

Identities satisfied by the generators of the Dirac algebra

Patrick L. Nash

M. S. 474, NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia 23665

(Received 26 July 1983; accepted for publication 23 September 1983)

The geometry of real four-dimensional spinor space and its symmetry groups are reviewed from the perspective of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$. Two identities that concern the matrix generators of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$, and which were first proved by Dirac, are generalized.

PACS numbers: 02.20. + b, 02.40. + m

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper contains several new results relating to $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ spinor algebra that may be of general use. The main result, the lemma of Sec. 3, is a straightforward generalization of an identity discovered by Dirac, which is satisfied by the 4×4 matrix generators of the Dirac algebra. Section 2 is expository, $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ spinor algebra is discussed in detail from the perspective of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$. Section 4, provided in the interest of completeness, records the transformation properties of various geometric objects under $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$.

Notations and conventions used in this paper are as follows: upper case Latin indices run from 1 to 6, while both Greek and early lower case Latin indices run from 1 to 4. If M is a matrix, then \bar{M} denotes the transpose of M . We work in a coordinate system such that the metric tensor $g_{\alpha\beta}$ on M_4 has components $g_{\alpha\beta} = \text{diag}(1, 1, 1, -1)$.

2. THE γ^{AB} MATRICES AND $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$

Let $\gamma^{AB} = -\gamma^{BA}$, $A, B, \dots = 1, \dots, 6$ denote 15 elements, which are defined by¹⁻³

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{AB}\gamma^{CD} = & \gamma_0(g^{AD}g^{BC} - g^{AC}g^{BD}) - g^{AC}\gamma^{BD} \\ & + g^{AD}\gamma^{BC} + g^{BC}\gamma^{AD} - g^{BD}\gamma^{AC} \\ & - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{ABCDEF}g_{EG}g_{FH}\gamma^{GH}, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where

$$g_{AB} = g^{AB} = \text{diag}(1, 1, 1, -1, -1, -1), \quad (2)$$

γ_0 is the identity element, and ϵ^{ABCDEF} is the totally antisymmetric Levi-Civita tensor-density of weight +1 in six dimensions, $\epsilon^{123456} = +1$. In virtue of Eq. (1), the set of elements $\{\pm\gamma_0, \pm\gamma^{AB}\}$ forms a finite group of order 32. We shall consider only real irreducible representations of this group in which the $\{\gamma_0, \gamma^{AB}\}$ are linearly independent. By Burnside's theorem,⁴ a representation of a finite group of degree f is irreducible if and only if there occur f^2 linearly independent matrices in it; hence, the degree of this representation is four. Thus, each of the γ^{AB} is a real 4×4 matrix, and γ_0 is the 4×4 identity matrix. We shall denote the real four-dimensional vector space that carries this irreducible representation as D_4 , and refer to D_4 as (real four-dimensional) Dirac space. The vectors of D_4 will be called (real) contravariant spinors, for reasons that will become apparent below. The elements of D_4^* , the vector space dual to D_4 , will be called (real) covariant spinors.

On account of the defining relations of Eq. (1), one finds that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{AB}\gamma^{CD} - \gamma^{CD}\gamma^{AB} &= [\gamma^{AB}, \gamma^{CD}] \\ &= -2(g^{AC}\gamma^{BD} - g^{AD}\gamma^{BC} \\ &\quad - g^{BC}\gamma^{AD} + g^{BD}\gamma^{AC}), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

so that the $-\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{AB}$ comprise a real 4×4 irreducible representation of a linearly independent basis of the $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ Lie algebra, $\text{so}(3,3)$. Moreover, Eq. (1) implies that each of the γ^{AB} matrices has square equal to $\pm\gamma_0$, and either commutes or anticommutes with any other γ^{RS} matrix. Given a particular γ^{AB} , there exists another γ matrix, say τ , which anticommutes with it. Thus $\text{trace}(\gamma^{AB}) = \text{tr}(\tau^{-1}\tau\gamma^{AB}) = \text{tr}(\tau\gamma^{AB}\tau^{-1}) = -\text{tr}(\gamma^{AB}) = 0$. Since the γ^{AB} are trace-free and linearly independent, one deduces the well-known real Lie algebra isomorphism $\text{so}(3,3) \cong \text{sl}(4, \mathbb{R})$. Hence D_4 carries an irreducible representation of $\overline{\text{SL}}(4, \mathbb{R}) \cong \overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$; the vectors of D_4 are reduced $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ spinors.

Under the involutive automorphism $\gamma^{AB} \rightarrow -\tilde{\gamma}^{AB}$ of $\text{so}(3,3)$, the Lie algebra decomposes into the eigenvalue (-1) and eigenvalue $(+1)$ subspaces corresponding to, respectively, the nine linearly independent real traceless symmetric 4×4 matrices, and the six linearly independent real skew-symmetric 4×4 matrices. The eigenvalue $(+1)$ subspace is the subalgebra $\text{so}(4)$, which is the Lie algebra of $\overline{\text{SO}}(4)$, the maximal compact subgroup of $\overline{\text{SL}}(4, \mathbb{R})$. The subalgebra $\text{so}(4) \cong \text{su}(2) + \text{su}(2)$ may be further decomposed into the even (eigenvalue $+1$) and odd (eigenvalue -1) subspaces of the linear transformation of $\text{so}(4)$ whereby $\tau \in \text{so}(4)$ is mapped into its dual, $^*\tau$. The even subspace under * of $\text{so}(4)$ corresponds to self-dual tensors, and, say, the first $\text{su}(2)$ in the direct sum; the odd subspace corresponds to anti-self-dual tensors, and the second $\text{su}(2)$ in the direct sum. A basis for $\text{so}(4)$ may be chosen as follows. Each of the six skew-symmetric γ matrices has the property that the square of the matrix is equal to $-\gamma_0$. By Eq. (1), these six matrices are given by ($h = 1, 2, 3$),

