

Physics 4271 HW 2

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Problem 1. Calculate the minimum energy required to be over the Coulomb barrier for:

1. $p + p$,
2. $p + {}^{12}\text{C}$,
3. ${}^4\text{He} + {}^{208}\text{Pb}$.

Solution. The Coulomb potential is

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r}.$$

Whenever the reactants are close enough to make “physical” contact, the strong force kicks in; the Coulomb potential at this radius is roughly the peak of the Coulomb barrier. The radius of nuclei can be estimated as $r = 1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot A^{1/3}$.

This gives us sufficient information to compute:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{p+p} = 2r_p &= 2(1.2 \text{ fm})(1)^{1/3} = 2.4 \text{ fm} \Rightarrow E_{p+p} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r_{p+p}} = \frac{1}{4\pi(8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m})} \frac{1 \cdot 1 \cdot (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{2.4 \text{ fm}} \\ &= 9.6 \times 10^{-14} \text{ J} = 559 \text{ keV} \end{aligned}$$

$$r_{p+{}^{12}\text{C}} = r_p + r_{{}^{12}\text{C}} = 1.2 \text{ fm} + 1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot (12)^{1/3} = 3.95 \text{ fm} \Rightarrow E_{p+{}^{12}\text{C}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Z e^2}{r_{p+{}^{12}\text{C}}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi(8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m})} \frac{1 \cdot 6 \cdot (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{3.95 \text{ fm}} = 2.19 \text{ MeV}$$

$$r_{{}^4\text{He}+{}^{208}\text{Pb}} = r_{{}^4\text{He}} + r_{{}^{208}\text{Pb}} = 1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot 4^{1/3} + 1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot 208^{1/3} = 9.01 \text{ fm}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_{{}^4\text{He}+{}^{208}\text{Pb}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} = \frac{1}{4\pi(8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m})} \frac{4 \cdot 208 \cdot (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{9.01 \text{ fm}} = 133 \text{ GeV}$$

□

Problem 2. The cross section for charged-particle reactions is proportional to the probability of tunneling through the Coulomb barrier given by the Gamow factor, which has a convenient approximation:

$$e^{-2\pi\eta} = e^{-2\pi Z_1 Z_2 e^2 / \hbar v} = e^{-31.287 Z_1 Z_2 \sqrt{\mu/E}}$$

where μ is the reduced mass in amu and E is the center-of-mass energy in keV. For the 3 cases you considered above, calculate the Gamow factor for an energy that is one-quarter the barrier energy you found in problem 1.

Solution. Plug-and-chug:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{p+p} &= \frac{m_p m_p}{m_p + m_p} = \frac{m_p}{2} = 0.5 \text{ amu} \Rightarrow G_{p+p} = \exp \left(-31.287 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \sqrt{\frac{0.5 \text{ amu}}{559 \text{ keV}/4}} \right) = 0.94 \\ \mu_{p+^{12}\text{C}} &= \frac{m_p m_{^{12}\text{C}}}{m_p + m_{^{12}\text{C}}} = \frac{1 \text{ amu} \cdot 12 \text{ amu}}{1 \text{ amu} + 12 \text{ amu}} = 0.92 \text{ amu} \Rightarrow G_{p+^{12}\text{C}} = \exp \left(-31.287 \cdot 1 \cdot 6 \sqrt{\frac{0.92 \text{ amu}}{2.91 \text{ MeV}/4}} \right) \\ &= 0.81 \\ \mu_{^4\text{He}+^{208}\text{Pb}} &= \frac{m_{^4\text{He}} m_{^{208}\text{Pb}}}{m_{^4\text{He}} + m_{^{208}\text{Pb}}} = \frac{4 \text{ amu} \cdot 208 \text{ amu}}{4 \text{ amu} + 208 \text{ amu}} = 3.92 \text{ amu} \\ &\Rightarrow G_{^4\text{He}+^{208}\text{Pb}} = \exp \left(-31.287 \cdot 4 \cdot 208 \sqrt{\frac{3.92 \text{ amu}}{133 \text{ GeV}/4}} \right) = 0.75\end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3. A 2 MeV beam of protons bombards a ^{16}O target and the differential cross section is measured to be 0.094 b/sr at a lab angle of 167° .

