

Chapter 12: Atoms

NCERT Exemplar · Class 12 · Physics

Questions

Question 12.1

Taking the Bohr radius as $a_0 = 53\text{pm}$, the radius of Li^{++} ion in its ground state, on the basis of Bohr's model, will be about

- (a) 53 pm
- (b) 27 pm
- (c) 18 pm
- (d) 13 pm

Solution

- (c) 18 pm

Question 12.2

The binding energy of an H-atom, considering an electron moving around a fixed nucleus (proton), is

$$B = \frac{me^4}{8n^2\epsilon_0^2h^2}$$

(m = electron mass). If one decides to work in a frame of reference where the electron is at rest, the proton would be moving around it. By similar arguments, the binding energy

$$B = \frac{Me^4}{8n^2\epsilon_0^2h^2}$$

would be (M = proton mass) This last expression is not correct because

A.

n would not be integral

B.

Bohr-quantisation applies only to electron

C.

the frame in which the electron is at rest is not inertial

D.

the motion of the proton would not be in circular orbits, even approximately

Answer

Correct option: C

Solution

(c) the frame in which the electron is at rest is not inertial

Question 12.3

The simple Bohr model cannot be directly applied to calculate the energy levels of an atom with many electrons. This is because

(a) of the electrons not being subject to a central force

(b) of the electrons colliding with each other

(c) of screening effects

(d) the force between the nucleus and an electron will no longer be given by Coulomb's law

Solution

(a) of the electrons not being subject to a central force

Question 12.4

For the ground state, the electron in the H-atom has an angular momentum = $\hbar$, according to the simple Bohr model. Angular momentum is a vector and hence there will be infinitely many orbits with the vector pointing in all possible directions. In actuality, this is not true,

A.

because Bohr model gives incorrect values of angular momentum

B.

because only one of these would have a minimum energy

C.

angular momentum must be in the direction of spin of electron

D.

because electrons go around only in horizontal orbits

Answer

Correct option: A

Solution

(a) because Bohr model gives incorrect values of angular momentum

Question 12.5

O₂ molecule consists of two oxygen atoms. In the molecule, nuclear force between the nuclei of the two atoms

(a) is not important because nuclear forces are short-ranged

(b) is as important as an electrostatic force for binding the two atoms

(c) cancels the repulsive electrostatic force between the nuclei

(d) is not important because the oxygen nucleus have an equal number of neutrons and protons

Solution

(a) is not important because nuclear forces are short-ranged

Question 12.6

Two H atoms in the ground state collide inelastically. The maximum amount by which their combined kinetic energy is reduced is

A.

10.20 eV

B.

20.40 eV

C.

13.6 eV

D.

27.2 eV

Answer

Correct option: A

Solution

(a) 10.20 eV

Question 12.7

A set of atoms in an excited state decays.

- (a) in general to any of the states with lower energy
- (b) into a lower state only when excited by an external electric field
- (c) all together simultaneously into a lower state
- (d) to emit photons only when they collide

Solution

(a) in general to any of the states with lower energy

Multiple Choice Questions II

Question 12.8

An ionised H-molecule consists of an electron and two protons. The protons are separated by a small distance of the order of angstrom. In the ground state,

- (a) the electron would not move in circular orbits
 - (b) the energy would be (2)⁴ times that of an H-atom
-

- (c) the electrons, the orbit would go around the protons
- (d) the molecule will soon decay in a proton and an H-atom

Solution

- (a) the electron would not move in circular orbits
- (c) the electrons, the orbit would go around the protons

Question 12.9

Consider aiming a beam of free electrons towards free protons. When they scatter, an electron and a proton cannot combine to produce an H-atom,

- (a) because of energy conservation
- (b) without simultaneously releasing energy in the form of radiation
- (c) because of momentum conservation
- (d) because of angular momentum conservation

Solution

- (a) because of energy conservation
- (b) without simultaneously releasing energy in the form of radiation

Question 12.10

The Bohr model for the spectra of an H-atom

- (a) will not be applicable to hydrogen in the molecular form
- (b) will not be applicable as it is for a He-atom
- (c) is valid only at room temperature
- (d) predicts continuous as well as discrete spectral lines

