

## Multiple scattering of slow ions in a partially degenerate electron fluid

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We extend former investigation to a partially degenerate electron fluid at any temperature of multiple slow ion scattering at  $T=0$ . We implement an analytic and mean-field interpolation of the target electron dielectric function between  $T=0$  (Lindhard) and  $T\rightarrow\infty$  (Fried-Conte). A specific attention is given to multiple scattering of proton projectiles in the keV energy range, stopped in a hot-electron plasma at solid density.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the present paper is to contribute to the investigation of the basic interaction physics involved in the recently reoriented U.S. heavy-ion program [1–3] and now mostly devoted to the production of the so-called warm dense matter (WDM), i.e., plasmas at ordinary matter density with a few eV temperature. Toward this goal, it is proposed [2,3] to accelerate linearly intense ion beams impacting thin foils.

The given ion-target interaction is also supposed to take place at moderate or low projectile velocity ( $\sim 0.03\text{--}3$  MeV/a) [3] near Bragg peak, thus featuring a maximum, as well as mostly homogenous, energy deposition in a thin foil. We thus focus the attention on the very low velocity regime for the ion projectile with an oriented velocity  $v_p \leq v_{\text{the}}$ , with  $v_{\text{the}}$  denoting the target electron thermal velocity. Relevant ion stopping issues for relatively light projectile ( $Z \leq 24$ ) have already been alluded to [1,3]. In this case, the actual projectile penetration depth [4] should be routine evaluated through an estimate of multiscattering (MS) on target ions. Moreover, recent studies dedicated to the stopping of intense relativistic and PetaWatt (PW) laser-produced electron beams have also unraveled a non-negligible contribution to MS due to the target electrons [5]. With these promises in mind, we are thus lead to extend at any target temperature  $T$  a recent MS treatment for low velocity ion projectiles in a fully degenerate electron jellium at  $T=0$  essentially due to Archubi and Arista [6]. The WDM parameters range puts a strong emphasis on the partial degeneracy of target electrons with  $T \geq 10$  eV.

Toward this goal, we heavily rely on the mean-field and interpolated dielectric function [7–9]  $\varepsilon(q, \omega)$  between the  $T=0$  (Lindhard) [10] and the high-temperature (Fried-Conte) [11] corresponding limits, as worked out by the Orsay group and others [7–9,12]. Similar efforts have also been focused on low velocity ion slowing down in partially degenerate electron fluid through a nonlinear treatment of the  $T$  dependence [13].

The sequel is structured as follows. In Sec. II, we stress the usefulness of pseudoanalytic expressions [8] for the RPA  $\varepsilon(q, \omega)$  at any  $T$  out of former exact interpolations [7]. From them, in Sec. III, single-scattering features are derived through the probability function  $G(q_{\perp})$  in terms of transverse

momentum. In Sec. IV, we turn to multiple scattering and focus our attention on the half angle at half maximum  $\alpha_{1/2}$  through a parameter investigation in terms of electron target temperature  $T$ , thickness  $X$ , and density number  $n_e$ , as well as ion projectile velocity  $v_p$ . A numerical and efficient extension of the Bethe ansatz is in Sec. V. Summaries are briefly outlined in Sec. VI.

### II. $\varepsilon(Q, \omega)$ AT ANY TEMPERATURE $T$

Among the several available presentations [7–9] of the interpolated random-phase approximation (RPA) dielectric function  $\varepsilon(q, \omega)$ , the one advocated by Arista and Brandt [8] seems especially suited to the present analysis. In view of the low ion velocity  $v_p$  advocated here, we may safely restrict to a quasistatic approximation ( $v_p \leq v_{\text{the}}$ , where  $v_{\text{the}}$  includes a Pauli repulsion contribution for  $T \leq T_F$ ,  $T_F$  being Fermi temperature) such that  $\omega \rightarrow 0$ . Then, explicating the complex  $\varepsilon(q, \omega)$  as

$$\varepsilon(q, \omega) = \varepsilon_r(q, \omega) + i\varepsilon_i(q, \omega), \quad (1)$$

