Astrophysics

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선광일 (Kwang-Il Seon) UST / KASI

Four-velocity

The (infinitesimally small) difference between the coordinates of two events is also a four-vector. Dividing by the proper time yields a four-vector, the four-velocity:

$$U^{\mu} \equiv \frac{dx^{\mu}}{d\tau} \longrightarrow U^{0} = \frac{cdt}{d\tau} = c\gamma_{u}$$

$$U^{i} = \frac{dx^{i}}{d\tau} = \gamma_{u}u^{i}$$
or
$$U^{i} = \frac{dx^{i}}{d\tau} = \gamma_{u}u^{i}$$

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$$U^{i} = \frac{dx^{i}}{d\tau} = \gamma_{u}u^{i}$$

$$u \equiv \left|\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt}\right|$$

length of the four-velocity :
$$\vec{U} \cdot \vec{U} = U^{\mu}U_{\mu} = -(\gamma_u c)^2 + (\gamma_u \mathbf{u})^2 = -c^2$$

Transformation of the four-velocity:

$$U'^{0} = \gamma \left(U^{0} - \beta U^{1} \right) \qquad \gamma_{u'} c = \gamma \left(c \gamma_{u} - \beta \gamma_{u} u^{1} \right) \longrightarrow$$

$$U'^{1} = \gamma \left(-\beta U^{0} + U^{1} \right) \longrightarrow \gamma_{u'} u'^{1} = \gamma \left(-\beta c \gamma_{u} + \gamma_{u} u^{1} \right)$$

$$V'^{2} = U^{2} \qquad \gamma_{u'} u'^{2} = \gamma_{u} u^{2}$$

$$V'^{3} = U^{3} \qquad \gamma_{u'} u'^{3} = \gamma_{u} u^{3}$$

The first two equations become:

$$\gamma_{u'} = \gamma \gamma_u \left(1 - vu'/c^2 \right)$$
$$\gamma_{u'} u'^1 = \gamma \gamma_u \left(u^1 - v \right)$$

Note: γ denotes the factor for the relative velocity between two frames.

 γ_u and $\gamma_{u'}$ are the factors for a velocity vector measured in K and K', respectively.

velocity component:

speed:

$$u'^{1} = \frac{u^{1} - v}{1 - vu^{1}/c^{2}}$$

$$\gamma_{u'} = \gamma \gamma_{u} \left(1 - \frac{vu^{1}}{c^{2}} \right)$$

This is the previously derived formula.

This is the transform for speed.

Here, $u^1 = u \cos \theta$ and $u'^1 = u' \cos \theta'$

Momentum and Energy

• Four-momentum of a particle with a mass m_0 is defined by

$$P^{\mu} \equiv m_0 U^{\mu}$$

$$P^0 = m_0 c \gamma_v$$

$$P^i = \gamma_v m_0 \mathbf{v}$$

• In the nonrelativistic limit,

$$P^{0}c = m_{0}c^{2}\gamma = m_{0}c^{2}\left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)^{-1/2} = m_{0}c^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m_{0}v^{2} + \cdots$$

Therefore, we interpret $E \equiv P^0 c = \gamma_v m_0 c^2$ as the total energy of the particle.

The quantity m_0c^2 is interpreted as the rest energy of the particle.

Then,

$$\mathbf{p} \equiv \gamma_v m_0 \mathbf{v}$$
, $P^{\mu} = (E/c, \mathbf{p})$ Here, \mathbf{p} is the spatial component of the four-momentum.

Since $\vec{U}^2 = -c^2$, we obtain $\vec{P}^2 = -m_0^2c^2$. Comparing with $\vec{P}^2 = -\frac{E^2}{c^2} + |\mathbf{p}|^2$, we obtain

$$E^2 = m_0^2 c^4 + c^2 |\mathbf{p}|^2$$

• Photons are massless, but we can still define

$$P^{\mu} = (E/c, \mathbf{p}), E = |\mathbf{p}| c \rightarrow \vec{P}^2 = 0$$

Wavenumber vector and frequency

Quantum relations:

$$E = h\nu = \hbar\omega$$

$$p = E/c = \hbar k$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega = 2\pi\nu \\ k = 2\pi/\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

We can define four wavenumber vector:

 $\vec{k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \vec{P} = \left(\frac{\omega}{c}, \mathbf{k}\right)$

Then, we obtain an invariant:

$$\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} = k_{\mu} x^{\mu} = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega t$$

Therefore, the phase of the plane wave is an invariant.

$$e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}-\omega t)} = e^{i(\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{x}'-\omega t)}$$

• Transform of \vec{k} gives the Doppler shift formula.

$$k'^{0} = \gamma \left(k^{0} - \beta k^{1}\right)$$

$$k'^{1} = \gamma \left(-\beta k^{0} + k^{1}\right)$$

$$k'^{2} = k^{2}$$

$$k'^{3} = k^{3}$$

$$\omega' = \gamma \left(\omega - \beta c k^{1}\right) = \omega \gamma \left(1 - \frac{v}{c} \cos \theta\right)$$

$$k' = \gamma \left(\omega - \beta c k^{1}\right) = \omega \gamma \left(1 - \frac{v}{c} \cos \theta\right)$$

Note that it's a null vector:

$$\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = |\mathbf{k}|^2 - \omega^2/c^2 = 0$$

* Tensor Analysis *

• Definition:

zeroth-rank tensor : Lorentz invariant (scalar) s' = s

first-rank tensor : four-vector $x'^{\mu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\ \nu} x^{\nu}$

second-rank tensor: $T'^{\mu\nu} = \Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\sigma} \Lambda^{\nu}{}_{\tau} T^{\sigma\tau}$

Covariant components and mixed components:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\sigma}\eta_{\nu\tau}T^{\sigma\tau} \qquad T^{\mu}_{\ \nu} = \eta_{\nu\tau}T^{\mu\tau} \qquad T^{\mu\nu}_{\ \mu} = \eta_{\mu\sigma}T^{\sigma\nu}$$

