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Clifford group dipoles and the enactment of Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_8)$ by entangling gates

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Abstract.

Peres/Mermin arguments about no-hidden variables in quantum mechanics are used for displaying a pair (R, S) of entangling Clifford quantum gates, acting on two qubits. From them, a natural unitary representation of Coxeter/Weyl groups $W(D_5)$ and $W(F_4)$ emerges, which is also reflected into the splitting of the n -qubit Clifford group \mathcal{C}_n into dipoles \mathcal{C}_n^\pm . The union of the three-qubit real Clifford group \mathcal{C}_3^+ and the Toffoli gate ensures a unitary representation of the Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_8)$, and of its relatives. Other concepts involved are complex reflection groups, BN pairs, unitary group designs and entangled states of the GHZ family.

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1. Introduction

One important feature of quantum mechanics, not present in classical physics, is the possible non-commutativity of observables. Many peculiarities and paradoxes encountered in quantum mechanical measurements may be discussed in a discrete setting in terms of tensor products of Pauli spin matrices σ_x , σ_y and σ_z , which obey non-trivial commutation relations [1]. In essence, the peculiarities carried by the Bell-Kochen-Specker theorem deal about the algebraic structure of eigenvalues/measurements, that contradicts that of the eigenstates [2]. In this note, the ingredients of this discussion are given a quantum computing setting.

The paper is organized as follows. We first exhibit a pair of two-qubit entangling gates S and R (a braiding matrix), that encapsulate Mermin's discussion about quantum paradoxes. The octahedral geometry of the group $\langle R, S \rangle$, generated by them, is investigated. Then, the natural decomposition of the symplectic group $\text{Sp}(2n, n)$ into its orthogonal subgroups is reflected in the splitting of the Clifford group \mathcal{C}_n on n qubits into dipoles indexed by S (the real Clifford group) and R . The relevant Coxeter groups, BN pairs and unitary group designs rise up in the calculations. Finally, it is shown that the real three-qubit dipole, when complemented by the Toffoli gate, enact (up to isomorphism) the largest Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_8)$ and its reflection subgroups. The various entangling gates spanning them are displayed. Appendices are devoted to the

fundamental concepts underlying many aspects of the paper: complex reflection groups [9], BN pairs [8], unitary designs [18] and the classification of entanglement [19].

All group theoretical calculations are performed in Magma [3].

2. From Mermin's array to octahedral symmetry

The basic pieces of the proof of Kochen-Specker theorem in a four-dimensional space are two triples of (mutually commuting and real) two-qubit observables

$$\{\sigma_x \otimes \sigma_x, \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y, \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_z\} \text{ and } \{\sigma_x \otimes \sigma_z, \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_x, \sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y\}. \quad (1)$$

See [2] for a full discussion based on the 3×3 Mermin's array and [1] for the interpretation of the array as a specific hyperplane of the generalized quadrangle of order two. The joined eigenstates of the l.h.s. triple of mutually commuting observables in (1) are made explicit in [4]. They may be casted as the rows of the unitary matrix R as below

$$R = 1/\sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} + & + & - \\ - & - & - \\ - & + & + \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

Rows of the r.h.s. matrix contain the sign of eigenvalues ± 1 , and the action of the matrix R on the computational basis leads to the entangled states shared by the triple, i.e. $R|00\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle), \dots$. Matrix R is known as the Bell basis change matrix. It occurs in the braiding approach of quantum computing [5, 6] and is also encountered in our recent papers [7]-[9].

The joined eigenstates of the r.h.s. triple of mutually commuting observables in (1) may be similarly casted as the rows of the entangling unitary matrix

$$S = 1/2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} + & - & - \\ - & + & - \\ - & - & + \\ + & + & + \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

