## QED/FIELD THEORY OVERVIEW: PART 1

Wholeness Chart 5-4. From Field Equations to Propagators and Observables

## Heisenberg Picture, Free Fields

|  | Spin 0 | Spin $1 / 2$ | Spin 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Classical <br> Lagrangian density, free | $\mathcal{L}_{0}^{0}=K\left(\partial_{\alpha} \phi \partial^{\alpha} \phi-\mu^{2} \phi \phi\right)$ | None. Macroscopic spinor fields not observed. | $\mathcal{L}_{0}^{1}=\underbrace{\frac{\mu^{2}}{2} A^{\mu} A_{\mu}}_{\begin{array}{c} \mu=0 \\ \text { for photons } \end{array}}-\frac{1}{2}\left(\partial_{\nu} A_{\mu}\right)\left(\partial^{\nu} A^{\mu}\right)$ |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ quantization, Postulate \#1 | Bosons: Quantum field $\mathcal{L}$ (or equivalently, $\mathcal{H}$ ) same as classical, fields are complex, and $K=1$. Spinors: Dirac eq from RQM with states $\rightarrow$ fields. Deduce $\mathcal{L}$ from Dirac eq; $\mathcal{H}$ from Legendre transf. |  |  |
| QFT Lagrangian density, free | $\mathcal{L}_{0}^{0}=\left(\partial_{\alpha} \phi^{\dagger} \partial^{\alpha} \phi-\mu^{2} \phi^{\dagger} \phi\right)$ | $\mathcal{L}_{0}^{1 / 2}=\bar{\psi}(i \not \partial-m) \psi \quad \mathscr{D}=\gamma^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha}$ | As above for classical. |
|  | $\mathcal{L} \uparrow$ into the Euler-Lagrange equation yields $\downarrow$ |  |  |
| Free field equations | $\begin{aligned} & \left(\partial_{\alpha} \partial^{\alpha}+\mu^{2}\right) \phi=0 \\ & \left(\partial_{\alpha} \partial^{\alpha}+\mu^{2}\right) \phi^{\dagger}=0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \left(i \gamma^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha}-m\right) \psi=0 \\ & \left(i \partial_{\alpha} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\alpha}+m \bar{\psi}\right)=0 \quad \bar{\psi}=\psi^{\dagger} \gamma^{0} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \left(\partial_{\alpha} \partial^{\alpha}+\mu^{2}\right) A^{\mu}=0 \text { photon } \mu=0 \\ & A^{\mu \dagger}=A^{\mu} \text { for chargeless (photon) } \end{aligned}$ |
| Conjugate momenta | $\pi_{0}^{0}=\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{0}^{0}}{\partial \dot{\phi}}=\dot{\phi}^{\dagger} ; \pi_{0}^{0 \dagger}=\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{0}^{0}}{\partial \dot{\phi}^{\dagger}}=\dot{\phi}$ | $\pi^{1 / 2}=i \psi^{\dagger} ; \quad \bar{\pi}^{1 / 2}=0$ | $\pi_{\mu}^{1}=-\dot{A}_{\mu}$ |
| Hamiltonian density | $\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{H}_{0}^{0}=\pi_{0}^{0} \dot{\phi}+\pi_{0}^{0 \dagger} \dot{\phi}^{\dagger}-\mathcal{L}_{0}^{0} \\ & =\left(\dot{\phi} \dot{\phi}^{\dagger}+\nabla \phi^{\dagger} \cdot \nabla \phi+\mu^{2} \phi^{\dagger} \phi\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\mathcal{H}_{0}{ }^{1 / 2}=\pi^{1 / 2} \dot{\psi}-\mathcal{L}_{0}^{1 / 2}$ | $\mathcal{H}_{0}{ }^{1}=\pi_{\mu}^{1} \dot{A}^{\mu}-\mathcal{L}_{0}^{1}$ |
| Free field solutions | $\begin{aligned} & \phi=\phi^{+}+\phi^{-} \\ & \phi^{\dagger}=\phi^{\dagger+}+\phi^{\dagger-} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \psi=\psi^{+}+\psi^{-} \\ & \bar{\psi}=\bar{\psi}^{+}+\bar{\psi}^{-} \end{aligned}$ | $A^{\mu}=A^{\mu+}+A^{\mu-}$ (photon) |
| Discrete eigenstates <br> (Plane waves, constrained to volume $V$ ) | $\begin{array}{r} \phi(x)=\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 V \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(a(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ \left.+b^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \\ \begin{array}{r} \phi^{\dagger}(x)=\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 V \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(b(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ \left.+a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \end{array} \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{r} \psi=\sum_{r, \mathbf{p}} \sqrt{\frac{m}{V E_{\mathbf{p}}}}\left(c_{r}(\mathbf{p}) u_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{-i p x}\right. \\ \quad \\ \left.