



HAL
open science

Super-elastic electron scattering from the laser-excited 41P1 state of calcium at low incident energy

Alex Knight-Percival, Sarah Jhumka, Martyn Hussey, Andrew James Murray

► **To cite this version:**

Alex Knight-Percival, Sarah Jhumka, Martyn Hussey, Andrew James Murray. Super-elastic electron scattering from the laser-excited 41P1 state of calcium at low incident energy. *Journal of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics*, 2011, 44 (10), pp.105203. 10.1088/0953-4075/44/10/105203 . hal-00617387

HAL Id: hal-00617387

<https://hal.science/hal-00617387>

Submitted on 28 Aug 2011

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Super-elastic electron scattering from the laser-excited 4^1P_1 state of Calcium at low incident energy.

Alex Knight-Percival, Sarah Jhumka, Martyn Hussey and Andrew James Murray*

Photon Science Institute,
School of Physics & Astronomy
The University of Manchester,
Manchester M13 PL,
United Kingdom

*Email : Andrew.Murray@manchester.ac.uk

PACS No. 34.80

Abstract.

Atomic Collision Parameters have been measured for electron impact excitation of calcium using the superelastic scattering method, at incident electron energies equivalent to $\sim 10\text{eV}$ and $\sim 12\text{eV}$. The parameters P_{in} , L_{\perp} and γ were derived for the 4^1P_1 state, and the related Stokes parameters determined. The results are compared to previously published calculations from four different theories: a relativistic distorted wave calculation, an R-matrix calculation, an R-matrix theory using B-splines, and a Convergent Close Coupling theory.

Keywords: *Super-elastic scattering, calcium, Atomic Collision Parameters, Stokes parameters.*

1.0 Introduction.

Derivation of the Atomic Collision Parameters (ACP's) from electron excitation of atoms [1,2] provides the most sensitive test of different scattering theories leading to excitation of atomic targets. In these experiments, an electron of incident energy E_{inc}^c collides with an atomic target so as to excite the atom to a state with internal energy E_p (see figure 1a). The outgoing electron of energy $E_{out}^c = E_{inc}^c - E_p$ scatters from the target through an angle θ_e . If the target is left in a P-state (as is usual in most experiments to date) the atomic charge cloud may be aligned at an angle γ with respect to the incident electron trajectory, or the collision may impart angular momentum to the target. In the former case the alignment is described by a parameter P_{in} , which determines the relative length of the charge cloud to the width. γ then describes the direction of the major axis of the charge cloud, as shown in figure 1a. In the latter case, the angular momentum vector is orthogonal to the scattering plane, and has an expectation value given by the parameter L_{\perp} . A further parameter ρ_{00}^A is also defined that relates to the possibility of spin-flip of the electron during the interaction.

The atomic collision parameters $(P_{in}, \gamma, L_{\perp}, \rho_{00}^A)$ can be determined in several ways. Coincidence techniques can be used to measure the polarization of photons emitted orthogonal to the scattering plane from the excited atom as it relaxes to a lower state, the photons being time-correlated to electrons that scatter from the excited atom. These measurements determine the polarization using Stokes parameters (P_1, P_2, P_3) , which form a complete set that fully describe the polarization of light. P_1 and P_2 reveal the linear components of the radiation, and can be directly related to P_{in} and γ through the relationships:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P_1 &= P_{in} \cos 2\gamma \\ P_2 &= P_{in} \sin 2\gamma \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where both P_1 and P_2 are here determined with respect to the direction of the incident electron. P_3 is related to the parameter L_{\perp} through the relationship:

$$P_3 = -L_{\perp} \quad (2)$$

The parameter ρ_{00}^A is determined by measuring the polarization P_4 of photons emitted in the scattering plane. In this case the relationship is more complex and is given by:

$$P_4 = \frac{1 - 3\rho_{00}^A + P_{lin}(1 - \rho_{00}^A)\cos 2\gamma}{1 + \rho_{00}^A + P_{lin}(1 - \rho_{00}^A)\cos 2\gamma} \quad (3)$$

The coincidence technique is a well established method that allows the ACP's to be fully determined. However, a problem with this technique is low yield, due to the high probability that the photon correlated with the detected electron is emitted in a direction away from the photon detector. In this case no coincidence is observed. The low coincidence yield from these experiments has hence limited the technique to small scattering angles, where the count rates are relatively high.

A contrasting technique that also determines the ACP's is the super-elastic scattering method, pioneered by Hertel and co-workers [3,4]. This method uses time-reversal arguments to provide an equivalent set of measurements. In this case, the experiment starts with a photon from a laser beam of equal energy to that emitted by the atom in the coincidence measurement. This photon is set to have well defined polarization, and is directed in the opposite direction to that emitted in coincidence studies. The electron source (the gun) is moved to the position of the electron analyser, and is adjusted to produce electrons of energy $E_{inc}^s = E_{out}^c$. The electron analyser moves to the position of the source, and is set to detect electrons of energy $E_{out}^s = E_{inc}^c$. Since the detected electrons now have a larger energy than E_{inc}^s , they can only arise from de-excitation of the laser-excited atom, and so are *super-elastically* scattered. Figure 1b shows the geometry adopted in these experiments.

The key advantage of the super-elastic method is that the laser beam is always directed orthogonal to the scattering plane, eliminating the restrictions suffered by the coincidence technique described above. Further, since time correlation techniques are no longer required, it is only necessary to measure the *rate* of super-elastically scattered electrons at a given scattering angle θ_e as a function of the polarization of the laser beam. The count rates hence are far higher than for coincidence studies, yielding better overall statistical accuracy. Since the rates are higher, it is also possible to determine the ACP's over a much larger range of scattering angles [5].

The super-elastic technique also has limitations, principally due to the restricted number of targets that can be excited by existing laser radiation. These targets are mainly limited to alkali and alkali-earth atoms [see for example, 5-15], although new methods are under development that will allow a much larger number of atoms to be excited. A further complexity arises due to the high intensity of the laser radiation, which leads to Rabi-cycling and optical pumping of the atoms under study. Optical pumping becomes significantly more complex for targets with hyperfine structure (such as alkali atoms), and so an extensive experimental and theoretical study has been undertaken to determine these effects [16-18]. It has been shown that the laser interaction leads to an optical pumping parameter that can be decoupled from the electron collision, allowing the ACP's to be determined from the super-elastic measurements. For atoms with hyperfine structure, the uncertainty in the optical pumping parameter leads to an additional uncertainty in the derived ACP's. For atoms with no hyperfine structure (such as calcium), the ACP's can be directly related to the super-elastic measurements.

