









Photographs of the Tracks of β -Particles Shooting through Air





FIG. 15

Photographs of the Tracks of a-Particles Shooting through Air

6. ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS

Table 6.1 Abridged from pdg.lbl.gov/AtomicNuclearProperties by D. E. Groom (2007). See web pages for more detail about entries in this table including chemical formulae, and for several hundred other entries. Quantities in parentheses are for NTP (20° C and 1 atm), and square brackets indicate quantities evaluated at STP. Boiling points are at 1 atm. Refractive indices n are evaluated at the sodium D line blend (589.2 nm); values $\gg 1$ in brackets are for $(n-1) \times 10^6$ (gases).

Material	Z	A	$\langle Z/A \rangle$	Nucl.coll.	Nucl.inter.	Rad.len.	$dE/dx _{\rm m}$	in Density	Melting	Boiling	Refract.
				length λ_T	length λ_I	X_0	{ MeV	$\{g \ cm^{-3}\}$	point	point	index
				$\{g \ cm^{-2}\}$	$\{g \text{ cm}^{-2}\}$	$\{g \ cm^{-2}\}$	$\rm g^{-1} cm^2$	$\{ (\{ g\ell^{-1} \}) \}$	(K)	(K)	(@ Na D)
Ho	1	1.00794(7)	0.99212	42.8	52.0	63.04	(4.103)	0.071(0.084)	13.81	20.28	1.11[132.]
D_2	1	2.01410177803(8)	0.49650	51.3	71.8	125.97	(2.053)	0.169(0.168)	18.7	23.65	1.11[138.]
Нe	2	4.002602(2)	0.49967	51.8	71.0	94.32	(1.937)	0.125(0.166)		4.220	1.02[35.0]
Li	3	6.941(2)	0.43221	52.2	71.3	82.78	1.639	0.534	453.6	1615.	
Be	4	9.012182(3)	0.44384	55.3	77.8	65.19	1.595	1.848	1560.	2744.	
C diamond	6	12.0107(8)	0.49955	59.2	85.8	42.70	1.725	3.520			2.42
C graphite	6	12.0107(8)	0.49955	59.2	85.8	42.70	1.742	2.210	C9 15	77.00	1 00[000]
N_2	(8	14.0067(2) 15.0004(3)	0.49976	61.1 61.3	89.7	37.99	(1.825) (1.801)	0.807(1.105) 1 141(1 222)	63.15 54.36	00.20	1.20[298.] 1.20[271.]
O_2 Eq.	9	13.9994(3) 18.9984032(5)	0.30002 0.47372	65 0	90.2 97.4	32.03	(1.601) (1.676)	1.141(1.552) 1.507(1.580)	53 53	90.20 85.03	[195]
Ne	10	20.1797(6)	0.49555	65.7	99.0	28.93	(1.724)	1.204(0.839)	24.56	27.07	1.09[67.1]
Al	13	26.9815386(8)	0.48181	69.7	107.2	24.01	1.615	2.699	933.5	2792.	1.00[0111]
Si	14	28.0855(3)	0.49848	70.2	108.4	21.82	1.664	2.329	1687.	3538.	3.95
Cl_2	17	35.453(2)	0.47951	73.8	115.7	19.28	(1.630)	1.574(2.980)	171.6	239.1	[773.]
Ar	18	39.948(1)	0.45059	75.7	119.7	19.55	(1.519)	1.396(1.662)	83.81	87.26	1.23[281.]
Ti	22	47.867(1)	0.45961	78.8	126.2	16.16	1.477	4.540	1941.	3560.	
Fe	26	55.845(2)	0.46557	81.7	132.1	13.84	1.451	7.874	1811.	3134.	
Cu	29	03.340(3) 72.64(1)	0.43030 0.44053	84.2 86.0	137.3	12.80 12.25	1.403 1.370	8.900	1358.	2835. 3106	
Sn	50 50	12.04(1) 118 710(7)	0.44055 0.42119	98.2	145.0 166 7	8.82	1.370	7 310	505.1	2875	
Xe	54	131.293(6)	0.42119 0.41129	100.8	172.1	8.48	(1.255)	2.953(5.483)	161.4	165.1	1.39[701.]
W	74	183.84(1)	0.40252	110.4	191.9	6.76	1.145	19.300	3695.	5828.	
Pt	78	195.084(9)	0.39983	112.2	195.7	6.54	1.128	21.450	2042.	4098.	
