

Angular factors for radiative and collisional transitions in complex atoms and ions

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We present explicit expressions for the angular factors of radiative and collisional transitions in complex atoms and ions. *LS*, *jj*, and *jl* coupling are all considered. The formulae derived here are amenable to a simple interpretation, and are given in a form suitable for application to kinetic problems. These expressions automatically incorporate the summation and averaging appropriate to transitions between “effective levels.” © 1995 American Institute of Physics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Interest in the study of collisional and radiative transitions in complex atoms and ions has grown of late, both from the standpoint of a fundamental description of multiparticle systems and in terms of applications to laboratory and astrophysical plasmas (see, e.g., Ref. 1).

Probabilities and cross sections can be cast in terms of sums of products of radial and angular components. The radial part has normally received most of the attention, and a multitude of variational and other methods have been developed in the process (see, e.g., Refs. 2–4). In the present paper, we address the angular part. At the heart of the method for finding the latter are the angular coefficients of the transition amplitudes for some type of “pure” coupling scheme; more often than not, one chooses *LS* coupling. In principle, the angular coefficients can be expressed in terms of Racah coefficients or Wigner *j*-symbols,⁴ but they must be rederived in each individual instance. Here we present a simple and physically transparent method for writing such expressions in terms of *M*-functions. These functions⁵ can be written in terms of Wigner *9j* symbols, and make it possible—as will be shown below—to write out the angular transition factor for the various types of coupling (*LS*, *jj*, *jl*) essentially by inspection (i.e., based solely on “general considerations”).

Plasma level populations and line intensities are governed by the equations of balance, which incorporate collision rates and radiative transition probabilities. If all of the levels in complex atoms or ions are specified by a complete set of quantum numbers—right on up to the total angular momentum *J*—then there will be an inordinate number of such levels. One way to reduce the number of levels without increasing the errors is to identify blocks of similarly populated levels (i.e., levels whose statistical weight ratios are similar) and replace them with “effective levels.”

One can derive the angular factors for transitions between effective levels using general expressions that include summation (or averaging) over the various systems of initial- and final-state quantum numbers, but there are dozens of possibilities. Among these expressions are, for instance, those in which one of the levels is specified by a complete set of quantum numbers (in other words, it is not an “effective level”), while the other is summed over the total angular momentum, or over the total orbital momentum but not the total spin. Likewise, both levels might need to be summed

over the total angular momentum, etc. We present below a comprehensive expression that automatically subsumes all possible summation schemes over angular quantum numbers.

2. *M*-FUNCTIONS AND *Q*-FACTORS

In the system of angular quantum numbers describing an atom, let there be a triple **j** (*j*₃, *j*₂, *j*₁) such that the angular momentum *j*₁ corresponds to the sum of *j*₃ and *j*₂. An interaction characterized by the triple of multipole orders (*q*, *k*, *v*) sends **j** into **j'** (*j*₃', *j*₂', *j*₁'). To describe this process, we define the *M*-function:

$$M_{qkv}(\mathbf{j}-\mathbf{j}') = [j_1 j_1' v] \begin{Bmatrix} j_3 & j_3' & q \\ j_2 & j_2' & k \\ j_1 & j_1' & v \end{Bmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$[j_1, j_2 \dots j_n] \equiv [(2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1) \dots (2j_n + 1)]^{1/2}, \quad (2)$$

and the expression in braces is the Wigner *9j* symbol.

The properties of the *M*-functions follow from the corresponding properties of the *9j* symbols; specifically,

$$\sum_{j_1 j_1'} M_{qkv}^2(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}') = \frac{[v]^2}{[qk]^2}, \quad \sum_{j_1 j_1'} M_{qkv}^2(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}') = 1. \quad (3)$$

If one of the multipole orders is zero, the *M*-function can be expressed in terms of a *6j* symbol. We will also need the following relations:

$$M_{0kk}(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}') = (-1)^{j_3 + j_2' + j_1 + k} \frac{[j_1 j_1']}{[j_3]} \times \begin{Bmatrix} j_1' & j_1 & k \\ j_2 & j_2' & j_3 \end{Bmatrix} \delta_{j_3 j_3'},$$

$$M_{kk0}(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}') = (-1)^{j_3' + j_2 + j_1 + k} \frac{[j_1]}{[k]} \times \begin{Bmatrix} j_3' & j_3 & k \\ j_2 & j_2' & j_1 \end{Bmatrix} \delta_{j_1 j_1'}, \quad (4)$$

$$M_{000}(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}') = \frac{[j_3]}{[j_1 j_2]} \delta_{\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}'}. \quad (5)$$

