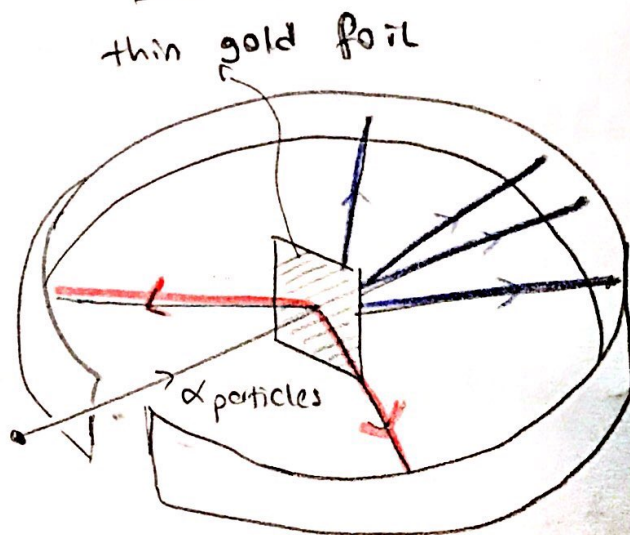


# Rutherford Scattering



positive charge is concentrated, the nucleus.

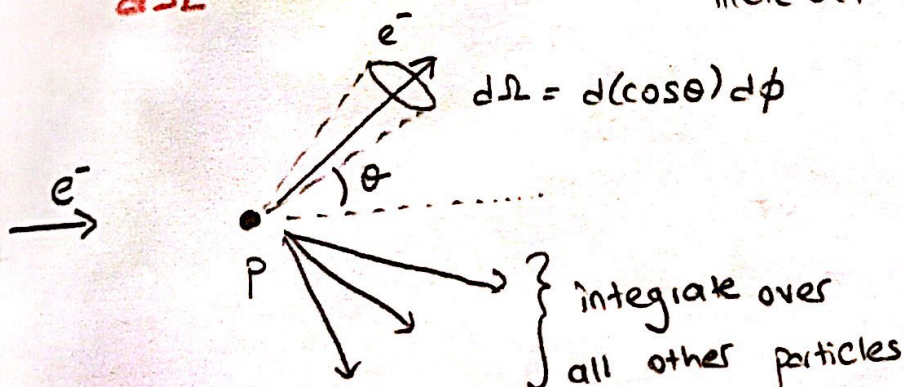
$$\sigma = \frac{\text{\# of interactions per unit time per target}}{\text{incident flux}}$$

Cross Section
# of incident particles / unit area / unit time

\*  $\sigma$  is a measure of the probability with which an interaction occurs.

(differential cross section)

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\text{\# of interactions per unit time per target into } d\Omega}{\text{incident flux}}$$



$$\sigma = \int \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} d\Omega$$



## Relativistic kinematics

↗ 4-component vectors

$$X = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = (ct, \vec{x}) = (t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$P = (p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3) = (\bar{E}/c, \vec{p}) = (\bar{E}, \mathbf{p})$$

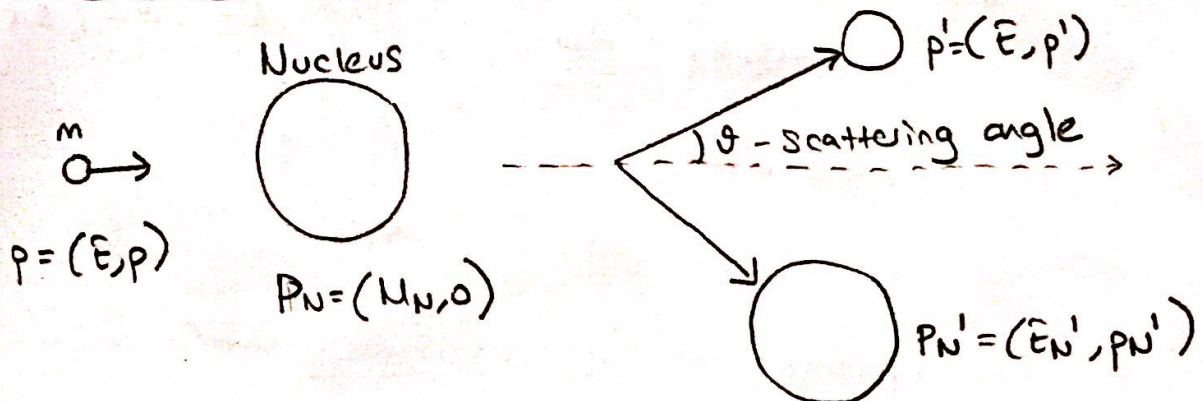
\* Scalar product of two 4-vectors is invariant, i.e. independent of a reference frame.

