

Spinors

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1 Lorentz invariance and causality

In chapter 5 of *The Quantum Theory of Fields*, Weinberg shows that in order for fields to respond as

$$U(L, a)\psi_\ell(x)U^{-1}(L, a) = \sum_{\ell'} D_{\ell\ell'}(L^{-1})\psi_{\ell'}(Lx + a) \quad (1)$$

under a Lorentz transformation L followed by a translation a , and also to either commute or anticommute at spacelike separations (causality), the fields must use spinors or polarization vectors of specific forms. These forms are so specific, that Weinberg *derives* the Dirac equation from them. His treatment is the gold standard, but it is long and complicated. In my iron-standard treatment, I will use the Dirac equation to derive the spinors for arbitrary momentum from Weinberg's zero-momentum spinors.

In Schwartz's metric, if $\phi_a(x)$ is any four-component field that obeys the Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\partial_\mu\partial^\mu + m^2)\phi_a(x) = 0, \quad (2)$$

then the field (example (6.10) of *Physical Mathematics*)

$$\psi_a(x) = (i\partial_\mu\gamma^\mu + m)_{ab}\phi_b(x) \quad (3)$$

obeys Dirac's equation

$$(i\partial_\mu\gamma^\mu - m)\psi(x) = 0. \quad (4)$$

We expand a spin-one-half field as

$$\psi(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^{+} [u(p, s)a(p, s)e^{-ipx} + v(p, s)b^\dagger(p, s)e^{ipx}]. \quad (5)$$

Since the Lorentz-invariant phase factor $\exp(-ipx)$ obeys the Klein-Gordon equation, any spinor of the form

$$u = (i\partial_\mu\gamma^\mu + m) u_0 e^{-ipx} = (p_\mu\gamma^\mu + m) u_0 e^{-ipx} \quad (6)$$

obeys Dirac's equation. So if the gamma matrices are

$$\gamma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \vec{\sigma} \\ -\vec{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma^5 = \gamma_5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3. \quad (7)$$

then the momentum-space spinors for particles are

$$u(p, s) = (p_\mu\gamma^\mu + m) u_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} u_0(s) \quad (8)$$

in which

$$p\sigma = p^0 - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma}, \quad p\bar{\sigma} = p^0 + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma}. \quad (9)$$

For $\vec{p} = 0$, we have

$$u(0, s) = (m\gamma^0 + m) u_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & m \\ m & m \end{pmatrix} u_0(s). \quad (10)$$

In general, $u_0(s)$ is

$$u_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \zeta \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

so

$$u(0, s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & m \\ m & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \zeta \end{pmatrix} = m \begin{pmatrix} \xi + \zeta \\ \xi + \zeta \end{pmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

That is, only the sum $\xi + \zeta$ matters, so we put $\xi = \zeta$ and set

$$u(0, s) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s) \\ \alpha(s) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

The lower 2-spinor must be the same as the upper 2-spinor. Weinberg's choice is

$$\alpha(+)= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(-)= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (14)$$

So the $\vec{p} = 0$ spinors for particles are in Schwartz's normalization

$$u(0, +) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad u(0, -) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

the spin-down spinor is

$$\begin{aligned}
u(p, -) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & 0 & E-p_3 & -p_1+ip_2 \\ 0 & m & -p_1-ip_2 & E+p_3 \\ E+p_3 & p_1-ip_2 & m & 0 \\ p_1+ip_2 & E-p_3 & 0 & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} -p_1+ip_2 \\ m+E+p_3 \\ p_1-ip_2 \\ E-p_3+m \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

In the massless limit, the spinor for a particle with spin down and momentum $p = (p, 0, 0, p)$ is

$$u(p, -) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2E \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{2E} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{20}$$

which shows that only the left-handed particle, the upper two components, can have spin in the $-\hat{z}$ direction and momentum in the \hat{z} direction.

