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## ANOTHER VERSION OF ANDERSON'S INEQUALITY IN THE IDEAL OF ALL COMPACT OPERATORS

SALAH MECHERI

King Saud University, College of Science  
Department of Mathematics  
P.O. Pox 2455, Riyah 11451  
Saudi Arabia

*EMail:* [mecherisalah@hotmail.com](mailto:mecherisalah@hotmail.com)

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Abstract

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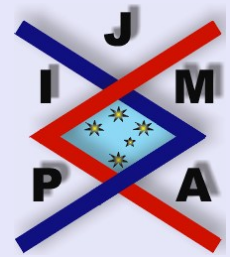


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## Abstract

This note studies how certain problems in quantum theory have motivated some recent research in pure Mathematics in matrix and operator theory. The mathematical key is that of a commutator. We introduce the notion of the pair  $(A, B)$  of operators having the Fuglede-Putnam's property in the ideal of all compact operators. The characterization of this class leads us to generalize some recent results. We also give some applications of these results.

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*Key words:* Generalized derivation, Orthogonality, Compact operators.

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# 1. Introduction

Let  $H$  denote a separable infinite-dimensional complex Hilbert space. Let

$$\mathcal{L}(H) \supset \mathcal{K}(H) \supset C_p \supset \mathcal{F}(H)$$

( $0 < p < \infty$ ) denote, respectively, the class of all bounded linear operators, the class of compact operators, the Schatten  $p$ -class, and the class of finite rank operators on  $H$ . All operators herein are assumed to be linear and bounded. Let  $\|\cdot\|_p, \|\cdot\|_\infty$  denote, respectively, the  $C_p$ -norm and the  $\mathcal{K}(H)$ -norm. Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be a proper bilateral ideal of  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ . It is well known that if  $\mathcal{I} \neq \{0\}$ , then  $\mathcal{K}(H) \supset \mathcal{I} \supset \mathcal{F}(H)$ . For  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  we define the generalized derivation  $\delta_{A,B}$  as follows

$$\delta_{A,B}(X) = AX - XB$$

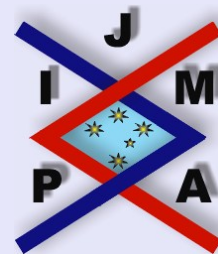
for  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  (so that  $\delta_{A,A} = \delta_A$ ). In [1, Theorem 1.7], J. Anderson shows that if  $A$  is normal and commutes with  $T$  then,

$$(1.1) \quad \|T - (AX - XA)\| \geq \|T\|,$$

for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . In [11] we generalized this inequality, showing that if the pair  $(A, B)$  has the Fuglede-Putnam's property (in particular if  $A$  and  $B$  are normal operators) and  $AT = TB$ , then for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ ,

$$\|T - (AX - XB)\| \geq \|T\|.$$

The related inequality (1.1) was obtained by P.J. Maher [13, Theorem 3.2] showing that if  $A$  is normal and  $AT = TA$ , where  $T \in C_p$ , then



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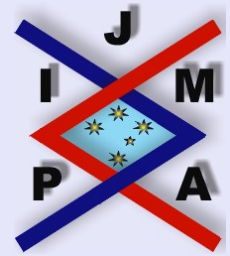


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$$\|T - (AX - XA)\|_p \geq \|T\|_p$$

for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ , where  $C_p$  is the von Neumann-Schatten class,

