Gravity, torsion, Dirac field and computer algebra using MAPLE and REDUCE

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Abstract

The article presents computer algebra procedures and routines applied to the study of the Dirac field on curved spacetimes. The main part of the procedures is devoted to the construction of Pauli and Dirac matrices algebra on an anholonomic orthonormal reference frame. Then these procedures are used to compute the Dirac equation on curved spacetimes in a sequence of special dedicated routines. A comparative review of such procedures obtained for two computer algebra platforms (REDUCE + EXCALC and MAPLE + GRTensorII) is carried out. Applications for the calculus of Dirac equation on specific examples of spacetimes with or without torsion are pointed out.

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1 Introduction

In a series of recent articles [12]-[13] we have presented some routines and their applications, written in REDUCE+EXCALC computer algebra language for performing calculations in Dirac theory on curved spacetimes. Including the Dirac fields in gravitation theory requires lengthy (or cumbersome) calculations which could be solved by computer algebra methods. Initially our main purpose was to develop a complete algebraic programming package for this purpose using only the REDUCE + EXCALC platform. This program was accomplished and the main results and applications were reported in our above cited articles [12]-[13]. But we are aware of the fact that other very popular algebraic manipulations systems are on the market (like Mathematica or MAPLE) thus the area of people interested in algebraic programming routines for Dirac equation should be much larger. In this perspective we developed similar programs and routines for MAPLE [14] platform using the package GRTensorII [15] (adapted for doing calculations in General Relativity). Because there is no portability between these two systems we were forced to compose completely new routines, in fact following the same strategy I used in REDUCE: first, the Pauli and Dirac matrices algebra (using only the MAPLE environment) and then the construction of the Dirac equation on curved spacetimes where the capabilities of GRTensorII package is used. Because the authors of GRTensorII offer also package versions for Mathematica we can be sure that our MAPLE routines could be easily adapted for Mathematica which would highly increase the number of users of our procedures.

This article is organized as follows: the next section no. 2 presents a short review of the theory of Dirac fields on curved spacetime, pointing out the main notations and conventions we shall use through the article. Then section no. 3 is devoted to a short overview of our routines and programs in REDUCE+EXCALC previously described in great detail in [12]. This section is necessary in view of the fact that I applied the same strategy for constructing our programs in MAPLE as is pointed out above. Section no. 4 contains a complete description of our programs in MAPLE+GRTensorII. We also included here some facts about the main differences (advantages and disadvantages) between the two algebraic programming platforms (REDUCE and MAPLE). Section no. 5 is devoted to the problem of including spacetimes with torsion in order to compute the Dirac equation using our
MAPLE procedures. The last section of the article includes a list of some of spacetimes examples we used in order to calculate the Dirac equation. Two of these examples are spacetimes with torsion thus it is pointed out the contribution of torsion components to the Dirac field. Several applications of our programs (in REDUCE or in MAPLE) are to be developed in our future projects: searching for inertial effects in non-inertial systems of reference (partially presented in [13] for a Schwarschild metric without torsion) or quantum effects (as in [10]) in order to provide new theoretical results for experimental gravity [16].

Through the article we use standard notations [1],[2], [3], [17]. Four dimensional spacetime indices will run from 0 to 3 and are denoted with Greek letters while spatial three-dimensional indices are denoted with the Latin ones. The computer algebra system used was REDUCE 3.6 [4] with EXCALC package [5] or MAPLE V [14] with GRTensorII package [15].

2 Pauli and Dirac matrices algebra and Dirac equation on curved space-time

The main problem is to solve algebraic expressions involving the Dirac matrices [1],[2], [17]. To this end it is convenient to construct explicitly these matrices as a direct product of several pairs among the Pauli matrices \( \sigma_i, i = 1, 2, 3 \), and the 2 \( \times \) 2 unit matrix. Thus all the calculations will be expressed in terms of the Pauli matrices and 2-dimensional Pauli spinors. Consequently the result will be obtained in a form which is suitable for physical interpretations. We shall consider the Pauli matrices as abstract objects with specific multiplication rules. Thus we work with operators instead of their matrices in a spinor representation. However, if one desires to see the result in the standard Dirac form with \( \gamma \) matrices it will be sufficient to use a simple reconstruction procedure which will be presented in the next section [12].