Solution

- (a) will not be applicable to hydrogen in the molecular form
- (b) will not be applicable as it is for a He-atom

Question 12.11

The Balmer series for the H-atom can be observed

- (a) if we measure the frequencies of light emitted when an excited atom falls to the ground state
- (b) if we measure the frequencies of light emitted due to transitions between excited states and the first excited state
- (c) in any transition in a H-atom
- (d) as a sequence of frequencies with the higher frequencies getting closely packed

Solution

- (b) if we measure the frequencies of light emitted due to transitions between excited states and the first excited state
- (d) as a sequence of frequencies with the higher frequencies getting closely packed

Question 12.12

Let

$$E_n = \frac{-1}{8\epsilon_0^2} \frac{me^4}{n^2 h^2}$$

be the energy of the nth level of H-atom. If all the H-atoms are in the ground state and radiation of frequency $(E_2 - E_1)/h$ falls on it

- (a) it will not be absorbed at all
- (b) some of the atoms will move to the first excited state
- (c) all atoms will be excited to the $n = 2$ state
- (d) no atoms will make a transition to the $n = 3$ state

Solution

- (b) some of the atoms will move to the first excited state
- (d) no atoms will make a transition to the $n = 3$ state

Question 12.13

The simple Bohr model is not applicable to He^4 atom because

- (a) He^4 is an inert gas

(b) He^4 has neutrons in the nucleus

(c) He^4 has one more electron

(d) electrons are not subject to central forces

Solution

(c) He^4 has one more electron

(d) electrons are not subject to central forces

Very Short Answers

Question 12.14

The mass of an H-atom is less than the sum of the masses of a proton and electron. Why is this?

Solution

We know that,

$$E = \Delta mc^2$$

The mass of the hydrogen atom is

$$m_p + m_e - BE/c^2$$

Where $BE = 13.6 \text{ eV}$.

Question 12.15

Imagine removing one electron from He^4 and He^3 . Their energy levels, as worked out on the basis of Bohr model will be very close. Explain why.

Solution

The energies of He^4 and He^3 will be very close according to the Bohr model because both have 1 electron as in case of the hydrogen atom and the nucleus is 4 times heavier than the H-atoms. Therefore, the stability of these atoms remains close to the H atom and so is their energy levels.

Question 12.16

When an electron falls from a higher energy to a lower energy level, the difference in the energies appears in the form of electromagnetic radiation. Why cannot it be emitted as other forms of energy?

Solution

When an electron falls from a higher energy to a lower energy level, the difference in the energies appears in the form of electromagnetic radiation because there is an acceleration of the charged particle.

Question 12.17

Would the Bohr formula for the H-atom remain unchanged if proton had a charge $(+4/3)e$ and electron a charge $(-3/4)e$, where $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{C}$? Give reasons for your answer.

Solution

As there is no change in the position of the proton and electron the product of both the charges will remain the same.

Question 12.18

Consider two different hydrogen atoms. The electron in each atom is in an excited state. Is it possible for the electrons to have different energies but the same orbital angular momentum according to the Bohr model?

Solution

As the value of n in two different hydrogen atoms are different, their angular momentum will be different.

According to Bohr's model, the angular momentum is given as

$$L = nh/2\pi$$

Short Answers

Question 12.19

Positronium is just like an H-atom with the proton replaced by the positively charged anti-particle of the electron (called the positron which is as massive as the electron). What would be the ground state energy of positronium?

Solution

The lowest energy of the positronium is -6.8 electron volts

The highest energy level of the positronium which is the next to $n = 1$ that is $n = 2$ is -1.7 electron volt.

Question 12.20

Assume that there is no repulsive force between the electrons in an atom but the force between positive and negative charges is given by Coulomb's law as usual. Under such circumstances, calculate the ground state energy of a He-atom.

Solution

For He nucleus, $Z = 2$ and in-ground state $n = 1$

Therefore, $E_n = -13.6 Z^2/n^2 \text{ eV} = -54.4 \text{ eV}$

Question 12.21

Using the Bohr model, calculate the electric current created by the electron when the H-atom is in the ground state.