$1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $\|\cdot\|_p$  its norm. In [12] we generalized P.J. Maher's result, proving that if the pair  $(A, B)$  has the Fuglede-Putnam's property  $(FP)_{C_p}$ , then

$$\|T - (AX - XB)\|_p \geq \|T\|_p$$

for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ , and for all  $T \in C_p \cap \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . In [9] F. Kittaneh shows that if the pair  $(A, B)$  has the Fuglede-Putnam's property in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  then

$$\|T - (AX - XB)\|_I \geq \|T\|_I$$

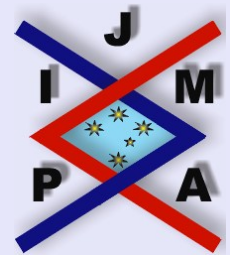
for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ , and for all  $T \in I \cap \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . In order to generalize these results, we prove that if the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property (the Fuglede-Putnam's property in  $\mathcal{K}(H)$ ), then

$$\|T - (AX - XB)\|_\infty \geq \|T\|_\infty$$

for all  $X \in \mathcal{K}(H)$  and for all  $T \in \mathcal{K}(H) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . That is, the zero generalized commutator is the generalized commutator in  $\mathcal{K}(H)$  of  $T$ .

A.H. Almoadjil [2] shows that if  $A$  is normal and for every  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ ,  $A^2X = XA^2$  and  $A^3X = XA^3$ , then  $AX = XA$ . However F. Kittaneh [7] generalizes the Almoadjil's theorem by choosing  $A$  and  $B^*$  subnormal. There are of course other co-prime pairs of powers of  $A$  and  $B$ , such as 2 and  $2n + 1$  or 3 and  $2n + 1$  (with 3 and  $2n + 1$  co-prime), for which a similar result can be proved. Notice here that for such co-prime powers of  $A$  and  $B$ , the hypothesis

that the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property implies that  $\delta_{A,B}^m(X) = 0$  for some integer  $m > 1$ , and the conclusion  $X \in \ker \delta_{A,B}$  is a consequence of the following general result: Let  $\delta_{A,B}^m$  denote an  $m$ -times application of  $\delta_{A,B}$ . If the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property and  $\delta_{A,B}^m(X) = 0$  for some integer  $m > 1$ , then  $\delta_{A,B}(X) = 0$ .




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## 2. Orthogonality

We begin by the following definition of the orthogonality in the sense of G. Birkhoff [3] which generalizes the idea of orthogonality in Hilbert space.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathbb{C}$  be the field of complex numbers and let  $E$  be a normed linear space. Let  $x, y \in E$ . If  $\|x - \lambda y\| \geq \|\lambda y\|$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $x$  is said to be orthogonal to  $y$ . Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two subspaces in  $E$ . If  $\|x + y\| \geq \|y\|$ , for all  $x \in F$  and for all  $y \in G$ , then  $F$  is said to be orthogonal to  $G$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . We say that the pair  $(A, B)$  satisfies  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$ , if  $AC = CB$  where  $C \in \mathcal{K}(H)$  implies  $A^*C = CB^*$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . If  $A$  and  $B$  are normal operators, then

$$\|S - (AX - XB)\|_{\infty} \geq \|S\|_{\infty}$$

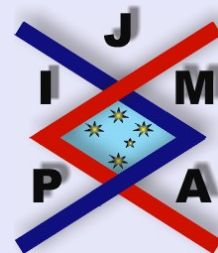
for all  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  and for all  $S \in \ker \delta_{A,B} \cap \mathcal{K}(H)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S = U|S|$  be the polar decomposition of  $S$ , where  $U$  is an isometry such that  $\ker U = \ker |S|$ . Since

$$\|U^*S\|_{\infty} \leq \|U^*\|_{\infty} \|S\|_{\infty} = \|S\|_{\infty}$$

for all  $S \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (2.1) \quad \|S - (AX - XB)\|_{\infty} &\geq \sup_n |(U^*[S - (AX - XB)])\varphi_n, \varphi_n| \\ &= \sup_n (||S| - U^*(AX - XB)|\varphi_n, \varphi_n) \end{aligned}$$



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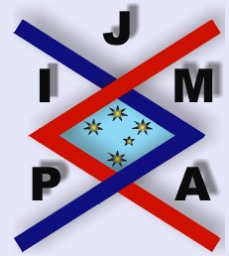


