

On the coexistence of conjugate observables on locally compact Abelian groups

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General results

- Weyl systems and conjugate observables
- Joint measurability for conjugate observables

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Applications

- Continuous phase space
- Discrete phase space

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Sketch of the main proof

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Weyl systems and conjugate observables

- G is a locally compact second countable Abelian group
- \hat{G} is the dual of G
- μ and $\hat{\mu}$ are the Haar measures of G and \hat{G}
- $\langle \xi, x \rangle$ is the pairing of $\xi \in \hat{G}$ and $x \in G$

Definition (Weyl system)

Two unitary representations U of G and V of \hat{G} in the same Hilbert space \mathcal{H} form a *Weyl system* for the pair (G, \hat{G}) if

- 1 for all $x \in G, \xi \in \hat{G}$

$$U_x V_\xi = \overline{\langle \xi, x \rangle} V_\xi U_x ;$$

- 2 there exists no nontrivial subspace $\mathcal{H}_0 \subset \mathcal{H}$ such that

$$U_x \mathcal{H}_0 \subset \mathcal{H}_0 \quad \text{and} \quad V_\xi \mathcal{H}_0 \subset \mathcal{H}_0 \quad \forall x \in G, \xi \in \hat{G}.$$

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Definition (Conjugate observables)

Two observables $A : \mathcal{B}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ and $B : \mathcal{B}(\hat{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ are *conjugated* if

$$U_x A(X) U_x^* = A(X + x) \quad V_\xi A(X) V_\xi^* = A(X)$$

$$U_x B(\Xi) U_x^* = B(\Xi) \quad V_\xi B(\Xi) V_\xi^* = B(\Xi + \xi)$$

for all $x \in G$, $\xi \in \hat{G}$, $X \in \mathcal{B}(G)$, $\Xi \in \mathcal{B}(\hat{G})$.

By Stone-Naimark-Ambrose-Godement Theorem,

$$U_x = \int_{\hat{G}} \overline{\langle \xi, x \rangle} d\hat{B}(\xi) \quad V_\xi = \int_G \langle \xi, x \rangle d\hat{A}(\xi).$$

where \hat{A} and \hat{B} are conjugated spectral measures.

Every Weyl system is unitarily equivalent to the *canonical* one

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= L^2(G, \mu) \\ U_x f &= f(\cdot - x) & V_\xi f &= \langle \xi, \cdot \rangle f \\ \hat{A}(X) f &= \mathbb{1}_X f & \hat{B}(\Xi) f &= (\mathcal{F}^{-1} \mathbb{1}_\Xi) * f \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{F} : L^2(G, \mu) \rightarrow L^2(\hat{G}, \hat{\mu})$ is Fourier transform and $*$ is convolution.

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where $\mathcal{F} : L^2(G, \mu) \rightarrow L^2(\hat{G}, \hat{\mu})$ is Fourier transform and $*$ is convolution.

Example: $G = \hat{G} = \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx)$$

$$U_x = e^{-ixP} \quad V_\xi = e^{i\xi Q}$$

$$P = \int_{\mathbb{R}} z d\hat{A}(z) \quad Q = \int_{\mathbb{R}} z d\hat{B}(z)$$

Example: $G = \hat{G} = \mathbb{Z}_d$

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^d$$

$$U_x \mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{e}_{k+x} \quad V_\xi \mathbf{e}_k = e^{2\pi i \frac{\xi k}{d}} \mathbf{e}_k$$

$$\hat{A}(k) = |\mathbf{e}_k\rangle \langle \mathbf{e}_k| \quad \hat{B}(k) = \mathcal{F}^* \hat{A}(k) \mathcal{F}.$$

In particular, the observables \hat{A} and \hat{B} are *mutually unbiased*

$$\text{tr} [\hat{A}(i) \hat{B}(j)] = 1/d \quad \forall i, j.$$

Structure of conjugate observables

Theorem (Carmeli, Heinosaari, T.)

If (A, B) are conjugate observables, there exist unique probability measures Λ on G and Γ on \hat{G} such that

$$A(X) =: A_\Lambda(X) = \int_G \Lambda(X - x) d\hat{A}(x) \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{B}(G)$$

$$B(\Xi) =: B_\Gamma(\Xi) = \int_{\hat{G}} \Gamma(\Xi - \xi) d\hat{B}(\xi) \quad \forall \Xi \in \mathcal{B}(\hat{G}).$$

The observables (A_Λ, B_Γ) are *noisy versions* of (\hat{A}, \hat{B}) :

$$\begin{aligned} p_\rho^{A_\Lambda}(X) &:= \text{tr}[\rho A_\Lambda(X)] = (\Lambda * p_\rho^{\hat{A}})(X) \\ p_\rho^{B_\Gamma}(\Xi) &:= \text{tr}[\rho B_\Gamma(\Xi)] = (\Gamma * p_\rho^{\hat{B}})(\Xi) \end{aligned} \quad \forall \rho \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}).$$

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Covariant phase-space observables

Definition (Covariant phase-space observables)

An observable $G : \mathcal{B}(G \times \hat{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ is a *covariant phase-space observable* if

$$U_x V_\xi G(Z) V_\xi^* U_x^* = G(Z + (x, \xi))$$

for all $Z \in \mathcal{B}(G \times \hat{G})$, $x \in G$, $\xi \in \hat{G}$.

