

## Permittivity reveals the World behind the Quantum Vacuum

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(We found the vacuum to be “backed” by a new solid region, “pair-space”. Its remarkable qualities, which are derived below, are summarized in [Table 1](#). Eq. (14) defines  $\epsilon_0$  in terms of those qualities).

In physics the vacuum of space is considered to carry gravity and electromagnetic transmissions despite that it is a pure void. Yet, through its proven permittivity, it can store electric energy. This mandates some form of charge density, inevitably a cloud of “neutral” electron-positron pairs. Our analysis finds pairs to be co-located, uniformly spaced at  $\Lambda = 3.541 \times 10^{-14}$  m, having among other properties, a transmission velocity equal to  $c$ . (See [Table 1](#)). This solid region is accessible only electrically. Its extreme mass density (5 million times that of iron), demands a separate, extremely potent space *underlying* the vacuum, that I call pair-space. It would satisfy Heisenberg’s quest for a region “in which physics would be different” to avoid renormalization. It seems compelling that pair-space is a calibrated version of the so-called quantum vacuum, which however, has no defined properties. Similarly Dirac’s sea of electrons was a purely mathematical construct with anomalous specifications.

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KEY WORDS: Permittivity, S.I., sea of electrons, quantum vacuum, electron-positron pairs, pair-production, fine-structure constant

### 1. INTRODUCTION

For centuries we have trusted the vacuum to carry gravity and radio waves over vast distances even though vacuum was known to be a void. It appeared possible to learn its secret by analyzing its polarizability  $\epsilon_0$  Farad/meter and its *permeability*  $\mu_0$  Henry/meter, which are fundamental SI units, but were discarded in cgs units. I will show that permittivity acts a region that is densely packed with electron positron pairs that respond only to electric fields and is an exact *dual* to our vacuum. It is the concrete realization of the widely accepted but nebulous quantum vacuum. Dirac in 1927 proposed a sea of negative energy electrons, superficially resembling pair-space but which was an ad hoc extrapolation from the [total energy equation](#) . Permittivity is the conduit for the Maxwell’s displacement current, a concept that is vigorously debated and denied in many quarters, but which will find support here.

### 2. VACUUM CAPACITOR PROVIDES THE WINDOW.

An example in direct support of Maxwell’s displacement current  $dD/dt$  is the pictured teacup-sized broadcast capacitor rated at 150 amperes of high frequency current. Vacuum is essentially loss-free (aside from support structure).

Fixed Vacuum Capacitor  
From Meivac

**Capacitance range : 6 - 1750 pF**  
**Voltage range : 5 - 35 kVp**  
**Current range : up to 150 A. (rms)**  
(Ex: 10kVp x 100A = 1 megawatt)



### 3. CAPACITOR EQUATIONS AND PERMITTIVITY

A parallel plate vacuum capacitor has a capacitance in farads (coulombs/volt) given by:

$$C = \epsilon_0 A / g \text{ coul/volt} = \textit{farads} \text{ where} \quad (1)$$

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \textit{ farad / meter}$$

$$A = \textit{area}, g = \textit{gap} \text{ (meters)}$$

When we connect a battery  $V_0$  with internal resistance  $R$  to a capacitor, the initial current inrush is  $I_0 = V_0/R$  quickly subsiding to zero as its voltage rises to satisfy Eq. (2a).

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Some of the governing equations are:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= I_0 \cdot e^{-t/RC} & V(t) &= V_0 - I_0 \cdot R \cdot e^{-t/RC} \\
 Q &= \int idt = CV \quad \text{coulombs} & V &= Q/C \\
 D &= Q/A = CV/A = \epsilon_0 V/g = \epsilon_0 E \quad \text{coulombs/m}^2
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2}$$

The constitutive equation  $D = \epsilon_0 E$  (see also Eq. (16)) is part of Eq. (2b). It calculates charge/area  $D$  that is obviously on the plates but more importantly, is a point function that is present *throughout the gap*  $g$  along with  $E$ . The dielectric stores the energy, while the plates are merely contacts carrying  $E$  to every part of the surface of the dielectric (vacuum or solid).

