

Problem 8.11¹⁰ Picture the electron as a uniformly charged spherical shell, with charge e and radius R , spinning at angular velocity ω .

(a) Calculate the total energy contained in the electromagnetic fields.

(b) Calculate the total angular momentum contained in the fields.

(c) According to the Einstein formula ($E = mc^2$), the energy in the fields should contribute to the mass of the electron. Lorentz and others speculated that the *entire* mass of the electron might be accounted for in this way: $U_{\text{em}} = m_e c^2$. Suppose, moreover, that the electron's spin angular momentum is entirely attributable to the electromagnetic fields: $L_{\text{em}} = \hbar/2$. On these two assumptions, determine the radius and angular velocity of the electron. What is their product, ωR ? Does this classical model make sense?