High Energy Physics

Text: D. Griffiths: Introduction to Elementary Particles
John Wily & Sons, 2nd Edition(2008)

Reference:

F. Halzen and A.D. Martin: Quarks & Leptons John-Wiley & Sons (1984)

D.H. Perkins: Introduction to High Energy Physics (4th Edition) Cambridge University Press (2000)

Fayyazuddin & Riazuddin: A Modern Introduction to Particle Physics (2nd edition) World Scientific Publishing(2000)

Duncan Carlsmith: Particle Physics, Pearson Education (2013)

C H Oh

Physics Department



General Reading:

- (1) Brian Greene: The Elegant Universe (1999), QC794.6 Str. Gr. The Fabric of the Cosmos (2003); The Hidden Reality (2011)
- (1) M Veltman: Facts and Mysteries in Elementary Particle Physics (WSPC, 2003)
- (2) Leo Lederman: The God Particle: If the Universe is the Answer, What is the question, Boston: Houghton Mifflin (1993), QC793.Bos.L

Websites:

Update of the Particle Listings available on the Web PDG Berkeley website: http://pdg.lbl.gov/

The Berkeley website gives access to MIRROR sites in: Brazil, CERN, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

Also see the Particle Adventure at: http://ParticleAdventure.org

http://www-ed.fnal.gov/lml/Leon_life.html (Leo Lederman) http://www-ed.fnal.gov/trc/projects/index_all.html

Particle Physics Labs

- Laboratories BNL: The Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, Long Island.
- <u>CERN:</u> Originally "Conseil Européenne pour Recherches Nucléaires," now the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- <u>DESY:</u> Deutches Elektronen SYnchrotron laboratory in Hamburg, Germany.
- FNAL: The Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois.
- <u>KEK:</u> Koo Energy Ken. The High Energy Research Accelerator Organization in Tsukuba, Japan.
- <u>SLAC:</u> The Department of Energy's Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Palo Alto, California.

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1.1 Introduction

Elementary Particles = Basic constituents of matter.

A particle can be pointlike and wavelike.

To break matter into its smallest pieces, need high energy

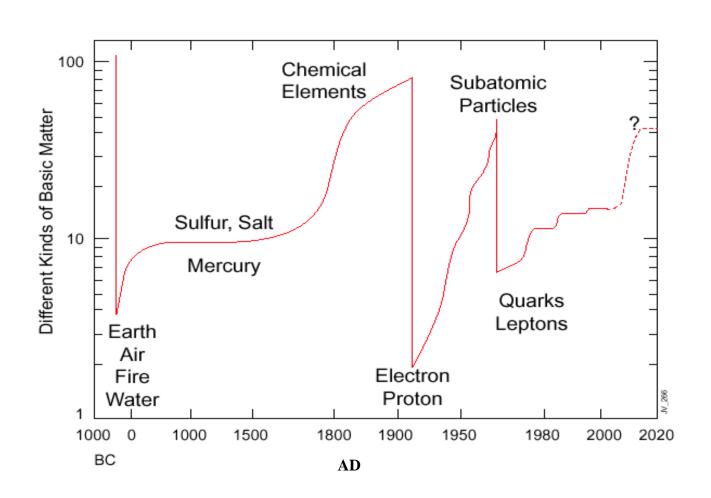
: Elementary particle physics = high energy physics

Present energy achieved $\approx 1 \ TeV \approx 1000 \ GeV \approx 10^{12} \ eV$ (Fermilab) LHC (2007) proton beams 7 $TeV + 7 \ TeV = 14 \ TeV$ Theoretical discussion on the unification of basic forces has reached the Planck energy scale

$$\left(\frac{\hbar c}{G_N}\right)^{1/2} = 10^{-5}gm = 10^{19}GeV = 10^{28}eV$$

Close to the energy scale at which the universe is created.

History of Constituents of Matter



1.2 Particles

Leptons: Particles do not participate in strong interaction.

	Q	L_e	L_{μ}	$L_{ au}$
e	-1	1	0	0
v_e	0	1	0	0
μ	-1	0	1	0
v_{μ}	0	0	1	0
τ	-1	0	0	1
$v_{ au}$	0	0	0	1

Electron pointlike up to

$$10^{-15}$$
 cm = 10^{-2} fm

Hadrons(strongly interacting particles)

Baryons: Half-integral spin particles (fermions) involve in all basic interactions, **st** (strong), **wk** (weak), **em** (electromagnetic), e g $p, n, \Lambda, \Sigma^+, \Sigma^0, \Sigma^-, \Xi^0, \Xi^-, \Delta, \Omega^-$

Mesons: integer spin particles (bosons) involve in all basic interactions *st, wk, em*

$$\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle +},\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle \circ},\pi^{\scriptscriptstyle -},k^{\scriptscriptstyle \pm},k^{\scriptscriptstyle \circ},\eta,\omega$$

Baryons are made from three quarks q,q,q

Mesons are made from quark-antiquark q, \bar{q}

Three generations of quarks

	Q	$oldsymbol{U}$	D	C	S	T	B
u	2/3	1	0	0	0	0	0
d	-1/3	0	-1	0	0	0	0
C	2/3	0	0	1	0	0	0
S	-1/3	0	0	0	-1	0	0
t	2/3	0	0	0	0	1	0
b	-1/3	0	0	0	0	0	-1

each quark has a nonabelian charge, called colour (**source** of strong interaction); there are three different colours.