Au	79	196.966569(4)	0.40108	112.5	196.3	6.46	1.134	19.320	1337.	3129.	
Pb	82	207.2(1)	0.39575	114.1	199.6	6.37	1.122	11.350	600.6	2022.	
U	92	[238.02891(3)]	0.38651	118.6	209.0	6.00	1.081	18.950	1408.	4404.	
Air (dry, 1 a	atm)		0.49919	61.3	90.1	36.62	(1.815)	(1.205)		78.80	
Shielding co	oncrete		0.50274	65.1	97.5	26.57	1.711	2.300			
Borosilicate	glass (P	yrex)	0.49707	64.6	96.5	28.17	1.696	2.230			
Lead glass Standard ro	ock		0.42101 0.50000	95.9 66.8	158.0 101.3	7.87 26.54	$1.255 \\ 1.688$	6.220 2.650			
Methane (C	(LH		0.62334	54.0	73.8	46.47	(2.417)	(0.667)	90.68	111 7	[444.]
Ethane (Co	H_{a}		$0.02334 \\ 0.59861$	55 0	75.9	45.66	(2.417) (2.304)	(0.007) (1.263)	90.08 90.36	184.5	[444.]
Propane (C	$_{3}H_{8})$		0.58962	55.3	76.7	45.37	(2.262)	0.493(1.868)	85.52	231.0	
Butane (C_4	$H_{10})$		0.59497	55.5	77.1	45.23	(2.278)	(2.489)	134.9	272.6	
Octane (C8	$H_{18})$		0.57778	55.8	77.8	45.00	2.123	0.703	214.4	398.8	
Paraffin (Cl	$H_3(CH_2)$	$n \approx 23$ CH ₃)	0.57275	56.0	78.3	44.85	2.088	0.930			
Nylon (type	e 6, 6/6)	``````````````````````````````````````	0.54790	57.5	81.6	41.92	1.973	1.18			
Polycarbona	ate (Lexa	an)	0.52697	58.3	83.6	41.50	1.886	1.20			
Polyethylen	e ($[CH_2C]$ o toropht	μ _{2]n}) thelete (Muler)	0.57034 0.52037	58 0	78.0 84.0	44.77	2.079	0.89			
Polyetnylene terephtnalate (Mylar) Polyimide film (Kapton)			0.52037 0.51264	59.2	85.5	40.58	1.840 1.820	1.40			
Polymethylmethacrylate (acrylic)			0.53937	58.1	82.8	40.55	1.929	1.19			1.49
Polypropylene			0.55998	56.1	78.5	44.77	2.041	0.90			
Polystyrene	$([C_6H_5C$	$CHCH_2]_n)$	0.53768	57.5	81.7	43.79	1.936	1.06			1.59
Polytetraflu	oroethyl	ene (Teflon)	0.47992	63.5	94.4	34.84	1.671	2.20			4 50
Polyvinylto.	luene		0.54141	57.3	81.3	43.90	1.956	1.03			1.58
Aluminum o	oxide (sa	pphire)	0.49038	65.5	98.4	27.94	1.647	3.970	2327.	3273.	1.77
Barium flou	iride (Ba	\mathbf{F}_2)	0.42207	90.8	149.0	9.91	1.303	4.893	1641.	2533.	1.47
Bismuth get	rmanate	(BGO)	0.42065	96.2 60.7	159.1	1.97	1.251	(1.130	1317.		2.15
Carbon dioxide gas (UU_2)		0.49989	60.7	00.9 88 0	30.20 36.20	1.019 1.787	(1.642) 1.563	Sublime	s at 104 7	[449.] K	
Cesium iodi	ide (CsI)	(ury ice)	0.43503 0.41569	100.6	171.5	8.39	1.243	4.510	894.2	1553.	1.79
Lithium flue	oride (Li	F)	0.46262	61.0	88.7	39.26	1.614	2.635	1121.	1946.	1.39
Lithium hyo	dride (Li	Ú)	0.50321	50.8	68.1	79.62	1.897	0.820	965.	-	
Lead tungst	ate (PbV	$WO_4)$	0.41315	100.6	168.3	7.39	1.229	8.300	1403.		2.20
Silicon diox	ide (SiO ₂	2, fused quartz)	0.49930	65.2	97.8	27.05	1.699	2.200	1986.	3223.	1.46
Sodium chlo	oride (Na	aCl)	0.55509	71.2	110.1	21.91	1.847	2.170	1075.	1738.	1.54
Sodium iodi	ide (NaI))	0.42697	93.1	154.6	9.49	1.305	3.667	933.2	1577.	1.77
water (H_2C)))		0.55509	58.5	83.3	30.08	1.992	1.000(0.756)	2/3.1	3/3.1	1.33
Silica aerog	el		0.50093	65.0	97.3	27.25	1.740	0.200	$(0.03 H_2)$	O, 0.97 Si	$O_2)$

