

# Foundations of quantum chemistry

## *4. Interaction between matter and radiation*

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# Taylor expansion of $E_{m-F}$

► **Static electric field**  $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}V(\vec{r})$  :

a detailed information about the charge distribution is needed

$$E_{m-F} = \sum_{j=1}^n q_j V(\vec{r}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n q_j \left[ V_0 + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right)_0 x_j + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \right)_0 y_j + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right)_0 z_j + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} \right)_0 x_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x \partial y} \right)_0 x_j y_j + \dots + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} \right)_0 z_j^2 + \dots \right]$$

# Electric multipoles

► **Static electric field**  $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}V(\vec{r})$  :

a detailed information about the charge distribution is needed

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{m-F} &= \sum_{j=1}^n q_j V(\vec{r}_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n q_j \left[ V_0 + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right)_0 x_j + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \right)_0 y_j + \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right)_0 z_j \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} \right)_0 x_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x \partial y} \right)_0 x_j y_j + \dots + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} \right)_0 z_j^2 + \dots \right] \\
 &= V_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j - (F_x)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j - (F_y)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j y_j - (F_z)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j z_j \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} \right)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y} \right)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j y_j \dots - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z} \right)_0 \sum_{j=1}^n q_j z_j^2 \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

# Electric multipole moments

## ► Static electric field:

$$E_{m-F} = V_0 q - \vec{F}_0 \cdot \vec{d} - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} \right)_0 Q_{xx} + \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y} \right)_0 Q_{xy} + \dots + \left( \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z} \right)_0 Q_{zz} \right] - \dots$$

zero-th order electric moment  
(electric monopole)

$$q \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j$$

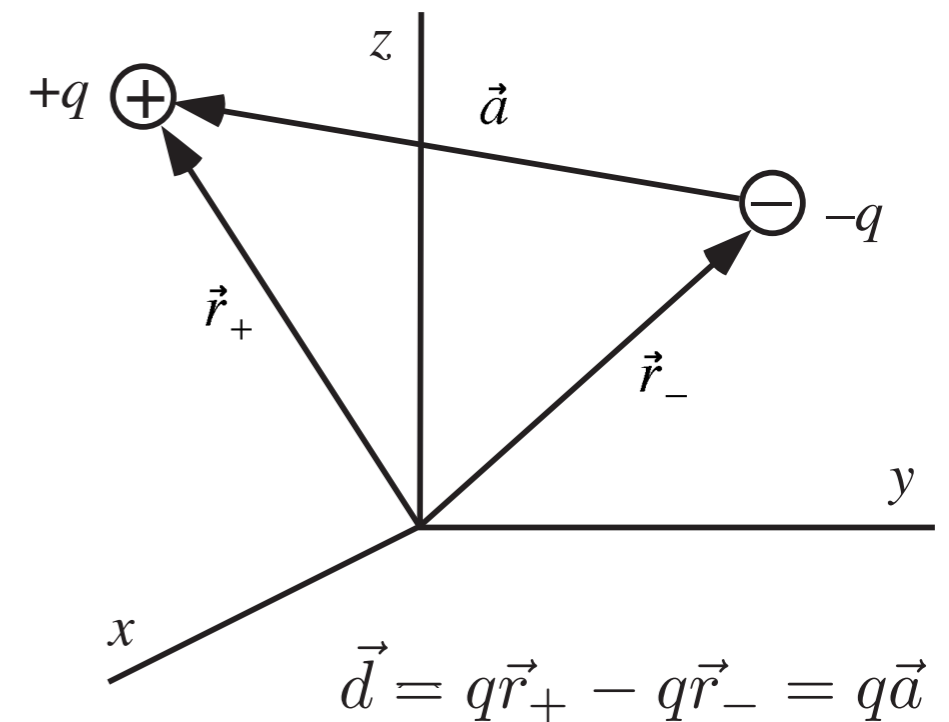
first-order electric moment  
(electric dipole)

$$\begin{cases} d_x \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j \\ d_y \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j y_j \\ d_z \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j z_j \end{cases}$$

second-order electric moment  
(electric quadrupole)

$$\begin{cases} Q_{xx} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j^2 \\ Q_{xy} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j y_j \\ \dots \\ Q_{zz} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n q_j z_j^2 \end{cases}$$

... n-th order electric moment (electric  $2^n$ -pole)



# Continuous charge distributions

$$\vec{d} = \sum_{j=1}^n \vec{r}_j q_j \longrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} \vec{r} dq \longrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} \vec{r} \sigma_q(\vec{r}) d\vec{r}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (\dots) q_j \longrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} (\dots) \sigma_q(\vec{r}) d\vec{r}$$

*Exemple:* hydrogen atom

last eq. of slide 3.12 with  $f(\vec{r}) = -ex = d_x$

$$d_x = \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} x \sigma_q(\vec{r}) d\vec{r} = \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} \underbrace{(-ex)}_{f(\vec{r})} \sigma(\vec{r}) d\vec{r} = \langle d_x \rangle$$

which is equivalent to the more familiar expression:

$$\langle d_x \rangle = \left\langle \phi \left| \widehat{d}_x \phi \right. \right\rangle = \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} \phi^*(\vec{r}) d_x \phi(\vec{r}) d\vec{r} = \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} (-ex) \sigma(\vec{r}) d\vec{r}$$

The classical calculation for a continuous charge density leads to the correct quantum result for spin-independent monoelectronic observables diagonal in position representation.

# Magnetic multipoles

► Moving charges in a time-dependent EM field:

$$E_{m-r}(t) = V_0 q - \vec{F}_0 \cdot \vec{d} - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} \right)_0 Q_{xx} + \dots \right] - \dots$$

$$- \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{\mu} - \dots$$

*Dipole approximation*

$$\vec{\mu} = \vec{\mu}_L + \vec{\mu}_S + \vec{\mu}_J + \vec{\mu}_I$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{\mu}_L = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{-e}{2m_e} \vec{l}_i = \frac{-e}{2m_e} \vec{L} \\ \vec{\mu}_S = \sum_{i=1}^n g_e \frac{-e}{2m_e} \vec{s}_i = g_e \frac{-e}{2m_e} \vec{S} \\ \vec{\mu}_J = \sum_{A=1}^N \frac{Z_A e}{2m_A} \vec{j}_A \\ \vec{\mu}_I = \sum_{A=1}^N (g_N)_A \frac{e}{2m_p} \vec{I}_A \end{array} \right.$$

# PLM electromagnetic waves

► (Particular) solution of Maxwell equations in vacuum (**PLM**):

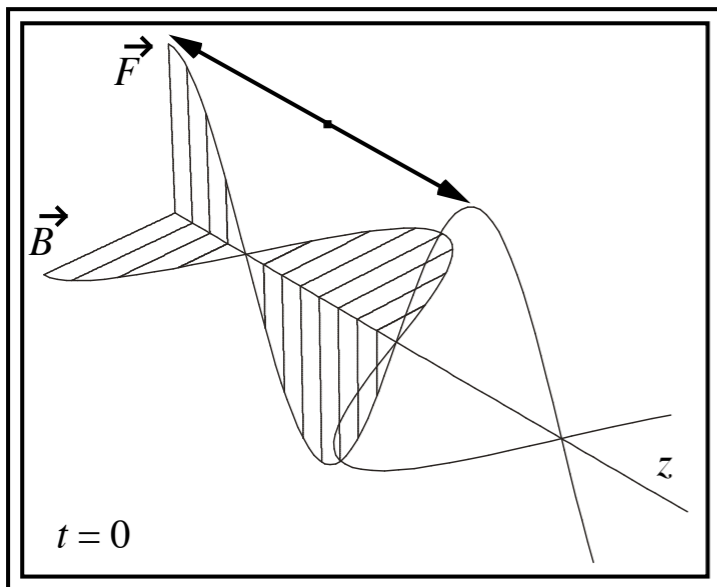
$$\vec{F} = \vec{u}_x F \cos(\omega t - kz + \varphi)$$

