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PUBLICAÇÕES

IFUSP/P-884

ANATOMY OF RELATIVISTIC MEAN FIELD
APPROXIMATIONS

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Janeiro/1991

Anatomy of Relativistic Mean Field Approximations

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1990

Abstract

In the present work we have set up a scheme to treat field theoretical lagrangians in the same bases of the well known nonrelativistic many body techniques. We show here that fermions and bosons can be treated quantum mechanically in a symmetric way and obtain results for the mean field approximation.

1 Introduction

Treating strongly interacting systems via effective lagrangians requires the use of nonperturbative methods. In this context a very important tool is the self consistent mean field approximation, well known in the various fields of applications, nuclear physics, solid state physics, statistical mechanics and so on. Most of the successful mean field approximations in field theoretical models of interacting fermions and bosons[2] assume that the mesonic degrees of freedom behave classically, while the fermions are treated quantum mechanically. The semiclassical limit of such systems is an attractive and recent research topic due to its connection to chaos[4]. At the same time it is well known that a unique prescription in obtaining such limit is ill defined[5]. It has been recently shown[4,6,7] that the mathematically

rigorous classical analogous of a spin-boson system can only be obtained by using a symmetrical mean field wave function. Only then the quantum Heisenberg equations can be shown to correspond exactly to their classical counterpart. In the present contribution we show that a nonperturbative scheme can be set up to justify the results obtained in such theories and treats both fermions and bosons in a symmetric way, ie, as quantum fields. Even in systems composed of fermion field only (such as the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model) the present approximation reveals interesting properties in terms of the current language of nonrelativistic many body physics. In particular for the NJL model[8] we disentangle the Hartree and Fock contributions showing explicitly a very delicate cancellation which leads to the result that in this model only the Hartree term survives.

The paper is organized as follows: in section 2 we treat the $\sigma-\omega$ model[2, 3] using a quantum representation for the fermion and meson fields. Next we obtain the corresponding mean field approximation and show that the well known results obtained by treating the mesonic field classically can be justified in this symmetric quantum approach. Section 3 analyses within the same scheme the mean field approximation for the NJL model[8] showing explicitly that only the Hartree term survives due to the cancellation of the Fock contribution. Conclusion follow in section 4.

2 First Example: the $\sigma - \omega$ model

The lagrangian density for the $\sigma - \omega$ model is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\sigma-\omega} = & \bar{\psi}[\gamma_{\mu}(i\partial^{\mu} - g_{\sigma}\phi_{\sigma}^{\mu}) - (m - g_{\omega}\phi_{\omega})]\psi \\ & + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{\sigma}\partial^{\mu}\phi_{\sigma} - m_{\sigma}^2\phi_{\sigma}^2) \\ & - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_{\omega}^2\phi_{\omega}\phi_{\omega} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

We consider an infinite system and use the following expansion for the fermionic and mesonic fields:

$$\psi = \sum_{k,l,s} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \frac{m}{E_0(\vec{k})} \right]^{1/2} u_l(\vec{k}, s) c_l(\vec{k}, s) \exp\{-i(-)^l k \cdot x\} \quad (2)$$

$$\phi_{M_i} = \sum_{p_i} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2v\alpha_{p_i}}} \{ b_{p_i}^i \exp\{ip_i \cdot x\} + b_{p_i}^{i\dagger} \exp\{-ip_i \cdot x\} \} \right] \quad (3)$$

with $(l = 0, 1)$ and

$$u_o(\vec{k}, s) = \sqrt{\frac{E_o(\vec{k}) + m}{2m}} \begin{pmatrix} \chi_s \\ \frac{\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}}{E_o(\vec{k}) + m} \chi_s \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$u_1(\vec{k}, s) = \sqrt{\frac{E_o(\vec{k}) + m}{2m}} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}}{E_o(\vec{k}) + m} \chi_s \\ \chi_s \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

the Dirac Spinors of the positive and negative energies respectively, with :

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u}_l(\vec{k}, s') u_l(\vec{k}, s) &= \{ (-)^l \delta_{ll'} - \frac{\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}}{m} (1 - \delta_{ll'}) \} \delta_{ss'} \\ u_{l'}^\dagger(\vec{k}, s') u_l(\vec{k}, s) &= \frac{E_o(\vec{k}, s)}{m} \delta_{ll'} \delta_{ss'} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

