

Relativistic Electron Momentum

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1 Abstract

The goal of this lab is to find the momentum of relativistic electrons that are emitted from the decay of the radioactive source Bismuth-207. When an electron enters a uniform magnetic field it will exhibit cyclotron motion. Therefore by placing the source in an adjustable uniform magnetic field we are able to direct the electrons in a semicircular arc towards a detector. By finding the magnetic field strength which best focuses electrons toward the source we can find the most common energy of emission. Once we have correctly characterized the energy of emission we will calculate the relativistic momentum and mass using a combination of Newtonian and relativistic mechanics.

2 Intro

This lab explores one of the most easily accessible expressions of relativistic phenomena. Since electrons are both substantially charged and have effective mass they are much easier to focus and detect than other more unstable subatomic atomic particles. Charged particles with mass interact in a very well defined way with magnetic and electric fields making them the most natural focusing tool. This is why the cyclotron motion of linearly discharged electrons in a uniform magnetic field is the basis for this experiment and is key in the design and development of the procedures used. Additionally, since electrons have mass, we can utilize concepts such as rest mass energy which can be calculated both classically and relativistically using the properties of circular motion.

3 Theory

3.1 Energy

In Newtonian mechanics, kinetic energy(KE) and momentum(p) are given by the following equations of motion where m is the mass of the system:

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad (1)$$

$$p = mv \quad (2)$$

$$KE = \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad (3)$$

However, when dealing with particles that are moving at the speed of light, relativistic motion must be considered. When the velocity of a particle, v , approaches the speed of light, c , the equations for energy(E) and momentum(p) become:

$$E = \gamma mc^2 \quad (4)$$

$$p = \gamma mv \quad (5)$$

where gamma, γ , is:

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}} \quad (6)$$

Therefore, total relativistic energy of a particle can be written as:

$$E = m_0c^2 + KE = \gamma mc^2 \quad (7)$$

The first term of Equation 7 represents the rest-mass energy of the particle, an electron for the purpose of this lab. Relativistic energy is also commonly expressed in terms of momentum as given by Equation 8:

$$E^2 = p^2c^2 + m_0^2c^4 \quad (8)$$

3.2 Momentum and Force

To measure the momentum of an electron in this experiment, we observe an externally applied magnetic field which can be varied. Recalling the Lorentz force when the velocity vector of a particle is perpendicular to the magnetic field, we have a magnetic force represented as:

$$F_{mag} = qvB. \quad (9)$$

Since we are observing the trajectory of an electron, q can be replaced with the elementary charge, e :

$$F_{mag} = evB. \quad (10)$$

A magnetic force applied perpendicular to the velocity vector of the electron will cause it to be deflected into a circular trajectory from the source, through the slit and into the detector of the apparatus. A relationship between the magnetic field and the momentum of the electron can then be developed by equating the magnetic force of the electron with the centripetal motion of the particle, $F_{mag} = F_c$:

$$F_c = \frac{mv^2}{R} \quad (11)$$

$$evB = \frac{mv^2}{R}. \quad (12)$$

Substituting the Newtonian equation of momentum ($p = mv$) yields:

$$p = eBR, \quad (13)$$

To put momentum (p) in units of MeV/c , magnetic field is measured in Tesla (1×10^4 Gauss), radius is measured in meters, and momentum is expressed in units of MeV/c . Substituting the value of an elementary charge and converting to these units transforms Equation 13 to:

$$p = 300BR \quad (14)$$

We have derived the expression for momentum in a purely classical way, however, in our experiment, the electrons are moving extremely close to the speed of light so we must validate that this relation for momentum still holds true under relativistic conditions.

The magnetic field holds true under relativistic conditions in this experiment because it is independent of the magnitude of the velocity of the particles. Therefore, the magnetic force is still given by Equation 10. The centripetal force, however, will vary in accordance with the velocity.

$$F_c = \frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{d(\gamma mv)}{dt} = \gamma ma. \quad (15)$$

The acceleration is equal to v^2/R , yielding:

$$F_c = \frac{\gamma mv^2}{R}. \quad (16)$$

Equating equations 10 and 16 and recalling the equation for relativistic momentum given by Equation 5:

$$p = eBR, \quad (17)$$

which can also be written as

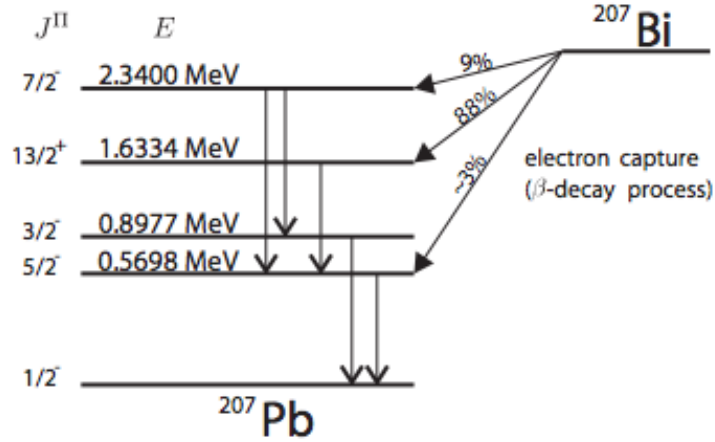
$$p = 300BR. \quad (18)$$

Therefore, we can conclude that both the classical and relativistic equations of motion result in the same expression for momentum. We can use this result to find the values for a magnetic field that gives the highest count rate to calculate an electron's momentum and energy.