When the only difference between the first and second triples is that the latter is primed, we omit it for brevity:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{qkv}(\mathbf{j}) &\equiv M_{qkv}(j_3 j_2 j_1) \equiv M_{qkv}(j_3 j_2 j_1, j_3' j_2' j_1') \\ &\equiv M_{qkv}(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{j}'). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The Q -factors are angular multipliers that enable one to express the squares of matrix elements (or their sums), which determine the transition probabilities (or cross sections) in complex atoms, in terms of the corresponding quantities for a one-electron atom.

We begin by considering the Q -factors for one-electron transitions. Let the atom be described in the LS coupling scheme by a set of angular quantum numbers γ ($S_c L_c l S L J$), where S, L, J represents the spin, orbital, and total angular momentum, l is the orbital momentum of the electron making the transition, and S_c, L_c represents the spin and orbital momentum of the atomic core. The probability W_k of an electric radiative transition of multipole order k , for example, can then be written in the form

$$W_k(\gamma \rightarrow \gamma') = Q_k w_k(nl \rightarrow n'l'), \quad (7)$$

where w is the corresponding transition probability for a one-electron atom. For the case at hand, the expression for Q_k can be found, for example, in the book by Sobel'man.² In terms of M -functions,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_k &= \frac{g_o}{g(\gamma)} |[S_c] M_{000}(S_c s S) [L_c] M_{0kk}(L_c l L) \\ &\quad \times M_{0kk}(SLJ)|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $g(\gamma) = [J]^2$ is the statistical weight of the state γ , and $s = 1/2$ and $g_o = [s]^2$ are the spin and statistical weight of the optical electron. Equation (8) gives the transition probability between fine-structure components. For transitions between terms, i.e., probabilities summed over J' and averaged over J , we can replace the J -dependent last M -function with the value 1, by virtue of (3). Finally, then, the statistical weight is $g(\gamma) = [SL]^2$. For transitions between levels, $\gamma = (S_c L_c l S L)$, the Q -factor is

$$Q_k = \frac{g_o}{g(\gamma)} |[S_c M_{000}(S_c s S) [L_c] M_{0kk}(L_c l L)]|^2. \quad (8a)$$

Equations (8) and (8a) apply to transitions that do not involve shells containing equivalent electrons. When one of the states (the final state, for instance) actually does, both (8) and (8a) must be multiplied by the number of equivalent electrons m and the square of the fractional parentage coefficient $G_{S_c L_c}^{SL}$.

It can be shown by direct calculation that (8) and (8a) retain the same structure under other coupling schemes as well. Thus, for jj coupling, where the atom is described by the set of quantum numbers $\gamma = (S_c L_c J_c l j J)$, where j and J_c are the total angular momentum of the optical electron and the atomic core, respectively, we have

$$Q_k = \frac{g_o}{g(\gamma)} |M_{0kk}(slj) [J_c] M_{0kk}(J_c j J)|^2. \quad (9)$$

Likewise, for jl coupling with $\gamma = (S_c L_c J_c l K J)$ (K corresponds to the sum of J_c and l),

$$Q_k = \frac{g_o}{g(\gamma)} |[J_c] M_{0kk}(J_c l K) M_{0kk}(s K J)|^2. \quad (10)$$

3. MATRIX ELEMENTS OF BINARY OPERATORS

Consider a system consisting of an atom (ion) in the state $\alpha S_1 L_1$ and an external electron in the state $s l_e$:

$$\Gamma = \alpha(S_1 L_1) s l_e S_T L_T J_T, \quad (11)$$

where S_T, L_T, J_T represents the spin, orbital, and total angular momentum of the atom + electron system. In the present paper, we use a different order of addition, $\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{J}$, from that used in Ref. 2, $\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{J}$. This results in a sign change in certain amplitude expressions. In the scheme adopted here for transitions with no spin flip, the invariant angular momentum S sits in the first slot of SLJ . The corresponding angular factor is analogous to the factors for the triples $L_c l L$ and others.