$$\text{Capacitor energy} = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = \frac{1}{2} ED = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2
 \tag{3}$$

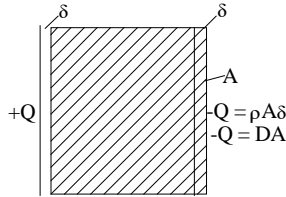
If  $D$  and energy are to be present in the gap, then some form of charge density  $\rho$  must exist. Maxwell's divergence equation offers a way to get this.

#### 4. MAXWELL'S DIVERGENCE

Maxwell's inspiration was to introduce displacement current  $dD/dt$  in vacuum. We can use Maxwell's equations to generate  $D$  in a vacuum as in Eq.(2) if we postulate existence of a cloud of virtual vacuum charges. Let there be equal numbers of positive and negative charges, to achieve neutrality. Integrating Eq. (4a), from  $x = 0$  to  $\delta$  yields  $D = D_x = \rho\delta$  as in Eq. (4b):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla \cdot D &= \rho = dD/dx \quad \text{divergence equation} \\
 \therefore \int_0^\delta \frac{dD}{dx} dx &= D_x = D = \rho\delta \quad \text{coul/m}^2 \text{ in the gap} \\
 \therefore Q_{disp} &= D \cdot A = \rho \cdot (A \cdot \delta) = \rho \cdot \Delta V \quad \text{coul}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4}$$

Eq. (4b) shows that a displacement of  $\delta$  meters in the charge cloud  $\rho$  would generate  $D$  throughout the gap. Figs.1 and Eq. (4c) show how even  $Q$  itself can be present in each differential volume  $\Delta V = A\delta$ . In Fig. 1 the entire cloud is shown shifted by  $\delta$  with the protruding volume  $A\delta$  containing displacement charge  $Q$ .



**Fig. 1 showing  $\delta$ -shifted pairs making displacement  $D$**

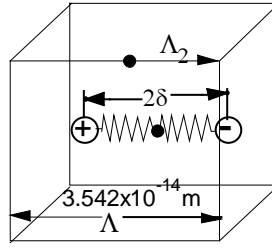
The protrusion in Fig. 1 is figurative only, as these “excess” electrons have already made their way down the wire. After disconnection, the plates are left neutral and the dielectric remains under stress since there is no path for reverse current. The voltage remains, sustained now by the displaced polarized charges. The charges that were initially the sink, now become the source.

#### 5. HOW CAN THERE BE CHARGE CLOUD $\rho$ WHEN THE VACUUM IS A VOID?

We model  $\rho$  as electron-positron pairs, each pair in a cubic cell of size  $\Lambda$ . The pair density is  $\rho = \rho_{ep} = 2e_e/\Lambda^3$ , with  $\Lambda$  to be determined.

#### 6. MAKING A CAPACITOR WITHIN A CAPACITOR

As a start, we can configure the cell as a capacitor by figuratively metallizing opposite faces of the cell, and using Eq. (1a).



**Fig. 2 Spring-restrained pair in  $\Lambda$  cell**

Fig. 2 shows the  $ep^+$  pair with each particle being centered by a linear spring (or equivalent) to support linear polarization. An applied voltage/field across the plates would deflect the charges equally and oppositely. Thus the capacitor energy would be stored in the “springs”.

We have defined the cell as a special region *inside of which the normal inverse square law does not operate*. There is a striking resemblance to the strong force (confinement) present in nucleons, or action of a point mass inside a spherical gravitational mass ( $g \propto r$ ).

## 7. FINDING THE CELL SIZE $\Lambda$

We still need to find the cell size  $\Lambda$ . The governing equations for our cell as a capacitor are:

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \epsilon_0 \Lambda^2 / \Lambda = \epsilon_0 \Lambda \\ q &= V_c \cdot C = V_c \epsilon_0 \Lambda = 2e_e \quad \text{so that } V_c \text{ will force 2 electrons out} \\ \therefore \Lambda &= 2e_e / V_c \epsilon_0 \quad \text{with } V_c \text{ still unknown} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

We require a value for  $V_c$  that would convert the “virtual” charges to real charges.

