

§ A child guide to spinors

2.1 The Pauli matrices

$$\sigma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

滿足 $[\frac{1}{2}\sigma_i, \frac{1}{2}\sigma_j] = \frac{1}{2}i\epsilon_{ijk}\sigma_k, \epsilon_{123} = 1$ Lorentz algebra

2.2 The Hermitian matrix

$$x^\mu \sigma_\mu = t\sigma_0 + x\sigma_x + y\sigma_y + z\sigma_z$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} t+z & x-iy \\ x+iy & t-z \end{pmatrix}, \det H = t^2 - x^2 - y^2 - z^2$$

$$H' = UHU^* = \begin{pmatrix} t'+z' & x'-iy' \\ x'+iy' & t'-z' \end{pmatrix}$$

3 Lorentz transformations

Rotation

$$R_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix},$$

$$R_y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta & 0 & -\sin\theta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sin\theta & 0 & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}, R_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0 \\ 0 & -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Boost

3.1 Rotation generator

$$J_i$$

3.2 Boost generator

$$K_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, K_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, K_z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[K_x, K_y] = -iJ_z :$$

1. Two boost in different directions result in a rotation
2. There is a minus sign that turns out to be all-important in the over all scheme of things ◦

What it means is that if we append $\pm i$ to any K_i , we get the commutator

$$[\pm iK_x, \pm iK_y] = iJ_z,$$

which gives precisely the same algebra as that for the J_i . Thus, if the J_i are assigned the representation $J_i \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}\sigma_i$, then we can also assign the similar representation $\pm iK_i \rightarrow \pm \frac{1}{2}\sigma_i$. That is,

$$e^{K_i} \rightarrow e^{\pm \frac{1}{2}i\sigma_i}$$

We can therefore write the complete unitary 2×2 transformation matrix for spinorial rotations and boosts as either of two combined quantities,

$$U = e^{\frac{1}{2}i\sigma \cdot \theta - \frac{1}{2}\sigma \cdot \phi} \quad (5.1)$$

or

$$U = e^{\frac{1}{2}i\sigma \cdot \theta + \frac{1}{2}\sigma \cdot \phi} \quad (5.2)$$

The spinor associated with (5.1) is traditionally called a righthanded spinor (and given the label φ_R), while the other is a lefthanded spinor, called φ_L (these spinors are also called Weyl spinors in honor of the man who elucidated many of their properties) °

One of the amazing facts of physics is that all neutrinos in the universe are left handed (because their Spinor descriptions are of the left-handed type) °

Nature is lefthanded °

4.

$$U_k = e^{\frac{1}{2}i\sigma_k \theta}$$

5. Representations

Lorentz algebra of the rotation generators

$$[J_x, J_y] = iJ_z$$

Lorentz algebra of the Pauli matrices

$$[\frac{1}{2}\sigma_x, \frac{1}{2}\sigma_y] = \frac{1}{2}i\sigma_z$$

$$SO(4) = SU(2) \oplus SU(2)$$

What is the double cover ?

6. The Dirac equation

在非相對論量子力學中，Schrödinger 方程式 ($i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi$) 只處理低能情況。

Dirac equation $i\hbar \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi(x,t) = mc\psi(x,t)$ ， $\gamma^\mu = 4 \times 4$ Dirac gamma matrices °

當發現電子存在兩種態，electron $spin \begin{pmatrix} up \\ down \end{pmatrix}, \pm \frac{1}{2}$

電子自旋實驗：Otto Stern，Walther Gerlach 1921-1922

1927 年 Dirac 把狹義相對論引進薛丁格方程，創立了 Dirac 方程。

1928 年 Dirac 有個重大發現：

Dirac 方程中， $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_0 \\ \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \\ \psi_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_R \\ \varphi_L \end{pmatrix}$ 其中 φ_R 代表通常電子的 spin-up，spin-down 的

兩個 component。 φ_L 代表 anti-electron(後來稱謂正電子 positron)的 spin-up，spin-down。電子自旋是本徵角動量(intrinsic angular momentum)的形式，稱為 S。也因此預測了反物質。

正電子在 1932 年被發現。

1933 年，Dirac 得到諾貝爾物理獎。

§ 把 relativistic energy-mass equation $E^2 = m^2c^4 + c^2p^2$ 開根號是甚麼意思？

開根號在這裡是比喻性的說法，指的是 Dirac 試圖將上述的 E^2 方程式轉換為一個線性於 E 的方程式。為什麼需要這樣做？

這方程式是從愛因斯坦的質能等價原理推導出來的，適用於高速（相對論性）

粒子。其中 $p^2 = p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2$

在量子力學中，能量 E 和動量 p 是算符 (operators)：

E 對應於時間導數算符： $E \rightarrow i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$

P 對應於空間導數算符 $p \rightarrow -i\hbar \nabla$

Dirac 的突破在於，他引入了一組特殊的矩陣（稱為 Dirac 矩陣）來表示這個平方根操作。

假設存在矩陣 $\alpha_x, \alpha_y, \alpha_z, \beta$ ，使得能量 $E = c\alpha \cdot p + \beta mc^2$

其中 $\alpha \cdot p = \alpha_x p_x + \alpha_y p_y + \alpha_z p_z$ ， β 是另一個矩陣，使得

$(c\alpha \cdot p + \beta mc^2)^2 = E^2 = m^2c^4 + c^2p^2$ 展開必須滿足反對易關係(anticommutation relations)

展開後，可以推導出矩陣必須滿足：

$\alpha_i \alpha_j + \alpha_j \alpha_i = 2\delta_{ij}$ (當 $i \neq j$ 時， α_i, α_j 反對易；當 $i=j$ 時， $\alpha_i^2 = 1$)

$\alpha_i \beta + \beta \alpha_i = 0$

$\beta^2 = 1$

Dirac 發現，要滿足這些反對易關係， α 與 β 必須是 4×4 矩陣。這意味著波函數 ψ 不再是單一成分，而是有四個分量的旋量 (spinor)：

將量子算符代入 ($E \rightarrow i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$, $p \rightarrow -i\hbar \nabla$)，就得到完整的 Dirac 方程：

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = (-i\hbar c \alpha \cdot \nabla + \beta mc^2) \psi \quad \text{或者寫成更緊湊的形式：}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = H \psi$$

其中 Hamiltonian 算符 $H = c \alpha \cdot p + \beta mc^2$ 且 $p = -i\hbar \nabla$