

## Mechanics II

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### Q.1

Using *Work-Energy Theorem*, we have:

$$m\gamma(u)c^2 - m\gamma(0)c^2 = \int_{\vec{x}=\vec{0}}^{\vec{x}=\vec{x}} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{u^2}{c^2}}}$  and  $\gamma(0) = 1$ .

Since force  $\vec{F}$  is uniform, we have:

$$\int_{\vec{x}=\vec{0}}^{\vec{x}=\vec{x}} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = Fx \quad (2)$$

Substituting these in (1), we get:

$$mc^2 \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{u^2}{c^2}}} - 1 \right) = Fx \Rightarrow \frac{mc^2}{F} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{u^2}{c^2}}} - 1 \right) = x \quad (3)$$

Let  $\xi = \frac{mc^2}{F}$ . Then (3) becomes:

$$\frac{\xi}{\sqrt{1-\frac{u^2}{c^2}}} = x + \xi \quad (4)$$

Squaring both sides of (4), we get:

$$\xi^2 = (x + \xi)^2 \left( 1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2} \right) \Rightarrow \xi^2 c^2 = (x + \xi)^2 (c^2 - u^2) \quad (5)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x + \xi)^2 u^2 = (x + \xi)^2 c^2 - \xi^2 c^2 \Rightarrow u^2 = \frac{x^2 + \xi^2 + 2x\xi - \xi^2}{(x + \xi)^2} c^2 \quad (6)$$

$$\Rightarrow u = \frac{\sqrt{x(x + 2\xi)}}{x + \xi} c \quad (7)$$

Since  $u = \frac{dx}{dt}$ , we have from (7):

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{\sqrt{x(x + 2\xi)}}{x + \xi} c \Rightarrow \frac{x + \xi}{\sqrt{x(x + 2\xi)}} dx = c dt \quad (8)$$

Integrating (8), we get:

$$\int_{x=0}^{x=x} \frac{x + \xi}{\sqrt{x(x + 2\xi)}} dx = \int_{t=0}^{t=t} c dt \quad (9)$$

Let

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 2x\xi} = a \Rightarrow x^2 + 2x\xi = a^2 \quad (10)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(x + \xi) dx = 2a da \Rightarrow (x + \xi) dx = a da \quad (11)$$

As  $x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $a \rightarrow 0$ . As  $x \rightarrow x$ ,  $a \rightarrow \sqrt{x^2 + 2x\xi}$ . Substituting these in (9), we get:

$$\int_{a=0}^{a=\sqrt{x^2+2x\xi}} da = c \int_{t=0}^{t=t} dt \Rightarrow \sqrt{x^2 + 2x\xi} = ct \quad (12)$$

Squaring both sides of (12), we get:

$$x^2 + 2x\xi - c^2t^2 = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -\xi \pm \sqrt{\xi^2 + c^2t^2} \quad (14)$$

All relativistic formulas approach classical formula in the limit of non-relativistic velocities. We would check upon this fact to find out which of the two equations given by (14) is the correct one.

Using *Work Energy Theorem* for non-relativistic velocities, we get:

$$\frac{1}{2}mu^2 = \int_{\vec{x}=\vec{0}}^{\vec{x}=\vec{x}} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x} = Fx \quad (15)$$

$$\Rightarrow u^2 = \frac{2Fx}{m} \quad (16)$$

Since  $u = \frac{dx}{dt}$ , we have from (16):

$$\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{2Fx}{m} \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = \sqrt{\frac{2F}{m}}t \quad (17)$$

Integrating (17), we get:

$$\int_{x=0}^{x=x} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = \int_{t=0}^{t=t} \sqrt{\frac{2F}{m}}t \Rightarrow 2\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{\frac{2F}{m}}t \quad (18)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{F}{2m}t^2 \quad (19)$$

The classical expression for displacement of a particle as a function of time under the action of a constant force is given by (19). The relativistic expression should match the classical expression under non-relativistic limit. We can rewrite (14) as:

$$x = \xi \left( \pm \sqrt{1 + \frac{c^2t^2}{\xi^2}} - 1 \right) \quad (20)$$

Since  $\left| \frac{ct}{\xi} \right| < 1$ , we can Taylor expand (20) as:

$$x = \xi \left( \pm \left( 1 + \frac{c^2 t^2}{2\xi^2} + \dots \right) - 1 \right) \quad (21)$$

