

44. The result of problem 3 in Chapter 39 is adapted to these units ( $hc = 1240 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm} = 1240 \text{ keV} \cdot \text{pm}$ ). For the  $K_\alpha$  line from iron

$$\Delta E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{1240 \text{ keV} \cdot \text{pm}}{193 \text{ pm}} = 6.4 \text{ keV} .$$

We remark that for the hydrogen atom the corresponding energy difference is

$$\Delta E_{12} = -(13.6 \text{ eV}) \left( \frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{1^2} \right) = 10 \text{ eV} .$$

That this difference is much greater in iron is due to the fact that its atomic nucleus contains 26 protons, exerting a much greater force on the  $K$ - and  $L$ -shell electrons than that provided by the single proton in hydrogen.