Compact Operators

> **Definition:** A linear map $T\colon X \to Y$ 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 δ 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 $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in B_X$ 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 $T \in K(X, Y)$. $\qquad\square$

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 $T\colon X \to Y$ is a bounded linear map between Banach spaces, the transpose is defined by $T^*\colon Y^* \to X^*$, 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 $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ 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 $V\varphi = (\varphi(Tx_1), \ldots, \varphi(Tx_n))$. Since V has finite rank, V is compact, so $V(B_{X^*})$ is totally bounded. Thus, there exist $\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_m$ 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,

$$|T^*\varphi(x) - T^*\varphi_j(x)| \leq |T^*\varphi(x) - T^*\varphi(x_i)| + |T^*\varphi(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x_i)| + |T^*\varphi_j(x_i) - T^*\varphi_j(x)|$$
$$< \varepsilon,$$

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

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

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

  (i) The space $\ker(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)$ is finite-dimensional.

  (ii) The space $(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)(X)$ is closed and has finite codimension in X.

Proof. Let $Z = \ker(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)$. Then, $T(Z) \subseteq Z$, and the restriction $T|_Z$ is in $K(Z)$. Since $T|_Z = \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_Z$ with $\lambda \neq 0$, it follows that $\mathrm{id}\,|_Z$ 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 $(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)X = (T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)Y$, so to show that $(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)X$ is closed, it suffices to show that the restriction $(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)|_Y$ is bounded below.

Suppose otherwise. Then, there is a sequence $(x_n)_n$ of unit vectors in Y such that $\lim_{n\to\infty}\|Tx_n - \lambda x_n\| = 0$. We may assume without loss of generality that $(Tx_n)_n$ is convergent. It follows then that, since $x_n = \frac{1}{\lambda}(Tx_n - (T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)x_n)$, we have that $(x_n)_n \to x$ for some $x \in Y$, as Y is closed. Since $Tx = \lambda x$, we have $x \in Y \cap \ker(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)$, 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, $(T - \lambda\,\mathrm{id}_X)|_Y$ is bounded below.

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

Note that if $T\colon X \to X$ 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 $\mathrm{asc}(T) = \infty$. Otherwise, we say T has finite ascent, and define $\mathrm{asc}(T)$ 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 $\mathrm{desc}(T) = \infty$. Else, we say T has finite descent, and define $\mathrm{desc}(T)$ 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

$$Tx_n - Tx_m = \lambda x_n + (T - \lambda)x_n - (T - \lambda)x_m - \lambda x_m$$
$$= \lambda x_n - z$$

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 $V_n = \mathrm{Im}(T - \lambda I)^n$, and suppose toward contradiction that $\mathrm{desc}(T - \lambda I) = \infty$, 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 $N_\lambda := \ker(T - \lambda I)^{\mathrm{asc}(T)}$, 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 $\dim \mathrm{coker}(T)$ are finite. The index of T is given by

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

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 $X/\ker(T) \to Y$ given by $x + \ker(T) \mapsto Tx$, so we may assume without loss of generality that T is injective.

The map

$$V : X \oplus Z \to Y$$
$$(x, z) \mapsto Tx + z$$

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

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

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 $\ker(ST) \to Y_2$, $x \mapsto Tx$ 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 $Y_4 \to S(Y_4)$ given by $y \mapsto Sy$ is a linear isomorphism, so $\dim(Y_4) = \dim(S(Y_4))$, and thus

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

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 $\operatorname{ind}(ST) = \operatorname{ind}(S) + \operatorname{ind}(T)$. $\qquad\square$

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

$\qquad\square$

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. $\qquad\square$

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 $\widetilde{T} \colon V \oplus W \to Y$ by $\widetilde{T}(v, w) = Tv + w$.

