

Problem 1. (Optional. In class. Good exam material) Radiation during perpendicular acceleration

Consider an ultrarelativistic particle of velocity β experiencing an acceleration a_{\perp} perpendicular to the direction of motion. Here a_{\perp} points along the x -axis and β points along the z -axis.

(a) Show that the energy radiated per retarded time is approximately

$$\frac{dW}{dT d\Omega} = \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2 c^3} \frac{a_{\perp}^2}{(1 - \beta \cos \theta)^3} \left[1 - \frac{\sin^2 \theta \cos^2 \phi}{\gamma^2 (1 - \beta \cos \theta)^2} \right] \quad (1)$$

$$\simeq \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2 c^3} \frac{a_{\perp}^2}{(1 + (\gamma\theta)^2)^3} \left[1 - \frac{4(\gamma\theta)^2 \cos^2 \phi}{(1 + (\gamma\theta)^2)} \right] \quad (2)$$

In the first equality, I give the full answer without approximation, but I will only grade the second approximate result.

Hint, in working out this radiation pattern you might (as a start) show without approximation that

$$|\mathbf{n} \times (\mathbf{n} - \beta) \times \mathbf{a}|^2 = (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \beta)^2 a^2 - (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a})^2 (1 - \beta^2) \quad (3)$$

by using the "b(ac)-(ab)c" rule. Then select a coordinate system where

$$\beta = (0, 0, \beta) \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{a} = (a_{\perp}, 0, 0) \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{n} = (\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta) \quad (6)$$

(b) Work in a ultra-relativistic approximation, and compute the total power by integrating over the solid angle (as done in class) to show that you obtain the appropriate relativistic Larmor result¹

$$\frac{dW}{dT} = \text{come on ... you know it ... right?} \quad (7)$$

1

$$\frac{dW}{dT} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi} \frac{2}{3c^3} \gamma^4 a_{\perp}^2$$