Theorem (Holevo; Cassinelli, De Vito, T.)

If G is a covariant phase-space observable, then there exists a unique state $\tau \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H})$ such that

$$G(Z) = \int_Z U_x V_\xi \tau V_\xi^* U_x^* d\mu(x) d\hat{\mu}(\xi) \quad \forall Z \in \mathcal{B}(G \times \hat{G}).$$

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Main theorem

Taking the margins of a covariant phase-space observable

$$A(X) = G(X \times \hat{G}) \quad B(\Xi) = G(G \times \Xi)$$

we obtain conjugate observables (A, B) .

Definition (Joint measurability)

Conjugate observables (A, B) are *jointly measurable* if they are the margins of a single observable G on $G \times \hat{G}$.

Remark

The joint observable G is in general not unique.

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Theorem (Carmeli, Heinosaari, T.)

Conjugate observables (A, B) are jointly measurable if and only if they are the margins of a covariant phase-space observable G on $G \times \hat{G}$.

Remark

The generating state τ of the covariant joint observable $G = G_\tau$ is in general not unique.

Corollaries

Corollary

For conjugate observables (A_Λ, B_Γ) , these are equivalent facts:

- *(A_Λ, B_Γ) are jointly measurable;*
- *there is a state $\tau \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H})$ such that*

$$\Lambda(X) = \text{tr} \left[\tau \hat{A}(-X) \right] \quad \Gamma(\Xi) = \text{tr} \left[\tau \hat{B}(-\Xi) \right] ;$$

- *there is a vector $\psi \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ such that*

$$\Lambda(X) = \left\langle \psi, (\hat{A}(-X) \otimes \mathbb{1}) \psi \right\rangle \quad \Gamma(\Xi) = \left\langle \psi, (\hat{B}(-\Xi) \otimes \mathbb{1}) \psi \right\rangle .$$

Corollary

Conjugate observables (A_Λ, B_Γ) are jointly measurable only if Λ and Γ have densities w.r.t. the Haar measures μ and $\hat{\mu}$.

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Case $G = \hat{G} = \mathbb{R}$

If p is a probability measure on \mathbb{R} ,

$$\text{Var}(p) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(y - \int_{\mathbb{R}} x \, dp(x) \right)^2 dp(y).$$

Proposition

If the conjugate observables (A, B) are jointly measurable, then for all states $\rho \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H})$

$$\text{Var}(p_{\rho}^A) \text{Var}(p_{\rho}^B) \geq 1.$$

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Case $G = \hat{G} = \mathbb{Z}_d$

If $\lambda, \gamma \in [0, 1]$, we define conjugate observables (A_λ, B_γ)

$$A_\lambda(k) = \lambda \hat{A}(k) + (1 - \lambda) \frac{1}{d} \mathbb{1}$$

$$B_\gamma(k) = \gamma \hat{B}(k) + (1 - \gamma) \frac{1}{d} \mathbb{1}.$$

Proposition

For all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, let

$$\gamma_{\max}(\lambda) = \frac{(d-2)(1-\lambda) + 2\sqrt{(1-d)\lambda^2 + (d-2)\lambda + 1}}{d}.$$

Then, the conjugate observables (A_λ, B_γ) are jointly measurable if and only if $0 \leq \gamma \leq \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$.

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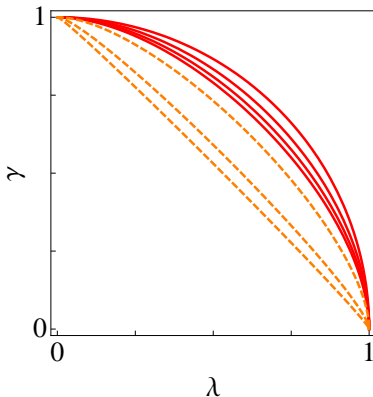


Figure: The boundary curve $\lambda \mapsto \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$ for $d = 2, 3, 4, 5$ (red solid curves) and for $d = 10, 100, 1000$ (orange dashed curves).

