

Lecture 18: Orbitals of the Hydrogen Atom

The material in this lecture covers the following in Atkins.

The structure and Spectra of Hydrogenic Atoms

13.2 Atomic orbitals and their energies

(c) Shells and subshells

(b) s-orbitals

(c) Radial distribution function

(d) p-orbitals

(e) d-orbitals

Hydrogenic atomic orbitals

Lecture on-line

Hydrogenic atomic orbitals (PDF Format)

Hydrogenic atomic orbitals (PowerPoint)

Handout for this lecture

Audio-visuals on-line

key hydrogen orbitals (PowerPoint)(From the Wilson Group,*)**

key hydrogen orbitals (PDF)(From the Wilson Group,*)**

**Vizualization of atomic hydrogen orbitals (PowerPoint)
(From the Wilson Group,***)**

**Vizualization of atomic hydrogen orbitals (PDF)
(From the Wilson Group,***)**

Slides from the text book (From the CD included in Atkins ,**)

Interactive Hydrogen Orbital Plots (For Mac users only)

(Visualizes all the

angular and radial wavefunctions of the hydrogen atom, ***)**

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

The orbitals for the hydrogenic atom are given by
 $\psi_{nlm}(r, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{nl} Y_{l,m}(\phi, \theta)$; $n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$
 $l < n - 1$; $m = -l, -l+1, \dots, l-1, l$

Where

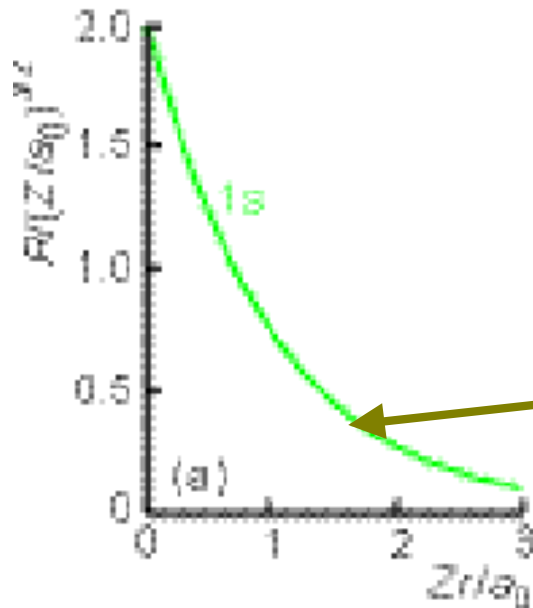
$$Y_{l,m}(\phi, \theta) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-|m|)!}{(l+|m|)!}} P_l^{|m|}(\cos \theta) \times \exp[im\phi]$$

are eigenfunctions to L^2 and L_z

With the radial part given as

$$R_{nl}(r) = N_{nl} \left(\frac{\rho}{n} \right)^l L_{n,l}(\rho) e^{-\rho/2n}$$

Hydrogen Levels



$$n = 1, l = 0$$

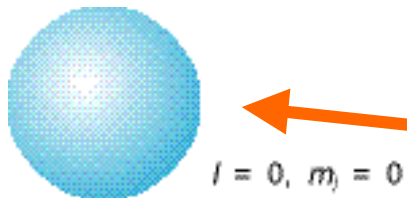
$$\Psi_{n,l,m}(\phi, \theta) = R_{nl}(r)Y_{l,m}(\phi, \theta)$$

$$R_{1,0}(r) = 2\left(\frac{z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2}$$

No nodes. $R_{1,0}(r)$ everywhere positive

For $l = 0$ we have $m = 0$;

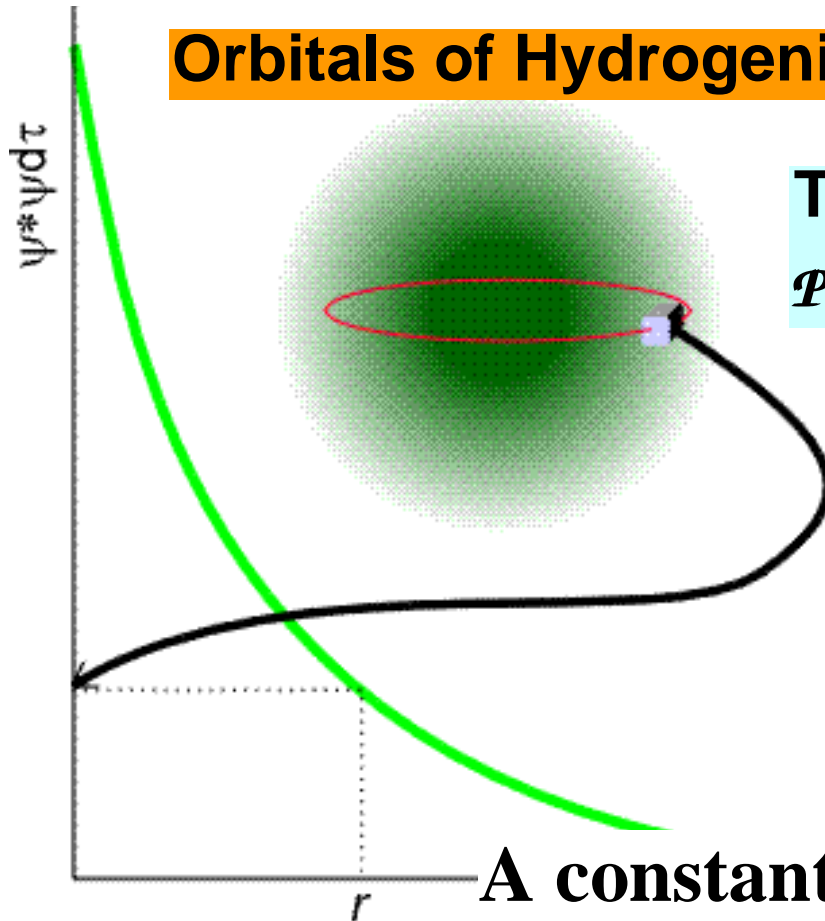
$$Y_{0,0} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi}}$$



1s – orbital

Value of Y_{00} is uniform over sphere

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom...prop.dens.



The probability density

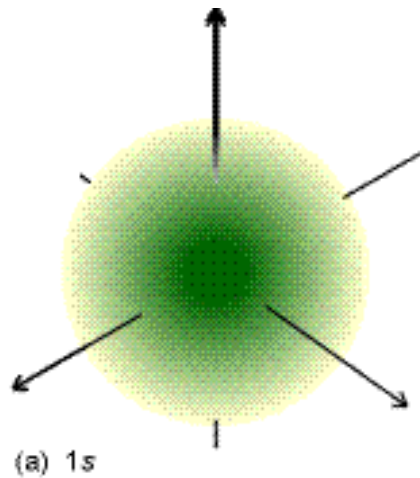
$$\mathcal{P}_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi) = \psi_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi)^* \psi_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi)$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{1,0,0}(r, \phi, \theta) = 2 \left(\frac{z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2} Y_{00}^* \times$$

$$2 \left(\frac{z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2} Y_{00} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{z}{a_0} \right)^3 e^{-\rho}$$

A constant-volume electron-sensitive detector (the small cube) gives its greatest reading at the nucleus, and a smaller reading elsewhere. The same reading is obtained anywhere on a circle of given radius: the *s* orbital is spherically symmetrical.

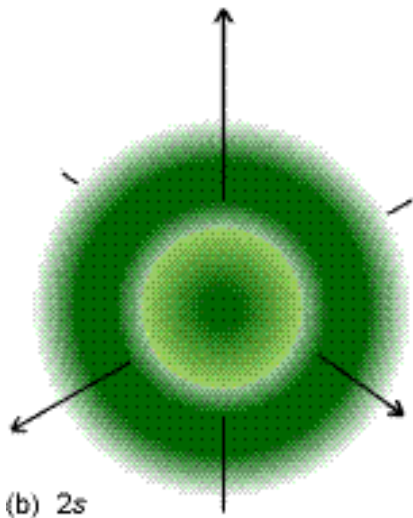
Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom...prop.dens.



Representations of the 1s and 2s hydrogenic atomic orbitals in terms of their electron densities (as represented by the density of shading).

