

# Elementary Particle Physics: theory and experiments

Course will concentrate on the modern view of particle physics with the emphasis on how **theoretical concepts** relate to recent **experimental measurements**.

Follow the course/slides from M. A. Thomson lectures at Cambridge University

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# Course Synopsis

- 1: Introduction, Decay Rates and Cross Sections
- 2: The Dirac Equation and Spin
- 3: Interaction by Particle Exchange
- 4: Electron – Positron Annihilation
- 5: Electron – Proton Scattering
- 6: Deep Inelastic Scattering
- 7: Symmetries and the Quark Model
- 8: QCD and Colour
- 9: V-A and the Weak Interaction
- 10: Leptonic Weak Interactions
- 11: Neutrinos and Neutrino Oscillations
- 12: The CKM Matrix and CP Violation
- 13: Electroweak Unification and the W and Z Bosons
- 14: Tests of the Standard Model
- 15: The Higgs Boson and Beyond

# Books

## **M. Thomson, „Modern Particle Physics”**

### Other recommended books

- “Particle Physics”, Martin and Shaw (Wiley): **fairly basic but good.**
- “Introductory High Energy Physics”, Perkins (Cambridge): **slightly below level of the course but well written.**
- “Introduction to Elementary Physics”, Griffiths (Wiley): **about right level but doesn’t cover the more recent material.**
- “Quarks and Leptons”, Halzen & Martin (Wiley): **good graduate level textbook (slightly above level of this course).**

# Preliminaries: Natural Units

- S.I. UNITS: kg m s are a natural choice for “everyday” objects
- not very natural in particle physics
- instead use **Natural Units** based on the language of particle physics
  - From Quantum Mechanics - the unit of action :  $\hbar$
  - From relativity - the speed of light:  $c$
  - From Particle Physics - unit of energy: **GeV** (1 GeV ~ proton rest mass energy)

★ Units become (i.e. with the correct dimensions):

Energy	GeV	Time	$(\text{GeV}/\hbar)^{-1}$
Momentum	GeV/c	Length	$(\text{GeV}/\hbar c)^{-1}$
Mass	GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	Area	$(\text{GeV}/\hbar c)^{-2}$

★ Simplify algebra by setting:  $\hbar = c = 1$

- Now all quantities expressed in powers of **GeV**

Energy	GeV	Time	GeV <sup>-1</sup>	} To convert back to S.I. units, need to restore missing factors of $\hbar$ and $c$
Momentum	GeV	Length	GeV <sup>-1</sup>	
Mass	GeV	Area	GeV <sup>-2</sup>	

# Preliminaries: Heaviside-Lorentz Units

• **Electron charge** defined by Force equation:  $F = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$

• In Heaviside-Lorentz units set  $\epsilon_0 = 1$

and  $F \rightarrow \frac{e^2}{4\pi r^2}$       NOW: electric charge has dimensions  $[FL^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} = [EL]^{\frac{1}{2}} = [\hbar c]^{\frac{1}{2}}$

• Since  $c = (\epsilon_0\mu_0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = 1 \rightarrow \mu_0 = 1$

$$\hbar = c = \epsilon_0 = \mu_0 = 1$$



Unless otherwise stated, Natural Units are used

$$E^2 = p^2 + m^2, \quad \vec{p} = \vec{k}, \quad \text{etc.}$$

# Elementary Particle Physics: theory and experiments

**Short recap on the Standard Model**

**Feynman diagrams, units and kinematics**

**Decay Rates and Cross-sections**

# Review of the Standard Model

**Particle Physics is the study of:**

- ★ **MATTER:** the fundamental constituents of the universe
  - the elementary particles
- ★ **FORCE:** the fundamental forces of nature, i.e. the interactions between the elementary particles

Try to categorise the **PARTICLES** and **FORCES** in as simple and fundamental manner possible

- ★ Current understanding embodied in the **STANDARD MODEL:**
  - Forces between particles due to exchange of particles
  - Consistent with all current experimental data !
  - But it is just a “model” with many unpredicted parameters, e.g. particle masses.
  - As such it is not the ultimate theory (if such a thing exists), there are many mysteries.

# Matter in the Standard Model

- ★ In the Standard Model the fundamental “matter” is described by **point-like spin-1/2 fermions**

	LEPTONS			QUARKS		
		$q$	$m/\text{GeV}$		$q$	$m/\text{GeV}$
First Generation	$e^-$	-1	0.0005	d	-1/3	0.3
	$\nu_1$	0	$\approx 0$	u	+2/3	0.3
Second Generation	$\mu^-$	-1	0.106	s	-1/3	0.5
	$\nu_2$	0	$\approx 0$	c	+2/3	1.5
Third Generation	$\tau^-$	-1	1.77	b	-1/3	4.5
	$\nu_3$	0	$\approx 0$	t	+2/3	175

The masses quoted for the quarks are the “constituent masses”, i.e. the effective masses for quarks confined in a bound state

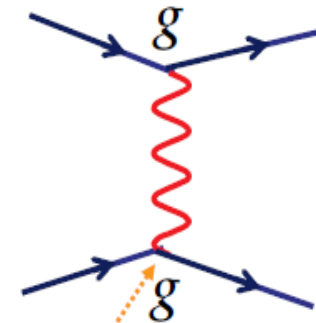
- In the SM there are **three generations** – the particles in each generation are copies of each other differing **only** in mass. (not understood why three).
- The neutrinos are much lighter than all other particles (e.g.  $\nu_1$  has  $m < 3 \text{ eV}$ ) – we now know that neutrinos have non-zero mass (don't understand why so small)



# Forces in the Standard Model

★ Forces mediated by the exchange of **spin-1** Gauge Bosons

Force	Boson(s)	$J^P$	$m/\text{GeV}$
EM (QED)	Photon $\gamma$	$1^-$	0
Weak	$W^\pm / Z$	$1^-$	80 / 91
Strong (QCD)	8 Gluons $g$	$1^-$	0
Gravity (?)	Graviton?	$2^+$	0



- Fundamental interaction strength is given by charge  $g$ .
- Related to the dimensionless coupling “constant”  $\alpha$

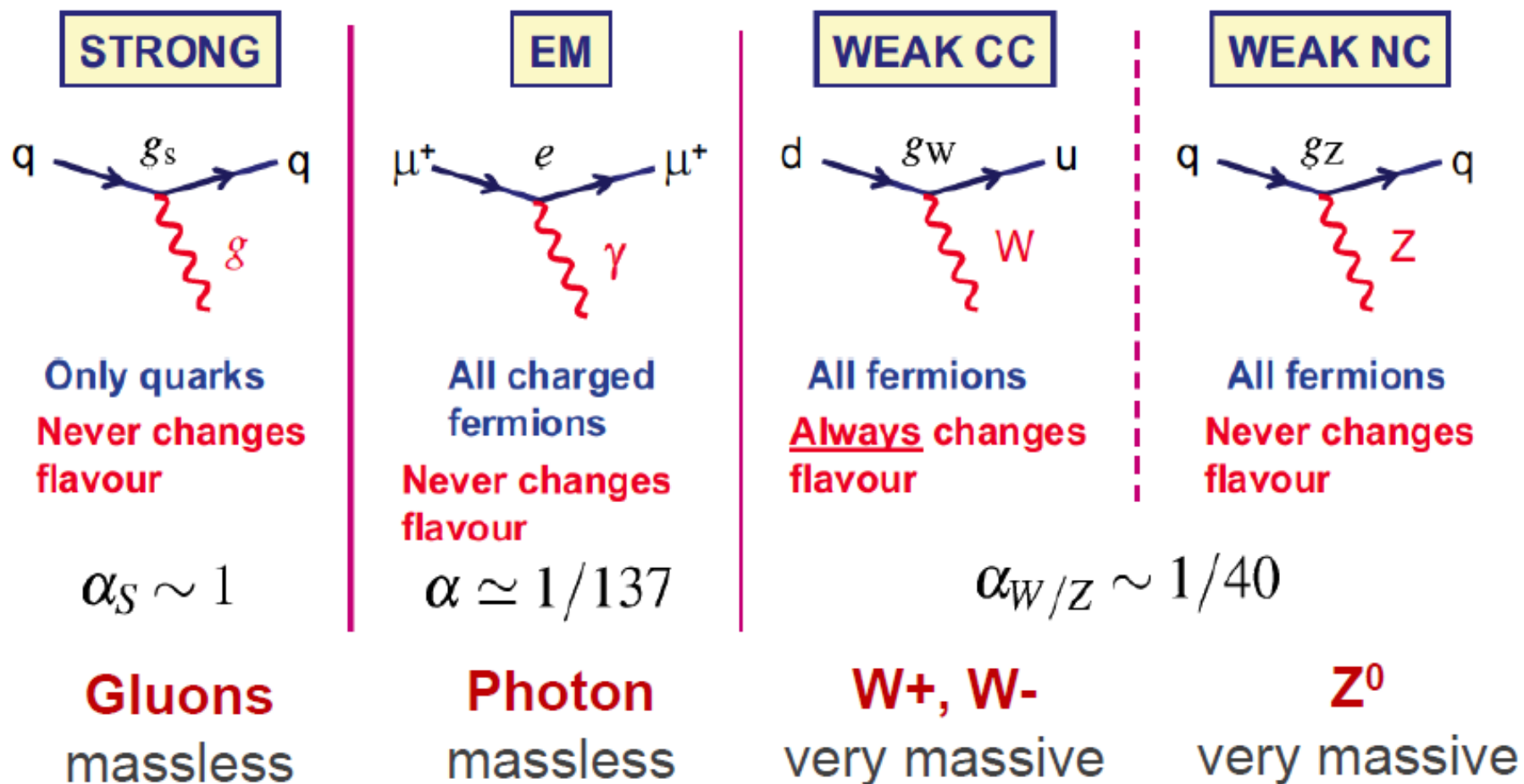
e.g. QED  $g_{em} = e = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha\epsilon_0\hbar c}$

