



Emission from free particles (Chapters 18-19)

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Outline

- Repetition: the emission formula and the multipole expansion
- The emission from a free particle - the Larmor formula
- Applications of the Larmor formula
 - Harmonic oscillator
 - Cyclotron radiation
 - Thompson scattering
 - Bremsstrahlung
- Relativistic generalisation of Larmor formula
 - Repetition of basic relativity
 - Co- and contra-variant tensor notation
 - Lorentz transformation and relativistic invariants
 - Relativistic Larmor formula
- The Lienard-Wiechert potentials
 - Inductive and radiative electromagnetic fields
 - Alternative derivation of the Larmor formula
- Abraham-Lorentz force

Repetition: Emission formula

- The energy emitted by a wave mode M (using antihermitian part of the propagator), when integrating over the δ -function in ω

$$W_M = \sum_M \int d^3\mathbf{k} U_M(\mathbf{k})$$

$$U_M(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{R_M(\mathbf{k})}{\epsilon_0} \left| \mathbf{e}_M^*(\mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{J}_{ext}(\omega_M(\mathbf{k}), \mathbf{k}) \right|^2$$

- the *emission formula*
- thus U_M is a density of emission in \mathbf{k} -space
- Alternatively, the emission per unit frequency and solid angle ($d\Omega$)
 - for non-spatially dispersive media

$$W = \int \frac{d^2\Omega d\omega}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_M V_M(\omega, \Omega)$$

$$V_M(\omega, \Omega) = -\frac{\omega n_M}{(2\pi c)^3 \epsilon_0} \frac{\left| \mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \mathbf{J}_{ext} \right|^2}{1 - \left| \mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}} \right|^2}$$

Repetition: The current expressed in multipole moments

- Multipoles moments are related to Fourier transform of the current:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{J}(\omega, \mathbf{k}) &= \int dt e^{i\omega t} \int d^3 \mathbf{x} [e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}] \mathbf{J}(t, \mathbf{x}) \\
 &= \int dt e^{i\omega t} \int d^3 \mathbf{x} \left[1 - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x})^2 + \dots \right] \mathbf{J}(t, \mathbf{x}) \\
 &= -i\omega \mathbf{d}(\omega) + i\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{m}(\omega) - \omega \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{k}(\omega) / 2 + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Emission formula

(\mathbf{k} -space power density)

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 U_M^{\mathbf{d}}(\mathbf{k}) &= \frac{R_M(\mathbf{k})}{\epsilon_0} |\omega_M \mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \mathbf{d}|^2 \\
 U_M^{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{k}) &= \frac{R_M(\mathbf{k})}{\epsilon_0} |\mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot (\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{m})|^2 \\
 U_M^{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{k}) &= \frac{R_M(\mathbf{k})}{4\epsilon_0} |\omega_M \mathbf{e}_{M,i}^* q_{ij} k_j|^2
 \end{aligned} \right.$$

Emission spectrum

(integrated over solid angles)

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 V_{rad}^{\mathbf{d}}(\omega) &= \frac{n(\omega)\omega^4}{6\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^3} |\mathbf{d}(\omega)|^2 \\
 V_{rad}^{\mathbf{m}}(\omega) &= \frac{n(\omega)^3 \omega^4}{6\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^5} |\mathbf{m}(\omega)|^2 \\
 V_{rad}^{\mathbf{q}}(\omega) &= \frac{n(\omega)^3 \omega^6}{720\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^5} d_{ij} d_{ij}^*
 \end{aligned} \right.$$

Repetition: Emission in the time-domain

- The total radiated power from a dipole

$$P_{ave} = \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \left(\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T dt |\ddot{\mathbf{d}}(t)|^2 \right) = \frac{1}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \langle |\ddot{\mathbf{d}}(t)|^2 \rangle$$

- interpreted as a time average power
- ideally the averaging should be performed over all times
 - for event, or periodic motion, averaging can be done over finite times

Dipole current from single particle

- Current from a single particle: $\mathbf{J}(t, \mathbf{x}) = q\dot{\mathbf{X}}(t)\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t))$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{J}(\omega, \mathbf{k}) &= q \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-i\omega t} \int d^3\mathbf{k} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t)\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t)) \\
 &= -i\omega q \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-i\omega t} [1 + i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{X}(t) + \dots] \mathbf{X}(t)\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t)) \\
 &= -i\omega q \left\{ \mathbf{X}(\omega) + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-i\omega t} [i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{X}(t) + \dots] \mathbf{X}(t)\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t)) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Dipole: $\mathbf{d} = q\mathbf{X}$

- Dipole approximation $\exp[i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}] \sim 1$; but what is the error?
 - Assume oscillating motion: $\dot{\mathbf{X}}(t) = \mathbf{v}\cos(\omega t) \Rightarrow \mathbf{X} \sim \mathbf{v}/\omega$
 - for non-oscillating motion: emission of quanta ω occurs on time-scale $t \sim 1/\omega$

$$\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{X}(t) \sim k \frac{v}{\omega} \sim \frac{n_M \omega}{c} \frac{v}{\omega} \sim n_M \frac{v}{c}$$

Dipole valid for non-relativistic motion

Relation between emission and acceleration

- Emission from single particle; dipole current: $\mathbf{J}(\omega, \mathbf{k}) \approx -i\omega q \mathbf{X}(\omega)$

$$V_M(\omega, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) = \frac{q^2 n_M}{\epsilon_0 (2\pi c)^3} \frac{|\mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \omega^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega)|^2}{1 - |\mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}|^2}$$

- Note that $-\omega^2 \mathbf{X}(\omega) = \mathbf{a}(\omega)$ is the acceleration:

$$V_M(\omega, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) = \frac{q^2 n_M}{\epsilon_0 (2\pi c)^3} \frac{|\mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \mathbf{a}(\omega)|^2}{1 - |\mathbf{e}_M^* \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}|^2}$$