The probability density

$$\mathcal{P}_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi) = \psi_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi) \psi_{nlm}(r, \theta, \phi)$$



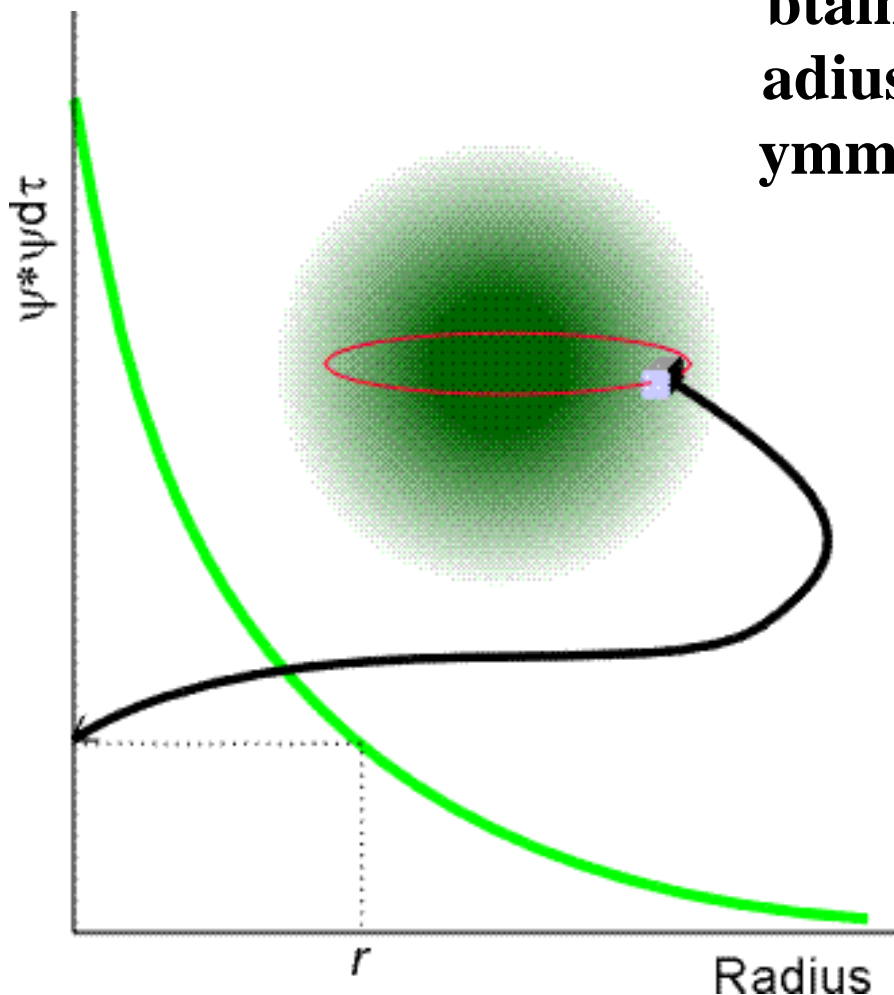
$$\mathcal{P}_{1,00}(r) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^3 e^{-\rho}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{2,00}(r) = \frac{1}{32\pi} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^3 \left(2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho \right)^2 e^{-\rho/2}$$

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Radial probability density

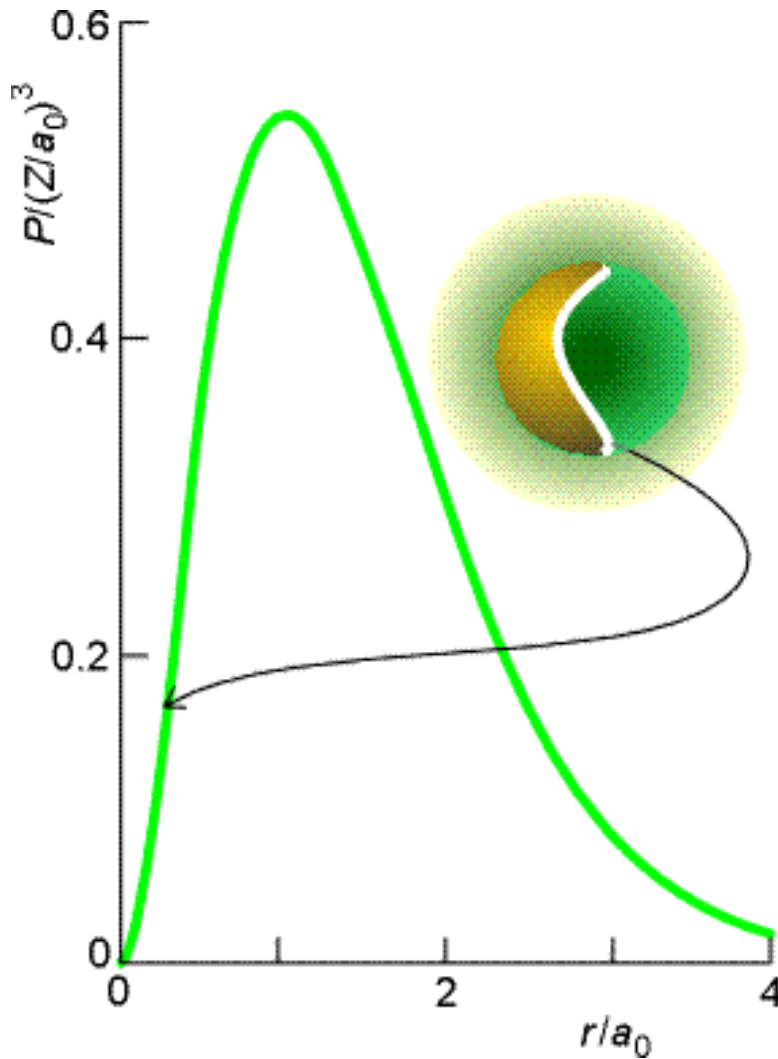
constant-volume electron-sensitive detector (the small cube) gives its greatest reading at the nucleus, and a smaller reading elsewhere. The same reading is obtained anywhere on a circle of given radius: the *s* orbital is spherically symmetrical.



$$P_{1,00}(r, \phi, \theta) = 2 \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2} Y_{00} \times$$

$$2 \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2} Y_{00} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^3 e^{-\rho}$$

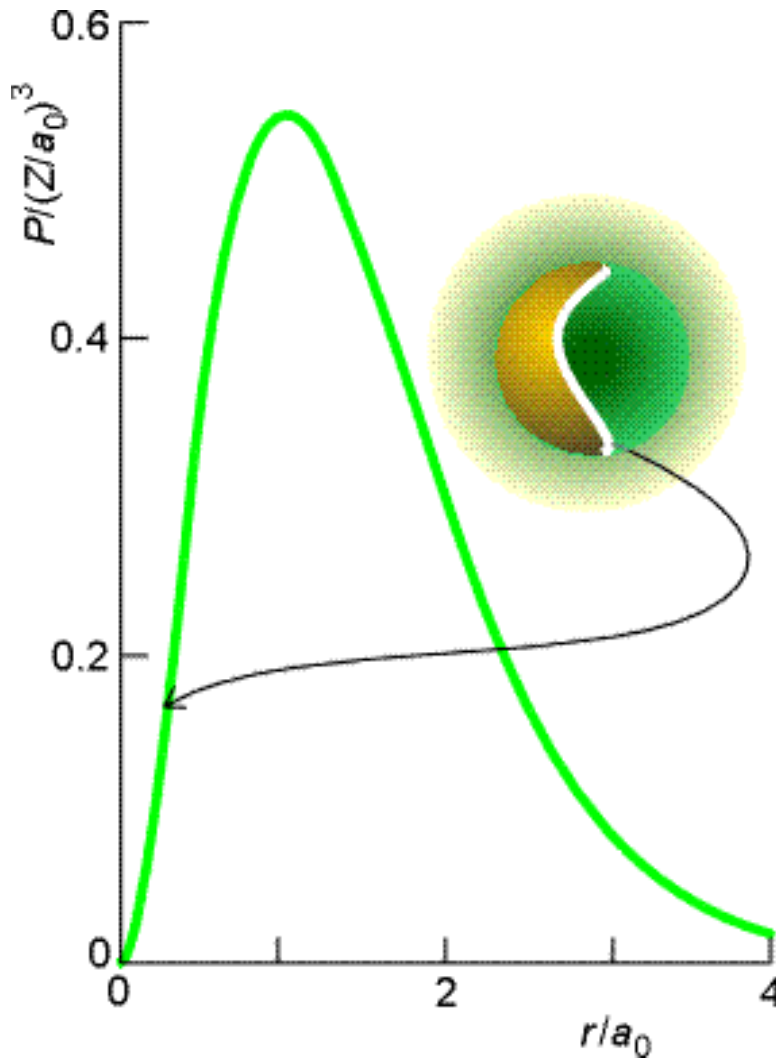
Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom Radial probability density



The radial distribution function P gives the probability that the electron will be found anywhere in a shell of radius r . For a $1s$ electron in hydrogen, P is a maximum when r is equal to the Bohr radius a_0 . The value of P is equivalent to the reading that a detector shaped like a spherical shell would give as its radius was varied.

