

0.0.1 Optical Theorem (Guest Lecutrer: M. Zaletel)

We have the differential cross section

$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \Omega} = |f(\theta)|^2 = \frac{1}{k^2} \sum_{\ell, \ell'} (2\ell + 1)(2\ell' + 1) f_{\ell} f_{\ell'}^* P_{\ell}(\cos \theta) P_{\ell'}(\cos \theta)$$

Legendre polynomials are orthonormal, so we can take

$$\sigma_T = 2\pi \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta |f^2(\theta)|^2 = \frac{4\pi}{k^2} \sum_{\ell} (2\ell + 1) \sin^2(\delta_{\ell})$$

There's also a unitarity bound. He erased before I was able to write this down so TODO: GO to the Tong lecture.

0.0.2 Hard-Sphere Scattering

Let's consider the following hard-sphere scattering.

$$\psi(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell} R_{\ell}(r) P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$

Then, for $r > a$,

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{\ell(\ell + 1)}{r^2} + k^2 \right] (r R_{\ell}(r))$$

Basically, we write it down in terms of the bessell functions

$$\rho \gg 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} j_{\ell}(\rho) = \frac{1}{\rho} \sin(\rho - \ell\pi/2) \\ n_{\ell}(\rho) = \frac{1}{\rho} \sin(\rho - \ell\pi/2) \end{cases} \quad \rho \ll 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} j_{\ell}(\rho) = \frac{\rho^{\ell}}{(2\ell+1)!!} \\ n_{\ell}(\rho) = (2\ell-1)!! \rho^{-(2\ell+1)} \end{cases}$$

Taking asymptotics then, we take

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow \infty} R_{\ell}(\rho) \propto \left[(-1)^{\ell+1} \frac{e^{-i\rho}}{\rho} + e^{2i\delta_{\ell}} \frac{e^{i\rho}}{\rho} \right] = \frac{e^{i\delta_{\ell}} e^{i\pi\ell/2}}{\rho} \left[-e^{i(\rho+\delta_{\ell}-\pi\ell/2)} + e^{i(\rho+\delta_{\ell}-\pi\ell/2)} \right]$$

We can solve for various ℓ by substituting in the asymptotics for ℓ . For instance, in the limit where $\rho \ll 1$, $\tan(\alpha_{\ell} = \delta_{\ell}) = \frac{j_{\ell}(ka)}{n_{\ell}(ka)}$, which gives

$$\lim_{\rho \ll 1} \tan(\delta_{\ell}) = \frac{(ka)^{2\ell+1}}{(2\ell+1)!!(2\ell-1)!!}$$

Now, we can take the total contribution from all sections

$$\sigma_T = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \sigma_{\ell} = \frac{4\pi}{k^2} (ka)^2 + \dots = 4\pi a^2 + \dots$$

We can also always define $a_{\ell} = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan(\delta_{\ell})}{k}$