

Plan of lectures

- 1 15.04.2015 Preliminary Discussion / Introduction
- 2 22.04.2015 Experiments (discovery of the positron, formation of antihydrogen, ...)
- 3 29.04.2015 Experiments (Lamb shift, hyperfine structure, quasimolecules and MO spectra)
- 4 06.05.2015 Theory (from Schrödinger to Dirac equation, solutions with negative energy)
- 5 13.05.2015 Theory (bound-state solutions of Dirac equation, quantum numbers)
- 6 20.05.2015 Theory (matrix elements and their evaluation, radiative decay and absorption)
- 7 27.05.2015 Experiment (photoionization, radiative recombination, ATI, HHG...)
- 8 03.06.2015 Theory (single and multiple scattering, energy loss mechanisms, channeling regime)
- 9 10.06.2015 Experiment (Kamiokande, cancer therapy,)
- 10 17.06.2015 Experiment (Auger decay, dielectronic recombination, double ionization)
- 11 24.06.2015 Theory (interelectronic interactions, extension of Dirac (and Schrödinger) theory for the description of many-electron systems, approximate methods)
- 12 01.07.2015 Theory (atomic-physics tests of the Standard Model, search for a new physics)
- 13 08.07.2015 Experiment (Atomic physics PNC experiments (Cs,...), heavy ion PV research)

From Schrödinger to Dirac equation

(Spin, relativity, general structure of Dirac equation)

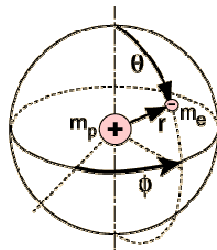
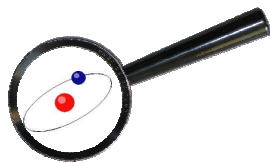
06 May 2015

Plan of lecture

- ▶ Solutions of Schrödinger equation: Wavefunctions, energies, quantum numbers
- ▶ Particle's spin and relativity: Ideas which brought us to Dirac equation
- ▶ Dirac equation and free-particle solutions
- ▶ Negative-energy solutions of Dirac equation: Concept of antiparticles

06 May 2015

Schrödinger equation for hydrogen atom



From www.hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu

- ◆ 3D Schrödinger equation (time-independent):

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2\psi(\mathbf{r})+V(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r})=E\psi(\mathbf{r})$$

- ◆ Where Coulomb potential is:

$$V(\mathbf{r})=-\frac{Ze^2}{|\mathbf{r}|}$$

- ◆ Electron is bound to nucleus by the central force. It depends only on the radial distance between an electron and nucleus!

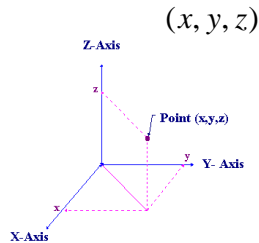
✓ It is natural to solve Schrödinger equation for central force in spherical coordinates!

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Cartesian vs. spherical coordinates

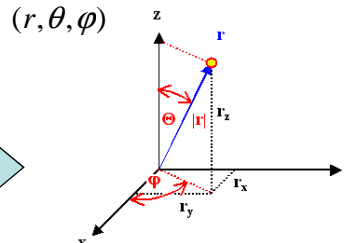
(just a reminder)

Cartesian coordinates



$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ y &= r \sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ z &= r \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Spherical coordinates



$$\begin{aligned} r &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \\ \theta &= \arccos\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}\right) \\ \varphi &= \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \end{aligned}$$

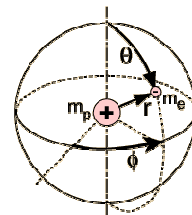
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Schrödinger equation for hydrogen atom

- It is natural to solve Schrödinger equation for central force in spherical coordinates!

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(\mathbf{r}) + V(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r})$$

- Potential term: $V(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{Ze^2}{|\mathbf{r}|} = -\frac{Ze^2}{r}$



$$\mathbf{r} = (r, \theta, \varphi)$$

From www.hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu

- Laplace operator: $\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2}$

We can re-write Laplace operator as:

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) - \frac{1}{r^2 \hbar^2} \left[-\hbar^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} \right) \right]$$

Operator \hat{L}^2 (depends only on θ and φ)

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Problem 4.1 (Angular momentum operator)

Prove that Cartesian components of the angular momentum operator:

$$\hat{\mathbf{L}} = \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}} = -i\hbar(\mathbf{r} \times \nabla)$$

read as:

$$\hat{L}_x = i\hbar \left(\sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cot \theta \cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right), \quad \hat{L}_y = i\hbar \left(-\cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cot \theta \sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right)$$

$$\hat{L}_z = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}$$

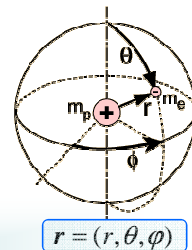
and find $\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2$