In this representation, the operator, $c_o(\vec{k}, s)$ annihilates a fermion with $E_o(\vec{k}) > 0$ (particles), $c_1(\vec{k}, s)$ creates a fermion with $E_o(\vec{k}) < 0$ (antiparticles) and b^i are the boson operator where i can be equal $s \equiv \sigma$ and $v \equiv \omega$ meson, respectively. The $|vac\rangle$ state for noninteracting fields is defined as: $c_o(\vec{k}, s)|vac\rangle = c_1^\dagger(\vec{k}, s)|vac\rangle = 0$.

The Hamiltonian is obtained through $H_{\sigma-\omega} = \int d^3x H(x)$, where we can identify the terms: $H_D + H_M^i + H_{int}^i$, with $i = s, v$, and

$$\begin{aligned} H_D &= \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \sum_{k, k', i, l, v} \frac{m\delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}')}{[E_o(\vec{k})E_o(\vec{k}')]^{1/2}} \exp\{-i[(-)^l k'^o - (-)^l k^o]x_o\} \\ &\quad \bar{u}_l(\vec{k}, s)(\vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{k}' + m) u_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') c_1^\dagger(\vec{k}, s) c_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') \end{aligned}$$

$$H_M^s = \sum_{p_s} (p_s^o)^2 b^{s\dagger}(p_s) b^s(p_s)$$

$$H_M^v = \sum_{p_v} (p_v^o)^2 b^{v\dagger}(p_v) b^v(p_v)$$

$$H_{int}^s = -g_\sigma \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_{k, k', i, l, v} \frac{m}{[E_o(\vec{k})E_o(\vec{k}')]^{1/2}} \exp\{-i[(-)^l k'^o - (-)^l k^o]x_o\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\bar{u}_l(\vec{k}, s) u_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') c_1^\dagger(\vec{k}, s) c_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') \\ &\sum_{p_s} [b^s(\vec{p}_s) \delta(\vec{k}' - \vec{k} - \vec{p}_s) \exp\{ip_s^o x_o\} + b^{s\dagger}(\vec{p}_s) \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}' + \vec{p}_s) \exp\{-ip_s^o x_o\}] \\ H_{int}^v &= -g_\omega \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_{k, k', i, l, v} \frac{m}{[E_o(\vec{k})E_o(\vec{k}')]^{1/2}} \exp\{-i[(-)^l k'^o - (-)^l k^o]x_o\} \\ &\bar{u}_l(\vec{k}, s) u_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') c_1^\dagger(\vec{k}, s) c_{l'}(\vec{k}', s') \\ &\sum_{p_v} [b^v(\vec{p}_v) \delta(\vec{k}' - \vec{k} - \vec{p}_v) \exp\{ip_v^o x_o\} + b^{v\dagger}(\vec{p}_v) \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}' + \vec{p}_v) \exp\{-ip_v^o x_o\}] \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

2.1 Symmetric Mean Field Approximation

We assume the ground state $|\Psi\rangle$ as a direct product of the fermionic and mesonic ground states, i.e., $|\Psi\rangle = |\Phi_F\rangle \otimes |\Phi_M\rangle$ and in particular $|\Phi_F\rangle = \prod_{k \leq k_F} c_{1o}^\dagger(\vec{k}, s) |vac\rangle$. The MFA is obtained solving simultaneously the following equations:

$$\sum_i \{ h_M^i |\Phi_M^i\rangle \} = (E - E_F) |\Phi_M^i\rangle \quad (8)$$

$$\sum_i \{ h_f^i |\Phi_F\rangle \} = (E - E_M^i) |\Phi_F\rangle \quad (9)$$

with :

$$h_M^i = H_M^i + \langle \Phi_F | H_{int}^i | \Phi_F \rangle \quad (10)$$

$$h_f^i = H_D + \langle \Phi_M | H_{int}^i | \Phi_M^i \rangle \quad (11)$$

$$E_F = \langle \Phi_F | H_D | \Phi_F \rangle \quad (12)$$

$$E_M^i = \langle \Phi_M^i | H_M^i | \Phi_M^i \rangle \quad (13)$$

The self consistent solutions of (5.6) to, $i = s$ and v , leads to:

$$\begin{aligned} h_f &= \sum_{k, i, l, v} \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k})} \exp\{-i[(-)^l k'^o - (-)^l k^o]x_o\} \\ &\{ \bar{u}_l(\vec{k}, s)(\vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{k}' + m + \gamma^o V_o) u_{l'}(\vec{k}, s) c_{1l'}^\dagger(\vec{k}, s) c_{l'}(\vec{k}, s) \} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

with:

$$m^* = m - g^2 \frac{\rho_s(m)}{4m_s^2} \quad (15)$$

$$V_o = -g_w^2 \frac{\rho_v}{4m_v^2} \quad (16)$$

Note that in the present approach the well known expression for the reduced mass m^* is a direct consequence of the self consistency which comes from the symmetric quantum treatment of both degrees of freedom.

3 Second Example: N-J-L Model

Here we used the same expansion for the fermion field and consider the mass m as a free parameter to be obtained from the condition that the ground state energy is a minimum. The NJL hamiltonian can be written as:

$$H_{NJL} = \sum_{\alpha,\beta} K_{\alpha,\beta} c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta} + \sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta} (V_{\alpha\beta\delta\gamma}^{(1)} + V_{\alpha\beta\delta\gamma}^{(2)}) c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta} c_{\gamma} c_{\delta} \quad (17)$$

where the kinetic term is:

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta} K_{\alpha,\beta} c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta} = \sum_{k_i, k_i'} \left\{ (-)^i \frac{|\vec{k}|^2}{E_o(\vec{k})} \delta_{i i'} \delta_{k, k'} + \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k})} \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k} (1 - \delta_{i i'}) \right\} c_i^{\dagger}(\vec{k}, s) c_i(\vec{k}, s) \exp\{-i[(-)^{i'} - (-)^i] k^o \cdot x_o\} \quad (18)$$

and the two-body potential is:

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta} V_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{(1)} c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta} c_{\gamma} c_{\delta} = \frac{g^2}{2} \sum_{k_i, k_i', l_i, l_i'} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right]^2 \frac{m^2 \delta(\vec{k}_1 - \vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 - \vec{k}_2)}{[E_o(\vec{k}_1) E_o(\vec{k}_2) E_o(\vec{k}_1') E_o(\vec{k}_2')]^{1/2}} [\bar{u}_{l_1}(\vec{k}_1, s_1) u_{l_1'}(\vec{k}_1', s_1')] [\bar{u}_{l_2}(\vec{k}_2, s_2) u_{l_2'}(\vec{k}_2', s_2')] : c_{l_1}^{\dagger}(\vec{k}_1, s_1) c_{l_1'}(\vec{k}_1', s_1') c_{l_2}^{\dagger}(\vec{k}_2, s_2) c_{l_2'}(\vec{k}_2', s_2') : \exp\{-i[(-)^{l_1} k_1^o - (-)^{l_1'} k_1^o + (-)^{l_2} k_2^o - (-)^{l_2'} k_2^o] \cdot x_o\} \quad (19)$$

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta} V_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{(2)} c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta} c_{\gamma} c_{\delta} = + \frac{g^2}{2} \sum_{k_i, k_i', l_i, l_i'} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right]^2 \frac{m^2 \delta(\vec{k}_1 - \vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 - \vec{k}_2)}{[E_o(\vec{k}_1) E_o(\vec{k}_2) E_o(\vec{k}_1') E_o(\vec{k}_2')]^{1/2}} [\bar{u}_{l_1}(\vec{k}_1, s_1) \gamma_5 u_{l_1'}(\vec{k}_1', s_1')] [\bar{u}_{l_2}(\vec{k}_2, s_2) \gamma_5 u_{l_2'}(\vec{k}_2', s_2')] : c_{l_1}^{\dagger}(\vec{k}_1, s_1) c_{l_1'}(\vec{k}_1', s_1') c_{l_2}^{\dagger}(\vec{k}_2, s_2) c_{l_2'}(\vec{k}_2', s_2') : \exp\{-i[(-)^{l_1} k_1^o - (-)^{l_1'} k_1^o + (-)^{l_2} k_2^o - (-)^{l_2'} k_2^o] \cdot x_o\} \quad (20)$$