Thus the two matrices R and S capture, in a very compact and yet unnoticed form, the ingredients contained in the Mermin's proof of Kochen-Specker theorem. As any entangling matrix associated with local unitary transformations is universal for quantum computation, one can deduce that matrices R and S , separately, are universal (see Sec. 2.1 in [5]). The R matrix satisfies the Yang-Baxter equation (see Sec. 2 of [5]), but the S matrix does not. It has a different status, that I will exploit later. Both matrices are related by a relation involving the Hadamard matrix H as

$$RS = H \otimes I \text{ with } H = 1/\sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Matrices R and S are *distinguished* members of the two-qubit Clifford group \mathcal{C}_2 that is defined as the normalizer, in the unitary group $U(4, \mathbb{C})$, of the 2-fold tensor product $\mathcal{P}_2 = \mathcal{P}_1 \otimes \mathcal{P}_1$ of Pauli groups \mathcal{P}_1 , the latter being generated by ordinary Pauli

spin matrices. By definition, the two-qubit Pauli group \mathcal{P}_2 maps to itself under the conjugation action of matrices/gates of \mathcal{C}_2 . The distinctive character of R and S leads to a natural splitting of the Clifford group into two poles (see [10] for details about the Clifford group and [8] for preliminary observations about its decomposition into BN-pairs).

Beforehand, the finite group G_{96} generated by R and S is of order 96 and satisfies the group isomorphisms

$$G_{96} = \langle R, S \rangle \cong \mathcal{U}_{13} \cong \mathbb{Z}_4 \cdot \mathbb{S}_4, \quad (5)$$

where \mathcal{U}_{13} is the complex reflection group No 13 in the Shephard-Todd sequence [12] (see appendix A for a definition and [9] for a recent essay about the relevance of complex reflection groups for quantum information). The cyclic group \mathbb{Z}_4 is normal in the permutation representation of G_{96} , the dot product of groups means that the extension is not split and that its quotient by \mathbb{Z}_4 is the symmetric group on four letters \mathbb{S}_4 . The single qubit Clifford group \mathcal{C}_1 contains the reflection group \mathcal{U}_{13} as a maximal subgroup of index two. The reflection group \mathcal{U}_8 , No 8 in the Shephard-Todd sequence, is also a maximal subgroup of \mathcal{C}_1 , with the same order and the same permutation representation. The latter is studied in [11] in connection to the modular invariance property of association schemes and the related self-dual classical codes [13].

The smallest degree invariant of the Clifford group \mathcal{C}_1 is shared by its reflection subgroups \mathcal{U}_8 and \mathcal{U}_{13} as

$$\mathcal{W} := \alpha^8 + 14\alpha^4\beta^4 + \beta^8. \quad (6)$$

It corresponds to the octahedral invariance. It was derived for the first time in 1913 Klein's lectures [14]. The octic invariant (6) is obtained by exploiting the invariance under $SU(2)$ transformations of the center of faces of an octahedron with vertices located on the Riemann sphere. Then, seeing the Riemann sphere as the usual Bloch sphere the variables α and β may be interpreted as the amplitudes of a single qubit state. Invariant \mathcal{W} may also be seen as the complete weight enumerator of the self dual code e_8 [13].

The corresponding octic invariant of the (rank four) group G_{96} is

$$W^{(2)} := \Sigma_8 + 14\Sigma_{4,4} + 168\Sigma_{2,2,2,2}, \quad (7)$$

in the notations of [13], i.e. $\Sigma_8 = \sum_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i^8$, $\Sigma_{4,4} = \sum_{j>i} \alpha_i^4 \alpha_j^4$ and $\Sigma_{2,2,2,2} = \prod_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i^2$. Invariant $W^{(2)}$ represents the complete weight enumerator of the (genus two) code $e_8 \otimes \mathbb{F}_4$ [13], and indeed generalizes Klein's invariant (6).

3. Clifford group dipoles

Let us call \mathcal{P}_n the Pauli error group on n qubits and \mathcal{C}_n the corresponding Clifford group, i.e. the normalizer of \mathcal{P}_n in the general 2^n -dimensional complex unitary group $U(2^n, \mathbb{C})$. By definition, \mathcal{P}_n is mapped to itself under the conjugation action $\mathcal{C}_n \mathcal{P}_n \mathcal{C}_n^{-1}$. The group \mathcal{P}_n is normal in \mathcal{C}_n and the map from \mathcal{P}_n to the factor group $\mathcal{C}_n/\mathcal{P}_n$ is an element of the symplectic group $\text{Sp}(2n, 2)$ [15].

