

# Regular Operator Sampling for Parallelograms

Götz E. Pfander

David Walnut

School of Engineering and Science,  
Jacobs University Bremen,  
28759 Bremen, Germany  
Email: g.pfander@jacobs-university.de

Dept. of Mathematical Sciences,  
George Mason University,  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA  
Email: dwalnut@gmu.edu

**Abstract**—Operator sampling considers the question of when operators of a given class can be distinguished by their action on a single probing signal. The fundamental result in this theory shows that the answer depends on the area of the support  $S$  of the so-called spreading function of the operator (i.e., the symplectic Fourier transform of its Kohn-Nirenberg symbol).  $|S| < 1$  then identification is possible and when  $|S| > 1$  it is impossible. In the critical case when  $|S| = 1$ , the picture is less clear. In this paper we characterize when *regular operator sampling* (that is, when the probing signal is a periodically-weighted delta train) is possible when  $S$  is a parallelogram of area 1.

## I. OPERATOR SAMPLING AND THE SPREADING FUNCTION

The goal in *operator identification* is to determine an operator completely from its action on a single input function or distribution. If the operator models a linear communication channel, then the problem is one of *channel identification*. It is well-known that a time-invariant communication channel is completely determined by its action on a unit impulse. Identification of time-variant channels has its roots in the work of T. Kailath and P. Bello ([5], [6], [7], [1]), and has been significantly extended in the past decade by the authors and others (see [8], [12], [16]). If the input function  $g$  is a weighted delta-train, viz.  $g = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} c_\lambda \delta_\lambda$  where  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is discrete, then we refer to operator identification as *operator sampling*, and if  $g$  is a periodically-weighted delta train of the form  $g = \sum_n c_n \delta_{nT}$  for some  $T > 0$  and periodic sequence  $c = (c_n)$ , we refer to operator identification as *regular operator sampling*. Regular operator sampling is a generalization of classical sampling in the case when the operator class in question is the class of multiplication operators (see [13]).

In this paper we restrict our attention to the class of Hilbert-Schmidt operators  $H$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ . Any such operator can be represented as a pseudodifferential operator as

$$Hf(x) = \int \sigma_H(x, \xi) \widehat{f}(\xi) e^{2\pi i x \xi} d\xi.$$

$\sigma_H(x, \xi) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$  is the *Kohn-Nirenberg* (KN) symbol of  $H$ . The *spreading function*  $\eta_H(t, \nu)$  of the operator  $H$  is the *symplectic Fourier transform* of the KN symbol, viz.

$$\eta_H(t, \nu) = \iint \sigma_H(x, \xi) e^{-2\pi i(\nu x - \xi t)} dx d\xi$$

and we have the representation

$$Hf(x) = \iint \eta_H(t, \nu) \mathcal{T}_t \mathcal{M}_\nu f(x) d\nu dt$$

where  $\mathcal{T}_t f(x) = f(x - t)$  is the *time-shift operator* and  $\mathcal{M}_\nu f(x) = e^{2\pi i \nu x} f(x)$  is the *frequency-shift operator*. Given a set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , we define the *operator Paley-Wiener space*  $OPW(S)$  to be the set of all Hilbert-Schmidt operators  $H$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\text{supp } \eta_H \subseteq S$ .

*Definition 1.1:* Given  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ , we say that the operator class  $OPW(S)$  is *weakly identifiable* if there exists a distribution  $g$  such that every  $H \in OPW(S)$  is completely determined by  $Hg$ , that is, if the operator  $\Phi_g: OPW(S) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$  given by  $H \mapsto Hg$  is injective. We say that  $OPW(S)$  is *strongly identifiable* if there exist constants  $A, B > 0$  such that for all  $H \in OPW(S)$ ,

$$A \|H\|_{HS} \leq \|Hg\|_2 \leq B \|H\|_{HS}. \quad (1)$$

Note that strong identifiability implies that the operator  $H$  depends in a stable way on the output  $Hg$ .

The following theorem was proved in [12], (see also [13]).

