

QUANTUM FIELD THEORY PHYS40481 2012: Prof A Pilaftsis

EXAMPLES SHEET II: Canonical Quantization and the S-Matrix

1 Creation and Annihilation Operators

Show that

- (i) $[a(\mathbf{p}), a^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] = (2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$ is Lorentz invariant.
- (ii) the Hermitian adjoint $a(\mathbf{p})$ is the **annihilation operator** removing a particle from a Fock state as follows:

$$a(\mathbf{p}) |\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2, \dots, \mathbf{q}_N\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N (2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}_i) |\mathbf{q}_1, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{i-1}, \mathbf{q}_{i+1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_N\rangle .$$

- (iii) the integral measure

$$\int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} 2\pi \theta(k_0) \delta(k^2 - m^2)$$

is Lorentz invariant, where $\theta(z)$ is the step function.

2 Quantization of Complex Fields

A theory for a complex field is described by the Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L} = (\partial^\mu \Phi^\dagger)(\partial_\mu \Phi) - m^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi$, where the complex field operator Φ is given by

$$\Phi(x) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} \left(a(\mathbf{k}) e^{-ik \cdot x} + b^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) e^{ik \cdot x} \right).$$

Given that $[a(\mathbf{k}), a^\dagger(\mathbf{k}')] = [b(\mathbf{k}), b^\dagger(\mathbf{k}')] = (2\pi)^3 2E_k \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')$ are the only non-zero commutators, prove the equal-time commutation relations:

$$[\Phi(t, \mathbf{x}), \Pi(t, \mathbf{y})] = [\Phi^\dagger(t, \mathbf{x}), \Pi^\dagger(t, \mathbf{y})] = i\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) ,$$

whereas all other commutators vanish, including $[\Phi(t, \mathbf{x}), \Pi^\dagger(t, \mathbf{y})] = 0$. Then, use \mathcal{L} to derive the Hamilton density operator \mathcal{H} in terms of the complex field operators $\Phi(x), \Phi^\dagger(x)$ and their conjugate momentum operators $\Pi(x)$ and $\Pi^\dagger(x)$. Verify that $\mathcal{H}[\Phi, \Pi]$ is positive definite for $m^2 > 0$.

3 The Time Evolution Operator

(i) Prove the relation: $|A(t); t_0\rangle_I = U(t, t_0) |A; t_0\rangle_H$, where $U(t, t_0) = e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} e^{-iH^S(t-t_0)}$ is the time evolution operator.

(ii) Show that

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} U(t, t_0) = H_{\text{int}}^I(t) U(t, t_0).$$

(iii) In the lectures, we argued that $U(t, t_0)$ can be written down as

$$\begin{aligned} U(t, t_0) &= \hat{\mathbf{1}} + (-i) \int_{t_0}^t dt_1 H_{\text{int}}^I(t_1) + \frac{(-i)^2}{2!} \int_{t_0}^t dt_1 \int_{t_0}^t dt_2 T\{H_{\text{int}}^I(t_1) H_{\text{int}}^I(t_2)\} + \dots \\ &= T\left\{ \exp \left[-i \int_{t_0}^t dt' H_{\text{int}}^I(t') \right] \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

In order for this argument to go through, you need to show that

$$\int_{t_0}^t dt_1 \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt_2 T\{H_{\text{int}}^I(t_1) H_{\text{int}}^I(t_2)\} = \frac{1}{2!} \int_{t_0}^t dt_1 \int_{t_0}^t dt_2 T\{H_{\text{int}}^I(t_1) H_{\text{int}}^I(t_2)\}.$$

4** Quantum Field Theory Techniques in Quantum Mechanics

The Hamilton operator describing an electron within a homogeneous magnetic field B_z in the z direction is

$$H_0 = E \mathbf{1}_2 + \mu B_z \sigma_3,$$

where σ_3 is the third Pauli matrix and μ is the magnetic moment of the electron. In this system, a small alternating magnetic field $b_x(t) = b_x \sin \Omega t$ (with $b_x \ll B_z$) is applied to the x direction given by the interaction Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{int}}(t) = \mu b_x(t) \sigma_1,$$

where σ_1 is the first Pauli matrix. Introduce a time evolution operator $U(t; t_0)$ analogous to Example 3 to calculate the probability transition amplitude for an electron with spin $s_z = 1/2$ at time $t_0 = 0$ to flip spin to $s_z = -1/2$ at time t . Compare your result with the one obtained by ordinary Quantum Mechanics.

