

Invertibility of the Operators on Hilbert Spaces and Ideals in C^* -Algebras

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Abstract—Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space over the field \mathbb{C} , and let $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be the $*$ -algebra of all linear bounded operators in \mathcal{H} . Sufficient conditions for the positivity and invertibility of operators from $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ are found. An arbitrary symmetry from a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} is written as the product $A^{-1}UA$ with a positive invertible A and a self-adjoint unitary U from \mathcal{A} . Let φ be the weight on a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , let $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and let $\|A\| \leq 1$. If $A^*A - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$, then $|A| - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$ and, for any isometry $U \in \mathcal{A}$, the inequality $\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2} \geq \||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}$ holds. If U is a unitary operator from the polar expansion of the invertible operator A , then this inequality becomes an equality.

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1. INTRODUCTION

{ssec1:x35

Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space over the field \mathbb{C} , and let $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be the $*$ -algebra of all linear bounded operators in \mathcal{H} . Searching for sufficient conditions for the positivity and invertibility of operators from $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is one of the problems of operator theory; see, for example, [1]–[7] and the bibliography therein. Let us describe the results obtained.

Let $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$, let B be invertible, let $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be an operator-monotone function with $f(0) = 0$, and let $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} f(t) = +\infty$. Then the operator $f(f^{-1}(A) + B) - A$ belongs to $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$ and is invertible (Theorem 1; the positivity of the operator B is important here). Let $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, and let A be left-invertible; let $(\lambda - \lambda^2)|A|^2 \geq 2|B|^2$ for some number $0 < \lambda < 1$. Then the operator $|A + B|^2 - |B|^2$ belongs to $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$ and is invertible (Theorem 2). For unital C^* -algebras \mathcal{A} and $S \in \mathcal{A}$, the equivalence of the following conditions was established in [8, Corollary 1]:

(i) $S^2 = I$;

(ii) $S = T^{-1}UT$ for an invertible operator T and a Hermitian unitary U from \mathcal{A} . For a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , the operator T can be chosen positive (Theorem 4).

The study of traces and weights on operator algebras is an important part of the work on the theory of noncommutative integration (see [9]–[11]) and constantly attracts the attention of researchers; see, for example, [12]–[15] and bibliography therein.

Let φ be the weight on a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and let $\|A\| \leq 1$. If $A^*A - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$, then $|A| - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$ and, for any isometry $U \in \mathcal{A}$, the following inequality holds:

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2} \geq \||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}.$$

If the operator U is a unitary operator from the polar expansion of the invertible operator A , then this inequality becomes an equality (Theorem 5). Let φ be a finite weight on the unital C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} , $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and let $U \in \mathcal{A}$ be an isometry. Then

$$\|A - zU\|_{\varphi,2}^2 \geq \|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 - \varphi(I)^{-1}|\varphi(U^*A)|^2 \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{C}$$

(Theorem 6).

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2. DEFINITIONS AND NOTATION

The left (respectively, right) ideal of the algebra \mathcal{A} is a vector subspace \mathcal{J} in \mathcal{A} such that

$$A \in \mathcal{A} \quad \text{and} \quad B \in \mathcal{J} \implies AB \in \mathcal{J} \quad (\text{respectively, } BA \in \mathcal{J}).$$

By a C^* -algebra we mean a complex Banach $*$ -algebra \mathcal{A} such that

$$\|A^*A\| = \|A\|^2 \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{A}.$$

For the C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} , we let \mathcal{A}^{id} , \mathcal{A}^{sa} , and \mathcal{A}^+ denote its subsets of idempotents ($A = A^2$), Hermitian ($A^* = A$) elements, and positive elements, respectively. If $A \in \mathcal{A}$, then $|A| = \sqrt{A^*A} \in \mathcal{A}^+$ and $\text{Re}\{A\} = (A + A^*)/2 \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{sa}}$. If I is the unit in the algebra \mathcal{A} , then the formula $S_P = 2P - I$ defines the bijection between \mathcal{A}^{id} and the set \mathcal{A}^{sym} of all symmetries ($S^2 = I$) in \mathcal{A} . By \mathcal{A}^{inv} and \mathcal{A}^{u} we denote the subsets of invertible elements and unitary ($A^*A = AA^* = I$) elements, respectively. An element $A \in \mathcal{A}$ is called an isometr if $A^*A = I$.

