

## Exercise Sheet 5: Solutions

### The complex Klein-Gordon field

Consider a complex-valued Lorentz-scalar field. The Lagrangian, defining the free field equations is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \Phi^*)(\partial^\mu \Phi) - m^2 \Phi^* \Phi. \quad (1)$$

Obviously the Lagrangian is a Lorentz scalar and thus the action too. The Lagrangian is not explicitly dependent on the space-time coordinates  $\underline{x} = (x^\mu)$ , with the fields transforming under both translations and Lorentz transformations as a scalar field.

1. Derive the equations of motion from the Lagrange equations. The complex scalar field has to be interpreted as two real field-degrees of freedom, i.e., you can vary  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi^*$  as independent fields, and thus you have the Euler-Lagrange equations for these two fields,

$$\Pi^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \Phi)}, \quad \Pi^{*\mu} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \Phi^*)}, \quad \partial_\mu \Pi^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \Phi}, \quad \partial_\mu \Pi^{*\mu} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \Phi^*}. \quad (2)$$

Show that the result is the **Klein-Gordon equation** for both  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi^*$ .

**Solution:** Taking the derivatives (beware the “vertical index placement”!) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi^\mu &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \phi)} = \partial^\mu \Phi^*, & \Pi^{*\mu} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \phi^*)} = \partial^\mu \Phi, \\ \partial_\mu \Pi^\mu &= \square \Phi^* = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} = -m^2 \phi^*, & \partial_\mu \Pi^{*\mu} &= \square \Phi = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi^*} = -m^2 \phi. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

As expected we obtain the Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\square + m^2)\Phi = 0, \quad (\square + m^2)\Phi^* = 0. \quad (4)$$

2. Use the Fourier ansatz for the field  $\Phi$

$$\Phi(\underline{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3 \vec{p} A(t, \vec{p}) \exp(i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}) \quad (5)$$

to show that the general solution of the Klein-Gordon equation can be written in the form

$$\Phi(\vec{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3 \vec{p} [a(\vec{p}) u_{\vec{p}}(\underline{x}) + b^*(\vec{p}) u_{\vec{p}}^*(\underline{x})] \quad (6)$$

with the “relativistic plane-wave mode functions”

$$u_{\vec{p}}(\underline{x}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2E_p}} \exp(-i\underline{x} \cdot \underline{p})|_{p^0=E_p}, \quad E_p = \sqrt{m^2 + \vec{p}^2} \quad (7)$$

and arbitrary (square-integrable)  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued functions  $a(\vec{p})$  and  $b(\vec{p})$ .

**Solution:** With the ansatz (5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (\square + m^2)\Phi(\underline{x}) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} [\partial_t^2 A(t, \vec{p}) + (\vec{p}^2 + m^2)A(t, \vec{p}) \exp(i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x})] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} [\partial_t^2 A(t, \vec{p}) + E_p^2 A(t, \vec{p})] \exp(i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}) \stackrel{!}{=} 0. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

This implies

$$\partial_t^2 A(t, \vec{p}) = -E_p^2 A(t, \vec{p}) \Rightarrow A(t, \vec{p}) = A_1(\vec{p}) \exp(-iE_p t) + A_2(\vec{p}) \exp(+iE_p t). \quad (9)$$

So the general solution for the Klein-Gordon equation reads

$$\Phi(\underline{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} [A_1(\vec{p}) \exp(-iE_p t) + A_2(\vec{p}) \exp(+iE_p t)] \exp(i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}). \quad (10)$$

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> term we substitute  $\vec{p} \rightarrow -\vec{p}$ . Then we can write

$$\Phi(\underline{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} [A_1(\vec{p}) \exp(-i\underline{x} \cdot \vec{p}) + A_2(-\vec{p}) \exp(+i\underline{x} \cdot \vec{p})]_{p^0=E_p}. \quad (11)$$

Setting

$$A_1(\vec{p}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2E_p}} a(\vec{p}), \quad A_2(-\vec{p}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2E_p}} b^*(\vec{p}),$$

(11) takes the form (6).