We shall consider the Dirac formalism in the chiral form where the Dirac matrices are [2]:

\[
\gamma^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \gamma^i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma_i \\ -\sigma_i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \gamma^5 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
\] (1)
The Dirac spinor:
\[ \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_l \\ \varphi_r \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{H}_D \]

involves the Pauli spinors \( \varphi_l \) and \( \varphi_r \) which transform according to the irreducible representations \((1/2, 0)\) and \((0, 1/2)\) of the group \( \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \). In this representation the left and right-handed Dirac spinors are
\[ \Psi_L = \frac{1 - \gamma^5}{2} \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_l \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Psi_R = \frac{1 + \gamma^5}{2} \Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \varphi_r \end{bmatrix} \]

and, therefore, the Pauli spinors \( \varphi_l \) and \( \varphi_r \) will be the left and the right-handed parts of the Dirac spinor. The \( \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \) generators are
\[ S_{ij}^\mu = \frac{i}{4} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^j] \]

It is shown [1] that \( \mathcal{H}_D = \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H} \) (where \( \mathcal{H} \) is the two-dimensional space of Pauli spinors) and, therefore the Dirac spinor can be written as:
\[ \Psi = \xi_1 \otimes \varphi_l + \xi_2 \otimes \varphi_r \] with \( \xi_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \) and \( \xi_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \) (5)

while the \( \gamma \)-matrices and the \( \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \) generators can be put in the form:
\[ \gamma^0 = \sigma^1 \otimes 1 \quad , \quad \gamma^k = i \sigma^2 \otimes \sigma^k \quad , \quad \gamma^5 = -\sigma^3 \otimes 1 \] (6)
\[ S_{ij}^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \sigma^k \otimes \sigma^0 \quad , \quad S_{0k}^\mu = - \frac{i}{2} \sigma^3 \otimes \sigma^k \] (7)

These properties allow to reduce the Dirac algebra to that of the Pauli matrices.

In order to introduce Dirac equation on curved space-time we have always used an anholonomic orthonormal frame because at any point of spacetime we need an orthonormal reference frame in order to describe the spinor field as it is already pointed before [12]). The Dirac equation in a general reference of frame, defined by an anholonomic tetrad field is [7]:
\[ i \hbar \gamma^\mu D_{\mu} \Psi = mc \Psi \] (8)

where the covariant Dirac derivative \( D_{\mu} \) is
\[ D_{\nu} = \partial_{\nu} + i \frac{1}{2} S^{\rho \mu} \Gamma_{\nu \rho \mu} \] (9)

and where \( S^{\mu \nu} \) are the \( \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \) generators (4) and \( \Gamma_{\nu \rho \mu} \) are the anholonomic components of the connection.
3 Review of the REDUCE+EXCALC routines for calculating the Dirac equation

We shall describe here those part of the program realizing the Pauli and Dirac matrix algebras [12],[13]. In the first lines of this sequence we introduce the operators and the non-commuting operators being useful throughout the entire program. The Pauli matrices are represented using the operator \( p \) with one argument. The Dirac matrices are denoted by \( \text{gam} \) of one argument (an operator if we use only REDUCE, or for EXCALC package it will be a 0-form with one index) while the operator \( \text{dirac} \) stands for the Dirac equation. The SL(2,C) generators (4) are denoted by the 0-form \( s(a,b) \). The basic algebraic operation, the commutator (\( \text{com} \)) and anticommutator (\( \text{acom} \)) are then defined here only for commuting (or anticommuting) only simple objects (“kernels”). For commuting more complex expressions, (in order to introduce some necessary commutation relations) a more complex operator is necessary to introduce. Other objects, having a more or less local utilization in the program will be introduced with declarations and statements at their specific appearance.

The main part of the program is the Pauli subroutine:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{LET } & \ p(0)=1; \\
\text{LET } & \ p(2)*p(1)=-p(1)*p(2); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(1)*p(2)=i*p(3); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(3)*p(1)=-p(1)*p(3); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(1)*p(3)=-i*p(2); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(3)*p(2)=-p(2)*p(3); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(2)*p(3)=i*p(1); \\
\text{LET } & \ p(1)**2=1; \\
\text{LET } & \ p(2)**2=1; \\
\text{LET } & \ p(3)**2=1;
\end{align*}
\]

The Pauli matrices, \( \sigma_i \) appear as \( p(i) \) while the \( 2 \times 2 \) unity matrix is \( p(0)=1 \). The properties of the Pauli matrices are given by the above sequence of 10 lines. The **direct product** denoted by the \( \text{pd} \) operator has properties, introduced as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{for all } & \ a,b,c,u \ \text{let } \text{pd}(a,b)\text{pd}(c,u)=\text{pd}(a*c,b*u); \\
\text{for all } & \ a,b \ \text{let } \text{pd}(a,b)**2=\text{pd}(a**2,b**2);
\end{align*}
\]
for all \(a, b\) let \(pd(-a, b) = -pd(a, b)\);
for all \(a, b\) let \(pd(a, -b) = -pd(a, b)\);
for all \(a, b\) let \(pd(i*a, b) = i*pd(a, b)\);
for all \(a, b\) let \(pd(a, i*b) = i*pd(a, b)\);
for all \(a\) let \(pd(0, a) = 0\);
for all \(a\) let \(pd(a, 0) = 0\);
let \(pd(1, 1) = 1\);

