
Homework #7

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Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.1

Prove that $\rho(A^*) = \overline{\rho(A)}$, where $\overline{\rho(A)}$ is the set $\{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \bar{\lambda} \in \rho(A)\}$.

Proof. First note

$$(A^* - \lambda I) = (A^* - (\bar{\lambda} I)^*) = (A - \bar{\lambda} I)^*,$$

and since $(A - \bar{\lambda} I) \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, then $(A - \bar{\lambda} I)$ is invertible if and only if $(A - \bar{\lambda} I)^*$ is invertible. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \in \rho(A^*) &\iff (A^* - \lambda I) \text{ invertible} \\ &\iff (A - \bar{\lambda} I)^* \text{ invertible} \\ &\iff (A - \bar{\lambda} I) \text{ invertible} \\ &\iff \bar{\lambda} \in \rho(A) \\ &\iff \lambda \in \overline{\rho(A)} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\rho(A^*) = \overline{\rho(A)}$. □

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.3

Suppose that A is a bounded linear operator on a Hilbert space and $\lambda, \mu \in \rho(A)$. Prove that the resolvent R_λ of A satisfies the resolvent equation

$$R_\lambda - R_\mu = (\mu - \lambda)R_\lambda R_\mu.$$

Proof. If the resolvent R_λ is defined as $R_\lambda = (\lambda I - A)^{-1}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} &(\mu I - A) - (\lambda I - A) = (\mu - \lambda)I \\ \implies &(\lambda I - A)^{-1}[(\mu I - A) - (\lambda I - A)](\mu I - A)^{-1} = (\lambda I - A)^{-1}[(\mu - \lambda)I](\mu I - A)^{-1} \\ \implies &(\lambda I - A)^{-1} - (\mu I - A)^{-1} = (\mu - \lambda)(\lambda I - A)^{-1}(\mu I - A)^{-1} \\ \implies &R_\lambda - R_\mu = (\mu - \lambda)R_\lambda R_\mu \end{aligned}$$

□

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.4

Prove that the spectrum of an orthogonal projection P is either $\{0\}$, in which case $P = 0$, or $\{1\}$, in which case $P = I$, or else $\{0, 1\}$.

Proof. Let λ be an eigenvalue. Then $Px = \lambda x$ for some nonzero vector x . Clearly if $P \equiv 0$, then $0 = Px = \lambda x$ for some $x \neq 0$, which implies $\lambda = 0$. Also, if $P \equiv I$, then $x = Px = \lambda x \implies (1 - \lambda)x = 0$ for some $x \neq 0$. Thus $\lambda = 1$. In general, suppose $P \neq 0$ and $P \neq I$, then for $x \in \text{ran } P$, $x = Px = \lambda x \implies \lambda = 1$. For $x \notin \text{ran } P$, then since P is an orthogonal projection, $x = y + z$ for some $y \in \text{ran } P$ (i.e. $P y = y$) and $z \in \ker P$ (i.e. $P z = 0$). Thus $P y + P z = y = \lambda x$. Since $x \notin \text{ran } P$, $\lambda x \in \text{ran } P$ only if $\lambda = 0$. Thus the only eigenvalues of P are 0 and 1 (i.e. the point spectrum of P is contained in $\{0, 1\}$).

Since orthogonal projections are bounded and self adjoint, then the residual spectrum of P is empty.

Let $a \in \text{ran } P$. Then $(1 - \lambda)a \in \text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ (since $(P - \lambda I)a = Pa - \lambda a = (1 - \lambda)a$). If $\lambda \neq 1$ then $a \in \text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ since $\text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ is closed under scalar multiplication. Let $b \in \ker P$. Then $-\lambda b \in \text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ (since $(P - \lambda I)b = Pb - \lambda b = -\lambda b$). If $\lambda \neq 0$, then $b \in \text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ since $\text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ is closed under scalar multiplication. Thus for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$,

$$\text{ran } P \cup \ker P \subset \text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$$

Since P is an orthogonal projection,

$$\mathcal{H} \subset \text{ran } (P - \lambda I) \subset \mathcal{H}$$

and thus $\text{ran } (P - \lambda I)$ is closed. Thus the continuous spectrum of P is empty.

Thus, $\sigma(P) = \{0, 1\}$. □

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.5

Let A be a bounded, nonnegative operator on a complex Hilbert space. Prove that $\sigma(A) \subset [0, \infty)$.