A number of different collision theories have been applied to the study of the ACP's. At relatively high incident energies, models such as the distorted wave Born approximation (DWBA) and their relativistic derivatives (RDW) have proven accurate in describing the interactions for a range of targets [19]. Other models with proven success are the convergent close coupling (CCC) methods [20] and R-matrix techniques [21,22]. For the calcium target under study here, the RDW model is known to be accurate at incident energies above 25eV [19], however agreement between theory and experiment was seen to significantly deteriorate below this energy. This is not surprising as the RDW model is expected to become less accurate as the energy is lowered. By contrast, CCC and R-matrix calculations show excellent agreement with experiment for all energies down to 20eV [20-22], and further predict results at energies as low as 10eV. At 10eV, differences are seen in the Stokes parameters predicted by the different models, and so the motivation of the experiments detailed here was to provide data to test these predictions.

Experimental results are hence presented for super-elastic scattering from calcium at incident energies $E_{inc}^c \sim 10eV$ and $\sim 12eV$. The parameters P_{in}, γ and L_{\perp} were directly determined using laser radiation from a frequency doubled Ti:Sapphire laser operating at $\sim 423nm$. ρ_{00}^A was not measured. From these results the Stokes parameters are inferred using equations 1

and 2, and the results compared to predictions from CCC [20], R-matrix [21], RDW [19] and B-Spline R-matrix [22] calculations at 10eV.

This paper is hence divided into four sections. Following this introduction the apparatus is described, and the techniques used to obtain the experimental data and derived ACP's are detailed. The experimental results are then presented, and are compared to predictions from the different models at 10eV. Conclusions and a summary of future work are then given.

2.0 Experimental techniques.

Figure 2 depicts the apparatus used in these experiments. An electron gun produces a beam of well defined momentum that passes through the interaction region created by an atomic beam and laser beam. The incident electron energy was set to $\sim 7.1\text{eV}$ and $\sim 9.1\text{eV}$ for an equivalent coincidence experiment energy of $\sim 10\text{eV}$ and $\sim 12\text{eV}$. The energy resolution of the apparatus was 1.2eV . The energy of the electron beam was calibrated at low beam currents ($\sim 100\text{nA}$) by detecting the 19.3eV elastic resonance in helium [23]. The super-elastic data were taken at significantly higher beam currents ($\sim 6\mu\text{A}$), which resulted in an additional uncertainty in the energy of the experiment due to surface charging of calcium deposition on elements inside the vacuum chamber (this has been observed for calcium previously [6]). The effect of these deposits are difficult to estimate, but were expected to lead to an overall uncertainty in the electron energy of $\sim 2\text{eV}$.

The electron detector is of a standard hemispherical design and uses a 3-element zoom lens to image electrons from the interaction region onto the entrance of the energy analyser. The residual energy of the analyser was set 2.93eV above that of the gun to detect electrons super-elastically scattered from the interaction region. The electron detector was moved around the interaction region so as to measure the super-elastic signal at different scattering angles θ_e . This is a variation on the 'standard' super-elastic experiment which moves the electron gun rather than the detector. This alternative arrangement produces the same results as for the conventional measurements.

The calcium atomic beam was produced from a well collimated oven resulting in an atomic beam of narrow Doppler profile ($\sim 70\text{MHz}$ FWHM) [24]. Atoms that passed through the interaction region were collected by a liquid nitrogen cold trap, so as to minimise deposition

onto other surfaces inside the spectrometer [25]. The vacuum pressure inside the chamber was $\sim 2 \times 10^{-7}$ torr during operation.

The laser beam used in these studies was produced from a new system in the laboratory. This was a Spectra Physics Matisse Ti:Sapphire ring laser pumped by a 15W Millennia laser, and a Wavetrain external cavity frequency doubler which produced radiation at ~ 423 nm. The output power from the Wavetrain was set to 150mW during operation, which is sufficient to excite more than 45% of the atoms in the interaction region to the 4^1P_1 state [23]. Fluorescence from this interaction was monitored, and the polarization of this radiation was found to be $>99.5\%$, confirming that radiation trapping was not significant in these studies.

The Spectra Physics laser was far more stable in frequency compared to the Coherent MBR-110 laser system used in previous work [5-7]. It was however still necessary to stabilise the laser for long periods of time, and this was accomplished by observing fluorescence from the interaction region inside the spectrometer so as to ensure the laser remained on resonance. At the energies used here the super-elastic yield could be very low (often <1 Hz at higher scattering angles), and so it was necessary to continuously operate the experiment for several weeks to produce reliable data. The improved stability of the new Spectra Physics laser system ensured that this was possible.

A difficulty with low super-elastic yield was that the data accumulation time had to be long, and the background resulting from the elastic peak then subtracted. This was accomplished by invoking a computer controlled laser beam shutter into the experiment, so that the true signal could be derived. Accumulation times of several minutes were required for each data point at the higher scattering angles, resulting in several days operation to complete a set of data at a given angle. The results presented in this paper hence took around eight months to complete.

As noted previously [5-7] the technique adopted in Manchester does not measure the Stokes parameters, but rather determines the ACP's directly from measurement. This results in higher precision, in particular for the alignment angle $\gamma(\theta_e)$. To calculate $P_{lin}(\theta_e)$ and $\gamma(\theta_e)$ the polarization vector \hat{e} of the incident laser beam was set linear by a Glan-laser polarizer, and was initially positioned parallel to the incident electron beam direction using a zero-order $\lambda/2$ plate. The polarization vector was then rotated by an angle ε through a total of 720° in steps of 10° by rotating the $\lambda/2$ plate through 360° . A function of the form:

$$S_{\theta_e}(\varepsilon) = A_{\theta_e} + B_{\theta_e} \cos^2(\varepsilon + \phi_{\theta_e}) \quad (3)$$

was fitted to the data to establish A_{θ_e} , B_{θ_e} and ϕ_{θ_e} . $P_{lin}(\theta_e)$ is then calculated using the expression:

$$P_{lin}(\theta_e) = \frac{B_{\theta_e}}{2A_{\theta_e} + B_{\theta_e}} \quad (4)$$

$\gamma(\theta_e)$ is derived directly from the phase angle ϕ_{θ_e} and scattering angle θ_e using the expression:

$$\gamma(\theta_e) = \theta_e - \phi_{\theta_e} + n\pi \quad (5)$$

where n takes on integer values set by the geometry of the experiment (ie on which side of the detection plane the analyser is located). $\gamma(\theta_e)$ is further constrained to lie between $\pm \frac{\pi}{2}$ for direct comparison with theory.

