

# Relativistic Quantum Particles and Fields

## *Some Theoretical Basics*

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# Outline

- Relativistic Kinematics and Special Relativity
- Quantum Dynamics
- Relativistic Quantum Particles and Fields
- Scattering and Perturbation Theory
- Feynman Rules and Cross Sections
- Lie Groups and Symmetries

# Reference Material

- Lecture notes available from the Proceedings of the International Workshops and COPROMAPH Summer Schools on Contemporary Problems in Mathematical Physics (COPROMAPH, Cotonou, Benin), J. Govaerts, M. Norbert Hounkonnou *et al.*, eds. (World Scientific Publishing), Volumes 2 (2001), 3 (2003), 5 (2007); available as [arXiv:hep-th/0207276](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0207276) [hep-th], [arXiv:hep-th/0408021](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0408021) [hep-th], [arXiv:0812.0721](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0812.0721) [hep-th].
- AIMS (African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, South Africa) Lecture notes available from the web site of the ASP2010 School (more material with solutions available from AIMS' web site, <http://www.aims.ac.za/>).
- Textbooks (one amongst many others): M. Peskin and D. V. Schroeder, *An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory* (Perseus Books Publishing, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1995).

# Relativistic Kinematics and Special Relativity

Massive particle: Lorentz factor:  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$ ,  $\vec{\beta} = \frac{\vec{v}}{c}$

$$E = mc^2\gamma = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \simeq mc^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2} + \dots \right) \\ \simeq mc^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \dots$$

$$\vec{p}c = mc^2\vec{\beta}\gamma = \frac{mc^2\vec{\beta}}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} \simeq mc^2\frac{\vec{v}}{c} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{v^2}{c^2} + \dots \right) \\ \frac{\vec{v}}{c} = \vec{\beta} = \frac{\vec{p}c}{E}, \quad |\vec{\beta}| = \frac{1}{E}|\vec{p}c|$$

# Relativistic invariants

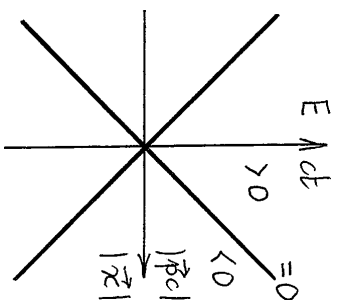
[Energy-momentum](#)

[Light cône](#)

[Space-time](#)

$$E^2 - (\vec{p}c)^2 = (mc^2)^2$$

$$(ct)^2 - \vec{x}^2 = s^2$$



$$E = \sqrt{(\vec{p}c)^2 + (mc^2)^2}$$

- $s^2 > 0$ : time-like
- $s^2 = 0$ : light-like
- $s^2 < 0$ : space-like

**Massless particle:**  $m = 0$ : light-like particle

$$E = |\vec{p}c|, \quad |\vec{\beta}| = 1, \quad |\vec{v}| = c$$

Photon:  $E = \hbar\omega = h\nu$ ,  $\vec{p} = \hbar\vec{k}$ ,  $|\vec{k}| = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ ,  $|\vec{p}| = \frac{h}{\lambda}$ ,  $\nu\lambda = c$ ,  $\hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi}$

$$E^2 - (\vec{p}c)^2 = 0$$

Lorentz boosts:

$$\cosh^2 \omega - \sinh^2 \omega = 1, \quad \cosh \omega = \gamma, \quad \sinh \omega = \beta\gamma, \quad \tanh \omega = \beta$$

$$\begin{aligned} E' &= E \cosh \omega - (p_x c) \sinh \omega & (ct') &= \gamma [(ct) - \beta x] \\ (p'_x c) &= -E \sinh \omega + (p_x c) \cosh \omega & x' &= \gamma [-\beta(ct) + x] \\ (p'_y c) &= (p_y c) & y' &= y \\ (p'_z c) &= (p_z c) & z' &= z \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski spacetime: Pseudo-Euclidean or hyperbolic geometry

$$E^2 - (\vec{p}c)^2 = (mc^2)^2 \quad ; \quad (ct)^2 - \vec{x}^2 = s^2$$

4-vectors:  $x^\mu = (ct, \vec{x})$ ,  $p^\mu = (E, \vec{p}c)$ ,  $\mu, \nu = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2, 3$   
 Minkowski metric:  $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(+, -, -, -)$ ,  $x_\mu = \eta_{\mu\nu} x^\nu$ ,  $x^\mu = \eta^{\mu\nu} x_\nu$   
 Lorentz invariants:  $x \cdot y = \eta_{\mu\nu} x^\mu y^\nu$ ,  $x^2 = \eta_{\mu\nu} x^\mu x^\nu = (ct)^2 - \vec{x}^2 = s^2$ ,

$$p^2 = (mc^2)^2$$

Henceforth:

$$c = 1$$

(Choice of natural particle physics units)

Particle decay:

$$X \rightarrow X_1 + X_2$$

$$m \quad m_1 \quad m_2$$

$$p^\mu \quad p_1^\mu \quad p_2^\mu$$

**Energy-momentum conservation** (4 independent relations):

$$p = p_1 + p_2$$

$$\text{Invariant relation: } m^2 = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2p_1 \cdot p_2$$

**Center-of-mass frame:** Vanishing total momentum

$$p^\mu = (m, \vec{0}), \quad p_1^\mu = (E_1, \vec{p}), \quad p_2^\mu = (E_2, -\vec{p})$$

**Exercise**

1. Solve the center-of-mass kinematics of the  $1 \rightarrow 2$  particle decay.

**Particle scattering:**  $X_1 + X_2 \rightarrow X_3 + X_4$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} m_1 & m_2 & m_3 & m_4 \\ p_1^\mu & p_2^\mu & p_3^\mu & p_4^\mu \end{array}$$