## 8. ANDERSON’S PAIR PRODUCTION COMES TO MIND

Our attempt to extrude an electron pair is strikingly parallel to Carl Anderson’s 1932 discovery of pair production. He observed several examples of oppositely curving tracks pairs from a single point, driven by cosmic rays, which led to discovery of the positron and then of electron positron pairs.

Using Einstein’s energy-mass equation for two electrons:

$$W = 2m_e c^2 = 1.022 \times 10^6 \text{ electronvolts} \quad (6)$$

suggests that we try a critical voltage  $V_c = 1.022 \times 10^6$  volts across the capacitor (a choice validated by later results). Substituting  $V_c$  into (5d) determines  $\Lambda$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } V_c &= 1.022 \times 10^6 \text{ volts} \\ \therefore \Lambda &= 2e_e / V_c \epsilon_0 = 3.542 \times 10^{-14} \text{ meters from (5d)} \\ \Lambda_2 &= \Lambda / 2 = 1.771 \times 10^{-14} \text{ meters} \\ \Lambda_2 &\text{ equals the Compton Wavelength } \times \text{ FSC } \alpha: \\ \Lambda_2 &= \alpha \cdot \lambda_{cwl} = \alpha h / m_e c = 7.297 \times 10^{-3} \cdot 2.427 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m} \\ V_c e_e &= 2m_e c^2 = 1.636 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J} \\ &\text{where } e_e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ coulombs and} \\ \alpha &= \text{FSC} = e_e^2 / 2hc\epsilon_0 = 7.297 \times 10^{-3} \text{ fine structure constant} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

## 9. $\Lambda$ , A NEW FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANT

Accordingly, we find the “primal” cell size to be  $\Lambda = 3.542 \times 10^{-14}$  m. Each pair resides inside a cell of size  $\Lambda$  from which the charges cannot be expelled except by extreme electric fields exceeding  $2.886 \times 10^{19} \text{ Vm}^{-1}$  as in Eq.(8a). Further, we identify  $\Lambda_2 = \Lambda/2$  as the half-cell *range of motion* for each charge equal to the

Compton wavelength reduced by  $\alpha$  as shown numerically in Eq. (7d) or as may be proved algebraically (with some labor)<sup>2</sup>. The finite value  $\Lambda$  avoids zeroes, eliminating the need for renormalization.

## 10. FORCES AND ENERGIES

By knowing  $\Lambda$  and  $V_c$  we can derive further properties of the vacuum. For example, it takes enormous field strength Eq. (8a), to extract a pair. The force  $F_{\max}$  at partition is just over one pound Eq. (8b). The energy to extract an electron in Eq. (8c) is  $\frac{1}{2} mc^2$ . We show in [1] that an additional  $\frac{1}{2}mc^2$  is spent to launch the electron to the speed of light for a total of  $mc^2$ , in a completely new theory of the universe.

$$\begin{aligned} E_c &= V_c / \Lambda = 2.886 \times 10^{19} \text{ volt} / m \text{ critical field strength} \\ F_{\max} &= e_e E_c = 4.62 \text{ newton} = 1.038 \text{ lbs to remove } e^- \\ W_e &= F_{\text{avg}} \cdot \Lambda_2 = m_e c^2 / 2 = 4.092 \times 10^{-14} \text{ J per charge} \\ &= 1.022 \text{ MeV} / 4 \text{ electron volts removal energy} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

It might seem possible to produce pairs with 1+ MeV X-rays tube but several references cited in [4], [5], indicate that elaborate efforts would be required. The TESLA XFEL for example [5] aims for  $1.3 \times 10^{18} \text{ V/m}$  (which is  $2\pi\alpha V_c$ ) using a 20 GeV Linac working through a 4 km. tunnel with 37 GW peak power and  $6 \times 10^{18} \text{ W/m}^2$ , to be commissioned in the near future.

