

PHASM/G442 Particle Physics

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Module IV
Interaction by Particle Exchange



- In the first module we used the Fermi Golden Rule to arrive at a generic expression for the cross-section

$$\sigma \propto \frac{|M|^2}{\text{flux}} \times (\text{phase space})$$

and calculated the phase space for a $2 \rightarrow 2$ process

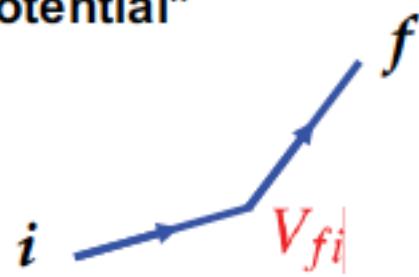
- In Module III we have covered **relativistic** treatment of spin-1/2 particles (Dirac Equation)
- It is now time to tackle the **matrix element**, M . In this module:
 - Interaction by particle exchange — “Toy” model
 - Dirac + Maxwell \Rightarrow QED
 - Feynman diagrams
 - Feynman Rules (for QED)
 - Lagrangian Formalism, gauge invariance and interactions

Classical vs QFT picture

Recall FGR

$$\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi|T_{fi}|^2\rho(E_f)$$

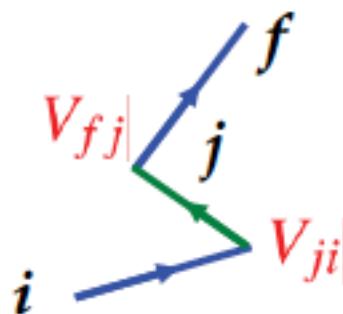
“scattering in
a potential”



$$T_{fi} = \langle f | V | i \rangle$$

Classical picture:

Scattering in a potential, **action at a distance**



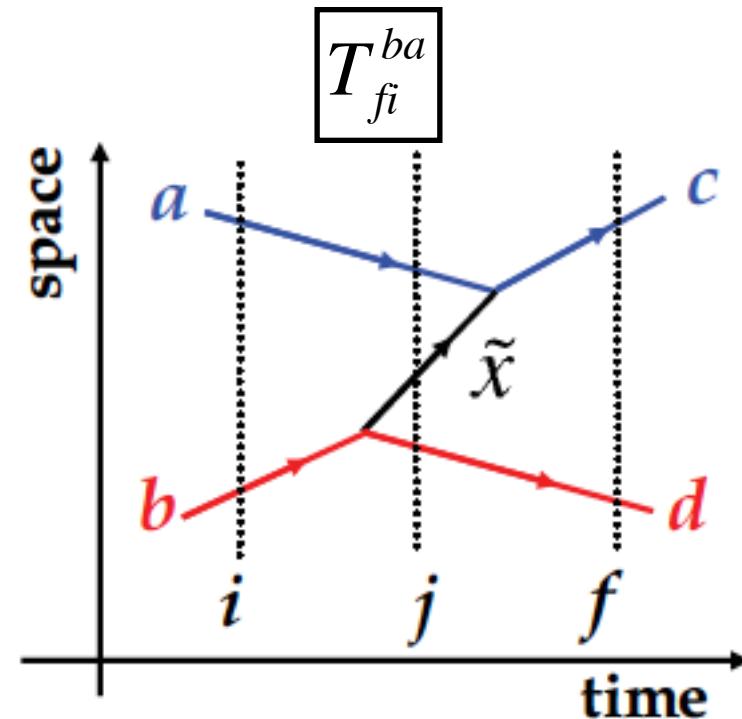
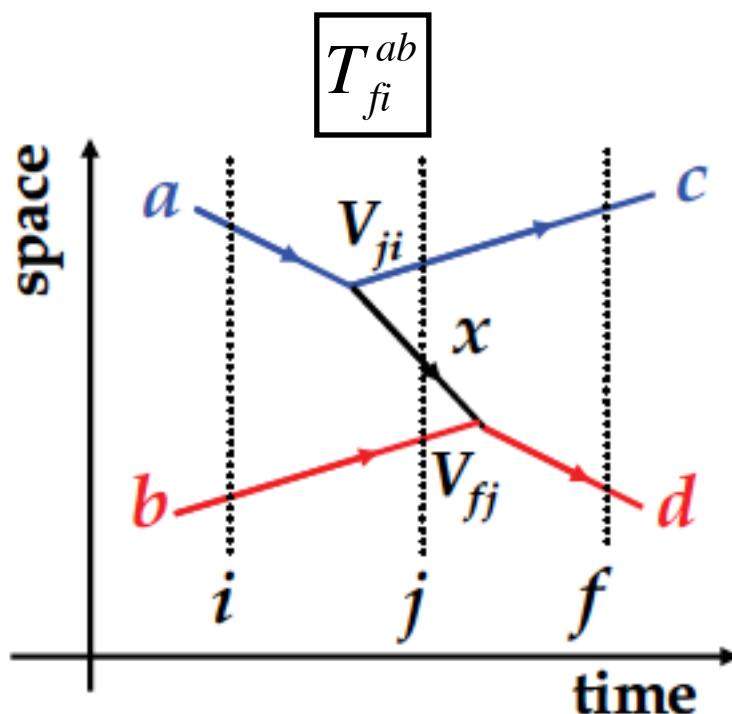
“scattering via an
intermediate state”

$$T_{fi} = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\langle f | V | j \rangle \langle j | V | i \rangle}{E_i - E_j} + \dots$$

