

Secret

Symmetry

Hidden

Symmetry

Spontaneous

Symmetry

Breakdown

# Thematic Melodies of

20th Century Theoretical  
Physics:

Quantization

Symmetry

Phase Factor

20世紀理論物理的三個主旋律：

量子化

對稱

相位因子

C N Yang 2002

楊振寧

"The quantum numbers that designate the states of a system are often identical with those that represent the symmetries of the system."

Ex. 1) The general structure of the periodic table is essentially a direct consequence of the isotropy of Coulomb's law.

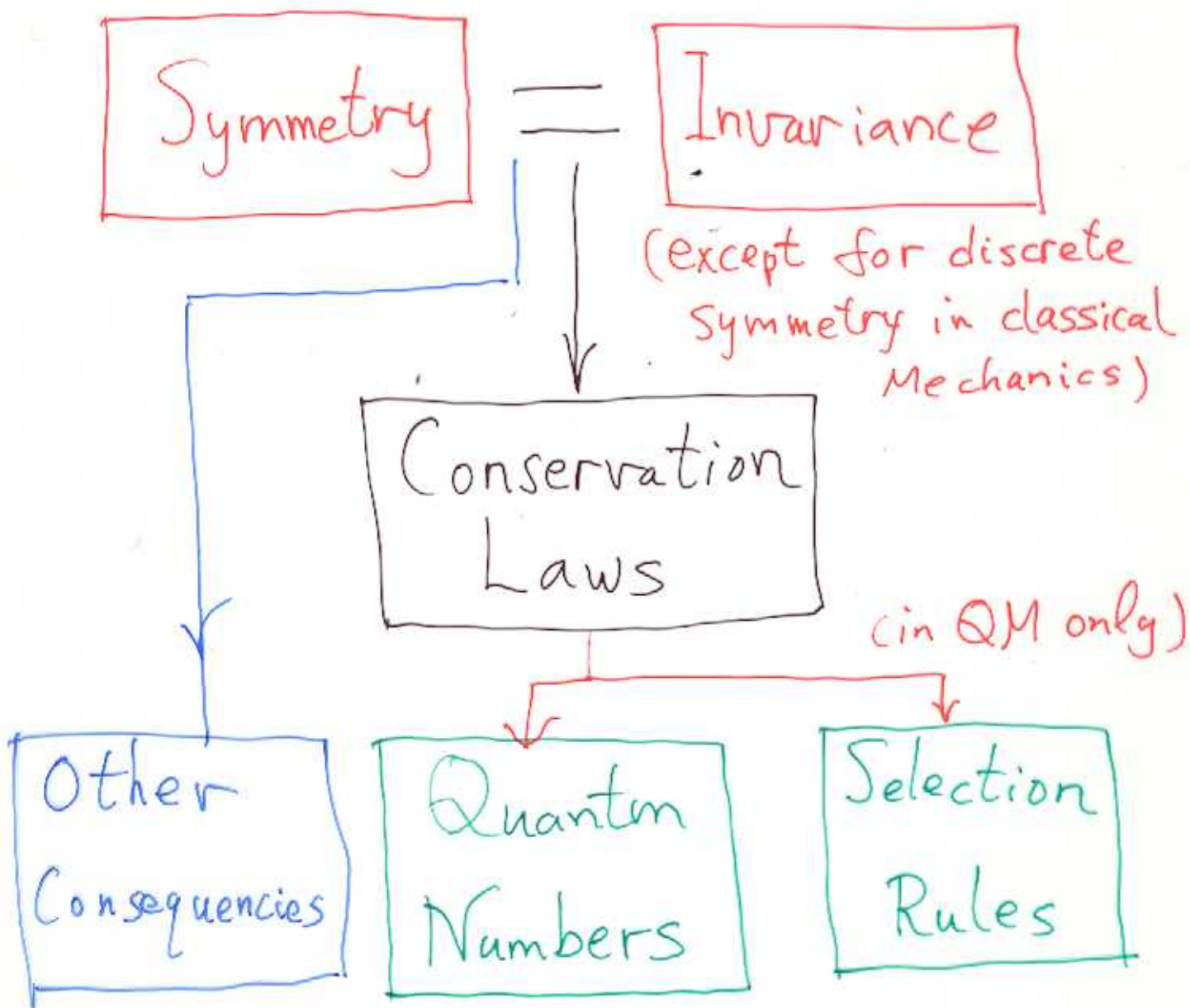
2) The existence of the anti-particles is a consequence of the Lorentz invariance.

R. P. Feynman (1942)

$$\langle f | i \rangle = \int d(\text{path}) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(\text{action})}$$

$$\text{action} = S = \int dt L$$

$$e^{\frac{ie}{\hbar} \int A_{\mu} dx^{\mu}}$$



C. N. Yang

1957

Nobel Prize Lecture



# Symmetry dictates interaction

Ex. abelian gauge symmetry

→ electromagnetic interaction

non-abelian gauge symmetry

→ strong interaction

coordinate transformation invariance

→ gravity

general relativity

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Maxwell}} \propto F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

$A_\mu$ : photon  $\rightarrow$  massless

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yang-Mills}} \propto \text{tr} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