\quad+d_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) v_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{i p x}\right) \\ \begin{array}{r} \bar{\psi}= \end{array} \sum_{r, \mathbf{p}} \sqrt{\frac{m}{V E_{\mathbf{p}}}}\left(d_{r}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{v}_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{-i p x}\right. \\ \\ \left.\quad+c_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{u}_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{i p x}\right) \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & A^{\mu}= \\ & \sum_{r, \mathbf{k}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 V \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(\varepsilon_{r}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) a_{r}(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ & \left.\quad+\varepsilon_{r}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) a_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \end{aligned}$ |
| Continuous eigenstates <br> (Plane waves, no volume constraint) | $\begin{aligned} & \phi(x)=\int \frac{d \boldsymbol{k}}{\sqrt{2(2 \pi)^{3} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(a(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ & \left.+\quad b^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \\ & \begin{array}{c} \phi^{\dagger}(x)=\int \frac{d \boldsymbol{k}}{\sqrt{2(2 \pi)^{3} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(b(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ \left.+a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \end{array} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \psi=\sum_{r} \sqrt{\frac{m}{(2 \pi)^{3}}} \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{\sqrt{E_{\mathbf{p}}}}\left(c_{r}(\mathbf{p}) u_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{-i p x}\right. \\ \left.+d_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) v_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{i p x}\right) \\ \begin{array}{r} \bar{\psi}=\sum_{r} \sqrt{\frac{m}{(2 \pi)^{3}}} \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{\sqrt{E_{\mathbf{p}}}}\left(d_{r}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{v}_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{-i p x}\right. \\ \left.+c_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{u}_{r}(\mathbf{p}) e^{i p x}\right) \end{array} \end{array}$ <br> spinor indices on $u_{r}, v_{r}$, and $\psi$ suppressed. $r=1,2$. | $\begin{aligned} & A^{\mu}= \\ & \begin{array}{r} \sum_{r} \int \frac{d \mathbf{k}}{\sqrt{2(2 \pi)^{3} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}\left(\varepsilon_{r}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) a_{r}(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i k x}\right. \\ \left.\quad+\varepsilon_{r}^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) a_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i k x}\right) \\ r=0,1,2,3 \\ \text { (4 polarization vectors) }) \end{array} \end{aligned}$ |


| $2^{\text {nd }}$ quantization <br> Postulate \#2 | Bosons: $\left[\phi^{r}(\mathbf{x}, t), \pi_{s}(\mathbf{y}, t)\right]=\left[\phi^{r} \pi_{s}-\pi_{s} \phi^{r}\right]=i \delta^{r}{ }_{s} \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}), \phi^{r}=$ any field, other commutators $=0$. <br> Spinors: Coefficient anti-commutation relations parallel coefficient commutation relations for bosons. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bosons: using conjugate momenta expressions in $\uparrow$ yields $\downarrow$ |  |  |