• Transformation rules:

$$T'_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\alpha}\eta_{\nu\beta}T'^{\alpha\beta} \qquad T'^{\mu}_{\nu} = \eta_{\nu\alpha}T'^{\mu\alpha} \qquad T'^{\mu}_{\mu} = \eta_{\mu\alpha}T'^{\alpha\nu}$$

$$= \eta_{\mu\alpha}\eta_{\nu\beta}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \gamma}\Lambda^{\beta}_{\ \delta}T^{\gamma\delta} \qquad = \eta_{\nu\alpha}\Lambda^{\mu}_{\ \sigma}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \delta}T^{\sigma\delta} \qquad = \eta_{\mu\alpha}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \beta}\Lambda^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T^{\beta\tau}$$

$$= \eta_{\mu\alpha}\eta_{\nu\beta}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \gamma}\Lambda^{\beta}_{\ \delta}\eta^{\gamma\sigma}\eta^{\delta\tau}T_{\sigma\tau} \qquad = \eta_{\nu\alpha}\Lambda^{\mu}_{\ \sigma}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \delta}\eta^{\delta\tau}T_{\tau} \qquad = \eta_{\mu\alpha}\Lambda^{\alpha}_{\ \beta}\Lambda^{\nu}_{\ \tau}\eta^{\beta\sigma}T_{\sigma}^{\tau}$$

$$= \tilde{\Lambda}^{\mu}_{\mu}\tilde{\Lambda}^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T_{\sigma\tau} \qquad = \tilde{\Lambda}^{\mu}_{\mu}\tilde{\Lambda}^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T_{\sigma}^{\tau} \qquad = \tilde{\Lambda}^{\mu}_{\mu}\tilde{\Lambda}^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T_{\sigma}^{\tau}$$

$$= \tilde{\Lambda}^{\mu}_{\mu}\tilde{\Lambda}^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T_{\sigma}^{\tau} \qquad = \tilde{\Lambda}^{\mu}_{\mu}\tilde{\Lambda}^{\nu}_{\ \tau}T_{\sigma}^{\tau}$$

• Symmetric tensor = a tensor that is invariant under a permutation of its indices.

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T^{\nu\mu}$$

• Antisymmetric tensor: if it alternates sign when any two indices of the subset are interchanged.

$$T^{\mu\nu} = -T^{\nu\mu}$$

• Examples of the second-rank tensors

A product of two vectors: $A^{\mu}B^{\nu}$

$$A^{\prime\mu}B^{\prime\nu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\ \sigma}\Lambda^{\nu}_{\ \tau}A^{\sigma}B^{\tau}$$

The Minkowski metric:

$$\eta^{\mu
u} = egin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The Kronecker-delta:

$$\delta^{\mu}_{\ \nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Higher-rank tensors
 - Addition: $A^{\mu} + B^{\mu}$, $F^{\mu\nu} + G^{\mu\nu}$
 - Multiplication: $A^{\mu}B^{\nu}$, $F^{\mu\nu}G_{\sigma\tau}$
 - Raising and Lowering Indices: The metric can be used to change contravariant indices into covariant ones, and vice versa, by the processes of raising and lowering.
 - Contraction: $A^{\mu}B_{\nu} \rightarrow A^{\mu}B_{\mu}$ scalar $T^{\mu\nu}_{\sigma} \rightarrow T^{\mu\nu}_{\nu}$ vector

$$T'^{\mu\nu}_{\nu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\alpha} \Lambda^{\nu}_{\beta} \widetilde{\Lambda}_{\nu}^{\tau} T^{\alpha\beta}_{\tau} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\alpha} \delta^{\tau}_{\beta} T^{\alpha\beta}_{\tau} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\alpha} T^{\alpha\beta}_{\beta}$$

- Gradients of Tensor Fields: A tensor field is a tensor that is a function of the spacetime coordinates in Cartesian coordinate systems. The gradient operation $\partial/\partial x^{\mu} \equiv \partial_{\mu}$ acting on such a field produces a tensor field of on higher rank with μ as a new covariant index.

$$\lambda \rightarrow \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial x^{\mu}} \equiv \partial_{\mu} \lambda \equiv \lambda_{,\mu}$$
 vector (gradient) $A^{\mu} \rightarrow \frac{\partial A^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \equiv \partial_{\mu} A^{\mu} \equiv A^{\mu}_{,\mu}$ scalar (divergence)

- **Invariance of form or Lorentz covariance or covariance**: A fundamental property of a tensor equation is that if it is true in one Lorentz frame, then it is true in all Lorentz frames. Covariance plays a powerful role in helping decide what the proper equations of physics are.

[Covariance of Electromagnetic Phenomena]

• Equation of charge conservation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$$

The above equation can be written as a tensor equation,

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial j^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} = 0, \quad j^{\mu}_{, \mu} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \partial_{\mu} j^{\mu} = 0}$$

$$\partial_{\mu} \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}} = \left(\frac{\partial}{c\partial t}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)$$
$$\partial^{\mu} \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{\mu}} = \left(-\frac{\partial}{c\partial t}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)$$

if the **four-current** is defined by

$$j^{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho c \\ \mathbf{j} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \qquad j_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} -\rho c \\ \mathbf{j} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Note that the Jacobian (determinant) of the transformation from x_{μ} to x'_{μ} is simply the determinant of Λ , which is unity. Therefore, the four-volume element is an invariant.

$$dx'_0 dx'_1 dx'_2 dx'_3 = \det \Lambda dx_0 dx_1 dx_2 dx_3 = dx_0 dx_1 dx_2 dx_3$$

Since ρ is the zeroth component of the four-current, the charge element within a three-volume element is an invariant.

$$de = \rho dx_1 dx_2 dx_3 \quad \bigg| \quad de' = de$$

It is also an empirical fact that e is invariant.

• The set of vector and scalar wave equations in the Lorentz gauge is

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{A}}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} (\rho c)$$

If we define the **four-potential**

$$A^{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \mathbf{A} \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} -\phi \\ \mathbf{A} \end{pmatrix},$$

then the wave equations can be written as the tensor equations

$$\frac{\partial^2 A^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu} \partial x_{\nu}} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} j^{\mu}, \quad \partial_{\nu} \partial^{\nu} A^{\mu} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} j^{\mu}, \quad A^{\mu,\nu}_{,\nu} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} j^{\mu}$$

d'Alembertian operator: $\Box \equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^{\nu} \partial x_{\nu}} \rightarrow \Box A^{\mu} = -\frac{4\pi}{c} j^{\mu}$

• The Lorentz gauge should be preserved under Lorentz transformations.

