

Solution Assignment 11: Quantum Field Theory**Due Date: 7 May. 4 pm**

1. Starting with

$$G^+(x, y) = \Theta(x - y) \langle x | e^{-i\hat{H}(t_x - t_y)} | y \rangle$$

compute the Green function for a free particle with end points $\vec{x} = \vec{y} = 0$. Show that this equals:

$$G^+(x = 0, y = 0) = \Theta(x - y) \left(\frac{-im}{2\pi T} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Note that $\hat{H} = \hat{p}^2/2m$ and $T = t_x - t_y$.

[5 Marks]**Answer 1**

$$G^+(x, y) = \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \langle x | e^{-i\frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}(t_x - t_y)} | y \rangle$$

since

$$\begin{aligned} |y\rangle &= \int dp |p\rangle \langle p|y\rangle \\ &= \int \frac{dp}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} e^{-ipy} |p\rangle \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} G^+(x, y) &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \frac{dq}{2\pi} e^{+i(qx - py)} \langle q | e^{-i\frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}T} | p \rangle \\ &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \frac{dq}{2\pi} \langle q | p \rangle e^{-i\frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}T} e^{+ip(x-y)} \end{aligned}$$

Since $\langle q | p \rangle = \delta(q - p)$

$$\begin{aligned} G^+(x, y) &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{-i\frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}T} e^{+ip(x-y)} \\ G^+(x = 0, y = 0) &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{-i\frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}T} \end{aligned}$$

Using

$$\int dx e^{-\frac{ax^2}{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{a}}$$

we have

$$G^+(0,0) = \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \left(\frac{-i2\pi m}{T} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{2\pi}$$

$$G^+(0,0) = \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \left(\frac{-im}{2\pi T} \right)^{1/2} \text{ as desired.}$$

2. Using

$$G(x,y) = T \langle 0 | \psi(\hat{x}) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle$$

and

$$\hat{\psi}(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^{3/2}(2E_{\mathbf{p}})^{1/2}} \sum_s \left(u^s(p) \hat{a}_{s\mathbf{p}} e^{-ip \cdot x} + v^s(p) \hat{b}_{s\mathbf{p}}^\dagger e^{+ip \cdot x} \right)$$

show a complete, neat and systematic derivation of the fermionic free propagator

$$G_0(x,y) = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} i \frac{\not{p} + m}{p^2 - m^2 + i0^+} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}$$

[15 Marks]

Answer 2

$$T \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle = \underbrace{\Theta(x^0 - y^0) \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle}_I - \underbrace{\Theta(y^0 - x^0) \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(y) \hat{\psi}(x) | 0 \rangle}_{II}$$

Now

$$\hat{\psi}(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^{3/2}(2E_{\mathbf{p}})^{1/2}} \sum_s \left(u^s(p) \hat{a}_{s\mathbf{p}} e^{-ip \cdot x} + v^s(p) \hat{b}_{s\mathbf{p}}^\dagger e^{+ip \cdot x} \right)$$

I:

$$\langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | \int \frac{d^3p d^3q}{(2\pi)^3(2E_{\mathbf{p}})^{1/2}(2E_{\mathbf{q}})^{1/2}} \sum_{r,s} \left(u^s(p) \hat{a}_{s\mathbf{p}} e^{-ip \cdot x} + v^s(p) \hat{b}_{s\mathbf{p}}^\dagger e^{+ip \cdot x} \right) \left(\bar{u}^r(q) \hat{a}_{r\mathbf{q}}^\dagger e^{+iq \cdot y} + \bar{v}^r(q) \hat{b}_{r\mathbf{q}} e^{-iq \cdot y} \right) | 0 \rangle$$

we have $\langle 0 | \hat{a}_{s\mathbf{p}} \hat{a}_{r\mathbf{q}}^\dagger | 0 \rangle = S^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \delta_{r,s}$

$$\Rightarrow \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \sum_s u^s(p) \bar{u}^s(p) e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}$$

II:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(y) \hat{\psi}(x) | 0 \rangle &= \langle 0 | \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p \, d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3 (2E_{\mathbf{p}})^{1/2} (2E_{\mathbf{q}})^{1/2}} \left(\bar{u}^s(p) \hat{a}_{\mathbf{sp}}^\dagger e^{+ip \cdot y} + \bar{v}^s(p) \hat{b}_{\mathbf{sp}} e^{-ip \cdot y} \right) \\
&\quad \left(\bar{u}^r(q) \hat{a}_{\mathbf{rq}} e^{-iq \cdot x} + \bar{v}^r(q) \hat{b}_{\mathbf{rq}}^\dagger e^{+iq \cdot x} \right) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \left(\bar{v}^s(p) v^s(p) e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \right) \\
T \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \sum_s u^s(p) \bar{u}^s(p) e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - \Theta(y^0 - x^0) \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \sum_s \bar{v}^s(p) v^s(p) e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} (\gamma \cdot p + m) e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - \Theta(y^0 - x^0) \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} (\gamma \cdot p - m) e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
\gamma \cdot p &= \gamma^0 p_0 + \gamma^1 p_1 + \gamma^2 p_2 + \gamma^3 p_3 = \not{p} \\
\not{p} &= \gamma^\mu p_\mu \\
\Rightarrow T \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle &= \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} + m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - \Theta(y^0 - x^0) \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} - m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}} e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
\Theta(t) &= \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{z=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-izt}}{z + i0^+} dz \\
T \langle 0 | \hat{\psi}(x) \hat{\psi}(y) | 0 \rangle &= \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{z=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz \, d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} + m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(z + i0^+)} e^{-iz \cdot (x^0 - y^0)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{z=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz \, d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} - m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(z + i0^+)} e^{+iz \cdot (x^0 - y^0)} e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{z=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz \, d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} + m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(z + i0^+)} e^{-i(E_{\mathbf{p}} + z) \cdot (x^0 - y^0)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - \frac{i}{2\pi} \int_{z=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz \, d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\not{p} - m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(z + i0^+)} e^{i(E_{\mathbf{p}} + z) \cdot (x^0 - y^0)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\not{p} + m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&\quad - i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\not{p} - m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+)} e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)}
\end{aligned}$$

