Unification of massless field equations solutions for any spin

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Abstract – A unification in terms of exact solutions for massless Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, Rarita-Schwinger, Einstein, and bosonic and fermionic fields of any spin is presented. The method is based on writing all of the relevant dynamical fields in terms of products and derivatives of pre-potential functions, which satisfy the d’Alembert equation. The coupled equations satisfied by the pre-potentials are non-linear. Remarkably, there are particular solutions of (gradient) orthogonal pre-potentials that satisfy the usual wave equation which may be used to construct exact non-trivial solutions to Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, Rarita-Schwinger, (linearized and full) Einstein and any spin bosonic and fermionic field equations, thus giving rise to a unification of the solutions of all massless field equations for any spin. Some solutions written in terms of orthogonal pre-potentials are presented. Relations of this method to previously developed ones, as well as to other subjects in physics are pointed out.

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Introduction. – Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, Rarita-Schwinger and Einstein field equations are cornerstones of physics and, as such, numerous studies have been dedicated on the subject. Many of them are related to solving these equations and it is, therefore, surprising to realize that a unified method to simultaneously produce exact solutions for all of these theories can be devised by introducing pre-potential functions. These are functions which are used to construct massless fields of any spin, and they satisfy the d’Alembert equation. Orthogonal pre-potentials, which have gradients which are orthogonal to each other, are extremely useful in this approach.

This method is loosely inspired on two different seemingly unrelated subjects: the search for the two gauge-invariant true dynamical degrees of electromagnetism \cite{1} and the solution of the first-order inverse problem of the calculus of variations \cite{2}. It is constructed based on the fact that massless field theories (for non-vanishing spin) have two dynamical degrees of freedom \cite{1} and that half of Maxwell equations are nothing but the statement that the exterior derivative of a two-form (the electromagnetic field) vanishes. These equations are equivalent to the integrability conditions for Lagrange brackets \cite{2}, where the Lagrange brackets are expressed in terms of gradients of functionally independent constants of motion of the mechanical problem.

The above works as a starting point to construct any spin massless field by using pre-potentials, with the possibility that the same pre-potentials solve all of the equations for different spins. We first apply the pre-potential method to solve Maxwell equations exactly and later apply the same procedure to get solutions for other massless fields of any spin.

Exact solutions of Maxwell equations. – Define the electromagnetic field $F_{ab}(x^c)$ for even-dimensional space-time by

$$ F_{ab}(x^c) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\partial u^{(2i-1)}}{\partial x^a} \frac{\partial u^{(2i)}}{\partial x^b} - \frac{\partial u^{(2i-1)}}{\partial x^b} \frac{\partial u^{(2i)}}{\partial x^a} \right), \tag{1} $$

where the electromagnetic pre-potentials $u^{(c)}(x^b)$ are $2n$ functionally independent real functions of the $2n$ variables $x^b$ with $a, b, c, \ldots = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, 2n$. Definition \!(1) takes advantage of the vanishing exterior derivative of the electromagnetic tensor. Thus, this electromagnetic field satisfies half of the $2n$-dimensional Maxwell equations, $\partial_\alpha F_{\alpha\beta} + \partial_\beta F_{\gamma\alpha} + \partial_\alpha F_{\beta\gamma} \equiv 0$, identically ($\partial_\beta \equiv \partial/\partial x^\beta$). The rest of the (source-free) Maxwell equations,

$$ \frac{\partial F^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x^\beta} = 0, \tag{2} $$

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define the conditions on the pre-potentials in order to be solutions for the electromagnetic field.

In order to exemplify this, let us now turn our attention to the expression for $F_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma)$ written for the 4-dimensional case

$$ F_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma) = u^{(1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2)}_{\alpha} + u^{(2)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(1)}_{\alpha}, $$

in a flat Minkowski (pseudo-orthonormal) space-time metric $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(+1, -1, -1, -1)$. Here, the electromagnetic pre-potentials $u^{(\alpha)}(x^\gamma)$ are 4 functionally independent real functions of 4 variables $x^\gamma$ with $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \ldots = 0, 1, 2, 3$, and $u^{(\alpha)}(x^\gamma) \equiv \partial_y u^{(\alpha)}$. The usual electromagnetic potential $A_{\alpha}(x^\gamma)$ may be written in terms of the pre-potentials $u^{(\alpha)}(x^\gamma)$ as

