

Mathematics. — *Line geometry and Quantum mechanics.* By E. M. BRUINS.
(Communicated by Prof. L. E. J. BROUWER.)

(Communicated at the meeting of November 26, 1949.)

§ 1. *Introduction.*

The essential difference between classical physics and quantum physics lies in the fact, that classical physics specifies a physical state by a *finite* number of coordinates, whereas quantum physics uses in principle an infinite number of coordinates. The series of coordinates e.g.

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n, \dots$$

was represented in quantum physics (using some system of orthogonal functions) by a function of an auxiliary variable ξ , the wave function. Transition to a different ordertype of the coordinates gives us another representation of the same state: e.g. the ordertype $\omega 2$

$$a_1, a_3, a_5, \dots ; a_2, a_4, a_6, \dots$$

specifies the states by means of *two* functions of one variable. An ordertype ω^n . κ would specify the states by means of κ functions of n variables. So neither the number of functions, nor the number of variables used is of fundamental importance.

On the other hand the structure of Dirac equations, being formally that of the incidence of a point and a line in threedimensional projective space G_4 , suggests from the mathematical point of view the use of the theory of projective invariants, of complex symbols rather than a tensor calculus using special metrical tensors. Also the Poisson brackets of classical physics correspond to algebraical expressions in quantum mechanics! In the following we show that indeed the formalism of a geometry of second order, that of line geometry in G_4 is extremely simple used for quantum-physical purposes.

§ 2. *Generalisation of Dirac equations.*

a. A linecomplex q^2 in G_4 :

$$q_{12} \pi_{34} + q_{13} \pi_{42} + \dots = 0,$$

can be represented symbolically by $(q^2 \pi^2) = 0$ and has only one invariant

$$(q^2 q_1^2) = \Omega(q^2) = q_{12} q_{34} + q_{13} q_{42} + q_{14} q_{23},$$

from which, as is well known, follows an isomorphism of the projective group in G_4 and the sexternary group leaving invariant $\Omega(q^2)$. The relation

can be transformed by one of FELIX KLEIN's substitutions in the sum of six squares e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} Q_4 + iQ_6 &= q_{12} \quad , \quad Q_1 - iQ_2 = q_{13} \quad , \quad -Q_3 - iQ_5 = q_{14} \\ Q_4 - iQ_6 &= q_{34} \quad , \quad Q_1 + iQ_2 = q_{42} \quad , \quad -Q_3 + iQ_5 = q_{23} . \end{aligned}$$

With these coordinates corresponds a differentialoperator in six-dimensional Euclidean space E_6 :

$$\Delta'_4 + i\Delta'_6 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4} + \frac{\partial}{\partial ix_6} = \partial'_{12} = -\partial'_{21} = \partial_{34} = -\partial_{43} \quad , \quad \text{etc.}$$

which allows to introduce an alternating differentialoperator of order $\frac{1}{2}$ in threedimensional space described by complexsymbols transforming cogredient to the points. We have then immediately the relations between the sixdimensional linear form $(\Delta'Q)$ and the quarternary bracket $(\partial^2 q^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta'Q) &\equiv 2 \operatorname{div} Q \equiv (\partial^2 q^2) \\ (\partial^2 \partial_1^2) &\equiv \Delta_6 \equiv \text{Laplaceoperator.} \end{aligned}$$

An alternating 2-tensor in E_6 corresponds with a pencilcomplex in G_4 ; a symmetrical 2-tensor with a quadratic linecomplex.

Rot P' can e.g. be represented by

$$(\Delta'\pi)(\pi P') \text{ in } E_6, \quad \pi_i \pi_k = -\pi_k \pi_i,$$

and pushing down into G_4 we obtain

$$(\partial^2 \pi^2)(\varrho^2 p^2) \quad , \quad \pi^2 \cdot \varrho^2 = -\varrho^2 \cdot \pi^2.$$

The components of Rot P' are thus expressed by linear combinations of the 15 coefficients of a pencilcomplex in G_4 .

The symbolical methods for the study of these forms have allready been discussed by R. WEITZENBÖCK, Komplexsymbolik (1908).

b. The necessary and sufficient condition for the possibility of splitting up

$$q_{ik} = (fg)_{ik} = \begin{vmatrix} f_i & g_i \\ f_k & g_k \end{vmatrix},$$

in which f, g are transforming cogredient to the points of G_4 is, that the linecomplex q^2 be a special linecomplex i.e. $(q^2 q_1^2) = 0$.

