

Nonassociativity, supersymmetry, and hidden variables

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It is shown that the supersymmetric quantum mechanics has an octonionic generalization. The generalization is based on the inclusion of quaternions into octonions. The elements from the coset octonions/quaternions are unobservables because they cannot be considered as quantum operators as a consequence of their nonassociative properties. The idea that the octonionic generalization of the supersymmetric quantum mechanics describes an observable particle formed with unobservable “particles” is presented. © 2008 American Institute of Physics.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nonassociative algebras may be surely called beautiful mathematical entities. Nevertheless, they have never been systematically utilized in physics in any fundamental fashion, although some attempts have been made toward this goal. However, it is still possible that nonassociative algebras may play some essential future role in the ultimate theory, which is yet to be discovered.

Octonions are one example of a nonassociative algebra. The octonions are the largest normed algebra after the algebras of real numbers, complex numbers, and quaternions.¹ Since their discovery in 1844–1845 by Graves and Cayley, there have been various attempts to find appropriate uses for octonions in physics (see reviews in Refs. 2 and 3).

In this paper, we would like to show that the supersymmetric quantum mechanics has an octonionic generalization. The generalization is based on the inclusion of quaternions \mathbb{H} into octonions \mathbb{O} , $\mathbb{H} \subset \mathbb{O}$. The elements from the coset \mathbb{O}/\mathbb{H} can be considered as unobservables because they cannot be considered as quantum operators as a consequence of their nonassociative properties.

The paper is organized as follows in Secs. II and III, the introduction to the split octonion algebra and supersymmetric quantum mechanics is given. In Sec. IV, we present an octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics. In Sec. V, we show that the elements from the coset \mathbb{O}/\mathbb{H} can be considered as unobservables. In Sec. VI, we consider the possible applications of the octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics. In Sec. VII, we present comments and conclusions.

II. THE SPLIT OCTONION ALGEBRA

In this section, we follow Ref. 4. A composition algebra is defined as an algebra A with identity and with a nondegenerate quadratic form Q defined over it such that Q permits the composition

$$Q(xy) = Q(x)Q(y), \quad x, y \in A. \quad (1)$$

According to the Hurwitz theorem, only four different composition algebras exist over the real or complex number fields. These are the real numbers \mathbb{R} of dimension 1, complex numbers \mathbb{C} of dimension 2, quaternions \mathbb{H} of dimension 4, and octonions \mathbb{O} of dimension 8. Of these algebras,

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the quaternions \mathbb{H} are not commutative and the octonions \mathbb{O} are neither commutative nor associative. A composition algebra is said to be a division algebra if the quadratic form Q has the following property:

$$\text{if } Q(x) = 0 \text{ implies that } x = 0. \quad (2)$$

Otherwise, the algebra is called *split*.

A basis for the real octonion \mathbb{O} will contain eight elements including the identity

$$1, e_A, \quad A = 1, \dots, 7, \quad \text{where } e_A^2 = -1. \quad (3)$$

The elements e_A satisfy the following multiplication table:

$$e_A e_B = a_{ABC} e_C - \delta_{AB}, \quad (4)$$

where a_{ABC} is totally antisymmetric and

$$a_{ABC} = +1 \quad \text{for } ABC = 123, 516, 624, 435, 471, 673, 572. \quad (5)$$

For the split octonion algebra, we choose the following basis:

$$u_i = \frac{1}{2}(e_i + \varepsilon e_{i+3}), \quad u_i^* = \frac{1}{2}(e_i - \varepsilon e_{i+3}), \quad i = 1, 2, 3;$$

$$u_0 = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon e_7), \quad u_0^* = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon e_7). \quad (6)$$

These basis elements satisfy the multiplication table

$$u_i u_j = \epsilon_{ijk} u_k^*, \quad u_i^* u_j^* = \epsilon_{ijk} u_k, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3 \quad (7)$$

$$u_i u_j^* = -\delta_{ij} u_0, \quad u_i^* u_j = -\delta_{ij} u_0^*, \quad (8)$$

$$u_i u_0 = 0, \quad u_i u_0^* = u_i, \quad u_i^* u_0 = u_i^*, \quad u_i^* u_0^* = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$u_0 u_i = u_i, \quad u_0^* u_i = 0, \quad u_0 u_i^* = 0, \quad u_0^* u_i^* = u_i^*, \quad (10)$$

$$u_0^2 = u_0, \quad u_0^{*2} = u_0^*, \quad u_0 u_0^* = u_0^* u_0 = 0. \quad (11)$$

The split octonion algebra contains divisors of zero and hence is not a division algebra.

