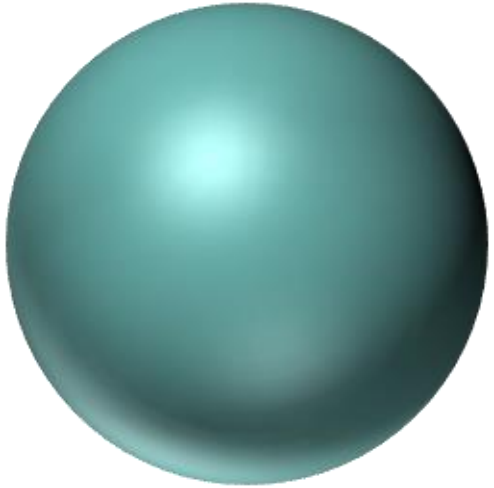
E.1

Structure of the Atom

IB PHYSICS | ATOMIC PHYSICS

The Atom

The Greek philosopher Democritus is credited for theorizing that matter divisibility can come to an end



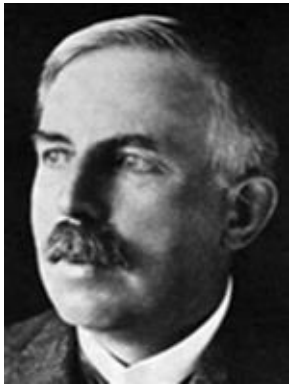
E.1

History of the Atom

Our understanding of the atom has **evolved**

Dalton

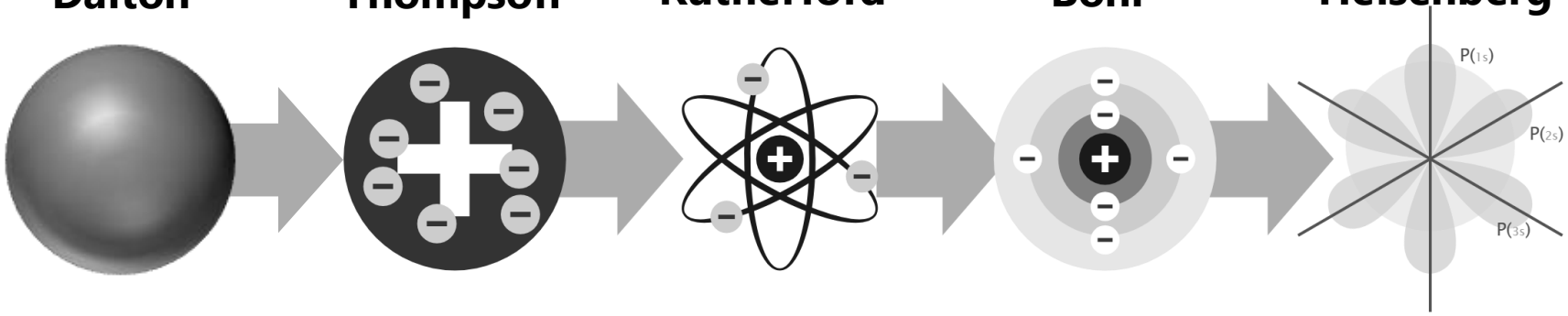
Thompson



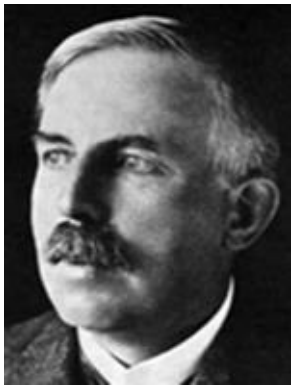
Rutherford

Bohr

Heisenberg

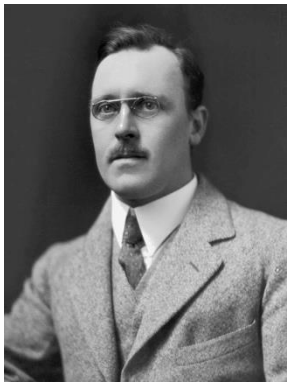


Discovering the Nucleus

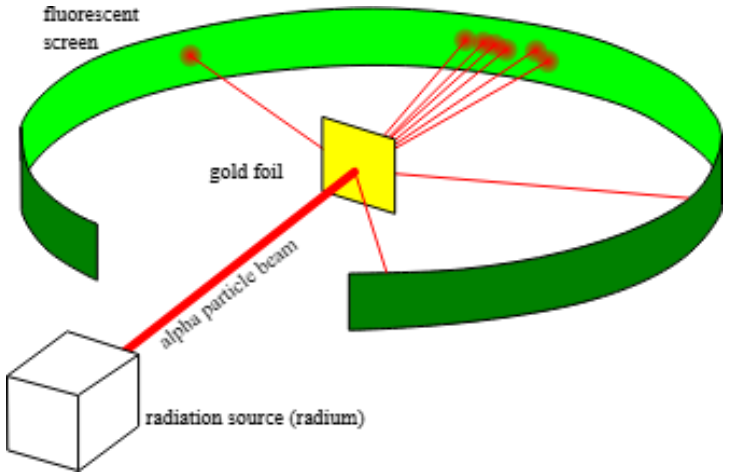


Rutherford

Geiger



Marsden



Scale of the Atom

E.1

Atoms are mostly empty space

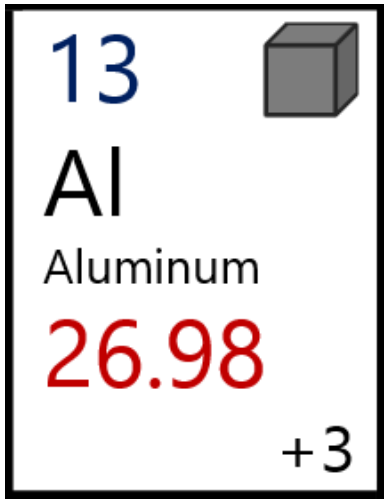
If an atom was enlarged to the size of a football stadium, the nucleus would be the size of a

