

4.2(4): Relativistic Quantum Theory

In special relativity and in ECE2 theory,
the Hamiltonian is:

$$H = E + U \quad - (1)$$

where E is the total relativistic energy:

$$E = \gamma mc^2 = (c^2 p^2 + m^2 c^4)^{1/2} \quad - (2)$$

in which the Lorentz factor is

$$\gamma = \left(1 - \frac{v_N^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \quad - (3)$$

and where v_N is the Newtonian linear velocity. Here m is the mass of a particle subjected to the potential energy U , and c is the speed of light. In eq. (2) p is the relativistic momentum.

$$p = \gamma m v_N \quad - (4)$$

The quantization of these equations was first considered by Sommerfeld in 1913/1914 and about ten years later by Dirac. In the QFT paper the quantization procedure was developed in many directions, giving several new types of spectroscopy and deriving the fermion equation from Cartesian geometry.

Consider:

$$E^2 = c^2 p^2 + m^2 c^4 \quad - (5)$$

and write it as:

$$(E - mc^2)(E + mc^2) = c^2 p^2 \quad - (6)$$

It follows that:

$$E - mc^2 = \frac{c^2 p^2}{E + mc^2} \quad - (7)$$

So:

$$E = \frac{c^2 p^2}{E + mc^2} + mc^2 \quad - (8)$$

from eqs. (1) and (8):

$$H - U - mc^2 = \frac{c^2 p^2}{H - U + mc^2} \quad (9)$$

where

$$H = \gamma mc^2 + U. \quad (10)$$

Dirac made the approximations:

$$U \ll E \quad (11)$$

and

$$H \sim E \sim mc^2 \quad (12)$$

so eq. (9) becomes:

$$H = \frac{c^2 p^2}{2mc^2 - U} + mc^2 + U \quad (13)$$

$$= \frac{p^2}{2m} \left(1 - \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right)^{-1} + mc^2 + U \quad (14)$$

Assuming that:

$$U \ll 2mc^2 \quad (15)$$

it follows that:

$$H \sim \frac{p^2}{2m} \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) + mc^2 + U \quad (16)$$

At this point Dirac introduced the $SU(2)$ basis described in many QFT papers and books, and in many volumes of the literature. Therefore:

$$H \sim \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} + mc^2 + U \quad (17)$$

In the presence of a magnetic field:

3)

$$\underline{p} \rightarrow \underline{p} - e \underline{A} \quad - (18)$$

where \underline{A} is the vector potential, so:

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot (\underline{p} - e \underline{A}) \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot (\underline{p} - e \underline{A}) + mc^2 + U \quad - (19)$$

The theory is now quantized w/ Schrodinger's rule:

$$\underline{p} \psi = -i\hbar \nabla \psi \quad - (20)$$

The above is a famous and very successful theory which describes many phenomena in one equation (19). Nevertheless it contains weak points that have been covered in a 4FT series of papers. The theory gives the half integral spin of the electron, the Lande' factor of the electron, an electron g factor of two, and the fine structure of atoms and molecules. It also gives the Darwin effect. Due to the correct development of the 4FT series many other effects have been discovered.

The extension of this theory to the many body problem therefore produce many new effects, notably effects in the fine structure of atoms and molecules. In the many body Hamiltonian (1) becomes:

$$H = m(r_i) \gamma mc^2 + U \quad - (21)$$

where:

$$\gamma = \left(m(r_i) - \frac{V_{IN}}{c^2} \right)^{-1/2} \quad - (22)$$

in a basis defined by :

$$r_1 = \frac{r}{m(r)^{1/2}} \quad - (23)$$

and

$$V_{1N} = \frac{V_N}{m(r)^{1/2}} \quad - (24)$$

In n theory, eq. (5) becomes :

$$E^2 = m(r_1)(c^2 p_1^2 + m^2 c^4) \quad - (25)$$

so

$$E^2 - m(r_1)m^2 c^4 = m(r_1)c^2 p_1^2 \quad - (26)$$

i.e.

$$(E - m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2)(E + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2) = m(r_1)c^2 p_1^2 \quad - (27)$$

so

$$E = H - U = \frac{m(r_1)c^2 p_1^2}{E + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 \quad - (28)$$

and:

$$H = \frac{m(r_1)c^2 p_1^2}{H - U + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 + U \quad - (29)$$

Now apply the Dirac type approximation to eq. (29):

$$U \ll E \quad - (30)$$

so

$$H \sim E = m(r_1) \gamma mc^2 \quad - (31)$$

For eqs (22) and (31):

$$H \sim m(r_1)^{1/2} \left(1 - \frac{V_{1N}^2}{c^2 m(r_1)} \right)^{-1/2} mc^2 \quad - (32)$$

5)

$$\rightarrow m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 - (33)$$

if $v_{in} < c$ - (34)

Therefore

$$H = \frac{m(r_1) c^2 p_1^2}{m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 - U + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 + U - (35)$$

$$= \frac{m(r_1) c^2 p_1^2}{2m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 - U} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 + U$$

$$= \frac{m(r_1) c^2 p_1^2}{2m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 - \frac{mmb}{r}} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 + U$$

$$= \frac{m(r_1)^{1/2} c^2 p_1^2}{2mc^2 - \frac{mmb}{r}} + m(r_1)^{1/2} mc^2 + U$$

$$= \frac{c^2 p^2}{m(r)^{1/2} (2mc^2 - U)} + m(r)^{1/2} mc^2 + m^{1/2} U$$

in frame (r, ϕ) , where:

$$U = -\frac{mmb}{r} - (36)$$

In the H atom:

$$U = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} - (37)$$

Therefore:

$$H = \frac{1}{m(r)^{1/2}} \frac{p^2}{2m} \left(1 - \frac{U}{2mc^2}\right)^{-1} + m(r)^{1/2} (mc^2 + U) - (38)$$

II

$$U \ll 2mc^2 \quad (39)$$

$$H = \frac{1}{m(r)^{1/2}} \frac{p^2}{2m} \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) + m(r)^{1/2} (mc^2 + U) \quad (40)$$

In the $SU(2)$ basis:

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left(\frac{1}{m(r)^{1/2}} \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} + m(r)^{1/2} (mc^2 + U) \quad (41)$$

$$\xrightarrow{m(r) \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left(1 + \frac{U}{2mc^2} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} + mc^2 + U$$

which is the Dirac theory, Q.E.D.

The theory is now ready for quantization. The Hamiltonian in eq. (41) can be written as:

$$H = H_1 + H_2 \quad (42)$$

where:

$$H_1 = \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \frac{1}{m(r)^{1/2}} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \quad (43)$$

$$H_2 = \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \frac{U}{2mc^2 m(r)^{1/2}} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \quad (44)$$

The $m(r)^{1/2}$ function produces interesting changes in the fine structure of the H atom.