5 Feynman, Retarded and Advanced Propagators

(i) Show that $\Delta_F(x - y)$ is the Green function of the Klein-Gordon equation:

$$(\partial_\mu \partial^\mu + m^2) \Delta_F(x - y) = -\delta^{(4)}(x - y) .$$

(ii) The retarded and advanced propagator are defined as

$$i\Delta_R(x-y) \equiv \theta(x^0 - y^0) \langle 0 | [\Phi(x), \Phi(y)] | 0 \rangle , \quad i\Delta_A(x-y) \equiv -\theta(y^0 - x^0) \langle 0 | [\Phi(x), \Phi(y)] | 0 \rangle .$$

Use complex integration techniques to show that these propagators can be written down as

$$i\Delta_{R(A)}(x - y) = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}}{k^2 - m^2 + (-) ik^0 \varepsilon} ,$$

with $\varepsilon = 0^+$.

(iii) Show that $i\Delta_{R,A}(x-y)$ are also Green functions of the Klein–Gordon equation. What are their physical properties and their difference from the Feynman propagator?

6 Hamilton's Equations in Quantum Field Theory

The Hamilton operator of a quantum system is given by

$$H = \int d^3 y \mathcal{H}(t, y) ,$$

where $\mathcal{H}(t, y)$ is the Hamilton density operator derived in Example 2. Prove the quantum field-theoretic Hamilton equations:

$$(a) \quad [H, \Phi(t, \mathbf{x})] = -i \frac{\partial \Phi(t, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t} ,$$

$$(b) \quad [H, \Pi(t, \mathbf{x})] = -i \frac{\partial \Pi(t, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t} .$$

[Hint: Use the Euler–Lagrange equations of motion for the field operators Φ and Φ^\dagger to prove equation (b).]

7 COURSEWORK II: Scattering Processes and Cross Sections

- (i) Show that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2|} \left(\frac{1}{2E_{p_1}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2E_{p_2}} \right) = \frac{1}{2\lambda^{1/2}(s, m_{a_1}^2, m_{a_2}^2)},$$

where $\lambda(x, y, z) = (x - y - z)^2 - 4yz$ and $s = (p_1 + p_2)^2$, and so that σ is Lorentz invariant.

- (ii) Calculate analytically the cross section σ for the scattering processes: (a) $\chi^+ \chi^- \rightarrow \chi^+ \chi^-$ and (b) $\chi^+ \chi^- \rightarrow \Phi \Phi$.
- (iii) Assuming that the scattering processes in (ii) take place at centre-of-mass energies $\sqrt{s} = 300$ GeV, estimate the value of σ in both GeV^{-2} and nb, for $M = 120$ GeV, $m = 50$ GeV and $\lambda = g/M = 0.5$.
- (iv) How many scatterings do you expect to detect per year at a collider such as the TEVATRON with $L = 10^{31} \text{ cm}^{-2} s^{-1}$?

SOLUTIONS TO EXAMPLES SHEET II

1 (i) A general Lorentz boost of $\underline{p}-\underline{q}$ to a given direction β can be thought of as a rotation of the vector $\underline{p}-\underline{q}$ to become parallel to β and then a boost along β .

Under an orthogonal transformation of $\underline{p}-\underline{q}$:

$$\underline{p}^i - \underline{q}^i = \Omega^{ij}(\theta) (\underline{p}-\underline{q})^j ,$$

we have $S^{(3)}(\underline{p}'-\underline{q}') = \underbrace{\left| \det \frac{\partial(\underline{p}'-\underline{q}')}{\partial(\underline{p}-\underline{q})^j} \right|^{-1}}_{|\det \Omega(\theta)|^{-1}} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q})$

Determinant
of the Jacobian

$$= 1, \text{ since } \Omega \text{ is orthogonal matrix.}$$

In addition, $E_{\underline{p}'} = \sqrt{|\underline{p}'|^2 + m^2} = \sqrt{\underline{p}^2 + m^2} = E_{\underline{p}}$

Hence, $E_{\underline{p}'} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}'-\underline{q}') = E_{\underline{p}} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q})$ is invariant under rotations.

