

Bohr Radius as the Sum of Golden Sections Pertaining to the Electron and Proton, Covalent Bond Lengths Between Same Two Atoms as Exact Sums of Their Cationic and Anionic Radii and Additivity of Atomic and or Ionic Radii in Bond Lengths

– Collected work dedicated to Johannes Kepler (1571 - 1630).

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Abstract.

The author has shown over a decade ago that the energy of the hydrogen atom is actually positive (not negative as per Bohr). In Bohr's treatment, the energy amounts to half the Coulombic energy between an electron and a proton, and hence is negative. The present author considered an alternate approach: the ionization potential as the difference in the potentials of the electron and proton at a distance of the Bohr radius. This makes the energy positive and it has the same magnitude as given by Bohr's equation. Moreover, Bohr radius was found to be divided into two Golden sections pertaining to the proton and electron. Further, all covalent bond lengths amounted to exact sums of the Golden ratio based cationic and anionic radii. Bond lengths were shown to be simple sums of atomic and ionic radii. This article is a collection of the author's work.

1. Introduction

The author sent a copy of her first publication on the Golden ratio [1] right in the core of the atom to a renowned scientist (Prof. D.R. Herschbach), the reply came back saying that ‘Kepler will be pleased.’ So this collected work is dedicated to Johannes Kepler:

”Geometry has two great treasures: one is the theorem of Pythagoras, the other the division of a line into mean and extreme ratio. The first we may compare to a mass of gold, the second we may call a precious jewel.” - On the Golden ratio, by J. Kepler.

The negative sign for the energy of hydrogen atom in the Bohr’s model [2] has been irking the author’s conscience for long as well as other’s [3]. While working on electrode potentials, which are considered as the difference between the potentials of the anode (+ve) and the cathode (-ve), it occurred to the author to treat the ionization potential of hydrogen in a similar way. Thus, on dividing the ionization potential into two parts, one pertaining to the proton (+ve) and the other to the electron (-ve), a surprising result was obtained. It was found that the ionization energy is actually positive and that the Bohr radius has two Golden sections. This gave rise to amazing simplicity in the interpretation of ionic radii and bond lengths in general in small as well as large molecules [4 - 8]. This is explained briefly below and the author’s work confirming this approach for various molecules can be found in [4 - 43].

2. Bohr’s model modified

In the Bohr’s model [2], the ground state energy (E_H) of the hydrogen atom, considered as the sum of the kinetic energy and potential energy (Coulombic energy), is given by

$$E_H = -e^2 / 2\kappa a_B \quad (1)$$

which is half the Coulombic energy, $-e^2 / \kappa a_B$ of two opposite charges at a distance, a_B (= Bohr radius) where e is the electric charge and κ is the electric constant. This energy is negative, since the Coulombic energy is negative.

The ground state energy (E_H), ionization potential (I_H) and Bohr radius are related by the equation,

$$E_H = eI_H \text{ where } E_H/e = I_H = (1/2)(e/\kappa a_B) \quad (2)$$

The negative sign in Eq (1) for the energy of hydrogen implies that the energy of the Universe which consists of more than 70% hydrogen is negative! This bothered the author's conscience and therefore the author considered [37] an alternate approach to the ionization energy: as the energy needed to pull apart the proton and electron from each other. The ionization potential (I_H) could thus be expressed as the absolute difference between those of the proton (I_p) and the electron (I_e). Thus, on dividing the Bohr radius into two segments a_p and a_e pertaining to the proton and electron respectively, where $a_B = a_p + a_e$, the following relations were obtained:

$$I_H = e/(2\kappa a_B) = (e/2\kappa a_p) - (e/2\kappa a_e) \quad (3)$$

$$I_p = (e/2\kappa a_p) \text{ and } I_e = (-e/2\kappa a_e) \quad (4a,b)$$

$$1/a_B = 1/(a_p + a_e) = (1/a_p) - (1/a_e) \quad (5)$$

On rewriting Eq. 5 in terms of the ratio (a_e/a_p) , one gets the Golden quadratic,

$$(a_e/a_p)^2 - (a_e/a_p) - 1 = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$(a_e/a_p) = (1 + 5^{1/2})/2 = \phi = 1.618.. \text{ (Golden ratio!)} \quad (7)$$

$$a_e = a_B/\phi \text{ \& } a_p = a_B/\phi^2 \text{ (Golden sections.)} \quad (8a,b)$$

whose solution is ϕ , the Golden ratio, a mathematical constant, found in the geometry of many spontaneous creations in the Universe [1]! Thus, it was found that *Bohr radius has two Golden sections pertaining to p^+ & e^-* !

