

A class of hyponormal operators and weak*-continuity of hermitian operators

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We will first in this paper consider a class of hyponormal operators which we call $*$ -hyponormal operators. We give an example of a hyponormal operator which is not $*$ -hyponormal. It follows from a theorem of Ackermans, van Eijndhoven and Martens [1] that subnormal operators on a Hilbert space are $*$ -hyponormal. We prove a generalized Fuglede—Putnam theorem and some other results for these operators.

We will also prove some results on the following problem which was mentioned in [4]:

Problem (1). *Let T be a bounded linear operator on a Banach space X . If $T^* = H + iK$ for some hermitian operators H and K on X^* , is it true that $T = H_0 + iK_0$ for some hermitian operators H_0 and K_0 on X ?*

It is known that if T^* is normal, then T is normal (Behrends [4]). We show that (1) is true if T^* is a $*$ -hyponormal operator with a weakly compact commutator. Finally we prove that if X is a dualoid space (in particular a dual space) or a C^* -algebra with a unit element, then (1) is true for all operators T such that $T^* = H + iK$.

Let X be a complex Banach space and X^* the dual space of X . We denote by $B(X)$ the space of all bounded linear operators on X . If X and Y are two Banach spaces, then $B(X, Y)$ is the space of all bounded linear operators from X to Y . A *normal* operator on X is an operator which can be written in the form $H + iK$ where H and K are commuting hermitian operators on X . We will only be concerned with bounded operators. The adjoint of an operator $T \in B(X)$ is hermitian if and only if T is hermitian (see [6, §9] or [7, §17]). We refer to [6] and [7] for basic facts about numerical ranges and hermitian operators.

1. *-hyponormal operators

In the following definition H and K are hermitian operators.

Definition 1. An operator $T \in B(X)$ is called

- (i) hyponormal if $T = H + iK$ and $i(HK - KH) \geq 0$.
- (ii) *-hyponormal if $T = H + iK$ and the inequality

$$(*) \quad \|e^{zT} e^{-\bar{z}T}\| \leq 1,$$

where \bar{T} is the operator $H - iK$, holds for all complex numbers z .

Normal operators are obviously *-hyponormal. In Proposition 1 we give some sufficient conditions implying that the restriction of a *-hyponormal operator to an invariant subspace is *-hyponormal. If the space is a Hilbert space, it follows that the restriction of every *-hyponormal operator to a closed invariant subspace is *-hyponormal. In particular, subnormal operators on a Hilbert space are *-hyponormal. This was proved in [1].

Proposition 1. Let P be a projection on X with $\|P\| = 1$ and let N be a *-hyponormal (or normal) operator on X such that

$$NPX \subset PX \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{N}(I - P)X \subset (I - P)X.$$

Then the operator $N|_{PX}$ is *-hyponormal.

Proof. Let $N = H + iK$ and let $T = N|_{PX}$. Let A and B be the operators on PX defined by

$$Ay = PHy \quad \text{and} \quad By = PKy.$$

Then A and $B \in B(PX)$ and $T = A + iB$. The operators A and B are hermitian. To see that, let $y \in PX$ with $\|y\| = 1$ and let $f \in (PX)^*$ with $\|f\| = f(y) = 1$. By the Hahn—Banach theorem there is a functional $g \in X^*$ such that $\|g\| = 1$ and $g|_{PX} = f$. We have

$$f(Ay) = g(PHy) = (P^*g)(Hy).$$

Since $(P^*g)(y) = g(Py) = f(y) = 1$ and $\|P^*g\| \leq 1$ it follows that $\|P^*g\| = (P^*g)(y) = 1$. Since H is hermitian we conclude that A is hermitian. Similarly B is hermitian.

Since $P\bar{N}P = P\bar{N}$ and $PNP = NP$, we have

$$\bar{T}^j T^k y = (P\bar{N})^j N^k y = P\bar{N}^j N^k y,$$

whenever $y \in PX$ and j and k are non-negative integers. Therefore

$$\|e^{zT} e^{-\bar{z}T} y\| = \|Pe^{zN} e^{-\bar{z}N} y\| \leq \|P\| \|y\| \leq \|y\|$$

for every $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and $y \in PX$. This implies (*).

