

Symmetries on quantum pure states

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- H – complex or real Hilbert space,
- $\|\cdot\|$ – vector-norm
- $P(H)$ – projective space over H , i.e. the space of all **lines** (i.e. one-dimensional subspaces).
- If $0 \neq x \in H$, then let $[x]$ be the generated line.
- The **angle** between lines $[u], [v] \in P(H)$:

$$\angle([u], [v]) := \arccos \frac{|\langle u, v \rangle|}{\|u\| \cdot \|v\|} \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}].$$

Proposition

The $(P(H), \angle)$ is a **metric space**.

Definition

If $U: H \rightarrow H$ is a bijective linear or conjugate linear isometry, then the bijective transformation

$$\phi_U: P(H) \rightarrow P(H), \quad \phi_U([v]) = [Uv]$$

is called a **Wigner symmetry**.

Clearly, every Wigner symmetry **preserves the angles between lines**:

$$\angle(\phi_U([u]), \phi_U([v])) = \angle([Uu], [Uv]) = \angle([u], [v]).$$

Theorem (Wigner, 1932)

Let $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ be a bijective map which satisfies

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)).$$

Then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

$P(H)$ = the set of **quantum pure states**,
 $\cos^2(\angle([u], [v]))$ = the **transition probability**.

Symmetries of \angle
 =
 Symmetries of the transition probability
 =
 Wigner symmetries.

We usually write $[u] \perp [v]$ instead of $\angle([u], [v]) = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Theorem (Uhlhorn, 1963)

Let $\dim H \geq 3$ and $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ be a bijective transformation such that we have

$$[u] \perp [v] \iff \phi([u]) \perp \phi([v]) \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)).$$

Then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

If $\dim H \geq 3$, then:

Symmetries of \perp
 =
 Symmetries of zero transition probability
 =
 Wigner symmetries.

Several generalizations of Wigner's theorem have been provided on

- on projective spaces
- on Grassmann spaces (e.g. on the space of all n -dimensional subspaces)
- on classes of idempotent operators
- ...

Some of the main contributors: D.F. Almeida, F. Botelho, G. Chevalier, M. Györy, J.E. Jamison, L. Molnár, J. Rätz, L. Rodman, P. Šemrl, C.S. Sharma ...

The core problem of this talk

Let us **fix** an angle $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Symmetries of the angle α
=
Symmetries of the transition probability $\cos^2 \alpha$

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Let us **fix** an angle $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Symmetries of the angle } \alpha \\
 &= \\
 &\text{Symmetries of the transition probability } \cos^2 \alpha \\
 &\supseteq \text{ ???=???} \\
 &\text{Wigner symmetries}
 \end{aligned}$$

If $H = \mathbb{R}^2$, then this is not true! There are wild maps which preserve the angle α in both directions.

But what about the **pure qubit** case, i.e. when $H = \mathbb{C}^2$?

The answer for real Hilbert spaces

Theorem (C.-K. Li, L. Plevnik, P. Šemrl, 2012)

Let H be a real Hilbert space with $5 \leq \dim H < \infty$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{4}$. If $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ is a bijection such that

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) = \alpha \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)),$$

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Theorem (G., 2016)

Let H be a real Hilbert space with $3 \leq \dim H$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$. If $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ is a bijection which satisfies

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) = \alpha \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)),$$

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The answer for complex Hilbert spaces 1/2

There were no results about the complex case.

Theorem (G., 2016)

Let H be a complex Hilbert space, $3 \leq \dim H$ and $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$. Assume that $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ is a bijective map such that

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) = \alpha \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H))$$

holds. Then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

The answer for complex Hilbert spaces 1/2

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Let H be a complex Hilbert space, $3 \leq \dim H$ and $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$. Assume that $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ is a bijective map such that

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) = \alpha \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H))$$

holds. Then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

Open problem: What happens if $\alpha \in (\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2})$?

