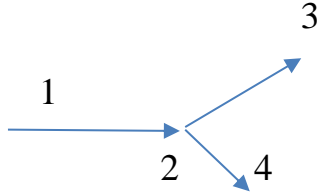


PC4245 Tutorial 3 Solution

1. This question is from the D J Griffiths, Introduction to Elementary Particles, 2nd Edition, Problem 6.8, page 223



$$m_1 = m_A, \quad m_2 = m_B, \quad m_3 = m_A, \quad m_4 = m_B$$

The differential cross section formula is

$$d\sigma = S |\mathcal{M}|^2 \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \left[(\underline{p}_1 \cdot \underline{p}_2)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2 \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^3 \underline{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3 2p_3^0} \frac{d^3 \underline{p}_4}{(2\pi)^3 2p_4^0} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\underline{p}_1 + \underline{p}_2 - \underline{p}_3 - \underline{p}_4)$$

In the lab frame (particle 2 at rest), see part (b) of Q2

$$\sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 \cdot \underline{p}_2)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2} = m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c$$

Integrating $\int d^3 \underline{p}_4$ and writing $d^3 \underline{p}_3 = |\underline{p}_3|^2 \cdot d|\underline{p}_3| \cdot d\Omega_3$,

$$\therefore \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\hbar^2}{(8\pi)^2 m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c} \int \frac{|\underline{p}_3|^2 \cdot d|\underline{p}_3|}{p_3^0 p_4^0} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p_3^0 - p_4^0)$$

where $\underline{p}_4 = \underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3 \quad \therefore \quad p_2 = 0$.

Assume recoil of particle 2 (*ie* particle B) is negligible,

$$\therefore \quad \underline{p}_4 \approx 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \underline{p}_1 \approx \underline{p}_3$$

Note: As $\underline{p}_4 \approx 0$, $\therefore p_4^0 \approx m_4 c$. That is, $p_2^0 \approx p_4^0$, or $p_2^0 - p_4^0 \approx 0$.

Thus

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\hbar^2}{(8\pi)^2 m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c m_4 c} \int \frac{|\underline{p}_3|^2 \cdot d|\underline{p}_3|}{p_3^0} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 - p_3^0)$$

with $\underline{p}_4 = \underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3 \approx 0$ or $\underline{p}_1 \approx \underline{p}_3$.

$$\text{As } p_3^0{}^2 = \underset{\sim}{p_3}^2 + m_3^2 c^2, \quad \therefore dp_3^0 = \frac{|\underset{\sim}{p_3}| \cdot d|\underset{\sim}{p_3}|}{p_3^0}.$$

$$\therefore \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\hbar^2}{(8\pi)^2 (m_2 c)^2 |\underset{\sim}{p_1}|} \int |\underset{\sim}{p_3}| \cdot d\underset{\sim}{p_3}^0 \cdot |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 - p_3^0), \quad \because m_4 = m_2$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi m_2 c} \right)^2 \frac{|\underset{\sim}{p_3}|}{|\underset{\sim}{p_1}|} \cdot |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad \text{with } p_3^0 = p_1^0.$$

$$\text{Now } \underset{\sim}{p_3}^2 = p_3^0{}^2 - m_3^2 c^2 = p_1^0{}^2 - m_3^2 c^2 = \underset{\sim}{p_1}^2 \quad \because m_3 = m_1$$

$$\therefore \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi m_2 c} \right)^2 \cdot |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad \text{with } p_3^0 = p_1^0$$

2. This question is from the D J Griffiths, Introduction to Elementary Particles, 2nd Edition, Problem 6.9, page 223

$$1 + 2 \rightarrow 3 + 4$$

Particle 2 at rest in the lab frame, particles 3 and 4 massless. We have

$$d\sigma = |\mathcal{M}|^2 \frac{S \hbar^2}{4} \left[(\underline{p_1} \cdot \underline{p_2})^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2 \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^3 \underset{\sim}{p_3}}{(2\pi)^3 2p_3^0} \frac{d^3 \underset{\sim}{p_4}}{(2\pi)^3 2p_4^0} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\underline{p_1} + \underline{p_2} - \underline{p_3} - \underline{p_4})$$

