

## Compact Operators

**Definition:** A linear map  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  between Banach spaces is called *compact* if  $T(B_X) \subseteq Y$  has compact closure, where  $B_X$  denotes the closed unit ball of  $X$ . We denote the space of compact operators  $K(X, Y)$ .

The theory of compact operators (and the soon to arise Fredholm operators) arose from the analysis of integral equations. To start, let  $I = [0, 1]$ , and consider the Banach space  $C(I)$  with the supremum norm. Letting  $k \in C(I \times I)$ , we define  $u \in B(X)$  by taking

$$Tf(x) = \int_0^1 k(x, y)f(y) dy.$$

The fact that  $Tf \in X$  follows from an application of the Dominated Convergence Theorem and the fact that, since  $k(x, y)$  is jointly continuous, it is also separately continuous (see [Fol99, Theorem 2.27]). In fact, we can show something even stronger: we claim that the family  $T(B_X)$  is in fact equicontinuous. This follows from the fact that,  $I^2$  is compact, so if  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is  $\delta$  such that whenever  $\max\{|x - x'|, |y - y'|\} < \delta$ , we have  $|k(x, y) - k(x', y')| < \varepsilon$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |Tf(x) - Tf(x')| &= \left| \int_0^1 (k(x, y) - k(x', y))f(y) dy \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^1 |k(x, y) - k(x', y)||f(y)| dy \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in I} |k(x, y) - k(x', y)| \|f\|_u \\ &\leq \varepsilon \|f\|_u. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, since

$$|Tf(x)| \leq \|k\|_u \|f\|_u,$$

we have that  $T(B_X)$  is pointwise bounded. Thus, by the Arzelà–Ascoli theorem, it follows that  $T(B_X)$  is totally bounded, so  $T$  is a compact operator. We call the function  $k$  the *kernel* of the operator  $T$ .

Similarly, the operator  $V \in B(X)$  given by

$$Vf(x) = \int_0^x f(y) dy$$

is such that  $V(B_X)$  is totally bounded by Arzelà–Ascoli, so  $V$  is also compact. In fact,  $V$  has no eigenvalues as well. This follows from the fact that, if there were  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  with  $V(f) = \lambda f$ , then  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f'(t) = 1/\lambda f(t)$ , so that  $f(t) = f(0)e^{t/\lambda} = 0$ , meaning  $f = 0$ .

We call the operator  $V$  the *Volterra integral operator* on  $X$ .

We can see that  $K(X)$  is in fact an algebraic ideal in  $B(X)$  (by continuity). In fact, there is a topological dimension to  $K(X) \subseteq B(X)$ .

**Proposition:** If  $X, Y$  are Banach spaces, then  $K(X, Y)$  is a closed subspace of  $B(X, Y)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(T_n)_n$  converge to  $T \in B(X, Y)$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and select  $N$  such that  $\|T_N - T\| < \varepsilon/3$ . Since  $T_N(B_X)$  is totally bounded, there are  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in B_X$  such that for each  $x \in S$ , we have

$$\|T_N x - T_N x_j\| < \varepsilon/3$$

for some  $j$ . Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|Tx - Tx_j\| &\leq \|Tx - T_N x\| + \|T_N x - T_N x_j\| + \|T_N x_j - Tx_j\| \\ &< \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $T(B_X)$  is totally bounded, so  $T \in K(X, Y)$ . □

Therefore, we see that  $\overline{F(X, Y)} \subseteq K(X, Y)$  is, where  $F(X, Y)$  denotes the finite-rank operators, but this inclusion may be strict. In the cases where  $\overline{F(X)} = K(X)$ , we say the Banach space  $X$  has the approximation property. There are Banach spaces that do not have the approximation property.

Recall that if  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is a bounded linear map between Banach spaces, the transpose is defined by  $T^*: Y^* \rightarrow X^*$ , given by  $T^*\varphi = \varphi \circ T$ .

**Theorem:** If  $X$  and  $Y$  are Banach spaces with  $T \in K(X, Y)$ , then  $T^* \in K(Y^*, X^*)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $T(B_X)$  is totally bounded, there exist elements  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  such that if  $x \in B_X$ , then  $\|Tx - Tx_i\| < \varepsilon/3$  for some  $i$ . Let  $V \in B(Y^*, \mathbb{C}^n)$  be defined by  $V\varphi = (\varphi(Tx_1), \dots, \varphi(Tx_n))$ . Since  $V$  has finite rank,  $V$  is compact, so  $V(B_{X^*})$  is totally bounded. Thus, there exist  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$  such that if  $\varphi \in T$ , then  $\|V\varphi - V\varphi_j\| = \max_{i=1}^n |T^*\varphi(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x_i)|$ .

