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SPRING COLLEGE ON PLASMA PHYSICS

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COLD FUSION - A MODERN STORY

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Cold Fusion $\leftrightarrow$ A Modern Story.

A Star is Born

Pons - Fleischmann declared sometimes in the second week of March, 1989 that one of the dreams of mankind is about to be fulfilled.

Fusion of $D+D$ in an electrochemical

Cell. $\Rightarrow$ An Exothermic process with $Q \approx 4 \sim 10$

An electrolytic cell with Palladium and platinum electrodes.

$\Rightarrow$ This stunning news with enormous scientific, and economic consequences hit the world through all the best known Scientific journals of the world; The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal

In a few days $\leftrightarrow$ A Scientific Preprint appeared
Let me Summarize its contents:

For a 100 years $\rightarrow$ Ability of Palladium to absorb enormous amts. of hydrogen.
Since extended to Deuterium & Tritium.

In a series of steps, D_2 is discharged from the alkaline solutions of Heavy Water D_2O , and can be electrochemically driven into the Pd lattice.

(#1) Hydrogen is ionized and is ~~very~~ highly mobile.

Results

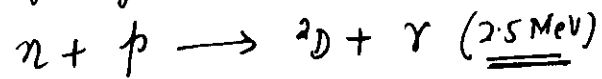
[99.5% D_2O , 0.5 H_2O]
Calorimetric Measurements: $\left. \begin{array}{l} Pd \rightarrow \text{Cathode} \\ Pt \rightarrow \text{anode} \end{array} \right\}$
Sheet Cathode $2 \text{ mm} \times 8 \text{ cm}^2$ (Pd) at low currents }

Results of these in the table:

$\Rightarrow$ Large Excess Heat was observed
 $Q \approx 4$, L. Angeles meeting $Q \approx 10-40$

(3)

γ -Rays : signature of Neutron- Production

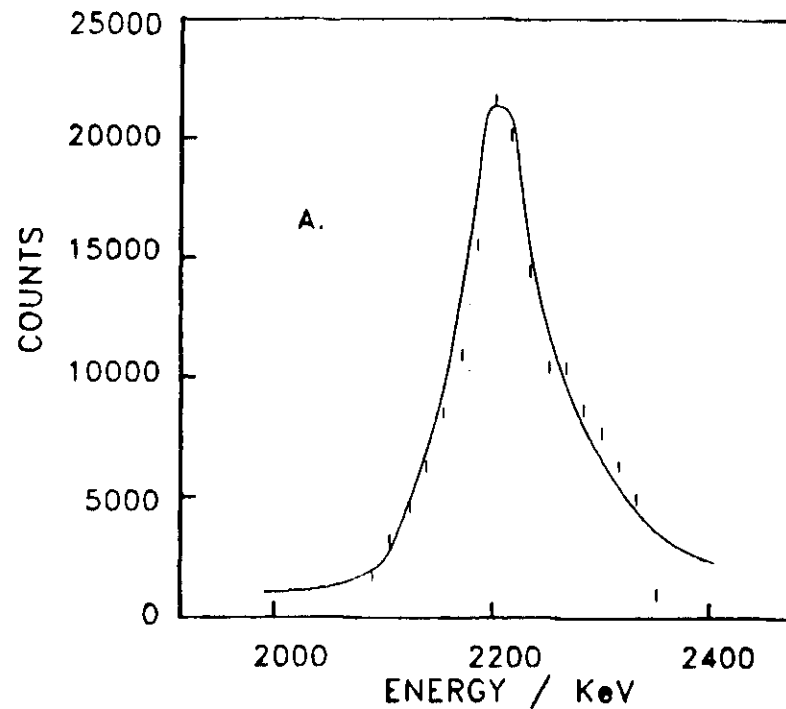


(2.45 MeV)

A mag. transition $\rightarrow$ NaI crystal
[Graph shown on local UTAH TV]

Neutron flux $\sim \sim 2.4 \times 10^4$ (estimated)

$\sim$ 3 times (background)



