

Invariant subspaces for finite index shifts and the invariant subspace problem in Hilbert spaces

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The invariant subspace problem

Invariant subspace problem: Let H be a Hilbert space of dimension greater than 1. Let $T : H \rightarrow H$ be a linear and bounded operator. Does there exist a *closed* subspace $\{0\} \subsetneq V \subsetneq H$ such that $T(V) \subseteq V$?

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- Several other particular operators.

In Banach (not Hilbert) spaces there are examples with negative answer (Enflo, Reid).

Defect of an operator

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$\delta(T) = 0$ if and only if T isometry.

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Theorem (Corollary to Beurling theorem)

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The invariant subspace problem has affirmative answer for operators T with $\delta(T) < +\infty$.

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The invariant subspace problem has affirmative answer for operators T with $\delta(T) < +\infty$.

If one can extend to $\delta(T) = +\infty$ the invariant subspace problem is solved.

The shift

Definition

A linear operator $S : H \rightarrow H$ is a *shift* if S is an isometry and $\|(S^*)^n v\| \rightarrow 0$ for all $v \in H$. The *index* $\iota(S)$ of a shift is the dimension of the kernel of S^* .

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$T : H \rightarrow H$ and $R : \tilde{H} \rightarrow \tilde{H}$ are *isometrically equivalent* if there exists an isometric isomorphism $U : H \rightarrow \tilde{H}$ such that $T = U^{-1}RU$.

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Proposition

Every two shifts of the same index are isometrically equivalent.

The shift

Theorem (Universal model)

Let $T : H \rightarrow H$ be a bounded and linear operator. Let $S : \tilde{H} \rightarrow \tilde{H}$ be a shift. If $\delta(T) \leq \iota(S)$ then there exists a closed S^ -invariant subspace V such that T is isometrically equivalent to $S^*|_V$.*

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or equivalently

S has no *maximal* closed invariant subspaces of co-dimension > 1 if and only if the answer to the invariant subspace problem is affirmative for operators with defect $\leq \iota(S)$.

The shift on the Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{D})$

Let

$$H^2(\mathbb{D}) := \left\{ f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{D}, \mathbb{C}) : \|f\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})}^2 := \limsup_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{i\theta})|^2 \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} < +\infty \right\}$$

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The shift $S_1 : H^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D})$ is given by

$$S_1(f(z)) := zf(z).$$

$$\iota(S_1) = 1.$$

Beurling Theorem

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Theorem (Beurling)

A closed subspace $\{0\} \subsetneq M \subseteq H^2(\mathbb{D})$ is S_1 -invariant if and only if there exists an inner function ϕ such that

$$M = \phi H^2(\mathbb{D}) := \{\phi \cdot f : f \in H^2(\mathbb{D})\}.$$

Beurling Theorem

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If ϕ is not constant nor an automorphism, there exist two nonconstant inner functions ϕ_1, ϕ_2 such that $\phi = \phi_1 \phi_2$.

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S_1 does not have maximal closed invariant subspaces of codimension > 1 .

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Corollary

S_1 does not have maximal closed invariant subspaces of codimension > 1 . In particular the invariant subspace problem has affirmative answer for operators with defect ≤ 1 .

The Beurling-Lax Theorem

Beurling's theorem can be reinterpreted in terms of operators:

Theorem

A subspace $\{0\} \subsetneq M \subseteq H^2(\mathbb{D})$ is a closed S_1 -invariant subspace if and only if there exists an isometry $U : H^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D})$ such that $M = U(H^2(\mathbb{D}))$.

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Note that the multiplication operator commutes with S_1 .

The Beurling-Lax Theorem

Theorem (Beurling-Lax)

Let $S : H \rightarrow H$ be a shift. A subspace $\{0\} \subsetneq M \subseteq H$ is a closed S -invariant subspace if and only if there exists a bounded linear operator $A : H \rightarrow H$ (called a S -inner operator) such that

- 1 $A \circ S = S \circ A$,
- 2 If $H = \ker A \oplus V$ then $A|_V$ is an isometry.
- 3 $M = A(H)$.

Indeed, the only isometries of $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ are given by multiplication by inner functions.

The Hilbert space $H^2(\mathbb{D}) \oplus \dots \oplus H^2(\mathbb{D})$

Let

$$\mathbb{H} := H^2(\mathbb{D})\mathbf{e}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus H^2(\mathbb{D})\mathbf{e}_d,$$

where $\mathbf{e}_j = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, with 1 in the j -th position, $j = 1, \dots, d$.

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where $\mathbf{e}_j = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, with 1 in the j -th position, $j = 1, \dots, d$.

The shift $S : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$ is given by

$$S(f_1\mathbf{e}_1 + \dots + f_d\mathbf{e}_d) = S_1(f)\mathbf{e}_1 + \dots + S_1(f_d)\mathbf{e}_d.$$

$$\iota(S) = d.$$

Determinantal operators

Let $1 \leq m \leq d$ be an integer number and let $A = (a_{jk})$ be a $m \times m$ matrix whose entries are bounded holomorphic functions in \mathbb{D} (that is, elements of $H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$). Let $1 \leq s_1 < \dots < s_m \leq d$. Let $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. A *determinantal operator* is any linear operator $L : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D})$ of the form

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$$L(f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \dots + f_d \mathbf{e}_d) := \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{j-1,1} & \dots & a_{j-1,m} \\ f_{s_1} & \dots & f_{s_m} \\ a_{j+1,1} & \dots & a_{j+1,m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{mm} \end{pmatrix} .$$

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For $d = 1$, i.e., $\mathbb{H} = H^2(\mathbb{D})$, there is only one determinantal operator, $L = \text{id}$.

Determinantal bricks

Let φ be either identically zero or an inner function.

