

# OP-SF NET – Volume 30, Number 5 – September 15, 2023

The Electronic News Net of the  
SIAM Activity Group on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions

<http://math.nist.gov/opsf>

OP-SF Net is distributed to OPSF Activity Group members and non-members alike through the OP-SF Talk listserv.

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## Calendar of Events:

### December 14–15, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Workshop “Two Days of Orthogonal Polynomials”

University of Almería, Almería, Spain

Dedicated to Guillermo López Lagomasino for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and to  
Andrei Martínez Finkelshtein for his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

<https://w3.ual.es/GruposInv/Tabo/D2PO-2023/D2PO2023.html>

### January 3–6, 2024

2024 [Joint Mathematics Meetings](https://www.jointmathematicsmeetings.org/meetings/national/jmm2024/2300_program.html), American Mathematical Society,  
Moscone Center, San Francisco, California, USA

[https://www.jointmathematicsmeetings.org/meetings/national/jmm2024/2300\\_program.html](https://www.jointmathematicsmeetings.org/meetings/national/jmm2024/2300_program.html)

AWM-AMS Noether Lecture: Anne Schilling: [The Ubiquity of Crystal Bases](#)

AMS Special Session on Numerical Analysis, Spectral Graph Theory, Orthogonal Polynomials,  
and Quantum Algorithms,

Organized by Anastasiia Minenkova, Gamal Mograby, and Anastasiia Minenkova ([SS 92A](#))

AMS Special Session on Partition Theory and  $q$ -Series,

Organized by William Jonathan Keith, Brandt Kronholm, and Dennis Eichhorn ([SS 30A](#))

### May 27–31, 2024

Asymptotics, Randomness, Nonlinearity, and Orthogonality (ARNO 2024)  
ARNO 2024 will also be the 2024 Annual Meeting of the [PIICQ network](#),  
Leuven, Belgium  
<https://gsilva.pages.math.cnrs.fr/arno2024/index.html>

### June 24–28, 2024

17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Orthogonal Polynomials, Special Functions and Applications  
(OPSFA–17),  
Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain.  
<https://opsfa17.com/>

### July 8–12, 2024

Operator Theory and Approximation 2024  
TU Wien, Vienna, Austria  
<https://haraldworacek.github.io/OTA2024/>

Topic #1 ——— OP – SF Net 30.5 ——— September 15, 2023

From: Benjamin Eichinger ([benjamin.eichinger@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:benjamin.eichinger@tuwien.ac.at))

Subject: Announcement: Operator Theory and Approximation (OTA 2024)

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to announce the conference “Operator Theory and Approximation”. The conference aims to bring together mathematicians working on spectral theory, complex analysis, approximation theory and related areas, and provide a framework for scientific exchange.

The topics of the conference include:

- Spectral theory of difference and differential operators
- Orthogonal polynomials
- Complex analysis
- Extremal problems of Chebyshev type
- Random matrices
- Integrable systems

**When:** July 8–12, 2024

**Where:** [TU Wien](#), Vienna, Austria

**Website:** <https://haraldworacek.github.io/OTA2024/>

**Registration:** Registration and submission of abstracts will open December 1, 2023, and should be done through the website. The registration fee is €200, which includes the conference dinner. Participants who plan to not attend the dinner, should pay a reduced fee of €130.

The conference program consists of invited and contributed talks.

The confirmed plenary speakers are:

- Sergey Denisov
- Pavel Exner
- Arno Kuijlaars
- Matthias Langer
- Ari Laptev

- Marius Lemm
- Mikhail Sodin
- Christiane Tretter
- Peter Yuditskii

More information can be found on the conference website.

If you have special inquiries which are not answered by the information on the website, please use the conference email address: [ota2024@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:ota2024@tuwien.ac.at)

## Topic #2 ——— OP – SF Net 30.5 ——— September 15, 2023

From: Guilherme Silva ([silvag@usp.br](mailto:silvag@usp.br))

Subject: Announcement: Asymptotics, Randomness, Nonlinearity, and Orthogonality (ARNO 2024)

Dear colleagues,

This is the first announcement of the conference Asymptotics, Randomness, Nonlinearity, and Orthogonality 2024 Leuven, Belgium which will occur on May 27–31, 2024.

The synergy of classical analysis and modern mathematical physics has fostered profound developments in asymptotics, randomness, nonlinearity, and orthogonality. This conference aims to explore these and other related topics. Moreover, it will be the occasion to celebrate the deep and influential contributions to these and numerous other topics of Professor Arno Kuijlaars on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

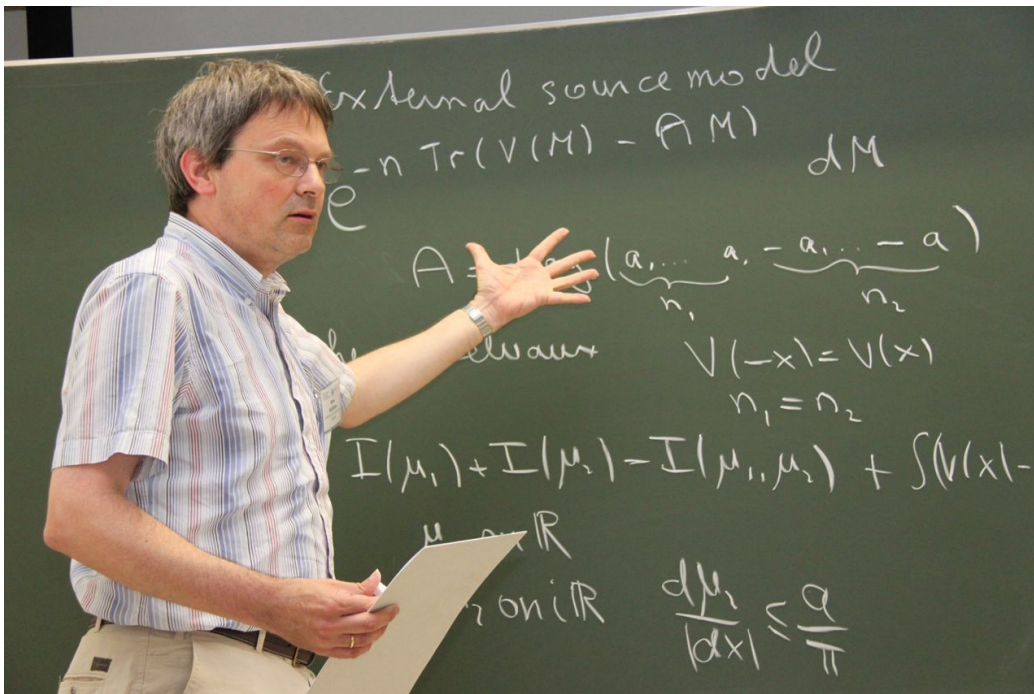


Figure 1: Conference to celebrate Arno Kuijlaars on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The conference will also be the 2024 Annual Meeting of the [PIICQ network](#).

The list of speakers (available on the [event website](#)) are:

- Gernot Akemann (Bielefeld University, Germany)

- Fanny Augeri (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel)
- Marco Bertola (Concordia University, Canada)
- Pavel Bleher (IUPUI, USA)
- Thomas Bothner (University of Bristol, UK)
- Alexey Bufetov (Leipzig University, Germany)
- Sunil Chhita (Durham University, UK)
- Vadim Gorin\* (UC Berkeley, USA)
- Tamara Grava (University of Bristol, UK; Sissa, Italy)
- Alice Guionnet (ENS Lyon, France)
- Kurt Johansson (KTH Stockholm)
- Mylène Maïda (Université de Lille, France)
- Andrei Martínez–Finkelshtein (Baylor University, USA)
- Marta Mazzocco (University of Birmingham, UK)
- Ken McLaughlin (Tulane University, USA)
- Peter Miller (University of Michigan, USA)
- Lun Zhang (Fudan University, China)

\*To be confirmed

Registration will open in early 2024, and we anticipate there will be room in the program for contributed talks. The contribution by people from underrepresented groups, including also young career scientists, is encouraged.

We greatly appreciate it if you share this announcement with researchers that may be interested in the conference.

With our best wishes, Guilherme Silva, in the name of the organizing committee:

Tom Claeys (UC Louvain, Belgium)  
 Maurice Duits (KTH Stockholm, Sweden)  
 Manuela Girotti (Emory University, USA)  
 Leslie Molag (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain)  
 Guilherme Silva (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil)  
 Walter Van Assche (KU Leuven, Belgium)

Topic #3 ——— OP – SF Net 30.5 ——— September 15, 2023

From: Henrik Pedersen ([henrikp@math.ku.dk](mailto:henrikp@math.ku.dk))  
 and Jacob Stordal Christiansen ([jacob\\_stordal.christiansen@math.lth.se](mailto:jacob_stordal.christiansen@math.lth.se))  
 Subject: Report by **Pedersen** and **Christiansen**: ICSTA in Lund, Sweden

The International Conference on Spectral Theory and Approximation ([ICSTA](#)) was held in Lund, Sweden on August 14<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The main topics were Periodic and Almost Periodic Operators, Extremal Problems, Jacobi and CMV matrices, Orthogonal Polynomials, Schrödinger Operators, Random Matrices and Toeplitz Operators.

The program consisted of eight 50 minute invited lectures by Alexander Pushnitski, Benjamin Eichinger, María Ángeles García–Ferrero, Maxim Zinchenko, Aron Wennman, Wafaa Assaad, Søren Fournais and Arno Kuijlaars, and 18 contributed talks. Around 35 participants attended the conference, including many early career mathematicians. Ample time in the program made room for fruitful discussions.





Figure 2: ICSTA group photo.

The conference took place at [Lund University](#). The city of [Lund](#) and its key role in history was focus of the excursion to the open air museum “[Kulturen](#)” on Tuesday afternoon.

The conference was funded by [Vetenskabsrådet](#) and the [Crafood Foundation](#), which gave support and made possible the attendance of a number of young scientists. The scientific committee consisted of Jacob Stordal Christiansen (main organizer, Lund University), Henrik Laurberg Pedersen (University of Copenhagen), Mikael Persson Sundqvist (Lund University), and Frank Wikström (Lund University).

Topic #4      OP – SF Net 30.5      September 15, 2023

From: Sergei Suslov ([sergei@asu.edu](mailto:sergei@asu.edu))

Subject: Report by **Suslov**: Workshop on Quantum Nonstationary Systems in Brasília, Brazil

Dear colleagues,

The [Second International Workshop on Quantum Nonstationary Systems](#) took place in Brasília, Brazil from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 on occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. [Viktor V. Dodonov](#).

Topics included are: Cavity and circuit QED, Dynamical Casimir effect, Adiabatic/nonadiabatic evolution, Scattering dynamics, Quantum back reaction, Quantum tomography, Bose–Einstein condensates,

Many-body systems, Open quantum systems, Non-Hermitian systems, Entropy production, Quantum metrology, Phase transition dynamics, Spin dynamics and spintronics, Quantum control, and other time-dependent phenomena.

**Second International Workshop on  
Quantum Nonstationary Systems (QNS 2)**  
on occasion of 75th birthday of Prof. Viktor V. Dodonov

**Scientific Committee**  
V. Dodonov (BRA)  
A. Klimov (MEX)  
V. Man'ko (RUS)  
A. Messina (ITA)  
S. Mizrahi (BRA)







cif.unb.br

**28th August - 1st September 2023**  
International Center of Physics - Institute of Physics  
University of Brasilia - Brasilia - DF - Brazil

**Registration: [is.gd/2ndQNS](https://is.gd/2ndQNS)**

	<b>Invited speakers</b>
Cavity and circuit QED	G.S.Agarwal (USA) F.D.Mazzitelli (ARG)
Dynamical Casimir effect	A.M.O. de Almeida (BRA) J.T.Mendonça (PRT)
Adiabatic /nonadiabatic evolution	D.T.Alves (BRA) S.S.Mizrahi (BRA)
Scattering dynamics	A.T.Avelar (BRA) A.Mostaffazadeh (TUR)
Quantum back reaction	A.O.Caldeira (BRA) D.E.Nikonov (USA)
Quantum tomography	A. Del Campo (LUX) M.C. de Oliveira (BRA)
Bose-Einstein Condensates	A.S.M. de Castro (BRA) R.Passante (ITA)
Many-body systems	L.C.Céleri (BRA) S.V.Prants (RUS)
Open quantum systems	A.Chenu (LUX) J.A.Roversi (BRA)
Non-Hermitian systems	C.Farina (BRA) L.L.Sánchez-Soto (ESP)
Entropy production	U. R. Fischer (KOR) B.C.Sanders (CAN)
Quantum metrology	B.Garraway (UK) A.E.Santana (BRA)
Phase transition dynamics	J.-P.Gazeau (FRA) W. Schleich (DEU)
Spin dynamics and spintronics	A.Isar (ROU) S.K.Suslov (USA)
Quantum control	A.B.Klimov (MEX) A.Vidiella-Barranco (BRA)
Other time-dependent phenomena	M.A.Man'ko (RUS) C.J.Villas-Boas (BRA)
	O.V.Man'ko (RUS) A.Vourdas (UK)
	V.I.Man'ko (RUS) V.I.Yukalov (RUS)
	G.Marmo (ITA) M.S.Zubairy (USA)

Hybrid format  
Contributed talks  
Posters

**Deadline**  
15 July 2023



**Organizing Committee:** Alexandre Dodonov, Marcello Ferreira, Olavo L. S. Filho, Bernardo A. Mello, Caio C. H. Ribeiro, Helena S. B. Rocha, Ludmila A. Rezende



Figure 3: The conference poster.

The International Center of Physics (ICP) is an academic center linked to the Physics Institute of the University of Brasília, located at the Darcy Ribeiro Campus in Brasília. Its main purpose is to develop research activities, scientific dissemination and exchange and training of personnel, at a high level, both nationally and internationally. One can watch all the videos of the talks from the distinguished invited speakers at the Youtube channel of the ICP: <https://www.youtube.com/@cifunb/streams>

This includes my talk on “The Kepler Problems and Sommerfeld Puzzle”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4p6bCADyU&t=40s>

Respectfully, Sergei Suslov



From: Sergei Suslov ([sergei@asu.edu](mailto:sergei@asu.edu))  
Subject: Essay: “On Fermi’s Oversight” by Suslov

## On Fermi’s Oversight: On a Seldom Oversight in Fermi’s Calculations Almost Seventy Years After

Sergei K. Suslov, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences,  
Arizona State University, P. O. Box 871804, Tempe, AZ 85287–1804, U.S.A.

We discuss an unfortunate error in the last Fermi lecture notes on quantum mechanics, in a course given at the University of Chicago.

— *To Dr. Miranda Materi*

### Enrico Fermi – A Biographical Sketch

Several Fermi’s biographies [5], [28]<sup>1</sup>, [29], [30], recollections [15], [23], [24], [25], historical investigations [17], [18], and the collected works in two volumes [13], [14] had been published after his untimely death in November of 1954 (see also references therein). As is well-known, at the very beginning of his distinguished career, Fermi held a temporary job for the academic year 1923–1924 at the University of Rome, where he taught a mathematics course for chemists and biologists. From 1924 to 1926, Fermi lectured on mathematical physics and mechanics at the University of Florence. During this time, he thoroughly studied Schrödinger’s theory through the original publications and privately explained it to his students in seminars. A bit later, he reworked some of Dirac’s papers into a more accessible format, partly for didactic purposes [12]. Subsequently, Fermi became a professor of theoretical physics at the University of Rome, the first chair of this kind in Italy, where he taught for 12 years, starting in 1926 [5], [28], [29].

During this period of time, Fermi laid a sound foundation for education in modern physics in Italy (and abroad). He delivered many popular lectures and seminars and wrote a textbook and some articles for *Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani* [13]. His teaching style and personality attracted many talented students to the physics department. The whole generation of physicists worldwide had studied the quantum theory of radiation from his review article [10], which was based on the lectures delivered in the summer of 1930 at the University of Michigan when Fermi visited the United States for the first time. The students recalled a remarkable atmosphere of immense enthusiasm and total dedication to physics and formed lifelong friendships. From as early as 1928, Fermi made little use of books; a collection of mathematical formulas and the tables of physical constants were almost the only reference books he had in his office. If a complicated equation was required in his research or teaching, Fermi could derive it by himself, usually faster than his students could find this result in the library books [29]. An example of research notes is presented in [1].

At the end of the year 1933, Fermi wrote his famous article on the explanation of beta decay. He sent a letter to *Nature* advancing his theory, but it was rejected<sup>2</sup>, and, instead, the article Tentative theory of beta rays was published in *Nuovo Cimento* in Italian and in *Zeitschrift für Physik* in German [13], [15], [29]. The novel neutron bombardment experiments, systematically reported in *Ricerca Scientifica* letters in the summer of 1934, were equally “... successful escape from the sphere of theoretical physics” (in

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<sup>1</sup>The most complete one at the moment.

<sup>2</sup>The editors felt that “it contained abstract speculations too remote from physical reality to be of interest to the reader [30]”.

Rutherford's own words [29]). The neutron work, accomplished by that summer, was summarized in an article that was communicated by Lord Rutherford to the Royal Society of London. The subsequent discovery of slow neutron effects is now a part of the nuclear physics history... [5], [11], [14], [15], [17], [18], [23], [28], [29], [30].

The visit to Ann Arbor was a great scientific success, and Fermi returned there in the summers of 1933 and 1935. In the year 1934, he went to Brazil [7]. In 1936, Fermi visited Columbia University for the summer session. Next year, he spent the summer in California [28], lecturing at Berkeley and Stanford, and driving back to New York across the entire country. Through these visits, he grew to appreciate America and the new opportunities it offered. He ultimately relocated to the United States soon after being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics on December 10, 1938. The subsequent major Fermi contributions to the Manhattan Project [26] and his work for the Atomic Energy Commission [6] are well-documented [28], [29], [30].

Throughout his life, Fermi maintained a strong passion for teaching. He conducted numerous courses and seminars at the University of Rome, Columbia University, Los Alamos Lab, and the University of Chicago. In the winter and spring semesters of his final year, before his untimely death in November, Fermi gave his last quantum mechanics course at the University of Chicago [12]. Subsequently, during the summer of 1954, he traveled to Europe. During his visit, Fermi presented a course on pions and nucleons at the Villa Monastero, located in Varenna on Lake Como. This course was part of the summer school organized by the Italian Physical Society, which now bears his name. Fermi also attended the French summer school at Les Houches near Chamonix, where he delivered lectures [28], [29], [30].<sup>3</sup>

## Fermi's Last Lecture Notes

As is well-known, Enrico Fermi's scientific mistakes had a "monumental character" — it is worth noting, for instance, his Nobel Prize controversy and the xenon nuclear reactor poisoning [28] — as it was supposed to be due to the novelty and originality of his research at that new epoch in nuclear physics. At a "personal level" the initial calculation of the "double window effect" in his family Chicago winter house also wasn't that successful [15]. But this list is rather short! On the contrary, Fermi freely shared his deep scientific ideas with colleagues and later was not involved in their publications, some at the Nobel Prize level [28].

