

32. The Balmer series in the hydrogen spectrum corresponds to the transition from $n_1 = 2$ to $n_2 = 3, 4, \dots$. This series lies in the visible region. Calculate the wavenumber of the line associated with the transition in Balmer series when the electron moves to $n = 4$ orbit. ($R_H = 109677 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)

Solution:

According to Bohr's model for the hydrogen atom

$$\nu = R_H \left(\frac{1}{n_1^2} - \frac{1}{n_2^2} \right) \text{cm}^{-1}$$

here, $n_1 = 2$ and $n_2 = 4$ and $H = \text{Rydberg's constant} = 109677$

Hence, wave number $\nu = 109677 \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{16} \right)$

$$= 20564.44 \text{cm}^{-1}$$