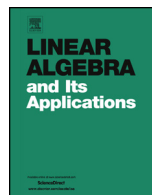




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## GLT sequences and automatic computation of the symbol

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## ABSTRACT

Spectral and singular value symbols are valuable tools to analyse the eigenvalue or singular value distributions of matrix-sequences in the Weyl sense. More recently, Generalized Locally Toeplitz (GLT) sequences of matrices have been introduced for the spectral/singular value study of the numerical approximations of differential operators in several contexts. As an example, such matrix-sequences stem from the large linear systems approximating Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), Fractional Differential Equations (FDEs), Integro Differential Equations (IDEs), using any discretization on reasonable grids via local methods, such as Finite Differences, Finite Elements, Finite Volumes, Isogeometric Analysis, Discontinuous Galerkin etc. Studying the asymptotic spectral behaviour of GLT sequences is useful in analysing classical techniques for the solution of the corresponding PDEs/FDEs/IDEs and in designing novel fast and efficient methods for the corresponding large linear systems or related large eigenvalue problems. The theory of GLT sequences, in combination with the results concerning the asymptotic spectral distribution of perturbed sequences of matrices, is one of the most powerful and successful tools for computing the spectral symbol  $f$ . In this regard, it would be beneficial to design an automatic procedure to compute the spectral symbols of such matrix-sequences and Ahmed Ratnani partially pursued it. Here, in

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Spectral symbol

the case of one-dimensional and two-dimensional differential problems, we continue in this direction by proposing an automatic procedure for computing the symbol of the underlying sequences of matrices, assuming that it is a GLT sequence satisfying mild conditions.

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## 1. Introduction and preliminaries

Differential equations (DE) are widely used in physics, engineering, and applied science to model real-world problems. Closed forms of analytical solutions for such DEs are generally not available and when available, they come in analytic forms which are either implicit or computationally not tractable. Therefore, it is important to approximate the solution  $u$  of the given DEs by a suitable numerical method. When discretizing linear partial differential equations using linear numerical methods, the actual calculation of numerical solutions is reduced to solving a linear system  $A_n u_n = b_n$ . The size  $d_n$  of this linear system increases, that is  $d_k < d_m$  if  $k < m, k, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and hence  $d_n$  tends to infinity, as the fineness parameter  $h = h(n)$  tends to zero. Therefore, we have not just a single linear system but a sequence of linear systems of increasing sizes and often it is observed in practice that the sequence of discretized matrices  $\{A_n\}_n$  belongs to the  $*$ -algebra of Generalized Locally Toeplitz (GLT) matrix-sequences. As a consequence, such a GLT matrix-sequence  $\{A_n\}_n$  shows a GLT symbol representing the singular value distribution. In the Hermitian setting the GLT symbol also represents the asymptotic spectral distribution, which in turn is somewhat similar to the spectrum of the differential operator associated with the PDE/FDE/IDE under consideration. Notice that in concrete application we need also the asymptotic notion of quasi-Hermitian matrix-sequence and this matter is briefly discussed in Remark 2.

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  be a matrix-sequence and  $f : D \subset \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a measurable function. We assume that  $\mu_k(D)$  belongs to  $(0, \infty)$ ,  $\mu_k$  being the Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ , and that  $A_n$  is of size  $d_n$ , with  $d_n$  strictly increasing sequence of natural positive numbers,  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$  or more generally  $n$  belonging to an infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}^+$ .

- We say that  $\{A_n\}_n$  has an asymptotic singular value distribution with symbol  $f$ , and write  $\{A_n\}_n \sim_\sigma f$ , if, for all  $F \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$ , the space of complex-valued continuous functions defined on  $\mathbb{R}$  and with bounded support,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{d_n} \sum_{i=1}^{d_n} F(\sigma_i(A_n)) = \frac{1}{\mu_k(D)} \int_D F(|f(x)|) dx,$$

where  $\sigma_i(A_n), i = 1, \dots, d_n$ , are the singular values of  $A_n$ .

- We say that  $\{A_n\}_n$  has an asymptotic eigenvalue distribution with symbol  $f$ , and write  $\{A_n\}_n \sim_\lambda f$ , if, for all  $F \in C_c(\mathbb{C})$ , the space of complex-valued continuous functions defined on  $\mathbb{C}$  and with bounded support,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{d_n} \sum_{i=1}^{d_n} F(\lambda_i(A_n)) = \frac{1}{\mu_k(D)} \int_D F(f(x)) dx,$$

where  $\lambda_i(A_n)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d_n$ , are the eigenvalues of  $A_n$ .

Solving large linear systems in an efficient way is fundamental to compute accurate solutions in a reasonable time. In this direction, it is well known that the convergence properties of mainstream iterative solvers, such as multigrid and preconditioned Krylov methods, depend heavily on the spectral characteristics of the matrices to which they are applied. Therefore, the knowledge of the asymptotic spectral distribution of the sequence  $\{A_n\}_n$  is a useful tool that we can use to select or design the best solver and discretization method. In support of this claim, we recall the notable estimates of the superlinear convergence of the conjugate gradient method obtained by Beckermann and Kuijlaars in [9], which assume positive definiteness, the existence of an asymptotic spectral distribution of the considered matrices, and proper assumptions on the convergence speed to zero of the minimal eigenvalues. In the same direction, we recall the seminal work by Axelsson and Lindskög [1] and the review paper by Kuijlaars [21], where again the concept of spectral distribution is employed in the analysis.

