

# The Coleman-Mandula Theorem [M.F. Sohnius, Phys. Rep. 128 (1988) 39-204]

Assumptions: Given a local<sup>1)</sup>, relativistic QFT with a non-trivial S-matrix<sup>2)</sup> and with a unique massless ground state<sup>3)</sup> as well as a finite gap to the 1st excited one-particle state:

\* Then the maximal symmetry under coordinate transformations given by the Poincaré-group with algebra

$$[P_\mu, P_\nu] = 0, \quad [P_\mu, M_{\rho\sigma}] = \gamma_{\mu\rho} P_\sigma - \gamma_{\mu\sigma} P_\rho$$

$$[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\rho\sigma}] = \gamma_{\nu\rho} M_{\mu\sigma} - \gamma_{\nu\sigma} M_{\mu\rho} - \gamma_{\mu\rho} M_{\nu\sigma} + \gamma_{\mu\sigma} M_{\nu\rho}$$

where  $P_\nu (= i\partial_\nu)$  is the 4-momentum

$M_{\mu\nu}$  are the angular momentum and boost (Lorentz transformations) generators

\* all possible inner (bosonic =) symmetries are described by Lie-groups (= "continuous") (e.g.  $SU(2)$ ) with algebra

$$[B_n, B_s] = i f_{ns} B_\epsilon \quad \text{which do not mix}$$

with the Poincaré algebra (= are an inner product with it)

$$[B_n, P_\mu] = 0 = [B_n, M_{\mu\nu}]$$

That implies that these 2 symmetry classes (GR: general relativity ↔ SM:  $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ ) cannot be unified into a larger symmetry group (in a non-trivial way) containing both as a subgroup!

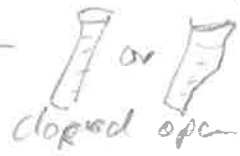
where 2) S-matrix means

$S_{fi} = \langle \text{final} | \text{initial} \rangle$  is trivial if always  $\sim \delta_{fi}$

in general  $\langle f | i \rangle$  are represented by plane waves at  $t = \pm \infty$   
with time evolution (in QM)  $|t, \text{state}\rangle = e^{-iH(t-t_0)} |t_0, \text{state}\rangle$   
in the Schrödinger picture. One- or multi-particle states  
are obtained by applying creation operators to the vacuum

exceptions:

\* to 1) locality: this concept is given up e.g. in string theory with a smaller spatial resolution  
 $\rightarrow$  allows a unified theory



\* to 3) for a degenerate vacuum (all one-particle states are massless) conformal sym. is allowed in addition  
to Poincaré as a coordinate transfo.  
But these 2 still don't mix with the inner sym!

\* Supersymmetry: the bosonic character of the generators  
is given up  $\rightarrow$  graded groups (Lie- $\mathfrak{r}$ )

fermionic Susy generators  $Q_{\alpha i}, Q_{\dot{\alpha} i}^{\dagger}$   $i = 1, \dots, \underline{N} = \# \text{ of super symmetries}$

super algebra:

$$\{ Q_{\alpha i}, Q_{\dot{\beta} j}^{\dagger} \} = 2 \delta_{ij} (\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} P_{\mu}$$

$$\{ Q_{\alpha i}, Q_{\beta j} \} = 2 \epsilon_{\alpha \beta} a_{ij}^r B_r \quad \text{etc.}$$

$\Rightarrow$  mix Fermions & Bosons,

mediated through the  $Q$ 's now  $P_{\mu}$  and  $B_r$  (and others)  
can mix  $\rightarrow$  unification is possible

# Conformal Symmetry [Lit: P. Ginsparg, hep-th/9108028] chapter 1

- example for non-trivial coordinate trafo
- generalises Poincaré-trafo (translate, rotate, boost) to angle preserving ones
- particularly important in 2 dim (1+1):  $\exists \infty$  many generators  
 $\rightarrow$  complete integrability, conformal field theory (CFT)
- important in models of gravity and the description of critical phenomena: close to phase transitions (2nd or higher order) the correlation length diverges  $\rightarrow$  theory has conformal sym (no scales)

## \* general infinitesimal coordinate trafo

$$x^\mu \rightarrow x'^\mu = x^\mu + \epsilon^\mu(x) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \quad \mu = 0, 1, \dots, d-1$$

in d space-time dim

(e.g.  $\epsilon^\mu(x) = a^\mu \text{ const}$  are translations)

## \* tensor transformation law for tensor of $n$ -th order

$$\boxed{\phi_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x) \rightarrow \phi'_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x') = \frac{\partial x^{\nu_1}}{\partial x'^{\mu_1}} \dots \frac{\partial x^{\nu_n}}{\partial x'^{\mu_n}} \phi_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}(x)}$$

e.g. • scalar  $\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x') = \phi(x)$  is invariant  
 Check inner sym: p. 8 with  $\bar{\Phi} = \phi$