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Radial probability density



The probability of finding the electron between r and $r + dr$ is :

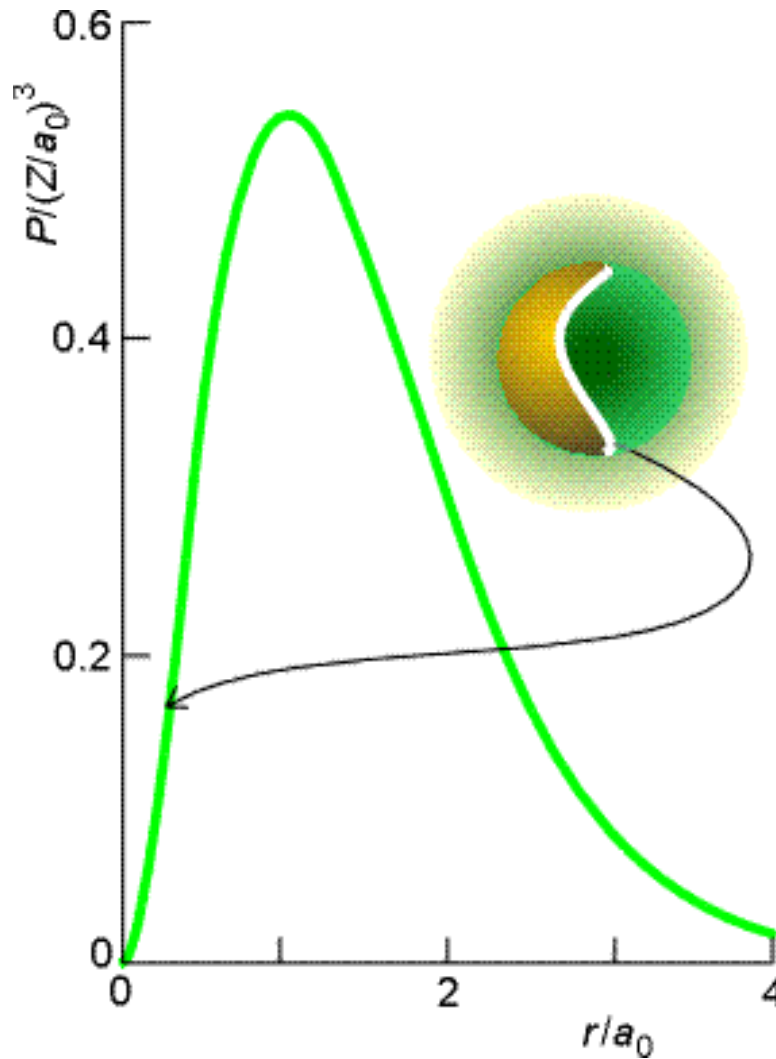
$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{nl}(r)dr &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \mathcal{P}_{nlm}(r, \phi, \theta) dv \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \mathcal{P}_{nlm}(r, \phi, \theta) r \sin\theta d\theta d\phi r^2 dr \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} |R_{nl}(r)|^2 |Y_{lm}(\phi, \theta)|^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi r^2 dr \\
 &= 1 \times |R_{nl}(r)|^2 r^2 dr
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the radial probability density is

$$P_{nl}(r) = |R_{nl}(r)|^2 r^2$$

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Radial probability density



The radial probability density is

$$P_{n,l}(r) = |R_{n,l}(r)|^2 r^2$$

The most probable radius corresponds to the maxima for $P_{n,l}(r)$.

For 1s

$$r_{\max} = \frac{a_0}{Z}$$

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Orbitals with increasing l are called

$$\psi_{n1m} = R_{n1}(r)Y_{1m}(\theta, \phi) \quad \text{p-orbitals} \quad m = -1, 0, 1$$

$$\psi_{n2m} = R_{n2}(r)Y_{2m}(\theta, \phi) \quad \text{d-orbitals} \quad m = -2, -1, 0, 1, 2$$

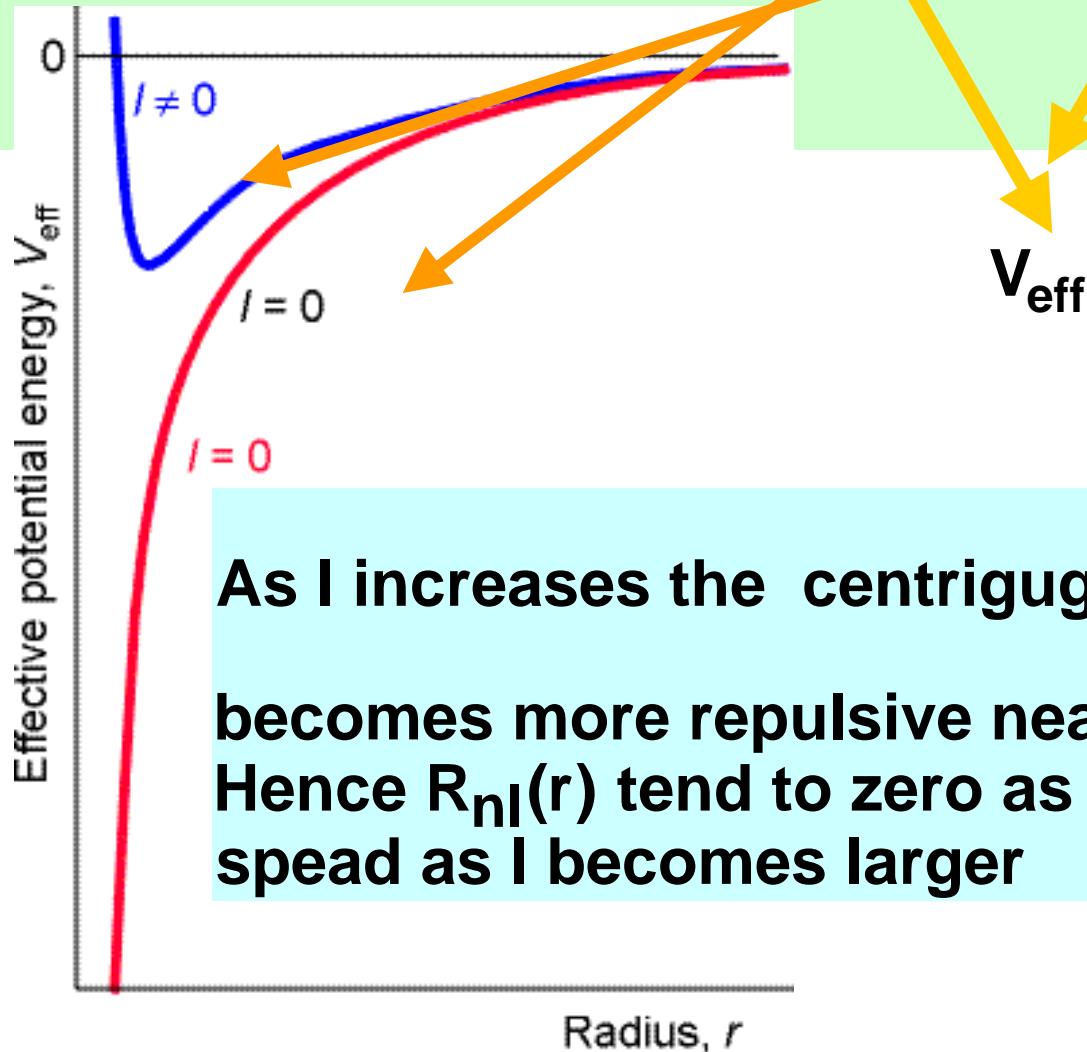
$$\psi_{n3m} = R_{n3}(r)Y_{3m}(\theta, \phi) \quad \text{f-orbitals} \quad m = -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3$$

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Orbital near nucleus

R_{nl} is a solution to

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left\{ \frac{\delta^2 R_{nl}(r)}{\delta^2 r} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\delta R_{nl}(r)}{\delta r} \right\} + \left\{ -\frac{Ze}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \frac{\hbar^2 l(l+1)}{2\mu m r^2} \right\} R_{nl}(r) = E R_{nl}(r)$$



