

For a constant magnetic field,

$$\frac{d(\gamma\vec{\beta})}{dt} = \frac{qB}{m}\vec{\beta} \times \hat{z}.$$

The expression on the left-hand side has units of inverse time. Thus, we have that

$$\left[\frac{qB}{m} \right] = T^{-1},$$

and qB/m is referred to as the magnetic gyrofrequency ω_g , or cyclotron frequency, in some contexts. Therefore,

$$\frac{d(\gamma\vec{\beta})}{d(\omega_g t)} = \beta_y \hat{x} - \beta_x \hat{y}.$$

In terms of the differential proper time $du=dt/\gamma$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d(\gamma\vec{\beta})}{du} &= [\gamma\beta_y \hat{x} - \gamma\beta_x \hat{y}] \omega_g \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d(\gamma\vec{\beta})}{du} \cdot \gamma\vec{\beta} &= \frac{d\gamma}{du} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that the gamma factor is a constant of motion. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d(\gamma\vec{\beta})}{du} &= \gamma \frac{d\vec{\beta}}{du} \\ &= [\gamma\beta_y \hat{x} - \gamma\beta_x \hat{y}] \omega_g \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d\vec{\beta}}{du} &= \omega_g [\beta_y \hat{x} - \beta_x \hat{y}] \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d\beta_x}{du} &= \omega_g \beta_y, \\ \frac{d\beta_y}{du} &= -\omega_g \beta_x \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d^2\beta_y}{du^2} &= -\omega_g^2 \beta_y \\ \Rightarrow \beta_y(u) &= \beta_c \cos(\omega_g u) + \beta_s \sin(\omega_g u), \\ \beta_x(u) &= \beta_c \sin(\omega_g u) - \beta_s \cos(\omega_g u). \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

with constants fixed by boundary conditions. Specifically, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^t dt' &= \int_{u_0}^u \gamma du' \\ t &= \gamma \Delta u. \end{aligned}$$

Defining $u_0 = u(t=0)$, we have that $t = \gamma(u - u_0)$. Thus, absorbing u_0 into the constants in (1), we obtain

$$\vec{\beta}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_c \sin(\omega_g t) - \beta_s \cos(\omega_g t) \\ \beta_c \cos(\omega_g t) + \beta_s \sin(\omega_g t) \\ \beta_{z0} \end{pmatrix}$$

where we defined the “relativistic gyrofrequency” $\omega'_g = \omega_g / \gamma = \frac{qB}{\gamma m}$. To specify $\vec{\beta}(0) = \vec{\beta}_0$ we can fix that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta_{x0} \\ \beta_{y0} \\ \beta_{z0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\beta_s \\ \beta_c \\ \beta_{z0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\beta}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{y0}\sin(\omega_g t) + \beta_{x0}\cos(\omega_g t) \\ \beta_{y0}\cos(\omega_g t) - \beta_{x0}\sin(\omega_g t) \\ \beta_{z0} \end{pmatrix}$$

From this, one can see that $\beta^2(t) = |\vec{\beta}_0|^2$, so that γ is a constant of motion in a particular frame. For the sake of completeness, Thus, the full motion is

$$\vec{x}(t) = \vec{x}_0 + \frac{1}{\omega_g} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{y0}(1 - \cos(\omega_g t)) + \beta_{x0}\sin(\omega_g t) \\ \beta_{y0}\sin(\omega_g t) + \beta_{x0}(\cos(\omega_g t) - 1) \\ \beta_{z0}\omega_g t \end{pmatrix}.$$