E.1

Standard Notation

What do you notice about the notation written below?
Can you determine what each color represents?

$$^{27}_{13}Al$$



$$^{A}_{Z}X$$

Try This

E.1

$^{23}_{11}Na$

Mass Number	
Atomic Number	
# of Protons	
# of Neutrons	

Mg

Mass Number	
Atomic Number	
# of Protons	12
# of Neutrons	13

Sample IB Question

A nucleus of Californium (Cf) contains 98 protons and 154 neutrons. Which of the following correctly identifies this nucleus of Californium?

$^{98}_{254}\mathrm{Cf}$

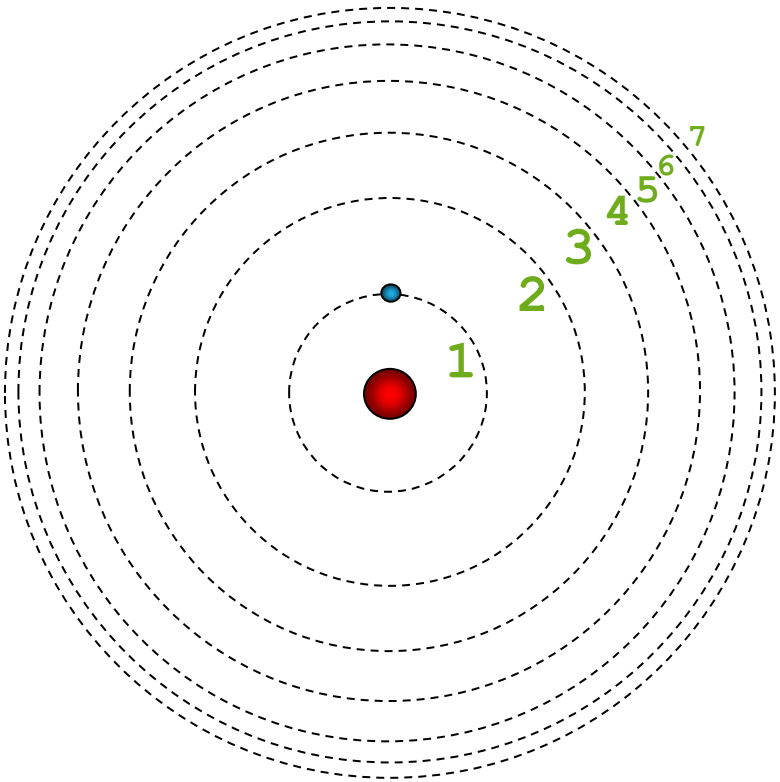
$^{252}_{98}\mathrm{Cf}$

$^{154}_{98}\mathrm{Cf}$

$^{350}_{154}\mathrm{Cf}$

Energy Levels

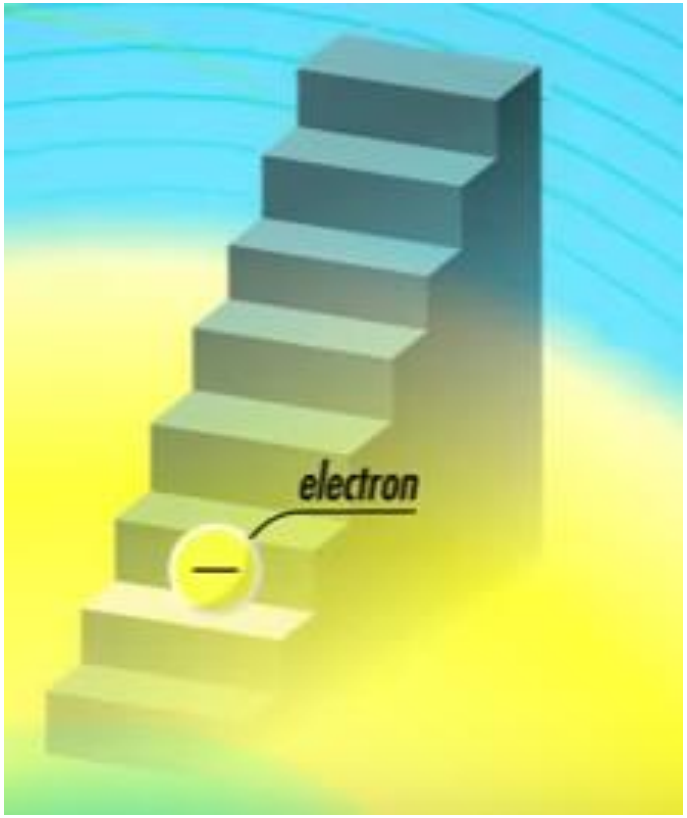
Electrons in an atom exist at specific energy levels and can move up and down by absorbing and emitting energy



