

experiment.⁷ We therefore believe that computations of the total cross section for a diffuse surface nucleus is of definite interest.

In conclusion we take this opportunity to thank I. A. Kropin and B. F. Chumakov for carrying out a large part of the numerical calculations.

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RADIATIVE CORRECTIONS TO BREMS-STRAHLUNG

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FEYNMAN'S method,¹ which is usually used to obtain radiative corrections, cannot be applied in practice to bremsstrahlung because of the much greater calculational difficulties than those encountered, for instance, in the application to the corrections to Compton scattering.² In the present work, we use the so-called mass-operator method,^{3,4} which has many advantages over the Feynman method.

The expression for the renormalized mass operator to the necessary order in e^2 has been obtained by Newton.⁴ Not only the mass operator, but also vacuum polarization contributes to the radiative corrections to bremsstrahlung. In order to avoid the infrared catastrophe, as usual, we make use of the fictitious photon mass λ . We eliminate λ from the final expression by adding to the usual bremsstrahlung cross section the cross section for double bremsstrahlung, when two photons are emitted simultaneously and the energy of one of these photons is less than some quantity ΔE determined by the accuracy of the measurement.

The total cross section is conveniently written in the form

$$d\sigma = d\sigma_0 [1 - (e^2/\pi)(\delta_R + \delta_D)], \quad e^2 = 1/137,$$

where $d\sigma_0$ is the cross section for the basic process and is given by the Bethe-Heitler formula,^{5,6} δ_R gives the radiative corrections, and δ_D gives the double bremsstrahlung.

Exact expressions for δ_R and δ_D , together with a description of the method by which they have been calculated, will be presented in a detailed article. Here we shall give only some limiting values of δ_R and δ_D . We choose units in which $\hbar = c = m = 1$, and make use of the following notation: \mathbf{p}_1 and ϵ_1 are the initial, and \mathbf{p}_2 and ϵ_2 are the final electron momentum and energy; \mathbf{k} and $\omega = \epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2$ are the momentum and energy of the emitted photon;

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa &= -2\omega(\epsilon_2 - p_2 \cos \theta_2), & \theta_2 &= \widehat{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{p}_2}; \\ \tau &= 2\omega(\epsilon_1 - p_1 \cos \theta_1), & \theta_1 &= \widehat{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{p}_1}; \\ \alpha &= \kappa + \tau; \end{aligned}$$

$$\rho = -2 + \alpha + 2(\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 - p_1 p_2 \cos \theta), \quad \theta = \widehat{\mathbf{p}_1 \mathbf{p}_2};$$

$$4 \sinh^2 x = \rho, \quad 4 \sinh^2 y = \rho - \alpha; \quad x h(x) = \int_0^x u \coth u \, du.$$

1. The limiting case of low frequencies ($\omega \varepsilon_1 \ll 1$). In this case

$$|\kappa|, \tau \ll 1, \quad \rho \approx 4p^2 \sin^2(\theta/2);$$

$$\delta_R = 2[1 - 2x \coth(2x)](\ln \lambda + 1) + x \tan x + 4x \coth(2x) \times [h(2x) - h(x)] + \frac{2x}{\sinh(2x)} \frac{\rho}{4\varepsilon^2 - \rho} + \omega(x) + O(\omega \varepsilon_1); \quad (1)$$

$$\delta_D = 2[1 - 2x \coth(2x)] \ln \frac{2\Delta E}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{v} \ln \frac{1-v}{1+v} + \frac{(1-v^2) \cosh(2x)}{v \sin \theta/2} G(v, \theta) + O(\omega \varepsilon_1); \quad (2)$$

where

$$G(v, \theta) = \int_{\cos(\theta/2)}^1 \frac{du}{(1-v^2 u^2)(u^2 - \cos^2(\theta/2))^{1/2}} \ln \frac{1+vu}{1-vu};$$

$$p_1 \approx p_2 = p, \quad \varepsilon_1 \approx \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon, \quad v = p/\varepsilon.$$

Here and below we use

$$\omega(x) = 2(1 - x \coth x)(1 - 1/3 \coth^2 x) - 2/9$$

to denote the contribution from vacuum polarization. Expressions (1) and (2) coincide, as may have been expected, with the radiative corrections to elastic scattering as calculated by Schwinger⁷ (see also Akhiezer and Berestetskii,⁶ Sec. 45).

