

# QFT composite model to positronium decays

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KAMPAI - Kaonic, Antiprotonic, Muonic, Pionic and “onia” exotic Atoms:  
Interchanging knowledge and recent results

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1 Introduction

2 Composite model

3 Summary

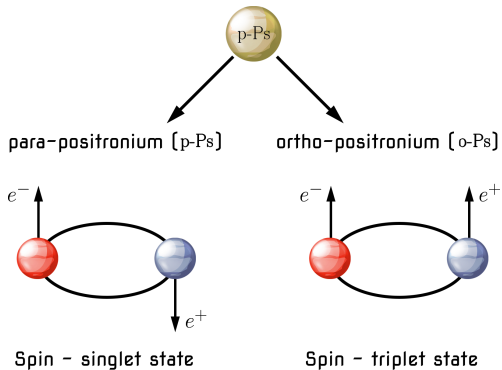
4 Outlook

# 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.

# Introduction:positronium

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



# Introduction: para-positronium

## PARA-POSITRONIUM (p-Ps)

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### Mass of positronium

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

$m_e$  – mass of the electron       $\alpha$  – fine structure constant

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### Quantum numbers

Non-relativistic notation

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

relativistic notation

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

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### Wave function

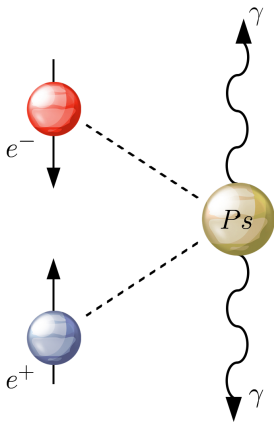
$$\psi(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{(\pi a^3)^{1/2}} e^{-r/a}$$

$a$  – twice the Bohr radius of atomic hydrogen

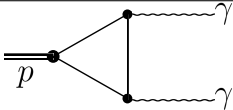
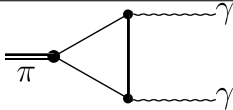
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# Decays of $p - P_s$



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

PARA-POSITRONIUM ( $p\text{-Ps}$ )	PION ( $\pi^0$ )
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 $\gamma\gamma$
 <p>electrons are going around</p>	 <p>quarks are going around</p>
$e^-$ propagator $\neq$ quark propagator	
Yet, in first approximation quark is taken as a free propagator	

# Lowest order decay width

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

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

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

## ◀ Two loop level

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

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]].

## 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

$\sigma$ - electron-positron annihilation cross-section

$J$ - total spin of the positronium

Still, wave function at the origin only!

A. Sen and Z. K. Silagadze, Can. J. Phys. **97** (2019) no.7, 693-700

# 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

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17, 1-A7 (2024)

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

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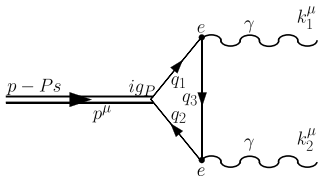
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In the framework of a scalar QFT, we evaluate the decay of an initial massive state into two massless particles through a triangle-shaped diagram in which virtual fields propagate. Under certain conditions, the decaying state can be seen as a bound 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

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

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:

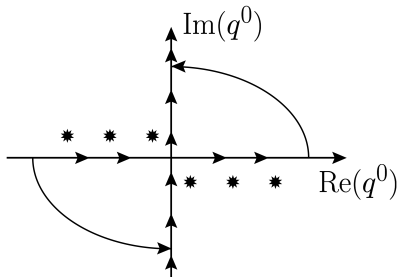
$$q^0 = iw$$

$$\rho^2 = q_x^2 + q_y^2$$

Final variables:

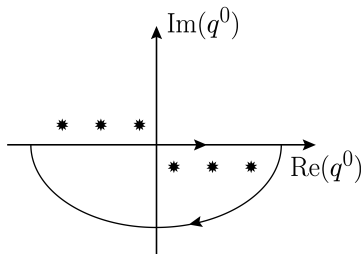
$$\rho, w, q_z$$

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



## Residue theorem

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



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

# 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:

$$D_{1,2} = (p/2 \pm q)^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon = (M_P/2 \pm q^0)^2 - \vec{q}^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon,$$

$$D_3 = (M_P/2 + q^0 - k_1^0)^2 - (\vec{q} - \vec{k}_1)^2 - m_e^2 + i\varepsilon$$



# 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 ( $P_s$ ) is a bound state.

How to describe it?

