

Thermal radiative corrections to hyperfine structure of light hydrogenlike systems

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In this work, we consider the thermal correction to the hyperfine interaction in hydrogen, deuterium, and the $^3\text{He}^+$ ion. This correction is effectively described by one-loop Feynman graphs in the framework of the quantum electrodynamics theory for bound states at a finite temperature. A simple analysis shows the importance of the obtained results for future prospects for measuring hyperfine splitting. In addition, the application for testing the time variation of fundamental constants is briefly discussed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The formation and development of quantum theory for bound states is closely connected with precision spectroscopic experiments performed on the hydrogen atom and a number of hydrogenlike ions. Having their own methodological features, such systems are most accurately described theoretically within the framework of quantum electrodynamics (QED). In recent decades, experimental measurements and theoretical calculations of the hyperfine structure (hfs) [1–14] and g factors [15–23] in simple atomic systems have attracted particular interest. Significant progress in evaluation of QED radiative and nuclear-structure corrections (see, e.g., [24–27] and references therein), as well as the improvement of experimental techniques, makes it possible to identify the fundamental parameters of the theory (the electron to proton mass ratio m_e/m_p [18,28], the Rydberg constant [29], nuclear parameters [19,23], etc.), to set constraints on the variation of the fine-structure constant [30,31] and to look for manifestations of new physics [32].

To date, the hyperfine splitting energies of atomic states are measured with extremely high accuracy and also serve as a tool for building, for example, atomic clocks, metrological frequency standards, and tests of perturbative quantum chromodynamics [33]. In particular, the relative error in measuring the energy of the hyperfine splitting of the ground state in hydrogen is about 10^{-13} [34].

In view of the achieved experimental and theoretical accuracy, studies of quantities such as, e.g., hyperfine splitting, should necessarily take into account the influence of thermal radiation, the blackbody radiation (BBR) field, represented by the Planck equilibrium distribution function [35]. The most revealing manifestations of the effects induced by BBR are the quadratic ac Stark shift of atomic energy levels and dynamic corrections to it, as well as line broadening due to electron transitions between atomic states stimulated by BBR [36,37]. These effects are extremely important for the spectroscopy of Rydberg atoms, the construction of atomic clocks, and the determination of frequency standards [38–40].

The study of the effect of equilibrium thermal radiation on the characteristics of atomic systems is usually limited to the quantum-mechanical (QM) description, in which the root-mean-square field induced by BBR is considered as a perturbation [36]. However, the QED theory makes it possible to reveal the effects that go beyond the QM approach. In our recent works, the quantum electrodynamics theory for bound states at finite temperature was developed to calculate thermal effects in atomic systems [41–44]. Within the framework of this theory, based on the S -matrix formalism, various corrections to transition probabilities and ionization and recombination cross sections were also considered [41,45–49]. In this work, using previously developed methods for calculating finite-temperature effects [42,49], we study thermal one-loop radiative corrections to the hyperfine splitting interval of s states in hydrogen, deuterium, and the singly ionized helium-3 isotope.

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, within the framework of rigorous quantum electrodynamics at finite temperature and the adiabatic S -matrix formalism, equations for radiative corrections of thermal self-energy to hyperfine splitting in a one-electron ion are analytically derived. Then the results of the numerical evaluation are discussed in Sec. III. Relativistic units $\hbar = c = m_e = 1$ (\hbar is the Planck constant, c is the speed of light, and m_e is the electron mass, which is written explicitly in some places for clarity) and charge units $\alpha = e^2$ (α is the fine-structure constant) are used throughout the paper. The product of the Boltzmann constant k_B and the temperature T is written in relativistic units.

