

- (b) Muons are particles which are created in the upper atmosphere via cosmic interactions. These particles travel vertically downward to the surface of the Earth at a speed of  $0.995c$  where  $c$  represents the speed of light in vacuum. When muons are at rest, they have a half-life of  $1.56\mu s$ . A muon counter is placed at the top of a mountain 2000 m high. The counter records 568 muons in 1 hour.
- (i) According to classical concepts, what will be the number of muons counted in 1 hour if the counter is placed at the foot of the mountain? [2 marks]
- (ii) In a typical experiment, a counter placed at the foot of the mountain record 422 muons in 1 hour. Why does the result of this experiment differ so much from your result in part (i)? [2 marks]

- (iii) What is the “height” of the mountain according to muons? [1 mark]
- (iv) While the muons are travelling downward to the earth, another particle also travels in the same direction with speed  $0.9995c$ . What is the velocity of this particle in the muon’s inertial frame? [2 marks]