

Problem Set #6

1. Toy Dirac Model $L = \bar{\psi} (i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m) \psi$

Here ψ is a two-component dynamical variable, and $\bar{\psi} = \psi^+ \sigma_3$.

The conjugate momentum is $\pi = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\psi}} = \bar{\psi} i\sigma_3 = i\psi^+$.

Quantize with anti-commutation relations: $\{\psi_\alpha, i\psi_\beta^+\} = i\delta_{\alpha\beta}$, etc.

The equation of motion is $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\psi}} \right)^0 - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \psi} = 0 \Rightarrow (i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m)\psi = 0$

(1) Positive & negative energy solutions.

The equation of motion implies that each component of ψ obeys a harmonic oscillator equation (with frequency $\pm \frac{mc^2}{\hbar}$)

$$(-i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m)(i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m)\psi = 0$$

$$(\partial_t^2 + m^2)\psi = 0$$

The solutions $\psi = e^{-iEt}$ can have positive or negative frequencies, and the "energy-momentum" relation has been reduced to

$$-E^2 + m^2 = 0$$

$$E = \pm m$$

Positive energy Try $\psi(t) = u e^{-imt}$

$$(i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m)\psi = (m\sigma_3 - m)u e^{-imt} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2m \end{pmatrix} u e^{-imt} = 0.$$

so $u = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, with normalization chosen s.t. $u^t u = 1$.

Negative energy Try $\psi(t) = v e^{imt}$

$$(i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m)\psi = (-m\sigma_3 - m)v e^{imt} = \begin{pmatrix} -2m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} v e^{imt} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{v^t v = 1}.$$

(2) Anti-commutation relations amongst the mode operators.

Expand Ψ as $\Psi_{(t)} = a u e^{-imt} + b^+ v e^{imt}$

$$\Psi_{(t)}^+ = a^+ u^+ e^{imt} + b v^+ e^{-imt}$$

So the mode ops. are

$$a = u^+ \Psi e^{imt} = \psi_1 e^{imt}$$

$$b^+ = v^+ \Psi e^{-imt} = \psi_2 e^{-imt}$$

$$a^+ = \Psi^+ u e^{-imt} = \psi_1^+ e^{-imt}$$

$$b = \Psi^+ v e^{imt} = \psi_2^+ e^{imt}$$

Then using the anti-commutation relations $\{\psi_\alpha, \psi_\beta^+\} = \delta_{\alpha\beta}$,

$$\{a, a^+\} = \{\psi_1 e^{imt}, \psi_1^+ e^{-imt}\} = \{\psi_1, \psi_1^+\} = \delta_{11} = 1$$

$$\{b, b^+\} = \{\psi_2^+, \psi_2\} = \delta_{22} = 1$$

Also, $\{a, b\} = \{a, b^+\} = \{a^+, b\} = \{a^+, b^+\} = 0$ all follow
 $\{b, a\} = \{b, b^+\} = \{a^+, a\} = \{b^+, b^+\} = 0$

from $\{\psi_\alpha, \psi_\beta\} = \{\psi_\alpha^+, \psi_\beta^+\} = 0$.

since $\{a^+, a^+\} = \{b^+, b^+\} = 0$, $(a^+)^2 = (b^+)^2 = 0$. Thus the Hilbert space has only the four states

$$|0\rangle, \quad a^+ |0\rangle, \quad b^+ |0\rangle, \quad a^+ b^+ |0\rangle$$

as a basis.

(3) The Hamiltonian is $H_0 = \pi \dot{\psi} - L$

We said above that $\pi = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\psi}} = \bar{\psi} i\sigma_3 (= i\psi^+)$.