Note that

$$\left\| \widetilde{T}(v, w) \right\| \leq \|Tv\| + \|w\|$$
$$\leq \max\left(\|T\|_{\mathrm{op}}, 1 \right)(\|v\| + \|w\|),$$

meaning that $\widetilde{T}$ 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 $\|S - T\|_{\mathrm{op}} < 1/\left\| \widetilde{T}^{-1} \right\|$. Define $\widetilde{S} \colon V \oplus W \to Y$ by $\widetilde{S}(v, w) = Sv + w$. Then, $\widetilde{S}$ is continuous, with

$$\left\| \widetilde{S} - \widetilde{T} \right\|_{\mathrm{op}} = \|(S - T)|_V\|_{\mathrm{op}}$$

$$< 1/\left\|\widetilde{T}^{-1}\right\|.$$

Thus, $\widetilde{S}$ is invertible, meaning that $S(V) = \widetilde{S}(V)$ 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 $Q \colon X \to X/V$ 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 codmension. 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 $P \colon Y = S(V) + W \to W$ 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

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

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 $\overline{S} \in B(X)$ be such that $\overline{S}(Tv + w) = v$ for $v \in V$ and $w \in W$.

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

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

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

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.

Lemma: Let $T \in K(X)$. Suppose there is a sequence of closed subspaces $V_0 \subsetneq V_1 \subsetneq \cdots$ and there are scalars λ_i such that $(T - \lambda_i I)V_i \subseteq V_{i-1}$ for each i. Then, $\lim_{i\to\infty} \lambda_i = 0$.

Proof. Using the Riesz Lemma, we may select unit vectors $x_i \in V_i$ with $\operatorname{dist}_{V_{i-1}}(x_i) \geq 1/2$ for each $i \geq 1$. Then,

$$Tx_i = \lambda_i x_i + y_i$$

for some $y_i \in V_{i-1}$. If there is a subsequence with $|\lambda_{i_k}| \geq \delta > 0$, then for $m < n$, we have $y_{i_n} - Tx_{i_n} \in V_{i_n - 1}$, and

$$\begin{aligned}
\|Tx_{i_n} - Tx_{i_m}\| &= \|\lambda_{i_n} x_{i_n} + (Tx_{i_m} - y_{i_n})\| \\
&\geq \frac{1}{2}|\lambda_{i_n}| \\
&\geq \frac{1}{2}\delta,
\end{aligned}$$

meaning that $\overline{T(B_X)}$ is not compact, which is a contradiction. $\qquad\square$

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 $0 \neq \lambda \neq\in \sigma(T)$, then λ is in the point spectrum (that is, λ) 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 $\lim_{n\to\infty} \lambda_n = 0$.

(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_λ in the bicommutant $\{T\}''$ such that $\operatorname{im}(E_\lambda) = N_\lambda$ and $\ker(E_\lambda) = R_\lambda$. Furthermore, both N_λ and R_λ are invariant for $\{T\}'$.

(vi) If $\lambda, \mu \in (T) \setminus \{0\}$ 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_λ and R_λ are $\{T\}'$-

invariant. In particular, we have

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

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 λ is isolated. In particular, this means that the spectrum is at most countably infinite.

For each $\lambda_n \in \sigma(T) \setminus \{0\}$, select a unit vector $x_n \in \ker(T - \lambda_n I)$, and take $V_n = \operatorname{span}\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$. Then, $V_{n-1} \subsetneq V_n$, and $(T - \lambda I)V_n \subseteq V_{n-1}$, so that $\lim_{n\to\infty} \lambda_n = 0$ by the above lemma. This shows (ii).

Now, there is a unique projection with range N_λ and kernel R_λ, so if $S \in \{T\}'$, then S leaves both the range and kernel of E_λ invariant. This means

$$SE_\lambda = E_\lambda SE_\lambda$$
$$S(I - E_\lambda) = (I - E_\lambda)S(I - E_\lambda),$$

so that $SE_\lambda = E_\lambda SE_\lambda = E_\lambda S$, meaning that $E_\lambda \in \{T\}''$.

Now, if μ is another nonzero element of $\sigma(T)$, then $E_\mu \in \{T\}'' \subseteq \{T\}'$, meaning that $E_\lambda E_\mu = E_\mu E_\lambda$, while

$$\operatorname{im}(E_\mu E_\lambda) \subseteq N_\lambda \cap N_\mu$$
$$= \{0\}.$$

Thus, $E_\lambda E_\mu = 0$. $\qquad\square$

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