

The Poynting vector is,

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\mu_0}{16\pi^2 c} \frac{(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \ddot{\mathbf{p}})^2}{|\mathbf{r}|^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad [\text{I.1}]$$

Consider two charged particles, one at the origin (charge q_1 and mass m_1) and the other (charge q_2 and mass m_2) passing by with a large speed v , large enough that the trajectory is a straight line. The distance of closest approach is a . Find the Poynting vector in the center of mass frame, with use of [I.1].

Lab frame: we have location of each charge as a function of time,

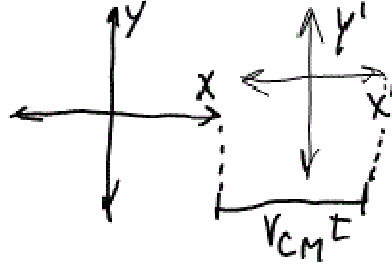
$$\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{0} \quad [\text{I.2}]$$

$$\mathbf{r}_2 = vt\hat{\mathbf{x}} + a\hat{\mathbf{y}} \quad [\text{I.3}]$$

Transform to centre of momentum. The center of momentum coordinate is moving at a velocity,

$$\mathbf{v}_{CM} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{CM}}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_1 v \hat{\mathbf{x}} + 0}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} v \hat{\mathbf{x}} \quad [\text{I.4}]$$

Semiclassical approximation: can Galilean (instead of Lorentz) transform the coordinates to CM-frame,



[I.5]

$$x' \rightarrow x = x' - v_{CM,x} t \quad [\text{I.6}]$$

$$y' \rightarrow y = y' - v_{CM,y} t = y - 0 = y \quad [\text{I.7}]$$

Putting the transformations [I.6] and [I.7] into [I.2] and [I.3],

$$\mathbf{r}'_1 = \mathbf{0} - v_{CM} t = -\frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} vt \quad [\text{I.8}]$$

$$\mathbf{r}'_2 = \left(vt - \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} vt \right) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + a\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \left(1 - \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \right) vt \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} + a\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} vt \cdot \hat{\mathbf{x}} + a\hat{\mathbf{y}} \quad [\text{I.9}]$$

Looking at [I.8] and [I.9], it seems that we still have “constant velocity” motion, and there’s no way the dipole moment is accelerating,

$$\ddot{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{d^2}{dt^2} (q_1 \mathbf{r}'_1 + q_2 \mathbf{r}'_2) = q_1 \mathbf{0} + q_2 \mathbf{0} = \boxed{\mathbf{0}} \quad [\text{I.10}]$$

Putting [I.10] into [I.1], we instantly get,

$$\boxed{\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{0}} \quad [\text{I.11}]$$

There’s no need to even transform to the CM-frame; this [I.11] is true in all inertial (nonaccelerating) frames. Even if there is a field on the point charges exerting a force on them, it specifically says in the problem statement that the trajectory is a straight line, along which the particle flies with constant velocity.