Bogolon-mediated electron capture by impurities in hybrid Bose-Fermi systems

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I. INTRODUCTION

The presence of impurities in semiconductor nanostructures strongly modifies their physical properties [1,2]. At low temperature, the electron-impurity scattering is predominant and it determines the electric properties of the heterostructure, in particular, its conductivity [3]. Depending on the sign of the electron-impurity interaction, electrons can be either scattered by the impurities or captured by them [4–7]. In terms of the classical Drude theory, the former processes modify the effective scattering time of the electrons, whereas the latter processes literally result in the decrease of the number of free carriers of charge. As a result, nonradiative capture of electrons by charged attractive centers plays a crucial role in the transport of photoexcited carriers [8], drastically modifying the conductivity via electron lifetime. In particular, this lifetime is a crucial parameter for impurity photodetectors [9,10], which are commonly used in far-infrared range to monitor the emission of interlayer electron-exciton interaction. Being in the BEC regime [21–23], which has been reported in various solid state systems [14,24,25]. In particular, the possibility of inelastic processes of electron capture has been so far disregarded, to the best of our knowledge.

In this article we will demonstrate that in the presence of exciton BEC, an additional mechanism of electron capture to attractive centers appears. This mechanism is the consequence of interlayer electron-exciton interaction. Being in the BEC regime, exciton gas can be described in terms of bogolons (with a soundlike dispersion in the long-wavelength limit). Naively, one can expect that the processes of electron capture due to interaction with the BEC of excitons are similar to the case of lattice phonon emission, in particular, due to the similarity of the dispersion laws. Indeed, it is partly true. However, in order to better understand fundamental properties of this phenomenon, it is important to separate the BEC from the conduction electrons and study the influence of different interactions separately. One of the recent active areas of research is hybrid Bose-Fermi systems which consist of two-dimensional (2D) spatially separated electron and exciton gases, interacting with each other via the Coulomb forces [16–20]. These systems can be a testbed for various physical phenomena, some of which occur when the exciton or exciton-polariton gas is in the BEC regime [21–23], which has been reported in various solid state systems [14,24,25]. In particular, the possibility of inelastic processes of electron capture has been so far disregarded, to the best of our knowledge.

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II. SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

We consider a hybrid nanostructure consisting of a 2D electron layer separated by a distance / from a double quantum wall, containing the dipolar exciton gas, see Fig. 1.
The electron-exciton interaction in the 2DEG can be described by the following term in the Hamiltonian:

\[ V = \int d \mathbf{r} \int d \mathbf{R} \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{r}) g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) \Phi^\dagger(\mathbf{R}) \Phi(\mathbf{R}), \]  

(1)

where \( \Psi(\mathbf{r}) \) and \( \Phi(\mathbf{R}) \) are the quantum field operators of electron and excitons, respectively, \( g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) \) is the Coulomb interaction between an electron and an exciton, \( \mathbf{r} \) is an electron coordinate within the quantum well plane, and \( \mathbf{R} \) is the center of mass exciton coordinate. From now on, we will disregard the internal structure of the excitons and concentrate solely on the density of excitations which represent the collective modes of the exciton gas.

Assuming the exciton gas being in the BEC regime, we will use the model of weakly nonideal Bose gas for their description. The exciton field we present as \( \Phi(\mathbf{R}) = \sqrt{n_c} \Phi(\mathbf{R}) \), thus separating the condensed and noncondensed fractions. Here \( n_c \) is the exciton condensate density. Then from Eq. (1) we yield three contributions:

\[ V_1 = n_c \int d \mathbf{r} \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{r}) \int d \mathbf{R} g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}), \]
\[ V_2 = \sqrt{n_c} \int d \mathbf{r} \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{r}) \int d \mathbf{R} g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) \varphi^\dagger(\mathbf{R}) + \varphi(\mathbf{R}), \]
\[ V_3 = \int d \mathbf{r} \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{r}) \int d \mathbf{R} g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) \varphi^\dagger(\mathbf{R}) \varphi(\mathbf{R}). \]  

(2)

