

Trying to make
sense of the

C P T

Theorem

Basic structure of Quantum Field Theory (for physicists)

C
P
T
S
Y
M
M
E
T
R
Y

I Characterize the fields of interest by writing down a LORENTZ-INVARIANT Lagrangian

e.g. Klein-Gordon massive scalar field

$$\mathcal{L}[\phi(x)] = \frac{\partial \phi^\dagger}{\partial x_\mu} \cdot \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_\mu} - m^2 \phi^\dagger \phi$$

Looks like classical & ordinary qm Lagrangian. But these are field operators

ϕ acting on universal quantum state creates scalar particles
 ϕ^\dagger acting on universal quantum state annihilates scalar particles

Add interaction terms

$\underbrace{\phi^{(1)\dagger}(x)}_{\text{annihilates type (1) particle}} \quad \underbrace{\phi^{(2)}(x)}_{\text{creates type (2) particle}}$

II Insert Lagrangian into LORENTZ COVARIANT theoretical apparatus that spells out which processes can happen with the fields

Hamiltonian from Lorentz covariant Euler-Lagrangian Equation
 stories of particle creation & annihilation from perturbation theory
 Vacuum ...

Lagrangians built from short list of Lorentz covariant quantities

Scalar field	Vector field	Tensor field	Pseudo tensor field	Pseudo scalar field	$\psi(x)$
$\phi(x)$	$\phi_\mu(x)$	$\phi_{\mu\nu}$	$\chi_\mu(x)$	$\chi(x)$	Four component spinor field
			$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$ "pseudo" since they change sign under parity transformation		$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$ Most fundamental since all rest can be built from these

Discrete Symmetries of Lorentz Group

Parity P : Switch left-right $(x, y, z) \rightarrow (-x, -y, z)$

Time reversal T : Switch future-past $t \rightarrow -t$

Charge conjugation

C : Switch +ve and -ve charges
 (and similarly for all charge-like quantities in quantum fields)

Action of C, P, T on each term that may appear in a Lagrangian...

... is determined by very long, tedious & essentially opaque computation

From R.G. Sachs, The Physics of Time Reversal
 University of Chicago, 1987
 pp. 157, 165, 166

As the first step, then, we write down the well-known bilinear covariants of the spinor fields for kinematically independent spinor fields $\psi^{(j)}(x)$, with $j = 1, 2, 3 \dots$. There are just five of them, and they correspond to the tensors (I) to (V) as classified in section 6.1:

- (8.9a) $S^{(j,k)} = :\bar{\psi}^{(j)}(x)\psi^{(k)}(x):$, scalar
- (8.9b) $V_{\mu}^{(j,k)} = i:\bar{\psi}^{(j)}(x)\gamma_{\mu}\psi^{(k)}(x):$, four-vector
- (8.9c) $T_{\mu\nu}^{(j,k)} = :\bar{\psi}^{(j)}(x)\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi^{(k)}(x):$,
 antisymmetric tensor of second rank
- (8.9d) $(PV)_{\mu}^{(j,k)} = i:\bar{\psi}^{(j)}(x)\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_5\psi^{(k)}(x):$, pseudovector
- (8.9e) $P^{(j,k)} = i:\bar{\psi}^{(j)}(x)\gamma_5\psi^{(k)}(x):$, pseudoscalar,

} Quantities defined in terms of spinor ψ

where

(8.10a) $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = (\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_{\nu} - \gamma_{\nu}\gamma_{\mu})/2i$

is a Hermitian matrix corresponding to eq. (6.44b) and

(8.10b) $\gamma_5 = \gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4$.

The factors of i are included so that, when $j = k$, the operators are Hermitian (or anti-Hermitian when any one index $\mu = 4$).

That the expressions eqs. (8.9) transform under proper Lorentz transformations as indicated follows directly from the transformation properties of $\psi(x)$ given by eqs. (6.26) and (6.27). It remains to be determined how tensors having the form of these bilinear covariants transform under the kinematically admissible transformations P, T, and C. For this purpose, we replace the $\psi^{(j)}(x)$ in eqs. (8.9) by $\psi_0^{(j)}(x)$ and apply eqs. (7.39), (7.45) (with t^0 replaced by t), and eq. (7.67). The results for P are then found to be:

- (8.11a) $P:\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x)\psi_0^{(k)}(x):P^{-1} = :\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(\bar{x})\psi_0^{(k)}(\bar{x}):$
- (8.11b) $P:\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x)\gamma_{\mu}\psi_0^{(k)}(x):P^{-1} = -\epsilon_{\mu}:\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(\bar{x})\gamma_{\mu}\psi_0^{(k)}(\bar{x}):$
- (8.11c) $P:\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x)\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi_0^{(k)}(x):P^{-1} = \epsilon_{\mu}\epsilon_{\nu}:\bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(\bar{x})\sigma_{\mu\nu}\psi_0^{(k)}(\bar{x}):$

} Action of P, C, T

$$(8.11d) \quad P: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : P^{-1} = \varepsilon_\mu : \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(\bar{x}) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(\bar{x}) :$$

$$(8.11e) \quad P: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : P^{-1} = - : \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(\bar{x}) \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(\bar{x}) :,$$

where use has been made of the anticommutation of the gamma matrices. It should be noted that commutators with the generators Γ, Γ' of the unitary transformations are not affected by the normal ordering because the difference between the normal-ordered and ordinary product is a c -number ("classical number") function, not an operator.

