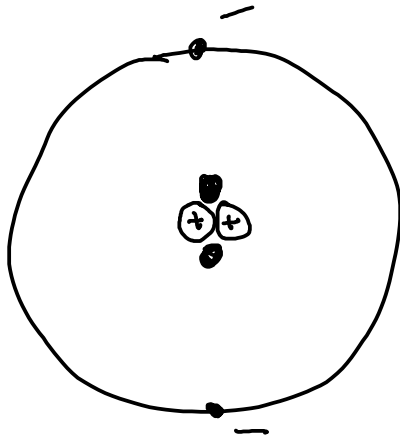


STRUCTURE OF THE ELECTRON CLOUD



The nuclear model describes atoms as consisting of a NUCLEUS containing protons and neutrons and an ELECTRON CLOUD containing electrons.

The ELECTRON CLOUD is described as being a diffuse (lots of empty space) region of the atom. Nothing else about it is part of the nuclear model.

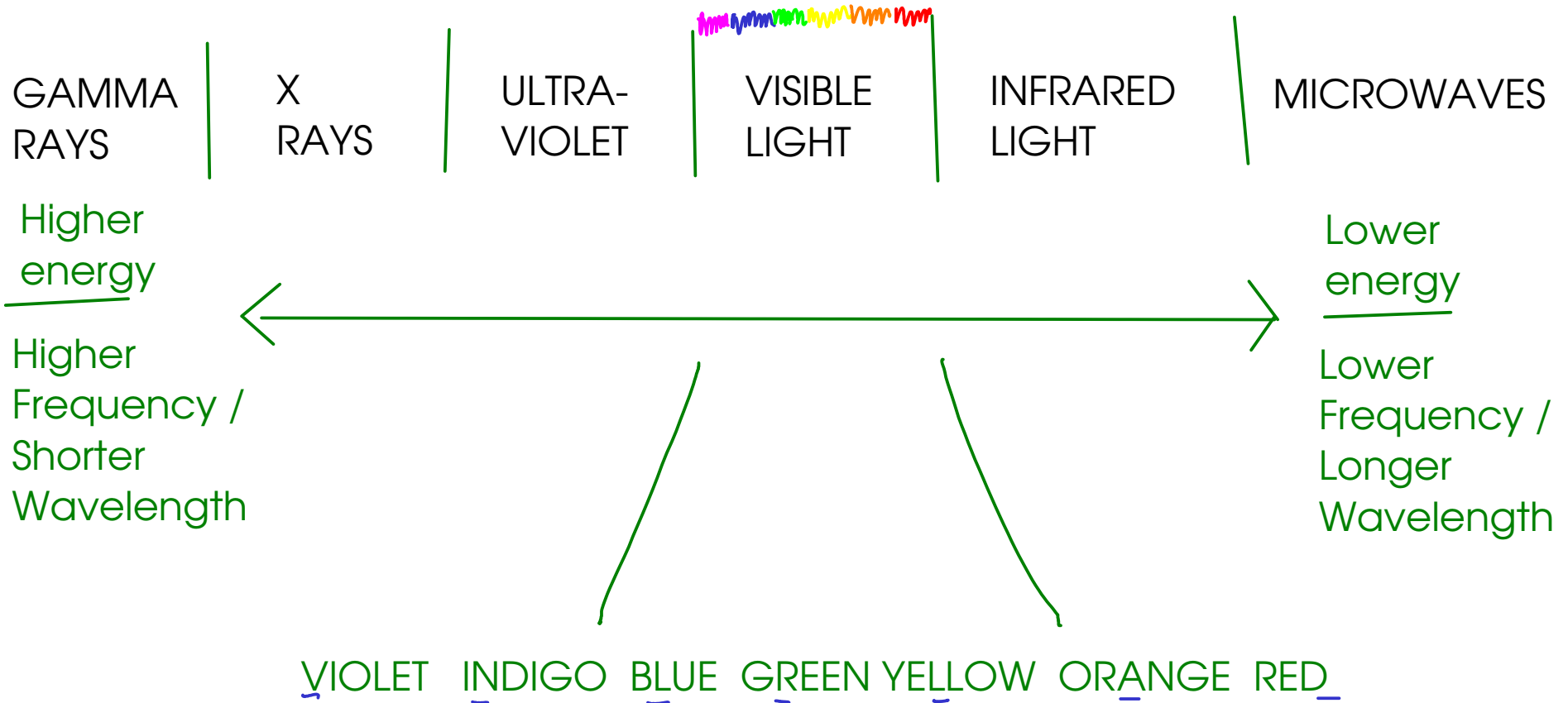
... but the nuclear model is not useful to explain several things:

- Does not explain why atoms react differently from one another
- Does not explain how atoms emit and absorb light (atomic line spectra)

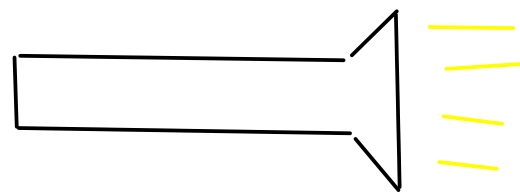
¹⁵⁰ ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

(see p324-326)

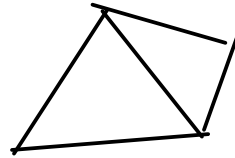
- Different kinds of "light" have different energy contents



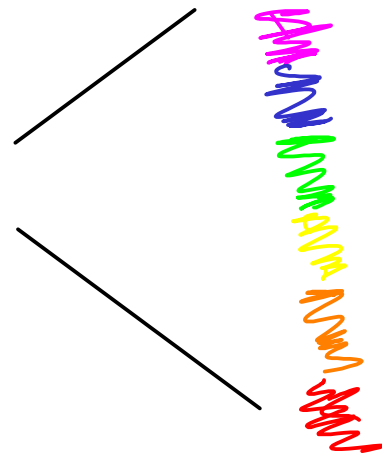
- Different colors of visible light correspond to different amounts of energy



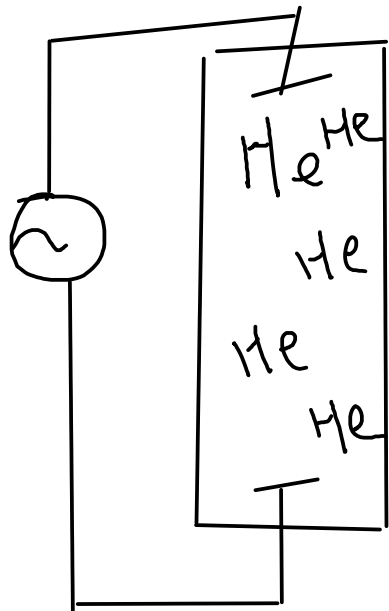
Source of white light



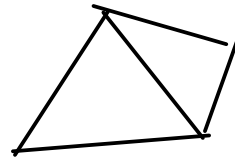
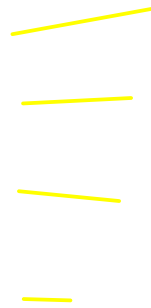
Prism



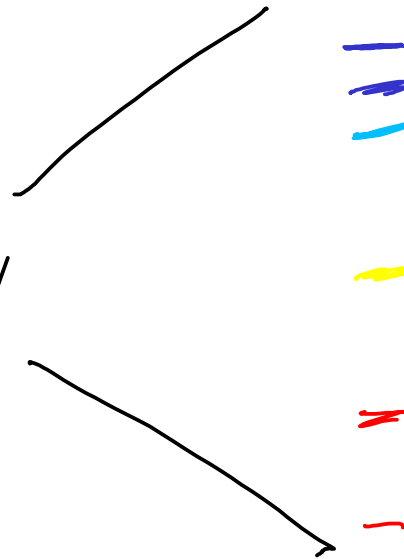
Rainbow (all colors represented)



Gaseous Helium excited by electricity



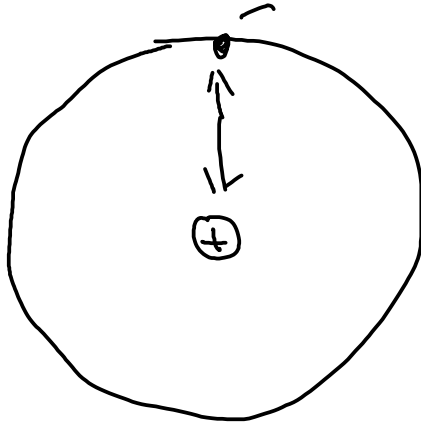
Prism

LINE SPECTRUM - only a few specific colors appear!
(see p329 for example)

- Atomic line spectra are UNIQUE to each element. They're like atomic "fingerprints".

p329:

- Problem was that the current model of the atom completely failed to explain why atoms emitted these lines.



