

$$P_4 = i m \gamma c = i E / c$$

$$P_\mu = (\vec{p}, \frac{iE}{c})$$

momentum-energy 4-vector

$$\vec{p} = m \gamma \vec{v}$$

$$E = m \gamma c^2$$

For particles moving at non-relativistic speeds
 $v \ll c$

$$E = m \gamma c^2 = \frac{m c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \approx \frac{m c^2}{1 - \frac{v^2}{2c^2}} \approx m c^2 \left(1 + \frac{v^2}{2c^2} \right)$$

$$\approx m c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

\uparrow rest mass energy \uparrow non-relativistic kinetic energy

$\frac{dP_\mu}{ds} = K_\mu$ is therefore both the relativistic analogue of Newton's 2nd law, but also the law of conservation of energy (i.e. the work-energy theorem)

Conservation of momentum and energy

① why is relativistic momentum ~~not~~ $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$ and not just $m\vec{v}$ as in non-relativistic case?

Because we want momentum to be conserved in all frames of reference, \vec{p} must be the spatial part of a 4-vector. We see this as follows.

Suppose momentum was $m\vec{v}$. For a collection of particles, conservation of momentum would mean

$$(*) \quad \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i(t_1) = \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i(t_2)$$

for any times t_1 and t_2

If (*) holds in one frame of reference K , and we now transform to another frame of reference K' moving with velocity \vec{w} wrt K , we would find that in K' , (*) is no longer satisfied

$$\text{ii} \quad \sum_i m_i \vec{v}'_i(t_1) \neq \sum_i m_i \vec{v}'_i(t_2)$$

see Griffiths ~~chpt 10.2.2~~
example 12.6

\vec{v}'_i related to \vec{v}_i
and \vec{w} via relativistic
law for addition of
velocities

However, for the 4-momentum, if

$$P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = \sum_i P_{\mu i}(t_1) = \sum_i P_{\mu i}(t_2) = P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$$

in frame K , then $P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$ in any other frame K' , since $P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_1)$ and $P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$ both transform

the same way under Lorentz transf.

$$P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_1) = P_{\mu}^{\text{tot}}(t_2)$$

space components \Rightarrow momentum conservation holds in all frames
time component \Rightarrow energy conservation holds in all frames

② Why did we write Newton's eqn as $\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \vec{F}$, with $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$,

instead of $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{F}$ (as if used non-relativistic momentum)

If use $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{F}$, then $m\vec{v} \cdot \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F}$

$$\frac{1}{2} m d(v^2) = dt \vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} = d\vec{v} \cdot \vec{F} = dW$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} m \int d(v^2) = \int dW$$

$\frac{1}{2} m v^2 = W$ get non-relativistic kinetic energy

in this formulation, energy W is not the time component of any 4-vector. Therefore if energy was conserved in one frame K , it need not be conserved in another frame K' !

Only when we take $\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \vec{F}$ with $\vec{p} = m\gamma\vec{v}$

do we get $\int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = m\gamma c^2 = p_0 c$ - time component of a 4-vector

\Rightarrow energy conservation holds in all reference frames

Lorentz force in relativistic form

$$\frac{dP^\mu}{ds} = K^\mu$$

What is the K^μ that represents the Lorentz force?
And how can we write it in a Lorentz covariant way?

K^μ should depend on the fields $F_{\mu\nu}$ and on the particle's trajectory x_μ

as $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$ $\vec{K} = q\vec{E}$ (since magnetic force $\rightarrow 0$ as $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$)

K^μ can't depend directly on x_μ as the force should be independent of where one puts the origin of the coordinates.
So K^μ can depend only on derivatives \dot{x}_μ , \ddot{x}_μ , etc.

As $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$, \vec{K} does not depend on the acceleration, so \vec{K} does not depend on \ddot{x}_μ or higher derivatives.

So K^μ depends only on $F_{\mu\nu}$ and \dot{x}_μ

We need to form a 4-vector out of $F_{\mu\nu}$ and \dot{x}_μ that is linear in the fields $F_{\mu\nu}$ and proportional to the charge q . (since we want superposition to hold.)

The only possibility is

$$K^\mu = q f(\dot{x}_\mu^2) F_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}_\nu$$

where $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2)$ is some function of \dot{x}_μ^2 .

But $\dot{x}_\mu^2 = -c^2$ is a constant, so $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2)$ is a constant. That constant, $f(\dot{x}_\mu^2) = 1$, is determined by the requirement that $\vec{K} = q\vec{E}$ as $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$.

