

QFT Problem Set 2 Solutions

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Problem 1.

$$S = \int_0^T dt \sum_k a^3 \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi_k)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \kappa \sum_{\hat{\mu}} (\phi_{k+\hat{\mu}} - \phi_k)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 \phi_k^2 \right] \quad (1)$$

(a) The Euler–Lagrange equations read,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\phi}_k} &= a^3 \partial_t^2 \phi_k \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi_k} &= a^3 (2\kappa) \sum_{\hat{\mu}} (\phi_{k+\hat{\mu}} - \phi_k) - a^3 \omega^2 \phi_k \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The additional factor of 2 arises from the double counting in the summation of the edges. Setting $\kappa = \frac{1}{2} a^{-2}$, consider the contribution only along the \hat{x} direction,

$$\begin{aligned} a^3 \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{k+\hat{x}} - 2\phi_k + \phi_{k-\hat{x}}) &= a^3 \frac{1}{a} \left(\frac{\phi_{k+\hat{x}} - \phi_k}{a} - \frac{\phi_k - \phi_{k-\hat{x}}}{a} \right) \\ &= a^3 \frac{1}{a} (\tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \phi_k - \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \phi_{k-\hat{x}}) \\ &= a^3 \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \phi_{k-\hat{x}} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

And thus,

$$\partial_t^2 \phi_k - \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{x}} \phi_{k-\hat{x}} - \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{y}} \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{y}} \phi_{k-\hat{y}} - \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{z}} \tilde{\nabla}_{\hat{z}} \phi_{k-\hat{z}} = -\omega^2 \phi_k \quad (4)$$

(b) Taking the limit $a \rightarrow 0$,

$$\partial_t^2 \phi - \nabla^2 \phi = -\omega^2 \phi \quad (5)$$

Problem 2.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 \phi^2 \quad (6)$$

(a) Performing the variation,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta S &= \int_0^T dt \int_{V_\Sigma} d^3 \mathbf{x} \left[\partial_t \phi_{\text{cl}} \partial_t (\delta \phi) - \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} \cdot \nabla (\delta \phi) - \omega^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} (\delta \phi) \right] \\ &= \int_{V_\Sigma} d^3 \mathbf{x} \left[\int_0^T dt \left(-(\delta \phi) \partial_t^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} - \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} \cdot \nabla (\delta \phi) - \omega^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} (\delta \phi) \right) + \partial_t \phi_{\text{cl}} \delta \phi \right]_0^T \\ &= \int_0^T dt \int_{V_\Sigma} d^3 \mathbf{x} \left(-(\delta \phi) \partial_t^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} - \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} \cdot \nabla (\delta \phi) - \omega^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} (\delta \phi) \right) \\ &= \int_0^T dt \left[\int_{V_\Sigma} d^3 \mathbf{x} (\delta \phi) \left(-\partial_t^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} + \nabla^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} - \omega^2 \phi_{\text{cl}} \right) - \int_\Sigma dA (\delta \phi) \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We've integrated by parts and used Stokes' theorem in the second and fourth lines. We have used the fact that $\delta \phi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \delta \phi(T, \mathbf{x}) = 0$ in the third line.

(b) Let the surface Σ be a large sphere of radius R , and for simplicity assume that ϕ is spherically symmetric. Then,

$$\int_{S_R^2} dA (\delta \phi) \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = 2\pi R^2 (\delta \phi) \hat{r} \cdot \nabla \phi_{\text{cl}} = 2\pi R^2 (\delta \phi) \partial_r \phi_{\text{cl}}(R) \quad (8)$$

For this to vanish, it is clear that $\phi_{\text{cl}}(r)$ has to fall off *at least* as fast as

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\text{cl}}(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^{1+\epsilon}} &\implies \partial_r \phi_{\text{cl}}(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^{2+\epsilon}} \\ &\implies \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} R^2 \partial_r \phi_{\text{cl}}(R) \sim \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{R^\epsilon} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

(c) The canonical momentum is,

$$\pi = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_t \phi)} = \partial_t \phi \quad (10)$$

And therefore, the Hamiltonian density is,

$$\mathcal{H} = \pi \dot{\phi} - \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 \phi^2 \quad (11)$$

(d) The Hamiltonian is given by,

$$H = \int d^3 \mathbf{x} \mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3 \mathbf{x} \left(\pi^2 + (\nabla \phi)^2 + \omega^2 \phi^2 \right) \quad (12)$$

And therefore Hamilton's equations read,

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\delta H}{\delta \pi(t, \mathbf{x})} = \pi(t, \mathbf{x}) \\
\dot{\pi}(t, \mathbf{x}) &= -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \phi(t, \mathbf{x})} \\
&= -\int d^3 \mathbf{y} \left(\nabla \phi(t, \mathbf{y}) \cdot \nabla \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) + \omega^2 \phi(t, \mathbf{y}) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \right) \quad (13) \\
&= \int d^3 \mathbf{y} \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) \left(\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{y}) - \omega^2 \phi(\mathbf{y}) \right) \\
&= \nabla^2 \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) - \omega^2 \phi(t, \mathbf{x})
\end{aligned}$$

Putting the two together,

$$\partial_t^2 \phi(x) - \nabla^2 \phi(x) = -\omega^2 \phi(x) \quad (14)$$

Problem 3.