Then, the natural decomposition of $\text{Sp}(2n, 2)$ into its orthogonal subgroups $\Omega^\pm(2n, 2)$ [16] may be used for obtaining a straightforward decomposition of the Clifford group \mathcal{C}_n into dipole subgroups \mathcal{C}_n^\pm

$$\mathcal{C}_n^\pm = E^\pm(2n+1) \cdot \Omega^\pm(2n, 2), \quad (8)$$

in which $E^\pm(2n+1)$ are the extraspecial groups, of order 2^{2n+1} , of the Pauli group \mathcal{P}_n . The splitting of the Clifford group into its dipoles is inspired by our recent proposal of decomposing the Clifford group into BN -pairs [8].

Single qubit dipoles

The single qubit Clifford group possesses a BN -pair (see the appendix B for the meaning of a BN -pair)

$$B \equiv C_1^+, \quad N \equiv C_1^- \cong \text{SL}(2, 3), \quad H_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_4 \quad \text{and} \quad W \cong W(D_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^2, \quad (9)$$

corresponding to the dipoles

$$C_1^+ = E^+(8), \quad C_1^- \cong E^-(8) \cdot \Omega^-(2, 2). \quad (10)$$

The dipole $\mathcal{C}_\infty = \mathcal{C}_\infty'$ (with $'$ meaning the derived subgroup) is nothing but the octahedral group

$$\mathcal{O} = \left\langle i\sigma_z, \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1-i & i-1 \\ 1+i & 1+i \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \quad (11)$$

that is not of the reflection type, but isomorphic to the complex reflection group \mathcal{U}_4 , No 4 in the Shephard-Todd sequence. In virtue of its isomorphism to $SL(2, 3)$, the dipole \mathcal{C}_1^- also corresponds to the smallest known unitary two-dimensional 2-design (see [17, 18] and the appendix C for the definition).

Two-qubit dipoles

The relevant groups are the Clifford group \mathcal{C}_2 (order 92160) and two subgroups: the *local* Clifford group $\mathcal{C}_2^L \supset S$ (order 4608) and the Bell group $\mathcal{B}_2 \supset R$ (order 15360), which may be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_2 &= \langle \mathcal{C}_1 \otimes \mathcal{C}_1, \text{CZ} \rangle = \langle H \otimes H, H \otimes P, \text{CZ} \rangle, \\ \mathcal{C}_2^L &= \langle \mathcal{C}_1 \otimes \mathcal{C}_1 \rangle = \langle H \otimes H, H \otimes P, T \rangle, \\ \mathcal{B}_2 &= \langle H \otimes H, H \otimes P, R \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

with $\text{CZ} = \text{diag}(1, 1, 1, -1)$, P is the $\pi/2$ phase gate and T is the swap gate [10]. The importance of the *match* gate R and of the *swap* gate T , in the context for the BN pair decomposition of the Clifford group, is an important issue of [8]. The inclusion of matrices R in \mathcal{B}_2 and S in \mathcal{C}_2^L is exclusive, i.e. $R \notin \mathcal{C}_2^L$ and $S \notin \mathcal{B}_2$. The pair (R, S)

of universal matrices of the preceeding section reflects into pairs of subgroups of the Clifford group. In the sequel, one may see the positive dipole \mathcal{C}_2^+ (which contains S and not R) as indexed by S and the negative dipole \mathcal{C}_2^- (which contains R and not S) as indexed by R .

More precisely, one can construct a BN-pair of the two-qubit Clifford group [8]

$$B \cong W(F_4), \quad N \equiv \mathcal{B}_2, \quad H_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_8 \text{ and } W \cong W(D_5), \quad (13)$$

in which B is the Coxeter group of type “ F_4 ” (the symmetry group of the 24-cell), N is the Bell group, and the Weyl group W of the pair is isomorphic to the Coxeter group of type “ D_5 .” The two-qubit Clifford group dipoles are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_2^+ &\cong E^+(32).\Omega^+(4, 2) \cong E^+(32) \rtimes \mathbb{S}_3^2 \cong W(F_4), \\ \mathcal{C}_2^- &= \mathcal{B}'_2 \cong E^-(32).\Omega^-(4, 2) \cong E^-(32).A_5, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

There exists an important maximal subgroup of the dipole \mathcal{C}_2^- isomorphic to the group $SL(2, 5)$ that (as the alternating group A_5) corresponds to the smallest known 2-dimensional 5-design [18] with generators

$$1/2 \begin{pmatrix} 1+i & 1-i & 0 & 0 \\ -1-i & 1-i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1+i & 1-i \\ 0 & 0 & -1-i & 1-i \end{pmatrix}, \quad 1/2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1+i & 1+i & 0 \\ i-1 & 0 & 0 & 1-i \\ i-1 & 0 & 0 & i-1 \\ 0 & -1-i & 1+i & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Their action on the computational base is either separable (for the l.h.s. generator) or gives rise to a Bell basis with a phase factor (for the r.h.s. generator).

Three-qubit and higher-order dipoles

The three-qubit Clifford group dipoles are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_3^+ &\cong E^+(128).\Omega^+(6, 2) \cong E^+(128).A_8, \\ \mathcal{C}_3^- &= \mathcal{B}'_3 \cong E^-(128).\Omega^-(6, 2) \cong E^-(128).W'(E_6), \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

in which the simple groups A_8 (the eight-letter alternating group) and $W'(E_6)$ (the derived subgroup of the Coxeter group of type “ E_6 ”) are of order 20160 and 25920, respectively. More generally, higher order dipoles involve the orthogonal groups $\Omega^\pm(2n, 2)$, that identify to $D_n(2)$ and $2D_n(2)$ (twisted) Chevalley groups.

The two constitutive real entangling gate S and swap gate T may be used for generating the dipole \mathcal{C}_3^+ , of order 2 580 480, with the representation

$$\mathcal{C}_3^+ = \langle \sigma_x \otimes S, S \otimes \sigma_x, \sigma_x \otimes T, T \otimes \sigma_x \rangle. \quad (17)$$

See also [13] for the relation between real Clifford groups and Barnes-Wall lattices.

Among the subgroups of \mathcal{C}_3^+ having relevance to unitary group designs, there are five subgroups, isomorphic to the complex reflection group U_{24} (of order 336). As their

central quotient, isomorphic to the simple subgroup $G_{168} = PSL(2, 7)$, they define three-dimensional 2-designs. The smallest known design with these parameters is of order 72, isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_3^2 \rtimes E_8^-$ [18], and is also a subgroup of \mathcal{C}_3^+ .

The simple group G_{168} is intimately related to 3-partite entanglement (see the appendix D for a reminder about the measures of entanglement). In the representation

$$G_{168} = \left\langle a = \sigma_0 \otimes CZ, \quad b = 1/2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle, \quad (18)$$

one observes that the action of the second generator on the computational basis creates a 8-dim basis of GHZ states such as the entangled state

$$b|000\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|000\rangle + |001\rangle - |110\rangle + |111\rangle). \quad (19)$$

Using concepts recalled at the appendix D, one easily obtains the residual tangle $\tau^{(3)} = 1$ and the vanishing of all bipartite tangles, that are properties specific to quantum states of the GHZ family.

The three-qubit representation of the simple group $PSL(2, 7)$ is indeed quite different from the Hurwitz representation $\langle x, y | x^2 = y^2 = (xy)^7 = [x, y]^4 = 1 \rangle$ (in which $[x, y]$ means the group commutator of elements x and y) [22]. The finite unitary representation one obtains for G_{168} is $a^2 = b^4 = (ba^{-1})^7 = (b^{-2}a)^2 = 1$.

4. Enactment the Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_8)$ and its relatives

The finite Coxeter/Weyl group of the largest cardinality is $W(E_8) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2.O^+(8, 2)$, of order 696 729 600, in which $O^+(8, 2)$ is the general eight-dimensional orthogonal group over the field $GF(2)$ and $O^+(8, 2)' = \Omega^+(8, 2)$. It may be realized as the complex reflection group \mathcal{U}_{37} (2^{120} reflections), the last group in the Shephard-Todd sequence. Group $W(E_8)$ plays a unifying role in physics [25, 26], being the symmetry group of the largest exceptional root system, that of the simple Lie group E_8 .