3.3 Determining Peak Magnetic Fields

In order to measure the momentum and mass of an electron, we need to determine the magnetic field at which electrons are being transformed to lower energy states. As seen in the previous section, momentum can be calculated both classically and relativistically using Equation 18. Therefore, we first calculate the theoretical magnetic field strengths that would give the highest number of electron counts, where a high number of counts indicates that many electrons are being deflected in a semicircular path from the source through the slit into the detector because this is where the electrons are dropping to lower energy states.

We use a ^{207}Bi source, which emits relativistic electrons in the process of changing ^{207}Bi into an excited state of a ^{207}Pb nucleus. While an electron is emitted, another inner orbital electron is absorbed by the nucleus, converting the proton to a neutron, producing the ^{207}Pb nucleus. When ^{207}Pb decays to a lower energy state, it ejects an electron from the atom. The following figure shows the changes in energy states from the original source of ^{207}Bi to ^{207}Pb .

Figure 1: Transitions of ^{207}Bi

In the first energy conversion, an electron goes from having 1.6334 MeV to 0.5698 MeV and in the second drop it moves from an energy state with 0.5698 MeV to being ejected from the atom where it is no longer bound to an energy state. Thus, $\Delta KE_1 = 1.064$ MeV and $\Delta KE_2 = 0.5698$ MeV.

Since we know the values for the changes in kinetic energies between energy states, we can solve for relativistic momentum in terms of values that we know:

$$KE + mc^2 = \sqrt{p^2c^2 + m^2c^4} \quad (19)$$

$$(KE + mc^2)^2 = p^2c^2 + m^2c^4 \quad (20)$$

$$(KE + mc^2)^2 - m^2c^4 = p^2c^2 \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{(KE + mc^2)^2 - m^2c^4}{c^2} = p^2 \quad (22)$$

$$p = \frac{\sqrt{(KE + mc^2)^2 - m^2c^4}}{c} \quad (23)$$

We have proved:

$$p = eRB \quad (24)$$

Where R is the radius of the detector-source apparatus, which we have measured to be .0290m:

$$\frac{p}{c} = \frac{\sqrt{(KE + mc^2)^2 - m^2c^4}}{c} = eB(.0290m) \quad (25)$$

Solving for B , we can estimate our magnetic fields needed to see electron pulses on the oscilloscope for each time an electron is counted:

$$B = \frac{\sqrt{(KE + mc^2)^2 - m^2c^4}}{ce(.0290m)} \quad (26)$$

Before solving for B , we must account for the energy lost by each electron due to the k-shell binding energy of Lead, which is $\sim 88\text{keV}$:

$$KE_1 = 1.064\text{MeV} - 0.088005\text{MeV} = 0.9760\text{MeV} \quad (27)$$

Now, we can substitute all of our values into equation 26 to obtain B_1 , which corresponds to the change of ^{207}Bi to an excited state of ^{207}Pb :

$$B_1 = 0.1606T = 1.606kG \quad (28)$$

For the second electron pulse:

$$KE_2 = 0.5689MeV - 0.088005MeV = 0.4809MeV \quad (29)$$

Once again, using equation 26 we find B_2 representing the decay of ^{207}Pb to a lower and more stable energy state:

$$B_2 = 0.0979T = 0.979kG \quad (30)$$

It is also important to consider that the electron loses energy as it travels in the air from the source to the detector. We quantify this loss of energy in section 5.4. With theoretical values for the magnetic fields, we can determine theoretical values for momentum:

$$p_1 = 300RB = 300(.0290m)(0.1606T) = 1.397MeV/c \quad (31)$$

$$p_2 = 300RB = 300(.0290m)(0.0979T) = 0.8517MeV/c \quad (32)$$

4 Experimental Methods

4.1 Apparatus

The apparatus consists of two independent component systems: the detector system and the magnetic field system which are adjusted and calibrated separately. The detector system consists of a source/detector component, a pre-amplifier, the amplifier, single channel analyzer, oscilloscope, and, the adjustable counter.

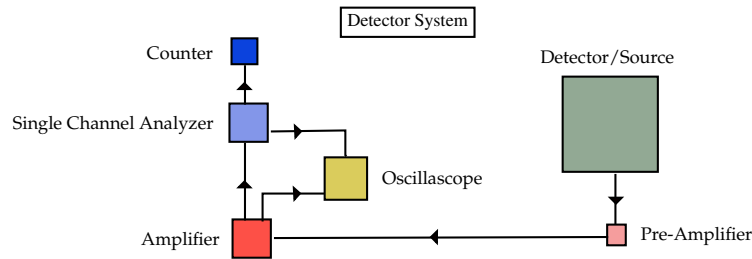


Figure 2: Detector system with signal direction.