II. BASIC EQUATIONS FOR THERMAL LOOP CORRECTION TO HFS SPLITTING

The magnetic dipole moment of the nucleus is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = g_I \mu_N \mathbf{I}, \quad (1)$$

where g_I denotes the nuclear g factor, $\mu_N = |e|/2m_p = \mu_B(m_e/m_p)$ is the nuclear magneton, $\mu_B = |e|/2m_e$ is the Bohr magneton, and m_e and m_p are the electron and proton

masses, respectively. The vector potential generated by the nuclear dipole moment given by Eq. (1) is

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\mu} \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3}. \quad (2)$$

Then the interaction of the bound electron with the dipole nuclear magnetic field is given by the Fermi-Breit operator

$$\hat{V}_{\text{hfs}} = -e\boldsymbol{\alpha}\mathbf{A} = |e| \frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\mu} \times \mathbf{r})}{r^3}, \quad (3)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is the Dirac alpha matrix.

The corresponding expectation value of Eq. (3) on the Dirac point-nucleus wave functions of a hydrogenlike ion is written as

$$E_{\text{hfs}} = \alpha(\alpha Z)^3 \frac{g_I m_e^2 \kappa}{2 m_N |\kappa| n^3 (2\kappa + 1)(\kappa^2 - 1/4)} \frac{1}{A(Z\alpha)[F(F+1) - I(I+1) - j(j+1)]}, \quad (4)$$

where $A(Z\alpha)$ is the relativistic factor

$$A(Z\alpha) = n^3 |\kappa| (2\kappa + 1) \frac{2\kappa(2\gamma + n_r) - N}{N^4 \gamma (4\gamma^2 - 1)}. \quad (5)$$

Here $N = \sqrt{n_r^2 + 2n_r\gamma + \kappa^2}$, $n_r = n - |\kappa|$, $\gamma = \sqrt{\kappa^2 - (\alpha Z)^2}$, n is the principal quantum number of the electron, κ is its Dirac angular quantum number, $j = |\kappa| - 1/2$, Z is the nuclear charge, F is the total angular momentum of atom, and I is the nuclear spin.

In the nonrelativistic limit, the hyperfine Hamiltonian is given by the sum of two contributions. The first one is proportional to $\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{B}$, where \mathbf{s} is the electron spin and \mathbf{B} is the magnetic field corresponding to the vector potential (2):

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \frac{8\pi}{3} \boldsymbol{\mu} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{r^3} [3(\boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\mu}]. \quad (6)$$

The second contribution corresponds to the interaction of the nuclear moment with the magnetic field of the moving electron, which in turn is proportional to the orbital angular momentum \mathbf{l} . Then in the nonrelativistic limit we have

$$\hat{V}_{\text{hfs}}^{\text{nr}} = -2\mu_B \left[-\frac{8\pi}{3} (\mathbf{s} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{\mathbf{l} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu}}{r^3} - \frac{1}{r^3} [3(\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{s}] \cdot \boldsymbol{\mu} \right]. \quad (7)$$

The evaluation of matrix elements of Eq. (7) with Schrödinger point-nucleus wave functions in the $lsj(I)FM_F$ coupling scheme is presented in the Appendix. For the hyperfine splitting of the ground state in hydrogen, using the expression (7), we find the known wavelength value of 21 cm, or 1420 MHz for the frequency.

The thermal self-energy correction in the presence of a binding Coulomb field and an additional perturbing potential

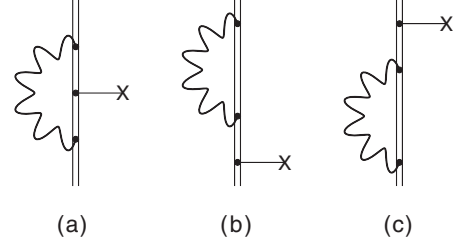


FIG. 1. Feynman diagrams describing the QED theory self-energy corrections to the hyperfine interaction vertex. The tiny line with the cross indicates the interaction with the vector potential generated by the nuclear dipole moment. The double solid line denotes the bound electron in the Furry picture. The bold wavy line represents the thermal photon propagator

