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Article

Six-Fold Discrete Symmetry of the QED Lagrangian

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Abstract: Using the Pauli algebra version of the six symmetric but non-equivalent copies of the QED Lagrangian are constructed. The group of symmetries is the group of outer automorphisms of the finite quaternion group, isomorphic to the group of permutations on three letters. Solutions to corresponding Dirac equations form six sectors of fermion fields. The intersections between different sectors can only contain massless fields, implying that the sectors are distinct. If the symmetry could be extended to the full Standard Model Lagrangian it would predict the ratio of dark matter to ordinary matter of 5 : 1 which is close to the ratio of 5.2 : 1 according to current observations.

Keywords: quantum field theory; dark matter; QED; Lagrangian; discrete symmetry; fermion fields

1. Introduction

The main difference between the standard QED Lagrangian [1], [2], [3] : $L_{QED} = \bar{\Psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) \Psi - qA_\mu \bar{\Psi} \gamma^\mu \Psi - F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$

and the Pauli algebra Lagrangian used here is use of the multiplicative structure of the algebra.

The other difference is that unlike the usual procedure for recovering the equations of motion from the Lagrangian, using the Euler-Lagrange equations, a different procedure is used, namely equating to zero the formal derivatives. This results in equations equivalent to Dirac equation and its complex conjugate ([4]), and to the inhomogeneous wave equations.

Here is the Pauli algebra version of the QED Lagrangian:

$$= \psi \partial \psi (i\sigma_3) - q\psi \bar{A} \psi + m\psi\psi + (\bar{\partial} \bar{A}) \partial A + \bar{\psi} \bar{\partial} \bar{\psi} (i\sigma_3) - q\bar{\psi} A \psi + m\bar{\psi} \psi + (\bar{\partial} \bar{A}) \bar{\partial} \bar{A}$$

The Lagrangian is intentionally written in two lines because these lines are transformed one into the other by the bar-star automorphism of the Pauli algebra (see [4]).

The notation is explained in the next section. The Lagrangian can equivalently be written as:

$$= \psi \partial \psi (i\sigma_3) - (\bar{A} J + \bar{J} A) + m\psi\psi + \bar{A} A + \bar{\psi} \bar{\partial} \bar{\psi} (i\sigma_3) - (A \bar{J} + J \bar{A}) + m\bar{\psi} \psi + A \bar{A} \text{The reason for this is that } \partial A = \bar{\partial} \bar{A} = A \text{ and also (see 3)}$$

$$q\psi \bar{A} \psi + q\bar{\psi} A \psi = (\bar{A} J + A \bar{J} + \bar{J} A + J \bar{A})$$

Recovering the equations of motion is done by equating to zero the formal derivatives of the Lagrangian with respect to $\psi, \bar{\psi}, \bar{A}, A$:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\psi}} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{A}} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial A} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \psi (i\sigma_3) - q\bar{A} \psi + m\psi &= 0 \\ \bar{\partial} \bar{\psi} (i\sigma_3) - qA \bar{\psi} + m\bar{\psi} &= 0 \\ -J + A &= 0 \\ -\bar{J} + \bar{A} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The first two equations are equivalent to the Dirac equation and its complex conjugate, [4] and the last two are the inhomogeneous wave equations [5].

The sign of the d'Alembertian used here is the opposite of the sign used in [5].

2. Notation and preliminaries

For any $a \in$ the "bar" anti-isomorphism operation \bar{a} inverts the sign of σ_k leaving σ_0 without change. All elements of the Pauli algebra can be split into their scalar and vector components as follows: $a_0 = (a + \bar{a})$, $a_0 = (a - \bar{a})$, $a = a_0 +$, $\bar{a} = a_0 -$

Elements of Pauli algebra whose zeroeth component is real and the other three are imaginary are called real quaternionic. They are fixed by the bar-star automorphism. Elements whose zeroeth component is imaginary and the other three are real are called imaginary quaternionic. They change sign under the bar-star automorphism.

A product of any two vectors splits as a sum of inner and outer products: $\cdot + \wedge$ $\cdot =$
(+) $\wedge = (-)$

The first summand is scalar, the second is vector as it changes sign under the bar anti-isomorphism. A product of any two elements splits as a sum of scalar and vector summands: $ab = (a_0 +)(b_0 +) =$
 $a_0 b_0 + \cdot + a_0 + b_0 + \wedge$

where the first two terms are scalar.