Some difficulties arise from the bilinearity of the direct product which requires to identify all the scalars involved in the current calculations. This can be done only by using complicated procedures or special assignments. For this reason we shall use a special definition of the direct product \((pd)\) which gives up the general bilinearity property. The operator \(pd\) will depend on two Pauli matrices or on the Pauli matrices with factors \(-1\) or \(\pm i\). It is able to recognize only these numbers but this is enough since the multiplication of the Pauli matrices has just the structure constants \(\pm 1\) and \(\pm i\) (we have \(\sigma_i\sigma_j = \delta_{ij} + i\epsilon_{ijk}\sigma_k\)).

Thus by introducing the multiplication rules of the direct product it will be sufficient to give some instructions (see above) which represent the bilinearity, defined only for the scalars \(-1\) and \(i\). The next two instructions represent the definition of “0” in the direct product space, while the last one from the above sequence introduces the \(4 \times 4\) unit matrix.

Thus the \(\gamma\)-matrices can be defined now with the help of our direct product; we added also here the definition of the \(SL(2, C)\) generators from eq. (4):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{gam}(1) &:= i*pd(p(2), p(1)); \\
\text{gam}(2) &:= i*pd(p(2), p(2)); \\
\text{gam}(3) &:= i*pd(p(2), p(3)); \quad \% \, \text{Remember that gam’s are} \\
\text{gam}(0) &:= pd(p(1), 1); \quad \% \, \text{0-forms !!!!} \\
\text{gam}5 &:= -pd(p(3), 1); \quad \% \, \text{instead of ‘‘gam(5)’’} \\
\text{s}(a,b) &:= i*com(gam(a), gam(b))/4;
\end{align*}
\]

All the above program lines we have presented here can be used for the Dirac theory on the Minkowski space-time in an inertial system of reference. Here we shall point at first the main differences which appear when one wants to run our procedures on some curved space-times or in a non-inertial
reference of frame. Some of these minor differences are already integrated in the lines presented in the previous section.

First of all we have to add, at the beginning of the program some EXCALC lines containing the metric statement. We have always used an anholonomic orthonormal frame because at any point of spacetime we need an orthonormal reference frame in order to describe the spinor field as it has been already pointed before [12]).

After the above metric statement we must add in the program all the procedures described in the last section. Then we can introduce some lines calculating the Dirac equation in this context. As a result we have used the next sequence of EXCALC lines:

\[
pform \{\text{der}(j), \text{psi}\} = 0; \text{fdomain} \text{ psi} = \text{psi}(x,y,z,t);
\]

\[
\text{der}(-j) := \text{ee}(-j)_|d \text{ psi} + (i/2)*s(b,h)*\text{cris}(-j,-b,-h);
\]

\[
\text{operator} \text{ derp0}, \text{derp1}, \text{derp2}, \text{derp3};
\]

\[
\text{noncom} \text{ derp0}, \text{derp1}, \text{derp2}, \text{derp3};
\]

\[
\text{let} @(@text{psi},t) = \text{derp0};
\]

\[
\text{let} @(@text{psi},x) = \text{derp1};
\]

\[
\text{let} @(@text{psi},y) = \text{derp2};
\]

\[
\text{let} @(@text{psi},z) = \text{derp3};
\]

\[
\text{dirac} := i*\text{has} \gamma(j) \text{der}(-j) - m*c;
\]

\[
\text{ham} := -(\gamma(0)*(1/(\text{ee}(0)_|d t))*\text{dirac} - i*\text{has} \text{derp0});
\]

In defining the Dirac derivative \text{der} we have introduced also an formal Dirac spinor (\psi) being a 0-form and depending on the variables imposed by the symmetry of the problem. It is just an intermediate step (in fact a “trick”) in order to obtain the partial derivative components as operators, because after calculating the components of the covariant derivative (\text{der}(-j) - see above) we have to replace the partial derivatives of \psi with four non-commuting operators \text{derp0}, \text{derp1} ... \text{derp3}. The Dirac operator is thus defined as \text{dirac} := (i\hbar \gamma^\mu D_\mu - mc)\Psi and finally the Dirac Hamiltonian (\text{ham}) is obtained from the canonical form of the Dirac equation:

\[
i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = H\psi
\]
which we shall use later, in the study of the nonrelativistic approximation of
the Dirac equation in non-inertial reference frames.