An orbit that is FARTHER from the nucleus means that the electron has MORE energy

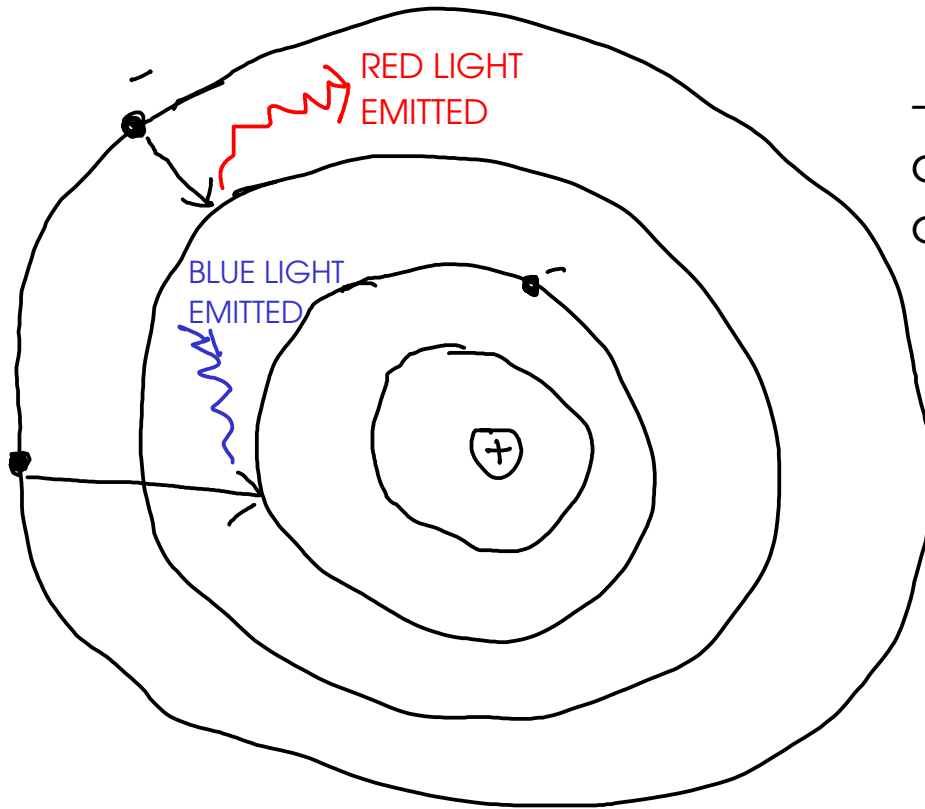
An orbit that is CLOSER to the nucleus means that the electron has LESS energy

- Electrons may gain or lose energy by either ABSORBING (to gain) or EMITTING (to lose) a PHOTON of light. (Photon = particle or "packet" of energy.)

- If the electrons can gain or lose ANY amount of energy, then each atom would emit a RAINBOW rather than a LINE SPECTRUM.

BOHR MODEL

- Theorized that electrons couldn't be just ANYWHERE around the nucleus. There must be restrictions on the motion of electrons that traditional physics did not explain.



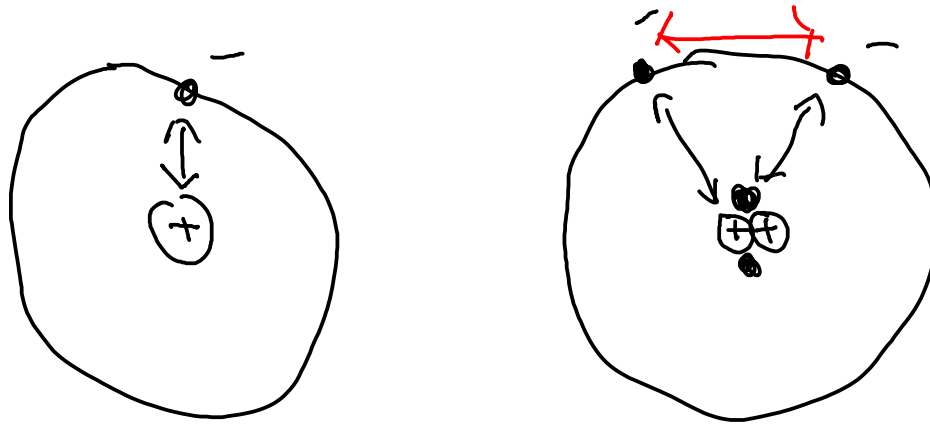
- theorized that electrons could only be certain distances from the nucleus. In other words, they could only have certain values for ENERGY.

- Electrons could move only from one "energy level" to another DIRECTLY by giving up or absorbing a photon (light) that was equal in energy to the distance between the energy levels.

- The restrictions on where electrons could be in Bohr's model predicted that atoms would give LINE SPECTRA.

- Bohr's model accurately described the line spectrum of hydrogen (first time this had been done!)

- For other atoms, Bohr's model predicted a line spectrum, but the lines weren't the right colors!



Bohr's model didn't account for electron-electron interactions (which didn't exist in HYDROGEN)

- To account for this added complexity, a more sophisticated model had to be devised: QUANTUM THEORY. Quantum theory is the modern picture of the atom and its electron cloud.