

Física de Partículas

Decaimientos y Dispersiones

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Latin American alliance for
Capacity building in Advanced physics

LA-CoNGA physics



Cofinanciado por el
programa Erasmus+
de la Unión Europea





- **Bound states:** Static properties such as mass, spin, parity, magnetic moments
- **Particle decays:** Allowed and forbidden decays / Conservation laws
- **Particle scattering:** Production of new massive particles / Study of particle interaction cross sections / High energies to study short distances

Force	Typical Lifetime [s]	Typical cross-section [mb]
Strong	10^{-23}	10
Electromagnetic	10^{-20}	10^{-2}
Weak	10^{-8}	10^{-13}



Fermi's Golden Rule

- Particle decays and particle scattering are transitions between quantum mechanical states
- In QM the transition rate between states i and j is:

$$\Gamma_{fi} = 2\pi |T_{fi}|^2 \rho(E_i)$$

where T_{fi} is the transition matrix element and ρ is the density of states



- Lifetime of a particle (average or mean)
- Decay rate (Γ): probability per unit time that the particle of interest will decay
- If we had $N(t)$ particles, $N\Gamma dt$ particles would decay in the next instant dt

$$dN = -\Gamma N dt$$

- It follows that

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{-\Gamma t}$$

- We can see that the mean lifetime:

$$\tau = \frac{1}{\Gamma}$$



- Lifetime of a particle (average or mean)
- Decay rate (Γ): probability per unit time that the particle of interest will decay
- Rate of decays

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = -\Gamma N(t)$$

- Activity

$$A(t) = \left| \frac{dN}{dt} \right| = \Gamma N(t)$$



- Particles can decay in several ways (decay modes, channels)
- The total decay rate is the sum of the individual decay rates

$$\Gamma = \sum_j \Gamma_j.$$

- Branching ratios: relative frequency of a particular decay mode:

$$BR(j) = \frac{\Gamma_j}{\Gamma}$$

- Decaying states do not correspond to a single energy – they have a width:

$$\Delta E \tau \sim \hbar \quad \xrightarrow{\text{yields}} \quad \Delta E \sim \frac{\hbar}{\tau} = \hbar \Gamma$$



Decaying states in QM

- For a decaying state the probability density must decay exponentially: $\psi(t) = \psi(0)e^{-iE_0t}e^{-t/2\tau}$ $|\psi(t)|^2 = |\psi(0)|^2 e^{-t/\tau}$
- The energies present in the wavefunction are given by the Fourier transform of $\psi(t)$:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\omega) = f(E) &= \int_0^\infty \psi(t)e^{iEt} dt = \int_0^\infty \psi(0)e^{-t(iE_0 + \frac{1}{2\tau})}e^{iEt} dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty \psi(0)e^{-t(i(E_0 - E) + \frac{1}{2\tau})} dt = \frac{i\psi(0)}{(E_0 - E) - \frac{i}{2\tau}} \end{aligned}$$

- So the probability of finding a state with energy E:

$$P(E) = |f(E)|^2 = \frac{|\psi(0)|^2}{(E_0 - E)^2 + \frac{1}{4\tau^2}}$$

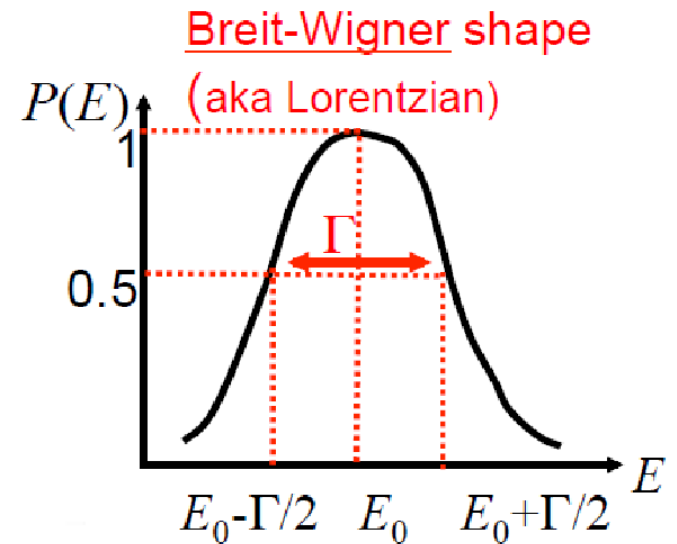


Decay resonances

- The probability density function for finding the particle with energy E is

$$p(E) \propto \frac{1}{(E_0 - E)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$

- E is the energy of the system
- E_0 is the characteristic rest-mass of the unstable particle
- The probability density function has a Lorentzian, peaked, line shape:
Breit-Wigner
- Full-width at half max (FWHM) of the peak equal to Γ : ***width***
- Long-lived particles: narrow width, well defined energies



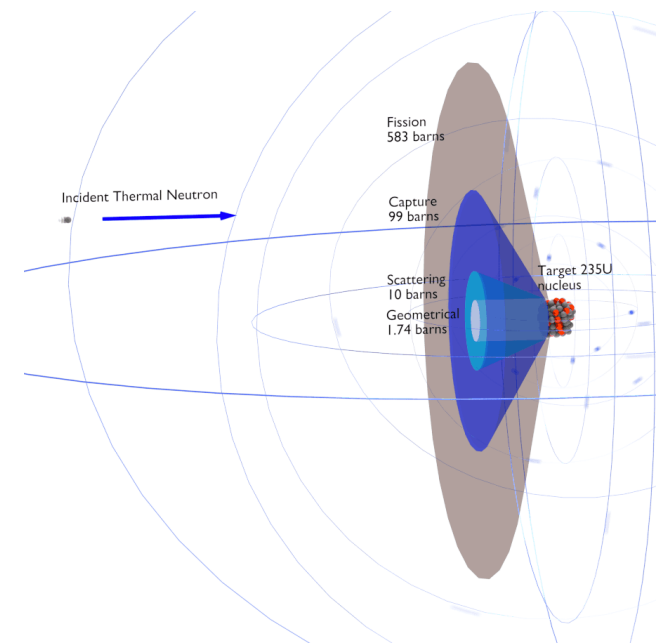


Reactions and cross sections

- **Cross section:** “strength” of a particular interaction between two particles
- Effective target area presented to the incoming particle, units: barns ($1 \text{ barn} = 10^{-28} \text{ m}^2$)
- Interaction rate per target particle:

$$\Gamma = \phi\sigma$$

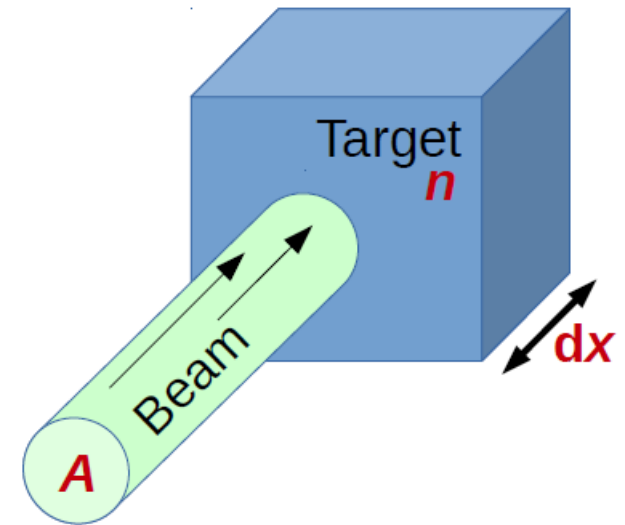
- ϕ is the **flux**: number of particles passing through unit area per second





Scattering

- Consider a beam of N particles per unit time with area A
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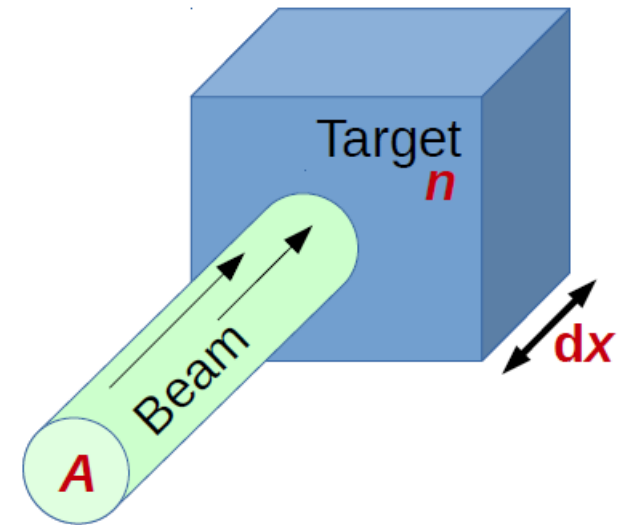
$$N_T = n \cdot A \cdot dx$$

- Effective area of interaction:

$$\sigma N_T = \sigma n A dx$$

- Incident flux:

$$\phi = N/A$$





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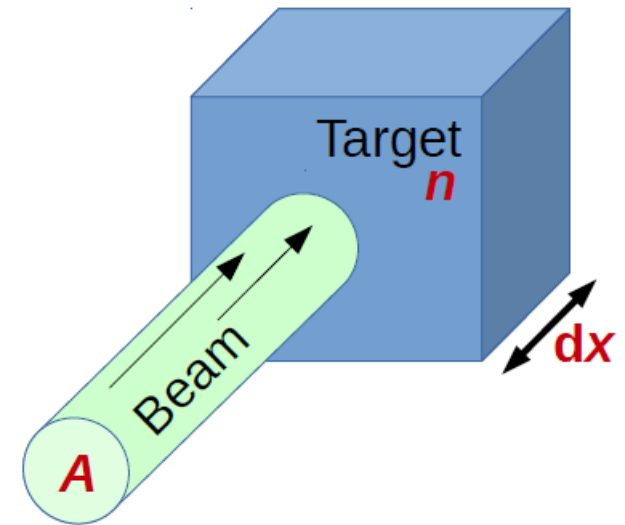
$$\sigma N_T = \sigma n A dx$$

- Incident flux:

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- Number of particles scattered per unit time

$$-dN = \phi \sigma N_T = \frac{N}{A} \sigma n A dx$$





Scattering

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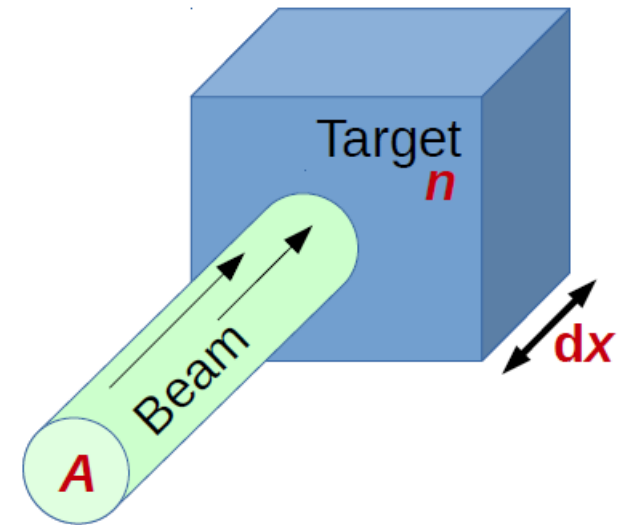
$$\sigma N_T = \sigma n A dx$$

- Incident flux:

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- So the cross section is proportional to the scattering rate:

$$\sigma = \frac{-dN}{nNdx}$$





Beam attenuation in a target of thickness L :

- Thick target $\sigma nL \gg 1$:

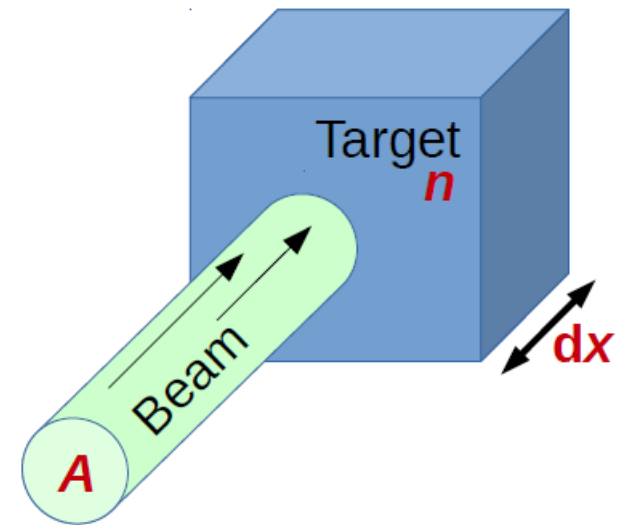
$$\int_{N_0}^N -\frac{dN}{N} = \int_0^L \sigma n dx$$
$$N = N_0 e^{-\sigma n L}$$

the beam attenuates exponentially

- Thin target $\sigma nL \ll 1$:

$$e^{-\sigma n L} \sim 1 - \sigma n L$$
$$N = N_0 (1 - \sigma n L)$$

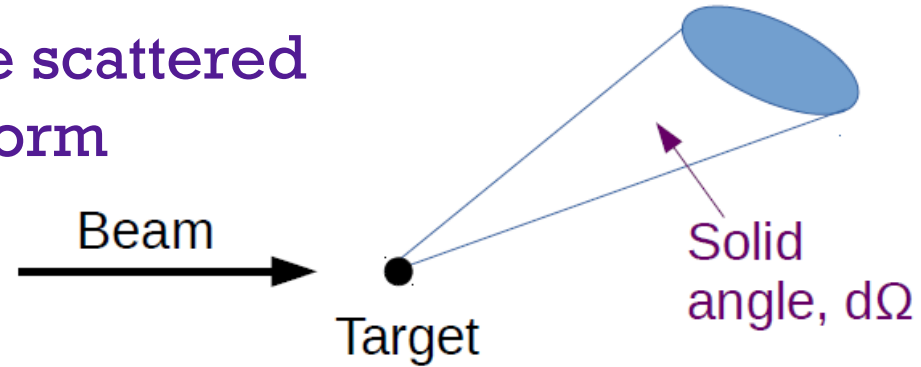
- *Mean free path* between interactions: $1/\sigma n$ (also referred to as *interaction length*)





Differential cross section

- The angular distribution of the scattered particles is not necessarily uniform



- Number of particles scattered per unit time into $d\Omega$ is

$$dN = d\sigma\phi N_T$$

- The differential cross-section:

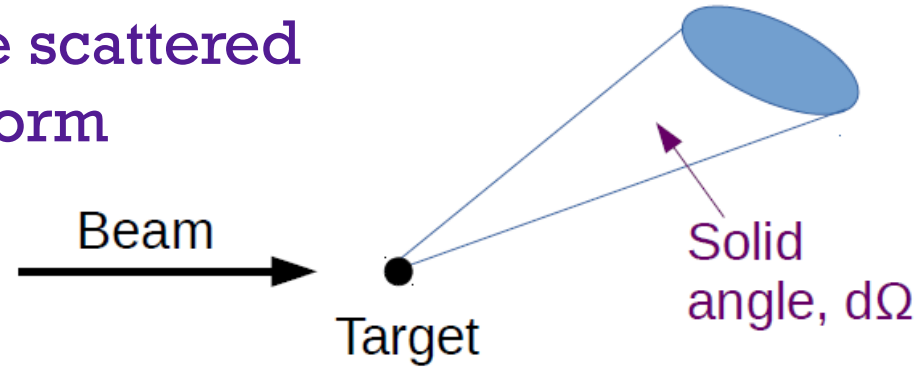
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{dN}{d\Omega\phi N_T}$$

is the number of particles scattered per unit time and solid angle, divided by the incident flux and by the number of target nuclei defined by the beam area



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- Most experiments do not cover 4π solid angle, and in general we measure $d\sigma/d\Omega$
- Angular distributions provide more information than the total cross-section about the mechanism of the interaction



- Consider a beam of particles scattering from a fixed potential $V(r)$
- The scattering rate is characterised by the interaction cross-section $\sigma = \Gamma/\phi$
- We can calculate the cross section using Fermi's golden rule



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- In first order perturbation theory, and using plane wave solutions:

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = Ae^{i(\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}-Et)}$$

we need:

- Wave function normalisation
- Matrix element in perturbation theory
- Incident flux
- Density of states



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- Wave function normalisation: Normalise wave-functions to one particle in a box of side a

$$\int_0^a \int_0^a \int_0^a \psi^* \psi \, dx \, dy \, dz = 1$$

$$A^2 = 1/a^3$$



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- The matrix element contains the physics of the interaction. In perturbation theory (first order):

$$T_{fi} = \langle f | \hat{H} | i \rangle$$



- Incident flux: consider a target of area A and a beam of particles with velocity v . Any incident particle within a volume vA will cross the target area every second

$$\phi = \frac{vA}{A} n = vn = \frac{v}{a^3}$$

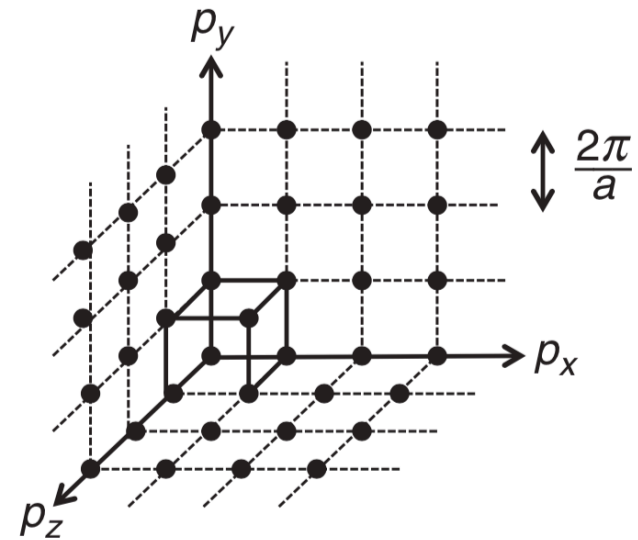


- Density of states (or phase space): the normalisation of the wave function implies periodic boundary conditions, which implies the momentum components are quantised:

$$(p_x, p_y, p_z) = (n_x, n_y, n_z) \frac{2\pi}{a}$$

each state in momentum space occupies a cubic volume of

$$d^3\mathbf{p} = dp_x dp_y dp_z = \left(\frac{2\pi}{a}\right)^3 = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V}$$