1. What is the expected cross-section if you assume Rutherford scattering?
2. What is the calculated Mott cross-section?
3. How do your answers to (a) and (b) differ from the measured cross section and why might they be different?

Solution. Using the nonrelativistic Rutherford scattering formula (2 MeV is pretty slow),

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Rutherford}} = \frac{(zZe^2)^2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 \cdot (4E_{kin})^2 \sin^4 \frac{\theta}{2}} = \frac{(1 \cdot 8(1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2)^2}{(4\pi \cdot 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m})^2 \cdot (4 \cdot 2 \text{ MeV})^2 \sin^4 \frac{167}{2}} = 0.0212 \text{ b/sr}.$$

For the Mott cross-section, we first need the relativistic β :

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} \approx \frac{\sqrt{2E/m_p}}{c} = 0.065$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Mott}} = \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{\text{Rutherford}} \cdot \left(1 - \beta^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = (0.0212 \text{ b/sr}) \cdot \left(1 - (0.065)^2 \sin^2 \frac{167}{2} \right) = 0.0211 \text{ b/sr}.$$

This is within an order of magnitude, but barely. The discrepancy may be attributable to nuclear recoil (1/16 isn't too small a ratio), or charge inhomogeneity in the nucleus. □

Problem 4. Assume that ^{197}Au is made from a solid, uniform sphere of nuclear material with a radius of $R = 1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot A^{1/3}$. Calculate the form factor $F(q)$.

Solution. The charge distribution is

$$\rho(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{Ze}{4\pi R^3/3} & r \leq R \\ 0 & r > R \end{cases}$$

The nonzero density part can be computed to be $\frac{87.1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}}{4\pi(1.2 \text{ fm} \cdot 197^{1/3})/3} = 4.76 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C/m}^3$. Conditional on the Born approximation and presuming minimal nuclear recoil, the Fourier transform of this is the form factor. Going off of the book's statement of the form factor for homogeneous spheres (to avoid a hard-to-spot Bessel-function computation I'd expect you to spare us from), the form factor is

$$F(\mathbf{q}) = Ze \frac{3\hbar^3}{|\mathbf{q}|^3 R^3} \left(\sin \frac{|\mathbf{q}|R}{\hbar} - \frac{|\mathbf{q}|R}{\hbar} \cos \frac{|\mathbf{q}|R}{\hbar} \right)$$

which computes to

$$= \frac{7.71 \times 10^{-105}}{|\mathbf{q}|^3} (\sin(6.65 \times 10^{19} |\mathbf{q}|) - 6.65 \times 10^{19} |\mathbf{q}| \cos(6.65 \times 10^{19} |\mathbf{q}|))$$

□

Problem 5. Show that the mean-square charge radius of a uniformly charged sphere is $\langle r^2 \rangle = 3R^2/5$.

Solution. An exercise in probability theory and calculus, calculating the expectation of r^2 with a uniform volumetric pdf of radius R .

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^2 \frac{3}{4\pi R^3} \chi_S(r) dV = \frac{3}{4\pi R^3} \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^R r^4 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi = \frac{3}{R^3} \left(\frac{r^5}{5} \Big|_{r=0}^{r=R} \right) = \frac{3R^2}{5}$$

□

Problem 6. A nuclear charge distribution more realistic than the uniformly charged distribution is the Fermi distribution, $\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r-c)/a]}$. Find the value of a if $t = 2.3 \text{ fm}$

Solution. t is the falloff parameter of the distribution, giving the separation between where ρ is 10% and 90% of ρ_0 ; call these r_1 and r_2 , respectively. We can then generate the equations

$$\rho(r_1) = 0.1\rho_0 = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r_1 - c)/a]}$$

$$\rho(r_2) = 0.9\rho_0 = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r_2 - c)/a]}$$

$$t = 2.3 \text{ fm} = r_2 - r_1$$

Simplifying these,

$$r_1 = a \ln(9) + c$$

$$r_2 = c - a \ln(9)$$

$$\Rightarrow t = r_2 - r_1 = -a \ln(81) \Rightarrow a = \frac{t}{\ln(1/81)} = \frac{2.3 \text{ fm}}{\ln(1/81)} = -0.523 \text{ fm}$$

□

Problem 7 (Bonus). Evaluate $\langle r^2 \rangle$ for the Fermi distribution in Problem 6.

