

# Lecture #3

①

Now that we've discussed atomic structure,  
Look at transitions between atomic states.

For vector operators ( $\hat{d}$  or  $\hat{u}$ ) it is  
useful to use the spherical basis for the vector:  
e.g. for electric field polarization  $\vec{E}$

$$\vec{E}_q = \begin{matrix} \sigma^+ & \pi & \sigma^- \\ q=1 & q=0 & q=-1 \end{matrix}$$

$$\sigma^+ = \frac{\hat{x} + i\hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\sigma^+ \cdot \sigma^- = 0$$

$$\sigma^+ \cdot \sigma^+ = 1$$

etc.

$$\pi = \hat{z}$$

$$\sigma^- = \frac{\hat{x} - i\hat{y}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Note:  $\sigma^+$  is not just right ~~circularly~~ circularly  
polarized light! It depends on the  $\uparrow$  axis,  $\neq$   
quantization

e.g.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \left. \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \hat{z} \\ \text{right circular} \end{array} \right\} \sigma^+ \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \hat{z} \\ \text{right circular} \end{array} \right\} \sigma^- \end{array} \right\} \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sigma^+}{\sqrt{4}} + \frac{\sigma^-}{\sqrt{4}}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \hat{z} \\ \text{linear} \end{array} \right\} = \frac{\sigma^+}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sigma^-}{\sqrt{2}}$$

### 3-j symbols

Clebsch-Gordan are sometimes written in terms of the more symmetric 3-j symbols

$$\langle J' m'; k q | J M_j \rangle = (-1)^{J'-k+M_j} \begin{pmatrix} J' & k & J \\ M_j' & q & -M_j \end{pmatrix} \sqrt{2J+1}$$

↓  
 a number depending on 6 parameters

↙  
 not a matrix! it is a number depending on 6 parameters.

properties of Clebsch-Gordan, or equiv. 3-j's lead to selection rules:

e.g.

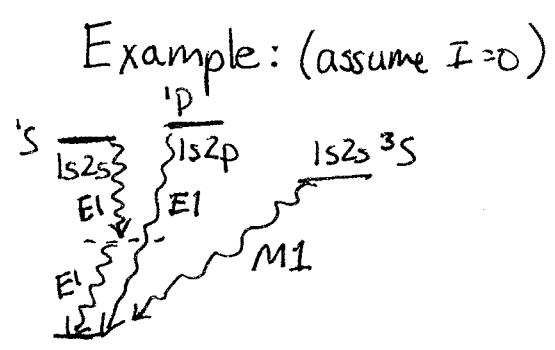
$$\begin{pmatrix} J_1 & J_2 & J_3 \\ m_1 & m_2 & m_3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \text{ unless } m_1 + m_2 + m_3 = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} J_1 & J_2 & J_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \text{ unless } J_1 + J_2 + J_3 = \text{even}$$

etc.

# Selectron Rules

	Transition type		
	E1	M1	E2
Rigorous rules	1. $\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ ( $0 \not\leftrightarrow 0$ )	$\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ ( $0 \not\leftrightarrow 0$ )	$\Delta J = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$ ( $0 \not\leftrightarrow 0, \frac{1}{2} \not\leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2}$ $0 \not\leftrightarrow 1$ )
	2. $\Delta m = 0, \pm 1$ ( $J=0 \not\leftrightarrow J=0$ )	$\Delta m = 0, \pm 1$ ( $J=0 \not\leftrightarrow J=0$ )	$\Delta m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$
	3. Parity change	No parity change	No parity change
Rules for negligible configuration interaction	4. one electron jumping config. $\Delta l = \pm 1$ $\Delta n$ arbitrary	no change in electron config. $\Delta l = 0$ $\Delta n = 0$	no change in electron config. or one electron jumping with $\Delta l = 0, \neq \pm 2$ $\Delta n$ arb.
<del>LS</del> LS coupling is good	5. $\Delta S = 0$	$\Delta S = 0$	$\Delta S = 0$
	6. $\Delta L = 0, \pm 1$ ( $L=0 \not\leftrightarrow L=0$ )	$\Delta L = 0$ $\Delta S = \pm 1$ (change angle between S & L)	$\Delta L = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$ ( $0 \not\leftrightarrow 0, 0 \not\leftrightarrow 1$ )



Helium:

$1s2p\ ^1P \rightarrow 1s^2\ ^1S$   $\tau = 1.6\text{ns}$   
dipole allowed.  $\downarrow 10^7$

$1s2s\ ^1S \rightarrow 1s^2\ ^1S$   $\tau = 20\text{ms}$   
E1, M1 E2 forbidden goes as a second order transition

$1s2s\ ^3S \rightarrow 1s^2\ ^1S$   $\tau = 8000\text{s}$   
 $\rightarrow$  turns out to be M1, but highly suppressed by  $\Delta S = 1$  requirement.