The answer for complex Hilbert spaces 2/2

Theorem (G., 2016)

Assume that $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$ and that $\phi: P(\mathbb{C}^2) \rightarrow P(\mathbb{C}^2)$ is a bijective map such that

$$\angle([u], [v]) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) = \alpha \quad ([u], [v] \in P(\mathbb{C}^2)).$$

Then

- (i) in the $\alpha \neq \frac{\pi}{4}$ case ϕ is a Wigner symmetry,
- (ii) in the $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$ case there exists a unitary or antiunitary operator $U: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ such that

$$\phi([v]) \in \{[Uv], [Uv]^\perp\} \quad ([v] \in P(\mathbb{C}^2)).$$

Ideas in the real case

Lemma

Let $\dim H \geq 3$, and $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ be a bijection. If there is a sequence of positive angles $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = 0$ and ϕ preserves these angles in both directions, then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

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The set of unit vectors:

$$S_H := \{x \in H: \|x\| = 1\}.$$

Angle between two unit vectors $x, y \in S_H$:

$$\sphericalangle(x, y) = \arccos \langle x, y \rangle \in [0, \pi].$$

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Angle between two unit vectors $x, y \in S_H$:

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For any $[v] \in P(H)$ we write

$$[v]^\alpha := \{[w] \in P(H): \sphericalangle([v], [w]) = \alpha\}$$

Let $v \in S_H$ and $w \in S_H$ such that $\phi([v]) = [w]$. We have

$$\phi([v]^\alpha) = \phi([v])^\alpha = [w]^\alpha,$$

$$[v]^\alpha = \{[\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot x] : x \in S_{H \ominus [v]}\} \equiv S_{H \ominus [v]}$$

and

$$[w]^\alpha = \{[\cos \alpha \cdot w + \sin \alpha \cdot u] : u \in S_{H \ominus [w]}\} \equiv S_{H \ominus [w]}.$$

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Therefore we have a bijective mapping

$$\psi: S_{H\ominus[v]} \rightarrow S_{H\ominus[w]}$$

which **implements** the restriction $\phi|_{[v]^\alpha}$

$$\phi([\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot \mathbf{x}]) = [\cos \alpha \cdot w + \sin \alpha \cdot \psi(\mathbf{x})] \quad (\mathbf{x} \in S_{H\ominus[v]}).$$

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Throughout the proof we have to distinguish 6 different cases!

Case 1: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{3}$.

For every $x, y \in S_{H \ominus [v]}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \angle([\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot x], [\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot y]) \\ = \arccos(|\cos^2 \alpha + \langle x, y \rangle \sin^2 \alpha|). \end{aligned}$$

The inequality $-\cos \alpha < \cos 2\alpha$ implies

$$\begin{aligned} \angle([\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot x], [\cos \alpha \cdot v + \sin \alpha \cdot y]) &= \alpha \\ \Downarrow \\ \angle(x, y) &= \arccos\left(\frac{\cos \alpha}{1 + \cos \alpha}\right) \in \left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \arccos \frac{1}{3}\right) \subset \left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\psi: S_{H \ominus [v]} \rightarrow S_{H \ominus [w]}$ preserves the above angle between unit vectors in both directions:

$$\angle(x, y) = \arccos\left(\frac{\cos \alpha}{1 + \cos \alpha}\right) \iff \angle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) = \arccos\left(\frac{\cos \alpha}{1 + \cos \alpha}\right)$$

Case 1: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{3}$.

This suggests the investigation of angles preservers on unit spheres.

Theorem (U. Everling, 1995)

If $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$, $3 \leq \dim H < \infty$ and $\psi: S_H \rightarrow S_H$ is a (general) transformation such that

$$\angle(x, y) = \alpha \implies \angle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) = \alpha \quad (x, y \in S_H),$$

then there exists an orthogonal transformation $R: H \rightarrow H$ such that

$$\psi(x) = Rx \quad (x \in S_H),$$

consequently we have

$$\angle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) = \angle(x, y) \quad (x, y \in S_H).$$

Case 1: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Theorem (G., 2016)