2. The relativistic case (ε_1 and $\varepsilon_2 \gg 1$) with low energy losses ($\omega \ll \varepsilon_1$ and ε_2) at small angles (θ, θ_1 , and $\theta_2 \sim 1/\varepsilon \ll 1$; we note that at high energies it is just such small angles that give the main contribution). In this case

$$|\kappa| = -\kappa = \omega/\varepsilon_2 + \omega \varepsilon_2 \theta_2^2 \ll 1,$$

$$\tau = \omega/\varepsilon_1 + \omega \varepsilon_1 \theta_1^2 \ll 1, \quad \rho = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 \theta^2 \sim 1;$$

$$\delta_R = 2[1 - 2x \coth(2x)](\ln \lambda + 1) + x \tanh x + 4x \coth(2x) \times [h(2x) - h(x)] + \omega(x) + O(\kappa, \tau); \quad (3)$$

$$\delta_D = 2[1 - 2x \coth(2x)] \ln \frac{2\Delta E}{\lambda} - 4x \coth(2x) [h(2x) - h(x)] + 2 \ln(2\varepsilon) [2x \coth(2x) - 1] + O\left(\frac{\omega}{\varepsilon} \ln \varepsilon, \frac{\omega}{\varepsilon}\right). \quad (4)$$

It should be noted that cases 1 and 2 overlap in the region $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \gg 1$; $\omega \varepsilon_1 \ll 1$; $\theta, \theta_1, \theta_2 \sim 1/\varepsilon \ll 1$, and that in this region Eqs. (1) and (2) become (3) and (4).

3. In the extreme relativistic limit, when

$\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \omega \gg 1$; $\ln(\rho - \alpha), \ln \rho, \ln|\kappa|, \ln \tau \gg 1$, but

$$\ln \frac{\rho - \alpha}{|\kappa|}, \ln \frac{\rho - \alpha}{\tau}, \ln \frac{\rho}{|\kappa|}, \ln \frac{\rho}{\tau} \sim 1,$$

the quantities δ_R and δ_D are

$$\delta_R = 2(1 - 2y) \ln \lambda + 2y^2 - 3y + 4/3 x + O(1); \quad (5)$$

$$\delta_D = 2(1 - 2y) \ln \frac{2\Delta E}{\lambda} + 2y^2 - 2y \ln \frac{\rho - \alpha}{4\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2} - \ln \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 + O(1), \quad (6)$$

where

$$2x = \ln \rho, \quad 2y = \ln(\rho - \alpha).$$

In the nonrelativistic limit

$$\delta_R = 2/3 \{-(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2)^2 (\ln \lambda + 1/5) + 2(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2) \mathbf{k} \ln \omega\} + O(\rho^3); \quad (7)$$

$$\delta_D = 2/3 (\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2)^2 \left(\frac{5}{6} - \ln \frac{2\Delta E}{\lambda}\right) + O(\rho^3); \quad (8)$$

$$2\omega = p_1^2 - p_2^2.$$

In the limit as $\omega \rightarrow 0$ when $p_1 = p_2 = p$ these expressions lead to the nonrelativistic limit of the corrections to elastic scattering,⁷ namely

$$\delta_R + \delta_D = \frac{8}{3} p^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \left[\frac{19}{30} - \ln(2\Delta E) \right].$$

From (7) and (8) it follows that in the limit as $p_1 \rightarrow 0$, the corrections vanish.

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