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5.112 Principles of Chemical Science, Fall 2005
Transcript – Lecture 7

And your equation is equal to $E \psi$.

And we saw that these energies, the binding energies of the electron to the nucleus were quantized.

Well, these energy levels then were given by minus this Rydberg constant R_{H} over n^2 .

And this n was our quantum number. It is a principle quantum number. And we saw that n , the smallest value was 1, 2 and ran all the way up to infinity.

Well, today what we are going to do is solve the Schrödinger equation, or we are going to look at the results of solving the Schrödinger equation for the wavefunction ψ .

Now, ψ , in general, is the function of r , θ , ϕ and also time.

But we are going to be looking at problems in which time does not have an effect. In other words, the wavefunctions that we are going to be looking at what are called stationary waves.

We actually are not going to be looking at the wavefunction as a chemical reaction is happening.

We are either going to look at it before or after, but not during. And, in those cases, we are looking at a wavefunction.

And the atom is just stable and is sitting there. The time dependence here does not have a consequence. And so, therefore, the wavefunctions that we are going to be looking at are just a function of r , θ and ϕ .

And we are looking at what is called time independent quantum mechanics.

Later on, actually, if you are in chemistry, in a graduate course in chemistry is when you look at time dependent wavefunctions. We are going to look at time independent quantum mechanics, the stationary wave.

Now, it turns out that when we go and solve the Schrödinger equation here for ψ , what happens is two more quantum numbers drop out of that solution to the differential equation.

Remember we said last time how quantum numbers arise. They arise from imposing boundary conditions on a differential equation, making that differential equation applicable to your actual physical problem.

And so, when we do that, we get a new quantum number called l .

And l is, I think you already know, the angular momentum quantum number. Absolutely. It is called the angular momentum quantum number because it indeed dictates how much angular momentum the electron has.

It has allowed values.

The allowed values of l now are zero. Zero is the smallest value of l , the lowest value of l allowed. 1, 2, all the way up to $n-1$.

That is the largest value it can have. It cannot be any larger than n minus 1.

Why can't it be larger than n minus 1? Well, it cannot because the angular momentum quantum number, at least if you want to think classically for a moment, dictates how much rotation kinetic energy you have.

And remember that this energy here is dependent only on n .

This energy is the sum of kinetic energy plus potential energy. If l had the same value as n , well, essentially that would mean that we would have only rotation kinetic energy and we would have no potential energy.

But that is not right. We have potential energy. We have potential energy of interaction. So, physically, that is why l is tied to n .

And it cannot be larger than $n - 1$. And then we have a third quantum number that drops out of that solution, which is called M .

It is the magnetic quantum number. It is called that because indeed it dictates how an atom moves in a magnetic field.

Or, how it behaves in a magnetic field. But, more precisely, m is the z component of the angular momentum.

L is the total angular momentum. M dictates the z component of the angular momentum. And the allowed values of m are $m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm l$.

You can have no angular momentum in the z component. Or, plus one, plus two, plus three, all the way up to plus l .

Again, m is tied to l . It cannot be larger than l , because if it were then you would have more angular momentum in the z component than you had total angular momentum.

And that is a no-no. So, m is tied to l .

The largest value you can have is l . But, since this is a z component and we've got some direction, m could also be minus 1, minus two, minus three, minus l .

We have three quantum numbers now. That kind of makes sense because we have a 3-dimensional problem.

We are going to have to have three quantum numbers to completely describe our system. The consequence here of having three quantum numbers is that we now have more states.

For example, our $n=1$ state that we talked about last time, more completely we have to describe that state by two other quantum numbers.

When n is equal to one, what is the only value that l can have? Zero. And if l is zero, what is the only value m can have?

Zero. And so, more appropriately, or more completely, that $n=1$ state is the $1, 0, 0$ state.

And, if we have an electron in that $1, 0, 0$ state, we are going to describe that electron by the wavefunction $\psi_{1, 0, 0}$.

Now, what I have not told you yet is exactly how ψ represents the electron.

