

# Synchrotron Light, Electron Dynamics and Light Sources

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# Synchrotron Light

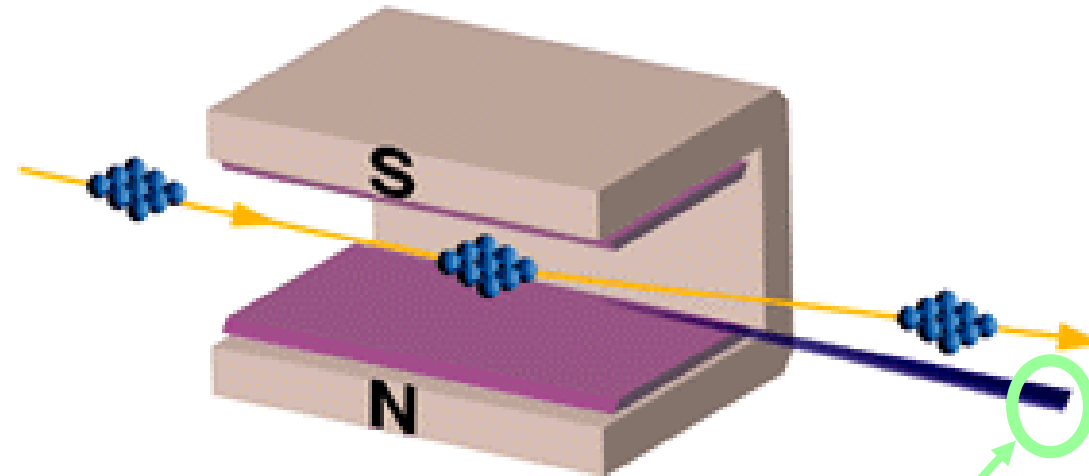
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# Curved orbit of electrons in magnet field



Accelerated charge



Electromagnetic radiation

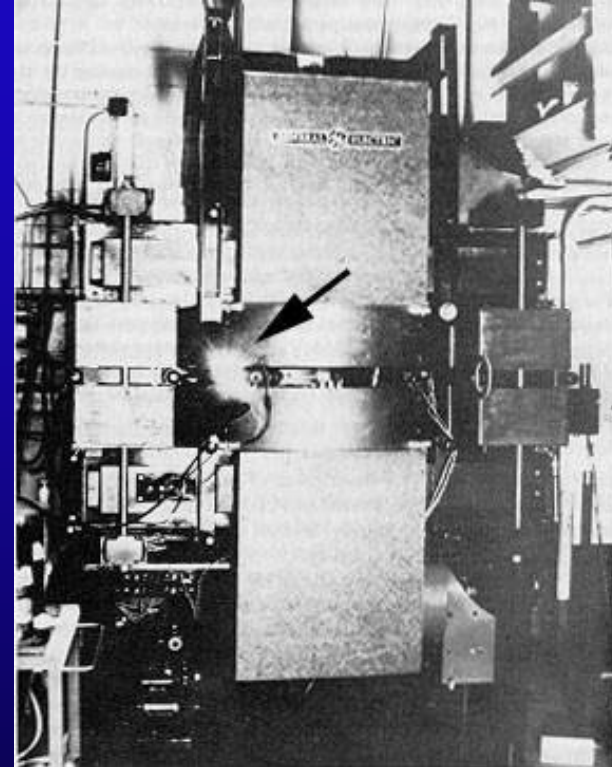
# Electromagnetic waves

**Crab Nebula  
6000 light years away**



**First light observed  
1054 AD**

**GE Synchrotron  
New York State**



**First light observed  
24 April, 1947**

# Synchrotron radiation: some dates

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- 1873 Maxwell's equations
- 1887 Hertz: electromagnetic waves
- 1898 Liénard: retarded potentials
- 1900 Wiechert: retarded potentials
- 1908 Schott: Adams Prize Essay

... waiting for accelerators ...  
1940: 2.3 MeV betatron, Kerst, Serber

# Maxwell equations (poetry)

*War es ein Gott, der diese Zeichen schrieb  
Die mit geheimnisvoll verborg'nem Trieb  
Die Kräfte der Natur um mich enthüllen  
Und mir das Herz mit stiller Freude füllen.*

Ludwig Boltzman



*Was it a God whose inspiration  
Led him to write these fine equations  
Nature's fields to me he shows  
And so my heart with pleasure glows.*

translated by John P. Blewett

# Synchrotron radiation: some dates

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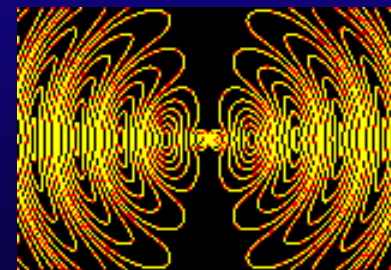
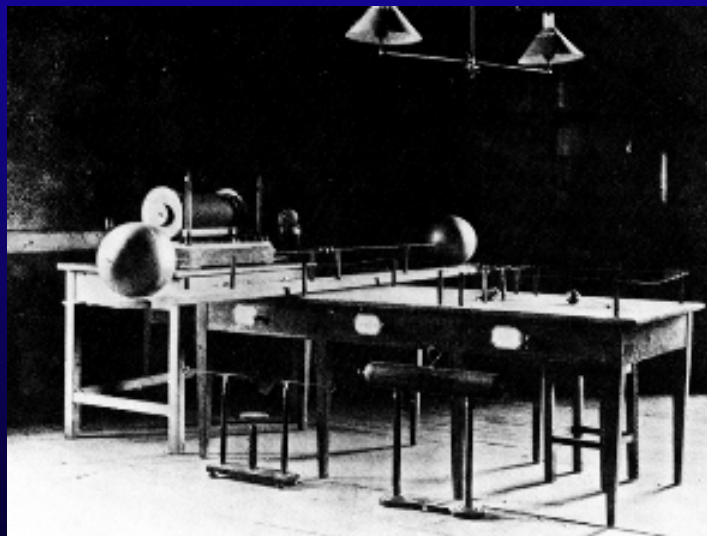


## THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING →

### 1873 Maxwell's equations

→ made evident that changing charge densities would result in electric fields that would radiate outward

### 1887 Heinrich Hertz demonstrated such waves:



*It's of no use whatsoever[...] this is just an experiment that proves Maestro Maxwell was right—we just have these mysterious electromagnetic waves that we cannot see with the naked eye. But they are there.*

# Synchrotron radiation: some dates

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# Donald Kerst: first betatron (1940)



*"Ausserordentlichhochgeschwindigkeitelektronenentwickelnden schwerarbeitsbeigollitron"*

# Synchrotron radiation: some dates

---

- 1946      Blewett observes **energy loss**  
due to synchrotron radiation  
100 MeV betatron
- 1947      First **visual** observation of SR  
70 MeV synchrotron, GE Lab
- 1949      Schwinger PhysRev paper
- ...
- 1976      Madey: first demonstration of  
**Free Electron laser**

