

Electroweak Symmetry Breaking and the Higgs Mechanism

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Recap from Last Time

- **Charged current** interaction:

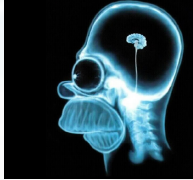
$$\mathcal{L}_{IA}^{CC} = -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\underbrace{\bar{\nu} (W_{\mu}^{+} \gamma^{\mu}) e_L}_{e \rightarrow \nu} + \underbrace{\bar{e}_L (W_{\mu}^{-} \gamma^{\mu}) \nu}_{\nu \rightarrow e} \right]$$

- **Neutral current** interaction:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{IA}^{NC} = & -\frac{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}{2} Z_{\mu} (\bar{\nu} \gamma_{\mu} \nu) \\ & + \frac{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}{2} [(\cos^2 \theta_W - \sin^2 \theta_W) Z_{\mu} + 2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W A_{\mu}] (\bar{e}_L \gamma_{\mu} e_L) \\ & + \frac{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}{2} [-2 \sin^2 \theta_W Z_{\mu} + 2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W A_{\mu}] (\bar{e}_R \gamma_{\mu} e_R) \end{aligned}$$

- **$SU(2) \times U(1)$ can describe electroweak IA** including gauge boson self-couplings.

Quiz of the Day



- Is the mass problem the same for **boson and fermion masses**?
- Is the following statement true: “the **Higgs boson couples proportional to the mass** to all massive particles”?
- We have seen that QED does not at all have a problem with fermion masses (first lecture). Are **fermion masses a problem specific to non-Abelian gauge symmetries**?
- Is the **Higgs boson a Goldstone boson**? If not what is the difference between these types of particles?

Schedule for Today

1

The Problem of Masses in the SM

2

Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking & Higgs Mechanism

3

The Higgs Mechanism in the SM

The Problem of Masses in the SM



Problem 1: Massive Gauge Bosons

- Example: Abelian gauge field theories (\rightarrow first lecture)

- Transformation: $A_\mu \rightarrow A'_\mu = A_\mu + \frac{1}{e} \partial_\mu \vartheta$

- In mass term : $m_A A_\mu A^{\mu*} \rightarrow m_A A'_\mu A'^{\mu*} =$

$$m_A A_\mu A^{\mu*} + \frac{1}{e} m_A (A_\mu \partial^\mu \vartheta + A^{\mu*} \partial_\mu \vartheta) + m_A \frac{1}{e^2} \partial_\mu \vartheta \partial^\mu \vartheta$$

These terms explicitly **break local gauge covariance of \mathcal{L}** .

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These terms explicitly **break local gauge covariance of \mathcal{L}** .

- Fundamental **problem for all gauge field theories!**



Problem 2: Massive Fermions

- No problem in $U(1)$:

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- Similarly no problem in $SU(3)$ (not specific to non-Abelian gauge field theories).
- So what is the problem of the $SU(2)$ in the SM?!

It is the distinction between left-handed (ψ_L) and right-handed (ψ_R) fermions:

$$m_e \bar{e} e = m_e (\bar{e}_L + \bar{e}_R)(e_L + e_R) = m_e \bar{e}_R e_L + m_e \bar{e}_L e_R$$




- **Local gauge invariance...**

- ... **can motivate all interactions** between elementary particles.
- ... gives a **geometrical interpretation for the presence of gauge bosons** (propagate info of local phases btw space points).
- ... **predicts non trivial self-interactions** between gauge bosons!

