The kaonic helium puzzle

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Precision measurement of the $3d \rightarrow 2p$ x-ray energy in kaonic ⁴He

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What has been the problem?



"repulsive"

X-ray energy reduced (shift sign negative)



"attractive"

X-ray energy increased (shift sign positive)



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Kaonic Helium X-ray Spectroscopy



kaonic atom strong-interaction shift

C.J.Batty, E. Friedman, A. Gal, Phys. Reports 287, 385 (1997)





A new experiment with a detector of - high resolution and - good energy calibration is urgently required.

C.J. Batty, Nucl. Phys. A508 (1990) 89c



Renewed interest

After some 15 years, Akaishi-Yamazaki prediction convinced us (once again) the importance of the measurement



Akaishi EXA05

optical model

$$U^{\text{opt}}(r) = -(U_0 + iW_0)F(r)$$
$$F(r) = \frac{1 + w_0(r/R_0)^2}{1 + \exp((r - R_0)/a_0)}$$

$$\left\{-\vec{\nabla}^2 + 2\mu(V_c + U^{\text{opt}} - \epsilon) - (V_c - \epsilon)^2\right\}\Psi = 0$$
$$V_c: \text{ Coulomb}$$

optical model



shallow potential

deep potential

Akaishi EXA05

Akaishi's coupled-channel model calculation

coupling to the $\pi^- + \Sigma^4$ He channel

diagonal: $U_D = -U_0 F(r)$ coupling: $U_C = U_{coupl} F(r)$

$$\left\{ -\vec{\nabla}^2 + 2\mu (V_c + U_D - \epsilon) - (V_c - \epsilon)^2 \right\} \Psi + 2\mu U_C \Phi = 0$$

$$\left\{ -\vec{\nabla}^2 + 2\mu' (Q - \epsilon) - (Q - \epsilon)^2 \right\} \Phi + 2\mu' U_C \Psi = 0$$

$$Q \equiv M_{4} He} + m_{\pi^-} - M_{4} He - m_{K^-}$$



Akaishi EXA05

Akaishi's prediction

(accommodates kaonic nuclear states)



 U_c fixed to I 20 MeV, U_0 varied

Kaonic Helium X-ray Spectroscopy





E570 Methods I. high resolution 2. good energy calibration 3. low background



I. High Resolution SDD (silicon drift detector)



Produced by KETEK GmbH

electrons drift to a small anode (small capacitance)

high resolution (185 eV FWHM @ 6.4 keV), despite large area (100 mm²) Si(Li): 300-350 eV

8 such SDDs used in E570



2: in-situ calibration, 3: fiducial selection





Fiducial selection



front view

side view

Timing selection





SDD Self trigger

Kaon trigger, fiducial & timing cut

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understading the resolution function (critical!)





Pileup (typical flash-adc waveforms)





flash ADC baseline vs energy

such shape & fraction used to fit the K⁻He X-rays

Compton tail

GEANT4







past exp : Baird et.al. NPA392, 297 (1983)



statistics	×3
s/n ratio	×6
resolution	×2

$\Delta E_{2p}=2 \pm 2(stat) \pm 2(sys) eV$



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theory error (~0.2 eV) dominated by K mass error

Koike



corresponds to ±1 eV in X-ray energy











Summary

 Now the 2p shift is consistent with all theory calculations

No more Kaonic Helium puzzle
Width also appears to be small
large K⁻³He shift still a possibility

J-PARC EI7 will measure K⁻³He



J-PARC EI7 will measure K⁻³He



The proud team of E570

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