

# PHYS 570 - Introduction to Synchrotron Radiation

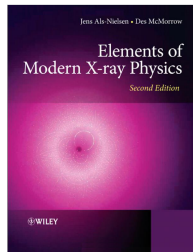


Term: Spring 2026  
Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 11:25-12:40  
Location: 032 Rettaliata Engineering

Instructor: Carlo Segre  
Office: 166d/172 Pritzker Science  
Phone: 312.567.3498  
email: [segre@illinoistech.edu](mailto:segre@illinoistech.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday 15:30-16:30 & Thursday 14:30-15:30  
or by appointment.

Book: *Elements of Modern X-Ray Physics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*,  
J. Als-Nielsen and D. McMorrow (Wiley, 2011)

Web Site: <http://csrri.iit.edu/~segre/phys570/26S>





- Describe the means of production of synchrotron x-ray radiation



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- Describe the function of various components of a synchrotron beamline



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- Perform calculations in support of a synchrotron experiment
- Describe the physics behind a variety of experimental techniques
- Prepare and deliver an oral presentation of a synchrotron radiation research topic
- Write a General User Proposal in the format used by the Advanced Photon Source



- Focus on applications of synchrotron radiation





- Focus on applications of synchrotron radiation
- Homework assignments



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- In-class student presentations on research topics
  - Choose a research article which features a synchrotron technique
  - Timetable will be posted



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- Homework assignments
- In-class student presentations on research topics
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  - Timetable will be posted
- Final project - writing a General User Proposal
  - Start thinking about a suitable project right away
  - Synchrotron technique must differ from journal article used in final presentation
  - Make proposal and get approval before starting



- Visits to Advanced Photon Source
  - All students who plan to attend will need to request badges from APS
  - Go to the APS User Portal and start the new user checklist:  
<https://www.aps.anl.gov/Users-Information/Getting-Started/User-Checklist>
  - Use MRCAT (Sector 10) as location of experiment
  - Use Carlo Segre as local contact
  - State that your beamtime will be in the **second week of March**
  - Schedule to be determined



- Hands on data analysis training
  - GSAS for Rietveld refinement of powder diffraction data  
<https://subversion.xray.aps.anl.gov/trac/pyGSAS>
  - Demeter: XAS processing and analysis  
<https://bruceravel.github.io/demeter/>
  - Larch: Data analysis tools for x-ray spectroscopy  
<https://xraypy.github.io/xraylarch/>



33% – Homework assignments



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Weekly or bi-weekly



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Grading scale

A	–	80%	to	100%
B	–	65%	to	80%
C	–	50%	to	65%
E	–	0%	to	50%

# Topics to be covered (at a minimum)



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- Photoelectric absorption
- Resonant scattering

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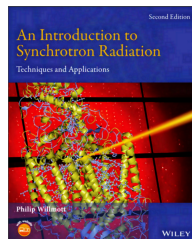


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- Imaging

# Resources for the course



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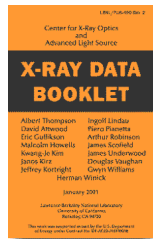
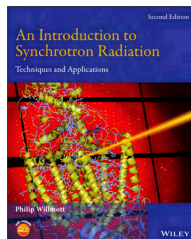


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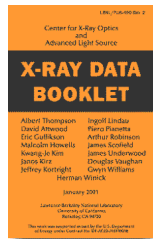
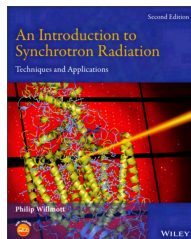


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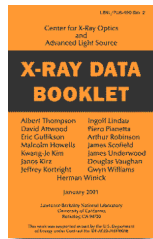
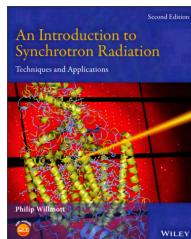


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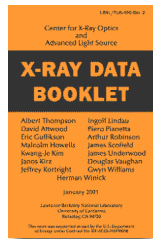
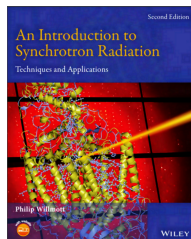


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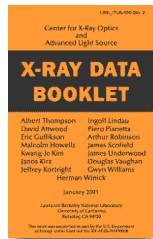
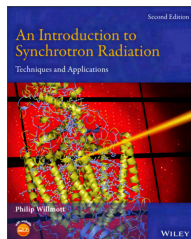


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# Today's outline - January 13, 2026



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- The big picture

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- History of x-ray sources

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- X-ray interactions with matter



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- Atomic form factor



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Reading Assignment: Chapter 1.1–1.6; 2.1–2.2

