

Last time

Classical Field Theory (cont'd)

Classical Scalar Field Theory (cont'd)

Classical Mechanics	Classical Field Theory
$q_i$	$\varphi(x)$
$i$	$x^\mu$
$\dot{q}_i$	$\partial_\mu \varphi$
$L(q_i, \dot{q}_i)$	$\int d^3x \mathcal{L}(\varphi, \partial_\mu \varphi)$
$S = \int dt L(q_i, \dot{q}_i)$	$S = \int d^4x \mathcal{L}(\varphi, \partial_\mu \varphi)$

$S = \text{action}$  ,  $\mathcal{L} = \text{Lagrangian density}$

$S = \text{boost invariant}$  ,  $d^4x = \text{boost invariant}$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  is boost invariant.

Dynamics in classical physics is determined by the least action principle:  $\delta S = 0$ .



$$0 = \delta S = \int d^4x \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi} \delta \varphi + \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} \delta(\partial_\mu \varphi) \right] = \quad (11)$$

$$= \left( \text{as } \delta \partial_\mu \varphi = \partial_\mu \delta \varphi \Rightarrow \text{parts} \right) = \int d^4x \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi} \delta \varphi - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} \right) \delta \varphi \right] + \text{surface term}$$

"0"

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \int d^4x \delta \varphi \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} \right) \right] \text{ for any } \delta \varphi$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} \right) = 0}$$

Euler-Lagrange equations (aka equations of motion) for field  $\varphi$ . (EOM)

Now,  $\varphi(x)$  is a scalar field  $\Rightarrow$  it is Lorentz-inv., which means that:  $\varphi(x) \rightarrow \varphi'(x') = \varphi(x)$

$$\Rightarrow \text{as } x'^\mu = \Lambda^\mu_\nu x^\nu \Rightarrow x' = \Lambda \cdot x \Rightarrow \varphi'(x) = \varphi(\Lambda^{-1}x).$$

Lagrangian density for massive <sup>free</sup> scalar field:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - \frac{m^2}{2} \varphi^2}$$

(i)  $\mathcal{L}$  is Lorentz-inv.

(ii)  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $\mathcal{O}(\varphi^2)$

(iii) No  $\partial^3$  or higher (causality)

$$\text{EOM: } \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi} = -m^2 \varphi; \quad \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} = \partial^\mu \varphi \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \varphi)} \right) = \partial_\mu \partial^\mu \varphi \Rightarrow -m^2 \varphi - \partial_\mu \partial^\mu \varphi = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{[\partial_\mu \partial^\mu + m^2] \varphi = 0} \quad \text{Klein-Gordon equation}$$

or  $\boxed{[\square + m^2] \varphi = 0}$

To solve K-G equation write  $\varphi(x) = \int d^4k e^{-ik \cdot x} \tilde{\varphi}(k)$

with  $k \cdot x = k_\mu x^\mu = k^0 x^0 - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}$ .

$$[\square + m^2] \varphi = \int d^4k \tilde{\varphi}(k) (\square + m^2) e^{-ik \cdot x} = \int d^4k \tilde{\varphi}(k) \cdot e^{-ik \cdot x}$$

$$[-k^2 + m^2] = 0 \quad \text{with } k^2 = k_\mu k^\mu = (k^0)^2 - (\vec{k})^2$$

$$\Rightarrow [k^2 - m^2] \tilde{\varphi} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{as } \tilde{\varphi} \neq 0 \Rightarrow k^2 = m^2 \quad \text{or}$$

$$E_k^2 - \vec{k}^2 = m^2 \Rightarrow E_k = \pm \sqrt{\vec{k}^2 + m^2} \Rightarrow \text{define } \boxed{E_k = \sqrt{\vec{k}^2 + m^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\varphi(x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} \left[ a_{\vec{k}} e^{-iE_k t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} + a_{\vec{k}}^* e^{iE_k t - i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \right]}$$

most general solution.