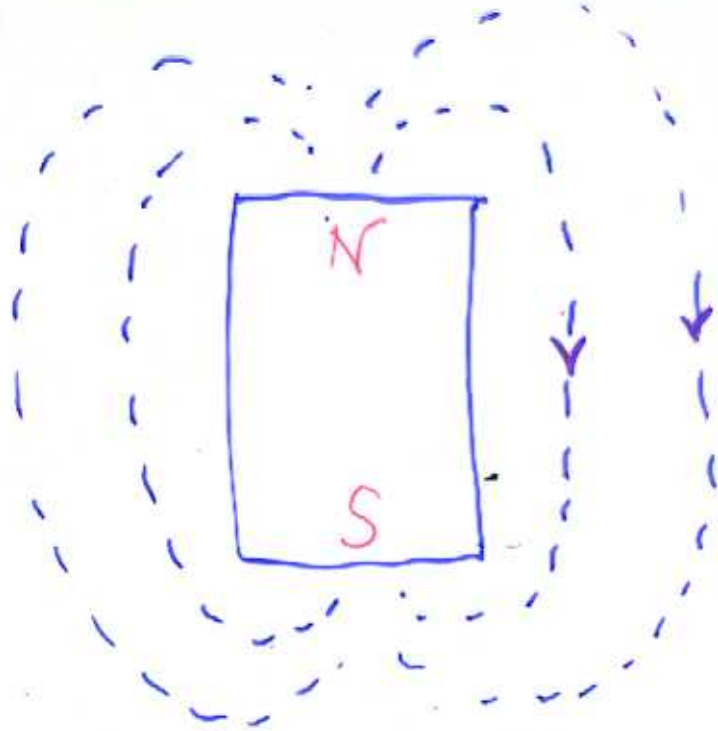
$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu + ig [B_\mu, B_\nu]$$

$B$  is massless ???

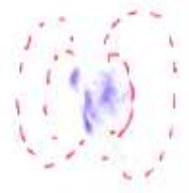
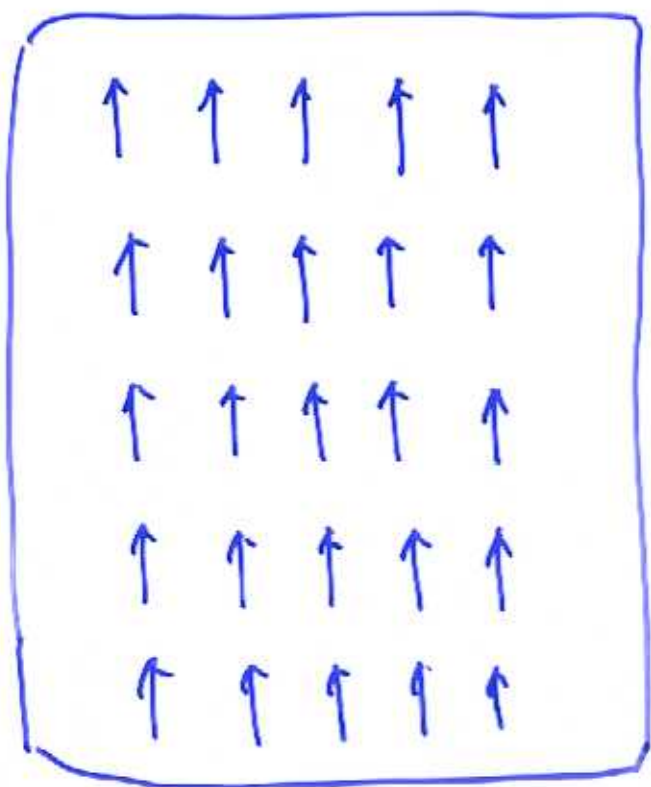
Pauli's question

How is the symmetry realized?

磁  
鐵



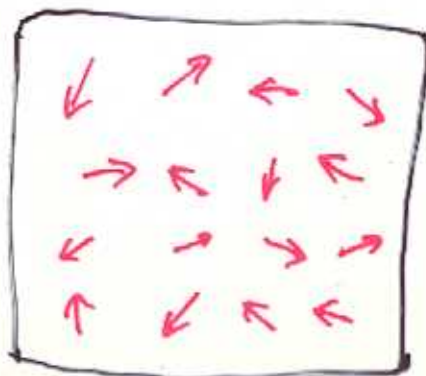
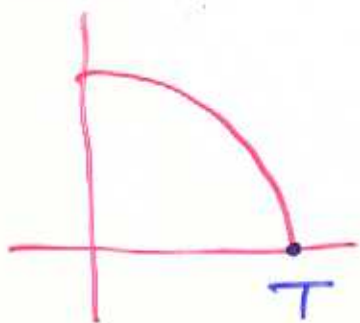
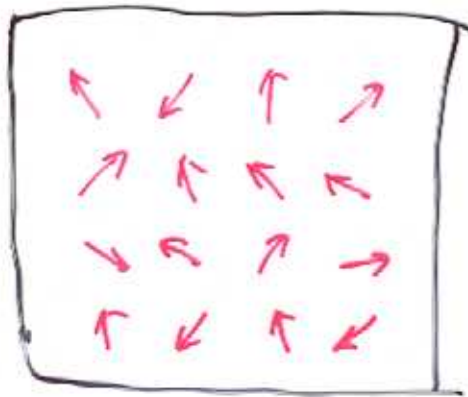
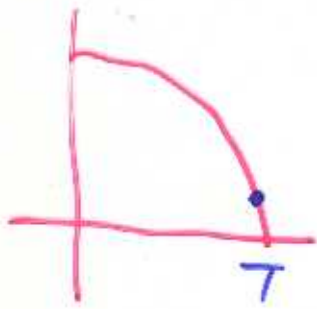
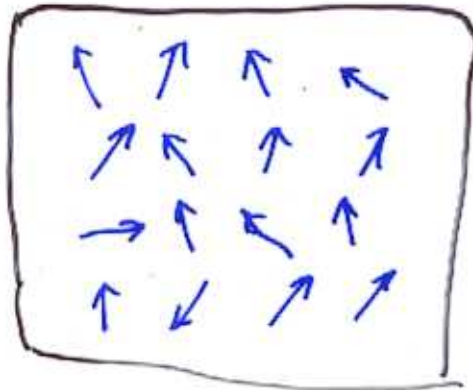
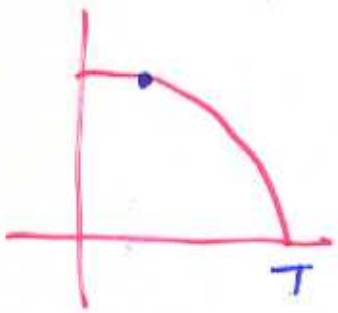
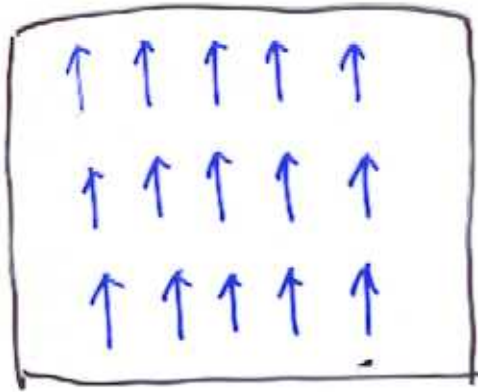
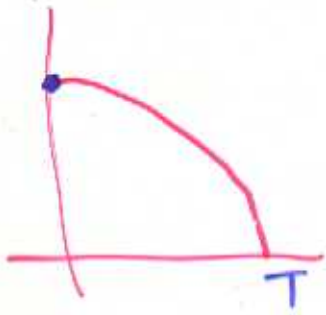
磁  
力  
線





