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Lecture 9. The Hydrogen Atom

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Topics in Lecture 9

System with spherical symmetries

Angular momentum

Hydrogen atomic orbitals

In Atkins' Physical Chemistry (11th ed.),

8A Hydrogenic atoms

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Systems with spherical symmetries

In spherical coordinates, the time-independent Schrödinger equation reads

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \phi^2} \right] + V\psi = E\psi$$

Start from separation of variables: split into radial part and angular part.

$$\psi(r, \theta, \phi) = R(r)Y(\theta, \phi)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[\frac{Y}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) + \frac{R}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial Y}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{R}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial \phi^2} \right] + VRY = ERY$$

Dividing by RY and multiplying by $-2mr^2/\hbar^2$:

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) - \frac{2mr^2}{\hbar^2} [V(r) - E] \right\} + \frac{1}{Y} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial Y}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial \theta^2} \right\} = 0$$

Left term only depends to r and right term only depends to angular variables. For some reasons, we will write this separation constant in the form l(l+1).

Systems with spherical symmetries

Separated equations are

$$\frac{1}{R}\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2\frac{dR}{dr}\right) - \frac{2mr^2}{\hbar^2}[V(r) - E] = l(l+1)$$

$$\frac{1}{Y}\left\{\frac{1}{\sin\theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{\partial Y}{\partial\theta}\right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta}\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial\phi^2}\right\} = -l(l+1)$$

We already dealed with angular equation:

$$\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial Y}{\partial\theta} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial\phi^2} = -l(l+1)\sin^2\theta$$

Solution of this equation is *spherical harmonics* $Y(\theta, \phi)$. Actually, spherical harmonics always emerge when you solve system with spherical symmetries. Therefore in general, our main interest is related to *radial* problems. In case of hydrogen atom, we need to solve only the radial equation.

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-|m|)!}{(l+|m|)!}} P_l^{|m|}(\cos \theta) e^{im\phi} \quad \text{where} \quad l = 0, 1, 2, \dots \text{ and } m = 0, \pm 1, \dots, \pm l$$



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Note that conditions for *l* and *m* are identical to the quantum numbers of hydrogen atoms. Also, spherical harmonics form an orthonormal set.

$$\int_0^{\pi} d\theta \sin \theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \ Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) * Y_n^k(\theta, \phi) = \delta_{ln} \delta_{mk}$$

Or, with Dirac notation,

$$\langle l, m \mid n, k \rangle = \delta_{ln} \delta_{mk}$$

Before we deal with the radial wavefunction, we need to discuss very important angular dynamic variable: the angular momentum.

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QM operator corresponding to the square of angular momentum is

$$\hat{L}^2 = -\hbar^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \right] \quad (\text{from } \hat{H} = \frac{\hat{L}^2}{2I})$$

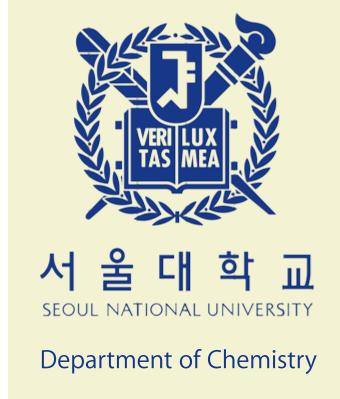
Therefore, spherical harmonics are eigenfunctions of \hat{L}^2 , consequently.

$$\hat{L}^2 Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \hbar^2 l(l+1) Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

So quantum-mechanical angular momentum is

$$|L| = \hbar \sqrt{l(l+1)} \ (l=0,1,2,...)$$

The quantum number *I*, originated from the spherical harmonics, is called *angular momentum quantum number*.



