

Characteristics of a multilayer mirror polarimeter for measurements at extreme ultraviolet wavelengths

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Multilayer interference devices are extremely useful for exploiting the polarized extreme ultraviolet (EUV) properties of synchrotron radiation. We have developed and tested a multilayer mirror (MLM) polarimeter optimized for $\lambda = 304 \text{ \AA}$ using electron impact on helium. Specifically we present the first experimental results of the polarization of the EUV Lyman- α emission from He^+ [$\text{HeII} (2p) ^2\text{P}^\circ \rightarrow (1s) ^2\text{S}$] as a function of the electron impact energy for energies ranging from 70 to 980 eV. A major challenge to performing this measurement is the suppression of the dominant $\text{HeI} (1snp) ^1\text{P}^\circ \rightarrow (1s^2) ^1\text{S}$ radiation originating from the excitation of helium. Excellent spectral selectivity has been achieved with a VYNS copolymer filter whose transmission ration of HeII to HeI emission has been measured to be greater than 1200:1. Additionally, we have measured the instrumental polarization using two identical MLMs in a crossed polarizer configuration.