

## CHAPTER 10

### Composition operators

**DEFINITION 10.1.** Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a Hilbert space of analytic functions on  $X$  with reproducing kernel  $k$  and let  $\varphi : X \rightarrow X$  be an analytic function. To  $\varphi$  we associate a *composition operator*  $C_\varphi$  given by  $C_\varphi(f) := f \circ \varphi$ .

The study of such operators was originally inspired by the following result.

**THEOREM 10.2. (Littlewood's subordination principle)** *For any analytic  $\varphi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ , the operator  $C_\varphi$  is bounded on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ .*

J. Shapiro proved in 1987 [Sha87] that  $C_\varphi$  is compact on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ , if and only if “ $\varphi$  does not get too close to  $\partial\mathbb{D}$  too often.”

An interesting property of composition operators is that their adjoints permute the kernel functions. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, C_\varphi^* k_\zeta \rangle &= \langle C_\varphi f, k_\zeta \rangle \\ &= \langle f \circ \varphi, k_\zeta \rangle \\ &= f(\varphi(\zeta)) \\ &= \langle f \circ \varphi, k_\zeta \rangle \\ &= \langle f, k_{\varphi(\zeta)} \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

so  $C_\varphi^* k_\zeta = k_{\varphi(\zeta)}$ .

Recently, various properties of  $C_\varphi$  were studied in terms of properties of  $\varphi$  on the Hardy space, the Dirichlet space and the Bergman space.

We now gather some results about composition operators on  $\mathcal{H}^2$ . Let  $\Phi : \Omega_{1/2} \rightarrow \Omega_{1/2}$  be an analytic function. Note that  $C_\Phi : f \mapsto f \circ \Phi$  might not map Dirichlet series to Dirichlet series. Indeed, if  $f \sim \sum_{n=1}^\infty a_n n^{-s}$ , then  $(f \circ \Phi) \sim \sum_n a_n n^{-\Phi(s)}$ . The next two theorems are due to J. Gordon and H. Hedenmalm [GH99].

**THEOREM 10.3.** *An analytic function  $\Phi : \Omega_{1/2} \rightarrow \Omega_{1/2}$  gives rise to a composition operator  $C_\Phi : \mathcal{H}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ , if and only if  $\Phi(s) = c_0 s + \varphi(s)$ , where  $c_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}$ .*

**THEOREM 10.4. (Gordon, Hedenmalm)** *An analytic function  $\Phi : \Omega_{1/2} \rightarrow \Omega_{1/2}$  gives rise to a bounded composition operator  $C_\Phi : \mathcal{H}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^2$ , if and only if  $\Phi(s) = c_0 s + \varphi(s)$ , where  $c_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}$ , and  $\Phi$  has an analytic extension to  $\Omega_0$  such that  $\Phi(\Omega_0) \subset \Omega_0$ , if  $c_0 > 0$  and  $\Phi(\Omega_0) \subset \Omega_{1/2}$ , if  $c_0 = 0$ .*

They also proved that  $C_\Phi$  is a contraction (i.e.,  $\|C_\Phi\| \leq 1$ ), if and only if  $c_0 > 0$  in the above theorem. Furthermore, the same theorem holds for  $\mathcal{H}^p$  with  $2 \leq p < \infty$  and the conditions are necessary for  $1 < p < 2$ .

Compactness of composition operators was studied by F. Bayart. He proved the following theorem [Bay03]:

**THEOREM 10.5. (Bayart)** *The composition operator  $C_\Phi$  is compact on  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H}_w^2)$ , if and only if  $\Phi(\Omega_0) \subset \Omega_\varepsilon$ , for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ .*

He also proved that if  $C_\Phi$  is a composition operator on  $\mathcal{H}^2$ , then  $\mathcal{Q}C_\Phi\mathcal{Q}^{-1}$  is a composition operator on  $H^2(\mathbb{T}^\infty)$ , i.e., there exists  $\psi : \mathbb{D}^\infty \cap \ell^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}^\infty \cap \ell^2$  such that  $C_\psi = \mathcal{Q}C_\Phi\mathcal{Q}^{-1}$ . This allows one to construct compact composition operators on  $\mathcal{H}^2$  that are not Hilbert-Schmidt.