3. For two scalar fields  $\Phi_1$  and  $\Phi_2$  we define

$$\Phi_1 \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\mu \Phi_2 = \Phi_1 \partial_\mu \Phi_2 - (\partial_\mu \Phi_1) \Phi_2 \quad (12)$$

and the *non-definite* bilinear form

$$(\Phi_1, \Phi_2) = i \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3x \Phi_1 \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t \Phi_2. \quad (13)$$

Show that for the mode functions (7) and  $\vec{p}, \vec{q} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$(u_{\vec{p}}, u_{\vec{q}}) = (u_{\vec{p}}^*, u_{\vec{q}}^*) = 0, \quad (u_{\vec{p}}^*, u_{\vec{q}}) = -(u_{\vec{q}}, u_{\vec{p}}^*) = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}). \quad (14)$$

**Solution:** Using the definition of the  $u_{\vec{p}}$  we get (understanding that  $p^0 = E_p$  and  $q^0 = E_1$ )

$$\begin{aligned} (u_{\vec{p}}, u_{\vec{q}}) &= i \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp(-i\underline{x} \cdot \underline{p}) \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t \exp(-i\underline{x} \cdot \underline{q}) \\ &= i \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp[-i\underline{x} \cdot (\underline{p} + \underline{q})] (-i)(E_q - E_p) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp[-i(E_p + E_q)t] \exp[i\vec{x} \cdot (\vec{p} + \vec{q})] (E_q - E_p) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp[-i(E_p + E_q)t] (E_q - E_p) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} + \vec{q}) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Further  $(u_{\vec{p}}^*, u_{\vec{q}}^*) = -(u_{\vec{p}}, u_{\vec{q}})^* = 0$ . For the other equation the analogous calculation leads to

$$\begin{aligned} (u_{\vec{p}}^*, u_{\vec{q}}) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp[i(E_p - E_q)t] \exp[i\vec{x} \cdot (\vec{q} - \vec{p})] (E_q + E_p) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{E_p E_q}} \exp[i(E_p - E_q)t] (E_q + E_p) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}) = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

4. Calculate the canonical energy-momentum tensor,

$$\Theta^{\mu\nu} = \Pi^\mu \partial^\nu \Phi + \Pi^{*\mu} \partial^\nu \Phi^* - \mathcal{L} \eta^{\mu\nu}$$

and express the total energy and momentum

$$P^\nu = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3x \Theta^{0\nu} \quad (17)$$

in terms of the Fourier components  $a(\vec{p})$  and  $b(\vec{p})$  defined in (6).

**Solution:** Using (2) we get

$$\Theta^{\mu\nu} = (\partial^\mu \Phi^*)(\partial^\nu \Phi) + (\partial^\mu \Phi)(\partial^\nu \Phi^*) - \mathcal{L} \eta^{\mu\nu}. \quad (18)$$

From this we find, using the Lagrangian (1)

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon = \Theta^{00} &= (\partial_t \Phi)^*(\partial_t \Phi) + (\vec{\nabla} \Phi^*) \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \Phi) + m^2 \Phi^* \Phi, \\ \vec{g} &= -(\partial_t \Phi^*)(\vec{\nabla} \Phi) - (\partial_t \Phi)(\vec{\nabla} \Phi^*). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

NB: Here we have used that  $(\partial^\nu) = (\partial_0, -\partial_1, -\partial_2, -\partial_3) = (\partial_t, -\vec{\nabla})$ .

For the total energy we first consider the contribution from the 2<sup>nd</sup> term in (19), we find by integration by parts and using the Klein-Gordon equation

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} (\vec{\nabla} \Phi^*) \cdot (\vec{\nabla} \Phi) = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \Phi^* \Delta \Phi = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \Phi^* (\partial_t^2 + m^2) \Phi. \quad (20)$$

This gives

$$P^0 = E = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \varepsilon = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \Phi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t \partial_t \Phi. \quad (21)$$

Using the mode decomposition (6) and (13)

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})(iE_p)u_{\vec{p}}^* + b(\vec{p})(-iE_p)u_{\vec{p}}] \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t [a(\vec{q})u_{\vec{q}} + b^*(\vec{q})u_{\vec{q}}^*] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})a(\vec{q})E_p + b(\vec{p})b^*(\vec{q})] \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} E_p [|a(\vec{p})|^2 + |b(\vec{p})|^2]. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

The evaluation of the total momentum is quite analogous, using (19) for the momentum density,  $\vec{g}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{P} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \vec{g} = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} [(\partial_t \Phi^*)(\vec{\nabla} \Phi) + (\partial_t \Phi)(\vec{\nabla} \Phi^*)] \\
&= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} [(\partial_t \Phi^*)(\vec{\nabla} \Phi) - (\partial_t \vec{\nabla} \Phi) \Phi^*] \\
&= + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} [\Phi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t \vec{\nabla} \Phi] \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})u_{\vec{p}}^* + b(\vec{p})u_{\vec{p}}] \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t [a(\vec{q})i\vec{q}u_{\vec{q}} + b^*(\vec{p})(-i\vec{q})u_{\vec{q}}^*] \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} \vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})a(\vec{q}) + b(\vec{p})b^*(\vec{q})] \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \vec{p} [|a(\vec{p})|^2 + |b(\vec{p})|^2].
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

As to be expected from Noether's theorem, both the energy and momentum are conserved, i.e., do not depend on time.

