Slides for Photon Interactions with Matter

2024

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The Motivation: Explain Our Banana Spectrum!



Banana Radiation Source: ⁴⁰K



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What Do These Gammas Do?

Yip, p. 217



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Scatter off of an electron

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The Photoelectric Effect

Turner, p. 174



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A Primer on Photon Quantities

$$E = h\nu = \hbar\omega = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \quad \nu = f \text{ (notation choice)}$$

$$p = \frac{h}{\lambda} \qquad h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \frac{m^2 kg}{sec}$$

$$\omega = 2\pi\nu \qquad \hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi} \qquad c = 299,792,458 \frac{m}{s}$$

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The Work Function φ_0



Preferred value of work function, $\phi_{exp}(eV)$

H. B. Michaelson. "The work function of the elements and its periodicity." J. Appl. Phys. 48, 4729 (1977)

Energy needed to remove the outermost electron

Do you notice any patterns?

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Compton Scattering

Turner, p. 179



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Wavelength & Energy Shift



When is the electron recoil energy maximized?

Compton Scattering Energies

$$\Delta \lambda = \lambda' - \lambda = c \left(\frac{1}{\nu'} - \frac{1}{\nu} \right) = \frac{h}{mc} (1 - \cos \theta)$$

At
$$\theta = \pi/2$$
: $\Delta \lambda = \frac{h}{mc} = \frac{6.63 \times 10^{-34}}{9.11 \times 10^{-31} \times 3.00 \times 10^8} = 2.43 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}$

For
$$h\nu = 1.332 MeV$$
,
 $h\nu' = \frac{1.332 MeV}{1 + (1.332/0.511)[1 - (-0.766)]} = 0.238 MeV$

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Let's Look at the Spectrum Again



The Real Quirk of Physics Here... Constant Compton Edge at High E



As $h\nu \rightarrow \infty$ at $\theta = \pi$, $T \rightarrow h\nu - 0.255 MeV$

Maximum difference between Compton Edge and Photopeak locations

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Angular Differential Cross Section: The Klein-Nishina Formula R. D. Evans. "Compton Effect," in Handbuch der Physik

XXXIV, Tlugge, Ed., Springer-Verlag, pp. 218-298 (1958)

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Angular Differential Cross Section: The Klein-Nishina Formula

Yip, pp. 207-209

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Pair Production

Photon interacts with the nucleus, creates a positron/electron pair

$$h\nu = 2mc^2 + T_+ + T_-$$

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What Happens to the Positron?

https://www.hzdr.de/db/Cms?pNid=3581

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What Evidence Do We Have?

Understanding Detectors

Yip, p. 221-222

Mass Attenuation Coefficients

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Cross Sections for Photon Interactions

Yip, pp. 216-217

(10.44)

Photoelectric Effect:

 $\mu_{\tau}/\rho = (N_o/A) \sigma_{\tau}, \quad \sigma_{\tau} \sim Z^5/(\hbar\omega)^{7/2}$ per atom

Compton Scattering:

 $\mu_C/\rho = (N_o/A) Z\sigma_C, \quad \sigma_C \sim 1/\hbar\omega \quad per \ electron$ (10.43)

<u>Pair Production:</u> $\mu_{\kappa}/\rho = (N_o/A) \sigma_{\kappa}, \quad \sigma_{\kappa} \sim Z^2 \ell n (2\hbar\omega/m_e c^2) \quad per \ atom \quad (10.45)$

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What Does µ Measure?

Turner, p. 188

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Turner, p. 189 Comparative Mass Attenuations

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