

Higgs Theory II

The Higgs Mechanism in Weak Interactions

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Symmetries and Phase Transitions
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A Simple Fact

Particle Physics is described by a QFT with massive matter and massive vector bosons

$$(d, u, s, c, b, t), \quad (e, \mu, \tau), \quad (\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3)$$
$$(W^+, W^-, Z^0)$$

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This is useful if the high-energy structure exhibits the gauge symmetry, but there are soft breaking terms (masses).

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but the **unitary projection** of the S-matrix does not contain them as external states. ⇔ **Lorentz Symmetry/BRST**

Example: Quark Mass

Quark fields: u_L, u_R, d_L, d_R

in $SU(2)$ multiplets:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix} \quad u_R \quad d_R$$

with transformation law ($U_L \in SU(2)$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow U_L \begin{pmatrix} u_L \\ d_L \end{pmatrix}$$

Mass terms:

$$m_u \bar{u}_L u_R + m_d \bar{d}_L d_R$$

Gauge-Invariant Quark and Lepton Masses

1. Introduce three scalar fields w^+ , w^- , z^0 and a 2×2 matrix

$$\Sigma = \Sigma(w^+, w^-, z^0)$$

2. Define the $SU(2)$ transformation law of w^+ , w^- , z such that

$$\Sigma \rightarrow U_L \Sigma$$

3. Write invariant mass term

$$(\bar{u}_L \quad \bar{d}_L) \Sigma \begin{pmatrix} m_u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u_R + (\bar{u}_L \quad \bar{d}_L) \Sigma \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ m_d \end{pmatrix} d_R$$

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$$\langle \Sigma \rangle = 1$$

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$$\langle \Sigma \rangle = 1 \quad \text{or rather} \quad \int d^4x \langle \Sigma^\dagger(x) \Sigma(x) \rangle = 1$$

Goldstone Bosons

Possible parameterization:

$$\Sigma = \exp \left(\frac{i}{v} \sum_{a=1}^3 w^a \sigma^a \right)$$

v is a known number (muon decay)

$$v = 246 \text{ GeV}$$

- ▶ The new scalar fields look like **massless Goldstone bosons of spontaneous $SU(2)$ symmetry breaking**, in the local QFT
- ▶ Parameterization of coset space

$$(SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R) / SU(2)_{L=R}$$

Properties of the Gauge-Invariant Version

Introduced the **electroweak symmetry breaking scale** v .

All dimensional quantities are **proportional to v**

⇒ single parameter describes all relevant directions w.r.t. scaling.

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There are irrelevant interactions $\propto 1/v^n$.

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In the formal limit $g \rightarrow 0$ there is a range of scaling behavior

$$gv/2 \equiv m_W \ll E \ll \Lambda$$

Scattering amplitudes of Goldstones \approx scattering amplitudes of W_L, Z_L
(Goldstone Boson Equivalence Theorem)

Limitations

The gauge invariant version is convenient for calculations, and it suggests a deeper understanding of the scaling property (= gauge symmetry) in the vector-boson and matter interactions.

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The gauge invariant version is convenient for calculations, and it suggests a deeper understanding of the scaling property (= gauge symmetry) in the vector-boson and matter interactions.

But the nonlinearity obstructs scaling beyond TeV energies as long as we can't resolve the origin of the would-be Goldstone bosons.

- ▶ Structure is just an accidental fact?
- ▶ Fields in Σ can be understood as bound states / new dynamics?
- ▶ Spectrum is incomplete?

The Higgs Solution

Imposed restriction (three Goldstone fields):

$$\Sigma^\dagger(x) \Sigma(x) \equiv \mathbf{1} \quad (\text{"London Constraint"})$$

but we need just

$$\langle \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \rangle |_{k=0} = \mathbf{1}$$

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Higgs and Goldstones

H happens to allow for a simpler parameterization:

$$H = (v + h) \exp \frac{i}{v} w_a \sigma^a = (v + h') \mathbf{1} - \frac{i}{v} w'_a \sigma^a$$

or

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} v + h' - iw'_3 & -w'_1 + iw'_2 \\ -w'_1 - iw'_2 & v + h' + iw'_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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or

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\phi} & \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

⇒ complex Higgs doublet

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} -\sqrt{2}w^+ \\ v + h^0 + iz^0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(and $\tilde{\phi} = i\sigma^2 \phi^*$)

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actually, a linear representation of $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$:

$$\mathbf{H} \rightarrow U_L \mathbf{H} U_R^\dagger$$

which is sometimes useful.

