

RIGOROUS QUANTUM FIELD THEORY MODELS

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Quantum field theory provides a natural framework to describe the interactions between elementary particles. Aside from a program of field theory computations, there has been an interest in qualitative or structural aspects of quantum field theory. We announce here some new progress in this direction. We study two standard nonlinear interactions in two space time dimensions. Our main results include the mathematically rigorous construction of quantum field theory models for these interactions.

We consider the interactions ϕ^4 (a nonlinear self-coupling of mesons) and $\phi\bar{\psi}\psi$ (e.g. the coupling between mesons and neutrons or protons). In the nonrelativistic limit the $\phi\bar{\psi}\psi$ interaction gives rise to a Yukawa potential between fermions; thus it is called the Yukawa interaction.

The field equation for the ϕ^4 theory is

$$(1) \quad \phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx} + m^2\phi + 4\lambda\phi^3 = 0, \quad \lambda > 0.$$

This equation was solved in [3] with the cube suitably defined. The field $\phi = \phi(x, t)$ of (1) is a bilinear form, densely defined on a Hilbert space. The value of the bilinear form is continuous in x and t , and the derivatives in (1) are distribution derivatives. The field is local

$$(2) \quad [\phi(x, t), \phi(y, s)] = 0, \quad \text{if } |x - y| > |t - s|,$$

and satisfies the canonical commutation relations

$$(3) \quad [\phi(x, t), \phi_t(y, t)] = i\delta(x - y).$$

The solution to (1) is obtained by solving the equation

$$(4) \quad \phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx} + m^2\phi + 4\lambda g(x)\phi^3 = 0,$$

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where $g(x)$ is a nonnegative C_0^∞ function. Equation (4) has a Hamiltonian

$$(5) \quad H(g) = H_0 + H_I(g),$$

where H_0 is the Hamiltonian for $g \equiv 0$. The operator $H(g)$ is selfadjoint [1]–[2], and in [3] it is proved that

$$(6) \quad \phi_g(x, t) = e^{itH(g)}\phi(x, 0)e^{-itH(g)}$$

is a solution to (3)–(4). Let B denote a bounded interval and let B_t be the set of all points within distance $|t|$ of B . If $x \in B$ and $g(x) = 1$ on B_t , then $\phi_g(x, t)$ is a solution to (1), (3). A result of Segal [5, Theorem 3] based on the Trotter product formula ensures that such a $\phi_g(x, t)$ is independent of $g(\cdot)$ and that (2) is valid.

Our new results for the ϕ^4 interaction concern the limit $g(\cdot) \rightarrow 1$.

DEFINITION 1. The selfadjoint operators H and P are energy and momentum operators for ϕ provided

$$(7) \quad e^{itH}\phi(x, s)e^{-itH} = \phi(x, s + t),$$

$$(8) \quad e^{-iaP}\phi(x, s)e^{iaP} = \phi(x + a, s),$$

$$(9) \quad HP = PH.$$

DEFINITION 2. The unit vector Ω is a vacuum for H, P if

$$(10) \quad 0 = H\Omega = P\Omega,$$

$$(11) \quad 0 \leq H.$$

THEOREM 1. For the ϕ^4 interaction in two dimensions there is a solution ϕ of (1)–(3) that has energy and momentum operators H and P and a vacuum vector Ω . In other words ϕ, H, P and Ω satisfy (1)–(3) and (7)–(11).

It is known that the locally correct Hamiltonian $H(g)$ has a unique ground state vector Ω_g [3]. But $[H(g), P] \neq 0$ and $P\Omega_g \neq 0$, since g and $H(g)$ are obviously not translation invariant. The H and Ω of Theorem 1 are constructed as limits of $H(g)$ and Ω_g when $g(\cdot) \rightarrow 1$.

Define the C^* algebra \mathfrak{A} of bounded functions of the field as follows: Let $\mathfrak{A}(B)$ be the von Neumann algebra generated by

$$\exp\left(i \int \phi(x, 0)f(x)dx\right), \quad \exp\left(i \int \phi_t(x, 0)f(x)dx\right)$$

where $f = \bar{f} \in C_0^\infty(B)$ and B is a bounded set. The algebra \mathfrak{A} is the norm closure of $\cup_B \mathfrak{A}(B)$.

The vector Ω_θ determines a state ω_θ in the Banach space dual \mathfrak{A}^* of \mathfrak{A} ,

$$(12) \quad \omega_\theta(A) = (\Omega_\theta, A\Omega_\theta), \quad A \in \mathfrak{A}.$$

After space averaging, we prove that a subsequence of the ω_θ converge w^* to a limit ω . (Since \mathfrak{A} is not norm separable, standard compactness arguments give only a convergent subnet.) We use $\omega \in \mathfrak{A}^*$ to define the inner product in a new Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} (the Gelfand-Segal construction). We have a representation π of \mathfrak{A} as operators on \mathfrak{H} such that

$$(13) \quad \omega(A) = (\Omega, \pi(A)\Omega)$$

for some $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}$.

DEFINITION 3. A representation π of \mathfrak{A} as operators on a Hilbert space is called *locally Fock* if for each $\mathfrak{A}(B)$,

$$\pi \upharpoonright \mathfrak{A}(B)$$

is unitarily equivalent to the identity representation.

THEOREM 2. *The representation π of (13) is locally Fock.*

We use this theorem to construct H and P . It also allows us to extend the representation π both to the unbounded operators $\int \phi(x, t)f(x, t)dxdt$ and to the bilinear form $\phi(x, t)$. Our ϕ^4 field theory satisfies most of the Haag-Kastler axioms and many of the Wightman axioms.

We now turn to the Yukawa interaction in two dimensions; we call it Y_2 for short.

THEOREM 3. *For the Y_2 field theory, the space cutoff energy operator $H(g)$ is selfadjoint.*

We observe that $H(g)$ is a remarkably singular operator, because its formal expression

$$(14) \quad H_0 + H_I(g) - \frac{1}{2}\delta m^2 \int \phi^2 g(x)^2 dx - E_\theta$$

contains terms with infinite coefficients [4], namely δm^2 and E_θ . (The Hamiltonian H for the $(\phi^4)_2$ theory also contains an infinite constant.) We define $H(g)$ as the limit of a sequence of approximate, selfadjoint Hamiltonians. The proof of the existence of an operator $H(g)$ involves the explicit construction of vectors θ in the domain of $H(g)$. In the formal expression for $H(g)\theta$, there are a number of infinite terms that cancel. We prove Theorem 3 for this limit.

We have established the finite propagation speed and locality for the Y_2 theory. As before, we define \mathfrak{A} to be the C^* algebra generated by bounded functions of the time zero fields.

THEOREM 4. *In the Y_2 theory, let $A \in \mathfrak{A}(B)$ and $g(x) = 1$ on B_t . Then*

$$(15) \quad \sigma_t(A) = e^{itH(g)} A e^{-itH(g)} \in \mathfrak{A}(B_t),$$

and $\sigma_t(A)$ is independent of $g(\cdot)$.

Here σ_t defined by (15) is a one parameter group of time translation automorphisms of \mathfrak{A} . Using σ_t we also construct canonical fields $\phi(x, t)$ and $\psi(x, t)$ which commute or anticommute at space-like separated points. Most of the Haag-Kastler axioms are satisfied for our Y_2 quantum field theory.

Because of the infinite counterterms in $H(g)$, Theorem 4 does not follow from the Trotter product formula.

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