

# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PC4243: Atomic & Molecular Physics II

(Semester I: AY 2009-10)

Time allowed: 2 hours

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This exam paper contains **FOUR** questions and comprises **SIX** printed pages.
2. You have to answer **THREE** questions.
3. This is a CLOSED BOOK examination.
4. You are allowed one double-sided A4 sheet of notes only.
5. Please use only the supplied answer books, and don't mix answers to different problems on the same sheet.
6. There is a table of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients attached.

## 1: Atomic Structure

- (a) Explain the difference between LS and jj coupling in describing the level structure of multi-electron atoms.
- (b) The following table gives the electronic configurations and energies (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for the first eight excited states of neutral Barium (relative to the  $6s^2$  ground state).

Config.	Energy
6s5d	9033.966
	9215.501
	9596.533
	11395.350
6s6p	12266.024
	12636.623
	13514.745
	18060.261

- (i) Suggest, with reasons, further quantum numbers to identify these levels.
- (ii) Draw an energy level diagram showing the allowed transitions, within the LS coupling regime.
- (iii) Explain the appearance of weak lines at  $12636.623 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $8844.760 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

— Please turn over —

## 2: Laser Cooling

In steady state, the excited state population for a two level atom is given by

$$\rho_{ee} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{I/I_s}{1 + I/I_s + 4\Delta^2/\Gamma^2}$$

where  $I_s$  is the saturation intensity,  $\Delta$  is the laser detuning from the atomic resonance, and  $\Gamma$  is the line-width of the excited state.

- (a) Explain how photon scattering results in a force on an atom. Give an expression for the scattering force on a stationary atom.
- (b) Give a brief explanation of the operation of a magneto-optic trap (MOT) using diagrams as appropriate. You may restrict your discussion to one spatial dimension for a simple  $J=0$  to  $J=1$  transition. For small velocities and small displacements from the trap center, show that an atom undergoes damped simple harmonic motion.

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### 3: Light forces

Consider the  $^2S_{1/2}$  to  $^2P_{1/2}$  transition in  $^{87}\text{Rb}$ . The upper  $^2P_{1/2}$  state has a line-width of  $2\pi \times 5.7\text{ MHz}$  and the wavelength associated with the transition is  $795\text{ nm}$ .

- (a) Given that the nuclear spin of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  is  $I = 3/2$ , give a sketch of the level structure you would expect due to the hyperfine interaction and label the levels with the appropriate  $F$  quantum numbers.
- (b) The hyperfine splitting of the  $^2S_{1/2}$  and  $^2P_{1/2}$  states are  $6.8\text{ GHz}$  and  $810\text{ MHz}$  respectively. Calculate the width of absorption lines in a room temperature vapour cell you would expect from these transitions. What features would you be able to resolve?
- (c) Calculate the AC Stark shift of all of the  $F=1$  ground-state sub-levels due to a  $\sigma^+$  polarized laser field with a peak intensity of  $90\text{ W/m}^2$  tuned  $600\text{ MHz}$  below the  $F = 1$  to  $F = 1$  transition.

**Note:** You may find the following equations useful

$$I_0 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 c E_0^2, \quad A_{ij} = \frac{\omega_{ij}^3 \mu_{ij}^2}{3\pi \epsilon_0 \hbar c^3}, \quad \gamma_s = \frac{\Gamma}{2} \frac{2\Omega^2/\Gamma^2}{1 + 2\Omega^2/\Gamma^2 + 4\Delta^2/\Gamma^2}.$$

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m}, \quad c = 2.9979 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}, \quad \hbar = 1.055 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js}$$

— Please turn over —

#### 4: Two Level Systems

An electron is subjected to a time varying magnetic field

$$\mathbf{B} = B_{\text{rf}} \cos \omega t \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_{\text{rf}} \sin \omega t \hat{\mathbf{y}} + B_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

The Hamiltonian is given by

$$H = \frac{g_s \mu_B}{\hbar} \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

- (a) With reference to the Bloch sphere, give a geometric description of the evolution of the state of the electron when  $B_{\text{rf}} \ll B_0$ . You will find it useful to consider a reference frame in which the magnetic field is stationary.
- (b) Show that as the frequency is increased, there is a resonance condition at which the spin flips. Determine the approximate width of this resonance.
- (c) Explain why the potential energy of an atom in a magnetic trap is proportional to the magnitude of the magnetic field  $|\mathbf{B}|$ .
- (d) In a magnetic trap, explain how a radio-frequency field may be used to evaporate atoms from the trap.