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Schrödinger equation for hydrogen atom

► In spherical coordinates Schrödinger equation reads:

$$\left(\underbrace{-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right)}_{r\text{-dependence}} + \underbrace{\frac{\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2}{2mr^2}}_{(\theta, \varphi)\text{-dependence}} - \underbrace{\frac{Ze^2}{r}}_{r\text{-dependence}} \right) \psi(\mathbf{r}) = E \psi(\mathbf{r})$$



From www.hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu

Such a decomposition of Hamiltonian operator gives us a hint to search for similar angle-radial decompositions of a wavefunction!

► Moreover, L^2 and L_z commute with Hamiltonian (and with each other):

$$[\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2, \hat{H}] = 0, \quad [\hat{L}_z, \hat{H}] = 0$$



Eigenfunctions of Hamiltonian operators are at the same time eigenfunctions of operators L^2 and L_z .

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Problem 4.2 (Commutation relations)

Prove that:

$$[\hat{L}^2, \hat{H}] = 0, [\hat{L}_z, \hat{H}] = 0$$

and

$$[\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = i\hbar L_z, [\hat{L}_y, \hat{L}_z] = i\hbar L_x, [\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_x] = i\hbar L_y$$

Just a reminder: $[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] = \hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A}$

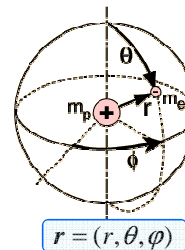
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Schrödinger equation for hydrogen atom

- In spherical coordinates Schrödinger equation reads:

$$\left(\underbrace{-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right)}_{r\text{-dependence}} + \underbrace{\frac{\hat{L}^2}{2mr^2} - \frac{Ze^2}{r}}_{r\text{-dependence}} \right) \psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r})$$

(θ, φ) - dependence



From www.hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu

- We may thus look for solutions of the Schrödinger equation which are simultaneously eigenfunctions of the operators H , L^2 (and L_z):

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(r, \theta, \varphi) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)$$

Radial wavefunction

Angular part
(spherical harmonics)

Spherical harmonics are the eigenfunctions of the operators L^2 and L_z .

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Spherical harmonics

(just a reminder)

► Spherical harmonics are the eigenfunctions of the operators L^2 and L_z :

$$\hat{L}^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = l(l+1)\hbar^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\hat{L}_z Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = m\hbar Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

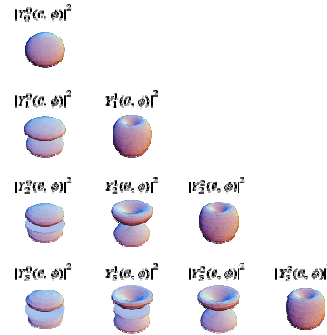
► Analytic expressions for the spherical harmonics are well known:

$$Y_{00}(\theta, \varphi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}$$

$$Y_{10}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta, \quad Y_{1\pm 1}(\theta, \varphi) = \mp \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\varphi}$$

...

See, for example, in Mathematica:



From <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/>



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Schrödinger equation: Quantum numbers

● One needs three quantum numbers to define the state of hydrogen (hydrogen-like) atom:

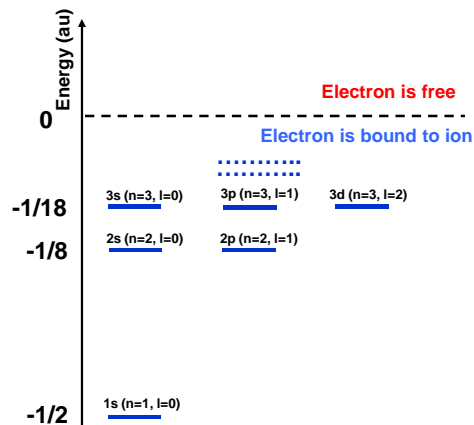
- $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ (principal)
- $l = 0, \dots, n-1$ (orbital)
- $m_l = -l, \dots, +l$ (magnetic)

● The energy depends only on the principal quantum number:

$$E_n = -\frac{\epsilon_0 Z^2}{2n^2}$$

● i.e. in nonrelativistic theory the states are degenerate (l, m)!

$$\psi(r) = \psi(r, \theta, \varphi) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)$$



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Schrödinger equation: Quantum numbers