As l increases the centrifugal term

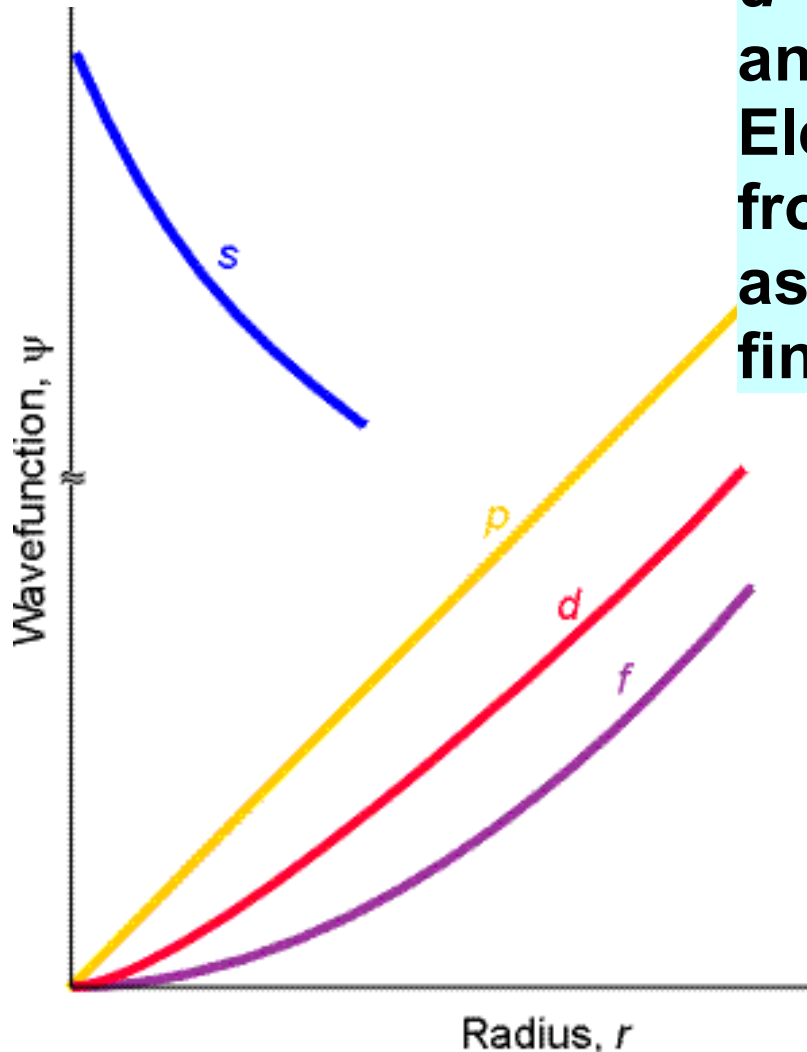
$$\frac{\hbar^2 l(l+1)}{2\mu m r^2}$$

becomes more repulsive near nucleus at small r .
Hence $R_{nl}(r)$ tend to zero as $r \rightarrow 0$ with increasing
speed as l becomes larger

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

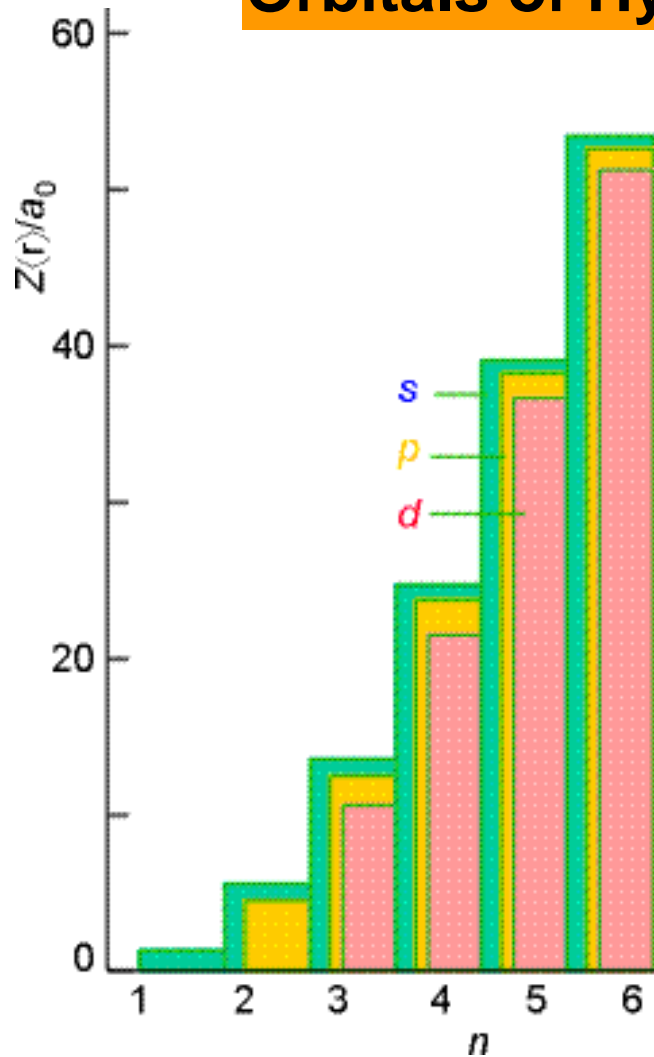
Orbital near nucleus

Close to the nucleus,
 p orbitals are proportional to r ,
 d orbitals are proportional to r^2 ,
and f orbitals are proportional to r^3 .
Electrons are progressively excluded
from the neighbourhood of the nucleus
as l increases. An s orbital has a
finite, nonzero value at the nucleus.



Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Mean radius



The mean radius is given as the expectation value

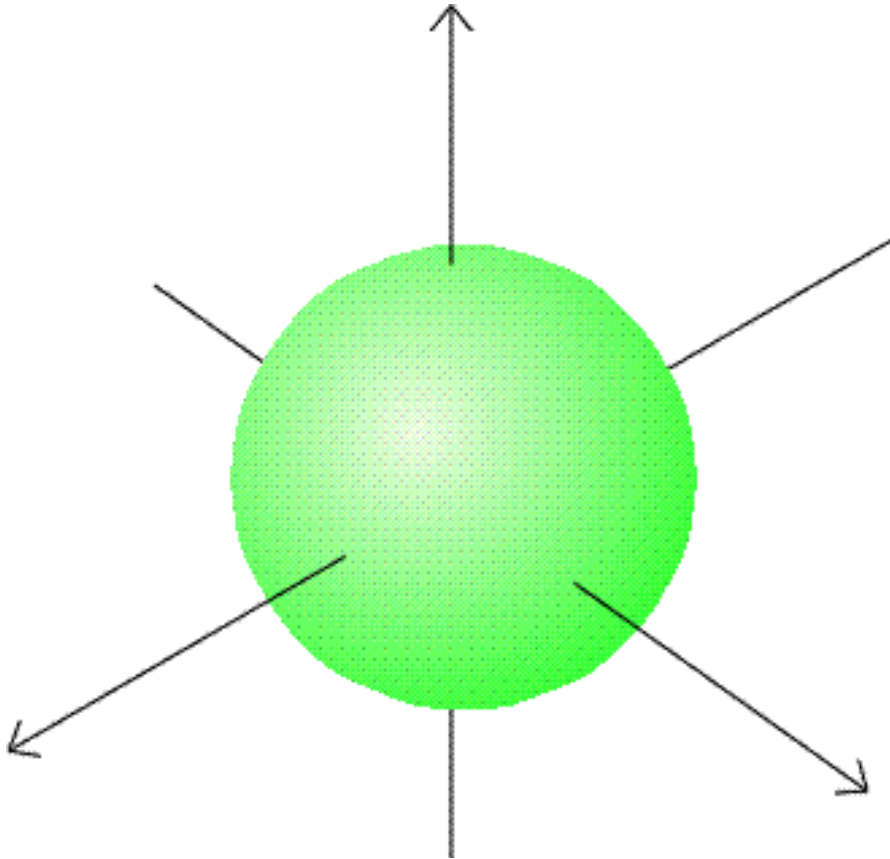
$$\langle r \rangle = \int \psi_{nlm}^* r \psi_{nlm} d\tau$$

For the hydrogenic atom

$$\langle r \rangle_{nl} = n^2 \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{l(l+1)}{n^2} \right) \right\} \frac{a_0}{Z}$$

The variation of the mean radius of a hydrogenic atom with the principal and orbital angular momentum quantum numbers. Note that the mean radius lies in the order $d < p < s$ for a given value of n .

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom



The boundary surface of an s orbital, within which there is a 90 per cent probability of finding the electron.