$$\vec{B} = \vec{u}_y B \cos(\omega t - kz + \varphi)$$

$$c = \frac{\omega}{k}$$

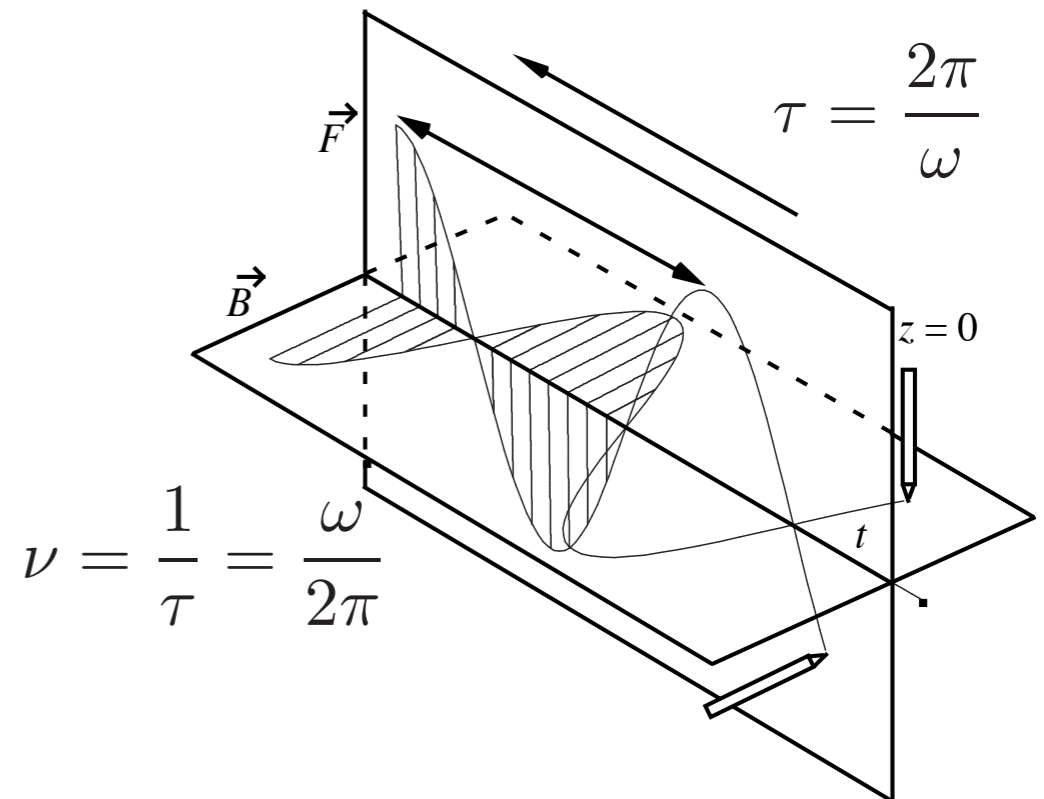
$$F = cB$$

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}} = 2,99792458 \times 10^8 \text{ms}^{-1}$$



$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi}{k}$$

$$\bar{\nu} = \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{k}{2\pi}$$



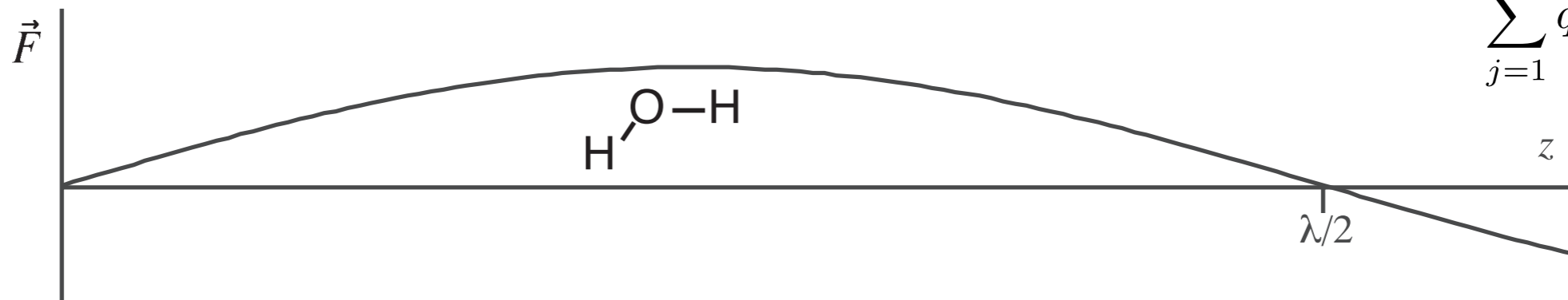
$$\nu = \frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{\omega}{2\pi}$$

# Dipole approximation

- Dipole approximation ( $\lambda \gg r_i$ ):

$$E_{m-r}(t) = V_0(t)q - \vec{F}_0(t) \cdot \vec{d} - \vec{B}_0(t) \cdot \vec{\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial F_x(t)}{\partial x} \right)_0 Q_{xx} + \dots \right] + \dots$$

$\sum_{j=1}^n q_j x_j^2$



- Lorentz:

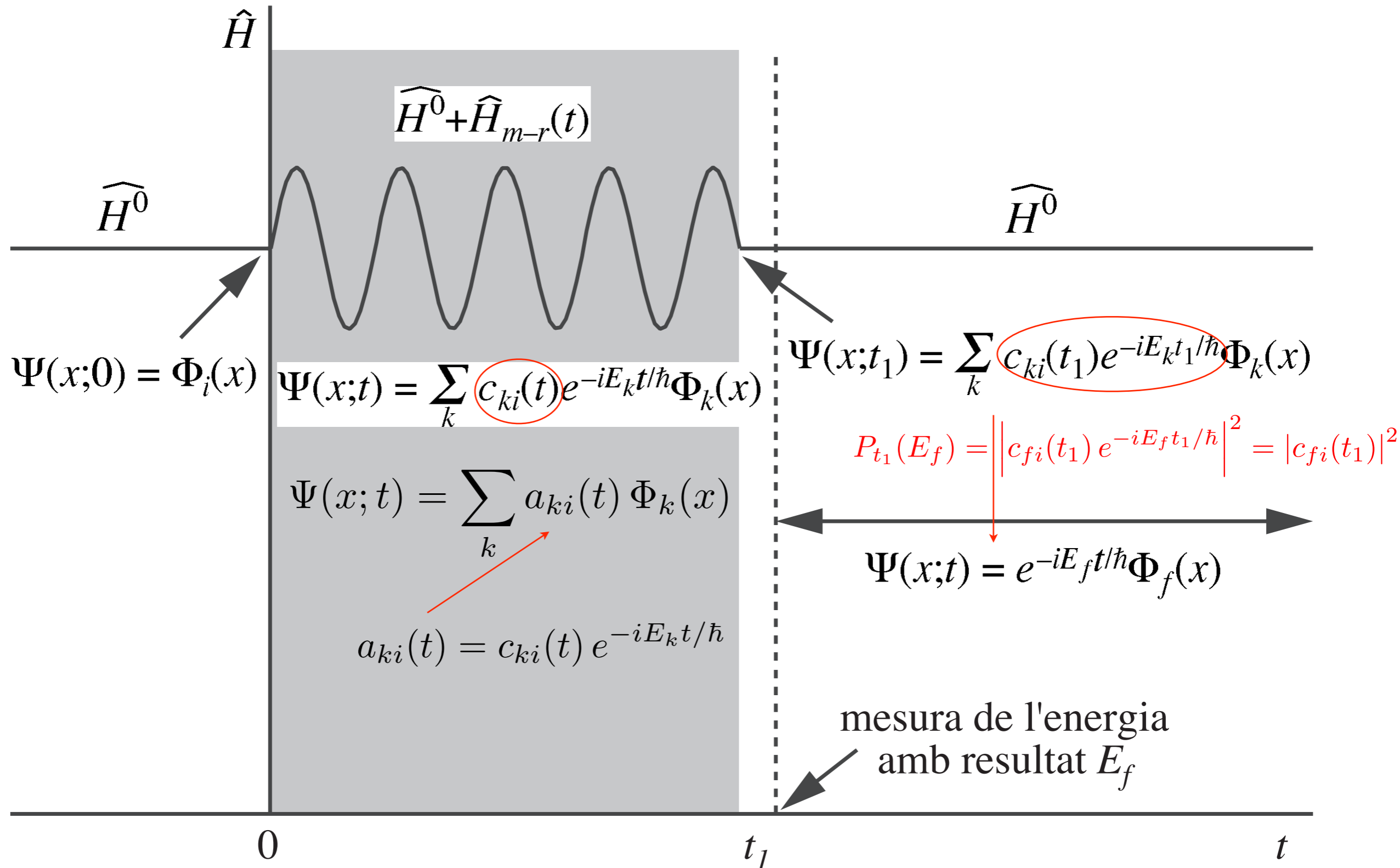
$$F = cB$$

$$q \left( \vec{F} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right) = -eB (c\vec{u}_x + \vec{v} \times \vec{u}_y) \cos(\omega t - kz + \varphi)$$

$$\frac{\text{magnetic force}}{\text{electric force}} \leq \frac{-eBv \cos(\omega t - kz + \varphi)}{-eBc \cos(\omega t - kz + \varphi)} = \frac{v}{c}$$



# Evolution of a stationary state



# Evolution of a stationary state

► **During irradiation**  $(0, t_1)$ :

$$\Psi(x; t) = \sum_k c_{ki}(t) e^{-iE_k t/\hbar} \Phi_k(x)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \left( \widehat{H}^0 + \widehat{H}_{m-r}(t) \right) \Psi$$

$$\frac{dc_{fi}(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \sum_k c_{ki}(t) e^{i\omega_{fk}t} \left\langle \Phi_f \left| \widehat{H}_{m-r}(t) \right| \Phi_k \right\rangle \quad t \in (0, t_1)$$

$$\omega_{fk} \equiv \frac{E_f - E_k}{\hbar}$$

# Time-dependent perturbation meth.

► **1st order:**  $c_{ki}(t) \approx c_{ki}(0) = \delta_{ki} \quad \forall k$

$$\frac{dc_{fi}^{(1)}(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} e^{i\omega_{fi}t} \left\langle \Phi_f \left| \widehat{H}_{m-r}(t) \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \quad t \in (0, t_1)$$

$$c_{fi}^{(1)}(t) = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{fi}t'} \left\langle \Phi_f \left| \widehat{H}_{m-r}(t') \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle dt'$$

For any  $\Phi_f \neq \Phi_i$  ( $c_{ii}(t)$  can be obtained by normalizing  $\Psi$ )

