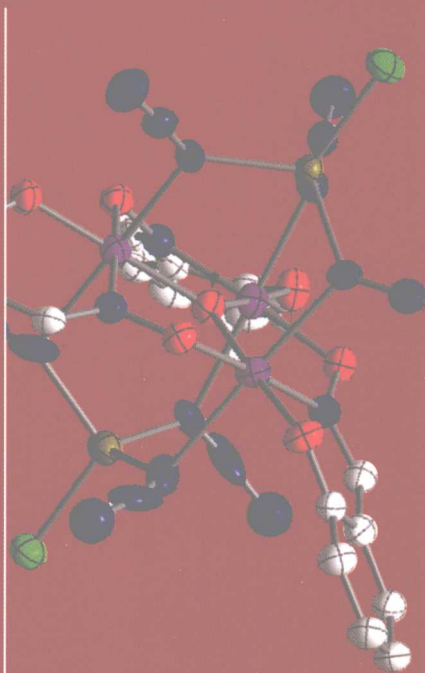


牛津大学 研究生教材系列

Atomic Physics

原子物理学

C. J. Foot



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Preface

This book is primarily intended to accompany an undergraduate course in atomic physics. It covers the core material and a selection of more advanced topics that illustrate current research in this field. The first six chapters describe the basic principles of atomic structure, starting in Chapter 1 with a review of the classical ideas. Inevitably the discussion of the structure of hydrogen and helium in these early chapters has considerable overlap with introductory quantum mechanics courses, but an understanding of these simple systems provides the basis for the treatment of more complex atoms in later chapters. Chapter 7 on the interaction of radiation with atoms marks the transition between the earlier chapters on structure and the second half of the book which covers laser spectroscopy, laser cooling, Bose–Einstein condensation of dilute atomic vapours, matter-wave interferometry and ion trapping. The exciting new developments in laser cooling and trapping of atoms and Bose–Einstein condensation led to Nobel prizes in 1997 and 2001, respectively. Some of the other selected topics show the incredible precision that has been achieved by measurements in atomic physics experiments. This theme is taken up in the final chapter that looks at quantum information processing from an atomic physics perspective; the techniques developed for precision measurements on atoms and ions give exquisite control over these quantum systems and enable elegant new ideas from quantum computation to be implemented.

The book assumes a knowledge of quantum mechanics equivalent to an introductory university course, e.g. the solution of the Schrödinger equation in three dimensions and perturbation theory. This initial knowledge will be reinforced by many examples in this book; topics generally regarded as difficult at the undergraduate level are explained in some detail, e.g. degenerate perturbation theory. The hierarchical structure of atoms is well described by perturbation theory since the different layers of structure within atoms have considerably different energies associated with them, and this is reflected in the names of the gross, fine and hyperfine structures. In the early chapters of this book, atomic physics may appear to be simply applied quantum mechanics, i.e. we write down the Hamiltonian for a given interaction and solve the Schrödinger equation with suitable approximations. I hope that the study of the more advanced material in the later chapters will lead to a more mature and deeper understanding of atomic physics. Throughout this book the experimental basis of atomic physics is emphasised and it is hoped that the reader will gain some factual knowledge of atomic spectra.

The selection of topics from the diversity of current atomic physics is necessarily subjective. I have concentrated on low-energy and high-precision experiments which, to some extent, reflects local research interests that are used as examples in undergraduate lectures at Oxford. One of the selection criteria was that the material is not readily available in other textbooks, at the time of writing, e.g. atomic collisions have not been treated in detail (only a brief summary of the scattering of ultracold atoms is included in Chapter 10). Other notable omissions include: X-ray spectra, which are discussed only briefly in connection with the historically important work of Moseley, although they form an important frontier of current research; atoms in strong laser fields and plasmas; Rydberg atoms and atoms in doubly- and multiply-excited states (e.g. excited by new synchrotron and free-electron laser sources); and the structure and spectra of molecules.