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The broad range of techniques make synchrotron x-ray sources to nearly any science or engineering field



# The classical x-ray



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$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= hc/\mathcal{E} \\ &= (4.1357 \times 10^{-15} \text{ eV} \cdot \text{s})(2.9979 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})/\mathcal{E} \\ &= (4.1357 \times 10^{-18} \text{ keV} \cdot \text{s})(2.9979 \times 10^{18} \text{ \AA/s})/\mathcal{E} \\ &= 12.398 \text{ \AA} \cdot \text{keV}/\mathcal{E} \quad \text{to give units of \AA} \end{aligned}$$



# Interactions of x-rays with matter



For the purposes of this course, we care most about the interactions of x-rays with matter.

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3. Absorption
4. Pair production

We will only discuss the first three.

# Elastic scattering

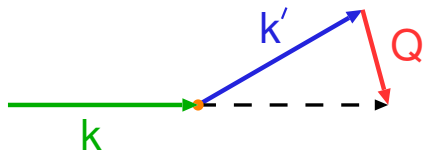


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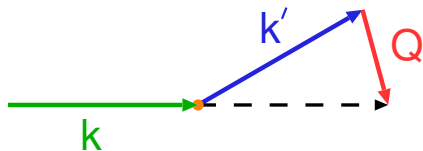




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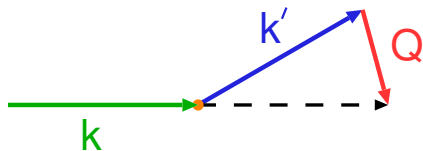


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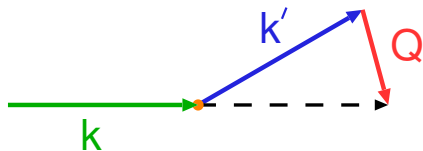


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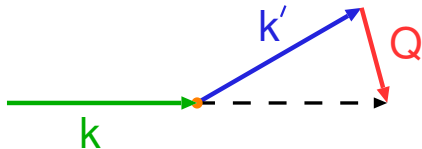


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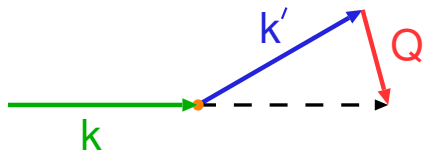
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or in terms of momentum transfer:  $\hbar Q = \hbar k - \hbar k'$

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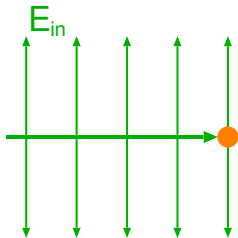
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Start with the scattering from a single electron, then build up to more complexity

# Thomson scattering



Assumptions:

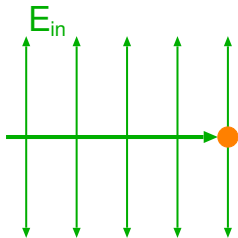


# Thomson scattering



Assumptions:

incident x-ray plane wave



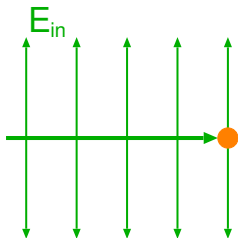
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Assumptions:

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electron is a point charge



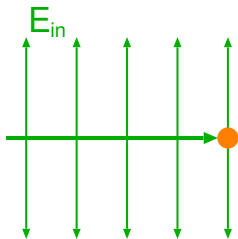


# Thomson scattering



## Assumptions:

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# Thomson scattering



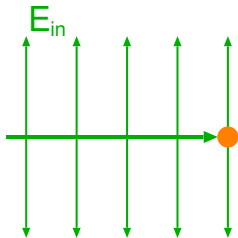
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scattered intensity  $\propto 1/R^2$



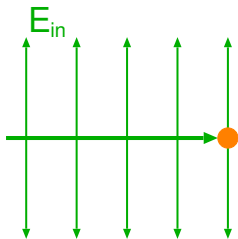
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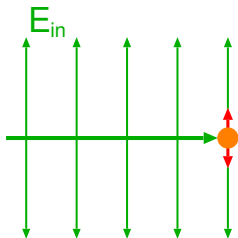
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The acceleration of the electron,  $a_x(t')$ , results in the radiation of a spherical wave with the same frequency



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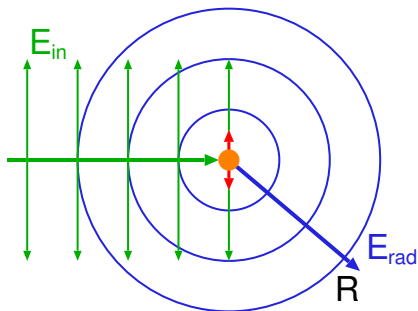
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The observer at  $R$  “sees” a scattered electric field  $E_{rad}(R, t)$  at a later time  $t = t' + R/c$



