

1 Introduction

At this point in the course, the Klein-Gordon equation had been studied fairly thoroughly. We derived the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian densities that would result in the Klein-Gordon equation and expressed the field operator in terms of the creation and annihilation operators. However, when initially deriving the tools needed to derive this information, we made a key assumption in that we stipulated the field operator must be a real valued function. While this allowed us to develop many important results, it ignores many solutions to the equation. Therefore, it is my goal to show how the earlier purely real solutions could be applied when the field operator is complex.

2 Derivation of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian

2.1 Available Equations

As before, we have the original Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\square + \mu^2 + m^2) \phi(x) = 0.$$

However, since we also know that $\phi^\dagger = \phi^*$, we also have

$$(\square + \mu^2 + m^2) \phi^\dagger(x) = 0.$$

We can also write ϕ and ϕ^\dagger in terms of purely real functions by taking one real function to be the real part of ϕ and another to be the imaginary part. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_1(x) + i \phi_2(x)) \\ \phi^\dagger(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_1(x) - i \phi_2(x)).\end{aligned}$$

We can also invert these relations in order to find ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 in terms of ϕ and ϕ^\dagger

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi(x) + \phi^\dagger(x)) \\ \phi_2(x) &= \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi(x) - \phi^\dagger(x)).\end{aligned}$$

By substituting (3) and (4) into (1) and (2), we can easily see that we have

$$\begin{aligned}(\square + \mu^2 + m^2) \phi_1(x) &= 0 \\ (\square + \mu^2 + m^2) \phi_2(x) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, a system that can be described by a complex field operator can be described by two real field operators.

However, by factoring the terms in this Lagrangian density, we can rewrite it in terms of ψ_1 and ψ_2^\dagger

$$\begin{aligned}
 L &= \frac{1}{2} \psi_1^\dagger (\psi_1 - i \psi_2) - \psi_2^\dagger (\psi_1 + i \psi_2) - \frac{m^2}{2} (\psi_1 - i \psi_2)(\psi_1 + i \psi_2) \\
 &= \psi_1^\dagger \psi_1 - m^2 \psi_1^\dagger \psi_1 .
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

We note that even though ψ_1 and ψ_2^\dagger are clearly not Hermitian, the Lagrangian density which describes this is in fact Hermitian.

2.3 Hamiltonian Density

2.3.1 ψ_1 and ψ_2

Now that we have the Lagrangian density, we can determine what the Hamiltonian density for this system

We can find the complex conjugate of the momentum operator in a similar fashion

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{p}^\dagger(x) &= \frac{L}{\psi(x)} = \hat{p}^\dagger \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\hat{p}_1(x) - i \hat{p}_2(x)) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

As before, we can determine the commutation relations of the system by noting that the ψ and ψ^\dagger are independent variables.

$$[\psi(x), \psi(y)] = [\psi(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = [\psi^\dagger(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = 0 \quad (17)$$

$$[\psi(x), \psi(y)] = [\psi(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = [\psi^\dagger(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = 0 \quad (18)$$

$$[\psi(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = [\psi^\dagger(y), \psi(x)] = i^3(x - y) \quad (19)$$

The Hamiltonian density therefore can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \hat{p}^\dagger \psi + \psi^\dagger \hat{p} - L \\ &= \hat{p}^\dagger \psi + \psi^\dagger \hat{p} - \psi^\dagger \hat{p} \psi + \psi^\dagger \psi + m^2 \psi \\ &= \hat{p}^\dagger \psi + \psi^\dagger \hat{p} + m^2 \psi \end{aligned}$$

$$J^\mu = \int (x) \frac{L}{(\mu)} + \int (x) \frac{L}{(\mu \dagger)} - K^\mu, \quad (36)$$

where K^μ is defined by

$$L(x, \mu(x)) - L(x, \mu(x)) =$$

Therefore, the $|k\rangle$ is an eigenvector of the charge operator with eigenvalue. A similar calculation can be done on $|\tilde{k}\rangle$ to determine that

$$Q|\tilde{k}\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 0 | \psi^\dagger(y) \psi(x) | 0 \rangle &= \frac{d^3k d^3k'}{2(2\pi)^3 k^0 k'^0} \langle 0 | e^{-ik \cdot y} b(\mathbf{k}) + e^{ik \cdot y} a^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) \cdot e^{-ik' \cdot x} a(\mathbf{k}') + e^{ik' \cdot x} b^\dagger(\mathbf{k}') | 0 \rangle \\
&= \frac{d^3k d^3k'}{2(2\pi)^3 k^0 k'^0} \langle 0 | e^{-ik \cdot y} (b(\mathbf{k}) + e^{ik \cdot y} \langle 0 | a^\dagger(\mathbf{k}) \cdot e^{-ik' \cdot x} a(\mathbf{k}') | 0 + e^{ik' \cdot x} b^\dagger(\mathbf{k}') | 0) \\
&= \frac{d^3k d^3k'}{2(2\pi)^3}
\end{aligned}$$

$$V = m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 \quad (53)$$

By inspection, we can see that the minimum of the potential is 0, since it is composed of purely nonnegative terms. By considering the concept of a classical field (which we label as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_1^2} &= -m^2 + \frac{3}{4} \frac{4m^2}{\phi_1^2} = 2m^2 \\
\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_2^2} &= -m^2 + \frac{3}{4} \frac{4m^2}{\phi_2^2} = 0 \\
\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_1 \partial \phi_2} &= 0
\end{aligned}
\tag{60}$$

Since the second derivative is negative when $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0$ and positive when $\phi_1 = \pm 2m$ and $\phi_2 = 0$, the first point corresponds to a local maximum, and the second to a local minimum. This can be seen more clearly in the figure 1. This figure shows the potential for this system, often called the Mexican hat potential.



Figure 1: The Mexican hat potential which represents the complex Klein-Gordon equation [2]

7 Conclusion

We can now see that the complex solutions to the Klein-Gordon equation provide a wealth of information that cannot be found simply from the real solutions. The complex solutions allow for an interpretation of anti-particles that does not require negative energies, making it much more attractive than Dirac's hole theory. These solutions also allow the Feynman Green's function to be defined in terms of the vacuum state. Lastly, the potential associated with the complex fields is one that leads to spontaneous symmetry breaking, the details of which are unfortunately outside the scope of this paper.

References

- [1] Das A. 2008. *Lectures on Quantum Field Theory*, World Scientific, 2008, First Edition, pp. 257-75.
- [2] Miller, Rupert https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/Mexican_hat_potential_polynomial_details.svg