Now, if  $x \in B_X$ , then  $\|Tx - Tx_i\| < \varepsilon/3$  for some  $i$ , so thus  $|T^*\varphi(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x_i)| < \varepsilon/3$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |T^*\varphi(x) - T^*\varphi_j(x)| &\leq |T^*\varphi(x) - T^*\varphi(x_i)| + |T^*\varphi(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x_i)| + |T^*\varphi_j(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x)| \\ &< \varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

whence  $\|T^*\varphi - T^*\varphi_j\| \leq \varepsilon$ , meaning  $T^*(B_{X^*})$  is totally bounded, hence  $T^*$  compact.  $\square$

Recall that a linear map  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is called bounded below if there is  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\|Tx\| \geq \delta\|x\|$  for all  $x$ . In this case,  $T(X) \subseteq Y$  is necessarily closed. Every invertible linear map is bounded below, as is every isometry.

Equivalently, a map  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is not bounded below if and only if there is a sequence of unit vectors  $(x_n)_n \subseteq X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Tx_n = 0$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $T$  be a compact operator on a Banach space  $X$ , and let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

- (i) The space  $\ker(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)$  is finite-dimensional.
- (ii) The space  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)(X)$  is closed and has finite codimension in  $X$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Z = \ker(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)$ . Then,  $T(Z) \subseteq Z$ , and the restriction  $T|_Z$  is in  $K(Z)$ . Since  $T|_Z = \lambda \text{id}_Z$  with  $\lambda \neq 0$ , it follows that  $\text{id}|_Z$  is compact, meaning  $Z$  is finite-dimensional.

Since  $Z$  is finite-dimensional, there is a closed subspace  $Y$  of  $X$  such that  $X = Z \oplus Y$ .

Observe that  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)X = (T - \lambda \text{id}_X)Y$ , so to show that  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)X$  is closed, it suffices to show that the restriction  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)|_Y$  is bounded below.

Suppose otherwise. Then, there is a sequence  $(x_n)_n$  of unit vectors in  $Y$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|Tx_n - \lambda x_n\| = 0$ . We may assume without loss of generality that  $(Tx_n)_n$  is convergent. It follows then that, since  $x_n = \frac{1}{\lambda}(Tx_n - (T - \lambda \text{id}_X)x_n)$ , we have that  $(x_n)_n \rightarrow x$  for some  $x \in Y$ , as  $Y$  is closed. Since  $Tx = \lambda x$ , we have  $x \in Y \cap \ker(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)$ , meaning  $x = 0$ . Yet,  $x$  is the limit of unit vectors, and so is also a unit vector, which means we reach a contradiction. Thus,  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)|_Y$  is bounded below.

Let  $W = X/(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)X$ . To show that  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)X$  has finite codimension, we show that  $W$  is finite-dimensional, by showing that  $W^*$  is finite-dimensional. Let  $\pi: X \rightarrow W$  be the quotient map. Then,  $\ker(\pi^*) \subseteq \ker(T^* - \lambda \text{id}_{X^*})$ . Letting  $\sigma \in \ker(T^* - \lambda \text{id}_{X^*})$ , we have that  $\sigma$  annihilates  $(T - \lambda \text{id}_X)X$ , so it induces a bounded linear functional  $\tau: W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\sigma = \tau \circ \pi = \pi^*(\tau)$ . Since  $T^*$  is compact,  $\ker(T^* - \lambda \text{id}_{X^*})$  is finite-dimensional, so  $\pi^*$  has finite-dimensional range, and since  $\pi^*$  is injective,  $W^*$  is thus finite-dimensional, so  $W$  is finite-dimensional.  $\square$

Note that if  $T: X \rightarrow X$  is a linear map on a vector space, then the sequence of spaces  $(\ker(T^n))_n$  is increasing; if  $\ker(T^n) \neq \ker(T^{n+1})$  for all  $n$ , we say that  $T$  has infinite *ascent*, and write  $\text{asc}(T) = \infty$ . Otherwise, we say  $T$  has finite ascent, and define  $\text{asc}(T)$  to be the smallest  $p$  such that  $\ker(T^p) = \ker(T^{p+1})$  for all  $n \geq p$ .