Tritium Production: $\rightarrow$ } low levels
 $\text{He}^3 \dots \rightarrow$
 $\text{He}^4 \rightarrow \text{yes} \rightarrow (?)$

More on Heating:-

- (i) Heating is a bulk phenomenon
- (ii) Amt of heat generated $\sim 10 \text{ Watts/cm}^3$
 (~ 120 hours) Heat $\sim 4 \text{ MJ/cm}^3$
 $\Rightarrow$ It is inconceivable that this
 could be due to anything but nuclear

TABLE 1. Generation of excess enthalpy in Pd-cathodes as a function of current density and electrode size.

electrode type	dimensions	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess rate of heating / watt cm ⁻³	excess specific rate of heating/watt cm ⁻³	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess rate of heating/watt	excess specific rate of heating/watt cm ⁻³	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess rate of heating/watt	excess specific rate of heating/watt cm ⁻³
Rods	0.1x10cm	8	.0075	.095	64	.079	1.01	512	.654	8.33
	0.2x10cm	8	.036	.115	64	.493	1.57	512	3.02	9.61
	0.4x10cm	8	.153	.122	64	1.751	1.39	512	26.8	21.4
Sheet	0.2x8x8cm	0.8	.153	0	1.2	.027	.0021	1.6	.079	.0061
Cube	1x1x1cm	125	WARNING! IGNITION? see text*		250					

*Measured on electrodes of length 1.25cm and rescaled to 10cm.

TABLE 2. Generation of excess enthalpy in Pd rod cathodes expressed as a percentage of breakeven values.

dimensions	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess heating * /% of breakeven	excess heating ** /% of breakeven	excess heating *** /% of breakeven	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess heating * /% of breakeven	excess heating ** /% of breakeven	excess heating *** /% of breakeven	current density /mA cm ⁻²	excess heating * /% of breakeven	excess heating ** /% of breakeven	excess heating *** /% of breakeven
0.1x10cm	8	23	12	80	64	19	11	79	512	8	5	81
0.2x10cm	8	82	27	286	64	46	29	247	512	14	11	189
0.4x10cm	8	111	93	1224	64	86	45	438	512	99	48	839

* breakeven based on Joule heat supplied to cell and the reaction $4OD \rightarrow 2D_2O + O_2 + 4e$

** breakeven based on total energy supplied to cell anode reaction $4OD \rightarrow 2D_2O + O_2 + 4e$

*** breakeven based on total energy supplied to cell for an electrode reaction $D_2 + 2OD \rightarrow 2D_2O + 4e$

† cell potential of 0.5V.

§ based on $^2D + ^2D$ reactions, i.e. no projection to 3H reactions.

(4)

(iii) $H + D_2T \rightarrow DTO, T_2O, D_2O$ mixtures
 $Q \sim 10^3 - 10^4$

Cathode fused ($1554^\circ C$), $\Rightarrow$ general destruction of the cell resulted:

$\Rightarrow$ Ends with a Discussion:

* We raise more questions than we have provided the answer for True

* Generation of neutron & Tritium itself is a very surprising result True

* Necessary to consider the quantum mechanics of electrons and deuterons in such host lattices True

* Is it possible to achieve a fusion rate of $10^{19} s^{-1}$ for the reactions



at typical energies of $\sim 1 eV$??
 and finally

- 6 The bulk of the energy is due to an hitherto unknown nuclear process or processes (presumably again due to clusters of deuterons) γ

Confinement etc: 10^6 years	Conv. Fusion 1 sec
$T \sim 1 \text{ eV}$	10 keV
$n \sim 10^{23}$	$n \sim 10^{14} - 10^{15}$

and really finally they warned all the experimentalists to be careful because they will be playing with fire. In fact Ignition may result.