Assume $\beta \parallel \hat{e}_x \parallel \underline{p}'$ & boost along \hat{e}_x :

$$(\underline{p}''-\underline{q}'')_x = \gamma \beta (E_{\underline{p}'} - E_{\underline{q}'}) + \gamma (\underline{p}'-\underline{q}')_x$$

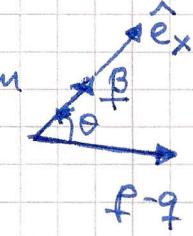
$$P''_{y,z} = P'_{y,z}$$

$$E_{\underline{p}''} = \gamma E_{\underline{p}'} + \gamma \beta P'_x = E_{\underline{p}} \left(\gamma + \gamma \beta \frac{P'_x}{E_{\underline{p}'}} \right)$$

$$\text{Also, } \frac{d(\underline{p}''-\underline{q}'')_x}{d P'_x} = \gamma \beta \frac{P'_x}{E_{\underline{p}'}} + \gamma = \gamma \beta \frac{P'_x}{E_{\underline{p}}} + \gamma = \frac{E_{\underline{p}''}}{E_{\underline{p}}}$$

Consequently, $E_{\underline{p}''} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}''-\underline{q}'') = E_{\underline{p}''} \left(\frac{d(\underline{p}''-\underline{q}'')_x}{d P'_x} \right)^{-1} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q})$

$$= E_{\underline{p}''} \frac{E_{\underline{p}}}{E_{\underline{p}''}} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q}) = E_{\underline{p}} S^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q}) \quad \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$



(ii)

$$\alpha(p) |q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N\rangle = a_p^+ a_{q_1}^+ a_{q_2}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$= (2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(p - q_1) a_{q_2}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$+ a_{q_1}^+ a_p^+ a_{q_2}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$= (2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(p - q_1) |q_2 \dots q_N\rangle$$

$$+ (2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(p - q_2) a_{q_1}^+ a_{q_3}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$+ a_{q_1}^+ a_{q_2}^+ a_p^+ a_{q_3}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ |0\rangle = \dots$$

$$= (2\pi)^3 2E_p \sum_{i=1}^N \delta^{(3)}(p - q_i) |q_1, \dots, q_{i-1}, q_{i+1}, \dots, q_N\rangle$$

$$+ a_{q_1}^+ a_{q_2}^+ \dots a_{q_N}^+ a_p^+ |0\rangle \xrightarrow{0}$$

q.e.d.

(iii) $\int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} 2\pi \Theta(k_0) \delta(k^2 - m^2)$ manifestly Lorentz invariant

$$= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} 2\pi \Theta(k_0) \frac{1}{2E_k} [\delta(k^0 - E_k) + \delta(k^0 + E_k)]$$

Only $k^0 = E_k > 0$ contributes

$$E_k = \sqrt{k^2 + m^2}$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_k} \quad \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$

2.

$$\Phi(x) = \int_{\underline{k}} a_{\underline{k}} e^{-ik \cdot x} + b_{\underline{k}}^+ e^{ik \cdot x} ; \quad k^0 \equiv E_{\underline{k}}, \int_{\underline{k}} \equiv \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{\underline{k}}}$$

$$\Pi(x) = \partial_t \Phi^+(x) = \int_{\underline{k}} +iE_{\underline{k}} \left(a_{\underline{k}}^+ e^{+ik \cdot x} - b_{\underline{k}}^- e^{-ik \cdot x} \right)$$

$$[\Phi(t, \underline{x}), \Pi(t, \underline{y})] = \int_{\underline{p}} \int_{\underline{q}} \left[a_{\underline{p}} e^{-ip \cdot x} + b_{\underline{p}}^+ e^{ip \cdot x}, +iE_{\underline{q}} (a_{\underline{q}}^+ e^{+iq \cdot y} - b_{\underline{q}}^- e^{-iq \cdot y}) \right]$$

$$= \int_{\underline{p}} \int_{\underline{q}} +iE_{\underline{q}} \left\{ \underbrace{[a_{\underline{p}}, a_{\underline{q}}^+] e^{-ip \cdot x + iq \cdot y} - [b_{\underline{p}}^+, b_{\underline{q}}^-] e^{ip \cdot x - iq \cdot y}}_{(2\pi)^3 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(\underline{p}-\underline{q})} \right\}$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3 2L} i \left[e^{-ip \cdot (\underline{x}-\underline{y})} + e^{-ip \cdot (\underline{x}-\underline{y})} \right] = i \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} e^{ip \cdot (\underline{x}-\underline{y})}$$