- ★ In Natural Units  $g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$  (both  $g$  and  $\alpha$  are dimensionless, but  $g$  contains a “hidden”  $\hbar c$ )

- ★ Convenient to express couplings in terms of  $\alpha$  which, being genuinely dimensionless does not depend on the system of units (this is not true for the numerical value for  $e$ )

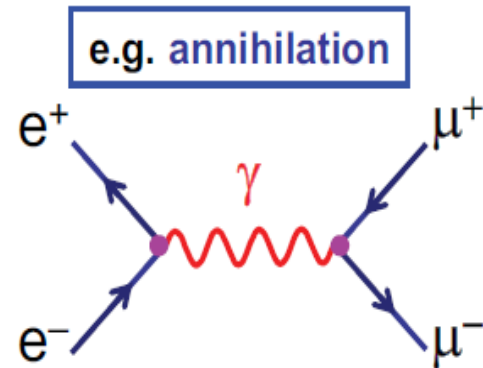
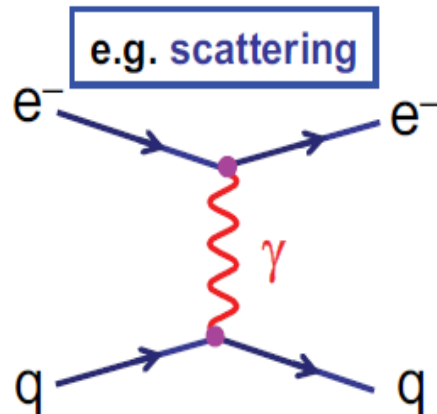
# Standard Model vertices

The interaction of gauge bosons with fermions is described by the Standard Model



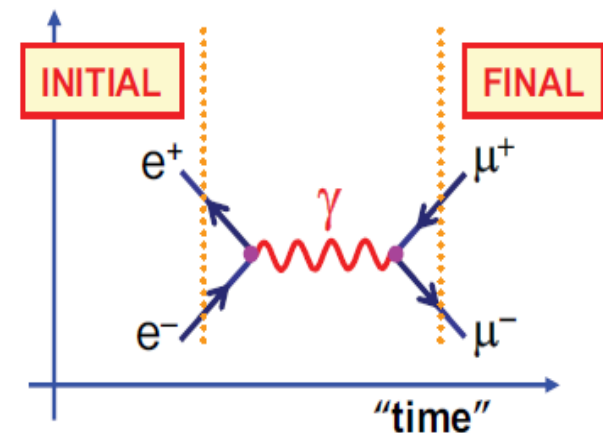
# Feynman diagrams

## ★ Particle interactions described in terms of Feynman diagrams



## ★ IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- “time” runs from left - right, **only** in sense that:
  - ♦ LHS of diagram is initial state
  - ♦ RHS of diagram is final state
  - ♦ Middle is “how it happened”
- anti-particle arrows in -ve “time” direction
- Energy, momentum, angular momentum, etc. conserved at **all interaction vertices**
- All intermediate particles are “virtual”  
i.e.  $E^2 \neq |\vec{p}|^2 + m^2$



# Special relativity and 4-vector notation

- Will use 4-vector notation with  $p^0$  as the time-like component, e.g.

$$p^\mu = \{E, \vec{p}\} = \{E, p_x, p_y, p_z\} \quad (\text{contravariant})$$

$$p_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} p^\mu = \{E, -\vec{p}\} = \{E, -p_x, -p_y, -p_z\} \quad (\text{covariant})$$

with

$$g_{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- In particle physics, usually deal with relativistic particles. **Require all calculations to be Lorentz Invariant.** L.I. quantities formed from 4-vector scalar products, e.g.

$$p^\mu p_\mu = E^2 - p^2 = m^2 \quad \text{Invariant mass}$$

$$x^\mu p_\mu = Et - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{r} \quad \text{Phase}$$

- A few words on NOTATION

Four vectors written as either:  $p^\mu$  or  $p$

Four vector scalar product:  $p^\mu q_\mu$  or  $p \cdot q$

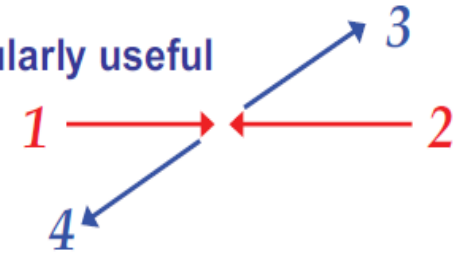
Three vectors written as:  $\vec{p}$

Quantities evaluated in the centre of mass frame:  $\vec{p}^*, p^*$  etc.

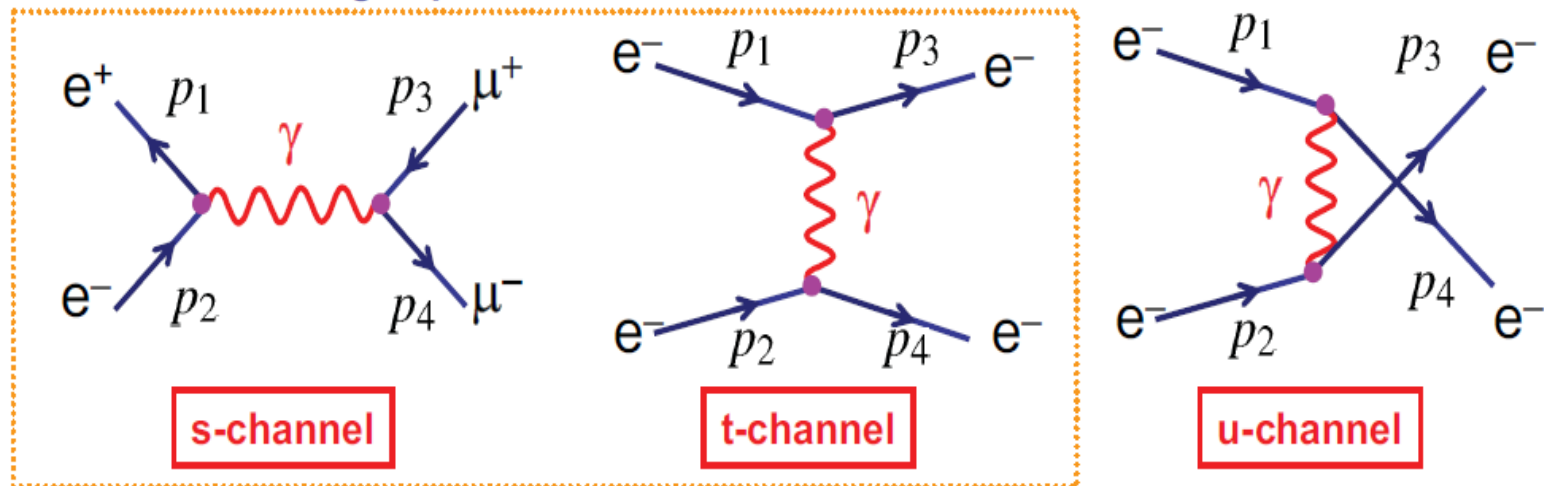
# Mandelstam s, t and u

★ In particle scattering/annihilation there are three particularly useful Lorentz Invariant quantities: **s**, **t** and **u**

