QFT

Homework 2

Daniel Halmrast

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Problem 1

Recall the φ^4 Lagrangian is given by

$$\mathscr{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}m^2\varphi^2 - \frac{1}{3!}g\varphi^3 - \frac{1}{4!}\lambda\varphi^4$$

and has an energy-momentum tensor

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi + g^{\mu\nu}\mathscr{L}$$

Part A

Problem. *Derive the equation of motion for φ subject to the φ^4 Lagrangian.*

To calculate the equation of motion for φ, we just have to find the stationary points of

$$S = \int d^4x\mathscr{L} = \int d^4x\left(\frac{-1}{2}\partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}m^2\varphi^2 - \frac{1}{3!}g\varphi^3 - \frac{1}{4!}\lambda\varphi^4\right)$$

That is, we find when $\delta S = 0$. To do so, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta S &= \int d^4x\delta\mathscr{L} \\
&= \int d^4x\left(\frac{-1}{2}\delta(\partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi) - \frac{1}{2}m^2\delta(\varphi^2) - \frac{1}{3!}g\delta(\varphi^3) - \frac{1}{4!}\lambda\delta(\varphi^4)\right) \\
&= \int d^4x\left(\frac{-1}{2}(\partial^\mu\delta\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi + \partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\delta\varphi) - m^2\varphi\delta\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^3\delta\varphi - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\delta\varphi\right) \\
&= \int d^4x\left(\partial^2\varphi\delta\varphi - m^2\varphi\delta\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^3\delta\varphi - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\delta\varphi\right) \\
&= \int d^4x\left(\partial^2\varphi - m^2\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^3 - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\right)\delta\varphi
\end{aligned}$$

Which is zero for arbitrary variation if $\left(\partial^2\varphi - m^2\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^3 - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\right) = 0$. Thus, this is the equation of motion for φ.

Part B

Problem. *Show that the energy-momentum tensor $T^{\mu\nu}$ satisfies $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$.*

This is just an exercise in direct calculation:

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} &= \partial_\mu \left(\partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi\right) + \partial_\mu g^{\mu\nu}\mathscr{L} \\
&= \partial_\mu\partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi + \partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\partial^\nu\varphi + \partial^\nu\left(\frac{-1}{2}\partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}m^2\varphi^2 - \frac{1}{3!}g\varphi^3 - \frac{1}{4!}\lambda\varphi^4\right) \\
&= \partial_\mu\partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi + \partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\partial^\nu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}\partial^\nu\partial^\mu\varphi\partial_\mu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\partial_\mu\varphi - m^2\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^2\partial^\nu\varphi - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\partial^\nu\varphi \\
&= \partial_\mu\partial^\mu\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi - m^2\varphi\partial^\nu\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^2\partial^\nu\varphi - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\partial^\nu\varphi \\
&= \left(\partial^2\varphi - m^2\varphi - \frac{1}{2}g\varphi^2 - \frac{1}{3!}\lambda\varphi^3\right)\partial^\nu\varphi
\end{aligned}$$

Which is clearly zero if φ follows its equation of motion.

Problem 2

Consider a complex scalar field φ governed by the Lagrangian

$$\mathscr{L} = -\partial^\mu \varphi^\dagger \partial_\mu \varphi - m^2 \varphi^\dagger \varphi + \Omega_0$$

Part A

Problem. *Show φ obeys the Klein-Gordon equation.*

We calculate the variation in $S = \int d^4x \mathscr{L}$ directly:

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta S &= \int d^4x \delta \mathscr{L} \\
&= \int d^4x \left(-\delta(\partial^\mu \varphi^\dagger) \partial_\mu \varphi - \partial^\mu \phi^\dagger \delta(\partial_\mu \varphi) - m^2 \varphi \delta \varphi^\dagger - m^2 \varphi^\dagger \delta \varphi \right) \\
&= \int d^4x \left(-\partial^\mu \delta \varphi^\dagger \partial_\mu \varphi - \partial^\mu \phi^\dagger \partial_\mu \delta \varphi - m^2 \varphi \delta \varphi^\dagger - m^2 \varphi^\dagger \delta \varphi \right) \\
&= \int d^4x \left(\delta \varphi^\dagger \partial_2 \varphi + \partial^2 \phi^\dagger \delta \varphi - m^2 \varphi \delta \varphi^\dagger - m^2 \varphi^\dagger \delta \varphi \right) \\
&= \int d^4x \left(\left(\partial^2 \varphi - m^2 \varphi \right) \delta \varphi^\dagger + \left(\partial^2 \varphi^\dagger - m^2 \varphi^\dagger \right) \delta \varphi \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Which is zero for arbitrary variations when both φ and $\varphi^\dagger$ follow the Klein-Gordon equation.