We are dealing here with Fermi's original lecture notes for a course Physics 341/342: Quantum Mechanics given at the University of Chicago [12] in the winter and spring of 1954 – two quarters and approximately sixty lectures. At the end of each lecture, Fermi would always make up a problem, which was usually closely related to what he had just discussed that day (this list of problems is available in the Second Edition). For further details on some subjects, Fermi occasionally referred to Leonard Schiff's book, *Quantum Mechanics*, First Edition [27] and also to Enrico Persico's book *Fundamentals of Quantum Mechanics*, First Edition [21] (Fermi's dear friend from his childhood in Italy [29], [30]). These lecture notes, originally written by the past Master and distributed only among his own students as a course material, nowadays already have two English editions and an extended Russian translation<sup>4</sup> [12], which made it available for the entire physics community.

We only discuss his lecture 34 on the free relativistic electron. Our concern is the following — there

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<sup>3</sup>From Britannica: Enrico Fermi (born Sept. 29, 1901, Rome, Italy – died Nov. 28, 1954, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.), Italian-born American scientist who was one of the chief architects of the nuclear age. He developed the mathematical statistics required to clarify a large class of subatomic phenomena, explored nuclear transformations caused by neutrons, and directed the first controlled chain reaction involving nuclear fission. He was awarded the 1938 Nobel Prize for Physics, and the Enrico Fermi Award of the U.S. Department of Energy is given in his honor. Fermilab, the National Accelerator Laboratory, in Illinois, is named for him, as is fermium, element number 100. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Enrico-Fermi>

<sup>4</sup>with some typos corrected; see, for example, the definition of matrix multiplication on pp. 14–15, equation (24), in the handwritten notes



