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High precision calculations of the hyperfine structure in Li-like bismuth

Investigations of the hyperfine splitting (HFS) in highly charged ions can provide tests of quantum electrodynamics (QED) in the strongest electromagnetic field presently avail- able. The simultaneous study of the HFS in H- and Li-like ions is required, since the Bohr- Weisskopf effect, dominating the theoretical uncertainty, is almost cancelled in the specific difference of the HFS values (cf. [1]). Ab-initio calculations of the screened QED corrections are needed to decrease the uncertainty of the theoretical prediction for this specific difference. Recently, the HFS in Li-like bismuth was observed in laser spectroscopy experiment at the experimental storage ring (ESR) in GSI (cf. [2]). In the present work the screened diagrams containing electric and magnetic vacuum-polarization loops have been evaluated to all orders in αZ [3, 4, 5]. The internal-loop contributions are rigorously approached including the Uehling and the Wichmann-Kroll terms. The accuracy of the theoretical prediction for the specific difference of the hyperfine splitting values in H- and Li-like bismuth is improved.

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