I am just telling you right now that ψ does. Exactly how it does is something I haven't told you yet. And we will do that later in the lecture today, sort of. That is the energy minus the Rydberg constant.

But now, if n is equal two, what is the smallest value that l can have?

Zero. And the value of m in that case? Zero. And so our $n=2$ state is more completely the $2, 0, 0$ state. And the wavefunction that describes the electron in that state is the $\psi_{2, 0, 0}$ wavefunction.

And then, of course, here is the energy of that state. Now, when n is equal to what, what is the next larger value of l ?

One. And if l is equal to one, what is the largest value that m can be? One.

And so we have another state here, the $2, 1, 1$ state. And if you have an electron in that state, it is described by the $\psi_{2, 1, 1}$ wavefunction. However, the energy here is also minus one-quarter the Rydberg constant.

It has the same energy as the $2, 0, 0$ state.

Now, if n is equal two and l is equal to one, what is the next larger value of m ? Zero. And so we have a $2, 1, 0$ state. Again, that wavefunction, for an electron in that state, we label as $\psi_{2, 1, 0}$.

And then, finally, when n is equal to two, l is equal to one, what is the final possible value of m ?

Minus one. We have a $2, 1, -1$ state and a wavefunction that is the $2, 1, -1$ wavefunction. Notice that the energy of all of these four states is the same, minus one-quarter the Rydberg constant.

These states are what we call degenerate. Degenerate means having the same energy.

That is important. Now, this is the way we label wavefunctions, but we also have a different scheme for talking about wavefunctions.

That is, we have an orbital scheme. And, as I said, or alluded to the other day, an orbital is nothing other than a wavefunction. It is a solution to the Schrödinger equation.

That is what an orbital is.

It is actually the spatial part of the wavefunction. There is another part called the spin part, which we will deal with later, but an orbital is essentially a wavefunction. We have a different language for describing orbitals.

The way we do this, I think you are already familiar with, but we are going to describe it by the principle quantum number and, of course, the angular momentum quantum number and the magnetic quantum number.

Except that we have a scheme or a code for l and m .

That code uses letters instead of numbers. For example, if l is equal to zero here, we call that s wavefunction or an s orbital. For example, in the orbital language, instead of $\psi_{1,0,0}$, we call this a $1s$ orbital.

Here is the principle quantum number.

Here is s . l is equal to zero. That is just our code for l is equal to zero. This state $2, 0, 0$, you have an electron in that state. Well, it can describe that wavefunction by the $2s$ orbital. Here is the principle quantum number.

He is s , our code for l equals zero. Now, when n is equal to 1, we call that a p wavefunction or a p orbital.

This state right here, it is the $2p$ state because n is two and l is one, this state is also the $2p$ wavefunction and this state is also the $2p$ wavefunction.

Now, if I had a wavefunction up here where l was equal to two, we would call that d orbital. And, if I had a wavefunction up here where l was three, we would call that an f orbital.

But now all of these wavefunctions in the orbital language have the same designation, and that is because we have not taken care of this yet, the m quantum number, magnetic quantum number.

And we also have an alphabet scheme for those quantum numbers. The bottom line is that when m is equal to zero, we put a z subscript on the p .

When m is equal to zero, that is our $2p_z$ wavefunction.

When m is equal to one, we are going to put an x subscript on the p wavefunction. And when m is equal to minus one, we are going to put a y subscription on the wavefunction.

However, I have to tell you that in the case of m is equal to one and m is equal to minus one, that is not strictly correct.

And the reason it is not is because when you solve Schrödinger equation for the $2, 1, 1$ wavefunction and the $2, 1, -1$ wavefunction, the solutions are complex wavefunctions. They are not real wavefunction.

And so, in order for us to be able to draw and think about the p_x and the p_y wavefunctions, what we do is take a linear combination of the p_x and the p_y wavefunctions. We take a positive linear combination, in the case of the p_x wavefunction.

The p_x wavefunction is really this wavefunction plus this wavefunction.