In the second term $p \mapsto -p$, $p^0 \mapsto -p^0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta_F(x-y) &= i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\not{p} + m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+)} e^{+ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
 &\quad - i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-\not{p} - m}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}(-p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \left[\frac{\not{p} + m}{p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+} + \frac{-\not{p} - m}{p^0 + E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+} \right] \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} (\not{p} + m) \left[\frac{1}{p^0 - E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+} - \frac{1}{p^0 + E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+} \right] \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{2E_{\mathbf{p}}} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} (\not{p} + m) \left[\frac{p^0 + E_{\mathbf{p}} + i0^+ - p^0 + E_{\mathbf{p}} - i0^+}{(p^0)^2 - (E_{\mathbf{p}})^2 + i0^+} \right] \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i(\not{p} + m)}{(p^0)^2 - (E_{\mathbf{p}})^2 + i0^+} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(p^0)^2 = p^2 + |\mathbf{p}|^2$$

$$p^2 = (p^0)^2 - |\mathbf{p}|^2$$

$$\text{Now } E_{\mathbf{p}}^2 = m^2 + |\mathbf{p}|^2$$

$$|\mathbf{p}|^2 = E_{\mathbf{p}}^2 - m^2$$

$$p^2 - E_{\mathbf{p}}^2 = p^2 + |\mathbf{p}|^2 - m^2 - |\mathbf{p}|^2$$

$$= p^2 - m^2.$$

$$\Delta_F(x, y) = G(x - y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i(\not{p} + m)}{p^2 - m^2 + i0^+} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}$$

3. In the minimal coupling technique, ordinary derivatives are replaced by covariant derivatives. Apply this to a complex massive scalar field and a non-interacting electromagnetic field. The resulting theory is not only gauge invariant but leads to an interaction between the complex scalar field and the electromagnetic field. What is the interaction term? [5 Marks]

Answer 3

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial^\mu \psi)^\dagger (\partial_\mu \psi) - m^2 \psi^\dagger \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

Applying the minimal coupling prescription, (only to the massive field)

$$\mathcal{L} = (D^\mu \psi)^\dagger (D_\mu \psi) - m^2 \psi^\dagger \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

Since $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + iqA_\mu$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(D^\mu \psi)^\dagger &= \left((\partial^\mu + iqA^\mu) \psi \right)^\dagger \\ &= \partial^\mu \psi^\dagger - iqA^\mu \psi^\dagger\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(D_\mu \psi) &= (\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu) \psi \\ &= \partial_\mu \psi + iqA_\mu \psi\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{So } \mathcal{L} &= (\partial^\mu \psi^\dagger - iqA^\mu \psi^\dagger)(\partial_\mu \psi + iqA_\mu \psi) - m^2 \psi^\dagger \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ &= (\partial^\mu \psi^\dagger)(\partial_\mu \psi) - m^2 \psi^\dagger \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + iq(\partial^\mu \psi^\dagger)(A_\mu \psi) - iq(A^\mu \psi^\dagger)(\partial_\mu \psi) + q^2 A^\mu \psi^\dagger A_\mu \psi\end{aligned}$$

The last three terms represent the coupling of the scalar field with the electro magnetic field.

4. (a) Show that the momentum space representation of the fermionic free propagation

$$\tilde{G}(p) = i \frac{\not{p} + m}{p^2 - m^2 + i0^+}$$

can be written as

$$\tilde{G}(p) = \frac{i}{\not{p} - m + i0^+}.$$

[5 Marks]

- (b) The free propagator

$$G = \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m + i0^+} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}$$

is a Green's function of which operator? Substantiate your answer by a calculation. [5 Marks]

Answer 4

- (a)

$$\tilde{G}p = i \frac{\not{p} + m}{p^2 - m^2 + i0^+} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}(\not{p} + m)(\not{p} - m) &= \not{p}^2 - \not{p}m + \not{p}m - m^2 \\ &= \not{p}^2 - m^2 \\ &= \gamma^\mu p_\mu \gamma^\nu p_\nu - m^2 \\ &= \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu p_\mu p_\nu - m^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Now } \quad \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} &= 2g^{\mu\nu} \\
\Rightarrow \quad \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu + \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu &= 2g^{\mu\nu} \\
\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu p_\mu p_\nu &= \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu p_\nu p_\mu = \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu p_\mu p_\nu
\end{aligned}$$