To determine $L_{\perp}(\theta_e)$, circularly polarized incident radiation was required. A zero-order $\lambda/4$ plate was hence inserted after the $\lambda/2$ plate and the resulting laser radiation retro-reflected through the Glan-laser polarizer using a mirror. The $\lambda/4$ plate was then rotated to minimise the transmitted signal, so as to ensure the correct orientation of the optic axis with respect to that of the $\lambda/2$ plate. The $\lambda/2$ plate was then rotated through multiple angles of 45° to produce left- and right-hand circularly polarized radiation at the interaction region. The correct handedness of the radiation was determined by carrying out super-elastic experiments at 55eV, where the sign of L_{\perp} is well known [7]. $L_{\perp}(\theta_e)$ was then calculated using the expression:

$$L_{\perp}(\theta_e) = \frac{S_{RHC}(\theta_e) - S_{LHC}(\theta_e)}{S_{RHC}(\theta_e) + S_{LHC}(\theta_e)} \quad (6)$$

A final parameter $P_{tot}(\theta_e) = \sqrt{P_{lin}^2(\theta_e) + L_{\perp}^2(\theta_e)}$ can be deduced that defines the degree of polarization, which is a measure of the coherence of the scattering process. For a fully coherent interaction $P_{tot} = 1$.

3.1 Experimental results and comparison to theory.

3.1.1 12eV equivalent energy.

Figure 3 shows the experimental results for the higher incident energy with $E_{inc}^c \sim 12eV$, where the Stokes parameters (P_1, P_2) have been calculated from P_{lin} and γ using equation 1. Since $P_3 = -L_{\perp}$, only L_{\perp} is shown. P_{tot} is also depicted, calculated from P_{lin} and L_{\perp} .

The results for P_{lin} (figure 3a) indicate that minima exist at angles $\theta_e \sim 65^\circ, 100^\circ$ and 125° , the minimum at the lower scattering angle being deepest at around 0.27. The largest value of P_{lin} is ~ 0.93 at $\theta_e \sim 115^\circ$, indicating a high degree of alignment at this angle. The alignment angle γ (figure 3b) only slowly changes from $\gamma \sim -75^\circ$ at the lower scattering angles from $\theta_e = 30^\circ$ to $\theta_e = 85^\circ$ with a small dip to $\gamma = \pm 90^\circ$ at $\theta_e = 60^\circ$, indicating that the charge cloud is aligned orthogonal to the electron beam direction at this scattering angle. The charge cloud reverses direction from this point, γ increasing to $\gamma \sim -70^\circ$ at $\theta_e = 70^\circ$, at which point it reverses direction again and once more decreases. The charge cloud is then observed to continuously rotate around the detection plane as the scattering angle increases from $\theta_e = 70^\circ$ (note that results at $\gamma = \pm\pi/2$ are equivalent). The charge cloud angle becomes relatively static at $\gamma \sim -55^\circ$ for scattering angles $130^\circ \leq \theta_e \leq 145^\circ$.

The parameter L_{\perp} (figure 3e) is of a relatively simpler form, and shows only a single large dip at $\theta_e \sim 105^\circ$, where $L_{\perp} \sim -1$. A similar magnitude occurs at $\theta_e \sim 60^\circ - 70^\circ$, where $L_{\perp} \sim +1$. In both cases, the charge cloud is fully oriented, with the bound electrons orbiting in opposite directions. The parameter P_{tot} (figure 3f) lies mostly around unity, indicating that the interaction is fully coherent. There is a small decrease in this parameter at the highest scattering angles, which indicates a small loss of coherence in the interaction.

The derived Stokes parameters (P_1, P_2) using equation (1) are shown in figures 3c and 3d. P_1 displays two main features at $\theta_e \sim 70^\circ, 110^\circ$ where local maxima are observed. At the higher scattering angle $P_1 \sim 1$. By contrast, P_2 shows two broad maxima at $\theta_e \sim 60^\circ, 100^\circ$. Since the Stokes parameters do not directly relate to the charge cloud structure, they are less descriptive than P_{lin} and γ . They are presented here as theoretical colleagues often only provide the

calculated Stokes parameters. This is an historical artefact that has arisen from earlier coincidence studies, which measure the Stokes parameters rather than the ACP's. Since the super-elastic technique provides data of much higher precision than coincidence studies and can *directly* determine P_{in} , γ and L_{\perp} , it would be useful if future theoretical results could also directly provide the ACP's from their calculations.

3.1.2 Comparison between data at 12eV & 10eV.

Figure 4 shows a comparison of the results at $\sim 12\text{eV}$ against those at $\sim 10\text{eV}$ for the parameters P_{in} , γ and L_{\perp} . The results at 10eV show a simpler structure than for 12eV, although there are similarities between the data as might be expected. P_{in} at 10eV shows a shallower minimum in the forward direction than at 12eV for a scattering angle $\theta_e \sim 45^\circ$, with $P_{in} \sim 0.55$. The dip at the higher scattering angle of $\theta_e \sim 130^\circ$ is of similar size to that at 12eV. It is less clear if a dip exists at intermediate angles due to the poorer statistics at this energy. The observed minima in P_{in} at 10eV are broader than at 12eV, and have moved apart.

The γ parameter at 10eV also is seen to be relatively constant with $\gamma \sim -60^\circ$ at the lower scattering angles. The charge cloud angle does not however show the rapid change observed at 12eV when $\theta_e \sim 100^\circ$, but rather increases to $\gamma \sim 0^\circ$ at $\theta_e \sim 110^\circ$, after which it too reduces in angle as θ_e increases. There is evidence of a small dip around $\theta_e = 65^\circ$ at 10eV, but there are not enough data points to make a definite conclusion about this feature.

L_{\perp} shows a simpler structure at 10eV (figure 4(f)) compared to 12eV (figure 4(e)), with a broad feature appearing at $\theta_e \sim 85^\circ$. The range of L_{\perp} is reduced from $+0.80$ at $\theta_e \sim 125^\circ$ to -0.53 at $\theta_e \sim 85^\circ$ for this energy. The width of the minimum is larger at 10eV than at 12eV.

Overall the results for the ACP's at the two energies are similar, but reflect the significant changes that can occur as a function of a small change in the incident beam energy. The results contrast significantly to those obtained at higher energies as in [6], which tend to show additional structures with correspondingly narrower features.