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &= (\bar{\psi} i\sigma_3) \partial_t \bar{\psi} - (\bar{\psi} i\sigma_3 \partial_t \psi - m \bar{\psi} \psi) \\ &= m \bar{\psi} \psi \\ &= m \psi^+ \sigma_3 \psi \\ &= m (a^\dagger u^\dagger e^{imt} + b v^\dagger e^{imt}) \sigma_3 (a u e^{imt} + b^\dagger v e^{imt}) \end{aligned}$$

use $u^\dagger \sigma_3 u = 1$, $v^\dagger \sigma_3 v = -1$,
 $u^\dagger \sigma_3 v = v^\dagger \sigma_3 u = 0$.

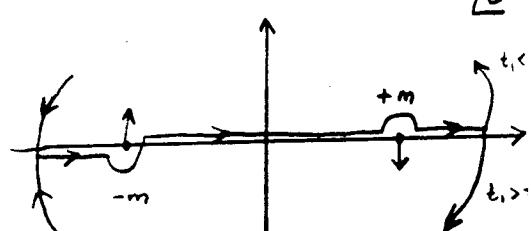
$$H_0 = m (a^\dagger a - b b^\dagger) \quad \left. \right\} \{b, b^\dagger\} = 1$$

$$H_0 = m (a^\dagger a + b^\dagger b) - m$$

(4) Feynman Propagator $S_F^\alpha(t_1, -t_2) = \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\alpha(t_2) | 0 \rangle$

It's easiest to work in both directions. Start with

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE}{2\pi} \frac{i(E\sigma_3 + m)\alpha\beta}{E^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} e^{-iE(t_1 - t_2)}.$$



The $+i\epsilon$ prescription tells us to take the contour as shown. If $t_1 - t_2 > 0$ we can close the contour in the LHP, picking up the $+m$ pole with an extra $-$ sign (since the contour is clockwise). If $t_1 - t_2 < 0$, close the contour in the UHP, picking up the $-m$ pole with a counterclockwise (positive) contour.

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2\pi i \left(-\theta(t_1 - t_2) \frac{i}{2\pi} \frac{(+m\sigma_3 + m)\alpha\beta}{(i+m+m)} e^{-i(+m)(t_1 - t_2)} + \theta(t_2 - t_1) \frac{i}{2\pi} \frac{(-m\sigma_3 + m)\alpha\beta}{(-m - m)} e^{-i(-m)(t_1 - t_2)} \right) \\ &= \theta(t_1 - t_2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{-im(t_1 - t_2)} + \theta(t_2 - t_1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{+im(t_1 - t_2)} \end{aligned}$$

(4) cont. We can write the result of the calculation simply as

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \delta(t_1 - t_2) & 0 \\ 0 & \delta(t_2 - t_1) \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{-im|t_1 - t_2|}$$

Next we work on

$$\begin{aligned} S_F^{\alpha\beta}(t_1 - t_2) &= \langle 0 | T \Psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\Psi}_\beta(t_2) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \delta(t_1 - t_2) \langle 0 | (a_u e^{-imt_1} + b_v^\dagger e^{imt_1}) (a_u^\dagger (u\sigma_3)_\beta e^{+imt_2} + b_v (v\sigma_3)_\beta e^{-imt_2}) | 0 \rangle \\ &\quad \xrightarrow{\text{Time-ordered product for anti-commuting operators.}} -\delta(t_1 - t_2) \langle 0 | (a_u^\dagger (u\sigma_3)_\beta e^{+imt_2} + b_v (v\sigma_3)_\beta e^{-imt_2}) (a_u e^{-imt_1} + b_v^\dagger e^{imt_1}) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \delta(t_1 - t_2) (a_u a_u^\dagger \langle 0 | a^+ | 0 \rangle e^{-im|t_1 - t_2|} - b_v b_v^\dagger \langle 0 | b^+ | 0 \rangle e^{im|t_1 - t_2|}) \\ &= \delta(t_1 - t_2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{-im|t_1 - t_2|} + \delta(t_2 - t_1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{im|t_1 - t_2|} \\ S_F^{\alpha\beta}(t_1 - t_2) &= \begin{pmatrix} \delta(t_1 - t_2) & 0 \\ 0 & \delta(t_2 - t_1) \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha\beta} e^{-im|t_1 - t_2|} \end{aligned}$$

This is the same as the expression above for the value of the integral representation.

$$\therefore S_F^{\alpha\beta}(t_1 - t_2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE}{2\pi} \frac{i e^{-iE(t_1 - t_2)}}{E\sigma_3 + m + i\epsilon},$$

where we used $(E\sigma_3 + m)(E\sigma_3 - m) = E^2 - m^2$ to rewrite the integrand.