\downarrow

integral $\int d^3 p$
 sym: $p \leftrightarrow -p$

$$= i \delta^{(3)}(\underline{x}-\underline{y}) \quad \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$

All other commutators vanish, e.g.

$$[\Phi(t, \underline{x}), \Pi^+(t, \underline{y})] = \int_{\underline{p}} \int_{\underline{q}} \left[a_{\underline{p}} e^{-ip \cdot x} + b_{\underline{p}}^+ e^{ip \cdot x}, -iE_{\underline{q}} (a_{\underline{q}}^+ e^{-iq \cdot y} - b_{\underline{q}}^- e^{iq \cdot y}) \right]$$

$$= 0, \text{ since } [a_{\underline{p}}, a_{\underline{q}}^+] = [a_{\underline{p}}, b_{\underline{q}}^-] = 0$$

$$\mathcal{H}[\phi, \Pi] = \Pi^+ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}^+} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}} \Pi - \mathcal{L}[\phi, \phi^+] ; \quad \mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi)^+ (\partial^\mu \phi) - m^2 \phi^+ \phi$$

$$= 2\Pi^+ \Pi - \Pi^+ \Pi + \nabla \phi^+ \cdot \nabla \phi + m^2 \phi^+ \phi$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{H}[\phi, \Pi] = \Pi^+ \Pi + \nabla \phi^+ \cdot \nabla \phi + m^2 \phi^+ \phi$$

with $m^2 > 0$

sum of positive
definite
operators

3

(i) Proceed as in lectures and require that

$$\langle B(t); t_0 | \hat{O}^I(t) | A(t); t_0 \rangle_I \stackrel{!}{=} \langle B(t); t_0 | \hat{O}^S | A(t); t_0 \rangle_S$$

$$\equiv e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} \hat{O}^S e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)}$$

$$\rightarrow e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)} |A(t); t_0\rangle_I = |A(t); t_0\rangle_S = e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)} |A(t_0); t_0\rangle_S$$

$$\stackrel{!}{=} |A; t_0\rangle_H$$

$$\rightarrow |A(t); t_0\rangle_I = \underbrace{e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)}}_{\equiv U(t, t_0)} |A; t_0\rangle_H$$

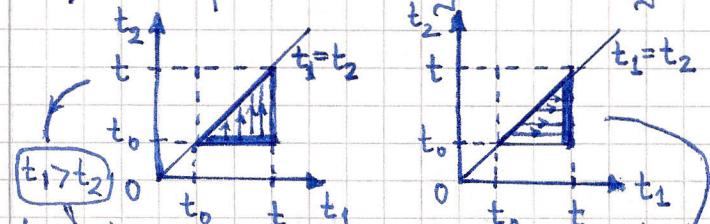
(ii)

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} U(t, t_0) = e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} (-H_0^S + H^S) e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)}$$

$$= e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} \underbrace{H^S}_{H_{int}} e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)} e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)} e^{-iH_0^S(t-t_0)} \xrightarrow{\text{insert } -iH_0^S(t-t_0) e^{iH_0^S(t-t_0)}} \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$

$$= H_{int}^I \quad \equiv U(t, t_0)$$

(iii) Two possible ways to integrate:

; with $H_{int}^I \equiv H_{int}^I(t)$

$$\int_{t_0}^{dt_1} \int_{t_0}^{dt_2} H_{int}^I(t_1) H_{int}^I(t_2) = \int_{t_0}^{dt_2} \int_{t_0}^{dt_1} H_{int}^I(t_1) H_{int}^I(t_2) \stackrel{\text{swap } t_1 \leftrightarrow t_2}{=} \int_{t_0}^{dt_1} \int_{t_1}^{dt_2} H_{int}^I(t_2) H_{int}^I(t_1)$$

$$= T \{ H_{int}^I(t_1) H_{int}^I(t_2) \}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^t \left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt_2 + \int_{t_1}^t dt_2 \right) T \{ H_{int}^I(t_1) H_{int}^I(t_2) \}$$

$$= \int_{t_0}^t dt_2$$

q.e.d.