For antiparticles, any spinor like

$$v = (i\partial_\mu \gamma^\mu + m) v_0 e^{ipx} = (-p_\mu \gamma^\mu + m) v_0 e^{ipx} \tag{21}$$

obeys Dirac's equation. So the momentum-space spinors for antiparticles are

$$v(p, s) = (-p_\mu \gamma^\mu + m) v_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} v_0(s). \tag{22}$$

For $\vec{p} = 0$, we have

$$v(0, s) = (-m\gamma^0 + m) v_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & -m \\ -m & m \end{pmatrix} v_0(s). \tag{23}$$

In general, $v_0(s)$ is

$$v_0(s) = \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \zeta \end{pmatrix}, \tag{24}$$

so

$$v(0, s) = \begin{pmatrix} m & -m \\ -m & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \zeta \end{pmatrix} = m \begin{pmatrix} \xi - \zeta \\ -\xi + \zeta \end{pmatrix}. \tag{25}$$

That is, only the difference $\xi - \zeta$ matters, so we may set

$$v(0, s) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(s) \\ -\beta(s) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (26)$$

The lower 2-spinor must be the negative of the upper 2-spinor. Weinberg's choice is

$$\beta(+)= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(-)= \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (27)$$

So the $\vec{p} = 0$ spinors for antiparticles are

$$v(0, +) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad v(0, -) = \sqrt{m} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (28)$$

For arbitrary \vec{p} , the spin-up spinor for antiparticles is

$$\begin{aligned} v(p, +) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(+)) \\ -\beta(+)) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -E + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma} \\ -E - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Doing the matrix multiplication, we get

$$\begin{aligned} v(p, +) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & 0 & -E + p_3 & p_1 - ip_2 \\ 0 & m & p_1 + ip_2 & -E - p_3 \\ -E - p_3 & -p_1 + ip_2 & m & 0 \\ -p_1 - ip_2 & -E + p_3 & 0 & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} -p_1 + ip_2 \\ m + E + p_3 \\ -p_1 + ip_2 \\ p_3 - E - m \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

In the massless limit, the antiparticle spinor for $p = (0, 0, 0, p)$ and spin up is

$$v(p, +) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{2E} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

The antiparticle spinor for spin-down is

$$\begin{aligned} v(p, -) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(-) \\ -\beta(-) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -E + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma} \\ -E - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & 0 & -E + p_3 & p_1 - ip_2 \\ 0 & m & p_1 + ip_2 & -E - p_3 \\ -E - p_3 & -p_1 + ip_2 & m & 0 \\ -p_1 - ip_2 & -E + p_3 & 0 & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} p_3 - E - m \\ p_1 + ip_2 \\ E + p_3 + m \\ p_1 + ip_2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

In the massless limit, the antiparticle spinor for $p = (0, 0, 0, p)$ and spin down is

$$v(p, -) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \sqrt{2E} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (33)$$

More succinctly, the spinors for particles and antiparticles are

$$\begin{aligned} u(p, \pm) &= \frac{m + \not{p}}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ v(p, \pm) &= \frac{m - \not{p}}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} m & -p\sigma \\ -p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

with

$$\alpha(\pm) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \pm 1 \\ 1 \mp 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(\pm) = \pm \alpha(\mp). \quad (35)$$

Their inner products are, since $\gamma^{\mu\dagger}\gamma^0 = \gamma^0\gamma^\mu$,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u}(p, s)u(p, s') &= u^\dagger(p, s)\gamma^0u(p, s') \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) (m + \not{p}^\dagger) \gamma^0 (m + \not{p}) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) \gamma^0 (m + \not{p}) (m + \not{p}) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) \gamma^0 (m^2 + 2m\not{p} + \not{p}^2) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Now $\not{p}^2 = p^2 = m^2$, and the $\gamma^0\not{p}$ term is

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} &= (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) \begin{pmatrix} p\bar{\sigma} & 0 \\ 0 & p\sigma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \alpha^\dagger(s) (p\bar{\sigma} + p\sigma) \alpha(s') = \alpha^\dagger(s) 2E\alpha(s'). \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

So these inner products are

$$\bar{u}(p, s)u(p, s') = \frac{1}{2(E+m)} \alpha^\dagger(s) (4m^2 + 4mE) \alpha(s') = 2m \delta_{s,s'}. \quad (38)$$

