Exponential Factorization and Polar Decomposition of Multivectors in $C(p, q)$, $p + q \leq 3$

Eckhard Hitzer and Stephen J. Sangwine

Abstract. In this paper we consider general multivector elements of Clifford algebras $C(p, q)$, $p + q \leq 3$, and study multivector equivalents of polar decompositions and factorization into products of exponentials, where the exponents are frequently blades of grades zero (scalar) to $n$ (pseudoscalar).

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1. Introduction

The polar decomposition can be thought of as related via matrix isomorphisms to a factorization into an orthogonal matrix (the reverse gives the inverse of this factor) and a symmetric matrix (the corresponding multivector is self reverse, i.e. invariant under reversion).

Motivated by previous research into the polar decomposition of complexified quaternions and octonions [18], we look for exponential factorizations of general multivectors in Clifford algebras $m \in C(p, q)$, $p + q \leq 3$, $m = RS$, with the inverse of the first factor $R^{-1}$ usually being given by reversion, and the second factor $S = \tilde{S}$ being identical to its own reverse (corresponding to a symmetric matrix). We aim to split each factor further into elementary exponential functions of simple blades, usually resulting in exponentials with blades of all grades zero (scalars) to $n$ (pseudoscalar) in the exponents. We further gained motivation and insight from [4], where also a form of polar decomposition is applied to rotors in $Cl(3, 0)$ and $Cl(4, 1)$. Since the factorizations obtained, easily allow to express the multivector inverse (compare

Dedicated to Rev. Ralph A. Smith (Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan) on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The use of this paper is subject to the Creative Peace License [8].
also [13]) by reversing factor order and signs in the exponentials, we also provide these.

We treat the factorization in order of increasing dimension for Clifford algebras $\mathcal{C}l(p,q)$, $p + q = 1, 2, 3$. The interesting cases of multivectors in $\mathcal{C}l(3,0)$ and $\mathcal{C}l(0,3)$ have important applications in the real three-dimensional world (e.g. in physics and robotics, etc.) and in Clifford analysis[5], and they are simpler than the case of mixed signature $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$. Then we treat the case $\mathcal{C}l(1,2)$ via the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(1,2) \cong \mathcal{C}l(3,0)$. The case $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$ follows last, since the mixed signature, and the presence of null blades and idempotents needs more case distinctions. An appendix features more technical details of $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$ regarding the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(1,2) \cong \mathcal{C}l(2,0) \otimes \mathcal{C}l(1,0)$ and the use of idempotents, and multivector norms in $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$.

Apart from the standard involutions of main (or grade) involution $\hat{\cdot}$, reverse $\tilde{\cdot}$, and Clifford conjugation $\overline{\cdot}$, we also refer to principal involution (or transposition anti-involution) $\pi(\cdot)$ in real Clifford algebras) which is a combination of reversion and negating the sign of every basis vector with negative square.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 begins with an elementary demonstration of this factorization in $\mathcal{C}l(1,0)$ and $\mathcal{C}l(0,1)$. Section 3 expands this to the case of $\mathcal{C}l(2,0)$. Applying the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(1,1) \cong \mathcal{C}l(2,0)$, Section 4 treats $\mathcal{C}l(1,1)$, while Section 5 deals with $\mathcal{C}l(0,2) \cong \mathbb{H}$ in analogy to quaternions but also introducing an exponential factorization with blades of grades zero, one and two in the exponents. Then we treat the factorizations of multivectors in $\mathcal{C}l(3,0)$ and $\mathcal{C}l(0,3)$ in Section 6. Next, Section 7 deals with the factorization in $\mathcal{C}l(1,2)$ by applying the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(1,2) \cong \mathcal{C}l(0,3)$. Section 8 explicitly treats multivector factorization in $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$, making use of the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(2,1) \cong \mathcal{C}l(2,0) \otimes \mathcal{C}l(1,0)$. Finally, appendix A provides details of the isomorphism $\mathcal{C}l(2,1) \cong \mathcal{C}l(2,0) \otimes \mathcal{C}l(1,0)$, including a look at the role of idempotents in $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$ and norm definitions for multivectors in $\mathcal{C}l(2,1)$.

2. Factorization in $\mathcal{C}l(1,0)$ and $\mathcal{C}l(0,1)$

The algebra $\mathcal{C}l(1,0)$ is isomorphic to hyperbolic numbers. A general element $m \in \mathcal{C}l(1,0)$ is given by

$$m = m_0 + m_1 e_1, \quad e_1^2 = 1, \quad m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (2.1)$$

It can be expressed in the form

$$m = (\beta + \alpha e_1) h_1(e_1), \quad (2.2)$$

such that $\beta > |\alpha| \geq 0$, and $h_1(e_1) = \pm 1$ or $h_1(e_1) = \pm e_1$. This allows to write $m$ as product of exponentials

$$m = e^{\alpha_0} m' = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_1 e_1} h_1(e_1),$$

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2} \ln(\beta^2 - \alpha^2), \quad \alpha_1 = \operatorname{atanh}(\alpha/\beta). \quad (2.3)$$
Regarding reversion symmetry we have
\[ \tilde{m} = m. \]  
(2.4)
The inverse can be variously expressed as
\[ m^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0} \tilde{m}' = e^{-\alpha_0} \tilde{m}'. \]  
(2.5)
The algebra \( Cl(0,1) \) is isomorphic to complex numbers \( \mathbb{C} \). A general element \( m \in Cl(0,1) \) is given by
\[ m = m_0 + m_1 e_1, \quad e_1^2 = -1, \quad m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{R}. \]  
(2.6)
It can therefore be represented in the polar form of complex numbers
\[ m = e^{\alpha_0} \tilde{m}' = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_1 e_1}, \quad \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \ln(m_0^2 + m_1^2), \quad \alpha_1 = \tan2(m_1, m_0). \]  
(2.7)