# Thomson scattering



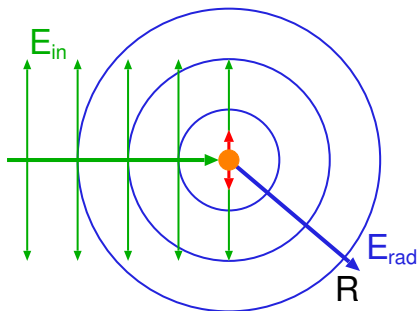
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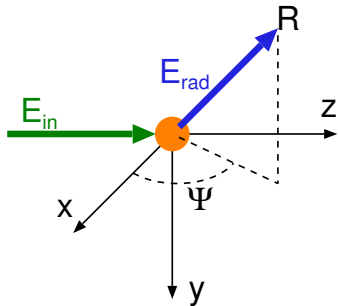
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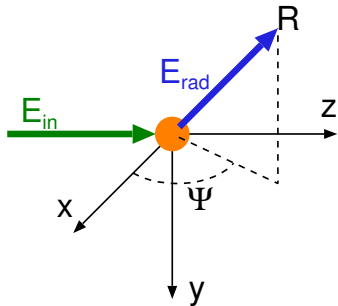
Using this, calculate the elastic scattering cross-section

# Thomson scattering



$$E_{rad}(R, t) = -\frac{-e}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 R} a_x(t') \sin \Psi,$$

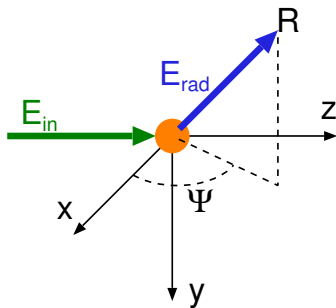
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$$E_{rad}(R, t) = -\frac{-e}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2 R} a_x(t') \sin \Psi, \quad t' = t - R/c$$

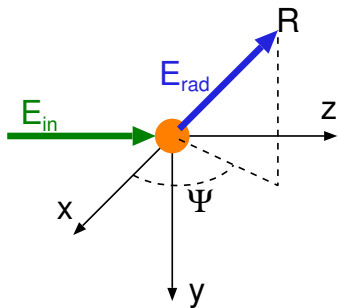


# Thomson scattering



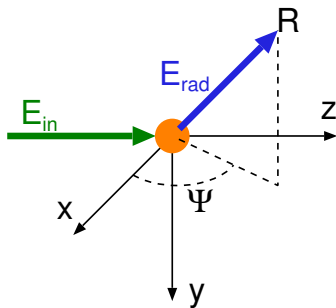
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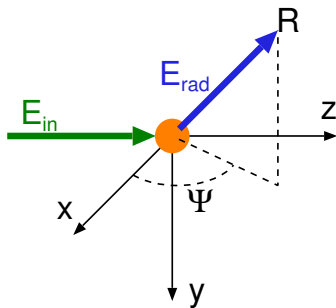


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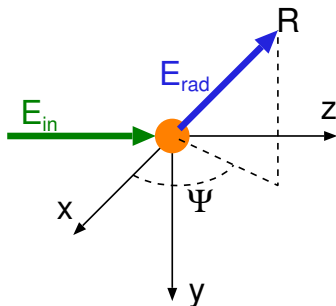
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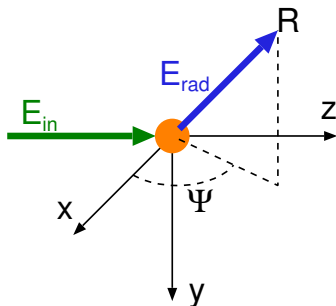
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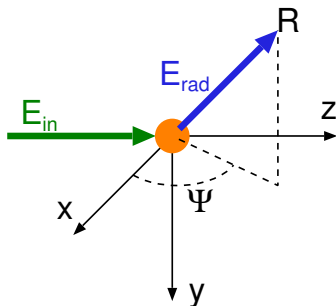
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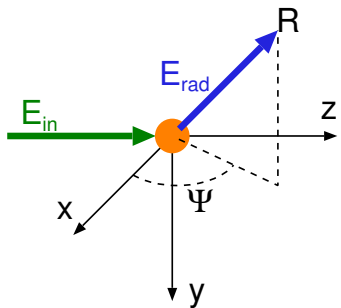
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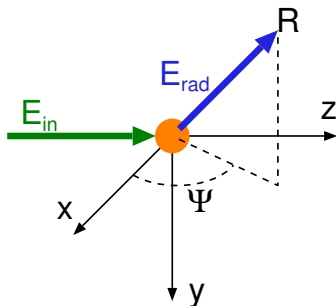
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$$r_0 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m c^2} = 2.82 \times 10^{-5} \text{ \AA}$$