Material	Dielectric	Young's	Coeff. of	Specific	Electrical	Thermal	
	constant ($\kappa = \epsilon/\epsilon_0$)	modulus	thermal	heat	resistivity	conductivity	
	() is $(\kappa - 1) \times 10^6$	$[10^{6} \text{ psi}]$	expansion	[cal/g-°C]	$[\mu\Omega cm(@^{\circ}C)]$	[cal/cm-°C-sec]	
	for gas		$[10^{-6} \mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{cm}\text{-}^{\circ}\mathrm{C}]$				
H_2	(253.9)	—	_		—	—	
He	(64)	—	—	_	—	_	
Li	—	—	56	0.86	$8.55(0^{\circ})$	0.17	
Be	—	37	12.4	0.436	$5.885(0^{\circ})$	0.38	
С	_	0.7	0.6 - 4.3	0.165	$1375(0^{\circ})$	0.057	
N_2	(548.5)		—			—	
O_2	(495)		—		—	—	
Ne	(127)		—	—	—	_	
Al	—	10	23.9	0.215	$2.65(20^{\circ})$	0.53	
Si	11.9	16	2.8 - 7.3	0.162	—	0.20	
Ar	(517)	_	—	—	—	—	
Ti	—	16.8	8.5	0.126	$50(0^{\circ})$	_	
Fe	—	28.5	11.7	0.11	$9.71(20^{\circ})$	0.18	
Cu	—	16	16.5	0.092	$1.67(20^{\circ})$	0.94	
Ge	16.0		5.75	0.073	_	0.14	
Sn	—	6	20	0.052	$11.5(20^{\circ})$	0.16	
Xe	—		—	—	—	_	
W	—	50	4.4	0.032	$5.5(20^{\circ})$	0.48	
Pt	—	21	8.9	0.032	$9.83(0^{\circ})$	0.17	
Pb	—	2.6	29.3	0.038	$20.65(20^{\circ})$	0.083	
U			36.1	0.028	$29(20^{\circ})$	0.064	

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27.2.6. *Energy loss in mixtures and compounds* : A mixture or compound can be thought of as made up of thin layers of pure elements in the right proportion (Bragg additivity). In this case,