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Angular part

Let us now look at the angular part of the p - functions

$$\Psi_{nlm}(\mathbf{r}, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{nl} Y_{l,m}(\phi, \theta)$$
$$n = 2, l = 1$$

$$m = -1, 0, 1$$

$$\Psi_{211}(\mathbf{r}, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} Y_{1,1}(\phi, \theta) = -R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{i\phi}$$

$$\Psi_{210}(\mathbf{r}, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} Y_{1,0}(\phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{4\pi} \right)^{1/2} \cos \theta$$

$$\Psi_{21-1}(\mathbf{r}, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} Y_{1,-1}(\phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{-i\phi}$$

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

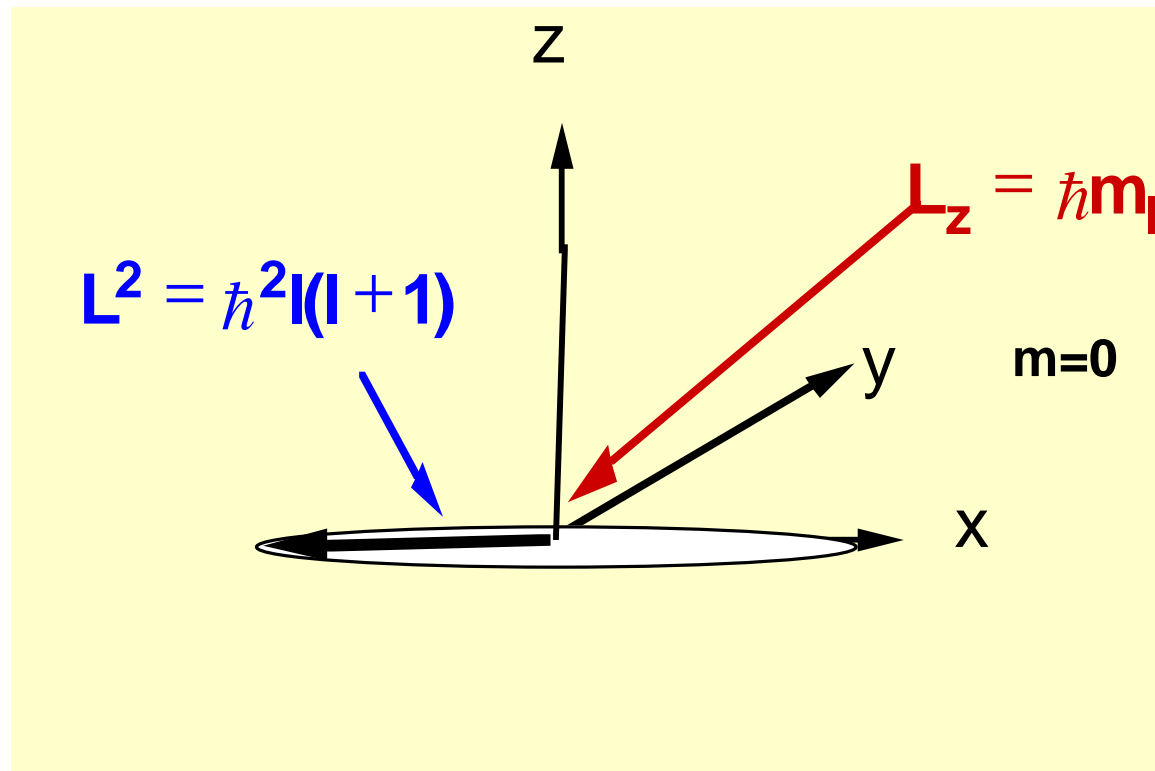
Angular part

$$\psi_{210}(r, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{4\pi} \right)^{1/2} \cos \theta$$

$$l = 1, m = 0$$

The electron has an angular momentum \vec{L} such that $L^2 = \hbar^2 l(l+1)$

The z-component of \vec{L} is $L_z = 0$



Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

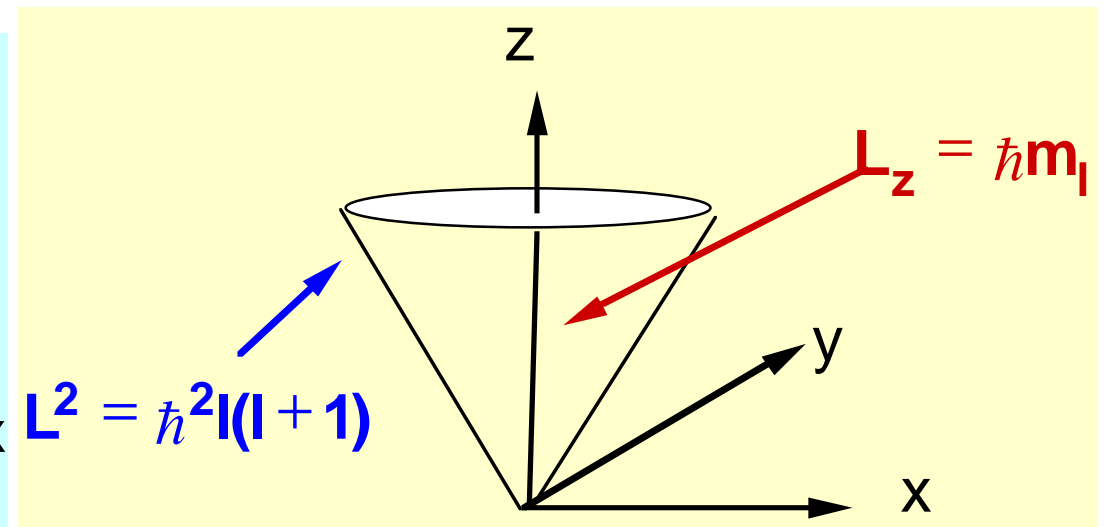
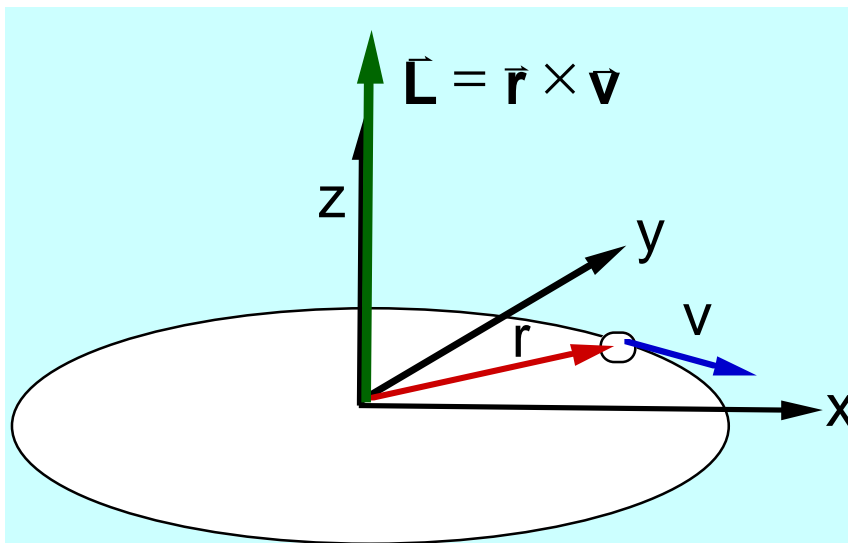
Angular part

$$\psi_{211}(r, \phi, \theta) = -R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{i\phi}$$