## CHAPTER 11

### Appendix

#### 11.1. Multi-index Notation

When dealing with power series in several variables, it is easy to become overwhelmed with subscripts. Multi-index notation is a way to make formulas easier to read.

We fix the number of variables,  $d$  say, and assume that is understood. We write

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_d)$$

for a multi-index, where  $\alpha$  is in  $\mathbb{N}^d$  or  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ . Then

$$\sum c_\alpha z^\alpha$$

stands for

$$\sum c_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_d} z_1^{\alpha_1} z_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots z_d^{\alpha_d}.$$

We define

$$\begin{aligned} |\alpha| &= \sum_{r=1}^d |\alpha_r| \\ \alpha! &= \alpha_1! \alpha_2! \cdots \alpha_d! \end{aligned}$$

#### 11.2. Schwarz-Pick lemma on the polydisk

Schwarz's lemma on the disk has a non-infinitesimal version, called the Schwarz-Pick lemma. Both these lemmata generalize to the polydisk.

**LEMMA 11.1. (Schwarz-Pick)** *If  $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  is holomorphic, then*

$$\left| \frac{f(w) - f(z)}{1 - \overline{f(w)}f(z)} \right| \leq \left| \frac{w - z}{1 - \overline{w}z} \right|,$$

for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{D}$ .

*Proof:* For  $\xi \in \mathbb{D}$ , let  $\psi_\xi$  be the automorphism of the disk that exchanges 0 and  $\xi$ , that is,  $\psi_\xi(z) = \frac{\xi - z}{1 - \overline{\xi}z}$ . Consider the function  $g :$

$\mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  given by  $g = \psi_{f(w)} \circ f \circ \psi_w$ . Choose  $\zeta = \psi_w(z)$  so that

$$|g(\zeta)| = |(\psi_{f(w)} \circ f \circ \psi_w)(\psi_w(z))| = |\psi_{f(w)}(f(z))| = \left| \frac{f(w) - f(z)}{1 - \overline{f(w)}f(z)} \right|$$

and

$$|\zeta| = |\psi_w(z)| = \left| \frac{w - z}{1 - \overline{w}z} \right|.$$

Also,  $g(0) = 0$  so that  $|g(\zeta)| \leq |\zeta|$  by the classical Schwarz lemma.  $\square$

**LEMMA 11.2. Schwarz's lemma on the polydisk** *Let  $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^N)$  satisfies  $\|f\|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $f(0) = 0$ . Then*

$$|f(w_1, \dots, w_N)| \leq \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} |w_i|.$$

*Proof:* Let

$$r = \max_{i=1, \dots, N} |w_i|.$$

Define  $g \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  by

$$g(z) := f\left(\frac{z}{r}(w_1, \dots, w_N)\right).$$

Then  $\|g\|_\infty \leq 1$ , and  $g(0) = 0$ . Apply Schwarz's lemma to  $g$  to conclude  $|g(r)| \leq r$ .  $\square$

**LEMMA 11.3.** *Let  $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  satisfies  $\|f\|_\infty \leq K$  and  $f(0) = 1$ . Then  $f \neq 0$  on  $\frac{1}{K}\mathbb{D}$ .*

*Proof:* We may assume that  $g$  is non-constant. Consider  $g(z) = \frac{f(z)}{K}$ , then  $g(0) = 1/K$  and  $g : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ . If  $f(z) = 0$ , then, by the Schwarz-Pick lemma applied to  $g$  and  $w = 0$

$$\frac{1}{K} = \left| \frac{\frac{1}{K}f(0) - 0}{1 - \overline{\frac{1}{K}f(0)} \cdot 0} \right| = \left| \frac{g(0) - g(z)}{1 - \overline{g(0)}g(w)} \right| \leq \left| \frac{0 - z}{1 - 0 \cdot z} \right| = |z|.$$