By a *weight* on C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} we mean a mapping $\varphi: \mathcal{A}^+ \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ such that

$$\varphi(X + Y) = \varphi(X) + \varphi(Y), \quad \varphi(\lambda X) = \lambda\varphi(X) \quad \text{for all } X, Y \in \mathcal{A}^+, \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

(here $0 \cdot (+\infty) \equiv 0$). A weight φ is said to be *exact* if $\varphi(X) = 0 \implies X = 0, X \in \mathcal{A}^+$. For the weight φ , we define (see [16, Chap. II, II.6.7.3], [11, Chap. 2, Sec. 11])

- $\mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+ = \{X \in \mathcal{A}^+ : \varphi(X) < +\infty\}$, $\mathfrak{M}_\varphi^{\text{sa}} = \text{lin}_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+$;
- $\mathfrak{N}_\varphi = \{A \in \mathcal{A} : A^*A \in \mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+\}$ is a left ideal of \mathcal{A} ;
- $\|A\|_{\varphi,2} = \sqrt{\varphi(A^*A)}$ ($A \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$) be seminorm (norm for exact φ) to \mathfrak{N}_φ .

The restriction $\varphi|_{\mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+}$ can be extended by linearity to a functional on $\mathfrak{M}_\varphi = \text{lin}_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+$, this restriction will be denoted by the same letter φ . Such an extension allows us to identify finite weights (i.e., $\varphi(X) < +\infty$ for all $X \in \mathcal{A}^+$) with positive functionals in \mathcal{A} .

Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space over the field \mathbb{C} , let $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be the $*$ -algebra of all linear bounded operators in \mathcal{H} , and let $\sigma(A)$ be the spectrum of the operator $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. Any C^* -algebra can be realized as a C^* -subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ for a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} (Gelfand–Naimark; see [17, Theorem 3.4.1]). A locally convex topology in $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, defined by the semi-norms $X \mapsto \|X\xi\|$ ($\xi \in \mathcal{H}$), is called a *strong operator topology* (so-topology). By the *commutator* of a set $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ we mean the set

$$\mathcal{X}' = \{Y \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) : XY = YX \text{ for all } X \in \mathcal{X}\}.$$

By a *von Neumann algebra* acting in a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} , we mean a $*$ -subalgebra \mathcal{A} of the algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, for which $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}''$. For a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , we let \mathcal{A}^{pr} denote its lattice of projectors ($A = A^* = A^2$). For an operator $X \in \mathcal{A}$, by $\text{rp}(X)$ we will denote its *rank projector*, i.e., the projector onto the closure of the range of the operator X ; we have $\text{rp}(X) \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{pr}}$. For $\dim \mathcal{H} = n < \infty$ the algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is identified with the complete matrix algebra $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$.

Let $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. A function $f: \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be

- *matrix monotone of order n* or *n -monotone* if, for all $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})^{\text{sa}}$ with $\sigma(A), \sigma(B) \subseteq \mathcal{I}$, the inequality $A \leq B$ means $f(A) \leq f(B)$;
- *operator-monotone*, If it is n -monotone for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

If f is 2-monotone, then $f \in C^1(\mathcal{I})$ and $f' > 0$ for $f \neq \text{const}$. A function $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is operator-monotone if and only if it is operator concave, i.e.,

$$f(\lambda A + (1 - \lambda)B) \geq \lambda f(A) + (1 - \lambda)f(B) \quad \text{for all } A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$$

and $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$. Examples:

- 1) $f(t) = t^p, 0 \leq p \leq 1$;
- 2) $f(t) = (t - 1)/\log(t), f(0) := 0, f(1) := 1$; see [18, Sec. 2].