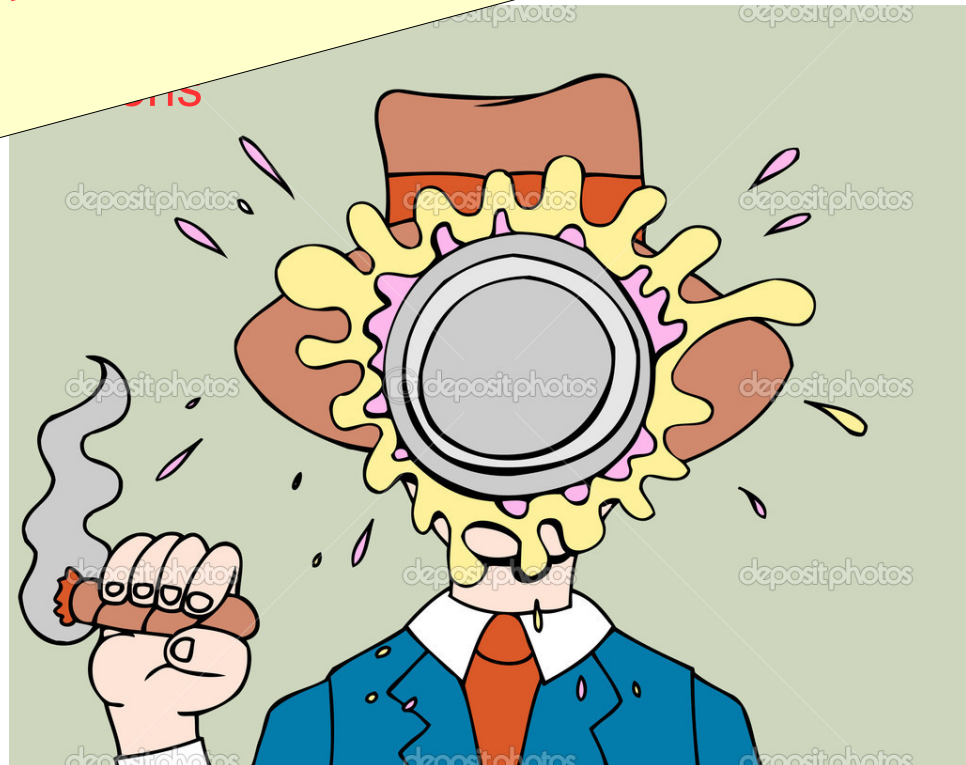


Dilemma of the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ Gauge Field Theory

- **Local gauge invariance...**

- ... can motivate all interactions between elementary particles
- ... gives a geometrical interpretation of the interactions (propagate info of local gauge transformations) via bosons
- ... prevents the inclusion of naive mass terms in \mathcal{L} !

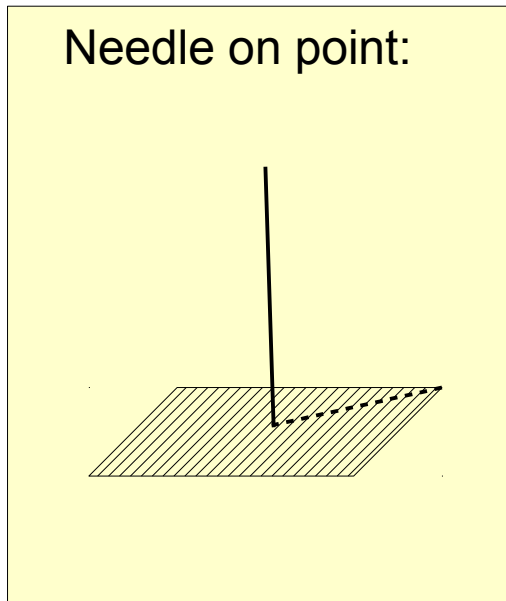
Deeply incompatible with incorporation of naive mass terms in \mathcal{L} !



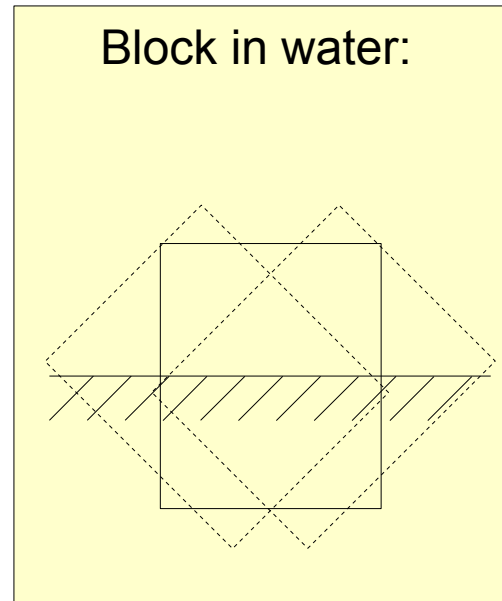


Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking

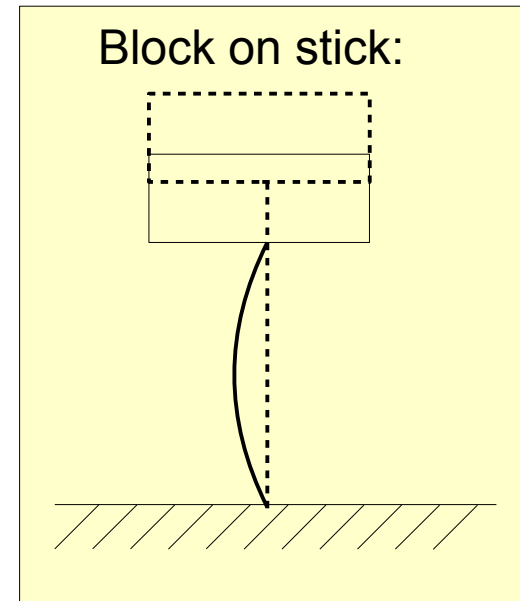
- **Symmetry is present in the system** (i.e. in the Lagrangian density \mathcal{L}).
- BUT it is **broken in the ground state** (i.e. in the quantum vacuum).
- Three examples (from classical mechanics):