Similarly, the sequence of spaces  $T^n(X)$  is decreasing. We say  $T$  has infinite *descent* if  $T^n(X) \neq T^{n+1}(X)$  for all  $n$ , and we write  $\text{desc}(T) = \infty$ . Else, we say  $T$  has finite descent, and define  $\text{desc}(T)$  to be the smallest  $p$  such that  $T^{p+1}(X) = T^p(X)$ .

To prove the next theorem, we recall the Riesz lemma.

**Lemma (Riesz Lemma):** Let  $Y$  be a proper closed subspace of a normed vector space  $X$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a unit vector  $x \in X$  such that  $\|x + Y\| > 1 - \varepsilon$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $T$  be a compact operator on a Banach space  $X$ . Suppose  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Then,  $T - \lambda I$  has finite ascent and descent.

*Proof.* Suppose toward contradiction that the ascent is infinite. Letting  $N_n = \ker(T - \lambda I)^n$ , we observe then that  $N_{n-1}$  is a proper subspace of  $N_n$ , so by the Riesz Lemma, there is a unit vector  $x_n \in N_n$  such that  $\|x_n + N_{n-1}\| \geq 1/2$ . For any  $m < n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} Tx_n - Tx_m &= \lambda x_n + (T - \lambda)x_n - (T - \lambda)x_m - \lambda x_m \\ &= \lambda x_n - z \end{aligned}$$

for some  $z \in N_{n-1}$ . Thus,  $\|Tx_n - Tx_m\| = \|\lambda x_n - z\| \geq |\lambda|/2$ . It follows that  $(Tx_n)_n$  has no convergent subsequence, which contradicts the compactness of  $T$ .

Similarly, if we let  $V_n = \text{Im}(T - \lambda I)^n$ , and suppose toward contradiction that  $\text{desc}(T - \lambda I) = \infty$ , then we have that  $V_n \leq V_{n-1}$  is a proper subspace, so there is some unit vector  $x_n$  such that  $\|x_n + V_{n-1}\| \geq 1/2$ . By a similar process, we find a sequence  $(Tx_n)_n$  with no convergent subsequence, contradicting the assumption of compactness of the operator  $T$ .  $\square$

Note that this result also gives us that, if we let  $N_\lambda := \ker(T - \lambda I)^{\text{asc}(T)}$ , we must have  $\sigma(T|_{N_\lambda}) = \{\lambda\}$ , seeing as the restriction  $(T - \lambda I)|_{N_\lambda}$  is nilpotent on a finite-dimensional subspace.

## Fredholm Operators and Connections

**Definition:** Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces, and let  $T \in B(X, Y)$ . We say  $T$  is *Fredholm* if both  $\dim \ker(T)$  and  $\dim \text{coker}(T)$  are finite. The index of  $T$  is given by

$$\text{ind}(T) = \dim \ker(T) - \dim \text{coker}(T).$$

**Theorem:** Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces, and let  $T \in B(X, Y)$ . Suppose there is a closed subspace  $Z$  of  $Y$  such that  $T(X) \oplus Z = Y$ . Then,  $T(X)$  is closed in  $Y$ .

*Proof.* From the first isomorphism theorem, we may descend to the map  $X/\ker(T) \rightarrow Y$  given by  $x + \ker(T) \mapsto Tx$ , so we may assume without loss of generality that  $T$  is injective.

The map

$$\begin{aligned} V: X \oplus Z &\rightarrow Y \\ (x, z) &\mapsto Tx + z \end{aligned}$$

is a continuous isomorphism between Banach spaces, so by the open mapping theorem,  $v^{-1}$  is also continuous. Letting  $x \in X$ , we have  $\|x\| = \|V^{-1}Tx\| \leq \|V^{-1}\|\|Tx\|$ , so that  $\|Tx\| \geq \|V^{-1}\|^{-1}\|x\|$ , meaning  $T$  is bounded below, and thus  $T(X)$  is closed in  $Y$ .  $\square$

**Theorem:** Let

$$X \xrightarrow{T} Y \xrightarrow{S} Z$$

be Fredholm linear maps between Banach spaces  $X, Y, Z$ . Then,  $ST$  is Fredholm with

$$\text{ind}(ST) = \text{ind}(S) + \text{ind}(T).$$

*Proof.* Set  $Y_2 = \ker(S) \cap T(X)$ , and let  $Y_1, Y_3, Y_4$  be such that  $T(X) = Y_2 \oplus Y_3$ ,  $\ker(S) = Y_1 \oplus Y_2$ , and  $Y = T_1 \oplus T(X) \oplus Y_4$ , where  $Y_1, Y_2, Y_4$  are finite-dimensional. We have that the map  $\ker(ST) \rightarrow Y_2$ ,  $x \mapsto Tx$  is surjective and has the same kernel as  $T$ , so  $\ker(ST)$  is finite-dimensional with  $\dim \ker(ST) = \dim \ker(T) + \dim(Y_2)$ .