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial A^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} = 0} \text{ or } A^{\mu}{}_{\mu} = 0$$

• Electromagnetic field tensor:

The fields are expressed in terms of the potentials as $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}$ $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$

The x components of the electric and magnetic fields are explicitly

$$E_x = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \partial^0 A^1 - \partial^1 A^0$$

$$B_x = \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} = \partial^2 A^3 - \partial^3 A^2$$

These equations imply that the electric and magnetic fields, six components in all, are the elements of a **second-rank**, **antisymmetric field-strength tensor**, because a rank two antisymmetric tensor has exactly six independent components.

$$F^{\mu\nu} \equiv \partial^{\mu}A^{\nu} - \partial^{\nu}A^{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & E_{x} & E_{y} & E_{z} \\ -E_{x} & 0 & B_{z} & -B_{y} \\ -E_{y} & -B_{z} & 0 & B_{x} \\ -E_{z} & B_{y} & -B_{x} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad F^{0i} = E_{i}$$

$$F^{i0} = -E_{i}$$

$$F^{12} = -F^{21} = B_{3}, \cdots$$

covariant field-strength tensor

$$F_{0i} = \eta_{0\alpha}\eta_{i\beta}F^{\alpha\beta} = -F^{0i}$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\alpha}\eta_{\nu\beta}F^{\alpha\beta} \longrightarrow F_{i0} = \eta_{i\alpha}\eta_{0\beta}F^{\alpha\beta} = -F^{i0}$$

$$F_{ij} = \eta_{i\alpha}\eta_{j\beta}F^{\alpha\beta} = F^{ij}$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} \equiv \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E_{x} & -E_{y} & -E_{z} \\ E_{x} & 0 & B_{z} & -B_{y} \\ E_{y} & -B_{z} & 0 & B_{x} \\ E_{z} & B_{y} & -B_{x} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad F_{0i} = -E_{i}$$

$$F_{i0} = E_{i}$$

$$F_{12} = -F_{21} = B_{3}, \cdots$$

• The two Maxwell equations containing sources (inhomogeneous equations):

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 4\pi\rho$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}$$

$$\partial_2 B_3 - \partial_3 B_2 - \partial_0 E_1 = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}^1$$

$$-\sum_{i=1}^3 \partial_i F^{i0} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}^0$$

$$-\partial_0 F^{01} - \partial_2 F^{21} - \partial_3 F^{31} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j}^1$$

$$\left(\partial_{\mu}F^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{4\pi}{c}j^{\nu} \text{ or } \partial_{\nu}F^{\mu\nu} = \frac{4\pi}{c}j^{\mu}\right)$$

$$\partial^{\mu}F_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{4\pi}{c}j_{\nu} \text{ or } \partial^{\nu}F_{\mu\nu} = \frac{4\pi}{c}j_{\mu}$$

• The conservation of charge easily follows from the above equation and the asymmetric property.

$$\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}F^{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}\left(-F^{\nu\mu}\right) = -\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \qquad \therefore \qquad \qquad \partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}F^{\mu\nu} = 0$$
 index exchange
$$\partial_{\nu}j^{\nu} = -\frac{c}{4\pi}\partial_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}F^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

• The "internal" Maxwell equations (homogeneous equations):

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3} \partial_{i} B_{i} = 0$$

$$\partial_{2} E_{3} - \partial_{3} E_{2} + \partial_{0} B_{1} = 0$$

$$\partial_{1} F^{23} + \partial_{2} F^{31} + \partial_{3} F^{12} = 0$$

$$\partial_{2} F^{30} + \partial_{3} F^{20} + \partial_{0} F^{23} = 0$$

$$\left(\partial_{\mu} F^{\nu\sigma} + \partial_{\nu} F^{\sigma\mu} + \partial_{\sigma} F^{\mu\nu} = 0 \right) \quad \text{or} \quad \partial^{\mu} F_{\nu\sigma} + \partial^{\nu} F_{\sigma\mu} + \partial^{\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

The equation can be written concisely as $F^{[\mu\nu,\sigma]}=0$ or $F_{[\mu\nu,\sigma]}=0$, where [] around indices denote all permutations of indices, with even permutation contributing with a positive sign and odd permutation with a negative sign, for example,

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu} = A_{[\nu,\mu]}$$

- Transformation of Electromagnetic Fields

• Since $F^{\mu\nu}$ is a second-rank tensor, its components transform in the usual way:

$$F'^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\partial x'^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\alpha}} \frac{\partial x'^{\nu}}{\partial x^{\beta}} F^{\alpha\beta} = \Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\alpha} \Lambda^{\nu}{}_{\beta} F^{\alpha\beta}$$

For a pure boost along the *x*-axis:

$$\Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\beta\gamma & 0 & 0 \\ -\beta\gamma & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} E'_{x} = F'^{01} = \Lambda^{0}{}_{0}\Lambda^{1}{}_{1}F^{01} + \Lambda^{0}{}_{1}\Lambda^{1}{}_{0}F^{10} = \gamma^{2}E_{x} - \beta^{2}\gamma^{2}E_{x} = E_{x} \\ E'_{y} = F'^{02} = \Lambda^{0}{}_{0}\Lambda^{2}{}_{2}F^{02} + \Lambda^{0}{}_{1}\Lambda^{2}{}_{2}F^{12} = \gamma E_{y} - \beta\gamma B_{z} \\ E'_{z} = F'^{03} = \Lambda^{0}{}_{0}\Lambda^{3}{}_{3}F^{03} + \Lambda^{0}{}_{1}\Lambda^{3}{}_{3}F^{13} = \gamma E_{z} + \beta\gamma B_{y} \\ B'_{x} = F'^{23} = \Lambda^{2}{}_{2}\Lambda^{3}{}_{3}F^{23} = B_{x} \\ B'_{y} = F'^{31} = \Lambda^{3}{}_{3}\left(\Lambda^{1}{}_{0}F^{30} - \Lambda^{1}{}_{1}F^{31}\right) = \beta\gamma E_{z} + \gamma B_{y} \\ B'_{z} = F'^{12} = \Lambda^{1}{}_{0}\Lambda^{2}{}_{2}F^{03} + \Lambda^{1}{}_{1}\Lambda^{2}{}_{2}F^{12} = -\beta\gamma E_{y} + \gamma B_{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

• In general,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}'_{\parallel} = \mathbf{E}_{\parallel} & \mathbf{B}'_{\parallel} = \mathbf{B}_{\parallel} \\ \mathbf{E}'_{\perp} = \gamma \left(\mathbf{E}_{\perp} + \boldsymbol{\beta} \times \mathbf{B} \right) & \mathbf{B}'_{\perp} = \gamma \left(\mathbf{B}_{\perp} - \boldsymbol{\beta} \times \mathbf{E} \right) \end{bmatrix}$$

The concept of a pure electric or pure magnetic is not Lorentz invariant.

