Quantum field theory, fall 2023,

1. Derive the inhomogenous Maxwell equations starting from Lagrangian density

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - j_{\mu}A^{\mu}$$

Show (by use of Noether theorem) that current conservation $\partial_{\mu} j^{\mu} = 0$ follows if we require the invariance of the action in a local gauge transform $A_{\mu} \to A_{\mu}(x) + \partial_{\mu}\alpha(x)$.

2. Show that Lagrangian density

$$\mathcal{L} = \left(\partial_{\mu}\vec{\phi^{*}}\right) \cdot \left(\partial^{\mu}\vec{\phi}\right) - m^{2}\vec{\phi^{*}}\cdot\vec{\phi},$$

with complex field $\vec{\phi} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \end{pmatrix}$, is invariant under transformation $\phi_i \to \phi'_i = U_{ij}\phi_j$, where U is unitary 2 × 2-matrix. In general, the matrix U can be written as

$$U = e^{-\frac{i}{2}\alpha} e^{-\frac{i}{2}\theta_k \sigma^k},$$

where α and θ_k are real constants and σ_k 's are the Pauli matrices. Furthermore, show that the conserved charges corresponding this transformation are

$$Q = \int d^3x \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi_a^* \pi_a^* - \phi_a \pi_a \right)$$

and

$$Q^k = \int d^3x \frac{i}{2} \left[\phi_a^*(\sigma^k)_{ab} \pi_b^* - \pi_a(\sigma^k)_{ab} \phi_b \right].$$

3. Show in the case of a free Klein-Gordon field that the integral over $T^{0\mu}$ gives a 4-vector whose components are the Hamiltonian- and the momentum density operators:

$$\int d^3x T^{0\mu} = (H, \mathbf{P}).$$

(That is, derive an integral representation for H and P and interpret the results physically.) Now quantize the field $\phi(x)$ and derive expressions for H and \mathbf{P} (normal-ordered) in terms of the creation and annihilation operators $a_{\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger}$ and $a_{\mathbf{p}}$.

Let us now show that the energy-momentum tensor can always be chosen to be symmetric. The key is to first prove that, without changing physics, one can add to $T^{\mu\nu}$ a divergence $\partial_{\lambda} E^{\lambda\mu\nu}$, where $E^{\lambda\mu\nu}$ is arbitrary apart from being antisymmetric wrt. to its first two indices. (That is, the resulting new $T^{\mu\nu}$ must remain conserved and give rise to the same observed quantities H:lle and \mathbf{P} as the nontranformed one.)

Exercise 1.

4. Show that

$$\frac{d^3p}{E_p}$$
 and $E_p \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}')$ with $E_p = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$

are invariant under Lorentz transformations.

5. Prove the commutation relations

$$[P^{\mu}, a_{\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger}] = p^{\mu} a_{\mathbf{p}}^{\dagger}, \qquad [P^{\mu}, a_{\mathbf{p}}] = -p^{\mu} a_{\mathbf{p}}$$

and show based on these results that in Heisenberg picture a free particle field operator has a representation

$$\phi(x) = e^{iP \cdot x} \phi(0) e^{-iP \cdot x}.$$