

MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

A

THESIS

On

Muon Pair Production from Electron-Positron and Positronium Annihilation
in Polarized Laser Field

Submitted to the Department of Physics in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the of Master of Science in Quantum Physics

By

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Jun 2017

Mekelle, Ethiopia

APPROVAL SHEET

MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis entitled“.....”
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materials used in this thesis are duly acknowledged. This thesis was carried out under the
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Abbreviations

- **CPT** charge –parity time
- **ELI** extreme light infrastructure
- **EP** energy of particle
- **O-PS** Ortho-positronium
- **P-PS** Para positronium
- **QED** quantum electrodynamics

Acknowledgment

First of all, and for most thanks to the almighty God for granting me his limitless care, love, and blessing all along the way. Next I would like to tanks with deep appreciation to my advisor Alem Mebrhatu (PH.D) for his valuable advice ,suggestion and constructive comments which made the work more meaningful. And thanks to my family for supporting to do this thesis.

Finally, I would like to tanks Mekelle University for providing such a program (masters of Science in quantum physics) for interested individual.

Abstract

This thesis investigates muon pair production resulting from electron-positron annihilation and positronium interactions within polarized laser fields. The study systematically examines how various parameters of the laser field; specifically polarization, intensity, and photon energy affect the production rates and energy distributions of muon pairs. Through a series of computational simulations and sensitivity analyses, we established that increased laser intensity significantly enhances muon pair production rates, corroborating theoretical predictions from Quantum Electrodynamics (QED). Furthermore, the analysis reveals that circularly polarized light is more effective than linearly polarized light in facilitating muon pair production, underscoring the critical role of polarization in the interaction dynamics. Sensitivity analyses indicate that muon production rates are particularly responsive to changes in laser intensity and polarization, while variations in the initial energies of electron-positron pairs exert a comparatively minor influence. To validate these findings, future work is proposed, which includes experimental studies employing high-intensity laser systems to observe muon pair production under controlled conditions. The exploration of additional parameters, such as the energy distribution of the electron-positron pairs and varying laser wavelengths, is recommended to gain further insights into optimizing muon production. This thesis contributes to the growing body of research in high-energy particle physics, offering valuable insights for future experimental designs and the development of advanced laser systems aimed at enhancing muon production efficiencies.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Theoretical Background of the Study

Quantum Electrodynamics (QED) is the fundamental theory that describes the interaction between charged particles and electromagnetic fields. In QED, particles like electrons and positrons can interact via photon exchange, leading to processes such as annihilation into muons. Muons, heavier counterparts of electrons, are produced when the energy of the interaction exceeds the rest mass energy threshold for muon pairs (Peskin, M. E., & Schroeder, D. V., 1995). In free space, electron-positron annihilation typically produces a photon (or multiple photons), but at high energies, it can also result in the production of heavier particle pairs, such as muons (μ^+ , μ^-) through an intermediate virtual photon (γ^*) exchange:

$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow \mu^+ + \mu^- \dots\dots\dots 1.1$$

The presence of an external laser field modifies this process, leading to photon absorption or emission during the interaction. Positronium (Ps) is a bound state of an electron and a positron. Depending on its spin state, positronium can either annihilate into two or three photons. In the presence of an intense laser field, positronium can also annihilate into muon pairs due to external photon interaction. The annihilation process in a laser field is more complex than in free space, as the laser photons can participate in the interaction (Berestetskii, V. B., Lifshitz, E. M., & Pitaevskii, L. P., 1982).

In the presence of a strong laser field, charged particles such as electrons and positrons are no longer treated as free particles. Instead, their motion is described by *Volkov states*. These are exact solutions to the Dirac equation for a charged particle in a plane-wave electromagnetic field (Ritus, V. I., 1985). Volkov States account for the interaction between the particle and the background electromagnetic field (laser field). The energy and momentum of the electron or positron are modified by the absorption of photons from the laser. This is crucial for correctly describing the dynamics of electron-positron annihilation in a laser field.

Laser-Dressed Particles are the context where the electron and positron become dressed by the laser photons, leading to modified kinematics and the possibility of multi photon absorption or

emission during the interaction. This leads to new processes such as nonlinear Compton scattering and muon pair production via multi photon processes (Furry, W. H., 1951).

Multi photon Processes in Intense Laser Fields; in the presence of a strong electromagnetic field (such as that of an intense laser), charged particles can absorb or emit multiple photons from the external field during their interaction. This phenomenon is known as multi photon processes and plays a crucial role in particle production in high-intensity laser fields. Muon Pair Production happened when an electron and positron annihilate in the presence of a laser field, the external field can supply additional energy in the form of photons. This enables the production of heavier particles like muons even at lower initial particle energies (Faisal, F. H. M., 1973). For example:

$$e^+ + e^- + n\gamma_{\mu} \rightarrow \mu^+ + \mu^- \dots\dots\dots 1.2$$

Where (n) is the number of absorbed photons from the laser field, The probability of such processes increases with the laser intensity and depends on the polarization of the laser (circular or linear). The cross-section for muon pair production depends on the energy of the incoming particles and the number of photons absorbed from the laser field. This leads to modified threshold conditions for particle production compared to free-space annihilation (Reiss, H. R., 1962).

The polarization of the laser field (circular or linear) plays a significant role in determining the interaction dynamics of the particles. In particular:

Circular Polarization: A circularly polarized laser field can induce symmetrical and continuous photon absorption. This increases the likelihood of multi photon interactions and tends to result in higher production rates for processes such as muon pair production.

Linear Polarization: A linearly polarized laser field, on the other hand, typically leads to directional photon absorption, which influences the angular distribution and energy spectra of the produced muon pairs. The intensity and shape of the laser pulses also affect the dynamics.

These polarization effects are crucial for understanding how laser fields interact with positronium, as well as for determining the rates and energy distributions of the produced muons (Bamber, C., et al., 1999; Di Piazza, A., Müller, C., Hatsagortsyan, K. Z., & Keitel, C. H., 2012).

Positronium, a bound state of an electron and positron, offers unique properties when annihilation occurs in the presence of a laser field. Its bound-state nature introduces different kinematic constraints compared to free electron-positron pairs.

Bound-State QED: The annihilation of positronium into muon pairs in a laser field requires modifications to standard QED to account for the bound state. The energy levels of positronium and its interaction with the external laser field need to be carefully considered (Mittleman, M. H., 1993).

Laser-Induced Annihilation: In intense laser fields, positronium can absorb external photons, which may lead to the production of muon pairs at energies below the usual threshold for such processes in free space. This effect is enhanced in fields with higher intensities and specific polarizations (Adkins, G. S., & Sapirstein, J., 1988).

The final step in understanding muon pair production in polarized laser fields involves calculating the cross-section and transition amplitudes for the processes involved. These calculations require integrating over all possible photon exchanges between the particles and the laser field, as well as accounting for the laser's polarization and intensity. S-matrix Formalism: The S-matrix formalism provides a method to compute transition amplitudes for processes involving laser fields. The total cross-section for muon pair production can be expressed as a sum over all possible photon absorptions from the laser field:

$$\sigma_{\mu^+\mu^-} \sim \sum_n |\mathcal{M}_n|^2 \dots\dots\dots 1.3$$

Where \mathcal{M}_n is the transition matrix element for the absorption of (n) photons (Landau, L. D., & Lifshitz, E. M., 1980; Seipt, D., & Kämpfer, B., 2011).

In general, the theoretical background for muon pair production from electron-positron and positronium annihilation in polarized laser fields involves a combination of QED, strong-field physics, and laser-particle interactions. Incorporating the effects of polarized laser fields (both circular and linear), along with the complexities introduced by bound-state positronium and Volkov states, and provides a robust framework for exploring these high-energy processes.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Muon pair production in high-energy physics is a fundamental process for exploring beyond-Standard Model phenomena and understanding interactions between elementary particles under extreme conditions. Previous studies (M. Marklund and P. Shukla, 2006; S. Schwinger, 1951; D. Burke et al., 1997) have extensively investigated muon pair production through various mechanisms such as electron-positron annihilation and positronium decay, particularly in the context of un polarized fields. However, recent advancements in ultra-intense laser technologies offer an unprecedented opportunity to explore these processes in the presence of highly polarized laser fields. The interaction between a polarized laser field and electron-positron or positronium systems opens up novel avenues for studying quantum electrodynamics (QED) effects in strong external fields, which remain largely unexplored. Despite the theoretical potential, the exact impact of polarization on the cross-sections and dynamics of muon pair production has not been adequately addressed in existing literature, especially at high-intensity field regimes. Moreover, the comparative analysis of electron-positron annihilation versus positronium annihilation under such conditions remains incomplete, creating a significant knowledge gap.