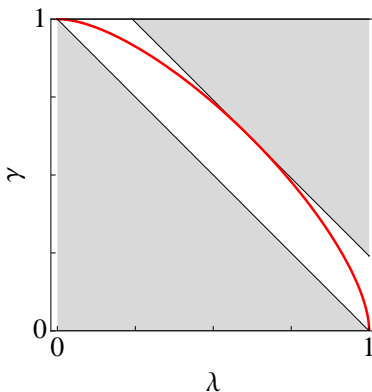


Figure: In this picture $d = 10$. The grey regions represent necessary and sufficient linear conditions.

Corollary

Conjugate observables (A_λ, B_γ)

- *are jointly measurable if $\gamma + \lambda \leq 1$;*
- *are not jointly measurable if $\gamma + \lambda \geq 1 + \frac{\sqrt{d}-1}{d-1}$.*

Proposition

If $\gamma = \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$, then the conjugate observables (A_λ, B_γ) have a unique joint observable. This unique joint observable is the covariant phase-space observable G_τ with

$$\tau = |\chi_\lambda\rangle \langle \chi_\lambda|, \quad \chi_\lambda = \alpha_\lambda \mathbf{e}_0 + \beta_\lambda \mathcal{F}^* \mathbf{e}_0,$$

where

$$\alpha_\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \left[\sqrt{(d-1)\lambda + 1} - \sqrt{1-\lambda} \right] \quad \beta_\lambda = \sqrt{1-\lambda}.$$

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If p and r are probability distributions on \mathbb{Z}_d , define

$$A_{\lambda;p}(j) = \lambda A(j) + (1 - \lambda)p(j)\mathbb{1}$$

$$B_{\gamma;r}(k) = \gamma B(k) + (1 - \gamma)r(k)\mathbb{1}.$$

The observables $A_{\lambda;p}$ and $B_{\gamma;r}$ are *not* covariant. However, the following still holds.

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Sequential implementation

Define the A_λ -compatible instrument

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{I} &: \mathbb{Z}_d \times \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}) \\ \mathcal{I}(k, \rho) &= \sqrt{A_\lambda(k)} \rho \sqrt{A_\lambda(k)}\end{aligned}$$

Then, \mathcal{I} is a *generalized position instrument*

$$U_i V_j \mathcal{I}(k, V_j^* U_i^* \rho U_i V_j) V_j^* U_i^* = \mathcal{I}(i + k, \rho)$$

and a sequential measurement of \mathcal{I} followed by B gives the covariant phase-space observable

$$G(i, j) = \mathcal{I}_i^*(B(j)) = \sqrt{A_\lambda(i)} B_\gamma(j) \sqrt{A_\lambda(i)}.$$

It is easy to check that $G \equiv G_\tau$, with $\tau = |\chi_\lambda\rangle \langle \chi_\lambda|$. Therefore, G is a joint observable of (A_λ, B_γ) with $\gamma \equiv \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$.

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Proposition

Suppose (A_λ, B_γ) are conjugate observables.

- If $\lambda \notin \{0, 1\}$ and $0 < \gamma < \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$, then they have an informationally complete joint observable.*
- If $\lambda \notin \{0, 1\}$ and $\gamma = \gamma_{\max}(\lambda)$, then their unique joint observable is informationally complete if and only if d is odd.*
- If $\lambda = 0$ or $\gamma = 0$, then they have no informationally complete joint observable.*

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Case $|G| = |\hat{G}| < \infty$.

If conjugate observables (A, B) are jointly measurable, with joint observable G on $G \times \hat{G}$, we define

$$\tilde{G}(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{|G|^2} \sum_{(y, \eta) \in G \times \hat{G}} \underbrace{U_y^* V_\eta^* G(x + y, \xi + \eta) V_\eta U_y}_{G_{(y, \eta)}(x, \xi)}.$$

Then, \tilde{G} is a covariant phase-space observable with margins

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(\{x\} \times \hat{G}) &= \frac{1}{|G|^2} \sum_{(y, \eta) \in G \times \hat{G}} U_y^* V_\eta^* \sum_{\xi \in \hat{G}} G(x + y, \xi + \eta) V_\eta U_y \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|^2} \sum_{(y, \eta) \in G \times \hat{G}} U_y^* V_\eta^* A(x + y) V_\eta U_y = A(x). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(G \times \{\xi\}) &= \frac{1}{|G|^2} \sum_{(y, \eta) \in G \times \hat{G}} U_y^* V_\eta^* \sum_{x \in G} G(x + y, \xi + \eta) V_\eta U_y \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|^2} \sum_{(y, \eta) \in G \times \hat{G}} U_y^* V_\eta^* B(\xi + \eta) V_\eta U_y = B(\xi) \end{aligned}$$

Definition (Invariant mean)

Let Ω be a locally compact separable metric space. An *operator valued mean* on Ω is a linear map

$$M : BC(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})$$

such that

- (i) $M(f) \geq 0$ if $f \geq 0$;
- (ii) $M(1) = \mathbb{1}$.

