

2.15: Quantum Mechanical Calculations for the Hydrogen Atom

Full kinetic energy operator in spherical coordinates:

Kinetic energy operator for s states:

$$-\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r$$

Kinetic energy operator for p states:

$$-\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)} \left[\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin(\theta) \frac{d}{d\theta} \right) + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)^2} \frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \right]$$

Position operator: r

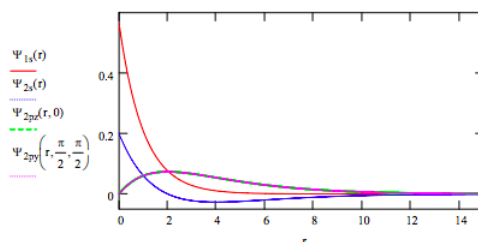
Potential energy operator: $-\frac{1}{r}$

Triple integral with volume element: $\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr$

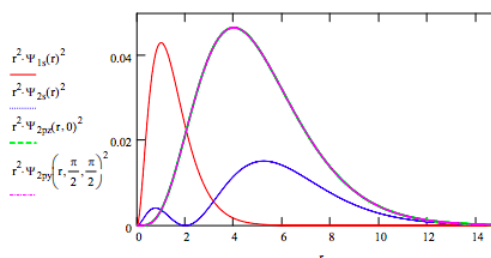
Orbitals:

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{1s}(r) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(-r) & \Psi_{2s}(r) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{32\pi}} (2-r) \exp\left(-\frac{r}{2}\right) \\ \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{32\pi}} r \exp\left(-\frac{r}{2}\right) \cos \theta & \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{32\pi}} r \exp\left(-\frac{r}{2}\right) \sin(\theta) \sin(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

Plot the wave functions on the same graph:



Plot the radial distribution functions for each orbital on the same graph:



Demonstrate that the 1s orbital is normalized:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 1$$

Demonstrate that the 1s orbital is normalized:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2s}(r)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 1$$

Demonstrate that the 2pz orbital is normalized:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 1$$

Demonstrate that the 1s and the 2pz orbitals are orthogonal:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r) \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 0$$

Demonstrate the 1s and 2s orbitals are orthogonal:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r) \Psi_{2s}(r)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 0$$

Demonstrate that the 2py and the 2pz orbitals are orthogonal:

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 0$$

Determine the most probable value for r using the Trace function and calculus:

$$\frac{d}{dr} r^2 \Psi_{1s}(r)^2 = 0 \text{ solve, } r \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Calculate the probability that an electron in the 1s orbital will be found within one Bohr radius of the nucleus.

$$\int_0^1 \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r)^2 r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \text{ float, } 3 \rightarrow .325$$

Find the distance from the nucleus for which the probability of finding a 1s electron is 0.75.

$$a = 2 \quad \text{Given} \quad \int_0^a \Psi_{1s}(r)^2 4\pi r^2 dr = .75 \quad \text{Find}(a) = 1.96$$

Calculate <T>, <V>, and <r> for the 1s orbital. Is the virial theorem obeyed? Explain.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r) - \frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r (\Psi_{1s}(r)) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \\ \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{1s}(r) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow -1 \\ \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{1s}(r) r \Psi_{1s}(r) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Calculate <T>, <V>, and <r> for the 2s orbital. Is the virial theorem obeyed? Explain.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2s}(r) - \frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{2s}(r) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow \frac{1}{8} \\ \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2s}(r) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{2s}(r) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow -\frac{1}{4} \\ \int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2s}(r) r \Psi_{2s}(r) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr &\rightarrow 6 \end{aligned}$$

Calculate <T>, <V>, and <r> for the 2py orbital. Is the virial theorem obeyed? Explain.

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \left[\begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \dots \\ &+ \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)} \left[\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin(\theta) \frac{d}{d\theta} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \right) \right] \dots \\ &+ \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)^2} \frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \end{aligned} \right] r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow \frac{-1}{4}$$

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) r \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 5$$

Calculate $\langle T \rangle$, $\langle V \rangle$, and $\langle r \rangle$ for the 2pz orbital. Is the virial theorem obeyed? Explain.

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) \left[\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) \dots \\ & + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)} \left[\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin(\theta) \frac{d}{d\theta} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) \right) \right] \dots \\ & + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)^2} \frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) \end{aligned} \right] r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow \frac{-1}{4}$$

$$\int_0^\infty \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) r \Psi_{2pz}(r, \theta) r^2 \sin(\theta) d\phi d\theta dr \rightarrow 5$$

Summarize your results in the following table:

Ψ	T	V	E	r
1s	0.5	-1	-0.5	1.5
2s	0.125	-0.25	-0.125	6
2pz	0.125	-0.25	-0.125	5
2py	0.125	-0.25	-0.125	5

Demonstrate that the 1s orbital is an eigenfunction of the energy operator. What is the eigenvalue?

$$T = -\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{1s}(r) \quad V = -\frac{1}{r} \quad H = T + V \quad \Psi(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(-r)$$

$$\frac{-\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{1s}(r) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{1s}(r)}{\Psi_{1s}(r)} \text{ simplify } \rightarrow \frac{-1}{2}$$

Demonstrate that the 2s orbital is an eigenfunction of the energy operator. What is the eigenvalue?

$$\frac{-\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{2s}(r) - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{2s}(r)}{\Psi_{2s}(r)} \text{ simplify } \rightarrow \frac{-1}{8}$$

Demonstrate that the 2py orbital is an eigenfunction of the energy operator. What is the eigenvalue?

$$\frac{\left[\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \dots \\ & + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)} \left[\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin(\theta) \frac{d}{d\theta} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \right) \right] \dots \\ & + \frac{-1}{2r^2 \sin(\theta)^2} \frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi) \end{aligned} \right] - \frac{1}{r} \Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi)}{\Psi_{2py}(r, \theta, \phi)} \text{ simplify } \rightarrow \frac{-1}{8}$$

This page titled [2.15: Quantum Mechanical Calculations for the Hydrogen Atom](#) is shared under a [CC BY 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Frank Rioux](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.