### WEINBERG COMPOSITENESS CONDITIONS

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

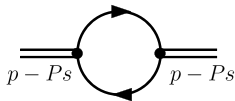
### PARA-POSITRONIUM

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

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

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

- ◀ Loop diagram



## Weinberg compositeness conditions

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 137, NUMBER 23

8 FEBRUARY 1963

## Evidence That the Deuteron Is Not an Elementary Particle\*

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

(Received 30 September 1962)

If the deuteron were an elementary particle then the triplet  $n$ - $p$  effective range would be approximately  $-Z^2/(2-Z)$ , where  $Z=4.31F$  is the usual deuteron radius and  $Z^2$  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  $a_n \approx -1.41F$  of the  $n$ - $p$  force, so it becomes exact only in the limit of small deuteron binding energy, i.e.,  $Z \rightarrow \infty$ . The experimental value of the effective range is not of order  $R$  and appears, but rather of order  $a_n$  and is positive, so  $Z$  is small or zero and the deuteron is mostly or 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 already provide 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 conclusion is based on a theorem proven in Secs. II and III, which give formulae for the triplet  $n$ - $p$  scattering length and effective range in the limit of small deuteron binding energy:

$$a_n = Z^2[(1-Z)/(2-Z)]R + O(m_n^{-1}), \quad (1)$$

$$r_n = -Z/[1-(1-Z)R] + O(m_n^{-1}), \quad (2)$$

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

$$R = (\mu_0 B)^{-1/2} = 4.31 F \quad (3)$$

with  $B$  the deuteron binding energy and  $\mu$  the  $n$ - $p$  reduced mass. The first terms in (1) and (2) are model-independent and become very large for small  $R$ , while the second terms collect  $O(m_n^{-1})$  cannot be calculated without specific information on the  $n$ - $p$  interaction but are expected to be of the order of magnitude of the range  $a_n \approx -1.41F$ , and will in any case become negligible for  $B \rightarrow 0$ . In actuality  $R$  is three times larger than  $a_n$ , so the separation between 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-AP708-232-63 and in part by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

† Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow.

I have derived these formulae I became aware that they could also be obtained in the nonrelativistic limit of the Yukawian model, as outlined by J. S. Dowker, Nuovo Cimento 23, 228 (1962), by using his Eq. (9) in his Eq. (13), and then passing to the limit  $\mu \rightarrow 1$ . However, Dowker's derivation does not show the small binding energy limit is actually model-independent and hence applicable to the deuteron, and he does not make this application. (Others seem to be a factor of 4 less than Dowker's equation for the effective range, but his equation for  $Z$  is not correct.)

The use of  $Z=0$  to distinguish composite from elementary particles has been discussed by many authors, including J. C. Howard and R. Jauch, Nuovo Cimento 18, 466 (1960); M. T.

(1) and (2) give in this case

$$a_n = R; \quad r_n = O(m_n^{-1}). \quad (4)$$

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

$$a_n = +5.41 F; \quad r_n = +1.75 F. \quad (5)$$

In contrast, if the deuteron had an appreciable probability  $Z$  of being found in an elementary bare-particle state then  $a_n$  would be less than  $R$ , and more striking,  $r_n$  would be large and negative. This is clearly contradicted by the experimental values (5), so we may conclude that  $Z$  is small (say  $<0.2$ ), and therefore the deuteron is at least mostly composite.<sup>1</sup>

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

$$k \cot \delta \approx -1/a_n + r_n k^2/2, \quad (6)$$

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  $k \cot \delta$  in powers of  $k^2$  that become of order  $k^2$  for  $Z \neq 0$  and  $k \rightarrow 0$ , the third and higher terms being smaller by powers of  $(R a_n)^{-1}$ . One well-known consequence of (6) is the relation between  $a_n$ ,  $r_n$ , and  $R$

$$1/R = 1/a_n + r_n/2R^2 \quad (7)$$

which is satisfied by (1) and (2) for all  $Z$ . It should be stressed that (7) itself tells us nothing about the elementaryity of the deuteron, since (7) follows directly from the requirement that (6) give  $\cot \delta \rightarrow +i$  (i.e.,  $e^{i\delta} = \infty$ ) as  $k \rightarrow 0$  extrapolated to the deuteron pole at  $k = i/R$ . The true tests that the deuteron is com-

Yaghjian, R. Aasen, and R. D. Amado, Phys. Rev. 124, 1238 (1961); R. Aasen, Nuovo Cimento 24, 159 (1961); S. Weinberg, Proceedings of the 1962 International Conference on High Energy Physics at CERN, edited by J. Preussler (CERN, Geneva, 1962), p. 603; A. Salam, Nuovo Cimento 25, 234 (1958); J. S. Dowker, ibid. 28, 118 (1958); S. Weinberg, Phys. Rev. 134, 776 (1963).

<sup>1</sup>The point that the experimental values (5) of  $a_n$  and  $r_n$  are consistent with  $Z=0$  has been made by H. Kerner, P. Merle, and H. Zimmerman, Prog. Theoret. Phys. (Kyoto) 29, 877 (1963). However, these authors do not compare  $a_n$  and  $r_n$  for  $Z=0$  and hence miss the point that an elementary deuteron would entail a large negative  $n$ - $p$  effective range.