(5). Calculate $\langle 0 | T \psi_{(t_1)} \bar{\psi}_{(t_2)} \psi_{(t_3)} \bar{\psi}_{(t_4)} | 0 \rangle$ when $t_1 > t_2 > t_3 > t_4$.

(1) Wick's Theorem

There are only two possible ways to take contractions:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t_2) \psi_\gamma(t_3) \bar{\psi}_\delta(t_4) | 0 \rangle &= \\ &\quad \underbrace{\langle 0 | \psi \bar{\psi} \psi \bar{\psi} | 0 \rangle}_{(-1)^0} + \underbrace{\langle 0 | \psi \bar{\psi} \underbrace{\psi \bar{\psi}}_{(-1)^3} | 0 \rangle}_{(-1)^3} \\ &= S_F^{\alpha\beta}(t_1 - t_2) S_F^{\gamma\delta}(t_3 - t_4) - S_F^{\alpha\delta}(t_1 - t_4) S_F^{\gamma\beta}(t_3 - t_2) \\ &= \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\alpha\beta} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\gamma\delta} e^{-im(t_1-t_2)} e^{-im(t_3-t_4)} \\ &\quad - \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\alpha\delta} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\gamma\beta} e^{-im(t_1-t_4)} e^{-im(t_3-t_2)} \\ &\quad \uparrow_{t_2 > t_3: \delta(t_2-t_3)=1} \end{aligned}$$

(2) Creation / annihilation ops.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \langle 0 | (a u_\alpha e^{-int_1} + b^\dagger v_\alpha e^{int_1}) (a^\dagger \bar{u}_\beta e^{int_2} + b \bar{v}_\beta e^{-int_2}) (a u_\gamma e^{-int_3} + b^\dagger v_\gamma e^{int_3}) \\ &\quad (a^\dagger \bar{u}_\delta e^{int_4} + b \bar{v}_\delta e^{-int_4}) | 0 \rangle \\ &\quad \text{Two terms contribute.} \\ &\quad \bar{u} = u^\dagger, \bar{v} = -v^\dagger \\ &= u_\alpha u_\beta u_\gamma u_\delta \langle 0 | a a^\dagger a a^\dagger | 0 \rangle e^{+im(-t_1+t_2-t_3+t_4)} \\ &\quad + u_\alpha \bar{v}_\beta v_\gamma u_\delta \langle 0 | a b b^\dagger a^\dagger | 0 \rangle e^{im(-t_1-t_2+t_3+t_4)} \\ &= \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\alpha\beta} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\gamma\delta} e^{-im(t_1-t_2)} e^{-im(t_3-t_4)} \\ &\quad - \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\alpha\delta} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}\right)_{\gamma\beta} e^{-im(t_1-t_4)} e^{-im(t_2-t_3)} \end{aligned}$$

This is the same as obtained by Wick's theorem above. We sum over

(5) cont. Sum over $\beta = \gamma$ to get

$$\langle 0 | T \psi(t_1) \bar{\psi}(t_2) \psi(t_3) \bar{\psi}(t_4) | 10 \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{-im(t_1-t_2)} e^{-im(t_3-t_4)} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{-im(t_1-t_4)} e^{-im(t_2-t_3)}$$

(6) Add a time-dependent perturbation. calculate $\langle O(\infty) | O(-\infty) \rangle$.

