

Name:

1C Discussion - Week 10

1. **Cosmic Rays.** Some of the largest particle accelerators can impart one TeV ($10^{12}eV$) to a proton. This is eclipsed by cosmic accelerators such as supernovae or active galactic nuclei, which accelerate particles to energies of $10^{21}eV$.
 - (a) If you gave a tennis ball ($\approx 0.05kg$) a kinetic energy of $10^{21}eV$, how fast would it go according to Newtonian mechanics? Does a relativistic description apply?
 - (b) Do the same for a proton ($10^{-27}kg$) with a kinetic energy of $10^{21}eV$. How long would it take this proton (in its own reference frame) to cross the full length of the Milky Way Galaxy? ($\approx 10^5$ lightyears)

2. **Relativistic Lorentz Force.** The relativistic Lorentz Force Law has the same form as the ordinary Lorentz Force Law

$$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (1)$$

The left hand side belies internal modifications, however.

- (a) Derive the relativistic Newton's Second Law from

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{p}}{\partial t} \quad (2)$$

where \mathbf{p} is the relativistic momentum.

- (b) Now equate your result from part (a) with the Lorentz Force Law and solve for the acceleration on a relativistic charged particle due to an electromagnetic field. [Hint: Take the dot product of both sides with \mathbf{v} , and recall that for any vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = 0$]