ATOMIC LINE SPECTRA

- if you take element and ATOMIZE it, if excited by energy it will emit light at unique frequencies. The set of emitted frequencies is called an ATOMIC LINE SPECTRUM.



... so, why don't atoms by themselves emit continuous spectra like a flashlight would?

- The regular patterns of emission and absorption of light by atoms suggest that the electron cloud has some sort of regular structure. The specific frequencies of light emitted and abosrbed relate to specific values of ENERGY in the electron cloud.



Electrons can't be just ANYWHERE around a nucleus. They can exist only at certain distances from the nucleus. These distances correpsond to certain ENERGIES and are called ENERGY LEVELS!

Electrons CAN move (transition) between different energy levels by gaining or losing exactly enough energy to get into the new energy level. This was a DIRECT transition .

Bohr's model was the first proposal that predicted the existence of atomic line spectra, and it exactly predicted the spectra of hydrogen and "hydrogen-like" (i.e. one-electron) species.

The spectra were "off" for multi-electron atoms.

Multi-electron atoms have interactions between electrons, not just interactions between electrons and nucleus!

- The additional interactions in multi-electron atoms introduced added complexity to the model of the atom! Bohr's model was too simple.

- Improvements in Bohr's model came from treating electrons as WAVES.



... for very large particles, the wavelength is very small.

¹⁵⁵ Quantum mechanics treats the electrons as waves and models THAT behavior!

- To describe the electrons, we use WAVEFUNCTIONs - which are mathematical descriptions of the behavior or electrons.

- The wavefunction describes the probability of finding an electron in a given space

- For larger objects, the wave behavior isn't very important and quantum mechanics becomes traditional Newtonian physics.

When we talk about describing electrons ... we will talk about the PARAMETERS that go into this WAVEFUNCTION ... without doing the actual math.

- There are FOUR of these parameters. (the Bohr model had only one!)
- The parameters are called "quantum numbers"
 - Principal quantum number
 - Angular momentum quantum number
 - 3)Magnetic quantum number
 - 4)Spin quantum number

- Giving the four parameters will uniquely identify an electron around an atom. No two electrons in the same atom can share all four. These parameters are called QUANTUM NUMBERS.

) PRINCIPAL QUANTUM NUMBER (n):

- "energy level", "shell"

- Represents two things:

* The distance of the electron from the nucleus.

* Energy. "n" is one factor that contributes to the energy of the electron.

$$n = 1, 2, 3, 4, ...$$
 (integers)

.) ANGULAR MOMENTUM QUANTUM NUMBER: $\it l$

- "subshell"
- Represents the SHAPE of the region of space where the electron is found.

- (Bohr assumed CIRCULAR orbits for electrons ... but there are more possibilities.)

-"I" also contributes ENERGY. Higher values for "I" mean the electron has higher energy.

(3) MAGNETIC QUANTUM NUMBER M_{0}

158

- Represents the ORIENTATION of a subshell in 3D space.



quantum number DOESN'T contribute to the energy of an electron.

(4) (MAGNETIC) SPIN QUANTUM NUMBER: $m_S = \frac{1}{2} \frac{$

- An ORBITAL (region with fixed "n", "I" and "ml" values) can hold TWO electrons.