On the conjugate mapping for quaternions.

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In this note we give two axiomatic definitions of the conjugate mapping in the quaternion skew field over the real field.

We shall use the symbols $1, i, j, k$ to denote the base of the quaternions which satisfies the following multiplication relations:

$$i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1,$$

$$ij = -ji = k, \quad jk = -kj = i, \quad ki = -ik = j.$$

Therefore a quaternion x may be represented in the form $x = x_1 + x_2 i + x_3 j + x_4 k$ with real coefficients x_i $(i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$. By the conjugate number $\bar{x}$ of x, we shall mean $x = x_1 - x_2 i - x_3 j - x_4 k$. Under the norm $\|x\|$ of x we shall understand $\|x\| = +\sqrt{x\bar{x}} = +\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2}$. Then the norm so defined satisfies the condition $\|xy\| = \|x\| \, \|y\|$. Let $f(x)$ be a mapping of the quaternion field into itself. We shall prove the following theorems which give the necessary and sufficient conditions for $f(x)$ to be the conjugate of x.

Theorem 1. *$f(x)$ is the conjugate of x if and only if it satisfies the conditions:*

(1) *$f(x)$ is continuous at zero (with respect to the norm),*

(2) $f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$,

(3) *$f(x) = x$ for every real x,*

(4) *$f(i) = -i$, $f(j) = -j$, and $f(k) = -k$.*

Theorem 2. *$f(x)$ is the conjugate of x if and only if it satisfies the conditions:*

(1) *$f(x)$ is continuous at zero,*

(2) $xf(x) = f(x)x$,

(3) *$xf(x)$ is real for every x,*

(4) *$x + f(x)$ is real for every x.*

Analogous theorems for complex numbers have been obtained by St. GOLAB[1]).

If $f(x) = \bar{x}$, then $f(x)$ satisfies obviously the conditions of the theorems.

Proof of theorem 1. $f(x)$ may be expressed in the form $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 i + \alpha_3 j + \alpha_4 k$ with real functions $\alpha_i = \alpha_i(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$, $(i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$, where $x = x_1 +$

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1) St. GOLAB, Sur une définition axiomatique des nombres conjugués pour les nombres complexes ordianires. *Opuscula Math.* **1** (1937), pp. 1-11.

$+x_2 i+x_3 j+x_4 k$. From $f(x+y)=f(x)+f(y)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\alpha_1(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)+\alpha_2(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)i+\alpha_3(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)j+\alpha_4(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)k+\\&+\alpha_1(y_1,y_2,y_3,y_4)+\alpha_2(y_1,y_2,y_3,y_4)i+\alpha_3(y_1,y_2,y_3,y_4)j+\alpha_4(y_1,y_2,y_3,y_4)k=\\&=\alpha_1(x_1+y_1,x_2+y_2,x_3+y_3,x_4+y_4)+\alpha_2(x_1+y_1,x_2+y_2,x_3+y_3,x_4+y_4)i+\\&+\alpha_3(x_1+y_1,x_2+y_2,x_3+y_3,x_4+y_4)j+\alpha_4(x_1+y_1,x_2+y_2,x_3+y_3,x_4+y_4)k.\end{aligned}$$

This implies that the α_i $(i=1,2,3,4)$ are linear:

$$\alpha_i(x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4)+\alpha_i(y_1,y_2,y_3,y_4)=\alpha_i(x_1+y_1,x_2+y_2,x_3+y_3,x_4+y_4).$$

Moreover, condition (3) implies

$$\alpha_1(x_1,0,0,0)=x_1,$$
$$\alpha_i(x_1,0,0,0)=0\quad(i=2,3,4).$$

Let $\beta_i(x_2)=\alpha_i(0,x_2,0,0)$, $(i=1,2,3,4)$. Then $\beta_i(x_2+y_2)=\beta_i(x_2)+\beta_i(y_2)$ $(i=1,2,3,4)$. From this we infer by the continuity of $\beta_i(x_2)$ at zero, that $\beta_i(x_2)=c_i x_2$ where the c_i's are real constants. Putting $x=i$, we have by condition (4) $-i=f(i)=\beta_1(0)+\beta_2(1)i+\beta_3(0)j+\beta_4(0)k=c_2 i$. This yields $c_2=-1$. Similarly we have $c_3=c_4=-1$. Thus we see that $f(x)=x_1-x_2 i-x_3 j-x_4 k=\bar{x}$ which completes the proof.

Proof of theorem 2. With the notation previously used we have

$$\begin{aligned}xf(x)=&(x_1\alpha_1-x_2\alpha_2-x_3\alpha_3-x_4\alpha_4)\\&+(x_2\alpha_1+x_1\alpha_2-x_4\alpha_3+x_3\alpha_4)i\\&+(x_3\alpha_1+x_4\alpha_2+x_1\alpha_3-x_2\alpha_4)j\\&+(x_4\alpha_1-x_3\alpha_2+x_2\alpha_3+x_1\alpha_4)k.\\f(x)x=&(x_1\alpha_1-x_2\alpha_2-x_3\alpha_3-x_4\alpha_4)\\&+(x_1\alpha_2+x_2\alpha_1-x_3\alpha_4+x_4\alpha_3)i\\&+(x_1\alpha_3+x_2\alpha_4+x_3\alpha_1-x_4\alpha_2)j\\&+(x_1\alpha_4-x_2\alpha_3+x_3\alpha_2-x_4\alpha_1)k.\end{aligned}$$

By condition (2) we have

$$x_3\alpha_4=x_4\alpha_3,\quad x_2\alpha_4=x_4\alpha_2,\quad x_2\alpha_3=x_3\alpha_2.$$

Condition (3) implies

$$\begin{aligned}x_2\alpha_1+x_1\alpha_2-x_4\alpha_3+x_3\alpha_4=0,\\x_3\alpha_1+x_4\alpha_2+x_1\alpha_3-x_2\alpha_4=0,\\x_4\alpha_1-x_3\alpha_2+x_2\alpha_3+x_1\alpha_4=0,\end{aligned}$$

i. e. according to our above equations,

$$x_2\alpha_1+x_1\alpha_2=0,\quad x_3\alpha_1+x_1\alpha_3=0,\quad x_4\alpha_1+x_1\alpha_4=0.$$

Condition (4) means that $x_2+\alpha_2=0$, $x_3+\alpha_3=0$, $x_4+\alpha_4=0$. Consequently $x_2(x_1-\alpha_1)=0$. Then, for $x_2\neq 0$, we have $\alpha_1=x_1$. Hence $f(x)=x_1-x_2 i-x_3 j-x_4 k$ for $x_2\neq 0$. By the continuity of $f(x)$, $f(x)=\bar{x}$ for all quaternions x. This completes the proof.

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