- Lorenz invariants:
 - The dot product of F with itself or "square" of F is

$$F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} = \sum_{i=1}^{3} F^{0i}F_{0i} + \sum_{i=1}^{3} F^{i0}F_{i0} + \sum_{i\neq j} F^{ij}F_{ij}$$
$$= 2\left(\mathbf{B}^{2} - \mathbf{E}^{2}\right)$$

Therefore, $\mathbf{B}^2 - \mathbf{E}^2$ is invariant under Lorentz transformations.

- The determinant of *F* is invariant.

$$\det F = (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B})^2$$

Thus $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ is also an invariant.

- The determinant of any second-rank tensor is scalar, since

$$\det A_{\alpha\beta} = \det \tilde{\Lambda}_{\alpha}^{\ \mu} \tilde{\Lambda}_{\beta}^{\ \nu} A'_{\mu\nu}$$
$$= \left(\det \tilde{\Lambda}\right)^{2} \det A'_{\mu\nu}$$
$$= \det A'_{\mu\nu}$$

[Relativistic Mechanics and the Lorentz Four-Force]

• We can define a **four-acceleration** a^{μ} in exactly the same way as we obtained the four-velocity.

$$a^{\mu} \equiv \frac{dU^{\mu}}{d\tau}$$

Note that the four-acceleration and four-velocity are orthogonal:

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{U} \equiv \frac{dU^{\mu}}{d\tau} U_{\mu} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{d\tau} \left(U^{\mu} U_{\mu} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{d\tau} \left(-c^2 \right) = 0$$

• We can also define the **four-force** F^{μ} from the Lorentz force, so as to obtain a relativistic form of Newton's equation.

$$F^{\mu} \equiv m_0 a^{\mu} = \frac{dP^{\mu}}{d\tau}$$

$$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{P}}{d\tau} = \gamma \frac{d\vec{P}}{dt} = \gamma \left(\frac{1}{c} \frac{dE}{dt}, \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt}\right)$$

• Since $\mathbf{F}_{\text{Lorentz}} = q \left[\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \left(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} \right) \right]$, the **Lorentz four-force** should involve (1) the electromagnetic field tensor and (2) the four-velocity and should also be (3) a four-vector and (4) proportional to the charge of the particle. Therefore, the simplest possibility is

$$\left(F_{\text{Lorentz}}^{\mu} = \frac{q}{c} F^{\mu\nu} U_{\nu}\right)$$

• Let's check to see if it is indeed what we want.

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{v} = q\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

$$F_{\text{Lorentz}}^{0} = \frac{q}{c} F^{0\nu} U_{\nu} = \frac{q}{c} \sum_{i=1}^{3} E_{i} \gamma v_{i} = \frac{q}{c} \gamma \left(\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} \right) \longrightarrow \frac{dE}{dt} = q \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} : \text{conservation of energy}$$

The rate of change of particle energy is the mechanical work done on the particle by the field.

$$F_{\text{Lorentz}}^{1} = \frac{q}{c} F^{1\nu} U_{\nu} = \frac{q}{c} \left(F^{10} \left(-\gamma c \right) + F^{12} \gamma v_{2} + F^{13} \gamma v_{3} \right)$$

$$= \frac{q}{c} \gamma \left(E_{1}c + B_{3}v_{2} - B_{2}v_{3} \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{} \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q \left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} \right)$$

Therefore, we obtained the desired expression for the four-Lorentz force.

Note that the four-force is always orthogonal to the four-velocity:

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{U} = m_0 \left(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{U} \right) = 0$$

It implies that every four-force must have some velocity dependence, although this dependence might become negligible in the nonrelativistic limit.

For the Lorentz four-force, in particular, we find

$$\vec{F}_{\text{Lorentz}} \cdot \vec{U} = \frac{q}{c} F^{\mu\nu} U_{\mu} U_{\nu} = 0$$

because $F^{\mu\nu}$ is antisymmetric and $U_{\mu}U_{\nu}$ is symmetric.

Mathematical Formulae

Gamma function

$$\Gamma(x) \equiv \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt, \quad \Gamma(x) = (x-1)! = (x-1)\Gamma(x-2), \quad \Gamma(3/2) = \frac{1}{2}\Gamma(1/2) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

Euler-Mascheroni constant

$$\gamma \equiv \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{k} - \ln(n) \right) = -\int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-x} \ln x dx = 0.577215664901532$$

Modified Bessel function of the second kind

$$K_n(x) \equiv \frac{\Gamma(n+1/2)(2x)^n}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \frac{\cos t}{(t^2+x^2)^{n+1/2}} dt$$

(1)
$$0 < x < \sqrt{n+1}$$

$$K_n(x) \approx \begin{cases} -\ln\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - \gamma & \text{if } n = 0\\ \frac{\Gamma(n)}{2} \left(\frac{2}{x}\right)^n & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

(2)
$$x \gg |n^2 - 1/4|$$

$$K_n(x) \approx \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}}e^{-x}\left[1 + \frac{\left(4n^2 - 1\right)}{8x}\right]$$

Recurrence formulae

$$K_{n-1}(x) - K_{n+1}(x) = -\frac{2n}{x} K_n(x)$$
$$K_{n-1}(x) + K_{n+1}(x) = -2K'_n(x)$$

Integral formula

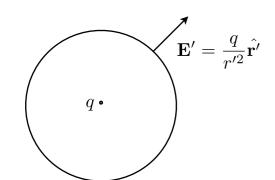
$$\int x K_n^2(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} x^2 \left[K_n^2(x) - K_{n-1}(x) K_{n+1}(x) \right]$$
$$= -x K_{n-1}(x) K_n(x) +$$
$$\frac{1}{2} x^2 \left[K_n^2(x) - K_{n-1}^2(x) \right]$$

[Fields of a Uniformly Moving Charge]

• Recall that the electromagnetic field from a single moving charge is given by

• The velocity field is caused by a motion of the charge relative to the observer frame. Hence, the velocity field would be obtained by Lorentz transforming the static electromagnetic field (Coulomb field).

