#### AOD 2/24/2025

# Essential Modern Physics Knowledge

#### **COMPLEX NUMBERS**

For z = x + iy, the complex conjugate is  $z^* = x - iy$  and the absolute value is the distance on the complex plane from the origin to the point z.

$$\left|z\right|^{2} = zz^{\star} = (x + iy)(x - iy) = x^{2} + y^{2}$$

We also utilize Euler's formula stating that  $e^{\pm i\theta} = \cos\theta \pm i\sin\theta$ .

#### PARTICLE IN A BOX: ALLOWED ENERGY STATES

For a quantum particle of energy, E, in a potential box where U(x) = 0for 0 < x < a, it can only exist between x = 0 and x = a (since E = K + U and  $U = \infty$  outside of 0 < x < a). A quantum particle is described by a wave function that can exist in the box at only certain wavelengths ( $\lambda$ , first three shown) the wave function must be zero at the sides (x = 0 & x = a).

For a standing wave,  $\psi(x) = A\sin(kx) + B\cos(kx)$ , this requires that

$$ka = n\pi$$
 where n = 1, 2, 3, ... and  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  is the wave number

\*\*\* Other than saying a quantum particle is described by a wave, this is just math! \*\*\*

The physics comes in with de Broglie:

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda} = \hbar k$$
 for  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$  and  $\hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi}$    
RELATIONSHIPS!

Thus, the allowed momenta of the particle in the box are:

$$a = \frac{n}{2}\lambda = \frac{n\pi}{k} = \frac{n\pi\hbar}{p} \implies p = \frac{n\pi\hbar}{a}$$
BE ABLE TO FIGURE  
THESE OUT

Since the energy of the particle is purely kinetic (U = 0),  $E = p^2/2m$  gives the allowed energies:

BE ABLE TO  
DERIVE THIS. 
$$E = n^2 \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$$
,  $n = 1, 2, 3, ...$  TZDII (7.23)

### PROBABILITY DENSITY, NORMALIZATION, & EXPECTATION VALUE

 $|\Psi(\vec{r},t)|^{2} = \text{probability (volume) density for finding particle at } \vec{r} \qquad \text{TZDII (6.15)}$ Prob. of finding particle between  $x_{1} \& x_{2} = \int_{x_{1}}^{x_{2}} |\psi(x)|^{2} dx \approx |\psi(x = x_{1})|^{2} \Delta x|$ UNDERSTAND WHY INTEGRAL IS
APPROXIMATED BY A PRODUCT.  $\int_{x_{1}}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^{2} dx| = 1 \qquad \text{TZDII (7.55)}$ 



n

IV



The expectation value (value expected after many measurements) of f(x) with a probability

density 
$$|\psi(\mathbf{x})|$$

$$\int f(x) |\psi(x)|^2 dx = \int f(x) p(x) dx \qquad \text{TZDII (7.69)}$$



is

## **3-D SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION**

For the hydrogen, we assume a purely radial potential due to the charge of the proton (PE = force x distance).

$$\mathsf{U}(\mathsf{r}) = -\frac{\mathsf{k}\mathsf{e}^2}{\mathsf{r}}$$

The electron's energy can only be multiples of the Rydberg Energy as shown in TZDII equations 5.22 and 5.23.

$$E = -\frac{m_{e}(ke^{2})^{2}}{2\hbar^{2}}\frac{1}{n^{2}} = \left[-\frac{E_{R}}{n^{2}} = -\frac{13.6}{n^{2}}eV\right] \frac{K_{NOW}}{THIS.}$$

### Separation of Variables

Assume that the wave function of the electron can be written as a product

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, \theta, \phi) = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r})\Theta(\theta)\Phi(\phi)$$

Substituting this into the Schrödinger equation and setting

Function of  $\phi$  = Functions of r and  $\theta$  =  $-m^2$ 

HAVE A CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PROCESS.

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Function of \theta = Function of \mathbf{r} = -\mathbf{k} = -\ell(\ell + 1)
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Yields three differential equations, one in each variable that can be solved for various values of n, m and  $\ell$ .

The  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  solutions depending on m and  $\ell$  are the Spherical Harmonics with the  $\theta$  solutions given in Table 8.1 as the Associated Legendre Functions.

The R solutions depending on n and  $\ell$  are given in table 8.2. The normalization of these equations requires that the electron be found within a spherical volume, thus the differential volume element (supplied by the normalization of the  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  solutions in the full wave function) becomes  $4\pi r^2 dr$ , giving

Prob. of finding e<sup>-</sup> in a spherical volume = 
$$\int_{r_1}^{r_2} 4\pi r^2 |R(r)|^2 dr$$
  
Normalization  $\int_{0}^{\infty} 4\pi r^2 |R(r)|^2 dr = 1$  TZDII (8.84)

Know how to demonstrate a function is a solution to a differential equation.

### QUANTUM NUMBERS GIVE PHYSICAL QUANTITIES (THAT WE CAN MEASURE IN THE LAB!)



Spin Quantum Number, m<sub>s</sub> gives the z-component of the spin angular momentum:

 $m_s = \pm \frac{1}{2}$   $S_z = m_s \hbar$ 

Magnitude of the Spin Angular Momentum is given by S and s:

 $\left|\vec{S}\right| = \hbar\sqrt{s(s+1)} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\hbar, \ s = \frac{1}{2}$ 

ZEEMAN EFFECTS

Zeeman Effect: The electron's orbital momentum responds to an external magnetic field

- requires  $\ell \ge 1$  AND total electron spin = 0 (singlet states)

Anomalous Zeeman Effect: The electron's spin responds to an external magnetic field - occurs for all values of {

Fine Structure: The e<sup>-'</sup>s spin responds to magnetic field of p<sup>+'</sup>s "orbit"

- "spin orbit coupling"

Hyperfine Structure: The e's spin responds to magnetic field of  $p^{\star}{}^{\star}s$  spin

- "spin flip" transition gives 1420 MHz HI line (21 cm line)