

# Covariant Time-Frequency Distributions Based on Conjugate Operators

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**Abstract**— We propose classes of quadratic time-frequency distributions that retain the inner structure of Cohen's class. Each of these classes is based on a pair of "conjugate" unitary operators producing time-frequency displacements. The classes satisfy covariance and marginal properties corresponding to these operators. For each class, we define a "central member" generalizing the Wigner distribution and the  $Q$ -distribution, and we specify a transformation by which the class can be derived from Cohen's class.

## I. INTRODUCTION

COHEN'S class with signal-independent kernels (Cohen's class hereafter) consists of all quadratic time-frequency representations (QTFR's)  $T_x(t, f)$  that are covariant to time-frequency shifts  $T_{S, \nu, x}(t, f) = T_x(t - \tau, f - \nu)$  [1]–[3]. Here,  $x(t)$  is a signal with Fourier transform  $X(f) = \int_t x(t) e^{-j2\pi ft} dt$ , and  $S_{\tau, \nu} = F_\nu T_\tau$  with the time-shift operator  $(T_\tau x)(t) = x(t - \tau)$  and the frequency-shift operator  $(F_\nu x)(t) = x(t) e^{j2\pi \nu t}$ . The properties of the operators  $T_\tau$  and  $F_\nu$  entail a characteristic structure of Cohen's class. In this letter, this structure will be worked out in a generalized framework. We construct QTFR classes that are based on pairs of "conjugate" operators and that satisfy generalized covariance and marginal properties [4], [5]. Due to space limitations, we summarize our results without providing proofs. The concept of conjugate operators has been developed independently in [6] and [7].

## II. CONJUGATE OPERATORS

We consider two operators  $A_\alpha$  and  $B_\beta$  indexed by parameters  $\alpha \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $\beta \in \mathcal{G}$  with  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . They are assumed to be unitary on a linear signal space  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{L}_2(\mathbb{R})$ , and to satisfy identical composition laws  $A_{\alpha_2} A_{\alpha_1} = A_{\alpha_1 \bullet \alpha_2}$  and  $B_{\beta_2} B_{\beta_1} = B_{\beta_1 \bullet \beta_2}$  where  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet)$  is a commutative group [4], [8], [9]. The eigenvalues  $\lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A$  and eigenfunctions  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  of  $A_\alpha$  are defined by  $(A_\alpha u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A)(t) = \lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$ ; they are indexed by a "dual parameter"  $\tilde{\alpha}$ . The A-Fourier transform (A-FT) [8] is defined as  $X_A(\tilde{\alpha}) = (\mathcal{F}_A x)(\tilde{\alpha}) \triangleq \langle x, u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A \rangle = \int_t x(t) u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^{A*}(t) dt$ . Analogous definitions apply to  $\lambda_{\beta, \tilde{\beta}}^B$ ,  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$ , and  $X_B(\tilde{\beta}) = (\mathcal{F}_B x)(\tilde{\beta})$ . We now assume that applying one operator to an eigenfunction of the other operator merely shifts the eigenfunction parameter [4], [5]:

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**Definition 1.** Two operators  $A_\alpha$  and  $B_\beta$  as described above will be called conjugate if  $\tilde{\alpha} \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $\tilde{\beta} \in \mathcal{G}$  and

$$(B_\beta u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A)(t) = u_{\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \beta}^A(t), \quad (A_\alpha u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B)(t) = u_{\tilde{\beta} \bullet \alpha}^B(t).$$

Two conjugate operators  $A_\alpha, B_\beta$  can be shown to satisfy the following remarkable properties [4]:

- 1) Their eigenvalues can be written as  $\lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A = e^{\pm j2\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\tilde{\alpha})}$  and  $\lambda_{\beta, \tilde{\beta}}^B = e^{\mp j2\pi \mu(\beta) \mu(\tilde{\beta})} = (\lambda_{\beta, \tilde{\beta}}^A)^*$ . Here,  $\mu(g) \in \mathbb{R}$  maps  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet)$  onto  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$  in the sense that  $\mu(g_1 \bullet g_2) = \mu(g_1) + \mu(g_2)$ ,  $\mu(g_0) = 0$ , and  $\mu(g^{-1}) = -\mu(g)$  where  $g_0$  is the identity element in  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $g^{-1}$  denotes the group-inverse of  $g$ . In the following, we shall simply write  $\lambda_{\alpha, \beta}^A = \lambda_{\alpha, \beta}$  and  $\lambda_{\alpha, \beta}^B = \lambda_{\alpha, \beta}^*$ .
- 2) They commute up to a phase factor,  $A_\alpha B_\beta = \lambda_{\alpha, \beta} B_\beta A_\alpha$ .
- 3) Their eigenfunctions are related as  $\langle u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B, u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A \rangle = \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}}$ ,  $\int_{\mathcal{G}} u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t) \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}}^* d\mu(\tilde{\beta}) = u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$ , and  $\int_{\mathcal{G}} u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t) \lambda_{\tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\alpha}} d\mu(\tilde{\alpha}) = u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$ , where  $d\mu(g) \triangleq |\mu'(g)| dg$ .
- 4) The inner product of their kernels is  $\int_t \int_{t'} A_\alpha(t, t') B_\beta^*(t, t') dt dt' = \delta(\mu(\alpha)) \delta(\mu(\beta))$  where  $\delta(\cdot)$  denotes the Dirac delta function (cf. [10]).
- 5) The A-FT and B-FT satisfy  $(\mathcal{F}_A B_\beta x)(\tilde{\alpha}) = (\mathcal{F}_A x)(\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \beta^{-1})$  and  $(\mathcal{F}_B A_\alpha x)(\tilde{\beta}) = (\mathcal{F}_B x)(\tilde{\beta} \bullet \alpha^{-1})$ , and they are related as  $X_B(\tilde{\beta}) = \int_{\mathcal{G}} X_A(\tilde{\alpha}) \lambda_{\tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\alpha}}^* d\mu(\tilde{\alpha})$  and  $X_A(\tilde{\alpha}) = \int_{\mathcal{G}} X_B(\tilde{\beta}) \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}} d\mu(\tilde{\beta})$  (cf. [6], [7]).

We now compose two conjugate operators  $A_\alpha, B_\beta$  as  $D_\theta \triangleq B_\beta A_\alpha$  where  $\theta = (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{G}^2$  with  $\mathcal{G}^2 = \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$ . It is readily shown that  $D_\theta$  is unitary on  $\mathcal{X}$  and satisfies the composition property [4], [11]  $D_{\theta_2} D_{\theta_1} = \lambda_{\alpha_2, \beta_1} D_{\theta_1 \circ \theta_2}$  where  $(\mathcal{G}^2, \circ)$  is the commutative group with group operation  $\theta_1 \circ \theta_2 = (\alpha_1, \beta_1) \circ (\alpha_2, \beta_2) = (\alpha_1 \bullet \alpha_2, \beta_1 \bullet \beta_2)$ , identity element  $\theta_0 = (g_0, g_0)$ , and inverse elements  $\theta^{-1} = (\alpha^{-1}, \beta^{-1})$ . Furthermore,  $D_{\theta^{-1}} = \lambda_{\alpha, \beta} D_{\theta^{-1}}$  and  $D_{\theta_0} = \mathbf{I}$  where  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity operator on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

**Examples.** The shift operators  $T_\tau, F_\nu$  underlying Cohen's class are conjugate with  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet) = (\mathbb{R}, +)$ ,  $\mu(g) = g$ , eigenvalues  $\lambda_{\tau, f}^T = e^{-j2\pi \tau f}$ ,  $\lambda_{\nu, t}^F = e^{j2\pi \nu t}$ , eigenfunctions  $u_f^T(t) = e^{j2\pi ft}$ ,  $u_t^F(t') = \delta(t' - t)$ , and dual parameters  $\tilde{\tau} = f$ ,  $\tilde{\nu} = t$ . The operators are conjugate since  $(F_\nu u_f^T)(t) = u_{f+\nu}^T(t)$  and  $(T_\tau u_t^F)(t') = u_{t+\tau}^F(t')$ . The operators underlying the hyperbolic QTFR's class [12] are conjugate as well, but the operators underlying the affine class and the power classes [13]–[15] are not conjugate.

## III. COVARIANCE AND MARGINAL PROPERTIES

Let  $\nu_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $\tau_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(f)$  denote the instantaneous frequency and group delay of the eigenfunctions  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$ , respectively. For any  $\tilde{\theta} = (\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}) \in \mathcal{G}^2$ , the corresponding functions  $\nu_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $\tau_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(f)$  are assumed<sup>1</sup> to intersect in a unique time-frequency (TF) point  $z = (t, f)$ . Hence,  $z = l(\tilde{\theta})$  where  $l(\tilde{\theta})$  will be called the *localization function* (LF) of the operator  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$  [4], [5]. The LF is constructed by solving the system of equations  $\nu_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t) = f$ ,  $\tau_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(f) = t$  for  $(t, f) = z$  [4], [10], [16]. It is assumed to be invertible, i.e.,  $z = l(\tilde{\theta}) \Leftrightarrow \tilde{\theta} = l^{-1}(z)$ .

