

If potential energy (i.e. the attraction of the negatively-charged electron to the positively-charged nucleus) is all the e^- had to worry about, e^- 's would collapse into the nucleus instantaneously!

But now we have to worry about e^- KE as well!

$$\lambda = \frac{2L}{n}$$

Assume $n=1$

If e^- collapsed into nucleus,

$$L = 2\pi r = 2\pi (\text{radius of nucleus})$$

$$L \approx 2\pi (1 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}) = 6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$$

$$\text{so } \lambda = 2(6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}) \approx 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}$$

$$\text{and } \lambda = \frac{h}{mv} \Rightarrow v = \frac{h}{m\lambda}$$

$$v = \left(\frac{6.6 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}}{\text{particle}} \right) \left(\frac{\text{particle}}{9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}} \right) \left(\frac{\text{kg m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}}{1 \text{ J}} \right)$$

$$v = 7 \times 10^{10} \text{ m s}^{-1} \quad \text{vs. speed of light} \\ \quad \quad \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \quad (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1})$$

impossible to move this fast!

∴ because an e^- is a standing wave, it cannot be confined to the nucleus

- So, where is the electron?

Wherever the electron wave is oscillating
... simultaneously!

- the only thing we know for sure is where the e^- cannot be found (i.e. at a node)
- the fact that an e^- is a wave means that it is delocalized ... it cannot be pinned down to any one spot

C. What's Wrong with de Broglie?

⊖ Still can't predict the properties of atoms/ions with more than 1 e^- ...

∴ need a three-dimensional version of de Broglie's theory, that is, quantum mechanics