

PHYS 653 - Homework 1

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(Dated: February 16, 2019)

PROBLEM 1

Throughout this problem, I use the identity

$$\Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_m} \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} = \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_m}^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} + mn \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{m-1}}^{[\nu_2 \dots \nu_n} \eta_{\mu_m]}^{\nu_1]} + \frac{nm(n-1)(m-1)}{2!} \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{m-2}}^{[\nu_3 \dots \nu_n} + \eta_{\mu_{m-1}}^{\nu_2} \eta_{\mu_m]}^{\nu_1]} + \dots \quad (1)$$

Part (a)

$$\{\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}\} = \Gamma_\mu \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} + \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} \Gamma_\mu = \Gamma_\mu^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} + \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}_\mu + n \left(\Gamma^{[\nu_2 \dots \nu_n} \eta_\mu^{\nu_1]} + \Gamma^{[\nu_1 \dots \nu_{n-1}} \eta_\mu^{\nu_n]} \right) \quad (2)$$

Now we want to permute the indices to make the terms resemble each other. In the second term, notice that when we permute μ through n indices, since Γ is totally antisymmetric, this will pick up a minus sign when n is odd, resulting in the cancellation of the first two terms. Similarly, the third and fourth terms cancel when n is even. This gives us the result

$$\{\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}\} = (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma_\mu^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} + n (1 - (-1)^n) \Gamma^{[\nu_1 \dots \nu_{n-1}} \eta_\mu^{\nu_n]} \quad (3)$$

When we calculate the commutator of these quantities, we flip the signs between the first and second terms and between the third and fourth terms. This results in

$$[\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}] = (1 - (-1)^n) \Gamma_\mu^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} - n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma^{[\nu_1 \dots \nu_{n-1}} \eta_\mu^{\nu_n]} \quad (4)$$

$$\{\Gamma_{abc}, \Gamma^{cd}\} = \Gamma_{abc}^{de} + 6\Gamma_{[ab}^{[e} \eta_{c]}^d] + 6\Gamma_{[a} \eta_b^{[e} \eta_{c]}^d] + \Gamma^{de}_{abc} + 6\Gamma_{[bc}^{[d} \eta_a^{e]} + 6\Gamma_{[c} \eta_b^{[d} \eta_a^{e]} \quad (5)$$

After considering the antisymmetrization, we find that the second and fifth terms cancel. This gives

$$\{\Gamma_{abc}, \Gamma^{de}\} = 2\Gamma_{abc}^{de} + 12\Gamma_{[c} \eta_b^{[d} \eta_a^{e]} \quad (6)$$

When calculating the commutator, the sign change results in the others remaining, which gives the result

$$[\Gamma_{abc}, \Gamma^{de}] = 12\Gamma_{[ab}^{[e} \eta_{c]}^d] \quad (7)$$

Part (b)

$$\Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_\mu \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \left(\Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_\mu + [\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}] \right) \quad (8)$$

$$= \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_\mu + \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \left[(1 - (-1)^n) \Gamma_\mu^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n} - n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{n-1}} \eta_{\mu_n]}^{\nu_n} \right] \quad (9)$$

$$= \left(\Gamma_\mu + (1 - (-1)^n) \right) \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{n-1} \eta_{\mu_n}] \mu} \quad (10)$$

$$= \left(\Gamma_\mu + (1 - (-1)^n) \right) (-1)^{n(n-1)/2} \eta_{[\mu_1}^{\mu_1} \dots \eta_{\mu_n]}^{\mu_n]} - n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{n-1} \eta_{\mu_n}] \mu} \quad (11)$$

The second term vanishes by symmetry, and with some help from a computer to simplify the mess, we find

$$= \left[(-1)^{n(n-1)/2} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{k=1}^n \left(A_k D^k \right) \right] \Gamma_\mu \quad (12)$$

where A_k is the k^{th} signed Stirling number of the first kind.

$$\Gamma^\mu \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \Gamma_\mu = \Gamma^\mu \left(\Gamma_\mu \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - [\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}] \right) \quad (13)$$

$$= D \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - \Gamma^\mu \left[(1 - (-1)^n) \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{n-1} \eta_{\mu_n}] \mu} \right] \quad (14)$$

$$= D \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - (1 - (-1)^n) \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_n \eta_\mu]^\mu} + n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma^\mu \Gamma_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{n-1} \eta_{\mu_n}] \mu} \quad (15)$$

$$= D \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} - (1 - (-1)^n) (D - n(-1)^n) \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} + n (1 + (-1)^n) \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \quad (16)$$

$$= (-1)^n (D - 2n) \Gamma_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \quad (17)$$

