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Projective Ring Line Encompassing Two-Qubits

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Abstract

The projective line over the (non-commutative) ring of two-by-two matrices with coefficients in $GF(2)$ is found to *fully* accommodate the algebra of 15 operators — generalized Pauli matrices — characterizing two-qubit systems. The relevant sub-configuration consists of 15 points each of which is either simultaneously distant or simultaneously neighbour to (any) two given distant points of the line. The operators can be identified with the points in such a one-to-one manner that their commutation relations are *exactly* reproduced by the underlying geometry of the points, with the ring geometrical notions of neighbour/distant answering, respectively, to the operational ones of commuting/non-commuting. This finding opens up rather unexpected vistas for an algebraic geometrical modelling of finite-dimensional quantum systems and gives their numerous applications a wholly new perspective.

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Projective lines defined over finite associative rings with unity/identity [1]–[7] have recently been recognized to be an important novel tool for getting a deeper insight into the underlying algebraic geometrical structure of finite dimensional quantum systems [8]–[10]. Focusing almost uniquely on the two-qubit case, i.e., the set of 15 operators/generalized four-by-four Pauli spin matrices, of particular importance turned out to be the lines defined over the direct product of the simplest Galois fields, $GF(2) \times GF(2) \times \dots \times GF(2)$. Here, the line defined over $GF(2) \times GF(2)$ plays a prominent role in grasping qualitatively the basic structure of so-called Mermin squares [9, 10], i.e., three-by-three arrays in certain remarkable $9 + 6$ splittings of the algebra of operators, whereas the line over $GF(2) \times GF(2) \times GF(2)$ reflects some of the basic features of a specific $8 + 7$ (“cube-and-kernel”) splitting of the set [10]. Motivated by these partial findings, we started our quest for such a ring line that would provide us with a complete picture of the algebra of all the 15 operators/matrices. After examining a large number of lines defined over commutative rings [6, 7], we gradually realized that a proper candidate is likely to be found in the non-commutative domain and this, indeed, turned out to be a right move. It is, as we shall demonstrate in sufficient detail, the projective line defined over the full two-by-two matrix ring with entries in $GF(2)$ — the unique simple non-commutative ring of order 16 featuring six units (invertible elements) and ten zero-divisors [11]. Having in mind the conceptual rather than formal side of the task, we shall try to reduce the technicalities of the exposition to a minimum, referring instead the interested reader to the relevant literature.

We first recall the concept of a projective ring line [1]–[7]. Given an associative ring R with unity/identity [12]–[14] and $GL(2, R)$, the general linear group of invertible two-by-two matrices with entries in R , a pair $(a, b) \in R^2$ is called admissible over R if there exist $c, d \in R$ such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2, R). \quad (1)$$

The projective line over R , usually denoted as $P_1(R)$, is the set of equivalence classes of ordered pairs $(\varrho a, \varrho b)$, where ϱ is a unit of R and (a, b) is admissible. Two points $X := (\varrho a, \varrho b)$ and $Y := (\varrho c, \varrho d)$ of the line are called *distant* or *neighbour* according as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2, R) \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \notin GL(2, R), \quad (2)$$

respectively. $GL(2, R)$ has an important property of acting transitively on a set of three pairwise distant points; that is, given any two triples of mutually distant points there exists an element of $GL(2, R)$ transforming one triple into the other.

The projective line we are exclusively interested in here is the one defined over the full two-by-two matrix ring with $GF(2)$ -valued coefficients, i. e.,

$$R = M_2(GF(2)) \equiv \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \mid \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in GF(2) \right\}. \quad (3)$$

Labelling these matrices as follows

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 2 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 3 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 4 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ 5 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 6 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 7 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 8 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ 9 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 10 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 11 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 12 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ 13 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 14 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, & 15 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & 0 &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

one can readily verify that addition and multiplication in $M_2(GF(2))$ is carried out as shown in Table 1 [15; ring number 15.5.96]. Checking first for admissibility (Eq. (1)) and then grouping the admissible pairs left-proportional by a unit into equivalence classes (of cardinality six each), we find that $P_1(M_2(GF(2)))^1$ possesses altogether 35 points, with the following representatives of each equivalence class (see [6]–[8] for more details about this methodology and a number of illustrative examples of a projective ring line):

$$\begin{aligned} &(1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 9), (1, 11), (1, 12), (1, 13), \\ &(1, 0), (1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (1, 7), (1, 8), (1, 10), (1, 14), (1, 15), \\ &(0, 1), (3, 1), (4, 1), (5, 1), (6, 1), (7, 1), (8, 1), (10, 1), (14, 1), (15, 1), \\ &(3, 4), (3, 10), (3, 14), (5, 4), (5, 10), (5, 14), (6, 4), (6, 10), (6, 14). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

