

NORM ACHIEVED TOEPLITZ AND HANKEL OPERATORS

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Let  $\mu$  be the normalized Lebesgue measure on the Borel sets of the unit circle in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . For a  $\varphi \in L^\infty$  the Laurent operator  $L_\varphi$  is given by  $L_\varphi f = \varphi f$  for  $f \in L^2$  as the multiplication operator on  $L^2$ . And the Laurent operator induces, in a natural way, twin operators on  $H^2$  called the Toeplitz operator  $T_\varphi$  given by  $T_\varphi f = PL_\varphi f$  for  $f \in H^2$  where  $P$  is the orthogonal projection from  $L^2$  onto  $H^2$  and the Hankel operator  $H_\varphi$  given by  $H_\varphi f = J(I - P)L_\varphi f$  for  $f \in H^2$  where  $J$  is the unitary operator on  $L^2$  defined by  $J(z^{-n}) = z^{n-1}$ ,  $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ .

The following results are known.

**Proposition 1.** If  $\varphi$  is a non-constant function in  $L^\infty$ , then  $\sigma_p(T_\varphi) \cap \overline{\sigma_p(T_\varphi^*)} = \emptyset$  where  $\sigma_p(T_\varphi)$  denotes the point spectrum of  $T_\varphi$  and the bar denotes the complex conjugate.

**Proposition 2.** If  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are in  $H^\infty$ , then  $T_\varphi H^2 \subseteq T_\psi H^2$  if and only if there exists a  $g \in H^\infty$  uniquely, up to a unimodular constant, such that  $T_\varphi = T_\psi T_g = T_\psi g$ . And then  $\varphi = \psi g$ . Particularly, if  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are inner, then  $g$  is also inner.

**Proposition 3.**  $H_\varphi$  has the following properties.

- (1)  $T_z^* H_\varphi = H_\varphi T_z$
- (2)  $H_\varphi^* = H_{\varphi^*}$  where  $\varphi^*(z) = \overline{\varphi(\bar{z})}$
- (3)  $H_{\alpha\varphi + \beta\psi} = \alpha H_\varphi + \beta H_\psi$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$
- (4)  $H_\varphi = O$  if and only if  $(I - P)\varphi = o$  (i.e.,  $\varphi \in H^\infty$ )
- (5)  $\|H_\varphi\| = \min\{\|\varphi + \psi\|_\infty : \psi \in H^\infty\}$

**Proposition 4.**  $H_\psi^* H_\varphi = T_{\overline{\psi\varphi}} - T_{\overline{\psi}} T_\varphi$ .

**Proposition 5.** For any  $\psi \in H^\infty$ ,  $H_\varphi T_\psi = H_\varphi \psi$ .

**Lemma 1.** The following assertions are equivalent.

- (1)  $\mathcal{N}_{H_\varphi} \neq \{0\}$ .
- (2)  $[H_\varphi H^2] \sim L^2 \neq H^2$ .
- (3)  $\varphi = \bar{g}h$  for some inner function  $g$  and  $h \in H^\infty$  such that  $g$  and  $h$  have no common non-constant inner factor.

**Proof.** (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (2) ;

$$\begin{aligned} H_\varphi f = 0 &\Leftrightarrow \varphi f \in H^2 \Leftrightarrow \varphi^* f^* \in H^2 \\ &\Leftrightarrow H_\varphi^* f^* = H_\varphi^* f^* = 0 \Leftrightarrow f^* \perp [H_\varphi H^2] \sim L^2. \end{aligned}$$

(1)  $\rightarrow$  (3) ; Since  $\mathcal{N}_{H_\varphi}$  is a non-zero invariant subspace of  $T_z$  by Proposition 3,  $\mathcal{N}_{H_\varphi} = T_g H^2$  for some inner function  $g$ . Hence, by Proposition 5,  $O = H_\varphi T_g = H_{\varphi g}$  and  $\varphi g = h \in H^\infty$  by Proposition 3(4). Therefore  $\varphi = \bar{g}h$ . If  $g = g_1 g_2$  and  $h = g_1 h_1$  for some non-constant inner function  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ ,  $h_1 \in H^\infty$ , then, by Propositions 2 and 5,

$$T_{g_2} H^2 \supset T_g H^2 = \mathcal{N}_{H_\varphi} = \mathcal{N}_{H_{\bar{g}_2 h_1}} \supseteq T_{g_2} H^2$$

and this is a contradiction. Therefore  $g$  and  $h$  have no common non-constant inner factor.

