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Zak Transform and non-uniqueness in an extension of Pauli's phase retrieval problem

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The aim of this paper is to pursue the investigation of the phase retrieval problem for the fractional Fourier transform \mathcal{F}_α started by the second author. We here extend a method of A.E.J.M Janssen to show that there is a countable set \mathcal{Q} such that for every finite subset $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{Q}$, there exist two functions f, g not multiple of one another such that $|\mathcal{F}_\alpha f| = |\mathcal{F}_\alpha g|$ for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. Equivalently, in quantum mechanics, this result reformulates as follows: if $Q_\alpha = Q \cos \alpha + P \sin \alpha$ (Q, P be the position and momentum observables), then $\{Q_\alpha, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\}$ is not informationally complete with respect to pure states.

This is done by constructing two functions φ, ψ such that $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \varphi$ and $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \psi$ have disjoint support for each $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. To do so, we establish a link between $\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f]$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{Q}$ and the Zak transform $Z[f]$ generalizing the well known marginal properties of Z .

Keywords: Zak transform; Weyl-Heisenberg transform; Fractional Fourier Transform; Phase Retrieval; Pauli problem

I. INTRODUCTION

Phase Retrieval Problems arise in many aspects of applied science including optics and quantum mechanics. The problem consists of reconstructing a function φ from phase-less measurements of some transformations of φ and eventual a priori knowledge on φ . Recently, this family of problems has attracted a lot of attention in the mathematical community (see e.g.^{2,3,14} or the research blog¹⁰). A typical such problem is the phase retrieval problem in optics where one wants to reconstruct a compactly supported function φ from the modulus of its Fourier transform $|\mathcal{F}[\varphi]|$. An other such problem, due to Pauli, is to reconstruct φ from its modulus $|\varphi|$ and that of its Fourier transform $|\mathcal{F}[\varphi]|$. The question has two sides. On one hand, one wants to know if such a problem has a unique solution (up to a global phase factor or a more general transformation). On the other hand, one is looking for an algorithm that allows to reconstruct f from phase-less measurements.

In this paper, we focus on the (non) uniqueness aspects of a generalization of Pauli's problem in which one has phase-less measurements of Fractional Fourier Transform (FrFT) as has been previously studied by the second author⁷. Recall from^{11,12} that the FrFT is defined as follows: for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \pi\mathbb{Z}$ a parameter that is interpreted as an angle, and $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap L^2(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) = c_\alpha e^{-i\pi|\xi|^2 \cot \alpha} \mathcal{F}[e^{-i\pi|\cdot|^2 \cot \alpha} f](\xi / \sin \alpha)$$

where c_α is a normalization constant which ensures that \mathcal{F}_α extends to a unitary isomorphism of $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. Note that $\mathcal{F}_{\pi/2} = \mathcal{F}$. One then defines $\mathcal{F}_{k\pi}[\varphi](\xi) = \varphi((-1)^k \xi)$ so that $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \mathcal{F}_\beta = \mathcal{F}_{\alpha+\beta}$. Roughly speaking, the Fractional Fourier Transforms are adapted to the mathematical expression of the Fresnel diffraction, just as the standard Fourier transform is adapted to Fraunhofer diffraction. It also occurs in quantum mechanics (see below).

The question we want to address here is the following:

Phase Retrieval Problem for Multiple Fractional Fourier Transforms.

Let $\mathcal{A} \subset (0, \pi)$. For $f, g \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ does $|\mathcal{F}_\alpha[g]| = |\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f]|$ for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ imply that there is a constant $c \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|c| = 1$ such that $g = cf$.

If this is the case, we will say that $\{Q_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\}$ is Informationally Complete with respect to Pure States (ICPS).

The vocabulary comes from quantum mechanics (see e.g.¹). For sake of self-containment, let us now recall some basic notions from quantum mechanics. The description of a physical system is based on a complex separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . For our purposes, $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R})$. We will denote by $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ and $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$ the bounded and trace class operators on \mathcal{H} . The state of the system is then represented by an element ρ of $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$ that is positive $\rho \geq 0$ and

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normalized by $\text{tr}[\rho] = 1$. The states form a convex set whose extreme points, the *pure states* are the one dimensional projections.

The *observables* are normalized Positive Operator Valued Measure $E : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ where $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ is the Borel set \mathbb{R} , that is, maps satisfying $E[X] \geq 0$, $E[\mathbb{R}] = I$, and, for every $\rho \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$, for every sequence (X_j) of pairwise disjoint sets in $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, $\text{tr}[\rho E(\bigcup_j X_j)] = \sum_j \text{tr}[\rho E(X_j)]$. It follows that, for any state ρ , $\rho^E = \text{tr}[\rho E]$ is a probability measure on \mathbb{R} . The number $\rho^E(X)$ is interpreted as the probability that the measurement of E gives an outcome from the set X when the system is initially prepared in the state ρ .

