

**Exercise 1: Relativistic kinematics.** Consider the reaction  $p + p \rightarrow p + p + p + \bar{p}$ .

- (a) In a “fixed target” experiment, one of the initial protons is at rest. How much energy should the other proton have in order for the process to be kinematically allowed?
- (b) At the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the protons collide head-on with the same velocity. What is the energy threshold in this case?

**Exercise 2: Phase space.** The phase space integration measure is defined as

$$d\Phi_n := \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^3\vec{p}_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{p_i}} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}\left(\sum_{j=1}^m K_j - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i\right),$$

whereby  $K_j$  are the four-momenta in the initial state,  $P_i$  are those in the final state, and  $(P_i)^0 := E_{p_i} := \sqrt{m_i^2 + p_i^2}$ , where  $p_i \equiv |\vec{p}_i|$ . Show that this measure is Lorentz-invariant.

**Exercise 3: Two-particle decay.** Consider two-particle decay in the rest frame of the decaying particle:

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{2M} \int d\Phi_2 |\mathcal{M}|^2(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2).$$

The decaying particle has the mass  $M$ , the decay products the masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ . Let us assume that  $|\mathcal{M}|^2(\vec{p}_1, -\vec{p}_1)$  is only a function of  $p_1 := |\vec{p}_1|$ , i.e.  $|\mathcal{M}|^2(\vec{p}_1, -\vec{p}_1) \rightarrow |\mathcal{M}|^2(p_1)$ .

- (a) Show that

$$\Gamma = \frac{\rho_0}{8\pi M^2} |\mathcal{M}|^2(\rho_0) \theta(M - m_1 - m_2),$$

with

$$\rho_0 = \frac{1}{2M} \sqrt{M^4 + m_1^4 + m_2^4 - 2M^2 m_1^2 - 2M^2 m_2^2 - 2m_1^2 m_2^2}.$$

- (b) What is the physical meaning of  $\rho_0$ ?
- (c) Show that a massive particle cannot radiate a photon.

**Exercise 4: Three-particle decay.** Consider a situation like in Exercise 3 but with three particles in the final state, with masses  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$  and  $m_3$ . Show that, unlike in two-particle decay,  $p_1$  is no longer a uniquely fixed quantity. Can you determine  $\max(p_1)$ ? [Note: This kinematics lead Pauli to postulate the existence of neutrinos in 1930.]