## 11. CHARGE AND MASS DENSITIES

In a typical case of  $10^6 \text{ V/m}$  we see that  $\delta$  is only  $10^{-27} \text{ m}$  or  $10^{-14}$  part of its range,  $\Lambda_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{ep} &= 2e_e / \Lambda^3 = 7.2 \times 10^{21} \text{ coul} / m^3 \\ \text{Let } E_{ex} &= 1000 \text{ V} / 1 \text{ mm} = 10^6 \text{ V} / m \\ \delta_{ex} &= E_{ex} \epsilon_0 / \rho_{ep} = 1.23 \times 10^{-27} \text{ m} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

The mass density exceeds that of iron by a factor of 5 million:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_m &= 2m_e / \Lambda^3 = 4.104 \times 10^{10} \text{ kg} / m \\ \rho_m / \rho_{Fe} &= 5.260 \times 10^6 \text{ or } 2/\alpha^3 \text{ times iron} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

## 12. DISCOVERY OF NEW SPACE: PAIR-SPACE

With such density this pair-space region must be not just the vacuum, but another space. The mechanical qualities of density and bulk modulus combine in Eq. (12), for a transmission velocity of  $c$ . Thus, pair-space appears to be a legitimate replacement for the failed concept of ether.

This region is only accessible by means of electric field polarization, and it exists as a dual to our vacuum universe, but scaled down by  $\alpha \sim 1/137$ .

## 13. A UNIQUE REGION FOR RENORMALIZATION: $R_0$ OR $\Lambda_2$

The fields of QED and QFT deal with singularity problems using renormalization. Heisenberg (1938) saw the problem and sought to find [3] a cutoff region,  $r_0$ , in which the physics “would be different”. He tried to form a length from  $h$ ,  $c$  and  $e_e$ , but the Compton wavelength (CWL) of the electron was too large, so he proposed a *proton* wavelength of  $1.322 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$ . We suggest our region as satisfying both of his requirements, being smaller than CWL by the factor  $\alpha$  Eq.(7d), and with *different physics* (linear vs inverse square) in its interior. Furthermore, our cutoff frequency in Eq. (11b) can be used at the “ultra-violet” end.

## 14. CUTOFF AND RECOMBINATION

Another quantity of interest in quantum theories is cutoff frequency. The powerful spring constant  $K$  inside the cell makes for a very high resonant frequency. Some pertinent values are:

<sup>2</sup> Multiply Eq.(7h) by  $h/m_e c = \alpha \cdot \text{CWL}$ , insert Eq. (7f) and find it to equal Eq. (7a)/2 =  $\Lambda_2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
K &= F_{\max}/\Lambda_2 = 2.612 \times 10^{14} \text{ N/m} \quad \text{spring constant} \\
\omega_0 &= \sqrt{K/m_e} = 1.693 \times 10^{22} \text{ rad/sec} \quad T/\text{rad} = 5.91 \times 10^{-23} \text{ s} \\
F_0 &= 2.693 \times 10^{21} \text{ cy/sec} \quad T/\text{cycle} = 3.722 \times 10^{-22} \text{ s} \\
\omega_0 \cdot \alpha &= 1.235 \times 10^{20} \text{ rad/sec} \\
W &= \alpha \cdot \omega_0 \cdot h = m_e c^2 \text{ Joules} \\
\omega_0 \Lambda_2 &= c
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

It may be of interest to see that two different times of recombination from QED are quite similar to the time per cycle for  $F_0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
1) \Delta T &= h/4\pi m_e \cdot c^2 = 6.443 \times 10^{-22} \text{ s} \quad \text{QED} \\
2) &\text{ from the following expression we get :} \\
hf &= m_e c^2 \quad T = 1/f = 8.096 \times 10^{-21} \text{ s} \\
3) &\text{ from our } F_0 \text{ we have :} \\
T &= 1/F_0 = 3.722 \times 10^{-22} \text{ s/cycle}
\end{aligned}$$

These are times expected for the recombination of pairs that have been produced. This is a subject that merits further study, but so far, Espace theory does not involve quantum effects.