| Equal time commutators (intermediate step only) | $\left[\phi(\mathbf{x}, t), \dot{\phi}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{y}, t)\right]=i \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})$ | Not needed for spinor derivation. | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[A^{\mu}(\mathbf{x}, t), \dot{A}^{\nu}(\mathbf{y}, t)\right]} \\ & \quad=-i g^{\mu v} \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}) \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Bosons: Using free field solutions in $\uparrow$ with 3D Dirac delta function (e.g., for discrete solutions, $\delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})=\frac{1}{2 V} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty}\left(e^{-i \mathbf{k}_{n} \cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})}+e^{i \mathbf{k}_{n} \cdot(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})}\right)$ ), and matching terms, yields the coefficient commutators $\downarrow$. |  |  |
| Coefficient commutators | $\left[a(\mathbf{k}), a^{\dagger}\left(\mathbf{k}^{\prime}\right)\right]=\left[b(\mathbf{k}), b^{\dagger}\left(\mathbf{k}^{\prime}\right)\right]$ | $\left[c_{r}(\mathbf{p}), c_{s}^{\dagger}\left(\mathbf{p}^{\prime}\right)\right]_{+}=\left[d_{r}(\mathbf{p}), d_{s}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p})\right.$ | $\left[a_{r}(\mathbf{k}), a_{S}^{\dagger}\left(\mathbf{k}^{\prime}\right)\right]$ |
| discrete | $=\delta_{\mathbf{k k}^{\prime}}$ | $=\delta_{r s} \delta_{\mathbf{p p}}{ }^{\prime}$ | $=\zeta_{\underline{r}} \delta_{r \underline{S}} \delta_{\mathbf{k k}}{ }^{\prime} \quad \zeta_{0}=-1, \zeta_{1,2,3}=1$ |
| continuous | $=\delta\left(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}^{\prime}\right)$ | $=\delta_{r S} \delta\left(\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p}^{\prime}\right)$ | $=\zeta_{r} \delta_{r S} \delta\left(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}^{\prime}\right)$ |
| Other coeffs | All other commutators $=0$ | All other anti-commutators $=0$ | All other commutators $=0$ |
| The Hamiltonian Operator |  |  |  |
|  | Substituting the free field solutions into the free Hamiltonian density $\mathcal{H}_{0}$, integrating $H_{0}=\int \mathcal{H}_{0} d^{3} x$, and using the coefficient commutators $\uparrow$ in the result, yields $\downarrow$. Acting on states with $H_{0}$ yields number operators. |  |  |
| $H_{0}$ | $\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}\left(N_{a}(\mathbf{k})+\frac{1}{2}+N_{b}(\mathbf{k})+\frac{1}{2}\right.$ | $\sum_{\mathbf{p}, r} E_{\mathbf{p}}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{p})-\frac{1}{2}+\bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})-\frac{1}{2}\right)$ | $\sum_{\mathbf{k}, r} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{k})+\frac{1}{2}\right)$ |
| Number operators | $\begin{aligned} & N_{a}(\mathbf{k})=a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) a(\mathbf{k}) \\ & N_{b}(\mathbf{k})=b^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) b(\mathbf{k}) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & N_{r}(\mathbf{p})=c_{\underline{r}}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) c_{\underline{r}}(\mathbf{p}) \\ & \bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})=d_{\underline{\underline{r}}}{ }^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}) d_{\underline{\underline{x}}}(\mathbf{p}) \end{aligned}$ | $N_{r}(\mathbf{k})=\zeta_{\underline{\underline{r}}} a_{\underline{\underline{r}}}{ }^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}) a_{\underline{\underline{r}}}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| Creation and Destruction Operators |  |  |  |
|  | Evaluating $N_{a}(\mathbf{k}) a(\mathbf{k})\left\|n_{\mathbf{k}}\right\rangle$ (similar for other particle types) with $\uparrow$ and the coefficient commutators yields $\downarrow$ |  |  |
| creation | $a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k}), b^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k})$ | $c_{r}{ }^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p}), d_{r}{ }^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p})$ | $a_{r}{ }^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| destruction | $a(\mathbf{k}), b(\mathbf{k})$ | $c_{r}(\mathbf{p}), d_{r}(\mathbf{p})$ | $a_{r}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| Normaliz factors lowering | $a(\mathbf{k})\left\|n_{k}\right\rangle=\sqrt{n_{k}}\left\|n_{k}-1\right\rangle$ | $c_{r}(\mathbf{p})\left\|\psi_{r, \mathbf{p}}\right\rangle=\|0\rangle$ | as with scalars |
