



Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking and Higgs Mechanism



GK Doktorandenworkshop Althütte

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December 11, 2012

“Prehistory of the Higgs boson”

[P. Higgs: C. R. Physique 8 (2007) 970]

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- 1964:** Higgs (local gauge invariance fails axioms of Goldstone: evade Goldstone’s theorem in gauge theories)

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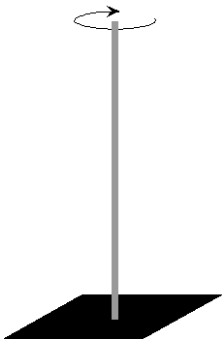
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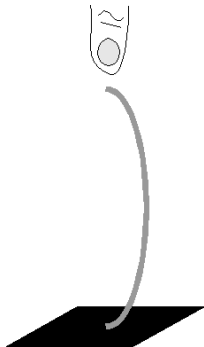
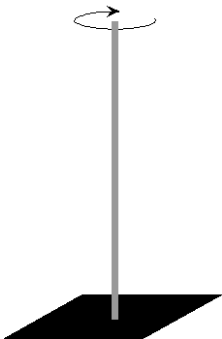
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Anecdote besides: When Higgs met Nambu twenty years later, he revealed that he had been the referee of [1] and [2].

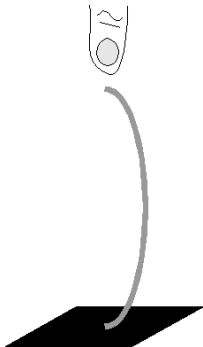
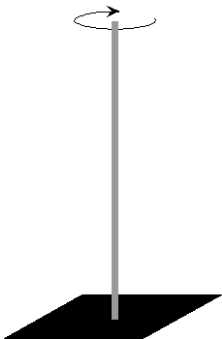
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- a parameter assumes a critical value
- the symmetric configuration gets unstable
- the ground state is degenerate

Ferromagnet: rotational symmetric Hamiltonian

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- Below critical temperature: non-zero magnetization $\vec{M} \neq 0$.
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Degenerate vacua

- Instead of a **single** vacuum state, now: family of vacua related via rotations.
- System chooses the particular vacuum itself: symmetry is **spontaneously broken** by the choice of a vacuum.

Symmetric potential, non-symmetric ground state

Global symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu \phi^* \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi, \phi^*)$$

impose *global* phase transformation: $\phi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \phi$ (U(1) symmetry)

$$V(\phi, \phi^*) = V(|\phi|) = m^2 \phi \phi^* + \lambda (\phi \phi^*)^2$$

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Ground state: Minimizing the potential!

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = m^2 \phi^* + 2\lambda \phi^* (\phi \phi^*) \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

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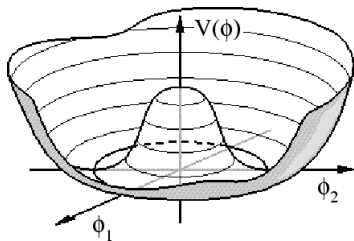
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- $m^2 > 0$: $\phi^* = 0 = \phi$
- $m^2 < 0$: local max $\phi = 0$, minima:

$$|\phi|^2 = -\frac{m^2}{2\lambda} = v^2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad |\langle 0|\phi|0\rangle|^2 = v^2$$

Mexican hat

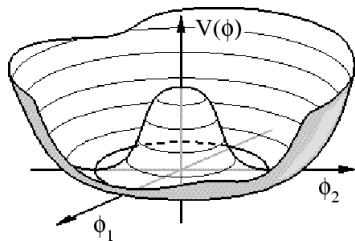
decomposing: $\phi = \phi_1 + i\phi_2$



Minima of V along circle $|\phi| = v$. If system chooses particular direction, e.g. $\phi_1 = v$ (meaning $\phi_2 = 0$), symmetry is *spontaneously broken*.