Light is Quantized

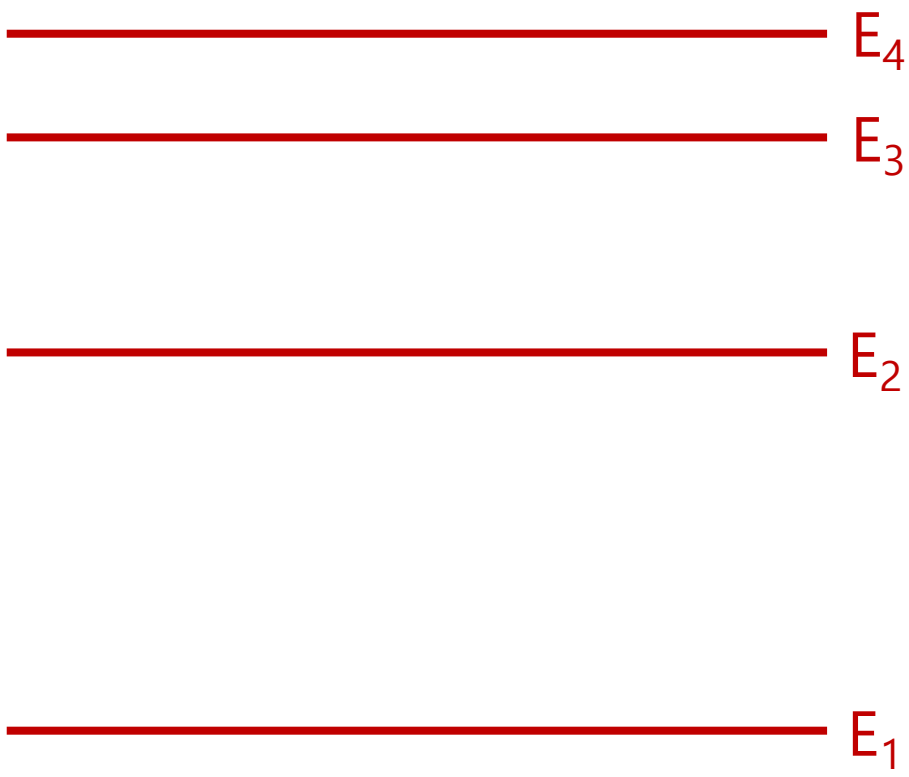
E.1

Photons of light can only have certain _____ values of energy



Energy Levels

A photon is emitted whenever an electron transitions from one energy level down to a lower energy level



How many different transitions are possible between these four energy levels?

Energy Levels

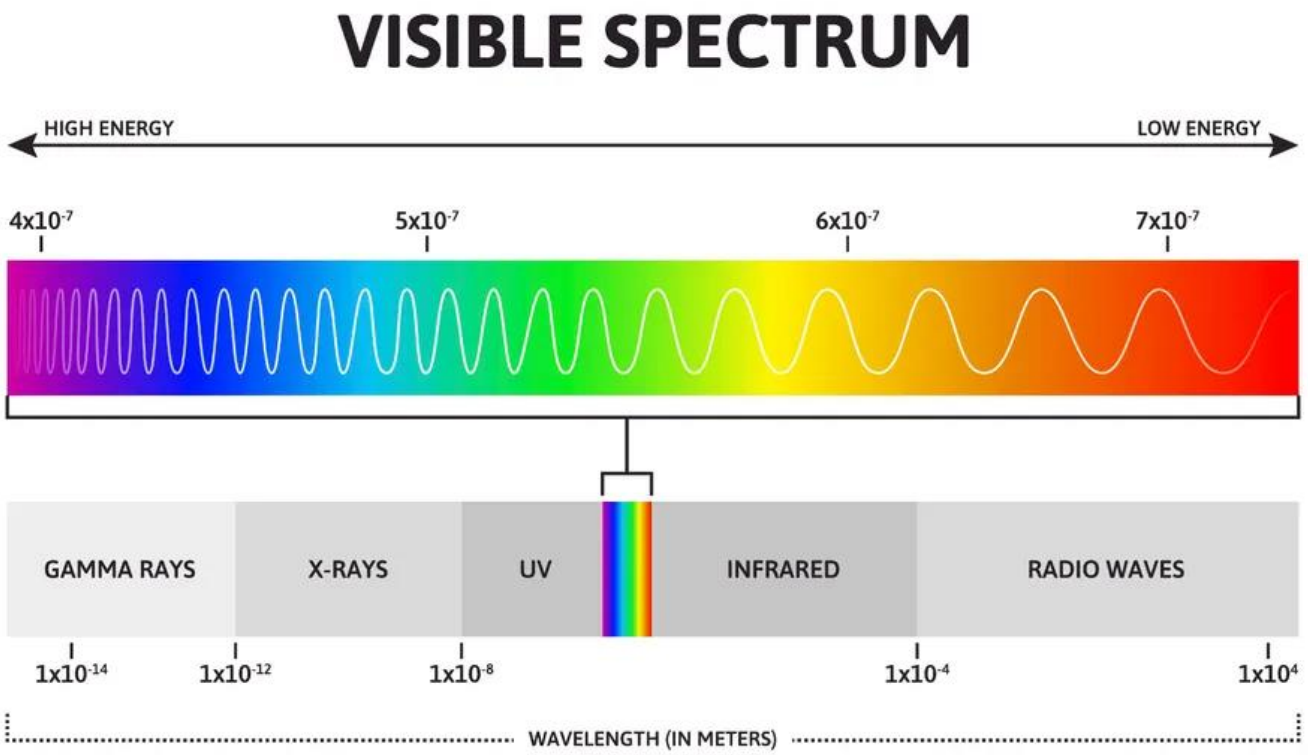
The amount of energy in the electron jump determines the color (or type) of light emitted

