

Spin 1

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Gauge Principle

We have seen that the electromagnetic Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - A_{\mu}j^{\mu} \quad (1)$$

$$F^{\mu\nu} = \partial^{\mu}A^{\nu} - \partial^{\nu}A^{\mu}$$

⇒ Maxwell equations

$$\partial_{\nu}F^{\nu\mu} = j^{\mu} \quad (2)$$

⇒ gauge invariant action:

$$A^{\mu}(x) \rightarrow A^{\mu} + \partial^{\mu}\Lambda(x) \quad (3)$$

as long as j^{μ} is a conserved current: $\partial_{\mu}j^{\mu} = 0$.

⇒ the $U(1)$ currents of the complex Klein-Gordon field, and the Dirac field are good candidates for the right-hand-side of the Maxwell equations (2).

⇒ **But is there another reason?**

Dirac or complex Klein-Gordon Lagrangians are invariant under the **global** $U(1)$ symmetry:

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = e^{-i\alpha} \phi(x) \quad (4)$$

α is a constant for all space-time.

⇒ **BUT** relativistic theory ⇒ no sense to change at the same time the phases of two fields which have space-like separation.

⇒ the phase in eq. (4) could be different at each space-time point:

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = e^{-i\alpha(x)} \phi(x) \quad (5)$$

⇒ **derivative terms** ⇒ particles' Lagrangians **not invariant!!**

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^\dagger(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) &\rightarrow \phi^\dagger(x) e^{i\alpha(x)} \partial_\mu (e^{-i\alpha(x)} \phi(x)) \\ &= \phi^\dagger(x) e^{i\alpha(x)} e^{-i\alpha(x)} \partial_\mu \phi(x) + \phi^\dagger(x) e^{i\alpha(x)} \phi(x) \partial_\mu e^{-i\alpha(x)} \\ &= \phi^\dagger(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) - i(\partial_\mu \alpha(x)) \phi^\dagger(x) \phi(x) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

unless an extra term in the Lagrangian with an $A_\mu(x)$ field:

$$i\phi^\dagger(x) A_\mu(x) \phi(x) \rightarrow \phi^\dagger(x) (iA_\mu(x) + i\partial_\mu \alpha(x)) \phi(x) = i\phi^\dagger(x) (A_\mu(x) + \partial_\mu \alpha(x)) \phi(x) \quad (7)$$

⇒ **gauge transformation** for the A_μ field (3) with $\Lambda = \alpha$!

Terms in eq. (7) included **for any field derivative**

- In the Klein-Gordon or Dirac Lagrangian of a ϕ_i field
⇒ substitute the derivative by the **covariant derivative**:

$$\partial_\mu \phi_i(x) \rightarrow D_\mu \phi_i(x) \equiv (\partial_\mu + iq_i A_\mu(x)) \phi_i(x) \quad (8)$$

⇒ **minimal coupling**,

⇒ coupling strength q_i different for each field ϕ_i ⇒ **electric charge**

- Lagrangian **invariant under local gauge transformations** $U(1)$

$$\phi_i(x) \rightarrow \phi'_i(x) = e^{-iq_i \Lambda(x)} \phi_i(x)$$

$$A_\mu(x) \rightarrow A'_\mu(x) = A_\mu(x) + \partial_\mu \Lambda(x)$$

- Kinetic part of the A_μ field: free-field Maxwell Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

⇒ **gauge-invariant** by itself.

Introduction of the minimal coupling (8)

⇒ presence of an **interaction** term in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = q_i A_\mu j_i^\mu$$

where j_i^μ is the $U(1)$ conserved current.

