Atomic spectra

- Announcements:
- lecture 9 is posted
- homework 5 (*due Feb 18, in class*) solutions are posted
- homework 6 is due Feb 25, in class
- reading for this week is:
 Ch 5 in TZD

Last Time

recall lecture 9:

Quantum physics (particle nature) of light:

- Planck's black body radiation
- Photoelectric effect
- X-ray diffraction
- Compton effect

Today

Problems with classical physics: atomic spectra, Franck-Hertz experiment

- Atomic spectra
- Atomic instability in classical theory
- Bohr's theory of atomic spectra



Atomic spectra

• observed emission/absorption spectra for Hydrogen:



• Balmer-Rydberg formula:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R\left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right), \quad n > n', \text{ both integers}$$

Rydberg constant R = 0.001 Å⁻¹

$$\Delta E_{n,n'} = hcR\left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

Bohr-Rutherford's picture of atoms

1885-1962

planetary semi-classical model (1913) inspired by Rutherford's scattering



Bohr's picture of atomic emission/absorption (1)

• electron's discrete transition between a set of allowed "orbits":



• energies of emitted/absorbed photon:

$$\Delta E_{n,n'} = hcR\left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

 $\frac{1}{\lambda} = R\left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right), \quad n > n', \text{ both integers}$

Rydberg constant R = 0.001 Å⁻¹

Balmer series of Hydrogen:

Bohr's picture of atomic emission/absorption (2)

• electron's discrete transition between a set of allowed "orbits":

$$\Delta E_{n,n'} = hcR\left(\frac{1}{n'^2} - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$





Balmer series of Hydrogen (n->2 transitions):

Atomic instability in classical picture

• classical radiation from accelerating electron



• \rightarrow atom (electron orbiting proton) is <u>classically unstable</u>



Fine structure constant

• electrons' Bohr "orbits" and fine structure constant



$$= -\frac{Ze^2}{2r}$$



nonrelativistic electron:

 $\circ \quad r_n = \frac{n^2 \hbar^2}{Zme^2} = (0.53 \mathring{A}) \frac{n^2}{Z}$

$$\frac{v}{c}\Big)^2 = \frac{e^2/r}{mc^2}$$
$$= \left(\frac{e^2}{\hbar c}\right)^2$$
$$\equiv \alpha^2 = \left(\frac{1}{137}\right)^2 \ll 1$$

Questions for Bohr's model

- Why is angular momentum quantized?
- Why don't electrons radiate, leading to instability of atoms?
- What determines the relative rates of transitions between different states? (predict intensities of spectral lines?)
- How to generalize to more complex, multi-electron atoms?
- Shapes of molecular orbits that determine chemical bonds?



Key new idea

Q: Which of these is the key new idea/ingredient of Bohr's theory?

(a) Energy is conserved

(b) Energy is quantized according to E = n hv

(c) Angular momentum is quantized, $\ L_n=n\hbar$

(d) Angular momentum is conserved

A: (c) Atom is a cavity with electrons waves, with only special wavelengths fitting into it; $2\pi r_n = n\lambda \rightarrow pr_n = n h/2\pi$