Thus  $f$  cannot vanish on  $\frac{1}{K}\mathbb{D}$ .  $\square$

**LEMMA 11.4.** *Let  $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^N)$  satisfies  $\|f\|_\infty \leq K$  and  $f(0) = 1$ . Then  $f \neq 0$  on  $\frac{1}{K}\mathbb{D}^N$ .*

*Proof:* Fix  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_N) \in \mathbb{D}^N$ , and define  $|w|_\infty = \max_{i=1, \dots, N} |w_i|$ . Define  $g \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  by  $g(z) := f(\frac{zw}{|w|_\infty})$ , then  $\|g\|_\infty \leq K$ . If  $f(w) = 0$ , then  $g(|w|_\infty) = 0$ . Thus, by the preceding lemma,  $|w|_\infty \geq 1/K$ .  $\square$

### 11.3. Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space of functions on a set  $X$  such that evaluation at each point of  $X$  is continuous. (Note: when we speak of a Hilbert space of functions on  $X$ , we assume that any function that is identically zero on  $X$  is zero in the Hilbert space). Then by the Riesz representation theorem, for each  $w \in X$ , there must be some function  $k_w \in \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$f(w) = \langle f, k_w \rangle.$$

One can think of  $k_w$  as a function in its own right,  $k_w(z)$  say. We call the function  $k(z, w) = k_w(z)$  the kernel function for  $\mathcal{H}$ , and we call  $k_w$  the reproducing kernel at  $w$ .

**PROPOSITION 11.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert function space on  $X$ , and let  $\{e_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$  be any orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then*

$$k(z, w) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \overline{e_i(w)} e_i(z). \quad (11.6)$$

**PROOF:** This is just Parseval's identity:

$$\begin{aligned} k(z, w) &= \langle k_w, k_z \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \langle k_w, e_i \rangle \overline{\langle k_z, e_i \rangle} \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \overline{e_i(w)} e_i(z). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

It follows from (11.6) that  $k(z, w) = \overline{k(w, z)}$ .

**PROPOSITION 11.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space of analytic functions on a topological space  $X$  such that the function  $\kappa : X \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  given by  $\kappa(w) := k_w$  is continuous. Let  $\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{H}$  be a bounded sequence. Then, the following are equivalent*

- (1)  $\langle f_n, g \rangle \rightarrow \langle f, g \rangle$  for all  $g$  in some set  $S \subset \mathcal{H}$ , whose span is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ ,
- (2)  $f_n \rightarrow f$  weakly in  $\mathcal{H}$ ,
- (3)  $f_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $X$ ,
- (4)  $f_n \rightarrow f$  pointwise in  $X$ .

*Proof:* (1)  $\implies$  (2) : By linearity,  $\langle f_n, g \rangle \rightarrow \langle f, g \rangle$  for all  $g \in \text{span } S$ . Now choose an arbitrary  $g \in \mathcal{H}$ , fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and find  $g_0 \in \text{span } S$  such that  $\|g - g_0\| < \varepsilon$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\langle f_n - f, g \rangle| &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\langle f_n - f, g - g_0 \rangle| + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\langle f_n - f, g_0 \rangle| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n - f\| \cdot \|g - g_0\| + 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq M\varepsilon,$$

where  $M = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|f_n\|$ . Since  $\varepsilon$  was arbitrary, we conclude that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  weakly.

(2)  $\implies$  (3) : Let  $K \subset X$  be compact, then by continuity of  $\kappa$ , the set  $\tilde{K} := \{k_w; w \in K\}$  is also compact. Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and find a finite  $\varepsilon$ -net  $\{k_{w_1}, \dots, k_{w_m}\}$  in  $\tilde{K}$ . Find  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $n > N$   $\langle f_n - f, k_{w_j} \rangle < \varepsilon$  holds for  $j = 1, \dots, m$ . Then for any  $w \in K$  and  $n > N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n(w) - f(w)| &= |\langle f_n - f, k_w \rangle| \\ &\leq |\langle f_n - f, k_{w_i} \rangle| + |\langle f_n - f, k_w - k_{w_i} \rangle| \\ &\leq \varepsilon + \|f_n - f\| \cdot \|k_w - k_{w_i}\| \\ &\leq \varepsilon + 2M\varepsilon \\ &= (2M + 1)\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

for a suitable  $i$  (such  $i$  exists since  $\{k_{w_1}, \dots, k_{w_m}\}$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -net). Since  $\varepsilon > 0$  was arbitrary, we conclude that  $f_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly in  $K$ .

(3)  $\implies$  (4) : Obvious.

(4)  $\implies$  (1) : Follow immediately, since (4) means that (1) holds with  $S = \{k_w\}_{w \in X}$   $\square$

**COROLLARY 11.8.** *Let  $\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a bounded sequence with  $\mathcal{H}$  as in Proposition 11.7. Then there exists a subsequence that satisfies all the equivalent conditions of Proposition 11.7.*

*Proof:* Since any bounded set in a Hilbert space weakly sequentially compact, there exists a subsequence that converges weakly. By Proposition 11.7, it satisfies all four conditions.  $\square$

#### 11.4. Multiplier Algebras

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Hilbert space of functions on  $X$ , we let  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$  denote the multiplier algebra, *i.e.* the set

$$\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H}) = \{\phi : \phi f \in \mathcal{H} \ \forall f \in \mathcal{H}\}.$$

It follows from the closed graph theorem that if  $\phi$  is in  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$ , then the operator  $M_\phi$  of multiplication by  $\phi$  is bounded. The adjoint  $M_\phi^*$  has all the kernel functions as eigenvectors.

**PROPOSITION 11.9.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert function space on  $X$ , and let  $\phi$  be in  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$ . Then*

$$M_\phi^* k_w = \overline{\phi(w)} k_w, \quad \forall w \in X. \quad (11.10)$$

$$\|M_\phi\| \geq \sup_X |\phi|. \quad (11.11)$$

If the norm on  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $L^2$ -norm on  $X$ , then (11.11) becomes an equality.

PROOF: Let  $f$  be an arbitrary function in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\langle f, M_\phi^* k_w \rangle &= \langle \phi f, k_w \rangle \\ &= \phi(w) f(w) \\ &= \langle f, \overline{\phi(w)} k_w \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

This proves (11.10).

As

$$\begin{aligned}\|M_\phi^*\| &\geq \sup_{w \in X} \|M_\phi^* k_w\| / \|k_w\| \\ &= \sup_{w \in X} |\phi(w)|,\end{aligned}$$

we get (11.11).

Finally, if the norm on  $\mathcal{H}$  is the  $L^2(\mu)$ -norm, then the inequality

$$\int_X |\phi f|^2 d\mu \leq \|\phi\|_\infty^2 \int_X |f|^2 d\mu$$

means  $\|M_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty$ . □

**PROPOSITION 11.12.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert function space on  $X$ , and assume  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$  separates the points of  $X$ . Then  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$  equals its commutant in the bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ .*

PROOF: Suppose  $T$  is in the commutant of  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$ . Then  $T^*$  has each kernel function  $k_w$  as an eigenvector, since  $\text{Mult}(\mathcal{H})$  separates the points of  $X$ . Therefore

$$T^* k_w = \overline{\phi(w)} k_w,$$

for some function  $\phi$ . Therefore  $T = M_\phi$ , and since  $T$  is bounded, this means  $\phi$  is a multiplier. □





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