

The quantum theory of time: Sources of T violation

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The violation of the discrete symmetries of charge conjugation (C), parity inversion (P), and time reversal (T) observed in high energy physics are clearly fundamental aspects of nature. A new quantum theory [1,2] has been introduced to demonstrate the possibility that the violations have large-scale physical effects. The new theory does not assume any conservation laws or equations of motion. In particular, if T violation is turned off, matter is represented in terms of virtual particles that exist momentarily only. However, with T violation turned on, what was the mathematical representation of a virtual particle now traces out an unbounded world line that satisfies conservation laws and an equation of motion. The theory is then analogous to the 5 dimensional "proper time" formalism introduced by Feynman [3], extended by Nambu [4] in the 1950's, and developed as "parameterized relativistic quantum theories" [5]. The important point here is that time evolution and conservation laws are not built into the new theory, but rather they emerge *phenomenologically* from T violation. In other words, the new theory proposes that T violation is the *origin of dynamics and conservations laws*. It has experimentally testable predictions and offers new insight into the quantum nature of time.

The talk will present results of our analysis of known and expected sources of T violation such as mesons, neutrinos, and the Higgs field. We will show how, in each case, the commutator of \hat{H}_F and \hat{H}_B , the time-reversed versions of the associated T violating Hamiltonian, approaches the canonical form [1,2]

$$[\hat{H}_F, \hat{H}_B] = i\lambda\hat{1}$$

in the limit of many particles or field modes, where $\hat{H}_B = \hat{T}\hat{H}_F\hat{T}^{-1}$, \hat{T} is Wigner's time reversal operator, $\hat{1}$ is the identity, and real number λ represents the amount of T violation.

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