Let $3 \leq \dim H$ and $0 < \alpha < \pi$. Assume that $\psi: S_H \rightarrow S_H$ is a *bijective transformation* such that

$$\sphericalangle(x, y) = \alpha \iff \sphericalangle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) = \alpha \quad (x, y \in S_H).$$

Then there exists a bijective linear isometry $R: H \rightarrow H$ such that

(i) if $\alpha \neq \frac{\pi}{2}$, then we have

$$\psi(x) = Rx \quad (x \in S_H),$$

(ii) if $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$, then we have

$$\psi(x) \in \{-Rx, Rx\} \quad (x \in S_H).$$

Case 1: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Since $0 < \arccos\left(\frac{\cos \alpha}{1 + \cos \alpha}\right) < \frac{\pi}{2}$, the map ψ preserves every angle. Therefore $\phi|_{[v]^\alpha}$ preserves every angle $0 < \beta \leq \alpha$ in both directions. But this is true for every $[v] \in P(H)$, whence we get that

ϕ preserves every angle $0 < \beta \leq \alpha$ in both directions.

By the before mentioned Lemma we obtain that ϕ is indeed a Wigner symmetry.



Case 2: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

For any $x \in S_{H\ominus[v]}$ we use the notation

$$x^{(\gamma)} = \{z \in S_{H\ominus[v]} : \sphericalangle(x, z) = \gamma\}$$

Let $\beta = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$. We get the following for $\psi: S_{H\ominus[v]} \rightarrow S_{H\ominus[w]}$:

$$\sphericalangle(x, y) \in \{\beta, \pi\} \iff \sphericalangle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) \in \{\beta, \pi\}.$$

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Let $\beta = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$. We get the following for $\psi: S_{H \ominus [v]} \rightarrow S_{H \ominus [w]}$:

$$\sphericalangle(x, y) \in \{\beta, \pi\} \iff \sphericalangle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) \in \{\beta, \pi\}.$$

Since

$$\left(x^{(\beta)} \cup x^{(\pi)}\right) \cap \left(y^{(\beta)} \cup y^{(\pi)}\right) = \emptyset \text{ and } y \in x^{(\beta)} \cup x^{(\pi)} \iff y = -x,$$

we obtain that ψ preserves the angle π in both directions, and thus β in both directions. Therefore ψ preserves every angle.

Case 3: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $\frac{\pi}{3} < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Let

$$\beta_1 = \arccos \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 + \cos \alpha} \right) \in \left(\arccos \frac{1}{3}, \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

and

$$\beta_2 = \arccos \left(1 - \frac{1}{1 - \cos \alpha} \right) \in \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi \right).$$

Similarly as before, we obtain that

$$\angle(x, y) \in \{\beta_1, \beta_2\} \iff \angle(\psi(x), \psi(y)) \in \{\beta_1, \beta_2\}.$$

We would like to show that there is an angle which is preserved by ψ in both directions.

Case 3: when $\dim H \geq 4$ and $\frac{\pi}{3} < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

By investigating the cardinality

$$\# \left((x^{(\beta_1)} \cup x^{(\beta_2)}) \cap (y^{(\beta_1)} \cup y^{(\beta_2)}) \right)$$

by a quite long computation we can show that ψ preserves either the angle $2\beta_1$ or $2\pi - \beta_1 - \beta_2$ in both directions, depending on what is the exact value of α . Then we can apply the improved version of Everling's theorem.



The remaining three cases deal with $P(\mathbb{R}^3)$.

The idea in $P(\mathbb{C}^2)$

Bloch's representation:

$$\rho: P(\mathbb{C}^2) \rightarrow S_{\mathbb{R}^3},$$

$$\rho([\cos \theta, e^{i\nu} \sin \theta]) = (\sin 2\theta \cos \nu, \sin 2\theta \sin \nu, \cos 2\theta).$$

Moreover, we have

$$\angle(\rho([u]), \rho([v])) = 2 \cdot \angle([u], [v]) \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)).$$

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Moreover, we have

$$\angle(\rho([u]), \rho([v])) = 2 \cdot \angle([u], [v]) \quad ([u], [v] \in P(H)).$$

Therefore we easily obtain that

$$\rho \circ \phi \circ \rho^{-1}: S_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rightarrow S_{\mathbb{R}^3}$$

preserves the angle 2α in both directions.