Classification symmetry group

The lepton number, like electric charge, is associated with the Abelian U(1) group.

The lepton doublet and also quark doublet are associated with the non-Abelian SU(2), originally from the isospin symmetry of proton and neutron

Baryons and Mesons are bound states of quarks.

e.g.

proton =
$$\begin{pmatrix} u & u \\ d \end{pmatrix}$$

antiproton =
$$\left(\frac{\overline{u}}{\overline{d}}\right)$$

Pion
$$\pi^+ = \left(\frac{u}{d}\right)$$

Pion
$$\pi^- = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{u} \\ d \end{pmatrix}$$

Kaon
$$k^+ = \left(\frac{u}{s}\right)$$

Kaon
$$k^- = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{u} \\ s \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J/\psi = \left(\frac{c}{c}\right)$$

Gauge field particles (force field)

Photon γ electromagnetic interaction Graviton gravitation Strong interaction

Intermediate

Vector bosons W^{\pm} Z weak interaction

Mass: $m_{W^{\pm}} \approx 82 GeV/c^2$, $m_Z \approx 92 Gev/C^2$

1.3 Basic Interactions (forces)

Type of force:	Gravitational	Weak	Electro-magnetic	Strong
Range:	infinite	≤10 ⁻¹⁶ cm	infinite	≤10 ⁻¹³ cm
Strength relative to strong force at a distance 10 ⁻¹³ cm	10 ⁻³⁸	10 ⁻¹³	10 ⁻²	1
Decay time for a typical small mass hadron:		10 ⁻¹⁰ s	10 ⁻²⁰ s	10 ⁻²³ s
Mediator:	Graviton	W ⁺ ,W ⁻ ,Z ⁰	Photon γ	gluon
Mass of the mediator:	0	82 GeV/c ² 92 GeV/c ²	0	0

non-linear int.

Theories: Strong interaction

linear int. em interaction

non-linear int. Weak interaction

Gravitation

Quantum chromodynamics

QCD

Quantum electrodynamics

QED

Weinberg – Salam

model (Flavour dynamics)

Quantum gravity (?)

Einstein's general relativity

Standard Model in particle physics

(i) Electroweak unification 1967

So called Glashow-Salam-Weinberg Model unifying weak interaction with the electromagnetic interaction. Quantum flavor dynamics

The model is based on quantum field theory. Both the particle (matter lepton) and the interaction are represented by field operators and the interaction term is of the form of current(matter) × gauge field, or $J_{\mu}^{a} \times A_{a}^{\mu}$. The symmetry group is $U(1) \times SU(2)$

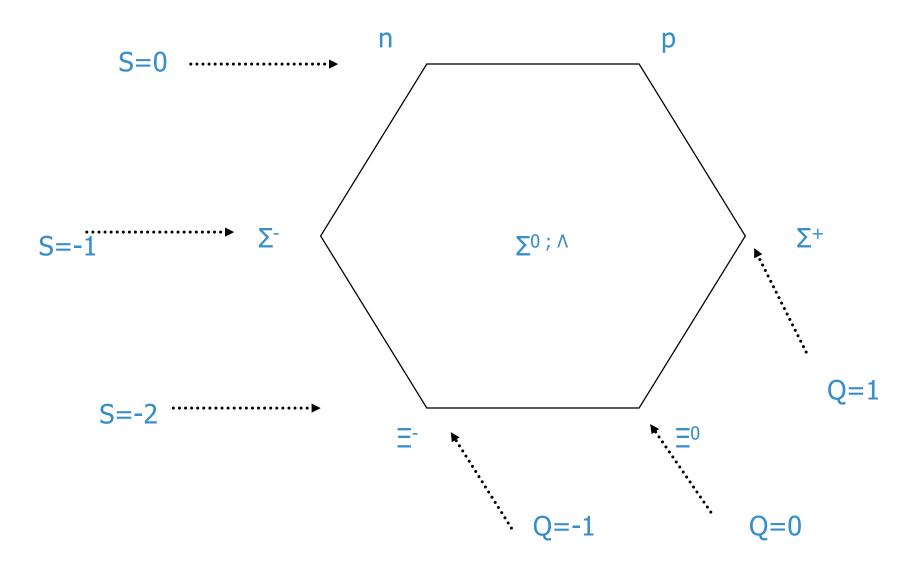
- (ii) The strong interaction is described by quantum chromatic dynamics (QCD) ~1973. The symmetry group is SU(3). Again Both the particle (matter quarks) and the interaction are represented by field operators and the interaction term is of the form of current(matter) × gauge field, or $J_{\mu}^{a} \times A_{a}^{\mu}$.
- (iii) The standard model is based on the gauge group is $U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3)$. Strictly not a complete unification because it consists of 3 separate gauge group. Ideally unification should be based on one single gauge group.