Under non-relativistic limit, terms of order higher than  $\frac{c^2 t^2}{\xi^2}$  are negligible. Hence (21) becomes:

$$x = \frac{c^2 t^2}{2\xi} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -2\xi - \frac{c^2 t^2}{2\xi} \quad (22)$$

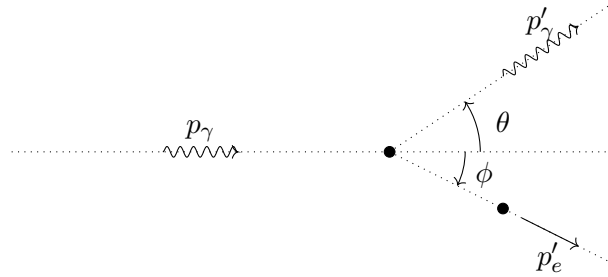
Substituting  $\xi = \frac{mc^2}{F}$  in (22), we get:

$$x = \frac{F}{2m} t^2 \quad \text{or} \quad x = - \left( \frac{2mc^2}{F} + \frac{F}{2m} t^2 \right) \quad (23)$$

Clearly only the first expression in (23) matches the classical formula. Hence we only take positive sign in (20). The relativistic expression for displacement of a particle as function of time under the action of a constant force is therefore given by:

$$x = \xi \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{c^2 t^2}{\xi^2}} - 1 \right) \quad (24)$$

## Q.2



From *Energy Conservation*, we have:

$$m_e c^2 + p_\gamma c = p'_\gamma c + E'_e \quad (25)$$

From *Momentum Conservation*, we have:

$$p_\gamma = p'_\gamma \cos \theta + p'_e \cos \phi \quad (26)$$

$$0 = p'_\gamma \sin \theta - p'_e \sin \phi \quad (27)$$

Now (26) and (27) can be rearranged as:

$$p'_e \cos \phi = p_\gamma - p'_\gamma \cos \theta \quad (28)$$

$$p'_e \sin \phi = p'_\gamma \sin \theta \quad (29)$$

Squaring (28) and (29) and then adding, we get:

$$p_e'^2 (\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi) = p_\gamma'^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + p_\gamma^2 - 2p_\gamma p'_\gamma \cos \theta \quad (30)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_e'^2 = p_\gamma'^2 + p_\gamma^2 - 2p_\gamma p_\gamma' \cos\theta \quad (31)$$

Rearranging (25), we get:

$$E_e' = m_e c^2 + (p_\gamma - p_\gamma') c \quad (32)$$

Squaring (32), we get:

$$E_e'^2 = m_e^2 c^4 + (p_\gamma - p_\gamma')^2 c^2 + 2m_e c^3 (p_\gamma - p_\gamma') \quad (33)$$

From *Relativistic Energy-Momentum* relation, we have:

$$E_e'^2 = p_e'^2 c^2 + m_e^2 c^4 \quad (34)$$

Using (34) in (33), we get:

$$p_e'^2 = (p_\gamma - p_\gamma')^2 + 2m_e c (p_\gamma - p_\gamma') \quad (35)$$

Using (31) in (35), we get:

$$p_\gamma'^2 + p_\gamma^2 - 2p_\gamma p_\gamma' \cos\theta = p_\gamma^2 + p_\gamma'^2 - 2p_\gamma p_\gamma' + 2m_e c (p_\gamma - p_\gamma') \quad (36)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_\gamma p_\gamma' (1 - \cos\theta) = m_e c (p_\gamma - p_\gamma') \quad \Rightarrow \frac{1}{p_\gamma'} - \frac{1}{p_\gamma} = \frac{1}{m_e c} (1 - \cos\theta) \quad \Rightarrow \frac{h}{p_\gamma'} - \frac{h}{p_\gamma} = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos\theta) \quad (37)$$