We choose to work with special spaces of matrix-sequences, that is the GLT  $*$ -algebras introduced in [26,27] (see also the seminal work by Tilli [28]) or a proper GLT subalgebra, which makes it easier to find spectral symbols from sequences of several discretized matrices for practical applications [2,4,7,6,17,18]. It has often been observed that the sequences  $\{A_n\}_n$  coming from the discretization of linear DEs belong to one of the GLT spaces, so it has been possible to analyse the spectral behaviour of such sequences, thus justifying the interest in these spaces. Sequences  $\{A_n\}_n$  with a spectral behaviour that can be analysed by resorting to GLT spaces have been encountered in the context of Finite Differences, Finite Elements, Finite Volumes, Isogeometric Analysis, and so on [10,14–16,24,26,27]. In essence the whole class of GLT sequences can be seen as a wide generalization of Toeplitz matrix-sequences [13], taking into account the variation of the coefficients along the diagonals [12].

The GLT spaces are built so that the association between sequences and symbols is an isomorphism of algebras and an isometry of metric spaces. Hence, we can compute the symbol of a matrix-sequence  $\{A_n\}_n$  from sums, products, and limits of simpler sequences for which we already know the spectral symbol. In fact, it would be beneficial to have an automatic procedure to compute the spectral symbols of such matrix-sequences. This objective was already proposed in item 3 of [17, Chapter 11], and Ahmed Ratnani

partially pursued it. Here we give a partial answer to this by introducing an effortless and automatic procedure for computing the symbol in the form of Fourier series.

In the following, we need a few terminologies and results taken mainly from [23].

Throughout this article, we use the multi-index notation (see [18]). For a given multi-index  $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  its components are denoted by  $i_1, \dots, i_d$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d)$ . Furthermore, we use the notations below.

- $\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, \dots$  are vectors of all zeroes, ones, twos,  $\dots$
- $\mathbf{h} \leq \mathbf{k}$  means that  $h_r \leq k_r$  for all  $r = 1, \dots, d$ .
- The multi-index interval  $[\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{k}]$  is the set  $\{\mathbf{j} \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \mathbf{h} \leq \mathbf{j} \leq \mathbf{k}\}$ . We assume the elements in the interval  $[\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{k}]$  to be ordered in the standard lexicographic manner:

$$\left[ \cdots \left[ \left[ (j_1, \dots, j_d) \right]_{j_d=h_d, \dots, k_d} \right]_{j_{d-1}=h_{d-1}, \dots, k_{d-1}} \cdots \right]_{j_1=h_1, \dots, k_1}.$$

- $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{h}, \dots, \mathbf{k}$  means that  $\mathbf{j}$  varies from  $\mathbf{h}$  to  $\mathbf{k}$  according to the lexicographic ordering.
- $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{h} * \mathbf{k}$  with  $*$   $\in \{\pm, \cdot, /\}$  means  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_d)$  with  $s_r = h_r * k_r$  for all  $r = 1, \dots, d$  (i.e. componentwise addition, subtraction, multiplication division).
- $N(\mathbf{m}) = \prod_{j=1}^d m_j$  and  $\mathbf{m} \rightarrow \infty$  means that  $\min(\mathbf{m}) = \min_{j=1, \dots, d} m_j \rightarrow \infty$ .

In all this work, by a sequence of matrices (or matrix-sequence) we mean a sequence of the form  $\{A_{\mathbf{n}}\}_n$ , where:

- $n$  varies in some infinite subset of  $\mathbb{N}$ ;
- $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{n}(n)$  is a multi-index in  $\mathbb{N}^d$  which depends on  $n$ , and  $\min_{j=1, \dots, d} n_j(n) \rightarrow \infty$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and this is typical of many approximations of DEs in  $d$  dimensions,  $d \geq 2$ ;
- $A_{\mathbf{n}}$  is a square matrix depending on a multi-index  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{n}(n)$  and of size  $d_n = N(\mathbf{n}(n)) = \prod_{j=1}^d n_j(n)$ ;
- In the setting of  $d$ -level GLT matrix-sequences we always have a matrix-size of the form  $N(\mathbf{n}) = \prod_{j=1}^d n_j$  [26,18]. Furthermore, when discretizing differential operators in a  $d$ -dimensional domain we find  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{n}(n)$ ,  $n$  natural number associated to the fineness parameter, so that with reference to Definition 1.1 we find  $d_n = N(\mathbf{n}(n)) = \prod_{j=1}^d n_j(n)$ . Finally, regarding the current work, in the numerical tests in 2D i.e.  $d = 2$ , for the sake of simplicity, we use a specific dependency on the parameter  $n$  that is  $d_n = N(\mathbf{n}(n)) = n^2$ ,  $\mathbf{n} = (n, n)$ ,  $n \geq 1$ .

**Remark 1.** With respect to the last notational item and Definition 1.1, it should be noted that in the pure  $d$ -level GLT matrix-sequences, the limits are made directly on the multi-index  $\mathbf{n}$  which does not necessarily depend on a common parameter  $n$ . The need of introducing  $n$  comes typically from PDE applications in which one naturally finds a common fineness parameter. Furthermore, in that setting, the size is not necessarily  $d_n = N(\mathbf{n}(n)) = \prod_{j=1}^d n_j(n)$ , when the domain is not a  $d$ -dimensional rectangle or

when the approximation nodes do not form a Cartesian grid, independently of the used discretization scheme (Finite Differences, Finite Elements, Finite Volumes, Isogeometric Analysis, Discontinuous Galerkin, etc). The practical need of treating the resulting general setting is transformed in a more advanced GLT theory, the theory of reduced GLT matrix-sequences, which was started in [26][pp. 398-399], [27][Section 3.1.4], and culminated in the systematic work by Barbarino [3]: in that setting  $d_n$  can be an increasing sequence of positive integers dictated by the shape of the domain and by the approximation rule for locating the nodes in the domain.

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $\mathcal{E} = \{\{A_n\}_n : A_n \in \mathcal{M}_{N(\mathbf{n})}(\mathbb{C})\}$ ,  $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{C})$  being the set of all complex square matrices of size  $m$ , and define the functions  $q_p : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  as

$$q_p(\{A_n\}_n) = \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_p}{N(\mathbf{n})^{1/p}} : R_n + N_n = A_n, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n})) \right\}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

$$q_\infty(\{A_n\}_n) = \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|N_n\| : R_n + N_n = A_n, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n})) \right\}.$$

Here the infimum is taken over all such decompositions of  $A_n$ ,  $\|\cdot\|$  is operator norm that is the maximal singular value of its argument and for  $p \in [1, \infty)$  the notation  $\|\cdot\|_p$  indicates the Schatten  $p$  norm that is the  $l^p$  vector norm applied to the vector of the singular values of its argument [11]. We notice that the Schatten 2 norm of a matrix  $X$  of size  $m_1 \times m_2$  coincides with its Frobenius norm  $\|X\|_F = \left( \sum_{i,j=1}^{m_1, m_2} |X_{ij}|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , while the operator norm  $\|\cdot\|$  is the Schatten  $p$  norm with  $p = \infty$ .

**Definition 1.3.** A matrix-sequence  $\{A_n\}_n$  is said to be a norm bounded matrix-sequence if there exists a nonnegative number  $M$  independent of  $n$  such that, for all  $n$ ,  $\|A_n\| \leq M$ .

We now state two lemmas that are helpful for the following section.

**Lemma 1.1.** [23] Suppose  $\{A_n\}_n$  is a norm bounded matrix-sequence. Then  $q_p(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$  if and only if  $\|A_n\|_p^p = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$  i.e.  $\|A_n\|_p = o([N(\mathbf{n})]^{1/p})$ . For  $p = \infty$  we simply have  $q_\infty(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$  if and only if  $\|A_n\| = o(1)$ .

**Lemma 1.2.** [23,25,29] Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  and  $\{B_n\}_n$  be two matrix-sequences and let  $p \in [1, \infty)$ . If  $\|A_n - B_n\|_p^p = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ , then  $q_p(\{A_n - B_n\}_n) = 0$ . For  $p = \infty$  we simply have  $q_\infty(\{A_n - B_n\}_n) = 0$  if and only if  $\|A_n - B_n\| = o(1)$ .

Now we recall the definition of  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^p$  introduced in [23]. For any  $p \in [1, \infty]$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^p$  is a proper subspace of the space of all GLT sequences. Even though all of the results in [23] is for the one-dimensional situation, they still hold for any  $d$ -dimensional scenario. Hence, without offering any proof, we provide the result for  $d$  dimensional setting.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \{ \{A_n\}_n \in \mathcal{E} : q_p(\{A_n\}_n) = 0 \}, \\ \mathcal{A}_p &= \{ \{A_n\}_n \in \mathcal{E} : q_p(\{A_n\}_n) < \infty \}, \\ \mathcal{G}^p &= \{ \{A_n\}_n \in \mathcal{A}_p : \{A_n\}_n \sim_{GLT} f \}, \end{aligned}$$

and  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^p = \mathcal{G}^p/Z$  be the quotient space of  $\mathcal{G}^p$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** [23]  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_p, 1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , are Banach spaces with respect to the norms induced by the seminorms  $q_p$ . In particular,  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$  is a Hilbert space and  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_\infty$  forms a  $C^*$ -algebra with  $*$ -structure  $\{A_n\}_n^* = \{A_n^*\}_n$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** [23] The Banach spaces  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^p$  and  $L^p(D)$  are isometrically isomorphic for every  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . In particular,  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^\infty$  and  $L^\infty(D)$  are isomorphic as  $C^*$ -algebras. The function that makes  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^p$  isometrically isomorphic to  $L^p(D)$ , whenever  $\{A_n\}_n$  is a GLT sequence with symbol  $f$ , is

$$\phi_p(\{A_n\}_n) = \begin{cases} f & \text{if } p = \infty, \\ (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{p}} f & \text{if } p \neq \infty, \end{cases}$$

where  $D = [0, 1]^d \times [-\pi, \pi]^d$ .

**Remark 2.** For quasi-Hermitian in the current context of matrix-sequences  $\{A_n\}_n$ ,  $A_n$  square of size  $d_n$ ,  $d_n$  increasing sequence of positive integers, we mean that the skew-Hermitian part is negligible in the sense that the spectral norm of  $A_n$  is uniformly bounded and the Schatten 1 norm of the skew-Hermitian part divided by  $d_n$  tends to zero as  $n$  tends to infinity. In such a setting if the Hermitian part of  $\{A_n\}_n$  admits a spectral symbol which is necessarily real-valued a.e., then the whole quasi-Hermitian matrix-sequences  $\{A_n\}_n$  admits the same real-valued spectral symbol even when the matrices  $A_n$  are not Hermitian. Such type of results are important when dealing with discretization of diffusion-convection-reaction DEs in which the convection part is responsible usually for the lack of real symmetry [8] or when dealing with compact perturbation of Jacobi matrix-sequences in the context of zeros of orthogonal polynomials [20].