温度

$T=0$



$T \rightarrow \infty$

對於鐵磁性來說,

在  $T_c$  之下,

旋轉對稱 不見了

自動對稱破缺  
(壞)

Spontaneous Symmetry breakdown

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對於超導現象而言,

在  $T_c$  之下,

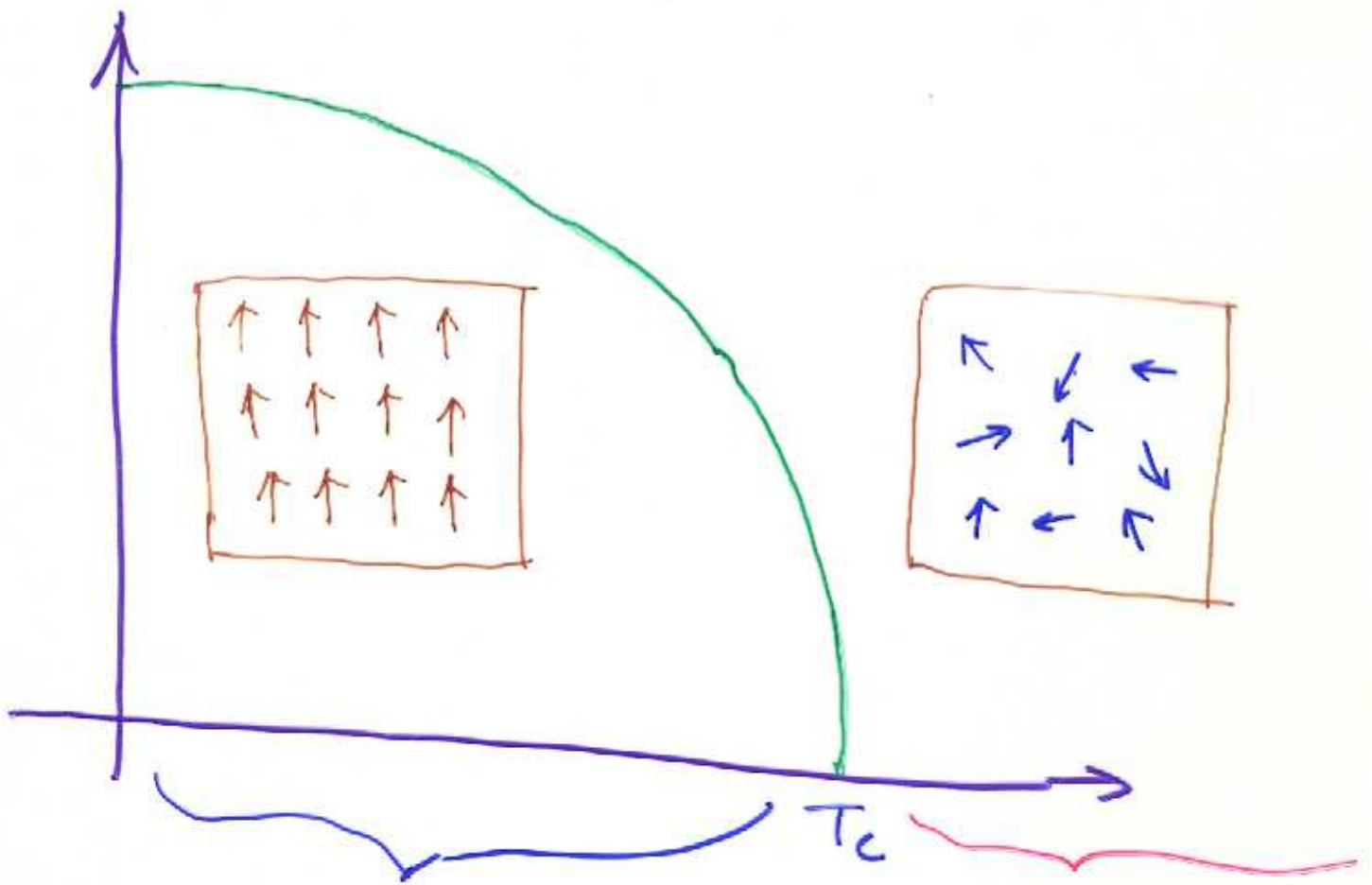
「規範對稱」不見了

Gauge Symmetry

相當抽象的對稱 → 花了數十年功夫才了解

對稱性

Symmetry



低對稱性

高對稱性

# Spontaneous Symmetry Breakdown

$$U|0\rangle \neq |0\rangle$$

$$U = e^{i\alpha Q} \quad (1 + i\alpha Q + \dots)|0\rangle \neq |0\rangle$$

$$Q|0\rangle \neq 0$$

$$U\phi_A U^\dagger = \phi_B$$

$$\langle 0|\phi_B|0\rangle \neq 0$$

$$\langle 0|[Q, \phi_A]|0\rangle \neq 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow Q|0\rangle \neq 0$$

$$\langle 0 | S_z | 0 \rangle \neq 0$$

in Ferromagnetism  
rotational  
invariance

$$\langle 0 | \Psi | 0 \rangle \neq 0$$

in G-H theory

$$\Psi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \Psi$$

gauge  