I would like to thank Geoffrey Brooker for invaluable advice on physics (in particular Appendix B) and on technical details of writing a textbook for the Oxford Master Series. Keith Burnett, Jonathan Jones and Andrew Steane have helped to clarify certain points, in my mind at least, and hopefully also in the text. The series of lectures on laser cooling given by William Phillips while he was a visiting professor in Oxford was extremely helpful in the writing of the chapter on that topic. The following people provided very useful comments on the draft manuscript: Rachel Godun, David Lucas, Mark Lee, Matthew McDonnell, Martin Shotter, Claes-Göran Wahlström (Lund University) and the (anonymous) reviewers. Without the encouragement of Sönke Adlung at OUP this project would not have been completed. Irmgard Smith drew some of the diagrams. I am very grateful for the diagrams and data supplied by colleagues, and reproduced with their permission, as acknowledged in the figure captions. Several of the exercises on atomic structure derive from Oxford University examination papers and it is not possible to identify the examiners individually—some of these exam questions may themselves have been adapted from some older sources of which I am not aware.

Finally, I would like to thank Professors Derek Stacey, Joshua Silver and Patrick Sandars who taught me atomic physics as an undergraduate and graduate student in Oxford. I also owe a considerable debt to the book on elementary atomic structure by Gordon Kemble Woodgate, who was my predecessor as physics tutor at St Peter's College, Oxford. In writing this new text, I have tried to achieve the same high standards of clarity and conciseness of expression whilst introducing new examples and techniques from the laser era.

Background reading

It is not surprising that our language should be incapable of describing the processes occurring with the atoms, for it was invented to describe the experiences of daily life, and these consist only of processes involving exceeding large numbers

of atoms. Furthermore, it is very difficult to modify our language so that it will be able to describe these atomic processes, for words can only describe things of which we can form mental pictures, and this ability, too, in the result of daily experience. Fortunately, mathematics is not subject to this limitation, and it has been possible to invent a mathematical scheme—the quantum theory—which seems entirely adequate for the treatment of atomic processes.

From *The physical principles of the quantum theory*, Werner Heisenberg (1930).

The point of the excerpt is that quantum mechanics is essential for a proper description of atomic physics and there are many quantum mechanics textbooks that would serve as useful background reading for this book. The following short list includes those that the author found particularly relevant: Mandl (1992), Rae (1992) and Griffiths (1995). The book *Atomic spectra* by Softley (1994) provides a concise introduction to this field. The books Cohen-Tannoudji *et al.* (1977), Atkins (1983) and Basdevant and Dalibard (2000) are very useful for reference and contain many detailed examples of atomic physics. Angular-momentum theory is very important for dealing with complicated atomic structures, but it is beyond the intended level of this book. The classic book by Dirac (1981) still provides a very readable account of the addition of angular momenta in quantum mechanics. A more advanced treatment of atomic structure can be found in Condon and Odabasi (1980), Cowan (1981) and Sobelman (1996).

Oxford

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Fundamental constants

Bohr radius for hydrogen	$4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2/m_e e^2 =$	a_0	$5.292 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$
Velocity of light in free space		c	$2.9979 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
Electronic charge		e	$1.6022 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
Gravitational constant		G	$6.673 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$
Planck's constant		h	$6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
	$h/2\pi =$	$\hbar$	$1.0546 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
Boltzmann's constant		k_B	$1.3807 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
Electron rest mass		m_e	$9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
Proton rest mass		M_p	$1.6726 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Avogadro's number		N_A	$6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Molar gas constant		R	$8.315 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$
Rydberg's constant	$\alpha^2 m_e c / 2h =$	R_∞	$1.0974 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$
		hcR_∞	13.606 eV
Standard molar volume		V_m	$22.414 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Fine structure constant	$e^2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar c =$	α	$(137.036)^{-1}$
Electric permittivity of free space		ϵ_0	$8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
Bohr magneton		μ_B	$9.274 \times 10^{-24} \text{ A m}^2 \text{ or JT}^{-1}$
Nuclear magneton		μ_N	$5.051 \times 10^{-27} \text{ A m}^2 \text{ or JT}^{-1}$
Magnetic flux quantum	$h/2e =$	Φ_0	$2.0678 \times 10^{-15} \text{ T m}^2$
Stefan's constant		σ	$5.671 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$
Magnetic permeability of free space		μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
Proton magnetic moment		μ_p	$2.7928 \mu_N$
Neutron magnetic moment		μ_n	$-1.9130 \mu_N$

