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$|\langle Tv, v \rangle| \leq \mu \|v\|^2$ for all v implies $\|T\| \leq \mu$

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Theorem. Let H be a unitary space, T be a self-adjoint linear operator and $\mu \geq 0$. If $|\langle Tv, v \rangle| \leq \mu \|v\|^2$ for all $v \in H$ then T is a bounded operator and $\|T\| \leq \mu$.

Proof. We will show that $\|Tv\| \leq \mu \|v\|$ for all $v \in H$. This is trivial if $\|Tv\|$ or $\|v\|$ is zero, so assume they are not. Let λ be any positive number.

$$\begin{aligned} \|Tv\|^2 &= \langle Tv, Tv \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left[\left\langle T \left(\lambda v + \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right), \left(\lambda v + \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right) \right\rangle - \left\langle T \left(\lambda v - \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right), \left(\lambda v - \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right) \right\rangle \right] \\ &\leq \frac{\mu}{4} \left[\left\| \lambda v + \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right\|^2 + \left\| \lambda v - \frac{1}{\lambda} Tv \right\|^2 \right] \\ &\leq \frac{\mu}{2} \left[\lambda^2 \|v\|^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \|Tv\|^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

Now if we put $\lambda^2 = \frac{\|Tv\|}{\|v\|}$ we get $\|Tv\|^2 \leq \mu \|Tv\| \|v\|$ hence $\|Tv\| \leq \mu \|v\|$. □

Reference:

F. Riesz and B. Sz-Nagy, *Functional Analysis*, F. Ungar Publishing, 1955, chap VI.