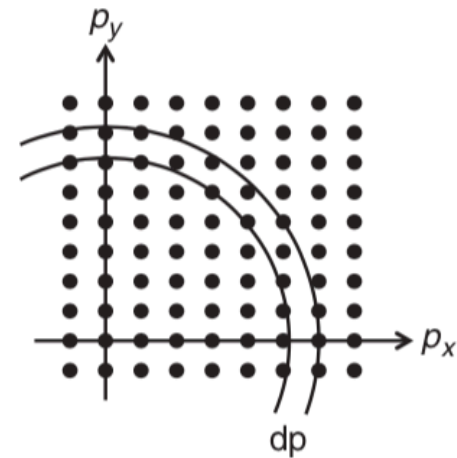
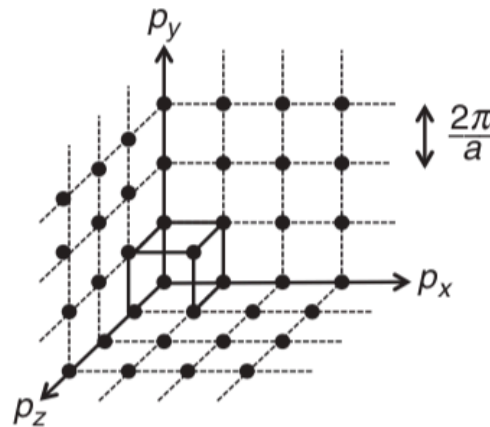
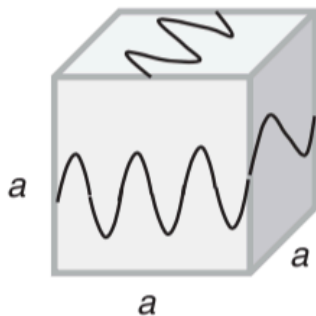




Scattering in QM

- Density of states (or phase space): the number of states dn with magnitude of momentum in the range $p \rightarrow p + dp$ is the volume (in momentum space) divided by the volume of a single state:

$$dn = 4\pi p^2 dp \times \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3}$$





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and the density of states:

$$\rho(E) = \frac{dn}{dE} = \frac{dn}{dp} \left| \frac{dp}{dE} \right|$$

$$\frac{dn}{dp} = \frac{4\pi p^2}{(2\pi)^3} V.$$



Putting everything together:

$$\sigma = \frac{\Gamma}{\phi} = \frac{2\pi T_{fi}^2 \rho(E)}{\phi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_{fi} &= \langle f | \hat{H} | i \rangle \\ &= \int \psi_f^* \hat{H} \psi_i d^3\vec{r} \\ &= \int A e^{-i\vec{p}_f \cdot \vec{r}} V(\vec{r}) A e^{i\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{r}} d^3\vec{r} \\ &= A^2 \int e^{-i\vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}} V(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} \quad ; \quad \vec{q} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad a^3 = 1/V \end{aligned}$$



Putting everything together:

$$\sigma = \frac{\Gamma}{\phi} = \frac{2\pi T_{fi}^2 \rho(E)}{\phi}$$

$$|T_{fi}|^2 = \frac{1}{V^2} \left| \int e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} v(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} \right|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= \frac{v_0}{V} \quad ; \quad \rho(E) = \frac{dN}{dp} \left| \frac{dp}{dE} \right| \\ &= d\Omega p^2 \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{E}{p} \end{aligned}$$



Putting everything together:

$$\sigma = \frac{\Gamma}{\phi} = \frac{2\pi T_{fi}^2 \rho(E)}{\phi}$$

$$d\sigma = 2\pi \frac{1}{v_i} \left| \int e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} \cdot V(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} \right|^2 d\Omega \quad p \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{E}{p} \frac{V}{v_0}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 v_0} \left| \int e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} \cdot V(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} \right|^2 p E$$

If $v \sim c \sim 1$, $p \sim E$, **Born approximation:**

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{E^2}{(2\pi)^2} \left| \int e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} V(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} \right|^2$$



Yukawa potential

- Consider relativistic elastic scattering from a Yukawa potential

$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{g e^{-mr}}{r}$$

- Our matrix element then:

$$\begin{aligned} \int e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}} V(\vec{r}) d^3\vec{r} &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi V(r) e^{iqr \cos \theta} r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty \int_{-1}^{+1} 2\pi V(r) e^{iqr \cos \theta} r^2 d(\cos \theta) dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty 2\pi V(r) \left(\frac{e^{iqr} - e^{-iqr}}{iqr} \right) r^2 dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty 2\pi g \frac{e^{-mr}}{r} \left(\frac{e^{iqr} - e^{-iqr}}{iqr} \right) r^2 dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty 2\pi g e^{-mr} \left(\frac{e^{iqr} - e^{-iqr}}{iq} \right) dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{2\pi g}{iq} (e^{-r(m-iq)} - e^{-r(m+iq)}) dr \\ &= \frac{2\pi g}{iq} \left(\frac{1}{m-iq} - \frac{1}{m+iq} \right) = \frac{2\pi g}{iq} \frac{2iq}{m^2 + q^2} \\ &= \frac{4\pi g}{m^2 + q^2} \end{aligned}$$

where we chose the z-axis along \mathbf{r} : $\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r} = -qr \cos \theta$



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where we chose the z-axis along \vec{r} : $\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r} = -qr \cos \theta$

$$|M_{if}|^2 = \frac{16\pi^2 g^2}{(m^2 + q^2)^2}$$



- Consider relativistic elastic scattering from a Coulomb potential

$$V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{Z\alpha}{r}$$

$$|M_{if}|^2 = \frac{16\pi^2 Z^2 \alpha^2}{q^4}$$

($m = 0$ and $g = Z\alpha$ in the Yukawa potential)



Rutherford scattering

- Consider relativistic elastic scattering from a Coulomb potential

$$V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{Z\alpha}{r}$$

$$|M_{if}|^2 = \frac{16\pi^2 Z^2 \alpha^2}{q^4}$$

($m = 0$ and $g = Z\alpha$ in the Yukawa potential)

$$\vec{q} = \vec{p}_f - \vec{p}_i$$

$$|\vec{q}|^2 = 2|\vec{p}|^2(1 - \cos \theta) = 4E^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$