The effect of T resulting from application of eqs. (7.85) and (6.40) is

$$(8.12a) \quad T: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : T^{-1} = : \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x') \psi_0^{(k)}(x') :$$

$$(8.12b) \quad Ti: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_\mu \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : T^{-1} = -i: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x') \gamma_\mu \psi_0^{(k)}(x') :$$

$$(8.12c) \quad T: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : T^{-1} = - : \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x') \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi_0^{(k)}(x') :$$

$$(8.12d) \quad Ti: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : T^{-1} = -i: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x') \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x') :$$

$$(8.12e) \quad Ti: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : T^{-1} = -i: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x') \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x') :.$$

From these transformations it can be seen that the bilinear covariants, eqs. (8.9), transform under T with the same phases as those assigned to the corresponding tensor fields in table 7.1, thereby establishing the correctness of that assignment as promised in connection with eq. (6.13b).⁶

Finally, the effect on those bilinear forms of charge conjugation is obtained from eq. (7.67) by use of eq. (7.66a), eq. (8.2), and

$$(8.13) \quad \tilde{\gamma}_C = \gamma_C^{-1} = -\gamma_C,$$

where $\gamma_C = \gamma_2 \gamma_4$:

$$(8.14a) \quad C: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : C^{-1} = : \bar{\psi}_0^{(k)}(x) \psi_0^{(j)}(x) :$$

$$(8.14b) \quad C: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_\mu \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : C^{-1} = - : \bar{\psi}_0^{(k)}(x) \gamma_\mu \psi_0^{(j)}(x) :$$

$$(8.14c) \quad C: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : C^{-1} = - : \bar{\psi}_0^{(k)}(x) \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi_0^{(j)}(x) :$$

$$(8.14d) \quad C: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : C^{-1} = : \bar{\psi}_0^{(k)}(x) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(j)}(x) :$$

$$(8.14e) \quad C: \bar{\psi}_0^{(j)}(x) \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(k)}(x) : C^{-1} = : \bar{\psi}_0^{(k)}(x) \gamma_5 \psi_0^{(j)}(x) :.$$

The examples of interactions between tensor and spinor fields to be considered here are those Lagrangians that are obtained by construction of the products of these bilinear tensor operators with tensor fields of the same

⁶ Note that although $\bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu \psi$ transforms like x_μ under proper Lorentz transformations, it is not possible to construct a Hermitian (anti-Hermitian for $\mu = 4$) operator transforming under T like x_μ , eq. (6.12a), because $(\bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu \psi)^\dagger = -\varepsilon_\mu \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu \psi$.

TABLE 7.1 Transformed Forms of Tensor and Spinor Fields for Improper Transformations

Field	$\phi_0(x)$	$\phi_{\mu,0}(x)$	$\phi_{\mu\nu,0}(x)$	$\chi_{\mu,0}(x)$	$\chi_0(x)$ ^a	$\psi_0(x)$
P :	$\phi_0(-\bar{x}, t)$	$-\varepsilon_\mu \phi_{\mu,0}(-\bar{x}, t)$	$\varepsilon_\mu \varepsilon_\nu \phi_{\mu\nu,0}(-\bar{x}, t)$	$\varepsilon_\mu \chi_{\mu,0}(-\bar{x}, t)$	$-\chi_0(-\bar{x}, t)$	$\pm \gamma_4 \psi_0(-\bar{x}, t)$ ^b
T :	$\phi_0(\bar{x}, -t)$	$-\phi_{\mu,0}(\bar{x}, -t)$	$-\phi_{\mu\nu,0}(\bar{x}, -t)$	$-\chi_{\mu,0}(\bar{x}, -t)$	$-\chi_0(\bar{x}, -t)$	$\sigma_2 \psi_0(\bar{x}, -t)$
C : ^c	$\phi_0^\dagger(x)$	$-\varepsilon_\mu \phi_{\mu,0}^\dagger(x)$	$-\varepsilon_\mu \varepsilon_\nu \phi_{\mu\nu,0}^\dagger(x)$	$\varepsilon_\mu \chi_{\mu,0}(x)$	$\chi_0^\dagger(x)$	$\gamma_2 \psi_0^\dagger(x)$

^aIn making reference to the text it should be noted that while ϕ has been used there to designate either the scalar field or the pseudoscalar field, the specific notation, χ , of section 6.1, case V, is used here for the pseudoscalar field to differentiate it clearly from the scalar field ϕ .

^bThe \pm signs are associated with particle and antiparticle fields, respectively.

^cThe choice of the η_C associated with each type of tensor field is based on the convention that all spinor fields are assigned the same η_C . See note 9.

CPT Theorem

Lorentz covariant quantum field theory Lagrangians are invariant under combined action CPT

shown by brute force:
Apply CPT to each term that can appear in Lagrangian

Invariance may fail for C, P, T, CP, CT, PT individually



In field theory, Lagrangian inserted into theoretical machinery with no preferred C, P, T sense

Weak interaction violates P symmetry
↓
CT also violated
↓ if C respected
T violated

All processes in quantum field theory are CPT invariant

(Allowed process) $\xrightarrow{\text{Apply CPT}}$ (Allowed process)

PROBLEMS

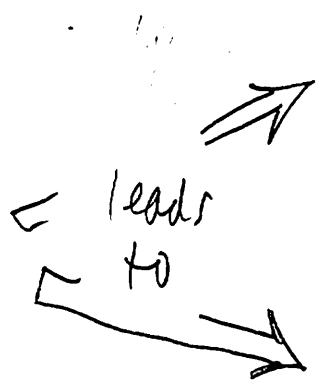


- Brute complexity & opacity of the result.

Just why does it work?
How fragile is it?
What would it take to break it?

