

Feb. 26, 1954

Dear Dr. Gürsey,

Many thanks for your letter of Feb. 22, which arrived yesterday and which I studied with great interest. I am in favour of your idea, to make the neutrino rather than the vacuum responsible for the strangeness. Independent of this alternative there are still some more fundamental difficulties connected with the spin-1/2 model, which I discuss first.

1. γ_5 -invariance and renormalization.

I say, the theory is invariant with respect to some operation, if both the Lagrangian and the commutation relations have this invariance.

Suppose now the theory is invariant with respect to the operation $\psi' = \gamma_5 \psi$ (or $\psi' = i\gamma_5 \psi$).

If there a particle with spin $1/2$ - which is obtained from the vacuum by an odd number of ψ -operator factors ~~and non vanishing $\bar{\psi}$~~ obey a Dirac-equation

$$\left(\gamma^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} + m \right) \psi = 0 \quad \text{with } m \neq 0$$

there should, due to the γ_5 -invariance also exist a "double" of this particle, obeying the Dirac-equation

$$\left(\gamma^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\nu} - m \right) \psi = 0.$$

This can be applied for instance to the electron, but also to an isovector like N_0 . (The latter has been proposed by Källén).

As there is no such 'duplicate' in nature, one concludes first, that Laprangian and commutation rules can not be both γ_5 -invariant.

This seems to agree with your conclusion on p. 2 of your letter, particularly regarding the terms $\frac{1-\gamma_5}{3}$ $\frac{1+\gamma_3}{2}$. - (In any case Laprangian and commutation rules can not have the same symmetry, to which of them one gives the higher symmetry is an open question.)

But here seems to me a difficulty: If the γ_5 -invariance is destroyed - either in the Laprangian or in the commutation relations - what is then the justification for your statement, that f and n (hence N and L) are good quantum-numbers?

In the moment I don't know any good answer. I would like to hear your opinion about it.

Rather seems to think, that this is a definite disproval of the spinor model. But I am not yet convinced of such a far reaching conclusion. What do you think of it?

2.) Eigenvalue problem. Nobody knows any ^{good} method to determine the invariant functions $G_1(s), G_2(s)$ occurring in the vacuum-expectation-values (V.E.) (herefore also in the anti-commutators) (*).

Heisenberg therefore applies the Tamem-Dancoff-method. I personally don't trust at all this method, therefore I obtain from collaboration in this part of the work done in Göttingen (at present by Heisenberg and Mitter). - Moreover, if one already introduces an indefinite metric, I believe, one should claim complete regularity ^{in Hilbert-space} on the limit of all V.E. and not admit an logarithmic singularity.

These are the more fundamental difficulties. (One an objection, the other an essential lack of a good method - in spite of the existence of so many experts).
Now - more specific - to your interesting

(**) There must be some (probably indirect) mathematical connections of them with the Lagrangian.

proposal of a strangeness producing neutrino.

First: there are some slight mistakes on page 2 below: One should read $\frac{l}{2} = \frac{N-L+S}{2}$ (instead of $\frac{l}{2} = Q + \frac{N-L+S}{2}$), as $I_3 + l/2 = Q$. This is also in agreement with your other formulas on p. 2 and 3.

If the μ^+ is considered to be the "mirror" of e^- , the table I one has to correct $t_3 = 3/2$ and $\frac{v}{2} = -\frac{3}{2}$ [instead of $t_3 = \frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{v}{2} = -\frac{5}{2}$].

But I think, that Schwinger's idea to consider μ^\pm as the mirror particles of e^\mp is not possible. The mirror particles of e^\mp must be something not yet observed and the μ^- particle must be something else, the decay $\mu \rightarrow e + \nu + \bar{\nu}$ being certain.

I want to maintain the two component theory of the neutrinos.) I leave it to you, to make proposal for the μ^- particle in your scheme. One possibility is $S(\mu^+) = +1; (\frac{v}{2})_{\mu^+} = 3/2$.

So far physics for today.

Personal. I have good news from Zürich, that I get some money to invite theoreticians to Zürich, probably already this autumn. The definite decision on it will be by end of March. Of course, I would like very much to have you in Zürich. ~~Over~~ winter-term starts middle of October and lasts till 1st of March. The summer term starts end of April and lasts till ~~end~~ about 18th July.

I also wrote to Oppenheimer on behalf of you. Possibly you will have to decide whether you ~~would~~ prefer to be in Princeton or in Zürich next winter. In the first case you would come to Zürich in the ~~spring- and~~ summer-term '59 (since the Princeton-~~summer~~ term is empty).

In any case I would like to know the amount of money which you would need either for half a year or for one year in Zürich. I understand that you have also a stipend ~~for~~ from your government. One can not simply compare the costs of living in Switzerland from those in the States, since with the official course of \$: Swiss francs. With this measure, I believe, that the costs of living

in Switzerland are his. But the details are
complicated. of the comparison

So, please, think it over. There are many
Swiss physicians ^{with family} in the States (Franzfelder,
Geffen, E. Bleuler, Macdon etc.). You can also ask
one of them.

All good wishes

Sincerely yours

W. Pauli

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