

Charge & current densities

Klein-Gordon eqⁿ for a free particle is given by :-

$$\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \psi = 0$$

taking complex conjugate, we get

$$\nabla^2 \psi^* - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi^*}{\partial t^2} - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \psi^* = 0$$

multiply eqⁿ (10) & (11) by ψ^* respectively, we get

$$\psi^* \nabla^2 \psi - \frac{1}{c^2} \psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \psi^* \psi = 0$$

$$\psi \nabla^2 \psi^* - \frac{1}{c^2} \psi \frac{\partial^2 \psi^*}{\partial t^2} - \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \psi^* \psi = 0$$

Subtracting (13) from (12), we get (13)

$$\rightarrow \psi^* \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \psi^* - \frac{1}{c^2} \left[\psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \psi \frac{\partial^2 \psi^*}{\partial t^2} \right] = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \nabla \cdot \left[\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^* \right] - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \psi \right] = 0$$

multiply throughout by $\frac{\hbar}{2im}$, we get

$$\nabla \cdot \left[\frac{\hbar}{2im} (\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*) \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \left(\psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) \right] = 0$$

Substituting (14)

probability density or charge density

$$P(r, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \left[\psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right] \quad (a)$$

current density

$$\text{and } S(r, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left[\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^* \right] \quad (b)$$

eqⁿ (14) becomes :-

$$\nabla \cdot S(r, t) + \frac{\partial P}{\partial t}(r, t) = 0$$

(16)

This is the eqⁿ of continuity.

This shows clearly that the probability of finding the particle in any system remains conserved.

Here,

1. The current density S has the same form as in Non-relativistic case.
2. But the probability density or charge density P is not same as in Non-relativistic case, $P = \psi^* \psi$, due to following reasons:-

$$P(r, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \left[\frac{\psi \partial \psi^*}{\partial t} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right]$$

$$P(x, t) = \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[\left(-i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right) \psi + \psi^* \left(-i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) \right] \quad (17)$$

$$P(x, t) = \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[(E\psi^*)\psi + \psi^*(E\psi) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[2E\psi^*\psi \right]$$

$$P(x, t) = \frac{E}{mc^2} \left[\psi^*\psi \right] \quad (18)$$

where $E = \pm \sqrt{p^2c^2 + m^2c^4}$

Difficulties associated with the
interpretation of K-G eqⁿ :-

Since, $E = \pm \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$ i.e.,
the total energy of the
particle is +ve as well as
negative.

This means that the probability
 $P(r, t)$ is not always
+ve. Hence, it is no

Same as conventional positional
probability density ($\psi^* \psi$), i.e.,
 ψ is not the amplitude
probability as obtained by
Schroedinger eqⁿ.

This means that the wave
funcⁿ ψ is not same as
used in Schroedinger eqⁿ.
This ψ is known as
Field, not the wave funcⁿ.

According to new interpretation
of ψ by Pauli-
Wesskopf (1934), ρ multiplied by e
i.e. ($e\rho$) is interpreted as charge
 $e\rho =$ charge density or electronic
charge density,

e may be +ve or -ve,
therefore $e\rho$ can be positive and negative

$\mathbf{jS} =$ current density or electronic
current density.

In K-G eqⁿ ψ has one component
(scalar) i.e., ψ is real. If ψ
has more components (more degrees
of freedom) than these
components will show spin

spin \rightarrow degrees of freedom (up, down, no spin) 11.
K-G \rightarrow 1 d.f. \rightarrow scalar (spinless)
(only orbital exists)

motion. In the absence of other components K-G eqⁿ will describe particles of zero spin like π -mesons.

Positive and negative sign shows that the relativistic theories give rise to both particles and anti-particles.

If the energy $E < mc^2$, then the probability P in K-G eqⁿ reduces to non-relativistic probability density $\psi^* \psi$, as follows :-

The wave solⁿ is given by:-

$$\psi(r, t) = \psi(r) e^{-iEt/\hbar}$$

If E' is non-relativistic energy, then total energy E may be expressed as $E = E' + mc^2$; mc^2 being rest energy

$$\psi(r, t) = \psi(r) e^{-i(E' + mc^2)t/\hbar}$$

$$= \psi(r) e^{-Et/\hbar} \cdot e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar}$$

$$\psi(r, t) = \psi'(r, t) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \quad (19)$$

differentiate (19) w.r.t 't'

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(\frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} - \frac{imc^2 \cdot \psi'}{\hbar} \right) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \quad (20)$$

Taking complex conjugate of (19) and (20), we get

$$\psi^*(r, t) = \psi'^*(r, t) e^{imc^2 t/\hbar}$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} = \left(\frac{\partial \psi'^*}{\partial t} + \frac{imc^2 \psi'^*}{\hbar} \right) e^{imc^2 t/\hbar} \quad (21)$$

The probability is given by:-

$$P(r, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \left(\psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right)$$

Substituting these values, we get

$$P(r, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \int \psi'(r, t) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \left[\frac{\partial \psi'^*}{\partial t} + \frac{imc^2 \psi'^*}{\hbar} \right] - \psi'^*(r, t) e^{imc^2 t/\hbar} \left[\frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} - \frac{imc^2 \psi'}{\hbar} \right]$$

$$\left. \frac{imc^2}{\hbar} \psi'^* \right) e^{imc^2 t/\hbar} \Bigg\} - \left\{ \psi'^*(r,t) e^{imc^2 t/\hbar} \right. \\ \left. \left[\left(\frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} - \frac{imc^2 \psi'}{\hbar} \right) e^{-imc^2 t/\hbar} \right] \right\}$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2imc^2} \left[\psi'(r,t) \left(\frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} + \frac{imc^2 \psi'^*}{\hbar} \right) - \psi'^*(r,t) \left(\frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} - \frac{imc^2 \psi'}{\hbar} \right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[\psi'(r,t) \left(\frac{\hbar \partial \psi'^*}{i \partial t} \right) - \psi'^* \left(i \hbar \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \psi'^* \psi'$$

$$= \frac{1}{2mc^2} \left[\psi'(r,t) \left(-i \hbar \frac{\partial \psi'^*}{\partial t} \right) + \psi'^* \left(i \hbar \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial t} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \psi'^* \psi'$$

$$= \frac{E'}{mc^2} \psi'^* \psi' + \psi'^* \psi'$$

(Since $E'^* = E'$, eigen value of H being real)

$$= \psi'^* \psi'$$

(Since non relativistic energy

$$E' \ll mc^2)$$

which is correct non-relativistic expression for probability density.