**NAME!**



# Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland

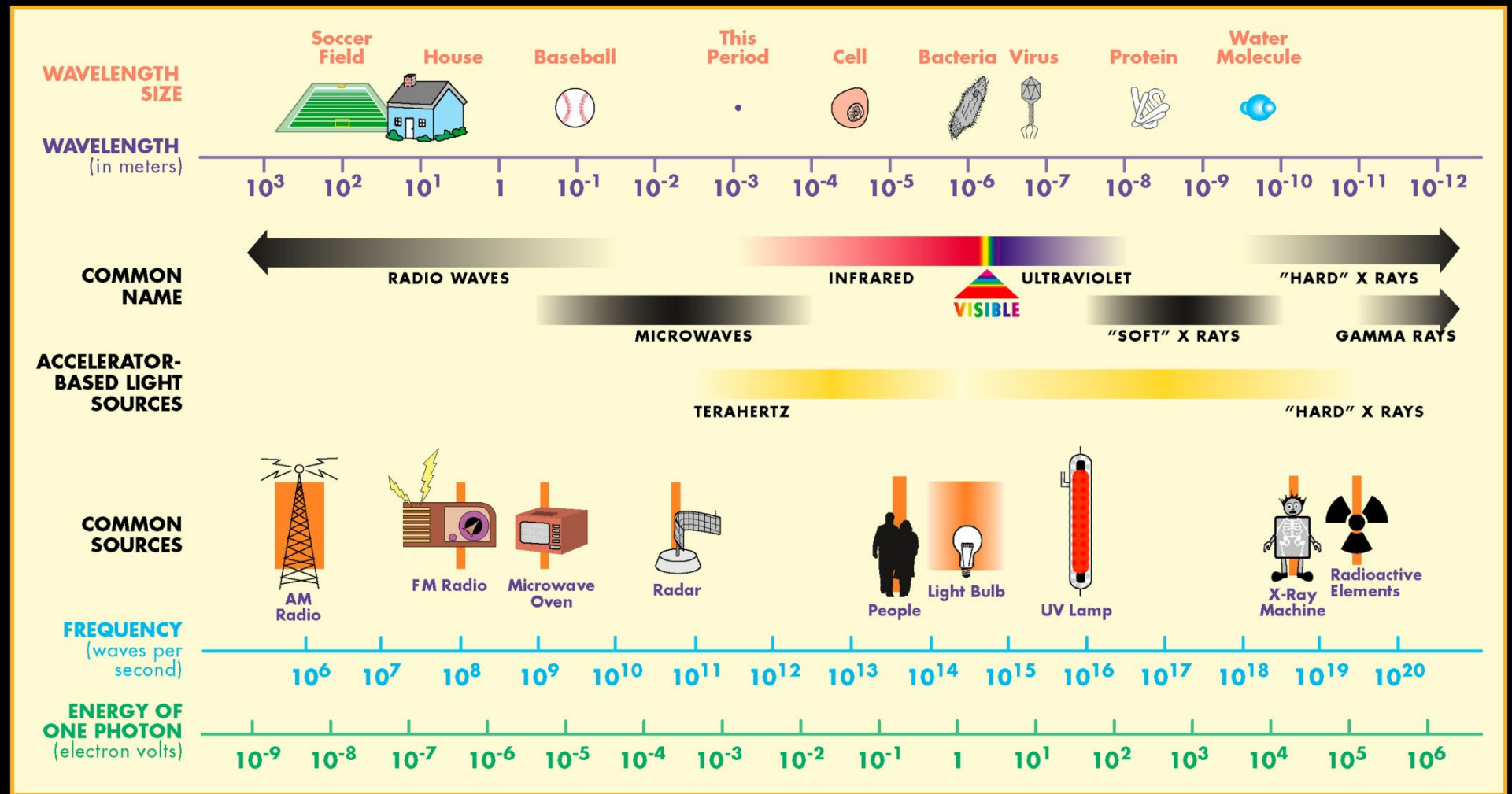


SwissFEL

Swiss Light Source

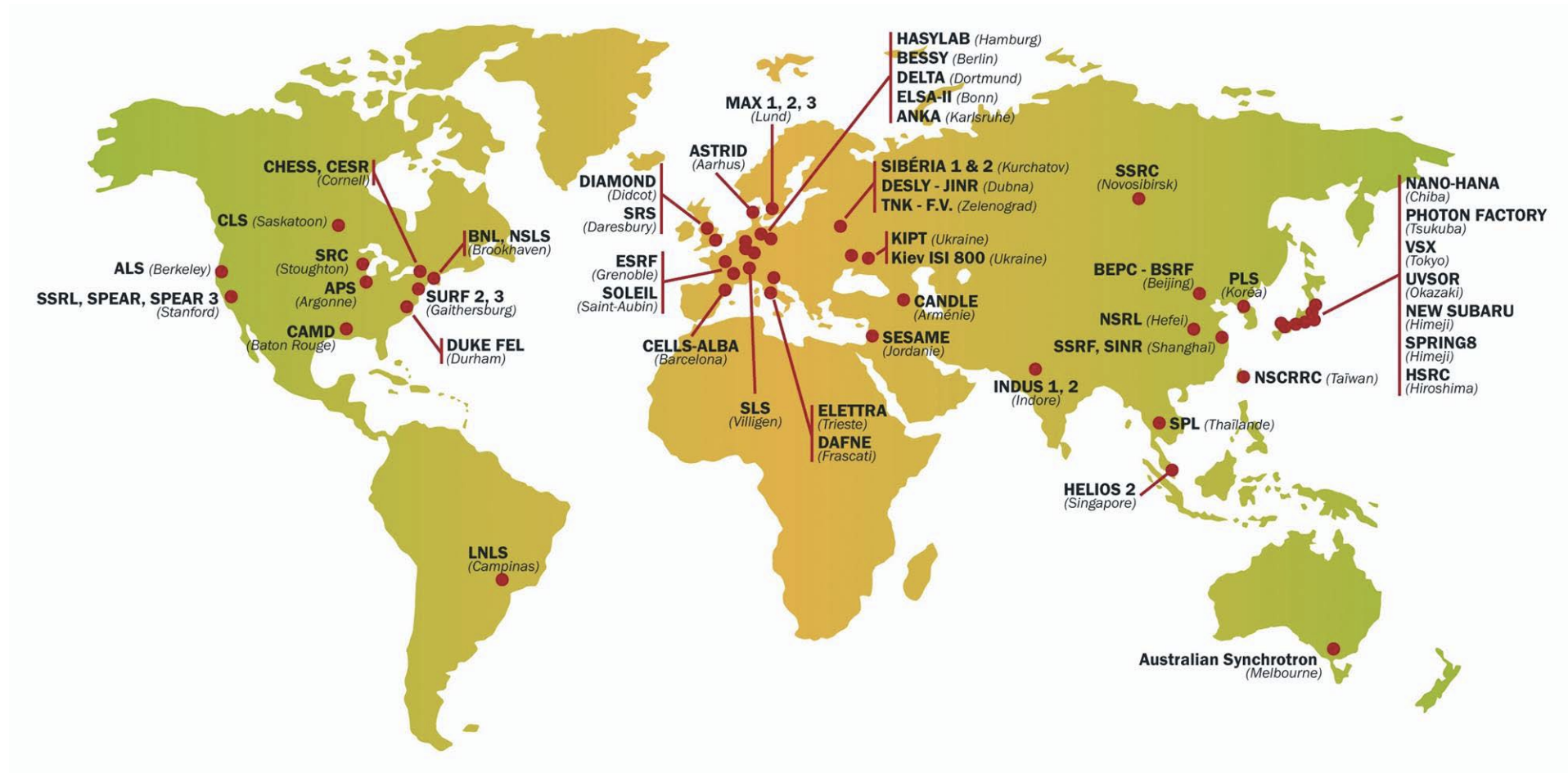


# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



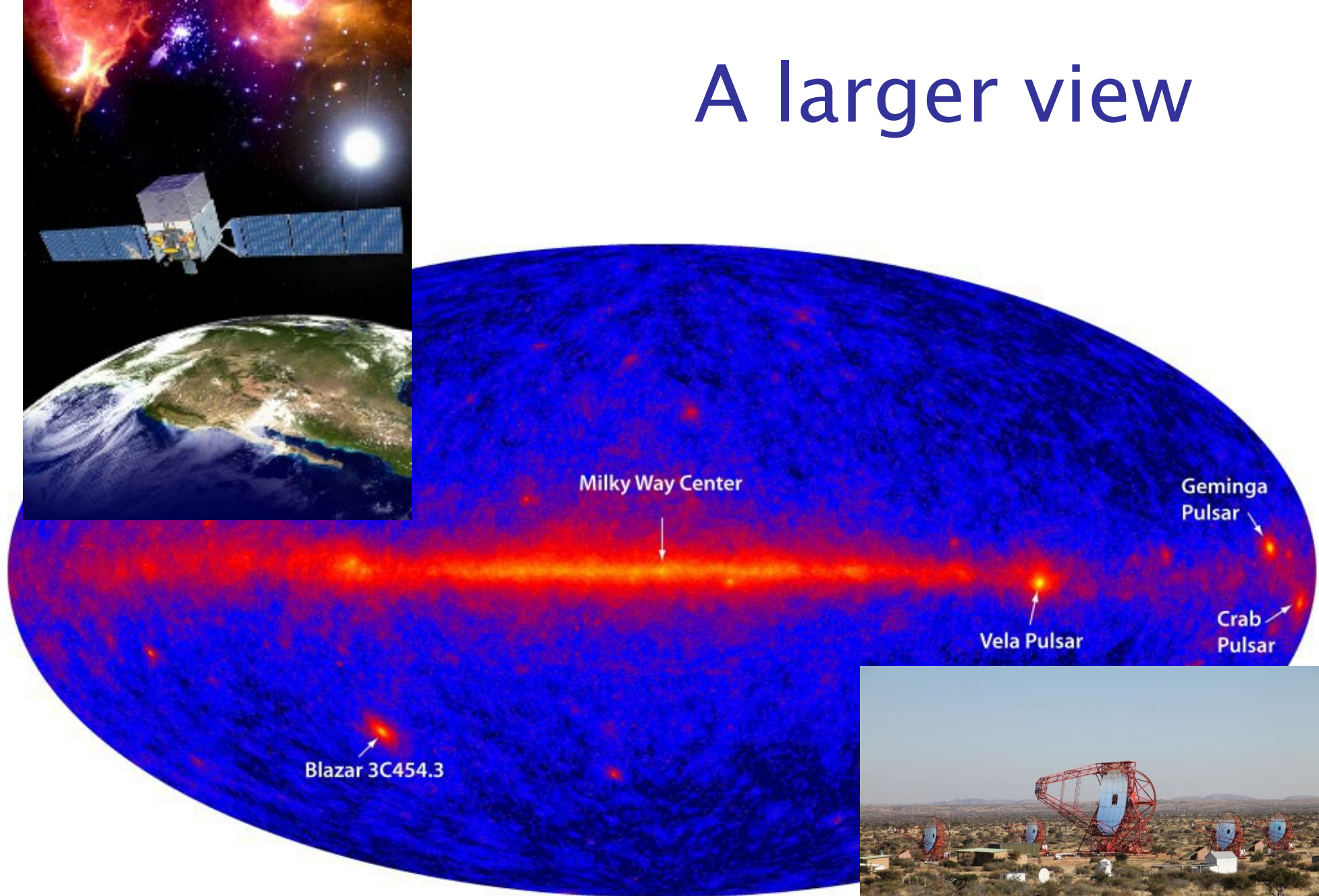
**Wavelength continuously tunable !**

# 60'000 SR users world-wide





# A larger view





# LHAASO facility detection of up to 1400 TeV photons



AS Gamma experiment  
@ 4400 m altitude, Tibet

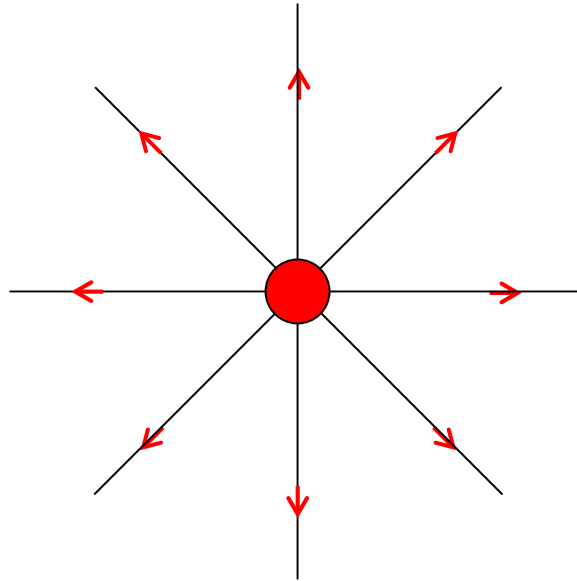
# Why do they radiate?

Synchrotron Radiation is  
not as simple as it seems

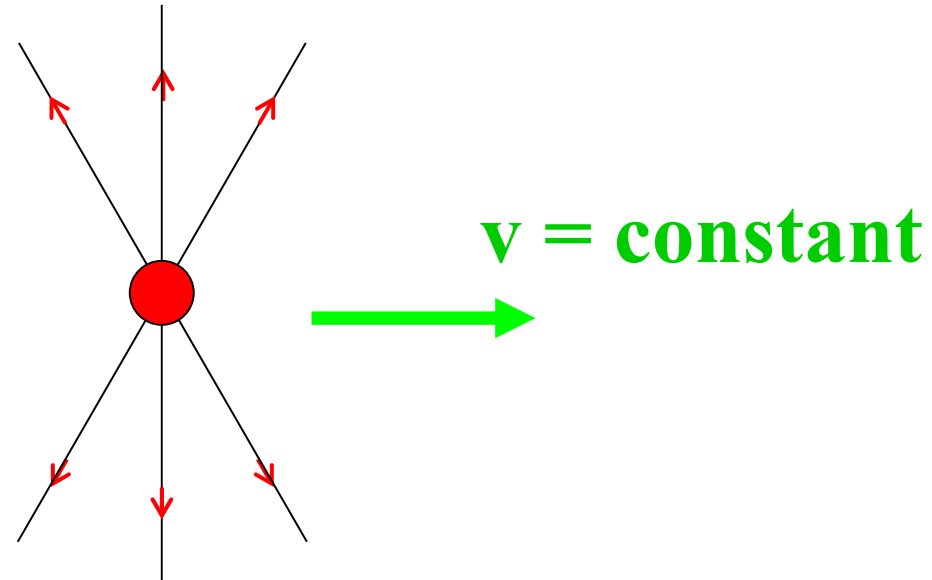
... I will try to show  
that it is much simpler

# Charge at rest

## Coulomb field, no radiation



# Uniformly moving charge does not radiate



But! Cerenkov!

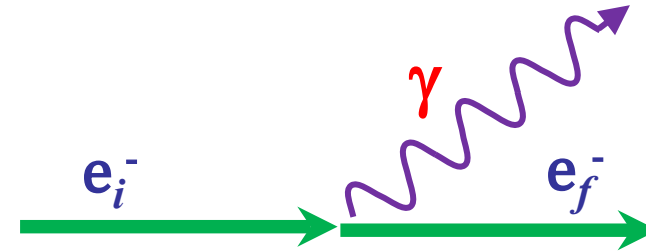
# Free isolated electron cannot emit a photon