The Moebius correlation with regard to a general linecomplex is given by $(q^2 xy) = 0$. There exist points with an undetermined conjugated plane only for special complexes and for the points x , on the axis of the complex, holds

$$(q^2 xy) \equiv 0 \{y\}.$$

The equations of motion of the free Dirac electrons are given by the condition that f lies on the axis of the special linecomplex ∂^2 .

The conditions

$$(\partial^2 fg) \equiv 0 \{g\}$$

read, written in full

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \partial_{34} f_2 + \partial_{42} f_3 + \partial_{23} f_4 &= 0 \\ \partial_{34} f_1 + \partial_{13} f_4 + \partial_{41} f_3 &= 0 \\ \partial_{21} f_4 + \partial_{42} f_1 + \partial_{14} f_2 &= 0 \\ \partial_{12} f_3 + \partial_{23} f_1 + \partial_{31} f_2 &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Introducing the operators

$$p_k = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k}$$

and the matrices

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}, & a_2 &= -i \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}, & a_3 &= \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}, \\ a_4 &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix}, & a_5 &= i \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}, & a_6 &= -i \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

this system reads

$$(\sum_k a_k p_k) \cdot f = 0. \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad (1)$$

A quantity $f_i \neq 0$ can only exist if the symbolical invariant of the operator ∂^2 vanishes i.e.

$$(\partial^2 \partial_1^2) \cdot f \equiv \Delta_6 \cdot f = 0. \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad (2)$$

From the fact that the p_k transform contragredient to the points of E_6 and from the invariance of equation (1) it follows that the a_k must transform cogredient to the points of E_6 . (see also Remark I).

To a physical state we make correspond a special symbolical linecomplex. The equations (1), (2) then contain a generalisation of the Dirac equations of motion of the free electron, and are easily identified with those if we, e.g., specialising, put

$$f_i = e^{Ax_4} f_i^* (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_6).$$

c. General equations of motion for non-free particles lie before hand: they can be obtained from the, only possible, projective invariant form

$$(\partial^2 f g) + (c^2 f g) \equiv 0 \{g\}. \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad (3)$$

If we put, specialising,

$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_4} = (m_0 c - A) f_i, \quad \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_5} = S f_i$$

and apart from numerical constants

$$C = (\alpha_x, \alpha_y, \alpha_z, A, S, i\varphi)$$

we obtain the well known Dirac equations for the electrons in an arbitrary field. The postulate of Dirac

$$p_k \rightarrow p_k + c_k$$

corresponds to the postulate of projective invariance in G_4 .

That the corresponding wave equation of the general equations of motion contains 15 additional spin terms is evident from the multiplication into $(\alpha_1 p_1 + \alpha_2 p_2 + \alpha_3 p_3 + \alpha_4 p_4 + \alpha_5 p_5 - \alpha_6 p_6)$ of (3).

d. We can also specialise the equations (3) by supposing a relation between the f_i , which can be interpreted as a *structure of the particle*. If e.g. we put

$$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_6} = \sum_k A_{nk} f_k$$

the equation (3) becomes with 5 variables

$$(\sum \alpha_\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\mu} + \alpha_\mu L_\mu + \alpha_\mu \alpha_\nu A_{\mu\nu} + M \|1\|) \cdot f = 0$$

$$A_{\mu\nu} = -A_{\nu\mu} \quad (\mu, \nu = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$$

which are *Møller's meson equations*¹⁾. The matrix $\|A\|$ can be a general matrix; without a relation between the f_i we cannot obtain terms $\alpha_\mu \alpha_\nu$ in an invariant way as a matrix that anticommutes with $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5$ must vanish.

§ 3. Densities in quantum mechanics.

a. Let us consider the quantities

$$j_k = \varphi' \alpha_k \varphi,$$

the sixth component is apart from a constant the quaternary linear form $I = (\varphi' \varphi)$. As is easily controlled we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^6 j_k^2 = \sum_{k=1}^6 (\varphi' \alpha_k \varphi)^2 = 0.$$

The vector j_k in E_6 is an isotrope vector.

b. Between the α_k , $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ we have the relations

$$\alpha_i \alpha_k = -\alpha_k \alpha_i$$

$$\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \alpha_3 \alpha_4 = \alpha_5.$$

If now we form the quantities

$$P_k = \varphi' \alpha_k \varphi; \quad p_{ik} = \varphi' \alpha_i \alpha_k \varphi; \quad q_{ikl} = \varphi' \alpha_i \alpha_k \alpha_l \varphi; \quad a'_n = \varphi' \alpha_i \alpha_k \alpha_l \alpha_m \varphi$$

¹⁾ C. MØLLER, D. Danske Vid. Selsk. math.-fys. Medd., 18 (1941).

we can represent P , p^2 , q^3 , a' by a point P , a plane complex p^2 , a line complex q^3 and a G_4 in G_5 .