*Theorem 1.2:* Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be compact. If  $|S| < 1$  then  $OPW(S)$  is strongly identifiable by regular operator sampling, and if  $|S| > 1$  then  $OPW(S)$  is not weakly identifiable.

## II. REGULAR OPERATOR SAMPLING IN THE $|S| < 1$ CASE

Here we will outline the proof of the sufficiency part of Theorem 1.2 as it appears in [13]. The proof relies on the notion of a *rectification* of the set  $S$ .

*Definition 2.1:* Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $|S| \leq 1$ ,  $T > 0$ , and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  be given, and let  $\Omega = 1/(LT)$ . We say that  $S$  admits a  $(T, L)$ -*rectification* if

- $S$  is contained in a fundamental domain of the lattice  $(1/\Omega)\mathbb{Z} \times (1/T)\mathbb{Z}$ , and
- the set

$$S^\circ = \bigcup_{(k, \ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^2} S + (k/\Omega, \ell/T) \quad (2)$$

meets at most  $L$  rectangles of the form  $R_{q,m} = [0, T] \times [0, \Omega] + (qT, m\Omega)$ ,  $0 \leq q, m < L$ .

Note that if  $S$  is compact then for all  $T > 0$  sufficiently small and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  sufficiently large, Definition 2.1(a) is

satisfied. Also note that since  $|S| < 1$ , for all  $T > 0$  sufficiently small and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  sufficiently large,  $S$  can be covered by rectangles from a  $T \times \Omega$  grid whose total area is less than 1. By choosing  $T$  and  $L$  for which both hold it follows that a  $(T, L)$ -rectification for  $S$  exists.

Next we have the following lemma that uses the Zak transform, a fundamental tool of time-frequency analysis (see [3]).

*Definition 2.2:* The non-normalized Zak Transform is defined for  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ , and  $a > 0$  by

$$Z_a f(t, \nu) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(t - an) e^{2\pi i a n \nu}.$$

Now we define a variant of the periodization of a bivariate function which arises naturally in operator sampling, called the *quasiperiodization*. The fundamental property of the quasiperiodization that it shares with the ordinary periodization is that a function supported in a fundamental domain of a lattice can be recovered from its quasiperiodization with respect to that lattice (see [13]).

*Definition 2.3:* Given a bivariate function  $f(t, \nu)$  and parameters  $T, \Omega > 0$ , define the  $(1/\Omega, 1/T)$ -*quasiperiodization* of  $f$ , denoted  $f^{QP}$ , by

$$f^{QP}(t, \nu) = \sum_k \sum_\ell f(t + k/\Omega, \nu + \ell/T) e^{-2\pi i \nu k/\Omega} \quad (3)$$

whenever the sum is defined.

*Lemma 2.4:* Let  $T, \Omega > 0$  be given such that  $T\Omega = 1/L$  for some  $L \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $(c_n)$  be a period- $L$  sequence. Then with  $g = \sum_n c_n \delta_{nT}$ ,  $(t, \nu) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $p = 0, 1, \dots, L-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{-2\pi i \nu T p} (Z_{1/\Omega} \circ H)g(t + Tp, \nu) \\ &= \Omega \sum_{q, m=0}^{L-1} (\mathcal{T}^q \mathcal{M}^m c)_p e^{-2\pi i \nu T q} \eta_H^{QP}(t + Tq, \nu + \Omega m). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here  $\mathcal{T}$  as an operator on  $\mathbb{C}^L$  represents a shift of indices modulo  $L$ , that is,

$$\mathcal{T}(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{L-1}) = (x_{L-1}, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{L-2})$$

and  $\mathcal{M}$  as an operator on  $\mathbb{C}^L$  represents modulation, that is, with  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/L}$

$$\mathcal{M}(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{L-1}) = (\omega^0 x_0, \omega^1 x_1, \dots, \omega^{L-1} x_{L-1}).$$

In what follows, we will frequently abuse notation by identifying a vector  $c \in \mathbb{C}^L$  with the period- $L$  sequence  $c = (c_n)$  in the obvious way.