– Thus emission from free particle is a response to **acceleration!**

- Power radiated for isotropic transverse waves:

$$P_{rad}(\omega) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int d\Omega \sum_M V_M^T(\omega, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) = \frac{q^2 n_M(\omega)}{12\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^3} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} |\mathbf{a}^T(\omega)|^2$$

truncated outside $[-T, T]$

The Larmor formula

- The emission integrated over all frequencies is related to time integral of the emitted power

– in vacuume ($n_M=1$)

$$P \propto \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\mathbf{a}^T(\omega)|^2 d\omega = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi}{4T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\mathbf{a}^T(t)|^2 dt = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi}{T} \int_{-T}^T |\mathbf{a}(t)|^2 dt$$

The Larmor formula

$$P = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \langle |\mathbf{a}(t)|^2 \rangle$$

- the [Larmor formula](#) related the *averaged radiated power* with the *average acceleration*
- The time average has the same interpretation as for dipole and is sometimes written

$$P(t) = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} |\mathbf{a}(t)|^2$$

– but should *always* be interpreted as an average!

Applications: Harmonic oscillator

- As a first example, consider the emission from a particle performing an harmonic oscillation
 - harmonic oscillations in one dimension X

$$X(t) = x_0 \cos(\omega_0 t) , \quad a(t) = \ddot{X}(t) = -x_0 \omega_0^2 \cos(\omega_0 t)$$

- **Larmor formula:** the emitted power associated with this acceleration

$$P(t) = \frac{q^2 \omega_0^4 x_0^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \cos^2(\omega_0 t)$$

- oscillation $\cos^2(\omega_0 t)$ above is not physical; average over a period

$$\bar{P} = \frac{q^2 \omega_0^4 x_0^2}{12\pi\epsilon_0 c^3}$$

Applications: Harmonic oscillator – frequency spectrum

- Express the particle as a dipole \mathbf{d} , use truncation for Fourier transform

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{d}(\omega) &= q\mathcal{F}\{\mathbf{X}(t)\} = \pi q\mathbf{x}_0\left[\delta(\omega - \omega_0) + \delta(\omega + \omega_0)\right] = \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} T q\mathbf{x}_0 \left[\text{sinc}\left(\frac{(\omega - \omega_0)T}{2}\right) + \text{sinc}\left(\frac{(\omega + \omega_0)T}{2}\right) \right]\end{aligned}$$

- The time-averaged power emitted from a dipole

$$\begin{aligned}P(\omega) &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \iint V(\omega, \Omega) d\Omega = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \frac{|\omega \mathbf{d}(\omega)|^2}{6\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^3} = \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \frac{1}{6\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^3} \left| \frac{1}{2} \omega T q\mathbf{x}_0 \left[\text{sinc}\left(\frac{(\omega - \omega_0)T}{2}\right) + \text{sinc}\left(\frac{(\omega + \omega_0)T}{2}\right) \right] \right|^2 = \\ &= \{\text{see Ch. 4.5}\} \dots = \frac{q^2 \omega_0^4 x_0^2}{12\pi \epsilon_0 c^3} \left[\delta(\omega - \omega_0) + \delta(\omega + \omega_0) \right]\end{aligned}$$

Applications: cyclotron emission

- An important emission process from magnetised particles is from the acceleration involved in cyclotron motion

- consider a charged particle moving in a static magnetic field $\mathbf{B} = B_z \mathbf{e}_z$

$$\mathbf{a}(t) = \dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) = \frac{q}{m} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = -\Omega \mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{v}, \quad \Omega = \frac{qB}{m}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_x \\ \dot{v}_y \\ \dot{v}_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \Omega & 0 \\ -\Omega & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} v_x(t) \\ v_y(t) \\ v_z(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{\perp} \sin(\Omega t) \\ v_{\perp} \cos(\Omega t) \\ v_{\parallel} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \\ z(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_L \cos(\Omega t) \\ \rho_L \sin(\Omega t) \\ v_{\parallel} t \end{bmatrix}$$

- where we have the Larmor radius $\rho_L = v_{\perp} / \Omega$
- This describe circular motion around magnetic field lines of force called the Larmor- or cyclotron-motion

- The period averaged radiation:

$$\bar{P} = \frac{q^4 B^2 v_{\perp}^2}{12\pi \epsilon_0 c^3 m^2}$$

- Magnetized plasma; power depends on the temperature: $\bar{P} \propto v_{\perp}^2 \propto T$
 - Electron cyclotron emission is one of the most common ways to measure the temperature of a fusion plasma!

Applications: wave scattering

- Consider a particle being accelerated by an external wave field

$$\mathbf{E}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{E}_0 \cos(\omega_0 t - \mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{a}(t) = q\mathbf{E}(t, \mathbf{x})/m$$

- The Larmor formula then tell us the average emitted power

$$\bar{P} = \frac{q^4 |\mathbf{E}_0|^2}{12\pi\epsilon_0 m^2 c^3}$$

- Note: that this is only valid in vacuum (restriction of Larmor formula)

- Rewrite in term of the wave energy density W_0

- in vacuum : $W_0 = \epsilon_0 |\mathbf{E}_0|^2 / 4 + \epsilon_0 |\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{E}_0 / c\omega|^2 / 4 = \epsilon_0 |\mathbf{E}_0|^2 / 2$

$$\bar{P} = \frac{8\pi}{3} \left(\frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 mc^2} \right)^2 cW_0$$

- Shown in the next page: This describe the fraction of the power density that is *scattered* by the particle, i.e. first absorbed and then re-emitted

