Thomson scattering for producing spatiotemporal optical vortices

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Introduction

Main Goal

Thomson Scattering as a light structure manipulation tool

* Allen, L., et.al Physical Review A 45, 8185–8189 (1992) Pariente, G. & Quéré, F., Opt. Lett. 40, 2037 (2015) Jhajj, N. et al. , Phys. Rev. X 6, 031037 (2016) Froula, D. H. et al., Physics of Plasmas 26, 032109–032109 (2019)



Thomson Scattering can be used to both upshift radiation frequency

but also to accurately manipulate and structure light fields

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Thomson Scattering as a light structure manipulation tool

Structured light * New and exciting area of research

Traditionally, high order couplings in laser beams

were seen as a **negative** aspect

More recently, coupling the spatial and temporal components of light has brought a plethora of new applications

Particle acceleration with OAM lasers and spatiotemporal couplings High Magnetic Field generation

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Accurate description of laser beams Accurate injection is key

Traditional laser beams have well known analytical solutions that can be modelled in simulations

These new, more complex light structures do not have simple descriptions and thus no straight forward way of describing them

Accurate, intuitive and easily tunnable description and injection tools are necessary

OSIRIS framework

Massively Parallel, Fully Relativistic • Particle-in-Cell Code

- Support for advanced CPU / GPU architectures ٠
- Extended physics/simulation models ٠
- AI/ML surrogate models and data-driven discovery •

Open-source version available

Open-access model

- 40+ research groups worldwide are using OSIRIS
- 400+ publications in leading scientific journals
- Large developer and user community
- Detailed documentation and sample inputs files available
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Using OSIRIS 4.0

- The code can be used freely by research institutions after signing an MoU Open-source version at:
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How laser beams are normally theoretically described Sometimes oversimplified

Using known simple analytical solutions to Maxwell's Equations (example: gaussian beam) under some approximations:

- Paraxial approximation: laser spot size much bigger than wavelength
- Slowly varying envelope approximation: temporal duration much bigger than period

These restrictions can be, and **are**, **limiting**!





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The solution: even simpler solutions Plane waves can be summed to achieve any pulse

Plane waves are exact solutions to Maxwell's Eqs. $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r},t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\mathbf{0}}e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}-c|\mathbf{k}|t)}$ (identically for $\hat{\mathbf{b}}_{\mathbf{k}}$)

Maxwell's Eqs are linear \Rightarrow sum of solutions is

solution

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{E}(\mathbf{k}) \ \hat{\mathbf{e}}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r},t)$$

Describe any pulse by its Fourier transform $\tilde{E}(\mathbf{k}) \equiv \int E(\mathbf{r}, t) \ e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}, \forall_t : \omega = c \, |\mathbf{k}|$



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Thinking of lasers as their Fourier representation

Visualising the individual plane waves in k-space



-3



Sometimes oversimplified











Ultra short pulses Duration of the order of the period 20 Ultra short pulse: $\tau = 0.5\lambda_0/c$ $k_2 \; [k_0]$ 10 E_2 [arb. units] -1 $x_2 \; [\lambda_0]$ $k_1 [k_0] 2$ 0 0 -10 $t = 0.00 [\lambda_0/c]$ -20 -1-5 $\overset{0}{x_1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_0 \end{bmatrix}$ 10 -105



Propagation-invariant constant velocity pulses Arbitrary control on the velocity of the intensity peak





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Complex structured light

Full control over the frequency and phase of spectrum



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Normal usage of Thomson Scattering

Standard Thomson Scattering Setup

Collinear collision between charged particle beam and laser pulse

Relativistic particle beam collides with an intense electromagnetic beam (usually simple laser)

Interaction results in burst of high frequency radiation in the direction of propagation of the particle beam







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> Our goal is to generalised this setup Pushing the boundaries of this interaction









A generalised radiation formula

Radiation of distribution of currents

Derived from Liénard–Wiechert potentials

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\omega, \mathbf{n}) \equiv \frac{\omega}{2\pi c^{3/2}} \int \mathbf{d}\mathbf{r} \int dt \, \mathbf{n} \times [\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t)] e^{i\omega(t - \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{r}/c)}$$

with $\tilde{A}(\omega, \mathbf{n})$ the Fourier transform of the vector potential of the radiation. This is the spectrum with phase information.





Assuming:

1) that the current is given by $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r},t) \approx -eS(\mathbf{r}-c\beta_0 t)\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r},t)$

2) that the particles conserve their canonical momentum

3) Fourier transforms for both the laser field $A_L(\mathbf{r},t) \rightarrow \tilde{A}_L(\mathbf{k})$ and shape $S(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \tilde{S}(\mathbf{k})$

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Generalised Radiation from Laser - Particle Beam Interaction

Simplified analysis is achieved in Fourier, or k-space

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\omega,\mathbf{n}) \approx \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-e^2 \omega}{4\pi c^{5/2} m_e \gamma_0} \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n} \times \int d\mathbf{q} \ \tilde{S}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}) \ \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathbf{q}) \ \delta[|\mathbf{k}| - |\mathbf{q}| - (\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\mathbf{0}}]$$





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"Wave mixing" of particle beam and laser spectra restricted to the Dirac-delta constraint

A simplified radiation formula

A simplified model

"Pancake" electron beam

Very short and wide electron beam: $S(\mathbf{r}) \approx \delta(x) \Rightarrow \tilde{S}(\mathbf{q}) = \delta(q_y)\delta(q_z)$

Travelling along $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ with $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{\mathbf{0}} = \beta_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}$

Linearly polarised laser

Laser polarised in $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ With $\mathbf{n} \equiv \frac{c\mathbf{k}}{\omega}$, the radiation will be mostly along $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n} \times \hat{\mathbf{y}} \approx -\hat{\mathbf{y}}$





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Resulting simplified formula for the radiation Copy of the original laser beam!

