Lecture 1: Quantum free scalar field theory

1.1. Starting from the commutation relations for the ladder operators, show that $[\phi(x), \phi(y)] = 0$ if (x - y) is space-like. This is the so-called *microcausality* property of the free scalar field.

Solution: Starting with the definition of the quantum scalar field,

$$\phi(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 E(p)} \left[a(p)e^{-iE(p)x_0 + ipx} + a(p)^{\dagger} e^{-iE(p)x_0 - ipx} \right]$$
(1)

and the commutation relations,

$$[a(p), a(q)^{\dagger}] = 2E(\mathbf{p})(2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(p-q),$$
 (2)

$$[a(p), a(q)] = [a(p)^{\dagger}, a(q)^{\dagger}] = 0,$$
 (3)

we can write the commutator of the scalar field as

$$[\phi(x),\phi(y)] = \int \frac{d^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{p})} \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{q})} \times \left\{ \left[\underline{a(p)e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx}a(q)e^{-iE(q)y_{0}+iqy}} + a(p)e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx}a(q)^{\dagger}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy} \right. \\ \left. + a(p)^{\dagger}e^{iE(p)x_{0}-ipx}a(q)e^{-iE(q)y_{0}+iqy} + \underline{a(p)^{\dagger}e^{iE(p)x_{0}-ipx}a(q)^{\dagger}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy}} \right]$$
(4)
$$- \left[\underline{a(\mathbf{q})e^{-iE(\mathbf{q})y_{0}+iqu}a(p)e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx}} + a(q)e^{-iE(q)y_{0}+iqy}a(p)^{\dagger}e^{iE(p)y_{0}-ipx} \right. \\ \left. + a(q)^{\dagger}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy}a(p)e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx} + \underline{a(q)^{\dagger}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy}a(p)^{\dagger}e^{iE(p)x_{0}-ipx}} \right] \right\}$$

$$= \int \frac{d^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{p})} \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{q})} \times \\ \left. \left\{ [a(p),a(q)^{\dagger}]e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy} - [a(q),a(p)^{\dagger}]e^{iE(p)x_{0}-ipx}e^{-iE(q)y_{0}+iqy} \right\} \right.$$
(5)
$$= \int \frac{d^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{p})} \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{q})} (2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{p}) \delta^{(3)}(p-q) \times \\ \left. \left\{ e^{-iE(p)x_{0}+ipx}e^{iE(q)y_{0}-iqy} - e^{iE(p)x_{0}-ipx}e^{-iE(q)y_{0}+iqy} \right\} \right.$$
(6)
$$[\phi(x),\phi(y)] = \int \frac{d^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}2E(\mathbf{p})} \left[e^{-ip\cdot(x-y)} - e^{ip\cdot(x-y)} \right]$$
(7)

This is a Lorentz-invariant object, so to check if it vanishes for all space-like separations, we can evaluate it at one space-like vector; all are equivalent. Choose a frame where $x^0 = y^0 \implies x - y = z = (0, \mathbf{z})$. In this frame, you can see that the integral will vanish.

1.2. Prove that the components of the four-momentum operator commute with each other.

Solution: The four-momentum operator is

$$P^{\mu} = \int d^3x \, T^{0\mu}(x_0, \boldsymbol{x}),\tag{8}$$

where $T^{\mu\nu}$ is the energy-momentum tensor,

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \partial^{\mu}\phi\partial^{\nu}\phi - g^{\mu\nu}\left(\frac{1}{2}\partial_{\rho}\phi\partial^{\rho}\phi - \frac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi^{2}\right) - \epsilon_{0}g^{\mu\nu} = \partial^{\mu}\phi\partial^{\nu}\phi - g^{\mu\nu}\mathcal{L}(x) - \epsilon_{0}g^{\mu\nu}, \quad (9)$$

for some arbitary constant ϵ_0 and the Lagrangian density

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\rho} \phi \partial^{\rho} \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2. \tag{10}$$