E_4

E_3

E_2

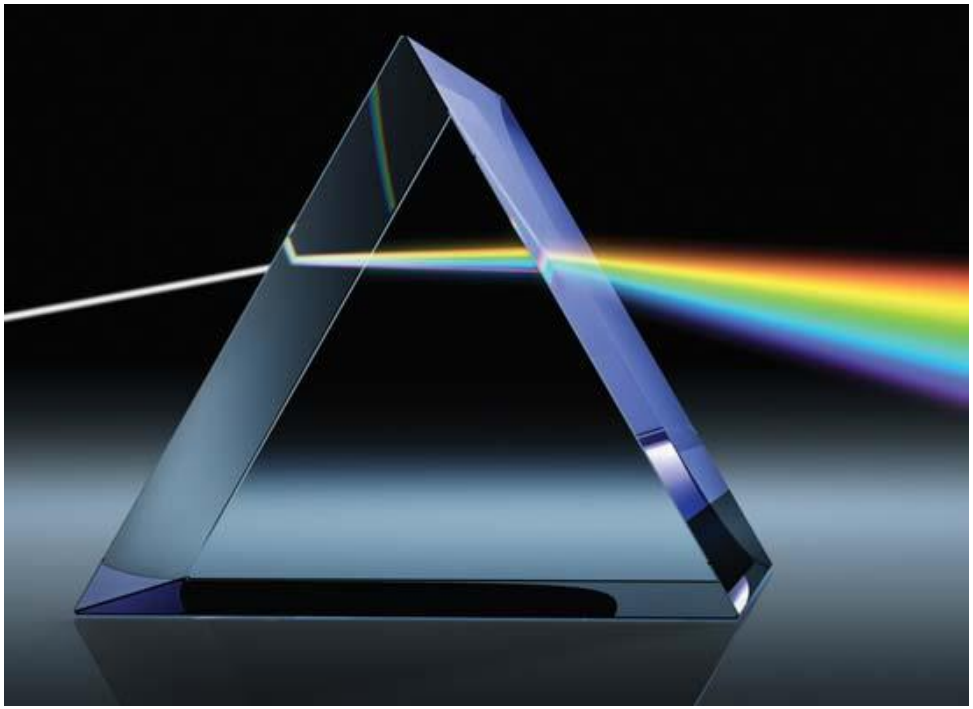
E_1



Continuous Spectrum

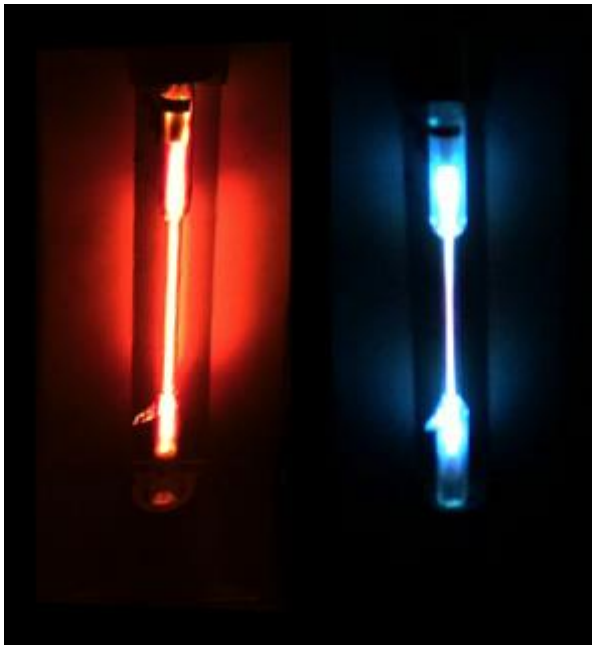
E.1

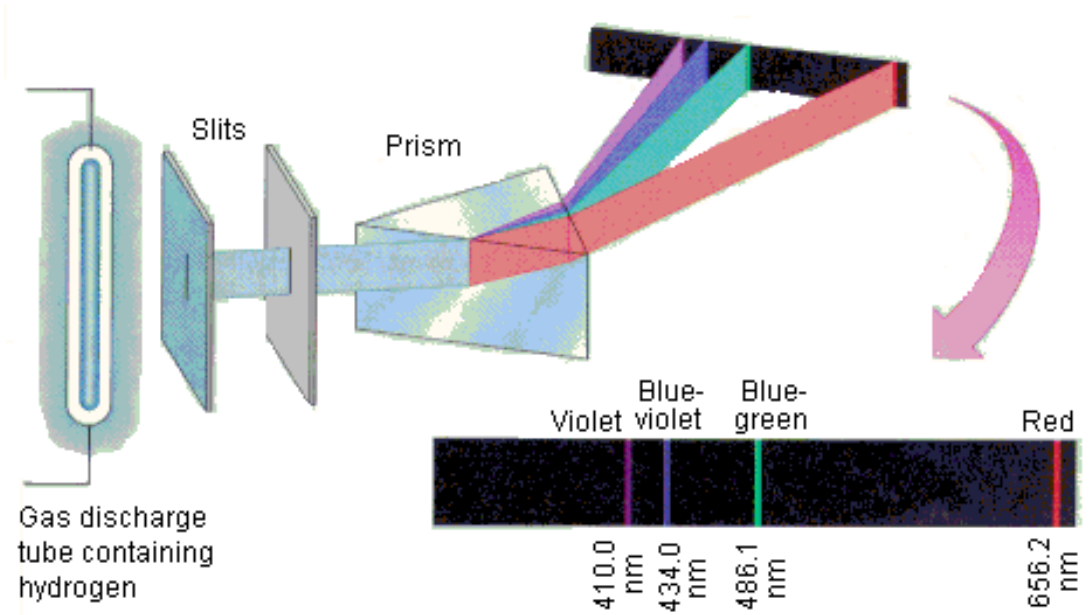
When white light from the sun passes through a prism, the light is dispersed