

# The Normal Zeeman Effect

will now discuss the behavior of the H atom in a normal magnetic field. In the beginning we will use a semiclassical model (called the vector model), where the electron motion is described by a classical orbit, while the angular momentum is given by quantum mechanical expression

$$L = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar$$

electron with charge  $-e$  moving with the velocity  $v$  in a circular orbit of radius  $r$  with angular frequency  $\nu = v/(2\pi r)$  on a circle with current  $i$  represents an electric current

$$i = -ev = -\frac{ev}{2\pi r} \quad (5.24)$$

causes a magnetic moment

$$\mu = iA = i\pi r^2 \hat{n} \quad (5.25)$$

where  $A = \pi r^2 \hat{n}$  is the area vector perpendicular to the plane of the motion (Fig. 5.8).

the angular momentum of the circulating electron

$$L = r \times p = m_e r v \hat{n} \quad (5.26)$$

comparison of (5.25) and (5.26) gives the relation

$$\mu = -\frac{e}{2m_e} L \quad (5.27)$$

orbital magnetic moment  $\mu$  and angular momentum  $L$  of the electron. Since  $\mu$  is proportional to  $L$ , the orbital magnetic moment is often labeled  $\mu_l$ .

In an external magnetic field the potential energy of the magnetic dipole with magnetic moment  $\mu$  is

$$E = -\mu \cdot B \quad (5.28)$$

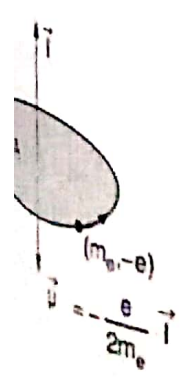


Fig. 5.8. Classical model of orbital angular momentum  $L$  and magnetic moment  $\mu$

Using the relation (5.27) this can be expressed by the angular momentum  $l$  as

$$E_{\text{pot}} = +\frac{e}{2m_e} L \cdot B \quad (5.29)$$

When the magnetic field points into the  $z$ -direction ( $B = (0, 0, B_z = B)$ ), we obtain from (5.29), because of  $L_z = m\hbar$ ,

$$E_{\text{pot}} = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e} m B, \quad (5.30)$$

where  $m$  (which had been introduced before as the projection of  $L$  onto the  $z$ -axis) is called the magnetic quantum number, that can take the values  $-l \leq m \leq +l$ .

The constant factor in (5.30)

$$\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e} = 9.274015 \times 10^{-24} \text{ J/T} \quad (5.31)$$

is called the *Bohr magneton*.

We can now write the additional energy caused by the magnetic field as

$$\Delta E_m = \mu_B m B, \quad (5.32)$$

which gives for the energies of the hydrogen atomic states in an external magnetic field:

$$E_{n,l,m} = E_{\text{Coul}}(n) + \mu_B m B \quad (5.33)$$

The  $2l+1$   $m$  states that are degenerate without magnetic field split into  $2l+1$  equidistant Zeeman components with an energetic distance (Fig. 5.9)

$$\Delta E = E_{n,l,m} - E_{n,l,m-1} = \mu_B B, \quad (5.34)$$

which is determined by the product of Bohr magneton  $\mu_B$  and magnetic field strength  $B$ .

The splitting of the  $2l+1$  degenerate  $m$  components in an external magnetic field  $B$  due to the orbital magnetic moment related to the angular momentum  $|L| = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar$  is called the *normal Zeeman effect*.

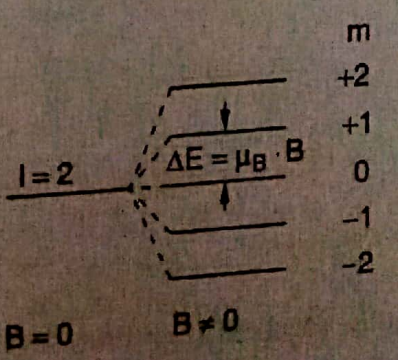


Fig. 5.9. Zeeman splitting of a level with  $l=2$  in a homogeneous magnetic field (normal Zeeman effect)



Using the Bohr magneton (5.11) we can write the orbital magnetic moment of the electron as

$$\vec{\mu}_l = -(\mu_B / \hbar) \vec{L} \quad (5.34x)$$

Since the external magnetic field with cylindrical symmetry breaks the spherical symmetry of the Coulomb potential the orbital angular momentum  $l$  of the electron is no longer constant, because the torque

$$\vec{D} = \vec{\mu}_l \times \vec{B} \quad (5.34y)$$

acts on the electron. In the case of a magnetic field  $\vec{B} = [0, 0, B_z = B]$  in the  $z$  direction the  $z$  component of  $l$  stays constant. The vector  $l$  precesses around the  $z$ -axis on a cone with the apex angle  $2\alpha$  (Fig. 5.10), where

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{l_z}{|l|} = \frac{m}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}} \quad (5.34z)$$

The component  $l_z$  has the values

$$l_z = mh \quad \text{with} \quad -l \leq m \leq +l \quad (5.35)$$

Also, the absolute value of  $l$

$$|l| = \sqrt{l(l+1)}\hbar \quad (5.36)$$

is well defined, while the two other components  $l_x$  and  $l_y$  are not defined (see Sect. 4.4.2). Their quantum mechanical expectation value is zero, as is the classical time averaged value.