The usual inner product is

$$\begin{aligned} u^\dagger(p, s)u(p, s') &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) (m + \not{p}^\dagger) (m + \not{p}) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) (m + E\gamma^0 + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\gamma}) (m + E\gamma^0 - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\gamma}) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) [(m + E\gamma^0)^2 + (\vec{p})^2] \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E+m)} (\alpha^\dagger(s) \quad \alpha^\dagger(s)) \begin{pmatrix} 2E^2 & 2mE \\ 2mE & 2E^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(s') \\ \alpha(s') \end{pmatrix} = 2E \delta_{s,s'}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Once again, the spinors are

$$\begin{aligned} u(p, \pm) &= \frac{m + \not{p}}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ v(p, \pm) &= \frac{m - \not{p}}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

with

$$\alpha(\pm) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \pm 1 \\ 1 \mp 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(\pm) = \pm \alpha(\mp). \quad (41)$$

Since $\gamma^{\mu\dagger}\gamma^0 = \gamma^0\gamma^\mu$, the spin sum of the outer products of the particle spinors is

$$\sum_s u(p, s)\bar{u}(p, s) = \frac{1}{2(E + m)} (m + \not{p}) \left[\sum_{\pm} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} (\alpha^\dagger(\pm) \quad \alpha^\dagger(\pm)) \right] (m + \not{p}^\dagger) \gamma^0. \quad (42)$$

The inner spin sum is

$$\sum_{\pm} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} (\alpha^\dagger(\pm) \quad \alpha^\dagger(\pm)) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (43)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_s u(p, s)\bar{u}(p, s) &= \frac{1}{2(E + m)} \begin{pmatrix} m & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m & p\bar{\sigma} \\ p\sigma & m \end{pmatrix} \gamma^0 \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E + m)} \begin{pmatrix} m & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m + p\sigma & m + p\bar{\sigma} \\ m + p\sigma & m + p\bar{\sigma} \end{pmatrix} \gamma^0 \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E + m)} \begin{pmatrix} (m + p\sigma)^2 & (m + p\sigma)(m + p\bar{\sigma}) \\ (m + p\bar{\sigma})(m + p\sigma) & (m + p\bar{\sigma})^2 \end{pmatrix} \gamma^0 \quad (44) \\ &= \frac{1}{2(E + m)} \begin{pmatrix} 2(E + m)p\sigma & 2m(E + m) \\ 2m(E + m) & 2(E + m)p\bar{\sigma} \end{pmatrix} \gamma^0 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} p\sigma & m \\ m & p\bar{\sigma} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m & p\sigma \\ p\bar{\sigma} & m \end{pmatrix} = p_\mu \gamma^\mu + m = \not{p} + m. \end{aligned}$$

The analogous sum for antiparticle spinors is

$$\sum_s v(p, s)\bar{v}(p, s) = p_\mu \gamma^\mu - m = \not{p} - m. \quad (45)$$

2 Charge conjugation

The basic idea is that a unitary operator C turns particle creation operators $a^\dagger(p, s, n)$ for particles of kind n into creation operators $a^\dagger(p, s, n_c)$ for antiparticles of kind n_c

$$C a^\dagger(p, s, n) C^{-1} = \alpha_n a^\dagger(p, s, n_c) \quad (46)$$

in which α_n is a phase factor. If we take the adjoint of both sides, we get

$$C a(p, s, n) C^{-1} = \alpha_n^* a(p, s, n_c). \quad (47)$$

The corresponding relations for kind n_c are

$$\begin{aligned} C a^\dagger(p, s, n_c) C^{-1} &= \alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n) \\ C a(p, s, n_c) C^{-1} &= \alpha_{n_c}^* a(p, s, n). \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

It will turn out that $\alpha_{n_c} = \alpha_n^*$.

The operation C of charge conjugation turns the field

$$\psi(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s) a(p, s, n) e^{-ipx} + v(p, s) a^\dagger(p, s, n_c) e^{ipx}] \quad (49)$$

into

$$\begin{aligned} C\psi(x)C^{-1} &\equiv \psi_c(x) \\ &= \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s) \alpha_n^* a(p, s, n_c) e^{-ipx} + v(p, s) \alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n) e^{ipx}]. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

Dirac's equation for a particle of charge e and mass m in an electromagnetic field A_μ is

$$(i\partial_\mu \gamma^\mu - eA_\mu \gamma^\mu - m) \psi(x) = 0. \quad (51)$$

Its conjugate is

$$(-i\partial_\mu \gamma^{\mu*} - eA_\mu \gamma^{\mu*} - m) \psi^*(x) = 0 \quad (52)$$

in which numbers are complex conjugated and operators are hermitian conjugated, but vectors are not transposed. Since Dirac's gamma matrices are defined by

