

Title: Quantum Field Theory (PHYS 601) - Lecture 7

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Abstract:

The Interaction Picture

This is a useful trick to deal with
small perturbations in quantum mechanics.

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In Schrödinger picture

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi\rangle_S = H_S |\psi\rangle_S$$

while operators O_S are time independent.

In Heisenberg picture,

$$\mathcal{O}_H(t) = e^{iHt} \mathcal{O}_S e^{-iHt}$$

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The interaction picture is a hybrid of the two:

We write the Hamiltonian as $H = H_0 + H_{int}$.

Time dependence of operators is governed
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$$|\psi\rangle_I = e^{iH_0 t} |\psi(t)\rangle_S$$

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In particular

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$$H_I \equiv (H_{int})_I = e^{iH_0 t} H_{int} e^{-iH_0 t}$$

The Schrödinger equation is $i \frac{d|\psi\rangle_S}{dt} = H_S |\psi\rangle_S$

$$\Rightarrow i \frac{d}{dt} (e^{-iH_0 t} |\psi\rangle_I) = (H_0 + H_{int})_S e^{-iH_0 t} |\psi\rangle_I$$

$$\Rightarrow i \frac{d|\psi\rangle_I}{dt} = e^{iH_0 t} (H_{int})_S e^{-iH_0 t} |\psi\rangle_I$$

$$= H_I(t) |\psi\rangle_I \quad (*)$$

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Dyson's Formula

we'll write $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = U(t, t_0) |\psi(t_0)\rangle_I$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow i \frac{d|\psi\rangle_I}{dt} &= e^{iH_0 t} (H_{\text{int}})_S e^{-iH_0 t} |\psi\rangle_I \\ &= H_I(t) |\psi\rangle_I \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\boxed{i \frac{dU}{dt} = H_I(t) U}$$

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Dyson's Formula

we'll write

$$|\psi(t)\rangle_I = U(t, t_0) |\psi(t_0)\rangle_I$$

\Rightarrow

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = -H_I(t) U$$

|| U and H were functions, we could
solve this by

$$U(t, t_0) = \exp\left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt'\right)$$

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|| U and H were functions, we could solve this by

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But this isn't right for operators because

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Claim The correct solution is given by
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$$U(t, t_0) = T \exp \left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt' \right)$$

T is time ordering:

$$T[\theta(t_1)\theta(t_2)] = \begin{cases} \theta(t_1)\theta(t_2) & t_1 > t_2 \\ \theta(t_2)\theta(t_1) & t_2 < t_1 \end{cases}$$

This means

$$(t_1, t_0) = 1 - i \int_{t_0}^{t_1} H_2(t') dt' + \frac{(-i)^2}{2} \left[\int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt' \int_{t'}^{t_1} dt'' H_2(t'') H_2(t') \right. \\ \left. + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt' \int_{t_0}^{t'} dt'' H_2(t') H_2(t'') \right] + \dots$$

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$$H_I(t'') H_I(t')$$

$$\left. \int_{t_0}^t dt' H_I(t') \int_{t_0}^t dt'' H_I(t'') \right]$$

$$+ \int_{t_0}^t dt' \int_{t_0}^{t'} dt'' H_I(t') H_I(t'')$$

+ ...

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Proof:

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$$\frac{d}{dt} T \exp \left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt' \right)$$

$$= T \exp \left(H_I(t) \exp \left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt' \right) \right)$$

Proof: Undo the T sign, anything
commutes. Thus

$$\frac{d}{dt} T \exp \left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt' \right) \\ = T \left(H_I(t) \exp \left(-i \int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt' \right) \right)$$

$$= H_I(t) T \exp\left(-\int_{t_0}^t H_I(t') dt'\right)$$

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$$U(t, t_0)$$

A First look at Scatterings

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we'll work with scalar Yukawa theory.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \partial_\mu \psi^* \partial^\mu \psi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$$

↑
real

↑
complex

$$- M^2 \psi^* \psi$$

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$$- M^2 \psi^* \psi - g \psi^* \psi \phi$$

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$$H_{\text{int}} = g \psi^\dagger \psi \phi$$

This won't conserve particle number!

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$$\psi^\dagger \sim b^\dagger + c$$

(nucleons)

Similarly

At 1st order in perturbation theory

$$\psi^\dagger \psi \phi \sim c^\dagger b^\dagger a$$

At 1st order in perturbation theory

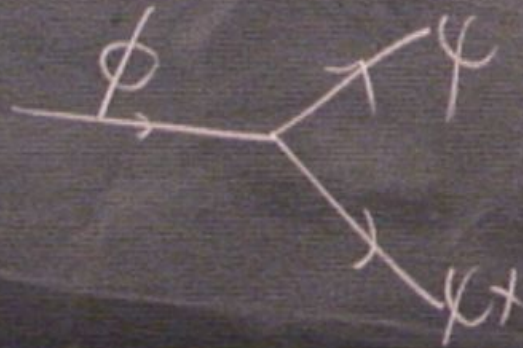
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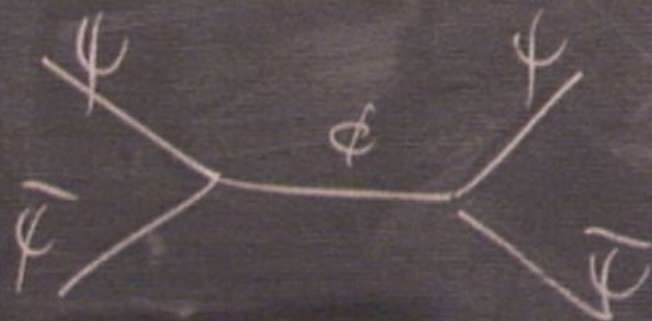
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To calculate amplitudes for these processes, we first need an important (and slightly dodgy) assumption:

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Initial and Final States look like non-interacting particles

This means that $|i\rangle$ at $t \rightarrow -\infty$

and final state $|f\rangle$ at $t \rightarrow +\infty$ are

eigenstates

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The amplitude to go from $|i\rangle$ to $|f\rangle$

$$t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty \langle f | U(t_{+}, t_{-}) | i \rangle$$



$$t_+ \rightarrow +\infty \langle f | U(t_+, t_-) | i \rangle$$

$$\equiv \langle f | S | i \rangle$$

↑
This is a unitary operator, called
the S(scattering)-Matrix.

Meson Decay

$$|i\rangle = \sqrt{2E_R} a_R^\dagger |0\rangle$$

Meson Decay

$$|i\rangle = \sqrt{2E_p} a_p^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \sqrt{4E_{q_1} E_{q_2}} b_{q_1}^\dagger c_{q_2}^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$\langle \psi | S | \psi \rangle =$$

$$\langle HSI \rangle =$$



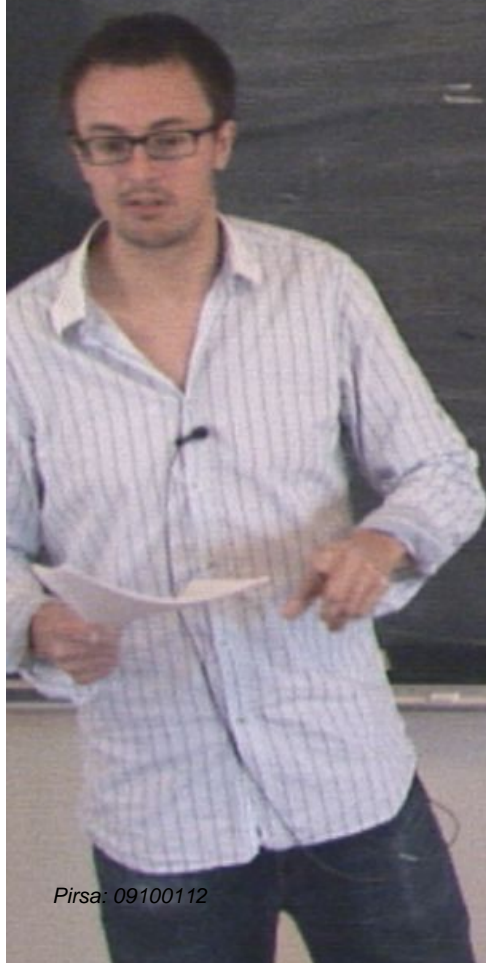
$$\langle \psi | S | i \rangle = -ig \langle \psi | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \phi(x) | i \rangle$$



$$\langle \psi | S | \psi \rangle = -ig \langle \psi | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \phi(x) | \psi \rangle + \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle f | S | i \rangle &= -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \phi(x) | i \rangle \\
 &\quad + \dots \\
 &= -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{2E_f}{2E_h}} a_h^\dagger a_f e^{-ikx} | i \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Meson Decay



$$\langle f | S | i \rangle = -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \phi(x) | i \rangle + \dots$$

$$= -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{2E_k}{2E_k}} a_{\vec{k}} a_{\vec{k}}^\dagger e^{-ip \cdot x} | i \rangle$$

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$$= -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \psi^\dagger(x) \psi(x) e^{-ip \cdot x} | 0 \rangle$$

$$= -ig \langle f \int dx \int \frac{d^3 k_1 d^3 k_2}{(2\pi)^6} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4E_{k_2} E_{k_1}}} c_{k_1}^\dagger b_{k_2}^\dagger$$

$$e^{+i(k_1 + k_2 - p)x} |0\rangle$$

$$a_p^\dagger e^{-ik \cdot x} |0\rangle$$

$$= -ig \langle 1 | \int d^4x \int \frac{d^3k_1 d^3k_2}{(2\pi)^6} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4E_{k_2}E_{k_1}}} c_{\underline{k}_1}^\dagger b_{\underline{k}_2}^\dagger$$

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$$= -ig \langle 0 | \int d^4x e^{+i(q_1+q_2-p)\cdot x} |0\rangle$$

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$$= -ig \langle f | \int d^4x \int \frac{d^3k_1 d^3k_2}{(2\pi)^6} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4E_{k_1} E_{k_2}}} c_{k_1}^\dagger b_{k_2}^\dagger$$

$$|f\rangle = \sqrt{4E_{q_1} E_{q_2}} b_{q_1}^\dagger c_{q_2}^\dagger |0\rangle. \quad e^{+i(k_1 + k_2 - p) \cdot x} |0\rangle$$

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