• Let's find the fields of a charge moving with constant velocity v along the x axis. In the rest frame K' of the particle the fields are given by



Coulomb field in
$$K'$$

$$\mathbf{E}' = \frac{q}{r'^2}\hat{\mathbf{r}'}$$

$$\mathbf{E}' = \left(E'_x, E'_y, E'_z\right) = \frac{q}{r'^3}\left(x', y', z'\right) \quad \text{where} \quad r' = \left(x'^2 + y'^2 + z'^2\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\mathbf{B}' = (0, 0, 0)$$

Inverse transformation of the previous one:

$$egin{align*} \mathbf{E}_{\parallel} & \mathbf{E}_{\parallel}' & \mathbf{B}_{\parallel} = \mathbf{B}_{\parallel}' \ \mathbf{E}_{\perp} &= \gamma \left(\mathbf{E}_{\perp}' - oldsymbol{eta} imes \mathbf{B}'
ight) & \mathbf{B}_{\perp} = \gamma \left(\mathbf{B}_{\perp}' + oldsymbol{eta} imes \mathbf{E}'
ight) \end{split}$$

$$E_x = \frac{qx'}{r'^3} \qquad B_x = 0$$

$$E_y = \gamma \frac{qy'}{r'^3} \qquad B_y = -\gamma \beta \frac{qz'}{r'^3}$$

$$E_z = \gamma \frac{qz'}{r'^3} \qquad B_z = \gamma \beta \frac{qy'}{r'^3}$$

Now, we need to express these equations in terms of the unprimed coordinates. Since $x' = \gamma(x - vt), y' = y, z' = z$, we obtain

$$E_{x} = \gamma \frac{q(x - vt)}{r^{3}} \qquad B_{x} = 0$$

$$E_{y} = \gamma \frac{qy}{r^{3}} \qquad B_{y} = -\gamma \beta \frac{qz}{r^{3}}$$

$$E_{z} = \gamma \frac{qz}{r^{3}} \qquad B_{z} = \gamma \beta \frac{qy}{r^{3}}$$

where
$$r = \left[\gamma^2 (x - vt)^2 + y^2 + z^2\right]^2$$
 $(= r')$

Question:

Is this equivalent to the velocity field given by the Lienard-Wiechert potentials?

- Velocity field from the retarded potential

• For simplicity, assume z = 0.

$$\mathbf{E} = (E_x, E_y, E_z) = \gamma \frac{q}{r^3} (x - vt, y, z)$$

$$= \gamma \frac{q}{(\gamma^2 \bar{x}^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} (\bar{x}, y, 0) \quad \text{where } \bar{x} \equiv x - vt$$

Let us first find where the **retarded position** of the particle is.

$$t_{\text{ret}} \equiv t - R/c$$

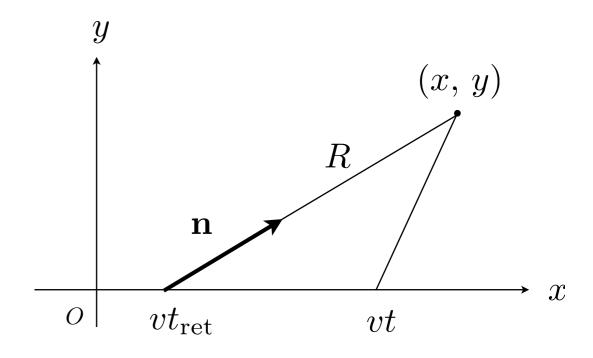
 $R^2 = (x - vt_{\text{ret}})^2 + y^2 = (\bar{x} + \beta R)^2 + y^2$

$$R \longrightarrow \frac{(1-\beta^2) R^2 - 2\bar{x}\beta R - \bar{x}^2 - y^2 = 0}{R^2 - 2\bar{x}\gamma^2\beta R - \gamma^2 (\bar{x}^2 + y^2) = 0}$$

$$R = \gamma^{2} \beta \bar{x} \pm \left[\gamma^{4} \beta^{2} \bar{x}^{2} + \gamma^{2} \left(\bar{x}^{2} + y^{2} \right) \right]^{1/2}$$

$$= \gamma^{2} \beta \bar{x} \pm \gamma \left[\gamma^{2} \beta^{2} \bar{x}^{2} + \left(\bar{x}^{2} + y^{2} \right) \right]^{1/2}$$

$$= \gamma^{2} \beta \bar{x} \pm \gamma \left(\gamma^{2} \bar{x}^{2} + y^{2} \right)^{1/2}$$



positive solution
$$\rightarrow R = \gamma^2 \beta \bar{x} + \gamma (\gamma^2 \bar{x}^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$$

• Let us first find where the **retarded position** of the particle is.

 $R = \gamma^2 \beta \bar{x} + \gamma \left(\gamma^2 \bar{x}^2 + y^2 \right)^{1/2}$

(1)
$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{(x - vt + vR/c)\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}}}{R}$$

$$= \frac{(\bar{x} + \beta R)}{R}\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{y}{R}\,\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\bar{x}}{R} + \beta\right)\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{y}{R}\,\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\mathbf{n} - \beta = \frac{\bar{x}}{R}\,\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{y}{R}\,\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \gamma \frac{qR}{(\gamma^2 \bar{x}^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} (\mathbf{n} - \beta)$$

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \beta = \beta^2 + \frac{\bar{x}}{R}\beta$$

$$\mathbf{v} \cdot (t - t_{ret}) = vR/c$$
(2)
$$(\gamma^2 \bar{x}^2 + y^2)^{1/2} = \frac{R - \gamma^2 \beta \bar{x}}{\gamma} = R\gamma \left(\frac{1}{\gamma^2} - \frac{\beta \bar{x}}{R}\right)$$

$$= R\gamma \left(1 - \beta^2 - \frac{\beta \bar{x}}{R}\right)$$

$$= R\gamma \left[1 - \beta \left(\frac{\bar{x}}{R} + \beta\right)\right]$$

$$= R\gamma (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \beta) = R\gamma\kappa$$

$$\mathbf{E} = q \frac{(\mathbf{n} - \beta)}{\gamma^2 \kappa^3 R^2}$$

$$= q \frac{(\mathbf{n} - \beta)(1 - \beta^2)}{\kappa^3 R^2}$$

This is identical to the velocity field component!