We want to show that

$$[P^{\mu}, P^{\nu}] = 0. \tag{11}$$

First, recall the canonical momentum

$$\pi(x) = \partial_0 \phi(x) \tag{12}$$

and its equal-time commutation relations with ϕ

$$[\phi(t, \boldsymbol{x}), \pi(t, \boldsymbol{y})] = i\delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}), \tag{13}$$

$$[\pi(t, \boldsymbol{x}), \pi(t, \boldsymbol{y})] = 0. \tag{14}$$

Now we expand the commutation of the four-momentum operator:

$$[P^{\mu}, P^{\nu}] = \left[\int d^3x \, T^{0\mu}(x_0, \boldsymbol{x}), \int d^3y \, T^{0\nu}(y_0, \boldsymbol{y}) \right]$$

$$= \int d^3x \, d^3y \, \left\{ \left[\left(\pi(x) \partial^{\mu} \phi(x) - g^{0\mu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\rho} \phi(x) \partial^{\rho} \phi(x) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2(x) \right) + \epsilon_{\theta} g^{0\mu} \right) \right.$$

$$\times \left(\pi(y) \partial^{\nu} \phi(y) - g^{0\nu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\lambda} \phi(y) \partial^{\lambda} \phi(y) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2(y) \right) + \epsilon_{\theta} g^{0\nu} \right) \right]$$

$$- \left[\left(\pi(y) \partial^{\nu} \phi(y) - g^{0\nu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\lambda} \phi(y) \partial^{\lambda} \phi(y) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2(y) \right) + \epsilon_{\theta} g^{0\nu} \right) \right]$$

$$\times \left(\pi(x) \partial^{\mu} \phi(x) - g^{0\mu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\rho} \phi(x) \partial^{\rho} \phi(x) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2(x) \right) + \epsilon_{\theta} g^{0\mu} \right) \right] \right\}$$

$$(15)$$

where the ϵ_0 term cancels trivially.

$$[P^{\mu}, P^{\nu}] = \int d^3x \, d^3y \left\{ [\pi(x)\partial^{\mu}\phi(x), \pi(y)\partial^{\nu}\phi(y)] + [g^{0\mu}\mathcal{L}(x), g^{0\nu}\mathcal{L}(y)] + [\pi(x)\partial^{\mu}\phi(x), g^{0\nu}\mathcal{L}(y)] + [g^{0\mu}\mathcal{L}(x), \pi(y)\partial^{\nu}\phi(y)] \right\}$$

$$(17)$$

where we have now compressed the energy-momentum tensor contribution of the Lagrangian density, and since the Lagrangian density trivially commutes with itself we have already cancelled this term. Let's look at separate cases of μ, ν :

 \blacktriangleright Case 1, $\mu, \nu \rightarrow i, j \neq 0$:

$$[P^i, P^j] = \int d^3x \, d^3y \left[\pi(x) \partial^i \phi(x), \pi(y) \partial^j \phi(y) \right]$$
 (18)

since the metric tensor will remove the Lagrangian in this case. Then we can use the Leibniz rule,

$$[AB, CD] = A[B, C]D + AC[B, D] + [A, C]DB + C[A, D]B,$$
(19)

to expand as

$$[P^{i}, P^{j}] = \int d^{3}x \, d^{3}y \left\{ \pi(x) [\partial^{i}\phi(x), \pi(y)] \partial^{j}(\phi(y) + \pi(x)\pi(y) [\underline{\partial^{i}\phi(x), \partial^{j}\phi(y)}] + [\underline{\pi(x), \pi(y)}] \partial^{i}\phi(x) \partial^{j}\phi(y) + \pi(y) [\underline{\pi(x), \partial^{j}\phi(y)}] \partial^{j}\phi(x) \right\}$$
(20)

where we see that two commutators are simply zero. The remaining commutators are found using the identity

$$[\partial^{i}\phi(x), \pi(y)] = i\partial^{i}\delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}) \tag{21}$$

leading to

$$[P^{i}, P^{j}] = \int d^{3}x \, d^{3}y \left\{ i\pi(x)\partial^{i}\delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})\partial^{j}\phi(y) - i\pi(y)\partial^{j}\delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})\partial^{i}\phi(x) \right\}. \tag{22}$$