defined by Eq. (3) is graphically represented by the Feynman diagrams in Fig. 1. The total energy shift of the third order in e can be written as a sum of vertex [Fig. 1(a)] and wave-function [Figs. 1(b) and 1(c)] contributions $\Delta E_a^{\text{total}} = \Delta E_a^{\text{ver}} + \Delta E_a^{\text{wf}}$ (see, e.g., [49] for details) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_a^{\text{ver}} &= -\frac{e^3}{\pi} \text{Re} \sum_{\pm} \sum_{n,m} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega n_{\beta}(\omega) \\ &\quad \times \frac{\langle am | \frac{\alpha_1^{\mu} \alpha_{2\mu}}{r_{12}} \sin(\omega r_{12}) | na \rangle \langle n | \boldsymbol{\alpha} \mathbf{A} | m \rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1 - i0)][E_a \pm \omega - E_m(1 - i0)]}, \quad (8) \\ \Delta E_a^{\text{wf}} &= -\frac{2e^3}{\pi} \text{Re} \sum_{\pm} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega n_{\beta}(\omega) \\ &\quad \times \left[\sum_{\substack{n,m \\ m \neq a}} \frac{\langle an | \frac{\alpha_1^{\mu} \alpha_{2\mu}}{r_{12}} \sin(\omega r_{12}) | nm \rangle \langle m | \boldsymbol{\alpha} \mathbf{A} | a \rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1 - i0)](E_a - E_m)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2} \sum_n \frac{\langle an | \frac{\alpha_1^{\mu} \alpha_{2\mu}}{r_{12}} \sin(\omega r_{12}) | na \rangle \langle a | \boldsymbol{\alpha} \mathbf{A} | a \rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1 - i0)]^2} \right]. \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

Here \sum_{\pm} denotes the sum of two contributions with $+$ and $-$ in energy denominators, the vector potential \mathbf{A} is given by Eq. (2), $n_{\beta} = [\exp(\omega/k_B T) - 1]^{-1}$, k_B is the Boltzmann constant, and T is the temperature (in kelvin). In contrast to the ordinary zero-vacuum corrections, the expressions (8) and (9) converge in the ultraviolet limit due to the natural cutoff provided by the Planckian distribution function $n_{\beta}(\omega)$. The second term in Eq. (9) corresponds to the reference-state contribution $m = a$.

Then substituting Eq. (2) into Eqs. (8) and (9) and taking the nonrelativistic limit (see details in [49]), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_a^{\text{ver}} &= -\frac{2e^2}{3\pi} \text{Re} \sum_{\pm} \sum_{n,m} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega \omega^3 n_{\beta}(\omega) \\ &\quad \times \frac{\langle a | \mathbf{r} | n \rangle \langle n | \hat{V}_{\text{hfs}}^{\text{nr}} | m \rangle \langle m | \mathbf{r} | a \rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1 - i0)][E_a \pm \omega - E_m(1 - i0)]}, \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta E_a^{\text{wf}} = -\frac{4e^2}{3\pi} \text{Re} \sum_{\pm} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega n_{\beta}(\omega) \omega^3 \times \left[\sum_{\substack{n,m \\ m \neq a}} \frac{\langle a|\mathbf{r}|n\rangle \langle n|\mathbf{r}|m\rangle \langle m|\hat{V}_{\text{hfs}}^{\text{nr}}|a\rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1-i0)](E_a - E_m)} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_n \frac{\langle a|\mathbf{r}|n\rangle \langle n|\mathbf{r}|a\rangle \langle a|\hat{V}_{\text{hfs}}^{\text{nr}}|a\rangle}{[E_a \pm \omega - E_n(1-i0)]^2} \right], \quad (11)$$

where $\hat{V}_{\text{hfs}}^{\text{nr}}$ is given by Eq. (7) and the summation over the n spectrum is carried out over the discrete and continuum solutions of the Schrödinger equation for an electron in the Coulomb field of the nucleus. The corresponding total shift for the transition energy between hyperfine components F'_a and F_a of the same state $n_a l_a j_a$ is

$$\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}} = \Delta E_{n_a l_a s_a j_a F'_a}^{\text{total}} - \Delta E_{n_a l_a s_a j_a F_a}^{\text{total}}. \quad (12)$$

For hydrogenlike ions with a nuclear charge Z , parametric estimates for Eqs. (10) and (11) can be found by taking into account that in relativistic units $r \sim (m_e \alpha Z)^{-1}$, $E_a \sim m_e (\alpha Z)^2$, and $\int_0^{\infty} d\omega \omega^k n_{\beta}(\omega) \sim (k_B^{\text{r.u.}} T)^{k+1}$. Then $\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}}$ given by Eq. (12) is parametrized as

$$\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}} \sim \frac{(k_B T)_{\text{r.u.}}^4}{\alpha m_p m_e^2 Z^3}, \quad (13)$$

where m_p is the proton mass.

