

From para-positronium to para-charmonium

Milena Piotrowska¹

in collaboration with Francesco Giacosa ^{1,2}

¹ Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce ² Goethe University, Frankfurt



65. Jubilee Cracow School of Theoretical Physics

Zakopane, June 14–21, 2025

1 Introduction

2 Composite model

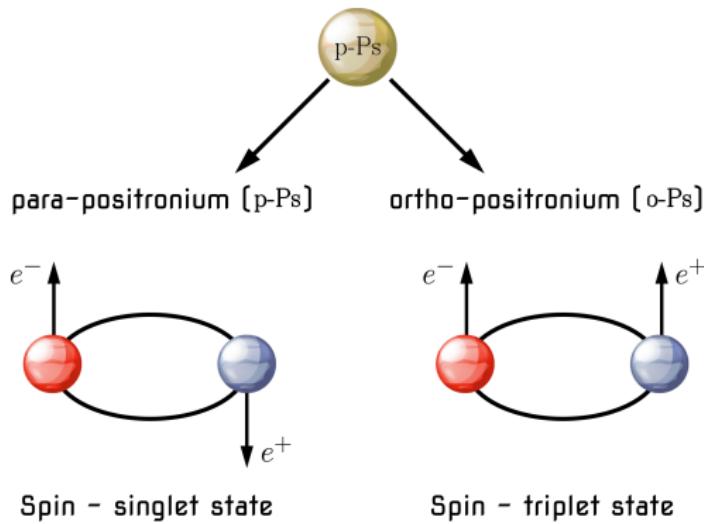
3 Summary

Motivation

- ◀ QFT techniques for positronium.
- ◀ QFT corrections (on top of non-rel results) should be small: is it true?
- ◀ Can we learn something about the QFT treatment out of the comparison with the known positronium results?
- ◀ Can QFT tell us something on its own interesting about positronium?
- ◀ Positronium shares some similarities with the pion.
- ◀ Para-positronium and para-charmonium: similarities in structure, differences in dynamics – can both be captured in one approach?

Introduction: positronium

Positronium (Ps): non-relativistic electron-positron bound state



Introduction: para-positronium

PARA-POSITRONIUM (p-Ps)

Mass of positronium

$$2m_e - \left(\frac{\alpha^2 m_e}{4} \right)$$

m_e – mass of the electron α – fine structure constant

Quantum numbers

Non-relativistic notation

relativistic notation

$$n^{-2S+1} L_J = 1^{-1} S_0$$

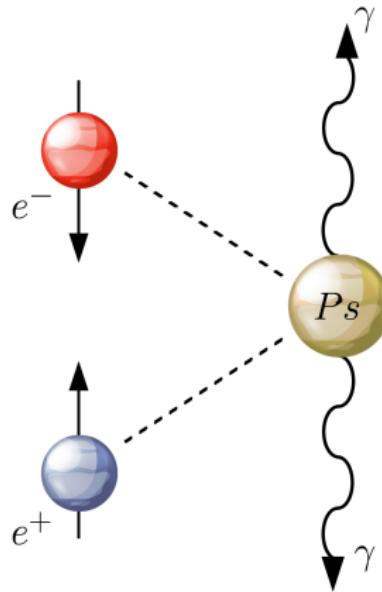
$$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$$

Wave function

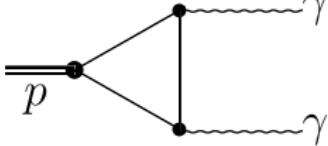
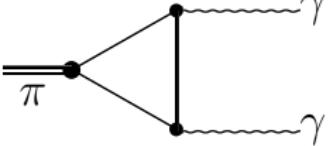
$$\psi(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{(\pi a^3)^{1/2}} e^{-r/a}$$

a – twice the Bohr radius of atomic hydrogen

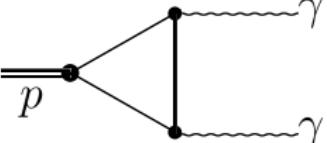
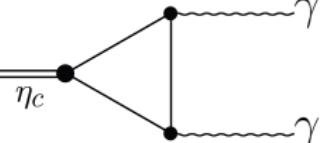
Decays of $p - Ps$