Part B

Problem. *Find the conjugate momenta for φ and $\varphi^\dagger$, and write down the Hamiltonian in terms of these.*

We can read off the conjugate momenta easily:

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(x) &= \frac{\partial \mathscr{L}}{\partial \dot{\varphi}} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{\varphi}}(\partial_\mu \varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_\mu \varphi(x) - m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) + \Omega_0) \\ &= \dot{\varphi}^\dagger(x)\end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\pi^\dagger(x) = \dot{\varphi}(x)$$

We write down the Hamiltonian density as

$$\mathscr{H} = \pi(x)\dot{\varphi}(x) + \pi^\dagger(x)\dot{\varphi}^\dagger(x) - \mathscr{L}$$

and calculate

$$\begin{aligned}\mathscr{H} &= \pi(x)\dot{\varphi}(x) + \pi^\dagger(x)\dot{\varphi}^\dagger(x) + \left(\partial^\mu \varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_\mu\varphi(x) + m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) - \Omega_0\right) \\ &= \pi(x)\pi^\dagger(x) + \pi^\dagger(x)\pi(x) + \partial^0\varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_0\varphi(x) + \partial^i\varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_i\varphi(x) + m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) - \Omega_0 \\ &= \pi(x)\pi^\dagger(x) + \pi^\dagger(x)\pi(x) - \pi(x)\pi^\dagger(x) + \partial^i\varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_i\varphi(x) + m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) - \Omega_0 \\ &= \pi^\dagger(x)\pi(x) + \partial^i\varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_i\varphi(x) + m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) - \Omega_0\end{aligned}$$

Which gives the Hamiltonian for the system as

$$H = \int d^4x \left(\pi^\dagger(x)\pi(x) + \partial^i\varphi^\dagger(x)\partial_i\varphi(x) + m^2\varphi^\dagger(x)\varphi(x) - \Omega_0\right)$$

Part C

Problem. *Expanding φ as*

$$\varphi(x) = \int \tilde{d^3k} \left(a(k)\exp(ikx) + b^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\right)$$

solve for expressions of $a(k)$ and $b(k)$ in terms of $\varphi(x)$, $\varphi^\dagger(x)$ and their time derivatives.

We'll evaluate the integrals

$$\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\varphi(x)$$

$$\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\partial_t\varphi(x)$$

$$\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\varphi^\dagger(x)$$

$$\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\partial_t\varphi^\dagger(x)$$

So we first derive an expression for $\partial_t\varphi(x)$ and its conjugate.

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t\varphi(x) &= \int \tilde{d^3k}\partial_t \left(a(k)\exp(ikx) + b^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\right) \\ &= \int \tilde{d^3k} \left(a(k)(-i\omega)\exp(ikx) - b^\dagger(k)(-i\omega)\exp(-ikx)\right) \\ &= \int \tilde{d^3k}(-i\omega) \left(a(k)\exp(ikx) - b^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\right)\end{aligned}$$

And similarly,

$$\partial_t \varphi^\dagger(x) = \int \tilde{d^3 k}(-i\omega)\left(b(k)\exp(ikx) - a^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\right)$$

Now, we can calculate those four integrals. One will be done explicitly, and the other three are done using the exact same calculation.

$$\begin{aligned}
\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\varphi(x) &= \int d^3x \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} \exp(-ikx)\left(a(k')\exp(ik'x) + b^\dagger(k')\exp(-ik'x)\right) \\
&= \int d^3x \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega}\left(a(k')\exp(i(k'-k)x) + b^\dagger(k')\exp(-i(k'+k)x)\right) \\
&= \int d^3x \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega}(a(k')\exp(i(k'-k)^i x_i + i(\omega'-\omega)t) \\
&+ b^\dagger(k')\exp(-i(k'+k)^i x_i + -i(\omega' + \omega_t)) \\
&= \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega}(a(k')(2\pi)^3\delta(k'-k)\exp(i(\omega'-\omega)t) \\
&+ b^\dagger(k')(2\pi)^3\delta(k'+k)\exp(-i(\omega'+\omega)t)) \\
&= \frac{1}{2\omega}(a(k) + b^\dagger(-k)\exp(-i(2\omega)t))
\end{aligned}$$

Following the same tactic, we find

$$\begin{aligned}
\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\varphi(x) &= \frac{1}{2\omega}(a(k) + b^\dagger(-k)\exp(-i(2\omega)t)) \\
\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\partial_t\varphi(x) &= \frac{-i}{2}(a(k) - b^\dagger(-k)\exp(-i(2\omega)t)) \\
\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\varphi^\dagger(x) &= \frac{1}{2\omega}(b(k) + a^\dagger(-k)\exp(-i(2\omega)t)) \\
\int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\partial_t\varphi^\dagger(x) &= \frac{-i}{2}(b(k) - a^\dagger(-k)\exp(-i(2\omega)t))
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$a(k) = \int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\left(\omega\varphi(x) + i\partial_t\varphi(x)\right)$$

and

$$b(k) = \int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\left(\omega\varphi^\dagger(x) + i\partial_t\varphi^\dagger(x)\right)$$

