

On the CONTINUOUS – DISCRETE quantum system correspondence

$$L^2(\mathbb{R}) \longleftrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{2s+1} \equiv \{ \psi : \{-s, -s+1, \dots, s\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \} \equiv \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_{2s+1})$$

“Quantum” version

■ **Definition.** For $d=2s+1 \in \{1, 3, 5, \dots\}$, the well-known correspondence

$$\begin{array}{c} \blacksquare \text{ Fourier transform} \end{array} \quad \boxed{D0} \quad F[\psi](p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}pq} \psi(q) dq \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D0'} \quad F[\psi](k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{n=-s}^s e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn} \psi(n)$$

suggests for continuous-discrete correspondence the following choice:

$\blacksquare$ Position operator	$D1$	$\hat{q}\psi(q) = q\psi(q)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D1'$	$Q\psi(n) = \tilde{n}\psi(n) \quad \begin{array}{l} -s \leq \tilde{n} \leq s \\ \tilde{n} \equiv n \pmod{d} \end{array}$
$\blacksquare$ Momentum operator	$D2$	$\hat{p} = F^\dagger \hat{q} F$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D2'$	$P = F^\dagger Q F$
$\blacksquare$ Translation operator	$D3$	$e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}}\psi(q') = \psi(q' - q)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D3'$	$e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP}\psi(n') = \psi(n' - n)$
$\blacksquare$ Translation operator	$D4$	$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}}\psi(q) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}pq}\psi(q)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D4'$	$e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ}\psi(n) = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn}\psi(n)$
$\blacksquare$ Displacement operators	$D5$	$D(q, p) = e^{-\frac{i}{2\hbar}pq} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D5'$	$D(n, k) = e^{-\frac{\pi i}{d}nk} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP}$
$\blacksquare$ Parity operators	$D6$	$\Pi(q, p) = D(q, p) \Pi D(q, p)^\dagger$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D6'$	$\Pi(n, k) = D(n, k) \Pi D(n, k)^\dagger \quad \Pi\psi(x) = \psi(-x)$
$\blacksquare$ Wigner function	$D7$	$\mathcal{W}_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \text{tr}(\Pi(q, p) A)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D7'$	$\mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \text{tr}(\Pi(n, k) A)$
$\blacksquare$ Ambiguity function	$D8$	$\chi_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \text{tr}(D(q, p)^\dagger A)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$D8'$	$\chi_A(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \text{tr}(D(n, k)^\dagger A)$

■ Similarity of (formal) properties

$P1$	$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}} = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}pq} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P1'$	$e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP} = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}nk} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ}$
$P2$	$D(q, p)\psi(q') = e^{-\frac{i}{2\hbar}pq} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p q'} \psi(q' - q)$ $\Pi(q, p)\psi(q') = e^{\frac{2i}{\hbar}p(q'-q)} \psi(2q - q')$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P2'$	$D(n, k)\psi(n') = e^{-\frac{\pi i}{d}nk} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n' - n)$ $\Pi(n, k)\psi(n') = e^{\frac{4\pi i}{d}k(n'-n)} \psi(2n - n')$
$P3$	$\langle q' D(q, p) q'' \rangle = e^{\frac{i}{2\hbar}p(q'+q'')} \delta_{q'}(q'' + q)$ $\langle q' \Pi(q, p) q'' \rangle = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p(q'-q'')} \delta_{2q}(q' + q'')$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P3'$	$\langle n' D(n, k) n'' \rangle = e^{\frac{\pi i}{d}k(n'+n'')} \delta_{n'}(n'' + n)$ $\langle n' \Pi(n, k) n'' \rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k(n'-n'')} \delta_{2n}(n' + n'')$
$P4$	$D(q, p) D(q', p') = e^{\frac{i}{2\hbar}(pq' - p'q)} D(q + q', p + p')$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P4'$	$D(n, k) D(n', k') = e^{\frac{\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} D(\widetilde{n+n'}, \widetilde{k+k'})$
$P5$	$D(q, p) D(q', p') = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(pq' - p'q)} D(q', p') D(q, p)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P5'$	$D(n, k) D(n', k') = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} D(n, k) D(n', k')$
$P6$	$D(q, p)^\dagger = D(-q, -p) = D^{-1}(q, p)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P6'$	$D(n, k)^\dagger = D(-n, -k) = D^{-1}(n, k)$
$P7$	$A = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) \Pi(q, p) dq dp$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P7'$	$A = \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) \Pi(n, k)$
$P8$	$\mathcal{W}_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{2i}{\hbar}pq'} \langle q + q' A q - q' \rangle dq'$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P8'$	$\mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n' \in \mathbb{Z}_d} e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{d}kn'} \langle n + n' A n - n' \rangle$
$P9$	$\mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{2i}{\hbar}pq'} \psi(q + q') \overline{\psi(q - q')} dq'$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P9'$	$\mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n' \in \mathbb{Z}_d} e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n + n') \overline{\psi(n - n')}$
$P10$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) dp = \psi(q) ^2$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P10'$	$\sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) = \psi(n) ^2$
$P11$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) dq dp = \text{tr } A$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P11'$	$\sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \text{tr } A$
$A12$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi^2(q, p) dq dp = \frac{\ \psi\ ^4}{2\pi\hbar}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A12'$	$\sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi^2(n, k) = \frac{\ \psi\ ^4}{d}$
$P13$	$ \langle \psi \varphi \rangle ^2 = 2\pi\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) \mathcal{W}_\varphi(q, p) dq dp$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$P13'$	$ \langle \psi \varphi \rangle ^2 = d \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) \mathcal{W}_\varphi(n, k)$