Decays into any even number of photons (2, 4, 6,...) are also possible

PARA-POSITRIONIUM (p-Ps)	PION (π^0)
Ground state for electron-positron system $(n = 1)$	Ground state for quark-antiquark system $(n = 1)$
Non-relativistic state	Relativistic state (Goldstone boson)
$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$	$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$
Decays into $\gamma\gamma$	Decays into $\gamma\gamma$
	
electrons are going around	quarks are going around
e^- propagator \neq quark propagator	
Yet, in first approximation quark is taken as a free propagator	

PARA-POSITRIONIUM (p-Ps)**PARA-CHARMONIUM (η_c)**

Ground state for electron-positron system ($n = 1$)	Ground state for charm-anticharm system ($n = 1$)
Non-relativistic state	Non-relativistic state (with sizable relativistic corrections)
$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$	$J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$
Decays into $\gamma\gamma$	Decays into $\gamma\gamma$
	
electrons are going around	quarks are going around
e^- propagator \neq quark propagator	
Yet, in first approximation quark is taken as a free propagator	

Lowest order decay width

$\Gamma(p\text{-Ps} \rightarrow 2\gamma) = \frac{\alpha^5 m_e}{2}$	
Theory*	Experiment**
$8032.5028(1) \mu s^{-1}$	$7990.9(1.7) \mu s^{-1}$
mean lifetime of $\sim 0.12 \text{ ns}$	

* J.A. Wheeler, Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 48, 219 (1946).

J. Pirenne, Arch. Sci. Phys. Nat. 29, 265 (1947)

** Al-Ramadhan, A. H., and D. Gidley (1994), Phys. Rev. Lett. 72, 1632.

Corrections to the decay width

◀ One loop level

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(p\text{-Ps} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) &= \Gamma_0 \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4} - 5 \right) \right\} \\ &= 7985.249 \mu s^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

I. Harris and L.M. Brown, Phys. Rev. 105, 1656 (1957)

◀ Two loop level

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_{p\text{-Ps}} &= \Gamma_0 \left\{ -2\alpha^2 \ln \alpha + B_{2\gamma} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^2 - \frac{3\alpha^3}{2\pi} \ln^2 \alpha + C \frac{\alpha^3}{\pi} \ln \alpha + D \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \right)^3 \right\} \\ &= 7989.6178(2) \mu s^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

G. S. Adkins, N. M. McGovern, R. N. Fell and J. Sapirstein, Phys. Rev. A **68** (2003), 032512

A. Czarnecki and S. G. Karshenboim, [arXiv:hep-ph/9911410 [hep-ph]].

Y. Tomozawa, "Radiative Corrections to Parapositronium Decay," Annals of Physics **128** (1980), 463-490

G. Adkins, "Radiative Corrections to Positronium Decay," Annals of Physics **146** (1983), 78-128

Decay width-general formula

$$\Gamma(Ps \rightarrow n\gamma) = \frac{1}{2J+1} |\psi(0)|^2 \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} [4v\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow n\gamma)]$$

where:

$|\psi(0)|^2$ - a probability that e^- and e^+ meet each other in the positronium
 v - electron-positron relative velocity

σ - electron-positron annihilation cross-section

J - total spin of the positronium

Still, wave function at the origin only!