The problem we are concerned here is thus following:

Definition. Let \mathcal{A} be a collection of observables $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$. Then

- \mathcal{A} is informationally complete if, for any $\rho_1, \rho_2 \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H})$, $\rho_1^E = \rho_2^E$ for all $E \in \mathcal{A}$ implies $\rho_1 = \rho_2$;
- \mathcal{A} is informationally complete with respect to pure states if, for any pure states ρ_1, ρ_2 , $\rho_1^E = \rho_2^E$ for all $E \in \mathcal{A}$ implies $\rho_1 = \rho_2$.

Now let Q, P be the position and momentum observables. For any $\alpha \in [0, 2\pi]$, define $Q_\alpha(X) = \mathcal{F}_{-\alpha} Q \mathcal{F}_\alpha = Q \cos \alpha + P \sin \alpha$. For a system in a pure state $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$, the measurement outcome probabilities are given by

$$\rho^{Q_\alpha}(X) = \langle\psi, Q_\alpha(X)\psi\rangle = \int_X |\mathcal{F}_\alpha \psi(x)|^2 dx.$$

This shows that the probability density associated to a measurement of the observable Q_α performed on a pure state $|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ is just the intensity $|\mathcal{F}_\alpha \psi(x)|^2$.

In this setting, Pauli conjectured that $\{0, \pi/2\}$ is informationally complete with respect to pure states. However, this was soon disproved and there are now a fairly large number of counterexamples (see e.g.^{6, 4} and references therein). In¹³, A. Vogt mentioned a conjecture by Wright that there exists a third observables such that this observable together with position and momentum forms an informationally complete with respect to pure states family. This amounts to looking for a unitary operator $U_3 : L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that, if we set $U_1 = I$, $U_2 = \mathcal{F}$ then $|U_j f| = |U_j g|$ if and only if $f = cg$ with $|c| = 1$. In⁷, the second author investigated the above question further. In particular, when $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}\pi$ none of the classes of counterexamples mentioned in^{4, 6} allowed to show that $\mathcal{A} := \{Q(\theta), \theta = 0, \alpha, \pi/2\}$ would not be ICPS. This lead naturally to conjecture that \mathcal{A} was ICPS, which was recently disproved by Carmeli, Heinosaari, Schultz & A. Toigo in¹. Actually, those authors exhibit an invariance property which shows that the ICPS property of $\{Q(\alpha_1), Q(\alpha_2), Q(\alpha_3)\}$ does not depend on $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ provided they are different. Then they extend a construction of⁷ to show that $\{Q_\alpha, \alpha \in F\}$ is not ICPS when $F \subset \mathbb{Q}\pi$ is finite.

The aim of this paper is to provide a somewhat similar result for an other class of parameters which is based on an adaptation of an unnoticed counterexample to Pauli's problem due to A.E.J.M. Janssen⁹:

Main Theorem.

Let $F \subset \mathbb{Q}$ be a finite set of rational numbers. Define \mathcal{A} by

$$\mathcal{A} = \{\alpha \in (0, \pi) : \text{there exists } r \in F \text{ with } \cot \alpha = r\}.$$

Then the collection $\{Q_\alpha, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\}$ is not Informationally Complete with respect to Pure States.

This is based on the fact that a function and its Fourier transform f are recovered from its Zak transform (also known as Weyl-Heisenberg transform)^{5, 15}

$$Z[f](x, \xi) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+k) e^{-2i\pi k \xi}.$$

by integrating along horizontal and vertical lines. We adapt this property by showing that, when $\cot \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$, then $\mathcal{F}_\alpha f$ can also be recovered from $Z[f]$ by integrating in an oblique direction. We believe this result is interesting in itself.

Once this is done, one can construct two functions f_1 and f_2 such that for each $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ (\mathcal{A} defined in the Main Theorem), $\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f_1]$ and $\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f_2]$ have disjoint support. Therefore, for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|c| = 1$, and any $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, $|\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f_1 + cf_2]| = |\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f_1]| + |\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f_2]|$ does not depend on c , but $f_1 + cf_2$ is not a constant multiple of $f_1 + f_2$ unless $c = 1$ thus proving the main theorem.

We complete the paper by showing that the approximate phase retrieval problem for the FrFT has infinitely many solutions that are far from multiples from one another:

The Approximate Phase Retrieval Problem for the Fractional Fourier Transform.

Let $0 \leq \alpha_1 < \dots < \alpha_n \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $T > 0$. Let $f_1, \dots, f_n \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\text{supp } f_j \subset [-T, T]$ and $f_j \geq 0$. Then, for every

$\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that, for $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|c_1| = \dots = |c_n| = 1$, $\varphi = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \varphi_j$ satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_k}[\varphi] - f_k\|_{L^\infty([-T, T])} \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n. \quad (\text{I.1})$$

The remaining of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we first make precise definitions of the FrFT and of the Zak Transform and then show the oblique marginal property of the Zak transform in Theorem II.2. Section II B is then devoted to the proof of the main theorem. The last section is devoted to proving our result on the approximate phase retrieval problem.