The Pauli algebra spinor ψ is constructed out of the four-component spinor Ψ by first completing it with a second column and then splitting it as the sum of real quaternionic and imaginary quaternionic components: $\psi = u + iv$ $\bar{\psi} = u - iv$

where u, v are real quaternionic functions of spacetime, so $iv \in$ is an imaginary quaternionic function. This procedure is described in [4].

The differential, the four-potential and the four-current are represented as elements of the Pauli algebra split into scalar and vector parts as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial &= \partial_\mu \sigma_\mu = \partial_0 + \bar{\partial} = \partial_0 - \\ A &= A^\mu \sigma_\mu = A^0 + \bar{A} = A^0 - \\ J &= J^\mu \sigma_\mu = J^0 + \bar{J} = J^0 - \end{aligned}$$

If $u \in$ then $u = \bar{u}$, $u = u$. For iv the opposite holds $(iv) = -i\bar{v}$.

For any $\psi \in \bar{\psi} \psi = \det(\psi) I_2$

Both compositions of the differential and its bar are the d'Alembertian: $\partial \bar{\partial} = \bar{\partial} \partial =$

Hence

$$\overline{(\partial A)} \partial A = \bar{A} \bar{\partial} \partial A = \bar{A} A$$

$$\overline{(\bar{\partial} \bar{A})} \bar{\partial} \bar{A} = A \partial \bar{\partial} \bar{A} = A \bar{A}$$

The Lagrangian is rewritten separating the elements into their scalar and vector parts. This will be used when writing the representation independent form of the Lagrangian.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \psi (\partial_0 +) \psi (i\sigma_3) - \\ &- [(A^0 -) (J^0 +) + (J^0 -) (A^0 +)] + m \psi \psi + (A^0 -) (A^0 +) + \\ &+ \bar{\psi} (\partial_0 -) \psi (i\sigma_3) - \\ &- [(A^0 +) (J^0 -) + (J^0 +) (A^0 -)] + m \bar{\psi} \psi + (A^0 +) (A^0 -) \quad \text{Taking into account that } \psi = \bar{u} - i\bar{v} \quad \bar{\psi} = \\ &\bar{u} + i\bar{v} \quad \psi = u - iv \quad \bar{\psi} = u + iv \end{aligned}$$

and the expressions for the current 3 which imply: $J^0 = q(\bar{u}u + \bar{v}v)\sigma_0 = J^k \sigma_k = iq(\bar{u}\sigma_k v - \bar{v}\sigma_k u)\sigma_k$

the Lagrangian is rewritten in quaternionic functions u and v as follows:

$$= (0u +_0 v)(i\sigma_3) - (v - u)\sigma_3 -$$

$$- qA^0(\bar{u}u + \bar{v}v) + iqA^k(\bar{u}\sigma_k v - \bar{v}\sigma_k u) +$$

$$+ A^0 A^0 - + m(u - v)$$

Equating to zero the derivatives

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{v}} = 0 \quad \text{results in equations } 0u(i\sigma_3) - v\sigma_3 - qA^0 u + iqv + mu = 0, 0v(i\sigma_3) + u\sigma_3 - qA^0 v - iqu - mv = 0$$

which are equivalent to the first two equations of 1.

In order to have a representation-independent form of the Lagrangian, the quaternionic functions u and iv need to be rewritten in terms of sigma matrices:

$$u=c-d$$

$$dc=c_0 + ic_1 - d_0 + id_1$$

$$d_0 + id_1c_0 - ic_1 = c_0\sigma_0 + id_1\sigma_1 - id_0\sigma_2 + ic_1\sigma_3$$

$$iv=ab$$

$$b-a=a_0 + ia_1b_0 - ib_1$$

$$b_0 + ib_1 - a_0 + ia_1 = ia_1\sigma_0 + b_0\sigma_1 + b_1\sigma_2 + a_0\sigma_3$$

3. Proof that the the two forms of the interaction term are equal

The two sums forming the interaction terms in 1 are equal: $q\psi\bar{A}\psi + q\bar{\psi}A\psi = (\bar{A}J + A\bar{J} + \bar{J}A + J\bar{A})$

Proof. The probability current J^μ is calculated out of the real quaternionic and imaginary quaternionic components of the Pauli algebra spinor ψ as follows: $J^\mu = u\sigma_\mu(iv) + (iv)\sigma_\mu u$

(the equality needs to be understood as between complex numbers to the left of the equal sign and scalar matrices to the right of the equal sign).

This formula can be checked by using the two-column completion of the four-component spinor Ψ as described in [4] and then rewriting the usual formula for the probability current [3] with 2×2 blocks iv and u .

