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BREMSSTRAHLUNG RADIATION IN HIGH ENERGY PARTICLE
COLLISIONS IN THE VISIBLE REGION

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**Bremsstrahlung Radiation in High Energy Particle
Collisions in the Visible Region***

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Some features of bremsstrahlung radiation are reviewed for visible region photons with possible applications to ISA luminosity measurements.

It is generally known that in the low frequency region, radiation from fast moving charged particles interacting is an important component of the cross section because of the usual infrared catastrophe. We examine the bremsstrahlung radiation from high energy charged particles where the primary collision is of small angle and dominated by the 1 quantum exchange. The Feynman graphs are sketched in Fig. 1a. The soft photon has to be emitted both before and after the Rutherford one quantum exchange process to insure gauge invariance. One need not worry about interference between the graphs of Fig. 1a and 1b because the Pauli principle is not relevant here where the two particles, if identical, are well separated in momentum.

From the standard textbook formula - see Bjorken and Drell - the
bremsstrahlung differential cross-section is

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$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{Br} = \left. \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{Ruth.} \times \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \frac{d\Omega_k}{4\pi} \left[\frac{2(1-\cos\theta)}{(1-\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\beta}_f)(1-\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\beta}_i)} - \frac{m^2}{E_f^2(1-\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\beta}_f)} - \frac{m^2}{E_i^2(1-\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\beta}_i)} \right] \quad (1)$$

where E_i and E_f , $\vec{\beta}_i$ and $\vec{\beta}_f$ are the initial and final energies and velocities in units where $c=1$; \hat{k} refers to the direction of the photons emitted with frequency ω and $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$ is the Rutherford cross section given by

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4E^2} \frac{1}{\sin^4\theta/2} \quad (2)$$

$\cos\theta$ is the angle of scattering.

To obtain a crude estimate of the magnitude of the cross-section the integrated cross section over photon directions and frequency becomes:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \approx \left. \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_{Ruth} \times \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \left(\frac{+4E^2 \sin^2\theta/2}{m^2} \right) \quad (3)$$

where $E_f \approx E_i = E$ when $E \gg \omega$. This immediately gives us the angular distribution

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} \approx \frac{8\pi\alpha^2}{m^2} \times \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{1}{\theta^2} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \quad (4)$$

In order to insure that we have Coulomb scattering dominant for the primary interaction this puts our angular requirements of $\theta \lesssim \theta_0$ where θ_0 is of the order of a few milliradians. We then obtain the estimate

for a given angular and energy acceptance $\Delta\theta^2$ and $\Delta\omega$ for protons

$$\sigma \approx 6.22 \times 10^{-34} \text{ cm}^2 \int \frac{\Delta\theta^2}{\theta^2} \int \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \quad (5)$$

for protons ($m = \text{proton mass}$), with reasonable angular acceptances for the visible region photons we estimate total cross sections of the order of 10^{-33} cm^2 , which for luminosities of the order of 10^{33} to 10^{34} rate/sec \times cross-section gives from 1 to 10 photon per second.

While this is marginal for pp cross sections it will be of substantial interest for electron-electron and electron-proton machines where the cross section are of orders of magnitude larger due to the small electron mass.

Reference

1. J.D. Bjorken and S.D. Drell, Relativistic Quantum Mechanics, (McGraw-Hill Company, New York)(1965).