

Particles and gravity I

-the lecture program-

1. Brief introduction to classical field theory:
 - Special relativity ([1] sec. 2)
 - The variational principle and the Lagrange formulation of a classical field theory
 - Electrodynamics and gauge invariance (gauge fixing) ([1] sec. 2)
 - The Klein-Gordon field
 - The Dirac field
 - Yang-Mills theories
 - The Noether's theorem for internal symmetries and space-time translations
 - The energy-momentum tensor for the electromagnetic, the Klein-Gordon and the Dirac field
2. Basics of quantum field theory:
 - Path integrals: from quantum mechanics to fields and particles, propagator for massive scalar and vector fields [2]
 - Attraction v.s. repulsion ([2] sec. 1.4-1.6):
 - classical potential for scalar-, vector-mediated interactions
 - propagator for massive spin 2 particle a la Veltman [2, 7] and the classical potential for an exchange of spin 2 quanta
3. Gravity as a field theory:
 - Gravity as a theory of spin 2 gravitons described by a symmetric second rank tensor, construction of the kinetic part of the Lagrangian ([3] sec. 3)
 - Field equations for massless gravitons, gauge invariance ([3] sec. 3) and the path quantization in the harmonic gauge
 - Propagator for massless gravitons ([2] sec.VIII.1)
 - The Lagrangian and the propagator for massive gravitons (the Fierz-Pauli model)

- The deflection of light by massless and massive gravitons and the van Dam–Veltman–Zakharov discontinuity

4. The General Relativity

- The principle of equivalence ([1] sec. 3.1-3.4)
- The principle of general covariance ([1] sec. 4.1)
- Curvilinear coordinates and the tensor analysis ([1] sec. 4.2-4.7, [4] sec. 83, 85)
- The general covariance v.s. local gauge invariance ([1] sec. 4.10)
- The curvature ([1] 6.1-6.2, 6.6, [4] sec. 91, 92)
- The Einstein’s field equations ([1] 7.1) and the Lagrangian formulation of the General Relativity ([1] sec. 12.1-12.4, [4] sec. 93, 95 and [9] appendix E1)
- Conformal transformations and invariance of the Klein-Gordon and Maxwell equations ([9] appendix D)

5. Experimental tests of the General Relativity

- The Newtonian gravity as a limit of the General Relativity ([1] sec. 3.4, 9.1, [4] sec. 96, [10] sec. 11.8)
- Deflection of light ([1] sec. 8.5)
- Short distance tests of the Newtonian gravity ([6])

6. Particles in a curved spacetime:

- Effects of gravitation for a material particle and the electromagnetic field ([1] sec. 5.1-5.3)
- The “minimal substitution rule”, the Klein-Gordon field and the electromagnetic field in the General Relativity ([9] appendix E1, [3] sec. 10.2, 10.3, 16.1)
- Fermions in a gravitational field

7. Perturbation expansion and Feynman rules

- Expansion of the gravitational action around a background gravitational field and the gauge invariance of gravitation ([11], [1] sec. 10.1, [2] sec. VIII.1)
- Quantization and graviton interaction vertices ([7], [8], [2] sec. VIII.1)
- Graviton polarization tensors and the angular momentum content of massless and massive graviton ([3] sec. 3.2-3.4, [12])

Literatura

- [1] S. Weinberg, “Gravitation and cosmology : principles and applications of the general theory of relativity”.
- [2] A. Zee, “Quantum field theory in a nutshell”.
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- [4] L. Landau and E. Lifshitz, “The Classical Theory of Fields”.
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