into its component colors in a continuous spectrum



Emission Spectrum

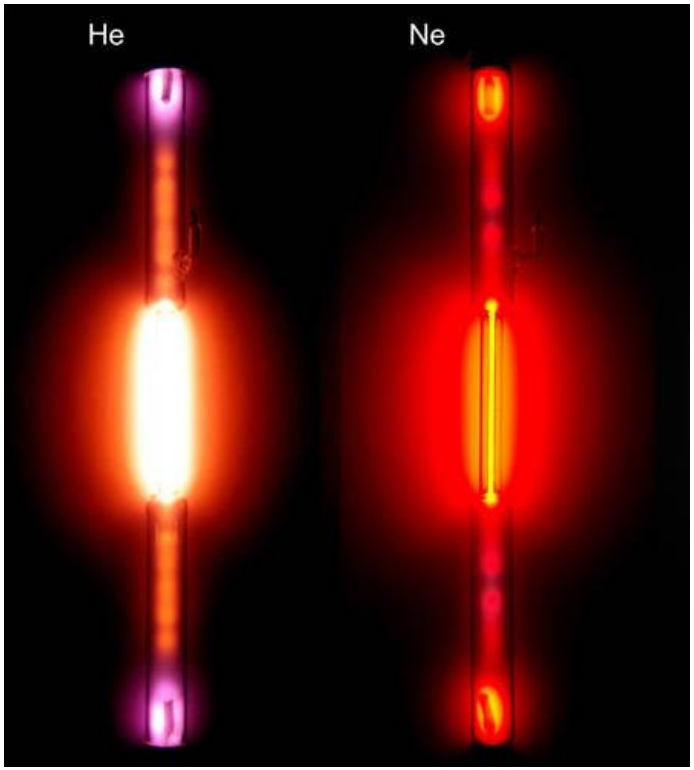
If an electric current is passed through an element in the form of a low-pressure gas, it will produce its own unique emission spectrum

