



**Figure 1:** The number of decays as a function of time in the three-element decay chain  $I_1 \xrightarrow{\tau_1} I_2 \xrightarrow{\tau_2} I_3(\text{stable})$ ; (left)  $\tau_2 = \tau_1/2$ ; (right)  $\tau_2 = 2\tau_1$ .