— End of paper —

[MDB]

# 32. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND $d$ FUNCTIONS

Note: A square-root sign is to be understood over every coefficient, e.g., for  $-8/15$  read  $-\sqrt{8/15}$ .

Notation:

$J$	$J$	...
$M$	$M$	...
$m_1$	$m_2$	
$m_1$	$m_2$	Coefficients

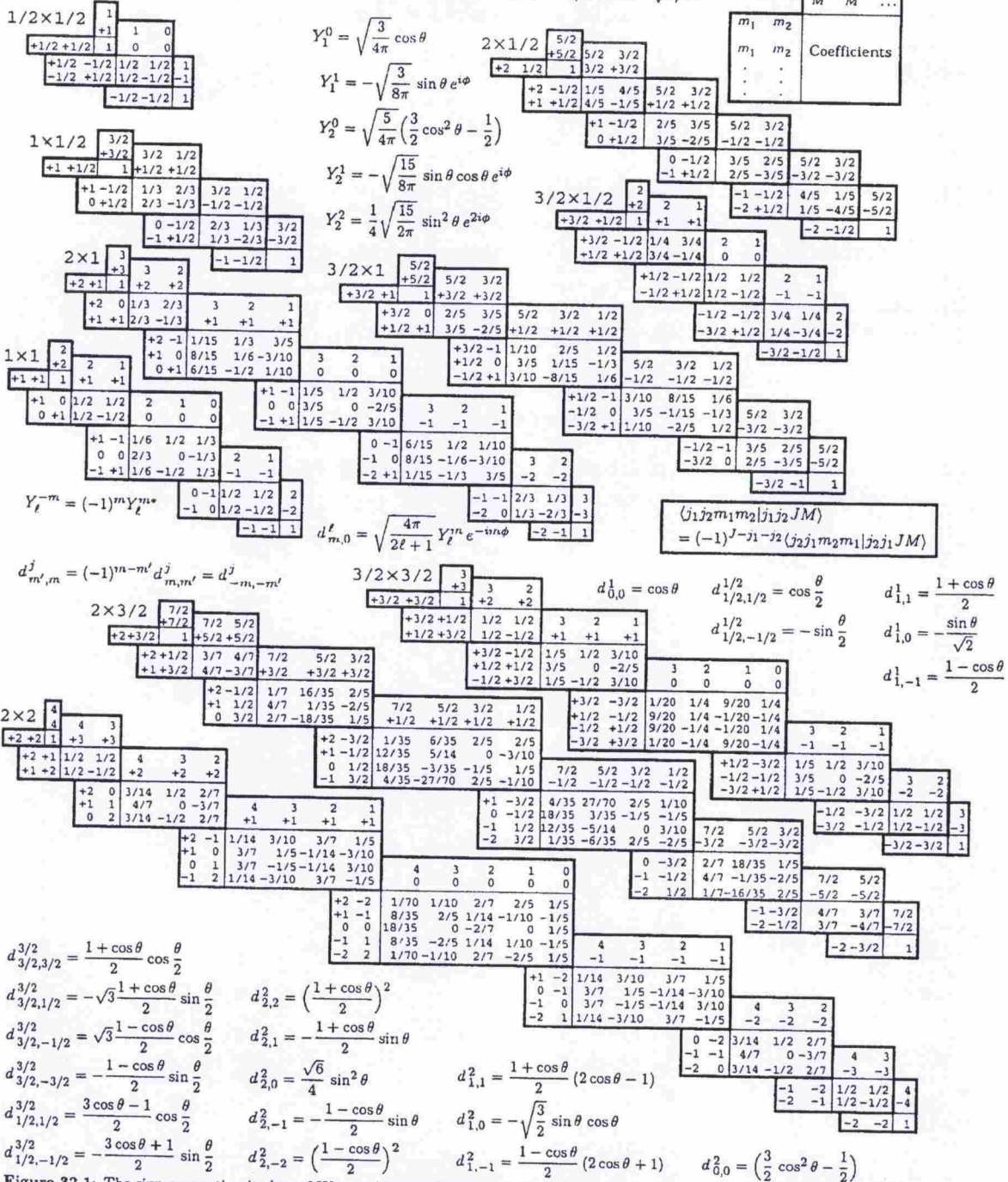


Figure 32.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974). The coefficients here have been calculated using computer programs written independently by Cohen and at LBNL.