

Question :- Find a general expression for frequency of radiation emitted when electron goes from one orbit to another in a mono-electronic species. Also, comment on its quantization.

Introduction - Since the species is mono-electronic, it can be treated as the atomic model proposed by Bohr. Thus, the observables (energy, momentum etc) are quantised but the system can be treated classically.

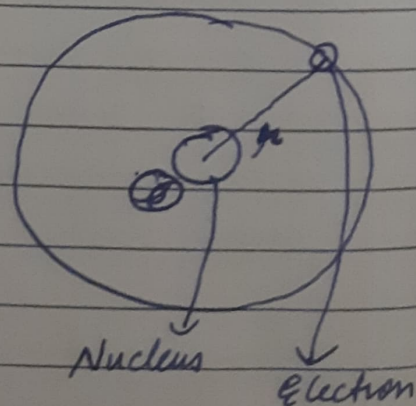
Assumptions used :-

- 1) Electrons move in fixed circular orbits or stationary states
- 2) The net force experienced by the electron is zero.
- 3) Magnitude of angular momentum is quantised as $mvr = n\frac{h}{2\pi}$
- 4) When electrons move from one stationary state to another, they absorb or emit a photon corresponding to the energy gain or loss. This emission or absorption follows Planck's equation, $E = h\nu$ (h = Planck's constant, ν = frequency of light)

Solution:

Let charge of electron (q_e) be $-e$

Then, charge of nucleus (q_n) = Ze
where, Z = atomic number.



Forces acting on electron are centrifugal force (F_c) and electrostatic force (F_e)

Since net force on electron is zero,

$$\therefore F_c + F_e = 0 \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

$$F_c = \frac{m_e v^2}{r} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} m_e = \text{mass of electron, } v = \text{velocity of} \\ r = \text{radius of orbit} \quad \text{electron} \end{array} \right)$$

$$F_c = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_e q_n}{r^2} \quad \left(\text{From Coulomb's law} \right)$$

on substituting values of q_e and q_n

$$F_c = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(-e \times ze)}{r^2} = \frac{-ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \text{ or } \frac{kze^2}{r^2} \quad \left(k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)$$

∴ From equation 1,

$$\frac{m_e v^2}{r} - \frac{kze^2}{r^2} = 0$$

$$\therefore m_e v^2 = \frac{kze^2}{r} \quad \longrightarrow (2)$$

Now, to calculate energy of electron, we use the following equation:

$$E = K + U$$

\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow
 Total Kinetic Potential
 energy energy energy

Kinetic energy of electron is given by

$$K = \frac{m_e v^2}{2}$$

Potential energy of electron is from one source, electrostatic potential energy

$$\therefore U_{elec} = q_e V \quad (V = \text{electrostatic potential})$$

Since potential at ∞ is 0, the following expression gives

potential

$$V = - \int_0^V dV = - \int_{\infty}^r \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

\vec{E} is electric field due to nucleus, which is given by:-

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Ze^2}{r^2} \vec{r} \text{ or } \frac{kZe^2}{r^2} \vec{r} \quad (\vec{r} \text{ is direction radially outward})$$

$$\therefore \int_0^V dV = - \int_{\infty}^r \frac{kZe^2}{r^2} (\vec{r} \cdot d\vec{r}) = - \int_{\infty}^r \frac{kZe^2}{r^2} dr$$

$$\therefore V = \left[\frac{kZe^2}{r} \right]_{\infty}^r = \frac{kZe^2}{r}$$

$$\therefore \text{Velec} = -e \times \frac{kZe^2}{r} = -\frac{kZe^2}{r}$$

\therefore Total energy (E) can be written as

$$E = \frac{m_e v^2}{2} - \frac{kZe^2}{r}$$

but from equation 2.

$$E = \frac{kZe^2}{2r} - \frac{kZe^2}{r} = -\frac{kZe^2}{2r}$$

Radius of orbit can be deduced using the quantization of angular momentum

$$m_e v r = \frac{n h}{2\pi}$$

$$\therefore m_e^2 v^2 r^2 = \frac{n^2 h^2}{4\pi^2}$$

$$\therefore m_e v^2 = \frac{n^2 h^2}{4\pi^2 m_e r^2}$$

But from equation 2

$$\frac{kZe^2}{r} = \frac{n^2 h^2}{4\pi^2 m_e r^2}$$

On rearrangement

$$r = \frac{n^2 h^2}{4\pi^2 kZe^2}$$

On substituting in the total energy equation, we get

$$E = \frac{-kZe^2}{2 \times n^2 h^2} \times 4\pi^2 kZe^2 = \frac{-2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{n^2 h^2}$$

This is expression for energy of electron at state n . If electron moves from state n_1 to state n_2 , the energy absorbed would be the difference in energy levels. But to find radiated energy (ΔE), we use the following expression:

$$\Delta E = E_1 - E_2$$

$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$
 Energy at state 1 Energy at state 2

$$\therefore \Delta E = -\frac{kZe^2}{2n_1^2 h^2} + \frac{kZe^2}{2n_2^2 h^2}$$

$$\therefore \Delta E = -\frac{2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{n_1^2 h^2} + \frac{2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{n_2^2 h^2}$$

$$\Delta E = \frac{2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{h^2} \left(\frac{1}{n_2^2} - \frac{1}{n_1^2} \right)$$

The given expression shows energy of photon released when electron goes from state 1 to state 2. Since the energy of this photon can be given by Planck's equation.

$$\therefore \Delta E = h\nu$$

$$\therefore h\nu = \frac{2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{h^2} \left(\frac{1}{n_2^2} - \frac{1}{n_1^2} \right)$$

$$\therefore \nu = \frac{2\pi^2 (kZe^2)^2}{h^3} \left(\frac{1}{n_2^2} - \frac{1}{n_1^2} \right)$$

This is the expression for frequency of light given out when the electron changes from state 1 to 2. This frequency depends only on values of n_1 and n_2 as all the other terms (including Z) for a given species is constant.

The states n_1

Since n_1 and n_2 can only take integral values, frequency cannot take continuous values and will be discrete.

Thus, frequency will be quantized and can only take certain values, ~~of which are multiples of~~