

We have learned how to obtain the scattering amplitude $\mathcal{M}(\underline{p}_1 s_1; \underline{p}_2 s_2; \underline{p}_3 s_3; \underline{p}_4 s_4) \equiv \mathcal{M}$ for a two-particle to two-particle scattering process using Feynman rules for tree-level Feynman diagrams.

In many experiments, the spins (polarizations) of the particles are not measured. For each incident spins, e.g. $s_1 = \frac{1}{2}$, $s_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$, we sum up all the possible values of the final spins, e.g. $s_3 = \frac{1}{2}$, $s_4 = \frac{1}{2}$; $s_3 = \frac{1}{2}$, $s_4 = -\frac{1}{2}$; $s_3 = -\frac{1}{2}$, $s_4 = \frac{1}{2}$; $s_3 = -\frac{1}{2}$, $s_4 = -\frac{1}{2}$.

As each set of definite values of s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4 can be differentiated from other set of values, hence we compute total $|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \mathcal{M} \cdot \mathcal{M}^*$, not total \mathcal{M} .

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So we sum up all final spin configurations and average over all initial spin configurations.

Total number of initial spin configurations

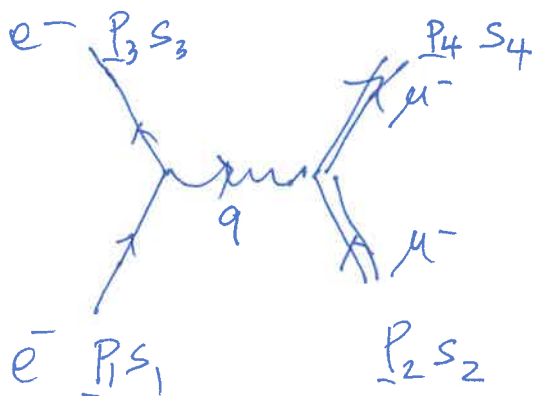
= 4 for spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles

Thus define

$\langle |M|^2 \rangle =$ average over initial spins,
sum over final spins

$$= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4} |M|^2$$

As an example, consider $e^- \mu^- \rightarrow e^- \mu^-$



$$q^2 = (\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 \\ = (\underline{p}_4 - \underline{p}_2)^2$$

$$M = - \frac{g^2}{q^2} \underbrace{\bar{u}(4) \gamma_\mu u(2)}_{\text{a number}} \cdot \underbrace{\bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu u(1)}_{\text{number}}$$

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$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \mathcal{M} \cdot \mathcal{M}^*$$

$$= \frac{g^4}{q^4} \bar{u}(4) \gamma_\mu u(2) \cdot \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu u(1) \cdot (\bar{u}(4) \gamma_\nu u(2) \cdot \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\nu u(1))^*$$

$$= \frac{g^4}{q^4} \bar{u}(4) \gamma_\mu u(2) \cdot \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu u(1) \cdot \bar{u}(1) \gamma^\nu u(3) \cdot \bar{u}(2) \gamma_\nu u(4)$$

Completeness for the Dirac spinor $u^{(s)}(p)$:

$$\sum_s u^{(s)}(p) \bar{u}^{(s)}(p) = (\not{p} + mc)$$

$$\langle |\mathcal{M}|^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4} |\mathcal{M}|^2$$

$$= \frac{g^4}{4q^2} \sum_{\substack{s_1 s_2 \\ s_3 s_4}} \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu u(1) \cdot \bar{u}(1) \gamma^\nu u(3) \cdot$$

$$\bar{u}(4) \gamma_\mu u(2) \cdot \bar{u}(2) \gamma_\nu u(4)$$

$$= \frac{g^4}{4q^2} \sum_{s_3 s_4} \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu u(3) \cdot$$

$$\bar{u}(4) \gamma_\mu (\not{p}_2 + m_2 c) \gamma_\nu u(4)$$

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Consider

$$\sum_{s_3} \bar{u}(3) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu u(3)$$

$$= \sum_{s_3} \bar{u}_a(3) \left(\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu \right)_{ab} u_b(3)$$

