All About Spinors

...on flat spacetime

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UO

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Some Philisophical Motivation

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- Special/General covariance →Special/General relativity



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- Bargmann ('54): reps up to sign are *exactly* the true reps of the universal cover



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Spinor Conventions

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 - ightharpoonup use $\epsilon^A_{\ B}$, $\epsilon_C^{\ D}$ and their conjugates to avoid confusion



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- Let $\{t^a, x^a, y^a, z^a\}$ be a basis for $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$

- $\{t^{AA'}, x^{AA'}, y^{AA'}, z^{AA'}\}$ defined above are clearly real
- lacksquare They span a 4-real dimensional space $V\subset W_{1,0;1,0}$
- Define $g: V \times V \to \mathbb{R}$ by $g_{AA'BB'} \coloneqq \epsilon_{AB}\overline{\epsilon}_{A'B'}$
 - ightharpoonup g is nondegenerate with signature (+,-,-,-); a Lorentz metric!
- Define $\lambda: V \to V$ by $\lambda^{AA'}_{BB'} := L^A_B \overline{L}^{A'}_{B'}$
 - Automatically, $\lambda^{AA'}_{CC'}\lambda^{BB'}_{DD'}g_{AA'BB'}=g_{CC'DD'}$
 - ▶ But this means $\lambda \in O(3,1)$ (in fact, $SO(3,1)^+$)!!
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Spinors and Null Vectors

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The Universal Enveloping Algebra

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Representations and Hilbert Space

Representations and Hilbert Space



Summary

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