

Exercise 1. Weyl spinors

We write a Lorentz transformation in terms of the six parameters $\vec{\theta}$ and $\vec{\eta}$ as $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu = g^\mu{}_\nu + \omega^\mu{}_\nu$ with

$$\omega^\mu{}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \eta_1 & \eta_2 & \eta_3 \\ \eta_1 & 0 & -\theta_3 & \theta_2 \\ \eta_2 & \theta_3 & 0 & -\theta_1 \\ \eta_3 & -\theta_2 & \theta_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

- Write the transformation property of a (contravariant) 4-vector under infinitesimal rotations as well as under infinitesimal boosts in terms of the (infinitesimal) parameters $\vec{\theta}$ and $\vec{\eta}$.
- Using the transformation property of a left-handed Weyl spinor ψ_L , show that $\psi_L^\dagger \bar{\sigma}^\mu \psi_L$ transforms as a (contravariant) 4-vector.
- Deduce from your working in (b) that $\psi_R^\dagger \sigma^\mu \psi_R$, where ψ_R is a right-handed Weyl spinor, also transforms as a (contravariant) 4-vector.

Exercise 2. Poincare Algebra

In the lecture it was shown that the the generators $J^{\mu\nu}$ transform as

$$D(\Lambda, a) J^{\mu\nu} D^{-1}(\Lambda, a) = \Lambda_\sigma{}^\mu \Lambda_\kappa{}^\nu (J^{\sigma\kappa} + a^\kappa P^\sigma - a^\sigma P^\kappa) \quad (2)$$

under a general Poincare transformation $x^\mu \rightarrow \Lambda^\mu{}_\nu x^\nu + a^\mu$.

- Considering a pure translation $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu = g^\mu{}_\nu$ with infinitesimal a^μ derive the commutation relations between $J^{\mu\nu}$ and P^ρ .
- Considering a homogeneous Lorentz transformation $a^\mu = 0$ and $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu = g^\mu{}_\nu + \omega^\mu{}_\nu$ with infinitesimal $\omega^\mu{}_\nu$ derive the commutation relations between $J^{\mu\nu}$ and $J^{\rho\sigma}$.

Exercise 3. Dirac equation

The most general linear (in ∂_t and $\vec{\nabla}$) wave equation can be written as $(i \partial^\mu \gamma_\mu - m)\psi = 0$. Show that the requirement that this equation is consistent with the Klein-Gordon equation entails that the “coefficients” γ_μ satisfy the relations $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2g^{\mu\nu}$.

Hence show that the coefficients γ_μ have to be at least 4×4 matrices.