

Enschede, 22 January 2004

**Modern Physics:  
THE SYMMETRY PRINCIPLE**

by

**Norbert Ligterink**

Control Engineering, University Twente

**Symmetries**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **conserved quantities**

**Fields**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **momentum  $\approx$  derivatives**

**Wave equation**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **relativity**

**Charge conservation**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **gauge principle**

**Symmetry breaking**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **buckling**

The Lagrangian is independent of time:

$$0 =_{\text{chain}} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{L} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \dot{q} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \ddot{q} =_{\text{E.L.}} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \dot{q} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} - \mathcal{L} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H}$$

## conservation of energy

where  $\mathcal{H}$  = Hamiltonian, and Euler-Lagrange equations:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q})}{\partial q} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q})}{\partial \dot{q}}$$

If the Lagrangian is not a function of position  $q$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = \text{constant} = p$$

**conservation of momentum**

**TWO-BODY** (angular momentum,  $\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{p}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$ )

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{m_1 \dot{\mathbf{q}}_1^2}{2} + \frac{m_2 \dot{\mathbf{q}}_2^2}{2} - V(|\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_2|)$$

translation of the whole system (position)

$$0 = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}_i} = \frac{d}{dt} \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_i} = \frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2)$$

rotation of the whole system (position and velocity)

$$0 = \sum_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{q}_i} \cdot (\mathbf{q}_i \times \mathbf{n}) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_i} \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{q}}_i \times \mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \left( \mathbf{q} \times \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_i} \right)$$

## Digression

The Poisson bracket  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ :

$$\{f, g\} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{q}} - \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$$

(such that:  $\{p_i, q_j\} = \delta_{ij}$  and  $\dot{g} = \{H, g\}$ ) led Dirac (1925)  
to a simple definition of Quantum Mechanics:

$$\{f, g\} \rightarrow [F, G] = FG - GF \quad \text{that satisfy} \quad [P_i, Q_j] = i\hbar\delta_{ij}$$

every operator  $F(P, Q), G(P, Q)$ , and  $P(Q)$  or  $Q(P)$ .

**FIELDS:** *infinite number of degrees of freedom,  $\mathbf{q}$*

$$\mathbf{q}_i \rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{q}, t) \quad \mathbf{p}_i \rightarrow \pi(\mathbf{q}, t) = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}(\phi(\mathbf{q}), \dot{\phi}(\mathbf{q}))}{\delta \dot{\phi}(\mathbf{q})}$$