QFT picture:

Forces due to **exchange of virtual particles**. No action at a distance

Time-ordered perturbation theory



For T_{fi}^{ab}

$$T_{fi}^{ab} = \frac{\langle d|V|x+b\rangle\langle c+x|V|a\rangle}{(E_a+E_b)-(E_c+E_x+E_b)} \longrightarrow 49$$

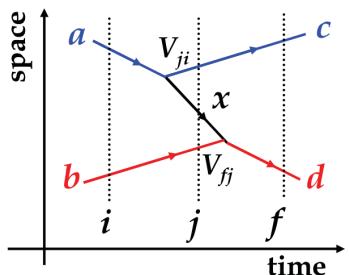
Taking into account **relativistic** wave function normalisation(\sqrt{E})

and a **scalar** being the simplest L.I. quantity: $\langle c+x|V|a\rangle = \frac{g_a}{(2E_a 2E_c 2E_x)^{1/2}}$

Same for $\langle d|V|x+b\rangle$

Thus $T_{fi}^{ab} = \frac{1}{2E_x} \cdot \frac{1}{(2E_a 2E_b 2E_c 2E_d)^{1/2}} \cdot \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_a - E_c - E_x)} \longrightarrow 46$

Interaction $a+b \rightarrow c+d$



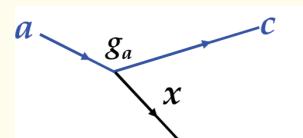
Initial state $i : a+b$
 Final $f : c+d$
 Intermediate $j : c+b+x$

$$P_{fi} = \frac{\langle f | V | j \rangle \langle j | V | i \rangle}{E_i - E_j}$$

$$P_{fi} = \frac{\langle d | V | x+b \rangle \langle c+x | V | a \rangle}{(E_a + E_b) - (E_c + E_x + E_b)}$$

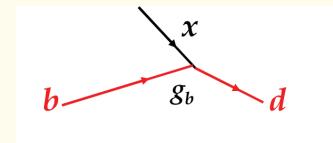
$$P_{fi} = \prod_k \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_k}} M_{fi}$$

$$\langle c+x | V | g \rangle = \frac{M(g \rightarrow c+x)}{\sqrt{2E_g 2E_c 2E_x}}$$



$$\langle c+x | V | g \rangle = \frac{g_a}{\sqrt{2E_g 2E_c 2E_x}}$$

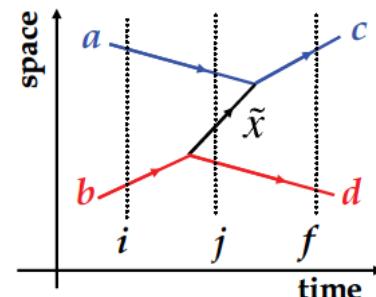
$$\langle d | V | x+b \rangle = \frac{g_b}{\sqrt{2E_b 2E_d 2E_x}}$$



4b

$$M_{fi}^{ab} = (2E_a 2E_b 2E_c 2E_d)^{1/2} T_{fi}^{ab} = \frac{1}{2E_x} \cdot \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_a - E_c - E_x)}$$

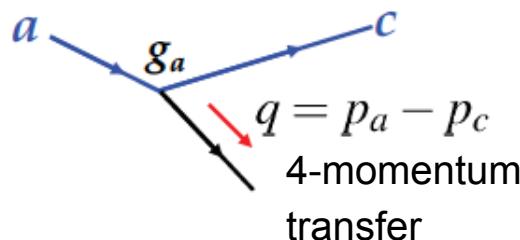
For the "ba" process



$$M_{fi}^{ba} = \frac{1}{2E_x} \cdot \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_b - E_d - E_x)}$$

$$M_{fi} = M_{fi}^{ab} + M_{fi}^{ba} = \frac{g_a g_b}{2E_x} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{E_a - E_c - E_x} + \frac{1}{E_b - E_d - E_x} \right)$$

$$= \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_a - E_c)^2 - E_x^2} = \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_a - E_c)^2 - (\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_c)^2 - m_x^2} = \frac{g_a g_b}{(p_a - p_c)^2 - m_x^2} \rightarrow 5_{q,b}$$



$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{q^2 - m_x^2}$$

Summing over all time orderings gives M_{fi} which is **Lorentz Invariant!**

$$M_{fi} = M_{fi}^{gb} + M_{fi}^{ba} = \frac{g_a g_b}{2E_x} \left(\frac{1}{E_a - E_c - E_x} + \frac{1}{E_b - E_d - E_x} \right)$$

