Small-Angle, Elastic Scattering from Atoms



Electrons scattered by the electrostatic potential of the nucleus, screened by the electron cloud

Most important for TEM imaging & diffraction!

Head-on elastic collision in 1-D

Two possible outcomes:



$$E = E_{1f} + E_{2f}$$
 //elastic

center-of-mass motion:

 v_{COM}

$$= \left(\frac{m}{m+M}\right) \cdot v \qquad v_{1f} = v_{COM} \pm \left(v - v_{COM}\right) = \begin{cases} v & //forward \\ -\left(\frac{M-m}{M+m}\right) \cdot v & //back \end{cases}$$

Grazing-incidence elastic collision \Rightarrow forward scattering



-Less-massive electron forward scattered in grazing collision
-Almost no kinetic energy transferred to atom
-Electron energy essentially unchanged ⇒ coherent

Nearly head-on elastic collision \Rightarrow backscattering



-Less-massive electron backscattered in head-on collision
-Kinetic energy transferred to atom
-Electron loses energy ⇒ incoherent

Plane waves: sinusoidal form



We could write a plane wave as :

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = A \cdot \cos\left[2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - t \cdot \mathbf{v}_p) + \phi\right]$$

or

A: amplitude

 ϕ : phase

k: wave vector

 \mathbf{v}_p : phase velocity

f: frequency

t: time

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = A \cdot \cos\left[2\pi(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t) + \phi\right]$$

wavenumber: $k = |\mathbf{k}| = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

Plane waves: complex exponential form

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \Psi_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t)} \qquad \Psi_0 = A \cdot e^{i\phi}$$

Euler relation: $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$

For an incident plane wave, we often normalize and pick the phase:

$$A = 1 \qquad \phi = 0 \qquad \psi_0 = 1$$
$$\implies \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t)}$$

Operators $\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \Psi_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t)}$ Consider a plane wave: $p = |\mathbf{p}| = \frac{h}{2}$ $\mathbf{p} = h\mathbf{k}$ //de Broglie $\hat{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = (h\mathbf{k}) \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = -i\hbar \nabla \overline{\nabla} \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ $\overline{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \,\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \,\hat{\mathbf{z}} \qquad //\text{gradient}$ $\hat{\mathbf{p}} = -i\hbar \vec{\nabla}$ //momentum operator E = hf//from photoelectric effect $\hat{E} \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = (hf) \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ $\hat{E} = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ //energy operator

Schrodinger equation

For a free, non-relativistic particle:

 $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$

 $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m_0} = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_0}\nabla^2$

$$E = \frac{p^2}{2m_0}$$

//Hamiltonian operator

//Laplacian

 $\psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \psi_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t)}$

//plane wave

Observe: $\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r},t) = E\psi(\mathbf{r},t)$

//plane wave is an energy *eigenfunction*

 $\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r},t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(\mathbf{r},t)$ //Schrodinger equation

In a potential: $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m_0} + U(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_0}\nabla^2 + U(\mathbf{r})$

The SE uses energy to relate the time and space dependences of the wave function.

Energy eigenstates

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \Psi_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - f \cdot t)} = \Psi(\mathbf{r}) \cdot e^{-iE \cdot t/\hbar}$$

Schrodinger Equation:

$$\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r},t) = i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(\mathbf{r},t)$$

Time-independent Hamiltonian -acts on **r** *only*:

Energy operator -acts on *t* only:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix} \cdot e^{-iEt/\hbar} = E \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r}) \cdot e^{-iEt/\hbar}$$
$$\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = E \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r})$$

The time-independent part satisfies the *time-independent SE*:

These are energy *eigenstates*, i.e., states with constant energy.

So our plane wave is described completely as:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi_0 \cdot \mathrm{e}^{2\pi i \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

Spherical waves

Surface area of a sphere: $4\pi r^2$

No unique direction of wavevector

Intensity= $\frac{Power}{Area}$

₄ k

Intensity of wave function ∞ probability density

$$I = \left|\psi\right|^2 = \psi^* \psi \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$$



Atomic Scattering Factor

Spherical Scattered Wave

incident electron Elastic scattering: $|\mathbf{k}'| = |\mathbf{k}| = k$ Θ р Amplitude depends on scattering angle. incident wave: scattered wave: $\Psi_{sc}\left(\mathbf{r}\right) = f\left(\theta\right) \cdot \frac{e^{2\pi i k r}}{r}$ $\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = e^{2\pi i \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$ $f(\theta)$: atomic scattering (form) factor Smoothly varying functions of scattering angle.