Energy equivalents for photons $E = hf = k_B T = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$

E		f	T	λ	λ^{-1}	
(J)	(eV)	(Hz)	(K)	(m)	(m ⁻¹)	(cm ⁻¹)
1	6.242×10^{18}	1.509×10^{33}	7.243×10^{22}	1.486×10^{-25}	5.034×10^{24}	5.034×10^{22}
1.602×10^{-19}	1	2.418×10^{14}	1.160×10^4	1.240×10^{-6}	8.066×10^5	8.066×10^3
6.626×10^{-34}	4.136×10^{-15}	1	4.799×10^{-11}	2.998×10^8	3.336×10^{-9}	3.336×10^{-11}
1.381×10^{-23}	8.617×10^{-5}	2.084×10^{10}	1	1.439×10^{-2}	69.50	0.6950
1.987×10^{-25}	1.240×10^{-6}	2.998×10^8	1.439×10^{-2}	1	1.0	0.01
1.987×10^{-25}	1.240×10^{-6}	2.998×10^8	1.439×10^{-2}	1.0	1	0.01
1.987×10^{-23}	1.240×10^{-4}	2.998×10^{10}	1.439	0.01	100	1

目 录

1 早期原子物理学	1
1.1 导引	1
1.2 氢原子光谱	1
1.3 Bohr 理论	3
1.4 相对论效应	5
1.5 Moseley 和原子数	7
1.6 辐射衰变	11
1.7 爱因斯坦 A 系数和 B 系数	11
1.8 Zeeman 效应	13
1.8.1 Zeeman 效应的实验观察	17
1.9 原子单位总结	18
习题	19
2 氢原子	22
2.1 Schrödinger 方程	22
2.1.1 角向方程的解	23
2.1.2 径向方程的解	26
2.2 跃迁	29
2.2.1 选择定则	30
2.2.2 对 θ 的积分	32
2.2.3 宇称	32
2.3 精细结构	34
2.3.1 电子的自旋	35
2.3.2 自旋-轨道相互作用	36
2.3.3 氢原子的精细结构	38
2.3.4 Lamb 位移	40
2.3.5 精细能级之间的跃迁	41
进一步阅读	42
习题	42
3 氦原子	45
3.1 氦原子的基态	45
3.2 氦原子的激发态	46
3.2.1 自旋本征态	51
3.2.2 氦原子中的跃迁	52

3.3	氢原子中的积分估计	53
3.3.1	基态	53
3.3.2	激发态:直接积分	54
3.3.3	激发态:交换积分	55
	进一步阅读	56
	习题	58
4	碱金属	60
4.1	壳层结构和周期表	60
4.2	量子数亏损	61
4.3	中心场近似	64
4.4	Schrödinger 方程的数值解	68
4.4.1	自洽解	70
4.5	自旋-轨道相互作用:量子方法	71
4.6	碱金属的精细结构	73
4.6.1	精细结构跃迁的相对强度	74
	进一步阅读	75
	习题	76
5	L - S 耦合方式	80
5.1	L - S 耦合方式的精细结构	83
5.2	j - j 耦合方式	84
5.3	居间耦合:不同耦合方式之间的跃迁	86
5.4	L - S 耦合方式的选择定则	90
5.5	Zeeman 效应	90
5.6	小结	93
	进一步阅读	94
	习题	94
6	超精细结构和同位素移位	97
6.1	超精细结构	97
6.1.1	s 电子的超精细结构	97
6.1.2	氢微波激光器	100
6.1.3	$l \neq 0$ 时的超精细结构	101
6.1.4	超精细结构与精细结构的比较	102
6.2	同位素移位	105
6.2.1	质量效应	105
6.2.2	体积移位	106
6.2.3	原子揭示的原子核信息	108
6.3	Zeeman 效应和超精细结构	108
6.3.1	弱场下的 Zeeman 效应, $\mu_B B < A$	109