$U(1)$ symmetry + relativity \implies electromagnetism

Quantum Electrodynamics: Dirac + Electromagnetism:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{QED} &= \bar{\psi}(i\not{D} - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} = \bar{\psi}(i\not{\partial} - e\not{A} - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \\ &= \bar{\psi}(i\not{\partial} - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - eA_\mu \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

Scalar Quantum Electrodynamics: Klein-Gordon + Electromagnetism:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{SQED} &= (D_\mu\phi)^\dagger(D^\mu\phi) - m^2\phi^\dagger\phi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \\ &= ((\partial_\mu + ieA_\mu)\phi)^\dagger((\partial^\mu + ieA^\mu)\phi) - m^2\phi^\dagger\phi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \\ &= (\partial_\mu\phi)^\dagger(\partial^\mu\phi) - m^2\phi^\dagger\phi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + ieA_\mu((\partial^\mu\phi^\dagger)\phi - \phi^\dagger\partial^\mu\phi) + e^2A^\mu A_\mu\phi^\dagger\phi \\ &= (\partial_\mu\phi)^\dagger(\partial^\mu\phi) - m^2\phi^\dagger\phi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - ieA_\mu(\phi^\dagger\overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\mu\phi) + e^2A^\mu A_\mu\phi^\dagger\phi\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

$$f\overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\mu g \equiv f\partial^\mu(g) - (\partial^\mu f)g$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Maxwell} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \quad (11)$$

Free-field equations: **vacuum Maxwell equations**:

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad ; \quad \square A^\mu - \partial^\mu(\partial_\nu A^\nu) = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$\Pi_{A_0} = 0 \quad (\text{see exercises!})$$

⇒ not suitable to carry out quantization

⇒ canonical momenta of the other components: electric field:

$$\Pi_{A_i} = F^{0i} = -F^{i0} = \partial^0 A^i - \partial^i A^0 = -E^i$$

Problem?

- $A^\mu \Rightarrow$ 4 degrees of freedom
- **but** light has only 2 degrees of freedom
(classical electromagnetism, polarization)
⇒ We have added extra degrees of freedom!

- **gauge symmetry**

$$A^\mu \rightarrow A'^\mu = A^\mu + \partial^\mu \Lambda \quad (13)$$

freedom to choose some gauge.

- Quantization ⇒ need to **fix the gauge**
⇒ fix some condition on the gauge fields.

Many possibilities:

- Lorentz-covariant (R_ξ gauges, Lorenz-gauge¹, Feynman gauge, ...)
- not Lorentz-covariant (Coulomb gauge, Radiation gauge, ...).

Lorenz-gauge

Covariant gauge condition:

$$\partial_\mu A^\mu = 0 \quad (14)$$

⇒ Always possible to obtain from gauge freedom (13)

⇒ residual gauge freedom. We can choose a Λ in eq. (13) such that:

$$\square \Lambda = 0$$

and A'^μ will still fulfill the Lorenz equation (14).

¹ Do not confuse **Ludvig Lorenz** with **Hendrik Lorentz**

- To break this residual gauge freedom
 \Rightarrow need to use a non-covariant gauge, like the radiation gauge:

$$A^0 = 0 \quad ; \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$$

- **not necessary** to **break covariance** to quantize the theory
 \Rightarrow Lorenz condition (14) is sufficient.

Maxwell equations (12) \oplus Lorenz condition (14):

$$\square A^\mu - \partial^\mu (\partial_\nu A^\nu) = 0 \quad \oplus \quad \partial_\nu A^\nu = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \square A^\mu = \partial^\nu \partial_\nu A^\mu(x) = 0$$

\Rightarrow Klein-Gordon equations for a massless field: $A^\mu \in \mathbb{R}$

$$A^\mu(x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{2E_k}} \sum_{\lambda=0}^3 (\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}} e^{-ikx} + \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\mu*}(\mathbf{k}) a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{ikx}) \quad ; \quad E_k = k^0 = |\mathbf{k}| \quad (15)$$

- 4 polarization vectors $\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k})$, corresponding to each (formal) degree of freedom.