Because of the commutation rules between the a_k we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_i a_k a_l &= -\text{signum}(i k l m n) a_m a_n \\ a_i a_k a_l a_m &= +\text{signum}(i k l m n) a_n \end{aligned}$$

or

$$P_k = a'_k \quad p_{ik} = -q'_{ik},$$

q'_{ik} being the space coordinates of q^3 . If there did not exist relations of the form

$$(p_1^2 p_2^2 x) = \text{factor}(a' x) \quad ; \quad (p^2 P \pi^2) = \text{factor}(q^3 \pi^2)$$

the physical system would apart from the linear form $(\varphi \varphi)$ have other invariants, independent of this one, as $(p^2 p_1^2 P)$, $(p^2 q^3)$, ...

We have to control the projective invariant relations between P , p^2 , q^3 , a' .

I. We consider the line complex $(p^2 P \pi^2)$ and calculating the 15 relations we obtain

$$\sum_{\text{cycl } i, k, l} p_{ik} P_l = I q_{ikl}$$

or

$$\underline{(p^2 P \pi^2) \equiv I(q^3 \pi^2)} \quad \{\pi^2\}.$$

II. The space $(p^2 p_1^2 x)$ leads to calculate the 5 forms

$$p_{ik} p_{lm} + p_{il} p_{mk} + p_{im} p_{lk} = I a'_n$$

or

$$\underline{(p^2 p_1^2 x) \equiv I(a' x)} \quad \{x\}.$$

So there is only one invariant I , $(a'P) = I^2$ and the relations between the "densities" are in geometrical form

I. q^3 is the compound of p^2 and P .

II. a' is the focalspace of the plane complex p^2 ;

P is the focus of the line complex q^3 .

c. In sixdimensional space we can build a G_4 -complex with

$$\begin{aligned} p_{ik} &= \varphi' a_i a_k \varphi & (i, k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) \\ p_{k6} &= -p_{6k} = \varphi' a_k \varphi \end{aligned}$$

We, then, have firstly to consider the line complex

$$(p^2 p_1^2 \pi^2) = (s^4 \pi^2).$$

From b we see immediately

$$s_{iklm} = (p^2 p_1^2)_{iklm} = I P_n = I p_{n6}$$

$$s_{ikl6} = p_{ik} p_{l6} + p_{il} p_{6k} + p_{i6} p_{kl} = p_{ik} P_l + p_{li} P_k + p_{kl} P_i = I q_{ikl} = I p_{mn}.$$

We can therefore sum up all relations given by I, II in

$$(p^2 p_1^2 \pi^2) \equiv I (r^4 \pi^2) \quad (\pi^2)$$

$$r'_{ik} = p_{ik} \quad i, k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.$$

The invariant of the complex is now evidently

$$(p^2 p_1^2 p_2^2) \equiv I \Sigma p_{ik}^2 \equiv 2I^3 \quad \text{as} \quad \Sigma p_{ik}^2 = (p^2 q^3) + I^2.$$

Remark I.

If we transform (f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4) by a general projective transformation S of G_4

$$\bar{f} = S \cdot f$$

the bracket $(\partial^2 f g)$ will be transformed, apart from the transformation modulus, the determinant of S , in $(\bar{\partial}^2 \bar{f} \bar{g})$. The generalised Dirac equations will then be transformed in

$$(\Sigma a_k \bar{p}_k) \bar{f} = (\Sigma a_k \bar{p}_k) \cdot S f.$$

As we remarked already in § 2 the fact that p_k transform contragredient to the points in E_6 in the orthogonal transformation corresponding to the projective transformation S in G_4 we can multiplying at the left side by an operator T restore the original equations whilst

$$f_i(x_1, \dots, x_6) = \bar{f}_i(\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_6).$$

The a_k are then transformed cogredient to the points of E_6 . We will deduce the explicit form of T .

a. The general projective transformation S of G_4 can be represented by the symbolical product²⁾

$$S: (a' x) (a u') \quad \text{which reads} \quad \tilde{x}_i = \sum_k a_i a'_k x_k.$$

The determinant of the transformation is $D = (a' b' c' d') (\alpha \beta \gamma \delta)$, apart from a constant. The inverse transformation is

$$S^{-1}: (a' b' c' u') (\alpha \beta \gamma x) = (a' x) (a u')$$

Indeed

$$S^{-1} S: (a' x) (\alpha a') (a u') = \frac{1}{4} D \cdot (u' x)$$

as we obtain splitting up $a' a'$ in $(b' c' d')$, $(\beta \gamma \delta)$ and transforming the a' into the last bracket.