we can use the approximation  $|\varepsilon_r(q, \omega)| \ll |\varepsilon_i(q, \omega)|$  to validate the so-called stopping function under the form

$$\text{Im} \left[ -\frac{1}{\varepsilon(q, \omega)} \right] = \frac{\varepsilon_i(q, \omega)}{|\varepsilon(q, \omega)|^2} \approx \frac{\varepsilon_i(q, \omega)}{\varepsilon_r^2(q, \omega)}, \quad (2)$$

yielding the spectrum of plasma excitations in terms of momentum transfer  $\hbar q$  and energy  $\hbar \omega$ , so in the  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  limit and with Table II of Ref. [8], we get

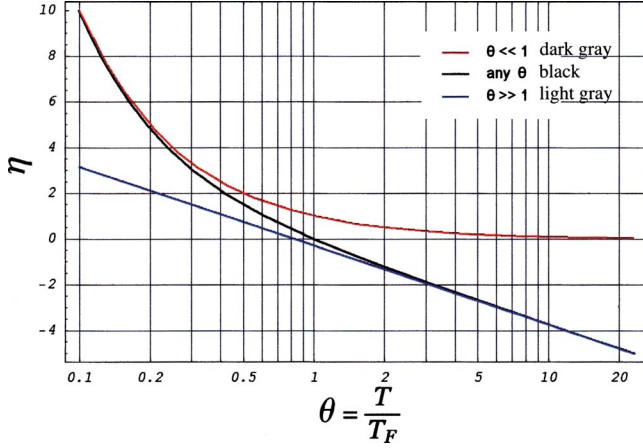
$$\begin{aligned} S(q, \omega) &\cong \text{Im} \left[ -\frac{1}{\varepsilon(q, \omega)} \right] \\ &\cong \frac{2m^2 e^2 q \omega}{\hbar^3 (q^2 + q_s^2)^2} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{\hbar^2 q^2}{8m_e T} - \eta\right)}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

with  $\eta = \beta \mu$  pictured on Fig. 1, where  $\beta = (k_B T)^{-1}$  and  $\mu$  the chemical potential of the partially degenerate electron fluid (PDEF).  $q_s^2$  (see Fig. 2) is obtained from  $\eta$  through

$$q_s^2 = \frac{1}{2} q_{\text{TF}}^2 \theta^{1/2} F_{-1/2}(\eta), \quad (4)$$

with  $q_{\text{TF}}$  the Thomas-Fermi screening parameter and

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 FIG. 1. (Color online)  $\eta(=\frac{\mu}{k_B T})$  in terms of  $\theta = \frac{T}{T_F}$ .

$$F_\nu(\eta) = \int_0^\infty \frac{x^\nu}{1 + e^{x-\eta}} dx$$

the Fermi function. It should be appreciated that we deleted the usual Bose factor  $N(\omega)$  in reducing Eq. (3) to the energy-loss function because  $N(\omega)$  gets finally cancelled in the  $(q, \omega)$  quadrature featuring the stopping-power expression [8].

(i) The extreme limits of  $\eta$  with respect to temperature

$$\eta \approx \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\theta} (\theta \ll 1) \\ \ln\left(\frac{4}{3\sqrt{\pi}\theta^{3/2}}\right) (\theta \gg 1) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

are given on Fig. 1 altogether with the exact interpolating black curve  $\eta$  valid at any  $T$  (or equivalently  $\theta$ ).