5. From the obvious invariance of the Lagrangian under the phase transformation

$$\Phi'(\underline{x}) = \exp(-iq\alpha)\Phi(\underline{x}), \quad \Phi'^*(\underline{x}) = \exp(+iq\alpha)\Phi^*(\underline{x}), \tag{24}$$

where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  is the group parameter<sup>1</sup> the corresponding Noether current is given by

$$j_\mu = iq\Phi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\mu \Phi. \tag{25}$$

Show that indeed the continuity equation,

$$\partial_\mu j^\mu = 0 \tag{26}$$

holds if  $\Phi$  fulfills the Klein-Gordon equation and calculate the total charge

$$Q = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3x j^0(\underline{x}) \tag{27}$$

in terms of the Fourier components  $a(\vec{p})$  and  $b(\vec{p})$ .

**Solution:** We just evaluate the four-dimensional divergence in (26), using (25) for the four-current density and the Klein-Gordon equation for  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi^*$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\partial_\mu j^\mu &= iq\partial_\mu [\Phi^* \partial^\mu \Phi - (\partial^\mu \Phi^*) \Phi] \\
&= iq[(\partial^\mu \Phi^*)(\partial_\mu \Phi) + \Phi^* \square \Phi - (\partial^\mu \Phi^*)(\partial_\mu \Phi) - (\square \Phi^*) \Phi] \\
&= iq[-\Phi^* m^2 \Phi + m^2 \Phi^* \Phi] = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

The total charge is calculated using the charge density  $\rho = j^0$  and the mode decomposition (6),

$$\begin{aligned}
Q &= iq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \Phi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t \Phi \\
&= iq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{x} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})u_{\vec{p}}^* + b(\vec{p})u_{\vec{p}}] \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_t [a(\vec{q})u_{\vec{q}} + b^*(\vec{q})u_{\vec{q}}^*] \\
&= q \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{q} [a^*(\vec{p})a(\vec{q}) - b(\vec{p})b^*(\vec{q})] \\
&= q \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\vec{p} [|a(\vec{p})|^2 - |b(\vec{p})|^2].
\end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

<sup>1</sup>The group is the U(1), i.e., the multiplication of complex numbers  $z = x + iy$  ( $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  with a phase factor, keeping the absolute value  $|z|$  invariant, which is equivalent to the rotations of vectors  $(x, y)^T \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , i.e., SO(2).

As expected from Noether's theorem the charge turns out to be constant.

**Extra task:** Derive the form of this Noether current (26) from the Noether formalism as shown in the presentation slides of Lect. 5.

**Solution:** The infinitesimal form of the transformations (24) give

$$\delta \underline{x} = 0, \quad \delta \Phi = -iq \delta \alpha \Phi, \quad \delta \Phi^* = +iq \delta \alpha \Phi^*. \quad (30)$$

In terms of the formalism given on Slide 44 we thus have

$$\xi = 0, \quad \Xi = -iq \Phi, \quad \Xi^* = iq \Phi^*. \quad (31)$$

Since not only the variation of the action is invariant under the U(1) transformation, we can set  $\Omega^\mu = 0$  and then we can immediately read off the Noether current as given on Slide 48,

$$j^\mu = \Pi^\mu \Xi + \Pi^{*\mu} \Xi^* = iq [\Phi^* (\partial^\mu \Phi) - (\partial^\mu \Phi^*) \Phi] = iq \Phi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\mu \Phi, \quad (32)$$

as given in (25).

