

Problem 9.2 What quantum numbers, if any, are violated in the following processes? Would the reaction be strong, electromagnetic, weak, or unusually suppressed? Explain. (See CRC Handbook for particle properties.)

- (a) $\Lambda^0 \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$,
- (b) $K^- + p \rightarrow K^+ + \Xi^-$,
- (c) $K^+ + p \rightarrow K^+ + \Sigma^+ + \bar{K}^0$,
- (d) $p + p \rightarrow K^+ + K^+ + n + n$,
- (e) $\Sigma^+(1385) \rightarrow \Lambda^0 + \pi^+$,
- (f) $\bar{p} + n \rightarrow \pi^- + \pi^0$.

) From Table 9.4 we have that

$$I_3(\Lambda^0) = 0, \quad I_3(p) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad S(\Lambda^0) = -1, \quad S(p) = 0. \quad (9.15)$$

Therefore, we see that the hadronic sector of the decay in

$$\Lambda^0 \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e, \quad (9.16)$$

violates both isospin and strangeness quantum numbers

$$|\Delta I_3| = \frac{1}{2}, \quad |\Delta S| = 1. \quad (9.17)$$

This represents a weak semi-leptonic decay process.

) The process

$$K^- + p \rightarrow K^+ + \Xi^- \quad (9.18)$$

is seen from Table 9.4 of the text to satisfy conservation of all quantum numbers. This is indeed a strong process.

) We note from Table 9.4 of the text that

$$\begin{aligned} I_3(K^+) &= \frac{1}{2}, & I_3(p) &= I_3(\bar{K}^0), & I_3(\Sigma^+) &= 1, \\ S(K^+) &= 1, & S(\bar{K}^0) &= -1 = S(\Sigma^+), & S(p) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (9.19)$$

Therefore, the reaction

$$K^+ + p \rightarrow K^+ + \Sigma^+ + \bar{K}^0 \quad (9.20)$$

violates both isospin and strangeness quantum numbers

$$|\Delta I_3| = 1, \quad |\Delta S| = 2. \quad (9.21)$$

Because strangeness changes by two units, it is a highly suppressed unknown hadronic process.

) As in the earlier reaction, the process

$$p + p \rightarrow K^+ + K^+ + n + n \quad (9.22)$$

is also a highly suppressed unknown hadronic reaction. We note that

$$\begin{aligned} I_3(p) &= \frac{1}{2}, & I_3(K^+) &= \frac{1}{2}, & I_3(n) &= -\frac{1}{2}, \\ S(p) &= 0, & S(K^+) &= 1, & S(n) &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (9.23)$$