3. Factorization in \( Cl(2,0) \)

A general element \( m \in Cl(2,0) \) can be represented as
\[ m = m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_{12} e_{12}, \]
\[ m_0, m_1, m_2, m_{12} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad e_{12}^2 = -1. \]  
(3.1)
We can rewrite \( m \) as
\[ m = m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_0 + m_{12} e_{12} = a u' + b R, \]
\[ a = \sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2}, \quad b = \sqrt{m_0^2 + m_{12}^2}, \]
\[ u' = (m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2)/a, \quad R = (m_0 + m_{12} e_{12})/b, \quad u'^2 = R \tilde{R} = 1. \]  
(3.2)
If \( m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 = 0 \) or \( m_0 + m_{12} e_{12} = 0 \), then the factorization is already complete in the form
\[ m = b R = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_2 e_{12}}, \quad \alpha_0 = \ln(b), \quad \alpha_2 = \tan2(m_{12}, m_0), \]
\[ S = b = e^{\alpha_0}, \quad \tilde{S} = S, \]
\[ R = e^{\alpha_2 e_{12}}, \quad R^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_2 e_{12}} = \tilde{R} = \tilde{R} = \pi(R), \quad m^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0} \tilde{R}, \]  
(3.3)
or
\[ m = a u' = e^{\alpha_0'} u', \quad \alpha_0' = \ln(a), \quad \tilde{m} = m, \]
\[ u'^{-1} = u' = \tilde{u}' = \pi(u'), \quad m^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0'} u'. \]  
(3.4)
We therefore assume from now on that both \( m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 \neq 0 \) and \( m_0 e_2 + m_{12} e_1 \neq 0 \), and compute
\[ m = a u' + b R = (a u' R^{-1} + b) R = (a u + b) R, \]
\[ u = u' R^{-1} = Ru', \quad u^2 = uu = \tilde{u} u = u' \tilde{R} R u' = 1 \]  
(3.5)
We can therefore always rewrite \( m \in Cl(2, 0) \) as
\[
m = (\beta + \alpha u)h_1(u)R,
\]
such that \( \beta > \alpha \geq 0 \) and \( h_1(u) = 1 \) or \( h_1(u) = u \). This leads to the general factorization (with \( R \) from (3.2))
\[
m = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_1u}h_1(u)e^{\alpha_2e_{12}} = SR,
\]
\[
\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2} \ln(\beta^2 - \alpha^2), \quad \alpha_1 = \tanh(\alpha/\beta), \quad \alpha_2 = \tanh(2(\langle R \rangle_{2}e_{12}^{-1}, \langle R \rangle_0),
\]
\[
S = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_1u}h_1(u), \quad R = e^{\alpha_2e_{12}} = S^{-1}m,
\]
\[
S^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_1u}h_1(u), \quad e^{-\alpha_1u} = \bar{e}^{\alpha_1u} = e^{-\alpha_1\bar{u}},
\]
\[
\tilde{S} = S, \quad R^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_2e_{12}} = \tilde{R} = \bar{R} = \pi(R), \quad m^{-1} = R^{-1}S^{-1}.
\]

4. Factorizing \( Cl(1, 1) \)

The isomorphism \( Cl(2, 0) \cong Cl(1, 1) \) with
\[
1 = 1, \quad E_1 = e_1, \quad E_2 = e_{12}, \quad E_{12} = e_2, \quad \quad (4.1)
\]
where \( \{e_1, e_2\} \) is the orthonormal basis of \( \mathbb{R}^2 \), and \( \{E_1, E_2\} \) is the orthonormal basis of \( \mathbb{R}^{1,1} \), allows to factorize \( m \in Cl(1, 1) \) by first isomorphically mapping it to \( Cl(2, 0) \), factorizing it there (as shown above in Section 3), and map the factorized result back to \( Cl(1, 1) \).

We get
\[
m = m_0 + m_1E_1 + m_2E_2 + m_{12}E_{12} \quad (4.1) \quad = m_0 + m_1e_1 + m_2e_{12} + m_{12}e_2. \quad (4.2)
\]
To factorize this multivector \( m_0 + m_1e_1 + m_2e_{12} + m_{12}e_2 \) in \( Cl(2, 0) \), we simply exchange the places of \( m_2 \) and \( m_{12} \) in (3.1) to (3.7). And finally we map the factorization obtained back to \( Cl(1, 1) \) with (4.1). The inverse will be with \( m = e^{\alpha_0}m' : m^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0}
\]

5. Factorization of \( Cl(0, 2) \)

Because of the isomorphism to quaternions \( Cl(0, 2) \cong \mathbb{H} \) the result is straightforward
\[
m = m_0 + m_1e_1 + m_2e_2 + m_{12}e_{12} = |m|e^{\alpha_2i'} = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_2i'},
\]
\[
|m|^2 = m\bar{m} = m_0^2 + m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_{12}^2, \quad \alpha_0 = \ln(|m|),
\]
\[
i' = \frac{m_1e_1 + m_2e_2 + m_{12}e_{12}}{\sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_{12}^2}},
\]
\[
\alpha_2 = \tanh(\sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_{12}^2}/|m|, m_0/|m|),
\]
\[
m^{-1} = \bar{m}/|m| = e^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_2i'}. \quad (5.1)
\]
Indeed any factorization known for quaternions $\mathbb{H}$ can be realized via the isomorphism $\text{Cl}(0, 2) \cong \mathbb{H}$ in $\text{Cl}(0, 2)$ as well.

Furthermore, we can factorize $m \in \text{Cl}(0, 2)$ in exponentials specified by grade

$$m = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_1 u} e^{\alpha_2 e_{12}}$$

$$= e^{\alpha_0} (\cos \alpha_1 \cos \alpha_2 + u \sin \alpha_1 \cos \alpha_2 + e_{12} \cos \alpha_1 \sin \alpha_2),$$

$$u^2 = -1, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^{0, 2},$$

by computing

$$\alpha_0 = \ln(|m|), \quad \alpha_1 = \arccos \left( \frac{\sqrt{m_0^2 + m_{12}^2}}{|m|} \right),$$

$$\alpha_2 = \arctan(m_{12}/m_0), \quad u = \frac{m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2}{|m| \sin \alpha_1} e^{-\alpha_2 e_{12}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5.2)

For the factors $S$ and $R$ and for the inverse of $m$ we then have, respectively,

$$S = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_1 u}, \quad \tilde{S} = S, \quad S^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0} e^{-\alpha_1 u},$$

$$R = e^{\alpha_2 e_{12}}, \quad R^{-1} = \tilde{R} = R = \pi(R) = e^{-\alpha_2 e_{12}},$$

$$m^{-1} = R^{-1} S^{-1}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5.3)

And no matter what factorization we choose (via isomorphism to quaternions, or directly as in (5.2)), after defining $m' = e^{-\alpha_0} m$, we can always express the inverse multivector by

$$m^{-1} = \frac{m}{|m|} = e^{-\alpha_0} m'^{-1}, \quad m'^{-1} = \frac{m'}{|m'|} = \pi(m').$$  \hspace{1cm} (5.4)

### 6. Factorization in $\text{Cl}(3, 0)$ and $\text{Cl}(0, 3)$

Unit vectors $u$, unit bivectors $i_2$, and the central unit pseudoscalar $i = e_{123}$ in $\text{Cl}(3, 0)$ square to

$$u^2 = +1, \quad i_2^2 = -1, \quad i^2 = -1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6.1)

Unit vectors $u$, unit bivectors $i_2$, and the central unit pseudoscalar $i = e_{123}$ in $\text{Cl}(0, 3)$ square to

$$u^2 = -1, \quad i_2^2 = -1, \quad i^2 = +1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6.2)