We need to calculate separately the scalar and the vector components of the current: $J^0 = q[uu + (iv)(iv)]\sigma_0 = J^k\sigma_k = q[u\sigma_k(iv) + (iv)\sigma_k u]$ (Notethatbothuu+(iv)(iv)andu\sigma_k(iv) + (iv)\sigma_k u are real scalars)

To prove 3 we calculate separately the left side and the right side. The spinor $\psi = u + iv$ is decomposed as sum of a real quaternionic and an imaginary quaternionic function. We begin with the left side:

$$\begin{aligned} L.S. &= q\psi\bar{A}\psi + q\bar{\psi}A\psi = \\ &= q[u + (iv)](A^0 -)(u + iv) + q[u - (iv)](A^0 +)(u - iv) = \\ &= q(\bar{u} - i\bar{v})(A^0 -)(u + iv) + q(\bar{u} + i\bar{v})(A^0 +)(u - iv) = \\ &= 2qA^0(\bar{u}u + \bar{v}v)\sigma_0 - 2iqA^k(\bar{u}\sigma_k v - \bar{v}\sigma_k u)\sigma_k = \\ &= 2qA^0[uu + (iv)(iv)]\sigma_0 - 2qA^k[u\sigma_k(iv) + (iv)\sigma_k u]\sigma_k \end{aligned}$$

(Note that the expressions in square brackets are real scalars)

Now calculate the right side:

$$\begin{aligned} R.S. &= (\bar{A}J + A\bar{J} + \bar{J}A + J\bar{A}) = \\ &= [(A^0 -)(J^0 +) + (A^0 +)(J^0 -) + \\ &+ (J^0 -)(A^0 +) + (J^0 +)(A^0 -)] = \\ &= 2(A^0 J^0 - 2 \cdot -2 \wedge -2 \wedge) = \\ &= 2(A^0 J^0 - 2 \cdot) \end{aligned}$$

(the last equality because the outer product is anticommutative)

Now use the expressions for the current in (3): $R.S.=2qA^0[uu + (iv)(iv)]\sigma_0 - 2qA^k[u\sigma_k(iv) + (iv)\sigma_k u]\sigma_k$ L.S.=R.S. \square

4. The representation-independent form of the QED Lagrangian

The Pauli algebra is isomorphic to the Clifford algebra so that every element can be expressed in its three generators: $i^2 = 1, j^2 = -1, k^2 = -1$

The table below defines six matrix representations of i, j, k , of which the first is chosen to be the standard one.

The automorphisms of \mathbb{H} are labelled by their action on the three cyclic subgroups of order 4 of the finite quaternion group \mathbb{H} . These automorphisms form a group isomorphic to the group of permutations of three letters, see [6], [7].

Here the finite quaternion group is (and their opposite signs):

$$= \{\sigma_0, -i\sigma_1, -i\sigma_2, -i\sigma_3\} \leftrightarrow \{1, , , \}$$

This action can be seen in the columns corresponding to the generators

,

The subscripts ijk in the following table show the isomorphism between the outer automorphisms of and the group of permutations of three letters.

The morphisms between the representations are obtained by combining the inverse of one representation with another. The automorphism of converting the DE_{123} into DE_{231} for example will be

$$\varphi_{231} \circ \varphi_{123}^{-1}$$

Here is the table for $\varphi_{ijk} : \rightarrow$:

φ_{ijk}							
φ_{123}	σ_3	$-i\sigma_1$	$-i\sigma_2$	$-i\sigma_3$	σ_2	$-\sigma_1$	$-i\sigma_0$
φ_{231}	σ_1	$-i\sigma_2$	$-i\sigma_3$	$-i\sigma_1$	σ_3	$-\sigma_2$	$-i\sigma_0$
φ_{312}	σ_2	$-i\sigma_3$	$-i\sigma_1$	$-i\sigma_2$	σ_1	$-\sigma_3$	$-i\sigma_0$
φ_{213}	σ_3	$-i\sigma_2$	$-i\sigma_1$	$i\sigma_3$	$-\sigma_1$	σ_2	$i\sigma_0$
φ_{132}	σ_2	$-i\sigma_1$	$-i\sigma_3$	$i\sigma_2$	$-\sigma_3$	σ_1	$i\sigma_0$
φ_{321}	σ_1	$-i\sigma_3$	$-i\sigma_2$	$i\sigma_1$	$-\sigma_2$	σ_3	$i\sigma_0$

The action of the bar-star automorphism and of the bar and of "star" (Hermitian conjugate) anti-automorphisms on the generators of the Clifford algebra can be seen in the following table:

operation							
bar-star	-1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1
bar	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	1
star	1	-1	-1	-1	1	1	-1

Now use φ_{123}^{-1} to rewrite all the vector expressions in terms of generators of the Clifford algebra, according to the first line in the table. The σ_0 being identity is omitted. $= -\partial_1 + \partial_2 + \partial_3$
 $= -A^1 + A^2 + A^3$
 $= -J^1 + J^2 + J^3$ The other elements of the Lagrangian that depend on the representation are $i\sigma_3$ and σ_3 , and according to the first line of the table, they should be replaced with $-$ and with $.$

Now one can write the representation-independent Lagrangian, by substituting 4 into 2. In this article the substitution is done only for the case of the free .