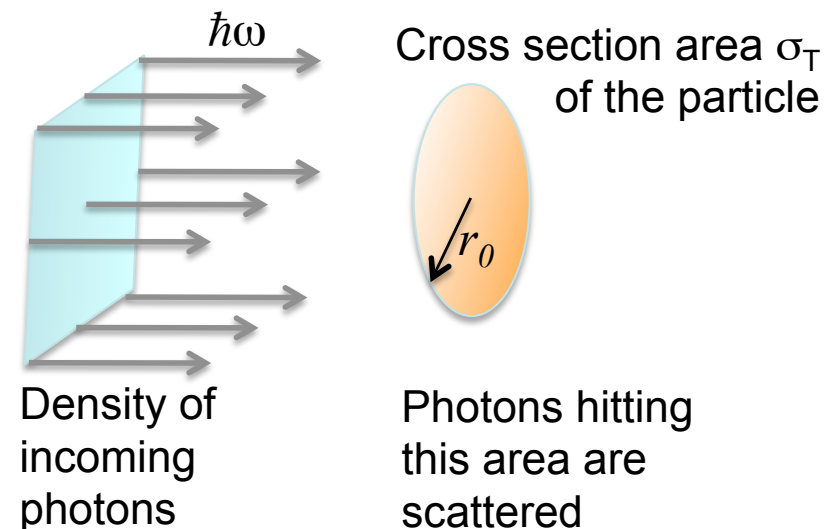
Applications: wave scattering

- The scattering process can be interpreted as a collision
 - Consider a density of wave quanta representing the power density W_0
 - The wave quanta, photons, move with velocity c (speed of light)
 - Imagine a charged particle as a ball with a cross section σ_T
 - Then the power scattered per unit time is given by

$$\bar{P} = \sigma_T c W_0$$

- The effective cross section for wave scattering on electrons

$$\sigma_T = \frac{8\pi}{3} r_0^2, \quad r_0 = \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 mc^2}$$



Applications: Thomson scattering

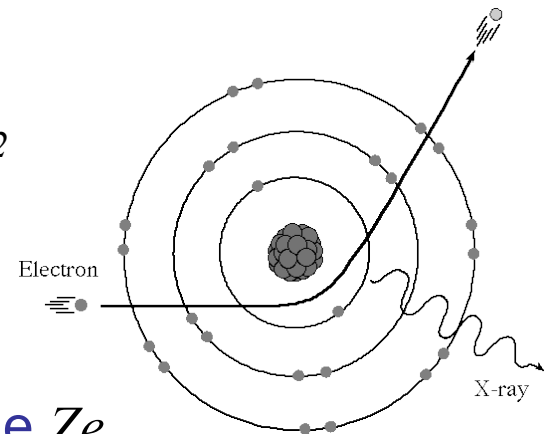
- Scattering of waves against *electrons* is called *Thomson scattering*
 - from this process the classical radius of the electron was defined as

$$r_{ele} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m_e c^2} \approx 2.8179 \times 10^{-15} [\text{m}]$$

- Note: this is an *effective radius* for Thomson scattering and not a measure of the “real” size of the electron
 - in general quantum mechanics is needed to understand the behavior of electrons at such short length scales
- Examples of Thomson scattering:
 - In fusion devices, Thomson scattering of a high-intensity laser beam is used for measuring the electron *temperatures* and *densities*.
 - The continuous spectrum from the *solar corona* is the result of the Thomson scattering of solar radiation with free electrons
 - The *cosmic microwave background* is thought to be linearly polarized as a result of Thomson scattering

Applications: Bremsstrahlung

- **Bremsstrahlung** (~Braking radiation) come from the acceleration associated with electrostatic collisions between charged particles (called Coulomb collisions)
- Note that the electrostatic force is “long range”, $E \sim 1/r^2$
 - thus electrostatic collisions between charged particles is a smooth continuous processes
- Derivation: an electron moving near an ion with charge Ze
 - since the ion is heavier than the electron, we assume $\mathbf{X}_{ion}(t)=0$
 - the equation of motion for the electron and the emitted power are



$$m_e \ddot{\mathbf{X}}(t) = -\frac{Ze^2 \mathbf{X}(t)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{X}(t)|^3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad P(t) = \frac{2Z^2}{3m_e^2 c^3} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^3 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{X}(t)|^4}$$

- this is the **Bremsstrahlung** radiation at one time of one single collision
 - to estimate the total power from a medium we need to integrate over both the entire collision and all ongoing collisions!

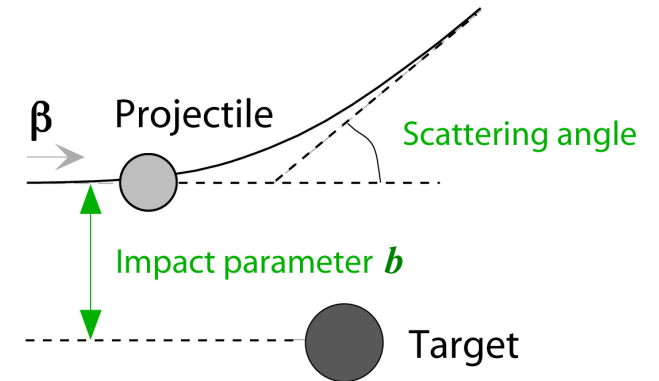
Bremsstrahlung: Coulomb collisions



- Lets try and integrate the emission over all times

$$W_{\text{rad}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(t) dt = 2 \frac{2Z^2}{3m_e^2 c^3} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^3 \int_{r_{\min}}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{r^4 \dot{r}(t)}$$

- where we integrate in the distance to the ion r
- Now we need r_{\min} and $\dot{r}(t)$



- So, let the ion be stationary at the origin
- Let the electron start at $(x,y,z)=(\infty,b,0)$ with velocity $\mathbf{v}=(-v_0,0,0)$
- The conservation of angular momentum and energy gives

$$\left. \begin{aligned} m_e r^2 \dot{\theta} &= m_e b v_0 \\ m_e \left(\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2 \right) - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} &= \frac{1}{2} m_e v_0^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \dot{r} = v_0 \sqrt{1 + \frac{2b_0}{r} - \frac{b^2}{r^2}}, \quad b_0 = \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m_e v_0^2}$$