And the p_y wavefunction is really this wavefunction minus this wavefunction. Then we will get a real function, and that is easier to deal with. That is strictly what p_x and p_y are. p_x and p_y are these linear combinations of the actual functions that come out of the Schrödinger equation.

p_z is exactly correct.

m is equal to zero in the p_z wavefunction. Now, you are not responsible for knowing that. I just wanted to let you know. You don't have to remember that m equal to one gives you the x subscript and m equal to minus one gives you the y subscript.

You do have to know that when m is equal zero you get a z subscript, because that is exactly right.

Now, just one other comment here. That is, you see we did not put a subscript on the s wavefunction.

Well, that is because for an s wavefunction, the only choice you have for m is zero. And so we leave out that subscript. We never put a z on there or a z on there. It is always $1s$, $2s$ or $3s$.

Well, in order to understand that just a little more let's draw an energy level diagram.

Here is the energy again. And for $n=1$, we now see that the more complete description is three quantum numbers, $1, 0, 0$. That gives us the $1, 0, 0$ state, or sometimes we say the $1s$ state. There is one state at that energy.

But, in the case of $n=2$, we already saw that we have four different states for the quantum number.

Four different states. They all have the same energy. They are degenerate. Degenerate means having the same energy. They differ in how much angular momentum the electron has.

Or, how much angular momentum the electron would have in the z component if it were in a magnetic field.

The total energy is the same because only n determines the energy. It is just that the amount of angular momentum, or the z component of the angular momentum differs in $2s, 2p_y, 2p_z, 2p_x$, but they all have the same energy.

In general, for any value of n , there are n squared degenerate states at each value of n .

If we have n is equal to three then the energy is minus one-ninth the Rydberg constant. But how many states do we have at n equal three? Nine. Here they are. Just like for n equal two, we have the $3s, 3p_y, 3p_z$ and $3p_x$.

And there are the associated quantum numbers for that.

But now we have some states here that I have labeled $3d$ states. Well, when you have a d state that means l is equal to two. All of these states have principle quantum number three and angular momentum quantum number two.

And they differ also by the amount of angular momentum in the z direction.

They differ in the quantum number m . For example, we are going to call the m equal minus two state the $3d_{xy}$. We are going to put xy as a subscript. For m equal minus one, we are going to put a subscript yz .

For m equals zero, we are going to put a subscript z squared.

For m equal one, dxz . And for m equal two, x squared minus y squared. Again, for m equal minus two, minus one, one and two, those wavefunctions, when you solve Schrödinger equations are complex wavefunctions.

And what we do to talk about the wavefunctions is we take linear combinations of them to make them real.

And so, when I say m is minus two, is the $3d_{xy}$ wavefunction, it is not strictly correct. Therefore, again, you don't need to know m minus two. You don't need to know that subscript. Or m equal one, you don't need to know that subscript.

But for m equal zero, this is a z squared.

Absolutely. These wavefunctions are linear combinations. This one is not. It is a real function when it comes out of the Schrödinger equation. You will talk about these 3d wavefunctions a lot with Professor Cummins in the second-half of the course.

You will actually look at the shapes of those wavefunctions in detail.

So, that's the energy level diagram here. All right. Now let's actually talk about the shapes of the wavefunctions. I am going to raise this screen, I think.

What do these wavefunctions actually look like?

Well, for a hydrogen atom, our wavefunction here, given by three quantum numbers, n , l and m , function of r , θ and ϕ , it turns out that those wavefunctions are factorable into a function that is only in r and a function that is on in the angles.

You can write that, no approximation, this is just the way it turns out.

The function that is a function only of R , R of r , is called the radial function. We will call it capital R radial function of r . It is labeled by only two quantum numbers, n and l .

The function that is a function only of the angles, θ and ϕ , we are going to call Y .

This is the angular part of the wavefunction. And it labeled by only two quantum numbers, but they are l and m . Sometimes we call this angular part, for short, the Y_{lm} 's.

There is a radial part and there is an angular part.