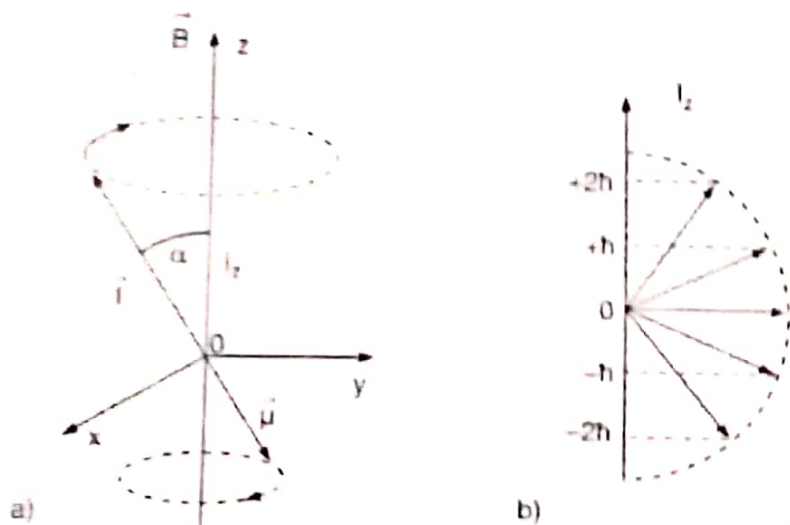


Fig. 5.10a,b. Vector model of the normal Zeeman effect. (a) Classical model of orbital angular momentum precessing around the field axis. (b) Possible orientations of  $l$  and projections  $m\hbar$  in the quantum mechanical description.

For the absorption or emission of light in a magnetic field, our model makes the following predictions:

When a circularly polarized  $\sigma^+$  light wave propagates into the  $z$  direction all photons have the same energy. If they are absorbed by atoms in the magnetic field  $\vec{B} = [0, 0, B_z = B]$  they transfer their spin  $\hbar$  to the atoms (because of conservation of angular momentum) and therefore cause transitions with  $\Delta l_z = \hbar$ . The quantum number  $m$  changes by  $+1$ .

For  $\sigma^-$  polarization of the light wave transitions with  $\Delta m = -1$  are induced.

A similar consideration is valid for the emission of light by atoms in a magnetic field. For the emission into the direction of the magnetic field (i.e., the  $z$  direction) the two circularly polarized  $\sigma^+$  and  $\sigma^-$  components are observed, while for light emitted in the direction perpendicular to the field three unpolarized components are observed. One component with the  $l$  vector parallel to  $B$ , which is not shifted against the field-free transition, and two components with  $l \perp B$ , which are shifted to opposite sides of the unshifted line (Fig. 5.11).

According to (5.34), the Zeeman splitting  $\Delta E = \mu_B B$  is independent of the quantum number  $l$ . This implies that all atomic states should have the same separation of the Zeeman components. Therefore every spectral line corresponding to a transition  $(n_1, l_1) \rightarrow (n_2, l_2)$  should always split in a magnetic field into three Zeeman components (Fig. 5.12) with  $\sigma^+$ ,  $\sigma^-$  and  $\pi$  polarization and a frequency separation of