Next, since  $S(Y) = S(Y_3) \oplus S(Y_4)$  and  $S(Y_3) = ST(X)$ , we have  $S(Y) = ST(X) \oplus S(Y_4)$ . Let  $Z'$  be a finite-dimensional subspace of  $Z$  such that  $S(Y) \oplus Z' = Z$ , so  $Z = ST(X) \oplus S(Y_4) \oplus Z'$ . Since  $S(Y_4) \oplus Z'$  is finite-dimensional,  $ST(X)$  has finite codimension in  $Z$ , so  $ST$  is Fredholm.

The map  $Y_4 \rightarrow S(Y_4)$  given by  $y \mapsto Sy$  is a linear isomorphism, so  $\dim(Y_4) = \dim(S(Y_4))$ , and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \operatorname{coker}(ST) &= \dim(Y_4) + \dim(Z') \\ &= \dim(Y_4) + \dim \operatorname{coker}(S). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\dim \ker(ST) + \dim \operatorname{coker}(T) + \dim \operatorname{coker}(S) = \dim \ker(T) + \dim \ker(S) + \dim \operatorname{coker}(ST),$$

so that  $\operatorname{ind}(ST) = \operatorname{ind}(S) + \operatorname{ind}(T)$ . □

**Theorem:** Let  $T$  be a compact operator on a Banach space  $X$ , and let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

- (i) The operator  $T - \lambda I$  is Fredholm of index 0.
- (ii) If  $p$  is the ascent of  $T - \lambda I$ , then

$$X = \ker(T - \lambda I)^p \oplus (T - \lambda I)^p(X).$$

*Proof.*

- (i) We know from the above theorem that  $\ker(T - \lambda I)$  and  $\operatorname{coker}(T - \lambda I)$  are finite-dimensional. If  $m, n$  are integers greater than the maximum of the ascent and descent of  $T - \lambda I$ , then we have  $\dim \ker(T - \lambda I)^n = \dim \ker(T - \lambda I)^m$ , and analogously for the cokernel, whence  $\operatorname{ind}(T - \lambda I)^m = \operatorname{ind}(T - \lambda I)^n$  for all such  $m, n$ . Thus,  $m \operatorname{ind}(T - \lambda I) = n \operatorname{ind}(T - \lambda I)$ , so that  $\operatorname{ind}(T - \lambda I) = 0$ .
- (ii) Let  $x \in \ker(T - \lambda I)^p \cap (T - \lambda I)^p(X)$ . Then, there is  $y \in X$  such that  $x = (T - \lambda I)^p y$  with  $(T - \lambda I)^{2p} y = 0$ . Since  $\ker(T - \lambda I)^p = \ker(T - \lambda I)^{2p}$ , it follows that  $(T - \lambda I)^p y = 0$ , whence  $x = 0$ . Moreover, since  $\dim \ker(T - \lambda I)^p = \dim \operatorname{coker}(T - \lambda I)^p$ , we have  $X = \ker(T - \lambda I)^p \oplus (T - \lambda I)^p(X)$ . □

**Corollary** (Fredholm Alternative): The operator  $T - \lambda I$  is injective if and only if it is surjective.

*Proof.* We have that  $\dim \ker(T - \lambda I) = 0$  if and only if  $\dim \operatorname{coker}(T - \lambda I) = 0$ , meaning that  $T - \lambda I$  is injective if and only if it is surjective. □

Now, we will understand the structure of the Fredholm operators in the space of all bounded operators.

**Proposition:** The space of Fredholm operators in  $B(X, Y)$  is open. The index is a continuous integer-valued function on the space of Fredholm operators.

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be Fredholm, with  $N = \ker(T)$ . Let  $V$  be a complement for  $N$  such that  $X = N \oplus V$ , so that  $T(V) = T(X)$ . Since  $T(X)$  is closed and has finite codimension, we may find a subspace  $W$  of  $Y$  such that  $T(X) \oplus W = Y$ , and define  $\tilde{T}: V \oplus W \rightarrow Y$  by  $\tilde{T}(v, w) = Tv + w$ .