From energy conservation: $E_a + E_b = E_c + E_d$

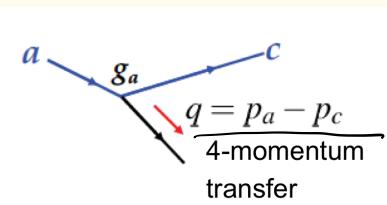
$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{2E_x} \left(\frac{1}{E_a - E_c - E_x} - \frac{1}{E_a - E_c + E_x} \right)$$

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{2E_x} \left(\frac{E_a - E_c + E_x - E_a + E_c + E_x}{(E_a - E_c)^2 - E_x^2} \right) =$$

$$= \frac{g_a g_b}{2E_x} \frac{2E_x}{(E_a - E_c)^2 - E_x^2} = \frac{g_a g_b}{(E_a - E_c)^2 - E_x^2}$$

$$E_x^2 = \vec{p}_x^2 + m_x^2 = (\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_c)^2 + m_x^2$$

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{\underbrace{(E_a - E_c)^2 - (\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_c)^2 - m_x^2}_{(\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_c)^2}} = q \Rightarrow 4\text{-vectors}$$

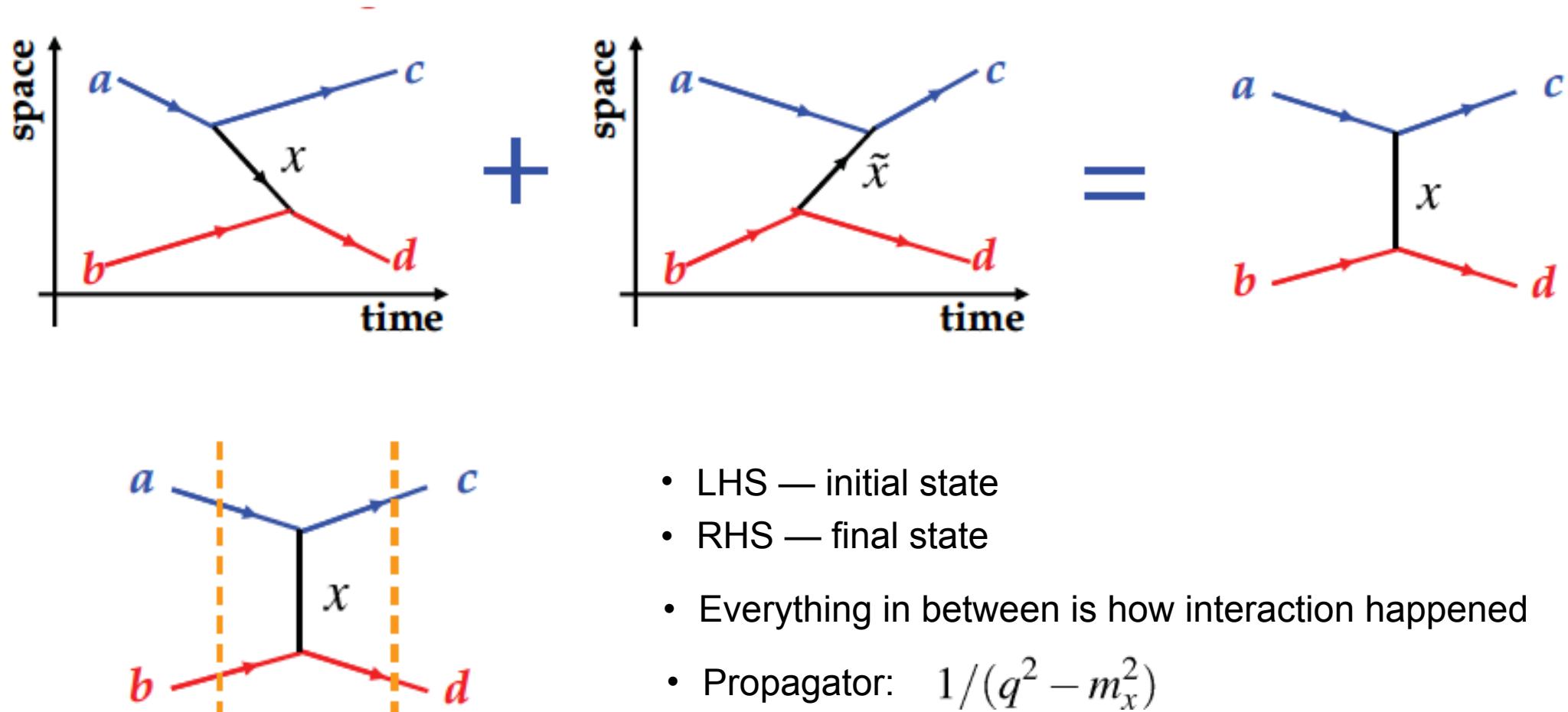


$$q = \vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_c$$

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{q^2 - m_x^2}$$

Feynman Diagrams

Sum over all time orderings is represented by **Feynman Diagrams**

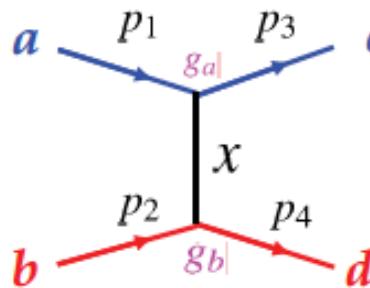


Matrix Element

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{q^2 - m_x^2}$$

depends on

- Fundamental strength of interaction at two vertices: g_a, g_b
- The 4-momentum q carried by the virtual particle — **momentum transfer**