The algebra of real octonions \mathbb{O} can be represented as

$$\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{H} + e_7 \mathbb{H}, \quad (12)$$

where \mathbb{H} denotes the quaternions, spanned by $\{1, e_1, e_2, e_3\}$; then, basis (6) can be represented as

$$u_i = \frac{e_i}{2}(1 - \varepsilon e_7), \quad u_i^* = \frac{e_i}{2}(1 + \varepsilon e_7), \quad i = 1, 2, 3;$$

$$u_0 = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon e_7), \quad u_0^* = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon e_7). \quad (13)$$

A realization of the split octonion algebra is via the Zorn vector matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{y} & b \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

where a, b are real numbers and \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} are 3-vectors, with the product defined as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{y} & b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c & \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{v} & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ac + \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{v} & a\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{v} \\ c\mathbf{y} + b\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{u} & bd + \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{u} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Here, (\cdot) and $[\times]$ denote the usual scalar and vector products.

If the basis vectors of the three-dimensional Euclidean space are $\mathbf{e}_i, i=1, 2, 3$ with $\mathbf{e}_i \times \mathbf{e}_j = \epsilon_{ijk} \mathbf{e}_k$ and $\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_j = \delta_{ij}$, then we can rewrite the split octonions as matrices

$$u_0^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad u_i^* = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\mathbf{e}_i \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (16)$$

$$u_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad u_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{e}_i & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

The split (and real) octonions are alternative algebras, i.e., for any octonions a, b ,

$$(aa)b = a(ab), \quad a(bb) = (ab)b, \quad (ab)a = a(ba). \quad (18)$$

III. SUPERSYMMETRIC QUANTUM MECHANICS

In this section, we follow Ref. 5. A one-dimensional quantum mechanical Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{H}_- & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{H}_+ \end{pmatrix} \quad (19)$$

is said to be supersymmetric^{6,7} if the corresponding potentials $V_{\pm}(x)$ are related according to

$$V_{\pm} = \frac{U'^2}{8} \mp \frac{U''}{4}. \quad (20)$$

The demonstration that \hat{H} is supersymmetric hinges on the existence of the generators of supersymmetry Q, \bar{Q} , which, together with \hat{H} , satisfy the commutation and anticommutation relations

$$[Q, \hat{H}] = [\bar{Q}, \hat{H}] = 0, \quad (21)$$

$$\{\bar{Q}, \bar{Q}\} = \{Q, Q\} = 0, \quad (22)$$

$$\{\bar{Q}, Q\} = 2\hat{H}. \quad (23)$$

Here,

$$Q = \left(\hat{p} - \iota \frac{U'}{2} \right) \sigma^+, \quad (24)$$

$$\bar{Q} = \left(\hat{p} + \iota \frac{U'}{2} \right) \sigma^-, \quad (25)$$

where $\iota^2 = -1$, $\hat{p} = -\iota(\partial/\partial x)$ and σ^{\pm} are the 2×2 matrices

$$\sigma^- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (26)$$

$$\sigma^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (27)$$

Because of the relations $\{\sigma^-, \sigma^+\} = 1$ and $[\sigma^+, \sigma^-] = \sigma_z$, it is easily verified that Eqs. (21)–(23) are satisfied and that

$$\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2}(Q\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}Q) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\hat{p}^2 + \frac{U'^2}{4}\right)\mathbb{I} + \frac{U''}{4}\sigma_z, \quad (28)$$

where \mathbb{I} is the identity matrix and σ_z is the Pauli matrix.

IV. THE NONASSOCIATIVE GENERALIZATION OF SUPERSYMMETRIC QUANTUM MECHANICS

In this section, we would like to show that the supersymmetric quantum mechanics has an octonionic generalization. It is easy to show that σ^- , σ^+ , and σ_z can be identified with the split octonions

$$\sigma^- \rightarrow u_1, \quad \sigma^+ \rightarrow -u_1^*, \quad \sigma_z \rightarrow u_0^* - u_0. \quad (29)$$

It suggests to consider the following generalizations of supersymmetric operators Q, \bar{Q} (24) and (25):

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^3 (-\hat{p}_i + \iota V_{,i})u_i^* = \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{D}_i u_i^*, \quad (30)$$

$$\bar{Q} = \sum_{i=1}^3 (\hat{p}_i + \iota V_{,i})u_i = \sum_{i=1}^3 \bar{\mathcal{D}}_i u_i. \quad (31)$$