- Consider relativistic elastic scattering from a Coulomb potential

$$V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{Z\alpha}{r}$$

$$|M_{if}|^2 = \frac{16\pi^2 Z^2 \alpha^2}{q^4}$$

the differential cross section then:

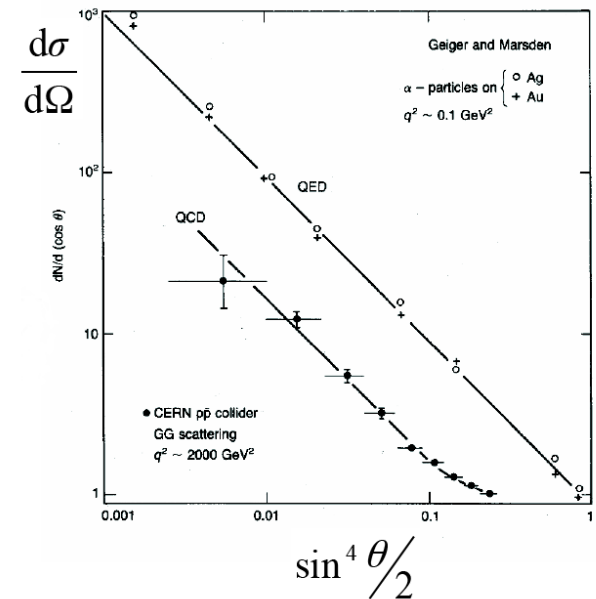
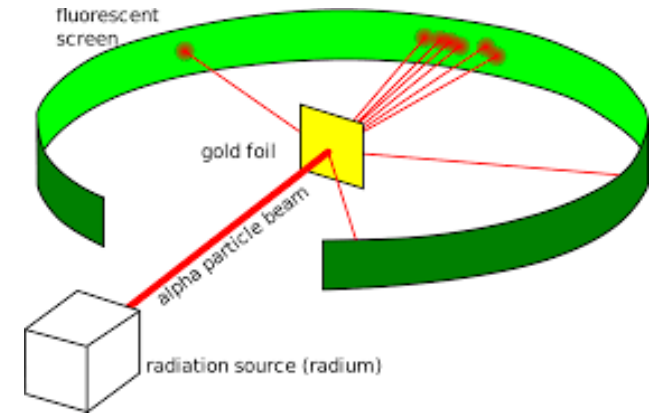
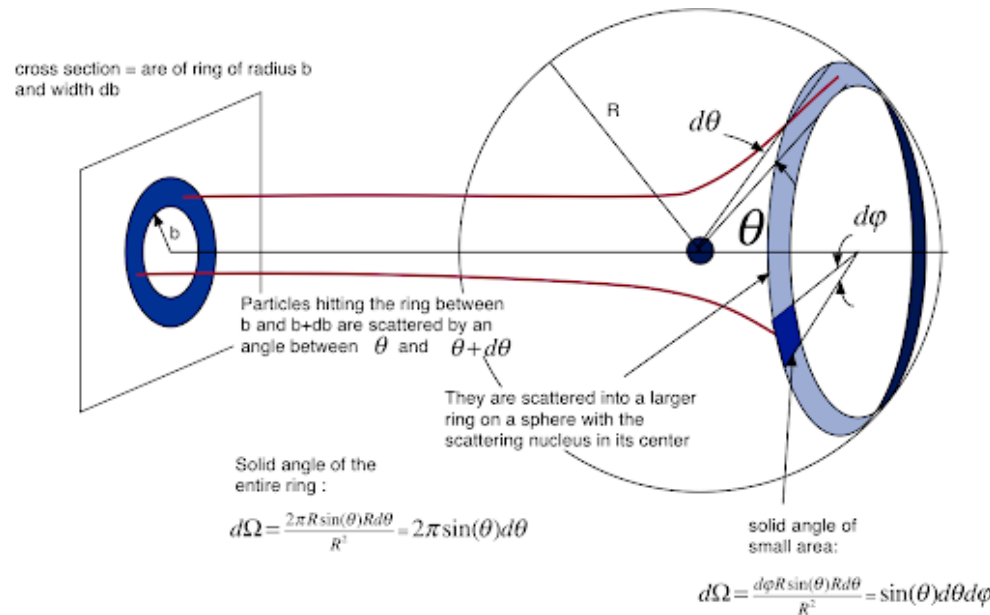
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{E^2}{(2\pi)^2} |\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{E^2}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{16\pi^2 Z^2 \alpha^2}{16E^4 \sin^4 \frac{\theta}{2}}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{Z^2 \alpha^2}{4E^2 \sin^4 \frac{\theta}{2}}$$



Geiger-Marsden experiment

- *Fixed target* experiment
- Alpha particles shot at a target
- Metal foil as target (Au and Ag)





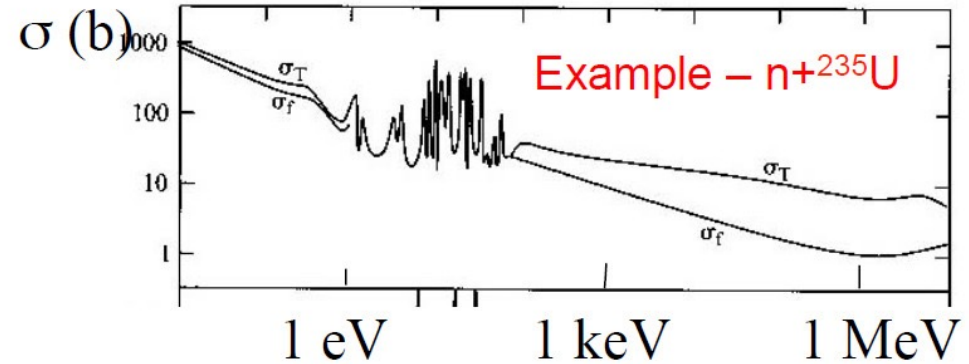
Resonant scattering

- Some particle interactions occur via an intermediate resonant state which then decays