## 15. TRANSMISSION VELOCITY = C

Another remarkable property is that the transmission velocity is equal to  $c$ , as determined by  $\rho_m$  and bulk modulus  $Y$  as derived below (just as  $\mu_0$  and  $\epsilon_0$  determine  $c$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}
Y &= \frac{\partial P}{\partial x/\Lambda_2} = \frac{K \partial x/\Lambda^2}{\partial x/\Lambda_2} = \frac{K}{2\Lambda} = \frac{2m_e c^2}{\Lambda^3} = \rho_m c^2 = 3.688 \times 10^{21} \text{ Nm}^{-2} \\
Vel &= \sqrt{\frac{Y}{\rho_m}} = 2.9988 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1} = \sqrt{\frac{1/\epsilon_0}{\mu_0}} = c
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

## 16. MAXWELL'S DISPLACEMENT CURRENT.

Typical polarizing deflections are extremely small ( $\delta \sim 10^{-27}$  m). As the charging current  $I$  flows into the plates (13a), the pairs deflect against their springs by  $\delta$ . (It is not possible to impose a voltage on a capacitor; voltage rises as charge accumulates). (Note the similarity to Maxwell's displacement current in (13b)). After charging, the current stops, so upon cutting the wire the polarized pairs would remain deflected, retaining the voltage difference, since there is no return path for a reverse relaxing current.  $E$  and  $D$  as well as the potential difference are still present, embodied in the deflection.

$$\begin{aligned}
I/A &= dD/dt = dQA^{-1}/dt = \rho d\delta/dt \\
\nabla_x H &= \partial D/\partial t + J
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

We see that the capacitor's energy resides in the charges' restraining "springs".

## 17. THE REAL MEANING OF PERMITTIVITY

Detailed analysis mandates that vacuum polarizability  $\epsilon_0$  *must have* the 12 characteristics shown in Table 1. In [1], we have used the new fundamental constants,  $K$  and  $\Lambda$  to form eight different expressions for permittivity, of which four examples are:

$$(a) \frac{4 \cdot e_e \cdot \rho_e}{K} = (b) \frac{e_e^2}{\Lambda m_e c^2} = (c) \frac{e_e^2}{2\alpha \cdot h \cdot c} = (d) \frac{2e_e}{\Lambda^2 \cdot E_c} = \epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m}$$

$$\text{where } (e) \Lambda = 2\alpha \lambda_{cWL} = 2\alpha h/m_e c = 4\pi r_{class} \quad \text{and } \rho_e = e_e/\Lambda^3 \quad \text{total}$$

$$\text{Combine (a) and (b) to get } 0.5K\Lambda^2 = 2m_e c^2$$

energy equation (14)

In (a) clearly shows how  $\epsilon_0$  aids an electric field with double charge times double pair density countered by the spring constant K.

