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**Elementary Particles
and
Their Interactions
Concepts and Phenomena**

With 116 Figures, 36 Tables, Numerous Examples,
and 102 Problems with Selected Solutions

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of the work originally published by Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg in 1998.

To our families

Preface

The last few decades have seen major advances in the physics of elementary particles. New generations of particle accelerators and detectors have come into operation, and have successfully contributed to improving the quantity and quality of data on diverse interaction processes and to the discoveries of whole new families of particles. At the same time, important new ideas have emerged in quantum field theory, culminating in the developments of theories for the weak and strong interactions to complement quantum electrodynamics, the theory of the electromagnetic force. The simplest of the new theories that are at the same time mathematically consistent and physically successful constitute what is known as the standard model of the fundamental interactions. This book is an attempt to present these remarkable advances at an elementary level, making them accessible to students familiar with quantum mechanics, special relativity, and classical electrodynamics.

The main content of the book is roughly divided into two parts; one on theories to lay the foundation and the other on further developments of concepts and descriptions of phenomena to prepare the student for more advanced work. After a brief overview of the subject and a presentation of some basic ideas, two chapters which deal mostly with relativistic one-body wave equations, quantization of fields, and Lorentz invariance follow. In the spirit of the practical approach taken in this book, a heuristic derivation of the Feynman rules is given in the fourth chapter, where the student is shown how to calculate cross-sections and decay rates at the lowest order. The following chapter contains a discussion on discrete symmetries and the concept of symmetry breaking. Isospin is introduced next as the simplest example of internal symmetries in order to ease the reader into the notion of unitary groups in general and of SU(3) in particular, which is discussed next together with the recent discoveries of new particles. The next two chapters present the standard model of the fundamental interactions. We make contact with experiments in subsequent chapters with detailed studies of some fundamental electroweak processes, such as the deep inelastic lepton-nucleon scattering, the CP violation in the neutral K mesons, the neutrino oscillations and the related problem of the solar neutrino deficit, and finally, the τ lepton decay, which touch upon many aspects of weak interactions. The very high precision of the data that is now attained in some of these processes

requires a careful examination of higher-order effects. This leads to a detailed study of one-loop QCD corrections to weak interactions. The next chapter demonstrates the remarkable property of asymptotic freedom of quantum chromodynamics and introduces the powerful concept of the renormalization group which plays a central role in many phenomena. The heavy flavors of quarks, which pose new questions on several aspects of interactions and could open windows on the ‘new’ physics, form the subject of a separate chapter. We close with a review of the present status of the standard model and, briefly, of its extensions. Selected solutions to problems are given. Finally, important formulas are collected in an Appendix for convenient reference.

In writing this book we have constantly borne in mind the beginning student learning the subject for the first time. For this reason we have avoided a presentation of the formalism based either on canonical quantization or path integral methods. We have adopted instead a decidedly more practical approach based on perturbative field theory. Many particle phenomena may thus be described in detail early in the book, and the student, in turn, can carry out actual calculations. The importance of the physical point of view is further emphasized by the many examples found throughout the book. The first part of the book gives the student the basic (and some extra) material needed to follow the arguments leading to the standard model and to understand the physics that flows from it. The second part is an attempt to reflect recent advances in experimental particle physics (such as neutrino oscillations, B meson physics, and precision tests of electroweak processes). These topics are selected mainly on the strength of their lasting intrinsic value or because they bring out some novel physics. Whatever the motivations, we introduce all topics at an elementary level, work out the calculations in detail, and carry the development to the point where the reader can start deepening his or her own understanding through a meaningful independent study.

We owe thanks to our teachers, students, and colleagues for the physics they have taught us. Many have helped us in our present project. We are in particular grateful to Pierre Fayet, Michel Gourdin, Chi-Sing Lam, Serguey Petcov, and Pham Tri-Nang for reading parts of the book and for making judicious comments and suggestions. Thanks are also due to Dr. Hans Kölsch, our editor at Springer for a pleasant and fruitful collaboration. One of us (QHK) acknowledges with gratitude the financial support given by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the gracious hospitality extended to him by the Laboratoire de Physique Théorique et Hautes Énergies (Université Paris VI et Université Paris VII). Finally, we are greatly indebted to our families, to whom this work is dedicated, for their support and encouragement throughout the writing of this book.