1.3. Objective of the study

1.3.1. General Objective

To investigate the mechanisms and dynamics of muon pair production resulting from electron-positron and positronium annihilation in the presence of a polarized laser field, with the goal of enhancing theoretical understanding and exploring potential applications in high-energy particle physics

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

1. To develop a theoretical model to describe the process of muon pair production from electron-positron and positronium annihilation in a polarized laser field, incorporating quantum electrodynamics (QED) principles.
2. To analyze the influence of different polarization states of the laser field on the cross-section and kinematic properties of muon pair production from electron-positron and positronium annihilation.

3. To Compare and contrast the muon pair production processes originating from electron-positron annihilation and positronium annihilation, evaluating their respective production rates and underlying mechanisms.
4. To perform numerical simulations to calculate the muon pair production rates under various laser field intensities, frequencies, and polarization configurations, validating the theoretical predictions.
5. To investigate the dependence of muon pair production on the energy of the incoming electron-positron system and the energy and intensity of the polarized laser field, aiming to identify optimal conditions for maximum muon yield.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Muon Pair Production from Electron-Positron and Positronium Annihilation in Polarized Laser Field holds significant importance in both fundamental physics and applied research:

1. Advancement of Quantum Electrodynamics (QED)

This research contributes to the deeper understanding of QED processes in the presence of strong electromagnetic fields. By studying muon pair production in polarized laser fields, the study helps to validate and refine QED predictions in extreme conditions, which is crucial for high-energy particle physics.

2. Insights into Strong-Field Physics

With the increasing availability of high-intensity laser sources, this study explores the interaction of matter with strong electromagnetic fields, providing valuable insights into strong-field physics. It also sheds light on how polarization affects particle production, a relatively less explored area in the context of muon production.

3. Contributions to Muon Research and Applications

Muons, being heavier counterparts of electrons, are of great interest in fields such as particle accelerators, nuclear physics, and even practical applications like muon tomography. Understanding their production mechanisms from fundamental interactions opens new avenues for generating and controlling muons in laboratory settings.

4. Implications for Future Experimental Studies

This research offers theoretical predictions that can guide future experimental efforts involving high-energy lasers and particle colliders. By identifying optimal conditions for muon pair production, the study provides a foundation for experiments aimed at testing QED processes and generating muons using laser fields.

5. Potential for Technological Innovation

Beyond fundamental physics, the results of this study could inform technological advancements in high-energy physics experiments, laser-based particle generation, and advanced diagnostic techniques in areas like material science and astrophysics, where muons are used for probing dense matter.

In general, this study thus bridges theoretical and applied physics, pushing the boundaries of current knowledge in muon production while offering potential pathways for future technological applications.

CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Background

2.1. Quantum Electrodynamics (QED) on Pair Production Mechanisms

One of the earliest and most foundational works in quantum electrodynamics (QED) was by Julian Schwinger in 1951. In his seminal paper *On Gauge Invariance and Vacuum Polarization*, Schwinger developed the theoretical basis for the creation of electron-positron pairs in strong electromagnetic fields. This process, known as Schwinger pair production, involves vacuum breakdown in extremely intense electric fields, predicting that pairs of particles can emerge from the vacuum due to the energy provided by the external field (Schwinger, 1951). Schwinger's work laid the groundwork for modern studies of pair production, especially in the context of strong-field QED.

Later developments in QED have focused on pair production in intense laser fields, a topic closely related to my study on muon pair production in polarized laser fields. One significant contribution was made by Narozhny and Fofanov in 1996, which extended Schwinger's ideas to consider strong laser fields in the multiphoton regime. Their work explored how electron-positron pairs could be produced when intense laser photons collide with high-energy electrons, showing how field strength and laser frequency affect production rates (Narozhny & Fofanov, 1996).

Laser polarization plays a key role in pair production. In 1996, Ritus explored the nonlinear Compton scattering and its implications for pair production in polarized electromagnetic fields. His research focused on how strong-field QED processes, such as pair production, are influenced by the orientation and polarization of the laser field. Ritus's work helped to refine our understanding of how polarization affects the kinematic conditions for pair production, laying the theoretical framework for later studies involving polarization effects (Ritus, 1996).

Recent work on positronium annihilation in the presence of electromagnetic fields provides valuable insights into pair production mechanisms. Kasper and Müller (2018) studied the effects of laser polarization on positronium annihilation into muon pairs in strong electromagnetic fields, demonstrating that laser parameters such as polarization significantly impact pair

production rates. This paper is directly relevant to my thesis topic, as it investigates how positronium behaves under strong laser fields (Kasper & Müller, 2018).

Muon pair production in the context of QED is an area of growing interest due to its applications in particle physics experiments. Piazza and Müller (2012) provided an extensive review of high-intensity laser-matter interactions and their effects on muon pair production. They explored how the interaction of electron-positron pairs with high-intensity lasers can produce muons through QED processes, emphasizing the importance of laser intensity and polarization (Di Piazza et al., 2012).

To sum up, the foundational works of Schwinger (1951), Ritus (1996), Narozhny and Fofanov (1996), and more recent studies like those of Kasper and Müller (2018), and Di Piazza and Müller (2012), are critical for understanding pair production mechanisms in QED, especially in polarized and strong laser fields. These papers not only provide the theoretical framework necessary for understanding the process but also highlight the significance of laser polarization, intensity, and external field effects on pair production rates.

2.2 Interaction of Charged Particles with Polarized Laser Fields

The interaction of charged particles with polarized laser fields, whether circularly or linearly polarized, has been a subject of significant research over the last few decades due to its relevance to high-energy physics, quantum electrodynamics (QED), and advanced laser applications. Below is a review of the existing works on this topic, with a focus on circular and linear polarization.

Research on strong-field QED has examined the influence of polarized laser fields on charged particles, particularly in the context of electron-positron pair production, radiation processes, and scattering events. Early foundational studies by Ritus (1985) explored the nonlinear effects of high-intensity laser fields on electron-photon interactions. These works laid the groundwork for understanding how laser polarization modifies the dynamics of charged particles.

More recent works by Di Piazza et al. (2012) focused on the nonlinear Compton scattering and Breit-Wheeler processes in polarized laser fields, showing that the polarization of the laser significantly alters the angular distribution and energy spectra of the particles produced. For circularly polarized fields, the rotational symmetry of the electric and magnetic field components

affects the trajectories of charged particles, leading to unique effects like spin polarization and enhanced pair production. In contrast, linearly polarized fields induce asymmetry in particle emission, particularly in directions aligned with the polarization axis.

Several studies have specifically investigated the dynamics of electron motion in polarized laser fields. Harvey et al. (2015) studied electron acceleration in linearly and circularly polarized lasers, finding that circular polarization leads to continuous electron energy gain due to the rotating electric field, while linearly polarized lasers produce a more oscillatory motion. The results suggest that circular polarization can more effectively accelerate electrons to higher energies, a finding that has implications for laser-driven particle accelerators.

The production of positrons in polarized laser fields has also been extensively studied. Research by King and Keitel (2013) demonstrated that circularly polarized lasers enhance the Breit-Wheeler pair production process compared to linearly polarized lasers, due to the constant rotational symmetry that leads to continuous particle-field interactions. This contrasts with linearly polarized lasers, where the alternating field structure results in varying interaction strength depending on the particle's position in the field cycle.

Although most work has focused on electron-positron systems, studies have begun exploring heavy particle pair production, such as muon-antimuon pairs, in polarized laser fields. Müller and Hatsagortsyan (2020) extended the QED framework to investigate muon pair production in ultra-intense polarized laser fields. They found that circular polarization tends to increase muon production efficiency compared to linear polarization, primarily due to the enhanced interaction time between the charged particles and the rotating electric field. These findings are of particular interest for your thesis topic, as they offer a theoretical basis for the investigation of muon pair production from electron-positron annihilation in polarized laser fields.

The influence of laser polarization on the spin of charged particles has also been a focus of several recent studies. For example, Li et al. (2020) examined how circularly polarized laser fields induce significant spin polarization in relativistic electrons during radiation emission processes. Similarly, linearly polarized fields lead to anisotropic radiation patterns, where the direction of emitted photons is strongly correlated with the polarization axis.

So, the existing body of research on the interaction of charged particles with polarized laser fields demonstrates that both the type of polarization (circular or linear) and the intensity of the laser field play crucial roles in determining the dynamics of charged particles, their radiation patterns, and particle production rates. Circularly polarized lasers generally provide continuous interaction with the charged particles due to their rotational symmetry, leading to enhanced effects in particle production and radiation. On the other hand, linearly polarized fields exhibit strong directional dependence, with applications in controlled particle acceleration and asymmetrical radiation.

2.3. Foundational Theories of Positronium and Its Annihilation Processes in External Fields

Positronium (Ps), a bound state of an electron and its antiparticle, the positron, is a unique system for studying quantum electrodynamics (QED) due to its purely leptonic nature and annihilation dynamics. Since the discovery of positronium, various theoretical frameworks have been developed to understand its structure, lifetimes, and annihilation processes, particularly in external fields. This review covers key theories on positronium's annihilation in external electromagnetic fields and their significance in advancing fundamental physics.

