

# ② ATOMS

## 2.1. Single (active) electron atoms

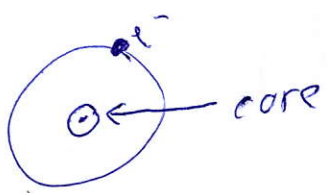
See section 1.2.3. for most basic: Hydrogen atom  
 What about all others?

- Directly applies to Hydrogenic atoms
  - deuterium, tritium (just heavier electron behaves same)
  - $p_n + e^-$        $p_{nZ} + e^-$

- Next simplest, hydrogenic ions
  - $He^+$ ,  $Li^{++}$ , etc       $Z > 1$  in 1.2.3

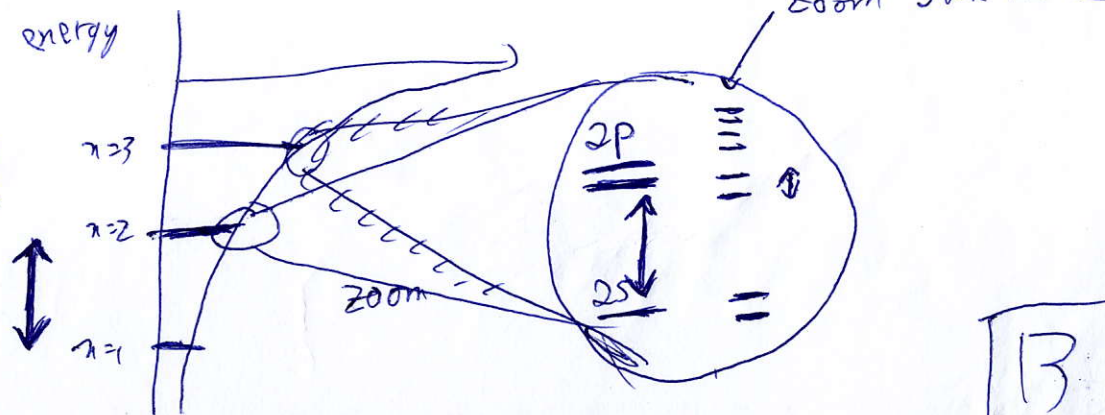
- Also almost applicable to Alkali atoms
  - ~~Li~~ Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs (mainly single valence electron important)

- Rydberg states ( $n \gg 10$ )



- Now first more detailed look at spins & E/B fields. & relativistic corrections. In 1.2.3. just added  $m_l$  quantum number without consequences.

~~Atoms~~ Hydrogen energy levels  
indep of  $l$ !  
 (ask why)



# 2.2. Effect of Spins, Fine ~~and hyperfine~~ structure

- Spins arise naturally in relativistic QM
- Calculations in 1.2.3 are also fully ~~classical~~, i.e. use <sup>non-relativistic</sup>  $H \approx \frac{p^2}{2m}$  not  $H = \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$  \*

## FINESTRUCTURE

Start from relativistic wave-equation (Dirac-equation), expand for  $v \ll c$  of  $e^-$  and get as in 1.2.3, Hydrogen

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}'_{FS}$$

where

$$\hat{H}'_{FS} = \hat{H}'_1 + \hat{H}'_2 + \hat{H}'_3$$

with

Relativistic corrections:

$$\hat{H}'_1 = -\frac{p^4}{8m^3c^2}$$

relativistic correction to kinetic energy (expand \* in p)

$$\hat{H}'_2 = \frac{1}{2m^2c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{dV}{dr} \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} \equiv \varphi(r)$$

spin-orbit coupling (2.1) (for later)

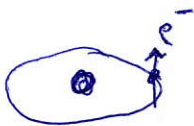
$$\hat{H}'_3 = \frac{\hbar^2 A^2}{2m^2c^2} \left( \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right) \delta(\vec{r})$$

Darwin-term

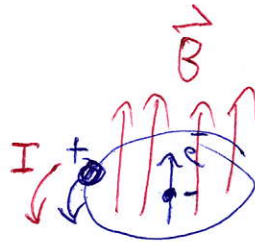
(Comments on  $\hat{H}'_1$ ) Taylor (\*)

(Comments on spin orbit coupling)

Atom "cartoon":



Rest frame of  $e^-$



proton moves with  $-\vec{v}$  ( $\vec{v}$   $e^-$  velocity)

Spin-energy?

