

Instead, we have to use a relativistically invariant normalization:

$$\langle \vec{p}_1 | \vec{p}_2 \rangle = 2E_p (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2). \quad (*)$$

Let us confirm that this is invariant.* Consider a boost in the p_z -direction (no loss of generality if final answer is independent of direction):

$$E_p' = \gamma(E_p - \beta p^z), \quad p_z' = \gamma(p^z - \beta E_p), \quad p_x' = p_x, \quad p_y' = p_y.$$

The normalization condition in the new frame is:

$$\langle \vec{p}_1' | \vec{p}_2' \rangle = 2E_p' (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p}_1' - \vec{p}_2')$$

$$= 2\gamma (\mathcal{E}_{p_1} - \beta p_1^z) (2\omega)^3 \delta[\gamma(p_1^z - \beta \mathcal{E}_{p_1}) - p_2^z] \\ \cdot \delta(p_1^x - p_2^x) \delta(p_1^y - p_2^y)$$

To simplify the first δ -function, we recall that the transformation of a δ -function for an argument vanishing at $x=0$ is:

$$\delta[g(x)] = \frac{1}{\left| \frac{dg}{dx} \right|_{x=0}} \cdot \delta(x)$$

Using this formula, we can rewrite the first δ -function as:

$$\langle \vec{p}_1^x | \vec{p}_2^x \rangle = 2\gamma (\mathcal{E}_{p_1} - \beta p_1^z) (2\omega)^3 \delta(p_1^x - p_2^x) \delta(p_1^y - p_2^y) \\ \cdot \frac{1}{\gamma(1 - \beta \frac{d\mathcal{E}_{p_1}}{dp_1^z})} \delta(p_1^z - p_2^z)$$

Here, we used that
$$\frac{d[\gamma(p_1^z - \beta \mathcal{E}_{p_1}) - \gamma(p_2^z - \beta \mathcal{E}_{p_2})]}{d(p_1^z - p_2^z)}$$

$$= \gamma - \gamma\beta \frac{d(\mathcal{E}_{p_1} - \mathcal{E}_{p_2})}{d(p_1^z - p_2^z)} = \gamma - \gamma\beta \left(\frac{p_1^z}{2\mathcal{E}_{p_1}} + \frac{p_2^z}{2\mathcal{E}_{p_2}} \right)$$

As shown by using $\mathcal{E}_{p_i} = \sqrt{p_i^z{}^2 + m_i^2}$ and introducing

dummy variables $a = p_1^z + p_2^z$, $b = p_1^z - p_2^z$ so that

$$p_1^z = \frac{a+b}{2}, \quad p_2^z = \frac{a-b}{2}$$

Due to the $\delta(p_1^z - p_2^z)$, we can

without loss of generality set $p_1^z = p_2^z$ and $\mathcal{E}_{p_1} = \mathcal{E}_{p_2}$, since

everything is zero otherwise.

Evaluating the term in the second line, we get

$$1 - \beta \frac{dE_{p_1}}{d|\vec{p}_1|^2} = 1 - \beta \frac{|\vec{p}_1|^2}{\sqrt{|\vec{p}_1|^2 + m_1^2}} = \frac{E_{p_1} - \beta |\vec{p}_1|^2}{E_{p_1}}$$

Putting everything together, we get:

$$\langle \vec{p}_1 | \vec{p}_2 \rangle = 2E_{p_1} (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2)$$

which proves the invariance of the normalization condition.

It is also useful to consider the Lorentz-invariance of integrals over momentum space, as such turn up e.g. in the context of completeness relations.

The integral $\int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3}$ is clearly not invariant, but

$\int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} (2\pi) \delta(p^2 - m^2)$ consists only of invariant components.

Performing the integral over p^0 :

$$\int dp^0 \delta(p^2 - m^2) = \int dp \delta[(p^0)^2 - \vec{p}^2 - m^2] = \frac{1}{2p^0} \Big|_{p^0 = E_p}$$

(used $\delta[g(x)] = \sum_i \frac{1}{|g'(x_i)|} \delta(x - x_i)$ where x_i are zeros of $g(x)$)

$$\text{Then: } \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} (2\pi) \delta(p^2 - m^2) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_p}$$

is a relativistically invariant integral.

We can also show that the phase space volume element $\frac{d^3 p}{E}$ itself is invariant. Consider a Lorentz-boost in the z -direction (any direction works).

$$p^x = p^{x'}, \quad p^y = p^{y'}, \quad p^z = \gamma(p^z - \beta E), \quad E' = \gamma(E - \beta p^z),$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}, \quad \beta = \frac{v}{c}. \quad \text{We have:}$$

$$\frac{dp^{z'}}{dp^z} = \gamma \left(1 - \beta \frac{dE}{dp^z} \right) = \gamma \left(1 - \beta \frac{p^z}{E} \right)$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{dE}{dp^z} = \frac{d}{dp^z} \sqrt{p^2 + m^2} = \frac{p^z}{E}.$$

But now we have:

$$\frac{dp^{z'}}{dp^z} = \gamma \left(1 - \beta \frac{p^z}{E} \right) = \frac{\gamma(E - \beta p^z)}{E} = \frac{E'}{E}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dp^{z'}}{E'} = \frac{dp^z}{E} \Rightarrow \frac{d^3 p'}{E'} = \frac{d^3 p}{E}.$$

With the above treatment of relativistic normalization, we see that we can also construct a set of creation-annihilation operators $\tilde{a}, \tilde{a}^\dagger$:

$$\tilde{a}(\vec{p}) \equiv (2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2E_p} a(\vec{p}),$$

$$\tilde{a}^\dagger(\vec{p}) \equiv (2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2E_p} a^\dagger(\vec{p})$$

that have Lorentz invariant commutation relations:

$$[\tilde{a}(\vec{p}), \tilde{a}^\dagger(\vec{p}')] = (2\pi)^3 (2E_p) \delta(\vec{p} - \vec{p}')$$

Finally, we then see that a Lorentz-invariant completeness relation must have the form:

$$1 = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_p} |\vec{p}\rangle \langle \vec{p}|$$

for the momentum-states. Check:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 |\vec{k}\rangle &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_p} |\vec{p}\rangle \langle \vec{p} | \vec{k}\rangle \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_p} |\vec{p}\rangle 2E_p (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p} - \vec{k}) \\ &= |\vec{k}\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Since $2E_p (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{p}_1 - \vec{p}_2) \sim eV$, $eV^{-3} = eV^{-2}$, relativistically normalized states have dimension $|\vec{p}\rangle \sim eV^{-1}$.