

# Resonant coherent excitation as a high precision spectroscopy of highly charged ions

T. Ito<sup>1</sup>, Y. Takabayashi<sup>1</sup>, T. Azuma<sup>2</sup>, K. Komaki<sup>1</sup>, Y. Yamazaki<sup>1,3</sup>,  
E. Takada<sup>4</sup>, and T. Murakami<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Physics, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo,  
Komaba, Tokyo 153-8902, Japan*

*Tel:+81-3-5454-6515 Fax:+81-3-5454-6998 E-mail:ito@radphys4.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp*

<sup>2</sup>*Institute of Applied Physics, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8573, Japan*

<sup>3</sup>*Atomic Physics Laboratory, RIKEN, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*

<sup>4</sup>*National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Inage, Chiba 263-8555, Japan*

Ions passing through a crystal along its axis or plane, "channeled ions", feel a periodic crystal field as a flux of virtual photons. When an excitation energy of the ions matches with the photon energy, a so-called resonant coherent excitation (RCE) takes place [1]. A typical resonance width,  $\delta E/E_{trans}$ , so far observed in the low energy region was  $\sim 10^{-2}$ , where  $E_{trans}$  is the transition energy, and  $\delta E$  is the resonance width. Recently, we succeeded in observing the RCE with relativistic ions, and found the resonance width,  $\delta E/E_{trans}$ , to be  $\sim 10^{-4}$  [2]. This observation strongly indicates that the RCE provides a new and a unique technique of high precision spectroscopy of highly charged ions in X-ray region.

The RCE condition for planar channeled ions in a Si crystal is given by

$$E_{trans} = \frac{\gamma h v}{a} \left( \frac{k \cos \theta}{A} + \frac{l \sin \theta}{B} \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $h$  is the Planck's constant,  $v$  is the ion velocity,  $\gamma = \sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}$ ,  $c$  is the light velocity,  $a$  is the lattice constant of Si crystal,  $k$  and  $l$  are integers,  $\theta$  is the tilt angle from the [110] axis, and  $(A, B) = (1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}), (1/\sqrt{2}, 1), (1/\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}/2)$  for (004), ( $2\bar{2}0$ ) and ( $1\bar{1}1$ ), respectively. The first order, *i.e.*,  $k = 1$ , RCE condition, which has a large transition amplitude, is realized only for ions with relativistic energies. Using 390 MeV/u Ar<sup>17+</sup> ions supplied from Heavy Ion Medical Accelerator in Chiba (HIMAC) channeled in a Si crystal along the ( $2\bar{2}0$ ) plane, we observed the  $(k, l) = (1, 1)$  RCE from 1s to  $n = 2$  states ( $E_{trans} = 3.3$  keV). A probability of ionization from an excited state is much larger than that from the ground state. Therefore, the RCE can be observed through measurements of the charge state distribution as a function of  $\theta$  in Eq.(1). For relativistic ions, a probability of non-resonant charge exchange is fairly small that the charge state distribution of transmitted ions is not smeared. Moreover, we adopted a totally depleted silicon detector (SSD) with 31  $\mu\text{m}$ -thickness as a target crystal, and obtained the impact parameter dependence of RCE from the energy deposition to the SSD.

Fig.1 shows a fraction of Ar<sup>18+</sup> ionized subsequent to RCE for ions passing through in the channel center called "best channeled ions", which correspond to the range of energy deposition from 2.5 to 2.8 MeV. The upper scale is the transition energy corresponding to the tilt angle

through the relation in Eq.(1). A two-peak ( $J = 1/2$  and  $J = 3/2$ ) structure originating from the spin-orbit interaction is clearly observed. The width (FWHM) of  $J = 3/2$  peak is 1.1 eV. The beam angular divergence ( $\delta\theta \sim 0.1$  mrad) and the energy width of the incident beam ( $\delta E_0/E_0 \sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$ ) affect the peak width, which amount to 0.44 and 0.78 eV, respectively. Because the RCE mostly occurs near the entrance surface of the crystal, the influence of the energy loss of the ion to the transition energy, which is estimated to  $\sim 0.08$  eV, can be neglected. Therefore, the original resonance width is estimated to be  $\sqrt{(1.1)^2 - (0.44)^2 - (0.78)^2} = 0.64$  eV, *i.e.*, the relative resonance width,  $\delta E/E_{trans}$ , is  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$ . The number of the atomic strings which contributes to the resonance,  $N$ , is evaluated from  $\delta E/E_{trans} \sim 1/N$ . In order to achieve such a sharp resonance,  $N$  should be  $\sim 5 \times 10^3$ , which corresponds to  $\sim \mu\text{m}$ . Such a high coherence is realized by the large ion velocity, which is the most important advantage of using relativistic ions. By fitting a gaussian curve to the  $J = 3/2$  peak as the dotted line in Fig.1, the peak position can be determined with a precision of  $\sim 0.05$  eV, *i.e.*,  $\sim 10$  ppm. The precision tells that the 1s-Lamb shift (1.14 eV for  $\text{Ar}^{17+}$ ) is able to be determined with a precision in a few percent, which is already of the same order of the latest measurement [3]. At present, a precision of the determination of the absolute beam energy ( $\sim 10^{-3}$ ) is insufficient. However, if the precise determination of the beam energy is achieved, the RCE measurement with relativistic heavy ions can be a useful tool for an atomic spectroscopy with a high precision.

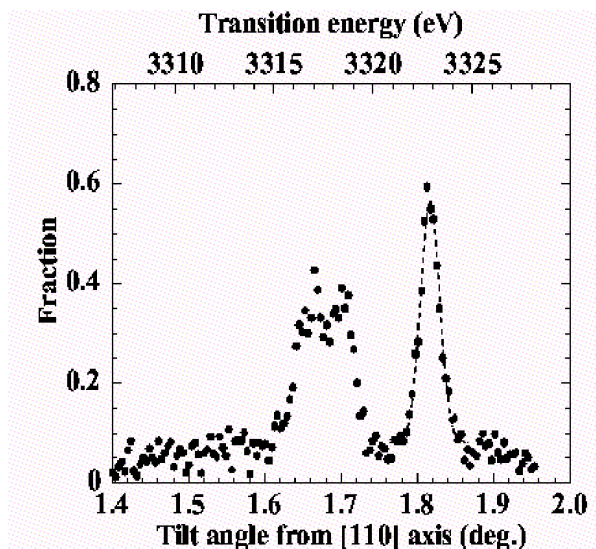


Figure 1: Fraction of  $\text{Ar}^{18+}$  ionized subsequent to RCE for best channeled ions as a function of the tilt angle from [110] axis. Dotted line indicates the fitting curve.

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