**Energy-momentum conservation** (4 independent relations):

$$p_1 + p_2 = p_3 + p_4$$

**Mandelstam variables:**  $s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = (p_3 + p_4)^2$

$$t = (p_1 - p_3)^2 = (p_2 - p_4)^2$$

$$u = (p_1 - p_4)^2 = (p_2 - p_3)^2$$

$$s + t + u = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 + m_4^2$$

### Exercises

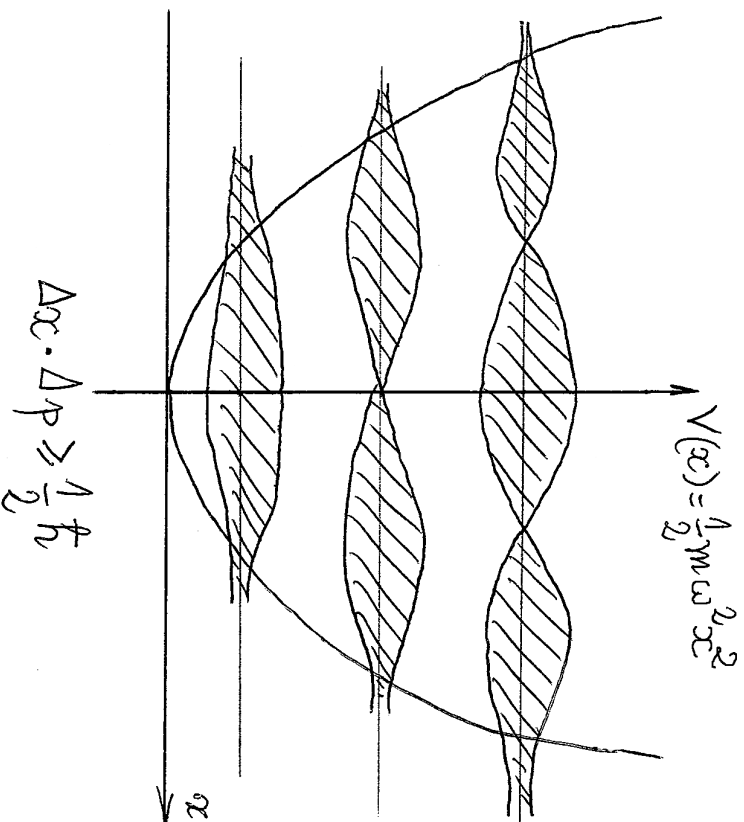
1. Solve the center-of-mass kinematics of the  $2 \rightarrow 2$  particle scattering.
2. Establish the identity  $s + t + u = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 + m_4^2$ .
3. Determine the values of the three Mandelstam variables in the case of 4 identical particles as a function of the scattering angle and the total energy in the center-of-mass frame.



# Quantum Dynamics

The quantum harmonic oscillator:

mass  $m$ , angular frequency  $\omega$ , position  $x$ , momentum  $p = m\dot{x}$



$$E_n = \hbar\omega \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Hilbert space:

basis of quantum states

$$\text{Fock states: } |n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} (a^\dagger)^n |0\rangle$$

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = 1, \quad a|0\rangle = 0, \quad \langle n|m\rangle = \delta_{n,m}$$

$$\text{Fock algebra: } [a, a^\dagger] = \mathbb{I}$$

$$\text{Number operator: } N = a^\dagger a, \quad N|n\rangle = n|n\rangle$$

## Fundamental operators

$$\hat{x}^\dagger = \hat{x}, \quad \hat{p}^\dagger = \hat{p}, \quad (a^\dagger)^\dagger = a$$

**Hamiltonian:**  $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega \left( a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2m} \hat{p}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 \hat{x}^2$

$$\hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a + a^\dagger), \quad \hat{p} = -im\omega \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a - a^\dagger)$$

$$[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar \mathbb{I}$$

$$[a, a^\dagger] = \mathbb{I}$$

**Schrödinger picture:**  $i\hbar \frac{d|\psi, t\rangle}{dt} = \hat{H} |\psi, t\rangle, \quad U(t_2, t_1) = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}(t_2 - t_1) \hat{H}}$

$$|\psi, t\rangle = U(t, t_0) |\psi, t_0\rangle, \quad |\psi, t\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}(t-t_0) E_n} \langle n | \psi, t_0\rangle$$
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle \langle n| = \mathbb{I}$$

**Heisenberg picture:**  $i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}(t)}{dt} = [\hat{A}(t), \hat{H}], \quad \hat{A}(t) = U^\dagger(t, t_0) \hat{A}(t_0) U(t, t_0)$

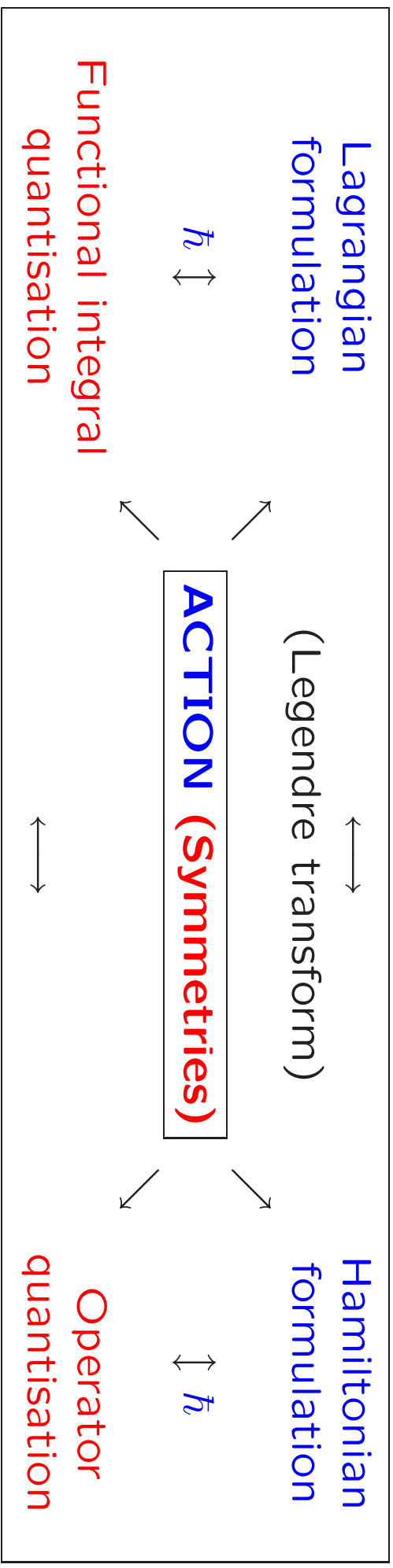
$$\hat{x}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \left( a e^{-i\omega t} + a^\dagger e^{+i\omega t} \right) \quad (t_0 = 0)$$

