

A TENSOR IDENTITY IN QUANTUM FIELD THEORY

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ABSTRACT

Using the methods of spinor calculus, we prove the identity

$$\bar{\Psi}'(\chi')\sigma_4^{\mu\nu}\Psi'(\chi') = \Lambda^\mu{}_\rho \Lambda^\nu{}_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(\chi)\sigma_4^{\rho\sigma}\Psi(\chi)$$

INTRODUCTION

A great insight into the structure of the Lorentz group, L_+^\uparrow , is gained by bringing to bear on it the methods of spinor calculus [1]. Let $GL(2,C)$ be the general linear group in two dimensions. Then the special linear group, $SL(2,C)$, is defined by $SL(2,C) = \{M \in GL(2,C) \mid \det M = +1\}$

There are two inequivalent representations of $SL(2,C)$. The first is the self-representation defined by $D(M) = M \forall M \in SL(2,C)$, where $D(M)$ is a linear map from $SL(2,C)$ to the automorphism group of a linear vector space F with elements ϕ_A , $A = 1,2$. The second representation is the complex conjugate self-representation defined by $D(M) = M^* \forall M \in SL(2,C)$

The representation space in this case is denoted by \hat{F} with elements ψ_A , $A = 1,2$.

It is found that $D(M) = M^{-1T}$ is an equivalent representation of $D(M) = M$. The representation space of $D(M) = M^{-1T}$ is denoted by F^* with elements ϕ^A , $A=1,2$.

Because of the equivalence, there exists a 2x2 matrix

$$\epsilon^{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \left(\epsilon_{AB} \right)^{-1}$$

such that

$$\left(M^{-1T} \right)^A{}_B = \epsilon^{AC} M_C{}^D \epsilon_{DB} \tag{1}$$

Similarly, it is found that M^* and M^{*-1T} are equivalent representations of M with the representation space of M^{*-1T} denoted by F^* with elements $\bar{\Psi}^{\dot{A}}$ $\dot{A} = 1,2$.

Hence, there exists a 2x2 matrix

$$\epsilon^{\dot{A}\dot{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \left(\epsilon^{\dot{A}\dot{B}} \right)^{-1}$$

such that

$$\left(M^{*-1T} \right)^{\dot{A}}_{\dot{B}} = \epsilon^{\dot{A}\dot{C}} (M^*)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{C}} \epsilon^{\dot{D}\dot{B}} \tag{2}$$

Eqs. (1) and (2) are known respectively as representations with undotted and dotted indices.

Under $SL(2,C)$ covariant and contra variant spinors with undotted indices transform respectively as follows:

$$\phi^A = M^B_A \phi^B \tag{3a}$$

$$\phi^A = (M^{-1T})^A_B \phi^B \tag{3b}$$

Similarly, covariant and contravariant spinors with dotted indices transform respectively as follows:

$$\bar{\Psi}_{\dot{A}} = (M^*)^{\dot{B}}_{\dot{A}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \tag{4a}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}_{\dot{A}} = (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{A}}_{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \tag{4b}$$

In a previous paper [2], the author proved, using the methods of spinor calculus, the following two well-known scalar and vector identities:

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') \Psi'(x') = \bar{\Psi}(x) \Psi(x)$$

and

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

Here $\Psi(x)$ is the Dirac four-spinor in the Weyl (chiral) representation

$$v_a(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^A \\ \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{A}} \end{pmatrix} \quad a = 1,2,3,4 \tag{5}$$

and (also in the chiral representation)

$$\gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^\mu_{AB} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu AB} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Here

$$\sigma^\mu = (\sigma^0, \sigma) = (1, \sigma)$$

and

$$\bar{\sigma}^\mu = (\bar{\sigma}^0, \bar{\sigma}) = (1, -\sigma) \quad (7b)$$

where $\sigma = (\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3)$ are the three Pauli matrices

In the present paper we shall prove the second-rank tensor identity

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') \sigma_4^{\mu\nu} \Psi'(x') = \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(x) \sigma_4^{\rho\sigma} \Psi(x) \quad (8)$$

where

$$\sigma_4^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \quad (9)$$

and Λ^μ_ν are elements of the matrix of the restricted Lorentz group L^{\uparrow}_+

$$\text{given by } \Lambda^\mu_\nu = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[M^+ \bar{\sigma}^\mu M \sigma_\nu \right] \quad (10)$$

PROOF OF THE TENSOR IDENTITY

We now prove the second-rank tensor identity

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') \sigma_4^{\mu\nu} \Psi'(x') = \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(x) \sigma_4^{\rho\sigma} \Psi(x)$$

where

$$\sigma_4^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] = \frac{i}{2} \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu - \frac{i}{2} \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu$$

with

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$$\Psi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^A \\ \bar{\Psi}_A \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(x) = \Psi^+(x)\gamma^0 = \left(\phi^{A*}, \bar{\Psi}_A^* \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AB}^0 \\ \bar{\sigma}^0_{AB} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \left(\bar{\Psi}_A^* \bar{\sigma}^0_{AB}, \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AB}^0 \right)$$