II. THE MAIN THEOREM

A. The Zak Transform and the Fractional Fourier Transform

Let $\alpha \notin \pi\mathbb{Z}$, the Fractional Fourier Transform of order α of $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) &= c_\alpha e^{-i\pi|\xi|^2 \cot \alpha} \mathcal{F}[e^{-i\pi|\cdot|^2 \cot \alpha} f](\xi / \sin \alpha) \\ &= c_\alpha e^{-i\pi \cot \alpha \xi^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-i\pi/2 \cot \alpha x^2 - 2i\pi \frac{x\xi}{\sin \alpha}} f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

where $c_\alpha = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{i}{2}(\alpha - \text{sgn}(\alpha)\frac{\pi}{4})\right)}{\sqrt{|\sin \alpha|}}$ is such that $c_\alpha^2 = 1 - i \cot \alpha$ and $\mathcal{R}e c_\alpha > 0$. For $\alpha = k\pi$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we set $\mathcal{F}_\alpha g(\xi) = g((-1)^k \xi)$.

Notice that $\mathcal{F}_{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \mathcal{F}$. The FrFT further has the following properties

1. For $u \in \mathbb{C}$ let $\gamma_u(t) = e^{-u\pi t^2}$ then $\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f](\xi) = c_\alpha \gamma_{i \cot \alpha}(\xi) \mathcal{F}[\gamma_{i \cot \alpha} f](\xi / \sin \alpha)$;
2. for every $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, and $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap L^2(\mathbb{R})$, $\|\mathcal{F}_\alpha f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} = \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}$ thus f extends into a unitary operator on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$;
3. $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \circ \mathcal{F}_\beta = \mathcal{F}_{\alpha+\beta}$.

The Zak transform is defined, for $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ (the Schwarz class) as

$$Zf(x, \xi) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+k) e^{-2i\pi k \xi}.$$

The Zak transform has the following properties

1. Z extends into a unitary operator $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(Q)$ where $Q = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$.
2. $Zf(x+n, \xi) = e^{2i\pi n \xi} Zf(x, \xi)$ and $Zf(x, \xi+n) = Zf(x, \xi)$.
3. Poisson summation: $Zf(x, \xi) = e^{2i\pi x \xi} Z\hat{f}(\xi, -x)$
4. Z has the following marginal properties:

$$f(x) = \int_0^1 Zf(x, \xi) d\xi \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{F}f(\xi) = \int_0^1 e^{-2i\pi x \xi} Zf(x, \xi) dx.$$

We can now prove that the Zak transform has also marginal properties in oblique directions linked to the Fractional Fourier Transform. Not surprisingly, such a marginal property only occurs when the slope is rational, as otherwise one would integrate over a dense subset of Q .

In order to establish such a property we will first need to compute the Zak transform of a chirp. This has to be done in the sense of distributions:

Proposition II.1 (Zak transform of a chirp)

Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}$, $q \in \mathbb{N}$ be relatively prime integers. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, let

$$c_{n,p,q} = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{kp} e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q} k^2} e^{-2i\pi \frac{nk}{q}}$$

and, for $x \in [0, 1]$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, write $\xi_{n,p,q}(x) = \frac{p}{q}x + \frac{1}{2}p + \frac{n}{q}$ and $A_{p,q}(x) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 0 \leq \xi_{n,p,q}(x) \leq 1\}$.

For $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t) e^{-i\frac{p}{q}t^2} dt = \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf(x, \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx. \quad (\text{II.2})$$

Remark. This formula is stated in⁸ without proof in the following form

$$Z\gamma_{-ip/q}(x, \xi) = \gamma_{-ip/q} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{n,p,q} \delta\left(\xi - \frac{p}{q}x - \frac{1}{2}p - \frac{n}{q}\right) \quad (\text{II.3})$$

where δ is the Dirac delta function. When interpreted in the sense of tempered distributions, this formula is precisely (II.2). Our first aim here is to provide a rigorous proof of this formula.

Proof. Define

$$Z_{N,N'}\gamma_{-ip/q}(x, \xi) = \sum_{k=-N}^{N'} \gamma_{-ip/q}(x+k) e^{-2i\pi k\xi}.$$

Let $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$. Note that the series defining the Zak transform of f is uniformly convergent, thus

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Zf, Z_{N,N'}\gamma_{-ip/q} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k=-N}^{N'} f(x+j) \gamma_{ip/q}(x+k) e^{-2i\pi j\xi} e^{2i\pi k\xi} d\xi dx \\ &= \sum_{k=-N}^{N'} \int_0^1 \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+j) \gamma_{ip/q}(x+k) \int_0^1 e^{2i\pi(k-j)\xi} d\xi dx \\ &= \sum_{k=-N}^{N'} \int_0^1 \gamma_{ip/q}(x+k) f(x+k) dx \\ &= \int_{-N}^{N'+1} f(t) \gamma_{ip/q}(t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\lim_{N,N' \rightarrow +\infty} \langle Zf, Z_{N,N'}\gamma_{-ip/q} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t) \gamma_{ip/q}(t) dt. \quad (\text{II.4})$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{N,N'}\gamma_{-ip/q}(x, \xi) &= \sum_{j=-N}^{N'} e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q}(x+j)^2 - 2i\pi j\xi} \\ &= e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{j=-N}^{N'} e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q}j^2} e^{2i\pi j(\frac{p}{q}x - \xi)}. \end{aligned}$$

We then split this sum according to the value of j modulo $2q$. In order to do so, note that, if $j = 2ql + k$, $\pi \frac{p}{q}j^2 = \frac{p}{q}k^2 \pmod{2\pi}$ so that $e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q}j^2} = e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q}k^2}$.

