

Particle properties of waves

Part 5

Photoelectric effect problems & Compton Effect

1. A radiation of frequency $5.2 \times 10^{14} \text{S}^{-1}$ produces photoelectric effect and eject with K.E $1.3 \times 10^{-20} \text{J}$. Calculate the threshold frequency of the metal.

Solution :

$$\begin{aligned} \nu &= 5.2 \times 10^{14} \text{S}^{-1} \\ K &= 1.3 \times 10^{-20} \text{J} \\ \nu_0 &= ? \\ h\nu &= h\nu_0 + K \\ \nu &= \nu_0 + \frac{K}{h} \\ \nu_0 &= \nu - \frac{K}{h} \\ &= 5.2 \times 10^{14} - \frac{1.3 \times 10^{-20}}{6.626 \times 10^{-34}} \\ \nu_0 &= 5 \times 10^{14} \text{Hz} \end{aligned}$$

2. A photon of wavelength $4 \times 10^{-7} \text{m}$ strikes on metal surface, the work function of a metal being 2.13 eV. Calculate

- The energy of photon
- The kinetic energy of emission
- The velocity of photoelectron

Solution :

$$\text{Given } \lambda = 4 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$W = 2.13 \text{ eV}$$

$$E = h\nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{1.26 \times 10^{-6}}{4 \times 10^{-7}} = 3.1 \text{ eV}$$

$$h\nu_0 = W + K$$

$$K = h\nu_0 - W = 3.1 - 2.13 = 0.97 \text{ eV}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2K}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 0.97 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}}{9.1 \times 10^{-31}}} = 5.8 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

3. (a) What are the energy and momentum of a photon of red light of wavelength 650 nm? (b) What is the wavelength of a photon of energy 2.40 eV?

Solution :

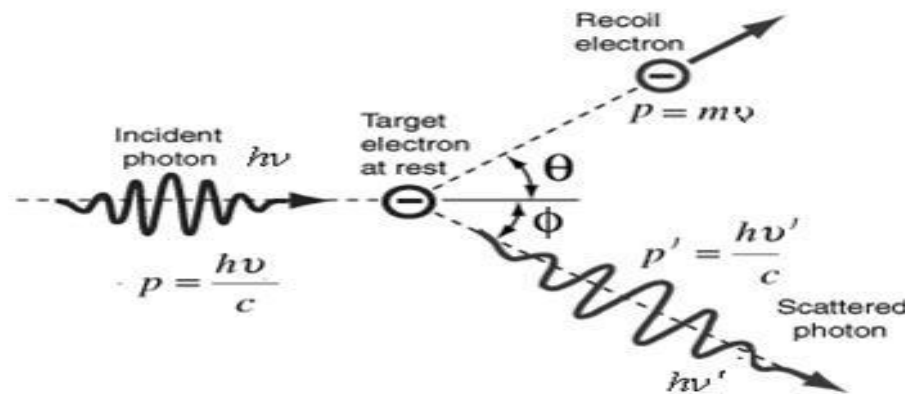
$$(a) \quad E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV nm}}{650 \text{ nm}} = 1.91 \text{ eV}$$

$$P = \frac{h}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{1240 \text{ eV}\cdot\text{nm}}{650 \text{ nm}} = 1.91 \text{ eV}/c$$

$$(b) \lambda = \frac{hc}{E} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV nm}}{2.40 \text{ eV}} = 517 \text{ nm}$$

Compton Effect

- In his experiment, Compton provided the most conclusive confirmation of the particle aspect of radiation.
- By scattering X-rays off free electrons, he found that the wavelength of scattered radiation is higher than the wavelength of the incident radiation.
- This can be explained only by assuming that the X-ray photons behave like particles.



