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High-precision *ab initio* calculations of the spectrum of Lr^+

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The planned measurement of optical resonances in singly ionized lawrencium ($Z = 103$) requires accurate theoretical predictions to narrow the search window. We present high-precision, *ab initio* calculations of the electronic spectra of Lr^+ and its lighter homologue lutetium ($Z = 71$). We have employed the state-of-the-art relativistic Fock space coupled cluster approach as well as the configuration interaction with many-body perturbation theory (CI + MBPT) method to calculate atomic energy levels, g factors, and transition amplitudes and branching ratios. Our calculations are in close agreement with experimentally measured energy levels and transition strengths for the homologue Lu^+ , and are well converged for Lr^+ , where we expect a similar level of accuracy. These results present large-scale, systematic calculations of Lr^+ and will serve to guide future experimental studies of this ion.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The study of the transfermium elements ($Z > 100$) lies at the frontier of contemporary nuclear and atomic physics research. The element synthesis itself provides a fertile terrain for studying effective interactions and nuclear matter under extreme conditions. Experimental shell gaps and single-particle energies can be obtained from nuclear spectroscopy, which helps to improve model predictions for the next spherical shell closures in the nuclear map: the location of the island of stability of superheavy elements.

Optical spectroscopy gives access to the atomic structure and provides insights into fundamental physics such as relativistic, correlation, and quantum electrodynamical (QED) effects. In addition, it can provide complementary information on single-particle and collective properties of atomic nuclei via hyperfine structure measurements. Such studies are continuously applied to ever heavier elements and are penetrating territories of the map that were previously inaccessible [1]. A good example of this is the recent laser spectroscopy of the element nobelium ($Z = 102$) [2], which demonstrated the technical feasibility—despite a complete lack of tabulated spectral lines and production yields from nuclear fusion reactions of about one atom per second. These experiments have clearly shown how atomic modeling can efficiently support and guide atomic structure investigations and, in particular, that experiments and theory have to be pursued hand in hand. Current developments target the next heavier element, lawrencium ($Z = 103$), in its neutral and singly charged states from both theory and experimental viewpoints.

The planned experiments will attempt to optically excite Lr in a supersonic gas-jet: the Lr atoms are produced with high energy from fusion reactions and are stopped and thermalized in a buffer gas cell. The gas-jet method enables one to

accelerate the lawrencium-buffer gas mixture into a low-pressure and low-temperature jet. This in turn allows one to reduce collisional broadening and thus to increase the experimental resolution [1,3]. Previous experiments proved that the gas mixture contains both atomic species, neutral as well as singly ionized Lr , wherein the fraction of the ions substantially dominates the sample composition under typical experimental conditions [4,5]. For both species, due to the extremely low production yields, highly precise theoretical predictions of the spectral lines are required to develop excitation schemes and to narrow down the search window to be able to pinpoint the ground-state transitions. Moreover, predictions of lifetimes and branching ratios are needed to quantify experimental parameters such as required detector sensitivities and beam times.

In this work we provide high accuracy prediction of the energies and the g factors of the low-lying excited states of Lr^+ , along with transition rates and branching ratios between the different states. The calculations are performed within two complementary state-of-the-art relativistic approaches: the Fock space coupled cluster (FSCC) method [6,7], and the configuration interaction approach combined with many-body perturbation theory (CI + MBPT) method [8]. In order to estimate the accuracy of our predictions for Lr^+ , analogous calculations were performed for its lighter homologue, Lu^+ , where we can compare the results of our calculations to experimental values.

While numerous predictions were reported for neutral Lr , to the best of our knowledge, no experimental and only three prior theoretical studies of atomic properties of Lr^+ are available. Dzuba *et al.* [9] calculated the first to the third ionization potentials of Lr using a linearized CI + all-order approach, while Cao and Dolg [10] calculated the first to the fourth ionization potentials of Lr using relativistic *ab*

initio pseudopotentials combined with the complete active space self-consistent field method and corrected for spin-orbit effects. In a much earlier publication, Fraga presented a Hartree-Fock investigation of this system [11]; however, in that work, the ground state of Lr^+ was misidentified as $6d^2$.