- If $\alpha \neq \frac{\pi}{4}$, then $\rho \circ \phi \circ \rho^{-1}$ preserves every angle and thus ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.
- If $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$, then for every $[u], [v] \in P(\mathbb{C}^2)$ we obtain

$$\angle(\phi([u]), \phi([v])) \in \left\{ \angle([u], [v]), \frac{\pi}{2} - \angle([u], [v]) \right\}.$$

Ideas in the general complex case

(i.e. when $\dim H \geq 3$)

The following is a characterization of some angles in terms of α and β :

Lemma

Assume that $0 < \alpha \leq \beta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, and $v, w \in H$ with $\|v\| = \|w\| = 1$ and $\gamma := \angle([v], [w]) \neq 0$. Then we have

$$[v]^\alpha \cap [w]^\beta = \emptyset \iff \gamma < \beta - \alpha \text{ or } \gamma > \alpha + \beta,$$

$$\#([v]^\alpha \cap [w]^\beta) = 1 \iff \begin{array}{l} \gamma = \beta - \alpha > 0, \text{ or } \gamma = \alpha + \beta < \frac{\pi}{2}, \\ \text{or } \dim H = 3 \text{ and } \alpha = \beta = \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{array}$$

Moreover, if $\gamma = \frac{\pi}{2} = \alpha + \beta$, then

$$[v]^\alpha \cap [w]^\beta = \{[\cos \alpha \cdot v + \lambda \sin \alpha \cdot w] : \lambda \in \mathbb{T}\}.$$

Lemma

Assume that $0 < \alpha < \beta < \frac{\pi}{2}$, and $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ is a bijection. If ϕ preserves the angles α and β in both directions, then

- (i) ϕ also preserves the angles $\beta - \alpha$ and $\alpha + \beta$ in both directions if $\alpha + \beta < \frac{\pi}{2}$,
- (ii) ϕ also preserves the angle $\beta - \alpha$ in both directions if $\alpha + \beta \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$,

Lemma

Let $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ be a bijection. If ϕ preserves the angle $\alpha \in (0, \frac{\pi}{4})$ in both directions, then ϕ shares the following property:

$$\angle([v], [w]) = j\alpha \iff \angle(\phi([v]), \phi([w])) = j\alpha$$

$$([v], [w] \in P(H), 2 \leq j < \frac{\pi}{2\alpha}).$$

Lemma

Let $\phi: P(H) \rightarrow P(H)$ be a bijection. If there is a sequence of positive angles $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = 0$ and ϕ preserves these angles in both directions, then ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.

Lemma

Let $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{4}$, $[v], [w] \in P(H)$ be two different lines with $\angle([v], [w]) =: \gamma \in (0, 2\alpha)$. Then

$$\text{diam}_{\angle}([v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}) = 2 \cdot \arccos \sqrt{\frac{\cos^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)}{\cos^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) - \sin^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)}}.$$

Lemma

Let $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{4}$, $[v], [w] \in P(H)$ be two different lines with $\angle([v], [w]) =: \gamma \in (0, 2\alpha)$. Then

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Moreover,

- there exists exactly one pair of lines in $[v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}$ for which the angle is exactly this diameter;
- if $0 < \beta < \text{diam}_{\angle}([v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha})$, then there exists three different lines $[u_0], [u_1], [u_2] \in [v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}$ with $\angle([u_0], [u_1]) = \angle([u_0], [u_2]) = \beta$.

We point out that for $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$ we have

$$\text{diam}_{\angle}([v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}) = \text{diam}_{\angle}([v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha} \cap P_{[v],[w]}) = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

for any two different lines $[v], [w] \in P(H)$, where

$$P_{[v],[w]} = \{[u] \in P(H) : u \in S_{[v]+[w]}\}.$$

This can be verified by using Bloch's representation.