► **Dipole approximation:**

$$\widehat{H}_{m-r}(t) = V_0(t)q - F \cos(\omega t) \widehat{d}_x - B \cos(\omega t) \widehat{\mu}_y \quad (\text{ona PML})$$

$$\widehat{\vec{d}} = \sum_{j=1}^n q_j \widehat{\vec{r}}_j \quad \widehat{\vec{\mu}}_L = \frac{-e}{2m_e} \widehat{\vec{L}} \quad \text{etc.}$$

# 1-photon transitions

$$P_{t_1}(E_f) = P(s \leftrightarrow i) = \frac{F^2}{\hbar^2} \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \left( \widehat{d}_x + \frac{1}{c} \widehat{\mu}_y \right) \Phi_i \right\rangle \right|^2 \frac{\sin^2 [(\omega_{si} - \omega)t_1/2]}{(\omega_{si} - \omega)^2} \quad (\text{ona PML})$$

absorption: ←

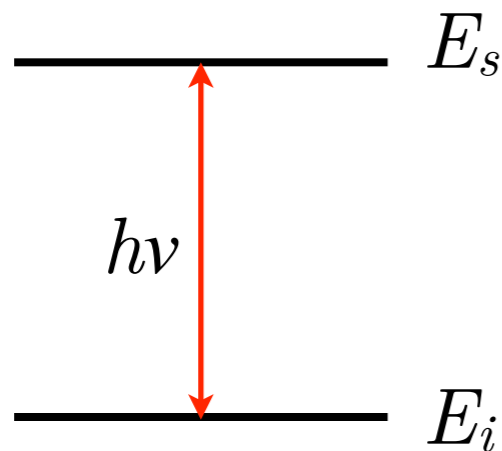
induced emission: →

(LASERs!)

*Selection rules*

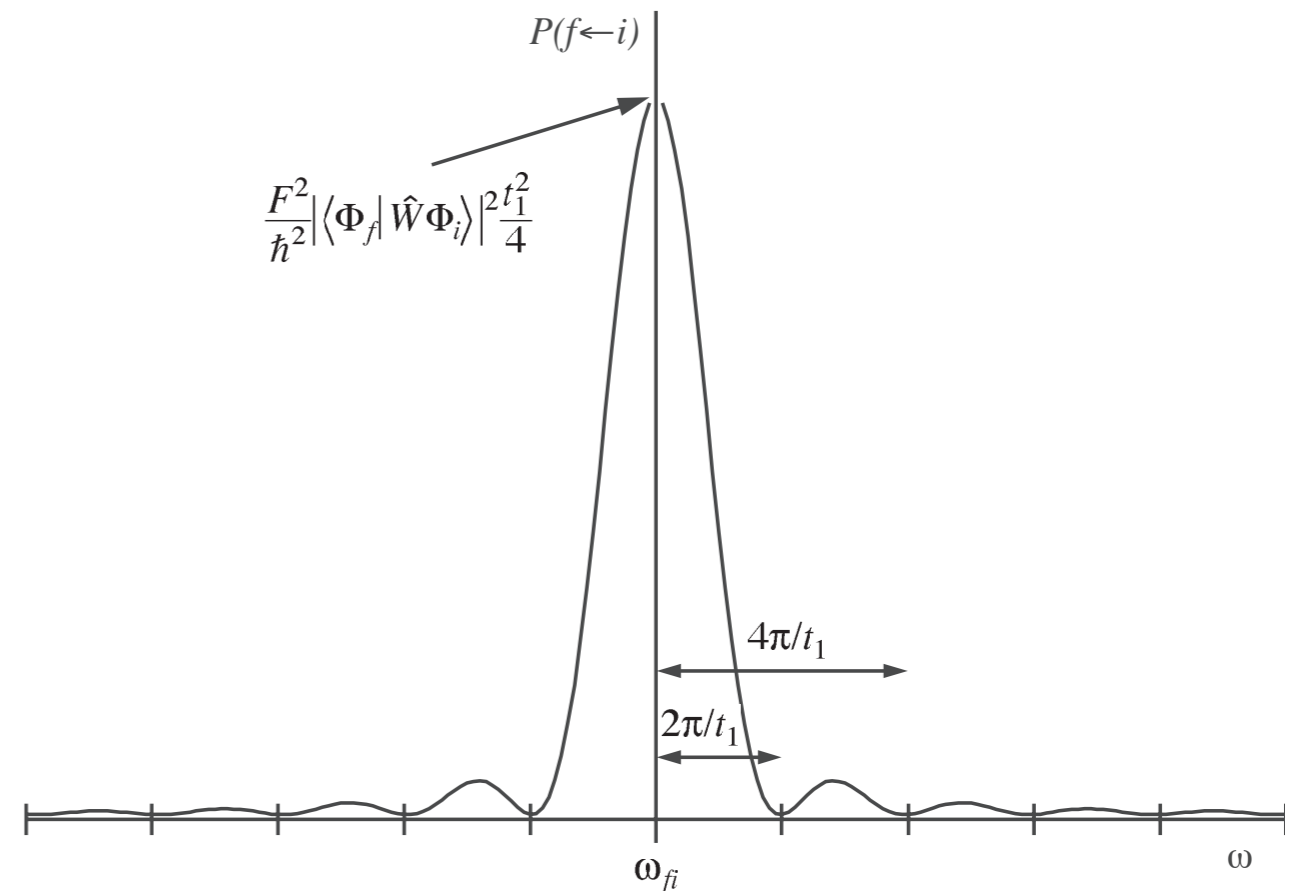
(dipolar and 1st order or monophotonic)

$$E_s - E_i \approx \hbar\omega = h\nu$$



(monophotonic) absorption: ↑

(monophotonic) induced emission: ↓



# Charged harmonic oscillator

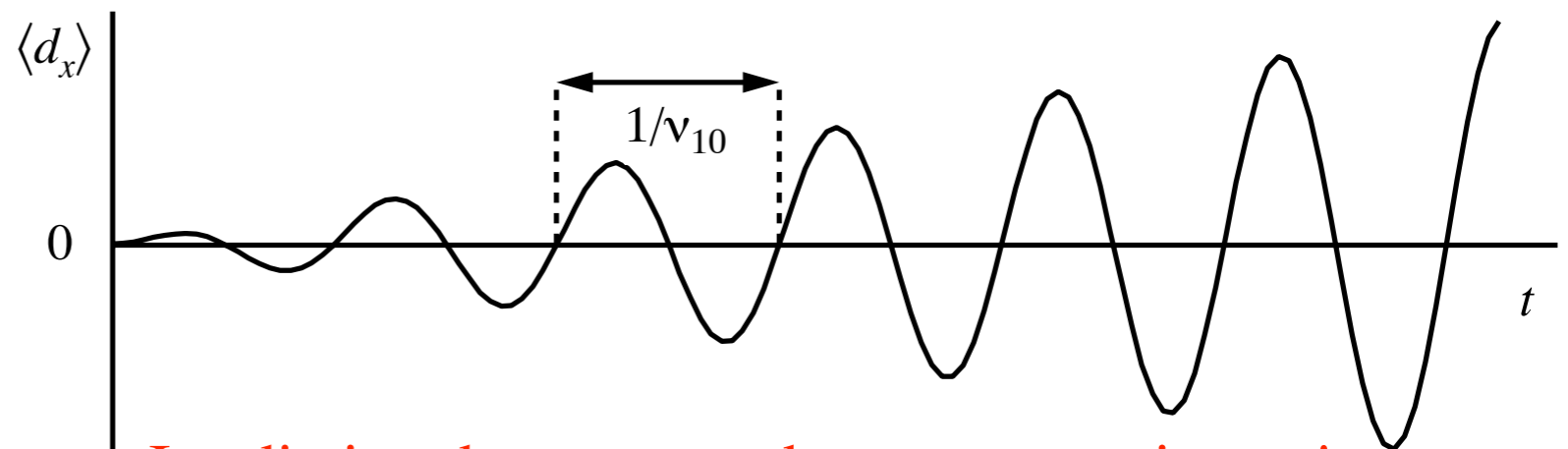
• Transition  $1 \leftrightarrow 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Phi_1 | \widehat{d}_x \Phi_0 \rangle &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi_1^*(x) qx \Phi_0(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \frac{4\alpha^3}{\pi} \right)^{1/4} x e^{-\alpha x^2/2} qx \left( \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^{1/4} e^{-\alpha x^2/2} dx \\ &= \left( \frac{2\alpha^2}{\pi} \right)^{1/2} 2q \int_0^{\infty} x^2 e^{-\alpha x^2} dx = \frac{q}{\sqrt{2\alpha}} \neq 0 \quad \text{(electric dipole) allowed} \end{aligned}$$

If we irradiate at  $\nu = \nu_{10} = (E_1 - E_0)/h$  then

$$\Psi(x; t) = c_{00}(t) e^{-iE_0 t/\hbar} \Phi_0(x) + c_{10}(t) e^{-iE_1 t/\hbar} \Phi_1(x) \quad t \in (0, t_1)$$

$$\langle d_x \rangle (t) \approx \frac{Fq^2}{2\hbar\alpha} t \sin 2\pi\nu_{10}t$$



Irradiation does not produce quantum jumps!