Electrodynamics

$$\vec{B} = -\frac{e\mu_0 \vec{v} \times \vec{r}}{4\pi r^3}$$

$$\left( \text{here: } \vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{q\vec{v} \times \vec{r}}{r^2} \right)$$

$$C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$$

$$cgs \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2}$$

$$\mu_0 \stackrel{cgs}{=} \frac{4\pi}{c^2}$$

Energy of spin in mag field

$$\hat{H}_{mag} = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$\hat{H}_{mag} = +g_s \frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} \vec{B} \cdot \vec{S} \quad (2.2)$$

gyromagnetic factor

$$g_s \approx 2$$

Bohr-magneton

$$\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2me} \quad (e > 0 \text{ here})$$

$$\hat{H}_{\text{mag}} = + g_s \frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} \left( - \frac{\mu_0 e}{4\pi m_e} \frac{\vec{p} \times \vec{r}}{r^3} \right) \cdot \vec{S}$$

$= \frac{e}{2m_e}$

$\vec{S} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$

$$= \frac{g_s \mu_0 \epsilon_0}{2m_e^2} \left( \frac{e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} \right) \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} = 2 \hat{H}_2' \quad (2.1)$$

up to factor 2  
[e<sup>-</sup> rest frame not inertial, see Shankar]

Comments on Darwin term:

- Further consequence of relativistic QM is the existence of anti-particles (e<sup>+</sup> here). Can have  $\gamma$  for time  $\Delta E \cdot \Delta t \sim \hbar$ .  
These vacuum fluctuations interact with e<sup>-</sup> and cause Zitterbewegung: (Amplitude  $\frac{\hbar}{2m_e c} = \frac{\lambda_c}{2}$ , freq.  $\frac{2m_e c^2}{\hbar}$ )  
Effectively smears out nuclear position  
Compton wavelength  $2.4 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ m}$
- This is origin of Darwin term.

Calculation of energy shift in perturbation theory:

• Eq. (1.20)  $\Delta E_i = \langle \phi_{n\ell m} | \hat{H}_i' | \phi_{n\ell m} \rangle$  (see book ~~1~~ can use non-deg cause  $\hat{H}_i'$  diagonal in  $\ell, m$ )  
(as alignment 1 with  $p^2 \rightarrow p^4$ )

• Second term, rewrite (since  $\hat{H}_2'$  no longer commutes with  $\hat{L}_z, \hat{S}_z$ )

Define total angular momentum of electron (see section 1.2.2)

$$\hat{J} = \hat{L} + \hat{S} \quad (2.3)$$

New eigenfunctions

$|\phi_{n\ell m_j}\rangle$

$$\hat{J}^2 |\phi\rangle = \hbar^2 j(j+1) |\phi\rangle$$

$$\hat{J}_z |\phi\rangle = \hbar m_j |\phi\rangle$$

Eigen Values

$j = \frac{1}{2} \quad (\ell=0, s=\frac{1}{2})$   
 $j = \ell \pm \frac{1}{2} \quad (\text{for } \ell > 0, s=\frac{1}{2})$

see dplit 1, but add for  $j, m_j$  values

Now write:  $\hat{L} \cdot \hat{S} = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{J}^2 - \hat{L}^2 - \hat{S}^2)$

Now can again use non-deg PT (in  $J$  basis)

$$\Delta E_2 = \langle \phi_{nljm_j} | \hat{H}_2' | \phi_{nljm_j} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \langle \psi(r) \rangle \left[ j(j+1) - l(l+1) - \frac{3}{4} \right]$$

where we used shorthand  $\hat{H}_2' = \psi(r) \hat{L} \cdot \hat{S}$

$$\langle \psi(r) \rangle = \int d^3r \phi_{nljm_j}^*(\vec{r}) \psi(\vec{r}) \phi_{nljm_j}(\vec{r})$$

• From (1.18) we see that Darwin-term affects only  $l=0$  states (others are 0)

• Darwin-term:

$$\Delta E_3 = \langle \phi_{nljm_j} | \hat{H}_3' | \phi_{nljm_j} \rangle = \frac{\pi \hbar^2}{2m^2 c^2} \left( \frac{Z e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \right) |\phi_{nljm_j}(0)|^2$$

From (1.18) we see that this shifts  $l=0$  states only (others have  $|\phi(0)|^2 = 0$ ).