■ **Remarks:** The constant d corresponds to $2\pi\hbar$ in D1-D6, and to $\pi\hbar$ in D7-D8 (!?).

$D(n, k)$ are unitary, but their definition is not modulo d invariant.

$\Pi(n, k)$ are self-adjoint, and their definition is modulo d invariant.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{array}{ll} \boxed{P15'} & \Pi(n, k) \neq \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} D(n', k'), \\ \boxed{P16'} & \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) \neq \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\pm \frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} \chi_A(n', k'). \end{array}$$

■ **Definition.** For $d=2s+1 \in \{1, 3, 5, \dots\}$, the well-known correspondence

■ Fourier transform $\boxed{D0} \quad F[\psi](p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}pq} \psi(q) dq \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D0'} \quad F[\psi](k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{n=-s}^s e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn} \psi(n)$

suggests for continuous-discrete correspondence the following choice:

■ Position operator $\boxed{D1} \quad \hat{q}\psi(q) = q\psi(q) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D1'} \quad Q\psi(n) = \tilde{n}\psi(n) \quad \begin{matrix} -s \leq \tilde{n} \leq s \\ \tilde{n} \equiv n \pmod{d} \end{matrix}$

■ Momentum operator $\boxed{D2} \quad \hat{p} = F^\dagger \hat{q} F \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D2'} \quad P = F^\dagger Q F$

■ Translation operator $\boxed{D3} \quad e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}}\psi(q') = \psi(q' - q) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D3'} \quad e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP}\psi(n') = \psi(n' - n)$

■ Translation operator $\boxed{D4} \quad e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}}\psi(q) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}pq}\psi(q) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D4'} \quad e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ}\psi(n) = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn}\psi(n)$

■ Displacement operators $\boxed{D5} \quad D(q, p) = e^{-\frac{i}{2\hbar}pq} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D5''} \quad \mathbf{D}(n, k) = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP}$

■ Parity operators $\boxed{D6} \quad \Pi(q, p) = D(q, p) \Pi D(q, p)^\dagger \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D6'} \quad \Pi(n, k) = \mathbf{D}(n, k) \Pi \mathbf{D}(n, k)^\dagger \quad \Pi\psi(x) = \psi(-x)$

■ Wigner function $\boxed{D7} \quad \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \text{tr}(\Pi(q, p) A) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D7'} \quad \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \text{tr}(\Pi(n, k) A)$

■ Ambiguity function $\boxed{D8} \quad \chi_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \text{tr}(D(q, p)^\dagger A) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{D8''} \quad \chi_{\mathbf{A}}(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \text{tr}(\mathbf{D}(n, k)^\dagger A)$

■ **Similarity of (formal) properties**

$\boxed{P1} \quad e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}} = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}pq} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}q\hat{p}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p\hat{q}} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P1'} \quad e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP} = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}nk} e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nP} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kQ}$

$\boxed{P2} \quad \begin{matrix} D(q, p)\psi(q') = e^{-\frac{i}{2\hbar}pq} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}pq'} \psi(q' - q) \\ \Pi(q, p)\psi(q') = e^{\frac{2i}{\hbar}p(q'-q)} \psi(2q - q') \end{matrix} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P2''} \quad \begin{matrix} \mathbf{D}(n, k)\psi(n') = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n' - n) \\ \Pi(n, k)\psi(n') = e^{\frac{4\pi i}{d}k(n'-n)} \psi(2n - n') \end{matrix}$

$\boxed{P3} \quad \begin{matrix} \langle q' | D(q, p) | q'' \rangle = e^{\frac{i}{2\hbar}p(q'+q'')} \delta_{q'}(q'' + q) \\ \langle q' | \Pi(q, p) | q'' \rangle = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}p(q'-q'')} \delta_{2q}(q' + q'') \end{matrix} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P3''} \quad \begin{matrix} \langle n' | \mathbf{D}(n, k) | n'' \rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \delta_{n''}(n' - n) \\ \langle n' | \Pi(n, k) | n'' \rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k(n'-n'')} \delta_{2n}(n' + n'') \end{matrix}$

