

Show that for the Gaussian potential, the cross-section is,

$$V(r) = V_0 e^{-(r/r_0)^2}; \quad \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{4} \pi r_0^2 \left(\frac{\mu V_0 r_0^2}{\hbar^2} \right)^2 e^{-(qr_0)^2/2} \rightarrow \sigma = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi \mu V_0 r_0^2}{\hbar^2 k} \right)^2 (1 - e^{-2(kr_0)^2}); \quad [\text{I.1}]$$

Hint: $q^2 = 2k^2(1 - \cos \theta) \leftrightarrow d(\cos \theta) = -\frac{1}{2k^2} d(q^2) = -\frac{q dq}{k^2}$.

Preliminaries: Amplitude, and consequent cross section, and formula with which to complete the square,

$$f(\Omega) = \frac{-\mu}{2\pi\hbar^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}'} V(\mathbf{r}') d^3r' = \frac{-\mu}{2\pi\hbar^2} \int e^{-iqr'\cos\theta'} V(r') r'^2 dr' d(\cos\theta') d\phi' = \frac{-2\mu}{\hbar^2} \int \frac{\sin qr'}{qr'} V(r') r'^2 dr' \quad [\text{I.2}]$$

Putting in the Gaussian potential to [I.2] and completing the square $\pm iqr' - (\frac{r'}{r_0})^2 = -[\frac{r' \mp iqr_0^2/2}{r_0}]^2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f(\Omega)}{-\frac{2\mu V_0}{\hbar^2}} &= \int_0^\infty \frac{\sin qr'}{q} e^{-(r'/r_0)^2} r' dr' = \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{iqr' - (r'/r_0)^2} - e^{-iqr' - (r'/r_0)^2}}{2iq} r' dr' = e^{-q^2/(4r_0^2)} \int_0^\infty \frac{\exp(-[\frac{r' - iqr_0^2/2}{r_0}]^2) - \exp(-[\frac{r' + iqr_0^2/2}{r_0}]^2)}{2iq} r' dr' \\ &= \frac{1}{4iq} \left(\int_{\frac{-1}{2}iqr_0^2}^\infty e^{-(\rho_-/r_0)^2} (\rho_- + \frac{1}{2}iqr_0^2) \cdot d\rho_- - \int_{\frac{1}{2}iqr_0^2}^\infty (\rho_+ - \frac{1}{2}iqr_0^2) e^{-(\rho_+/r_0)^2} d\rho_+ \right) \end{aligned} \quad [\text{I.3}]$$

Something lets you deform a contour...

The following sum of integrals has integrals that are both integrated over straight lines in the complex plane. Deform the contours back to the origin and avoid the singularity at $x \rightarrow \infty$ to prove the integral formula,

$$\int_{-x_0}^\infty (x + x_0) e^{-(x/a)^2} dx - \int_{+x_0}^\infty (x - x_0) e^{-(x/a)^2} dx = 2x_0 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-(x/a)^2} dx$$