Here $q = p_1 - p_3 = p_4 - p_2 = t$

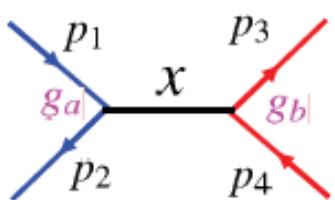
“t-channel”

For elastic scattering: $p_1 = (E, \vec{p}_1); p_3 = (E, \vec{p}_3)$

$$q^2 = (E - E)^2 - (\vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_3)^2$$

$q^2 < 0$

termed “space-like”



Here $q = p_1 + p_2 = p_3 + p_4 = s$

“s-channel”

In CoM: $p_1 = (E, \vec{p}); p_2 = (E, -\vec{p})$

$$q^2 = (E + E)^2 - (\vec{p} - \vec{p})^2 = 4E^2$$

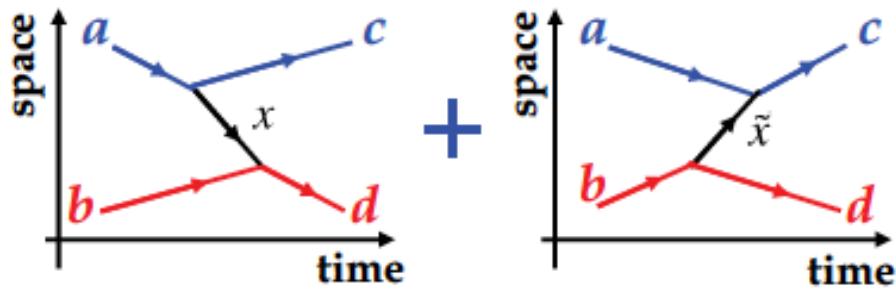
$q^2 > 0$

termed “time-like”

N.B. The above matrix element is for a “toy” **scalar interaction**

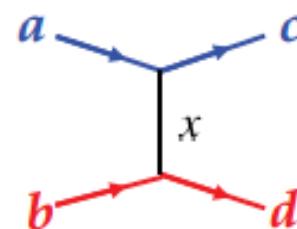
Virtual Particles

“Time-ordered QM”



- Momentum conserved at vertices
- Energy **not** conserved at vertices
- Exchanged particle “on mass shell”
$$E_x^2 - |\vec{p}_x|^2 = m_x^2$$

Feynman diagram



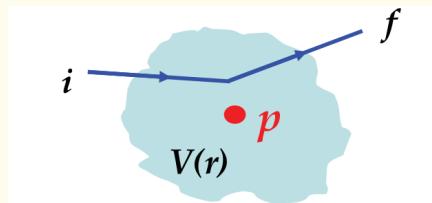
- Momentum **AND** energy conserved at interaction vertices
- Exchanged particle “off mass shell”
$$E_x^2 - |\vec{p}_x|^2 = q^2 \neq m_x^2$$

VIRTUAL PARTICLE

Particle exchange vs Semi-classical picture

$$M = \langle \psi_f | V | \psi_i \rangle$$

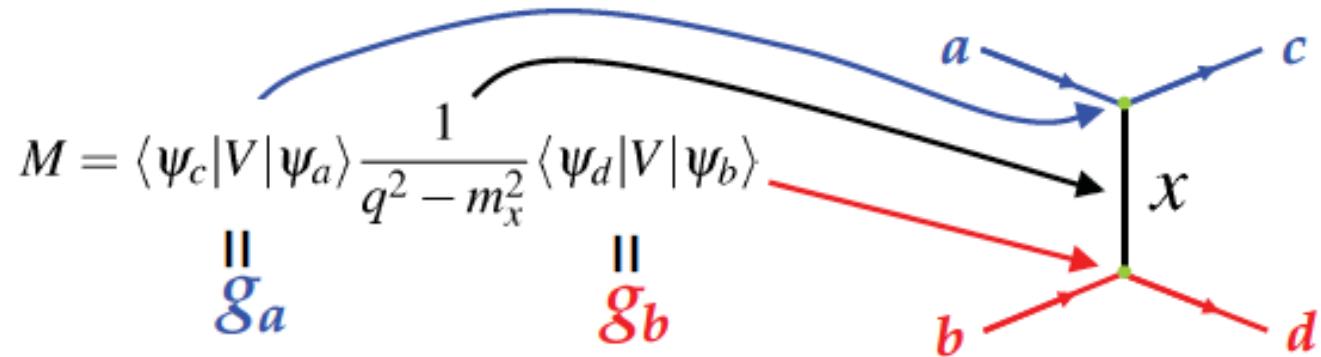
$$V(r) = g_a g_b \frac{e^{-k_r r}}{r}$$



$$\downarrow$$
$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{q^2 - m_x^2}$$