$a, b = 1, 2, 3, 4$

$$= \sum_{s_3} \left(\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu \right)_{ab} u_b(3) \bar{u}_a(3)$$

$$= \left(\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu \right)_{ab} (\not{p}_3 + m_3 c)_{ba}$$

$$= \text{Tr} \left[\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu (\not{p}_3 + m_3 c) \right]$$

$$\therefore \langle |M|^2 \rangle = \frac{g^4}{4q^2} \text{Tr} \left[\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu (\not{p}_3 + m_3 c) \right] \cdot$$

$$\cdot \text{Tr} \left[\gamma_\mu (\not{p}_2 + m_2 c) \gamma_\nu (\not{p}_4 + m_4 c) \right]$$

$$\text{Tr } \gamma^\mu = 0, \quad \mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

$$\text{Tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu) = 4 g^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\text{Tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\alpha) = 0, \quad \gamma^5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3$$

$$\gamma^{5^2} = 1$$

$$\text{Tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\alpha \gamma^\beta)$$

$$= 4 (g^{\mu\nu} g^{\alpha\beta} + g^{\beta\mu} g^{\nu\alpha} - g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta})$$

$$\text{Tr}[\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu (\not{p}_3 + m_3 c)]$$

$$= \text{Tr}[\gamma^\mu \not{p}_1 \gamma^\nu \not{p}_3 + \gamma^\mu \not{p}_1 \gamma^\nu m_3 c + m_1 c \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \not{p}_3 + m_1 m_3 c^2 \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu]$$

$$= \text{Tr}[\gamma^\mu \not{p}_1 \gamma^\nu \not{p}_3 + m_1 m_3 c^2 \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu]$$

$$\therefore \text{Tr} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\alpha \gamma^\nu = 0$$

Using Casimir's trick, have computed

$$\langle |M|^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \alpha \sum_{s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4} (\quad)$$

for the $e^- \mu^- \rightarrow e^- \mu^-$ process

Using formula from the previous lecture

$$\text{Tr} [\gamma_\mu (\not{p}_4 + m_4 c) \gamma_\nu (\not{p}_2 + m_2 c)]$$

$$\stackrel{HW}{=} 4 [p_{2\mu} p_{4\nu} + p_{2\nu} p_{4\mu} - g_{\mu\nu} (p_2 \cdot p_4 - m_2 m_4 c^2)]$$

→

$$\langle |M|^2 \rangle = \frac{g^4}{(p_1 - p_3)^4} \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} [\gamma^\mu (\not{p}_1 + m_1 c) \gamma^\nu (\not{p}_3 + m_3 c)] \cdot \text{Tr} [\gamma_\mu (\not{p}_2 + m_2 c) \cdot \gamma_\nu (\not{p}_4 + m_4 c)]$$

$$\stackrel{HW}{=} \frac{4g^4}{(p_1 - p_3)^4} [p_{2\mu} p_{4\nu} + p_{2\nu} p_{4\mu} - g_{\mu\nu} (p_2 \cdot p_4 - m_2 m_4 c^2)] \cdot$$

$$[p_1^\mu p_3^\nu + p_1^\nu p_3^\mu - g^{\mu\nu} (p_1 \cdot p_3 - m_1 m_3 c^2)]$$

$$\stackrel{HW}{=} \frac{8g^4}{(p_1 - p_3)^4} \left[(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p_3 \cdot p_4) + (p_2 \cdot p_3)(p_1 \cdot p_4) \right.$$

$$\left. - (p_2 \cdot p_4) m_1 m_3 c^2 - (p_1 \cdot p_3) m_2 m_4 c^2 \right.$$

$$\left. + 2(m_1 m_2 m_3 m_4) c^4 \right]$$

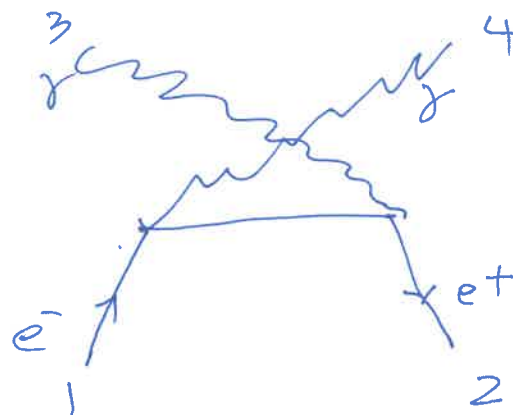
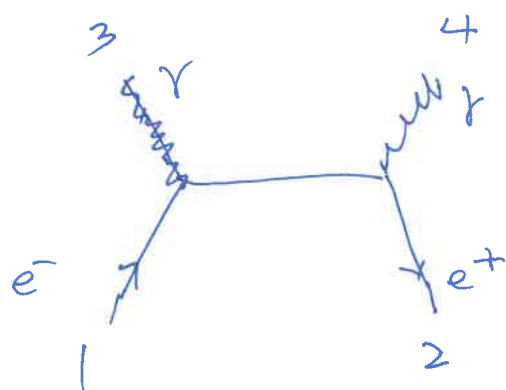
$$m_1 = m_3 = m_e$$

$$m_2 = m_4 = m_\mu$$

GWiffith Probl. 7.40

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Example. Pair annihilation $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



$$M = g^2 \left[\bar{v}(2) \not{\epsilon}^*(4) \frac{1}{\not{p}_1 - \not{p}_3 - m_c} \not{\epsilon}^*(3) u(1) \right.$$

$$\left. + \bar{v}(2) \not{\epsilon}^*(3) \frac{1}{\not{p}_1 - \not{p}_4 - m_c} \not{\epsilon}^*(4) u(1) \right]$$