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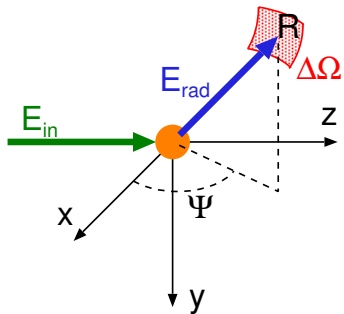
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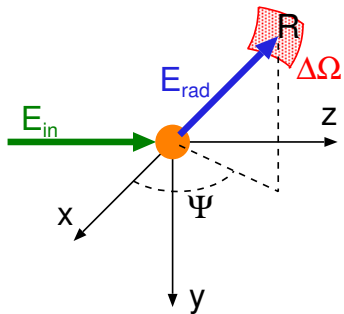
$$r_0 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 m c^2} = 2.82 \times 10^{-5} \text{ \AA}$$

$r_0$  is called the Thomson scattering length or the “classical” radius of the electron

# Scattering cross-section

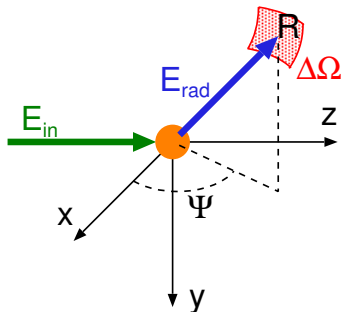


# Scattering cross-section



detector of solid angle  $\Delta\Omega$  located a distance  $R$  from electron

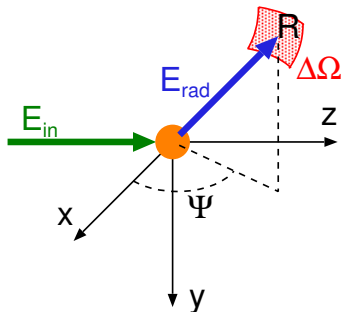
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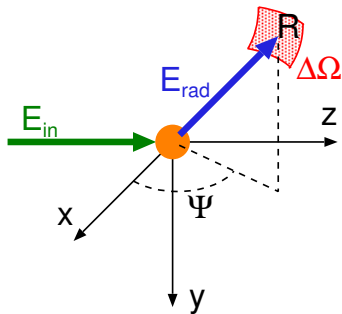