| raising | $a^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k})\left\|n_{k}\right\rangle=\sqrt{n_{k}+1}\left\|n_{k}+1\right\rangle$ | $c_{r}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{p})\|0\rangle=\left\|\psi_{r, \mathbf{p}}\right\rangle$ | as with scalars |
| tot particle num | $N(\phi)=\sum_{\mathbf{k}}\left(N_{a}(\mathbf{k})-N_{b}(\mathbf{k})\right)$ | $N(\psi)=\sum_{\mathbf{p}, r}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{p})-\bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})\right)$ | $N\left(A^{\mu}\right)=\sum_{\mathbf{k}, r} N_{r}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| tot particle num: lowering | $\phi=\phi^{+}+\phi^{-}$ | $\psi=\psi^{+}+\psi^{-}$ | $A^{\mu+}$ |
| raising | $\phi^{\dagger}=\phi^{\dagger+}+\phi^{\dagger-}$ | $\bar{\psi}=\bar{\psi}^{+}+\bar{\psi}^{-}$ | $A^{\mu-}$ |


| Four Currents and Probability |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Four currents (operators) $j^{\mu},{ }_{\mu}=0$ | $j^{\mu}=(\rho, \mathbf{j})=-i\left(\phi^{\dagger}, \mu \phi-\phi^{\prime \mu} \phi^{\dagger}\right)$ | $j^{\mu}=(\rho, \mathbf{j})=\bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \psi$ | $\begin{array}{r} j^{\mu}=-i\left(A_{\alpha}{ }^{\mu \dagger} A^{\alpha}-A_{\alpha}{ }^{\mu} A^{\alpha \dagger}\right) \\ =0 \text { for photons }\left(A_{\alpha}^{\dagger}=A_{\alpha}\right) \end{array}$ |
|  | Emphasis in field theory is usually on the number of particles ( $N(\mathbf{k}$ ) operator), and particle probability densities are rarely used. For completeness, however, and to make the connection with quantum mechanics, they are included below. (Antiparticles would have negative values of those below!) |  |  |
| Single particle probability density (not operator) | $\begin{aligned} & \bar{\rho}(\mathbf{x}, t)= \\ & \quad\left\langle\phi\left(\mathbf{x}^{\prime}, t\right)\right\| j^{0}(\mathbf{x}, t)\left\|\phi\left(\mathbf{x}^{\prime}, t\right)\right\rangle \end{aligned}$ <br> Note integration over $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$, not $\mathbf{x}$ <br> For type $a$ plane wave, $\bar{\rho}=\frac{1}{V}$ | As at left, but with Dirac $j^{0}$ above. | = 0 for chargeless particles. |
| Charge, not probability | Scalar type $b$ particle $\rightarrow$ negative $\rho$. Photons $\rightarrow \rho=0$. <br> Led to conclusion that $j^{0}$ is really proportional to charge probability density. |  |  |
| Observables |  |  |  |
|  | Observable operators like total energy, three momentum, and charge are found by integrating corresponding density operators over all 3 -space. (For spin $1 / 2$, electrons assumed below with $q=-e$ ) |  |  |
| H | $P_{0}=\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}\left(N_{a}(\mathbf{k})+N_{b}(\mathbf{k})\right)$ | $P_{0}=\sum_{\mathbf{p}, r} E_{\mathbf{p}}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{p})+\bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})\right)$ | $P_{0}=\sum_{\mathbf{k}, r} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} N_{r}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| $P_{i}=3-$ <br> momentum | $\mathbf{P}=\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{k}\left(N_{a}(\mathbf{k})+N_{b}(\mathbf{k})\right)$ | $\mathbf{P}=\sum_{\mathbf{p}, r} \mathbf{p}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{p})+\bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})\right)$ | $\mathbf{P}=\sum_{\mathbf{k}, r} \mathbf{k} N_{r}(\mathbf{k})$ |
| $s^{\mu}$ | $q j^{\mu}=q(\rho, \mathbf{j})$ | $q\left(j^{\mu}-(\right.$ constant $\left.)\right) \rightarrow \partial_{\mu} s^{\mu}=0$ | 0 for photons |
| $Q$ | $\begin{aligned} & \int s^{0} d^{3} x= \\ & \quad q \sum_{\mathbf{k}}\left(N_{a}(\mathbf{k})-N_{b}(\mathbf{k})\right) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \int s^{0} d^{3} x= \\ & \quad-e \sum_{\mathbf{p}, r}\left(N_{r}(\mathbf{p})-\bar{N}_{r}(\mathbf{p})\right) \end{aligned}$ | 0 for photons |
