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Electromagnetism H.W. # ⑮

① Problem 32.1 in J. Schwinger et. al.

Answer:  $\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{m^3 c^5}{q^4 B^2}$

for  $B = 10^4$  gauss:

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = 2.58 \text{ sec}$$

The evaluation of the number will be a good exercise in working with Gaussian units.

② Problem 32.2 in J. Schwinger et. al.

Answer:  $\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{m c^3}{q^2 \omega_0^2}$

for  $\omega_0 = 10^{15} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ ,  $\frac{1}{\tau} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ sec}.$

③ Problem 32.3 in J. Schwinger et. al.

Answer:  $T = \frac{q}{4} \frac{m^2 c^3 r_0^3}{q^4}$

for  $r_0 = 10^{-8} \text{ cm}$ ,  $T \sim 10^{-9} \text{ sec}.$

(Hint: (i) Integral on  $E$  of the form  $\int \frac{dE}{E^4}$ .

(ii) Total energy of the electron in an atomic orbit is negative.)

$$\phi \sim \frac{1}{r^3} \quad (32.45)$$

gradient of this is inversely proportional to

$$\nabla \phi \sim \frac{e}{r^3} \mathbf{r}, \quad (32.46)$$

in computing the radiation fields, which the vector potential alone determines the radiation field

$$\sim -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}, \quad (32.47)$$

$$= \nabla \times \mathbf{A}. \quad (32.48)$$

Eq. (32.43) enforces the transversality of these fields. Since  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$ , we recover the scalar Maxwell

$$\text{and } \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad (32.49)$$

the relations

$$\text{and } \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad (32.50)$$

from (32.47) and (32.48).

To find the vector potential, we first write the solution to (32.41)

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -4\pi\rho, \quad (32.51)$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{1}{\nabla^2} 4\pi \nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}. \quad (32.52)$$

2) as

$$\phi = \frac{\pi}{c} \left( 1 - \frac{\nabla \nabla}{\nabla^2} \right) \cdot \mathbf{j}, \quad (32.53)$$

condition (32.43) transparent. The solution is obtained at of (31.20) by applying the operator

$$1 - \frac{\nabla \nabla}{\nabla^2} \quad (32.54)$$

$$\int (d\mathbf{r}') \frac{\frac{1}{c} \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}', t - \frac{1}{c} |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}. \quad (32.55)$$

At large distances, by making use of (32.1) and (32.6), we have effectively the replacement

$$\nabla \rightarrow -\frac{\mathbf{n}}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \quad (32.56)$$

so that the operator  $1 - \nabla \nabla / \nabla^2$  can be replaced by

$$1 - \frac{\nabla \nabla}{\nabla^2} \rightarrow 1 - \frac{\left(-\frac{\mathbf{n}}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \left(-\frac{\mathbf{n}}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)}{\left(-\frac{\mathbf{n}}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)^2} = 1 - \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}. \quad (32.57)$$

Notice that this symbolic notation is convenient when  $1/\nabla^2$  can be computed simply. By making use of (32.11) and (32.1), we obtain the asymptotic form of the vector potential, in the radiation gauge, to be

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) &\sim (1 - \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \frac{1}{cr} \int (d\mathbf{r}') \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}', t_r) \\ &= -\mathbf{n} \times \left[ \mathbf{n} \times \frac{1}{cr} \int (d\mathbf{r}') \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}', t_r) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (32.58)$$

The resulting electric and magnetic fields are precisely the same as those found in the Lorentz gauge, (32.7) and (32.12).

## 32.6 Problems for Chapter 32

1. A particle, of charge  $e$  and mass  $m$ , moves with speed  $v$ ,  $v/c \ll 1$ , in a uniform magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ . Suppose the motion is confined to the plane perpendicular to  $\mathbf{B}$ . Calculate the power radiated  $P$  in terms of  $B$  and  $v$ , and show that

$$P = -\frac{dE}{dt} = \gamma E,$$

where  $E$  is the energy of the particle, and find  $\gamma$ . Since then

$$E(t) = E(0)e^{-\gamma t},$$

$1/\gamma$  is the mean lifetime of the motion. For an electron, find  $1/\gamma$  in seconds for a magnetic field of  $10^4$  gauss.

2. A nonrelativistic particle of charge  $e$  and mass  $m$  moves in a Hooke's law potential (a linear oscillator) with natural frequency  $\omega_0$ . Again find  $P$ , the power radiated. Recall that for such motion, the time-averaged kinetic and potential energy satisfy

$$\bar{T} = \bar{V} = \frac{1}{2} E.$$

Show then that the power radiated, averaged over one cycle is

$$P = -\frac{dE}{dt} = \gamma E,$$

and find  $\gamma$ . Compute  $1/\gamma$  in seconds when  $\omega_0$  is  $10^{15} \text{ sec}^{-1}$  (a characteristic atomic frequency, corresponding to visible light).

3. An electron of charge  $e$  and mass  $m$  moves in a circular orbit under Coulomb forces produced by a proton. The average potential energy is related to the total energy by

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \bar{V}.$$

Suppose, as it radiates, the electron continues to move on a circle, and calculate the power radiated, and thereby  $-dE/dt$ , as a function of  $E$  (the relation is no longer linear). Integrate this result, and find how long it takes for the energy to change from  $E_2$  to  $E_1$ . In a finite time the electron reaches the center, so calculate how long it takes the electron to hit the proton if it starts from an initial radius of

$$r_{\text{initial}} = 10^{-8} \text{ cm.}$$

(This instability was one of the reasons for the discovery of quantum mechanics.)

- Derive the alternative form for the angular distribution of radiated power, (32.18),

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \left( \left[ \int (d\mathbf{r}') \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}', t_r) \right]^2 - \left[ \int (d\mathbf{r}') \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(\mathbf{r}', t_r) \right]^2 \right).$$

## Chapter 33

# Radiation—Source View

### 33.1 Conservation of Energy

Having examined the radiation fields, we turn to the source of the radiated energy. Enclose the charges to the electromagnetic field work on the field is

$$-\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2}{8\pi} \right)$$

which is the local statement of energy conservation over a large volume enclosing the source. Conservation of total energy follows:

$$\int (d\mathbf{r}) (-\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}) = \frac{d}{dt} \int (d\mathbf{r}) \frac{\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2}{8\pi} +$$

or stated in words, the rate at which the source does work on the electromagnetic field is equal to the rate of change of the electromagnetic energy,  $E$ , in the volume,  $V$ , of the surface bounding the volume. Equation (33.1) is useful for calculating the radiated power,  $P$ , by computing the work done by the fields,

$$\int (d\mathbf{r}) (-\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E})$$

and discarding the total time derivative term. From this point of view, we need the current distribution, in contrast to the procedure for computing the radiated power by evaluating the