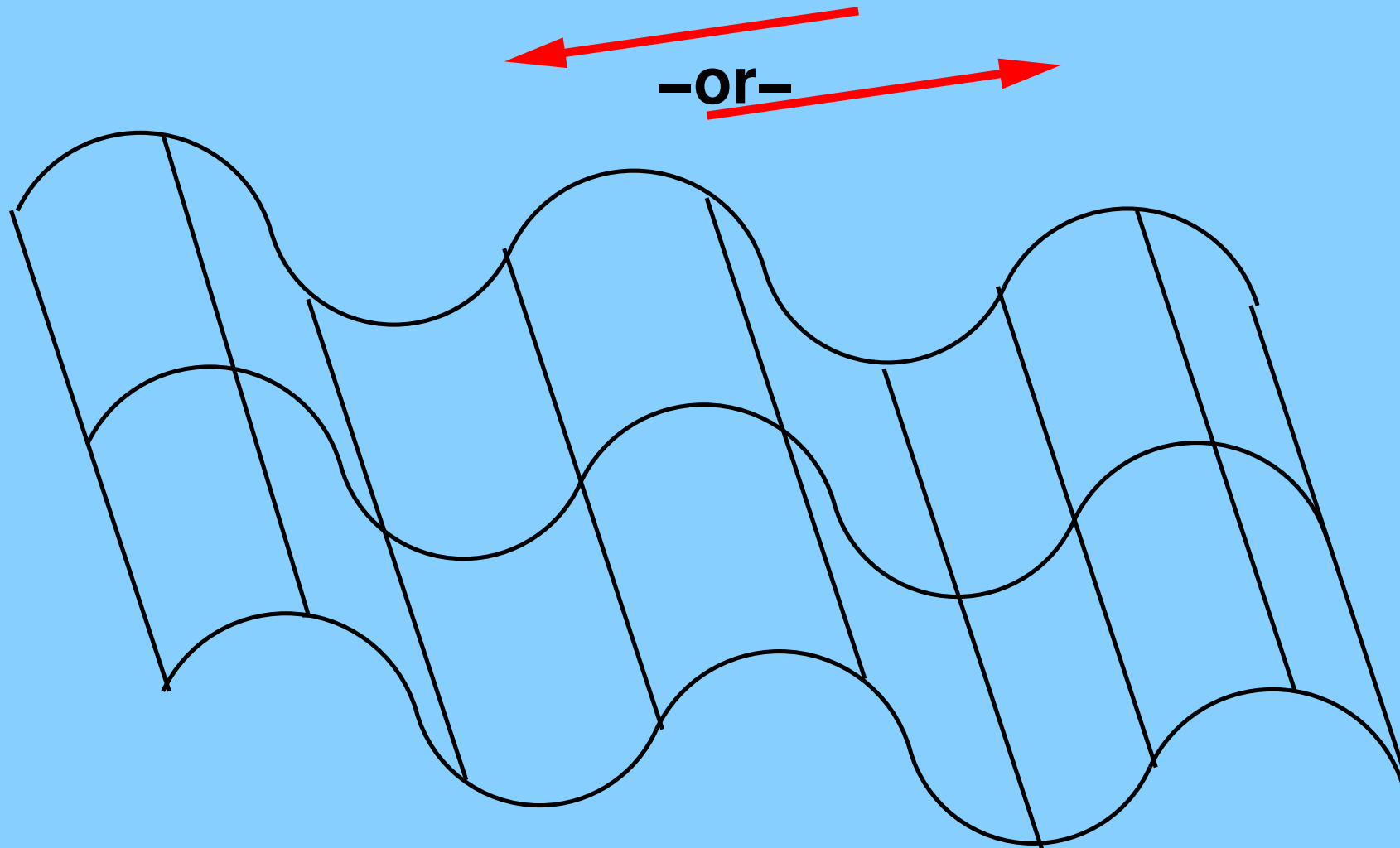
momentum also as translational invariance:

$$\phi(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{a}) = \phi(\mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{a} \frac{\partial \phi(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \dots$$

second type of “momentum density” with  $\partial_\mu P^\mu = 0$ :

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{q}) = -\pi(\mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial \phi(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \quad \{\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{q}), \phi(\mathbf{q})\} = \frac{\partial \phi(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$$

Important for spatial correlations.



**From the spatial derivative it is immediately clear  
in which directions the fields "move"**



## Digression

Another type of variational principle:

On a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R} \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$  (space(1,2,3)-time(0)):

