

Operator Spaces and the Sz-Nagy Similarity Problem

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22 November, 2006

Talk Plan

- ▶ Contractions on a Hilbert space.
- ▶ Models and functional calculus.
- ▶ Similarity problem and conjectures.
- ▶ Operator spaces.
- ▶ A positive result and conclusion.

Contractions on a Hilbert space

Throughout \mathcal{H} will be a Hilbert space. An operator T on \mathcal{H} is a *contraction* if

$$\|T(x)\| \leq \|x\| \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}).$$

The Sz.-Nagy dilation theorem states that if T is a contraction, then we can find a bigger Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_0 with $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{H}_0$, and an isometry U on \mathcal{H}_0 such that

$$T = P_{\mathcal{H}}U|_{\mathcal{H}},$$

where $P_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathcal{H}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ is the orthogonal projection, and $U|_{\mathcal{H}}$ is the restriction of U to \mathcal{H} .

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Dilation Theorem

In fact, we can choose \mathcal{H}_0 and U such that

$$T^n = P_{\mathcal{H}} U^n|_{\mathcal{H}}, \quad \overline{\text{lin}}\{U^n(\mathcal{H}) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathcal{H}_0.$$

Let \mathcal{H}_1 be such that $\mathcal{H}_0 = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}_1$, so with respect to this direct sum,

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 \\ ? & ? \end{pmatrix}.$$

For many contractions T , we can even choose U to be a suitable generalisation of the bilateral shift.

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Functional Calculus: Hardy Spaces

Let $\mathbb{T} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ be the unit circle, and let $L^p(\mathbb{T})$ be the usual Lebesgue space.

For $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, let $H^p \subseteq L^p(\mathbb{T})$ be the *Hardy Space* of index p , defined as follows. We let $f \in H^p$ if and only if the negative Fourier coefficients of f are zero, that is,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{i\theta}) e^{in\theta} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} = 0 \quad (n < 0).$$

Equivalently, H^p consists of those functions f analytic on the unit disc, and such that

$$\sup_{0 < r < 1} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{i\theta})|^p \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

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A simple-minded definition

Let f be analytic on \mathbb{D} , with power-series expansion

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \quad (z \in \mathbb{D}).$$

Suppose that $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| < \infty$.

For any contraction T on \mathcal{H} , we can define

$$f(T) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n T^n,$$

as the sum is absolutely convergent.

Of course, not all analytic functions have such an absolutely convergent power series.

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The H^∞ functional calculus

In fact, working somewhat harder, we can prove that for each $f \in H^\infty$, we can define a bounded operator $f(T)$ on \mathcal{H} .

- ▶ The map $H^\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}); f \mapsto f(T)$ is a norm-decreasing algebra homomorphism;
- ▶ For $f \in H^\infty$, define $\tilde{f} \in H^\infty$ by

$$\tilde{f}(z) = \overline{f(\bar{z})} \quad (z \in \mathbb{D}).$$

Then $f(T)^* = \tilde{f}(T^*)$.

- ▶ If (f_n) is a bounded sequence in H^∞ which converges pointwise to $f \in H^\infty$, then $f_n(T) \rightarrow f(T)$ in the strong topology.

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Similarity

- ▶ We get the impression that contractions are rather nicely behaved objects.
- ▶ We define $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ to be *similar to a contraction* if there exists an *invertible* map $S \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ such that $S^{-1}TS$ is a contraction.
- ▶ All of the previous explained properties can easily be seen to hold for maps similar to a contraction.
- ▶ For example, we define a functional calculus by

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- ▶ But how can we recognise an operator which is similar to a contraction?

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Sz.-Nagy Conjecture

- ▶ If $\|S^{-1}TS\| \leq 1$, then clearly we have that

$$\sup_{n \geq 0} \|T^n\| = \sup_{n \geq 0} \|S(S^{-1}TS)^n S^{-1}\| \leq \|S\| \|S^{-1}\|,$$

so that T is *power-bounded*.

- ▶ Sz.-Nagy proved (1959) that if T is compact and power-bounded, then T is similar to a contraction.
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Counter-example

Foguel (1964) found the following counter-example.

- ▶ Let ℓ^2 be the usual Hilbert space indexed by \mathbb{N} , with standard orthonormal basis $(e_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.
- ▶ Let S be the right shift, $S(e_n) = e_{n+1}$.
- ▶ Let Q be the projection onto the lacunary sequence $\{e_{3^k}\}$.
- ▶ Foguel's example is $R(Q)$ acting on $\ell^2 \oplus \ell^2$,

$$R(G) = \begin{pmatrix} S^* & Q \\ 0 & S \end{pmatrix}.$$

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von Neumann inequality

- ▶ Let p be a polynomial, so $p \in H^\infty$, and hence by the H^∞ -calculus, for a contraction R , $\|p(R)\| \leq \|p\|_\infty$. Hence, if $S^{-1}TS$ is a contraction,

$$\|p(T)\| = \|Sp(S^{-1}TS)S^{-1}\| \leq \|S\| \|S^{-1}\| \|p\|_\infty.$$

- ▶ Actually, there is a more elementary proof of this, due to von Neumann.
- ▶ So we have a new conjecture: T is similar to a contraction if and only if, for some constant K , we have

$$\|p(T)\| \leq K \|p\|_\infty \quad (p \text{ a polynomial}).$$

That is, T is *polynomially bounded*.

