

Wavelength of an Electron

The DeBroglie wavelength of an electron is inversely related to its momentum:

$$\lambda = h/p$$

$$h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J-sec}$$

Frequently we need to know the relation between the electron's wavelength λ and its kinetic energy E . Because the electron has $v \ll c$, p and E are related through the Physics 211 formula:

$$KE = \frac{p^2}{2m} = \frac{h^2}{2m\lambda^2}$$

Valid for all (non-relativistic) particles

For $m = m_e$:
(electrons)

$$h = 4.14 \times 10^{-15} \text{ eV-sec}$$

$$m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$$

$$E_{\text{electron}} = \frac{1.505 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}^2}{\lambda^2}$$

(E in eV; λ in nm)

Don't confuse this with $E_{\text{photon}} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}}{\lambda}$ for a photon.