

Problem 23.15

a.) The force on the electron due to the proton in a hydrogen atom is just a Coulomb force, or:

$$\begin{aligned} F_C &= k \frac{q^2}{r^2} \\ &= (8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2) \frac{(1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{(5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m})^2} \\ &= 8.22 \times 10^{-8} \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

b.) A centripetal force would require a velocity of:

$$\begin{aligned} F_C &= m \frac{v^2}{r} \\ \Rightarrow v &= \sqrt{F_C r / m} \\ &= \sqrt{(8.22 \times 10^{-8} \text{ N})(5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}) / (9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})} \\ &= 2.19 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