Pretty soon lots of other people claimed that they also see; it wasn't always clear what is that they ~~also~~ really see

- | | |
|--|--|
| Electrolytic | 1) Georgia Tech $\rightarrow$ Neutrons (retracted) |
| | 2) Stanford $\rightarrow$ Lot of Heat (retracted) |
| | 3) Texas A&M $\rightarrow$ Heat and later neutrons * |
| | 4) M.I.T $\rightarrow$ see nothing, hear nothing |
| | 5) CALTECH $\rightarrow$ |
| <hr/> 6) FRASCATI $\rightarrow$ Non electrolytic | |

THE NEWS COMES TO US

I.F.S. at Univ. of Texas: Largest (?) Fusion Theory Group in the States.

$\Rightarrow$ Rush to the Library and grab nuclear phys. books; we must have a theory if they have an experiment--

Comparatively Modest but still very interesting claims of Jones, Rafeiski

Theorists Get Active

(7)

'A good theorist can explain any thing'

Moses - Deuteronomy III.

Plausibility theories immediately came forward:

Pons - Fle... are probably right to

After all if the D-D could get within a tenth or less of an A^0 , these enormous densities could give you what you want:

A Simple Review: - Semi-Serious Theories:

Crosssection Calculations in Nuclear Physics are often difficult; but a combination of theory - expt. has been very successful in predicting crosssections: -

Flowers & Mandl: - (1950)

D + D system



To have appropriate spatial Wave Functions:

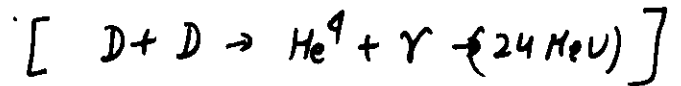
To Construct the spatial wave functions, we have proceed as follows: -

$$D_1 \sim n_1 p_1 \sim e^{-\kappa(\underline{r}_1 - \underline{r}_2)^2}$$

$$D_2 \sim n_2 p_2 \sim e^{-\kappa(\underline{r}_3 - \underline{r}_4)^2}$$

$(\kappa)^{-1/2}$ denotes the size of the deuteron

Similarly we can construct He^4 wave function



~~Centre of masses~~

(1) should be near (2)

(2) " " " (3)

(3) " " " (4)

$$\Rightarrow e^{-\lambda[(\underline{r}_1 - \underline{r}_2)^2 + (\underline{r}_3 - \underline{r}_4)^2 + (\underline{r}_2 - \underline{r}_3)^2]}$$

$(\lambda')^{1/2} \rightarrow$ size of He^4 ..

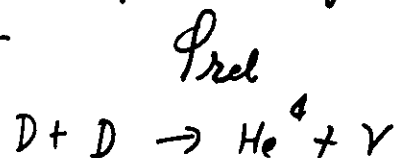
Deuteron is loosely bound $a_D \sim 10^{-12} \text{ cm}$

Helium is tightly bound $a_{He} \sim 10^{-13} \text{ cm}$

$\kappa, \lambda \dots$ are the form factors, and are often adjusted using exptal data,

A crucial part of the calculation is the relative wave function of the ^{two} charged Deuterons: -

Deuterons: -



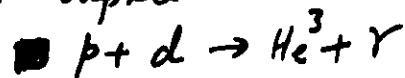
$$M = \int d\tau e^{-\kappa(\tau_1 - \tau_2)^2 - \kappa(\tau_2 - \tau_3)^2} \text{Top } e^{-\lambda(\dots)} \phi_{rel}$$

Transition operator

Quadrupole moment of D-D system

⇒ Strong interaction operator →
(D+D → He³ + n)

⇒ Electrical dipole



ϕ_{rel} is what one must understand (ϕ).

~~In Context~~

⑧)

D-D Wave Function (Coulomb)

$$D \sim 2 \text{ GeV}$$

$$E \ll 2 \text{ GeV}$$

Non relativistic approach is O.K

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2} \frac{d}{dr} r^2 \frac{d\phi}{dr} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2} l(l+1)\phi + V(r)\phi = E\phi$$