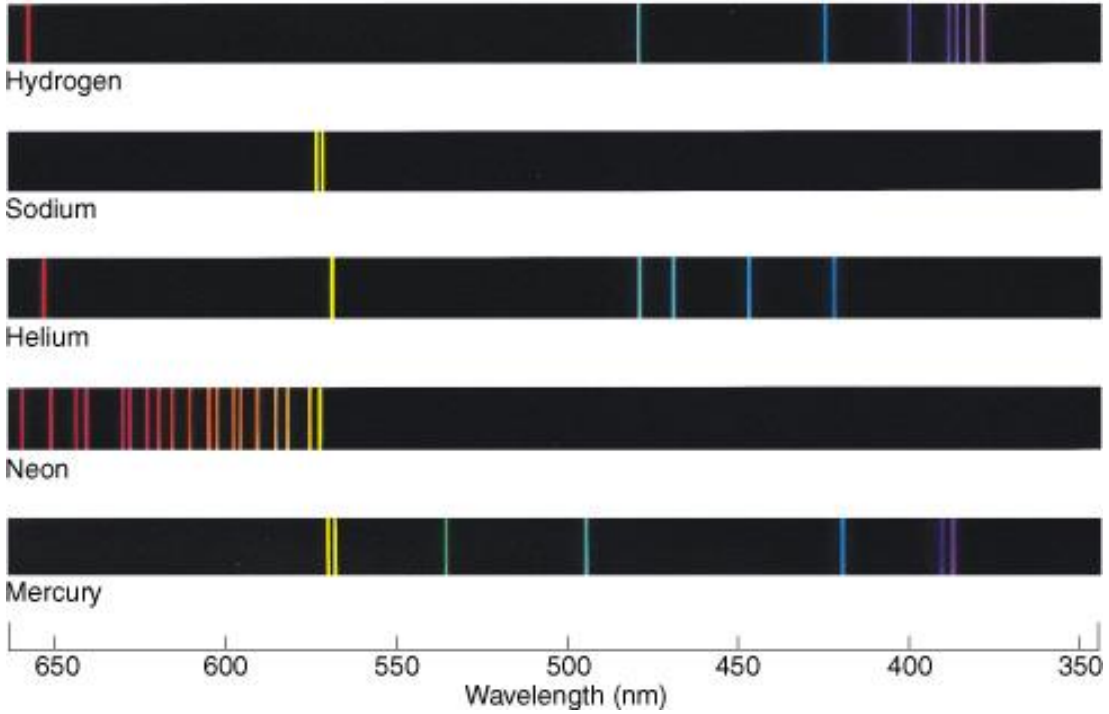




Emission Spectrum

These spectra can be used to identify elements like a fingerprint





Energy of a Photon

$$E = hf$$

Planck's Constant	h	6.63×10^{-34} J s

IB Physics Data Booklet

E. Nuclear and quantum physics

Standard level and higher level	
E.1 Structure of the atom	$E = hf$
E.3 Radioactive decay	$E = mc^2$
E.5 Fusion and stars	$\text{d(parsec)} = \frac{1}{\text{p(arc-second)}}$

C.2 Wave model	$v = f\lambda = \frac{\lambda}{T}$

Fundamental constants

Quantity	Symbol	Approximate value
Speed of light in vacuum	c	$3.00 \times 10^{8}\ \text{m s}^{-1}$
Planck constant	h	$6.63 \times 10^{-34}\ \text{J s}$
Elementary charge	e	$1.60 \times 10^{-19}\ \text{C}$

Try This...

E.1

Calculate the energy carried by one photon of microwaves of wavelength 9 cm (as might be used in wifi signals) in J

A new unit of energy!

$eV \rightarrow$

Unit of Energy (required to move one electron across 1 V)

$$\{Energy\ in\ eV\} = \frac{\{Energy\ in\ J\}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19}}$$

Shortcut time ☺

Unit conversions

$$1\ \text{radian (rad)} \equiv \frac{180^\circ}{\pi}$$

$$\text{Temperature}(\text{K}) = \text{temperature}(^\circ\text{C}) + 273$$

$$1\ \text{light year}(\text{ly}) = 9.46 \times 10^{15}\ \text{m}$$

$$1\ \text{parsec}(\text{pc}) = 3.26\,\text{ly}$$

$$1\ \text{astronomical unit}\ (\text{AU}) = 1.50 \times 10^{11}\ \text{m}$$

$$1\ \text{kilowatt-hour}(\text{kWh}) = 3.60 \times 10^{6}\ \text{J}$$

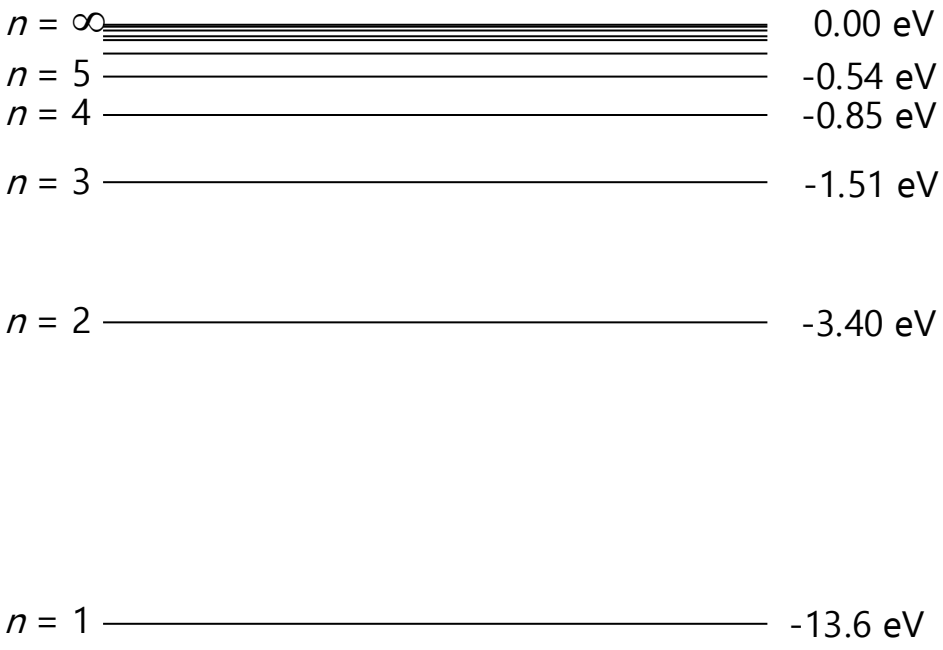
$$hc = 1.99 \times 10^{-25}\,\text{Jm} = 1.24 \times 10^{-6}\,\text{eV m}$$