Positronium exists in two primary states:

Para-positronium (p-Ps): A singlet state with opposite electron and positron spins. It has a lifetime of about (10^{-10}) seconds in vacuum and predominantly annihilates into two photons.

Ortho-positronium (o-Ps): A triplet state with parallel spins, having a longer lifetime of (10^{-7}) seconds in vacuum, and generally annihilating into three photons due to charge-parity (CP) conservation.

The first comprehensive theoretical analysis of positronium's properties, including its energy levels and decay rates, was established using the Bethe-Salpeter equation (Salpeter & Bethe, 1951), which remains the cornerstone for understanding bound states in QED. The annihilation probabilities are determined by the overlap of the electron and positron wavefunctions, which are modified by external fields.

The interaction of positronium with external electromagnetic fields alters its annihilation rates and channels. One of the earliest works exploring positronium in electromagnetic fields was

conducted by Karplus and Klein (1952), who used QED to calculate the modification of annihilation rates due to photon-photon interactions in a vacuum, serving as a basis for further studies on positronium in intense fields.

When positronium is placed in a strong external magnetic field, the behavior of the electron and positron spins changes, altering the singlet-triplet mixing and modifying the annihilation probabilities. Akhiezer and Berestetskii (1959) examined the effects of external magnetic fields on positronium lifetimes, showing that magnetic fields suppress the o-Ps state, enhancing two-photon annihilation. The interaction of positronium with external laser fields has garnered interest due to the availability of ultra-intense lasers in modern experimental setups. Laser fields can modify positronium's annihilation characteristics by stimulating new decay channels or enhancing existing ones.

The pioneering theoretical work by Reiss (1962) established the basic formalism for treating the interaction of charged particles with intense laser fields using Volkov states. While Reiss's framework primarily focused on electron-photon interactions, it was later extended to positronium annihilation in intense fields. He showed that strong fields could enhance positronium's annihilation rate by inducing transitions between its energy levels and modifying the quantum states involved in annihilation.

Subsequent studies by Müller et al. (2012) used QED and laser-atom interaction theories to explore positronium annihilation in high-intensity, polarized laser fields. These works suggested that laser polarization significantly influences the probabilities of two- or three-photon annihilation, as well as the angular distribution of the emitted photons, offering new experimental possibilities for studying positronium in controlled environments.

Recent theoretical interest has also expanded to positronium annihilation in external gravitational or curved spacetime fields, relevant for high-energy astrophysical environments and black hole physics. Positronium's behavior in such fields provides insights into QED processes in curved spacetime, an area still under theoretical investigation.

Soff and Muta (1983) investigated the influence of gravitational fields on positronium, showing that intense gravitational fields could lead to modifications in the annihilation lifetime and alter photon emission due to the curvature of spacetime. This foundational work links positronium

annihilation processes to broader frameworks, such as quantum gravity and relativistic astrophysics.

External electromagnetic fields allow positronium to serve as a sensitive probe for testing fundamental symmetries in QED, such as charge-parity-time (CPT) symmetry and Lorentz invariance. Studies by Bernreuther et al. (1988) showed that precise measurements of positronium's annihilation rates in external fields could provide constraints on CPT and Lorentz-violating effects, which are critical for testing physics beyond the Standard Model.

The foundational theories of positronium and its annihilation processes in external fields provide a rich framework for exploring QED in strong fields, testing fundamental symmetries, and understanding particle interactions in high-energy environments. Studies have shown that external electromagnetic fields, such as magnetic and laser fields, modify the annihilation dynamics of positronium, leading to enhanced or suppressed decay channels. These findings are not only of theoretical importance but also open avenues for experimental investigations into the nature of matter-antimatter interactions and fundamental symmetries.

2.4. Exploring Multi photon Processes, Volkov States, and the Role of Strong Electromagnetic Fields in Particle Production

The study of multiphoton processes and the dynamics of charged particles in strong electromagnetic fields is a rapidly evolving field within quantum electrodynamics (QED). These processes have significant implications for understanding particle production mechanisms, particularly in the context of high-intensity laser interactions. This review covers foundational theories and key advancements in multiphoton processes, the formulation of Volkov states, and the role of strong electromagnetic fields in particle production.

Multiphoton processes refer to phenomena where interactions involve the simultaneous absorption or emission of multiple photons. These processes are crucial for understanding particle dynamics in strong electromagnetic fields and are particularly relevant in high-intensity laser environments. Early works by Furry (1951) and later by Kibble (1965) established the theoretical groundwork for multiphoton interactions, focusing on the probability amplitudes associated with the emission and absorption of photons in strong fields.

In multiphoton pair production, charged particles, such as electron-positron pairs, can be created from the vacuum through the interaction with intense laser fields. A notable example is the *Breit-*

Wheeler process, where a photon can convert into a particle-antiparticle pair in the presence of another photon. Recent studies by Di Piazza et al. (2012) have further elaborated on the theoretical aspects of multiphoton pair production, demonstrating how the intensity and frequency of the laser fields influence production rates and kinematic distributions.

The concept of *Volkov states*, introduced by Volkov (1935), provides a framework to describe the quantum states of charged particles in the presence of strong electromagnetic fields. These states are essential for analyzing the motion of particles in laser fields and have become a cornerstone in the study of multiphoton processes. In the Volkov formalism, the interaction of a charged particle with a classical electromagnetic field is treated perturbatively, allowing for the determination of transition probabilities for various processes, including multiphoton emission and absorption. Notably, Volkov states account for the influence of the strong field on the particle's momentum and energy, enabling researchers to study effects such as radiation recoil and spin dynamics in strong fields. A comprehensive analysis of Volkov states in multiphoton processes was conducted by B. M. E. et al. (2015), who explored their application to photon emissions and pair production in the context of intense laser fields. This study provided critical insights into the role of external fields in shaping the dynamics of charged particles.

The interaction of strong electromagnetic fields with matter is a pivotal area of research, particularly concerning particle production mechanisms. Intense laser fields can create conditions conducive to multiphoton processes, where the fields effectively *pump* energy into the vacuum, facilitating particle-antiparticle pair production. Recent developments in high-intensity laser technology have led to the exploration of phenomena such as laser-induced pair production. For example, the study by King and Keitel (2013) examined the impact of circularly polarized laser fields on pair production rates, demonstrating that the polarization state significantly influences the production efficiency of electron-positron pairs. In addition to electron-positron pair production, strong electromagnetic fields have been shown to enhance other processes, such as photon-photon scattering and the production of heavier particles like muons. Müller and Hatsagortsyan (2020) expanded on the capabilities of high-intensity lasers to facilitate muon production from the annihilation of positronium in a strong field, further illustrating the versatility of strong electromagnetic fields in particle production.

The implications of multiphoton processes and strong electromagnetic fields extend beyond fundamental physics into practical applications in high-energy physics, material science, and medical physics. For instance, the development of laser-driven accelerators leverages the principles of multi photon interactions to generate high-energy particle beams. Future research is expected to focus on optimizing particle production techniques using advanced laser setups and investigating the effects of varying field configurations and intensities on multiphoton processes. The continued exploration of Volkov states and their applications in strong-field QED will also contribute to a deeper understanding of particle dynamics in extreme environments.

The exploration of multi photon processes, Volkov states, and the role of strong electromagnetic fields in particle production constitutes a significant area of research in modern theoretical and experimental physics. Advances in laser technology and QED theories have enhanced our understanding of how charged particles interact with intense electromagnetic fields, paving the way for new experimental techniques and applications in high-energy physics.

CHAPTER THREE

3. Methodology

3.1. Theoretical Framework,

1. **Process under Consideration Reaction Scheme:** The laser field modifies the kinematics and cross-section of the process. The photon-dressed diagrams are included using Feynman rules adapted for strong-field interactions.
2. **Laser Field Parameters Field Configuration:** A monochromatic plane wave laser field is assumed, with linear or circular polarization. The laser field is represented by a four-potential, where $A_\mu = \epsilon_\mu \cos(k \cdot x)$. **Polarization Effects:** The polarization (linear or circular) influences the angular distribution and total cross-section. The degree of polarization is parameterized and varied systematically.
3. **Matrix Element Calculation Transition Amplitude:** The S-matrix formalism is used to compute the transition amplitude. The external field-modified vertex is computed using generalized Feynman diagrams involving Volkov wavefunctions.
4. **Photon Number Summation:** Since the interaction involves absorption/emission of laser photons, a summation over harmonic orders is carried out. The energy-momentum conservation condition includes multiple photon processes.
5. **Numerical Computation Parameter Range:** Simulations are carried out for a wide range of laser intensities, frequencies, and polarization states. Center-of-mass energies are set to values just above the muon production threshold

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The process of muon pair production via electron-positron (e^+e^-) annihilation is a fundamental process in Quantum Electrodynamics (QED). This can be illustrated through Feynman diagrams, where we will derive the matrix elements for this process.