What about including nuclear moment  $\vec{I}$ ?

This leads to coupling of yet more angular momenta, and Wigner 6-j symbols

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{F} &= \vec{J} + \vec{I} \\ \vec{F}' &= \vec{J}' + \vec{I} \end{aligned}$$

Example: If  $\hat{T}^k$  acts only on the electronic space:

$$\hat{T}^k = \hat{T}^k(J) \otimes \mathbb{1}(I) \quad \rightarrow \text{identity on nuclear space}$$

then

$$\langle FM_F | \hat{T}_q^k | F'M_F' \rangle = \sum_{\substack{M_J, M_I \\ M_J', M_I'}} \langle FM_F | JM_J, IM_I \rangle \langle JM_J, IM_I | \hat{T}_q^k | J'M_J', IM_I' \rangle \langle J'M_J', IM_I' | F'M_F' \rangle$$

Use Wigner-Eckart on the JJ' matrix element:

$$= \frac{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle}{\sqrt{2J+1}} \sum_{\substack{M_J, M_I \\ M_J', M_I'}} \langle FM_F | JM_J, IM_I \rangle \langle J'M_J', kq | JM_J \rangle \langle J'M_J', IM_I' | F'M_F' \rangle$$

this is a sum over a product of 3 Clebsch Gordan's

We can also apply Wigner-Eckart to FF':

$$\langle FM_F | \hat{T}_q^k | F'M_F' \rangle = \frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\sqrt{2F+1}} \langle F'M_F', kq | FM_F \rangle$$

equating these, we can solve for

$$\frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle} = \frac{\sqrt{2F+1}}{\sqrt{2J+1}} \frac{1}{\langle F'M_F', kq | FM_F \rangle} \sum_{\substack{M_J, M_I \\ M_J', M_I'}} \langle FM_F | JM_J, IM_I \rangle \langle J'M_J', kq | JM_J \rangle \langle J'M_J', IM_I' | F'M_F' \rangle$$

the above is independent of  $M_F', q, M_F = M_F' + q$ , so it can be evaluated at any convenient value, e.g.  $M_F' = q = M_F = 0$  (if allowed by selection rules)

Wigner  
Define the  $\sqrt{6}$ -j symbol as follows:

$$\frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle} = (-1)^{F'+J+K+I} \sqrt{(2F+1)(2F'+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} J & J' & K \\ F' & F & I \end{Bmatrix}$$

where  $\begin{Bmatrix} J & J' & K \\ F' & F & I \end{Bmatrix}$  is the 6-j symbol, that gives a number for any six inputs.

6-j's have a lot of properties, such as they are invariant under permutation of columns or rows.

Given this definition, clearly  $\frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle} = \frac{\langle F' || \hat{T}^k || F \rangle}{\langle J' || \hat{T}^k || J \rangle}$  up to a sign

⇒ Note: there is only one definition of the 6-j The different definitions are in regard to the ~~matrix~~ reduced Matrix elements.

Another  $\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle$  definition is

$$\frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle} = (-1)^{F'+J+K+I} \sqrt{(2F'+1)(2J+1)} \begin{Bmatrix} J & J' & K \\ F' & F & I \end{Bmatrix}$$

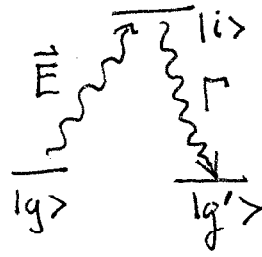
and  $\frac{\langle F || \hat{T}^k || F' \rangle}{\langle J || \hat{T}^k || J' \rangle} = \frac{\sqrt{2F'+1}}{\sqrt{2F+1}} \frac{\sqrt{2J+1}}{\sqrt{2J'+1}} \frac{\langle F' || \hat{T}^k || F \rangle}{\langle J' || \hat{T}^k || J \rangle}$  up to a sign.

I don't know why there isn't a consistent definition.

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Example: any second order process in a vector operator.

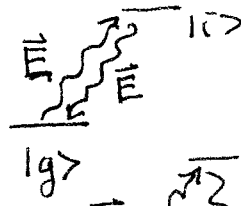
Scattering



$$\propto \left| \sum_i \frac{\langle g' | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_{k'} | i \rangle \langle i | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_k | g \rangle}{\omega - \omega_i} \right|^2$$