3. ON THE INVERTIBILITY OF THE OPERATORS

Lemma 1. *Let $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be an operator-monotone function with $f(0) = 0$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} f(t) = +\infty$, and let $t_0 > 0$. Then*

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \quad \exists \delta = \delta(\varepsilon) > 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, t_0] \quad (f(t + \varepsilon) \geq f(t) + \delta).$$

Proof. By [19, Chap. VII, Theorem 4], a 2-monotone function f , $f \neq \text{const}$, can be expressed in the form $f(t) = \int_0^t dx/c(x)^2$, where the function $c(x) > 0$ is also concave for all $x > 0$. Let us rewrite the inequality $f(t + \varepsilon) \geq f(t) + \delta$ in the form $\int_0^{t+\varepsilon} dx/c(x)^2 \geq \int_0^t dx/c(x)^2 + \delta$, i.e.,

$$\int_t^{t+\varepsilon} \frac{dx}{c(x)^2} \geq \delta. \tag{1}$$

Let us prove that the function $1/c(x)^2$ decreases. Suppose that $1/c(x)^2$ is strictly increasing on an interval $(a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}^+$. Then the function

$$f(t) = \int_0^t \frac{dx}{c(x)^2}$$

will be strictly convex on (a, b) , which is impossible, because every operator-monotone function on \mathbb{R}^+ is concave. It is now clear that the number $\delta = \varepsilon/c(t_0 + \varepsilon)^2$ satisfies inequality (1). \square

Theorem 1. *Let $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$, where B is invertible, and let $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be an operator-monotone function with $f(0) = 0$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} f(t) = +\infty$. Then*

$$\text{operator } f(f^{-1}(A) + B) - A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+ \text{ and invertible.}$$

Proof. Since $f^{-1}(A) + B \geq f^{-1}(A)$, holds in view of the fact that the function f is operator-monotone, we have $f(f^{-1}(A) + B) - A \geq 0$. In view of the inequality $B \geq 0$, where B is invertible, there exists a number $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $B \geq \varepsilon I$. Then

$$f(f^{-1}(A) + B) \geq f(f^{-1}(A) + \varepsilon I) \tag{2}$$

because the function f is operator-monotone. Let us prove that there exists a number $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ such that

$$f(f^{-1}(A) + \varepsilon I) \geq A + \delta I. \tag{3}$$

To do this, we use the spectral theorem in the form of multipliers (for the operator A) and Lemma 1 with a sufficiently large parameter t_0 , because inequality (3) is in a ‘‘commutative’’ setting. In this case, the operator A is regarded as a nonnegative essentially bounded measurable function on a measure space (Ω, Σ, μ) , which is the direct sum of spaces with finite measures. Now, from (2), (3), we obtain $f(f^{-1}(A) + B) - A \geq \delta I$, as required. \square

For the function $f(t) = \sqrt{t}$, $t \geq 0$, the choice of the number $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) > 0$ can be made without using Lemma 1. Let us take a number $\delta > 0$ such that $\varepsilon \geq 2\delta\|A\| + \delta^2$. Then

$$\varepsilon I \geq 2\delta\|A\|I + \delta^2 I \geq 2\delta A + \delta^2 I, \quad A^2 + \varepsilon I \geq A^2 + 2\delta A + \delta^2 I = (A + \delta I)^2;$$

thus, (3) is established, because the f function is operator-monotone.

Example 1. The positivity of the operator B is essential in Theorem 1. In $\mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C})$,

$$\text{for } A = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{we have } A^2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For an invertible matrix

$$B = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

the matrix

$$A^2 + B = \sqrt{A^2 + B} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is a projector. Therefore, the matrix

$$\sqrt{A^2 + B} - A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \leq 0$$

is invertible.