If the six representations are applied to all the expressions in the Lagrangian and in the resulting equations, then the morphisms between representations will transform solutions into solutions. Both the new Pauli algebra spinors and the corresponding new equations will be different but the underlying eight equations of the and its Hermitian conjugate will be exactly the same.

This raises the question, will the solutions to the transformed equations be the same as before, or will they be genuinely different? This question is answered in 5. Only the free is needed there, so here is its representation-independent form: $(0 - \partial_1 + \partial_2 + \partial_3)\psi + \psi = 0$

5. The six sectors of fermion fields are distinct

The method used to show this is the mass inversion symmetry, described in [4]. For convenience this short argument is reproduced here. Given a solution ψ of the free Dirac equation $\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi = m\psi$. Then multiply this equation, which appears first, on the right by σ_3 , and recall that $\sigma_3 = -\sigma_3$: $\partial\psi = i\psi\sigma_3$, $\partial\psi\sigma_3 = i\psi\sigma_3\sigma_3$, $\partial\psi\sigma_3 = -i(\psi\sigma_3)\sigma_3$, $\partial\psi = -i\psi\sigma_3\sigma_3\psi$ is also a solution of the Dirac equation but with the mass of opposite sign. Only massless spinors can be solutions to two versions of the Dirac equation belonging to two different sectors.

Proof. These are the six versions of the Dirac equation obtained by applying the six representations to the representation-independent free Dirac equation: 123 $(\partial_0 + \sigma_1 \partial_1 + \sigma_2 \partial_2 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$

$$231 \quad (\partial_0 + \sigma_2 \partial_1 + \sigma_3 \partial_2 + \sigma_1 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_2 = 0$$

$$312 \quad (\partial_0 + \sigma_3 \partial_1 + \sigma_1 \partial_2 + \sigma_2 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_1 = 0$$

$$213 \quad (\partial_0 - \sigma_2 \partial_1 - \sigma_1 \partial_2 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$$

$$132 \quad (\partial_0 - \sigma_1 \partial_1 - \sigma_3 \partial_2 + \sigma_2 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_1 = 0$$

$$321 \quad (\partial_0 - \sigma_3 \partial_1 - \sigma_2 \partial_2 + \sigma_1 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_2 = 0$$

Suppose that the spinor ψ is a solution of two different equations, with the same mass. We can always use the morphisms between representations to make the first of two equations the top line 123. Now let the second equation be any other except 213 (this case will be dealt with separately). For example suppose the second equation is 231. Multiply both equations on the right by σ_3 : 123 $(\partial_0 + \sigma_1 \partial_1 + \sigma_2 \partial_2 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$

231 $(\partial_0 + \sigma_2 \partial_1 + \sigma_3 \partial_2 + \sigma_1 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_2 = 0$ So ψ is a solution for the first equation with mass $-m$ and for the second with mass m , which is only possible if the mass is zero. This argument applies to all lines except 213 where we do not have the anticommutation.

For the lines 123 and 213 suppose that $m \neq 0$ and consider also their bar-star equations: $(\partial_0 + \sigma_1 \partial_1 + \sigma_2 \partial_2 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$

$$(\partial_0 - \sigma_2 \partial_1 - \sigma_1 \partial_2 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$$

$$(\partial_0 - \sigma_1 \partial_1 - \sigma_2 \partial_2 - \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi - i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$$

$(\partial_0 + \sigma_2 \partial_1 + \sigma_1 \partial_2 - \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi + i\psi\sigma_3 = 0$ Subtracting the first two lines and the last two lines we get $(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)(\partial_0 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi = -i\psi\sigma_3$ Combining we get $\frac{1}{2^2}(\partial_0 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi = 0$ and with a change of coordinates we have an ODE $\frac{1}{2^2}(\partial_0 + \sigma_3 \partial_3)\psi = 0$ with real roots so it fits a characteristic equation. So ψ is an exponential function and this is incompatible with it being normalizable. \square

6. Absence of EM interaction between different sectors

Consider the equation for a chargeless, massless fermion field and its bar-star image: $(\partial_0 +)\psi = 0$, $(\partial_0 -)\psi = 0$. In quaternionic components it becomes $(\partial_0 +)(u + iv) = 0$, $(\partial_0 -)(u - iv) = 0$. Adding and subtracting we get $\partial_0 u + iv = 0$, $\partial_0 v - iu = 0$.