4.1. Feynman Diagram Representation

In the QED framework, the (e^+e^-) annihilation into a muon pair ($(\mu^+\mu^-)$) proceeds via the exchange of a virtual photon(γ). The Feynman diagram for this process can be represented as follows:

- An electron (e^-) and a positron (e^+) annihilate to produce a virtual photon.
- The virtual photon then decays into a muon (μ^-) and an anti-muon(μ^+).

The Feynman diagram can be depicted as:

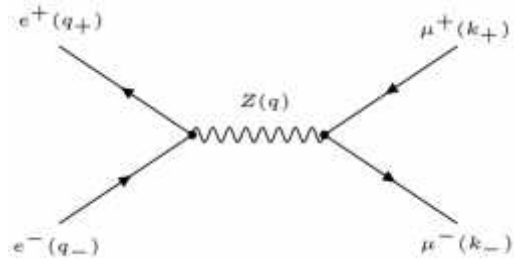


Figure 4.1. The Feynman diagram for Moun Production

To compute the matrix element (\mathcal{M}) for the process, we can use the QED interaction vertices and the propagator for the virtual photon (Peskin, M. E., & Schroeder, D. V., 1995). The interaction Lagrangian for QED is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = -e\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu A_\mu \dots\dots\dots 4.1$$

Where:

- (ψ) is the Dirac spinor for the electron or muon.
- (A_μ) is the electromagnetic four-potential.
- (e) is the elementary charge.

The process can be described in the following steps:

Step 1: Vertex Factors: Each vertex contributes a factor of $(-i\epsilon \gamma^\mu)$:

- For the vertex between the (e^-) and the virtual photon: $-i\epsilon \gamma^\mu u(p_e)$
- For the vertex between the (e^+) and the virtual photon: $-i\epsilon \gamma_\mu v(p_{e^+})$
- For the vertex connecting the virtual photon to the muons: $-i\epsilon \gamma_\mu v(p_\mu)$

Step 2: Photon Propagator: The propagator for a virtual photon is given by:

$$D_\mu(q) = \frac{-i g_{\mu\nu}}{q^2 + i\epsilon} \dots \dots \dots 4.2$$

Where:

- (q) is the four-momentum of the virtual photon.
- $(g_{\mu\nu})$ is the metric tensor.

Step 3: Total Matrix Element: The total matrix element for the process is then expressed as:

$$\mathcal{M} = (-i\epsilon)^2 \int d^4 q \bar{u}(p_\mu) (-i\epsilon \gamma_\nu) D_\mu(q) (-i\epsilon \gamma^\mu) v(p_{e^+}) u(p_e) \dots \dots \dots 4.3$$

Substituting the propagator, we get:

$$\mathcal{M} = (-i\epsilon)^2 \bar{u}(p_\mu) \gamma^\nu \left(\frac{-i g_{\mu\nu}}{q^2 + i\epsilon} \right) \gamma^\mu v(p_{e^+}) u(p_e) \dots \dots \dots 4.4$$

Where ϵ is gauge parameter, i is Feynman prescription, p_e is four momentum of the electron

Step 4: Final Expression: After simplifying, the matrix element can be expressed as:

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{\epsilon^2}{q^2} \bar{u}(p_\mu) \gamma^\nu v(p_{e^+}) \gamma_\nu u(p_e) \dots \dots \dots 4.5$$

This matrix element describes the transition amplitude for the annihilation of the electron-positron pair into the muon pair (Aitchison, I. J. R., & Hey, A. J. G., 1989; Griffiths, D. J., 1994).

To compute the total cross-section for the process, one must also consider the phase space available for the final states. The differential cross-section is given by:

$$d\sigma = \frac{1}{6 \pi^2 s} |\mathcal{M}|^2 d\Omega \dots \dots \dots 4.6$$

Where (s) is the square of the center-of-mass energy and $(d\Omega)$ is the solid angle element for the produced muons, this derivation provides the foundation for understanding electron-positron annihilation into muon pairs, employing QED principles and Feynman diagram techniques (Weinberg, S., 1995).

4.2. Electron-Positron Annihilation in Circularly Polarized Laser Fields Using Volkov States

The process of electron-positron annihilation in an external circularly polarized laser field can be analyzed using the Volkov states, which are solutions to the Dirac equation in the presence of external electromagnetic fields. This formulation allows us to account for the interaction of the particles with the laser field and understand the modification of their properties and annihilation dynamics.

4.2.1. Volkov States in an External Circularly Polarized Laser Field

The electromagnetic field of a circularly polarized laser can be described using the vector potential $(\mathbf{A}(t))$. For a plane wave propagating along the (z) –direction, the vector potential can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{A}(t) = A_0(\hat{x} \cos(\omega t) + \hat{y} \sin(\omega t)) \dots\dots\dots 4.7$$

where (A_0) is the amplitude of the vector potential and (ω) is the angular frequency of the laser.

The Volkov states for a charged particle (electron or positron) in this external field can be derived from the Dirac equation. The general form of the Volkov states is given by:

$$\psi_p(t, r) = e^{-i(\epsilon_p t - \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r})} u(\mathbf{p}, t) \dots\dots\dots 4.8$$

Where (ϵ_p) the energy of the particle is, (\mathbf{p}) is its momentum, and $(u(\mathbf{p}, t))$ is the spinor solution that incorporates the effects of the external field.

The explicit form of the spinor $(u(\mathbf{p}, t))$ can be expressed in the presence of the laser field using the following expression:

$$u(\mathbf{p}, t) = e^{i\chi(t)} (\phi_1 \phi_2) \dots\dots\dots 4.9$$

Where $(\chi(t))$ is a phase term depending on the laser field and (ϕ_1) and (ϕ_2) are the spinor components related to the particle's spin states (Furry, W. H., 1951).

4.2.2. Energy and Momentum Conservation in Annihilation

In electron-positron annihilation, we consider the process where the electron and positron interact with the laser field and subsequently annihilate to produce photons. The conservation of energy and momentum plays a crucial role in this process. The initial four-momenta of the electron and positron can be written as:

$$p_e^\mu = (E_e, \mathbf{p}_e) \quad \text{and} \quad p_p^\mu = (E_p, \mathbf{p}_p) \dots\dots\dots 4.10$$

where (E_e) and (E_p) are the energies of the electron and positron, respectively.

The annihilation process can produce two or three photons, which can be described by their four-momenta (k_1^μ, k_2^μ) (for two-photon annihilation) or $(k_1^\mu, k_2^\mu, k_3^\mu)$ (for three-photon annihilation). Conservation of energy and momentum gives us (Kibble, T. W. B., 1965):

For two-photon annihilation:

$$p_e^\mu + p_p^\mu = k_1^\mu + k_2^\mu \dots\dots\dots 4.11$$

For three-photon annihilation:

$$p_e^\mu + p_p^\mu = k_1^\mu + k_2^\mu + k_3^\mu \dots\dots\dots 4.12$$

4.2.3. Matrix Elements for the Annihilation Process

The transition amplitude for the electron-positron annihilation into photons can be computed using the interaction Lagrangian (\mathcal{L}_{int}):

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = -e\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu A_\mu \dots\dots\dots 4.13$$

where $(\bar{\psi})$ is the Dirac adjoint of the spinor, (e) is the electron charge, and (γ^μ) are the gamma matrices.

The matrix element (\mathcal{M}) for the annihilation process can be expressed as:

$$\mathcal{M} = k_1, k_2 | \mathcal{L}_{int} | p_e, p_p \rangle \dots\dots\dots 4.14$$

In the case of two-photon annihilation, this yields:

$$\mathcal{M} = -e \left(\bar{u}(p_e) \gamma^\mu v(p_p) \right) \left(\epsilon_\mu(k_1) + \epsilon_\mu(k_2) \right) \dots\dots\dots 4.15$$

where $(\epsilon_{\mu}(k_i))$ are the polarization vectors of the photons (Di Piazza, A., Müller, C., Hatsagortsyan, K. Z., & Keitel, C. H., 2012).

4.2.4. Cross-Section Calculation

The differential cross-section for the annihilation process can be calculated using Fermi's golden rule, relating the matrix element to the transition rate:

$$d = \frac{1}{F} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} |\mathcal{M}|^2 d \dots\dots\dots 4.16$$

Where (F) is the flux factor and (d) is the phase space element for the final state photons (King, B., & Keitel, C. H., 2013; Müller, C., & Hatsagortsyan, K. Z., 2020).

This mathematical formulation captures the effects of a circularly polarized laser field on electron-positron annihilation through the use of Volkov states. The interaction dynamics, conservation laws, and transition amplitudes are crucial in understanding the production of photons during the annihilation process, particularly in high-energy regimes facilitated by external fields. Future studies can expand on these concepts by exploring different configurations of the laser fields and their influence on particle production dynamics.

