

# EXAMINATION TENSOR CALCULUS AND DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY

Course code: 2WAH0. Date: Thursday April 13, 2017. Time: 9h00–12h00. Place: Paviljoen L10.

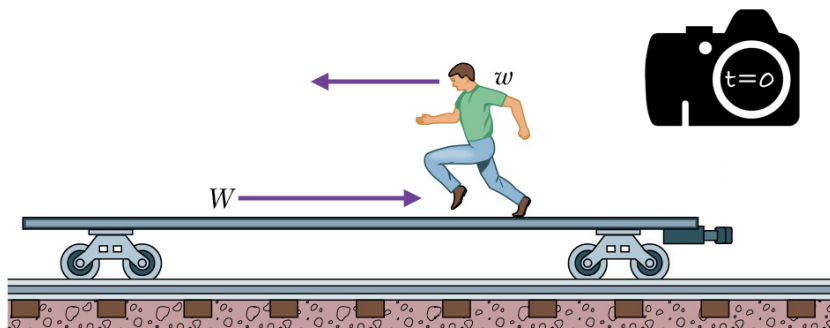
## Read this first!

- Write your name and student identification number on each paper.
- The exam consists of 3 problems. The maximum credit for each item is indicated in the margin.
- Motivate your answers.
- Einstein summation convention applies throughout for all repeated indices.
- You may consult an immaculate hardcopy of the online draft notes “Tensor Calculus and Differential Geometry (2WAH0)” by Luc Florack. No equipment may be used.



## (25) 1. GALILEAN BOOSTS

An observer, standing at the origin  $O : (x, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$  of a Cartesian coordinate system  $(x, y, z)$  attached to the ground, is witnessing a railroad flatcar passing by with velocity  $W$  along the  $x$ -axis. A freerunner is running on the deck with a horizontal velocity  $w$  *relative to the flatcar*, i.e. relative to the origin  $O' : (x', y', z') = (0, 0, 0)$  of a comoving Cartesian coordinate system  $(x', y', z')$  attached to the deck, with  $x'$ -axis aligned with the  $x$ -axis. The sketch shows a snapshot at time  $t = 0$ , which is the moment at which the static and comoving coordinate origins coincide:  $O = O'$ .



MAN RUNNING WITH VELOCITY  $w$  RELATIVE TO THE DECK OF RAILROAD FLATCAR, WHICH IN TURN IS ROLLING ALONG A STRAIGHT HORIZONTAL TRACK WITH VELOCITY  $W$  RELATIVE TO THE GROUND. IN THIS PICTURE  $w < 0$ ,  $W > 0$ .

Suppose  $(w, 0, 0) = (-W, 0, 0)$ . Gut feeling tells us that the freerunner is in rest relative to the external observer. A smart student, however, manages to embarrass her teacher with the following paradox:

“Since the velocity of the freerunner relative to the ground is the zero vector”, she argues, “it must remain the zero vector relative to *any other* coordinate system, since a change of coordinate basis  $(\partial_x, \partial_y, \partial_z) \rightarrow (\partial_{x'}, \partial_{y'}, \partial_{z'})$  induces a *linear* transformation of the components of a vector. Thus he cannot be moving relative to the deck either (i.e.  $w = 0$ ), which in turn means that the flatcar must be standing still ( $W = 0$ ), otherwise the freerunner would not be in rest relative to the external observer. . .”

- (5) **a.** Her conclusion is clearly preposterous, but what is wrong with her ‘linear transformation’ argument?

The transformation relating the coordinate frames considered in the problem is of a *dynamic* nature, thus we have to include time as a fourth dimension. The relative motion implies the following relation between the respective Cartesian coordinates of an event in space and time:

$$\begin{cases} \bar{x}^i &= x^i - v^i t \\ \bar{t} &= t \end{cases} \quad \text{or, inversely,} \quad \begin{cases} x^i &= \bar{x}^i + v^i \bar{t} \\ t &= \bar{t} \end{cases}$$

Note that, if restricted to spatial components only (tacitly assumed by the student in her whimsical argument), this transformation is *nonlinear*. In particular we have for a 3-velocity  $\dot{\bar{x}}^i = \dot{x}^i - v^i$ . The corresponding transformation of the 4-dimensional spacetime coordinate basis and its dual is given by

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\partial}_i &= \partial_i \\ \bar{\partial}_t &= \partial_t + v^i \partial_i \end{cases} \quad \text{resp.} \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dx^i}{dt} &= \frac{d\bar{x}^i}{d\bar{t}} + v^i \frac{d\bar{t}}{d\bar{t}} \\ \frac{dx^i}{dt} &= \frac{d\bar{x}^i}{d\bar{t}} + v^i \end{cases}$$

An object moving relative to the  $(x, y, z, t)$ -coordinate frame along a path  $(x, y, z, t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t), t)$ , say, has a geometric *4-velocity*, the (contravariant) components of which do transform linearly, viz.  $\dot{x}^\mu \partial_\mu = \dot{x}^i \partial_i + \partial_t = \dot{\bar{x}}^i \bar{\partial}_i + \bar{\partial}_t = \dot{\bar{x}}^\mu \bar{\partial}_\mu$ .

We embed the components of a given spatial ‘3-velocity’ vector  $v^i \partial_i = v^1 \partial_x + v^2 \partial_y + v^3 \partial_z$  into a spatiotemporal ‘4-velocity’  $v^\mu \partial_\mu = v^0 \partial_t + v^1 \partial_x + v^2 \partial_y + v^3 \partial_z$ . Here and henceforth Latin indices  $i, j, k, \dots = 1, 2, 3$  index spatial components, whereas Greek indices  $\mu, \nu, \rho = 0, 1, 2, 3$  pertain to spatiotemporal components, with index value 0 reserved for time. The added temporal component of the 4-velocity is invariably defined by the (coordinate independent) constant  $v^0 = 1$ .

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a spatiotemporal event with Cartesian spacetime coordinates  $(x, y, z, t) \in \mathbb{R}^4$  relative to the ground frame, and coordinates  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}, \bar{t}) \in \mathbb{R}^4$  relative to a frame moving to the right with constant horizontal 4-velocity  $(v, 0, 0, 1)$ .

- (5) **b.** Express  $\bar{x}^\mu$  in terms of  $x^\nu$  and vice versa.

v.s.

- (5) **c.** Express the coordinate basis vectors  $\bar{\partial}_\mu$  in terms of  $\partial_\nu$ .

v.s.

- (5) **d.** Express the dual coordinate basis one-forms  $dx^\mu$  in terms of  $d\bar{x}^\nu$ .

v.s.

- (5) **e.** Show that a spatial 3-vector  $v^i \partial_i$  does not obey a (linear) contravariant transformation law, but a suitably constructed 4-vector  $v^\mu \partial_\mu$  does. Is the stipulated definition  $v^0 = 1$  consistent?

v.s.



(40) 2. EUCLIDEAN GEODESICS

Geodesics in Euclidean 2-space, endowed with a flat connection, are most conveniently represented in terms of Cartesian coordinates, viz. if  $\gamma : (x, y) = (x(t), y(t))$  is an affinely parametrized geodesic, then  $\gamma$  satisfies the following system of o.d.e.'s (with each dot representing a derivative  $d/dt$ )

$$* : \begin{cases} \ddot{x} &= 0 \\ \ddot{y} &= 0. \end{cases}$$

We introduce polar coordinates  $(r, \phi) \in [0, \infty) \times [0, 2\pi)$  in the usual way:  $\star : \begin{cases} x &= r \cos \phi \\ y &= r \sin \phi \end{cases}.$

- (5) a. Derive the geodesic equations for  $\gamma : (r, \phi) = (r(t), \phi(t))$  in polar coordinates by substituting the transformation  $\star$  into the system  $*$ .

Straightforward substitution yields

$$** : \begin{cases} \ddot{r} \cos \phi - 2\dot{r} \sin \phi \dot{\phi} - r \cos \phi \dot{\phi}^2 - r \sin \phi \ddot{\phi} &= 0 \\ \ddot{r} \sin \phi + 2\dot{r} \cos \phi \dot{\phi} - r \sin \phi \dot{\phi}^2 + r \cos \phi \ddot{\phi} &= 0. \end{cases}$$

- (10) b. Compute all Christoffel symbols  $\Gamma_{ij}^k$  as well as all first order partial derivatives  $\partial_\ell \Gamma_{ij}^k$  of the flat connection relative to polar coordinates.

[HINT: SHOW THAT THE ONLY NONZERO  $\Gamma$ -SYMBOLS ARE  $\Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi$ ,  $\Gamma_{r\phi}^\phi$  AND  $\Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r$ , AND THAT THESE DO NOT DEPEND ON  $\phi$ .]

The only nonzero Christoffel symbols are  $\Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi = \Gamma_{r\phi}^\phi = \frac{1}{r}$  and  $\Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r = -r$ . As a result the only nontrivial first order partial derivatives are  $\partial_r \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r = -1$ ,  $\partial_r \Gamma_{r\phi}^\phi = \partial_r \Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi = -\frac{1}{r^2}$ . Note that these symbols can also be obtained by inspection of the coefficients of the nonlinear terms in the next problem.

- (5) c. Derive the geodesic equations for  $\gamma : (r, \phi) = (r(t), \phi(t))$  from the Christoffel symbols obtained in b.

Using the Christoffel symbols from b in the geodesic equation  $\ddot{x}^k + \Gamma_{ij}^k \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j = 0$  that is valid in any coordinate system yields

$$*** : \begin{cases} \ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2 &= 0 \\ \ddot{\phi} + \frac{2}{r}\dot{r}\dot{\phi} &= 0. \end{cases}$$

- (5) d. Show that the equations obtained in a and c are consistent.

Multiply the first equation in  $**$  by  $\cos \phi$  and the second by  $\sin \phi$ , then add up. This yields the first equation of  $***$ . Multiply the first equation in  $**$  by  $\sin \phi$  and the second by  $\cos \phi$ , then subtract. This yields the second equation of  $***$ . Alternatively, rewrite  $**$  as follows:

$$** : \begin{cases} (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2) \cos \phi - (\frac{2}{r}\dot{r}\dot{\phi} + \ddot{\phi})r \sin \phi &= 0 \\ (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2) \sin \phi + (\frac{2}{r}\dot{r}\dot{\phi} + \ddot{\phi})r \cos \phi &= 0. \end{cases}$$

- (5) e. Explain why a geodesic that does not pass through the origin  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$  experiences a 'pseudo-acceleration'  $\ddot{r} \neq 0$  for its radial coordinate, and show that this does not occur for a geodesic that does pass through the origin.

The ‘pseudo-acceleration’  $\ddot{r} = r\dot{\phi}^2$  is needed to compensate for the fact that the  $r$ -coordinate along a geodesic that does not pass through the origin  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$  is not a linear function of  $x$  and  $y$  and thus not a Cartesian coordinate along the curve. If the geodesic does pass through the origin, then  $\phi = \text{constant}$  (straight line), so  $\dot{\phi} = 0$ . Inserting this in \*\*\* yields (besides  $\ddot{\phi} = 0$ )  $\ddot{r} = 0$ , whence no ‘pseudo-acceleration’.

For a Levi-Civita connection the covariant Riemann tensor is defined as follows:  $R_{\ell ijk} = g_{\ell m} R^m{}_{ijk}$ , in which

$$R^m{}_{ijk} = \partial_j \Gamma_{ik}^m - \partial_k \Gamma_{ij}^m + \Gamma_{nj}^m \Gamma_{ik}^n - \Gamma_{nk}^m \Gamma_{ij}^n.$$

Without proof we state that among all components of  $R_{\ell ijk}$ , with  $i, j, k, \ell = 1, 2$ , there is only one independent degree of freedom, which we may take to correspond to  $R_{1212}$ .

- (5) **f1.** Expand the Einstein summation in the expression for  $R_{r\phi r\phi}$  symbolically in terms of all *nonzero*  $\Gamma$ -terms *without substituting their actual functional values* (recall the hint in problem b).

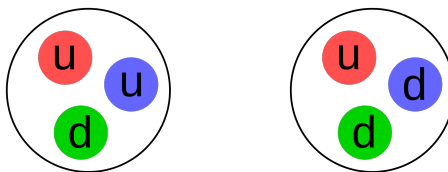
The only nontrivial  $\Gamma$ -terms are  $\Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi = \Gamma_{r\phi}^\phi$  and  $\Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r$ , so that  $R_{r\phi r\phi} = g_{rr} (\partial_r \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r - \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r \Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi)$ .

- (5) **f2.** Evaluate  $R_{r\phi r\phi}$  by substituting the functional values for the  $\Gamma$ -symbols in terms of  $r$  and  $\phi$  as obtained in problem b and explain your result.

Using the result of problem b, together with  $g_{rr} = 1$ , we obtain  $R_{r\phi r\phi} = g_{rr} (\partial_r \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r - \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r \Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi) = \partial_r(-r) - (-r)\frac{1}{r} = 0$ . This result is as expected, since (i) the Christoffel symbols of the flat connection vanish identically in Cartesian coordinates, whence  $R_{\ell ijk} = 0$  in Cartesian coordinates  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and (ii) the holor of the Riemann tensor transforms linearly under coordinate transformations, thus  $\bar{R}_{\ell ijk} = 0$  in any other coordinate system  $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . (This argument is not quite rigorous, since polar coordinates  $(\bar{x}^1, \bar{x}^2) = (r, \phi)$  are somewhat problematic. We ignore this subtlety here.)



### (35) 3. QUARKS & ISOSPIN MULTIPLETS



QUARK MODEL OF PROTON (LEFT) AND NEUTRON (RIGHT). THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COLOUR IS NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS PROBLEM.

According to a model introduced by Gell-Mann, quarks are the building blocks of elementary particles known as hadrons. We consider two ‘flavours’, referred to as up (u) and down quark (d). These two quarks  $\{u, d\}$  are considered to span an abstract 2-dimensional complex inner product space  $\mathbb{C}^2$  through the following identification:

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Given  $v, w \in \mathbb{C}^2$ , their standard complex inner product is given by  $(v|w) = \bar{v}^1 w^1 + \bar{v}^2 w^2$ , in which the overline denotes complex conjugation. The Gram matrix  $G$  with components  $g_{ij}$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$ , is defined by  $(v|w) = g_{ij} \bar{v}^i w^j$ . In particular we have  $(u|u) = (d|d) = 1$ ,  $(u|d) = \overline{(d|u)} = 0$ .

- (5) **a.** Explain why we do not need to make any distinction between the ‘contravariant’ components of a vector  $v \in \mathbb{C}^2$  relative to the basis  $\{u, d\}$  and their covariant counterparts, i.e. the corresponding components of the covector  $\hat{v} \doteq (v|_ \cdot) \in (\mathbb{C}^2)^*$ .

Let  $v = au + bd = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$  relative to basis  $\{u, d\}$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then  $\hat{v} = \sharp v = a\sharp u + b\sharp d$  with  $\sharp u = g_{11}\hat{u} + g_{12}\hat{d} = \hat{u}$  and similarly  $\sharp d = g_{21}\hat{u} + g_{22}\hat{d} = \hat{d}$ , so that  $\hat{v} = a\hat{u} + b\hat{d} = (a, b) \in (\mathbb{C}^2)^*$  relative to the dual basis  $\{\hat{u}, \hat{d}\}$ . Thus a vector  $v$  has the same contravariant components relative to  $\{u, d\}$  as its covariant counterpart  $\hat{v}$  has relative to  $\{\hat{u}, \hat{d}\}$ :  $v_1 = v^1 = a, v_2 = v^2 = b$ .

- (5) **b.** Show that if  $U : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 : v \mapsto Uv$  preserves the inner product, i.e. if  $(Uv|Uw) = (v|w)$  for all  $v, w \in \mathbb{C}^2$ , then the matrix  $U$  must be of the form

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\beta \\ \bar{\beta} & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix},$$

for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ , with  $\det U = |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ , i.e. a unitary matrix.

From its definition it follows that  $U^\dagger U = I$ , the identity matrix. Without loss of generality we may set

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -B \\ \bar{\beta} & \bar{A} \end{pmatrix},$$

for some constants  $\alpha, \beta, A, B \in \mathbb{C}$ . The above matrix identity then yields three independent equations:

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 &= 1, \\ |A|^2 + |B|^2 &= 1, \\ -\bar{\alpha}B + \bar{A}\beta &= 0. \end{cases}$$

By taking the determinant of the matrix identity we also observe that  $1 = \det I = \det U^\dagger U$ , i.e.

$$(**) \quad \alpha\bar{A} + \bar{\beta}B.$$

Multiplying the complex conjugate of the third equation of  $(*)$  by  $B$  and subtracting  $A$  times  $(**)$  yields, when combined with the second equation of  $(*)$ ,  $\beta = B$ . Likewise, multiplying  $(**)$  by  $A$  and subtracting  $B$  times the complex conjugate of the last equation of  $(*)$  yields  $\alpha = A$ . This establishes the form of  $U$ , subject to the remaining constraint  $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ , i.e. the first equation of  $(*)$ .

Consistent with experimental observations, the laws of nature governing nuclear forces appear to be symmetric under unitary transformations in the space  $\mathbb{C}^2$  spanned by the up and down quark. However, up and down quarks have never been observed in isolation. We therefore consider a subclass of hadrons consisting of three quarks, the so-called baryons, to which the familiar proton and neutron belong.

To represent quark triplets we consider the threefold tensor product space  $\mathbf{T}_0^3(\mathbb{C}^2) = \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ .

- (5) **c.** Show that  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = 8$ , and provide a basis of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$  induced by  $\{u, d\}$ .

A naturally induced basis is given by  $\{u \otimes u \otimes u, u \otimes u \otimes d, u \otimes d \otimes u, d \otimes u \otimes u, u \otimes d \otimes d, d \otimes u \otimes d, d \otimes d \otimes u, d \otimes d \otimes d\}$ . Indeed, since  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 = 2$  it follows that  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = 2^3 = 8$ .

It turns out that there are four so-called  $\Delta$ -baryons of equal mass. This suggests that we consider a four-dimensional subspace invariant under unitary transformations.

- (5) **d.** Show that the subspace  $\bigvee^3(\mathbb{C}^2) = \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_s \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_s \mathbb{C}^2 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = \mathbf{T}_0^3(\mathbb{C}^2)$  of fully symmetric 3-tensors is indeed four-dimensional, and provide a basis induced by  $\{u, d\}$ .

We have, with dimension  $n = \dim \mathbb{C}^2 = 2$  and rank  $d = 3$ ,  $\dim \bigvee^3(\mathbb{C}^2) = \binom{n+d-1}{d} = 4$ . A naturally induced basis is given by  $\{u \otimes u \otimes u, u \otimes u \otimes d + u \otimes d \otimes u + d \otimes u \otimes u, u \otimes d \otimes d + d \otimes u \otimes d + d \otimes d \otimes u, d \otimes d \otimes d\}$ . Alternatively, using the symmetric tensor product operator  $\vee$  we may write this as  $\{u \vee u \vee u, u \vee u \vee d, u \vee d \vee d, d \vee d \vee d\}$ .

The four  $\Delta$ -baryons are  $\Delta^{++}$ ,  $\Delta^+$ ,  $\Delta^0$ ,  $\Delta^-$ , in which the superscript indicates elementary electric charge  $Q(\Delta^{++}) = 2e$ ,  $Q(\Delta^+) = e$ ,  $Q(\Delta^0) = 0$ , respectively  $Q(\Delta^-) = -e$ .

In view of the observed electric charges we assume that the quarks  $u, d \in \mathbb{C}^2$  each have a definite charge,  $Q(u)$ , respectively  $Q(d)$ , with  $Q(u) \geq Q(d)$  to resolve ambiguity.

- (5) **e.** Determine the elementary charges  $Q(u)$  and  $Q(d)$  of the  $u$  and  $d$  quark, such that the  $\Delta$ -baryons can be consistently related to the basis of  $\bigvee^3(\mathbb{C}^2)$  (recall  $d$ ), and explain assumptions you have made.

We have  $Q(u \vee u \vee u) = 3Q(u)$ ,  $Q(u \vee u \vee d) = 2Q(u) + Q(d)$ ,  $Q(u \vee d \vee d) = Q(u) + 2Q(d)$ ,  $Q(d \vee d \vee d) = 3Q(d)$ . The assumption made here is that  $Q$  is well-defined for linear combinations  $\Delta$  of tensor products of the form  $q_1 \otimes q_2 \otimes q_3 \in \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^2$ , with  $q_i \in \{u, d\}$ , having an equal number of  $u$ 's and  $d$ 's. In this case,  $Q(\Delta) = Q(q_1 \otimes q_2 \otimes q_3) = n_u Q(u) + n_d Q(d)$ , in which  $n_u$  and  $n_d = 3 - n_u$  indicate the respective numbers of  $u$  and  $d$  quarks among  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ . With the choice  $Q(u) \geq Q(d)$  we must apparently set  $3Q(u) = 2e$ , whence  $Q(u) = \frac{2}{3}e$ , from which it follows consistently that  $Q(d) = -\frac{1}{3}e$ . Thus we have the identifications  $\Delta^{++} \sim u \vee u \vee u = u \otimes u \otimes u$ ,  $\Delta^+ \sim u \vee u \vee d = u \otimes u \otimes d + u \otimes d \otimes u + d \otimes u \otimes u$ ,  $\Delta^0 \sim u \vee d \vee d = u \otimes d \otimes d + d \otimes u \otimes d + d \otimes d \otimes u$ , and  $\Delta^- \sim d \vee d \vee d = d \otimes d \otimes d$ .

Recall  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_s \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_s \mathbb{C}^2 = 4$  while  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = 8$ . We wish to capture the 'missing dimensions' by considering complementary subspaces. To this end consider  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$  and  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ , defined as the linear subspaces of all 3-tensors in  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$  that are antisymmetric with respect to their first two, respectively last two arguments.

- (5) **f.** Show that  $\dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = \dim \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 = 2$ , and provide a suitable basis for each induced by  $\{u, d\}$ .

A basis of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$  is given by  $\{(u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes u, (u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes d\}$ . A basis of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2$  is given by  $\{u \otimes (u \otimes d - d \otimes u), d \otimes (u \otimes d - d \otimes u)\}$ .

As with the  $\Delta$ -baryons there is a similar approximate symmetry in the laws of nature governing the nuclear forces involving protons and neutrons.

- (5) **g.** Assuming that the proton-neutron doublet constitutes a two-dimensional space spanned by  $\{p, n\}$  that can be identified with one of the aforementioned subspaces,  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ , say, which identification would you make between the basis vectors  $p$  and  $n$  and those of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ ?

The basis  $\{(u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes u, (u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes d\}$  of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes_A \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$  can be identified with  $\{p, n\}$  through the identification  $p = (u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes u$  and  $n = (u \otimes d - d \otimes u) \otimes d$ , so that the actual charges  $e = Q(p) = 2Q(u) + Q(d) = 2 \times \frac{2}{3}e - \frac{1}{3}e$  and  $0 = Q(n) = Q(u) - 2Q(d) = \frac{2}{3}e - 2 \times \frac{1}{3}e$  are consistent with the quark charges and the additive rule established in problem e.