**Euler-Lagrange equation of motion:**

$$\left( \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \omega^2 \right) \hat{x}(t) = 0$$

**Action principle:** **Variational principle**

$$S[x] = m \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 x^2 \right]$$



$$S[x] = \int dt L(x, \dot{x}), \quad L(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2, \quad m\ddot{x} = -m\omega^2 x$$

$$p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x}, \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}, \quad H = \dot{x}p - L$$

$$H = \frac{1}{2m}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2, \quad \frac{df(x, p, t)}{dt} = \{f, H\} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}, \quad \{x, p\} = 1$$

$$\dot{x} = \{x, H\} = \frac{1}{m}p, \quad \dot{p} = \{p, H\} = -m\omega^2 x$$

$$S[x, p] = \int dt [\dot{x}p - H(x, p)]$$

## Symmetries and Noether's (First) Theorem

For each (independent) **continuous symmetry transformation**

(leaving the equations of motion invariant, namely the action invariant up to a total derivative), there exists a conserved quantity, **the** corresponding so-called **Noether charge**

$$t' = t'(t), \quad q^{n'}(t') = q^n(q^n, t)$$

$$S[q^{n'}] = \int dt' L \left( q^{n'}, \frac{dq^{n'}}{dt'} \right) = \int dt \left[ L \left( q^n, \frac{dq^n}{dt} \right) + \frac{d\Lambda(q^n, t)}{dt} \right] = S[q^n] + t.d.$$

Space translations	$\longleftrightarrow$	Total momentum
Space rotations	$\longleftrightarrow$	Total angular-momentum
Physical time translations	$\longleftrightarrow$	Total energy
Internal space symmetries	$\longleftrightarrow$	Additional conserved charges

**Gauged symmetries:** A secret of the fundamental interactions

## Spherically symmetric harmonic oscillator ( $d = 2$ )

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\vec{x}^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(x_1^2 + x_2^2) - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2)$$

$$a_{\pm} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_1 \mp ia_2), \quad a_{\pm}^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_1^{\dagger} \pm ia_2^{\dagger})$$

$$[a_{\pm}, a_{\pm}^{\dagger}] = \mathbb{I}, \quad [a_{\pm}, a_{\mp}^{\dagger}] = 0$$

(Helicity) Fock basis:  $|n_+, n_-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n_+!n_-!}}(a_+^{\dagger})^{n_+}(a_-^{\dagger})^{n_-}|0\rangle$

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega\left(a_1^{\dagger}a_1 + \frac{1}{2} + a_2^{\dagger}a_2 + \frac{1}{2}\right) = \hbar\omega\left(a_+^{\dagger}a_+ + a_-^{\dagger}a_- + 1\right)$$

SO(2) = U(1) symmetry:  $\hat{L} = \hbar(a_+^{\dagger}a_+ - a_-^{\dagger}a_-)$ ,  $[\hat{L}, \hat{H}] = 0$

$\hat{H}|n_+, n_-\rangle = E(n_+, n_-)|n_+, n_-\rangle$ ,  $\hat{L}|n_+, n_-\rangle = \hbar(n_+ - n_-)|n_+, n_-\rangle$

$$E(n_+, n_-) = \hbar\omega(n_+ + n_- + 1)$$

Energy degeneracies?

## Particle physics natural units

$$c = 1 \quad \hbar = 1$$

Conversion factors:  $\hbar c \simeq 197 \text{ MeV}\cdot\text{fm}$ ,  $c \simeq 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

$$\text{space} \overset{c}{\leftrightarrow} \text{time} \overset{\hbar}{\leftrightarrow} (\text{energy})^{-1} \overset{c}{\leftrightarrow} (\text{mass})^{-1}$$

### Exercise

1. Consider the evaluation of Heisenberg's uncertainty relation  $\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{1}{2}\hbar$  for each of the Fock states of the quantum harmonic oscillator.

# Relativistic Quantum Particles and Fields

Free relativistic particles:

$$\omega(\vec{k}) = \sqrt{\vec{k}^2 + m^2} \quad [E(\vec{p}) = \sqrt{(\vec{p}c)^2 + (mc^2)^2}]$$

$$[a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{\ell})] = (2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k}) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{\ell}) \mathbb{I}$$

1-particle states:  $|\vec{k}\rangle = a^\dagger(\vec{k}) |0\rangle$

Energy-momentum (operators): [quantum vacuum energy]

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{H} \\ \hat{P} \end{pmatrix} = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \begin{pmatrix} \omega(\vec{k}) \\ \vec{k} \end{pmatrix} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) a(\vec{k})$$
$$\hat{H} |\vec{k}\rangle = \omega(\vec{k}) |\vec{k}\rangle, \quad \hat{P} |\vec{k}\rangle = \vec{k} |\vec{k}\rangle$$



**Heisenberg picture:**    **Relativistic invariance:**  $k \cdot x = k^0 x^0 - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\phi}(x^\mu) &= \hat{\phi}(t, \vec{x}) \\ &= \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3 \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \left[ a(\vec{k}) e^{-i(\omega(\vec{k})t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})} + a^\dagger(\vec{k}) e^{+i(\omega(\vec{k})t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})} \right]\end{aligned}$$

**Euler-Lagrange equation of motion:**

$$\left( \square + m^2 \right) \hat{\phi}(x) = \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \vec{\nabla}^2 + m^2 \right) \hat{\phi}(x) = 0$$

**Klein-Gordon equation (wave dynamics)**

**Action principle:**

$$\begin{aligned}S[\phi] &= \int d^4 x^\mu \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 \right\} \\ &= \int d^4 x^\mu \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 \right\} = \int d^4 x^\mu \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) \\ \phi^*(x) &= \phi(x)\end{aligned}$$

Real scalar field  $\longleftrightarrow$  neutral spin 0 (scalar) (massive) particle