The operator \( V_1 \) does not contribute to the electron transition rate due to the energy nonconservation, and therefore it will be further disregarded. Then we take the Fourier transform of the other two operators in (2) using the formulas

\[ \varphi(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_p e^{i \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{R}} (u_p + v_p) b_p^\dagger + (u_p + u_p) b_{-p}^\dagger, \]
\[ \varphi^\dagger(\mathbf{R}) \varphi(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{p,p'} e^{i (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}') \cdot \mathbf{R}} (u_p^* b_p^\dagger + v_p^* b_{-p}^\dagger) \times (u_p b_p + v_p b_{-p}^\dagger), \]  

(3)

where \( b_p^\dagger, b_p \) are the creation and annihilation operators of the bogolons, and the coefficients read

\[ u_p^2 = 1 + v_p^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \left( \frac{Ms^2}{\omega_p^2} \right)^{1/2} \right), \quad u_p v_p = -\frac{Ms^2}{2\omega_p}. \]  

(4)

Here \( M \) is the exciton mass, \( s = \sqrt{\kappa n_c/\bar{M}} \) is the sound velocity of bogolons, \( \kappa = 4\pi e^2 d/\epsilon \) is exciton-exciton interaction strength, where \( d \) is the distance between the layers containing electrons and holes, \( \omega_p = sk(1 + k^2 \xi^2)^{1/2} \) is their spectrum, and \( \xi = 1/(2Ms) \) is the healing length. At low (close to zero) temperature, thermal excitations in the exciton subsystem are suppressed, therefore the processes of electron capture can only be accompanied by the emission of bogolons. As a result, in Eq. (3) we should concentrate on terms containing \( (b^\dagger)^2 \) and \( (b^\dagger b)^2 \) only. Let us consider electron transition from initial state \( |0_{imp}, 1_p \rangle \) with energy \( \epsilon = p^2/2m \) (zero energy level is taken at the bottom of the lowest electronic subband in the quantum well) to the final bound state \( |1_{imp}, 0_p \rangle \) with energy \( -\epsilon_0 < 0 \). It means that in the electron field operators we keep the terms containing \( c_p^\dagger \) and \( c_p \) only. Then the operators describing single- and two-bogolon emission processes in momentum representation read

\[ V_2 = \sqrt{n_c} \sum_{k,p} g_k \psi_0^\dagger(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}) (v_{-k} + u_k) c_p^\dagger b_p^\dagger, \]
\[ V_3 = \sum_{k,p} g_k \psi_0^\dagger(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}) c_p^\dagger \sum_q u_{q+k} v_q b_q^\dagger b_{q+k}^\dagger. \]  

(5)

(6)

In (5) and (6), \( g_k = 2\pi e^2 d \epsilon^{k - \hbar k}/\epsilon \) and \( \psi_0^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) = \int d \mathbf{r} e^{-i \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \psi_0(\mathbf{r}) \) are the Fourier images of the electron-exciton interaction and the wave function of the electron residing at the impurity center, respectively. The schematic of these processes (5) and (6) is presented in Fig. 2. Let us now find the probabilities of the corresponding capture events.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**FIG. 1.** System schematic: Spatially separated two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) with embedded impurity center and dipolar exciton gas residing in two parallel layers. Charged particles are coupled via the Coulomb interaction.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**FIG. 2.** Schematic of the electron capture processes, mediated by the emission of a single (a) and two (b) Bogoliubov quanta (red dashed arrows).
III. SINGLE-BOGOLON EMISSION

The probability of electron capture by the impurity accompanied by the emission of a single bogolon reads

\[ w = 2\pi n_e \sum_{k,p} g_k^2 |\psi_0^*(p - k)|^2 |v_{-k} + u_k|^2 \times \delta(\omega_k - \epsilon_0 - p^2/2m). \]  

(7)

Here \( \omega_k \) is the bogolon dispersion, and \( m \) is electron effective mass.