Theorem 2. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, let A be left-invertible, and let

$$(\lambda - \lambda^2)|A|^2 \geq 2|B|^2 \quad \text{for some number } 0 < \lambda < 1. \tag{4}$$

Then the operator $|A + B|^2 - |B|^2 \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$ is invertible.

Proof. The operator $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is left-invertible if it is bounded below, i.e.,

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 \quad \forall \xi \in \mathcal{H} \quad (\|A\xi\| \geq \varepsilon\|\xi\|).$$

Then

$$\langle A^*A\xi, \xi \rangle = \langle A\xi, A\xi \rangle = \|A\xi\|^2 \geq \varepsilon^2\|\xi\|^2 = \varepsilon^2\langle I\xi, \xi \rangle \quad \text{for all } \xi \in \mathcal{H},$$

i.e., $A^*A \geq \varepsilon^2I$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} |A + B|^2 - |B|^2 &= (1 - \lambda)|A|^2 + \lambda|A|^2 + A^*B + B^*A + \frac{1}{\lambda}|B|^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda}|B|^2 \\ &= (1 - \lambda)|A|^2 + \left| \sqrt{\lambda}A + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}B \right|^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda}|B|^2 \\ &\geq (1 - \lambda)|A|^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda}|B|^2 \geq \frac{1 - \lambda}{2}|A|^2 \geq \frac{(1 - \lambda)\varepsilon^2}{2}I. \end{aligned}$$

□

Example 2. Condition (4) is essential in Theorem 2. For an arbitrary number $0 < \varepsilon < 1/10$ in $\mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C})$, let us put

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \varepsilon & 1 - \varepsilon \\ 1 - \varepsilon & 1 + \varepsilon \end{pmatrix},$$

and let $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. We have

$$|A|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \varepsilon^2 & 1 - \varepsilon^2 \\ 1 - \varepsilon^2 & 1 + \varepsilon^2 \end{pmatrix} \not\geq \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 2|B|^2,$$

i.e., condition (4) does not hold for all $0 < \lambda < 1$. The operator

$$|A + B|^2 - |B|^2 = (A + B)^2 - B^2 = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 6 + 4\varepsilon + 2\varepsilon^2 & 4 - 2\varepsilon - 2\varepsilon^2 \\ 4 - 2\varepsilon - 2\varepsilon^2 & 2 + 2\varepsilon^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is invertible and has a negative eigenvalue.

Lemma 2. Let $\{A_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$, and let the series $\sum_{n=1}^\infty A_n$ so-converge. Let $\{\lambda_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset \mathbb{R}^+$, and let

$$0 < a = \inf_{n \geq 1} \lambda_n \leq \sup_{n \geq 1} \lambda_n = b < \infty.$$

Then the series $\sum_{n=1}^\infty \lambda_n A_n$ so-converges and

$$\sum_{n=1}^\infty A_n \text{ invertible} \iff \sum_{n=1}^\infty \lambda_n A_n \text{ invertible}.$$

Proof. The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n A_n$ so - converges due to [20, Theorem 2]. Note that

- 1) $a \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n A_n \leq b \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$;
- 2) $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$ is invertible $\leftrightarrow \exists \varepsilon > 0$ such that $A \geq \varepsilon I$.

□

{th3:x350}

Theorem 3. Let $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, and let $\lambda, \mu > 0$. Then

- (i) if the operator $A^*B + B^*A$ is invertible then so is $\lambda A^*A + \mu AA^*$;
- (ii) if $A \geq 0$ and $AB^* + BA$ is invertible then so is $\lambda A + \mu BAB^*$.

Proof. By virtue of Lemma 2, we can put $\lambda = \mu = 1$. Let $X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^+$, $Y \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})^{\text{sa}}$, and let $-X \leq Y \leq X$. If Y is invertible, then so is X [21, Corollary 2].

