

1. PHD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project title:

Study of trapped anions

1.1. Project goals

- Construction of highly efficient negative ion source,
- Study of the anion interactions,

1.2. Outline

Experiments involving electron collisions with various targets provide essential information on the structure of the bombarded objects, such as atoms or molecules, as well as on the ionisation processes. The information on scattering processes is of great importance from the point of view of plasma research, matter and antimatter study, astrophysics, etc.

In the proposed project, scattering processes involving negative ions will be studied experimentally. The experiment itself involves producing and detecting charged low energy particle beams in high vacuum conditions, developing electronic control systems, using well-controlled laser systems, etc. In this case, the ion traps will be used, both as an ions' detector and a storage device.

The project will be part of cooperation with CERN's AEGIS project (Antihydrogen Experiment: Gravity, Interferometry, Spectroscopy). In particular, the experiment will involve the production of negative ions for the purpose of trapping antimatter particles, of being further studied in gravitational experiments. The PhD student will actively participate in the research work of the team in Toruń and in Geneva.

1.3. Work plan

1. Introduction into techniques and methodology used in ion trap experiments,
2. Development of experimental setup (anion source),
3. Characterisation, optimisation and testing negative ion source,

4. Study on anion interactions.

1.4. Literature

- F.G. Major et al., Charged Particle Traps, Physics and Techniques of Charged Particle Field Confinement, Springer, (2005)
- Ł. Kłosowski et al., Measurement of electron-calcium ionization integral cross section using an ion trap with a low-energy, pulsed electron gun, J. Electron Spectroscopy and Related Phenomena 228, 13–19, (2018)
- Ł. Kłosowski et al., Attraction between trapped ions and beams of electrons, AIP Advances 10, 015028 (2020)
- AEgIS Collaboration, Exploring the WEP with a pulsed cold beam of antihydrogen, Class.Quant.Grav. 29 (2012) 184009
- AEgIS Collaboration, Proposed antimatter gravity measurement with an antihydrogen beam Nucl.Instrum.Meth.B 266 (2008) 351-356

1.5. Required initial knowledge and skills of the PhD candidate

- MSc in physics, chemistry or related field,
- knowledge of optics, electronics, quantum mechanics, atomic and molecular physics, laser spectroscopy and numerical methods at the level equivalent to basic university courses,
- programming skills in at least one programming language,
- teamwork skills and high motivation for research work,
- good English, sufficient for reading literature and preparing publications,

1.6. Expected development of the PhD candidate's knowledge and skills

The PhD student will gain knowledge of:

- Ultra High Vacuum system,
- Ion traps,
- Electron spectroscopy,
- Laser systems,