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SCATTERING OF HELIUM AND HYDROGEN MOLECULAR BEAMS FROM THE (111) PLANE OF SILVER

By

Hiromu ASADA

(Received December 28, 1977)

Abstract

An experimental study on scattering of He and H₂ molecular beams from Ag (111) surfaces is reported. Spatial distributions of scattered He and H₂, which have been observed both in the incident and transverse planes, consist of a sharp peak of specular reflection and a broad skirt which is clearly distinguished from the former owing to small divergence of the incident beam. The dependence of the broad skirt on the surface temperature, incident angle, incident energy and kind of impinging molecule, is discussed on the basis of coherent inelastic scattering by phonons.

§ 1. Introduction

Scattering of atomic and molecular beams from solid surfaces has been studied in many laboratories. In the case of ionic crystal surface, such as LiF (001), NaF (001), NaCl (001), and so on, many interesting conclusions have been deduced from accurate observations of diffraction, selective adsorption and thermal diffuse scattering of beams of rare gases and hydrogen atoms and molecules, and lead us to an important understanding of gas-surface interaction potentials and surface lattice vibrations. On the other hand, the nature of metal surfaces is not well understood by means of atomic or molecular beam scattering. One of the reasons for the difficulty is that diffractive scattering of atomic/molecular beams from metal surfaces is not easy to observe except from the strongly corrugated W (112) surface or from extremely low temperature surfaces (Ag (111) surface). Although thermal diffuse scattering contains a lot of information especially concerning surface lattice dynamics, it is difficult, however, to analyze experimentally both the energy and the momentum transfer between the impinging atom/molecule and the surface, which are
necessary to study the dynamics in detail. But several papers\textsuperscript{20-23} have
been published on the observation of spatial and/or energy distributions of
scattered atoms or molecules, which help us to understand qualitatively the
essential features of scattering events.

This paper reports on certain detailed features of spatial distribution
of thermal molecular beams of helium and hydrogen scattered from epito-
taxially grown Ag (111) surfaces, which has been observed both in the
incident and transverse planes. In § 2 the molecular beam apparatus con-
structed for this study and experimental conditions are described. In § 3
the results are discussed qualitatively on the basis of coherent inelastic
scattering by phonons.

§ 2. Experimental

2-1. Apparatus

A schematic drawing of the apparatus used in the present study is
shown in Fig. 1. It consists of a beam source chamber, an interstage
chamber and a scattering chamber. They are differentially pumped by
oil-diffusion pumps. The background pressures in the three chambers with
the beam generated are $10^{-5}$, $10^{-6}$ and $3\sim10\times10^{-8}$ torr, respectively. The
beam is generated by a nozzle made of pyrex glass, whose aperture has an
inner diameter $40\sim50\mu$m. The position and direction of the nozzle can be

![Experimental apparatus diagram](image-url)
adjusted from the outside of the apparatus. The nozzle can also be cooled to ca. 150 K by means of a copper rope whose ends are attached to the nozzle and the bottom of a liquid-N$_2$ cooled trap, respectively. There is a skimmer of inner diameter 0.62 mm at a distance of 6 to 8 mm from the nozzle. The gas passes through the skimmer, and enters into the interstage chamber as a beam. The beam passes through the first collimating orifice of inner diameter 1.06 mm to go into the scattering chamber, and after being collimated finally by the second orifice of inner diameter 0.71 mm, collides with a test surface. The flux of the scattered molecules from the test surface is measured by a detector, which is rotated around the surface both in the horizontal and vertical planes. The detector is assembled in a cylindrical stainless steel case of diameter 18 mm and length 30 mm. The principle of detection is to observe an ion current produced by electron-impact ionization of molecules. The output signal from the detector is measured by means of a phase-sensitive detection system since the incident beam is modulated at ca. 140 Hz by a chopper wheel. The detector has an angular resolution of about 1.1° with a diameter of the entrance orifice of 1.1 mm and a distance from the test surface of 55 mm. The test surface is located at the center of the scattering chamber, and its direction with respect to the incident beam and its azimuthal angle can be adjusted from the outside.

