

## Atomic transitions 5

From the previous section the transition rate is

$$R_{a \rightarrow b} = \frac{\pi e^2}{\varepsilon_0 \hbar^2} \left| \langle \psi_b | \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{r} | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 \rho(\omega_0)$$

Noting that

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{r} = \epsilon_x x + \epsilon_y y + \epsilon_z z$$

we have

$$\left| \langle \psi_b | \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{r} | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 = \left| \epsilon_x \langle \psi_b | x | \psi_a \rangle + \epsilon_y \langle \psi_b | y | \psi_a \rangle + \epsilon_z \langle \psi_b | z | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2$$

We will now average over  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$  to eliminate it. Let

$$\begin{aligned} e_x &= \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ e_y &= \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ e_z &= \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Integrate over  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  to average.

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\left| \langle \psi_b | \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{r} | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2} &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \left| \epsilon_x \langle \psi_b | x | \psi_a \rangle + \epsilon_y \langle \psi_b | y | \psi_a \rangle + \epsilon_z \langle \psi_b | z | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 \sin \theta \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left( \left| \langle \psi_b | x | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 + \left| \langle \psi_b | y | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 + \left| \langle \psi_b | z | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left| \langle \psi_b | \mathbf{r} | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Hence

$$R_{a \rightarrow b} = \frac{\pi e^2}{3\varepsilon_0 \hbar^2} \left| \langle \psi_b | \mathbf{r} | \psi_a \rangle \right|^2 \rho(\omega_0)$$