

BOOK REVIEW

The Calculation of Atomic Collision Process

By Kenneth Smith, Wiley-Interscience 1971,

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with single channel problems and the second dealing with many channel problems. The book is primarily aimed at graduate students taking a two semester course in atomic collisions and younger scientists who might be interested in this field. This makes the scope of the book rather limited. The first part consists of elementary topics which are easily understood by a graduate student. Section 1.4 on the second order ordinary differential equations is well written and will be of considerable help to those who want to work with computers in solving such equations. The emphasis of the book is to get meaningful algorithms for actual computations.

The second part starts with a section on Eigenfunction Expansion method, which forms the main theme of the book. This method is of particular value for Astrophysics and Plasma physics application and workers in these fields will find the book quite useful. However, this technique is in general rather poor for calculating excitation cross-sections for levels which are widely separated in energy from their neighbours. It would have been more useful if the author had also discussed in a little greater detail the method of dipole approximation which is most satisfactory for excitation processes of large oscillator strengths and small energy differences. Sections 2.2 and 2.4 on Racah Algebra and Numerical Methods for Coupled Differential Equations, respectively, will be useful for many active workers in the field.

A number of good problems are included in the book which will surely increase the understanding and the capabilities of readers to handle practical problems. The book is a welcome addition to the literature for the 'Computer Experimentalist'.

The book thus covers only a limited aspect of the calculation of atomic collision process and as such the title of the book should not be taken too generally.

— B. K. G.

Collision theory explains why most reaction rates increase as concentrations increase. With an increase in the concentration of any reacting substance, the chances for collisions between molecules are increased because there are more molecules per unit of volume. More collisions mean a faster reaction rate, assuming the energy of the collisions is adequate. Activation Energy and the Arrhenius Equation. The minimum energy necessary to form a product during a collision between reactants is called the activation energy (E_a). The kinetic energy of reactant molecules plays an important role in a reaction. At the same time, theoretical and particularly computational advances have made the calculation of data for atomic/molecular structure as well as electron collision processes both reliable and cost-effective, and hence enabled their use in models for technology development. Although the basic equations that describe these quantum-mechanical many-body phenomena are believed to be known with a high degree of confidence, their necessarily approximate solution—with an accuracy that allows for reliable quantitative. aDepartment of Physics and Astronomy, Drake University, Des Moines, IA 50311; an Start by marking “The Calculation of Atomic Collision Processes” as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦| Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. The Calculation of Atomic Collision Processes by Kenneth Smith. Other editions. In an atomic collision, an electron orbiting one atomic nucleus may influence what happens to an electron on the other atomic center. For example, the Coulomb repulsion between the two electrons may cause one or more of the electrons to change state. Another possibility is that the electric field of the negative electron weakens the field of its positively charged atomic nucleus, which in turn decreases the rate at which transitions take place in the second atomic center.Â In most cases of interest, the target is neutral and screening of the target nucleus plays an important role in the calculation of the electron-loss cross sections (Bates and Griffing, 1953). A neutral target cannot be simulated by a bare one for the study of projectile-electron loss.