$$2s^h = (\gamma^{23}, \gamma^{31}, \gamma^{21}), \quad (4)$$

and

$$2t^h = (\gamma^{45}, \gamma^{64}, \gamma^{65}). \quad (5)$$

From Eq. (3), these matrices verify ($h, k, m = 1, 2, 3$)

$$[s^h, t^k] = 0, \quad (6)$$

$$[s^h, s^k] = \epsilon^{hkm} s^m, \quad (7)$$

$$[t^h, t^k] = \epsilon^{hkm} t^m. \quad (8)$$

The s^h (resp. t^h) are anti-Hermitian generators of a real reducible unitary representation of $SU(2)$. We shall assume that the s^h are self-dual, and the t^h are anti-self-dual. The six matrices s^h, t^h , comprise a linearly independent basis for the six-dimensional subalgebra $so(4)$ of $so(3,3)$.

The nine symmetric trace-free γ matrices may be denoted as $\gamma^{h'k}$, $h' = 1', 2', 3'$, where $1' = 6, 2' = 5, 3' = 4$. The $\gamma^{h'k}$ comprise a linearly independent basis for the nine-dimensional symmetric subspace of $so(3,3)$. They may be expressed in terms of s^h, t^h as follows: contracting Eq. (1) with ϵ_{RSABCD} yields:

$$\gamma_{RS} = -(1/4!) \epsilon_{RSABCD} \gamma^{AB} \gamma^{CD}, \quad (9)$$

where $\gamma_{RS} = g_{RA} g_{SB} \gamma^{AB}$. Evaluating the left-hand side of Eq. (9) for $\gamma^{h'k}$ [after repeated use of Eq. (9)] gives

$$\gamma^{h'k} = -4 g^{hn} t^n s^m g^{mk}, \quad (10)$$

where

$$g^{hk} = \text{diag}(1, 1, -1), \quad (11)$$

and, as we have heretofore implicitly assumed, the summation convention is operative for repeated indices; here m and n assume the values 1, 2, and 3.

Let γ^{ABa} denote the a th row and b th column of γ^{AB} , where $a, b = 1, 2, 3, 4$. A concrete representation of the γ^{AB} is ($h, k, m, n = 1, 2, 3$),

$$2(s^h)^a_b = -\epsilon_{hab4} - \delta_{ah} \delta_{b4} + \delta_{a4} \delta_{bh} \quad (\text{self-dual}), \quad (12)$$

$$2(t^h)^a_b = -\epsilon_{hab4} + \delta_{ah} \delta_{b4} - \delta_{a4} \delta_{bh} \quad (\text{anti-self-dual}), \quad (13)$$

and

$$(\gamma^{h'k})^a_b = g^{hm} g^{kn} (\delta_{ab} \delta_{mn} - \delta_{am} \delta_{bn} - \delta_{an} \delta_{bm} - 2\delta_{a4} \delta_{b4} \delta_{mn} + \delta_{a4} \epsilon_{mnb4} + \delta_{b4} \epsilon_{mna4}), \quad (14)$$

where ϵ_{abcd} is the totally antisymmetric Levi-Civita tensor density of weight (-1) on D_4 ; $\epsilon_{1234} = +1$, g^{hm} as defined in Eq. (11); and we have substituted Eqs. (12) and (13) into Eq. (10) to obtain Eq. (14). Denoting the right-hand side of Eq. (12) by s^h_{ab} , by self-dual we mean that $s^h_{ab} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} s^h_{cd}$.

There does not exist a $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ invariant bilinear form (inner product) on D_4 . The $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ symmetry must be broken down to, say, $\overline{SO(4)}$, or $\overline{SO(3,2)}$ or $\overline{SO(3,1)}$ in order to define an invariant bilinear form on D_4 . To see this, suppose that $\tilde{\lambda} \epsilon \lambda'$ is a $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ invariant bilinear form, where $\lambda, \lambda' \in D_4$, $\tilde{\lambda}$ denotes the transpose of λ , and ϵ is the "metric" spinor of covariant-rank two. Under

$S = \exp(-\frac{1}{2} \omega_{AB} \gamma^{AB}) \in \overline{SO(3,3)}$ (the $\omega_{AB} = -\omega_{BA}$ are 15 real parameters), $\lambda' \rightarrow S \lambda'$ and $\tilde{\lambda} \rightarrow \tilde{\lambda} S$; in order for $\tilde{\lambda} \epsilon \lambda'$ to be an invariant under $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ ϵ must be invariant under automorphism by S : $\epsilon \rightarrow \tilde{S} \epsilon S = \epsilon$. This is equivalent to $\tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \epsilon = -\epsilon \gamma^{AB}$ ($\tilde{\gamma}^{AB}$ denotes the transpose of γ^{AB}).

Let $\gamma^{AB} = s^h$ or t^h ; then ϵ must commute with each of these matrices, since each is skew-symmetric. Hence ϵ commutes also with the products, as defined in Eq. (10), and thus ϵ commutes with every matrix in the irreducible representation. Therefore, by the second part of Schur's lemma,⁴ ϵ is a numerical multiple of the unit matrix. However, each $\gamma^{h'k}$ is symmetric, and must therefore anticommute with ϵ : $\tilde{\gamma}^{h'k} \epsilon = \gamma^{h'k} \epsilon = -\epsilon \gamma^{h'k}$. Hence ϵ must be zero; there is no

$\overline{SO(3,3)}$ invariant bilinear form on the real vector space D_4 . Another way to show this is to note that γ^{12}, γ^{34} , and γ^{56} commute and satisfy $\tilde{\gamma}^{12} = -\gamma^{12}$, $\tilde{\gamma}^{34} = \gamma^{34}$, $\tilde{\gamma}^{56} = -\gamma^{56}$, and $\gamma^{12} \gamma^{56} = \gamma^{34}$. However, $(-\tilde{\gamma}^{12})(-\tilde{\gamma}^{56}) = \gamma^{34} \neq -\gamma^{34}$, so that $-\tilde{\gamma}^{AB}$ is not equivalent to γ^{AB} : $-\tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \epsilon = \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \Rightarrow \epsilon = 0$.

