

336(2) : Wavefunction of the Relativistic Electron, and Interaction with the Vacuum.

The classical equation of the relativistic electron is:

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

and the relativistic quantization is:

$$E\psi = i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}, \quad - (2)$$

$$\underline{p}\psi = -i\hbar \underline{\nabla}\psi. \quad - (3)$$

so
$$\hbar^2 \left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + c^2 \nabla^2 \right) \psi = m^2 c^4 \psi \quad - (4)$$

i.e.
$$\left(\square + \left(\frac{mc}{\hbar} \right)^2 \right) \psi = 0 \quad - (5).$$

which is a limit of the ECE wave equation obtained from the fundamental postulate. The d'Alembertian is:

$$\square = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2. \quad - (6)$$

The Compton wavenumber is:

$$\kappa_c = \frac{mc}{\hbar}. \quad - (7)$$

The de Broglie-Dirac relations follow:

$$E = \hbar\omega = \gamma mc^2, \quad \underline{p} = \hbar \underline{\kappa} = \gamma \underline{p}_0 \quad - (8)$$

A solution of eq. (5) is:

$$\psi = \psi_0 \exp(-i(\omega t - k z)) \quad (9)$$

From eqs. (5) and (9):

$$\left(-\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} + k^2\right) \psi = -\left(\frac{mc}{\hbar}\right)^2 \psi \quad (10)$$

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} = k^2 + \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \quad (11)$$

$$\text{so} \quad \hbar^2 \omega^2 = c^2 \hbar^2 k^2 + m^2 c^4 \quad (12)$$

Eqs. (1), (8) and (12) are self consistent, QED.

Eq. (1) can be rewritten as:

$$E - mc^2 = \frac{p^2 c^2}{(1+\gamma)mc^2} = \frac{p^2 c^2}{E + mc^2} \quad (13)$$

so the relativistic kinetic energy is:

$$T = (\gamma - 1)mc^2 = \frac{p^2}{m(1+\gamma)} \quad (14)$$

In the classical non-relativistic limit:

$$v \ll c \quad (15)$$

$$\text{so} \quad T \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{p_0^2}{2m} \quad (16)$$

C.E.D.

In the $SU(2)$ basis:

$$3) \quad E - mc^2 = \frac{\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p}}{m(1+\gamma)} = \frac{(\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})c^2}{E+mc^2} \quad (17)$$

The interaction of the electron beam with the ERE vacuum is described by the relativistic minimal prescription:

$$\underline{p}^\mu \rightarrow \underline{p}^\mu - eA_{vac}^\mu \quad (18)$$

where: $\underline{p}^\mu = \left(\frac{E}{c}, \underline{p}\right), A_{vac}^\mu = \left(\frac{\phi_{vac}}{c}, \underline{A}_{vac}\right) \quad (19)$

Therefore: $E \rightarrow E - e\phi_{vac} \quad (20)$

$$\underline{p} \rightarrow \underline{p} - e\underline{A}_{vac} \quad (21)$$

If, in addition, an external magnetic field is applied, defined conventionally as:

$$\underline{B} = \nabla \times \underline{A} \quad (22)$$

then $E \rightarrow E - e\phi_{vac}, \quad (23)$

$$\underline{p} \rightarrow \underline{p} - e(\underline{A} + \underline{A}_{vac}) \quad (24)$$

From the Dirac / Einstein equations:

$$\gamma = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2} \quad (25)$$

In the usual assumption the quantization of Eq. (17) takes place as follows:

$$(E - mc^2)\psi = \frac{1}{m} \left(\underline{\sigma} \cdot (-i\hbar \underline{\nabla}) \right) \left(\frac{1}{1+\gamma} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \psi \right) \quad (26)$$

Now note that:

$$\underline{\nabla} \left(\frac{\hbar \omega}{mc^2} \right) = 0 \quad (27)$$

so

$$\underline{\nabla} \left(\frac{1}{1+\gamma} \right) = 0 \quad (28)$$

It follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} (E - mc^2)\psi &= -\frac{i\hbar}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \psi) \\ &= -\frac{i\hbar}{m(1+\gamma)} \left((\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p}) \psi + (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \psi) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \right) \quad (29) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\psi = \psi_0 \exp(-i(\omega t - k z)) \quad (30)$$

and

$$\underline{p} = \hbar \underline{k} \quad (31)$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\nabla} \psi &= \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \underline{k} \quad (32) \\ &= i k \psi \underline{k} \end{aligned}$$

