

**A NOTE ON A SERIES OF PAPERS ON RELATIVISTIC δ -SPHERE
INTERACTIONS IN QUANTUM MECHANICS PUBLISHED BY M.N.
HOUNKONNOU AND G.Y.H. AVOSSEVOU IN THE JOURNAL OF
MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS**

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Abstract

In this note, we show that the definitions proposed in J.Math.Phys 41, 24-39(2000); J.Math.Phys 41, 1718-1734(2000) and J.Math.Phys 41, 1735-1744(2000) for the description of relativistic δ -sphere interactions and its various generalizations are wrong.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, several researchers were attracted by the study of δ -sphere interactions in quantum mechanics both from the mathematical point of view and for their application in modelling various physical phenomena (see e.g [1]-[8] and references therein).

For a long time, most of the studies were focusing on nonrelativistic interactions. The first rigorous mathematical definition and analysis of relativistic δ -sphere interactions were provided in [4].

More recently, Hounkonnou and Avossevou [9]-[11] published a series of papers in the Journal of Mathematical Physics on relativistic δ , δ' and finitely many δ -sphere interactions in quantum mechanics. Unfortunately, all the results presented in these papers are wrong. Indeed, although the authors refer to [4, 6], the definitions proposed in [9]-[11] for the description of relativistic δ -sphere interactions are wrong. Furthermore, the papers contain several other mistakes due to a misunderstanding of some basic concepts of the theory of self-adjoint extensions of symmetric closed operators in Hilbert spaces.

The purpose of this note is to show that the definitions proposed in [9]-[11] do not correspond to any relativistic δ -sphere interaction.

Let us consider the quantum Hamiltonian describing a relativistic δ -sphere interaction formally given in three dimensions by:

$$H_G = H_D + G\delta(|x| - R); \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad R \in (0, \infty)$$

where G is a 2×2 matrix of the form $G = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix}$; $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ and H_D is the Dirac Hamiltonian.

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In Section 2, we briefly recall the definition of H_G using the theory of self-adjoint extensions of symmetric closed operators in Hilbert spaces and in Section 3 we review and analyze the definitions proposed in [9]-[11] for H_G and its generalizations, in the special cases $A = \alpha \neq 0$, $B = 0$ and $A = 0$, $B = \alpha \neq 0$.

2 DEFINITION OF THE δ -SPHERE INTERACTION IN RELATIVISTIC QUANTUM MECHANICS.

Consider the Dirac Hamiltonian with a δ -sphere interaction formally given in three dimensions by:

$$H_G = H_D + G\delta(|x| - R); \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad R \in (0, \infty) \quad (1)$$

where G is a 2×2 matrix of the form $G = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix}$; $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ and H_D is the Dirac Hamiltonian defined in $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$ by

$$H_D = -i\underline{\alpha}\nabla + \underline{\beta}\frac{c^2}{2}; \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{D}(H_D) = H^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4. \quad (3)$$

In Eqs (2),(3) c is the velocity of the light, $H^{m,n}(\Omega)$ is the Sobolev space of indices (m, n) and $\underline{\alpha}$, $\underline{\beta}$ are the 4×4 Dirac matrices.

In the case of rotationally and space reflection symmetric operators, a mathematical definition of H_G in Eq (1) is provided in [4] using the theory of self-adjoint extensions of symmetric closed operators in Hilbert spaces.

As in the case of nonrelativistic point and δ -sphere interactions [1, 12], the definition of H_G is based on a process which involves the following stages.

First we restrict the operator H_D to \overline{H}_D defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{H}_D &= H_D, \\ \mathcal{D}(\overline{H}_D) &= \{\psi \in H^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4 / \psi(S_R) = 0\} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $S_R = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 : |x| = R\}$ is the closed ball of radius R centered at the origin in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Then we decompose \mathcal{H} with respect to the radial and angular variables and introduce a unitary transformation to remove the weight factor r^2 from the integration measure in $L^2((0, \infty))$.

The above process leads to the following representation of \mathcal{H} :

$$\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} \bigoplus_{\mu=-j}^j [U_{jl}^{-1} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}] \otimes [\Omega_{jl\mu}(\theta, \varphi)] \quad (5)$$

where

$$U_{jl} : L^2((0, \infty); r^2 dr) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{H}} \equiv L^2((0, \infty); dr) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, \quad (6)$$

$$(U_{jl}\psi)(r) = \begin{pmatrix} rf(r) \\ (-1)^{j-l-\frac{1}{2}} rg(r) \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

and $[\Omega_{jl\mu}(n)]$ is the space generated by the spherical spinors[13].

