

Two Theorems on Lattice Expansions

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Abstract—It is shown that there is a trade-off between the smoothness and decay properties of the dual functions, occurring in the lattice expansion problem. More precisely, it is shown that if g and \tilde{g} are dual, then 1) at least one of $H^{1/2}g$ and $H^{1/2}\tilde{g}$ is not in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, 2) at least one of Hg and \tilde{g} is not in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Here, H is the operator $-1/(4\pi^2)d^2/(dt^2) + t^2$. The first result is a generalization of a theorem first stated by Balian and independently by Low, which was recently rigorously proved by Coifman and Semmes; a new, much shorter proof was very recently given by Battle. Battle suggests a theorem of type (i), but our result is stronger in the sense that certain implicit assumptions made by Battle are removed. Result 2) is new and relies heavily on the fact that, when $G \in W^{2,2}(S)$ with $S = [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}] \times [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$ and $G(0) = 0$, then $1/G \notin L^2(S)$. The latter result was not known to us and may be of independent interest.

Index Terms—Gabor transformation, frame, orthonormal basics, and time-frequency localization.

I. INTRODUCTION

WE CONSIDER in this note expansions of the type

$$f(t) \sim \sum_{n,m} c_{nm} g_{nm}(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (1.1)$$

where $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,

$$g_{nm}(t) = e^{-2\pi im\omega t} g(t+n), \quad t \in \mathbb{R}, n, m \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (1.2)$$

$g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ is a fixed function of time, usually well concentrated in time and frequency, and ω is a fixed real number $\neq 0$. For $\omega < 1$, many choices for g lead to convergent expansions for all $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, [8]. In this paper, we restrict ourselves to the case $\omega = 1$, corresponding to lattices with the largest possible mesh size.

In (1.1), the coefficients c_{nm} depend on both f and g . Problems related to the present one were considered (for the case of Gaussian g) by Von Neumann in a quantum mechanical context [16], by Gabor in the context of efficient data transmission [9], by Perelomov [17], Bargmann, Butera, Girardello, and Klauder [3], and by Bacry, Grossmann, and Zak [1], who all gave completeness properties of the set of g_{nm} 's. The problem of determining the coefficients c_{nm} in the expansion (1.1) became tractable notably through the work of Zak on solid-state physics related problems [1], [20], [21], of Bastiaans on optical signal description [4], [5], and of Janssen who gave rigorous proofs of existence and

convergence of the expansions (1.1) in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and other spaces of (generalized) functions [11]–[13]. In this context, Daubechies and Grossmann [7] exploited the notion of frame that indicates a set of functions g_{nm} as in (1.2) such that for some $A > 0$, $B > 0$,

$$A\|f\|^2 \leq \sum_{n,m} |(f, g_{nm})|^2 \leq B\|f\|^2, \quad (1.3)$$

for all $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Here $\|\cdot\|$ and (\cdot, \cdot) denote ordinary norm and inner product in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. It is amply demonstrated in the comprehensive [8] that for numerically reliable expansion of f as in (1.1) one needs to consider g 's such that the set of g_{nm} 's constitutes a frame. An even more desirable case occurs when the constants A and B are equal. Then the g_{nm} 's are said to constitute a tight frame, and the g_{nm} 's are orthogonal.

The procedure of finding the coefficients c_{nm} in (1.1) is as follows. Consider the mapping Z defined for $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$(Zf)(\tau, \Omega) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau+k)e^{-2\pi ik\Omega}, \quad \tau, \Omega \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (1.4)$$

This mapping has several names, such as Gel'fand mapping [10], [19], Weil–Brézin mapping [18], Zak transform [13], [14], while it seems that Gauss was already aware of some of its properties [18]. We shall call Z the Zak transform, since Zak seems to be the first one to exploit the transform systematically in the context of completeness and expansion problems. For a survey of the numerous properties of the Zak transform we refer to [14]. The relevant property of Z for the expansion problem is that

$$(Zg_{nm})(\tau, \Omega) = e^{-2\pi in + \pi im\Omega} (Zg)(\tau, \Omega). \quad (1.5)$$

Hence, we have, at least formally,

$$c_{nm} = \iint e^{2\pi im\tau - 2\pi in\Omega} \frac{(Zf)(\tau, \Omega)}{(Zg)(\tau, \Omega)} d\tau d\Omega. \quad (1.6)$$

In (1.6), the integration is over any unit square (Zf/Zg is periodic with period 1 in both its variables). To introduce the notion of dual function we note the property that Z is a Hilbert space isomorphism between $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and the set of all functions $F(\tau, \Omega)$ such that

$$F(\tau, \Omega + 1) = F(\tau, \Omega), \quad F(\tau + 1, \Omega) = e^{2\pi i\Omega} F(\tau, \Omega). \quad (1.7)$$