The integral of a derivative of a delta function with some test function is given by

$$\int d^3y \,\partial^i \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}) f(\boldsymbol{y}) = -\partial^i f(\boldsymbol{x})$$
(23)

and so the commutator becomes

$$[P^i, P^j] = i \int d^3x \left\{ -\pi(x)\partial^i \partial^j \phi(x) + \pi(x)\partial^j \partial^i \phi(x) \right\} = 0.$$
 (24)

► Case 2, $\mu = 0, \nu = i$: When $\mu = 0, P^0$ becomes the Hamiltonian:

$$P^{0} = \int d^{3}x \left\{ \partial^{0}\phi \partial^{0}\phi - \left(\frac{1}{2}\partial_{\rho}\phi \partial^{\rho}\phi - \frac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi^{2}\right) - \epsilon_{0} \right\}$$
 (25)

$$= \int d^3x \left\{ \partial^0 \phi \partial^0 \phi - \frac{1}{2} \partial^0 \phi \partial^0 \phi + \frac{1}{2} \partial^i \phi \partial^j \phi + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \epsilon_0 \right\}$$
 (26)

$$= \int d^3x \left\{ \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\nabla\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \epsilon_0 \right\} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}$$
 (27)

So then the commutator is

$$[\hat{\mathcal{H}}, P^i] = \left[\int d^3x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \epsilon_0 \right\}, \int d^3y \, \pi(y) \partial^j \phi(y) \right]$$
(28)

Let's take this term by term:

 \rightarrow Term 1:

$$\left[\frac{1}{2}\pi^{2}(x), \pi(y)\partial^{i}\phi(y)\right] = \frac{1}{2}\pi(x)\left[\pi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(y) + \frac{1}{2}\pi(x)\pi(y)\left[\pi(x), \partial^{i}\phi(y)\right] + \frac{1}{2}\left[\pi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(y)\pi(x) + \frac{1}{2}\pi(y)\left[\pi(x), \partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]\pi(x) \quad (29)$$

Now perform the integral:

$$\frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \, d^3y \left\{ \pi(x)\pi(y)[\pi(x), \partial^i \phi(y)] + \pi(y)[\pi(x), \partial^i \phi(y)]\pi(x) \right\}$$

$$= -\frac{i}{2} \int d^3x \, d^3y \, \left[\pi(x)\pi(y) + \pi(y)\pi(x) \right] \partial^i \delta(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})$$

$$= \frac{i}{2} \int d^3x \, \partial^i (\pi(x)^2) = 0.$$
(31)

→ Term 2:

$$\left[\frac{1}{2}(\nabla\phi(x))^{2}, \pi(y)\partial^{i}\phi(y)\right] = \frac{1}{2}\left[\partial^{j}\phi(x)\partial^{j}\phi(x), \pi(x)\partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left\{\partial^{j}\phi(x)\left[\partial^{j}\phi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(x) + \partial^{j}\phi(x)\pi(y)\left[\partial^{j}\phi(x), \partial^{j}\phi(y)\right] \right.$$

$$\left. + \left[\partial^{j}\phi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(y)\partial^{j}\phi(x) + \pi(y)\left[\partial^{j}\phi(x), \partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]\partial^{j}\phi(x)\right\}$$

$$= i\nabla\phi(x)\cdot\nabla\delta^{(3)}(x-y)\partial^{i}\phi(y)$$

$$(34)$$

Now integrating this result,

$$\int d^3x \, d^3y \, i\partial^j \phi(x) \cdot \partial^j \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}) \partial^i \phi(y) = -i \int d^3x \, \partial^j \left(\partial^j \phi(x) \partial^i \phi(x) \right) = 0 \quad (35)$$

→ Term 3:

$$\left[\frac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi^{2}(x), \pi(y)\partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]$$

$$= \left\{\frac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi(x)\left[\phi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(y) + \frac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi(x)\pi(y)\left[\phi(x), \partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]\right\}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}m^{2}\left[\phi(x), \pi(y)\right]\partial^{i}\phi(y)(\phi(x) + \frac{1}{2}m^{2}\pi(y)\left[\phi(x), \partial^{i}\phi(y)\right]\phi(x)\right\}$$

$$= im^{2}\phi(x)\partial^{i}\phi(y)\delta^{(3)}(x - y)$$
(37)

Now integrating,

$$\int d^3x \, d^3y \, im^2 \phi(x) \partial^i \phi(y) \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}) = im^2 \int d^3x \, \phi(x) \partial^i \phi(x) = 0 \qquad (38)$$

- ➤ Term 4 trivally commutes
- 1.3. Prove that the operators \mathbb{P}_n are mutually orthogonal projectors on the *n*-particle sector of the Fock space.

