

Compton Scattering

- Compton Effect
- Compton Theory (Derivation)
- Compton Experimental Verification

Ankur Rastogi

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Scattering of X-rays

Two Kinds:

- ☐ Coherent scattering or classical scattering or **Thomson scattering**
- ☐ Incoherent scattering or **Compton scattering**

Coherent scattering:

- ☐ X rays are scattered without any **change in wavelength**.
- ☐ Obeys classical **electromagnetic theory**

Compton scattering: (inelastic scattering)

- ☐ Scattered beam consists of **two wavelengths**.
- ☐ One is having same wavelength as the **incident beam**
- ☐ The other is having a slightly longer wavelength called **modified beam**.

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Compton Effect

A beam of monochromatic **radiation** (x-rays, γ -rays) of high frequency fall on a **low atomic no. substance** (carbon, graphite), the beam is scattered into two components.

- **Modified radiation** – having lower frequency or larger wavelength
- **Un Modified radiation** – having same frequency or wavelength

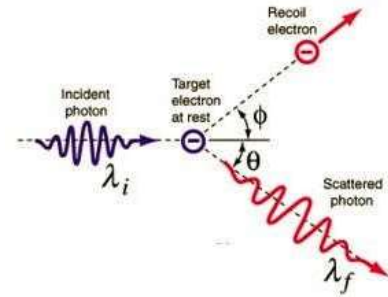
This change in wavelength of the scattered X-ray is known as the Compton shift.

This effect is called **Compton Effect**.

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Theory of Compton Scattering

- Compton treated this scattering as the interaction between X-ray and the matter as a particle collision between X-ray photon and loosely bound electron in the matter.
- Consider an X-ray photon of frequency ν striking an electron at rest.
- This Photon is scattered through an angle θ to x-axis.
- Let the frequency of the scattered photon be ν' .
- During the collision the photon gives energy to the electron.
- This electron moves with a velocity (v) at an angle ϕ to x-axis.



PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Energy Conservation:

Total Energy before collision:

Energy of the incident photon = $h\nu$

Energy of the electron at rest = m_0c^2

where ' m_0 ' is the rest mass of electron and ' c ' the velocity of light.

Therefore **total energy before collision = $h\nu + m_0c^2$**

Total energy after collision:

Energy of the scattered photon = $h\nu'$

Energy of the Recoil electron = $\sqrt{p^2c^2 + m_0^2c^4}$

Therefore **total energy after collision = $h\nu' + \sqrt{p^2c^2 + m_0^2c^4}$**

Conservation of Energy:

Total energy before collision = Total energy after collision

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Momentum Conversation:

Total momentum along x-axis before collision

Momentum of incident photon along x axis = $\frac{h\nu}{c}$

Momentum of electron at rest along x axis = 0

Total momentum before collision along x axis = $\frac{h\nu}{c}$

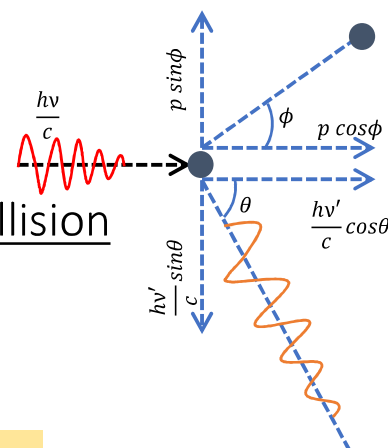
Total momentum along x-axis after collision

The momentum is resolved along x axis and y axis.

momentum of scattered photon along x-axis = $\frac{h\nu'}{c} \cos\theta$

momentum of recoil electron along x-axis = $p \cos\phi$

Total momentum after collision along x-axis = $\frac{h\nu'}{c} \cos\theta + p \cos\phi$



PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Applying the law of conservation of momentum

Momentum before collision = momentum after collision

$$\frac{h\nu}{c} = \frac{h\nu'}{c} \cos\theta + p \cos\phi$$

$$\frac{h\nu}{c} - \frac{h\nu'}{c} \cos\theta = p \cos\phi$$

$$h\nu - h\nu' \cos\theta = pc \cos\phi$$

Total momentum along y-axis before collision

Initial momentum of photon along y axis = 0

Initial momentum of electron along y axis = 0

Total momentum before collision along y axis = 0

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Total momentum along y-axis after collision

momentum of scattered photon along y axis = $\frac{h\nu'}{c} \sin\theta$

momentum of recoil electron along y axis = $p \sin\phi$

Total momentum after collision along y axis = $p \sin\phi - \frac{h\nu'}{c} \sin\theta$

Momentum before collision = momentum after collision

$$0 = p \sin\phi - \frac{h\nu'}{c} \sin\theta$$

$$pc \sin\phi = h\nu' \sin\theta$$

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

From Energy conservation:

$$h\nu + m_0 c^2 = h\nu' + \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4} \Rightarrow (h\nu - h\nu' + m_0 c^2)^2 = p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$$

$$(h\nu - h\nu')^2 + m_0^2 c^4 + 2(h\nu - h\nu')m_0 c^2 = p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$$

$$p^2 c^2 = (h\nu)^2 + (h\nu')^2 - 2(h\nu)(h\nu') + 2(h\nu - h\nu')m_0 c^2 \dots \dots \dots 1$$