The even subalgebras of both $\text{Cl}(3, 0)$ and $\text{Cl}(0, 3)$ are isomorphic to quaternions $\mathbb{H}$: $\text{Cl}_2(3, 0) \cong \text{Cl}_2(0, 3) \cong \mathbb{H}$. That means general multivectors $m$ in $\text{Cl}(3, 0)$ and $\text{Cl}(0, 3)$ can always be represented as complex ($i^2 = -1$) or hyperbolic ($i^2 = +1$) (bi)quaternions:

$$m = p + iq,$$

where in both cases $p$ and $q$ are (isomorphic to) quaternions

$$p = a_p e^{\alpha_p i_p}, \quad q = a_q e^{\alpha_q i_q}, \quad a_p, a_q \in \mathbb{R}_0^+, \quad i_p^2 = i_q^2 = -1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6.3)

with bivectors $i_p, i_q \in \text{Cl}_2(3, 0)$ or $\in \text{Cl}_2(0, 3)$.
Remark 6.1. Note that for \( a_q = 0 \) or \( a_p = 0 \) the factorization is already achieved in the form of
\[
m = a_p e^{\alpha_p i_p} = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_p i_p}, \quad \alpha_0 = \ln a_p,
\]
or
\[
m = i a_q e^{\alpha_q i_q} = i e^{\alpha'_0} e^{\alpha_q i_q}, \quad \alpha'_0 = \ln a_q.
\]
(6.5)

In the rest of this Section, we therefore assume that both \( a_p \neq 0 \) and \( a_q \neq 0 \).

Clifford conjugation maps
\[
i_p \rightarrow -i_p, \quad i_q \rightarrow -i_q, \quad i \rightarrow i.
\]
(6.6)

Clifford conjugation applied to (6.4) is equivalent to quaternion conjugation. Therefore we obtain
\[
m m = (p + i q)(\bar{p} + i \bar{q}) = p \bar{p} + i^2 q \bar{q} + i 2 \frac{1}{2} (p \bar{q} + q \bar{p})
\]
\[
= a_p^2 + i^2 a_q^2 + i 2 a_p a_q \cos(p, q) = r_0 + i r_3 \in \mathbb{R} + i \mathbb{R},
\]
(6.7)

and \( \cos(p, q) \) being the cosine of the four-dimensional (4D) angle between quaternions \( p, q \), because \( \frac{1}{2} (p \bar{q} + q \bar{p}) \) expresses the inner (or scalar) product in four dimensions for quaternions. We thus have \( |\cos(p, q)| \leq 1 \), which means for the hyperbolic case \( (i^2 = +1) \): \( r_0 = a_p^2 + a_q^2 \geq |2 a_p a_q| \geq |r_3| = 2|a_p a_q \cos(p, q)| \).

We can always factorize \( m m \) and compute its square root as
\[
m m = e^{2 \alpha_0} e^{2 \alpha_3 i}, \quad \sqrt{m m} = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_3 i},
\]
(6.8)

with
\[
e^{\alpha_0} = (r_0^2 - i^2 r_3^2) \frac{1}{4}, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{1}{4} \ln(r_0^2 - i^2 r_3^2),
\]
(6.9)

and
\[
\alpha_3 = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
\text{atan2}(r_3, r_0) & \text{for } m \in Cl(3,0) \\
\text{atanh}(r_3/r_0) & \text{for } m \in Cl(0,3)
\end{array} \right.,
\]
(6.10)

Next, we devide \( m \) by the central square root \( \sqrt{m m} \) and obtain the normed multivector
\[
M = \frac{m}{\sqrt{m m}} = m e^{-\alpha_0} e^{-\alpha_3 i},
\]
(6.11)

with unit norm
\[
M \overline{M} = 1.
\]
(6.12)

The resulting form of \( M \) will therefore be (similar to (6.3) and (6.4))
\[
M = P + Q i = a_P e^{\alpha_P i_P} + i a_Q e^{\alpha_Q i_Q} = e^{\alpha_P i_P} (a_P + i a_Q e^{-\alpha_P i_P} e^{\alpha_Q i_Q}),
\]
(6.13)

with
\[
M \overline{M} = 1 = a_P^2 + i^2 a_Q^2.
\]
(6.14)

The two quaternions \( P \) and \( Q \) can be computed explicitly as
\[
P = \langle M \rangle_{\text{even}}, \quad Q = \langle M \rangle_{\text{odd}} i^{-1},
\]
(6.15)

with amplitudes
\[
a_P = \sqrt{PP}, \quad a_Q = \sqrt{QQ},
\]
(6.16)
unit bivectors

\[ |\langle P \rangle_2| = \sqrt{-\langle P \rangle_2^2}, \quad i_P = \frac{\langle P \rangle_2}{|\langle P \rangle_2|}, \quad (6.17) \]

\[ |\langle Q \rangle_2| = \sqrt{-\langle Q \rangle_2^2}, \quad i_Q = \frac{\langle Q \rangle_2}{|\langle Q \rangle_2|}, \quad (6.18) \]

and phase angles

\[ \alpha_P = \text{atan2}(\langle P \rangle_2 i_P^{-1}, \langle P \rangle_0), \quad \alpha_Q = \text{atan2}(\langle Q \rangle_2 i_Q^{-1}, \langle Q \rangle_0), \quad (6.19) \]

Computation of \( M \overline{M} \) yields

\[ M \overline{M} = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + i a_Q e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})(a_P + i a_Q e^{-\alpha_Q i Q} e^{\alpha_P i P})e^{-\alpha_P i P} \]

\[ = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P^2 + i^2 a_Q^2 + i a_P a_Q(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} + e^{-\alpha_Q i Q} e^{\alpha_P i P}))e^{-\alpha_P i P} \]

\[ = a_P^2 + i^2 a_Q^2 + i a_P a_Q e^{\alpha_P i P}(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} + e^{-\alpha_Q i Q} e^{\alpha_P i P})e^{-\alpha_P i P}. \quad (6.20) \]

Because \( M \overline{M} = a_P^2 + i^2 a_Q^2 = 1 \) we must have the second term in round brackets to be zero

\[ e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} + e^{-\alpha_Q i Q} e^{\alpha_P i P} = e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} + (e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})^\sim = 0. \quad (6.21) \]