**Fundamental unification:**  $\hbar + c$  [Spacetime symmetries]

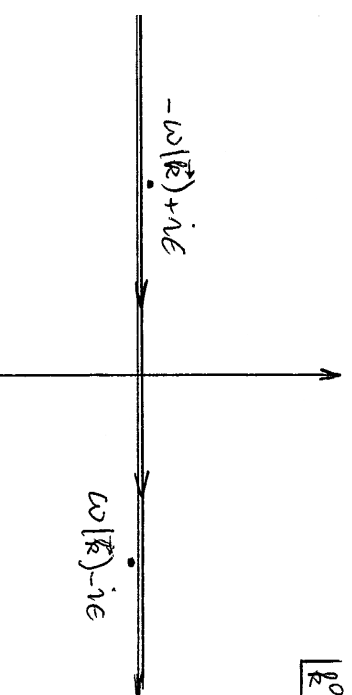
## The Feynman propagator

Spacetime localised 1-particle quantum states:

$$\hat{\phi}(x^\mu)|0\rangle = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} e^{ik \cdot x} \Big|_{k^0 = \omega(\vec{k})} \Big|_{\vec{k}} \rangle$$

Causal propagation: time-ordered 2-point function or **Feynman propagator**

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0|T\phi(x)\phi(y)|0\rangle &= \theta(x^0 - y^0) \langle 0|\phi(x)\phi(y)|0\rangle + \theta(y^0 - x^0) \langle 0|\phi(y)\phi(x)|0\rangle \\ &= \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^4k^\mu}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)} \end{aligned}$$



### Exercise

1. Through contour integration in the complex  $k^0$  plane, confirm this manifest spacetime invariant expression of the Feynman propagator.

## The complex scalar field

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi_1)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi_2)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi_2^2 = |\partial_\mu \phi|^2 - m^2 |\phi|^2$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_1(x) + i\phi_2(x))$$

Internal  $\text{SO}(2) = \text{U}(1)$  [global] symmetry:  $\phi(x) \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \phi(x)$

$$\phi(x) = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3 \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \left[ a(\vec{k}) e^{-i(\omega(\vec{k})t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})} + b^\dagger(\vec{k}) e^{+i(\omega(\vec{k})t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})} \right]$$

$$a(\vec{k}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [a_1(\vec{k}) + ia_2(\vec{k})], \quad b(\vec{k}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [a_1(\vec{k}) - ia_2(\vec{k})]$$

$$[a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{\ell})] = (2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k}) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{\ell}) \quad \text{II} = [b(\vec{k}), b^\dagger(\vec{\ell})]$$

$$H = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2\omega(\vec{k})} \omega(\vec{k}) [a^\dagger(\vec{k})a(\vec{k}) + b^\dagger(\vec{k})b(\vec{k})]$$

$$Q = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2\omega(\vec{k})} [a^\dagger(\vec{k})a(\vec{k}) - b^\dagger(\vec{k})b(\vec{k})]$$

Particles:  $Q = +1$ ,  $Q a^\dagger(\vec{k}) |0\rangle = + a^\dagger(\vec{k}) |0\rangle$

Antiparticles:  $Q = -1$ ,  $Q b^\dagger(\vec{k}) |0\rangle = - b^\dagger(\vec{k}) |0\rangle$

**Fundamental unification:**  $\hbar + c$  [Internal symmetries]

Gauging the U(1) symmetry:  $\phi(x) \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha(x)} \phi(x)$

$\Rightarrow$  Fundamental interactions governed by the symmetry

### Exercise

1. Establish the expressions for the 2-point functions, *i.e.*, the Feynman propagator of the complex scalar field. Explain the outcome of the analysis in terms of the conserved U(1) quantum number.

**The real vector field: Neutral spin/helicity 1 particles**

$$A_\mu(x) = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \sum_\lambda \left[ a(\vec{k}, \lambda) \epsilon_\mu(\vec{k}, \lambda) e^{-ik \cdot x} + a^\dagger(\vec{k}, \lambda) \epsilon_\mu^*(\vec{k}, \lambda) e^{+ik \cdot x} \right]$$

$$k^\mu \epsilon_\mu(\vec{k}, \lambda) = 0, \quad \sum_\lambda \epsilon_\mu(\vec{k}, \lambda) \epsilon_\nu^*(\vec{k}, \lambda) = -\eta_{\mu\nu}$$

$$[a(\vec{k}, \lambda), a^\dagger(\vec{\ell}, \lambda')] = (2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k}) \delta_{\lambda\lambda'} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{\ell}) \mathbb{I}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m^2 A_\mu A^\mu, \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu, \quad \partial_\mu A^\mu = 0$$

[Three polarisations states in the massive case]

**Massless case: two polarisation states (helicity  $\pm 1$ )**

Local gauge symmetry: **Vector gauge boson**

$$A'_\mu(x) = A_\mu(x) + \partial_\mu \chi(x), \quad F'_{\mu\nu}(x) = F_{\mu\nu}(x)$$

**The Dirac spinor field:** U(1) Charged spin/helicity  $\frac{1}{2}$  (anti)particles

$$\psi_\alpha(x) = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \sum_{\lambda=\pm} [b(\vec{k}, \lambda) u_\alpha(\vec{k}, \lambda) e^{-ik \cdot x} + d^\dagger(\vec{k}, \lambda) v_\alpha(\vec{k}, \lambda) e^{+ik \cdot x}]$$

$$(\gamma^\mu k_\mu - m) u(\vec{k}, \lambda) = 0, \quad (\gamma^\mu k_\mu + m) v(\vec{k}, \lambda) = 0$$

$$\sum_{\lambda=\pm} u_\alpha(\vec{k}, \lambda) \bar{u}_\beta(\vec{k}, \lambda) = (k_\alpha + m)_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \sum_{\lambda=\pm} v_\alpha(\vec{k}, \lambda) \bar{v}_\beta(\vec{k}, \lambda) = (k_\alpha - m)_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\{\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu\} = 2\eta_{\mu\nu}, \quad \gamma_\mu^\dagger = \gamma^0 \gamma_\mu \gamma^0, \quad \bar{\psi} = \psi^\dagger \gamma^0, \quad \alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

$$\{b(\vec{k}, \lambda), b^\dagger(\vec{\ell}, \lambda')\} = (2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k}) \delta_{\lambda\lambda'} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{\ell}) \quad \mathbb{I} = \{d(\vec{k}, \lambda), d^\dagger(\vec{\ell}, \lambda')\}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} (i\partial\!\!\!/ - m) \psi, \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} i (\bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - \partial_\mu \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi) - m \bar{\psi} \psi$$