We consider the off-diagonal matrix element corresponding to a transition of the external electron l_e , and of an atomic electron to the state m with angular momentum l_m :

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha S_1 L_1 &= \alpha_c(S_c L_c) l_m(S_m L_m) l_{m-1} \\ &\quad \times (S_{m-1} L_{m-1}) \dots (S_2 L_2) l_1 S_1 L_1. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

From this point on, we assume that the atomic state has no equivalent electrons beyond m . In terms of the total projected system angular momentum, the matrix element of the rank- r_0 operator \mathbf{T}^{r_0} in the LS coupling scheme is⁶

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Gamma | \mathbf{T}^{r_0} | \Gamma' \rangle &= p(r_0 r) M_{r_s r r_0}(S_T L_T J_T) \\ &\quad \times \sum_{k_2 k_1 q_2 q_1} B Y_{q_2 q_1 k_2 k_1}(l_m l_e), \\ B &= [S_c L_c] M_{0 q_2 q_2}(S_c s S_m) M_{0 k_2 k_2}(L_c l_m L_m) \\ &\quad \times B_{\kappa_2 0 \kappa_2} M_{q_2 q_1 r_s}(S_1 s S_T) M_{k_2 k_1 r_1}(L_1 l_e L_T), \\ B_{\kappa_2 0 \kappa_2} &= \prod_{i=1}^{m+1} \{ M_{q_2 0 q_2}(S_{i+1} s S_i) \times M_{k_2 0 k_2}(L_{i+1} l_i L_i) \\ &\quad \times [s l_i] \}, \quad \kappa = (k, q), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where Y is the radial part, which depends on the radial wave functions and the one-electron quantum numbers $n_m l_m l_e$. The factor $p(r_0 r)$ is equal to

$$p(r_0 r) = 1, \quad r_0 \neq 0; \quad p(r_0 r) = (-1)^r [r], \quad r_0 = 0. \quad (15)$$

We have assumed in (13)–(14) that \mathbf{T} can be represented as a tensor product,

$$\mathbf{T}^{r_0} = \sum_{j > i} [\mathbf{T}_S^r(ji) \times \mathbf{T}_L^r(ji)]^{r_0}, \quad (16)$$

while the binary operator $\mathbf{T}_L^{\prime l}(ji)$ can be represented as a sum of tensor products of the operators $\mathbf{t}_L^{k_2}(j)$ and $\mathbf{t}_L^{k_1}(i)$, and likewise $\mathbf{T}_S^{\prime s}(ji)$ can be represented in terms of $\mathbf{t}_S^{q_2}(j)$ and $\mathbf{t}_S^{q_1}(i)$.

For an electrostatic interaction with $r_0=r_s=r_l=0$, $S_T^{\prime l}L^{\prime s}J_T^{\prime j}=S_T L_T J_T$, $q_2=q_1=q$, and $k_2=k_1=k$, the matrix element (13) becomes

$$\langle \Gamma | \mathbf{T} | \Gamma' \rangle = \sum_{kq} B_{qk}(S_T L_T J_T) Y_{qk}(l_m l_e),$$

$$B_{qk}(S_T L_T J_T) = \frac{[J_T]}{[L_T S_T]} B_{qk}(S_T L_T), \quad (17)$$

$$B_{qk}(S_T L_T) = [S_c L_c] M_{0qq}(S_c S S_m) M_{0kk}(L_c l_m L_m) \\ \times B_{\kappa 0\kappa} M_{qq0}(S_1 S S_T) M_{kk0}(L_1 l_e L_T),$$

$$Y_{qk} = (-1)^{q+k+l_m+l_e} [qk] (2\delta(q)R'_k - [q]^2 R''_k), \quad (18)$$

where R' and R'' are the direct and exchange integrals (see Appendix for more details). The factor $B_{\kappa 0\kappa}$ is defined in (14). In the more important transition of an electron l_1 from an inner atomic shell with $m=1$, we have $B_{\kappa 0\kappa}=1$.