Proof. Since A is nonnegative, then $\langle x, Ax \rangle \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$ and $A = A^*$. Since A is self-adjoint, its eigenvalues are real and $\sigma(A) \subset [-\|A\|, \|A\|]$. Let λ be an eigenvalue. Then for some $x \neq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \langle x, Ax \rangle &= \langle x, \lambda x \rangle = \lambda \langle x, x \rangle = \lambda \|x\|^2 \\ &\implies 0 \leq \lambda \end{aligned}$$

Thus all eigenvalues are positive (i.e. the point spectrum is contained in $[0, \infty)$). Let $\lambda < 0$. Then if $(A - \lambda I)x_1 = (A - \lambda I)x_2$, then $(A - \lambda I)(x_1 - x_2) = 0$. If $x_1 - x_2 \neq 0$, then λ is an eigenvalue, but this is not possible since $\lambda < 0$. Thus $x_1 - x_2 = 0$, or $x_1 = x_2$. This shows $(A - \lambda I)$ is one-to-one. **show that $(A - \lambda I)$ is onto for $\lambda < 0$.** □

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.6

Let G be a multiplication operator on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$Gf(x) = g(x)f(x),$$

where g is continuous and bounded. Prove that G is a bounded linear operator on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and that its spectrum is given by

$$\sigma(G) = \overline{\{g(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}\}}.$$

Can an operator of this form have eigenvalues?

Proof. First consider λ such that $\mu(\{x : g(x) = \lambda\}) > 0$. Then λ is an eigenvalue of G where any function f such that $\text{supp } f \subset \{x : g(x) = \lambda\}$ is an eigenvector since

$$(Gf)(x) = g(x)f(x) = \mathcal{X}_{\text{supp } f} g(x)f(x) + \underbrace{\mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{R} \setminus \text{supp } f} g(x)f(x)}_{\rightarrow 0} = \lambda f(x)$$

Thus all λ such that $\mu(\{x : g(x) = \lambda\}) > 0$ are eigenvalues.

Now consider λ such that $\mu(\{x : g(x) = \lambda\}) = 0$ for all λ . Then $(G - \lambda I)$ is injective. If $(G - \lambda I)$ is surjective, however, then $\exists f \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that $(G - \lambda I)f = \mathcal{X}_{|x-\lambda|<\varepsilon}$ (where \mathcal{X} is the characteristic function). But

$$((G - \lambda I)f)(x) = g(x)f(x) - \lambda f(x) = (g(x) - \lambda)f(x)$$

and so the only candidate function f is

$$f(x) = \frac{\mathcal{X}_{|x-\lambda|<1}}{g(x) - \lambda}$$

but this function is square integrable (i.e. not in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$). Thus $(G - \lambda I)$ is not surjective. Next we show $\text{ran } (G - \lambda I)$ is dense in \mathcal{H} . First note that $(g(x) - \lambda)^n \in \text{ran } (G - \lambda I)$ for $n \geq 1$ since $(G - \lambda I)(g(x) - \lambda)^{n-1} = (g(x) - \lambda)^n$. Also, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the characteristic function

$$X_n = \mathcal{X}_{2^{-n} < |x-\lambda| < 1}$$

is in the range and $X_n \rightarrow f$ in L^2 norm. Thus $\text{ran } (G - \lambda I)$ is dense in \mathcal{H} , i.e.

$$\sigma(G) = \overline{\{g(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}\}}$$

□

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.7

Let $K : L^2([0, 1]) \rightarrow L^2([0, 1])$ be the integral operator defined by

$$Kf(x) = \int_0^x f(y) dy.$$

a) Find the adjoint operator K^* .

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, Kg \rangle &= \int_0^1 \bar{f}(x) \int_0^x g(y) dy dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \bar{f}(x) \int_0^1 g(y) \mathcal{X}_{0 < y < x < 1} dy dx, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{X} \text{ is the characteristic function} \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \bar{f}(x) g(y) \mathcal{X}_{0 < y < x < 1} dy dx \\ &= \int_0^1 g(y) \int_0^1 \bar{f}(x) \mathcal{X}_{0 < y < x < 1} dx dy \\ &= \int_0^1 \left[\int_y^1 \bar{f}(x) dx \right] g(y) dy \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_0^1 \overline{\left[\int_y^1 f(x) dx \right]} g(y) dy \\
&= \langle K^* f, g \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$K^* f(x) = \int_x^1 f(y) dy$$

□

b) Show that $\|K\| = \frac{2}{\pi}$.