THE EIGHTFOLD WAY

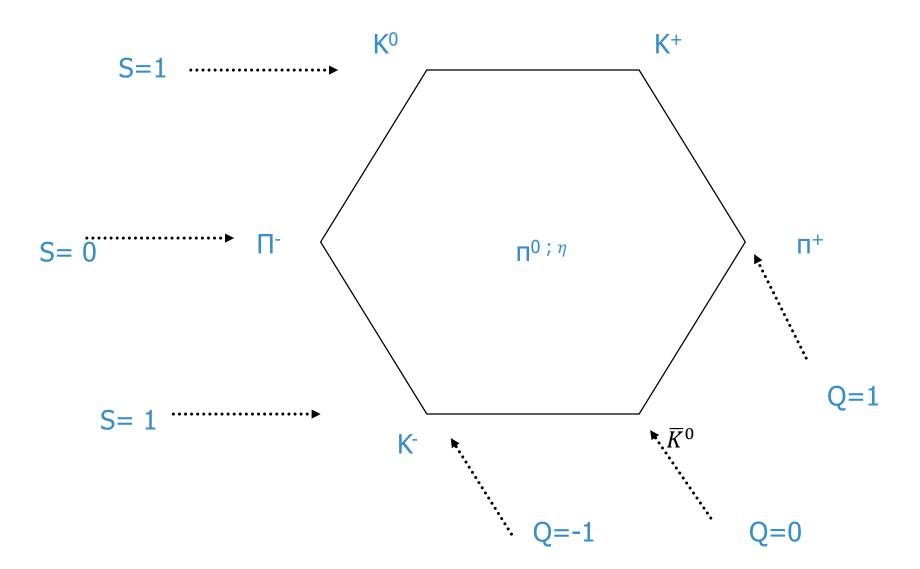
Classify hadrons (baryons and mesons) according to multiplets (singlets, octets, decuplets) of the unitary group SU(3), so called unitary symmetry.

This scheme is an extension of the isospin classification, SU(2). E.g. proton and neutron form an isodoublet.

The Baryon Octet



The Meson Octet



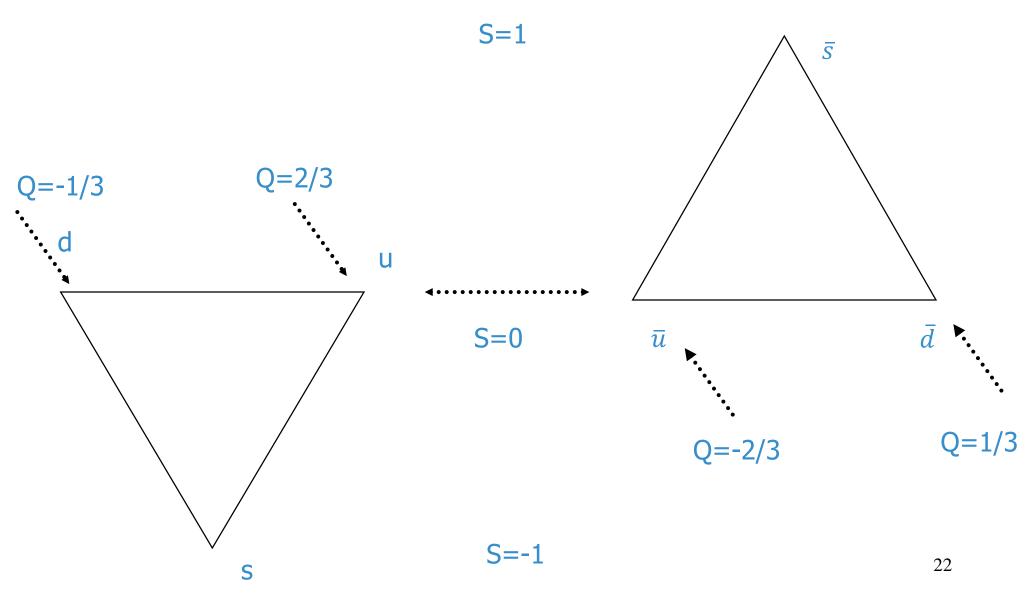
SU(3) Octet and Nonet

An SU(3) octet consists of 2 isodoublets, 1 isotriplet, and 1 isosinglet. These isomultiplets refer to SU(2).

An nonet consists of an SU(3) octet and an SU(3) singlet.

An nonet is a SU(3) reducible representation, and is equivalent to an irreducible SU(3) octet representation and an irreducible SU(3) singlet representation.

The Quark Model (1964)



1.4 Theoretical Framework

1.4.1 Quantum field theories

To every elementary particle, we associate a field operator $\psi(\underline{x})$, $x^0 = ct$, $\underline{x} = (x^1, x^2, x^3)$, $\psi(\underline{x})$ acts on state vectors of a Hilbert space. The field operator $\psi(\underline{x})$ obeys equation of motion. For free particles, equations of motion are known. Usually can obtain equation of motion from action S

$$S = \int d^4x \, \mathcal{L}$$
 \mathcal{L} Lagrangian density.

For particles in interaction, interaction terms are usually derived from a symmetry principle, called principle of local gauge invariance.

