

205

Lagrangian → definition

$$L = T - V$$

where

$$T = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2}$$

V=potential

1. Free Particle → $V = 0$ → $L = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2}$

2. Oscillator

$$\rightarrow V = \frac{Kx^2}{2} \rightarrow L = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} - \frac{kx^2}{2}$$

$$F = -kx$$

Action,

$$S = \int_{t_0}^t L dt$$

....

Momentum action principle

impose → minimize the action $\delta S = 0$

→ find some eqs Euler Lagrange eps

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\delta L}{\delta \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\delta L}{\delta x}$$

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta \dot{x}} \rightarrow \text{Free } m\dot{x} \rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}(m\dot{x}) = m\ddot{x} + \dot{m}\dot{x}$$

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta x} \rightarrow \text{Free } 0$$

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta x} \rightarrow \text{Oscillator } -kx$$

$$\text{Free particle } m\ddot{x} = 0$$

$$\text{Oscillator } m\ddot{x} = -kx$$

Much more complicated if mass ≠ constant

Interference + diffraction

$$\psi = \psi_1 + \psi_2$$

$$P = |\psi_1|^2 + |\psi_2|^2 + 2\psi_1\psi_2$$

$$\psi_1\psi_2^* + \psi_2\psi_1^*$$

$$P = P_1 + P_2 + \text{Interference term}$$

211

Energy conservation

$$E_1 + mc^2 = E_2 + E_3$$

3-momentum conservation

$$\underline{P}_1 = \underline{P}_3 + \underline{P}_4$$

$$\text{Where } \theta = \theta_3 + \theta_4$$

$$\Rightarrow |\underline{P}_1|^2 = |\underline{P}_3|^2 + |\underline{P}_4|^2 + 2|\underline{P}_3||\underline{P}_4| \cos \theta$$

Consider a special case where the particle separate with equal energies

$$\text{Assume } E_3 = E_4$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{P}_3 = \underline{P}_4$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta_3 = \theta_4$$

By conservation of transverse momentum

So the conservation equations simplify

$$E_1 + mc^2 = 2E_3$$

$$E_1^2 - m^2c^4 = 2(E_3^2 - m^2c^4)(1 + \cos \theta)$$

$$\text{Using } E_1^2 - c^2|p_1|^2 = m^2c^4 \text{ etc}$$

Now solve these to find scattering angle θ as a function of the initial beam energy E_1

Algebra,

$$1 \Rightarrow E_1^2 - m^2c^4 = (E_1 + mc^2)(E_1 - mc^2) = 4E_3(E_3 - mc^2)$$

Compare 1 and 2

$$\Rightarrow 4E_3(E_3 - mc^2) = 2(E_3^2 - m^2c^4)(1 + \cos \theta) = 2(E_3 + mc^2)(E_3 - mc^2)(1 + \cos \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 + \cos \theta = \frac{4E_3}{2(E_3 + mc^2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{E_3 - mc^2}{E_3 + mc^2}$$

Finally, substitute for E_3 using $2E_3 = E_1 + mc^2$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{E_1 - mc^2}{E_1 + 3mc^2}$$

At low energies, $E_1 \approx mc^2$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta \approx 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta \approx 90^\circ$$

So the particles scatter at right angles

this is the well known result in Newtonian dynamics (snooker without spin)

At high energies, $E_1 \gg mc^2$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta \approx 1 \Leftrightarrow \theta \approx 0$$

The higher the energy, the smaller the scattering angle. The particles are scattered into a narrow forward cone. This is a very general result in relativistic scattering.

2+2 scattering in the CM frame

The analysis above was for the lab frame. Now recover the same result in the CM frame

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Momenta are equal and opposite in x-direction

Suppose the relative velocity of the CM frame and lab frame is v

$$\Rightarrow E_2^{CM} = \gamma(v)m$$

Now we showed previously that the total CM energy for fixed-target scattering is

$$E_{CM} = \sqrt{2m(E + m)}$$

$$E_1^{CM} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2m(E + m)}$$

And since $E_1^{CM} = \gamma(v)m$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma(v) = \frac{1}{2m}\sqrt{2m(E + m)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{E + m}{2m}}$$

This determines the velocity v at the CM frame relative to the LAB frame