In particular, the estimate (13) is valid for the state $a = 1s$, when the summation runs over the np states and the energy difference in the denominators of Eqs. (10) and (11) is always of order $m_e (\alpha Z)^2$. However, for $n_a l_a$ states with $n_a \geq 2$ (for example, $a = 2s$), the dominant contribution in the sum over n corresponds to $E_n = E_{n_a}$. In this case, the following parametrization is valid:

$$\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}} \sim \frac{Z \alpha^3 (k_B T)_{\text{r.u.}}^2}{m_p}. \quad (14)$$

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Numerical results of the $\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}}$ calculation for $ns_{1/2}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3, 4$) states in hydrogen, deuterium, and $^3\text{He}^+$ ion are collected in Tables I–III, respectively, at different temperatures. Numerical evaluation of radial integrals and summation over the entire spectrum in Eqs. (10) and (11) was performed using the B -spline method for the solution of the Schrödinger equation.

Due to the uncertainty in determining the size of nuclei, the possibility of carrying out QED tests in atomic systems based on the analysis of a specific energy difference has been proposed [50,51]. A simple analog of this difference for light systems, which is weakly sensitive to the contributions arising from the nuclear structure, is

$$D_{21} = 8\Delta \nu_{2s}^{\text{hfs}} - \Delta \nu_{1s}^{\text{hfs}}. \quad (15)$$

Over the past few years, the accuracy of calculating corrections to the energy of hyperfine splitting and the value of D_{21} has increased significantly. A number of corrections have

TABLE I. Thermal self-energy correction to the hyperfine splitting $\Delta \nu_a^{\text{hfs}}$ of ns , np , and nd states in hydrogen $e^- p^+$ [$I = 1/2$, $g_I = 5.585\,694\,689\,3(16)$] at different temperatures (in kelvin). All values are in hertz.

| Energy shift | $T = 300$ | $T = 1000$ | $T = 3000$ |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| $1s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | 2.00×10^{-8} | 2.48×10^{-6} | 2.07×10^{-4} |
| $2s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | 1.17×10^{-3} | 1.31×10^{-2} | 1.23×10^{-1} |
| $2p_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | 2.61×10^{-4} | 2.93×10^{-3} | 2.88×10^{-2} |
| $2p_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | -2.09×10^{-4} | -2.32×10^{-3} | -1.96×10^{-2} |
| $3s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | 2.10×10^{-3} | 2.39×10^{-2} | 1.85×10^{-1} |
| $3p_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | 6.97×10^{-4} | 7.90×10^{-3} | 6.15×10^{-1} |
| $3p_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | -3.06×10^{-5} | 3.52×10^{-4} | -7.71×10^{-5} |
| $3d_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | -8.72×10^{-5} | -8.75×10^{-4} | -1.42×10^{-2} |

been calculated, including those for the electroweak interaction, the hadronic vacuum polarization, and the structure of the nucleus [52–56]. At present, the inaccuracy of theoretical calculations is much lower than the experimental error in measuring the parameter D_{21} , which is mainly determined by the error in measuring the hyperfine splitting of the $2s$ metastable state. For hydrogen and deuterium atoms, the experimental error in measuring the $2s$ hyperfine interval is about 10 Hz [57,58], while for the ground state it reaches several millihertz [34,59,60].

According to the results listed in Tables I–III, the correction (12) for the ground state can be excluded from consideration for the D_{21} difference in hydrogen, deuterium, and $^3\text{He}^+$ ion. However, a decrease in the experimental error in determining the hyperfine splitting of the $2s$ state to the accuracy level of the ground-state splitting will be sensitive to this correction.

