

What is the DeBroglie wavelength of a 500 eV electron in an electron microscope?

Solution:

$$1 \text{ eV} = 1.62 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

$$\text{So } E = 500 \text{ eV} = 8.1 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J}$$

Use the electron mass to calculate the momentum.

$$E = p^2/2m \text{ so } p = \sqrt{2mE} = \sqrt{2 * 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg} * 8.1 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J}}$$

$$p = 1.21 \times 10^{-23} \text{ kg m/s}$$

$$\lambda = h/p = (6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js}) / (1.21 \times 10^{-23} \text{ kg m/s})$$

$$\lambda = 5.47 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m} = 5.47 \times 10^{-2} \text{ nm} = 0.0547 \text{ nm.}$$

$$\lambda = h/p = h/\sqrt{2mE} = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} / \sqrt{2 * 9.1 \times 10^{-31} * 1.62 \times 10^{-19} \text{ eV}}$$

It is a mistake to use  $E = hv$ . This applies only to electromagnetic waves or their associated particles known as photons.

$$E = hc/\lambda \text{ or } \lambda = hc/E = (6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js})(2.99 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}) / (8.1 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J})$$

$$\lambda = 2.44 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} = 2.44 \text{ nm, which is about 5 times too big!}$$

Wavelength = \_\_\_\_\_.