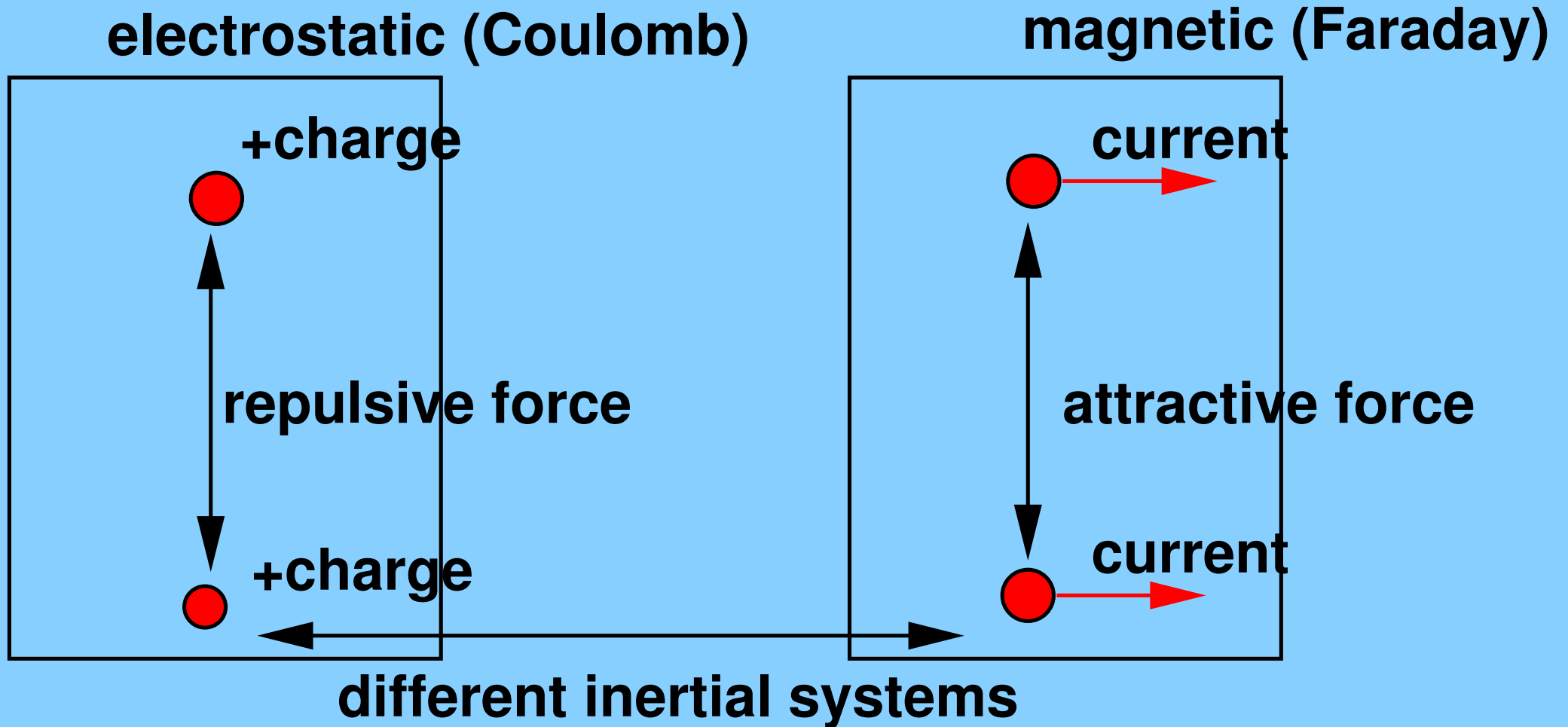
$$0 = \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \nabla \phi} - \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi} \quad T_{energy-momentum}^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \phi \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \partial_\nu \phi} - g^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}$$

$\phi$  fixed on  $\partial\Omega$ .

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad P^\mu = T^{\mu 0}$$

Reduces for  $T^{00}$  to original Euler-Lagrange if:

$$\Omega = \{t \in [t_0, t_1] \wedge \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^3\}$$



$$-d_t Q = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} \quad (\text{Continuity relation, charge conservation})$$

**Maxwell combined it: electromagnetism**

**wave-equation solutions, with invariant wave velocity**

## Gauge Fields $A^\mu$ are Transverse Fields

(closed (but not exact since Bohm-Aharonov))

$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{magn}} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{E}_{\text{elec}} = -\nabla A^0 - \dot{\mathbf{A}}$$

