

2. We are given the Lorentz commutation relations,

$$[J^{\mu\nu}, J^{\rho\sigma}] = i(g^{\nu\rho} J^{\mu\sigma} - g^{\mu\rho} J^{\nu\sigma} - g^{\nu\sigma} J^{\mu\rho} + g^{\mu\sigma} J^{\nu\rho}).$$

a) Given the generators of rotations and boosts defined by,

$$L^i = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{ijk} J^{jk} \quad K^i = J^{0i},$$

we are to explicitly calculate all the commutation relations. We are given trivially that

$$[L^i, L^j] = i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k.$$

Let us begin with the K 's. By direct calculation,

$$\begin{aligned} [K^i, K^j] &= [J^{0i}, J^{0j}] = i(g^{0i} J^{0j} - g^{00} J^{ij} - g^{ij} J^{00} + g^{0j} J^{i0}), \\ &= -iJ^{ij}; \\ &= -2i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise, we can directly compute the commutator between the L and K 's. This also will follow by direct calculation.

$$\begin{aligned} [L^i, K^j] &= \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{lk}[J^{ilk}, J^{0j}], \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{ilk}i(g^{l0} J^{ij} - g^{i0} J^{lj} - g^{lj} J^{i0} + g^{ij} J^{l0}), \\ &= i\epsilon^{ijk} J^{0k}; \\ &= i\epsilon^{ijk} K^k. \end{aligned}$$

We were also to show that the operators

$$J_+^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i + iK^i) \quad J_-^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i - iK^i),$$

could be seen to satisfy the commutation relations of angular momentum. First let us compute,

$$\begin{aligned} [J_+, J_-] &= \frac{1}{4} [(L^i + iK^i), (L^j - iK^i)], \\ &= \frac{1}{4} ([L^i, L^j] + i[K^i, L^j] - i[L^i, K^j] + [K^i, K^j]), \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

In the last line it was clear that I used the commutator $[L^i, K^j]$ derived above. The next two calculations are very similar and there is a lot of 'justification' algebra in each step. There is essentially no way for me to include all of the details of every step, but each can be verified (e.g. $i[K^i, L^j] = -i[L^j, K^i] = (-i)i\epsilon^{jik} K^k = -\epsilon^{ijk} K^k \dots etc$). They are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} [J_+^i, J_+^j] &= \frac{1}{4} [(L^i + iK^i), (L^j + iK^j)], \\ &= \frac{1}{4} ([L^i, L^j] + i[K^i, L^j] + i[L^i, K^j] + i[L^i, K^i] - [K^i, K^j]), \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k - \epsilon^{ijk} K^k - \epsilon^{ijk} K^k + i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k), \\ &= i\epsilon^{ijk} \frac{1}{2}(L^k + iK^k) = i\epsilon^{ijk} J_+^k. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise,

$$\begin{aligned} [J_-^i, J_-^j] &= \frac{1}{4} [(L^i - iK^i), (L^j - iK^j)], \\ &= \frac{1}{4} ([L^i, L^j] - i[K^i, L^j] - i[L^i, K^j] + i[L^i, K^i] - [K^i, K^j]), \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k + \epsilon^{ijk} K^k + \epsilon^{ijk} K^k + i\epsilon^{ijk} L^k), \\ &= i\epsilon^{ijk} \frac{1}{2}(L^k - iK^k) = i\epsilon^{ijk} J_-^k. \end{aligned}$$

b) Let us consider first the $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ representation. For this representation we will need to satisfy

$$J_+^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i + iK^i) = 0 \quad J_-^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i - iK^i) = \frac{\sigma^i}{2}.$$

This is obtained by taking $L^i = \frac{\sigma^i}{2}$ and $K^i = \frac{i\sigma^i}{2}$. The transformation law then of the $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ representation is

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{(0, \frac{1}{2})} &\longrightarrow e^{-i\omega_{\mu\nu} J^{\mu\nu}} \Phi_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}, \\ &= e^{-i(\theta^i L^i + \beta^j K^j)} \Phi_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}, \\ &= e^{-\frac{i\theta^i \sigma^i}{2} + \frac{\beta^j K^j}{2}} \Phi_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}. \end{aligned}$$

The calculation for the $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ representation is very similar. Taking $L^i = \frac{\sigma^i}{2}$ and $K^i = -\frac{\sigma^i}{2}$, we get

$$J_+^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i + iK^i) = \frac{\sigma^i}{2} \quad J_-^i = \frac{1}{2}(L^i - iK^i) = 0.$$

Then the transformation law of the representation is

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)} &\longrightarrow e^{-i\omega_{\mu\nu} J^{\mu\nu}} \Phi_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}, \\ &= e^{-i(\theta^i L^i + \beta^j K^j)} \Phi_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}, \\ &= e^{-\frac{i\theta^i \sigma^i}{2} - \frac{\beta^j K^j}{2}} \Phi_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing these transformation laws with Peskin and Schroeder's (3.37), we see that

$$\psi_L = \Phi_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)} \quad \psi_R = \Phi_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}.$$

3. a) We are given that T_a is a representation of some Lie group. This means that

$$[T_a, T_b] = i f^{abc} T_c$$

by definition. Allow me to take the complex conjugate of both sides. Note that $[T_a, T_b] = [(-T_a), (-T_b)]$ in general and recall that f^{abc} are real.

$$\begin{aligned} [T_a, T_b]^* &= (i f^{abc} T_c)^*, \\ [T_a^*, T_b^*] &= -i f^{abc} T_c^*, \\ \therefore [(-T_a^*), (-T_b^*)] &= i f^{abc} (-T_c^*). \end{aligned}$$

So by the definition of a representation, it is clear that $(-T_a^*)$ is also a representation of the algebra.

b) As before, we are given that T_a is a representation of some Lie group. We will take the Hermitian adjoint of both sides.

$$\begin{aligned} [T_a, T_b]^\dagger &= (i f^{abc} T_c)^\dagger, \\ (T_a T_b)^\dagger - (T_b T_a)^\dagger &= -i f^{abc} T_c^\dagger, \\ T_b^\dagger T_a^\dagger - T_a^\dagger T_b^\dagger &= -i f^{abc} T_c^\dagger, \\ [T_b^\dagger, T_a^\dagger] &= -i f^{abc} T_c^\dagger, \\ \therefore [T_a^\dagger, T_b^\dagger] &= i f^{abc} T_c^\dagger. \end{aligned}$$

So by the definition of a representation, it is clear that T_a^\dagger is a representation of the algebra.

c) We define the spinor representation of $SU(2)$ by $T_a = \frac{\sigma_a^2}{2}$ so that

$$T_1 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad T_2 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad T_3 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We will consider the matrix $S = i\sigma^2$. Clearly S is unitary because $(i\sigma^2)(i\sigma^2)^\dagger = 1$. Now, one could proceed by direct calculation to demonstrate that

$$ST_1 S^\dagger = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -T_1^* \quad ST_2 S^\dagger = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -T_2^* \quad ST_3 S^\dagger = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -T_3^*.$$

This clearly demonstrates that the representation $-T_a^*$ is equivalent to that of T_a .