

PH-105 Assignment Sheet - 2 (Quantum Mechanics)

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1. (a) A source of photons of frequency ν is moving with a speed v in laboratory frame of reference. Show that in the limit v is very small then c , the frequency of photon ν' , as observed in laboratory frame of reference is given by the following expression. $\nu' = \nu(1 + v/c)$.
(b) What is the value of the required speed in case the energy of photons of energy 14.4 keV is to be increased by 10^{-6} eV?

Solution :

(a) We know by doppler effect that

$$\nu' = \nu \sqrt{1 + \beta} / 1 - \beta \quad \beta = v/c$$

Now using approximations we get

$$(1 + v/c)^{1/2} \approx 1 + v/2c \text{ and}$$

$$(1 - v/c)^{-1/2} \approx 1 + v/2c$$

Now

$$(1 + v/2c)^2 = 1 + v/c + (v/2c)^2 \text{ but } (v/2c)^2 \text{ is very small compared to rest of expression so}$$

$$\nu' = \nu \sqrt{1 + \beta} / 1 - \beta \approx \nu(1 + v/c)$$

$$(b) \Delta E = 10^{-6} \text{ eV} \quad E_i = 14.4 \text{ KeV}$$

$$\nu'/\nu = E'/E = 1 + \Delta E/E = 1 + v/c$$

$$v/c = \Delta E/E = 10^{-6}/14.4 * 10^3 = 10^{-9}/14.4$$

$$v = 0.3/14.4 \text{ m/s}$$