The lowest order

At the lowest order it becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(^1S_0 \rightarrow 2\gamma) &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^4 |\psi(\vec{x} = 0)|^2}{\pi m^4} \int_0^\infty |\vec{k}_1|^2 \delta(2m - 2|\vec{k}_1|) d|\vec{k}_1| = \\ &= \frac{e^4 |\psi(\vec{x} = 0)|^2}{4^2} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{m^2} |\psi(\vec{x} = 0)|^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}|\psi(\vec{x} = 0)|^2 &\sim \alpha^3 \\ |\psi(\vec{x} = 0)| &\sim \alpha^{3/2}\end{aligned}$$

Scalar model

Acta Physica Polonica B Proceedings Supplement **17, 1-A7 (2024)**

A QFT SCALAR TOY MODEL ANALOGOUS TO POSITRONIUM AND PION DECAYS*

M. PIOTROWSKA^a, F. GIACOSA^{a,b}

^aInstitute of Physics, Jan Kochanowski University
Uniwersytecka 7, 25-406 Kielce, Poland

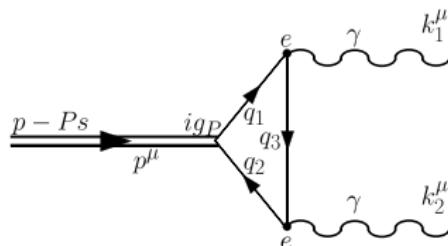
^bInstitute for Theoretical Physics, J.W. Goethe University
Max-von-Laue-Str. 1, 60438 Frankfurt, Germany

*Received 11 November 2023, accepted 8 December 2023,
published online 26 February 2024*

In the framework of a scalar QFT, we evaluate the decay of an initial massive state into two massless particles through a triangle-shaped diagram in which virtual fields propagate. Under certain conditions, the decaying state can be seen as a bound state, thus it is analogous to the neutral pion (quark–antiquark pair) and to the positronium (electron–positron pair), which decay into two photons. While the pion is a relativistic composite object, the positronium is a non-relativistic compound close to the threshold. We examine similarities and differences between these two types of bound states.

The Lagrangian

TRIANGLE DIAGRAM



EXTERNAL MOMENTA

- ◀ $p^\mu = (M_P, \vec{0})$
- ◀ $k_1^\mu = (\omega, 0, 0, \omega)$
- ◀ $k_2^\mu = (\omega, 0, 0, -\omega)$
 $(\omega = \frac{M_P}{2})$

INTERNAL MOMENTA

- ◀ $q_1 = \frac{p}{2} + q$
- ◀ $q_2 = \frac{p}{2} - q$
- ◀ $q_3 = \frac{p}{2} + q - k_1$

THE LAGRANGIAN

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = g_P P(x) \bar{\psi}(x) i\gamma^5 \psi(x) - e A_\mu(x) \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\mu \psi(x)$$

- $P(x)$ is the pseudoscalar positronium field
- $\psi(x)$ is the electron field
- $A_\mu(x)$ is the photon field
- e is the electric charge of the proton
- g_P is the positronium-constituent coupling constant

TRIANGLE AMPLITUDE I

$$I = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\mathcal{F}(q, p)}{(q_1^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon)(q_2^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon)(q_3^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon)}$$

Solved by using two independent methods:

- ◀ WICK ROTATION METHOD
- ◀ RESIDUE THEOREM

Wick rotation method

Initial variables:

$$q^0, q_x, q_y, q_z$$

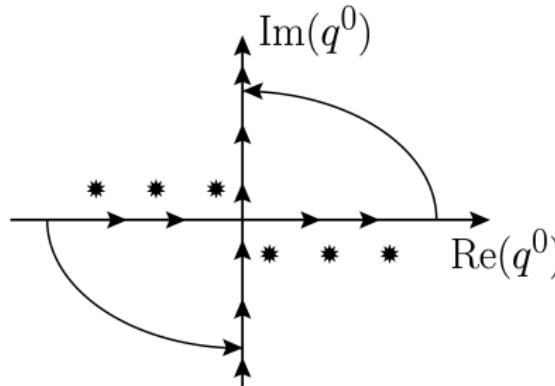
Replacement:

$$\begin{aligned} q^0 &= iw \\ \rho^2 &= q_x^2 + q_y^2 \end{aligned}$$

Final variables:

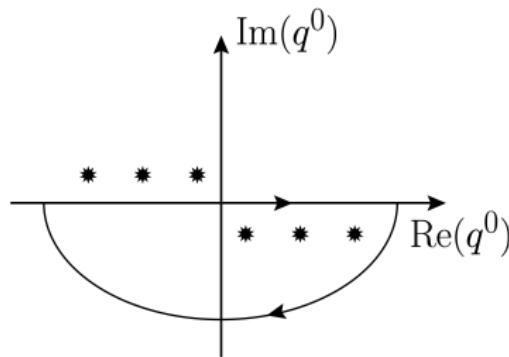
$$\rho, w, q_z$$

$$I = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\mathcal{F}(q,p)}{\text{den}} \xrightarrow{\text{replacement}} i \int_0^\infty \frac{\rho d\rho}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dq_z \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{\mathcal{F}}{D_1 D_2 D_3} dw,$$



Residue theorem

$$\int dq^4 = \int d^3q \int dq^0 \stackrel{\text{Residue theorem}}{=} \int d^3q = \int \rho d\rho dq_z$$



$$\text{TRIANGLE AMPLITUDE I: } I = \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \left[\int \frac{dq^0}{2\pi} \frac{\mathcal{F}}{D_1 D_2 D_3} \right]$$

Triangle amplitude

TRIANGLE AMPLITUDE

$$I = i \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\mathcal{F}(q, p)}{D_1 D_2 D_3}$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{1,2} &= (p/2 \pm q)^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon = (M_P/2 \pm q^0)^2 - \vec{q}^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon, \\ D_3 &= (M_P/2 + q^0 - k_1^0)^2 - (\vec{q} - \vec{k}_1)^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Analytical formulas

By setting $D_{1,2,3}=0$ one gets:

Poles of D_1	Poles of D_2
$L_1 = -\frac{M_P}{2} - \sqrt{\rho^2 + q_z^2 + m_e^2} + i\delta$	$L_2 = \frac{M_P}{2} - \sqrt{\rho^2 + q_z^2 + m_e^2} + i\delta$
$R_1 = -\frac{M_P}{2} + \sqrt{\rho^2 + q_z^2 + m_e^2} - i\delta$	$R_2 = \frac{M_P}{2} + \sqrt{\rho^2 + q_z^2 + m_e^2} - i\delta$
Poles of D_3	
$L_3 = -\sqrt{\rho^2 + (q_z - k_z)^2 + m_e^2} + i\delta$	
$R_3 = \sqrt{\rho^2 + (q_z - k_z)^2 + m_e^2} - i\delta$	

Resulting decay width into $\gamma\gamma$:

$$\Gamma_{P-ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\vec{k}_1|}{8\pi M_P^2} 2 \left| 8m_e 4\pi\alpha g_P I \frac{M_P^2}{4} \right|^2$$

with $|\vec{k}_1| = \frac{M_P}{2}$.

Composite model

COMPOSITE MODEL

Positronium (Ps) is a bound state.

How to describe it?

WEINBERG COMPOSITENESS CONDITIONS

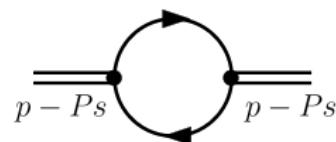
(The positronium is not an elementary object, just as the deuteron)

PARA-POSITRONIUM

- ◀ form factor \sim wave function
- ◀ Loop diagram
- ◀ coupling constant (g) is fixed:

$$g_P = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\Sigma'(s=M_p^2)}}$$

$\Sigma(s = M_p^2)$ - the loop function



Weinberg compositeness conditions

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 137, NUMBER 13

1 FEBRUARY 1965

Evidence That the Deuteron Is Not an Elementary Particle*

STEVEN WEINBERG

Department of Physics and Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California

(Received 30 September 1964)

If the deuteron were an elementary particle then the triplet $n-p$ effective range would be approximately $-ER/(1-Z)$, where $R=4.31$ fm is the usual deuteron radius and Z is the probability of finding the deuteron in a bare elementary-particle state. This formula is model-independent, but has an error of the order of the range $r_s = E_B m_p^2 / (4 \pi \alpha_F)$, or the p - p radius, so it is not useful for determining the deuteron's binding energy, E_B . The experimental value of the effective range is not of order R and negative, but rather of order m_p^{-1} and positive, so Z is small or zero and the deuteron is surely a wholly composite.

