

HW2 Scattering theory

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1) The scattering problem of particle with mass m , in the central force field $V(r) = \frac{\alpha}{r^2}$, where $\alpha > 0$.

a) Using partial wave method to find δ_l for each partial wave channel l . Hint: the radial equation can be solved exactly by using spherical Bessel function of order ν , where ν satisfies:

$$l(l+1) + \frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} = \nu(\nu+1) \quad \text{for each channel of } l.$$

b) Under the condition $\frac{m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \ll \frac{1}{g}$, find the approximate formulae for δ_l , scattering amplitude $f(\theta)$, and differential cross section $\sigma(\theta, \varphi)$.

c) Use Born approximation to calculate $f(\theta)$ and $\sigma(\theta, \varphi)$ and compare with b).

You might need to use the formula

$$\sum_l P_l(\cos\theta) = \frac{1}{\sin\theta/2}$$

2) Scattering on a spherical δ -potential shell.

A particle with mass m is scattered by a repulsive δ -shell

$$\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} V(r) = \gamma \delta(r-R), \text{ where } \gamma > 0.$$

a) Set up an equation that determines the s -wave phase shift δ_0 as a function of k which satisfies $E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$.

b) Assume if $\gamma \gg \frac{1}{R}$, and $\gamma \gg k$. Show if $\tan kR$ is not close to zero, δ_0 resembles the hard-sphere result given in the notes.

Also show if $\tan kR$ is close (but not exactly equal to) zero, resonance occurs, i.e. $\cot \delta_0$ goes through zero from the positive side as k increases.

c) Determine approximately the positions of resonances keeps terms of order $1/\gamma$ of incoming energy $E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$.

Compare them with the bound state energies for a particle confined inside a spherical well of the same radius

$$\text{of } \begin{cases} V=0 & r < R \\ V=\infty & r > R. \end{cases}$$

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d) Obtain an approximate expression for the resonance width

P defined by
$$P = \frac{-2}{d(\cot \delta_0/dE)|_{E=E_{\text{resonance}}}}$$

Notice that resonance is sharp as γ goes large.