We now analyze \( M \) further

\[ M = a_P e^{\alpha_P i P} + i a_Q e^{\alpha_Q i Q} = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q i(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} - 0)) \]

\[ = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q i(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} - \frac{1}{2} e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} - \frac{1}{2}(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})^\sim)) \]

\[ = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q i\frac{1}{2}(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} - (e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})^\sim)), \quad (6.22) \]

where the term

\[ \frac{1}{2}(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q} - (e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})^\sim) = (e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})_2 \quad (6.23) \]

is a pure bivector. Multiplied with trivector \( i \) we get a vector with length \( \omega \) and unit direction \( u, u^2 = 1 \) for \( Cl(3,0) \), and \( u^2 = -1 \) for \( Cl(0,3) \),

\[ \omega u = i(e^{-\alpha_P i P} e^{\alpha_Q i Q})_2 = i \frac{a_P}{a_Q} \langle P^{-1}Q \rangle_2. \quad (6.24) \]

Thus in full generality, the multivector \( M \) can be represented by

\[ M = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q \omega u) = (a_P + a_Q \omega u') e^{\alpha_P i P}, \quad u' = e^{\alpha_P i P} u e^{-\alpha_P i P}. \quad (6.25) \]

Note that unit vector \( u' \), is simply a rotated version of \( u \). Computing

\[ M \overline{M} = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q \omega u)(a_P - a_Q \omega u)e^{-\alpha_P i P} = \ldots = a_P^2 - u^2 a_Q^2 \omega^2, \quad (6.26) \]

shows by comparison with (6.14), that \( \omega^2 = 1 \), i.e. \( \omega = 1 \). Without restriction of generality, we can therefore express

\[ M = e^{\alpha_P i P}(a_P + a_Q u) = (a_P + a_Q u') e^{\alpha_P i P}, \]

\[ M \overline{M} = a_P^2 - u^2 a_Q^2 = a_P^2 - u^2 a_Q^2 = 1, \quad (6.27) \]
We thus end up with
\[ M = e^{α_2 i} e^{α_1 u} = e^{α_1 u'} e^{α_2 i}, \]
\[ α_1 = \begin{cases} \text{atanh}(aQ/ap) & \text{for } Cl(3,0) \\ \text{atan2}(aQ, ap) & \text{for } Cl(0,3) \end{cases}, \quad α_2 = α_p, \quad i_2 = i_p. \] 
(6.28)

In total, we therefore have
\[ m = M \sqrt{mm} = e^{α_2 i} e^{α_1 u} e^{α_0} e^{α_3 i} \]
\[ = e^{α_0} e^{α_2 i} e^{α_1 u} e^{α_3 i} = e^{α_0} e^{α_1 u'} e^{α_2 i} e^{α_3 i}. \] 
(6.29)

We can further write
\[ m = SR, \quad S = \bar{S} = e^{α_0} e^{α_1 u'}, \quad S^{-1} = e^{-α_0} e^{-α_1 u'}, \]
\[ R = e^{α_2 i} e^{α_3 i}, \quad R^{-1} = \bar{R} = e^{-α_2 i} e^{-α_3 i}, \]
\[ m^{-1} = R^{-1} S^{-1}. \] 
(6.30)

### 7. Factorization of \( Cl(1,2) \)

The results of the previous section lend themselves to factorize multivectors in \( Cl(1,2) \cong Cl(3,0) \), based on the isomorphism \( Cl(1,2) \cong Cl(3,0) \). We list the multiplication tables, Table 1 for \( Cl(3,0) \) and Table 2 for \( Cl(1,2) \). \( Cl(1,2) \cong Cl(3,0) \) can be verified from Tables 1 and 2, which can be brought into agreement by indentifying

\[ 1 = 1, E_1 = e_1, E_2 = e_{12}, E_3 = e_3, \]
\[ E_{12} = e_2, E_{23} = e_{23}, E_{31} = e_3, E_{123} = e_{123}, \] 
(7.1)

where \( \{E_1, E_2, E_3\} \) is the orthonormal vector basis of \( \mathbb{R}^{1,2} \) generating \( Cl(1,2) \), and \( \{e_1, e_2, e_3\} \) is the orthonormal vector basis of \( \mathbb{R}^3 \) generating \( Cl(3,0) \).

Factorization of multivectors \( m \in Cl(1,2) \) can be achieved by mapping \( m \) via the isomorphism (7.1) to its isomorphic counterpart \( m' \in Cl(3,0) \), then factorize \( m' \) in \( Cl(3,0) \), and finally map the factorized form back with applying (7.1) again in reverse. In particular the unit vector \( u \in Cl(3,0) \) and

### Table 1. Multiplication table of \( Cl(3,0) \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>( e_1 )</th>
<th>( e_2 )</th>
<th>( e_3 )</th>
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Table 2. Multiplication table of $Cl(1, 2) \cong Cl(3, 0)$.

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the unit bivector $i_2$ in (6.29) become

$$u = u_1 e_1 + u_2 e_2 + u_3 e_3 = u_1 E_1 + u_2 E_{12} + u_3 E_{31}, \quad (7.2)$$

$$i_2 = b_{12} e_{12} + b_{23} e_{23} + b_{31} e_{31} = b_{12} E_2 + b_{23} E_{23} + b_{31} E_3, \quad (7.3)$$

with $u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 = 1$, and $b_{12}^2 + b_{23}^2 + b_{31}^2 = 1$.

Viewed strictly in $Cl(1, 2)$, the exponentials corresponding to $e^{\alpha_1 u}$ and $e^{\alpha_2 i_2}$ will therefore no longer have a single grade one vector or a single grade two bivector as respective arguments, but in both cases a sum of vector plus bivector will appear as arguments.

8. Explicit approach for $Cl(2,1)$

See Appendix A for the details of the isomorphism $Cl(2, 1) \cong Cl(2, 0) \otimes Cl(1, 0)$ and the role of idempotents in $Cl(2, 1)$.

Let $m \in Cl(2, 1)$, be a general multivector. We assume a factorization into two factors $m = RS$ with distinct symmetries under the reverse involution

$$\tilde{R} = R^{-1}, \tilde{R}R = RR = 1, \quad \tilde{S} = S. \quad (8.1)$$

We intend to write $R$ and $S$ in terms of exponential functions as

$$R = e^{\alpha_2 i_2} h_2(i_2) e^{\alpha_3 i_3} h_3(i), \quad S = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_1 u} h_1(u), \quad (8.2)$$

with four real phase angles $\{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\} \in \mathbb{R}$, unit vector $u \in \mathbb{R}^{p,q}$, unit bivector $i_2 \in Cl_2(p,q)$, and unit pseudoscalar $i = e_{123}$, $i^2 = 1$. The four phase angles, the vector $u$ and the bivector $i_2$ can be determined as explained below.