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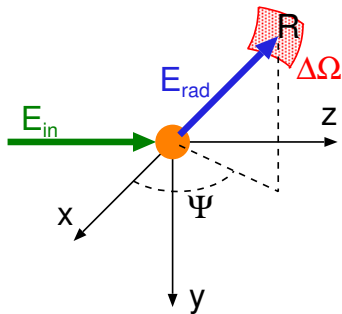
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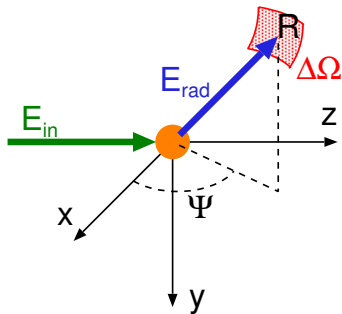
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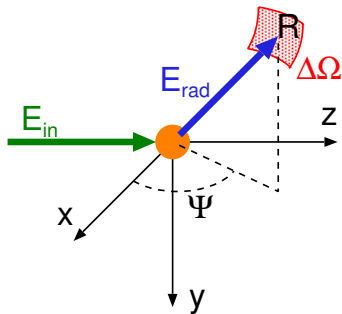
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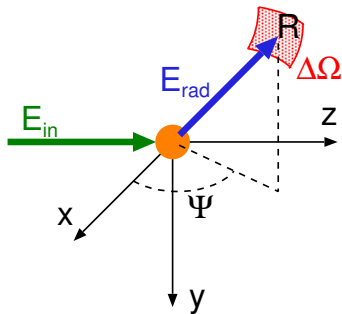
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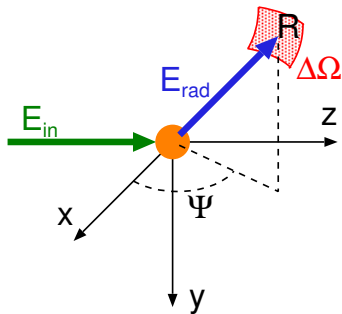
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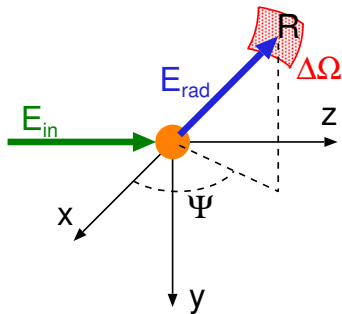
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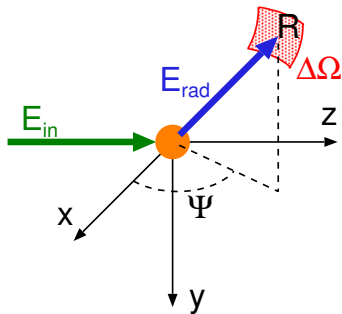
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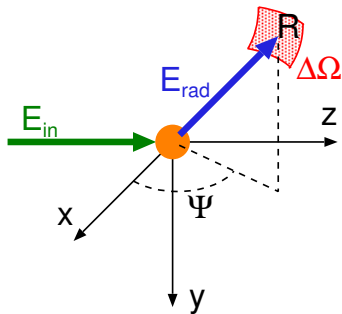
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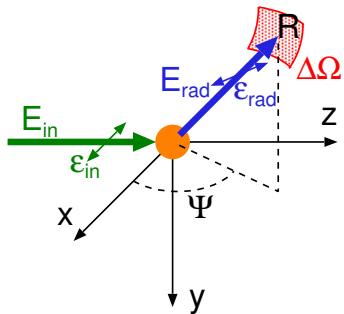
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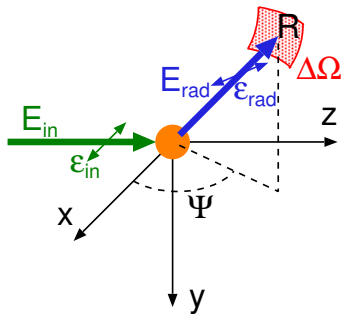
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# Total cross-section



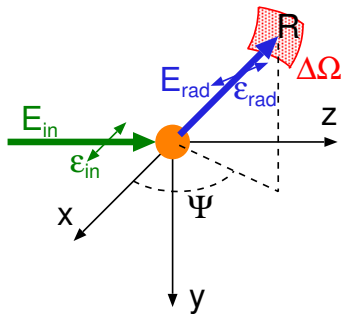
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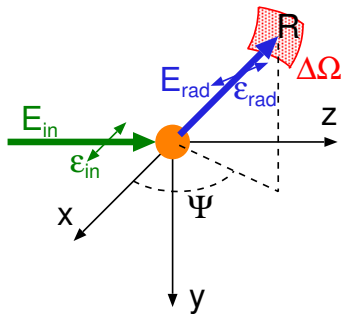


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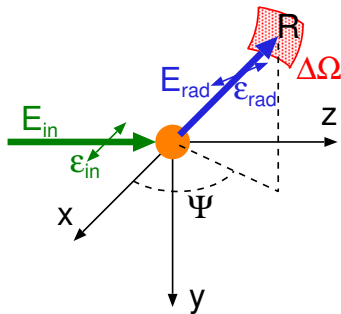
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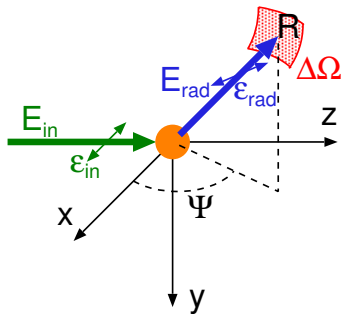
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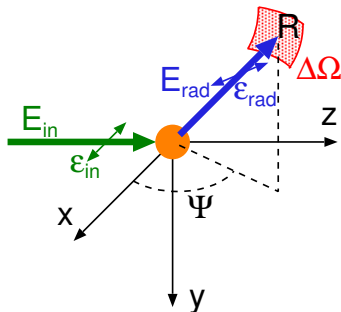
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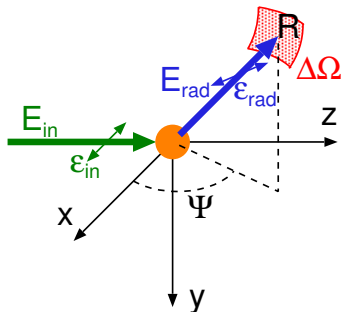


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Integrate to obtain the total Thomson scattering cross-section from an electron.