Units of Length

Increases with Z

scattered electron

p

Weak Phase-Object Approximation

Assume the only effect of scattering is a slight change in phase of the wave function:

$$\psi_{f} = \psi_{i} \cdot e^{i\phi} = \psi_{i} \cdot (\cos \phi + i \sin \phi) \approx \psi_{i} \cdot (1 + i\phi) = \psi_{i} + i\psi_{sc}$$

final initial 90° phase shift

Weak-phase scattering by atoms:

$$\psi_f(\mathbf{r}) \approx \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) + i\psi_{sc}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$\psi_f(\mathbf{r}) = e^{2\pi i \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} + if(\theta) \frac{e^{2\pi i kr}}{r}$$

//Scattered wave is spherical

Solid-angle projections



Differential solid angle:

 $d\Omega = \sin\theta \cdot d\theta \cdot d\phi$

Annular differential solid angle: $d\Omega_{\theta} = \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} d\Omega = 2\pi \cdot \sin \theta \cdot d\theta$

Differential cross section



Total cross-section forms

$$\sigma_{tot} = \int_{\sigma} d\sigma$$
$$= \int_{\Omega} d\Omega \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)$$
$$\sigma_{tot} = \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} d\phi \cdot \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sin\theta \cdot d\theta \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)$$

Azimuthal symmetry:

$$\sigma_{tot} = 2\pi \cdot \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sin \theta \cdot d\theta \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)$$
$$\sigma_{tot} = \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} d\theta \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\theta}}{d\theta}\right)$$

Total scattering into angles less than θ :

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = 2\pi \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} \sin \theta' d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)$$
$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\theta}}{d\theta}\right)$$

Total scattering into angles greater than θ :

$$\sigma_{>}(\theta) = 2\pi \int_{\theta'=\theta}^{\pi} \sin \theta' \cdot d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)$$
$$\sigma_{>}(\theta) = \int_{\theta'=\theta}^{\pi} d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\theta}}{d\Omega}\right)$$

Cross-section problems

One Type of Problem: $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\theta) \Rightarrow \sigma_{<}(\theta)$

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = 2\pi \cdot \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) \cdot \sin\theta' \cdot d\theta'$$

Example:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = A \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = 2\pi \cdot A \cdot \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} \cos\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \cdot \sin\theta' \cdot d\theta'$$

$$= 4\pi \cdot A \cdot \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} \sin^{2}\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \cdot d\theta'$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{3} \cdot A \cdot \sin^{3}\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right)\Big|_{\theta'=0}^{\theta}$$

$$\implies \sigma_{<}(\theta) = \frac{4\pi}{3} \cdot A \cdot \sin^{3}\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

Another Type of Problem:

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) \Rightarrow \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot \sin\theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \Big[\sigma_{<}(\theta)\Big]$$

Example:

 \Rightarrow

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = \sigma_{tot} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\sigma_{tot}}{2\pi \cdot \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left[\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right]$$
$$= \frac{\sigma_{tot}}{2\pi \cdot \sin \theta} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{2} \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right]$$
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\sigma_{tot}}{8\pi \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}$$

Note: $\sigma_{tot} = \sigma_{<}(\pi)$

Interpreting differential cross-section



Uniform, hard sphere

Scattering cross-section: hard sphere (I)

Relate angles:

$$180^{\circ} - \theta = 2 \cdot (90^{\circ} - \alpha) \Longrightarrow \theta = 2\alpha$$

Differential elements:

$$d\sigma = -db \cdot (b \cdot d\phi)$$
$$d\Omega = \sin \theta \cdot d\theta \cdot d\phi$$

Differential cross-section:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = -\frac{b}{\sin\theta} \cdot \frac{db}{d\theta}$$

In terms of θ only:
$$b = R \cdot \cos\alpha = R \cdot \cos(\theta/2)$$
$$\frac{db}{d\theta} = -\frac{R}{2} \cdot \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{R \cdot \cos(\theta/2)}{\sin\theta} \cdot \frac{R \cdot \sin(\theta/2)}{2} = \frac{R^2}{4}$$
$$\sigma_{tot} = \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \frac{R^2}{4} \cdot \sin\theta \cdot d\theta \cdot d\phi = \pi \cdot R^2$$

Azimuthal (ϕ) sum (annulus):

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\theta}}{d\theta} = 2\pi \cdot \sin\theta \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\pi R^2}{2} \sin\theta$$

Scattering into angles less than θ :

$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\theta}}{d\theta}\right)$$
$$= \int_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} d\theta' \cdot \left(\frac{\pi R^{2}}{2} \cdot \sin \theta'\right)$$
$$= -\frac{\pi R^{2}}{2} \cdot \cos \theta' \Big|_{\theta'=0}^{\theta} = \frac{\pi}{2} \cdot R^{2} \cdot \cos \theta' \Big|_{\theta'=0}^{\theta}$$
$$\sigma_{<}(\theta) = \frac{\pi R^{2}}{2} \cdot (1 - \cos \theta)$$

 $\Rightarrow \sigma_{tot} = \sigma_{<}(\pi) = \pi \cdot R^2$ as expected!

