

Quantum Field Theory

Set 18

Exercise 1: Equivalence of Hamiltonian and Lagrangian formalism for massive vectors

Consider the Lagrangian of a massive vector field. Compute the conjugate momenta of A_μ and show that $\Pi_0 = 0$. This means that A_0 is not a dynamical variable but can be expressed in terms of the other fields. Show that $A_0 = -\frac{1}{M^2} \partial_i \Pi^i$. Then show that the Hamiltonian is:

$$H = \int d^3x \left(\frac{1}{2} \Pi^i \Pi^i + \frac{1}{2M^2} (\partial_i \Pi^i)^2 + \frac{1}{4} F^{ij} F^{ij} + \frac{1}{2} M^2 A^i A^i \right).$$

Using the following commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [A_i(\vec{x}, t), \Pi^j(\vec{y}, t)] &= i\delta_i^j \delta^3(\vec{x} - \vec{y}), \\ [A_i(\vec{x}, t), A_j(\vec{y}, t)] &= [\Pi^i(\vec{x}, t), \Pi^j(\vec{y}, t)] = [A_0(\vec{x}, t), \Pi^j(\vec{y}, t)] = 0, \\ [A_i(\vec{x}, t), A_0(\vec{y}, t)] &= -\frac{1}{M^2} [A_i(\vec{x}, t), \partial_m \Pi^m(\vec{y}, t)] = \frac{i}{M^2} \partial_i^{(x)} \delta^3(\vec{x} - \vec{y}), \end{aligned}$$

show that the Hamilton equations of motion are equivalent to the Lagrange equations of motion.

Exercise 2: Generator of rotations

Consider the Lagrangian of a massive vector field. Show that the Noether current associated to Lorentz transformation is

$$J_{\alpha\beta}^\mu = -F^{\mu\rho} (\eta_{\rho\alpha} A_\beta + x_\alpha \partial_\beta A_\rho) + F^{\mu\rho} (\eta_{\rho\beta} A_\alpha + x_\beta \partial_\alpha A_\rho) + \left(\delta_\alpha^\mu x_\beta - \delta_\beta^\mu x_\alpha \right) \mathcal{L}.$$

Consider the component J_{ij}^0 and thus find the Noether charge associated to rotations. Show that

$$J_k = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \int J_{ij}^0 d^3x = \epsilon_{ijk} \int d^3x (\Pi_i A_j - \Pi_j A_i).$$

Substitute the expansion of $\Pi_i(x)$ and $A_j(x)$ in terms of $a_i(k)$ and $a_i(k)^\dagger$ and show that the generator of rotations can be written as

$$J_k = i\epsilon_{ijk} \int d\Omega_{\vec{k}} \left\{ a_i(\vec{k}) a_j^\dagger(\vec{k}) - a_m(\vec{k}) \left(k_i \frac{\partial}{\partial k^j} \right) a_m^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right\}.$$