

Synopsis: (mostly revision) Lectures 1-4ish

1 Foundations of quantum physics:

† Historical background; wave mechanics to Schrödinger equation.

2 Quantum mechanics in one dimension:

Unbound particles: potential step, barriers and tunneling; bound states: rectangular well, δ -function well; † Kronig-Penney model .

3 Operator methods:

Uncertainty principle; time evolution operator; Ehrenfest's theorem; † symmetries in quantum mechanics; Heisenberg representation; quantum harmonic oscillator; † coherent states.

4 Quantum mechanics in more than one dimension:

Rigid rotor; angular momentum; raising and lowering operators; representations; central potential; atomic hydrogen.

† non-examinable *in this course*.

Synopsis: Lectures 5-10

5 Charged particle in an electromagnetic field:

Classical and quantum mechanics of particle in a field; normal Zeeman effect; gauge invariance and the Aharonov-Bohm effect; Landau levels, †Quantum Hall effect.

6 Spin:

Stern-Gerlach experiment; spinors, spin operators and Pauli matrices; spin precession in a magnetic field; parametric resonance; addition of angular momenta.

7 Time-independent perturbation theory:

Perturbation series; first and second order expansion; degenerate perturbation theory; Stark effect; nearly free electron model.

8 Variational and WKB method:

Variational method: ground state energy and eigenfunctions; application to helium; †Semiclassics and the WKB method.

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Synopsis: Lectures 11-15

9 Identical particles:

Particle indistinguishability and quantum statistics; space and spin wavefunctions; consequences of particle statistics; ideal quantum gases; †degeneracy pressure in neutron stars; Bose-Einstein condensation in ultracold atomic gases.

10 Atomic structure:

Relativistic corrections – spin-orbit coupling; Darwin term; Lamb shift; hyperfine structure. Multi-electron atoms; Helium; Hartree approximation †and beyond; Hund's rule; periodic table; LS and jj coupling schemes; atomic spectra; Zeeman effect.

11 Molecular structure:

Born-Oppenheimer approximation; H_2^+ ion; H_2 molecule; ionic and covalent bonding; LCAO method; from molecules to solids; †application of LCAO method to graphene; molecular spectra; rotation and vibrational transitions.

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Synopsis: Lectures 16-19

12 **Field theory: from phonons to photons:**

From particles to fields: classical field theory of harmonic atomic chain; quantization of atomic chain; phonons; classical theory of the EM field; †waveguide; quantization of the EM field and photons.

13 **Time-dependent perturbation theory:**

Rabi oscillations in two level systems; perturbation series; sudden approximation; harmonic perturbations and Fermi's Golden rule.

14 **Radiative transitions:**

Light-matter interaction; spontaneous emission; absorption and stimulated emission; Einstein's A and B coefficients; dipole approximation; selection rules; lasers.

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Synopsis: Lectures 20-24

15 Scattering theory

†Elastic and inelastic scattering; †method of particle waves; †Born series expansion; Born approximation from Fermi's Golden rule; †scattering of identical particles.

16 Relativistic quantum mechanics:

†Klein-Gordon equation; †Dirac equation; †relativistic covariance and spin; †free relativistic particles and the Klein paradox; †antiparticles; †coupling to EM field: †minimal coupling and the connection to non-relativistic quantum mechanics; †field quantization.

† non-examinable *in this course*.