- One needs three quantum numbers to define the state of hydrogen (hydrogen-like) atom:

- $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ (principal)
- $l = 0, \dots, n-1$ (orbital)
- $m_l = -l, \dots, +l$ (magnetic)

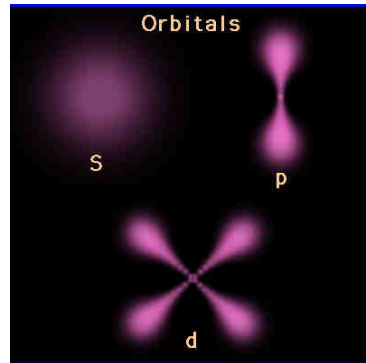
- ◆ Let us consider electron density distribution:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = |\psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 = |R_{nl}(r)|^2 |Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)|^2$$

- ◆ By fixing r :

$$\rho(r = \text{const}, \theta, \varphi) \sim |Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)|^2$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(r, \theta, \varphi) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)$$



By choosing l and m we define the shape of electron cloud!

- ✓ Please, remember: states with different l and m (but the same n) have the same energies!

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Plan of lecture

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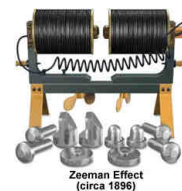
Breaking of symmetry: „Normal“ Zeeman effect



Pieter Zeeman
1902 Nobel prize



▶ Zeeman effect: splitting of a spectral line into several components in the presence of a static magnetic field.



Zeeman Effect
(circa 1896)

Picture from: www.magnet.fsu.edu

Magnetic field "off"

2p (n=2, l=1, m_l = -1, 0, 1)

1s (n=1, l=0)

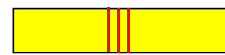


Magnetic field "on"

2p (n=2, l=1)

m_l = +1
m_l = 0
m_l = -1

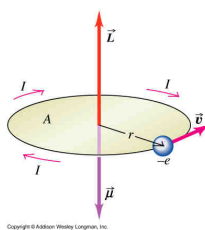
1s (n=1, l=0)



This effect was understood within the Quantum Mechanics.

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Electron magnetic dipole moment



In classical electrodynamics:

$$|\mu| = I \cdot A$$

current vector area of the current loop

$$|\mu| = I \cdot A = \frac{q}{T} \pi r^2 = \frac{qv}{2\pi r} \pi r^2 = \frac{q}{2m} mrv = \frac{q}{2m} L$$

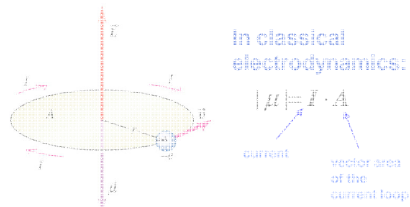
In quantum mechanics,
for electron: q=-e

$$\hat{\mu}_l = -\mu_0 \hat{L} / \hbar, \quad \mu_0 = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$$

Bohr magneton

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Electron magnetic dipole moment



$$|\mu| = I \cdot A = \frac{q}{T} \pi r^2 = \frac{qv}{2\pi r} \pi r^2 = \frac{q}{2m} mrv = \frac{q}{2m} L$$

In quantum mechanics, for electron: $q = -e$

$$\hat{\mu}_l = -\mu_0 \hat{L} / \hbar, \quad \mu_0 = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$$

Bohr magneton

Interaction with external magnetic field

$$\hat{H}_{int} = -\hat{\mu}_l \cdot B$$

By choosing z-axis along B:

$$\hat{H}_{int} = -\hat{\mu}_{l,z} B = \mu_0 B L_z / \hbar$$



Energy shift (1st order perturbation):

$$\Delta E_{m_l} = \langle \psi_{nlm_l} | \hat{H}_{int} | \psi_{nlm_l} \rangle = \mu_0 B m_l$$

Magnetic field "off"

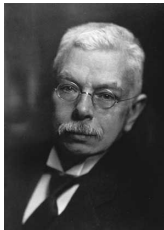
2p (n=2, l=1, m_l = -1, 0, 1)

Magnetic field "on"

2p (n=2, l=1)
 m_l = +1
 m_l = 0
 m_l = -1

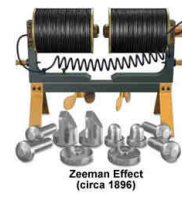
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„Normal“ Zeeman effect



Pieter Zeeman
1902 Nobel prize

Zeeman effect: splitting of a spectral line into several components in the presence of a static magnetic field.



