

# 85(1) : Setting up the Equations of Ortho-Positronium

Ortho-positronium is one electron and one positron in the same spin  $1/2$  state. This is theoretically forbidden by the Pauli exclusion principle, which states that the total wavefunction must be antisymmetric with respect to the interchange of any pair of fermions, irrespective of their charge. The Slater orbital of ortho-positronium may therefore be:

$$\psi(1, 2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{vmatrix} \psi^d(1) & \psi^p(1) \\ \psi^d(2) & \psi^p(2) \end{vmatrix} \quad - (1)$$

To distinguish between the electron and positron in the Dirac equations of both must be considered in the electromagnetic field. For the electron:

$$p^\mu \rightarrow p^\mu + eA^\mu \quad - (2)$$

and for the positron:

$$p^\mu \rightarrow p^\mu - eA^\mu, \quad - (3)$$

where

$$p^\mu = i\hbar \partial^\mu, \quad - (4)$$

$$\partial^\mu = -\frac{i}{\hbar} p^\mu. \quad - (5)$$

The Dirac equations of the free electron and positron are:

$$\left( \square + \left( \frac{mc}{\hbar} \right)^2 \right) \psi = 0 \quad - (6)$$

which is obtained from the ECE wave equation:

$$(\square + k^2) \psi_\mu^a = 0 \quad (7)$$

as in previous work.

From eq. (5):

$$\square = \partial^\mu \partial_\mu = -\frac{1}{\hbar^2} \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{p} \quad (8)$$

Eq. (7) factorizes into:

$$(i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - \frac{mc}{\hbar}) \psi_\mu^a = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$\alpha \quad (i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - \frac{mc}{\hbar}) \psi = 0 \quad (10)$$

For the electron:

$$\mathbf{p}_\mu = i \hbar \partial_\mu \rightarrow i \hbar \partial_\mu + e A_\mu \quad (11)$$

and for the positron:

$$\mathbf{p}_\mu = i \hbar \partial_\mu \rightarrow i \hbar \partial_\mu - e A_\mu \quad (12)$$

Dirac Equation for Electron

$$(i \gamma^\mu (i \partial_\mu + \frac{e}{\hbar} A_\mu) - \frac{mc}{\hbar}) \psi = 0 \quad (13)$$

Dirac Equation for Positron

$$(i \gamma^\mu (i \partial_\mu - \frac{e}{\hbar} A_\mu) - \frac{mc}{\hbar}) \psi = 0 \quad (14)$$

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The Dirac equation for orthopositronium in the absence of an electromagnetic field is therefore:

$$\left( i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - \frac{mc}{\hbar} \right) \psi = 0 \quad - (15)$$

There are two fermions described by an anti-symmetric wavefunction:

$$\psi_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \psi^d(1) \psi^p(2) - \psi^p(1) \psi^d(2) \right) \quad - (16)$$

When  $r_1 = r_2$  - (17)

$$\psi_- = 0. \quad - (18)$$

Here the label 1 denotes the electron, and the label 2 denotes the positron.

From eq. (16) it is seen immediately that orthopositronium cannot exist theoretically, because  $d$  and  $p$  are the same in ortho-positronium, i.e. the half integral spins of electron and positron are the same. Finally, considerations of Coulombic interaction lead to:

$$\left( \gamma^\mu \left( i \partial_\mu + \frac{e A_\mu}{\hbar} \right) - \frac{mc}{\hbar} \right) \psi_- = 0 \quad - (19)$$

where  $e A_\mu$  now represents Coulomb attraction between electron and positron.