All together:

Finestructure energy shifts:

$$E_{n,j} = E_n \left( 1 + \frac{(Z\alpha)^2}{n^2} \left( j + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{4} \right) \right) \quad (2.4)$$

Eq(1.19)

• Here  $\alpha = \frac{e^2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)\hbar c} \approx \frac{1}{137}$  is the fine-structure constant

• Now degeneracy of energy in  $l$  is lifted

• Note  $E_n < 0$ , sign of shift depends on  $n, l, j$ , but mostly towards lower energies.

## 213. LAMB-SHIFT

So far, even when discussing interactions of spins, we always used classical formulae for electric & magnetic fields / interaction potentials.

Fundamentally, elm-fields & interactions are due to discrete quanta, photons, as described by quantum electro-dynamics (QED)

The resulting vacuum fluctuations of  $\delta, e^+, e^-$  cause a further

Lamb shift:

$$\Delta E_{\text{Lamb}} = \alpha^5 m_e c^2 \left[ \frac{1}{4n^3} \left[ k(n, \ell) \pm \frac{1}{\pi(j+\frac{1}{2})(\ell+\frac{1}{2})} \right] \right. \quad \ell \neq 0 \quad j = \ell \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\left. \frac{1}{4n^3} k(n, 0) \right] \quad \ell = 0 \quad (2.5)$$

$k(n, \ell) < 0.05$

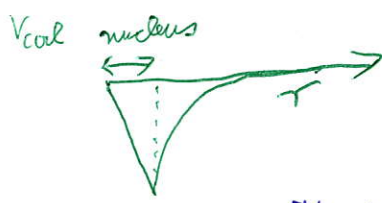
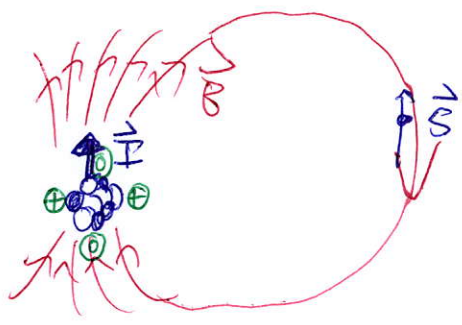
This lifts the degeneracy between s & p! (so might cause splitting not only shift)

- Finestructure  $\rightarrow$  Lamb-shift

# 2.1.4 HYPERFINE-STRUCTURE

Other details neglected so far:

- nuclear spin  $\hat{I}$
- finite nuclear extension  
 $\hookrightarrow$  correction of Coulomb-law at short  $r$
- electric quadrupole-moment



Now

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{\hat{H}_0^1}_{\text{incl fine-structure}} + \hat{H}_{\text{HFS}}^1 \quad (\hat{H}_0^1 = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{\text{FS}}^1)$$

We discuss here zero-quadrupole moment only

Hamiltonian of Hyperfine Interactions:

$$\hat{H}_{\text{HFS}}^1 = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{2}{\hbar} g_I \mu_B \mu_N \frac{1}{r^3} \left[ \hat{L} \cdot \hat{I} - \hat{S} \cdot \hat{I} + 3 \frac{(\hat{S} \cdot \vec{r})(\hat{I} \cdot \vec{r})}{r^2} \right] \quad (2.6)$$

*anisotropic PD (v ≠ 0)*

- Here  $g_I$  is nuclear g-factor ( $g_I = -2 \dots 6$ )
- $\mu_N = 5 \cdot 10^{-27} \frac{J}{T}$  is nuclear magneton ( $\mu_N \sim 10^{-4} \mu_B$ )
- $\hat{I}$  is nuclear angular momentum operator.  
 (contains  $p_n$  spins & possibly orbital angular momentum)

Can again use perturbation theory. As for fine structure, it will be useful to change to a coupled spin basis, using

$$\text{Total angular momentum (of atom)} \quad \hat{F} = \hat{I} + \hat{J} \quad (2.7)$$