Letting

$$\mathbf{Z}_{Hg}(t, \nu)_p = (Z_{1/\Omega} \circ H)g(t + pT, \nu) e^{-2\pi i \nu p T} \quad (5)$$

and

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_H(t, \nu)_{(q, m)} = \Omega \eta_H^{QP}(t + qT, \nu + m\Omega) e^{-2\pi i \nu q T} e^{-2\pi i q m / L}, \quad (6)$$

we have that

$$\mathbf{Z}_{Hg}(t, \nu)_p = \sum_{q, m=0}^{L-1} G(c)_{p, (q, m)} \boldsymbol{\eta}_H(t, \nu)_{(q, m)} \quad (7)$$

where  $G(c)$  is the  $L \times L^2$  Gabor system matrix given by  $[G(c)]_{p, (q, m)} = (T^q M^m c)_p$ .

Identifiability of  $OPW(S)$  thus reduces to the question of whether the underdetermined linear system (7) can be solved. By restricting  $(t, \nu)$  to the basic rectangle  $[0, T] \times [0, \Omega]$ , we observe that at each point, at most  $L$  entries of  $\boldsymbol{\eta}_H(t, \nu)_{(q, m)}$  do not vanish, so that solving (7) reduces to solving an  $L \times L$  linear system. One piece of the puzzle remains, namely ensuring that this system is always solvable. This is the content of the following lemma.

*Lemma 2.5:* ([9], [10]) For every  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a dense, open subset of  $c \in \mathbb{C}^L$  such that every  $L \times L$  submatrix of  $G(c)$  has full rank.

### III. REGULAR OPERATOR SAMPLING AND LATTICE TILINGS.

The following characterization of operator identification by regular operator sampling appears in [13].

*Theorem 3.1:* Let  $g = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_n \delta_{nT}$  with period  $L$  sequence  $c = (c_n)$  chosen so that every  $L \times L$  submatrix of  $G(c)$  has full rank and let  $\Omega = 1/(LT)$ . For  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  the following are equivalent.

- (i) The operator class  $OPW(S)$  is weakly identifiable by regular operator sampling with identifier  $g$ .
- (ii) The operator class  $OPW(S)$  is strongly identifiable by regular operator sampling with identifier  $g$ .
- (iii)  $S$  is a subset of a fundamental domain of the lattice  $(1/\Omega)\mathbb{Z} \times (1/T)\mathbb{Z}$ , that is,

$$\sum_{k, \ell} \chi_{S+(k/\Omega, \ell/T)} \leq 1 \quad a.e. \quad (8)$$

and  $S$  periodized by the lattice  $T\mathbb{Z} \times \Omega\mathbb{Z}$  is at most an  $L$ -cover, that is

$$\sum_{k, \ell} \chi_{S+(kT, \ell\Omega)} \leq L \quad a.e. \quad (9)$$

It is clear that (8) and (9) are satisfied if  $S$  admits a  $(T, L)$ -rectification, but the converse is not true (see [13]). The key observation here is that if  $S$  admits a  $(T, L)$ -rectification then the linear system (7) reduces to the same  $L \times L$  submatrix of  $G(c)$  for each  $(t, \nu)$ . However (8) and (9) allow for the linear system (7) to change depending on the point  $(t, \nu)$ .

Note that (9) implies that  $|S| \leq 1$ . This by itself however is not sufficient for  $S$  to be identifiable by regular operator sampling. Indeed there are examples of sets  $S$  with arbitrarily small area such that (8) is not satisfied for any choice of  $T > 0$  or  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  (see [13]). However, Theorem 3.1 implies that under the assumption that  $S$  is compact,  $|S| < 1$  suffices for strong identifiability by regular operator sampling. This leaves open the question of identifiability when  $|S| = 1$ .

