# External field QED calculations the method of Nikishov and Ritus et al

#### Anthony Hartin

Advanced QED for future colliders Workshop

Mar 3, 2009

Anthony Hartin The method of Nikishov and Ritus et al

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- Dressed momentum and mass shift

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- I work in natural units ħ, c = 1. I usually write scalar products of 4-vectors (kp)
- I often refer to dimensionless quantities like  $\frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2}$  just as  $\omega$

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Figure: External field 3 vectors and photon scattering angles.

 Interactions involving intense lasers are characterised usually involve a circularly polarized field

$$A_{\mu} = a_{1\mu}\cos(kx) + a_{2\mu}\sin(kx)$$



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These vectors form the coordinate system

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 For a general 4-vector Q<sub>μ</sub>

$$(kQ) = 0 \implies (a_1Q)^2 + (a_2Q)^2 = a^2Q^2$$

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- For constant crossed field,  $\omega \to 0 \ \frac{e^2 a^2}{m^2} \to \infty$
- The physically meaningful quantity is  $B = |\vec{a}_1|\omega$

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The Volkov solution is a solution of the second order Dirac equation containing the external potential

$$[(p - eA)^2 - m^2 - \frac{e}{2}\sigma^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}]\Psi = 0$$

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$$E_{p}(x) = \exp\left(\frac{e}{2(kp)}kA - iS(x)\right)$$
$$S(x) = -i\int_{0}^{k.x} \left[\frac{e(Ap)}{(kp)} - \frac{e^{2}A^{2}}{2(kp)}\right]d\phi$$

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> Expand the exponential term in a series and use k k = 0 and the Lorentz condition (Ak) = 0

$$\Psi_p^V(x) = \left(1 + \frac{e \not k \not A}{2(kp)}\right) \exp(iS(x))u(p)$$

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- The 'dressed' 4 momentum  $q_{\mu} \equiv p_{\mu} + \frac{e^2 a^2}{2k_{\mu}}$
- The mass shift is  $q^2 \equiv m^2 + e^2 a^2$
- The whole Volkov solution can be expressed in terms of the dressed momentum, since

$$(a_1q) = (a_1p), (kq) = (kp)$$

- Substitute particular  $A_{\mu}$  into the Volkov S function
- For a circularly polarised field we naturally get an interpretation in terms of photons and a mass shift

$$S(x) = -\left[ (px) + \frac{e^2 a^2}{2(kp)}(kx) + \frac{e(a_1p)}{(kp)}\sin(kx) - \frac{e(a_1p)}{(kp)}\cos(kx) \right]$$

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A discrete Fourier Transform of  $\exp(iS(x))$  gives contributions  $nk_{\mu}$ 

$$\exp(iS(x)) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F(n, nk_{\mu})$$

For a constant crossed field an interpretation in terms of external field photons is not required

$$S(x) = -[(px) + \frac{e(a_1p)}{2(kp)}(kx)^2 - \frac{e^2a^2}{6(kp)}(kx)^3]$$

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- Any mass shift  $p^2 = m^2 + e^2 a^2$  woud be problematic since  $e^2 a^2 \to \infty$
- A Fourier transform gives an integration over external field energy rather than a sum of contributions

$$\exp(iS(x)) = \int dr F(r) \exp(-ir(kx))$$

## Fermion propagator in the external potential

The Volkov solution can be written as a product of Volkov E functions and the bispinor

$$\Psi_p^V(x) \equiv E_p(x)u(p)$$

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The Volkov E function can be shown to have the properties of orthogonality and completeness (Ritus Ann Phys 69 555-582 (1970), Bergou and Varro, J Phys A 13, 2823)

$$\int d^4x \overline{E}_{p_f}(x) \underline{E}_{p_i}(x) = \delta(p_f - p_i)$$
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using these properties the fermion propagator in an external field can be written as the usual fermion propagator sandwiched between Volkov E functions

$$G(x_2, x_1) = \int d^4 p E_p(x_2) \frac{\not p + m}{p^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \overline{E}_p(x_1)$$



Figure: The 1st order vertex with an external field.



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$$\Gamma^e_{\mu} = \int d^4x \overline{E}_{p_f}(x) \gamma_{\mu} E_{p_i}(x) \exp(-i(k_f x))$$

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Substitute the Volkov E functions

$$(k.x)^{n} \exp(iS(x)) \ ; \ n = 0, 1, 2$$
$$S(x) = -\int_{0}^{(kx)} \left[\frac{e(Ap)}{(kp)} - \frac{e^{2}A^{2}}{2(kp)}\right] d\phi$$

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 To simplify the x dependence take the Fourier Transform
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Lets call the functions F, auxillary functionsOur modified vertex in momentum space is then

$$\Gamma_{\mu} = (2\pi)^4 \int dr E_p(r) \gamma_{\mu} E_{p_i}(r) \delta^4(p_f + k_f - p_i - rk)$$