- This is the *Kepler problem* for the motion of the planets!
- Next we need the minimum distance between ion and electron r_{\min}

$$\dot{r} \Big|_{r=r_{\min}} = 0 \Rightarrow 1 + \frac{2b_0}{r_{\min}} - \frac{b^2}{r_{\min}^2} = 0 \Rightarrow r_{\min}^2 + 2b_0 r_{\min} - b^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r_{\min} = b_0 + \sqrt{b_0^2 + b^2}$$

Bremsstrahlung: Coulomb collisions

- Coulomb collisions are mainly due to “long range” interactions,
 - i.e. particles are far apart, and only slightly change their trajectories (there are exceptions in high density plasmas)
 - thus $r_{\min} \approx b$ and $b_0 \ll b$
 - we are then ready to evaluate the time integrated emission

$$W_{\text{rad}} = 2 \frac{2Z^2}{3m_e^2 c^3} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^3 \int_b^{\infty} \frac{dr}{r^4 v_0 \sqrt{1 + \frac{2b_0}{r} - \frac{b^2}{r^2}}} \approx \dots \approx \frac{\pi Z^2}{3m_e^2 c^3 v_0 b^3} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^3$$

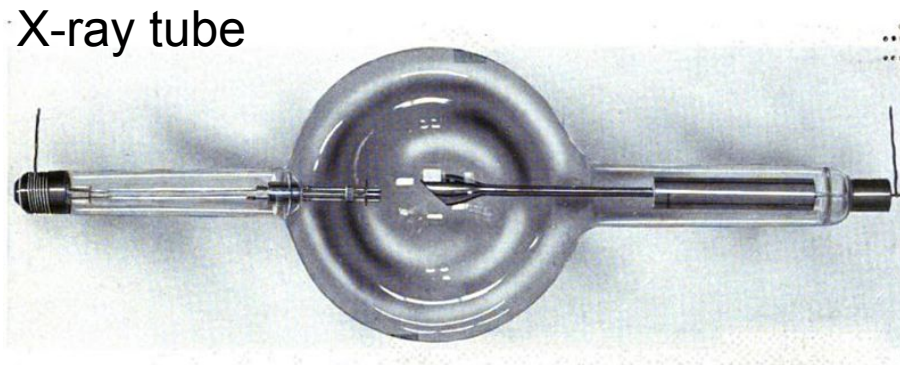
- This is now the emission from a single collision
 - The cumulative emission from all particles and with all possible b and v_0 has no simple general solution (and is outside the scope of this course)
 - An approximate:

$$P_{\text{Br}} \propto Z_i^2 n_i n_e \sqrt{T_e}$$

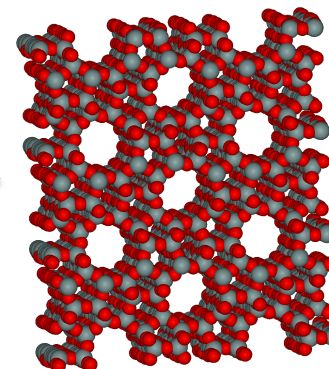
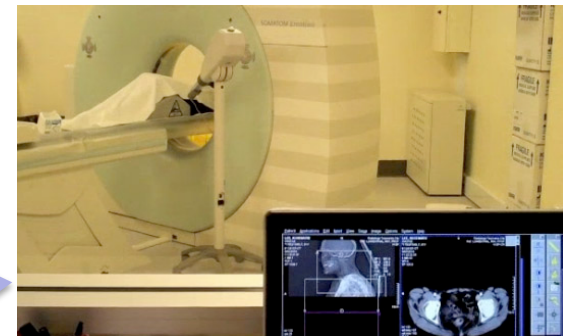
- Thus it can be used to derive information about both the charge, density and temperature of the media

Industrial applications of Bremsstrahlung

- Typical frequency of Bremsstrahlung is in X-ray regime
- **X-ray tubes:** electrons are accelerated to high velocity
When impacting on a metal surface they emit bremsstrahlung



- X-ray tubes are also used in
 - CAT scanners
 - airport luggage scanners
 - X-ray crystallography
 - industrial inspection.



Applications of Bremsstrahlung

- **Astrophysics:** High temperature stellar objects $T \sim 10^7$ - 10^8 K radiate primarily in via bremsstrahlung
 - Note: surface of the sun $10^3 - 10^6$ K
- **Fusion:**
 - Measurements of Bremsstrahlung provide information on the presence of impurities with high charge, temperature and density
 - Bremsstrahlung and cyclotron radiation power losses:
 - Temperature at the centre of fusion plasma: $\sim 10^8$ K ; the walls are $\sim 10^3$ K
 - Main issue for fusion is to confine heat in plasma core
 - However, both Bremsstrahlung and cyclotron radiation escape easily
 - In reactor, radiation losses will be of importance – limits the reactor design
 - If plasma gets too hot, then radiation losses cool down the plasma.

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Quick recap of special relativity

- Next we'll derive a Larmor formula that is valid at relativistic velocities
 - But first we'll recap the some basic theory of special relativity
-
- Special relativity is based on two postulates
 - **Principle of relativity:** The laws of physics are the same for all observers in uniform motion relative to one another
 - The **speed of light** in a vacuum ($c = 299\,792\,458$ m/s) is the same for all observers, regardless of their relative motion, or of the motion of the source of the light
 - These postulates have many surprising consequences, e.g.
 - **Relativity of simultaneity:** Two events, simultaneous for one observer, may not be simultaneous for another observer if the observers are in relative motion.
 - **Time dilation:** Moving clocks are measured to tick more slowly than a "stationary" clock:
$$dT_{moving} = dT_{stationary} \sqrt{1 - v^2 / c^2}$$
 - **Length contraction:** Objects are measured to be shortened in the direction that they are moving with respect to the observer.
 - **Mass–energy equivalence:** $E = mc^2$, energy and mass are equivalent and transmutable.