A *determinantal brick* Q_φ based on φ is any set of the form

$$Q_\varphi := L^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) = \{F \in \mathbb{H} : L(F) \in \varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})\},$$

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For $d = 1$, i.e., $\mathbb{H} = H^2(\mathbb{D})$, $Q_\varphi = \varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})$.

Determinantal spaces

A *determinantal space* \mathcal{Q}_φ based on φ is the intersection of a finite number of determinantal bricks based on φ , that is,

$$\mathcal{Q}_\varphi = \mathcal{Q}_\varphi^1 \cap \dots \cap \mathcal{Q}_\varphi^n,$$

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Every determinantal space is a closed S -invariant space.

For $d = 1$, i.e., $\mathbb{H} = H^2(\mathbb{D})$, every determinantal space is a determinantal brick $\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})$.

Invariant subspace for $S : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$

Theorem (Br.-Gallardo Gutierrez, 2024)

Let $N \neq \{0\}$ be a closed subspace of \mathbb{H} . Then N is S -invariant if and only if there exist inner functions φ, ϕ and determinantal subspaces \mathcal{Q}_φ and \mathcal{Q}_0 such that either

$$N = \phi(\mathcal{Q}_\varphi \cap \mathcal{Q}_0),$$

or

$$N = \phi\mathcal{Q}_\varphi.$$

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For $d = 1$, i.e., $\mathbb{H} = H^2(\mathbb{D})$, we recover Beurling's theorem.

Maximal subspace for $S : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$

Corollary (Br.-Gallardo Gutierrez, 2024)

Let $N \subsetneq \mathbb{H}$ be a closed S -invariant subspace. Suppose that $\dim N^\perp \geq 2$. Then there exists a closed S -invariant subspace $M \subsetneq \mathbb{H}$ such that $N \subsetneq M$.

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Let $N \subsetneq \mathbb{H}$ be a closed S -invariant subspace. Suppose that $\dim N^\perp \geq 2$. Then there exists a closed S -invariant subspace $M \subsetneq \mathbb{H}$ such that $N \subsetneq M$. In particular, the invariant subspace problem has affirmative answer for operators of finite defect.

The Beurling-Lax matrix of a S -closed invariant subspace

Let M be a closed S -invariant subspace. By Beurling-Lax there is a S -inner operator $R : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$ such that $M = R(\mathbb{H})$

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Lemma

There exists a $d \times d$ matrix $A = (a_{jk})$ whose entries are bounded holomorphic functions (actually of ∞ -norm ≤ 1) such that

$$M = \overline{\text{span}\{p_1 \underline{a}_1 + \dots + p_d \underline{a}_d\}},$$

where $\underline{a}_m = a_{m1} \mathbf{e}_1 + \dots + a_{md} \mathbf{e}_d$ and p_m are polynomials, $m = 1, \dots, d$.

Idea of the proof in a particular case

Recall the (Beurling) inner-outer factorization of $f \in H^2(\mathbb{D})$: $f = IO$ where I is inner and O is outer.

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O *outer* if $O \in H^2(\mathbb{D})$ and $\overline{\text{span}\{S_1^n(O)\}} = H^2(\mathbb{D})$.

I consider here only the case $d = 2$, $\det A \neq 0$ and **the (inner function) greatest common divisor of the inner parts of all not identically zero a_{jk} is 1.**

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Define the determinantal operators $L_1, L_2 : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{D})$ by

$$L_1(f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{e}_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} f_1 & f_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$L_2(f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{e}_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ f_1 & f_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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$$M = L_1^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) \cap L_2^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})).$$

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$$L_1(\underline{a}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \det A \in \varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})$$

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Hence, $M \subseteq L_1^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) \cap L_2^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D}))$

Idea of the proof in a particular case

Conversely, let $F = f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{e}_2 \in L_1^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) \cap L_2^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D}))$.

Idea of the proof in a particular case

Conversely, let $F = f_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{e}_2 \in L_1^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) \cap L_2^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D}))$.
To prove that there exist polynomials $\{p_n\}$, $\{q_n\}$ such that

$$\|q_n \underline{a} + p_n \underline{b} - F\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})} \rightarrow 0.$$

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We have $f_1 a_2 - f_2 a_1, f_1 b_2 - f_2 b_1 \in \varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})$.

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We have $f_1 a_2 - f_2 a_1, f_1 b_2 - f_2 b_1 \in \varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})$.

By Beurling, there exist $\{p_n\}, \{q_n\}$ polynomials such that

$$\|q_n \det A - (f_1 a_2 - f_2 a_1)\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})} \rightarrow 0, \quad \|p_n \det A - (f_1 b_2 - f_2 b_1)\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})} \rightarrow 0.$$

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Hence, $\{b_1 q_n \det A\}$ converges in $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ to $b_1(a_2 f_1 - a_1 f_2)$ (since b_1 is bounded).

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Thus, $\{\det A(-p_n a_1 + q_n b_1)\}$ converges to $f_1 \det A$.

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Idea of the proof in a particular case

Hence, $\{b_1 q_n \det A\}$ converges in $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ to $b_1(a_2 f_1 - a_1 f_2)$ (since b_1 is bounded).

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Thus OK, if we can “divide” by $\det A$.

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Multiplication by an inner function is an isometry in $H^2(\mathbb{D})$, thus we have

$$\|O[(-p_n a_1 + q_n b_1) - f_1]\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})} \rightarrow 0,$$

and

$$\|O[(-p_n a_2 + q_n b_2) - f_2]\|_{H^2(\mathbb{D})} \rightarrow 0.$$

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Hence $L_1^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) \cap L_2^{-1}(\varphi H^2(\mathbb{D})) = M$.

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Therefore, $Z \subsetneq N \subsetneq H$ and Z is not maximal.

Thank you