φ symmetry



axis-symmetry



φ symmetry

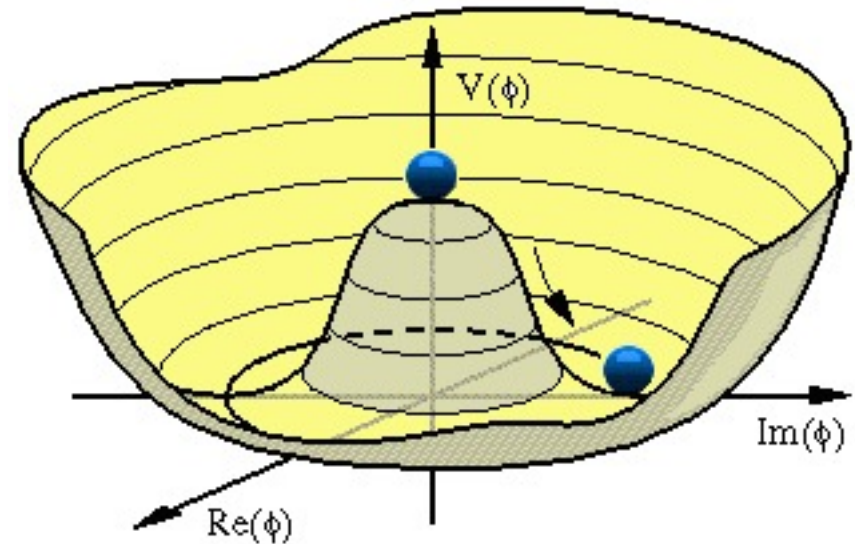
- *Goldstone Potential:*

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_1 + i\phi_2)$$

$$V(\phi) = -\mu^2 |\phi|^2 + \lambda |\phi|^4$$

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

- **invariant under $U(1)$ transformations** (i.e. φ symmetric).
- metastable in $\phi = 0$.
- ground state **breaks $U(1)$ symmetry**, BUT at the same time all ground states are **in-distinguishable in φ** .



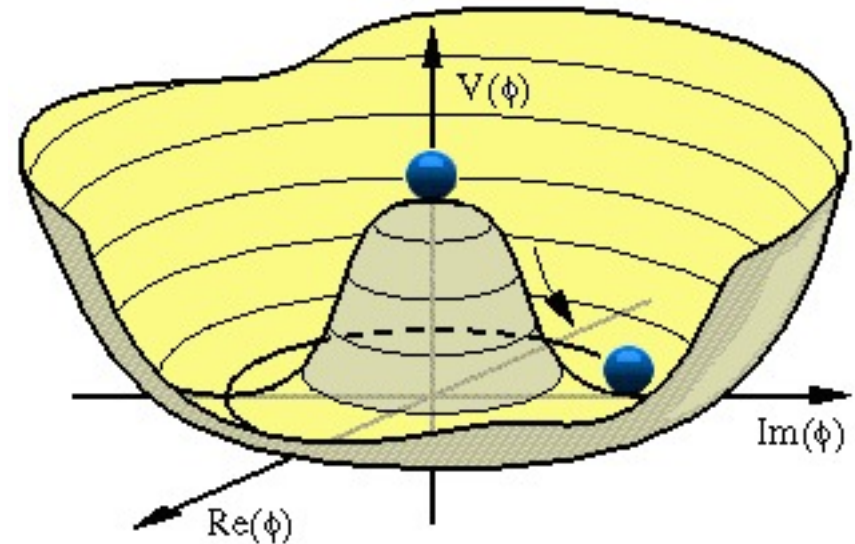
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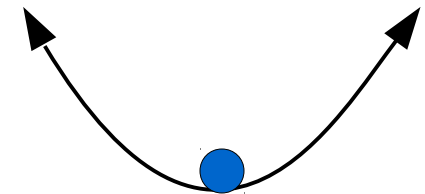
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- ϕ has **radial excitations** in the potential $V(\phi)$.