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi(\mathbf{x}) &= \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{p}}}} (a_{-\mathbf{p}}^\dagger + a_{\mathbf{p}}) e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \implies \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{k}}}} (a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + a_{\mathbf{k}}) \\
\pi(\mathbf{x}) &= i \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{E_{\mathbf{p}}}{2}} (a_{-\mathbf{p}}^\dagger - a_{\mathbf{p}}) e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \implies \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k}) = i\sqrt{\frac{E_{\mathbf{k}}}{2}} (a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger - a_{\mathbf{k}}) \\
\implies a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{k}}}} (E_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\phi}(-\mathbf{k}) - i\tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{k})), \quad a_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\mathbf{k}}}} (E_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) + i\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k}))
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Using this, consider,

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} &= \frac{1}{2E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left[E_{\mathbf{k}}^2 |\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 + |\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 + iE_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\phi}(-\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k}) - iE_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) \right] \\
a_{-\mathbf{k}} a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger &= \frac{1}{2E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left[E_{\mathbf{k}}^2 |\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 + |\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 - iE_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\phi}(-\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k}) + iE_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

In the above equations,

$$|\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 = \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\phi}(-\mathbf{k}) \quad , \quad |\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 = \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{k}) \tag{17}$$

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
H &= \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} E_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} = : \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} E_{\mathbf{p}} (a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} + a_{-\mathbf{p}} a_{-\mathbf{p}}^\dagger) : \\
&= : \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} (E_{\mathbf{k}}^2 |\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k})|^2 + |\tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{k})|^2) : \\
&= : \frac{1}{2} \int d^3\mathbf{x} (\pi^2(\mathbf{x}) + (\nabla\phi)^2(\mathbf{x}) + \omega^2\phi^2(\mathbf{x})) :
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P} &= \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \mathbf{p} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{1}{2} : \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} (\mathbf{p} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} - \mathbf{p} a_{-\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{-\mathbf{p}}) : \\
&= : \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} (i\mathbf{p} \tilde{\phi}(-\mathbf{p}) \tilde{\pi}(\mathbf{p}) - i\mathbf{p} \tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{p}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{p})) : \\
&= - : \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} (i\mathbf{p}) \tilde{\pi}(-\mathbf{p}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{p}) := - : \int d^3\mathbf{x} \pi(\mathbf{x}) \nabla\phi(\mathbf{x}) :
\end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

(c) Note,

$$a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}) a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle + (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}') a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger |0\rangle \tag{20}$$

And therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
H |\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}'\rangle &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} E_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle \\
&= E_{\mathbf{p}} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle + E_{\mathbf{p}'} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle = (E_{\mathbf{p}} + E_{\mathbf{p}'}) |\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}'\rangle
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P} |\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}'\rangle &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \mathbf{k} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle \\
&= \mathbf{p} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle + \mathbf{p}' a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle = (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{p}') |\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}'\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

(d)

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 0 | \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}') | \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}' \rangle &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{E_{\mathbf{k}} E_{\mathbf{k}'}}} \langle 0 | a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}'} a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}'}^\dagger |0\rangle \\
&= \frac{(2\pi)^6}{2\sqrt{E_{\mathbf{k}} E_{\mathbf{k}'}}} \left(\delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}') \delta^3(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}) + \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}) \delta^3(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{p}') \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

And thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 0 | \phi(\mathbf{x}) \phi(\mathbf{y}) | \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}' \rangle &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}'}{(2\pi)^3} \langle 0 | \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{k}') | \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}' \rangle e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} + i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{y}} \\
&= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{E_{\mathbf{p}} E_{\mathbf{p}'}}} \left(e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x} + i\mathbf{p}'\cdot\mathbf{y}} + e^{i\mathbf{p}'\cdot\mathbf{x} + i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{y}} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Problem 4.

$$\Delta(x) = [\phi(x), \phi(0)] = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2E_p} (e^{-ip \cdot x} - e^{ip \cdot x}) ; E_p = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2} \quad (24)$$