Dirac equation:  $(i\partial\!\!\!/ - m) \psi(x) = 0$

## The Feynman propagator

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle 0|T\psi_\alpha(x)\bar{\psi}_\beta(y)|0\rangle &= \theta(x^0-y^0)\langle 0|\psi_\alpha(x)\bar{\psi}_\beta(y)|0\rangle - \theta(y^0-x^0)\langle 0|\bar{\psi}_\beta(y)\psi_\alpha(x)|0\rangle \\
 &= \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^4k^\mu}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik\cdot(x-y)} \left( \frac{i}{k-m+i\epsilon} \right)_{\alpha\beta} \\
 &= \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^4k^\mu}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik\cdot(x-y)} \left( \frac{i(k+m)}{k^2-m^2+i\epsilon} \right)_{\alpha\beta}
 \end{aligned}$$

Fermionic Fock algebra: Pauli exclusion principle

$$\{b, b^\dagger\} = \mathbb{I}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b|0\rangle &= 0, & b^\dagger|0\rangle &= |1\rangle \\
 b|1\rangle &= |0\rangle, & b^\dagger|1\rangle &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = 1 = \langle 1|1\rangle, \quad \langle 0|1\rangle = 0 = \langle 1|0\rangle$$

Other spin 1/2 spinors:

Left- and right-handed Weyl spinors, Majorana spinor

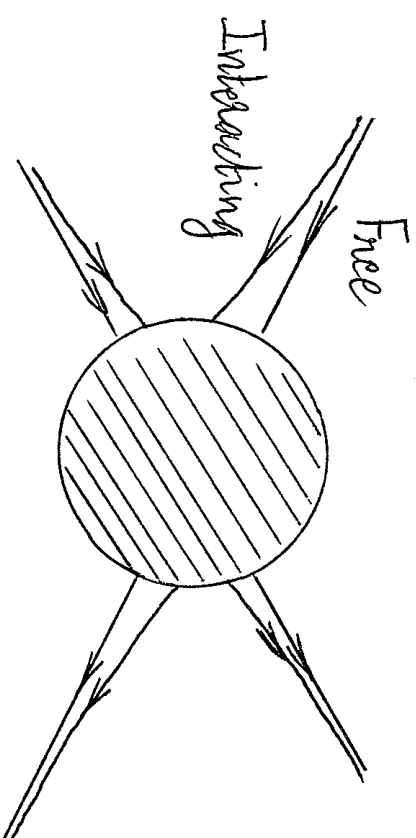
# Scattering and Perturbation Theory

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0 + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \frac{1}{4!} \lambda \phi^4, \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

$$\pi(t, \vec{x}) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \partial_0 \phi(t, \vec{x})} = \partial_0 \phi(t, \vec{x}), \quad \{\phi(t, \vec{x}), \pi(t, \vec{y})\} = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{y})$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{4!} \lambda \phi^4$$

$$\int_{(\infty)} d^3 \vec{x} \mathcal{H} = H = H_0 + H_{\text{int}} = \int_{(\infty)} d^3 \vec{x} \mathcal{H}_0 + \int_{(\infty)} d^3 \vec{x} \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}$$





In-state: 
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \underbrace{e^{-i(t-t_0)} H}_{|\psi, t_0\rangle} \underbrace{|\psi, t\rangle}_{|\psi_{in}, t_0\rangle} = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \underbrace{e^{-i(t-t_0)} H_0}_{|\psi_{in}, t\rangle} |\psi_{in}, t_0\rangle$$

Out-state: 
$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \underbrace{e^{-i(t-t_0)} H}_{|\chi, t\rangle} \underbrace{|\chi, t_0\rangle}_{|\chi_{out}, t_0\rangle} = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \underbrace{e^{-i(t-t_0)} H_0}_{|\chi_{out}, t\rangle} |\chi_{out}, t_0\rangle$$

**Transition probability amplitude**

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi, t | \psi, t \rangle &= \langle \chi, t_0 | \psi, t_0 \rangle = \\ &= \lim_{t_{\mp} \rightarrow \mp \infty} \langle \chi_{out}, t_0 | \underbrace{e^{i(t_+ - t_0)} H_0}_{\Omega(t_+, t_0)} e^{-i(t_+ - t_0)} H}_{\Omega(t_+, t_0)} \underbrace{e^{i(t_- - t_0)} H_0}_{\Omega^\dagger(t_-, t_0)} e^{-i(t_- - t_0)} H_0}_{\Omega^\dagger(t_-, t_0)} | \psi_{in}, t_0 \rangle \\ &= \langle \chi_{out}, t_0 | S | \psi_{in}, t_0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$S$ : **Scattering operator, S matrix**

$$S = \lim_{t_{\mp} \rightarrow \mp \infty} \Omega(t_+, t_0) \Omega^\dagger(t_-, t_0)$$

$$\Omega(t, t_0) = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} e^{-i(t-t_0)H}$$

Differential equation:

$$i\partial_t \Omega(t, t_0) = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} (H - H_0) e^{-i(t-t_0)H} = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} H_{\text{int}} e^{-i(t-t_0)H}$$

**Interaction picture:**  $A_{(I)}(t) = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} A(t_0) e^{-i(t-t_0)H_0}$

$$i\partial_t \Omega(t, t_0) = H_{\text{int}}^{(I)}(t) \Omega(t, t_0)$$

$$\Omega(t, t_0) = T e^{-i\int_{t_0}^t dt' H_{\text{int}}^{(I)}(t')}$$

[Time ordered product]

$$S = T e^{-i\int_{t_0}^{+\infty} dt H_{\text{int}}^{(I)}(t)} T e^{-i\int_{-\infty}^{t_0} dt H_{\text{int}}^{(I)}(t)} = T e^{-i\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt H_{\text{int}}^{(I)}(t)}$$