Since h and c are both constants, hc acts as a constant as well

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

E.1

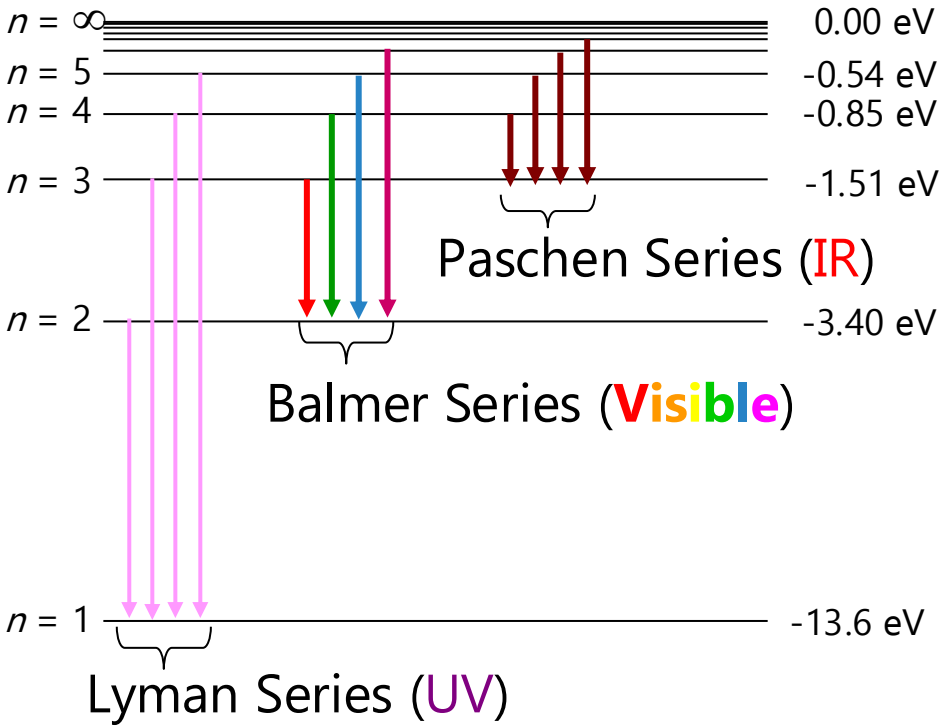
Energy Levels



Energy Transitions

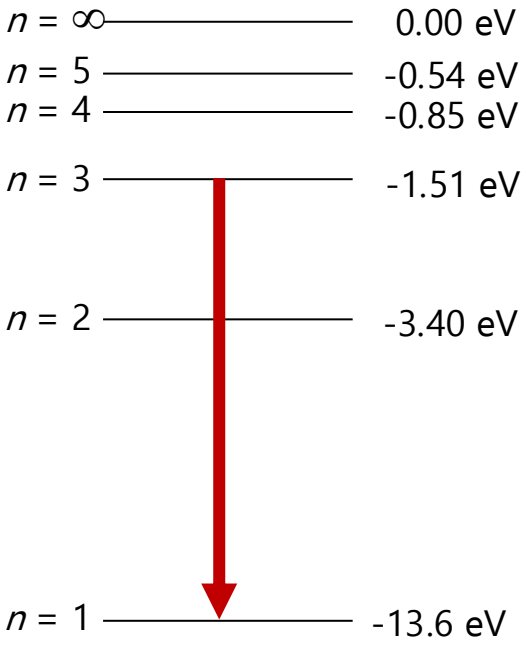
E.1

Different Energy transitions result in different energies (wavelengths) of light that are absorbed or emitted