I. INTRODUCTION

MANY physicists believe that low-energy experiments can never decide whether a given particle is composite or elementary. I will try to show here that low-energy $n-p$ scattering data allow one to find very strong model-independent evidence that the deuteron is in fact composite, or more precisely, that the probability Z of finding the deuteron in a bare elementary-particle state is very small.

This argument is based on a theorem proven in Secs. II and III, which give formulas¹ for the triplet $n-p$ scattering length and effective range in the limit of small deuteron binding energy:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2} Z(1-Z)/(2-Z)R + O(m_p^{-1}), \quad (1)$$

$$r_s = \frac{1}{2} Z/(1-Z)R + O(m_p^{-1}), \quad (2)$$

where Z is the famous deuteron "field renormalization" constant, and R is the usual deuteron radius

$$R = (2\mu B)^{1/2} = 4.31 \text{ fm} \quad (3)$$

with B the deuteron binding energy and μ the $n-p$ reduced mass. The terms first in (1) and (2) are model-independent and very large for $Z < 1$, while the second terms, called $O(m_p^{-1})$, can be calculated without specific information on the $n-p$ interaction but are expected to be of the order of magnitude of the range $m_p^{-1} = 1.41 \text{ fm}$, and will in any case become negligible for $Z > 1$. In actuality R is three times larger than m_p^{-1} , so the approximate terms in (1) and (2) is reasonably clear cut.

If the deuteron is purely composite then $Z = 0$, and

* Research supported in part by the U. S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Grant No. AF-AFOSR-232-63 and in part by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

¹ After deriving these formulas I became aware that they could also be derived from the theory of the Zachariasen model, as presented by J. S. Dowler, Nuovo Cimento **25**, 228 (1962), and by R. A. Arndt, ibid., p. 242. However, Dowler's derivation does not show that his binding energy result is actually model-independent and does not give the right sign for the $O(m_p^{-1})$ approximation. (There seems to be a factor of 4 lost from Dowler's result for the effective range, but his equation for a is correct.)

The use of Z to distinguish composite from elementary particles was first suggested by Weinberg [Technion J. C. Howard and R. Jozef, Nuovo Cimento **38**, 466 (1960); M. T.

(1) and (2) give in this case

$$a_n = R, \quad r_s = O(m_p^{-1}). \quad (4)$$

This is in agreement with the conclusions of simple potential theory, and, as is well known, it also agrees with the experimental values:

$$a_n = +5.41 \text{ fm}, \quad r_s = -1.75 \text{ fm}. \quad (5)$$

In contrast, if the deuteron had an invisible probability Z of being found in an elementary bare-particle state then a_n would be less than R , and more striking, r_s would be large and negative. This is clearly contradicted by the experimental values (5), so we may conclude that Z is small ($|Z| < 0.2$), and therefore the deuteron is not an elementary particle.

The large values for both a_n and r_s when Z is not zero may suggest to the reader that the effective-range approximation

$$k \cot kR = 1/a_n + r_s^2/k^2/2, \quad (6)$$

may itself break down when the deuteron is elementary. In fact, we will see that this does not happen; it is only the first two terms in the expansion of k in powers of R that become of order R^{-1} for $Z=0$ and $k \ll 1/R$, the third and higher terms being smaller by powers of $(Rm_p)^{-1}$. One well-known consequence of (6) is the relation between a_n , r_s , and R

$$1/kR = -1/a_n + r_s^2/k^2, \quad (7)$$

which is satisfied by (1) and (2) for all Z . It should be stressed that (7) itself tells us nothing about the elementary nature of the deuteron, since (7) follows directly from the requirement that (6) give $\cot k=+1$ (i.e., $k^2 \ll \omega$) when k is extrapolated to the deuteron pole at $k=R$. The true token that the deuteron is com-

Yazhan, R. Ansor, and R. D. Arndt, Phys. Rev. **124**, 3258 (1961); R. Arndt, Nuovo Cimento **25**, 228 (1962); S. Weinberg, "Elementary Particles," in *Handbuch der Physik*, Vol. 33, edited by J. Peierls (CERN, Geneva, 1962), p. 652; A. Salam, Nuovo Cimento **38**, 251 (1962); G. Peterman, *Phys. Rev.* **135**, 775 (1964).