Figure 2 shows how the detector system is arranged. From the detector a signal will first be boosted by a pre-amplifier before heading to the amplifier. Once at the amplifier, the signal will be propagated not only to the single channel analyzer but also to the first channel of the oscilloscope. If the signal is large enough at the single channel analyzer, it will be propagated to the counter and the second channel of the oscilloscope. If, however, the signal is not strong enough, it will end at the single channel analyzer. Both the signal from the amplifier as well as the single channel analyzer are propagated to the oscilloscope to allow for visual confirmation of the signal. The only component that is non-standard is the source-detector component. This component can be seen below in Figure 3.

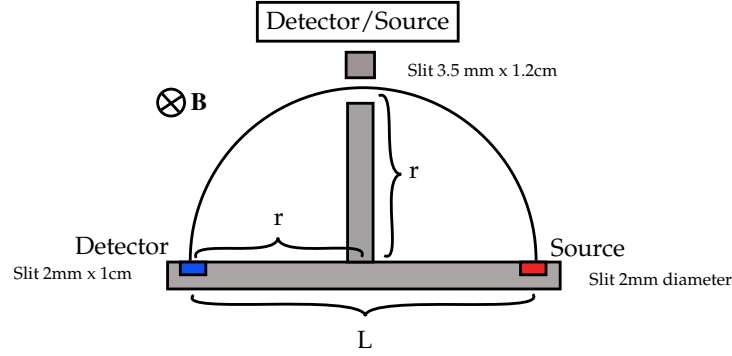


Figure 3: Source component with geometry of electron arc.

The component is T-shaped and primarily made of metal with insets on both arms as well as a slit in the middle post. In one inset there is the ^{207}Bi source shielded by a lead plate on the underside and in the other inset is the detector with a male hookup on the underside. The size of our slits as well as their relative distance between them determine the radius of the arc the electron must traverse to be emitted and detected. The relevant distances are labeled on the figure with r equal to $0.0290 \text{ m} \pm 0.0005 \text{ m}$ and L equal to twice the radius. It should be noted that a range of radii will be allowed through the slit because of its width but for the majority of our calculations we use the radius which is halfway between the highest and lowest arc. See Section 5.3 for more details.

The magnetic field system is simple, consisting of an adjustable power supply unit, cooling system, gaussmeter, and probe which are shown below.

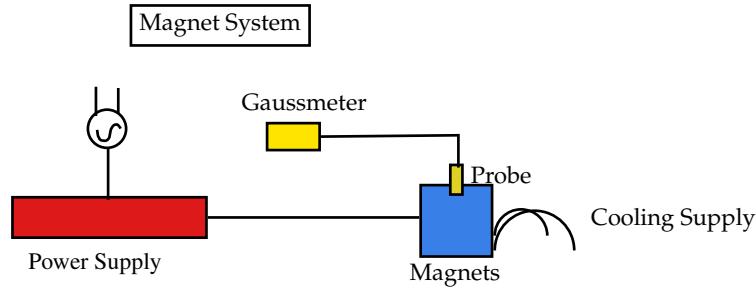


Figure 4: Magnetic field system.

4.2 Procedure

4.2.1 Calibration

The calibration of the apparatus is the most sensitive step in the experiment. When calibrating the detector system, setting the amplifier too high or the single channel analyzer too low you will get very large background counts from the sensor and will not reliably be able to detect the peaks of electron emission from the Bi source. On the other hand, if the discriminator is set too high or the amplifier too low, you will not get enough counts to clearly define a peak when you vary your magnetic field. Given the two ways with which you can raise or lower the number of counts from the detector it is best to choose a setting for either the amplifier or the single channel analyzer and

then focus on adjusting only one of the settings. We chose to leave the amplifier at a coarse grain of 20 and a fine grain of 9.5 and then adjusted the single channel analyzer. This was done in part because the detector system records hundreds of false counts any time the amplifier settings are adjusted while the single channel analyzer can be adjusted without registering any false counts. To perform the calibration we placed an additional *Bi* source directly over the detector and performed 60 second counts while increasing the threshold of the single channel analyzer. By watching the oscilloscope you can increase the analyzer to the maximum level before it begins to veto signals from actual electrons hitting the detector. At this point you will detect electrons from your source but will measure a limited number of false counts due to background and dark noise sources. We found this level to be a change in energy of 6.2 V. While the lab manual asks for a change in energy of 10-12 V, this value is dependent on the amplifier settings, which is disregarded in the lab manual making this a null procedure.

The gaussmeter must also be calibrated to ensure that it is perpendicular to the magnetic field and also zeroed correctly. The probe of the gaussmeter can be correctly calibrated by placing it in the zeroing chamber each time the machine is turned on. Then you can rotate the probe once it is in the magnetic field to find the position at which it is perpendicular and is recording the true value of the field. If it is not in the right position you will record a magnetic field strength that is less than the actual value.

4.2.2 Data Taking

The procedure for data taking is fairly simple once the required calibration has been performed. The magnets and cooling system must be turned on a minimum of 2 hours before you are to start your data run. This allows for the magnets to not only reach a uniform temperature, but will also decrease their temperature, which makes the magnetic field more stable. Additionally, if you begin to take data before the magnets reach an equilibrium temperature and polarize, the data at the start of the run will be more variable than the data at the end of the run. Heteroskedasticity will then cause issues when fitting the data. After allowing the magnets to “warm up” you must choose an interval and a range for your runs. We chose 5 minute time intervals in which we took counts from 0.6 kG to 2.0 kG in varying increments for the magnetic field. The only cautionary statement is that you must take a complete data run, you can not stop halfway through your range and try to continue after the magnets have been turned off and re-calibrated. It is also prudent to note that the sensor is light sensitive and should be shielded with black cloths from lights in the room at all times during data taking.