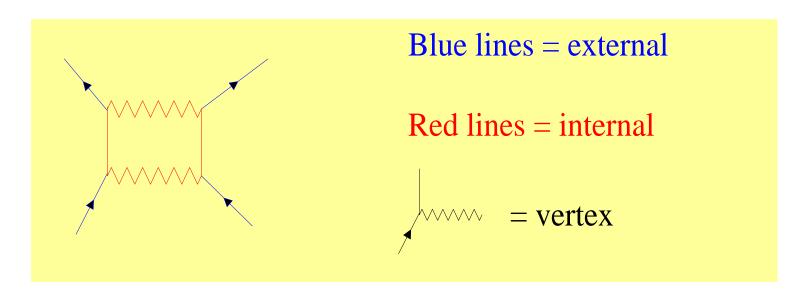
Two types of interaction terms:

$$\frac{\overline{\psi}(x)\psi(x)\varphi(x)}{\overline{\psi}(x)\gamma^{\mu}\psi(x)A_{\mu}(x)}$$
 Yukawa exchange of pi meson Gauge field theories

In quantum theory, exp (-iS) determines the physics, S = action.

1.4.2 Feynman diagram

1. A Feynman diagram consists of external lines (lines which enter or leave the diagram) and internal lines (lines start and end in the diagram). External lines represent physical particles (observable). Internal lines represent virtual particles (A virtual particle is just like a physical particle except its mass can assume any value i.e. not on mass-shell). Vertices represent interactions. 4-momentum p^{μ} must be conserved at each vertex; in fact all conservation laws. e.g.



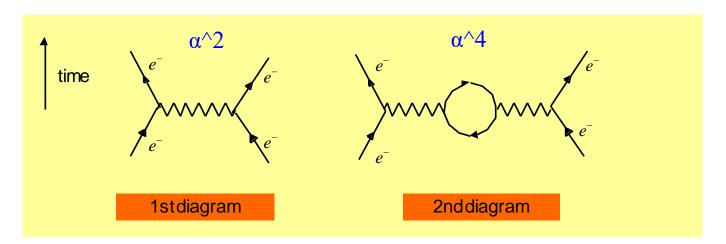
2. The diagram is symbolic, the lines do not represent particle trajectories.

3. Each Feynman diagram stands for a complex number (scattering amplitude) which can be computed from Feynman's rules. The sum total of all Feynman diagrams with the same external lines represents a physical process.

There are infinitely many Feynman diagrams for a particular physical process. Each vertex in the diagram introduces a factor $\sqrt{\alpha}$ (coupling constant).

For QED $\alpha_e = \frac{1}{137}$, thus higher order diagrams with many vertices will contribute less to the process.

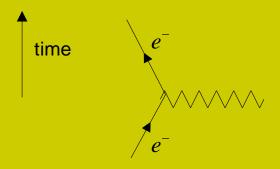
e.g. Electron-electron scattering $e^-e^- \rightarrow e^-e^-$



The 2nd diagram (1-loop) contributes less than the first diagram (tree).

4. At each vertex, the energy-momentum p^{μ} must be conserved.

e.g. $e^- \rightarrow e^- + \gamma$ violates energy conservation

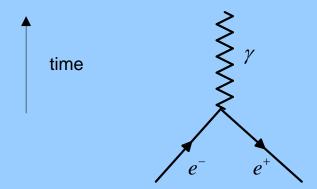


In $\it cm$ frame, the e^- is initially at rest The energy of the emitted electron and photon is

 $(\gamma m_e c^2 + \hbar \omega) > m_e c^2$ (energy of e^- at rest)

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}, \quad \beta = \frac{v}{c}$$

 $e^- + e^+ \rightarrow \gamma$ violates conservation of momentum 3-momentum



In *cm* frame total momentum of e^- and e^+ (positron) = 0, but total momentum after annihilation = momentum of γ (photon) \neq 0. *cm* =center of momentum

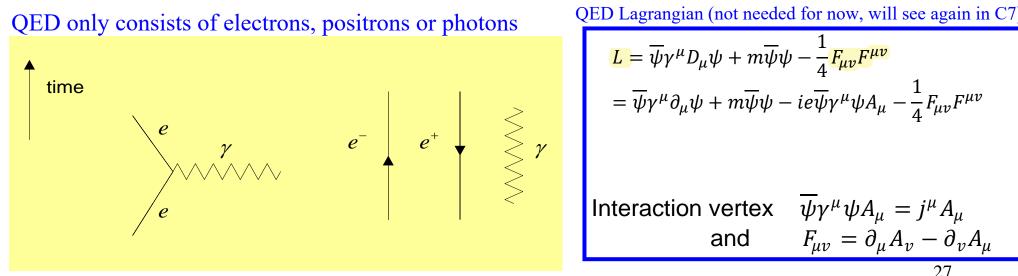
5. Each virtual particle (internal line) is represented by the "propagator" (a function describes the propagation of the virtual particle). The virtual particles are responsible for the description of force fields through which interacting particles affect on another.