(ii)  $q_s^2$  advocate the two  $\theta = \frac{T}{T_F}$  limits

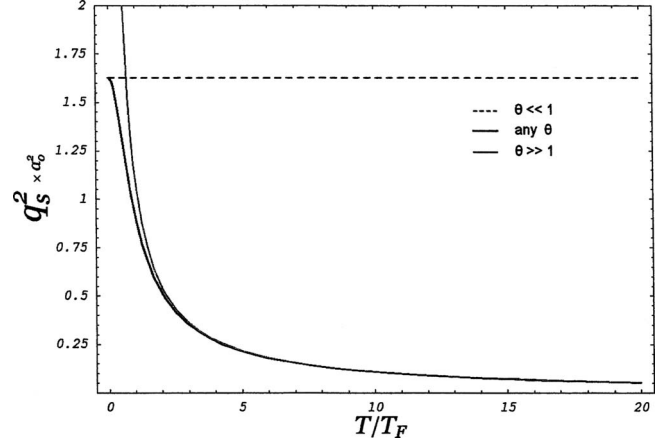
$$q_s^2 \approx \begin{cases} \frac{q_{TF}^2}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{9\theta^2}{4}}} (\theta < 1) \\ \frac{1/\lambda_D^2}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{9\theta^2}}} (\theta > 1) \end{cases}$$

and corresponding limit

$$q_s^2 \approx \begin{cases} \lim_{\theta \ll 1} q_s = q_{TF} = \sqrt{3} \frac{\omega_p}{v_F} \\ \lim_{\theta \gg 1} q_s = \frac{1}{\lambda_D} \end{cases}$$

in terms of PDEF frequency  $\omega_p$ ,  $v_F = \hbar q_F / m_e$  the Fermi velocity with Fermi wave number  $q_F = (3\pi^2 n_e)^{1/3}$ , and  $\lambda_D$  the classical Debye screening length valid for  $\theta \ll 1$ . These expressions altogether with the  $q_s^2$  valid for all  $T$  are displayed on Fig. 2.

Then we can express the right-hand side of Eq. (3) in the two extreme limits by


 FIG. 2.  $q_s^2$  (a.u.) in terms of  $\theta = \frac{T}{T_F}$ .

(1)  $\theta \ll 1$ . Here, altogether with the  $q_s^2$  valid for all  $T$ ,

$$S(q, \omega) \cong \frac{2m^2 e^2 q \omega}{\hbar^3 (q^2 + q_{TF}^2)^2}, \quad \text{for } q \leq 2q_F,$$

$$S(q, \omega) = 0, \quad \text{for } q > 2q_F. \quad (6)$$

(2)  $\theta \gg 1$ . Here,

$$S(q, \omega) \cong \frac{n_e^2 m^2 e^2 q \omega}{(q^2 + 1/\lambda_D^2)^2} \left(\frac{2\pi}{m_e k_B T}\right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\hbar^2 q^2}{8m_e k_B T}\right). \quad (7)$$

Equation (6) corresponds to absorption of small amounts of energy  $\hbar\omega \ll T_F$  by a degenerate electron gas. Owing to the exclusion principle, only those electrons close to the Fermi surface can participate. Thus, the momentum transfer  $\hbar q$  can never be larger than  $2q_F$ .

This restriction is relaxed for high temperatures as shown by Eq. (7), where excitations with small  $\omega$  but large  $q$  values occur—they involve electrons in the tail of the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution and thus contribute with exponentially decaying probability. Yet, this is a characteristic quantum effect, as indicated clearly by the factor  $\exp(-\hbar^2 q^2 / 8m_e k_B T)$  which replaces the analogous factor  $\exp(m\omega^2 / 2k_B T q^2)$  arising in classical theories.

### III. SINGLE SCATTERING

Adapting the  $T=0$  formalism (cf. [14,6]) for the ion projectile scattering probability expressed as

$$\frac{d^4 P}{d^3 q d\omega} = \frac{|F(q)|^2}{\pi^2 q^2} \text{Im} \left[ \frac{-1}{\varepsilon(q, \omega)} \right] \delta(\hbar\omega - \hbar\vec{q} \cdot \vec{v}_p), \quad (8)$$

with a pointlike projectile form factor  $F(q) = Ze$ ,  $Z$  being the ion charge, and using the splitting  $d^3 q = d^2 q_\perp dq_\parallel$  relative to initial beam velocity  $v_p$ , we get