Without loss of generality, we will now assume that $N = 2qM$ and $N' = 2q(M+1) - 1$. Then, every $j \in \{-N, \dots, N'\}$ decomposes uniquely as $j = 2q\ell + k$ with $\ell \in \{-M, \dots, M\}$ and $k \in \{0, \dots, 2q-1\}$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{N,N'\gamma_{-ip/q}}(x, \xi) &= e^{i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{\ell=-M}^M \sum_{k=0}^{2q-1} e^{i\pi\frac{p}{q}k^2} e^{2i\pi(2q\ell+k)(\frac{p}{q}x-\xi)} \\ &= e^{i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{k=0}^{2q-1} e^{i\pi(\frac{p}{q}k^2+2k(\frac{p}{q}x-\xi))} \sum_{\ell=-M}^M e^{4i\pi\ell(px-q\xi)}. \end{aligned}$$

We are thus lead to introduce the Dirichlet kernel

$$D_M(u) = \sum_{\ell=-M}^M e^{2i\pi u}$$

and

$$P(x, \xi) = e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{k=0}^{2q-1} e^{-i\pi(\frac{p}{q}k^2+2k(\frac{p}{q}x-\xi))}.$$

so that

$$\overline{Z_{N,N'\gamma_{-ip/q}}(x, \xi)} = P(x, \xi), D_M(2(px - q\xi))$$

We have thus established that, if $N = 2qM$, $N' = 2q(M+1) - 1$ and $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Zf, Z_{N,N'\gamma_{ip/q}} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} &= \iint_{[0,1]^2} Zf(x, \xi) \overline{Z_{N,N'\gamma_{ip/q}}(x, \xi)} dx d\xi \\ &= \iint_{[0,1]^2} Zf(x, \xi) P(x, \xi) D_M(2(px - q\xi)) dx d\xi \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.5})$$

Write $\varphi(x, \xi) = Zf(x, \xi)P(x, \xi)$. Note that, as $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$. We now want to evaluate the limit of

$$\iint_Q \varphi(x, \xi) D_M(2(px - q\xi)) dx d\xi$$

when $M \rightarrow \infty$. Let us first compute the integral with respect to ξ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \varphi(x, \xi) D_M(2(px - q\xi)) d\xi &= \frac{1}{2q} \int_0^{2q} \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta}{2q}\right) D_M(2px - \zeta) d\zeta \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{2q-1} \frac{1}{2q} \int_\ell^{\ell+1} \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta}{2q}\right) D_M(2px - \zeta) d\zeta \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{2q-1} \frac{1}{2q} \int_0^1 \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta+\ell}{2q}\right) D_M(2px - \zeta) d\zeta. \end{aligned}$$

As D_M is 1-periodic, we may replace $2px$ by $2px - [2px]$, thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \varphi(x, \xi) D_M(2(px - q\xi)) d\xi &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{2q-1} \frac{1}{2q} \int_0^1 \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta+\ell}{2q}\right) D_M(2px - [2px] - \zeta) d\zeta \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2q} \sum_{\ell=0}^{2q-1} \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta+\ell}{2q}\right) \right) *_\zeta D_M(2px - [2px]) \end{aligned}$$

where $*$ is the (circular) convolution on $[0, 1]$ and where we have used the parity of D_M .

But now, for every x , define $\psi_x = \frac{1}{2q} \sum_{\ell=0}^{2q-1} \varphi\left(x, \frac{\zeta+\ell}{2q}\right)$ and note that ψ_x is a smooth 1-periodic function. Moreover, $\psi_x * D_M$ is the partial sum of order M of the Fourier series of ψ_x . Therefore $\psi_x * D_M \rightarrow \psi_x$ uniformly, in particular

at the point $2px - [2px]$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \varphi(x, \xi) D_M(2(px - q\xi)) d\xi &\xrightarrow{M \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{2q-1} \frac{1}{2q} \varphi\left(x, \frac{2px - [2px] + l}{2q}\right) \\ &= \sum_{l=-[2px]}^{2q-1-[2px]} \frac{1}{2q} \varphi\left(x, \frac{2px + l}{2q}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Replacing φ by ZfP and using (II.5) we have thus established that

$$\langle Zf, Z_N \gamma_{-ip/q} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} \xrightarrow{M \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^1 \sum_{l=-[2px]}^{2q-1-[2px]} \frac{1}{2q} Zf\left(x, \frac{2px + l}{2q}\right) P\left(x, \frac{2px + l}{2q}\right) dx. \quad (\text{II.6})$$

