

**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and  
Mathematical Methods**  
9-9:50 AM MWF Olin 107

**Plan for Lecture 2:**

1. Brief comment on quiz
2. Particle interactions
3. Notion of center of mass  
reference frame
4. Introduction to scattering theory

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**PHY 711 Classical Mechanics and Mathematical Methods**

MWF 9 AM-9:50 AM | OPL 107 | <http://www.wfu.edu/~natalie/f17phy711/>

Instructor: [Natalie Holzwarth](mailto:natalie@wfu.edu) Phone: 758-5510 Office: 300 OPL e-mail: [natalie@wfu.edu](mailto:natalie@wfu.edu)

**Course schedule**  
(Preliminary schedule -- subject to frequent adjustment.)

Date	F&W Reading	Topic	Assignment	Due
1 Mon, 8/28/2017	Chap. 1	Introduction	#1	9/6/2017
2 Wed, 8/30/2017	Chap. 1	Scattering theory	#2	9/6/2017
3 Fri, 9/01/2017				
4 Mon, 9/04/2017				
5 Wed, 9/06/2017				
6 Fri, 9/08/2017				
7 Mon, 9/11/2017				
8 Wed, 9/13/2017				

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**PHY 711 -- Assignment #2**

Aug. 30, 2017

Read Chapter 1 in **Fetter & Walecka**.

1. In class, we "derived" the differential cross section for the scattering of two hard spheres of mutual radius  $D$  in the center of mass frame. Find the differential cross section for this system in the lab frame in which  $m_{\text{target}}$  is initially at rest and evaluate the expression for the following cases.

- a.  $m_1/m_{\text{target}}=0.1$
- b.  $m_1/m_{\text{target}}=1$
- c.  $m_1/m_{\text{target}}=1000$

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Fall 2017 Schedule  
for N. A. W. Holzwarth

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00	Classical Mechanics PHY711		Classical Mechanics PHY711		Classical Mechanics PHY711
10:00-12:00	Lecture Preparation/ Office Hours		Lecture Preparation/ Office Hours		Lecture Preparation/ Office Hours
12:00-1:00	Quantum Mechanics PHY741	Physics Research	Quantum Mechanics PHY741	Physics Research	Quantum Mechanics PHY741
1:00-2:15	Condensed Matter Theory Journal Club		Physics Research		Physics Research
2:15-3:30	Physics Research		Physics Colloquium		Physics Research
3:30-5:00					

Schedule additional office hours by email: [natalie@wfu.edu](mailto:natalie@wfu.edu)

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WFU Physics

WFU Physics People Events and News Undergraduate Graduate Research Resources

Events

Colloquium: Aug. 30, 2017 at 3:30 PM  
WFU Physics Colloquium TITLE: "Welcome to the WFU Physics Department" TIME: Wed, Aug. 30, 2017 at 3:30 PM PLACE: George P. Willard, Jr. Lecture Hall, (Old Hall)

SPS: Aug. 31, 2017 at 12 noon  
The Phi Kappa Psi (Society of Physics Students) Meeting of the semester will be held on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017 in the Old Lobby at 12 noon. Free pizza and soft ...

News

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Comment on quiz questions

1.  $g(t) = \int_0^t (x^2 + t) dx$     $\frac{dg}{dt} = \int_0^t \frac{d(x^2 + t)}{dt} dt + (x^2 + t) \Big|_{x=t}$

$$= \int_0^t dt + (t^2 + t) = t^2 + 2t$$

2. Evaluate the integral  $\oint \frac{dz}{z}$  for a closed contour about the origin.

Suppose that  $z = e^{i\theta}$     $dz = e^{i\theta} i d\theta$     $\oint \frac{dz}{z} = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{i\theta} i d\theta}{e^{i\theta}} = 2\pi i$

3.  $\frac{df}{dx} = f \Rightarrow f(x) = A e^x$     $f(x) = 1 \Rightarrow A = 1$

4.  $\sum_{n=1}^N a^n = \frac{a - a^{N+1}}{1 - a}$    Let  $S \equiv \sum_{n=1}^N a^n$    Note that  $aS - S = a^{N+1} - a$

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Scattering theory:

Figure 5.5 The scattering problem and relation of cross section to impact parameter.