(a) Let $x = (t, \mathbf{x})$. Choosing spherical polar co-ordinates in *momentum* space, with the polar axis along the direction of \mathbf{x} , we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(x) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^\infty dp p^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) \frac{1}{2E_p} (e^{-iE_p t + ip|\mathbf{x}| \cos \theta} - e^{iE_p t - ip|\mathbf{x}| \cos \theta}) \\ &= \frac{-i}{2(2\pi)^2 |\mathbf{x}|} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p}{E_p} (e^{-iE_p t + ip|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{-iE_p t - ip|\mathbf{x}|} + e^{iE_p t - ip|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{iE_p t + ip|\mathbf{x}|}) \\ &= \frac{-i}{4\pi^2 |\mathbf{x}|} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \mathbf{Re} [e^{iE_p t - ip|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{iE_p t + ip|\mathbf{x}|}] \\ &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 |\mathbf{x}|} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \mathbf{Re} [e^{iE_p t - ip|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{iE_p t + ip|\mathbf{x}|}] \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Now, using rapidity parameters. $t = s \cosh \tau$, $|\mathbf{x}| = s \sinh \tau$, $p = m \sinh \phi \implies dp = m \cosh \phi d\phi$, $E_p = m \cosh \phi$. Further,

$$\begin{aligned} E_p t - p|\mathbf{x}| &= ms (\cosh \phi \cosh \tau - \sinh \phi \sinh \tau) = ms \cosh(\phi - \tau) \\ E_p t + p|\mathbf{x}| &= ms (\cosh \phi \cosh \tau + \sinh \phi \sinh \tau) = ms \cosh(\phi + \tau) \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Putting this all together,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(x) &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s \sinh \tau} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m^2 \sinh \phi \cosh \phi}{m \cosh \phi} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh(\phi - \tau)} - e^{ims \cosh(\phi + \tau)}] \\ &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m \sinh \phi}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh(\phi - \tau)} - e^{ims \cosh(\phi + \tau)}] \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

(b) Consider,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{(1)}(x) &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m \sinh \phi}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh(\phi - \tau)}] \\ &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m \sinh(\phi + \tau)}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh \phi}] \\ &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m (\sinh \phi \cosh \tau + \cosh \phi \sinh \tau)}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh \phi}] \\ &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \frac{m \cosh \phi \sinh \tau}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh \phi}] \\ &= \frac{-im}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^\infty d\phi \cosh \phi \mathbf{Re} [e^{ims \cosh \phi}] \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

And similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^{(2)}(x) &= \frac{-i}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi \frac{m \sinh \phi}{\sinh \tau} \mathbf{Re} \left[-e^{ims \cosh(\phi+\tau)} \right] \\ &= \frac{-im}{8\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi \cosh \phi \mathbf{Re} \left[e^{ims \cosh \phi} \right]\end{aligned}\quad (29)$$

And thus,

$$\Delta(x) = \frac{-im}{4\pi^2 s} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi \cosh \phi \mathbf{Re} \left[e^{ims \cosh \phi} \right] \quad (30)$$

This representation expresses the unequal time propagator purely in terms of the spacetime interval s and mass m .

(c) The Mehler Sonine representation of the Bessel function of the first kind is,

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dt \cosh(\nu t) \sin \left(z \cosh t - \frac{\pi}{2} \nu t \right), \quad |\mathbf{Re} \nu| < 1 \quad (31)$$

$$\begin{aligned}J_1(ms) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dt \cosh t \cos(ms \cosh t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \cosh t \cos(ms \cosh t) \\ \implies \Delta(x) &= \frac{-im}{4\pi s} J_1(ms)\end{aligned}\quad (32)$$

Note: This can also be expressed as the real part of a Hankel function (ref. Lebedev – Special Functions and their Applications, eq. 5.10.14),

$$H_\nu^{(1)}(z) = \frac{e^{-\frac{i\pi\nu}{2}}}{\pi i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du e^{iz \cosh u - \nu u}$$

The two formulae can easily shown to be equal.

There are two subtleties here.

1. The Mehler Sonine representation of the Bessel function is strictly only valid for $|\mathbf{Re} \nu| < 1$ – we have used the boundary value of $\nu = 1$.
2. In going over to the rapidity parameters, we set $t = s \cosh \tau$, $|\mathbf{x}| = s \sinh \tau$.

$$\implies t^2 - |\mathbf{x}|^2 = s^2 (\cosh^2 \tau - \sinh^2 \tau) = s^2 > 0 \quad (33)$$

That is, we are only considering *timelike* intervals.