- Time-dependence of the electric field at a point

• For simplicity, let us choose the field point to be at (0, b, 0). This involves no loss in generality. Then,

$$E_x = -\frac{q\gamma vt}{(\gamma^2 v^2 t^2 + b^2)^{3/2}} = -\frac{q}{b^2} \frac{\gamma vt/b}{(\gamma^2 v^2 t^2/b^2 + 1)^{3/2}}$$

$$E_y = \frac{q\gamma b}{(\gamma^2 v^2 t^2 + b^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{q\gamma}{b^2} \frac{1}{(\gamma^2 v^2 t^2/b^2 + 1)^{3/2}}$$

$$E_z = 0$$

$$E_z = 0$$

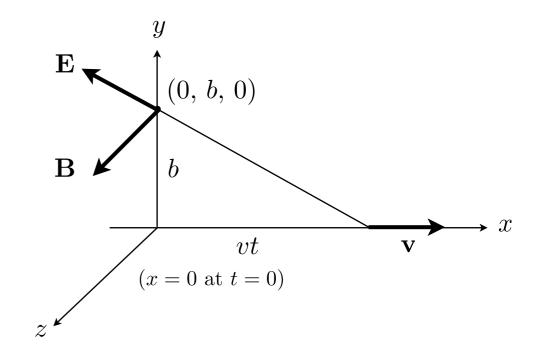
$$B_x = 0, \quad B_y = 0, \quad B_z = \beta E_y$$

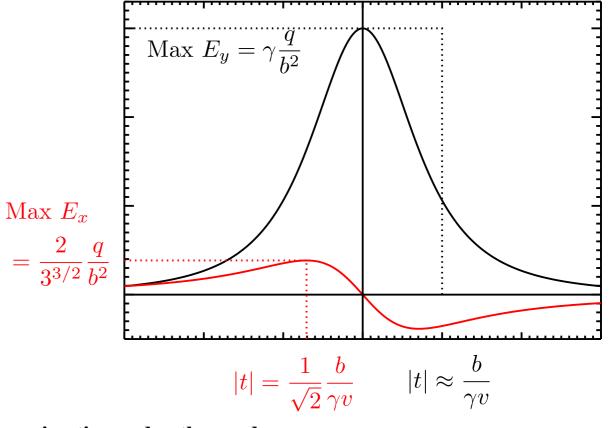
(1) The fields are strong only during a time interval of $|vt| \leq b/\gamma$, implying that the field of the moving charge are concentrated in the plane transverse to its motion into an angle of order $1/\gamma$.

$$\Delta\theta \approx v\Delta t/b \sim 1/\gamma$$

(2) As
$$\gamma \gg 1 \rightarrow |E_x|_{\text{max}} \ll |E_y|_{\text{max}}$$

The field of a highly relativistic charge appears to be a pulse of radiation traveling in the same direction as the charge and confined to the transverse plane.





see the animation and python code:

https://seoncafe.github.io/Teaching_files/2022b_astrophysics/ani_pulse.mp4 https://seoncafe.github.io/Teaching_files/2022b_astrophysics/plot_pulse.py

- Spectrum of the pulse

Spectrum of this pulse is given by (if the x-axis component is ignored)

$$\hat{E}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int E_y(t) e^{i\omega t} dt
= \frac{q\gamma b}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\gamma^2 v^2 t^2 + b^2)^{-3/2} e^{i\omega t} dt = \frac{q\gamma b}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} (\gamma^2 v^2 t^2 + b^2)^{-3/2} (e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}) dt
= \frac{q\gamma b}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} (\gamma^2 v^2 t^2 + b^2)^{-3/2} \cos \omega t dt$$

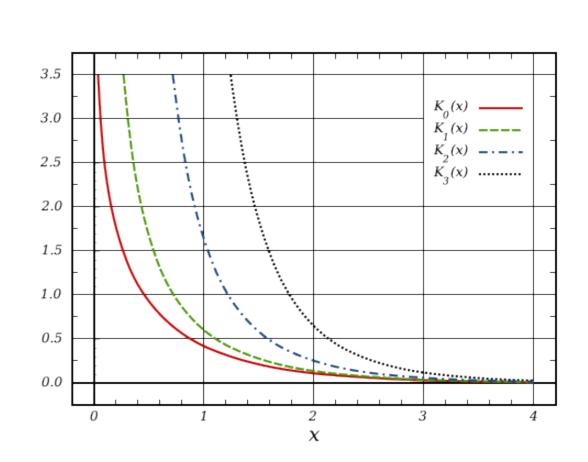
This integral can be done in terms of the modified Bessel function:

$$K_n(x) \equiv \frac{\Gamma(n+1/2)(2x)^n}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \frac{\cos t}{(t^2+x^2)^{n+1/2}} dt$$
 Gamma function: $\Gamma(3/2) = \frac{1}{2}\Gamma(1/2) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$

$$\hat{E}(\omega) = \frac{q\gamma b}{\pi} \left(\frac{\gamma^2 v^2}{\omega^2}\right)^{-3/2} \frac{1}{\omega} \int_0^\infty \left(\omega^2 t^2 + \frac{b^2 \omega^2}{\gamma^2 v^2}\right)^{-3/2} (\cos \omega t) d(\omega t)$$
$$= \frac{q}{\pi b v} \frac{b\omega}{\gamma v} K_1 \left(\frac{b\omega}{\gamma v}\right)$$

Thus the spectrum is

$$\frac{dW}{dAd\omega} = c \left| \hat{E}(\omega) \right|^2 = \frac{q^2}{\pi^2 b^2 v^2} \left(\frac{b\omega}{\gamma v} \right)^2 K_1^2 \left(\frac{b\omega}{\gamma v} \right)$$



• The spectrum starts cut off for $\omega > \gamma v/b$.

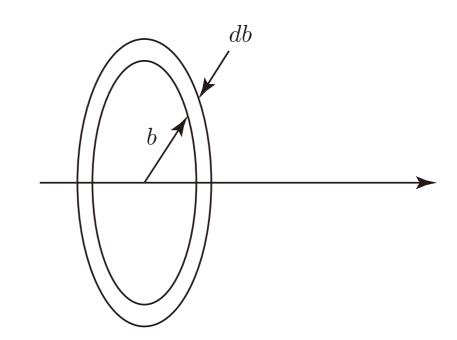
This is predicted from the uncertainty principle, since the pulse is confined roughly to a time interval of order $\Delta t \approx b/\gamma v$.

$$\Delta\omega \sim \frac{1}{\Delta t} \sim \gamma v/b$$

• Total energy per unit frequency range is obtained by

$$\frac{dW}{d\omega} = 2\pi \int_{b_{\min}}^{b_{\max}} \frac{dW}{dAd\omega} bdb$$

$$b_{\text{max}} \to \infty$$
, $b_{\text{min}} \neq 0$ (a finite value)



The lower limit has been chosen not as zero but as some minimum distance b_{\min} , such that the approximation of the field by means of classical electrodynamics and a point charge is valid.