Solution: We want to show that

$$\mathbb{P}_n^2 = \mathbb{P}_n,\tag{39}$$

$$\mathbb{P}_n^{\dagger} = \mathbb{P}_n,\tag{40}$$

$$\mathbb{P}_n \mathbb{P}_m = 0 \text{ for } n \neq m. \tag{41}$$

• Let $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{F}$, with

$$\mathbb{P}_n^2 = \mathbb{P}_n \mathbb{P}_n = \left(\frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_n | p_1, \dots, p_n \rangle \langle p_1, \dots, p_n | \right)^2$$
(42)

$$= \frac{1}{(n!)^2} \int d\Pi_n \, d\Pi'_n | p_1, \dots, p_n \rangle \langle p_1, \dots, p_n | p'_1, \dots, p'_n \rangle \langle p'_1, \dots, p'_n |. \tag{43}$$

Using the orthonormality of the *n*-particle states, the inner product gives us

$$\langle p_1, \dots, p_n | p'_1, \dots, p'_n \rangle = n! \prod_{k=1}^n (2\pi)^3 2E(\mathbf{p}_k) \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p}_k - \mathbf{p}'_k).$$
 (44)

Then,

$$\mathbb{P}_{n}^{2} = \frac{1}{(n!)^{2}} \int d\Pi_{n} d\Pi'_{n} | p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} \rangle \left[n! \prod_{k=1}^{n} (2\pi)^{3} 2E(\boldsymbol{p}_{k}) \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{p}_{k} - \boldsymbol{p}'_{k}) \right] \langle p'_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | \quad (45)$$

$$= \frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_{n} | p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} \rangle \langle p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | = \mathbb{P}_{n}. \quad (46)$$

• Take the Hermitian conjugate of the projector:

$$\mathbb{P}_{n}^{\dagger} = \left(\frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_{n} | p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} \rangle \langle p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | \right)^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_{n} | p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} \rangle \langle p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | = \mathbb{P}_{n}.$$

$$(47)$$

• Knowing that the *n*-particle momentum eigenstates $|p_1, \ldots, p_n\rangle$ are normalised, then

$$\mathbb{P}_{n}\mathbb{P}_{m} = \left[\frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_{n} | p_{1} \dots, p_{n} \rangle \langle p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | \right] \left[\frac{1}{m!} \int d\Pi_{m} | q_{1} \dots, q_{n} \rangle \langle q_{1}, \dots, q_{n} | \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{n! m!} \int d\Pi_{n} d\Pi_{m} | p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} \rangle \langle p_{1}, \dots, p_{n} | q_{1}, \dots, q_{m} \rangle \langle q_{1}, \dots, q_{m} |$$
(48)

Since the Fock space is an orthogonal sum,

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}^{(n)},\tag{50}$$

the Hilbert spaces $\mathcal{H}^{(k)}$ of k-particle states are orthogonal to one another. Therefore the inner product in $\mathbb{P}_n\mathbb{P}_m$ must be 0:

$$\langle p_1, \dots, p_n | q_1, \dots, q_m \rangle = 0, \tag{51}$$

which therefore makes the whole expression 0.

1.4. Prove that the state $|p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\rangle$ are eigenstates of the four-momentum and calculate their eigenvalues.