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Spherical harmonics version of angular momentum:

$$\hat{L}_{x} = -i\hbar \left(-\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \cot \theta \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

$$\hat{L}_{y} = -i\hbar \left(\cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \cot \theta \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

$$\hat{L}_{z} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

By substitution, we can check that spherical harmonics are eigenfunctions of $\hat{L}_{\scriptscriptstyle au}$.

$$\hat{L}_z e^{im\phi} = \hbar m e^{im\phi} \implies \hat{L}_z Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \hbar m Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

$$L_z = m\hbar, m = 0, \pm 1, \dots, \pm l$$

The quantum number *m* is called *magnetic quantum number*.

Note that \hbar is a fundamental measure of the angular momentum of a QM system.

Restriction for *m* is from the simple identity.

$$\hat{L}^{2}Y_{l}^{m} = \hbar^{2}l(l+1)Y_{l}^{m}, \hat{L}_{z}^{2}Y_{l}^{m} = \hbar^{2}m^{2}Y_{l}^{m}$$

$$(\hat{L}^{2} - \hat{L}_{z}^{2})Y_{l}^{m} = [l(l+1) - m^{2}]\hbar^{2}Y_{l}^{m} = (\hat{L}_{x}^{2} + \hat{L}_{y}^{2})Y_{l}^{m} \ge 0$$

$$[l(l+1) - m^{2}]\hbar^{2} \ge 0, \quad |m| \le l$$

Naming for *m* is related to splitting of hydrogen spectrum lines under applied magnetic field.

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Angular momentum

We can measure \hat{L}^2 and \hat{L}_z simultaneously: i.e., they commute.

However, \hat{L}_x and \hat{L}_y does not commute with each other: we cannot measure \hat{L}_x and \hat{L}_y simultaneously, with infinite accuracy.

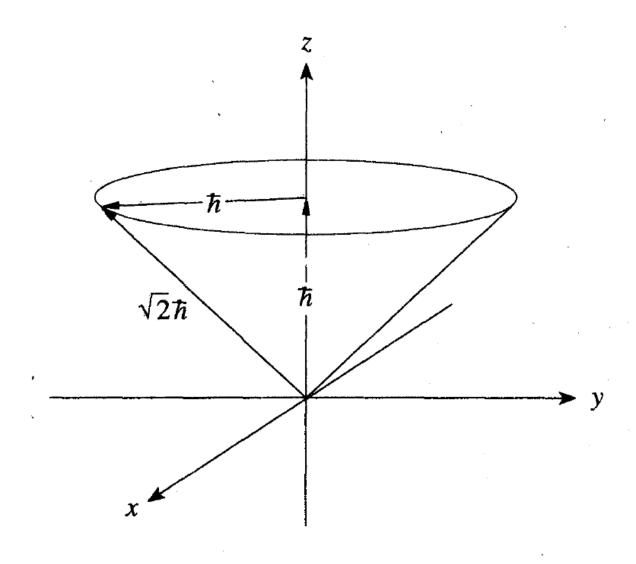


FIGURE 6.1

The m=+1 component of the angular-momentum state l=1. The angular momentum describes a cone because the x and y components cannot be specified. The projection of the motion onto the x-y plane is a circle of radius \hbar centered at the origin (Example 6-8).

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The form of radial equation is

$$\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2\frac{dR}{dr}\right) - \frac{2mr^2}{\hbar^2}[V(r) - E]R = l(l+1)R$$

We will not solve this equation in detail, but accommodate the result.

The quantized energy, E_n is

$$E_n = -\frac{me^4}{8\epsilon_0^2 h^2 n^2} = -\frac{me^4}{32\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 \hbar^2 n^2} = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi \epsilon_0 a_0 n^2} (n = 1, 2, ...)$$

In the course of solving equation, we find not only that an integer *n* occurs naturally, but that *n* must satisfy the condition

$$0 \le l \le n - 1$$

We call *n principal quantum number*.