transformation  
gauge invariance



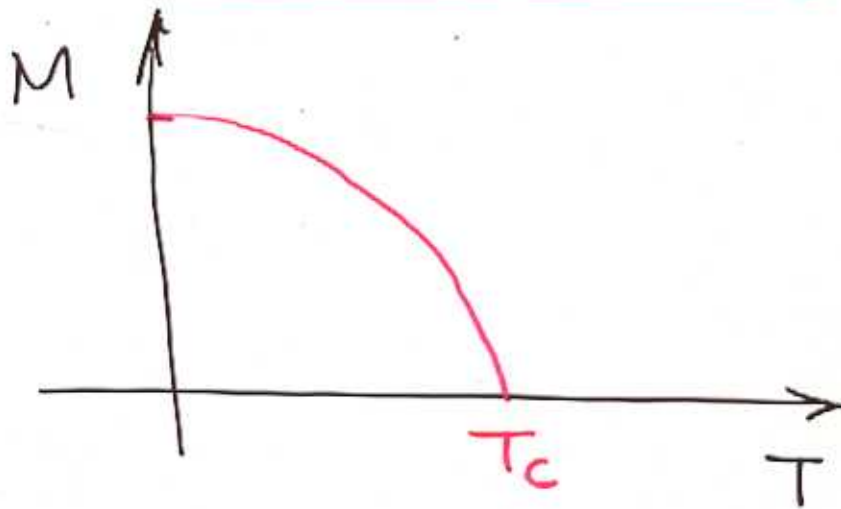
Lev Landau

(1908 - 1968)

Phase Transition

Order Parameter

秩序  
参数



$$\langle S_z \rangle = M(T) \neq 0 \quad T < T_c$$

$$M(T) \underset{T \approx T_c}{\sim} |T - T_c|^{1/2}$$

$1/2$  : critical exponent

2003 Nobel Prize

# Ginsburg - Landau Theory

$$F = d|\psi|^2 + \frac{\beta}{2}|\psi|^4 + \frac{1}{2m} \left| \left( \frac{\hbar}{i} \vec{\nabla} - \frac{2e\vec{A}}{c} \right) \psi \right|^2 + F_{EM}$$

$$\beta > 0$$

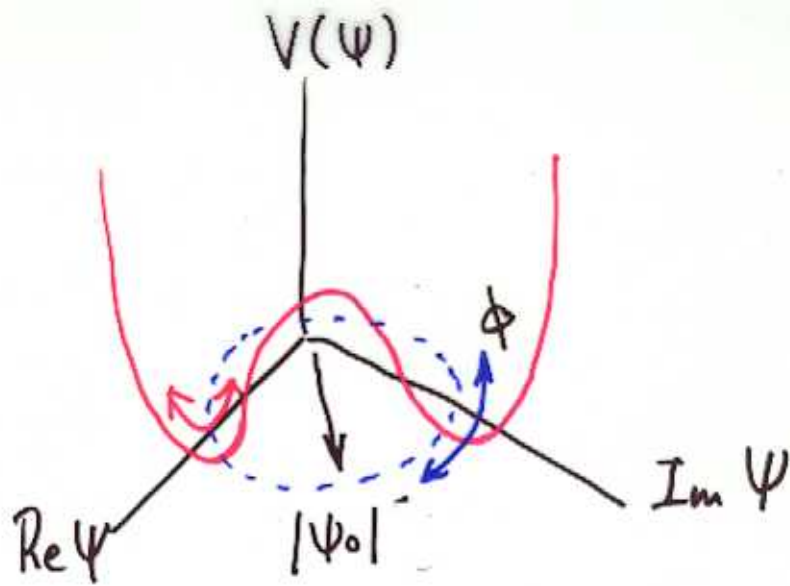
$$d < 0 \quad \text{for } T < T_c$$

$$\underline{\psi} = \underline{\psi}_0 \quad |\psi_0|^2 = -\frac{d}{\beta} > 0$$

$$\vec{j} = i \frac{e\hbar}{m} (\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^*) - \frac{4e^2}{mc} \psi^* \psi \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{j} \propto |\psi_0|^2 \vec{A}$$

