Homework: Particle Physics

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June 8, 2017

1. The force range and characteristic interaction time for all three types of interaction but gravity are

	Force Range	Characteristic interaction time
Strong interaction	1 fm	1×10^{-23} s
Electromagnetic interaction	∞	1×10^{-16} s
Weak interaction	1/400 fm	1×10^{-10} s

2. For electron in an EM field, Dirac equation can be written as [1]

$$[i\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + e\phi - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A}) - m\beta]\psi = 0 \tag{1}$$

where $\mathbf{P} = -i\nabla$. Set

$$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi \\ \chi \end{pmatrix} e^{-imt}$$

so that the certain part of electron rest mass can be removed. Then we have

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})\chi - e\phi\varphi$$

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\chi = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})\varphi - e\phi\chi - 2m\chi$$

At nonrelativistic limit, we have

$$\chi \approx \frac{1}{2m}\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})\varphi \tag{2}$$

where $\chi/\varphi \ll 1$. Then

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi = \frac{1}{2m}[\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})]^2\varphi - e\phi\varphi$$

Using

$$
\begin{aligned}
[\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})]^2 &= (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})^2 + i\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot [(\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A}) \times (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})] \\
&= (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})^2 + ie\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot [\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{P}] \\
&= (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})^2 + e\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \\
&= (\mathbf{P} + e\mathbf{A})^2 + e\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot
\end{aligned}
$$

Then (2) becomes

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi = \left[\frac{1}{2m}(\mathbf{P}+e\mathbf{A})^2 + \frac{e}{2m}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot - e\phi\right]\varphi$$

$$= \left[\frac{1}{2m}(\mathbf{P}+e\mathbf{A})^2 - \boldsymbol{\mu}\cdot - e\phi\right]\varphi$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mu} = -\frac{e\hbar}{2mc}\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ (in our previous calculation $\hbar = c = 1$) is the intrinsic magnetic moment of electron.

3. From the definition of Breit-Wigner formula, we have the distribution function for decay to a specific quantum state

$$P(E) = \frac{1}{2\pi}\frac{\Gamma}{(E-M)^2 + \Gamma^2/4} \tag{3}$$

and also

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{\tau}$$

(3) can be proved by (using some inturtive fourier transformations)

$$\psi(M) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{iMt}\,|t\rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{iMt}e^{-i(m-i\frac{\Gamma}{2})t}\,|0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\frac{1}{(M-m)+i\frac{\Gamma}{2}}$$

and the mass distribution function would be

$$\rho(M) \equiv \Gamma\psi(M)\psi^*(M) = \frac{1}{2\pi}\frac{\Gamma}{(E-M)^2 + \Gamma^2/4}$$

More strict prove can be found in B.R.Martin's *Particle Physics* which I briefly listed in the end of this problem.

With the rest mass M and the lifetime τ of the particle, the distribution function would be

$$P(E) = \frac{1}{2\pi}\frac{\Gamma}{(E-M)^2 + 1/(4\tau^2)} \tag{4}$$

Prove [2] of (3): We choose the wavefunctions of possible final states to be orthonormal, the wavefunction describes state of any timestamp can be expanded by

$$\boldsymbol{\Psi}(\mathbf{r},t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}a_n(t)e^{-iE_nt}\psi_n(\mathbf{r})$$

where

$$a_0(0) = 1, \quad a_n(0) = 0(n \geq 1)$$

and

$$E_n = H_{nn} = \int\psi_n^*H\psi_n\mathrm{d}x$$

To determine the time dependency of $a_n(t)$, we use the Schrödinger equation

$$i\frac{\partial\boldsymbol{\Psi}}{\partial t} = H\boldsymbol{\Psi}$$

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and

$$\sum_m \left\{ i\frac{\mathrm{d}a_m}{\mathrm{d}t}e^{-iE_mt}\psi_m + E_ma_me^{-iE_mt}\psi_m \right\} = \sum_m a_me^{-iE_mt}H\psi_m$$

which gives (assuming terms when $n \neq m$ are small except for the first)

$$i\frac{\mathrm{d}a_n}{\mathrm{d}t} = H_{n0}e^{-i(E_0-E_n)t}a_0$$

and also we evaluate this problem in the rest frame for the decaying particle, and asuume $a_0(t) = e^{-\Gamma t/2}$ which consist with the exponential decay law. Now we have

$$ia_n = -iH_{n0}\left\{ \frac{e^{-i[(M-E_n)-i\Gamma/2]t}-1}{(E_n-M)+i\Gamma/2} \right\} \xrightarrow{t \gg 1/\Gamma} \frac{iH_{n0}}{(E_n-M)+i\Gamma/2}$$

Now the probability would be

$$P_n = a_n^2 = \frac{|H_{n0}|^2}{(E_n-M)^2+\Gamma^2/4} = \frac{2\pi}{\Gamma}|H_{n0}|^2 P(E_n-M)$$

where

$$P(E_n-M) = \frac{\Gamma/2\pi}{(E-M)^2+\Gamma^2/4}$$

We can verify it's normalized.

