Contents

TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

Chapter I. QUANTUM MECHANICS OF THE PHOTON . . . 1

§ 1. The Wave Function of the Photon 1

(1) Introduction, 1. (2) Wave function of the photon in the space of wave vectors, 2. (3) Energy, 4. (4) Normalization, 5.

§ 2. Momentum Eigenstates of the Photon. 6

(1) Momentum operators of the photon, 6. (2) The impossibility of introducing photon wave functions in configuration space, 7. (3) Plane waves, 8.

§ 3. Angular Momentum. Spin of the Photon 9

(1) Angular momentum operators, 9. (2) Spin operators of the photon, 11. (3) Spin wave functions of the photon, 12.

§ 4. Angular Momentum and Parity Eigenstates of Photons . 15

(1) Eigenfunctions of the angular momentum operator of the photon, 15. (2) Longitudinal and transverse spherical vectors, 16. (3) Parity of photon states, 18. (4) Expansion in spherical waves, 20. (5) Expressions for the electric and magnetic fields, 21.

§ 5. Scattering of a Photon by a System of Charges. . . . 24

(1) Incoming and outgoing waves, 24. (2) Effective scattering cross section, 26. (3) The optical theorem, 28. (4) Dispersion relations, 29.

§ 6. Potentials of the Photon Field 31

(1) Transverse, longitudinal and scalar potentials, 31. (2) Longitudinally polarized photons, 32.

Chapter II. RELATIVISTIC THEORY OF THE ELECTRON. . 35

§ 7. The Dirac Equation 35

(1) Spinors and Pauli matrices, 35. (2) The Dirac equation and the Dirac matrices, 36. (3) Unitary transformations of the bispinor, 38. (4) Number of components of the electron wave function and inversion transformations, 39. (5) Symmetric form of the Dirac equation. The continuity equation, 40. (6) Invariance of the Dirac equation, 41. (7) Bilinear covariants, 43.

§ 8. Electron and Positron States. States of Definite Momentum and Polarization. 45

(1) Positive and negative frequency solutions, 45. (2) Charge conjugation, 47. (3) The positron wave function, 48. (4) Plane waves, 50. (5) Polarized plane waves, 51.

§ 9. Angular Momentum and Parity Eigenstates of the Electron 52
(1) Orbital and spin functions. Spherical spinors, 52. (2) Angular momentum eigenfunctions, 54. (3) Parity of a state, 56.

§ 10. The Electron in an External Field 57
(1) The Dirac equation in an external field, 57. (2) Separation of variables in a central field, 58. (3) The asymptotic behavior of radial functions, 60. (4) Level behavior as a function of the well depth, 60.

§ 11. The Nonrelativistic Limit 63
(1) Transition to the Pauli equation, 63.

Chapter III. THE QUANTIZED ELECTROMAGNETIC AND ELECTRON-POSITRON FIELDS 65

§ 12. Quantization of the Electromagnetic Field 65
(1) Four-dimensional form of the field equations, 65. (2) The variational principle. Energy-momentum tensor of the electromagnetic field, 67. (3) Plane wave expansion of the potentials, 70. (4) Quantization of the electromagnetic field, 71. (5) The indefinite metric, 75.

§ 13. Commutators of the Electromagnetic Field. 80
(1) Commutation relations for the potentials and field strengths, 80. (2) Chronological and normal products, 83. (3) Singular functions related to the operators $\Box$ and $\Box - m^2$, 87.

§ 14. Quantization of the Electron-Positron Field 93
(1) Variational principle for the Dirac equation. Energy-momentum tensor of the electron-positron field, 93. (2) Quantization of the electron-positron field, 95.

§ 15. Anticommutators of the Electron-Positron Field . . . 101
(1) Commutation relations for the field components, 101. (2) Chronological and normal products, 102. (3) The charge-current density, 105.

§ 16. General Properties of Wave Fields 107
(1) Wave functions of fields and the Lorentz group, 107. (2) Finite dimensional irreducible representations of the Lorentz group, 109. (3) The energy-momentum and angular momentum tensors, 113. (4) The current density vector, 117. (5) Relativistically invariant field equations, 118. (6) Wave equations for particles with zero and unit spin, 122.

§ 17. Field Quantization. Connection between Spin and Statistics 124
(1) The indefiniteness of charge for integral spins and of energy for half-integral spins, 124. (2) Field quantization for integral and half-integral spins. Pauli's theorem, 127. (3) Space inversion and time reversal, 129.