In the lab frame (particle 2 at rest),

$$\sqrt{(\underline{p_1} \cdot \underline{p_2})^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2} = m_2 |\underset{\sim}{p_1}| c \longrightarrow$$

hence

$$d\sigma = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi} \right)^2 \frac{S |\mathcal{M}|^2}{m_2 |\underset{\sim}{p_1}| c} \cdot \frac{d^3 \underset{\sim}{p_3}}{p_3^0} \cdot \frac{d^3 \underset{\sim}{p_4}}{p_4^0} \delta^{(4)}(\underline{p_1} + \underline{p_2} - \underline{p_3} - \underline{p_4})$$

Note: Given $p_2 = 0$, $\sqrt{(\underline{p_1} \cdot \underline{p_2})^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2}$

$$= \sqrt{(p_1^0 p_2^0)^2 - (\underline{p_1} \cdot \underline{p_2})^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 E_2}{c^2} \right)^2 - (|\underline{p_1}| |\underline{p_2}| \cos \theta)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 E_2}{c^2} \right)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2} \because E_2 = m_2 c^2$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 E_2}{c^2} + m_1 E_2 \right) \left(\frac{E_1 E_2}{c^2} - m_1 E_2 \right)}$$

$$= E_2 \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 + m_1 c^2}{c^2} \right) \left(\frac{E_1 - m_1 c^2}{c^2} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{E_2}{c^2} \sqrt{(E_1^2 - (m_1 c^2)^2)} \because E^2 - |\underline{p}|^2 c^2 = m^2 c^4$$

$$= \frac{(m_2 c^2)}{c^2} |\underline{p_1}| c$$

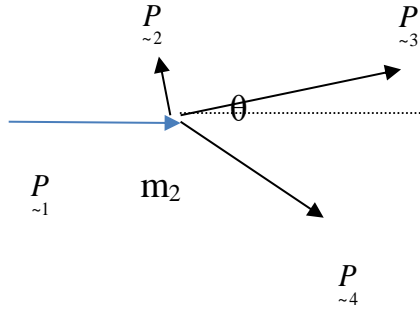
$$= |\underline{p_1}| m_2 c$$

The differential cross section for observing particle 3 at the angle (θ, ϕ) is

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi} \right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 |\underset{\sim}{p_1}| c} \int \frac{|\underset{\sim}{p_3}|^2 d|\underset{\sim}{p_3}| d^3 \underset{\sim}{p_4}}{p_3^0 \cdot p_4^0} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p_3^0 - p_4^0) \cdot \delta^{(3)}(\underline{p_1} - \underline{p_3} - \underline{p_4})$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\tilde{p}_1|} \int \frac{|\tilde{p}_3|^2 d|\tilde{p}_3|}{|\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - |\tilde{p}_3| - |\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|)$$

\therefore for massless particles, $p_3^0 = |\tilde{p}_3|$, $p_4^0 = |\tilde{p}_4|$, and $\tilde{p}_4 = \tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3$.



From the above figure

$$(\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3)^2 = \tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta$$

$$\text{Define } p^0 = |\tilde{p}_3| + |\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|$$

$$\begin{aligned} dp^0 &= d|\tilde{p}_3| + \frac{(|\tilde{p}_3| - |\tilde{p}_1| \cos\theta) d|\tilde{p}_3|}{\sqrt{\tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta}} \\ &= d|\tilde{p}_3| \cdot \left(\frac{|\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3| + |\tilde{p}_3| - |\tilde{p}_1| \cos\theta}{|\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d|\tilde{p}_3|}{|\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|} = \frac{dp^0}{(p^0 - |\tilde{p}_1| \cos\theta)}$$

Thus

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\tilde{p}_1|} \int \frac{|\tilde{p}_3| d|\tilde{p}_3|}{|\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - |\tilde{p}_3| - |\tilde{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_3|)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\underline{p}_1|} \int \frac{|\underline{p}_3| dp^0}{(p^0 - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta)} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p^0)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\underline{p}_1|} \frac{|\underline{p}_3| |\mathcal{M}|^2}{(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta)}$$

where $p_2^0 = m_2 c$, and $|\underline{p}_3|$ is given by

$$p^0 = p_1^0 + p_2^0 = |\underline{p}_3| - |\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3| = |\underline{p}_3| + \sqrt{p_1^2 + p_3^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_1| |\underline{p}_3| \cos\theta} ,$$

$$(p_1 - p_3)^2 = p_1^2 + p_3^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_1| |\underline{p}_3| \cos\theta$$