• Frank Aontzenius & Hilary Greaves:

How is it that restricted Lorentz covariance = invariance under changes of inertial states of motion



I CPT invariance
↑ charge?
what has that to do with motion?

II Any other symmetry at all

First Problem : $CT_{\text{standard}} \equiv T_{\text{Arntzenius-Greaves}}$

Why C?

so

$CPT_{\text{standard}} \text{ Theorem} \equiv PT_{\text{Arntzenius-Greaves}} \text{ Theorem}$

ie. "No C"

Developed for Classical e-m in Frank Arntzenius & Hilary Greaves, "Time Reversal in Classical Electromagnetism"

Maxwell Electrodynamics is invariant under

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{E} = \rho$$

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{E} = -\frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t}$$

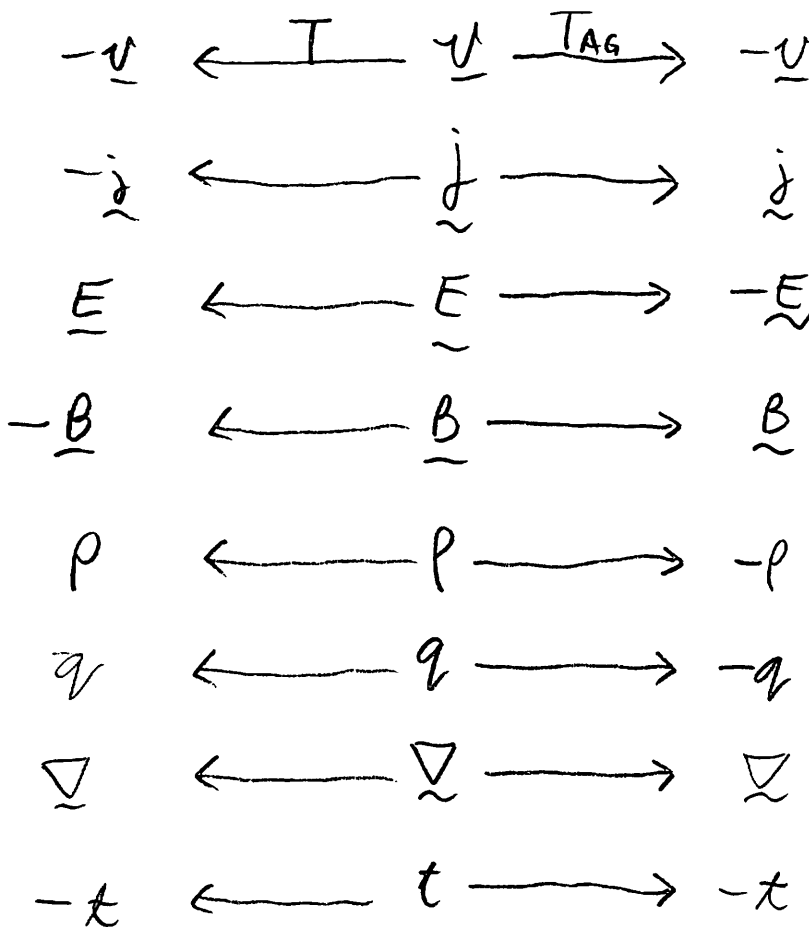
$$\nabla \times \underline{B} = \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t} + \underline{j}$$

$$\underline{F} = q(\underline{E} + \underline{v} \times \underline{B})$$

(Extended to QFT in Arntzenius, "The CPT Theorem")

Standard Time Reversal T

Arntzenius-Greaves Time reversal TAG



OOPS!
SEE OVER

Hence "C" is built into TAG

WARNING. April 10, 2009

The A-G transformations I wrote down were what I thought A-G had to intend.

They correspond to the 4-D formalism transformation

$$q \rightarrow -q$$

$$F_{ab} \rightarrow F_{ab}$$

$$v^a \rightarrow -v^a$$

$$j^a \rightarrow j^a$$

Frank A.

From correspondence with Hilary Greaves, it is now clear that they do not intend this. They really mean

$$q \rightarrow q$$

$$F_{ab} \rightarrow F_{ab}$$

$$\left. \begin{matrix} v^a \rightarrow v^a \\ j^a \rightarrow j^a \end{matrix} \right\} \text{so 3-velocity } \underline{v} \text{ is } \underline{\text{not}} \text{ flipped in sign by time reversal.}$$

I am trying to sort this out in email. No success yet.

Possible T symmetries for Maxwell Electrodynamics

7d,

Not negotiable

$$t \rightarrow -t$$

$$\underline{v} \rightarrow -\underline{v}$$

Negotiable

$$q \rightarrow q \text{ or } q \rightarrow -q$$

(A) (B)

$$x, y, z \rightarrow x, y, z$$

$$\underline{F} \rightarrow \underline{F}$$

option C:
Allow parity to slip??