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for any orthonormal basis  $\{\varphi_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  of  $H$ . Since  $AS = SB$  and  $A, B$  are normal operators, then it follows from the Fuglede-Putnam's theorem that  $S^*A = BS^*$ ; consequently  $S^*AS = BS^*S$  or  $S^*SB = BS^*S$ , i.e.  $B|S| = |S|B$ . Since  $|S|$  is a compact normal operator and commutes with  $B$ , there exists an orthonormal basis  $\{f_k\} \cup \{g_m\}$  of  $H$  such that  $\{f_k\}$  consists of common eigenvectors of  $B$  and  $|S|$ , and  $\{g_m\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\ker |S|$ . Since  $\{f_k\}$  is an orthonormal basis of the normal operator  $B$ , then there exists a scalar  $\alpha_k$  such that  $f_k = \alpha_k f_k$  and  $B^* f_k = \bar{\alpha}_k f_k$ ; consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \langle U^*(AX - XB)f_k, |S| f_k \rangle &= \langle S^*(AX - XB)f_k, f_k \rangle \\ &= \langle (B(S^*X) - (S^*X)B)f_k, f_k \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

That is,  $\langle U^*(AX - XB)f_k, f_k \rangle = 0$ . In (2.1) take  $\{\varphi_n\} = \{f_k\} \cup \{g_m\}$  as an orthonormal basis of  $H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|S - (AX - XB)\|_\infty &\geq \sup_n (| |S| - U^*(AX - XB) | \varphi_n, \varphi_n ) \\ &= \sup_{k,m} [ |S| f_k, f_k ] + (U^*(AX - XB)g_m, g_m) \\ &\geq \sup_k (|S| f_k, f_k) \\ &= \| |S| \| = \|S\|_\infty. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . If the pair  $(A, B)$  satisfies the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property, then

$$(2.2) \quad \|\delta_{A,B}(X) + S\|_\infty \geq \|S\|_\infty,$$

for all  $X \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ , and for all  $S \in \mathcal{K}(H) \cap \ker(\delta_{A,B})$ . In particular we have

$$(2.3) \quad R(\delta_{A,B} |_{\mathcal{K}(H)}) \cap \ker(\delta_{A,B} |_{\mathcal{K}(H)}) = \{0\},$$

where  $R(\delta_{A,B})$  and  $\ker(\delta_{A,B})$  denote the range and the kernel of  $\delta_{A,B}$ .

*Proof.* It is well known that if the pair  $(A, B)$  satisfies the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property, then  $\overline{R(S)}$  reduces  $A$ ,  $\ker^\perp S$  reduces  $B$  and  $A|_{\overline{R(S)}}$ ,  $B|_{\ker^\perp S}$  are normal operators. Letting  $S_0 : \ker^\perp S \rightarrow \overline{R(S)}$  be the quasi-affinity defined by setting  $S_0 x = Sx$  for each  $x \in \ker^\perp S$ , then it results that  $\delta_{A_1, B_1}(S_0) = \delta_{A_1^*, B_1^*}(S_0) = 0$ . Let  $A = A_1 \oplus A_2$ , with respect to  $H = \overline{R(S)} \oplus \overline{R(S)}^\perp$ ,  $B = B_1 \oplus B_2$ , with respect to  $H = \ker(S)^\perp \oplus \ker S$  and  $X : \overline{R(S)} \oplus \overline{R(S)}^\perp \rightarrow \ker(S)^\perp \oplus \ker S$  have the matrix representation

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 \\ X_3 & X_4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then we have

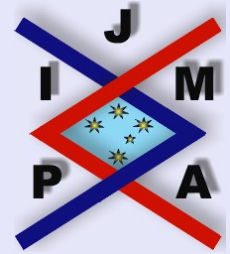
$$\|S - (AX - XB)\|_\infty = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} S_1 - (A_1 X_1 - X_1 B_1) & * \\ * & * \end{bmatrix} \right\|_\infty.$$