★ Consider the scattering process  $1 + 2 \rightarrow 3 + 4$



★ (Simple) Feynman diagrams can be categorised according to the four-momentum of the exchanged particle



• Can define **three** kinematic variables: **s**, **t** and **u** from the following four vector scalar products (squared four-momentum of exchanged particle)

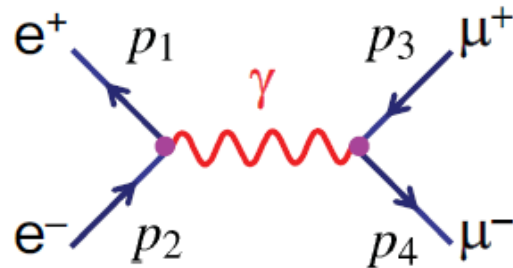
$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2, \quad t = (p_1 - p_3)^2, \quad u = (p_1 - p_4)^2$$

# Example: Mandelstam s, t and u

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2, \quad t = (p_1 - p_3)^2, \quad u = (p_1 - p_4)^2$$

**Note:**  $s + t + u = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 + m_4^2$

★ e.g. Centre-of-mass energy, **s**:



$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = (E_1 + E_2)^2 - (\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2)^2$$

- This is a scalar product of two four-vectors → Lorentz Invariant
- Since this is a **L.I.** quantity, can evaluate in **any** frame. Choose the most convenient, i.e. the centre-of-mass frame:

$$p_1^* = (E_1^*, \vec{p}^*) \quad p_2^* = (E_2^*, -\vec{p}^*)$$

→  $s = (E_1^* + E_2^*)^2$

★ Hence  $\sqrt{s}$  is the total energy of collision in the centre-of-mass frame

# From Feynman diagrams to physics

## Particle Physics = Precision Physics

- ★ Particle physics is about building fundamental theories and testing their predictions against precise experimental data
  - Dealing with fundamental particles and can make **very precise theoretical predictions** – not complicated by dealing with many-body systems
  - Many beautiful experimental measurements
    - precise theoretical predictions challenged by precise measurements
  - For all its flaws, the Standard Model describes all experimental data !  
This is a **(the?) remarkable achievement of late 20<sup>th</sup> century physics.**

## Requires understanding of theory and experimental data

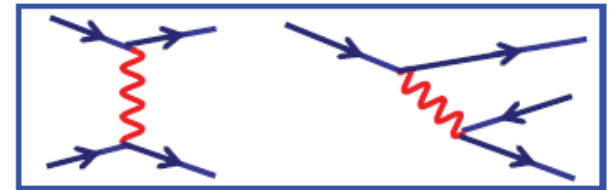
- ♦ will use Feynman diagrams and associated Feynman rules to perform calculations for many processes
- ♦ hopefully gain a fairly deep understanding of the Standard Model and how it explains all current data

## Before we can start, need calculations for:

- Interaction cross sections;
- Particle decay rates;

# Cross-sections and decay rates

- In particle physics we are mainly concerned with particle interactions and decays, i.e. transitions between states



- these are the experimental observables of particle physics

- Calculate transition rates from Fermi's Golden Rule

$$\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi |T_{fi}|^2 \rho(E_f)$$

$\Gamma_{fi}$  is number of transitions per unit time from initial state  $|i\rangle$  to final state  $\langle f|$  - **not Lorentz Invariant!**

$T_{fi}$  is Transition Matrix Element

$$T_{fi} = \langle f | \hat{H} | i \rangle + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\langle f | \hat{H} | j \rangle \langle j | \hat{H} | i \rangle}{E_i - E_j} + \dots$$

$\hat{H}$  is the perturbing Hamiltonian

$\rho(E_f)$  is density of final states

- ★ Rates depend on **MATRIX ELEMENT** and **DENSITY OF STATES**

the ME contains the fundamental particle physics

just kinematics



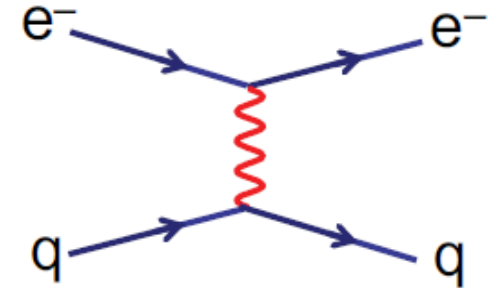
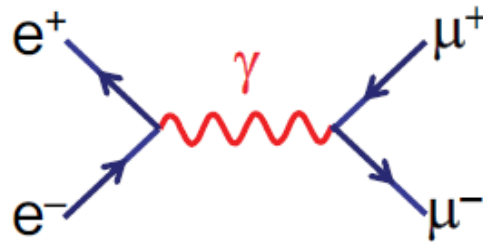
# The first few lectures

- ★ Aiming towards a proper calculation of decay and scattering processes

Will concentrate on:

- $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
- $e^-q \rightarrow e^-q$

( $e^-q \rightarrow e^-q$  to probe proton structure)



- ★ Need relativistic calculations of particle decay rates and cross sections:

$$\sigma = \frac{|M_{fi}|^2}{\text{flux}} \times (\text{phase space})$$

- ★ Need relativistic treatment of spin-half particles:

**Dirac Equation**

- ★ Need relativistic calculation of interaction Matrix Element:

**Interaction by particle exchange and Feynman rules**

- + and a few mathematical tricks along, e.g. the Dirac Delta Function

# Particle decays

- In general a given particle may decay to more than one decay mode. For example tau lepton decay into a number of final states:

$$\tau^- \rightarrow e^- \bar{\nu}_e \nu_\tau, \tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau \quad \text{and} \quad \tau^- \rightarrow \nu_\tau + \text{hadrons}$$

- The transition rate for each decay mode  $j$  can be calculated independently using Fermi's golden rule. The individual transition rates  $\Gamma_j$  are referred as partial decay rates or partial widths.

- The total decay rate is a simple sum of partial decay rates,  $\Gamma = \sum_j \Gamma_j$ .

- The lifetime of particle in its rest frame  $\tau$  is referred to as its proper lifetime and is determined from the total decay rate

$$\tau = \frac{1}{\Gamma}.$$

- The relative frequency of the particular decay mode is referred to as a branching ratio (or a branching fraction).

$$BR(j) = \frac{\Gamma_j}{\Gamma}.$$

- For example the branching ratio for the tau lepton decay:  $\tau^- \rightarrow e^- \bar{\nu}_e \nu_\tau$  is 0.17

# Particle decay rates

- Consider the two-body decay

$$i \rightarrow 1 + 2$$

- Want to calculate the decay rate in first order perturbation theory using plane-wave descriptions of the particles (Born approximation):

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_1 &= N e^{i(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{r} - Et)} \\ &= N e^{-ip \cdot x} \end{aligned}$$

$$(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} = \vec{p} \cdot \vec{r} \text{ as } \hbar = 1)$$

where  $N$  is the normalisation and  $p \cdot x = p^\mu x_\mu$

## For decay rate calculation need to know:

- Wave-function normalisation
- Transition matrix element from perturbation theory
- Expression for the density of states

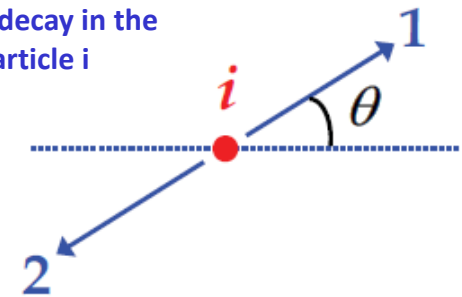
All in a Lorentz Invariant form

## ★ First consider wave-function normalisation

- Non-relativistic: normalised to one particle in a cube of side  $a$

$$\int \psi \psi^* dV = N^2 a^3 = 1 \Rightarrow N^2 = 1/a^3$$

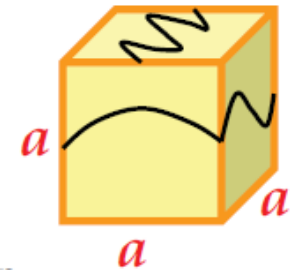
The two body decay in the rest frame of particle  $i$