Until now, we have crossed many important subgroups of the Clifford group that are isomorphic to complex reflection groups and one may legitimately ask whether it is a mere coincidence, or if there is a deeper mechanism relating quantum computing and all the finite reflection groups. Remarkably, $W(E_8)$ can be represented by adjoining to the real Clifford group \mathcal{C}_3^+ the (non-Clifford) Toffoli gate $C^2\text{NOT} = \text{TOF}$, which applies a NOT operation to the (target) third qubit only if the two first (control) qubits are set to $|1\rangle$. Thus,

$$\langle \mathcal{C}_3^+, \text{TOF} \rangle = \langle I \otimes S, S \otimes I, \text{TOF} \rangle \cong W(E_8). \quad (20)$$

Conversely, it is easy to recognize \mathcal{C}_3^+ as isomorphic to the largest maximal subgroup of $W'(E_8) \cong O^+(8, 2)$.

The Toffoli gate is a well known universal and reversible logic gate for classical computing. Since any reversible gate may be implemented on a quantum computer, it also serves as a quantum gate. The union of Toffoli and Hadamard gates is universal for quantum computation [23].

Let us rewrite (20) as

$$\left\langle b, \tilde{b} = 1/2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{TOF} \right\rangle \cong W(E_8), \quad (21)$$

where $\mathcal{C}_3^+ = \langle b, \tilde{b} \rangle$ is an alternative representation of the 3-qubit real Clifford group with generators of the GHZ-type. One easily observes that b and \tilde{b} only differs from a reordering of the rows and thus correspond a common set of eigenstates, attached to a specific mutually commuting set of seven three-qubit observables.

Owing to the huge cardinality of $W(E_8)$ and its intricate structure, it is not surprising to discover representations of it in terms of other gates of the GHZ type. For instance, the GHZ type gates

$$\begin{aligned} c = 1/2 & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ d = 1/2 & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

are such that

$$\langle c, d, \text{TOF} \rangle \cong W(E_8), \mathcal{C}_3^+ = \langle c, d, \sigma_0 \otimes \text{CZ} \rangle \text{ and } \langle c, d \rangle \cong \mathcal{C}_2^-. \quad (23)$$

The second largest complex reflection group $\mathcal{U}_{36} \equiv W(E_7)$, of order 2 903 040 with 2^{63} reflections, may be represented as

$$\langle b, c, \text{TOF} \rangle \cong W(E_7) \text{ where } \langle b, c \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^4 \rtimes \mathbb{D}_4 \text{ and } \langle \tilde{b}, c \rangle \cong \mathcal{C}_2^-, \quad (24)$$

where \mathbb{D}_4 is the dihedral group of order 8. Still another way to enact $W(E_8)$ in a unitary way is to complement the 3-qubit representation of $SL(2, 5)$ with the Toffoli gate as follows

$$\langle \tilde{b}, d, \text{TOF} \rangle \cong W(E_8) \text{ with } \mathcal{C}_3^+ = \langle \tilde{b}, d, \sigma_0 \otimes \text{CZ} \rangle \text{ and } \langle \tilde{b}, d \rangle \cong SL(2, 5). \quad (25)$$

Indeed, the unitary enactment of $W(E_8)$ with quantum gates of the GHZ type is much different from the standard root representation of E_8 . Recall that the gears of this representation of $W(E_8)$, that induce the tripartite entanglement, are simply the real bipartite entangling matrix X and the Toffoli gate, that we used in (20). The Pandora's box only arises from these two conclusive players.

Enacting the Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_6)$

The Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_6) \cong O^-(6, 2)$, of order 51840 with 2^{36} reflections, is an important subgroup of $W(E_7)$, being the symmetry group of a *smooth cubic surface* embedded in the three-dimensional complex projective space $\mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$. The surface contains a maximum of 27 lines in general position and 45 sets of tritangent planes. The group of permutations of the 27 lines is $W(E_6)$, the stabilizer of a line is $W(D_5)$ (observe that $|W(E_6)|/|W(D_5)| = 27$) and the stabilizer of a tritangent plane is $W(F_4)$ [24]. Thus, the BN-pairs, and the Clifford group dipoles described at the previous section, are reflected into the geometry of such a cubic surface.

But $W(E_6)$ is not a subgroup of the 3-qubit Clifford group, further gates have to be added to display it. Then, what type of entanglement characterizes the unitary representation of $W(E_7)$? This can be unraveled by using the representation

$$\begin{aligned} \langle e, f, \text{TOF} \rangle &\cong W(E_8) \text{ and } \langle e, f \rangle \cong W(E_6), \\ \text{where } e = 1/2 &\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \text{and } f = 1/4 &\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -3 \\ 3 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -3 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 3 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 3 & 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Similarly to the Toffoli gate, gates e and f do not belong to the real Clifford group \mathcal{C}_3^+ . If one complements the unitary representation of \mathcal{C}_3^+ , or the one of $W(E_7)$, by gate e , or by gate f , or by both gates e and f , one obtains a representation of $W'(E_8)$, of cardinality $|W(E_8)|/2$. Another useful expression is $\langle b, e \rangle \cong W(E_7)$.

The entanglement involved in the matrices is not equally distributed between the parties. As shown in the example provided at the appendix D, the entanglement for the states arising from matrix e is a linear chain $A - B - C$, and a similar calculation for the states arising from the matrix f shows that the entanglement is of the type $A - C - B$. This is a new feature of the unitary representation of $W(E_6)$, not present in the unitary representations of $W(E_7)$ and $W(E_8)$.

5. Discussion

We have discussed a relationship between Mermin's approach of Kochen-Specker theorem and quantum computation. We have introduced a bipolar decomposition of the Clifford group, attached to error correction, and made explicit the corresponding generating gates. A unitary representation of Weyl/Coxeter group $W(E_8)$ based on quantum gates has been uncovered. It opens up new vistas for quantum computing by providing optimal sets of gates with a clear group theoretical structure, such as BN-pairs and designs, that may serve for specific purposes. It also adds a unitary alternative to the complex reflection groups of the Shephard-Todd list that often serve as the background of essays about the unification of physics [26]. The peculiar role of the 2-dimensional 5-design $SL(2, 5)$ in the cosmological context [27] and its relation to $W(E_8)$ is intriguing. All types of three-qubit distributed entanglement arise in our unitary representation of $W(E_8)$ and of its reflection subgroups. See also [28] and references therein for the mathematical analogy between some stringy black hole solutions, quantum entanglement and finite geometries.

Appendix A: Complex reflection groups

Basically, reflections are linear transformations that leave invariant a hyperplane of a vector space, while sending vectors orthogonal to the hyperplanes to their negatives. For an Euclidean vector space \mathbb{E} , finite groups of reflections possess a *Coxeter group* structure, i.e. a representation in terms of a finite set of involutions with specific relations. There is a formal similarity between quantum errors g of the Pauli group \mathcal{P}_n and reflections s_α of the Euclidean space \mathbb{E} , and between the Clifford group action on \mathcal{P}_n and the action of the orthogonal group $O(\mathbb{E})$ on \mathbb{E} .

A unitary element of the Clifford group maps \mathcal{P}_n to itself

$$\forall g \in \mathcal{P}_n \text{ and } \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}_n, \mathcal{C}g\mathcal{C}^{-1} = g' \in \mathcal{P}_n,$$

and the orthogonal group $O(\mathbb{E})$ map reflections to reflections

$$\forall s_\alpha \in \mathbb{E} \text{ and } t \in O(\mathbb{E}), ts_\alpha t^{-1} = s_{t\alpha},$$

in which α denotes the index of a hyperplane of \mathbb{E} and $t(\alpha)$ the index of the hyperplane mapped by the action of $O(\mathbb{E})$.

Euclidean reflection groups may be generalized to pseudo-reflection groups by replacing \mathbb{E} by a vector space over the complex field \mathbb{C} . Finite irreducible unitary reflection groups are classified: They include the (real) Coxeter groups [usually denoted $W(X_i)$ for the Coxeter type X_i], three infinite families $\mathbb{Z}_m = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$, the symmetric groups \mathbb{S}_n , the imprimitive reflection groups $G(m, p, n) = A(m, p, n) \rtimes \mathbb{S}_n$ (that are semi-direct products of a diagonal matrix with \mathbb{S}_n), and 34 exceptional (Shephard-Todd) groups \mathcal{U}_n [12]. The largest one is $W(E_8)$, of cardinality 2^{120} .

Many of the self-dual codes so far derived rely on the well developed invariant theory of reflection groups and its relevance to Clifford groups [13, 9].