Option A

$$q \rightarrow q$$

$$x, y, z \rightarrow x, y, z$$

$$\rho = d^3q/dx dy dz$$

$$\rho \rightarrow \rho$$

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{E} = \rho$$

or $\underline{F} = q \underline{E}$ (for $\underline{B} = 0$)

$$\underline{E} \rightarrow \underline{E}$$

$$\underline{j} = \rho \underline{v}$$

$$\underline{j} \rightarrow -\underline{j}$$

$$\nabla \times \underline{B} = \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t} + \underline{j}$$

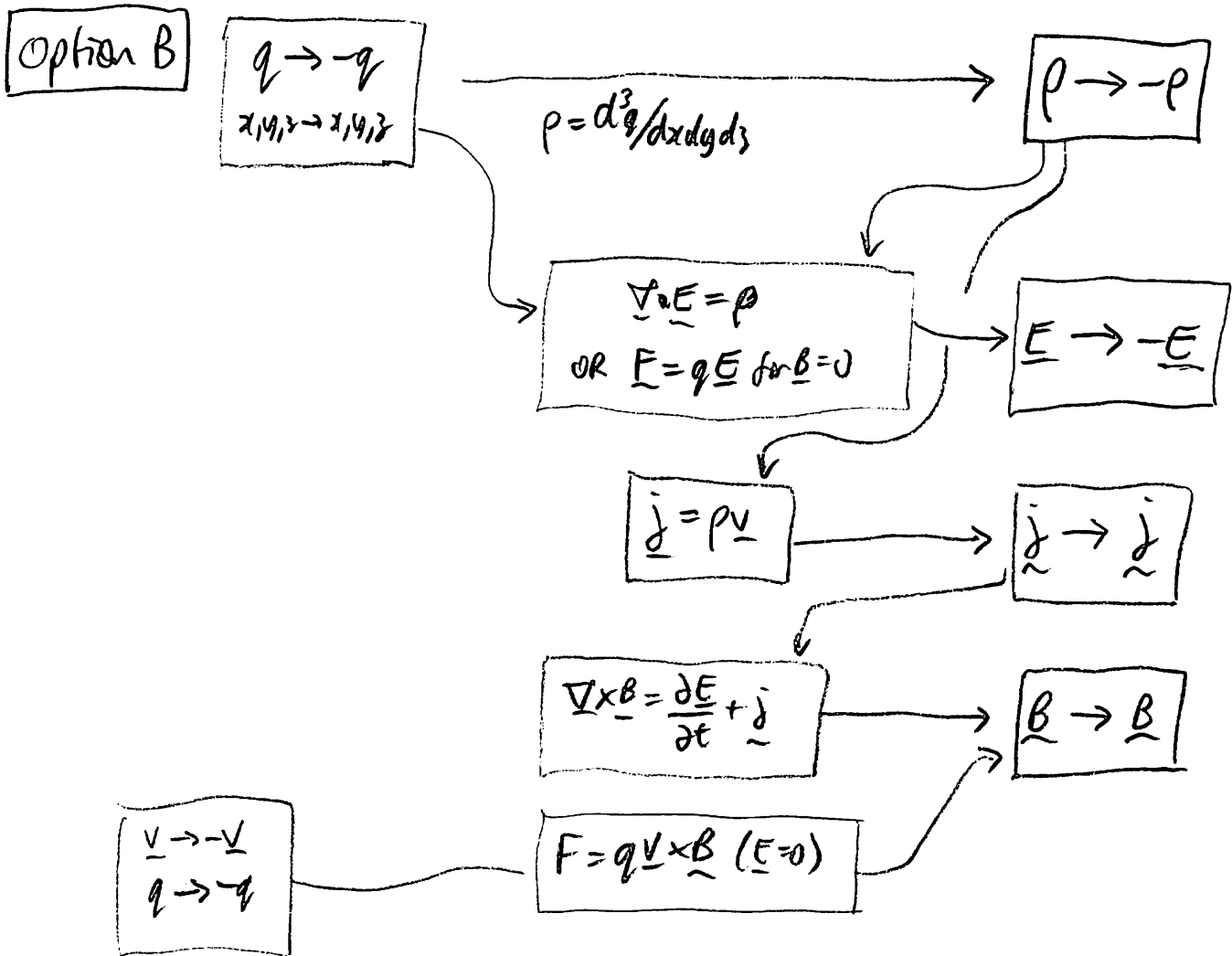
$$\underline{B} \rightarrow -\underline{B}$$

$$\underline{F} = q \underline{v} \times \underline{B}$$
 (E=0)

$$\underline{v} \rightarrow -\underline{v}$$

$$q \rightarrow q$$

7d!



Options (A) and (B) each lead to unique results:

(A) $\rightarrow T_{\text{standard}}$

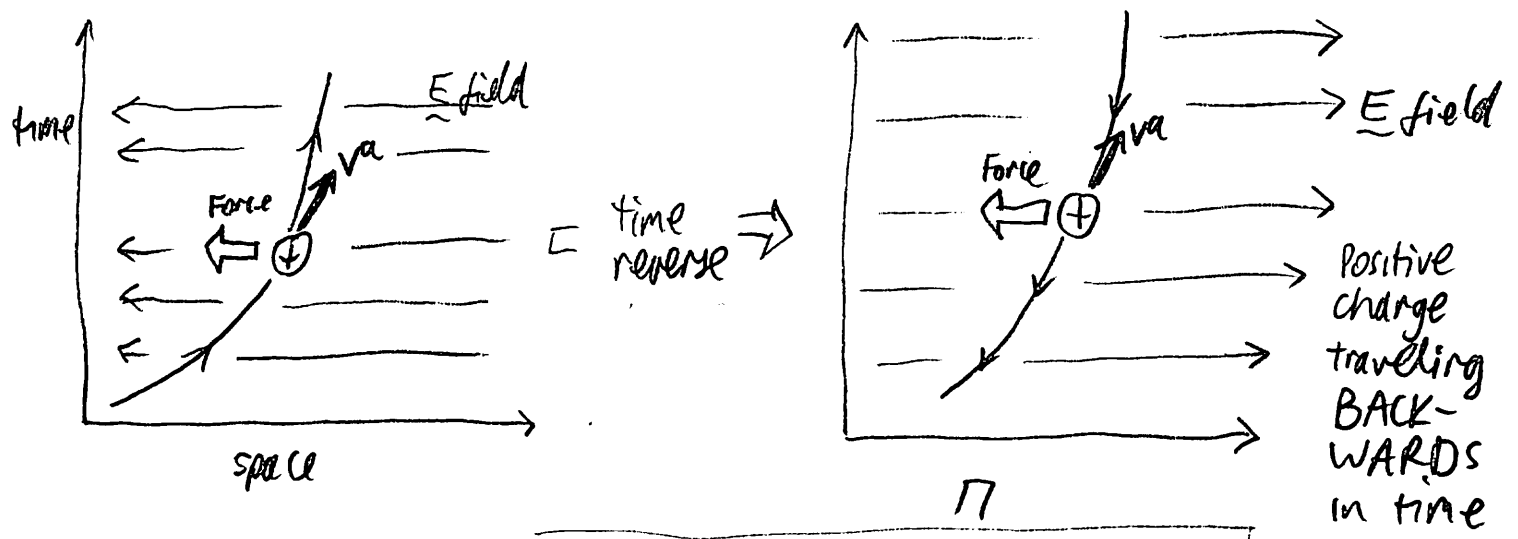
(B) $\rightarrow T_{AG}$

... same results from 4-0 formalism

$F^a = q F^a_b v^b$ (A) T flips sign of F^a_b, v^b

(B) T flips sign of q, v^b

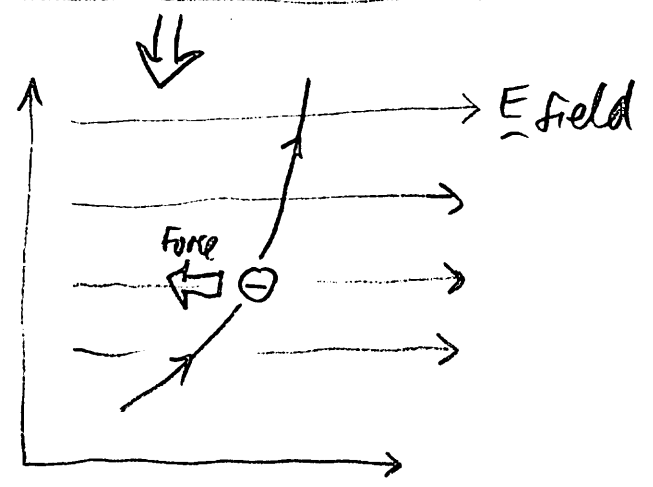
Feynman Rationale



Reinterpret

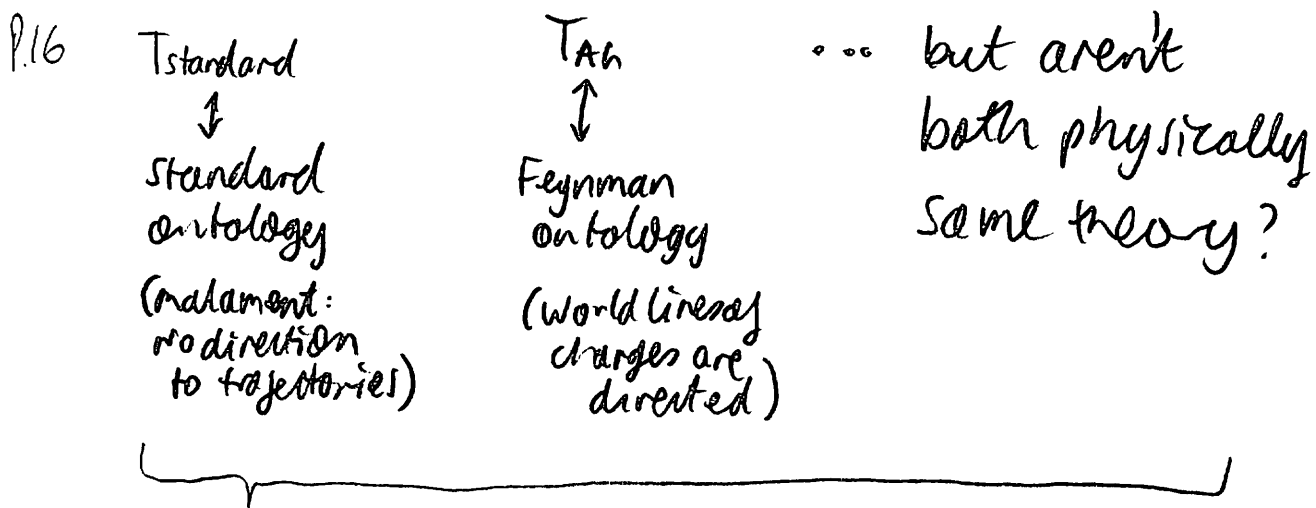
\oplus charge traveling BACKWARDS in time \equiv \ominus charge traveling FORWARDS in time

JDN
 i'm not sure how this works. Somehow it assures us that \ominus is just \oplus going "backwards in time".
 I am more assured by computing directly that T_{AG} is a symmetry of Maxwell's theory



Which is the Right One?

AG: Time reversal transformation
 P4. fixed by geometric structures of theory.
 Different transformation \Rightarrow Different theory



AG's resolution:
 Difference between ontologies is only apparent, purely conventional.