Part D

Problem. *Derive the commutation relations for $a(k)$ and $b(k)$ and their conjugates.*

By conjugating, we find that

$$a^\dagger(k) = \int d^3x \exp(ikx)\left(\omega\varphi^\dagger(x) - i\partial_t\varphi^\dagger(x)\right)$$
$$b^\dagger(k) = \int d^3x \exp(ikx)\left(\omega\varphi(x) - i\partial_t\varphi(x)\right)$$

So now we can calculate the commutators directly. Let's first rewrite the creation and annihilation operators in terms of φ and π instead:

$$a(k) = \int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\left(\omega\varphi(x) + i\pi^\dagger(x)\right)$$
$$b(k) = \int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\left(\omega\varphi^\dagger(x) + i\pi(x)\right)$$
$$a^\dagger(k) = \int d^3x \exp(ikx)\left(\omega\varphi^\dagger(x) - i\pi(x)\right)$$
$$b^\dagger(k) = \int d^3x \exp(ikx)\left(\omega\varphi(x) - i\pi^\dagger(x)\right)$$

Now we can use the canonical commutation relations to derive expressions for $[a(k), a^\dagger(k')]$ and $[b(k), b^\dagger(k')$. We calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}a(k)a^\dagger(k') &= \int d^3xd^3y \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'y)\left(\omega\varphi(x) + i\pi^\dagger(x)\right)\left(\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y) - i\pi(y)\right)\\ &= \int d^3xd^3y \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'y)\left(\omega\varphi(x)\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y) - \omega\varphi(x)i\pi(y) + i\pi^\dagger(x)\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y) - i\pi^\dagger(x)i\pi(y)\right)\end{aligned}$$

At this point, we invoke the rules

$$\begin{aligned}\left[\varphi(x), \varphi^\dagger(y)\right] = \left[\pi(x), \pi^\dagger(y)\right] &= 0 && \text{Independence of fields}\\ [\varphi(x), \varphi(y)] = [\pi(x), \pi(y)] &= 0 && \text{Canonical commutation relation}\\ [\varphi(x), \pi(y)] = [\varphi^\dagger(x), \pi^\dagger(y)] &= i\delta(x-y) && \text{Canonical commutation relation}\end{aligned}$$

to commute the φ and π fields (and their conjugates) past each other. Thus, we find that

$$\begin{aligned}a(k)a^\dagger(k') &= \int d^3xd^3y \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'y)\left(\omega\varphi(x)\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y) - \omega\varphi(x)i\pi(y) + i\pi^\dagger(x)\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y) - i\pi^\dagger(x)i\pi(y)\right)\\ &= \int d^3xd^3y \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'y)\\ &(\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y)\omega\varphi(x) - (i\pi(y)\omega\varphi(x) + i\omega(i\delta(x-y))) + (\omega'\varphi^\dagger(y)i\pi^\dagger(x) - i\omega'(i\delta(x-y))) - i\pi(y)i\pi^\dagger(x))\\ &= a^\dagger(k')a(k) + \int d^3xd^3y \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'y)(+\omega\delta(x-y) + \omega'\delta(x-y))\\ &= a^\dagger(k')a(k) + \int d^3x \exp(-ikx)\exp(ik'x)(\omega + \omega')\\ &= a^\dagger(k')a(k) + (2\pi)^3 2\omega\delta(k-k')\end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\left[a(k), a^\dagger(k')\right] = (2\pi)^3 2\omega\delta(k-k')$$

Carrying out the exact same calculation for $\left[b(k), b^\dagger(k)\right]$, we find that (by interchanging $\varphi \leftrightarrow \varphi^\dagger$ and $\pi \leftrightarrow \pi^\dagger$)

$$\left[b(k), b^\dagger(k')\right] = (2\pi)^3 2\omega\delta(k-k')$$

as well (since the commutators of φ, π and their conjugates are identical).

Part E

Problem. *Express the Hamiltonian in terms of $a, a^\dagger, b, b^\dagger$.*

We just need to substitute the expressions for the creation and annihilation operators into the expression for H. Namely, we have the following substitutions:

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi(x) &= \int \tilde{dk} \Big(a(k)\exp(ikx) + b^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\Big) \\
\varphi^\dagger(x) &= \int \tilde{dk} \Big(b(k)\exp(ikx) + a^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\Big) \\
\pi(x) &= \int \tilde{dk}(-i\omega) \Big(b(k)\exp(ikx) - a^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\Big) \\
\pi^\dagger(x) &= \int \tilde{dk}(-i\omega) \Big(a(k)\exp(ikx) - b^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\Big) \\
\partial^i\varphi(x) &= \int \tilde{dk}(ik^i) \Big(b(k)\exp(ikx) - a^\dagger(k)\exp(-ikx)\Big)
\end{aligned}$$