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INELASTIC COLLISIONS OF EXCITED ATOMS.(U)
NOV 78 K T GILLEN, M J COGGIOLA
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This report describes the development and verification of a technique for optically pumping fast metastable rare gas beams in order to monitor, and then substantially alter, the beam composition. The technique has been successfully applied to a neon metastable beam produced by charge transfer of neon ions in sodium at energies near 1 keV.		

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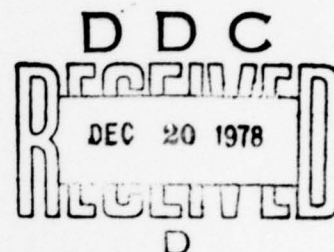
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SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

ONR Contract N00014-76-C-0118
Inelastic Collisions of Excited Atoms

SRI Project PYU 4529



1. Contract Description

We are developing and testing methods for measuring and modifying the composition of fast metastable rare gas beams. We are initiating scattering experiments involving excited state beams of specified composition.

2. Scientific Problem

Understanding collisional interactions of excited atoms and molecules is of fundamental importance to the interpretation of phenomena in many areas of gas phase physics, including discharges, flames, lasers, and disturbed atmospheres. Little detailed fundamental data exists for reactants and products in specified internal states.

Interactions involving excited (metastable) rare gas atoms are of particular importance scientifically because of the simplicity of some of the interaction mechanisms; they are also of practical importance because of recently developed excimer lasers based on rare gas metastable interactions with various other molecules. Recent molecular beam work in several laboratories has explored interactions of metastable rare gas atoms. By suitable variation of the rare gas projectile and target species, one can explore a wide range of inelastic phenomena in a systematic manner. Each rare gas has two metastable states whose reaction properties may differ in dramatic and interesting ways. Unfortunately in a beam of unknown composition it is difficult to separate the contributions from the two states; and true

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state-to-state inelastic cross sections cannot be investigated. We are tackling this problem for fast beams of the heavier rare gases.

3. Scientific and Technical Approach

A fast neutral beam (containing metastables) is merged coaxially with the output of a tunable single-mode dye laser. The laser is used to pump either the 3P_2 or 3P_0 component of the beam to a higher level. A fraction of the laser-excited atoms radiates to the 3P_1 or 1P_1 levels, which decay by uv emission to the 1S_0 ground state. By monitoring the laser-induced uv emission, we can determine the composition of the excited state beam. By repeated excitation of those pumped atoms that return to the original state, we can deplete that state from the beam, leaving an atom beam which contains only one metastable state in addition to the ground state. This beam can then be used to explore true state-to-state inelastic and reactive processes in collisions with various targets.

4. Progress

We have constructed and tested an apparatus for experimental investigations involving purified, single-state metastable atom beams. We have measured the composition of a Ne^* beam formed by charge transfer of Ne^+ in Na at energies from 800 to 1300 eV. A paper based on this work has been submitted recently to the Journal of Chemical Physics. We have successfully purified a Ne^* beam of one, then the other, metastable state. A paper is being written for submission to The Review of Scientific Instruments detailing the experimental procedure and the beam purification results.

5. Publications

- (a) "Metastable Rare Gas Collisions at Intermediate Energies (5-3000 eV)", chapter by K. T. Gillen, in Electronic and Atomic Collisions, Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on the Physics of Electronic and Atomic Collision, Invited Papers and Progress Reports, G. Watel, Ed. (North Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1978), pp. 473-492.

- (b) "Determination of Neon Metastable Beam Composition," M. J. Coggiola, T. D. Gaily, K. T. Gillen, and J. R. Peterson, submitted to J. Chem. Phys. (Nov. 1978).
- (c) "Determination of Neon Metastable Beam Composition," M. J. Coggiola, T. D. Gaily, K. T. Gillen, and J. R. Peterson, 1978 Meeting of Division of Electron and Atomic Physics of the American Physical Society, Nov. 1978, Abstract of scheduled talk.

6. Extenuating Circumstances

None

7. Personnel

The following SRI personnel have participated in the scientific work accomplished in the past year under the contract: M. J. Coggiola, G. M. Conklin, T. D. Gaily, K. T. Gillen, R. L. Leon, and J. R. Peterson. T. D. Gaily participated in this work while on sabbatical from the Physics Department of Western Ontario University.

8. Graduate Student Degrees

No graduate students participated in this work.