²The point that the experimental values (5) of a_n and r_s are consistent with the theoretical values (1) and (2) for $Z=0$ and $R=4.31$ fm was first made by H. Umezawa, Progr. Theoret. Phys. (Kyoto) **29**, 877 (1960). However, these values do not compute r_s and a_n for $Z=0$ and $R=4.31$ fm. If the deuteron were an elementary particle it would exhibit a large negative $n-p$ effective range.

Comparison with quark model

$$f_{\pi,\eta_c} \sim \int d^3q \frac{A(\vec{q})}{\sqrt{\vec{q}^2 + m^2}}$$

Matching

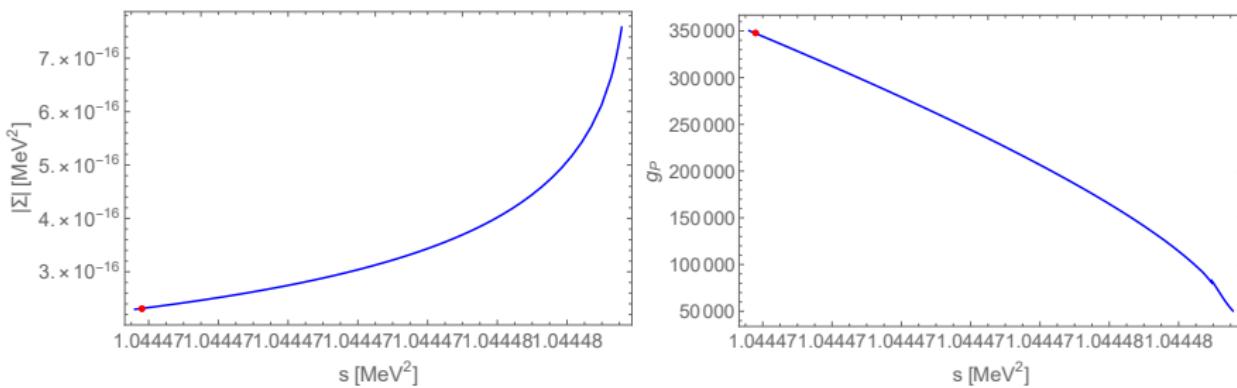
$$\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = A(\vec{q}^2)(\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$$

S. Godfrey and N. Isgur, "Mesons in a Relativized Quark Model with Chromodynamics ,," Phys. Rev. D 32 (1985),189

J. Pestieau, C. Smith and S. Trine, Int. J. Mod. Phys. A 17 (2002), 1355-1398

Vertex function

◀ **Vertex function** $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\vec{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$
with $\gamma^2 = m^2 - \frac{M_P^2}{4}$



* J. Pestieau, C. Smith and S. Trine, "Positronium decay: Gauge invariance and analyticity," Int. J. Mod. Phys. A

Vertex function

◀ **Vertex function** $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\vec{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$

with $\gamma^2 = m^2 - \frac{M_P^2}{4}$

RESULTS

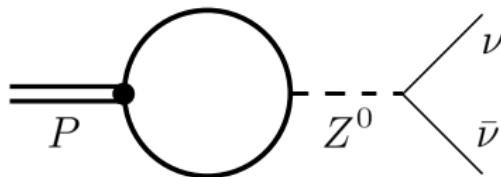
PARA-POSITRIONIUM	$\Gamma_{P-ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\mu s^{-1}]$
Experimental result*	7990.9(1.7)
pole 1	7968.1
pole 1 + pole 2	7995.1
pole 1 + pole 2 + pole 3	7917.9

* Al-Ramadhan, A. H., and D. Gidley (1994), Phys. Rev. Lett. 72, 1632.

