

3. (30 pts.) An electron in a long organic molecule used in a dye laser behaves approximately like a particle confined to a one-dimensional box of length 5.00 nm.

- a. (5 pts.) What is the second-longest possible wavelength for the electron when it is confined to this box?



$$L = 2 \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{2} \right) \Rightarrow \lambda_2 = \frac{2L}{2} = \boxed{5.00 \text{ nm}}$$

- b. (5 pts.) What is the corresponding kinetic energy?

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda} = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}}{5.00 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} = 1.325 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg m/s}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 = \frac{p^2}{2m} = \frac{(1.325 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg m/s})^2}{2(9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})} =$$

$$E_2 = 9.64 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J} = 0.0602 \text{ eV}$$

- c. (5 pts.) What is the third-longest possible wavelength for the electron when it is confined to this box?



$$\lambda_3 = \frac{2L}{3} = 3.33 \text{ nm}$$

- d. (5 pts.) What is the corresponding kinetic energy?

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda_3} = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}}{3.33 \text{ nm}} = 1.99 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg m/s}$$

$$E_3 = \frac{p^2}{2m} = 2.17 \times 10^{-20} \text{ J} = 0.135 \text{ eV}$$

- e. (10 pts.) What is the wavelength of the photon emitted when the electron makes a transition from the state in part (c) to the state in part (a)?

$$\Delta E = E_3 - E_2 = 0.135 \text{ eV} - 0.0602 \text{ eV} = 0.0752 \text{ eV}$$

$$\text{Then } \Delta E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{hc}{\Delta E} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV}\cdot\text{nm}}{0.0752 \text{ eV}} = 16,500 \text{ nm}$$