

# Compton Effect : Selected Solutions

Q1/ Initial ~~total~~ total energy =  $h\nu + m_0 c^2$

Final total energy =  $h\nu' + \gamma m_0 c^2$   $\rightarrow$  (1)

Energy Conservation:  $h\nu + m_0 c^2 = h\nu' + \gamma m_0 c^2$

Initial total momentum =  $h\nu/c$  (due to the photon only)

Final total momentum =  $-h\nu'/c + \gamma m_0 v$

The negative sign is because after the head-on collision the photon goes back in the opposite direction. The electron goes on straight ahead.

Momentum Conservation:  $h\nu/c = -h\nu'/c + \gamma m_0 v$

$\Rightarrow h\nu = -h\nu' + \gamma m_0 v c$   $\rightarrow$  (2). Add (1) and (2) to get.

$\Rightarrow 2h\nu + m_0 c^2 = \gamma m_0 v c + \gamma m_0 c^2$

$\Rightarrow \frac{2h\nu}{m_0 c^2} + 1 = \gamma \left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right)$  Now  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}}$

$\Rightarrow \frac{2h\nu}{m_0 c^2} + 1 = \frac{(1 + v/c)(1 + v/c)}{(1 - v/c)(1 + v/c)} = \frac{1 + (v/c)}{1 - (v/c)}$

$\left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{v}{c}\right) \left[1 + \frac{2h\nu}{m_0 c^2}\right]^2$  Now  $h\nu = 0.3 \text{ MeV}$

$\Rightarrow \left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{v}{c}\right) \left[1 + \frac{2 \times 0.3}{0.51}\right]^2$  Now  $m_0 c^2 = 0.51 \text{ MeV}$  (rest energy for an electron)

$\Rightarrow \left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{v}{c}\right) \times (4.735)$

$\Rightarrow 1 + \frac{v}{c} = 4.735 - 4.735 \frac{v}{c} \Rightarrow 5.735 \frac{v}{c} = 3.735$

$\Rightarrow \frac{v}{c} = \frac{3.735}{5.735} = 0.65$

Answer  
 $\downarrow$   
 $v = 0.65 c$



-2-

Q3/.  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\phi)$

Maximum energy  
 $\Rightarrow \phi = 180^\circ$

$\Rightarrow \Delta\lambda = \lambda_c [1 - (-1)] = 2\lambda_c$

$\therefore \cos\phi = -1$

$\Delta E = \frac{hc}{\lambda'} - \frac{hc}{\lambda}$

and  $\lambda' = \lambda + \Delta\lambda$   $\lambda_c \rightarrow$  Compton Wavelength  
 $\Rightarrow \Delta E = hc \left( \frac{1}{\lambda + \Delta\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right)$

$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta E}{hc} = \frac{\lambda - \lambda - \Delta\lambda}{\lambda(\lambda + \Delta\lambda)}$

$\Rightarrow \lambda(\lambda + \Delta\lambda) = -\frac{hc}{\Delta E} \Delta\lambda$

$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 + (\Delta\lambda)\lambda + \frac{hc}{\Delta E}(\Delta\lambda) = 0$

$\Delta\lambda = 2\lambda_c = \frac{2h}{m_e c}$   
 $\Rightarrow \Delta\lambda = 2(2.4 \text{ pm})$

$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 + (2\lambda_c)\lambda + \frac{hc(2\lambda_c)}{\Delta E} = 0$

$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{-2\lambda_c \pm \sqrt{4\lambda_c^2 - 4\left(\frac{hc}{\Delta E}\right)2\lambda_c}}{2}$

$\Rightarrow \lambda = -\lambda_c \pm \sqrt{\lambda_c^2 - \left(\frac{hc}{\Delta E}\right)2\lambda_c}$

Since wavelength is a positive quantity choose the positive sign.

Also  $\Delta E = -45 \text{ keV}$ , the negative sign implying that the photon has lost its energy to the electron.