In the latter set of functions the inner product of an F and G satisfying the (quasi-) periodicity relations in (1.7) is given by

$$(F, G) = \iint F(\tau, \Omega) G^*(\tau, \Omega) d\tau d\Omega, \quad (1.8)$$

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where the integral is over any unit square and the asterisk denotes complex conjugation. In particular, for any $f_1, f_2 \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$(f_1, f_2) = (Zf_1, Zf_2). \quad (1.9)$$

Now, the function $1/(Zg)^*$ satisfies the relations (1.7), and, if it is square integrable over a unit square, there is a unique $\tilde{g} \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that

$$Z\tilde{g} = \frac{1}{(Zg)^*}. \quad (1.10)$$

This \tilde{g} is called the dual function, and \tilde{g}_{nm} constitute the dual frame. We observe that $\tilde{\tilde{g}} = g$, and that

$$(g, \tilde{g}_{nm}) = \delta_{n0}\delta_{m0} = (\tilde{g}, g_{nm}), \quad (1.11)$$

with δ the Kronecker function.

It follows from (1.5), (1.6), and (1.10) that the coefficients c_{nm} can be expressed as

$$c_{nm} = (f, \tilde{g}_{nm}). \quad (1.12)$$

Furthermore, the conditions of being a frame and a tight frame can be expressed in terms of the Zak transform as

$$\text{ess sup}|Zg| < \infty, \quad \text{ess sup}|Zg| > 0 \quad (1.13)$$

and

$$\text{ess sup}|Zg| = \text{ess inf}|Zg| < \infty, \quad (1.13)$$

respectively, (see [8]).

The two main theorems of this paper read as follows. With the notation, $H = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + t^2$ for the Hermite operator, we have the following.

Theorem I: If g and \tilde{g} are dual functions in the sense previously explained, then $H^{1/2}g$ and $H^{1/2}\tilde{g}$ cannot both be in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

Theorem II: Under the same assumptions, Hg and \tilde{g} cannot both be in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

Hence, in a sense, g and \tilde{g} cannot both be smooth and rapidly decaying. That such results can be expected is seen as follows. Assume that g is such that Zg is continuous; this holds when g is continuous and decays sufficiently rapidly, e.g., like $1/(1+|t|)^\alpha$ with $\alpha > 1$. It is a curious property of the Zak transform that then Zg has at least one zero in the unit square [1], [13]. Hence, $\text{ess sup}|Z\tilde{g}| = \infty$. And when Zg is continuously differentiable, we even have that $1/Zg$ is not square integrable over the unit square.

Note that nevertheless Theorems I and II are nontrivial since $H^{1/2}g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ does not imply that Zg is continuous, and $Hg \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ does not imply that Zg is continuously differentiable.

Recently, some results like ours have been proved. Balian [2] and Low [15] both argued that at least one of $tg(t)$ and $g'(t)$ is not in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ when g_{nm} constitutes a tight frame. Their argument was made rigorous and extended by Coifman and Semmes to include the case of nontight frames; this is presented by Daubechies in [8]. Finally, an independent, more

elegant, proof of the Balian–Low result was given by Battle in [6].

To see what the novelty of the present paper is, we give some further preliminary remarks. The conditions

- a) $H^{1/2}g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,
- b) $tg(t) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, $g'(t) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,
- c) $\frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \tau} \in L^2(S)$, $\frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} \in L^2(S)$, with S any unit square (i.e., $Zg \in W^{2,1}(S)$),

are equivalent.

That a) and b) are equivalent is a standard fact; that b) and c) are equivalent follows from (2.1) and (2.9). Similarly, the conditions

- e) $Hg \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,
- f) $t^2g(t) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$, $g''(t) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,
- g) $\frac{\partial^2 Zg}{\partial \tau^2} \in L^2(S)$, $\frac{\partial^2 Zg}{\partial \Omega^2} \in L^2(S)$, $\frac{\partial^2 Zg}{\partial \tau \partial \Omega} \in L^2(S)$ (i.e., $Zg \in W^{2,2}(S)$),

are equivalent. Now, when g_{nm} constitutes a frame and $Zg \in W^{2,1}(S)$, it follows from $\text{ess inf}|Zg| > 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left(\frac{1}{Zg} \right) &= - \left(\frac{1}{Zg} \right)^2 \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \tau}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \Omega} \left(\frac{1}{Zg} \right) &= - \left(\frac{1}{Zg} \right)^2 \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} \end{aligned} \quad (1.15)$$

that

$$\frac{1}{(Zg)^*} = Z\tilde{g} \in W^{2,1}(S).$$

That is, Theorem I implies the Coifman–Semmes result, and, *a fortiori*, the Balian–Low–Battle result. The Theorem II is entirely new as far as we know. While our proof of Theorem I uses a little trick that can be found in Battle's paper, the proof of Theorem II is based on the two facts that

- a) when $Zg \in W^{2,2}(S)$ then Zg is continuous and has a zero in S ,
- b) when $G \in W^{2,2}(S)$ has a zero then $1/G \notin L^2(S)$.