• Transition  $n \leftrightarrow n'$ :  $\Delta n = \pm 1$

# Gradual evolution

## *Exercise 4.1*

Verify the equation for  $\langle d_x \rangle(t)$  in slide 4.13.

*Hints:*

- Use the expression for the first-order coefficient  $c_{fi}^{(1)}(t)$  of slide 11 to calculate  $c_{10}^{(1)}(t)$ . In the interaction hamiltonian (slide 11) you can neglect the magnetic dipolar term, since the transition is electric-dipole allowed.
- Take into account that the frequency is  $\gg 1$  (which applies in all standard spectroscopic techniques).
- Since we are using first-order time-dependent perturbation theory the coefficients  $c_{fi}^{(1)}(t)$  should differ little from to their initial values, which allows to make the approximation  $c_{00}^{(1)}(t)=1$  (of course we cannot take  $c_{10}^{(1)}(t)=0$  if we want to find any time-evolution).

# Solution of the exercise 4.1

Slide 11:

$$C_{10}^{(1)}(t) = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{10}t'} \langle \Phi_1 | \{ V_0(t') \mp F \cos(\omega t') \hat{d}_x \} | \Phi_0 \rangle dt' =$$

$$= \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{10}t'} V_0(t') \mp \langle \Phi_1 | \Phi_0 \rangle dt' - \frac{F \mp}{i\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{10}t'} \cos \omega t' \langle \Phi_1 | \hat{x} | \Phi_0 \rangle dt' =$$

$$= -\frac{F \mp}{2i\hbar} \int_0^t (e^{2i\omega_{10}t'} + 1) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\alpha}} dt' = i \frac{F \mp}{2\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\alpha}} \left[ \frac{e^{2i\omega_{10}t'}}{2i\omega_{10}} + t' \right]_0^t =$$

$$= i \frac{F \mp}{2\sqrt{2\alpha}\hbar} \left( \frac{e^{2i\omega_{10}t} - 1}{2i\omega_{10}} + t \right) \approx i \frac{F \mp}{2\sqrt{2\alpha}\hbar} t$$

$\hookrightarrow > 10^8 \text{ (NMR)}$

## Solution of the exercise 4.1 (cont)

$$C_{00}^{(1)}(t) \approx C_{00}^{(1)}(0) = 1$$

$$\Psi(x;t) = C_{00}(t) e^{-i \frac{E_0}{\hbar} t} \Phi_0(x) + C_{10}(t) e^{-i \frac{E_1}{\hbar} t} \Phi_1(x) + \dots \quad \begin{cases} E_n = (n + \frac{1}{2}) \hbar \omega \\ \omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} = \omega_{10} \end{cases}$$

$$\approx e^{-i \frac{\omega_{10}}{2} t} \Phi_0(x) + i \frac{F_3}{\sqrt{8\alpha} \hbar} t e^{-i \frac{3\omega_{10}}{2} t} \Phi_1(x)$$

$$\langle d_x \rangle_{\Psi} = \langle \Psi | \hat{p} x | \Psi \rangle = \langle e^{-i \frac{\omega_{10}}{2} t} \Phi_0(x) | \hat{p} x e^{-i \frac{\omega_{10}}{2} t} \Phi_0(x) \rangle + \dots \langle \Phi_1 | x \Phi_1 \rangle$$

= 0 (ungerade integranden)

$$+ e^{i \frac{\omega_{10}}{2} t} i \frac{F_3 t}{\sqrt{8\alpha} \hbar} e^{-i \frac{3\omega_{10}}{2} t} \underbrace{\langle \Phi_0 | \hat{p} x \Phi_1 \rangle}_{\hbar/\sqrt{2\alpha}} - i \frac{F_3 t}{\sqrt{8\alpha} \hbar} e^{i \frac{3\omega_{10}}{2} t} e^{-i \frac{\omega_{10}}{2} t} \underbrace{\langle \Phi_1 | \hat{p} x \Phi_0 \rangle}_{\hbar/\sqrt{2\alpha}} =$$

$$= i \frac{F_3^2 t}{4\alpha \hbar} \underbrace{\left( e^{-i\omega_{10}t} - e^{i\omega_{10}t} \right)}_{-2i \sin \omega_{10}t} = \frac{F_3^2}{2\alpha \hbar} t \sin \omega_{10}t = \frac{F_3^2}{2\alpha \hbar} t \sin 2\pi \nu_{10} t$$

$\omega_{10} = 2\pi \nu_{10}$



# Polychromatic isotropic radiation

► ... or rotating molecules:

$$w_{si} = \frac{dP(s \leftrightarrow i)}{dt_1} = \frac{1}{6\hbar^2 \epsilon_0} \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{\vec{d}} \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2 u(\nu_{si}) = B_{si} u(\nu_{si})$$

*energy density of radiation with frequency  $\nu_{si}$*

*transition rate*  *$B_{si}$*

$$\left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{\vec{d}} \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2 = \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{d}_x \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2 + \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{d}_y \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2 + \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{d}_z \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2$$

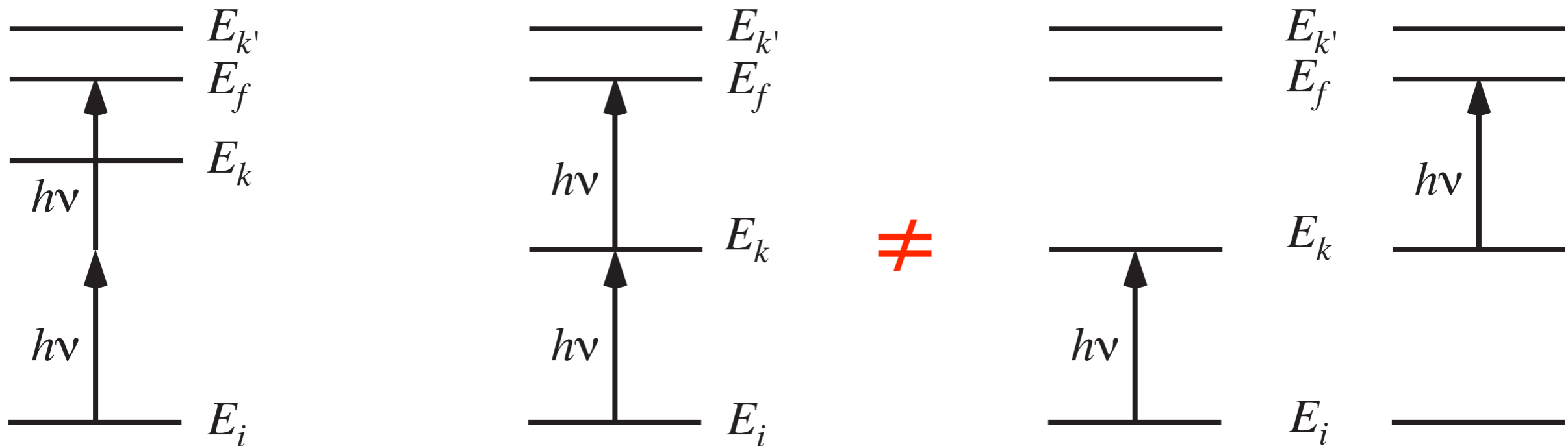
$$B_{si} \equiv \frac{1}{6\hbar^2 \epsilon_0 c^2} \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{\vec{\mu}} \Phi_i \right. \right\rangle \right|^2 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{trans. per dipol magnètic,} \\ \text{radiació isòtropa o} \\ \text{molèc. en rotació} \end{array} \right.$$

• Number of molecules passing from  $\Phi_i$  to  $\Phi_s$  per unit time:

$$N_i w_{si}^{abs} = N_i B_{si} u(\nu_{si})$$

# 2-photon processes

- ▶ *2<sup>nd</sup>-order* time-dependent perturbation method ( $F \uparrow$ ):
- ▶ 2-photon absorption / emission



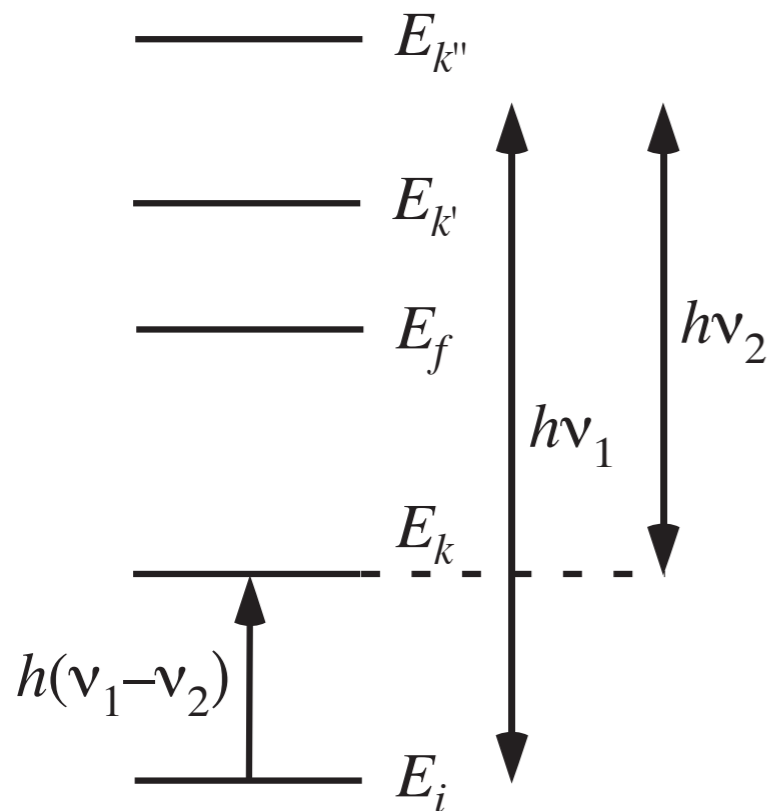
$$\frac{F \langle \Phi_f | \widehat{d}_x \Phi_i \rangle}{2\hbar}$$

$$\rightarrow \sum_k \frac{F^2 \langle \Phi_f | \widehat{d}_x \Phi_k \rangle \langle \Phi_k | \widehat{d}_x \Phi_i \rangle}{4\hbar^2 (\omega_{ki} \pm \omega)}$$

