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Reflections on S^3 and Quaternionic Möbius Transformations

Let S^3 be the set of unit quaternions, let \mathcal{H} be the algebra of quaternions, and let \mathcal{H}^* be the space of pure quaternions. It is an elementary fact that S^3 and $\mathcal{H}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ are homeomorphic spaces by a stereographic projection. We show that a reflection in S^3 induces a linear fractional transformation on $\mathcal{H}^* \cup \{\infty\}$ that is defined by a matrix in a symplectic group Sp(2). In addition, we identify the left eigenvalues of such a matrix, and show the subgroup G generated by these matrices satisfies $G/(\pm I_2) \simeq O(4)$.

Keywords: Moebius transformation, quaternion.

MSC: 51B10, 15B33