Easy proof using 4-vectors and relativity

- momentum conservation if a photon is emitted

$$\mathbf{P}_i = \mathbf{P}_f + \mathbf{P}_\gamma$$

- square both sides



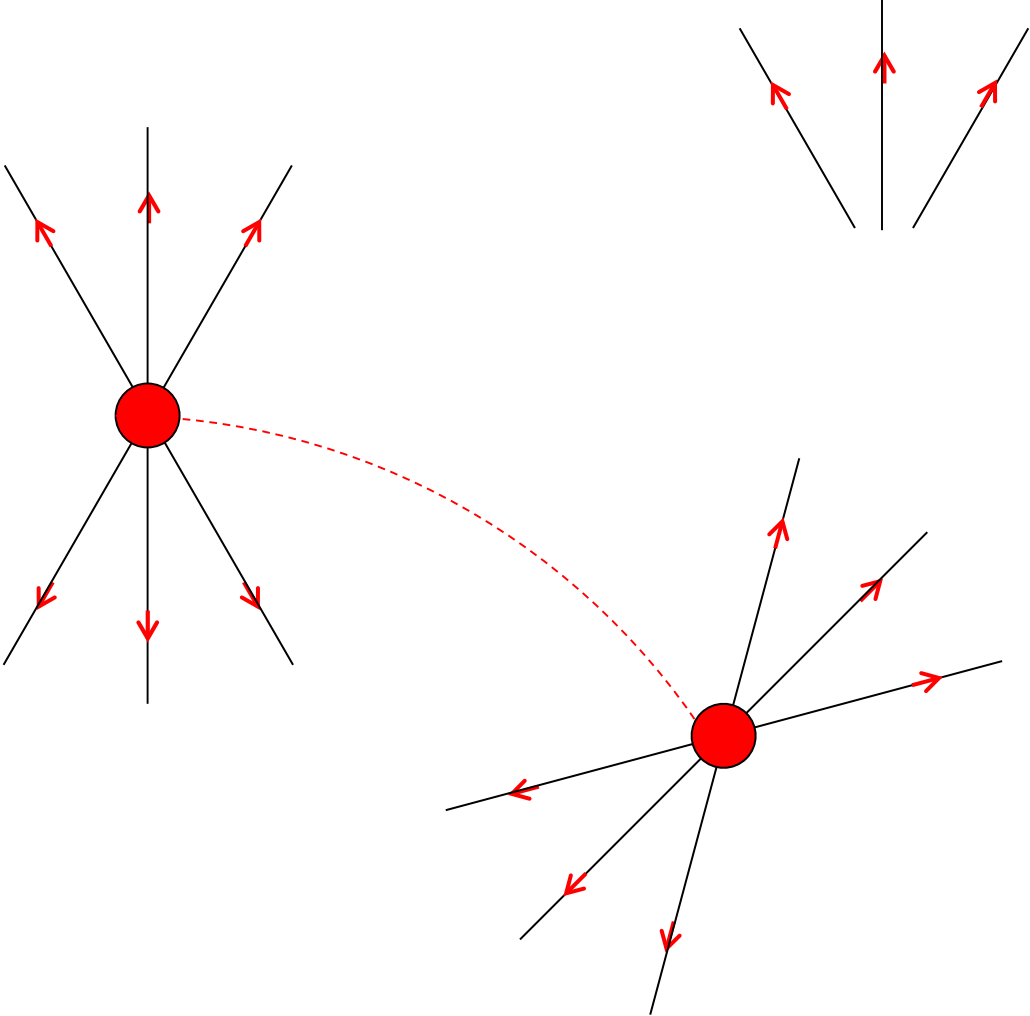
$$m^2 = m^2 + 2\mathbf{P}_f \cdot \mathbf{P}_\gamma + 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{P}_f \cdot \mathbf{P}_\gamma = 0$$

- in the rest frame of the electron

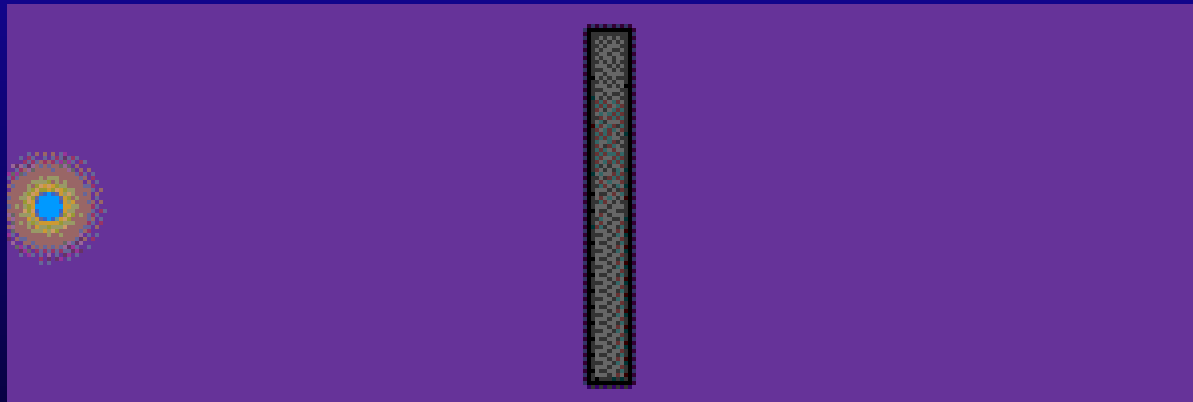
$$\mathbf{P}_f = (m, 0) \quad \mathbf{P}_\gamma = (E_\gamma, p_\gamma)$$

this means that the photon energy must be zero.

We need to separate the field from charge



Bremsstrahlung  
or  
“braking” radiation





# Transition Radiation



$$c_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1 \mu_1}}$$

$$c_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_2 \mu_2}}$$

# Liénard–Wiechert potentials

$$\varphi(\mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{[\mathbf{r}(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \vec{\beta})]_{ret}} \quad \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{t}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \left[ \frac{\vec{\mathbf{v}}}{\mathbf{r}(1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \vec{\beta})} \right]_{ret}$$

and the electromagnetic fields:

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{\mathbf{A}} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (\text{Lorentz gauge})$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{B}} = \nabla \times \vec{\mathbf{A}}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{E}} = -\nabla \varphi - \frac{\partial \vec{\mathbf{A}}}{\partial t}$$

# Fields of a moving charge

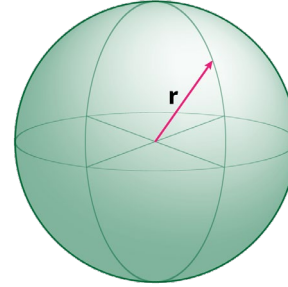
$$\vec{\mathbf{E}}(t) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{\vec{\mathbf{n}} - \vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}}}{(1 - \vec{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^3 \gamma^2} \cdot \frac{1}{r^2} \right]_{ret} + \text{“near field”}$$

$$\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c} \left[ \frac{\vec{\mathbf{n}} \times [(\vec{\mathbf{n}} - \vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \times \vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}}]}{(1 - \vec{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \vec{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^3 \gamma^2} \cdot \frac{1}{r} \right]_{ret} \text{ “far field”}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{B}}(t) = \frac{1}{c} [\vec{\mathbf{n}} \times \vec{\mathbf{E}}]$$

# Energy flow integrated over a sphere

$$Power \sim E^2 \cdot Area$$



$$A = 4\pi r^2$$

Near field

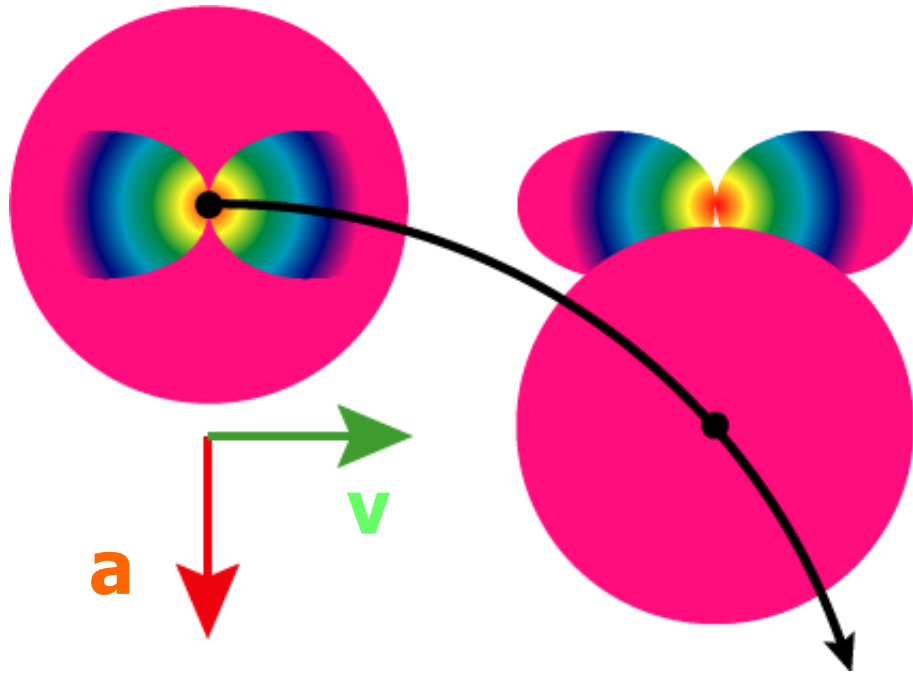
$$P \propto \frac{1}{r^4} r^2 \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$$

Far field

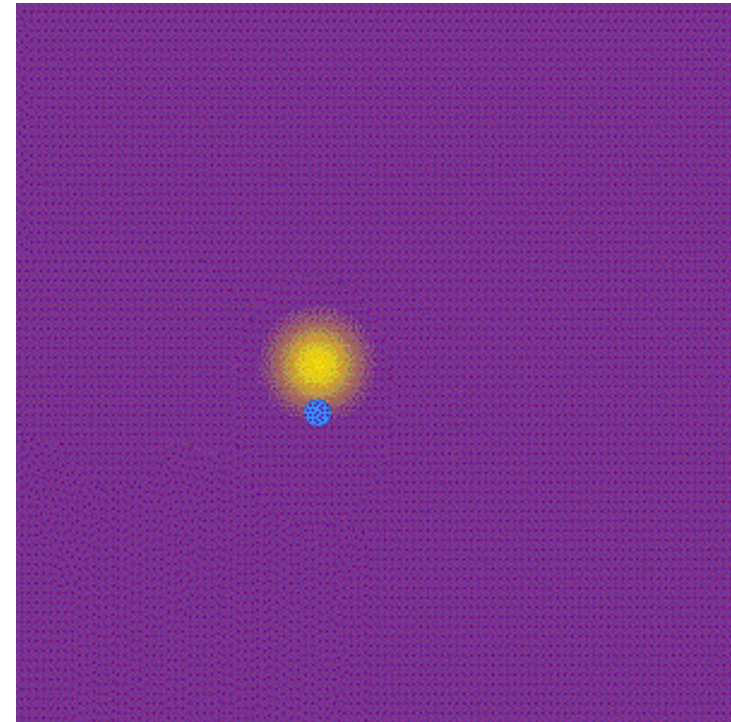
$$P \propto \frac{1}{r^2} r^2 \propto const$$