So we have

$$K_\mu = q F_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}_\nu$$

Let's check what this gives for the ordinary 3-force

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \vec{K}$$

its component $F_i = \frac{1}{\gamma} K_i = \frac{q}{\gamma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 F_{ij} \dot{x}_j + F_{i4} \dot{x}_4 \right)$

sub in for F_{ij} in terms of A $= \frac{q}{\gamma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 \left(\frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \dot{x}_j + \frac{iE_i}{c} (i c \gamma) \right)$
 use $x_4 = i c \gamma$ since $F_{i4} = -\frac{iE_i}{c}$

Now $\frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} = \epsilon_{ijk} B_k$

proof: $\epsilon_{ijk} B_k = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{k\ell m} \frac{\partial A_m}{\partial x_\ell}$ (using ϵ_{ijk} notation to take $\vec{v} \times \vec{A}$)

$$= (\delta_{i\ell} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{im} \delta_{j\ell}) \frac{\partial A_m}{\partial x_\ell}$$

$$= \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j}$$

use $\dot{x}_j = \gamma v_j$

So $F_i = \frac{q}{\gamma} \sum_{j=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} B_k \gamma v_j + \frac{q}{\gamma} E_i \gamma$

$$= q \sum_{j=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} B_k v_j + q E_i$$

$$= q E_i + q (\vec{v} \times \vec{B})_i$$

$$\text{so } \boxed{\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \vec{K}$$

The Lorentz force has the same form in all inertial frames.
No relativistic modification is needed

Relativistic Larmor's formula

non relativistic result was

$$P = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2}{3} \frac{q^2}{c^3} a^2$$

total power radiated by
particle with acceleration \vec{a}
assuming $v \ll c$

Now consider a particle moving with any speed v .

Consider the inertial frame of reference in which that particle
is instantaneously at rest. Call this frame K . The
velocity in this frame is thus $\vec{v} = 0$, and the charge is at
the origin ~~of the~~ $\vec{r} = 0$.

The power radiated, as seen in the frame K , is then exactly

$$\dot{P} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2}{3} \frac{q^2}{c^3} \dot{a}^2$$

where \dot{a} is the acceleration
in frame K .

This result is exact because as $v/c \rightarrow 0$ all terms
higher than the electric dipole term will vanish.

What we need to do is to find the way to Lorentz
transform the result \dot{P} and find its value in
any other frame of reference, in which the
particle is moving with any velocity \vec{v} .

Consider the momentum-energy 4-vector
describing the total momentum and total energy
of the electromagnetic fields ~~of the charge~~
radiated by the charge.

in frame K^0 we can write this as

$$\left(\vec{P}_{EM}^0, \frac{iE^0}{c} \right)$$

$$\text{Now } \vec{P}_{EM}^0 = \int d^3r^0 \epsilon_0 \vec{E}^0 \times \vec{B}^0$$

But since the radiated fields are in the radial direction \hat{r}^0 , when we integrate over all space we find $\vec{P}_{EM}^0 = 0$.

Alternatively you have from homework, for a charge moving with small velocity \vec{v} , $\vec{P}_{EM} = \frac{4}{3} \frac{U}{c^2} \vec{v}$.
So when $\vec{v} \rightarrow 0$, $\vec{P}_{EM} \rightarrow 0$.

So in frame K^0 the momentum energy 4-vector is

$$\left(0, \frac{iE^0}{c} \right)$$

In a new frame of reference K that moves with velocity $-\vec{v}$ with respect to K^0 (in frame K , the charge is moving with velocity \vec{v})

the energy in frame K is obtained by the transformation law for 4-vectors

$$\frac{iE}{c} = \gamma \left(\frac{iE^0}{c} + \frac{iv}{c} P_{EM1}^0 \right)$$

where P_{EM1}^0 is component of \vec{P}_{EM}^0 in direction of \vec{v} . But $\vec{P}_{EM}^0 = 0$

$$\text{So } \vec{i} \frac{\vec{E}}{c} = \gamma \vec{i} \frac{\vec{E}^{\circ}}{c} \Rightarrow \vec{E} = \gamma \vec{E}^{\circ}$$

Similarly, if we take the origins of K and K° to coincide at the time when we are measuring the radiated power, then time transforms as

$$t = \gamma t^{\circ} + \frac{v}{c^2} \gamma x_1^{\circ} \quad \text{where } x_1^{\circ} \text{ is position of charge in direction of } \vec{v}$$

But charge is at origin in K° so $x_1^{\circ} = 0$

$$\text{So } t = \gamma t^{\circ} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{since charge is not moving in } K^{\circ}, \\ dt^{\circ} \text{ is really the proper time } d\tau, \text{ so} \\ \text{this is the factor } \frac{dt}{\gamma} = d\tau \end{array} \right)$$

The Power radiated in frame K is then

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{\gamma dE^{\circ}}{\gamma dt} \quad \text{transforming } \begin{array}{l} E = \gamma E^{\circ} \\ t = \gamma t^{\circ} \end{array} \\ &= \frac{dE^{\circ}}{dt^{\circ}} = P^{\circ} \end{aligned}$$

So the total radiated power is a Lorentz invariant scalar!

$$P = P^{\circ} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2}{3} q \frac{a^2}{c^3}$$

where a is acceleration of charge in its rest frame

We would like to rewrite P in a way that makes no explicit reference to the frame K .

ie we want to write a^2 in terms of a Lorentz invariant scalar that may be evaluated in any frame K .