Discussion

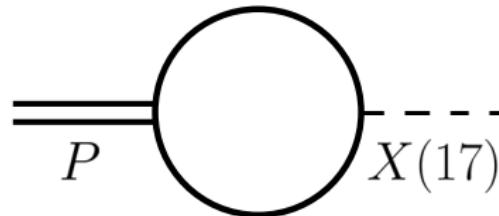
- ◀ idea of poles
 - The contribution to the total decay rate from the first pole is by far the dominant one.
 - The first and second pole contributions to the decay width is positive
 - Interestingly, the third pole gives a negative contribution to the decay width. This contribution goes in good direction but it is even too strong.
- ◀ α -corrections-only some are included.

f_P weak decay constant of positronium



$$\Gamma \sim \frac{m_\nu^2}{m_{Z^0}^4}$$

Proof of principle



η_c

◀ **Vertex function** $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\vec{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$

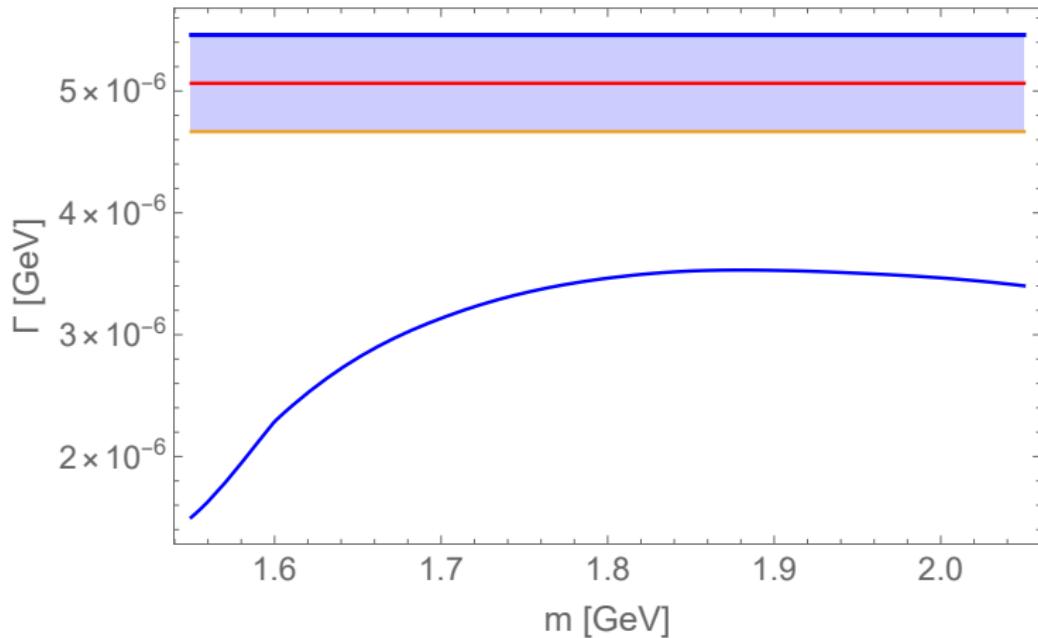
The same as for p-Ps

◀ $m_c = 1.7 \text{ GeV}$

RESULTS

η_c	$\Gamma_{\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\text{GeV}]$
Experimental result*	$5.063 \cdot 10^{-6}$
pole 1	$9.976 \cdot 10^{-6}$
pole 1 + pole 2	$1.553 \cdot 10^{-5}$
pole 1 + pole 2 + pole 3	$3.139 \cdot 10^{-6}$
f_{η_c}	0.465

* P.A. Zyla et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2020, 083C01 (2020)