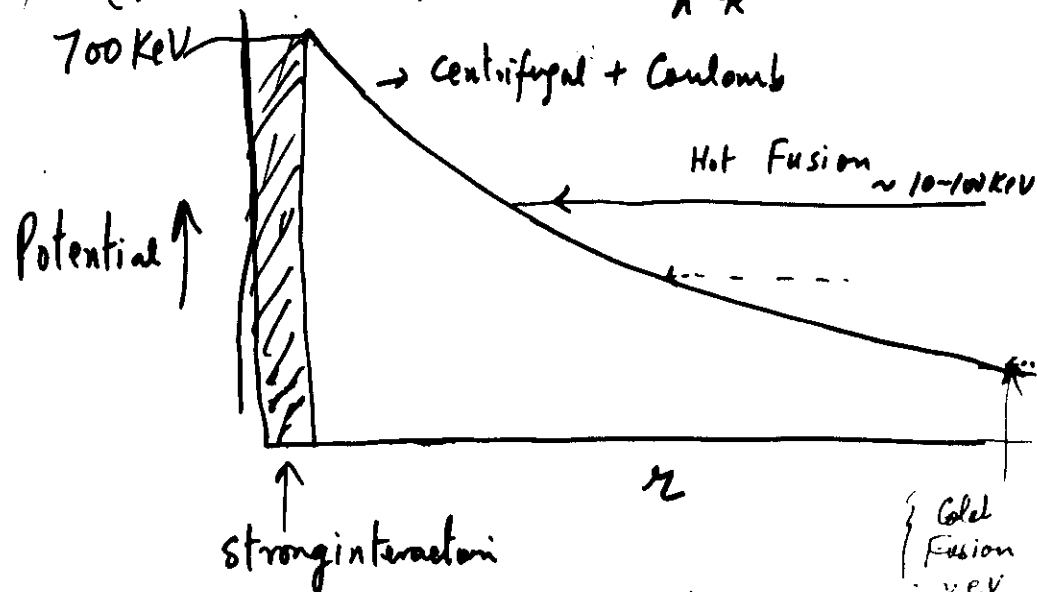
$$V(r) = \frac{e^2}{r}$$

Unscreened Coulomb interaction

⇒

$$\phi = \frac{C}{r} M_{\delta, \mu}(2ikr)$$

$$k = \left(\frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2}\right)^{1/2} \quad \delta = i\eta, \quad \eta = \frac{He^2}{\hbar^2 k}, \quad \mu = l + \frac{1}{2}$$



Current Nuclear Physics $E \sim \text{MeV}$, you

(12)

Using the appropriate formulas, and taking
the free particle wave ~~wave~~ functions

$$\sim \left(\frac{\pi}{2kr}\right)^{1/2} T_{l+1/2}(kr) \dots$$

one calculates σ , and then
determines the unknown $\kappa_D \lambda$ ---

by comparing with experiments: —

Determining the form factors:

Scattering experiments at several MeV's

But low energies, free particle wave
functions are no good.

DEUTERON CAPTURE BY DEUTERONS

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Received 14 April 1969

The $D(d, \gamma)^4\text{He}$ differential cross section at $\theta = 130^\circ$ has been measured over the deuteron energy range from 4 to 10 MeV with a 12.7 cm by 15.2 cm NaI crystal enclosed in a Čerenkov anticoincidence shield. The differential cross section increases from $d\sigma/d\omega = (6.8 \pm 3.1) \times 10^{-33} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sr}$ to $(16.5 \pm 6.8) \times 10^{-33} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sr}$ at 4 and 10 MeV, respectively.

High-energy γ rays are a convenient tool to test the wave functions of the α particle. The $^4\text{He}(\gamma, p)^3\text{H}$ reaction and its inverse have been measured extensively but there are little experimental data for the $^4\text{He}(\gamma, d)^3\text{H}$ reaction. The experimental results for the latter reaction and its inverse have been summarized by Meyerhof and Tombelle [1].

In this experiment we measured the $D(d, \gamma)^4\text{He}$ reaction from 4 to 10 MeV deuteron energy.

The deuteron beam from the Université de Montréal Tandem accelerator was used with currents from 0.6 to 1.8 μA . The beam after magnetic analysis and collimation by tantalum diaphragms was allowed through a double-window gas target and came to rest under vacuum on a Ta disk at approximately 30 cm from the target.