(3)  $\rightarrow$  (1) ; By Propositions 5 and 3(4), we have  $H_\varphi T_g H^2 = H_{\varphi g} H^2 = H_h H^2 = \{0\}$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{H_\varphi} \supseteq T_g H^2 \neq \{0\}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** The Toeplitz operator  $T_\varphi$  is norm-achieved (i.e.,  $\{f \in H^2 : \|T_\varphi f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} \neq \{0\}$ ) if and only if  $\frac{\varphi}{\|T_\varphi\|} = g$  for some  $g \in L^\infty$  such that  $|g| = 1$  a.e. and that  $0 \in \sigma_p(H_g)$ .

And, in this case,  $\{f \in H^2 : \|T_\varphi f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} = \mathcal{N}_{H_g}$  and it is invariant under  $T_z$  by Proposition 3(1).

**Proof.** ( $\rightarrow$ ) ; If  $\|T_\varphi f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|f\|_2$  for some non-zero  $f \in H^2$ , then we have, for  $g = \frac{\varphi}{\|T_\varphi\|}$ ,

$$\|f\|_2 = \|T_{\frac{\varphi}{\|T_\varphi\|}} f\|_2 = \|T_g f\|_2 = \|PL_g f\|_2 \leq \|L_g f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2$$

because  $\|L_g\| = \|T_g\| = \frac{\|T_\varphi\|}{\|T_\varphi\|} = 1$ . Hence  $T_g^*T_g f = f$  and  $PL_g f = L_g f$  and hence  $H_g f = J(I - P)L_g f = o$  (i.e.,  $0 \in \sigma_p(H_g)$ ). Since, by Proposition 4,  $H_g^*H_g = T_{|g|^2} - T_{\bar{g}}T_g$ , we have  $T_{|g|^2} f = f$  (i.e.,  $1 \in \sigma_p(T_{|g|^2})$ ) and, by Proposition 1,  $|g|^2$  is constant and  $|g| = 1$  a.e.

( $\leftarrow$ ); Since  $\|T_g\| = \frac{\|T_\varphi\|}{\|T_\varphi\|} = 1$  and since, by Proposition 4,  $H_g^*H_g = I - T_{\bar{g}}T_g$ , we have  $T_g^*T_g f = f$  for all  $f \in \mathcal{N}_{H_g}$  and hence  $\|T_g f\|_2 = \|f\|_2$ . Therefore  $\|T_\varphi f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|T_g f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|f\|_2$ .

The last assertion is clear. In fact, ( $\rightarrow$ ) implies that

$$\{f \in H^2 : \|T_\varphi f\|_2 = \|T_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{H_g}$$

and ( $\leftarrow$ ) implies the converse inclusion.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.**  $T_\varphi$  is norm-achieved if and only if  $\frac{\varphi}{\|T_\varphi\|} = \bar{q}h$  for some inner functions  $q$  and  $h$  such that  $q$  and  $h$  have no common non-constant inner factor.

And, in this case,  $\emptyset \neq \sigma(T_\varphi) \cap \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \|T_\varphi\| = |\lambda|\} \subseteq \sigma_c(T_\varphi)$  where  $\sigma_c(T_\varphi)$  denotes the continuous spectrum of  $T_\varphi$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 1,  $T_\varphi$  is norm-achieved if and only if  $\frac{\varphi}{\|T_\varphi\|} = g$  for some  $g \in L^\infty$  such that  $|g| = 1$  a.e. and that  $0 \in \sigma_p(H_g)$ . And then, by Lemma 1,  $\mathcal{N}_{H_g} \neq \{o\}$  if and only if  $g = \bar{q}h$  for some inner function  $q$  and  $h \in H^\infty$  such that  $q$  and  $h$  have no common non-constant inner factor. Since  $|g| = 1$  a.e. if and only if  $|h| = 1$  a.e. and  $h$  is also an inner function.

