

We shall prove the optical theorem

$$\text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] = \frac{k\sigma_{\text{tot}}}{4\pi} \quad (1)$$

Recall the scattering amplitude

$$f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_s) \equiv -\frac{mL^3}{2\pi\hbar^2} \langle \mathbf{k}_s | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle \quad (2)$$

and the Lippmann-Schwinger equation

$$|\psi^{(+)}\rangle = |i\rangle + \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\hbar\epsilon} V |\psi^{(+)}\rangle \quad (3)$$

Left multiply  $\langle \psi^{(+)} | V$  to (3), we have

$$\langle \psi^{(+)} | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle = \langle \psi^{(+)} | V | \mathbf{k} \rangle + \left\langle \psi^{(+)} \left| V \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\epsilon} V \right| \psi^{(+)} \right\rangle \quad (4)$$

We then recognize the LHS of (4) as real since  $V$  is Hermitian. Then the imaginary part of the RHS gives

$$\begin{aligned} -\text{Im}\langle \psi^{(+)} | V | \mathbf{k} \rangle &= \text{Im} \left\langle \psi^{(+)} \left| V \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\epsilon} V \right| \psi^{(+)} \right\rangle && \Rightarrow \\ \text{Im}\langle \mathbf{k} | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle &= \text{Im} \left\langle \psi^{(+)} \left| V \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\epsilon} V \right| \psi^{(+)} \right\rangle && \Rightarrow \\ \text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] &= -\frac{mL^3}{2\pi\hbar^2} \cdot \underbrace{\text{Im} \left\langle \psi^{(+)} \left| V \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\epsilon} V \right| \psi^{(+)} \right\rangle}_A \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Before proceeding further, let's first prove the following useful claim:

**Claim:** For real  $x$

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{Im} \left( \frac{1}{x + i\epsilon} \right) = -\pi \delta(x) \quad (6)$$

*Proof.* Indeed, if we let  $g(x) \equiv 1/(x + i\epsilon)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \text{Im}[g(x)] dx &= \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [g(x) - g^*(x)] dx = \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{x + i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x - i\epsilon} \right) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{-\epsilon}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} dx && (\text{let } x = \epsilon \tan \theta) \\ &= - \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{\epsilon^2 d(\tan \theta)}{\epsilon^2 / \cos^2 \theta} \\ &= - \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} d\theta \\ &= -\pi \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Now (7), together with the fact that  $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{Im}[g(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \neq 0$ , gives (7) by definition of the  $\delta$ -function.  $\square$

Look back at (5), we now insert two complete energy eigenkets  $F, F'$  into  $A$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}(A) &= \text{Im} \left[ \sum_{F, F'} \langle \psi^{(+)} | V | F \rangle \left\langle F \left| \frac{1}{E_i - H_0 + i\epsilon} \right| F' \right\rangle \langle F' | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle \right] \\ &= \text{Im} \left[ \sum_F \langle \psi^{(+)} | V | F \rangle \left( \frac{1}{E_i - F + i\epsilon} \right) \langle F | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle \right] \\ &= \text{Im} \left[ \sum_F \left( \frac{1}{E_i - F + i\epsilon} \right) |\langle F | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \right] && (\text{by (6)}) \\ &\xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} -\pi \sum_F \delta(E_i - F) |\langle F | V | \psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Then (5) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] &= -\frac{mL^3}{2\pi\hbar^2} \cdot \left[ -\pi \sum_F \delta(E_i - F) |\langle F|V|\psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \right] \\
&= \frac{mL^3}{2\hbar^2} \cdot \left[ \sum_F \delta(E_i - F) |\langle F|V|\psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \right] \\
&= \frac{mL^3}{2\hbar^2} \cdot \left[ \sum_{\mathbf{k}_s} \delta\left(E_i - \frac{\hbar^2 k_s^2}{2m}\right) |\langle \mathbf{k}_s|V|\psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

The sum in (9) can be seen to be done over all the grid points (i.e.,  $\Delta n_x = \Delta n_y = \Delta n_z = 1$ ), thus with large  $L$ , the sum can be replaced by  $\mathbf{k}_s$ -space integral

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{n_x, n_y, n_z} \Delta n_x \Delta n_y \Delta n_z = \sum_{k_x, k_y, k_z} \Delta k_x \Delta k_y \Delta k_z \frac{L^3}{(2\pi)^3} = \int_{\mathbf{k}} d^3\mathbf{k} \frac{L^3}{(2\pi)^3}$$

which makes

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] &= \frac{mL^3}{2\hbar^2} \frac{L^3}{8\pi^3} \int_{\mathbf{k}_s} d^3\mathbf{k}_s \delta\left(E_i - \frac{\hbar^2 k_s^2}{2m}\right) |\langle \mathbf{k}_s|V|\psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \\
&= \frac{\hbar^2}{4\pi m} \int_{\mathbf{k}_s} d^3\mathbf{k}_s \delta\left(E_i - \frac{\hbar^2 k_s^2}{2m}\right) \underbrace{\left( \frac{m^2 L^6}{4\pi^2 \hbar^4} |\langle \mathbf{k}_s|V|\psi^{(+)} \rangle|^2 \right)}_{d\sigma/d\Omega} \quad (\text{see (6.58), (6.59)}) \\
&= \frac{\hbar^2}{4\pi m} \int d\Omega \int_{k_s=0}^{\infty} k_s^2 dk_s \delta\left(E_i - \frac{\hbar^2 k_s^2}{2m}\right) \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

We have to be careful integrating with  $\delta$ -function. Let  $\kappa = \hbar^2 k_s^2/2m$  (hence  $k_s = \sqrt{2m/\hbar^2} \kappa^{1/2}$ ),

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{k_s=0}^{\infty} k_s^2 dk_s \delta\left(E_i - \frac{\hbar^2 k_s^2}{2m}\right) h(k_s) &= \int_{\kappa=0}^{\infty} \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \kappa \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}} \frac{d\kappa}{2\sqrt{\kappa}} \delta(E_i - \kappa) h(\kappa) \\
&= \int_{\kappa=0}^{\infty} \frac{m}{\hbar^2} \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}} \sqrt{\kappa} d\kappa \delta(E_i - \kappa) h(\kappa) \\
&= \frac{m}{\hbar^2} \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}} \sqrt{\kappa} h(\kappa) \Big|_{\kappa=E_i}
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

which finally turns (10) into

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4\pi m} \int d\Omega \frac{m}{\hbar^2} \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \\
&= \frac{k\sigma_{\text{tot}}}{4\pi}
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$