There are a number of bilinear forms on D_4 that are defined by a nonsingular covariant rank-two spinor ϵ , which are invariant under a subgroup of $\overline{SO(3,3)}$. If ϵ is symmetric, $\tilde{\epsilon} = \epsilon$, then $\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB}$ is skew-symmetric:

$$\frac{1}{2} \omega_{AB} \tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \omega_{AB} \tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \tilde{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\epsilon} \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB}.$$

Since there are six linearly-independent skew-symmetric real 4×4 matrices, the maximal subgroup of $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ that leaves ϵ invariant corresponds to the six-parameter subgroup of $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ generated by $\{s^h, t^h\}$, namely, a $\overline{SO(4)}$ subgroup of $\overline{SO(3,3)}$. A $\overline{SO(4)}$ invariant inner product may be defined on D_4 utilizing a symmetric ϵ .

If ϵ is skew-symmetric, $\tilde{\epsilon} = -\epsilon$; then $\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB}$ is symmetric

$$\frac{1}{2} \omega_{AB} \tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \epsilon = -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \tilde{\epsilon} = -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\epsilon} \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB}.$$

Since there are ten linearly-independent real symmetric 4×4 matrices, ϵ defines a nonsingular skew-symmetric bilinear form on D_4 whose maximal invariance group is one of the six possible ten-parameter subgroups $\overline{SO(3,2)}$ and $\overline{SO(2,3)}$ of $\overline{SO(3,3)}$ that are generated by ten of the fifteen $-\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{AB}$. (Which particular subgroup, of course, depends upon the choice of ϵ .) Since ϵ defines a symplectic form on D_4 , one deduces the real Lie algebra isomorphisms $so(3,2) \cong sp(2, \mathbb{R}) \cong so(2,3)$, where $sp(n, \mathbb{R})$ is the real symplectic Lie algebra whose defining representation is of degree $2n$.

$\overline{SO(3,1)}$ is a subgroup of $\overline{SO(3,2)}$, but not of $\overline{SO(2,3)}$, so that most interest lies with $\overline{SO(3,2)}$ invariant-symplectic forms ϵ . There are essentially three distinct choices for ϵ , namely, γ^{45} , γ^{56} , or γ^{64} . From

$$\frac{1}{2} \omega_{AB} \tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \epsilon = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \gamma^{AB} \omega_{AB} \quad (15)$$

and Eq. (1), one concludes the following:

(i) If $\epsilon = \gamma^{45}$, then one must set $\omega_{46} = 0$ in order to satisfy Eq. (15); the generators of this $\overline{SO(3,2)}$ are therefore $\{-\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}, -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\alpha 5}\}$, where $\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

(ii) If $\epsilon = \gamma^{56}$, then one must set $\omega_{44} = 0$; the generators are $\{-\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{hk}, -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{h5}, -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{h6}, -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{56}; h, k = 1, 2, 3\}$.

(iii) If $\epsilon = \gamma^{64}$, then one must set $\omega_{45} = 0$; the generators are $\{-\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}, -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\alpha 6}\}$.

$\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ transformations on D_4 may be associated with $\text{SO}(3,3)$ transformations on a flat six-dimensional (three space, three time) Minkowski space-time M_6 , whose metric tensor is given by Eq. (2). By restriction to an appropriate four-dimensional affine subspace of M_6 , we can realize M_4 . For the sake of simplicity, we shall assume that the x^4 axis of M_4 coincides with the x^4 axis of M_6 in every coordinate system. It is customary to exclude choice (ii), $\epsilon = \gamma^{56}$, as an interesting symplectic form on D_4 . γ^{56} is invariant under those automorphisms of D_4 that correspond with the automorphisms of M_6 that leave the x^4 axis of M_6 invariant.

Which of the candidates, γ^{45} or γ^{64} , that is adopted for ϵ depends upon the association defined between γ^{45} and γ^{64} , and Dirac's γ^α matrices, and is also based on the fact that one must restrict the $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,2)$ symmetry to a $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ subgroup in order to be in accordance with relativity. As things stand, case (i) $\epsilon = \gamma^{45}$, implies that $\epsilon\gamma^{64}$ is antisymmetric; γ^{45} mixes with γ^{64} under $\text{SO}(3,2)$, while $\{\gamma^{45}, \gamma^{56}\}$ is a $\text{SO}(3,2)$ vector ($\omega_{46} = 0$) (the transformation properties of the γ matrices are discussed in Sec. 4). Case (iii), $\epsilon = \gamma^{64}$, implies that $\epsilon\gamma^{45}$ is symmetric, while $\epsilon\gamma^{64}$ is skew-symmetric; γ^{64} mixes with γ^{45} under $\text{SO}(3,2)$, while $\{\gamma^{45}, \gamma^{56}\}$ is a $\text{SO}(3,2)$ vector ($\omega_{45} = 0$).

Equivalent formalisms are: case (i), $\epsilon = \gamma^{45}$; define $\gamma^\alpha = \gamma^{45}$, and append to the constraint $\omega_{46} = 0$, the restriction $\omega_{45} = 0$, so that γ^{45} transforms as a vector under $\text{SO}(3,1)$; case (iii), $\epsilon = \gamma^{64}$; define $\gamma^\alpha = \gamma^{64}$, and append to the constraint $\omega_{45} = 0$ the restriction $\omega_{46} = 0$, so that γ^{64} transforms as a vector under $\text{SO}(3,1)$. In both cases, the $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,2)$ symmetry is reduced to $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$.