3.1.3 Comparison between data at 10eV, 12eV & theory.

Figure 5 and figure 6 presents the data at $\sim 10\text{eV}$ and $\sim 12\text{eV}$ compared to the results from theoretical calculations at 10eV. Comparison is made to both sets of experimental data, due to

the uncertainty in the incident electron energy arising from contact potentials in the spectrometer for the high incident electron beam currents used here, as discussed in section 2. These potentials lead to an estimated uncertainty in the calibrated energy of $\sim 2\text{eV}$. The *relative* energy between the data sets should however be accurate at $\Delta E = 2\text{eV}$, since the operating conditions of the spectrometer were the same at each energy.

Four different calculations are depicted, taken from data already published for the Stokes parameters. The models include a relativistic Distorted wave calculation (RDW) [19], an R-matrix calculation (RM) [21], an R-matrix calculation using B-Splines (BSR) [22] and a convergent close coupling calculation (CCC) [20]. The R-matrix calculations use different numbers of states to converge (24 for the RM method, and 39 for the BSR method). Since the published data only provide Stokes parameters, the associated atomic collision parameters have been re-derived from the theory to allow comparison with experimental data, as detailed above.

An immediate observation from this comparison is that no theory agrees well with the experimental data for $\sim 10\text{eV}$, apart from in overall structure (figure 5). Each theory predicts different positions of the peaks and troughs, although there are similarities in the overall number of features predicted. As an example, the CCC, RM and BSR calculations all show peaks and troughs at similar scattering angles for P_1, P_2 and $L_{\perp} = -P_3$ (figures 5c, 5d and 5e) although their magnitude varies significantly between different models. The RDW calculation shows large differences compared to all other calculations, with the same number of features but with magnitudes and positions of the observed features quite different to other models.

The Stokes parameters $P_1, P_2, P_3 = -L_{\perp}$ derived from experiment also show broadly similar structures to the calculations, but the position and magnitude of the features do not agree with any model at this energy. For $L_{\perp} = -P_3$ the RDW model is in closest agreement with the data, however for P_1 the RDW model predicts a *minimum* at $\theta_e \sim 70^\circ$ compared to a maximum in other calculations. P_1 is better represented by the other three models. No model predicts the data for P_2 , apart from at scattering angles $\theta_e > 105^\circ$ where agreement is reasonable. The CCC, BSR and RM models do not reproduce the position of the minimum for L_{\perp} , and overestimate the magnitude of this parameter at the lower scattering angles.

Since the Stokes parameters (figures (c) - (e)) are not in good agreement with experiment, the ACP's derived from each model are also not in good agreement, as seen for P_{lin} and γ (figures 5a, 5b). For P_{lin} no model agrees well with the data. For the γ parameter the CCC and BSR models predict a local minimum at $\theta_e \sim 50^\circ - 60^\circ$ but both predict this minimum to be at $\gamma \sim \pm 90^\circ$, in contrast to the data which finds $\gamma \sim -60^\circ$ over a wide range of scattering angles. Both models predict the charge cloud to reverse direction at $\theta_e \sim 65^\circ - 70^\circ$ which is not observed. The RM model predicts a minimum at $\theta_e \sim 68^\circ$ with $\gamma \sim +9^\circ$, before reversing direction at $\theta_e \sim 80^\circ$, in complete disagreement with the data. The RDW model is in poorest agreement with the data overall, apart from at the higher scattering angles with $\theta_e > 105^\circ$ where all models predict the results reasonably well.

The data indicate that there is some loss of coherence in the interaction, as given by P_{tot} (figure 5f). In particular there is an observed reduction from $P_{tot} = 1$ at $\theta_e \sim 45^\circ$ that is predicted by the RDW calculation. The calculated loss of coherence observed at the higher angles is not predicted.

Given the poor agreement between theory and experiment for the data at $\sim 10\text{eV}$, and since the absolute energy of the experiment has an uncertainty $\sim 2\text{eV}$, the results for 12eV are also plotted against theory in figure 6. There is now far better agreement between the data and the predictions. The RDW model still does not agree with experiment. The R-Matrix model is in much better agreement, apart from for γ where it deviated strongly from the data at the lower scattering angles. The RM model predicts P_{lin} and L_\perp well, although the minimum in P_{lin} at lower scattering angles is wider and deeper than the data.

The most accurate models are the R-matrix using B-Splines (BSR) and the convergent Close Coupling theories (CCC). The BSR does not obtain the correct position for the dips in P_{lin} or L_\perp , however the magnitudes of these features are well produced. The results for γ are in good agreement with the data, but once again there appears to be an angular shift in the features compared to experiment. The CCC model accurately predicts the positions of all features in the data, and is reasonably accurate in predicting the magnitudes. In particular, the agreement between the CCC model and data for γ is particularly impressive, with all features accurately reproduced. This model appears to give the closest overall prediction of the data.

It appears from the close agreement between the calculations at 10eV and the data taken at 12eV, that there is an offset in the absolute value of the experimental energy of $\sim 2\text{eV}$. This is almost certainly due to charging of calcium deposits on surfaces inside the spectrometer. This is an effect that has been observed previously for calcium [5-7], however it plays a more critical role in these experiments at low energies due to the higher beam currents that are required to produce statistically meaningful data.

It is worth noting that since the overall energy resolution of the experiment is $\sim 1.2\text{eV}$, the most accurate comparison with theory requires the calculations to integrate their results over this energy resolution. This is particularly important when the parameters change significantly with energy, as is observed here. It is unlikely that resonance are significant at these energies, however all calculations need to carefully consider the effects of this energy resolution particularly at these low energies, to provide a robust comparison with the experimental results.

4.0 Conclusion & Future Work.

In this study we have presented new experimental data for electron impact excitation of calcium at low energies, measured using the super-elastic scattering technique. Data have been taken for P_{in} , γ and L_{\perp} at equivalent incident energies of $\sim 10\text{eV}$ and $\sim 12\text{eV}$. The results have been compared to calculations using R-matrix, CCC and relativistic distorted wave models. It has been found that an offset of $\sim 2\text{eV}$ in the data is likely, since the results at $\sim 12\text{eV}$ agree well with close coupling theories for 10eV, whereas there is little agreement with the data at the lower energy. It will be interesting to see if calculations performed at 8eV agree with the data at the lower energy presented here. For a proper comparison to be made, all models will need to carefully consider the energy resolution of the spectrometer, since the derived parameters are seen to vary significantly as a function of this energy.

The super-elastic method is the *only* technique that can provide high precision data over a wide range of scattering angles for comparison to theory. It is therefore important to develop this technique for use with other targets, in particular those which have importance in practical applications such as in plasma research and lighting. The super-elastic technique is however limited to targets that can be excited by existing laser radiation. Recent innovations in high resolution lasers has allowed a much wider range of wavelengths to be produced, and so the opportunity now arises to explore these interactions for many other targets. This will

provide new and precise data to further refine the models describing the scattering process, with a goal to establishing a universal model that will predict electron excitation of all targets.