Picture from: www.magnet.fsu.edu

Magnetic field "off"

2p (n=2, l=1, m_l = -1, 0, 1)

1s (n=1, l=0)



Magnetic field "on"

2p (n=2, l=1)

m_l = +1
 m_l = 0
 m_l = -1

1s (n=1, l=0)



So far everything looks clear...

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„Anamalous“ Zeeman effect



Alfred Lande

- ▶ Zeeman effect: splitting of a spectral line into several components in the presence of a static magnetic field.
- ▶ But... a lot of experimental data have been obtained which can not be explained within the “Schrödinger picture”.

Magnetic field “off”

2p ($n=2, l=1, m_l = -1, 0, 1$)

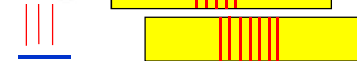
1s ($n=1, l=0$)



Magnetic field “on”

2p ($n=2, l=1$)

$m_l = +1$
 $m_l = 0$



1s ($n=1, l=0$)

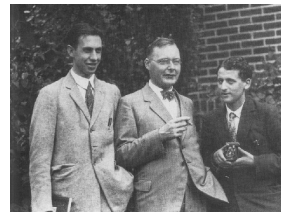
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From Zeeman effect to concept of spin



Wolfgang Pauli

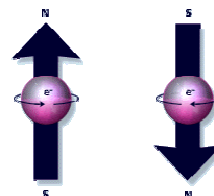
“How can one avoid despondency if one thinks of the anomalous Zeeman effect?” (1925)



Uhlenbeck

Goudsmit

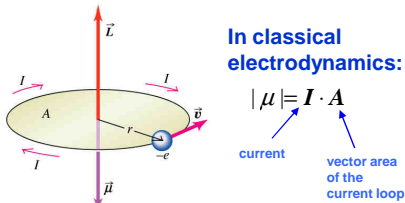
- ▶ Pauli introduced the idea of a new quantum degree of freedom (or quantum number) for electron with two possible values.
- ▶ Ralph Kronig, George Uhlenbeck and Samuel Goudsmit: every electron carries intrinsic angular momentum called spin.
- ▶ Magnetic moment can be associated with spin and is “responsible” for the interaction with magnetic field.



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Electron spin

Orbital magnetic moment



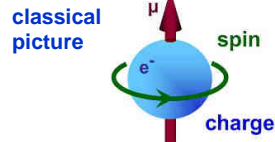
$$|\mu| = I \cdot A = \frac{q}{T} \pi r^2 = \frac{qv}{2\pi r} \pi r^2 = \frac{q}{2m} mrv = \frac{q}{2m} L$$

In quantum mechanics, for electron: $q = -e$

$$\hat{\mu}_l = -\mu_0 \hat{L} / \hbar, \quad \mu_0 = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$$

Bohr magneton

Spin magnetic moment



$$\hat{\mu}_s = -g_s \mu_0 \hat{S} / \hbar$$

Gyromagnetic ratio

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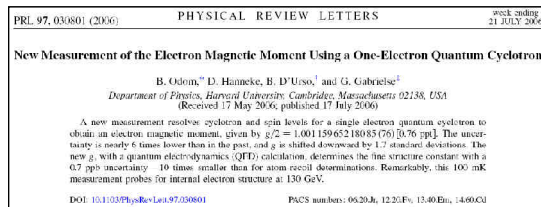
Total magnetic moment

- ▶ Total magnetic moment is given finally by:

$$\hat{\mu} = -\mu_0 (\hat{L} + g\hat{S}) / \hbar$$

- ▶ And it interacts with external magnetic field as: $H = -\hat{\mu} \cdot B$

- ◆ Measurements of the total magnetic momentum is of fundamental importance for analysis of gyromagnetic ratio:



$g/2=1$ (Dirac theory)



$g/2=1.001\,159\,180 \dots$

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Total magnetic moment

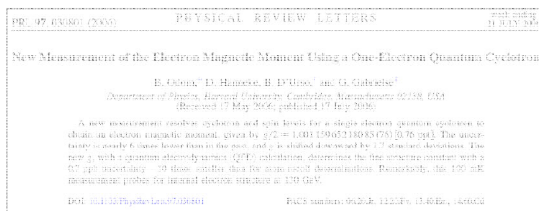
- ▶ Total magnetic moment is given finally by:

$$\hat{\mu} = -\mu_0(\hat{L} + g\hat{S})/\hbar$$

- ▶ And it interacts with external magnetic field as: $H = -\hat{\mu} \cdot B$

But what is actually spin operator S ?