*Radiation = constant flow of energy to infinity*

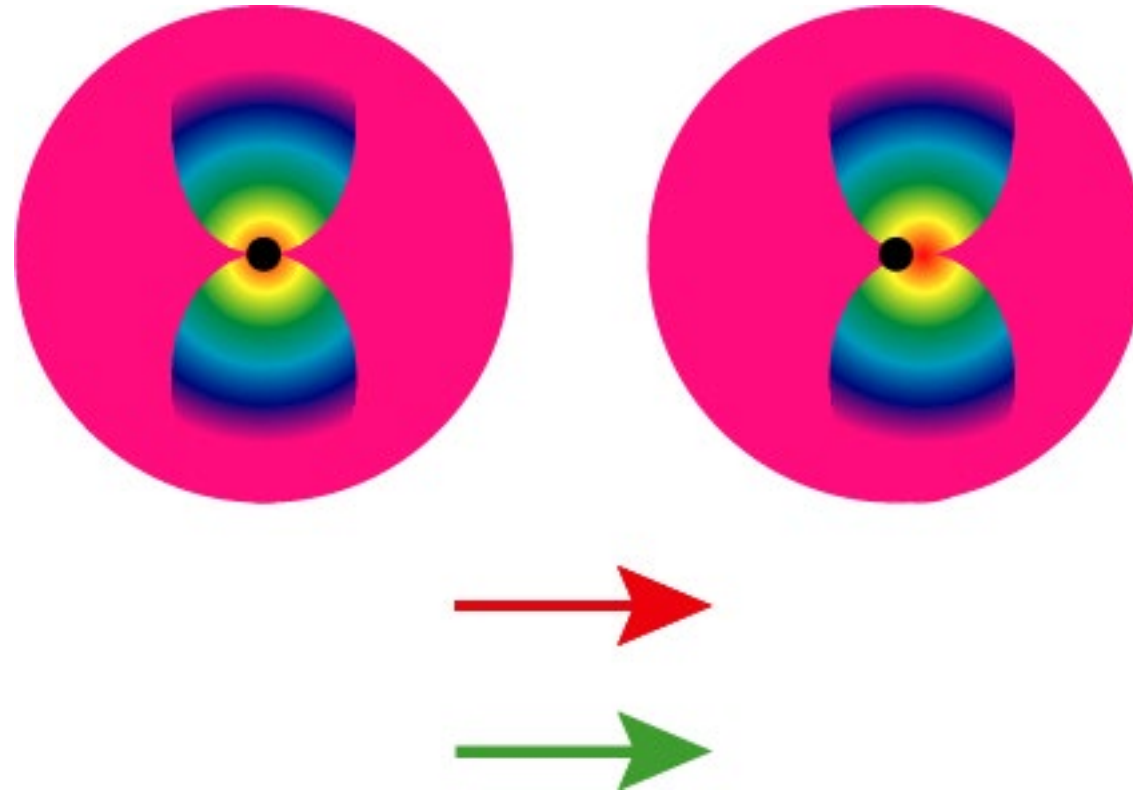
# Transverse acceleration



**Radiation field quickly  
separates itself from the  
Coulomb field**



# Longitudinal acceleration



**Radiation field cannot  
separate itself from the  
Coulomb field**

# Synchrotron Radiation

## Basic Properties

# Beams of ultra-relativistic particles: e.g. a race to the Moon

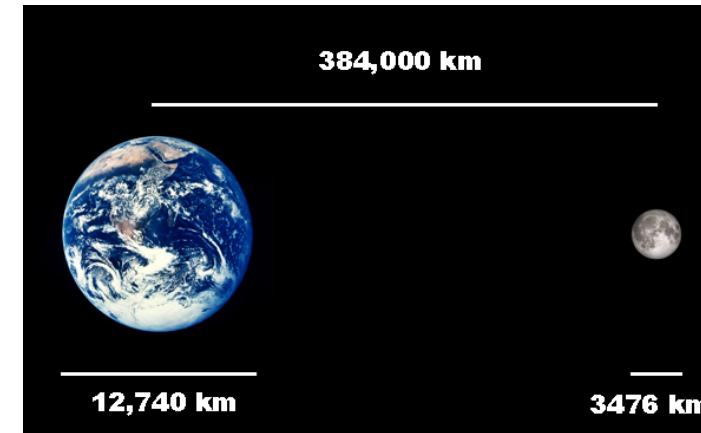
An electron with energy of a few GeV emits a photon... a race to the Moon!

$$\Delta t = \frac{L}{\beta c} - \frac{L}{c} = \frac{L}{\beta c} (1 - \beta) \sim \frac{L}{\beta c} \cdot \frac{1}{2\gamma^2}$$

Electron will lose

- by only 8 meters
- the race will last only 1.3 seconds

$$\Delta L = L(1 - \beta) \cong \frac{L}{2\gamma^2}$$

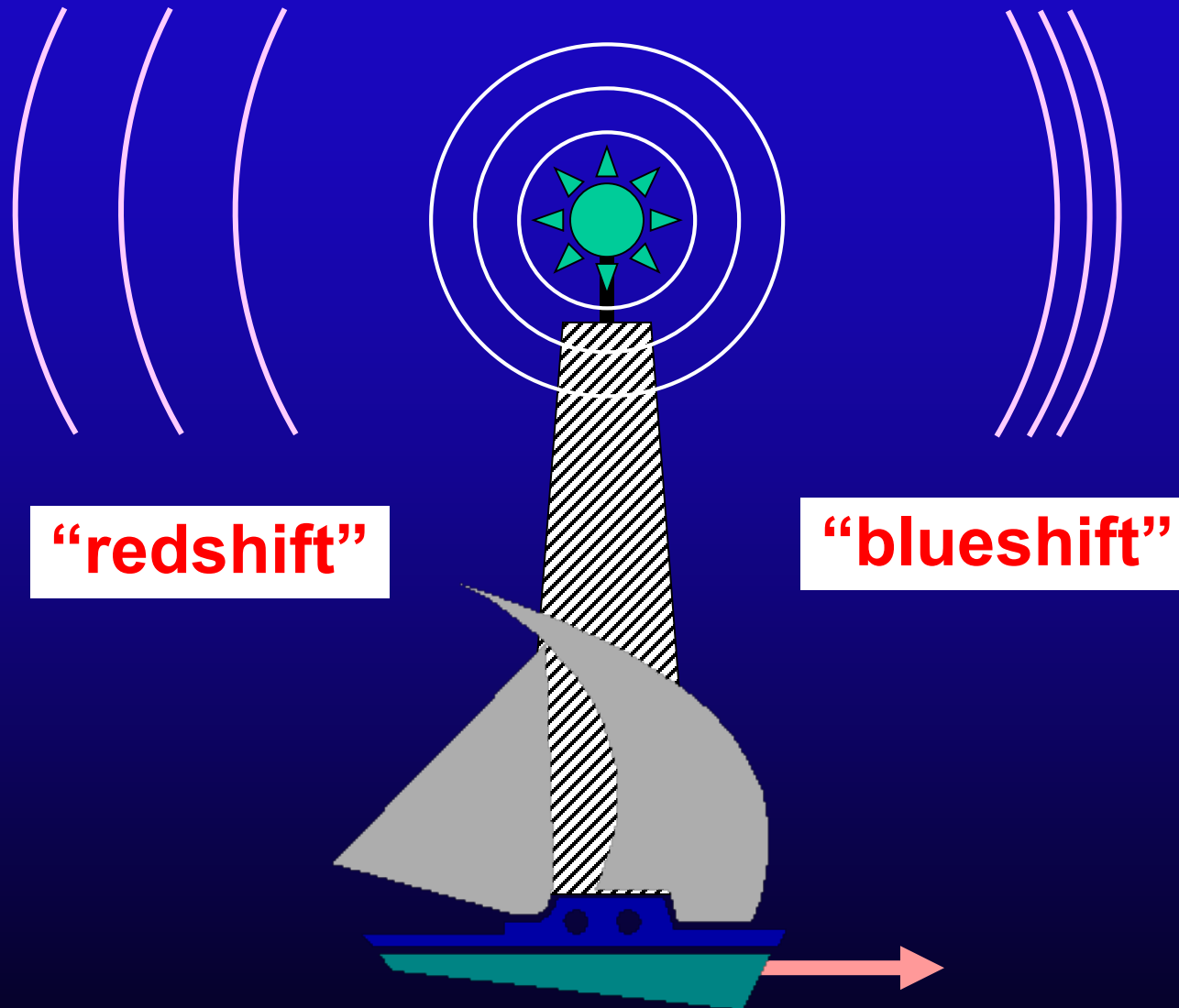


$$\beta \equiv \frac{v}{c}$$

$$\gamma \equiv \frac{E}{mc^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$



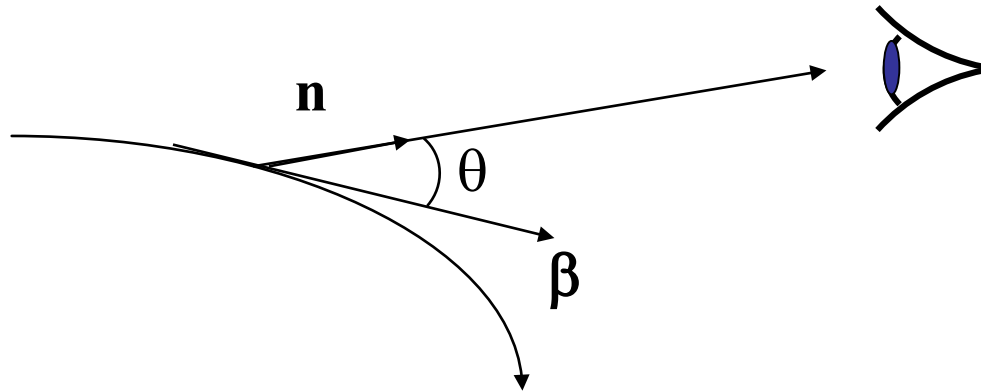
# Moving Source of Waves: Doppler effect



Cape Hatteras, 1999

# Time compression

Electron with velocity  $\beta$  emits a wave with period  $T_{\text{emit}}$  while the observer sees a different period  $T_{\text{obs}}$  because the electron was moving towards the observer



$$T_{\text{obs}} = (1 - \mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}) T_{\text{emit}}$$

The wavelength is shortened by the same factor

$$\lambda_{\text{obs}} = (1 - \beta \cos \theta) \lambda_{\text{emit}}$$

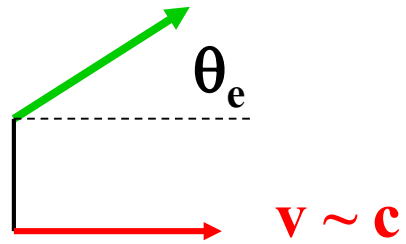
in ultra-relativistic case, looking along a tangent to the trajectory

$$\lambda_{\text{obs}} = \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} \lambda_{\text{emit}}$$

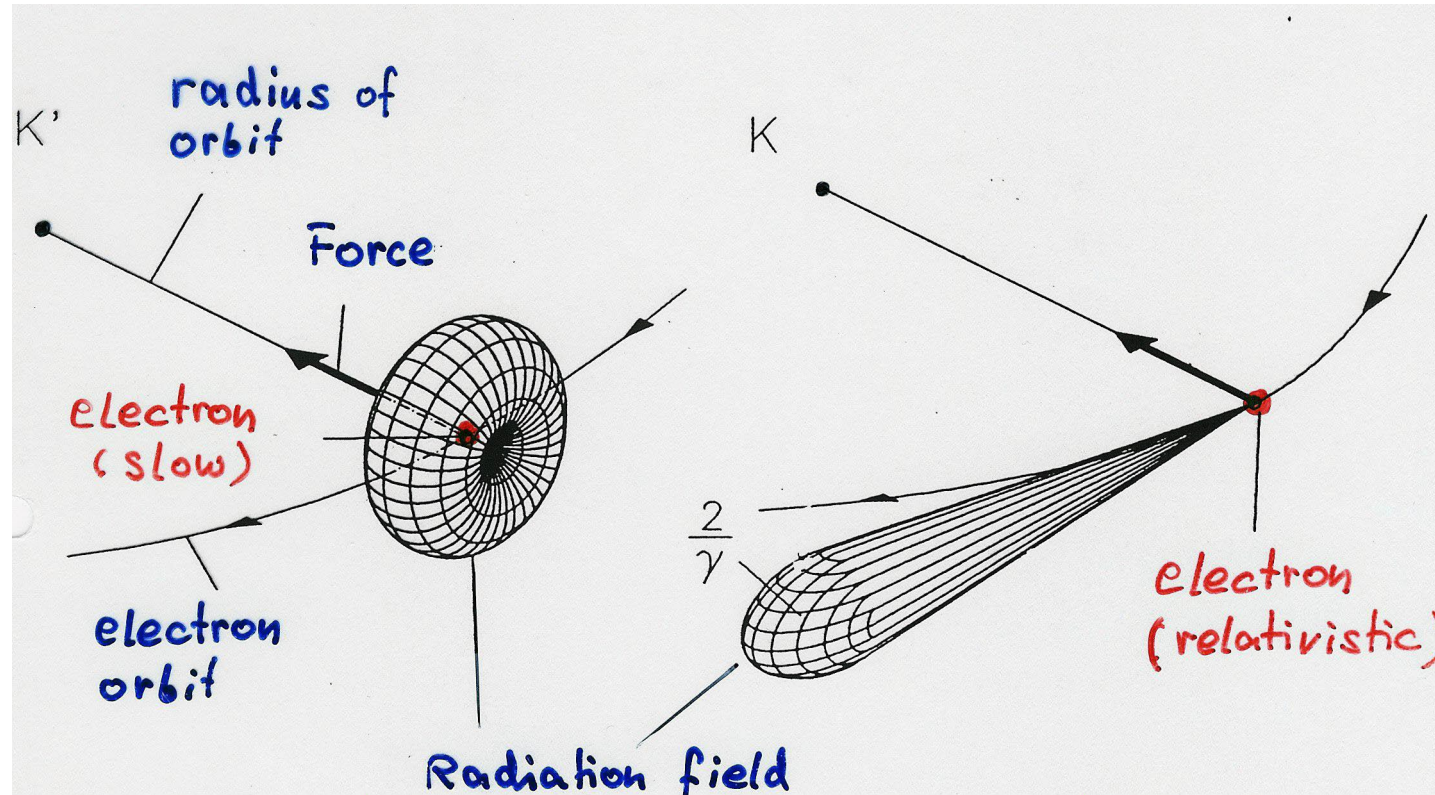
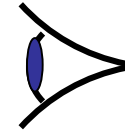
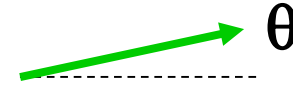
since