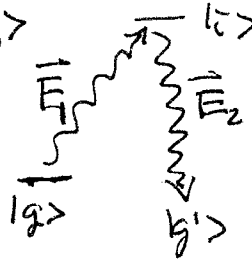
single photon

Light shift



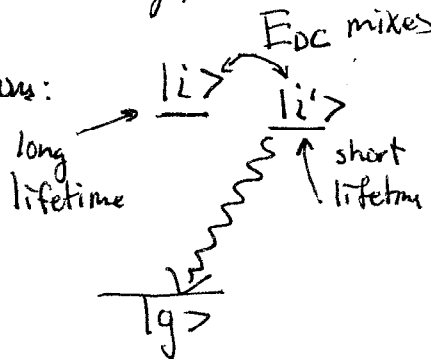
$$\Delta U \propto \sum_i \frac{\langle g | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_1 | i \rangle \langle i | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_2 | g \rangle}{\omega - \omega_i}$$

Raman Transitions



$$\Omega \propto \sum_i \frac{\langle g' | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_2 | i \rangle \langle i | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_1 | g \rangle}{\omega - \omega_i}$$

Stark induce transitions:



$$\Gamma \propto \left| \sum_i \frac{\langle g | \hat{d} \cdot \vec{E}_0 | i \rangle \langle i | E_{dc} | i' \rangle}{\omega_i' - \omega_i} \right|^2$$

etc.

These all will have a form

$$A^0(E) \hat{T}^0(\hat{d}) + A_q^1(E) \cdot \hat{T}_q^1(\hat{d}) + A_q^2(E) \cdot \hat{T}_q^2(\hat{d})$$

e.g.  $|\vec{E}|^2 |\hat{d}|^2 + (\vec{E} \times \vec{E}^*) \cdot (\hat{d} \times \hat{d}) + \sum_{\alpha\beta} E_\alpha E_\beta^* \frac{\hat{d}_\alpha \hat{d}_\beta + \hat{d}_\beta \hat{d}_\alpha}{2} - \frac{\hat{d}_\alpha \hat{d}_\alpha}{3}$

So in principle they can make  $\Delta F=0, \pm$  or  $\pm 2$  transitions.

this will be limited though by how the F states are coupled from  $\hat{J} + \hat{I}$

Take the case for scattering light, and  
 Assume typical Hyperfine splittings.

SEE MATHEMATICA NOTEBOOK ONLINE

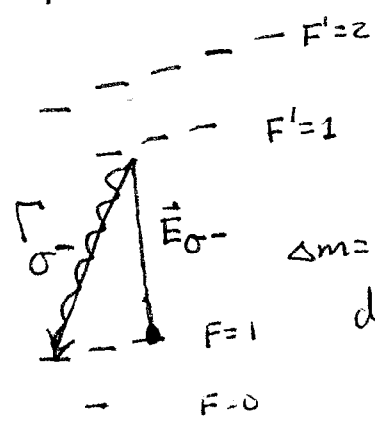
main result from the example:

$$J' = 3/2$$

$$I = 1/2$$

$$F = 2, 1$$

set of  $F'$

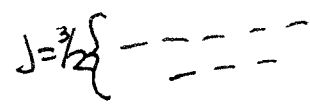


$$J = 1/2$$

$$I = 1/2$$

$$F = 0, 1$$

set of  $F$

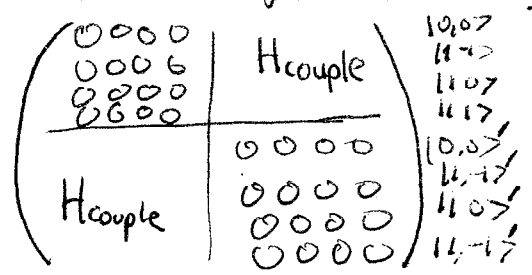


$\Delta m = 2$  not possible because hyperfine splitting is small compared to the detuning  $\rightarrow$  so the nucleus is ignored.

Looks like a  $J = 1/2 \rightarrow J = 3/2$  transition,  $\Delta J$  for ground state is at most  $1/2 \rightarrow -1/2 = 1$ .

$\Delta m = 1$  only possible.

In the Mathematica Notebook, the couplings are calculated as block off diagonal matrices, eg  $F = 0, F = 1 \leftrightarrow F' = 0, F' = 1$



8x8 total space, but only 4x4 off diagonal parts need to be calculated.

Transition strengths are often given in terms of the classical oscillator strength.

remember an electron on a spring decays at

$$\Gamma = \frac{e^2 \omega_0^2}{3mc^3} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = \frac{\pi e^2}{3mc\lambda^2 \epsilon_0}$$

An oscillator strength is a unitless measure of a transition strength defined as

$$\Gamma_{ki} = \frac{2\pi e^2}{mc\lambda^2 \epsilon_0} \frac{g_i}{g_k} f_{ki} \quad f_{ki} \text{ is the oscillator strength.}$$

where  $g_i$  +  $g_k$  are the degeneracy factors for the states. (I don't know where/why the factor of  $\frac{2}{3}$  ~~is~~  $\frac{1}{3}$  probably from average over all directions?)