Scattering Cross-Section: Hard Sphere (II)



Electric current in scattered wave (I)

$$n_{sc}(\mathbf{r},t) = -e \cdot \left| \Psi_{sc}(\mathbf{r},t) \right|^{2} = -e \cdot \Psi_{sc}^{*} \Psi_{sc}$$
 //electron "concentration"

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} n_{sc}(\mathbf{r},t) = -e \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\Psi_{sc}^{*} \Psi_{sc} \right) = -e \cdot \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi_{sc}^{*} \right) \cdot \Psi_{sc} + \Psi_{sc}^{*} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi_{sc} \right) \right]$$
 //time rate of change

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \cdot \left(\frac{-\hbar^{2}}{2m} \nabla^{2} \right) \Psi = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \cdot \nabla^{2} \Psi \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi^{*} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi \right)^{*} = \frac{-i\hbar}{2m} \cdot \nabla^{2} \Psi^{*}$$
 //use Schodinger's eqn.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} n_{sc}(x,t) = -e \cdot \left[\left(\frac{-i\hbar}{2m} \cdot \nabla^{2} \Psi_{sc}^{*} \right) \cdot \Psi_{sc} + \Psi_{sc}^{*} \cdot \left(\nabla^{2} \Psi_{sc} \right) \right]$$

$$= \nabla \cdot \left[\frac{ie\hbar}{2m} \cdot \left(\Psi_{sc}^{*} \cdot \nabla \Psi_{sc} - \nabla \Psi_{sc}^{*} \cdot \Psi_{sc} \right) \right]$$
 //result

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}n_{sc}(x,t) = \nabla \cdot \vec{j}_{sc} //\text{continuity eqn.} \qquad \vec{j}_{sc} = \frac{ie\hbar}{2m} \cdot \left(\psi_{sc} \cdot \nabla \psi_{sc}^* - \psi_{sc}^* \cdot \nabla \psi_{sc}\right) //\text{current}$

Electric current in scattered wave (II)

 $\Psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \Psi_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$ //incident plane wave

$$\psi_{sc}(\mathbf{r}) = \psi_0 \cdot f(\theta) \cdot \frac{e^{2\pi i k r}}{r}$$
 //scattered wave

 $\left[n_{sc}(\mathbf{r})\right] = \left[\left|\psi_{0}\right|^{2}\right] = \frac{1}{\text{volume}} //\text{units}$

 $j_0 = e \cdot v \cdot |\psi_0|^2$ //incident current density

$$\vec{\nabla} \Psi_{sc} = \Psi_0 \cdot \left\{ if(\theta) \left[2\pi ik - \frac{1}{r} \right] \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} + i \frac{df}{d\theta} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{\theta}} \right\} \cdot \frac{e^{2\pi ikr}}{r}$$
 //gradient
$$\vec{i} = \frac{\dot{j}_0}{c} \cdot \left| f(\theta) \right|^2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$
 //scattered current density

 $j_{sc} = \frac{s_0}{r^2} \cdot |f(\theta)| \cdot \mathbf{r}$ //scattered current density

 $dI_{sc} = j_0 \cdot d\sigma$ //electric current in scattering cross-sectional area

$$\vec{j}_{sc} = \frac{dI_{sc}}{r^2 \cdot d\Omega} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{j_0}{r^2} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad //\text{scattered current density} \quad \longrightarrow \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left| f(\theta) \right|^2$$

Scattering Amplitude

Consider the interference between the incident wave and a scattered wave:



$$f(\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow \int_{\mathbf{r}} F(\mathbf{r}) e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k})\cdot\mathbf{r}} \cdot d^{3}r$$

The scattering amplitude is the Fourier transform of the target scattering strength.

