RELATIVISTIC RECOIL: A STUDY OF HIGHLY IONIZED ATOMS

Abstract

by

Stephanie L. Morrison

Recoil corrections, contributions to the energies of atoms and ions that are inversely proportional to the mass of the nucleus, are treated using a three-dimensional form of the Bethe-Salpeter equation for hydrogenic ions. All states with principal quantum numbers $n = 1, 2$ and $3$ are treated. The importance of these calculations for the interpretation of a number of high accuracy experiments on highly charged ions is shown, and directions for future research involving mass-polarization, a many-electron recoil correction, are discussed.