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = \sum w_j \left. \frac{dE}{dx} \right|_j \,, \tag{27.10}$$

where $dE/dx|_j$ is the mean rate of energy loss (in MeV g cm⁻²) in the *j*th element. Eq. (27.1) can be inserted into Eq. (27.10) to find expressions for $\langle Z/A \rangle$, $\langle I \rangle$, and $\langle \delta \rangle$; for example, $\langle Z/A \rangle = \sum w_j Z_j/A_j = \sum n_j Z_j / \sum n_j A_j$. However, $\langle I \rangle$ as defined this way is an underestimate, because in a compound electrons are more tightly bound than in the free elements, and $\langle \delta \rangle$ as calculated this way has little relevance, because it is the electron density that matters. If possible, one uses the tables given in Refs. 18 and 27, which include effective excitation energies and interpolation coefficients for calculating the density effect correction for the chemical elements and nearly 200 mixtures and compounds. If a compound or mixture is not found, then one uses the recipe for δ given in Ref. 20 (repeated in Ref. 1), and calculates $\langle I \rangle$ according to the discussion in Ref. 7. (Note the "13%" rule!)

27.2.7. *Ionization yields*: Physicists frequently relate total energy loss to the number of ion pairs produced near the particle's track. This relation becomes complicated for relativistic particles due to the wandering of energetic knock-on electrons whose ranges exceed the dimensions of the fiducial volume. For a qualitative appraisal of the nonlocality of energy deposition in various media by such modestly energetic knock-on electrons, see Ref. 28. The mean local energy dissipation per local ion pair produced, W, while essentially constant for relativistic particles, increases at slow particle speeds [29]. For gases, W can be surprisingly sensitive to trace amounts of various contaminants [29]. Furthermore, ionization yields in practical cases may be greatly influenced by such factors as subsequent recombination [30].

27.3. Multiple scattering through small angles

A charged particle traversing a medium is deflected by many small-angle scatters. Most of this deflection is due to Coulomb scattering from nuclei, and hence the effect is called multiple Coulomb scattering. (However, for hadronic projectiles, the strong interactions also contribute to multiple scattering.) The Coulomb scattering distribution is well represented by the theory of Molière [31]. It is roughly Gaussian for small deflection angles, but at larger angles (greater than a few θ_0 , defined below) it behaves like Rutherford scattering, with larger tails than does a Gaussian distribution.

If we define

$$\theta_0 = \theta_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_{\text{space}}^{\text{rms}} .$$
(27.11)

then it is sufficient for many applications to use a Gaussian approximation for the central 98% of the projected angular distribution, with a width given by [32,33]

$$\theta_0 = \frac{13.6 \text{ MeV}}{\beta cp} z \sqrt{x/X_0} \Big[1 + 0.038 \ln(x/X_0) \Big] .$$
 (27.12)

Here p, βc , and z are the momentum, velocity, and charge number of the incident particle, and x/X_0 is the thickness of the scattering medium in radiation lengths (defined below).

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This value of θ_0 is from a fit to Molière distribution [31] for singly charged particles with $\beta = 1$ for all Z, and is accurate to 11% or better for $10^{-3} < x/X_0 < 100$.

Eq. (27.12) describes scattering from a single material, while the usual problem involves the multiple scattering of a particle traversing many different layers and mixtures. Since it is from a fit to a Molière distribution, it is incorrect to add the individual θ_0 contributions in quadrature; the result is systematically too small. It is much more accurate to apply Eq. (27.12) once, after finding x and X_0 for the combined scatterer.

Lynch and Dahl have extended this phenomenological approach, fitting Gaussian distributions to a variable fraction of the Molière distribution for arbitrary scatterers [33], and achieve accuracies of 2% or better.



Figure 27.9: Quantities used to describe multiple Coulomb scattering. The particle is incident in the plane of the figure.

