteen ways to transition from  $3d$  to  $2p$ . (Some of these transitions have zero amplitude.)

$$\begin{array}{lll}\psi_{3,2,2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} & \psi_{3,2,2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} & \psi_{3,2,2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1} \\ \psi_{3,2,1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} & \psi_{3,2,1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} & \psi_{3,2,1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1} \\ \psi_{3,2,0} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} & \psi_{3,2,0} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} & \psi_{3,2,0} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1} \\ \psi_{3,2,-1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} & \psi_{3,2,-1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} & \psi_{3,2,-1} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1} \\ \psi_{3,2,-2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,1} & \psi_{3,2,-2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,0} & \psi_{3,2,-2} \rightarrow \psi_{2,1,-1}\end{array}$$

For each H- $\alpha$  line, an average  $A_{ki}$  is computed by summing over  $A_{ki}$  for individual processes and dividing by the number of distinct initial states. For example,  $3d \rightarrow 2p$  has five distinct initial states, so the divisor is five.

$A_{ki}$  is computed from the following formula.

$$A_{ki} = \frac{e^2}{3\pi\epsilon_0\hbar c^3} \omega_{ki}^3 |r_{ki}|^2$$

The transition frequency  $\omega_{ki}$  is given by Bohr's frequency condition.

$$\omega_{ki} = \frac{1}{\hbar}(E_k - E_i)$$

The transition probability (multiplied by a physical constant) is

$$|r_{ki}|^2 = |x_{ki}|^2 + |y_{ki}|^2 + |z_{ki}|^2$$

These are the transition amplitudes.

$$\begin{aligned} x_{ki} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty \psi_i^* r \sin \theta \cos \phi \psi_k r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \\ y_{ki} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty \psi_i^* r \sin \theta \sin \phi \psi_k r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \\ z_{ki} &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty \psi_i^* r \cos \theta \psi_k r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \end{aligned}$$

Using Eigenmath we obtain the following values for average  $A_{ki}$ . The results are essentially identical to the values found in "Atomic Transition Probabilities."

$$A_{3s2p} = 6.31358 \times 10^6 \text{ second}^{-1}$$

$$A_{3p2s} = 2.24483 \times 10^7 \text{ second}^{-1}$$

$$A_{3d2p} = 6.4651 \times 10^7 \text{ second}^{-1}$$

The following table shows  $|r_{ki}|^2/a_0^2$  for each transition process where  $a_0$  is Bohr radius and  $a_0^2 = 2.8 \times 10^{-21} \text{ meter}^2$ . Some of the  $|r_{ki}|^2$  are zero indicating forbidden transitions.

Initial state	Final state $\psi_{2,0,0}$	Final state $\psi_{2,1,1}$	Final state $\psi_{2,1,0}$	Final state $\psi_{2,1,-1}$
$\psi_{3,0,0}$	—	0.293534	0.293534	0.293534
$\psi_{3,1,1}$	3.13103	—	—	—
$\psi_{3,1,0}$	3.13103	—	—	—
$\psi_{3,1,-1}$	3.13103	—	—	—
$\psi_{3,2,2}$	—	9.01737	0	0
$\psi_{3,2,1}$	—	4.50868	4.50868	0
$\psi_{3,2,0}$	—	1.50289	6.01158	1.50289
$\psi_{3,2,-1}$	—	0	4.50868	4.50868
$\psi_{3,2,-2}$	—	0	0	9.01737