From Momentum conservation:

$$p^2 c^2 \cos^2\phi + p^2 c^2 \sin^2\phi = (h\nu - h\nu' \cos\theta)^2 + h\nu' \sin^2\theta$$

$$p^2 c^2 = (h\nu)^2 + (h\nu')^2 - 2(h\nu)(h\nu') \cos\theta \dots \dots \dots 2$$

From equation 1 and 2:

$$(h\nu)^2 + (h\nu')^2 - 2(h\nu)(h\nu') \cos\theta = (h\nu)^2 + (h\nu')^2 - 2(h\nu)(h\nu') + 2(h\nu - h\nu')m_0 c^2$$

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

$$-2(h\nu)(h\nu')\cos\theta = -2(h\nu)(h\nu') + 2(h\nu - h\nu')m_0c^2$$

$$2(h\nu)(h\nu')(1 - \cos\theta) = 2(h\nu - h\nu')m_0c^2$$

$$h\nu\nu'(1 - \cos\theta) = (\nu - \nu')m_0c^2$$

$$\frac{(\nu - \nu')}{\nu\nu'} = \frac{h}{m_0c^2}(1 - \cos\theta) \Rightarrow \left(\frac{\nu}{\nu\nu'} - \frac{\nu'}{\nu\nu'}\right) = \frac{h}{m_0c^2}(1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{\nu'} - \frac{1}{\nu}\right) = \frac{h}{m_0c^2}(1 - \cos\theta) \Rightarrow \left(\frac{c}{\nu'} - \frac{c}{\nu}\right) = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$\lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - \cos\theta)$$

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

$$\lambda' - \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\theta)$$

Where, Compton wavelength $\lambda_c = \frac{h}{m_0c} = 0.0243 \text{ \AA}$

Therefore the change in wavelength is given by; $d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - \cos\theta)$

- ☐ The change in wavelength $d\lambda$ **does not depend** on the
 - (i) wavelength of the **incident photon**
 - (ii) Nature of the **scattering material**
- ☐ The change in wavelength $d\lambda$ **depends** only on the **scattering angle**.

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Case (1) When $\theta=0$ then,

$$d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - 1); d\lambda = 0$$

Case (2) When $\theta=90^\circ$ then,

$$d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - 0); d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}$$

Substituting the values for h, m_0 and c

$$d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c} = 0.0243 \text{ \AA}$$

Case(3) When $\theta=180^\circ$ then,

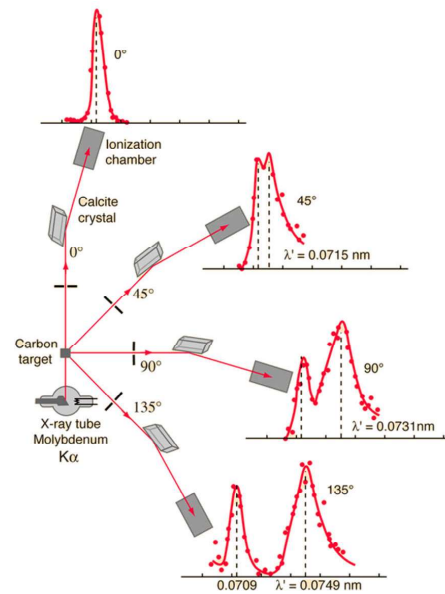
$$d\lambda = \frac{h}{m_0c}(1 - (-1)); d\lambda = \frac{2h}{m_0c} = 0.0486 \text{ \AA}$$

The change in wavelength is maximum at 180°

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Experimental verification

1. A beam of mono chromatic X ray beam is allowed to fall on the **scattering material**.
2. The scattered beam is received by a **Bragg spectrometer**.
3. The **intensity of the scattered beam** is measured for various angles of scattering.
4. A graph is plotted between the **intensity and the wavelength**.



PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

Problems:

1. X-ray of wavelength 1.4 \AA are scattered from a block of carbon. What will be the wave length of scattered X-rays at (i) 180° (ii) 90° (iii) 0° . At what scattering angle the maximum Compton shift is observed?
2. Explain the Compton scattering with a schematic. How does Compton shift vary with the photon scattering angle. In Compton experiment how much would be the maximum Compton shift, if electron is replaced with a neutron (mass of neutron is 2000 times that of electron.)

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20

3. X-rays are scattered by Na crystal. Compare the wavelength of X-rays and the Compton wavelength of Na atom. What is change in wavelength you observe in this Compton scattering?
[$M_{\text{Na}} = 3.82 \times 10^{-26} \text{ Kg}$]
4. A photon of energy 3 keV collides with an electron initially at rest. If photon emerges at an angle of 60° , calculate kinetic energy of recoiling electron in electron volts.
5. A photon carries $2.00 \times 10^{-14} \text{ J}$ of energy. It undergoes Compton scattering in a block of carbon. What is the largest fractional change in energy the photon can undergo as a result?

PHY 1701, Fall Sem. 2019-20