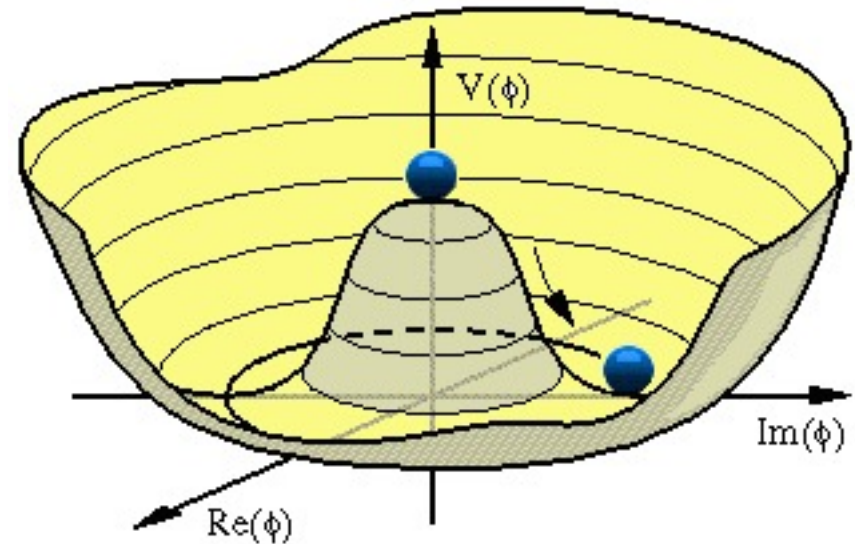
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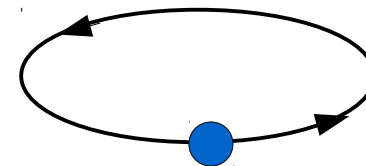
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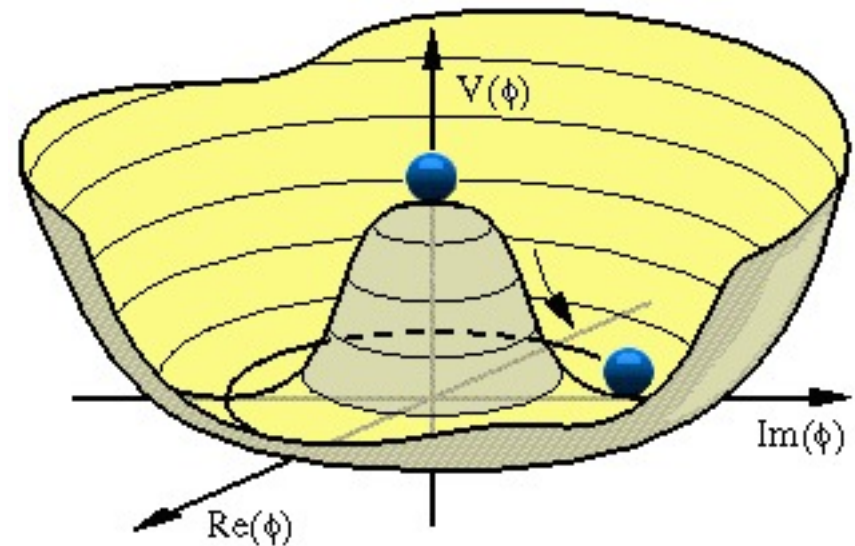
- ϕ can **move freely** in the circle that corresponds to the minimum of $V(\phi)$.



The *Goldstone* Theorem

- In particle physics this is formalized in the *Goldstone* Theorem:

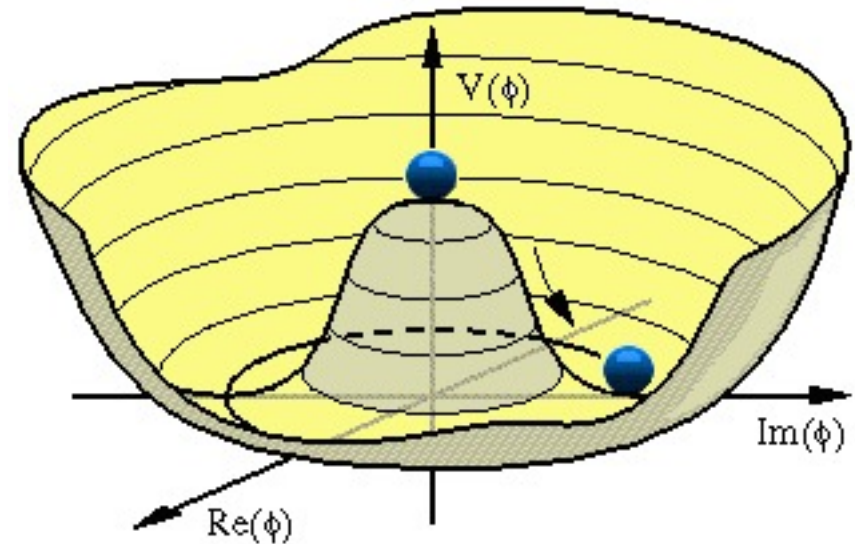
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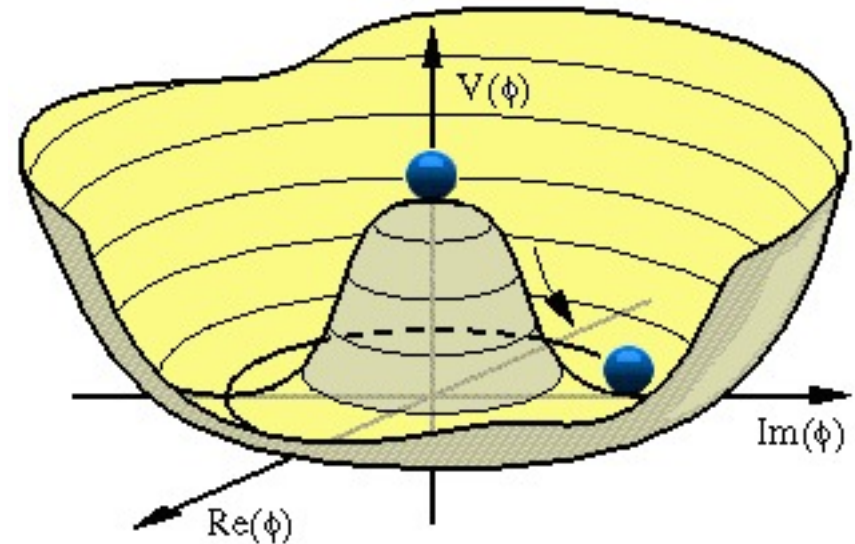