### Canonical Quantization

In your QM class you must have seen that

if we treat K-G equation as the equation for a single-particle wave function  $\varphi(x)$  (just like

One in general would write

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$$\tilde{\varphi}(k) \propto (2\pi)^4 \delta(k^2 - m^2) \theta(k^0)$$

↑ picks "physical" (positive energy) solution

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik \cdot x} \tilde{\varphi}(k) = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik \cdot x} (2\pi)^4 \delta(k^2 - m^2) \theta(k^0)$$

$$\cdot a_{\vec{k}} = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} dk^0 e^{-ik^0 t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \delta((k^0)^2 - \vec{k}^2 - m^2)$$

↑ coefficient

$$\cdot \theta(k^0) a_{\vec{k}} = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-i\varepsilon_k t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_k} a_{\vec{k}} =$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3 k}{2\varepsilon_k (2\pi)^3} e^{-i\varepsilon_k t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} a_{\vec{k}}$$

boost invariant  
phase space measure

⇒ to get full real  $\varphi$  add c.c. ⇒

$$\Rightarrow \varphi = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2\varepsilon_k} \left[ a_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\varepsilon_k t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} + a_{\vec{k}}^* e^{i\varepsilon_k t - i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \right]$$

problem! have negative energy modes, having  $-\varepsilon_k$ .

If  $\varphi$  is a wave function ~ have negative energy states ~ bad.



(Def.) Canonical momentum field

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$$\pi(x) \equiv \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \dot{\varphi}(x)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{H} = \pi(x) \dot{\varphi}(x) - \mathcal{L} \quad \text{Hamiltonian density}$$

Real scalar field:  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - \frac{m^2}{2} \varphi^2$

$$\pi(x) = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \dot{\varphi}} = \dot{\varphi} \Rightarrow \mathcal{H} = \underbrace{\pi \dot{\varphi}}_{\frac{\pi^2}{m}} - \mathcal{L} = \frac{\pi^2}{m} - \frac{1}{2} \dot{\varphi}^2 +$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \varphi)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \varphi^2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \varphi)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \varphi^2$$

$\mathcal{H} \geq 0 \Rightarrow$  energy of the field is non-negative.





# Conservation Laws & Noether's Theorem.

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Noether's theorem | Every <sup>continuous</sup> symmetry (of  $S$ ) gives a conservation law.

If  $S \rightarrow S' = S$  when  $\phi \rightarrow \phi'$ ,  $x^\mu \rightarrow x'^\mu \Rightarrow$  there exists one or more conserved quantities.

Example 1 | Consider complex (!) scalar field  $\phi(x)$

with  $\mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi^* - m^2 |\phi|^2$ ,  $\left( \phi = \frac{\phi_1 + i\phi_2}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$

It is invariant under  $\phi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \phi$ ,  $\phi^* \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \phi^*$

with  $\alpha$  a real constant. ( $U(1)$  symmetry group)

$\mathcal{L}$  is inv.

$$0 \stackrel{\downarrow}{=} \delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi} \delta \phi + \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta (\partial_\mu \phi) + \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi^*} \delta \phi^*$$

$$+ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi^*)} \delta (\partial_\mu \phi^*) = \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \right] \delta \phi + \dots = 0$$

$$+ \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta \phi \right) + \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi^*} - \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi^*)} \right) \right] \delta \phi^* + \dots = 0$$

$$+ \partial_\mu \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta (\partial_\mu \phi^*)} \delta \phi^* \right)$$

[...] = 0 by Euler-Lagrange equations

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial_\mu \left[ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta \phi + \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \phi^*)} \delta \phi^* \right] \quad (16)$$

Infinitesimal transform:  $\phi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \phi \approx (1+i\alpha)\phi$

$$\Rightarrow \delta \phi = i\alpha \phi \quad ; \quad \delta \phi^* = -i\alpha \phi^*$$

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \phi)} = \partial^\mu \phi^* \quad ; \quad \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta(\partial_\mu \phi^*)} = \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = i\alpha \partial_\mu \left[ \underbrace{\phi \partial^\mu \phi^* - \phi^* \partial^\mu \phi}_{\text{call this } j^\mu} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{j^\mu = i[\phi \partial^\mu \phi^* - \phi^* \partial^\mu \phi]} \quad \text{is a conserved current}$$

as  $\partial_\mu j^\mu = 0$

In general if  $\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}' = \mathcal{S}$  under  $\phi \rightarrow \phi' \Rightarrow$  as  $\mathcal{S}$  is inv.

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{L} + \underbrace{\delta \alpha \cdot \partial_\mu J^\mu}$$

4- divergence & surface term in  $\mathcal{S}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  straight forward to find  $J^\mu$

(if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' \Rightarrow J^\mu$  is conserved)