**Remark 3.** In the previous discussion we used the expression “GLT spaces” and now we clarify this point. In reality there exist infinitely many GLT  $*$ -algebras and even more GLT spaces. Regarding the GLT  $*$ -algebras, if one take the dimensionality parameter  $d$  positive integer and  $r$  the matrix-order of the GLT symbol,  $r$  positive integer, then for every  $d, r \geq 1$  there exist  $r$ -block  $d$ -level GLT  $*$ -algebras. For  $r = d = 1$  the material can be found in [17], the multilevel case is studied in [18], while the  $r$  block cases  $r \geq 1$  are studied in [7,6], respectively for  $d = 1$  and  $d \geq 1$ . These  $*$  algebras have been proved to isometrically equivalent to the spaces of all possible GLT symbols (see [2] and the PhD Thesis of Giovanni Barbarino at Normal Superior School in Pisa), which are represented as  $r \times r$  complex matrix-valued measurable function defined on  $[0, 1]^d \times [-\pi, \pi]^d$ . Hence,

given this correspondence between GLT symbol and classes of GLT matrix-sequences, e.g. in [23] subspaces of the given GLT \*-algebra have been considered by putting a restriction on the vector space of possible GLT symbols. We mention that all this generality is suggested by the applications, e.g. by numerical methods for PDEs and FDEs, by the analysis of the zeros of orthogonal polynomials etc; see e.g. [9,14,15,19,21,22,20]. Finally, other GLT spaces (even richer!) and for dealing e.g. with multigrid methods [27,5], vector PDEs [5], and domains of non Cartesian types are treated via the notion of reduced GLT \*-algebras in [26][pp. 398-399], [27][Section 3.1.4], and [3].

The structure of the current article is as follows. We introduce a technique to compute the spectral symbol of GLT sequences in Section 2. In Section 3 and Section 4, we demonstrate the method for one-dimensional and two-dimensional settings, respectively. Section 5 contains concluding remarks and open problems.

**2. A method for computing the spectral symbol**

We now provide a characterization for  $q_p$  that will be helpful. Let  $A_n = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \sigma_2(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(n)}(A_n))V_n^*$  be a singular value decomposition (SVD) of  $A_n$ , where  $\sigma_1(A_n) \geq \sigma_2(A_n) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N(n)}(A_n)$ . For  $j = 0, 1, \dots, N(n)$ , let

$$R_{n,j} = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \dots, \sigma_j(A_n), 0, \dots, 0)V_n^*, \quad R_{n,0} = O_n,$$

$$N_{n,j} = U_n \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0, \sigma_{j+1}(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(n)}(A_n))V_n^*,$$

and  $D_{A_n} = \{(R_{n,j}, N_{n,j}) : j = 0, 1, \dots, N(n)\}$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  be a matrix-sequence. Then*

$$q_p(\{A_n\}_n) = \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_p}{N(n)^{1/p}} : (R_n, N_n) \in D_{A_n}, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(n)) \right\}.$$

**Proof.** It is straightforward to prove that

$$q_p(\{A_n\}_n) \leq \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_p}{N(n)^{1/p}} : (R_n, N_n) \in D_{A_n}, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(n)) \right\}.$$

For the other inequality the reasoning is as follows. Consider a decomposition  $A_n = R_n + N_n$  with  $\text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(n))$ . Let  $\sigma_1(A_n) \geq \sigma_2(A_n) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N(n)}(A_n)$  be the singular values of  $A_n$  arranged in non-increasing order. Set  $r_n = \text{rank } R_n$  and

$$\tilde{R}_n = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{r_n}(A_n), 0, \dots, 0)V_n^*,$$

$$\tilde{N}_n = U_n \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0, \sigma_{r_n+1}(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(n)}(A_n))V_n^*.$$

We know that from [11], for all  $i + j \leq N(n) + 1$ ,

$$\sigma_{i+j-1}(A_n) \leq \sigma_i(R_n) + \sigma_j(N_n).$$

From this, we deduce

$$\sum_{i=r_n+1}^{N(\mathbf{n})} \frac{\sigma_i^p(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} \leq \frac{\|N_n\|_p^p}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

Hence,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|\tilde{N}_n\|_p}{N(\mathbf{n})^{1/p}} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_p}{N(\mathbf{n})^{1/p}}, \quad \text{rank}(\tilde{R}_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n})), \quad (\tilde{R}_n, \tilde{N}_n) \in D_{A_n}.$$

Thus,

$$q_p(\{A_n\}_n) \geq \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_p}{N(\mathbf{n})^{1/p}} : (R_n, N_n) \in D_{A_n}, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n})) \right\}. \quad \square$$

From Theorem 1.2, it can be seen that  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$  is a Hilbert space and is isomorphic to  $L^2(D)$ . Let  $\{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \in \tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$ , then

$$\text{Re}\langle \{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \rangle = \frac{1}{4}(q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n + \{B_n\}_n) - q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n - \{B_n\}_n)), \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Im}\langle \{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \rangle = \frac{1}{4}(q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n + \{iB_n\}_n) - q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n - \{iB_n\}_n)). \quad (2)$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \in \tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$  be two norm bounded matrix-sequences. Then*

$$\langle \{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle B_n, A_n \rangle_F,$$

where  $\langle B_n, A_n \rangle_F$  is the Frobenius innerproduct,  $\langle B_n, A_n \rangle_F = \text{trace}(B_n^* A_n)$ .

