QM II fall 2018

Questions for oral exam. This is the final list, with 2 questions (21 and 38) added after the draft list.

You may also answer the questions in Finnish.

Week 1: Introduction and reminder of QM I

- 1. What are the operators a, a^{\dagger} for a harmonic oscillator (you don't need to remember formulas, but what do they do?)?
- 2. How does one solve the energy levels of a harmonic oscillator with the operators a, a^{\dagger} ?
- 3. What are the quantum numbers characterizing the states of the hydrogen atom?
- 4. What is the relation between a wave function $\psi(x)$ and the state ket $|\psi\rangle$
- 5. What is a wave function for a particle with a definite momentum **p**?
- 6. What is the relation between a position space wave function $\psi(\mathbf{x})$ and a momentum space one $\psi(\mathbf{p})$?
- 7. For a system with a Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}$, how do you calculate corrections to the energies of the eigenstates in leading order perturbation theory?

Weeks 2 and 3: Time-dependent phenomena

Time dependent perturbation theory

- 8. What are Schrödinger, Heisenberg and interaction pictures of quantum dynamics?
- 9. Define a time-evolution operator $\hat{U}_S(t,t_0)$ in the Schrödinger picture and find $\hat{U}_S(t,t_0)$ in the case of a time independent Hamiltonian \hat{H}_S . Remember, the Schrödinger equation is $i\hbar\partial_t|\psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H}_S|\psi(t)\rangle$.
- 10. Express the time-dependent matrix elements of an operator \hat{A} in Schrödinger and Heisenberg pictures. What can you conclude?
- 11. Assuming that the matrix elements of any given operator \hat{A} are the same both in Schrödinger and Heisenberg pictures, find an expression for the time dependence of the operators on the Heisenberg picture.
- 12. Explain the Heisenberg equation of motion. Signs are not important.
- 13. Use the Heisenberg equation of motion to find the time dependence of the momentum $\hat{p}_H = ip_0(a^{\dagger} a)$ of a harmonic oscillator with Hamiltonian $H = \hbar \omega a^{\dagger} a$.
- 14. The states in an interaction picture are defined as $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = e^{iH_0t/\hbar}|\psi(t)\rangle_S$. Find out the time dependence of the operators \hat{A}_I .
- 15. The states in an interaction picture are defined as $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = e^{iH_0t/\hbar}|\psi(t)\rangle_S$. Find out the equation of motion of those states.
- 16. The time evolution operator $\hat{U}_I(t,t_0)$ in the interaction picture satisfies $\hat{U}_I(t_0,t_0)=\hat{1}$ and

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{U}_I(t, t_0) = \hat{V}_I(t) \hat{U}_I(t, t_0) \tag{1}$$

Use these results to pose a series expansion for $\hat{U}_I(t,t_0)$ in terms of $V_I(t)$.

17. The time-evolution operator $\hat{U}_I(t, t_0)$ in the interaction picture can be expressed as a time-ordered exponential,

$$\hat{U}_I(t, t_0) = T[e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_0}^t dt' \hat{V}_I(t')}], \tag{2}$$

where $\hat{V}_I(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}_0t}V_S(t)e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}_0t}$. The transition probability between (different) energy eigenstates of H_0 , $|\varphi_{i/f}\rangle$ is $P_{fi} = |\langle \varphi_f|\hat{U}_I(t,t_0)|\varphi_i\rangle|^2$. Use these two results to find a lowest-order expression for the transition probability in terms of the matrix elements of \hat{V} .

18. The transition rate W_{fi} is connected to the transition matrix element via the Fermi Golden rule

$$W_{fi} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \delta(E_f - E_i) |T_{fi}|^2 \tag{3}$$

For what type of perturbing potential \hat{V}_S is this valid? What should we assume about the times of the initial and final states?

19. The transition rate W_{fi} is connected to the transition matrix element via the Fermi Golden rule

$$W_{fi} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \delta(E_f - E_i) |T_{fi}|^2 \tag{4}$$

and T_{fi} satisfies the perturbation series

$$T_{fi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \langle \varphi_f | \hat{V}_S \left(\frac{1}{E_i - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V}_S \right)^n | \varphi_i \rangle.$$
 (5)

Find out the fourth-order (in \hat{V}_S) contribution to the transition rate.

20. The transition rate W_{fi} is connected to the transition matrix element via the Fermi Golden rule

$$W_{fi} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \delta(E_f - E_i) |T_{fi}|^2 \tag{6}$$

For $E_i = E_f$ this seems to diverge. How would you get a finite result?

- 21. Write down an expression for T_{fi} that you need to calculate the ionization rate of atomic hydrogen under a perturbation potential $V(t) = V_0 \cos(\omega t)$ with Fermi's golden rule.
- 22. What is the Fermi golden rule for a harmonic perturbation of the form $\hat{V}_S = \hat{K}e^{-i\omega t} + \hat{K}^{\dagger}e^{i\omega t}$? (Prefactors are not essential)
- 23. How do you change the sum over final states for particles in a 3D box of size $V = L^3$ to an integral, i.e. how do you calculate the density of states $\rho(\mathbf{k})$ in

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} = \int \mathrm{d}k \rho(k)? \tag{7}$$

24. When you calculate the ionization rate into free electrons for a hydrogen atom under a perturbation potential using Fermi's golden rule, the normalization of plane wave states depends on the size of your box L^3 . However, in the physical result this dependence cancels, how?

Interaction with a classical electromagnetic field

- 25. What are kinetic and canonical momenta?
- 26. How is the coupling of a charged particle with an electromagnetic field incorporated in the Schrödinger equation ("minimal substitution")?
- 27. The Pauli Hamiltonian, describing a spin-1/2 particle coupled with an electromagnetic field, reads

$$H_{s=1/2} = \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{p} - q\vec{A}(\hat{x}, t))^2 \hat{1}_{2\times 2} - \frac{q\hbar}{2m} \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}(\hat{x}, t) + q\varphi(\vec{x}, t) \hat{1}_{2\times 2}$$
(8)

Show that for a position independent magnetic field $\vec{B}(t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(t)$, the spin and spatial dependence of the wavefunction are separated.

- 28. Explain the gauge invariance of a classical electromagnetic field coupled with a quantum-mechanical charged particle. Small typos are not relevant.
- 29. Show that the electric and magnetic fields are invariant under the gauge transformation $\vec{A} \mapsto \vec{A} + \nabla f$, $\varphi \mapsto \varphi \partial_t f$.
- 30. The gauge invariance of the electromagnetic field can be expressed via $\vec{A} \mapsto \vec{A} + \nabla f$, $\varphi \mapsto \varphi \partial_t f$. What should one do with the wave function?
- 31. What are Landau levels?
- 32. How do you derive the energy states for a particle in a constant magnetic field from the Pauli equation (8)?
- 33. Consider electrons passing a double-slit interferometer that contains a solenoid with a magnetic field $\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}$ that vanishes within the "classical" path of the electrons. Explain why the interference pattern formed in a film placed behind the double slit is a periodic function of the magnetic flux Φ , and find the corresponding flux period. You can use the fact that the wave function for the electrons satisfies $\psi_{\vec{A}} = e^{\frac{iq}{\hbar} \int_C d\vec{x}' \cdot \vec{A}} \psi_{\vec{A}=0}$. Remember also that $\oint d\vec{x} \cdot \vec{A} = \int d\vec{S} (\nabla \times \vec{A})$.
- 34. Explain the Aharonov-Bohm effect.
- 35. Consider an atom in a classical electromagnetic field, $\vec{A} = A_0 \vec{\epsilon} \cos(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} \omega t)$. How does one usually approximate this potential for atomic transitions?
- 36. How does the Pauli Hamiltonian

$$H_{s=1/2} = \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{p} - q\vec{A}(\hat{x}, t))^2 \hat{1}_{2\times 2} - \frac{q\hbar}{2m} \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}(\hat{x}, t) + q\varphi(\vec{x}, t) \hat{1}_{2\times 2}$$
(9)

simplify in the radiation gauge?

37. Starting from the Hamiltonian for a spin-1/2 particle in an electromagnetic field

$$H_{s=1/2} = \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{p} - q\vec{A}(\hat{x}, t))^2 \hat{1}_{2\times 2} - \frac{q\hbar}{2m} \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}(\hat{x}, t) + q\varphi(\vec{x}, t) \hat{1}_{2\times 2}, \tag{10}$$

how does one get the dipole approximation for atomic transitions?