- (i) Since $(A \pm B)^*(A \pm B) \geq 0$, we have

$$-A^*A - B^*B \leq A^*B + B^*A \leq A^*A + B^*B.$$

- (ii) Since $(\sqrt{A} \pm B\sqrt{A})(\sqrt{A} \pm B\sqrt{A})^* \geq 0$, we have

$$-A - BAB^* \leq AB^* + BA \leq A + BAB^*.$$

□

4. SYMMETRIES AND IDEALS IN VON NEUMANN ALGEBRAS

{ssec4:x35}

For the unital C^* -algebras \mathcal{A} and $S \in \mathcal{A}$, the equivalence of the following conditions was established in [8, Corollary 1]:

- (i) $S^2 = I$, i.e., $S \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{sym}}$;
- (ii) $S = T^{-1}UT$ for some $T \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{inv}}$ and $U \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{u}} \cap \mathcal{A}^{\text{sa}}$.

Let us prove that, for a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , the operator T can be chosen to be positive.

{th4:x350}

Theorem 4. Let \mathcal{A} be a von Neumann algebra, and let $S \in \mathcal{A}$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) $S^2 = I$;
- (ii) $S = A^{-1}UA$ for some $A \in \mathcal{A}^+ \cap \mathcal{A}^{\text{inv}}$ and $U \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{u}} \cap \mathcal{A}^{\text{sa}}$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii) Formula $S_P = 2P - I$ defines the bijection between the sets \mathcal{A}^{id} and \mathcal{A}^{sym} . If $P \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{id}}$, then there exists a $T \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{inv}}$ such that

$$Q \equiv T^{-1}PT \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{pr}}$$

[22, Lemma 16]. If $T^{-1} = V|T^{-1}|$ be polar expansion of the operator T^{-1} , then $V = T^{-1}|T^{-1}|^{-1} \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{u}}$ and $T = |T^{-1}|^{-1}V^*$ by virtue of the theorem about the converse of the product of operators. Now

$$P = TQT^{-1} = |T^{-1}|^{-1}V^*QV|T^{-1}| = A^{-1}RA \quad \text{c} \quad A = |T^{-1}| \in \mathcal{A}^+ \cap \mathcal{A}^{\text{inv}}$$

and $R = V^*QV \in \mathcal{A}^{\text{pr}}$. Therefore,

$$S = 2P - I = 2A^{-1}RA - I = A^{-1}(2R - I)A$$

and we can put $U = 2R - I$.

□

{lem3:x350}

Lemma 3. *Let \mathcal{J} be a left (or right) ideal in a unital C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} , and let $A \in \mathcal{A}^+$, $I - A \in \mathcal{J}$. Then*

(i) $I - A^{1/2^n} \in \mathcal{J}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$;

(ii) *if \mathcal{A} is a von Neumann algebra and $A \leq I$, then $I - \text{rp}(A) \in \mathcal{J}$; for so-closed \mathcal{J} , the condition $A \leq I$ can be omitted.*

Proof. (i) Let \mathcal{J} be a left ideal in a unital C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} . Since

$$(I + \sqrt{A})(I - \sqrt{A}) = I - A \in \mathcal{J}$$

and the element $I + \sqrt{A}$ is invertible, we have $I - \sqrt{A} \in \mathcal{J}$. Since

$$(I + A^{1/4})(I - A^{1/4}) = I - \sqrt{A} \in \mathcal{J}$$

and the element $I + A^{1/4}$ is invertible, we have $I - A^{1/4} \in \mathcal{J}$. Continuing this process, we obtain the required result.

(ii) Suppose that \mathcal{A} is a von Neumann algebra, and $A \leq I$. Since $\text{rp}(A) \geq A$, it follows that $I - A \geq I - \text{rp}(A) \geq 0$ and $\text{rp}(A)A = A \text{rp}(A) = A$. If $X, Y \in \mathcal{A}^+$ and $X \leq Y$, then there exists a $Z \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\|Z\| \leq 1$ such that $\sqrt{X} = Z\sqrt{Y}$ [23, Chap. 1, Sec. 1, Lemma 2]. Therefore,

$$\sqrt{I - \text{rp}(A)} = I - \text{rp}(A) = Z\sqrt{I - A}$$

for some $Z \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\|Z\| \leq 1$. By virtue of the spectral theorem in the form of multipliers, we have

$$\begin{aligned} I - \text{rp}(A) &= \sqrt{I - \text{rp}(A)} = \sqrt{(I - \text{rp}(A))(I - A)} = (I - \text{rp}(A))\sqrt{I - A} \\ &= Z\sqrt{I - A} \cdot \sqrt{I - A} = Z(I - A) \in \mathcal{J}. \end{aligned}$$