Proposition 2. *A *-hyponormal operator is hyponormal.*

Proof. Assume that T is *-hyponormal and $T=H+iK$. We have for all complex numbers z

$$1 \cong \|e^{zT}e^{-zT}e^{-zT}e^{zT}\| = \|I-|z|^2A\| + r(z),$$

where $A=\bar{T}T-T\bar{T}$ and $|r(z)| \leq M|z|^3$ for some $M>0$ if $|z| \leq 1$. Given $\mu \in B(X)^*$ with $\|\mu\| = \mu(I) = 1$, it follows that

$$|1 - |z|^2 \mu(A)| \leq 1 + M|z|^3 \quad (|z| \leq 1).$$

Since $A=2i(HK-KH)$, A is hermitian [6, Lemma 5.4] and therefore $\mu(A)$ is a real number. We now have

$$-\mu(A) \leq Mt \quad (0 < t \leq 1).$$

Thus $\mu(A) \geq 0$. It follows that $i(HK-KH) \geq 0$.

Remark 1. It is well-known that an operator S on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is hyponormal if and only if

$$\|\bar{S}x\| \leq \|Sx\| \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{H}.$$

(Indeed we have $\|Sx\|^2 - \|\bar{S}x\|^2 = (\bar{S}Sx, x) - (S\bar{S}x, x) = ((\bar{S}S - S\bar{S})x, x)$). The condition (*) in Definition 1 can be written

$$\|e^{zT}x\| \leq \|e^{\bar{z}T}x\| \quad \text{for all } x \in X \text{ and } z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

If T is an operator on a Hilbert space, the conjugate of e^{zT} is $e^{\bar{z}T}$. Hence we have:

- (α) T is *-hyponormal if and only if e^{zT} is hyponormal for all complex numbers z .

Also we have:

- (β) T is normal if and only if e^{zT} is normal for all complex numbers z .

These relations are not in general true in Banach spaces as the following example shows.

Let H be a hermitian operator such that the spectrum of H is $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ and H^2 is not hermitian. For example, if P is a hermitian projection on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and $P \neq 0, P \neq I$, then the operator $S \mapsto PS - SP$ on $B(\mathcal{H})$ has these properties [3]. Then $H^3 = H$ by the spectral mapping theorem [8, Theorem 7.4(iv)] and by [7, Theorem 27.3]. Now there are real coefficients a and $b \neq 0$ such that

$$e^H = I + aH + bH^2.$$

Since H^2 is not hermitian it is not equal to $A+iB$ for any hermitian operators A and B by [5, (2.12)]. Therefore e^H is neither normal nor hyponormal. Thus (α) and (β) do not hold.

We now give an example of a hyponormal operator which is not $*$ -hyponormal.

Example. Let l_2 be the Hilbert space of all complex sequences $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ such that the series $\sum |\alpha_n|^2$ converges and let U be the unilateral shift on l_2 defined by

$$U(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots) = (0, \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots).$$

The operator $T = \bar{U} + 2U$ is hyponormal. By results of Ito and Wong [14, Remark 4] T is not subnormal. There are vectors x and numbers z such that

$$\|e^{zT}x\| > \|e^{z^T}x\|.$$

This can be seen by a direct calculation taking for example $z=0.6$ and $x = \{\alpha_n\}$ where $\alpha_0=1$ and $\alpha_2=-4$ and otherwise $\alpha_n=0$. It follows that T is not $*$ -hyponormal.

In the case of a normal operator the result of the following theorem is included in [10]. The proof in [10] is different from the next proof. If T is only assumed to be hyponormal and X is strictly c -convex, then the conclusion of the following theorem is also true by [16, Theorem 2.4].

Theorem 3. *If T is $*$ -hyponormal and $Tx=0$ for some $x \in X$, then $\bar{T}x=0$.*

Proof. Assume that $Tx=0$. Let $f \in X^*$. Then the function $g(z) = f(e^{zT}x)$ is entire. Since

$$|f(e^{zT}x)| = |f(e^{zT}e^{\bar{z}T}x)| \leq \|f\| \|x\|,$$

g is bounded. By Liouville's theorem g is constant. Thus $g(z) \equiv g(0)$. We conclude that

$$f((e^{zT} - I)x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{C} \quad \text{and for all } f \in X^*.$$

This implies by the Hahn—Banach theorem that $(e^{zT} - I)x = 0$ for all z . Taking the derivative at $z=0$ we obtain $\bar{T}x=0$.