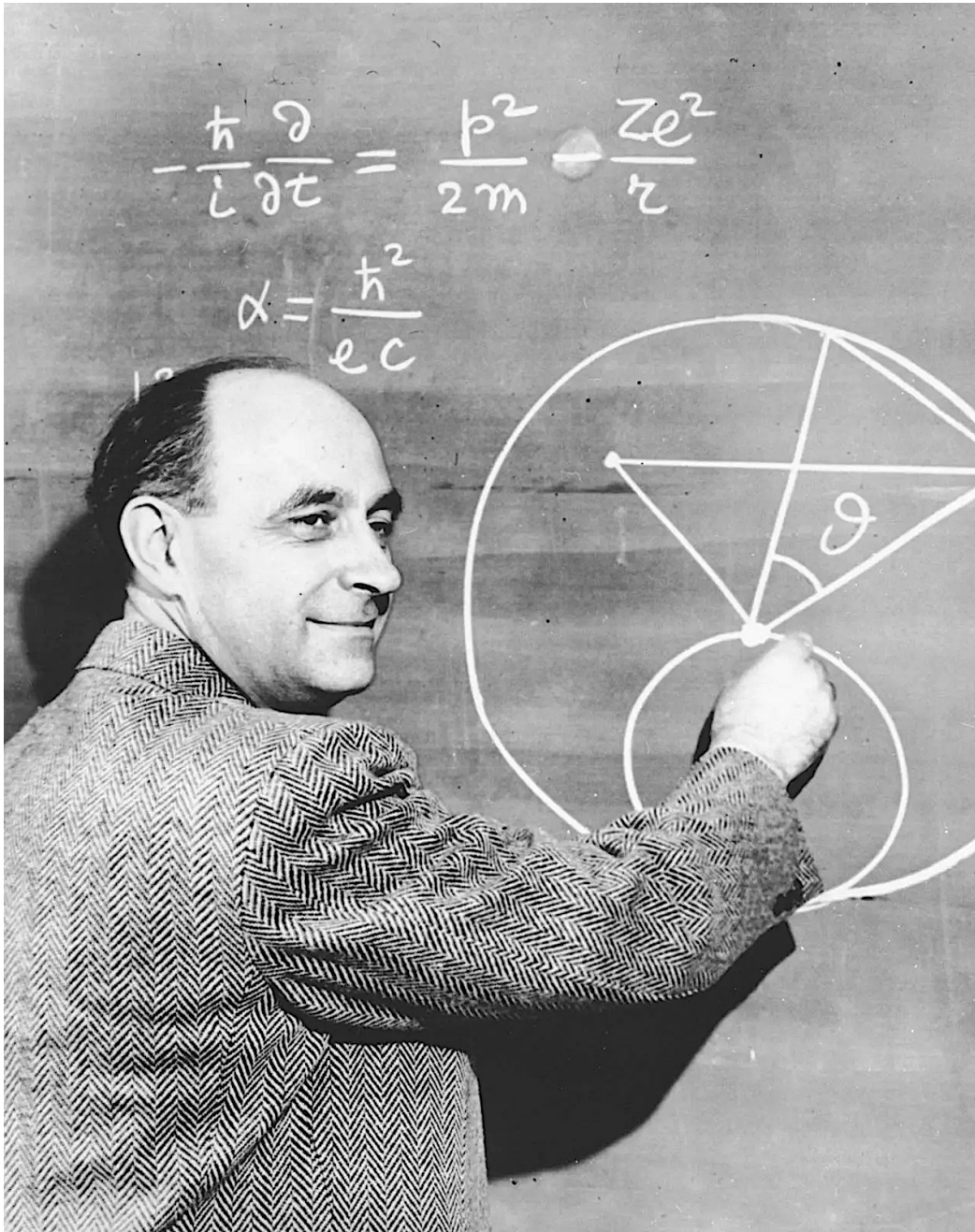


Figure 4: Enrico Fermi teaching quantum mechanics. *Courtesy of Argonne National Lab.* (The second formula is, most likely, his idea of a joke [28].) <https://science.osti.gov/fermi/The-Life-of-Enrico-Fermi/formula>

is an unfortunate mistake over there, namely, as it will be shown below (see also [16]), all four bi-spinors (26)–(27) on pp. 34–36 for free spin 1/2 particle in [12] (see Figures 6–7 for Fermi’s handwritten notes below and Appendix B in [16]) correspond to the positive energy eigenvalues  $E = E_+ = +R = \sqrt{c^2 p^2 + m^2 c^4}$ . This fact can be verified by a direct substitution into equation (24) on pp. 34–35. For example, in the case of the third bi-spinor  $u^{(3)}$  given by equation (27) in Fermi’s notes (Figure 7), one



Figure 5: Enrico Fermi hiking with students in New Mexico. *Courtesy of Peter Lax.*

gets, up to a constant, that

$$\begin{pmatrix} mc^2 & 0 & cp_3 & c(p_1 - ip_2) \\ 0 & mc^2 & c(p_1 + ip_2) & -cp_3 \\ cp_3 & c(p_1 - ip_2) & -mc^2 & 0 \\ c(p_1 + ip_2) & -cp_3 & 0 & -mc^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{cp_3}{R - mc^2} \\ \frac{c(p_1 + ip_2)}{R - mc^2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} cp_3 \left( \frac{mc^2}{R - mc^2} + 1 \right) = R \frac{cp_3}{R - mc^2} \\ c(p_1 + ip_2) \left( \frac{mc^2}{R - mc^2} + 1 \right) = R \frac{c(p_1 + ip_2)}{R - mc^2} \\ \frac{c^2 p^2}{R - mc^2} - mc^2 = \frac{R^2 - m^2 c^4}{R - mc^2} - mc^2 = R \\ c(p_1 + ip_2) \frac{cp_3}{R - mc^2} - cp_3 \frac{c(p_1 + ip_2)}{R - mc^2} = 0 \end{pmatrix} = R \begin{pmatrix} \frac{cp_3}{R - mc^2} \\ \frac{c(p_1 + ip_2)}{R - mc^2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Although Fermi's bi-spinors are normalized, they are not mutually orthogonal. For example,

$$(u^{(1)})^\dagger u^{(3)} = \frac{p_3}{|p|}, \quad (u^{(2)})^\dagger u^{(3)} = \frac{p_1 + ip_2}{|p|}$$

("nobody's perfect"!?). As a result,

$$u^{(3)} = \frac{p_3}{|p|} u^{(1)} + \frac{p_1 + ip_2}{|p|} u^{(2)}$$

and

$$u^{(4)} = \frac{p_1 - ip_2}{|p|} u^{(1)} - \frac{p_3}{|p|} u^{(2)},$$

as one can easily verify in a similar fashion. In terms of the helicity operator,

$$(u^{(3)}, u^{(4)}) = (u^{(1)}, u^{(2)}) (\sigma \cdot n), \quad n = \frac{p}{|p|}$$

(we have used the standard Pauli matrices [2], [4], [19], [22]).

The correct answer can be obtained by replacing  $R \rightarrow -R$  in the last two original Fermi bi-spinors, with a proper change of the normalization, of course. This result is presented, for instance, in [21], [27] (with  $H \rightarrow -H$ ), and verified in the Mathematica file posted at <https://community.wolfram.com/groups/-/m/t/2933767>. Once again, the original Fermi's bi-spinors are linearly dependent because the corresponding  $4 \times 4$  determinant equals zero (see also our complementary Mathematica notebook for the detailed calculations; available from the author by request).

