

Exercise 1: Spontaneous symmetry breaking

(5 Points)

The Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\nu \phi_i)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 \phi_i^2 - \frac{1}{4} \lambda (\phi_i^2)^2, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \text{ (summation convention)} \quad (1.1)$$

describes a scalar theory with a global $O(3)$ -symmetry under which a field $\phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)$ transforms like a vector. Here, $\mu^2 > 0$ and $\lambda > 0$.

- Break the symmetry down to an $O(2)$ -symmetry by introducing a suitable vacuum expectation value (VEV) $\langle \phi \rangle$ and showing that one massive particle as well as two massless *Goldstone* bosons are generated. Find an expression for the mass of the particles as a function of the parameters μ and λ .
- Show all possible particle interactions for the (spontaneously) broken symmetry by drawing the corresponding vertices.

Exercise 2: GSW theory: $SU(2) \times U(1)$

(8 Points)

The elements of the gauge group $SU(2) \times U(1)$ can be written as

$$U(x) = \exp(i \alpha^a(x) t^a) \exp\left(i \frac{\beta(x)}{2}\right), \quad (2.1)$$

where the $SU(2)$ generators are given by the Pauli matrices $\sigma^a = 2 t^a$. We now want to break the gauge symmetry of the GSW theory by choosing a ground state ϕ_0 for a scalar doublet field ϕ ,

$$\phi_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.2)$$

- Show that the ground state is invariant under the gauge transformation

$$U(x) = \exp(i \alpha^3(x) t^3) \exp\left(i \frac{\beta(x)}{2}\right) \quad (2.3)$$

for specific phases $\alpha^3(x)$ and $\beta(x)$. What relation needs to hold for these two phases?

The covariant derivative in the GSW theory reads

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu - i g A_\mu^a t^a - i g' Y B_\mu, \quad (2.4)$$

where A_μ^a and B_μ denote the gauge fields of $SU(2)$ and $U(1)$, respectively. The corresponding mass eigenstates are

$$W_\mu^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (A_\mu^1 \mp i A_\mu^2), \quad (2.5)$$

$$Z_\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} (g A_\mu^3 - g' B_\mu), \quad (2.6)$$

$$A_\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} (g' A_\mu^3 + g B_\mu). \quad (2.7)$$

b) Show that the masses of the fields W^\pm , Z^0 and A_μ are given by

$$M_W = g \frac{v}{2}, \quad M_Z = \frac{v}{2} \sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}, \quad M_A = 0. \quad (2.8)$$

c) The weak mixing angle θ_w relates the couplings g and g' :

$$\cos\theta_w = \frac{g}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \quad \sin\theta_w = \frac{g'}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}. \quad (2.9)$$

Show that the following mixing relation holds:

$$\begin{pmatrix} Z \\ A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta_w & -\sin\theta_w \\ \sin\theta_w & \cos\theta_w \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^3 \\ B \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.10)$$

d) How would one measure the mixing angle θ_w ?

e) Explain how the quark masses $SU(2) \times U(1)$ break the gauge structure.

f) How large is the Yukawa coupling of the top quark?

Exercise 3: Minimum of scalar potentials and scalar masses

(7 Points)

We consider a system with two real, scalar fields ϕ_1, ϕ_2 and the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1,2} (\partial_\mu \phi_i) (\partial^\mu \phi_i) - V(\phi_1, \phi_2), \quad (3.1)$$

with the potential

$$V(\phi_1, \phi_2) = \frac{1}{2} \mu_1^2 \phi_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu_2^2 \phi_2^2 - b \phi_1 \phi_2 + \frac{g^2}{8} (\phi_2^2 - \phi_1^2)^2, \quad (3.2)$$

where μ_1^2, μ_2^2, b and g are real parameters and $b > 0$ ¹.

a) Which symmetries are present in the potential V for $b = 0$ and $B \neq 0$?

¹This model is borrowed from the Higgs sector of the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM).

- b) Discuss properties of the potential V :
Show that for spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB) the relation

$$b^2 > \mu_1^2 \mu_2^2, \quad (3.3)$$

(where $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0$ is *not* a stable solution) holds, as well as

$$2b^2 < \mu_1^2 + \mu_2^2. \quad (3.4)$$

For $|\phi_1| = |\phi_2|$ the potential is supposed to be bounded from below, that is $V > 0$ for $|\phi_1|, |\phi_2| \rightarrow \infty$.

- c) Minimise the potential V and state the equations for the VEVs v_1 and v_2 of ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 at the minimum, where $v_1 = v \cos \beta$ and $v_2 = v \sin \beta$. The explicit solution of these equations is not part of this exercise.
- d) Write down the Lagrangian after SSB, i.e. $\phi_1 = v_1 + h_1$, $\phi_2 = v_2 + h_2$ and consider terms up to second order in the Higgs fields h_1 and h_2 . These terms are the mass terms, which can be conveniently written in matrix form

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = -\frac{1}{2} (h_1 \quad h_2) M^2 \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.5)$$

Calculate the mass matrix M^2 and then perform a diagonalisation to obtain the mass eigenstates H_1 and H_2 as well as their masses M_1 and M_2 .