The result of I.C. Gohberg and M.G. Krein [6] guarantees that

$$\|S - (AX - XB)\|_\infty \geq \|S_1 - (A_1 X_1 - X_1 B_1)\|_\infty.$$

Since  $A_1$  and  $B_1$  are two normal operators, it results from Theorem 2.2 that

$$\|S_1 - (A_1 X_1 - X_1 B_1)\|_\infty \geq \|S_1\|_\infty = \|S\|_\infty$$



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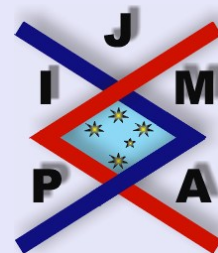


and

$$\|S - (AX - XB)\|_\infty \geq \|S_1 - (A_1X_1 - X_1B_1)\|_\infty \geq \|S_1\|_\infty = \|S\|_\infty.$$

□

We can ask “Is the sufficient condition in Theorem 2.2 necessary?”



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### 3. Examples and Applications

The related topic of approximation by commutators  $AX - XA$  or by generalized commutator  $AX - XB$ , which has attracted much interest, has its roots in quantum theory. The Heinsnberg Uncertainly principle may be mathematically formulated as saying that there exists a pair  $A, X$  of linear transformations and a non-zero scalar  $\alpha$  for which

$$(3.1) \quad AX - XA = \alpha I.$$

Clearly, (3.1) cannot hold for square matrices  $A$  and  $X$  and for bounded linear operators  $A$  and  $X$ . This prompts the question:

How close can  $AX - XA$  be the identity?

Williams [17] proved that if  $A$  is normal, then, for all  $X$  in  $B(H)$ ,

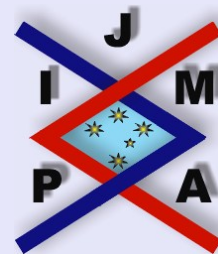
$$(3.2) \quad \|I - (AX - XA)\| \geq \|I\|.$$

Mecheri [14] generalized Williams inequality (3.2): he proved that if  $A, B$  are normal, then for all  $X \in B(H)$

$$(3.3) \quad \|I - (AX - XB)\| \geq \|I\|.$$

Anderson [1] generalized Williams inequality (3.2): he proved that if  $A$  is normal and commutes with  $B$  then, for all  $X \in B(H)$

$$(3.4) \quad \|B - (AX - XA)\| \geq \|B\|.$$



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Maher [13] obtained the  $C_p$  variants of Anderson's result. Mecheri [14] studied approximation by generalized commutators  $AX - XC$ : he showed that the following inequality holds

$$(3.5) \quad \|B - (AX - XC)\|_p \geq \|B\|_p,$$

for all  $X \in C_p$  if and only if  $B \in \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . In Theorem 2.2 we obtained the  $\mathcal{K}(H)$  of Maher and Mecheri's results.

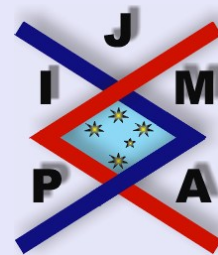
In the previous inequality (3.5) the zero generalized commutator is a generalized commutator approximant in  $C_P$  of  $B$ .

Now we are ready to give some operators for which the inequality (2.2) holds.

