

- Calculate the energy (in J) and the wavelength (in nm) of the photon of radiation emitted when the electron in Li^{2+} drops from an $n = 4$ state to an $n = 2$ state.

As Li^{2+} has 1 electron, its energy levels are described by the equation $E_n = \frac{-E_R Z^2}{n^2}$ where $E_R = 2.18 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$ and $Z = 3$.

The energies of the $n = 4$ and $n = 2$ levels are:

$$E_4 = \frac{-E_R (3)^2}{(4)^2} = -\frac{9}{16} E_R \quad \text{and} \quad E_2 = \frac{-E_R (3)^2}{(2)^2} = -\frac{9}{4} E_R = -\frac{36}{16} E_R$$

The energy separation is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E = E_4 - E_2 &= \left[-\frac{9}{16} E_R \right] - \left[-\frac{36}{16} E_R \right] = \frac{27}{16} E_R \\ &= \frac{27}{16} \times (2.18 \times 10^{-18}) = 3.68 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Using } E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}, \lambda = \frac{hc}{E} = \frac{(6.626 \times 10^{-34}) \times (2.998 \times 10^8)}{(3.68 \times 10^{-18})} = 5.40 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} = 54.0 \text{ nm}$$

Energy = $3.68 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$

Wavelength = **54.0 nm**