Plan of lectures

- 1 15.04.2015 Preliminary Discussion / Introduction
- 2 22.04.2015 Experiments (discovery of the positron, formation of antihydrogen, ...)
- 3 29.04.2015 Experiments (Lamb shift, hyperfine structure, quasimolecules and MO spectra)
- 4 06.05.2015 Theory (from Schrödinger to Dirac equation, solutions with negative energy)
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- 13 08.07.2015 Experiment (Atomic physics PNC experiments (Cs,...), heavy ion PV research)

Interaction of charged particles with matter



Plan of lecture

Motivation: Why to study interaction of particles with matter?

- Structure of matter (very briefly)
- Interaction of positively charged particles with matter
 - Energy loss
 - Bethe-Bloch equation
 - Energy straggling
- Interaction of electrons with matter
 - Radiation and ionization losses
 - Track patterns
- Channeling regime and its applications

Motivation for the lecture

• Usually one discusses in the lectures the single collisions/interactions.



Motivation for the lecture

 Up to now (in our previous lectures) we have studied "single collision mode" for atomic/ionic collisions.

• In reality, however this single collision regime is rather unusual.



"one projectile - one target"

Motivation for the lecture



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Structure of matter

(some characteristics)

First, let us discuss "what interacts with what".



▶ ... and even more particles: neutrons, neutrino.....

Structure of matter (some characteristics)

For the moment we consider amorphous matter (there is no longrange order of the positions of the atoms).



$$n = \frac{N}{V} = \frac{N_A \rho}{A}$$

 N_A =6.02x10²³ mol⁻¹ is Avogardro's number, A is atomic weight and ρ is the density.

Structure of matter

(some characteristics)

Lets us consider for example lead *Pb*.



A = 207.2 g mol^-1 , ρ = 11.34 g cm^-3

Number density of lead:

$$n = \frac{N_A \rho}{A} = 3.3 \times 10^{22} \, cm^{-3}$$



While penetrating solid target projectile particle interacts with huge amount of electrons/nuclei in the medium!

In order to understand interaction of particles with matter we shall again recall the "elementary" (single-event) processes.

Structure of matter

(some characteristics)

First, let us discuss "what interacts with what".



▶ ... and even more particles: neutrons, neutrino.....

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Heavy particles: Basic interaction processes

- Let us restrict for the moment for the simplest case of proton or bare ion (i.e. ion without electrons).
- ► What can happen with such an ion during the matter penetration?



Heavy particles: Basic interaction processes

- Let us restrict for the moment for the simplest case of proton or bare ion (i.e. ion without electrons).
- ► What can happen with such an ion during the matter penetration?



In fact, there are many scenarios. We will choose the main!

lon may capture an electron from a target (i.e. to change its charge state).



But! It will be-very probable-ionized again since the ionization cross section is much larger than the capture one.

For the moment we will neglect this possibility!

Contraction of the second seco Heavy particles: Basic interaction proce

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17 June _015



Heavy particles: Basic interaction processes

- ► Finally, we consider now a <u>model</u> when a charged particle transverses matter and it loses energy mainly through collisions with target electrons.
- Collision of heavy particles with atoms in media may result in excitation and ionization of the atomic electrons.



- ▶ In every collision ion loses small fraction of its energy ⇒ its decelerates!
- Can we estimate the energy loss in such a single collision?

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Energy loss of charged particle in matter (a little bit of theory (1))

Let us start with a simple classical model.



- The (maximal) force between particle and electron: $F = \frac{Ze^2}{b^2}$
- For simplicity we assume that force has the constant value for the time it takes the particle to pass the electron which is the order of $\Delta t \approx 2b/v$
- Momentum given to electron: $\Delta p \approx F \Delta t = \frac{2Ze^2}{bv}$



17 June 2015

The energy given to electron:

$$\Delta E \approx \frac{\left(\Delta p\right)^2}{2m_e} = \frac{2Z^2 e^4}{m_e b^2 v^2}$$

Energy loss of charged particle in matter (a little bit of theory (2))

The energy given to an electron (and, hence, lost by the particle) in one encounter is:



The results we obtained so far are for single encounter. Can we learn something for the "real" situation when particle interacts with many electrons (sitting in may atoms)?