The LF describes the *TF displacements* caused by  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$ . If a signal  $x(t)$  is localized about a TF point  $z = (t, f)$ , then  $(\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} x)(t)$  will be localized about a new TF point  $z' = (t', f')$ . Since  $z$  is the intersection<sup>2</sup> of  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$  with  $(\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}) = \tilde{\theta} = l^{-1}(z)$ ,  $z'$  will be the intersection of  $(\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A)(t)$  and  $(\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B)(t)$ . Due to the conjugateness of  $\mathbf{A}_{\tilde{\alpha}}$  and  $\mathbf{B}_{\tilde{\beta}}$ ,  $(\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A)(t) = \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\alpha}} u_{\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $(\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B)(t) = \lambda_{\tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\beta}}^* u_{\tilde{\beta} \bullet \tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$ . Hence,  $z' = l(\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\beta} \bullet \tilde{\alpha}) = l(\tilde{\theta} \circ \theta^T) = l(l^{-1}(z) \circ \theta^T)$  with  $\theta^T = (\beta, \alpha)$ . This motivates the following definition [4], [5]:

**Definition 2.** A QTFR  $T_x(z) = T_x(t, f)$  will be called *covariant to  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$*  if

$$\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} x}(z) = T_x(l(l^{-1}(z) \circ \theta^{-T})) \quad (1)$$

with  $\theta^{-T} = (\theta^{-1})^T = (\beta^{-1}, \alpha^{-1})$ .

The class of all QTFR's covariant to  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$  is characterized as follows (cf. [4], [11]):

**Theorem 1.** A QTFR  $T_x(z) = T_x(t, f)$  is covariant to an operator  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$  if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} T_x(z) &= \langle x, \mathbf{H}_z^D x \rangle \\ &= \int_{t_1} \int_{t_2} x(t_1) x^*(t_2) h_z^{D*}(t_1, t_2) dt_1 dt_2 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

with  $\mathbf{H}_z^D = \mathbf{D}_{[l^{-1}(z)]^T} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{D}_{[l^{-1}(z)]}^{-1}$ , i.e.  $h_z^D(t_1, t_2) = \int_{t'_1} \int_{t'_2} D_{[l^{-1}(z)]^T}(t_1, t'_1) h(t'_1, t'_2) D_{[l^{-1}(z)]}^{-1}(t'_2, t_2) dt'_1 dt'_2$ . Here,  $\mathbf{H}$  is an arbitrary linear operator with kernel  $h(t_1, t_2)$ , assumed independent of  $x(t)$ , and  $D_{\tilde{\theta}}(t_1, t_2)$  and  $D_{\tilde{\theta}}^{-1}(t_1, t_2)$  are the kernels of  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$  and  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}^{-1}$ , respectively.

For given operator  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}}$ , (2) defines a class of QTFR's parameterized by the 2-D kernel  $h(t_1, t_2)$  of the operator  $\mathbf{H}$ . This class consists of *all* QTFR's satisfying the covariance (1). For  $\mathbf{D}_{\tilde{\theta}} = \mathbf{S}_{\tau, \nu} = \mathbf{F}_{\nu} \mathbf{T}_{\tau}$ , (1) becomes the TF shift covariance  $T_{\mathbf{S}_{\tau, \nu} x}(t, f) = T_x(t - \tau, f - \nu)$ , and (2) becomes Cohen's class where  $h_z^D(t_1, t_2) = h_z^S(t_1, t_2) = h(t_1 - t, t_2 - t) e^{j2\pi f(t_1 - t_2)}$ .

<sup>1</sup>In certain cases, this assumption holds if one uses the group delay of  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and the instantaneous frequency of  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$ ; here, an analogous theory can be formulated.

<sup>2</sup> $z$  is the intersection of  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$  in the sense that  $u_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $u_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(t)$  are concentrated, in the TF plane, along  $\nu_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $\tau_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(f)$ , respectively, and  $z$  is the intersection of  $\nu_{\tilde{\alpha}}^A(t)$  and  $\tau_{\tilde{\beta}}^B(f)$ .