Magnetic momentum is of fundamental importance for analysis of gyromagnetic ratio:



$g/2=1$ (Dirac theory)



$g/2=1.001159180 \dots$

06 May 2015

Orbital and spin angular momentum operators

Orbital magnetic moment

- ▶ We have discussed already the properties of angular momentum operator L :

$$\hat{L}^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = l(l+1)\hbar^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\hat{L}_z Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = m\hbar Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$m = -l, \dots, +l$$

We shall assume that all angular momentum operators satisfy these commutation relations!

- ▶ And its commutation relations:

$$[\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = i\hbar\hat{L}_z, [\hat{L}_y, \hat{L}_z] = i\hbar\hat{L}_x,$$

$$[\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_x] = i\hbar\hat{L}_y$$

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Orbital and spin angular momentum operators

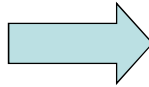
Orbital magnetic moment

- We have discussed already the properties of angular momentum operator L :

$$\hat{L}^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = l(l+1)\hbar^2 Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\hat{L}_z Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = m\hbar Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$m = -l, \dots, +l$$



Spin magnetic moment

- We shall expect the following properties of spin angular momentum operator S :

$$\hat{S}^2 \chi_{sm_s} = s(s+1)\hbar^2 \chi_{sm_s}$$

$$\hat{S}_z \chi_{sm_s} = m_s \hbar \chi_{sm_s}$$

$$m_s = -s, \dots, +s$$

- And its commutation relations:

$$[\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = i\hbar \hat{L}_z, [\hat{L}_y, \hat{L}_z] = i\hbar \hat{L}_x,$$

$$[\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_x] = i\hbar \hat{L}_y$$

- And its commutation relations:

$$[\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y] = i\hbar \hat{S}_z, [\hat{S}_y, \hat{S}_z] = i\hbar \hat{S}_x,$$

$$[\hat{S}_z, \hat{S}_x] = i\hbar \hat{S}_y$$

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Spin operator and wavefunctions

- Let us restrict ourselves to the case of electron (two possible spin states).
- Spin-1/2 basis wavefunctions: $|s m_s\rangle = \chi_{sm_s}$

$$|s m_s\rangle = |1/2 +1/2\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array} \quad |s m_s\rangle = |1/2 -1/2\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array}$$

- Spin-1/2 operators are the 2x2 matrices:

$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{\sigma}_x, \hat{S}_y = \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{\sigma}_y, \hat{S}_z = \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z$$

- Where Pauli matrices are:

$$\hat{\sigma}_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \hat{\sigma}_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \hat{\sigma}_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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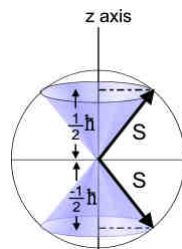
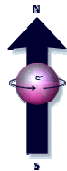
Spin operator and wavefunctions

- What does it mean that electron is in the state with spin projection +1/2?
- Let us calculate matrix elements (mean values of spin projections):

$$\langle s_x \rangle = \langle \chi_{1/2} | \hat{s}_x | \chi_{1/2} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle s_y \rangle = \langle \chi_{1/2} | \hat{s}_y | \chi_{1/2} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle s_z \rangle = \langle \chi_{1/2} | \hat{s}_z | \chi_{1/2} \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

- Can we now say that “electron spin is along z axis”?
- Let us calculate the variance:

$$\langle \chi_{1/2} | (\hat{s}_x - \langle s_x \rangle)^2 | \chi_{1/2} \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}, \quad \langle \chi_{1/2} | (\hat{s}_y - \langle s_y \rangle)^2 | \chi_{1/2} \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$



From www.wikipedia.com

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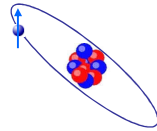
Problem 4.3

Find the state vector for the electron with spin projection $\pm 1/2$ on the x-axis.

06 May 2015

Nonrelativistic theory with spin included

(... the simplest approach)



- ▶ We may include electron spin into consideration:

$$\psi_{nlm_l}(\mathbf{r}) = \psi_{nlm_l}(r, \theta, \varphi) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi)$$



$$\Psi_{nlm_l s m_s}(\mathbf{r}) = \Psi_{nlm_l s m_s}(r, \theta, \varphi, \sigma) = R_{nl}(r) Y_{lm_l}(\theta, \varphi) \chi_{s m_s}(\sigma)$$

- ▶ These wavefunctions are spinors: $\Psi_{nlm_l s m_s}(\mathbf{r}) \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} f(\mathbf{r}) \\ g(\mathbf{r}) \end{pmatrix}$

◆ This (rather simple) approach can be used for the case studies where particles are slow enough so that the relativistic effects are negligible.