# Non-relativistic phase-space (revision)

- Apply boundary conditions ( $\vec{p} = \hbar\vec{k}$ ):
- Wave-function vanishing at box boundaries  
 → quantised particle momenta:

$$p_x = \frac{2\pi n_x}{a}; p_y = \frac{2\pi n_y}{a}; p_z = \frac{2\pi n_z}{a}$$

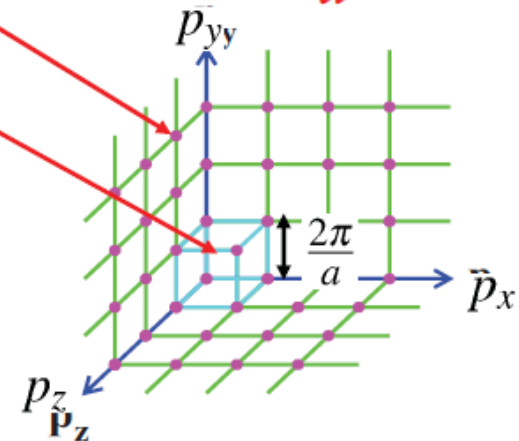


- Volume of single state in momentum space:

$$\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}\right)^3 = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V}$$

- Normalising to one particle/unit volume gives  
 number of states in element:  $d^3\vec{p} = dp_x dp_y dp_z$

$$dn = \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \times \frac{1}{V} = \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3}$$



- Therefore density of states in Golden rule:

$$\rho(E_f) = \left| \frac{dn}{dE} \right|_{E_f} = \left| \frac{dn}{d|\vec{p}|} \frac{d|\vec{p}|}{dE} \right|_{E_f}$$

with  
 $p = \beta E$

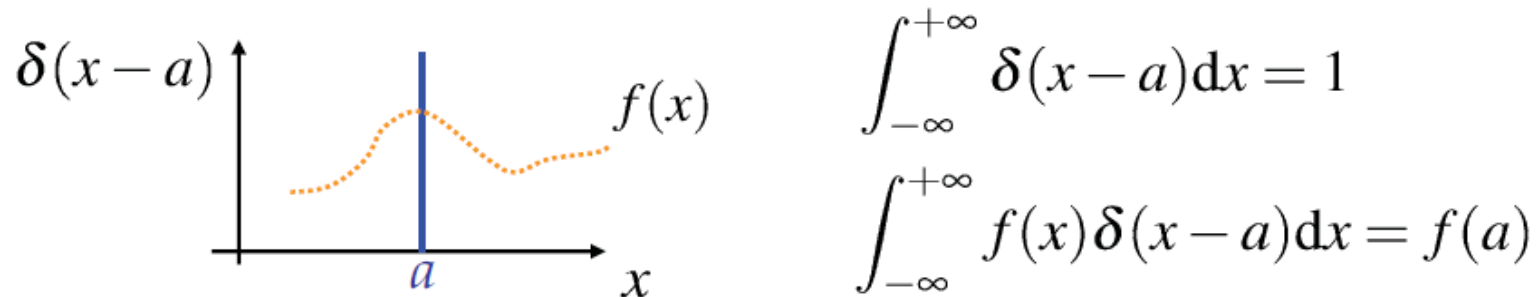
- Integrating over an elemental shell in  
 momentum-space gives

$$(d^3\vec{p} = 4\pi p^2 dp)$$

$$\rho(E_f) = \frac{4\pi p^2}{(2\pi)^3} \times \beta$$

# Dirac $\delta$ function

- In the relativistic formulation of decay rates and cross sections we will make use of the Dirac  $\delta$  function: **“infinitely narrow spike of unit area”**



- Any function with the above properties can represent  $\delta(x)$

e.g.  $\delta(x) = \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\left(\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)}$  (an infinitesimally narrow Gaussian)

- In relativistic quantum mechanics delta functions prove extremely useful for integrals over phase space, e.g. in the decay  $a \rightarrow 1 + 2$

$$\int \dots \delta(E_a - E_1 - E_2) dE \quad \text{and} \quad \int \dots \delta^3(\vec{p}_a - \vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2) d^3\vec{p}$$

express energy and momentum conservation

★ We will soon need an expression for the delta function of a function  $\delta(f(x))$

- Start from the definition of a delta function

$$\int_{y_1}^{y_2} \delta(y) dy = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_1 < 0 < y_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Now express in terms of  $y = f(x)$  where  $f(x_0) = 0$  and then change variables

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \delta(f(x)) \frac{df}{dx} dx = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 < x_0 < x_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- From properties of the delta function (i.e. here only non-zero at  $x_0$ )

$$\left| \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \delta(f(x)) dx = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_1 < x_0 < x_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

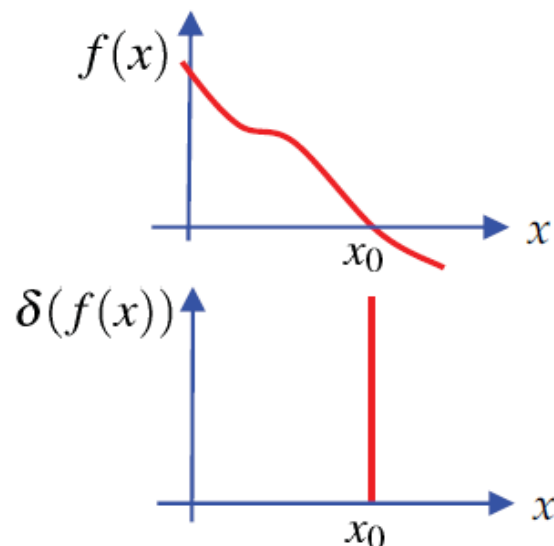
- Rearranging and expressing the RHS as a delta function

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \delta(f(x)) dx = \frac{1}{\left| \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0}} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \delta(x - x_0) dx$$



$$\delta(f(x)) = \left| \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0}^{-1} \delta(x - x_0)$$

(1)



# The Golden Rule revisited

$$\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi |T_{fi}|^2 \rho(E_f)$$

- Rewrite the expression for density of states using a delta-function

$$\rho(E_f) = \left. \frac{dn}{dE} \right|_{E_f} = \int \frac{dn}{dE} \delta(E - E_i) dE \quad \text{since } E_f = E_i$$

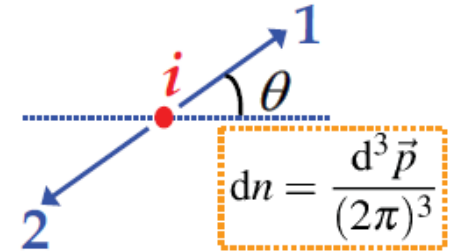
**Note :** integrating over all final state energies but energy conservation now taken into account explicitly by delta function

- Hence the golden rule becomes:  $\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi \int |T_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_i - E) dn$

the integral is over all "allowed" final states of **any energy**

- For  $dn$  in a two-body decay, only need to consider one particle : **mom. conservation** fixes the other

$$\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi \int |T_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_i - E_1 - E_2) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3}$$

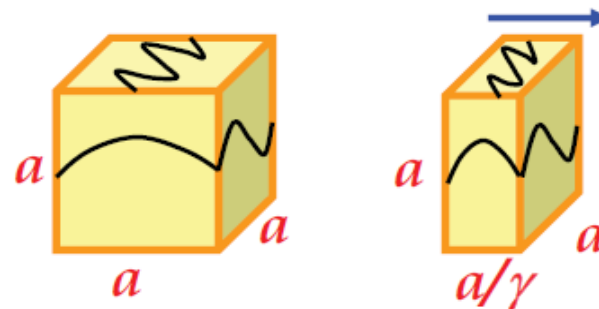


- However, can include momentum conservation explicitly by integrating over the momenta of **both** particles and using another  $\delta$ -fn

$$\Gamma_{fi} = (2\pi)^4 \int |T_{fi}|^2 \underbrace{\delta(E_i - E_1 - E_2)}_{\text{Energy cons.}} \underbrace{\delta^3(\vec{p}_i - \vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2)}_{\text{Mom. cons.}} \underbrace{\frac{d^3 \vec{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_2}{(2\pi)^3}}_{\text{Density of states}}$$