**S matrix:**

$$S = T e^{-i\int_{(\infty)} d^4x^\mu \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^{(I)}} = T e^{i\int_{(\infty)} d^4x^\mu \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}^{(I)}}$$

[Non derivative couplings]

## Field operators in the interaction picture

$$\phi_{(I)}(t, \vec{x}) = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} \phi(t_0, \vec{x}) e^{-i(t-t_0)H_0}$$

$$\pi_{(I)}(t, \vec{x}) = e^{i(t-t_0)H_0} \pi(t_0, \vec{x}) e^{-i(t-t_0)H_0}$$

$$[\phi(t_0, \vec{x}), \pi(t_0, \vec{y})] = i\delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{y}), \quad [\phi_{(I)}(t, \vec{x}), \pi_{(I)}(t, \vec{y})] = i\delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{y})$$

$$\phi_{(I)}(x) = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} [a(\vec{k}) e^{-ik \cdot x} + a^\dagger(\vec{k}) e^{+ik \cdot x}]$$

$$\pi_{(I)}(x) = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} (-i\omega(\vec{k})) [a(\vec{k}) e^{-ik \cdot x} - a^\dagger(\vec{k}) e^{+ik \cdot x}]$$

$$\langle 0|T\phi_{(I)}(x)\phi_{(I)}(y)|0\rangle = \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^4k^\mu}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}$$

$|0\rangle$ : perturbative Fock vacuum

Fock space quantization:

appropriate for the particle picture of particle interactions

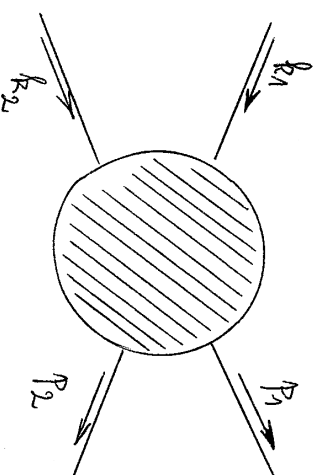
Perturbation theory in  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}$  or  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}$ .

# Feynman Rules and Cross Sections

**Simplest Example:**  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = -\frac{1}{4!}\lambda\phi^4$ ,  $\lambda > 0$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^{(I)} = \frac{1}{4!}\lambda : \phi_{(I)}^4 : \quad [\text{normal – ordering}]$$

**Process:**  $k_1 + k_2 \rightarrow p_1 + p_2$



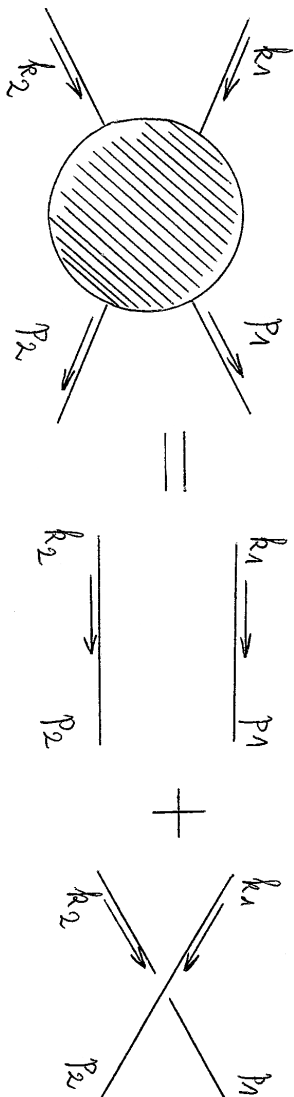
$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_{\text{in}}, t_0\rangle &= a^\dagger(k_1)a^\dagger(k_2)|0\rangle \\ |\chi_{\text{out}}, t_0\rangle &= a^\dagger(p_1)a^\dagger(p_2)|0\rangle \end{aligned}$$

**Transition amplitude:**  $\langle \chi_{\text{out}}, t_0 | S | \psi_{\text{in}}, t_0 \rangle$

$$S = T e^{-i \int d^4x \mu \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^{(I)}} = \mathbb{I} + T \left( -i \int d^4x \mu \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^{(I)} \right) + \frac{1}{2!} T \left( -i \int d^4x \mu \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^{(I)} \right)^2 + \dots$$

## Lowest order contribution

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle 0|a(p_2)a(p_1) \mathbb{I} a^\dagger(k_1)a^\dagger(k_2)|0\rangle = \\
 & = (2\pi)^3 2\omega(k_1) (2\pi)^3 2\omega(k_2) \left[ \delta_{p_1 k_1} \delta_{p_2 k_2} + \delta_{p_1 k_2} \delta_{p_2 k_1} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$



## First order contribution

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( -i\frac{\lambda}{4!} \right) \int d^4 x^\mu \langle 0|a(p_2)a(p_1) : \phi^4(x) : a^\dagger(k_1)a^\dagger(k_2)|0\rangle \\
 & = 6 \left( -i\frac{\lambda}{4!} \right) \int \prod_{i=1}^4 \frac{d^3 \vec{l}_i}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(l_i)} \int d^4 x^\mu e^{i(l_1+l_2-l_3-l_4)\cdot x} \times \\
 & \times \langle 0|a(p_2)a(p_1) a^\dagger(l_1)a^\dagger(l_2)a(l_3)a(l_4) a^\dagger(k_1)a^\dagger(k_2)|0\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

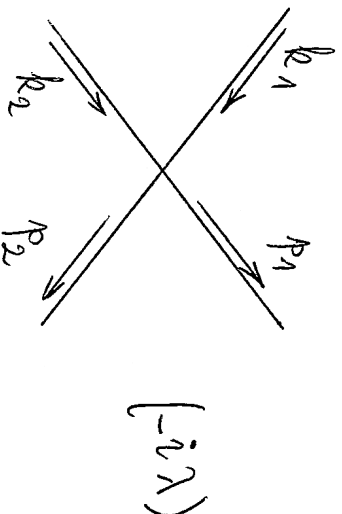
The matrix element is

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle 0|a(p_2)a(p_1)a^\dagger(l_1)a^\dagger(l_2)a(l_3)a(l_4)a^\dagger(k_1)a^\dagger(k_2)|0\rangle = \\ & = \prod_{i=1}^4 (2\pi)^3 2\omega(l_i) [\delta_{l_1 p_1} \delta_{l_2 p_2} + \delta_{l_1 p_2} \delta_{l_2 p_1}] [\delta_{l_4 k_1} \delta_{l_3 k_2} + \delta_{l_4 k_2} \delta_{l_3 k_1}] \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi_{\text{out}}, t_0 | S_2 | \psi_{\text{in}}, t_0 \rangle & = 4 \times 6 \left( -i \frac{\lambda}{4!} \right) \int d^4 x^\mu e^{i(p_1 + p_2 - k_1 - k_2) \cdot x} \\ & = (-i\lambda) (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_1 + p_2 - k_1 - k_2) \end{aligned}$$