As before, ~~atom~~ eigen states & eigen values

$$\hat{F}^2 |F, m_F\rangle = \hbar^2 F(F+1) |F, m_F\rangle$$

$$\hat{F}_z |F, m_F\rangle = \hbar m_F |F, m_F\rangle$$

$$F = |I-J|, \dots, I+J$$

$$m_F = -F, \dots, F$$

treating Eq. (2.5) and corrections at  $r=0$  using perturbation theory (see book) we find:

Hyperfine energy shift:

$$\Delta E = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{m_p} g_I \frac{Z^3 \alpha^2}{n^3} \left(\frac{\mu}{m}\right)^3 \frac{F(F+1) - I(I+1) - j(j+1)}{j(j+1)(2I+1)} \quad (2.80)$$

atomic units

→ see section 2.2.

• given for reference

• After considering fine-structure & Lamb shift, levels are already split according to their different values of  $j, l$ .

↳ Now Eq. (2.80) causes additional splitting into different allowed values of  $F$  in the range

$$j+I \geq F \geq |j-I|$$

• Finest structure > Lamb-shift > Hyperfine structure

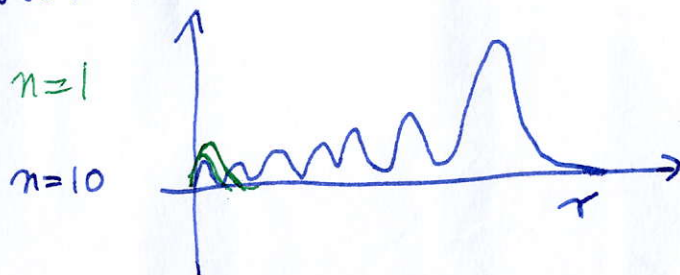
## 2.4. ALKALI ATOMS / RYDBERG ATOMS

Alkali-atoms: ~~Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs~~ have a single valence electron above fully filled electron shells.

Valence  $e^-$  responsible for chemistry and visible spectra.

Consider very highly excited states, e.g.  $n \gg 10$ . These are called Rydberg states.

From section 1.2.3:



See Assignment:

In fact mean-radius:

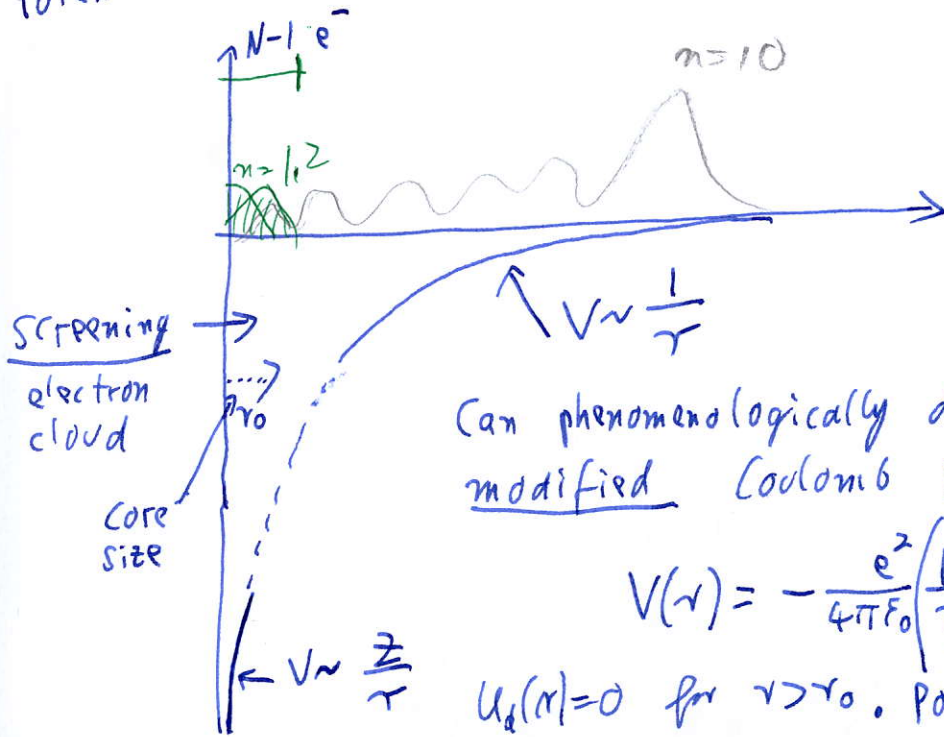
$$\langle \phi_{n\ell m} | r | \phi_{n\ell m} \rangle = \dots \quad (2.9)$$