Remark 8.1. Because hyperbolic elements with positive square, like $u = e_1$, $i_2 = e_{23}$ or $i = e_{123}$ may occur, the factorization may require additional factors $\{\pm 1, \pm u, \pm i_2, \pm i\}$, encoded in $\{h_1(u), h_2(i_2), h_3(i)\}$, $h_1(u)^2 = h_2(i_2)^2 = h_3(i)^2 = 1$, $h_1(u)^{-1} = h_1(u)$, $h_2(i_2)^{-1} = h_2(i_2)$, $h_3(i)^{-1} = h_3(i)$, needed to cover all four segments of the respective hyperbolic plane, divided by the asymptotic lines through the origin in the directions $1 \pm u$, $1 \pm i_2$, and $1 \pm i$.

Remark 8.2. After establishing the explicit forms of $R$ and $S$ in (8.2) as detailed below, the computation of the inverse of $m$ is straightforward, as
\[ m^{-1} = S^{-1}R, \quad R = e^{-\alpha_2 i_2}h_2(i_2)e^{-\alpha_3 i}h_3(i) = e^{-\alpha_3 i}h_3(i)e^{-\alpha_2 i_2}h_2(i_2), \]
\[ S^{-1} = e^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_1 u}h_1(u). \quad (8.3) \]

First, we compute the product of the reverse of \( m \) with \( m \)
\[ \tilde{m}m = (RS)RS = \tilde{S}\tilde{R}RS = \tilde{S}S = S^2 = a + bu, \quad u^2 = \begin{cases} -1, \\ 0, \quad , \quad (8.4) \\ +1. \end{cases} \]

where \( a, b \in \mathbb{R} \). We assume that \( S^2 \neq 0 \). But note that there are multivectors with zero square, e.g. \( e_1 + e_3, (e_1 + e_3)^\sim = e_1 + e_3, (e_1 + e_3)^\sim(e_1 + e_3) = e_1^2 + e_3^2 = 1 - 1 = 0 \). Therefore for \( S^2 = 0, m \) will have null vectors like \( e_1 + e_3 \) as factors. These could be removed by contraction with \( (e_1 - e_3)/2 = pi(e_1 + e_3)/2 \), because \( (e_1 + e_3)|e_1 + e_3)/2 = (e_1^2 - e_3^2)/2 = (1 + 1)/2 = 1 \).

Note that \( \tilde{m}m = S^2 \) is self reverse. That means it must be composed of scalars and vectors. The vector part \( bu = \langle S^2 \rangle_1 \) of \( S^2 \) yields for \( (bu)^2 \neq 0 \),
\[ u = \frac{\langle S^2 \rangle_1}{\langle S^2 \rangle_1}, \quad (8.5) \]

For unit vector \( u \), \( u^2 = -1 \), we compute
\[ e^{4\alpha_0} = a^2 + b^2, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{1}{4}\ln(a^2 + b^2), \quad \alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2}\tan(2\alpha_1), \quad (8.6) \]
\[ S^2 = e^{2\alpha_0}e^{2\alpha_1 u} = e^{2\alpha_0}(\cos(2\alpha_1) + u\sin(2\alpha_1)), \quad S = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_1 u}, \quad (8.7) \]
\[ R = mS^{-1} = me^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_1 u}, \quad \tilde{R}R = 1. \quad (8.8) \]

The combination\(^1\) \( \alpha_1 u \) for \( u^2 = 0 \) can be defined as
\[ \alpha_1 u = \frac{1}{2}\frac{bu}{a}, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2}\ln(a), \quad S^2 = e^{2\alpha_0}e^{2\alpha_1 u} = e^{2\alpha_0}(1 + 2\alpha_1 u), \quad (8.9) \]
\[ S = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_1 u}, \quad R = mS^{-1} = me^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_1 u}, \quad \tilde{R}R = 1. \quad (8.10) \]

For \( u^2 = 1 \) we can always rewrite \( S^2 \in \mathbb{R} + u\mathbb{R} \) in one of four forms
\[ S^2 = \pm(\beta + \alpha u) \quad \text{or} \quad S^2 = \pm(\beta + \alpha u)u, \quad (8.11) \]
such that \( \beta > |\alpha| \geq 0 \). Then we can determine
\[ e^{4\alpha_0} = \beta^2 - \alpha^2, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{1}{4}\ln(\beta^2 - \alpha^2), \quad \alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2}\tanh(\alpha/\beta), \quad (8.12) \]
\[ S^2 = e^{2\alpha_0}e^{2\alpha_1 u}h_1(u), \quad h_1(u) = \pm 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \pm u. \quad (8.13) \]

We will divide \( m \) only by \( e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_1 u} \), which results in
\[ R = me^{-\alpha_0}e^{-\alpha_1 u}, \quad \tilde{R}R = h_1(u). \quad (8.14) \]

\(^1\)We can exclude the case of \( S = \alpha + a, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, a \in \mathbb{R}^{p,q}, S^2 = \langle S^2 \rangle_1 \neq 0, S^4 = 0 \), because \( S^2 = (\alpha + a)^2 = \alpha^2 + 2aa + a^2 = 2aa \) means \( \alpha^2 = -a^2 \). And if \( a \) would square to zero (necessary for \( S^4 = 0 \)), then also the real scalar \( \alpha \) would have zero square, therefore \( \alpha \) itself would be zero. But then \( S = a \), and \( S^2 = 0 \), contrary to the assumption \( S^2 \neq 0 \).
Polar Decomposition

Theorem 11.1 

\[ R = e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i) e^{\alpha_2 i_2} h_2(i_2) \]

\[ \begin{array}{ll}
\cos(\alpha_2) + i_2 \sin(\alpha_2), & h_2(i_2) = 1, \\
1 + \alpha_2 i_2, & h_2(i_2) = 1, \\
(\text{ch}(\alpha_2) + i_2 \text{sh}(\alpha_2)) h_2(i_2), & (R)_2 > 0,
\end{array} \]

because \( i^2 = +1 \) in \( Cl(2,1) \). For brevity, we also use the notation \( c_3 = \cosh(\alpha_3) \) and \( s_3 = \sinh(\alpha_3) \). Further expanding \( R \) gives (ordered by grade from 0 to 3) for \( (R)_2 < 0 \)

\[ R = (c_3 \cos(\alpha_2) + s_3 \sin(\alpha_2)) i i_2 + c_3 \sin(\alpha_2) i_2 + s_3 \cos(\alpha_2) i) h_3(i), \quad (8.16) \]

for \( (R)_2 > 0 \)

\[ R = (c_3 \text{ch}(\alpha_2) + s_3 \text{sh}(\alpha_2)) i i_2 + c_3 \text{sh}(\alpha_2) i_2 + s_3 \text{ch}(\alpha_2) i) h_3(i) h_2(i_2), \quad (8.17) \]

and for \( (R)_2 = 0 \)

\[ R = \text{ch}(\alpha_3) + \text{sh}(\alpha_3) \alpha_2 i_2 i + \text{ch}(\alpha_3) \alpha_2 i_2 + i \text{sh}(\alpha_3). \quad (8.18) \]