| Spin operator for RQM states and QFT fields | N/A | $\begin{aligned} \Sigma & =\Sigma_{i}=\frac{1}{2}\left[\begin{array}{cc} \sigma_{i} & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{i} \end{array}\right] i=1,2,3 \\ \sigma_{i} & =\text { 2D Pauli matrices } \end{aligned}$ | magnitude $=1$ for photons, |
| Helicity operator for RQM states and QFT fields | N/A | $\frac{\Sigma \cdot \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|}$ | helicity eigenstates |
| Spin operator for QFT states | N/A | $\int \psi^{\dagger} \Sigma \psi d^{3} x$ | magnitude $=1$ for photons, |
| Helicity operator for QFT states | N/A | $\int \psi^{\dagger}\left(\frac{\Sigma \cdot \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|}\right) \psi d^{3} x$ | helicity eigenstates |


| Bosons, Fermions, and Commutators |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Operations on states with creation, destruction, and number operators above yield the properties below. |  |  |
| Properties of states: | $n_{a}(\mathbf{k})=0,1,2, \ldots, \infty$ <br> So, spin 0 states bosonic. | $n_{r}(\mathbf{p})=0,1$ only <br> So, spin $1 / 2$ states fermionic. | $n_{r}(\mathbf{k})=0,1,2, \ldots, \infty$ <br> So, spin 1 states bosonic. |
| Bosons can only employ commutators <br> Fermions can only employ anticommutators | If anti-commutators used instead of commutators with Klein-Gordon equation solutions, then observable (not counting vacuum energy) Hamiltonian operator would have form $H_{0}{ }^{0}=0 \text { and } H_{0}{ }^{0}\left\|\phi_{\mathbf{k}}\right\rangle=0 \text {,i.e., }$ <br> all scalar particles would have zero energy. <br> Hence, we cannot use anticommutators with spin 0 bosons. | Commutators lead to 2 or more identical particle states co-existing in same multiparticle state. Anticommutators lead to only one given single particle state per multi-particle state. <br> Therefore, commutators cannot be used with spin $1 / 2$ fermions. <br> This is further proof that we need commutators with bosons. | Same as spin 0 . |
| The Feynman Propagator |  |  |  |
|  | Creation and destruction of free particles (\& antiparticles) and their propagation visualized below. |  |  |
| Feynman diagrams |  |  |  |
| Step 1 <br> Time ordered operator $T$ | If $t_{y}<t_{x}, T\left\{\phi(x) \phi^{\dagger}(y)\right\}=\phi(x) \phi^{\dagger}(y)$, i.e., the $\phi^{\dagger}(y)$ operates first, and should be placed on the right. If $t_{x}<t_{\mathrm{y}}, T\left\{\phi(x) \phi^{\dagger}(y)\right\}=\phi^{\dagger}(y) \phi(x)$, i.e, the $\phi(x)$ operates first, and should be placed on the right. <br> Note that $\phi(x)$ commutes with $\phi^{\dagger}(y)$ for $x \neq y$. [Fermion fields anti-commute.] |  |  |
| Transition amplitude (double density in $x$ and $y$ ) | $\langle 0\| T\left\{\phi(x) \phi^{\dagger}(y)\right\}\|0\rangle=i \Delta_{F}$ | <0\|T\{ $\left.\psi_{\alpha}(x) \bar{\psi}_{\beta}(y)\right\}\|0\rangle=i S_{F \alpha \beta}$ | $\langle 0\| T\left\{A^{\mu}(x) A^{\nu}(y)\right\}\|0\rangle=i D_{F}{ }^{\mu \nu}$ |
|  | The above vacuum expectation values (transition amplitudes) represent both <br> 1) creation of a particle at $y$, destruction at $x$, and <br> 2) creation of an antiparticle at $x$, destruction at $y$ $\} \text { transition amplitude }=\text { Feynman propagator }$ |  |  |
| Step 2 <br> Propagator in terms of two commutators | By adding a term equal to zero to the Feynman propagator above, it can be expressed as vacuum expectation values (VEVs ) of two commutators (anti-commutators for fermions) |  |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & i \Delta_{F}(x-y)= \\ & \langle 0\|\left[\phi^{+}(x), \phi^{\dagger-}(y)\right]\|0\rangle t_{y}<t_{x} \\ & \langle 0\|\left[\phi^{\dagger+}(y), \phi^{-}(x)\right]\|0\rangle t_{x}<t_{y} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & i S_{F \alpha \beta}(x-y)= \\ & \quad\langle 0\|\left[\psi_{\alpha}^{+}(x), \bar{\psi}_{\beta}^{-}(y)\right]_{+}\|0\rangle t_{y}<t_{x} \\ & -\langle 0\|\left[\bar{\psi}_{\beta}^{+}(y), \psi_{\alpha}^{-}(x)\right]_{+}\|0\rangle t_{x}<t_{y} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & i D_{F}{ }^{\mu \nu}(x-y)= \\ & \langle 0\|\left[A^{\mu+}(x), A^{\nu-}(y)\right]\|0\rangle t_{y}<t_{x} \\ & \langle 0\|\left[A^{\nu+}(y), A^{\mu-}(x)\right]\|0\rangle t_{x}<t_{y} \end{aligned}$ |