Without loss of generality, we shall utilize $\epsilon = \gamma^{64}$ as the symplectic form. In order to make contact with the usual conventions found in the literature, it is convenient to make the following definitions.

Let γ^α (Greek indices run from 1 to 4) denote four real 4×4 matrices (Dirac's γ matrices) that generate an irreducible representation of the pseudo-Clifford algebra C_4 (also known as the Dirac algebra). The γ^α are defined by

$$\gamma^\alpha \gamma^\beta + \gamma^\beta \gamma^\alpha = 2\gamma_0 g^{\alpha\beta}, \quad (16)$$

where

$$g^{\alpha\beta} = g_{\alpha\beta} = \text{diag}(1, 1, 1, -1) \quad (17)$$

is the metric tensor on M_4 , in a Cartesian coordinate system. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^5 &= -(1/4!) \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} \gamma^\alpha \gamma^\beta \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \\ &= -\gamma^1 \gamma^2 \gamma^3 \gamma^4, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$ is the totally antisymmetric Levi-Civita tensor density of weight (-1) in four dimensions, $\epsilon_{1234} = +1$. A representation of a linearly independent basis for C_4 is

$$\gamma^\alpha = \gamma^{\alpha 6}, \quad (19)$$

$$\gamma^5 = \gamma^{56}, \quad (20)$$

$$\gamma^\alpha \gamma^5 = \gamma^{\alpha 5}, \quad (21)$$

and defining

$$S^{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{1}{4} [\gamma^\alpha, \gamma^\beta], \quad (22)$$

$$S^{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}. \quad (23)$$

The symplectic form ϵ on D_4 is defined to be

$$\epsilon = \gamma^{64}. \quad (24)$$

As a consequence of Eq. (1), and the definitions of Eqs. (16)–(24), are the identities

$$\tilde{\gamma}^\alpha \epsilon = -\epsilon \gamma^\alpha, \quad (25)$$

$$\tilde{S}^{\alpha\beta} \epsilon = -\epsilon S^{\alpha\beta}, \quad (26)$$

$$[S^{\alpha\beta}, \gamma_\mu] = \delta_\mu^\alpha \gamma^\beta - \delta_\mu^\beta \gamma^\alpha, \quad (27)$$

$$[S^{\alpha\beta}, S^{\mu\nu}] = g^{\alpha\mu} S^{\beta\nu} - g^{\alpha\nu} S^{\beta\mu} - g^{\beta\mu} S^{\alpha\nu} + g^{\beta\nu} S^{\alpha\mu}, \quad (28)$$

and

$$\gamma^5 S^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\alpha\mu} g^{\beta\nu} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} S^{\lambda\sigma}. \quad (29)$$

We introduce a $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ index notation to compliment the matrix notation which we have been using. Associate $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ indices as follows: $D_4 \ni \lambda \leftrightarrow \lambda^a$; $D_4^* \ni \xi \leftrightarrow \xi_a$ (note that in matrix notation, $\xi\lambda$ denotes $\xi_a \lambda^a$, while $\lambda\xi$ denotes the 4×4 matrix with elements $\lambda^a \xi_b$; one has $\text{tr } \lambda\xi = \xi\lambda$); $\epsilon \leftrightarrow \epsilon_{ab} = -\epsilon_{ba}$; $\tilde{\epsilon} \leftrightarrow \tilde{\epsilon}_b = \epsilon^a \epsilon_{ab}$, where the tilde denotes the transpose of a matrix (mnemonic $b \leftrightarrow$ below); raise

$\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ indices with ϵ^{ab} according as $\xi^a = \epsilon^{ab} \xi_b$ (mnemonic: $a \leftrightarrow$ above). According to this convention

$$\epsilon^{ab} = \epsilon^{ac} \epsilon^{bd} \epsilon_{cd} = \epsilon^{ac} (\epsilon^{bd} \epsilon_{cd}) = \epsilon^{ac} \delta_c^b; \text{ therefore,}$$

$$(\epsilon^{-1})^{ab} = \epsilon^{ba} = -\epsilon^{ab}, \quad (30)$$

$$\epsilon^{ac} \epsilon_{cb} = -\delta_b^a, \quad (31)$$

and we find the correspondence $\xi^a \leftrightarrow -\epsilon^{-1} \tilde{\xi}$. $\gamma^{AB} \leftrightarrow \gamma^{ABa}_b$. In index notation, Eq. (25) is $\gamma^{ac} \epsilon_{cb} = -\epsilon_{ac} \gamma^{ac}_b = \epsilon_{ca} \gamma^{ac}_b$, i.e.,

$$\gamma^{ab}_{ba} = \gamma^{ab}_{ab}. \quad (32)$$

Equation (26) is $S^{\alpha\beta c}_a \epsilon_{cb} = -\epsilon_{ac} S^{\alpha\beta c}_b$,

$$S^{\alpha\beta}_{ba} = S^{\alpha\beta}_{ab}. \quad (33)$$

$\tilde{S}\epsilon S = \epsilon, S\epsilon \overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$, reads

$$S^c_a \epsilon_{cd} S^d_b = \epsilon_{ab}. \quad (34)$$

Since $\tilde{\gamma}^{\alpha 5} \epsilon = \epsilon \gamma^{\alpha 5}$,

$$\gamma^{5\alpha}_{ba} = -\gamma^{5\alpha}_{ab}; \quad (35)$$

similarly, $\tilde{\gamma}^5 \epsilon = \epsilon \gamma^5$, so that

$$\gamma^5_{ba} = -\gamma^5_{ab}. \quad (36)$$

The determinant of ϵ is given by $\det \epsilon = \epsilon^{abcd} \epsilon_{a1} \epsilon_{b2} \epsilon_{c3} \epsilon_{d4}$, or equivalently, $\epsilon_{a'b'c'd'} \det \epsilon = \epsilon^{abcd} \epsilon_{aa'} \epsilon_{bb'} \epsilon_{cc'} \epsilon_{dd'}$; since $\epsilon^2 = -\gamma_0$, ϵ has eigenvalues $\pm i$; since $\text{tr } \epsilon = 0$, the eigenvalues occur with equal multiplicity. Hence $\det \epsilon = 1$, and thus

$$\epsilon_{a'b'c'd'} = \epsilon_{aa'} \epsilon_{bb'} \epsilon_{cc'} \epsilon_{dd'} \epsilon^{abcd}. \quad (37)$$

