

# Problem sheet 7 - Physics V - WS 2006/2007

Due: December 7/8, 2006

## Problem 7.1 $K^0$ Decays (40P)

Assume, that despite all criticism SETI@home turned out to be successful and it is possible to contact intelligent aliens. It was possible to find out that the aliens are able to perform  $K^0$  experiments and to identify leptons. Now a visit of a group of alien physicists is planned. But first we have to figure out if there is the risk that the delegation is annihilated in a spectacular matter-antimatter-reaction by approaching our planet. Therefore the following instructions are sent via electromagnetic waves to them. Try to follow them.

- a) On earth, there is a particle called  $K^0$ , with a mass of  $0.53 \times$  the mass of the lightest nucleon. Via  $C$  operation you obtain its anti-particle, times an additional phase (the minus sign):

$$C|K^0 \rangle = -|\bar{K}^0 \rangle; P|K^0 \rangle = -|K^0 \rangle; P|\bar{K}^0 \rangle = -|\bar{K}^0 \rangle;$$

There are two  $CP$  eigen-states  $|K_1 \rangle$  and  $|K_2 \rangle$ , which are linear combinations of  $K^0$  and  $\bar{K}^0$ . One state ( $|K_1 \rangle$ ) has the  $CP$  eigen-value  $+1$  ( $CP|K_1 \rangle = +|K_1 \rangle$ ) and the other one ( $|K_2 \rangle$ ) has the  $CP$  eigen-value  $-1$  ( $CP|K_2 \rangle = -|K_2 \rangle$ ) Write down the linear composition of  $|K_1 \rangle$  and  $|K_2 \rangle$ .

- b) One of those states can decay in two ( $\pi^+\pi^-$ ,  $\pi^0\pi^0$ ), the other one in three pions ( $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$ ,  $\pi^0\pi^0\pi^0$ ). The pions do not have any relative angular momentum. Compute the  $CP$  values of the two pion and three pion final states. In which final state decays  $|K_1 \rangle$ , in which decays  $|K_2 \rangle$ ?

(Hint: consider that quantum numbers of the  $C$  and  $P$  operator are multiplicative.  $C|\pi^{0,\pm} \rangle = +|\pi^{0,\pm} \rangle$ ,  $P|\pi^{0,\pm} \rangle = -|\pi^{0,\pm} \rangle$ )

- c) We on earth have found a long-lived state  $|K_L^0 \rangle$  which mainly decays into three pions but sometimes as well into two pions.

$$\frac{\Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0)}{\Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0\pi^0)} = 4 \times 10^{-3}$$

Is  $K_L^0$  a  $CP$  eigen-state?

- d) We think here of the  $K_L^0$  as  $|K_L^0 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\epsilon^2}}(|K_2 \rangle + \epsilon|K_1 \rangle)$ . Using the ratio given in c) and Fermi's Golden Rule, we can compute  $\epsilon^2$ . Here the matrix elements  $|M_{if}|$  of the two possible  $K_L^0$  decays is directly given by its fractional content of  $|K_1 \rangle$  and  $|K_2 \rangle$ . (Hint: Compute  $\langle K_1|K_L^0 \rangle$  and  $\langle K_2|K_L^0 \rangle$ ). The different phase space factor for the decay into two and three pions is directly related to the lifetime ratio of  $K_S^0$  (mainly decaying into two pions) and  $K_L^0$  (mainly decaying into three pions)

$$\tau(K_S^0) = 0.89 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}, \quad \tau(K_L^0) = 5.20 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}$$

We assume,  $\epsilon$  to be real. What is the value of  $\epsilon^2$ ? From an additional measurement which has been explained to the aliens as well, we conclude  $\epsilon$  to be positive.

- e) What is the size of the  $K^0$  and  $\bar{K}^0$  component of  $K_L^0$ ? Compute  $\langle K^0|K_L^0 \rangle$  and  $\langle \bar{K}^0|K_L^0 \rangle$ .
- f) There are as well  $K^0$  and  $\bar{K}^0$  decays into electron, neutrino and pion. Draw the according Feynman diagrams. What is the charge of the lepton for a decay of a  $K^0$  and  $\bar{K}^0$  respectively?
- g) Determine the dominant charge of the lepton in  $K_L^0$  decays via:

$$\frac{\Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow e^+\pi^-\nu_e) - \Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow e^-\pi^+\bar{\nu}_e)}{\Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow e^+\pi^-\nu_e) + \Gamma(K_L^0 \rightarrow e^-\pi^+\bar{\nu}_e)}$$

Use here the fraction of  $K^0$  and  $\bar{K}^0$  content in  $K_L^0$ . Compare the dominant lepton charge with the sign of the charge of nucleons.

Hint: Use again Fermi's Golden Rule:  $\Gamma \propto |M_{if}|^2$  with the matrix elements computed in (e). The phase-space factors for the decays  $K_L^0 \rightarrow e^+\pi^-\nu_e$  and  $K_L^0 \rightarrow e^-\pi^+\bar{\nu}_e$  are the same!

- h) Unfortunately, further documentation got lost. But from historical research we know that the aliens managed to arrive well on our planet. They told later, that they found that the charge of the most common lepton had the same sign as the nucleons in their tea cup. Did they measure correctly?

**Problem 7.2 Test of Parity Conservation (30P)**

Determine whether the following scattering experiments test the space inversion symmetry P. In these experiments particles of type A with spin  $\vec{l}$  are scattered off spinless particles of type B and one compares the rates of scattered particles measured for two experimental configurations as described below.

