

1. Consider once again a point charge moving at constant velocity  $\mathbf{v}$ ; in worldline terms,  $x_c^\mu(\tau) = \tau \times u^\mu$ . The EM fields produced by this charge were calculated in [my notes on covariant electrodynamics](#) by Lorentz-boosting the Coulomb field of a point charge at rest, and in your [previous homework set#12](#) you should have verified the covariant form of the EM field tensor,

$$F^{\mu\nu}(x) = \frac{q}{c} \times \frac{x^\mu u^\nu - x^\nu u^\mu}{[c^{-2}(x \cdot u)^2 - (x \cdot x)]^{3/2}}. \quad (1)$$

On the other hand, in [my notes on radiation by moving charges](#) we used Liénard–Wiechert *retarded* potentials to show that for a non-accelerating point charge

$$F^{\mu\nu}(x) = \left[ \frac{qc^2(n^\mu u^\nu - n^\nu u^\mu)}{R^2(n \cdot u)^3} \right]_{\text{ret}} \quad (2)$$

where  $R$  and  $n^\mu = (1, \mathbf{n})$  should be evaluated at the retarded time  $(x^0 - R)/c$  rather than the observer time  $X^0/c$ .

Your task is to reconcile the two formulae (1) and (2).

2. A particle of charge  $q$ , mass  $m$ , and a *non-relativistic* initial velocity  $v_0 \ll c$  collides head-on with a repulsive central potential  $V(r)$ , and bounces back. While the particle is decelerated — and then accelerated on its way back — by the potential, it emits EM radiation.

(a) Show that the total energy emitted by the particle is

$$\Delta W = \frac{4q^2}{3m^2c^3} \times \int_{R_0}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{\sqrt{v_0^2 - (2/m)V(r)}} \times \left| \frac{dV}{dr} \right|^2 \quad (3)$$

where  $R_0$  is the closest approach of the particle to the potential center. (That is, the point where  $V(r) = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2$ .)

(b) For the special case of the Coulomb potential  $V(r) = Qq/r^2$ , show that

$$\Delta W = \frac{8}{45} \frac{q}{Q} \frac{mv_0^5}{c^3}, \quad (4)$$

or in terms of the initial kinetic energy  $E_0 = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2$  of the particle,

$$\frac{\Delta W}{E_0} = \frac{16}{45} \frac{q}{Q} \left(\frac{v_0}{c}\right)^3. \quad (5)$$

3. Consider a relativistic particle of charge  $q$  decelerating to stop at uniform rate during a very short time interval  $\Delta t$ . That is, for  $t < 0$  the particle moves at constant velocity  $\vec{\beta}_0 c$ , for  $0 < t < \delta t$ , the particle have constant acceleration  $\mathbf{a} = -\vec{\beta}_0 c/\Delta t$  (in the lab frame) in the direction directly opposite the velocity, at  $t = \Delta t$  the particle comes to stop, and for  $t > \Delta t$  it remains at rest. While the particle is decelerating, it emits EM radiation.

(a) Show that the net radiant energy emitted per unit of solid angle is

$$\frac{dE}{d\Omega} = \frac{q^2 \beta_0^2}{16\pi c \Delta t} \times \frac{\sin^2 \theta (2 - \beta_0 \cos \theta) (2 - 2\beta_0 \cos \theta + \beta_0^2 \cos^2 \theta)}{(1 - \beta_0 \cos \theta)^4}. \quad (6)$$

(b) Show that for ultra-relativistic particles with initial  $\gamma_0 \gg 1$ , this radiant energy distribution becomes strongly concentrated in the forward cone of opening angle  $\sim 1/\gamma_0$ . Also, show that within this cone

$$dE = \frac{q^2 \gamma_0^4}{\pi c \Delta t} \times \frac{\xi^3 d\xi d\phi}{(1 + \xi^2)^4} \quad \text{for } \xi = \gamma_0 \times \theta, \quad (7)$$

and the total radiation energy emitted is

$$E = \frac{q^2 \gamma_0^4}{6c \Delta t}. \quad (8)$$