Background: Tensor formalism for special relativity

- The mathematical description of the “principle of relativity” is done with the so called *Lorentz transform*, which describe transformations between non-accelerated coordinate systems
- The Lorentz transform can be represented with the *Minkowski* formulation of *spacetime* [the 4D space spanned by time and real space (t,x,y,z)].
- In Minkowski spacetime every tensor has *two* representations
 - a vector F can be represented by co-variant components, F_μ
 - or by contra-variant components, F^μ
 - think of them as e.g. “row vector” & “column vector” components, the “bra” & “ket” of quantum mechanics, or as “dual” spaces
- The Minkowski spacetime is a vector space with the inner product

$$\langle F, G \rangle \equiv F^\mu G_\mu = F_\mu G^\mu = F_1 G^1 + F_2 G^2 + F_3 G^3 + F_4 G^4$$

- i.e. here summation over repeated indexes is implicit
- in this tensor formalism, index can be repeated *only* for multiplication of pairs of co- and contra-variant tensor components

Background: Tensor formalism for special relativity

- In the *Minkowski* formulation of spacetime the co- and contra-variant component of the position vector for the point (t, x, y, z)

$$x_{\mu} = [ct, -x, -y, -z]$$

$$x^{\mu} = [ct, x, y, z]^T$$

– thus $\|x\|^2 = x_{\mu}x^{\mu} = c^2t^2 - |\mathbf{r}|^2$

– Note: An alternative and equivalent definition is $x_{\mu} = [-ct, x, y, z]$

– Strange? ...we'll soon see why Minkowski choose this formulation

- Transformations between co- and contra-variant forms are performed with the metric tensor g^{mn} or g_{mn}

$$x_{\mu} = g_{\mu\nu}x^{\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x^0 \\ x^1 \\ x^2 \\ x^3 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow x^{\nu} = g^{\nu\mu}x_{\mu} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Invariance of coordinate transformation

- Consider a moving object (moving in z-direction) viewed by an observer standing at the origin of a coordinate system x^μ & x_μ

- The observer measures the speed of the object by measuring the position at two time points:

$$v = [z(T) - z(0)]/T$$

- The length of the 4-vector of the plane from the first to the second measurement point is

$$\|dx\|^2 = dx^\mu dx_\mu = c^2 dt^2 - dz^2 = c^2 T^2 - v^2 T^2 = c^2 T^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)$$

- Note: that $T\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ is the retarded time experienced by the object!

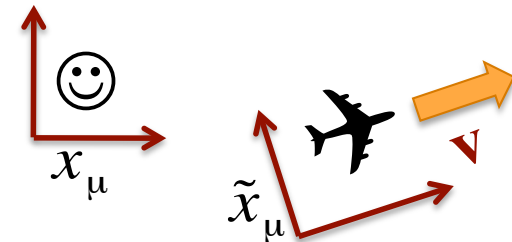
- Second coordinate system \tilde{x}_μ & \tilde{x}^μ , where the “moving” object is in rest

- measure the speed in the new coordinate system using the same time as the observer, i.e. $\|d\tilde{x}\|^2 = d\tilde{x}^\mu d\tilde{x}_\mu = c^2 d\tilde{t}^2 - 0$

- equation for time-dilation: $d\tilde{t} = T\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} \Rightarrow \|d\tilde{x}\|^2 = c^2 T^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)$

- Thus, the length of a vector dx^μ is independent of the coordinate system, despite time dilation and length contraction!

- We say that $dx^\mu dx_\mu$ is an *invariant* under *Lorentz* transformations



Lorentz transformations

- Principle of relativity reformulated:

The laws of physics are invariants under Lorentz transformations

- The transformation operator is therefore a 2-tensor L^μ_{ν}
 - a transformation equation from x^μ to $x^{\nu'}$ reads: $x^{\nu'} = L^{\nu'}_{\mu} x^\mu$
 - e.g. to a coordinate system moving in the x-direction with velocity $v = \beta c$:

$$L^{\nu'}_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\gamma\beta & 0 & 0 \\ -\gamma\beta & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{cases} t' = \gamma(t - \beta x) \\ x' = \gamma(x - \beta t) \\ y' = y \\ z' = z \end{cases}$$

Repeat calculation from previous slide:

$$dx' = 0 \Rightarrow dx = \beta dt$$

$$\Rightarrow dt' = \gamma(dt - \beta dx)$$

$$\dots = dt / \gamma$$

- Invariance of inner product: $a^{\mu'} b_{\mu'} = a^\lambda b_\lambda$

$$a^{\mu'} b_{\mu'} = g_{\mu'\nu'} a^{\mu'} b^{\nu'} = g_{\mu'\nu'} (L^{\mu'}_{\lambda} a^\lambda) (L^{\nu'}_{\eta} b^\eta)$$

$$a^\lambda b_\lambda = g_{\eta\lambda} a^\lambda b^\eta$$

L has to satisfy:

$$g_{\mu'\nu'} L^{\mu'}_{\eta} L^{\nu'}_{\lambda} = g_{\eta\lambda}$$

Representation of physical quantities in special relativity

- For formulating physical laws we need 4-vector generalisation of common physical quantities; careful considerations yields

- position $x^\mu = [ct, \mathbf{x}]$

- velocity $u^\mu = [\gamma c, \gamma \mathbf{v}]$

- momentum $p^\mu = [\varepsilon/c, \mathbf{p}]$, $\varepsilon^2 = m^2 c^4 + |\mathbf{p}|^2 c^2$

- wave vector $k^\mu = [\omega/c, \mathbf{k}]$

- current density $J^\mu = [\rho c, \mathbf{J}]$

- 4-vector potential $A^\mu = [\phi/c, \mathbf{A}]$

- Force $F^\mu = [\gamma \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{F}/c, \gamma \mathbf{F}]$

where $\gamma = (1 - v^2/c^2)^{-1/2}$

- All these quantities has co-variant representations, e.g. $A_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} A^\nu$
- Any inner product between two of these quantities are invariant under Lorentz transformations!