Case 1: when $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{4}$.

The following equation has a unique solution γ_0 :

$$\alpha = 2 \cdot \arccos \sqrt{\frac{\cos^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)}{\cos^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) - \sin^2 \left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)}}$$

Actually, it can be shown that $\alpha < \gamma_0 < 2\alpha$.

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Actually, it can be shown that $\alpha < \gamma_0 < 2\alpha$.

Next, by the previous lemma we infer

$$\angle([v], [w]) = \gamma_0 \iff \text{diam}_{\angle}([v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}) = \alpha$$

$$\iff \#([u]^{\alpha} \cap [v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha}) \leq 1 \quad (\forall [u] \in [v]^{\alpha} \cap [w]^{\alpha})$$

$$\iff \#([x]^{\alpha} \cap \phi([v])^{\alpha} \cap \phi([w])^{\alpha}) \leq 1 \quad (\forall [x] \in \phi([v])^{\alpha} \cap \phi([w])^{\alpha})$$

$$\iff \text{diam}_{\angle}(\phi([v])^{\alpha} \cap \phi([w])^{\alpha}) = \alpha \iff \angle(\phi([v]), \phi([w])) = \gamma_0,$$

i.e. ϕ preserves the angle γ_0 in both directions.

Case 1: when $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{4}$.

But ϕ also preserves the angle 2α in both directions. Therefore, it also preserves the angles $\gamma_0 - \alpha$ and $2\alpha - \gamma_0$ in both directions. Now, let $\alpha_1 := \alpha$ and $\alpha_2 := \min(\gamma_0 - \alpha, 2\alpha - \gamma_0)$. Clearly, we have $0 < \alpha_2 \leq \frac{\alpha_1}{2}$. A rather straightforward induction gives us a sequence of angles $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ with $0 < \alpha_n \leq \frac{\alpha_{n-1}}{2}$ ($n \geq 2$) such that all of them is preserved in both directions. Therefore ϕ is a Wigner symmetry.



Case 2: when $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

If $[v] \perp [w]$, then

$$[v]^{\pi/4} \cap [w]^{\pi/4} = \left\{ \left[\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot v + \lambda \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot w \right] : \lambda \in \mathbb{T} \right\}.$$

For arbitrary $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{T}$ we compute the following:

$$\angle \left(\left[\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot v + \lambda \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot w \right], \left[\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot v + \mu \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot w \right] \right) = \arccos \frac{|1 + \lambda \bar{\mu}|}{2}.$$

Therefore we conclude

$$\# \left([u]^{\pi/4} \cap [v]^{\pi/4} \cap [w]^{\pi/4} \right) = 2 \quad \left([u] \in [v]^{\pi/4} \cap [w]^{\pi/4} \right).$$

Case 2: when $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

Actually, we can show that

$$[v] \perp [w]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$





$$\# \left([u]^{\pi/4} \cap [v]^{\pi/4} \cap [w]^{\pi/4} \right) = 2 \quad \left([u] \in [v]^{\pi/4} \cap [w]^{\pi/4} \right),$$

thus we can show that ϕ preserves orthogonality in both directions. Therefore by Uhlhorn's theorem, ϕ has to be a Wigner symmetry.



Final Remarks

- Every theorem remains true in non-complete inner product spaces as well. But we need Uhlhorn's theorem in this more general case (surprisingly, this was not published before).
- **Open question:** What happens in the general complex case, when $\frac{\pi}{4} < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$? Conjecture: They are all Wigner symmetries.
- **Open question:** What can be ψ in Everling's theorem if we assume that $\frac{\pi}{2} < \alpha < \pi$?
- **Open question:** If $\dim H < \infty$ can we relax the condition of bijectivity of ϕ ? What happens if we assume only that $\angle([v], [w]) = \alpha \implies \angle(\phi([v]), \phi([w])) = \alpha$?
(Optimal version in the finite dimensional case?)

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Thank you for your kind
attention

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"Preservers Everywhere"
June, 2017,
Szeged, Hungary.