Another application of the correction considered in this paper concerns the search for time variation of fundamental physical constants (see, for example, [30,61]). Verification of the fine-structure constant variation can be performed by comparing in detail the spectral data of quasars and laboratory results for the hyperfine splitting of the ground state

TABLE II. Thermal self-energy correction to the hyperfine splitting $\Delta \nu^{\text{hfs}}$ of ns , np , and nd states in deuterium $e^- d^+$ [$I = 1$, $g_I = 0.857\,438\,233\,8(22)$] at different temperatures (in kelvin). All values are in hertz.

| Energy shift | $T = 300$ | $T = 1000$ | $T = 3000$ |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| $1s_{1/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | 4.61×10^{-9} | 5.70×10^{-7} | 4.76×10^{-5} |
| $2s_{1/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | 2.71×10^{-4} | 3.02×10^{-3} | 2.82×10^{-2} |
| $2p_{1/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | 6.01×10^{-5} | 6.74×10^{-4} | 6.65×10^{-3} |
| $2p_{3/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | -2.40×10^{-5} | -2.67×10^{-4} | -2.36×10^{-3} |
| $2p_{3/2}^{F=5/2-F=3/2}$ | -4.01×10^{-5} | -4.44×10^{-4} | -3.60×10^{-3} |
| $3s_{1/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | 4.81×10^{-4} | 5.56×10^{-3} | 4.24×10^{-2} |
| $3p_{1/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | 1.61×10^{-4} | 5.76×10^{-3} | 1.41×10^{-4} |
| $3p_{3/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | -3.41×10^{-5} | -3.66×10^{-4} | -4.48×10^{-3} |
| $3p_{3/2}^{F=5/2-F=3/2}$ | -5.69×10^{-5} | -6.05×10^{-4} | -7.51×10^{-3} |
| $3d_{3/2}^{F=3/2-F=1/2}$ | -8.45×10^{-6} | -1.01×10^{-4} | -9.58×10^{-4} |
| $3d_{3/2}^{F=5/2-F=3/2}$ | -1.41×10^{-5} | -1.68×10^{-4} | -1.69×10^{-3} |

TABLE III. Thermal self-energy correction to the hyperfine splitting $\Delta\nu^{\text{hfs}}$ of ns , np , and nd states in ${}^3\text{He}^+$ [$I = 1/2$, $g_I = -4.255\,250\,615(50)$] at different temperatures (in kelvin). All values are in hertz.

| Energy shift | $T = 300$ | $T = 1000$ | $T = 3000$ |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| $1s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | -1.90×10^{-9} | -2.35×10^{-7} | -1.91×10^{-5} |
| $2s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | -1.79×10^{-3} | -1.99×10^{-2} | -1.79×10^{-1} |
| $2p_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | -3.98×10^{-4} | -4.42×10^{-3} | -4.00×10^{-2} |
| $2p_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | 3.18×10^{-4} | 2.33×10^{-3} | 3.19×10^{-2} |
| $3s_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | -3.18×10^{-3} | -3.54×10^{-2} | -3.23×10^{-1} |
| $3p_{1/2}^{F=1-F=0}$ | -1.06×10^{-3} | -1.18×10^{-2} | -1.09×10^{-1} |
| $3p_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | 1.30×10^{-4} | 1.45×10^{-3} | 1.36×10^{-2} |
| $3d_{3/2}^{F=2-F=1}$ | 1.33×10^{-4} | 1.48×10^{-3} | 1.31×10^{-2} |

in the hydrogen atom. In this case, the higher temperatures can play a role. According to the results listed in Table I, $\Delta\nu_a^{\text{hfs}}$ reaches the accuracy level of laboratory experiments only at sufficiently high temperature of 3000 K and become larger at higher temperatures. Thus, the corrections (10) and (11) impose additional constrains on this type of research. Simple analysis of calculated shifts in hydrogen, deuterium, and ${}^3\text{He}^+$ presented in Tables I–III shows that the hyperfine splitting interval is weakly sensitive to the considered thermal correction.