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}, \quad (53)$$

the product $(-\gamma^2)\gamma^2$ is the 4×4 identity matrix

$$(-\gamma^2)\gamma^2 = I. \quad (54)$$

So the conjugated form (52) of Dirac's equation is equivalent to

$$\gamma^2(-i\partial_\mu\gamma^{\mu*} - eA_\mu\gamma^{\mu*} - m)(-\gamma^2)\gamma^2\psi^*(x) = 0. \quad (55)$$

Schwartz's gamma matrices

$$\gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (56)$$

are hermitian except for γ^2 which is antihermitian. Thus their anticommutation relations (53) imply

$$\gamma^2\gamma^{\mu*}(-\gamma^2) = \gamma^\mu(\gamma^2)^2 = -\gamma^\mu. \quad (57)$$

So our conjugated Dirac equation (55) becomes

$$(i\partial_\mu\gamma^\mu + eA_\mu\gamma^\mu - m)\gamma^2\psi^*(x) = 0 \quad (58)$$

which is Dirac's equation for a particle of charge $-e$ and mass m .

Thus we would like the image ψ_c of the field ψ under the operation C of charge conjugation to be $\psi_c = \alpha\gamma^2\psi^*$ in which α is a phase factor. The combination $\alpha\gamma^2\psi^*(x)$ is

$$\alpha\gamma^2\psi^*(x) = \alpha\gamma^2 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u^*(p, s)a^\dagger(p, s, n)e^{ipx} + v^*(p, s)a(p, s, n_c)e^{-ipx}] \quad (59)$$

while $C\psi(x)C^{-1}$ is from (50)

$$C\psi(x)C^{-1} = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s)\alpha_n^* a(p, s, n_c)e^{-ipx} + v(p, s)\alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n)e^{ipx}]. \quad (60)$$

Since the gamma matrices are real except for γ^2 , which is imaginary, and since they anticommute, one has

$$\gamma^2\gamma^{\mu*} = -\gamma^\mu\gamma^2. \quad (61)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^2 u^*(p, s) &= \gamma^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} (m + \not{p}^*) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} (m - \not{p}) \gamma^2 \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

And

$$\gamma^2 \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(+)\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ i \\ 0 \\ -i \end{pmatrix} = i \begin{pmatrix} \beta(+)\end{pmatrix}, \quad (63)$$

so

$$\gamma^2 u^*(p, +) = iv(p, +). \quad (64)$$

Similarly,

$$\gamma^2 u^*(p, -) = iv(p, -). \quad (65)$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^2 v^*(p, s) &= \gamma^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} (m - \not{p}^*) \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm)\end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} (m + \not{p}) \gamma^2 \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm)\end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (66)$$

And

$$\gamma^2 \begin{pmatrix} \beta(+)\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} i \\ 0 \\ i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = i \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(+)\end{pmatrix}, \quad (67)$$

so

$$\gamma^2 v^*(p, +) = iu(p, +). \quad (68)$$

Similarly,

$$\gamma^2 v^*(p, -) = iu(p, -). \quad (69)$$

Equivalently,

$$u(p, s) = -i\gamma^2 v^*(p, s), \quad v(p, s) = -i\gamma^2 u^*(p, s). \quad (70)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} C\psi(x)C^{-1} &= \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s)\alpha_n^* a(p, s, n_c)e^{-ipx} + v(p, s)\alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n)e^{ipx}] \\ &= -i\gamma^2 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [v^*(p, s)\alpha_n^* a(p, s, n_c)e^{-ipx} + u^*(p, s)\alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n)e^{ipx}]. \end{aligned} \quad (71)$$

If $\alpha_n^* = \alpha_{n_c}$, then

$$C\psi(x)C^{-1} = \psi_c(x) = -i\gamma^2\alpha_{n_c}\psi^*(x). \quad (72)$$

The charge-conjugate field ψ_c will be the same as $-i\gamma^2\alpha_{n_c}\psi^*$ only if

$$\alpha_n^* = \alpha_{n_c}. \quad (73)$$

Thus the charge-conjugation phase factor α_n of a particle must be the complex conjugate of the charge-conjugation phase factor α_{n_c} of its antiparticle. Weinberg shows further that unless $\alpha_n = \alpha_{n_c}^*$, the fields $\psi(x)$ and $\psi_c(x) = C\psi(x)C^{-1}$ will not anticommute at spacelike separations.