The energy loss to these electrons:

$$dE = \frac{2Z^2 e^4}{m_e v^2 b^2} Z_T (N_A / A) \rho \ 2\pi \ b \ db \ dx$$

Integrating over impact parameter b:

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 (Z_T / A) N_A \rho}{m_e \mathrm{v}^2} \ln\left(\frac{b_{\mathrm{max}}}{b_{\mathrm{min}}}\right)$$

Energy loss of charged particle in matter (a little bit of theory (4))

Energy loss:

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 (Z_T / A) N_A \rho}{m_e \mathrm{v}^2} \ln\left(\frac{b_{\mathrm{max}}}{b_{\mathrm{min}}}\right)$$

▶ Is not defined in the case: $b_{\text{max}} \rightarrow \infty$, $b_{\text{min}} \rightarrow 0$

We shall put some limitations on the impact parameter.

 $- - \frac{db}{b} - \frac{db}{x}$

Limitation for b_{max}

- In reality the atomic electrons are not free but bound to target atoms.
- Therefore, we can not transmit to them infinitely small portion of energy.

 $\begin{bmatrix} \text{Limitation for } b_{\min} \end{bmatrix}$

• Maximum energy we can transmit to an electron is $2m_{\rm e}V^2$ (like in classical case).

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Bethe-Bloch equation
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By taking into account arguments from above and by considering relativistic corrections we may obtain:



Hans Bethe

• Here $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$ and \overline{I} is the mean ionization potential: $\overline{I} \approx 13.5 \times Z_T$ eV

Annalen der Physik, Volume 397, Issue 3

Zur Theorie des Durchgangs schneller Korpuskularstrahlen durch Materie

 $-\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 (Z_T / A) N_A \rho}{m_e v^2} \left[\ln \left(\frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{\bar{I}} \right) - \ln \left(1 - \beta^2 \right) \right]$

Von H. Bethe

Der unelastische Zusammenstoß einer schnellen geladenen Partikel (Elcktron, Proton, α Teilehen) mit einem Atom wird nach der wellenmechanischen Theorie von Born behandelt. Ein sehr einfaches Verfahren für die Auswertung der in die Theorie eingehenden Matrixelemente wird angegeben (§ 3) und die engen Beziehungen zur Intensität des Comptoneffekts festgestellt (§ 5). Die Theorie wird für Zusammenstöße mit Wasserstoffatomen im einzelnen und für kompliziertere Atome soweit wie möglich durchgeführt, es werden berechnet: die Winkel-



Felix Bloch

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 (Z_T / A) N_A \rho}{m_e v^2} \left[\ln \left(\frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{\bar{I}} \right) - \ln (1 - \beta^2) - \beta^2 \right]$$

- Important consequences:
 - The energy loss is roughly proportional to the density of material.
 - The energy loss does not depend on the mass of the incident charged particle.
 - The energy loss depends on the charge of the target also through the mean ionization potential.

Range of dE/dx for muons



- At low collision energies Bethe-Bloch equation fails to describe the energy loss of the particles.
- At low energies the energy loss function is more complicated.



Attached electrons will "screen" the charge of the particle and, hence, <u>decrease</u> the energy loss.

FIGURE 3-3 Mean charge z of slow protons and alpha particles as a function of their speed v. (By permission from Evans, 1955.)





- Particles may start capturing electrons from the target atoms and begin to lose their charge.
- More sophisticated methods are required to analyze this region of energies.



Bragg peak

- Since the energy loss of heavy charged particles is larger for smaller energies most of the energy is deposited by particle before stopping.
- This effect has an important applications for cancer therapy!
- A beam of heavy charged particles can be used to destroy cancer cells at given depth in the body without destroying healthy cells.









Cancer treatment





UniversitätsKlinikum Heidelberg
IonenStrahl TherapieZentrum



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Energy loss straggling

Let us return one more time to the Bethe-Bloch formula:

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{4\pi Z^2 e^4 (Z_T / A) N_A \rho}{m_e v^2} \left[\ln \left(\frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{\bar{I}} \right) - \ln (1 - \beta^2) - \beta^2 \right]$$

Due to the statistical nature of ionization energy loss, large fluctuations can occur in the amount of energy deposited by a particle traversing an absorber element.