From the multiplication table one can easily recognize that the representatives in the first row of the last equation have both entries units (1 being, obviously, unity/multiplicative identity), those of the second and third row have one entry unit(y) and the other a zero-divisor, whilst all pairs in the last row feature zero-divisors in both the entries. At this point we are ready to shown which “portion” of $P_1(M_2(GF(2)))$ is the proper algebraic geometrical setting of two-qubits.

To this end, we consider two distant points of the line. Taking into account the above-mentioned three-distant-transitivity of $GL(2, R)$, we can take these, without any loss of generality, to be the points $U := (1, 0)$ and $V := (0, 1)$. Next we pick up all those points of the line which are either simultaneously distant or simultaneously neighbour to U and V . Employing the left part of Eq. (2), we find the following six points

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= (1, 1), \quad C_2 = (1, 2), \quad C_3 = (1, 9), \\ C_4 &= (1, 11), \quad C_5 = (1, 12), \quad C_6 = (1, 13), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

¹This line has been found to have a distinguished footing among non-commutative ring lines for it fundamentally differs from its two commutative counterparts [11].

Table 1: Addition (*top*) and multiplication (*bottom*) in $M_2(GF(2))$.

+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	1	0	3	2	5	4	7	6	9	8	11	10	13	12	15	14
2	2	3	0	1	6	7	4	5	10	11	8	9	14	15	12	13
3	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	11	10	9	8	15	14	13	12
4	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11
5	5	4	7	6	1	0	3	2	13	12	15	14	9	8	11	10
6	6	7	4	5	2	3	0	1	14	15	12	13	10	11	8	9
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	9	8	11	10	13	12	15	14	1	0	3	2	5	4	7	6
10	10	11	8	9	14	15	12	13	2	3	0	1	6	7	4	5
11	11	10	9	8	15	14	13	12	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4
12	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3
13	13	12	15	14	9	8	11	10	5	4	7	6	1	0	3	2
14	14	15	12	13	10	11	8	9	6	7	4	5	2	3	0	1
15	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
×	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2	0	2	1	3	7	5	6	4	14	12	15	13	9	11	8	10
3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	3	6	5	5	6	5	6	6	5
4	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	4	14	10	10	14	10	14	14	10
5	0	5	6	3	0	5	6	3	6	3	0	5	6	3	0	5
6	0	6	5	3	3	5	6	0	0	6	5	3	3	5	6	0
7	0	7	7	0	7	0	0	7	8	15	15	8	15	8	8	15
8	0	8	15	7	7	15	8	0	0	8	15	7	7	15	8	0
9	0	9	13	4	3	10	14	7	8	1	5	12	11	2	6	15
10	0	10	14	4	0	10	14	4	14	4	0	10	14	4	0	10
11	0	11	12	7	4	15	8	3	6	13	10	1	2	9	14	5
12	0	12	11	7	3	15	8	4	14	2	5	9	13	1	6	10
13	0	13	9	4	7	10	14	3	6	11	15	2	1	12	8	5
14	0	14	10	4	4	10	14	0	0	14	10	4	4	10	14	0
15	0	15	8	7	0	15	8	7	8	7	0	15	8	7	0	15

to belong to the first family, whereas the right part of Eq. (2) tells us that the second family comprises the following nine points

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_7 &= (3, 4), \quad C_8 = (3, 10), \quad C_9 = (3, 14), \\
 C_{10} &= (5, 4), \quad C_{11} = (5, 10), \quad C_{12} = (5, 14), \\
 C_{13} &= (6, 4), \quad C_{14} = (6, 10), \quad C_{15} = (6, 14).
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Making again use of Eq. (2), one finds that the points of our special subset of $P_1(M_2(GF(2)))$ are related with each other as shown in Table 2; from this table it can readily be discerned that to every point of the configuration there are six neighbour and eight distant points, and that the maximum number of pairwise neighbour points is three. The final step is to identify these 15 points with the 15 generalized Pauli matrices/operators of two-qubits (see, e. g., [10], Eq. (1)) in the following way