It is known that  $\sigma(L_\varphi) \subseteq \sigma(T_\varphi)$  and since  $L_g$  is unitary because  $|g| = 1$  a.e., we have  $\sigma(T_\varphi) \cap \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \|T_\varphi\| = |\lambda|\} \neq \emptyset$ . If  $T_g x = e^{i\theta} x$  for some  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  and non-zero  $x \in H^2$ , then

$$\|x\| = \|T_g x\| = \|T_q^* T_h x\| \leq \|T_h x\| = \|x\|$$

and  $e^{i\theta} T_q x = T_q T_g x = T_q T_q^* T_h x = T_h x$ . Since  $T_h - e^{i\theta} T_q$  is hyponormal,  $(T_h - e^{i\theta} T_q)x = o$  implies  $(T_h - e^{i\theta} T_q)^* x = o$  and this contradicts Proposition 1 and hence  $\sigma(T_\varphi) \cap \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \|T_\varphi\| = |\lambda|\} \subseteq \sigma_c(T_\varphi)$  because

$$\sigma_r(T_\varphi) \cap \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : \|T_\varphi\| = |\lambda|\} = \emptyset$$

where  $\sigma_r(T_\varphi)$  denotes the residual spectrum of  $T_\varphi$ .  $\square$

In the case of Hankel operators, we have the following.

**Theorem 2.** The Hankel operator  $H_\varphi$  is norm-achieved (i.e.,  $\{f \in H^2 : \|H_\varphi f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} \neq \{0\}$ ) if and only if  $\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|} = g + \psi$  for some  $\psi \in H^\infty$  and  $g \in L^\infty$  such that  $|g| = 1$  a.e. and that  $0 \in \sigma_p(T_g)$ .

And, in this case,  $\{f \in H^2 : \|H_\varphi f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} = \mathcal{N}_{T_g}$ .

**Proof.** ( $\rightarrow$ ); By Proposition 3, there exists a  $g \in L^\infty$  such that  $H_{\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|}} = H_g$  and  $\|H_g\| = \|g\|_\infty$ . And then  $H_{\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|} - g} = O$  and  $\psi = \frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|} - g \in H^\infty$  by Proposition 3. If  $\|H_\varphi f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|f\|_2$  for some non-zero  $f \in H^2$ , then we have

$$\|f\|_2 = \|H_{\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|}} f\|_2 = \|H_g f\|_2 = \|(I - P)L_g f\|_2 \leq \|L_g f\|_2 \leq \|f\|_2$$

because  $\|L_g\| = \|g\|_\infty = \|H_g\| = \|H_{\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|}}\| = \frac{\|H_\varphi\|}{\|H_\varphi\|} = 1$ . Hence  $H_g^* H_g f = f$  and  $(I - P)L_g f = L_g f$  and hence  $T_g f = PL_g f = 0$  (i.e.,  $0 \in \sigma_p(T_g)$ ). Since, by Proposition 4,  $H_g^* H_g = T_{|g|^2} - T_g^* T_g$ , we have  $T_{|g|^2} f = f$  (i.e.,  $1 \in \sigma_p(T_{|g|^2})$ ) and, by Proposition 1,  $|g|^2$  is constant and  $|g| = 1$  a.e.

( $\leftarrow$ ); By Proposition 3,  $\|H_g\| = \|H_{\frac{\varphi}{\|H_\varphi\|}}\| = \frac{\|H_\varphi\|}{\|H_\varphi\|} = 1$ . Since, by Proposition 4,  $H_g^* H_g = I - T_g^* T_g$ , we have  $H_g^* H_g f = f$  for all  $f \in \mathcal{N}_{T_g}$  and hence  $\|H_g f\|_2 = \|f\|_2$ . Therefore, by Proposition 3,

$$\|H_\varphi f\|_2 = \|H_{\|H_\varphi\|} f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|H_g f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|f\|_2.$$

The last assertion of the theorem is clear. In fact, ( $\rightarrow$ ) implies that

$$\{f \in H^2 : \|H_\varphi f\|_2 = \|H_\varphi\| \|f\|_2\} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{T_g}$$

and ( $\leftarrow$ ) implies the converse inclusion. □