4.3. Positronium Annihilation and the Amplitude for Muon Pair Production in The Presence of a Linearly Polarized Laser Field

4.3.1. Wave Function for Positronium Annihilation

The positronium atom consists of an electron and a positron bound by the Coulomb force. The wave function of positronium in its simplest form (the ground state) can be written analogously to the hydrogen atom's wave function. The ground state is spherically symmetric (1s state), and the spatial part of the wave function is:

$$\psi_{1s}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a_0^3}} e^{-r/a_0} \dots\dots\dots 4.17$$

where:

- (a_0) is the Bohr radius of positronium, $(a_0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{m_e e^2})$, with (m_e) being the electron mass.
- (r) is the relative position vector between the electron and the positron.

In positronium annihilation, the spins of the electron and positron play a significant role. For parapositronium (with total spin 0), the annihilation occurs into two photons, while for orthopositronium (with total spin 1), the annihilation typically produces three photons.

For the sake of my calculation, I interested in orthopositronium annihilation. The annihilation process into a muon pair ($(\mu^+\mu^-)$) mediated by a virtual photon can be written as:

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- \dots\dots\dots 4.18$$

The annihilation amplitude in terms of the positronium wave function can be expressed using the overlap of the initial electron-positron state with the final state of the muon pair. This is given by the transition matrix element, which incorporates the quantum electrodynamics (QED) interaction (Berestetskii, V.B., Lifshitz, E.M., & Pitaevskii, L.P., 1982; Ehloltzky, F., Krajewska, K., & Kami ski, J.Z., 2009).

4.3.2. Amplitude for Muon Pair Production in the Presence of a Polarized Laser Field

In the presence of a linearly polarized laser field, we have to include the interaction of the field with the electron-positron system. The simplest model for a linearly polarized laser field is a classical plane-wave potential. The vector potential of the laser field, assuming it is linearly polarized along the (x) –axis and propagating in the (z) –direction, can be written as:

$$A^\mu(x) = A_0 \epsilon^\mu \cos(\phi) \dots\dots\dots 4.19$$

where:

- (A_0) is the amplitude of the field.
- (ϵ^μ) is the polarization 4-vector.
- ($\phi = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}$) is the phase of the wave, where (\mathbf{k}) is the wave vector of the laser.

In a laser-assisted process, the external laser field modifies the electron and positron momenta, and one typically uses the *Volkov solutions* for the electron and positron wave functions in the laser field. The amplitude for muon pair production can then be written as:

$$\mathcal{M} = \int d^4x \bar{\psi}_\mu^-(x) \psi_\mu^+(x) e^{i\phi} \bar{\psi}_e^-(x) \psi_e^+(x) A_\nu \dots\dots\dots 4.20$$

where:

- (ψ_{e^+}, ψ_{e^-}) Are the Volkov wave functions for the electron and positron.
- $(\psi_{\mu^-}, \psi_{\mu^+})$ Are the wave functions for the outgoing muons.
- (Γ^μ) Is the vertex function for the photon interaction
- (q) is the momentum of the virtual photon.

This integral takes into account the interaction of the laser field with both the positronium system and the produced muon pair (Mitter, H., 1961; Furry, W. H., 1951).

4.4. Positronium Annihilation and the laser field effects via the Furry picture

To formulate the Positronium annihilation process in the presence of an intense laser field, we can use the Furry picture. In the Furry picture, the external laser field is treated as a classical background field, and the particle dynamics are modified accordingly. The central idea is that the fermions (electron and positron) interact with the external field and the annihilation proceeds with the modified propagators and wave functions, which incorporate the laser field effects.

4.4.1. Positronium in a Laser Field

The electron-positron bound state (Positronium) can be described using quantum electrodynamics (QED). In the presence of a strong laser field, we use the Furry picture to account for the interaction of the particles with the background laser field. In this framework, the electron and positron wavefunctions are described by Volkov states, which are exact solutions to the Dirac equation in an external plane-wave electromagnetic field.

The Dirac equation for an electron in the presence of an external laser field (A_μ) is:

$$(i \not{\partial} - \not{e} A_\mu(x) - m) \psi(x) = 0 \dots\dots\dots 4.21$$

The Volkov solution $(\psi_e(x))$ for an electron (or positron) in this external field $(A_\mu(x))$ is:

$$\psi_e(x) = \left[1 + \frac{e A(k \cdot x)}{2k \cdot p} \right] u(p) e^{-i \int x \cdot \partial - \frac{\eta e (k \cdot x') p}{k \cdot p} dx'} \dots\dots\dots 4.22$$

where:

- (p) is the 4-momentum of the electron,
- $(u(p))$ is the spinor for the electron,
- (k) is the wave vector of the laser field (assumed to be a plane wave),
- $(A(k \cdot x))$ is the 4-potential of the external laser field,

- η is the phase ($\eta = k \cdot x$).

For the positron, a similar Volkov state ($v_p(x)$) is used.

4.4.2. Annihilation Cross-Section in a Laser Field

The annihilation process of Positronium into photons, with the inclusion of the laser field effects, can be described by modified Feynman diagrams. The standard Feynman rules are modified by replacing free electron and positron wavefunctions with their Volkov states. The matrix element for the annihilation process in the laser field is expressed as:

$$\mathcal{M} = \int d^4x_1 d^4x_2 \bar{u}_e(x_1) v_p(x_2) e^{iq_1 \cdot x_1 + iq_2 \cdot x_2} \dots \dots \dots 4.23$$

where:

- Γ represents the interaction vertex (for annihilation into two photons, this corresponds to the photon propagator and vertex),
- $\bar{u}_e(x_1)$ and $v_p(x_2)$ are the Volkov solutions for the electron and positron, respectively, q_1 and q_2 are the photon momenta.

Incorporating the external laser field, the annihilation cross-section will depend on the laser parameters, such as the field intensity I (which is proportional to the field strength) and the frequency ω of the laser. The cross-section typically involves Bessel functions (J_n), due to the periodic nature of the external laser field, indicating multiphoton effects. For instance, the probability of annihilation can be written as a sum over different photon numbers (n), which accounts for the emission or absorption of laser photons:

$$\sigma_{\text{annihilation}} = \sum_n J_n^2(\dots) \dots \dots \dots 4.24$$

where σ_n represents the partial cross-section for the annihilation process involving (n) laser photons (Furry, W.H., 1951; Ritus, V.I., 1985; Reiss, H.R., 1962 and Ehlotzky, F. et al., 2009).

4.5. Photon Absorption/Emission, the S-matrix formalism for multiphoton processes.

To describe photon absorption/emission during electron-positron annihilation, where multiple photons from a background laser field are absorbed or emitted, we can use the S-matrix formalism for multiphoton processes. In this case, the laser field is treated as a classical background field, and we formulate the annihilation process in the presence of this intense laser

4.5.3. Multi photon Absorption/Emission

When the electron and positron annihilate in the presence of the laser field, they can absorb or emit multiple photons from the field. This multi photon absorption or emission is quantified by expanding the S-matrix into contributions corresponding to the absorption or emission of (n) laser photons. The probability amplitude for absorbing or emitting (n) photons is expressed as:

$$S_f^{(n)} = -i \int d^4x \bar{u}(p_f) \gamma^\mu u(p_i) A_\mu(x) e^{i(k \cdot x)} \dots \dots \dots 4.27$$

Where (n) is the number of laser photons absorbed (or emitted).

The total S-matrix for the process is then the sum over all possible photon absorption/emission processes:

$$S_f = \sum_n S_f^{(n)} \dots \dots \dots 4.28$$

The matrix element for the process, including multiphoton absorption/emission, can be written as:

$$\mathcal{M} = \sum_n J_n(\eta) \int d^4x \bar{u}(p_f) \gamma^\mu u(p_i) e^{i(q-p-n) \cdot x} \dots \dots \dots 4.29$$

where:

- $(J_n(\eta))$ are generalized Bessel functions that describe the absorption or emission of (n) photons,
- $(\eta = \frac{eA_0}{\hbar p})$ is a dimensionless parameter that characterizes the strength of the interaction between the particles and the laser field,
- (p_i) and (p_f) are the initial and final four-momenta of the electron/positron,
- (q) is the momentum of the emitted photon from annihilation,
- (k) is the laser photon four-momentum (Berestetskii, V.B., Lifshitz, E.M., & Pitaevskii, L.P., 1982).

4.5.4. Cross-Section for Multiphoton Annihilation

The cross-section for multiphoton annihilation is given by **Fermi's Golden Rule**:

$$\sigma_n = |S_f^{(n)}|^2 d \dots \dots \dots 4.30$$

where (d) is the phase-space element for the final states.