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Differential cross section

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{\text{Number of detected particles at } \theta \text{ per target particle}}{\text{Number of incident particles per unit area}}$$

= Area of incident beam that is scattered into detector at angle  $\theta$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{d\phi b db}{d\phi \sin\theta d\theta} = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left|\frac{db}{d\theta}\right|$$

Figure from Marion & Thornton, Classical Dynamics

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Note: Notion of cross section is common to many areas of physics including classical mechanics, quantum mechanics, optics, etc. Only in the classical mechanics can we calculate it using geometric considerations

Figure from Marion & Thornton, Classical Dynamics

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{d\phi b db}{d\phi \sin\theta d\theta} = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left|\frac{db}{d\theta}\right|$$

Note: We are assuming that the process is isotropic in  $\phi$

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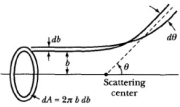
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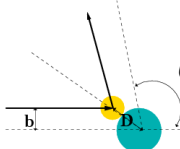
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Simple example – collision of hard spheres



$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left|\frac{db}{d\theta}\right|$$

Microscopic view:



$$b(\theta) = ?$$

$$b(\theta) = D \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{D^2}{4}$$

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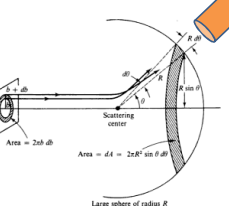
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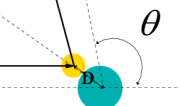
Simple example – collision of hard spheres – continued



Total scattering cross section:

$$\sigma = \int \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) d\Omega$$

Hard sphere:



$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = \frac{D^2}{4}$$

$$\sigma = \pi D^2$$

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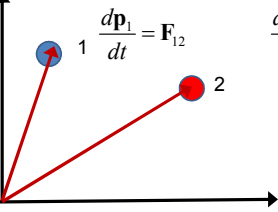
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Relationship of scattering cross-section to particle interactions –  
Classical mechanics of a conservative 2-particle system.



$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}_1}{dt} = \mathbf{F}_{12} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{p}_2}{dt} = \mathbf{F}_{21}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = -\nabla_1 V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) \Rightarrow E = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2 + V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$$

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Typical two-particle interactions –

Central potential:  $V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) = V(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|) \equiv V(r)$

Hard sphere:  $V(r) = \begin{cases} \infty & r \leq a \\ 0 & r > a \end{cases}$

Coulomb or gravitational:  $V(r) = \frac{K}{r}$

Lennard-Jones:  $V(r) = \frac{A}{r^{12}} - \frac{B}{r^6}$

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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference

Definition of center of mass  $\mathbf{R}_{CM}$

$$m_1 \mathbf{r}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{r}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \mathbf{R}_{CM}$$

$$m_1 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_1 + m_2 \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2 = (m_1 + m_2) \dot{\mathbf{R}}_{CM} = (m_1 + m_2) \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m_1 v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 v_2^2 + V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu |\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$$

where:  $\mu \equiv \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$

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Classical mechanics of a conservative 2-particle system -- continued

$$E = \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu |\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$$

For central potentials:  $V(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) = V(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|) \equiv V(r_{12})$

Relative angular momentum is also conserved:

$$\mathbf{L}_{12} \equiv \mathbf{r}_{12} \times \mu \mathbf{v}_{12}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu v_{12}^2 + \frac{L_{12}^2}{2\mu r_{12}^2} + V(r_{12})$$

Simpler notation:

$$E = \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu \dot{r}^2 + \frac{\ell^2}{2\mu r^2} + V(r)$$

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Note: The following analysis will be carried out in the center of mass frame of reference.

In laboratory frame: In center-of-mass frame:

$$\mu = \frac{m_1 m_{\text{target}}}{m_1 + m_{\text{target}}}$$

$$\ell = |\mathbf{r} \times \mu \mathbf{v}_1|$$

Also note: We are assuming that the interaction between particle and target  $V(r)$  conserves energy and angular momentum.

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For a continuous potential interaction in center of mass reference frame:

$$E_{\text{rel}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \dot{r}^2 + \frac{\ell^2}{2\mu r^2} + V(r)$$

Need to relate these parameters to differential cross section  
→ to be discussed on Friday

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It is often convenient to analyze the scattering cross section in the center of mass reference frame.