- The matrix element is given by second order perturbation theory

$$T_{fi} = \langle f|V|i\rangle + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\langle f|V|j\rangle \langle j|V|i\rangle}{E_i - E_j}$$





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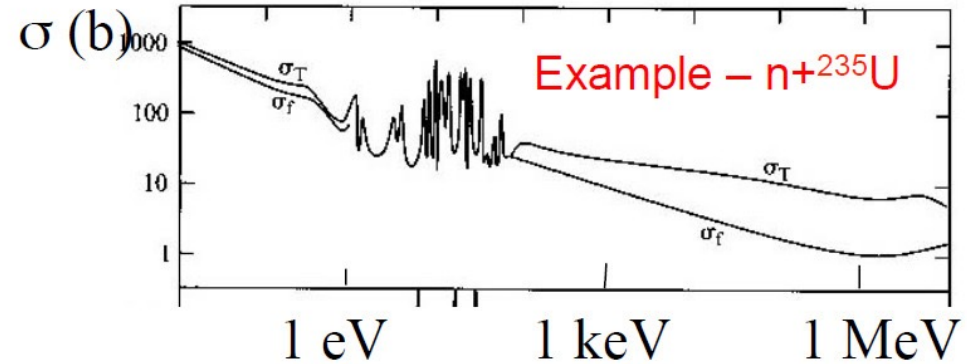
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- Two stage picture:

Production: $a + b \rightarrow O$

Decay: $O \rightarrow c + d$





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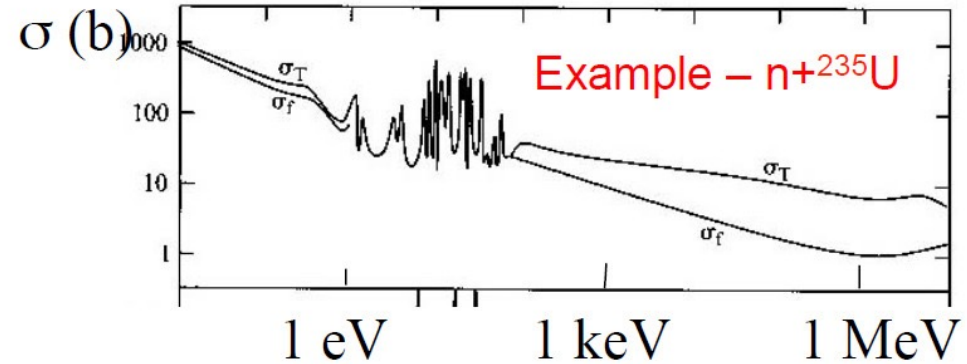
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Production: $a + b \rightarrow O$ Decay: $O \rightarrow c + d$

- Near the *resonance* ($E \sim E_0 \sim M_0$) – 2nd order effects are large





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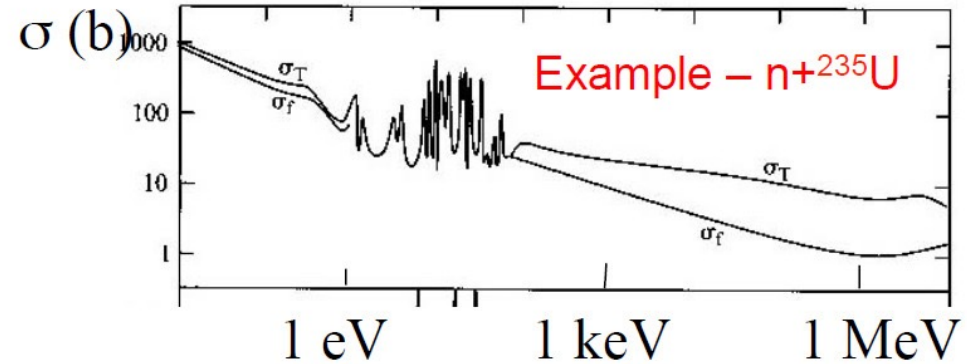
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- Near the *resonance* ($E \sim E_0 \sim m_0$) – 2nd order effects are large
- To account for the fact that O is unstable:

$$\psi \propto e^{-imt} \quad \rightarrow \quad \psi \propto e^{-imt} e^{-\Gamma t/2}$$

$$m \rightarrow m - i\Gamma/2$$





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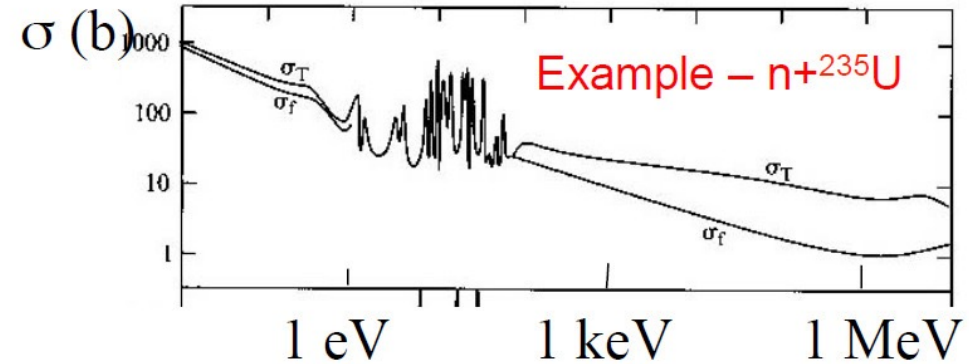


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$$T_{fi} = \langle f|V|i\rangle + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\langle f|V|j\rangle \langle j|V|i\rangle}{E_i - E_j}$$

- The matrix element squared is then:

$$|T_{fi}|^2 = \frac{|T_{fo}|^2 |T_{oi}|^2}{(E - E_0)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$