5 Results & Discussion

To observe the magnetic field of the peak in number of counts, we took four full runs of data throughout a range of 0.6 kG to 2.0 kG. During the first three runs, we repeated the same exact steps to take points in intervals of 0.05 kG. For the fourth data set, we decided to extend in smaller intervals around the magnetic field values for which we expected to see our peaks so that we could obtain a better curve fit. We added additional points around the values of the magnetic field near 1.0 kG and 1.6 kG, which can be seen in Run 4. For the purpose of comparing our experimental values with that of which we predicted before conducting the experiment, we choose to examine runs 1 and 4 of our data. Run 1 shows a fit in equally spaced intervals and Run 4 shows an extended data set near the predicted peaks in magnetic field strength. Runs 2 and 3 will not be discussed, but are provided in the appendix to show that those data sets are very similar to Run 1.

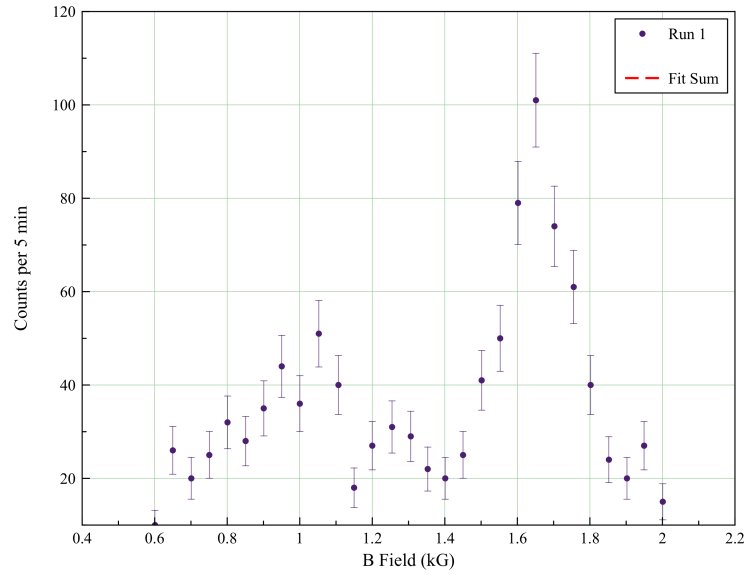


Figure 5: Run 1 of data at equal intervals of magnetic field. Each data set was taken in magnetic field increments of 0.05 kG. This data includes background noise. The error bars in number of counts per 5 minutes are given by \sqrt{N} , where N is the number of counts recorded at each value for magnetic field.

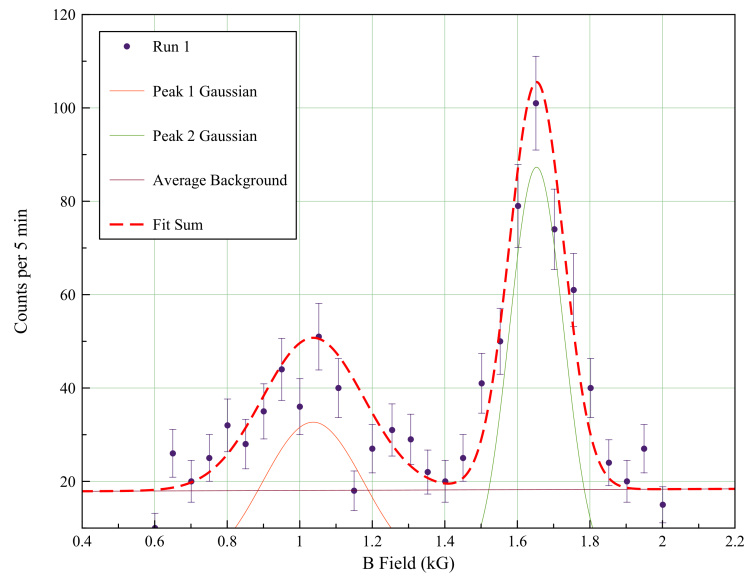


Figure 6: Fitting for Run 1 of data at equal intervals of magnetic field. The two gaussian curves are centered at the peaks of counts. A baseline of the average background counts is also included. The red dashed line shows the sum of the three curves.