Solution

Let v be the velocity of the electron

Number of revolutions per unit time = $f = 2\pi a_0/v$

The electric current is given as $I = Q$

When charge Q flows in time T

Such that $Q = e$

Therefore, the electric current is given as $I = 2\pi a_0/v e$

Question 12.22

Show that the first few frequencies of light that are emitted when electrons fall to the n th level from levels higher than n are approximate harmonics (i.e. in the ratio 1 : 2: 3...) when $n \gg 1$.

Solution

Frequency of any line in the series on the spectrum of hydrogen is expressed as the difference between the two atoms

$$f_{cm} = cRZ^2[1/(n+p)^2 - 1/n^2]$$

where $m = n + p$

Substituting for p we get,

$$f_{cm} = (2cRZ^2/n^3)p$$

Question 12.23

What is the minimum energy that must be given to an H atom in ground state so that it can emit an H_γ line in Balmer series? If the angular momentum of the system is conserved, what would be the angular momentum of such H_γ photon?

Solution

Energy required for the transition from $n = 1$ to $n = 5$ is given as:

$$E = E_5 - E_1 = (-13.6/5^2) - (-13.6/1^2) = 13.06 \text{ eV}$$

Angular momentum is given as = change in angular momentum of electron = $5(h/2\pi) - 2(h/2\pi) = 3h/2\pi$
 $\pi = 3.17 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js.}$

Long Answers

Question 12.24

The first four spectral lines in the Lyman series of an H-atom are $\lambda = 1218 \text{ \AA}$, $1028 \text{ \AA}$, $974.3 \text{ \AA}$ and $951.4 \text{ \AA}$. If instead of Hydrogen, we consider Deuterium, calculate the shift in the wavelength of these lines.

Solution

Let μ_H and μ_D be the reduced masses of electrons of hydrogen and deuterium respectively.

n_i and n_f are the fixed mass series for hydrogen and deuterium

$$R_h/R_d = \mu_H/\mu_D$$

Reduced mass of hydrogen = $\mu_H = m_e/1 + m_e/M = m_e (1 - m_e/M)$

Reduced mass of deuterium = $\mu_D = \frac{2M \cdot m_e}{2M(1 + m_e/2M)} = m_e(1 - m_e/2M)$

$$\mu_H / \mu_D = 0.99973$$

$$\lambda_D / \lambda_H = 0.99973$$

$$\lambda_D = 0.99973 \lambda_H$$

Therefore, change in wavelength = $\lambda_H - \lambda_D = 0.3 \text{ \AA}$

Question 12.25

Deuterium was discovered in 1932 by Harold Urey by measuring the small change in wavelength for a particular transition in $1H$ and $2H$. This is because the wavelength of transition depends to a certain extent on the nuclear mass. If nuclear motion is taken into account then the electrons and nucleus revolve around their common centre of mass. Such a system is equivalent to a single particle with a reduced mass μ , revolving around the nucleus at a distance equal to the electron-nucleus separation. Here $\mu = \frac{m_e M}{m_e + M}$ where M is the nuclear mass and m_e is the electronic mass. Estimate the percentage difference in wavelength for the 1st line of the Lyman series in $1H$ and $2H$. (Mass of $1H$ nucleus is $1.6725 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$, Mass of $2H$ nucleus is $3.3374 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$, Mass of electron = $9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$.)

Solution

The energy of an electron in the n th state is

$$E_n = -\mu Z^2 e^4 / 8\epsilon_0^2 h^2 (1/n^2)$$

For hydrogen atom, $\mu_H = \frac{m_e M_H}{m_e + M_H}$

For deuterium atom, $\mu_D = \frac{m_e M_D}{m_e + M_D}$

The wavelength of the transition for hydrogen is = $\lambda_H = \frac{3}{4} \mu_H e^4 / 8\epsilon_0^2 h^2 c$

The wavelength of the transition for deuterium is = $\lambda_D = \frac{3}{4} \mu_D e^4 / 8\epsilon_0^2 h^2 c$

The difference between the wavelength is = $\lambda = \lambda_H - \lambda_D = 2.714 \times 10^{-2}\%$

Question 12.26

If a proton had a radius R and the charge was uniformly distributed, calculate using Bohr theory, the ground state energy of a H-atom when (i) $R = 0.1 \text{ \AA}$, and (ii) $R = 10 \text{ \AA}$.