Neither Eqs. (13) and (17) nor the total LS -coupling scheme are suitable for transitions between SLJ atomic levels, for which one must use the Jj scheme:

$$\Gamma = \alpha(S_1 L_1 J), s l_e j_e, J_T. \quad (19)$$

A similar derivation yields the appropriate matrix element:

$$\langle J j_e J_T | \mathbf{T} | J' j'_e J_T \rangle = \sum_{kq} B_{qk}(J j_e J_T) Y_{qk}(l_m l_e), \quad (20)$$

$$B_{qk}(J j_e J_T) = \sum_v \frac{[v]}{[qk]} [S_c L_c] M_{0qq}(S_c S S_m) M_{0kk} \\ \times (L_c l_m L_m) B_{\kappa 0\kappa} M_{qkv}(S_1 L_1 J) M_{qkv}(s l_e J_e) \\ \times M_{vv0}(J j_e J_T).$$

4. Q-FACTORS FOR ELECTRON-INDUCED EXCITATION CROSS SECTIONS

The effective cross section for the $\gamma-\gamma'$ transition in an atom (ion) impacted by an electron can be expressed in terms of the \mathbf{S} -matrix³

$$\sigma(\gamma-\gamma') = \pi a_0^2 \frac{2R_y}{g(\gamma)E} \sum |\mathbf{S}(\Gamma, \Gamma') - \mathbf{I}(\Gamma, \Gamma')|^2, \quad (21)$$

where \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix, a_0 is the Bohr radius, E is the electron energy, and the sum is taken over quantum numbers Γ that do not enter into γ . In perturbation theory it is convenient to express the unitary \mathbf{S} -matrix in terms of the hermitian \mathbf{K} -matrix:

$$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{I} + i\mathbf{K}) / (\mathbf{I} - i\mathbf{K}). \quad (22)$$

In this paper we are concerned with transition cross sections in atoms impacted by electrons as given by first-order

perturbation theory in the interaction between the external (incident) electron and the atomic electrons. Then

$$S(\Gamma, \Gamma') - I(\Gamma, \Gamma') = 2iK(\Gamma, \Gamma'),$$

$$K(\Gamma, \Gamma') = \left\langle \Gamma \left| \sum_{j>i} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i|} \right| \Gamma' \right\rangle. \quad (23)$$

Here $K(\Gamma, \Gamma')$ is given directly by Eqs. (17) and (20) of Sec. 3. We limit attention to a transition involving an external atomic electron l_1 (so that $B_{\kappa 0\kappa}=1$), and omit the subscript 1 from the state labels:

$$\gamma = \alpha SLJ = \alpha_c (S_c L_c) n l SLJ, \quad \Gamma = \gamma, s l_e, j_e J_T,$$

$$K(\Gamma, \Gamma') = \sum_{kq} B_{qk}(J j_e J_T) Y_{qk}(l_m l_e), \quad (24)$$

$$B_{qk}(J j_e J_T) = [S_c L_c] \sum_v \frac{[v]}{[qd]} M_{0qq}(S_c S S) M_{0kk}(L_c l L) \\ \times M_{qkv}(SLJ) M_{qkv}(s l_e j_e) M_{vv0}(J j_e J_T).$$

In the partial-wave representation, the $\gamma-\gamma'$ transition cross section is

$$\sigma(\gamma-\gamma') = \sum_{l_e l'_e} \sigma(\gamma l_e - \gamma' l'_e),$$

$$\sigma(\gamma l_e - \gamma' l'_e) = \pi a_0^2 \frac{2R_y}{E[J]^2} \sum_{j_e j'_e J_T} |K(\Gamma, \Gamma')|^2, \quad (25)$$

where l_e and l'_e are the orbital angular momenta of the external electron. Summing over momenta $j_e j'_e J_T$, we obtain the partial-wave cross section

$$\sigma(\gamma l_e - \gamma' l'_e) = \pi a_0^2 \frac{2R_y}{E[J]^2} \sum_{qkv} |[S_c L_c] M_{0qq}(S_c S S) M_{0kk} \\ \times (L_c l_e L) M_{qkv}(SLJ) [qk]^{-2} Y_{qk}(l_e)|^2. \quad (26)$$