Suppose the e^+e^- pair is in a singlet configuration, that is, both e^+ and e^- each has a definite spin value, then one can show

$$M_{\text{singlet}} = -2\sqrt{2} \cdot i \cdot g^2 \left(\underline{\xi}_3^* \wedge \underline{\xi}_4^* \right)_3, \quad \underline{\xi}_3 = \underline{\xi}(P_3)$$

From eq (7.158)

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{singlet}} = -2\sqrt{2} \cdot i g_e^2 (\underline{\epsilon}_3^* \wedge \underline{\epsilon}_4^*)_3$$

$$\underline{\epsilon}_3 = \underline{\epsilon}(\underline{p}_3)$$

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\text{singlet}}|^2 = 8 g_e^4 (\underline{\epsilon}_3 \wedge \underline{\epsilon}_4)_3 \cdot (\underline{\epsilon}_3 \wedge \underline{\epsilon}_4)_3^*$$

$$= 8 g_e^4 \epsilon_{3ij} \epsilon_{3i} \epsilon_{4j} \cdot \epsilon_{3lm} \epsilon_{3l}^* \epsilon_{4m}^*$$

$$\epsilon_{3i} = \epsilon_i(\underline{p}_3)$$

Completeness relation for polarization

$$\sum_{s=1,2} \epsilon_i^{(s)}(\underline{p}) \epsilon_j^{(s)*}(\underline{p}) = \delta_{ij} - \hat{p}_i \hat{p}_j$$

$$\hat{p}_i = \frac{p_i}{|\underline{p}|}$$

$\langle |\mathcal{M}|^2 \rangle =$ average over initial spins, sum over final spins

$$= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4} |\mathcal{M}|^2$$

As initial configuration is already in a singlet state, so

$$\langle |M|^2 \rangle = \sum_{s_3 s_4} |M|^2$$

$$= 8 g_e^4 \varepsilon_{3ij} \varepsilon_{3lm} (\delta_{il} - \hat{P}_{3i} \hat{P}_{3l}) (\delta_{jm} - \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4m})$$

$$= 8 g_e^4 \left[\varepsilon_{3lm} \varepsilon_{3lm} - \varepsilon_{3lj} \varepsilon_{3lm} \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4m} \right.$$

$$\left. - \varepsilon_{3im} \varepsilon_{3lm} \hat{P}_{3i} \hat{P}_{3l} + \varepsilon_{3ij} \varepsilon_{3lm} \hat{P}_{3i} \hat{P}_{3l} \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4m} \right]$$

$$\varepsilon_{3lm} \varepsilon_{3lm} = \varepsilon_{31m} \varepsilon_{31m} + \varepsilon_{32m} \varepsilon_{32m}$$

$$= \varepsilon_{312} \varepsilon_{312} + \varepsilon_{321} \varepsilon_{321} = 1 \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot (-1) = 2$$

$$\varepsilon_{3lj} \varepsilon_{3lm} \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4m}$$

$$= (\delta_{33} \delta_{jm} - \delta_{3m} \delta_{j3}) \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4m}$$

$$= \hat{P}_{4j} \hat{P}_{4j} - \hat{P}_{43} \hat{P}_{43}$$

From eq (7.136) Griffiths chapter 7

$$\hat{\vec{p}}_3 = (0, 0, 1), \quad \hat{\vec{p}}_4 = (0, 0, -1)$$

$$\therefore \sum_{3lj} \epsilon_{3lm} \hat{p}_{4j} \hat{p}_{4m} = \hat{p}_4^2 - \hat{p}_{43} \hat{p}_{43} = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$\sum_{3im} \epsilon_{3lm} \hat{p}_{3i} \hat{p}_{3l} = \hat{p}_3^2 - \hat{p}_{33} \hat{p}_{33} = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\hat{\vec{p}}_3 \wedge \hat{\vec{p}}_4 \right)_3 &= \epsilon_{3ij} \hat{p}_{3i} \hat{p}_{4j} = \epsilon_{31j} \hat{p}_{31} \hat{p}_{4j} + \epsilon_{32j} \hat{p}_{32} \hat{p}_{4j} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\langle |\mathcal{M}|^2 \rangle = \langle |\mathcal{M}_{\text{singlet}}|^2 \rangle$$

$$= 16 g_e^4$$

To show the helicity operator $S(\underline{p}) = \frac{\hbar}{2} \underline{\Sigma} \cdot \frac{\underline{p}}{|\underline{p}|}$

commutes with the Dirac Hamiltonian

$$H = c \underline{\alpha} \cdot \underline{p} + \beta m c^2, \quad \underline{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \underline{\sigma} \\ \underline{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[S(\underline{p}), H] = \frac{\hbar}{2} \frac{1}{|\underline{p}|} [\underline{\Sigma} \cdot \underline{p}, H]$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2|\underline{p}|} \left[\begin{pmatrix} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & 0 \\ 0 & \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \\ c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & -m c^2 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2|\underline{p}|} \cdot \left[\begin{pmatrix} m c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & c (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})^2 \\ c (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})^2 & -m c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \end{pmatrix} - \right.$$

$$\left. \begin{pmatrix} m c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & c (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})^2 \\ c (\underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p})^2 & -m c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \end{pmatrix} \right] = 0$$

