Experiments on strong field QED in crystals (CERN NA43 and NA63)

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Strong fields

Motivation



What are the invariants?

 $\chi = \frac{\gamma \mathcal{E}}{\mathcal{E}_{\gamma}}$

Motion perpendicular to an electric field:



 $\mathcal{E}_0 = m^2 c^3 / e\hbar = 1.32 \times 10^{16} \text{ V/cm}$ $B_0 = 4.41 \times 10^9 \text{ T}$

Beamstrahlung

OT O

Electric field from one bunch boosted by $2\gamma^2$ as seen by the other

SLC:
$$\chi$$
 (or Υ) $\approx 10^{-3}$

NLC (ILC, CLIC): χ (or Υ) ≈ 1

Strong lasers



γγ-collision scheme (Telnov *et al.*) Laser wavelength (and γ energy) limited by non-linear Compton scattering χ (or Υ) ≈ 1

heavy ions



Superstrong field, but of short duration

$$\mathcal{E}_{1s}/\mathcal{E}_0 = \alpha^3 Z^3$$

Extended nucleus: $Z \approx 172$



Similar situations ?



Blankenbecler, Drell (PRD **36**, 277 (1987), Quantum treatment of beamstrahlung: "Pulse transforms into a very long narrow 'string' of *N* charges."



Density: 0.05 Å⁻³, of Z = 14



• Magnetars, $B \approx 10^{10}$ T, relativistic gyration:

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\hbarω/mc<sup>2</sup> = \sqrt{B/B_0}
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 Electrosphere of strange stars – possible signatures from suppressed radiation?



The strong magnetic field of the Earth







Strong fields in Crystals









'Super-critical' fields



Formation length





$$l_f = \frac{2\gamma^2 c}{\omega^*}$$
 with $\omega^* = \omega \frac{E}{E - \hbar \omega} \simeq \omega$,

High particle energy, low photon energy:

Long formation length

250 GeV e⁻, 1 GeV γ: 0.1 mm



NA63 experiment





BINARY COLLISION MODEL

$$\chi = \gamma \mathcal{E} / \mathcal{E}_0$$

 $\mathcal{E}_0=mc^2/e\lambda_c=1.32{\cdot}10^{16}\,\mathrm{V/cm}$



 $10^{11} - 10^{12} \text{ V/cm}$



Crystal on goniometer





Total length of setup: 65 m => good angular resolution (few µrad)



Strong crystalline fields

K. Kirsebom et al. | Nucl. Instr. and Meth. in Phys. Res. B 174 (2001) 274-296

- Critical fields can be simulated in a crystal.
- Example: Radiation emission in diamond (CERN NA43)





One of the complications -Setting up within a few days: Electronics, hardware, crystal target....



Strong crystalline fields

- Critical fields can be simulated in a crystal.
- Example: Pair production in Ge (CERN NA43)

Baier: W and Ir



Quantum synchrotron



PHYSICAL REVIEW

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χ << 1

On the Classical Radiation of Accelerated Electrons

JULIAN SCHWINGER Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (Received March 8, 1949)

We shall conclude this section by briefly examining under what conditions quantum phenomena will invalidate the classical considerations we have presented. This will occur when the momentum of the emitted quantum is comparable with the electron momentum. Hence, for the validity of our classical treatment, it is required that

$$\frac{E}{mc^2} \ll \frac{mc^2}{(e\hbar/mc)H},$$
 (II.56)

Classical synchrotron-radiation





Schwinger, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 1954; Berestetskii, Lifshitz, Pitaevskii

Quantum-synchrotron





Coherent and incoherent radiation from high-energy electron and the LPM effect in oriented single crystal

V.N. Baier*, V.M. Katkov

Physics Letters A 353 (2006) 91-97



Fig. 2. Enhancement (the ratio $L^{\text{BM}}/L^{\text{ef}}$) in tungsten, axis (111), T = 293 K. Curve 1 is for the target with thickness $l = 200 \,\mu\text{m}$, where the energy loss was taken into account (according with Eq. (24)). Curve 2 is for a considerably more thinner target, where one can neglect the energy loss ($L^{\text{ef}} \rightarrow L^{\text{cr}}$). The data are from [8].

Fig. 1. The inverse radiation length in tungsten, axis (111) at different temperatures *T* vs. the electron initial energy. Curves 1 and 4 are the total effect: $L^{cr}(\varepsilon)^{-1} = I(\varepsilon)/\varepsilon$ (Eq. (18)) for T = 293 K and T = 100 K correspondingly, the curves 2 and 5 give the coherent contribution $I^F(\varepsilon)/\varepsilon$ (Eq. (25)), Curves 3 and 6 give the incoherent contribution $I^{inc}(\varepsilon)/\varepsilon$ (Eq. (27)) at corresponding temperatures *T*.



Spin-flip





Spin-flip



$$B = \gamma \beta \mathcal{E}_{lab}$$

 $W_{\rm mag} = -\overline{\mu} \cdot \overline{B}$

 $\Delta W = e \hbar B / mc$

$$\mathcal{E}_0 = m^2 c^3 / e \hbar$$

$$\Delta W = \gamma^2 \beta \, \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\mathcal{E}_0} \, mc^2$$

Spin-flip



$$\Delta W = \gamma^2 \beta \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\mathcal{E}_0} mc^2 \left[\tau = \frac{8\hbar}{5\sqrt{3} \alpha m} \left(\frac{B_0}{B}\right)^3 \frac{1}{\gamma^2} = \frac{8\hbar}{5\sqrt{3} \alpha m} \frac{\gamma}{\chi^3} \right]$$

'Polarization time'

Similar situations



Blankenbecler, Drell (PRD **36**, 277 (1987), Quantum treatment of beamstrahlung: "Pulse transforms into a very long narrow 'string' of *N* charges."



Density: 0.05 Å⁻³, of Z = 14



Spin contr. to beamstrahlung



First Measurements of the Unique Influence of Spin on the Energy Loss of Ultrarelativistic Electrons in Strong Electromagnetic Fields



Trident production

 $e^- \rightarrow e^- e^+ e^-$

'Coherent pairs'

'Landau-Lifshitz process'





The combination zdw/dz for the pair electroproduction probability in amorphous Ge at the initial electron energy $\varepsilon = 180$ GeV. The dotted curves 1 and 4 are the contributions of two-photon diagrams Eq.(3), the dashed curves 2 and 5 are the contributions of cascade process Eq.(11), the solid curves 3 and 6 are the sum of two previous contributions for two thicknesses $l = 400 \ \mu m$ and $l = 170 \ \mu m$ respectively. For convenience the ordinate is multiplied by 10^3 .

Direct process dominates below 30 GeV



Electroproduction of electron-positron pair in a medium

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Aligned crystal



October 10, 2008

More about these and related effects in:



REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 77, OCTOBER 2005 1131

The interaction of relativistic particles with strong crystalline fields

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trident production in strong crystalline fields, in preparation (2008)

Thank you for your attention!