Chapter 34 Problem 30 †

Given

$$\begin{split} \lambda &= 1 \ mm = 1.0 \times 10^{-3} \ m \\ m_e &= 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \ kg \\ h &= 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \ J \cdot s \end{split}$$

Solution

Find the speed of the electron that gives a wavelength of 1 mm.

The De Broglie wavelength is given by

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{m \cdot v}$$

Solving for velocity gives

$$v = \frac{h}{m \cdot \lambda}$$

Substituting in the provided values gives

$$v = \frac{6.63 \times 10^{-34} \ J \cdot s}{(9.11 \times 10^{-31} \ kg) \cdot (1.0 \times 10^{-3} \ m)} = 0.728 \ m/s$$

[†]Problem from Essential University Physics, Wolfson