$$H = H_0 + V(t), \quad V = f(t) \Psi^\dagger \sigma_1 \Psi.$$

$V^\dagger = V \rightarrow f^*(t) = f(t) \rightarrow f(t)$ real. We also assume that $f(t) \rightarrow 0$ at $\pm\infty$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O(\infty) | O(-\infty) \rangle &= \langle 0 | T e^{-i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V_I(t) dt} | 10 \rangle_I \\ &= \langle 0 | T \left[1 - i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V_I(t) dt - \frac{i}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt'' V_I(t') V_I(t'') + \dots \right] | 10 \rangle_I \\ &= \langle 0 | 0 \rangle_I - i \langle 0 | \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V_I(t) dt | 10 \rangle_I - \frac{i}{2} \langle 0 | T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V_I(t') V_I(t'') | 10 \rangle_I + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$o(f^*) : \quad \langle 0 | 0 \rangle_I = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } V &= f(t) \Psi^\dagger \sigma_1 \Psi \\ &= f(t) \bar{\Psi} \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \Psi \\ &= f(t) \bar{\Psi} i \sigma_2 \Psi \\ &= f(t) (\bar{\Psi}_1 \bar{\Psi}_2) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_1 \\ \Psi_2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$V = f(t) (\bar{\Psi}_1 \Psi_2 - \bar{\Psi}_2 \Psi_1) = f(t) (\Psi_1 \bar{\Psi}_2 - \Psi_2 \bar{\Psi}_1)$$

$$V_I = f(t) (\Psi_{1I} \bar{\Psi}_{2I} - \Psi_{2I} \bar{\Psi}_{1I})$$

$$\begin{aligned} o(f') : \quad \langle 0 | V_I | 10 \rangle_I &= f(t) \langle 0 | T (\Psi_{1I}(t) \bar{\Psi}_{2I}(t) - \Psi_{2I}(t) \bar{\Psi}_{1I}(t)) | 10 \rangle_I \\ &= S_F^{12}(t-t) - S_F^{21}(t-t) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

(6) (contd) The overlap vanishes at order $\mathcal{O}(f')$, so we go to $\mathcal{O}(f^2)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}(f^2): & \left\langle 0 | T V_I(t') V_I(t'') | 0 \right\rangle_I \\ &= f(t') f(t'') \left\langle 0 | T (\psi_{1I}(t') \bar{\psi}_{2I}(t') - \psi_{2I}(t') \bar{\psi}_{1I}(t')) \right. \\ &\quad \left. (\psi_{1I}(t'') \bar{\psi}_{2I}(t'') - \psi_{2I}(t'') \bar{\psi}_{1I}(t'')) | 0 \right\rangle_I \end{aligned}$$

We know from above that contractions which give S_F^{12} or S_F^{21} vanish, so the only contributions are

$$\begin{aligned} &= f(t') f(t'') \left(- \left\langle 0 | T \overbrace{\psi_{1I}(t') \bar{\psi}_{2I}(t')} \overbrace{\psi_{2I}(t'') \bar{\psi}_{1I}(t'')} | 0 \right\rangle_I \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left\langle 0 | T \psi_{2I}(t') \overbrace{\bar{\psi}_{1I}(t')} \overbrace{\psi_{1I}(t'') \bar{\psi}_{2I}(t'')} | 0 \right\rangle_I \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= +f(t') f(t'') \left(S_F^{11}(t'-t'') S_F^{22}(t''-t') \cdot 2 \right)$$

$$\left\langle 0 | T e^{-i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V_I(t) dt} | 0 \right\rangle_I = 1 - \frac{1}{2} 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt'' f(t') f(t'') S_F^{11}(t'-t'') S_F^{22}(t''-t')$$

$$= 1 - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt'' f(t') f(t'') e^{2im|t'-t''|/\theta(t'-t'')}$$