For \( (R)_2 \neq 0 \) we can compute

\[ i_2 = \frac{(R)_2}{|(R)_2|}, \quad (8.19) \]

This allows us to compute for \( (R)_2 < 0 \)

\[ \tan \alpha_2 = \frac{(R)_2 i_2^{-1}}{(R)_0}, \quad \alpha_2 = \text{atan}2((R)_2 i_2^{-1}, (R)_0). \quad (8.20) \]

We can immediately divide \( R \) by \( e^{\alpha_2 i_2} \) to obtain a linear combination of scalar and trivector, that can be expressed as

\[ Re^{-\alpha_2 i_2} = \{ b + ai \} \quad \text{or} \quad (b + ai) h_3(i), \quad (8.21) \]

such that \( b > |a| \geq 0 \), and \( h_3(i) = 1 \) or \( h_3(i) = i \). Note that an overall sign will already be accounted for in \( e^{\alpha_2 i_2} \), \( i_2^2 = -1 \). Next we compute

\[ \alpha_3 = \text{atanh}(a/b), \quad (8.22) \]

and finally obtain the total factorization

\[ R = e^{\alpha_2 i_2} \left\{ \begin{array}{c}
e^{\alpha_3 i} \\
e^{\alpha_3 i} i \end{array} \right\} = e^{\alpha_2 i_2} e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i). \quad (8.23) \]

For \( (R)_2 = 0 \) it is easier to first analyze the combination \( (R)_0 + (R)_3 \) in the form of

\[ (R)_0 + (R)_3 = \left\{ \begin{array}{c}
\pm(\beta + \alpha i) \\
\pm(\beta + \alpha i) i \end{array} \right\} = (\beta + \alpha i) h_3(i), \quad (8.24) \]

The case of \( (R)_3 = 0 \) can only occur for \( \alpha_3 = 0 \), and then simply \( \text{ch}_3 = \cosh 0 = 1, \text{sh}_3 = \sinh 0 = 0. \)
such that $\beta > |\alpha| \geq 0$, and four possible values for $h_3(i) = \pm 1$ or $h_3(i) = \pm i$. We then obtain

$$\alpha_3 = \operatorname{atanh}(\alpha/\beta), \quad \langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_3 = \left\{ \pm e^{\alpha_3 i} \right\} = e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i). \quad (8.25)$$

Next, we divide $R$ by the central factor $\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_3$ to obtain

$$R(\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_3)^{-1} = 1 + \alpha_2 i_2, \quad \alpha_2 i_2 = \langle R(\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_3)^{-1} \rangle_2. \quad (8.26)$$

Therefore for $\langle R \rangle_2^2 = 0$ we obtain the total factorization of $R$ as

$$R = (1 + \alpha_2 i_2) \left\{ \pm e^{\alpha_3 i} \right\} = (1 + \alpha_2 i_2) e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i) = e^{\alpha_2 i_2} e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i). \quad (8.27)$$

For $\langle R \rangle_2^2 > 0$ we can ignore a total sign common to $\langle R \rangle_0$ and $\langle R \rangle_2$, which can be taken into account later in connection with the $e^{\alpha_3 i}$ factor. So we assume without loss of generality, that we can bring $\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_2$ in the following form

$$\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_2 = \{ a + bi \} = \{ a + bi_2 \} = \{ a + bi_2 \} h_2(i_2), \quad (8.28)$$

with $a > |b| \geq 0$, and $h_2(i_2) = 1$ or $h_2(i_2) = i_2$. We can then compute the $\cosh \alpha_3$-factor common to $\langle R \rangle_0$ and $\langle R \rangle_2$ by

$$\cosh \alpha_3 = \sqrt{a^2 - b^2}. \quad (8.29)$$

Furthermore we get

$$\alpha_2 = \operatorname{atanh}(b/a), \quad (8.30)$$

and hence

$$\langle R \rangle_0 + \langle R \rangle_2 = \pm \cosh \alpha_3 \left\{ e^{i_2 \alpha_2 i_2}, e^{i_2 \alpha_2 i_2} \right\} = \pm \cosh \alpha_3 e^{i_2 \alpha_2 i_2} h_2(i_2). \quad (8.31)$$

Next we divide by $e^{i_2 \alpha_2 i_2} h_2(i_2)$ to obtain

$$Re^{-\alpha_2 i_2} h_2(i_2) = \left\{ \pm (\beta + \alpha i), \pm (\beta + \alpha i) i \right\} = (\beta + \alpha i) h_3(i), \quad (8.32)$$

such that $\beta > |\alpha| \geq 0$, and $h_3(i) = \pm 1$ or $h_3(i) = \pm i$. Using $\alpha$, $\beta$ and $h_3(i)$ we compute

$$\alpha_3 = \operatorname{atanh}(\alpha/\beta), \quad (\beta + \alpha i) h_3(i) = e^{\alpha_3 i} h_3(i). \quad (8.33)$$

Thus the full factorization of $R$ for $\langle R \rangle_2^2 > 0$ results in

$$R = e^{\alpha_2 i_2} e^{\alpha_3 i} h_2(i_2) h_3(i). \quad (8.34)$$

In this way we have been able to explicitly compute the four real phase angles $\{ \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \} \in \mathbb{R}$, unit vector $u \in \mathbb{R}^{p,q}$, unit bivector $i_2 \in Cl_2(p, q)$. For the special cases of a null vector $u \neq 0$, $u^2 = 0$, we only obtain the
Polar Decomposition

13

product combination $\alpha^1 u$. Similarly for a null bivector $i_2 \neq 0$, $i_2^2 = 0$, we
only obtain the product combination $\alpha^2 i_2$.

$$m = e^{\alpha^2 i_2} e^{\alpha^3 i} h_2(i_2) h_3(i) e^{\alpha^0} e^{\alpha^1 u} h_1(u)$$
$$= e^{\alpha^0} e^{\alpha^2 i_2} h_2(i_2) e^{\alpha^1 u} h_1(u) e^{\alpha^3 i} h_3(i).$$  (8.35)

9. Conclusion

In this paper we have considered general elements of all Clifford algebras $C(p,q)$, $p + q \leq 3$, and studied multivector equivalents of polar decompositions and factorization into products of exponentials, where the exponents are frequently blades of grades zero (scalar) to $n$ (pseudoscalar). Depending on the algebra, we used methods of direct computation or applied several isomorphisms, to simplify the computation at hand or make use of known results in isomorphic representations. It may be possible in the future to extend this approach to even higher dimensional Clifford algebras. The present work can e.g. be applied in the study of Lipschitz versors, see e.g. E.4.2 in [19], pinor and spinor groups, etc.

Acknowledgments

EH wishes to thank God: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth [6].

