

Quantum Field Theory I: Quiz 10

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Considering the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\cancel{\partial} - m)\psi = \bar{\psi}_b(i\gamma^{\mu b}_a \partial_\mu - m\delta^b_a)\psi^a$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \psi^a} &= -m\bar{\psi}_a, \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \partial_\mu \psi^a} &= i\bar{\psi}_b \gamma^{\mu b}_a.\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Thus the Euler-Lagrange equations are

$$0 = \partial_\mu \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \partial_\mu \psi^a} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \psi^a} = i\partial_\mu \bar{\psi}_b \gamma^{\mu b}_a + m\bar{\psi}_a = \bar{\psi}_b(i\overleftarrow{\partial}_\mu \gamma^{\mu b}_a + m\delta^b_a).\tag{2}$$

Supressing the Dirac indices we obtain the more familiar form

$$\bar{\psi}(i\overleftarrow{\cancel{\partial}} + m) \equiv \bar{\psi}(i\overleftarrow{\partial}_\mu \gamma^\mu + m) = 0.\tag{3}$$