

# Mayer's quest

P1/3

## Lecture on structure of Hydrogen

### Useful results

$$\text{Bohr radius: } \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{m_e e^2} = 0.0529 \text{ nm}$$

$$E_n = -\frac{m_e}{2\hbar^2} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\right)^2 \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\hbar c = 197.37 \text{ eV nm}$$

$$hc = 1240 \text{ eV nm}$$

$$k_e = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0}, \quad \frac{k_e}{\hbar c} = \frac{1}{137.04}$$

I Matt's questions in more depth

II Derive  $\lambda$  of H-atom

III Examples

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I. ① Why doesn't H radiate constantly?  
Electrons are not

moving in the traditional sense - they are in stationary states and so they need not radiate.

② Why does an H-atom sometimes emit photons ( $\gamma$ 's)? The electron can be excited into higher energy states and emit radiation,  $\gamma$ 's, to come back down.

③ Why particular  $\lambda$ 's?

P2/3

$$E_x = hf = \left| -\frac{m_e}{2\hbar^2} k_e^2 \left( \frac{1}{n_i^2} - \frac{1}{n_f^2} \right) \right|$$
$$= \frac{m_e}{2\hbar^2} k_e^2 \left( \frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2} \right)$$

also,

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} \Rightarrow f = \frac{c}{\lambda}$$

so

$$E_x = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{E_x}{hc}$$

so,

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{m_e}{4\pi\hbar^3} \left( \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \left[ \frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2} \right]$$
$$= R \left[ \frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2} \right]$$

We find

$$R = \frac{m_e}{4\pi\hbar^3} \left( \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 = 1.097 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$$

III Example 1:

$\square$  12.3eV electron beam  
 $\textcircled{\text{H}}$  H atom (i.e. in its ground state)

$$12.3 \text{ eV} - 13.6 \text{ eV} = -1.3 \text{ eV}$$

So, the most energy that can be absorbed gives

$$E_3 = -1.5 \text{ eV}$$

Then the allowed transitions are

P3/3

$E_3 \rightarrow E_2$  Balmer Series

$E_3 \rightarrow E_1$  Lyman Series

$E_{3 \rightarrow 2}$ :  $E_\gamma = \cancel{13.6 \text{ eV}} 1.9 \text{ eV}$

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E_\gamma} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV nm}}{1.9 \text{ eV}} = 656 \text{ nm}$$

red.

$E_{3 \rightarrow 1}$ :  $E_\gamma = 12.1 \text{ eV}$

$$\lambda = \frac{1240 \text{ eV nm}}{12.1 \text{ eV}} = 103 \text{ nm}$$

Ultraviolet