Abstract. The levels energies and energy shifts are calculated for superheavy Li-like uranium and some kaonic and pionic atoms on the basis of the gauge-invariant QED perturbation theory (PT) with an account of nuclear, exchange-correlation and radiative effects. Estimating the spectra can be by a new tool for sensing the nuclear structure.

Keywords: QED perturbation theory, heavy ions, kaonic and pionic atoms

1. Introduction

In last years studying the heavy elements (ions) and hadronic atomic systems is of a great interest for further development of atomic and nuclear theories as well as new tools for sensing the nuclear structure and fundamental interactions, including the Standard model [1-14]. The collaborators of the E570 experiment [6,7] measured X-ray energy of a kaonic helium atom, which is an atom consisting of a kaon (a negatively charged heavy particle) and a helium nucleus. The kaonic helium X-rays were detected by large-area Silicon Drift Detectors, which
readout system was developed by SMI (see [3,4,9]). The studies of the low-energy kaon-nuclear strong interaction with strangeness have been performed by measurements of the kaonic atom X-rays with atomic numbers Z=1-92 [1]. It is known that the shifts and widths due to the strong interaction can be systematically understood using phenomenological optical potential models. Nevertheless, one could mention a large discrepancy between the theories and experiments on the kaonic helium 2p state. A large repulsive shift (about -40 eV) has been measured by three experimental groups in the 1970’s and 80’s, while a very small shift (< 1 eV) was obtained by the optical models calculated from the kaonic atom X-ray data with Z>2 [1-6]. This significant disagreement (a difference of over 5 standard deviations) between the experimental results and the theoretical calculations is known as the “kaonic helium puzzle”. A possible large shift has been predicted using the model assuming the existence of the deeply bound kaonic nuclear states. However, even using this model, the large shift of 40 eV measured in the experiments cannot be explained. A re-measurement of the shift of the kaonic helium X-rays is one of the top priorities in the experimental research activities. In the theory of the kaonic and pionic atoms there is an important task, connected with a direct calculation of the radiative transition energies within consistent relativistic quantum mechanical and QED methods. The multi-configuration Dirac-Fock (MCDF) approximation is the most reliable approach for multi-electron systems with a large nuclear charge; in this approach one- and two-particle relativistic effects are taken into account practically precisely. The next important step is an adequate inclusion of QED corrections. This topic has been a subject of intensive theoretical and experimental interest (see [12-23]). In the present paper an effective ab initio approach to relativistic calculation of the spectra for multi-electron superheavy ions with an account of relativistic, correlation, nuclear, radiative effects (more details can be found in refs. [24-35]). One-particle wave functions for Li-like heavy ions are found from solution of the relativistic Dirac equation with potential, which includes the self-consistent potential, electric, polarization potentials of nucleus (see below). The wave functions of the zeroth approximation for kaonic and pionic atoms are found from the Klein-Gordon equation (kaonic atoms) [12,13]. To describe the nuclear finite size effect the smooth Gaussian function of the charge distribution in a nucleus is used. With regard to normalization we have:

\[ \rho(r)|R\rangle = \left(4\pi \gamma^2 / \sqrt{\pi}\right) \exp\left(-\gamma r^2\right), \]  

where \( \gamma = 4/\pi r^2 \), \( R \) is the effective nucleus radius. The Coulomb potential for the spherically symmetric density \( \rho(r) \) is:

\[ V_{\text{nucl}}(r|R) = -\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) \int_0^r dr' r'^2 \rho(r'|R) + \int_0^\infty dr' \rho(r'|R). \]  

It is determined by the following system of differential equations:

\[ V_{\text{nucl}}(r,R) = \left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \int_0^r dr' r'^2 \rho(r',R) + \int_0^\infty dr' \rho(r',R), \]

\[ v'(r,R) = r^2 \rho(r,R), \]

\[ \rho'(r,R) = -8\gamma^2 r^2 \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-\gamma r^2\right) = -2\gamma r \rho(r,R) = -\frac{8r}{\pi r^2} \rho(r,R), \]

with the corresponding boundary conditions. Consider the Li-like ion as an example. One can write

2. QED perturbation theory

Let us describe the key moments of our approach to relativistic calculation of the spectra for multi-electron superheavy ions with an account of relativistic, correlation, nuclear, radiative effects (more details can be found in refs. [24-35]). One-particle wave functions for Li-like heavy ions are found from solution of the relativistic Dirac equation with potential, which includes the self-consistent potential, electric, polarization potentials of nucleus (see below). The wave functions of the zeroth approximation for kaonic and pionic atoms are found from the Klein-Gordon equation (kaonic atoms) [12,13]. To describe the nuclear finite size effect the smooth Gaussian function of the charge distribution in a nucleus is used. With regard to normalization we have:

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with the corresponding boundary conditions. Consider the Li-like ion as an example. One can write
further the Dirac-Fock type equations for a three-electron system \(1s^2nlj\). Formally they fall into one-electron DF equations for orbitals \(Is,nlj\) with potential:

\[
V(r) = 2V(r|1s) + V(r|nlj) + V_{ex} + V(r|R).
\]

The part \(V_{ex}\) accounts for exchange interelectron interaction. The core electron density is defined within gauge invariant QED approach [24,28]. All correlation corrections of the PT second and high orders (electrons screening, particle-hole interaction etc.) are accounted for. Procedure for an account of the radiative QED corrections is given in detail in refs. [20,21,28,30,31]. Regarding the vacuum polarization effect let us note that this effect is usually taken into account in the first PT order by means of the Uehling potential:

\[
U(r) = \frac{-2α}{3αr^3} \int dt \exp(-2πi/αZ)(t + t^2) \frac{2π^2}{\alpha} = -\frac{2α}{3α} C(g),
\]

where \(g = \frac{r}{αZ}\). In our calculation we usually use more exact approach. The Uehling potential, determined as a quadrature (6), may be approximated with high precision by a simple analytical function. The use of new approximation of the Uehling potential [30] permits one to decrease the calculation errors for this term down to 0.5 – 1%. Besides, using such a simple analytical function form for approximating the Uehling potential allows its easy inclusion into the general system of differential equations.

A method for calculation of the self-energy part of the Lamb shift is based on an idea by Ivanov-Ivanova [20,21]. In an atomic system the radiative shift and the relativistic part of the energy are, in principle, determined by one and the same physical field. It may be supposed that there exists some universal function that connects the self-energy correction and the relativistic energy. The self-energy correction for the states of a hydrogen-like ion was presented by Mohr [15,16] as:

\[
E_{\text{SE}}(H|Z,nlj) = 0.027148 Z^4 n F(H|Z,nlj).
\]

This result is modified for the states \(Is^2 nlj\) of Li-like ions. It is supposed that for any ion with \(nlj\) electron over the core of closed shells this value may be presented as:

\[
E_{\text{SE}}(Z,nlj) = 0.027148 \frac{Z^4}{n} f(ξ,nlj)\text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}.
\]

The parameter \(ξ = (E_\text{r})^4\), \(E_\text{r}\) is the relativistic part of the outer electron bounding energy; the universal function \(f(ξ,nlj)\) does not depend on the composition of the closed shells and nuclear potential. The scheme of generalization for the case of Li-like ions with the finite nucleus consists of several steps (see details in refs. [20,21,30,31]). The procedure of generalization for a case of Li-like ions with the finite nucleus consists of the following steps: 1). Calculation of the values \(E_\text{r}\) and \(ξ\) for the states \(nlj\) of H-like ions with the point nucleus (in accordance with the Sommerfeld formula); 2). Construction of an approximating function \(f(ξ,nlj)\) by the found reference \(Z\) and the appropriate \(R(H|Z,nlj)\); 3). Calculation of \(E_\text{r}\) and \(ξ\) for the states \(nlj\) of Li-like ions with the finite nucleus; 4). Calculation of \(E_{\text{SE}}\) for the sought states by the formula (8). The energies of the states of Li-like ions were calculated twice: with a conventional constant of the fine structure \(α=1/137.04\) and with \(α=\alpha/1000\). The results of latter calculations were considered as non-relativistic. This permitted isolation of \(E_\text{r}\) and \(ξ\). A detailed evaluation of their accuracy may be made only after a complete calculation of \(E_{\text{SE}}(Li Z,nlj)\). It may be stated that the above extrapolation method is more justified than using the widely spread expansions by the parameter \(αZ\). For all calculations the PC package “Superatom-ISAN” is used.

3. Results and conclusions

We carried out the calculation of spectra of \(nlj\) (n=2-4) states for Li-like heavy ions with \(Z = 20-100\), energies of circular \((n, l=n-1)\), \(2 < n < 13\), transitions for kaonic atoms using the current world average kaon mass. In table 1 we present the calculation data for energies of \(2S_{1,2}-2P_{1/2}\) transition in spectrum of \(U^{89+}\) ion, obtained by different methods (see refs. [16-21,26-28]): this work (column G), MCDF (A), model PT with the DF “0”approximation (B); relativistic PT with “0” Hartree-Fock potential (C); multiparticle PT with DF “0” approximation (D), the QED PT with optimized zeroth approximation. Agreement between all data and experiment is quite good, but more exact results are in the columns C, F, G.