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Polar coordinates vs. real and imaginary parts

$$\phi(x) = \rho(x)e^{i\alpha(x)} = \phi_1(x) + i\phi_2(x),$$

expanding around the vacuum: $\phi(x) = v + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(h(x) + ig(x))$

Plug the expansion $\phi(x) = v + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (h(x) + ig(x))$ into the potential $V(|\phi|) = m^2\phi\phi^* + \lambda(\phi\phi^*)^2$:

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{const.} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu h\partial^\mu h + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu g\partial^\mu g - \frac{1}{2}\underbrace{(-2m^2)}_{m_h^2} h^2 + \mathcal{W}\mathcal{W}.$$

- $h(x)$, $g(x)$ *real* scalar fields
- starting with one *complex* scalar $\phi(x)$ having mass m
- $m^2 < 0 \quad \hookrightarrow \quad m_h^2 > 0$: h acquires mass $m_h = \sqrt{-2m^2}$
- g is *massless* \hookrightarrow Goldstone boson

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^aGoldstone particles may be fermions as well: e.g. Goldstinos of SUSY breaking theories

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- generator of symmetry trafo T^a : $[T^a, H] = 0$

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- if vacuum is not invariant under symmetry: $T^a|0\rangle \neq 0$,
we have a new state with minimum energy, a new vacuum!

Goldstone's theorem:

- one Goldstone particle for each generator which breaks the symmetry
- quantum numbers of those Goldstones are the same as the corresponding generators

A non-Abelian example

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Abelian example:

U(1) symmetry: ϕ in 2-dimensional representation

A non-Abelian example

Group of spatial rotations: $SO(3)$

- ϕ_i in fundamental (isovector) representation: $i = 1, 2, 3$

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- Minimum of the potential with $m^2 < 0$:

$$|\phi_0| = \sqrt{\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + \phi_3^2} = \left(\frac{-m^2}{4\lambda} \right)^{1/2} = v$$

- freedom to choose “physical” vacuum: $\vec{\phi}_0 = v \hat{e}_3$

Broken generators

Choosing vacuum as $\phi_0 = v\hat{e}_3$: *not* invariant under full group \mathcal{G} ,
but subgroup $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{G}$ (rotations around 3-axis)

$$\mathcal{H} : \vec{\phi}'_0 = \exp^{i\alpha_3\omega^{(3)}} \vec{\phi}_0 = \vec{\phi}_0,$$

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How many Goldstone bosons?

ϕ_3 acquires vev: $\phi_3 = \chi + v$, $\langle\phi_1\rangle = 0$, $\langle\phi_2\rangle = 0$, $\langle\chi\rangle = 0$.

- quadratic term in the potential: only $\sim \chi^2$

$$m_\chi^2 = 8v^2\lambda, \quad m_{\phi_1} = m_{\phi_2} = 0.$$

- one generator ($\omega^{(3)}$) left: $\mathcal{H} = \text{SO}(2) \cong \text{U}(1)$
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of Goldstone particles: $n_G = \dim(\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H}) = \dim \mathcal{G} - \dim \mathcal{H}$.

Abelian gauge symmetries

- up to now: *global* symmetries: $\phi \rightarrow e^{iq\theta} \phi$
- now: *local* (= gauge) symmetry: $\phi \rightarrow e^{iq\theta(x)} \phi$

U(1) gauge invariant Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = (D_\mu \phi)^* D^\mu \phi - V(|\phi|) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu},$$

gauge-covariant derivative: $D_\mu \phi = (\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu) \phi$,

field strength tensor: $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$,

$$V(|\phi|) = m^2 \phi^* \phi + \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2,$$

minimum: $v = \sqrt{\frac{-m^2}{2\lambda}} \quad \hookrightarrow \quad \phi(x) = \left(v + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} h(x) \right) e^{i\alpha(x)}$

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^aphase $\alpha(x)$ can be removed by gauge transformation

Higgs mechanism: massive gauge bosons

Rewriting the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu h(x) \partial_\mu h(x) - \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{2\lambda v^2}_{m_h^2} h(x)^2 - \lambda \left(\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} h(x)^3 + \frac{1}{8} h(x)^4 \right) \\ + q^2 \left(v + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} h(x) \right)^2 A_\mu A^\mu - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