The actual function forms are what I show you here on the side screen. And, in this case, what I did is to separate the radial part from the angular part. This first part here is the radial part of the wavefunction.

And here on the right is the angular part of the wavefunction. And I have written them down for the $1s$, the $2s$, and the bottom one is the $3s$, although I left the label off in order to get the whole wavefunction in there.

I want you to notice here that the angular part, the Y_{lm} for the s wavefunctions, it has no θ and ϕ in it. There is no angular dependence.

They are spherically symmetric. That is going to be different for the p wavefunctions.

The angular part is just one over four π to the one-half power. And it is the radial part here that we actually are going to take a look at right now. Let's start with that $1s$ wavefunction up there.

If I plot that wavefunction, this is $\psi_{1,0,0}$, or the $1s$ wavefunction versus r . Oh, I should tell you one other thing that I didn't tell you. That is throughout these wavefunctions you see this thing called a_0 .

a_0 is a constant. It is called the Bohr radius. I will explain to you where that comes from in a little bit later.

But it has a value of about 0.529 angstroms. That is just a constant. Let's plot here the $1, 0, 0$ wavefunction.

If I went and plotted it, what I would find is simply that the wavefunction at r is equal to zero here would start out at some high finite value and there would just be an exponential decay.

Because if you look here at the functional form, what do you have? Well, you have all this stuff, but that is just a constant.

And the only thing you have is an e to the minus r over a_0 dependence. That is what gives you this exponential drop in the wavefunction.

What this says is that the wavefunction at all values of r has a positive value.

Now, what about the $\psi_{2,0,0}$ wavefunction? Let's look at that. ψ_{200} or the $2s$ wavefunction as a function of r . What happens here? Well, we are plotting essentially this.

All of this stuff is a constant.

And we have a two minus r over a_0 times an e to the minus r over $2a_0$. That is what we are really plotting here. And, if I did that, it would look something like this. We start at some large positive value here.

And you see that the wavefunction decreases.

And it gets to a value of r where ψ is equal to zero. That is a radial node. And in the case of the $2s$ wavefunction, that radial node occurs at $r=2a_0$.

And then the wavefunction becomes negative, increases and gets more and more negative, until you get to a point where it starts increasing again and then approaches zero.

This part here of the wavefunction is really dictated by the exponential term, the e to the minus r over $2a_0$.

This part of the wavefunction is dictated by this polynomial here, two minus r over a_0 .

If you wanted to solve for that radial node, what would you do? You would take that functional form, set it equal to zero and solve for r .

And so you can see that two minus r over a_0 set equal to zero, that when r is $2a_0$ that the wavefunction would have a value of zero. That is how you solve for the value of r at which you have a node.

Now, this is really important here.

That is, at the radial node the wavefunction changes sign. The amplitude of the wavefunction goes from positive to negative. That is important because at all nodes, for all wavefunctions, the wavefunction changes sign.

And the reason the sign of the wavefunction is so important is in chemical bonding.

But let me back up for a moment. Many of you have talked about p orbitals or have seen p orbitals before. Sometimes on a lobe of a p orbital you put a plus sign and sometimes you put a negative sign.

You have seen that, right? OK. Well, what that is just referring to is the sign of the amplitude of the wavefunction. It means that in that area the amplitude is positive and in the other area the amplitude is negative.

And the reason the amplitudes are so important, or the sign of the amplitudes are so important is because in a chemical reaction, when you are bringing two atoms together and your electrons that are represented by waves are overlapping, if you are bringing in two wavefunctions that have the same sign, well, then you are going to have constructive interference.

And you are going to have chemical bonding.

If you bring in two atoms and the wavefunctions are overlapping and they have opposite signs, you have destructive interference and you are not going to have any chemical bonding. That is why the sign of those wavefunctions is so important.

So, that is $\psi_{2,0,0}$.

What about $\psi_{3,0,0}$? That is the last function here on the side walls. And let me just write down the radial part, $27 - 18r/a_0 + 2r^2/a_0^2$ times $e^{-r/3a_0}$.