Table 1 Summary of Pairspace parameters

Quantity	Symbol	Dual Space value	QED
#1. Primal cell size = $2\alpha h/m_e c$	$\Lambda = 2\Lambda_2$	$3.541 \cdot 10^{-14} \text{ m}, \Lambda_2 = \alpha \lambda_{cWL}$	0
#2. Spring stiffness	<b>K</b>	$2.612 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ N/m}$	0
#3. Bulk Modulus: = $K/2\Lambda$	<b>Y</b>	$3.688 \cdot 10^{27} \text{ N/m}^2 \text{ (J/m}^3\text{)}$	0
#4. Electron density	$\rho_e$	$3.608 \cdot 10^{21} \text{ coul/m}^3$	0
#5. Mass density $\rho_m = 2\rho_{me}$	$\rho_m, \rho_{me}$	$4.103 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ kg/m}^3$	0
#6. Electron/iron mass ratio $\rho_{me}/\rho_{Fe}$	$\rho_{me}/\rho_{Fe}$	$2.6 \times 10^6 \text{ (= } \alpha^{-3}\text{)}$	0
#7. Transmission Velocity = $c = \sqrt{1/\mu_0 \epsilon_0}$	<b>c</b>	$\sqrt{Y/\rho_m} = 2.998 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$	0
#8. Critical Volt. Gradient $E_c = V_c/\Lambda$	<b>E<sub>crit</sub></b>	$2.886 \cdot 10^{19} \text{ Vm}^{-1}$	0
#9. Energy density of pairspace (= $\frac{1}{2} Y$ )	<b>W<sub>D</sub></b>	$1.847 \cdot 10^{27} \text{ J/m}^3 = m_e c^2/\Lambda^3$	0
#10. Self-resonant K/ $m_e$ radian frequency	$\omega_0$	$\omega_0 = 1.693 \cdot 10^{22} \text{ rad/s}$	0
#11. Resonant wave length	$\lambda_{res}$	$\lambda_{pl} = 1.1132 \cdot 10^{-13} = 2\pi\Lambda_r$	0
#12. Exit energy to extract electron from cell	<b>W<sub>ex</sub></b>	$\frac{1}{2} K\Lambda_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_e c^2$	0
#13 Critical voltage for pair production	<b>V<sub>c</sub></b>	$1.022 \times 10^6 \text{ V/m}$	0

## 18. CONCLUSION

We have found a remarkable, self-consistent new space that will prove to lead to a new view of the cosmos. The bulk modulus and density yield a sonic velocity  $c$ . The reason these qualities of quantum vacuum/Space had not been discovered earlier is that permittivity was regarded merely as an arbitrary constant in the antiquated gaussian school of electrostatics. SI itself was accepted slowly, being regarded as simply an effort to introduce practical units. To be fair, permittivity is not a factor in most physics, neither is it (nor vacuum) discussed in most texts, reflecting an ongoing antipathy to the concept of a “real” permittivity.

Our new space differs from Dirac’s mathematical sea (from the minus sign in Eq. (15) whereas pair-space derives from a viable physical model. The quantum vacuum, in the guise of Zero Point Energy, has been proposed as an infinite energy bank, but in our model it is clear that there is no possibility of free energy. The establishment of this new separate space is merely the first step in ridding us of the “tyranny of the vacuum” i.e. having to rely on laws that mysteriously work in a vacuum. The reader who has come thus far will ask what more can be done with a space like this? We show in [1] that quantum vacuum acts as the feedstock of material (electrons) from which our universe was formed!

## 19. NOTES:

This paper is a precis of Chapters 3, 5 and 6 of Dual Space [1]. The whole of Dual Space theory encompasses new theories of creation, gravity, relativity and cosmology. The intention is to follow up with four more papers that parallel the book. The book may be obtained by inquiring at [jpolasek@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jpolasek@cfl.rr.com).

## APPENDIX

## 20. DIRAC'S CONTRIBUTION

(While our analysis is totally independent of Dirac's, it is still interesting to note that as a preeminent physicist he had no qualms about proposing a new world.)

In 1927 Dirac introduced relativity into quantum mechanics and was able to predict the existence of a positron or equivalent particle. He deduced a whole other world of negative energy, a sea of electrons, from (we assume) just the presence of the negative sign in the relativistic total energy equation [7]:

$$W = \pm \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4} \quad (15)$$

His sea was of electrons and holes but even after Anderson's demonstration, he was in no hurry to replace the holes with positrons or pairs for that matter.