In Fig. 2 the coordinate system and the definitions of various angles.
are illustrated. The x and y axes are put on the test surface, and the z axis is the surface normal. The incident angle $\theta_i$ is measured from the z axis. The horizontal plane which contains the incident beam and the z axis is called the incident plane. The x axis is defined as the intersection of the incident plane and the surface. The directional vector of scattering makes an angle $\phi_r$ with the incident plane, and its projection on the incident plane makes an angle $\theta_r$ with the z axis. A plane perpendicular to the incident plane is called the transverse plane, and is specified by the angle $\theta_r$.

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 3.** Geometry of the collimating system. N: nozzle, S: skimmer (0.62 diameter), C₁: 1st collimating orifice (1.06 diameter), C₂: 2nd collimating orifice (0.71 diameter), T: test surface, D: detector, and unit: mm.

**2-2. Beams**

The geometry of the beam collimation system is represented in Fig. 3. The angular divergence of the incident beam is 0.4°, which is calculated at the periphery of the penumbra. A longitudinal cross section of the incident beam at the position of the test surface has an umbra of diameter 0.74 mm and a penumbra of diameter 1.18 mm. A profile of the direct beam, which is observed downstream along the beam without the surface, is shown in Fig. 4. The full width at half maximum is $0.9 \pm 0.1^\circ$ in terms of the rotation angle $\theta_r$ or $\phi_r$ of the detector around the test surface.

The wave number of the incident beam is determined by observing the $(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})$ diffraction of the beam from LiF (001) cleaved surface, whose typical trace is shown in Fig. 5. The peak is broadened due to wave number distribution in the beam. The profile of the $(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})$ diffraction peak in the incident plane can be transformed into wave number distribution by the help of Bragg’s
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Fig. 5. Diffraction of He beam from LiF (001) surface. nozzle temperature: 150 K, nozzle pressure: 334 torr, and incident angle: 70° along the (100) azimuth. The specular reflection peak is reduced to one tenth. The (1, 1) diffraction peak can be found at about 9 = 33°.

Fig. 6. Wave number distribution transformed from Fig. 5 by use of Eq. (2-1). The solid line is, 

\[ f = \text{const} \cdot k^2 \exp \left[ \frac{- (k - 7.53)}{1.13} \right] \]

obtained by the least square method. The area under the curve is normalized to 1 Å⁻⁴.

diffraction condition,

\[ k (\sin \theta_1 - \sin \theta_r) = g_{11}, \quad (2-1) \]

where \( k \) is the wave number of the beam, and \( g_{11} \) is 3.13 Å⁻¹, the magnitude of the (1, 1) surface reciprocal lattice vector. An example of a wave number distribution obtained from Fig. 5 by the transformation is shown in Fig. 6. The wave number distribution, \( f(k) \), is well described by the drifted Maxwellian distribution function²³)

\[ f(k) \, dk = \text{const} \cdot k^2 \exp \left[ -(k - k_0)^2/\alpha^2 \right] \, dk, \quad (2-2) \]

where \( k_0 \) and \( \alpha \) are constants. At the tail of higher values of \( k \) the observed magnitude is however found a little greater than that expected from Eq. (2-2) (see Fig. 6). The values of the constants \( k_0 \) and \( \alpha \), which reproduce the observed distribution best except at its tails of higher and lower \( k \), are evaluated by the least square method at three different incident angles, 50, 60, and 70°. The agreement between the three is very
good. Mean values of $k_0$ and $a$ are listed in Table 1 with the conditions of the nozzle. Kinetic energy $E_o=(\hbar k_0)^2/2m$, wave length $\lambda_o=2\pi/k_0$, mean wave number $\langle k \rangle$, and mean kinetic energy $\langle E \rangle$, the last two being calculated by the use of Eq. (2-2) and with the obtained values $k_0$ and $a$, are also given in the same table.