$$a \cdot b = ab = a_0 b_0 - a_1 b_1 - a_2 b_2 - a_3 b_3 = a_0 b_0 - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$$

↘ for a 4-momentum  $\rightarrow P^2 = \bar{E}^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 = m^2$  mass of particle at rest

$$\sum_i P_i = \text{constant} \Rightarrow m^2 = \left( \sum_i P_i \right)^2 = \text{constant}$$

## Kinematics of an Elastic Scattering



\* From Momentum-energy conservation

$$(p + P_N)^2 = (p' + P_N')^2$$

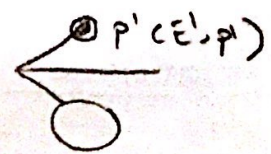
$$p^2 + 2p \cdot P_N + P_N^2 = p'^2 + 2p' \cdot P_N' + P_N'^2$$

$$p^2 = p'^2 = m^2 \quad \& \quad P_N^2 = P_N'^2 = M_N^2$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} p^2 = p'^2 = m^2 \\ P_N^2 = P_N'^2 = M_N^2 \end{array} \right\} \boxed{p \cdot P_N = p' \cdot P_N'}$$

(2)

For a scattered particle momentum  $p'$ :



$$p p_N = p' p'_N$$

$$p p_N = p' (p + p_N - p') = p' p + p' p_N - \frac{p'^2}{m^2}$$

$$p p_N = p' p + p' p_N - \frac{p'^2}{m^2}$$

$$E M_N = (E' E - p' p) + E' M_N - m^2 \quad (2)$$

If  $m \ll E$ , then  $|p| \approx E$ ,  $|p'| \approx E'$ , and  $m^2$  can be neglected  
 $E^2 = p^2 + m^2$        $E'^2 = p'^2 + m^2$

$$\rightarrow E M_N = E' E (1 - \cos \theta) + E' M_N$$

$$E M_N = E' (E(1 - \cos \theta) + M_N)$$

$$E' = \frac{E M_N}{E(1 - \cos \theta) + M_N} = \frac{E}{1 + \frac{E}{M_N} (1 - \cos \theta)}$$

scatter particle's energy

If  $M_N$  is large  $\rightarrow$  small energy transfer

If  $M_N$  is small  $\rightarrow$  large energy transfer at large  $\theta$



## Rutherford Cross Section

The probability  $\sigma(\theta)$  of particles to go into the solid angle  $d\Omega$  ( $d\Omega = \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$ )

$$dN = N \sigma(\theta) \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

↙  
differential Rutherford cross section

$$\sigma(\theta) = \left( \frac{2Ze^2}{4E_{kin}} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\sin^4(\theta/2)}$$