$$\frac{d^2 P}{d^2 q_\perp} = \int \frac{d^3 P}{d^3 q} dq_\parallel$$

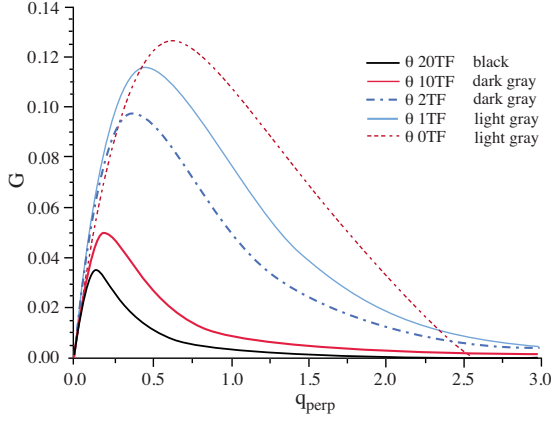


FIG. 3. (Color online) Probability distribution  $G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp})$  at any temperature  $T$  contrasted to its FEG counterpart ( $T=0$ ).  $q_{\perp}$  in  $a_0^{-1}$  and  $r_s=1.5$ .

$$= \frac{1}{\hbar^2 \pi^2} \int \frac{dq_{\parallel}}{q_{\perp}^2 + q_{\parallel}^2} |F(q)|^2 \text{Im} \left[ \frac{-1}{\varepsilon(q, \omega)} \right]_{\omega=q_{\parallel} v_p}, \quad (9)$$

expressing the probability of ion projectile differential scattering, yielding its angular deflections in single-scattering events through inclusion of the target electrons collective screening properties. Putting Eq. (3) into the above equation (9) yields

$$\frac{dP}{dq_{\perp}} = v_p G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp}),$$

where

$$G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp}) = \frac{4Z^2 e^4 m_e^2}{\hbar^4 \pi} q_{\perp} \int_{q_{\perp}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(q^2 + q_s^2)^2} \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{8m_e T} q^2 - \eta\right)} dq \quad (10)$$

denotes the  $v_p$ -independent probability function. Equation (10) thus extends at any  $T$  value a former  $T=0$  expression [6] derived within the framework of the so-called free-electron-gas (FEG) model.

Figure 3 depicts a typical  $G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp})$  scattering function contrasted to its  $T=0$  (FEG) homologous for a typical target density  $r_s=1.5$ , where  $4\pi r_s^3/3=1/n_e=4.8 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , for a proton projectile ( $Z=1$ ). The function  $G(q_{\perp})$  at  $T=0$  always features an upper bound for  $G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp})$ . The latter slightly decreases with increasing  $T$  at fixed  $n_e$ , while its range steadily extends to higher  $q_{\perp}$  values. Equation (10) is also contrasted to its high-temperature Fried-Conte limit [cf. Eq. (7)] on Fig. 3 featuring the lowest black curve.

Focusing attention on the strongly degenerate range  $\theta \leq 1$ , one obtains corresponding  $G$  curves on Fig. 4, while extending  $q_{\perp}$  to the  $\theta$  values displayed on Fig. 3 yields the more complete  $G$  patterns featured on Fig. 5. Then, full degeneracy ( $\theta=0$ ) is signaled by a vertical line.

## IV. MULTIPLE SCATTERING

### A. General

From the density probability function [Eq. (10)], we can

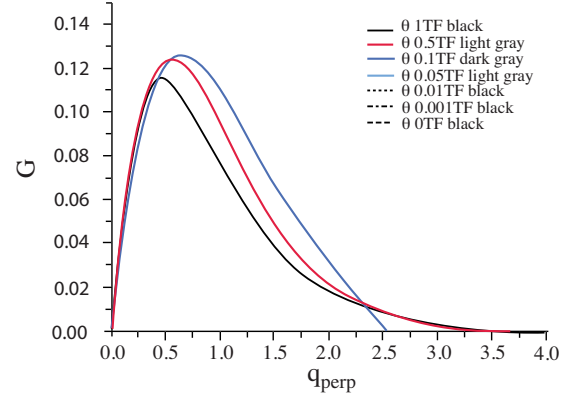


FIG. 4. (Color online) Same caption as Fig. 3 for  $\theta \leq 1$ .

access the differential cross section for ion multiple scattering in a PDEF. At a given transverse momentum transfer  $\hbar q_{\perp}$ , this quantity writes as

$$d\sigma = \frac{1}{n_e v_p} dP = \frac{1}{n_e} G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp}), \quad (11)$$

with angular ion deflection  $\psi$  taken in the small-angle approximation  $\hbar q_{\perp} = M_p v_p \psi$ , with the ion projectile mass  $M_p$ .