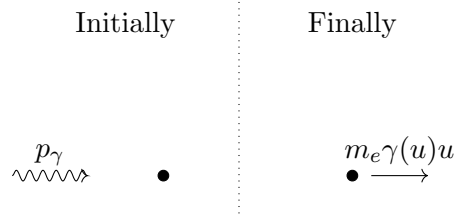
Using  $\lambda = \frac{h}{p_\gamma}$  in (37), we have:

$$\boxed{\lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos\theta)} \quad (38)$$

### Q.3 Proof by Contradiction

Let us suppose that a free electron can absorb a photon incident on it i.e.,

$$\gamma + e \rightarrow e \quad (39)$$



We have from *Energy Conservation*:

$$E_\gamma + m_e c^2 = m_e \gamma(u) c^2 \quad (40)$$

$$\Rightarrow E_\gamma = m_e (\gamma(u) - 1) c^2 \quad (41)$$

We have from *Momentum Conservation*:

$$p_\gamma = m_e \gamma(u) u \quad (42)$$

Since  $E_\gamma = p_\gamma c$ , we have from (41) and (42):

$$m_e (\gamma(u) - 1) c^2 = m_e \gamma(u) u c \quad \Rightarrow u = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma(u)}\right) c \quad \Rightarrow 1 - \frac{u}{c} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2}} \quad (43)$$

On Squaring (43), we get:

$$1 + \frac{u^2}{c^2} - 2\frac{u}{c} = 1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2} \Rightarrow \frac{u^2}{c^2} = \frac{u}{c} \Rightarrow u = c \quad (44)$$

which is a contradiction as material particles cannot move with speed greater than or equal to  $c$ . Hence phenomenon described by (39) does not happen in nature.

## Q.4

**Note:**  $1 \text{ u} \approx 931.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

### 1. Alpha Decay: $^{220}\text{Fr} \rightarrow ^{216}\text{At} + \alpha$

The Kinetic Energy of the  $\alpha$  particle is given by:

$$T_\alpha = \frac{(m_{\text{Fr}} - m_\alpha)^2 - m_{\text{At}}^2}{2m_{\text{Fr}}} c^2 \quad (45)$$

where:

- $m_{\text{Fr}} = 220.012326 \text{ u}$ ,
- $m_{\text{At}} = 216.002422 \text{ u}$ ,
- $m_\alpha = 4.001506 \text{ u}$ .

Substituting these values in (45), we get:

$$T_\alpha \approx 7.68 \text{ MeV} \quad (46)$$

### 2. Beta Decay: $^{220}\text{Fr} \rightarrow ^{220}\text{Ra} + e^- + \nu_e$

The maximum Kinetic Energy  $T_e^{\text{max}}$  of the  $\beta$  particle (when neutrino is not emitted) is given by:

$$T_e^{\text{max}} = \frac{(m_{\text{Fr}} - m_e)^2 - m_{\text{Ra}}^2}{2m_{\text{Fr}}} c^2 \quad (47)$$

where:

- $m_{\text{Fr}} = 220.012326 \text{ u}$ ,
- $m_{\text{Ra}} = 220.011027 \text{ u}$ ,
- $m_e = 0.000548 \text{ u}$ .

Substituting these values (47), we get:

$$T_e^{\text{max}} \approx 0.7 \text{ MeV} \quad (48)$$

## Q. 5

The 4-momenta of the two particles w.r.t Alice are given as:

$$P_1^{\mu A} = m_1 \gamma(u_1)(c, \vec{u}_1), \quad P_2^{\mu A} = m_2 \gamma(u_2)(c, \vec{u}_2) \quad (49)$$

The 4-momenta of the two particles w.r.t Bob are given as:

$$P_1^{\mu B} = \left( \frac{E_1}{c}, m_1 \gamma(u_{1,B}) \vec{u}_{1,B} \right), \quad P_2^{\mu B} = (m_2 c, \vec{0}), \quad (50)$$

where  $\vec{u}_{1,B}$  is velocity of particle-1 and  $E_1$  is the total energy of particle-1 w.r.t Bob. Since the scalar product of the 4-momenta of the two particles is an invariant, we have:

$$P_1^{\mu B} P_{2\mu}^B = P_1^{\mu A} P_{2\mu}^A \quad (51)$$

$$\Rightarrow m_2 E_1 = m_1 m_2 \gamma(u_1) \gamma(u_2) (c^2 - \vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2) \quad (52)$$

$$\boxed{\Rightarrow E_1 = m_1 \gamma(u_1) \gamma(u_2) (c^2 - \vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2)} \quad (53)$$