We have

$$p_1^2 + p_3^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_1| |\underline{p}_3| \cos\theta = p_3^2 + (p_1^0 + p_2^0)^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_3| (p_1^0 + p_2^0)$$

$$\therefore 2 |\underline{p}_3| \left(|\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta - (p_1^0 + p_2^0) \right) = p_1^2 - (p_1^0 + p_2^0)^2$$

$$\therefore |\underline{p}_3| = \frac{p_1^2 - (p_1^0 + p_2^0)^2}{2 \left(|\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta - (p_1^0 + p_2^0) \right)}$$

3. This question is from the D J Griffiths, Introduction to Elementary Particles, 2nd Edition, Problem 6.10, page 223

$$(a) \quad 1 + 2 \rightarrow 3 + 4$$

Elastic scattering. Particle 2 at rest in the lab frame, and $m_3 = m_1, m_4 = m_2$.

We have

$$d\sigma = |\mathcal{M}|^2 \frac{S \hbar^2}{4} \left[(\underline{p}_1 \cdot \underline{p}_2)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2 \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^3 \underline{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3 2p_3^0} \frac{d^3 \underline{p}_4}{(2\pi)^3 2p_4^0} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\underline{p}_1 + \underline{p}_2 - \underline{p}_3 - \underline{p}_4)$$

In the lab frame (particle 2 at rest),

$$\sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 \cdot \underline{p}_2)^2 - (m_1 m_2 c^2)^2} = m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c$$

hence

$$d\sigma = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S|\mathcal{M}|^2}{m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c} \cdot \frac{d^3 p_3}{p_3^0} \cdot \frac{d^3 p_4}{p_4^0} \delta^{(4)}(\underline{p}_1 + \underline{p}_2 - \underline{p}_3 - \underline{p}_4)$$

The differential cross section for observing particle 3 at the angle (θ, ϕ) is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} &= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 |\underline{p}_1| c} \int \frac{|\underline{p}_3|^2 d|\underline{p}_3| d^3 p_4}{p_3^0 \cdot p_4^0} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p_3^0 - p_4^0) \cdot \delta^{(3)}(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3 - \underline{p}_4) \\ &= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\underline{p}_1|} \int \frac{|\underline{p}_3|^2 d|\underline{p}_3|}{\sqrt{p_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2} \cdot \sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2}} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p_3^0 - p_4^0) \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$p^0 = p_3^0 + p_4^0 = \sqrt{(\underline{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2)} + \sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2}, \text{ and } \varrho = |\underline{p}_3|$$

$$dp^0 = \frac{\varrho d\varrho}{\sqrt{\varrho^2 + m_3^2 c^2}} + \frac{d\varrho (\varrho - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta)}{\sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2}},$$

$$\because (\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 = \underline{p}_1^2 + \underline{p}_3^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_1| |\underline{p}_3| \cos\theta$$

Taking out the common differential $d\varrho$, we get

$$dp^0 = d\varrho \cdot \frac{\varrho p^0 - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta \cdot \sqrt{\varrho^2 + m_3^2 c^2}}{\sqrt{\varrho^2 + m_3^2 c^2} \cdot \sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2}}$$

since

$$\varrho \sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2} + \sqrt{\varrho^2 + m_3^2 c^2} (\varrho - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta) = \varrho p^0 - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta \cdot \sqrt{\varrho^2 + m_3^2 c^2}.$$

Hence

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S}{m_2 c |\tilde{p}_1|} \int \frac{q^2 dp^0}{\left(q p^0 - |\tilde{p}_1| \cos\theta \sqrt{q^2 + m_3^2 c^2}\right)} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \delta(p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p^0)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\hbar}{8\pi}\right)^2 \frac{S |\mathcal{M}|^2}{m_2 c |\tilde{p}_1|} \cdot \frac{|\tilde{p}_3|^2}{|\tilde{p}_3| (p_1^0 + m_2 c) - |\tilde{p}_1| \cos\theta \cdot p_3^0} \quad \checkmark$$

where

$$p_3^{0^2} = \tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2 \quad \text{and } |\tilde{p}_3| \text{ is given by}$$

$$p_1^0 + p_2^0 = \tilde{p}_3^0 + p_4^0 = \sqrt{(\tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2)} + \sqrt{(p_1 - \tilde{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Conservation of} \\ \text{energy} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{and } p_2^0 = m_2 c.$$

