

HW assignment 2. Due Feb 25 on the lecture

Find the Feynman, retarded and advanced propagators in a massless KG theory.

Solution

Feynman propagator

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 0 | T \{ \hat{\phi}(x) \hat{\phi}(0) \} | 0 \rangle &= i \int \tilde{d}^4 p \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 + i\epsilon} = i \int \tilde{d}^3 p e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \int \tilde{d} p_0 \frac{e^{-ip_0 x_0}}{(p_0 - |\vec{p}| + i\epsilon)(p_0 + |\vec{p}| - i\epsilon)} \\
&= \theta(x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} - i|\vec{p}|x_0} + \theta(-x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} + i|\vec{p}|x_0} \\
&\stackrel{r \equiv |\vec{x}|}{=} \frac{\theta(x_0)}{16\pi^2} \int_0^\infty p dp \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta e^{-ipx_0 + ipr \cos \theta} + \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty p dp \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta e^{ipx_0 + ipr \cos \theta} \\
&= -\frac{i\theta(x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \int_0^\infty dp (e^{-ipx_0 + ipr} - e^{-ipx_0 - ipr}) - i\frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \int_0^\infty dp (e^{ipx_0 + ipr} - e^{ipx_0 - ipr}) \\
&= -\frac{i\theta(x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \int_0^\infty dp (e^{-ip(x_0 - r - i\epsilon)} - e^{-ip(x_0 + r - i\epsilon)}) - i\frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \int_0^\infty dp (e^{ip(x_0 + r + i\epsilon)} - e^{ip(x_0 - r + i\epsilon)}) \\
&= -\frac{\theta(x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 - r - i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 + r - i\epsilon} \right] + \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 + r + i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 - r + i\epsilon} \right] \\
&= -\frac{\theta(x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 - i\epsilon x_0)} - \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 + i\epsilon x_0)} = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 - i\epsilon)} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2(-x^2 + i\epsilon)} \tag{1}
\end{aligned}$$

Retarded propagator

$$\begin{aligned}
\theta(x_0) \langle [\hat{\phi}(x), \hat{\phi}(0)] \rangle &= i \int \tilde{d}^4 p \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 + i\epsilon p_0} = i \int \tilde{d}^3 p e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \int \tilde{d} p_0 \frac{e^{-ip_0 x_0}}{(p_0 - |\vec{p}| + i\epsilon)(p_0 + |\vec{p}| + i\epsilon)} \\
&= \theta(x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} - i|\vec{p}|x_0} - \theta(x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} + i|\vec{p}|x_0} \\
&= -\frac{\theta(x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 - r - i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 + r - i\epsilon} \right] - \frac{\theta(x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 + r + i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 - r + i\epsilon} \right] \\
&= -\frac{\theta(x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 - i\epsilon)} + \frac{\theta(x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 + i\epsilon)} = -2\pi i \delta(x_0^2 - r^2) \theta(x_0) = -2\pi i \delta(x^2) \theta(x_0) \tag{2}
\end{aligned}$$

Advanced propagator

$$\begin{aligned}
\theta(-x_0) \langle [\hat{\phi}(0), \hat{\phi}(x)] \rangle &= i \int \tilde{d}^4 p \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 - i\epsilon p_0} = i \int \tilde{d}^3 p e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \int \tilde{d} p_0 \frac{e^{-ip_0 x_0}}{(p_0 - |\vec{p}| - i\epsilon)(p_0 + |\vec{p}| - i\epsilon)} \\
&= -\theta(-x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} - i|\vec{p}|x_0} + \theta(-x_0) \int \frac{\tilde{d}^3 p}{2|\vec{p}|} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x} + i|\vec{p}|x_0} \\
&= \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 - r - i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 + r - i\epsilon} \right] + \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{8\pi^2 r} \left[\frac{1}{x_0 + r + i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{x_0 - r + i\epsilon} \right] \\
&= \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 + i\epsilon)} - \frac{\theta(-x_0)}{4\pi^2(x_0^2 - r^2 - i\epsilon)} = -2\pi i \delta(x_0^2 - r^2) \theta(-x_0) = -2\pi i \delta(x^2) \theta(-x_0) \tag{3}
\end{aligned}$$