Remark 2. If T is $*$ -hyponormal and $Tx = \lambda x$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and $x \in X$, then $\bar{T}x = \bar{\lambda}x$ since $T - \lambda I$ is also $*$ -hyponormal.

From Theorem 3 we obtain an extension of the Fuglede—Putnam theorem. There are several extensions of this theorem for hyponormal operators on a Hilbert space. For further references see [16].

Theorem 4. *Let T be a $*$ -hyponormal operator on Y and U a $*$ -hyponormal operator on X . If $TS = S\bar{U}$ for some $S \in B(X, Y)$, then $\bar{T}S = S\bar{U}$.*

Proof. We will show that the operator

$$\delta(S) = TS - S\bar{U}$$

is a *-hyponormal operator on $B(X, Y)$. The result then follows from Theorem 3. Note that $\bar{\delta}$ is the operator $S \mapsto \bar{T}S - SU$.

Given $A \in B(Y)$ and $B \in B(X)$, let

$$l(S) = AS, \quad r(S) = SB \quad (S \in B(X, Y))$$

and let $d = l - r$. Since l and r commute, we have ([6, Theorem 3.2])

$$e^{l-r} = e^l e^{-r}.$$

Hence

$$(2) \quad e^d(S) = e^l(e^{-r}(S)) = e^A S e^{-B} \quad (S \in B(X, Y)).$$

Using (2) and the assumption that T and U are *-hyponormal it follows that for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and $S \in B(X, Y)$

$$\|e^{z\bar{\delta}} e^{-z\delta} S\| = \|e^{zT} e^{-zT} S e^{z\bar{U}} e^{-zU}\| \leq \|S\|.$$

This completes the proof.

Corollary 5. *Assume that T is a *-hyponormal operator on X and Y is a subspace of X such that the following conditions hold:*

- (i) *Y is a Banach space with respect to a norm $|\cdot|$ on Y and there is a constant M such that $\|y\| \leq M|y|$ for all $y \in Y$.*
- (ii) *$TY \subset Y$, $T|_Y$ is bounded and there are hermitian operators A and B on Y such that $T|_Y = A + iB$ and the operator $A - iB$ is *-hyponormal.*

Then $\bar{T}Y \subset Y$.

Proof. Let $T_1 = T|_Y$. The inclusion $j: Y \rightarrow X$ is bounded by the assumption (i). Since $Tj = jT_1$ it follows from Theorem 4 that $\bar{T}j = j\bar{T}_1$. Hence $\bar{T}Y \subset Y$.

2. On the weak*-continuity of hermitian operators

The following theorem was proved in [4] for normal operators. For the case when X is a dualoid space (see Definition 2 below) or a C^* -algebra with unit more general results will be proved in Theorems 7 and 9.

In the proofs of the following two theorems we shall make use of the canonical projection on the third dual of X . If i_X is the canonical embedding of X into X^{**} , then $P = i_{X^*} \circ i_X^*$ is a projection on X^{***} whose range is $(\widehat{X^*})$ and whose kernel is $(\hat{X})^\perp$ (\hat{X} is the canonical image of X and $(\hat{X})^\perp$ is the annihilator of \hat{X} in X^{***}). Note that $\|P\| = 1$.

Theorem 6. Assume that an operator $T \in B(X)$ has the following properties:

- (i) $T^* = H + iK$, where H and K are hermitian, and T^* is $*$ -hyponormal.
- (ii) $HK - KH$ is weakly compact.

Then $T = H_0 + iK_0$ for some hermitian operators H_0 and K_0 on X and \bar{T} is $*$ -hyponormal.

Proof. Let P be the projection with norm one on X^{***} such that $PX^{***} = \widehat{(X^*)}$ and $\text{Ker}(P) = (\hat{X})^\perp$. It is obvious that T^{***} commutes with P and the space PX^{***} is invariant for H^{**} and K^{**} . Let $Z = (\hat{X})^\perp = (I - P)X^{***}$. Let A and B be the operators on Z defined by

$$Az = (I - P)H^{**}z, \quad Bz = (I - P)K^{**}z.$$

Then $A, B \in B(Z)$ and $T^{***}|_Z = A + iB$.