We will now reshape this formula. Let us first simplify P :

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2} P\left(x, \frac{2px - \ell}{2q}\right) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2q-1} e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}k^2 - \frac{k\ell}{q}\right)} = \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} + \sum_{k=q}^{2q-1} e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}k^2 - \frac{k\ell}{q}\right)} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} \left(e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}k^2 - \frac{k\ell}{q}\right)} + e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}(k+q)^2 - \frac{(k+q)\ell}{q}\right)} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}k^2 - \frac{k\ell}{q}\right)} \left(1 + e^{i\pi(pq-l)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

As

$$1 + e^{i\pi(pq-l)} = 1 + (-1)^{pq+l} = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } l = pq \pmod{2}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

and, writing $l - pq = 2n$, we have $\frac{p}{q}k^2 - \frac{k\ell}{q} = \frac{p}{q}k^2 - 2\frac{nk}{q} - kp$, we deduce that

$$P\left(x, \frac{2px - \ell}{2q}\right) = e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} 2(-1)^{kp} e^{i\pi\left(\frac{p}{q}k^2 - 2\frac{nk}{q}\right)} = 2q c_{n,p,q} e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2}$$

Finally, the condition $-[2px] \leq k \leq 2q - 1 - [2px]$ is equivalent to $\xi_{n,p,q}(x) := \frac{p}{q}x + \frac{l}{2} \in [0, 1]$. Therefore (II.6) reads

$$\langle Zf, Z_N \gamma_{-ip/q} \rangle_{L^2(Q)} \xrightarrow{M \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf(x, \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx. \quad (\text{II.7})$$

It remains to compare this equation with (II.4) to obtain that, for $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t) e^{-i\frac{p}{q}t^2} dt = \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf(x, \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx,$$

as announced.

We can now prove our main theorem

Theorem II.2

Let $p \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$, $q \in \mathbb{N}$ be relatively prime integers and let α be defined by $\cot \alpha = \frac{p}{q}$. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $x \in [0, 1]$, let $c_{n,p,q}$, $\xi_{n,p,q}$ and $A_{p,q}(x)$ be defined as in Proposition II.1. Then, for every $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) = c_\alpha e^{-i\pi \frac{p}{q} \xi^2} \int_0^1 e^{-2i\pi \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha} x - i\pi \frac{p}{q} x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf\left(x, \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha} + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)\right) dx. \quad (\text{II.8})$$

The identity has to be taken in the $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ sense.

Note that $\sin^2 \alpha = \cot^2 \alpha \cos^2 \alpha = (1 - \sin^2 \alpha) \frac{p^2}{q^2}$ thus $\sin^2 \alpha = \frac{p^2}{p^2 + q^2}$ and as $\operatorname{sgn} \sin \alpha = \operatorname{sgn} \cot \alpha = \operatorname{sgn} p$, $\sin \alpha = \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + q^2}}$ so that (II.8) can easily be written in terms of p, q only.

Proof. Let us now fix $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ and define f_ω as $f_\omega(t) = f(t)e^{-2i\pi\omega t}$. Then $Zf_\omega(x, \xi) = Zf(x, \xi + \omega)e^{-2i\pi\omega x}$. Thus, applying (II.2) to f_ω leads to

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t)e^{-i\frac{p}{q}t^2} e^{-2i\pi\omega t} dt = \int_0^1 e^{-2i\pi\omega x - i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf(x, \omega + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx. \quad (\text{II.9})$$

But

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) = c_\alpha e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}\xi^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t)e^{-i\frac{p}{q}t^2 - 2i\pi\xi t / \sin \alpha} dt$$

so that (II.9) reads

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) = c_\alpha e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}\xi^2} \int_0^1 e^{-2i\pi\frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha}x - i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf\left(x, \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha} + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)\right) dx. \quad (\text{II.10})$$

It remains to extend this identity from $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ to $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. For sake of simplicity, we will assume that $p \geq 0$.

As \mathcal{F}_α is continuous from $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$, it is enough to check that the right hand side of (II.10) is continuous as well.

To start, multiplication by bounded functions and dilations are continuous from $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$ so that it is enough to check that the functional F defined by

$$F[f](\xi) = \int_0^1 e^{-2i\pi\xi x - i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} \sum_{n \in A_{p,q}(x)} c_{n,p,q} Zf(x, \xi + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx$$

is continuous from $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

Let us first re-write this functional. To do so, note that $n \in A_{p,q}(x)$ if and only if $-pq/2 - p \leq -p(x + q/2) \leq n \leq -p(x + q/2) + q \leq -pq/2 + q$. Let $\mathcal{F}_{p,q} = \mathbb{Z} \cap [pq/2 - p, pq/2 + q]$ then, for each $n \in \mathcal{F}_{p,q}$ there is a subset $B_{p,q}(n)$ of $[0, 1]$ such that $n \in A_{p,q}(x)$ if and only if $x \in B_{p,q}(n)$. Then $F[f] = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{F}_{p,q}} c_{n,p,q} F_n[f]$ where

$$F_n[f](\omega) = \int_{B_{p,q}(n)} e^{-2i\pi\omega x} e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} Zf(x, \omega + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) dx.$$

As $\mathcal{F}_{p,q}$ is finite, it is enough to show that each F_n is continuous. Further, if $\omega = \eta + k$ with $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\eta \in [0, 1)$ then

$$\begin{aligned} F_n[f](\eta + k) &= \int_{B_{p,q}(n)} e^{-2i\pi\eta x} e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} Zf(x, \eta + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)) e^{-ikx} dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \mathcal{Z}(x, \eta) e^{-ikx} dx \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\mathcal{Z}(x, \eta) = \mathbf{1}_{B_{p,q}(n)}(x) e^{-i\pi\frac{p}{q}x^2} Zf(x, \eta + \xi_{n,p,q}(x)).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \|F_n\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 &= \int_0^1 \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |F_n[f](\eta + k)|^2 d\eta \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 |\mathcal{Z}(x, \eta)|^2 dx d\eta \end{aligned}$$

with Plancherel.

It remains to notice that, for any fixed compact set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $f \rightarrow Z[f]$ is bounded $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(A)$ thus $f \rightarrow Zf(x, \eta + \xi_{n,p,q}(x))$ is bounded $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(Q)$ and so is $f \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$.

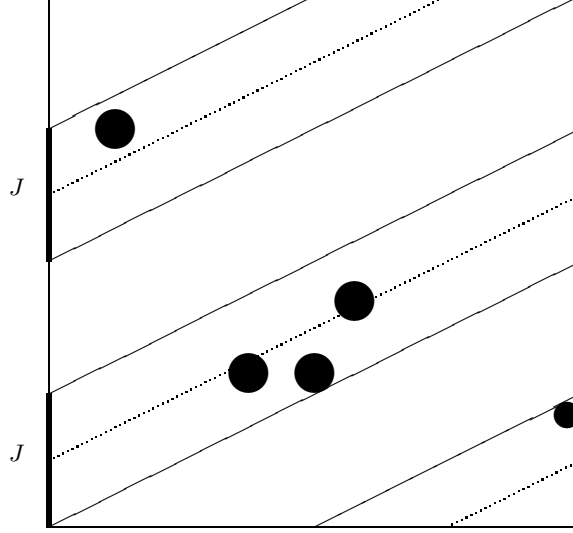


FIG. 1. In this figure $p = 2, q = 1$. The support of $Z[f]$ is the union of the black discs. Then the set J is such that, for each $\eta \in J$, the (periodic) line starting at $(0, \eta)$ with slope $q/p = 1/2$ ($\cotan \alpha = p/q$) intersects at least once the support of Zf (one such line is drawn dotted). Here $J = [0, 1/4] \cup [1/2, 3/4]$. Finally, the support of $\mathcal{F}_\alpha[f]$ is then included in the set of all ξ such that $\xi/\sin \alpha + p/2 \in J + \mathbb{Z} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} [k/2, (k+1/2)/2]$. As $p = 2, q = 1$, $\sin \alpha = 2/\sqrt{5}$, thus $\text{supp } \mathcal{F}_\alpha[f] \subset \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} [k/\sqrt{5}, (k+1/2)/\sqrt{5}]$.

B. Application to the generalized Pauli problem

Fix $p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in \mathbb{N}$ relatively prime and α given by $\cot \alpha = \frac{p}{q}$.

Let $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. We will identify \mathbb{T} with $[0, 1)$. Consider the line $\Gamma_{p,q}(\xi)$ of slope $\frac{p}{q}$ through the point $(0, \frac{p}{2} + \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha})$ in \mathbb{T}^2 . Note that this line has finite length $\sqrt{p^2 + q^2}$ since its slope is rational. This well known fact can be proved as follows: first the length does not depend on the starting point so we may assume that $\frac{p}{2} + \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha} = 0$. Then the line is the periodization of the segment starting at $(0, 0)$ of slope p/q reaching the first point with integer coordinates, that is (p, q) .