$$l = 1, m = 1$$

The electron has an angular momentum \vec{L}
such that $L^2 = \hbar^2 l(l+1)$

The z-component of \vec{L} is $L_z = \hbar m$



Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

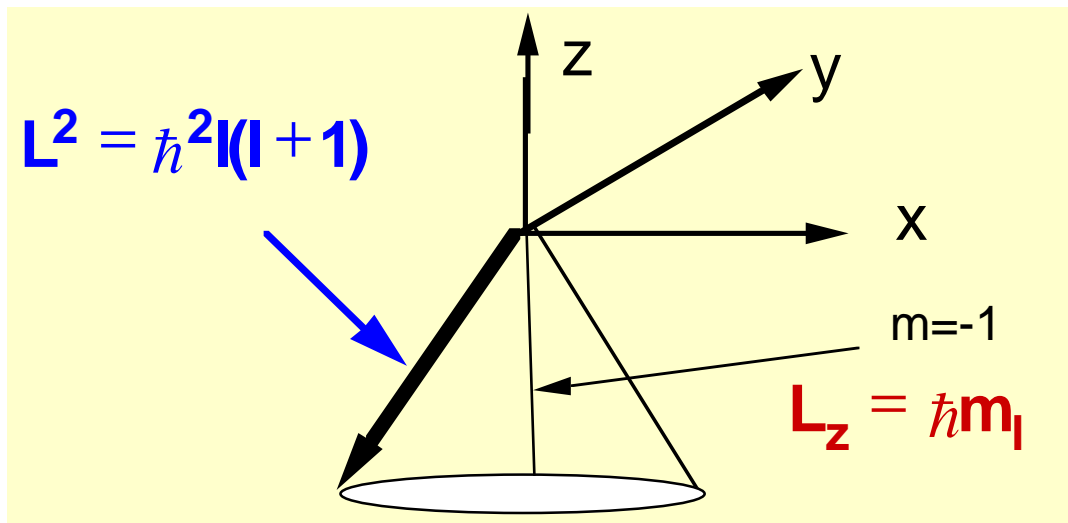
Angular part

$$\psi_{21-1}(r, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{-i\phi}$$

$$l = 1, m = -1$$

The electron has an angular momentum \vec{L}
such that $L^2 = \hbar^2 l(l+1)$

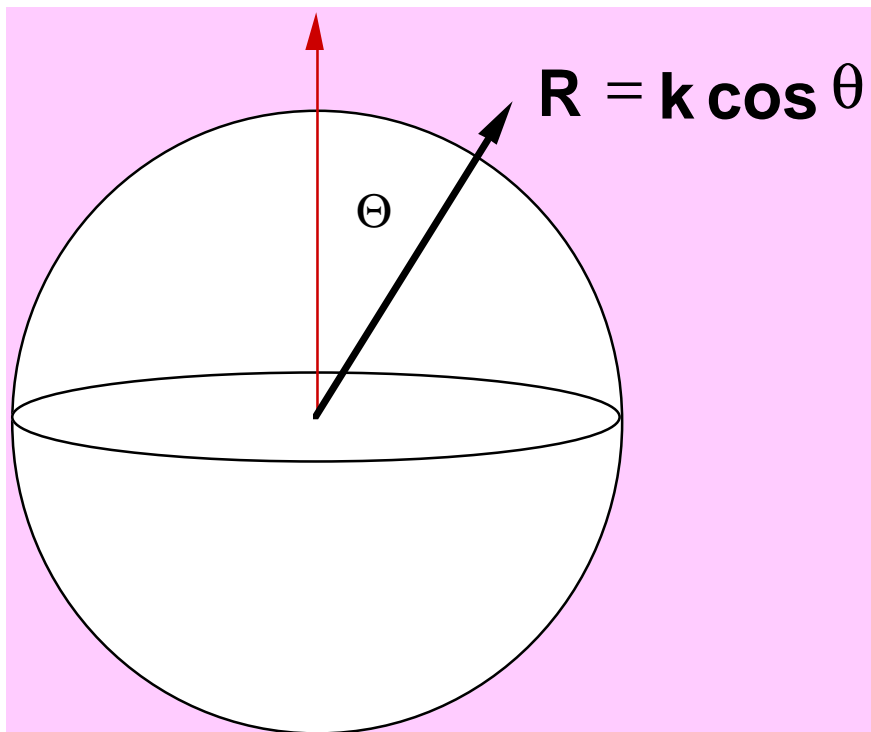
The z-component of \vec{L} is $L_z = -\hbar$



Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

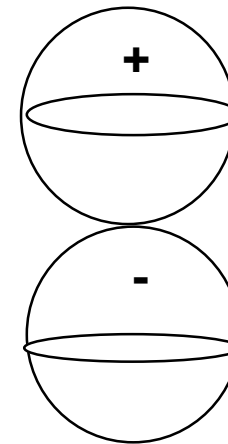
Plotting angular part of

$$\psi_{210}(r, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{4\pi} \right)^{1/2} \cos \theta = 2p_z$$



Draw vector \vec{R} of length $k \cos \theta$ through each point (θ, ϕ) on sphere

Real orbitals



Draw surface through all vectors R

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Angular part

The remaining two orbitals are complex

$$\psi_{211}(r, \phi, \theta) = -R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta [\cos \phi + i \sin \phi]$$

$$\psi_{21-1}(r, \phi, \theta) = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta [\cos \phi - i \sin \phi]$$

However by linear combinations we can get the real orbitals

$$2p_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \{ \psi_{211} - \psi_{21-1} \} = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

$$2p_y = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \{ \psi_{211} + \psi_{21-1} \} = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

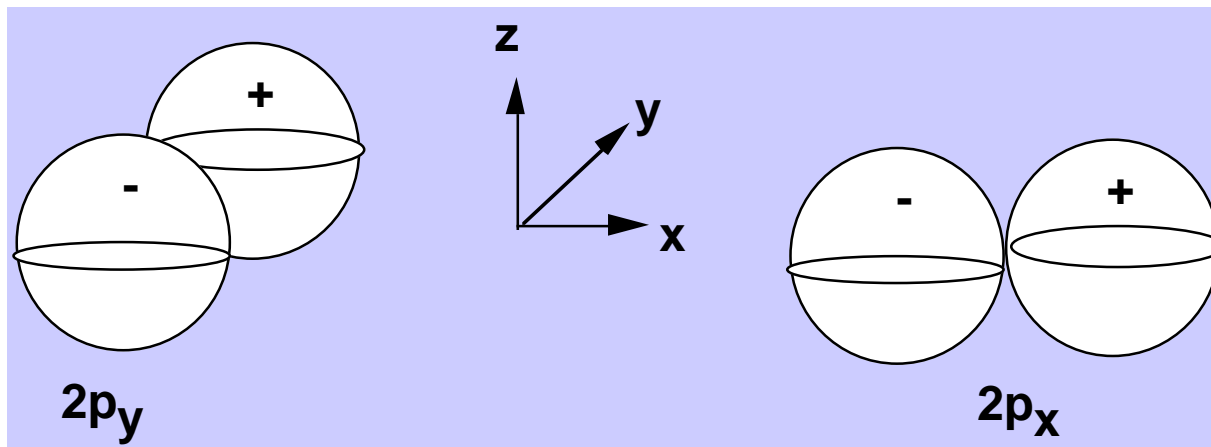
Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Angular part

$$2p_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \{\psi_{211} - \psi_{21-1}\} = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

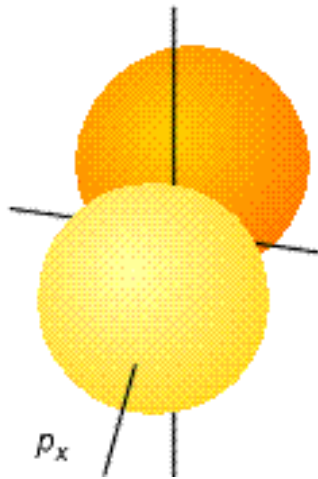
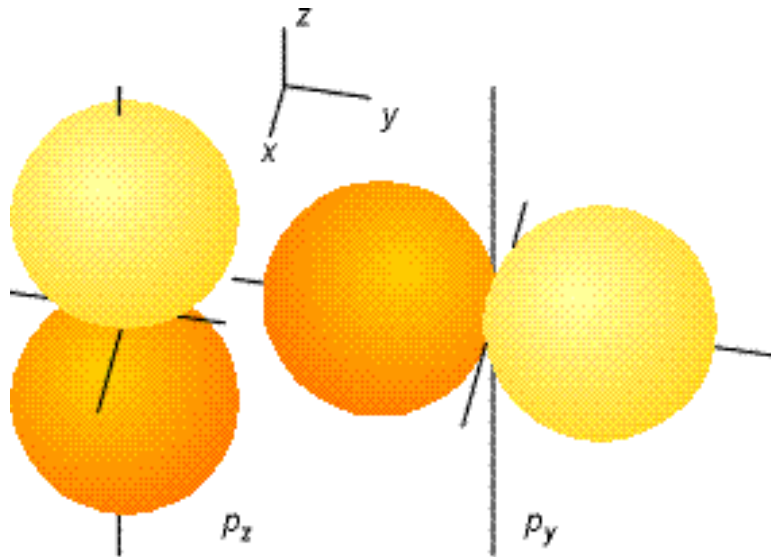
$$2p_y = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \{\psi_{211} + \psi_{21-1}\} = R(r)_{21} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi} \right)^{1/2} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

The orbitals $2p_x$ and $2p_y$ have the same energies and eigenvalues to L^2 as ψ_{211} and ψ_{21-1} . However only the latter are eigenfunctions of L_z



Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Angular part

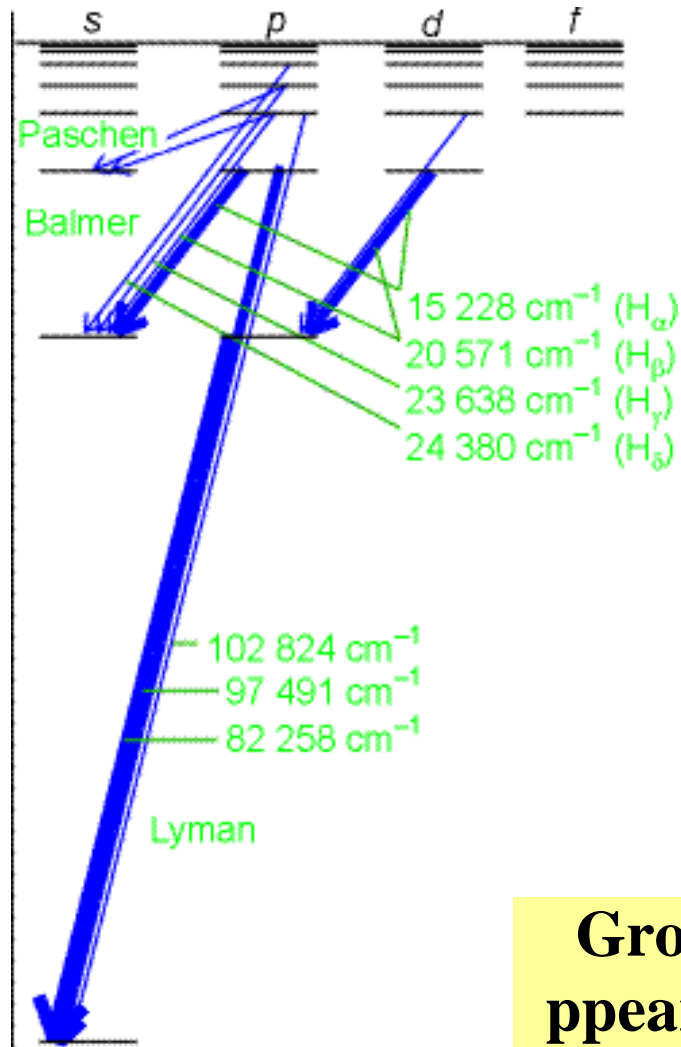


The boundary surfaces of p orbitals. A nodal plane passes through the nucleus and separates the two lobes of each orbital.

The dark and light areas denote regions of opposite sign of the wavefunction.

Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

Transitions



In transitions between different energy levels of the hydrogenic atom the following selection rules apply

$$\Delta l = \pm 1$$

$$\Delta m = 0, \pm 1$$

Grotrian diagram that summarizes the appearance and analysis of the spectrum of atomic hydrogen. The thicker the line, the more intense the transition.

What you need to learn from this lecture about the hydrogen atom for the quizz and the final exam

Understand how the balance between kinetic energy and potential energy shapes R_{nl}
Fig.13.10

The behaviour of $R_{nl}(r)$ near the nucleus (Fig 13.16)

The definition of the radial distribution function
 $P(r) = r^2 R(r)^2$ and how it is used to calculate the expectation values $\langle r^n \rangle$

Memorize the relation between real p - orbitals (p_x, p_y, p_z) and imaginary p - orbitals (p_0, p_{-1}, p_1). Understand the physical difference. Understand plots of (p_x, p_y, p_z).

Same for d and f great, but not required

Selection rules for electronic transitions in the hydrogen atom

$$\Delta l = \pm 1$$

$$\Delta m = 0, \pm 1$$

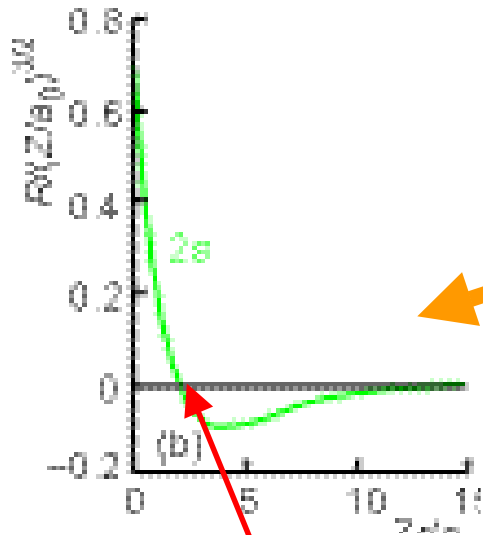
Appendix : Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom..why nodes

$$n = n_o, l = 0$$

$$\Psi_{n,l,m}(\phi, \theta) = R_{nl}(r)Y_{l,m}(\phi, \theta)$$

For $l = 0$ we have $m = 0$;

$$Y_{0,0} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi}}$$



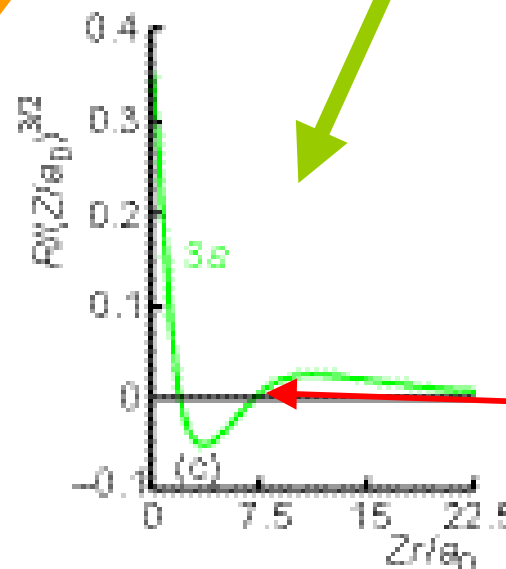
$$R_{20}(r) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_o} \right)^{3/2} \left(2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho \right) e^{-\rho/4}$$

$$R_{30}(r) = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{3}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_o} \right)^{3/2} \left(6 - 2\rho + \frac{1}{9}\rho^2 \right) e^{-\rho/6}$$

One node at

$$\left(2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho \right) = 0$$

with $\rho = 2Zr/a_o$
node : $2a_o / Z$



two nodes at

$$\left(6 - 2\rho + \frac{1}{9}\rho^2 \right) = 0$$

with $\rho = 2Zr/a_o$

nodes : $1.9a_o / Z$
and $7.1Zr/a_o$

Appendix : Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom..why nodes

$$n = n_0, \quad l = 0$$

$$\psi_{n_0,0,0}(\phi, \theta) = R_{n_0,0}(r) Y_{0,0}(\phi, \theta)$$

Why has $R_{nl}(r)$ $n-1$ nodes ?

We have seen previously that any two independent solutions to the Schrödinger equation must be orthogonal :

$$\int \psi_i \psi_j d\mathbf{v} = \delta_{ij}$$

Thus any two s - orbitals $R_{n'_0} Y_{00}$ and $R_{n_0} Y_{00}$ must be orthogonal

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty R_{n'_0} Y_{00} R_{n_0} Y_{00} d\mathbf{v} = 0$$

Appendix : Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom..why nodes

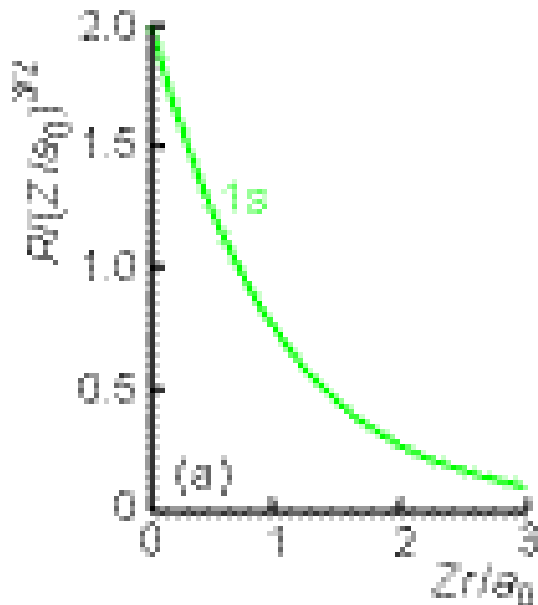
$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} R_{n'l} Y_{lm} R_{n'l} Y_{lm} dv = 0$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} Y_{lm} Y_{lm} \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \int_0^r R_{n'l}(r) R_{n'l}(r) r^2 dr = 0$$