If $\psi(x)$ is a spin-one-half field whose particles are the same as its antiparticles, then the charge-conjugation phase factor $\alpha_n = \alpha_{n_c}^* = \alpha_n^*$ must be real and therefore ± 1 .

3 Parity

The basic idea is that a unitary operator P reverses the 3-momentum of particle creation $a^\dagger(p, s, n)$ and annihilation $a(p, s, n)$ operators

$$\begin{aligned} P a^\dagger(p, s, n) P^{-1} &= \alpha_n a^\dagger(Pp, s, n) \\ P a(p, s, n) P^{-1} &= \alpha_n^* a(Pp, s, n) \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

in which $Pp = (p^0, -\vec{p})$ and α_n is a phase factor. The corresponding relations for the antiparticles of kind n_c are

$$\begin{aligned} P a^\dagger(p, s, n_c) C^{-1} &= \alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(Pp, s, n_c) \\ C a(p, s, n_c) C^{-1} &= \alpha_{n_c}^* a(Pp, s, n_c). \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

It will turn out that $\alpha_{n_c} = -\alpha_n^*$.

Dirac's equation for a particle of charge e and mass m in an electromagnetic field A_μ is

$$(i\partial_\mu\gamma^\mu - eA_\mu\gamma^\mu - m)\psi(x) = 0. \quad (76)$$

or more simply

$$\left(i\partial_0\gamma^0 - i\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - eA_0\gamma^0 + e\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - m\right)\psi(x) = 0. \quad (77)$$

We insert $(\gamma^0)^2 = I$ and multiply from the left by γ^0 :

$$\gamma^0 \left(i\partial_0\gamma^0 - i\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - eA_0\gamma^0 + e\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - m\right) \gamma^0\psi(x) = 0. \quad (78)$$

Since

$$\gamma^0 \vec{\gamma} \gamma^0 = -\vec{\gamma}, \quad (79)$$

this is

$$\left(i\partial_0 \gamma^0 + i\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - eA_0 \gamma^0 - e\vec{A} \cdot \vec{\gamma} - m \right) \gamma^0 \psi(x) = 0. \quad (80)$$

Thus we would like the operation P of parity to turn the fields

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x) &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s) a(p, s) e^{-ipx} + v(p, s) b^\dagger(p, s) e^{ipx}] \\ A_\mu(x) &= \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [\varepsilon_\mu(p, s) c(p, s) e^{ipx} + \varepsilon_\mu^*(p, s) c^\dagger(p, s) e^{-ipx}] \end{aligned} \quad (81)$$

into

$$\begin{aligned} P\psi(t, \vec{x})P^{-1} &= \alpha \gamma^0 \psi^*(Px) = \alpha \gamma^0 \psi^*(t, -\vec{x}) \\ P\left(A_0(t, \vec{x}), \vec{A}(t, \vec{x})\right)P^{-1} &= PA(Px) = \left(A_0(t, -\vec{x}), -\vec{A}(t, -\vec{x})\right). \end{aligned} \quad (82)$$

in which α is a phase factor.

Recalling the effect (74, 75) of the unitary parity operator P on the operators $a(p, s)$ and $b^\dagger(p, s)$, we have with $Px = (t, -\vec{x})$ and $Pp = (p^0, -\vec{p})$

$$\begin{aligned} P\psi(t, \vec{x})P^{-1} &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s) \alpha_n^* a(Pp, s, n) e^{-ipx} + v(p, s) \alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(Pp, s, n_c) e^{ipx}] \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(Pp, s) \alpha_n^* a(p, s, n) e^{-iPpx} + v(Pp, s) \alpha_{n_c} a^\dagger(p, s, n_c) e^{iPpx}]. \end{aligned} \quad (83)$$

Yet again, our spinors are

$$\begin{aligned} u(p, \pm) &= \frac{m + p_\mu \gamma^\mu}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ v(p, \pm) &= \frac{m - p_\mu \gamma^\mu}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