In this case, it is easy to show that equality must hold in (9). This in turn is equivalent to the statement that the collection

of sets  $\{S + (kT, \ell\Omega) : k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  forms an exact  $L$ -cover of the plane. The case of interest to us in this paper is when  $S$  is a parallelogram, that is, when there exists an invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  such that  $S = A[0, 1]^2$ . If in addition  $|S| = 1$ , then equality in (9) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{k, \ell} \chi_{A[0, 1]^2 + (kT, \ell\Omega)}(Ax) \\ &= \sum_{k, \ell} \chi_{[0, 1]^2 + A^{-1}(kT, \ell\Omega)}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in the parallelogram case, (9) is equivalent to the statement that

$$\left\{ [0, 1]^2 + A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} \mathbb{Z}^2 \right\} \quad (10)$$

forms an exact  $L$ -cover of the plane. Since the cover involves only shifts by the lattice  $A_0 \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $A_0 = A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix}$ , it forms what is known as an  $L$ -fold lattice tiling of the plane. A considerable literature exists on this subject, going back to a conjecture of Minkowski [11], equivalent to the statement that any lattice tiling of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by unit cubes contains two cubes that share an  $(n-1)$ -dimensional face. This result was proved by Hajós in [4] and in addition he proved that the Minkowski conjecture also holds for all  $L$ -fold lattice tilings in dimension  $n \leq 3$ . This latter result was in fact proved a few years earlier by Furtwängler [2]. For the purposes of this paper, we need only that for an  $L$ -fold lattice tiling of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , two squares must share an edge. For more information on this topic, see for example [15], [14], [17].

#### IV. REGULAR OPERATOR SAMPLING FOR PARALLELOGRAMS

In [13] some attention is given to the case of operator sampling when the spreading support  $S$  is a parallelogram or can be rectified by parallelograms. In that paper an example is given in which  $S$  is a parallelogram with  $|S| = 1$  such that  $OPW(S)$  can be identified by operator sampling but not by regular operator sampling (See Figure 1). Specifically, if  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{2} + 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $OPW(A[0, 1]^2)$  can be identified by a non-periodically-weighted delta train, but not by a periodically-weighted delta train for any value of  $T$  and  $L$ . The main result of this paper characterizes when regular operator sampling of  $OPW(S)$  is possible when  $S$  is a parallelogram of unit area.

*Theorem 4.1:* Suppose that  $S = A[0, 1]^2$  where  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$  with  $\det(A) = 1$ . Then there exist  $T > 0$  and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  such that (8) and (9) hold if and only if  $a_{11}a_{21}$  or  $a_{21}a_{22}$  is rational.

*Proof:* ( $\implies$ ). Suppose that (9) holds for some  $T > 0$  and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\Omega$  satisfy  $T\Omega = 1/L$ . As observed above, (9) is equivalent to the statement that (10) forms an  $L$ -fold lattice tiling of the plane by unit squares, and hence two such squares must share an edge.

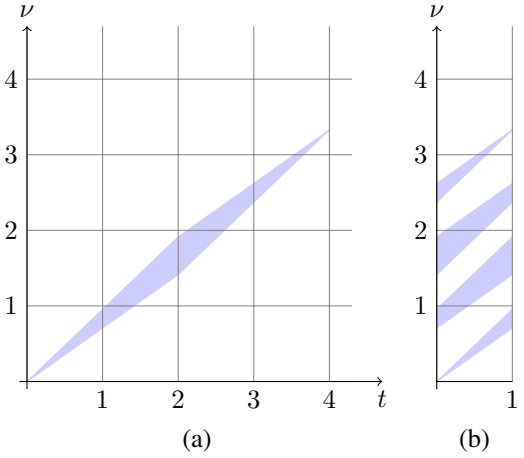


Fig. 1. (a) The operator class  $OPW^2(S)$  with  $S = (2, 2; \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2} + 1/2)[0, 1]^2$  whose area equals 1 is identifiable by a (non-periodically) weighted delta train. It is not identifiable using regular operator sampling. (b)  $T = 1$  periodization of  $S$ . For periodic operator sampling to succeed with  $S$  having area 1, we require that the  $T, \Omega$  periodization of  $S$  leads to an exact  $L$  cover of the time-frequency plane. Close examination of the periodization of  $S$  shows that this is not possible.