We will show that A is hermitian with respect to an equivalent norm on Z . Since $(I - P)H^{**}P = 0$, we have for every $z \in Z$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots$

$$A^k z = (I - P)(H^{**})^k z.$$

Therefore,

$$\|e^{itA}z\| = \|z + (I - P)(e^{itH^{**}} - I)z\| = \|Pz + (I - P)e^{itH^{**}}z\| \leq (\|P\| + \|I - P\|)\|z\|$$

for every $z \in Z$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$. By [6, Lemma 10.3] there is an equivalent norm on Z such that A is hermitian with respect to this norm. The same is true for B .

Let $C = HK - KH$. Since C is weakly compact, it follows that $C^{**}X^{***} \subset \widehat{(X^*)}$. Thus $(I - P)C^{**} = 0$. This implies, since $(I - P)H^{**}P = 0$ and $(I - P)K^{**}P = 0$, that for every $z \in Z$

$$\begin{aligned} (AB - BA)z &= (I - P)H^{**}(I - P)K^{**}z - (I - P)K^{**}(I - P)H^{**}z \\ &= (I - P)H^{**}K^{**}z - (I - P)K^{**}H^{**}z = (I - P)C^{**}z = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $AB = BA$. By a theorem of Lumer [7, Lemma 33.8] there is an equivalent norm $|\cdot|$ on Z such that A and B are hermitian with respect to this norm.

By applying Corollary 5 to the operator T^{***} and the space Z provided with the norm $|\cdot|$ we obtain $\overline{(T^{***})}Z \subset Z$. This implies that $H^*\hat{X} \subset \hat{X}$ and $K^*\hat{X} \subset \hat{X}$. We define operators H_0 and K_0 on X by

$$H_0x = i\bar{x}^{-1}(H^*\hat{x}), \quad K_0x = i\bar{x}^{-1}(K^*\hat{x}).$$

Then $H_0^* = H$ and $K_0^* = K$. It follows that H_0 and K_0 are hermitian and $T = H_0 + iK_0$. Since T^* is $*$ -hyponormal and $(\bar{T})^* = \overline{(T^*)}$ we have

$$\|e^{zT}e^{-\bar{z}T}\| = \|e^{-\bar{z}(T^*)}e^{zT^*}\| \leq 1.$$

Thus \bar{T} is $*$ -hyponormal.

We do not know whether the condition $T^* = H + iK$ always implies that H and K are weak *-continuous. We will show that this is true if X is a dualoid space or a C^* -algebra with unit. A dualoid space was defined in [11] as follows:

Definition 2. A Banach space X is called a dualoid space, if there is a projection of norm one on X^{**} whose range is \hat{X} .

For example all dual spaces and $L_1(0, 1)$ are dualoid spaces. If K is a compact and extremally disconnected space (=a stonian space), then $C(K)$ is a \mathcal{P}_1 -space [13] and hence a dualoid space. There are stonian spaces K such that $C(K)$ is not isomorphic to any dual space (see [20, § 4] or [18, § 3.9]).

Theorem 7. Let X be a dualoid Banach space and let T be an operator in $B(X)$ such that $T^* = H + iK$ where H and K are hermitian operators on X^* . Then there are hermitian operators H_0 and K_0 on X such that $T = H_0 + iK_0$.

Proof. Let P be a projection of norm one on X^{**} whose range is \hat{X} and let i_X be the canonical embedding of X into X^{**} . The operators

$$A = i_X^{-1}PH^*i_X \quad \text{and} \quad B = i_X^{-1}PK^*i_X$$

are bounded linear operators on X . Since $T^{**}\hat{X} \subset \hat{X}$, we have

$$i_X T = T^{**}i_X = PT^{**}i_X = PH^*i_X + iPK^*i_X.$$

It follows that $T = A + iB$. It remains to show that A and B are hermitian. Since

$$A^{**}\hat{x} = PH^*\hat{x} \quad (x \in X)$$

we can show in the same way as in the proof of Proposition 1 that the operator $A^{**}|_{\hat{x}}$ is hermitian. But

$$\|e^{itA}x\| = \|e^{itA^{**}}\hat{x}\| = \|\hat{x}\| = \|x\|$$

for all $t \in \mathbf{R}$ and $x \in X$ and therefore A is hermitian. Similarly B is hermitian.