The fact that the s^h are self-dual, and the t^h are anti-self-dual, may be expressed covariantly in both matrix and index notation. Since $\epsilon^{-1} = -\epsilon$, $*\epsilon = -\epsilon$ may be written as

$$\epsilon = * \epsilon^{-1}; \quad (38)$$

in index notation, Eq. (38) is $\epsilon_{ab} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} (\epsilon^{-1})^{cd} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} \epsilon^{dc}$, or

$$\epsilon_{ab} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} \epsilon^{cd}. \quad (39)$$

Using Eq. (1), one finds that

$$-\epsilon \gamma^\alpha \gamma^5 = \tilde{\gamma}^\alpha \gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1} = 2\delta_{\alpha}^{\beta} g^{hk} s^k - \delta_{\alpha}^4 \gamma^5. \text{ Therefore,}$$

$$-\epsilon \gamma^\alpha \gamma^5 = * \gamma^\alpha \gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1} \quad (40)$$

expresses the fact that the s^{α} are self-dual for $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$, and that γ^5 is anti-self-dual when $\alpha = 4$. Noting that

$$(-\epsilon \gamma^{AB})_{ab} = \gamma_{ab}^{AB} (= -\epsilon_{ac} \gamma^{ABc}_b = \epsilon_{ca} \gamma^{ABc}_b = \gamma_{ab}^{AB}),$$

and

$$(\gamma^{AB} \epsilon^{-1})^{ab} = \gamma^{ABab} (= \gamma^{ABa}_c \epsilon^{-1cb} = \gamma^{ABa}_c \epsilon^{bc} = \gamma^{ABab}),$$

Eq. (40) may be expressed as $(\gamma^\alpha \gamma^5)_{ab} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} (\gamma^\alpha \gamma^5)^{cd}$, which, using Eq. (21) yields

$$\gamma_{ab}^{\alpha 5} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} \gamma^{5cd\alpha}. \quad (41)$$

Lastly, from Eq. (1), $-\epsilon \gamma^5 = \gamma^{45} = -\gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1}$, which combined with $* \gamma^{45} = -\gamma^{45}$ gives

$$-\epsilon \gamma^5 = * \gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1}, \quad (42)$$

i.e.,

$$\gamma_{ab}^5 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{abcd} \gamma^{5cd}. \quad (43)$$

As an application of Eq. (39), we evaluate

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon^{da} \epsilon^{bc} + \epsilon^{db} \epsilon^{ca} + \epsilon^{dc} \epsilon^{ab} &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{da'} \epsilon^{b'c'} \delta_{a'b'c'}^{abc} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{da'} \epsilon^{b'c'} \delta_{a'b'c'}^{abce} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{abce} \epsilon_{a'b'c'e} \epsilon^{da'} \epsilon^{b'c'} \\ &= -\epsilon^{abce} \epsilon^{da'} \epsilon_{a'e} \text{ [using Eq. (39)]} \\ &= \epsilon^{abcd} \text{ [using Eq. (31)].} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\epsilon^{abcd} = \epsilon^{da} \epsilon^{bc} + \epsilon^{db} \epsilon^{ca} + \epsilon^{dc} \epsilon^{ab}. \quad (44)$$

(See Ref. 5 for a clear exposition of the properties of the generalized Kronecker delta, ϵ^{abcd} , and ϵ_{abcd} .)

3. A BASIC LEMMA

Lemma: Let X be an arbitrary 4×4 matrix; then

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{56} X \gamma^{56} + \gamma^{64} \tilde{X} \gamma^{64} + \gamma^{45} \tilde{X} \gamma^{45} \\ = X - \gamma_0 \text{tr} X + \gamma^{56} \text{tr} \gamma^{56} X, \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

where \tilde{X} denotes the transpose of X , and $\text{tr} X$ is the trace of X . This identity is valid for any cyclic permutation of $(\gamma^{56}, \gamma^{64}, \gamma^{45})$, and under the replacement $\gamma^{56} \rightarrow \gamma^{12}$, $\gamma^{64} \rightarrow \gamma^{31}$, and $\gamma^{45} \rightarrow \gamma^{23}$.

Proof: Eq. (45) is linear in X ; we verify that this equation is true for $X = \gamma_0$, γ^{56} , γ^{45} , γ^{64} , and $\gamma^{\alpha\beta}$. Note that only for $X = \gamma_0$ (resp γ^{56}) is $\text{tr} X$ (resp $\text{tr} \gamma^{56} X$) nonvanishing.