8a

From Toy Model to QED

$$M = \langle \psi_c | V | \psi_a \rangle \frac{1}{q^2 - m_x^2} \langle \psi_d | V | \psi_b \rangle$$


- Time to go from toy models to something real, QED. Spin-1/2 fermions interact by exchanging spin-1 photon
- Need to find an appropriate expression for the potential

- Electrodynamics: interaction between photon and charged particles are introduced by making minimal substitution

$$\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p} - q\vec{A}; \quad E \rightarrow E - q\phi \quad \text{Recall that in QM} \quad \vec{p} = -i\vec{\nabla}; \quad E = i\partial/\partial t$$

- The D.E. can be rewritten

$$\hat{H}\psi = (\underbrace{\gamma^0 m - i\gamma^0 \vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{\nabla}}_{\text{Combined rest mass + K.E.}}) \psi + \underbrace{q\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi}_{\text{Potential energy}} \longrightarrow /O_q$$

$$A_\mu = (\phi, -\vec{A})$$

- So potential energy of a charged (q) spin-1/2 particle in an EM field:

$$\hat{V}_D = q\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu A_\mu$$

- Accounting for photon polarisation states:

$$A_\mu = \epsilon_\mu^{(\lambda)} e^{i(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{r} - Et)}$$

$$\Sigma^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Sigma^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_\mu(\phi, -\vec{A}); \quad \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, +\vec{\nabla} \right)$$

$$\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p} - q\vec{A}; \quad E \rightarrow E - q\phi$$

$$i\partial_\mu \rightarrow i\partial_\mu - q A_\mu$$

D.E. $(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) \psi = 0$

$$\gamma^\mu (i\partial_\mu - q A_\mu) \psi - m \psi = 0$$

$$i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - q \gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi - m \psi = 0$$

$$i\gamma^0 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + i\vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \psi - q \gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi - m \psi = 0$$

10a

$$i\gamma^0 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \gamma^0 \hat{H} \psi = m\psi - i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \psi + q\gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi$$

$$\hat{H}\psi = (\gamma^0 m - i\gamma^0 \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \psi + q\gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi$$

Recall: $(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{p} + \beta m) \psi = i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \Rightarrow$

$$\Rightarrow (\beta m - i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \psi$$

$$\hat{H}\psi = (\gamma^0 m - i\gamma^0 \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \psi + q\gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi$$

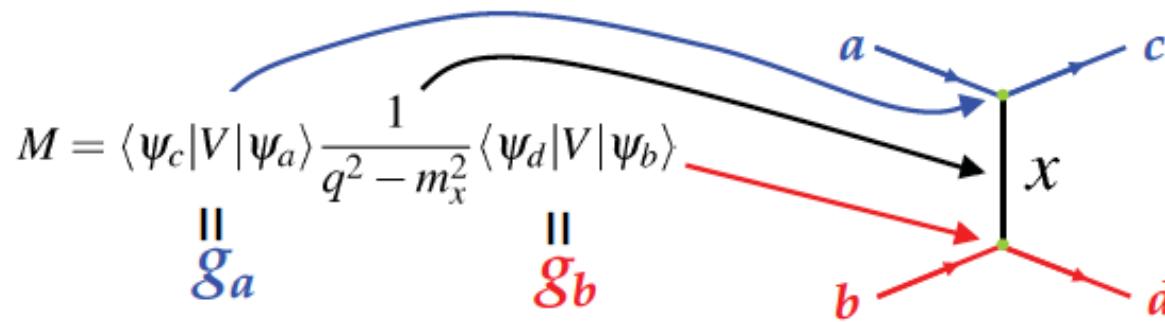
K.E + rest mass
potential energy

$$\hat{H}\psi = \hat{P}\psi + \hat{V}\psi$$

10b

From Toy Model to QED

- Using the analogy with the toy model



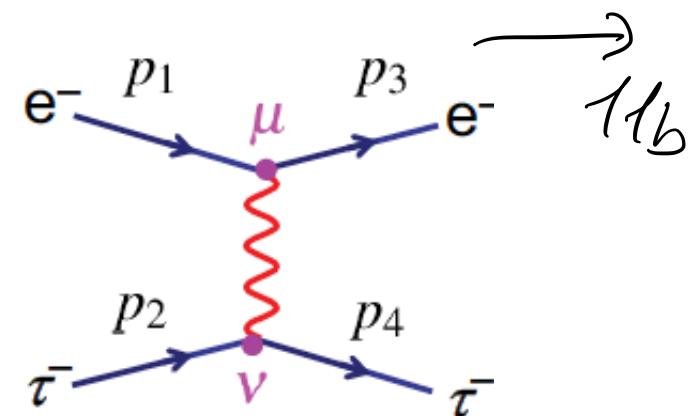
We obtain for QED

Interaction of electron with photon

$$M = [u_e^\dagger(p_3) q_e \gamma^0 \gamma^\mu u_e(p_1)] \sum_\lambda \frac{\epsilon_\mu^\lambda (\epsilon_v^\lambda)^*}{q^2} [u_\tau^\dagger(p_4) q_\tau \gamma^0 \gamma^\nu u_\tau(p_2)]$$