Let $\pi : \mathbb{T}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ be the projection on the second coordinate $\pi(x, v) = v$ where we identify $\mathbb{T} = [0, 1)$. For $(x, \omega) \in \Gamma_{p,q}(\xi)$, let $n(x, \omega) \in \mathbb{Z}$ be the number defined as follows: $\omega = x + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha} + n(x, \omega)$. Then we may write (II.8) as

$$\mathcal{F}_\alpha f(\xi) = \frac{qc_\alpha}{\sqrt{p^2 + q^2}} e^{-i\pi(\frac{p}{q} + \frac{q}{p \sin^2 \alpha})\xi^2} \int_{\Gamma_{p,q}(\xi)} e^{-i\pi \frac{q}{p} (\pi(u) - \frac{p}{2})^2} c_{n(u), p, q} Zf(u) du.$$

In particular, this identity allows to relate the support of $\mathcal{F}_\alpha f$ to the support of $Z[f]$:

$$\text{supp } \mathcal{F}_\alpha f \subset \{\xi : \Gamma_{p,q}(\xi) \cap \text{supp } Zf \neq \emptyset\}. \quad (\text{II.11})$$

We can now extend the idea of Janssen⁹ to provide counterexamples for the generalized Pauli problem.

Corollary II.3 *Let $r_1, \dots, r_m \in \mathbb{Q}$ be m different rational numbers and $N \in \mathbb{N}$. For $j = 1, \dots, m$ let $\alpha_j \in [0, \pi)$ be defined via $\cot \alpha_j = r_j$. Then there exists $f_1, \dots, f_N \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that, for $j = 1, \dots, m$ and $k \neq \ell = 1, \dots, N$,*

$$\text{supp } \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j} f_k \cap \text{supp } \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j} f_\ell = \emptyset. \quad (\text{II.12})$$

In particular, for every $j = 1, \dots, m$ and for every $c_1, \dots, c_N \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|c_k| = 1$,

$$\left| \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j} \left[\sum_{k=1}^m c_k f_k \right] \right| = \left| \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j} \left[\sum_{k=1}^m f_k \right] \right| \quad (\text{II.13})$$

so that $\{Q_{\alpha_j}, j = 1, \dots, m\}$ is not informationally complete with respect to pure states.

Proof. Of course (II.13) follows directly from (II.12) since then

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j} \left[\sum_{k=1}^m c_k f_k \right] (\xi) = \begin{cases} c_k \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j}[f_k](\xi) & \text{if } \xi \in \text{supp } \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j}[f_k] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Let us now prove (II.12). Write each $r_j = p_j/q_j$ as an irreducible fraction with $q_j > 0$. Let $L_j = \sqrt{p_j^2 + q_j^2}$ and $L = \sum L_j$.

The proof is based on the following observation: Let $I \subset [0, 1)$ be an open interval, $r = p/q \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) = \bigcup_{\xi \in I} \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(\xi)$. Note that $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I)$ has area $L_j|I|$. Note that, if $J \subset [0, 1)$ is an interval such that $(\{0\} \times J) \cap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) = \emptyset$ then $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) \cap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(J) = \emptyset$. Moreover, the existence of such a J is guaranteed when $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) \neq \mathbb{T}^2$.

Further $\bigcup_j \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I)$ has area $\leq \sum_j L_j|I| = L|I|$. If $L|I| < 1$ then $\bigcup_j \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) \neq \mathbb{T}^2$. Therefore there exists $J \subset (0, 1)$ such that $J \cap \bigcup_j \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) = \emptyset$ and therefore $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I) \cap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(J) = \emptyset$. Write $I_1 = I$ and $I_2 = J$. If further $L(|I_1| + |I_2|) < 1$ then $\bigcup_j \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_1) \cup \bigcup_j \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_2) \neq \mathbb{T}^2$. one can thus find $I_3 \subset [0, 1)$ such that $\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_k) \cap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_\ell) = \emptyset$ if $k \neq \ell$.

In general, we are thus able to find open intervals $I_1, \dots, I_m \subset (0, 1)$ such that

$$\Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_k) \cap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_\ell) = \emptyset \text{ if } k \neq \ell. \quad (\text{II.14})$$

Next, note that $K_k := \bigcap \Gamma_{p_j, q_j}(I_k)$ has non-empty interior as it contains a neighborhood of $\{0\} \times I_k$. Let Z_k be any function in $L^2(Q)$ and let $f_k \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ be given by $Z[f_k] = Z_k$. Then (II.11) and (II.14) imply (II.12).

III. APPROXIMATE PAULI PROBLEM

Theorem III.1 *Let $0 \leq \alpha_1 < \dots < \alpha_n \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $T > 0$. Let $f_1, \dots, f_n \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\text{supp } f_j \subset [-T, T]$ and $f_j \geq 0$. Then, for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a function $\varphi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that, for every $k = 1, \dots, n$,*

$$\|\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_k}[\varphi] - f_k\|_{L^\infty([-T, T])} \leq \varepsilon.$$

Proof. It is enough to show that, given $\varepsilon > 0$, for every $j \neq k \in \{1 \dots n\}$, there exists $\varphi_k \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_k}[\varphi_k] = f_k$ on $[-T, T]$ and $\|\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_j}[\varphi_k]\|_{L^\infty([-T, T])} \leq \varepsilon/(n-1)$. Taking $\varphi = \sum \varphi_k$ then gives the result.

Without loss of generality, it is enough to construct φ_1 .