Besides the covariance property (1), the *marginal properties* [4], [8], [17]

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathcal{G}} T_x(l(\tilde{\theta})) d\mu(\tilde{\beta}) &= |X_A(\tilde{\alpha})|^2, \\ \int_{\mathcal{G}} T_x(l(\tilde{\theta})) d\mu(\tilde{\alpha}) &= |X_B(\tilde{\beta})|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

are of importance. A class of QTFR's satisfying (3) is

$$\bar{T}_x(z) = \iint_{\mathcal{G}^2} \Psi(\theta) A_x^D(\theta) \Lambda(l^{-1}(z), \theta) d\mu^2(\theta) \quad (4)$$

where  $\Lambda(\tilde{\theta}, \theta) \triangleq \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\alpha}} \lambda_{\tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\beta}}^*$ ,  $A_x^D(\theta) \triangleq \langle \mathbf{D}_{\theta^{-1/2}} x, \mathbf{D}_{\theta^{1/2}} x \rangle = \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}}^{-1/2} \langle x, \mathbf{D}_{\theta} x \rangle$  (the ‘‘characteristic function’’<sup>3</sup>),  $d\mu^2(\theta) \triangleq d\mu(\alpha) d\mu(\beta)$ , and  $\Psi(\theta) = \Psi(\alpha, \beta)$  is a kernel (assumed independent of  $x(t)$ ) satisfying  $\Psi(\alpha, g_0) = \Psi(g_0, \beta) = 1$  [4], [8], [17]. In the case of the conjugate operators  $\mathbf{T}_{\tau}$  and  $\mathbf{F}_{\nu}$ , the marginal properties (3) become  $\int_t T_x(t, f) dt = |X(f)|^2$  and  $\int_f T_x(t, f) df = |x(t)|^2$ ,  $A_x^D(\theta) = A_x^S(\tau, \nu)$  becomes the symmetric ambiguity function [3], and the QTFR class (4) becomes Cohen's class.

So far, we have formulated the QTFR class  $\mathcal{T} = \{T_x(z)\}$  in (2) comprising all QTFR's satisfying the covariance property (1), and the QTFR class  $\bar{\mathcal{T}} = \{\bar{T}_x(z)\}$  in (4) related to the marginal properties (3). These classes are equivalent in the conjugate case [4], [5]:

**Theorem 2.** For conjugate operators  $\mathbf{A}_{\tilde{\alpha}}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_{\tilde{\beta}}$ , there is  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  or equivalently  $T_x(z) \equiv \bar{T}_x(z)$  where the kernel  $h(t_1, t_2)$  of  $T_x(z)$  and the kernel  $\Psi(\theta)$  of  $\bar{T}_x(z)$  are related as  $h(t_1, t_2) = \iint_{\mathcal{G}^2} \Psi^*(\theta) D_{\tilde{\theta}}(t_1, t_2) \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}}^{1/2} d\mu^2(\theta)$ .

Hence, in the conjugate case considered, the ‘‘covariance approach’’ and the ‘‘characteristic function approach’’ to the construction of QTFR classes are fully equivalent.

With  $\Psi(\theta) \equiv 1$ , the ‘‘central member’’  $W_x^D(z) \triangleq \iint_{\mathcal{G}^2} A_x^D(\theta) \Lambda(l^{-1}(z), \theta) d\mu^2(\theta)$  of the QTFR class  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  is obtained [5], [18]. It can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} W_x^D(z) &= \int_{\mathcal{G}} X_A(\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \beta^{1/2}) X_A^*(\tilde{\alpha} \bullet \beta^{-1/2}) \lambda_{\tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\beta}}^* d\mu(\beta) \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{G}} X_B(\tilde{\beta} \bullet \alpha^{1/2}) X_B^*(\tilde{\beta} \bullet \alpha^{-1/2}) \lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\alpha}} d\mu(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

where  $(\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}) = l^{-1}(z)$ . Any QTFR  $T_x(z)$  of  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  can be derived from  $W_x^D(z)$  as

$$T_x(z) = \iint_{\mathcal{G}^2} W_x^D(l(\tilde{\theta})) \psi(l^{-1}(z) \circ \tilde{\theta}^{-1}) d\mu^2(\tilde{\theta})$$

where  $\psi(\tilde{\theta}) = \iint_{\mathcal{G}^2} \Psi(\theta) \Lambda(\tilde{\theta}, \theta) d\mu^2(\theta)$  [5]. In the special cases of Cohen's class and the hyperbolic class, the central member becomes the Wigner distribution and the  $Q$ -distribution, respectively [3], [12].

<sup>3</sup>We note that  $\theta^{1/2}$  is defined by  $\theta^{1/2} \circ \theta^{1/2} = \theta$ , and that  $\lambda_{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}}^{-1/2} = (e^{\pm j2\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\beta)})^{-1/2} = e^{\mp j\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\beta)}$ .