The results we have obtained after processing the program lines presented
until now contain only the Pauli matrices and direct products of Pauli ma-
trices. If one wants to have the final result in terms of the $\gamma$-matrices and
SL$(2,\mathbb{C})$ generators (and not in terms of direct products of Pauli matrices)
the procedure \texttt{rec} should be used :

\begin{verbatim}
operator gama,gen;
noncom gama,gen;
PROCEDURE rec(a);
begin;
    ws1:=sub(pd(p(1),1)=gama(0),a);
    ws1:=sub(pd(p(2),1)=-i*gama(0)*gama(5),ws1);
    ws1:=sub(pd(p(3),1)=-gama(5),ws1);
    ws1:=sub(pd(1,p(1))=2*gen(2,3),ws1);
    ws1:=sub(pd(1,p(2))=2*gen(3,1),ws1);
    ws1:=sub(pd(1,p(3))=2*gen(1,2),ws1);
    for k:=1:3 do
        <<ws1:=sub(pd(p(2),p(k))=-i*gama(k),ws1);
           ws1:=sub(pd(p(1),p(k))=gama(k)*gama(5),ws1);
           ws1:=sub(pd(p(3),p(k))=2*i*gen(0,k),ws1)>>;
    return ws1;
end;
\end{verbatim}

This is an operator depending on an expression involving matrices ($a$) which
reconstructs the $\gamma$-matrices and the SL$(2,\mathbb{C})$ generators from the direct prod-
ucts of Pauli matrices according to eqs. (6) and (7).

We must point out that the new introduced operators \texttt{gama} and \texttt{gen}
do not represent a complete algebra. They are introduced in order to have
a result in a comprehensible form. Thus, in this form the result cannot be
used in further computations. Only the results obtained before processing
the \texttt{rec} procedure could be used, in order to benefit of the complete Pauli
and Dirac matrices algebra.
4 MAPLE+GRTensorII procedures for calculating the Dirac equation

Here we shall present, in details, our procedures in MAPLE+GRTensorII for calculating the Dirac equations, pointing out the main differences between MAPLE and REDUCE programming in obtaining the same results. The first major problem appears in MAPLE when one try to introduce the Pauli and Dirac matrices algebra. In MAPLE this will be a difficult task because the ordinary product (assigned in MAPLE with “*”) of operators is automatically commutative, associative, linear, etc. like an ordinary scalar product - in REDUCE these properties are active only if the operators are declared previously as having such properties. Thus we have to define two special product operators: for Pauli matrices $\sigma_\alpha, \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3$ (assigned in our procedures with pr) and for the direct product of Pauli matrices (assigned here also with the operator pd(“,”) which is assigned with “&p”).

As a consequence we have to introduce long lists with their properties as, for example:

> define(sigma,sigma(0)=1);

> define(pr,pr(1,1)=1, pr(1,sigma(1))=sigma(1), pr(1,sigma(2))=sigma(2), pr(1,sigma(3))=sigma(3), pr(sigma(1),1)=sigma(1), pr(sigma(2),1)=sigma(2), pr(sigma(3),1)=sigma(3),...
pr(sigma(1),sigma(1))=1, pr(sigma(2),sigma(2))=1,...

> define(pd,pd(0,a::algebraic)=0, pd(a::algebraic,0)=0, pd(1,1)=1, pd(I*a::algebraic,b::algebraic)=I*pd(a,b), pd(-I*a::algebraic,b::algebraic)=-I*pd(a,b), pd(a::algebraic,I*b::algebraic)=I*pd(a,b),
pd(a::algebraic,-I*b::algebraic)=-I*pd(a,b),
pd(-a::algebraic,b::algebraic)=-pd(a,b),
pd(a::algebraic,-b::algebraic)=-pd(a,b));

> define('&p','&p'(-a::algebraic,-b::algebraic)='&p'(a,b),...)

Of course the reader may ask why is not much simpler to declare, as an example, the &p as being linear (or multilinear)? Because in this case the
operator does not act properly, the linearity property picking out from the
operator all the terms, being or not Pauli matrices or direct products pd of
Pauli matrices. Thus it is necessary to forget the linearity and to introduce,
as separate properties all the possible situations to appear in the calculus.
As a result the program becomes very large with a corresponding waste of
RAM memory and speed of running. This will be the main disadvantage of
MAPLE version of our program in comparison with the short (and, why not,
elegant) REDUCE procedures. Of course, in a more compact version of our
programs, we defined MAPLE routines with these operators, and the user
needs only to load at the beginning of MAPLE session these routines, but
there is no significant economy of memory and running time.

