

surement at 20 keV, our total integrated current density was less than that at which a 1% change in yield was observed.

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Radiative Decay Rates of Vacancies in the *K* and *L* Shells*

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A calculation is made of the rates of emission of x rays in the filling of vacancies in the *K* and *L* shells. The total radiative decay rates and the rates of emission of a number of x-ray lines are presented for a range of elements. The atomic electrons are taken to be in single-particle states in a central potential given by the relativistic Hartree-Slater theory. All multipoles of the radiation field and all transitions from occupied states of the atom are included. The electrons are treated relativistically and the effect of retardation is included.

INTRODUCTION

A vacancy in one of the levels of an atom may be filled by an electron from a higher level accompanied by the ejection of either a second electron or an x ray. This paper gives the results of a calculation of the rate of decay of vacancies in the *K* and *L* shells accompanied by the radiation of x rays. In the calculation, the electrons are treated relativistically and the effect of retardation is included. The electrons are treated as moving independently with their mutual interactions accounted for by a central potential. The potential used is one given by the Hartree-Slater theory.

Relativistic calculations of the radiative transition rates have previously been carried out by

Massey and Burhop,¹ Laskar,² Payne and Levinger,³ Asaad,⁴ Taylor and Payne,⁵ and Babushkin.⁶ All of these calculations except Asaad's are based on the Coulomb potential. Massey and Burhop, Laskar, and Babushkin introduced an effective nuclear charge to account for the screening of the nucleus by the electrons. Asaad's calculation is based on a more realistic potential obtained from a self-consistent field calculation. The calculations of Massey and Burhop, Laskar, and Asaad do not include the effect of retardation; i. e., they assume the x ray's wavelength is much greater than the atomic dimensions. The inclusion of retardation is incorrect in the work of Payne and Levinger and Taylor and Payne. Babushkin

includes retardation; he gives the theoretical formulas for all the multipoles and numerical re-

sults for a Coulomb potential for the L_I to $K M1$ transition and the $E1$ transitions to the K shell.

EMISSION OF MULTIPOLE RADIATION BY ELECTRONS

The radiative transition rate for an electron to go from a state a to a state b with the emission of photons of energy ω and momenta \vec{k} is given by⁷

$$\Gamma_{ab} = (\alpha\omega/2\pi) \sum_{\text{pol}} \int d\Omega_k | \langle b | \vec{\alpha} \cdot \vec{\epsilon}_r^* e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} | a \rangle |^2$$

with $\hbar = c = m_e = 1$.

In terms of the multipole fields, the rate is given by

$$\Gamma_{ab} = 4\pi^2\alpha\omega \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} \sum_{M=-L}^L [| \langle b | \vec{\alpha} \cdot \vec{A}_{LM}(m) | a \rangle |^2 + | \langle b | \vec{\alpha} \cdot \vec{A}_{LM}(e) | a \rangle |^2],$$

with the magnetic and electric multipoles normalized to

$$\vec{A}_{LM}(m) = i(2/\pi)^{1/2} j_L(kr) [L(L+1)]^{-1/2} \vec{L} Y_{LM}(\hat{r}),$$

$$A_{LM}(e) = (2/\pi)^{1/2} k [L(L+1)]^{-1/2} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{L} j_L(kr) Y_{LM}(\hat{r}), \quad \text{where } \vec{L} = -i\vec{r} \times \vec{\nabla}.$$

The equality of the two expansions is presented by Rose,⁸ while a development directly in terms of the multipole fields is given by Moszkowski.⁹

We may simply follow the work of Rose *et al.*¹⁰ on internal conversion to obtain the expression for the transition rate between single-particle electron states in a spherically symmetric potential in terms of the radial wave functions.

We have, after averaging over the magnetic quantum numbers of the final state,¹¹

$$\Gamma_{ab} = 2\alpha\omega^2 \sum_L [f_L(m) + f_L(e)],$$

with $f_L(m) = \omega^{-1} B(-\kappa_a, \kappa_b, L) R_L^2(m)$, $f_L(e) = \omega^{-1} B(\kappa_a, \kappa_b, L) R_L^2(e)$,

$$B(\kappa_a, \kappa_b, L) = [(2l_a + 1)(2l_b + 1)/L(L+1)] C^2(l_a, l_b, L; 0, 0) W^2(j_a l_a j_b l_b; \frac{1}{2}L).$$

The eigenvalues κ_a and κ_b distinguish the initial and final angular momentum states. The total angular momentum j and the dominant orbital angular momentum l are related to the κ by

$$j = |\kappa| - \frac{1}{2}, \quad l = \kappa \text{ for } \kappa \text{ positive}, \quad l = -\kappa - 1 \text{ for } \kappa \text{ negative}.$$

The quantity $B(\kappa_a, \kappa_b, L)$ is zero unless the sum $J = L + l_a + l_b$ is even and L, j_a, j_b form a triangle. When these conditions are met, we have¹²

$$C^2(l_a, l_b, L; 0, 0) = \frac{(2L+1)(J-2L)!(J-2l_a)!(J-2l_b)!}{(J+1)!} \left(\frac{(J/2)!}{(J/2-L)!(J/2-l_a)!(J/2-l_b)!} \right)^2,$$

and $W^2(j_a l_a j_b l_b; \frac{1}{2}L) = |(L + \kappa_a + \kappa_b + 1)(\kappa_a + \kappa_b - L)/4\kappa_a \kappa_b (2\kappa_a + 1)(2\kappa_b + 1)|$.

The radial matrix elements are given by

$$R_L(m) = (\kappa_a + \kappa_b) \int dr j_L(kr) (F_b G_a + G_b F_a),$$

$$R_L(e) = \int dr \{ j_{L-1}(kr) [(\kappa_b - \kappa_a)(F_b G_a + G_b F_a) + L(F_b G_a - G_b F_a)] + L(G_b G_a + F_b F_a) j_L(kr) \}.$$

Alternatively,

$$R_L(e) = \int (dr/kr) [(F_b G_a - G_b F_a) L(L+1) j_L(kr) + (\kappa_b - \kappa_a) (F_b G_a + G_b F_a) (rd/dr + 1) j_L(kr)].$$

The F and G here include a factor of r and are normalized by

$$\int dr (F^2 + G^2) = 1.$$

They satisfy the energy eigenvalue equations

$$(d/dr + \kappa/r)G = (E - V + 1)F, \quad (-d/dr + \kappa/r)F = (E - V - 1)G.$$

The total radiative decay rate of a vacancy in the state b is given by summing the transition rates to the state b of all of the electrons with single-particle energies greater than that of the state b . Each energy level is occupied by at most $2j_a + 1$ electrons.

THE CALCULATION

The potential used for the calculation is the relativistic version of the potential used by Herman and Skillman¹³ and was introduced in relativistic calculations by Liebermann, Waber, and Cromer.¹⁴ Slater's correction term for the effect of exchange,

$$V_s = -1.5e^2(3\rho/\pi)^{1/3},$$

where ρ is the electron density, is added to the potential due to the electron and nuclear charges. The modification due to Latter is used in that the potential is set equal to $-e^2/r$ in the outer region in which it would otherwise rise above this in value.

The atomic ground-state configurations used are those as listed by Foster.¹⁵ For the partially filled outer levels with greater than zero orbital angular momentum, the electrons have been proportioned between the two levels differing only in their total angular momentum according to the statistical weights of the two levels.

An iterative procedure is used to find the potential arising from the occupation of the single-particle levels in the potential by the specified number of electrons. The radial matrix elements for the allowed transitions are then found by integrating the products of the initial and final wave functions and the spherical Bessel functions.

The results for the total radiative decay rates and the emission rates for the stronger x-ray lines are listed in Tables I through IV for vacancies respectively in the K , L_I , L_{II} , and L_{III} levels. Checks of the results set the inaccuracies due to the numerical integrations at or less than 0.1%.