Following the Sigmund-Winterbon procedure [6,15], we then turn to the convolution of the multiple-scattering events as the particle penetrates a distance  $X$  within the solid. It is usually represented by the multiple-scattering (MS) function  $f(\alpha, X)$  which yields the statistical distribution of particles with a total angular deflection  $\alpha$ . So we can express the electronic multiple-scattering (EMS) function in the form  $F(\alpha, X) d\Omega = f(\alpha, X) d\Omega / 2\pi$ , where  $f(\alpha, X)$  is given in the small-angle approximation by [15]

$$f(\alpha, X) = \int_0^{\infty} \kappa d\kappa J_0(\kappa \alpha) \exp^{-n_e X \sigma_0(\kappa)}. \quad (12)$$

The function  $\sigma_0(\kappa)$  is determined from the previously defined scattering function  $G_{\nabla T}(q_{\perp})$ , for the present case of a PDEF, which takes the form

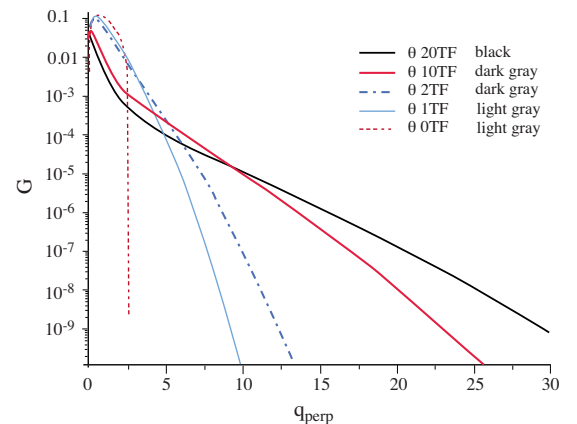


FIG. 5. (Color online) Same caption as Fig. 3 with enlarged  $q_{\perp}$  range.

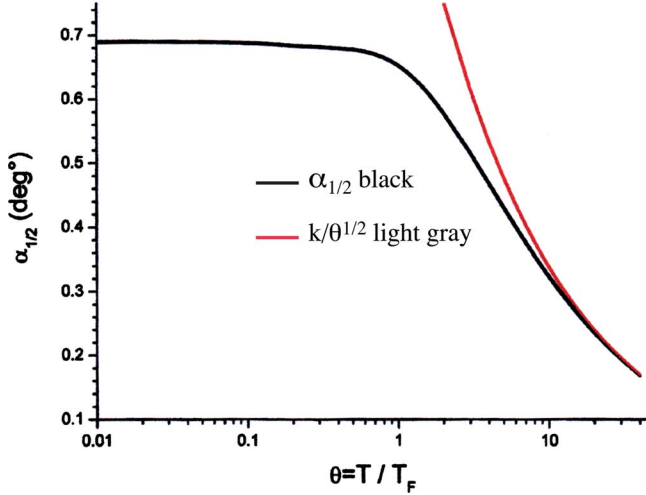


FIG. 6. (Color online)  $\alpha_{1/2}$  (in degrees) in terms of  $T/T_F$  in an electron target with density  $r_s=1.5$  and thickness  $X=800$  a.u. ( $0.0424 \mu\text{m}$ ).  $k \approx 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{0\vee T}(\kappa) &= \int [1 - J_0(\kappa\psi)] d\sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{n_e} \int_0^\infty \left[ 1 - J_0\left(\frac{\kappa q_\perp \hbar}{M_1 v_p}\right) \right] G_{\vee T}(q_\perp) dq_\perp, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

with  $q_\perp$  qualifying a classical and nondegenerate upper bound. In this connection, it is worthwhile to notice that replacing the given infinite upper limit by the fully degenerate  $2q_F$  one does not change significantly the  $\sigma_0(\kappa)$  estimate. Finally, we reach the angular distribution function explained at Eq. (12) for a given penetration depth  $X$  in target.