(7) $\langle a| O(t_1) | 0 \rangle$ matrix element.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{int} (-i) \bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_t - m) \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \psi(t) | 0 \rangle \\
&= e^{int} (-i) \bar{u}(i\sigma_3) \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \psi(t) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} \\
&+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{int} (-i) \bar{u}(i\sigma_3 (-i)m - m) \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \psi(t) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \underbrace{(e^{int} u t \psi(t))}_{\text{reduces to } a \text{ at } \pm \infty} | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} \\
&+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{int} (-i) (1 \circ) \xrightarrow{\substack{\circ \\ \circ \\ -2m}} \langle 0 | T \dots | 0 \rangle \\
&\stackrel{\text{bosonic}}{=} \langle 0 | a(+\infty) O(t_1) - O(t_1) a(-\infty) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \underset{\text{out}}{\langle a | O(t_1) | 0 \rangle}
\end{aligned}$$

(8) $\langle b| O(t_1) | 0 \rangle$ matrix element.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t) | 0 \rangle [i(-i\sigma_3 \bar{\partial}_t - m) v]_\beta e^{int} \\
&= \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t) | 0 \rangle (\sigma_3 v)_\beta e^{int} \Big|_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} \\
&+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t) | 0 \rangle [i(+i\sigma_3 im - m) v]_\beta e^{int} \\
&= \langle 0 | T O(t_1) (\bar{\psi} \sigma_3 v e^{int}) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} \\
&+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t) | 0 \rangle i \left(\begin{pmatrix} -2m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right)_\beta e^{int} \\
&= \langle 0 | T O(t_1) \underbrace{\psi^\dagger(t) v e^{int}}_{\text{reduces to } b \text{ at } \pm \infty} | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} \\
&= \langle 0 | b(+\infty) O(t_1) - O(t_1) b(-\infty) | 0 \rangle = \underset{\text{bosonic}}{\langle b | O(t_1) | 0 \rangle}
\end{aligned}$$

(9) "Pair-creation" amplitude at $\langle ab | o \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_2 e^{int_1} [-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_1}, -m)]_\alpha \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t_2) | 0 \rangle \left[i(-i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_2}, -m) V \right]_\beta e^{int_2} \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \left[[-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_1}, -m)]_\alpha e^{int_1} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t_2) | 0 \rangle i(-i\sigma_3 V)_\beta e^{int_2} \right]_{t_2=-\infty}^\infty \\
 &\quad + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 dt_2 \left[[-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_1}, -m)]_\alpha e^{int_1} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) \bar{\psi}_\beta(t_2) | 0 \rangle i \underbrace{[(+i\sigma_3 im - m)V]}_{(-2m)} \right]_\beta e^{int_2} \Big\} \\
 &\quad (10) \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2m \end{array} \right) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 [-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_1}, -m)]_\alpha e^{int_1} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) (\underbrace{\psi_\beta^\dagger(t_2) V e^{int_2}}_{\text{reduces to } b(+\infty)}) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t_2=-\infty}^\infty
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 [-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3 \partial_{t_1}, -m)]_\alpha e^{int_1} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) b(+\infty) - \psi_\alpha(t_1) \cancel{b(-\infty)} | 0 \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= e^{int_1} (-i\bar{u}(i\sigma_3))_\alpha \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) b(+\infty) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t_1=-\infty}^\infty \\
 &\quad + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [-i\bar{u}(-i\sigma_3 im - m)]_\alpha e^{int_1} \langle 0 | T \psi_\alpha(t_1) b(+\infty) | 0 \rangle \\
 &\quad (10) \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2m \end{array} \right) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \langle 0 | T (u^\dagger \psi_\alpha(t_1) e^{int_1}) b(+\infty) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{t_1=-\infty}^\infty \\
 &\quad \text{reduces to } a(+\infty)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \langle 0 | a(+\infty) b(+\infty) - \cancel{(a(+\infty) b(+\infty))} | 0 \rangle$$

$$= \text{out} \langle ab | o \rangle$$