**Corollary 3.1.** *Let  $A, B \in L(H)$ . Then the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property in each of the following cases:*

- (1) *If  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  such that  $\|Ax\| \geq \|x\| \geq \|Bx\|$  for all  $x \in H$ .*
- (2) *If  $A$  is invertible and  $B$  such that  $\|A^{-1}\| \|B\| \leq 1$ .*
- (3) *If  $A = B$  is a cyclic subnormal operator.*

*Proof.* The result of Y. Tong [16, Lemma 1] guarantees that the above condition implies that for all  $T \in \ker(\delta_{A,B} | \mathcal{K}(H))$ ,  $\overline{R(T)}$  reduces  $A$ ,  $\ker(T)^\perp$  reduces  $B$ , and  $A|_{\overline{R(T)}}$  and  $B|_{\ker(T)^\perp}$  are unitary operators. Hence it results from Theorem 2.2 that the pair  $(A, B)$  has the property  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  and the result holds by the above theorem. The above inequality holds in particular if  $A = B$  is isometric, in other words  $\|Ax\| = \|x\|$  for all  $x \in H$ .



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(2) In this case it suffices to take  $A_1 = \|B\|^{-1} A$  and  $B_1 = \|B\|^{-1} B$ , then  $\|A_1 x\| \geq \|x\| \geq \|B_1 x\|$  and the result holds by (1) for all  $x \in H$ .

(3) Since  $T$  commutes with  $A$ , it follows that  $T$  is subnormal [18]. But any compact subnormal operator is normal. Hence  $T$  is normal. Now  $AT = TA$  implies  $A^*T = TA^*$ , i.e, the pair  $(A, A)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  such that the pairs  $(A, A)$  and  $(B, B)$  have the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property. If  $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(B) = \phi$ , then*

$$\|T - \delta_{A \oplus B, A \oplus B}(X)\|_{\infty} \geq \|T\|_{\infty}$$

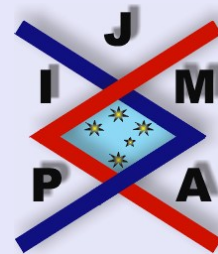
for all  $X \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ , and for all  $T \in \mathcal{K}(H) \cap \ker(\delta_{A,B})$ .

*Proof.* It suffices to show that the pair  $(A \oplus B, A \oplus B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property.

Let

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ T_3 & T_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

be in  $\mathcal{K}(H \oplus H)$ . If  $(A \oplus B)T = T(A \oplus B)$ , then  $AT_1 = T_1A$ ,  $BT_4 = T_4B$ ,  $AT_2 = T_2B$  and  $BT_3 = T_3A$ . Since  $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(B) = \phi$ , then  $\delta_{A,B}$ ,  $\delta_{B,A}$  are invertible [12]. Consequently  $T_2 = T_3 = 0$  and since  $(A, A)$  and  $(B, B)$  have the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property,  $AT_1^* = T_1^*A$  and  $BT_4^* = T_4^*B$ , that is,  $(A \oplus B)T^* = T^*(A \oplus B)$ .  $\square$



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## 4. On the Commutant of $A$ and its Powers

In this section we will be interested on the investigation of the relation between the commutant of a bounded linear operator  $A$  and its powers.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . Then*

$$R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B} = \{0\} \Leftrightarrow \ker \delta_{A,B}^m = \ker \delta_{A,B},$$

for all  $m \geq 1$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B} = \{0\}$ . It suffices to prove that

$$\ker \delta_{A,B}^2 \subset \ker \delta_{A,B}.$$

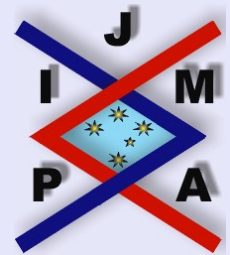
If  $X \in \ker \delta_{A,B}^2$ , then  $\delta_{A,B}(X) \in R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B} = \{0\}$ , i.e.  $X \in \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . Conversely if  $Y \in R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B}$ , then  $Y = \delta_{A,B}(X)$  for some  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  and  $\delta_{A,B}(Y) = 0$ . Consequently we have  $\delta_{A,B}^2(X) = 0$ , i.e.  $X \in \ker \delta_{A,B}^2 = \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . Then we obtain  $\delta_{A,B}(X) = 0$ , i.e.  $Y = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2.** *If  $R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B} = \{0\}$ , then*

