

Atomic Physics Assignment 3

5 x 2 = 10 marks

1. Using the definition of spherical coordinates show that

$$L_z = -i\hbar \left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

2. Raising and Lowering Operators applied to Spherical Harmonic Functions

a) Apply L_- to Y_{11} to find Y_{10} and Y_{1-1} .

b) Verify the orthonormalization condition is satisfied for $Y_{2+/-2}$, $Y_{2+/-1}$, Y_{20}

3. Consider the addition of angular momenta $j_1 = 3$ and $j_2 = 1$.

One can find $|J, M\rangle = \sum m_1 m_2 |j_1, j_2, m_1, m_2\rangle \langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | J, M\rangle$

Beginning with $|J=3, M=3\rangle = |j_1=2, m_1=2\rangle |j_2=1, m_2=1\rangle$, apply J_- to find expressions for $|3,3\rangle$, $|3,2\rangle$ $|3,-3\rangle$

4. Electron Spin

Show $[S^2, S_x]=0$ and $[S_x, S_y] = i\hbar S_z$ are satisfied if $S = \hbar/2 \sigma$ where Pauli spin matrices are:

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and electron spin wavefunctions are : $\chi_{1/2, 1/2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $\chi_{1/2, -1/2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

5. Calculation of Landé g_J factor

Total magnetic Moment $\vec{\mu}_J = \vec{\mu}_L + \vec{\mu}_S$

where: $\vec{\mu}_S = -\frac{2\mu_B}{\hbar} \vec{S}$ $\vec{\mu}_L = -\frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} \vec{L}$ $\vec{\mu}_J = -\frac{g_J \mu_B}{\hbar} \vec{J}$

Show $g_J = 1 + \frac{J(J+1) - L(L+1) + S(S+1)}{2J(J+1)}$