We choose the normalization and completeness relations:

$$\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) \epsilon_{(\sigma)\mu}^*(\mathbf{k}) = g_{\lambda\sigma} \quad ; \quad \sum_{\lambda=0}^3 \xi_\lambda \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\nu*}(\mathbf{k}) = -g^{\mu\nu} \quad (16)$$

$$\xi_0 = -1 \quad ; \quad \xi_i = 1 \quad ; \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

for a given 3-momenta $\mathbf{k} \Rightarrow$ explicit values for the polarization vectors

E.g.: $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, k)$

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{(0)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) &= n^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 0) \text{ scalar or time-like polarization, non-physical} \\ \epsilon_{(3)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) &= (0, 0, 0, 1) = (0, \frac{\mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|}) \text{ longitudinal polarization, non-physical} \\ \epsilon_{(1)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) &= (0, 1, 0, 0) \text{ transverse polarization, physical} \\ \epsilon_{(2)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) &= (0, 0, 1, 0) \text{ transverse polarization, physical} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Covariant form of longitudinal polarization:

$$\epsilon_{(3)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{k^\mu - (kn)n^\mu}{[(kn)^2 - k^2]^{1/2}}$$

The Lorenz condition (14) translates to:

$$\sum_{\lambda=0}^3 k_{\mu} \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) = 0 \quad (18)$$

- transverse polarizations \Rightarrow directly satisfied:

$$k_{\mu} \epsilon_{(1,2)}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) = -\mathbf{k} \cdot \epsilon_{(1,2)}(\mathbf{k}) = 0 \quad (19)$$

- scalar and longitudinal polarizations
 \Rightarrow **not individually satisfied**, but the **sum**:

$$k_{\mu} \epsilon_{(0)}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) + k_{\mu} \epsilon_{(3)}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) = k_0 - |\mathbf{k}| = 0 \quad (20)$$

Linear polarizations of eq. (17) are real (\mathbb{R})

\Rightarrow circular or elliptic polarizations \Rightarrow complex polarization vectors (\mathbb{C})

Covariant Quantization

Maxwell Lagrangian (11) is not suitable for quantization \Rightarrow need another approach.

Gupta-Bleuler quantization

- use a **modification** of the Maxwell Lagrangian
- impose a given **gauge-fixing condition**, like the one in eq. (14),
 \Rightarrow selects the **physical states**.

Modified Lagrangian for the Maxwell field:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{Maxwell} \underbrace{-\frac{\lambda}{2}(\partial_{\mu} A^{\mu})^2}_{\text{gauge fixing term}} \quad (21)$$

For fields fulfilling the Lorenz gauge condition (14): $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{Maxwell}$

For $\lambda = 1$: Equivalent to (from Fermi):

$$\mathcal{L}_F = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu A_\nu)(\partial^\mu A^\nu) \quad (22)$$

e.o.m.:

$$\partial_\mu \partial^\mu A^\nu = 0 \quad (23)$$

\Rightarrow equivalent to the Maxwell Lagrangian (11) **only** if the Lorenz-gauge condition (14) is fulfilled.

Conjugate momenta:

$$\Pi^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{A}_\mu} = -\dot{A}^\mu(x)$$

- \Rightarrow all the fields have non-zero momenta
- \Rightarrow NOTE index position!
- \Rightarrow perform canonical quantization, as in the Klein-Gordon field, using the normal modes expansion (15).

Canonical equal-time-commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [A^\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), A^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] &= 0 \\ [\Pi^\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), \Pi^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] &= 0 \Rightarrow [\dot{A}^\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), \dot{A}^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] = 0 \\ [A_\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), \Pi^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] &= i\delta_\mu^\nu \delta^3(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \Rightarrow \\ [A_\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), \dot{A}^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] &= -i\delta_\mu^\nu \delta^3(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \Rightarrow \\ [A^\mu(t, \mathbf{x}), \dot{A}^\nu(t, \mathbf{y})] &= -ig^{\mu\nu} \delta^3(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

- 1 – 3 components: same e.t.c. relations as hermitic Klein-Gordon field
- 0 component has a – sign

Commutation relations of the a operators in (15)

$$\begin{aligned} [a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}, a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}^\dagger] &= -g_{\lambda\sigma}(2\pi)^3\delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k}) \\ [a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}, a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}] &= [a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger, a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}^\dagger] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