II. METHODS AND COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

All the calculations were carried out within the framework of the projected Dirac-Coulomb-Breit (DCB) Hamiltonian [12] (atomic units $\hbar = m_e = e = 1$ are used throughout this work),

$$H_{\text{DCB}} = \sum_i h_D(i) + \sum_{i < j} (1/r_{ij} + B_{ij}). \quad (1)$$

Here, h_D is the one-electron Dirac Hamiltonian,

$$h_D(i) = c \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \cdot \mathbf{p}_i + c^2(\beta_i - 1) + V_{\text{nuc}}(i), \quad (2)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ and β are the four-dimensional Dirac matrices. The nuclear potential V_{nuc} takes into account the finite size of the nucleus. The two-electron term includes the nonrelativistic electron repulsion and the frequency independent Breit operator,

$$B_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2r_{ij}} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_j + (\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij})(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_j \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij})/r_{ij}^2], \quad (3)$$

and is correct to second order in the fine structure constant α .

A. FSCC

We have calculated the transition energies of Lr^+ and its lighter homologue Lu^+ using the relativistic multireference valence universal FSCC method, described in detail in Refs. [6,7] and implemented in TRAFS-3C [13]. This approach has demonstrated a high degree of accuracy when treating heavy atomic systems; see, for example, Ref. [14]. Its particular advantage is the possibility of obtaining a large number of energy levels; it is therefore very well suited for calculating excitation spectra.

Our calculations start by solving the relativistic Hartree-Fock equations and correlating the closed-shell reference states for Lr^{3+} and Lu^{3+} , which correspond to closed shell configurations. After the first stage of the calculation, two electrons were added, one at a time, to obtain the singly ionized atoms. At each stage of the calculations the appropriate coupled cluster equations were solved iteratively. To achieve optimal accuracy, large model spaces were used, going up to $13s11p9d8f6g5h$ for Lu^+ and $14s12p10d9f6g5h$ for Lr^+ , and the convergence of transition energies with respect to the model space size was verified. In order to allow the use of such large model spaces without encountering convergence difficulties in the coupled cluster iterations, the FSCC calculations were augmented by the extrapolated intermediate Hamiltonian approach (XIH) [15].

The uncontracted universal basis set [16] was used, consisting of even-tempered Gaussian type orbitals, with exponents given by

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_n &= \gamma \delta^{(n-1)}, \quad \gamma = 106\,111\,395.371\,615, \\ \delta &= 0.486\,752\,256\,286. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The basis set used for both ions consists of 37 *s* ($n = 1-37$), 31 *p* ($n = 5-35$), 26 *d* ($n = 9-34$), 21 *f* ($n = 13-33$), 16 *g* ($n = 17-32$), 11 *h* ($n = 21-31$), and 6 *i* ($n = 25-30$) functions. The outer 60 electrons of Lu^+ and 74 electrons of Lr^+ were correlated, and virtual orbitals with energies over 200 a.u. were omitted. The FSCC calculations were performed using the Tel-Aviv Relativistic Atomic Fock Space coupled cluster code (TRAFS-3C) [13].

To account for the QED corrections to the transition energies we applied the model Lamb shift operator (MLSO) of Shabaev and co-workers [17] to the atomic no-virtual-pair many-body DCB Hamiltonian as implemented into the QEDMOD program [17]. Our implementation of the MLSO formalism into the Tel Aviv atomic computational package allows us to obtain the vacuum polarization and self energy contributions beyond the usual mean-field level, namely at the level of Dirac-Coulomb-Breit Fock-space coupled cluster with single and double excitations (DCB-FSCCSD).

