

**SOME IDENTITIES IN SPINOR CALCULUS**

**OLUWOLE ODUNDUN**

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY  
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA.

**ABSTRACT**

Using the methods of spinor calculus we prove two identities and point out that a third identity can be similarly proved.

**INTRODUCTION**

If  $GL(2, C)$  is the general linear group in two dimensions, then the special linear group in two dimensions [1]

$$SL(2, C) = \{M \in GL(2, C) \mid \det M = +1\}$$

If  $F$  denotes the complex representation space of  $SL(2, C)$ , then a linear representation  $D(M)$ ,  $M \in SL(2, C)$  of  $SL(2, C)$  is a homomorphism from  $SL(2, C)$  into the automorphism group of  $F$ , i.e.

$$M \in SL(2, C) \rightarrow D(M)$$

There exist in  $F$  two inequivalent representations of  $SL(2, C)$ :

- (1) The self-representation defined by  
 $D(M) = M \quad \forall M \in SL(2, C)$
- (2) The self-conjugate representation defined by  
 $D(M) = M^* \quad \forall M \in SL(2, C)$

Let  $\psi$  be an element of the representation space  $F$ , then  $\psi$  transforms under the self-representation as

$$\psi'_A = M^B_A \psi_B \quad A, B = 1, 2 \tag{1}$$

If  $\bar{F}$  represents the complex representation space of  $D(M) = M^*$ , with  $\bar{\psi}$  being an element of  $\bar{F}$  then  $\bar{\psi}$  transforms as follows:

$$\bar{\psi}'^A = M^{*A}_B \bar{\psi}^B \quad A, B = 1, 2 \tag{2}$$

An equivalent representation to  $D(M) = M$  is the representation

$$D(M) = M^{-T} \quad \forall M \in SL(2, C)$$

The corresponding complex representation space is denoted by  $F^*$  with elements  $\psi^A$ , and it transforms as follows:

$$\psi'^A = (M^{-T})^A_B \psi^B \tag{3}$$

On the other hand, the representation  $D(M) = M^{*-T}$  is equivalent to  $D(M) = M^*$ .

If the complex representation space of  $M^{*-T}$  is denoted by  $\bar{F}^*$ , then  $\bar{\psi}^A \in \bar{F}^*$  transforms as follows:

$$\bar{\psi}'^A = (M^{*-T})^A_B \bar{\psi}^B \quad A, B = 1, 2 \tag{4}$$

The elements  $\psi_A$  and  $\bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}}$  are called left- and right-handed spinors respectively and are denoted by  $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and  $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ .  $\psi_A$  and  $\psi^A$  are also called undotted spinors while  $\bar{\psi}_{\dot{A}}$  and  $\bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}}$  are called dotted spinors. They are all two-component spinors and are called Weyl spinors.

Since  $M$  and  $M^{-IT}$  are equivalent, there exists a non-singular  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\epsilon = (\epsilon^{AB})$  such that

$$M^{-IT} = \epsilon M \epsilon^{-1} \tag{5}$$

Here  $\epsilon^{-1} = (\epsilon_{AB})$

Similarly, there exists a nonsingular  $2 \times 2$  matrix such that

$$M^{*IT} = \bar{\epsilon} M^* \bar{\epsilon}^{-1} \tag{6}$$

where

$$\epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \bar{\epsilon} \text{ and } \epsilon^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \bar{\epsilon}^{-1}$$

The  $\epsilon$ -matrices serve as metrics. For example,  $\epsilon$  and  $\bar{\epsilon}$  are used for raising indices:

$$\psi^A = \epsilon^{AB} \psi_B$$

Similarly,  $\epsilon^{-1}$  and  $\bar{\epsilon}^{-1}$  are used for lowering indices:

$$\psi_{\dot{A}} = \epsilon_{\dot{A}\dot{B}} \psi^{\dot{B}}$$

In order to link spinor calculus to the Lorentz four-component formalism, we introduce the following two sets of four matrices:

$$\sigma^\mu = (\sigma^0, \sigma) = (1, \sigma) \quad \mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

$$\bar{\sigma}^\mu = (\bar{\sigma}^0, \bar{\sigma}) = (1, -\sigma)$$

$$\text{where } \sigma = (\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3)$$

with  $\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3$  being the three Pauli matrices and  $1_{2 \times 2}$  is the unit matrix in two dimensions. Recall that

$$\sigma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

the index structures of  $\sigma^\mu$  and  $\bar{\sigma}^\mu$  are respectively  $\sigma_{\dot{A}\dot{A}}^\mu$  and  $\bar{\sigma}_{\dot{A}\dot{A}}^\mu$  where

$$\bar{\sigma}_{\dot{A}\dot{A}}^\mu = \epsilon^{AB} \epsilon^{\dot{A}\dot{B}} \sigma_{BB}^\mu \tag{7}$$

The relation

$$\sigma_{\dot{A}\dot{A}}^\mu \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{B}\dot{B}} = 2\delta_{\dot{A}\dot{B}}^B \delta_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \tag{8}$$

expresses the completeness of  $\sigma^\mu$  and  $\bar{\sigma}^\mu$ .