4. For unstable particles with long enough lifetime to be tracked, their lifetime can be calculated using simple Lorentz invariance property

$$m\tau = Et - pL = E\frac{L}{v} - pL = E^2\frac{L}{p} - pL = \frac{m^2L}{p}$$

which means we can estimate the particle lifetime by $\tau = \frac{mL}{p}$.

5. The mass of J/ψ particle is 3.1GeV, and which of electron is 0.5MeV. To produce J/ψ particle in e^+e collision, we have

$$M = 3.1\text{GeV}, \quad m = 0.5\text{MeV}$$

and in center-of-mass frame

$$4E^2 \geq M^2$$

where E is the energy of one electron/positron. Note that

$$E = \gamma m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}m$$

So we have

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}m \geq 2M$$

which gives

$$\beta \geq \sqrt{1-\frac{m^2}{4M^2}} \approx 0.999999990244536935399961460987023$$

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And that's the minimum velocity electron/positron must go.

6. The Mandelstam variables can be expressed by

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = (p_3 + p_4)^2 \tag{5}$$
$$t = (p_1 - p_3)^2 = (p_2 - p_4)^2 \tag{6}$$
$$u = (p_1 - p_4)^2 = (p_2 - p_3)^2 \tag{7}$$

From which we have (in CM frame)

$$s + t + u = (p_1 + p_2)^2 + (p_1 - p_3)^2 + (p_1 - p_4)^2$$
$$= 3p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 + p_4^2 + 2p_1p_2 - 2p_1p_3 - 2p_1p_4$$

Assuming

$$p_1 = (E_1, \mathbf{p_1}), \quad p_2 = (E_2, \mathbf{p_2}), \quad p_3 = (E_3, \mathbf{p_3}), \quad p_4 = (E_4, \mathbf{p_4})$$
$$E_1 + E_2 = E_3 + E_4, \quad \mathbf{p_1} + \mathbf{p_2} = \mathbf{p_3} + \mathbf{p_4}$$

and

$$s + t + u = 3p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 + p_4^2 + 2p_1p_2 - 2p_1p_3 - 2p_1p_4$$
$$= 3p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 + p_4^2 + 2E_1(E_2 - E_3 - E_4) - 2\mathbf{p_1}(\mathbf{p_2} - \mathbf{p_3} - \mathbf{p_4})$$
$$= 3p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 + p_4^2 - 2E_1^2 + 2|\mathbf{p_1}|^2$$
$$= p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2 + p_4^2$$
$$= m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 + m_4^2$$

7. For branch $A \to BC$, the partial width is [2]

$$\Gamma(A \to BC) = \frac{g_{ABC}^2}{8\pi} \frac{|p_B|}{M_A^2}$$

If A is an unstable particle with width Γ, from Breit-Wigner formula, we have

$$P_f(E) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma_f}{(E - M)^2 + \Gamma^2/4} \tag{8}$$

which satisfies normalization $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE P_f(E) = 1$. Considering the momentum of particle B is (using the fact that B and C have the same mass, which means they have opposite momentums, and we choose the centre-of-mass frame of A)

$$p_B = \sqrt{\left(\frac{E}{2}\right)^2 - M_B^2}$$

Then the decay width becomes

$$\Gamma = \frac{g_{ABC}^2}{8\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE P_f(E) \frac{p_B}{E^2}$$
$$= \frac{g_{ABC}^2}{8\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma_f}{(E - M_A)^2 + \Gamma^2/4} \frac{p_B}{E^2}$$
$$= \frac{g_{ABC}^2}{16\pi^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \frac{\Gamma_f}{(E - M_A)^2 + \Gamma^2/4} \frac{\sqrt{\left(\frac{E}{2}\right)^2 - M_B^2}}{E^2}$$

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8. 3-particle decay phase space integrals can be derived as follows [3]:

First we know that the gengeral non-relativistic expression for N-body phase space is

$$dn = (2\pi)^3 \prod_{i=1}^{N} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_i}{(2\pi)^3} \delta^3\left(\mathbf{p}_a - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{p}_i\right) \tag{9}$$

where $\mathbf{p}_a$ is the momentum of the decaying particle. (This expression can be derived easily from the phase space volume of each particle.) According to Fermi's golden rule (and notice the $(2E_i)^{1/2}$ ratio difference between $\mathcal{M}_{fi}$ and T_{fi}), the decay rate can be written as