**Proof.**  $q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) = \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} : (R_n, N_n) \in D_{A_n}, \text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n})) \right\}.$

Since  $\{R_n\}_n$  is norm bounded, by Lemma 1.1, we deduce  $\|R_n\|_2^2 = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) &= \inf \left\{ \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|R_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \right\} \\ &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\|A_n\| \leq m$ , for all  $n$ . Consider  $F \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $x^2 \chi_{[0,m]} \leq F(x) \leq x^2 \chi_{[0,m+\epsilon]}$ .

Now Definition 1.1 implies that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N(\mathbf{n})} \frac{F(\sigma_i(A_n))}{N(\mathbf{n})}$  exists. Hence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N(\mathbf{n})} \frac{F(\sigma_i(A_n))}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

By using equations (1) and (2), we obtain

$$\langle \{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle B_n, A_n \rangle_F. \quad \square$$

Now we define two sets

$$D_{m,n} = \{i : \sigma_i(A_n) > m\}, \quad C_{m,n} = \{i : \sigma_i(A_n) \leq m\},$$

where  $\sigma_i(A_n)$  is the  $i$ -th singular value of  $A_n$  and  $\sigma_1(A_n) \geq \sigma_2(A_n) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n)$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  be a matrix-sequence such that  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ .*

*Then  $q_2(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$  if and only if  $\|A_n\|_2^2 = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ .*

**Proof.** If  $\|A_n\|_2^2 = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ , then by Lemma 1.2,  $q_2(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$ .

Conversely suppose that  $q_2(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$ . Let  $A_n = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \sigma_2(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n)) V_n^*$  be an SVD of  $A_n$ , where  $\sigma_1(A_n) \geq \sigma_2(A_n) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n)$ . For a nonnegative real number  $m$ , let

$$A_{n,m} = U_n \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0, \sigma_{j_m+1}(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n)) V_n^*,$$

$$N_{n,m} = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{j_m}(A_n), 0, \dots, 0) V_n^*,$$

where  $\sigma_{j_m}(A_n) > m$  and  $\sigma_{j_m+1}(A_n) \leq m$ . Now  $A_n = A_{n,m} + N_{n,m}$ , and  $q_2(\{A_n\}_n) = 0$  implies  $q_2(\{A_{n,m}\}_n) = 0$ . By Lemma 1.1,  $\|A_{n,m}\|_2^2 = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ . Then

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_{n,m}\|_2^2 + \|N_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

Since the left hand side is independent of  $m$ , we find

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0.$$

Then,  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0. \quad \square$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  be a matrix-sequence that possesses asymptotic singular value distribution and satisfies  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ . Then,  $q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}$ .*

**Proof.** Consider  $F \in C_c(\mathbb{R}), k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x^2\chi_{[0,m]} \leq F(x) \leq x^2\chi_{[0,m+\frac{1}{k}]}$ . Then from Definition 1.1,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in C_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{N(\mathbf{n})} \frac{F(\sigma_i(A_n))}{N(\mathbf{n})} \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in C_{m+\frac{1}{k},n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

Let  $A_n = U_n \text{diag}(\sigma_1(A_n), \sigma_2(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n))V_n^*$  be an SVD of  $A_n$ , where  $\sigma_1(A_n) \geq \sigma_2(A_n) \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n)$ . For a nonnegative real number  $m$ , let

$$A_{n,m} = U_n \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0, \sigma_{j_m+1}(A_n), \dots, \sigma_{N(\mathbf{n})}(A_n))V_n^*,$$

where  $\sigma_{j_m}(A_n) > m$  and  $\sigma_{j_m+1}(A_n) \leq m$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n - A_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})}, \\ \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n - A_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} - \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} - \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &\quad + \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_{n,m+\frac{1}{k}}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} - \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} + \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\|A_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &\quad - \left( \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\|A_{n,m+\frac{1}{k}}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} + \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \right) \\ &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n - A_{n,m}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} - \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n - A_{n,m+\frac{1}{k}}\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ , we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

Now  $q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}$  is implied directly by the definition of  $q_2$ .

Suppose that  $q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}$ . Then there exist two matrix sequences  $\{R_n\}_n$  and  $\{N_n\}_n$ , such that  $(R_n, N_n) \in D_{A_n}$ ,  $\text{rank}(R_n) = o(N(\mathbf{n}))$ , and

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|N_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}.$$

Now there exists  $\epsilon > 0$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &< \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|R_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in C_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(R_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(R_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} \\ &< \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})}, \end{aligned}$$

since  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in C_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(R_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ . However  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} > \epsilon$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $q_2^2(\{A_n\}_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|A_n\|_2^2}{N(\mathbf{n})}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** *If both  $\{A_n\}_n$  and  $\{B_n\}_n$  belong to  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$  and suppose that*

*$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$  and  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(B_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ . Then*

$$\langle \{A_n\}_n, \{B_n\}_n \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle B_n, A_n \rangle_F.$$