# Total cross-section



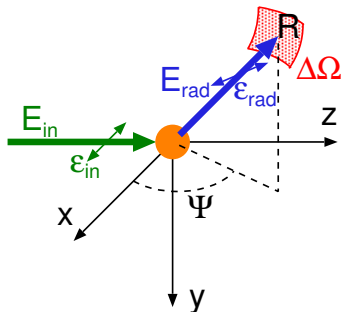
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$$\sigma = \int r_0^2 \sin^2 \psi d\Omega$$

# Total cross-section



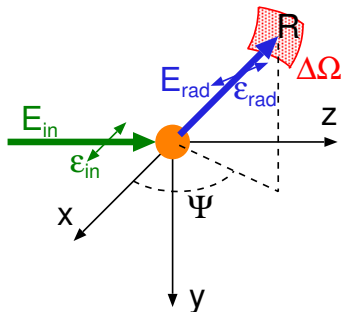
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$$\sigma = \int r_0^2 \sin^2 \psi d\Omega = \frac{2}{3} 4\pi r_0^2$$

# Total cross-section



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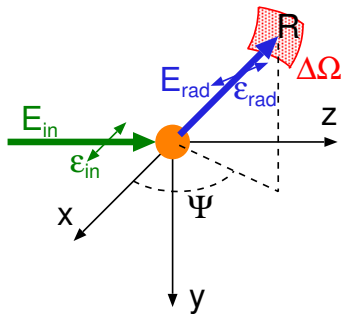
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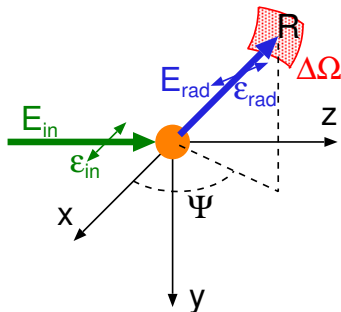
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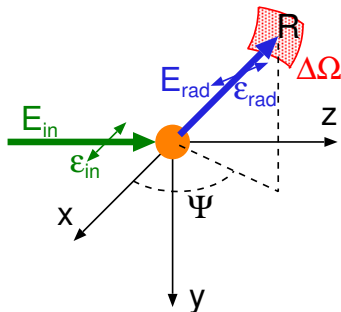
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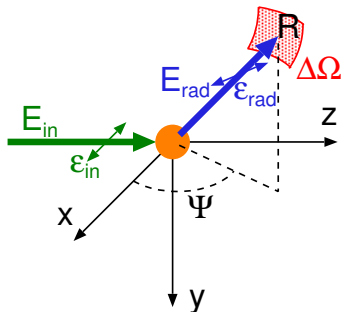
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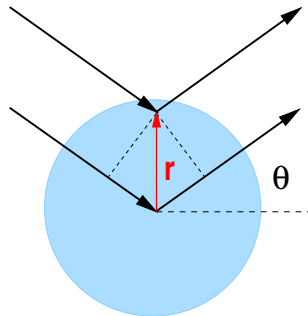
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# Atomic scattering



If we have a charge distribution instead of a single electron, the scattering is more complex