The transformation of the line coordinates in G can be easily found: intersecting

$$(a' x) (a u') = 0 \quad (b' y) (\beta u') = 0, \quad (x y)_{ik} = p_{ik}$$

²⁾ The projective invariants of S are given by the chains, the first of which is the diagonal sum

$$I_1 = (a' a), \quad I_2 = (a' \beta) (b' a), \quad I_3 = (a' \beta) (b' \gamma) (c' a), \quad I_4 = (a' \beta) (b' \gamma) (c' \delta) (d' a).$$

we have

$$(a' x) (b' y) (a \beta \pi^2) \equiv \frac{1}{2} (a' p) (b' p) (a \beta \pi^2)$$

or

$$\tilde{p}_{ik} = \{ (a \beta)_{ik} \sum (a' b')_{\lambda \mu} p_{\lambda \mu} = (a \beta)_{ik} L$$

where, introducing the sixdimensional coordinates X_1, X_2, \dots, X_6 we have

$$L = \{ (a' b')_{13} + (a' b')_{42} \} X_1 - i \{ (a' b')_{13} - (a' b')_{42} \} X_2 + \\ \{ -(a' b')_{14} - (a' b')_{23} \} X_3 - i \{ (a' b')_{14} - (a' b')_{23} \} X_5 + \\ \{ (a' b')_{12} + (a' b')_{34} \} X_3 + i \{ (a' b')_{12} - (a' b')_{34} \} X_6.$$

or calculating the $\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_6$ from the \tilde{p}_{ik}

$$\tilde{X}_1 = \frac{(a \beta)_{13} + (a \beta)_{42}}{2} L, \quad \tilde{X}_2 = i \frac{(a \beta)_{13} - (a \beta)_{42}}{2} L, \quad \tilde{X}_3 = -\frac{(a \beta)_{14} + (a \beta)_{23}}{2} L \\ \tilde{X}_4 = \frac{(a \beta)_{12} + (a \beta)_{34}}{2} L, \quad \tilde{X}_5 = +i \frac{(a \beta)_{14} - (a \beta)_{23}}{2} L, \quad \tilde{X}_6 = -i \frac{(a \beta)_{12} - (a \beta)_{34}}{2} L.$$

As this transformation is an orthogonal transformation in E_6 we obtain the inverse transformation

$$X_i = \sum_k O_{ik} \tilde{X}_k$$

by simply interchanging the rows and columns, apart from a numerical constant.

On the other hand

$$\sum_k c_k a_k = \begin{vmatrix} c_4 - i c_6 & 0 & c_3 - i c_5 & c_1 - i c_2 \\ 0 & c_4 - i c_6 & c_1 + i c_2 & -c_3 - i c_5 \\ c_3 + i c_5 & c_1 - i c_2 & -c_4 - i c_6 & 0 \\ c_1 + i c_2 & -c_3 + i c_5 & 0 & -c_4 - i c_6 \end{vmatrix}$$

so we can easily express

$$\sum_k O_{ik} a_k = [a', b']_i \begin{vmatrix} (a \beta)_{34} & 0 & -(a \beta)_{14} & (a \beta)_{13} \\ 0 & (a \beta)_{34} & (a \beta)_{42} & (a \beta)_{23} \\ -(a \beta)_{23} & (a \beta)_{13} & -(a \beta)_{12} & 0 \\ (a \beta)_{42} & (a \beta)_{14} & 0 & -(a \beta)_{12} \end{vmatrix}$$

where $[a', b']_i$ is the symbolical coefficient of X_i in L .