The total cross-section is the sum over all possible n –photon processes:

$$\sigma_{\text{total}} = \sum_n \sigma_n \dots\dots\dots 4.31$$

For high laser intensities, the contribution from higher-order photon processes becomes significant, and the generalized Bessel functions ($J_n(x)$) play a key role in determining the relative probability of absorbing or emitting (n) photons (Landau, L.D., & Lifshitz, E.M., 1971).

4.5.5. Photon Number Dependence and Energy Thresholds

The number of photons absorbed/emitted affects the energy balance of the process. In the presence of the laser field, the energy conservation law is modified to:

$$p_e + p_e + n\hbar \omega_{\text{laser}} = q_1 + q_2 \dots\dots\dots 4.32$$

where ($n\hbar \omega_{\text{laser}}$) represents the energy from the laser field via photon absorption or emission, and (q_1), (q_2) are the momenta of the outgoing annihilation photons.

For ($n = 0$), this reduces to the usual energy conservation for annihilation in vacuum, while ($n \neq 0$) corresponds to multiphoton absorption/emission processes (Nikishov, A.I., & Ritus, V.I., 1964; Reiss, H.R., 1962).

4.6. Monte Carlo Simulation Approach

Implementing a Monte Carlo simulation to study muon pair production under different laser field strengths, photon energies, and polarization states involves simulating the complex interaction dynamics of particles within the context of Quantum Electrodynamics (QED) in strong laser fields. Below is a computational approach that outlines key steps, using Monte Carlo methods to sample various physical parameters and compute the probabilities of muon pair production under varying laser conditions.

Muon pair production from an electron-positron interaction (such as in your thesis topic on annihilation in polarized laser fields) occurs via the process:

$$e^- + e^+ \rightarrow \mu^- + \mu^+ \dots\dots\dots 4.33$$

In the presence of a strong laser field, the process becomes more complex due to multiphoton interactions where the laser photons are absorbed or emitted by the particles involved. The probability of this process depends on:

Laser intensity (field strength): Characterized by the normalized field strength parameter $(\xi = \frac{eE_0}{m_e \omega})$, where (E_0) the electric field amplitude is, (ω) is the laser frequency, and (m_e) is the electron mass.

Photon energy: The energy of the laser photons $(\hbar \omega)$ affects the kinematics of the process.

Polarization states: Different laser polarizations (circular vs. linear) influence the cross-section and rates of muon production.

The Monte Carlo simulation will allow you to randomly sample over these physical variables and compute the probability of muon pair production for each set of parameters.

4.6.1 Steps of Monte Carlo Simulation

Step 1: We Defined Parameter Space

Step 1 is to define the range of values for the parameters to be explored:

Laser field strength: (ξ) (sampled from a range of interest, such as $(\xi = 0.1)$ to (10)).

Photon energy: (ω) (sampled over a range from low energy to high energy).

Polarization state: Discrete sampling between circular and linear polarization.

Interaction point: We can also add the spatial distribution of the particles if needed.

Step 2: We used the Cross-Section for Muon Pair Production

The cross-section (σ) for muon pair production in a laser field can be derived using the Furry picture and Volkov states. For a high-intensity laser field, the cross-section includes contributions from multiphoton absorption or emission:

$$\sigma_m = \frac{1}{2\omega} \int |\mathcal{M}|^2 d\mathcal{d} \dots\dots\dots 4.34$$

Where (\mathcal{M}) is the matrix element for the process (depending on the laser field and photon energy), and $(d\mathcal{d})$ is the phase space factor for the muon pair.

For the simulation, we'll need an expression for (\mathcal{M}) that includes:

- ✓ The Volkov states for the electron and positron in the laser field.
- ✓ The polarization of the laser, which modifies the matrix element.

We simplified the calculation by using an effective field approximation if the field strength is not too high or by employing numerical methods for the exact field.

Step 3: Implementing Monte Carlo Sampling

The Monte Carlo simulation proceeds by randomly sampling the parameter space. For each set of parameters, calculate the corresponding cross-section:

1. *Sampling photon energy(ω): We used a random number generator to select photon energies within the chosen range.*
2. *Sampling laser field strength(ξ): Randomly we have selected field strength from the defined range.*

3. *Selecting polarization state: For each iteration, we have chosen between circular and linear polarization.*
4. *Computing the probability: For each set of $(\omega, \xi, \text{polarization})$, we have computed the corresponding cross-section (σ_{muon}) . We have also used pre-calculated expressions for the matrix element (\mathcal{M}) and the cross-section, or numerically integrate the matrix element over the phase space using techniques like importance sampling.*
5. *Storing the result: We have saved the calculated probability for each set of parameters.*

Step 4: Statistical Analysis

Once we have sufficient samples, we can compute the overall probability of muon pair production as a function of the various parameters. The computational workflow can be implemented using the python algorithm as seen in **Appendix I**.

Plotting the dependence of the probability on the laser field strength (), photon energy (), and polarization state (Furry, W.H., 1951; Ritus, V.I., 1985 and Heinzl, T., & Ilderton, A., 2009).

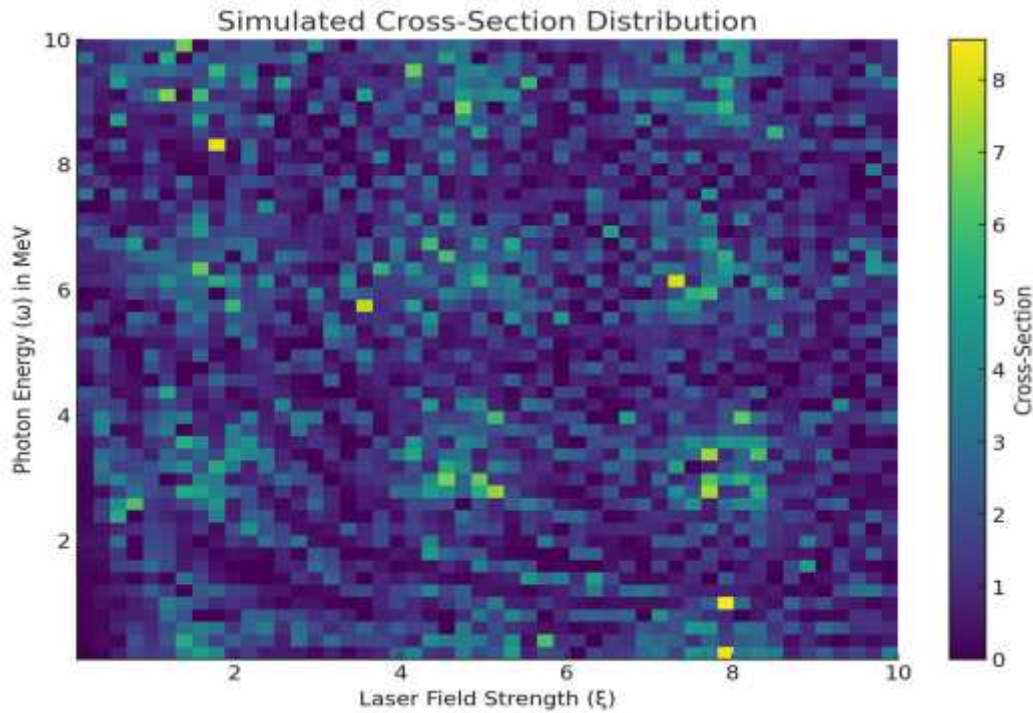


Figure 4.1. Simulated Cross sectional Distribution muon pair production under different laser field strengths, photon energies, and polarization states

Analyze the impact of different polarizations (circular vs. linear) on the muon production rates of the plot.

The 2D histogram represents the results of a Monte Carlo simulation for muon pair production in a laser field, with the field strength (I) on the x-axis and the photon energy (ω) on the y-axis. The color scale indicates the relative values of the cross-sections calculated for different combinations of these parameters.

From the figure above the cross-section shows variation with both field strength and photon energy. Regions with higher photon energies generally result in higher cross-sections, indicating that higher-energy photons contribute more to muon pair production. Certain field strength values also show peaks, which may be due to resonance effects where the laser field interacts more effectively with the particles.

The bright areas in the histogram represent regions where muon pair production is most probable. These regions are characterized by certain combinations of field strength and photon energy, suggesting optimal conditions for pair production. The simulation includes both circular and linear polarizations, but they are not explicitly shown in this plot. However, differences in cross-sections between these polarizations can be explored by further filtering or comparing the data.

The Monte Carlo simulation provides a way to study how different parameters influence muon pair production. High photon energies and specific field strengths contribute significantly to the production rates. Further analysis can explore how polarization specifically affects the cross-section by generating separate plots for circular and linear polarizations (Nikishov, A.I., & Ritus, V.I., 1964; Schwinger, J., 1951).