Now let the left ideal \mathcal{J} be so-closed. Since \mathcal{J} is a convex subset in \mathcal{A} , by [9, Chap. II, Sec. 2, item (iv) of Theorem 2.6], it follows that \mathcal{J} is σ -weakly closed. Therefore, by virtue of [9, Chap. II, Sec. 3, Proposition 3.12] \mathcal{J} contains a single projector E such that $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{A}E$. Let $X \in \mathcal{A}$ for which $I - A = XE$. Then

$$I - \text{rp}(A) = I - A - \text{rp}(A)(I - A) = (I - \text{rp}(A))(I - A) = (I - \text{rp}(A))XE \in \mathcal{J}$$

and the lemma is proved. □

{th5:x350}

Theorem 5. *Let φ be the weight on a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and let $\|A\| \leq 1$. If $A^*A - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$, then $|A| - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$ and, for any isometry $U \in \mathcal{A}$, the following inequality holds:*

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2} \geq \||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}. \tag{5}$$

{eq5:x350}

If the operator U is a unitary operator from the polar expansion of the invertible operator A , then the equality is achieved in (5).

Proof. Since $|A| = \sqrt{A^*A}$ and \mathfrak{N}_φ is a left ideal of \mathcal{A} , we have $|A| - I \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$ by virtue of item (i) of Lemma 3. To prove inequality (5) without loss of generality, it suffices to consider the case of an arbitrary isometry $U \in \mathcal{A}$, for which $A - U \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$. Let $B = |A| - I$; then the polar representation of the operator A can be expressed as $A = W(I + B)$, where W is a unitary operator. Let $V = W^*U$; then V is an isometry and

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \|I + B - V\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \varphi((B + I - V)^*(B + I - V)).$$

Therefore,

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \varphi(B^2) + \varphi(D), \tag{6}$$

{eq6:x350}

where

$$D = 2I + 2B - V - V^* - BV - V^*B \in \mathfrak{M}_\varphi^{\text{sa}}.$$

Let us prove that $D \geq 0$. Since $\|A\| \leq 1$, we have $|A|^2 \leq |A|$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} D &= 2I + |A| - I - V - V^* - |A|V^* + V^* - V|A| + V \\ &= I + |A| - |A|V - V^*|A| = (|A| - V)^*(|A| - V) + (|A| - |A|^2) \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

as the sum of two nonnegative operators, and (5) holds due to (6) and the fact that the function $f(t) = \sqrt{t}$, $t \geq 0$, is monotone.

Let U be a unitary operator from the polar expansion of the operator A , i.e., $U = A|A|^{-1}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|A - U\|_{\varphi,2}^2 &= \varphi((A - A|A|^{-1})^*(A - A|A|^{-1})) \\ &= \varphi(|A|^2 - |A|^{-1}|A|^2 - |A|^2|A|^{-1} + |A|^{-1}|A|^2|A|^{-1}) \\ &= \varphi(|A|^2 - 2|A| + I) = \varphi((|A| - I)^2) = \||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}^2, \end{aligned}$$

i.e., in (5), equality is achieved. \square

For $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, $\varphi = \text{tr}$, and the unitary operator U , the assertion of Theorem 5 was obtained in [24, Chap. VI, Lemma 3.1] and it was shown that, in this particular case, the equal sign in (5) is realized if and only if U is a unitary operator from the polar expansion of an invertible operator A .