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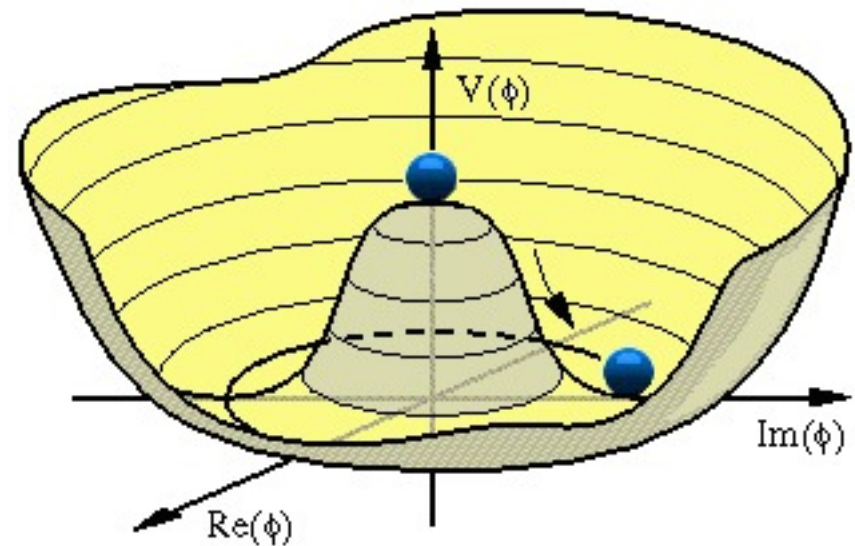


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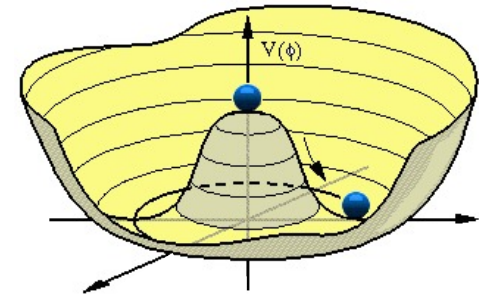
- *Goldstone* Bosons can be:
 - **Elementary fields**, which are already part of \mathcal{L} .
 - **Bound states**, which are created by the theory (e.g. the H-atom).
 - **Unphysical** or gauge degrees of freedom.

Analyzing the Energy Ground State

- The **energy ground state** is where the *Hameltonian*

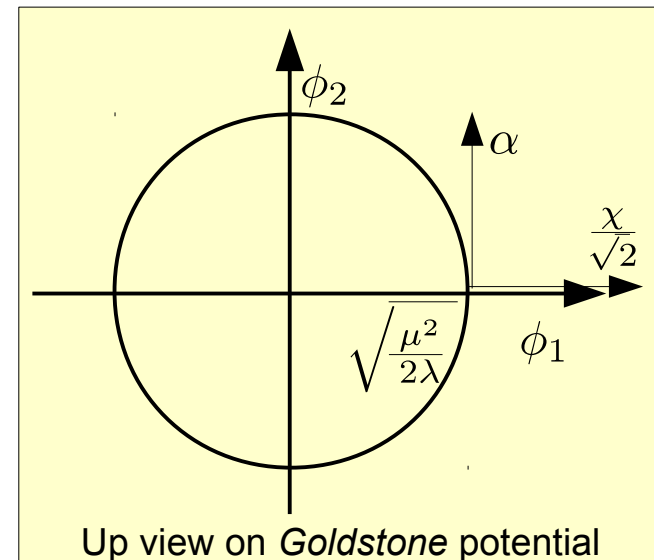
$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \partial_\mu \phi + \frac{\partial L}{\partial (\partial^\mu \phi^*)} \partial^\mu \phi^* - \mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi^* + V(\phi)$$

is minimal. This is the case for $|\phi| = \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}$.



- To **analyze the system in its physical ground state** we make an expansion in an arbitrary point on the $|\phi| = \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}$ cycle:

$$\phi(\chi, \alpha) = e^{i\alpha} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$



- An **expansion in the ground state** in cylindrical coordinates leads to:

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi^* - V(\phi) \right]_{\phi(\chi, \alpha)} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi + \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \partial_\mu \alpha \partial^\mu \alpha - V'(\chi)$$

$$V'(\chi) = \left[-\mu^2 |\phi|^2 + \lambda |\phi|^4 \right]_{\phi(\chi)} = -\frac{\mu^4}{4\lambda} + \mu^2 \chi^2 + \underbrace{\mu\sqrt{\lambda} \chi^3 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \chi^4}_{\text{self-couplings}}$$

const.

dynamic mass term

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- Why is there no linear term in χ ?



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- Why is there no linear term in χ ? \longrightarrow We have performed a *Taylor* expansion in the minimum. By construction there cannot be any linear terms in there.