Contents

1 Particles and Interactions: An Overview	1
1.1 A Preview	1
1.2 Particles	3
1.2.1 Leptons	4
1.2.2 Quarks	5
1.2.3 Hadrons	6
1.3 Interactions	6
1.4 Symmetries	10
1.5 Physical Units	13
Problems	15
Suggestions for Further Reading	16
2 Boson Fields	17
2.1 Lorentz Symmetry	18
2.1.1 Lorentz Transformations	18
2.1.2 Tensor Algebra	23
2.1.3 Tensor Fields	24
2.2 Scalar Fields	25
2.2.1 Space-time Translation of a Scalar Field	25
2.2.2 Lorentz Transformation of a Scalar Field	28
2.3 Vector Fields	30
2.4 The Klein–Gordon Equation	31
2.4.1 Free-Particle Solutions	31
2.4.2 Particle Probability	32
2.4.3 Second Quantization	34
2.4.4 Operator Algebra	35
2.4.5 Physical Significance of the Fock Operators	37

2.5 Quantized Vector Fields	39
2.5.1 Massive Vector Fields	39
2.5.2 The Maxwell Equations	40
2.5.3 Quantization of the Electromagnetic Field	42
2.5.4 Field Energy and Momentum	46
2.6 The Action	47
2.6.1 The Euler–Lagrange Equation	47
2.6.2 Conserved Current	50
Problems	55
Suggestions for Further Reading	56
3 Fermion Fields	57
3.1 The Dirac Equation	57
3.2 Lorentz Symmetry	60
3.2.1 Covariance of the Dirac Equation	60
3.2.2 Spin of the Dirac Field	63
3.2.3 Bilinear Covariants	64
3.3 Free-Particle Solutions	65
3.3.1 Normalized Spinors	66
3.3.2 Completeness Relations	68
3.3.3 Helicities	71
3.4 The Lagrangian for a Free Dirac Particle	73
3.5 Quantization of the Dirac Field	76
3.5.1 Spins and Statistics	77
3.5.2 Dirac Field Observables	79
3.5.3 Fock Space	80
3.6 Zero-Mass Fermions	82
Problems	86
Suggestions for Further Reading	88
4 Collisions and Decays	89
4.1 Interaction Representation	90
4.1.1 The Three Pictures	90
4.1.2 Time Evolution in the Interaction Picture	92
4.1.3 The S -matrix	95
4.2 Cross-Sections and Decay Rates	96
4.2.1 General Formulas	96
4.2.2 Two-Body Reaction to Two-Body Final States	99
4.2.3 Decay Rates	103
4.3 Interaction Models	104
4.4 Decay Modes of a Scalar Particle	105
4.4.1 Neutral Decay Mode	105
4.4.2 Charged Decay Mode	108
4.5 Pion Scattering	109

4.5.1 The Scalar Boson Propagator	110
4.5.2 Scattering Processes	112
4.5.3 Summary and Generalization	116
4.6 Electron–Proton Scattering	118
4.6.1 The Electromagnetic Interaction	119
4.6.2 Electron–Proton Scattering Cross-Section	120
4.7 Electron–Positron Annihilation	127
4.8 Compton Scattering	133
Problems	141
Suggestions for Further Reading	142
5 Discrete Symmetries	143
5.1 Parity	144
5.1.1 Parity in Quantum Mechanics	144
5.1.2 Parity in Field Theories	146
5.1.3 Parity and Interactions	150
5.2 Time Inversion	155
5.2.1 Time Inversion in Quantum Mechanics	156
5.2.2 Time Inversion in Field Theories	158
5.2.3 T and Interactions	162
5.3 Charge Conjugation	163
5.3.1 Additive Quantum Numbers	164
5.3.2 Charge Conjugation in Field Theories	169
5.3.3 Interactions	174
5.4 The CPT Theorem	178
5.4.1 Implications of CPT Invariance	180
5.4.2 C, P, T, and CPT	181
Problems	182
Suggestions for Further Reading	184
6 Hadrons and Isospin	185
6.1 Charge Symmetry and Charge Independence	185
6.2 Nucleon Field in Isospin Space	187
6.3 Pion Field in Isospin Space	193
6.4 G Parity	198
6.4.1 Nucleon and Pion Fields	199
6.4.2 Other Unflavored Hadrons	204
6.5 Isospin of Strange Particles	205
6.6 Isospin Violations	207
6.6.1 Electromagnetic Interactions	207
6.6.2 Weak Interactions	208
Problems	213
Suggestions for Further Reading	214

7 Quarks and SU(3) Symmetry	215
7.1 Isospin: SU(2) Symmetry	216
7.2 Hypercharge: SU(3) Symmetry	222
7.2.1 The Fundamental Representation	222
7.2.2 Higher-Dimensional Representations	224
7.2.3 Physical Significance of F_3 and F_8	228
7.2.4 $3 \times 3^*$ Equal Mesons	230
7.2.5 $3 \times 3 \times 3$ Equal Baryons	233
7.3 Mass Splitting of the Hadron Multiplets	236
7.3.1 Baryons	238
7.3.2 Mesons	239
7.4 Including Spin: SU(6)	241
7.4.1 Mesons	243
7.4.2 Baryons	245
7.4.3 Application: Magnetic Moments of Hadrons	246
7.5 The Color of Quarks	248
7.6 The New Particles	250
7.6.1 J/ψ and Charm	250
7.6.2 The Tau Lepton	258
7.6.3 From Bottom to Top	260
Problems	263
Suggestions for Further Reading	265
8 Gauge Field Theories	267
8.1 Symmetries and Interactions	267
8.2 Abelian Gauge Invariance	269
8.3 Non-Abelian Gauge Invariance	271
8.4 Quantum Chromodynamics	277
8.5 Spontaneous Breaking of Global Symmetries	283
8.5.1 The Basic Idea	284
8.5.2 Breakdown of Discrete Symmetry	286
8.5.3 Breakdown of Abelian Symmetry	287
8.5.4 Breakdown of Non-Abelian Symmetry	289
8.6 Spontaneous Breaking of Local Symmetries	293
8.6.1 Abelian Symmetry	293
8.6.2 Non-Abelian Symmetry	298
Problems	301
Suggestions for Further Reading	303
9 The Standard Model of the Electroweak Interaction	305
9.1 The Weak Interaction Before the Gauge Theories	305
9.2 Gauge Invariant Model of One-Lepton Family	307
9.2.1 Global Symmetry	308
9.2.2 Gauge Invariance	312

9.2.3 Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking	313
9.2.4 Feynman Rules for One-Lepton Family	322
9.3 Including u and d Quarks	326
9.4 Multigeneration Model	330
9.4.1 The GIM Mechanism	330
9.4.2 Classification Scheme for Fermions	333
9.4.3 Fermion Families and the CKM Matrix	333
9.4.4 Summary and Extensions	338
Problems	341
Suggestions for Further Reading	342
10 Electron–Nucleon Scattering	343
10.1 Electromagnetic and Weak Form Factors	343
10.2 Analyticity and Dispersion Relation	352
10.3 Exclusive Reaction: Elastic Scattering	355
10.4 Inclusive Reaction: Deep Inelastic Scattering	361
10.4.1 Structure Functions	362
10.4.2 Bjorken Scaling and the Feynman Quark Parton	366
Problems	373
Suggestions for Further Reading	375
11 Neutral K Mesons and CP Violation	377
11.1 The Two Neutral K Mesons	378
11.2 Strangeness Oscillations	380
11.3 Regeneration of K_S^0	383
11.4 Calculation of Δm	385
11.5 CP Violation	389
11.5.1 General Formalism	389
11.5.2 Model-Independent Analysis of $K_L \rightarrow 2\pi$	393
11.5.3 The Superweak Scenario	398
11.5.4 Calculations of ϵ and ϵ' in the Standard Model	399
11.5.5 The Gluonic Penguin and $ \epsilon'/\epsilon $	402
Problems	406
Suggestions for Further Reading	406
12 The Neutrinos	407
12.1 On the Neutrino Masses	407
12.1.1 General Properties	408
12.1.2 Dirac or Majorana Neutrino?	409
12.1.3 Lepton Mixing	411
12.2 Oscillations in the Vacuum	412
12.3 Oscillations in Matter	415
12.3.1 Index of Refraction, Effective Mass	416
12.3.2 The MSW Effect	420
12.3.3 Adiabaticity	423