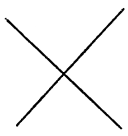
Diagrammatic representation: **Vertex Feynman rule**



Combinatorial factor:  $4! \left( -i \frac{\lambda}{4!} \right) = (-i\lambda)$

# Feynman rules in momentum space

Propagator:   $\frac{i}{p^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon}$

Vertex:   $(-i\lambda)$

External lines:  1

Momentum conservation at each vertex:

$$\text{overall factor } (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\sum_i p_i)$$

Integration over undetermined loop momenta:  $\int \frac{d^4 p_\mu}{(2\pi)^4}$

Divide by symmetry factors  
to be determined by combinatorics

## Cross sections

General structure:  $S = \mathbb{I} + iT$

$$\langle \vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \dots | iT | \vec{k}_A, \vec{k}_B \rangle = (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(k_A + k_B - \sum_f p_f) i\mathcal{M}(k_A + k_B \rightarrow p_f)$$

**Cross-section differential element in the final state phase space**

$$d\sigma = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{(k_A \cdot k_B)^2 - m_A^2 m_B^2}} \times \left( \prod_f \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_f}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{p}_f)} \right) \times \\ \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(k_A + k_B - \sum_f p_f) \times \\ \times \left| i\mathcal{M}(k_A + k_B \rightarrow p_f) \right|^2$$

Extra symmetry factor for the total cross section  
if there are identical particles in the final state



## Decay rates

In the decay rest frame

$$d\Gamma = \frac{1}{2m_A} \times \left( \prod_f \frac{d^3 p_f}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(p_f)} \right) \times \\ \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(k_A + k_B - \sum_f p_f) \times \\ \times |i\mathcal{M}(k_A \rightarrow p_f)|^2$$

### Exercise

1. Consider a model with two species of neutral scalar particles  $\phi$  and  $\chi$  of masses  $m$  and  $M$ , respectively, such that  $M > 2m$ , with the following coupling,

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \chi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} M^2 \chi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} g \chi \phi^2$$

the real coupling constant  $g$  having a dimension of mass in particle physics units. Compute to first order in perturbation theory the lifetime  $\tau$  of the particle  $\chi$ ,  $\tau = 1/\Gamma(\chi \rightarrow 2\phi)$ .

# Lie Groups and Symmetries

## Continuous Lie groups and transformations

**Translation in time:**  $|\psi, t + t_0\rangle = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}t_0 \hat{H}} |\psi, t\rangle$

Continuous parameter:  $t_0$ ; (Infinitesimal) **Generator:**  $\hat{H}$

**Translation in space:**

$$|x + a\rangle = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}a\hat{p}} |x\rangle, \quad \langle x|e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}a\hat{p}}|\psi\rangle = e^{a\frac{d}{dx}}\psi(x) = \psi(x + a)$$

Continuous parameter:  $a$ ; (Infinitesimal) **Generator:**  $\hat{p}$

**Rotation in a plane:** **SO(2)** or **U(1)**

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \quad z' = x' + iy' = e^{-i\theta} (x + iy) = e^{-i\theta} z$$

$$T = -i \frac{dR(\theta)}{d\theta} \Big|_{\theta=0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R(\theta) = e^{i\theta T}$$

Continuous parameter:  $\theta$ ; (Infinitesimal) **Generator:**  $T$

## Rotation in (three dimensional euclidean) space: $SO(3)$

$$R_1(\theta_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta_1 & \sin \theta_1 \\ 0 & -\sin \theta_1 & \cos \theta_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad R_2(\theta_2) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_2 & 0 & -\sin \theta_2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta_2 & 0 & \cos \theta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_3(\theta_3) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_3 & \sin \theta_3 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_3 & \cos \theta_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_i(\theta_i) = e^{i\theta_i T_i}, \quad T_i = -i \frac{dR_i(\theta_i)}{d\theta_i} \Big|_{\theta_i=0}, \quad (T_i)_{jk} = -i\epsilon_{ijk}, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3$$

General  $SO(3)$  rotation:  $R(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) = R_1(\theta_1) R_2(\theta_2) R_3(\theta_3)$

$$R(\alpha_i) = e^{i(\alpha_1 T_1 + \alpha_2 T_2 + \alpha_3 T_3)}$$

Non-abelian Lie group

Non-abelian Lie algebra (three dimensional)

$$[T_i, T_j] = i\epsilon_{ijk} T_k$$

## General (compact) Lie group and Lie algebra

Generators:  $T_a, T_a^\dagger = T_a, a = 1, 2, \dots, d$

Lie algebra:  $[T_a, T_b] = if_{abc} T_c, f_{abc}$ : real structure constants

Lie group:  $g(\alpha) = e^{i\alpha_a T_a}, g^\dagger(\alpha) = g^{-1}(\alpha)$

## Symmetries

Noether charges (no induced surface terms):  $[\hat{Q}_a, \hat{Q}_b] = i\hbar f_{abc} \hat{Q}_c$

Finite symmetry transformations:  $e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\alpha_a \hat{Q}_a}$

In the case of field theories: [current algebra]

$$Q_a = \int_{(\infty)} d^3\vec{x} J_a^\mu = 0, \quad \partial_\mu J_a^\mu = 0$$

## Spherically symmetric harmonic oscillator ( $d = 2$ )

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{\vec{x}}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\vec{x}^2 = \frac{1}{2}m(x_1^2 + x_2^2) - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2)$$

$$a_{\pm} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_1 \mp ia_2), \quad a_{\pm}^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_1^{\dagger} \pm ia_2^{\dagger})$$

$$[a_{\pm}, a_{\pm}^{\dagger}] = \mathbb{I}, \quad [a_{\pm}, a_{\mp}^{\dagger}] = 0, \quad |n_+, n_-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n_+! n_-!}} (a_+^{\dagger})^{n_+} (a_-^{\dagger})^{n_-} |0\rangle$$