Call the one-electron cross section $\sigma_k^{(p)}(l-l')$. Then

$$\sigma_k^{(1)}(l-l') = \pi a_0^2 \frac{4R_y}{[l]^2 E} \sum_{l'_e} [k]^{-2} R_k (R_k - R''_k), \quad (27)$$

$$\sigma_k^{(2)}(l-l') = \pi a_0^2 \frac{4R_y}{[l]^2 E} \sum_{l'_e} [k]^{-2} (R''_k)^2.$$

Here $p=1$ corresponds to the sum of the "direct" and "interference" parts of the cross section, and $p=2$ corresponds to the pure "exchange" part. From (25), (26), and the expression for Y_{qk} presented in the Appendix, we have that for $S_c=L_c=0$,

$$\sum_{jj'} [J]^2 \sigma(\gamma-\gamma') = g_o \sum_{k,p} \sigma_k^{(p)}, \quad g_o = [s l]^2. \quad (28)$$

In general, the the $\gamma-\gamma'$ transition cross section can be written in the form

$$\sigma(\gamma-\gamma') = \sum_{k,p} \{Q_k^{(p)} \sigma_k^{(p)}(l-l')\}, \quad p=1,2. \quad (29)$$

The angular factor $Q_k^{(p)}$ is

$$Q_k^{(p)} = \frac{g_0}{g(\gamma)} \sum_{qv} [|S_c L_c] M_{0qq}(S_c s S) \times M_{0kk}(L_c l L) M_{qkv}(SLJ)]^2 C(p,q), \quad (30)$$

$$C(1,q) = \delta(q,0), \quad C(2,q) = \frac{1}{4}[q]^2.$$

It has been assumed in these formulae that the atom can be described in the LS coupling scheme. The appropriate expressions for other coupling schemes are given in Sec. 5.

5. Q-FACTORS FOR TRANSITIONS BETWEEN EFFECTIVE LEVELS

The formulae for transitions between levels summed over the various quantum numbers can be obtained from the expressions given above, making use of Eq. (3) with subsequent division by the required statistical weight for the purpose of averaging. For example, summing over the total angular momenta J and J' of the initial and final states reduces simply to deleting the appropriate M -factor from the product. Likewise, summing over J' leads to an additional relationship between the statistical weights. Since general kinetic problems require three different types of summation over the momenta of the initial state (J , L , and S in the case of LS coupling), and correspondingly three different types of averaging over the momenta of the final state, we expect at least 2^6 different possibilities. We now show that the factorization of the dependence on quantum numbers demonstrated by the foregoing formulae for the Q -factors can be supplemented by factorization of the constraints, automatically yielding the required summation (averaging).

Let

$$(J) \equiv (2J+1), \quad (31)$$

and assume that $(J)=0$ denotes summation over the corresponding quantum number. Next, define the transition function $P_{qk}(SLJ)$:

$$P_{qk}(SLJ) \equiv P_{qk}(SLJ - S'L'J') = \begin{cases} \sum_v M_{qkv}^2(SLJ), & \text{if } (J) > 0 \text{ and } (J') > 0, \\ w(SLJ)w(S'L'J'), & \text{if } (J)=0 \text{ or } (J')=0, \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

where the statistical weighting factor w is

$$w(SLJ) = \begin{cases} 1, & (J)=0, \\ (J)/(S)(L), & (J) > 0. \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

It is easy to see that the sum of P_{qk} over J and J' is 1. The expression for the angular factor, which automatically allows for all possible averaging and summation over the angular quantum numbers of the optical electron, can be written in the form

$$Q_k^{(p)}(\gamma-\gamma') = \frac{g_0}{g(\gamma)} P_Y \sum_q \Omega_{qk}(\gamma-\gamma') C(p,q). \quad (34)$$

For LS coupling, the factor Ω_{qk} is

$$\Omega_{qk}(S_c L_c l SLJ - S_c L_c l' S' L' J') = (S_c) P_{0q}(S_c s S)(L_c) P_{0k}(L_c l L) P_{qk}(SLJ). \quad (35)$$

For jj coupling, Ω_{qk} can be obtained by means of the familiar transformation formulae

$$\Omega_{qk}(J_c, l j J - J_c, l' j' J') = P_{qk}(slj)(J_c) P_{0k}(J_c j J), \quad (36)$$

where j is the angular momentum of the optical electron. Similarly, for jl coupling,

$$\Omega_{qk}(J_c l K J - J_c l' K' J') = (J_c) P_{0k}(J_c l K) P_{kq}(K s J). \quad (37)$$

The multipole order k of the interaction specifies the range over which the orbital angular momenta can vary; q acts like a "spin multipole order." A value of 0 for q or k signifies a transition with no change in the corresponding angular momentum. The value of k ranges from $|l-l'|$ to $l+l'$, and q takes the values 0 and 1.