↪ Meissner effect if  $|\psi_0|^2 \neq 0$ .



$$\psi \sim (|\psi_0| + \delta\rho) e^{i\phi}$$

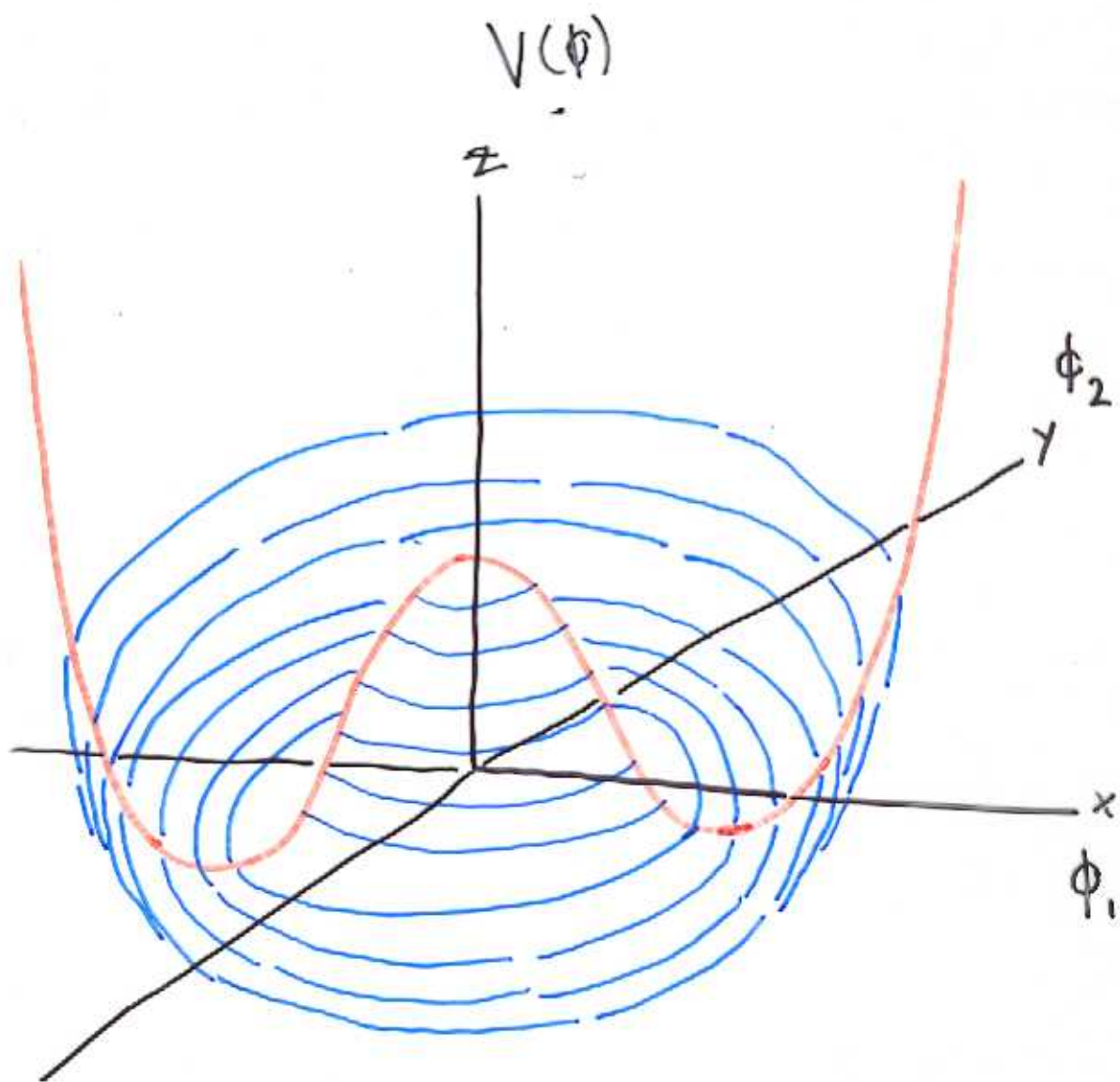
↑  
gapless Goldstone mode

## Bardeen - Cooper - Schrieffer Theory

BCS  $\dashrightarrow$  GL  
 microscopic  $\dashrightarrow$  effective theory  
 (phenomenological)