Relativistic Larmor formula

- In special relativity the velocity and acceleration is defined in the frame of an arbitrary observer experiencing a time τ

$$\begin{array}{l}
 v^\mu(\tau) = \frac{\partial x^\mu(\tau)}{\partial \tau} \\
 a^\mu(\tau) = \frac{\partial^2 x^\mu(\tau)}{\partial \tau^2}
 \end{array}
 \quad \longrightarrow \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 v^\mu(\tau) = [c, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}]^T \\
 v_\mu(\tau) = [c, -\dot{x}, -\dot{y}, -\dot{z}] \\
 a^\mu(\tau) = [0, \ddot{x}, \ddot{y}, \ddot{z}]^T \\
 a_\mu(\tau) = [0, -\ddot{x}, -\ddot{y}, -\ddot{z}]
 \end{array}$$

- Since inner products are invariant under Lorentz transformations, thus $a^\mu(\tau)a_\mu(\tau) = -\ddot{x}^2 - \ddot{y}^2 - \ddot{z}^2 = -|\mathbf{a}|^2$ is an invariant!
- Consider a single particle, then pick a system where it is at rest at time τ , but being accelerated by a force
 - In this coordinate system the particle is non-relativistic and the (average) emitted power is given by the Larmor formula

$$P(\tau) = -\frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} a^\mu(\tau)a_\mu(\tau)$$

- since $a^\mu a_\mu$ is an invariant, so is $P(\tau)$, i.e. above we have a *relativistic Larmor formula!!*

Relativistic Larmor formula

- Rewrite the acceleration in term of the 3-vector velocity \mathbf{v}

$$a^\mu = \gamma^2 \left[\frac{\gamma^2}{c} \mathbf{v} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{v}} \quad , \quad \dot{\mathbf{v}} + \frac{\gamma^2}{c^2} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{v} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{v}}) \right]$$

$$a^\mu a_\mu = -\gamma^2 \left(|\dot{\mathbf{v}}|^2 - \frac{|\mathbf{v} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}|^2}{c^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \gamma^2 \left(|\dot{\mathbf{v}}|^2 - \frac{|\mathbf{v} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}|^2}{c^2} \right)$$

- Acceleration in special relativity is somewhat artificial
 - instead use the force
 - Larmor formula in terms of the 3-vector force \mathbf{F}

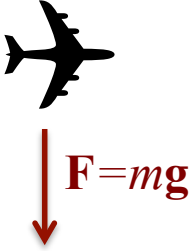
$$P = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c} \frac{\gamma^2}{m^2 c^2} \left(|\mathbf{F}|^2 - \frac{|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{F}|^2}{c^2} \right)$$

Note: there's a typo in the book; the cross product is replaced by scalar product

Relativistic Larmor formula

- Let the object move perpendicular to the force

$$|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{F}| = |\mathbf{v}||\mathbf{F}|$$

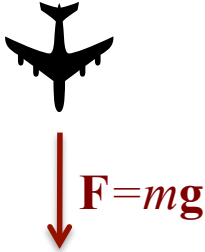
$$P = \gamma^2 \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3 m^2} \mathbf{F}^2 \left(1 - \frac{|\mathbf{v}|^2}{c^2}\right) = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3 m^2} \mathbf{F}^2$$


- No relativistic correction!

- Let the object move along the force

- i.e. \mathbf{F} is parallel to \mathbf{v}

$$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{F} = 0$$

$$P = \gamma^2 \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3 m^2} \mathbf{F}^2$$


- relativistic correction by γ^2 !

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- Relativistic generalisation of Larmor formula
 - Repetition of basic relativity
 - Co- and contra-variant tensor notation
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- The Lienard-Wiechert potentials
 - Inductive and radiative electromagnetic fields
 - Alternative derivation of the Larmor formula
- Abraham-Lorentz force

Chapter 19: Alternative treatments of emission processes

- The traditional treatment of emission; study the emitted Poynting flux
 - start with the scalar and vector potentials from single particle
- Lorentz gauge: the potentials follows d'Alemberts equation (Ch. 5)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) / \mu_0 \\ \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \epsilon_0 \end{bmatrix} = \int dt' d^3 \mathbf{x}' \frac{\delta(t - t' - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'| / c)}{4\pi |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{J}(t', \mathbf{x}') \\ \rho(t', \mathbf{x}') \end{bmatrix}$$

- When the sources is from a single particle

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) / \mu_0 \\ \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \epsilon_0 \end{bmatrix} = \int dt' d^3 \mathbf{x}' \frac{\delta(t - t' - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'| / c)}{4\pi |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \begin{bmatrix} q \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t') \delta(\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{X}(t')) \\ q \delta(\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{X}(t')) \end{bmatrix}$$

- integrate over \mathbf{x}'

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) / \mu_0 \\ \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \epsilon_0 \end{bmatrix} = \int dt' \frac{\delta(t - t' - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t')| / c)}{4\pi |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t')|} \begin{bmatrix} q \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t') \\ q \end{bmatrix}$$

The Lienard-Wiechert potentials



- Be careful with integration over t' !