### B. Half width at half maximum angle $\alpha_{1/2}$

Analysis of quadrature of the previously reached Eq. (12) essentially relies on  $\alpha_{1/2}$ , the half angle at half maximum, fulfilling  $f(\alpha, X) = f(0, X)/2$ . The usefulness of this concept is successively highlighted through its  $T$  dependence,  $X$  dependence,  $v_p$  dependence, as well as  $n_e$  (or  $r_s$ ) dependence.

The  $T$  dependence is documented on Fig. 6 as a monotonous decay for a PDEF target  $\theta \geq 1$  with  $n_e \approx 4.8 \times 10^{23}$  and a thickness  $X = 0.0424 \mu\text{m}$  (800 a.u.), while the strongly degenerate regime ( $\theta < 1$ ) features a nearly horizontal plateau. At every  $\theta$  value, the thickness dependence follows the Gaussian-like trend

$$\alpha_{1/2} \propto \sqrt{X} \quad (14)$$

already featured at  $\theta=0$  [6].

## V. BEYOND THE BETHE APPROXIMATION

Usually, the right-hand side of Eq. (13) is estimated through the assumption ( $M_1$ , ion projectile mass)

$$\frac{\kappa q_\perp}{M_1 v_p} \ll 1, \quad (15)$$

with the Bethe ansatz [17]

$$1 - J_0\left(\frac{\kappa q_\perp}{M_1 v_p}\right) \cong 1/4 \left(\frac{\kappa q_\perp}{M_1 v_p}\right)^2, \quad (16)$$

which we intend to enlarge here. Usually, one assumes that for heavy ions with  $M_1 \gg m_e$  at nonzero  $v_p$ , this ansatz is a robust one. However, if one has to consider lighter projectiles such as mesons or electrons and arbitrary small projectile velocities as well, one might encounter difficulties, even if the  $\kappa \rightarrow \infty$  limit is handsomely taken into account by a sufficiently fast decaying  $\kappa$  integrand, while the above computed  $G(q_\perp)$  also decreases faster than  $\bar{q}_\perp^4$  as  $q_\perp \rightarrow \infty$ .

A typical quantity of interest, the mean-free path (mfp)  $l$ , thus writes as (in a.u.)

$$\frac{1}{\ell} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\kappa^2}{(M_1 v_p)^2} \bar{q}_\perp^2 = \frac{1}{4} \kappa^2 \bar{\psi}^2, \quad (17)$$

where

$$\bar{q}_\perp^2 = \int_0^\infty q_\perp^2 G(q_\perp) dq_\perp \quad (18)$$

and

$$\bar{\psi}^2 = \frac{\bar{q}_\perp^2}{(M_1 v_p)^2}, \quad (19)$$

when one restricts to the Bethe ansatz (16).

Now, we propose to relax the constraint (15) with the finite and alternate series [18]

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - J_0(x) &= 4 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^2 - 4 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^4 + 1.777\,756 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^6 \\ &\quad - 0.444\,358\,4 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^8 + 0.070\,925\,3 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^{10} \\ &\quad - 0.007\,672\,2 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^{12} + 0.000\,501\,441\,5 \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^{14} \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_0(x), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

with  $|\varepsilon_0(x)| \leq 10^{-9}$  for  $-4 \leq x \leq 4$ , which extends the Bethe ansatz (16) and expression (17) for  $1/\ell$  to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\ell} &\cong \frac{\bar{\psi}^2}{4} \bar{q}_\perp^2 - \frac{\bar{\psi}^4}{4^3} \bar{q}_\perp^4 + 1.777\,756 \frac{\bar{\psi}^6}{4^6} \bar{q}_\perp^6 - 0.444\,358\,4 \frac{\bar{\psi}^8}{4^8} \bar{q}_\perp^8 \\ &\quad + 0.070\,925\,3 \frac{\bar{\psi}^{10}}{4^{10}} \bar{q}_\perp^{10} - 0.007\,672\,2 \frac{\bar{\psi}^{12}}{4^{12}} \bar{q}_\perp^{12} \\ &\quad + 0.000\,501\,441\,5 \frac{\bar{\psi}^{14}}{4^{14}} \bar{q}_\perp^{14}, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where

$$\bar{q}_\perp^{2p} = \int_0^\infty q_\perp^{2p} G_{\vee T}(q_\perp) dq_\perp. \quad (22)$$

