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ELECTRON COLLISIONS BY METAL ATOM VAPOURS

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A systematic study of low and medium energy electron interactions with metal atom vapours has been performed exploiting crossed beam technique. A monochromatic electron beam of energies from 10 to 100 eV has been elastically and inelastically scattered by effusive beam of metal vapours of II A (Mg and Ca) [1] and II B (Zn, Cd, Hg) [2] group atoms as well as other metal atoms such as Yb [3] and Pb. Differential cross sections (DCS) were put on absolute scale by normalization through optical oscillator strengths of the resonant transitions. After obtaining the transmission of the electron spectrometer, relative intensities between resonant transition and other features in energy loss spectra were determined for each impact energy. DCS were obtained in the angular range from 0° for the excitations and 10° for elastic scattering to 150° with the angular resolution of typically 1.5°. DCSs were extrapolated to 0° and 180° and numerically integrated to yield integral, momentum transfer and viscosity cross sections. Results are compared with available calculated values and other experimental data. Experimental DCS data serve as a stringent test for different theoretical approaches that intend to reproduce angular distribution curve in the whole domain of scattering angles and a wide range of energies.

References

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