**Proof.** The result follows from equations (1), (2), and Lemma 2.3.  $\square$

In the following we introduce an automatic method for calculating the Fourier coefficients of the spectral symbol of GLT sequences. Let  $E_n^{rs} = D_n(e^{2\pi i r \cdot \mathbf{x}}) \cdot T_n(e^{is \cdot \mathbf{t}})$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^d$ ,  $\mathbf{t} \in [-\pi, \pi]^d$ , where  $D_n(a) = \text{diag } a(\frac{j}{n})$  and  $T_n(f)$  is the  $n$ -th multilevel Toeplitz matrix associated with  $f$  (see [18]) and we recall that  $\mathbf{j}$  varies from  $\mathbf{1}$  to  $\mathbf{n}$  according to the lexicographic ordering. Consider the matrix-sequence  $\{E_n^{rs}\}_n$ , where  $\mathbf{n} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then  $\{E_n^{rs}\}_n \sim_{GLT} e^{2\pi i r \cdot \mathbf{x}} e^{is \cdot \mathbf{t}}$ . By Theorem 1.2,  $\{\{E_n^{rs}\}_n + Z : \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$ .

The following theorem shows how to determine the Fourier series representation of the spectral symbol of the GLT sequences.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $\{A_n\}_n \in \tilde{\mathcal{G}}^2$  with symbol  $f \in L^2([0, 1]^d \times [-\pi, \pi]^d)$ , let  $\sum_{r,s=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{rs} e^{i2\pi r \cdot x} e^{is \cdot t}$  be the Fourier series representation of  $f$ , and assume that  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i \in D_{m,n}} \frac{\sigma_i^2(A_n)}{N(\mathbf{n})} = 0$ . Then

$$a_{rs} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle E_n^{rs}, A_n \rangle_F. \tag{3}$$

**Proof.** The result follows from Theorem 1.2 and Lemma 2.4,

$$\begin{aligned} a_{rs} &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_D f \cdot e^{-i2\pi r \cdot x} e^{-is \cdot t} d\mathbf{x} dt \\ &= \langle \{A_n\}_n, \{E_n^{rs}\}_n \rangle \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle E_n^{rs}, A_n \rangle_F. \quad \square \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

**Corollary 2.1.** Let  $\{A_n\}_n$  be a matrix-sequence,  $a_{rs} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \langle E_n^{rs}, A_n \rangle_F$  and  $\sum_{r,s=-\infty}^{\infty} |a_{rs}|_2^2 < \infty$ . If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N(\mathbf{n})} \|A_n - \sum_{r,s=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{rs} E_n^{rs}\|_2^2 = 0$ , then  $\{A_n\}_n \sim_{GLT} \sum_{r,s=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{rs} e^{i2\pi r \cdot x} e^{is \cdot t}$ .

### 3. Computation of the symbol: the 1-dimensional case

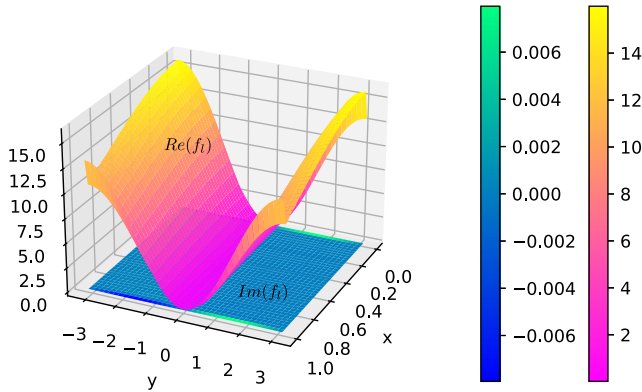
Consider the second-order differential problem:

$$\begin{cases} -(a(x)u'(x))' = f(x), & x \in (0, 1), \\ u(0) = \alpha, & u(1) = \beta, \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

where  $a : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous. We consider the discretization of this differential equation by using the classical second-order central FD scheme. We choose a discretization parameter  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x_j = jh$  for all  $j \in [0, n + 1]$ , where  $h = \frac{1}{n+1}$ . Note that, for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , we can approximate  $-(a(x)u'(x))'|_{x=x_j}$  by the following FD formula:

$$\begin{aligned} -(a(x)u'(x))' &\approx -\frac{a(x_{j+\frac{1}{2}})u'(x_{j+\frac{1}{2}}) - a(x_{j-\frac{1}{2}})u'(x_{j-\frac{1}{2}})}{h} \\ &\approx -\frac{1}{h} \left( a(x_{j+\frac{1}{2}}) \frac{u(x_{j+1}) - u(x_j)}{h} - a(x_{j-\frac{1}{2}}) \frac{u(x_j) - u(x_{j-1}))}{h} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{h^2} \left( -a(x_{j+\frac{1}{2}})u(x_{j+1}) + (a(x_{j+\frac{1}{2}}) + a(x_{j-\frac{1}{2}}))u(x_j) - a(x_{j-\frac{1}{2}})u(x_{j-1}) \right). \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$





**Fig. 1.** Real part of  $f_{50}$  and imaginary part of  $f_{50}$ . (For interpretation of the colours in the figure(s), the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

**Table 2**

Computation of  $\|\zeta_n - \eta_n\|_2$  for increasing values of  $n$  and  $l$ .

$l \backslash n$	$20^2$	$40^2$	$60^2$	$80^2$	$100^2$
3	0.4274	0.2165	0.1540	0.1251	0.1090
10	0.4085	0.1983	0.1321	0.1008	0.0825
15	0.4095	0.1942	0.1294	0.1008	0.0825

**Table 3**

Computation of  $\|f - f_l\|_2$  for increasing values of  $m$  and  $l$ .