$$1 - \beta = \frac{1 - \beta^2}{1 + \beta} \approx \frac{1}{2\gamma^2}$$

# Radiation is emitted into a narrow cone



$$\theta = \frac{1}{\gamma} \cdot \theta_e$$

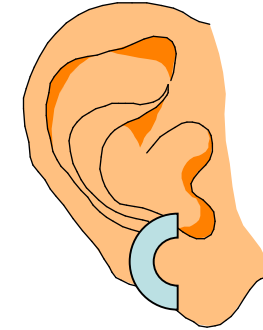
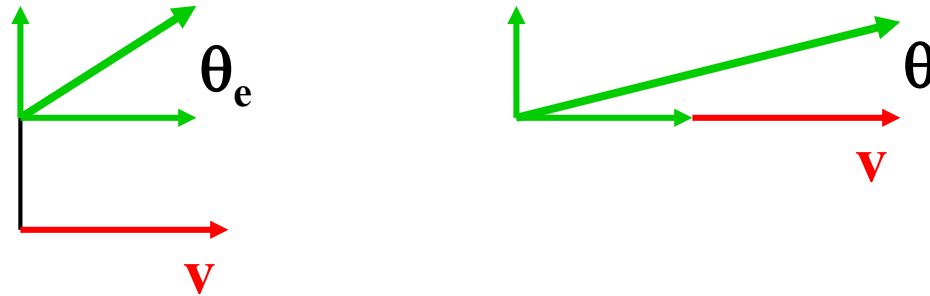


$$v \ll c$$

$$v \approx c$$

# Sound waves (non-relativistic)

## Angular collimation



$$\theta = \frac{v_{s\perp}}{v_{s\parallel} + v} = \frac{v_{s\perp}}{v_{s\parallel}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{v}{v_s}} \approx \theta_e \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{v}{v_s}}$$

## Doppler effect (moving source of sound)

$$\lambda_{heard} = \lambda_{emitted} \left( 1 - \frac{v}{v_s} \right)$$

# Synchrotron radiation power

Power emitted is proportional to:

$$P \propto E^2 B^2$$

$$P_{\gamma} = \frac{c C_{\gamma}}{2\pi} \cdot \frac{E^4}{\rho^2}$$

$E = \text{Energy!}$

$$C_{\gamma} = \frac{4\pi}{3} \frac{r_e}{(m_e c^2)^3} = 8.858 \cdot 10^{-5} \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{GeV}^3} \right]$$



# The power is all too real!

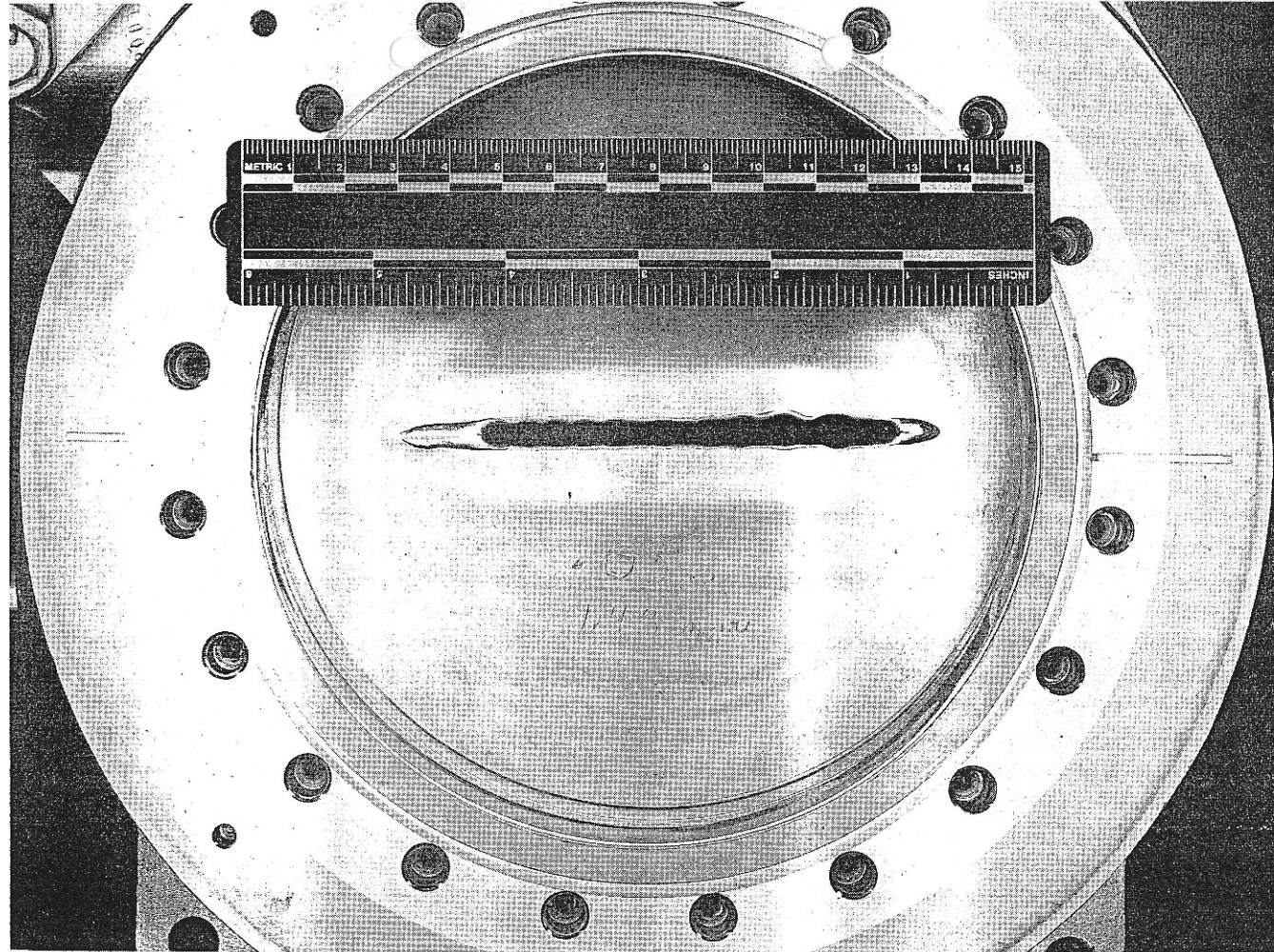


fig. 12. Damaged X-ray ring front end gate valve. The power incident on the valve was approximately 1 kW for a duration estimated to 2-10 min and drilled a hole through the valve plate.

# Synchrotron radiation power

Power emitted is proportional to:

$$P_\gamma = \frac{cC_\gamma}{2\pi} \cdot \frac{E^4}{\rho^2}$$

$$C_\gamma = \frac{4\pi}{3} \frac{r_e}{(m_e c^2)^3} = 8.858 \cdot 10^{-5} \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{GeV}^3} \right]$$

Energy loss per turn:

$$U_0 = C_\gamma \cdot \frac{E^4}{\rho}$$

$$P \propto E^2 B^2$$

Energy

Magnetic field

$$P_\gamma = \frac{2}{3} \alpha \hbar c^2 \cdot \frac{\gamma^4}{\rho^2}$$

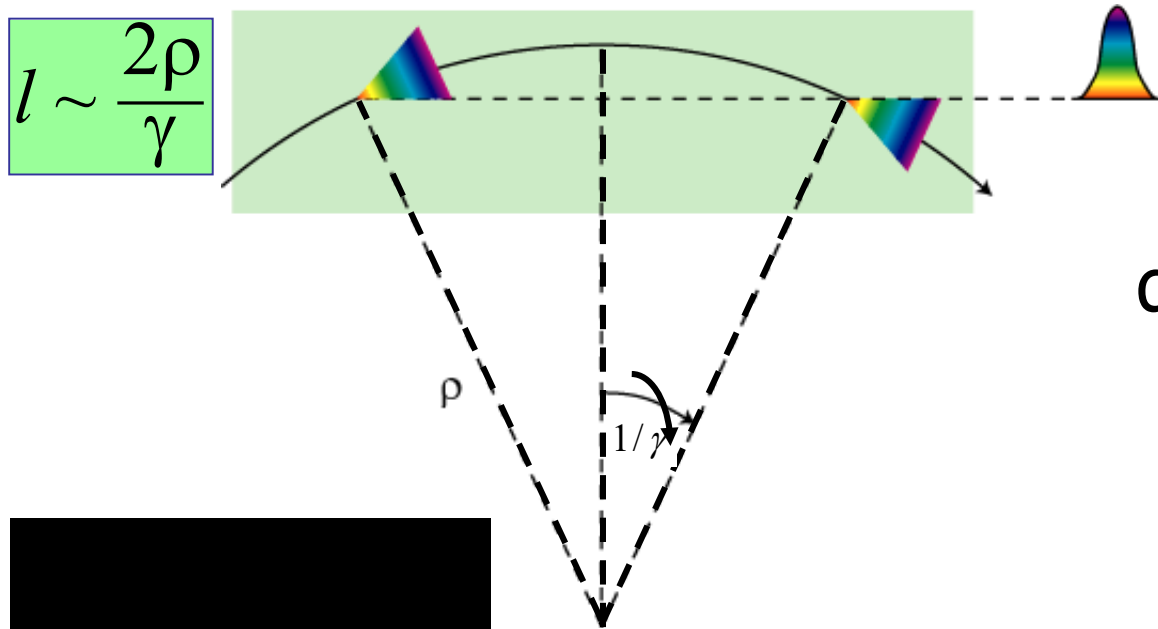
$$\alpha = \frac{1}{137}$$

$$\hbar c = 197 \text{ Mev} \cdot \text{fm}$$

$$U_0 = \frac{4\pi}{3} \alpha \hbar c \frac{\gamma^4}{\rho}$$

# Typical frequency of synchrotron light

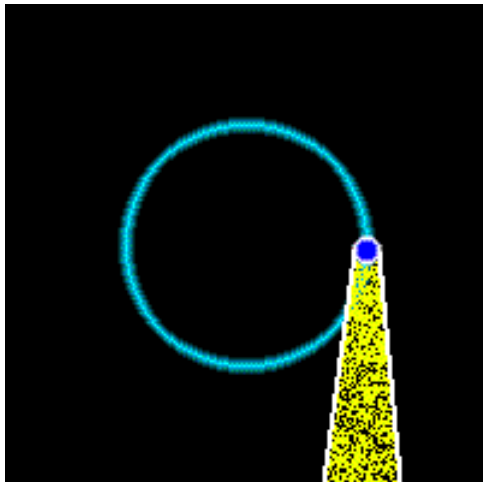
Due to extreme collimation of light observer sees only a small portion of electron trajectory (**a few mm**)



