

Part 1

$$e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{r}} = 4\pi \sum_{LM} i^L j_L(Kr) Y_{LM}^*(\hat{K}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}) \quad (1)$$

Part 2

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{r}_j - \vec{R}(t)|} = \sum_{LM} \frac{4\pi}{2L+1} \frac{r_{<}^L}{r_{>}^{L+1}} Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}) \quad (2)$$

Part 3

$$V_{fi} = \langle \Phi_f(\vec{r}) | \sum_{LM} \frac{4\pi}{2L+1} \frac{r_{<}^L}{r_{>}^{L+1}} Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}) | \Phi_i(\vec{r}) \rangle \quad (3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} r_{<} &= r, & r_{>} &= R & \text{for } |\vec{r}| < |\vec{R}| \\ r_{<} &= R, & r_{>} &= r & \text{for } |\vec{r}| > |\vec{R}| \end{aligned}$$

then:

$$V_{fi} = \langle R_f^*(\vec{r}) Y_{l_f m_f}^*(\hat{r}) | \sum_{LM} \frac{4\pi}{2L+1} \frac{r_{<}^L}{r_{>}^{L+1}} Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}) | R_i(\vec{r}) Y_{l_i m_i}(\hat{r}) \rangle \quad (4)$$

$$V_{fi} = \sum_{LM} \frac{4\pi}{2L+1} \int_0^R r^2 dr \frac{r^L}{R^{L+1}} R_f^*(\vec{r}) [Y_{l_f m_f}^*(\hat{r}) Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r})] R_i(\vec{r}) Y_{l_i m_i}(\hat{r}) +$$

$$\int_R^\infty r^2 dr \frac{R^L}{r^{L+1}} R_f^*(\vec{r}) [Y_{l_f m_f}^*(\hat{r}) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}) Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R})] R_i(\vec{r}) Y_{l_i m_i}(\hat{r}) \quad (5)$$

This can be described by a simple notation

$$V_{fi} = \sum_{LM} \frac{4\pi}{2L+1} [G_{fi}^L(R(t))] [Y_{LM}^*(\hat{R})] [C^L] \quad (6)$$

where $G_{fi}^L(R(t))$ is called The G-function and C^L is composed of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients. The matrix element is different from zero only if:

$$M = m_i + m_f$$

and

$$|l_i - l_f| \leq L \leq |l_i + l_f|$$

on

$$l_f + L + l_i$$

is even.

As can be seen above, we denote

$$\begin{aligned} G_{fi}^L[R(t)] &= \int_0^\infty R_f^*(\vec{r}) \frac{r^L <}{r^{L+1} >} R_i(\vec{r}) r^2 dr = \\ &= \frac{1}{R^{L+1}} \int_0^R r^L r^2 dr R_f^*(\vec{r}) R_i(\vec{r}) + R^L \int_R^\infty \frac{1}{r^{L+1}} r^2 dr R_f^*(\vec{r}) R_i(\vec{r}) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$R_i(\vec{r})$ and $R_f(\vec{r})$ are the radial wave functions for initial and final states.

The integration over the angular parts, which is the integral over three spherical harmonics, gives

$$C^L = \int Y_{l_f m_f}^*(\theta, \varphi) Y_{LM}(\theta, \varphi) Y_{l_i m_i}(\theta, \varphi) d\Omega \quad (8)$$

$$(-1)^{m_f} \left[\frac{(2l_f + 1)(2L + 1)(2l_i + 1)}{4\pi} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} l_f & L & l_i \\ -m_f & M & m_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_f & L & l_i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

This is known as Gaunt's formula, and the numerical values $\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{pmatrix}$ are Wigner-3j symbols, up to a factor equal to Clebsch-Gordan coefficients.