(i) $X = \gamma_0$; since $(\gamma^{56})^2 = -\gamma_0 = (\gamma^{64})^2 = (\gamma^{45})^2$, Eq. (45) yields

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma^{56})^2 + (\gamma^{64})^2 + (\gamma^{45})^2 &= -3\gamma_0 \\ &= \gamma_0 - \gamma_0 \text{tr} \gamma_0 + \gamma^{56} \text{tr} \gamma^{56} = \gamma_0 - 4\gamma_0; \end{aligned}$$

(ii) $X = \gamma^{56}$; since $\tilde{\gamma}^{56} = -\gamma^{56}$, and γ^{56} anticommutes with both γ^{64} and γ^{45} , Eq. (45) gives

$$\begin{aligned} -\gamma^{56} - \gamma^{64} \gamma^{56} \gamma^{64} - \gamma^{45} \gamma^{56} \gamma^{45} &= -3\gamma^{56} \\ &= \gamma^{56} - \gamma_0 \text{tr} \gamma^{56} + \gamma^{56} \text{tr}(-\gamma_0) = \gamma^{56} - 4\gamma^{56}; \end{aligned}$$

(iii) $X = \gamma^{45}$; from Eq. (1),

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{45} \gamma^{56} &= -\gamma^{56} \gamma^{45}, \quad \tilde{\gamma}^{45} \gamma^{64} = \gamma^{64} \gamma^{45}, \text{ and} \\ \tilde{\gamma}^{45} \gamma^{45} &= -\gamma^{45} \gamma^{45}; \text{ by Eq. (45),} \\ \gamma^{56} \gamma^{45} \gamma^{56} + \gamma^{64} \gamma^{45} \gamma^{64} + \gamma^{45} \gamma^{45} \gamma^{45} & \\ &= (\gamma^{56})^2 (-\gamma^{45}) + (\gamma^{64})^2 \gamma^{45} + (\gamma^{45})^2 (-\gamma^{45}) = \gamma^{45}; \end{aligned}$$

(iv) $X = \gamma^{64}$; one deduces from Eq. (1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{64} \gamma^{56} &= -\gamma^{56} \gamma^{64}, \quad \tilde{\gamma}^{64} \gamma^{64} = -\gamma^{64} \gamma^{64}, \text{ and} \\ \tilde{\gamma}^{64} \gamma^{45} &= \gamma^{45} \gamma^{64}. \text{ Eq. (45) becomes} \\ \gamma^{56} \gamma^{64} \gamma^{56} + \gamma^{64} \gamma^{64} \gamma^{64} + \gamma^{45} \gamma^{64} \gamma^{45} & \\ &= (\gamma^{56})^2 (-\gamma^{64}) + (\gamma^{64})^2 (-\gamma^{64}) + (\gamma^{45})^2 \gamma^{64} = \gamma^{64}; \end{aligned}$$

(v) $X = \gamma^{\alpha\beta}$; from Eq. (1),

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{56} &= \gamma^{56} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}, \quad \tilde{\gamma}^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{64} = -\gamma^{64} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}, \text{ and} \\ \tilde{\gamma}^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{45} &= -\gamma^{45} \gamma^{\alpha\beta}; \text{ Eq. (45) gives} \\ \gamma^{56} \gamma^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{56} + \gamma^{64} \gamma^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{64} + \gamma^{45} \gamma^{\alpha\beta} \gamma^{45} & \\ &= (\gamma^{56})^2 \gamma^{\alpha\beta} + (\gamma^{64})^2 (-\gamma^{\alpha\beta}) + (\gamma^{45})^2 (-\gamma^{\alpha\beta}) = \gamma^{\alpha\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\gamma^{56} = \gamma^5$, $\gamma^{64} = \epsilon = -\epsilon^{-1}$, and $\gamma^{45} = \gamma^{46} \gamma^{56} = -\epsilon \gamma^5 = -\gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1}$, Eq. (45) may be written covariantly as

$$\gamma^5 X \gamma^5 - \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{X} \epsilon + \gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{X} \epsilon \gamma^5 = X - \gamma_0 \text{tr} X + \gamma^5 \text{tr} \gamma^5 X.$$

Bringing X to the left-hand side of this equation, and then multiplying by $-\gamma^5$ gives

$$[X + \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{X} \epsilon, \gamma^5]_+ = \gamma^5 \text{tr} X + \gamma_0 \text{tr} \gamma^5 X, \quad (46)$$

where $[A, B]_+ = AB + BA$ denotes the anticommutator of A and B . In index notation, $X + \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{X} \epsilon$ is $X^a_b + \epsilon^{-1ac} X^d_c \epsilon_{db} = X^a_b + \epsilon^{ca} X^d_c \epsilon_{db} = X^a_b - \epsilon_{db} X^d_c \epsilon^{ac} = X^a_b - X^a_b$; Eq. (46) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} (X^a_c - X^a_c) \gamma^5_c + \gamma^{5a}_c (X^c_b - X^c_b) \\ = \gamma^{5a}_b X^c_c + \delta^a_b \gamma^{5c}_d X^d_d. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Eq. (45) is a simple but useful identity, and is a generalization of an identity first proved by Dirac² in 1963. The assertion that Eq. (45) is valid under permutation of γ^{56} , γ^{64} , γ^{45} is true because, as far as $\text{so}(3,3)$ is concerned, no $\text{su}(2)$ generator is to be preferred over the remaining two. Eq. (45) remains valid under the replacement $\gamma^{h'k'} \rightarrow \gamma^{hk}$ because of the symmetric roles played by the two $\text{su}(2)$ subalgebras in the direct sum of $\text{so}(4)$ [self-dual and anti-self-dual, required in order that the six skew-symmetric matrices be linearly independent, plays no role in Eq. (45)].

