

## Dirac equation 3

Let

$$\xi = p_\mu x^\mu = Et - p_x x - p_y y - p_z z$$

where

$$E = \sqrt{p_x^2 c^2 + p_y^2 c^2 + p_z^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$$

Fermion fields are the following solutions to the Dirac equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_1 &= \frac{e^{-i\xi/\hbar}}{\sqrt{E/c + mc}} \begin{pmatrix} E/c + mc \\ 0 \\ p_z \\ p_x + ip_y \end{pmatrix} & \psi_2 &= \frac{e^{-i\xi/\hbar}}{\sqrt{E/c + mc}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ E/c + mc \\ p_x - ip_y \\ -p_z \end{pmatrix} \\ &\text{fermion spin up} & & \text{fermion spin down} \\ \psi_3 &= \frac{e^{i\xi/\hbar}}{\sqrt{E/c + mc}} \begin{pmatrix} p_z \\ p_x + ip_y \\ E/c + mc \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \psi_4 &= \frac{e^{i\xi/\hbar}}{\sqrt{E/c + mc}} \begin{pmatrix} p_x - ip_y \\ -p_z \\ 0 \\ E/c + mc \end{pmatrix} \\ &\text{anti-fermion spin up} & & \text{anti-fermion spin down} \end{aligned}$$

Spinors are the vectors

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} E/c + mc \\ 0 \\ p_z \\ p_x + ip_y \end{pmatrix} & u_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ E/c + mc \\ p_x - ip_y \\ -p_z \end{pmatrix} \\ &\text{fermion spin up} & & \text{fermion spin down} \\ v_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} p_z \\ p_x + ip_y \\ E/c + mc \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & v_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} p_x - ip_y \\ -p_z \\ 0 \\ E/c + mc \end{pmatrix} \\ &\text{anti-fermion spin up} & & \text{anti-fermion spin down} \end{aligned}$$

Recall that the spacetime momentum vector  $p^\mu$  is

$$p^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} E/c \\ p_x \\ p_y \\ p_z \end{pmatrix}$$

Spinors are solutions to the momentum-space Dirac equations

$$\not{p}u = mcu, \quad \not{p}v = -mcv$$

where

$$\not{p} = p^\mu g_{\mu\nu} \gamma^\nu$$

Spinors have the “completeness property” of

$$\begin{aligned}u_1 \bar{u}_1 + u_2 \bar{u}_2 &= (E/c + mc)(\not{p} + mc) \\v_1 \bar{v}_1 + v_2 \bar{v}_2 &= (E/c + mc)(\not{p} - mc)\end{aligned}$$

Adjoint spinors are formed as

$$\bar{u} = u^\dagger \gamma^0, \quad \bar{v} = v^\dagger \gamma^0$$

hence  $u\bar{u}$  and  $v\bar{v}$  are outer products that form  $4 \times 4$  matrices.