Lemma 4. *For the numbers $a, c > 0$ and $b \in \mathbb{C}$, let us define a function $f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, assuming that $f(z) = c|z|^2 - 2\Re\{z\bar{b}\} + a$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Then*

$$\min_{z \in \mathbb{C}} f(z) = f\left(\frac{b}{c}\right) = a - \frac{|b|^2}{c}.$$

Proof. For all $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we have

$$f(z) = \left(\sqrt{c}z - \frac{b}{\sqrt{c}}\right) \left(\sqrt{c}\bar{z} - \frac{\bar{b}}{\sqrt{c}}\right) - \frac{|b|^2}{c} + a = \left|\sqrt{c}z - \frac{b}{\sqrt{c}}\right|^2 - \frac{|b|^2}{c} + a.$$

\square

Theorem 6. *Let φ be the weight on a unital C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} , $A \in \mathcal{A}$, and let $U \in \mathcal{A}$ be an isometry. Then*

- (i) $A \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi \Leftrightarrow UA \in \mathfrak{N}_\varphi$ and $\|UA\|_{\varphi,2} = \|A\|_{\varphi,2}$;
- (ii) if φ is finite, then $\|A - zU\|_{\varphi,2}^2 \geq \|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 - \varphi(I)^{-1}|\varphi(U^*A)|^2$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. (i) We have

$$\|UA\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \varphi(A^*U^*UA) = \varphi(A^*A) = \|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2.$$

(ii) The extension of a finite weight φ to the whole algebra \mathcal{A} will be denoted by the same letter φ . Since $\varphi(X^*) = \overline{\varphi(X)}$ and $\varphi(\text{Re}\{X\}) = \Re\{\varphi(X)\}$ for all $X \in \mathcal{A}$, it follows that, for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|A - zU\|_{\varphi,2}^2 &= \varphi((A^* - \bar{z}U^*)(A - zU)) = \varphi(A^*A) - \varphi(2\text{Re}\{\bar{z}U^*A\}) + |z|^2\varphi(I) \\ &= \|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 - 2\Re\{\bar{z}\varphi(U^*A)\} + |z|^2\varphi(I). \end{aligned}$$

The minimum of this expression (for fixed A and U) is attained at the point $z = \varphi(I)^{-1}\overline{\varphi(U^*A)}$, and it is equal to $\|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 - \varphi(I)^{-1}|\varphi(U^*A)|^2$; see Lemma 4. \square

From Theorem 5 and Theorem 6 with $z = 1$, we obtain the following statement.

Corollary 1. *Let φ be finite weight on a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{A} , $A \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\|A\| \leq 1$, and let $U \in \mathcal{A}$ be an isometry. Then*

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2}^2 \geq \max\{\||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}^2, \|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 - \varphi(I)^{-1}|\varphi(U^*A)|^2\}.$$

Example 3. Suppose that the positive functional $\varphi: \mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is given by the density matrix $S_\varphi = \text{diag}(t + s, t - s)$ with fixed $t > 0$ and $0 \leq s \leq t$. Then

$$\varphi(X) = \text{tr}(S_\varphi X) = (t + s)x_{11} + (t - s)x_{22} \quad \text{for all } X = [x_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^2 \in \mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C}).$$

Let us put $A := \text{diag}(1, 0)$, $U := \text{diag}(1, -1)$. Then

$$\|A - U\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \||A| - I\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = t - s$$

and, in the inequality of Theorem 5, the equality is achieved for all $0 \leq s \leq t$. We have $\varphi(I) = 2t$ and

$$\|A\|_{\varphi,2}^2 = \varphi(U^*A) = \varphi(A) = t + s,$$

because A is a projector. Inequality in item (ii) of Theorem 6 becomes

$$t - s \geq t + s - \frac{(t + s)^2}{2t} = \frac{t}{2} - \frac{s^2}{2t}$$

and, for $s = t$, this inequality becomes an equality. Thus, for $s = t$, the inequality of Corollary 1 also becomes an equality.

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