Relationship between normal laboratory reference and center of mass:

Laboratory reference frame:

Before After

Center of mass reference frame:

Before After

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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference -- continued

Since  $m_2$  is initially at rest :

$$\mathbf{V}_{CM} = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 \quad \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{U}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM} \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{U}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM} \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}_2 = -\frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \mathbf{u}_1 = -\mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

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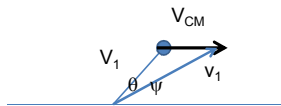
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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference



$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$v_1 \sin \psi = V_1 \sin \theta$$

$$v_1 \cos \psi = V_1 \cos \theta + V_{CM}$$

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + V_{CM} / V_1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}$$

For elastic scattering

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Digression – elastic scattering

$$\frac{1}{2} m_1 U_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 U_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m_1 V_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 V_2^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) V_{CM}^2$$

Also note:

$$m_1 \mathbf{U}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{U}_2 = 0 \quad m_1 \mathbf{V}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{V}_2 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{U}_1 = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \mathbf{V}_{CM} \quad \mathbf{U}_2 = -\mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\mathbf{U}_1| = |\mathbf{V}_1| \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{U}_2| = |\mathbf{V}_2| = |\mathbf{V}_{CM}|$$

Also note that :  $m_1 |\mathbf{U}_1| = m_2 |\mathbf{U}_2|$

So that :  $V_{CM} / V_1 = V_{CM} / U_1 = m_1 / m_2$

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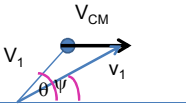
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Relationship between center of mass and laboratory frames of reference – continued (elastic scattering)



$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_{CM}$$

$$v_1 \sin \psi = V_1 \sin \theta$$

$$v_1 \cos \psi = V_1 \cos \theta + V_{CM}$$

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + V_{CM} / V_1} = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}$$

$$\text{Also: } \cos \psi = \frac{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}{\sqrt{1 + 2m_1 / m_2 \cos \theta + (m_1 / m_2)^2}}$$

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Differential cross sections in different reference frames

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}} \right) = \left( \frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}} \right) \frac{d\Omega_{CM}}{d\Omega_{LAB}}$$

$$\frac{d\Omega_{CM}}{d\Omega_{LAB}} = \left| \frac{\sin \theta \, d\theta}{\sin \psi \, d\psi} \right| = \left| \frac{d \cos \theta}{d \cos \psi} \right|$$

Using :

$$\cos \psi = \frac{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}{\sqrt{1 + 2(m_1 / m_2) \cos \theta + (m_1 / m_2)^2}}$$

$$\left| \frac{d \cos \psi}{d \cos \theta} \right| = \frac{(m_1 / m_2) \cos \theta + 1}{(1 + 2(m_1 / m_2) \cos \theta + (m_1 / m_2)^2)^{3/2}}$$

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Differential cross sections in different reference frames – continued:

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}} \right) = \left( \frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}} \right) \left| \frac{d \cos \theta}{d \cos \psi} \right|$$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}} \right) = \left( \frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}} \right) \frac{(1 + 2m_1 / m_2 \cos \theta + (m_1 / m_2)^2)^{3/2}}{(m_1 / m_2) \cos \theta + 1}$$

$$\text{where : } \tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1 / m_2}$$

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$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}} \right) = \left( \frac{d\sigma_{CM}(\theta)}{d\Omega_{CM}} \right) \frac{(1 + 2m_1/m_2 \cos \theta + (m_1/m_2)^2)^{3/2}}{(m_1/m_2) \cos \theta + 1}$$

where :  $\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + m_1/m_2}$

Example: suppose  $m_1 = m_2$

In this case :  $\tan \psi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta + 1} \Rightarrow \psi = \frac{\theta}{2}$

note that  $0 \leq \psi \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$\left( \frac{d\sigma_{LAB}(\psi)}{d\Omega_{LAB}} \right) = \left( \frac{d\sigma_{CM}(2\psi)}{d\Omega_{CM}} \right) \cdot 4 \cos \psi$$

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