Appendix B: BN-pairs

Let consider a finite group G , and two subgroups B and N of G generating G , $H_0 = B \cap N$ a normal subgroup of N and the quotient group $W = N/H_0$ generated by a set $S \subset W$ of involutions. A group G is said to have a BN-pair iff it is generated as above and two extra relations (i) and (ii) are satisfied by the double cosets

$$(i) \quad \text{For any } s \in S \text{ and } w \in W, \quad sBw \subseteq (BwB) \cup (BswB),$$

$$(ii) \quad \text{For any } s \in S, sBs \not\subseteq B.$$

The pair (W, S) arising from a BN-pair is a Coxeter system.

One can form BN-pairs of the Clifford group [9].

Appendix C: Unitary designs

A unitary design is a set of unitary matrices that *simulates* the entire unitary group. It is a variation of spherical- t designs and of Grassmannian t -designs [17, 18].

In a unitary t -design, the integral $\int_{U(d)} U^{\otimes t} \otimes (U^*)^{\otimes t} dU$ over all d -dimensional unitary matrices is identical to its restriction to a discrete subset X .

For a finite set $X \subset U(d)$ of unitary matrices

$$\frac{1}{|X|^2} \sum_{U, V \in X} |\text{tr}(U^* V)|^{2t} \geq \int_{U(d)} |\text{tr}(U)|^{2t} dU,$$

with equality if and only if X is a t -design.

Many unitary group designs were constructed as the images of unitary representations of finite groups [17, 18] using the following theorem:

Let G be a finite group and $\rho : G \rightarrow U(d)$ a representation with character κ . Then $X = \{\rho(g) : g \in G\}$ is a unitary t -design iff

$$\frac{1}{G} \sum_{g \in G} |\kappa(g)|^{2t} = \int_{U(d)} |\text{tr}(U)|^{2t} dU.$$

The right hand side of the above equation is the moment of order $2t$ of the trace of a random d -dimensional unitary matrix. There exists a combinatorial interpretation as the number of permutations of length t with no increasing subsequence of length greater than d . If $d \geq t$, then the r.h.s. is $t!$.

Many efficient designs may be harvested using the known character tables of finite groups. But several optimal (i.e. small size) Clifford designs could only be obtained from subgroups of the symplectic group $Sp(2n, q)$ acting transitively on a punctured vector space. The latter are closely related to the Clifford group dipoles investigated in this paper.

Appendix D: Measures of entanglement

The resources needed to create a given entangled state may be quantified, and one can define invariants for discriminating the type of entanglement.

For a pair of quantum systems A and B in a pure state of density matrix $|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$, the *entanglement of formation* is defined as the entropy subsystems A and B

$$E(\psi) = -\text{tr}(\rho_A \log_2 \rho_A) = -\text{tr}(\rho_B \log_2 \rho_B),$$

where ρ_A and ρ_B are partial traces of ρ over subsystems B and A , respectively. The measure is made explicit by defining the spin-flipped density matrix [19]

$$\tilde{\rho} = (\sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y) \rho^* (\sigma_y \otimes \sigma_y),$$

and the concurrence $C(\psi) = |\langle\psi|\tilde{\psi}\rangle|$ between the original and flipped state $\tilde{\psi} = \sigma_y |\psi^*\rangle$. As both ρ and $\tilde{\rho}$ are positive operators, the product $\rho\tilde{\rho}$ also has only real and non-negative eigenvalues λ_i (ordered in decreasing order) and the concurrence reads

$$C(\rho) = \max \left\{ 0, \sqrt{\lambda_1} - \sqrt{\lambda_2} - \sqrt{\lambda_3} - \sqrt{\lambda_4} \right\}.$$

For a two-qubit state $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|00\rangle + \beta|01\rangle + \gamma|10\rangle + \delta|11\rangle$, the concurrence is $C = 2|\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma| = u^2 + v^2$, and thus satisfies the relation $0 \leq C \leq 1$, with $C = 0$ for a separable state and $C = 1$ for a maximally entangled state.

The entanglement of a triple of quantum systems A , B and C in a pure state may be conveniently described by tracing out over partial subsystems AB , BC , and AC . In this generalized context, one introduces the *tangle* $\tau = C^2$. Tangles attached to the bipartite subsystems above satisfy the inequality

$$\tau_{AB} + \tau_{AC} \leq 4\text{det}\rho_A \equiv \tau_{A(BC)}.$$

The right hand side is interpreted as the amount of entanglement shared by the single qubit A with the pair BC , in comparison with the amounts of entanglement shared with qubits B and C taken individually. It is remarkable that, for any value of the tangles satisfying this inequality, one can find a quantum state consistent with those values [19].