As an application of this lemma, we prove that

$$\gamma_\alpha \lambda \xi \gamma^\alpha = \gamma_0 \xi \lambda + \gamma^5 \xi \gamma^5 \lambda + \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{\xi} \tilde{\lambda} \epsilon + \gamma^5 \epsilon^{-1} \tilde{\xi} \tilde{\lambda} \epsilon \gamma^5. \quad (48)$$

The starting point of this evaluation is to replace γ^{56} , γ^{64} , and γ^{45} in Eq. (45) with, respectively, γ^{12} , γ^{23} , γ^{31} . This yields

$$\gamma^{12} X \gamma^{12} + \gamma^{23} \tilde{X} \gamma^{23} + \gamma^{31} \tilde{X} \gamma^{31} = X - \gamma_0 \text{tr} X + \gamma^{12} \text{tr} \gamma^{12} X. \quad (49)$$

Let X be an arbitrary symmetric matrix, $\tilde{X} = X$; then $\text{tr} \gamma^{12} X = 0$, because X may be expanded in terms of γ_0 and $\gamma^{h'k'}$; each of these matrices, when multiplied by γ^{12} , has vanishing trace [see Eq. (10)]. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} & \gamma^{34}(\gamma^{12}X\gamma^{12} + \gamma^{23}X\gamma^{23} + \gamma^{31}X\gamma^{31})\gamma^{34} \\ &= \gamma^5 X \gamma^5 - \gamma^{24} X \gamma^{24} - \gamma^{14} X \gamma^{14} \quad [\text{using Eqs. (1) and (9)}] \\ &= \gamma^{34}(X - \gamma_0 \text{tr } X)\gamma^{34} = \gamma^{34}X\gamma^{34} - \gamma_0 \text{tr } X. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\gamma^{44}X\gamma^{44} = \gamma_0 \text{tr } X + \gamma^5 X \gamma^5$; since X is an arbitrary symmetric matrix, this implies that (for convenience we write γ^{ABa} as γ^{AB}_{ab} in this paragraph)

$$\gamma^{44}_{ab}\gamma^{44}_{cd} + \gamma^{44}_{ac}\gamma^{44}_{bd} = 2\delta_{ad}\delta_{bc} + \gamma^5_{ab}\gamma^5_{cd} + \gamma^5_{ac}\gamma^5_{bd}.$$

Holding d fixed, one may obtain two similar equations by cyclically permuting (a,b,c) . Upon adding two of these equations and subtracting the third, one finds that

$$\gamma^{44}_{ab}\gamma^{44}_{cd} = -\delta_{ab}\delta_{cd} + \delta_{ac}\delta_{bd} + \delta_{ad}\delta_{bc} + \gamma^5_{ac}\gamma^5_{bd} + \gamma^5_{ad}\gamma^5_{bc}.$$

Contracting this result with $\lambda_b \xi_c$ yields

$$\gamma^{44}\lambda\xi\gamma^{44} = -\lambda\xi + \xi\tilde{\lambda} + \gamma_0\xi\tilde{\lambda} + \gamma^5\xi\tilde{\lambda}\gamma^5 - \gamma^5\xi\gamma^5\lambda.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_4(\gamma^{44}\lambda\xi\gamma^{44} + \lambda\xi)\gamma^4 &= \gamma^{44}\gamma^{46}\lambda\xi\gamma^{44}\gamma^{46} + \gamma_4\lambda\xi\gamma^4, \\ \gamma_4\lambda\xi\gamma^4 &= \epsilon^{-1}(\xi\tilde{\lambda} + \gamma_0\xi\tilde{\lambda} + \gamma^5\xi\tilde{\lambda}\gamma^5 - \gamma^5\xi\gamma^5\lambda)\epsilon \\ &= \gamma_0\xi\tilde{\lambda} + \gamma^5\xi\gamma^5\lambda + \epsilon^{-1}\xi\tilde{\lambda}\epsilon \\ &\quad + \gamma^5\epsilon^{-1}\xi\tilde{\lambda}\epsilon\gamma^5. \end{aligned}$$

An orthogonality relationship satisfied by the γ^{AB} is

$$-\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{ABa}\gamma_{AB}{}^c{}_d = 4\delta^a_d\delta^c_b - \delta^a_b\delta^c_d. \quad (50)$$

To prove this, construct a matrix $Y(X) = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{AB}X\gamma_{AB} + X$, where X is an arbitrary 4×4 matrix. Since $(\gamma^{AB})^{-1} = -\gamma_{AB}$, this may be written as $Y = X + \sum_{i=1}^{15} \gamma^i X (\gamma^i)^{-1}$, where $\gamma^{AB} \leftrightarrow \gamma^i, i = 1, \dots, 15$. If τ is any γ^{AB} matrix, then $\tau Y = \tau X \tau^{-1} \tau + \sum_{i=1}^{15} \tau \gamma^i X (\gamma^i)^{-1} \tau$; hence $\gamma^{AB} Y = Y \gamma^{AB}$, and since the γ^{AB} comprise an irreducible set, Y is a multiple $T^c{}_b X^b{}_c$ of γ_0 : $\delta^a_d T^c{}_b X^b{}_c = X^b{}_c (-\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{ABa}\gamma_{AB}{}^c{}_d + \delta^a_d\delta^c_b)$. Thus $\delta^a_d T^c{}_b = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{ABa}\gamma_{AB}{}^c{}_d + \delta^a_d\delta^c_b$, which implies $T^a{}_b = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{ABc}\gamma_{AB}{}^a{}_c + \delta^a_b = 4\delta^a_b$, which in turn implies Eq. (50).

4. TRANSFORMATION PROPERTIES OF γ^{AB}

The γ^{ABa} are numerically invariant under combined $\text{SO}(3,3)$ transformations of M_6 indices $\{A,B\}$, and $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ transformations of spinor indices $\{a,b\}$. To see this, suppose $L^A{}_B \in \text{SO}(3,3)$; then the metric on M_6 , g_{AB} of Eq. (2), is invariant under automorphism by L :

$$g_{AB} \rightarrow L^C{}_A g_{CD} L^D{}_B = g_{AB}. \quad (51)$$

The matrices $L^A{}_C L^B{}_D \gamma^{CD}$ satisfy Eq. (1) on account of Eq. (51), and the fact that $(L^A{}_B)^{-1} = \epsilon^{A'B'C'D'E'F'} L^A{}_A' L^B{}_B' L^C{}_C' L^D{}_D'$.