Massless photon propagator, summing over polarisations

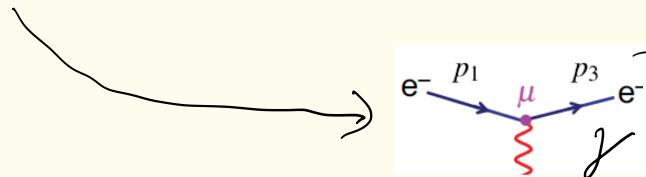
Interaction of tau-lepton with photon



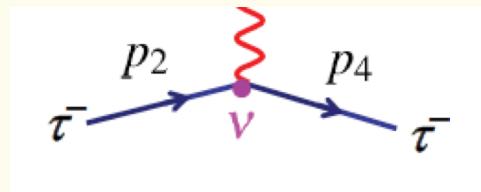
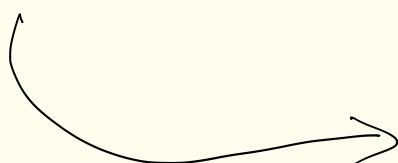
Feynman diagram for the interaction of a tau-lepton with a photon. An incoming electron e^- with momentum p_1 and an incoming tau-lepton τ^- with momentum p_2 interact at a vertex with a massless photon μ . The outgoing electron e^- has momentum p_3 and the outgoing tau-lepton τ^- has momentum p_4 . The photon propagator is shown as a red wavy line. The vertex where the photon and leptons interact is labeled v .

$$\hat{V}_D = q\gamma^0\gamma^\mu A_\mu$$

$$\langle \psi(p_3) | V | \psi(p_1) \rangle = u_e^+(p_3) \underbrace{g_e}_{f_e} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \varepsilon_\mu^{(\lambda)} u_e(p_1)$$



$$= u_c^+(p_4) \underbrace{g_c}_{f_c} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \varepsilon_\nu^{(\lambda)} u_c(p_2)$$



11b

- One can show that $\sum_{\lambda} \varepsilon_{\mu}^{\lambda} (\varepsilon_{\nu}^{\lambda})^* = -g_{\mu\nu}$
- Using definition of adjoint spinor $\bar{\psi} = \psi^{\dagger} \gamma^0$ we then arrive at

$$M = [\bar{u}_e(p_3) q_e \gamma^{\mu} u_e(p_1)] \frac{-g_{\mu\nu}}{q^2} [\bar{u}_{\tau}(p_4) q_{\tau} \gamma^{\nu} u_{\tau}(p_2)]$$

which can be also written as

$$\underbrace{j_e^{\mu}}_{\text{current}} \quad \underbrace{j_{\tau}^{\nu}}_{\text{current}} \Rightarrow j_e^{\mu} g_{\mu\nu} j_{\tau}^{\nu} = j_e^{\mu} j_{\tau\nu} = j_e \cdot j_{\tau}$$

$$M = -q_e q_{\tau} \frac{j_e \cdot j_{\tau}}{q^2} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Lorentz Invariant!}$$

All physics of QED is in this expression! It hides a lot of complexity (e.g. time-orderings, polarisation states of virtual photon)

External Lines

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------|--|
| spin 1/2 | incoming particle outgoing particle incoming antiparticle outgoing antiparticle | $u(p)$ | |
| $\bar{u}(p)$ | | | |
| $\bar{v}(p)$ | | | |
| $v(p)$ | | | |
| spin 1 | incoming photon outgoing photon | $\epsilon^\mu(p)$ | |
| | | $\epsilon^\mu(p)^*$ | |

Internal Lines (propagators)