• Vector  $A_\mu(x) \rightarrow A'_\mu(x') = \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x'^\mu} A_\nu(x)$  (this is a coordinate, not a gauge trafo)

tensor of 2nd order

e.g. • metric  $g_{\mu\nu}(x) \rightarrow g'_{\mu\nu}(x') = \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial x^\rho}{\partial x'^\nu} g_{\sigma\rho}(x) = g_{\mu\nu}(x) + \delta g_{\mu\nu}(x)$

it holds  $\frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\mu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x'^\mu} (x'^\sigma - \epsilon^\sigma(x)) = \delta_\mu^\sigma - \partial'_\mu \epsilon^\sigma(x) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$  drop' as of higher order

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\delta g_{\mu\nu}(x) = - (g_{\sigma\nu}^{(\mu)} \partial_\mu + g_{\mu\sigma}^{(\nu)} \partial_\nu) \epsilon^\sigma(x) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)}$$

assume  $g_{\mu\nu}(x) = g_{\nu\mu}(x)$

general infinites. coord trafo of metric

example scalar product among vectors

$$v \cdot w = v^\mu w^\nu g_{\mu\nu} = v^\mu w_\mu$$

is a scalar and invariant under coordinate trafo.

eg. translations  $E^M = a^M \text{ const} \rightarrow \frac{\partial x^S}{\partial x'^V} = \delta^S_V + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$

but also under rotations or Lorentz trafo

- Consider a specific class of trafo that is characterized through its action on the metric:

Weyl-transformation  $g_{\mu\nu}^{(w)} \rightarrow g'_{\mu\nu}(x') = \Omega(x) g_{\mu\nu}(x)$

or infinitesimally  $\Omega(x) = 1 + \omega(x)$ ,  $|\omega(x)| \ll 1$

so  $\boxed{\delta g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \omega(x) g_{\mu\nu}(x)}$  i.e. (for  $\omega > 0$  ( $< 0$ ))  
growing (shrinking)

- Weyl-trafo preserve the angle:

$$v \cdot w = \|v\| \cdot \|w\| \cdot \cos(\theta)$$

for  $v^\mu, w^\mu \neq \vec{0}$



norm  $\|v\|^2 = v \cdot v$

$\Rightarrow$  Weyl gives  $v \cdot v = v^\mu v^\nu g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Omega(x) v^\mu v^\nu g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega(x) \|v\|^2$

ditto  $v \cdot w \rightarrow \Omega v \cdot w$  and so finally

$\cos \theta = \frac{v \cdot w}{\|v\| \|w\|}$  is invariant

Def: A conformal trafo is any coordinate trafo, that acts on the metric as a Weyl trafo (incl. scale factor  $\Omega = 1$ )

this means  $E(x)$  satisfies  $\delta g_{\mu\nu}(x) = -(g_{\sigma\nu} \partial_\mu + g_{\sigma\mu} \partial_\nu) \epsilon^\sigma(x) = \omega(x) g_{\mu\nu}(x)$

• simplify with inverse metric  $g^{\mu\nu} g_{\nu\sigma} = \delta^\mu_\sigma$ ,  $a^\mu = g^{\mu\nu} a_\nu$

• let us express  $\omega(x)$  as a function of  $E^\mu(x)$ , and then obtain an equation that determines  $E^\mu(x)$  in order to qualify as conformal

$$g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} \cdot \delta g_{\mu\nu} : -(\delta_g^\beta \partial^\alpha + \delta_g^\alpha \partial^\beta) E^\beta(x) = g^{\alpha\beta} \omega(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -\partial^\alpha E^\beta(x) - \partial^\beta E^\alpha(x) = g^{\alpha\beta} \omega(x)$$

use that  $d = \text{Tr} \mathbb{1} = \text{Tr} g g^{-1} = g_{\alpha\beta} g^{\beta\alpha}$

$\Rightarrow$   $g_{\beta\alpha}$  gives  $-2 \partial_\beta E^\beta(x) = \omega(x) \cdot d$

$\Rightarrow$   $\partial^\alpha E^\beta(x) + \partial^\beta E^\alpha(x) = \frac{2}{d} (\partial_\gamma E^\gamma(x)) g^{\alpha\beta}$  (\*)

\* all infinitesimal trafo's  $E^\alpha(x)$  that solve this eq. are conformal trafo's!

\* distinguish  $d=1$  (trivial, why?),  $d=2$  and  $d>2$ :

$d>2$ : multiply (\*) with  $\partial_\sigma \partial_\alpha$  & assume that all  $\partial_\mu$  commute

$$\Rightarrow \partial_\sigma \partial_\alpha \partial^\alpha E^\beta(x) + (1 - \frac{2}{d}) \partial_\sigma \partial^\beta \partial_\alpha E^\alpha(x) = 0$$

one can show that this implies  $\partial^\mu g^{\nu\lambda} \partial^\sigma E^\sigma(x) = 0$

$\Rightarrow E^\mu(x)$  is at most quadratic in  $x^S$

• an Ansatz

$$E^\mu(x) = A^\mu + B^\mu_\nu x^\nu + C^\mu_{\nu\sigma} x^\nu x^\sigma$$

where the relation between the coefficients  $A, B, C$

and known as well as new trafo's is determined

in the exercises.