

Section 5: Collisions

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4 Electron-Electron and Ion-Ion Collisions

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4.1 Elastic

- Same physics as electron-ion Coulomb collisions, but with repelling forces. Same cross-section shape.
- Masses are equal so energy transfer is much more efficient.
- This is the most important process for thermalization within a species

4.2 Inelastic

Would require lots of energy for two like charges to get that close together.

4.3 Radiation

Masses are equal so no net acceleration, and thus no Bremsstrahlung