$$l \sim \frac{2\rho}{\gamma}$$

Pulse length:  
difference in times it  
takes an electron  
and a photon to  
cover this distance

$$\Delta t \sim \frac{l}{\beta c} - \frac{l}{c} = \frac{l}{\beta c}(1 - \beta)$$



$$\omega \sim \frac{1}{\Delta t} \sim \gamma^3 \omega_0$$

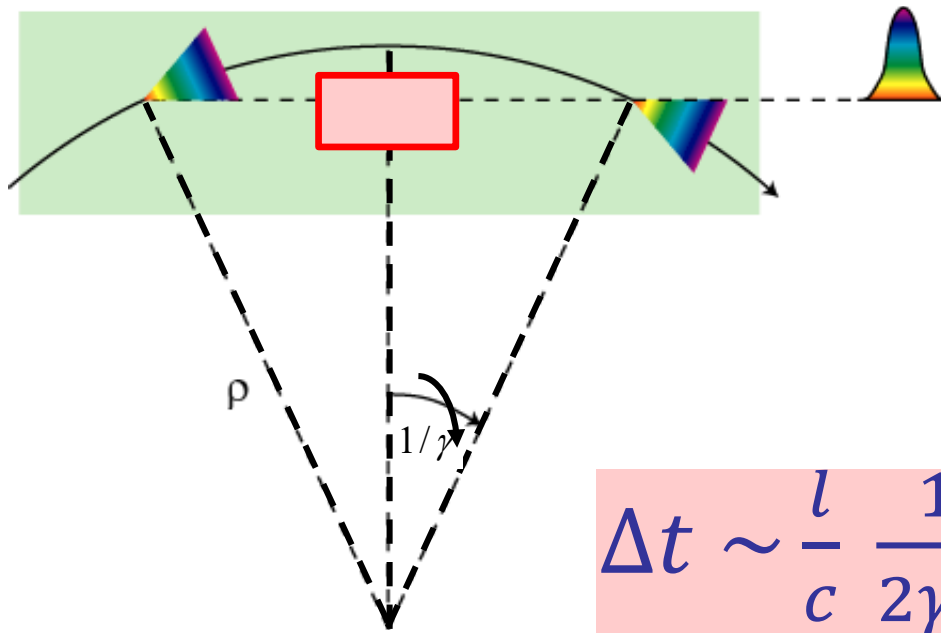
$$\Delta t \sim \frac{2\rho}{\gamma c} \cdot \frac{1}{2\gamma^2}$$



# Short magnet: higher energy photons

When Lorentz factor is not very high (e.g. protons)...

$$l \ll \frac{2\rho}{\gamma}$$



$$\Delta t \sim \frac{l}{c} \frac{1}{2\gamma^2}$$

*Other ideas?*

Pulse length:  
difference in times it  
takes an electron  
and a photon to  
cover this distance

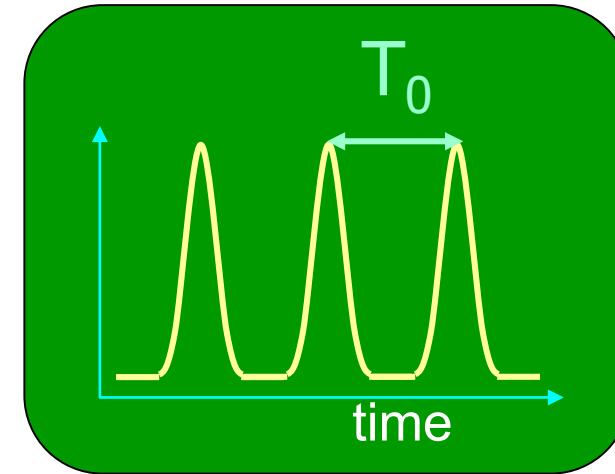
$$\Delta t \sim \frac{l}{\beta c} - \frac{l}{c} = \frac{l}{\beta c}(1 - \beta)$$

# Spectrum of synchrotron radiation

- Synchrotron light comes in a series of flashes every  $T_0$  (revolution period)

- the spectrum consists of harmonics of

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{T_0}$$



- flashes are extremely short: harmonics reach up to very high frequencies

$$\omega_{typ} \cong \gamma^3 \omega_0$$

$$\omega_0 \sim 1 \text{ MHz}$$

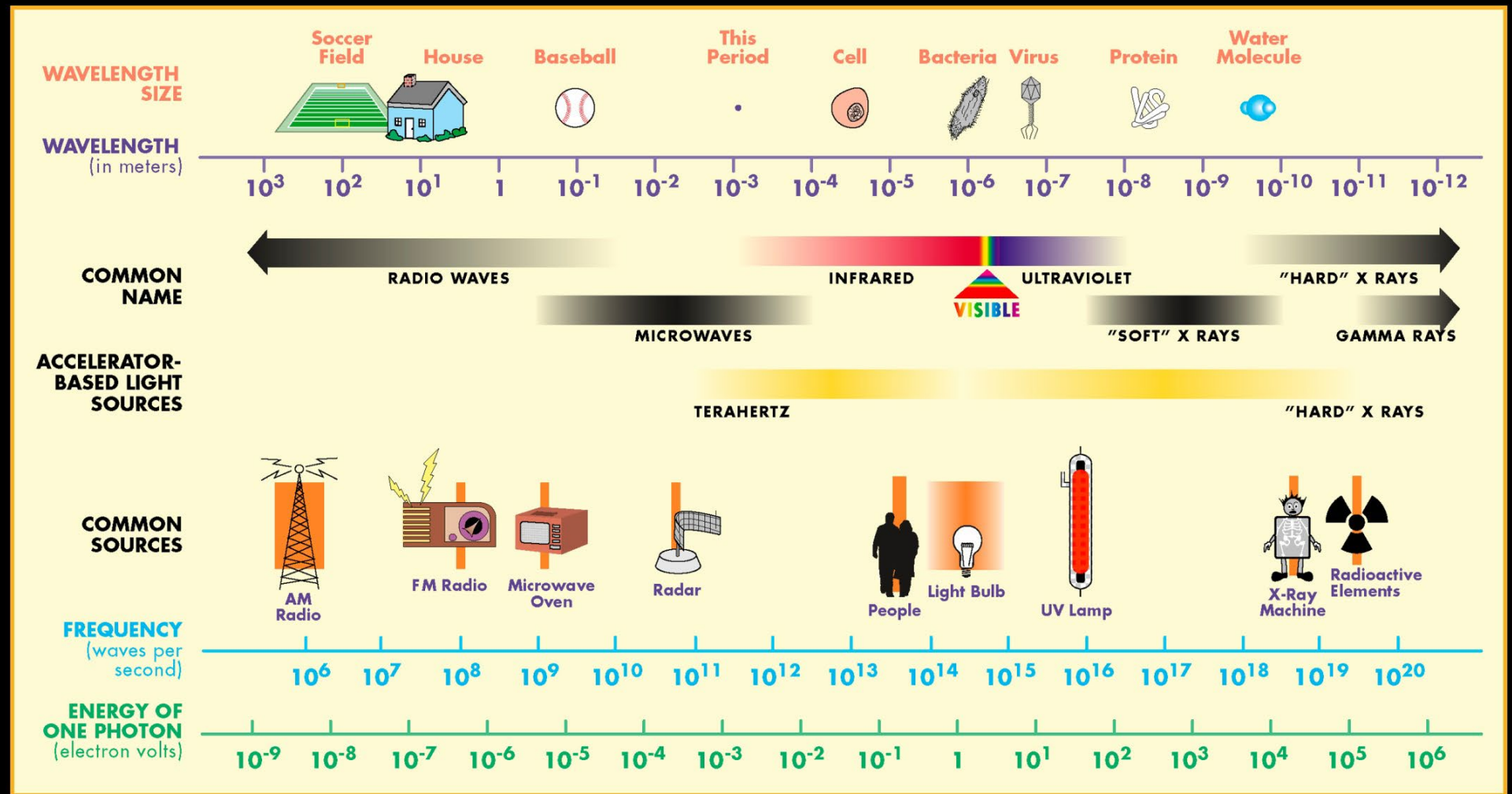
$$\gamma \sim 4000$$

$$\omega_{typ} \sim 10^{16} \text{ Hz!}$$

- At high frequencies the individual harmonics overlap

continuous spectrum !

# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



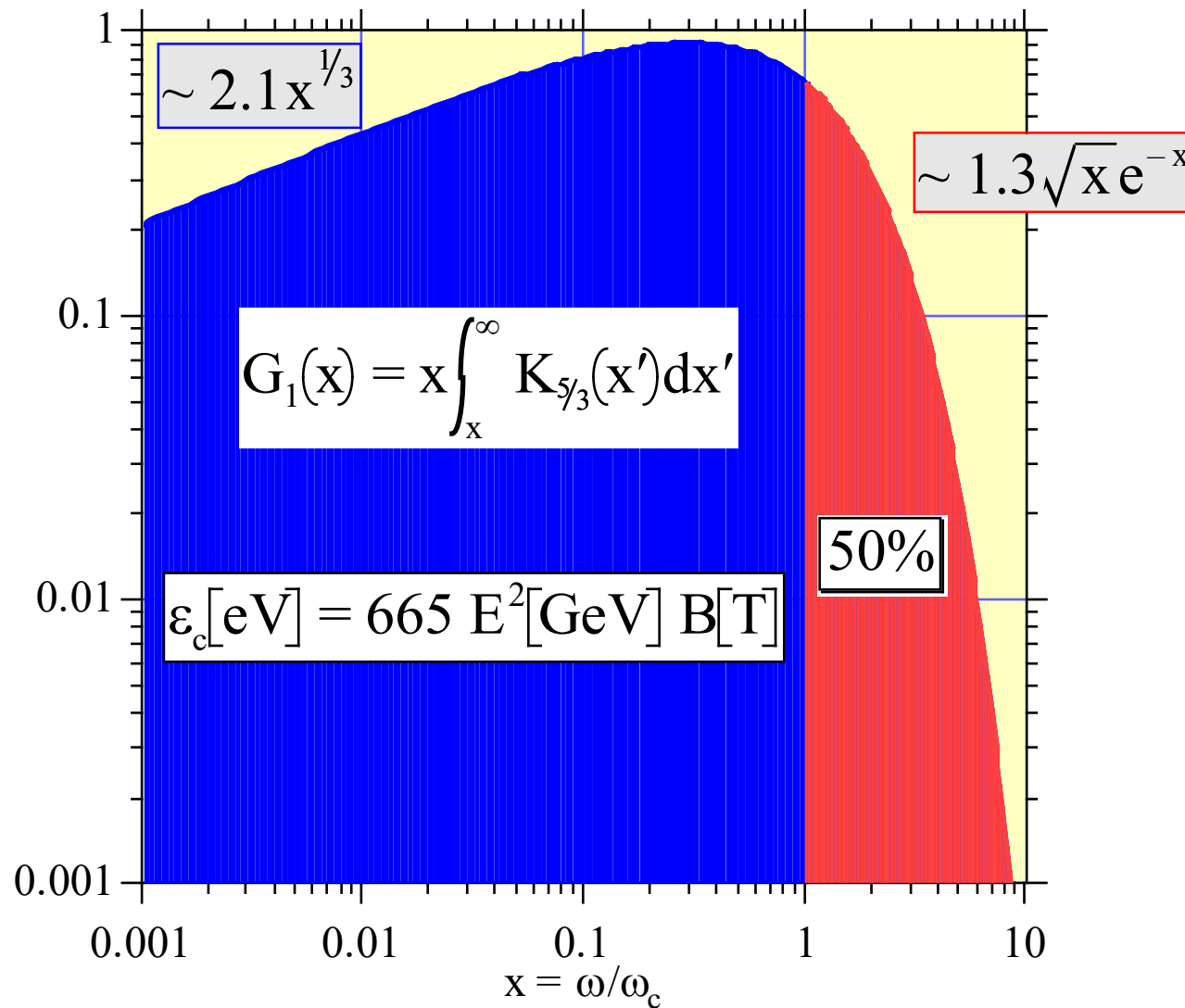
**Wavelength continuously tunable !**

$$\frac{dP}{d\omega} = \frac{P_{\text{tot}}}{\omega_c} S\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_c}\right)$$