4**

This is left as a topic of research.

$$5 \quad (i) \quad (\square_x + m^2) \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{(\square_x + m^2) e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{= \Delta_F(x-y)}$

$$= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-k^2 + m^2}{k^2 - m^2} e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)} = -\delta^{(4)}(x-y) \quad \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{=-1}$

(ii) From the lectures, we know

$$[\phi(x), \phi(y)] \equiv \Delta(x-y) = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} (e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)} - e^{ik \cdot (x-y)})$$

Proceed as in lectures for $\Delta_F(x-y)$:

$$i\Delta_R(x-y) = \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \langle 0 | \Delta(x-y) | 0 \rangle = \Theta(x^0 - y^0) \Delta(x-y)$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} [e^{-iE_k(x^0 - y^0)} \Theta(x^0 - y^0) - e^{iE_k(x^0 - y^0)} \Theta(x^0 - y^0)]$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} \left[- \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dk^0}{2\pi i} \frac{e^{-ik_0(x^0 - y^0)}}{k^0 - E_k + i\epsilon'} + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dk^0}{2\pi i} \frac{e^{-ik_0(x^0 - y^0)}}{k^0 + E_k + i\epsilon'} \right]$$

$$= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}}{2E_k} \left(\frac{1}{k^0 - E_k + i\epsilon'} - \frac{1}{k^0 + E_k + i\epsilon'} \right)$$

$$i\Delta_R(x-y) = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i e^{-ik \cdot (x-y)}}{k^2 - m^2 + \underbrace{2iE_k \epsilon^0}_{i\epsilon k^0}} ; \text{ with } \epsilon = 2\epsilon^0 = 0^+$$

Proof for $i\Delta_A(x-y)$ goes analogously.

(iii) $i\Delta_{R(A)}(x-y) = 0$, for $(x-y)^2 < 0$, since $\Delta(x-y) = 0$, for $(x-y)^2 \leq 0$.

Hence, the retarded/advanced propagators are causal, unlike $i\Delta_F(x-y)$ which is not!

$$\underline{6} \quad H = \int d^3y \mathcal{H}(t, y) ; \quad \mathcal{H} = \Pi^+ \Pi + \nabla \Phi^+ \nabla \Phi + m^2 \Phi^+ \Phi$$

$$(a) [H, \Phi(t, \underline{x})] = \int d^3y [\Pi^+(t, y) \Pi(t, y), \Phi(t, \underline{x})] + \text{vanishing commutators}$$

$$= \int d^3y \left\{ \underbrace{\Pi^+(t, y) [\Pi(t, y), \Phi(t, \underline{x})]}_{-i \delta^{(3)}(\underline{x}-\underline{y})} + [\Pi^+(t, y), \dot{\Phi}(t, \underline{x})] \Pi(t, y) \right\}$$

$$0 ; \text{ see Example 2}$$

$$= -i \Pi^+(t, \underline{x}) = -i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Phi(t, \underline{x}) \quad \underline{\text{q.e.d.}}$$

$$(b) [H, \Pi(t, \underline{x})] = \int d^3y [\nabla_y \Phi^+(t, y) \cdot \nabla_y \Phi(t, y) + m^2 \Phi^+(t, y) \Phi(t, y), \Pi(t, \underline{x})]$$

$$= \int d^3y \left\{ \underbrace{\nabla_y \Phi^+(t, y) \cdot \nabla_y [\Phi(t, y), \Pi(t, \underline{x})]}_{i \delta^{(3)}(\underline{x}-\underline{y})} + \underbrace{m^2 \Phi^+(t, y) [\Phi(t, y), \Pi(t, \underline{x})]}_{i \delta^{(3)}(\underline{x}-\underline{y})} \right\}$$

integrate by parts

$$= -i \nabla_x^2 \Phi^+(t, \underline{x}) + i m^2 \Phi^+(t, \underline{x}) = i (\underbrace{\square_x + m^2}_{0, \text{ due to KG eqn}}) \Phi^+(t, \underline{x}) - i \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \Phi^+(t, \underline{x})$$

$$= -i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Phi^+(t, \underline{x})}_{= \Pi(t, \underline{x})} \right) = -i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Pi(t, \underline{x})$$

\longleftrightarrow

g.e.d.

$\underline{7}$ COURSEWORK II is given on a separate file.