For constructing the Hamiltonian, we need to introduce quadratic operators in Q :

$$Q\bar{Q} = \left[\hat{p}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 (V_{,j})^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} \right] u_0^*, \quad (32)$$

$$\bar{Q}Q = \left[\hat{p}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 (V_{,j})^2 - \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} \right] u_0. \quad (33)$$

Here, $\hat{p}_i = -\iota(\partial/\partial x_i)$, $V_{,i} = (\partial V/\partial x_i)$, and $\sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} = \sum_{j=1}^3 \partial^2 V/\partial x_j^2 = \Delta V$. The Hamiltonian is

$$\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2}\{\bar{Q}, Q\} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{H}_+ & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{H}_- \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\hat{p}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 (V_{,j})^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2}(-\iota e_7) \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj}, \quad (34)$$

where $-\iota e_7 = u_0^* - u_0$, $\hat{H}_+ = \frac{1}{2}[\hat{p}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 (V_{,j})^2] + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj}$, and $\hat{H}_- = \frac{1}{2}[\hat{p}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^3 (V_{,j})^2] - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj}$. Instead of commutation/anticommutation relationships (21)–(23), we have

$$\{\bar{Q}, \bar{Q}\} = \{Q, Q\} = 0 \quad \text{because of } Q^2 = \bar{Q}^2 = 0, \quad (35)$$

$$[Q, \hat{H}] = Q(\bar{Q}Q) - (Q\bar{Q})Q = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{ij} \mathcal{D}_j u_i^* - Q \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{jj}, \quad (36)$$

$$[\bar{Q}, \hat{H}] = \bar{Q}(Q\bar{Q}) - (\bar{Q}Q)\bar{Q} = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{ij} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_j u_i - \bar{Q} \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{jj}, \quad (37)$$

$$[Q\bar{Q}, \hat{H}] = [\bar{Q}Q, \hat{H}] = 0. \quad (38)$$

Commutations (36) and (37) show that the operators Q, \bar{Q}, \hat{H} do not constitute a closed algebra because of the appearance of the $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{ij} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_j u_i$ and $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{ij} \mathcal{D}_j u_i^*$ terms.

Now, we can write the Schrödinger equation with Hamiltonian (34), which is similar to (28):

$$\hat{H}\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{H}_+ & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{H}_- \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (39)$$

Here, the multiplication rule on the left hand side is defined via definition (41) and the Zorn multiplication rule (15).

The next question is the interpretation of Eq. (39). The problem here is that Hamiltonian (34) has the nonassociative number e_7 , and consequently, such eigenmatrix equations do not always have solutions. It is not clear that the Zorn multiplication rule (15) may give us a correct formulation of the eigenvalue problem for any split octonions. In our case, we can avoid these problems in the following way. The operator $-ie_7$ has the following Zorn matrix representation:

$$-ie_7 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (40)$$

which is similar to Pauli matrix σ_z . Let us introduce the following notation for a wave function Ψ :

$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \psi_2 & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (41)$$

In the same way, we introduce the notation for a Hermitian-conjugated wave function Ψ^\dagger :

$$\Psi^\dagger = (\psi_1^* \ \psi_2^*) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1^* & \psi_2^* \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (42)$$

The scalar product of the wave functions Ξ and Ψ can be defined as

$$\Xi^\dagger \Psi = (\xi_1^* \ \xi_2^*) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1^* & \xi_2^* \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \psi_2 & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1^* \psi_1 + \xi_2^* \cdot \psi_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} = \xi_1^* \psi_1 + \xi_2^* \cdot \psi_2. \quad (43)$$

One can see that

$$-ie_7 \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ -\psi_2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (44)$$

Now we can discuss the problem of the observability of operators Q, \bar{Q} and so on. Let us remind that a physical quantity P is observable if the eigenvalue problem for the corresponding operator \hat{P} has the sense

$$\hat{P}\Psi = P\Psi. \quad (45)$$

However, relation (44) is not always satisfied for other split octonions, for example,

$$u_i \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{e}_i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -[\mathbf{e}_i \times \psi_2] \\ \psi_1 \mathbf{e}_i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (46)$$

and the last matrix cannot be presented as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ \mathbf{b} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The same is true for

$$(\xi_1 \ \xi_2) u_i^* = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 & \xi_2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\mathbf{e}_i \\ \mathbf{0} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\xi_1 \mathbf{e}_i \\ -[\xi_2 \times \mathbf{e}_i] & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (47)$$

and the last matrix cannot be presented as

$$(a, \mathbf{b}) = \begin{pmatrix} a & \mathbf{b} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

One can say that Zorn matrices (41) and (42) do not form a subalgebra of octonions. It means that for operator u_i , the eigenvalue problem does not have any sense. Consequently, the operators Q, \bar{Q} are *unobservables*. The operators $Q\bar{Q}, \bar{Q}Q, \hat{H}$ are *observables*. It confirms the idea presented in Ref. 8 that, in general, the nonassociative operators (numbers) do not allow us to present these operators as observables of some physical quantities.

