Quregisters, Symmetry Groups and Clifford Algebras

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Abstract. Natural one-to-one and two-to-one homomorphisms from SO(3) into SU(2) are built conventionally, and the collection of qubits, is identified with a subgroup of SU(2). This construction is suitable to be extended to corresponding tensor powers. The notions of qubits, quregisters and qugates are translated into the language of symmetry groups. The corresponding elements to entangled states in the tensor product of Hilbert spaces reflect entanglement properties as well, and in this way a notion of entanglement is realised in the tensor product of symmetry groups.

1. Introduction

The quantum computations may be realised as geometric transformations of the three-dimensional real space [1, 2]. Several approaches have been published within this geometric approach [3, 4]. For instance, in [5] a relation is reviewed between local unitary symmetries and entanglement invariants of quregisters from the algebraic varieties point of view, and in [6] a construction is provided via symmetric matrices for pure quantum states where their reductions are maximally mixed. Through the well known identification of the symmetry group SU(2) with the unit sphere of the two-dimensional complex Hilbert space, namely, the collection of qubits, the sphere is provided with a group structure. The qu-registers, as tensor products of qubits, in the sense of Hilbert spaces, correspond then to group tensor products. We pose the problem to compute effectively this correspondence and to transfer the notion of entangled states into the corresponding elements of group tensor products.

2. The Clifford algebra of three-dimensional space

For $\mathbb{R}^3$ with the quadratic form $x \mapsto \|x\|^2 = |x_0|^2 + |x_1|^2 + |x_2|^2$ the Clifford algebra is

$$\text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^3, \|\cdot\|^2) = \left( \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} (\mathbb{R}^3)^{\otimes n} \right) / \langle \{x\cdot y - \|x\|^2 1 \}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} \rangle.$$

Besides

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^3: \langle x|y \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (x \cdot y + y \cdot x), \quad x \wedge y = \frac{1}{2} (x y - y x)$$

where $\wedge$ denotes the usual exterior product. For any $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, let $\wedge^k \mathbb{R}^3$ be the linear space spanned by the $k$-vectors. The exterior algebra is $\bigwedge \mathbb{R}^3 = \bigoplus_{k=0}^3 \wedge^k \mathbb{R}^3$, hence it is a real $2^3$-dimensional linear space. If $\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$ is an orthonormal basis of the space of vectors
\[ \mathbb{H}^3 \cong \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ then: } s_i^2 = 1 \land (i \neq j \implies s_i s_j = -s_j s_i). \] It is naturally identified \( s_i \leftrightarrow \sigma_i \), for the Pauli matrices

\[
\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \in U(\mathbb{H}),
\]

where \( \mathbb{H} = \mathbb{C}^2 \) is the complex 2-dimensional Hilbert space, and \( i = \sqrt{-1} \). Since \( \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 = i \text{Id}_3 \), it can be defined \( i = s_1 s_2 s_3 \). In the subspace of bivectors, let \( t_1 = s_2 s_3 \), \( t_2 = s_3 s_1 \) and \( t_3 = s_1 s_2 \). Then, if \( t_i = s_j s_k \), \( t_i^2 = -1 \) and, \( t_2 t_1 = t_3, t_1 t_3 = t_2, t_3 t_2 = t_1 \), namely, \( \{t_1, t_2, t_3\} \) generates a subalgebra in \( \text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^3, ||\cdot||^2) \) that is isomorphic to Hamilton’s quaternions. This algebra is called the even subalgebra of \( \text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^3, ||\cdot||^2) \). Let \( C_3 = \text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^3, ||\cdot||^2) \) and \( C_3^+ \) be its even subalgebra.

3. Symmetry groups of small dimension linear spaces

For any \( \theta \in [-\pi, +\pi] \), and unitary vector \( \mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \), let

\[
\cos(\theta) \mathbf{1} + \sin(\theta) \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} (\mathbf{r} \mathbf{r})^j \mathbf{a}^j,
\]

with \( e^{i \mathbf{r} \theta} \) an unitary vector in the even subalgebra \( C_3^+ \). Thus, it is properly an unitary quaternion, \( e^{i \mathbf{r} \theta} = a_0 \mathbf{1} + a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_2 + a_3 t_3 \) with \( |a_0|^2 + |a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2 + |a_3|^2 = 1 \).

Through the correspondence

\[
\Phi : e^{i \mathbf{r} \theta} \mapsto U = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 + i a_3 & a_1 + i a_2 \\ -a_1 + i a_2 & a_0 - i a_3 \end{pmatrix} = a_0 \text{Id}_\mathbb{H} + i a_2 \sigma_1 + i a_1 \sigma_2 + i a_3 \sigma_3
\]

SO(3) is identified with SU(2), the group of unitary transforms in \( \mathbb{H} \) which preserve the orientation: \( e^{-i \mathbf{r} \theta^2} \) is a rotation of angle \( \theta \) with \( \mathbf{r} \) as axis of rotation.

A second identification of SO(3) with SU(2) is obtained by the composition of the following maps:

\[
(\theta, \mathbf{r}) \mapsto \Psi_0 \mapsto \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) - i r_3 \sin(\theta) \\ r_1 \sin(\theta) + i r_2 \sin(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Psi_1 : C \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_0 & -\overline{c_1} \\ c_1 & \overline{c_0} \end{pmatrix}.
\]

(1)

Any rotation in SO(3) is seen as a spinor, and through the map \( \Psi_0 \) it corresponds to a qubit \( \mathbf{c} \in S_1 = \{(c_0, c_1) \in \mathbb{H} | |c_0|^2 + |c_1|^2 = 1\} \). Via the map \( \Psi_1 \), any qubit is identified with an element of SU(2). Conversely, if \( C = \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} \in SU(2) \) then \( c_0 d_1 - c_1 d_0 = 1 \).

By assuming \( (c_0, c_1) \in S_1 \), the solutions of this equation are the points \( (d_0, d_1) \in \mathbb{H} \) in the straight line passing through \( (-\overline{c_1}, \overline{c_0}) \) parallel to the straight-line orthogonal to \( (c_0, -c_1) \). Since \( (c_0, -c_1) \in S_1 \), this line is tangent to \( S_1 \) at this point. The solution line is parameterised thus as \( D(d) = (-\overline{c_1}, \overline{c_0}) + d(1, -\overline{c_1} c_1) \), with \( d \in \mathbb{C} \). Also \( (-\overline{c_1}, \overline{c_0}) \in S_1 \), and the only solution \( (d_0, d_1) \) of \( c_0 d_1 - c_1 d_0 = 1 \) in \( S_1 \) is \( (d_0, d_1) = (-\overline{c_1}, \overline{c_0}) \). Thus \( C = \Psi_1(c_0, c_1) \). Hence, \( \Psi_1 \) is a bijection \( S_1 \rightarrow SU(2) \). The operation in the group SU(2) translated into \( S_1 \) is

\[
* : S_1 \times S_1 \rightarrow S_1, \quad \begin{pmatrix} c_{00} \\ c_{10} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{01} \\ c_{11} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} c_{00} \\ c_{10} \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} c_{01} \\ c_{11} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{00} c_{01} - c_{10} \overline{c_1} c_{11} \\ c_{10} c_{01} + c_{00} \overline{c_0} c_{11} \end{pmatrix},
\]

hence \( (S_1, *, [1]) \) is a group.
4. Tensor products

4.1. Tensor product of Hilbert spaces

For two complex Hilbert spaces $H_0, H_1$ their tensor product $H_0 \otimes H_1 = \text{Lin}(H_1^*, H_0)$ satisfies a proper Universal Property:

For any space $H_2$ and any continuous bilinear map $\phi : H_0 \times H_1 \to H_2$ there is a unique bounded linear map $\psi : H_0 \otimes H_1 \to H_2$ such that $\phi = \psi \circ \iota$, where $\iota : H_0 \times H_1 \to H_0 \otimes H_1$, $(x, y) \mapsto x \otimes y$, is the canonical embedding.

$H_0 \otimes H_1$ has as basis the Kroenecker product of corresponding basis in $H_0$ and $H_1$.

4.2. Tensor product of groups

Let $V$ be a vector space and $\text{GL}(V)$ its group of linear automorphisms. A group representation of a group $G$ is a group homomorphism $\pi : G \to \text{GL}(V)$. If $V$ is a complex finite-dimensional linear space, of dimension $n$, then $\text{GL}(V)$ is isomorphic to $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ and by composing the representation $\pi$ with this isomorphism it is obtained a group homomorphism $G \to \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$.

Suppose that $\pi_0 : G_0 \to \text{GL}(n_0, \mathbb{C})$ and $\pi_1 : G_1 \to \text{GL}(n_1, \mathbb{C})$ are two finite dimensional representations of the groups $G_0$ and $G_1$. Let $\{|i\rangle\}_{i=0}^{n_0-1}$ and $\{|j\rangle\}_{j=0}^{n_1-1}$ be basis of $\mathbb{C}^{n_0}$ and $\mathbb{C}^{n_1}$ respectively. Then the tensor product $\mathbb{C}^{n_0} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{n_1} = \mathbb{C}^{n_0 n_1}$ has as basis $\{|i\rangle \otimes |j\rangle\}_{(i,j) \in \{0,...,n_0\} \times \{0,...,n_1\}}$. For any pair $(g_0, g_1) \in G_0 \times G_1$ let $P_{(g_0, g_1)} : \mathbb{C}^{n_0 n_1} \to \mathbb{C}^{n_0 n_1}$ be the linear map such that

$$\forall (i, j) \in \{0, \ldots, n_0\} \times \{0, \ldots, n_1\} : P_{(g_0, g_1)}(|i\rangle \otimes |j\rangle) = \pi_0(g_0) (|i\rangle) \otimes \pi_1(g_1) (|j\rangle).$$

The set of vectors $(P_{(g_0, g_1)}(|i\rangle \otimes |j\rangle))_{(i,j)\in \{0,...,n_0\}\times\{0,...,n_1\}}$ is linearly independent, hence $P_{(g_0, g_1)} \in \text{GL}(n_0 n_1, \mathbb{C})$. Consequently, the operator

$$\pi_0 \otimes \pi_1 : G_0 \times G_1 \to \text{GL}(n_0 n_1, \mathbb{C}) \; , \; (g_0, g_1) \mapsto (\pi_0 \otimes \pi_1)(g_0, g_1) = P_{(g_0, g_1)}$$

is an embedding $G_0 \times G_1 \to \text{GL}(n_0 n_1, \mathbb{C})$.

Let $F_{01} = (\pi_0 \otimes \pi_1)(G_0 \times G_1)$ be the image of $G_0 \times G_1$ under the embedding $\pi_0 \otimes \pi_1$ and $\langle F_{01} \rangle$ be the subgroup of $\text{GL}(n_0 n_1, \mathbb{C})$ spanned by $F_{01}$. Then the group tensor product $G_0 \otimes G_1$ is represented by the group $\langle F_{01} \rangle < \text{GL}(n_0 n_1, \mathbb{C})$. The group tensor product satisfies the following Universal Property:

For any group $J$ and any bilinear map $\phi : G_0 \times G_1 \to J$ there is a unique homomorphism $\psi : G_0 \otimes G_1 \to J$ such that $\phi = \psi \circ \iota$.

Thus the group tensor product is associative.

For any group $G$ with a finite-dimensional representation, its tensor powers are defined recursively:

$$G^{\otimes 2} = G \otimes G \; \& \; \forall n > 2 : G^{\otimes n} = G^{\otimes (n-1)} \otimes G.$$

5. Embedding of $S_1^{\otimes n}$ into $SU(2)^{\otimes n}$

5.1. General embedding

Let $\mathbb{H}_1 = \mathbb{H}$ and $\forall n > 1 : \mathbb{H}_n = \mathbb{H}_{n-1} \otimes \mathbb{H}$. Clearly, dim $\mathbb{H}_n = 2^n$. The unit sphere $S_{2^n-1}$ of $\mathbb{H}_n$ is the set of $n$-quregisters.

The map $\Psi_1$ defined at relation (1) is a representation of the group $(S_1, \ast_1, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix})$, isomorphic to $SU(2) < \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{C})$. Then, the group tensor power $S_1^{\otimes n}$ is isomorphic to the group $SU(2)^{\otimes n} = \langle F_{1}^{\otimes n} \rangle < \text{GL}(2^n, \mathbb{C})$ spanned by $F_{1}^{\otimes n} = (\Psi_1(S_1))^{\otimes n}$ in $\text{GL}(2^n, \mathbb{C})$. Namely, the
elements in SU(2)⊗n can be written as finite length words of the form T_{k-1}^{ε_k} \cdots T_0^{ε_0}, with T_i \in F_1^{⊗n}, ε_i \in \{-1, +1\} and concatenation assumed as map composition, being two such words equivalent if they represent the same element in GL(2^n, C). In this context, the length of the minimal length word representing an element T \in SU(2)^{⊗n} can be seen as a degree of separability of the map T : \mathbb{H}_n \to \mathbb{H}_n.

Let G be any of SO(3) or SU(2) and let φ be an embedding S_1 \to G. By acting component-wise, there is a natural embedding φ^n : S_1^n \to G^n. Then there are maps α_n, due to the Universal Property of the Hilbert Space Tensor Product, and β_n, due to the Universal Property of the Group Tensor Product, that make the following diagram commutative:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
S_1^n \xrightarrow{φ^n} G^n \\
\downarrow{α_n} \downarrow{β_n} \\
S_1^{⊗n} \xrightarrow{φ^{⊗n}} G^{⊗n}
\end{array}
\]

Again by the Universal Properties there are two maps ψ_n and ω_n commuting the following diagram:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
S_1^n \xrightarrow{φ^n} G^n \\
\downarrow{α_n} \downarrow{β_n} \\
S_1^{⊗n} \xrightarrow{φ^{⊗n}} G^{⊗n}
\end{array}
\]

Indeed if the elements in the group G are represented by matrices, then the map ψ_n is transforming vector tensor product into matrix tensor products. Hence, G^{⊗n} can be identified with S_1^{⊗n}.