### Explicit modified vertex

- When squaring a matrix function, we need to simplify products of F functions
- The F function are explicitly

$$\begin{split} F_n(r) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \exp(irt + i(aP)t^2 + i\frac{1}{3}Qt^3) \\ P^{\mu} &= \frac{e}{2} \left( \frac{p_f^{\mu}}{(kp_f)} - \frac{p_i^{\mu}}{(kp_i)} \right) \; ; \; Q = \frac{e^2a^2}{2} \frac{(kkf)}{(kp_i)(kp_f)} \end{split}$$

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After suitable change of variables we eliminate the t<sup>2</sup> term and the coefficient Q in the t<sup>3</sup> and the result is

$$\begin{split} F_0(r) &= Q^{-\frac{1}{3}}\mathsf{Ai}(z)\exp(-irQ^{-1}(aP))e^{-ir\frac{(aP)}{Q}}\\ F_1(r) &= Q^{-\frac{2}{3}}[Q^{-\frac{2}{3}}(aP)\mathsf{Ai}(z) - \mathsf{i}\;\mathsf{Ai'}(z)]e^{-ir\frac{(aP)}{Q}}\\ F_2(r) &= Q^{-\frac{4}{3}}[(2Q^{-1}(aP)^2 - r)\mathsf{Ai}(z) + \mathsf{i}\;2Q^{-\frac{1}{3}}(aP)\mathsf{Ai'}(z)]e^{-ir\frac{(aP)}{Q}}\\ \text{where } z &= Q^{-\frac{1}{3}}(r - Q^{-1}(aP)) \end{split}$$

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> Finally the modified vertex in a constant crossed field is

$$\begin{split} \Gamma^e_{\mu} &= \\ (2\pi)^4 \int dr \left[ \gamma_{\mu} F_0(r) + \frac{e}{2} \left( \frac{\not k k \gamma_{\mu}}{(kp_f)} - \frac{\gamma_{\mu} \not k k}{(kp_f)} \right) F_1(r) + \frac{e^2 a^2 k \gamma_{\mu} \not k}{4(kp_f)(kp_f)} F_2(r) \right] \end{split}$$

- The square of the matrix element and spin sums proceed as usual, resulting in a trace over gamma matrices
- Transition rate includes two integrations r, r' over contributions from the external field

$$dW = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{8\epsilon_i \epsilon_f \omega_f} \sum_{if} |\langle p_f k_f | iM | p_i \rangle|^2 \, dr dr' \, d^3 \vec{p}_f d^3 \vec{k}_f$$
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- We are left with integrations  $d\vec{k}_f$  and r'

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expressions

• We have as the beamstrahlung transition rate  $dW \propto Q^{-2/3} \frac{d\vec{k}_f}{\omega_f(kp_f)} [\text{Ai}^2(z) - e^2 a^2 Q^{-2/3}(2 + \frac{u^2}{1+u})$   $\cdot (z\text{Ai}^2(z) + \text{Ai}'^2(z))]e^{-ir'f(k_f^x)}$   $u = \frac{(kk_f)}{(kp_f)} \equiv g(k_f^z) \ ; \ z = h(k_f^y)$ • Solution Cartesian coordinates gives the simplest

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 Solution Cartesian coordinates gives the simplest expressions

- Integration over k<sup>x</sup><sub>f</sub> gives a delta function with respect to r'
- Consequently, integration of r' can be performed
- Integration over k<sup>y</sup><sub>f</sub> reduces products of Airy functions to a single Airy function using

$$\int \frac{dt}{\sqrt{t}} \mathsf{A} \mathsf{i}^2(t+a) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{2^{2/3}a}^{\infty} \mathsf{A} \mathsf{i}(y) dy$$

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Shift  $dk_z$  shifted to du

$$W = \frac{\alpha m^2}{\pi \sqrt{3}\epsilon_i} \int_0^\infty \frac{du}{(1+u)^2} \left[ \int_x (u)^\infty K_{5/3}(y) dy - \frac{u^2}{1+u} K_{2/3}(x(u)) \right]$$

## The Quantum Beamstrahlung expression

I want to compare finally the beamstrahlung Transition Rate obtained using the Nikishov-Ritus and Operator methods

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- > The Transition Rates (W) agree since the integration variable is just a variable from 0 to  $\infty$  in any case
- The Differential Transition Rates (dW) however are not the same
- In the limit of ultra-relativistic fermion, the radiation angle is very small

$$\frac{(kk_f)}{(kpi) - (kkf)} \rightarrow \frac{\omega_f}{\epsilon_i - \omega_f}$$
Approximately Harting The method of Nikishov and Bitus et al.

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- Use Volkov solutions for fermions in an external field
- Write the propagator in terms of Volkov E functions

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- Expressions simplified to functions of single Airy functions
- Comparison of Transition Rates between Operator and Nikishov-Ritus show agreement for ultra-relativistic fermions

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