

**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and  
Mathematical Methods**  
10-10:50 AM MWF Olin 103

**Plan for Lecture 3:**

**Chapter 1 – scattering theory  
continued; center of mass versus  
laboratory reference frame.**

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**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and Mathematical Methods**

MWF 10 AM-10:50 PM OPL 103 <http://www.wfu.edu/~natalie/f13phy711/>

Instructor: Natalie Holzwarth Phone:758-5510 Office:300 OPL e-mail:natalie@wfu.edu

**Course schedule**

(Preliminary schedule -- subject to frequent adjustment.)

Date	F&W Reading	Topic	Assignment
1 Wed, 8/28/2013	Chap. 1	Review of basic principles: Scattering theory	#1
2 Fri, 8/30/2013	Chap. 1	Scattering theory continued	#2
3 Mon, 9/02/2013	Chap. 1	Scattering theory continued	#3
4 Wed, 9/04/2013	Chap. 2	Accelerated Coordinate Systems	#4

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Scattering geometry:

Area =  $2\pi b db$

Area =  $dA = 2\pi R^2 \sin \theta d\theta$

Large sphere of radius  $R$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{b}{\sin \theta} \left| \frac{db}{d\theta} \right|$$

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Relationship between scattering angle  $\theta$  and impact parameter  $b$  for interaction potential  $V(r)$ :

$$\theta = \pi - 2b \int_{r_{\min}}^{\infty} dr \left( \frac{1/r^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{b^2}{r^2} - \frac{V(r)}{E}}} \right) \quad \text{where :} \quad 1 - \frac{b^2}{r_{\min}^2} - \frac{V(r_{\min})}{E} = 0$$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right) = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left| \frac{db}{d\theta} \right|$$

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Example of cross section analysis

Rutherford scattering : for  $\frac{V(r)}{E} \equiv \frac{\kappa}{r}$

$$\theta = 2 \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{(b/\kappa)^2 + 1}} \right)$$

$$\frac{b}{\kappa} = \frac{|\cos(\theta/2)|}{\sin(\theta/2)}$$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right) = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left| \frac{db}{d\theta} \right| = \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \frac{1}{\sin^4(\theta/2)}$$

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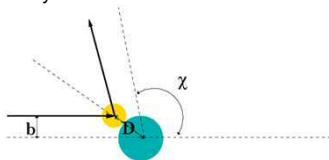
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Example of cross section analysis

Hard sphere scattering:



For your homework you showed that

$$b = D \cos\left(\frac{\chi}{2}\right)$$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right) = \frac{b}{\sin\chi} \left| \frac{db}{d\chi} \right| = \frac{D^2}{4}$$

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The results above were derived in the center of mass reference frame; relationship between normal laboratory reference and center of mass:

Laboratory reference frame:  
 Before:  $m_1$  moving right with velocity  $u_1$ ,  $m_2$  at rest ( $u_2=0$ ).  
 After:  $m_1$  moving right with velocity  $v_1$ ,  $m_2$  moving left with velocity  $v_2$ . Angle  $\psi$  is between  $v_1$  and the horizontal.

Center of mass reference frame:  
 Before:  $m_1$  moving right with velocity  $U_1$ ,  $m_2$  moving left with velocity  $U_2$ .  
 After:  $m_1$  moving right with velocity  $V_1$ ,  $m_2$  moving left with velocity  $V_2$ . Angle  $\theta$  is between  $V_1$  and the horizontal.