1

$$\int_0^r R_{n'l}(r) R_{n'l}(r) r^2 dr = 0$$

Y_{lm} normalized



The $R_{1,0}$ function is positive every where

$$R_{1,0}(r) = 2 \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2}$$

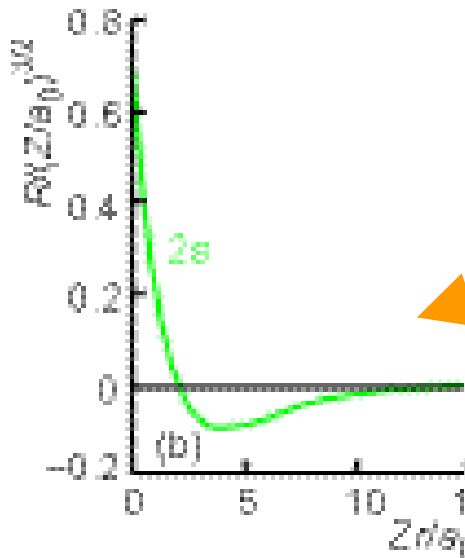
Appendix : Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom..why nodes

Thus for R_{20} to be orthogonal to R_{10}

$$\int_0^{\infty} R_{10}(r)R_{20}(r)r^2dr = 0$$

R_{20} must have positive and negative regions

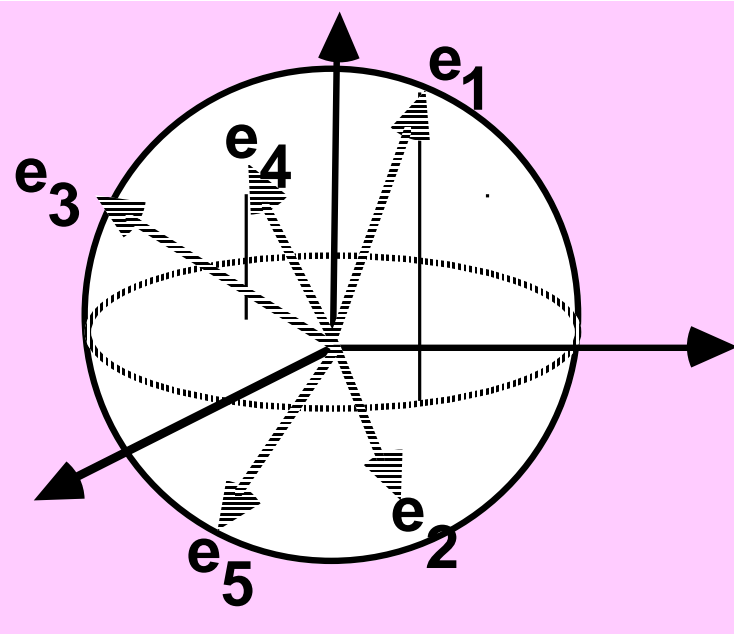
For R_{30} to be orthogonal to R_{10} and R_{20} two nodes are required etc...



$$R_{20}(r) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} \left(2 - \frac{1}{2}\rho \right) e^{-\rho/4}$$

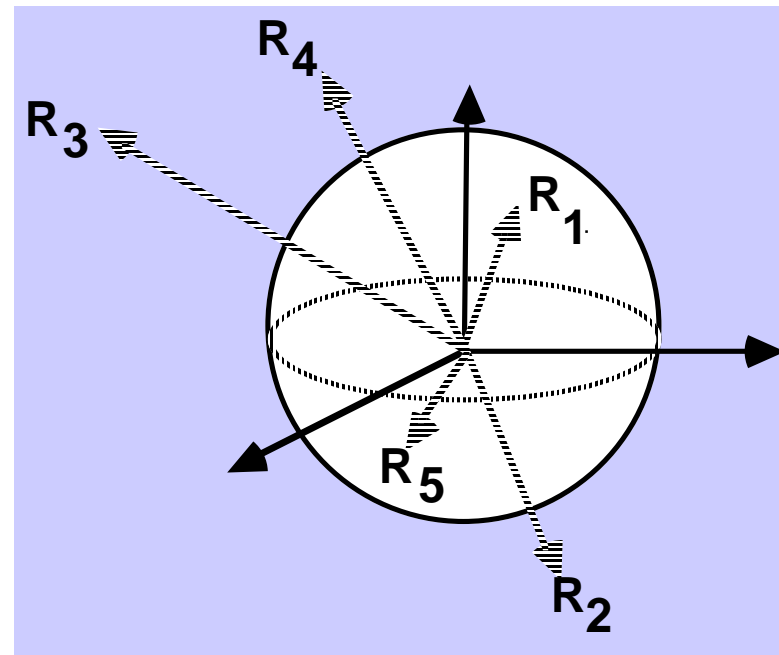
Appendix : Drawing Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom An aside

How do we plot Y_{lm} ?



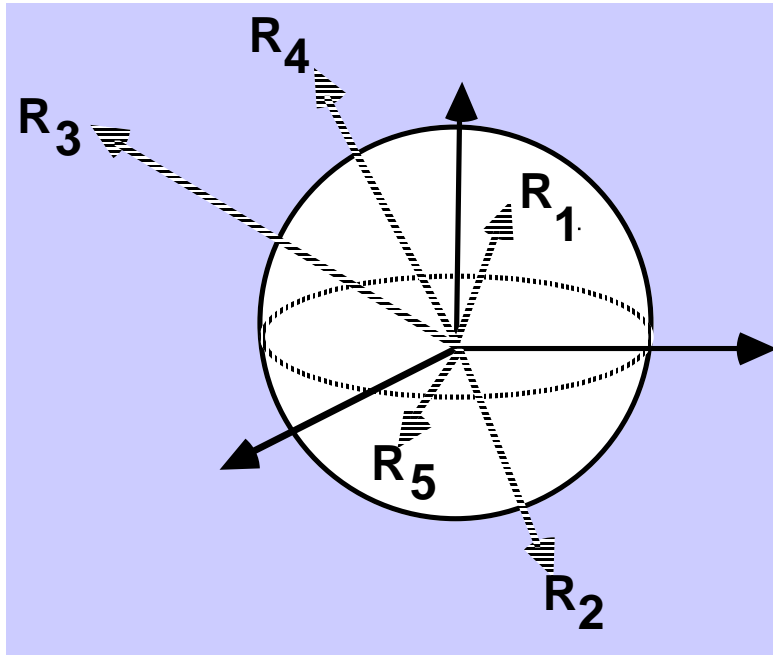
Calculate the value of $Y_{lm}(\phi, \theta)$ at the position of each \vec{e}_n (e.i for each ϕ_n, θ_n). Construct the vectors: $\vec{R}_1, \vec{R}_2, \vec{R}_3, \dots, \vec{R}_n$ where: $\vec{R}_n = \vec{e}_n Y_{lm}(\phi, \theta)$
Draw \vec{R}_n

Consider a unit sphere with radius 1. Draw a large number of unit vectors from the origin of the sphere in different directions (e.i. different θ, ϕ) $\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3, \vec{e}_4, \dots, \vec{e}_n$



Appendix : Drawing Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom

An aside



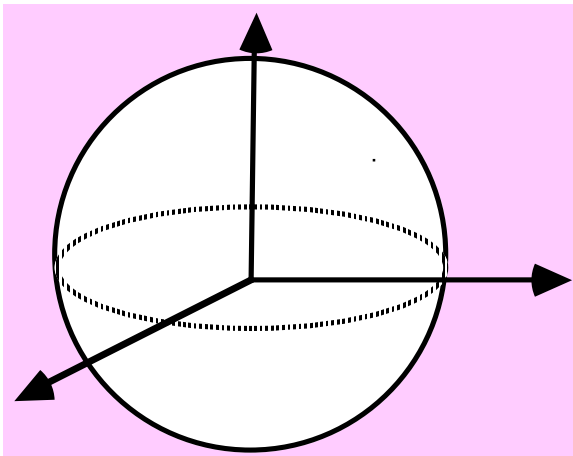
Draw a surface through the endpoints of all \vec{R}_n .

This surface represents $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$

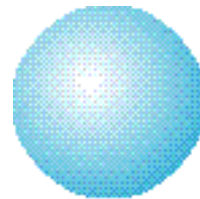
Appendix : Drawing Orbitals of Hydrogenic Atom An aside

For $Y_{00}(\phi, \theta)$ we have

$$\vec{R}_n = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \vec{e}_n \text{ for all } n$$



Thus Y_{00} representing the angular part of a ns function is represented by a sphere



$l = 0, m_l = 0$

ns - orbital

We have that $Y_{00}(\phi, \theta)$ is spherical
e.u. the same for all ϕ_n, θ_n