$\Gamma(m)$ 

η_c

- ◀ we changed $A(\vec{q})$

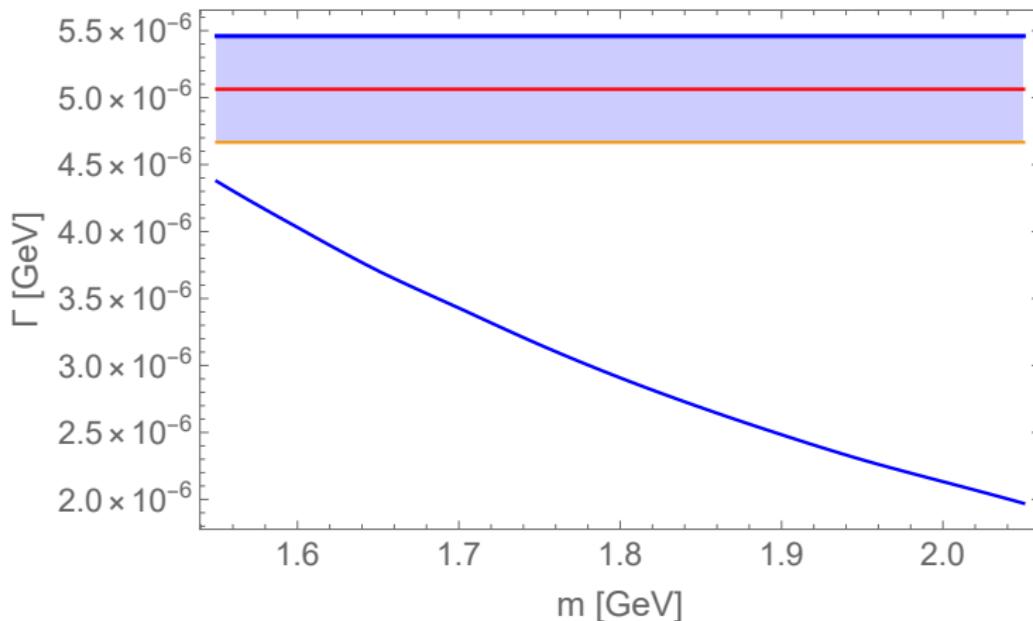
$$A(\vec{q}) = e^{\frac{-\vec{q}^2}{2\Lambda^2}}$$

- ◀ $m_c = 1.5 \text{ GeV}$

RESULTS

η_c	$\Gamma_{\eta_c \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\text{GeV}]$
Experimental result*	$5.063 \cdot 10^{-6}$
pole 1	$8.83 \cdot 10^{-6}$
pole 1 + pole 2	$1.13 \cdot 10^{-5}$
pole 1 + pole 2 + pole 3	$4.76 \cdot 10^{-6}$
f_{η_c}	0.427

* P.A. Zyla et al. (Particle Data Group), Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys. 2020, 083C01 (2020)

$\Gamma(m)$ 

π^0

◀ **Vertex function** $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\vec{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$

The same as for p-Ps

◀ $m_c = 0.25 \text{ GeV}$

RESULTS

π^0	$\Gamma_{\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\text{GeV}]$
Experimental result	$7.80 \cdot 10^{-9}$
Our model	$8.1 \cdot 10^{-9}$
f_π exp.	0.130
f_π our model	0.122

Summary

- ◀ QFT composite model for the positronium studied
- ◀ The same framework was extended to η_c state
- ◀ Weak and exotic decay channels (e.g. to Z^0 or $X(17)$) can be explored within the same formalism.
- ◀ Future applications to excited states ($n = 2, \dots p - P_s$)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Covariance

Question: is it covariant?

$$\vec{q}^2 = \frac{-(pq)^2 + p^2 q^2}{p^2}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(p, q) = \mathcal{F}\left(\frac{-(pq)^2 + p^2 q^2}{p^2}\right) = \mathcal{F}_{RF}(\vec{q}^2)$$

Answer: Yes, it can be seen as covariant.

M. Soltysiak and F. Giacosa, "A covariant nonlocal Lagrangian for the description of the scalar kaonic sector," Acta Phys. Polon. Supp. **9** (2016), 467-472