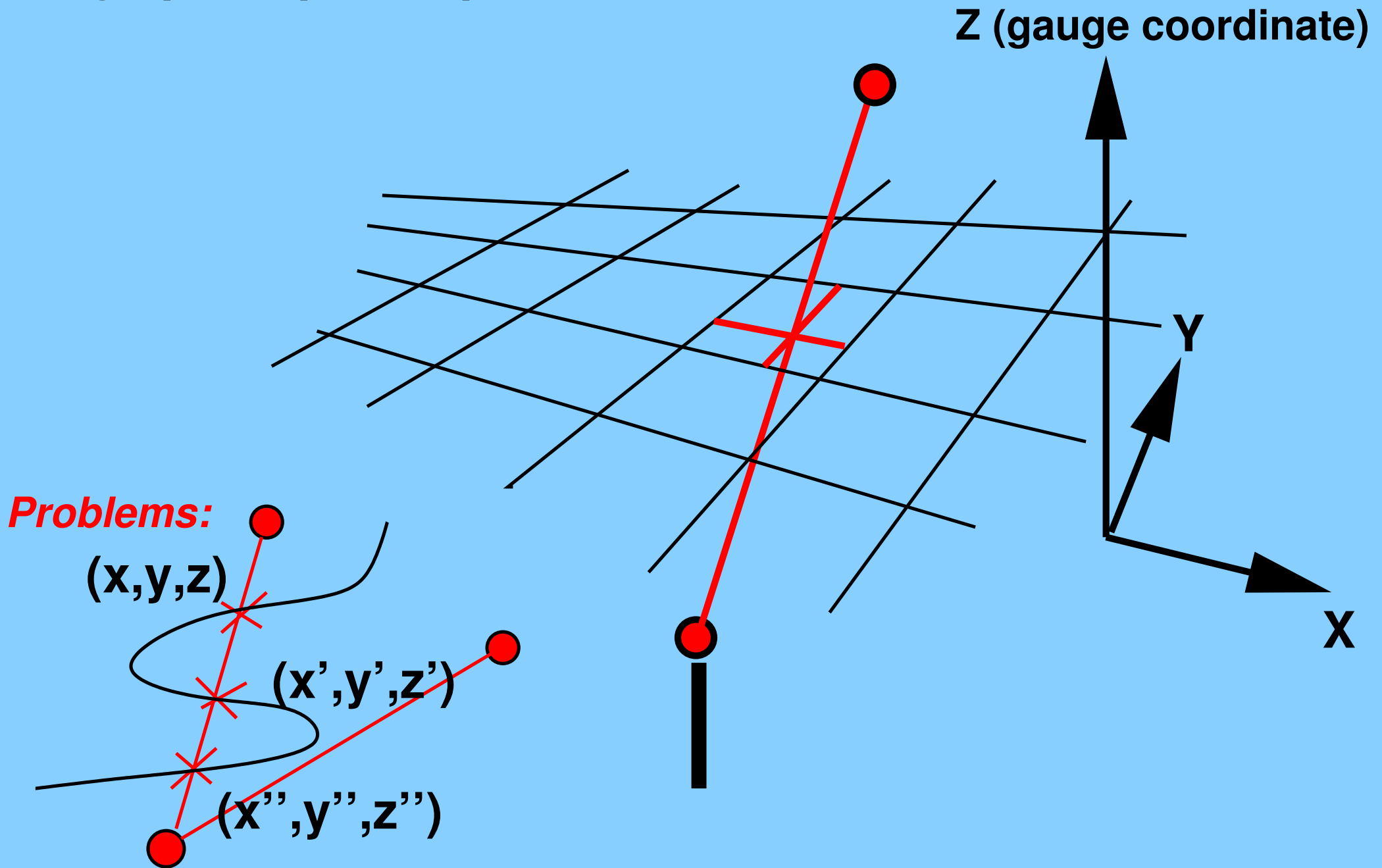
Hence invariant under  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{A} + \nabla\chi$  and  $A^0 \rightarrow A^0 - \dot{\chi}$ .

four-vector  $s = (ct, x, y, z)$ , four-current  $j = (c\rho, j_x, j_y, j_z)$ :

$$\partial_\mu j^\mu = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad (\partial_t^2 - \nabla^2)A^\mu = j^\mu.$$