The real part of eq. (29) is therefore:

$$\text{Re}(E - mc^2)\psi = \frac{\hbar^2 k}{m(1+\gamma)} (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{k} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})\psi \quad (33)$$

The expectation value of this equation is:

$$E - mc^2 = \frac{\hbar^2 k \underline{p} \cdot \underline{k}}{m(1+\gamma)} = \frac{\hbar^2 k p_z}{m(1+\gamma)} \quad (34)$$

Using:

$$p_z = \hbar k \quad (35)$$

and

$$m(1+\gamma) = (E + mc^2) / c^2 \quad (36)$$

eq. (34) becomes, self consistently:

$$E - mc^2 = \frac{c^2 p_z^2}{E + mc^2} \quad (37)$$

A.E.D.

The imaginary part of Eq. (29) is:

$$\text{Im}(E - mc^2)\psi = -\frac{i\hbar^2}{m(1+\gamma)} (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})\psi \quad (38)$$

(39)

where

$$\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} = \underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{p} + i \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{p}$$

This gives a real part:

$$(E - mc^2)\psi = \frac{\hbar^2}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{p} \psi \quad (40)$$

where \hbar spin angular momentum of the electron is:

$$\underline{S} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \underline{\sigma} \quad - (41)$$

For an electron matter wave moving in Z :

$$\underline{p} = p_z \underline{k} \quad - (42)$$

so
$$\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{p} = \underline{0} \quad - (43)$$

However, in the presence of an external magnetic field \underline{B} applied to the relativistic electron beam:

$$\underline{p} \rightarrow \underline{p} - e\underline{A} \quad - (44)$$

and
$$(\underline{E} - mc^2)\psi = -\frac{e\hbar}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{A} \psi$$

$$= -\frac{e\hbar}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{B} \psi \quad - (45)$$

This term gives rise to electron spin resonance in the relativistic electron beam as follows:

$$\boxed{(\underline{E} - mc^2)\psi = -\frac{2e}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{S} \cdot \underline{B} \psi} \quad - (46)$$

where
$$\gamma = \frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2} \quad - (47)$$

and ω is the angular frequency of the electron wave.

For an external magnetic field aligned in the same direction, Z , as the electron beam:

$$\begin{aligned} (E - mc^2)\psi &= -\frac{2eB_z}{m\left(1 + \frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2}\right)} S_z \psi \quad - (48) \\ &= -\frac{2e\hbar B_z}{m\left(1 + \frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2}\right)} m_s \psi \end{aligned}$$

where $m_s = \pm 1/2$.

The ESR resonance frequency is:

$$\omega_{\text{ESR}} = \frac{2eB_z}{m\left(1 + \frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2}\right)} \quad - (49)$$

In the non-relativistic limit:

$$\hbar\omega \rightarrow mc^2 \quad - (50)$$

so

$$\omega_{\text{ESR}} \rightarrow \frac{eB_z}{m} \quad - (51)$$

which is the usual result, QED.

Eq. (49) is a rigorous test of relativistic quantum mechanics and the de Broglie / Einstein equations. It is also a rigorous test of the quantization condition:

$p^\mu = i\hbar \partial^\mu$ - (52)

It is implicitly assumed but rarely made clear that the quantization of a radiation refers to the relativistic four momentum p^μ . This is an axiom, or assumption, of quantum mechanics.

The Effect of the Vacuum Potential

This is to change eq. (45) to:

$$(E - mc^2)\psi = -\frac{e\hbar}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{A} + \underline{A}_{vac}) \quad - (53)$$

$$\text{So: } (E - mc^2)\psi = -\frac{2e}{m(1+\gamma)} \underline{S} \cdot (\underline{B} + \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{A}_{vac}) \quad - (54)$$

and the ESR resonance frequency is:

$$\omega_{ESR} = \frac{2e}{m \left(1 + \frac{\hbar\omega}{mc^2}\right)} \left(B_z + (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{A}_{vac})_z \right) \quad - (55)$$

So the vacuum potential has an effect on the ESR resonance frequency. This demonstrates the existence of energy for spacetime.