

## A UNIQUENESS RESULT FOR THE FOURIER TRANSFORM OF MEASURES ON THE PARABOLOID

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**Abstract.** A finite measure supported by a paraboloid of revolution  $\Sigma$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and absolutely continuous with respect to the natural measure on  $\Sigma$  is entirely determined by the restriction of its Fourier transform to a plane if and only if this plane is normal to the axis of  $\Sigma$ .

### 1. Introduction

Hedenmalm and Montes-Rodríguez asked in [4] the following: given  $\Gamma$  a smooth curve in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\Lambda$  a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , when is it possible to recover uniquely a finite measure  $\nu$  supported by  $\Gamma$  and absolutely continuous with respect to the arc length measure on  $\Gamma$  from the restriction to  $\Lambda$  of its Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}\nu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ? Equivalently, when does  $\mathcal{F}\nu(\lambda) = 0$  for all  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  imply  $\nu = 0$ ? If this is the case, they call  $(\Gamma, \Lambda)$  a *Heisenberg uniqueness pair*.

This initiated a series of papers in the subject [1–3, 5–8]. For example, in [8]. Sjölin established that if  $\Gamma$  is the parabola  $y = x^2$  and  $\Lambda$  is a straight line,  $(\Gamma, \Lambda)$  is a Heisenberg uniqueness pair if and only if this straight line is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

The definition of Heisenberg uniqueness pairs can easily be extended to all  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ):

**DEFINITION.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a  $C^1$  submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ),  $\mu_\Sigma$  the natural measure on  $\Sigma$  and  $\Lambda$  a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The pair  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is a *Heisenberg uniqueness pair* if, for every finite measure  $\nu$  on  $\Sigma$  which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu_\Sigma$ ,  $\mathcal{F}\nu(\lambda) = 0$  for all  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  implies  $\nu = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{F}\nu$  is the Fourier transform of  $\nu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\mathcal{F}\nu(x) = \int_{\Sigma} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \eta} d\nu(\eta)$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

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We have obtained the following generalization to paraboloids of Sjölin's result.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $\Sigma$  be the paraboloid  $x_n = x_1^2 + \cdots + x_{n-1}^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\Lambda$  an affine hyperplane in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of dimension  $n - 1$ . The pair  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is a Heisenberg uniqueness pair if and only if  $\Lambda$  is parallel to the hyperplane  $x_n = 0$ .*

## 2. Preliminaries

If  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is a Heisenberg uniqueness pair in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , it follows from elementary properties of the Fourier transform that  $(\Sigma, \Lambda + b)$  is also a Heisenberg uniqueness pair for any  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . By the theorem of Radon-Nykodým, a measure  $\nu$  is absolutely continuous with respect to a measure  $\mu$  if and only if  $\nu$  has a density function  $f$  with respect to  $\mu$ , that is,  $\nu = f \cdot \mu$ . Moreover, if  $\nu$  is finite, then  $f$  is integrable with respect to  $\mu$ .

Let  $\Sigma$  be the paraboloid  $x_n = x_1^2 + \cdots + x_{n-1}^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . It is the graph of the function  $h$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  given by  $h(u) := \|u\|^2$ . The natural measure  $\mu_\Sigma$  on  $\Sigma$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\Sigma(\varphi) &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \varphi(u, h(u)) \sqrt{1 + \|\text{grad } h(u)\|^2} \, du \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \varphi(u, \|u\|^2) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} \, du. \end{aligned}$$

By  $\nu$  we will always designate a finite measure on  $\Sigma$  which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu_\Sigma$ , i.e. of the form

$$\nu(\varphi) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \varphi(u, \|u\|^2) f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} \, du,$$

where  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^{n-1}, \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} \, du)$ .

We will need two auxiliary functions: let  $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  be odd with compact support and  $\psi(1) = 1$ ; let  $\chi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n-2})$  with compact support and  $\chi(0) = 1$ .

Let now  $\Lambda$  be an affine hyperplane in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of dimension  $n - 1$ . By the first remark above, we may assume that  $0 \in \Lambda$ , which means that  $\Lambda$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Since  $\Sigma$  is invariant with respect to any rotation in the first  $n - 1$  variables  $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$ , we may further assume that  $\Lambda$  is either of the type  $x_n = \lambda x_1$  ( $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ) or the hyperplane  $x_1 = 0$ .