## A Manifestly covariant Fourier transformation

Above, the mode decomposition is written in a not manifestly covariant form which is convenient in the sense that in the quantized version with this convention the particle and anti-particle states created by the operator valued coefficients, which are then creation operators of the corresponding field-oscillator modes, are normalized to  $\delta$ -distributions, i.e.,

$$[\mathbf{a}^\dagger(\vec{p}), \mathbf{a}(\vec{q})] = [\mathbf{b}^\dagger(\vec{p}), \mathbf{b}(\vec{q})] = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}). \quad (33)$$

However, the mode decomposition (10) is not written in manifestly covariant form, but of course the Klein-Gordon field  $\Phi(\underline{x})$  is a scalar field. The reason is that the mode functions (7) are no scalar fields, but neither is  $d^3 p$  nor the  $a(\vec{p})$  and  $b(\vec{p})$ . All together we obtain the Lorentz-covariant scalar field  $\Phi$ .

Alternatively we can define manifestly covariant mode functions, as functions of the *four-vectors*  $\underline{x}$  and  $\underline{p}$  and make the restriction of the 3D-momentum integration along the **mass shell**  $p^0 = E_p$  manifest with appropriate invariant  $\delta$ -distributions. Thus we define the covariant mode functions as

$$U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \exp(-i\underline{p} \cdot \underline{x}). \quad (34)$$

It transforms under a proper orthochronous Lorentz transformation  $\underline{x}' = \hat{\Lambda}^{-1} \underline{x}$  as a scalar field,

$$\begin{aligned} U'_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}') &= U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}) = U_{\underline{p}}(\hat{\Lambda} \underline{x}') = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \exp(-i\underline{p} \cdot \hat{\Lambda} \underline{x}') \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \exp(-i\hat{\Lambda} \underline{p}' \cdot \hat{\Lambda} \underline{x}') = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \exp(-i\underline{p}' \cdot \underline{x}') = U_{\underline{p}'}(\underline{x}'). \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Then defining new Fourier coefficients,

$$A(\underline{p}) = \sqrt{2E_p} a(\vec{p}), \quad B(\underline{p}) = \sqrt{2E_p} b(\vec{p}), \quad (36)$$

the mode decomposition reads

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(\underline{x}) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{d^3 p}{2E_p} [A(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}) + B^*(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x})]_{p^0=E_p} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4 p \frac{1}{2E_p} \delta(p^0 - E_p) [A(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}) + B^*(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x})] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4 p \Theta(p^0) \delta(\underline{p}^2 - m^2) [A(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x}) + B^*(\underline{p}) U_{\underline{p}}(\underline{x})]. \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Now  $\Theta(p^0)\delta(\underline{p}^2 - m^2)$  is a scalar distribution-valued field under *proper orthochronous* Lorentz transformations, because  $\text{sign } p^0 = \text{const}$  for time- or light-like vectors. Since  $m^2 \geq 0$ , the  $\delta$  distribution ensures that  $\underline{p}^2 = m^2 \geq 0$  (i.e.,  $\underline{p}$  is time- or light-like). Also the momentum four-volume element,  $d^4 p$ , is invariant:

$$d^4 p = d^4 p' \det \left( \frac{\partial p^\mu}{\partial p'^\mu} \right) = d^4 p' \det \hat{\Lambda} = d^4 p' \quad \text{for } \hat{\Lambda} \in \text{SO}(1,3)^\uparrow. \quad (38)$$

Since  $\Phi(\underline{x})$  is a scalar field, thus also  $A(\underline{p})$  and  $B(\underline{p})$  must be scalar fields.

Using (36) in (22), (23), and (29), one finds

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{P} &= \begin{pmatrix} E \\ \vec{P} \end{pmatrix} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3 \vec{p} \frac{p}{2E_p} [ |A(\underline{p})|^2 + |B(\vec{p})|^2 ]_{p^0=E_p} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4 p \Theta(p^0) \delta(\underline{p}^2 - m^2) \underline{p} [ |A(\underline{p})|^2 + |B(\vec{p})|^2 ], \\ Q &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3 \vec{p} \frac{q}{2E_p} [ |A(\underline{p})|^2 + |B(\vec{p})|^2 ]_{p^0=E_p} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4 p \Theta(p^0) \delta(\underline{p}^2 - m^2) q [ |A(\underline{p})|^2 + |B(\vec{p})|^2 ]. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

The latter expressions show that  $\underline{P}$  indeed is a four-vector, and  $Q$  a scalar, as it should be.

Note that with this convention for the mode functions, the corresponding annihilation and creation operators in the quantized theory are normalized as

$$[\mathbf{A}^\dagger(\underline{p}), \mathbf{A}(\underline{q})] = [\mathbf{B}^\dagger(\underline{p}), \mathbf{B}(\underline{q})] = 2E_p \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{q}). \quad (40)$$