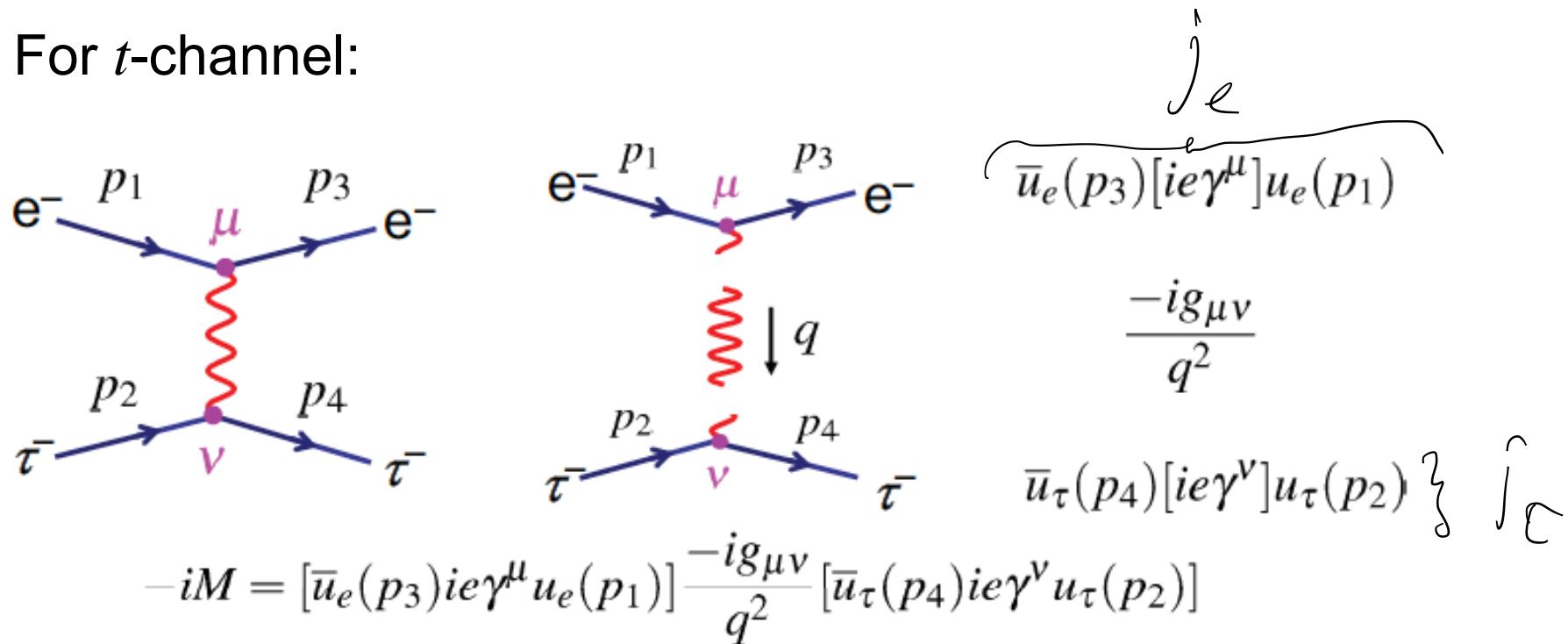
| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|--|
| spin 1 | photon | $-\frac{ig_{\mu\nu}}{q^2}$ | |
| spin 1/2 | fermion | $\frac{i(\gamma^\mu q_\mu + m)}{q^2 - m^2}$ | |

Vertex Factors

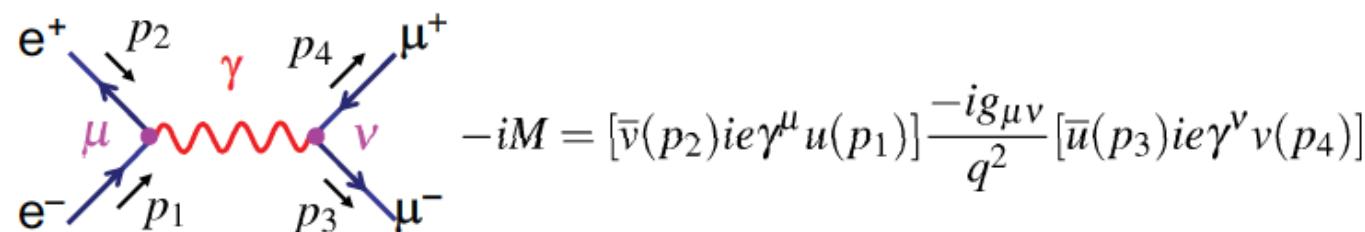
| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| spin 1/2 | fermion (charge $- e $) | $ie\gamma^\mu$ | |
| | | | |

Matrix Element $-iM = \text{product of all factors}$

- For t -channel:



- For s -channel:



NOTE:

- At each vertex the **adjoint spinor is written first**
- Each vertex has a different index
- $g_{\mu\nu}$ connects indices at vertices

- Time-ordered perturbation theory + particle exchange gives
Lorentz Invariant Matrix Element

$$M_{fi} = \frac{g_a g_b}{q^2 - m_x^2}$$

- “Derived” basic interaction in **QED** taking into account spins of the fermions and polarisations of virtual photon — **Feynman Rules**

$$-iM = [\bar{u}(p_3)ie\gamma^\mu u(p_1)] \frac{-ig_{\mu\nu}}{q^2} [\bar{u}(p_4)ie\gamma^\nu u(p_2)]$$

We are now ready to calculate realistic QED processes

Aside: Lagrangian Formalism

- Before proceeding with calculations a (very brief) detour to Lagrangian Formalism — tool used in Field Theories
- In Classical Field Theory it is used to derive equations of motion
- The underlying fundamental concept is the **Principle of Least Action**

$$S(\vec{q}(t)) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(\vec{q}(t), \dot{\vec{q}}(t), t) dt \quad S - \text{action}, L - \text{Lagrangian}, \vec{q} - \text{generalized coordinates}$$

Least Action Principle: $\delta S = 0$

From which **Euler-Lagrange** equations follow:

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = 0}$$

E.g. in classical mechanics :

$$L = T - V \quad \text{E.-L. leads to Newton's 2nd law} \quad m\ddot{x} = -\frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x} = F \quad \longrightarrow 16_a$$

$$E-L: \underbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right)}_{\text{Lagrange's eqn.}} - \underbrace{\frac{\partial L}{\partial x}}_{=0} = 0$$

$$L = T - V = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} - V(x) \Rightarrow \text{non relativ.}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x} \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = m\ddot{x}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = F \Rightarrow F = m\ddot{x}$$