Besides, there exists a bijection ψ_n : S_{2^n-1} \to SU(2)^{⊗n}, where S_{2^n-1} is the unit sphere of \mathbb{H}_n and through this bijection, the collection S_{2^n-1} of n-quregisters is realised as the n-fold group tensor product of S_1 \approx SU(2).

5.2. Examples of the embedding for lower dimensions

Let us consider the following pairs of index and sign matrices:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
& n = 1 & n = 2 \\
ι_1 = [0 1 1 0] & ι_2 = [1 -1 1 1] & ι_3 = [1 1 -1 1] \\
σ_1 = [1 -1 1 1] & σ_2 = [1 1 -1 1] & σ_3 = [1 1 1 1] \\
\end{array}
\]

Let ρ_n = \exp (i \frac{2π}{2^n}) be the 2^n-th primitive root of unit. Then, the corresponding bijections ψ_n : S_{2^n-1} \to SU(2)^{⊗n} are

\[
\begin{align*}
ψ_1 : S_1 & \to SU(2), \quad [x_i]_{i=0}^{2^n-1} \mapsto [σ_{1ij}ρ_1^j x_{1i}]_{i,j=0}^{2^n-1} \\
ψ_2 : S_1^{⊗2} & \to SU(2)^{⊗2}, \quad [x_i]_{i=0}^{2^n-2} \mapsto [σ_{2ij}ρ_2^j x_{2i}]_{i,j=0}^{2^n-2} \\
ψ_3 : S_1^{⊗3} & \to SU(2)^{⊗3}, \quad [x_i]_{i=0}^{2^n-3} \mapsto [σ_{3ij}ρ_3^j x_{3i}]_{i,j=0}^{2^n-3}
\end{align*}
\]
where $I_{kij}$ and $\sigma_{kij}$ are that $ij$-th entries of matrices $I_k$ and $\Sigma_k$, respectively.

It can be seen in a direct way that each identification $\psi_n$ coincides with the linear operator tensor product when restricted to separable states.

6. Maximally non-separable elements

Let $Q = \{0, 1\}$ be the set of classical bits and let $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ denote the canonical basis of $\mathbb{H}_1$.

For any $n \geq 1$ and any $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{n-1} \cdots \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_0 \in Q^n$ let $|\varepsilon\rangle = |\varepsilon_{n-1}\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\varepsilon_1\rangle \otimes |\varepsilon_0\rangle$. Then $(|\varepsilon\rangle)_{\varepsilon Q^n}$ is the canonical basis of $\mathbb{H}_n$.

For any $n \geq 2$ and any $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{n-1} \cdots \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_0 \in Q^n$ let

$$b_\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |0\varepsilon_{n-2} \cdots \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_0\rangle + (-1)^{\varepsilon_{n-1}} |1\varepsilon_{n-2} \cdots \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_0\rangle \right).$$

Then $(b_\varepsilon)_{\varepsilon Q^n}$ is the Bell basis of $\mathbb{H}_n$, and it consists of maximally entangled states.

The corresponding image of linear automorphisms

$$(\psi_n (b_\varepsilon))_{\varepsilon Q^n} \subset SU(2)^\otimes n < GL(2^n, \mathbb{C})$$

is a collection of maximally entangled elements in $SU(2)^\otimes n$.

In this way, the notion of entanglement is transported directly into the context of geometric transformations.

Since the even algebra $\mathbb{C}_+^2$ of the Clifford algebra $\text{Cl}([\mathbb{R}^3, \|\cdot\|^2])$ is isomorphic to Hamilton's quaternions, the calculation procedures given in [7, 8] may be used within the context of the current paper.

7. Conclusion

The main purpose of the current paper is the translation of the most basic notions of Quantum Computing into symmetry groups. Through this translation, qubits become orientation preserving unitary transforms, and quregisters become tensor products of orientation preserving unitary transforms. Thus, the collection of qubits acquire a group structure and the collection of quregisters, which are tensor products of qubits, acquire as well a group structure which is, in a consistent way, the group tensor product of the corresponding quit group structure. By the way, using group representations, the involved group tensor products can efficiently be represented, e.g., in a manageable way.

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