Proof.

□

c) Show that the spectral radius of K is equal to zero.

Proof.

□

d) Show that 0 belongs to the continuous spectrum of K .

Proof. K is not onto since K is the integral operator, and thus the range of K is equal to the set of differentiable functions. However, not all functions in L^2 are differentiable. Thus K is not onto. However, differentiable functions are dense in L^2 , and thus 0 is in the continuous spectrum of K . □

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.8

Define the right shift operator S on $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ by

$$S(x)_k = x_{k-1} \quad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where $x = (x_k)_{k=-\infty}^{\infty}$ is in $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$. Prove the following facts.

a) The point spectrum of S is empty.

Proof. Suppose λ is in the point spectrum of S . Then for $Sx = \lambda x$ for some nonzero $x \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$. If $\lambda = 0$, then $x \equiv 0$, which is a contradiction. If $\lambda = 1$, then $x_k = e_j$ for all $k, j \in \mathbb{Z}$, i.e. x is constant. However constant bi-infinite sequences are not in ℓ^2 unless they are uniformly 0. This is a contradiction since eigenvectors are nonzero. If $|\lambda| > 1$ and $0 < |\lambda| < 1$, then for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x_k, Sx_k = \lambda x_{k-1}$, and thus for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$x_k = \lambda^{k-n} x_n, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Thus x_k can be made arbitrarily large, which is a contradiction since this is true for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus there are no eigenvalues of S (i.e. the point spectrum is empty). □

b) $\text{ran}(\lambda I - S) = \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| > 1$.

Proof. If $\|(x)_n\| = 1$, then $\|S(x)_n\| = \|(x)_{n+1}\| = \|(x)_n\| = 1$. Thus $\|S\| = 1$. Then any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $|\lambda| > 1$ has $\lambda \in \rho(S)$, and thus $\lambda I - S$ is bijective. Thus $\text{ran } (\lambda I - S) = \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$. \square

c) $\text{ran } (\lambda I - S) = \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$ for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| < 1$.

Proof. Let $(y_n) \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z})$. Then since $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}) \cong L^2(\mathbb{T})$, let $\mathcal{F} : \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{T})$ be an isomorphism. So $\exists (a_n)_n$ such that $\mathcal{F}((y_n)) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}$. Then

$$\mathcal{F}(S(y)_n) = \tilde{S} \left(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx} \right) = e^{ix} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx} = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{i(n+1)x}$$

where \tilde{S} is the shift operator in $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ ($\tilde{S} = \mathcal{F} \circ S$). Let $|\lambda| < 1$. Then $(\tilde{S} - \lambda I)g = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}$ where g is defined as

$$g = \frac{\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}}{e^{ix} - \lambda}$$

since

$$(\tilde{S} - \lambda I) \left(\frac{\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}}{e^{ix} - \lambda} \right) = \frac{e^{ix} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx} - \lambda \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}}{e^{ix} - \lambda} = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n e^{inx}$$

Thus $(\tilde{S} - \lambda I)$ is surjective, which shows $(S - \lambda I)$ is surjective. \square

d) The spectrum of S consists of the unit circle $\{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| = 1\}$ and is purely continuous.

Proof. \square

Hunter and Nachtergaele 9.18

Let P_1, \dots, P_N be orthogonal projections with orthogonal ranges. Let

$$A = \sum_{n=1}^N \lambda_n P_n$$

be a finite linear combination of these projections. Let $\tilde{f} : \sigma(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a continuous function and define $f : \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ by

$$f(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tilde{f}(\lambda_n) P_n. \quad (9.23)$$

Suppose that A is a compact self-adjoint operator. Let $f \in C(\sigma(A))$ and consider $f(A)$ defined by (9.23). Prove that

$$\|f(A)\| = \sup\{|\tilde{f}(\lambda_n)| : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Let (\tilde{q}_N) be a sequence of polynomials of degree N , converging uniformly to \tilde{f} on $\sigma(A)$. The existence of such a sequence is a consequence of the Weierstrass approximation theorem. Prove that $(q_N(A))$ converges in norm, and that its limit equals $f(A)$ as defined in (9.23).

Proof. \square