$\therefore -\frac{hc}{\Delta E} = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{45 \times 10^3 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = \frac{6.626 \times 3}{45 \times 1.6} \times 10^{-10} = 27.61 \text{ pm}$

Also  $\lambda_c = 2.4 \text{ pm} \Rightarrow \lambda = -2.4 + \sqrt{2.4^2 + 2 \times 2.4 \times 27.61}$

$\Rightarrow \lambda = -2.4 + 11.76 = 9.36 \text{ pm}$  ← Answer

Note: This solution method is the same as in Q9.  
 To find the energy, apply  $E = hc/\lambda$   $\lambda$  is the answer above



Q4/  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\phi)$  for maximum shift,  $\phi = 180^\circ$ .

$\cos\phi = -1$ .

$\therefore \Delta\lambda = 2\lambda_c \Rightarrow$  Fractional shift =  $\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{2\lambda_c}{\lambda}$

$\lambda_c = \frac{h}{mc}$  If  $m = m_e$  (mass of electron) ~~then~~  $\lambda_c = 2.4 \text{ pm}$

If  $m = m_p$  (mass of proton),  $\lambda_c = \frac{2.4 \text{ pm}}{1836}$  Compton wavelength

Hence, when  $\lambda = 0.1 \text{ nm}$ .

$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{2.4 \text{ pm} \times 2}{1836 \times 0.1 \times 10^3 \text{ pm}} = 2.61 \times 10^{-5}$  Answer

Q5/ Energy required =  $2m_e c^2 = hc/\lambda_{pe}$

$\Rightarrow 2\lambda_{pe} = \frac{h}{m_e c} = \lambda_c$  Now  $\lambda' - \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\phi)$

$\Rightarrow \lambda' - \lambda = 2\lambda_{pe} (1 - \cos\phi) \Rightarrow \lambda' = \lambda + 2\lambda_{pe} (1 - \cos\phi)$

$\Rightarrow \lambda' > 2\lambda_{pe} (1 - \cos\phi)$  Since the scattered photon can create a positron-electron pair,

$\lambda' = \lambda_{pe} \Rightarrow \lambda_{pe} > 2\lambda_{pe} (1 - \cos\phi)$  Answer

$\Rightarrow 1 - \cos\phi < 1/2 \Rightarrow \cos\phi > 1/2 \Rightarrow \phi < 60^\circ$

Q6/  $E' = E/2 \Rightarrow \frac{hc}{\lambda'} = \frac{hc}{2\lambda} \Rightarrow \lambda' = 2\lambda$

$\therefore \lambda' - \lambda = 2\lambda - \lambda = \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\phi)$   $\phi = 45^\circ$

$\Rightarrow \lambda = 2.4 \text{ pm} (1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}) = 0.703 \text{ pm}$ ,  $E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = 1.77 \text{ MeV}$



- 4 -

Q8/  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos\phi)$

$\Delta\lambda = (10.5 - 10) \text{ pm}$   
 $\Rightarrow \Delta\lambda = 0.5 \text{ pm}$

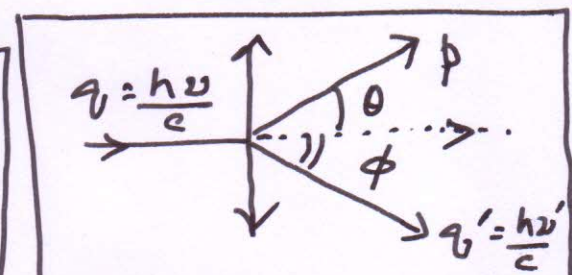
$\lambda_c = 2.4 \text{ pm}$

$\cos\phi = 1 - \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_c}$

$\Rightarrow \cos\phi = 1 - \frac{0.5}{2.4}$

$\cos\phi = 0.7917$

$q = \frac{h\nu}{c}$   
 $p \sin\theta = \frac{h\nu'}{c} \sin\phi$   
 $\Rightarrow \sin\theta = \frac{h}{\cancel{c} p} \frac{\cancel{c}}{\lambda'} \sin\phi$   
 $\Rightarrow \sin\theta = \frac{h}{p \lambda'} \sin\phi$  — (1)



Balance vertical components of momentum

Now balancing horizontal components of momentum

$\frac{h\nu}{c} = p \cos\theta + \frac{h\nu'}{c} \cos\phi \Rightarrow \cos\theta = \frac{h}{p} \left( \frac{\nu}{c} - \frac{\nu'}{c} \cos\phi \right)$