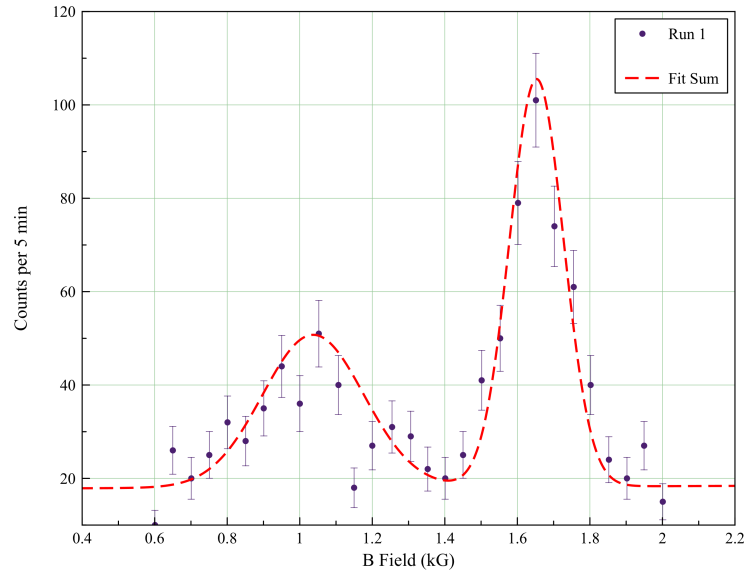


Figure 7: Final fitting for Run 1 using two gaussians and a baseline based on the background counts.

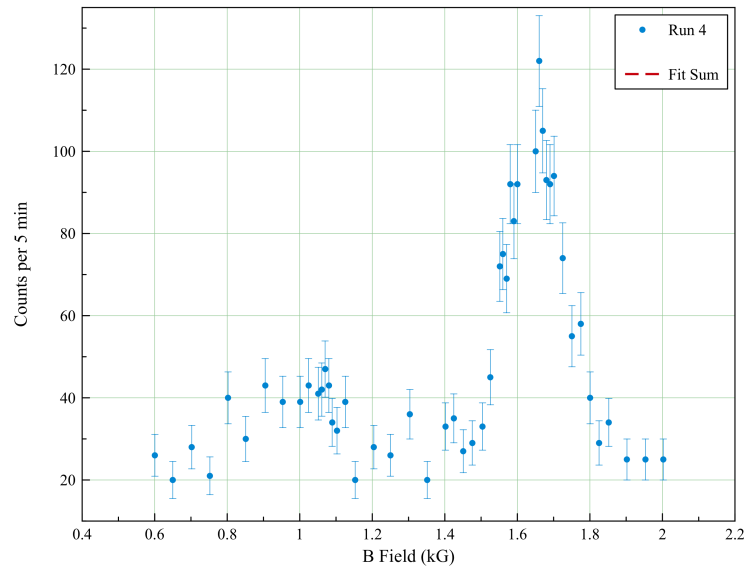


Figure 8: Run 4 of data with extra points taken in smaller magnetic field steps near the theoretical peaks. This data includes the counts from background noise. The error bars in number of counts per 5 minutes are given by \sqrt{N} , where N is the number of counts at each value for magnetic field.

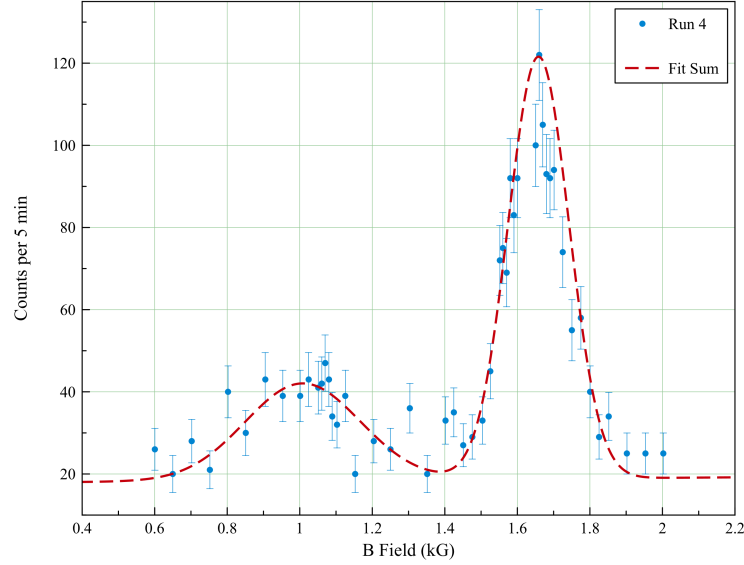


Figure 9: Final fitting for Run 4 using two gaussians and a baseline based on the background counts.

	$Peak_1(\text{kG})$	$\sigma_1(\text{kG})$	$Peak_2(\text{kG})$	$\sigma_2(\text{kG})$
Run 1	0.9307 ± 0.1251	0.3590 ± 0.22	1.6558 ± 0.0097	0.1126 ± 0.0119
Run 4	0.9820 ± 0.0189	0.1212 ± 0.0273	1.6485 ± 0.0039	0.0910 ± 0.0055
Average	0.9564 ± 0.1265	0.2401 ± 0.2217	1.6522 ± 0.0105	0.1018 ± 0.0131

Table 1: Results of curve fitting. These are the values for the magnetic fields at which the data sets have the peak number of counts. The standard deviation for the magnetic field strengths are provided, as well as the average of the values for Runs 1 and 4. The first peak of each run corresponds to the magnetic field which allows an atom of Pb to move to a lower energy state, while the second peak corresponds to the transformation of a Bi atom to a Pb atom. The formula for error calculation in the averages is given below.

