

## 230(6): Vacuum Covariant and Minimal Prescription.

In note 230(5) the basic equation:

$$p^\mu p_\mu = \left( \frac{m^2 c^2}{p_0} \right) p^\mu p_\mu - (1)$$

was used with the minimal prescription:

$$p^\mu \rightarrow p^\mu + e A^\mu - (2)$$

to give the equation:

$$p^\mu p_\mu = m^2 c^2 \left( 1 - \frac{e A_0}{p_0} \right) - (3)$$

In this note eq. (3) is interpreted as the Einstein energy equation corrected with the vacuum potential  $A_0$ . If there is an additional electromagnetic field present then eq. (3) becomes:

$$\pi^\mu \pi_\mu = m^2 c^2 \left( 1 - \frac{e A_0}{p_0} \right) - (4)$$

where  $\pi^\mu = p^\mu - e A^\mu - (5)$

In the SU(2) basis:

$$p^\mu p_\mu = \frac{E^2}{c^2} - \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} = m^2 c^2 \left( 1 - \frac{e A_0}{p_0} \right)$$

so:  $E^2 - m^2 c^4 \left( 1 - \frac{e A_0}{p_0} \right) = c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} - (7)$

i. e.

$$2) \quad E - mc^2 \left( 1 - \frac{eA_0}{p_0} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p}}{E + mc^2 \left( 1 - \frac{eA_0}{p_0} \right)^{1/2}} \quad - (8)$$

In the non-relativistic limit:

$$E - mc^2 \quad - (9)$$

so if  $eA_0 \ll p_0$ ,  $- (10)$

$$E - mc^2 \left( 1 - \frac{eA_0}{2p_0} \right) \sim c^2 \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left( \frac{1}{2mc - \frac{eA_0 mc}{2p_0}} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \quad - (11)$$

i.e.  $E - mc^2 \left( 1 - \frac{eA_0}{2p_0} \right) = \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left( \frac{1}{1 - \frac{eA_0}{4p_0}} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p}$

$$\doteq \frac{1}{2m} \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \left( 1 + \frac{eA_0}{4p_0} \right) \underline{\sigma} \cdot \underline{p} \quad - (12)$$

This equation may be quantized to produce a  
Schrodinger like equation as in the next note.