Acknowledgements

The Engineering and Physical Science Research Council is acknowledged for providing funding to carry out this research, for providing part of a studentship to SJ, and for providing a postdoctoral research position for MH.

References.

- [1] Andersen N, Gallagher J W & Hertel I V (1988) Phys. Rep. **165** 1
- [2] Andersen N and Bartschat K (1996) Adv. At. Mol. Phys. **36**, 1
- [3] Hertel I V and Stoll W (1974) J. Phys. B **7** 570; J. Phys. B **7** 583
- [4] Hertel I V and Stoll W (1977) Adv. At. Mol. Phys. **13** 113
- [5] Hussey M, Murray A J, MacGillivray W R and King G C (2007) Phys Rev Lett **99** 133202
- [6] Murray A J and Cvejanovic D (2003) J Phys B **36** 4875
- [7] Hussey M, Murray A J, MacGillivray W R and King G C (2008) J Phys B **41** 055202
- [8] Hall B V, Shen Y, Murray A J, Standage M C, MacGillivray W R and Bray I (2004) J Phys B **37** 1113
- [9] Farrell P, MacGillivray W R and Standage M C (1988) Phys. Rev. A **37** 4240
- [10] Stockman K A, Karaganov V, Bray I and Teubner P J O (1998) J. Phys. B **31** L867
- [11] Karaganov V, Bray I and Teubner P J O (1999) Phys Rev A **59** 4407
- [12] Slaughter D S, Karaganov V, Brunger M J, Teubner P J O and Bray I (2007) Phys Rev A **75** 062717
- [13] Zetner P W, Johnson P V, Li Y, Csanak G, Clark R E H and Abdallah J (2001) J Phys B **34** 1619
- [14] Johnson P V, Eves B, Zetner P W, Fursa D and Bray I (1999) Phys Rev A **59** 439
- [15] Scholten R E, Karaganov V, Teubner P J O and Farrell P M (1999) Phys Rev A **60** 330
- [16] Farrell P M, MacGillivray W R and Standage M C (1991) Phys Rev A **44** 1828
- [17] Meng X K, MacGillivray W R and Standage M C (1992) Phys Rev A **44** 3162
- [18] Murray A J, MacGillivray W R and Hussey M J (2008) Phys Rev A **77** 013409
- [19] Chauhan R K, Srivastava R and Stauffer A D 2005 J. Phys. B **38** 2385
- [20] Fursa D V and Bray I (2008) J Phys B **41** 145206
- [21] Kawazoe S, Kai T, Chauhan R K, Srivastava R and Nakazaki S (2006) J Phys B **39** 493
- [22] Zatsarinny O, Bartschat K, Bandurina L and Gedeon S (2007) J Phys B **40** 4023
- [23] Brunt J N H, King G C, and Read F H (1977) J. Phys. B **10** 1289
- [24] Murray A J, Hussey M J and Needham M (2006) Meas Sci Tech **17** 3094
- [25] Murray A J and Atkinson S (2004) Meas Sci Tech **15** N31

Figures.

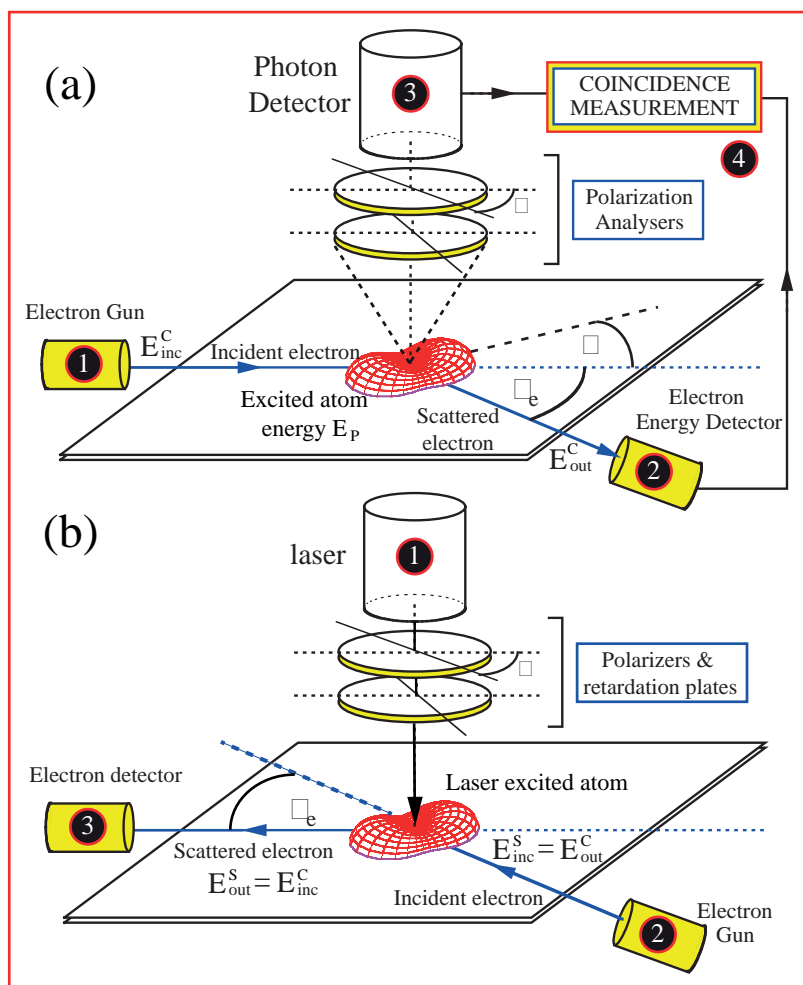


Figure 1. (a).The coincidence scattering geometry, which requires 4 steps to ascertain the collision parameters $P_{in}, \gamma, L_{\perp}$. (b) The super-elastic geometry, which requires 3 steps. For details see text.

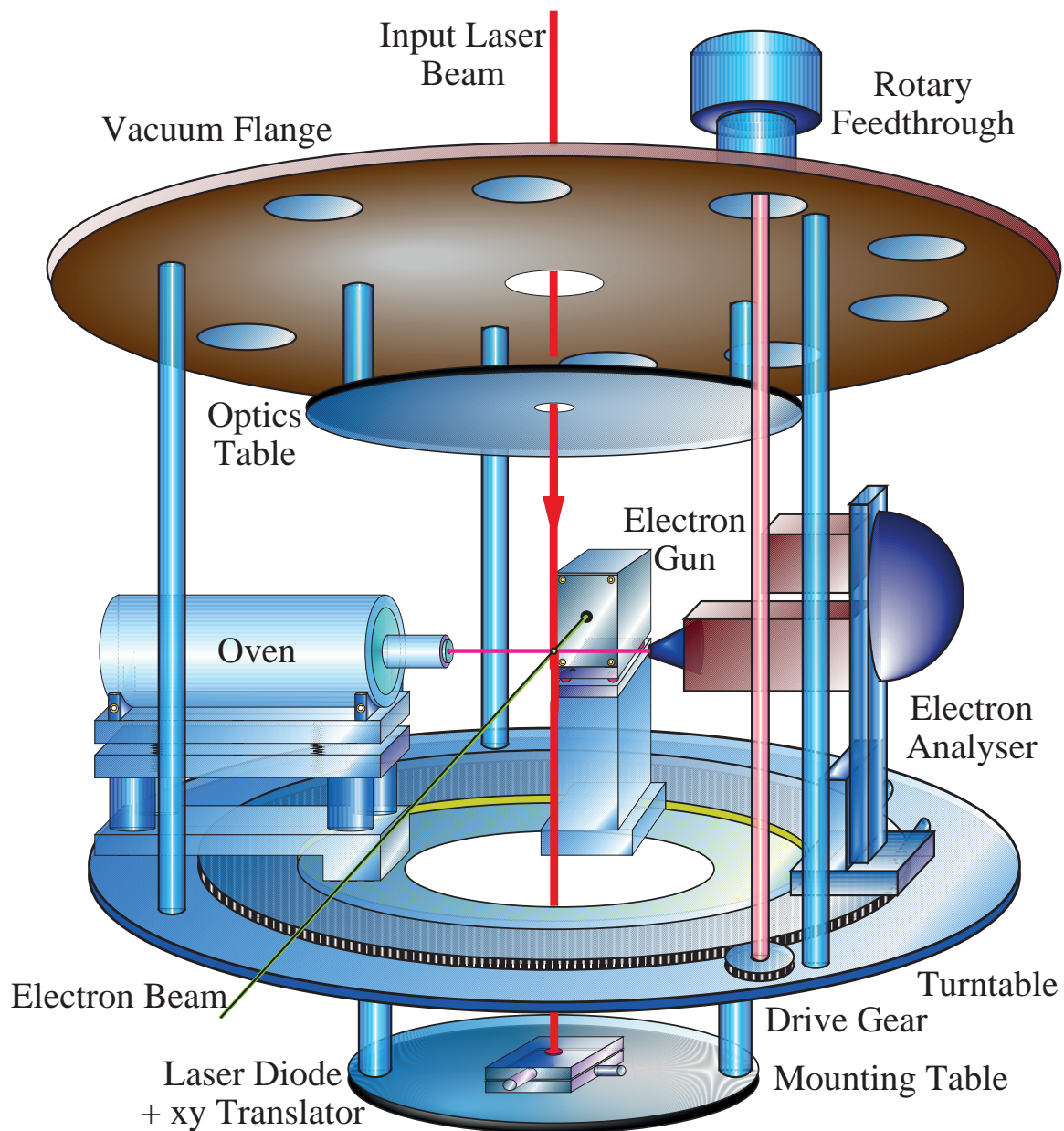


Figure 2. The super-elastic spectrometer, showing the electron gun, analyser and oven. The laser beam enters through a window on the top flange, and is directed orthogonal to the scattering plane, as set by a tracer laser diode inside the spectrometer.

