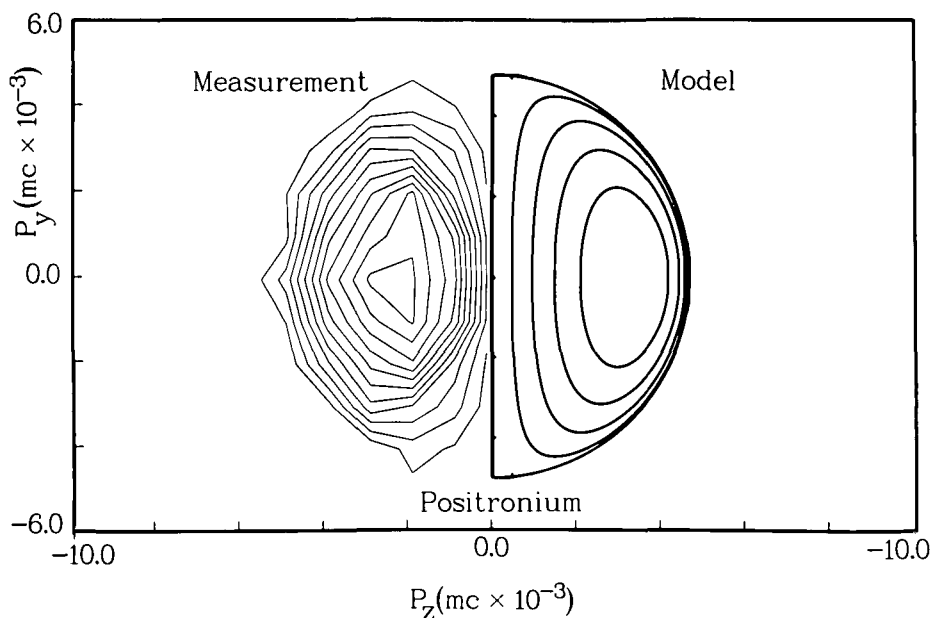


EDITOR'S CHOICE

Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



The EDITOR'S CHOICE for this issue of the BULLETIN arises from the application of a slow positron beam (740 eV) to a near $-[121]$ surface of a copper single crystal and the observation of the momentum distribution of positronium subsequently emitted from the surface. The positronium (a positron-electron pair bound through the Coulomb force in a way analogous to the electron and proton in a hydrogen atom) lives for a short time before the electron and positron annihilate, releasing two 511 keV gamma rays emitted in approximately opposite directions (to conserve momentum). A precise measurement of the angular correlation between the two gamma rays reveals deviations from exactly opposite emission directions which arise from the momentum of the positronium itself. A two-dimensional angular correlation measurement yields the positronium momentum distribution in two directions relative to the surface ($+p(z)$ into the surface, $p(y)$ in the plane of the surface) which can be compared to a model calculation involving assumptions concerning the electron momentum distribution in the metal and the electron-positron interaction in the metal. The figure shows the experimentally derived momentum distribution on the left, as if it were an imperfect reflection about the midplane of the figure of the model prediction on the right. Such data is expected to lead to better understanding of the positron-materials surface interaction and the positronium production process. A complete report of this work can be found in R. H. Howell, P. Meyer, I. J. Rosenberg, and M. J. Fluss, *Phys. Rev. Letters* 54 (1985) 1698. A discussion of this technique as a materials characterization tool can be found in I. J. Rosenberg, R. H. Howell, M. J. Fluss and P. Meyer, *Mat. Res. Soc. Symp. Proc.* 48 (1985) 419.

ERRATA

The EDITOR'S CHOICE figure in the March/April issue of the MRS BULLETIN (page 6), showing a rapidly rotating viscous protoearth, has viscosity on the order of 10^{18} poise.

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