

FIZIK IV (MODERN PHYSICS)

ZCT 104

TEST 2

15 March 2008

*Instruction: Answer both questions on blank paper. Explain your steps as clearly as possible.*

1. In Compton scattering experiment, X-ray photons with frequency  $f$  are incident on a target. After collision with electrons which initially at rest, the scattered photons with frequency of  $f'$  are observed at angle  $\theta$  while the recoiled electrons are observed at angle  $\phi$ .

- (a) What is the kinetic energy of the recoiling electron in terms of the  $f$  and  $f'$ ?  
 (b) Show that the kinetic energy of the recoiling electron in the Compton scattering is give by the general formula:

$$KE_{recoil\ electron} = \frac{2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right) \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)}{\frac{c}{f} + 2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right) \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)} hf$$

- Where  $m_e$  = rest mass of electron  
 $h$  = Planck's constant  
 $c$  = speed of light  
 $\theta$  = angle of the scattered-photon  
 $f$  = frequency of the incident photon

[Hint:  $\cos \theta = 1 - 2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$  .]

- (c) Show that the maximum kinetic energy of the recoiling electron in this Compton scattering experiment is given by

$$KE_{max}(\text{recoiling electron}) = hf \frac{\frac{2hf}{m_e c^2}}{1 + \frac{2hf}{m_e c^2}}$$

- (i) At what angles  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  does this occur?  
 (ii) If we detect a scattered electron at  $\phi = 0^\circ$  of 100 keV, what energy photon was scattered?

[25 marks]

2. Being not prohibited by the uncertainty principle, a particle of mass  $m$  can be created spontaneously in vacuum, exists for a short period of lifetime,  $\Delta t$ , and then annihilate into vacuum again.

[25 marks]

- (i) How long will this particle exist (i.e, what is  $\Delta t$  in terms of  $m$ )?  
 (ii) If the particle travels at approximately the speed of light, approximately how far will it travel during its short existence?  
 (iii) If such a spontaneous creation-annihilation happens within the nucleus, of a typical size of  $r \sim \text{fm}$ , estimate the mass of  $m$  in unit of MeV.

- (iv) Estimate the lifetime of  $m$  of the mass as calculated in (iii), in unit of seconds.

**Solution:**

1.

(a)  $KE_{recoil\ electron} = hf - hf'$  (1a)

(b) From the Compton scattering formula, we have

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

By substituting

$$\lambda' = \frac{c}{f'} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda = \frac{c}{f}$$

into Equation (1b) and after a bit of algebra, we find

$$f' = \frac{fm_e c}{hf(1 - \cos \theta) + m_e c} \quad (1c)$$

By substituting Equation (1c) into 1(a) and after a bit algebra, the kinetic energy of the recoiling electrons given by

$$KE_{recoil\ electron} = \frac{2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right) \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)}{\frac{c}{f} + 2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right) \sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)} hf \quad (1d)$$

- (c) From Equation (1d), the kinetic energy of the recoiling electron become maximum when  $\sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = 1$ . Consequently,

$$KE_{max}(recoiling\ electron) = \frac{2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right)}{\frac{c}{f} + 2 \left( \frac{h}{m_e c} \right)} hf \quad (1e)$$

After a bit algebra, the maximum kinetic energy of the recoiling electron is

$$KE_{max}(recoiling\ electron) = hf \frac{\frac{2hf}{m_e c^2}}{1 + \frac{2hf}{m_e c^2}} \quad (1f)$$

(c) (i)

From (c), the kinetic energy of the recoiling electron become maximum when

$$\sin^2 \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \theta = 0^\circ, 180^\circ \text{ and } 360^\circ$$

Therefore, the kinetic energy of the recoiling electron become maximum when

$$\theta = 180^\circ \quad (\text{head-on collision}) \text{ because the shift in wavelength is zero at } 0^\circ.$$

and  $\phi = 0^\circ$ .

(c) (ii)

Here,  $\phi = 0^\circ$ ,  $\theta = 180^\circ$ , and  $KE_{\max}$  (recoiling electron) = 100 keV.

By substituting these values into Equation 1(d) and solving the equation for  $hf$ , we obtain

$$hf = 0.2173 \text{ MeV}$$

[Hint: In order to get this answer, you need to get the quadratic equation and then solves the equation by using:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 + 4ac}}{2a} . \quad ]$$

Finally, replace the  $hf = 0.2173 \text{ MeV}$  and  $KE_{\max}$  (recoiling electron) = 100 keV into Equation (1a), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Energy of scattered photon} &= hf' \\ &= hf - KE_{\text{recoil electron}} \\ &= (0.2173 - 0.1) \text{ MeV} \\ &= 0.173 \text{ MeV} \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \quad (i) \quad \Delta t \sim \frac{\hbar}{2\Delta E} = \frac{\hbar}{2mc^2}$$

$$(ii) \quad x = c \Delta t \sim \frac{\hbar}{2mc}$$

(iii) take  $x = r$ ,

$$r \sim \frac{\hbar}{2mc} \Rightarrow mc^2 \sim \frac{\hbar c}{2r} = \frac{hc}{4\pi r} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{4\pi \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{4\pi \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}} = 98.7 \text{ MeV} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$$

(iv)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta t \sim \frac{\hbar}{2\Delta E} &= \frac{\hbar c}{2cmc^2} = \frac{hc}{4\pi cmc^2} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{4\pi \times (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}) 100 \text{ MeV}} = \frac{1240 \text{ eV} \cdot 10^{-9}}{4\pi \times (3 \times 10^8) (100 \times 10^6) \text{ eV}} \text{ s} \\ &= \frac{1240 \cdot 10^{-9}}{4\pi \times (3 \times 10^8) (100 \times 10^6)} \text{ s} \sim 10^{-24} \text{ s} \end{aligned}$$