Scattering Amplitude (Atomic Form Factor)

 $f(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}) \equiv \int_{\mathbf{r}} F(\mathbf{r}) e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$

//scattering amplitude

Atom at origin, spherically symmetric:

$$F(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow F(r)$$

Relate to scattering angle:

$$|\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}| = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sqrt{1 + 1 - 2\cos\theta} = \frac{2\sin(\theta/2)}{\lambda}$$

Define: $s \equiv \frac{|\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}|}{2} = \frac{\sin(\theta/2)}{\lambda}$ //scattering parameter

 \mathbb{N}

$$f(s) = 4\pi \int_{r=0}^{\infty} r^2 \cdot F(r) \cdot \frac{\sin(4\pi sr)}{(4\pi sr)} \cdot dr$$

Computing Atomic Scattering Factors

Electron scattering factor is proportional to the Fourier transform of the electrostatic potential of the atom:

$$F(r) = \frac{2\pi me}{h^2} \varphi(r)$$
//scattering strength at radius r
$$f_e(s) = \frac{8\pi^2 me}{h^2} \int_{r=0}^{\infty} r^2 \varphi(r) \frac{\sin(4\pi sr)}{(4\pi sr)} \cdot dr$$
nucleus
electron density
$$e[erron density]$$

 $\varphi(r) = \frac{Ze}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r} - \frac{e}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r} \left[4\pi \int_{r'=0}^r \rho(r') \cdot r'^2 \cdot dr' \right] \quad //\text{atomic potential}$

X-ray scattering factor is Fourier transform of electron density.

$$f_{X}(s) \equiv 4\pi \int_{r=0}^{\infty} r^{2} \rho(r) \frac{\sin(4\pi sr)}{(4\pi sr)} \cdot dr$$

The two are closely related:
$$f_{e}(s) \propto \frac{\left[Z - f_{X}(s)\right]}{s^{2}}$$

Electrostatic Potential of a Neutral Atom

Bare Nuclear Potential:

$$\varphi(r) = \frac{Ze}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r}$$

Screened Nuclear Potential:

$$\varphi(r) = \frac{Z_{eff}(r) \cdot e}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r}$$

"Effective" Charge:
$$Z_{eff}(r) = Z - Z_{enc}^{(e)}(r)$$

Enclosed Electron Charge:

$$Z_{enc}^{(e)}(r) = \int_{|\mathbf{r}'| < r} \rho(\mathbf{r}') d^{3}r' = 4\pi \int_{r'=0}^{r} \rho(r') \cdot (r')^{2} \cdot dr' \approx Z \cdot (1 - e^{-r/r_{0}})$$

Model of Screened Nuclear Potential:

$$\varphi(r) \approx \frac{Ze}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r} \mathrm{e}^{-r/r_0}$$

Rutherford (Thomas-Fermi) Model

Assume:
$$\varphi(r) = \frac{Ze}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r} e^{-r/r_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow f_e(s) = \frac{2\pi Z e^2 m}{h^2 \varepsilon_0} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{(4\pi s)^2 + (1/r_0)^2}\right] \qquad // \text{ Form factor}$$

$$\lim_{r_{0\to\infty}} f_e(s) = \frac{Ze^2 m}{8\pi h^2 \varepsilon_0 s^2} \qquad // \text{ Form factor for unscreened (bare) nucleus}$$

In terms of scattering angle:

$$s = \frac{\sin(\theta/2)}{\lambda} \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{r_0} = \frac{4\pi \sin(\theta_0/2)}{\lambda}$$
$$\Rightarrow f_e(\theta) = \frac{\lambda^2 Z e^2 m}{8\pi h^2 \varepsilon_0} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\theta/2) + \sin^2(\theta_0/2)}\right]$$

Rutherford Model (II)



Evaluating Form Factors

Theoretically calculated potentials have been fit to functions of the form:



Doyle & Turner, Acta Cryst. (1968) A 24, 390

Note: point-charge correction added to ionic potential to eliminate infinities at origin

Bragg's Law

$$2d\sin\theta_{B}=n\lambda$$

The *n* is optional:

$$2d\sin\theta_B = \lambda$$



Crystal Structure Factor

Sum of atomic form factors for constituent atoms with appropriate phase factors for lattice positions

$$F(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{m \text{ atoms}} f_m(q/2) e^{2\pi i \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{d}^{(m)}}$$

$$\theta = 2\theta_B$$



 $\mathbf{q} \equiv \mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}$

$$k = \frac{1}{\lambda} = |\mathbf{k}| = |\mathbf{k}'|$$

$$q = |\mathbf{q}| = 2 \frac{\sin \theta_B}{\lambda}$$
 $s = \frac{q}{2} = \frac{\sin \theta_B}{\lambda}$

Example:

