

8.3 Derivation of the Dirac equation.

Expand $\exp\left[\frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{\eta}}{2}\right]$ and split the sum into even and odd terms, using $(\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{\eta})^{2n} = 1$ and $(\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{\eta})^{2n+1} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{\eta}$.

Insert $\gamma = E/m$, multiply with $[(E+m)/(E+m)]^{1/2}$ and combine the two term.

Set $\phi_L(0) = \phi_R(0)$ and eliminate the zero momentum spinor,

$$\phi_R(p) = \frac{E+m+\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}}{\sqrt{2m(E+m)}} \phi_R(0) = \frac{E+m+\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}}{E+m-\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}} \phi_L(p) = A \phi_L(p) \quad (180)$$

Multiply A with $(E+m-\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p})/(E+m-\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p})$ and evaluate the expression

$$A = \frac{(E+m)^2 + \boldsymbol{p}^2 + 2(E+m)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}}{(E+m)^2 - \boldsymbol{p}^2} = \frac{2E^2 + 2Em + 2(E+m)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}}{2m^2 + 2Em} = \frac{E+\boldsymbol{\sigma}\boldsymbol{p}}{m}. \quad (181)$$