# Lorentz invariant phase-space

- In non-relativistic QM normalise to one particle/unit volume:  $\int \psi^* \psi dV = 1$
- When considering relativistic effects, volume **contracts** by  $\gamma = E/m$



- Particle density therefore increases by  $\gamma = E/m$ 
  - ★ Conclude that a relativistic invariant wave-function normalisation needs to be proportional to  $E$  particles per unit volume
- Usual convention: **Normalise to  $2E$  particles/unit volume**  $\int \psi'^* \psi' dV = 2E$
- Previously used  $\psi$  normalised to 1 particle per unit volume  $\int \psi^* \psi dV = 1$
- Hence  $\psi' = (2E)^{1/2} \psi$  is normalised to  $2E$  per unit volume
- **Define Lorentz Invariant Matrix Element**,  $M_{fi}$ , in terms of the wave-functions normalised to  $2E$  particles per unit volume

$$M_{fi} = \langle \psi'_1 \cdot \psi'_2 \dots | \hat{H} | \dots \psi'_{n-1} \psi'_n \rangle = (2E_1 \cdot 2E_2 \cdot 2E_3 \dots 2E_n)^{1/2} T_{fi}$$



# Decay rate calculations

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{2E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_i - E_1 - E_2) \delta^3(\vec{p}_i - \vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2) \frac{d^3\vec{p}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_1} \frac{d^3\vec{p}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_2}$$

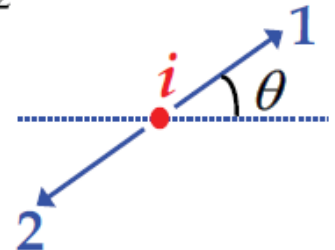
★ Because the **integral** is Lorentz invariant (i.e. frame independent) it can be evaluated in any frame we choose. The C.o.M. frame is most convenient

• In the C.o.M. frame  $E_i = m_i$  and  $\vec{p}_i = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(m_i - E_1 - E_2) \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2) \frac{d^3\vec{p}_1}{2E_1} \frac{d^3\vec{p}_2}{2E_2}$$

• Integrating over  $\vec{p}_2$  using the  $\delta$ -function:

$$\Rightarrow \Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{8\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(m_i - E_1 - E_2) \frac{d^3\vec{p}_1}{4E_1 E_2}$$



**now**  $E_2^2 = (m_2^2 + |\vec{p}_1|^2)$  since the  $\delta$ -function imposes  $\vec{p}_2 = -\vec{p}_1$

• Writing  $d^3\vec{p}_1 = p_1^2 dp_1 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi = p_1^2 dp_1 d\Omega$

For convenience, here  $|\vec{p}_1|$  is written as  $p_1$

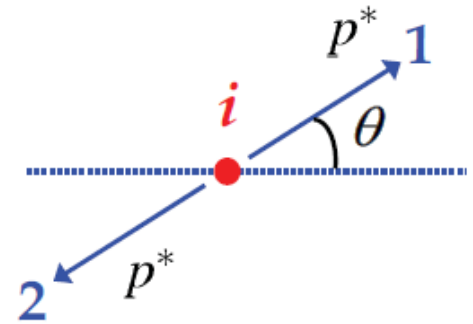
$$\Rightarrow \Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{32\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta\left(m_i - \sqrt{m_1^2 + p_1^2} - \sqrt{m_2^2 + p_1^2}\right) \frac{p_1^2 dp_1 d\Omega}{E_1 E_2}$$

- Which can be written in the form 
$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{32\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 g(p_1) \delta(f(p_1)) dp_1 d\Omega \quad (2)$$

where  $g(p_1) = p_1^2 / (E_1 E_2) = p_1^2 (m_1^2 + p_1^2)^{-1/2} (m_2^2 + p_1^2)^{-1/2}$

and  $f(p_1) = m_i - (m_1^2 + p_1^2)^{1/2} - (m_2^2 + p_1^2)^{1/2}$

- Note:**
- $\delta(f(p_1))$  imposes energy conservation.
  - $f(p_1) = 0$  determines the C.o.M momenta of the two decay products  
i.e.  $f(p_1) = 0$  for  $p_1 = p^*$



- ★ Eq. (2) can be integrated using the property of  $\delta$ -function derived earlier (eq. (1))

$$\int g(p_1) \delta(f(p_1)) dp_1 = \frac{1}{|df/dp_1|_{p^*}} \int g(p_1) \delta(p_1 - p^*) dp_1 = \frac{g(p^*)}{|df/dp_1|_{p^*}}$$

where  $p^*$  is the value for which  $f(p^*) = 0$

- All that remains is to evaluate  $df/dp_1$

$$\frac{df}{dp_1} = -\frac{p_1}{(m_1^2 + p_1^2)^{1/2}} - \frac{p_1}{(m_2^2 + p_1^2)^{1/2}} = -\frac{p_1}{E_1} - \frac{p_1}{E_2} = -p_1 \frac{E_1 + E_2}{E_1 E_2}$$

giving:

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{1}{32\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \left| \frac{E_1 E_2}{p_1 (E_1 + E_2)} \frac{p_1^2}{E_1 E_2} \right|_{p_1=p^*} d\Omega$$

$$= \frac{1}{32\pi^2 E_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \left| \frac{p_1}{E_1 + E_2} \right|_{p_1=p^*} d\Omega$$

- But from  $f(p_1) = 0$ , i.e. energy conservation:  $E_1 + E_2 = m_i$

$$\Gamma_{fi} = \frac{|\vec{p}^*|}{32\pi^2 E_i m_i} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega$$

In the particle's rest frame  $E_i = m_i$



$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \Gamma = \frac{|\vec{p}^*|}{32\pi^2 m_i^2} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega \quad (3)$$

**VALID FOR ALL TWO-BODY DECAYS !**

- $p^*$  can be obtained from  $f(p_1) = 0$

$$(m_1^2 + p^{*2})^{1/2} + (m_2^2 + p^{*2})^{1/2} = m_i$$

$$\Rightarrow p^* = \frac{1}{2m_i} \sqrt{[(m_i^2 - (m_1 + m_2)^2)] [m_i^2 - (m_1 - m_2)^2]}$$

# Interaction cross section

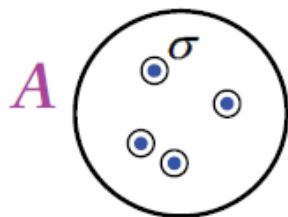
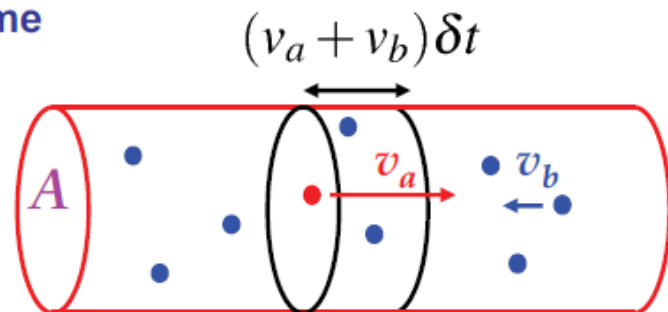
- Calculation of the interaction cross-section is slightly more complicated, it is necessary to account for the flux of the initial-state particles.
- In the simplest case one can imagine a beam of particle of type a, with flux  $\phi_a$ , crossing a region of space in which there are  $n_b$  particles per unit volume. The interaction rate will be

$$r_b = n_b \sigma \phi_a$$

- The fundamental physics is contained in  $\sigma$ , which has dimensions of an area and is termed cross-section.