The model becomes a candidate for scaling beyond Λ .

The Higgs Potential

Two new interactions, one relevant and one marginal:

$$\mu^2 \text{tr} [\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{H}] \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda (\text{tr} [\mathbf{H}^\dagger \mathbf{H}])^2$$

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- ▶ v is replaced by μ^2 as (only!) relevant parameter
- ▶ λv determines the **Higgs mass** m_H
- ▶ λ also introduces a **Higgs self-coupling**.

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In 2012, ATLAS and CMS discovered a scalar particle with $m = 126$ GeV which fits the properties of this Higgs boson, within uncertainties

⇒ talk by **Günter Quast**

The Standard Model

The combination of all discovered particles with all symmetries is known as the **Standard Model** of particle physics.

- ▶ Physical particles in the S matrix: leptons, neutrinos, quarks, gluons, W and Z bosons, Higgs
- ▶ Symmetry of the QFT: Lie algebra $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_R$
- ▶ Representations: trivial, fundamental, and adjoint.
- ▶ Scaling/criticality is automatic

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- ▶ Symmetry of the QFT: Lie algebra $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_R$
- ▶ Representations: trivial, fundamental, and adjoint.
- ▶ Scaling/criticality is automatic, **except for the μ^2 term in the Higgs potential**

Breakdown of Scaling in the Standard Model

1. Masses of Higgs, W , Z , t quark, lighter quarks, leptons are related to the parameter in the Higgs potential: EWSB
2. Range of weak interactions is set by the W , Z masses.
3. Masses of hadrons/nuclei are set by the QCD singularity
4. Range of strong interactions is set by the pion mass, related to EWSB.
5. Size of atoms is set by the electron mass, related to EWSB.

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5. Size of atoms is set by the electron mass, related to EWSB.
6. [Neutrinos require an extra scale-breaking term of undetermined type and origin, likely inaccessible to experiment.]

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Translation: Superconductor \leftrightarrow Higgs Physics

Cooper pair /

Ginzburg-Landau field ψ = Higgs (doublet) field \mathbf{H}

phase θ = Unphysical Goldstone bosons (w^+ , w^- , z)

amplitude fluctuation = Higgs boson excitation h

photon = weak bosons (W^+ , W^- , Z)

Meissner Effect = weak boson masses M_W, M_Z
= short range of weak interactions

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Right. Because we fix the gauge in calculations.

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Right. This is nonlocal and gauge-invariant.
Wrong. There are Higgs fluctuations at all scales.

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The W, Z, Higgs , and quark and lepton masses are observables. They are all proportional to the parameter v . These are candidates for an order parameter.

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Let $v \rightarrow 0$, keeping all other parameters fixed. What would happen?

- ▶ $m_h = \lambda v$: if the Higgs mass goes to zero, Higgs-field fluctuations diverge.

Upside Down

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2. Ignoring QCD, weak $SU(2)_L$ would confine, so we would see only $SU(2)_L$ invariant (bound) states.

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(The problem of electroweak phase transition is left to the reader. . .)

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⇒ The Higgs particle decays into the heaviest particles that are kinematically possible.

$$H \rightarrow b\bar{b} \quad \text{dominant}$$

$$H \rightarrow W^+(W^-) \rightarrow 4 \text{ fermions}$$

...

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All coupling strengths are known.

The Higgs Mechanism in Experiment

$$W^+ W^- \rightarrow ZZ$$

without Higgs:

- ▶ **transversal polarization:** gauge-boson interaction, determined by group structure + asymptotically safe
- ▶ **longitudinal polarization:** Goldstone-boson interaction / irrelevant operator, asymptotically unbounded
 - ⇒ calculated amplitude violates unitarity bound for $E \gtrsim 1 \text{ TeV}$

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$$SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$

can be rewritten as exact. This is a formal manipulation which explicitly realizes the observed pattern of interactions.

- ▶ If we add a single observable scalar state, symmetry and scaling can be extended beyond the intrinsic cutoff of 3 TeV. This is the Higgs mechanism.
- ▶ The associated Higgs particle has a well-defined pattern of interactions.
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- ▶ The associated Higgs particle has a well-defined pattern of interactions.
- ▶ The resulting **Standard Model** has three relevant directions as sources of broken scaling. **Only one is understood.**