On using

$$\phi^B = \bar{\Psi}_A^* \bar{\sigma}^0_{AB} \quad (11a)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}_B = \phi^{A*} \sigma_{AB}^0 \quad (11b)$$

we obtain

$$\bar{\Psi}(x) = \left(\phi^B, \bar{\Psi}_B \right)$$

Then, by Eq. (9)

$$\bar{\Psi}(x) \sigma_4^{\rho\sigma} \Psi(x)$$

$$= \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi^A, \bar{\Psi}_A \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AB}^\rho \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\rho}_{AB} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{BC}^\sigma \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma}_{BC} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_C \\ \bar{\Psi}_C \end{pmatrix}$$

$$- \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi^A, \bar{\Psi}_A \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{AB}^\sigma \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma}_{AB} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{BC}^\rho \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\rho}_{BC} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_C \\ \bar{\Psi}_C \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

since

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') = \left(\phi'^A, \bar{\Psi}'_A \right),$$

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') \sigma_4^{\mu\nu} \Psi'(x') =$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi'^A, \bar{\Psi}'_A \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\mu}_{AB} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\nu}_{BC} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{B}C} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi'^c \\ \bar{\Psi}'_c \end{pmatrix} \\ & - \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi'^A, \bar{\Psi}'_A \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\nu}_{AB} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{A}B} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\mu}_{BC} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{B}C} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi'^c \\ \bar{\Psi}'_c \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Initially, let us consider the first term of Eq. (13)

$$\text{i.e., } \frac{i}{2} \left(\phi'^A, \bar{\Psi}'_A \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\mu}_{AB} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}B} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\nu}_{BC} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{B}C} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi'^c \\ \bar{\Psi}'_c \end{pmatrix}$$

(On using Eqs. (3b), (4a), (3a), and (4b))

$$\begin{aligned} & = \frac{i}{2} \left((M^{-1T})^A_B \phi^B, (M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\mu}_{AC} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{\nu}_{CD} \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{C}D} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} M^E_D \phi_E \\ (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{E}} \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \frac{i}{2} \left[(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C}, (M^{-1T})^A_B \phi^B \sigma^{\mu}_{AC} \right] \left[\frac{\sigma^{\nu}_{CD} (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{E}}}{\bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{C}D} M^E_D \phi_E} \right] \\ & = \frac{i}{2} \left[(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} \sigma^{\nu}_{CD} (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{E}} + (M^{-1T})^A_B \phi^B \sigma^{\mu}_{AC} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{C}D} M^E_D \phi_E \right] \\ & = \frac{i}{2} \left[(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} M^D_C \right] \left[(M^{-1})^C_D \sigma^{\nu}_{CD} (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{E}} \right] \\ & + \frac{i}{2} \left[(M^{-1T})^A_B \phi^B \sigma^{\mu}_{AC} (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{C}}_{\dot{D}} \right] \left[(M^* T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{C}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{C}D} M^E_D \phi_E \right] \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

We first consider the first term in Eq. (14). Assuming that $\phi^D_D \neq 1$, this can be rewritten as

$$\frac{i}{2} \left[(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{B}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} M^D_C \phi^D \right] \left[\phi^D (M^{-1})^C_D \sigma^{\nu}_{CD} (M^* - 1T)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{E}} \right] \quad (15)$$

From linear algebra one may recall that $F^* (\hat{F} \equiv \hat{F}^{**})$ is the dual space of $F(\hat{F}^*)$

The first bracket in Eq. (15) then becomes

$$(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \delta_{\dot{B}}^{\dot{F}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} M^D_C \delta^E_D \phi_E$$

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(by using the identity

$$2\delta_{\dot{B}}^{\dot{F}} \delta_D^E = \bar{\sigma}^{\rho\dot{F}E} \sigma_{\rho D\dot{B}} \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[(M^*)_{\dot{A}}^{\dot{B}} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho\dot{F}E} \sigma_{\rho D\dot{B}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} M_C^D \phi_E \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[(M^+)^{\dot{B}}_{\dot{A}} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\dot{A}C} M_C^D \sigma_{\rho D\dot{B}} \right] \left[\bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho\dot{F}E} \phi_E \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[M^+ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu} M \sigma_{\rho} \right] \left[\bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho\dot{F}E} \phi_E \right]$$

(by Eq. (10))

$$= \Lambda^{\mu} \rho_{\dot{F}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho\dot{F}E} \phi_E \quad (17)$$

We now consider the second bracket in Eq. (15)
i.e.,

$$\phi^D (M^{-1})_D^C \sigma_{CD}^{\nu} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{E}} \dot{E}$$

$$= (M^{-1T})^C_D \phi^D \sigma_{CD}^{\nu} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{E}} \dot{E}$$

(On making use of the identity $\sigma_{CD}^{\nu} = \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{F}E}$)

$$= (M^{-1T})^C_D \phi^D \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{F}E} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{E}} \dot{E}$$

$$= (M^{-1T})^C_D \delta^D_F \phi^F \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{F}E} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \delta^{\dot{E}}_{\dot{G}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{E}} \dot{G}$$