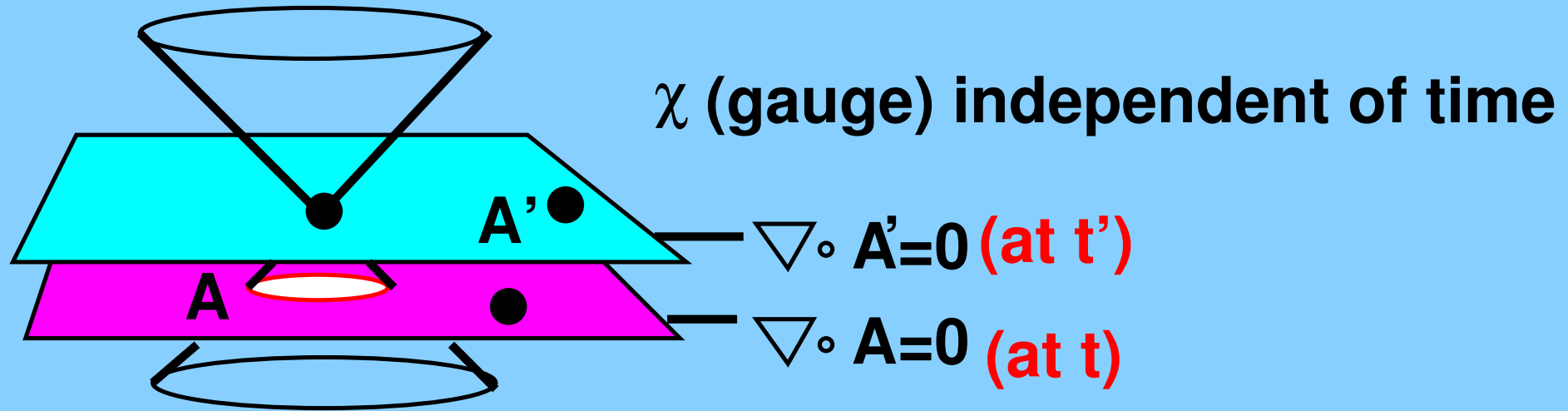
$$A^\mu(s) = \int d^4s' \frac{j^\mu(s')}{|s' - s|^2} + \text{gauge terms}$$

# Gauge principle: superfluous coordinates



# Coulomb gauge: faster than the speed of light

light-cone (causal region)