## 3. Proof

First, we take  $\Lambda$  of the type  $x_n = \lambda x_1$  with  $\lambda = 0$ , i.e.  $x_n = 0$ . Let us suppose the measure  $\nu$  has its Fourier transform null on  $\Lambda$ :

$$\mathcal{F}\nu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, 0) = 0$$

for all  $(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . This can be written as

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i(\xi, 0) \cdot (u, \|u\|^2)} f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} \, du = 0$$

for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ , or

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i \xi \cdot u} f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} du = 0,$$

that is, the Fourier transform of the integrable function  $f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2}$  is 0 on all  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . Therefore  $f = 0$  a.e. and  $\nu = 0$ . This shows that when  $\Lambda$  is the hyperplane  $x_n = 0$ ,  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is a Heisenberg uniqueness pair.

Next, we take  $\Lambda$  to be the hyperplane  $x_1 = 0$ . We choose the measure  $\nu$  with

$$f(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) := \psi(u_1) \cdot \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) / \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2}.$$

For all  $x \in \Lambda$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}\nu(x) &= \mathcal{F}\nu(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i (0, x_2, \dots, x_n) \cdot (u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}, \|u\|^2)} f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} du \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i [x_2 u_2 + \dots + x_{n-1} u_{n-1} + x_n \|u\|^2]} \psi(u_1) \cdot \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) du \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-2}} e^{-2\pi i [x_2 u_2 + \dots + x_{n-1} u_{n-1} + x_n u_2^2 + \dots + x_n u_{n-1}^2]} \times \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i x_n u_1^2} \psi(u_1) du_1 \right) \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) du_2 \dots du_{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $u_1 \mapsto e^{-2\pi i x_n u_1^2} \psi(u_1)$  is odd (with compact support), its integral over  $\mathbb{R}$  is equal to 0, for any value of  $x_n$ . So we get  $\mathcal{F}\nu(0, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 0$  for all  $(x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{F}\nu(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \Lambda$ . This shows that when  $\Lambda$  is the hyperplane  $x_1 = 0$ ,  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is not a Heisenberg uniqueness pair.

Finally, we take  $\Lambda$  of the type  $x_n = \lambda x_1$  with  $\lambda \neq 0$ . We choose the measure  $\nu$  with

$$f(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) := \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) \cdot \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) / \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2}.$$

For all  $x \in \Lambda$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}\nu(x) &= \mathcal{F}\nu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, \lambda x_1) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, \lambda x_1) \cdot (u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}, \|u\|^2)} f(u) \sqrt{1 + 4\|u\|^2} du \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} e^{-2\pi i [x_1 u_1 + \dots + x_{n-1} u_{n-1} + \lambda x_1 \|u\|^2]} \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) \cdot \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) du \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-2}} e^{-2\pi i [x_2 u_2 + \dots + x_{n-1} u_{n-1} + \lambda x_1 u_2^2 + \dots + \lambda x_1 u_{n-1}^2]} \times \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i [x_1 u_1 + \lambda x_1 u_1^2]} \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) du_1 \right) \chi(u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) du_2 \dots du_{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The integral over  $u_1$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i \lambda x_1 [u_1^2 + u_1/\lambda]} \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) du_1 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i \lambda x_1 [(u_1 + 1/2\lambda)^2 - 1/4\lambda^2]} \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) du_1 \\ &= e^{\pi i x_1 / 2\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i \lambda x_1 (u_1 + 1/2\lambda)^2} \psi(u_1 + 1/2\lambda) du_1 \\ &= e^{\pi i x_1 / 2\lambda} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-2\pi i \lambda x_1 t^2} \psi(t) dt, \end{aligned}$$

where  $t := u_1 + 1/2\lambda$ . Since the function  $t \mapsto e^{-2\pi i \lambda x_1 t^2} \psi(t)$  is odd (with compact support), its integral over  $\mathbb{R}$  is equal to 0, for any value of  $x_1$ . We get in this way  $\mathcal{F}\nu(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, \lambda x_1) = 0$  for all  $(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{F}\nu(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \Lambda$ . This shows that when  $\Lambda$  is a hyperplane of the type  $x_n = \lambda x_1$  with  $\lambda \neq 0$ ,  $(\Sigma, \Lambda)$  is not a Heisenberg uniqueness pair. ■

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