– Note that t' appear non-linearly in the Dirac delta

- Remember:
$$\int dx \delta(g(x)) = \sum_{x_r: g(x_r)=0} (g'(x_r))^{-1}$$

- thus
$$\int dt' \delta(t - t' - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t')|/c) = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t_r} (t - t_r - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)|/c) \right]^{-1}$$

$$= \dots = \left[1 - \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)) \cdot \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t_r)}{c |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)|^2} \right]^{-1}, \quad \text{where } t - t_r - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)|/c = 0$$

– the time t_r is known as the *retarded time*

- Note: $t - t_r - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)|/c = 0$ is a non-linear equation for t_r

- The potentials can then be written as the *Lienard-Wiechert* potentials

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x})/\mu_0 \\ \phi(t, \mathbf{x})\epsilon_0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{q}{4\pi \left| |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)| - (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t_r)) \cdot \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t_r)/c \right|} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t') \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The Lienard-Wiechert potentials

- The *Lienard-Wiechert* potentials are simplified when choosing coordinate to locate the source to the origin $\mathbf{X}(t_r) = 0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}(t, \mathbf{x}) / \mu_0 \\ \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \varepsilon_0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{q}{4\pi(|\mathbf{x}| - \mathbf{x} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t_r) / c)} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t_r) \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Note that the term $\mathbf{x} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{X}}(t_r) / c \sim v / c$ is a relativistic term
- The Lienard-Wiechert potentials are derived from Maxwells equations, thus they are automatically relativistically correct!

E and B from the Lienard-Wiechert potentials



- Calculate E and B field from the *Lienard-Wiechert* potentials

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi + \frac{\partial\mathbf{A}}{\partial t}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$

- Note functional dependence $t_r = t_r(t, \mathbf{x})$ thus

$$\nabla\phi(t_r(t, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial\phi(t_r, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t_r} \nabla t_r + \mathbf{e}_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \phi(t_r, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(t_r(t, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial\mathbf{A}(t_r, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t_r} \cdot \nabla t_r + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} A_j(t_r, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} A_i(t_r(t, \mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial A_i(t_r, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t_r} \frac{\partial t_r}{\partial t}$$

- After lengthy calculations, using $\left\{ r \equiv |\mathbf{x}|, \quad \mathbf{n} \equiv \mathbf{x}/|\mathbf{x}|, \quad \mathbf{a} \equiv \mathbf{a}(t_r), \quad \mathbf{v} \equiv \mathbf{v}(t_r) \right\}$

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{E}}{c}, \quad \mathbf{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(\mathbf{x} - r\mathbf{v}/c)(1 - v^2/c^2 + \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{a}/c^2) - (\mathbf{a}r/c^2)(r - \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)}{(r - \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3}$$

Radiative and Inductive fields

- The electric field has term $\sim 1/r$ and other $\sim 1/r^2$; use $\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{n}r$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\left[(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c) \left(1 - v^2/c^2 + r\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a}/c^2 \right) - r(\mathbf{a}/c^2) \left((1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c) \right) \right]}{r^2 (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3} =$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3} \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a} - (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{a}}{c^2 r}}_{\text{Radiative}} + \underbrace{\frac{(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c)(1 - v^2/c^2)}{r^2}}_{\text{Inductive}} \right\}$$

- Note: only the radiative terms depend on the acceleration
- Imagine radiation as emitted photons;
 - Radiate N photons at $t=0$, $|\mathbf{x}|=0$, then at time $T>0$ you have N photons on the sphere with radius $R=cT$, i.e. the number of photons is independent of R .
- What energy (\sim number of photons) reach the sphere of radius R ?
 - Radiative $W \sim \oint |\mathbf{E}|^2 R^2 d\Omega \sim |1/R|^2 R^2 \sim 1$ for all R - free moving photons
 - Inductive $W \sim \oint |\mathbf{E}|^2 R^2 d\Omega \sim |1/R^2|^2 R^2 \sim R^{-2}$ *virtual photons* bound to not leave the particle unless absorbed by receiver particle

Simplified form for the electric field



- Simplify the *radiative* electric field (for improved interpretation)

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rad}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3} \left\{ \frac{(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a} - (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{a}}{c^2 r} \right\}$$

- Simplify the numerator: $\mathbf{e}_j \cdot \{(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a} - (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)\mathbf{a}\} =$
 $= \{n_k n_j - n_k v_j / c - (1 - n_m v_m / c)\delta_{jk}\} a_k =$
 $= [n_k n_j - \delta_{jk}] a_k - [n_k v_j - n_m v_m \delta_{jk}] a_k / c$

- Use the vector identity:

$$[\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})]_i = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{klm} a_j b_l c_m = (\delta_{il} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{jl}) a_j b_l c_m = (a_j b_i - a_j b_j) c_j$$

$$\Rightarrow [n_k n_j - \delta_{jk}] a_k = [\mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{a})]_j \quad \& \quad [n_k v_j - n_m v_m \delta_{jk}] a_k = [\mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a})]_j$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{rad}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \frac{\mathbf{n} \times [(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c) \times \mathbf{a}]}{(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3 r}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{rad}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \frac{\mathbf{n} \times \{ \mathbf{n} \times [(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c) \times \mathbf{a}] \}}{(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^3 r}$$

The Poynting flux

- Poynting flux radiated by a single charge particle, which at the retarded time t_r had velocity \mathbf{v} and acceleration \mathbf{a}

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{EM}} = \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0} = \dots = \frac{q^2}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^2} \frac{|\mathbf{n} \times [(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{v}/c) \times \mathbf{a}]|^2}{(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}/c)^6 r^2} \mathbf{n}$$

- The non-relativistic Poynting flux:

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{EM}} = \frac{q^2}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^2} \frac{|\mathbf{n} \times [\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{a}]|^2}{r^2} \mathbf{n} + O(v/c)$$