$$\frac{dW}{d\omega} = \frac{2q^2c}{\pi v^2} \int_x^\infty y K_1^2(y) dy$$

$$= \frac{2q^2c}{\pi v^2} \left[xK_0(x)K_1(x) - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \left(K_1^2(x) - K_0^2(x) \right) \right] \quad \text{where} \quad y \equiv \frac{\omega b}{\gamma v} \text{ and } x \equiv \frac{\omega b_{\min}}{\gamma v}$$

• Two limiting cases:

$$(1) \quad \omega \ll \frac{\gamma v}{b_{\min}} \quad (x \ll 1),$$

$$xK_0(x)K_1(x) - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \left(K_1^2(x) - K_0^2(x)\right)$$

$$\approx x \left(-\ln(x/2) - \gamma\right) \frac{1}{x} - \frac{x^2}{2} \left[\frac{1}{x^2} - (\ln(x/2) + \gamma)^2\right]$$

$$\approx \ln\left[\frac{2}{x}e^{-(\gamma+1/2)}\right]$$

$$= \ln\left(\frac{0.68}{x}\right)$$

$$\omega \ll \frac{\gamma v}{b_{\min}}$$

$$\frac{dW}{d\omega} = \frac{2q^2c}{\pi v^2} \ln\left(0.68\frac{\gamma v}{\omega b_{\min}}\right)$$

$$= \ln\left(\frac{0.68}{x}\right)$$

$$(2) \quad \omega \gg \frac{\gamma v}{b_{\min}} \quad (x \gg 1),$$

$$xK_0(x)K_1(x) - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \left(K_1^2(x) - K_0^2(x)\right)$$

$$\approx x\frac{\pi}{2x}e^{-2x} - \frac{1}{2}x^2\frac{\pi}{2x}e^{-2x} \left[\left(\frac{3}{8x}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{8x}\right)^2\right] \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \omega \gg \frac{\gamma v}{b_{\min}} \\ \frac{dW}{d\omega} = \frac{q^2c}{2v^2} \exp\left(-\frac{2\omega b_{\min}}{\gamma v}\right) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{4}e^{-2x}$$

[Emission from Relativistic Particles]

• Total emitted power:

Imagine an instantaneous rest frame K', such that the particle has zero velocity at a certain time. We can then calculate the radiation emitted by use of the dipole (Larmor) formula.

Suppose that the particle emits a total amount of energy dW' in this frame in time dt'. The momentum of this radiation is zero, $d\mathbf{p}' = 0$, because the emission is symmetrical in the frame.

The energy in a frame K moving with velocity $-\mathbf{v}$ w.r.t. the particle is:

$$dW = \gamma dW' \qquad \longleftarrow \qquad dE = cdP^0 = c\tilde{\Lambda}^0{}_\mu dP'^\mu = c\tilde{\Lambda}^0{}_0 dP^0 = \gamma dE'$$

The time interval dt is simply

$$dt = \gamma dt'$$

The total power emitted in frames K and K' are given by

$$P = \frac{dW}{dt}, \quad P' = \frac{dW'}{dt'}$$

Thus **the total emitted power is a Lorentz invariant** for any emitter that emits with front-back symmetry in its instantaneous rest frame.

$$P = P'$$

• The Larmor formula in covariant form:

Recall that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{U} = 0$, and because $\vec{U} = (c, 0)$ in the instantaneous rest frame of the particle, we have

$$a'_0 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad |\mathbf{a}'|^2 = a'_k a'^k = a'_\mu a'^\mu = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}$$

Therefore,

$$P' = \frac{2q^2}{3c^3} |\mathbf{a}'|^2 \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad P = \frac{2q^2}{3c^3} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}$$
nonrelativistic
relativistic

• Expression of P in terms of the three-vector acceleration

Recall

$$dt = \gamma \left(dt' + \frac{v}{c^2} dx'_{\parallel} \right)$$

$$u_{\parallel} = \frac{u'_{\parallel} + v}{1 + v u'_{\parallel} / c^2}$$

$$u_{\perp} = \frac{u'_{\perp}}{\gamma \left(1 + v u'_{\parallel} / c^2 \right)}$$

$$u_{\perp} = \frac{u'_{\perp} + v}{\gamma \left(1 + v u'_{\parallel} / c^2 \right)}$$

$$u_{\perp} = \frac{u'_{\perp} + v}{\sigma}$$

$$u_{\perp} = \frac{u'_{\perp}}{\gamma \sigma}$$

$$dt = \gamma dt' \sigma$$

$$\sigma \equiv \left(1 + vu'_{\parallel}/c^{2}\right) \longrightarrow du_{\parallel} = \frac{du'_{\parallel}}{\sigma} - \frac{u'_{\parallel} + v}{\sigma^{2}} \frac{v}{c^{2}} du'_{\parallel}$$

$$dt = \gamma dt' \sigma$$

$$u_{\parallel} = \frac{u'_{\parallel} + v}{\sigma}$$

$$u_{\parallel} = \frac{u'_{\perp}}{\sigma^{2}} \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right) = \frac{du'_{\parallel}}{\gamma^{2} \sigma^{2}}$$

$$du_{\perp} = \frac{du'_{\perp}}{\gamma \sigma} - \frac{u'_{\perp}}{\gamma \sigma^{2}} \frac{v}{c^{2}} du'_{\parallel}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\gamma \sigma^{2}} \left(\sigma du'_{\perp} - \frac{vu'_{\perp}}{c^{2}} du'_{\parallel}\right)$$

Hence,

Transformation of three-vector acceleration:

$$a_{\parallel} = \frac{du_{\parallel}}{dt} = \frac{1}{\gamma^{3}\sigma^{3}} \frac{du'_{\parallel}}{dt'}$$

$$a_{\perp} = \frac{du_{\perp}}{dt} = \frac{1}{\gamma^{2}\sigma^{3}} \left(\sigma \frac{du'_{\perp}}{dt'} - \frac{vu'_{\perp}}{c^{2}} \frac{du'_{\parallel}}{dt'} \right)$$

$$a_{\perp} = \frac{1}{\gamma^{2}\sigma^{3}} \left(\sigma a'_{\perp} - \frac{vu'_{\perp}}{c^{2}} a'_{\parallel} \right)$$

$$a_{\perp} = \frac{1}{\gamma^{2}\sigma^{3}} \left(\sigma a'_{\perp} - \frac{vu'_{\perp}}{c^{2}} a'_{\parallel} \right)$$

$$\text{where} \quad \sigma \equiv \left(1 + \frac{vu'_{\parallel}}{c^{2}} \right)$$

$$a_{\parallel} = \frac{1}{\gamma^3 \sigma^3} a'_{\parallel}$$

$$a_{\perp} = \frac{1}{\gamma^2 \sigma^3} \left(\sigma a'_{\perp} - \frac{v u'_{\perp}}{c^2} a'_{\parallel} \right)$$
 where
$$\sigma \equiv \left(1 + \frac{v u'_{\parallel}}{c^2} \right)$$

