

1. We must emphasize that the acclaimed "exact" formula

$$b = \frac{ze^2}{pv} \cot \frac{\theta}{2} \quad (1)$$

is not exact in the relativistic regime after all. A detailed analysis is given in the previous [notes](#).

From the change of momentum in the scattering process, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta \mathbf{p}| &= 2p \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\ Q^2 &= (\Delta p)^2 = 4p^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} = 4p^2 \left( \frac{1}{1 + \cot^2 \theta/2} \right) = \frac{4p^2 z^2 e^4}{z^2 e^4 + b^2 p^2 v^2} \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (2)$$

giving the energy transfer

$$T = \frac{Q^2}{2m} = \frac{2z^2 e^4}{mv^2} \left[ \frac{1}{b^2 + \left( \frac{ze^2}{pv} \right)^2} \right] = \frac{2z^2 e^4}{mv^2} \left( \frac{1}{b^2 + b_{\min}^{(c)2}} \right) \quad (3)$$

2. Let  $K'$  be the rest frame of the heavy particle, and let  $t = t' = 0$  be the time when the distance of the two particles are the closest ( $b_{\min}$ ). If the heavy particle is assumed to move in straight line, then  $b_{\min}$  is the same as the impact parameter  $b$ . We can use (11.152) for the instantaneous transverse electric field

$$E_2 = \frac{\gamma z e b}{(b^2 + \gamma^2 v^2 t^2)^{3/2}} \quad (4)$$

giving the transverse impulse

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta p_{\text{trans}} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e E_2 dt = \gamma z e^2 b \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{(b^2 + \gamma^2 v^2 t^2)^{3/2}} \quad \text{let } t = \frac{b}{\gamma v} \tan \xi \\ &= \gamma z e^2 b \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{\left( \frac{b}{\gamma v} \right) \frac{1}{\cos^2 \xi} d\xi}{b^3 \frac{1}{\cos^3 \xi}} \\ &= \frac{2z e^2}{bv} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

So the approximate energy transfer is

$$T \approx \frac{(\Delta p)^2}{2m} = \frac{4z^2 e^4}{mb^2 v^2} \quad (6)$$

This agrees with (3) under the assumption of "large impact parameter"  $b \gg b_{\min}^{(c)}$ .