◆ We are still missing something.

06 May 2015

Plan of lecture

- ▶ Solutions of Schrödinger equation: Wavefunctions, energies, quantum numbers

▶ Particle's spin and relativity: Ideas which brought us to Dirac equation

- ▶ Dirac equation and free-particle solutions

- ▶ Negative-energy solutions of Dirac equation: Concept of antiparticles

06 May 2015

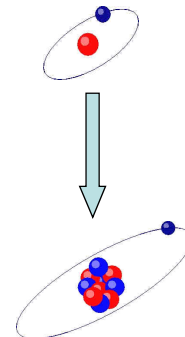
Hydrogen-like ions: Relativistic effects

- We want to study very heavy ($Z \gg 1$) ionic systems!!!
- From the simple model one can “estimate” the electron “velocity” in the ground state:

$$v = (\alpha Z) c$$

Speed of light

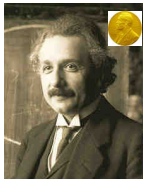
- For hydrogen ($Z=1$): $\alpha Z \approx 1/137 \approx 0.00729$
- For hydrogen-like Uranium ($Z=92$): $\alpha Z \approx 0.67$



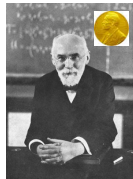
Electron is moving at velocities very close to the speed of light!
The relativistic effects have to be taken into account!

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Special relativity



Albert Einstein



Hendrik Lorentz



Henri Poincaré

► Special theory of relativity is the theory of measurement in inertial frames of reference.

► It generalizes Galileo's principle of relativity.

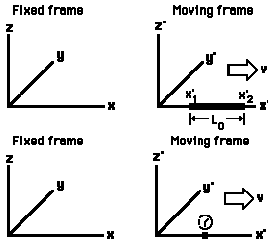
3. Zur *Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper*; von *A. Einstein*.

Daß die Elektrodynamik Maxwells — wie dieselbe gegenwärtig aufgefaßt zu werden pflegt — in ihrer Anwendung auf bewegte Körper zu Asymmetrien führt, welche den Phänomenen nicht anzuhäufen scheinen; ist bekannt. Man denke z. B. an die elektrodynamische Wechselwirkung zwischen einem Magneten und einem Leiter. Das beobachtbare Phänomen hängt

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Relativistic kinematics

(just a reminder)



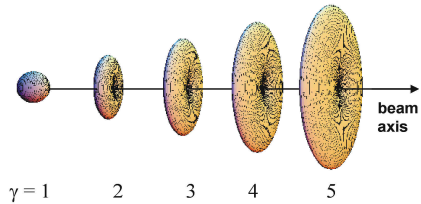
- **By approaching speed of light, we find:**

- **Length contraction** $L = L_0 / \gamma$
- **Time dilation** $T = T_0 \gamma$
- **The increase in effective mass** $m = m_0 \gamma$
- **The change in relativistic momentum** $p = m_0 v \gamma$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}}$$

- **The electro-magnetic field is also transformed!**

- **Example: Lienard-Wiechert potential (transformation of the Coulomb potential)**



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Plan of lecture

- ▶ Solutions of Schrödinger equation: Wavefunctions, energies, quantum numbers
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Dirac equation

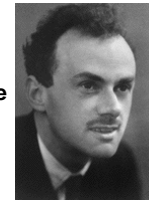
- A quantum treatment of the electron motion in heavy ions requires the use of the Dirac equation which is the relativistic wave equation for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particles.
- Time-dependent Dirac equation reads:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \hat{H} \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Which looks like Schrödinger equation but
... what is the Dirac Hamiltonian?

Let us consider Dirac Hamiltonian for the simplest case: free particle.

Paul Dirac
1933 Nobel prize



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Dirac equation for free particle

- A quantum treatment of the electron motion in heavy ions requires the use of the Dirac equation which is the relativistic wave equation for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particles.
- Time-dependent Dirac equation reads:

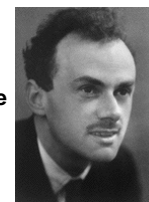
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = (-i\hbar c \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \nabla + mc^2 \alpha_0) \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Kinetic term
Rest mass term

$$\mathbf{p} = -i\hbar \nabla$$

- ◆ Note: Dirac equation is the first-order differential equation (in contrast to Schrödinger one)!
- ◆ The important consequence: the Dirac equation is relativistically invariant!

Paul Dirac
1933 Nobel prize



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Dirac equation: What is what here?