(a) QED

Coupling constant
$$\alpha_e = \frac{q_e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0\hbar c} = \frac{1}{137}$$
 $q_e = 1.602 \text{ x } 10^{-19} \text{Coul}, \ \hbar = 1.055 \text{ x } 10^{-34} \text{Joule-Sec}$ $c = 2.998 \text{ x } 10^8 \text{m/s}, \qquad \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} = 8.9875 \text{ x } 10^9$

All **em** phenomena are ultimately reducible to following elementary process (primitive vertex)

QED only consists of electrons, positrons or photons

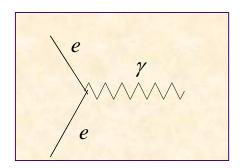


QED Lagrangian (not needed for now, will see again in C7)

$$\begin{split} \underline{L} &= \overline{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} D_{\mu} \psi + m \overline{\psi} \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu \nu} F^{\mu \nu} \\ &= \overline{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \psi + m \overline{\psi} \psi - i e \overline{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \psi A_{\mu} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu \nu} F^{\mu \nu} \end{split}$$

All **em** processes can be described by patching together two or more of the primitive vertices.

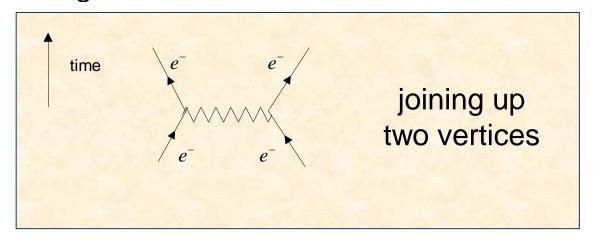
Note: The primitive QED vertex



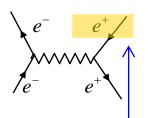
by itself does not represent a possible physical process as it violates the conservation of energy.

Some examples of electromagnetic interaction

1. Møller Scattering $e^-e^- \rightarrow e^-e^-$

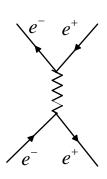


2. Bhabha Scattering $e^-e^+ \rightarrow e^-e^+$



 e^{-} gives up a virtual photon which is absorbed by the position e^{+}

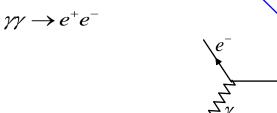
Particle line running backward in time (as indicated by the arrow) is interpreted as the corresponding antiparticle running forward.

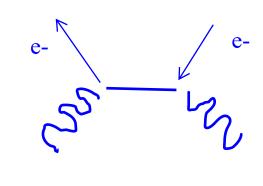


 e^+e^- annihilate to produce a virtual photon γ which then pair – produces e^+e^-

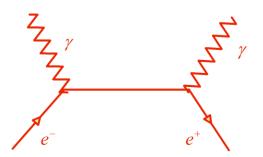
Dr. Oh's convention writes the positron even though his arrow already indicates positron



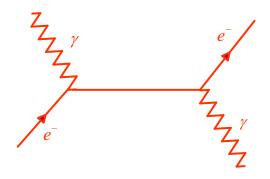




4. Pair Annihilation $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

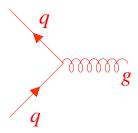


5. Compton Scattering $e^- \gamma \rightarrow e^- \gamma$

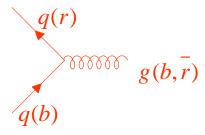


(b) QCD

Only quarks and gluons involve basic vertices: Quark-gluon vertex $q \rightarrow q + g$



More exactly



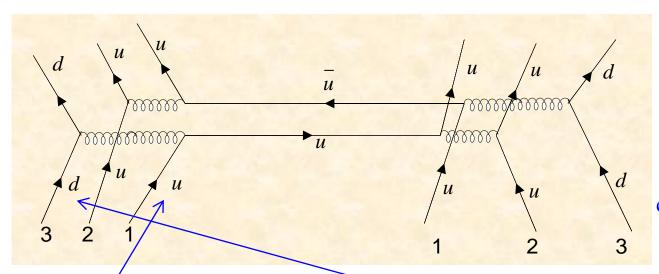
Gluon vertices

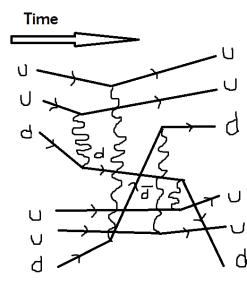
Glueballs

Interaction between two proton

Nucleons (proton or neutron) interact by exchange of π mesons.

e.g.Gauge-field int.

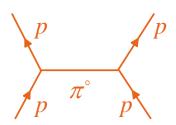




exchange d quark instead

First u quark of LH p interacts with d and then propagates to the RH p to become the u of the RH p and also interacts with the second u of the RH p.

Similarly the first u of RH p interacts with the d and goes to become a u of the LH p and also interacts with the second u of the LH p.



Yukawa int.

$$\pi^{\circ} = (u\overline{u} - d\overline{d})/\sqrt{2}$$

As int. energy increases, strong force decreases; smaller coupling constant -> less likely for process to occur

The coupling constant α_s decreases as interaction energy increases (short-range), known as asymptotic freedom.

$$\alpha_{s\,eff} = \frac{\alpha_s}{\varepsilon}$$
 $\varepsilon = \text{dielectric constant}$

If coupling constant is large, cannot use perturbation theory

If Int Energy ~ 0 , α becomes large but always finite (aka Landau pole or Moscow Zero)

For QCD α_s increases as interaction energy decreases (long range)

$$\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.112$$
, $m_Z = 91 GeV/c^2$
 $\alpha_s(m_\psi) = 0.2$, $m_\psi = 3.1 GeV/c^2$
 $\alpha_s(200 MeV) \approx 1$

known as infrared slavery.