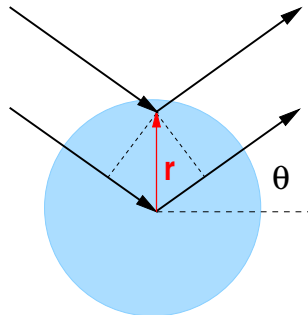


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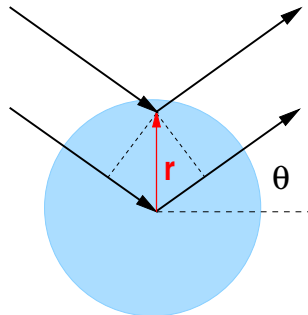
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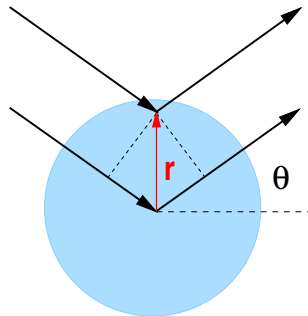
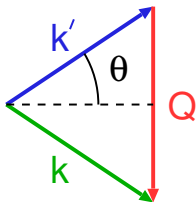
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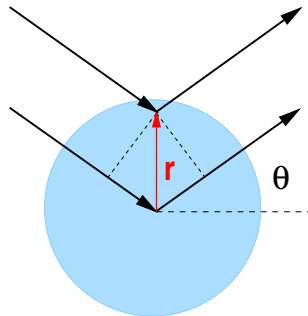
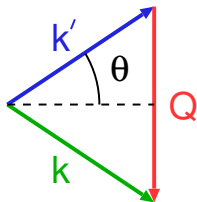
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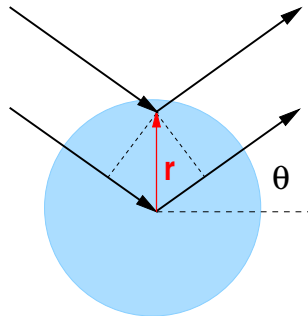
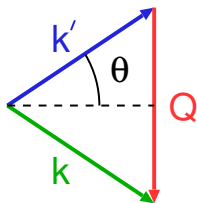
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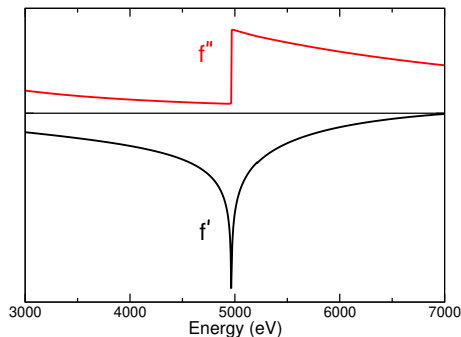
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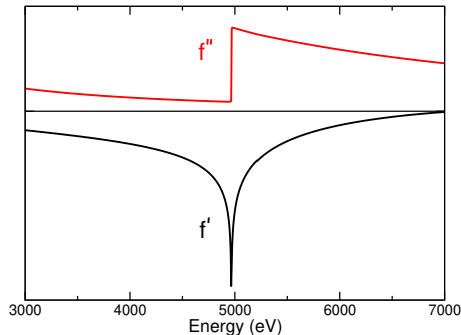


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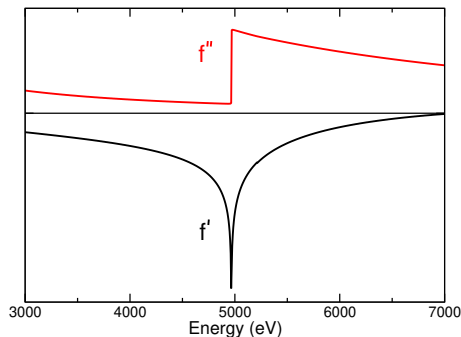
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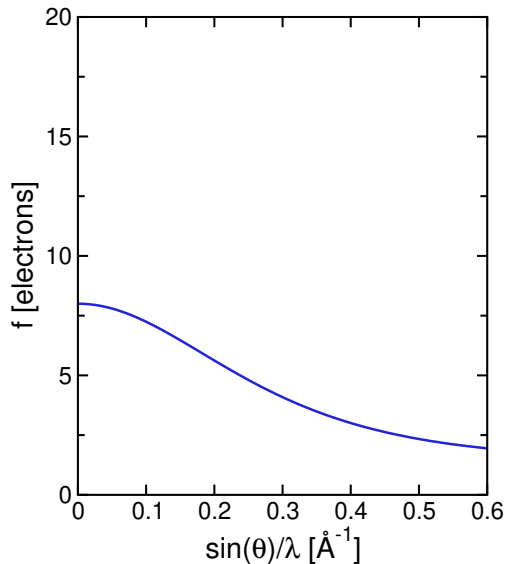
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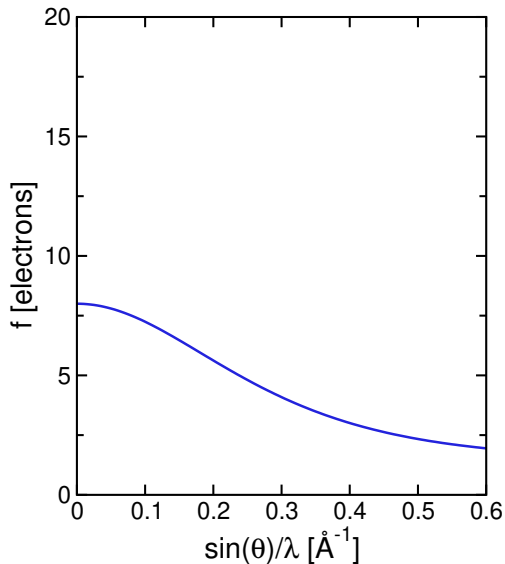
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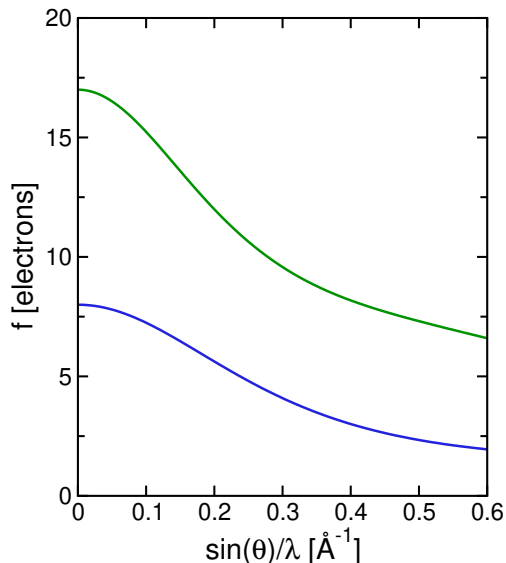