(by Eq. (17))

$$= \frac{1}{2} (M^{-1T})^C_D \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma\dot{E}D} \sigma_{\sigma\dot{F}\dot{G}} \phi^F \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu\dot{F}E} (M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{E}} \dot{G} \quad (18)$$

On using $(M^{-1T})^C_D = \varepsilon^{CG} M_G^H \varepsilon_{HD}$ (19a)

and $(M^{*-1T})^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{E}} = \varepsilon^{\dot{D}\dot{H}} (M^*)_{\dot{H}}^J \varepsilon_{J\dot{E}}$ (19b)

Eq. (18) becomes

$$= \frac{1}{2} M_G^H \varepsilon^{CG} \varepsilon_{HD} \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma ED} \sigma_{\sigma FG} \phi^F \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu \dot{F}E} (M^*)_{\dot{H}}^J \varepsilon_{\dot{J}\dot{E}} \dot{D}\dot{H} \varepsilon_{\dot{J}\dot{E}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \quad (20)$$

Upon using $\sigma_{HJ}^{\sigma} = \varepsilon_{HD} \varepsilon_{JE} \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma ED}$ (21)

Eq. (20) becomes

$$= \frac{1}{2} M_G^H \varepsilon^{CG} \varepsilon_{HD} \dot{H} \sigma_{HJ}^{\sigma} \sigma_{\sigma FG} \phi^F \varepsilon_{CE} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu \dot{F}E} (M^*)_{\dot{H}}^J \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \quad (22)$$

Upon using $\varepsilon^{CG} \varepsilon_{CE} = (\varepsilon^T)^{GC} \varepsilon_{CE} = -\delta^G_E$

and $\varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} \dot{D}\dot{H} = (\varepsilon^T)^{\dot{H}\dot{D}} \varepsilon_{\dot{D}\dot{F}} = -\delta^{\dot{H}}_{\dot{F}}$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi'^C \sigma_{CD}^{\nu} \bar{\Psi}'^{\dot{D}} &= \frac{1}{2} M_E^H \sigma_{HJ}^{\sigma} \sigma_{\sigma FG} \phi^F \bar{\sigma}^{\nu \dot{F}E} (M^*)_{\dot{H}}^J \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\bar{\sigma}^{\nu \dot{F}E} M_E^H \sigma_{\sigma HJ} \left(M^* \right)^J_{\dot{F}} \right] \phi^F \sigma_{FG}^{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \end{aligned}$$

On using Eq. (10) we have

$$\phi'^C \sigma_{CD}^{\nu} \bar{\Psi}'^{\dot{D}} = \Lambda^{\nu} \sigma \phi^F \sigma_{FG}^{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \quad (23)$$

Eq. (14) now becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{i}{2} \left(\Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\rho} \Lambda^{\nu}{}_{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}}^{\sigma} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho \dot{F}F} \phi^F \right) \left(\phi^F \sigma_{FG}^{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \right) \\ &= \frac{i}{2} \Lambda^{\mu}{}_{\rho} \Lambda^{\nu}{}_{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}_{\dot{F}}^{\sigma} \bar{\sigma}^{\rho \dot{F}F} \sigma_{FG}^{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{G}} \quad (24) \end{aligned}$$

We can rewrite the second term of Eq. (14) as

$$\frac{i}{2} \left[\left(M^{-1T} \right)^A_B \phi^B \sigma_{AC}^{\mu} \left(M^{*-1T} \right)^{\dot{C}}_{\dot{D}} \bar{\Psi}^{\dot{D}} \right] \left[\bar{\Psi}_{\dot{D}} \left(M^{*T} \right)^{\dot{D}}_{\dot{C}} \bar{\sigma}^{\nu \dot{C}D} M_D^E \phi_E \right]$$

By comparing this with Eq. (15), and bearing in mind the steps leading to Eqs. (17) and (23), we find that this second term is

$$= \frac{i}{2} \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \phi^A \sigma^{\rho\sigma}_{AC} \bar{\sigma}^{\sigma CD} \phi_D \quad (25)$$

In accordance with the steps leading from the first term of Eq. (13) to Eq. (14), both Eqs. (24) and (25) now yield

$$\frac{i}{2} \bar{\Psi}'(x') \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \Psi'(x') = \frac{i}{2} \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(x) \gamma^\rho \gamma^\sigma \Psi(x) \quad (26)$$

Similarly, the second term of Eq. (13) yields

$$\frac{i}{2} \bar{\Psi}'(x') \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu \Psi'(x') = \frac{i}{2} \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(x) \gamma^\sigma \gamma^\rho \Psi(x) \quad (27)$$

By comparing Eqs. (14) and (13), Eqs. (26) and (27) yield

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x') \sigma^{\mu\nu}_4 \Psi'(x') = \Lambda^\mu_\rho \Lambda^\nu_\sigma \bar{\Psi}(x) \sigma^{\rho\sigma}_4 \Psi(x)$$

which completes the proof of the identity.

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