

Answer on Question #79533- Physics - Atomic and Nuclear Physics

Question: The radius of hydrogen atom is $0.43 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}$ convert it in cm, mm, nm

Answer:

First of all, one should note that the given number (pay attention to the power) is extremely large: it is almost three times the distance between the Sun and the Earth. Obviously, there is a typos here, however, switching to power -12 also does not lead to the right result.

According to [1], the radius of a hydrogen atom is about $0.53 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ (it is called Bohr radius). In order to calculate this value in cm, mm and nm, one should recall that $1 \text{ cm} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}$; $1 \text{ mm} = 10^{-3} \text{ m}$; $1 \text{ nm} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 0.53 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m} &= 0.53 \cdot \frac{10^{-10}}{10^{-2}} \text{ cm} = 0.53 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ cm} \\ &= 0.53 \cdot \frac{10^{-10}}{10^{-3}} \text{ mm} = 0.53 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ mm} \\ &= 0.53 \cdot \frac{10^{-10}}{10^{-9}} \text{ nm} = 0.53 \cdot 10^{-1} \text{ nm} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

In case if it was necessary to consider the given number, there is also an answer as follows:

$$0.43 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ m} = 0.43 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ cm} = 0.43 \cdot 10^{15} \text{ mm} = 0.43 \cdot 10^{21} \text{ nm} \quad (2)$$

[1] (Electronic resource) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_atom

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