38. Write down an expression for T_{fi} that you need in order to calculate the ionization rate of atomic hydrogen in ultraviolet light with Fermi's golden rule.

Adiabatic approximation

- 39. Explain the essence of the adiabatic approximation (in the non-degenerate case). What is the requirement for the validity of the approximation?
- 40. Consider changing N parameters $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^N$ of a system slowly. Within adiabatic approximation, the time-dependent state (starting in the nth eigenstate, assuming lack of degeneracies) of the system can be written as

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t E_n(t')dt' - \int_0^t dt' \langle \psi_n(t')|\dot{\psi}_n(t')\rangle} |\psi_n(t)\rangle$$
 (11)

Interpret the different phases and explain their qualitative difference regarding the speed of changing the parameters.

41. Consider changing N parameters $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^N$ of a system slowly. Within adiabatic approximation, the time-dependent state (starting in the nth eigenstate, assuming lack of degeneracies) of the system can be written as

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t E_n(t')dt' - \int_0^t dt' \langle \psi_n(t')|\dot{\psi}_n(t')\rangle} |\psi_n(t)\rangle \tag{12}$$

Consider a periodic change of parameters and derive a formula for the Berry phase (independent of the time t).

Weeks 4 and 5: scattering theory

- 42. What is a scattering cross section? What does it measure?
- 43. What is the differential scattering cross section $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$?
- 44. The current density in QM can be defined in terms of the wave function via

$$\mathbf{j} = \frac{\hbar}{m} \operatorname{Im}[\Psi^* \nabla \Psi].$$

Find out the current density of a plane wave $\Psi(r) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}/\sqrt{2\pi}$.

45. Quantum scattering problem (in 3 dimensions). For a wave function satisfying

$$(\nabla^2 + k^2)\Psi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} V(\mathbf{r})\Psi(\mathbf{r})$$
(13)

with the boundary condition

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{r} \to \infty} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \left[e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} f_k(\theta, \varphi) \right]$$
 (14)

Interpret the different parts of the boundary condition (14). What is the relation to the (differential) cross section?

46. Consider the (normalized) Schrödinger equation, Eq. (13), and use the solution $\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(r)$ of the corresponding homogeneous equation and the Green's function satisfying

$$(\nabla^2 + k^2)G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$
(15)

to pose Eq. (13) in an integral equation form.

- 47. Sketch the Lippmann-Schwinger integral equation corresponding to the quantum-mechanical 3D elastic scattering problem. Which part of the equation represents the fact that you are solving a scattering problem?
- 48. Calculate the Green's function solving

$$(\nabla^2 + k^2)G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$
(16)

needed in the 3D scattering problem. Hint: use $k \mapsto k + i\varepsilon$. You can start from the form $G_{\mathbf{k}}(r) = I_k(r)/(4\pi^2 ri)$ with

$$I_k(r) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}q \frac{q e^{iqr}}{(k+i\epsilon)^2 - q^2}.$$

Why does the choice $k + i\varepsilon$ correspond to the physical situation of scattering?

49. The Lippmann-Schwinger integral equation for the scattering problem is of the form

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') U(\mathbf{r}') \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}')$$
(17)

with $G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{e^{ik|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$. Using this result and the boundary condition (14), express the scattering amplitude in terms of the total wave function.

50. Sketch the Born series solution to the Lippmann-Schwinger equation

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') U(\mathbf{r}') \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}'). \tag{18}$$

51. Using the Lippmann-Schwinger equation

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' G_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') U(\mathbf{r}') \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}')$$
(19)

extract the Born series for the scattering amplitude. Give also a graphical interpretation of the different terms in this series.

- 52. Explain Born series and Born approximation.
- 53. In the first Born approximation the scattering amplitude is given by

$$f_B(\theta, \varphi) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} e^{i(\mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_f) \cdot \mathbf{r}} U(\mathbf{r}). \tag{20}$$

Consider a spherically symmetric potential, $U(\mathbf{r}) = U(|\mathbf{r}|)$. How does $f_B(\theta, \varphi)$ depend on φ ? What is the symmetry of $f_B(\theta, \varphi)$ on inversion of θ to $-\theta$?