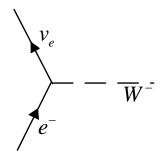
(c) Weak Interaction

sometimes called Quantum Flavour Dynamics

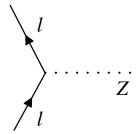
Two kinds, charged and neutral vertices

Leptons: primitive vertices connect members of the <u>same</u> generation Lepton number is separately conserved for each Lepton generation, that is, L_e , L_u , L_τ separately conserved.

Charged vertex



Neutral vertex



e.g.

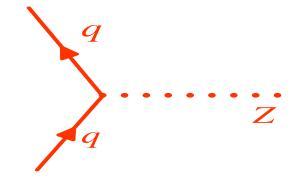
Sidenote: Recall that weak int. doesn't conserve parity

Flavour not conserved in weak interaction.

Charged Vertex.



Neutral vertex



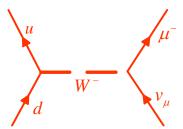
Quarks

Flavour not conserved in weak interaction

Charged Vertex.



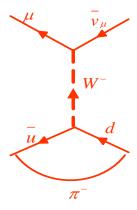
Semileptonic process $d + v_{\mu} \rightarrow u + \mu^{-}$



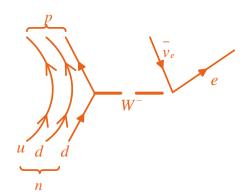
Not observable due to quark confinement

But can be observed in

Decay of $\pi^- \rightarrow \mu^- + v_\mu^-$

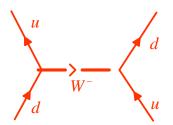


and neutron decay $n \rightarrow p + e^- + v_e^-$



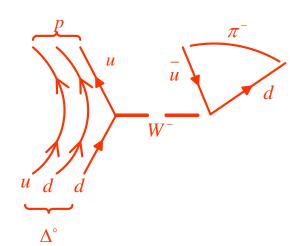
Two quarks *u*, *d* in neutron *n* not participating are called spectator quarks.

Hadronic decays

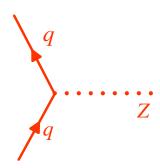


observed in

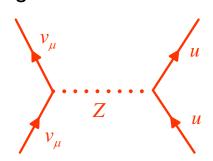
$$\Delta^{\circ}$$
 (udd)
 $\Delta^{\circ} \rightarrow p + \pi^{-}$



Neutral vertex



e.g.



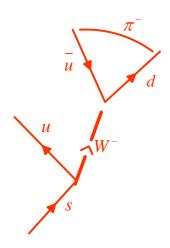
observed in

$$v_{\mu} + p \rightarrow v_{\mu} + p$$

Decays of quark by weak interaction can involve members of different generations

e.g. a strange quark can decay into an u-quark

(flavor is not conserved)

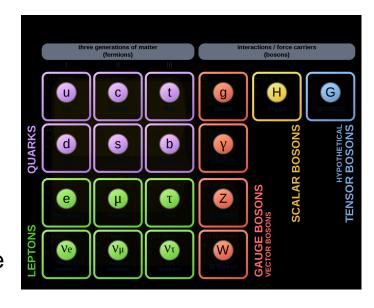


The weak force not just couples members of the same generation

$$\binom{u}{d}$$
 or $\binom{c}{s}$ or $\binom{t}{b}$



$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix} or \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s \end{pmatrix} or \begin{pmatrix} t \\ b \end{pmatrix} \qquad \text{where} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} d' \\ s' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

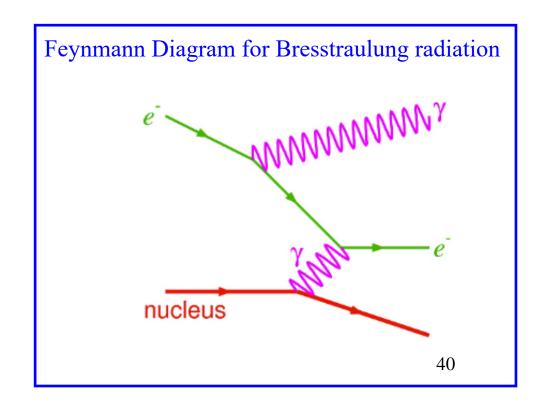


Kobayashi –Maskawa matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.9747 - 0.9759, & 0.218 - 0.224, & 0.001 - 0.007 \\ 0.218 - 0.224, & 0.9734 - 0.9752, & 0.030 - 0.058 \\ 0.003 - 0.019, & 0.029 - 0.058, & 0.9983 - 0.9996 \end{pmatrix}$$