We have $q=0$ for radiative transitions or collisional transitions with no exchange term (for example, excitation of atoms and ions by heavy particles), and the angular factor, which automatically takes account of possible summation for LS coupling [cf. (8) and (8a)], takes the form

$$Q_k = \frac{g_0}{g(\gamma)} (S_c) P_{00}(S_c s S)(L_c) P_{0k}(L_c l L) P_{0k}(SLJ). \quad (38)$$

Analogous formulae for jj and jl coupling follow directly from (36) and (37).

Equation (34) yields an expression for the general angular factor Q_k in terms of the quantities Ω_{qk} , which are symmetric with respect to the initial and final states. Equations (35)–(37) show that the Ω_{qk} are products of the factors $P_{qk}(j_3 j_2 j_1)$ or $(j_3) P_{0m}(j_3 j_2 j_1)$, which describe transitions among triples of angular momentum $j_3 j_2 j_1$. A single such factor corresponds to each such transition. The subscript 0 in the second factor corresponds to a conserved momentum (one that does not take part in the interaction), rather than to an accidentally vanishing value of q or k .

The sum over all transitions yields the statistical weight of the atomic core. One can therefore simply write Ω_{qk} as the statistical weight of the core multiplied by the product of factors P_{qk} that describe transitions among the appropriate triple of momenta.

Note that just like the indicated prescriptions, Eqs. (36)–(38) hold only for transitions in which the momentum coupling scheme is unaltered.

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APPENDIX

We have from (17) that for an electrostatic interaction, the radial part is⁵

$$Y_{qk} = \rho_q \rho_k - \rho_q'' \rho_k'' \quad (\text{A1})$$

where ρ corresponds to the direct interaction and ρ'' to the exchange interaction.

The orbital part is

$$\rho_k = \rho_k(l l_e, l' l'_e) = (-1)^k [k] (l \| C^k \| l') (l_e \| C^k \| l'_e) \tilde{R}_k, \quad (\text{A2})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}_k(l l_e, l' l'_e) &= \int_0^\infty F_{l_e}(r') P_{l'}(r'') \frac{2r^k}{r^{k+1}} P_{l'}(r'') \\ &\times F_{l'_e}(r') dr'' dr'. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

Here P and F are the radial wave functions of the atomic and external electrons. Replacing the matrix elements with $3j$ symbols, we can write ρ_k and ρ_k'' in the form

$$\rho_k = (-1)^{k+l+l_e} [k] R_k, \quad \rho_k'' = (-1)^{k+l+l_e} [k] R_k''. \quad (\text{A4})$$

The radial integral R_k is

$$R_k(l l_e, l' l'_e) = [l l' l_e l'_e] \begin{pmatrix} l & k & l' \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_e & k & l'_e \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \tilde{R}_k(l l_e, l' l'_e). \quad (\text{A5})$$

The exchange integral R_k'' can be expressed in terms of R_k by interchanging the functions $P_{l'}$ and $F_{l'_e}$:

$$\begin{aligned} R_k'' &\equiv R_k'(l l_e, l' l'_e) \\ &= \sum_{k''} (-1)^{k+k''} [k] \begin{Bmatrix} k & l & l' \\ k'' & l_e & l'_e \end{Bmatrix} R_{k''}(l l_e, l'_e l'). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A6})$$

The spin part ρ_q can be obtained from (A2) at $q=0$ and $\tilde{R}_q = \delta(q,0)$. Clearly, then, $\rho_q = 2\delta(q,0)$. Similarly, for ρ_q'' we may use (A2) and (A6) with $q''=0$, whence $q=0$ or 1 and $\rho_q'' = [q]^2$.

Combining the orbital and spin parts then yields Eq. (18).

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