References


Appendix A. Properties of $Cl(2, 1)$

A.1. The isomorphism $Cl(2, 1) \cong Cl(2, 0) \otimes Cl(1, 0)$

The multiplication tables for $Cl(2, 1)$ (Table 3) and tensor product $Cl(2, 0) \otimes Cl(1, 0)$ (Table 4) are seen to be isomorphic by indentifying

$$(1,1) = 1, (E_1,1) = e_1, (E_2,1) = e_2, (-E_{12}, h) = e_3,$$

$$(E_{12},1) = e_{12}, (E_1, h) = e_{23}, (E_2, h) = e_{31}, (1, h) = e_{123},$$  \hspace{1cm} (A.1)
### Table 3. Multiplication table of $Cl(2, 1)$.

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<td>$e_{23}$</td>
<td>$e_{31}$</td>
<td>$-e_{12}$</td>
<td>$-e_3$</td>
<td>$e_1$</td>
<td>$e_2$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4. Multiplication table of $Cl(2, 1) \cong Cl(2, 0) \otimes Cl(1, 0)$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$(1, 1)$</th>
<th>$(E_1, 1)$</th>
<th>$(E_2, 1)$</th>
<th>$(-E_{12}, h)$</th>
<th>$(E_{12}, 1)$</th>
<th>$(E_1, h)$</th>
<th>$(E_2, h)$</th>
<th>$(1, h)$</th>
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<td>$(1, 1)$</td>
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<td>$(E_{12}, h)$</td>
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<td>$(E_2, 1)$</td>
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<td>$(-E_{12}, 1)$</td>
<td>$(-1, 1)$</td>
<td>$(1, h)$</td>
<td>$(E_{2}, 1)$</td>
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<td>$(-E_{12}, h)$</td>
<td>$(E_2, h)$</td>
<td>$(-E_{12}, h)$</td>
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<td>$(1, h)$</td>
<td>$(-E_{2}, h)$</td>
<td>$(E_1, h)$</td>
<td>$(E_{12}, h)$</td>
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<td>$(1, h)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where \( \{e_1, e_2, e_3\} \in \mathbb{R}^{2,1} \) generate \( Cl(2, 1) \), \( \{E_1, E_2\} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \) generate \( Cl(2, 0) \), and \( h \in \mathbb{R}^1 \) generates \( Cl(1, 0) \).

That means a multivector in \( Cl(2, 1) \) can be expressed via the isomorphism as

\[
m = m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_3 e_3 + m_{12} e_{12} + m_{23} e_{23} + m_{31} e_{31} + m_{123} e_{123} \\
= m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_{12} e_{12} + (m_{123} + m_{23} e_1 + m_{31} e_2 - m_3 e_{12}) e_{123} \\
\rightarrow \\
m' = m_0 (1, 1) + m_1 (E_1, 1) + m_2 (E_2, 1) + m_{12} (E_{12}, 1) \\
+ m_{123} (1, h) + m_{23} (E_1, h) + m_{31} (E_2, h) + m_3 (-E_{12}, h) \\
= (m_0 + m_1 E_1 + m_2 E_2 + m_{12} E_{12}, 1) \\
+ (m_{123} + m_{23} E_1 + m_{31} E_2 - m_3 E_{12}, h) \\
= (p, 1) + (q, h), \quad (A.2)
\]

with \( p, q \in Cl(2, 0) \)

\[
p = m_0 + m_1 E_1 + m_2 E_2 + m_{12} E_{12}, \\
q = m_{123} + m_{23} E_1 + m_{31} E_2 - m_3 E_{12}. \quad (A.3)
\]

#### A.2. Taking idempotents of \( Cl(2, 1) \) into account and multivector norms

Finally, we add some considerations that take the idempotent structure of \( Cl(2, 1) \) into account. Using Clifford conjugation (combining reversion and
grade involution) allows to compute, see (6.2) in [13],

\[ m\bar{m} = r_0 + ir_3 \in \mathbb{R} + i\mathbb{R}. \]  

(A.4)

For Cl(2,1) the pseudoscalar squares to \( i^2 = +1 \), and computation of the square root of \( m\bar{m} \) requires \( r_0 > 0 \) and \(|r_3| \leq r_0 \). The idempotent representation

\[ id_+ = \frac{1+i}{2}, \quad id_- = \frac{1-i}{2}, \quad id_+ + id_- = 1, \quad id_+ - id_- = i, \]

\[ id_+^2 = id_+, \quad id_-^2 = id_-, \quad id_+id_- = id_-id_+ = 0, \]  

(A.5)

leads to

\[ r_0 + ir_3 = r_0(id_+ + id_-) + r_3(id_+ - id_-) = (r_0 + r_3)id_+ + (r_0 - r_3)id_- \]

\[ = \sqrt{r_0 + r_3^2}id_+ + \sqrt{r_0 - r_3^2}id_- \]

\[ = (\sqrt{r_0 + r_3id_+ + \sqrt{r_0 - r_3id_-}})^2 = \sqrt{r_0 + ir_3^2}. \]  

(A.6)

And the two coefficient square roots \( \sqrt{r_0 + r_3}, \sqrt{r_0 - r_3} \), can only be computed if \( r_0 + r_3 \geq 0 \) and \( r_0 - r_3 \geq 0 \), that means \( r_0 \geq |r_3| \geq 0 \). Graphically, in the \( r_0, r_3 \)-plane, the square roots of \( r_0 + ir_3 \) can be computed in the cone (segment of the plane, symmetric domain around \( r_0 \)-axis, \( r_0 > 0 \)) with \( r_0 \geq |r_3| \), if we want to avoid the use of complex square roots.

Assuming for Cl(2,1), that \( r_0 \geq |r_3| \) is fulfilled, we can compute

\[ \sqrt{m\bar{m}} = \sqrt{r_0 + r_3id_+ + \sqrt{r_0 - r_3id_-}} \]

\[ = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{r_0 + r_3} + \sqrt{r_0 - r_3}) + \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{r_0 + r_3} - \sqrt{r_0 - r_3})i. \]  

(A.7)

This can be represented as exponential by computing

\[ e^{\alpha_0} = (r_0^2 - r_3^2)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{1}{4} \ln (r_0^2 - r_3^2), \]  

(A.8)

\[ \alpha_3 = \frac{1}{2} \text{atanh}(r_3/r_0), \quad \sqrt{m\bar{m}} = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_3i}. \]  

(A.9)

Since \( r_0 \geq |r_3| \) is restrictive to only one of four segments in the hyperbolic \( r_0, r_3 \)-plane, it is of interest to investigate the other three segments of the \( r_0, r_3 \)-plane. We now show, that even for \( i^2 = +1 \), the linear combination \( r_0 + ir_3 \) always can be cast into exponential form and additional factors \( \pm 1 \) or \( \pm i \) as follows.