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- Remarks:

- The mass term is acquired for the field χ along the **radial excitation, which leads out of the minimum of $V(\chi)$** . It is the term at lowest order in the *Taylor* expansion in the minimum, and therefore independent from the concrete form of $V(\chi)$ in the minimum.
- The field α , which does not lead out of the minimum of $V(\chi)$ does not acquire a mass term. It **corresponds to the Goldstone boson**.

Extension to a Gauge Field Theory

- For simplicity reasons shown for an Abelian model:

Introduce **covariant derivative**



$$\phi(\chi, \alpha) = e^{i\alpha} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= [(\partial_\mu + ieA_\mu) \phi] [(\partial^\mu + ieA^\mu) \phi]^* - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} |_{\phi(\chi, \alpha)} \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \partial_\mu \chi e^{i\alpha} + ie^{i\alpha} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}} + \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{2}} \right) (eA_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha) \right|^2 - V'(\chi) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi + \left(\left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \underbrace{(eA_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha)} \right)^2 - V'(\chi) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \end{aligned}$$

Remove by proper gauge:

$$A'_\mu = A_\mu + \partial_\mu \vartheta$$

How does this gauge look like?



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How does this gauge look like? $\vartheta = -\frac{1}{e} \alpha$



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Mass term for A_μ :

$$\frac{e^2 \mu^2}{2\lambda} A_\mu A^{\mu*}$$

Quartic and trilinear couplings with χ .

- *Goldstone* potential and expansion of $\phi \rightarrow \phi(\chi, \alpha)$ in the energy ground state has **generated a mass term** $\frac{e^2 \mu^2}{2\lambda} A_\mu A^{\mu*}$ **for the gauge field** A_μ from the bare coupling $e^2 |\phi|^2 A_\mu A^{\mu*}$.

- ϕ was originally complex (\rightarrow i.e. w/ 2 degrees of freedom) .
- χ is a real field, α has been absorbed into A_μ . It seems **as if one degree of freedom had been lost**. This is not the case:
 - as a massless particle A_μ has only two degrees of freedom (2 longitudinal polarizations).
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One says:

“The gauge boson has become massive by picking up the *Goldstone* boson and has become fat on it”

This shuffle of degrees of freedom from the Goldstone boson(s) to the gauge boson(s) is called **Higgs mechanism**.

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 - it **leads to spontaneous symmetry breaking**.
 - it does **not distinguish any direction in space** (\rightarrow i.e. only depends on $|\phi|$).
 - it is **bound from below** and does not lead to infinite negative energies, which is a prerequisite for a stable theory.

- The potential has been **chosen to be cut at the order of $|\phi|^4$** . This can be motivated by a dimensional analysis:
 - Due to gauge invariance ϕ has to appear in even order.
 - What is the dimension of \mathcal{L} ?



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 - What is the dimension of λ ? $[\lambda] = \text{GeV}^0$
- It would be possible to extend the potential to higher dimensions of ϕ but couplings with **negative dimension will turn the theory non-renormalizable**.

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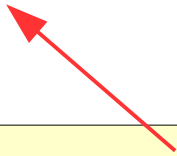


Final Construction of the SM



- Compilation of the last two lectures:

Fermion kinematic



$$\mathcal{L}^{SU(2)\times U(1)} = \mathcal{L}^{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}^{CC} + \mathcal{L}^{NC} + \mathcal{L}^{\text{gauge}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{kin}} = ie\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu e + i\nu\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \nu$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{CC} = -\frac{e}{\sqrt{2}\sin\theta_W} [W_\mu^+ \nu\gamma_\mu e_L + W_\mu^- e_L\gamma_\mu \nu]$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{NC} = -\frac{e}{2\sin\theta_W \cos\theta_W} Z_\mu [(\nu\gamma_\mu \nu) + (e_L\gamma_\mu e_L)] - e [A_\mu + \tan\theta_W Z_\mu] (e\gamma_\mu e)$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{gauge}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} (W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu}) - \frac{1}{4} B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} \left| \begin{array}{l} B_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu \\ W_\mu^3 \rightarrow Z_\mu \end{array} \right.$$

The SM without mass terms

- Compilation of the last two lectures:

Charged current IA

Fermion kinematic

$$\mathcal{L}^{SU(2)\times U(1)} = \mathcal{L}^{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}^{CC} + \mathcal{L}^{NC} + \mathcal{L}^{\text{gauge}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{kin}} = ie\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu e + i\nu\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \nu$$

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The SM without mass terms

- Compilation of the last two lectures:

Fermion kinematic Charged current IA Neutral current IA

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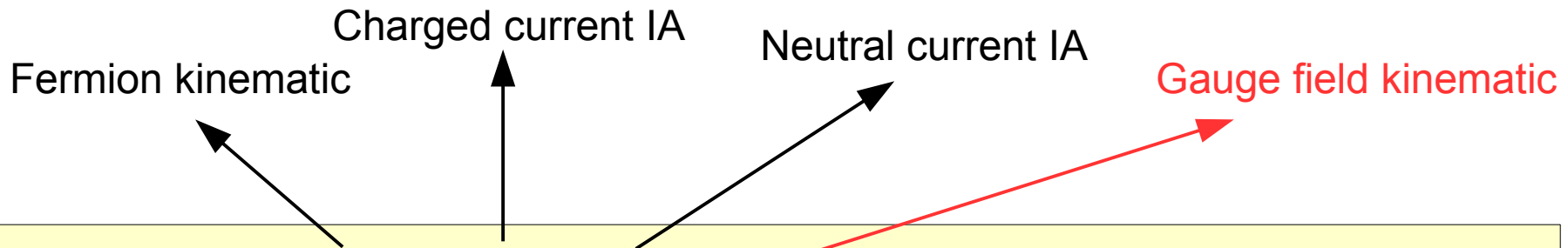
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Extension by a new field ϕ

- Add ϕ as $SU(2)$ doublet field:

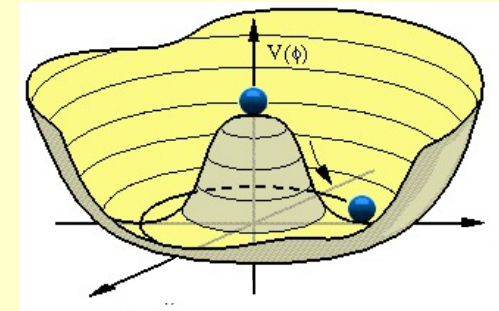
$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_+ \\ \phi_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Transformation behavior} \quad \begin{cases} \phi \rightarrow \phi' = e^{i\vartheta'} G \phi \\ \phi^\dagger \rightarrow \phi'^\dagger = \phi^\dagger G^\dagger e^{-i\vartheta'} \\ G = e^{i\vartheta^a t^a} \in SU(2) \quad \vartheta^a, \vartheta' \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

Can you point to the Goldstone bosons?

$$\mathcal{L}^{SU(2) \times U(1)} = \mathcal{L}^{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}^{CC} + \mathcal{L}^{NC} + \mathcal{L}^{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}^{\text{Higgs}}$$

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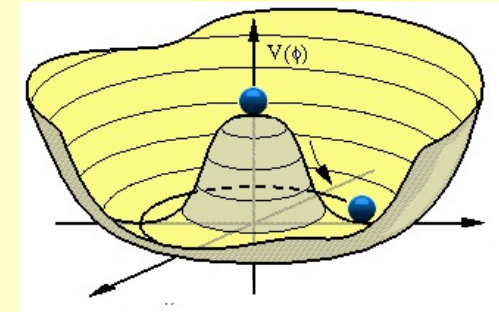
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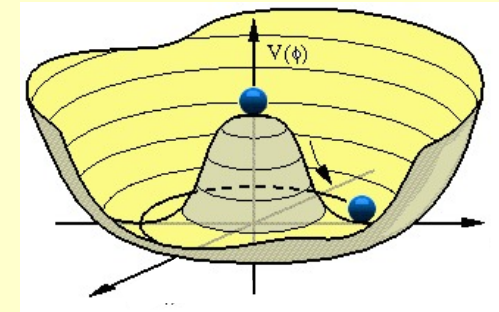
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- $\mathcal{L}^{\text{Higgs}}$ is covariant under global $SU(2)$ transformations.



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Can you point to the Goldstone bosons?

- Introduce covariant derivative D_μ to enforce local gauge invariance:

$$\partial_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig' \frac{Y_\phi}{2} B_\mu + igt^a W_\mu^a$$

(analogue to fermion fields)

$SU(2) \times U(1)$ Hypercharges			
Particle	Y_ϕ	I_3	Q
ϕ_+	$+1$	$+1/2$	$+1$
ϕ_0		$-1/2$	0

$$Q = I_3 + \frac{Y}{2} \quad (\text{Gell-Mann Nishijama})$$

Expansion in the Energy Ground State of ϕ

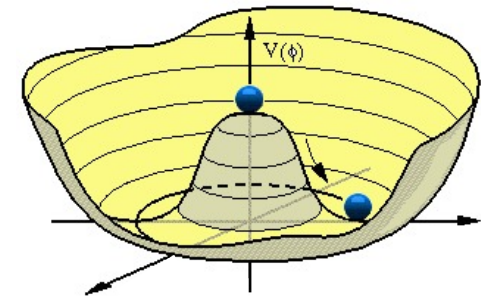
- Develop ϕ in its energy ground state at $|\phi| = \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}$:

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_+ \\ \phi_0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{|\phi| = \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}} \phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{H}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

w/o loss of generality this can be done in the lower component of ϕ .

Non-zero vacuum expectation value.