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Radial equation

The solutions to the equation depends on two quantum numbers, *n* and *l*.

$$R_{nl}(r) = -\left\{\frac{(n-l-1)!}{2n[(n+l)!]^3}\right\}^{1/2} \left(\frac{2}{na_0}\right)^{l+3/2} r^l e^{-r/na_0} L_{n+l}^{2l+1} \left(\frac{2r}{na_0}\right)^{l+3/2}$$

where the L_{n+l}^{2l+1} are called associated Laguerre polynomials.

TABLE 6.4
The first few associated Laguerre polynomials.

		· ·
n=1,	l = 0	$L_1^1(x) = -1$
n = 2,	l=0	$L_2^1(x) = -2!(2-x)$
	l = 1	$L_3^3(x) = -3!$
n = 3,	l = 0	$L_3^1(x) = -3!(3 - 3x + \frac{1}{2}x^2)$
	l = 1	$L_4^3(x) = -4!(4-x)$
	l = 2	$L_5^5(x) = -5!$
n = 4,	l = 0	$L_4^1(x) = -4!(4 - 6x + 2x^2 - \frac{1}{6}x^3)$
	l = 1	$L_5^3(x) = -5!(10 - 5x + \frac{1}{2}x^2)$
. '	l = 2	$L_6^5(x) = -6!(6-x)$
	l = 3	$L_7^7(x) = -7!$



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The complete hydrogen atomic wavefunctions are

$$\psi_{nlm} = R_{nl}(r)Y_l^m(\theta,\phi) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{na_0}\right)^3 \frac{(n-l-1)!}{2n(n+l)!}} e^{-r/na_0} \left(\frac{2r}{na_0}\right)^l L_{n-l-1}^{2l+1}(2r/na_0)Y_l^m(\theta,\phi)$$

(Retrieved from Grrifiths QM: warning notation for associated Laguerre polynomial is different here)

TABLE 6.5
The complete hydrogenlike atomic wave functions for n = 1, 2, and 3. The quantity Z is the atomic number of the nucleus, and $\sigma = Zr/a_0$, where a_0 is the Bohr radius.

n = 1,	l=0,	m = 0	$\psi_{100} = rac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(rac{Z}{a_0} ight)^{3/2} e^{-\sigma}$
n=2,	l=0,	m = 0	$\psi_{200} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{32\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (2 - \sigma)e^{-\sigma/2}$
	l=1,	m = 0	$\psi_{210} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{32\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \cos \theta$
	l=1,	$m=\pm 1$	$\psi_{21\pm 1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{64\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \sin\theta e^{\pm i\phi}.$
n=3,	l=0,	m = 0	$\psi_{300} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{3\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (27 - 18\sigma + 2\sigma^2)e^{-\sigma/3}$
	l=1,	m = 0	$\psi_{310} = \frac{1}{81} \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (6\sigma - \sigma^2) e^{-\sigma/3} \cos \theta$
	l=1,	$m=\pm 1$	$\psi_{31\pm 1} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (6\sigma - \sigma^2) e^{-\sigma/3} \sin\theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	l = 2,	m = 0	$\psi_{320} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{6\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)$
	l=2,	$m=\pm 1$	$\psi_{32\pm 1} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin\theta \cos\theta e^{\pm i\phi}$
	l=2,	$m=\pm 2$	$\psi_{32\pm 2} = \frac{1}{162\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin^2 \theta e^{\pm 2i\phi}$

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Hydrogen atomic orbitals

Principal quantum number (n = 1, 2, 3, ...)

The energy of the hydrogen atom depends upon only the principal quantum number. Determines the size of orbital and the number of nodes.

Angular momentum quantum number (l = 0, 1, ..., n - 1)

I = 0,1,2,3,... corresponds to s, p, d, f, ...

The angular momentum of the electron about the proton is determined completely by I.

Magnetic quantum number ($|m| \le l$)

The z component of angular momentum is determined completely by m. In the absence of a magnetic field, each energy level has a degeneracy of 2l+1. Related to Zeeman effect.