By inspecting Figs. 3–5, it is obvious that the  $2p$  momenta (22) remain finite. However, they can reach very high values for  $p=6$  or  $7$ , which can severely restrict the  $\bar{\psi}$ -validity range. Nonetheless, the extension (20) proves useful at not

TABLE I.  $\bar{\psi}$  [Eq. (19)] and  $R$  [Eq. (28)] in terms of  $T_F$  for  $T/T_F=1$ .

$T_F=0.29$ $N_e=10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$		$T_F=1.34$ $N_e=10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-3}$		$T_F=6.215$ $N_e=10^{25} \text{ cm}^{-3}$		$T_F=28.85$ $N_e=10^{26} \text{ cm}^{-3}$	
$\bar{\psi}$	$R$	$\bar{\psi}$	$R$	$\bar{\psi}$	$R$	$\bar{\psi}$	$R$
0.01	0	0.01	0	0.01	0	0.01	0
0.05	0	0.05	0	0.05	0	0.05	0.02
0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.07
0.5	0.026	0.5	0.1	0.5	1.8	0.5	10.6
1.0	0.1	1.0	0.3	1.0	4.2	1	77154
2.0	0.3	2.0	6.34	2.0	26086		
3.0	0.48						
4.0	0.54						

high a temperature ( $T \leq 3 T_F$ ), while it allows converging alternate series (21) up to  $\bar{\psi} \cong 1$ , which already enlarges considerably the validity domain of the initial Bethe ansatz (16).

A deeper insight is also afforded by a direct and analytic estimate of Eq. (22) with Eq. (10) in atomic units, so that ( $p \in [1-7]$ )

$$\bar{q}_{\perp}^{2p} = \frac{2Z^2 (8T)^{p-1/Z}}{\pi (p+1)} \int_{q_{\perp}}^{\infty} \frac{u^{(2p+Z)} du}{(u^2 + u_s^2)^2 (1 + e^{u^2 - \eta})} \quad (23)$$

after integrating by parts, where ( $T$  in a.u.)

$$u^2 = \frac{q^2}{8T} \quad \text{and} \quad u_s^2 = \frac{q_s^2}{8T}.$$

Expression (23) is further explained through

$$u_s^2 = \frac{q_{\text{TF}}^2}{16T} \left( \frac{T}{T_F} \right)^{1/2} F - \frac{1}{2}(\eta), \quad (23a)$$

with

$$q_{\text{TF}}^2 = 3 \left( \frac{T_F}{1.84} \right)^{3/2} \frac{1}{\left( T^2 + \frac{4}{9} T_F^2 \right)^{1/2}} \quad (24)$$

and [8]

TABLE II. Same caption as Table I for  $T/T_F=0.1$  and  $T_F=28.85$ .

$\bar{\psi}$	$R$
0.01	0
0.05	0.002
0.1	0.007
0.5	0.58
1	19

$$F_{-1/2}(\eta) \cong \frac{4}{(4\theta + 9\theta^3)^{1/2}}, \quad \theta = \frac{T}{T_F}. \quad (25)$$