3.1 Mean Field Approximation

One equivalent way to obtain the ground state which minimizes the energy is to impose the condition $\langle N_i | [H_{NJL}, c_{\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\beta}] | N_i \rangle = 0$, where $|N_i\rangle$ is the ground state which we take as:

$$|N_i\rangle = \prod_{k \leq k_F} c_i^{\dagger}(\vec{k}, s) c_i(\vec{k}, s) |vac\rangle$$

with:

$$\delta_{i0} \Theta(k_f - |\vec{k}|)$$

$$c_i(\vec{k}, s) = \delta_{i1} \Theta(|\vec{k}| - k_f) \quad (21)$$

In the two body potential terms we observe that the Hartree contributions are proportional to:

$$V_h^{(1)} \propto [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}, s) u_o(\vec{k}, s)] [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}_o, s) u_1(\vec{k}_o, s)] \quad (22)$$

$$V_h^{(2)} \propto [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}, s) \gamma_5 u_o(\vec{k}, s)] [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}_o, s) \gamma_5 u_1(\vec{k}_o, s)] \quad (23)$$

and the Fock contributions are proportional to:

$$V_f^{(1)} \propto [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}_o, s) u_o(\vec{k}, s)] [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}, s) u_1(\vec{k}_o, s)] \quad (24)$$

$$V_f^{(2)} \propto [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}_o, s) \gamma_5 u_o(\vec{k}, s)] [\bar{u}_o(\vec{k}, s) \gamma_5 u_1(\vec{k}_o, s)] \quad (25)$$

Putting both contributions together we can see that the only terms that survives are the Hartree terms because the Hartree contributions in $V^{(2)}$ is

null due to the structure of the γ_5 metric and the Fock contribution from $V^{(1)}$ cancels that coming from $V^{(2)}$. Explicitly:

$$\langle N_i | [H_{NJL}, c_{i\alpha}^\dagger c_{i\beta}] | N_i \rangle = T + V_h^{(1)} + V_h^{(2)} + V_f^{(1)} + V_f^{(2)} = 0 \quad (26)$$

with:

$$T = \frac{m}{E_o(k_\alpha)} \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}_\alpha \delta_{k_\alpha k_\beta} \quad (27)$$

$$V_h^{(1)} = \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g^2}{2} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_k \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k}) E_o(k_\alpha)} (-2\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}_\alpha) \Theta(k_f - |\vec{k}|) \delta_{k_\alpha k_\beta} \quad (28)$$

$$V_h^{(2)} = 0 \quad (29)$$

$$V_f^{(1)} = \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g^2}{2} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_k \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k}) E_o(k_\alpha)} \{\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}_\alpha + \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}\} \Theta(k_f - |\vec{k}|) \delta_{k_\alpha k_\beta} \quad (30)$$

$$V_f^{(2)} = \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g^2}{2} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_k \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k}) E_o(k_\alpha)} \{-\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}_\alpha + \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}\} \Theta(k_f - |\vec{k}|) \delta_{k_\alpha k_\beta} \quad (31)$$

Note that the last term on the r.h.s. of eq.(30) and (31) vanishes due to the fact that the integrand is odd. Therefore (30) and (31) cancel exactly. Using eqs. (27)-(31) in (26) we obtain the following relation for the mass parameter:

$$m = \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g^2}{2} \left[\frac{(2\pi)^3}{V} \right] \sum_k \frac{m}{E_o(\vec{k})} 2\Theta(k_f - |\vec{k}|). \quad (32)$$

4 Conclusions

In the present work we have adapted the scheme of traditional nonrelativistic many body techniques to treat field theoretical lagrangians. We have shown that fermions and bosons can be treated in the same way and the well known mean field results are reproduced. Moreover in nonrelativistic nuclear physics the method has proven to be very useful in going beyond mean

field theories (i.e. to treat collisions[9,10] and extensions of the RPA approximation and so on). Recently a similar approach has been developed for the $\lambda\phi^4$ theory in order to study the problem of initial conditions[11]. The extension of the interacting fermions and bosons would be an interesting and open research topic.

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