The next step is to define Dirac $\gamma$-matrices and a special commutator
(with &p):

> define(gam,
gam(1)=I*pd(sigma(2),sigma(1)),
gam(2)=I*pd(sigma(2),sigma(2)),
gam(3)=I*pd(sigma(2),sigma(3)),
gam(0)=pd(sigma(1),1),gam(5)=-pd(sigma(3),1));

> define(comu,comu(a::algebraic,b::algebraic)=a &p b - b &p a);

The next program-lines are in GRTensorII environment, thus is necessary
to load first the GRTensorII package and then the corresponding metric (with
qload(...) command [15]). It follows then :

> grdef('SS{ ^a ^b }');
> grcalc(SS(up,up));
> (I/4)*comu(gam(0),gam(0));
> (I/4)*comu(gam(1),gam(0));

> (I/4)*comu(gam(3),gam(3));
> grdisplay(SS(up,up));

> grcalc(Chr(dn,dn,dn));grdisplay(Chr(dn,dn,dn));
> grcalc(Chr(bdn,bdn,bdn));grdisplay(Chr(bdn,bdn,bdn));

10
These are a sequence of commands in GRTensorII for defining the SL(2,C) generators $S_{ij}$ (as the tensor $SS{ \hat{a} \hat{b} }$) using formula (4) and for the calculus of Christoffel symbols in an orthonormal frame base ($\text{Chr}(bdn,bdn)$). Here it becomes obvious one of the main advantages of MAPLE+GRTensorII platform, namely, the possibility of computing of the tensor components both in a general reference frame or in an anholonomic orthonormal frame which is vital for our purpose of construction the Dirac equation.

Next we have to define, as two vectors the Dirac-$\gamma$ matrices (assigned as the contravariant vector $ga{ \hat{a} }$ and the derivatives of the wave function $\psi$ (assigned as the covariant vector $\text{Psid}{ a }$) in order to use the facilities of GRTensorII for manipulating with indices:

\begin{verbatim}
> grdef('ga{ ^a }:=\{gam(0),gam(1),gam(2),gam(3)\}');
> grdisplay(ga(up));

> grdef('Psid{ a }:=\{diff(psi(x,t),t),diff(psi(x,t),x),
  diff(psi(x,t),y),diff(psi(x,t),z)\}');
> grcalc(Psid(dn));grdisplay(Psid(dn));
> grcalc(Psid(bdn));grdisplay(Psid(bdn));
\end{verbatim}

The next step is to define the term $\frac{i}{2}S^{\rho\mu}\Gamma_{\nu\rho\mu}$ from equation (9):

\begin{verbatim}
> grdef('de{ i }:=((I/2)*SS{ \hat{a} \hat{b} })*Chr{ (i) (a) (b) }');
> grcalc(de(dn));grdisplay(de(dn));
\end{verbatim}

The components of $de{ i }$ are polynomials containing direct products $pd(...)$ of Pauli matrices and the product between $\gamma^\nu$ and $\frac{i}{2}S^{\rho\mu}\Gamma_{\nu\rho\mu}$ from equation (8) is, in fact, the special product $&p$. Thus we obtain the term $\gamma^\nu S^{\rho\mu}\Gamma_{\nu\rho\mu}$ (denoted below with the operator $dd$) by a special MAPLE sequence which in fact split the components of $de{ i }$ in monomial terms and then execute the corresponding $&p$ product, finally reconstructing the $dd$ operator:

\begin{verbatim}
a0:=expand(grcomponent(de(dn),[t]));a00:=0;
> u0:=whattype(a0);u0; nops(a0);
> if u0='+' then for i from 1 to nops(a0) do
  a00:=a00+I*h*grcomponent(ga(up),[t]) &p op(i,a0) od else
  a00:=I*h*grcomponent(ga(up),[t]) &p a0 fi; a00;
\end{verbatim}
> a1 := expand(grcomponent(de(dn), [x])); a11 := 0;
> u1 := whattype(a1); u1;
> nops(a1);
> if u1 = '+' then for i from 1 to nops(a1) do
      a11 := a11 + I * h * grcomponent(ga(up), [x]) & p op(i, a1) od else
      a11 := I * h * grcomponent(ga(up), [x]) & p a1 fi; a11;

> grdef('dd'); grcalc(dd);
> a00 + a11 + a22 + a33;
> grdisplay(dd);

Finally the Dirac equation is obtained as:

> grdef('dirac := I * h * ga{ ^l }* Psid{ (l) } + dd* psi(x,t) - m*c* psi(x,t)');
> grcalc(dirac);
> grdisplay(dirac);