We were unable to find the result (b) in the literature, and it may be of some independent interest.

Theorems I and II may be viewed as no-go theorems, excluding the possibility of numerically stable expansions of type (1.1) with respect to g_{nm} in (1.2) with $\omega = 1$, which are well-localized in both time and frequency. This can be avoided by using expansions with tighter lattices, corresponding to the choice $\omega < 1$, [8]. It is well known that the dual function \tilde{g} has many singular features [4], [5] if g is Gaussian. Our Theorem II generalizes the result in [13] that \tilde{g} is not square integrable.

II. PROOF OF THEOREM I

As explained in Section I, we must take a $g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $Zg, Z\tilde{g} \in W^{2,1}(S)$ and show that this leads to a contradiction. Denote

$$(Qg)(t) = tg(t), \quad (Pg)(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} g'(t), \quad \text{etc.} \quad (2.1)$$

As in Battle's proof, we shall show that

$$(Qg, P\tilde{g}) = (Pg, Q\tilde{g}) \quad (2.2)$$

(by assumption, all four functions involved in (2.2) are in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$). This implies that $(g, \tilde{g}) = 0$, which is absurd by (1.11).

To demonstrate (2.2), we need the auxiliary results

$$(Qg, P\tilde{g}) = \sum_{n,m} (Qg, \tilde{g}_{nm})(g_{nm}, P\tilde{g}), \quad (2.3)$$

$$(Pg, Q\tilde{g}) = \sum_{n,m} (Pg, \tilde{g}_{nm})(g_{nm}, Q\tilde{g}). \quad (2.4)$$

In [6], the validity of the expansions (2.3), (2.4) was implicitly assumed (and not proved as is done here).

The relation (2.3) follows from the fact, to be proved below, that $ZQg/Zg, ZP\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g} \in L^2(S)$. Indeed, it then follows from $Zg \cdot (Z\tilde{g})^* = 1$ that

$$(Qg, P\tilde{g}) = (ZQg, ZP\tilde{g}) = (ZQg/Zg, ZP\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g}). \quad (2.5)$$

The right-hand side of (2.5) equals the right-hand side of (2.3), since (Qg, \tilde{g}_{nm}) and $(P\tilde{g}, g_{nm})$ are the Fourier coefficients of ZQg/Zg and $ZP\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g}$ by (1.6) and (1.12). Similarly, $ZPg/Zg, ZQ\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g} \in L^2(S)$ implies that (2.4) holds.

We shall show now that $ZQg/Zg, ZP\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g} \in L^2(S)$. We have

$$\left(\frac{1}{Zg}\right)^2 \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \Omega} \left(\frac{1}{Zg}\right) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \Omega} (Z\tilde{g})^* \in L^2(S). \quad (2.6)$$

It follows from the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality that

$$\left| \frac{1}{Zg} \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} \right| = \left| \left(\frac{1}{Zg}\right)^2 \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} \right|^{1/2} \left| \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} \right|^{1/2} \in L^2(S), \quad (2.7)$$

and, similarly,

$$\left| \frac{1}{Z\tilde{g}} \frac{\partial Z\tilde{g}}{\partial \tau} \right| \in L^2(S). \quad (2.8)$$

Since

$$ZQg = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{\partial Zg}{\partial \Omega} + \tau(Zg)(\tau, \Omega), \quad ZP\tilde{g} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{\partial Z\tilde{g}}{\partial \tau}, \quad (2.9)$$

it follows that $ZQg/Zg, ZP\tilde{g}/Z\tilde{g} \in L^2(S)$, as claimed.