$\lambda = \sigma = 0$ has an extra – sign

- The **vacuum** is defined as:

$$a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{p}}|0\rangle = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{p}, \lambda$$

- or, equivalently, by defining the positive and negative-energy part of the A^μ field:

$$\begin{aligned} A^\mu &= A^{\mu+} + A^{\mu-} \\ A^{\mu+}(x)|0\rangle &= 0 \quad \forall x \end{aligned}$$

- A particle (photon) with a given momentum \mathbf{k} and polarization λ is created:

$$|1_{\lambda,\mathbf{k}}\rangle = \sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{k}}} a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger |0\rangle$$

\Rightarrow same normalization as for the Klein-Gordon field.

- The normalization of the one-particle states is:

$$\langle 0 | a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}} a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}^\dagger | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}} + [a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}, a_{(\sigma)\mathbf{p}}^\dagger] | 0 \rangle = -g_{\lambda\sigma}(2\pi)^3\delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p})\langle 0 | 0 \rangle$$

\Rightarrow **the scalar state $\lambda = 0$ has a negative norm!**

\Rightarrow scalar product has **no definite sign**

\Rightarrow **does not admit** the probabilistic interpretation of Quantum Mechanics

- However, we still have **not applied the Lorenz gauge condition (14)**

Gupta-Bleuler solution:

if $|\Psi\rangle$ is a **physical state** then:

$$\partial_\mu A^{\mu+}(x)|\Psi\rangle = 0 \text{ for physical states} \quad (26)$$

- Expected value of the Lorenz condition for physical states is:

$$\langle\Psi|\partial_\mu A^\mu(x)|\Psi\rangle = 0$$

- going to the momentum-space,
taking into account the transversality of $\epsilon_{1,2}$ (18),(19),(20)

$$(a_{(3)\mathbf{k}} - a_{(0)\mathbf{k}})|\Psi\rangle = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{k} \quad (27)$$

Hamiltonian

$$H = \int d^3x : \Pi^\mu A_\mu - \mathcal{L}_F := \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k^0 \left(\sum_{\lambda=1}^3 a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{(\lambda)\mathbf{k}} - a_{(0)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{(0)\mathbf{k}} \right) \quad (28)$$

- \Rightarrow Scalar photons contribute to negative energy.
- \Rightarrow for a **physical state** fulfilling the subsidiary **Lorenz condition (27)**:

$$a_{(3)\mathbf{k}}|\Psi\rangle = a_{(0)\mathbf{k}}|\Psi\rangle \Rightarrow \langle\Psi|a_{(0)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger = \langle\Psi|a_{(3)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$$

the contribution of the longitudinal and scalar photons to the energy is:

$$\langle\Psi|a_{(3)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{(3)\mathbf{k}} - a_{(0)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{(0)\mathbf{k}}|\Psi\rangle = \langle\Psi|a_{(3)\mathbf{k}}^\dagger (a_{(3)\mathbf{k}} - a_{(0)\mathbf{k}})|\Psi\rangle = 0$$

- \Rightarrow scalar and longitudinal photons **do not** contribute to the total energy of the system for **physical states**, due to a cancellation between their contributions.

Photon Fock space

Allowed photon state:

$$|\Psi\rangle = |\Psi_T\rangle + |\Psi_{SL}\rangle \quad (29)$$

- Transverse part contains only transverse photons:

$$|\Psi_T\rangle \propto a_{(1)k_1}^\dagger a_{(2)k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle$$

- scalar-longitudinal part contains a state fulfilling (27), it can be written as:

$$|\Psi_{SL}\rangle \propto (a_{(3)k}^\dagger - a_{(0)k}^\dagger) |0\rangle$$

- choosing different values for $\Psi_{SL} \Rightarrow$ different states Ψ which correspond to the **same physical state** (since they have the same Ψ_T).
- Residual gauge freedom.
- Choosing different Ψ_{SL} means choosing different residual gauge-fixing terms.