$$ A_{\alpha}(x^\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \left( u^{(1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2)}_{\alpha} - u^{(2)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(1)}_{\alpha} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left( u^{(3)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(4)}_{\alpha} - u^{(4)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(3)}_{\alpha} \right) + \Lambda(x^\gamma), $$

where $\Lambda(x^\gamma)$ is an arbitrary function. Of course, all of the pre-potentials $u^{(\gamma)}$ and potentials $A_{\alpha}$ must be real functions.

Using the above, eqs. (2) written explicitly in terms of $u^{(\alpha)}$ are

$$ \frac{\partial F^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x^{\beta}} = u^{(1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2)}_{\alpha} + u^{(2)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(1)}_{\alpha} - u^{(2)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(1, \alpha)} - u^{(1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2, \alpha)} + u^{(3)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(4)}_{\alpha} + u^{(4)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(3)}_{\alpha} - u^{(4)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(3)}_{\beta} - u^{(3)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(4)}_{\beta} = 0. $$

It is a straightforward matter to realize that an example of a particular solution in Cartesian coordinates is given by

$$ u^{(1)}(t, x) = p_1(t + x) + p_2(t - x), $$

$$ u^{(2)}(y, z) = q_1(y + iz) + q_2(y - iz), $$

$$ u^{(3)}(t, y) = r_1(t + y) + r_2(t - y), $$

$$ u^{(4)}(z, x) = s_1(z + ix) + s_2(z - ix), $$

where $p_1, p_2, r_1, r_2$ are arbitrary real functions and $q_1$ and $q_2$ are arbitrary complex functions. These four pre-potentials are real functions.

In particular, in order to find a general solution of eqs. (5), it is sufficient that

$$ \Box u^{(\gamma)} = 0, \quad \forall \gamma, $$

$$ u^{(2, -1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2, -1)}_{\alpha} = 0, $$

$$ u^{(2, -1)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2, -1)}_{\alpha} = 0, $$

$$ u^{(2)}_{\alpha}\beta u^{(2)}_{\alpha} = 0, $$

for $i = 1, 2$, where $\Box$ is the d’Alembert operator in Minkowski space. We call pre-potential any function which satisfies the d’Alembert equation, and we define orthogonal pre-potentials as any pair of functions which satisfy eqs. (7), alluding to the fact that their gradients are orthogonal or equivalently that they, in general, define a (two-dimensional) patch of orthogonal coordinates.

For the Minkowski flat space-time metric, one may require that the set of coordinates $S^{(\alpha)}(\not= 0, \not= \alpha)$ on which $u^{(\alpha)}$ depends, fulfill

$$ S^{(1)} \cap S^{(2)} = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad S^{(3)} \cap S^{(4)} = \emptyset, $$

in order to get an exact particular solution to Maxwell equations (2).

It is also a straightforward matter to prove that the exact electromagnetic field solutions to Maxwell equations given by (7) define regular electromagnetic fields

$$ \det(F_{\alpha\beta}) \not= 0, $$

provided the pre-potentials $u^{(\gamma)}$ are four functionally independent functions, as the ones chosen in example (6), for instance.

**Exact solutions of the Klein-Gordon equation.**

The wave or Klein-Gordon massless equation reads

$$ \Box \psi(x^\gamma) = 0. $$

Of course, eq. (10) is solved by any pre-potential. Nevertheless, in order to achieve a complete unification of all spin fields solutions we would rather choose to write its field solution $\phi(x^\gamma)$ as a product of two orthogonal pre-potentials $u^{(1)}(x^\mu)$ and $u^{(2)}(x^\nu)$,

$$ \phi(x^\gamma) = u^{(1)}(x^\mu) u^{(2)}(x^\nu), $$

which is a solution of the Klein-Gordon equation (10) by properties (7). In fact, this solution can be generalized to the addition of several product of pairs of orthogonal pre-potentials

$$ \phi(x^\gamma) = u^{(1)}(x^\mu) u^{(2)}(x^\nu) + u^{(3)}(x^\mu) u^{(4)}(x^\nu) + \cdots. $$

A particular solution can be constructed using pre-potentials (6), implying that the same pre-potentials solve Maxwell and Klein-Gordon equations.

**Exact solutions of the Dirac equation.**

Consider the massless Dirac equation (Weyl equation)

$$ i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi(x^\alpha) = i \partial \psi(x^\alpha) = 0, $$

where Dirac matrices are given the following Kronecker products: $\gamma^0 = \sigma^3 \otimes I$ and $\gamma^j = i\sigma^2 \otimes \gamma^j$, where $\sigma^3$ are Pauli matrices and $j = 1, 2, 3$.

To solve the massless Dirac equation in a simple way, it is enough to define $\psi(x^\alpha)$ by

$$ \psi(x^\alpha) = \sigma \left( \begin{array}{c} u^{(1)}(x^\mu) u^{(2)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(3)}(x^\mu) u^{(4)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(5)}(x^\mu) u^{(6)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(7)}(x^\mu) u^{(8)}(x^\nu) \end{array} \right), $$

in terms of pairs of orthogonal pre-potentials. Now, we can use pre-potentials (6) in Dirac equation in order to find a particular solution.
A different exact solution can be constructed with orthogonal pre-potentials. It is known that any solution of the source-free Maxwell equations solves the massless Dirac equation [3]. Therefore, any spinor, with components \( \psi_i(x^\mu) \) (with \( i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \)), given in terms of orthogonal pre-potentials in the form

\[
\psi_1 = -\nu^{(1)}_{\mu_0}u^{(2)}_{\mu_3} + u^{(2)}_{\mu_0}u^{(1)}_{\mu_3}, \\
\psi_2 = -\nu^{(3)}_{\mu_0}u^{(4)}_{\mu_1} + u^{(4)}_{\mu_0}u^{(3)}_{\mu_1}, \\
\psi_3 = i\nu^{(1)}_{\mu_0}u^{(2)}_{\mu_2} - i\nu^{(2)}_{\mu_0}u^{(1)}_{\mu_2}, \\
\psi_4 = -\nu^{(3)}_{\mu_0}u^{(4)}_{\mu_1} + u^{(4)}_{\mu_0}u^{(3)}_{\mu_1},
\]

solves the Dirac equation.

In particular, pre-potentials (6) that solve Maxwell and Klein-Gordon equation, also solve the Dirac equation. However, other pre-potentials are possible, even complex ones.

**Exact solutions of the Rarita-Schwinger equation.** – One may write the massless Rarita-Schwinger equations for a vector-spinor \( \psi_3(x^\mu) \) as a set of one (Dirac-like) dynamical equation and a couple of constraints [4–8], i.e.,

\[
i\partial_\mu \psi_3(x^\alpha) = 0, \\
\gamma^\alpha \psi_3(x^\alpha) = 0, \\
\partial^\alpha \psi_3(x^\alpha) = 0.
\]

(16)

It is a straightforward matter to prove that the vector-spinor \( \psi_3(x^\alpha) \), given by

\[
\psi_3(x^\alpha) = \partial_\beta \left( \tilde{\gamma} u(x^\nu) \right) \tilde{\gamma} \left( \begin{array}{c} u^{(1)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(2)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(3)}(x^\nu) \\ u^{(4)}(x^\nu) \end{array} \right),
\]

solves all of eqs. (16) when the pre-potential \( u(x^\nu) \) is orthogonal to all of the other pre-potentials \( u^{(j)}(x^\nu) \) (for \( j = 1, 2, 3, 4 \)), a choice which is similar to the one made for the Dirac equation.

For instance, a particular example for a Rarita-Schwinger field could be given in terms of pre-potentials

\[
u(t, x) = p_1(t + x) + p_2(t - x), \\
u^{(1)}(y, z) = u^{(3)}(y, z) = q_1(y + iz) + q_1^*(y - iz), \\
u^{(2)}(t, y) = u^{(4)}(t, y) = p_1(t + x) - p_2(t - x),
\]

for arbitrary functions \( p_1, p_2, \) and \( q_1 \). All the possible choices for the pre-potentials may coincide with those that solve the equations for spin 0, 1/2 and 1 massless fields.