# Vertex function: NAIVE ANSATZ

Our aim: To understand the positronium through QFT (with nonlocal vertex)

◀ **NAIVE ANSATZ 1:**  $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = A(\vec{q})$

$$\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = A(\vec{q}) = \left(1 + \frac{4}{\alpha^4 + m_e^2} \vec{q}^2\right)^{-2}$$

## RESULTS:

-Analytical formula for the non-relativistic limit is correct  
(necessary condition):

$$\Gamma_{p \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} = \frac{\alpha^5 m_e}{2}$$

- $\Gamma_{p \rightarrow \gamma\gamma}$  (by evaluating the full integrals) turns out to be too small  
(factor 2) when compared to the experimental value.

## CONCLUSIONS:

-Assumption of momentum wave function as form factor is not correct.  
-Yet, vertex function must behave as the wave function for small momenta.

# Covariance

**Question:** is it covariant?

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

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

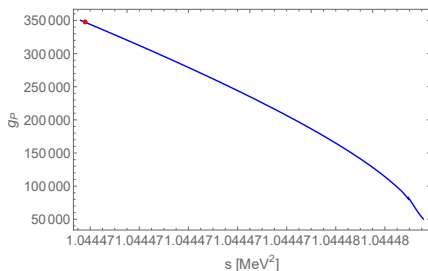
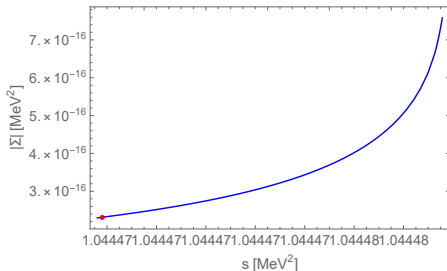
**Answer:** Yes, it can be seen as covariant.

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

# Vertex function: PESTIEAU ANSATZ

◀ PESTIEAU ANSATZ 2\*:  $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\bar{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\bar{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\bar{q}^2 + \gamma^2)$

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* **17** (2002), 1355-1398 doi:10.1142/S0217751X02009606

# Vertex function: PESTIEAU ANSATZ

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

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

## RESULTS

PARA-POSITRONIUM	$\Gamma_{P-ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\mu\text{s}^{-1}]$
Experimental result**	7990.9(1.7)
pole 1	7968.2
pole 1 + pole 2	7995.3
pole 1 + pole 2 + pole 3	7920.3
Result of *	7952.7

\* J. Pestieau, C. Smith and S. Trine, "Positronium decay: Gauge invariance and analyticity," Int. J. Mod. Phys. A **17** (2002), 1355-1398 doi:10.1142/S0217751X02009606

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

## Role of each pole

- ◀ The contribution to the total decay rate from the first pole is by far the dominant one.
- ◀ The ratio of the amplitude contribution of the second pole w.r.t. the first one is 0.00170446.
- ◀ The ratio of the amplitude contribution of the third pole w.r.t. the first one is  $-0.00471415$ .
- ◀ Interestingly, the third pole gives a negative contribution to the decay width. This contribution goes in good direction but it is even too strong.



# Vertex function: our ANSATZ

◀ **OUR ANSATZ 3\***:  $\mathcal{F}(q, p) = \mathcal{F}(\vec{q}^2) = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\vec{q}^2}{\gamma^2}\right)^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2) \sqrt{\vec{q}^2 + m^2}$

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

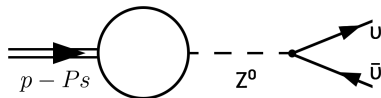
## Motivation

Weak decay constant

$$f_p \sim \int d^3q A(\vec{q})$$

$$f_p \sim \int d^3q \frac{\mathcal{F}(\vec{q})}{\sqrt{\vec{q}^2 + m^2} (\vec{q}^2 + \gamma^2)}$$

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



# Vertex function: our ANSATZ

## RESULTS

PARA-POSITRONIUM	$\Gamma_{P-ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} [\mu s^{-1}]$
Experimental result**	7990.9(1.7)
pole 1	8057.65
pole 1 + pole 2	8121.07
pole 1 + pole 2 + pole 3	7981.45

# Summary

- ◀ QFT composite model for the positronium studied
- ◀ Different Ansatz for the vertex function
- ◀ Non-perturbative approach which makes use of compositeness condition
- ◀ Future applications to excited states ( $n = 2, \dots, p - P_s$ )
- ◀ Other decays of positronium states (weak decay constant, etc.)

# Outlook

- ◀ Decay into four photons.
- ◀ Decay of excited parapositronium states.
- ◀ Decays of the orthopositronium.
- ◀ For the parapositronium, we should perform an expansion in  $\alpha$  of our results and check it with the nrQED results.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION