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Dynamics of lithium atom photoionization by ultrashort photo-pulse

A A Mityureva, A S Kozhina and **V V Smirnov**
Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

The process of photoionization of the lithium atom in ultrashort laser field was considered. The trajectory-based method for evaluating transition probabilities developed is in the core of our computations. The method is nonperturbative and considers all orders of multiphoton and recollision processes. The photoionization probabilities for several ionization multiplicities were calculated in a wide range of field frequencies and intensities. The frequency range corresponded to photon energies of 8 eV - 8 KeV and wavelengths of 1-1500 Å. The range of the field magnitudes corresponded to energy flux densities of 10^6-10^{25} W/cm^2. This are unique capabilities compared to the other methods. We employ a relativistic Hamilton's function. We consider a plane-wave photo-pulse with linear polarization and a Gaussian modulation. Atomic units are used if not stated otherwise. The results of calculations of the lithium atom photoionization probability temporal dependence are shown in Fig. 1. Lines 1-4 correspond to the total, single, double and triple ionization respectively. The magnitude of the field is represented by the dimensionless Faisal parameter $\chi=eA/p_0c$ (where A is vector potential amplitude and $p_0=\hbar/a_0$). If $\omega\tau>>1$ then $\chi\sim1/\gamma$, where γ is the adiabatic Keldysh parameter. The range of Faisal parameter $\chi<<1$ corresponds to a weak field, χ-1 corresponds to an intermediate field, $1<\chi<c$ corresponds to a strong superatomic field, but with lower than relativistic intensities, and $c<\chi$- to a field with relativistic intensity. Note that electron momentum p_0 characterizes the valence shell. The inner K shell is characterized by the electron momentum Zp_0, where Z is an atomic number. So a weak an intermediate and a strong superatomic fields in this case are respectively $\chi<<Z$, (x~Z) and $Z<\chi$. For lithium atom $Z=3$. The calculations are presented for the frequency of the radiation field of $\omega=30$ (~0.8 KeV), the photon-pulse duration of $\tau=30$ (~0.8 fs) and Faisal parameter $\chi=7.3$. It should be mentioned that hardly any data on the probability of photoionization of lithium atom in a strong field can be found in the literature. In contrast to hydrogen and helium atoms, calculations for lithium based on direct numerical solution of the nonstationary Schrödinger equation (TDSE) are beyond current computational capabilities.

mitalal@mail.ru