- Consider a single particle of type  $a$  with velocity,  $v_a$ , traversing a region of area  $A$  containing  $n_b$  particles of type  $b$  per unit volume

In time  $\delta t$  a particle of type  $a$  traverses region containing  $n_b(v_a + v_b)A\delta t$  particles of type  $b$



- ★ Interaction probability obtained from effective cross-sectional area occupied by the  $n_b(v_a + v_b)A\delta t$  particles of type  $b$

- Interaction Probability = 
$$\frac{n_b(v_a + v_b)A\delta t\sigma}{A} = n_b v \delta t \sigma \quad [v = v_a + v_b]$$



**Rate per particle of type  $a = n_b v \sigma$**

- Consider volume  $V$ , total reaction rate =  $(n_b v \sigma) \cdot (n_a V) = (n_b V) (n_a v) \sigma = N_b \phi_a \sigma$

- As anticipated: **Rate = Flux x Number of targets x cross section**

# Cross-section definition

$$\sigma = \frac{\text{no of interactions per unit time per target}}{\text{incident flux}}$$

Flux = number of incident particles/ unit area/unit time

- The “cross section”,  $\sigma$ , can be thought of as the **effective** cross-sectional area of the target particles for the interaction to occur.
- In general this has nothing to do with the physical size of the target although there are exceptions, e.g. neutron absorption

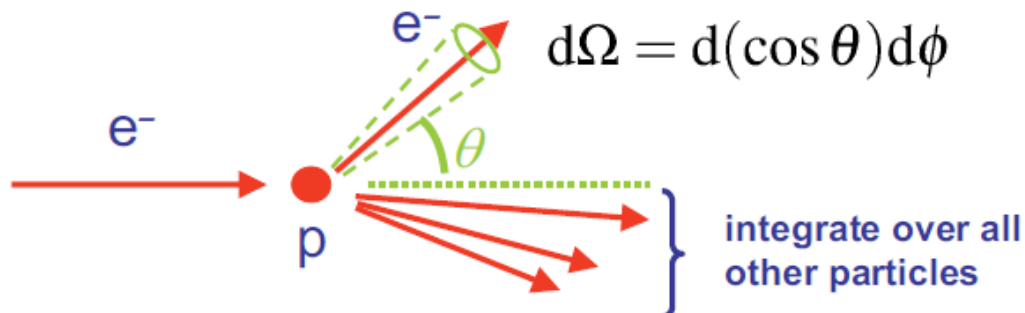
•  here  $\sigma$  is the projective area of nucleus

## Differential Cross section

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{\text{no of particles per sec/per target into } d\Omega}{\text{incident flux}}$$

or generally

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\dots}$$



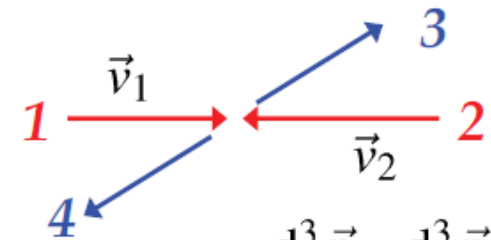
with

$$\sigma = \int \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} d\Omega$$

# Cross-section calculations

- Consider scattering process

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



- Start from Fermi's Golden Rule:

$$\Gamma_{fi} = (2\pi)^4 \int |T_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_1 + E_2 - E_3 - E_4) \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_3 - \vec{p}_4) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_4}{(2\pi)^3}$$

where  $T_{fi}$  is the transition matrix for a normalisation of 1/unit volume

- Now Rate/Volume = (flux of 1)  $\times$  (number density of 2)  $\times$   $\sigma$   
 $= n_1(v_1 + v_2) \times n_2 \times \sigma$

- For 1 target particle per unit volume Rate =  $(v_1 + v_2)\sigma$

$$\sigma = \frac{\Gamma_{fi}}{(v_1 + v_2)}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{(2\pi)^4}{v_1 + v_2} \int |T_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_1 + E_2 - E_3 - E_4) \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_3 - \vec{p}_4) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_3}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_4}{(2\pi)^3}$$

the parts are not Lorentz Invariant

- To obtain a Lorentz Invariant form use wave-functions normalised to  $2E$  particles per unit volume

$$\psi' = (2E)^{1/2} \psi$$

- Again define L.I. Matrix element  $M_{fi} = (2E_1 2E_2 2E_3 2E_4)^{1/2} T_{fi}$

$$\sigma = \frac{(2\pi)^{-2}}{2E_1 2E_2 (v_1 + v_2)} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_1 + E_2 - E_3 - E_4) \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_3 - \vec{p}_4) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_4}{2E_4}$$

- The **integral** is now written in a Lorentz invariant form
- The quantity  $F = 2E_1 2E_2 (v_1 + v_2)$  can be written in terms of a four-vector scalar product and is therefore also Lorentz Invariant (the Lorentz Inv. Flux)

$$F = 4 [(p_1^\mu p_{2\mu})^2 - m_1^2 m_2^2]^{1/2} \quad (\text{see appendix I})$$

- Consequently cross section is a Lorentz Invariant quantity

### Two special cases of Lorentz Invariant Flux:

- **Centre-of-Mass Frame**

$$\begin{aligned} F &= 4E_1 E_2 (v_1 + v_2) \\ &= 4E_1 E_2 (|\vec{p}^*|/E_1 + |\vec{p}^*|/E_2) \\ &= 4|\vec{p}^*|(E_1 + E_2) \\ &= 4|\vec{p}^*|\sqrt{s} \end{aligned}$$

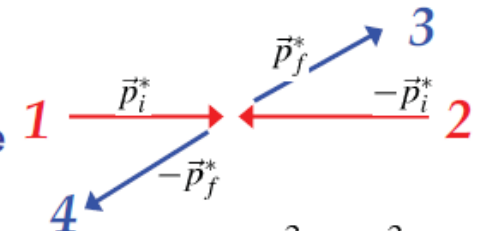
- **Target (particle 2) at rest**

$$\begin{aligned} F &= 4E_1 E_2 (v_1 + v_2) \\ &= 4E_1 m_2 v_1 \\ &= 4E_1 m_2 (|\vec{p}_1|/E_1) \\ &= 4m_2 |\vec{p}_1| \end{aligned}$$



# 2 → 2 Body Scattering in C.o.M. Frame

- We will now apply above Lorentz Invariant formula for the interaction cross section to the most common cases used in the course. First consider 2 → 2 scattering in C.o.M. frame



- Start from

$$\sigma = \frac{(2\pi)^{-2}}{2E_1 2E_2 (v_1 + v_2)} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(E_1 + E_2 - E_3 - E_4) \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 - \vec{p}_3 - \vec{p}_4) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_4}{2E_4}$$

- Here  $\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 = 0$  and  $E_1 + E_2 = \sqrt{s}$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma = \frac{(2\pi)^{-2}}{4|\vec{p}_i^*| \sqrt{s}} \int |M_{fi}|^2 \delta(\sqrt{s} - E_3 - E_4) \delta^3(\vec{p}_3 + \vec{p}_4) \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_3}{2E_3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_4}{2E_4}$$

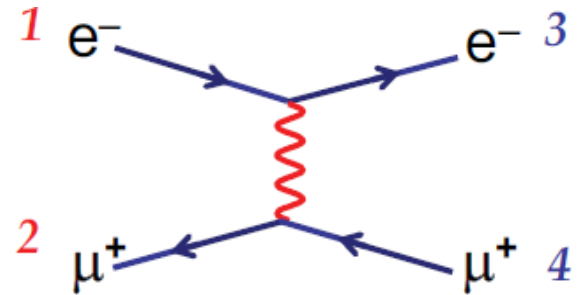
- ★ The integral is exactly the same integral that appeared in the particle decay calculation but with  $m_a$  replaced by  $\sqrt{s}$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma = \frac{(2\pi)^{-2}}{4|\vec{p}_i^*| \sqrt{s}} \frac{|\vec{p}_f^*|}{4\sqrt{s}} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^*$$

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 s} \frac{|\vec{p}_f^*|}{|\vec{p}_i^*|} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^* \quad (4)$$

- In the case of elastic scattering  $|\vec{p}_i^*| = |\vec{p}_f^*|$

$$\sigma_{\text{elastic}} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 s} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^*$$