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Pisier's Counter-example

- ▶ Similar counter-examples to Foguel's have been considered, with much more complicated operators Q ,

$$R(G) = \begin{pmatrix} S^* & Q \\ 0 & S \end{pmatrix}.$$

However, work of Bourgain, Aleksandrov and Peller has shown that this approach is fairly hopeless.

- ▶ Pisier instead uses amplifications (Blackboard). He then found a counter-example of the form

$$R(\Gamma_F) = \begin{pmatrix} S^{*(\infty)} & \Gamma_F \\ 0 & S^{(\infty)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here Γ_F is an “operator-valued Hankel operator”.

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Operator spaces

- ▶ An *operator space* is just a closed subspace of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$.
- ▶ Obviously, thanks to the GNS construction, we can replace $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ by any C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} .
- ▶ So every Banach space is an operator space!
- ▶ The difference, however, is the maps which we consider. We replace *bounded* maps by *completely bounded* maps.

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Completely bounded maps

Let $E \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. Write $\mathbb{M}_n(E)$ for the set of $n \times n$ matrices with entries in E .

We have the identification

$$\mathbb{M}_n(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})) = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}).$$

Which induces a norm on $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$.

As $\mathbb{M}_n(E) \subseteq \mathbb{M}_n(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$, we get a norm on $\mathbb{M}_n(E)$.

For $T \in \mathcal{B}(E)$, we let $(T)_n \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{M}_n(E))$ be defined by

$$(T)_n : \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} T(x_{11}) & \cdots & T(x_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ T(x_{n1}) & \cdots & T(x_{nn}) \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\|T\|_{cb} := \sup_{n \geq 1} \|(T)_n\| < \infty.$$

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For $T \in \mathcal{B}(E)$, we let $(T)_n \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{M}_n(E))$ be defined by

$$(T)_n : \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} T(x_{11}) & \cdots & T(x_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ T(x_{n1}) & \cdots & T(x_{nn}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Then T is *completely bounded* if and only if

$$\|T\|_{cb} := \sup_{n \geq 1} \|(T)_n\| < \infty.$$

Example

- ▶ Let $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$ be a two-dimensional Hilbert space, so we can identify $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ with \mathbb{M}_2 .
- ▶ Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{M}_2)$ be transposition:

$$T \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ For example, we identify $\mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{M}_2)$ with \mathbb{M}_4 , and then we have

$$(T)_2 \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} & x_{14} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} & x_{24} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} & x_{34} \\ x_{41} & x_{42} & x_{43} & x_{44} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{21} & x_{13} & x_{23} \\ x_{12} & x_{22} & x_{14} & x_{24} \\ x_{31} & x_{41} & x_{33} & x_{43} \\ x_{32} & x_{42} & x_{34} & x_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$(T)_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ Call the left matrix A and the right one B . Then A is just a permutation operator, so that $\|A\| = 1$, while

$$B(2^{-1/2}, 0, 0, 2^{-1/2}) = (2^{1/2}, 0, 0, 2^{1/2}),$$

so that $\|B\| \geq 2$.

- ▶ This example can be extended to construct operators which are bounded, but not completely bounded.

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The Disc Algebra

- ▶ The *disc algebra* $A(\mathbb{D})$ is the closure of the space of polynomials in $C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$.
- ▶ Alternatively, $A(\mathbb{D})$ is the space of functions $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which are analytic and have a continuous extension to \mathbb{T} .
- ▶ We turn $A(\mathbb{D})$ into an operator space by embedding $A(\mathbb{D})$ into the C^* -algebra $C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$.
- ▶ Let T be a *polynomially bounded* operator. Then, by continuity, $f(T)$ is defined for each $f \in A(\mathbb{D})$, and $\|f(T)\| \leq C\|f\|_\infty$.

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Paulsen's characterisation

Paulsen (1984) proved that the following are equivalent for $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ for $C \geq 0$

- ▶ There exists an invertible $S \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ with $\|S\|\|S^{-1}\| \leq C$ and $\|S^{-1}TS\| \leq 1$;
- ▶ T is polynomially bounded, so there is a bounded map $u_T : A(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}); f \mapsto f(T)$, and furthermore, $\|u_T\|_{cb} \leq C$;
- ▶ For each $n \geq 1$, and each $n \times n$ matrix with polynomial entries $(p_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$, we have that

$$\| [p_{ij}(T)] \|_{\mathbb{M}_n(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))} \leq C \sup_{|z| < 1} \| [p_{ij}(z)] \|_{\mathbb{M}_n},$$

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