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega \left( a_1^{\dagger} a_1 + \frac{1}{2} + a_2^{\dagger} a_2 + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \hbar\omega \left( a_+^{\dagger} a_+ + a_-^{\dagger} a_- + 1 \right)$$

$$\text{SO}(2) = \text{U}(1) \text{ symmetry : } \hat{L} = \hbar \left( a_+^{\dagger} a_+ - a_-^{\dagger} a_- \right), \quad [\hat{L}, \hat{H}] = 0$$

$$\hat{H}|n_+, n_-\rangle = E(n_+, n_-)|n_+, n_-\rangle, \quad \hat{L}|n_+, n_-\rangle = \hbar(n_+ - n_-)|n_+, n_-\rangle$$

$$E(n_+, n_-) = \hbar\omega(n_+ + n_- + 1)$$

Energy degeneracies?

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega \begin{pmatrix} a_+^\dagger & a_-^\dagger \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \hbar\omega, \quad \hat{L} = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} a_+^\dagger & a_-^\dagger \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_+ \\ a_- \end{pmatrix}$$

**SU(2) invariance** [dynamical symmetry]:

$$U \in SU(2), \quad U^\dagger = U^{-1}, \quad \det U = 1 : \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_+ \\ a_- \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a'_+ \\ a'_- \end{pmatrix} = U \begin{pmatrix} a_+ \\ a_- \end{pmatrix}$$

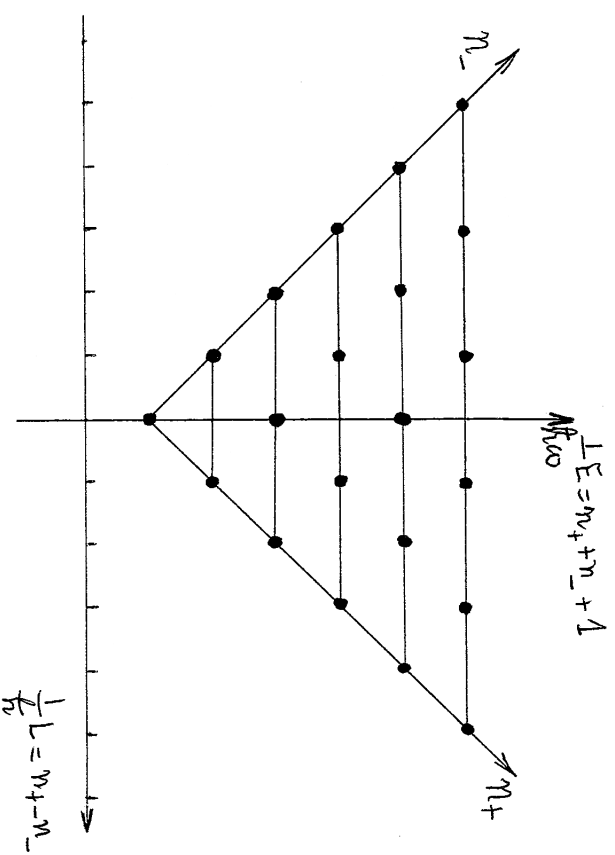
$$T_+ = a_+^\dagger a_-, \quad T_- = a_-^\dagger a_+ = T_+^\dagger, \quad T_3 = \frac{1}{2} (a_+^\dagger a_+ - a_-^\dagger a_-) = \frac{1}{2\hbar} \hat{L}$$

$$T_1 = \frac{1}{2} (T_+ + T_-), \quad T_2 = -\frac{i}{2} (T_+ - T_-), \quad T_\pm = T_1 \pm iT_2$$

$$[T_+, T_-] = 2T_3, \quad [T_3, T_\pm] = \pm T_\pm, \quad [T_\pm, \hat{H}] = 0$$

$$[T_i, T_j] = i\epsilon_{ijk} T_k, \quad [T_i, \hat{H}] = 0$$

Lie algebras:  $su(2) = so(3)$  [integer and half-integer spin]



**SU(2) irreducible representations:**  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, -j \leq m \leq j$

$$|j, m\rangle = |n_+, n_-\rangle$$

$$j \equiv \frac{1}{2} (n_+ + n_-), \quad m \equiv \frac{1}{2} (n_+ - n_-), \quad n_{\pm} \equiv j \pm m$$

$$E(j, m) = \hbar\omega(2j + 1)$$

**The first excited level:**  $j = \frac{1}{2}$

In the basis  $\{|j = \frac{1}{2}, m = \frac{1}{2}\rangle, |j = \frac{1}{2}, m = -\frac{1}{2}\rangle\}$

$$T_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \tau_1$$

$$T_2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \tau_2$$

$$T_3 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \tau_3$$

$\tau_i$ : **Pauli matrices**



## Internal symmetries for field theories

Compact Lie symmetry group  $G$  and its algebra:  
generators  $(T_a)_{ij}$  in some (irreducible) representation  $R$

Symmetry transformations:

[say, complex scalar fields, in a complex representation]

$$\phi'_i(x) = \left( e^{i\alpha_a T_a} \right)_{ij} \phi_j(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i(x) &= \int_{(\infty)} \frac{d^3\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k})} \left[ a_i(\vec{k}) e^{-ik \cdot x} + b_i^\dagger(\vec{k}) e^{+ik \cdot x} \right] \\ [a_i(\vec{k}), a_j^\dagger(\vec{\ell})] &= (2\pi)^3 2\omega(\vec{k}) \delta_{ij} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k} - \vec{\ell}) \quad \mathbb{I} = [b_i(\vec{k}), b_j^\dagger(\vec{\ell})] \end{aligned}$$

1-particle and 1-antiparticle states: representations  $R$  and  $\bar{R}$

### Gauged symmetries?

$$\phi'_i(x) = \left( e^{i\alpha_a(x) T_a} \right)_{ij} \phi_j(x)$$