- term $\sim A_\mu A^\mu$: mass $m_A^2 = 2q^2 v^2$

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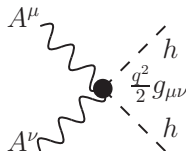
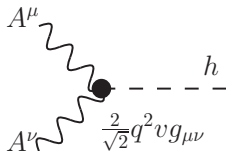
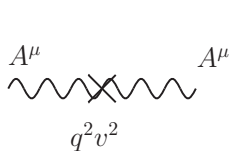
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Massive Photons and Superconductivity

- Decomposing A^μ under spatial rotations ($SO(3)$): $A^\mu \in \mathbf{0} \oplus \mathbf{1}$.
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 - rest frame: $k^\mu = (m_a, 0, 0, 0)$: $\varepsilon^\mu(k) = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ eliminated
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Superconductivity

Realization of spontaneously broken U(1) in nature.

electric current: $\vec{j} = \sigma \vec{E}$, σ : conductivity, $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$: superconductor

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Superconductivity

No electric field inside: $\vec{\dot{B}} = -\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \vec{B}(t) = \vec{B}(0)$
if $\vec{B}(0) = 0$, magnetic field cannot penetrate inside the supercond.

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Superconductivity

magnetic field drops exponentially: $B(x) = B(0)e^{-x/l}$

realized by massive photons: $m_A^2 = 2q^2 v^2$, $q = 2e$ $l = m_A^{-1}$

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Interpretation: Higgs bosons \rightarrow Cooper pairs, massive photons: electric and magnetic fields described by massive KG / Proca eq.

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- Broken gauge symmetry by hand is not renormalizable.

A Theory of Leptons

$$\mathcal{L} = i\bar{\psi}\not{\partial}\psi - m\bar{\psi},$$

for massless fermions ($m = 0$): $\bar{\psi}\not{\partial}\psi = \bar{\psi}_R\not{\partial}\psi_R + \bar{\psi}_L\not{\partial}\psi_L$,

where $\psi_{L,R} = P_{L,R}\psi$ and $P_L = \frac{1-\gamma_5}{2}$, $P_R = \frac{1+\gamma_5}{2}$.

Lepton Lagrangian (no righthanded components for neutrinos!):

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- internal symmetries?
- join together particles with the same space time properties:

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\ell \\ \ell_L \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = \ell_R$$

- $\mathcal{L}_\ell = i\bar{R}\not{\partial}R + i\bar{L}\not{\partial}L$

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\mathcal{L}_ℓ invariant under

$$L \rightarrow e^{-i\vec{\tau}\cdot\vec{\alpha}/2}L,$$

$$R \rightarrow R,$$

SU(2) transformations.

- connection weak isospin I_W and electric charge Q :

$$L : Q = I_W^3 - \frac{1}{2}; \quad R : Q = I_W^3 - 1.$$

- gauging this SU(2): three massless gauge fields!
- further symmetry of \mathcal{L}_ℓ :

$$U(1) : R \rightarrow e^{i\beta}R$$

- what about L ?: $L \rightarrow e^{iq\beta}L$

Weak Hypercharge

$$R \rightarrow e^{iy_R\beta/2} R$$

$$L \rightarrow e^{iy_L\beta/2} L,$$

with the “weak hypercharge” $y_{L,R}$: Y_W being generator of $U(1)$.

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Electroweak Symmetry Breaking (EWSB)

Lagrangian of the Electroweak Standard Model:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EW}} = i\bar{R}\not{D}R + i\bar{L}\not{D}L - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a,\mu\nu},$$

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Introduce complex scalar isospinor ("the Higgs field"):

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix},$$

with quantum numbers $I_W = \frac{1}{2}$ and $Y_W = 1$.

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due to $SU(2) \otimes U(1)$ -invariant quartic potential: $v^2 = -\frac{m^2}{2\lambda}$.

