

1. The Poincaré algebra is defined by the commutation relations

$$[P_\mu, P_\nu] = 0, \quad [M_{\mu\nu}, P_\rho] = i(\eta_{\nu\rho}P_\mu - \eta_{\mu\rho}P_\nu), \quad (1)$$

$$[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\rho\sigma}] = i(\eta_{\nu\rho}M_{\mu\sigma} - \eta_{\mu\rho}M_{\nu\sigma} + \eta_{\mu\sigma}M_{\mu\rho} - \eta_{\nu\sigma}M_{\mu\rho}), \quad (2)$$

Confirm that the quadratic and quartic Casimirs P^2 and W^2 where $W_\mu = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}M^{\nu\rho}P^\sigma$ commute with all the elements of the Poincaré algebra.

2. The conformal algebra contains all the generators of the Poincaré algebra and also the generators D and K_μ . The extra commutation relations are

$$[D, P_\mu] = iP_\mu, \quad [D, K_\mu] = -iK_\mu, \quad [D, M_{\mu\nu}] = 0, \quad [K_\mu, K_\nu] = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$[M_{\mu\nu}, K_\rho] = i(\eta_{\nu\rho}K_\mu - \eta_{\mu\rho}K_\nu), \quad [P_\mu, K_\nu] = -2i(\eta_{\mu\nu}D + M_{\mu\nu}). \quad (4)$$

What are the commutators of the Poincaré Casimirs with the conformal algebra? What happens to a massive particle state $|p\rangle$ ($P^2|p\rangle = m^2|p\rangle$) under the action of a conformal boost K_μ ?

3. If $\mu, \nu = 0, \dots, d-1$ then we define $J_{\mu\nu} = M_{\mu\nu}$, $J_{\mu,d} = \frac{1}{2}(P_\mu - K_\mu)$, $J_{\mu,d+1} = \frac{1}{2}(P_\mu + K_\mu)$, $J_{d,d+1} = D$. Show that the commutators of these generators are the same as for a $d+2$ -dimensional orthogonal group, with metric signature $(2, d)$.
4. Compute the commutation relation between Q_α and the Pauli-Lubański vector $W^\mu = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}P_\nu M_{\rho\sigma}$. Show that for

$$\tilde{W}^\mu = W^\mu + \frac{1}{4}\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu,\dot{\alpha}\alpha}Q_\alpha, \quad (5)$$

we have $[Q_\alpha, \tilde{W}_\mu] = \frac{1}{2}P_\mu Q_\alpha$. Using this, conclude that the square of $P_\mu \tilde{W}_\nu - P_\nu \tilde{W}_\mu$ is a sextic Casimir of the super-Poincaré group. Unlike for the Poincaré group, there are no quartic Casimirs.

5. The $\mathcal{N}$ -extended superconformal algebra contains, besides the generators in the conformal algebra, also the supersymmetry generators Q_α^i and $\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}i}$ for $i = 1, \dots, \mathcal{N}$ and the conformal supersymmetry generators $S_{\alpha i}$ and $\bar{S}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i$ and some $u(\mathcal{N})$ generators I_i^j and R which rotate the Q and S supercharges.

The extra (anti-)commutation relations are

$$\{S_{\alpha j}, \bar{S}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i\} = 2\delta_j^i \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu K_\mu, \quad (6)$$

$$\{Q_\alpha^i, S_j^\beta\} = -2\delta_j^i (\sigma^{\mu\nu})_{\alpha}{}^\beta M_{\mu\nu} - 4i\delta_\alpha^\beta I_j^i + 2\delta_\alpha^\beta \delta_j^i D + \frac{2i(4-\mathcal{N})}{\mathcal{N}}\delta_\alpha^\beta \delta_j^i R, \quad (7)$$

$$[Q_\alpha^i, K_\mu] = -i(\sigma_\mu)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\bar{S}^{\dot{\alpha}i}, \quad [\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}i}, K_\mu] = -i(\sigma_\mu)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}S_i^\alpha, \quad (8)$$

$$[S_{\alpha i}, P_\mu] = -i(\sigma_\mu)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i, \quad [\bar{S}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i, P_\mu] = -i(\sigma_\mu)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}Q^{\alpha i}, \quad (9)$$

$$[D, Q] = \frac{i}{2}Q, \quad [D, \bar{Q}] = \frac{i}{2}\bar{Q}, \quad [D, S] = -\frac{i}{2}S, \quad [D, \bar{S}] = -\frac{i}{2}\bar{S}, \quad (10)$$

$$[R, Q] = -\frac{1}{2}Q, \quad [R, \bar{Q}] = \frac{1}{2}\bar{Q}, \quad [R, S] = \frac{1}{2}S, \quad [R, \bar{S}] = -\frac{1}{2}\bar{S}, \quad (11)$$

$$[I_j^i, Q^k] = \delta_j^k Q^i - \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}}\delta_j^i Q^k, \quad [I_j^i, \bar{Q}_k] = -\delta_k^i \bar{Q}_j + \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}}\delta_j^i \bar{Q}_k. \quad (12)$$

- Can you close the algebra without the extra generators S? (Hint: try to set $[K, Q] = 0$ and see what happens.)
6. Check a few of the Jacobi identities to confirm the superconformal algebra is consistent.
 7. Something special happens when $\mathcal{N} = 4$; the generator R does not appear in the RHS of any of the commutators. If we remove it from the algebra are the Jacobi identities still satisfied?
 8. There is a field theory with $\mathcal{N} = 4$ superconformal symmetry. It contains six scalars ϕ^I , four Weyl fermions $\lambda_{\alpha i}$ and $\bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i$ and a gauge field A_μ with field strength $F_{\mu\nu}$. The supersymmetry transformations are, schematically

$$[Q, \phi] \sim \lambda, \quad \{Q, \lambda\} \sim F_{\mu\nu} \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu\nu} + \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} [\phi^I, \phi^J], \quad (13)$$

$$\{Q, \bar{\lambda}\} \sim \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu [\nabla_\mu, \phi^I], \quad [Q, A] \sim \bar{\lambda}. \quad (14)$$

Is there a consistent action of the generator R on the fields ϕ , λ and F ?