Solution: An *n*-particle state is

$$|p_1, \dots, p_n\rangle = a^{\dagger}(p_1) \cdots a^{\dagger}(p_n) |\Omega\rangle$$
 (52)

and the four-momentum operator can be written

$$P = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 2E(\mathbf{p})} p \, a^{\dagger}(p) a(p). \tag{53}$$

It is trivial to show that

$$[P^{\mu}, a^{\dagger}(p)] = p^{\mu} a^{\dagger}(p), \tag{54}$$

and then we can see that acting on a single creation operator can be written as

$$P^{\mu}a^{\dagger}(p_1) = a^{\dagger}(p_1)P^{\mu} + p_1^{\mu}a^{\dagger}(p_1). \tag{55}$$

This relation can be applied recursively to a *n*-particle state, yielding

$$P^{\mu}|p_1,\dots,p_n\rangle = P^{\mu}a^{\dagger}(p_1)\cdots a^{\dagger}(p_n)|\Omega\rangle$$
(56)

$$= \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i^{\mu}\right) |p_1, \dots, p_n\rangle, \tag{57}$$

since $P^{\mu}|0\rangle = 0$.

1.5. Prove that

$$\{p_1 + p_2 \text{ s.t. } p_1, p_2 \in \mathcal{M}_1\} = \{p \in \mathbb{R}^4 \text{ s.t. } p^2 \ge (2m)^2 \text{ and } p_0 > 0\}.$$
 (58)

Solution: Reminder:

$$\mathcal{M}_1 = \{ p \in \mathbb{R}^4 \text{ s.t. } p^2 = m^2 \text{ and } p_0 > 0 \}.$$
 (59)

Let $p \in \mathbb{R}^4$ with $p^2 \ge (2m)^2$ and $p_0 > 0$. We need to find $p_1, p_2 \in \mathcal{M}_1$ such that $p = p_1 + p_2$. Choose the rest frame of p: define a Lorentz frame where $p = (p_0, \mathbf{0})$, and then $p_1 = (\frac{p_0}{2}, \mathbf{q})$ and $p_2 = (\frac{p_0}{2}, -\mathbf{q})$ such that $p = p_1 + p_2$. Then

$$p^{2} = (p_{1} + p_{2})^{2} = \left\{ \left(\sqrt{m^{2} + \mathbf{p}_{1}^{2}}, \mathbf{0} \right) + \left(\sqrt{m^{2} + \mathbf{p}_{2}^{2}}, \mathbf{0} \right) \right\}^{2}$$
(60)

$$= (2\sqrt{m^2 + q^2}, \mathbf{0})^2 = (2m)^2 + 4q^2, \quad q^2 > 0.$$
 (61)

1.6. Prove that the following operator

$$L^{\mu\nu} = \int d^3x \left[x^{\nu} T^{0\mu}(x) - x^{\mu} T^{0\nu}(x) \right]$$
 (62)

does not depend on x^0 and that it generates Lorentz transformations on the field $\phi(x)$. In particular, for any real matrix $\omega_{\mu\nu}$ satisfying $\omega_{\mu\nu} - \omega_{\nu\mu}$, show that:

$$e^{-\frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}L^{\mu\nu}}\phi(x)e^{\frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}L^{\mu\nu}} = \phi(\Lambda^{-1}x)$$
(63)

where $\Lambda = e^{\omega}$ is a Lorentz transformation.

Solution: To show that $L^{\mu\nu}$ does not depend on x^0 , we want

$$\frac{d}{dx^0}L^{\mu\nu}(x^0) = 0 (64)$$

$$= \int d^3x \, \left[x^{\nu} \partial_0 T^{0\mu}(x) - x^{\mu} \partial_0 T^{0\nu}(x) \right]. \tag{65}$$

The energy-momentum tensor satisfies local conservation $\partial_{\lambda}T^{\lambda\mu}=0$, in particular

$$\partial_0 T^{0\mu} = -\partial_i T^{i\mu},\tag{66}$$

and thus

$$\frac{d}{dx^0}L^{\mu\nu}(x^0) = -\int d^3x \left[x^{\nu}\partial_i T^{i\mu} - x^{\mu}\partial_i T^{i\nu} \right]. \tag{67}$$

Now we perform IBP on each term:

$$\int d^3x \, x^{\nu} \partial_i T^{i\mu} = \int d^3x \, \partial_i (x^{\nu} T^{i\mu}) - \int d^3x \, \partial_i^{\nu} T^{i\mu} = -\int d^3x \, T^{\nu\mu}, \tag{68}$$

where we can set the surface term to 0. Substituting back in, we find

$$\frac{d}{dx^0}L^{\mu\nu}(x^0) = \int d^3x \, T^{\nu\mu} - \int d^3x \, T^{\mu\nu} = 0. \tag{69}$$

Since the energy-momentum tensor is symmetric, i.e. $T^{\mu\nu} = T^{\nu\mu}$, the two terms cancel.