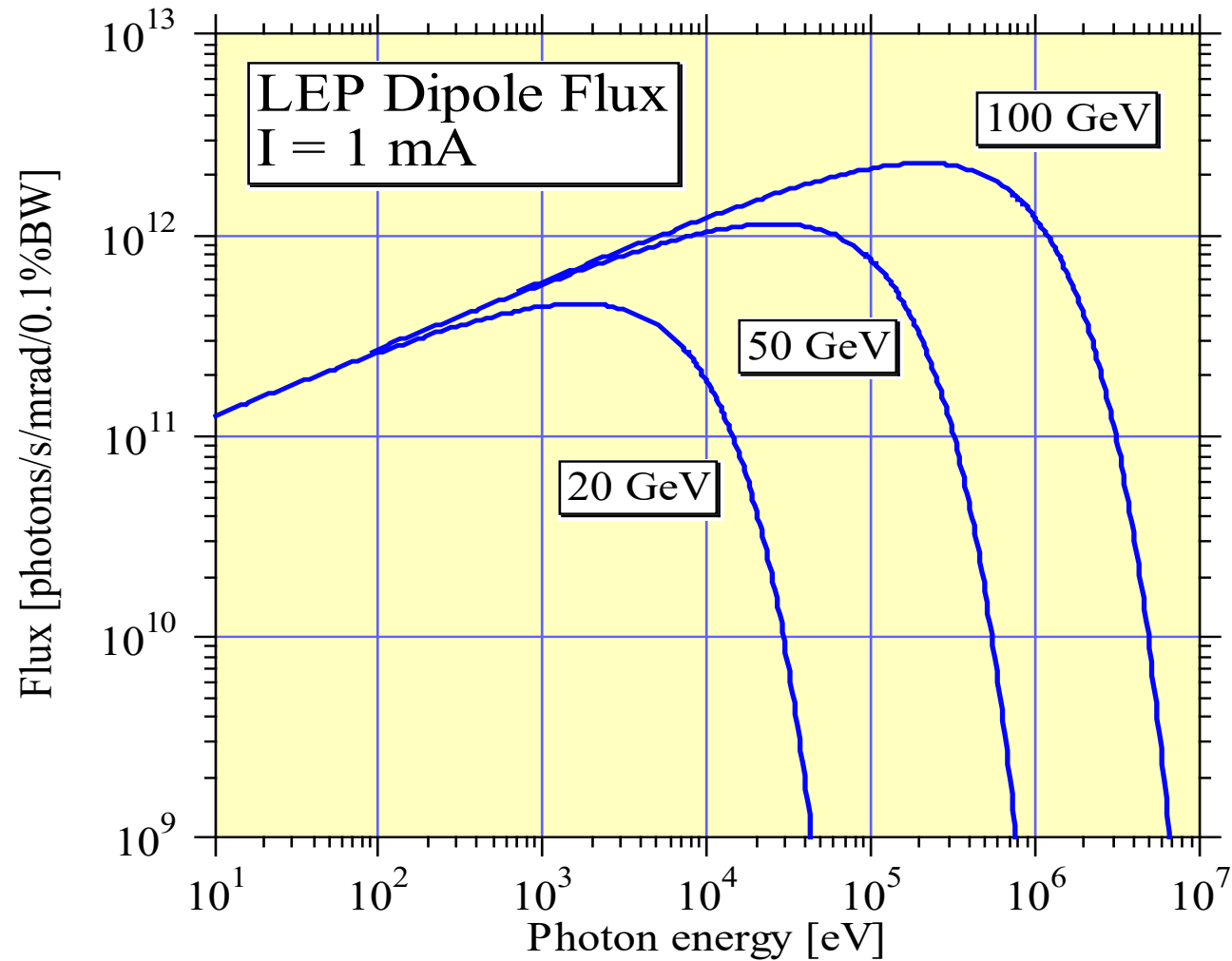
$$S(x) = \frac{9\sqrt{3}}{8\pi} x \int_x^\infty K_{5/3}(x') dx' \quad \int_0^\infty S(x') dx' = 1$$

$$P_{\text{tot}} = \frac{2}{3} \hbar c^2 \alpha \frac{\gamma^4}{\rho^2}$$

$$\omega_c = \frac{3 c \gamma^3}{2 \rho}$$



# Synchrotron radiation flux for different electron energies



# Angular divergence of radiation

The rms opening angle  $R'$

- at the critical frequency:

$$\omega = \omega_c \quad R' \approx \frac{0.54}{\gamma}$$

- well below

$$\omega \ll \omega_c \quad R' \approx \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( \frac{\omega_c}{\omega} \right)^{1/3} \approx 0.4 \left( \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \right)^{1/3}$$

independent of  $\gamma$  !

- well above

$$\omega \gg \omega_c \quad R' \approx \frac{0.6}{\gamma} \left( \frac{\omega_c}{\omega} \right)^{1/2}$$

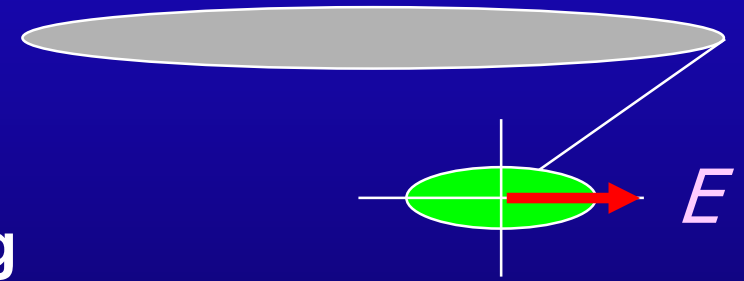
# Synchrotron light polarization



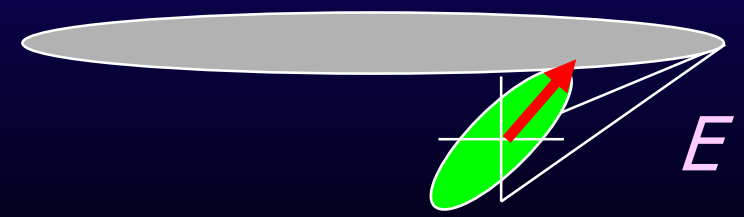
# An electron in a storage ring



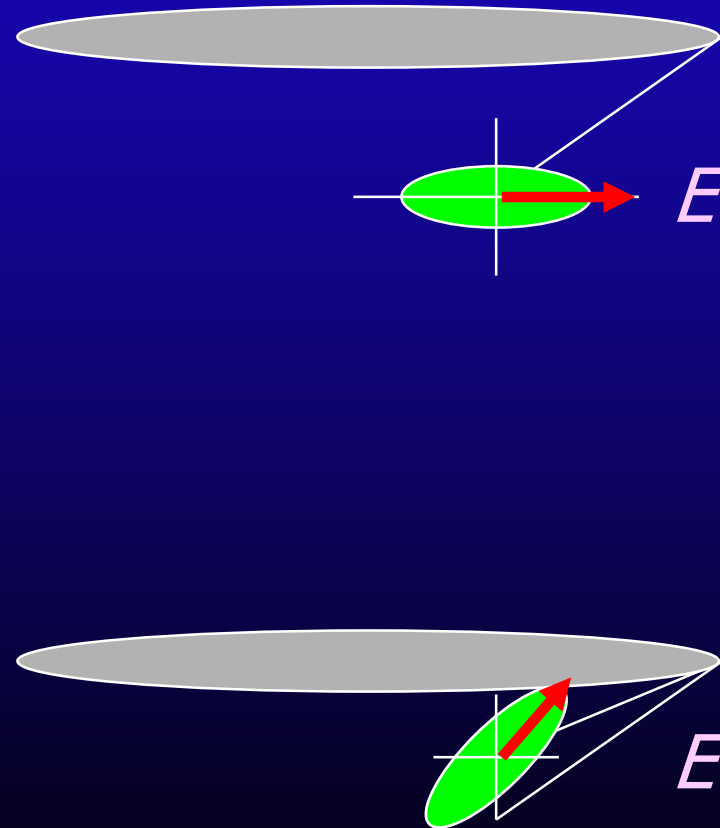
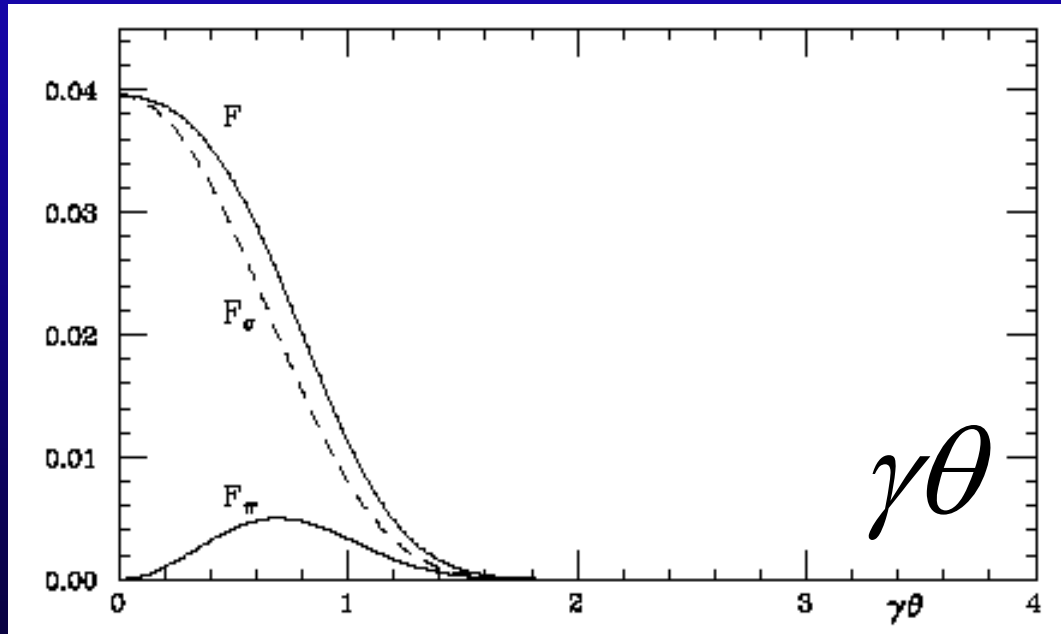
Polarization:  
**Linear** in the plane of the ring  
the electric field vector



