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XueGuang Ren


Sadek M. Amami

Oleg I. Zatsarinny

Thomas Pfluger

*et. al.* For a complete list of authors, see [https://scholarsmine.mst.edu/phys\\_facwork/1515](https://scholarsmine.mst.edu/phys_facwork/1515)

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## Low-energy ( $E_0 = 65$ eV) electron-impact ionization of neon: Internormalized triple-differential cross sections in 3D kinematics

XueGuang Ren<sup>\*†1</sup>, Sadek Amami<sup>§</sup>, Oleg Zatsarinny<sup>†</sup>, Thomas Pflüger<sup>\*‡</sup>, Marvin Weyland<sup>\*‡</sup>, Woon Yong Baek<sup>\*</sup>, Hans Rabus<sup>\*</sup>, Klaus Bartschat<sup>†</sup>, Don Madison<sup>§</sup>, Alexander Dorn<sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, 38116 Braunschweig, Germany

<sup>†</sup> Max-Planck-Institute for Nuclear Physics, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany

<sup>§</sup> Physics Department, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri 65409, USA

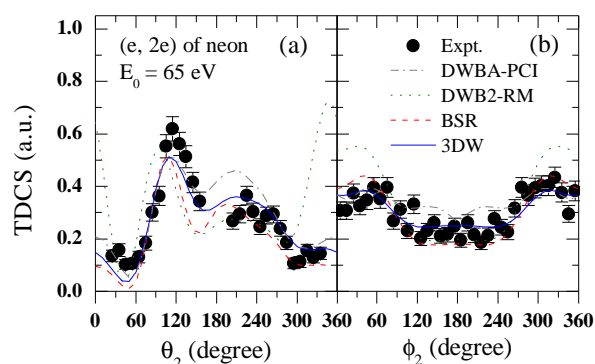
<sup>‡</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, USA

**Synopsis** We present a combined experimental and theoretical study on the low-energy ( $E_0 = 65$  eV) electron-impact ionization of neon. The experimental data are compared to predictions from a hybrid second-order distorted-wave Born plus  $R$ -matrix approach (DWB2-RM), the distorted-wave Born approximation with inclusion of post-collision interaction (DWBA-PCI), a three-body distorted-wave approach (3DW), and a  $B$ -spline  $R$ -matrix (BSR) with pseudostates approach. Excellent agreement is found between experiment and the 3DW and BSR theories. The importance of PCI effects is clearly visible in this low-energy electron-impact ionization process.

The electron-impact ionization dynamics have now been well understood for simple systems such as atomic hydrogen and helium [1, 2, 3]. Recent studies for the ionization of neon by 100 eV electron-impact showed an unprecedented agreement between experiment and BSR predictions [4]. The physical effects of PCI as well as electron exchange and charge-cloud polarization in the projectile-target interaction are expected to become even more pronounced with decreasing projectile energy. Here, we investigate the low-energy ( $E_0 = 65$  eV) electron-impact ionization of neon to thoroughly test state-of-the-art theoretical approaches.

The experimental data were measured using a reaction microscope [5, 6], which can cover nearly the entire  $4\pi$  solid angle for the secondary electron emission. The measured cross sections are internormalized across all different scattering angles ( $\theta_1$ ) and ejected energies ( $E_2$ ), which provide a thorough test ground for theory. As one example, the (e, 2e) triple-differential cross sections (TDCS) for  $\theta_1 = -12.5^\circ$  and  $E_2 = 2$  eV are presented in Figure 1 for the scattering plane and the full-perpendicular plane. The experimental data are compared to various theoretical predictions from the 3DW, BSR, DWB2-RM, DWBA-PCI models. Excellent agreement is found between experiment and the 3DW and BSR theories. Significant discrepancies between DWB2-RM and experiment are observed near the projectile forward direction, while the DWBA-PCI model provides a clear improvement over the DWB2-RM calculations in this angular range.

This indicates that PCI effects play a very important role in the low-energy ionization process studied here [7]. More results, including three-dimensional (3D) presentations of the TDCS, will be shown at the conference.



**Figure 1.** TDCS for the ionization of Ne ( $2p$ ) presented as a function of the secondary electron ( $e_2$ ) emission angle at  $\theta_1 = -12.5^\circ$  and  $E_2 = 2$  eV. (a): TDCS in the scattering plane; (b): TDCS in the plane perpendicular to the incident beam direction.

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<sup>1</sup>E-mail: xue.g.ren@ptb.de