Solution. Another probability exercise.

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r^2 \rho(r) dV = \rho_0 \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{r^2}{1 + \exp[(r - c)/a]} dV = 4\pi\rho_0 a \int_0^\infty \frac{r^4}{1 + e^{(r-c)/a}} du$$

Integrals of the form after the obvious u -sub are transcendental, in general, even with bounds from zero to infinity; with the non-zero lower bound that u -sub generates, it's no doubt worse. So, it doesn't pay to carry this further. This integral can be readily computed via any favorite numerical method. Here's mine, in Guile Scheme (complete overkill for the three digits of precision I tend to carry things to):

;; All spicy Legendre polynomial and weight computation tricks courtesy Bogaert et. al. 2012

;; Recursion relation for the polynomials themselves

```
(define (legendre-poly l x)
  (cond
    ((= l 0) 1)
    ((= l 1) x)
    (else (/ (-
              (*
               (1+ (* 2 l))
               x
               (legendre-poly (- l 1) x))
              (* 1
               (legendre-poly (- l 2) x)))
            (1+ 1)))))
```

;; Analytical recursion relation for $P'_l(x)$

```
(define (legendre-poly-deriv l x)
  (cond
    ((= l 0) 0)
    ((= l 1) 1)
    (else (/ (-
              (* 1 (legendre-poly (- l 1) x))
              (* 1 x (legendre-poly l x)))
            (- 1 (pow x 2)))))
```

;; An extremely accurate starting value for computing $x_{l,k}$ where $P_l(x_{l,k}) = 0$

```
(define (zero-guess l k)
  (* pi
    (/ (+ (* 4 k) 3)
        (+ (* 4 l) 2))))
```

;; Refine the guess above---numerical paper promises it's very few iterations 'till machine ϵ

```
(define (legendre-newton-raphson l guess tol)
```

```

(if (<= ((legendre-poly 1 guess) tol)
    guess
    (newton-raphson 1 (- guess
                        (/ (legendre-poly 1 guess)
                           (legendre-poly-deriv 1 guess))))))

;; Compute the kth zero of  $P_l$ 
(define (legendre-zero 1 k)
  (legendre-newton-raphson 1 (zero-init-guess 1 k) 1e-20))

;; Compute the kth quadrature weight for  $P_l$ 
(define (quadrature-weight 1 k)
  (/ (* 2 (- 1 (pow x 2)))
     (pow (* (1+ 1)
              (legendre-poly
                (1+ 1)
                (legendre-zero 1 k)))
        2)))

;; Change-of-variables to rescale  $\int_a^b$  to  $\int_{-1}^1$ 
(define (change-of-interval f a b)
  (lambda (x)
    (let ((mid . (/ (- b a) 2))
          (avg . (/ (+ b a) 2)))
      (*
        (f (+ (* mid x) avg))
        mid))))

;; Actually computing the Gaussian quadrature  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i f(x_{n,i})$ 
(define (gaussian-quad f n a b)
  (apply + (map *
                 (map
                  (lambda (k)
                    (quadrature-weight n k))
                  (iota 1 n))
                 (map
                  (lambda (k)
                    ((change-of-interval f a b)
                     (legendre-zero n k))
                    (iota 1 n)))))))

(define (integrand x)
  (/ (+ (pow x 2) x)
     (1- (exp x))))

(gaussian-quad integrand 200 0 3c/2)

```

;; =>

I'm adjusting to a new computer setup, and can't actually *execute* the forms above, which sucks. In any case, I'm unable to disambiguate the integrand, as I can't seem to find c . \square