B. CI + MBPT

Our calculations of the transition lifetimes and branching ratios as well as the Landé *g* factors for the excited states of Lr^+ and Lu^+ were performed using the relativistic configuration interaction approach augmented with many-body perturbation theory method, via the AMBiT atomic structure software [18]. We also present the transition energies calculated via this approach. The full details of this process have been extensively discussed elsewhere (see, for example Refs. [8,18-22]), so we will only present a brief outline of the method here.

We start with a Dirac-Hartree-Fock calculation in the V^{N-1} potential [23]; that is, all but one electron in the atom are included in the self-consistency calculations. This results in a set of Dirac-Fock orbitals which are optimised for states with a single electron-excitation (i.e., $6snl$ or $7snl$ for Lu^+ and Lr^+ , respectively). Small-scale CI-only and CI + MBPT calculations showed that this choice of potential produces closer agreement to experimental and FSCC energy levels than including all *N* electrons in Dirac-Fock.

We generate a large basis of one-particle orbitals by diagonalizing a set of B-splines over the one-electron Dirac-Fock operator [24,25]. We modify the operator to incorporate Lamb shift corrections via the radiative potential method developed by Flambaum and Ginges [26], which includes the self-energy [27] and vacuum polarization [28] contributions (finite nuclear-size effects are included using a Fermi distribution for nuclear charge). These corrections are propagated throughout the rest of the calculation by modification of the radial CI (Slater) and MBPT integrals.

Next, we use the B-spline basis functions to construct a set of many-electron configurations for the CI expansion. We form the many-body functions by allowing all single and double excitations from the $6s^2$ (Lu^+) or $7s^2$ (Lr^+) ground state up to $16spdfg$ (i.e., excitations with $n < 16$, and $0 < l < 4$). We then take the Slater determinants with a given M_J corresponding to these excitations and diagonalize the J^2 operator to form configuration state functions (CSFs), which are used to form the CI wave function via the standard CI eigenvalue problem [19].

TABLE I. Ionization potential (top row), excitation energies, and g factors of Lu^+ . The CI+MBPT and FSCC calculations include the Breit and the QED corrections, the latter of which is shown in a separate column for comparison between the two calculations. Only levels relevant to the proposed Lr^+ experiment are presented here.

State	g factor		Energy (cm^{-1})				
	Expt.	CI+MBPT	FSCC	Δ QED	CI+MBPT	Δ QED	Expt. [33]
$6s^2$	1S_0 IP		112696	−100			111970
$5d6s$	3D_1	0.5	12354	−158	11664	−144	11796
	3D_2	1.16	12985	−156	12380	−143	12432
	3D_3	1.33	14702	−148	14267	−134	14199
	1D_2	1.01	17892	−157	17875	−160	17332
$6s6p$	3P_0		27091	−103	27303	−105	27264
	3P_1	1.47	28440	−105	28520	−106	28503
	3P_2	1.50	32294	−89	32603	−97	32453
	1P_1	1.02	38464	−155	37385	−129	38223

We employ the “emu” CI method [18,22] to significantly reduce the size of the CI eigenproblem by exploiting the fact that the CI expansion is typically dominated by contributions from N_{dominant} low-lying, dominant configurations. We divide the CI Hamiltonian matrix elements into three classes: leading diagonal elements, off-diagonal matrix elements containing at least one dominant configuration, and off-diagonal elements with no dominant configurations. The contributions from the high-lying off-diagonal terms to the low-energy levels are small compared to the dominant terms, and so can be set to zero without significant loss of accuracy [22,29]. Typically $N_{\text{dominant}} \ll N_{\text{CI}}$, so emu CI can significantly reduce the size of the CI matrix and thus computational load when compared to standard CI.

For both Lr^+ and Lu^+ , we construct the dominant configurations from all single excitations up to $16spdfg$ and single and double excitations up to $12spdfg$; further increasing N_{dominant} changes the energy levels by less than 0.01%, suggesting this threshold captures all important configurations. In both systems, increasing the basis size beyond $16spdfg$ changes the energy by $\sim 1\%$, indicating that the CI component of our calculations are well converged.