In this experiment, our number of counts during the period in which we observe them (5 minutes intervals) is considered large enough to follow the relation of a Poisson distribution where the number of counts at any given point for the magnetic field can be written as $N \pm \sqrt{N}$, where N is the number of counts.

To calculate the error in the averages given above, the propagation for adding quantities is utilized:

$$\delta z = \sqrt{(\delta z_1)^2 + (\delta z_2)^2} \quad (33)$$

Throughout the experiment, we took various counts for background, also in 5 minutes intervals. Since we conducted the experiment in the exact same conditions each time we took data, we average the background counts and set our baseline at 17.8 counts. This baseline can be seen in Figure 6 explicitly and in the fits given in Figures 7 and 9.

5.1 Calculation of Momentum

Since we have proved that both classical and relativistic momenta can be calculated with the same formula, we can use the following equation along with our average values of the peaks of our fit curves to determine experimental momenta where B for p_1 is the average magnetic field strength for $Peak_1$ in Table 1 and B in p_2 is the average magnetic field strength for $Peak_2$ in Table 1. The radius, R , is measured to be $0.0290 \pm 0.0005\text{m}$:

$$p = 300BR \quad (34)$$

$$p_1 = 300(0.09564 \pm 0.01265T)(0.0290 \pm 0.0005\text{m}) = 0.8321 \pm 0.1110\text{MeV}/c \quad (35)$$

$$p_2 = 300(0.16522 \pm 0.00105T)(0.0290 \pm 0.0005\text{m}) = 1.4374 \pm 0.0264\text{MeV}/c \quad (36)$$

The error on the calculation of momentum is determined by the properties of multiplication in error propagation:

$$\delta p = |p| \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta R}{R}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta B}{B}\right)^2} \quad (37)$$

We can analyze the difference between our estimated and experimental values for momenta by calculating the percent errors. In the equations below, p_1 correlates to $Peak_1$ and p_2 correlates to $Peak_2$:

$$p_{1,error} = \left| \frac{1.4374 - 1.3970}{1.3970} \right| = 0.0289 \quad (38)$$

$$p_{1,\%error} = 2.89\% \quad (39)$$

$$p_{2,error} = \left| \frac{0.8321 - 0.8517}{0.8517} \right| = -0.0230 \quad (40)$$

$$p_{2,\%error} = 2.30\% \quad (41)$$

We could expect that there would be less error in calculating the momentum of the electron at the second, higher peak because the particles at this magnetic field have more energy and can therefore can be more easily detected than the particles at the first peak.

5.2 Determining the Electron Mass

Rearranging Equation 8 given in Section 3.1, we can solve for the rest mass of the electron using theoretical energy values and the momentum calculated directly above:

$$m_0 = \sqrt{\frac{E^2 - p^2c^2}{c^4}} \quad (42)$$

It is important to remember here that E is the total energy of the particle in a particle energy state minus the binding energy, but including the rest mass energy of 0.511MeV , therefore:

$$E_1 = 0.4809\text{MeV} + 0.511\text{MeV} = 0.9919\text{MeV} \quad (43)$$

$$E_2 = 0.976\text{MeV} + 0.511\text{MeV} = 1.487\text{MeV} \quad (44)$$

We can now find the rest mass using these values:

$$m_{01} = \sqrt{\frac{(0.9919\text{MeV})^2 - (0.8321\text{MeV}/c)^2}{c^4}} = 0.5399 \pm 0.0720\text{MeV}/c^2 \quad (45)$$

$$m_{02} = \sqrt{\frac{(1.487\text{MeV})^2 - (1.4374\text{MeV}/c)^2}{c^4}} = 0.3809 \pm 0.0070\text{MeV}/c^2 \quad (46)$$

The error propagation here is determined by the multiplication rules:

$$\delta m = |m| \frac{\delta p}{p} \quad (47)$$

Again, we can examine our calculations in comparison with the known rest mass of an electron of 0.511MeV by calculating a percent error:

$$m_{0,1,error} = \left| \frac{0.5399 - 0.511}{0.511} \right| = 0.0565 \quad (48)$$

$$m_{0,1,\%error} = 5.65\% \quad (49)$$

$$m_{0,2,error} = \left| \frac{0.3809 - 0.511}{0.511} \right| = -0.2546 \quad (50)$$

$$m_{0,2,\%error} = 25.46\% \quad (51)$$

With regards to the same logic for errors in the momentum calculation above, we would expect that the rest mass of the second peak would be more accurate in comparison to theoretical values because of the particles at higher energy. However, our calculation at the first peak is more accurate by a factor of five. This could be due to an inaccurately defined peak for the second curve, which would affect the experimental momentum and therefore the rest mass calculation. It may also be a result of the way that we chose to take data for the extended set of data in Run 4. Though we expanded the number of data points around our theoretical magnetic field peaks, the actual B field value for the fitted curve is about 0.05 kG higher than predicted. This means that our data points were not evenly weighted around the actual magnetic field corresponding to the maximum number of counts.