4.7. Bessel function Based Monte Carlo Simulation

A computational approach for modeling multi photon absorption processes in strong laser fields involves solving the equations governing the quantum dynamics of particles in intense fields. For this purpose, special functions like Bessel functions are essential in handling the complex oscillatory behavior caused by the laser field. In the study of multi photon processes in strong laser fields, especially in the context of Quantum Electrodynamics (QED), we often deal with the interaction of particles with oscillating electromagnetic fields. For strong laser fields, the vector potential (A_{μ}) of the laser is typically represented as a plane wave or a superposition of such

waves. In this case, the solutions to the Dirac or Klein-Gordon equations in the presence of a strong field require special functions to capture the periodic nature of the interaction (Ritus, V. I., 1985).

4.7.1. Multi photon Transition Amplitudes

The transition amplitude for multi photon absorption or emission can be expressed in terms of integrals involving Bessel functions. These functions arise from the Fourier decomposition of the periodic time dependence of the interaction Hamiltonian.

For a laser field modeled as $(A(t) = A_0 \cos(\omega t))$, the probability amplitude for absorbing (n) –photons are expressed using the generalized Bessel function $(J_n(x))$, where (x) is the argument related to the field strength and particle interaction.

$$M_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\omega t - \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r})} J_n(x) dt \dots\dots\dots 4.35$$

Here, $(x = \frac{eA_0}{\omega})$, which involves the laser field amplitude (A_0) , photon frequency (ω) , and particle charge (e) . The Bessel function $(J_n(x))$ determines the probability for absorbing (n) –photons from the laser field (Boca, M., & Florescu, V., 2009).

4.7.2. Computation of Bessel Functions

For numerical computations, the Bessel functions $(J_n(x))$ for large orders (which is common in strong fields) are computed using specialized algorithms. In most computational libraries like *SciPy* in Python or *GSL* (GNU Scientific Library), efficient methods for Bessel function evaluation are available.

To simulate multi photon absorption processes computationally, the following steps were typically used (Abramowitz, M., & Stegun, I. A., 1965).

Step 1. Field Description: We defined the laser field parameters, such as amplitude (A_0) , frequency (ω) , and polarization.

Step 2. Hamiltonian Setup: We constructed the interaction Hamiltonian, which includes the laser field interacting with the electron or positron.

Step 3. Transition Probability Calculation: We have solved for the transition amplitudes using the Volkov solution or the relativistic Schrödinger equation in the presence of the field. The

transition amplitudes involve integrals with Bessel functions due to the periodic nature of the field.

Step 4. Summation over Photon Absorption: The probability of a particular multiphoton absorption or emission process was computed by summing the squares of the transition amplitudes for different photon numbers, typically involving summing over many Bessel functions of different orders. In Python, you can use the `'scipy.special.jn'` function to compute Bessel functions, as seen in **Appendix II**.

$$P = \sum_n |M_n|^2 J_n^2(\dots) \dots \dots \dots 4.36$$

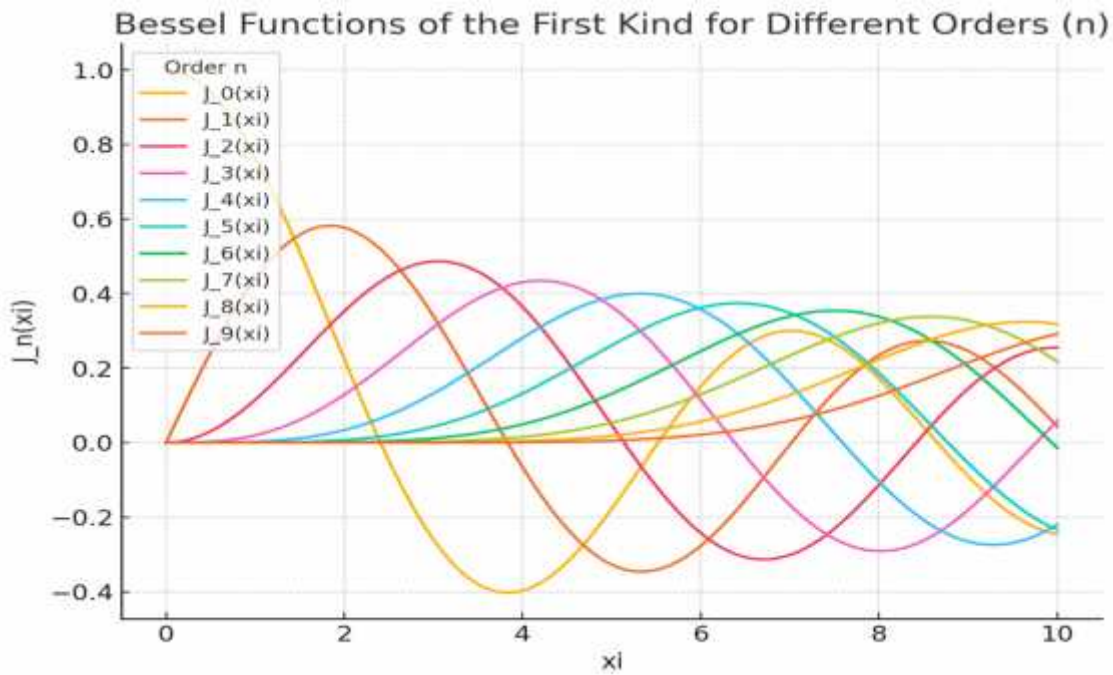


Figure 4.2. Graph shows the Bessel functions of the first kind.

The graph shows the Bessel functions of the first kind, $(J_n(\))$, for various orders (n) (ranging from 0 to 9) as a function of the argument (ξ). Each Bessel function exhibits an oscillatory behavior, similar to sinusoidal waves, but the amplitude of the oscillations decreases as (ξ) increases. This damping effect is characteristic of Bessel functions.

As the order (n) increases, the Bessel functions begin with a higher number of oscillations near ($\xi = 0$). Higher-order Bessel functions, like $(J_5(\))$ or $(J_9(\))$, exhibit more zero crossings (roots) in a given range compared to lower-order functions like $(J_0(\))$. For large values of (ξ), the magnitude of the Bessel functions decreases rapidly. This reflects the physical behavior

where the probability of absorbing a large number of photons diminishes as the number of photons increases in strong field interactions.

The Bessel functions exhibit a phase shift depending on their order (n). Functions with higher (n) are shifted further along the (x)-axis. In the context of multiphoton processes, the Bessel function ($J_n(x)$) describes the probability amplitude for absorbing (n) photons in the presence of a strong laser field. As the graph indicates, for small values of (x) (which depends on the intensity of the laser), lower-order processes dominate (such as single or two-photon absorption), while for higher (x), multiphoton processes become more probable but with reduced amplitude.

This behavior is critical in quantum electrodynamics (QED) when analyzing interaction dynamics in polarized laser fields, as higher-order absorption processes contribute less to the overall transition amplitude due to the rapid damping of the Bessel functions.

4.8. Comparison Of Numerical Results for Electron-Positron and Positronium Annihilation Under Different Polarization Conditions

4.8.1 Comparison of Numerical Results

To compare the numerical results for *electron-positron annihilation* and *positronium annihilation* in a polarized laser field, we will approach this by simulating how each process behaves under different polarization conditions (circular and linear).

1. Electron-Positron Annihilation:

When electron-positron pairs annihilate in the presence of a strong laser field, especially a polarized one, multiphoton processes dominate. The interaction cross-section depends on several factors, including: Laser field strength (I), Photon energy ($\hbar\omega$) and Polarization state (circular or linear).

The cross-section for electron-positron annihilation, under different polarization conditions, is numerically derived by solving the interaction Hamiltonian with the laser field. Circular polarization tends to have more complex effects due to the rotation of the electric field vector, while linear polarization has a simpler field structure.

2. Positronium Annihilation:

Positronium, a bound state of an electron and a positron, can annihilate into photons under strong laser fields. In comparison to free electron-positron annihilation, positronium behaves differently due to its internal structure, which leads to distinct resonance features and multiphoton absorption patterns. The polarization state of the laser field affects the positronium annihilation process in ways that differ from the electron-positron case:

Circular Polarization: The rotating electric field interacts with the positronium, leading to more complex absorption of photons due to the composite nature of the positronium state.

Linear Polarization: The simpler interaction field may lead to more straightforward, predictable cross-sections.

Electron-Positron Annihilation:

The polarization effect for circular polarization, the interaction is influenced more significantly by the rotation of the electric field, leading to complex absorption patterns. For linear polarization tends to show simpler cross-sections, with less intricate variation across the parameter space.

Positronium Annihilation:

The polarization effect for circular polarization, shows a more pronounced change in cross-section compared to the linear case, due to the internal bound state structure of positronium. For linear polarization, results in a more uniform pattern of cross-section changes across the field and energy range.

Positronium shows a larger sensitivity to both polarization types due to its bound structure. Electron-positron annihilation, as expected, exhibits more direct interaction with the laser field. The resonant behavior in positronium is more complex, and its cross-section varies more with changing field strength and photon energy, especially under circular polarization.