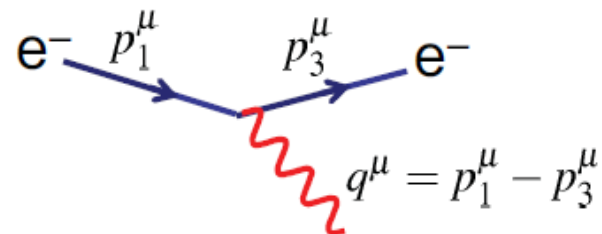


- For calculating the total cross-section (which is Lorentz Invariant) the result on the previous page (eq. (4)) is sufficient. However, it is not so useful for calculating the differential cross section in a rest frame other than the C.o.M:

$$d\sigma = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 s} \frac{|\vec{p}_f^*|}{|\vec{p}_i^*|} |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^*$$

because the angles in  $d\Omega^* = d(\cos \theta^*) d\phi^*$  refer to the C.o.M frame

- For the last calculation in this section, we need to find a L.I. expression for  $d\sigma$
- ★ Start by expressing  $d\Omega^*$  in terms of Mandelstam  $t$  i.e. the square of the four-momentum transfer



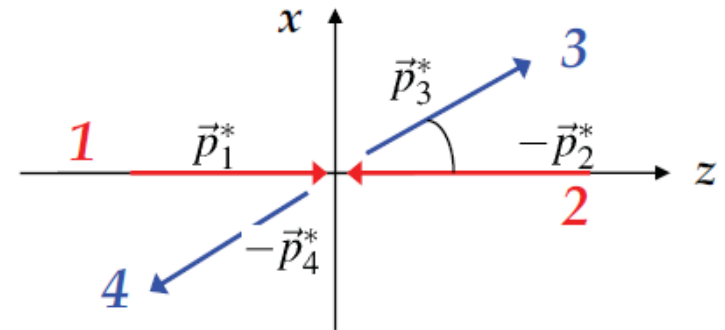
$$t = q^2 = (p_1 - p_3)^2$$

Product of four-vectors therefore L.I.

- Want to express  $d\Omega^*$  in terms of Lorentz Invariant  $dt$   
 where  $t \equiv (p_1 - p_3)^2 = p_1^2 + p_3^2 - 2p_1 \cdot p_3 = m_1^2 + m_3^2 - 2p_1 \cdot p_3$

- ♦ In C.o.M. frame:

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_1^{*\mu} &= (E_1^*, 0, 0, |\vec{p}_1^*|) \\
 p_3^{*\mu} &= (E_3^*, |\vec{p}_3^*| \sin \theta^*, 0, |\vec{p}_3^*| \cos \theta^*) \\
 p_1^\mu p_{3\mu} &= E_1^* E_3^* - |\vec{p}_1^*| |\vec{p}_3^*| \cos \theta^* \\
 t &= m_1^2 + m_3^2 - E_1^* E_3^* + 2|\vec{p}_1^*| |\vec{p}_3^*| \cos \theta^*
 \end{aligned}$$



giving  $dt = 2|\vec{p}_1^*| |\vec{p}_3^*| d(\cos \theta^*)$

therefore  $d\Omega^* = d(\cos \theta^*) d\phi^* = \frac{dt d\phi^*}{2|\vec{p}_1^*| |\vec{p}_3^*|}$

hence  $d\sigma = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 s} \frac{|\vec{p}_3^*|}{|\vec{p}_1^*|} |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^* = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 64\pi^2 s |\vec{p}_1^*|^2} |M_{fi}|^2 d\phi^* dt$

- Finally, integrating over  $d\phi^*$  (assuming no  $\phi^*$  dependence of  $|M_{fi}|^2$ ) gives:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{64\pi s |\vec{p}_i^*|^2} |M_{fi}|^2$$

# Lorentz invariant differential cross-section

- All quantities in the expression for  $d\sigma/dt$  are Lorentz Invariant and therefore, it applies to **any rest frame**. It should be noted that  $|\vec{p}_i^*|^2$  is a constant, fixed by energy/momentum conservation

$$|\vec{p}_i^*|^2 = \frac{1}{4s} [s - (m_1 + m_2)^2][s - (m_1 - m_2)^2]$$

- As an example of how to use the invariant expression  $d\sigma/dt$  we will consider elastic scattering in the laboratory frame in the limit where we can neglect the mass of the incoming particle  $E_1 \gg m_1$

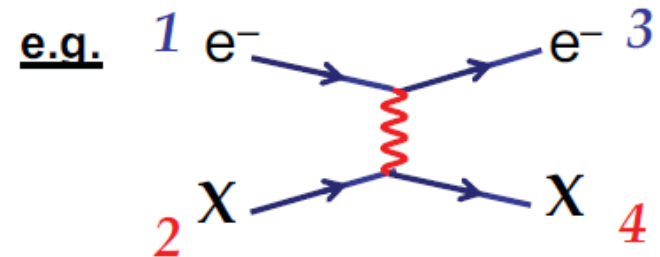
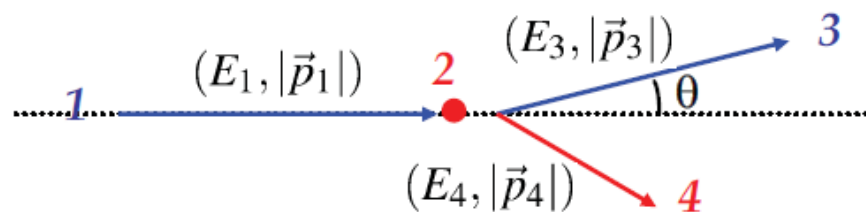
$\xrightarrow{E_1}$   $m_2$  e.g. electron or neutrino scattering

In this limit  $|\vec{p}_i^*|^2 = \frac{(s - m_2)^2}{4s}$

$$\boxed{\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{16\pi(s - m_2^2)^2} |M_{fi}|^2} \quad (m_1 = 0)$$

# 2->2 body scattering in the Lab Frame

- The other commonly occurring case is scattering from a fixed target in the Laboratory Frame (e.g. electron-proton scattering)
- First take the case of elastic scattering at high energy where the mass of the incoming particles can be neglected:  $m_1 = m_3 = 0$ ,  $m_2 = m_4 = M$



- Wish to express the cross section in terms of scattering angle of the  $e^-$

$$d\Omega = 2\pi d(\cos \theta)$$

therefore 
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dt}{d(\cos \theta)} \frac{d\sigma}{dt}$$

Integrating over  $d\phi$

- The rest is some rather tedious algebra.... start from four-momenta

$$p_1 = (E_1, 0, 0, E_1), \quad p_2 = (M, 0, 0, 0), \quad p_3 = (E_3, E_3 \sin \theta, 0, E_3 \cos \theta), \quad p_4 = (E_4, \vec{p}_4)$$

so here 
$$t = (p_1 - p_3)^2 = -2p_1 \cdot p_3 = -2E_1 E_3 (1 - \cos \theta)$$

But from (E,p) conservation  $p_1 + p_2 = p_3 + p_4$

and, therefore, can also express  $t$  in terms of particles 2 and 4

$$\begin{aligned}
 t &= (p_2 - p_4)^2 = 2M^2 - 2p_2 \cdot p_4 = 2M^2 - 2ME_4 \\
 &= 2M^2 - 2M(E_1 + M - E_3) = -2M(E_1 - E_3)
 \end{aligned}$$

Note  $E_1$  is a constant (the energy of the incoming particle) so

$$\frac{dt}{d(\cos \theta)} = 2M \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos \theta)}$$

• Equating the two expressions for  $t$  gives

$$E_3 = \frac{E_1 M}{M + E_1 - E_1 \cos \theta}$$

so

$$\frac{dE_3}{d(\cos \theta)} = \frac{E_1 M}{(M + E_1 - E_1 \cos \theta)^2} = E_1^2 M \left( \frac{E_3}{E_1 M} \right)^2 = \frac{E_3^2}{M}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dt}{d(\cos \theta)} \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\pi} 2M \frac{E_3^2}{M} \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{E_3^2}{\pi} \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{E_3^2}{\pi} \frac{1}{16\pi(s - M^2)^2} |M_{fi}|^2$$

using gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 s &= (p_1 + p_2)^2 = M^2 + 2p_1 \cdot p_2 = M^2 + 2ME_1 \\
 (s - M^2) &= 2ME_1
 \end{aligned}$$

Particle 1 massless  
 $\rightarrow (p_1^2 = 0)$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( \frac{E_3}{ME_1} \right)^2 |M_{fi}|^2$$