Split the quaternionic functions u and v into their scalar and vector components: $u = u_0 - i\mathbf{u}$, $v = v_0 - i\mathbf{v}$. $u = u_0 - i(\sigma_1 u_1 + \sigma_2 u_2 + \sigma_3 u_3)$

and similarly for v . When substituting these expressions the algebraic product of vectors splits into a sum of inner and outer products: $\partial_0 u_0 - i_0 + iv_0 + \cdot + i\wedge = 0$

$$\partial_0 v_0 - i_0 - iu_0 - \cdot - i\wedge = 0$$

Equating scalars with scalars and vectors with vectors we obtain four equations. The meaning of the operator in these equations is that of ∂ , i.e. a vector differential in the sigma matrix coordinates.

$$\partial \cdot = \partial_0 v_0 \tag{1}$$

$$\partial \cdot = -\partial_0 u_0$$

$$\partial \wedge = -\partial_0 - u_0$$

$$\partial \wedge = \partial_0 - v_0$$

These can be identified with Maxwell's equations, but including the hypothetical magnetic charges and current, as follows: $\sim \sim \rho_e \sim v_0$, $\rho_m \sim -\partial_0 u_0$, $e \sim -v_0$, $m \sim u_0$. Now we can obtain the six versions of Maxwell's equations for the six different sectors, using the shorthand notation $\partial_{ijk} = \varphi_{ijk}(e_1 + e_2 + e_1 e_2)$. Each representation has its own version of the Poynting vectors $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{E} \wedge \mathbf{H}$. But if a solution $\psi = u + iv$ satisfies both ME_{123} and ME_{ijk} then necessarily $\partial_{123} = \partial_{ijk}$. This means $\mathbf{S}_{123} = \mathbf{S}_{ijk}$.

For a sourceless solution Maxwell's equations simplify to:

$$\begin{aligned}ijk \cdot &= 0 \\ijk \cdot &= 0 \\ijk \wedge &= -0 \\ijk \wedge &= 0\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

For a solution of the sourceless equation $\psi = +i$ the Poynting vector $\mathbf{s} = \wedge$ equals the product in the algebra .

Proof. We need to show that $\cdot = 0$: ${}_0(\cdot) = ({}_0) \cdot + \cdot ({}_0) = (\wedge) \cdot - \cdot (\wedge) = 0$ So \cdot is time independent. If it was non-zero, then \cdot and \wedge would be inverses of each other which is not compatible with equations. The only possibility which remains is \cdot being identically zero. \square

Let $\psi = +i \in V_{123} \cap V_{ijk}$ where the vector spaces of solutions of the sourceless Maxwell's equations are as above. Then the Poynting vector $\mathbf{s} = \wedge$ equals zero.

Proof. As was shown in 6 the Poynting vector \mathbf{s} coincides with the algebraic product of \cdot and \wedge which does not depend on the representation, because ψ is the same. Hence calculating the exterior product in the sectors 123 and ijk should produce the same result. But these products are calculated according to different rules.

For example choose $ijk = 231$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}{}_{123} &= \wedge_{123} = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \\u_1 u_2 u_3 \\v_1 v_2 v_3 \quad {}_{231} &= \wedge_{231} = \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_1 \\u_1 u_2 u_3 \\v_1 v_2 v_3\end{aligned}$$

If the resulting vector \cdot is the same then \square

7. Conclusions

For the six-fold discrete symmetry to be a candidate to explain dark matter, two issues need to be addressed: first, show that the six sectors of free fermion fields are genuinely distinct from each other; and second, show the absence of electromagnetic interaction between different sectors. Only the first issue of the two is addressed in this article.

To properly address the second issue one would need to show the existence of six symmetric types of photons. It is possible to construct the six symmetric Maxwell's equations and show that their solutions are distinct, but this would not be a sufficient treatment of the issue.

Also, the six-fold symmetry must be extended to weak and strong interactions to be a reasonable explanation.

According to [8] the universe consists of approximately 5% ordinary baryonic matter, $\sim 26\%$ dark matter, and $\sim 61\%$ dark energy. This gives the ratio of dark matter to ordinary matter of 5.2 : 1 which is close to 5 : 1, as predicted by the six-fold symmetry.

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