- 54. What is the optical theorem?
- 55. What is the scattering length?
- 56. Calculate the scattering length in the Born approximation

$$f_B(\theta, \varphi) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} e^{i(\mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_f) \cdot \mathbf{r}} U(\mathbf{r}). \tag{21}$$

57. From the decomposition

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell+1)e^{i\delta_{\ell}} \sin \delta_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$
 (22)

calculate the total cross section.

58. Based on

$$\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell + 1) \sin^2 \delta_{\ell} \tag{23}$$

explain the partial wave unitarity bound.

59. What is a sufficient condition that the scattering amplitude can be expressed as

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell+1) f_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta).$$
 (24)

60. If you know the potential that one scatters off, describe how you calculate δ_{ℓ} in

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell+1)e^{i\delta_{\ell}} \sin \delta_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$
 (25)

61. For

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell+1)e^{i\delta_{\ell}} \sin \delta_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$
 (26)

when is there a resonance?

62. Using

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\ell=0} (2\ell+1)e^{i\delta_{\ell}} \sin \delta_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$
 (27)

assume that one partial wave ℓ is much larger than the others, and that for scattering energies E close to some value E_0 we have $\cot \delta_l \approx c(E-E_0)$. Calculate how the cross section depends on $E-E_0$.

Weeks 6 and 7: rotations

The CG table at the end is at your free disposal.

- 63. What is the algebra of SU(2) generators?
- 64. What is the Wigner-Eckart theorem?
- 65. What is a spherical tensor?
- 66. What is the spherical basis for a 3-component vector V^i ?
- 67. Write down an expression for the transformation matrix for a two-component vector describing a spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ -state under a rotation of angle θ around the axis **n**.
- 68. What are the Euler angles?
- 69. In the CG table you will find $d_{1/2,-1/2}^{1/2}(\theta) = -\sin\frac{\theta}{2}$. What is it?
- 70. What is $(J_x + iJ_y)|j m = j\rangle$?
- 71. Calculate the coefficient C_{im} in $(J_x + iJ_y)|jm\rangle = C_{im}|jm+1\rangle$
- 72. Express $|j_1 = \frac{1}{2}, j_2 = \frac{1}{2}, J = 1, m = 0 \rangle$ in terms of $|j_1 = \frac{1}{2}, m_1 \rangle \otimes |j_2 = \frac{1}{2}, m_2 \rangle$.
- 73. Express $|j_1 = \frac{1}{2}, j_2 = \frac{1}{2}, J = 0, m = 0 \rangle$ in terms of $|j_1 = \frac{1}{2}, m_1 \rangle \otimes |j_2 = \frac{1}{2}, m_2 \rangle$.
- 74. Express $|j_1=1, j_2=\frac{1}{2}, J=\frac{1}{2}, m=\frac{1}{2}\rangle$ in terms of $|j_1=1, m_1\rangle \otimes |j_2=\frac{1}{2}, m_2\rangle$.
- 75. Show that a matrix that rotates 3-dimensional vectors \mathbf{r} is an SO(3) matrix.
- 76. What are a, b, c in $11 \otimes 3 = a \oplus b \oplus c$? (Numbers are 2j + 1).
- 77. What is $\langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 JM \rangle = \langle j_1 j_2 j_1 j_2 | j_1 j_2 (j_1 + j_2) (j_1 + j_2) \rangle$?
- 78. Calculate $\langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 JM \rangle = \langle 1 \, 1 \, m_1 m_2 | 1 \, 1 \, 1 \, 1 \rangle$.
- 79. What are the selection rules of lowest-order transitions caused by a radiation field on a charged particle in a rotationally invariant potential?
- 80. Show that \mathbf{r} is an irreducible spherical tensor.
- 81. When the operator xz is written as a sum of irreducible spherical tensors $T_q^{(k)}$, what values of k and q appear?
- 82. The Wigner-Eckart theorem states that

$$\langle \alpha_1 j_1 m_1 | T_q^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2 m_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2j_1 + 1}} \langle j_2 k m_2 q | j_2 k j_1 m_1 \rangle (\alpha_1 j_1 | T^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2)$$
 (28)

What do the symbols in this equation mean?