In order to obtain the Dirac equation in a more comprehensible form we have
the next sequence of MAPLE commands (similar to the reconstruction rec
procedure from the REDUCE program):

> define('gen');
> define('gama');
> grmap(dirac, subs, pd(sigma(1), 1) = gama(0), pd(sigma(2), 1) = -I * gama(0) *
      gama(5), pd(sigma(3), 1) = -gama(5), pd(1, sigma(1)) = 2 * gen(2, 3),
      pd(1, sigma(2)) = 2 * gen(3, 1), pd(1, sigma(3)) = 2 * gen(1, 2),
      pd(sigma(2), sigma(1)) = -I * gama(1), pd(sigma(2), sigma(2)) = -I * gama(2),
      pd(sigma(2), sigma(3)) = -I * gama(3), pd(sigma(1), sigma(1)) = gama(1) * gama(5),
      pd(sigma(1), sigma(2)) = gama(2) * gama(5),
      pd(sigma(1), sigma(3)) = gama(3) * gama(5),
      pd(sigma(3), sigma(1)) = 2 * I * gen(0, 1),
      pd(sigma(3), sigma(2)) = 2 * I * gen(0, 2),
      pd(sigma(3), sigma(3)) = 2 * I * gen(0, 3), 'x');
> grdisplay(dirac);

where, of course, as in the REDUCE version, the operators gen and gama
do not represent a complete algebra.
Dirac equation on spacetimes with torsion

We shall present here the way we adapted our MAPLE+GRTensorII programs in order to calculate the Dirac equation on space-times with torsion.

The geometrical frame for General Relativity is a Riemannian space-time but one very promising generalization is the Riemann–Cartan geometry which (i) is the most natural generalization of a Riemannian geometry by allowing a non–symmetric metric–compatible connection, (ii) treats spin on the same level as mass as it is indicated by the group theoretical analysis of the Poincaré group, and (iii) arises in most gauge theoretical approaches to General Relativity, as e.g. in the Poincaré–gauge theory or supergravity [6],[7]. However, till now there is no experimental evidence for torsion. On the other hand, from the lack of effects which may be due to torsion one can calculate estimates on the maximal strength of the torsion fields [10]. In this aspect we think that it is possible, using computer algebra facilities to approach new theoretical aspects on matter fields (for example the Dirac field) behavior on spacetimes with torsion in order to point out new gravitational effects and experiments at microscopic level.

A metric compatible connection in a Riemann–Cartan theory is related to the torsion components by (see [6] - eq. (1.18))

\[ \Gamma_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \tilde{\Gamma}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} - \frac{1}{2} \left[ (C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} - C_{\beta\gamma\alpha} + C_{\gamma\alpha\beta}) - (T_{\alpha\beta\gamma} - T_{\beta\gamma\alpha} + T_{\gamma\alpha\beta}) \right] \] (10)

where \( \tilde{\Gamma}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \) are the components of the riemannian connection, \( C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \) is the object of anholonomicity and \( T_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \) are the components of the torsion. The idea is to replace the connection components from the covariant derivative appearing in eqs. (8-9) with the above ones, of course after calculating them in an orthonormal anholonomic reference frame, suitable for calculation of the Dirac equation. Thus the sequence for calculating the \texttt{de{dn}} operator (see above) should be replaced with

\[
\texttt{> grdef('de{ i }:=((I/2)*SS{ \wedge a \wedge b }*(CHR{ (i) (a) (b) }) +}
\texttt{\quad (1/2)*tor{ (i) (a) (b) } -tor{ (a) (b) (i) }
\texttt{\quad + tor{ (b) (i) (a) })))')};
\]

\[
\texttt{> grcalc(de(dn)); grdisplay(de(dn))};
\]

where the new connection components \( \texttt{CHR{a,b,c}} \) are now defined by the sequence.
grdef(‘ee{ a b }:= w1{ b }*kdelta{ a $x } + w2{ b }*kdelta{ a $y } + w3{ b }*kdelta{ a $z } + w4{ b }*kdelta{ a $t }‘); 
grcalc(ee(dn,up));
grdisplay(ee(dn,up)); 
grdef(‘CC{ a b c }:=2*ee{ a ^i }*ee{ b ^ j }*ee{ c ^[j ,i] }‘); 
grcalc(CC(dn,dn,dn)); grdisplay(CC(dn,dn,dn)); 
grdef(‘CHR{ (a) (b) (c) } := Chr{ (a) (b) (c) } - (1/2)*(CC{ a b c } - CC{ b c a } + CC{c a b })‘); 
grcalc(CHR(bdn,bdn,bdn)); grdisplay(CHR(bdn,bdn,bdn)); 