## IV. TRANSFORMATION OF OPERATORS AND QTFR CLASSES

The QTFR class  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  can be constructed using a transformation approach, a fact linking our theory to the "warping" theory in [10], [16]. Let  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha$  and  $\mathbf{B}_\beta$  be conjugate operators on a signal space  $\mathcal{X}$ , with group  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet)$ , and consider the operators  $\mathbf{C}_\gamma \triangleq \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A}_{s(\gamma)} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{D}_\delta \triangleq \mathbf{V} \mathbf{B}_{s(\delta)} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$ . Here,  $\mathbf{V}$  is an isometric isomorphism mapping  $\mathcal{X}$  onto some other space  $\mathcal{Y}$ , and  $s(\cdot)$  is a one-to-one function mapping some commutative group  $(\mathcal{H}, *)$  onto  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet)$ , such that  $s(h_1 * h_2) = s(h_1) \bullet s(h_2)$  for all  $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}$ . Assuming suitable choice of the dual parameters  $\tilde{\gamma}$  and  $\tilde{\delta}$ , the eigenvalues/functions of  $\mathbf{C}_\gamma$  and  $\mathbf{D}_\delta$  are  $\lambda_{\tilde{\gamma}, \tilde{\gamma}}^C = \lambda_{s(\tilde{\gamma}), s(\tilde{\gamma})}^A$ ,  $u_{\tilde{\gamma}}^C(t) = (\mathbf{V} u_{s(\tilde{\gamma})}^A)(t)$  and  $\lambda_{\tilde{\delta}, \tilde{\delta}}^D = \lambda_{s(\tilde{\delta}), s(\tilde{\delta})}^B$ ,  $u_{\tilde{\delta}}^D(t) = (\mathbf{V} u_{s(\tilde{\delta})}^B)(t)$ , respectively, and  $\mathbf{C}_\gamma$  and  $\mathbf{D}_\delta$  are conjugate operators on  $\mathcal{Y}$ , with group  $(\mathcal{H}, *)$ . Thus, isometric isomorphisms  $\mathbf{V}$  and one-to-one group transformations  $s(\cdot)$  preserve the conjugateness property of two operators. The following theorem [5] states that any QTFR class  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  corresponding to conjugate operators  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_\beta$  can be derived from Cohen's class using a transformation. Similar results have been derived independently in [6], [7].

**Theorem 3:** Let  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_\beta$  be conjugate with group  $(\mathcal{G}, \bullet)$  corresponding to function  $\mu(\cdot)$ , so that  $\lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A = e^{\pm j 2\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\tilde{\alpha})}$ . If  $\lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A = e^{-j 2\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\tilde{\alpha})}$  (- sign), then  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{T}_{t_r \mu(\alpha)} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{B}_\beta = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{F}_{\mu(\beta)/t_r} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$ , where  $t_r > 0$  is an arbitrary reference time constant, and  $(\mathbf{V}^{-1})(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t_r}} X_B(\mu^{-1}(\frac{t}{t_r}))$  with  $\mu^{-1}(\cdot)$  denoting the function inverse to  $\mu(\cdot)$ . Furthermore, any QTFR  $T_x(z) = T_x(t, f)$  of the QTFR class  $\mathcal{T} = \bar{\mathcal{T}}$  associated to  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_\beta$  can be derived from a corresponding QTFR  $C_x(t, f)$  of Cohen's class as

$$T_x(z) = C_{\mathbf{V}^{-1}x} \left( t_r \mu(\tilde{\beta}), \frac{\mu(\tilde{\alpha})}{t_r} \right) \Big|_{\tilde{\theta} = l^{-1}(z)}$$

where  $l^{-1}(\cdot)$  is the inverse LF of  $\mathbf{D}_\theta = \mathbf{B}_\beta \mathbf{A}_\alpha$ . If  $\lambda_{\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}}^A = e^{j 2\pi \mu(\alpha) \mu(\tilde{\alpha})}$  (+ sign), then the above relations have to be replaced by  $\mathbf{A}_\alpha = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{F}_{\mu(\alpha)/t_r} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{B}_\beta = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{T}_{t_r \mu(\beta)} \mathbf{V}^{-1}$ ,  $(\mathbf{V}^{-1})(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t_r}} X_A(\mu^{-1}(\frac{t}{t_r}))$ , and  $T_x(z) = C_{\mathbf{V}^{-1}x} \left( t_r \mu(\tilde{\alpha}), \frac{\mu(\tilde{\beta})}{t_r} \right) \Big|_{\tilde{\theta} = l^{-1}(z)}$ .

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