

Exercise 1: Optical theorem

(5 Points)

Check the validity of the optical theorem in the special case of the scattering of two spinless particles interacting with each other via a central potential $V(r) = V(|r|)$. The scattering cross section can be represented as a sum over partial waves:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = |f(k, \theta)|^2, \quad (1)$$

$$f(k, \theta) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) \left(\frac{e^{2i\delta_l} - 1}{2i} \right) P_l(\cos\theta), \quad (2)$$

where

- k is the absolute value of the particle's momentum in the center of mass system,
- θ is the scattering angle,
- $P_l(x)$ is the l -th Legendre polynomial (due to the azimuthal symmetry only the waves with L_z eigenvalues $m = 0$ contribute),
- $\delta_l = \delta_l(k)$ is the scattering phase shift.

The optical theorem is:

$$\sigma_{\text{tot}}(k) = \frac{4\pi}{k} \text{Im} f(k, \theta = 0). \quad (3)$$

Exercise 2: Lorentz invariance violation

(5 Points)

In this exercise, Lorentz invariance violating contributions are examined. Such contributions could for example stem from a yet unknown quantum gravity theory due to a discrete space-time structure, as assumed in some models at the Planck scale $M = 10^{19}$ GeV. Violation of Lorentz invariance could lead to modified dispersion relations. In the case of the photon such a relation could take the following form in the lowest order:

$$E_\gamma^2 = k^2 + \epsilon k^2 + \frac{\xi}{M} k^3, \quad (4)$$

where k denotes the absolute value of the three momentum of the photon, E_γ is the photon energy and ϵ, ξ are dimensionless parameters.

- What are the conventional vacuum dispersion relations for photons or electrons and positrons? Show that the altered relation in Eq. (4) violates Lorentz invariance.
- Compute the photon group velocity using the dispersion relation in Eq. (4) up to first order in k/M .

- (c) Consider the decay of a photon in an electron-positron-pair, $\gamma \rightarrow e^+ e^-$. Examine the case $\epsilon > 0$, $\xi < 0$. Start from energy conservation and show, under the assumption $|\vec{p}_+| = |\vec{p}_-|$, the relation

$$\epsilon k^2 + \frac{\xi}{M} k^3 \geq 4m_e^2, \quad (5)$$

where m_e denotes the electron mass.

- (d) In the case $\xi = -1$, for which value of ϵ is the decay possible?
- (e) Show that in general (as long as the decay is possible) there exists not only a lower bound on k , but also an upper bound, so that the decay is only possible in a certain momentum range.

Exercise 3: Phase space three body decay

(10 Points)

- (a) Simplify the phase space integral of a matrix element \mathcal{M} for a three body decay $a \rightarrow 1 + 2 + 3$:

$$R_3(|\mathcal{M}|^2) = \int \int \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{2E_1} \frac{d^3 p_2}{2E_2} \frac{d^3 p_3}{2E_3} \delta^4(p_a^\mu - p_1^\mu - p_2^\mu - p_3^\mu) |\mathcal{M}|^2. \quad (6)$$

Instruction:

- Use the relation

$$\delta(f(x)) = \sum_i \frac{1}{|f'(x_{0i})|} \delta(x - x_{0i}), \quad (7)$$

which holds for functions f with finitely many simple roots x_{0i} , to show that

$$\int \frac{d^3 p}{2E_p} = \int d^4 p \delta((p^0)^2 - |\vec{p}|^2 - m^2) \Theta(p^0). \quad (8)$$

- Use equation (8) to perform the $d^3 p_3$ -integration in the rest frame of particle a .
- Simplify the δ -function. The final result should have the form

$$R_3(|\mathcal{M}|^2) = \int \int \frac{d^3 p_1^*}{2E_1} \frac{d^3 p_2^*}{2E_2} \theta(p^0) \delta(p^\mu p_\mu - m_3^2) |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad (9)$$

with $p^\mu = p_a^\mu - p_1^\mu - p_2^\mu$. The star (*) denotes variables in the rest frame of particle a .

- (b) Now consider the decay $\mu^- \rightarrow e^- \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_e$. You can neglect the masses of the decay products in the following. Decompose the differentials as $\frac{d^3 p}{E_p} = E_p dE_p d\Omega$. Figure out the relative position of the \vec{p}_i^* with respect to each other in order to perform the solid angle integration.