PROBLEM 2

Part (a)

$$\Gamma^\mu \Gamma^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\mu\nu} = \Gamma^\mu \left(\Gamma^{\rho\sigma}{}_{\mu\nu} + 4 \Gamma_{[\nu}^{[\rho} \eta_{\mu]}^{\sigma]} + 2 \eta_{[\nu}^{[\rho} \eta_{\mu]}^{\sigma]} \right) \quad (18)$$

$$= \Gamma^\mu \Gamma_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} + \Gamma^\sigma \Gamma_{\rho\nu}^\rho - \Gamma^\mu \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\rho \eta_\nu^\sigma - \Gamma^\rho \Gamma_{\sigma\nu}^\sigma + \Gamma^\mu \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\sigma \eta_\nu^\rho + \Gamma^\sigma \eta_\nu^\rho - \Gamma^\rho \eta_\nu^\sigma \quad (19)$$

$$= 4 \Gamma_{[\sigma\mu\nu} \eta_{\rho]}^\mu + 2 \Gamma_{\rho\nu}^\sigma - (3 - d) \Gamma_{\rho\nu}^\sigma + (3 - d) \Gamma_{\sigma\nu}^\rho \quad (20)$$

$$= (d - 5) \Gamma_{\nu}^{\rho\sigma} + (d - 3) \Gamma_{\nu}^{[\rho} \delta_{\nu]}^{\sigma]} \quad (21)$$

$$\Gamma_{[\mu} \Gamma^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\nu]} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\Gamma_{\mu}^{\rho\sigma} + 2 \Gamma_{\mu}^{[\sigma} \eta_{\mu]}^{\rho]} \right) \Gamma_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \Gamma_{\nu} \left(\Gamma^{\rho\sigma}{}_{\mu} + 2 \Gamma_{\mu}^{[\rho} \eta_{\mu]}^{\sigma]} \right) \quad (22)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\Gamma^{\mu\rho\sigma}{}_{\nu} + 3\Gamma^{[\mu\rho}\eta_{\nu}^{\sigma]} + 2\Gamma^{[\sigma}\eta_{\mu}^{\rho]}\Gamma_{\nu} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\Gamma_{\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma\mu} + 3\Gamma^{[\sigma\mu}\eta_{\nu}^{\rho]} + 2\Gamma_{\nu}\Gamma^{[\rho}\eta_{\mu}^{\sigma]} \right) \quad (23)$$

The terms with coefficient 3/2 cancel and we get

$$= \Gamma_{\mu}{}^{\rho\sigma}{}_{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\eta_{\rho}^{\mu}\eta_{\nu}^{\sigma} - \eta_{\sigma}^{\mu}\eta_{\nu}^{\rho} - \eta_{\rho}^{\nu}\eta_{\mu}^{\sigma} + \eta_{\nu}^{\sigma}\eta_{\mu}^{\rho} \right) = \Gamma_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} + 2\eta_{[\mu}^{[\rho}\eta_{\nu]}^{\sigma]} \quad (24)$$

Part (b)

Here, I use the Majorana flip conventions of Freedman and Van Proeyen the values t_i .

$$\bar{\psi}_a \Gamma^{abc} \psi_b = t_3 \bar{\psi}_b \Gamma^{abc} \psi_a = -t_3 \bar{\psi}_a \Gamma^{abc} \psi_b = \epsilon \eta \bar{\psi}_a \Gamma^{abc} \psi_b \quad (25)$$

so this vanishes when $\epsilon\eta = -1$.

$$\bar{\psi}_c \Gamma^{a_1 \dots a_5} \psi_c = t_1 \bar{\psi}_c \Gamma^{a_1 \dots a_5} \psi_c = -\epsilon \eta \bar{\psi}_c \Gamma^{a_1 \dots a_5} \psi_c \quad (26)$$

so this vanishes when $\epsilon\eta = +1$.

$$\bar{\psi}_a \Gamma^a \chi - \bar{\chi} \Gamma^a \psi_a = t_1 \bar{\chi} \Gamma^a \psi_a - \bar{\chi} \Gamma^a \psi_a = -\epsilon \eta \bar{\chi} \Gamma^a \psi_a - \bar{\chi} \Gamma^a \psi_a \quad (27)$$

so this vanishes when $\epsilon\eta = -1$.

The first expression does not have the necessary symmetry properties to vanish.

PROBLEM 3

Part (a)

Considering $(\Gamma^{\mu})_{\alpha}{}^{\beta}$, we see that with two spinor indices and a Lorentz index, it must transform as

$$\delta \Gamma^{\mu} = \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} (M_{\rho\sigma})^{\mu\nu} \Gamma_{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\mu} \Gamma_{\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\mu} \quad (28)$$

But with the results from Question 1, we can rewrite this as

$$\frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} (M_{\rho\sigma})^{\mu\nu} \Gamma_{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\mu} \Gamma_{\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{\mu} \Gamma_{\rho\sigma} - 4 \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} \Gamma_{[\rho} \eta_{\sigma] \mu} \quad (29)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \Lambda^{\rho\sigma} (M_{\rho\sigma})^{\mu\nu} \Gamma_{\nu} \quad (30)$$

which is the standard Lorentz transformation.