Multiplying on the right with S we have as e.g.

$$(a \beta)_{34} \gamma_1 c'_i - (a \beta)_{24} \gamma_3 c'_i + (a \beta)_{23} \gamma_4 c'_i = (a \beta \gamma)_{341} c'_i$$

$$\sum_k O_{ik} a_k \cdot S = [a', b']_i \begin{vmatrix} \dots, (a \beta \gamma)_{341} c'_i, \dots \\ \dots, (a \beta \gamma)_{342} c'_i, \dots \\ \dots, (a \beta \gamma)_{231} c'_i, \dots \\ \dots, (a \beta \gamma)_{421} c'_i, \dots \end{vmatrix}$$

from which introducing the a, a' by using cyclical symmetry is obtained

$$\sum_k O_{ik} a_k \cdot S = T a_i$$

$$T = \begin{vmatrix} T_{22} & -T_{21} & -T_{24} & T_{23} \\ -T_{12} & T_{11} & T_{14} & -T_{13} \\ -T_{42} & T_{41} & T_{44} & -T_{43} \\ T_{32} & -T_{31} & -T_{34} & T_{33} \end{vmatrix} \quad T_{ik} = (S^{-1})_{ik}.$$

We have e.g. for $i = 1$ from

$$[(a' b')_{13} + (a' b')_{42}] c'_1$$

$$\lambda = 1, (a' b' c')_{421}; \lambda = 2, (a' b' c')_{132}; \lambda = 3, (a' b' c')_{423}; \lambda = 4, (a' b' c')_{134}$$

$$\sum_k O_{1k} a_k \cdot S = \begin{vmatrix} a'_2 c_3 & -a'_2 c_4 & -a'_2 c_1 & a'_2 c_2 \\ . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . \\ . & . & . & . \end{vmatrix} = T a_1.$$

Remark II.

The relations deduced in § 3 will be seen to correspond to the Pauli-identities. Recently G. PETIAU³⁾ has deduced these relations using tensor calculus, introducing a special metrical tensor. It may be of use to show the identity of his final results with the relations obtained above.

A. The relation

$$f_{\alpha\beta} \omega_1 = f_{\alpha\beta\gamma} j^\gamma$$

reads in projective notation

$$\omega_1 (p\pi')^2 \equiv (q\pi')^2 (qj') \equiv (q'^2 j' \pi'^2) \quad \{\pi\}$$

or

$$(q'^2 j')_{ikl} = \omega_1 p'_{ikl}.$$

B. The relation

$$f_{\alpha\beta\gamma} f^{\gamma\delta} = \omega_1 [g_\alpha^\delta j_\beta - g_\beta^\delta j_\alpha]$$

reads in projective notation

$$(q\pi')^2 (q q') (q' x) \equiv \omega_1 (g' g) (g' x) (g\pi') (j\pi')$$

which shows because of the fact that $(g' g)$ is a reducent on $(g' g)^2$ that this relation is completely independent of the metrical tensor used!! So it is superfluous to introduce a metrical tensor for these relations. We have

$$(q\pi')^2 (q q') (q' x) \equiv \text{const } \omega_1 (g' g)^2 (x\pi') (j\pi')$$

and transforming to pointcoordinates we have

$$(\pi^3 q^2) (q q_1^3 x) \sim (q^3 \pi^2) (\pi q_1^3 x) \sim -(\pi^2 q_1^2 x) (\pi q_1 q^3) \sim (q^3 q_1^2) (q_1 \pi^3 x)$$

or

$$(j u') \equiv (q^3 q_1^2) (q_1 u')$$

³⁾ Revue scientifique 83, 37 (1945).

which with the contravariant notation of q^3 results in

$$\omega_1(ju') \equiv (p'^2 p_1'^2 u').$$

Conclusion:

If we represent a physical state by a symbolical special linecomplex

$$p_{ik} = (fg)_{ik} \text{ in } G_4,$$

where f, g , are functions of six variables x_i , the generalised Dirac equations of motion correspond to the incidence of the point f with the axis of $\partial^2 + c^2$

$$(\partial^2 fg) + (c^2 fg) \equiv 0 \quad \{g\}$$

which is of the form

$$\sum_k a_k \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} + c_k \right) \cdot f$$

in which the spin matrices a_k transform like the point coordinates of the orthogonal transformations of x_i . We can use general projective transformations for the f . The MØLLER meson equations can be obtained by relations between the f_i . The relations between the "densities"

$$\varphi' a_i a_k \varphi, \quad \varphi' a_k \varphi$$

can be considered as those of the coordinates of a G_4 -complex in E_6 P_{ik} , which, satisfies the relation

$$(P^2 P_1^2 \pi^2) \equiv (\varphi' \varphi) (R^4 \pi^2) \quad \{\pi^2\}$$

$$R'_{ik} = P_{ik}.$$

The Dirac postulate for the equations of motion in an external field follows automatically from the projective invariance in G_4 .