A SUFFICIENT CONDITION THAT AN OPERATOR BE NORMAL

Che-Kao Fong

The following theorem answers a question raised by H. Radjavi and P. Rosenthal [1, p. 197].

THEOREM. *Let* T *be a (bounded) operator defined on a Hilbert space* H. *Suppose*

(a) T *is quasi-similar to a normal operator* N, *that is, there exist one-to-one operators* X *and* Y *with dense ranges such that* TX = XN *and* NY = YT, *and*

(b) *each hyperinvariant subspace of* T *is reducing.*

Then T *is normal.*

Proof. Let E be the spectral measure of N. Then $E(\sigma)H$ is hyperinvariant for N for every Borel set σ.

Let $\mathscr{L}$ be a hyperinvariant subspace of N. Put

$$q(\mathscr{L}) = \bigvee_{A \in \{T\}'} \overline{AX\mathscr{L}}.$$

Then (see B. Sz.-Nagy and C. Foiaş [2, pp. 76-78])

(i) $q(\mathscr{L})$ is hyperinvariant for T,

(ii) $\overline{Yq(\mathscr{L})} = \mathscr{L}$,

(iii) $\mathscr{L} \subset \mathscr{L}'$ implies $q(\mathscr{L}) \subset q(\mathscr{L}')$,

(iv) $\bigvee_\alpha q(\mathscr{L}_\alpha) = q\left(\bigvee_\alpha \mathscr{L}_\alpha\right)$,

(v) $q(\{0\}) = \{0\}$ and $q(H) = H$.

By (i) and the hypothesis (b), $q(\mathscr{L})$ is reducing for T. Let $P = P_{q(\mathscr{L})}$ and $Q = P_{q(\mathscr{L}^\perp)}$ (for each closed subspace $\mathscr{M}$, we denote by $P_{\mathscr{M}}$ the orthogonal projection from H onto $\mathscr{M}$). Then PT = TP. Since $q(\mathscr{L}^\perp)$ is hyperinvariant for T, we see that QPQ = PQ. Hence PQ = QP. On the other hand, by (ii), we have the relation

$$\overline{Yq(\mathscr{L})} \cap \overline{Yq(\mathscr{L}^\perp)} = \mathscr{L} \cap \mathscr{L}^\perp = 0.$$

Hence $q(\mathscr{L}) \cap q(\mathscr{L}^\perp) = 0$. Also,

$$\overline{q(\mathscr{L}) + q(\mathscr{L}^\perp)} \supseteq \overline{X\mathscr{L} + X\mathscr{L}^\perp} = \overline{X(\mathscr{L} + \mathscr{L}^\perp)} = \overline{XH} = H.$$

Therefore $P = I - Q$, or $q(\mathscr{L}^\perp) = q(\mathscr{L})^\perp$.

Now, for disjoint Borel sets σ and τ, we have the relation $E(\sigma)H \perp E(\tau)H$ or $E(\sigma)H \subset (E(\tau)H)^\perp$. Hence

$$q(E(\sigma)H) \subseteq q((E(\tau)H)^\perp) = q(E(\tau)H)^\perp.$$

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