## Q.6

### Part (a)

To prove the given inequality, we consider an ICF moving with particle-1. The 4-momenta in this ICF are given by:

$$P_1^{\mu} = (m_1 c, \vec{0}), \quad P_2^{\mu} = (m_2 \gamma(u) c, m_2 \gamma(u) \vec{u}), \quad (54)$$

where  $\vec{u}$  is velocity of particle-2 w.r.t the ICF moving with particle-1. The scalar invariant is given by:

$$P_1^{\mu} P_{2\mu} = m_1 m_2 \gamma(u) c^2 \quad (55)$$

Since  $\gamma(u) \geq 1 \forall u$ , we have from (55):

$$\boxed{P_1^{\mu} P_{2\mu} \geq m_1 m_2 c^2 \Rightarrow P_1^{\mu} P_{2\mu} > m_1 m_2} \quad (56)$$

### Part (b)

Given that there are  $n$  particles in a system with rest masses  $m_1, \dots, m_n$  and 4-momenta  $P_1, \dots, P_n$ . The scalar invariant could be written as:

$$P^{\mu} P_{\mu} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{E_i}{c} \right)^2 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i \right) \quad (57)$$

where  $E_i$  and  $\vec{p}_i$  are the total energy and 3-momentum vector of the  $i^{th}$  particle.

To prove the given inequality, we can choose the **Center Of Mass (C.O.M.)** of the system as our frame of reference. In this frame, we have:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \vec{p}_i = M \vec{v}_{C.O.M} = \vec{0}, \quad \text{where } M = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \quad (58)$$

Using (58) in (57), we get:

$$P^\mu P_\mu = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{E_i}{c} \right)^2 \quad (59)$$

Since  $E_i \geq m_i c^2$  for all velocities and for all particles, we have from (59):

$$P^\mu P_\mu \geq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n m_i c \right)^2 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \right)^2 c^2 = M^2 c^2 \quad (60)$$

$$\Rightarrow P^\mu P_\mu \geq M^2 c^2, \quad \text{where } M = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \quad (61)$$

**The equality in (61) would be satisfied when all the particles are at rest w.r.t the C.O.M of the system.**

### Part (c)

Let  $T$  be the minimum kinetic energy of the projectile. We have:

$$E_{initial} = T + m_1 c^2 + m_2 c^2, \quad (62)$$

$$p_{initial} = p_1 \quad (63)$$

Using relativistic energy-momentum relation, we have:

$$p_1 = \sqrt{\frac{(T + m_1 c^2)^2 - m_1^2 c^4}{c^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{T^2 + 2Tm_1 c^2}{c^2}} \quad (64)$$

From *Momentum Conservation* and from (63), we have:

$$p_{final} = p_{initial} = p_1 \quad (65)$$

Using relativistic energy-momentum relation, we have:

$$E_{final} = \sqrt{p_{final}^2 c^2 + M^2 c^4} \quad (66)$$

From *Energy Conservation*, we have:

$$E_{initial} = E_{final} \quad (67)$$

Using (62), (64), (65) and (66) in (67), we get:

$$T + m_1 c^2 + m_2 c^2 = \sqrt{p_{initial}^2 c^2 + M^2 c^4} \quad (68)$$

$$\Rightarrow T + m_1 c^2 + m_2 c^2 = \sqrt{T^2 + 2Tm_1 c^2 + M^2 c^4} \quad (69)$$

On squaring (69), we get:

$$T^2 + m_1^2 c^4 + m_2^2 c^4 + 2Tm_1 c^2 + 2Tm_2 c^2 + 2m_1 m_2 c^4 = T^2 + 2Tm_1 c^2 + M^2 c^4 \quad (70)$$

On simplifying (70), we get:

$$(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2m_1 m_2) c^4 + 2Tm_2 c^2 = M^2 c^4 \quad (71)$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{M^2 - (m_1 + m_2)^2 c^2}{2m_2} \quad (72)$$

The minimum kinetic energy of the projectile is given by (72).