Chapter 7: The Quantum-Mechanical Model of the Atom

Light = electromagnetic radiation

Wave-particle duality: light has wave-like AND particle-like properties $$\texttt{A}^{\text{st}}$$



The electromagnetic spectrum

White visible light can be separated into its component colors through a prism



The Electromagnetic Spectrum



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Atomic emission spectroscopy

A gas lamp is a sealed glass tube that contains a gas sample, and glows when a high voltage is applied to it.



Compare with the continuous spectrum given off by a white light source like a light bulb.



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Bohr model and emission spectra

The Bohr Model and Emission Spectra



Bohr's hydrogen atom model: (Niels Bohr, ~ 1910)

- Electrons in the H atom can occupy only certain energy levels, and the energy of the electron determines which energy level it occupies.
- If an electron is promoted to a higher energy level, it must absorb energy
- If an electron drops to a lower energy level, it gives off energy
- The amount of energy transferred = the energy difference between the levels



Uncertainty and indeterminacy

The wave and particle natures of the electron are **complimentary** properties - the more you know about one, the less you know about the other

Heisenberg uncertainty principle:

- Position of an electron: particle nature
- Momentum of an electron: wave nature
- It's impossible to know both precisely at any one time

$$(\Delta x) \cdot (m\Delta v) \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$$

uncertaining in uncert in momentum
position

But, quantum mechanics allows us to calculate the **probability** of an electron behaving a certain way:

Wavefunction (ψ): mathematical equation that describes the wavelike properties of an electron

Quantum numbers: 4 variables in the wavefunction that, combined, describe a single electron

Orbital: a solution to a wavefunction with a certain combination of quantum numbers - a 3-dimensional volume inside of which an electron is likely to be found