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{T}(v, w)\| &\leq \|Tv\| + \|w\| \\ &\leq \max(\|T\|_{\operatorname{op}}, 1)(\|v\| + \|w\|), \end{aligned}$$

meaning that  $\tilde{T}$  is continuous, and is necessarily a bijection by the fact that exact sequences of vector spaces split.

Let  $S \in B(X, Y)$  be with  $\|S - T\|_{\operatorname{op}} < 1/\|\tilde{T}^{-1}\|$ . Define  $\tilde{S}: V \oplus W \rightarrow Y$  by  $\tilde{S}(v, w) = Sv + w$ . Then,  $\tilde{S}$  is continuous, with

$$\|\tilde{S} - \tilde{T}\|_{\operatorname{op}} = \|(S - T)|_V\|_{\operatorname{op}}$$

$$< 1/\|\tilde{T}^{-1}\|.$$

Thus,  $\tilde{S}$  is invertible, meaning that  $S(V) = \tilde{S}(V)$  is closed, and  $Y = S(V) + W$ .

In particular, this means that  $\dim(Y/S(X)) \leq \dim(Y/S(V)) = \dim(W) < \infty$ , and since  $\ker(S) \cap V = \{0\}$ , the quotient map  $Q: X \rightarrow X/V$  is injective on  $\ker(S)$ , so that

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \ker(S) &\leq \dim(X/V) \\ &= \dim(N) \\ &< \infty, \end{aligned}$$

so  $S$  is Fredholm. Thus, the space of Fredholm operators is open in  $B(X, Y)$ .

The subspace  $V + \ker(S) = Q^{-1}((\ker(S) + V)/V)$  is closed and of finite codimension. Choose a finite-dimensional  $Z$  such that  $X = V + \ker(S) + Z$ . Then,  $S(X) = S(V) + S(Z)$ , since  $S$  is injective on  $V + Z$  and  $Z$  is finite-dimensional. Letting  $P: Y = S(V) + W \rightarrow W$  be the projection onto  $W$  with kernel  $S(V)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(S(X)) &= P(S(Z)) \\ &\cong Z \end{aligned}$$

since  $S$  is injective on  $Z$  and  $P$  is injective on  $S(Z)$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} Y/S(X) &= (Y/S(V))/(S(X)/S(V)) \\ &\cong W/P(S(Z)). \end{aligned}$$

We may compute

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ind}(S) &= \dim \ker(S) - \dim \text{coker}(S) \\ &= \dim \ker(S) - (\dim(W) - \dim(Z)) \\ &= \dim(\ker(S) \oplus Z) - \dim(W) \\ &= \dim \ker(T) - \dim \text{coker}(T) \\ &= \text{ind}(T), \end{aligned}$$

so the index is constant on an open ball around  $T$ , whence it is locally constant.  $\square$

We know that  $K(X)$  is a (closed) ideal in  $B(X)$ , so we can consider the quotient  $B(X)/K(X)$ . It turns out that there is a characterization of Fredholm operators in the quotient  $B(X)/K(X)$ .

**Theorem (Atkinson):** An operator  $T \in B(X)$  is Fredholm if and only if  $\pi(T) \in B(X)/K(X)$  is invertible.

*Proof.* Suppose  $T$  is Fredholm. Let  $N = \ker(T)$ ,  $V$  a complement for  $N$  so that  $X = N \oplus V$ . Since  $T$  is Fredholm, we have a finite-dimensional complement  $W$  such that  $X = T(V) \oplus W$ . If we let  $T|_V \in B(V, T(V))$ , then we have that  $T|_V$  is a continuous bijection. By the bounded inverse theorem, there is a continuous inverse  $S \in B(T(V), V)$ . Let  $\bar{S} \in B(X)$  be such that  $\bar{S}(Tv + w) = v$  for  $v \in V$  and  $w \in W$ .

Then, we have  $\bar{S}T(u + v) = \bar{S}Tv = v$  for any  $u \in N$  and  $v \in V$ . That is,  $\bar{S}T$  is the projection of  $X$  onto  $V$ ,  $P_V$ . Since  $I - P_V = P_N$  is finite-rank, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\bar{S})\pi(T) &= \pi(I - P_N) \\ &= \pi(I). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have  $T\bar{S}(Tv + w) = Tv = P_{T(V)}(Tv + w)$  is the projection onto  $T(V)$  with kernel  $W$ , where  $I - P_{T(V)} = P_W$  is finite-rank, meaning that  $\pi(T)\pi(\bar{S}) = \pi(I)$ , meaning  $\pi(T)$  is invertible.