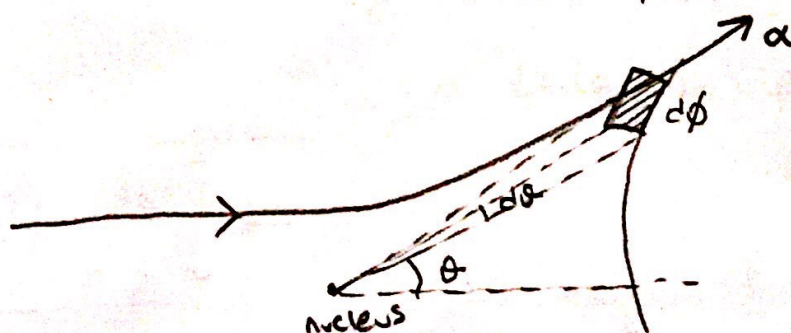
scattering of a particle with charge  $2e$  and  $E_{kin}$  <sup>kinetic energy</sup>

target nucleus charge  $Ze$

## Relativistic Rutherford Cross Section

$$\sigma(\theta) = (2Z\alpha)^2 \frac{E'^2}{|q|^4}$$

where  $\alpha = e^2$ ,  $q = p' - p$



# 1. Full Rutherford Scattering Cross Section

for  $\theta > \theta_0$

$$\sigma_{full} = \int_{\theta_0}^{\pi} \sigma(\theta) 2\pi \sin \theta d\theta$$

$$\theta \rightarrow d\left(\sin \frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{2} d\theta$$
$$d\theta = \frac{2}{\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} d\left(\sin \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

↓ Substitute  $\theta$  with  $\sin \frac{\theta}{2}$

$$= \int_{\theta_0}^{\pi} \sigma(\theta) 2\pi \cancel{\sin \theta} \cdot \frac{2}{\cancel{\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}} d\left(\sin \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$= \int_{\theta_0}^{\pi} \left(\frac{2Ze^2}{4\epsilon_0 k m}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\sin^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} 4\pi \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) d\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\int \frac{1}{x^3} dx = \frac{x^{-2}}{-2}$$

$$\left(\frac{2Ze^2}{4\epsilon_0 k m}\right)^2 \frac{-4\pi}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} \Bigg|_{\theta_0}^{\pi} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sin^2\frac{\theta}{2}} = \cot^2 \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\sigma_{full} = +4\pi \left(\frac{2Ze^2}{4\epsilon_0 k m}\right)^2 \cot^2\left(\frac{\theta_0}{2}\right)$$

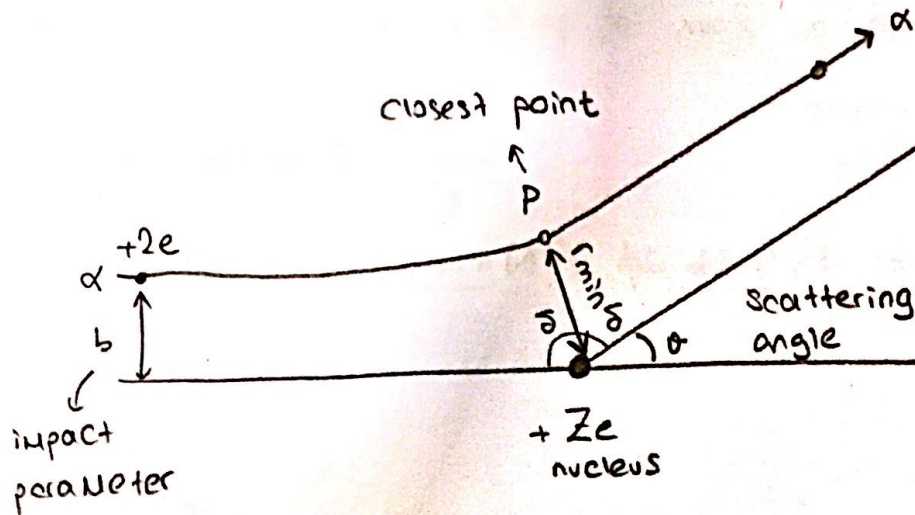
★ Formula can not be used for very small angles.

