

Theoretical Calculations of higher-order effects in Delbrück scattering

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Gamma-rays elastically scattering from virtual electron-positron pairs in the vacuum off the Coulomb field of atomic nuclei, Delbrück scattering (DS), is an inherently nonlinear effect in quantum electrodynamics (QED) [1]. The imaginary part of the scattering amplitude reflects pair creation. Its precise measurement could be used in the detection of new particles such as the X17 [2]. However, the elastic scattering of gamma-rays by atoms is a coherent sum of four different processes [1]. We showed that by using high flux linearly polarized gamma ray sources precise nearly isolated measurement of DS is possible in the lowest order calculation [3]. The DS cross section rapidly increases as Z^4 where Z is the atomic charge [4] indicating that high Z materials are advantageous for precise measurements. However, since DS higher order corrections also become large for high Z materials, there is a need to calculate them. We report on our status in calculating higher order corrections using high energy physics software [5] and estimate the achievable DS cross section measurement precision using ultrahigh flux high linearly polarized gamma-ray sources [6,7].

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