

PH 102 Quiz 7: Have you done your homework yet?

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} & \Delta E \Delta t \geq \frac{h}{4\pi} \\
 e\Delta V = KE_{\max} = hf - \phi & h = 6.624 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s} \\
 \lambda_{\text{out}} - \lambda_{\text{in}} = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta) & e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C} \\
 h = \lambda |\vec{p}| & c = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} \\
 & m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}
 \end{array}$$

1. An FM radio transmitter has a power output of 130 kW and operates at a frequency of 98.3 MHz. How many photons per second does the transmitter emit?

- 2×10^{30}
 5×10^{-29}
 1×10^{15}
 7×10^{18}

The power output \mathcal{P} is the total energy per unit time, or the energy *per photon* times the number of photons per unit time:

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{E_{\text{tot}}}{\Delta t} = \frac{(\# \text{ photons}) E_{\text{photon}}}{\Delta t} \quad (1)$$

The energy per photon is given above, $E = hf$. Combining those two:

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{(\# \text{ photons}) E_{\text{photon}}}{\Delta t} = \frac{(\# \text{ photons}) hf}{\Delta t} \quad (2)$$

Solve for the number of photons per unit time, and plug in the numbers:

$$\frac{(\# \text{ photons})}{\Delta t} = \frac{\mathcal{P}}{hf} = \frac{130 \times 10^6 \text{ W}}{[6.624 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}] \times [98.3 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}]} \approx 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ photons/s} \quad (3)$$

2. Light of wavelength 220 nm falls on a carbon surface, and electrons with 0.64 eV kinetic energy are emitted. What is the work function of carbon?

- 4 eV
 3 eV
 5 eV
 0.2 eV

This is the photoelectric effect. The work function ϕ can be related to the maximum kinetic energy of ejected electrons and the energy of the incident light:

$$KE_{\max} = hf - \phi = E_{\text{photon}} - \phi \quad (4)$$

The work function is just the amount of energy required to liberate an electron from the metal surface into the vacuum. Thus, the incident light energy per photon, hf , first has to overcome the work function ϕ , and what ever energy is left over is given to the ejected electron as kinetic energy.

First, find we need the energy of the incident photons, hf . We will want this in eV, not J, so get that out of the way ...

$$E_{\text{photon}} = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{[6.624 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}] [3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}]}{220 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} \times \frac{1 \text{ eV}}{1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}} \approx 5.64 \text{ eV} \quad (5)$$

$$\phi = hf - KE = E_{\text{photon}} - KE = 5.64 - 0.64 \text{ eV} \approx 5 \text{ eV} \quad (6)$$

Incidentally: these problems are much easier if you remember (or write down) that the product hc is about $1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}$, so one has $E_{\text{photon}}(\text{eV}) = 1240/\lambda(\text{nm})$. This already takes into account dividing hc by e to get units of eV.

3. What is the minimum accelerating voltage required to produce a photon with $\lambda = 1 \text{ mm}$?

- 1.2 mV
 1.2 V
 1.2 kV
 0.12 V

The word “accelerating” is a decoy here, of sorts. What we are really asking is what is the minimum potential energy, given by an accelerating voltage, that could be used to produce a photon of the desired wavelength? The idea is that all of the potential energy from the voltage applied to a single charge e is used for creating a photon.

Now, remember the formula from the last problem, putting the photon energy in eV, and note that 1 mm is 10^6 nm :

$$\begin{aligned}
 PE &= hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \\
 eV &= \frac{hc}{\lambda} \\
 V &= \frac{hc}{e\lambda} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}}{\lambda} \text{ eV} = \frac{1.240 \times 10^3}{10^6} = 1.24 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV} = 1.24 \text{ meV}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since we are talking about the energy given to a single charge, we can just write 1.24 mV in place of 1.24 meV .

Of course, you can just plug in the constants and numbers in the usual way, and not use the formula from problem 2, it will work out the same way.

4. X-rays with an energy of 320 keV undergo Compton scattering, and are deflected by 42° . What is the energy of the scattered X-ray?

- 302 keV
 161 keV
 275 keV
 381 keV

This one has a couple of steps. First, Compton scattering involves a photon coming in, and scattering off of an electron. Afterward, the photon has a reduced energy, and the electron has gained energy. So right off, we know the scattered X-ray had better have a lower energy than the incident X-ray. This rules out the last choice already.

Now, remember the formula for Compton scattering. This gives you the *change* in wavelength between the incident and scattered light:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_{\text{out}} - \lambda_{\text{in}} &= \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta) \\
 \lambda_{\text{out}} &= \lambda_{\text{in}} + \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta)
 \end{aligned}$$

We can find λ_{in} from the known energy of the incident X-ray:

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = \frac{hc}{E_{\text{in}}} = \frac{1240}{320 \times 10^3} \text{ nm} \approx 3.875 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m} \quad (7)$$

Here we again used the modified formula from problem 2. Now we can calculate the scattered X-ray's wavelength:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{\text{out}} &= \lambda_{\text{in}} + \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta) = 3.875 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m} + \frac{6.624 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}}{[9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}] [3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}]} (1 - \cos 42^\circ) \\ &\approx 3.875 \times 10^{-12} + 6.23 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m} \approx 4.5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, given the scattered X-ray's wavelength, we can find its energy.

$$E_{\text{out}} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}}{4.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ nm}} \approx 2.75 \times 10^5 \text{ eV} = 275 \text{ keV} \quad (8)$$

With Compton scattering, the wavelength change is small ... be sure to carry 4-5 digits precision in all stages of the calculation (which I did *not* show here) to avoid rounding errors.

5. A molecule is known to exist in an unstable higher energy configuration for $\Delta t = 10 \text{ nsec}$, after which it relaxes to its lower energy stable state by emitting a photon. What uncertainty in the frequency of the emitted photon is implied?

- 6 kHz
- 7 GHz
- 8 MHz
- 9 Hz

Energy-time uncertainty tells us that there is a limit on the accuracy with which the energy of a system can be measured over a given time interval Δt . The lifetime of the excited state gives us a specific time interval over which the molecule is in an excited state, and hence, in a specific energy state. This implies an uncertainty in the energy of the excited state ΔE .

$$\Delta E \Delta t \geq \frac{h}{4\pi} \quad (9)$$

When the molecule decays into the lower, stable state, a photon is emitted. The photon has to have an energy equal to the difference in energies between the excited and lower energy states of the molecule, ΔE . This is just conservation of energy. Since the emitted photon's frequency is simply related to its frequency, $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$, we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E \Delta t = \Delta (hf) \Delta t = h \Delta f \Delta t &\geq \frac{h}{4\pi} \\ \cancel{h} \Delta f \Delta t &\geq \frac{\cancel{h}}{4\pi} \\ \Delta f &\geq \frac{1}{4\pi \Delta t} = \frac{1}{4\pi \times 10^{-9} \text{ s}} \approx 8 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz} = 8 \text{ MHz} \end{aligned}$$