12.4 Neutral Currents by Neutrino Scattering	426
12.4.1 Neutral Currents, Why Not?	427
12.4.2 Neutrino–Electron Scattering	428
12.5 Neutrino–Nucleon Elastic Scattering	435
12.6 Neutrino–Nucleon Deep Inelastic Collision	438
12.6.1 Deep Inelastic Cross-Section	439
12.6.2 Quarks as Partons	441
Problems	445
Suggestions for Further Reading	446
13 Muon and Tau Lepton Decays	447
13.1 Weak Decays: Classification and Generalities	447
13.2 Leptonic Modes	450
13.2.1 Leptonic Branching Ratio	450
13.2.2 Parity Violation. Energy Spectrum	451
13.2.3 Angular Distribution. Decay Rate	456
13.3 Semileptonic Decays	460
13.3.1 The One-Pion Mode: $\tau^- \rightarrow \nu_\tau + \pi^-$	460
13.3.2 The $2n$ -Pion Mode and CVC	462
13.4 The Method of Spectral Functions	465
13.4.1 The Three-Pion Mode	467
13.4.2 Spectral Functions of Quark Pairs	470
Problems	473
Suggestions for Further Reading	474
14 One-Loop QCD Corrections	475
14.1 Vertex Function	477
14.2 Quark Self-Energy	484
14.3 Mass and Field Renormalization	485
14.3.1 Renormalized Form Factor $\tilde{F}_1^{\text{ren}}(q^2)$	489
14.3.2 Important Consequence of Mass Renormalization .	491
14.4 Virtual Gluon Contributions	492
14.5 Real Gluon Contributions	496
14.5.1 Infrared Divergence	497
14.5.2 Three-Particle Phase Space	498
14.5.3 Bremsstrahlung Rate	500
14.6 Final Result	501
Problems	502
Suggestions for Further Reading	504
15 Asymptotic Freedom in QCD	505
15.1 Running Coupling Constant	506
15.1.1 Vacuum Polarization	507

15.1.2 Dressed and Renormalized Photon Propagator	509
15.1.3 Vertex Renormalization	512
15.1.4 Renormalized Vacuum Polarization $\tilde{\Pi}_{\text{ren}}(q^2)$	515
15.1.5 Physical Effects of $\tilde{\Pi}_{\text{ren}}(q^2)$	517
15.2 The Renormalization Group	518
15.2.1 The Callan–Symanzik Equation	520
15.2.2 Calculation of the β - and γ -Functions	523
15.2.3 Running Coupling from the Renormalization Group .	525
15.2.4 Solution of the Renormalization Group Equation . .	526
15.3 One-Loop Computation of the QCD β -Function	529
15.3.1 Quark Self-Energy Counterterm Z_q	529
15.3.2 Quark–Gluon Vertex Counterterm Z_1	529
15.3.3 Gluon Self-Energy Counterterm Z_{glu}	531
15.3.4 The Running QCD Coupling	535
15.4 Ghosts	538
15.4.1 The Faddeev–Popov Gauge-Fixing Method	538
15.4.2 Ghosts and Unitarity	541
Problems	547
Suggestions for Further Reading	548
16 Heavy Flavors	549
16.1 QCD Renormalization of Weak Interactions	550
16.1.1 Corrections to Single Currents	551
16.1.2 Corrections to Product of Currents	553
16.1.3 Renormalization Group Improvement	557
16.1.4 The $\Delta I = 1/2$ in Strangeness Hadronic Decays . .	560
16.2 Heavy Flavor Symmetry	562
16.2.1 Basic Physical Pictures	563
16.2.2 Elements of Heavy Quark Effective Theory (HQET) .	565
16.3 Inclusive Decays	567
16.3.1 General Formalism	568
16.3.2 Inclusive Semileptonic Decay: $\bar{B} \rightarrow e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + X_c$.	572
16.3.3 Inclusive Nonleptonic Decay: $\bar{B} \rightarrow \text{Hadrons}$	573
16.4 Exclusive Decays	576
16.4.1 Form Factors in B_{s3} Decays	577
16.4.2 Semileptonic Decay Rates	580
16.4.3 Two-Body Hadronic Decays	582
16.5 CP Violation in B Mesons	588
16.5.1 $B^0 - \bar{B}^0$ Mixing	588
16.5.2 CP Asymmetries in Neutral B Meson Decays	594
Problems	598
Suggestions for Further Reading	599

17 Status and Perspectives of the Standard Model	601
17.1 Production and Decay of the Higgs Boson	602
17.2 Why go Beyond the Standard Model?	605
17.3 The Standard Model as an Effective Theory	607
17.3.1 Problems with the Standard Model	608
17.3.2 Renormalization Group Equation Analysis	610
17.3.3 Supersymmetry and Technicolor	611
Problems	614
Suggestions for Further Reading	614
Selected Solutions	615
Appendix Useful Formulas	645
Index	657