UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Quantum Field Theory I

2122-1-F1701Q135

Aims

Become familiar with some of the main tools for the study of Quantum Field Theories (QFT): the functional approach, the perturbative expansion, regularization and renormalization of UV divergences, renormalization group.

Contents

Functional approach to QFT. The self-interacting scalar theory with quartic potential. Perturbative renormalization. Renormalization group. UV and IR fixed points. Renormalization group flows.

Detailed program

Path integral in Quantum Mechanics. The LSZ reduction formula, correlators, scattering amplitudes and cross-sections.

Path integral in QFT, functional calculus. The path integral for the free scalar theory. Generating functional of Green functions. The perturbative expansion for the scalar theory phi^4. Feynman rules. Kallen-Lehmann formula.

Analogy between Statistical Mechanics and QFT. The effective action. One-particle irreducible diagrams and effective action via background field method. Coleman-Weinberg potential.

Superficial degree of divergence. Various regularization methods, cutoff and dimensional regularizations. BPHZ-renormalization: the phi^4 case at two loops.

Introduction to the renormalization group. The renormalization group equations. Beta functions. Qualitative study of the running of the coupling constants: Landau poles, UV and IR fixed points.General RG flows. Relevant, Irrelevant and marginal operators. RG flows and the Wilson Fisher point. Wilson Fisher expansion and critical

exponents.

Introduction to the Wilsonian renormalization.

Prerequisites

General Relativity, Theoretical Physics I and II.

Teaching form

Frontal lectures

Textbook and teaching resource

M.E. Peskin, D.V. Schroeder, An introduction to Quantum Field Theory

P. Ramond, Field Theory : A Modern Primer, 2nd Edition

M. Srednicki, Quantum Field Theory

S. Weinberg, The Quantum Theory of Fields I, II

Semester

Second semester

Assessment method

Oral exam

Office hours

By appointment, sending an e-mail to silvia.penati@unimib.it