Since $p_\mu p_\nu$ is symmetric with respect to swapping of μ and ν . So we can write $\gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu p_\mu p_\nu$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2} \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} p_\mu p_\nu &= g^{\mu\nu} p_\mu p_\nu \\
\therefore (\not{p} + m)(\not{p} - m) &= g^{\mu\nu} p_\mu p_\nu - m^2 = p^2 - m^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Inserting this into the denominator of equation (1) yields

$$\tilde{G}(p) = \frac{i}{\not{p} - m + i0^+}.$$

(b)

$$(i\not{\partial} - m) \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m + i0^+} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}$$

choose to calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
\not{\partial} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} &= \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m} \not{\partial} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)}
\end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial_\mu e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} &= e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} (-ip_\mu) \\
\not{\partial} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} &= -i \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i\not{p}}{\not{p} - m} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
(i\not{\partial} - m) \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{\not{p} - m} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} &= \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i(\not{p} - m)}{\not{p} - m} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= i \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \\
&= i\delta^{(4)}(x - y).
\end{aligned}$$

5. (a) Find the conserved Noether current for the massless Dirac equation. [5 Marks]

(b) Consider the Global chiral symmetry

$$\psi \mapsto e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5} \psi$$

where γ^5 is the chirality operator. Show that the massless Dirac Lagrangian is invariant under the chiral transformation. [5 Marks]

(c) What is the corresponding Noether current? [5 Marks]

Answer 5

(a)

$$\mathcal{L}_D = \bar{\psi}(i\cancel{\partial})\psi = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu)\psi$$

The system has $U(1)$ global symmetry.

$$\Pi_\psi^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_D}{\partial(\partial_\mu \psi)} = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu = i\bar{\psi}\cancel{\partial}$$

$$\Pi_{\bar{\psi}}^\mu = 0$$

$$D\psi = i\psi$$

$$J_N^\mu = \Pi_\psi^\mu D\psi = i\bar{\psi}\cancel{\partial}(i\psi) = -\bar{\psi}\cancel{\partial}\psi = -\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi$$

(b)

$$\mathcal{L}_D = \bar{\psi}(i\cancel{\partial})\psi = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu)\psi$$

$$\psi(x) \mapsto e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5} \psi(x)$$

$$\text{where } \gamma^5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Under the chirality transformation,

$$\psi^\dagger(x) \mapsto \psi^\dagger(x)e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}$$

$$\bar{\psi}(x) \mapsto \psi^\dagger(x)e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}\gamma^0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}'_D &= \psi^\dagger(x)e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}\gamma^0(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu)(e^{i\alpha\gamma^5}\psi) \\ &= i\psi^\dagger(x)e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}\gamma^0\gamma^\mu e^{i\alpha\gamma^5}\partial_\mu\psi \end{aligned}$$

We know that

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2g^{\mu\nu}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\{\gamma^5, \gamma^0\} &= i\gamma^0\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 + i\gamma^0\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 \\ &= i\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 + i\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 = i\gamma^1(\gamma^2\gamma^3 + \gamma^2\gamma^3) \\ &= i\gamma^1(\gamma^2\gamma^3 + \gamma^3\gamma^2) = i\gamma^1\{\gamma^2, \gamma^3\} = 0\end{aligned}$$

So we can swap the order of γ^5 and γ^0 terms. Likewise for $i = 1, 2, 3$

$$\{\gamma^5, \gamma^i\} = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3\gamma^i + i\gamma^i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3$$

Since $\{\gamma^i, \gamma^i\} = 2 \Rightarrow (\gamma^i)^2 = 1$, the anti commutator above will have two γ^i 's removed from the terms as they multiply together to yield identity. Suppose $i = 3$, the above anticommutator becomes

$$i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2 + i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^3 = i\gamma^0\{\gamma^1, \gamma^2\} = 0$$

γ^5 and γ^3 can be swapped. Similarly γ^5 and γ^2 and γ^5 and γ^1 can be mutually swapped. So γ^5 swaps with all γ^μ 's. This allows us to write the lagrangian density as:

$$\mathcal{L}'_D = i\psi^\dagger\gamma^0\gamma^\mu e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}\partial_\mu\psi = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi = -\bar{\psi}\not{\partial}\psi = \mathcal{L}.$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}'_D &= i\bar{\psi}\not{\partial}\psi = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu\psi \\ \Pi^\mu_\psi &= i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu, \quad \Pi^\mu_{\bar{\psi}} = 0\end{aligned}$$

Under the chirality transformation,

$$\psi \mapsto e^{-i\alpha\gamma^5}\psi \approx (1 - i\alpha\gamma^5)\psi$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}D\psi &= -i\gamma^5\psi \\ J^\mu_N &= \Pi^\mu_\psi D\psi = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu(-i\gamma^5\psi) = \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\gamma^5\psi.\end{aligned}$$