An estimate of the accuracy of the model is obtained by comparing the experimental and calculated values for the electron binding energies and x-ray energies. Assuming the errors in the energies are due to errors in the potential, we calculate the amount such a change in the potential will vary the transition rates. As pointed out by

Manson and Cooper,¹⁶ the transition rates are sensitive to the normalization near the origin of the upper state, particularly for states near the ionization limit. If we fix the normalization of the wave functions near the origin and take out the factor for the normalization, the remaining factor is relatively insensitive to variations in the potential or the binding energy even from one shell to the next for a given value of κ . We consider the normalization factor to be a function of the binding energy of the upper state and the remaining factor a function of the x-ray energy. The variation of these two factors was obtained by using a potential which had not relaxed to its self-consistent value. The experimental values of the energies were obtained from the listing of Bearden and Burr¹⁷ with an allowance of 7 eV for the Fermi energy.¹⁸ The estimated errors in the transition rates are listed in Table V for the E1 transition. The errors in the other multipoles examined were at most only slightly larger.

For the lower atomic numbers, the inaccuracies in the energies and the transition rates come from inaccuracies in the description of the interaction between the electrons. For the large atomic numbers, relativistic effects further modify the interaction between the electrons and, in addition, corrections enter from the quantization of the radiation field and from the penetration of the electrons into the nucleus.¹⁹

For each transition of an electron from an occupied level to the one with a vacancy, the rates of emission of all the allowed multipoles of the radiation field were calculated. Only the $E1$, $E2$, $M1$, and $M2$ transitions give any significant contribution to the total decay rates. In Table VI are listed the contributions of each of the multipoles to the total radiative decay rate for the K shell in uranium ($Z = 92$). In Table VII are listed the total f values and decay rates for all of the transitions from the different levels of the N shell to the K shell.

In the nonrelativistic limit with no retardation, the nonvanishing of the magnetic dipole transition

TABLE I. Calculated K x-ray emission rates, in units of (eV/\hbar) .

Element	Z	Total	L_I $2s_{1/2}$	L_{II} $2p_{1/2}$	L_{III} $2p_{3/2}$	M_{II} $3p_{1/2}$	M_{III} $3p_{3/2}$	M_{IV} $3d_{3/2}$	M_V $3d_{5/2}$	N_{II} $4p_{1/2}$	N_{III} $4p_{3/2}$	$N_{IV,V}$ $4d_{3/2,5/2}$	$O_{II,III}$ $5p_{1/2,3/2}$
Al	13	0.0138		0.0046	0.0091								
S	16	0.0398		0.0128	0.0253	0.00060	0.00118						
Ar	18	0.0717		0.0223	0.0440	0.00182	0.0036						
Ca	20	0.1194		0.0363	0.0716	0.00386	0.0076						
Ti	22	0.1860		0.0563	0.1107	0.0064	0.0126						
Mn	25	0.332		0.1003	0.1967	0.0119	0.0235						
Fe	26	0.396		0.1196	0.2341	0.0144	0.0283						
Cu	29	0.642		0.1942	0.379	0.0235	0.0460						
Zn	30	0.747		0.2254	0.439	0.0279	0.0545						
Ge	32	0.996		0.2990	0.580	0.0387	0.0755						
Kr	36	1.686		0.499	0.961	0.0702	0.1368	0.00020	0.00029	0.00063	0.00121		
Rb	37	1.905		0.562	1.080	0.0805	0.1570	0.00026	0.00037	0.00084	0.0163		
Zr	40	2.688		0.786	1.504	0.1186	0.2310	0.00049	0.00070	0.1060	0.031		
Mo	42	3.33		0.970	1.848	0.1505	0.2930	0.00073	0.00103	0.0218	0.042		
Ag	47	5.42		1.571	2.961	0.2582	0.5017	0.00175	0.00244	0.043	0.083	0.00047	
Sn	50	7.09	0.000127	2.047	3.83	0.346	0.671	0.00277	0.00384	0.063	0.121	0.00097	0.0040
Sb	51	7.72	0.000157	2.228	4.16	0.379	0.735	0.00321	0.0044	0.070	0.136	0.00121	0.0082
Ba	56	11.57	0.00043	3.32	6.11	0.584	1.132	0.0063	0.0086	0.122	0.236	0.00303	0.052
Nd	60	15.52	0.00089	4.45	8.11	0.801	1.550	0.0104	0.0139	0.172	0.334	0.0052	0.071
Tb	65	21.75	0.00213	6.26	11.23	1.148	2.220	0.0182	0.0239	0.252	0.49	0.0094	0.098
Yb	70	29.65	0.0048	8.59	15.13	1.595	3.08	0.0303	0.0388	0.355	0.69	0.0159	0.130
Ta	73	35.3	0.0076	10.27	17.89	1.915	3.70	0.040	0.051	0.43	0.84	0.0216	0.182
W	74	37.4	0.0088	10.88	18.88	2.031	3.92	0.044	0.055	0.46	0.90	0.0239	0.202
Pt	78	46.6	0.0158	13.60	23.24	2.547	4.92	0.062	0.077	0.59	1.16	0.0351	0.293
Au	79	49.1	0.0182	14.36	24.43	2.689	5.20	0.067	0.083	0.63	1.23	0.0386	0.320
Hg	80	51.7	0.0210	15.15	25.66	2.837	5.49	0.073	0.090	0.67	1.31	0.042	0.352
Tl	81	54.4	0.0241	15.97	26.94	2.990	5.79	0.079	0.096	0.71	1.39	0.046	0.385
Pb	82	57.3	0.0277	16.83	28.25	3.15	6.10	0.086	0.104	0.75	1.48	0.050	0.42
Th	90	84.0	0.080	25.00	40.38	4.63	9.03	0.154	0.178	1.15	2.31	0.096	0.80
U	92	91.8	0.103	27.45	43.88	5.07	9.90	0.177	0.202	1.27	2.56	0.112	0.91