Calculating Wavelength Emitted

E.1

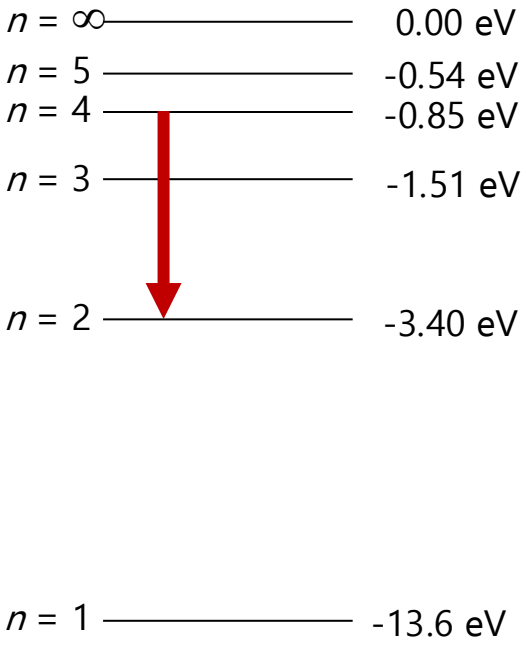


What is the wavelength emitted?

hc	1.99×10^{-25} J m	1.24×10^{-6} eV m

Try This…

E.1

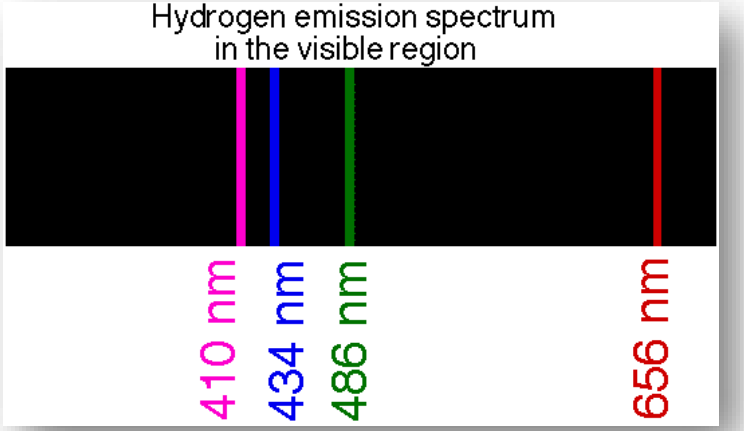


What is the wavelength emitted?

hc	1.99×10^{-25} J m	1.24×10^{-6} eV m

Working Backwards…

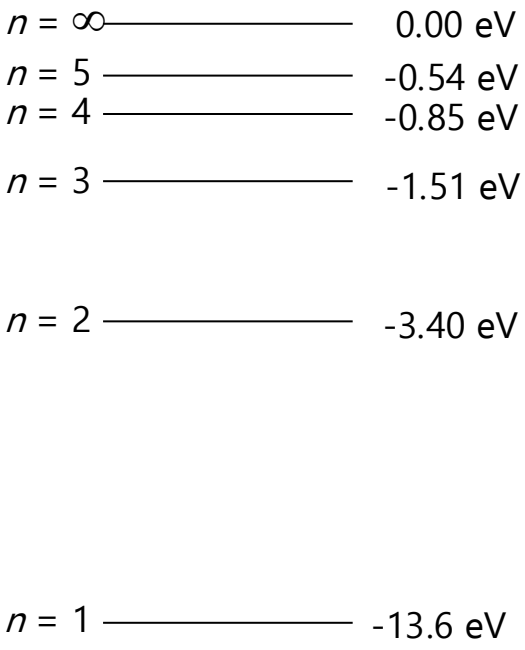
What is the energy in eV for a 434 nm blue emission line?



hc	1.99×10^{-25} J m	1.24×10^{-6} eV m

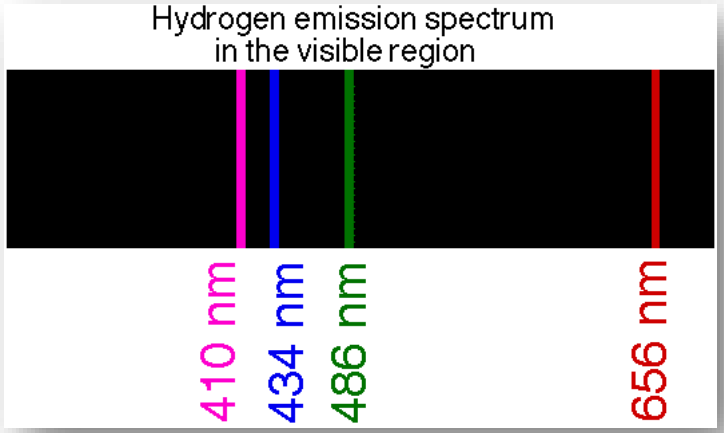
Working Backwards…

E.1



Draw in the Energy Transition for a 434 nm blue emission line?

What transition has an energy difference of 2.86 eV?



Lesson Takeaways

E.1

- ❑ I can describe how the historical understanding of the atom has changed over time
- ❑ I can conceptually describe the Rutherford-Geiger-Marsden experiment and how it led to the discovery of the nucleus
- ❑ I can describe discrete electron energy levels and how transitions between these absorb and emit energy
- ❑ I can calculate the energy, frequency, and wavelength of light emitted by transitioning electrons
- ❑ I can identify and calculate the emission wavelengths for different elements