We shall finally prove that the result of Theorem 7 is also true for all C^* -algebras which have a unit. There are C^* -algebras which are not dualoid spaces, for example c_0 . Such are more generally all infinite dimensional C^* -algebras which are separable or which are ideals in their second duals. This follows from the next proposition.

Proposition 8. Let A be a C^* -algebra such that \hat{A} is complemented in A^{**} .

- (i) Then $A \supset I_\infty$ or A is finite dimensional.
- (ii) If \hat{A} is also an ideal of A^{**} , then A is finite dimensional.

Proof. (i) Assume that $A \not\supset c_0$. Then the identity operator on A is weakly compact by [2, Theorem 4.2]. Thus A is reflexive and by a result of Ogasawara [17, Theorem 2] A is finite dimensional.

If $A \supset c_0$, then $A \supset l_\infty$ by a theorem of Rosenthal [19, Corollary 1.5].

(ii) If \hat{A} is an ideal of A^{**} , then \hat{A} is an M -ideal of A^{**} [22, Proposition 5.2]. It follows from [12, Corollary 3.6(c)] that A is reflexive. Then, by [17, Theorem 2], A is finite dimensional.

Remark 3. Let A be a C^* -algebra. Then by [23] \hat{A} is an ideal of A^{**} if and only if A is dual in the sense defined by Klaplansky [15]. By Proposition 8 a C^* -algebra which is dual in this sense is not complemented in its second dual, in particular it is not isomorphic to a dual space, unless it is finite dimensional.

Theorem 9. *Let A be a C^* -algebra with a unit element. If $T \in B(A)$ and $T^* = H + iK$ for some hermitian operators H and K on A^* , then there are hermitian operators H_0 and K_0 on A such that $T = H_0 + iK_0$.*

Proof. The space A^{**} with the Arens product is a W^* -algebra with unit [8], [9]. Given $u \in A^{**}$, let Δ_u be the inner derivation

$$\Delta_u(x) = ux - xu \quad \text{for all } x \in A^{**}.$$

If $\Delta_u(\hat{A}) \subset \hat{A}$, then $\Delta_u(\hat{A}) \subset \hat{A}$, since $(\bar{a}) = (\hat{a})$ for every $a \in A$ (see [8, Theorem 38.19]).

There are hermitian elements h, h', k and k' in A^{**} such that the hermitian operators H^* and K^* can be written

$$H^* = L_h + \Delta_{h'}, \quad K^* = L_k + \Delta_{k'}$$

where L_h and L_k are left multiplication operators on A^{**} . This follows from the results of Sinclair [21, Remark 3.5] and Sakai and Kadison [18, Corollary 8.6.6]. Since $T^{**}\hat{A} \subset \hat{A}$ and A has a unit, we conclude that $h + ik \in \hat{A}$. Thus $h \in \hat{A}$ and $k \in \hat{A}$. We also have

$$L_h + iL_k = L_c^{**}$$

for some $c \in A$. Now

$$T^{**} - L_c^{**} = \Delta_{h' + ik'}.$$

From the beginning of the proof it follows that

$$\Delta_{h'}(\hat{A}) \subset \hat{A} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_{k'}(\hat{A}) \subset \hat{A}.$$

Therefore $H^*\hat{A} \subset \hat{A}$ and $K^*\hat{A} \subset \hat{A}$. This implies that H and K are weak*-continuous operators on A^* which completes the proof.

Remark 4. Let A be a C^* -algebra such that \hat{A} is not an ideal of A^{**} . We will show that there are hermitian operators on A^* which are not weak*-continuous. Since \hat{A} is a self-adjoint subspace of A^{**} , it follows that \hat{A} is not a right (nor a left) ideal of A^{**} . Let F be an element of A^{**} such that $\hat{A}F \not\subset \hat{A}$. Notice that A^{**} has a unit element

even if A does not have one ([8, Corollary 29.8 and Lemma 39.14]). We can assume that F is a hermitian element of A^{**} . The right multiplication R_F is then a hermitian operator on A^{**} and it is the adjoint of the left multiplication L_F on A^* . The operator L_F is hermitian and it is not weak*-continuous.

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