*ressonances* → non-linear spectroscopy

# Multi-photon processes

## ► Raman

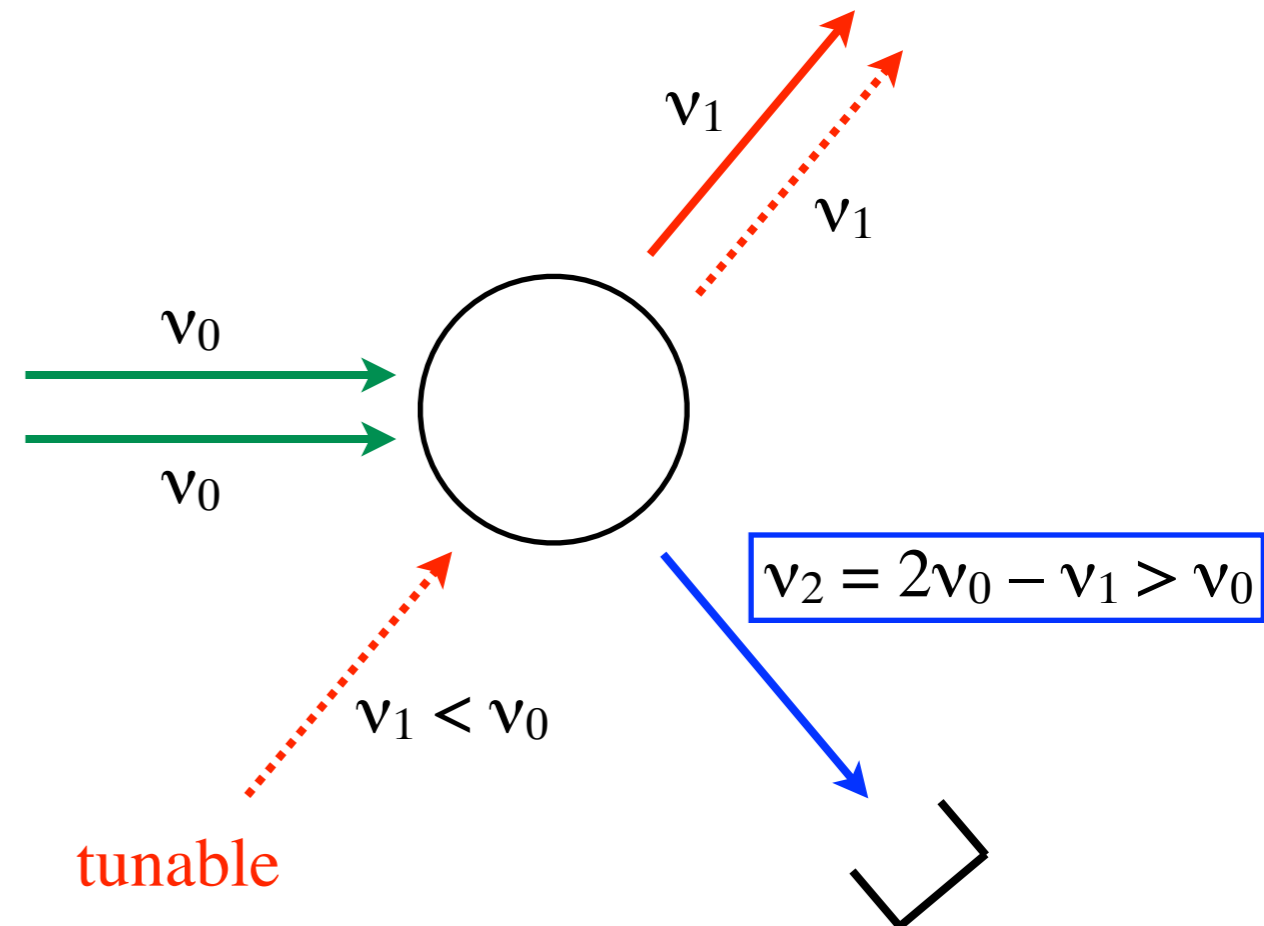


$$E_f - E_i = h\nu_{exc} - h\nu$$

$$\langle \Psi'_{vib} | [\alpha_{ab}(\nu_{exc})]_i | \Psi''_{vib} \rangle$$

↑  
*dynamic (dipole) polarizability*

## ► CARS



Elastic tetraphotonic scattering is greatly enhanced at resonances ( $\nu_0 - \nu_1 \approx \nu_{vib}$ ).

# Spontaneous emission

► Stationary states:  $\Psi(x; t) = e^{-iE_i t/\hbar} \Phi_i(x)$

$$|\Psi(x; t)|^2 = \left( e^{-iE_i t/\hbar} \Phi_i(x) \right)^* \times \left( e^{-iE_i t/\hbar} \Phi_i(x) \right) = |\Phi_i(x)|^2$$

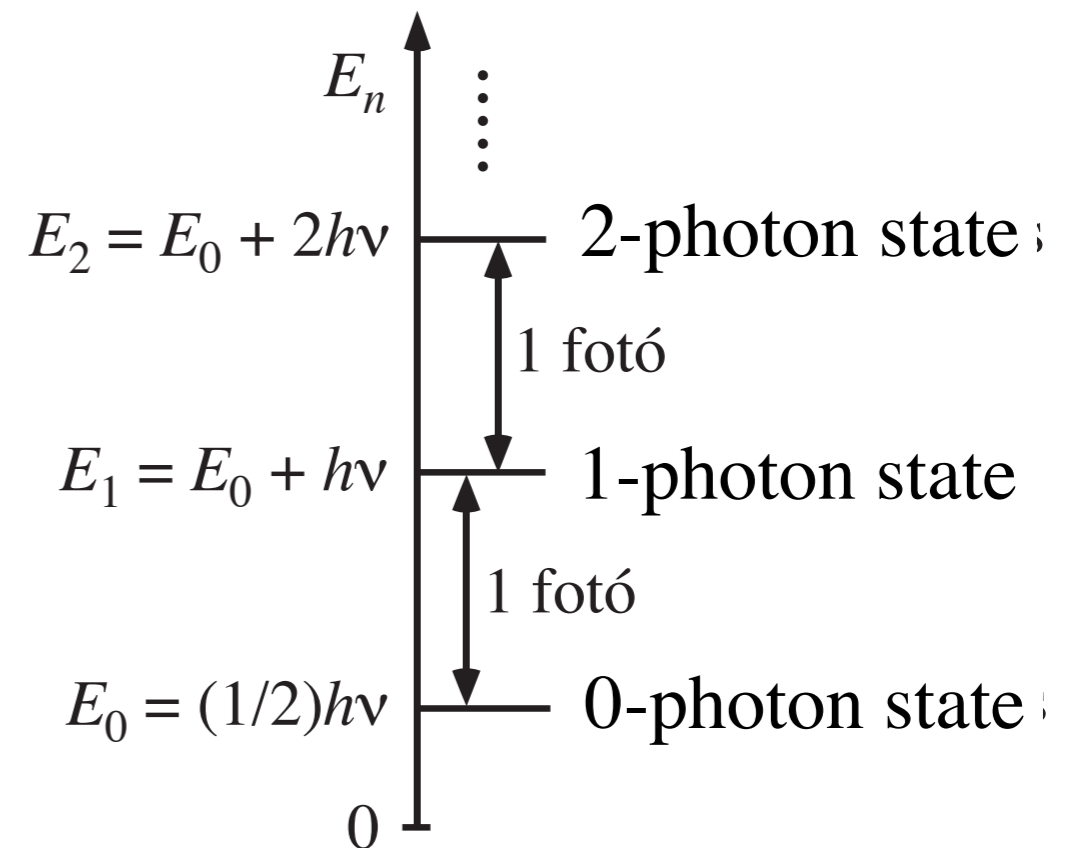
► *Spontaneous* emission?

