

# 304(5): High Frequency Approximation and Balmer Series

In the notation of note 304(4), the Evans Morris steps are described by:

$$\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0}\right)^3 \left(\frac{e^{y_0} - 1}{e^y - 1}\right) = \exp(-Al) \quad - (1)$$

where

$$A = \left(\frac{N}{V}\right) \frac{|u_{gi}|^2}{6\epsilon_0 \nu \hbar} \quad - (2)$$

In the visible range of the Balmer line:  
 $\hbar\omega_0 \gg \hbar\omega, \hbar\omega \gg \hbar\omega_T \quad - (3)$

so

$$\frac{e^{y_0} - 1}{e^y - 1} \rightarrow \exp(y_0 - y) = \exp\left(\frac{\hbar(\omega_0 - \omega)}{\hbar\omega_T}\right) \quad - (4)$$

so:

$$\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0}\right)^3 = \exp\left(-\left(Al + \frac{\hbar\omega_T}{\hbar(\omega_0 - \omega)}\right)\right)$$
$$= \exp(-Al) \quad - (5)$$

to an excellent approximation. So:

$$\boxed{\omega = \omega_0 \exp\left(-\frac{Al}{3}\right)} \quad - (6)$$

2) The integrated power absorption coefficient  $A$  can be measured experimentally or computed from the wave function of the H atom.

Eq. (6) is easy to use and shows that any absorption is accompanied by an energy level frequency shift.

The Balmer series of atomic H is described by:

|                     |             |          |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| $n' = 2$ to $n = 3$ | at 656.3 nm | one line |
| 4                   | 486.1       |          |
| 5                   | 434.0       |          |
| 6                   | 410.2       |          |
| 7                   | 397.0       |          |
| $\infty$            | 365.0       |          |

The complete set of quantum numbers we:

$$n' = 2, l = 1, m_l = -1, 0, 1, l = 0$$

$$n = 3, l = 2, m_l = -2, \dots, 2$$

$$l = 1, m_l = -1, \dots, 1, l = 0$$

$$n = 4, l = 3, m_l = -3, \dots, 3$$

$$2, m_l = -2, \dots, 2$$

$$1, m_l = -1, \dots, 1, l = 0$$

$$n = 5, l = 4, m_l = -4, \dots, 4$$

$$3, m_l = -3, \dots, 3$$

$$2, m_l = -2, \dots, 2$$

$$1, m_l = -1, \dots, 1, l = 0$$

and so on.

2) The selection rules are:

$$\Delta l = \pm 1 \quad - (7)$$

which is the Laporte selection rule, and

$$\Delta m_l = 0, \pm 1 \quad - (8)$$

depending on polarization. For linearly polarized light:

$$\Delta m_l = 0 \quad - (9)$$

For left circularly polarized light:

$$\Delta m_l = 1 \quad - (10)$$

For right circularly polarized light:

$$\Delta m_l = -1 \quad - (11)$$

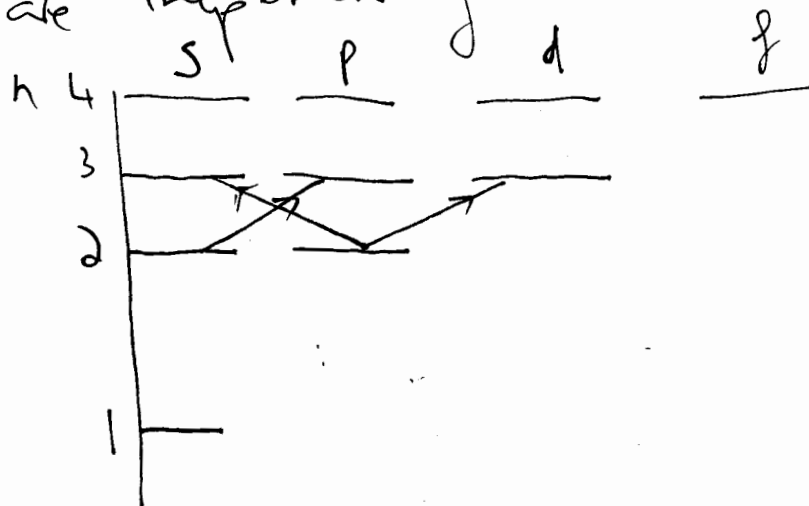
The energy levels of H are:

$$E_n = - \left( \frac{m e^4}{32 \pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 h^2} \right) \frac{1}{n^2} \quad - (12)$$

$$n = 1, 2, \dots \quad - (13)$$

and these values are independent of  $l$  and  $m_l$ .

Fig(1)



- 4) The first few levels are sketched in Fig. (1).  
 The 2s state is  $n=2, l=0, m=0$ .  
 The 2p state is  $n=2, l=1, m=-1, 0, 1$ .  
 The 3s state is  $n=3, l=0, m=0$ .  
 The 3p state is  $n=3, l=1, m=-1, 0, 1$ .  
 The 3d state is  $n=3, l=2, m=-2, -1, 0, 1, 2$ .

The energy levels of the 2p and 2s states are the same, so it is a degenerate state. There are four states in all, so it is four fold degenerate. Similarly there are nine states in all of the  $n=3$  level, which is nine fold degenerate.

Fig (1) shows the possible transitions between the  $n=2$  and  $n=3$  states at  $656.3 \text{ nm}$ :

- a)  $2s \rightarrow 3p$  ( $\Delta l = 1, \Delta m = 0$ )  
 b)  $2p \rightarrow 3s$  ( $\Delta l = -1, \Delta m = 0$ )  
 c)  $2p \rightarrow 3d$  ( $\Delta l = 1, \Delta m = 0$ )

The three transitions all occur at the same wavelength of  $656.3 \text{ nm}$  and appear as one line, first observed in the late nineteenth century.

In a relativistic treatment with the Dirac formula, fine structure occurs. The above theory is non relativistic.