$$\Delta\nu = \mu_B B / h$$

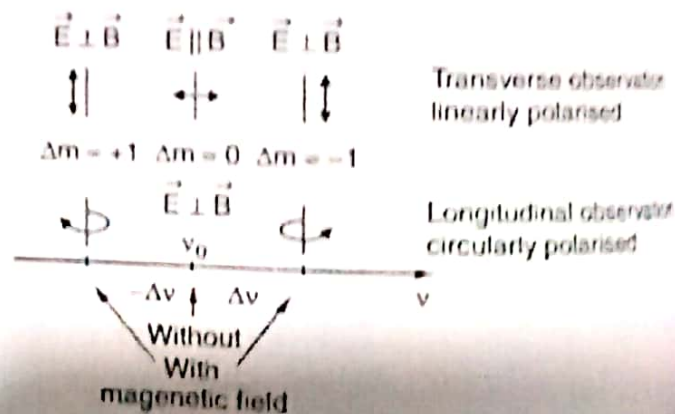
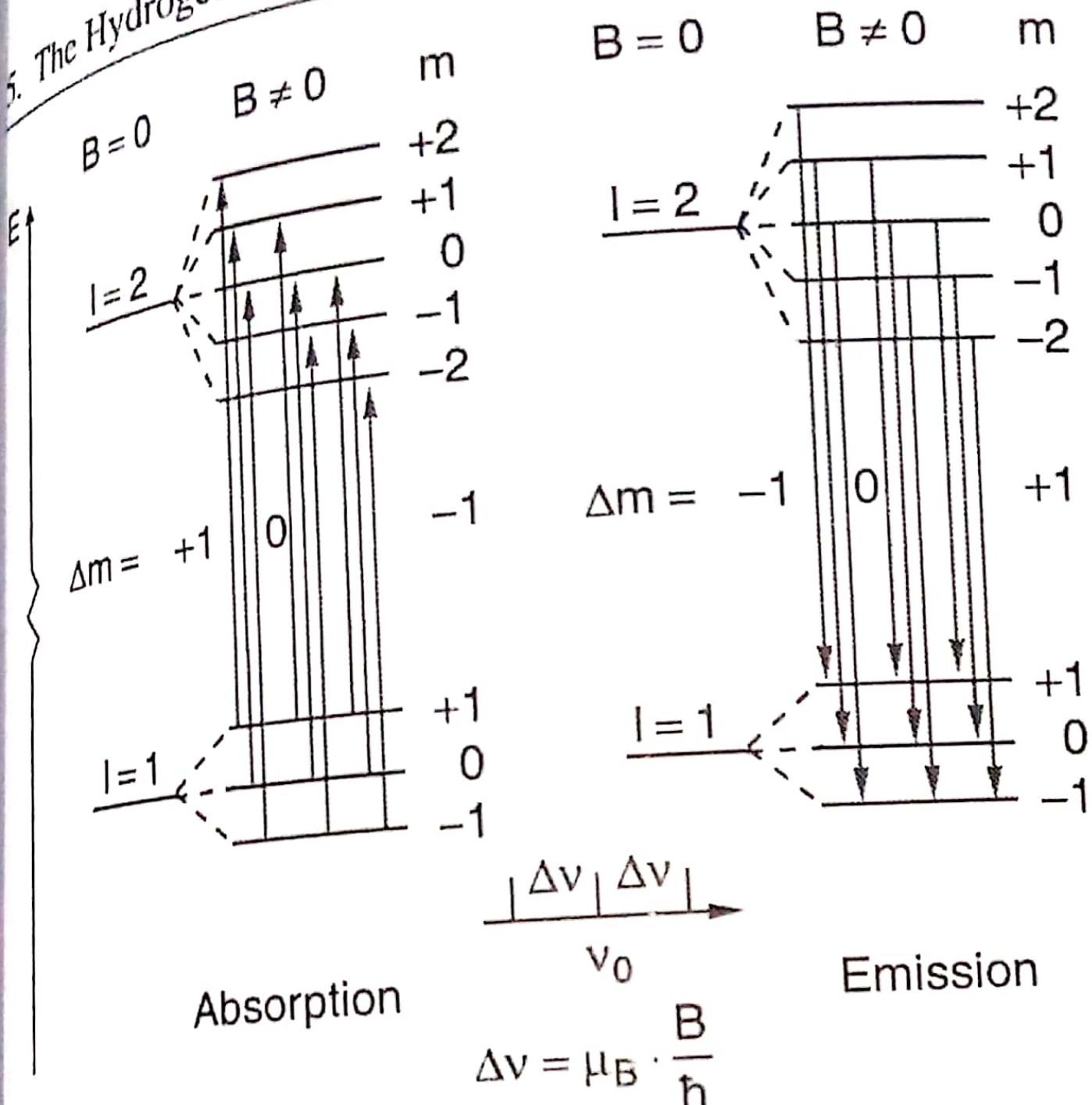


Fig. 5.11. Normal Zeeman effect. Zeeman splitting and polarizations of a spectral line with frequency  $\nu_0$  observed in emission. The splitting is  $\Delta\nu = \mu_B B / h$ .