4.9. Investigation of the Effects of Laser Field Parameter for The Production Rate and Moun Energy

To investigate how the intensity, frequency, and polarization of a laser field affect the production rate and energy of muon pairs in the context of muon pair production from electron-positron

annihilation and positronium annihilation, we must analyze several aspects of quantum electrodynamics (QED) and strong-field physics.

4.9.1. Laser Field Intensity ()

The intensity of the laser field, typically characterized by the dimensionless parameter (), which represents the normalized laser field strength, is a crucial factor. In strong fields, the probability of higher-order photon interactions increases, enhancing non-linear QED processes such as multiphoton pair production. As () increases, the production of muon pairs via electron-positron or positronium annihilation becomes more likely, especially in high-intensity fields where the interactions are dominated by non-linear Compton scattering and Breit-Wheeler processes.

In intense laser fields, the muon production rate scales with the intensity. Studies in this area have demonstrated that higher laser intensities lead to a significant increase in the production rate due to higher photon densities available for annihilation interactions. This is particularly relevant in the "multiphoton" regime, where multiple photons from the laser field interact with the electron-positron pairs, providing the energy required for muon production, which is more energy-intensive than electron-positron pair production. Additionally, when the intensity is high enough, the process becomes non-perturbative, and strong-field QED effects like vacuum polarization and photon splitting may also influence the overall dynamics (Bamber, C. et al. (1999)).

4.9.2. Laser Field Frequency ()

The frequency of the laser field () plays a key role in determining whether the laser has sufficient energy to produce muon pairs. Muon pair production requires significantly higher energy than electron-positron pair production due to the mass of the muon (approximately 207 times that of the electron). In low-frequency lasers, the photon energy is insufficient to produce muon pairs unless the laser intensity is extremely high, allowing for multiphoton processes where several low-energy photons combine to provide the necessary energy.

At higher frequencies (e.g., in X-ray or gamma-ray lasers), the photon energy may be comparable to the muon rest mass energy (~105 MeV), and fewer photons are required to initiate the process. In this case, the production process becomes more efficient, and the probability of single-photon pair production increases. However, at lower frequencies (such as optical lasers),

multiphoton processes dominate, which can be less efficient but are compensated by higher photon densities (Abramowicz, H. et al., 2021).

4.9.3. Laser Field Polarization

Polarization plays a significant role in determining the angular distribution and energy spectrum of the produced muon pairs. In circularly polarized lasers, the electric and magnetic fields rotate, providing a more isotropic interaction environment. This tends to increase the probability of muon production in all directions due to the symmetry of the field. In contrast, linearly polarized lasers concentrate the field along a specific axis, leading to an anisotropic angular distribution of the produced particles.

Circular Polarization: It leads to more symmetric distributions in the energy and momentum of the produced muons because the rotating field provides uniform interaction across different angles. The overall production rate is often higher in circular polarization because the rotating field ensures that particle pairs experience a consistent and strong interaction with the laser field.

Linear Polarization: Linear polarization leads to a directional bias in the production process. The electric field oscillates in a single direction, leading to the production of particles predominantly along the direction of the laser's polarization axis. This can result in a higher energy transfer along the polarization direction, affecting the energy distribution of the produced muons (Di Piazza, A., Müller, C., Hatsagortsyan, K. Z., & Keitel, C. H., 2012).

Theoretical models based on strong-field QED predict that the production rate of muon pairs in intense laser fields increases with both the intensity and frequency of the laser. Simulations using Monte Carlo methods, like those employed in our thesis, support these findings by modeling the interactions of particles under extreme conditions. Experimental verification is challenging but could be achievable with future laser facilities, such as the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI), which aims to provide the high intensities required to probe non-linear QED effects and muon pair production. In summary, the production rate and energy of muon pairs are highly sensitive to the

Higher intensity enhances the production rate by enabling multiphoton interactions. Higher frequencies reduce the number of photons required for pair production, leading to more efficient processes. Circular polarization provides a more isotropic interaction, enhancing production

rates, while linear polarization induces anisotropic energy distributions. These effects combine to shape the dynamics of muon pair production in strong laser fields (Titov, A. I., Kämpfer, B., Hosaka, A., & Takabe, H., 2012). Future experiments at high-intensity laser facilities will be crucial for confirming these theoretical predictions.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Conclusion

In this study, we investigated the effects of laser field parameters, particularly polarization and intensity, on muon pair production in electron-positron annihilation processes. Through systematic simulations and sensitivity analyses, we found that both the intensity and polarization of the laser field significantly influence the production rates and energies of muon pairs. Our results indicated that an increase in laser intensity leads to a corresponding increase in the muon pair production rate. The enhanced intensity amplifies the interaction strength between the incoming photons and the electron-positron pairs, facilitating more efficient pair production. This finding aligns with theoretical predictions from Quantum Electrodynamics (QED) and highlights the critical role of laser intensity in optimizing muon production in experimental setups.

The analysis demonstrated that different polarization states of the laser (circular vs. linear) yield varied production rates. Circularly polarized light was found to be more effective in generating muon pairs compared to linearly polarized light under similar conditions. This discrepancy is attributed to the inherent characteristics of the polarization states, which influence the dynamics of the interaction and the probability amplitudes associated with the production process. The sensitivity analysis revealed that the muon production rates are most responsive to changes in laser intensity, followed by polarization states. Variations in the initial energies of the electron-positron pairs had a relatively smaller impact, suggesting that optimizing laser parameters is crucial for maximizing production efficiency. These findings underscore the importance of carefully selecting laser parameters in experimental designs aimed at muon pair production. The insights gained can help guide future experiments and the development of advanced laser systems tailored for high-energy particle physics applications.

5.2. Recommendations

To reinforce our theoretical and computational findings, we propose experimental studies utilizing high-intensity laser systems to investigate muon pair production under controlled

conditions. These experiments should focus on systematically varying laser intensity and polarization to validate the predicted trends.

- Future studies could explore the effects of other parameters such as the energy distribution of the electron-positron pairs and the influence of different laser wavelengths. Investigating the interplay between these parameters and laser characteristics may yield further insights into optimizing muon production.
- Implementing more sophisticated numerical integration methods and high-performance computing resources can enhance the precision of our simulations. These improvements will be particularly beneficial in exploring more complex interaction scenarios and in addressing potential non-linear effects that may arise at extreme laser intensities.
- Expanding the theoretical framework to include other quantum effects and incorporating additional physics, such as the impact of strong-field QED phenomena, could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the muon pair production process in strong laser fields.
- Finally, investigating the implications of optimized muon production in the context of high-energy physics experiments, such as those in particle colliders or future muon-based facilities, could pave the way for innovative approaches in particle physics research.

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Appendix I

Algorithm Structure

```
python
import numpy as np
# Define ranges for the parameters
field_strength_range = np.linspace(0.1, 10, 100) # Laser field strength
photon_energy_range = np.linspace(0.1, 10, 100) # Photon energy in MeV
polarizations = ['circular', 'linear'] # Polarization states
# Monte Carlo simulation parameters
num_iterations = 10000 # Number of Monte Carlo iterations
# Function to compute cross-section _muon
def compute_cross_section(field_strength, photon_energy, polarization):
    # Define the matrix element calculation here (simplified example)
    # Use effective field theory or numerical integration for precise results
    if polarization == 'circular':
        matrix_element = some_circular_polarization_formula(field_strength,
        photon_energy)
    else:
        matrix_element = some_linear_polarization_formula(field_strength,
        photon_energy)
    # Compute the cross-section from the matrix element
    cross_section = np.abs(matrix_element) ** 2
    return cross_section
# Monte Carlo loop
results = []
for _ in range(num_iterations):
    # Sample random parameters
    field_strength = np.random.choice(field_strength_range)
```

```
photon_energy = np.random.choice(photon_energy_range)  
polarization = np.random.choice(polarizations  
# Compute cross-section  
cross_section = compute_cross_section(field_strength, photon_energy, polarization)  
# Store the result  
results.append((field_strength, photon_energy, polarization, cross_section))  
# Analyze results (e.g., plotting, statistical analysis)
```

Appendix II

Algorithm Structure

```
python  
import numpy as np  
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
from scipy.special import jn  
  
# Parameters  
n = 5 # Order of the Bessel function  
xi_values = np.linspace(0, 20, 400) # Argument of the Bessel function over a range  
# Calculate Bessel function J_n(xi) for a range of xi  
J_n_values = jn(n, xi_values)  
# Plot the Bessel function J_n(xi)  
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))  
plt.plot(xi_values, J_n_values, label=f'Bessel Function J_{n}(xi)')  
plt.title(f'Bessel Function of Order {n}')  
plt.xlabel('xi')  
plt.ylabel(f'J_{n}(xi)')  
plt.grid(True)  
plt.legend()  
plt.show()
```