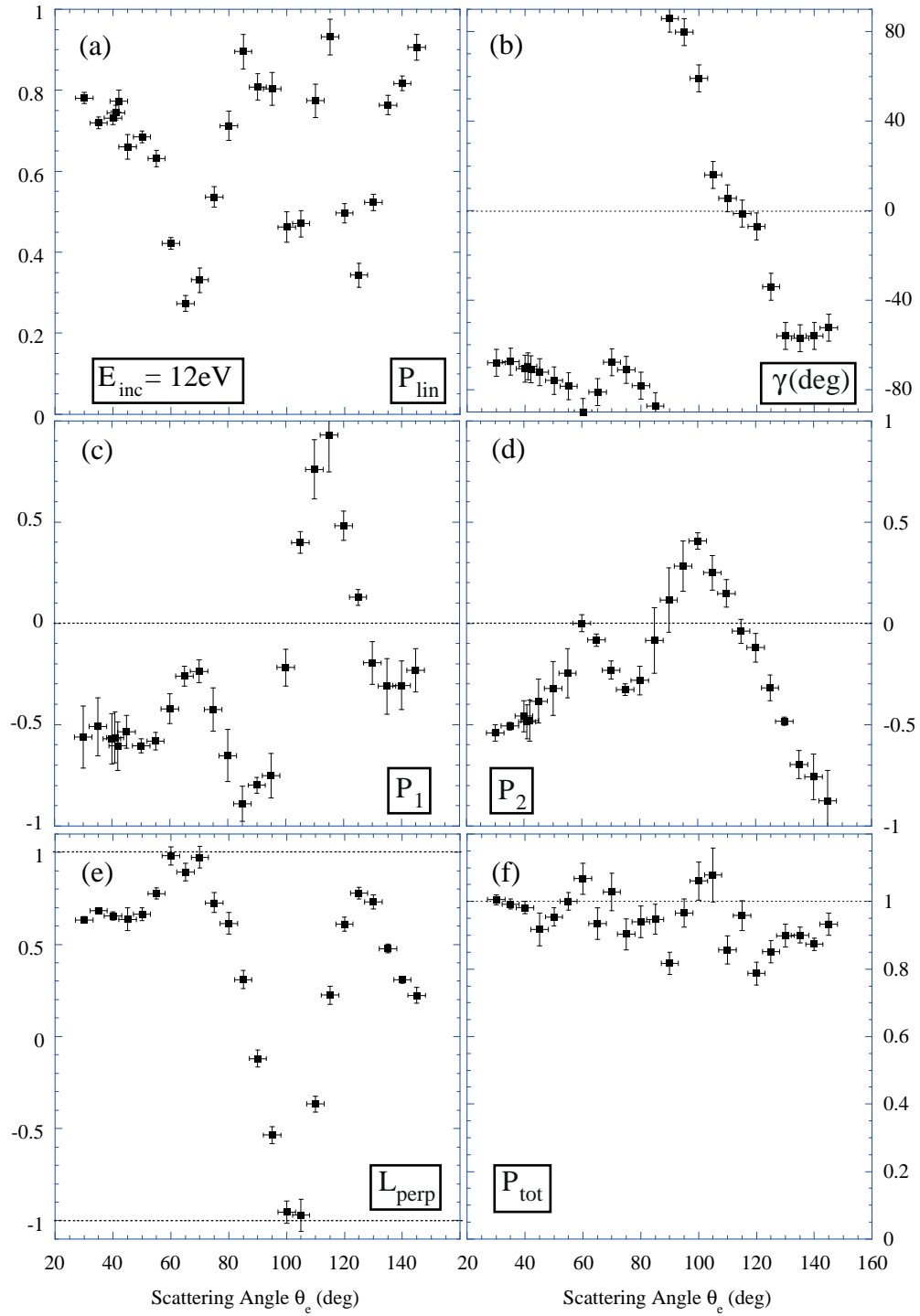


Figure 3. Data at 12eV, showing the ACP's, the derived Stokes parameters and the coherence parameter P_{tot} .

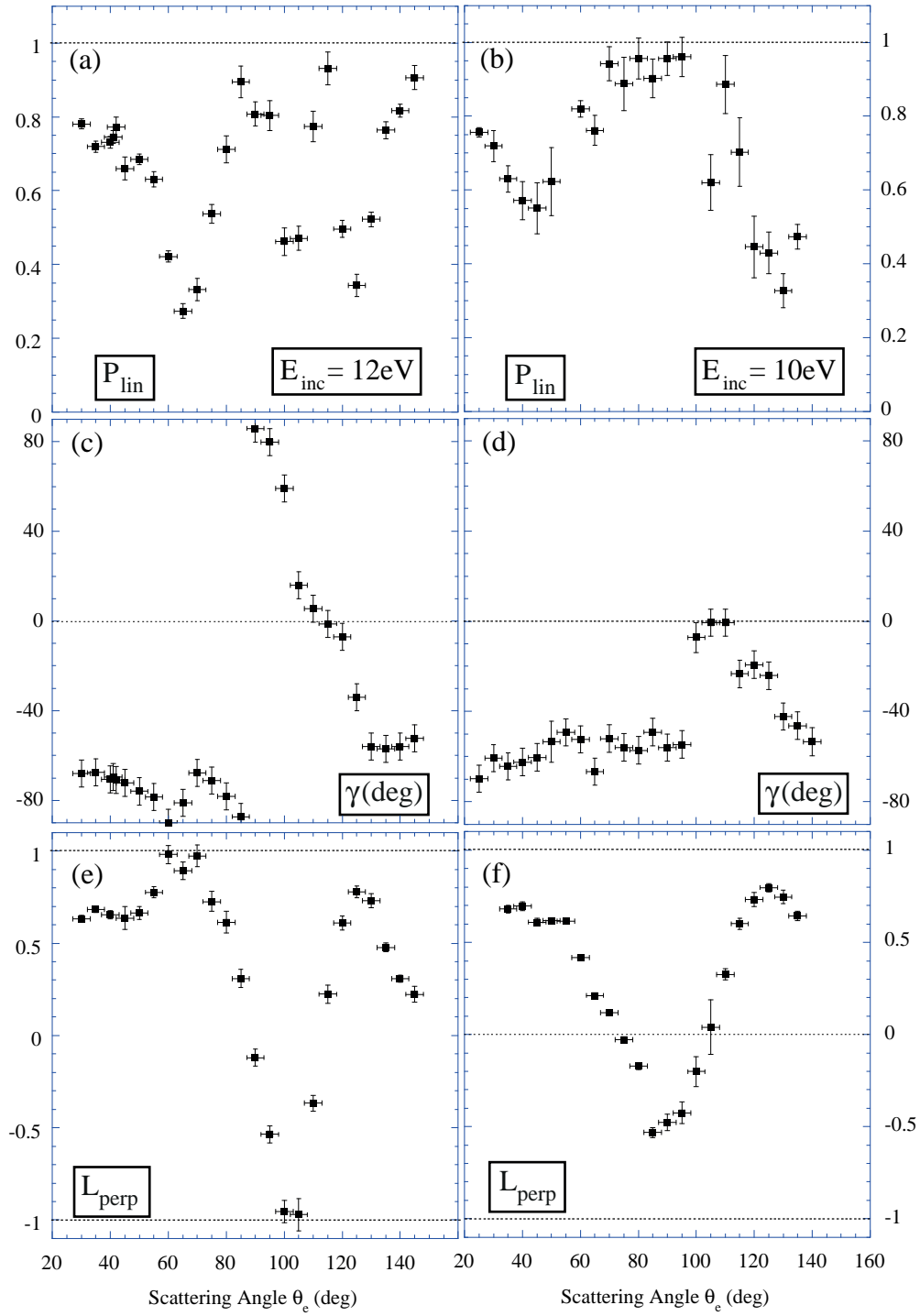


Figure 4. Comparison between the measured ACP's at 12eV and 10 eV.