TABLE II. Calculated L_I x-ray emission rates (eV/ \hbar).

Element	Z	Total	L_{III} $2p_{3/2}$	M_{II} $3p_{1/2}$	M_{III} $3p_{3/2}$	M_{IV} $3d_{3/2}$	M_{V} $3d_{5/2}$	N_{II} $4p_{1/2}$	N_{III} $4p_{3/2}$	N_{IV} $4d_{3/2}$	N_{V} $4d_{5/2}$	O_{II} $5p_{1/2}$	O_{III} $5p_{3/2}$
Cu	29	0.00455		0.00157	0.00288								
Kr	36	0.0168	0.00015	0.0054	0.0096			0.00051	0.00090				
Rb	37	0.0198	0.00017	0.0063	0.0112			0.00071	0.00125				
Zr	40	0.0314	0.00024	0.0098	0.0171			0.00142	0.00250				
Mo	42	0.0412	0.00031	0.0129	0.0222			0.00201	0.00349				
Ag	47	0.0761	0.00057	0.0238	0.0396	0.00026	0.00039	0.0043	0.0071				
Sn	50	0.1066	0.00082	0.0331	0.0539	0.00042	0.00062	0.0065	0.0107			0.00015	0.00023
Sb	51	0.1188	0.00093	0.0368	0.0594	0.00049	0.00072	0.0074	0.0121			0.00030	0.00048
Ba	56	0.1988	0.00172	0.0604	0.0934	0.00097	0.00145	0.0136	0.0217			0.00201	0.0032
Nd	60	0.2830	0.00283	0.0871	0.1297	0.00162	0.00242	0.0202	0.0312	0.00022	0.00033	0.00029	0.00044
Tb	65	0.422	0.0053	0.1330	0.1875	0.00293	0.0044	0.031	0.046	0.00040	0.00061	0.0043	0.0061
Yb	70	0.608	0.0097	0.197	0.260	0.0051	0.0076	0.047	0.066	0.00069	0.00107	0.0062	0.0082
Ta	73	0.751	0.0141	0.245	0.311	0.0069	0.0104	0.060	0.080	0.00097	0.00151	0.0089	0.0116
W	74	0.804	0.0159	0.264	0.330	0.0077	0.0115	0.065	0.086	0.00108	0.00169	0.0100	0.0129
Pt	78	1.047	0.0258	0.348	0.408	0.0113	0.0169	0.088	0.110	0.00167	0.00262	0.0153	0.0186
Au	79	1.117	0.0292	0.373	0.430	0.0124	0.0186	0.094	0.117	0.00185	0.00292	0.0169	0.0203
Hg	80	1.190	0.033	0.398	0.451	0.0137	0.0205	0.101	0.124	0.00206	0.0032	0.0187	0.0223
Tl	81	1.267	0.037	0.426	0.474	0.0150	0.0225	0.109	0.132	0.00228	0.0036	0.0207	0.0245
Pb	82	1.349	0.042	0.455	0.496	0.0165	0.0246	0.117	0.139	0.00253	0.0040	0.0229	0.0268
Th	90	2.181	0.108	0.755	0.690	0.033	0.050	0.202	0.210	0.0056	0.0089	0.048	0.050
U	92	2.441	0.137	0.854	0.739	0.040	0.059	0.231	0.229	0.0068	0.0108	0.056	0.056