So we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma^0 u(p, \pm) &= \frac{\gamma^0 (m + p_\mu \gamma^\mu) \gamma^0 \gamma^0}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{(m + (Pp)_\mu \gamma^\mu) \gamma^0}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{(m + (Pp)_\mu \gamma^\mu)}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} = u(Pp, \pm).
\end{aligned} \tag{85}$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma^0 v(p, \pm) &= \frac{\gamma^0 (m - p_\mu \gamma^\mu) \gamma^0 \gamma^0}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{(m + (Pp)_\mu \gamma^\mu) \gamma^0}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{(m + (Pp)_\mu \gamma^\mu)}{\sqrt{2(E + m)}} \begin{pmatrix} -\beta(\pm) \\ \beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} = -v(Pp, \pm).
\end{aligned} \tag{86}$$

Thus we need $\alpha_n^* = -\alpha_{n_c}$. So for a Majorana fermion, $\alpha_n = \pm i$.

4 Time reversal

Time reversal is represented as an antilinear, antiunitary operator. That is,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle T\Phi | T\Psi \rangle &= \langle \Phi | \Psi \rangle^* = \langle \Psi | \Phi \rangle \\
T(z|a\rangle + w|b\rangle) &= z^* T|a\rangle + w^* T|b\rangle.
\end{aligned} \tag{87}$$

On create and annihilation operators of type n , it is

$$\begin{aligned}
T a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n) T^{-1} &= \beta_n (-1)^{j-s} a^\dagger(-\vec{p}, -s, n) \\
T a(\vec{p}, s, n) T^{-1} &= \beta_n^* (-1)^{j-s} a(-\vec{p}, -s, n).
\end{aligned} \tag{88}$$

On their antiparticle operators, it is

$$\begin{aligned}
T a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c) T^{-1} &= \beta_{n_c} (-1)^{j-s} a^\dagger(-\vec{p}, -s, n_c) \\
T a(\vec{p}, s, n_c) T^{-1} &= \beta_{n_c}^* (-1)^{j-s} a(-\vec{p}, -s, n_c)
\end{aligned} \tag{89}$$

in which $j = 1/2$ for spins-one-half fermions. On a Fermi field it is

$$T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} = -\beta_n^* \gamma^5 \gamma^2 \gamma^0 \psi(-t, \vec{x}). \tag{90}$$

Thus we would like the operation T of time reversal to turn the field

$$\psi(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(p, s, n)a(p, s, n)e^{-ipx} + v(p, s, n_c)a^\dagger(p, s, n_c)e^{ipx}] \quad (91)$$

into

$$T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} = c\beta_n^*\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0\psi(-t, \vec{x}) \quad (92)$$

in which c is a phase factor. Recalling the effect (88–89) of T on the creation and annihilation operators, we find

$$\begin{aligned} T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} &= T \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ [u(\vec{p}, s, n)a(\vec{p}, s, n)e^{-ipx} + v(\vec{p}, s, n_c)a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c)e^{ipx}] T^{-1} \\ &= \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ (-1)^{1/2-s} [u^*(p, s, n)\beta_n^*a(-\vec{p}, -s, n)e^{ipx} \\ &\quad + v^*(p, s, n_c)\beta_{n_c}a^\dagger(-\vec{p}, -s, n_c)e^{-ipx}]. \end{aligned} \quad (93)$$

We now flip the sign of \vec{p} and of s

$$\begin{aligned} T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} &= \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ (-1)^{1/2-s} [u^*(-\vec{p}, -s, n)\beta_n^*a(\vec{p}, s, n)e^{ip^0t+i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \\ &\quad + v^*(-\vec{p}, -s, n_c)\beta_{n_c}a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c)e^{-ip^0t-i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}}]. \end{aligned} \quad (94)$$

So we must compute the effect of $\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0$ on the spinors of the particles:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0u(\vec{p}, s, n) &= \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 \frac{m + p_\mu\gamma^\mu}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 \frac{m + p^0\gamma^0 - \vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \gamma^5\gamma^2 \frac{m + p^0\gamma^0 + \vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \gamma^0 \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \gamma^5 \frac{m - p^0\gamma^0 - \vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \gamma^2\gamma^0 \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{m + p^0\gamma^0 + \vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}} \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 \begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

The product of these gamma matrices is in Schwartz's version of Weyl's notation

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^2 \\ -\sigma^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma^2 \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}\tag{96}$$