The nonprojected (space) and projected (plane) angular distributions are given approximately by [31]

$$\frac{1}{2\pi\,\theta_0^2}\,\exp\left(-\frac{\theta_{\rm space}^2}{2\theta_0^2}\right)\,d\Omega\,\,,\tag{27.13}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\theta_0} \exp\left(-\frac{\theta_{\text{plane}}^2}{2\theta_0^2}\right) d\theta_{\text{plane}} , \qquad (27.14)$$

where θ is the deflection angle. In this approximation, $\theta_{\text{space}}^2 \approx (\theta_{\text{plane},x}^2 + \theta_{\text{plane},y}^2)$, where the x and y axes are orthogonal to the direction of motion, and $d\Omega \approx d\theta_{\text{plane},x} d\theta_{\text{plane},y}$. Deflections into $\theta_{\text{plane},x}$ and $\theta_{\text{plane},y}$ are independent and identically distributed.

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Figure 27.9 shows these and other quantities sometimes used to describe multiple Coulomb scattering. They are

$$\psi_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \theta_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \theta_0 , \qquad (27.15)$$

$$y_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} x \theta_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} x \theta_0 , \qquad (27.16)$$

$$s_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}} x \,\theta_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}} x \,\theta_0 \;.$$
 (27.17)

All the quantitative estimates in this section apply only in the limit of small $\theta_{\text{plane}}^{\text{rms}}$ and in the absence of large-angle scatters. The random variables s, ψ, y , and θ in a given plane are distributed in a correlated fashion (see Sec. 31.1 of this *Review* for the definition of the correlation coefficient). Obviously, $y \approx x\psi$. In addition, y and θ have the correlation coefficient $\rho_{y\theta} = \sqrt{3}/2 \approx 0.87$. For Monte Carlo generation of a joint $(y_{\text{plane}}, \theta_{\text{plane}})$ distribution, or for other calculations, it may be most convenient to work with independent Gaussian random variables (z_1, z_2) with mean zero and variance one, and then set

$$y_{\text{plane}} = z_1 x \,\theta_0 (1 - \rho_{y\theta}^2)^{1/2} / \sqrt{3} + z_2 \,\rho_{y\theta} x \,\theta_0 / \sqrt{3}$$
$$= z_1 x \,\theta_0 / \sqrt{12} + z_2 \,x \,\theta_0 / 2 \;; \tag{27.18}$$

$$\theta_{\text{plane}} = z_2 \,\theta_0 \,. \tag{27.19}$$

Note that the second term for y_{plane} equals $x \theta_{\text{plane}}/2$ and represents the displacement that would have occurred had the deflection θ_{plane} all occurred at the single point x/2.

For heavy ions the multiple Coulomb scattering has been measured and compared with various theoretical distributions [34].

27.4. Photon and electron interactions in matter

27.4.1. Radiation length: High-energy electrons predominantly lose energy in matter by bremsstrahlung, and high-energy photons by e^+e^- pair production. The characteristic amount of matter traversed for these related interactions is called the radiation length X_0 , usually measured in g cm⁻². It is both (a) the mean distance over which a high-energy electron loses all but 1/e of its energy by bremsstrahlung, and (b) $\frac{7}{9}$ of the mean free path for pair production by a high-energy photon [35]. It is also the appropriate scale length for describing high-energy electromagnetic cascades. X_0 has been calculated and tabulated by Y.S. Tsai [36]:

$$\frac{1}{X_0} = 4\alpha r_e^2 \frac{N_A}{A} \left\{ Z^2 \left[L_{\rm rad} - f(Z) \right] + Z L_{\rm rad}' \right\} \,. \tag{27.20}$$

For $A = 1 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, $4\alpha r_e^2 N_A / A = (716.408 \text{ g cm}^{-2})^{-1}$. L_{rad} and L'_{rad} are given in Table 27.2. The function f(Z) is an infinite sum, but for elements up to uranium can be represented to 4-place accuracy by

$$f(Z) = a^{2} \left[(1+a^{2})^{-1} + 0.20206 -0.0369 a^{2} + 0.0083 a^{4} - 0.002 a^{6} \right], \qquad (27.21)$$

where $a = \alpha Z$ [37].

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