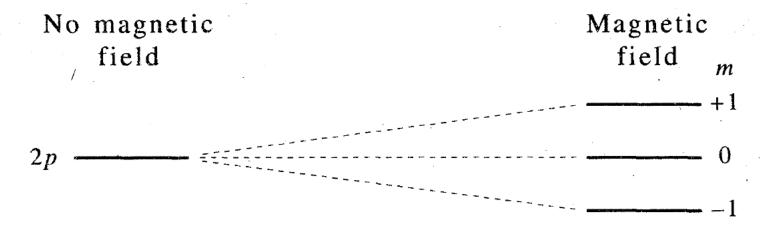
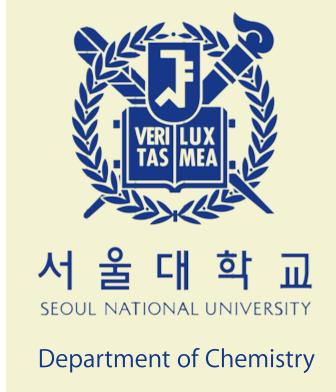


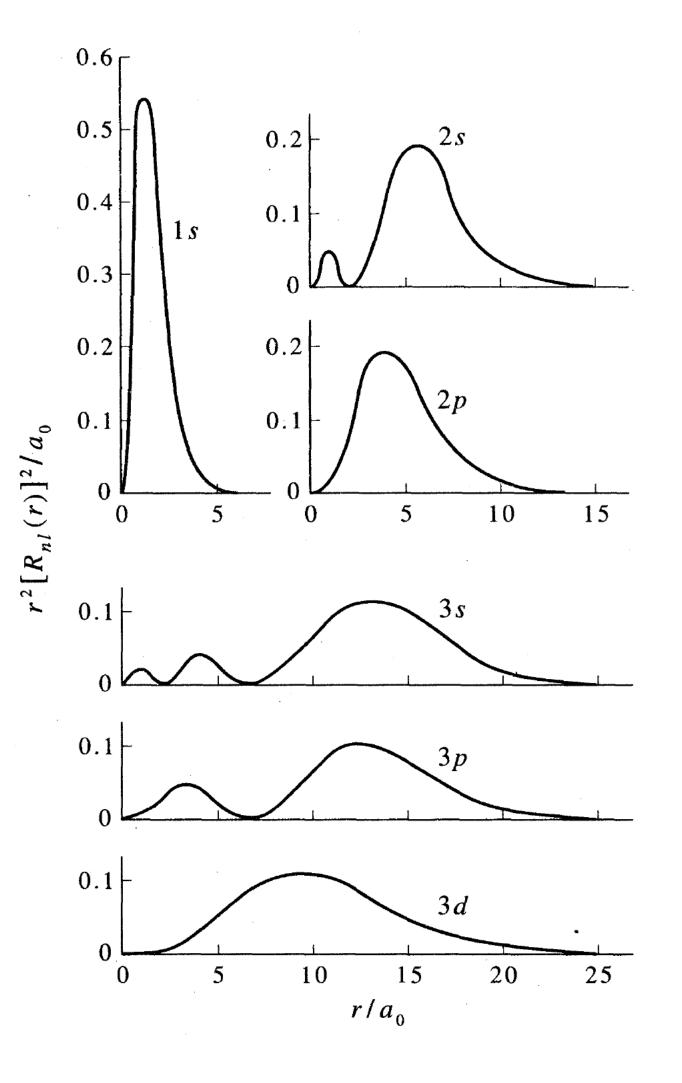
FIGURE 6.2 The splitting of the 2p state of a hydrogen atom in a magnetic field.



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Hydrogen atomic orbitals



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When $l \neq 0$, wavefunctions depend on angles: not spherically symmetric wavefunctions!