6.3.2	强场下的 Zeeman 效应, $\mu_B B > A$	110
6.3.3	中间部分的场力	111
6.4	超精细结构的测量	112
6.4.1	原子束技术	114
6.4.2	原子钟	118
	进一步阅读	119
	习题	120
7	原子与辐射的相互作用	123
7.1	方程的建立	123
7.1.1	振荡电场的扰动	124
7.1.2	旋波近似	125
7.2	爱因斯坦 B 系数	126
7.3	与单色辐射的相互作用	127
7.3.1	π 脉冲与 $\pi/2$ 脉冲	128
7.3.2	Bloch 矢量和 Bloch 球面	128
7.4	Ramsey 条纹	132
7.5	辐射阻尼	134
7.5.1	经典偶极辐射阻尼	135
7.5.2	光 Bloch 球面	137
7.6	光吸收截面	138
7.6.1	纯辐射展宽截面	141
7.6.2	饱和强度	142
7.6.3	功率展宽	143
7.7	交流 Stark 效应/光频移	144
7.8	半经典理论注解	145
7.9	结论	146
	进一步阅读	147
	习题	148
8	无 Doppler 激光光谱	151
8.1	谱线的 Doppler 展宽	151
8.2	交叉束技术	153
8.3	饱和吸收光谱	155
8.3.1	饱和吸收光谱的原理	156
8.3.2	饱和吸收光谱的穿越共振	159
8.4	双光子光谱	163
8.5	激光光谱的校准	168
8.5.1	相对频率的校准	168
8.5.2	绝对校准	169

8.5.3 光频梳	171
进一步阅读	175
习题	175
9 原子冷却与捕陷	178
9.1 散射力	179
9.2 减慢原子束	182
9.2.1 啁啾冷却	184
9.3 光学黏胶技术	185
9.3.1 Doppler 冷却的极限	188
9.4 磁光阱	190
9.5 偶极力导论	194
9.6 偶极力理论	197
9.6.1 光学晶格	201
9.7 Sisyphus 冷却技术	203
9.7.1 概论	203
9.7.2 Sisyphus 冷却	204
9.7.3 Sisyphus 冷却机制的极限	207
9.8 Raman 跃迁	208
9.8.1 Raman 跃迁的速度选择	208
9.8.2 Raman 冷却	210
9.9 原子喷泉	211
9.10 总结	213
习题	214
10 磁捕陷、蒸发冷却和 Bose-Einstein 凝聚	218
10.1 磁捕陷的原理	218
10.2 磁捕陷	220
10.2.1 径向约束	220
10.2.2 轴向约束	221
10.3 蒸发冷却	224
10.4 Bose-Einstein 凝聚	226
10.5 捕陷原子蒸气中的 Bose-Einstein 凝聚	228
10.5.1 散射长度	229
10.6 一种 Bose-Einstein 凝聚体	234
10.7 Bose 凝聚气体的性质	239
10.7.1 声速	239
10.7.2 消退长度	240
10.7.3 Bose-Einstein 凝聚的相干性	240
10.7.4 原子激光	242

10.8	总结	242
	习题	243
11	原子干涉	246
11.1	杨氏双缝实验	247
11.2	原子的衍射光栅	249
11.3	三光栅干涉仪	251
11.4	旋转的测量	251
11.5	光对原子的衍射	253
11.5.1	Raman 跃迁干涉测量技术	255
11.6	总结	257
	进一步阅读	258
	习题	258
12	离子阱	259
12.1	电场中离子的受力	259
12.2	Earnshaw 定理	260
12.3	Paul 阱	261
12.3.1	旋转马鞍上小球的平衡	262
12.3.2	交流场中的有效势	262
12.3.3	线性 Paul 阱	262
12.4	缓冲气冷却	266
12.5	激光冷却捕陷离子	267
12.6	量子跳跃	269
12.7	Penning 阱和 Paul 阱	271
12.7.1	Penning 阱	272
12.7.2	离子的质谱	274
12.7.3	电子的反常磁矩	274
12.8	电子束离子阱	275
12.9	解析侧带冷却	277
12.10	离子阱总结	279
	进一步阅读	279
	习题	280
13	量子计算	282
13.1	量子比特及其性质	283
13.1.1	纠缠	284
13.2	量子逻辑门	287
13.2.1	设计 CNOT 门	287
13.3	量子并行算法	289
13.4	量子计算机综述	291