An observable M on Ω defines a operator valued mean on Ω

$$M(f) := \int_{\Omega} f(\omega) dM(\omega) \quad \forall f \in BC(\Omega).$$

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Remark

If $\mathcal{K} = \mathbb{C}$, then M is a *mean*, that is, a normalized positive linear functional on $BC(\Omega)$.

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If M is an operator valued mean on Ω , define

$$M(\infty) = \mathbb{1} - \text{LUB}\{M(f) \mid f \in C_c(\Omega), 0 \leq f \leq 1\}.$$

There exists a unique operator valued measure M_0 on Ω such that

$$M(f) = M_0(f) \quad \forall f \in C_c(\Omega).$$

For such M_0 ,

$$M_0(\Omega) = \mathbb{1} - M(\infty).$$

Proposition

If $M(\infty) = 0$, then

$$M(f) = M_0(f) \quad \forall f \in BC(\Omega).$$

If M is an operator valued mean on Ω , define

$$M(\infty) = \mathbb{1} - \text{LUB}\{M(f) \mid f \in C_c(\Omega), 0 \leq f \leq 1\}.$$

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Suppose $\Omega = \Omega_1 \times \Omega_2$.

For $f_i \in BC(\Omega_i)$, define $\tilde{f}_i \in BC(\Omega)$ as

$$\tilde{f}_i(\omega_1, \omega_2) = f_i(\omega_i).$$

Definition (Margins of an operator valued mean)

If M is an operator valued mean on Ω , then the i -th margin of M is the operator valued mean M_i on Ω_i given by

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Proposition

Let M be an operator valued mean on Ω .

- (i) If $M_1(\infty) = M_2(\infty) = 0$, then $M(\infty) = 0$.*
- (ii) If $M(\infty) = 0$, then $(M_0)_i = (M_i)_0$.*

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For all $f \in BC(G \times \hat{G})$ and $(x, \xi) \in G \times \hat{G}$, let

$$f_{(x, \xi)} = f(\cdot + x, \cdot + \xi).$$

Definition (Invariant mean)

A mean m on $G \times \hat{G}$ is *invariant* if

$$m(f_{(x, \xi)}) = m(f) \quad \forall f \in BC(G \times \hat{G}), (x, \xi) \in G \times \hat{G}.$$

Theorem (E. Hewitt, K. A. Ross, Th. IV.17.5)

There exists an invariant mean on $G \times \hat{G}$.

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Theorem (E. Hewitt, K. A. Ross, Th. IV.17.5)

There exists an invariant mean on $G \times \hat{G}$.

Let M be a joint observable of A_Λ and B_Γ .

For all $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{H}$ and $(x, \xi) \in G \times \hat{G}$, define

$$\Theta[f; \varphi, \psi](x, \xi) = \langle M(f_{(x, \xi)}) V_\xi^* U_x^* \varphi, V_\xi^* U_x^* \psi \rangle.$$

Then, $\Theta[f; \varphi, \psi] \in BC(G \times \hat{G})$, and

$$\Theta[f_{(x, \xi)}; \varphi, \psi] = \Theta[f; U_x V_\xi \varphi, U_x V_\xi \psi]_{(x, \xi)}$$

$$\Theta[\widetilde{f}_1; \varphi, \psi](x, \xi) = \langle A_\Lambda(f) \varphi, \psi \rangle \quad \forall f \in BC(G)$$

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Fix an invariant mean m on $G \times \hat{G}$, and define the map

$$\begin{aligned} M^{\text{av}} : BC(G \times \hat{G}) &\rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) \\ \langle M^{\text{av}}(f)\varphi, \psi \rangle &= m(\Theta[f; \varphi, \psi]). \end{aligned}$$

Then, M^{av} is a operator valued mean on $G \times \hat{G}$ satisfying

$$M^{\text{av}}(f_{(x,\xi)}) = V_\xi^* U_x^* M^{\text{av}}(f) U_x V_\xi.$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} M_1^{\text{av}} = A_\Lambda &\quad M_1^{\text{av}}(\infty) = 0 \\ M_2^{\text{av}} = B_\Gamma &\quad M_2^{\text{av}}(\infty) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad M^{\text{av}}(\infty) = 0.$$

Therefore, $M^{\text{av}} = M_0^{\text{av}}$, that is, M^{av} is an operator valued measure on $G \times \hat{G}$.

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- 1 General results
 - Weyl systems and conjugate observables
 - Joint measurability for conjugate observables
- 2 Applications
 - Continuous phase space
 - Discrete phase space
- 3 Sketch of the main proof
- 4 References

- 1 C. Carmeli, T. Heinonen, A. Toigo, *On the coexistence of position and momentum observables*, J. Phys. A **38** (2005) 5253-5266
- 2 C. Carmeli, T. Heinosaari, A. Toigo, *Informationally complete joint measurements on finite quantum systems*, Phys. Rev. A **85** (2012) 012109