Additionally, we include corrections from core-valence correlations to second order via the diagrammatic MBPT technique described in Refs. [8,20]. We have included all one- and two-body diagrams with orbitals up to $35spdfghi$ ($n \leq 35$, $0 \leq l \leq 6$). The MBPT corrections are rapidly convergent as more partial waves are added, and adding orbitals with $l \geq 7$ to the MBPT basis changes the energy by less than $\sim 50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Consequently, the MBPT component of our calculation is also well- converged.

The resulting CI + MBPT wave functions are used to calculate the Landè g factors and transition matrix elements. We include only the lowest-order matrix element of the complete correlated wave function. Transition lifetimes and branching ratios are derived from these matrix elements. Our use of MBPT to account for core-valence correlations means that in principle the electromagnetic transition operators should be modified [30,31]. The resulting effective operators may be approximated by including higher-order corrections such as those from the random-phase approximation, but these effects generally affect the matrix elements at well below our estimated precision of 30% [32].

For Lu^+ the experimental transition energy was used in the expression for Einstein coefficients, while for Lr^+ we used the calculated energies (our recommended values obtained from averaging the FSCC and the CI + MBPT results; see Sec. III for further details).

III. RESULTS

Table I contains the calculated ionization potential and transition energies of Lu^+ , obtained with both approaches, along with the experimental energies. While many states are obtained in the calculations, here we present only the eight lowest levels (from the $5d6s$ and the $6s6p$ configurations) that correspond to experimentally relevant transitions in Lr^+ . Generally, the results are in good agreement with experimental values, with average differences between theory and experiment of $-263 (348) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (where the number in brackets is the standard deviation of the difference) for the FSCC approach and $16 (389) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for CI + MBPT. The two methods are also in good agreement with each other (average absolute difference of $278 (496) \text{ cm}^{-1}$). We expect similar accuracy for the calculated transition energies of the heavier homologue of Lu^+ , Lr^+ , where no experimental data is yet available. The Breit interaction effect lowers the excitation energies by $20\text{--}150 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, depending on the level. The QED corrections from both the MLSO formalism (for FSCC) and radiative potential method (for CI + MBPT) contribute $100\text{--}200 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, also lowering the energies. Table I also contains the calculated g factors, which are overall in good agreement with experiment, indicating that the CI + MBPT approach successfully reproduces the character of the electronic wavefunction. A notable exception is the g factor of the 3P_2 state, which is predicted to be 1.5, while the experimental value is reported as 1.66 [33] (an assignment that may be erroneous).

Table II contains the calculated ionization potential, excitation energies, and g factors of the lawrencium ion. In all cases the energies are significantly higher than the corresponding levels in Lu^+ (see the Grotrian energy-level diagram for both Lu^+ and Lr^+ in Fig. 1). This is due to the relativistic stabilization of the valence $7s$ shell in the heavier ion, which makes this system more inert. The effect of the Breit interaction is higher in Lr^+ than in Lu^+ , but the signs remain the same. Similarly, QED corrections in Lr^+ are slightly larger than in

TABLE III. Einstein coefficients ($A_{\text{CI+MBPT}}$) for dipole-allowed $E1$ transitions in Lu^+ , calculated within the CI+MBPT approach using experimental transition energies, and compared to experimental values (E_{NIST} , A_{NIST}) where available [34]. Note that levels which are not relevant to the proposed Lr^+ experiment and are not included in [34] have been omitted, so branching ratios may not sum to 100% for all levels.