TABLE III. Calculated L_{II} x-ray emission rates (eV/ \hbar).

Element	Z	Total	M_I $3s_{1/2}$	M_{III} $3p_{3/2}$	M_{IV} $3d_{3/2}$	N_I $4s_{1/2}$	N_{III} $4p_{3/2}$	N_{IV} $4d_{3/2}$	N_{VI} $4f_{5/2}$	O_I $5s_{1/2}$	O_{IV} $5d_{3/2}$
Cu	29	0.0055	0.00030		0.0052						
Kr	36	0.0247	0.00087		0.0237	0.00011					
Rb	37	0.0293	0.00100		0.0281	0.00014					
Zr	40	0.0472	0.00147		0.0450	0.00024		0.00055			
Mo	42	0.0638	0.00188		0.0595	0.00032		0.0020			
Ag	47	0.1253	0.0033		0.1109	0.00063		0.0104			
Sn	50	0.1786	0.0045		0.1544	0.00091		0.0186			
Sb	51	0.1996	0.0049		0.1715	0.00102		0.0221			
Ba	56	0.334	0.0078		0.2790	0.00177		0.0451		0.00031	
Nd	60	0.480	0.0109		0.398	0.00255		0.067		0.00044	
Tb	65	0.723	0.0161	0.00039	0.598	0.0039		0.104		0.00064	

TABLE III. Calculated L_{II} x-ray emission rates (eV/\hbar) (continued).

Element	Z	Total	M_I $3s_{1/2}$	M_{III} $3p_{3/2}$	M_{IV} $3d_{3/2}$	N_I $4s_{1/2}$	N_{III} $4p_{3/2}$	N_{IV} $4d_{3/2}$	N_{VI} $4f_{5/2}$	O_I $5s_{1/2}$	O_{IV} $5d_{3/2}$
Yb	70	1.051	0.0232	0.00068	0.866	0.0056		0.154		0.00090	
Ta	73	1.303	0.0286	0.00091	1.065	0.0070		0.196	0.00048	0.00124	0.0036
W	74	1.397	0.031	0.00101	1.138	0.0076		0.212	0.00056	0.00137	0.0059
Pt	78	1.836	0.040	0.00147	1.471	0.0100	0.00039	0.287	0.00098	0.00199	0.0229
Au	79	1.962	0.042	0.00161	1.565	0.0108	0.00043	0.309	0.00112	0.00218	0.0291
Hg	80	2.094	0.045	0.00176	1.664	0.0115	0.00048	0.332	0.00127	0.00239	0.034
Tl	81	2.233	0.048	0.00192	1.767	0.0124	0.00053	0.357	0.00143	0.00262	0.041
Pb	82	2.378	0.051	0.00209	1.875	0.0132	0.00058	0.383	0.00161	0.00286	0.047
Th	90	3.84	0.083	0.0041	2.939	0.0222	0.00120	0.653	0.0038	0.0056	0.122
U	92	4.29	0.093	0.0047	3.27	0.0251	0.00143	0.740	0.0046	0.0065	0.143

TABLE IV. Calculated L_{III} x-ray emission rates (eV/\hbar).