It has been shown that an arbitrary three-qubit state $|\psi\rangle$ can be entangled in essentially two inequivalent ways, belonging to the GHZ-class: $|\text{GHZ}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|000\rangle + |111\rangle)$ or to the W-class: $|\text{W}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle)$, according whether ψ can be converted to the state $|\text{GHZ}\rangle$ or to the state $|\text{W}\rangle$, by stochastic local operations and classical communication (SLOCC) [20]. The relevant class is determined by computing the bipartite tangles of the reduced subsystems. If they vanish, then the subsystems are separable and $|\psi\rangle$ belongs to the GHZ-class, meaning that all the entanglement is destroyed by tracing over one subsystem. If none of the bipartite tangles vanish, then $|\psi\rangle$ belongs to the W-class, meaning that it maximally retains bipartite entanglement after tracing over one subsystem.

Further discrimination of the entanglement type of a general 3-qubit state

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{a,b,c=0,1} \psi_{abc} |abc\rangle,$$

can be obtained by calculating the SLOCC invariant three-tangle [19]

$$\begin{aligned} \tau^{(3)} &= 4|d_1 - 2d_2 + 4d_3|, \\ d_1 &= \psi_{000}^2 \psi_{111}^2 + \psi_{001}^2 \psi_{110}^2 + \psi_{010}^2 \psi_{101}^2 + \psi_{100}^2 \psi_{011}^2, \\ d_2 &= \psi_{000} \psi_{111} (\psi_{011} \psi_{100} + \psi_{101} \psi_{010} + \psi_{110} \psi_{001}) \\ &\quad + \psi_{011} \psi_{100} (\psi_{101} \psi_{010} + \psi_{110} \psi_{001}) + \psi_{101} \psi_{010} \psi_{110} \psi_{001}, \\ d_3 &= \psi_{000} \psi_{110} \psi_{101} \psi_{011} + \psi_{111} \psi_{001} \psi_{010} \psi_{100}. \end{aligned}$$

For the GHZ state the 3-tangle becomes maximal: $\tau^{(3)} = 1$ and it vanishes for any factorized state. It also vanishes for states of the W-class. The 3-tangle may be interpreted as the *residual tangle*

$$\tau^{(3)} = \tau_{A(BC)} - (\tau_{AB} + \tau_{AC}),$$

i.e., the amount of entanglement between subsystems A and BC that cannot be accounted for by the entanglements of A with B and C separately. It is of course independent on which qubit one takes as the reference of the construction. The GHZ state is a true tripartite entangled state so that no amount of entanglement is in the bipartite subsystems, as a result the residual entanglement is maximal. In contrast, for the states of the W-class the entanglement is of a pure bipartite type and $\tau^{(3)} = 0$. Mixtures of GHZ and W states are studied in [21], where it is shown that while the amounts of inequivalent entanglement types strictly add up for pure states, the *monogamy* is in general lifted for mixed states because the entanglement can arise from different types of locally inequivalent quantum correlations.

Apart from pure tripartite entanglement (the *GHZ* states) and equally distributed bipartite entanglement (the *W* states), one can obtain a linear chain configuration of entanglement of the type $A - B - C$, where the two parties (A, B) and (A, C) are both entangled, but the parties (A, C) are not. One example is the state

$$\psi = \frac{1}{2} |011\rangle + |100\rangle + |101\rangle + |111\rangle,$$

which arise in the context in the unitary representation of the group $W(E_6)$ in (26). Using the relations above one gets $\tau^{(3)} = 1/4$ (i.e. a non equally distributed entanglement) and the tracing over two qubits may be calculated as

$$\rho_{BC} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \rho_{AB} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \rho_{AC} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The sets of square eigenvalues for the first two matrices ρ_{BC} and ρ_{AB} are $\{\frac{1}{16}(3 + 2\sqrt{2}), \frac{1}{16}(3 - 2\sqrt{2}), 0, 0\}$ so that the corresponding concurrence for pairs (B, C) and (A, B) is strictly positive. In contrast, the set of square eigenvalues for the matrix ρ_{AC} is $\{\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{16}, 0, 0\}$ and the corresponding concurrence for the pair (A, C) vanishes.

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