$l \backslash m$	100	400	600	800	1000
3	0.44278	0.41892	0.41802	0.41770	0.41755
10	0.36266	0.29050	0.28750	0.28645	0.28596
15	0.35961	0.24996	0.24994	0.24323	0.24240

since  $Im(f_l)$  is negligible, it is enough to consider the real part of  $f_l$ . In Table 2, for increasing values of  $n$  and  $l$ , we computed the 2-norm of the difference  $\gamma_n = \zeta_n - \eta_n$ , where

- $\zeta_n$  is the vector of the eigenvalues of  $A_n$
- $\eta_n$  is the vector of the samples  $Re(f_l(\frac{j}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{n}}))$ ,  $j, k = 0, 1, \dots, \sqrt{n} - 1$ .

Both  $\zeta_n$  and  $\eta_n$  are arranged in non-increasing order.

We know that from [17] that the symbol of  $\{A_n\}_n$  is  $f(x, \theta) = a(x)(2 - 2 \cos(\theta))$ . In Table 3, we computed, for increasing values of  $m$  and  $l$ , the 2-norm of the function  $f - f_l$ . In Fig. 2, we plotted the spectrum of  $A_n$  together with values  $Re(f_l(\frac{j}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{n}}))$  and  $f(\frac{j}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{n}})$ ,  $j, k = 0, 1, \dots, \sqrt{n} - 1$ , for  $n = 3600$  and  $l = 10$ . The eigenvalues of  $A_n$  and the sampling of  $Re(f_l)$  and  $f$  are depicted in non-increasing order.

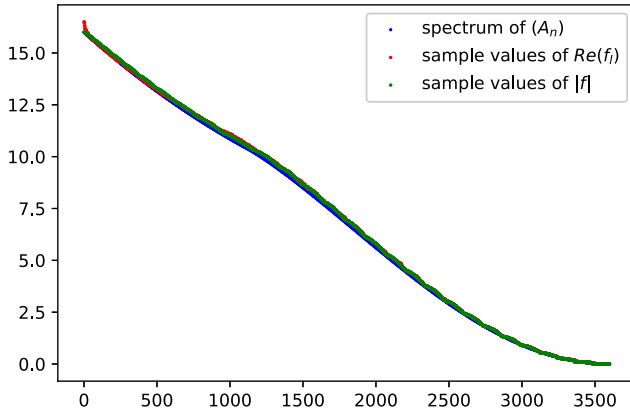


Fig. 2. Spectrum of  $A_n$  and samplings  $Re(f_l(\frac{j}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{n}})), f(\frac{j}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{n}}), j, k = 0, 1, \dots, \sqrt{n} - 1$ , for  $n = 60^2$  and  $l = 10$ .

#### 4. Computation of the symbol: the 2-dimensional case

Consider the differential problem

$$\begin{cases} - \sum_{h,k=1}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_h} (a_{h,k} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k}) + \sum_{k=1}^2 b_k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} + cu = f, & \text{in } (0, 1)^2, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial((0, 1)^2), \end{cases}$$

where  $a_{hk} \in C^1((0, 1)^2) \cup C([0, 1]^2)$  whose partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial a_{hk}}{\partial x_l}$ , are bounded over  $(0, 1)^2, b_k \in C([0, 1]^2)$ , and  $c, f \in C([0, 1]^2)$ .

**FD discretization:** The problem can be reformulated as follows:

$$\begin{cases} - \sum_{h,k=1}^2 a_{h,k} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_h \partial x_k} + \sum_{k=1}^2 s_k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} + cu = f, & \text{in } (0, 1)^2, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial((0, 1)^2), \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

where

$$s_k = b_k - \sum_{h=1}^2 \frac{\partial a_{hk}}{\partial x_h}, \quad k = 1, 2.$$

We examine the classical discretization of (9) using the second-order central FD. We choose  $\mathbf{n} = (n, n) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  and we set  $\mathbf{h} = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{\mathbf{n}+1} = (\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+1}) = (h_1, h_2)$  and  $\mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{j}\mathbf{h} = (j_1 h_1, j_2 h_2)$  for  $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{1}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}$  being  $(1, 1)$  according to the notation in the introduction. Let  $\{e_1, e_2\}$  be the standard basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Then, for  $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{1}$ , we can approximate the terms appearing in (9) as follows:

$$a_{kk} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_k^2} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} \approx a_{kk}(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{1}{h_k^2} (u(\mathbf{x}_{j+e_k}) - 2u(\mathbf{x}_j) + u(\mathbf{x}_{j-e_k})), \quad k = 1, 2,$$

$$a_{hk} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_h \partial x_k} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} \approx a_{hk}(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{u(\mathbf{x}_{j+e_k+e_h}) - u(\mathbf{x}_{j+e_k-e_h}) - u(\mathbf{x}_{j-e_k+e_h}) + u(\mathbf{x}_{j-e_k-e_h})}{4h_h h_k},$$

$$h, k = 1, 2, \quad h \neq k,$$

$$s_k \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} \approx s_k(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{1}{2h_k} (u(\mathbf{x}_{j+e_k}) - u(\mathbf{x}_{j-e_k})), \quad k = 1, 2,$$

$$cu \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} = c(\mathbf{x}_j)u(\mathbf{x}_j).$$