With the introduction of these two four matrices, it can be shown that the Lorentz transformation,  $\Lambda_v^\mu$ , which transforms four vectors linked by the restricted Lorentz group (synonymously, the proper orthochronous Lorentz group), is given by

$$\Lambda_v^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\bar{\sigma}^\mu M \sigma_\nu M^+] \quad (9)$$

The generators of the Lorentz group in the spinor representations  $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and  $(0, \frac{1}{2})$  are

$$\sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4} (\sigma^\mu \bar{\sigma}^\nu - \sigma^\nu \bar{\sigma}^\mu)$$

and

$$\bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4} (\bar{\sigma}^\mu \sigma^\nu - \bar{\sigma}^\nu \sigma^\mu)$$

where  $\bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} = \sigma^{\mu\nu+}$

Since the operation of complex conjugation interchanges the  $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and  $(0, \frac{1}{2})$  representations, and the operation of parity interchanges  $N_i$  and  $N_i^+$ , an operation identical with complex conjugation, a theory invariant under the parity transformation must involve the Dirac four-component spinor

$$\psi_a = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^A \\ \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}} \end{pmatrix} \quad a = 1, 2, 3, 4 \quad (10)$$

### THE IDENTITIES IN SPINOR CALCULUS

We shall now prove the following two identities:

$$\bar{\psi}'(x') \psi'(x') = \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x) \quad (11)$$

$$\bar{\psi}'(x') \gamma^\mu \psi'(x') = \Lambda_\nu^\mu \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\nu \psi(x) \quad (12)$$

We shall start with the first identity. Let us note that  $\psi(x)$  is given by equation (10) and that in the Weyl (chiral) representation the  $\gamma$ -matrices are defined by

$$\gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mu = 0, 1, 2, 3 \quad (13)$$

From equations (1) and (4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x) &= \begin{pmatrix} \phi^A \\ \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \bar{\psi}(x) = \psi + (x) \gamma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^{A*} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}*} \\ \bar{\sigma}_{\dot{A}B}^0 \phi^A \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}*} & \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B} \phi^{A*} \sigma_{\dot{A}B}^0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x) &= \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}*} \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B} \phi_B + \phi^{A*} \sigma_{\dot{A}B}^0 \bar{\psi}^{\dot{B}} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

We now use

$$\phi^B = \bar{\psi}^{\dot{A}*} \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B} \quad (15)$$

obtaining  $\phi^A \sigma_{\dot{A}C}^0 = \psi_B^* \sigma^{0\dot{A}B} \sigma_{\dot{A}C}^0 = \psi_B^* \delta_C^B = \psi_C^*$



i.e.  $\phi^{A*} \sigma_{AC}^0 = \psi_C^*$  (16)

Eq. (14) then becomes

$$\phi^B \phi_B + \bar{\psi}_B \bar{\psi}^B \quad (17)$$

Now,  $\psi'(x') = \begin{pmatrix} \phi'_A \\ \bar{\psi}'^A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} M_A^B \phi_B \\ (M^{*-IT})^A_B \bar{\psi}^B \end{pmatrix}$

Thus  $\bar{\psi}'(x') = \psi^+ \gamma^0 = (\phi^{1A*} \bar{\psi}'^A) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AC}^0 \\ \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{C}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$((\phi^B M_B^A)^*) \cdot (\bar{\psi}_B (M^{*-IT})^B_A)^* \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AC}^0 \\ \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{C}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \left( (\bar{\psi}_B (M^{*-IT})^B_A)^* \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{C}} \right) (\phi^B M_B^A)^* \sigma_{AC}^0$$

$$\therefore \bar{\psi}'(x') \psi'(x') = (\bar{\psi}_B (M^{*-IT})^B_A)^* \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{C}} M_B^A \phi_B + (\phi^B M_B^A)^* \sigma_{AC}^0 (M^{*-IT})^C_B \bar{\psi}^B$$