A more precise albeit involved Padé approximation for  $F_{-1/2}(\eta)$  may alternatively be used [9]. On the other hand, one can also introduce

$$\eta = \frac{\mu^0(T)}{T}, \quad (26)$$

where  $\mu^0(T)$  and  $T$  are in  $T_F$ , with [19] and

$$\mu^0(T) = \exp \left[ -\frac{t^2}{12} + A_1 t^2 \right] + 2.718 \mu > (T) \exp(-1 - A_2 t^{-2} - A_3 t^{-4}), \quad (27a)$$

with

$$t = \pi T, \quad A_1 = 0.178, \quad A_2 = 1.75, \quad A_3 = 59.4,$$

while

$$\frac{\mu^>}{T} = -\ln(6\pi^2) + 1.5 \ln \frac{4\pi}{T} + \dots \quad (27b)$$

A first test of the above derivation is performed with  $T/T_F=1$  and  $T_F=3$  in a.u., which in the fast ignition scenario (FIS) for inertial confinement fusion (ICF) [16] yields 0.0475 for the first term in the right-hand side of Eq. (21) with  $\bar{\psi}=1$ , although the whole series amounts to 0.0429. On the other hand, at FIS ignition ( $T/T_F=1$ ) with  $n_e \cong 10^{26} \text{ e cm}^{-3}$  ( $T_F \cong 29$ ), the series (21) converges only with  $\bar{\psi}=0.1$  to its first

TABLE III. Same caption as Table II for  $T_F=0.3$ .

$\bar{\psi}$	$R$
1	0.0045
2	0.21
3	0.40
4	0.58



term which nevertheless significantly improves on the extreme inequality (15).

A wider perspective is offered in Table I at  $T/T_F=1$  and for target electron densities of FIS concern, i.e.,  $10^{23} \leq N_e \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)} \leq 10^{26}$ , with  $0.29 \leq T_F \leq 28.85$ . Then, we consider the ratio

$$R = \left| \frac{\frac{\bar{\psi}^2 q_{\perp}^2}{4} - [\text{RHS Eq. (21)}]}{\frac{\bar{\psi}^2 q_{\perp}^2}{4}} \right| \quad (28)$$

in terms of  $\bar{\psi}$  [Eq. (19)]. Table I shows that for  $\bar{\psi} \leq 0.1$ , the restriction to the first term in Eq. (21) remains an excellent approximation for any  $T_F$  value. It persists as a possible one up to  $\bar{\psi}=1$  for  $T_F=0.3$  and 1.34. Above  $\bar{\psi}=1$  and for higher  $T_F$  values, the ratio  $R$  can demonstrate an explosive increase, invalidating completely the so-called Bethe ansatz.

Corresponding physical situations primarily highlight multiple scattering of lighter projectiles such as electrons and mesons in a strongly degenerate electron target. Switching attention to strongly degenerate electron targets featuring  $T/T_F=0.1$ , one witnesses contrasting robustness behaviors of very dense (Table II) and moderately dense targets (Table III). In the first case,  $R$  remains close to zero only with  $\bar{\psi} \leq 0.1$ , while in the second case, one sees that  $\bar{\psi} \leq 1$  fulfills this requirement.

It should be appreciated that  $T/T_F=0.01$  would produce nearly identical outputs. On the other hand, in the high-temperature range  $T/T_F \geq 1$ , the robustness of the Bethe ansatz decreases with increasing  $T$  as evidenced on Table IV.

TABLE IV.  $R$  values [Eq. (28)] for  $T_F=0.3$  in terms of  $T/T_F$ .

$T/T_F$	1	4	10	100
$\bar{\psi}$				
0.01	0	0	0	0
0.05	0	0	0	0.012
0.1	0	0	0.005	0.047
0.5	0.026	0.054	0.11	6.54
1	0.1	0.18	0.3	47700.4
2	0.3	0.0005	156	
3	0.48	91.4		
4	0.54			

## VI. SUMMARY

We have extended to any temperature a former  $T=0$  [6] FEG multiple-scattering formalism for a low velocity ( $v_p < v_{\text{the}}$ ) ion projectile stopped in a PDEF of potential WMD concern. The relevant  $\alpha_{1/2}$  parameter exhibits a significant temperature dependence.

These calculations are of relevance to deuterium-tritium targets with  $n_e \geq 10^{24} - 10^{26} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at  $T \in [0.5; 2]$  keV submitted to proton beams in the MeV energy range in order to achieve fast ignition in ICF [16]. They also pave the way to extending multiple-scattering studies to projectiles with any mass, not only heavy ions, as far as arbitrary degenerate electron targets are considered.

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