**Exact solutions of linearized Einstein equations.** – Consider linearized Einstein equations for a metric perturbation of the Minkowski space-time

\[
g_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma) = \eta_{\alpha\beta} + h_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma),
\]

(19)

where \( \eta_{\alpha\beta} \) is the Minkowski space-time metric and the perturbation \( |h_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma)| \ll 1 \) (\( \forall \alpha, \beta \)). Linearized Einstein vacuum equations may be written as [9]

\[
h_{\mu^\alpha, \nu^\beta} + h_{\nu^\alpha, \mu^\beta} - h_{\mu^\nu, \alpha^\beta} - h_{\mu^\nu, \alpha^\beta} = 0,
\]

(20)

where \( h \) is the trace of perturbed metric \( \eta \equiv h^{\alpha\beta}_{\alpha\beta} = \eta^{\alpha\beta}_{\alpha\beta} \).

Inspired in the anti-symmetric construction of the electromagnetic field (3), we seek for a solution to Einstein linearized equations by defining a symmetric version of it for \( h_{\alpha\beta} \) with gravitational pre-potentials \( U^{(\alpha)} \), in the form

\[
h_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma) = U^{(1)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(2)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(1)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(3)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(4)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(4)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(3)}_{\gamma\delta}.
\]

(21)

It is straightforward to realize that exactly the same electromagnetic orthogonal pre-potentials that solve Maxwell (and Klein-Gordon and Dirac) equations under definitions (7), also solve the linearized Einstein equations (20) for the gravitational pre-potentials (21). In order to prove this, first notice that metric (21) has \( h = 0 \) and \( h^{\alpha}_{\alpha\beta} = 0 \), by conditions (7). Of course, a coordinate (gauge) transformation may always be introduced in expression (21). Thereby, the equations for the gravitational pre-potentials \( U^{(\alpha)} \) are obtained using eq. (20) to get

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{2} \left( U^{(2i-1)}_{\mu_\alpha,\nu_\beta} \Gamma U^{(2i)}_{\mu_\nu,\alpha} \right) = \\
\sum_{i=1}^{2} \left( U^{(2i-1)}_{\mu_\alpha,\nu_\beta} U^{(2i-1)}_{\nu_\alpha,\beta} \right) = 0,
\]

(22)

which are identically satisfied if conditions (7) are met.

It is important to stress that these solutions are non-trivial as long as they produce a non-identically vanishing Riemann tensor to first order in the smallness parameter.

**Exact solutions of full Einstein equations.** – It is remarkable that some of the solutions to the linearized Einstein theory also satisfy exactly the full theory in vacuum, with no approximations whatsoever. Exact space-time metrics can be constructed using the pre-potentials. In these cases, the metrics have the form

\[
g_{\alpha\beta} = \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} + \Theta_{\alpha\beta},
\]

(23)

where \( \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} \) is a base flat metric, and now \( \Theta_{\alpha\beta} \) is not a perturbation, but it has the same form as eq. (21), i.e.,

\[
\Theta_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma) = U^{(1)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(2)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(1)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(3)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(4)}_{\gamma\delta} + U^{(4)}_{\alpha\beta}U^{(3)}_{\gamma\delta}.
\]

For the case of full Einstein equations,
the pre-potentials and their derivatives are not small, in general.

We can explicitly write some exact metrics that solve the full Einstein equations in terms of pre-potentials. In Cartesian coordinates, a metric that solve the system \([10]\) is written for the base Minkowski metric \(g_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}\), and

\[
U^{(1)}(x, t) = \xi_1(x + t), \\
U^{(2)}(y, z) = \xi_2(y + iz) + \xi_2(y - iz), \\
U^{(3)}(x, t) = \xi_3(x + t), \\
U^{(4)}(y, z) = \xi_4(y + iz) + \xi_4(y - iz),
\]