Equations (36) and (37) directly show that the operators Q, \bar{Q} are nonassociative and nonalternative because the associators

$$(Q\bar{Q})Q - Q(\bar{Q}Q) \neq 0, \quad (48)$$

$$(\bar{Q}Q)\bar{Q} - \bar{Q}(Q\bar{Q}) \neq 0 \quad (49)$$

are nonzero.

V. UNOBSERVABLES AND HIDDEN VARIABLES

Commutators (36) and (37) tell us that operators u_i and u_i^* have to be compared to hidden variable of the hidden variables theory. According to (46), we cannot interpret these operators as quantum operators because we cannot determine the action of the operators on wave function (41). The reason for this is the nonassociativity of operators u_i and u_i^* : they are split octonions. Let us note that the supersymmetric quantum mechanics presented in Sec. III is a usual quantum mechanics because $\sigma^+ = u_1, \sigma^- = u_1^*, \sigma_z = -ie_7$ are quaternions that are the associative subalgebra of octonions.

Thus, the octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics presented in Sec. IV is formed with operators Q and \bar{Q} . These operators are built using split octonions u_i and u_i^* . Hamiltonian (34) is constructed in such a way that it has the physical application as the Schrödinger equation

$$\hat{H}\Psi = E\Psi. \quad (50)$$

The special features of this quantum mechanics are as follows:

- (1) the quantities Q and \bar{Q} are unobservables and
- (2) the quantities $Q\bar{Q}$ and $\bar{Q}Q$ are physical observables.

Item (1) means that the Hamiltons equations of motion for the operators Q and \bar{Q} :

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \iota[\hat{H}, Q] = \iota \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \mathcal{D}_j u_i^* - Q \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} \right), \quad (51)$$

$$\frac{d\bar{Q}}{dt} = \iota[\hat{H}, \bar{Q}] = \iota \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_j u_i - \bar{Q} \sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} \right), \quad (52)$$

have the nonassociative $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \mathcal{D}_j u_i^*$ and $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_j u_i$ terms. One can say that quantities u_i and u_i^* are similar to the hidden variables (in the hidden variable theory) in the sense that the Hamilton equations (51) and (52) do not $\sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} Q$ or $\sum_{j=1}^3 V_{,jj} \bar{Q}$ but term only $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \mathcal{D}_j u_i^*$ and $\sum_{i,j=1}^3 V_{,ij} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_j u_i$ as well.

This situation should be compared to Bell's theorem. If quantum mechanics has hidden variables $\lambda \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, then the probability distribution of the hidden variables in state ψ is $\rho_\psi(\lambda)$. As a probability distribution, $\rho_\psi(\lambda)$ must have the properties

$$\rho_\psi(\lambda) \geq 0, \quad (53)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho_\psi(\lambda) d^n \lambda = 1. \quad (54)$$

It is important for us that at the proof of Bell's inequalities, we connive that hidden variables have a probability distribution. However, the situation for the octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics presented in Sec. IV is radically different: operators u_i and u_i^* are unobservables. The difference between the unobservables in our case and the hidden variables is that the unobservables are neither classical (because they are nonassociative numbers—split octonions) nor quantum (because they are unobservables) variables. The special peculiarity of unobservables is that they are nonassociative quantities.

Thus, the nonassociative unobservables *do not provide a way to violate Bell's inequalities*. This takes place because the hidden variables in the theory of hidden variables *can be measured in principle*. However, the unobservables presented here *cannot be measured in principle*.

VI. PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS

The above mentioned consideration shows that the octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics describes an observable particle formed from unobservable “particles.”