$\det(L^A{}_B) = 1$: $\epsilon^{A'B'C'D'E'F'} L^A{}_A' L^B{}_B' L^C{}_C' L^D{}_D' L^E{}_E' L^F{}_F' = \det L \cdot \epsilon^{ABCDEF}$. Hence the $L^A{}_C L^B{}_D \gamma^{CD}$ provide a real 4×4 irreducible representation of the group. The sum of the squares of the degrees of the irreducible representations of the group equals the order of the group, $32 = 1^2 + 4^2 + \dots$ (the degree one irrep is the trivial representation), so that there can be only one irreducible representation of degree four. Therefore, $L^A{}_C L^B{}_D \gamma^{CD}$ is equivalent

to γ^{AB} , there exists a real nonsingular 4×4 matrix $S = S(L)$ such that

$$\gamma^{AB} = L^A{}_C L^B{}_D S \gamma^{CD} S^{-1}. \quad (52)$$

S may be assumed to have determinant equal to ± 1 , and is determined up to a factor of ± 1 . The set of all such matrices S provides an irreducible representation

$$\overline{\text{SL}}(4, \mathbb{R}) \cong \overline{\text{SO}}(3,3).$$

A special Lorentz transformation $x \rightarrow x' = Lx$ on M_6 is accompanied by a $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ transformation on D_4 :

$\lambda \rightarrow \lambda' = S\lambda$. By Eq. (3), S is generated by $-\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{AB}$; for if $L^A{}_B = \delta^A{}_B - \omega^A{}_B + \dots = (e^{-\omega})^A{}_B$, where $\omega_{AB} = -\omega_{BA}$ are 15 real parameters, then

$$S = \gamma_0 - \frac{1}{4}\omega_{AB}\gamma^{AB} + \dots = \exp\{-\frac{1}{4}\omega_{AB}\gamma^{AB}\} \quad (53)$$

satisfies Eq. (52).

One can construct a 2-1 representation of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ onto $\text{SO}(3,3)$ as follows. Let Γ^A denote six matrices defined by

$$\Gamma^h = 2g^{hk} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & s^k \\ -s^k & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (54)$$

and

$$\Gamma^{h'} = 2g^{hk} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & t^k \\ t^k & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (55)$$

where $h, k = 1, 2, 3$; $h' = 1', 2', 3'$ and $1' = 6, 2' = 5, 3' = 4$; and $g^{hk} = \text{diag}(1, 1, -1)$. One may easily verify that the Γ^A satisfy

$$\Gamma^A \Gamma^B + \Gamma^B \Gamma^A = 2g^{AB} I, \quad (56)$$

where I denotes the 8×8 unit matrix

$$-\frac{1}{4}[\Gamma^A, \Gamma^B] = -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma^{AB} & 0 \\ 0 & -\tilde{\gamma}^{AB} \end{pmatrix}; \quad (57)$$

and

$$\Gamma^A = L^A{}_B M \Gamma^B M^{-1}, \quad (58)$$

where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} S & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{S}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (59)$$

S being defined in Eq. (53). Therefore, given $S \in \overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$, the map $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3) \rightarrow \text{SO}(3,3)$ defined by

$$L^A{}_B = \frac{1}{8} \text{tr}(M^{-1} \Gamma^A M \Gamma_B) \quad (60)$$

is a 2-1 representation of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ onto $\text{SO}(3,3)$.

Concomitant with the identification of γ^{64} as a $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ invariant symplectic form on D_4 is the reduction of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$ symmetry to $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ defined by setting $\omega_{A5} = 0 = \omega_{A6}$. According to this restriction, we have $L^A{}_6 = \delta^A{}_6$, $L^A{}_5 = \delta^A{}_5$, and $L^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} = \delta^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} - \omega^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} + \dots = (e^{-\omega})^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}$, where $\omega_{\alpha\beta} = -\omega_{\beta\alpha}$ are six real parameters. $S \in \overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ is given by

$$S(\omega) = \exp\{\frac{1}{2}\omega_{\alpha\beta} S^{\alpha\beta}\}, \quad (61)$$

where $S^{\alpha\beta}$ is defined in Eqs. (22) and (23). Under the restriction to a $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$ subgroup of $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,3)$, the γ^{AB} decompose into sets transforming as tensors under $\overline{\text{SO}}(3,1)$:

$$\epsilon \rightarrow \tilde{S} \epsilon S = \epsilon, \quad (62)$$

$$\gamma^{\alpha} \rightarrow L^{\alpha}{}_{\beta} S \gamma^{\beta} S^{-1} = \gamma^{\alpha}, \quad (63)$$

$$\gamma^5 \rightarrow S \gamma^5 S^{-1} = \gamma^5, \quad (64)$$

and

$$S^{\alpha\beta} \rightarrow L^\alpha{}_\mu L^\beta{}_\nu S S^{\mu\nu} S^{-1} = S^{\alpha\beta}. \quad (65)$$

Let $\lambda \in D_4$ and $\xi \in D_4^*$; under $\overline{\text{SO}(3,1)}$,

$$\lambda \rightarrow S \lambda \quad (66)$$

and

$$\xi \rightarrow \xi S^{-1}. \quad (67)$$

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Most of this work was conducted in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Arizona at Tucson. I

would like to thank the Department for its hospitality during my most enjoyable stay in Tucson.

¹Sir A. S. Eddington, *Fundamental Theory* (Cambridge U. P., Cambridge, 1949), Section 54.

²P. A. M. Dirac, *J. Math. Phys.* **4**, 901 (1963).

³P. L. Nash, *J. Math. Phys.* **21**, 1024 (1980).

⁴H. Boerner, *Representation of Groups* (North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1969).

⁵D. Lovelock and H. Rund, *Tensors, Differential Forms, and Variational Principles* (Wiley, New York, 1975).