JDN: This idea seems right, but the implementation is opaque to me

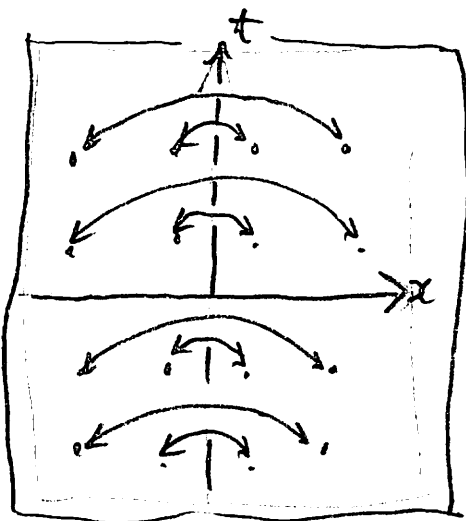
Norton's take

(maybe same as A.G.)

Geometric structure
does fix
discrete symmetries

... but possibly not
uniquely

Trivial example. Parity in 2-D Minkowski spacetime

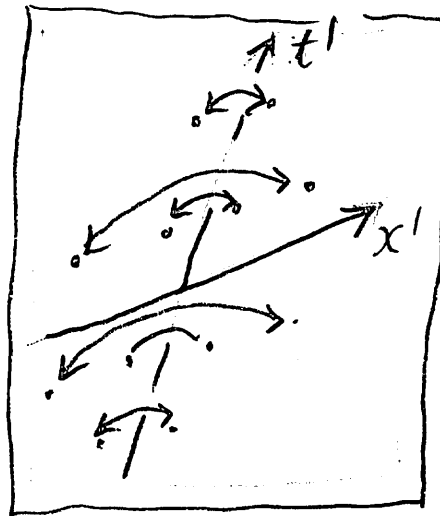


$$P: (x, t) \rightarrow (-x, t)$$

(Restricted)

Lorentz
transformation

(x, t) ,
 (x', t')
related
by
Lorentz
transform.



$$P': (x', t') \rightarrow (-x', t')$$

P, P'
are
parity
expressed
in
different
frames

$$L: \begin{matrix} (x, t) & \rightarrow & (x, t) \\ \text{in 1st} & & \text{in 2nd} \\ \text{coord syst} & & \text{coord system} \end{matrix}$$

i.e. active boost
relates points
with same coord.
in the two coord.
systems

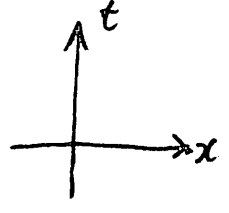
P and P' are different transformations.

But they both express parity invariance of a Minkowski spacetime, since they are connected by a transformation L which leaves parity undisturbed

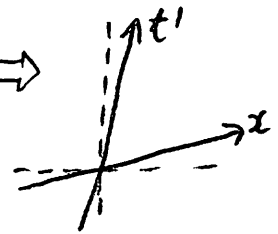
$$P = L^{-1} P' L$$

$$P = L^{-1} P' L$$

coordinate system S

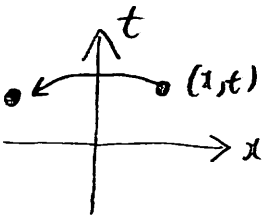


coordinate system S'

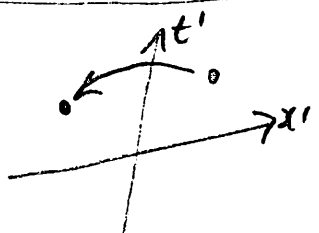


$$\begin{cases} x' = \gamma(x - vt) \\ t' = \gamma(t - \frac{v}{c^2}x) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

Define P, P', L as active boosts



$$P: \underbrace{(x, t)}_{\text{in } S} \rightarrow (-x, t)$$



$$P': \underbrace{(x', t')}_{\text{in } S'} \rightarrow (-x', t')$$

Active boost

$$\begin{aligned} L: x &\rightarrow \bar{x} = \gamma(x + vt) \\ t &\rightarrow \bar{t} = \gamma(t + \frac{v}{c^2}x) \end{aligned}$$

Key properties
 L: Point \rightarrow L Point
 coords coords
 in S in S'
 ↖ same ↗

compute $L^{-1} P' L$ for point (x, T) in S

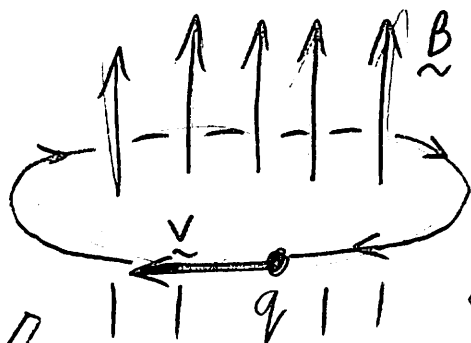
$$L: \underbrace{(x, T)}_{\text{in } S} \xrightarrow{L} \underbrace{(x, T)}_{\text{in } S'} \downarrow P'$$

$$P' L: \underbrace{(x, T)}_{\text{in } S} \rightarrow \underbrace{(-x, T)}_{\text{in } S'} \downarrow L^{-1} \text{ via key property}$$

$$L^{-1} P' L: \underbrace{(x, T)}_{\text{in } S} \rightarrow \underbrace{(-x, T)}_{\text{in } S'}$$

