

# Four Component Spinor Notation

21-7-51 (First done in the summer of 1949)

The usual spinor notation requires 2 equations for one electron,  $2^n$  equations for  $n$  electrons interacting.

The present

We use suffixes  $\alpha, \beta, \dots$  to have each four values,  $1, 2, i, \bar{2}$ .

$\epsilon_{\alpha\beta} = 0$  for  $\alpha, \beta$  one dotted and one undotted and has the usual values otherwise.

First rule  $A_\alpha B^\alpha = -A^\alpha B_\alpha$  holds as with usual spinor notation.

Second rule  $X_{\alpha\beta} - X_{\beta\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} X_\gamma^\gamma \epsilon_{\alpha\beta}$  holds under special conditions, namely

$$X_{\alpha\beta} = X_{\beta\alpha} \text{ for } \alpha, \beta \text{ one dotted and one undotted}$$

$$\text{and } X_1^1 + X_2^2 = X_i^i + X_{\bar{2}}^{\bar{2}}$$

A four-vector  $A_{\alpha\beta}$  has the components  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & A_{1i} & A_{1\bar{2}} \\ 0 & 0 & A_{2i} & A_{2\bar{2}} \\ A_{i1} & A_{i2} & 0 & 0 \\ A_{\bar{2}1} & A_{\bar{2}2} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  so that  $A_{\alpha\beta} = A_{\beta\alpha}$   $A_\alpha^\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & A_1^i & A_1^{\bar{2}} \\ 0 & 0 & A_2^i & A_2^{\bar{2}} \\ A_i^1 & A_i^2 & 0 & 0 \\ A_{\bar{2}}^1 & A_{\bar{2}}^2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Its tensor components are  $A_0 = A_{11} + A_{\bar{2}\bar{2}}$   $A_1 = A_{12} + A_{\bar{2}1}$   $A_2 = -i(A_{12} - A_{\bar{2}1})$   $A_3 = A_{11} - A_{\bar{2}\bar{2}}$

$$(AB) = A_0 B_0 - A_1 B_1 - A_2 B_2 - A_3 B_3 = \frac{1}{2} (A_0 + A_3)(B_0 - B_3) + \frac{1}{2} (A_0 - A_3)(B_0 + B_3) - \frac{1}{2} (A_1 + iA_2)(B_1 - iB_2) - \frac{1}{2} (A_1 - iA_2)(B_1 + iB_2)$$

$$= 2(A_{1i} B_{\bar{2}i} + A_{\bar{2}i} B_{1i} - A_{12} B_{\bar{2}1} - A_{\bar{2}1} B_{12})$$

$$= 2(A_{1i} B^{i\bar{1}} + A_{\bar{2}i} B^{i2} + A_{12} B^{i\bar{2}} + A_{\bar{2}1} B^{i1}) = A_{\alpha\beta} B^{\alpha\beta}$$

$$A_{\alpha\beta} A^{\beta\gamma} = A_{\beta\alpha} A^\beta_\gamma = -A_{\gamma\beta} A^{\beta\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} (A_{\alpha\beta} A^{\beta\gamma} - A_{\gamma\beta} A^{\beta\alpha})$$

Second rule is now applicable, so

$$A_{\alpha\beta} A^{\beta\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} A_{\delta\beta} A^{\beta\delta} \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma} = \frac{1}{4} A^2 \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma}$$

more generally

$$A_{\alpha\beta} B^{\beta\gamma} - A_{\gamma\beta} B^{\beta\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} A_{\delta\beta} B^{\beta\delta} \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma} = \frac{1}{2} (AB) \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma}$$

Besides the spinor  $\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}$ , we need also the fundamental spinor  $\omega_{\alpha\beta}$ , defined to have the components

$$\omega_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \omega_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus  $\omega_{\alpha\beta} = -\omega_{\beta\alpha}$ .

Also  $\omega_{\alpha\beta} = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta}$  for  $\alpha, \beta$  undotted  
 $= -\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}$  for  $\alpha, \beta$  dotted

$$\omega_\alpha^\beta \omega_\beta^\gamma = \delta_\alpha^\gamma$$

$$A_\alpha^\beta \omega_\beta^\gamma = -\omega_\alpha^\beta A_\beta^\gamma$$

With  $\alpha = 1, 2, i, \bar{2}$ , define  $\bar{\alpha} = i, \bar{2}, 1, 2$ . Then condition for fourvector  $A$  to be real is  $\bar{A}_{\alpha\beta} = A_{\bar{\alpha}\bar{\beta}}$

We have  $\omega_{\alpha\beta} = -\omega_{\bar{\alpha}\bar{\beta}}$ .