

QFT(QED) - Problem Set 2

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14:44

1/10

1. Klein-Gordon equation

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{a} 1. \quad \delta = \delta_{\phi} \delta' &= \int d^4x \left[\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \delta\phi - m^2 \phi \delta\phi \right] \\ &= - \int d^4x \left[\partial^2 \phi + m^2 \phi \right] \delta\phi. \end{aligned}$$

Since the variation should vanish $\forall \delta\phi$, we end up with the Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\partial^2 + m^2)\phi = 0. \quad \textcircled{*}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2. \quad (\partial^2 + m^2) e^{i(\vec{p}\vec{x} \pm \omega_{\vec{p}}t)} &= (\partial_0^2 - \partial_i^2 + m^2) e^{i(\vec{p}\vec{x} \pm \omega_{\vec{p}}t)} \\ &= (-\omega_{\vec{p}}^2 + \vec{p}^2 + m^2) e^{i(\vec{p}\vec{x} \pm \omega_{\vec{p}}t)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the plane wave is a solution to $\textcircled{*}$, if the dispersion relation is

$$\omega_{\vec{p}} = \sqrt{\vec{p}^2 + m^2}.$$

The most general solution reads:

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \int d^3\vec{p} e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x}} \tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}, t)$$

Plugging the above into $\textcircled{*}$, we find

$$(\partial_0^2 + \vec{p}^2 + m^2) \tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}, t) = 0,$$

2/10

with general solution

$$\tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}, t) = \frac{g(p)}{(2\pi)^3} \left(a(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} - i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} + b(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} + i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} \right)$$

3. We start from

$$\int d^4p \delta(p^2 - m^2) \theta(p_0) = \int d^4p \delta((p^0)^2 - \vec{p}^2 - m^2) \theta(p_0)$$

using the identity from the hint, the above is rewritten as:

$$\int d^4p \left(\frac{\delta(p^0 - \omega_{\vec{p}})}{2\omega_{\vec{p}}} + \frac{\delta(p^0 + \omega_{\vec{p}})}{2\omega_{\vec{p}}} \right) \theta(p^0)$$

Integrating the above over all momenta, we see

$$\int d^3\vec{p} d p^0 \left(\frac{\delta(p^0 - \omega_{\vec{p}})}{2\omega_{\vec{p}}} + \frac{\delta(p^0 + \omega_{\vec{p}})}{2\omega_{\vec{p}}} \right) \theta(p^0)$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{2\omega_{\vec{p}}}$$

The above implies that

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{2(2\pi)^3 \omega_{\vec{p}}} \left(a(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} - i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} + b(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} + i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} \right) \textcircled{XX}$$

9. Imposing that the field is real means 3/10

$\phi^*(\vec{x}, t) = \phi(\vec{x}, t)$, with

$$\begin{aligned}\phi^*(\vec{x}, t) &= \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3 \omega_{\vec{p}}} \left(a^*(\vec{p}) e^{-i\vec{p}\vec{x} + i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} + b^*(\vec{p}) e^{-i\vec{p}\vec{x} - i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} \right) \\ &= \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3 \omega_{\vec{p}}} \left(a^*(\vec{p}) e^{-i\vec{p}\vec{x} + i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} + b^*(-\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x} - i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} \right),\end{aligned}$$

where in passing to the second line, the integration variable in the second term was changed

$\vec{p} \rightarrow -\vec{p}$ (it's a dummy variable).

Comparing the above with ~~(*)~~, we immediately find

$$\boxed{b^*(-\vec{p}) = a(\vec{p})}$$

Thus:

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3 \omega_{\vec{p}}} \left(a(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x} - i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} + a^*(\vec{p}) e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x} + i\omega_{\vec{p}}t} \right)$$

5. We are asked to compute the Hamiltonian density, which is the Legendre transform of the Lagrangian, i.e.

$$H = \pi \dot{\phi} - \mathcal{L}$$

with $\pi = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \dot{\phi}} = \dot{\phi}$ the canonical momentum.

Thus:

$$\rightarrow \boxed{H = \frac{\pi^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_i \phi)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2}$$

(b) 1. In the presence of the source ρ , the Klein-Gordon equation is easily found to be

$$(\partial^2 + m^2)\phi = \rho.$$

2. For a static point source, the above becomes

$$(\partial_i^2 - m^2)\phi(\vec{x}) = g \delta(\vec{x}). \quad (***)$$

In Fourier space (see point (a) as well)

$$\phi(\vec{x}) = \int d^3\vec{p} e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x}} \tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}),$$

$$\delta(\vec{x}) = \int d^3\vec{p} e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x}}$$

5/10

From ~~(*)~~, we find

$$\tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}) = \frac{-q}{\vec{p}^2 + m^2}, \text{ so moving to coordinate space}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}) &= \int d^3p e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x}} \tilde{\phi}(\vec{p}) = -q \int d^3p \frac{e^{i\vec{p}\vec{x}}}{\vec{p}^2 + m^2} \\ &= -q \int dp p^2 d\theta \sin\theta d\phi \frac{e^{i p x \cos\theta}}{p^2 + m^2} \end{aligned}$$

Up to irrelevant numerical factors, we find

$$\rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}) \propto -\frac{q}{x} \int \frac{dp p \sin(px)}{p^2 + m^2}$$

$$= -\frac{q}{2ix} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dp p}{p^2 + m^2} (e^{ipx} - e^{-ipx})$$

$$= -\frac{q}{2ix} \left[\int_0^{\infty} \frac{dp p}{p^2 + m^2} e^{ipx} + \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dp p}{p^2 + m^2} e^{ipx} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{q}{2ix} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp p e^{ipx}}{(p+im)(p-im)}$$

$$\rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}) = -\frac{q}{2ix} (2\pi i) \sum \text{residues}$$

