

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200210082411/https://physics.stackexchange.com/questions/530233/lorentz-transformation-of-radiation-density>

Say in the lab frame K we have a spherical shell radiating energy inwards radially, and the energy density in radiation is u_{rad} . A particle is moving radially outwards (say in the \hat{x} direction) with ultra relativistic speed βc , $\gamma \gg 1$. I want to find the energy density, u'_{rad} , in radiation in the reference frame of the particle, K' .

In general, we have that $u_{rad} = \frac{1}{c} \int \int I_\nu d\Omega d\nu$, where I_ν is the specific intensity in radiation. I am instructed to use this to find the radiation energy density in the reference frame.

So,

$$u'_{rad} = \frac{1}{c} \int \int I'_\nu d\Omega' d\nu'$$

The trick (I guess) is to move all variables and the specific intensity to the lab frame. From Rybicki and Lightman eq. 4.110 (page 146) we know that $\frac{I'_\nu}{\nu'^3}$ is a relativistic invariant. Also, from Doppler's effect, we know that $\nu' = \gamma\nu(1 - \beta \cos \theta)$, so we get

$$\begin{aligned} u'_{rad} &= \frac{1}{c} \int \int \nu'^3 \frac{I'_\nu}{\nu'^3} d\Omega' d\nu' = \frac{\gamma^4}{c} \int \int \frac{I_\nu}{\nu^3} \nu^3 (1 - \beta \cos \theta)^4 d\nu d\Omega' \\ &= \frac{\gamma^4}{c} \int \int I_\nu (1 - \beta \cos \theta)^4 d\nu d\Omega' \end{aligned}$$

So we are left to transferring $d\Omega'$. We know from the aberration formulas that

$$\cos \theta' = \frac{\cos \theta - \beta}{1 - \beta \cos \theta} \Rightarrow d \cos \theta' = \frac{1 - \beta^2}{(1 - \beta \cos \theta)^2} d \cos \theta$$

so we get that

$$d\Omega' = d \cos \theta' d\phi' = \frac{1 - \beta^2}{(1 - \beta \cos \theta)^2} d \cos \theta d\phi = \frac{1 - \beta^2}{(1 - \beta \cos \theta)^2} d\Omega$$

since ϕ remains the same (Rybicki and Lightman p. 110). We finally get that

$$u'_{rad} = \frac{1 - \beta^2}{c} \int \int I_\nu (1 - \beta \cos \theta)^2 d\nu d\Omega$$

The integral now is in the lab frame, where I_ν is isotropic. So we need to evaluate the angular integral only:

$$\int_{-1}^1 (1 - \beta u)^2 du = \frac{2}{3} (\beta^2 + 3)$$

So we end up with

$$u'_{rad} = \gamma^4 \frac{2\pi}{c} (1 - \beta^2) \frac{2}{3} (\beta^2 + 3) \int I_\nu d\nu$$

Since $1 - \beta^2 = \gamma^{-2}$, we get

$$u'_{rad} = \gamma^2 \frac{4\pi}{c} \int I_\nu d\nu \left(\frac{\beta^2}{3} + 1 \right) = \gamma^2 \left(\frac{\beta^2}{3} + 1 \right) u_{rad}$$

Unfortunately, my official answer says that the result is $\gamma^2 \left(\frac{\beta^2}{3} + \beta + 1 \right) u_{rad}$
 What did I miss?