

Problem 2

$$(*) \Psi(x) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_p}} \sum_s (a_{\vec{p}}^s u^s(p) e^{-i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} + b_{\vec{p}}^{s+} v^s(p) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}})$$

a) $a_{\vec{p}}^s$ is an annihilation operator ($a_{\vec{p}}^{s+}$ is the corresponding creation operator) and particles created by $a_{\vec{p}}^{s+}$ is referred to as **fermions**. $b_{\vec{p}}^{s+}$ is also a creation operator ($b_{\vec{p}}^s$ is the corresponding annihilation operator) and particles created by $b_{\vec{p}}^{s+}$ is referred to as anti-fermions. The creation and annihilation operators obey the anti-commutation relations $\{a_{\vec{p}}^r, a_{\vec{q}}^{s+}\} = \{b_{\vec{p}}^r, b_{\vec{q}}^{s+}\} = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{rs} (\vec{p} - \vec{q}) \delta^{rs}$. $u^s(p)$ and $v^s(p)$ are spinors for fermions and anti-fermions respectively. The superscript s refers to spin (up or down). properties of spinors: $u^\dagger u = 2E_p \xi^s \xi^s$ (where ξ is a two-component spinor. In general they take the form $u^s(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p \cdot \sigma} & \xi^s \\ \sqrt{p \cdot \sigma} & \xi^s \end{pmatrix}$, $v^s(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p \cdot \sigma} & \eta^s \\ -\sqrt{p \cdot \sigma} & \eta^s \end{pmatrix}$, where ξ^s and η^s is two basis of two-component spinors. E_p is the energy given by $E_p = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$.

b) To arrive at the quantized Dirac field we started with considering Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics, but substituting the localized particle with a classical field where density perturbations in the field may be viewed as a particle. The field has a conserved charge

$$Q = \int d^3x j^0 \quad \text{if} \quad \partial_\mu j^\mu = 0; \quad j^\mu = \bar{\psi}^\mu - \Delta \phi \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)}.$$

\uparrow observed current

Then we use a first order Lorentz invariant equation, as a starting point, to find $\psi(x)$:

Lorentz invariant $(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi = 0$

Dirac equation

$\iff (\partial^2 - m^2)\psi = 0$

Klein-Gordon equation

Then we define $\bar{\psi} = \psi^+ \gamma^0$ to be able to multiply two Dirac spinors (ψ) to form a Lorentz scalar. ($\bar{\psi} \rightarrow \bar{\psi}^+ (1 + \frac{i}{2}\omega_\mu (S^\mu)^+) \gamma^0$)

Then $\bar{\psi} \psi$ is a Lorentz scalar.

$\Rightarrow \bar{\psi} \rightarrow \bar{\psi} \Gamma_1^{-1}$ since S^μ both commutes and anticommutes with γ^0)

Now the Dirac Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) \psi$$

In this situation ψ can be written as a linear

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 since ψ obeys the KG equation ψ can be written as a linear combination of plane waves:

$$\psi(\vec{x}) = u(p) e^{-i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}} + v(p) e^{i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}},$$

where $u(p)$ and $v(p)$ are the spinors discussed in 2a). In the rest frame $u(p) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$. In general it takes the form mentioned in 2a, but an alternative expression is $u(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} (E+m - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma}) \xi \\ (E+m + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma}) \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

Then we postulated the anti-commutation relations

$$\{\psi_a(\vec{x}), \psi_b^+(\vec{y})\} = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) \delta_{ab} \quad \text{and} \quad \{\psi_a(\vec{x}), \psi_b(\vec{y})\} = \{\psi_a^+(\vec{x}), \psi_b^+(\vec{y})\} = 0.$$

$\psi(\vec{x})$ can be expanded in terms of annihilation operators $a_{\vec{p}}$ and $b_{\vec{p}}$

$$b_{\vec{p}}^s \quad \text{as} \quad \psi(\vec{x}) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_p}} \sum_s (a_{\vec{p}}^s u(p) e^{-i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}} + b_{\vec{p}}^s v(p) e^{i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}})$$

where the creation and annihilation operators obey the anti-commutation relations $\{a_{\vec{p}}^s, a_{\vec{q}}^{s+}\} = \{b_{\vec{p}}^s, b_{\vec{q}}^{s+}\} = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}) \delta^{rs}$.

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 symmetric between $\tilde{b}_{\vec{p}}^r$ and $\tilde{b}_{\vec{q}}^{s+}$ so

$$\psi(\vec{x}) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2E_p}} \sum_s (a_p^s u(p) e^{-i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} + b_p^{s+} v(p) e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}})$$

When we choose $|0\rangle$ as the state annihilated by a_p^s and b_p^s all excitations of $|0\rangle$ have positive energy!

\Rightarrow second term in Hamiltonian changes sign!

The Hamiltonian

$$H = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_s E_p (a_p^s a_p^s + b_p^{s+} b_p^s)$$