And now, if I plotted that function, ψ_{300} , 3s wavefunction, I would find out that r equals zero, large value of ψ finite, it drops, it crosses zero, gets negative, then gets less negative, crosses zero again and then drops off.

In the case of the 3s wavefunction, we have two radial nodes.

We have a radial node right in here and we have a radial node right in there. And, if you want to know what those radial nodes are, you set the wavefunction equal to zero and solve for the values of r that make that wavefunction zero.

And, if you do that, you would find this would come out to be, in terms of units of a_0 , $1.9a_0$.

And right here it would be $7.1a_0$. The wavefunction, in the case of the 3s, has a positive value for r less than $1.9a_0$, has a negative value from $1.9a_0$ to $7.1a_0$, and then a positive value again from $7.1a_0$ to infinity.

So, those are the wavefunctions, the functional forms, what they actually look like.

Now it is time to talk about what the wavefunction actually means and how does it represent the electron.

Well, this was, of course, a very puzzling question to the scientific community. As soon as S wrote down his Schrödinger equation, hmm, somehow these waves represent the particles, but exactly how do they represent where the particles are?

And the answer to that question is essentially there is no answer to that question.

Wavefunctions are wavefunctions. It is one of these concepts that you cannot draw a classical analogy to.

You want to say, well, a wavefunction does this. But the only way you can describe it is in terms of language that is something that you experience everyday in your world so you cannot.

A wavefunction is a wavefunction. I cannot draw a correct analogy to a classical world.

Really, that is the case. However, it took a very smart gentleman by the name of Max Born to look at this problem.

He said, "If I take the wavefunction and square it, if I interpret that as a probability density then I can understand all the predictions made by the Schrödinger equation within that framework."

In other words, he said let me take ψ and l and m as a function r , θ and ϕ and square it.

Let me interpret that as a probability density.

Probability density is not a probability. It is a density. Density is always per unit volume. Probability density is a probability per unit volume.

It is a probability per unit volume.

Well, if I use that interpretation then I can understand all the predictions made by the Schrödinger equation.

It makes sense. And, you know what, that is it. Because that interpretation does agree with our observations, it is therefore believed to be correct.

But it is just an assumption.

It is an interpretation. There is no derivation for it. It is just that the interpretation works. If it works, we therefore believe it to be accurate. There is no indication, there are no data that seem to contradict that interpretation so we think it is right.

That is what Max Born said.

Now, Max Born was really something in terms of his scientific accomplishments. Not only did he recognize or have the insight to realize what ψ squared was, but he is also the born of the Born-Oppenheimer Approximation that maybe some of you have heard about before.

He is also the Born in the Distorted Wave Born Approximation, which probably none of you have heard before.

But, despite all of those accomplishments, psi squared interpretation, Born-Oppenheimer Approximation, Distorted Wave Born Approximation, he is best known for being the grandfather of Olivia Newton-John.

That's right. Oliver Newton-John is a singer in Grease.

Two weeks ago in the Boston Globe Parade Magazine, which I actually think is a magazine that goes throughout the country in all the Sunday newspapers, there is a long article on Olivia Newton-John and a short sentence about her grandfather Max Born.

So, that is our interpretation thanks to Max Born. Now how are we going to use that?

Well, first of all, let's take our function forms for psi here and square it and plot those probability densities for the individual wavefunctions and see what we get.

The way I am going to plot the probability density is by using some dots.

And the density of the dots is going to reflect the probability density.

The more dense the dots, the larger the probability density. If I take that functional form for the 1s wavefunction and square it and then plot the value of that function squared with this density dot diagram then you can see that the dots here are most dense right at the origin and that they exponentially decay in all directions.

The probability density here for 1s wavefunction is greatest at the origin $r=0$ and it decays exponentially in all directions.

It is spherically symmetric. That is what you would expect because that is what the wavefunction looks like. You square that, you get another exponential and it decays exponentially in all directions.

That is a probability density, probability of finding the electron per unit volume at some value r , θ and ϕ .

