

# FQM problem Sheet 1 in WS 2022/2023

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## 1. KG scattering at a potential threshold (10)

The Klein-Gordon equation in 1 + 1 D (where the first number stands for the dimension of space, the second for that of time) for a particle in an electrical potential  $V(x, t)$  reads:

$$(i\partial_t - V(x, t))^2\psi(x, t) = (-\partial_x^2 + m^2)\psi(x, t)$$

(Remark:  $\hbar \equiv c \equiv 1$ )

Consider the time independent potential

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \quad x \leq 0 \\ V & , \quad x > 0 \end{cases}.$$

Apply the ansatz  $\psi(x, t) = \exp(-itE)\psi(x)$  for deriving the stationary KG equation and solve it for a plane wave incident from the left (from  $-\infty$ ) of energy  $E = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$ :

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} e^{ipx} + Re^{-ipx} & , \quad x \leq 0 \\ Te^{iqx} & , \quad x > 0 \end{cases}.$$

It makes sense to distinguish the cases

- (a)  $V < E - m$ ,
- (b)  $E - m < V < E + m$ ,
- (c)  $E + m < V$ .

Determine  $R$  and  $T$ , as well as the ratio of the reflected and transmitted current density  $j_t$  and  $j_r$  to the incident current density  $j_{in}$ . How can the result be interpreted physically?

**Remark:** Pay particular attention to the sign of the momentum  $q$ , which can be determined by the physical requirement of the positivity of the group speed  $v_g = \partial_q E$ .

**Reminder:** The current density of a wave function  $\psi$  in one dimension is  $j = \frac{1}{2mi}(\psi^*\partial_x\psi - \psi\partial_x\psi^*)$

## 2. KG equation in a Coulomb potential (10)

The aim of this task is to calculate relativistic corrections to the energy levels of bound states with the help of the Klein-Gordon equation. Since the KG equation determines the kinematics of scalar fields (spin 0), for example bound states of the pion  $\pi^-$  in the Coulomb potential of an atomic nucleus can be calculated.

- (a) Write the KG equation (3 + 1 D) in analogy to exercise 1 in stationary form with the time-independent potential

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{-K}{r}, \quad r = |\mathbf{x}|$$

- (b) Transform the equation into spherical coordinates and, as in QM I, make the separation ansatz<sup>1</sup>  $\Psi(\mathbf{x}) = \psi(r)\chi(\theta, \varphi)$ . (**Reminder:**  $r^2\Delta = r\partial_r^2r - \mathbf{L}^2$ )
- (c) Compare terms of the same order in  $r$  with those of the nonrelativistic Coulomb problems. Do you notice something? Can you give the energy levels of the relativistic problem?

**Reminder:** The energy levels of the non-relativistic Coulomb problems are  $E = \frac{-mK^2}{2(n_r + l + 1)^2}$ , where  $n_r$  counts the zeros of the radial wave function.

**Note:** The Relationship  $l(l + 1) + \frac{1}{4} = (l + \frac{1}{2})^2$  could help.

<sup>1</sup>Let  $f, g, k$  and  $l$  be any  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued functions such that  $f(x)g(y) = k(x)l(y)$  holds. Then  $f(x) = ck(x)$  and  $l(y) = cg(y)$  with a constant  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , as long as one excludes trivial solutions. In our case we get  $c = l(l + 1)$ . (Why?)