Summer 2014

Problem Set #3 Solutions

Answer 1:

The total energy of the particle is $E = \gamma mc^2$ where $\gamma = (1 - \beta^2)^{-1/2}$, and $\beta = 0.5$. Then:

$$E = \gamma mc^2 = \frac{(0.001 \text{ kg}) \times (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2}{\sqrt{1 - 0.5^2}} \approx 10^{14} \text{ J}$$

The total energy put by the dam is:

$$E = \text{Power} \times t$$

 $10^{14} \text{ J} = (2400 \times 10^6 \text{ W}) \times t$
 $t = 41667 \text{ sec}$

Thus, the Atatürk Dam produces 10^{14} joules of energy in about 12 hours.

Answer 2:

The total mass of 1 gr of matter and 1 gr of antimatter is 2 grams. Then, the total energy released by the annihilation of these masses is simply $E_{tot} = m_{tot} c^2$. On the other hand, lifting mass M to a height of h = 1 km requires a potential energy of E = Mgh. Thus, we get:

$$m_{\rm tot} c^2 = Mgh$$

$$M = \frac{m_{\rm tot} c^2}{gh}$$

$$M = \frac{(0.002 \text{ kg}) \times (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2}{(9.8 \text{ m/s}^2) \times (1000 \text{ m})}$$

$$M \approx 2 \times 10^{10} \text{ kg}$$

Note that this is roughly two orders of magnitude greater than the weight of an aircraft carrier.

Answer 3:

The total energy and momentum of the system before the decay is:

$$E = 625 \text{ MeV} \qquad \vec{p} = \vec{0}$$

The momentum coonservation yields:

$$\vec{p}_{tot} = \vec{p}_{\pi^+} + \vec{p}_{\pi^-} = \vec{0}$$

 $\vec{p}_{\pi^+} = -\vec{p}_{\pi^-}$

Which means that the magnitudes of the momentums are the same, but the directions are opposite to each other. The energy conservation gives (taking c = 1):

$$E_{\text{tot}} = E_{\pi^{+}} + E_{\pi^{-}}$$

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \sqrt{p_{\pi}^{2} + m_{\pi}^{2}} + \sqrt{p_{\pi}^{2} + m_{\pi}^{2}} = 2\sqrt{p_{\pi}^{2} + m_{\pi}^{2}}$$

$$(E_{\text{tot}}/2)^{2} = p_{\pi}^{2} + m_{\pi}^{2}$$

$$p_{\pi} = \sqrt{E_{\text{tot}}^{2}/4 - m_{\pi}^{2}} = \sqrt{625^{2}/4 - 140^{2}} \text{ MeV/c}$$

$$p_{\pi} = 279 \text{ MeV/c}$$

Thus, each pion will have a momentum of 279 MeV/c, moving to the **opposite** directions.

Answer 4:

We solve this using 4-momentums (take c = 1):

$$P_p^{\nu} + P_d^{\nu} = P_{^3\mathrm{H}e}^{\nu} + P_{\gamma}^{\nu}$$

Since, $P_{^{3}\text{H}e}^{\nu}$ is the only unknown and its square is the invariant quantity of $m^{2}c^{4}$, where m is the mass of ^{3}He , we simply leave this term alone at one side of the equation and take the square of both sides. First, let us write the remaining terms:

$$P_p^{\nu} = (E_p, \vec{p}_p) = (m_p, \vec{0})$$

 $P_d^{\nu} = (E_d, \vec{p}_d) = (m_d, \vec{0})$
 $P_{\gamma}^{\nu} = (E_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma}) = (p_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma})$ where $p_{\gamma} = E_{\gamma}/c = 5.5 \text{ MeV/c}$

Then, we write:

$$P_{3\text{H}e}^{\nu} = P_{p}^{\nu} + P_{d}^{\nu} - P_{\gamma}^{\nu}$$

$$P_{3\text{H}e}^{\nu} = (m_{p}, \vec{0}) + (m_{d}, \vec{0}) - (p_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma})$$

$$P_{3\text{H}e}^{\nu} = (m_{p} + m_{d} - p_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma})$$

$$(P_{3\text{H}e}^{\nu})^{2} = (m_{p} + m_{d} - p_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma}) \cdot (m_{p} + m_{d} - p_{\gamma}, \vec{p}_{\gamma})$$

$$m^{2} = (m_{p} + m_{d} - p_{\gamma})^{2} - p_{\gamma}^{2}$$

$$m^{2} = (938.28 + 1875.6 - 5.5)^{2} - 5.5^{2}$$

$$m = 2718 \text{ MeV/c}^{2}$$

which is close to the observed mass of ³He.

Answer 5:

We immediately write the 4-momentum equation for this reaction (take c = 1):

$$P_{n_0}^{\nu} + P_{p_0}^{\nu} = P_n^{\nu} + P_p^{\nu} + P_{\gamma}^{\nu}$$

Where the following quantities are numerically known (take the direction of \vec{p}_{n_0} to be \hat{x}):

$$\begin{array}{lcl} P^{\nu}_{n_0} & = & (E_{n_0}, \vec{p}_{n_0}) = (m+T_0, p_0 \hat{x}) \\ P^{\nu}_{p_0} & = & (E_{p_0}, \vec{p}_{p_0}) = (m, 0) \\ P^{\nu}_{p} & = & (E_p, \vec{p}_p) = (m+T_p, p_{p,x} \, \hat{x} + p_{p,y} \, \hat{y}) \end{array}$$

where

$$p_{0} = \sqrt{(m+T_{0})^{2} - m^{2}}$$

$$p_{p,x} = \cos \theta_{p} \sqrt{(m+T_{p})^{2} - m^{2}}$$

$$p_{p,y} = \sin \theta_{p} \sqrt{(m+T_{p})^{2} - m^{2}}$$
(1)

There is no information about the outgoing γ particle, and we do not need to know about it. Thus, let us leave that alone at one side of the equation as our regular trick:

$$P_{\gamma}^{\nu} = P_{n_0}^{\nu} + P_{p_0}^{\nu} - P_n^{\nu} - P_p^{\nu} \tag{2}$$

Since we know three of the terms appearing at the right side of the equation, let us define a single 4-momentum quantity that includes all these three terms as a single quantity:

$$P^{\nu} \equiv P_{n_0}^{\nu} + P_{p_0}^{\nu} - P_p^{\nu} = (E, \vec{p})$$

where

$$E = (m + T_0) + m - (m + T_p) = m + T_0 - T_p$$
(3)

$$\vec{p} = [p_0 - p_{p,x}, -p_{p,y}] \tag{4}$$

Then, our Equation 2 can simply be written as:

$$\begin{split} P_{\gamma}^{\nu} &= P^{\nu} - P_{n}^{\nu} \\ (P_{\gamma}^{\nu})^{2} &= (P^{\nu} - P_{n}^{\nu})^{2} \\ m_{\gamma}^{2} &= (P^{\nu})^{2} - 2P^{\nu} \cdot P_{n}^{\nu} + (P_{n}^{\nu})^{2} \\ 0 &= (E^{2} - p^{2}) - 2(EE_{n} - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{p}_{n}) + m^{2} \\ 0 &= (E^{2} - p^{2} + m^{2}) - 2EE_{n} + 2\vec{p} \cdot \vec{p}_{n} \\ 2\vec{p} \cdot \vec{p}_{n} &= 2EE_{n} - (E^{2} - p^{2} + m^{2}) \end{split}$$

Then, we can write \vec{p}_n as $\hat{n} p_n$, where \hat{n} is the unit direction vector which is given by the question:

$$\hat{n} \equiv [\cos \theta_n, \sin \theta_n] \tag{5}$$

Thus, we get an equation where p_n and E_n are the only unknowns.

$$(2\vec{p} \cdot \hat{n}_n) p_n = 2EE_n - (E^2 - p^2 + m^2)$$
$$\frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{n}_n}{E} p_n = E_n - \frac{E^2 - p^2 + m^2}{2E}$$

Let us define the following quantities α and β (numerically known) as:

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{n}_n}{E} \qquad \beta \equiv \frac{E^2 - p^2 + m^2}{2E} \tag{6}$$

Then, we get:

$$\alpha p_n = E_n - \beta$$

$$\alpha^2 p_n^2 = (E_n - \beta)^2$$

$$\alpha^2 (E_n^2 - m^2) = E_n^2 - 2E_n\beta + \beta^2$$

$$0 = (1 - \alpha^2) E_n^2 - 2(\beta) E_n + (\beta^2 + \alpha^2 m^2)$$

Now, let us define:

$$A \equiv 1 - \alpha^2$$
 $B \equiv \beta$ $C \equiv \beta^2 + \alpha^2 m^2$ (7)

Then, our equation reads:

$$0 = AE_n^2 - 2BE_n + C$$

We solve for E_n , thus for T_n :

$$E_n = \frac{B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - AC}}{A} \qquad T_n = E_n - m$$

That is the solution for part a. All we need to do is putting the variables we defined in Equations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 into this solution. Since all these variables are known, finding the solution is a pretty easy numerical/computational calculation. Also, note that when $\Delta = B^2 - AC > 0$, there are two valid solutions, and when that is less than zero there is no solution. Two-solution case becomes possible due the extra degree of freedom brought by the third product particle, the γ . That means that the γ particle will go to different directions for these two solutions. Once we know E_n we can easily extract the momentum of the γ , if we were asked.

Let us, now, draw the solution, which is known as the kinematic locus of this reaction. Following is a Matlab source code that performs the above operations for an array of T_p from 0 to 225 MeV, and stores the valid solutions into an array to be plotted at the end. This is a template, and can be used for any programming language, or it can be used as a guide to use a calculator-based manual drawing for a series of solutions.

```
m = 938.28;
                         % mass of nucleons (both for n and p)
T0 = 225;
                         \mbox{\%} Kinetic energy of incoming particle
theta_p = 20/180*pi;
                        % angle in radian
theta_n = -20/180*pi;
                         % angle in radian
p0 = sqrt((m+T0)^2-m^2);
nx = cos(theta_n);
                             % Eqn 5a
ny = sin(theta_n);
                             % Eqn 5b
N = 0;
          % Number of solutions
for Tp=0:225
  p_px = cos(theta_p)*sqrt((m+Tp)^2-m^2);
  p_py = sin(theta_p)*sqrt((m+Tp)^2-m^2);
```

```
E = m + T0 - Tp;
                                           % Eqn 3
px = p0 - p_px;
                                           % Eqn 4a
py = -p_py;
                                           %
alpha = (px*nx+py*ny)/E;
                                           % Eqn 6a
                                           % b
% Eqn 7a
beta = (E^2-(px*px+py*py)+m^2)/2/E;
A = 1 - alpha^2;
                                           %
%
B = beta;
                                                   b
C = beta^2 + alpha^2 * m^2;
delta = B^2 - A*C;
\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\%}}} we get two solutions
if delta>0
  \mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\%}}} plus-solution
  N = N+1;
  tp(N) = Tp;
  tn(N) = (B + sqrt(delta))/A - m;
  % minus-solution
  N = N+1;
  tp(N) = Tp;
  tn(N) = (B - sqrt(delta))/A - m;
end
```

end

plot(tp, tn, '.')