83. The Wigner-Eckart theorem states that

$$\langle \alpha_1 j_1 m_1 | T_q^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2 m_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2j_1 + 1}} \langle j_2 k m_2 q | j_2 k j_1 m_1 \rangle (\alpha_1 j_1 | T^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2). \tag{29}$$

How can you use it to express $\langle \ell' m' | x | \ell m \rangle$ in terms of $\langle \ell' m' | z | \ell m \rangle$?

84. The Wigner-Eckart theorem states that

$$\langle \alpha_1 j_1 m_1 | T_q^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2 m_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2j_1 + 1}} \langle j_2 k m_2 q | j_2 k j_1 m_1 \rangle (\alpha_1 j_1 | T^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2). \tag{30}$$

Why does it lead to the selection rule $m-m'=0,\pm 1$ for the dipole transition matrix element $\langle \ell'm'|\mathbf{r}|\ell m\rangle$?

85. The Wigner-Eckart theorem states that

$$\langle \alpha_1 j_1 m_1 | T_q^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2 m_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2j_1 + 1}} \langle j_2 k m_2 q | j_2 k j_1 m_1 \rangle (\alpha_1 j_1 | T^{(k)} | \alpha_2 j_2). \tag{31}$$

Why does it lead to the selection rule $\ell-\ell'=0,\pm 1$ for the dipole transition matrix element $\langle \ell'm'|\mathbf{r}|\ell m\rangle$?

- 86. How can you obtain the selection rule $\ell \neq \ell'$ for the dipole transition matrix element $\langle \ell' m' | \mathbf{r} | \ell m \rangle$?
- 87. Show that the Gaunt formula

$$\int d\Omega (Y_{\ell}^{m})^{*} Y_{\ell_{1}}^{m_{1}} Y_{\ell_{2}}^{m_{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{(2\ell_{1}+1)(2\ell_{2}+1)}{4\pi(2\ell+1)}} \langle \ell_{1}\ell_{2}m_{1}m_{2}|\ell_{1}\ell_{2}\ell m \rangle \langle \ell_{1}\ell_{2}00|\ell_{1}\ell_{2}\ell 0 \rangle$$
(32)

leads to the selection rule $|\ell-\ell'| \leq 1$ for dipole transitions.

44. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND d FUNCTIONS

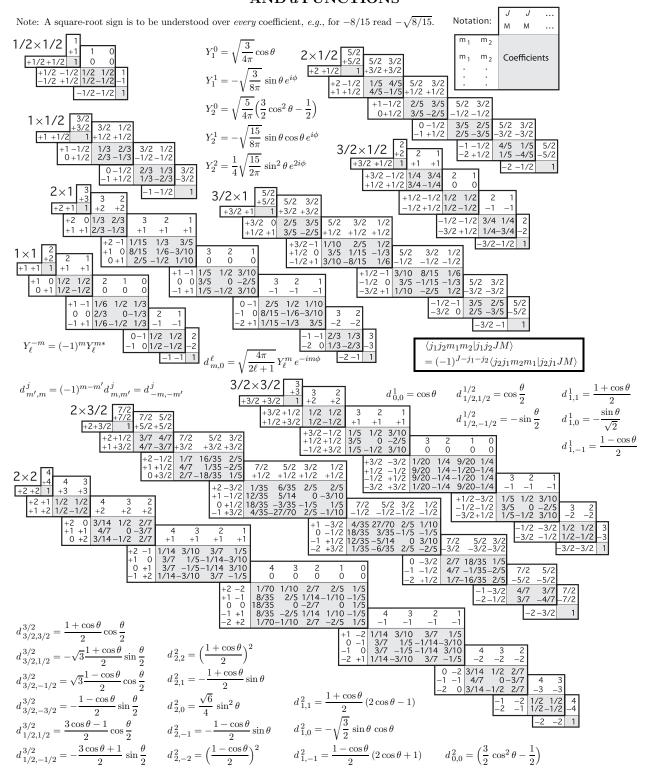


Figure 44.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974).