5.3 Experimental Line Width

The source and detector have a finite area which will result in a range of radii through which an electron can traverse and be counted. This means that for an electron emitted with any given energy there are in fact multiple magnetic field strengths which will allow it to traverse through the slits and be detected. First we express our maximum and minimum radii in terms of the width of the source slit x_s and the width of the detector slit x_d . We do not use the slit in the middle bar since it is larger than the source slit and will not be a limiting factor in the line width (see Figure 3). The slit widths are taken from the same figure.

$$R_{min} = \left(r - \frac{x_d + x_s}{2} \right) = 0.0262m \quad (52)$$

$$R_{max} = \left(r + \frac{x_d + x_s}{2} \right) = 0.0318m \quad (53)$$

Then using Equation 20 we can use the kinetic energy of our particles to find an expression for the width of our gaussian due to the finite size of our components.

$$KE = \frac{p^2}{2m} = \frac{(200BR)^2}{2m} \quad (54)$$

solving for B,

$$B = \frac{\sqrt{2mKE}}{300R} \quad (55)$$

Using Equation 55 we can solve for ΔB .

$$\Delta B = \frac{\sqrt{2mKE}}{300} \left(\frac{1}{R_{max}} - \frac{1}{R_{min}} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{2mKE}}{300} \left(\frac{\Delta R}{R_{max}R_{min}} \right) \quad (56)$$

For our first peak we use KE_1 calculated in Equation 27 and the vertical slit widths from Figure 3.

$$\Delta B_1 = \frac{\sqrt{2(0.511)(0.9760)}}{300} \left(\frac{0.00355 + .00200}{(0.0262)(0.0318)} \right) = 0.0222kG \quad (57)$$

Do the same for the second peak with KE_2 from Equation 29.

$$\Delta B_2 = \frac{\sqrt{2(0.511)(0.4809)}}{300} \left(\frac{0.00355 + .00200}{(0.0262)(0.0318)} \right) = 0.0156kG \quad (58)$$

As you can see if you look at Table 1 the predicted width of the magnetic field distribution is very close to the experimental value we calculated with our Gaussian fits performed previously. The remaining error is most likely due to a combination of experimental error and the energy loss that will be discussed in the following section.

5.4 Energy Loss

Since the experiment is not performed in a vacuum there is finite energy loss due to collisions and interactions with other particles as the electron traverses its arc. This energy loss, dE , per distance traveled, ds is given by the formula below [2]:

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = 4\pi r_0^2 \frac{m_0 c^2}{\beta^2} N Z_0 \left\{ \ln \left[\beta \left(\frac{E + m_0 c^2}{I} \right) (E m_0 c^2)^{1/2} \right] - \frac{\beta^2}{2} \right\} \quad (59)$$

where

$$4\pi r_0^2 = 1.0 \times 10^{-24} cm^2$$

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{mc^2}{E}}$$

$$NZ = 3.88 \times 10^{20}/cm^3 \text{ for air at STP}$$

$$E = \text{energy of electrons}$$

$$I = 86 \text{ eV}$$

For the first electron peak $E_1 = 0.992 \text{ MeV}$ and $\beta_1 = 0.857$ such that for the first peak fractional energy loss is:

$$\frac{dE_1(s)}{ds} = 0.258 MeV/m \quad (60)$$

integrating this function over ds requires that we use the distance of the arc which is simply $s = \pi r$. Using $r = 0.0290m$ we find that the total energy loss for the first peak due to interactions is:

$$E_1(s) = 0.0235 MeV \quad (61)$$

For the second peak at $E_2 = 1.487$ MeV and $\beta_2 = 0.939$ the fractional energy loss is:

$$\frac{dE_2(s)}{ds} = 0.227 \text{ MeV}/m \quad (62)$$

once again integrating over ds with the same r we find the total energy loss for the second peak to be:

$$E_2(s) = 0.0206 \text{ MeV} \quad (63)$$

The energy loss resulting from collisions and interactions will have two effects on the experiment. First, it will broaden the range of magnetic field values for which we will detect electrons from the source. This is because the chance of interaction with another particle(s) is of course a game of probabilities meaning that some electrons will experience a greater energy loss and others a smaller energy loss than the one we have calculated. Secondly, it will most likely shift the magnetic field strength of our peak down from the theoretical maximum. This is because on average our particles will lose energy which means we need a weaker magnetic field to focus them onto the detector.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Improvements in Equipment and Methods

While the experimental apparatus allows for reasonable accuracy there are several possible improvements which would not only eliminate some of the experimental error but will make the experiment more useful to students. The changes are enumerated below:

1. The easiest change to make to the experiment is to simply utilize the output hookup on the counter and connect it to a computer. You could then ask students to use the available software package for the counter to write a program to take multiple data points without having to manually record and manage the counter values. This would allow students to gather larger data sets and increase the accuracy of their results.
2. The effectiveness of the previous suggestion is hampered by the fact that you must adjust the magnetic field manually. Not only is the knob used to manage the current to the magnets very coarse, it is also arduous to ask students to cover the range with any sort of meaningful resolution given the time restraints this causes. If a power supply that could be managed by a computer program is purchased you could ask students not only to take data with greater resolution but also accuracy. This change combined with using the output of the counter would make the experiment a meaningful lesson on programming skills as well as effective data gathering techniques. The changes would produce large data sets for analysis and result in higher accuracy calculations.
3. The last change that could be made to the apparatus but is slightly more difficult and expensive than the previous two is to place the detector within a vacuum. This would eliminate the majority of the energy loss calculated in the previous section due to particle-particle interactions.