13.5 退相干和量子纠错	291
13.6 总结	293
进一步阅读	294
习题	294
附录 A 微扰理论	298
A.1 微扰理论的数学	298
A.2 相近频率经典振子的相互作用	299
附录 B 静电能的计算	302
附录 C 磁偶极跃迁	305
附录 D 饱和吸收的线形	307
附录 E Raman 跃迁和双光子跃迁	310
E.1 Raman 跃迁	310
E.2 双光子跃迁	313
附录 F Bose-Einstein 凝聚有关统计力学知识	315
F.1 光子的统计力学	315
F.2 Bose-Einstein 凝聚	316
F.2.1 谐振阱中的 Bose-Einstein 凝聚	318
参考文献	319
索引	326

Contents

1 Early atomic physics	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Spectrum of atomic hydrogen	1
1.3 Bohr's theory	3
1.4 Relativistic effects	5
1.5 Moseley and the atomic number	7
1.6 Radiative decay	11
1.7 Einstein A and B coefficients	11
1.8 The Zeeman effect	13
1.8.1 Experimental observation of the Zeeman effect	17
1.9 Summary of atomic units	18
Exercises	19
2 The hydrogen atom	22
2.1 The Schrödinger equation	22
2.1.1 Solution of the angular equation	23
2.1.2 Solution of the radial equation	26
2.2 Transitions	29
2.2.1 Selection rules	30
2.2.2 Integration with respect to θ	32
2.2.3 Parity	32
2.3 Fine structure	34
2.3.1 Spin of the electron	35
2.3.2 The spin-orbit interaction	36
2.3.3 The fine structure of hydrogen	38
2.3.4 The Lamb shift	40
2.3.5 Transitions between fine-structure levels	41
Further reading	42
Exercises	42
3 Helium	45
3.1 The ground state of helium	45
3.2 Excited states of helium	46
3.2.1 Spin eigenstates	51
3.2.2 Transitions in helium	52
3.3 Evaluation of the integrals in helium	53
3.3.1 Ground state	53
3.3.2 Excited states: the direct integral	54
3.3.3 Excited states: the exchange integral	55

Further reading	56
Exercises	58
4 The alkalis	60
4.1 Shell structure and the periodic table	60
4.2 The quantum defect	61
4.3 The central-field approximation	64
4.4 Numerical solution of the Schrödinger equation	68
4.4.1 Self-consistent solutions	70
4.5 The spin-orbit interaction: a quantum mechanical approach	71
4.6 Fine structure in the alkalis	73
4.6.1 Relative intensities of fine-structure transitions	74
Further reading	75
Exercises	76
5 The LS-coupling scheme	80
5.1 Fine structure in the LS -coupling scheme	83
5.2 The jj -coupling scheme	84
5.3 Intermediate coupling: the transition between coupling schemes	86
5.4 Selection rules in the LS -coupling scheme	90
5.5 The Zeeman effect	90
5.6 Summary	93
Further reading	94
Exercises	94
6 Hyperfine structure and isotope shift	97
6.1 Hyperfine structure	97
6.1.1 Hyperfine structure for s-electrons	97
6.1.2 Hydrogen maser	100
6.1.3 Hyperfine structure for $l \neq 0$	101
6.1.4 Comparison of hyperfine and fine structures	102
6.2 Isotope shift	105
6.2.1 Mass effects	105
6.2.2 Volume shift	106
6.2.3 Nuclear information from atoms	108
6.3 Zeeman effect and hyperfine structure	108
6.3.1 Zeeman effect of a weak field, $\mu_B B < A$	109
6.3.2 Zeeman effect of a strong field, $\mu_B B > A$	110
6.3.3 Intermediate field strength	111
6.4 Measurement of hyperfine structure	112
6.4.1 The atomic-beam technique	114
6.4.2 Atomic clocks	118
Further reading	119
Exercises	120
7 The interaction of atoms with radiation	123
7.1 Setting up the equations	123