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = (-i\hbar c \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \nabla + mc^2 \alpha_0) \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Kinetic term
Rest mass term

- 4x4 matrices are built up from Pauli matrices:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \alpha_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ 0 & -\mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Wavefunctions in the Dirac equation are four-spinors:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(\mathbf{r}) \\ \varphi_2(\mathbf{r}) \\ \varphi_3(\mathbf{r}) \\ \varphi_4(\mathbf{r}) \end{pmatrix} \quad \psi^+(\mathbf{r}) = (\varphi_1^*(\mathbf{r}) \quad \varphi_2^*(\mathbf{r}) \quad \varphi_3^*(\mathbf{r}) \quad \varphi_4^*(\mathbf{r}))$$

Can we find explicit form of Dirac wavefunctions?

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Dirac equation: Free-particle solution

- We may re-write Dirac equation in its time-independent form:

$$(-i\hbar c \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \nabla + m_e c^2 \alpha_0) \psi(\mathbf{r}) = E \psi(\mathbf{r})$$

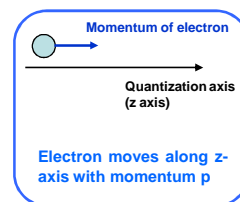
- We will look for plane wave solutions:

$$\psi_p(\mathbf{r}) = w(p) \exp(ipz / \hbar)$$

- We obtain the system of equations (here written in matrix form):

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_e c^2 & 0 & pc & 0 \\ 0 & m_e c^2 & 0 & -pc \\ pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 \end{bmatrix} w = Ew$$

- ... which is standard eigenvalue problem.



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Task 4.3

Prove that plane wave solution for the Dirac equation of free particle:

$$\psi_p(\mathbf{r}) = w(p) \exp(i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{z} / \hbar)$$

leads to the system of equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_e c^2 & 0 & pc & 0 \\ 0 & m_e c^2 & 0 & -pc \\ pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 \end{bmatrix} w = Ew$$

Find solutions of this system of equations.

18 October 2010

Plane wave solution of Dirac equation

- We obtain the system of equations (here written in matrix form):

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_e c^2 & 0 & pc & 0 \\ 0 & m_e c^2 & 0 & -pc \\ pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 \end{bmatrix} w = Ew$$

- Two types of solutions can be obtained by solving this system (finding determinant of the matrix):

$$E_+(p) = \sqrt{(m_e c^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$$

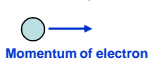
$$E_-(p) = -\sqrt{(m_e c^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$$

Solution with negative energy!

- To each energy corresponds two wavefunctions. For example, positive-energy solutions are:

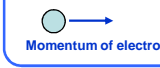
$$w_{+1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad w_{-1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{-cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Electron spin
→



Momentum of electron
→

Electron spin
←



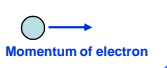
Momentum of electron
→

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Plane wave solution of Dirac equation

- To each energy corresponds two wavefunctions. For example, positive-energy solutions are:

Electron spin
→

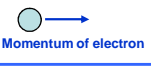


Momentum of electron
→

$$w_{+1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w_{-1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{-cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Electron spin
←



Momentum of electron
→

- By making use the properties of the Pauli matrices and the spin wavefunctions, we finally obtain:

$$w_{m_s} = N \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{m_s} \\ \frac{cp\sigma_z}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \chi_{m_s} \end{pmatrix}$$

Free-electron wavefunction (plane wave solution) is written now as bispinor.

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„Problem“ of negative energy solutions

- We obtain the system of equations (here written in matrix form):

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_e c^2 & 0 & pc & 0 \\ 0 & m_e c^2 & 0 & -pc \\ pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -pc & 0 & -m_e c^2 \end{bmatrix} w = Ew$$



- Two types of solutions can be obtained by solving this system determinant of the matrix):

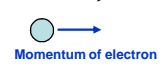
$$E_+(p) = \sqrt{(m_e c^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$$

$$E_-(p) = -\sqrt{(m_e c^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$$

Solution with negative energy!