$$= a_0 \frac{\lambda^2}{Z} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{n^2} \right] \right\}$$

roughly  $\sim a_0 n^2$  ( $\ell=0, Z=1$ )

For, e.g. Li-atom (3 electrons, two in  $(1s)$  outer in  $(n=0)$ )  
 → Valence  $e^-$  much farther out than others (=atomic core)

Potential seen by valence electron, let  $N$  be the total number of electrons  
 $Z =$  nuclear charge



Can phenomenologically describe this by modified Coulomb potential

$$V(r) = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + U_d(r)$$

$U_d(r) = 0$  for  $r > r_0$ . Possible choice

$$U_d(r) = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ (Z-1) e^{-a_1 r} - r(a_3 + a_4 r) e^{-a_2 r} \right]$$

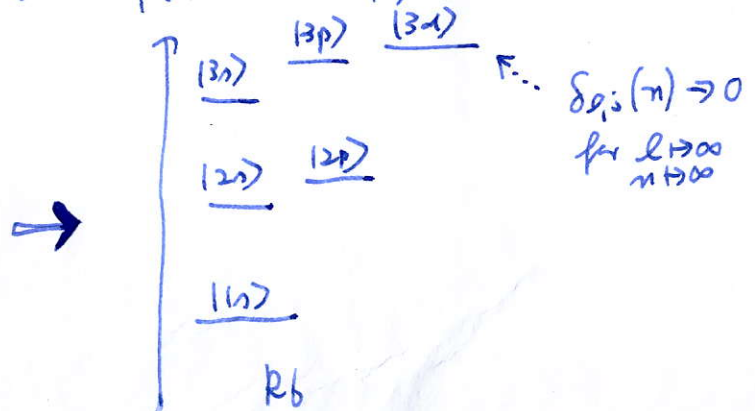
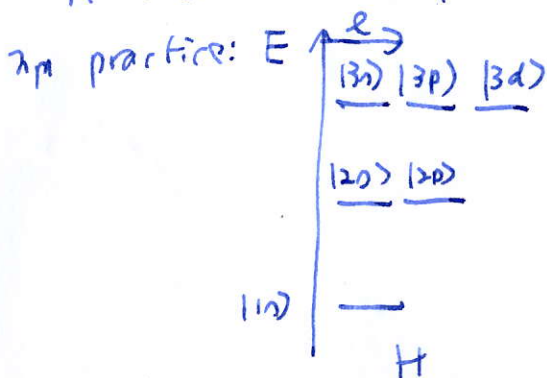
~~We can fit  $a_i$  to fit experiments~~  
 With this  $V(r)$ , solve again (1.17) radial SE  $\rightarrow$  get slightly different energies compared to H

Energy levels for Alkali-Atoms ( $Z=1$ )

$$E = -\frac{R_y}{(n - \delta_{l,j}(n))^2} \quad \text{includes fine structure} \quad (2.10)$$

$\delta_{l,j}(n) =$  quantum defect (due to  $U_d(r)$ )

• the lower the  $l$ , the higher quantum defect, since  $\phi_{n,l}(r)$  reaches closer to/into the core (less centrifugal barrier).