If a vertical edge is shared, this implies that for some  $\begin{pmatrix} p \\ r \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ , and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$A_0 \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } A_0 \begin{pmatrix} r \\ s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}.$$

Subtracting implies that for some  $\begin{pmatrix} n \\ m \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,

$$A_0 \begin{pmatrix} n \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{pmatrix} nT \\ m\Omega \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $nTm\Omega = \frac{nm}{L} = a_{11}a_{21}$ .

If a horizontal edge is shared, then by the same argument we have for some  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$A_0 \begin{pmatrix} n \\ m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

from which it follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} nT \\ m\Omega \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

and hence that  $nTm\Omega = \frac{nm}{L} = a_{12}a_{22}$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ). In order to show that (8) and (9) hold, we will show that there exists  $T > 0$  and  $L \in \mathbb{N}$ , with  $T\Omega = 1/L$ , and a matrix  $B$  with integer entries and  $\det(B) = L$  such that the collection

$$\left\{ [0, 1]^2 + A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B \mathbb{Z}^2 \right\} \quad (11)$$

tiles the plane. Assuming that we can do this, we have that

$$\sum_{k, \ell} \chi_{[0, 1]^2 + A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \ell \end{pmatrix}}(x) = 1 \text{ a.e.}$$

which implies that

$$\sum_{k,\ell} \chi_{A[0,1]^2 + \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \ell \end{pmatrix}}(x) = 1 \text{ a.e.}$$

By restricting the sum to only those  $(k, \ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  such that  $B \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \ell \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L^n \\ Lm \end{pmatrix}$ , in which case

$$\begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B \begin{pmatrix} k \\ \ell \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} nLT \\ m/T \end{pmatrix},$$

it follows that

$$\sum_{n,m} \chi_{A[0,1]^2 + (nLT, m/T)} \leq 1$$

which is (8).

To see that (9) holds, note that since the shifts of  $[0, 1]^2$  by the vectors  $A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B \mathbb{Z}^2$ , tile the plane, and since  $\det(B) = L$ , the subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}^2/B\mathbb{Z}^2$  consists of exactly  $L$  cosets. Therefore the full collection of shifts of  $[0, 1]^2$  by  $A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} \mathbb{Z}^2$  tiles the plane exactly  $L$  times. Hence (9) holds.

It remains only to determine the matrix  $B$  in each case. Suppose first that  $a_{11}a_{21} = 0$ . If  $a_{11} = 0$  then  $a_{21} \neq 0$ . Let  $T = 1/a_{21}$  and  $\Omega = a_{21}/L$  for any  $L \in \mathbb{N}$ . In this case, let  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ L & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  so that

$$A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -a_{22}/a_{21} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and it follows that the collection (11) tiles the plane.

If  $a_{21} = 0$  and  $a_{11} \neq 0$ , then let  $T = a_{11}/L$  and  $\Omega = 1/a_{11}$ , and let  $B = \begin{pmatrix} L & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -a_{12}/a_{11} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the result follows as above.

If neither  $a_{11}$  nor  $a_{21} = 0$  then  $a_{11}a_{21} = M/L$  where  $M = M_1M_2$  and  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are relatively prime. Let  $T = a_{11}/M_1$  and  $\Omega = a_{21}/M_2$ , and choose integers  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  such that  $M_1N_2 - M_2N_1 = L$ . Letting  $B = \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & N_1 \\ M_2 & N_2 \end{pmatrix}$ ,

$$A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & \Omega \end{pmatrix} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and the result follows as before.

A similar argument can be applied when  $a_{12}a_{22}$  is rational. ■

## V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we have given a necessary and sufficient condition under which a class of operators whose K-N symbol is bandlimited to a planar parallelogram of unit area can be identified by a periodically-weighted delta train. This sheds some light on the problem of operator sampling for classes of operators whose spreading supports have unit area.

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