Part (b)

$$\delta(\bar{\psi}\psi) = (\delta\bar{\psi})\psi + \bar{\psi}\delta\psi = \left(-\frac{1}{4} \bar{\psi} \Gamma^{\mu\nu} \Lambda_{\mu\nu} \right) \psi + \bar{\psi} \left(\frac{1}{4} \Gamma^{\mu\nu} \Lambda_{\mu\nu} \psi \right) = 0 \quad (31)$$

Part (c)

B^{-1} does not change under a Lorentz transformation, so

$$\delta(B^{-1}\psi) = (\delta B^{-1})\psi + B^{-1}\delta\psi = B^{-1}\delta\psi = \frac{1}{4}\Gamma^{\mu\nu}\Lambda_{\mu\nu}B^{-1}\psi \quad (32)$$

PROBLEM 4

When our gamma matrices are chirally projected, we can write (in the Weyl representation)

$$\Gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (33)$$

Then, the Dirac equation becomes

$$i \begin{pmatrix} -m & \sigma^\mu \partial_\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu \partial_\mu & -m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_L \\ \psi_R \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (34)$$

which splits into two equations:

$$i\sigma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_R - m\psi_L = 0 \quad i\bar{\sigma}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_L - m\psi_R = 0 \quad (35)$$

Here, we see that if one of ψ_L or ψ_R vanishes, then for the entire left side of each equation to vanish, either the other ψ must vanish, or m must vanish. Substituting ψ_L into ψ_R (and vice-versa), we find

$$(\bar{\sigma}^\mu \sigma^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu + m^2)\psi_R = (\partial^2 + m^2)\psi_R = 0 \quad (36)$$

$$(\bar{\sigma}^\mu \sigma^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu + m^2)\psi_L = (\partial^2 + m^2)\psi_L = 0 \quad (37)$$

PROBLEM 5

As in Freedman and Van Proeyen, we can construct a representation for Lorentzian gamma matrices as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^0 &= i\sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \dots \\ \gamma^1 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \dots \\ \gamma^2 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes \dots \\ \gamma^3 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \dots \\ &\vdots \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

We create the highest-rank element from a product of all other elements (in even dimensions):

$$\gamma^{D+1} = (-1)^{(s-t)/4} \gamma^0 \gamma^1 \dots \gamma^{D-1}$$

We define the matrix A as the product of all “timelike” gammas. Such matrices are anti-hermitian. We also define an invertible matrix B that satisfies

$$\gamma_\mu^* = \eta B \gamma_\mu B^{-1} \quad (39)$$

and a matrix C that satisfies

$$\gamma_\mu^T = (-1)^t \eta C \gamma_\mu C^{-1} \quad (40)$$

Alternatively, C can be defined as $C = BA$.

In $D = 4 + 1$, this gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^0 &= i\sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^1 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^2 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_1 \\ \gamma^3 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_2 \\ \gamma^4 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

$$A = \gamma^0 \quad (42)$$

After a side calculation, (one possible) C is found to be $C = \gamma^0 \gamma^2 \gamma^4$. Using $C = BA$, we find $B = -\gamma^0 \gamma^2 \gamma^4 \gamma^0$.

In $D = 5 + 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^0 &= i\sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^1 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^2 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^3 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \\ \gamma^4 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_1 \\ \gamma^5 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_2 \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

$$\gamma^7 = -i\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_1 \sigma_2 = -\sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3$$

Using this construction, γ^7 is diagonal as required, as it is a product of diagonal sub-matrices. A side calculation gives $A = \gamma^0$, $C = \gamma^0 \gamma^2 \gamma^4$ and $B = -\gamma^0 \gamma^2 \gamma^4 \gamma^0$.

The chirally projected gammas are defined as

$$\gamma_-^\mu = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1} - \gamma^7) \gamma^\mu \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1} + \gamma^7) \quad \gamma_+^\mu = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1} + \gamma^7) \gamma^\mu \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1} - \gamma^7) \quad (44)$$

In $D = (1, 3)$, the given anticommutator is then (up to potential normalization factors)

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = \left(\Gamma^\mu C^{-1}\right)_{\alpha\beta} P_\mu + \left(\Gamma^{\mu\nu} C^{-1}\right)_{\alpha\beta} A_{\mu\nu} \quad (46)$$

In $D = (1, 7)$,

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = \left(\Gamma^\mu C^{-1}\right)_{\alpha\beta} P_\mu + \left(\Gamma^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} C^{-1}\right)_{\alpha\beta} A_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \left(\Gamma^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda} C^{-1}\right)_{\alpha\beta} B_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda} \quad (47)$$

Part (b)

For $D = (1, 5)$ symplectic Majorana spinors, we have $\epsilon = -1$, $\eta = +1$. This gives

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Parity	A	A	S	S	A	A

Since we have the antisymmetric matrix Ω_{ij} , we want to use the antisymmetric entries. This gives

$$\{Q_\alpha^i, Q_\beta^j\} = 2\Omega^{ij}\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu + \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu\nu}A_{\mu\nu}^{ij} + \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda}B_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda}^{ij} + \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda\delta}C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\lambda\delta}^{ij} \quad (48)$$