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_1 &= \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_x, \quad C_2 = \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y, \quad C_3 = 1_2 \otimes \sigma_x, \\
 C_4 &= \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_z, \quad C_5 = \sigma_y \otimes 1_2, \quad C_6 = \sigma_x \otimes \sigma_x, \\
 C_7 &= \sigma_x \otimes \sigma_z, \quad C_8 = \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_x, \quad C_9 = \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_y,
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 2: The neighbour and distant (“+” and “−”, respectively) relation between the points of the configuration. The points are arranged in such a way that the last nine of them (i. e., C_7 to C_{15}) form the projective line over $GF(2) \times GF(2)$ [8], which is, as it indeed must in order for this generalization to dovetail with our earlier findings [9, 10], a subline of $P_1(M_2(GF(2)))$.

	C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6	C_7	C_8	C_9	C_{10}	C_{11}	C_{12}	C_{13}	C_{14}	C_{15}
C_1	−	−	−	−	+	+	−	+	+	+	−	+	+	+	−
C_2	−	−	+	+	−	−	−	+	+	+	+	−	+	−	+
C_3	−	+	−	+	−	−	+	−	+	−	+	+	+	+	−
C_4	−	+	+	−	−	−	+	+	−	+	−	+	−	+	+
C_5	+	−	−	−	−	+	+	−	+	+	+	−	−	+	+
C_6	+	−	−	−	+	−	+	+	−	−	+	+	+	−	+
C_7	−	−	+	+	+	+	−	−	−	−	+	+	−	+	+
C_8	+	+	−	+	−	+	−	−	−	+	−	+	+	−	+
C_9	+	+	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	+	+	−	+	+	−
C_{10}	+	+	−	+	+	−	−	+	+	−	−	−	−	+	+
C_{11}	−	+	+	−	+	+	+	−	+	−	−	−	+	−	+
C_{12}	+	−	+	+	−	+	+	+	−	−	−	−	+	+	−
C_{13}	+	+	+	−	−	+	−	+	+	−	+	+	−	−	−
C_{14}	+	−	+	+	+	−	+	−	+	+	−	+	−	−	−
C_{15}	−	+	−	+	+	+	+	+	−	+	+	−	−	−	−

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{10} &= \sigma_x \otimes \mathbf{1}_2, & C_{11} &= \sigma_x \otimes \sigma_y, & C_{12} &= \mathbf{1}_2 \otimes \sigma_y, \\
C_{13} &= \mathbf{1}_2 \otimes \sigma_z, & C_{14} &= \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_z, & C_{15} &= \sigma_z \otimes \mathbf{1}_2,
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where $\mathbf{1}_2$ is the 2×2 unit matrix, σ_x , σ_y and σ_z are the classical Pauli matrices and the symbol “ \otimes ” stands for the tensorial product of matrices, in order to readily verify that Table 2 gives the correct commutation relations between these operators with the symbols “+” and “−” now having the meaning of “non-commuting” and “commuting”, respectively. Slightly rephrased, *one and the same* “incidence matrix”, Table 2, pertains to *two distinct* configurations of a *completely different* origin: a set of points of the projective line over a particular finite ring, with the symbols “+”/“−” having the algebraic geometrical meaning of distant/neighbour, as well as a set of operators of four-dimensional Hilbert space, with the same symbols acquiring the operational meaning of non-commuting/commuting, respectively.

We have demonstrated that the basic properties of a system of two interacting spin-1/2 particles are uniquely embodied in the (sub)geometry of a particular projective line. As such systems are the simplest ones exhibiting phenomena like quantum entanglement and quantum non-locality and play, therefore, a crucial role in numerous applications like quantum cryptography, quantum coding, quantum cloning/teleportation and/or quantum computing to mention the most salient ones, our discovery thus not only offers a principally new geometrically-underlined insight into their intrinsic nature, but also gives their applications a whole new perspective and opens up rather unexpected vistas for an algebraic geometrical modelling of their higher-dimensional counterparts.

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