And it turns out it doesn't matter what θ and ϕ are because this is spherically symmetric. What about the 2s wavefunction? Well, here is the 2s probability density.

Again, you can see the probability density is a maximum at the origin, at the nucleus.

That probability density decays uniformly in all directions. And it decays so much that at some point you have no probability density. Why? Because that is the node. If you square zero, you still get zero.

$r=2a_0$. You can see that in the probability density.

But then again, as you move up this way, as you increase r the probability density increases again. Why? Remember the wavefunction? It has changed sign.

But in this area here where it is negative, if I square it, well, the probability density still is going to be large. Square a negative number, you are going to have a large positive number. That is why the probability density increases right in here, and then again it decays towards zero.

You can see the radial node not only in the wavefunction but also in the probability density.

Here is the probability density for the 3s wavefunction. Once again, probability density is a maximum at $r=0$ and decays uniformly in all directions.

It decays so much that at some value of r , right here, the probability density is zero.

Why? Because the wavefunction is zero. You square it and you are going to get a zero for the probability density. And then the probability density increases again. Why? Because you are getting a more and more negative value for the wavefunction right in this area.

Square that and it is going to increase. And then, as you continue to increase r , probability density decreases.

It decreases again so that you get a zero. You get a zero because the wavefunction is zero right there.

This is our second radial node. But then the probability density increases again. It increases because the wavefunction increases. Square that, we are going to get a high probability density and then it tapers off.

So, the important point here is the interpretation of the probability density.

Probability per unit volume. The fact that the s wavefunctions are all spherically symmetric. They do not have an angular dependence to them.

And what is a radial node? If you want to get a radial node, you take the wavefunction, set it equal to zero, solve for the value of r and that gives you a zero.

Now, so far we have talked only about the probability density and this interpretation.

We have not talked about any probabilities yet. And, to do so, we are going to talk about this function here. It is called a radial probability distribution.

The radial probability distribution is the probability of finding an electron in a spherical shell.

That spherical shell will be some distance r away from the nucleus. That spherical shell with a radius r and will have a thickness. And the thickness we are going to call dr . This is not a solid sphere.

This is a shell.

This is a sphere, but the thickness of that sphere is very small. The thickness of it is dr . And, to try to represent that a little bit better, I show you here a picture of the probability density for the 1, 0, 0 state.

This is kind of my density dot diagram. And then this blue thing is my spherical shell.

This blue thing here has a radius r , and this blue thing has a thickness dr . And so, I am saying that the radial probability distribution is going to be the probability of finding the electron in this spherical shell.

That spherical shell is a distance r from the nucleus and has a thickness dr .

Now, I want to point out that the volume of the spherical shell is just the surface area here for πr^2 times the thickness, which is dr .

Not a very thick spherical shell. The radial probability distribution is the probability of finding that electron in that spherical shell.

It is like the probability of finding the electron a distance r to $r + dr$ from the nucleus.

Why is that important? Well, because if I want to calculate a probability, what I can do then is take the probability density here, ψ^2 for an s orbital, which is probability per unit volume, and I can then multiply it by that unit volume.

In this case it was the $4\pi r^2 dr$. And the result will be a probability, because I have probability density, probability per unit volume times a volume and that is a probability.

Now we are getting somewhere in terms of figuring out what the probability is of finding the electron some distance r to $r + dr$ from the nucleus.

In the case of the s orbitals, I said that the ψ was a product of the radial part and the Y_{lm} angular part.

Remember that the Y_{lm} for the s orbitals was always one over the square-root of one over 4π .

The Y_{lm}^2 is going to cancel with 4π , and you are just going to have r^2 times the radial part squared. For a 1s orbital, if you want to actually calculate the probability at some value r , you just have to take ψ^2 and multiply it by $4\pi r^2 dr$.

However, in the case of all other orbitals, you cannot do that because they are not spherically symmetric.

And so, for all other orbitals, you have to take the radial part and multiply it by $r^2 dr$.

I will explain that a little bit more next time. OK. See you on Monday.