

## Hydrogen atom - Superposition of States

exercise 3\_4936

Let  $\varphi_{n\ell m}(\mathbf{r})$  denote the properly-normalized energy eigenfunctions of the Hydrogen atom (H-atom) with principle quantum number  $n$  and angular momentum quantum numbers  $\ell$  and  $m$ . Consider an electron in the following state which is a superposition of H-atom eigenstates:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = C [\varphi_{100}(\mathbf{r}) + 4i\varphi_{210}(\mathbf{r}) - 2\sqrt{2}\varphi_{21-1}(\mathbf{r})]$$

- (a) Find the normalization constant  $C$ . Can  $C$  be complex, real or imaginary?
- (b) What is the expectation value of the Hamiltonian for the H-atom in this superposition of states? Calculate your answer in units of eV.

In parts (c) and (d), find the following expectation values:

- (c) Find  $\langle L^2 \rangle$ .
- (d) Find  $\langle L_z \rangle$ .
- (e) What is the probability of finding the electron in the  $\varphi_{210}(\mathbf{r})$  state?
- (f) If the electron is in the  $\varphi_{100}(\mathbf{r})$  state, find the radius at which the radial probability density is a maximum. How does this compare with the Bohr radius? What is the significance?
- (g) Find the wavefunction  $\psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$  at some later time  $t$ .
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