For l=1 case, possible m values are m=-1,0,1. So, there are three p orbitals for each n. The simplest of these spherical harmonics is

$$Y_1^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta$$

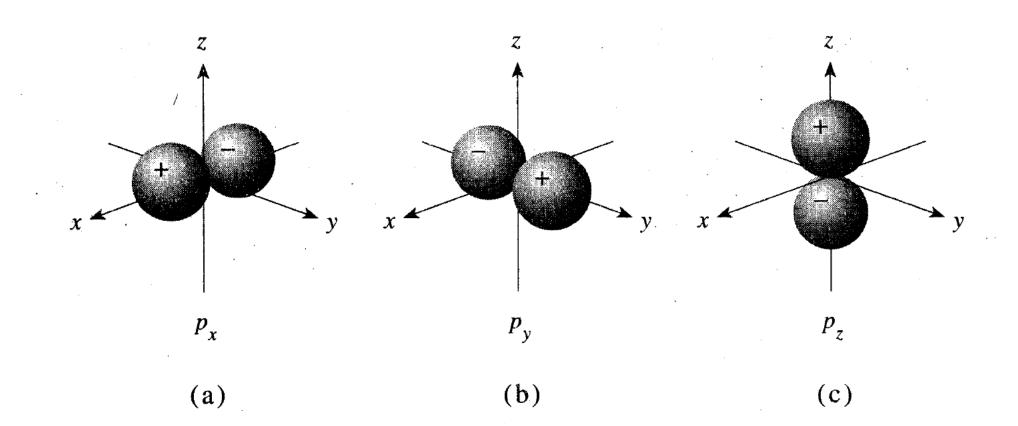


FIGURE 6.4

Three-dimensional polar plots of the angular part of the real representation of the hydrogen atomic wave functions for l=1 (see Equations 6.62 for real representations of p_x and p_y .)

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p orbitals

However, for $m \neq 0$ case, angular functions are more difficult to represent pictorially. They not only depend on ϕ but also are complex functions. Since following two spherical harmonics correspond to the same energy, we usually use *linear combination* of them, to eliminate complex terms.

$$Y_1^{\pm 1}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$$

$$p_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (Y_1^1 + Y_1^{-1}) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$p_y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}i} (Y_1^1 - Y_1^{-1}) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

l=1, m=0 term remains as p_{z} orbital.

$$p_z = Y_1^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta$$



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d orbitals also suffer similar linear combination.

$$d_{z^2} = Y_2^0 = \sqrt{\frac{5}{16\pi}} (3\cos^2\theta - 1)$$

$$d_{xz} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (Y_2^1 + Y_2^{-1}) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{4\pi}} \sin\theta \cos\theta \cos\phi$$

$$d_{yz} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}i} (Y_2^1 - Y_2^{-1}) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{4\pi}} \sin\theta \cos\theta \sin\phi$$

$$d_{x^2-y^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (Y_2^2 + Y_2^{-2}) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{16\pi}} \sin^2\theta \cos 2\phi$$

$$d_{xy} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}i} (Y_2^2 - Y_2^{-2}) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{16\pi}} \sin^2\theta \sin^2\phi$$