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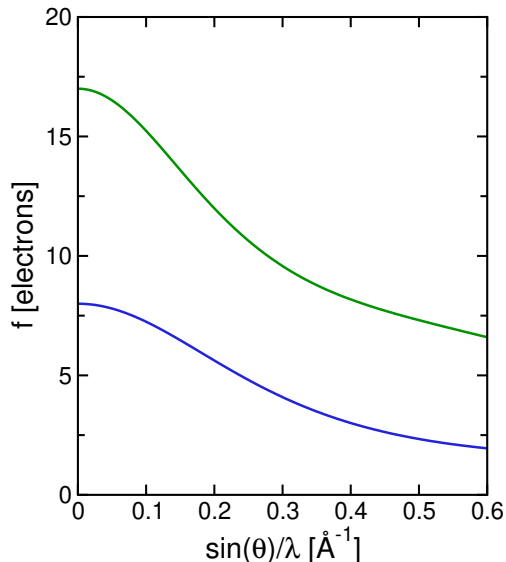
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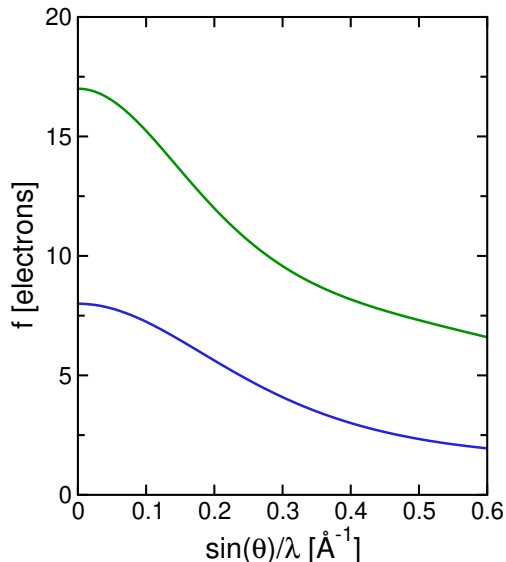
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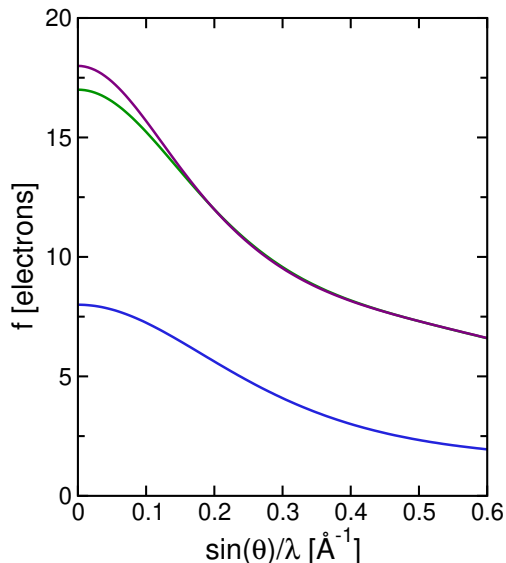
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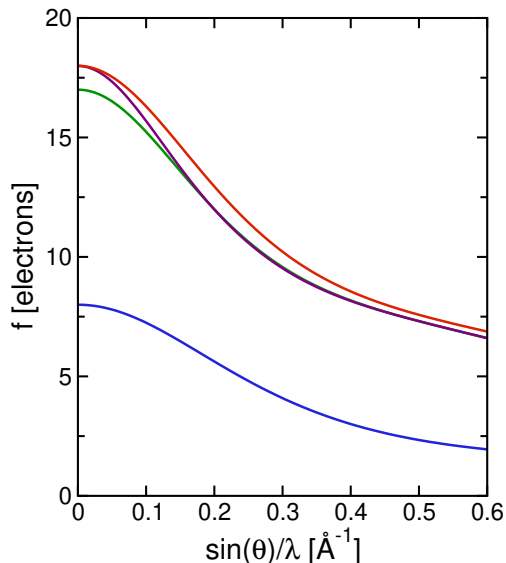
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