Continuity equation: charge conservation

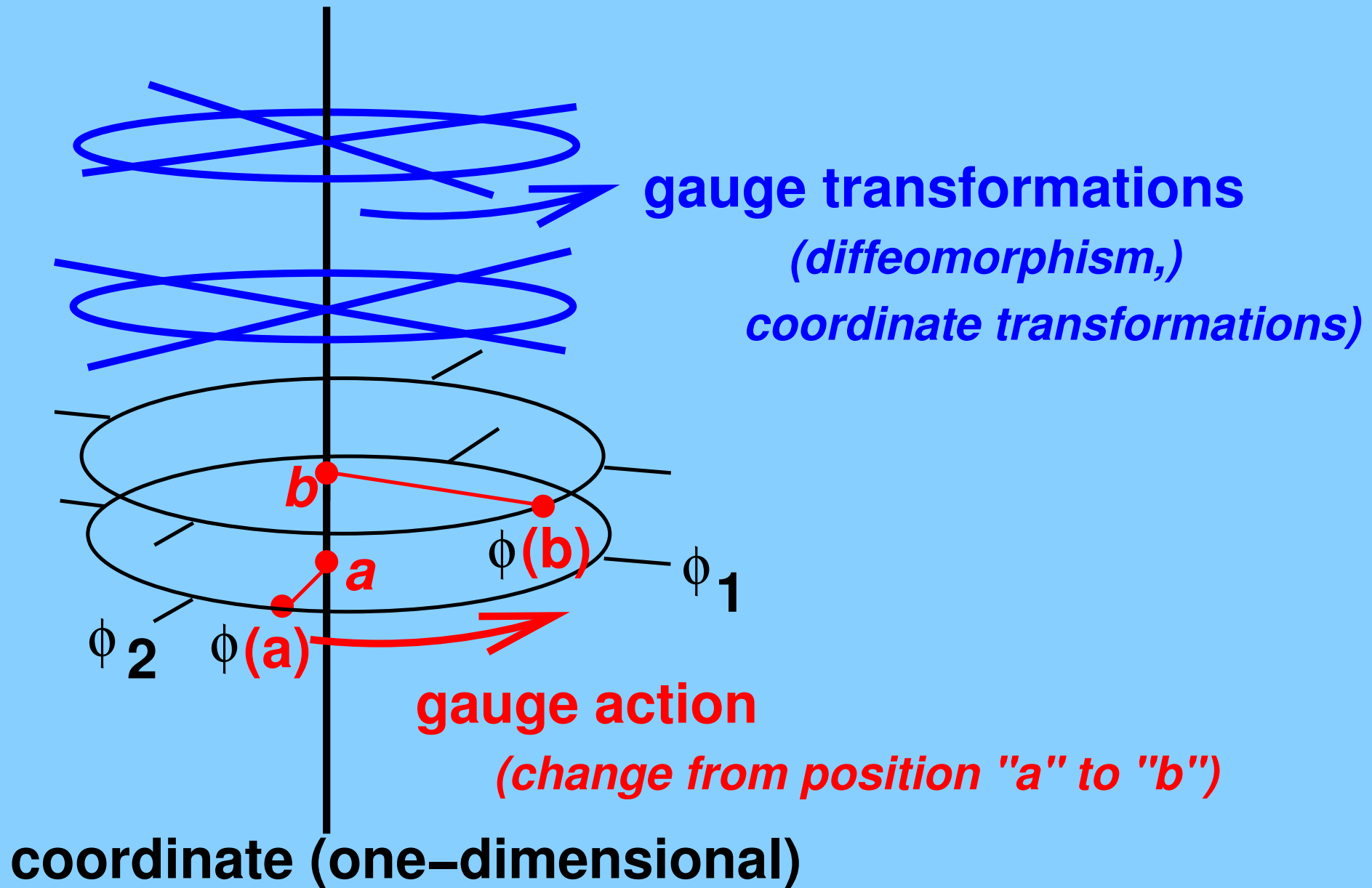
$A^{\mu=0\dots3}$ , a four-vector (Relativistic)

\* Fields  $\phi \rightarrow (\phi_1, \phi_2)$  (on a circle)

\* Covariant derivative (Geometry):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} \rightarrow D_\mu = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} - eA_\mu \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$*\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} = \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{where} \quad F_{\mu\nu} = [D_\mu, D_\nu]$$



## Digression

$$D_\mu = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} - eA_\mu^a T^a \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} - eA_\mu$$

where  $T^a$  are Lie-group generators.

For particles that “belong” together:  $\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_N$ ,

$N$ -dimensional groups are used to postulate interactions.

⇒ non-linear dynamics, self-interactions (a mess):

$$F_{\mu\nu} = [D_\mu, D_\nu] = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + T^c f_{\text{group}}^{cab} A_\nu^a \cdot A_\mu^b$$

Nature  $\equiv U(1) \otimes SU(2) \otimes SU(3) + \text{gravity}$ .



## Eugene Wigner's legacy:

change of a system  $\Rightarrow U$  where  $U$  unitary matrix :  $U^\dagger = U^{-1}$

