

Figure 0.1: Source and text [Bri17]

With the Standard Model Physicist try to describe the elementary Particles and interactions. It is successful in describing most processes in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. But the Standard Model is still incomplete. It can't describe Phenomenons like Gravity, Neutrino Masses, Matter-Antimatter asymmetry etc. This is where effective field theory comes in. Here we look at the Standard Model as a low energy approximation of an underlying Ultraviolet Theory (figure ??).

The concept of an Effective Field Theory(EFT) can be Illustrated in different ways using the Euler-Heisenberg Lagrangian, the Fermi theory or the Standard Model Effective Field Theory(EFT). [Pic98] shows The Euler-Heisenberg Lagrangian and the Fermi theory while I will be focusing on the SMEFT, as the Name suggests The SMEFT aims to extant the Standard Model. Except the g-Factor of the Myon the Standard Model has been robust without meaningful deviations from Experimental Measurements. There using a theory that keeps the  $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$  symmetry with the Higgs field breaking gauge symmetry is desirable. Therefore, we construct the Lagrangian from the gauge invariance for Standard Model fields but allow arbitrarily large mass dimensions. With that any SMEFT Lagrangian can be written

as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{SMEFT} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \mathcal{L}_5 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{L}_6 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^3} \mathcal{L}_7 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^4} \mathcal{L}_8 + \dots \text{ with } \mathcal{L}_i = \sum_i c_i^D \mathcal{O}_i^D \quad (0.1)$$

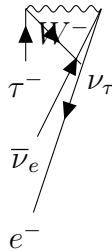
The operators  $\mathcal{O}_i$  are constructed from the Gauge invariance of the SM fields while the Wilson coefficients  $c_i$  contain the information on heavy degrees of freedom. Normally the heavy degrees of freedom are integrated out to have a renormalizable Theory but are needed to describe high energy Particles. We get the Wilson coefficients from the operator product expansion in 0.1. Again a good example for the operator product expansion is the Fermi Theory shown in [Pic98]. For a characteristic heavy scale  $\Lambda$  the operators are ordered by their dimension  $d_i$  fixing the dimension of their respective coefficients.

$$[\mathcal{O}_i] = d_i \longrightarrow c_i \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^{d_i-4}} \quad (0.2)$$

The Leading order  $D = 4$  term in 0.1 is the SM Lagrangian while deviations of the SM are described by operators with a dimension  $D > 4$ .

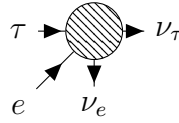
### 0.0.1 Fermi Theory on the example Tau Decay

Enrico Fermi proposed 1933 the Fermi Theory in order to describe the  $\beta$ -decay. His theory was able to describe the weak coupling quite well without the former knowledge about the  $W^\pm$ -Boson which was only later theorized in 1968 by Steven Weinberg, Sheldon Glashow and Abdus Salam. The  $W^\pm$ -Boson was finally discovered in 1983. 50 years after Fermi's first successful description of an Interaction involving the  $W^\pm$ -Boson. Today we would call the Fermi theory the low-energy effective field theory of  $W^\pm$ -Boson. Let us now try to create our own Fermi Theory but instead of describing the  $\beta$  decay we will look at the  $\tau$ -decay specifically the decay mode  $\tau \rightarrow \nu_\tau e^- \bar{\nu}_e$ . Even though we are technically cheating since Fermi didn't have our knowledge about the tensor structure of the Weak interaction in Quantum Field Theory or our knowledge about Feynman diagrams. We will start by drawing the Feynman Diagram and writing down the Matrix element.



$$-i\mathcal{M}_{fi} = \left[ \frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{u}(k_{\nu_\tau}) \frac{1}{2} \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma^5) u(k_\tau) \right] \frac{g_{\mu\sigma} - \frac{k_\nu k_\sigma}{m_W^2}}{k^2 - m_W^2} \left[ \frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{u}(k_e) \frac{1}{2} \gamma^\sigma (1 - \gamma^5) v(k_{\bar{\nu}_e}) \right] \quad (0.3)$$

In most low energy decay processes the momentum of the intermediate  $W^-$ -Boson is small compared to its mass. Therefore, we can approximate the propagator(0.4) in Orders of the momentum  $k$  but we will be writing it in the Matrixelement in Orders of mass since these are more interesting to us. In the Feynman Diagramm this can be expressed by collapsing the properagtor into a single Vertex.



$$\frac{-ig_{\mu\sigma} - \frac{k_\nu k_\sigma}{m_W^2}}{k^2 - m_W^2} \xrightarrow{|q|^2 \ll m_W^2} \frac{ig_{\mu\sigma}}{m_W^2} \left( 1 + \frac{k^2}{m_w^2} + \frac{k^4}{m_W^6} + \mathcal{O}(k^6) \right) \quad (0.4)$$

$$\Rightarrow i\mathcal{M}_{fi} = \frac{g_W^2}{8m_W^2} [\bar{u}(k_{\nu_\tau}) \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma^5) u(k_\tau)] g_{\mu\sigma} [\bar{u}(k_e) \gamma^\sigma (1 - \gamma^5) v(k_{\bar{\nu}_e})] + \mathcal{O}(m_W^4) \quad (0.5)$$

Let us now compare our result with the result Fermi would have gotten if he knew about the parity violation discovered by Wu in 1957.

$$i\mathcal{M}_{fi} = \frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} [\bar{u}(k_{\nu_\tau}) \gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma^5) u(k_\tau)] g_{\mu\sigma} [\bar{u}(k_e) \gamma^\sigma (1 - \gamma^5) v(k_{\bar{\nu}_e})] \quad (0.6)$$

With  $G_F \approx 4.5437957 \times 10^{14} J^{-2}$  being the Fermi constant which is typically measured in the muon decay. The  $1/\sqrt{2}$  is added in order to not change the numerical value of  $G_F$  while considering the parity violation. From equation 0.5 and 0.6 we get the following result.

$$\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{g_W^2}{8m_W^2} \quad (0.7)$$

Defining the expansion scale  $\Lambda = m_W$  and the Wilson coefficient  $c = \frac{g_W^2}{8}$  we can see that the Matrix element has dimension 2. With this we can also write down a new effective Lagrangian without the  $W^\pm$ -Boson but. The EFT described has to contain the tau, electron, their respective neutrienofields as well as the Interaction Lagrangian.

$$\mathcal{L}_{EFT} = \frac{c}{\Lambda^2} (\bar{\nu}_\tau \bar{\gamma}_\rho \tau) (\bar{e} \gamma_\rho \nu_e) + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\Lambda^4}) \quad (0.8)$$

Our Fermi Theory is only valid for low energies since Scattering Amplitude from the Standard Model and the EFT would start to diverge once the Energy gets close to the mass of the

$W^\pm$ -Boson. The  $m_W$  defines the validity scale of the EFT in this case the Fermi Theory. For Energies higher than  $m_W$  the Fermi Theory is no longer valid. We can increase the validity scale by including terms of higher dimension in  $\Lambda$ . In this example we derived the Matrix element from the SM and then compared the result with the result from Fermi in order to determine  $\frac{c}{\Lambda}$ . This requires knowledge about the UV theory which is not accessible in low-Energy Measurements. As a result we have to make assumptions about a UV Theory in order to construct the right EFT.