With respect to the decomposition (5), the operator \overline{H}_D reads

$$\overline{H}_D = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} [U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl} U_{jl}] \otimes \mathbb{1} \quad (8)$$

where the operators h_{jl} in $L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ are given by

$$h_{jl} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{c^2}{2} & -c\frac{d}{dr} + c\frac{\kappa_{jl}}{r} \\ c\frac{d}{dr} + c\frac{\kappa_{jl}}{r} & -\frac{c^2}{2} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \tau, \quad (9)$$

$$\kappa_{jl} = (-1)^{j-l+\frac{1}{2}} \left(j + \frac{1}{2}\right), \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} D(h_{jl}) &= \{\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \psi \in AC_{loc}((0, \infty)); \psi(R\pm) = 0; \\ &\tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2\} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $AC_{loc}(\Omega)$ denotes the set of locally absolutely continuous functions on Ω and

$$f(x\pm) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} f(x \pm \epsilon).$$

A straightforward calculation shows that the adjoint h_{jl}^* of h_{jl} reads:

$$\begin{aligned} h_{jl}^* &= \tau, \\ D(h_{jl}^*) &= \{\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \psi \in AC_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}), \\ &\tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2\}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

As in the case of nonrelativistic quantum mechanics, the relativistic quantum Hamiltonian $h_{jl,G}$ describing the interaction $V(r) = G\delta(r-R)$ is a self-adjoint extension of h_{jl} defined by $h_{jl,G} = \tau$ on the domain $\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,G})$ containing those functions $\psi \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*)$ which satisfy suitable boundary conditions at $r = R$.

Theorem 2.1 [4]

Any self-adjoint extension \hat{h}_{jl} of h_{jl} reads:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{h}_{jl} &= \tau \\ D(\hat{h}_{jl}) &= \{\psi \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*) \mid C\psi(R-) + D\psi(R+) = 0\} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where C and D are 2×2 matrices such that the 2×4 matrix (C, D) has rank 2. Conversely any operator of this form is a self-adjoint extension of h_{jl} .

Theorem 2.2 [4, 8]

The operator H_G in Eq(1) is defined in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$ by:

$$H_G = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl,G} U_{jl} \otimes \mathbb{1} \quad (14)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_{jl,G} &= \tau, \\ D(h_{jl,G}) &= \left\{ g \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*) \mid \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & \frac{B}{2c} \\ -\frac{A}{2c} & 1 \end{array} \right) g(R+) - \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & -\frac{B}{2c} \\ \frac{A}{2c} & 1 \end{array} \right) g(R-) = 0 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The special cases $A \neq 0, B = 0$ and $A = 0, B \neq 0$ yield the relativistic δ -sphere interactions of the first and the second type respectively. Indeed, as indicated in [8], the nonrelativistic limits of the Hamiltonians corresponding to these interactions converge in the norm resolvent topology to the Hamiltonians describing the nonrelativistic δ -sphere interactions of the first and the second type respectively [1, 2, 14].

From Eq(15), it follows that the domains $\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,A})$ and $\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,B})$ corresponding to the relativistic δ -sphere interactions of the first and the second type may be defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,A}) = \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*) \mid f(R-) = f(R+) \equiv f(R), \right. \\ \left. g(R+) - g(R-) = \frac{A}{c} f(R) \right\} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,B}) = \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*) \mid g(R-) = g(R+) \equiv g(R), \right. \\ \left. f(R+) - f(R-) = -\frac{B}{c} g(R) \right\}. \quad (17)$$

3 THE DEFINITIONS PROPOSED BY HOUNKONNOU AND AVOSSEVOU [9]-[11]

A. Relativistic scattering theory for a δ -sphere plus a Coulomb interaction with boundary conditions of second type. *J.Math. Phys.*,41, 24-39(2000)