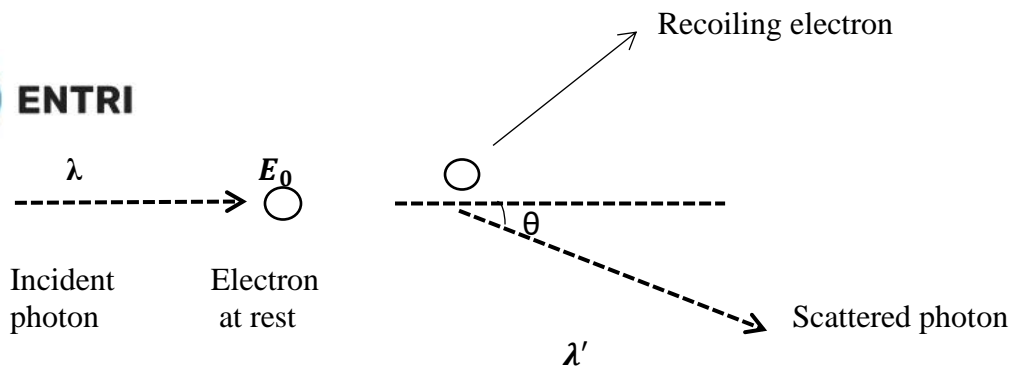
Before collision

After collision

Compton scattering of a photon (of energy $h\nu$ and momentum p) off a free stationary electron. After collision, the photon is scattered with an angle θ with energy $h\nu'$

- The wavelength of the scattered X-ray increases by an amount $\Delta\lambda$, called the wavelength shift, and that $\Delta\lambda$ depends not on the intensity of the incident radiation, but only on the scattering angle.
- Compton succeeded in explaining this only after treating the incident radiation as a stream of particles (photons) colliding elastically with individual electrons.
- This scattering process can be illustrated by the elastic scattering of a photon from a free electron, the laws of elastic collisions can be applied here; conservation of energy and momentum

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$$\Delta \lambda = \lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta) = \lambda_c (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$\lambda_c = \frac{h}{m_e c} = 2.426 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}$$

$$\Delta \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$\text{Or } \lambda' - \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$\lambda' = \lambda + \lambda_c (1 - \cos \theta)$$

Cases :

(i) $\theta = 90^\circ$
 $\cos \theta = \cos 90^\circ = 0$
 $\Delta \lambda = \lambda_c = 2.426 \text{ pm}$
 Or $\lambda' = \lambda + 2.426 \text{ pm}$

(ii) $\theta = 180^\circ$
 $\cos \theta = \cos 180^\circ = -1$
 $\Delta \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - (-1)) = 2\lambda_c$
 Or $\lambda' = \lambda + 2 \times 2.426 \text{ pm}$
 Or $\lambda' = \lambda + 4.852 \text{ pm}$
Maximum wavelength shift

Problems

1. X-rays of wavelength 10.0 pm are scattered from a target.
 - (a) Find the wavelength of the X-rays scattered through 45° .
 - (b) Find the maximum wavelength present in the scattered X-rays.
 - (c) Find the maximum kinetic energy of the recoil electrons.

Solution :

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Given, $\lambda = 10 \text{ pm}$

$$\theta = 45^\circ$$

$$\Delta \lambda = \lambda_c(1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$\lambda' = \lambda + \lambda_c(1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$= 10 \text{ pm} + 2.426 \text{ pm} (1 - \cos 45^\circ)$$

$$= 10 \text{ pm} + 2.426 (1 - 0.7)$$

$$\lambda' = 10.7 \text{ pm}$$

(b) $\lambda' = \lambda + 2\lambda_c$
 $= 10 \text{ pm} + 2 \times 2.426$
 $\lambda' = 14.852 \text{ pm}$

(c) $K = h\nu - h\nu'$

$$K_{max} = \frac{hc}{\lambda} - \frac{hc}{\lambda'} = hc \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda'} \right)$$

$$= 6.626 \times 10^{-36} \times 3 \times 10^8 \left(\frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{14.9} \right) \times 10^{12}$$

$$K_{max} = 6.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ J} = \frac{6.6 \times 10^{-15}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 41 \times 10^3 \text{ eV} = 41 \text{ KeV}$$