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}) \approx \frac{e^2 \omega}{4^3 \pi^5 c^{5/2} \mu}$$

$$k_y = k_y^L$$
 and $k_z = k_z^L$ and $k_x^L = k_z^L$





Remapping the original laser beam spectrum (${f k}_L$) to a new set of wave vectors (${f k}$) $\kappa(\mathbf{k}, \beta_0) \Rightarrow k_x = \frac{k_x^L(\beta_0^2 + 1) \pm 2\beta_0 |\mathbf{k}_L|}{\beta_0^2 - 1}$

Radiation Formula Original laser beam copy

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{k}) \propto \frac{\omega}{\gamma_0} \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{\mathbf{L}} \left(\kappa(\mathbf{k}, \beta_0), k_y, k_z \right)$$





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Head on collision

Laser propagating in -x direction

$$k_x^L = -k_0 \text{ and } k_z^L = k_y^L = 0$$

Yields: $k_x = k_0 \frac{1+\beta_0}{1-\beta_0} \approx 4\gamma_0^2 k_0 \vee \dots \text{ and } k_z = k_y = 0$

which is the **standard Thomson result**!





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Perpendicular collision

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upshift is smaller but still arbitrarily large



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One to one mapping of every k vector

Arbitrary angle and magnitude



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One to one mapping of every k vector

Arbitrary angle and magnitude

Remapping also of full patches in k space

Complete laser profiles are patches



An illustrative example: OAM Laser

Lasers with Orbital Angular Momentum [1]

Spiral wavefronts in real space - angular phase dependence in k-space

Laser field given by

$$A_{L}(\mathbf{r},t) \propto \left(\frac{r\sqrt{2}}{w_{0}}\right)^{|\ell|} e^{-r^{2}/w_{0}^{2}} e^{i\ell\phi - ik_{0}(z-ct)} f(z-ct)$$

where $r \equiv \sqrt{x^{2} + y^{2}}$ and $\phi \equiv \arctan x/y$

- orbital angular momentum L that is $|L| \propto \ell$ and $L \parallel k$





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• orbital angular momentum L that is $|L| \propto \ell$ and L ||k|

Describing the pulse in k-space yields

$$\tilde{A}_{L}(\mathbf{k}) \propto \left(\frac{k_{r}w_{0}}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{|\ell|} e^{-k_{r}^{2}w_{0}^{2}/4} e^{i\ell k_{\phi}} \tilde{f}(k_{z}-k_{0})$$

where $k_{r} \equiv \sqrt{k_{x}^{2}+k_{y}^{2}}$ and $k_{\phi} \equiv \arctan k_{x}/k_{y}$

• "donut" - like spectral intensity with $\ell \times 2\pi$ phase shifts





In k-space, ℓ controls the number of 2π phase shifts



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Radiation from head on collision

Spectral structure is kept, frequency is upshifted

Laser propagates along -x and beam along +x







Radiation from head on collision Spectral structure is kept, frequency is upshifted

Laser propagates along -x and beam along +x

Spectrum is shifted and stretched along k_x

Radiation travels along +x

Still a LG Beam ($\mathbf{k} \parallel \mathbf{L}$) but

upshifted in frequency: $|\mathbf{k}| \approx 4\gamma_0^2 |\mathbf{k}_L|$





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Radiation from perpendicular colliding

Spectrum is shifted and spectral structure is changed

Laser propagates along +z and beam along +x

Spectrum is shifted and stretched along k_r

Radiation travels mainly along +x

(actually small angle in the z direction)

Fundamental spectral structure is different ($\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{L}$)

SpatioTemporal Optical Vortex - STOV









What is a SpatioTemporal OpticalVortex?

STOV: SpatioTemporal Optical Vortex [1,2]

Equivalent to the OAM but with Transverse Optical Angular Momentum

[1] Jhajj, N. et al. Phys. Rev. X 6, 031037 (2016)

[2] Bliokh, K.Y. Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 243601 (2021)







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Simulation setup

Fully self consistent results

Laser:

- Laguerre Gauss ($\ell = 1, w_0 = 5\lambda_0$)
- injected with plane wave algorithm

Electron beam:

- underdense, cold and collimated
- gaussian transversely, $\sigma = 5\lambda_0$
- I particle thick longitudinally
- momentum $p_0 = 50 m_e c$



[1] R.A. Fonseca et al, LNCS. Issue: PART 3. Springer Verlag, 2002, pp. 342–351
[2] M. Pardal et al, Comp. Phys Comms. 285, 108634 (2023)



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Radiation captured by RaDiO

Energy radiated by all simulation particles

Osiris



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Radiation spectrum

Perpendicular collision





Spectrum as predicted - $\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{L}$



Conclusions and Future Work

Thomson Scattering can be a light shaping tool Spectrum of resulting radiation can be manipulated and controlled

Generalised Radiation Formula from Laser - Beam Interaction Simplified analysis is achieved in k-space using Fourier Transforms

Generated SpatioTemporal Optical Vortex from Laguerre Gaussian Beam Normal orbital angular momentum was converted to transverse

Next steps towards more realistic setups

- Particle beam shape
- Particle beam characteristics
- Laser polarisations
- Radiation efficiency

e a Tecnologia



Grant UI/BD/154677/2022





Barcelona **Supercomputing** Center Centro Nacional de Supercomputación

Radiation Formula

Original laser beam copy

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