## 21. DIRAC'S BLIND SPOT

Unfortunately, since the Gaussian electromagnetics of his time did not recognize permittivity, Dirac could not investigate it. This inherent deficiency in the gaussian system is seen when comparing the constitutive equations of the respective SI and gaussian systems:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SI: } D = \epsilon_0 E + P \text{ Coul/m}^2 & \quad \text{gaussian: } D = E + 4\pi P \quad \text{units?} \\ \frac{\partial D}{\partial E} = \epsilon_0 & \quad \frac{\partial D}{\partial E} = 1 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Note that in the SI side of (16a) the units are coulombs/meter<sup>2</sup> but are undefined in the gaussian side which combines electric field intensity E with D and P, which are polarization charge density, therefore the equation is not homogeneous. Cause and effect are equivocated, and the sensitivity 1.00 is more than a tautology: it rejects vacuum permittivity and makes it impossible to derive the properties we have found. A hypothetical experiment that would justify the gaussian equation would be a pair of charged plates whose voltage difference would decline upon introduction of a dielectric into the gap. Such a premise is too feeble as a basis for a theory. It ignores the fact that all material whatsoever exhibits a resistance or compliance to mechanical and electrical forces as indicated in the SI equation.

## 20. DIRAC'S SEA.

Dirac materialized his space of negative energy as a sea of electrons with holes, and later he proposed replacing the holes with protons and finally positrons were the logical choice. He apparently did not act on this information to update his sea of electrons. His hole theory still is used in some versions of quantum physics, where positrons are sometimes viewed as electrons moving backwards in time.

In Dirac's own words [3]:

"And then I got the idea that because the negative energy states cannot be avoided, one must accommodate them in the theory. One can do that by setting up a new picture of the vacuum. Suppose that in the vacuum all the negative energy states are filled up. The possibility of doing that arises because the exclusion principle of Pauli prevents more than one electron being in any state. We then have a sea of negative energy electrons, one electron in each of these states. It is a bottomless sea, but we do not have to worry about that. The picture of a bottomless sea is not so disturbing, really. We just have to think of the situation near the surface, and there we have some electrons living above the sea that cannot fall into it because there is no room for them." "There is, then, the possibility that holes may appear in the sea. Such holes would be places where there is an extra energy, because one would need a negative energy to make such a hole disappear. Also, such a hole would move as though it had a positive charge. It has an absence of negative charge; so in that respect, also, it appears as a positive charge. Thus the holes appear as particles with positive energy and positive charge".

"When I first got this idea, it seemed to me that there ought to be symmetry between the holes and the ordinary electrons, but the only positively charged particles known at that time were the protons; so it seemed to me that these holes had to be protons. I lacked the courage to propose a new kind of particle. I should say that there were good grounds for belief at that time that there were only two particles, two basic charged particles--electrons and protons. There were just two kinds of electricity, positive and negative, and one needed one particle for each kind of electricity. In those days the climate of opinion was very much against the idea of proposing new particles. I

certainly did not dare to do it; so I published my idea as a theory of electrons and protons, and I believed that maybe the difference in mass between the electrons and protons would come about in some way from the interaction between the electrons. But I realized the difficulties were enormous because the difference in mass was so great”.

“I was soon assailed by other physicists on the grounds that there could not be this difference between the mass of the new particles, the holes, and the mass of ordinary electrons. The person who most definitely came out against it was Hermann Weyl; he was essentially a mathematician and was not so much disturbed by physical realities but was very much dominated by mathematical symmetries. He said quite categorically that the new particles formed by these holes would have to have the same mass as the electrons, and I came around to that point of view. We all know the consequences of that. The new particles were given the name of anti-electrons and were afterward discovered by the experimenters. The first was Carl Anderson one of the chief physicists whom we have to thank for that. Thus this question has now been resolved”

## 21. PERMITTIVITY.

Permittivity's coefficient farads per meter may be clarified by the following expansion:

$$1 \text{ farad} = 1 \text{ coul/volt} \quad \text{Let } k = 8.8 \cdot 10^{-12}$$

$$\epsilon_0 = k \cdot \text{farad} / m = k \cdot \frac{\text{coul/volt}}{\text{meter}} = k \frac{\text{coul/m}^2}{\text{volt/m}} = \frac{\text{chg.density}}{\text{voltage.gradient}} = \frac{D}{E}$$

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