

Solution

Calculate the wavelength of

- an electron that has been accelerated from rest across a 3-Volt potential difference ($m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg).
- Ditto for a proton ($m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg).
- a major league fastball ($m_{\text{baseball}} = 0.15$ kg, $v = 50$ m/s).

a. $E = eV = 4.8 \times 10^{-19}$ J

Physics 212

$p = \sqrt{(2m_e E)} = 9.35 \times 10^{-25}$ kg m/s

Physics 211

$\lambda = h/p = 7.1 \times 10^{-10}$ m = 0.71 nm

Physics 214

b. $p = \sqrt{(2m_p E)} = 4.00 \times 10^{-23}$ kg m/s

E is the same.

$\lambda = h/p = 1.7 \times 10^{-11}$ m

Mass is bigger $\Rightarrow \lambda$ is smaller.

c. $p = mv = 7.5$ kg m/s

SI units were designed to be

$\lambda = h/p = 8.8 \times 10^{-35}$ m

convenient for macroscopic objects.

QM wave effects are negligible in the motion of macroscopic objects. 10^{-35} m is many orders of magnitude smaller than any distance that has ever been measured (10^{-19} m, at Fermilab).