

Complex-pair representation of GA(2,0) multivectors

We found previously that a complex pair representation of a GA(2,0) multivector had a compact geometric product realization. Now that we know the answer, let's work backwards from that representation to verify that everything matches our expectations.

We are representing a multivector of the form

$$M = a + b\mathbf{e}_1\mathbf{e}_2 + x\mathbf{e}_1 + y\mathbf{e}_2, \quad (1.1)$$

as the pair of complex numbers

$$M \sim (a + ib, x + iy). \quad (1.2)$$

Given a pair of multivectors with this complex representation

$$\begin{aligned} M &= (z_1, z_2) \\ N &= (q_1, q_2), \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

we found that our geometric product representation was

$$MN \sim (z_1q_1 + z_2^*q_2, z_2q_1 + z_1^*q_2). \quad (1.4)$$

Our task is now to verify that this is correct. Let's set

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &= a + ib \\ q_1 &= a' + ib' \\ z_2 &= x + iy \\ q_2 &= x' + iy', \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

and proceed with an expansion of the even grade components

$$\begin{aligned} z_1q_1 + z_2^*q_2 &= (a + ib)(a' + ib') + (x - iy)(x' + iy') \\ &= aa' - bb' + xx' + yy' + i(ba' + ab' + xy' - yx') \\ &= xx' + yy' + i(xy' - yx') + aa' - bb' + i(ba' + ab'). \end{aligned} \quad (1.6)$$

The first terms is clearly the geometric product of two vectors

$$(x\mathbf{e}_1 + y\mathbf{e}_2) (x'\mathbf{e}_1 + y'\mathbf{e}_2) = xx' + yy' + i (xy' - yx') , \quad (1.7)$$

and we are able to verify that the second parts can be factored too

$$(a + bi) (a' + b'i) = aa' - bb' + i (ba' + ab') . \quad (1.8)$$

This leaves us with

$$\langle MN \rangle_{0,2} = \langle M \rangle_1 \langle N \rangle_1 + \langle M \rangle_{0,2} \langle N \rangle_{0,2} , \quad (1.9)$$

as expected. This part of our representation checks out.

Now, let's look at the vector component of our representation. First note that to convert from our complex representation of our vector $z = x + iy$ to the standard basis representation of our vector, we need only multiply by \mathbf{e}_1 on the left, for example:

$$\mathbf{e}_1 (x + iy) = \mathbf{e}_1 x + \mathbf{e}_1 \mathbf{e}_1 \mathbf{e}_2 y = \mathbf{e}_1 x + \mathbf{e}_2 y . \quad (1.10)$$

So, for the vector component of our assumed product representation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_1 (z_2 q_1 + z_1^* q_2) &= \mathbf{e}_1 (x + iy) (a' + ib') + \mathbf{e}_1 (a - ib) (x' + iy') \\ &= \mathbf{e}_1 (x + iy) (a' + ib') + (a + ib) \mathbf{e}_1 (x' + iy') \\ &= \langle M \rangle_1 \langle N \rangle_{0,2} + \langle M \rangle_{0,2} \langle N \rangle_1 , \end{aligned} \quad (1.11)$$

as expected.

Our complex-pair realization of the geometric product checks out.