Define $f(z) = \frac{z e^{izx}}{(z+im)(z-im)}$

6/10

$$\otimes \text{Res}[f(z), z = -im] = \lim_{z \rightarrow +im} (z - im) f(z)$$

$$= \lim_{z \rightarrow +im} \frac{z e^{izx}}{z + im} = \frac{e^{-mx}}{2}$$

$$\otimes \text{Res}[f(z), z = +im] = \lim_{z \rightarrow -im} (z + im) f(z)$$

$$= \lim_{z \rightarrow -im} \frac{z e^{izx}}{z - im} = \frac{e^{-mx}}{2}$$

Thus, $\phi(\vec{x}) = -\frac{g}{x} e^{-mx} \rightarrow$ Yukawa potential.

2. Scale symmetry (dilatations)

1. Equation of motion:

$$\partial^2 \phi + \lambda \phi^3 = 0 \quad (\otimes)$$

2. $\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = \alpha \phi(\alpha x)$

$$\partial_x^2 \phi(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} \phi(x) \rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} (\alpha \phi(\alpha x))$$

$$= \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} \phi(\alpha x) = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial (\alpha x^\mu)} \phi(\alpha x)$$

Introducing $y^m = \alpha x^m$, we see that

7/10

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \phi(x) = \alpha^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y^m} \phi(y)$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}' = \int d^4x \left(\frac{1}{2} \alpha^4 \partial_\mu \phi(y) \partial_\mu \phi(y) - \frac{\lambda}{4} \alpha^4 \phi^4(y) \right)$$

$$= \int d^4(\alpha x) \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi(y) \partial_\mu \phi(y) - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4(y) \right)$$

$$= \int d^4y \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right) = \mathcal{L}$$

3. Now we look for the current.

Consider the infinitesimal transformation,

$$\alpha = 1 - a$$

$$\rightarrow \phi'(x) = (1 - a) \phi(x - ax)$$

$$= \phi(x - ax) - a \phi(x - ax)$$

$$= \phi(x) - ax^m \partial_\mu \phi - a \phi(x) + \mathcal{O}(a^2)$$

$$\rightarrow \delta \phi = -a(\phi(x) + x^m \partial_\mu \phi)$$

8/10

From Noether's theorem, the above gives rise to the following current:

$$\begin{aligned} j_\mu &= \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \partial_\mu \phi} \delta \phi + \epsilon_\mu \mathcal{L} \\ &= -\partial_\mu \phi (\phi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \phi) + \epsilon_\mu \mathcal{L} \\ &= -\phi \partial_\mu \phi - x^\nu \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi + x_\mu \mathcal{L} \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow j_\mu = -\phi \partial_\mu \phi - x^\nu \partial_\nu \phi \partial_\mu \phi + x_\mu \left(\frac{(\partial \phi)^2}{2} - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right)$$

Let's check if it is indeed conserved:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu j^\mu &= -(\partial \phi)^2 - \phi \partial^2 \phi - (\partial \phi)^2 - x^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi \partial^\mu \phi \\ &\quad - x^\nu \partial_\nu \phi \partial^2 \phi + 2(\partial \phi)^2 - \lambda \phi^4 \\ &\quad + x_\mu \partial^\mu \left(\frac{(\partial \phi)^2}{2} - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right) \\ &= (-\phi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \phi) (\partial^2 \phi + \lambda \phi^3) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

on the equation of motion \otimes .

9/10

To derive the form of the current, we use the following trick. Take $a = a(x)$ instead of constant a and find the response of the action w.r.t. the transformation.

$$\begin{aligned}\delta S' &= \int d^4x \left\{ \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \delta \varphi - \lambda \varphi^3 \delta \varphi \right\} \\ &= - \int d^4x \left\{ \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu [a(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi)] - \lambda \varphi^3 a(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \right\} \\ &= - \int d^4x \left\{ \partial_\mu \varphi \left[(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial^\mu a + a \partial^\mu (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - a \lambda \varphi^4 - a \lambda \varphi^3 x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi \right\} \\ &= - \int d^4x \left\{ (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu a + a (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 + a \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi \right. \\ &\quad \left. + a \partial_\mu \varphi x^\nu \partial^\mu \partial_\nu \varphi - a \lambda \varphi^4 - \frac{\lambda}{4} a x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi^4 \right\} \\ &= - \int d^4x \left\{ (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu a + 2a (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{a}{2} x^\nu \partial_\nu (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 - a \lambda \varphi^4 - \frac{\lambda}{4} a x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi^4 \right\}.\end{aligned}$$

We now integrate by parts the underlined terms, to obtain (after dropping full derivatives)

$$\begin{aligned}\delta S' &= - \int d^4x \left\{ (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu a + 2a (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\nu (a x^\nu) (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 - a \lambda \varphi^4 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \varphi^4 \partial_\nu (a x^\nu) \right\} \\ &= - \int d^4x \left\{ (\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu a - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\nu \varphi)^2 x_\mu \partial^\mu a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\lambda}{4} \varphi^4 x_\mu \partial^\mu a \right\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \delta S = \int d^4x \partial^\mu_a \left[-(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi + x_\mu \mathcal{L} \right], \quad (10/10)$$

with

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \varphi)^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \varphi^4.$$

Therefore, the Noether current is

$$j_\mu = -(\varphi + x^\nu \partial_\nu \varphi) \partial_\mu \varphi + x_\mu \mathcal{L},$$

as expected.