Element	Z	Total	M_I $3s_{1/2}$	M_{II} $3p_{1/2}$	M_{III} $3p_{3/2}$	M_{IV} $3d_{3/2}$	M_V $3d_{5/2}$	N_I $4s_{1/2}$	N_{IV} $4d_{3/2}$	N_V $4d_{5/2}$	$N_{VI, VII}$ $4f_{5/2, 7/2}$	O_I $5s_{1/2}$	$O_{IV, V}$ $5d_{3/2, 5/2}$
Cu	29	0.0054	0.00031			0.00051	0.0046						
Kr	36	0.0241	0.00096			0.00233	0.0207	0.00012					
Rb	37	0.0285	0.00111			0.00275	0.0245	0.00015					
Zr	40	0.0458	0.00168			0.0044	0.0389	0.00027	0.00005	0.00047			
Mo	42	0.0616	0.00217			0.0058	0.0513	0.00037	0.00020	0.00173			
Ag	47	0.1196	0.0039			0.0107	0.0946	0.00075	0.00098	0.0086			
Sn	50	0.1696	0.0054			0.0147	0.1308	0.00110	0.00175	0.0155			
Sb	51	0.1891	0.0061			0.0163	0.1449	0.00125	0.00206	0.0183			
Ba	56	0.313	0.0100			0.0263	0.2328	0.00225	0.0041	0.0368		0.00039	
Nd	60	0.445	0.0146			0.0371	0.329	0.0033	0.0061	0.054		0.00058	
Tb	65	0.661	0.0226			0.0550	0.486	0.0053	0.0092	0.082		0.00088	
Yb	70	0.947	0.034	0.00019	0.00033	0.078	0.693	0.0081	0.0132	0.118		0.00129	
Ta	73	1.163	0.043	0.00044	0.00040	0.096	0.843	0.0103	0.0165	0.148		0.00181	0.0029
W	74	1.244	0.047	0.00048	0.00044	0.102	0.898	0.0112	0.0178	0.159		0.00202	0.0047
Pt	78	1.612	0.063	0.00070	0.00063	0.130	1.145	0.0154	0.0235	0.212		0.00097	0.0179
Au	79	1.717	0.068	0.00076	0.00069	0.138	1.214	0.0166	0.0251	0.227		0.00110	0.0225
Hg	80	1.826	0.073	0.00082	0.00075	0.146	1.285	0.0180	0.0269	0.242		0.00125	0.0267
Tl	81	1.940	0.079	0.00090	0.00081	0.154	1.360	0.0194	0.0287	0.259		0.00141	0.032
Pb	82	2.060	0.085	0.00098	0.00088	0.163	1.438	0.0209	0.031	0.277		0.00160	0.037
Th	90	3.23	0.147	0.00184	0.00167	0.249	2.186	0.037	0.049	0.451		0.0038	0.091
U	92	3.59	0.167	0.00213	0.00193	0.274	2.410	0.043	0.055	0.506		0.0046	0.106

TABLE V. Relative errors in the $E1$ decay rates estimated from the errors in the x-ray and binding energies.

Z	Transition				
	$K-L$	$K-M$	$K-N$	$L-M$	$L-N$
37	0.004	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.06
50	0.0011	0.004	0.016	0.012	0.02
80	0.006	0.008	0.017	0.005	0.010

TABLE VII. Total f values and transition rates for $K-N$ transitions in ${}_{92}\text{U}$.