Chapter IV. FUNDAMENTAL EQUATIONS OF QUANTUM ELECTRODYNAMICS 135

§ 18. Interaction of Electromagnetic and Electron-Positron Fields 135

(1) The equations of interacting fields, 135. (2) The Lagrangian and the energy-momentum tensor, 137. (3) Poisson bracket expressions for the field equations, 139. (4) Invariance properties, 140.

§ 19. The Interaction Picture. Invariant Perturbation Theory 144

(1) Heissenberg and Schroedinger pictures; the interaction picture, 144. (2) Passage to the interaction picture, 146. (3) The charge conjugation operator, 150. (4) Perturbation theory, 153.

§ 20. The S-Matrix 157

(1) The scattering problem and the definition of the S-matrix, 157. (2) Matrix elements of the field operators, 158. (3) Representation of the S-matrix as a sum of normal products, 161. (4) General relation between T- and N-orderings, 163. (5) Symmetry of the S-matrix under time reversal, 165.

§ 21. Graphical Representation of S-Matrix Elements; the S-Matrix in Momentum Space 169

(1) Graphical representation of normal products, 169. (2) Interaction processes, 170. (3) Transition to momentum space, 174. (4) Furry's theorem, 178. (5) Rules for writing down the elements of the S-matrix, 179.

§ 22. Transition Probabilities 181

(1) General formula, 181. (2) Summation and averaging over electron and photon polarizations, 182.

Chapter V. THE SCATTERING MATRIX 186

§ 23. Properties of Exact Solutions of the Equations of Quantum Electrodynamics. Propagation Functions . . . 186

(1) Stationary states of the system of interacting fields, 186. (2) Propagation functions and their parametric representation, 189. (3) The relation between propagators and the S-matrix. Integral equations for propagators, 193. (4) Electromagnetic mass of the electron, 198.

§ 24. Structure of the S-Matrix 200

(1) Self-energy parts, 200. (2) Vertex parts, 204. (3) Renormalization of the electron mass, 207.

§ 25. Renormalization of the Electron Charge 209

(1) Physical charge of the electron, 209. (2) Renormalization of propagators and vertex parts, 210. (3) Three-photon vertex parts, 212. (4) Renormalization of matrix elements, 214. (5) Perturbation theory in powers of e_c, 215.

§ 26. Divergences in the S-Matrix and their Removal 218
(1) Divergences in irreducible diagrams, 218. (2) Introduction of the cut-off momentum, 219. (3) Convergence of regularized quantities for irreducible vertex and self-energy parts, 221. (4) Convergence of regularized quantities for reducible diagrams, 224.

§ 27. Calculation of Self-Energy and Vertex Parts 226
(1) Calculation of integrals over a four-dimensional region, 226. (2) The second-order electron self-energy part, 231. (3) The second-order photon self-energy part, 234. (4) The third-order vertex part for external electron lines, 236. (5) The third-order vertex part for a single external electron line, 240.

§ 28. Limits of Applicability of Quantum Electrodynamics. . 241
(1) The parameters of the perturbation expansion, 241. (2) The zeroeth approximation of the expansion in e^2, 243. (3) Integral equations for the zeroeth approximation, 246. (4) Functional properties of the propagators, 247. (5) The problem of closure of quantum electrodynamics, 248.

§ 29. Generalized Green's Functions 250
(1) Green's functions in the presence of external fields, 250. (2) Two-electron Green's function. The equation for bound states of the electron-positron system, 252. (3) Variational equations for the Green's functions, 254. (4) Functional integral expressions for Green's functions, 256.

APPENDIX

§ 30. Computational Aids. 261
(1) The polarization density matrix for photons, 261. (2) The polarization density matrix for electrons, 263. (3) Polarization sums and averages, 268.

§ 31. Scattering of a Photon by a Free Electron 271
(1) The S-matrix element, 271. (2) Application of the conservation laws, 272. (3) Invariance of the scattering cross section, 273. (4) The differential cross section for unpolarized particles, 274. (5) Angular distribution and total cross section, 277.

§ 32. Bremsstrahlung. 280
(1) Perturbation theory for the continuum wave function of the electron, 280. (2) Effective bremsstrahlung cross section, 283. (3) Angular distribution of radiation in the Coulomb field, 287. (4) The emission spectrum, 288.

§ 33. Emission of Long-Wavelength Photons 290
(1) The "infrared catastrophe", 290. (2) Study of the divergence in the low frequency region with the help of the S-matrix, 294. (3) The relation between the photon "mass" and the minimum frequency, 297.