$\Rightarrow \cos\theta = \frac{h}{p} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{\cos\phi}{\lambda'} \right)$  — (2) dividing (1) by (2) and get,

$\frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta} = \tan\theta = \frac{\sin\phi}{\lambda' \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{\cos\phi}{\lambda'} \right)} = \frac{\sin\phi}{\left( \lambda'/\lambda \right) - \cos\phi}$

$\lambda = 10 \text{ pm}, \lambda' = 10.5 \text{ pm} \quad \cos\phi = 0.7917 \quad \sin\phi = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2\phi}$

$\Rightarrow \tan\theta = \frac{\sqrt{1 - \cos^2\phi}}{1.05 - \cos\phi} = \frac{\sqrt{1 - 0.7917^2}}{1.05 - 0.7917} = \frac{0.6109}{0.2583}$

$\Rightarrow \tan\theta = 2.3651 \Rightarrow \theta = 67.1^\circ$  — Direction of the recoil electron.

From (1)  $p = \frac{h}{\lambda' \sin\theta} \sin\phi$  — Answer

$p = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \times \sqrt{1 - 0.7917^2}}{10.5 \times 10^{-12} \times \sin 67.1^\circ} = 4.2 \times 10^{-23} \text{ kg ms}^{-1}$  — Magnitude of momentum



- 5 -

Q10/.  $\boxed{\mathcal{E} = hc/\lambda} \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = \frac{hc}{\mathcal{E}}} \text{ and } \boxed{\lambda' = \frac{hc}{\mathcal{E}'}}$

$\boxed{\lambda' - \lambda = \lambda_c \left( \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}'} - \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}} \right) = \lambda_c (1 - \cos \phi)}$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\cos \phi = 1 - \frac{hc}{\lambda_c} \left( \frac{\mathcal{E} - \mathcal{E}'}{\mathcal{E}\mathcal{E}'} \right)}$   $\mathcal{E} = 100 \text{ keV}$   
 $\mathcal{E}' = 90 \text{ keV}$

$\Rightarrow \cos \phi = 1 - \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{2.4 \times 10^{-12}} \left( \frac{100 - 90}{100 \times 90} \right) \times \frac{10^3 \times 10^9}{10^6 \times 1.6}$

$\Rightarrow \cos \phi = 1 - 0.5746 = 0.4253 \Rightarrow \boxed{\phi = 64.83^\circ}$   
 $\uparrow$  Answer

Q11/.  $\boxed{\mathcal{E} = \frac{hc}{\lambda}} \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = \frac{hc}{\mathcal{E}}} \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \times 3 \times 10^8}{210 \times 10^6 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}}$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = 5.91 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}}$

$\boxed{\Delta \lambda = \lambda_c (1 - \cos \phi)} \Rightarrow$  for maximum energy to be imparted,  $\boxed{\Delta \lambda = 2\lambda_c = 2 \times 2.4 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m} = 4.8 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}}$

Hence  $\boxed{\Delta \lambda \gg \lambda}$  Now  $\boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E} - \mathcal{E}' = hc \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda'} \right)}$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda' = \lambda + \Delta \lambda \approx \Delta \lambda} \therefore \boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} \approx hc \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\Delta \lambda} \right) \approx \frac{hc}{\lambda}}$

Hence  $\boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} \approx 210 \text{ MeV}} \Rightarrow$  Almost all of the energy is lost to the target electron.  
 $\uparrow$  Answer

When the target is a proton,  $\lambda_c = \frac{2.4 \text{ pm}}{1836} = 1.3 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$

$\therefore \boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} = hc \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda + \Delta \lambda} \right)}$   $\Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} = \left( \frac{hc}{\lambda} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda + \Delta \lambda} \right)}$

$\Delta \mathcal{E} = 210 \text{ MeV} \times \frac{2\lambda_c}{\lambda + 2\lambda_c} = 210 \times \frac{2 \times 1.3 \times 10^{-15}}{(5.91 + 2 \times 1.3) \times 10^{-15}}$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta \mathcal{E} = 64.3 \text{ MeV}} \leftarrow \text{Answer (Because PROTON is heavier)}$