► quantum theory of radiation

$$(x-p \leftrightarrow E-B)$$

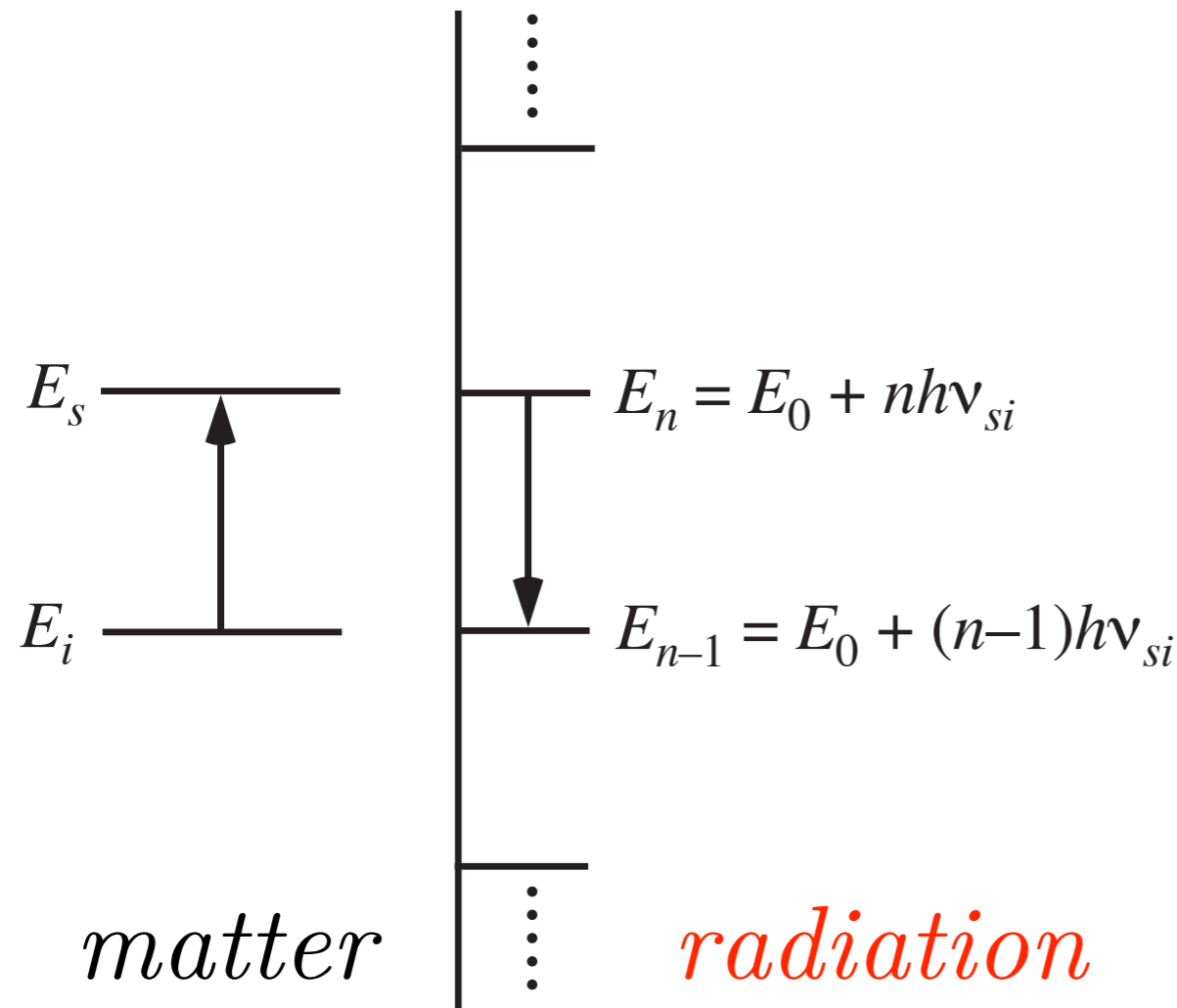
$$m_{phot,\nu} = \frac{E_{phot,\nu}}{c^2} = \frac{h\nu}{c^2} = \frac{p_{phot,\nu}}{c}$$

$$p_{phot,\nu} = \frac{h\nu}{c} = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

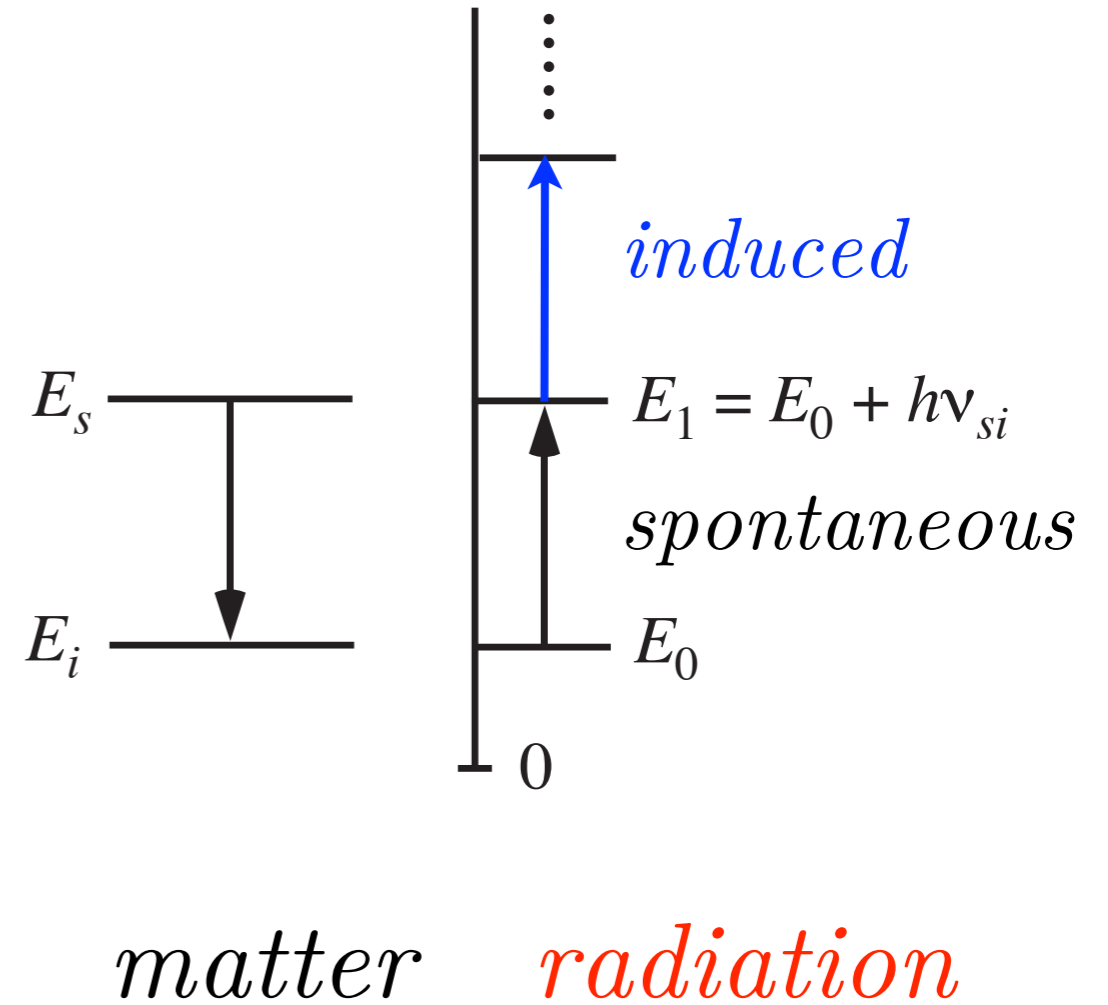


# Quantum theory of radiation

## Absorption



## Emission



# Spontaneous emission

$$A_{si} = \frac{8\pi^2 \nu_{si}^3}{3\hbar\epsilon_0 c^3} \left| \left\langle \Phi_s \left| \hat{d} \right| \Phi_i \right\rangle \right|^2$$

!!

*same selection rules*

► If  $u(\nu) = 0$  *spontaneous emission rate*

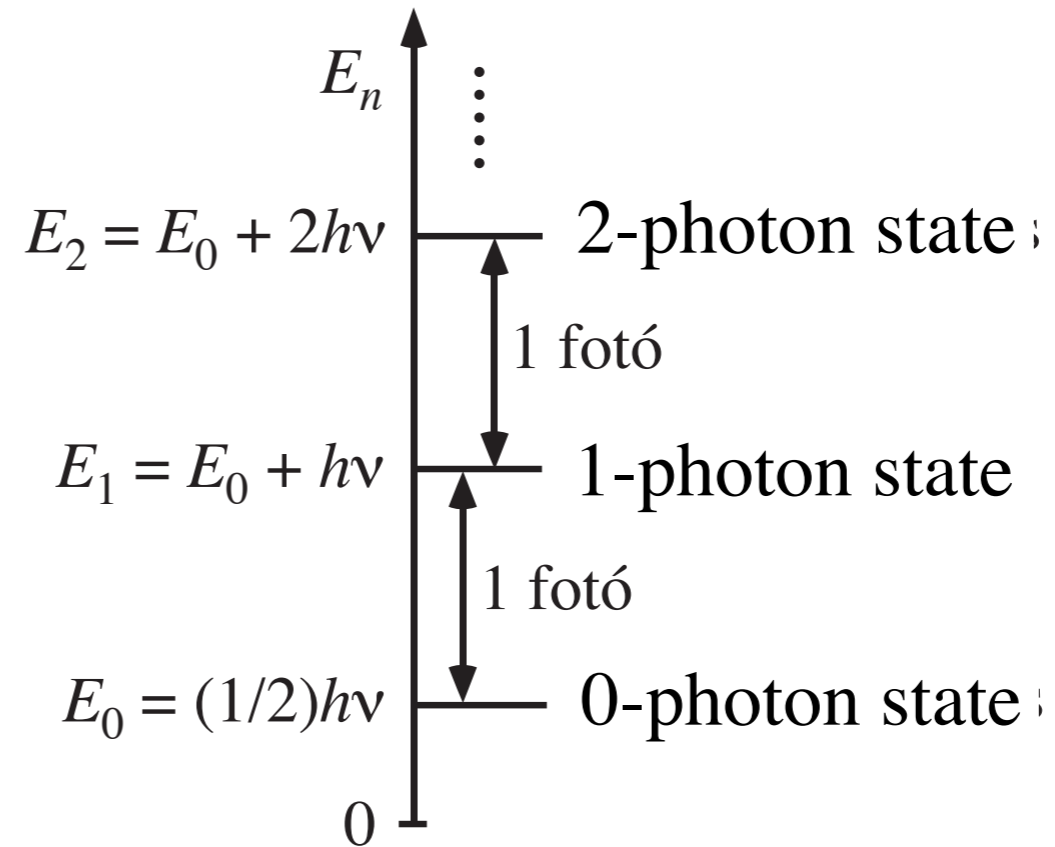
$$\frac{dN_s}{dt} = -N_s A_{si} \quad \rightarrow \quad N_s(t) = N_s(0) e^{-A_{si} t} \quad \rightarrow \quad \tau_{si} = \frac{1}{A_{si}}$$

