

Decay Rates of Positronium Species

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It has been known for many years that an electron and its antiparticle, the positron, may together form a metastable hydrogen-like atom, known as positronium or Ps. In 1946, Wheeler speculated that two Ps atoms may combine to form the positronium molecule (Ps_2) stable with respect to auto-dissociation. In 2007, the existence of Ps_2 was confirmed experimentally by David Cassidy and Allen Mills at the University of California.

I will present a determination of the radiation-less and two photon decay rates of Ps_2 . We employ a simple technique to compute the amplitudes and write the products of spinors in terms of gamma matrices, which reduces the computational time and provides more insights into the physics of a reaction. After testing the method with the well known problem of para-positronium (p-Ps) and positronium ion (Ps^{-1}), I will present decay rate calculation of $\text{Ps}_2 \rightarrow e^- e^+$ and $\text{Ps}_2 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, and demonstrate that the previously published results are incorrect.

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