Solution

The kinetic energy of the H atom is 13.6 eV

Potential energy of an electron and proton is -27.2 eV

Total energy of the electron = -13.6 eV

When $R = 0.1\text{\AA}$, the ground state energy is same as the earlier = -13.6 eV

When $R = 10\text{\AA}$,

The kinetic energy = 0.16 eV

The potential energy of electron and proton = -3.83 eV

Total energy of the electron = -3.67 eV.

Question 12.27

In the Auger process, an atom makes a transition to a lower state without emitting a photon. The excess energy is transferred to an outer electron which may be ejected by the atom. (This is called an Auger electron). Assuming the nucleus to be massive, calculate the kinetic energy of an $n = 4$ Auger electron emitted by Chromium by absorbing the energy from an $n = 2$ to $n = 1$ transition.

Solution

The energy in the n th state = $-Rch Z^2/n^2 = -13.6 Z^2/n^2$ eV

Where R is the Rydberg constant and $Z = 24$

Energy released is $(13.6Z^2)(3/4)$

Energy required to eject 4 electron is $13.6 Z^2/16$ eV

Therefore, the kinetic energy is $13.6Z^2(3/4 - 1/16) = 5385.6$ eV.

Question 12.28

The inverse square law in electrostatics is

$$|F| = \frac{e^2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)r^2}$$

for the force between an electron and a proton. The $1/r$ dependence of $|F|$ can

be understood in quantum theory as being due to the fact that the 'particle' of light (photon) is massless. If photons had a mass m_p , force would be modified to

$$|F| = \frac{e^2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)} r^2 \left[\frac{1}{r^2} + \frac{\lambda}{r} \right] \quad \text{where } \lambda = m_p c / \hbar \text{ and } \hbar = h/2\pi. \text{ Estimate the change in the ground state energy of an H-atom if } m_p \text{ were } 10^{-6} \text{ times the mass of an electron.}$$

Solution

Mass of photon = 9.1×10^{-37} kg

Wavelength associated with the photon = $h/m_p c$

Total energy $E = -13.6 + 27.2 \lambda r_A$

Where $\lambda r_A = \delta$

Question 12.29

The Bohr model for the H-atom relies on the Coulomb's law of electrostatics. Coulomb's law has not directly been verified for very short distances of the order of angstroms. Supposing Coulomb's law between two opposite charge + q_1 , $-q_2$ is modified to

$$|F| = \frac{q_1 q_2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)} \frac{1}{r^2}, r \geq R_0$$

$$= \frac{q_1 q_2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)} \frac{1}{R_0^2} \left(\frac{R_0}{r} \right)^\epsilon, r \leq R_0$$

Calculate in such a case, the ground state energy of an H-atom, if $\epsilon = 0.1$, $R_0 = 1\text{\AA}$.

Solution

Case 1: When $\epsilon = 0.1$, $R_0 = 1\text{\AA}$

$$R_1 = 8 \times 10^{-11}$$

$$M = 0.08 \text{ nm}$$

Velocity at ground level is $v_1 = 1.44 \times 10^6$ m/s

Case 2:

When $n = 1$ and $v_1 = h/mr_1$

Kinetic energy = 5.9 eV

Potential energy = -17.3 eV

Total energy = -11.4 eV

The basic unit of matter, which is the smallest thing in existence, is called an atom. The size of an atom is usually variable in nature, depending on the type of element. Protons, neutrons and electrons are the three different particles present inside the atom. Atoms, when grouped together, form molecules. For example, an oxygen molecule is made from smaller oxygen atoms which are grouped together.

The different parts of an atom are

1. Quarks
2. Proton
3. Neutron
4. Electron
5. Ion
6. Nucleus
7. Electrons