For \( r_3 = 0 \), we will either have \( r_0 = 0 \) (origin of the \( r_0, r_3 \)-plane, then \( m \) has zero determinant, and also no inverse), or we can represent the real scalar (on the \( r_0 \)-axis) as \( m\bar{m} = r_0 = \pm e^{2\alpha_0} \).

The more interesting case \( r_3 \neq 0 \), assuming \( 0 < \alpha < \beta \), leads to one of the following five situations

- \( m\bar{m} = \pm \alpha i \) (here \( r_0 = 0 \))
- \( m\bar{m} = \beta \pm \alpha i \)
- \( m\bar{m} = -\beta \mp \alpha i = -(\beta \pm \alpha i) \)
- \( m\bar{m} = \pm \alpha + \beta i = (\beta \pm \alpha i)i \)
- \( m\bar{m} = \mp \alpha - \beta i = -(\beta \pm \alpha i)i \)
For the first item, we can compute $e^{2\alpha_0} = \alpha$, $\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2} \ln(\alpha)$. For the remaining four items we can always compute $\alpha_3 = \frac{1}{2} \text{atanh}(\pm \alpha/\beta)$ and $\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2} \ln(\beta^2 - \alpha^2)$. We can therefore represent $m \overline{m}$, in one of the following three forms

$$m \overline{m} = \pm i e^{2\alpha_0} \quad \text{or} \quad (A.10)$$

$$m \overline{m} = \pm e^{2\alpha_0} (\cosh(2\alpha_3) + i \sinh(2\alpha_3)) = \pm e^{2\alpha_0} e^{2\alpha_3 i} \quad \text{or} \quad (A.11)$$

$$m \overline{m} = \pm i e^{2\alpha_0} (\cosh(2\alpha_3) + i \sinh(2\alpha_3)) = \pm i e^{2\alpha_0} e^{2\alpha_3 i}. \quad (A.12)$$

Since $i$ with $i^2 = +1$ has no square root, only the second line allows to directly compute the square root of $m \overline{m}$. Note, that the negative sign in $-e^{2\alpha_0} e^{2\alpha_3 i}$ would necessitate the use of the complex imaginary unit $I \in \mathbb{C}$, $I^2 = -1$, which would necessarily drop out in the total factorization, because $m$ is assumed to be real from the very beginning. We observe, that the third line subsumes the first when $\alpha_3 = 0$.

The square root of the exponential factors $e^{2\alpha_0} e^{2\alpha_3 i}$ can always be taken, using $\alpha_0$ and $\alpha_3$. We may therefore define for $i^2 = +1$ the special norm

$|m|_+ = \sqrt{e^{2\alpha_0} e^{2\alpha_3 i}} = e^{\alpha_0} e^{\alpha_3 i}. \quad (A.13)$

Division of $m$ by this special norm leads to

$$M_+ = \frac{m}{|m|_+}, \quad |M_+| = |\overline{M_+}| = h_3(i) = \left\{ \pm 1, \pm i \right\}. \quad (A.14)$$

Finally, some further insights, which may be worth noting, can be gained by changing again to the isomorphism view point $\text{Cl}(2, 1) \cong \text{Cl}(2, 0) \otimes \text{Cl}(1, 0)$. Every $m \in \text{Cl}(2, 1)$ can be written as

$$m = m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_3 e_3 + m_{12} e_{12} + m_{23} e_{23} + m_{31} e_{31} + m_{123} e_{123}$$

$$= m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_{12} e_{12} + (m_{123} + m_{23} e_{1} + m_{31} e_{2} - m_{3} e_{12}) e_{123}, \quad (A.15)$$

or with $p, q \in \text{Cl}(2, 0)$,

$$p = m_0 + m_1 e_1 + m_2 e_2 + m_{12} e_{12}, \quad (A.16)$$

$$q = m_{123} + m_{23} e_{1} + m_{31} e_{2} - m_{3} e_{12}, \quad (A.17)$$

as hyperbolic ($i^2 = 1$) linear combination of two multivectors in $\text{Cl}(2, 0)$ with

$$m = p + i q. \quad (A.18)$$

The product $m \overline{m}$ gives

$$m \overline{m} = p \overline{p} + q \overline{q} + 2i \frac{1}{2} (p \overline{q} + q \overline{p}), \quad (A.19)$$

where

$$p \overline{p} = p_0^2 + p_{12}^2 - p_1^2 - p_2^2 = \overline{p} p, \quad q \overline{q} = \overline{q} q, \quad (A.20)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} (p \overline{q} + q \overline{p}) = pq_0 + p_{12} q_{12} - p_1 q_1 - p_2 q_2 = \frac{1}{2} (\overline{p} q + \overline{q} p). \quad (A.21)$$

Therefore we also have

$$m \overline{m} = \overline{p} p + \overline{q} q + 2i \frac{1}{2} (\overline{p} q + \overline{q} p) = \overline{m} m. \quad (A.22)$$
A non-zero product $m\bar{m}$ can always be represented as

$$m\bar{m} = (\beta + \alpha i) \left\{ \pm 1 \right\} = (\beta + \alpha i)h_3(i),$$

(A.23)

with $\beta > |\alpha| \geq 0$, and $h_3(i) = \pm$ or $h_3(i) = \pm i$.

For $h_3(i) = 1$, we have

$$m\bar{m} = e^{2\alpha_0}e^{2\alpha_3 i}, \quad \sqrt{m\bar{m}} = e^{\alpha_0}e^{\alpha_3 i},$$

(A.24)

and obtain the multivector factor $M$ of unit norm (using Clifford conjugation)

$$M = \frac{m}{\sqrt{m\bar{m}}}, \quad M\bar{M} = 1.$$

(A.25)

We can express $M$ as

$$M = P + Qi,$$

(A.26)

with

$$P = M_0 + M_1 e_1 + M_2 e_2 + M_{12} e_{12},$$

(A.27)

and because of $M\bar{M} = \bar{M}M = 1$ have

$$PP + QQ = 1, \quad \frac{1}{2}(P\bar{Q} + Q\bar{P}) = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{P}Q + \bar{Q}P) = 0,$$

(A.29)

that means

$$P\bar{Q} + \bar{P}Q = P\bar{Q} + \bar{P}Q = 0.$$  

(A.30)

Assuming that $PP$ is not zero (i.e. $P$ is invertible) we can rewrite

$$M = P(1 + iP^{-1}Q) = P(1 + i\frac{1}{PP}QP) = P(1 + i\frac{1}{PP}(\bar{P}Q - \bar{Q}P))$$

$$= P(1 + i\frac{1}{PP}\frac{1}{2}(\bar{P}Q - \bar{Q}P)).$$

(A.31)