and the rest of the routines are unchanged. The only problem remains now to introduce in an adequate way the components of the torsion tensor.I used the suggestion from [6], pointing that we can assume that the 2-form $T^\alpha$ associated to the torsion tensor should have the same pattern as the $d\theta^\alpha$’s where $\theta^\alpha$ is the orthonormal coframe, who’s components are denoted in GRTensorII with $w1{dn}$ ...$w4{dn}$. Thus this operation is possible only after we introduced the metric (with qload command). Then calculating the derivatives of the orthonormal frame vector basis components we can introduce the torsion components by inspecting carefully these derivatives. Here there is an example of how this becomes possible in MAPLE+GRTensorII using one of the metric examples presented in the next section:

grcalc(w1(dn,pdn));grcalc(w2(dn,pdn));
grcalc(w3(dn,pdn));grcalc(w4(dn,pdn)); 
grdisplay(w1(dn,pdn)); grdisplay(w2(dn,pdn)); 
grdisplay(w3(dn,pdn)); grdisplay(w4(dn,pdn));
grcalc(w1(bdn,pbdn));grcalc(w2(bdn,pbdn));
grcalc(w3(bdn,pbdn));grcalc(w4(bdn,pbdn)); 
grdisplay(w1(bdn,pbdn));grdisplay(w2(bdn,pbdn)); 
grdisplay(w3(bdn,pbdn));grdisplay(w4(bdn,pbdn));
grdef(‘tor{ ^a b c }:=w1{ b ,c }*kdelta{ ^a $x } + w2{ b ,c }*kdelta{ ^a $y } + w3{ b ,c }*kdelta{ ^a $z } + w4{ b ,c }*kdelta{ ^a $t }‘); 
grcalc(tor(up,dn,dn));grdisplay(tor(up,dn,dn));
grmap(tor(up,dn,dn),subs,f(x)=v4(x),h(x)=v3(x),g(x)=v2(x),‘x‘);
The reader can observe that we first assigned the components of the torsion tensor (here denoted with $\text{tor}\{\text{up}, \text{dn}, \text{dn}\}$) then after displaying his components we can decide to substitute new functions describing the torsion instead of the functions describing the metric. Of course finally we calculate the components of the torsion in an orthonormal anholonomic reference frame ($\text{tor}\{\text{bup}, \text{bdn}, \text{bdn}\}$).

6 Some specific results

This section is devoted to a list of some recent results we obtained by running our procedures in MAPLE+GRTensorII, already described in the previous sections. First we tested our programs by re-obtaining the form of the Dirac equations in several spacetime metrics, obtained with REDUCE+EXCLOC procedures and reported in our previous articles [12]-[13]. The concordance of these results with previous ones was a good sign for us to proceed with more complicated and new examples, including ones with torsion. Here we shall present some of these late examples.

1. Conformally static metric with $\Phi$ and $\Sigma$ constant [6] where the line element is:

$$ds^2 = e^{2\Phi t + 2\Sigma} a(r)^2 dr^2 + e^{2\Phi t + 2\Sigma} r^2 d\theta^2 + e^{2\Phi t + 2\Sigma} r^2 \sin(\theta)^2 d\phi^2 - e^{2\Phi t + 2\Sigma} b(r)^2 dt^2$$

Thus the Dirac equation becomes:

$$i\hbar e^{-\Phi t - \Sigma} \left[ \gamma^1 \left( \frac{1}{a(r)} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{2a(r)b(r)} b'(r) - \frac{1}{a(r)r} \right) + \gamma^2 \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) 
\right. \left. - \frac{1}{2r} \cotg(\theta) \right] + \frac{1}{b(r)} \gamma^0 \left( \frac{3}{2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right) \psi - mc\psi = 0$$

where $b'(r)$ is the derivative $\partial b(r)/\partial r$. 

2. Taub-NUT spacetime having the line element as:

\[ ds^2 = -4l^2 U(t) dy^2 - 8l^2 U(t) \cos(\theta) dy d\phi - (t^2 + l^2) d\theta^2 + (-4l^2 U(t) \cos(\theta)^2 - (t^2 + l^2) \sin(\theta)^2) d\phi^2 + \frac{1}{U(t)} dt^2 \]

the coordinates being \((y, \theta, \phi, t)\). We obtained the Dirac equation as:

\[
\frac{i\hbar}{t^2 + l^2} \left[ -\gamma^0 \left( \frac{t^2 + l^2}{4\sqrt{U(t)}} U'(t) + \sqrt{U(t)} \left( 1 + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \right) - \cotg(\theta) \sqrt{t^2 + l^2} \gamma^2 \right] \psi(t) - mc\psi(t) = 0
\]