Table 1. Characteristics of the molecular beams

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<th>Conditions of the nozzle</th>
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<td>temperature $T_N$ (K)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pressure $P_N$ (torr)</td>
<td>462±5</td>
<td>334±5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameters of wave number distribution and related quantities</td>
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<tr>
<td>$k_0$ (Å⁻¹)</td>
<td>9.9 ± 0.1</td>
<td>7.5 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$a$ (Å⁻¹)</td>
<td>2.3 ± 0.1</td>
<td>1.1 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kinetic energy $E_o$ (meV)</td>
<td>51 ± 1</td>
<td>29 ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wave length $\lambda_o$ (Å)</td>
<td>0.63 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean values</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wave number $\langle k \rangle$ (Å⁻¹)</td>
<td>10.7 ± 0.1</td>
<td>7.7 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kinetic energy $\langle E \rangle$ (meV)</td>
<td>61 ± 1</td>
<td>31 ± 1</td>
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2-3. Test surfaces

Silver surfaces have been prepared by evaporating 99.99% Ag onto cleaved mica surfaces. The holder of the test surface has a heater made of 0.1 mm dia. Pt wire. A 0.1 mm dia. tungsten-constantan thermocouple is attached on the back side of the mica substrate. The thermocouple is calibrated by another one of the same kind attached on an evaporated Ag film by a small amount of SAUEREISEN cement. This procedure permits an accuracy of temperature measurement within an error ±10 K in the range of 450 to 600 K. The deposition of Ag is performed at the substrate temperature 500 to 550 K for 2 to 3 hours at the background pressure $5\sim10\times10^{-8}$ torr. Thereafter the Ag film is annealed at 550 to 600 K for more than 10 min. before scattering experiments. At the end of the experiments, structures of the test surfaces are examined by means of transmission electron diffraction. The films were found to be oriented with $(111)$ axis perpendicular to the surface due to epitaxial growth. Experimental data presented later were obtained on 4 different films, which indicated good reproducibility.

SALTSBURG et al.⁵ in their similar molecular beam scattering experi-
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ments have found no change in the spatial distribution of scattered beams during the deposition of Ag, whose rate exceeds greatly the impinging rate of background gases, and after the deposition has completed. They take this fact as evidence for cleanliness of Ag surfaces used by them. Furthermore, SAU et al. have confirmed in their ultra-high vacuum apparatus that silver surfaces are insensitive to background gases.

§ 3. Results and Discussion

3-1. Spatial distributions

Typical traces of spatial distributions of He and H₂ scattered from a Ag surface are shown in Figs. 7 and 8, respectively. In the both cases the surface temperature is 500 K, the incident angle 70°, and the mean kinetic energy ca. 30 meV. In each figure, (a) is the distribution in the incident plane, (b) in the transverse plane of θᵣ = θᵢ = 70°, and (c) in the transverse plane of θᵣ = 65° (Fig. 7) or 60° (Fig. 8).

Fig. 7. Spatial distribution of He scattered from Ag (111) surface. \( \langle E \rangle = 31 \) meV, \( \theta_1 = 70° \) and \( T_s = 500 \) K. (a) in the incident plane, (b) in the transverse plane of \( \theta_r = \theta_i \) and (c) in the transverse plane of \( \theta_r = 65° \).

Fig. 8. Spatial distribution of H₂ scattered from Ag (111) surface. \( \langle E \rangle = 33 \) meV, \( \theta_1 = 70° \), and \( T_s = 500 \) K. (a) in the incident plane, (b) in the transverse plane of \( \theta_r = \theta_i \) and (c) in the transverse plane of \( \theta_r = 60° \). The specular reflection peak is reduced to one third.

The distribution is found to consist of a sharp specular reflection peak and a broad skirt around the former. The broad skirt is regarded as a result of inelastic scattering by phonons of Ag. This inference has been evidenced directly by BISHARA et al. and SUBBARAO et al., who have observed that the kinetic energy of scattered molecule in the skirt is different from the incident energy, and is supported successfully by the dependence of the distribution on the surface temperature, incident angle, incident energy and kind of gas molecule, described below.
The observed distribution in the incident plane is qualitatively similar to those of SALTSBURG et al. and SUBBARAO et al. However the distinction between the specular peak and the broad skirt is clearer than that of SALTSBURG et al. SAU et al. have observed the distribution on a well-defined Ag (111) surface of single crystal in an ultra-high vacuum system, but it has exhibited a vague pattern, where the specular and the inelastic component are hardly distinguishable from each other. The above difference is thought to come from the angular divergence of the incident beams, which is 2° in the apparatus of SAU et al., 1° in that of SALTSBURG et al. and 0.4° at most in the author's. On the other hand, SUBBARAO et al. have observed spatial distributions by using a very low energy (several meV) He beam generated by mixing Ar in the beam. The inelastic part of the distribution is found to shift greatly toward the surface normal and to peak at the subspecular region.