(24)

where \(\xi_i\) (with \(i = 1, 2, 3, 4\)) are arbitrary functions. Notice that this exact space-time is not, in general, a wave. Besides, its Riemann tensor is not identically zero, in general, and thus is a non-flat space-time solution. Besides, this solution can be generalized to introduce free parameters in it. For example, the pre-potentials

\[
U^{(1)}(x, t) = \xi_1(x + t), \\
U^{(2)}(y, z) = \xi_2(e^{i\alpha y + iz}) + \xi_2(e^{i\alpha y - iz}), \\
U^{(3)}(x, t) = \xi_3(y + it), \\
U^{(4)}(y, z) = \xi_4(x + iz) + \xi_4(x - iz),
\]

(25)

also solve full Einstein equations in vacuum, where again \(\xi_i\) are arbitrary functions, and \(\alpha\) is an arbitrary constant. Other generalizations are possible.

For a cylindrical form of the flat metric, with coordinates \((t, r, \theta, z)\) and base metric \(g_{00} = -1 = \hat{g}_{rr} = \hat{g}_{zz}\), and \(g_{00} = r^2\) (all other components vanish), an exact solution of Einstein equations is found when

\[
U^{(1)}(z, t) = \zeta(z - t), \\
U^{(2)}(r) = \ln r,
\]

(26)

where \(\zeta\) is an arbitrary function, and \(U^{(3)} = 0 = U^{(4)}\). This space-time metric gives rise to a non-vanishing Riemann tensor (and it does not represent a wave, in general).

There are also solutions for a base metric with the light-like form of the flat metric for coordinates \((u, v, y, z)\), given by \(\hat{g}_{uv} = 1 = \hat{g}_{yy} = \hat{g}_{zz}\) (all other components vanish). For this case, it is enough to consider

\[
U^{(1)}(u) = \chi_1(u), \\
U^{(2)}(y, z) = \chi_2(y + iz) + \chi_2(y - iz),
\]

(27)

while \(U^{(3)} = 0 = U^{(4)}\). Again, \(\chi_i\) (with \(i = 1, 2\)) are arbitrary functions. This space-time has anew a Riemann tensor that is not identically zero.

Finally, other exact non-trivial solutions can be obtained for a light-like cylindrical form of the flat metric, for coordinates \((u, v, r, \theta)\), with \(\hat{g}_{uv} = 1 = \hat{g}_{rr} = 1\), and \(\hat{g}_{00} = r^2\), and other vanishing components. In this case, the pre-potentials read

\[
U^{(1)}(r) = \rho_1(r), \\
U^{(2)}(r, \theta) = A \cosh(m \ln r) \sin(m \theta), \\
U^{(3)}(v) = \rho_2(v), \\
U^{(4)}(r, \theta) = A \cosh(w \ln r) \sin(w \theta),
\]

(28)

where \(A, m, w\) and \(\rho_i\) are arbitrary constants, and \(\rho_i\) are arbitrary functions.

A clarifying comment seems to be in order. All the orthogonal pre-potentials may be used to construct (massless) solutions to Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, Rarita-Schwinger and the linearized Einstein equations. Some of them even solve the full Einstein theory exactly. In the case of (linearized or full) gravity one should check that the Riemann tensor is not identically zero (to have a non-flat space-time solution) for the full theory and up to first order in the linearized case. The above solutions have such property.

**Exact solutions for massless bosonic fields of any spin.** – A massless field \(\phi_{\mu_1...\mu_s}\), with any integer spin-\(s\), must satisfy the dynamical equation \([11, 12]\)

\[
\square \phi_{\mu_1...\mu_s} = 0,
\]

(29)

and the constraint

\[
\partial^\lambda \phi_{\lambda \mu_2...\mu_s} - \frac{s}{2} \sum_{\mu_1} \partial_{\mu_1} \phi^\lambda_{\mu_1 \mu_2...\mu_s} = 0,
\]

(30)

where \(\sum_{\text{sym}}\) is a symmetrized sum with respect to all respective non-contracted indices. It is straightforward to show that solutions (12) for spin-0 field, (4) for spin-1 field and (21) for spin-2 field, all satisfy eqs. (29) and (30).