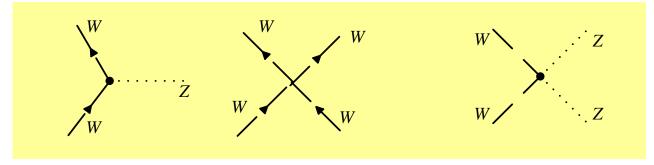
 V_{ud} = coupling of u to d

 V_{us} = coupling of u to s

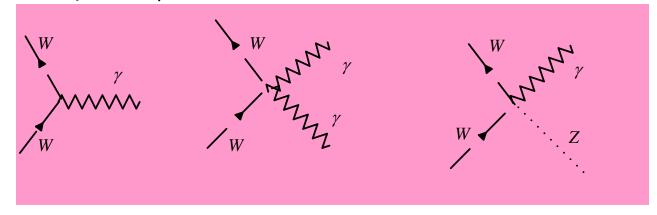


(d) wk and em couplings of W^{\pm} and Z

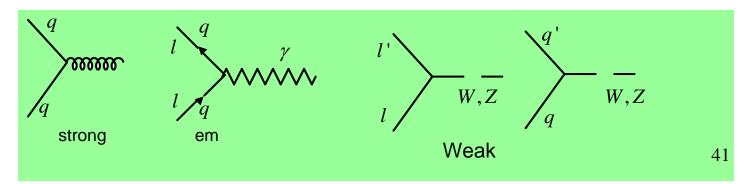
Weak couplings



Couplings involve photon γ



Summary



1.5 Decay & Conservation Laws

1.5.1

(a) Every particle decays into lighter particles unless prevented by some conservation law

#1

Stable particles: e^{-} (lightest lepton, conservation of lepton number),

#2

p (lightest baryon, conservation of baryon number), neutrinos, photons (massless particles)

(b) Most particles exhibit several different decay modes e.g.

Branching ratio

Each unstable species has a characteristic mean life time τ

e.g.
$$\tau_{\mu} = 2.2 \times 10^{-6} \, \mathrm{s}$$

$$\tau_{\pi^+} = 2.6 \times 10^{-8} \, \mathrm{s}$$

$$\tau_{\pi^\circ} = 8.3 \, \times \, 10^{-17} \mathrm{s}$$

Note: $I = I_0 e^{-t/\tau}$,

 τ = time taken for I to decrease from I_0 to I_0 e^{-1}

 $t_{1/2}$ = time taken for I to reduce to $\frac{1}{2}I_o$,

$$\frac{1}{2}I_o = I_o \ e^{-(t_{1/2}/\tau)} \Rightarrow ln2 = (t_{1/2}/\tau)$$

(c) Three Fundamental Decays:

Strong decay e.g.
$$\Delta^{++} \rightarrow p + \pi^{+}$$
 $\tau = 10^{-23} s$
em decay e.g. $\pi^{\circ} \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$ $\tau = 10^{-16} s$
wk decay e.g. $\Sigma^{-} \rightarrow n + e^{-} + v_{e}$ $\tau \sim 10^{-13} s$

Neutron decay $n \rightarrow p + e^{-} + v_{e}$ ($\tau = 15 \min$)

$$(d \rightarrow u + e^{-} + v_{e})$$

(d) Kinematic Effect: the larger the mass difference between the original particle and the decay products, the more rapidly the decay occurs.

This is also known as phase space factor. It accounts for the enormous range of mean life time τ in **wk** decays.

1.5.2 CONSERVATION LAWS

(i) Spacetime symmetry

Homogeneity of space time \rightarrow laws of physics are invariant under time and space translations \rightarrow

Conservation of spatial momentum p, Conservation of energy $E/c = p^0$

Isotropy of space time \rightarrow laws of physics are invariant under rotations in space time.

In particular laws of physics are invariant under rotations in space \rightarrow Conservation of angular momentum.

Invariant under rotation in space and time (Lorentz transformation), Lorentz Symmetry

Discrete Symmetry

Space inversion → conservation of parity

Time inversion T, no quantum number associated.

T represented by anti-unitary operator.

$$T^+ = T^{-1}$$
 (unitary) $T(c_1|\psi_1\rangle + c_2|\psi_2\rangle) = c_1^*T|\psi_1\rangle + c_2^*T|\psi_2\rangle$ (antilinear) and c_1^* is the complex conjugate of c_i , i =1, 2

(ii) Internal Symmetry

(1) U(1) symmetry A physical state of a physical system is represented by a vector $|\psi\rangle$ in Hilbert space up to a phase factor (assume normalization)

i.e. if $|\psi\rangle$ represents a physical state then $e^{i\alpha}|\psi\rangle$ represents the same physical state, where α =constant, phase whereas exp($i\alpha$) is known as phase factor.

$$\left\{e^{ilpha_1},e^{ilpha_2}...\right\}$$
 form a group, an Abelian group $U(1)$

Conservations of electric charge, baryon number and lepton number are due to the U(1) phase invariance.

For the electric charge case, can also let phase α be dependent on spacetime point x^u , namely $\alpha = \alpha(\underline{x})$ and one gets local gauge invariance

(2) The QCD Lagrangian is invariant under local SU(3) transformations. i.e. QCD has a local SU(3) symmetry. An SU(3) transformation is represented by a unitary 3 x 3 matrix with determinant=1.

(3) Approximate conservation of flavour. Quark flavour is conserved at a strong or electromagnetic vertex, but <u>not</u> at a weak vertex.

