



[ESTD 1917]

Klein Gordon equation and the concept of positive and negative probability density values

M.Sc. Semester 4

Advanced Quantum Mechanics (EC 01)

Compiled by Dr. Sumita Singh

University Professor

Physics Department

Patna University

Mail: sumita.physics.pu@gmail.com

Klein Gordon equation and the concept of positive and negative probability density values.

In non-relativistic case the position probability density $\rho(r, t)$ is defined as $|\psi(r, t)|^2$ and the probability current density $j(r, t)$.

$\rho(r, t)$ and $j(r, t)$ satisfy the equation of continuity, which is invariant under Lorentz transformation.

The relativistic Schrodinger equation is

$$\frac{-\hbar^2 \partial^2 \psi(r, t)}{\partial t^2} = -\hbar^2 c^2 \nabla^2 \psi(\vec{r}, t) + m_0^2 c^4 \psi(\vec{r}, t) \quad \dots (1)$$

The non-relativistic continuity equation is

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = |\psi|^2 \quad \text{probability density}$$

$$\vec{j} = \frac{\hbar}{2mi} (\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*)$$

The probability current density is

$$\vec{j} = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} (\psi \nabla \psi^* - \psi^* \nabla \psi)$$

The complex conjugate of relativistic Schrodinger equation is

$$\frac{-\hbar^2 \partial^2 \psi^*}{\partial t^2} = -\hbar^2 c^2 \nabla^2 \psi^* + m_0^2 c^4 \psi^* \quad \dots (2)$$

Now, multiply equation (3) by ψ^* and (2) by ψ and then subtracting one from the other

$$-\hbar^2 \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \psi \frac{\partial^2 \psi^*}{\partial t^2} \right) = -\hbar^2 c^2 [\psi^* \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \psi^*]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right) = c^2 \nabla [\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*]$$

$$\frac{i\hbar}{2mc^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \nabla [\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{i\hbar}{2mc^2} \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right) \right] + \nabla \left[\frac{i\hbar}{2m} (\psi \nabla \psi^* - \psi^* \nabla \psi) \right] = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$

$$\therefore \vec{j} = \frac{\hbar}{2mi} (\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*)$$

$$\vec{j} = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} (\psi \nabla \psi^* - \psi^* \nabla \psi)$$

$$\therefore \rho = \frac{i\hbar}{2mc^2} \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[\psi^* i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \psi (-i\hbar) \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2mc^2} [\psi^* E \psi + \psi E \psi^*]$$

$$\rho = \frac{2E|\psi|^2}{2mc^2}$$

$$\rho = \frac{E}{mc^2} |\psi|^2 \quad \dots\dots (3)$$

From equation (3), it follows that $\rho(r, t)$ is positive when E is positive and negative when E is negative. In other word the probability density takes both positive and negative values.

Pauli and Weisskopf interpreted q_p as the electrical charge density and \mathbf{q}_j as the corresponding electric current density. This is reasonable as charges can take positive or negative values. If the system has a single particle of given charge, ρ cannot have different signs at different point. This means that theory is useful only to a system of particles having both signs of theory is useful only to a system of particles having both signs of charges.

For $\rho > 0 \Rightarrow E > 0$ positive charge particles
 $\rho < 0 \Rightarrow E < 0$ Antiparticles (negative charge)

This definition of $\rho(r, t)$ leads to both positive and negative value for it. KG equation is used for a system of particles having both positive and negative charges.

REFERENCES:

- 1. Quantum Mechanics by G. Aruldhas
- 2. Relativistic Quantum Mechanics by James D. Bjorken/Sidney D. Drell
- 3. Modern particle physics by Mark Thomson
- 4. Quantum Mechanics by V.K. Thankappan
- 5. Advanced quantum mechanics by J.J. Sakurai.