# 5. The Hydrogen Atom



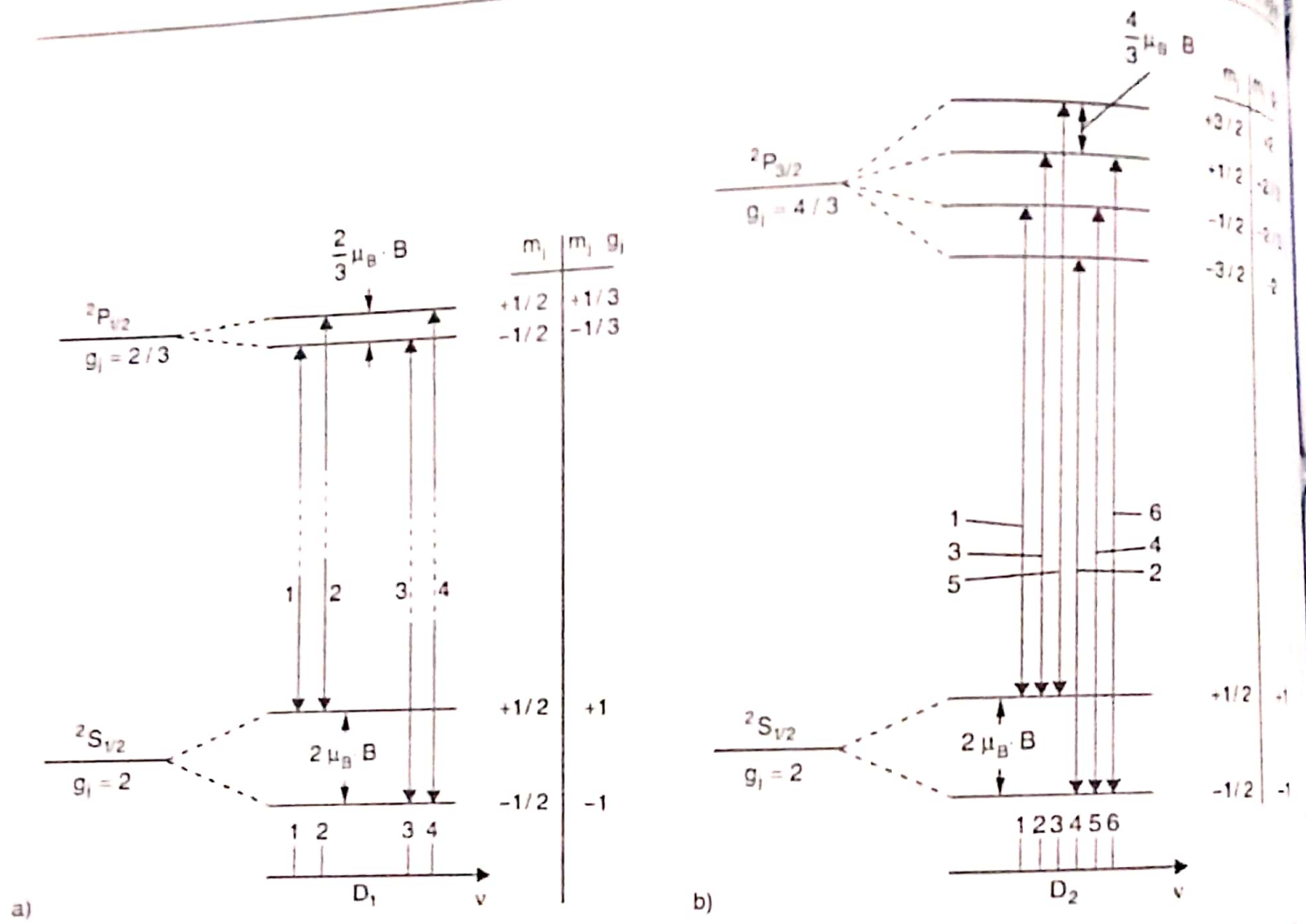


Fig. 5.24a,b. Anomalous Zeeman effect of the transitions (a)  $^2P_{1/2} \leftarrow ^2S_{1/2}$  and (b)  $^2P_{3/2} \leftarrow ^2S_{1/2}$  neglecting hyperfine structure

# Paschen Back Effect:

Strong External magnetic field

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\text{mag}} &= -\vec{A}_j \cdot \vec{B}_z \\
 &= -\vec{A}_{Lz} \cdot \vec{B}_z - \vec{A}_{Sz} \cdot \vec{B}_z \\
 &= \frac{e}{2m_e} B_0 L_z + \frac{e}{2m_e} B_0 S_z \\
 &= \mu_B B_0 m_l + 2\mu_B B_0 m_s
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{V_{\text{mag}} = \mu_B (m_l + 2m_s) B_0}$$

$$\mu_{Lz} = \frac{\mu_B L_z}{\hbar}$$

$$\mu_{Sz} = \frac{\mu_B}{\hbar} 2S_z$$

$$\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$$

