Q 04. a. In the explanation of the photoelectric effect, we assume one photon of frequency ν collides with an electron and transfers its energy. This leads to the equation for the maximum energy E_{max} of the emitted electron as

$$E_{\rm max} = h\nu - \phi_0$$

here ϕ_0 is the work function of the metal. If an electron absorbs 2 photons (each of frequency ν) what will be the maximum energy for the emitted electron?

b. Why is this fact (two photon absorption) not taken into consideration in our discussion of the stopping potential?

Sol.

a. Here, 2 photons transfer its energy to one electron as E = $\mathrm{h}\nu$

$$\therefore E_e = E_p$$

$$h\nu_e = 2h\nu$$

$$\nu_e = 2\nu$$

The maximum energy of the emitted electron is given by ;-

$$E_{\rm max} = h\nu_{e^-}\phi_0 = h(2\nu) - \phi_0 = 2h\nu - \phi_0$$

b. The probability of absorbing 2 photons by an electron is very low due to their mass difference. So the possibilities of such emission of electrons are negligible.