It can be shown:

- the norm of a $|\Psi_{SL}\rangle$ state is:

$$\langle \Psi_{SL} | \Psi_{SL} \rangle = 0$$

- the Ψ_{SL} and Ψ_T states are orthogonal

$$\langle \Psi_{SL} | \Psi_T \rangle = 0$$

- the scalar product in the Fock space is:

$$\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle = \langle \Psi_T | \Psi_T \rangle$$

\Rightarrow has a definite sign

A probabilistic interpretation of Quantum Mechanics is possible

Propagators

The commutation relations (24), (25)

- same as for the real Klein-Gordon field ϕ and $\dot{\phi}$, except for the – sign in the A^0 component,
- ⇒ generic commutators and propagators will be the same as for the Klein-Gordon field (except for the – sign),
- ⇒ with a zero mass

$$\begin{aligned} D^{\mu\nu}(x-y) &= [A^\mu(x), A^\nu(y)] = -g^{\mu\nu} \Delta(x-y) = -g^{\mu\nu} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 2E_p} (e^{-ip(x-y)} - e^{ip(x-y)}) \\ &= \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{ig^{\mu\nu}}{p^2} e^{-ip(x-y)} \end{aligned}$$

- p^0 integration around the proper circuit in the plane $p^0 \in \mathbb{C}$.

Retarded propagator

$$D_R^{\mu\nu}(x-y) = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{p^2} e^{-ip(x-y)}$$

integration circuit *above* the poles (in the positive side of the imaginary

Feynman propagator

$$\begin{aligned} D_F^{\mu\nu}(x-y) &= \langle 0 | T \{ A^\mu(x) A^\nu(y) \} | 0 \rangle = -g^{\mu\nu} \Delta_F(x-y) \\ &= \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{p^2 + i\varepsilon} e^{-ip(x-y)} \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Alternative:

- construct the propagators as the gauge-field equations of motion (23) Green's function
- with the $+i\varepsilon$ prescription.
- The numerator contains the polarization vector completeness relations (16).
- Choosing different gauge-fixing terms in the modified Lagrangian (21)
 - ⇒ different conditions for the polarization vectors (17)
 - ⇒ different completeness relations (16)
 - ⇒ different numerators for the gauge-boson propagators

Massive gauge fields

Maxwell Lagrangian: only contains derivative terms,

⇒ describes a massless field.

Add a mass-term to the Lagrangian in the form:

$$\mathcal{L}_M = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}M^2 A^\mu A_\mu \quad (31)$$

⇒ Mass term obviously breaks gauge-invariance

It is interesting however for:

- Electroweak theory, where the gauge-invariance is broken through the Higgs mechanism
- Vector mesons of QCD

The e.o.m. of this field is:

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} + M^2 A^\nu = 0$$

by taking the 4-divergence ∂_ν of it, one obtains:

$$M^2 \partial_\nu A^\nu = 0$$

⇒ if $M \neq 0$, the Lorenz condition is fulfilled,

⇒ there are only three degrees of freedom.

Use Lorenz condition to simplify the e.o.m. to:

$$(\square + M^2)A^\nu = 0$$

⇒ Klein-Gordon equation for a field of mass M .

The three independent polarization vectors, for a particle of momentum $k^\mu = (E, 0, 0, k)$ can be chosen to be:

$$\epsilon_{(1)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) = (0, 1, 0, 0) \text{ Transverse}$$

$$\epsilon_{(2)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) = (0, 0, 1, 0) \text{ Transverse}$$

$$\epsilon_{(3)}^\mu(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{M}(k, 0, 0, E) \text{ Longitudinal}$$

⇒ now the longitudinal vector is physical.

The normalization and completeness relations are:

$$\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k})\epsilon_{(\sigma)\mu}^*(\mathbf{k}) = -\delta_{\lambda\sigma} = g_{\lambda\sigma} \quad ; \quad \sum_{\lambda=1}^3 \epsilon_{(\lambda)}^\mu(\mathbf{k})\epsilon_{(\lambda)}^{\nu*}(\mathbf{k}) = -g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{M^2}$$