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**THE QUANTUM THEORY  
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by

**GEORGE BIRTWISTLE,**  
FELLOW OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE

**CAMBRIDGE**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS**  
1926

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107463912](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107463912)

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First published 1926

First paperback edition 2014

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-46391-2 Paperback

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## PREFACE

THIS book opens with an historical account of the quantum theory from its inception by Planck, which is followed by a full treatment of the dynamical theory evolved by Bohr and his school during the past ten years to explain the phenomena of line spectra. The theory ranges from the earliest simple conception of the circular orbit of hydrogen to the application to the atom of the theory of perturbations of celestial mechanics.

Some chapters are devoted to a general description of optical and X-ray spectra and their significance in the problem of the atomic structure of the elements.

The book closes with an account of the new work on the reaction of the atom to radiation fields, which promises to lead to far-reaching developments of the quantum theory.

G. B.

CAMBRIDGE

*Oct. 10, 1925*

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## CONTENTS

	PAGES
<b>CHAPTER I. THE ORIGIN OF THE QUANTUM THEORY; PLANCK'S RADIATION FORMULA</b>	1-15
The origin of the quantum theory—Radiation—Wien's law—The function $f$ —The discovery of Planck's formula—Entropy and probability—The equation $\phi = R \log W$ —Planck's oscillator—The proof of Planck's formula—The maximum of $E_\lambda$ .	
<b>CHAPTER II. THE NUCLEAR THEORY OF THE ATOM; BOHR'S THEORY OF THE HYDROGEN SPECTRUM</b>	16-32
The nuclear theory of the atom—The line spectrum of hydrogen—Classical theory—Bohr's theory of the hydrogen spectrum—Ritz's combination principle—Energy levels in the atom—The normal state of the hydrogen atom—Observation of the Balmer lines of high order—The spectrum of ionised helium ( $\text{He}_+$ )—The spectrum of doubly ionised lithium ( $\text{Li}_{++}$ )—The effect of the motion of the nucleus—The continuous spectrum of hydrogen.	
<b>CHAPTER III. THE CORRESPONDENCE PRINCIPLE; THE PHOTO-ELECTRIC EFFECT; EINSTEIN'S DEDUCTION OF PLANCK'S FORMULA</b>	33-38
The correspondence principle of Bohr—The photo-electric effect—The X-ray photo-electric effect—Einstein's deduction of Planck's radiation formula.	
<b>CHAPTER IV. THE ADIABATIC PRINCIPLE OF EHRENFEST; THE STATIONARY STATES OF A PERIODIC SYSTEM</b>	39-47
The stationary states of a periodic orbit—The adiabatic principle of Ehrenfest—Illustration from the simple pendulum—Elliptic orbits of an electron—The equation $\delta E = \omega \delta I$ for any simply periodic system—Bohr's theory for a simply periodic system.	

	PAGES
<b>CHAPTER V. GENERAL DYNAMICAL THEORY</b>	<b>48–55</b>
Newtonian theory—The variation principle—Lagrange's equations—Relativity theory—The dynamics of an electron in a magnetic field—Hamilton's equations.	
<b>CHAPTER VI. CONTACT TRANSFORMATIONS; THE HAMILTON-JACOBI DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION</b>	<b>56–66</b>
Contact transformations—The Hamilton-Jacobi differential equation—Solution of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation by separation of variables—Illustrative example of motion in a vertical plane under gravity—	
The quantity $I \equiv \oint pdq$ —Illustrative example of the Keplerian orbit—Lagrange's method of 'variation of arbitrary constants'—Infinitesimal contact transformation.	
<b>CHAPTER VII. THE USE OF ANGLE VARIABLES; MULTIPLY PERIODIC SYSTEMS</b>	<b>67–79</b>
Angle variables $w$ —Periodicity of the $q$ 's in the $w$ 's—The function $S^* \equiv S - \Sigma Iw$ —Extension of Fourier's theorem to multiply periodic functions—Multiply periodic system—The equation $\delta E = \Sigma \omega \delta I$ —The equation $\dot{A} = \Sigma \omega I$ —Degenerate systems—The correspondence principle for a multiply periodic system—Burgers' proof of the invariance of the $I$ 's for a non-degenerate system—The quantum conditions for multiply periodic systems.	
<b>CHAPTER VIII. THE RELATIVITY THEORY OF THE FINE STRUCTURE OF THE HYDROGEN LINES; ELECTRON IN A CENTRAL FIELD</b>	<b>80–96</b>
The fine structure of the hydrogen lines—Sommerfeld's theory—Use of the correspondence principle—Calculation of the fine structure for hydrogen—The fine structure of the lines of ionised helium—The form of the relativity orbit—Representation by a revolving orbit—Relativity effect regarded as a central perturbation—The path of an electron in a central field.	