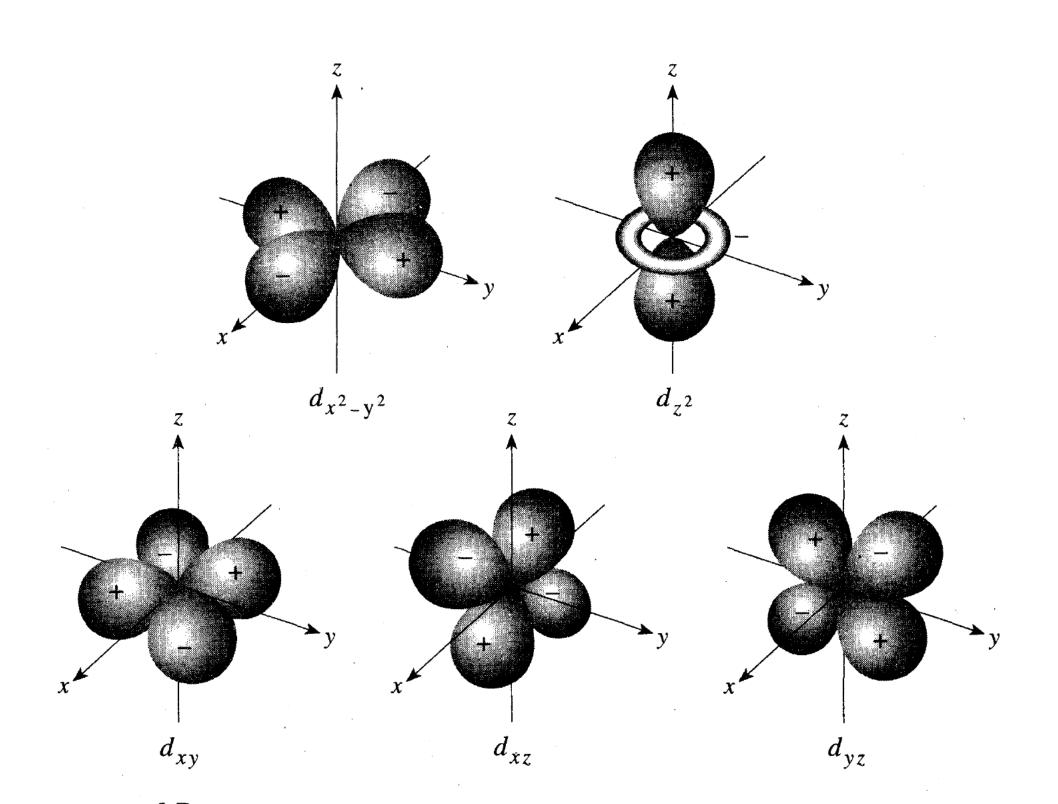


FIGURE 6.7

Three-dimensional plots of the angular part of the real representation of the hydrogen atomic wave functions for l=2. Such plots show the directional character of these orbitals but are not good representations of the shape of these orbitals because the radial functions are not included.

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TABLE 6.6

The complete hydrogenlike atomic wave functions expressed as real functions for n = 1, 2, and 3. The quantity Z is the atomic number of the nucleus and $\sigma = Zr/a_0$, where a_0 is the Bohr radius.

$$n = 1, \quad l = 0, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{1s} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\sigma}$$

$$n = 2, \quad l = 0, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{2s} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (2 - \sigma) e^{-\sigma/2}$$

$$l = 1, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{2p_z} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \cos \theta$$

$$l = 1, \qquad m = \pm 1 \qquad \psi_{2p_x} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\psi_{2p_y} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

$$n = 3, \qquad l = 0, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{3s} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{3\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (27 - 18\sigma + 2\sigma^2) e^{-\sigma/3}$$

$$l = 1, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{3p_z} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma (6 - \sigma) e^{-\sigma/3} \cos \theta$$

$$l = 1, \qquad m = \pm 1 \qquad \psi_{3p_z} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma (6 - \sigma) e^{-\sigma/3} \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\psi_{3p_z} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma (6 - \sigma) e^{-\sigma/3} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

$$l = 2, \qquad m = 0 \qquad \psi_{3d_{x^2}} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{6\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\psi_{3d_{xy}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \phi$$

$$l = 2, \qquad m = \pm 1 \qquad \psi_{3d_{x^2}} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin \theta \cos \theta \cos \phi$$

$$\psi_{3d_{xy}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{81\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi$$

$$\psi_{3d_{xy}} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi$$

$$\psi_{3d_{xy}} = \frac{1}{81\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma^2 e^{-\sigma/3} \sin^2 \theta \sin 2\phi$$