OZI (Okubo, Zweig and Iizuka) rule Some <u>strong</u> decays are suppressed e.g.

Symmetry (invariance): a physical or mathematical feature of the system that is preserved or unchanged under some operation. (e.g. isospin transformation of proton to neutron)

Global symmetry: symmetry across all particles Gauge symmetry: localized symmetry for specific particles

 $J/\psi = c\overline{c}$ bound state of charmed quarks has anomalously long lifetime

$$\varphi$$
 Meson $(s\overline{s})$, $I^G(J^{pc}) = 0^-(1^{--})$ mass = 1020 MeV, Full width $\Gamma = 4MeV$, $(\tau\Gamma = \hbar)$ τ =1.6 x 10⁻²²s

Decay modes

$$K^+K^-$$
 50%

 $K_l^0K_s^0$
 34%

 $\rho\pi$
 13%

 $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^o$
 2%

 $\eta\gamma$
 1%

Clearly, ϕ meson decays more often into K^+K^-

$$\phi \to K^+ + K^-$$
 mass of $(K^+ + K^-) = 990 \,\text{MeV/c}^2$

than into 3π 's

$$\phi \rightarrow \pi^{+} + \pi^{-} + \pi^{0}$$
 mass of $(\pi^{+} + \pi^{-} + \pi^{0}) = 415 MeV/c^{2}$

OZI rule:

If the diagram can be cut in two by slicing only gluon lines (and not cutting open any external lines), the process is suppressed.

Qualitatively OZI rule is related to the asymptotic freedom.

In an OZI suppressed diagram the gluons have higher energy than those in the OZI - allowed diagram. (More gluons imply higher energy, higher energy so strong interaction coupling constant is smaller, meaning process less likely to occur).

$$J/\psi I^G(J^p) = 0^-(1^-)$$

mass = 3100 MeV/c², Γ =0.093 MeV

Decay modes

$$e^{+}e^{-}$$
 6.0% $\mu^{+}\mu^{-}$ 6.0% hadrons 88%

 $J/\psi \to 3\pi$ OZI - suppressed $J/\psi \to D^+ + D^-(D^\circ + \overline{D}^\circ)$ charmed nonstrange Mesons mass of D \approx 1869 MeV/c². D+ (c \overline{d}); D0 (c \overline{u}) Kinematically forbidden since a pair of two charmed D mesons has larger total mass than the J particle. Hence this J particle has a longer life time than the ϕ meson.

Planck Scale

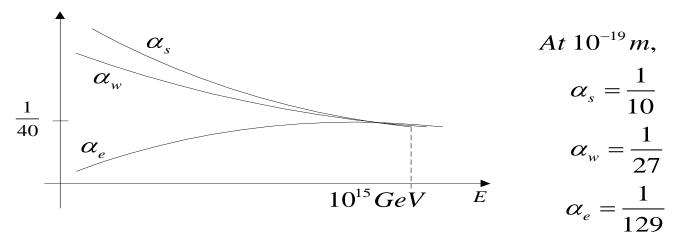
Strong coupling constant α_s decreases at short distances (very high energy collisions)

Weak coupling α_w also decreases but at a slower rate.

Electromagnetic coupling constant α_e increases as energy increases

[Note: the relative weakness of the weak force is due to the large mass of W^{\pm} , Z; its intrinsic strength is greater than that of the **em** force.]

From the present functional form of the running coupling constants, $\alpha_{\rm s,}$ $\alpha_{\rm w,}$ and $\alpha_{\rm e}$ converge at around 10¹⁵ *GeV* (Planck energy scale).



 $g\overline{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}T^{a}\psi A^{a}_{\mu}$

Our Universe according to Wilkison Microwave Anistropy Probe (WMAP) 2003

- Age: 13.7 billion years
- Shape: Flat
- Age when first light appeared:200 Million years
- Contents: 4% ordinary matter, 23% dark matter, nature unknown; 73% dark energy, nature unknown
- Hubble constant (expansion rate):71km/sec/megaparsec

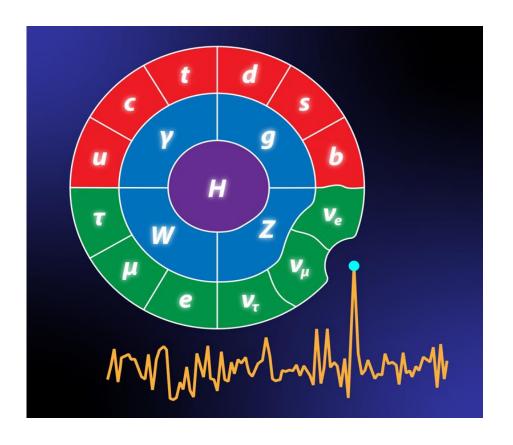
To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in A Wild Flower Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand And Eternity in an hour

W. Blake (1757-1827)



M.C. Escher (Dutch graphic artist, 1898- 1972)





APS/Alan Stonebraker

The colored circle represents the standard model of particle physics, which describes the Higgs boson (purple), the force-carrying particles (blue), the quarks (red), and the leptons (green). Particle physicists hope that an anomaly (shown as a data peak) will pierce through the standard model's long-standing dominance, so that a new, more comprehensive theory can develop.