## CONTENTS

ix

	PAGES
CHAPTER IX. THE STARK EFFECT . . . . .	97–111
The Stark effect—Theory of the effect—System degenerate—New ‘action’ variables—Application of the correspondence principle—Numerical results of the theory.	
CHAPTER X. THE ZEEMAN EFFECT . . . . .	112–118
The Zeeman effect—Proof of Larmor’s theorem—The theory of the Zeeman effect—Bohr’s theory of the Zeeman effect—Magnitude of the effect.	
CHAPTER XI. THE SERIES SPECTRA OF THE ELEMENTS . . . . .	119–126
The <i>K</i> , <i>L</i> , <i>M</i> , ... groups—Optical spectra—The Rydberg and Ritz formulae—Spectral series—Theoretical deduction of the Ritz formula.	
CHAPTER XII. THE MULTIPLE STRUCTURE OF SERIES LINES; THEORY OF THE RITZ FORMULA . . . . .	127–134
The multiple structure of the series lines—Theory of the multiple structure—The doublet systems of the alkali metals—The triplet systems of the alkaline earths—Bohr’s generalisation of the Ritz formula—The mechanical significance of Ritz’s formula (Bohr).	
CHAPTER XIII. ARC AND SPARK SPECTRA; EXCITATION OF LINES BY ELECTRONS OR RADIATION . . . . .	135–141
Arc and spark spectra—The building of atoms—Excitation of spectral lines by electron bombardment—Excitation of spectral lines by light of given frequency—Resonance radiation—Optical spectra and the periodic law.	
CHAPTER XIV. X-RAY SPECTRA . . . . .	142–147
X-ray spectra—Kossel’s theory of X-ray spectra—The relation of wave number to atomic number—Excitation of the X-ray spectrum—The connection between optical and X-ray spectra.	

x	CONTENTS	PAGES
CHAPTER XV. ABSORPTION SPECTRA AND ABSORPTION EDGES . . . . .		148–155
Absorption spectra—Absorption spectra of excited atoms—X-ray absorption edges—X-ray levels of the atom—Photo-electric determination of absorption edges— $\gamma$ -Rays.		
BOHR'S TABLE OF THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE ELEMENTS . . . . .		156–157
CHAPTER XVI. BOHR'S THEORY OF THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE ELEMENTS		158–163
Bohr's theory of the atomic structure of the elements —First period. Hydrogen–Helium—Second period. Lithium–Neon—Third period. Sodium–Argon— Fourth period. Potassium–Krypton—Fifth period. Rubidium–Xenon—Sixth period. Caesium–Niton— Seventh period (87)–(118).		
CHAPTER XVII. BAND SPECTRA IN THE IN- FRA-RED . . . . .		164–178
Band spectra—The infra-red absorption bands. (i) Rotation spectrum—(ii) Rotation-vibration spectrum—The angle variables—Deductions from the theory—Effect of isotopes on the band spectrum.		
CHAPTER XVIII. BAND SPECTRA IN THE OPTICAL REGION; MOLECULAR ROTA- TION AND SPECIFIC HEAT . . . . .		179–186
Bands in the optical region—The band structure— Band systems—Later theory—The effect of molecular rotation on the specific heat of a diatomic gas.		
CHAPTER XIX. THE KEPLERIAN ORBIT; THE DELAUNAY ELEMENTS . . . . .		187–194
The Keplerian orbit—The action and angle variables —The Delaunay elements, $J, v$ .		

## CONTENTS

xi

## PAGES

CHAPTER XX. THE ASTRONOMICAL THEORY OF PERTURBATIONS AND ATOM MECHANICS . . . . .	195–208
Bohr's theory of a perturbed periodic system—Bohr's theory of the Stark effect—The polarisation—Asymmetry in the Stark effect—Use of the Delaunay elements of the orbit to determine the Stark effect.	
CHAPTER XXI. GENERAL PERTURBATION THEORY . . . . .	209–217
The perturbations of a non-degenerate system—First approximation, neglecting $\lambda^2$ —Nature of the perturbations—Second approximation, including $\lambda^2$ —Application to the anharmonic oscillator—The perturbations of a degenerate system.	
CHAPTER XXII. THE EFFECT OF ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS ON THE SPECTRA OF ELEMENTS OF HIGHER ATOMIC NUMBER. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE QUANTUM THEORY: THE DOUBLET THEORIES OF SOMMERFELD AND LANDÉ; THE DISPERSION THEORY OF KRAMERS; THE QUANTUM-KINEMATICS OF HEISENBERG . . . . .	218–233
The effect of an electric field on series spectra—The effect of a magnetic field on series spectra (the anomalous Zeeman effect)—Sommerfeld's theory of the X-ray doublets—Landé's theory of the optical doublets—The dispersion theory of Kramers—The quantum-kinematics of Heisenberg.	
INDEX OF AUTHORS . . . . .	235