$$\langle \psi^\dagger \psi^\dagger \rangle \neq 0$$

$$\langle \psi_{GL} \rangle \neq 0$$



$$\phi = \phi_1 + i\phi_2 = \rho e^{i\theta}$$

$$V(\phi) = V(\phi_1 + i\phi_2)$$

$$\vec{J} = \frac{\hbar}{m} \vec{\nabla} \theta$$

in superfluid

$\therefore \theta$  is angle variable

$\rightarrow$  flux quantization

$$\langle 0 | \psi_e^\dagger \psi_e^\dagger | 0 \rangle \neq 0$$

$|0\rangle$  does not have

definite electron number

— Y. Nambu

$| \text{Ground State} \rangle \sim | \text{"Vacuum"} \rangle$

is strange

complicated

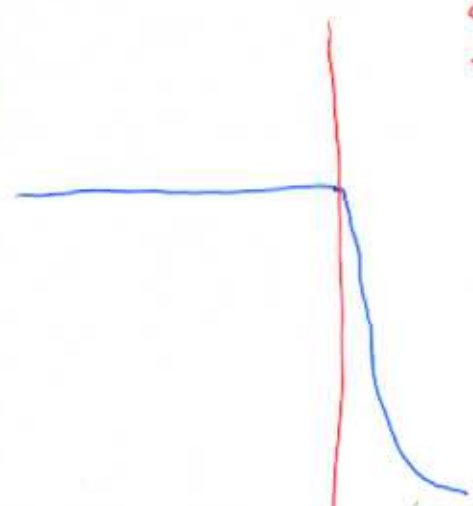
interesting



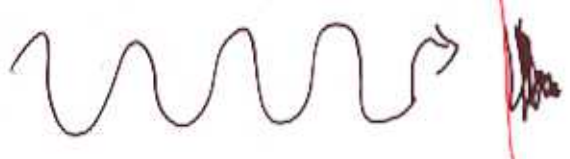
SC

Meissner effect

B



$$\vec{J} \propto \vec{A}$$



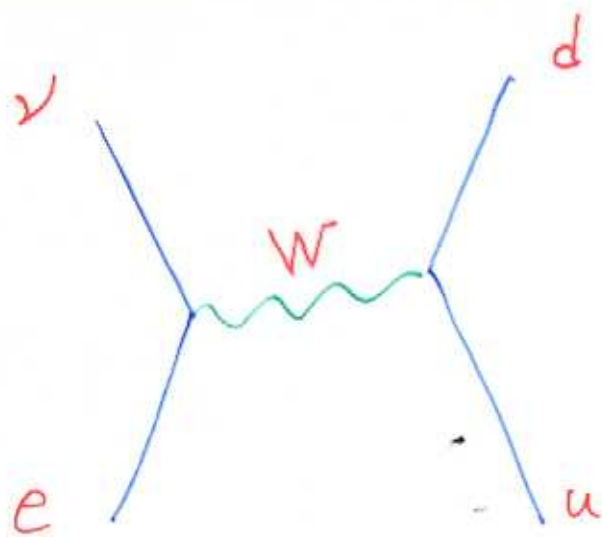
diamagnetism

抗磁性

宇宙是一抽象  
的超導體

促成了基本粒子理論

標準模型的成立



$W$  is massive

$\leftrightarrow$  Meissner effect

$SU(2) \times U(1)$

is  
hidden

only

$U(1)_{EM}$

is explicit

Superconductivity

$U(1)$  symmetry  
gauge

is

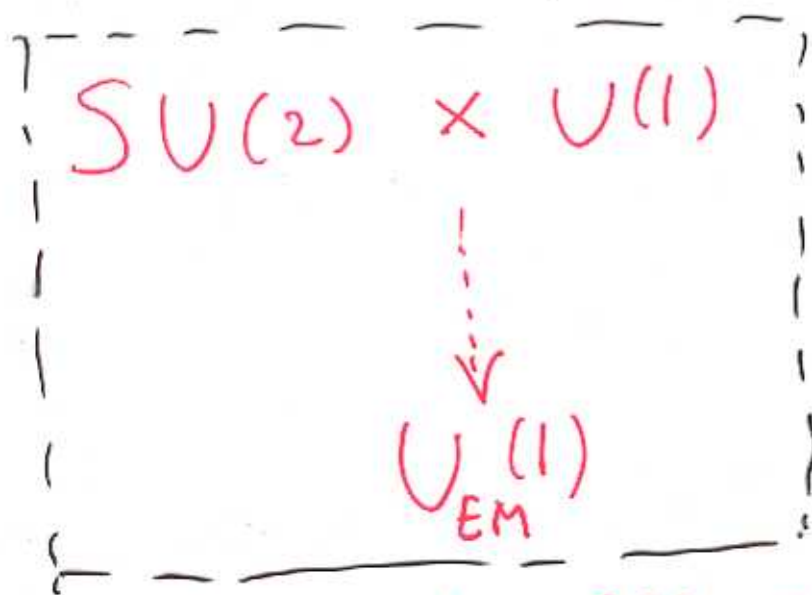
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Weinberg - Salam proposed

in 1967<sub>8</sub> that  $W^+$   $W^-$   $Z$  particles

are massive

because of the Higgs mechanism.



Unification of EM and weak interactions.

# Spontaneous Symmetry Breakdown

Lagrangian is invariant

but ground state is not.

(degenerate ground states)

→ There exist Goldstone particles  
if there is no long  
range force

Inspired by BCS,

Nambu proposed that

the chiral symmetry is  
broken spontaneously,

and the pions

are the GB



# Higgs Mechanism

GL - Anderson - Schwinger - Higgs  
- Kibble - Hagen - Guratnik - Brout  
- Englert - .....

$$\mathcal{L} = |(\partial_\mu + ieA_\mu)\phi|^2 + \mu^2|\phi|^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2}(|\phi|^2)^2 + \mathcal{L}_{EM}$$

$$\langle \phi \rangle = \phi_0$$

$$|\phi_0|^2 = \frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}$$

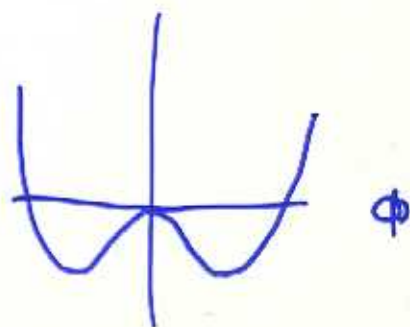
$$\mu^2 > 0, \lambda > 0$$

$$V(\phi) = -\mu^2\phi^*\phi + \frac{\lambda}{2}(\phi^*\phi)^2$$

→ Meissner effect

→ photon is massive

$$m_{\text{photon}}^2 \propto e^2/|\phi_0|^2$$



Actually, these two subjects  
have a lot  
in common!