Transition	$\left  \left\langle \Phi_s \left  \hat{d} \right  \Phi_i \right\rangle \right  / \text{Cm}$	$\nu_{si}$	$\tau_{si}$
$2p_z \rightarrow 1s$	$6,3 \times 10^{-30}$	2467 THz	$10^{-9}$ s
$(2s)^2 S_{1/2} \rightarrow (2p)^2 P_{1/2}$	$25 \times 10^{-30}$	1058 MHz	20 years

*Ratio: /10<sup>6</sup> x 10<sup>18</sup>*

# Ground state of radiation

$E_0 \neq 0 !!$

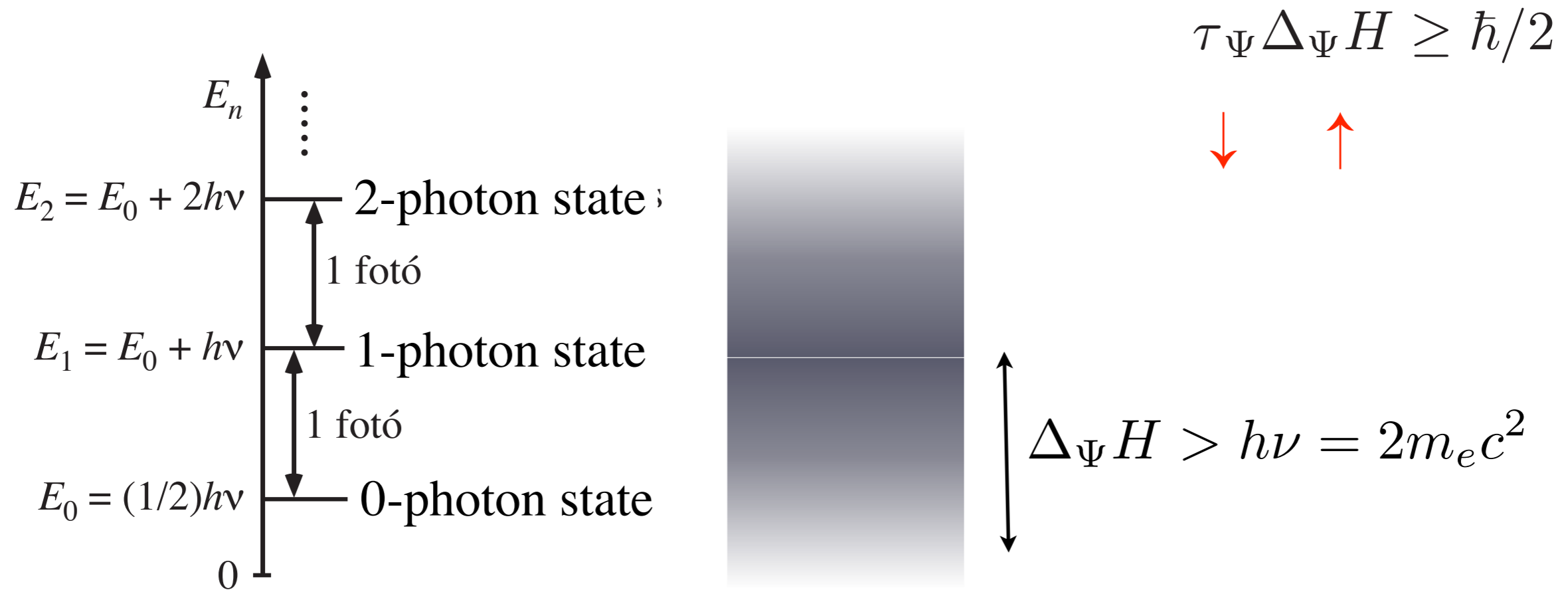


$$E_{vacuum} = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{2} h d\nu$$

$$E_n = \int_{\mathcal{R}^3} \left( \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \langle F^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \langle B^2 \rangle \right) d\vec{r}$$

# Physical vs classical vacuum

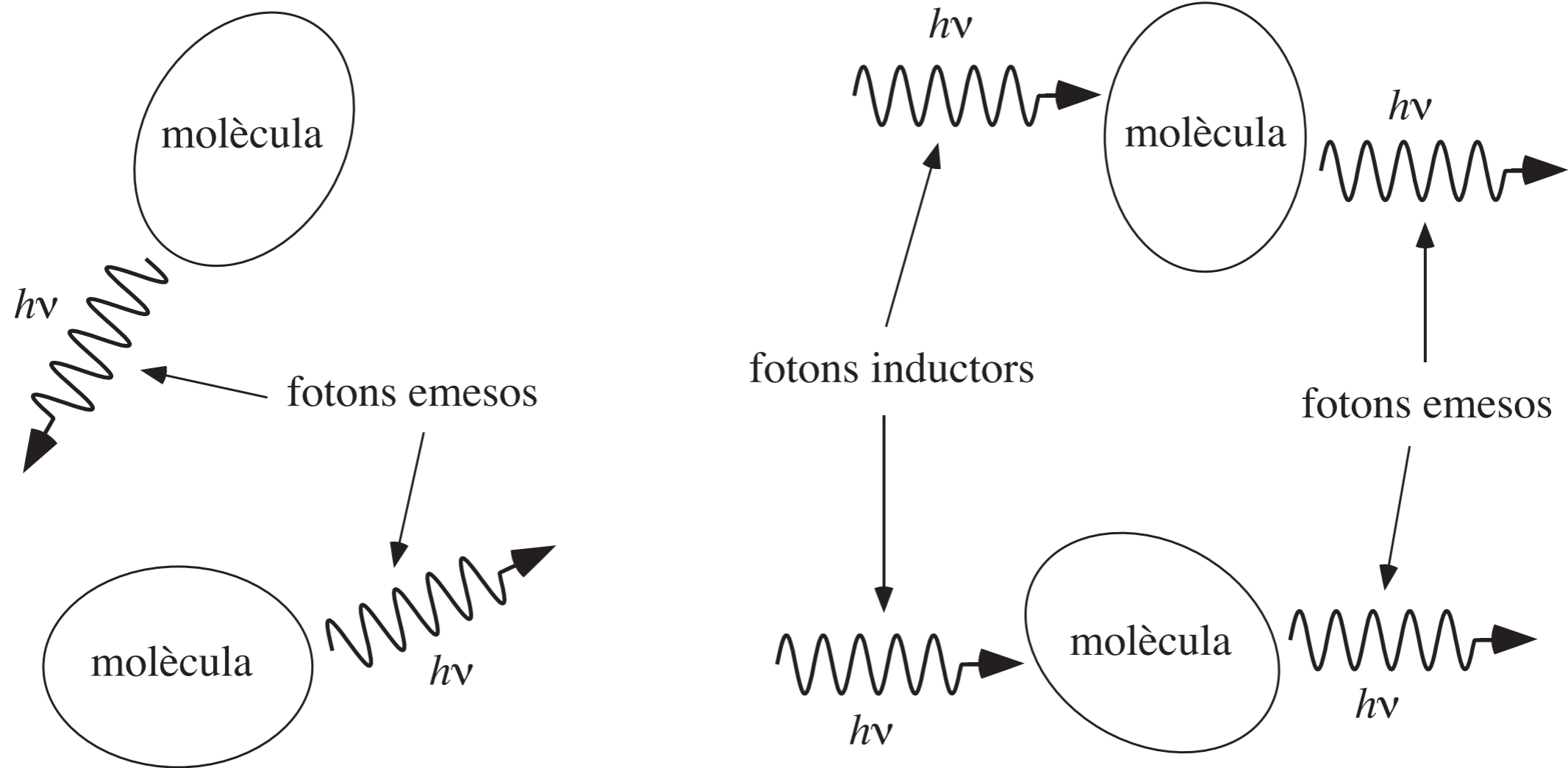
$E = mc^2 \Rightarrow$  electron-positron pairs can be created from photons with  $h\nu \geq 2m_e c^2$