The spatial distribution in the transverse planes, shown in (b) and (c) of Figs. 7 and 8, is indicating that the molecules are scattered considerably out of the incident plane. Details of the out-of-plane scattering are illustrated in Fig. 9 for the case of H2 with \( \langle E \rangle = 63 \text{ meV} \) as an example. A trend that the distribution in the transverse plane is more broadened as \( \theta_r \) decreases, is recognized.

The distribution is independent of the azimuthal angle of the surface within the experimental error. Any diffraction spot of the 1st or higher order is not observed, which is compatible with earlier studies. But BOATO et al. have recently succeeded in observing diffractions of He and H2 molecular beams from Ag (111) surface cooled to as low as 80 K, and more recently, HORNE et al. have reported similar but less precise results with an epitaxially grown Ag (111) surface cooled to 138 K.

3-2. Behavior of inelastic scattering distribution

It is interesting to see in what manner the spatial distribution of inelastic scattering depends on the surface temperature, incident energy or incident angle, since this behavior is related with the mechanism of

\[ I(x) = I_0 e^{-x^2 / 2} \]

\[ \phi_{\text{max}} = 1.31 \times 10^3 \text{ sec}^{-1} \]

\[ \langle E \rangle = 63 \text{ meV} \]

\[ \theta_r = 70^\circ \]

\[ T_s = 500 \text{ K} \]

\[ \theta_r = 50, 60, 70, 75, \text{ and } 80^\circ \text{ respectively.} \]
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Fig. 10. Dependence of spatial distribution of inelastic scattering of H$_2$ on the surface temperature. $\theta_1=70^\circ$. The specular peaks are omitted. (a) and (b), $\langle E \rangle$ = 33 meV, $T_s$ = 550 and 450 K, (c) and (d), $\langle E \rangle$ = 63 meV, $T_s$ = 550 and 450 K.

Inelastic scattering.

In Fig. 10, the dependence of the distribution on the surface temperature is shown for the case of H$_2$ beams as an example. Raising the surface temperature from 450 to 550 K, it is found that the scattered intensity increases slightly in the subspecular region (i.e. at $\theta_s$ lower than $\theta_1$). This fact means that the scattering processes with an energy gain from the surface occur predominantly in the subspecular region.

In Fig. 11 it is illustrated how the distribution changes with the incident energy and the kind of molecule. The difference between He and H$_2$ in the distribution is not significant, except that it is slightly more intense in the subspecular region in the case of H$_2$ than He. It is obvious that the distribution becomes broader with a decrease of incident energy, which is in good agreement with earlier studies.$^5$-$^8$ It is also found that H$_2$ exhibits broader distribution than He of the same incident energy.

In Fig. 12 the spatial distributions are

Fig. 11. Spatial distributions of inelastic scattering of four different beams. $\theta_1=70^\circ$ and $T_s$ = 500 K. The specular peaks are omitted. The arrows indicate the positions of $\theta_{min}$ estimated with $\omega_{max}=2.62\times10^{13}$ sec$^{-1}$.