| Step 3 <br> As 3-momentum integrals | With the coefficient commutation relations, the above two commutators/anti-commutators (for each spin type) can be expressed as two integrals over 3-momentum space |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Definition of symbols for commutators | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\phi^{+}(x), \phi^{\dagger-}(y)\right]=i \Delta^{+}(x-y)} \\ & {\left[\phi^{\dagger+}(y), \phi^{-}(x)\right]=i \Delta^{-}(x-y)} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} {\left[\psi_{\alpha}^{+}(x), \bar{\psi}_{\beta}^{-}(y)\right]_{+}=i S_{\alpha \beta}^{+}(x-y)} \\ -\left[\bar{\psi}_{\beta}^{+}(y), \psi_{\alpha}^{-}(x)\right]_{+}=i S_{\alpha \beta}^{-}(x-y) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \left.{ }^{\mu+}(x), A^{\nu-}(y)\right]=i D^{\mu \nu+}(x-y) \\ & \left.{ }^{\nu+}(y), A^{\mu-}(x)\right]=i D^{\mu \nu-}(x-y) \end{aligned}$ |
|  | $i \Delta^{ \pm}=\frac{1}{2(2 \pi)^{3}} \int \frac{e^{\mp i k(x-y)}}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}} d^{3} \mathbf{k}$ | $i S^{ \pm}=\frac{ \pm 1}{2(2 \pi)^{3}} \int \frac{(\not p \pm m) e^{\mp i p(x-y)}}{E_{\mathbf{p}}} d^{3} \mathbf{p}$ | $i D^{\mu \nu \pm}=-g^{\mu \nu} i \Delta^{ \pm}$ |
|  | $\Delta^{+}, S^{+}, D^{\mu \nu+}$ represent particles; $\Delta^{-}, S^{-}, D^{\mu \nu-}$ represent anti-particles. Symbols $S^{ \pm}=S^{ \pm} \alpha \beta$ <br> Although fields such as $\phi$ are operators, because of their coefficient commutation relations, each integral above is a number, not an operator. The expectation value of a number X is simply the same number X . <br> $\langle 0\| \mathrm{X}\|0\rangle=\mathrm{X}\langle 0 \mid 0\rangle=\mathrm{X}$. So, the Feynman propagator will also be simply a number (no brackets needed.) |  |  |
| Step 4 <br> As contour integrals | Contour integral theory (integration in the complex plane) permits the above two integrals (for each spin type) over real 3-momentum space to be expressed as contour integrals. |  |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & i \Delta^{ \pm}= \\ & \frac{\mp i}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int_{C^{ \pm}} \frac{e^{-i k(x-y)}}{k^{2}-\mu^{2}} d^{4} k \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & i S^{ \pm}= \\ & \frac{\mp i}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int_{C^{ \pm}} \frac{(\not p+m) e^{-i p(x-y)}}{p^{2}-m^{2}} d^{4} p \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & i D^{\mu \nu \pm}= \\ & \frac{\mp i g^{\mu \nu}}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int_{C^{ \pm}} \frac{e^{-i k(x-y)}}{k^{2} \underbrace{-\mu^{2}}_{\text {photon }=0}} d^{4} k \end{aligned}$ |
| Step 5 <br> As one integral | Taking certain limits with contour integrals in the complex plane yields a single form for the Feynman propagator that works for any time ordering and will prove more convenient. |  |  |
| in physical space | $\begin{aligned} & \Delta_{F}(x-y)= \\ & \frac{1}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int \frac{e^{-i k(x-y)}}{k^{2}-\mu^{2}+i \varepsilon} d^{4} k \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & S_{F \alpha \beta}(x-y)= \\ & \frac{1}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int \frac{(\not p+m) e^{-i p(x-y)}}{p^{2}-m^{2}+i \varepsilon} d^{4} p \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & D_{F}^{\mu \nu}(x-y)= \\ & \quad \frac{-g^{\mu \nu}}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int \frac{e^{-i k(x-y)}}{k^{2}+i \varepsilon} d^{4} k \end{aligned}$ |
| in momentum space | $\Delta_{F}(k)=\frac{1}{k^{2}-\mu^{2}+i \varepsilon}$ | $S_{F \alpha \beta}(p)=\frac{\not p+m}{p^{2}-m^{2}+i \varepsilon}$ | $D_{F}^{\mu \nu}(k)=\frac{-g^{\mu \nu}}{k^{2}+i \varepsilon}$ |