In an instantaneous rest frame of a particle,

$$u'_{\parallel} = u'_{\perp} = 0, \quad \sigma = 1$$

$$a'_{\parallel} = \gamma^3 a_{\parallel}$$
$$a'_{\perp} = \gamma^2 a_{\perp}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} a'_{\parallel} = \gamma^3 a_{\parallel} \\ a'_{\perp} = \gamma^2 a_{\perp} \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{Note} \left(\tan \theta'_a \equiv \frac{a'_{\perp}}{a'_{\parallel}} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{a_{\perp}}{a_{\parallel}} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \tan \theta_a \right)$$

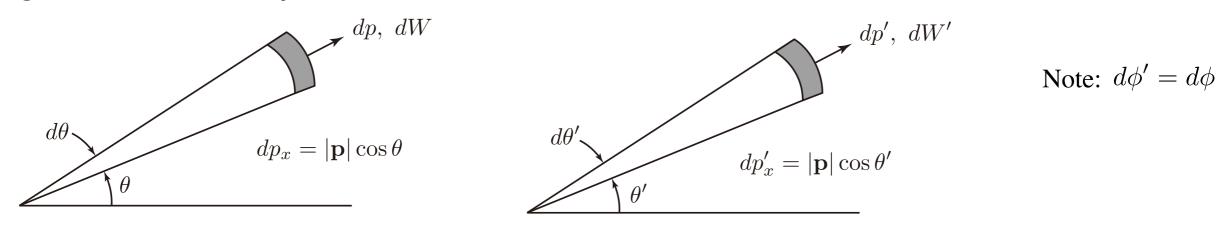
Thus we can write

$$P = \frac{2q^2}{3c^3} |\mathbf{a}'|^2 = \frac{2q^2}{3c^3} \left(a''_{\parallel}^2 + a'^2_{\perp} \right) \longrightarrow \qquad \qquad P = \frac{2q^2}{3c^3} \gamma^4 \left(\gamma^2 a_{\parallel}^2 + a_{\perp}^2 \right)$$

nonrelativistic relativistic

Differential Power

Angular Distribution of Emitted and Received Power



In the instantaneous rest frame of the particle, let us consider an amount of energy dW' that is emitted into the solid angle $d\Omega' = \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi'$ (see the above figure).

$$\mu \equiv \cos \theta \quad \to \quad d\Omega = d\mu d\phi$$
$$\mu' \equiv \cos \theta' \quad \to \quad d\Omega' = d\mu' d\phi'$$

Recall the aberration formula:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\cos \theta' + \beta}{1 + \beta \cos \theta'} \quad \to \quad \mu = \frac{\mu' + \beta}{1 + \beta \mu'} \quad \to \quad \mu' = \frac{\mu - \beta}{1 - \beta \mu}$$

$$d\mu = \frac{d\mu'}{\gamma^2 (1 + \beta \mu')^2}$$

$$d\mu' = \frac{d\mu}{\gamma^2 (1 - \beta \mu)^2}$$

$$d\Omega = \frac{d\Omega'}{\gamma^2 (1 + \beta \mu')^2}$$

$$d\Omega' = \frac{d\Omega}{\gamma^2 (1 - \beta \mu)^2}$$

Recall that energy and momentum form a four-vector

$$\vec{P} = (E/c, \mathbf{p})$$
 and $|\mathbf{p}| = E/c$ \longrightarrow $dW = \gamma (dW' + vdp'_x) = \gamma (1 + \beta \mu')dW'$
 $\therefore dW = \gamma (1 + \beta \mu')dW', dW' = \gamma (1 - \beta \mu)dW$

$$\left(\frac{dW}{d\Omega} = \gamma^3 \left(1 + \beta \mu' \right)^3 \frac{dW'}{d\Omega'}, \quad \frac{dW'}{d\Omega'} = \gamma^3 \left(1 - \beta \mu \right)^3 \frac{dW}{d\Omega} \right)$$

In the rest frame, the power emitted in a unit time interval is $\frac{dP'}{d\Omega'} \equiv \frac{dW'}{dt'd\Omega'}$

However, in the observer's frame, there are two possible choices for the time interval to calculate the power.

(1) $dt = \gamma dt'$:

This is the time interval during which the emission occurs. With this choice we obtain **the emitted power**.

(2)
$$dt_A = \gamma (1 - \beta \mu) dt'$$
 or $dt_A = \gamma^{-1} (1 + \beta \mu')^{-1} dt'$:

This is the time interval of the radiation as received by a stationary observer in K. With this choice we obtain **the received power**.

• Thus we obtain the two results:

$$\frac{dP_e}{d\Omega} = \gamma^2 \left(1 + \beta \mu'\right)^3 \frac{dP'}{d\Omega'} = \frac{1}{\gamma^4 \left(1 - \beta \mu\right)^3} \frac{dP'}{d\Omega'}$$

$$\frac{dP_r}{d\Omega} = \gamma^4 \left(1 + \beta \mu'\right)^4 \frac{dP'}{d\Omega'} = \frac{1}{\gamma^4 \left(1 - \beta \mu\right)^4} \frac{dP'}{d\Omega'}$$

 P_r is the power actually measured by an observer. It has the expected symmetry property of yielding the inverse transformation by interchanging primed and unprimed variables, along with a change of sign of β .

 P_e is used in the discussion of emission coefficient.

In practice, the distinction between emitted and received power is often not important, since they are equal in an average sense for stationary distributions of particles.

• Beaming effect:

If the radiation is isotropic in the particle's frame, then the angular distribution in the observer's frame will be highly peaked in the forward direction for highly relativistic velocities.

The factor $\gamma^{-4} (1 - \beta \mu)^{-4}$ is sharply peaked near $\theta \approx 0$ with an angular scale of order $1/\gamma$.

$$\gamma^{-4} \left(1 - \beta \mu \right)^{-4} \approx \gamma^{-4} \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} \right) \left(1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2} \right) \right]^{-4} = \gamma^{-4} \left(\frac{1}{2\gamma^2} + \frac{\theta^2}{2} \right)^{-4} = \left(\frac{2\gamma}{1 + \gamma^2 \theta^2} \right)^{4}$$