It is convenient to make a replacement: \( p - k \rightarrow p' \), thus the angle between the two vectors enters the delta function. Then the integration over the angle can be taken using

\[ \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \delta(a + b \cos \varphi) = \frac{2\theta(|b| - |a|)}{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}}. \]

(8)

As a result we obtain

\[ w = \frac{2n_e}{(2\pi)^3} \int kdkg_k^2 |v_{-k} + u_k|^2 \times \int dpd\theta |\psi_0^*(p)|^2 \frac{\theta(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_0 - p^2 + k^2/2m)}{(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_0 - p^2 + k^2/2m)^{3/2}}. \]

(9)

Due to the presence of \( \theta \) function, the limits of integration here should be chosen, thus the integrant is positive. In general, Eq. (9) requires numerical integration. However, we can analytically consider the most interesting case corresponding to the slow-electron motion, when \( \frac{k^2}{2m} \ll \epsilon_0 \). Then we can disregard the kinetic energy of the electron \( \frac{k^2}{2m} \) in the denominator of (9). Besides, let us assume that the electron is captured at the ground state of the Coulomb center, for which we know that |\( \psi_0^*(p) \)|\(^2 = \frac{8\pi a^2}{(1 + p^2/a^2)^3} \), where \( a = \epsilon_0 h^2 / 2m e^2 \) is a Bohr radius.

Integrating over \( p \) we find the probability

\[ w = \frac{3n_e ma}{8\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} g_k^2 |v_{-k} + u_k|^2 dk \left[ \frac{\epsilon_k - \epsilon_0 - \frac{e^2}{2m}}{1 + \frac{e^2}{2m}} \right]^{3/2}. \]

(10)

In the most interesting long-wavelength limit \( k\xi \ll 1 \), the Bogoliubov quasiparticle dispersion is linear: \( \omega_k \approx sk \). Then Eq. (10) can be simplified taking into account that \( |v_{-k} + u_k|^2 \approx k^2 \) and \( \omega_k \gg \frac{e^2}{2m} \). In dimensionless form this equation reads

\[ w = \frac{3\pi}{8} \left( \frac{d}{a} \right)^2 \frac{e^2}{m s^2} \epsilon_n a \int \frac{e^2}{h^2 s^2} \left[ \frac{ma}{2Mh^2} \right]. \]

(11)

Here we restore the Plank’s constant for completeness. This equation is one of the key results of our paper.

IV. TWO-BOGOLON EMISSION

The probability of electron capture by the impurity accompanied by the emission of a pair of bogolons reads

\[ w = 2\pi \sum_{k,p,q} g_k^2 |\psi_0^*(p - k)|^2 |u_{q+k}v_q|^2 \times \delta(\omega_{q+k} + \omega_q - \epsilon_0 - p^2/2m). \]

\[ = 2\pi \sum_{k,p} g_k^2 |\psi_0^*(p)|^2 \int d\xi F(k,\xi) \times \delta(\epsilon - \epsilon_0 - (p + k)^2/2m). \]

(12)

where we have introduced an auxiliary function:

\[ F(k,\xi) = \sum_q |u_{q+k}v_q|^2 \delta(\epsilon - \omega_{q+k} - \omega_q). \]

(13)

Integrating in (12) over the angle between \( p \) and \( k \), we find

\[ w = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_k g_k^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\xi F(k,\xi) \int dpd\theta |\psi_0^*(p)|^2 \times \frac{\theta(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_0 - \frac{e^2 + \xi^2}{2m})}{(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_0 - \frac{e^2 + \xi^2}{2m})^{3/2}}. \]

(14)

Furthermore, we assume linear dispersion of the bogolons \( \omega_q = sq \), when the coefficients in (13) read

\[ u_{q+k} \approx \frac{ms}{2|q + k|}, \quad v_q \approx -\frac{ms}{2q}. \]

According to (13), \( \xi \gg sk \gg k^2/2m \), and we again consider a slow electron \( p^2/2m \ll \epsilon_0 \). Then, in Eq. (14) one can disregard \( k^2/2m \).