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Hydrogen atomic orbitals

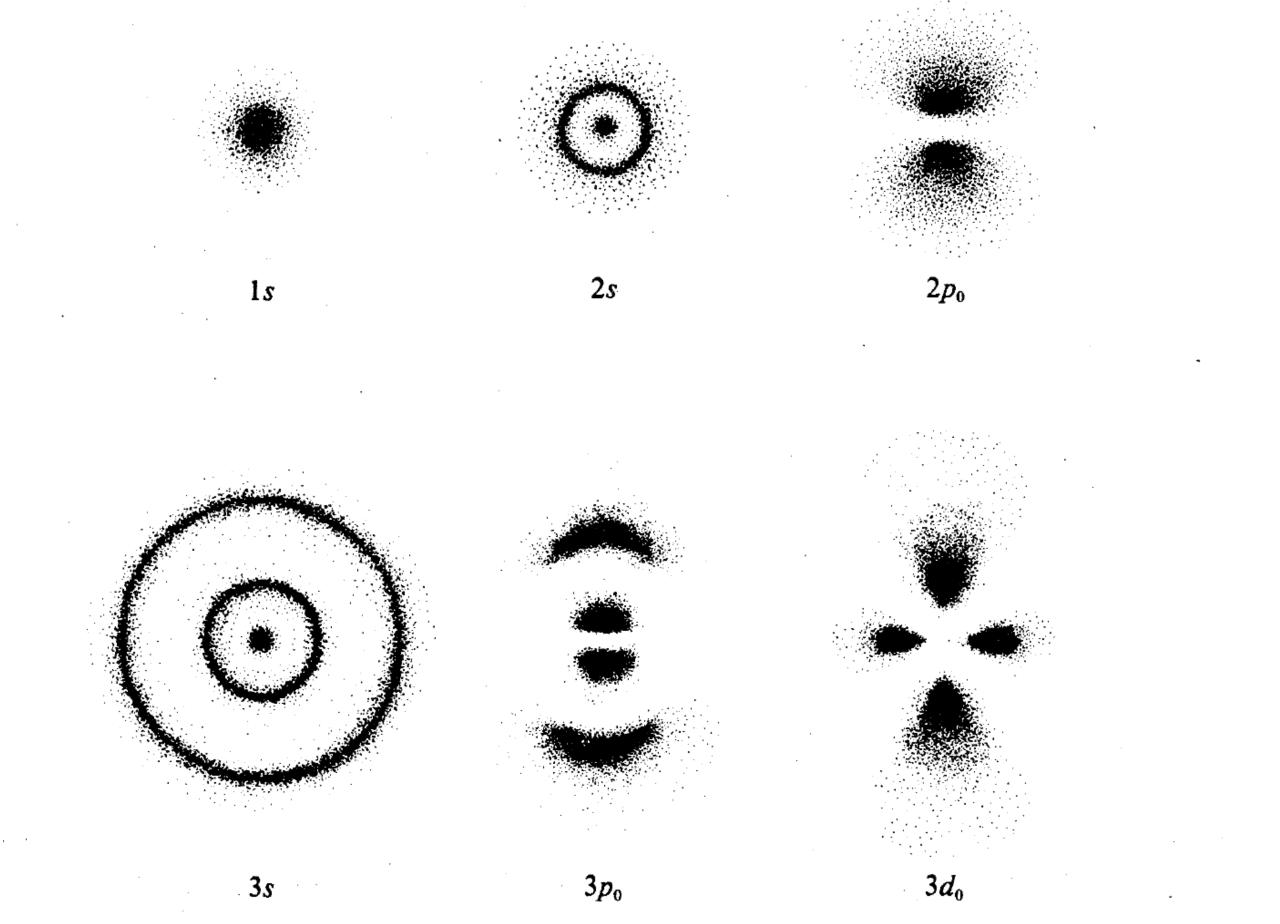


FIGURE 6.5
Probability density plots of some hydrogen atomic orbitals. The density of the dots is proportional to the probability of finding the electron in that region.

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