*Hint: You may check whether one configuration can be transformed into the other by space inversion, possibly followed by an arbitrary rotation. Alternatively, you may check, whether it is possible to construct from the vectors in the experiment a pseudoscalar quantity which depends on the scattering angle.*

- a) The particles of type A are polarised along their flight direction. The rate of scattered particles at a certain scattering angle is measured. Then the rate is measured at the same angle with reversed polarisation of A (see Fig. 1).
- b) The spin  $\vec{l}$  of the particles A is perpendicular to the plane in which scattered particles are measured (the xz plane in Fig. 2). The observable is the left-right asymmetry, i.e. the scattering rates are compared for equal angles in opposite directions.
- c) The spin of A is perpendicular to the flight direction but lies in the scattering plane. Again the left-right asymmetry is measured, i.e. the rates of scattered particles are measured for the two signs of the scattering angle  $\theta$  (see Fig. 3).

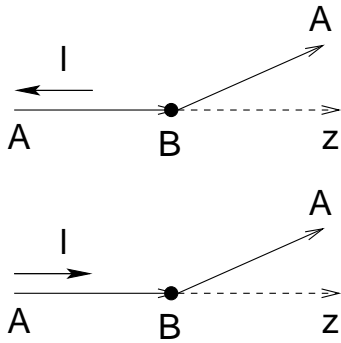


Fig. 1:

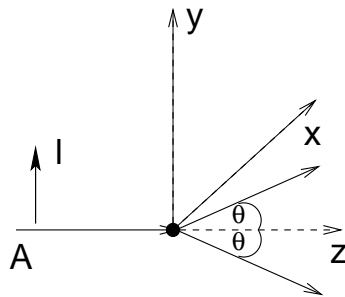


Fig. 2:

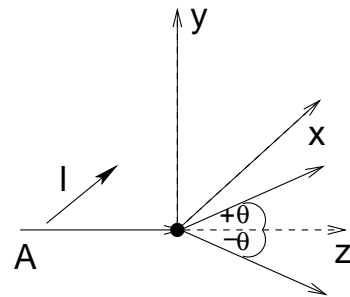


Fig. 3:

**Problem 7.3 Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients (30P)**

The meson  $K^*(892)$  (abbreviated to  $K^*$  in the following) has the charge states  $K^{*+}$  and  $K^{*0}$ . These are excited kaon states having the same quark composition as their ground states  $K^+$  and  $K^0$ . Both types of particles are isospin doublets and the both types of  $K^*$  decays under the strong interaction into a (neutral or charge)  $K$  and a (charged or neutral)  $\pi$ .

- a) What are the decay modes of  $K^{*+}$  and  $K^{*0}$ ? Write down the isospin quantum numbers ( $I$  and  $I_3$ ) for the initial and final state particles of the various decays.
- b) Determine the relative decay probabilities for the decay modes of  $K^{*+}$  and  $K^{*0}$  using isospin decomposition. The attached page containing the required Clebsch-Gordan coefficients is taken from <http://pdg.lbl.gov/2006/reviews/clebrpp.pdf>

35. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND  $d$  FUNCTIONS

Note: A square-root sign is to be understood over every coefficient, e.g., for  $-8/15$  read  $-\sqrt{8/15}$ .

Notation:

$J$	$J$	...
$M$	$M$	...
$m_1$	$m_2$	
$m_1$	$m_2$	Coefficients
.	.	
.	.	

$Y_1^0 = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta$   
 $Y_1^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{i\phi}$   
 $Y_2^0 = \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}} \left( \frac{3}{2} \cos^2 \theta - \frac{1}{2} \right)$   
 $Y_2^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin \theta \cos \theta e^{i\phi}$   
 $Y_2^2 = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}} \sin^2 \theta e^{2i\phi}$

$Y_\ell^{-m} = (-1)^m Y_\ell^{m*}$   
 $d_{m,0}^\ell = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1}} Y_\ell^m e^{-im\phi}$

$(j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 JM)$   
 $= (-1)^{J-j_1-j_2} (j_2 j_1 m_2 m_1 | j_2 j_1 JM)$

$d_{m',m}^j = (-1)^{m-m'} d_{-m,-m'}^j = d_{-m,-m'}^j$

$d_{0,0}^1 = \cos \theta$   
 $d_{1/2,1/2}^{1/2} = \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{1,1}^1 = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2}$   
 $d_{1/2,-1/2}^{1/2} = -\sin \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{1,0}^1 = -\frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{2}}$   
 $d_{1,-1}^1 = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2}$

$d_{3/2,3/2}^{3/2} = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{3/2,1/2}^{3/2} = -\sqrt{3} \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{3/2,-1/2}^{3/2} = \sqrt{3} \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{3/2,-3/2}^{3/2} = -\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{1/2,1/2}^{3/2} = \frac{3 \cos \theta - 1}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$   
 $d_{1/2,-1/2}^{3/2} = -\frac{3 \cos \theta + 1}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$

$d_{2,2}^2 = \left( \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} \right)^2$   
 $d_{2,1}^2 = -\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} \sin \theta$   
 $d_{2,0}^2 = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} \sin^2 \theta$   
 $d_{2,-1}^2 = -\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} \sin \theta$   
 $d_{2,-2}^2 = \left( \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} \right)^2$

$d_{1,1}^2 = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} (2 \cos \theta - 1)$   
 $d_{1,0}^2 = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \sin \theta \cos \theta$   
 $d_{1,-1}^2 = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} (2 \cos \theta + 1)$   
 $d_{0,0}^2 = \left( \frac{3}{2} \cos^2 \theta - \frac{1}{2} \right)$

**Figure 35.1:** The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974). The coefficients here have been calculated using computer programs written independently by Cohen and at LBNL.