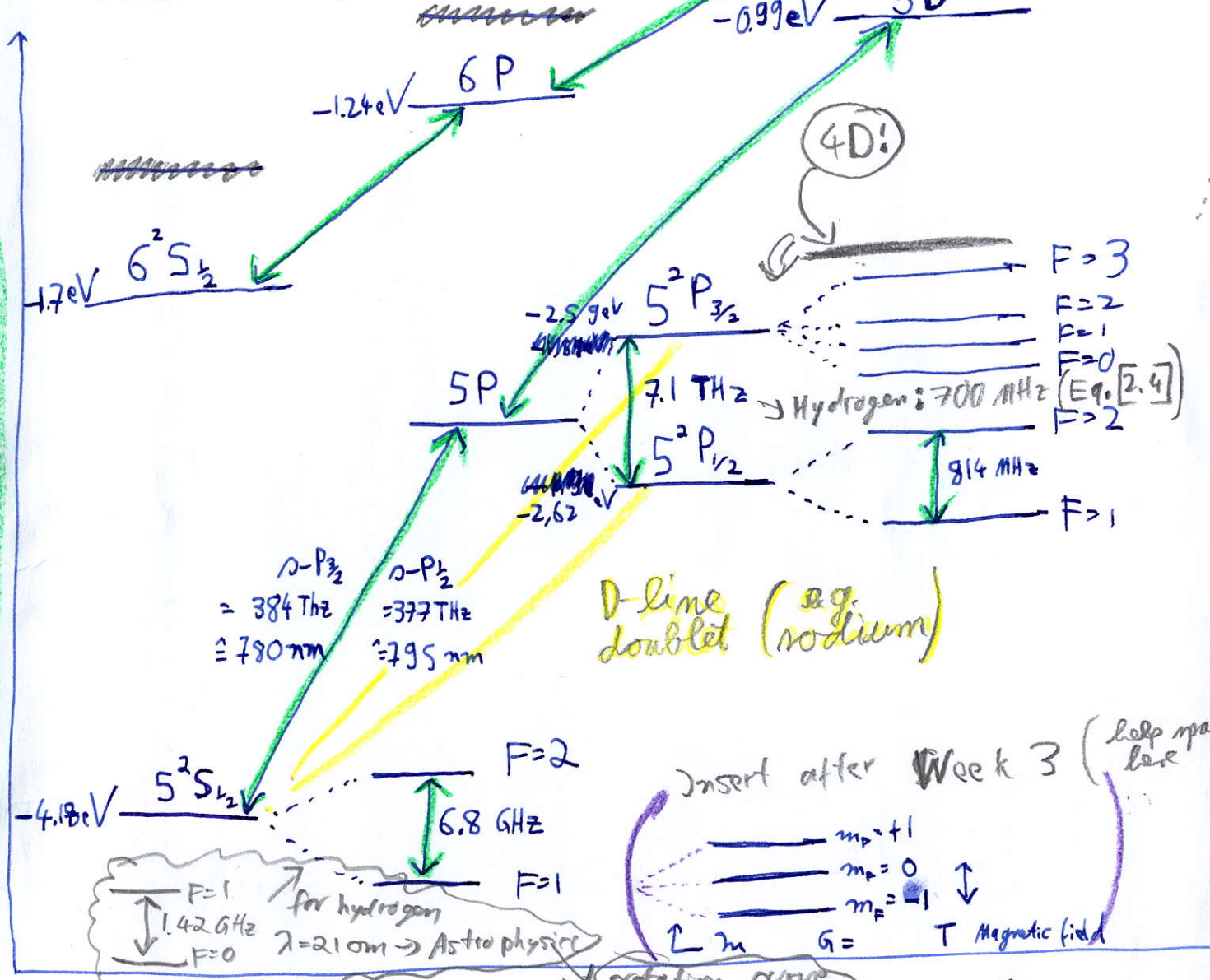




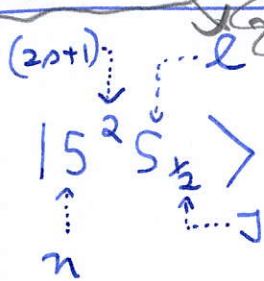
Example for section 2.1

(courtesy Daniel A. Steck <http://stek.us/alkali/data>)

Energy spectrum for  $Rb^{87}$   
 $Z=37, s=1/2, I=3/2$



• Spectroscopic Notation



• Energy splittings in Hz:  $\Delta E = h\nu$

in nm:  $\nu \cdot \lambda = c$

• also see: [www.nist.gov/pml/atomic-spectra-database](http://www.nist.gov/pml/atomic-spectra-database)

- Point out: 3 "stable" ground states  $\rightarrow$   $g, m_f$
- d-lines [chopping coding]
- decantimen (see book)