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Abstract Submitted

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Long-Range Atom-Wall Mixing Terms for Excited States¹ UL-
RICH D. JENTSCHURA, Missouri Univ of Sci & Tech — Long-range interactions
between an atom and a perfectly conducting surface have been studied for a number
of decades. Based on the work of G. Barton [J. Phys. B 7 (1974) 2134], we know
that the treatment of these interactions for excited reference states can be highly
problematic, requires the careful regularization of infinities, and additional renor-
malizations. Here, the treatment is extended to higher-order corrections, namely,
mixing terms which are generated by the spatial symmetry breaking due to the
presence of the conducting surface. These terms are evaluated, with full account of
retardation, for metastable hydrogen [see Phys. Rev. A 91 (2015) 010502(R)]. Very-
long-range admixture “tails” due to neighboring $2P_{3/2}$ states which are removed
from the reference $2S$ state only by the fine structure, have a characteristic and sur-
prising oscillatory $1/Z$ form in the vicinity of a surface, where Z is the atom-surface
distance. The transition from the long-range regime to the nonretarded close-range
interactions and admixture terms is studied.

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