

## Radiation of interacting charges

The instantaneous power of dipole radiation produced by a system of charged particles with an instantaneous total dipole moment  $\mathbf{d}$  is

$$P = \frac{2}{3c^3} \left| \frac{d^2 \mathbf{d}}{dt^2} \right|^2,$$

where  $c$  is the speed of light. Consider a pair of particles with masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ , charges  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ , total energy  $E$  and total angular momentum  $M = \mu r^2 d\phi/dt$  written in polar coordinate system  $(r, \phi)$  centered at the position of the system's center of mass;  $\mu = m_1 m_2 / (m_1 + m_2)$  is the reduced mass.

a) Calculate the dipole moment  $\mathbf{d}$  and the instantaneous radiated power of the two-charge system as a function of  $r$  [2.5 points]

b) Suppose that the interaction is attractive and such that the particles undergo continuous elliptical motion. The motion can then be described as the motion of a single particle with mass  $\mu$  along an elliptical trajectory given by

$$1 + \varepsilon \cos\phi = \frac{a(1 - \varepsilon^2)}{r},$$

where

$$a = \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{q_1 q_2}{E} \right| \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2|E|M^2}{\mu(q_1 q_2)^2}}.$$

Calculate the average power radiated by the particles (in terms of  $E$  and  $M$ ). [2.5 points]

c) Consider next two colliding particles that repel each other ( $q_1 q_2 > 0$ ). The trajectory in question is now hyperbolic and given by

$$1 - \varepsilon \cos\phi = \frac{a(1 - \varepsilon^2)}{r}.$$

Calculate the total energy radiated by the system, assuming that at infinity, the relative velocity of the particles is  $v_0$  and the distance between the two parallel lines along which the particles move is  $\rho$ . Evaluate this energy for  $\rho = 0$ . Note that  $E = \mu v_0^2 / 2$  and  $M = \mu \rho v_0$ . [5 points]

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left[ \frac{1}{(x^2 - 1)^{5/2}} \left( (2 + x^2) \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) - 3\sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right) \right] = \frac{4}{15}.$$

*Mathematical help:*

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