But this is just P

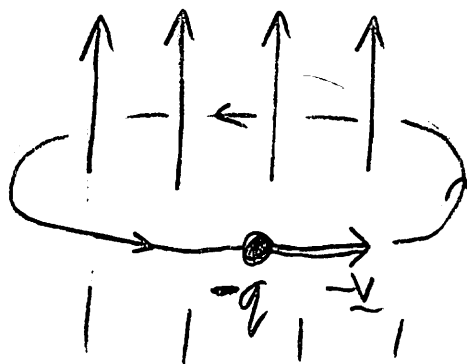
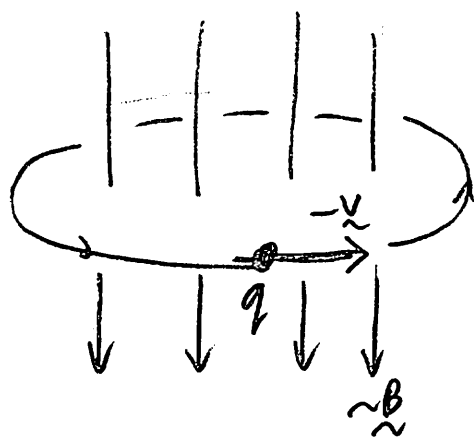
Electrodynamics admits two different time reversal symmetries



If it is OK to flip \underline{B} in T , why not flip q in TAG ?

Standard T

TAG



degrees freedom associated with time

Connected by charge conjugation

degrees freedom not associated with time

$$q \leftrightarrow -q$$

A transformation unrelated to time reversal

Also symmetry of the theory

must reset something here to get T invariant.

Charge conjugation Symmetry of Maxwell theory

Two types of charges.
Choose conventionally
which is "positive"
This choice is encoded in
sign of $\underline{E} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underline{E}/q$

switch
"positive"
& "negative"

↓
switch
sign on \underline{E}

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{E} &= \rho & \underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{B} &= 0 \\ \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{E} &= -\frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} & \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{B} &= \frac{\partial \underline{E}}{\partial t} + \underline{j} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \underline{U} \xrightarrow{C} \underline{U} \\ \underline{j} \xrightarrow{C} -\underline{j} \\ \underline{E} \xrightarrow{C} -\underline{E} \\ \underline{B} \xrightarrow{C} -\underline{B} \\ \rho \xrightarrow{C} -\rho \\ q \xrightarrow{C} -q \\ \underline{\nabla} \longrightarrow \underline{\nabla} \\ t \longrightarrow t \end{array}$$

compare earlier

$$T_{\text{standard}} = C T_{AG}$$

$$T_{AG} = C T_{\text{standard}}$$

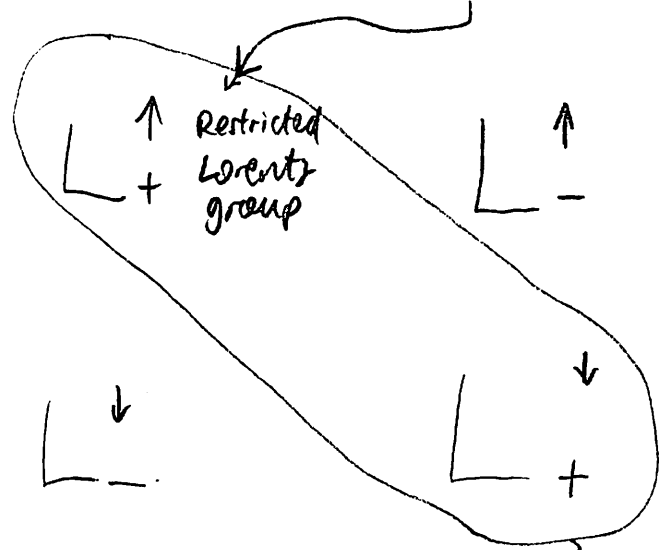
Second Problem
 Why should proper Lorentz symmetry extend at all?

The extension is due to which Lagrangians are admissible: NONE can pick out a preferred direction of time

Hilary Greaves, "Towards a geometrical understanding of the CPT theorem"

Full Lorentz group divides into four isomorphic sectors

(L_+^{\uparrow})
 only here are transform. continuously connected to identity

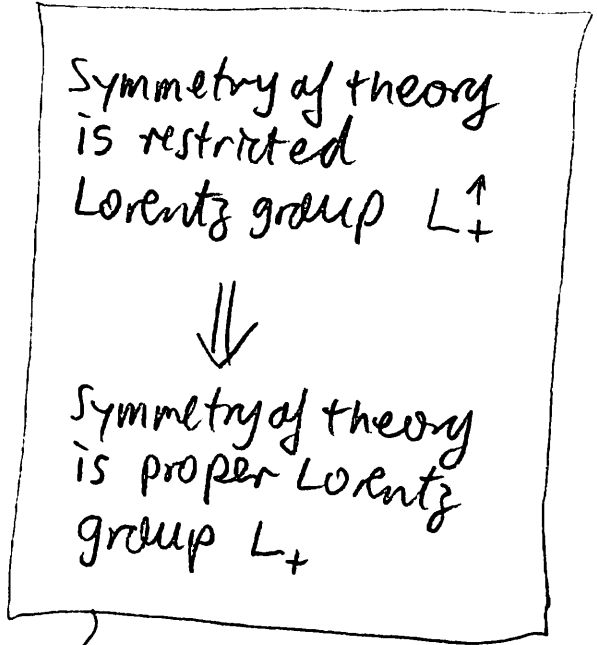


\uparrow = Preserves time sense
 $+$ = Determinant +1
 $\therefore -$ = reversed handedness of vierbein