**elliptical** out of  
the plane



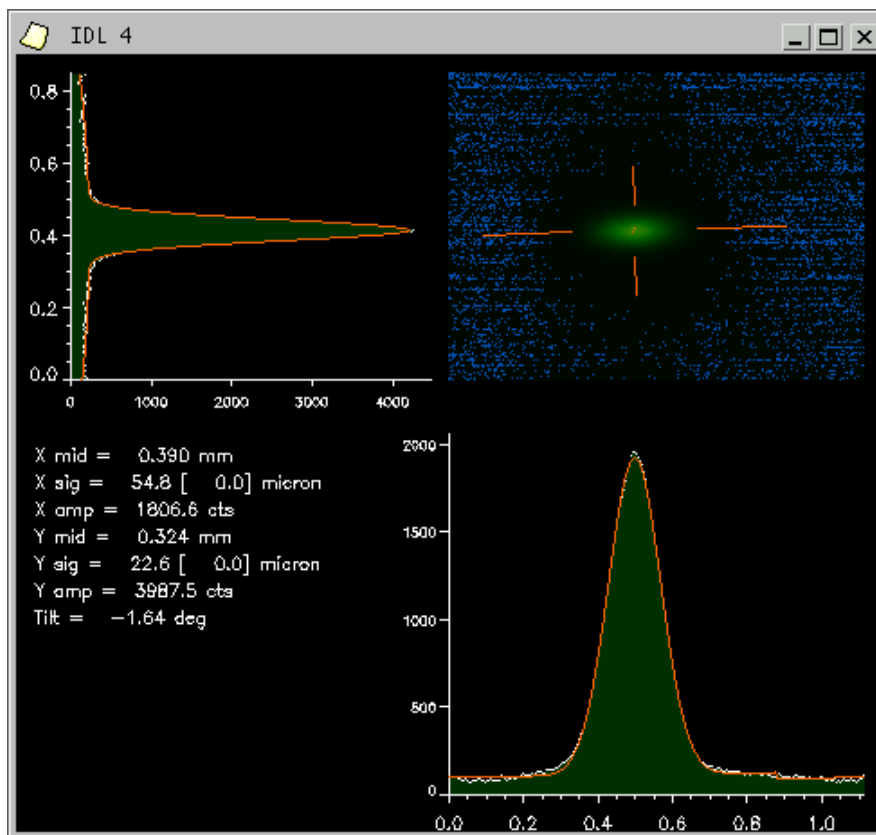
# Angular distribution of SR



# Synchrotron light based electron beam diagnostics

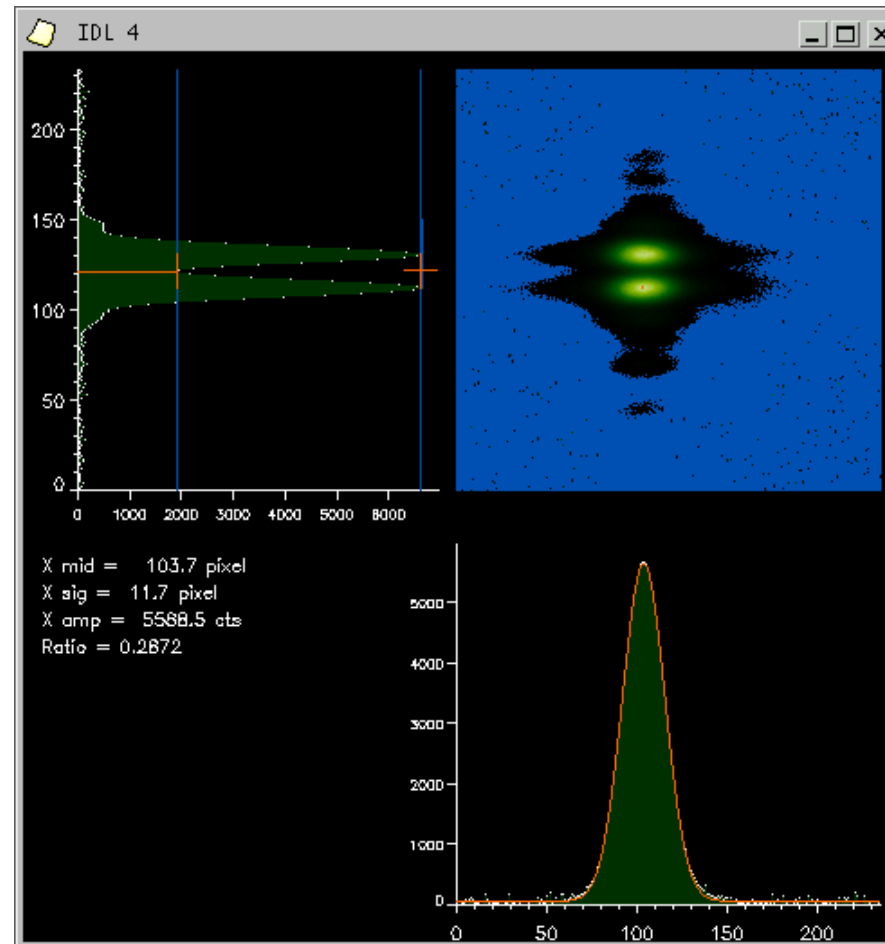
# Seeing the electron beam (SLS)

## X rays



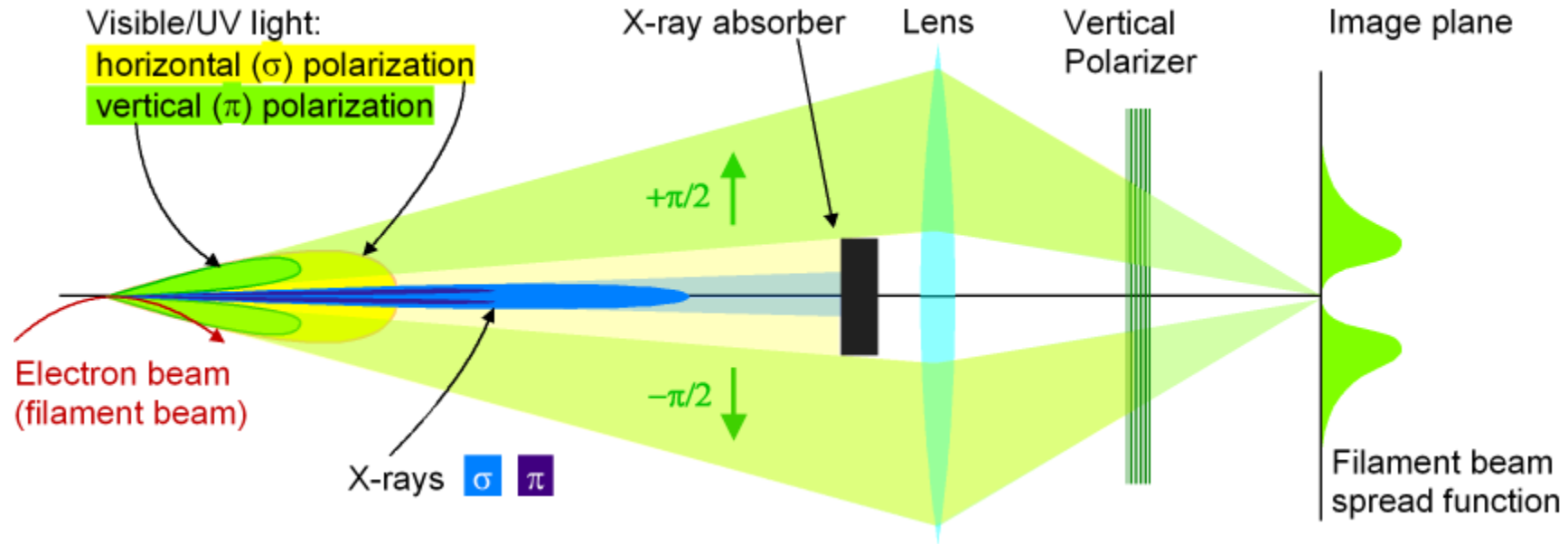
$$\sigma_x \sim 55 \mu\text{m}$$

## visible light, vertically polarised



# Seeing the electron beam (SLS)

Making an image of the electron beam using the vertically polarised synchrotron light



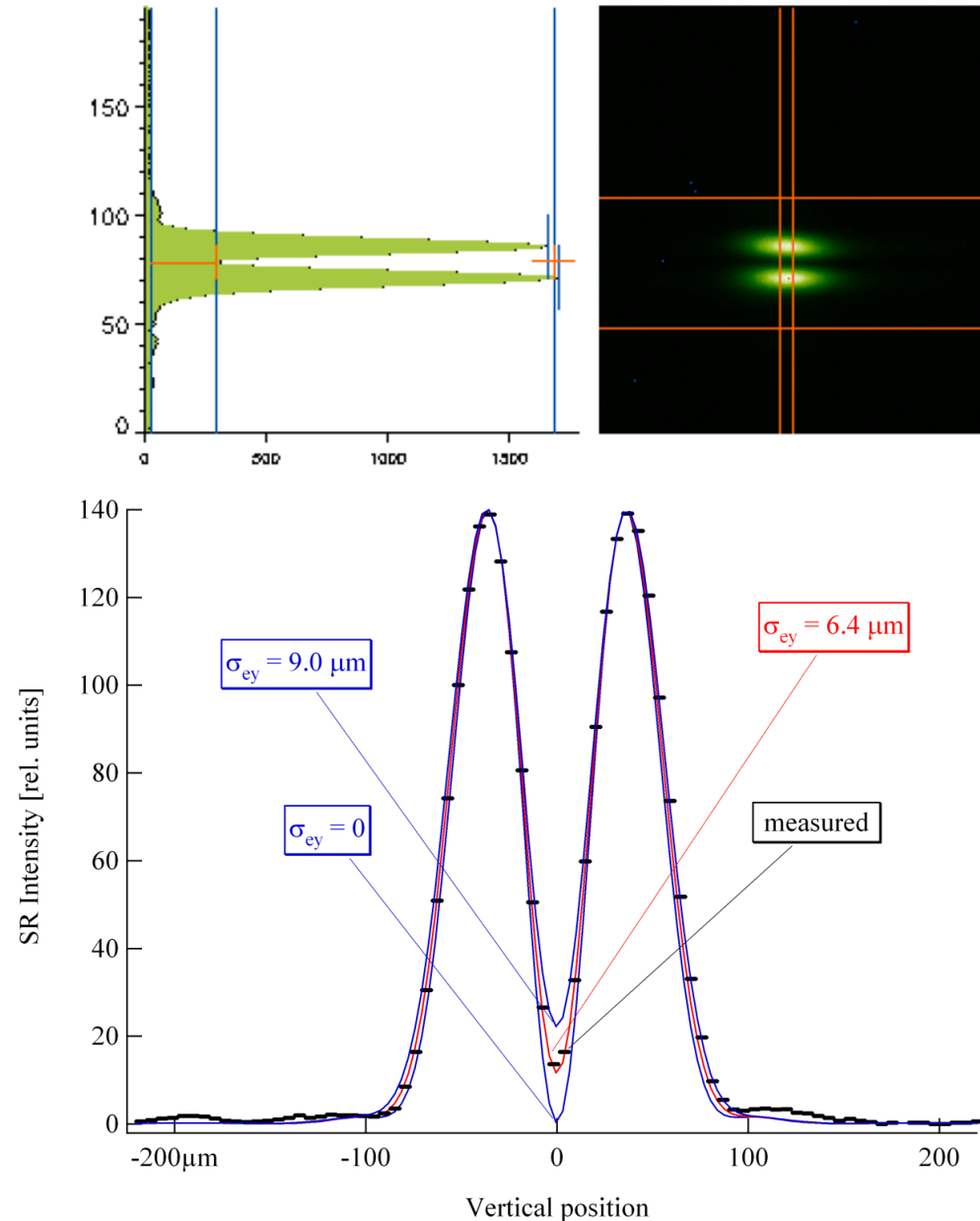
# High resolution measurement

Wavelength used: 364 nm

For point-like source the intensity on axis is zero

Peak-to-valley intensity ratio is determined by the beam height

Present resolution: **3.5  $\mu\text{m}$**



# Useful books and references

---

H. Wiedemann, *Synchrotron Radiation*  
Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2003

H. Wiedemann, *Particle Accelerator Physics*  
Springer, 2015 [Open Access](#)

A. Hofmann, *The Physics of Synchrotron Radiation*  
Cambridge University Press 2004

A. W. Chao, M. Tigner, *Handbook of Accelerator Physics and Engineering*, World Scientific 2013



## Synchrotron Radiation and Free Electron Lasers

Grenoble, France, 22 - 27 April 1996

(A. Hofmann's lectures on synchrotron radiation)

CERN Yellow Report 98-04

Brunnen, Switzerland, 2 – 9 July 2003

CERN Yellow Report 2005-012

[Previous CAS Schools Proceedings](#)