

Homework Set #10

1) Discrete Symmetries

(10 points)

a. Under Parity:

$$\vec{E} \rightarrow -\vec{E}, \vec{\nabla} \rightarrow -\vec{\nabla}, \rho \rightarrow \rho, \vec{B} \rightarrow \vec{B}, \vec{J} \rightarrow -\vec{J}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

So

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho, \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}, \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \vec{J} + \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

Are invariant

b. Under Charge Conjugation

$$\vec{E} \rightarrow -\vec{E}, \vec{\nabla} \rightarrow \vec{\nabla}, \rho \rightarrow -\rho, \vec{B} \rightarrow -\vec{B}, \vec{J} \rightarrow -\vec{J}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

So ME are invariant.

c. Under Time Reversal

$$\vec{E} \rightarrow \vec{E}, \vec{\nabla} \rightarrow \vec{\nabla}, \rho \rightarrow \rho, \vec{B} \rightarrow -\vec{B}, \vec{J} \rightarrow -\vec{J}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

So ME are invariant.

d. We assume that the Hamiltonian is time independent. So $\mathcal{T}H = H$

Then

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi = H\psi \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(i)\mathcal{T}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)\psi = \mathcal{T}(H)\psi$$

or

$$\mathcal{T}(i) - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)\psi = H\psi$$

Which is invariant if $\mathcal{T}(i) = -i$

2) Kinematics of the IceCube Experiment.

(10 points)

a) Read the Wikipedia article on Cherenkov radiation: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherenkov_radiation

b) $E = E_\nu, m = m_N$

$$p_\mu = \frac{Em}{m + E(1 - \cos \theta)}(1, 0, \sin \theta, \cos \theta)$$

$$p_n = \left(E + m - \frac{Em}{m + E(1 - \cos \theta)}, 0, -\frac{Em \sin \theta}{m + E(1 - \cos \theta)}, E - \frac{Em \cos \theta}{m + E(1 - \cos \theta)} \right)$$

c)

$$|p_\mu| = \frac{Em}{m + E(1 - \cos \theta)}$$

and so

$$E = \frac{m|p_\mu|}{m - |p_\mu|(1 - \cos \theta)}$$

$$E_{\text{smallest}} = |p_\mu|$$

There is no largest E, the denominator vanishes when

$$1 - \cos \theta = \frac{m}{|p_\mu|}$$

For a given $|p_\mu|$ the

d) This result then tells us what the minimum and maximum angles between the anti-neutrino and anti-muon momenta could be. Of course, their momentum could be collinear, with $\theta_{\min} = 0$, which corresponds to the case when their energies are also equal. Even in the case in which the anti-neutrino has an infinite energy, the maximum scattering angle is

$$1 - \cos \theta = \frac{m}{|p_\mu|} \sim \frac{\theta_{\max}^2}{2}$$

So the maximum angle would be

$$\theta_{\max} \sim \sqrt{2 \times \frac{m}{|p_\mu|}} \sim \sqrt{2 \times \frac{1}{2 \times 10^6}} \sim 0.001$$

e)

p

n

$$\sim \frac{1}{m_W^2}$$

$\bar{\nu}_\mu$

μ^+

f)

$$\sigma \propto |M|^2 \propto \frac{1}{m_W^4}$$

To get the right units need two powers of mass dimension

$$\sigma \sim \frac{m_p^2}{m_W^4}$$

g) The number of events per unit time that are observed is a product of the luminosity and the cross section:

$$events/time = n_\nu n_N Vol c \sigma$$

where n_ν and n_N is the number density of neutrinos and nucleons in IceCube, respectively, and Vol is the total volume of ice of IceCube. The number density of nucleons times the volume of IceCube is just the number of nucleons in IceCube, N_N , so the event rate is also

$$events/time = n_\nu N_N c \sigma$$

To calculate the total number of events detected, we just multiply both sides of this expression by the total exposure time t_{exp} :

$$events = n_\nu N_N c t_{exp} \sigma$$

Now, the total number of neutrinos N_ν is the number density times the total volume of neutrinos that passes through IceCube during the exposure time. Because neutrinos travel at the speed of light, the length of this volume $l = ct_{exp}$ and the cross sectional area is just the cross sectional area of IceCube, A. Using these results, we can express the total number of observed events in the simple form of

$$events = \frac{N_\nu N_N}{A} \sigma$$

or

$$N_\nu = \frac{events \times A}{N_N \times \sigma}$$

Now, we just need to calculate each of these components.

To estimate the cross section from part f)

$$\sigma \sim \frac{m_p^2}{m_W^4} \sim \frac{1^2}{(100)^4} \text{GeV}^{-2} \sim 10^{-8} \text{GeV}^{-2}$$

Now,

$$\text{GeV}^{-1} \sim 0.2 \text{fm}$$

$$\sigma \sim 10^{-8} \times 0.04 \text{fm}^2 \sim 10^{-10} \times 10^{-30} \text{m}^2 \sim 10^{-40} \text{m}^2$$

The volume of IceCube is

$$Vol = 1km^3 = 10^9 m^3$$

The density of ice is about 1000 kg/m³, and so the total mass of the ice in IceCube is

$$m_{ice} = 10^3 \times 10^9 kg = 10^{12} kg = 10^{12} \times 10^{27} GeV$$

Which means $N_N \sim 10^{39}$.

The cross sectional area of this volume of neutrinos A is the cross sectional area of IceCube, which is approximately

$$A = 1km^2 = 10^6 m^2$$

So

$$N_\nu = \frac{events \times A}{N_N \times \sigma} = \frac{3 \times 10^6 m^2}{10^{39} \times 10^{-40} m^2} \sim 3 \times 10^5 \sim 3 \times 10^7$$

(Note: actually more appropriate to use $v \sim 250$ GeV instead of m_W in the cross section estimate. This gives $\sigma \sim 10^{-42} m^2$ and $N_\nu \sim 10^9$, or a few billion ν s)