In figure 1 we present the experimental kaonic Helium-4 X-ray energy spectra. It is very important to note that the kaonic helium 3d-2p, 4d-2p, 5d-2p transitions are clearly observed.
Fig.1. The experimental kaonic Helium-4 X-ray energy spectra. The kaonic helium 3d-2p, 4d-2p, 5d-2p transitions are clearly observed (from refs. [6,7]).

Table 1

| Contributions to energy (eV) of 2s_{1/2} − 2p_{1/2} transition for U^{99+}-ion (RC − nucleus recoil correction=0,1 eV; experiment: 280,59) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Values | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
| Relativistic PT | 324,10 | 319,67 | 322,31 | 322,41 | 322,33 | 322,35 |
| SE | -56,08 | -52,09 | -54,34 | -54,24 | -54,16 | -54,18 |
| VP | 14,61 | 13,08 | 12,56 | 12,56 | 12,35 | 12,33 |
| Full energy | 282,63 | 280,66 | 280,63 | 280,83 | 280,62 | 280,60 |

The energy spectra of the kaonic helium X-rays are shown in the figure, and the measured energy of the kaonic helium X-ray lines are given in the table 2. The comparison with the previous experimental results is also shown. The 3 times higher statistics of the kaonic events, twice better energy resolution, and 6 times higher signal-to-background ratio were obtained. The obtained shift on the kaonic helium 2p state is $2 ± 2(\text{stat}) ± 2(\text{sys})$ eV. This shift is consistent with the theoretically calculated values by both the optical potential models ($≈ 0$ eV) and the model predicting the deeply bound kaonic states ($< ± 10$ eV), while it disagrees with the values in the past experiments. So, one can conclude here that the long-standing problem about the energy level of the 2p state of the kaonic helium-4 was solved [6,7]. To understand further information on the low-energy kaon-nuclear interaction, new experiments to determine the shift and width of kaonic helium-3 and of kaonic hydrogen/deuterium are now in preparation in J-Parc and in LNF, respectively (look, for example, refs. [1,2,6]).

In table 2 we present the measured and calculated kaonic 4He x-ray energies (eV) of 3d-2p, 4d-2p, and 5d-2p transitions. The transitions are identified by the initial (n_i) and final (n_f) quantum numbers. The calculated values of transition energies are compared with available measured (E_m) and other calculated (E_c) values [1-4,13].

Table 2

| Transition and calculated kaonic 4He x-ray energies (eV) of 3d-2p, 4d-2p, and 5d-2p transitions |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Experiment [3,4] | 3d-2p | 4d-2p | 5d-2p |
| Theory [2,7] | 6466.7±2.5 | 8723.3±4.6 | 9760.1±7.7 |
| Present paper | 6468.03 | 8721.7 | 9766.8 |

In table 3 we present the calculated X-ray energies of kaonic H and U atoms for transitions between circular levels. The majority of our transition energies are inside the experimental error bar. But, there is an exception, in particular, the 8-7 transition in U. In a case of good agreement between theoretical and experimental data, the corresponding levels are less sensitive to strong nuclear interaction. In the opposite case one could point to a strong-interaction effect in the exception cited above.

The pionic 6h-5g transition energies are calculated in the two pionic atoms: $\pi^{-22}\text{Ne}$ and $\pi^{-20}\text{Ne}$. The indicated energies can be calculated with high precision since the strong interaction plays no role.
for such high-lying circular states. We used the world average pion mass \( m = 139.57018 \pm 0.00035 \text{MeV} \) as given by the particle data group and fundamental constants (see refs. [3-5]). Here the Klein-Gordon equation for a spherical nuclear charge distribution is solved too. We obtained 4509.958 eV and 4513.012 eV for the 6h-5g transition in \(^{22}\text{Ne}\) and \(^{20}\text{Ne}\), respectively. For comparison let us present the similar data by Indelicato et al [2]: 4509.894 eV and 4512.948 eV respectively. The detailed analysis of the pionic atom transitions for other systems is presented in the paper [12].

### Table 3

| Nucl. | Transition | \( E_c \) this work | \( E_c \) [6] | \( E_c \) [7] | \( E_m \) |
|-------|------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| H     | 2-1        | 6.650                | 6.481        | 6.480       | 6.675(60) |
|       |            |                      |              | 6.482       | 6.96 (9)  |
| U     | 8-7        | 538.328              | 538.013      | 537.44      | 538.72    |

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