The evaluations  $u(\mathbf{x}_j)$  of the solutions of (9) at the grid points  $\mathbf{x}_j$  are approximated by the values  $u_j$ , where  $u_j = 0$  for  $\mathbf{j} \in [\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{1}] \setminus [\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{n}]$ , and the vector  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)^T$  is the solution of the linear system

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \sum_{k=1}^2 a_{kk}(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{1}{h_k^2} (u_{j+e_k} - 2u_j + u_{j-e_k}) + \sum_{k=1}^2 s_k(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{1}{2h_k} (u_{j+e_k} - u_{j-e_k}) + c(\mathbf{x}_j)u_j \\
 & - \sum_{h,k=1, h \neq k}^2 a_{hk}(\mathbf{x}_j) \frac{u_{j+e_k+e_h} - u_{j+e_k-e_h} - u_{j-e_k+e_h} + u_{j-e_k-e_h}}{4h_h h_k} = f(\mathbf{x}_j), \quad \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{n}
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

We now want to understand the structure of the matrix  $A_n$  associated with the linear system (10). Note that  $A_n$  admits the following natural decomposition:

$$A_n = \sum_{h,k=1}^2 \frac{1}{h_h h_k} \left( \text{diag}_{j=1, \dots, n} a_{hk}(\mathbf{x}_j) \right) K_{n,hk} + \sum_{k=1}^2 \frac{1}{h_k} \left( \text{diag}_{j=1, \dots, n} s_k(\mathbf{x}_j) \right) H_{n,k} + \left( \text{diag}_{j=1, \dots, n} c(\mathbf{x}_j) \right),$$

where,

$$K_{n,11} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes I_n, \quad K_{n,22} = I_n \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H_{n,1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes I_n, \quad H_{n,2} = I_n \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$K_{n,12} = K_{n,21} = -\frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

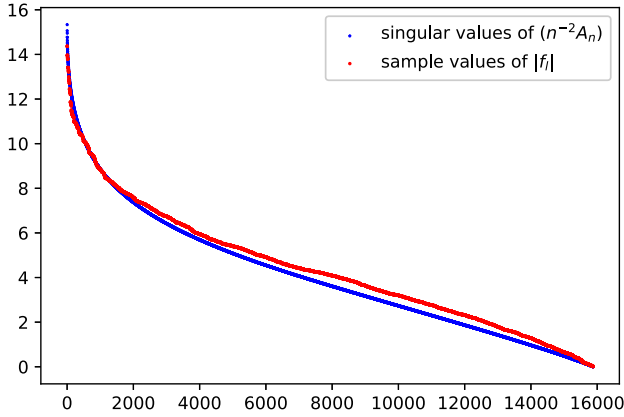


Fig. 3. Singular values of  $A_n$  and samplings  $|f_l(j, \mathbf{k})|$ , for  $d_n = n^2 = 126^2$  and  $l = (-3, 3)$ .

**Table 4**  
 Computation of  $\|\zeta_n - \eta_n\|_2$  for increasing values of  $n$  for  $l = (-2, 2), (-3, 3)$ .

$l \backslash d_n = n^2$	$60^2$	$77^2$	$96^2$	$117^2$	$126^2$
$(-2,2)$	0.5137	0.4493	0.4048	0.3708	0.3506
$(-3,3)$	0.5641	0.4667	0.4044	0.3662	0.3433

Now, using equation (3), we can compute the Fourier coefficients of the symbol of the matrix-sequence  $\{n^{-2}A_n\}_n$  and we can find the partial sum of the Fourier series

$$\text{representation of the symbol } f, f_l = \sum_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}=-l}^l a_{\mathbf{r}\mathbf{s}} e^{i2\pi \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{x}} e^{i\mathbf{s} \cdot \theta}.$$

Let us take  $a_{11}(x, y) = x + y, a_{12}(x, y) = xy, a_{21}(x, y) = x^2y, a_{22}(x, y) = xy^2, b_1(x, y) = b_2(x, y) = x + y, c(x, y) = xy$ .

In Fig. 3, we plotted the singular values of  $n^{-2}A_n$  together with sample values of  $|f_l|$ , for  $d_n = N(\mathbf{n}) = n^2 = 126^2, \mathbf{n} = (n, n)$  and  $l = (-3, 3)$ . Both the singular values of  $n^{-2}A_n$  and the sampling of  $|f_l|$  are depicted in non-increasing order. In Table 4, we computed, for increasing values of  $n$  and  $l$ , the 2-norm of the difference  $\zeta_n - \eta_n$ , where

- $\zeta_n$  is the vector of the singular values of  $n^{-2}A_n$
- $\eta_n$  is the vector of the samples  $|f_l|$

Both  $\zeta_n$  and  $\eta_n$  are arranged in non-increasing order.

### 5. Conclusions

The major achievement of the present work is a step toward computing automatically the spectral symbol of a given matrix-sequence under the assumption that it belongs to the GLT class. We remind once again that the approximation via local methods of

PDE/FDE/IDE leads to GLT matrix-sequences under mild assumptions on the gridding. Then the spectral information provided by the spectral symbol  $f$  can be effectively used for designing fast iterative solvers and/or analyzing their convergence properties.

As a future work we plan to design more general procedures for handling more complicate structures and especially those of dense type as it occurs generally when dealing with matrix-sequences stemming from either FDEs or IDEs since the underlying operators are of intrinsic nonlocal nature.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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