We can generalize the above solutions for integer spin in the following way. For even integer spin-\(s\) field, such that \(s = 2m\) (with \(m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots\)), a particular solution of eqs. (29) and (30) is

\[
\phi_{\mu_1...\mu_s} = \sum_{u^{(i)}} \partial_{\mu_1} \cdots \partial_{\mu_m} u^{(1)} \partial_{\mu_{m+1}} \cdots \partial_{\mu_s} u^{(2)},
\]

(31)

in terms of the same pre-potentials that solve the dynamics of other spin fields. On the other hand, for odd integer spin-\(s\) field, such that \(s = 2m + 1\) (with \(m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots\)), a particular solution is

\[
\phi_{\mu_1...\mu_s} = \sum_{u^{(i)}} \partial_{\mu_1} \cdots \partial_{\mu_m} u^{(1)} \partial_{\mu_{m+1}} \cdots \partial_{\mu_s} u^{(2)},
\]

(32)

where \(\sum_{\text{asym}}\) is an anti-symmetrized sum.

**Exact solutions for massless fermionic fields of any spin.** – For a massless field \(\psi_{\mu_1...\mu_m}\) with any semi-integer spin-\(s\) (with \(s = m + 1/2\), and \(m = 0, 1, 2, \ldots\)) has a dynamics described by the equation \([11, 12]\)

\[
\not \partial \psi_{\mu_1...\mu_m} = 0,
\]

(33)

under the constraint

\[
\not \gamma \psi_{\mu_1...\mu_m} = 0.
\]

(34)

New, solutions (14) for spin-1/2 and (17) for spin-3/2 solve eqs. (33) and (34). They can be generalized for any
semi-integer spin in the following way. For an even value for \( m \), the field solution is
\[
\psi_{\mu_1...\mu_m} = \partial_{\mu_1} \cdots \partial_{\mu_{m/2}} \left( \partial u \right) \partial_{\mu_{m/2+1}} \cdots \partial_{\mu_m} \begin{pmatrix} u_1^{(1)} \\ u_2^{(2)} \\ u_3^{(3)} \\ u_4^{(4)} \end{pmatrix},
\]
(35)
for the same pre-potential \( u(x^\mu) \) orthogonal to all of the other pre-potentials \( u_j^{(j)}(x^\nu) \) (for \( j = 1, 2, 3, 4 \)) that were used for the spin-3/2 case. Furthermore, for the case of an odd \( m \) value, the solution for the fermionic field is
\[
\psi_{\mu_1...\mu_m} = \partial_{\mu_1} \cdots \partial_{\mu_{(m+1)/2}} \left( \partial u \right) \partial_{\mu_{(m+3)/2}} \cdots \partial_{\mu_m} \begin{pmatrix} u_1^{(1)} \\ u_2^{(2)} \\ u_3^{(3)} \\ u_4^{(4)} \end{pmatrix}. 
\]
(36)
Both solutions (35) and (36) satisfy eqs. (33) and (34), in terms of the same pre-potentials used for other spin fields.

Discussion. – The approach we present may be described, loosely speaking, as a unified way of constructing solutions for massless field equations for any spin where the fields are made up of a core and a shell. The core is common to all fields of any spin and is made up of (exactly the same) orthogonal pre-potentials. The shells depend upon the spin of the fields. It is important to remark that bosonic and fermionic fields share exactly the same core. It is worth noting that linearized and full gravity share the same algebraic structure of the fields.

There are several other approaches which have similar (but different) ways to deal with either different spin fields and/or solutions to field equations. Among them, Feynman and Gell-Mann dealt with a kind of pre-potential for the Dirac equation [13] and Penrose [14] presented a kind of pre-potential which once integrated differs from spin to spin making it less transparent to relate solutions of different spin fields among them. There are also many other early and recent methods devised by Clebsch [15], Bateman [16], Geroch [17], Aćik [18], and Bialynicki-Birula [19], to deal with solutions to field equations, for instance.

Our approach may also be used to deal with topological aspects of fields as Ražada [20] did. Furthermore, it is also possible to extend the pre-potential method to find dynamical solutions for higher-spin fields, which follows from extended Maxwell-like equations in the massless case [21]. Finally, it is important to stress that the current approach allows us to construct exact solutions to the full non-linear Einstein equations. This possibility will be explored further in forthcoming articles.

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