References

- [1] Sleator, Tycho, David Windt, and Burton Budick *Relativistic Electron Momentum*. Experimental Physics. V85.0112. Fall, 2012.

- [2] H.A. Bethe, Z. Physik 76 293 (1932)

Appendix

Field (kG)	Counts	Error
0.6009	10	3.16
0.6500	26	5.10
0.7009	20	4.47
0.7505	25	5.00
0.8008	32	5.66
0.8507	28	5.29
0.9006	35	5.92
0.9503	44	6.63
1.0002	36	6.00
1.0525	51	7.14
1.1067	40	6.32
1.1498	18	4.24
1.2000	27	5.20
1.2546	31	5.57
1.3061	29	5.39
1.3528	22	4.69
1.4012	20	4.47
1.4503	25	5.00
1.5016	41	6.40
1.5526	50	7.07
1.6018	79	8.89
1.6512	101	10.05
1.7022	74	8.60
1.7554	61	7.81
1.8021	40	6.32
1.8524	24	4.90
1.9022	20	4.47
1.9495	27	5.20
2.0010	15	3.87

Field	Counts	Error
0.6009	14	3.74
0.6500	17	4.12
0.7004	21	4.58
0.7520	21	4.58
0.8014	33	5.74
0.8502	25	5.00
0.9025	37	6.08
0.9505	36	6.00
1.0002	41	6.40
1.0525	38	6.16
1.1004	33	5.74
1.1501	33	5.74
1.2017	29	5.39
1.2506	21	4.58
1.3006	26	5.10
1.3509	35	5.92
1.4012	19	4.36
1.4506	30	5.48
1.5030	39	6.24
1.5497	60	7.75
1.6015	84	9.17
1.6531	92	9.59
1.7008	80	8.94
1.7535	66	8.12
1.8009	58	7.62
1.8501	36	6.00
1.9009	29	5.39
1.9510	22	4.69
2.0019	16	4.00

Table 2: **Left:** First run of data taken where the counts were recorded in 5 minutes intervals as we increased the magnetic field by 0.05 kG between the range of 0.6 kG and 2.0 kG. **Right:** Second run of data taken where the counts were recorded in 5 minutes intervals as we increased the magnetic field by 0.05 kG between the range of 0.6 kG and 2.0 kG.

Field	Counts	Error
0.6006	19	4.36
0.6496	20	4.47
0.7028	27	5.20
0.7513	26	5.10
0.8015	17	4.12
0.8508	22	4.69
0.9008	30	5.48
0.9509	53	7.28
1.0015	31	5.57
1.0498	36	6.00
1.1000	42	6.48
1.1508	30	5.48
1.2014	24	4.90
1.2508	35	5.92
1.3047	16	4.00
1.3518	29	5.39
1.4011	22	4.69
1.4515	33	5.74
1.5027	41	6.40
1.5505	67	8.19
1.6025	88	9.38
1.6518	92	9.59
1.7015	81	9.00
1.7518	50	7.07
1.8043	40	6.32
1.8519	14	3.74
1.9020	23	4.80
1.9514	21	4.58
2.0021	14	3.74

Table 3: Third run of data taken where the counts were recorded in 5 minutes intervals as we increased the magnetic field by 0.05 kG between the range of 0.6 kG and 2.0 kG.

Field (kG)	Counts	Error
2.0024	25	5.00
1.9532	25	5.00
1.9019	25	5.00
1.8519	34	5.83
1.8253	29	5.39
1.8006	40	6.32
1.7750	58	7.62
1.7503	55	7.42
1.7251	74	8.60
1.7009	94	9.70
1.6902	92	9.59
1.6801	93	9.64
1.6701	105	10.25
1.6603	122	11.05
1.6505	100	10.00
1.6001	92	9.59
1.5903	83	9.11
1.5805	92	9.59
1.5705	69	8.31
1.5602	75	8.66
1.5517	72	8.49
1.5254	45	6.71
1.5038	33	5.74
1.4759	29	5.39
1.4507	27	5.20

Field	Counts	Error
1.4249	35	5.92
1.4019	33	5.74
1.3514	20	4.47
1.3035	36	6.00
1.2501	26	5.10
1.2041	28	5.29
1.1528	20	4.47
1.1255	39	6.24
1.1027	32	5.66
1.0896	34	5.83
1.0805	43	6.56
1.0702	47	6.86
1.0606	42	6.48
1.0509	41	6.40
1.0246	43	6.56
1.0011	39	6.24
0.9531	39	6.24
0.9050	43	6.56
0.8511	30	5.48
0.8022	40	6.32
0.7521	21	4.58
0.7020	28	5.29
0.6498	20	4.47
0.6004	26	5.10

Table 4: Fourth run of data taken where the counts were recorded in 5 minutes intervals as we increased the magnetic field by 0.05 kG between the range of 0.6 kG and 2.0 kG. Around the predicted peaks in counts per 5 min of about 1.0 kG and 1.6 kG, the counts per 5 min were recorded at intervals of 0.01 kG for 5 consecutive intervals in each direction of both peaks.