Fig. 12. Spatial distributions in the incident plane and transverse plane of $\theta_s=\theta_1$ in the case of 30$^\circ$ incidence. (a) He with $\langle E \rangle$ = 60 meV, (b) He with $\langle E \rangle$ = 31 meV, (c) H$_2$ with $\langle E \rangle$ = 63 meV. The arrows in the incident plane indicate the $\theta_{min}$ or $\theta_{max}$ estimated with $\omega_{max}=2.62\times10^{13}$ sec$^{-1}$. The arrows in the transverse plane indicate $\phi_{max}$ estimated with $\omega_{max}=1.13\times10^{13}$ sec$^{-1}$.
shown in the case of 30° incidence. Comparing with 70° incidence, the distribution changes to have better symmetry around the specular peak. The dependence on the incident energy is less remarkable. It is pointed out again that H₂ gives broader distribution than He of the same incident energy. The spread in the transverse plane is not greatly different from the case of 70° incidence.

3-3. Mechanism of inelastic scattering

Experimental data on scattering of rare gases and hydrogen by metal surfaces have frequently been compared with the hard cube theory based on classical mechanics. The theory has succeeded in interpreting qualitatively the behavior of scattered spatial distributions (i.e. the dependence on the surface temperature, incident energy, incident angle and kind of gas molecule). The hard cube theory, as well as other theories developed on the basis of one-dimensional collision between the gas molecule and the solid atom, make use of an assumption that the tangential component of momentum of impinging molecule does not change through the scattering processes. But the assumption loses its base owing to the wide spread of the spatial distribution observed in the transverse planes.

Then, a simple discussion is tried from the viewpoint of coherent inelastic scattering by phonons which has been successful in the interpretation of inelastic scattering of He and Ne atoms from ionic crystal surfaces.

In the coherent inelastic scattering processes, a tangential component of momentum, as well as total energy, must be conserved in a system composed of the gas molecule and the lattice. Let the magnitudes of momentum of gas molecule before and after scattering be \( \hbar k \) and \( \hbar k' \), respectively, then the above requirements can be expressed as,

\[
\begin{align*}
\hbar k' &= \hbar k \pm 2m\omega / \hbar, \\
\hbar k'_z &= k' \cos \phi, \sin \theta, = k_z \pm q_z, \\
\hbar k'_r &= k' \sin \phi, = \pm q_r,
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \hbar \omega \) and \( \hbar q \) are the energy and momentum of the phonon involved, respectively, and \( m \) is the mass of the gas molecule. The upper signs refer to the annihilation, and the lower signs refer to the creation of the phonon. From these relations, a scattering process, where the gas molecule is scattered farthest from the specular angle, is considered in order to estimate the spread of the inelastic spatial distribution. The phonon involved in such a process lies on the boundary of Brillouin zone on the
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Fig. 13. EWALD's construction in the reciprocal space. (a) scattering processes giving \( \theta_{\text{max}} \) or \( \theta_{\text{min}} \) in the incident plane. The figure roughly corresponds to the situation for \( \text{H}_2 \) beam with \( \langle E \rangle = 63 \text{ meV}, \langle k \rangle = 7.7 \text{ Å}^{-1} \), and \( \theta_i = 30^\circ \). (b) scattering process giving \( q_{\text{max}} \) in the transverse plane. The \( q_{\text{max}} \) has no \( z \)-component.

\[ q_{\text{max}} = \pi / b = 1.1 \text{ Å}^{-1}, \quad \omega_{\text{max}} = 2.62 \times 10^{13} \text{ sec}^{-1}, \]

where \( b \) is the distance, 2.89 Å, between the nearest neighboring atoms on Ag (111) surface. The value of \( \omega_{\text{max}} \) corresponds to a temperature 200 K. The minimum and maximum values, \( \theta_{\text{min}} \) and \( \theta_{\text{max}} \), of \( \theta_r \) in the spatial distribution in the incident plane are given by,

\[
\sin \theta_{\text{min}} = \frac{k_x - q_{\text{max}}}{\sqrt{k^2 + 2m\omega_{\text{max}} / \hbar}}, \quad (3-4)
\]

\[
\sin \theta_{\text{max}} = \frac{k_x + q_{\text{max}}}{\sqrt{k^2 - 2m\omega_{\text{max}} / \hbar}}. \quad (3-5)
\]

