

1. Prob 13.7

Let θ be the small deflection angle from each collision in the multiple scattering process. Let θ_x and θ_y be the projected angle, then

$$\theta_x^2 + \theta_y^2 = \theta^2 \quad (1)$$

The symmetry in x and y implies

$$\langle \theta_x^2 \rangle = \langle \theta_y^2 \rangle = \frac{\langle \theta^2 \rangle}{2} \quad (2)$$

Let z be the incident direction and let t be the thickness of the material, and let n be the number of collisions before the particle exits the material. Also let the i -th collision happen at z_i , thus the total y displacement can be written as

$$y = \int_0^t \left(\sum_{i: z_i < z} \theta_{y,i} \right) dz \quad (3)$$

where the sum in the integrand is the cumulative deflection angle projected in y direction before reaching z . Exchanging the order of summation and integration, we will change the lower limit of the integration to z_i (to indicate that only the collisions before z_i will contribute to the y offset at z_i), and then sum over all collisions, i.e.,

$$y = \sum_i \theta_{y,i} \int_{z_i}^t dz = \sum_i \theta_{y,i} (t - z_i) \quad (4)$$

The mean square of y can be calculated as

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i,j} \theta_{y,i} \theta_{y,j} (t - z_i) (t - z_j) \right\rangle \quad (5)$$

When $i \neq j$, $\theta_{y,i}$ and $\theta_{y,j}$ are uncorrelated hence have no contribution to the mean, the double sum can be reduced to a single sum,

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \left\langle \sum_i \theta_{y,i}^2 (t - z_i)^2 \right\rangle = n \langle \theta_{y,i}^2 \rangle \langle (t - z_i)^2 \rangle \quad (6)$$

where the latter equality is due to the independence of $\theta_{y,i}$ and z_i .

For any single collision, z_i is uniformly distributed in $(0, t)$ so it has a probability density of $1/t$, giving

$$\langle (t - z_i)^2 \rangle = \int_0^t \frac{1}{t} (t - z_i)^2 dz_i = \frac{t^2}{3} \quad (7)$$

Together with (2) and (6), we have

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \frac{nt^2 \langle \theta^2 \rangle}{6} = \frac{\langle \Theta^2 \rangle t^2}{6} \quad (8)$$

and by central limit theorem, the distribution of y is Gaussian

$$P(y) dy = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \langle y^2 \rangle}} \exp \left[-\frac{y^2}{2 \langle y^2 \rangle} \right] dy \quad (9)$$

2. Prob 13.8

- (a) Per the last paragraph of section 13.6, the single scattering tail will be absent if $\langle \Theta^2 \rangle$ is comparable to θ_{\max}^2 – the limit of the single scattering deflection angle (see equation (13.57)). Thus we define the critical thickness x_c to be the thickness that makes $\langle \Theta^2 \rangle = \theta_{\max}^2$. Using (13.57) for θ_{\max} and (13.66) for $\langle \Theta^2 \rangle$, we have

$$4\pi N \left(\frac{2Ze^2}{pv} \right)^2 \ln(204Z^{-1/3}) x_c = \left(\frac{274}{A^{1/3}} \frac{mc}{p} \right)^2 \quad (10)$$

If the incident particle is relativistic (and $z = 1$), we can approximate $p\nu \approx pc$, then canceling $1/(pc)^2$ from both sides gives

$$4\pi N \cdot 4Z^2 e^4 \ln(204Z^{-1/3}) x_c = \frac{274^2}{A^{2/3}} (mc^2)^2 \implies x_c = \frac{274^2}{A^{2/3}} \cdot \frac{1}{16\pi N Z^2 \ln(204Z^{-1/3})} \cdot \left(\frac{mc^2}{e^2}\right)^2 \quad (11)$$

Note that

$$\frac{e^2}{1.44 \times 10^{-7} \text{cm}} = 1 \text{eV} \implies \frac{mc^2}{e^2} = \frac{0.511 \times 10^6 \text{eV}}{1.44 \times 10^{-7} \text{eV} \cdot \text{cm}} \approx 3.55 \times 10^{12} \text{cm}^{-1} \quad (12)$$

Thus for

- aluminum: $Z = 13, A = 27, N = 6.02 \times 10^{22} \text{atoms/cm}^3$, we have

$$x_c \approx 46 \text{cm} \quad (13)$$

- lead: $Z = 82, A = 207, N = 3.3 \times 10^{22} \text{atoms/cm}^3$,

$$x_c \approx 0.63 \text{cm} \quad (14)$$

(b) By (13.64)

$$\begin{aligned} n &= N \sigma t = \pi N \cdot \frac{4Z^2 e^4}{p^2 c^2} \frac{x_c}{\theta_{\min}^2} && \text{by (13.55)} \\ &= \frac{4\pi N Z^2 e^4}{p^2 c^2} \frac{192^2 p^2 c^2}{Z^{2/3} m^2 c^4} \cdot x_c \\ &= 192^2 \cdot 4\pi N Z^{4/3} \left(\frac{e^2}{mc^2}\right)^2 \cdot x_c \\ &\approx \begin{cases} 3.1 \times 10^6 & \text{for aluminum} \\ 2.7 \times 10^5 & \text{for lead} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

These are very large numbers, justifying the Gaussian approximation.