Radiated power – non-relativistic limit

- The Poynting flux is an energy flux
 - The flux through a closed surface = the power leaving the enclosed region
- Encircle the particle with a large sphere with radius R
 - The power leaving this sphere is

$$P = \oint_{r=R} d\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{F}_{\text{EM}} = \frac{q^2}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0 c^2} \oint d\Omega |\mathbf{n} \times [\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{a}]|^2 + O(v/c)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \oint d\Omega |\mathbf{n} \times [\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{a}]|^2 &= \oint d\Omega \left[(n_k n_j - \delta_{jk}) a_k \right] \left[(n_m n_j - \delta_{jm}) a_m \right] = \oint d\Omega \left[a^2 - (n_k a_k)^2 \right] = \\ &= \left\{ \text{let : } n_k a_k = a \cos(\nu) \right\} = a^2 \oint d\Omega \sin^2(\nu) = \left\{ x = \sin(\nu) \right\} = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 dx x^2 = \frac{4}{3} \pi a^2 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

- The non-relativistic power leaving the sphere is given by

$$P(t, R) = \frac{q^2 a(t_r)^2}{6\pi \epsilon_0 c^2} + O(v/c)$$

the radiated power at the retarded time t_r as given by the Larmor formula!

Sketch of emission in dispersive media



- The Poynting flux approach to emission can also be used in dispersive media, however this procedure may become tedious
- Start with the photon propagator for the wave equation

$$A_i(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\omega d^3\mathbf{k} \frac{\mu_0 c^2}{\omega^2} \frac{\lambda_{ij}}{\Lambda} J_j(\omega, \mathbf{k}) e^{-i\omega t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$

- Particle source $J_i(\omega, \mathbf{k}) = q\omega^2 X_i(\omega, \mathbf{k}) = q\omega^2 \int dt e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{X}(t)} X_i(t)$

$$A_i(t, \mathbf{x}) = q\mu_0 c^2 \int dt' X_i(t') \int d\omega d^3\mathbf{k} \frac{\lambda_{ij}}{\Lambda} e^{-i\omega(t-t') + i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(t'))}$$

- The emitted power is now given by the energy flux, which now include both an electro-magnetic term and a particle term (Ch. 15)

$$P_{flux} = \oint_{r=R} d\Omega (\mathbf{F}_M^{EM} + \mathbf{F}_M^P) = \oint_{r=R} d\Omega \frac{\omega_M(\mathbf{k})}{\mu_0} \left\{ 2\Re[A^2 \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^* \cdot \mathbf{k}] - A_i^* \frac{\partial K_{ij}}{\partial \mathbf{k}} A_j \right\}$$

- However, this formalism is often more tedious than treating emission in terms of the “work” as outlined earlier in this lecture.

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Self-forces

- **Energy conservation:** A particle emitting radiation loses energy

$$E_2 - E_1 = \hbar\omega \quad (\text{from previous lecture} - \text{from quantum mechanics})$$

- Interpretation: the emitted wave performs work on the particle:

$$W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{v} = q\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{J}$$

- The force from one particle onto itself is called the *self-force*

- Remember your first lecture on electrostatics

- two charged particles “1” and “2” exert a force on each other

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = -\mathbf{F}_2 = \frac{q_1 q_2 (\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1|^3}$$

- This says nothing about the force from a single particle on itself, i.e. the self-force, that is needed to describe emission

- ...this problem is only properly resolved in quantum mechanics!

- Here we'll derive the *Abraham-Lorentz force*

- classical treatment of radiation conserving energy and momentum

Radiation reaction

- This power emitted during radiation, according to the Larmor formula

$$P(t) = \frac{q^2 |\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t)|^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3}$$

- Construct a *radiation-reaction force* that describe the lost energy
 - the work by this force: $P(t) = -\mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \mathbf{F}_{react}(t)$

- Time integration

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} P(t) dt = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{\mathbf{v}}(t)^2 dt = -\frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \left\{ [\mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \dot{\mathbf{v}}(t)]_{t_1}^{t_2} - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t) \right\}$$

- To remove the first term, consider e.g. periodic motion, or events such that the acceleration is finite during event

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} P(t) dt = -\frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t)$$

Abraham-Lorentz equation of motion

- Let the integrated power be represented by a reaction force

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} P(t) dt = -\frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t) = -\int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \mathbf{F}_{react}$$

- Thus there is a force that recover the time integrated power

$$\mathbf{F}_{react} = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} \ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t)$$

- This does not imply that it represents the instantaneous force!

- The equation of motion under the influence of a self-force $\mathbf{F}_0(t)$

$$m[\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) - \tau \ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t)] = \mathbf{F}_0, \quad \tau = \frac{q^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 c^3} = \frac{2Z^2}{3} \frac{r_{ele}}{c} \approx 10^{-24} \times Z^2 \text{ [s]}$$

- this is the *Abraham-Lorentz equation of motion*

- Note: the force has a time scale τ , which is roughly the time it takes for light to travel across the classical radius of the electron, r_{ele}

- But there are serious problems with the Abraham-Lorentz equation!

Properties of the Abraham-Lorentz equation of motion

- First, there's a run-away solution possible in absence of any force

$$m[\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) - \tau\ddot{\mathbf{v}}(t)] = 0 \Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) \sim \begin{cases} 0 \\ e^{t/\tau} \end{cases} \longleftarrow \text{run-away!}$$

- Rewrite the Abraham-Lorentz equation to avoid the run-away solution

$$m\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) = \int_0^{\infty} \mathbf{F}_0(t + \tau x) e^{-x} dx$$

- This equation has no run-away solutions
- However it includes *pre-acceleration*
 - the force is evaluated in *future* times $t + \tau x$
 - the particle responds to the force before the force is applied
 - this is **NOT** causal model!!
 - however, the time scale of pre-acceleration is tiny: $\tau = \frac{2Z^2}{3} \frac{r_{ele}}{c}$