

11. Suppose a single electron orbits about a nucleus containing two protons (+2e), as would be the case for a helium atom from which one of the two naturally occurring electrons is removed. The radius of the orbit is 2.65×10^{-11} m. Determine the magnitude of the electron's centripetal acceleration.

$$\sum F_c = F_E = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} = k \frac{(+2e)(-e)}{r^2} = m_e a_c$$

Note the – sign means attractive. Solve for centripetal acceleration.

$$a_c = k \frac{2e^2}{m_e r^2} = \left(8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ Nm}^2/\text{C}^2 \right) \frac{2(1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{(9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})(2.65 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m})^2}$$

$$a_c = \left(8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ Nm}^2/\text{C}^2 \right) \frac{5.12 \times 10^{-38} \text{ C}^2}{6.397 \times 10^{-52} \text{ kgm}^2} = 7.195 \times 10^{23} \text{ m/s}^2$$

$a_c = 7.20 \times 10^{23} \text{ m/s}^2$

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