

SUSY implies the gravitino will have a spin  $3/2$  partner the gravitino. The spin  $3/2$  field is known as the Rarita-Schwinger field. Consider the free massive (Majorana) Rarita-Schwinger field  $\Psi_\mu(x)$ ,  $\bar{\Psi}_\mu(x)$ , it is a vector-spinor field. Such a field obeys the Dirac equation for each value of the vector index

$$(i\not{\partial} - m)\Psi_\mu = 0$$

where

$$\Psi_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{\mu\alpha} \\ \bar{\psi}_\mu^{\dot{\alpha}} \end{pmatrix}; \quad \gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ as}$$

usual in the Weyl representation

along with the constraint

$$\gamma^\mu \Psi_\mu = 0.$$

From the Dirac equation

$$\gamma^\mu (i\not{\partial} - m)\Psi_\mu = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \partial_\nu \Psi_\mu = 0 = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu + \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu) \partial_\nu \Psi_\mu \\ = \eta^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu \Psi_\mu = \delta^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu \Psi_\mu$$

So we also have

$$\gamma^\mu \psi_\mu = 0.$$

The plane wave solutions to the spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  Dirac equation are

$$\psi_\mu(x) = u_\mu(\vec{p}) e^{-ipx} \quad ; \quad p^2 = m^2$$

$$S_0 \quad (i\not{\partial} - m)\psi_\mu = (\not{\not{p}} - m)u_\mu(\vec{p})e^{-ipx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\not{\not{p}} - m)u_\mu(\vec{p}) = 0$$

Now let's use the usual Dirac representation for the  $\gamma$ -matrices so that the rest frame field equation

$$(m\gamma^0 - m)u_\mu(\vec{0}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\gamma^0 u_\mu(\vec{0}) = u_\mu(\vec{0})}$$

has the usual form it has in the case of spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  particles: the lower 2 components of  $u_\mu(\vec{0})$  vanish for each  $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

That is in the Dirac representation

$$\gamma^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \gamma^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma^1 \\ -\sigma^1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \gamma^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma^2 \\ -\sigma^2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \gamma^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma^3 \\ -\sigma^3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

we have

$$\gamma^0 u_\mu(\vec{0}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \chi_\mu \\ \phi_\mu \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_\mu \\ -\phi_\mu \end{bmatrix} \equiv +u_\mu(\vec{0})$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_\mu = 0; \quad \chi_\mu = \text{arbitrary 2-spinor.}$$

So  $u_\mu(\vec{0}) = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_\mu \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  4 2-spinors

The subsidiary condition  $\gamma^\mu \mathcal{U}_\mu = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\gamma^\mu u_\mu(\vec{0}) = 0 = \gamma^0 u_0 - \gamma^i u_i$$

but  $\gamma^0 u_0 = +u_0 \Rightarrow$

$$\boxed{u_0(\vec{0}) = \gamma^i u_i(\vec{0}) = \vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{u}(\vec{0})}$$

but

$$\gamma^i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma^i \\ -\sigma^i & 0 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \text{So } \gamma^i u_i(\vec{0}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sigma^i \\ -\sigma^i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \chi^i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\sigma^i \chi^i \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence

$$\mathcal{U}_0(\vec{0}) = \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\mathcal{U}}(\vec{0}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\sigma^i \chi_i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\parallel$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \chi_0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi_0 = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{U}_0(\vec{0}) = 0}$$

(Note:  $\partial_\mu \mathbb{I} = 0$   
 $\rightarrow m \mathcal{U}_0(\vec{0}) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \mathcal{U}_0(\vec{0}) = 0$ )

and

$$\boxed{\sigma^i \chi_i = 0 = \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\chi}}$$

Thus only 4 of the 6 components of  $\chi_{1,2,3}$  are independent.

$$\text{let } \chi_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_i \\ b_i \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{So}$$

$$\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\chi} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 - ib_2 + a_3 \\ a_1 + ia_2 - b_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\begin{aligned} a_3 &= -(b_1 - ib_2) \\ b_3 &= +(a_1 + ia_2) \end{aligned}}$$

-5-

The spinors  $u_{\mu}(\vec{p})$  are completely fixed by the  $u_{\mu}(\vec{0})$ . Thus we only have 4 independent components, just the number of spinors needed to describe a spin  $3/2$  massive particle with  $z$ -components of spin  $\pm 3/2, \pm 1/2$  in the particle's rest frame.

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Finally the Lagrangian for the massive gravitino is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \bar{\Psi}_{\mu} \gamma_5 \gamma_{\nu} \partial_{\rho} \Psi_{\sigma} - \frac{1}{4} m \bar{\Psi}_{\mu} [\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}] \Psi_{\nu}$$

Recall that  $\Psi_{\mu}$  is a Majorana field.

The Dirac equation for  $\Psi_{\mu}$ ,  $(i\not{\partial} - m)\Psi_{\mu} = 0$ ,

and the constraint  $\gamma^{\mu} \Psi_{\mu} = 0$  follow

from the Euler-Lagrange equation obtained from this Lagrangian.

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