$\boxed{P4} \quad D(q, p) D(q', p') = e^{\frac{i}{2\hbar}(pq' - p'q)} D(q + q', p + p') \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P4''} \quad \mathbf{D}(n, k) \mathbf{D}(n', k') = e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nk'} \mathbf{D}(n + n', k + k')$

$\boxed{P5} \quad D(q, p) D(q', p') = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(pq' - p'q)} D(q', p') D(q, p) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P5''} \quad \mathbf{D}(n, k) \mathbf{D}(n', k') = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} \mathbf{D}(n, k) \mathbf{D}(n', k')$

$\boxed{P6} \quad D^{-1}(q, p) = D(-q, -p) = D(q, p)^\dagger \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P6''} \quad \mathbf{D}^{-1}(n, k) = \mathbf{D}(n, k)^\dagger = e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{d}nk} \mathbf{D}(-n, -k)$

$\boxed{P7} \quad A = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) \Pi(q, p) dq dp \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P7'} \quad A = \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) \Pi(n, k)$

$\boxed{P8} \quad \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{2i}{\hbar}pq'} \langle q + q' | A | q - q' \rangle dq' \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P8'} \quad \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n' \in \mathbb{Z}_d} e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{d}kn'} \langle n + n' | A | n - n' \rangle$

$\boxed{P9} \quad \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{2i}{\hbar}pq'} \psi(q + q') \overline{\psi(q - q')} dq' \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P9'} \quad \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n' \in \mathbb{Z}_d} e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n + n') \overline{\psi(n - n')}$

$\boxed{P10} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) dp = |\psi(q)|^2 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P10'} \quad \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) = |\psi(n)|^2$

$\boxed{P11} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) dq = |F[\psi](p)|^2 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P11'} \quad \sum_{n=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) = |F[\psi](k)|^2$

$\boxed{P12} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_A(q, p) dq dp = \text{tr } A \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P12'} \quad \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) = \text{tr } A$

$\boxed{P13} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi^2(q, p) dq dp = \frac{\|\psi\|^4}{2\pi\hbar} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{A13'} \quad \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi^2(n, k) = \frac{\|\psi\|^4}{d}$

$\boxed{P14} \quad |\langle \psi | \varphi \rangle|^2 = 2\pi\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_\psi(q, p) \mathcal{W}_\varphi(q, p) dq dp \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \boxed{P14'} \quad |\langle \psi | \varphi \rangle|^2 = d \sum_{n=-s}^s \sum_{k=-s}^s \mathcal{W}_\psi(n, k) \mathcal{W}_\varphi(n, k)$

■ **Remarks:** The constant d corresponds to $2\pi\hbar$ in D1-D6, and to $\pi\hbar$ in D7-D8 (!?).

$\mathbf{D}(n, k)$ are unitary, and their definition is modulo d invariant.

$\Pi(n, k)$ are self-adjoint, and their definition is modulo d invariant.

but

$\boxed{P15''} \quad \Pi(n, k) \neq \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\pm \frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} \mathbf{D}(n', k'),$

$\boxed{P16''} \quad \mathcal{W}_A(n, k) \neq \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\pm \frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn' - k'n)} \chi_{\mathbf{A}}(n', k').$

■ Some details

In the case of $\boxed{P15'}$, the computation

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn'-k'n)} D(n', k') \psi(n'') &= \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn'-k'n)} e^{-\frac{\pi i}{d}n'k'} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k'n''} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= \sum_{n'=-s}^s \left(\frac{1}{d} \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k'(n''-\frac{n'}{2}-n)} \right) e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= \sum_{n'=-s}^s \delta_{n'}(2n''-2n) e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= e^{\frac{4\pi i}{d}k(n''-n)} \psi(n''-2n''+2n) \\
&= e^{\frac{4\pi i}{d}k(n''-n)} \psi(2n-n'') \\
&= \Pi(n, k) \psi(n'')
\end{aligned}$$

is not correct because n' takes even as well odd values, and hence

$$\frac{1}{d} \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k'(n''-\frac{n'}{2}-n)} \neq \delta_{n'}(2n''-2n).$$

In the case of $\boxed{P15''}$, instead of the definition $\boxed{D5'}$ we use $\boxed{D5''}$, and we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn'-k'n)} \mathbf{D}(n', k') \psi(n'') &= \frac{1}{d} \sum_{n'=-s}^s \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}(kn'-k'n)} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k'n''} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= \sum_{n'=-s}^s \left(\frac{1}{d} \sum_{k'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}k'(n''-n)} \right) e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= \sum_{n'=-s}^s \delta_n(n'') e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n''-n') \\
&= \sum_{n'=-s}^s e^{\frac{2\pi i}{d}kn'} \psi(n-n') \\
&\neq \Pi(n, k) \psi(n'')
\end{aligned}$$