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Due to $SU(2) \otimes U(1)$ symmetry, we can choose

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mass terms for

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Summary of EWSM

Weak mixing angle:

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Masses:

$$\begin{aligned} m_Z &= \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}, \\ m_W &= \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} g, \\ \frac{m_W}{m_Z} &= \cos \theta_W. \end{aligned}$$

Photon remains massless! Coupling: $e = g \sin \theta_W$.

No tree-level mass allowed!

There is no way to combine left and righthanded fields in the SM representations (!) in a gauge invariant way:

- lefthanded fermions: $\mathbf{2}$ of $SU(2)_L$
- righthanded fermions: $\mathbf{1}$ of $SU(2)_L$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} \sim \bar{\Psi}\Psi = \bar{\psi}_L\psi_R + \bar{\psi}_R\psi_L,$$

with

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\ell \\ \ell_L \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = \ell_R$$

$$\hookrightarrow \bar{L}R = (\bar{\nu}_\ell \ \bar{\ell}_L) \cdot \ell_R$$

undefined in the sense of inner tensor product:

no $SU(2)_L$ invariant Lagrangian
(open/uncontracted $SU(2)$ index)

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Yukawa couplings to leptons

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}} &= Y_\ell \bar{L} \cdot \Phi R + \text{h. c.} \\ &= Y_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell \quad \bar{\ell}_L) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} \ell_R + \text{h. c.}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}}^{\text{SSB}} &= Y_\ell (\bar{\nu}_\ell \quad \bar{\ell}_L) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \ell_R + \text{h. c.} \\ &= Y_\ell v \bar{\ell}_L \ell_R + \text{h. c.} \quad \leftrightarrow m_\ell = v Y_\ell\end{aligned}$$

How the Flavour Comes into the Game...

What happens, if we add additional fermions to the SM?
“Families”: adding groups of fermions with the same quantum numbers (spin, gauge charges, ...) but different masses

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Yukawa sector of the Standard Model

Fermion content: $Q_{L,i}$, $u_{R,i}$, $d_{R,i}$, $L_{L,i}$, $\ell_{R,i}$

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = y_{ij}^d \bar{Q}_{L,i} \Phi d_{R,j} + y_{ij}^u \bar{Q}_{L,i} \tilde{\Phi} u_{R,j} + y_{ij}^e \bar{L}_{L,i} \Phi \ell_{R,j} + \text{h. c.}$$

Quark mass matrices

$$m_{ij}^u = v y_{ij}^u,$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{CC} = -\frac{ig}{\sqrt{2}} W_{\mu}^{+} J_{L}^{\mu} ?$$

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CKM matrix (*Cabibbo, Kobayashi, Maskawa*)

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- redefine lepton fields:

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The Way out:

- rh neutrinos are SM singlets: may have Majorana mass

$$\mathcal{L}_{Y+M}^\ell = y_{ij}^e \bar{L}_{L,i} \Phi \ell_{R,j} + y_{ij}^\nu \bar{L}_{L,i} \Phi \nu_{R,j} + \frac{1}{2} \nu_{R,i}^T C M_{ij} \nu_{R,j} + \text{h. c.}$$

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Neutrino mass matrix:

$$\text{Seesaw: } \mathbf{m}_{\nu} = -v^2 \mathbf{y}^{\nu} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{y}^{\nu T} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{\mathbf{m}}_{\nu} = \mathbf{U}_{\nu}^T \mathbf{m}_{\nu} \mathbf{U}_{\nu}$$

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PMNS matrix (*Pontecorvo, Maki, Nakagawa, Sakata*)

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- Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking: theory has some symmetry which the ground state does not respect
- Existence of some “order parameter” (which vanishes, if symmetry is exact)
- Condensed matter physics: ferromagnetism, superfluidity, superconductivity
- Gauge boson masses forbidden by gauge invariance
- “Higgs mechanism”: masses in a gauge invariant way
- Electroweak Standard Model: $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$
- Fermion masses via Yukawa interactions
- Fermion mixing via Yukawa interactions