3. Gödel spacetime, having the line element as:

\[ ds^2 = -a^2 dx^2 + \frac{1}{2} a^2 e^{2x} dy^2 + 2a^2 e^x c dy dt - a^2 dz^2 + a^2 c^2 dt^2 \]

in coordinates \((x, y, z, t)\). Here the Dirac equation is simply:

\[
i\hbar \frac{1}{a} \left[ -\gamma^1 \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) + \sqrt{2} \gamma^2 \left( e^{-x} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) - \gamma^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right] \psi(x, y, z, t) - mc\psi(x, y, z, t) = 0
\]

4. McCrea static spacetime [6] with torsion having the line element as

\[ ds^2 = -e^{2f(x)} dt^2 + dx^2 + e^{2g(x)} dy^2 + e^{2h(x)} dz^2 \]

in \((x, y, z, t)\) coordinates. If the coordinate lines of \(y\) are closed with \(0 \leq y < 2\pi\) and \(-\infty < z < \infty\), \(0 < x < \infty\), the spacetime is cylindrically with \(y\) as the angular, \(x\) the cylindrical radial and \(z\) the longitudinal coordinate. If \(-\infty, x, y, z < \infty\) the symmetry is pseudo-planar. In [6] McCrea considers the simplest solution of Einstein equations with cosmological constant as

\[ f = h = h = qx/3 \quad (11) \]

and the cosmological constant turns to be \(q^2/3\). We shall first consider the general case specializing the results at the final step of the program to the
above particular solution. Running our MAPLE+GRTensorII procedures, at first we obtain the torsion tensor component as:

\[ T_y^{yx} = \frac{\partial v^2(x)}{\partial x} e^{v^2(x)} ; \quad T_z^{zx} = \frac{\partial v^3(x)}{\partial x} e^{v^3(x)} ; \quad T_t^{tx} = \frac{\partial v^4(x)}{\partial x} e^{v^4(x)} \]

the rest of the components being zero. This time we have obtained the Dirac equation, depending also on the components of the torsion tensor as:

\[
i\hbar\gamma^1 \left( e^{v^2(x)} \frac{\partial v^2(x)}{\partial x} + e^{v^3(x)} \frac{\partial v^3(x)}{\partial x} + e^{v^4(x)} \frac{\partial v^4(x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial g(x)}{\partial x} \right) \psi(x) - mc \psi(x) = 0
\]

Of course when we specialize to the particular solution proposed by McCrea in [6] we have to assign the form of metric functions as in (11) and we can then take the torsion functions as

\[ v^2 = v^3 = v^4 = v(x) \]

and the Dirac equation becomes

\[
i\hbar\gamma^1 \left( \frac{3}{2} \frac{\partial v(x)}{\partial x} e^{v(x)} - \frac{1}{2} q + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \psi(x) - mc \psi(x) = 0
\]

5 Schwarzschild metric with torsion. This example is interesting in the view of recent investigations on the contribution of torsion in gravity experiments using atomic interferometry [10]. Here we used the Schwarzschild metric having the line element written as

\[ ds^2 = e^{\lambda(r)} dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin(\theta)^2 d\phi^2 - e^{\nu(r)} dt^2 \]

Here we prefer to specialize the form of \( \lambda(r) \) and \( \nu(r) \) functions as

\[ \nu(r) = 1 - \frac{2m}{r} = \frac{1}{\lambda(r)} \]

(we have \( G = c = 1 \) later, after obtaining the form of the Dirac equation in term of \( \lambda(r) \) and \( \nu(r) \) functions.
Using the same “trick” as in the previous example, we choose the components of the torsion tensor as

\[ T_{rr}^r = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial f_1(r)}{\partial r} e^{1/2f_1(r)} ; \quad T_{\theta r}^\theta = 1 ; \quad T_{\phi r}^\phi = \sin(\theta) \]

\[ T_{tr}^t = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial f_2(r)}{\partial r} e^{1/2f_2(r)} ; \quad T_{\phi \theta}^\phi = r \cos(\theta) \]

the rest of the components being zero. Running away our procedures we obtain the Dirac equation containing terms with torsion tensor components as:

\[
\begin{align*}
  i\hbar \left[ \frac{1}{4} e^{-\lambda(r)/2} \gamma^1 \left( \frac{\partial f_2(r)}{\partial r} e^{f_2(r)/2} - \frac{\partial \psi(r)}{\partial r} - \frac{4}{r} + 2(\sin(\theta)) + 4 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \right. \\
  \left. \frac{1}{2} \gamma^2 (\cos(\theta) - \cotg(\theta)) \right] \psi(r) - m\psi(r) = 0
\end{align*}
\]

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**References**


