ELECTRON WORK FUNCTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The electron work function Φ is a measure of the minimum energy required to extract an electron from the surface of a solid. It is defined more precisely as the energy difference between the state in which an electron has been removed to a distance from the surface of a single crystal face that is large enough that the image force is negligible but small compared to the distance to any other face (typically about 10^{-4} cm) and the state in which the electron is in the bulk solid. In general, Φ differs for each face of a monocrystalline sample.

Since Φ is dependent on the cleanliness of the surface, measurements reported in the literature often cover a considerable range. This table contains selected values for the electron work function of the elements which may be regarded as typical values for a reasonably clean surface. The method of measurement is indicated for each value. The following abbreviations appear:

TE – Thermionic emission
PE – Photoelectric effect
FE – Field emission
CPD – Contact potential difference
polycr – Polycrystalline sample
amorp – Amorphous sample

Values in parentheses are only approximate.

References

1. Hölzl, J., and Schulte, F. K., Work Functions of Metals, in *Solid Surface Physics*, Höhler, G., Ed., Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1979.
2. Riviere, J. C., Work Function: Measurements and Results, in *Solid State Surface Science*, *Vol.1*, Green, M., Ed., Decker, New York, 1969.
3. Michaelson, H. B., *J. Appl. Phys.*, 48, 4729, 1977.

Element	Plane	Φ/eV	Method
Ag	100	4.64	PE
	110	4.52	PE
	111	4.74	PE
Al	100	4.20	PE
	110	4.06	PE
	111	4.26	PE
As	polycr	(3.75)	PE
Au	100	5.47	PE
	110	5.37	PE
	111	5.31	PE
B	polycr	(4.45)	TH
Ba	polycr	2.52	TH
Be	polycr	4.98	PE
Bi	polycr	4.34	PE
C	polycr	(5.0)	CPD
Ca	polycr	2.87	PE
Cd	polycr	4.08	CPD
Ce	polycr	2.9	PE
Co	polycr	5.0	PE
Cr	polycr	4.5	PE
Cs	polycr	1.95	PE
Cu	100	5.10	FE
	110	4.48	PE
	111	4.94	PE
	112	4.53	PE
Eu	polycr	2.5	PE
Fe	100	4.67	PE
	111	4.81	PE
Ga	polycr	4.32	PE
Gd	polycr	2.90	CPD
Ge	polycr	5.0	CPD
Hf	polycr	3.9	PE
Hg	liquid	4.475	PE
In	polycr	4.09	PE
Ir	100	5.67	PE
	110	5.42	PE
	111	5.76	PE
	210	5.00	PE
K	polycr	2.29	PE
La	polycr	3.5	PE
Li	polycr	2.93	FE
Lu	polycr	(3.3)	CPD
Mg	polycr	3.66	PE
Mn	polycr	4.1	PE
Mo	100	4.53	PE
	110	4.95	PE
	111	4.55	PE
	112	4.36	PE
	114	4.50	PE
	332	4.55	PE
Na	polycr	2.36	PE
Nb	001	4.02	TH
	110	4.87	TH
	111	4.36	TH
	112	4.63	TH
	113	4.29	TH
	116	3.95	TH
	310	4.18	TH
Nd	polycr	3.2	PE
Ni	100	5.22	PE
	110	5.04	PE
	111	5.35	PE
Os	polycr	5.93	PE
Pb	polycr	4.25	PE
Pd	polycr	5.22	PE
	111	5.6	PE
Pt	polycr	5.64	PE
	110	5.84	FE
	111	5.93	FE
	320	5.22	FE
	331	5.12	FE
Rb	polycr	2.261	PE
Re	polycr	4.72	TE
Rh	polycr	4.98	PE
Ru	polycr	4.71	PE
Sb	amorp	4.55	
	100	4.7	
Sc	polycr	3.5	PE
Se	polycr	5.9	PE
Si	n	4.85	CPD
	p 100	(4.91)	CPD
	p 111	4.60	PE
Sm	polycr	2.7	PE
Sn	polycr	4.42	CPD
Sr	polycr	(2.59)	TH
Ta	polycr	4.25	TH
	100	4.15	TH
	110	4.80	TH
	111	4.00	TH
Tb	polycr	3.0	PE
Te	polycr	4.95	PE
Th	polycr	3.4	TH
Ti	polycr	4.33	PE
Tl	polycr	(3.84)	CPD
U	polycr	3.63	PE
	100	3.73	PE
	110	3.90	PE
	113	3.67	PE
V	polycr	4.3	PE
W	polycr	4.55	CPD
	100	4.63	FE
	110	5.22	FE
	111	4.45	FE
	113	4.46	FE
	116	4.32	TH
Y	polycr	3.1	PE
Zn	polycr	3.63	PE
	polycr	(4.9)	CPD
Zr	polycr	4.05	PE