The upper limit \( \phi_{\text{max}} \) of \( \phi_r \) is given from

\[
q_{\text{max}}^2 = q_x^2 + q_y^2 = -k^2 \cos^2 \theta_r \cos^2 \phi_{\text{max}} - 2k'_x k_x \sin \theta_r \cos \phi_{\text{max}} + k_x^2 + k''_x. \quad (3-6)
\]

Then,

\[
\cos \phi_{\text{max}} = \frac{-k_x \sin \theta_r + \sqrt{k_x^2 + (k^2 + 2m\omega_{\text{max}} / \hbar - q_{\text{max}}^2) \cos^2 \theta_r}}{\sqrt{k^2 + 2m\omega_{\text{max}} / \hbar} \cos \theta_r}. \quad (3-7)
\]

In Fig. 14, the dependence of \( \theta_{\text{max}} \) and \( \theta_{\text{min}} \) on the incident angle is shown. It is found that both \( \theta_{\text{max}} \) and \( \theta_{\text{min}} \) come closer to the specular angle as \( \theta_i \) decreases. This result is in harmony with the experimental
Fig. 14. Dependence of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ and $\theta_{\text{min}}$ on $\theta_i$. The designated wave numbers are the mean values $\langle k \rangle$ of the corresponding beams. $q_{\text{max}}=1.1 \text{Å}^{-1}$, $\omega_{\text{max}}=2.62 \times 10^{13} \text{ sec}^{-1}$. Also the case where $\omega_{\text{max}}$ is reduced to half of the above is illustrated by dotted lines for He of $\langle k \rangle=10.7 \text{Å}^{-1}$.

Fig. 15. Dependence of $\phi_{\text{max}}$ on $\theta_r$ in the case of H$_2$ with $\langle k \rangle=7.7 \text{Å}^{-1}$ and $\theta_i=70^\circ$. Two cases where $\omega_{\text{max}}$ is equal to $2.62 \times 10^{13} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ or its half are illustrated.

findings. Also a trend that a higher incident energy gives a narrower distribution and that H$_2$ gives a broader distribution than He with the same incident energy, coincides with the observed one. The values of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ and $\theta_{\text{min}}$ themselves, which are indicated also in Figs. 11 and 12 by arrows, are in good agreement with the observed results. If the value of $\omega_{\text{max}}$ is reduced to half, the distribution becomes a little narrower, but the value of $\theta_{\text{min}}$ does not change too much.

In Fig. 15, the dependence of $\phi_{\text{max}}$ on $\theta_r$ is shown for the case of H$_2$ molecular beams with $\langle k \rangle=7.7 \text{Å}^{-1}$ and $\theta_i=70^\circ$, which should be compared with Fig. 9. The value of $\phi_{\text{max}}$ is considerably dependent on the value of $\omega_{\text{max}}$. In the region of large $\theta_r$ (approximately speaking, near and larger than the specular angle), the smaller the $\omega_{\text{max}}$ is, the larger is the $\phi_{\text{max}}$. This means that the boundary of the distribution in the transverse plane is determined by a vibrational mode with low energy, such as a Rayleigh wave or some transverse waves. When a comparison is made between Figs. 9 and 15, it is found that the lower value of $\omega_{\text{max}}$ ($1.31 \times 10^{13} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) gives better agreement with the observed ones. The corresponding positions of $\phi_{\text{max}}$ are indicated in Figs. 9 and 12 by arrows. The observed spread in the transverse plane is, however, several ten percent greater than that expected.

§ 4. Concluding Remarks

Many theoretical studies$^{28-30}$ on molecular beam scattering from solid
surfaces have been reported from the viewpoint of coherent inelastic scattering. Although they are successful in interpreting qualitatively the observed trend, they are not always sufficient quantitatively. In order to obtain a good quantitative agreement it is required to assume a more realistic interaction potential between a gas molecule and a solid atom, but this procedure makes the calculation extremely difficult. Though a direct comparison with the theories has not been made, the simple consideration on the inelastic spatial distribution, described above, has led us to a belief that it should be regarded as a result of coherent inelastic scattering by phonons. It should be emphasized that an accurate and detailed observation of spatial distribution should result in more fruitful insight on the surface lattice dynamics and the gas-surface interaction potential.

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