Landau distribution

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty e^{-t\log t - xt} \sin(\pi t) dt.$$

- The Landau distribution is defined in terms of the normalized deviation from the "most probable energy loss", which is associated with the peak of the distribution.
- Large-energy tail is associated to the small number of individual collisions, each with a small probability of transferring comparatively large amounts of energy.



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Interaction of electrons with matter

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Electron passing the matter

(difference from heavy particles)

- Similar to heavy particles, electrons also interact through Coulomb forces with the atomic electrons.
- But! Due to their small mass the radiation loses become important for them.



We already discussed that radiation loses by heavy ions are very small.

How can we understood it?

Electron passing the matter

(difference from heavy particles)

- Similar to heavy particles, electrons also interact through Coulomb forces with the atomic electrons.
- But! Due to their small mass the radiation loses become important for them.





mass of scattering particle!



Proton mass: m_p = 1836 m_e!

In collision electron deviates at much greater angles than the heavy particles!



Ionization vs. radiation loses (1)

In contrast to heavy particles, for electrons we have to take into account both ionization (collision) and radiation losses.



Radiation length is the mean path length required to reduce the energy of electron by the factor 1/e, or 0.368, as they pass through matter.

Ionization vs. radiation loses (2)

- Ionization loses are dominant for relatively small energies of electron and decrease like 1/v².
- Radiation loses become dominant for high energies of electron and enhance linearly with energy E.





E – electron kinetic energy in MeV



"critical energy" at which ionization and radiation losses are equal

Ionization vs. radiation loses (3)

$$\left(\frac{dE}{dx_{rad}}\right) / \left(\frac{dE}{dx_{ion}}\right) \approx \frac{Z_T E}{700}$$

E – electron kinetic energy in MeV



From: R. D. Evan, "The atomic nucleus"

target	Critical energy (MeV)
C	119
Air	83
AI	55
Fe	24
Cu	21.5
Pb	9

For heavier targets radiation losses become important for lower electron energies!

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Track patterns

Channeling regime and its applications

Track patterns: Electrons vs. heavy particles

Another important consequence of an electron's small mass and, hence, large deflections in collisions is *zigzag*-like path.

heavy particles

- **•** Transverse in almost straight line.
- One may introduce range R:

$$R = \int_{0}^{E} \left(-\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} \right)^{-1} \mathrm{d}E$$

Which could be also understood as a path length.







Track patterns: Electrons vs. heavy particles

Another important consequence of an electron's small mass and, hence, large deflections in collisions is *zigzag*-like path.

electrons

- **•** Transverse in zigzag line.
- Path length is much longer than the range *R*.



One may introduce effective range, which is for *AI* target is given by:

> $R = 0.4 E^{1.4}$ at E < 0.8 MeVR = 0.54 E - 0.133 at E > 0.8 MeV



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Channeling regime and its applications

Particle passing crystals...

A crystal is a solid in which the constituent atoms, molecules, or ions are packed in a <u>regularly order</u>, repeating pattern extending in all three spatial dimensions.



Example: crystal structure of manganese(IV) oxide (MnO₂).

From: www.haverford.edu

We may study, therefore, moving of particles in a regularly ordered matter!



Idea of channeling of particles in crystals!





Channeling

If (positively charge) particles enter a crystal at an appropriate angle (!) the scattering events are correlated and the particles will move along the crystal planes.



Channeling

Positively-charged particles are repulsed from the nuclei of the plane, and after entering the space between two neighboring planes, they will be repulsed from the second plane.







- Electron density inside of the channel is smaller than near the crystal planes and, therefore, channeling particle loses less energy.
- Particle in "channeling regime" may travel much longer if compared to particle penetrating amorphous solid.

$$-\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} \propto \rho$$

Applications of channeling

Channeling may be used as a toll for the analysis of the properties of crystal lattices and (searching for defects).



From: www.ndt-ed.org



The applications include also the channeling radiation for enhanced production of high energy gamma rays.



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