Resonant scattering

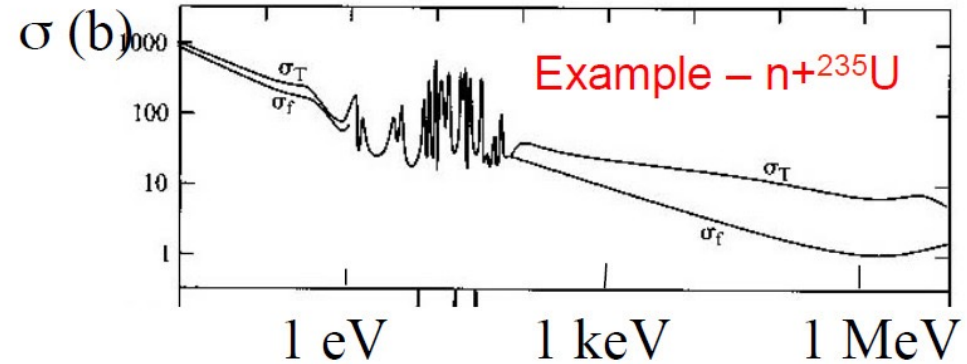
- Some particle interactions occur via an intermediate resonant state which then decays



- So we have for the cross section:

$$\sigma = \frac{\pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma_{O \rightarrow f}}{(E - E_O)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$

this is the **Breit-Wigner** cross section





Resonant scattering

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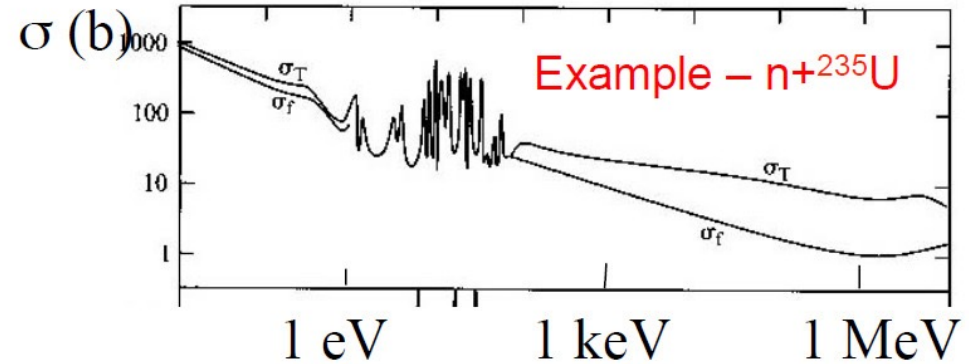


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this is the **Breit-Wigner** cross section

- p_i^2 is calculated in the centre-of-mass frame
- E is the centre-of-mass energy,
- E_O is the rest mass of the resonance
- $\Gamma_{O \rightarrow x}$ are partial widths and Γ the full width of the resonance





- We should also include information about spin:

$$\sigma = \frac{g\pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma_{O \rightarrow f}}{(E - E_O)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$

with:

$$g = \frac{2J_O + 1}{(2J_a + 1)(2J_b + 1)}$$

is the ratio of the number of spin states for the resonant state to the total number of spin states for the $a + b$ system

- It is the probability that $a + b$ collide in the correct spin state to form the resonance O



- We can use measurements of cross sections to infer other information
- Total cross section:

$$\sigma_{tot} = \sum_f \sigma(i \rightarrow f)$$
$$\sigma_{tot} = \frac{g\pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma}{(E - E_O)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$



Resonant scattering

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$$\sigma_{tot} = \sum_f \sigma(i \rightarrow f)$$
$$\sigma_{tot} = \frac{g\pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma}{(E - E_O)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$

- Elastic cross section:

$$\sigma_{el} = \sigma(i \rightarrow i)$$
$$\sigma = \frac{g\pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma_{O \rightarrow i}}{(E - E_O)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$



Resonant scattering

- We can use measurements of cross sections to infer other information
- On peak resonance ($E = E_0$)

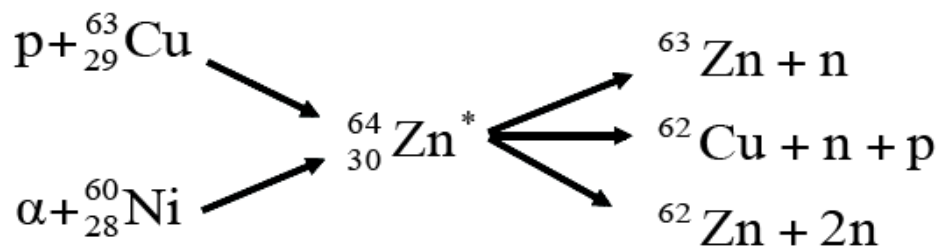
$$\sigma_{peak} = \frac{g^4 \pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma_{O \rightarrow f}}{\Gamma^2}$$

$$\sigma_{peak-el} = \frac{g^4 \pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i} \Gamma_{O \rightarrow i}}{\Gamma^2} = \frac{g^4 \pi}{p_i^2} BR(i)^2$$

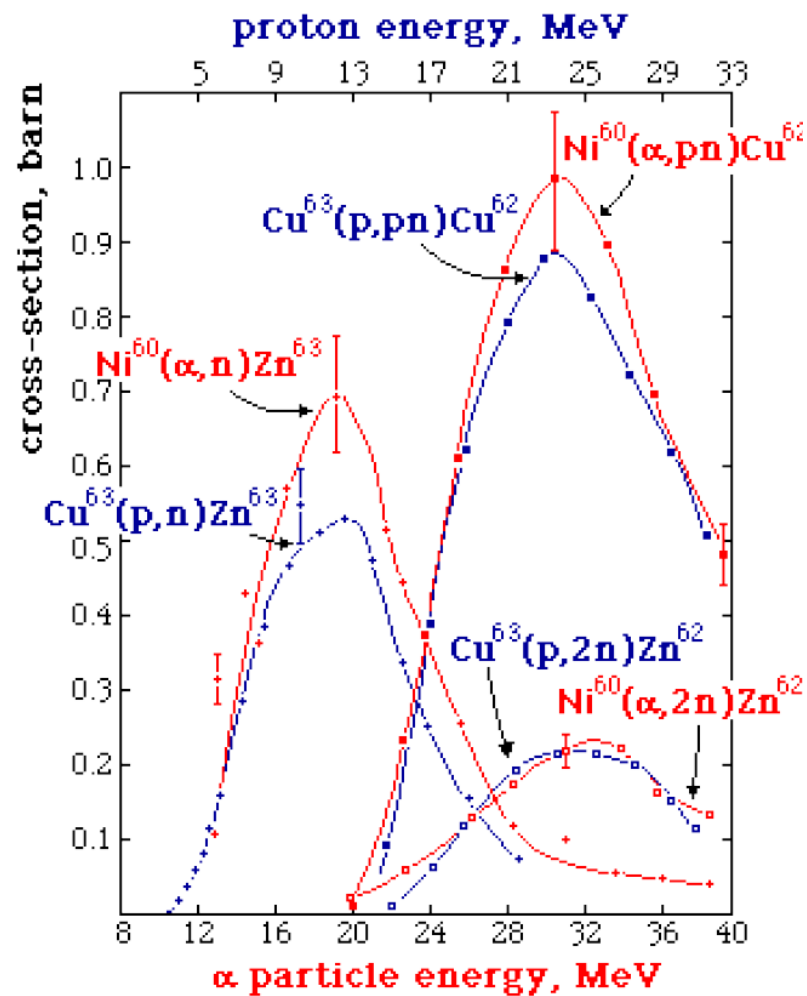
$$\sigma_{peak-tot} = \frac{g^4 \pi}{p_i^2} \frac{\Gamma_{O \rightarrow i}}{\Gamma} = \frac{g^4 \pi}{p_i^2} BR(i)$$



