Experimental Studies on Interactions of Atomic Ions with Single Electrons

see review: A. Müller, Adv. At. Mol. Phys. 55 (2008) 293



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Interacting beams of electrons and ions



Cross sections from crossed-beams experiments



cross section
$$\sigma(E) = \frac{R q e^2 v_e v_i}{I_e I_i |\vec{v}_i - \vec{v}_e|} \frac{F}{\epsilon}$$

beam overlap
$$F = \frac{I_e I_i}{\int_z I_e (z) I_i (z) dz}$$

slices of beam 1 interact with corresponding slices of beam 2

probed by moving a narrow slit across both beams or

by moving one beam across the other (animated beams)

- σ cross section
- R signal count rate
- q ion charge state

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- e elementary charge
- v_e / v_i electron / ion velocity
- I_e / I_i electron / ion current
 - detection efficiency

Systematic uncertainties typically $(8 \pm 2)\%$

Cross sections for ionization of Li⁺(1s²)



experimental data within 10% uncertainty range around CCC results

Statistical, systematical and model-related errors



Statistical and systematical uncertainties: N⁵⁺



signal below the ground-state threshold: metastable excited states

Statistical and systematical uncertainties: N⁵⁺



primary ion beam contained between 2 and 6% metastable ions

New data for electron-impact ionization of N⁵⁺ ions



primary ion beam contained between 2 and 6% metastable ions

New data for electron-impact ionization of N⁵⁺ ions



primary ion beam contained between 2 and 6% metastable ions

Electron-impact ionization of N⁵⁺ ions



Combination of absolute measurements and fine-step energy scans

Scrutinizing the threshold energy region



Metastable state of ions in the projectile beam identified: 1s2s ³S₁

Modeling the metastable fraction by CCC theory



Ionization cross section for N^{5+} (1s2s ${}^{3}S_{1}$)



Zooming in on the cross section for N^{5+} (1s2s ${}^{3}S_{1}$)

excitation-autoionization (EA) and resonant excitation followed by two-electron emission



Production of double-K-vacancy states

Resonant-excitation-auto-double-ionization

$$e + N^{5+} (1s2s \ ^{3}S_{1}) \rightarrow N^{4+} (2s n\ell n'\ell') \rightarrow N^{6+} (1s \ ^{2}S_{1/2}) + 2e$$



statistical uncertainties are at the 0.05% level

Interference of direct and resonant excitations

Zooming in on the cross section for N^{5+} (1s2s ${}^{3}S_{1}$)

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{E}\mathsf{A}: & \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{N}^{5+} \left(\mathsf{1}\mathsf{s}\mathsf{2}\mathsf{s} \ {}^3\mathsf{S}_1 \right) \to \mathsf{N}^{5+} \left(\mathsf{2}\mathsf{s} \ \mathsf{n}\ell \right) + \mathsf{e} \to \mathsf{N}^{6+} \left(\mathsf{1}\mathsf{s} \ {}^2\mathsf{S}_{\mathsf{1/2}} \right) + \mathsf{2}\mathsf{e} \\ \mathsf{R}\mathsf{E}\mathsf{D}\mathsf{A}: & \mathsf{e} + \mathsf{N}^{5+} \left(\mathsf{1}\mathsf{s}\mathsf{2}\mathsf{s} \ {}^3\mathsf{S}_1 \right) \to \mathsf{N}^{4+} \left(\mathsf{2}\mathsf{s} \ \mathsf{n}\ell \ \mathsf{n}'\ell' \right) \\ & \to \mathsf{N}^{5+} \left(\mathsf{2}\mathsf{s} \ \mathsf{n}''\ell'' \right) + \mathsf{e} \to \mathsf{N}^{6+} \left(\mathsf{1}\mathsf{s} \ {}^2\mathsf{S}_{\mathsf{1/2}} \right) + \mathsf{2}\mathsf{e} \end{split}$$

A. Müller, A. Borovik Jr., K. Huber, S. Schippers, D. V. Fursa, I. Bray, Phys. Rev. A 90, 010701(R) (2014) EA 2s2p ¹F EA 2s2p ³P (10^{-19} cm^2) 8.0 2s3l4l 7.8 EA 2s3I 2s3l5l' 2s4l4l' **Cross section** EA 2p² ¹S EA 2s4I $2s^2$ ¹S 2s3171' 7.6 EA 2s5I ∢ 7.4 450 500 550 600 650 Electron-ion collision energy (eV)

differences between theory and experiment are typically 0.2% and at most 1%



Crossed beams experiments

- Can provide data with about 10% systematic uncertainty
- Have provided high resolution data with 0.01% statistical uncertainty
- Provide possibilities for quantifying metastable beam components
- Allow for determination of cross sections for metastable levels of ions

Thank you for your attention!