

## 245(8) : Photon Mass and Dispersion of Electromagnetic Radiation.

This phenomenon originates in the fact that a photon with mass obeys the Einstein field equation:

$$E^2 = c^2 p^2 + m^2 c^4 \quad - (1)$$

Now use:

$$E = h\nu, \quad p = h\kappa \quad - (2)$$

$$\text{So} \quad h^2 \nu^2 = c^2 h^2 \kappa^2 + m^2 c^4 \quad - (3)$$

$$\text{and} \quad \omega^2 = c^2 \kappa^2 + \frac{m^2 c^4}{h^2} \quad - (4)$$

It follows that:

$$\kappa^2 c^2 = \omega^2 - \frac{m^2 c^4}{h^2} \quad - (5)$$

$$\text{and} \quad \kappa^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} \left( \omega^2 - \left( \frac{mc^2}{h} \right)^2 \right) \quad - (6)$$

$$\text{So that} \quad \frac{\omega^2}{\kappa^2} = c^2 \frac{\omega^2}{\omega^2 - (mc/h)^2} \quad - (7)$$

The phase velocity is

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{\kappa} = c \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \left( \frac{mc^2}{h} \right)^2 \right)^{-1/2} \quad - (8)$$
$$\sim c \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2\omega^2} \left( \frac{mc^2}{h} \right)^2 \right)$$

2) The group velocity is:

$$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = c \left( 1 - \left( \frac{nc^2}{\hbar} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right)^{1/2}$$
$$\sim c \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2\omega^2} \left( \frac{nc^2}{\hbar} \right)^2 \right) \quad - (9)$$

If there is a finite photon mass the group velocity will differ from the phase velocity of light.

For two wave packets with different propagating frequencies  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  there is a velocity difference:

$$\frac{\Delta v}{c} = \frac{1}{c} (v_{g1} - v_{g2}) \quad - (10)$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{nc}{\hbar} \right)^2 \left( \frac{1}{\omega_2^2} - \frac{1}{\omega_1^2} \right)$$

If these two waves move through the same distance  $L$ , the time interval is:

$$\Delta t = L \left( \frac{1}{v_{g1}} - \frac{1}{v_{g2}} \right) \quad - (11)$$

In the history of photon mass physics there have been several experiments used to measure  $m$ . However, the best of NIST 245 the photon mass is

defined through :

$$j^\mu = -\frac{R}{\mu_0} A^\mu \quad - (12)$$

i.e by

$$\rho = -R \epsilon_0 \phi \quad - (13)$$

and

$$\underline{J} = -\frac{R}{\mu_0} \underline{A} \quad - (14)$$

where

$$R = \left(\frac{mc}{\hbar}\right)^2 \quad - (15)$$

If it is assumed that  $R$  is positive valued :

$$\left(\frac{mc}{\hbar}\right)^2 = \epsilon_0 \left| \frac{\rho}{\phi} \right| \quad - (16)$$

i.e

$$m^2 = \left(\frac{\hbar}{c}\right)^2 \epsilon_0 \left| \frac{\rho}{\phi} \right| \quad - (17)$$

The experimentally measured dispersion of light is such that  $m^2$  is very small, which means

that

$$\rho \ll \phi \quad - (18)$$

in vacuum.

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