To show (2.2), it suffices to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} (Qg, \tilde{g}_{nm}) &= (g_{-n, -m}, Q\tilde{g}), \\ (Pg, \tilde{g}_{nm}) &= (g_{-n, -m}, P\tilde{g}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} (Qg, \tilde{g}_{nm}) &= \int tg(t)(e^{-2\pi imt}\tilde{g}(t+n))^* dt \\ &= \int (t-n)g(t-n)e^{2\pi imt}\tilde{g}^*(t) dt \\ &= (g_{-n, -m}, Q\tilde{g}) - n(g_{-n, -m}, \tilde{g}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Together with (1.11), this implies the first part of (2.10). The second part of (2.10) follows from the first part by noting that, with \mathcal{F} the Fourier transform,

$$\mathcal{F}P = Q\mathcal{F}, \quad \mathcal{F}g_{nm} = (\mathcal{F}g)_{-m, -n}, \quad (2.12)$$

and the fact that $\mathcal{F}g$ and $\mathcal{F}\tilde{g}$ are dual. This establishes (2.2).

We conclude the proof of Theorem I by showing that (2.2) implies that $(g, \tilde{g}) = 0$. We have by assumption

$$t \frac{d}{dt} (g(t)\tilde{g}^*(t)) = tg(t)(\tilde{g}'(t))^* + tg'(t)\tilde{g}^*(t) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}). \quad (2.13)$$

The right-hand side function in (2.13) equals

$$-2\pi i (Qg \cdot (P\tilde{g})^* - Pg \cdot (Q\tilde{g})^*). \quad (2.14)$$

We now have, for all $a < b$

$$\int_a^b t \frac{d}{dt} (g(t)\tilde{g}^*(t)) dt = tg(t)\tilde{g}^*(t)|_a^b - \int_a^b g(t)\tilde{g}^*(t) dt. \quad (2.15)$$

When $a \rightarrow -\infty, b \rightarrow \infty$, the left-hand side of (2.15) tends to 0 by (2.2), (2.13) and (2.14), and the integral on the right-hand side tends to (g, \tilde{g}) . Hence,

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty, a \rightarrow -\infty} tg(t)\tilde{g}^*(t)|_a^b \quad (2.16)$$

exists as well and equals 0 since $tg(t)\tilde{g}^*(t) \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$. Therefore, $(g, \tilde{g}) = 0$, and the proof of Theorem I is complete.

III. PROOF OF THEOREM II

As already explained at the end of Section I, it is sufficient to show the following result.

Proposition: Assume $G \in W^{2,2}(S)$, where $S = [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}] \times [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$, and $G(0, 0) = 0$. Then, $1/G \notin L^2(S)$.

Proof: For notational convenience we write $x = (\tau, \Omega) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, and we denote by $|\cdot|$ and \cdot Euclidean norm and inner product in \mathbb{R}^2 , respectively. Let $0 < r < \frac{1}{2}$. We (re)define $G(x)$ for $|x| \geq r$ such that the resulting function, again denoted by G , is in $W^{2,2}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. When $\hat{G}(\xi), \xi \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the Fourier transform of G , we have

$$\iint (1 + |\xi|^2)^2 |\hat{G}(\xi)|^2 d\xi < \infty. \quad (3.1)$$

Now, by Fourier inversion,

$$G(x) = G(x) - G(0) = \iint (e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} - 1) \hat{G}(\xi) d\xi. \quad (3.2)$$

Hence, by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} |G(x)|^2 &\leq \iint \frac{|e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} - 1|^2}{(1 + |\xi|^2)^2} d\xi \\ &\quad \cdot \iint (1 + |\xi|^2)^2 |\hat{G}(\xi)|^2 d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

We have for the first integral I_1 in (3.3)

$$I_1 = 4 \iint \frac{\sin^2 \pi x \cdot \xi}{(1 + |\xi|^2)^2} d\xi = 4 \iint_{|\xi| \leq \frac{1}{|x|}} + 4 \iint_{|\xi| \geq \frac{1}{|x|}}. \quad (3.4)$$

The first integral I_2 in (3.4) satisfies

$$I_2 \leq \pi^2 |x|^2 \iint_{|\xi| \leq \frac{1}{|x|}} \frac{|\xi|^2}{(1 + |\xi|^2)^2} d\xi \leq \pi^3 |x|^2 \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{|x|^2} \right). \quad (3.5)$$

The second integral I_3 in (3.4) satisfies

$$I_3 \leq \iint_{|\xi| \geq \frac{1}{|x|}} \frac{d\xi}{(1 + |\xi|^2)^2} = \frac{\pi|x|^2}{1 + |x|^2}. \quad (3.6)$$

Hence, by (3.1), (3.3), (3.5), and (3.6).

$$|G(x)|^2 = 0 \left(|x|^2 \log \frac{1}{|x|^2} \right), \quad |x| \leq \frac{1}{2}. \quad (3.7)$$

Since

$$\iint_{|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}} \frac{dx}{|x|^2 \log \frac{1}{|x|^2}} = \infty, \quad (3.8)$$

the proposition follows.

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