The ionization energy, $E_H = eI_H = (1/2)(e^2/\kappa a_B)$ as given by Eq. (2) can also be interpreted as the electromagnetic energy of a condenser with two unit charges of opposite sign at a distance of the Bohr radius from each other and with κa_B as the capacity. Note also from Eq. (3) that the ground state energy, $E_H = eI_H$ is the difference between two terms, as found in spectroscopy [8].

3. Golden ratio based ionic radii and the Golden cascade

3.1. Bohr radius:

$$a_B = (a_B/\phi) + (a_B/\phi^2) = \text{Bohr radius (Hydrogen atom)} \quad (9)$$

3.2. Hydrogen molecule:

$$d(\text{HH})_{\text{obs}} = 0.74\text{\AA} = 2^{1/2}a_{\text{B}} = 2^{1/2}(a_{\text{B}}/\phi + a_{\text{B}}/\phi^2) = R_{\text{H}^+} + R_{\text{H}^-}; \quad (10)$$

$$R_{\text{H}^+} = 2^{1/2} a_{\text{B}}/\phi^2 = 0.28\text{\AA}; R_{\text{H}^-} = 2^{1/2} a_{\text{B}}/\phi = 0.74 - 0.28 = 0.46\text{\AA} \quad (11\text{a,b})$$

This (0.28Å) is amazingly exactly the value Pauling [44] suggests empirically for H in hydrogen halides, HX (!). So actually it is the Golden ratio based radius of the cation, H⁺, which Pauling was not aware of.

3.3. Hydrogen halides: HX

$$d(\text{HX})_{\text{obs}} - R_{\text{H}^+} = d(\text{XX})/2 = R_{\text{X}} \quad (= \text{the covalent radii of X in HX}) \quad (12)$$

$$d(\text{HX})_{\text{obs}} = R_{\text{H}^+} + R_{\text{X}}; \quad (13)$$

Therefore, the ‘partial ionic character’ [44] of HX bond is due to H⁺. Also note that ionic and atomic covalent radii are additive!

3.4. Alkali metal hydrides: MH

$$d(\text{MH})_{\text{obs}} - R_{\text{H}^+} = R_{\text{M}^+} = L(\text{MM})/\phi^2 = d(\text{MM})/\phi^2 \quad (14)$$

which is the Golden ratio based cationic radii of alkali metals (M), where L is the edge length of the metal cubic lattice. Therefore, the ‘ionic character’ [44] of MH bonds is due to M⁺ & H⁺.

3.5. Alkali halides: MX

$$d(\text{MX})_{\text{obs}} - R_{\text{M}^{+}} = R_{\text{X}^{-}} = d(\text{XX})/\phi \quad (15)$$

which is the Golden ratio based anionic radii of X in alkali halides, MX

$$d(\text{MX})_{\text{obs}} = d(\text{MX})_{\text{cal}} = R_{\text{M}^{+}} + R_{\text{X}^{-}} \quad (16)$$

Therefore, note that Pauling's 'radius ratio corrections' are not needed to account for the observed crystal ionic distances, $d(\text{MX})$! When the author found to her surprise more than a decade ago the two sections of the Bohr radius in the Golden ratio, a mathematical constant right in the architecture of the atom (!), she couldn't believe it and did not publish it till she could explain the crystal ionic distances in all the alkali halides. See the perfect additivity of radii for all alkali halides in Figs. in [8, 37] and in the power point slides in [35].

3.6. Bond length between atoms of the same kind: $d(\text{AA})$

$$d(\text{AA}) = 2R_{\text{A}} = R_{\text{A}^{+}} + R_{\text{A}^{-}}; \quad (17)$$

$$R_{\text{A}^{+}} = d(\text{AA})/\phi^2 = 0.764d(\text{A}) \text{ and } R_{\text{A}^{-}} = d(\text{AA})/\phi = 1.236\delta(\text{A}) \quad (18\text{a,b})$$

$$R_{\text{A}^{+}} : R_{\text{A}} : R_{\text{A}^{-}} = 0.382 : 1 : 0.618 \quad (19)$$

where R_A is the covalent radius and R_{A+} and R_{A-} are the Golden ratio based ionic radii of the ionic resonance forms (Pauling, [44]) of A.

3.7. All bond lengths $d(AB)$ are exact sums of the atomic and or Golden ratio based ionic radii, R_A , R_{A+} , R_{A-} , R_B , R_{B+} and R_{B-} .

These are described for many molecules and bonds including hydrogen bonds in [4-43]. Pauling pointed out that covalent radii are additive but was not aware that covalent radii of different valence are also additive. Therefore he failed to explain many covalent bond lengths. A review of the author's work is in the power point lecture in [35].

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