Despite the obtained values being so small, it is important to note that the thermal one-loop correction to the hyperfine

structure considered in this paper is of the order of Zeeman shifts induced by blackbody radiation (BBRZ) [39,62]. For alkali-metal atoms and alkalilike ions the relative value of the BBRZ shift for the ground state reaches the same order of magnitude as for hydrogen (see Table 2 in [62]). For many-electron atoms and ions with one valence electron, rough estimates can be given with the value of Z_{eff} slightly different from unity [63]. Thus, using the estimates (10) and (11) with Z replaced by Z_{eff} , we can expect a contribution of the same order for alkali-metal atoms. This can be especially important when elaborating frequency standards operating on hyperfine transitions of the outermost s electron. We leave detailed calculations of thermal one-loop corrections in alkali-metal atoms for future work.

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APPENDIX: EVALUATION OF MATRIX ELEMENTS

Taking into account Eq. (1) and performing angular algebra with the use of the Eckart-Wigner theorem, the first term in Eq. (7) can be evaluated with the help of the equality

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle n'l's'j'(I)F'M_{F'} | (s \cdot \mathbf{I}) \delta^3(\mathbf{r}) | nlsj(I)FM_F \rangle \\ &= \delta_{F'F} \delta_{M_{F'}M_F} \delta_{l'l} \delta_{s's} (-1)^{F+j+I+l'+s+j+1} \\ & \times \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \begin{Bmatrix} j' & j & 1 \\ I & I & F \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} s' & j' & l \\ j & s & 1 \end{Bmatrix} [(2j'+1)(2j+1)I(I+1)(2I+1)]^{1/2} \frac{1}{4\pi} R_{n'l'}(0) R_{nl}(0). \end{aligned}$$

The radial nonrelativistic wave functions R_{nl} taken at zero are nonvanishing only for s states. Then for discrete and continuum solutions of Schrödinger equation we have

$$R_{n0}(0) = \frac{2}{n^{3/2}}, \quad R_{x0}(0) = \frac{2\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{1-e^{-2\pi/x}}}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

respectively.

In a similar manner, the second term in Eq. (7) can be evaluated with the use of the equality

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle n'l's'j'(I)F'M_{F'} | \frac{\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{I}}{r^3} | nlsj(I)FM_F \rangle = \delta_{F'F} \delta_{M_{F'}M_F} \delta_{l'l} \delta_{s's} (-1)^{2j+l'+s'+I+F+1} \\ & \times [(2j'+1)(2j+1)I(I+1)(2I+1)]^{1/2} \begin{Bmatrix} F & I & j' \\ 1 & j & I \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} l' & j' & s' \\ j & l & 1 \end{Bmatrix} \sqrt{l(I+1)(2l+1)} \\ & \times \int_0^\infty dr r^2 R_{n'l'}(r) \left(\frac{1}{r^3} \right) R_{nl}(r). \end{aligned}$$

The third term in Eq. (7) can be easily evaluated with the use of the relation

$$\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{I} \equiv r^{-3} [3(\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{s}] \cdot \mathbf{I} = r^{-3} \sqrt{10} \sum_q (-1)^q [C^2 \times S^1]_{1q} I_{1-q}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

Then the reduction of the corresponding matrix elements yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n'l's'j'(I)F'M_{F'}|\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{I}|nlsj(I)FM_F\rangle &= \delta_{F'F}\delta_{M_{F'}M_F}\delta_{s's}\sqrt{45}(-1)^{j+I+F+l'} \begin{Bmatrix} F & I & j' \\ 1 & j & I \end{Bmatrix} \\ &\times [I(I+1)(2I+1)(2l'+1)(2l+1)(2j'+1)(2j+1)]^{1/2} \\ &\times \begin{Bmatrix} l' & l & 2 \\ s' & s & 1 \\ j' & j & 1 \end{Bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l' & 2 & l \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \int_0^\infty dr r^2 R_{n'l'}(r) \left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right) R_{nl}(r). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

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