In [9], Hounkonnou and Avossevou consider H_G in Eq(1) in the special cases $A = \alpha \neq 0, B = 0$ and $A = 0, B = \alpha \neq 0$ and propose the following two definitions for $H_\alpha = H_D + \alpha\delta(|x| - R)$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$ [[9],Eqs 2.21-2.25]

$$\text{i) } H_\beta = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} [U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl,\beta_{jl}} U_{jl}] \otimes \mathbb{1}, \\ \beta = \alpha = \left\{ \beta_{jl}, j - \frac{1}{2} \leq l \leq j + \frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2} \leq j \leq \infty \right\} \quad (18)$$

where

$$h_{jl,\beta_{jl}} = \tau \\ \mathcal{D}(h_{jl,\beta_{jl}}) = \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid f'(R+) = f'(R-), \right. \\ \left. g' \in AC_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}), g'(R+) - g'(R-) = \frac{\beta_{jl}}{c} f'(R) + \tilde{A}, \right. \\ \left. \tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, \tilde{A} \neq 0, -\infty < \beta_{jl} \leq +\infty \right\} \quad (19)$$

$$\text{ii) } H_\gamma = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} [U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl,\gamma_{jl}} U_{jl}] \otimes \mathbb{1}, \\ \gamma = \alpha = \left\{ \gamma_{jl}, j - \frac{1}{2} \leq l \leq j + \frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2} \leq j \leq \infty \right\} \quad (20)$$

where

$$h_{jl,\gamma_{jl}} = \tau \\ \mathcal{D}(h_{jl,\gamma_{jl}}) = \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid g'(R+) = g'(R-), \right. \\ \left. f' \in AC_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}), f'(R+) - f'(R-) = -\frac{\gamma_{jl}}{c} g'(R) + \tilde{B}, \right. \\ \left. \tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, \tilde{B} \neq 0, -\infty < \gamma_{jl} \leq +\infty \right\} \quad (21)$$

Comments

i) The operators $h_{jl,\beta_{jl}}$ and $h_{jl,\gamma_{jl}}$ are different. Therefore, they can not define the same formal expression H_α

ii) As indicated in Section 2, the relativistic quantum Hamiltonian $h_{jl,\alpha_{jl}}$ describing the interaction $V(r) = \alpha_{jl}\delta(r - R)$ is defined on the domain:

$$\mathcal{D}(h_{jl,\alpha_{jl}}) = \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}(h_{jl}^*) \mid \psi \text{ satisfies suitable boundary conditions at } r = R \right\}. \quad (22)$$

Therefore, the boundary conditions given in Eqs(19) and (21) which characterize the behaviour of ψ' at $r = R$ instead of that ψ can not define the interaction $V(r) = \alpha_{jl}\delta(r - R)$.

Actually, although the authors recognize in the introduction of [9] that H_α was rigorously defined and analyzed in [4], the definitions proposed in Eqs(19) and (21) are wrong since they do not correspond to any of the operators $h_{jl,A}$ and $h_{jl,B}$ given by Eqs(16) and (17).

iii) The definition of h_{jl} in [[9], Eqs 2.12 and 2.13] is wrong. The operator h_{jl} is rather defined by Eq(11).

Reference [9] contains several other mistakes related to a misunderstanding of some basic concepts of the theory of self-adjoint extensions of symmetric closed operators in Hilbert spaces. As an example, we note that contrary to the statement following [[9],Eq(2.11)], the operator \hat{h}_{jl} is not self-adjoint. It is also worth mentioning that in [9, Eq(2.21)], the case $\beta_{jl} = 0$ does not coincide with the free radial Dirac Hamiltonian and $\beta_{jl} = \infty$ does not lead to the free radial Dirac Hamiltonian with Neumann boundary condition at S_R .

iv) According to theorem 2.1, $h_{jl,\beta_{jl}}$ and $h_{jl,\gamma_{jl}}$ do not define any self-adjoint extension of h_{jl} . Consequently, the conditions required for the application of Krein's formula in [[9],(2.26)] are not satisfied.

B. Relativistic scattering theory for finitely many δ -sphere interactions supported by concentric spheres. J. Math. Phys 41, 1735-1744(2000)

In this paper, the authors consider the quantum Hamiltonian describing a finite number of relativistic δ -sphere interactions with support on concentric spheres, formally given in three dimensions by:

$$H_{\{R\}} = H_D + \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_m \delta(|x| - R_m), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad R_m \in (0, \infty). \quad (23)$$

They define $H_{\{R\}}$ in [[11], Eqs(2.21)-(2.24)] just by imposing the boundary conditions given by Eqs (19) and (21) at each point $R_m \in (0, \infty)$. As indicated in section 3A, these boundary conditions do not define any relativistic δ -sphere interaction.