$$g_e = -2.002\,319\,304\,361\,82 \text{ (2017)}$$

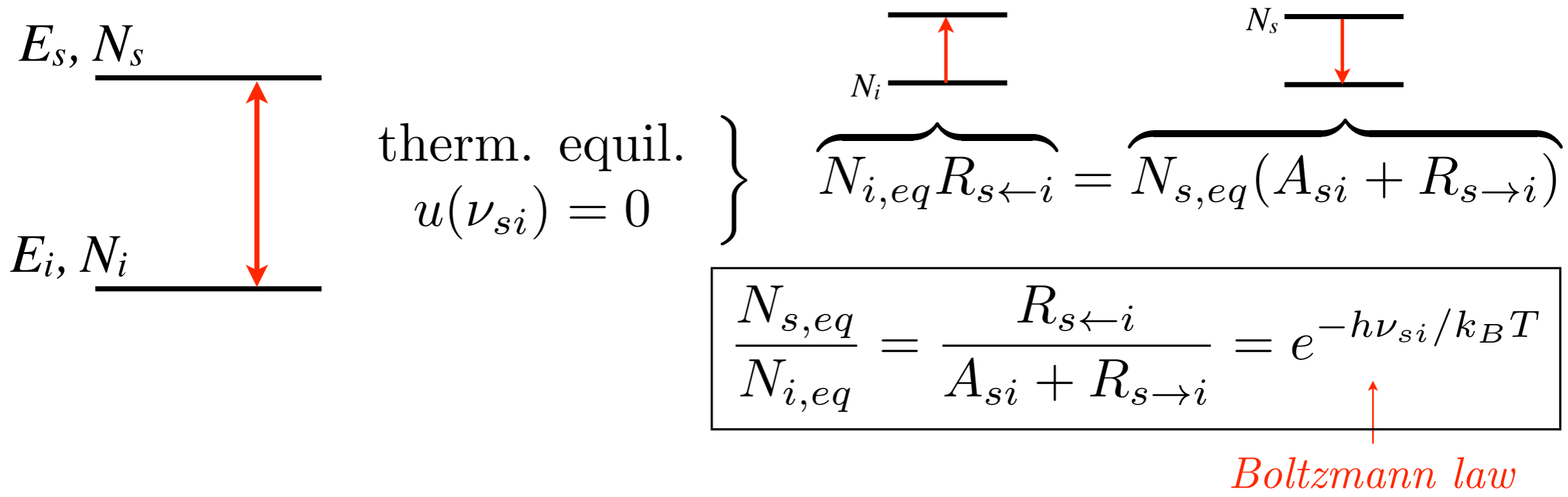


# Spontaneous vs induced emission



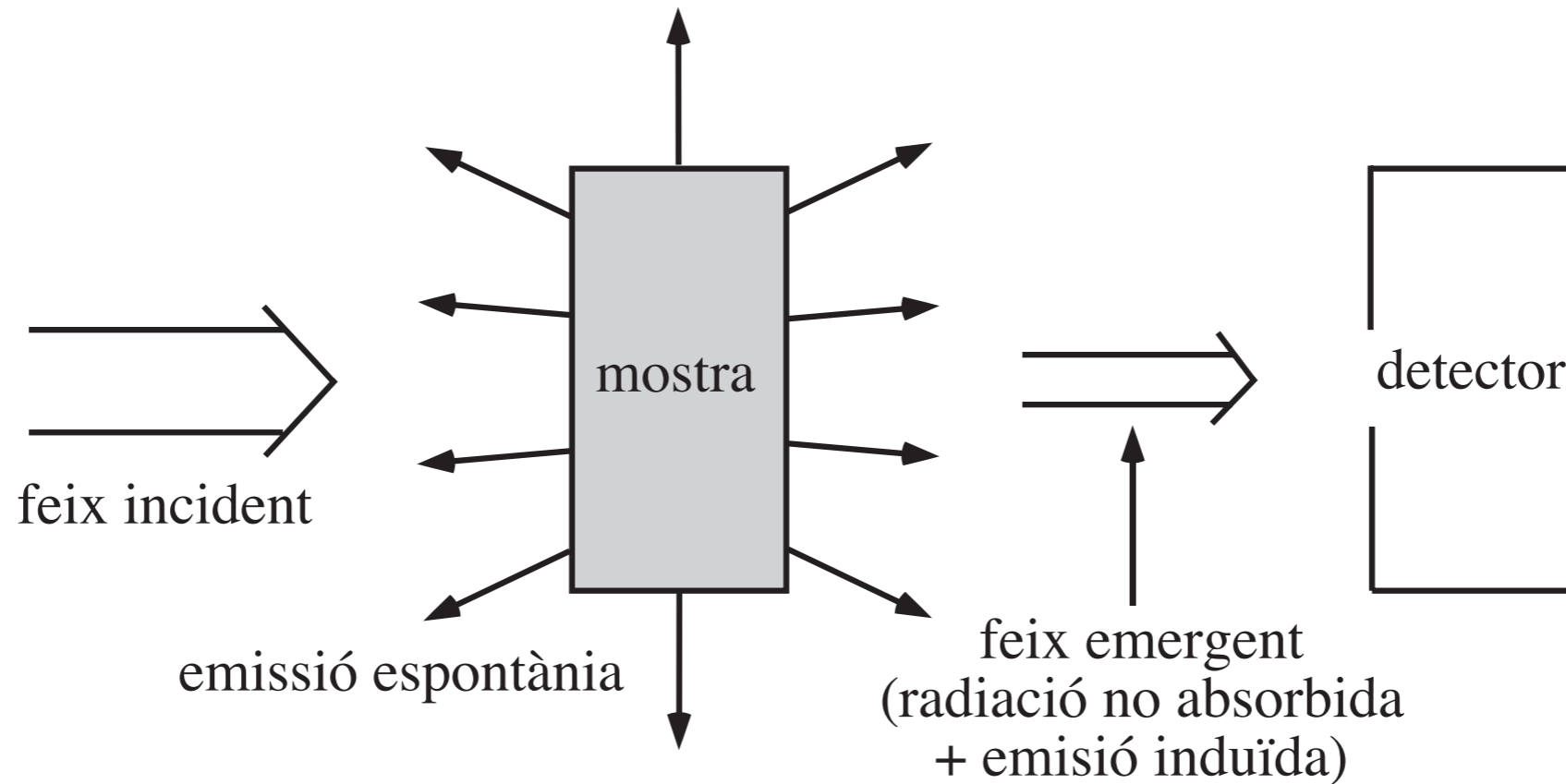
*LASER*

# Relaxation




$\nu_{si}$	$10^4$ THz (UV)	500 THz (vis)	200 THz (NIR)	30 THz (MIR)	3 THz (FIR)	100 GHz (MW)	500 MHz (RF)
25°C	$10^{-699}$	$10^{-35}$	$10^{-14}$	$10^{-2}$	0,6	0,98	0,99992
-150°C	$\approx 0$	$10^{-85}$	$10^{-34}$	$10^{-5}$	0,3	0,96	0,99989

# Absorbed energy



$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dE_{abs}}{dt} &= \overbrace{N_i B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) (E_s - E_i)} - \overbrace{N_s B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) (E_s - E_i)} \\
 &= (N_i - N_s) B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) h\nu_{si}
 \end{aligned}$$

# High frequencies ( $>$ FIR)

$$\frac{N_{s,eq}}{N_{i,eq}} = \frac{R_{s \leftarrow i}}{A_{si} + R_{s \rightarrow i}} = e^{-h\nu_{si}/k_B T} \ll 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_{si} + R_{s \rightarrow i} \gg R_{s \leftarrow i}$$


▶ A small increment of  $N_s$  produced by absorption is quickly compensated by relaxation (spont. emission half-life  $< 10^{-2}$  s).

▶  $N_i \approx N_{i,eq} \approx N$

$$\frac{dE_{abs}}{dt} = (N_i - N_s) B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) h\nu_{si} \approx \textcircled{N} B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) h\nu_{si}$$

▶ Good **sensitivity**; good for *quantitative analysis* (simple relationship between  $N$  and absorption intensity); qualitative analysis, structural determination, material characterization, etc. (UV-vis, IR...)

# Low frequencies (< FIR)

$$\frac{N_{s,eq}}{N_{i,eq}} = \frac{R_{s \leftarrow i}}{A_{si} + R_{s \rightarrow i}} = e^{-h\nu_{si}/k_B T} \approx 1 \quad \text{and} \quad A_{si} \approx 0$$

$$\frac{dE_{abs}}{dt} = (N_i - N_s) B_{si} u(\nu_{si}) h\nu_{si}$$

$(N_i - N_s) \ll N$  and depends on  $T \Rightarrow dE_{abs}/dt \propto N$  only under controlled conditions.

- ▶ Absorption tends to equate  $N_i$  and  $N_s$  ( $R_{s \rightarrow i} \approx R_{s \leftarrow i}$ )  $\Rightarrow (N_i - N_s)$  and  $dE_{abs}/dt$  decrease with the irradiation time (*saturation*).
- ▶ **Low sensitivity**; quantitative analysis requires careful calibration; good for qualitative analysis, structural determination, materials characterization, etc. (ESR, NMR, NQR, MW, ...)