Level	Multipole	f value	Rate (eV/ \hbar)
N_I	$M1$	2.57(-5)	9.7(-3)
N_{II}	$E1$	3.4(-3)	1.27
N_{III}	$E1$	6.7(-3)	2.54
N_{III}	$M2$	5.7(-5)	2.16(-2)
N_{IV}	$E2$	1.36(-4)	5.2(-2)
N_{IV}	$M1$	1.42(-7)	5.4(-5)
N_V	$E2$	1.54(-4)	5.9(-2)
N_V	$M3$	1.85(-6)	7.1(-4)
N_{VI}	$E3$	3.5(-7)	1.35(-4)
N_{VI}	$M2$	1.45(-10)	5.5(-8)
N_{VII}	$E3$	3.6(-7)	1.37(-4)
N_{VII}	$M4$	4.8(-9)	1.85(-6)

TABLE VIII. Experimental and theoretical total K -shell x-ray emission rates in units of (eV/ \hbar).

	${}^{16}\text{S}$	${}^{18}\text{Ar}$	${}^{22}\text{Ti}$	${}^{25}\text{Mn}$	${}^{29}\text{Cu}$	${}^{32}\text{Ge}$	${}^{36}\text{Kr}$	${}^{42}\text{Mo}$	${}^{47}\text{Ag}$	${}^{79}\text{Au}$
Present theory	0.0398	0.0717	0.1860	0.332	0.642	0.996	1.686	3.33	5.42	49.1
Expt. (Parratt ²¹)	0.04	0.07	0.2	0.33	0.65	1.0	1.7	3.6	6.0	50
Expt. (Callan ²²)	0.05	0.09	0.19	0.32	0.59	1.00	2.10	3.89	6.10	49.57

TABLE VI. Total K -shell emission rates of the various multipoles for ${}_{92}\text{U}$.

Multipole	$E1$	$E2$	$E3$	
Rate (eV/ \hbar)	90.8	0.510	2.78(-4)	
Multipole	$M1$	$M2$	$M3$	$M4$
Rate (eV/ \hbar)	0.150	0.40	3.1(-3)	1.89(-6)

rates depends on the states being mixtures of different angular momentum components (except in the case of transitions between levels differing at most in the total angular momentum such as the $L_{III}-L_{II}$ transition).²⁰ The nonvanishing of the L_I-K transition in the present calculation is due to retardation and relativistic effects. The values for these rates would be sensitive to corrections bringing in mixtures of angular momentum states.

Parratt²¹ gives the radiative decay rates for the K shell based on experimental data for a number of elements, while Callan²² gives a fit across the periodic table. In Table VIII the present theoretical results based on the Hartree-Slater model are compared with the experimentally deduced values. The agreement is quite satisfactory.

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Difficulties of the Independent-Particle Model in the Description of Energetic Transitions in Atoms

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It is shown that the first-order correlation correction to the transition matrix element between two nonpenetrating states can be written in a completely parametrized form. The correction is directly proportional to the square of the transition energy and to the dipole polarizability of the core. It follows that for sufficiently energetic transitions the magnitude of the correction becomes as large as the zero-order matrix element.

INTRODUCTION

Hartree-Fock transition probabilities deviate significantly from experimental values. Recently first-order correlation corrections to the lowest $s \rightarrow p$ oscillator strengths have been calculated for alkali atoms,^{1,2} and they are found to be essential in order to have agreement between theory and experiment. In the independent-particle picture, optical transitions in an alkali atom occur by the excitation of the single valence electron. The valence electron is very loosely bound compared to the core electrons. This fact simplifies the treatment of correlation effects because the valence and core charge distributions overlap very little. One consequence of this is that exchange between the valence electron and the core electrons plays a minor role.

Here we study states with high angular momenta in which the probability density of the valence electron in the region of the core is almost zero. These are referred to as "nonpenetrating" states and their properties differ from the corresponding hydrogen properties mainly because of correlation effects. To illustrate, the Hartree-Fock (H.F.) eigenvalue (calculated by the Herman-Skillman method) of the single-particle $4f$ level of potassium is -0.03127 a.u., the corresponding hydrogen eigenvalue being -0.03125 a.u. The empirical value is -0.03134 a.u. (atomic units are used in this paper). The H.F. $4f$ wave function of potassium $P_{4f}(r)$, with normalization

$$\int_0^\infty [P_{4f}(r)]^2 dr = 1,$$

is shown in Fig. 1. The corresponding hydrogen