After some derivations, the capture probability takes the dimensionless form

\[ w = \frac{3m}{M} \left( \frac{d}{10a} \right)^2 \frac{e^2}{h^2 s^2} \int \frac{e^2}{h^2 s^2} \left[ \frac{ma}{2Mh^2} \right]. \]

\[ J(\alpha; \beta) = \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha x} dx dt \left[ \frac{1 + \beta^2(cosh t - 1/x)^2}{1/2} \right]^{3/2}. \]

(15)

This is the second key result of the paper.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 3 shows the difference between the probabilities described by Eqs. (11) and (15). Typical systems where one can observe exciton BEC are based on InAlGaAs and MoS₂ [26] compounds. We utilize the typical parameters for (i) GaAs nanostructure: \( \epsilon = 12.5, m = 0.067 m_0, M = 0.517 m_0 \) (Mo is a free electron mass), \( d = 10 \text{ nm}, l = 50 \text{ nm} \); and for (ii) MoS₂: dielectric constant of h-BN \( \epsilon = 4.89 \), electron mass \( m = 0.47 m_0 \), effective mass of A-type exciton is \( M = 0.499 m_0, d = 3.5 \text{ nm} \) (about ten monolayers of h-BN) and
We see from Fig. 3 that for both materials, the two-bogolon processes are predominant and they cause the capture time to be orders of magnitude less, in comparison with the single-bogolon emission events. If for GaAs the difference is of one order of magnitude, for MoS$_2$ the difference is much larger, reaching five orders. Surprisingly, electron capture events accompanied by emission of a pair of bogolons should be treated within the same order of perturbation theory as the single-bogolon emission. If we look back at regular lattice phonons, the probability of emission of a single phonon is proportional to $\alpha_{\text{K}}^2$, where $\alpha_{\text{K}}$ is the interaction strength. Furthermore, the probability of two-phonon emission contains the factor $\alpha_{\text{K}}^4$, indicating the increase in the order of the perturbation theory. In contrast to this, the process of emission of two bogolons in our case has the same order, as a consequence of Coulomb nature of electron-exciton interaction, in contrast with electron-phonon interaction.

Another important issue is whether it is correct to disregard the three- and higher-order bogolon emission processes and if they can be equally important. These processes should be described by the higher-order perturbation theory, and therefore they are much less probable. Several possible diagrams describing the emission of three Bogoliubov quanta are presented in Figs. 4(a)–4(c). Obviously these diagrams contain the combination of single- and two-bogolon emission events, see Figs. 4(a) and 4(b). However, single-bogolon emission has much smaller probability amplitudes than the two-bogolon emission, as it was shown above. It results in the decrease of their overall impact, as compared to the diagrams given in Fig. 2(b). The diagram in Fig. 4(c) gives even smaller contribution being the third order over the single-bogolon emission process.

We would also like to address a “hybrid” case when the capture of the electron is facilitated by simultaneous emission of a bogolon and an acoustic phonon of the crystal lattice. Some of the corresponding diagrams are presented in Figs. 4(d) and 4(e). They contain additional bare electron-phonon vertices [green circles in Figs. 4(d) and 4(e)]. According to the Migdal’s theorem [28,29], each electron-phonon vertex introduces an additional small factor $\sqrt{m/M_a} \ll 1$, where $m$ is the electron mass and $M_a$ is the mass of an atom of the crystal lattice. Thus, the presence of the phonon emission processes increases the order of the perturbation theory of the diagrams and results in the decrease of their impact on the electron capture probability by the small factor $m/M_a$, in comparison with the processes considered in Fig. 2. Therefore, in the presence of bogolon-mediated electron capture, phonon-assisted processes play a minor role and can be safely disregarded.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

We investigated electron capture by an attractive Coulomb impurity center embedded in a hybrid Bose-Fermi system consisting of spatially separated two-dimensional electron gas and a dipolar exciton BEC gas coupled by the Coulomb interaction. We calculated the probability of electron capture accompanied by the emission of a single bogolon and a pair of bogolons in a single capture event and showed that the latter processes give a more important contribution, in contrast with regular acoustic phonon-mediated scattering. As a platform, we studied hybrid systems based on GaAs alloys and MoS$_2$. We conclude that electron capture by charged impurities in hybrid systems can be strongly enhanced due to the appearance of a new type of inelastic scattering processes.

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