Since  $\theta=0 \rightarrow \sigma_{full} \rightarrow \infty$

⑤



# Derivation of Rutherford Cross Section with classical mechanics



Angular momentum conservation:

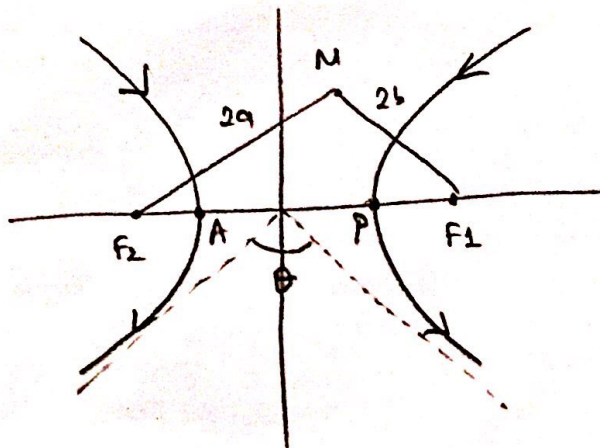
$$b v_{\infty} = r_{\min} v_{\min}$$

At point P:

$$\frac{mv_{\min}^2}{2} + \frac{2Ze^2}{r_{\min}} = E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{mv_{\infty}^2}{2}$$

$$r_{\min}^2 - \frac{2Ze^2}{mv_{\infty}^2} r_{\min} - b^2 = 0$$

(Note:  $\frac{2Ze^2}{mv_{\infty}^2}$  is circled and labeled  $E_{\text{kin}}$ )



$$|PF_1| - |PF_2| = 2a$$

$$r_{1\min} + r_{2\min} = \frac{2Ze^2}{E_{\text{kin}}}$$

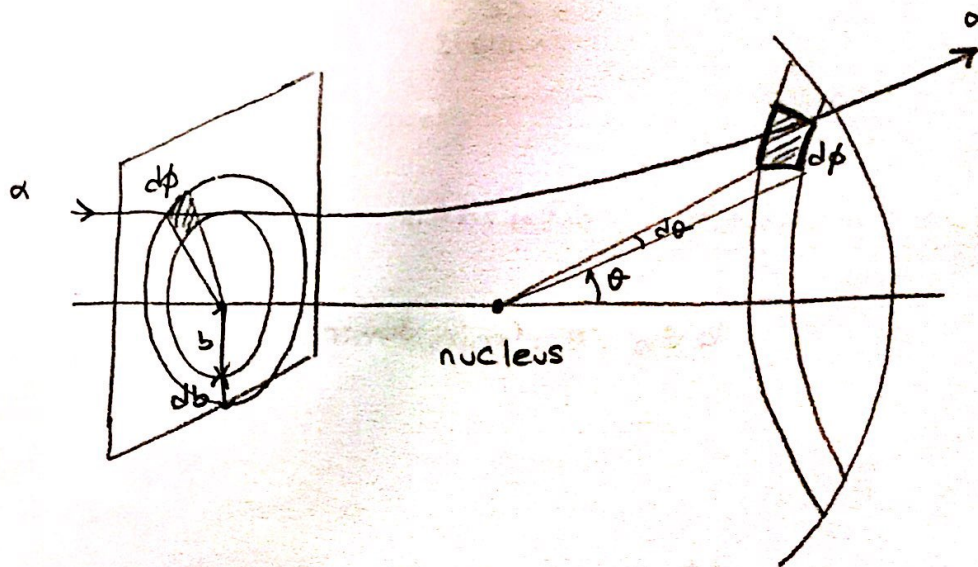
$$= F_2P - F_2A = AP = 2a$$

$$\cot \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{2b}{2a} = \frac{b E_{\text{kin}}}{2Ze^2}$$

Hyperbola trajectory for any point P

Experimentally we cannot measure one particle deflection  
 Instead we have a flux a particle  $N$  per unit of area  
 and per unit of time.

$$dN = N \underbrace{b}_{\text{prob. } \sigma \text{ of particles to go into}} \underbrace{db}_{\text{solid angle}} d\phi = N \sigma(\theta) \sin\theta d\theta d\phi \quad d\Omega = \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$



$$\sigma(\theta) = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \frac{db}{d\theta} = \left( \frac{2Ze^2}{4E_{kin}} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\sin^4(\theta/2)}$$