- To each energy corresponds two wavefunctions. For example, positive-energy solutions are:

Electron spin
→

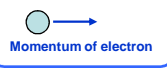


Momentum of electron
→

$$w_{+1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w_{-1/2} = N \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{-cp}{E_+ + m_e c^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Electron spin
←



Momentum of electron
→

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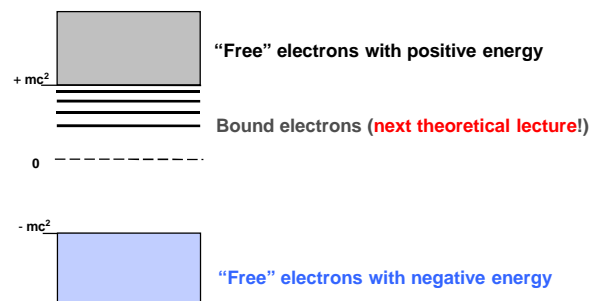
Plan of lecture

- ▶ Solutions of Schrödinger equation: Wavefunctions, energies, quantum numbers
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Energy spectrum of the Dirac particle

- For the free particles we found: $E_{\pm}(p) = \pm\sqrt{(m_e c^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$
- Energy of positive energy particles: $E_+(p) > m_e c^2$
- Energy of negative energy particles: $E_-(p) < -m_e c^2$

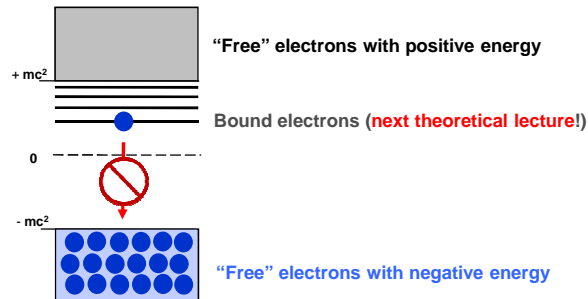


Where is the problem here?

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Concept of the Dirac sea

- In 1930 Paul Dirac have proposed a theoretical model of the vacuum as an infinite sea of particles possessing negative energy.

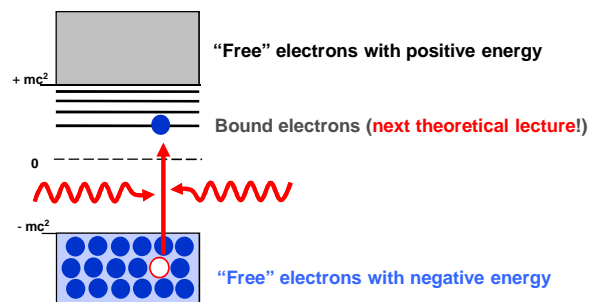


- Since all the states in Dirac sea are occupied "our" electron can not go down from the domain of positive energies. (Pauli principle.)

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Particles and antiparticles

- Situation might exist in which all the negative-energy states are occupied except one. This "hole" in the sea of negative-energy electrons would respond to electric fields as though it were a positively-charged particle.



- How to understand the hole?

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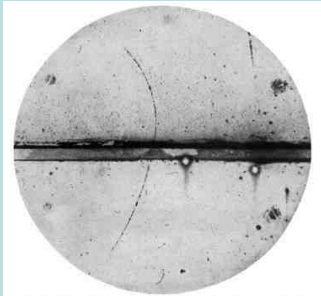
Antiparticles

- How can one understand “holes” in the Dirac sea?

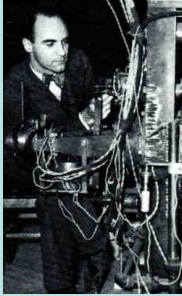
1931-2 QUANTISED SINGULARITIES IN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD 565

60

+ mc^2



- mc^2



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“New kind of particle, unknown to experimental physics” was discovered just in 1932 by Carl David Anderson.

06 May 2015

Plan of lectures

- 1 15.04.2015 Preliminary Discussion / Introduction
- 2 22.04.2015 Experiments (discovery of the positron, formation of antihydrogen, ...)
- 3 29.04.2015 Experiments (Lamb shift, hyperfine structure, quasimolecules and MO spectra)
- 4 06.05.2015 Theory (from Schrödinger to Dirac equation, solutions with negative energy)
- 5 13.05.2015 Theory (bound-state solutions of Dirac equation, quantum numbers)
- 6 20.05.2015 Theory (matrix elements and their evaluation, radiative decay and absorption)
- 7 27.05.2015 Experiment (photoionization, radiative recombination, ATI, HHG...)
- 8 03.06.2015 Theory (single and multiple scattering, energy loss mechanisms, channeling regime)
- 9 10.06.2015 Experiment (Kamiokande, cancer therapy, ...)
- 10 17.06.2015 Experiment (Auger decay, dielectronic recombination, double ionization)
- 11 24.06.2015 Theory (interelectronic interactions, extension of Dirac (and Schrödinger) theory for the description of many-electron systems, approximate methods)
- 12 01.07.2015 Theory (atomic-physics tests of the Standard Model, search for a new physics)
- 13 08.07.2015 Experiment (Atomic physics PNC experiments (Cs,...), heavy ion PV research)