Particle Physics

Condensed Matter  
Physics

Quantum Field  
Theory

$\approx$

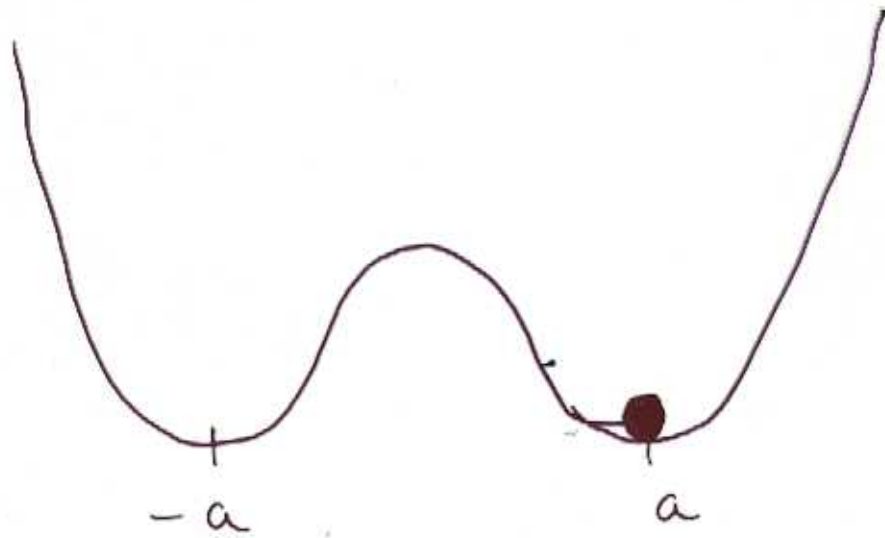
Quantum Many  
Body Theory  
Statistical Mechanics

" $\infty$ " # deg of freedom

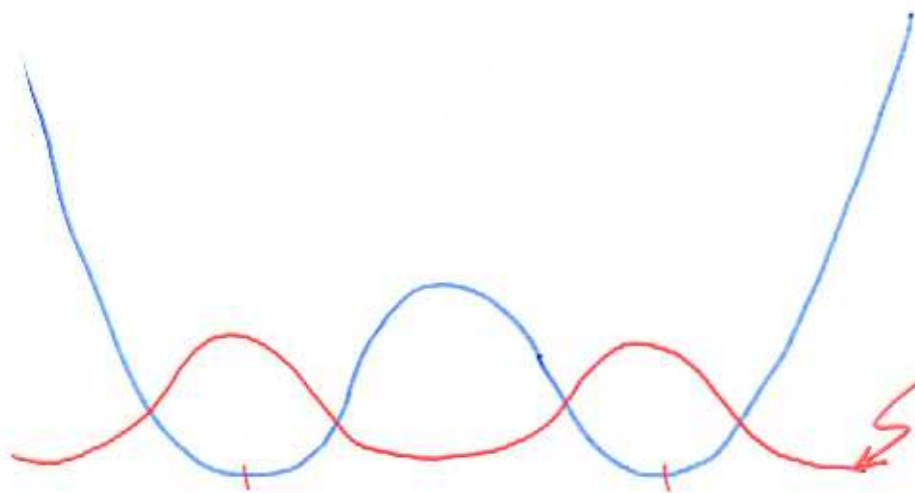
----- renormalization ----->

<----- symmetry ----->

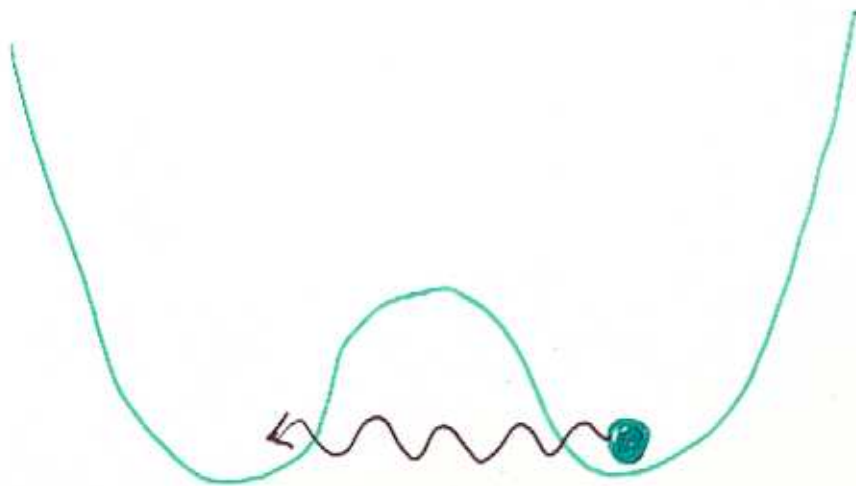
<----- Spontaneous Symmetry Breakdown ----->