The capture γ rays were detected with a 12.7 cm diameter by 15.2 cm long NaI crystal, the axis forming a 130° angle with the direction of the deuteron beam. The NaI crystal was collimated, enclosed in a Čerenkov anticoincidence shield to reduce the cosmic ray background [2] and surrounded by a 10 cm thick lead and 50 cm thick paraffin layer to minimize background radiation [3,4].

The 130° differential capture cross section $d\sigma/d\omega$ is plotted in fig. 1 after correction for absorption in the gas chamber wall and in the paraffin between the target and the detector. The deuteron beam energy refers to the energy at the center of the gas target and the error on the cross section corresponds to the statistical error on the γ -ray yield only. About 30% over the entire deuteron energy range. Other sources of error, estimated to be 5.5%, do not include the in-

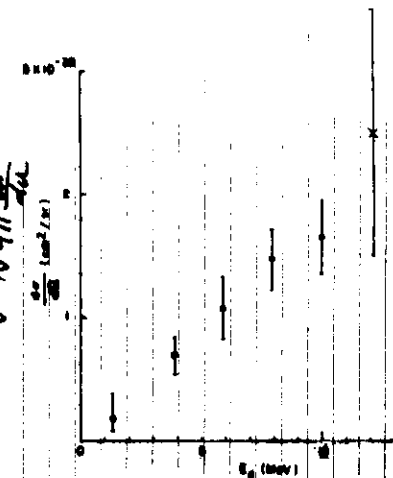


Fig. 1. The 130° differential cross section of the $D(d, \gamma)^4\text{He}$ reaction. Data represent the results of this experiment. Points at $E_d = 1.5$ MeV and $E_d = 12.1$ MeV are from [5] and Meyerhof et al. [6].

consistency in the calibration of the photon monitor (10%) and in the γ -ray absorption in the paraffin between gas target and detector (5%).

The cross section at $E_d = 12.1$ MeV was obtained from Meyerhof's $^4\text{He}(\gamma, d)$ cross section [5] at $E_\gamma = 20$ MeV by means of the principle of detailed balance and by assuming an angular dependence of the differential cross section in the

* Research supported by a Grant from the National Research Council of Canada.

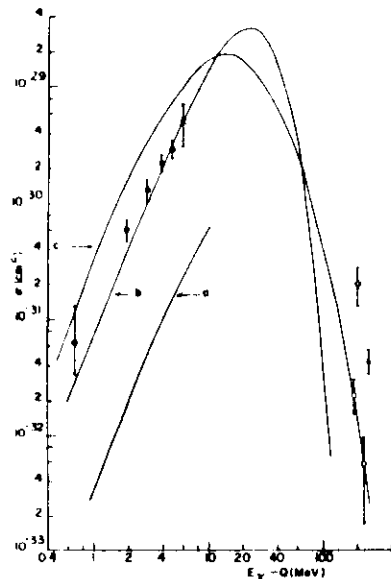


Fig. 2. Total cross sections for ${}^4\text{He}(\gamma, d)\text{D}$. Comparison of experimental results and theoretical curves. (O) - Zurmuehle et al. (X) - present experiment (X) - Meyerhof et al. (O) - Asbury and Loeffler. (J) - Akimov et al. A - Poirier and Pripstein. Curve a - Delves. Curve b - Flowers and Mandl. Curve c - Asbury and Loeffler.

form of $\sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \theta$, as to be expected for a ${}^1S_0 \rightarrow {}^1D_2$ transition [1].

The experimental results of ref. 1 as well as those of this experiment were transformed, where necessary, to determine the total ${}^4\text{He}(\gamma, d)\text{D}$ cross section shown in fig. 2. On the same figure we have plotted the theoretical curves of Delves [7], Flowers and Mandl [8], and Asbury and Loeffler [9], curves a, b and c, respectively. Delves cross section, calculated by taking the ground state of the α particle as a superposition of three cluster

states (${}^3\text{He}, n$), (T, p) and (D, D), is almost two orders of magnitude too small. The failure of this theory, as already remarked by Zurmuehle [5], is possibly a consequence of the inapplicability of the cluster model to the ground state of the α particle. The curves of Flowers and Mandl and of Asbury and Loeffler were calculated from Gaussian and exponential wave functions, respectively, for the ground state of the α particle.

The cross section of Flowers and Mandl is in better agreement with the experimental points at low energies*, but it decreases too rapidly at high energies. In addition the wave function employed by these authors does not give the correct value for the mean square radius of the α particle [1] and yields the maximum cross section for the ${}^4\text{He}(\gamma, p){}^3\text{H}$ reaction at too high a proton energy [12].

* It should be remarked, however, that Zurmuehle's $\text{D}(\gamma, p){}^3\text{H}$ cross section at $E_p = 1.35$ MeV was obtained from a thick target and represents an average value between 0 and 1.35 MeV. Thus the (γ, d) cross section at $E_\gamma - Q = 0.68$ MeV could be larger than indicated in fig. 2.

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In format comes teron: section asym 3He is of the H(e, 3) exists tering center has be the ent polaris for ell elastic Man the obs tion in energy. intere larity li isation tion of 1 tion [6- duced a however: mation: 3He(d, p) trance c the asst. This ments o

* Work
Coma
** Now a
Calif

$$\Rightarrow \delta(k-k') = \int C_k^* \phi_k^*(r) C_{k'} \phi_{k'}(r) d^3r$$

$\Rightarrow$ Normalization to unit flux.

For energies $E \ll 700$ KeV

$$C_k \sim e^{-2\pi\eta}$$

$$\sigma \sim |C_k|^2 \rightarrow e^{-2\pi\eta}$$

$$\eta = \frac{\mu e^2}{k^2 k} = \frac{e^2}{k c} \frac{\mu c}{\sqrt{2ME}} = \frac{e^2}{k c} \left(\frac{\mu c^2}{2E} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$= \frac{10^4}{137} \left(\frac{10}{E_{\text{eV}}} \right)^{1/2} \quad \mu c^2 \sim 2 \text{ GeV}$$

Coulomb or the Gamow factor

$$E \sim 8 \text{ MeV} \quad E_{\text{eV}} \sim 10^7 \quad e^{-2\pi \frac{10^4}{137} \sqrt{10}} \sim e^{-15}$$

No good, too small even to be vaguely interesting: Objections - my lord

- 1) In Pd. Deuterons are not free.
- 2) We know that the potential is (must be) screened.
- 3) What about the lattice, what about the lattice.

W. K. B

 $l=0$

spherical symmetry (12)

$$\varphi'' + \left(k^2 - \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} \frac{e^2}{r}\right) \varphi = 0 \quad \varphi_{\text{free}} \sim \frac{\varphi}{r}$$

 $y = kr$

$$\frac{d^2 \varphi}{dy^2} + \left[1 - \frac{2\eta}{y}\right] \varphi = 0$$

$\Rightarrow I \sim$ Tunneling Probability

$$\left[e^{-2 \int_0^{y_0} \left(1 + \frac{2\eta}{y}\right)^{1/2} dy} \right] \equiv e^{-\lambda}$$

where y_0 is the turning point, i.e.

this one $y_0 = 2\eta$

$$\lambda = 2 \int_0^{2\eta} \left(1 + \frac{2\eta}{y}\right)^{1/2} dy = 4\eta \int_0^1 \left(1 + \frac{1}{z}\right)^{1/2} dz$$

$$= 2\eta \pi$$

Screened Coulomb Potential:

$$\varphi'' + [1 - V(y)] \varphi = 0$$

$$V(r) = \frac{e^2}{r} e^{-r/\lambda_L}$$

$\lambda_L \sim$ Debye length

$$\Rightarrow \varphi'' + \left[1 - \frac{2\eta}{y} e^{-y/\lambda_L}\right] \varphi = 0$$

(13)

$$\lambda = 2 \int_0^{y_0} \left(\frac{2\eta}{y} e^{-y/\lambda_L} - 1 \right)^{1/2} dy$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\eta}{y_0} e^{-y_0/\lambda_L} = 1 \quad \mu = y_0/\lambda_L$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu e^{\mu} = \frac{e^2/\lambda_L}{(\hbar^2 k^2/2\mu)}$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2\mu} \sim E_k \quad \sim \frac{1}{40} \text{ eV at Room temp}$$

$$e^2/\lambda_L \sim 10 \text{ eV} \quad \lambda_L \sim 1 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\boxed{\mu \gg 1}$$

$$\lambda > 2 \int_0^{y_0} \frac{(2\eta)^{1/2}}{y^{1/2}} e^{-y/2\lambda_L} dy$$

$$= 2(2\eta)^{1/2} \int_0^{y_0} e^{-z^2} (2\lambda_L)^{1/2} dz$$

$$\approx 2(2\eta)^{1/2} (2\lambda_L)^{1/2} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

$$= \left[2 \frac{\mu e^2}{\hbar^2 k^2} 2\lambda_L \pi \right]^{1/2} = 2\pi \left(\frac{\mu e^2 \lambda_L}{\hbar^2 k^2 \pi} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$k \longrightarrow \pi/\lambda_L \longrightarrow \left(\right)^{1/2}$$

Grainov factor does go down. But how much.

let $\lambda_L = 1 \text{ \AA}^0$ (14)

$$\lambda = 2\pi \left[\frac{2 \times 2000 \times 10^{-27} \times 10^{-9}}{\pi} \right]^{1/2} \cdot \frac{4.8 \times 10^{-10}}{10^{-27}}$$

$$= 2\pi \left(\frac{4}{\pi} \right)^{1/2} \times 48$$

$$\lambda = 2\pi \cdot 250$$

Clearly lot better
but unfortunately
not enough, in fact,
nowhere near enough.

Large No. of calculations to calculate λ_L ,
Classical, ~~see~~ as well as quantum. ~~Plasma~~
Degenerate Fermi gas (interacting) calculations
etc $\rightarrow$

$$\lambda_L \sim \text{\AA}^0 \text{ or } 0.5 \text{\AA}^0 \dots$$

$\Rightarrow$ One falls ^{10 orders of magnitude} ~~even~~ short of explaining even
Weak expts like $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Jones \& Rafeiski} \\ \text{Frascati} \end{array} \right\}$

Thus using screened potential for
essentially free D-e ~~electron~~ gas
(permanently-confined) does not seem
to be helpful

Alternative Approach

(10)

Hydrogen Deuterium can exist in the
molecular or molecule-like states

In fact the exchange interactions due
to a very large no. of Pd. electrons

(10 d electrons in the outer shell...)
can cause an effective attractive
potential between Deuterons in some range.

$\Rightarrow$ The Coulomb repulsion is overrated,
and we must look at it again:

$$\sigma(E) \sim \frac{S(E)}{E} \sim \frac{e^{-2\pi\eta}}{E} \sim e^{-2\int_0^r \chi(r) dr}$$

$$V(r) = \frac{A}{r} \left[e^{-2.08(r-1.4)} - \frac{1}{2e} e^{-1.04(r-1.4)} \right]$$

1.1 < r < 3 [measured in Bohr radii]

K.W

Morse - Potential

A, α , r_0 , $\beta \rightarrow$ Born-Oppenheimer ---
upon the effective mass of the
electron (20)

$$m_0^* \sim 5 m_e$$

↓
Jones

$$m^* = 10 m_e$$

↓
P. F

(16)

⇒ This is just not in the core, it seems.

