
MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRON SCATTERING CROSS SECTIONS OF MOLECULES USING MAGNETIZED ELECTRON BEAM

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Electron-molecule interactions and their cross sections are very important in plasma research in understanding and modeling its behaviors. There have been many different efforts to measure these cross sections and the various measuring systems have been developed. Recently, based on the idea from the Surko-type positron apparatus which is exploiting the adiabatic invariance of E_z/B [J. P. Sullivan et al, Phys. Rev. A 66, 042708 (2002)], a magnetized electron beam experiment was first suggested by the Australian National University group, and the experiment for studying the electron-molecule scattering is being developed at NFRI. One of the benefits of using this technique is that for some electron-molecule interactions it is easier to measure cross sections. The experimental setup consists of electron gun, two retarding potential analyzers (RPA), a gas cell, and a Faraday cup. Electrons from e-gun become a partially monochromatic beam by the first RPA, interact with target gases in the gas cell. And the transmitted electrons will be energy-analyzed by the second RPA and finally detected. Both the gas cell and the second RPA are under the magnetic fields of several hundred gauss. With this type of experimental apparatus, total cross sections (TCS) are much simpler to measure than the previous techniques. Sample TCSs and the future plans will be discussed.

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