Let us note that a similar idea about unobservable variables existing in the t - J model with high- T_c superconductivity. It is a widely spread opinion that the low energy physics of high- T_c cuprates is described in terms of a t - J -type model, which is given by⁹⁻¹¹

$$H = \sum_{i,j} J \left(S_i \cdot S_j - \frac{1}{4} n_i n_j \right) - \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} (c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + \text{H.c.}), \quad (55)$$

where $t_{ij} = t, t', t''$ for the nearest, second nearest, and third nearest neighbor pairs, respectively. In this model, the electron operator is presented as

$$c_{i\sigma}^\dagger = f_{i\sigma}^\dagger b_i, \quad (56)$$

where $f_{i\sigma}^\dagger, f_{i\sigma}$ are the fermion operators, while b_i is the slave-boson operator. This representation, together with the constraint

$$f_{i\uparrow}^\dagger f_{i\uparrow} + f_{i\downarrow}^\dagger f_{i\downarrow} + b_i^\dagger b_i = 1, \quad (57)$$

reproduces all the algebra of the electron operators. The physical meaning of the operators f and b is unclear: do these fields exist or not?^{10,11}

If we compare factorization (56) and operators Q, \bar{Q} and $Q\bar{Q}, \bar{Q}Q$, we can presuppose that the operators $f_{i\sigma}^\dagger, b_i$ are elements of an infinite dimensional nonassociative algebra \mathfrak{Q} . This algebra has an associative subalgebra $\mathfrak{A} \subset \mathfrak{Q}$ and the operator $c_{i\sigma}^\dagger \in \mathfrak{A}$ is observable but the operators $f_{i\sigma}^\dagger, b_i \in \mathfrak{Q} \setminus \mathfrak{A}$ are unobservables. It could mean that the high- T_c superconductivity (similar to quantum chromodynamics) can be understood on the basis of a *nonperturbative* quantum theory and one can assume that the nonperturbative quantum theory (on the operator language) could be realized as a nonassociative quantum theory (realized as a nonassociative algebra \mathfrak{Q}) with observables belonging to an associative subalgebra \mathfrak{A} and unobservables belonging to $\mathfrak{Q} \setminus \mathfrak{A}$.

It is necessary to note here that in Refs. 12–15, there is a classical generalization of slave-boson decomposition on gauge theories, which is the so-called spin-charge separation.

The next question naturally appearing here is as follows: Is it possible to apply the idea presented here to the description of the unobservability of quarks in quantum chromodynamics?

VII. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Hidden variable theories were espoused by a minority of physicists who argued that the statistical nature of quantum mechanics indicated that quantum mechanics is “incomplete.” In quantum mechanics, the question arises whether there might be some deeper reality hidden beneath quantum mechanics, which is to be described by a more fundamental theory that can always predict the outcome of each measurement with certainty. A minority of physicists maintain that underlying the probabilistic nature of the universe is an objective foundation/property—the hidden variable. The main point of the hidden variables in quantum mechanics is that they can describe the movement of a quantum particle in a deterministic manner. For us, such description seems a nondeterministic one because an underlying hidden variable theory is too complicated. It is very important that for the hidden variables, we can introduce a probability distribution $\rho_\psi(\lambda)$ describing the hidden variables in a state ψ . The situation for the unobservables in a nonassociative quantum theory is radically different: the unobservables cannot have any probability distribution in principle.

For the octonionic generalization of the supersymmetric quantum mechanics presented here, the situation is similar: the observables are the quantities which are presented as a multilinear combination of more elementary quantities—unobservables. For instance, the Hamiltonian \hat{H} (34) is the bilinear combination of unobservables Q and \bar{Q} . In contrast to the hidden variable theory, the unobservables in the octonionic generalization of the supersymmetric quantum mechanics are unobservables in principle, i.e., for these unobservables we cannot assign any probability distribution (53). According Refs. 16 and 3, octonion valued observables become admissible only in the case of three degrees of freedom. Octonion valued fields with an infinite number of degrees of freedom can only operate in a nonobservable Hilbert space.

Let us note that the unobservability idea was applied in Ref. 17 for the description of the unobservability of quark states and observability of mesons and nucleons. The idea presented there is to describe quarks (and their associated color gauge bosons) in an octonionic Hilbert space. States in such a space will not all be observable because the propositional calculus of observable states as developed by Birkhoff and von Neumann¹⁸ can only have realizations as projective geometries corresponding to Hilbert spaces over associative composition algebras, while octonions are nonassociative. In Ref. 17, an observable subspace arises in the following way: within the Fock space, there will be states that are observable (longitudinal, in the notation of Ref. 17) which are the linear combinations of u_0 and u_0^* . The states in transversal direction (spanned by u_i and u_i^*) are unobservables. Let us note that the octonionic generalization of the supersymmetric quantum mechanics presented here is based on a similar consideration for u_0, u_0^* and u_i, u_i^* .

We have shown that supersymmetric quantum mechanics has a split octonionic generalization. The algebra of variables in the octonionic generalization of supersymmetric quantum mechanics is split into observables and unobservables. The unobservables in some sense are similar to hidden variables but they cannot be measured in principle.

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