Upper level		Lower level		E_{NIST}	$A_{\text{CI+MBPT}} (s^{-1})$	$A_{\text{NIST}} (s^{-1})$	Branching ratio
6s6p	3P_0	5s5d	3D_1	28503	2.19×10^7	1.25×10^7	1.00
6s6p	3P_1	6s ²	1S_0		1.62×10^7		0.41
6s6p	3P_1	5d6s	3D_1		6.84×10^6		0.17
6s6p	3P_1	5d6s	3D_2	16707	1.60×10^7	9.90×10^6	0.40
6s6p	3P_1	5d6s	1D_2		7.39×10^4		0.18×10^{-3}
6s6p	3P_2	5d6s	3D_1		5.64×10^5		0.016
6s6p	3P_2	5d6s	3D_2	38223	6.20×10^6	4.53×10^8	0.17
6s6p	3P_2	5d6s	3D_3		2.88×10^7		0.80
6s6p	3P_2	5d6s	1D_2		3.56×10^5		9.91×10^{-3}
6s6p	1P_1	6s ²	1S_0	45532	5.21×10^8	7.14×10^7	0.96
6s6p	1P_1	6s ²	3D_1		9.60×10^3		1.77×10^{-5}
6s6p	1P_1	6s ²	3D_2		9.86×10^6		0.02
6s6p	1P_1	6s ²	1D_2	36298	1.07×10^7	1.66×10^8	0.02
5d6p	3D_1	6s ²	1S_0		4.78×10^7		0.13
5d6p	3D_3	5d6s	3D_3		1.82×10^8		0.56
5d6p	3D_3	5d6s	3D_2	34534	1.09×10^8	9.20×10^7	0.33

TABLE IV. Einstein coefficients ($A_{\text{CI+MBPT}}$) for dipole-allowed $E1$ transitions in Lr^+ , calculated within the CI+MBPT approach and using our recommended calculated energies (E_{calc}). Branching ratios for each transition are also shown. We estimate the uncertainty in the A coefficients at 30% (see text).

Upper level		Lower level		$E_{\text{calc}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$A_{\text{CI+MBPT}}(s^{-1})$	Branching ratio
7s7p	3P_0	7s6d	3D_1	8515	5.44×10^6	1.00
7s7p	3P_1	7s ²	1S_0	31540	6.36×10^7	0.900
7s7p	3P_1	7s6d	3D_1	10694	2.42×10^6	0.034
7s7p	3P_1	7s6d	3D_2	9475	4.66×10^6	0.066
7s7p	3P_1	7s6d	1D_2	608	4.54×10^{-1}	6.4×10^{-9}
7s7p	3P_2	7s6d	3D_1	22391	9.41×10^5	0.021
7s7p	3P_2	7s6d	3D_2	21172	9.70×10^6	0.214
7s7p	3P_2	7s6d	3D_3	16967	3.43×10^7	0.758
7s7p	3P_2	7s6d	1D_2	12304	3.19×10^5	0.007
7s7p	1P_1	7s ²	1S_0	47295	8.34×10^8	0.960
7s7p	1P_1	7s6d	3D_1	26449	1.36×10^6	0.002
7s7p	1P_1	7s6d	3D_2	25230	1.63×10^7	0.019
7s7p	1P_1	7s6d	1D_2	16363	1.68×10^7	0.019

TABLE V. Einstein coefficients ($A_{\text{CI+MBPT}}$) for $M1$ and $E2$ transitions in Lr^+ , calculated within the CI+MBPT approach and using our recommended calculated energies. We estimate the uncertainty in the A coefficients at 30% (see text).

Upper level		Lower level		$E_{\text{calc}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$	$A_{M1}(s^{-1})$	$A_{E2}(s^{-1})$
$7s6d$	3D_1	$7s^2$	2S_0	20846	4.48×10^{-7}	
$7s6d$	3D_2	$7s^2$	2S_0	22065		10.82
$7s6d$	3D_2	$7s6d$	3D_1	1219	0.79	2.78×10^{-5}
$7s6d$	3D_3	$7s6d$	3D_1	5416		0.0061
$7s6d$	3D_3	$7s6d$	3D_2	4197	33.61	0.015
$7s6d$	1D_2	$7s^2$	2S_0	31552		806.55
$7s6d$	1D_2	$7s6d$	3D_1	10306	49.81	0.0694
$7s6d$	1D_2	$7s6d$	3D_2	9087	5.72	0.0623
$7s6d$	1D_2	$7s6d$	3D_3	4890	5.67	0.0034

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