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{2E_a} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_a - \sum_{i=1}^{N} E_i)\delta^3(\mathbf{p}_a - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{p}_i) \prod_{i=1}^{N} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_i} \tag{10}$$

So for 3-particle decay the decay rate can be written as

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{2E_a} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_a - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)\delta^3(\mathbf{p}_a - \mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_3) \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_1} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3}$$

Now we consider it in the centre-of-mass frame of the decaying particle A, which means $E_a = m_a$ and $\mathbf{p}_a = 0$. Through the integration of delta function and $d^3\mathbf{p}_3$, we have

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{2m_a} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)\delta^3(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 + \mathbf{p}_3) \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_1} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3}$$

$$= \frac{(2\pi)^4}{2m_a} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - E_3) \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_1} \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^4 m_a (2\pi)^5} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2}{E_1 E_2 E_3} \delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - E_3) d^3\mathbf{p}_1 d^3\mathbf{p}_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^4 m_a (2\pi)^5} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2}{E_1 E_2 E_3} \delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - E_3) d^3\mathbf{p}_1 d^3\mathbf{p}_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^4 m_a (2\pi)^5} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 |\mathbf{p}_1|^2 |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 dp_1\, d(\cos\theta_1)\, d\phi_1 dp_2\, d(\cos\theta_2)\, d\phi_2}{E_1 E_2 \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2}}$$

$$\delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2})$$

where θ_1, ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are independent of the integral and therefore can be integrated first. Note that

$$\frac{d|\mathbf{p}_i|}{dE_i} = \frac{E_i}{|\mathbf{p}_i|}$$

which means

$$d|\mathbf{p}_i| = \frac{E_i}{|\mathbf{p}_i|} dE_i$$

and mark the kernel of δ function as

$$f(\cos\theta_2) \equiv m_a - E_1 - E_2 - \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2}$$

we have

$$f'(\cos\theta_2) = -\frac{2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|}{2\sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2}}$$

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and the real root of $f(\cos\theta_2) = 0$ is

$$\cos\theta_2' = \frac{(m_a - E_1 - E_2)^2 - m_3^2 - |\mathbf{p}_1|^2 - |\mathbf{p}_2|^2}{2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|}$$

So we have

$$\delta(m_a - E_1 - E_2 - \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2})$$
$$= \frac{\frac{\delta(\cos\theta_2 - \cos\theta_2')}{2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|}}{2\sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2' + m_3^2}}$$

And the original formula becomes

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{8\pi^2}{2^4 m_a (2\pi)^5} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 |\mathbf{p}_1|^2 |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 \mathrm{d}p_1 \mathrm{d}p_2 \, \mathrm{d}(\cos\theta_2)}{E_1 E_2 \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2 + m_3^2}} \frac{\frac{\delta(\cos\theta_2 - \cos\theta_2')}{2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|}}{2\sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2' + m_3^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^3 m_a (2\pi)^3} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 |\mathbf{p}_1|^2 |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 \mathrm{d}p_1 \mathrm{d}p_2}{E_1 E_2 \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2' + m_3^2}} \frac{2\sqrt{|\mathbf{p}_1|^2 + |\mathbf{p}_2|^2 + 2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|\cos\theta_2' + m_3^2}}{2|\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2|}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^3 m_a (2\pi)^3} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 |\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2| \mathrm{d}p_1 \mathrm{d}p_2}{E_1 E_2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^3 m_a (2\pi)^3} \int \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 |\mathbf{p}_1||\mathbf{p}_2| \frac{E_1}{|\mathbf{p}_1|} \mathrm{d}E_1 \frac{E_2}{|\mathbf{p}_2|} \mathrm{d}E_2}{E_1 E_2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{8 m_a (2\pi)^3} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \mathrm{d}E_1 \mathrm{d}E_2$$

which is exactly the form of square Dalitz plot. Transform it a little bit and we have the standard form of Dalitz plot (note that $s_2 = (p_2 + p_3)^2 = (p_a - p_1)^2 \to \mathrm{d}s_2 = -2m_a \mathrm{d}E_1$ and similar for s_3)

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{32 m_a (2\pi)^3} \int |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2 \mathrm{d}s_2 \mathrm{d}s_3$$

Now let's review another form of the standard Dalitz form

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma_{fi}}{\mathrm{d}s_2 \mathrm{d}s_3} = \frac{1}{32 m_a (2\pi)^3} |\mathcal{M}_{fi}|^2$$

and its physical meaning is obvious: the density of data points on a Dalitz plot is proportional to the decay matrix element.

References

[1] 曾谨言. 量子力学 (卷 II), 第 5 版. 北京：科学出版社, 2013.

[2] Martin, Brian R., and Graham Shaw. Particle physics. John Wiley & Sons, 2013.

[3] Thomson, Mark. Modern particle physics. Cambridge University Press, 2013.