

90° deflection distance: $b_{90} = \frac{G\langle m \rangle}{\langle v^2 \rangle}$

cross section $\sigma_{90} = \pi b_{90}^2$

define strong encounter time scale by

$$\begin{aligned}
 t_s &= \frac{1}{r_s} = \frac{1}{n\sigma v} = \frac{1}{n\sigma_{90}\langle v^2 \rangle^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{v^3}{\pi G^2 m^2 n} \\
 &= 1.7 \times 10^{13} \text{ yr} \left(\frac{v}{10 \text{ km/s}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{m}{M_\odot} \right)^{-2} \left(\frac{n}{1 \text{ pc}^{-3}} \right)^{-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

small-angle scattering ($b \gg b_{90}$)

$$\Delta v_{\perp} = 2 \frac{bv_{\infty}^3}{GM} \left(1 + \frac{b^2 v_{\infty}^4}{G^2 M^2} \right)^{-1} \approx 2 \frac{GM}{bv_{\infty}}$$

expect $\langle \Delta v_{\perp} \rangle = 0$, $\langle \Delta v_{\perp}^2 \rangle = (\Delta v_{\perp})^2 \times \# \text{ of encounters}$

of encounters in time δt in $[b, b + db)$ is $2\pi b db n v \delta t$, so integrate over b to find

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Delta v_{\perp}^2 \rangle = 8\pi \frac{G^2 m^2 n}{v} \ln \frac{b_{max}}{b_{90}} = 8\pi \frac{G^2 m^2 n}{v} \ln \Lambda$$

define relaxation time scale by

$$t_r = \frac{v^2}{\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Delta v_{\perp}^2 \rangle} = \frac{v^3}{8\pi G^2 m^2 n \ln \Lambda}$$
$$= 2 \times 10^{11} \text{ yr} \left(\frac{v}{10 \text{ km/s}} \right)^3 \left(\frac{m}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-2} \left(\frac{n}{1 \text{ pc}^{-3}} \right)^{-1}$$