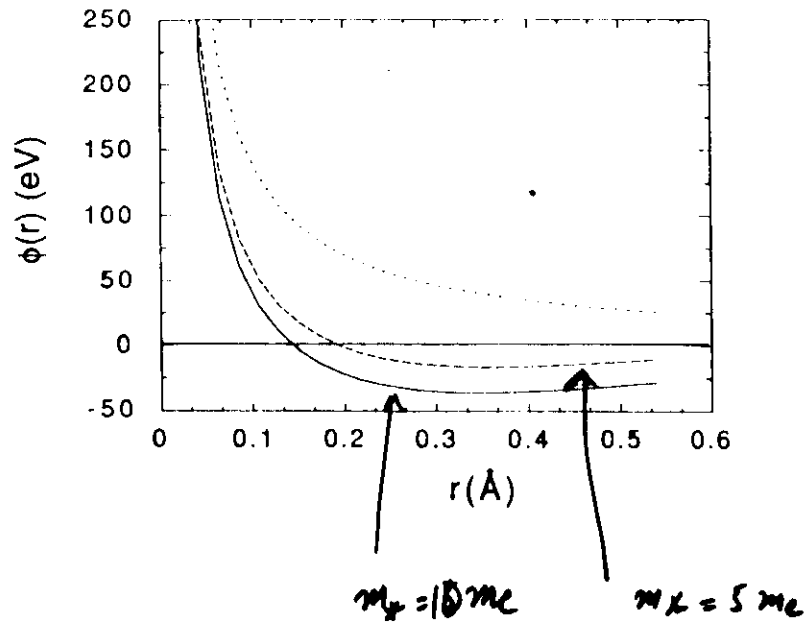


Fig. 1

Dallas Conference

What are you Dr. Pons? Are you Prometheus,
or Pandora or the Pitt-down man?

⇒ The protagonists were generally lionized;
Pons fielded all questions with confidence,
authority, humour

Baltimore APS meeting:

The days of innocence are over, Open criticism
begins:

Prime Adversary :- A chemist Nathan Lewis of Cal.

? Not only neutrons, γ -rays, He

but also heat measurements

In a set of quite thorough expts, he sees
no indication of the claims and offers
that Calorimetry by Pons-F. was very
poor. Definition of Q is suspect.

MIT group :- Calibrated NaI crystal
was on and found the characteristic
spectrum of $n+p \rightarrow D+\gamma$.

(11)
(i) The line observed by H-P-F was 3 times
narrower than it should be

(ii) $n+p \rightarrow D+\gamma$ peaks at 2.24 MeV while what
H-P-F observed peaks at 2.45 MeV

The peak the H-P-F observed was probably
from Radioactive Radon $\rightarrow$ Bismuth.

⇒ One could not believe the estimated
neutron count.

Helium⁴

P-F reported $He^4 \rightarrow$ 5-10 times He^4
required to explain heat: He^4 These values
are consistent with the background in Chem.
Labs.

⇒ Baltimore meeting ~ Fusion Session
drove all passers-by, hang-on away.

Most experimental ^{claims} after the meeting were
retracted:

P-F

Texas A&M

↓

By Consensus

⚡ Much better experiment, much more

carefully done in a controlled manner. (19)

They find excess heat $\sim 20\%$

A whole array of cells:

They find some neutrons, and some heat
|| but there is no correlation whatsoever between
|| the cells that give heat and those that
|| give neutrons

Their heat production is explained by Lewis
etc. as coming from Catalytic Recombination

Proper Energy Balance: -

$$V_{ap} \quad V_i$$

$$V_{ap} - V_i = V_{eff}$$

$$P = I V_{eff} \rightarrow$$

→ Port of this V_i is given back by
recombination.

A Thorough German-Study has shown
in detail that all the relevant ~~energy~~
energy balance problems have a
Chemical Solution (No Fusion)

(20)
In Expts like Jones, it is becoming
clear that the rods show some fissures
some flaking, and also the neutrons probably
come out in bursts:

Tone in Frascati, Trieste . . .

No. of neutrons is small but still
uncomfortably large

⇒ Probably localized fusion (hot)
is taking place because large E fields
can be generated by subjecting metals
to immense stresses.

I Believe that foundations of
nuclear physics are not yet being
fundamentally questioned;
neither is the fact that fusion
is yet a few miles away.

Palladium Rod was completely wet
Water bath $\leftrightarrow$ Background (ambient)
Deuterium loaded sheet $\rightarrow$ Scalded the
light water sheet $\rightarrow$ table plate

Not always reproducible