In his lecture notes (see Figure 7 below), Fermi also states that “for  $|p| \ll mc$ , the third and fourth components of the positive energy solutions  $u^{(1)}$  and  $u^{(2)}$  are very small; and the first and second components of the negative energy<sup>5</sup> solutions  $u^{(3)}$  and  $u^{(4)}$  are also very small (on the order of  $p/mc$ )”. This is true only for the first two bi-spinors. On the contrary, one can easily verify that, in Fermi's normalization,

$$(u^{(3)}, u^{(4)}) \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sigma \cdot p}{|p|} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p_3}{|p|} & \frac{p_1 - ip_2}{|p|} \\ \frac{p_1 + ip_2}{|p|} & -\frac{p_3}{|p|} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad c \rightarrow \infty.$$

It's unclear how those mistakes were made by Fermi himself and why his students never corrected them, although, there is a similarity with Persico's book [21]. It appears that a more general concept of the helicity states for electrons and positrons and the corresponding polarization density matrices were never discussed in Fermi's introductory quantum mechanics course.

The bottom line is that those formulas, unfortunately, were copied without proper verification into the second English edition of the lecture notes and also appeared in the Russian translation, which has extensive comments on Fermi's original handwritings. Some physicists believe that the second formula, for  $\alpha$ , in the Figure 4 is, most likely, Fermi's idea of a joke. But it does not seem to be the case here?! Dick Askey used to like to say that, “if there is a formula in a book (or lecture notes — SKS), something like that should be true”, meaning that one has to derive this result on her or his own.

In the last three lectures 35–36–37, Fermi discussed introduction of the electromagnetic field into the theory of relativistic Dirac particles, motion in central field and the ground state of hydrogen atom, as well as the nonrelativistic limit, magnetic moment, and Thomas correction. Lorentz invariance and charge conjugation are also studied, although these topics are usually discussed in the quantum field theory courses [2], [4], [19], [22].

Relativistic helicity states of Dirac's free particles and the polarization density matrices are discussed in detail in [2], [4], [16], [19], [22]. Relativistic Coulomb problems are considered in [2], [3], [4], [8], [9], [12], [20], [27], [31] (see also the references therein). Computer algebra methods are utilized in [9], [16], and elsewhere (see also our complementary Mathematica notebook for the detailed calculations of all formulas derived in this note).

**Acknowledgments.** The author is grateful to Ruben Abagyan, Maria Aksenteva, Kamal Barley, Howard Cohl, Viktor Dodonov, Ben Goren, Sergey Kryuchkov, Aryadev Padhi, Oleg Poluektov, Eugene Stepanov, and Alexei Zhedanov for valuable comments, discussions, and help.

<sup>5</sup>As observed in [16], all four Fermi's bi-spinors correspond to the positive energy eigenvalues.



(13) is written also

$$(20) \quad E\psi = H\psi$$

(21)  $\left. \begin{array}{l} H = \text{hamiltonian} \\ H = mc^2\beta + c\vec{\alpha}\cdot\vec{p} \end{array} \right\}$

Time indep. equation

$$\text{for } \psi = \begin{vmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \\ \psi_3 \\ \psi_4 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(22) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E\psi_1 = mc^2\psi_1 + \frac{c\hbar}{i} \left\{ \frac{\partial\psi_4}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial\psi_4}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial\psi_3}{\partial z} \right\} \\ E\psi_2 = mc^2\psi_2 + \frac{c\hbar}{i} \left\{ \frac{\partial\psi_3}{\partial x} + i\frac{\partial\psi_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial\psi_4}{\partial z} \right\} \\ E\psi_3 = -mc^2\psi_3 + \frac{c\hbar}{i} \left\{ \frac{\partial\psi_2}{\partial x} - i\frac{\partial\psi_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial\psi_1}{\partial z} \right\} \\ E\psi_4 = -mc^2\psi_4 + \frac{c\hbar}{i} \left\{ \frac{\partial\psi_1}{\partial x} + i\frac{\partial\psi_1}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial\psi_2}{\partial z} \right\} \end{array} \right.$$

also time dep. Sch. eq by  $E \rightarrow i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$

Plane wave solution. Take

$$(23) \quad \psi = \begin{vmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{vmatrix} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}}$$

$\vec{p}$  now a numerical vector

$u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  are constants.

Substitute in (22) (Divide by common exp. factor)

$$(24) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Eu_1 = mc^2u_1 + c(p_x - ip_y)u_4 + cp_zu_3 \\ Eu_2 = mc^2u_2 + c(p_x + ip_y)u_3 - cp_zu_4 \\ Eu_3 = -mc^2u_3 + c(p_x - ip_y)u_2 + cp_zu_1 \\ Eu_4 = -mc^2u_4 + c(p_x + ip_y)u_1 - cp_zu_2 \end{array} \right.$$

Four homog. linear eq. for  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$ .