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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference

Definition of center of mass  $\mathbf{R}_{CM}$   
 $m_1 \mathbf{r}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{r}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \mathbf{R}_{CM}$   
 $m_1 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_1 + m_2 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \dot{\mathbf{R}}_{CM}$   
 $m_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{u}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \mathbf{V}_{CM} = m_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{v}_2$

In our case :

$$\mathbf{V}_{CM} = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{m_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{v}_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

$\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{U}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$     $\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{U}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$     $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$     $\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$

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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference -- continued

Since  $m_2$  is initially at rest :

$$\mathbf{V}_{CM} = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 \quad \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{U}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM} \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{U}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM} \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}_2 = -\frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 = -\mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$   
 $\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$

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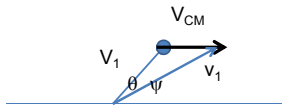
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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference



$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$v_1 \sin \psi = V_1 \sin \theta$$

$$v_1 \cos \psi = V_1 \cos \theta + V_{CM}$$

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + V_{CM} / V_1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}$$

For elastic scattering

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Digression – elastic scattering

~~$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 U_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 U_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m_1 V_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 V_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2$$~~

Also note:

$$m_1 \mathbf{U}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{U}_2 = 0 \quad m_1 \mathbf{V}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{V}_2 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{U}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \mathbf{V}_{CM} \quad \mathbf{U}_2 = -\mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\mathbf{U}_1| = |\mathbf{V}_1| \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{U}_2| = |\mathbf{V}_2| = |\mathbf{V}_{CM}|$$

Also note that :  $m_1 |\mathbf{U}_1| = m_2 |\mathbf{U}_2|$

So that :  $V_{CM} / V_1 = V_{CM} / U_1 = m_1 / m_2$

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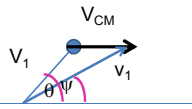
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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference – continued (elastic scattering)



$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$v_1 \sin \psi = V_1 \sin \theta$$

$$v_1 \cos \psi = V_1 \cos \theta + V_{CM}$$

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + V_{CM} / V_1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}$$

Also:  $\cos \psi = \frac{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}{\sqrt{1 + 2m_1 / m_2 \cos \theta + (m_1 / m_2)^2}}$

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Differential cross sections in different reference frames

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \frac{d\Omega_{CM}}{d\Omega_{LAB}}$$

$$\frac{d\Omega_{CM}}{d\Omega_{LAB}} = \left|\frac{\sin\theta}{\sin\psi}\frac{d\theta}{d\psi}\right| = \left|\frac{d\cos\theta}{d\cos\psi}\right|$$

Using :

$$\cos\psi = \frac{\cos\theta + m_1/m_2}{\sqrt{1 + 2(m_1/m_2)\cos\theta + (m_1/m_2)^2}}$$

$$\left|\frac{d\cos\psi}{d\cos\theta}\right| = \frac{(m_1/m_2)\cos\theta + 1}{(1 + 2(m_1/m_2)\cos\theta + (m_1/m_2)^2)^{3/2}}$$

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Differential cross sections in different reference frames – continued:

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \left|\frac{d\cos\theta}{d\cos\psi}\right|$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \frac{(1 + 2m_1/m_2 \cos\theta + (m_1/m_2)^2)^{3/2}}{(m_1/m_2)\cos\theta + 1}$$

where :  $\tan\psi = \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta + m_1/m_2}$

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$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \frac{(1 + 2m_1/m_2 \cos\theta + (m_1/m_2)^2)^{3/2}}{(m_1/m_2)\cos\theta + 1}$$

where :  $\tan\psi = \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta + m_1/m_2}$

Example: suppose  $m_1 = m_2$

In this case :  $\tan\psi = \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta + 1} \Rightarrow \psi = \frac{\theta}{2}$

note that  $0 \leq \psi \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(2\psi)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \cdot 4 \cos\psi$$

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Example of cross section analysis – CM versus lab frame

Rutherford scattering :  $V(r) = \frac{\kappa E}{r} = \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r}$

(Note that  $E$  is center of mass energy)

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{CM} = \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \frac{1}{\sin^4(\theta/2)}$$

For  $m_1 = m_2$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\sigma_{CM}(2\psi)}{d\Omega_{CM}}\right) \cdot 4 \cos \psi = \kappa^2 \frac{\cos \psi}{\sin^4 \psi}$$

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