

**PHYS 551-505**  
**HANDOUT 1 – On the physics of the hydrogen atom**

1. Show in the expression for the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients that  $m = m_1 + m_2$ .

2. Show the orthonormality relation:

$$\sum_{j,m} \langle j_1 j_2 m_1' m_2' | j_1 j_2 j m \rangle \cdot \sum_{j,m} \langle j_1 j_2 j m | j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 \rangle = \delta_{m_1' m_1} \delta_{m_2' m_2}$$

3. Show that the Clebsch-Gordan coefficient is non-zero if  $j_1' = j_1$  and  $j_2' = j_2$ .

4. Show the orthonormality relation:

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2} \langle j_1 j_2 j m | j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 \rangle \cdot \langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 j' m' \rangle = \delta_{jj'} \delta_{mm'}$$

5. Construct the eigenstates of total angular momentum of a hydrogen atom at the excited state  $2p$ .
6. Find the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients for two  $p$  electrons.
7. In the external orbit of the carbon C atom there are two electrons with  $l=1$  for each of them and of course with spin  $s=1/2$ . For reasons that have a deep physical meaning, but we do not explain them here the combination of these for angular momenta is done in two stages as follows: a) first the partial angular momenta  $\mathbf{l}_1, \mathbf{l}_2$  are composed to give the total orbital angular momentum  $\mathbf{L}$ . b) after that the partial angular momenta  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2$  are composed to give the total spin  $\mathbf{s}$ . Then we get the total angular momentum  $\mathbf{j}=\mathbf{L}+\mathbf{s}$ .

Follow the above steps to calculate all the possible values of the total angular momentum  $j$ . Confirm that the number of states before and after the composition remains the same.

8. Show that the product  $\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{s}$  has well defined eigenvalues at states with definite total angular momentum  $\mathbf{j}$ .
9. Two particles with spin  $s_1 = 3/2$  and interact with the Hamiltonian  $H = A \mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \mathbf{s}_2$  where  $A$  is a given constant. Calculate the energy eigenvalues of the system and the degree of degeneracy of the system.