Let $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ be a parameter that we will fix later. As $f_1 \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$, we may define $h_\omega = \mathcal{F}_{-\alpha_1}[f_1(t)e^{2i\pi\omega t}]$. Note that $|\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_1}[h_\omega]| = f_1$ on $[-T, T]$. Moreover, for $k = 2, \dots, n$, $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha_k}[h_\omega] = \mathcal{F}_{\alpha_k - \alpha_1}[f_1(t)e^{2i\pi\omega t}]$.

Let $\tilde{\alpha}_k = \alpha_k - \alpha_1$. Then, for $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$|\mathcal{F}_{\tilde{\alpha}_k}[f_1(t)e^{i\omega t}](\xi)| = \left| c_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_1(x) e^{-i\pi \cot \alpha x^2} e^{2i\pi x(\omega - \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha})} dx \right| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_k(x) e^{2i\pi x(\omega - \frac{\xi}{\sin \alpha})} dx \right| = \left| \widehat{u}_k \left(\frac{\xi}{\sin \tilde{\alpha}_k} - \omega \right) \right|$$

where $u_k(x) = f_1(x)e^{-i\pi \cot \alpha x^2}$ is an $L^1(\mathbb{R})$ function. According to the Riemann-Lebesgue Lemma, $\widehat{u}_k(\eta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\eta \rightarrow \pm\infty$. Thus, there exists A such that, if $\eta > A$, $|\widehat{u}_k(\eta)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{n-1}$. But then, if $\omega \geq A + T/\sin \tilde{\alpha}_k$ and $|\xi| < T$, $\omega - \frac{\xi}{\sin \tilde{\alpha}_k} > A$ thus $|\mathcal{F}_{\tilde{\alpha}_k}[h_\omega](\xi)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{n-1}$. It remains to choose $\omega = A + T/\sin \tilde{\alpha}_2 > A + T/\sin \tilde{\alpha}_k$ and $\varphi_1 = h_\omega$.

Remark. The proof actually shows a bit more, namely that there are infinitely many solutions to the problem that are not constant multiples of one another. Indeed, one could as well take any $\varphi = \sum c_k \varphi_k$ with $|c_k| = 1$.

However, an inspection of the proof of the theorem shows that the function we build has a huge support (if $\alpha_1 = 0$). Thus, if one imposes additional support constraint (as would be imposed in real life applications), the theorem may no longer be valid.

Appendix A: The modulus of the coefficients $c_{n,p,q}$

The factor $c_{n,p,q}$ appearing in Proposition II.1 is similar to a Gauss sum. As for Gauss sums, it is possible to compute their modulus.

Lemma A.1 Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}$, $q \in \mathbb{N}$ be relatively prime integers. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, let

$$c_{n,p,q} = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} (-1)^{kp} e^{i\pi \frac{p}{q} k^2} e^{-2i\pi \frac{nk}{q}}.$$

Then $|c_{n,p,q}| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}}$.

Proof. Indeed, setting $\omega = \exp(2i\pi/q)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} q^2 |c_{n,p,q}|^2 &= \sum_{0 \leq l, k < q} (-1)^{p(k-l)} \omega^{n(l-k) + \frac{p}{2}(k^2 - l^2)} = \sum_{-q < s < q} (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns} \sum_{0 \leq k, l < q : k-l=s} \omega^{\frac{p}{2}(k^2 - (k-s)^2)} \\ &= \sum_{-q < s < q} (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k-l=s, 0 \leq k, l < q} \omega^{skp}. \end{aligned}$$

Now note that, for $s \geq 0$ the second sum is over $k = s, \dots, q-1$ while for $s < 0$, this sum is over $k = 0, \dots, q-1+s$. Finally, for $s = 0$ this sum is just $= q$. The sum thus splits into three parts

$$\begin{aligned} q^2 |c_{n,p,q}|^2 &= \sum_{s=-q}^{-1} (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1+s} \omega^{skp} + q + \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k=s}^{q-1} \omega^{skp} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps-pq} \omega^{ns-nq - \frac{p}{2}s^2 + pqs - \frac{p}{2}q^2} \sum_{k=0}^{s-1} \omega^{(s-q)kp} + q + \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k=s}^{q-1} \omega^{skp} \end{aligned}$$

changing $s \rightarrow s - q$ in the first sum. But $\omega^q = 1$ and $\omega^{\frac{p}{2}q^2} = (-1)^{pq}$ thus

$$\begin{aligned} q^2 |c_{n,p,q}|^2 &= \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2 - \frac{p}{2}q^2} \sum_{k=0}^{s-1} \omega^{skp} + q + \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k=s}^{q-1} \omega^{skp} \\ &= q + \sum_{s=1}^q (-1)^{ps} \omega^{ns - \frac{p}{2}s^2} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} \omega^{skp}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, it remains to notice that $\sum_{k=0}^{q-1} \omega^{skp} = 0$ unless q divides sp . As q and p are relatively prime and $s \in 1, \dots, q-1$, this can not happen, thus $q^2 |c_{n,p,q}|^2 = q$.

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