

Particle Physics - Problems

Chapter 1: Basic concepts

Elastic scattering of elementary particles preserves their identities, and proceeds via exchange of neutral gauge bosons. Estimate the maximal range over which such exchange can take place, if the exchanged boson is:

a) photon, $m_\gamma = 0 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

b) Z boson, $m_Z = 91.19 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

c) hypothetical Higgs boson, estimated minimal mass $m_H > 114.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

Hint: $\hbar \equiv h/2\pi = 6.582 \times 10^{-22} \text{ MeVs}$ and $c = 2.998 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

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Chapter 2: Leptons, quarks and hadrons

Define which hadron quantum number combinations (Q, B, S, C, \tilde{B}) are allowed by the quark model, and suggest their quark constituents:

- a) $(0, 0, 1, 0, 0)$
- b) $(2, 1, 0, 1, 0)$
- c) $(0, 0, 0, 0, 1)$
- d) $(-1, 1, -2, 0, -1)$

Chapter 3: Experimental methods

1. Two beams of accelerated protons, each with energy $E_{beam} \gg m_p$, collide at a crossing angle θ . Using the four-vector formalism, prove that maximal E_{CM} is achieved when the beams collide head-to-head.
2. Critical energy of the electromagnetic shower development in iron is $E_C=24 MeV$, and one radiation length is $X_0=1.76 cm$. Estimate the necessary thickness of a calorimeter that uses iron as an absorber, if initial electrons have energies not exceeding $E_0=100 MeV$.

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Chapter 4: Space-time symmetries

Electromagnetic decays of η meson to two pions have never been observed, which is explained by the parity conservation requirement. Use this knowledge to:

- a) knowing that η has spin 0, deduce its parity
- b) knowing that decays of η to three pions are readily observed, deduce intrinsic parity of a pion

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Chapter 5: Hadron quantum numbers

Draw a quark diagram for the process $\pi^- + p \rightarrow \Delta^0 \rightarrow \pi^0 + n$ and estimate the mean distance travelled by Δ^0 before it decays, assuming it was produced with $\gamma = E/m \approx 10$.

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Chapter 6: Quark states and colours

Resonance Δ^{++} has a baryon number $B=1$, electric charge $Q=2$, and $S = C = \tilde{B} = T = 0$.
Explain why such particle can not exist unless color charge is introduced.

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Chapter 7: QCD, jets and gluons

In a deep-inelastic scattering of a lepton off a proton target (mass M_p), energy-momentum transfer is denoted by the four-vector Q , and the final hadron state has the invariant mass W . In the proton rest frame, Lorentz-invariant energy transfer is $\nu = E - E'$ (E and E' are lepton energies before and after scattering). Prove it using the definition of ν : $2M_p\nu \equiv W^2 + Q^2 - M_p^2$

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Chapter 8: Weak interactions: W and Z bosons

In the lowest order weak interactions, decays proceed via single W-boson exchange. Explain why the decay $\Sigma^- \rightarrow n + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$ have been observed, while $\Sigma^+ \rightarrow n + e^+ + \nu_e$ - never. Σ^- has quark contents of (dds), and Σ^+ - (uus). Plot the quark diagram for the Σ^- decay.