Now

$$\sigma^2\alpha(+)=\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}=i\alpha(-),\tag{97}$$

and

$$\sigma^2\alpha(-)=\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}=-i\alpha(+).\tag{98}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0u(\vec{p},\pm,n) &= \frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0\begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\pm) \\ \alpha(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\begin{pmatrix} \mp i\alpha(\mp) \\ \mp i\alpha(\mp) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \mp i\frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\begin{pmatrix} \alpha(\mp) \\ \alpha(\mp) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \mp iu^*(-\vec{p},\mp,n).\end{aligned}\tag{99}$$

Thus

$$u^*(-\vec{p},\mp,n)=\pm i\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0u(\vec{p},\pm,n).\tag{100}$$

The factor $(-1)^{1/2-s}$ cancels the sign \pm , and so

$$(-1)^{1/2-s}u^*(-\vec{p},\mp,n)=i\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0u(\vec{p},\pm,n).\tag{101}$$

Similarly, we compute the effect of $\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0$ on the antiparticle spinors:

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0v(\vec{p},s,n) &= \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0\frac{m-p_\mu\gamma^\mu}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0\begin{pmatrix} \beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm) \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}\tag{102}$$

The product of these gamma matrices in Schwartz's version of Weyl's notation is

$$\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 = - \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2 \end{pmatrix}.\tag{103}$$

Now

$$\sigma^2\beta(+)=\begin{pmatrix}0 & -i \\ i & 0\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}0 \\ 1\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}-i \\ 0\end{pmatrix}=-i\alpha(+)=i\beta(-), \quad (104)$$

and

$$\sigma^2\beta(-)=\begin{pmatrix}0 & -i \\ i & 0\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}-1 \\ 0\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}0 \\ -i\end{pmatrix}=-i\alpha(-)=-i\beta(+). \quad (105)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0v(\vec{p}, \pm, n) &= \frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0\begin{pmatrix}\beta(\pm) \\ -\beta(\pm)\end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\begin{pmatrix}\mp i\beta(\mp) \\ \pm i\beta(\mp)\end{pmatrix} \\ &= \mp i\frac{m+p^0\gamma^0+\vec{p}\cdot\vec{\gamma}^*}{\sqrt{2(E+m)}}\begin{pmatrix}\beta(\mp) \\ -\beta(\mp)\end{pmatrix} \\ &= \mp iv^*(-\vec{p}, \mp, n). \end{aligned} \quad (106)$$

Thus,

$$v^*(-\vec{p}, \mp, n)=\pm i\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0v(\vec{p}, \pm, n). \quad (107)$$

The factor $(-1)^{1/2-s}$ cancels the sign \pm , and so

$$(-1)^{1/2-s}v^*(-\vec{p}, \mp, n)=i\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0v(\vec{p}, \pm, n). \quad (108)$$

So by (101 and 108), the effect (94) of T on ψ is

$$\begin{aligned} T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} &= \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ (-1)^{1/2-s} \left[u^*(-\vec{p}, -s, n)\beta_n^*a(\vec{p}, s, n)e^{ip^0t+i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + v^*(-\vec{p}, -s, n_c)\beta_{n_c}a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c)e^{-ip^0t-i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \right] \\ &= i\gamma^5\gamma^2\gamma^0 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ \left[u(\vec{p}, \pm, n)\beta_n^*a(\vec{p}, s, n)e^{ip^0t+i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + v(\vec{p}, \pm, n_c)\beta_{n_c}a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c)e^{-ip^0t-i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (109)$$

The field $T\psi T^{-1}$ will anticommute with ψ at spacelike separations only if

$$\beta_n^* = \beta_{n_c} \quad (110)$$

in which case

$$\begin{aligned}
T\psi(t, \vec{x})T^{-1} &= i\beta_n^* \gamma^5 \gamma^2 \gamma^0 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{s=-}^+ \left[u(\vec{p}, \pm, n) a(\vec{p}, s, n) e^{ip^0 t + i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + v(\vec{p}, \pm, n_c) a^\dagger(\vec{p}, s, n_c) e^{-ip^0 t - i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}} \right] = i\beta_n^* \gamma^5 \gamma^2 \gamma^0 \psi(-t, \vec{x})
\end{aligned} \tag{111}$$

which is (94) with $c = i$.