For the chirality operator $\gamma^5 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, it

commutes with the massless Dirac Hamiltonian

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$$H = c \underline{\alpha} \cdot \underline{p} + \beta m c^2$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \\ c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & -m c^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[\gamma^5, H] = \gamma^5 H - H \gamma^5$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \\ c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & -m c^2 \end{pmatrix} -$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \\ c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & -m c^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & -m c^2 \\ m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} & m c^2 \\ -m c^2 & c \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2m c^2 \\ -2m c^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

For massless fermion, $m = 0$, $\therefore [\gamma^5, H] = 0$

$$\text{As } (S(\underline{p}))^2 = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2}\right)^2, \quad \therefore \text{eigenvalues of } S(\underline{p}) = \pm \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$$\text{As } \gamma^5{}^2 = 1, \quad \therefore \text{eigenvalues of } \gamma^5 = \pm 1$$

From the definition of the helicity operator $S(\underline{p})$, it depends on the direction of the momentum \underline{p} . Helicity is a kinematic entity, in different inertial frames, \underline{p} can change, hence $S(\underline{p})$ is not the same, $S(\underline{p})$ is not invariant under Lorentz transformation. In one frame,

$$S(\underline{p}) = +\frac{\hbar}{2} \text{ whilst in another frame } S(\underline{p}) = -\frac{\hbar}{2}.$$

$S(\underline{p})$ is a scalar wrt to spatial rotations but not wrt Lorentz transformations.

Chirality is an intrinsic property of a particle. In weak interaction, particles participate as chiral particles, $\frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma^5)\psi$ instead of just ψ .

$$\text{Note: } \gamma^5 \left[\frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma^5)\psi \right] = \pm \frac{1}{2}[(1 \pm \gamma^5)\psi]$$

We can show that for a Dirac bispinor u ,

$$\gamma^5 u = \frac{\underline{\gamma} \cdot \underline{p}}{|\underline{p}|} u$$

if the Dirac particle is massless.

Consider a Dirac bispinor $u(p)$

$$\not{p} u(p) = mc u(p)$$

and write $u(p) = \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}$.

Thus $\not{p} u(p) = mc u(p)$ can be written as

$$(\gamma^0 p^0 - \vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{p}) u(p) = mc u(p)$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} p^0 - mc & -\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{p} \\ \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{p} & -p^0 - mc \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

or

$$(p^0 - mc) u_A = \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{p} u_B$$

$$\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{p} u_A = (p^0 + mc) u_B$$

We want to show, for a massless Dirac particle,

$\gamma^5 u(p)$ is same as $S(\vec{p}) u(p)$ apart from a constant. Now

$$\gamma^5 u(p) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_B \\ u_A \end{pmatrix}.$$

Consider $S(\underline{p}) U(\underline{p}) = \frac{\hbar}{2} \underline{\Sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} U(\underline{p})$, $\hat{\underline{p}} = \frac{\underline{p}}{|\underline{p}|}$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} & 0 \\ 0 & \underline{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} \end{pmatrix} U(\underline{p})$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} u_A \\ \underline{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} u_B \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^0 + mc}{|\underline{p}|} u_B \\ \frac{p^0 - mc}{|\underline{p}|} u_A \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\hbar}{2 |\underline{p}|} \begin{pmatrix} (p^0 + mc) u_B \\ (p^0 - mc) u_A \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2 |\underline{p}|} p^0 \begin{pmatrix} u_B \\ u_A \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{for } m=0 \text{ (massless)}$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} u_B \\ u_A \end{pmatrix} \quad p^0 = |\underline{p}| \text{ for } m=0$$

$$\therefore \gamma^5 U(\underline{p}) = \frac{S(\underline{p})}{(\frac{\hbar}{2})} U(\underline{p}) = \underline{\Sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} U(\underline{p})$$

For a massless Dirac particle,

$$\gamma^5 U(\underline{p}) = \underline{\Sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}} U(\underline{p})$$

Note this does not mean $\gamma^5 = \underline{\Sigma} \cdot \hat{\underline{p}}$ for $m=0$.