Radial excitation field. → **This is the Higgs boson!**



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$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig' \frac{Y_\phi}{2} B_\mu + igt^a W_\mu^a$$

(covariant derivative)

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- Resolve products of *Pauli* matrices ($t^a \equiv \frac{1}{2}\sigma_a$):

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Expansion in the Energy Ground State of ϕ

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Masses for Gauge Bosons

- By introducing ϕ as a $SU(2)$ doublet with a non-zero energy ground state we have obtained:

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_\mu \phi^\dagger D^\mu \phi = & \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu H \partial^\mu H \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- Dynamic mass terms** for the gauge bosons: $m_Z^2 \equiv \frac{(g^2 + g'^2)\mu^2}{8\lambda}$ $m_W^2 \equiv \frac{g^2\mu^2}{8\lambda}$
- Characteristic trilinear and quartic **couplings of the gauge bosons to the Higgs field**.
- A solid **prediction of the SM** on the masses of the gauge bosons: $\cos \theta_W = \frac{m_W}{m_Z} \longrightarrow m_Z > m_W$

- We had discussed how **gauge bosons obtain mass** by a gauge that absorbs the *Goldstone* bosons in the theory.

- As a complex $SU(2)$ doublet ϕ has **four degrees of freedom**.
- In the final formulation **only the radial excitation H of ϕ did remain**. The *Goldstone* bosons (v^a) have been absorbed into the gauge fields $W_\mu^{+/-}$ & Z_μ , which have obtained masses from this.

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- Almost...



Solution to the Problem of Fermion Masses



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- The Higgs mechanism can also help to obtain mass terms for fermions, by coupling the fermions to ϕ .

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{Yukawa}} = -f_e (\bar{e}_R \underbrace{\phi^\dagger}_{SU(2) \text{ singlet}} \psi_L) + f_e^* (\bar{\psi}_L \underbrace{\phi}_{SU(2) \text{ singlet}} e_R)$$

- check $SU(2)$ behavior:

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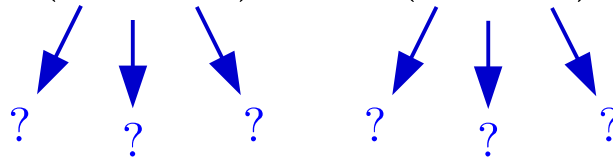
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- check $U(1)$ behavior:



$$Y_R = -2$$

$$Y_L = -1$$

$$Y_\phi = +1$$



Solution to the Problem of Fermion Masses

- The Higgs mechanism can also help to **obtain mass terms for fermions, by coupling the fermions to ϕ** .

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{Yukawa}} = -f_e (\bar{e}_R \underbrace{\phi^\dagger}_{SU(2) \text{ singlet}} \psi_L) + f_e^* (\bar{\psi}_L \underbrace{\phi}_{SU(2) \text{ singlet}} e_R)$$

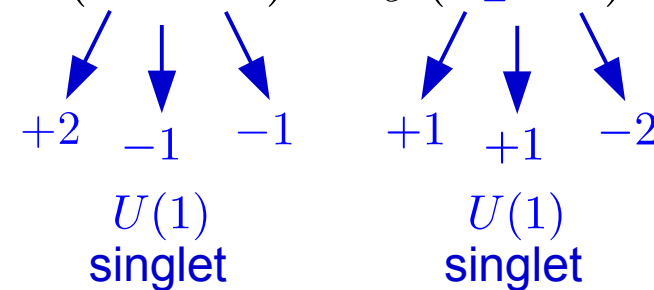
- check $SU(2)$ behavior:

$$\psi_L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu \\ e_L \end{pmatrix}$$

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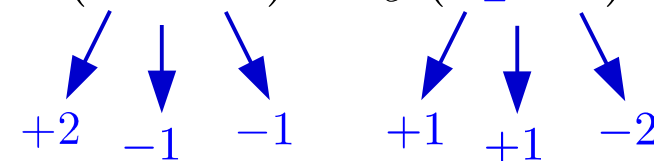
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Manifest gauge invariant.

- NB: f can be chosen real. Residual phases can be re-defined in e_R .



Solution to the Problem of Fermion Masses

- Expand ϕ in its energy ground state to obtain the mass terms:

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{Yukawa}} = \underbrace{-f_e \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}} + \frac{H}{\sqrt{2}} \right)}_{m_e \equiv f_e \sqrt{\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}} \underbrace{(\bar{e}_R e_L + \bar{e}_L e_R)}_{\bar{e}e} = -m_e \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\mu^2}} H \right) \bar{e}e$$

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Concluding Remarks

- The **Higgs mechanism = incorporation of spontaneous symmetry breaking into a gauge field theory**. This leads to the fact that the gauge bosons eat up the *Goldstone* bosons, which exist in the system and gain mass on this.
- This mechanism leaves one or more degrees of freedom of radial excitations in the potential behind as **Higgs boson(s)**.
- The Higgs boson obtains its **mass from the *Goldstone* potential**. The gauge bosons obtain their **mass from their coupling to ϕ via the covariant derivative**. The Fermions obtain their **mass via a direct Yukawa coupling to ϕ** .
- Gauge bosons couple to Higgs like $\propto m_{\text{gauge}}^2 H$, fermion fields couple to Higgs like $\propto m_f H$.

- **Wrap up** what we have learned during the last three lectures.
- Discuss the way from **Lagrangian to measurable quantities** (→ Feynman rules).
- Discuss loop corrections and **higher orders to tree level calculations** (pictorially).
- Constraints on m_H within the theory itself.