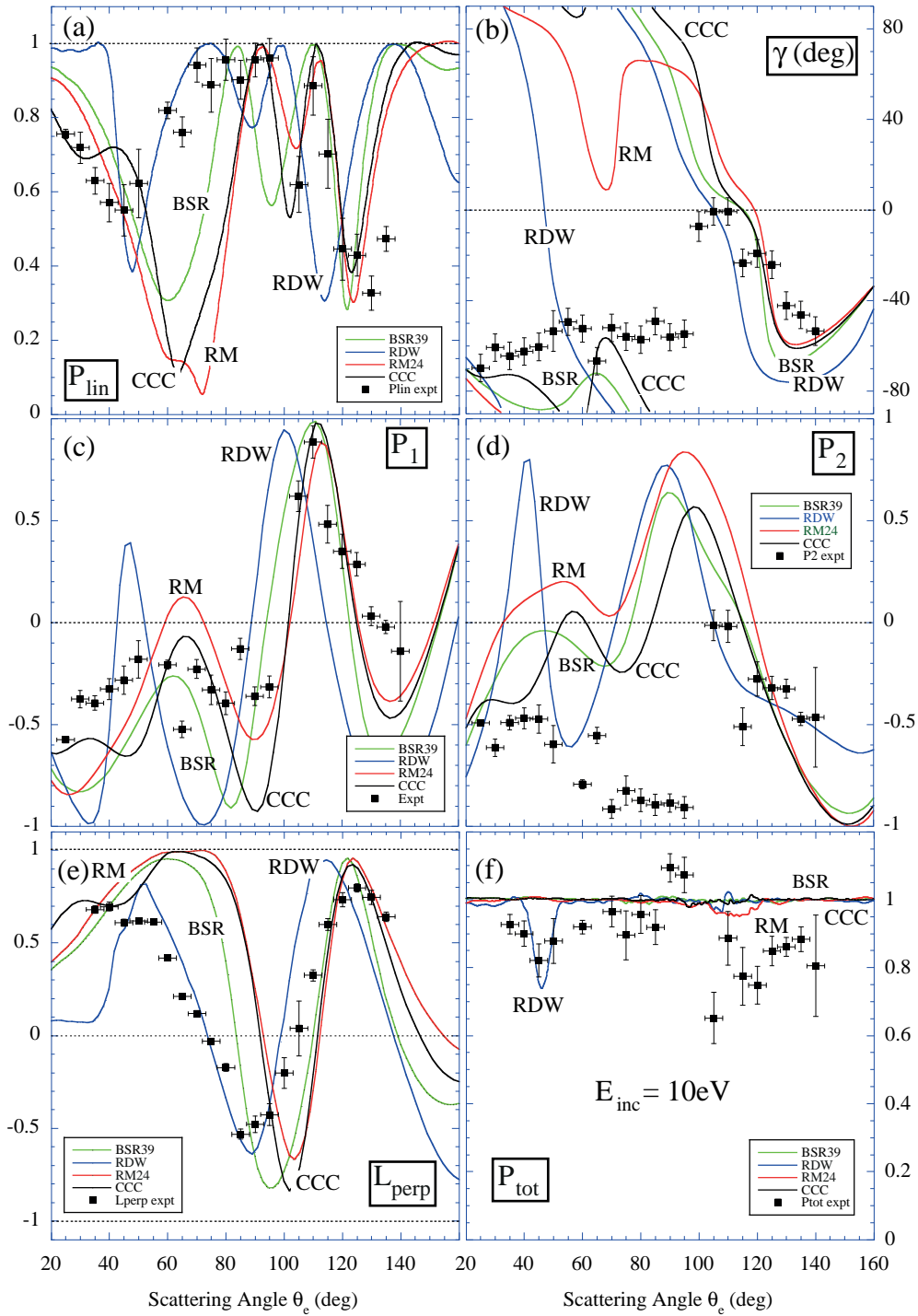


Figure 5. Data at 10eV nominal energy plotted against different theoretical models calculated for an incident energy of 10eV. Poor agreement is found between theory and experiment. For details see text.

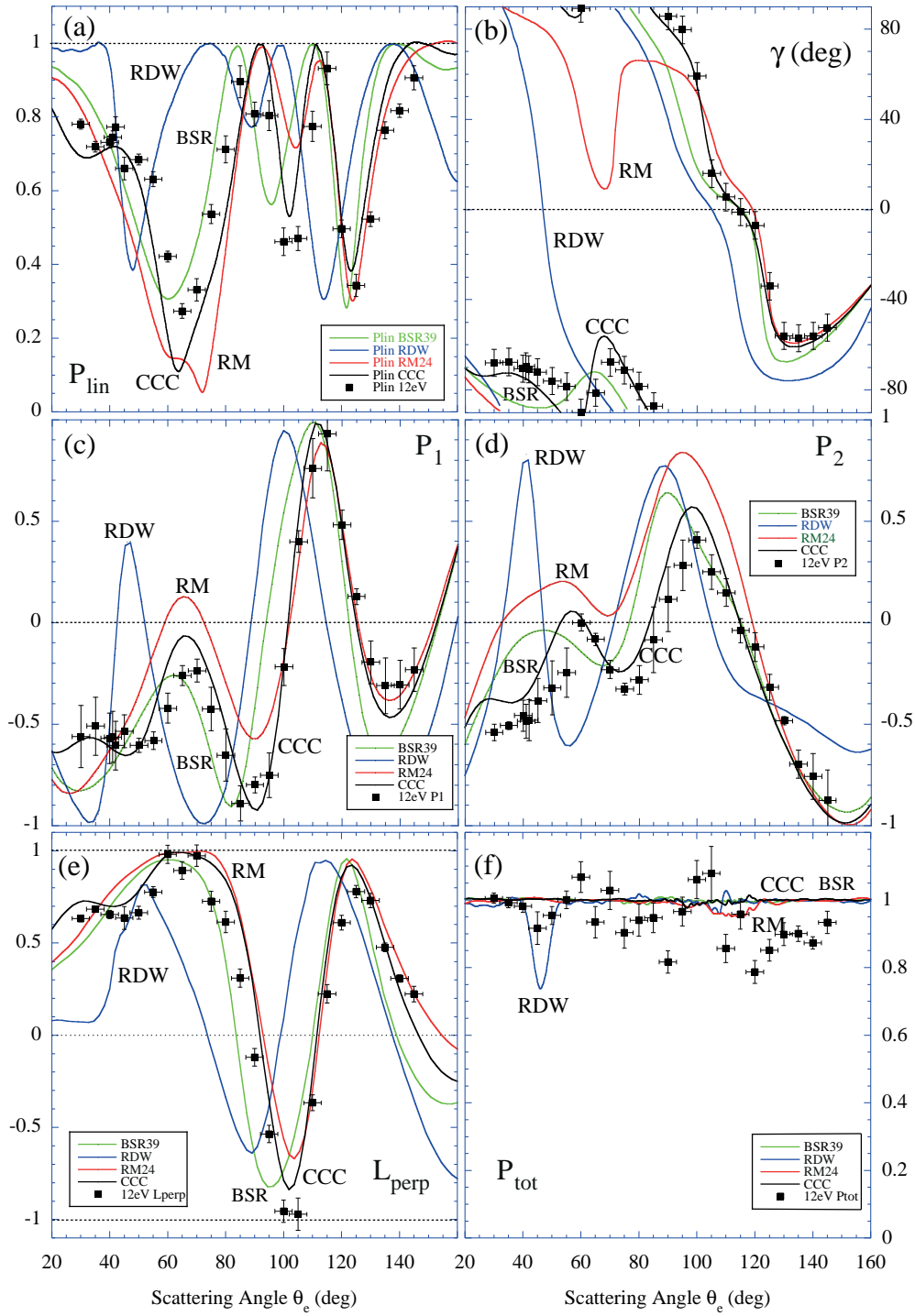


Figure 6. Data at 12eV nominal energy plotted against different theoretical models calculated for an incident energy of 10eV. Good agreement is found between the close coupling theories and the data at this energy.