Resonances (nuclear physics)



- Production independent of decay
- We can see the 3 resonances from the 2 production mechanisms
- Notation in nuclear physics:
 $a + B \rightarrow c + D = B(a, c)D$

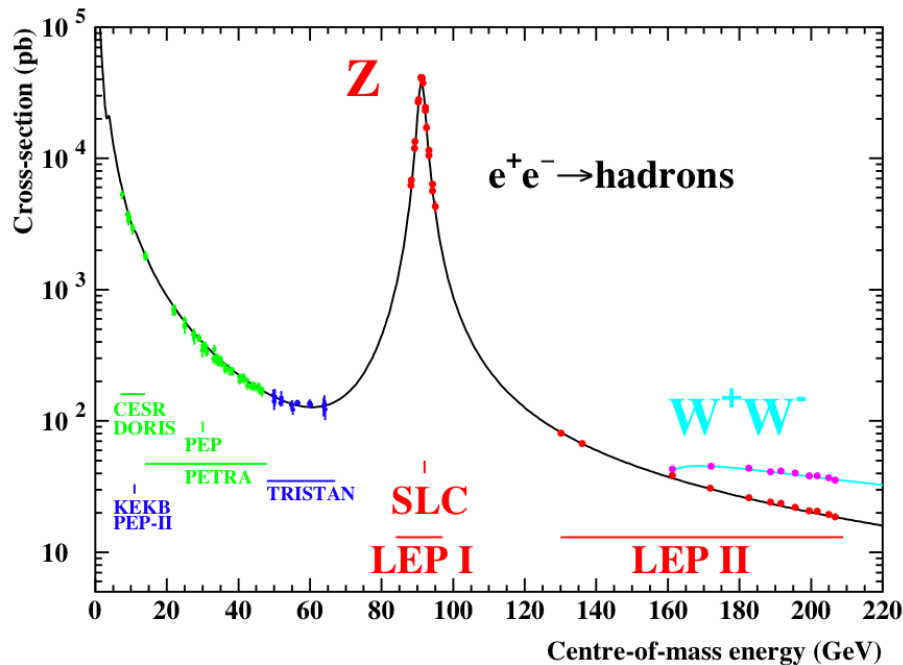
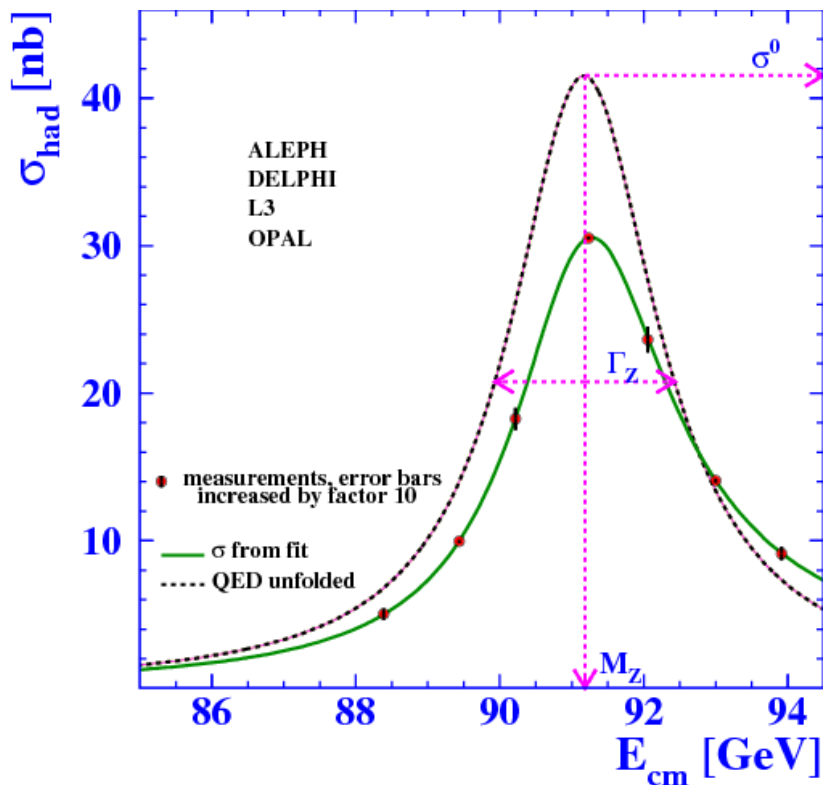




Resonances (particle physics)

- Z boson at LEP

$$m_Z = 91.1875 \pm 0.0021 \text{ GeV}$$



- Total decay width

$$\Gamma_Z = 2.4952 \pm 0.0023 \text{ GeV}$$

- Peak cross section



Example

- $\pi^- p$ scattering: Resonance at $p_{\pi}^{\text{lab}} \sim 0.3 \text{ GeV}$, $E_{\text{cm}} = 1.25 \text{ GeV}$.
 $\sigma_{\text{peak-tot}} = 72 \text{ mb}$, $\sigma_{\text{peak-el}} = 28 \text{ mb}$. Find g and J_0 ($J_p = \frac{1}{2}, J_{\pi} = 0$)