Proper Lorentz group
 L_+

CLASSICAL THEOREM

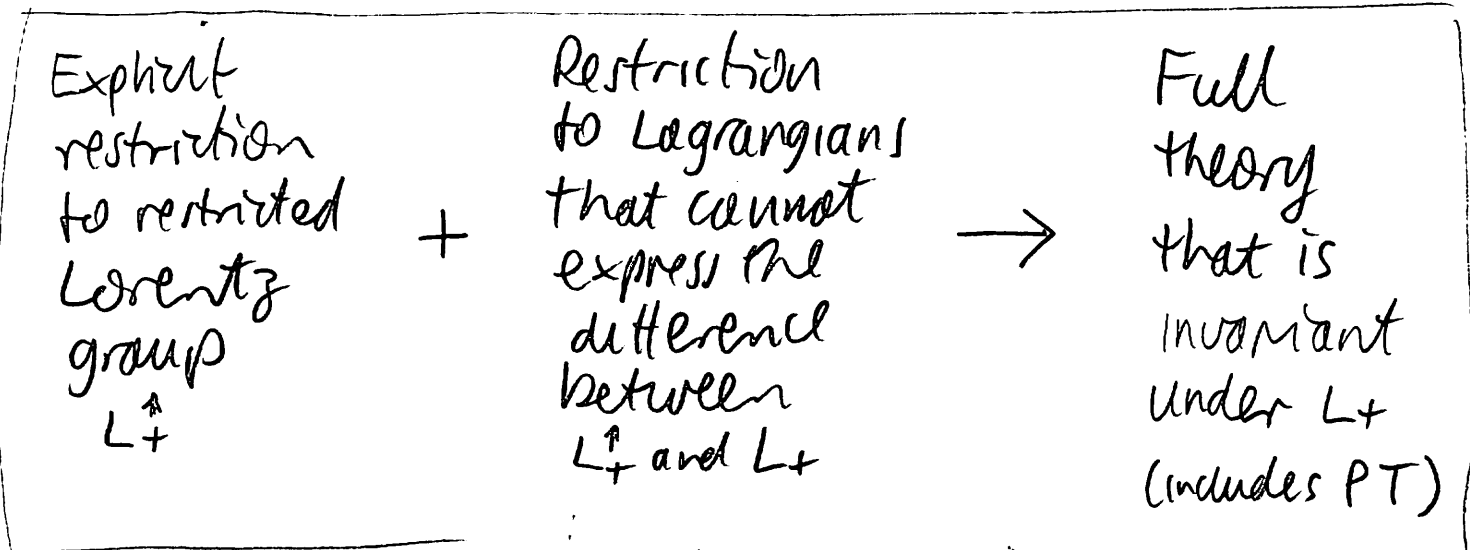
If CPT is really just PT then \therefore PT theorem says:



L_+ contains

$$\left. \begin{array}{l}
 PT: t \rightarrow -t \\
 x \rightarrow -x \\
 y \rightarrow -y \\
 z \rightarrow -z
 \end{array} \right\} P$$


Det = +1




- By conditions:
1. Dynamical fields are tensors
 2. Dynamical equations are partial differential equations that are local polynomials in the fields & their derivatives.

P.22 Footnote: No tensor can pick out a direction of time : "any tensor invariant under L_+^{\uparrow} is invariant under L_+ "

Plausibility: Pick out time direction by:

-  selecting future lobe of lightcone?

Not a tensor

- Pick out single time-like vector field 

Too specific. T^a is not invariant under L_+^{\uparrow}

- Pick out all vector fields in future light cone



Not introduced by differential equations

Drop conditions 1, 2,
& new theorem breaks

p.18

15

e.g. Base theory on pseudoscalar ϕ
Flips sign under PT

"Theory" $\phi=1$ is not PT invariant

e.g. Theory with field equation

$$\begin{array}{c} \nearrow \psi \chi - \psi = 0 \\ \text{scalar} \quad \nwarrow \text{pseudoscalar} \end{array}$$

JON
Presumably
none of
these are
recoverable
from a
scalar
Lagrangian

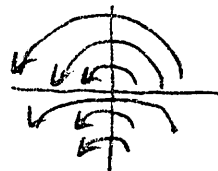
VERY TOY ILLUSTRATION

A P-theorem for 2D Euclidean geometry

Ordinary
two dimensional
Euclidean
geometry is
invariant
under
spatial
rotations

$$R = R_+ + R_-$$

Full group of rotations
Proper rotations
Det = 1
Improper
= Rotation +
Parity switch




Set up geometry as:

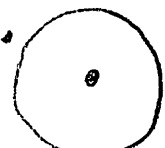
Requirement
of proper
rotational
symmetry

+

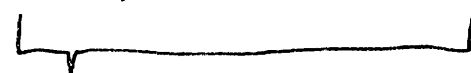
Euclid's postulates

1.  Always draw straight line between two points

⋮

3.  circle of any center and radius

⋮



Cannot distinguish
proper & improper
rotation

= Geometry
invariant
under
full rotation
group

↑
Outcome of
the
"Parity
Theorem"

Break theorem with:

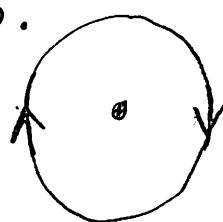
Requirement of proper rotational symmetry

+

Augmented Euclid's postulates

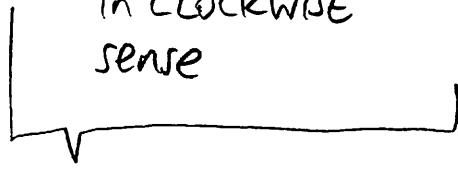
⋮

3*



circle of any center & radius

circumference is DIRECTED line in CLOCKWISE sense



=

Geometry invariant under proper rotation only

invariant under proper rotation only!