To show that $L^{\mu\nu}$ generates Lorentz transformations of a field $\phi(x)$, we aim to write

$$\delta\phi(x) = \frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}[L^{\mu\nu}, \phi(x)] = -\omega^{\mu\nu}x_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}\phi(x), \tag{70}$$

which is the infinitesimal Lorentz transformation of $\phi(x)$.

An infinitesimal Lorentz transformation acts on spacetime coordinates as

$$x^{\mu} \to x^{'\mu} = x^{\mu} + \omega^{\mu}_{\ \nu} x^{\nu} \tag{71}$$

where $\omega^{\mu\nu} = -\omega^{\nu\mu}$ are the infinitesimal antisymmetric parameters of the Lorentz group. Under this transformation, a scalar field $\phi(x)$ transforms as

$$\phi(x) \to \phi'(x) = \phi(\Lambda^{-1}x) \approx \phi(x - \omega x) = \phi(x) - \omega^{\mu\nu} x_{\nu} \partial_{\mu} \phi(x)$$
 (72)

So the variation in ϕ is

$$\delta\phi(x) = \phi'(x) - \phi(x) = -\omega^{\mu\nu} x_{\nu} \partial_{\mu} \phi(x) \tag{73}$$

• We can write the commutator identity

$$[T^{0\mu}(y), \phi(x)] = -i\partial^{\mu}\phi(x)\delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}), \tag{74}$$

which tells us that $T^{0\mu}(y)$ generates translations in the x^{μ} direction.

• Now we want to commute the commutator of $L^{\mu\nu}$ with ϕ :

$$[L^{\mu\nu}(y), \phi(x)] = \int d^3y \left\{ x^{\nu} \left[T^{0\mu}(y), \phi(x) \right] - x^{\mu} \left[T^{0\nu}(y), \phi(x) \right] \right\}$$
 (75)

$$= -i \int d^3y \, \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}) \, \left[x^{\nu} \partial^{\mu} \phi(x) - x^{\mu} \partial^{\nu} \phi(x) \right]$$
 (76)

$$= -i \left(x^{\nu} \partial^{\mu} \right) - x^{\mu} \partial^{\nu} \right) \phi(x \tag{77}$$

• Now we can recover the transformation:

$$\delta\phi(x) = \frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu} \left[L^{\mu\nu}, \phi(x) \right] = \frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu} \left[-i \left(x^{\nu} \partial^{\mu} - x^{\mu} \partial^{\nu} \right) \phi(x) \right]$$
 (78)

$$= \frac{1}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu} \left(x^{\nu}\partial^{\mu} - x^{\mu}\partial^{\nu}\right)\phi(x) = -\omega^{\mu\nu}x_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}\phi(x) \tag{79}$$

We want to calculate

$$e^{-\frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}L^{\mu\nu}}\phi(x)e^{\frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}L^{\mu\nu}}.$$
 (80)

We can use the BCH identity

$$e^{A}Be^{-A} = B + [A, B] + \frac{1}{2!}[A, [A, B]] + \dots,$$
 (81)

where in our case $A = -\frac{i}{2}\omega_{\mu\nu}L^{\mu\nu}$. So

$$e^{A}\phi(x)e^{-A} = \phi(x) + [A,\phi(x)] + \frac{1}{2!}[A,[A,\phi(x)]] + \dots,$$
 (82)

but this is just the Taylor expansion of $\phi(\Lambda^{-1}x)$ since

$$\delta\phi(x) = -\omega^{\mu\nu}x_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}\phi(x) \tag{83}$$

is the infinitesimal shift under $x \to x' = \Lambda^{-1} x$.