In limit  $m_1 \rightarrow 0$

In this equation,  $E_3$  is a function of  $\theta$ :

$$E_3 = \frac{E_1 M}{M + E_1 - E_1 \cos \theta}$$

giving

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{M + E_1 - E_1 \cos \theta} \right)^2 |M_{fi}|^2 \quad (m_1 = 0)$$

## General form for 2→2 Body Scattering in Lab. Frame

★ The calculation of the differential cross section for the case where  $m_1$  can not be neglected is longer and contains no more “physics” (see appendix II). It gives:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \cdot \frac{1}{p_1 m_1} \cdot \frac{|\vec{p}_3|^2}{|\vec{p}_3|(E_1 + m_2) - E_3 |\vec{p}_1| \cos \theta} \cdot |M_{fi}|^2$$

Again there is only one independent variable,  $\theta$ , which can be seen from conservation of energy

$$E_1 + m_2 = \sqrt{|\vec{p}_3|^2 + m_3^2} + \sqrt{|\vec{p}_1|^2 + |\vec{p}_3|^2 - 2|\vec{p}_1||\vec{p}_3| \cos \theta + m_4^2}$$

i.e.  $|\vec{p}_3|$  is a function of  $\theta$

$$\vec{p}_4 = \vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_3$$

# Summary

- ★ Used a Lorentz invariant formulation of Fermi's Golden Rule to derive decay rates and cross-sections in terms of the **Lorentz Invariant Matrix Element** (wave-functions normalised to  $2E/\text{Volume}$ )

## Main Results:

- ★ Particle decay:

$$\Gamma = \frac{|\vec{p}^*|}{32\pi^2 m_i^2} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega$$

Where  $p^*$  is a function of particle masses  
$$p^* = \frac{1}{2m_i} \sqrt{[(m_i^2 - (m_1 + m_2)^2) [m_i^2 - (m_1 - m_2)^2]}$$

- ★ Scattering cross section in C.o.M. frame:

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{64\pi^2 s} \frac{|\vec{p}_f^*|}{|\vec{p}_i^*|} \int |M_{fi}|^2 d\Omega^*$$

- ★ Invariant differential cross section (valid in all frames):

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{1}{64\pi s |\vec{p}_i^*|^2} |M_{fi}|^2$$

$$|\vec{p}_i^*|^2 = \frac{1}{4s} [s - (m_1 + m_2)^2][s - (m_1 - m_2)^2]$$



# Summary cont.

★ Differential cross section in the lab. frame ( $m_1=0$ )

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( \frac{E_3}{ME_1} \right)^2 |M_{fi}|^2 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{M + E_1 - E_1 \cos \theta} \right)^2 |M_{fi}|^2$$

★ Differential cross section in the lab. frame ( $m_1 \neq 0$ )

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \cdot \frac{1}{|\vec{p}_1| m_1} \cdot \frac{|\vec{p}_3|^2}{|\vec{p}_3|(E_1 + m_2) - E_3 |\vec{p}_1| \cos \theta} \cdot |M_{fi}|^2$$

with  $E_1 + m_2 = \sqrt{|\vec{p}_3|^2 + m_3^2} + \sqrt{|\vec{p}_1|^2 + |\vec{p}_3|^2 - 2|\vec{p}_1||\vec{p}_3| \cos \theta + m_4^2}$

Summary of the summary:

- ★ Have now dealt with **kinematics** of particle decays and cross sections
- ★ The **fundamental particle physics** is in the matrix element
- ★ The above equations are the basis for all calculations that follow

# Appendix I: Lorentz Invariant Flux

▪ Collinear collision:



$$\begin{aligned}
 F &= 2E_a 2E_b (v_a + v_b) = 4E_a E_b \left( \frac{|\vec{p}_a|}{E_a} + \frac{|\vec{p}_b|}{E_b} \right) \\
 &= 4(|\vec{p}_a| E_b + |\vec{p}_b| E_a)
 \end{aligned}$$

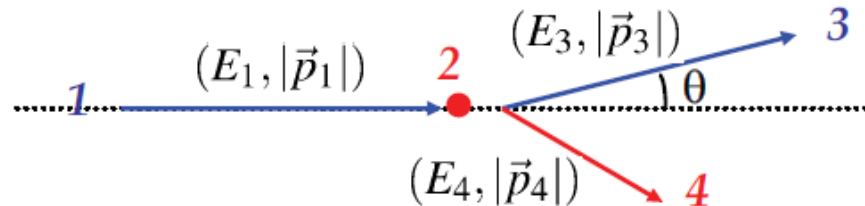
To show this is Lorentz invariant, first consider

$$p_a \cdot p_b = p_a^\mu p_{b\mu} = E_a E_b - \vec{p}_a \cdot \vec{p}_b = E_a E_b + |\vec{p}_a| |\vec{p}_b|$$

**Giving**

$$\begin{aligned}
 F^2/16 - (p_a^\mu p_{b\mu})^2 &= (|\vec{p}_a| E_b + |\vec{p}_b| E_a)^2 - (E_a E_b + |\vec{p}_a| |\vec{p}_b|)^2 \\
 &= |\vec{p}_a|^2 (E_b^2 - |\vec{p}_b|^2) + E_a^2 (|\vec{p}_b|^2 - E_b^2) \\
 &= |\vec{p}_a|^2 m_b^2 - E_a^2 m_b^2 \\
 &= -m_a^2 m_b^2 \\
 F &= 4 [(p_a^\mu p_{b\mu})^2 - m_a^2 m_b^2]^{1/2}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Appendix II: general 2->2 scattering in lab frame



$$p_1 = (E_1, 0, 0, |\vec{p}_1|), \quad p_2 = (M, 0, 0, 0), \quad p_3 = (E_3, E_3 \sin \theta, 0, E_3 \cos \theta), \quad p_4 = (E_4, \vec{p}_4)$$

again

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{dt}{d(\cos \theta)} \frac{d\sigma}{dt}$$

But now the invariant quantity  $t$ :

$$\begin{aligned} t &= (p_2 - p_4)^2 = m_2^2 + m_4^2 - 2p_2 \cdot p_4 = m_2^2 + m_4^2 - 2m_2 E_4 \\ &= m_2^2 + m_4^2 - 2m_2 (E_1 + m_2 - E_3) \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{dt}{d(\cos \theta)} = 2m_2 \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos \theta)}$$

Which gives 
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{m_2}{\pi} \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos\theta)} \frac{d\sigma}{dt}$$

To determine  $dE_3/d(\cos\theta)$ , first differentiate  $E_3^2 - |\vec{p}_3|^2 = m_3^2$

$$2E_3 \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos\theta)} = 2|\vec{p}_3| \frac{d|\vec{p}_3|}{d(\cos\theta)} \quad (\text{AII.1})$$

Then equate  $t = (p_1 - p_3)^2 = (p_4 - p_2)^2$  to give

$$m_1^2 + m_3^2 - 2(E_1 E_3 - |\vec{p}_1| |\vec{p}_3| \cos\theta) = m_4^2 + m_2^2 - 2m_2(E_1 + m_2 - E_3)$$

Differentiate wrt.  $\cos\theta$

$$(E_1 + m_2) \frac{dE_3}{d\cos\theta} - |\vec{p}_1| \cos\theta \frac{d|\vec{p}_3|}{d\cos\theta} = |\vec{p}_1| |\vec{p}_3|$$

Using (1)  $\rightarrow$  
$$\frac{dE_3}{d(\cos\theta)} = \frac{|\vec{p}_1| |\vec{p}_3|^2}{|\vec{p}_3| (E_1 + m_2) - E_3 |\vec{p}_1| \cos\theta} \quad (\text{AII.2})$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{m_2}{\pi} \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos\theta)} \frac{d\sigma}{dt} = \frac{m_2}{\pi} \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos\theta)} \frac{1}{64\pi s |\vec{p}_i^*|^2} |M_{fi}|^2$$

It is easy to show  $|\vec{p}_i^*| \sqrt{s} = m_2 |\vec{p}_1|$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{dE_3}{d(\cos \theta)} \frac{m_2}{64\pi^2 m_2^2 |\vec{p}_1|^2} |M_{fi}|^2$$

and using (All.2) obtain

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \cdot \frac{1}{p_1 m_1} \cdot \frac{|\vec{p}_3|^2}{|\vec{p}_3|(E_1 + m_2) - E_3 |\vec{p}_1| \cos \theta} \cdot |M_{fi}|^2$$