$$\ker \delta_{A,B} = \bigcap_{i=2}^{\infty} \ker \delta_{A^i, B^i}.$$

*Proof.* Note that  $\ker \delta_{A,B} \subset \bigcap_{i=2}^{\infty} \ker \delta_{A^i, B^i}$ . Hence it suffices to prove the opposite inclusion. If  $X \in \bigcap_{i=2}^{\infty} \ker \delta_{A^i, B^i}$ , then  $A^2X = XB^2$  and  $A^3X = XB^3$ . Hence  $A^2XB = XB^3$  and  $AXB^2 = A^3X$ . Let  $C = AX - XB$ . Then,

$$A^2C = A^3X - A^2XB = XB^3 - XB^3 = 0;$$



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$$CB^2 = AXB^2 - XB^3 = A^3X - A^3X = 0;$$

$$ACB = A^2XB - AXB^2 = XB^3 - XB^3 = 0;$$

hence

$$(4.1) \quad A(AC - CB) = A^2C - ACB = 0;$$

$$(4.2) \quad (AC - CB)B = ACB - CB^2 = 0.$$

Thus (4.1) and (4.2) imply that

$$AC - CB \in R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B} = \{0\},$$

from which it results that  $AC = CB$ . Hence

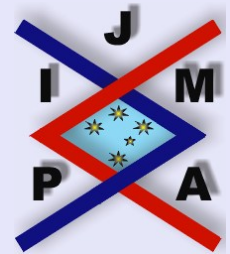
$$C \in R(\delta_{A,B}) \cap \ker \delta_{A,B},$$

that is,  $C = 0$  and thus  $AX = XB$ , i.e,  $X \in \ker \delta_{A,B}$ . □

**Theorem 4.3.** *If  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property, then*

$$\ker \delta_{A,B}^m = \ker \delta_{A,B} = \bigcap_{i=2}^{\infty} \ker \delta_{A^i, B^i}, \quad m \geq 1.$$

*In particular if  $A^2X = XB^2$  and  $A^3X = XB^3$  for some  $X \in \mathcal{K}(H)$ , then  $AX = XB$ .*



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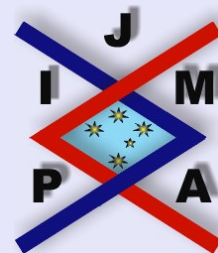
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*Proof.* This is an immediate consequence of Lemma 4.1, Lemma 4.2 and Theorem 2.2.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** *The above theorem generalizes the results of F. Kittaneh [9] and Almoadjil [2]. In [8] F. Kittaneh shows that if the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{L}(H)}$  property, then for all  $T \in \ker(\delta_{A,B} |_{\mathcal{I}})$  and for all  $X \in \mathcal{I}$ ,*

$$\|\delta_{A,B}(X) + S\|_{\mathcal{I}} \geq \|S\|_{\mathcal{I}}.$$

*In Theorem 2.2 we show that it suffices that the pair  $(A, B)$  has the  $(FP)_{\mathcal{K}(H)}$  property for which  $R(\delta_{A,B} |_{\mathcal{K}(H)})$  is orthogonal to  $\ker(\delta_{A,B} |_{\mathcal{K}(H)})$ . The results of this paper are also true in the case where  $\mathcal{K}(H)$  is replaced by a two sided ideal of  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ . Hence Theorem 2.2 generalizes the results of F. Kittaneh [8], [9] and of S. Mecheri [12].*



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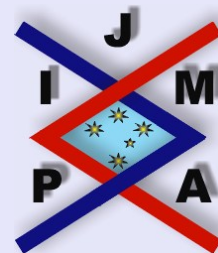
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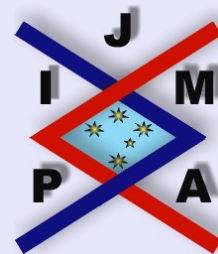
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