Squaring LHS:

$$(p_1^0 + m_2 c)^2 = \tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2 + \tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta + m_4^2 c^2 + 2 \sqrt{(\tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2)} \cdot \sqrt{\tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta + m_4^2 c^2}$$

ie

$$(p_1^0 + m_2 c)^2 - 2 \tilde{p}_3^2 - \tilde{p}_1^2 - (m_3^2 + m_4^2) c^2 + 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta = 4(\tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2)(\tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta + m_4^2 c^2)$$

If $m_3 = m_1, m_4 = m_2$, then

$$\left(2 p_1^0 m_2 c - 2 \tilde{p}_3^2 + 2 |\tilde{p}_1| \cdot |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta\right)^2 = 4(\tilde{p}_3^2 + m_3^2 c^2)(\tilde{p}_1^2 + \tilde{p}_3^2 - 2 |\tilde{p}_1| \cdot |\tilde{p}_3| \cos\theta + m_4^2 c^2)$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
& p_1^{0^2} (m_2 c)^2 + \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 \cdot \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 \cdot (\cos\theta)^2 - 2p_1^0 m_2 c \cdot \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 + \\
& 2p_1^0 m_2 c \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta - 2\underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta \\
& = \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 \cdot \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 + \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 \left(m_2^2 c^2 - 2 \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta \right) + m_1^2 c^2 (\underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 + \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 - \\
& 2 \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta + m_2^2 c^2)
\end{aligned}$$

or

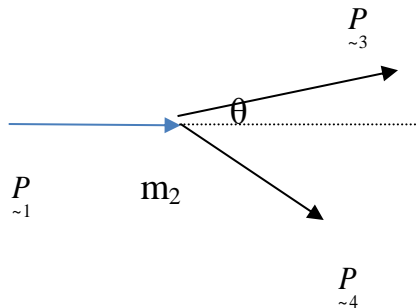
$$\begin{aligned}
& \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 c^2 (m_2^2 - m_1^2) - 2p_1^0 m_2 \cdot \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 + 2p_1^0 m_2 \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta \\
& = \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 \sin^2 \theta + \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 (m_2^2 + m_1^2) c^2 - 2m_1^2 c^2 \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta
\end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \underset{\sim}{p}_3^2 \left(2p_1^0 m_2 + \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 \sin^2 \theta + (m_2^2 + m_1^2) c^2 - 2 \underset{\sim}{|p}_1| \cdot \underset{\sim}{|p}_3| \cos\theta \right) \\
& = \underset{\sim}{p}_1^2 c^2 (m_2^2 - m_1^2) .
\end{aligned}$$

$\underset{\sim}{|p}_3|$ can then be obtained by solving the above quadratic equation.

(b)



For massless particles

$$m_1 = 0 = m_3, \quad p_1^0 = |\underline{p}_1|, \quad p_3^0 = |\underline{p}_3|.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\underline{p}_3| (p_1^0 + m_2 c) - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta \cdot p_3^0 &= p_3^0 (p_1^0 + m_2 c) - p_1^0 \cos\theta \cdot p_3^0 \\ &= p_1^0 p_3^0 (1 - \cos\theta) + p_3^0 m_2 c \end{aligned}$$

Conservation of energy \longrightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} p_1^0 + p_2^0 - p_3^0 &= p_4^0 = \sqrt{(\underline{p}_4)^2 + m_4^2 c^2} = \sqrt{(\underline{p}_1 - \underline{p}_3)^2 + m_4^2 c^2} \\ &= \sqrt{p_1^2 + p_3^2 - 2 |\underline{p}_1| |\underline{p}_3| \cos\theta} \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$(p_1^0 + m_2 c - p_3^0)^2 = p_1^{0^2} + p_3^{0^2} - 2 p_1^0 p_3^0 \cos\theta + m_2^2 c^2$$

or

$$2 p_1^0 p_3^0 (-1 + \cos\theta) + 2 p_1^0 m_2 c - 2 p_3^0 m_2 c = 0$$

Thus

$$|\underline{p}_3| (p_1^0 + m_2 c) - |\underline{p}_1| \cos\theta \cdot p_3^0 = p_1^0 p_3^0 (1 - \cos\theta) + p_3^0 m_2 c = p_1^0 m_2 c.$$

$$\therefore \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = S \left(\frac{\hbar p_3^0}{8\pi m_2 c p_1^0} \right)^2 |M|^2$$