(using Eq. (16) i.e.  $\bar{\psi}_B^* = \phi^{D\dot{B}} \sigma_{DB}^0$  and Eq. (15) i.e.  $\phi^{B*} = \bar{\psi}_A \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{B}}$ )

$$= \phi^{D\dot{B}} ((M^{*-IT})^B_A)^* \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{C}} \sigma_{DB}^0 M_B^A \phi_B + \bar{\psi}_A (M_B^A)^* \sigma_{AC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{B}} (M^{*-IT})^C_B \bar{\psi}^B$$

$$= \phi^{D\dot{B}} (M^{-IT})^A_D M_B^A \phi_B + \bar{\psi}_A (M_C^A)^* (M^{*-I})^C_B \bar{\psi}^B$$

$$= \phi^{D\dot{B}} (M^{-I})^A_D M_B^A \phi_B + \bar{\psi}_A [(M_C^A)^* (M^{*-I})^C_B] \bar{\psi}^B$$

$$= \phi^{D\dot{B}} \delta_D^B \phi_B + \bar{\psi}_A \delta_H^A \bar{\psi}^B$$

$$= \phi^B \phi_B + \bar{\psi}^B \bar{\psi}_B \quad (18)$$

which is the same as Eq. (17)

We now show that

$$\bar{\psi}'(x') \gamma^\mu \psi'(x') = \Lambda^\mu_\nu \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\nu \psi(x)$$

By Eq. (10),  $\bar{\psi}(x) = \psi'^+ \gamma^0 = (\phi'^A \bar{\psi}'^A) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{A\dot{A}}^0 \\ \bar{\sigma}^{0A\dot{A}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left( \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}A}, \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \right) \\
 \therefore \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^v \psi(x) &= \left( \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}A}, \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AA}^v \\ \bar{\sigma}^{v\dot{A}A} & 0 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \left( \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{v\dot{A}B}, \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}A*} \sigma_{AB}^v \right) \begin{pmatrix} \phi_B \\ \bar{\psi}'^{\dot{B}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{v\dot{A}B} \phi_B + \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}A*} \sigma_{AB}^v \bar{\psi}'^{\dot{B}}$$

$$\text{With } \psi'(x') = \begin{bmatrix} \phi'_A \\ \bar{\psi}'^{1A*} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\psi}'(x') = \begin{pmatrix} \phi'_A \\ \bar{\psi}'^{1\dot{A}} \end{pmatrix}^+ \gamma^0 = \left( \phi^{1A*}, \bar{\psi}'_A^{1*} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AB}^0 \\ \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \left( \bar{\psi}'_A^{1*} \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B}, \phi^{1A*} \sigma_{AB}^0 \right)$$

$$\text{Thus } \bar{\psi}'(x') \gamma^\mu \psi'(x') = \left( \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B}, \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AB}^0 \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\mu\dot{B}B} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{B}B} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi'_B \\ \bar{\psi}'^{1\dot{B}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \phi'^{A*} \sigma_{AB}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{B}B} \phi'_B + \bar{\psi}'_A \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{A}B} \sigma_{BB}^\mu \bar{\psi}'^{\dot{B}} \quad (19)$$

We first consider the first term of the sum, Eq. (19)

$$\phi'^{A*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} \phi'_B$$

$$= [(M^{-IT})_C^A]^* \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} M_B^D \phi_D$$

$$= \phi^{C*} (M^{-IT})_C^A \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} M_B^D \phi_D \quad (20)$$

From Eq. (15) we have

$$\phi^{C*} = \bar{\psi}'_B \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{B}C}$$

Hence, Eq. (20) becomes

$$\bar{\psi}'_B [(M^{-IT})_C^A]^* \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{B}C} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} M_B^D \phi_D \quad (21)$$

Using  $\varepsilon_{CF} M_E^F \varepsilon^{EA} = (M^{-IT})_C^A$ , Eq. (21) becomes

$$\bar{\psi}'_B \varepsilon_{CF} \varepsilon^{EA} (M_E^F)^* \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{B}C} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} M_B^D \phi_D$$

$$= \bar{\psi}'_C \delta_B^{\dot{C}} \varepsilon_{CF} \varepsilon^{EA} (M_E^F)^* \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{B}C} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} M_B^D \delta_D^G \phi_G \quad (22)$$

we now use  $= 2\delta_B^C \delta_D^G = \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \sigma_{vDB}$  (23)

