Phenomena at High X-ray Intensity: Part 1

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Discovery of x rays by Wilhelm Röntgen in 1895



Mechanism of image formation:

• X-ray photoelectric effect, which depends on the atomic species encountered by the x rays

• Photoelectrons are produced, but they get stuck in the tissue





Dominant x-ray-atom interaction process: photoabsorption









Fig. 3-1. Total photon cross section σ_{tot} in carbon, as a function of energy, showing the contributions of different processes: τ , atomic photo-effect (electron ejection, photon absorption); σ_{coh} , coherent scat-tering (Rayleigh scattering—atom neither ionized nor excited); σ_{incoh} , incoherent scattering (Comp- ton scattering off an electron); κ_n , pair production, nuclear field; κ_e , pair production, electron field; σ_{ph} , photonuclear absorption (nuclear absorption, usually followed by emission of a neutron or other particle). (From Ref. 3; figure courtesy of J. H. Hubbell.)







Figure 8.14 The monochromatized AlK α carbon 1s XPS spectrum of ethyltrifluoroacetate showing the chemical shifts relative to an ionization energy of 291.2 eV. (Reproduced, with permission, from Gelius, U., Basilier, E., Svensson, S., Bergmark, T., and Siegbahn, K., J. Electron Spectrosc., 2, 405, 1974)

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X-ray crystallography: principle









A brief history of x-ray intensity







Making molecular movies: a new tool for femtochemistry







Single-shot structure determination of biomolecules





Neutze et al., Nature 406, 752 (2000).



Generating and probing extreme states of matter



UН



- Complete stripping of neon in a single x-ray pulse (removal of all 10 electrons)
 [L. Young *et al.*, Nature **466**, 56 (2010)]
- Double-core-hole formation in neon by beating the Auger decay of 1s-ionized Ne¹⁺ (decay lifetime of 2.4 fs)
 [L. Young *et al.*, Nature **466**, 56 (2010)]
- Nonsequential two-photon ionization of Ne⁸⁺
 [G. Doumy *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **106**, 083002 (2011)]
- Modification of Auger line profile in neon via x-ray-driven Rabi oscillations
 [E. P. Kanter *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **107**, 233001 (2011)]





Neon charge states as a function of the photon energy





L. Young et al., Nature 466, 56 (2010)



Counterintuitive impact of pulse duration

photon energy 2 keV, pulse energy 2 mJ





L. Young et al., Nature 466, 56 (2010)



photon energy 1050 eV, pulse energy 2 mJ, nominal pulse duration 80 fs, electrons emitted perpendicular to x-ray polarization axis





L. Young et al., Nature 466, 56 (2010)



XATOM: an integrated toolkit for x-ray atomic physics at high intensity



 \rightarrow ab initio calculation of atomic parameters (subshell photoionization cross sections, electronic decay rates, x-ray scattering cross sections) for arbitrary electronic configurations

→ description of electronic population dynamics via numerical solution of system of coupled rate equations (one rate equation per electronic configuration)





Number of active configurations = number of coupled rate equations

 \rightarrow **27** configurations

→ **63** configurations

• Xe: [1s² 2s² 2p⁶] 3s² 3p⁶ 3d¹⁰ 4s² 4p⁶ 4d¹⁰ 5s² 5p⁶

 \rightarrow **1,120,581** configurations (excluding ionization from the K and L shells)





Comparison between experiment and theory for Xe at 2 keV





B. Rudek et al., Nature Photonics 6, 858 (2012).



Relativistic and resonant effects in the ionization of heavy atoms by ultra-intense hard x rays



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Xe at an x-ray peak intensity exceeding 10¹⁹ W/cm²

B. Rudek *et al.*,
Nature Commun. **9**, 4200 (2018).



Dramatic increase in the number of coupled rate equations

- Nonrelativistic, no resonances
 - → **23,532,201** configurations

- Relativistic, no resonances
 - → **5,023,265,625** configurations

• Relativistic, including resonances $(n_{max} = 30, I_{max} = 7)$

 \rightarrow **2.6** × **10**⁶⁸ configurations

(ionization from the K shell is excluded in all three cases listed)



XMDYN





Zoltan Jurek

Sang-Kil Son

→ ab-initio calculation of atomic parameters (subshell photoionization cross sections, electronic decay rates, x-ray scattering cross sections) for arbitrary electronic configurations \rightarrow uses XATOM

 \rightarrow description of electronic population dynamics via Monte Carlo

 \rightarrow classical molecular dynamics for nuclei and ionized electrons





XMDYN is part of a start-to-end simulation framework for single-particle imaging at the European XFEL

9fs 30fs without Compton scattering with Compton scattering

nitrogenase iron protein

Red reference sphere has a diameter of 7 Å



C. H. Yoon *et al.*, Sci. Rep. **6**, 24791 (2016).
C. Fortmann-Grote *et al.*, IUCrJ **4**, 560 (2017).



X-ray pump / x-ray probe study of C₆₀

Collaboration with **Nora Berrah, Jon Marangos**, et al. Experiment carried out at LCLS



Photon energy: 640 eV Focal area: 400 μ m² Pump (probe) pulse duration: 20 fs (10 fs) Combined pulse energy: 0.77 mJ, shared 45%/55% (pump/probe) Pump peak intensity: 4 x 10¹⁵ W/cm²











Appearance of the neutral and singly charged atomic fragments, as a function of the number of absorbed x-ray photons



The dashed line corresponds to the average response of the fullerene to the pump pulse when the molecule is in the center of the focus.





Simulated real-time evolution of the volume-integrated yield using the pump pulse only







Evolution of the molecular structure (pump only)







- Radiation damage at high x-ray intensity of relevance to applications of XFELs.
- Very high charge states are formed as a consequence of the sequential absorption of multiple photons, combined with electronic decay cascades associated with hole formation in deep inner shells.
- Impact of relativistic and resonant effects.
- At x-ray intensities used for SFX (serial femtosecond x-ray crystallography), there is hardly any atomic displacement during the x-ray pulse.

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