C. Exactly solvable models of δ' -sphere interactions in relativistic quantum mechanics- J.Math. Phys 41, 1718-1734(2000)

In this paper, the authors consider the quantum Hamiltonian corresponding to a finite number of relativistic δ' -sphere interactions with support on concentric spheres, formally given in three dimensions by:

$$H_{\{R\}} = H_D + \sum_{m=1}^N \tilde{\alpha}_m \delta'(|x| - R_m), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad R_m \in (0, \infty). \quad (24)$$

The authors propose the following two definitions for $H_{\{R\}}$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$ [[10],Eqs(2.18)-(2.21)]:

$$\text{i) } \overline{H}_{\tilde{\beta}\{R\}} = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} [U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl, \tilde{\beta}_{jl}\{R\}} U_{jl}] \otimes \mathbb{1} \quad (25)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_{jl, \tilde{\beta}_{jl}\{R\}} &= \tau \\ \mathcal{D}(h_{jl, \tilde{\beta}_{jl}\{R\}}) &= \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid f \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}); \right. \\ &\quad \left. f' \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty)); g, g' \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. g'(R_{m+}) - g'(R_{m-}) = -\frac{\tilde{\beta}_m}{2c} [f(R_{m+}) + f(R_{m-})] + A_m; \right. \\ &\quad \left. \tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, A_m \neq 0 \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

$$\text{ii) } \overline{H}_{\tilde{\gamma}\{R\}} = \bigoplus_{j=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \bigoplus_{l=j-\frac{1}{2}}^{j+\frac{1}{2}} [U_{jl}^{-1} h_{jl, \tilde{\gamma}_{jl}\{R\}} U_{jl}] \otimes \mathbb{1} \quad (27)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_{jl, \tilde{\gamma}_{jl}\{R\}} &= \tau \\ \mathcal{D}(h_{jl, \tilde{\gamma}_{jl}\{R\}}) &= \left\{ \psi = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ g \end{pmatrix} \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \mid g \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. g' \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty)), f, f' \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\}); \right. \\ &\quad \left. f'(R_{m+}) - f'(R_{m-}) = \frac{\tilde{\gamma}_{jl}}{2c} [g(R_{m+}) + g(R_{m-})] - B_m; \right. \\ &\quad \left. \tau\psi \in L^2((0, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, B_m \neq 0 \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Comments

i) The relationships between $\tilde{\alpha}_m$ in Eqs(24) and $\tilde{\beta}_{jl}\{R\}$, $\tilde{\gamma}_{jl}\{R\}$, A_m and B_m in Eqs(25)-(28) is not clear. Furthermore, the operators defined by Eqs (26) and (28) are different. Consequently, they can not define the same formal expression $H_{\{R\}}$ in (24).

ii) In the case $m = 1$, it follows from theorem 2.1 that none of the Eqs (25) and (27) define a self-adjoint extension of $\overline{H}_{\{R\}}$ given by [[10], Eq(2.3)] since the boundary conditions (26) and (28) can not be represented in the form $C\psi(R-) + D\psi(R+) = 0$.

Futhermore, the nonrelativistic limit of $h_{jl, \tilde{\beta}_{jl}\{R\}}$ and $h_{jl, \tilde{\gamma}_{jl}\{R\}}$ do not converge in any way to the Hamiltonian $h_{l, \{\alpha\}_l, \{R\}}$ defined in [[15],Eq(104)] and corresponding to a finite number of nonrelativistic δ' -sphere interaction with support on concentric spheres.

The above discussion clearly shows that the definitions proposed in [11] do not correspond to the interaction given in Eq(24)

iii) As in the case of section 2.A, we note that [10] contains several mistakes due to a misunderstanding of basic concepts of the theory of self-adjoint extensions. For example, a straightforward computation shows that the condition $\psi' \in \text{AC}_{loc}((0, \infty) \setminus \{R\})$ does not belong to the domain $\mathcal{D}(\overline{h}_{jl, \{R\}}^*)$ in [[10],Eq(2.6)].

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