Equation (22) now becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi}_C \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \sigma_{vDB} (M^A)^* \bar{\sigma}^{OBC} \sigma_{AA}^O \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} M_B^D \phi_G \\ & \text{(using } \bar{\psi}_C = \phi^{H^*} \sigma_{HC}^0 \text{)} \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \phi^{H^*} \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \sigma_{vDB} (M^A)^* \bar{\sigma}^{OBC} \sigma_{AA}^O \sigma_{HC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} M_B^D \phi_G \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \phi^{H^*} \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \sigma_{vDB} M_A^{*B} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} M_B^D \phi_G \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (M^+)_A^B \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} M_B^D \sigma_{vDB} \right] \left[ \phi^{H^*} \sigma_{HC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \phi_G \right] \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ M^+ \bar{\sigma}^\mu M \sigma_\nu \right] \left[ \phi^{H^*} \sigma_{HC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \phi_G \right] \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

We now use  $\Lambda_\nu^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ M^+ \bar{\sigma}^\mu M \sigma_\nu \right]$  (25)

Equation (24) then becomes

$$\phi^{A^*} \sigma_{AA}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} \phi_B' = \Lambda_\nu^\mu \phi^{H^*} \sigma_{HC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{vCG} \phi_G \quad (26)$$

which proves the first term of the sum given in equation (19).

We now prove the second term in equation (19), i.e.

$$\bar{\psi}_A^* \sigma_{AA}^{0AA} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{B}} = \Lambda_\nu^\mu \bar{\psi}_A^* \sigma_{AA}^{0AA} \sigma_{AB}^y \bar{\psi}^{\dot{B}} \quad (27)$$

By using equations (4), (21) and the identity

$$\sigma_{AB}^\mu = \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{B}\dot{E}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} \quad (28)$$

the left hand side of equation (27) becomes

$$\left[ (M^*)^{\dot{C}}_A \bar{\psi}_C \right] \bar{\sigma}^{0AA} \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{B}\dot{E}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{B}}_D \bar{\psi}^{\dot{D}} \quad (29)$$

Upon using  $(M^{*-1T})^{\dot{B}}_D = \varepsilon^{\dot{B}\dot{F}} (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}}$  and  $\bar{\psi}_C^* = \phi^D \varepsilon_{DC}^0$

The expression (29) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \phi^D \left[ (M^*)^{\dot{C}}_A \right] \sigma_{DC}^0 \bar{\sigma}^{0AA} \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{B}\dot{E}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} \varepsilon^{\dot{B}\dot{F}} (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{D}} \\ & = \phi^D M_D^A \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{B}\dot{E}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} \varepsilon^{\dot{B}\dot{F}} \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}} (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \bar{\psi}^{\dot{D}} \\ & = \phi^E \delta_E^D M_D^A \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{B}\dot{E}} \varepsilon^{\dot{B}\dot{F}} \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \delta_H^{\dot{D}} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{H}} \\ & \text{(using equation (23))} \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\sigma}^{vDD} \sigma_{vEH} \phi^E M_D^A \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \bar{\psi}^{\dot{H}} \\ & \text{(Using } \bar{\sigma}^{vDD} \varepsilon_{AB} \varepsilon_{\dot{G}\dot{D}} = \sigma_{AG}^v \delta_B^D \text{ and } \phi^E = \bar{\psi}_C^* \sigma^{OC^E} \text{)} \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (M^*)^{\dot{G}}_F \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{E}B} M_D^A \sigma_{vEH} \right] \bar{\psi}_C^* \sigma^{OC^E} \sigma_{AG}^v \bar{\psi}^{\dot{H}} \delta_B^D \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ M^+ \sigma^\mu M \sigma_\nu \right] \delta_F^{\dot{E}} \delta_D^B \delta_E^A \delta_H^{\dot{G}} \bar{\psi}_C^* \sigma^{OC^E} \sigma_{AG}^v \bar{\psi}^{\dot{H}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(using } \Lambda_\nu^\mu(M) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} [M^+ \bar{\sigma}^\mu M \sigma_\nu] \text{)} \\ & = \Lambda_\nu^\mu \bar{\psi}_{\dot{C}}^* \bar{\sigma}^{0\dot{C}A} \sigma_{A\dot{G}}^\nu \bar{\psi}^{\dot{G}} \end{aligned}$$

which is to be proved.

Combining equations (26) and (27) yields the second identity, equation (12).

It is clear that the identity

$$\bar{\psi}'(x') \sigma^{\mu\nu} \psi'(x') = \Lambda_\alpha^\mu \Lambda_\beta^\nu \bar{\psi}(x) \sigma^{\alpha\beta} \psi(x)$$

can be proved in a similar fashion.

It should be pointed out that the two-component Weyl formalism can be used to obtain the above formulae faster.

ODUNDUN, O.

**REFERENCE**

Müller-Kirsten, H.J.W.; Wiedemann, A. Supersymmetry, World Scientific. (1987).