Now, if  $\pi(T)$  is invertible, with inverse  $\pi(S)$ , we have compact operators  $K$  and  $L$  such that  $ST = I + K$

and  $TS = I + L$ . Since  $\ker(T) \subseteq \ker(I + K)$ ,  $\ker(T)$  is finite-dimensional, and since  $\operatorname{im}(T) \supseteq \operatorname{im}(I + L)$ , we have that  $\operatorname{im}(T)$  is closed with finite codimension. Thus,  $T$  is Fredholm.  $\square$

Finally, our final application of the theory of compact and Fredholm operators is an important structural result. Recall the definition of the commutant and bicommutant.

**Definition:** If  $S \subseteq B(X)$  is a collection of operators, the *commutant* of  $S$  is the set

$$S' = \{T \in B(X) \mid TP = PT \text{ for all } P \in S\}.$$

The bicommutant of  $S$ ,  $S''$ , is  $(S')'$ . Note that  $S \subseteq S''$  always.

**Theorem:** Let  $X$  be an infinite-dimensional Banach space, and let  $T \in K(X)$ . Then, the following hold.

- (i) We have  $0 \in \sigma(T)$ . If  $0 \neq \lambda \notin \sigma(T)$ , then  $\lambda$  is in the point spectrum (that is,  $\lambda$ ) is an isolated point.
- (ii) The spectrum of  $T$  is either finite or is equal to a countable set  $\{\lambda_n\}_{n \geq 1} \cup \{0\}$  with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_n = 0$ .
- (iii) For each  $\lambda \in \sigma(T) \setminus \{0\}$ , there is a decomposition

$$X = N_\lambda \oplus R_\lambda,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} N_\lambda &= \ker(T - \lambda I)^{n_\lambda} \\ R_\lambda &= \operatorname{im}(T - \lambda I)^{n_\lambda}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $n_\lambda = \operatorname{asc}(T) = \operatorname{desc}(T)$ .

- (iv) We have  $\sigma(T|_{N_\lambda}) = \{\lambda\}$  and  $\sigma(T|_{R_\lambda}) = \sigma(T) \setminus \{\lambda\}$ .
- (v) There is a unique finite-rank projection  $E_\lambda$  in the bicommutant  $\{T\}''$  such that  $\operatorname{im}(E_\lambda) = N_\lambda$  and  $\ker(E_\lambda) = R_\lambda$ . Furthermore, both  $N_\lambda$  and  $R_\lambda$  are invariant for  $\{T\}'$ .
- (vi) If  $\lambda, \mu \in \sigma(T) \setminus \{0\}$  are distinct, then  $E_\lambda E_\mu = 0$ .

*Proof.* Compact operators cannot be surjective, since by the open mapping theorem, there is  $r$  such that  $U(0, r) \subseteq T(U_X)$ , which would contradict compactness. Thus,  $0 \in \sigma(T)$ . By the Fredholm alternative, we know that if  $\lambda \neq 0$  then either  $\ker(T - \lambda I) \neq \{0\}$  or  $T - \lambda I$  is invertible, so  $\sigma(T) = \sigma_p(T) \cup \{0\}$  by the definition of the point spectrum, which consists of all the points such that  $\ker(T - \lambda I) \neq \{0\}$ . This shows (i).

If  $\lambda \in \sigma(T) \setminus \{0\}$ , then we know from an earlier result that  $X = N_\lambda + R_\lambda$ , and that  $N_\lambda$  and  $R_\lambda$  are  $\{T\}'$ -invariant. In particular, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(T) &= \sigma(T|_{N_\lambda}) \cup \sigma(T|_{R_\lambda}) \\ &= \{\lambda\} \cup \sigma(T|_{R_\lambda}). \end{aligned}$$

This shows (iv).

Furthermore, since  $(T - \lambda I)|_{R_\lambda}$  is invertible (again by the Fredholm alternative), we have that  $\sigma(T|_{R_\lambda}) = \sigma(T) \setminus \{\lambda\}$ , meaning that  $\lambda$  is isolated. In particular, this means that the spectrum is at most countably infinite.  $\square$

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