

How to make sense of Feynman Propagator?

Schwartz 6 notes

$$D_F(x_1 - x_2) = \langle 0 | T \{ \phi_0(x_1) \phi_0(x_2) \} | 0 \rangle$$

$$= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-i}{k^2 + m^2 + i\epsilon} e^{ik(x_1 - x_2)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \tilde{D}_F(\cancel{k}) = \frac{-i}{-k^2 + m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } (\square + m^2) \tilde{D}_F(k) &= \cancel{-i} - i \\ &= -i \tilde{f}(k) \end{aligned}$$

For any function,  $\cancel{f}(\square + m^2) \cancel{f}(k) = \cancel{(-\square + m^2)} \cancel{f}(k)$

$$\Rightarrow (\square + m^2) D_F^{x_1 - x_2} = -i f(x_1 - x_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow (\square + m^2) D_F(x_1 - x_2) = -i f(x_1 - x_2), \text{ or}$$

$$i(\square + m^2) D_F(x_1 - x_2) = f(x_1 - x_2)$$

That is,  $iD_F$  satisfies free eqm except at  $x_1 = x_2$

Or,  $iD_F$  propagates as a free particle at all spacetime.  
except at  $x_1 = x_2$ .