

3.5 Yukawa potential.

Show that the Yukawa potential $V(r) = e^{-mr}/(4\pi r)$ is the Fourier transform of $(\mathbf{k}^2 + m^2)^{-1}$, cf. Eq. (3.37).

We introduce first spherical coordinate and set $z = \cos \vartheta$

$$\int d^3k \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}}{\mathbf{k}^2 + m^2} = 2\pi \int_0^\infty dk k^2 \int_{-1}^1 dz \frac{e^{ikrz}}{k^2 + m^2} = 2\pi \int_0^\infty \frac{dk k^2}{k^2 + m^2} \frac{1}{-ikr} \underbrace{\left(e^{-ikr} - e^{ikr} \right)}_{=-2i \sin(kr)} \quad (49)$$

Since $k \sin(kr)$ is even, we can extend the integral, $\int_0^\infty \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty$. Then

$$= \frac{2\pi}{r} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dk k \frac{\sin(kr)}{k^2 + m^2} = \frac{2\pi}{r} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dk k \frac{e^{ikr} - e^{-ikr}}{2i} = \frac{2\pi}{ir} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dk k \frac{e^{ikr}}{k^2 + m^2}, \quad (50)$$

where we changed variable $k \rightarrow -k$ in the second term. Now we can use Cauchy's residue theorem, closing the path in the upper plane. Then we pick up from $k^2 + m^2 = (k + im)(k - im)$ the single pole $k = +im$, ending up with

$$\int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}}{\mathbf{k}^2 + m^2} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{2\pi}{ir} 2\pi i im \frac{e^{-mr}}{2im} = \frac{e^{-mr}}{4\pi r} \quad (51)$$