**Conservation of probability:** infinite state vector

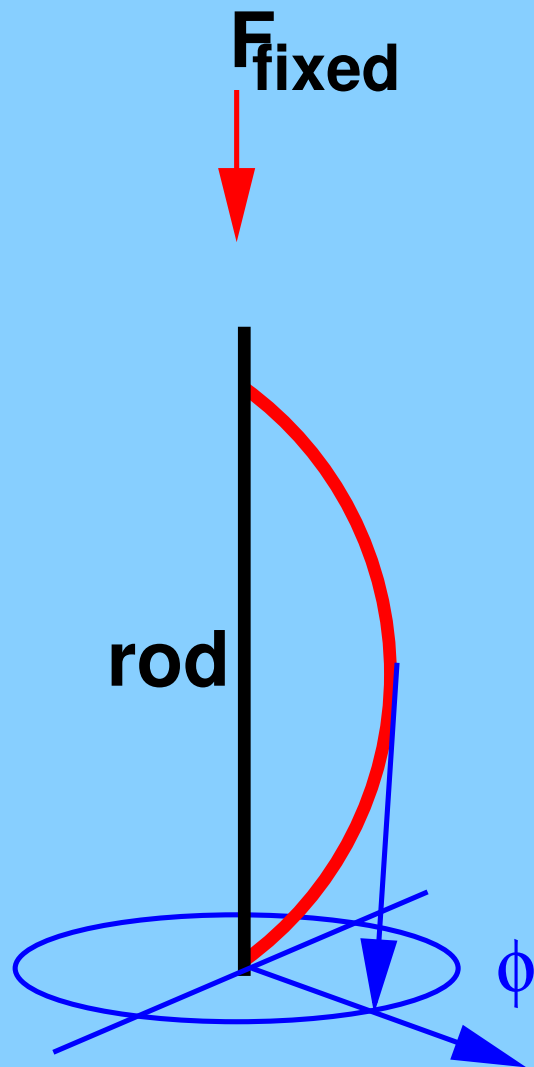
$\psi \in H_{\text{Hilbert}}$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ :

$$T_{\text{transform}}(\psi) = U \cdot \psi$$

such that  $|\psi|^2 = 1$ .

*unitarity matrices rules!!*

# BUCKLING = SYMMETRY BREAKING

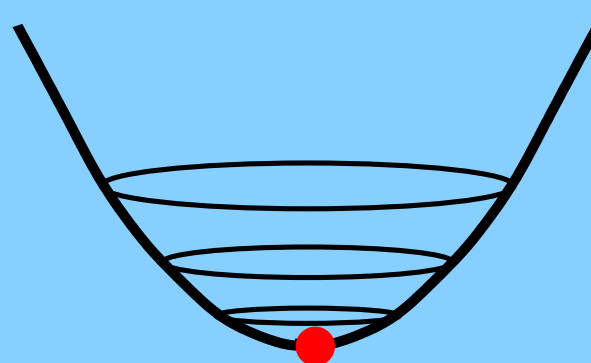


$$L(\phi) = L(\phi + \delta\phi)$$

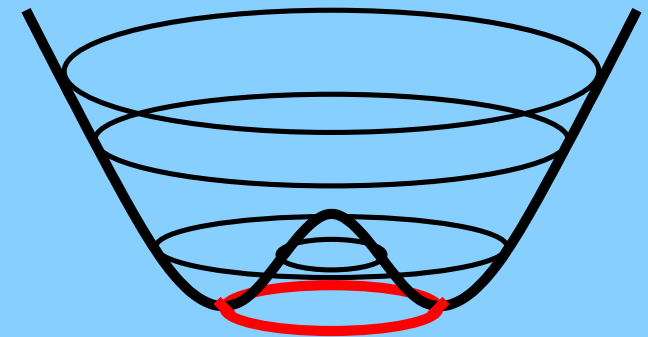
Pick an angle  $\phi_0$

(The symmetry breaking state)

*No force associated with a change of  $\phi$*



single state



free rotation modes

## **Pions**, the free modes of nuclear physics

particle triplet  $\pi^{-}, \pi^{0}, \pi^{+}$ , surprisingly light (139 MeV)

particle doublet  $p$  (proton),  $n$  (neutron), both 938 MeV,

$$\text{where } p + \pi^{-} \rightarrow n$$

$$SU(2)_{\text{spin}} \otimes SU(2)_{\text{iso}} \approx SO(4) \rightarrow SO(3) \quad U(1) \text{ is broken}$$

A 4-D sphere, with one axis fixed, is a 3-D sphere:

$$(\pi^{-}, \pi^{0}, \pi^{+}).$$

## FINAL REMARKS

- \* The outside world: Sources, Sinks, and Schwinger
- \* Algebraic theories: spectra from group characters
- \* QCD (strongly interacting  $SU(3)$ ) still unsolved
- \* Dominating experiments (particle physicists only know plane waves)