

Chapter 36 Problem 51 †

Given

$$\lambda = 30.0 \mu\text{m}$$

$$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$$

$$c = 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$P = 2.0 \text{ mW}$$

Solution

Find the number of transitions made in the laser every second.

Since power is energy per time, the energy released by the laser each second is 2.0 mJ .

The energy in each transition is given by the relationship

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

Substituting in the the appropriate values gives

$$E = \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s})(3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})}{30.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}} = 6.63 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J}$$

Therefore, the number of transitions is given by

$$\text{transitions} = (2.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ J}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ trans}}{6.63 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J}} \right)$$

$$\text{transitions} = 3.02 \times 10^{17} \text{ trans}$$

†Problem from Essential University Physics, Wolfson