$$V(x) = V(-x)$$



$$\Psi(x) = \Psi(-x)$$



quantum tunneling

# Supersymmetry

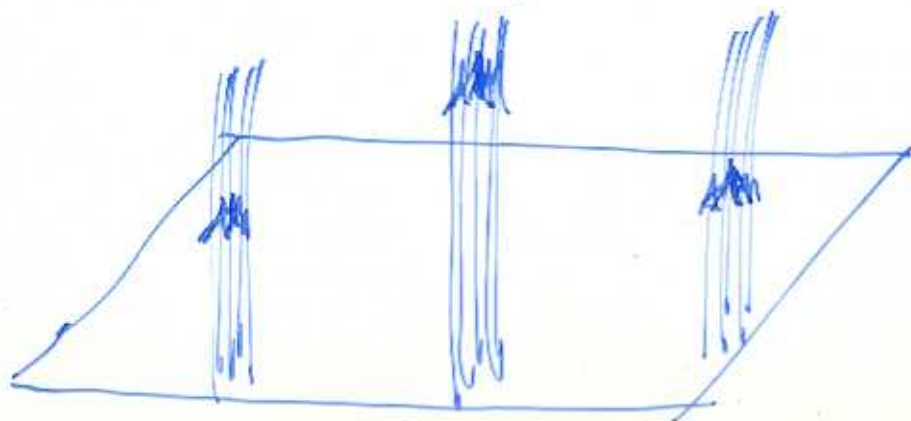
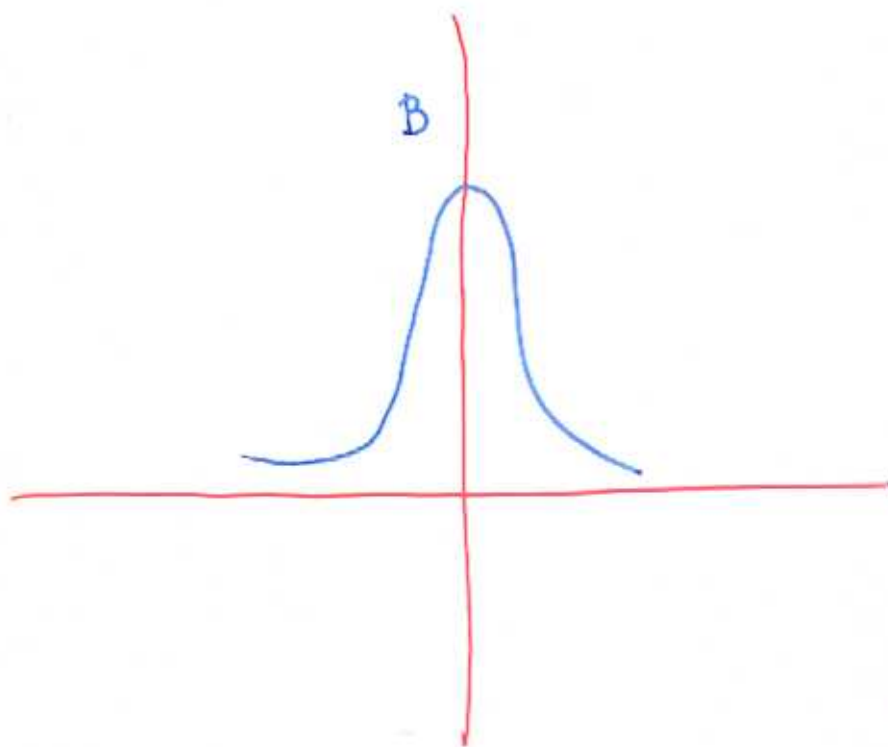
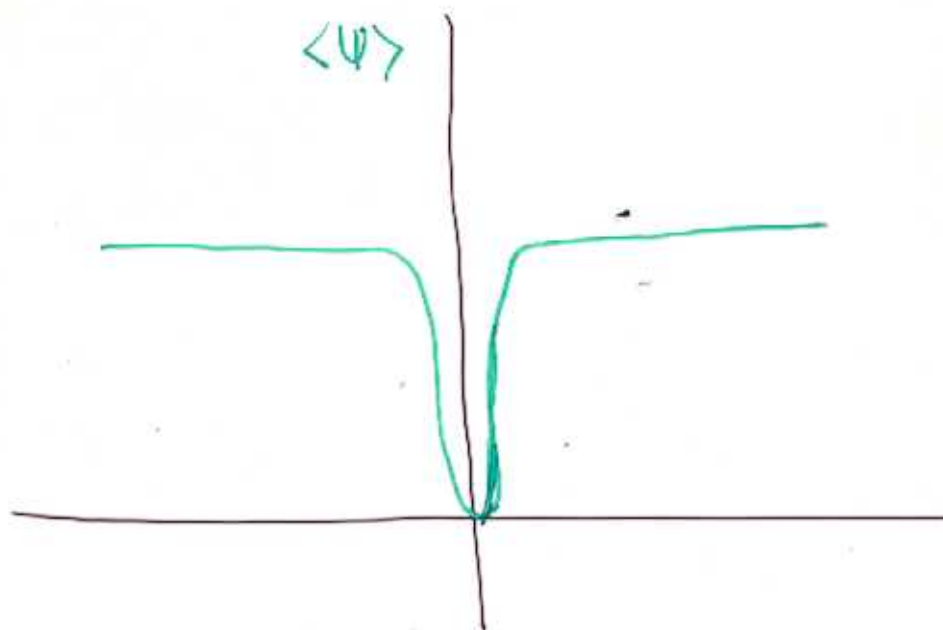
Fermion  $\leftrightarrow$  Boson

Hidden ?

How ?

Vortex

2003 Nobel Prize



Solitons



But ferromagnetism is  
unique.

$$S_z |0\rangle = \sum_i S_{iz} |0\rangle = M |0\rangle$$

$|0\rangle$  is an eigenstate of  $S_z$

In BCS theory

$|0\rangle$  is not an eigenstate  
of  $\psi^\dagger \psi^\dagger$