

1. The classical angular frequency at orbiting radius ρ satisfy

$$\omega^2 \rho = \frac{Ze^2}{mp^2} \implies \omega^2 = \frac{Ze^2}{m\rho^3} \quad (1)$$

At principal quantum number n , the radius is

$$\rho_n = n^2 a_0 = \frac{n^2 \hbar^2}{mZe^2} \implies \omega_n = \frac{m(Ze^2)^2}{\hbar^3 n^3} \quad (2)$$

During the $n \rightarrow n - 1$ transition, the frequency of the emitted photon is

$$\omega_{n \rightarrow n-1} = \frac{E_n - E_{n-1}}{\hbar} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{mZ^2 e^4}{2\hbar^2} \left[\frac{1}{(n-1)^2} - \frac{1}{n^2} \right] \approx \frac{m(Ze^2)^2}{\hbar^3 n^3} = \omega_n \quad \text{for large } n \quad (3)$$

By (14.31), the classical power radiated is

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \frac{2}{3} \frac{e^2 c}{\rho^2} \beta^4 \gamma^4 && \text{where we take } \beta = \omega_n \rho_n / c, \gamma \approx 1 \\ &= \frac{2}{3} \frac{e^2 \omega_n^4 \rho_n^2}{c^3} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

hence by correspondence principle,

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{P}{\hbar \omega_n} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{e^2 \omega_n^3 \rho_n^2}{\hbar c^3} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{e^2 m (Ze^2)^4}{\hbar^6 c^3 n^5} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} \left(\frac{Ze^2}{\hbar c} \right)^4 \frac{mc^2}{\hbar} \frac{1}{n^5} \quad (5)$$

2. For hydrogen ($Z = 1$), the classical mean life from part (a) is

$$\tau_{\text{cl}} = \left(\frac{2}{3} \alpha^5 \frac{mc^2}{\hbar} \frac{1}{n^5} \right)^{-1} \quad (6)$$

where $\alpha = e^2/\hbar c \approx 1/137$ is the fine-structure constant. Numerically, the prefactor is

$$\frac{2}{3} \alpha^5 \frac{mc^2}{\hbar} \approx 1.07 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad (7)$$

The following table compares τ_{cl} with the quantum-mechanical mean lives for three transitions with maximum l (i.e., $l = n - 1 \rightarrow l' = n - 2$):

Transition	n	τ_{cl} (s)	τ_{QM} (s)
$2p \rightarrow 1s$	2	2.99×10^{-9}	1.6×10^{-9}
$4f \rightarrow 3d$	4	9.56×10^{-8}	7.3×10^{-8}
$6h \rightarrow 5g$	6	7.26×10^{-7}	6.1×10^{-7}

The difference between τ_{cl} and τ_{QM} decreases as n increases, confirming the correspondence principle works better with large n .