Require  $\det = 0$ . One finds e.v.'s of  $E$

$$(25) \quad E = +\sqrt{m^2c^4 + c^2p^2} \text{ twice and } E = -\sqrt{m^2c^4 + c^2p^2} \text{ twice}$$

Figure 6: Pages 34-35 of Fermi's lecture notes [12]: Dirac's equation and the eigenvalue problem.



For each  $\vec{p}$ ,  $E$  has twice the value  $E = \sqrt{m^2 c^4 + c^2 p^2}$  but also twice the negative value  $E = -\sqrt{m^2 c^4 + c^2 p^2}$  (Comments)

A set of 4 orthogonal <sup>normalized</sup> spinors  $u$  is

(26) For  $E = +\sqrt{m^2 c^4 + c^2 p^2} = R$

$$u^{(1)} = \sqrt{\frac{mc^2 + R}{2R}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{cp_x}{mc^2 + R} \\ \frac{c(p_x + ip_y)}{mc^2 + R} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad u^{(2)} = \sqrt{\frac{mc^2 + R}{2R}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{c(p_x - ip_y)}{mc^2 + R} \\ -\frac{cp_x}{mc^2 + R} \end{pmatrix}$$

(27) For  $E = -R = -\sqrt{m^2 c^4 + c^2 p^2}$

$$u^{(3)} = \sqrt{\frac{R - mc^2}{2R}} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{cp_x}{R - mc^2} \\ \frac{c(p_x + ip_y)}{R - mc^2} \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad u^{(4)} = \sqrt{\frac{R - mc^2}{2R}} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{c(p_x - ip_y)}{R - mc^2} \\ -\frac{cp_x}{R - mc^2} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Observe: for  $|p| < mc$  the third & fourth component of the positive energy solutions  $u^{(1)}$  &  $u^{(2)}$  are very small and the first and second component of the neg. en. solutions  $u^{(3)}$  &  $u^{(4)}$  are very small (of order  $p/mc$ )

Figure 7: Pages 34-36 of Fermi's lecture notes [12]: observe that both bi-spinors (27) also correspond to  $E = +R$ .

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Low lying zeros of Rankin-Selberg  $L$ -functions

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On the Order Estimates for Specific Functions of  $\zeta(s)$  and its Contribution towards the Analytic Proof of The Prime Number Theorem

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Sequences related to Lehmer's problem  
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Keita Nakai

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Strichartz estimates for the  $(k, a)$ -generalized Laguerre operators  
Kouichi Taira, Hiroyoshi Tamori

## Topic #7 ——— OP – SF Net 30.5 ——— September 15, 2023

From: OP–SF Net Editors

Subject: Submitting contributions to OP–SF NET and SIAM–OPSF (OP–SF Talk)

To contribute a news item to OP–SF NET, send e-mail to one of the OP–SF Editors  
[howard.cohl@nist.gov](mailto:howard.cohl@nist.gov), or [spost@hawaii.edu](mailto:spost@hawaii.edu).

Contributions to OP–SF NET 30.6 should be sent by November 1, 2023.

OP–SF NET is the electronic newsletter of the SIAM Activity Group on Special Functions and Orthogonal Polynomials (SIAG/OPSF). We disseminate your contributions on anything of interest to the special functions and orthogonal polynomials community. This includes announcements of conferences, forthcoming books, new software, electronic archives, research questions, and job openings as well as news about new appointments, promotions, research visitors, awards and prizes. OP–SF Net is transmitted periodically through a post to OP–SF Talk which is currently managed and moderated by Howard Cohl ([howard.cohl@nist.gov](mailto:howard.cohl@nist.gov)). Anyone wishing to be included in the mailing list (SIAG/OPSF members and non-members alike) should send an email expressing interest to him. Bonita Saunders also posts the Newsletter through SIAM Engage (SIAG/OPSF) which is received by all SIAG/OPSF members.

OP–SF Talk is a listserv associated with SIAG/OPSF which facilitates communication among members, non-members and friends of the Activity Group. To post an item to the listserv, send e-mail to [howard.cohl@nist.gov](mailto:howard.cohl@nist.gov).

WWW home page of this Activity Group:

<http://math.nist.gov/opsf>

Information on joining SIAM and this activity group: [service@siam.org](mailto:service@siam.org)

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\*As of the date of the publication of OP–SF NET 30.5, the SIAG/OPSF elections have not occurred.

Topic #8      OP – SF Net 30.5      September 15, 2023

From: OP–SF Net Editors

Subject: Thought of the Month by **George Pólya**

“If there is a problem you can’t solve, then there is an easier problem you can solve: find it.”

**George Pólya**, taken from *How to Solve It. A New Aspect of Mathematical Method*, Second Edition, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1948.