

A small asteroid of mass  $m$  is aimed at a heavier planet with mass  $M$  and radius  $R$ . The asteroid's kinetic energy is  $E_0$  when the asteroid is far away. Find the angle where Rutherford scattering breaks down in terms of  $R, E, G, M,$  and  $m$

$$L = mv_0b$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2$$

$$E = \frac{L^2}{2mR^2} - \frac{GMm}{R}$$

$$L^2 = 2EmR^2 + 2GMRm^2$$

$$L = mvb$$

$$b^2 = \frac{L^2}{2mE}$$

$$b^2 = \frac{2EmR^2 + 2GMRm^2}{2mE}$$

$$= R^2 + \frac{GMmR}{E}$$

$$\text{For } F = \frac{\alpha}{r^2} :$$

$$\sin \frac{\theta_s}{2} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} \quad a \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2E}$$

$$\sin \frac{\theta_s}{2} = \frac{\frac{GMm}{2E}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{GMm}{2E}\right)^2 + R^2 + \frac{GMmR}{E}}}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{GMm}{2E}}{\frac{GMm}{2E} + R}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2RE}{GMm}}$$

$$\theta_s = 2 \sin^{-1} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2RE}{GMm}}$$