7.1.1	Perturbation by an oscillating electric field	124
7.1.2	The rotating-wave approximation	125
7.2	The Einstein B coefficients	126
7.3	Interaction with monochromatic radiation	127
7.3.1	The concepts of π -pulses and $\pi/2$ -pulses	128
7.3.2	The Bloch vector and Bloch sphere	128
7.4	Ramsey fringes	132
7.5	Radiative damping	134
7.5.1	The damping of a classical dipole	135
7.5.2	The optical Bloch equations	137
7.6	The optical absorption cross-section	138
7.6.1	Cross-section for pure radiative broadening	141
7.6.2	The saturation intensity	142
7.6.3	Power broadening	143
7.7	The a.c. Stark effect or light shift	144
7.8	Comment on semiclassical theory	145
7.9	Conclusions	146
	Further reading	147
	Exercises	148
8	Doppler-free laser spectroscopy	151
8.1	Doppler broadening of spectral lines	151
8.2	The crossed-beam method	153
8.3	Saturated absorption spectroscopy	155
8.3.1	Principle of saturated absorption spectroscopy	156
8.3.2	Cross-over resonances in saturation spectroscopy	159
8.4	Two-photon spectroscopy	163
8.5	Calibration in laser spectroscopy	168
8.5.1	Calibration of the relative frequency	168
8.5.2	Absolute calibration	169
8.5.3	Optical frequency combs	171
	Further reading	175
	Exercises	175
9	Laser cooling and trapping	178
9.1	The scattering force	179
9.2	Slowing an atomic beam	182
9.2.1	Chirp cooling	184
9.3	The optical molasses technique	185
9.3.1	The Doppler cooling limit	188
9.4	The magneto-optical trap	190
9.5	Introduction to the dipole force	194
9.6	Theory of the dipole force	197
9.6.1	Optical lattice	201
9.7	The Sisyphus cooling technique	203
9.7.1	General remarks	203
9.7.2	Detailed description of Sisyphus cooling	204
9.7.3	Limit of the Sisyphus cooling mechanism	207

9.8	Raman transitions	208
9.8.1	Velocity selection by Raman transitions	208
9.8.2	Raman cooling	210
9.9	An atomic fountain	211
9.10	Conclusions	213
	Exercises	214
10	Magnetic trapping, evaporative cooling and Bose-Einstein condensation	218
10.1	Principle of magnetic trapping	218
10.2	Magnetic trapping	220
10.2.1	Confinement in the radial direction	220
10.2.2	Confinement in the axial direction	221
10.3	Evaporative cooling	224
10.4	Bose-Einstein condensation	226
10.5	Bose-Einstein condensation in trapped atomic vapours	228
10.5.1	The scattering length	229
10.6	A Bose-Einstein condensate	234
10.7	Properties of Bose-condensed gases	239
10.7.1	Speed of sound	239
10.7.2	Healing length	240
10.7.3	The coherence of a Bose-Einstein condensate	240
10.7.4	The atom laser	242
10.8	Conclusions	242
	Exercises	243
11	Atom interferometry	246
11.1	Young's double-slit experiment	247
11.2	A diffraction grating for atoms	249
11.3	The three-grating interferometer	251
11.4	Measurement of rotation	251
11.5	The diffraction of atoms by light	253
11.5.1	Interferometry with Raman transitions	255
11.6	Conclusions	257
	Further reading	258
	Exercises	258
12	Ion traps	259
12.1	The force on ions in an electric field	259
12.2	Earnshaw's theorem	260
12.3	The Paul trap	261
12.3.1	Equilibrium of a ball on a rotating saddle	262
12.3.2	The effective potential in an a.c. field	262
12.3.3	The linear Paul trap	262
12.4	Buffer gas cooling	266
12.5	Laser cooling of trapped ions	267
12.6	Quantum jumps	269
12.7	The Penning trap and the Paul trap	271