Newton 2nd
Law

Lagrangian Formalism

- Lagrangian treatment of a discrete system of particles can be extended to a continuous system by replacing coordinates with fields and Lagrangian with Lagrangian density

$$L\left(q_i, \frac{dq_i}{dt}\right) \rightarrow L(\phi_i, \partial_\mu \phi_i) \quad \text{with} \quad \partial_\mu \phi_i \equiv \frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial x^\mu}$$

- The **E.-L.** becomes

$$\partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi_i)} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_i} = 0$$

- Relativistic Lagrangian examples

scalar

$$L_s = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)(\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$$

\downarrow

E.-L.

$$\partial_\mu \partial^\mu \phi + m^2 \phi = 0$$

spin-1/2

$$L_D = i \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi$$

\downarrow

E.-L.

$$i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m \psi = 0$$

spin-1

$$L_{EM} = -\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - j^\mu A_\mu$$

$= 0$ in absence
of sources

\downarrow

E.-L.

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = j^\nu$$

Klein-Gordon

Dirac

Maxwell

$$L_s = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi) (\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$$

E-L:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mu} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{2} (\partial_0 \phi)^2 - (\partial_1 \phi)^2 - (\partial_2 \phi)^2 - (\partial_3 \phi)^2$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \stackrel{!!}{=} \partial^\mu \phi \quad \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \stackrel{!!}{=} \partial_\mu \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi} = -m^2 \phi \Rightarrow \cancel{\partial_\mu \partial^\mu \phi} + m^2 \phi = 0$$

K-G.

Noether's Theorem (again)

- Noether's Theorem is formulated in terms of Lagrangian symmetry:
 - Lagrangian invariance under a certain transformation leads to a corresponding conserved quantity

E.g.: Rotational symmetry of the “Classical Mechanics” Lagrangian leads to conservation of angular momentum $\longrightarrow \cancel{\Delta q}$

- In Field Theory, Noether's theorem relates a symmetry of Lagrangian to a conserved current

E.g.: Lagrangian for free Dirac field

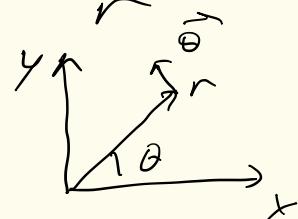
$L = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi$ is unchanged by *global* $U(1)$ transformation $\psi \rightarrow \psi' = e^{i\theta} \psi$

which leads to conserved 4-vector current $j^\mu = \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu \psi$

$$\text{i.e. } \partial_\mu j^\mu = 0$$

$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 - \frac{G \cdot M \cdot m}{r}$$

$$\vec{V} = \dot{r} \hat{r} + r \dot{\theta} \hat{\theta}$$



$$v^2 = \dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m r^2 \dot{\theta}^2 + G \frac{M \cdot m}{r}$$

L is invariant under $\theta \rightarrow \theta' = \theta + \delta \theta$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} = m r^2 \dot{\theta} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = 0 \quad \text{due to } \uparrow$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} (m r^2 \dot{\theta}) = 0$$

J

Global gauge invariance

- The requirement that physics is unchanged by parameters we cannot measure (i.e. does not depend on the "gauge"). e.g. phase of a wave-function
- Classical example: we do not care about absolute potential, only potential difference (voltage)

$$\mathcal{L}_D = i \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi; \psi(x) \rightarrow \psi(x) = e^{i g X} \psi(x)$$
$$\mathcal{L}_D \rightarrow \mathcal{L}'_D = i e^{-i g X} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu [e^{i g X} \partial_\mu \psi + \cancel{ig} (\cancel{\partial}_\mu X) \psi] -$$
$$- m e^{-i g X} \bar{\psi} e^{i g X} \psi = \underline{i \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi} - \underline{g \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu X) \psi}$$
$$\mathcal{L}'_D = \mathcal{L}_D - \cancel{g \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu X) \psi}$$

if X is const

$$\mathcal{L}'_D = \mathcal{L}_D$$

18b

Local Gauge Invariance

- The requirement that physics is unchanged by parameters we cannot measure (i.e. does not depend on the “gauge”). e.g. phase of a wave-function
- Classical example: we do not care about absolute potential, only potential difference (voltage)
- Requires invariance of Lagrangian under a local phase transformation

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \psi'(x) = e^{iq\chi(x)} \psi(x)$$

- However under this transformation Lagrangian for a free spin-1/2 particle is **not** invariant (check this in q7, PS2)
8
- To restore invariance use the substitution $\partial_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu = \partial_\mu + iqA_\mu$ where A_μ is a new field which transforms as $A_\mu \rightarrow A'_\mu = A_\mu - \partial_\mu \chi$
- This leads to a new gauge invariant form of Lagrangian $L = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi - q\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu A_\mu \psi$

PS2. Q7 8

Gauge invariance provides framework for interaction by particle exchange!

interaction term