

# Rigidity of the flag structure for a class of Cowen-Douglas operators

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Multivariable Operator Theory Workshop  
On the occasion of Baruch Solel's 65th Birthday  
Technion, Haifa: June 18-22, 2017

# Motivation

- Notation:-

$\mathcal{H}$  : Separable Hilbert Space,

$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  : all bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ .

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- Question:- Given  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ , when there exists a unitary operator  $U$  on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $T_2 = U^* T_1 U$ .
- In general, solution of this problem is not easy but for some special classes of operators one has affirmative answer.

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- Set of eigenvalues of a normal operator defined on a separable Hilbert space is at most countable.

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$$S^*(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots) = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots)$$

for  $(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots) \in \ell^2(\mathbb{N})$ .

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$(1, \lambda, \lambda^2, \dots) \in \ell^2(\mathbb{N})$  for  $|\lambda| < 1$ , we see that

$$\mathbb{D} \subseteq \sigma_p(S^*) \subseteq \sigma(S^*),$$

where  $\mathbb{D} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ ,

$$\sigma_p(S^*) := \{\alpha \in \mathbb{C} : S^* - \alpha I \text{ is not one-one}\}$$

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$$\sigma(S^*) := \{\alpha \in \mathbb{C} : S^* - \alpha I \text{ is not invertible}\}.$$

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## Definition

Given a bounded, open and connected subset  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the Cowen-Douglas class  $B_n(\Omega)$  consists of operators  $T$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (1)  $\Omega \subset \sigma(T) = \{w \in \mathbb{C} : T - w \text{ is not invertible}\}$ ;
- (2)  $\text{ran}(T - w) = \mathcal{H}$  for  $w$  in  $\Omega$ ;
- (3)  $\text{span}\{\ker(T - w) : w \in \Omega\}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ ; and
- (4)  $\dim \ker(T - w) = n$  for  $w$  in  $\Omega$ .

## Example

$$H^2 = \{f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{D}) : f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 < \infty\}. M_z^* \in B_1(\mathbb{D}).$$

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$$L^2_{\alpha}(\mathbb{D}) = \{f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{D}) : f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{|a_n|^2}{n+1} < \infty\}. M_z^* \in B_1(\mathbb{D}).$$

- There is a Hermitian holomorphic vector bundle  $E_T$  corresponding to each  $T \in B_n(\Omega)$ , where

$$E_T := \{(w, x) \in \Omega \times \mathcal{H} : x \in \ker(T - w)\}, \pi(w, x) = w.$$

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### Theorem (Cowen-Douglas)

*Operators  $T$  and  $\tilde{T}$  in  $B_n(\Omega)$  are unitarily equivalent if and only if the corresponding Hermitian holomorphic vector bundles  $E_T$  and  $E_{\tilde{T}}$  are equivalent.*



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- But these invariant are not easy to calculate, usually, unless  $n = 1$ .
- For  $n = 1$ , the curvature  $\mathcal{K}_T$  of the bundles  $E_T$  is given by the formula

$$\mathcal{K}_T(w) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial w \partial \bar{w}} \log \|\gamma(w)\|^2 d\bar{w} \wedge dw$$

for some non zero section  $\gamma$  of  $E_T$ .

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- Operators  $T$  and  $\tilde{T}$  in  $B_1(\Omega)$  are equivalent if and only if the curvatures  $\mathcal{K}_T(w)$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{\tilde{T}}(w)$  are equal.

## Theorem (Jiang-Wang)

Given  $T \in B_n(\Omega)$ , there exist  $B_1(\Omega)$  operators  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_{n-1}$  such that

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & & & * \\ & T_1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & T_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

with respect to some decomposition of  $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathcal{H}_i$  of Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ .

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### Definition

We let  $\mathcal{F}B_2(\Omega)$  denote the set of operators of the form

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

for some  $T_0, T_1 \in B_1(\Omega)$  and non zero operator  $S$  such that  $T_0S = ST_1$ .



## Definition

An operator  $T$  is called homogeneous if  $\sigma(T) \subseteq \bar{\mathbb{D}}$  and  $\phi(T) \cong T$  for all  $\phi \in \text{m\"ob}$ .

## Example

If  $T \in B_2(\mathbb{D})$ , irreducible and homogeneous then  $T \in \mathcal{F}B_2(\mathbb{D})$ .

## Theorem

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- To prove above Theorem, we need to introduce some notation:
  - $\sigma_T : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $\sigma_T(X) = TX - XT$ , where  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ .

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  - $\sigma_T : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $\sigma_T(X) = TX - XT$ , where  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ .
  - $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ , is quasi-nilpotent if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n\|^{1/n} = 0$

## Theorem (Kleinecke, Shirokov)

For  $P, T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ , if  $P \in \ker \sigma_T \cap \text{ran } \sigma_T$  then  $P$  is quasi-nilpotent.

## Lemma

For  $T, \tilde{T} \in B_1(\Omega)$  and  $X \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  such that  $XT = \tilde{T}X$ , then  $X$  has dense range if and only if  $X$  is non zero.

## Lemma

Let  $T \in B_1(\Omega)$  and  $X \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  is quasi-nilpotent such that  $XT = TX$  then  $X = 0$ .

## Proof.

- Let  $P = \begin{pmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} \\ P_{21} & P_{22} \end{pmatrix}$  be a projection such that  $PT = TP$

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- $P_{11}$  and  $P_{22}$  are projections such that  $P_{11}T_0 = T_0P_{11}$  and  $P_{22}T_1 = T_1P_{22}$

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- $P_{11} = I$  or  $0$  and  $P_{22} = I$  or  $0$
- $P_{11}S = SP_{22} \Rightarrow P_{11} = P_{22} = 0$  or  $P_{11} = P_{22} = I$



Any intertwining unitary between two operators in  $\mathcal{F}B_2(\Omega)$  is diagonal, in other words,

### Theorem

Let  $U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} \end{pmatrix}$  be a unitary operator such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{T}_0 & \tilde{S} \\ 0 & \tilde{T}_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

then  $U_{12} = U_{21} = 0$ .

## Corollary

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}, \tilde{T} = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & \tilde{S} \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}; T_0, T_1 \in B_1(\Omega), T_0 S = S T_1 \text{ and } T_0 \tilde{S} = \tilde{S} T_1.$$

$$T \cong \tilde{T} \Leftrightarrow \tilde{S} = e^{i\theta} S, \text{ for some } \theta \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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## Corollary

Let  $T_i: \mathcal{H}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i, i = 0, 1$  be bounded linear operators and  $T_1, T_0 \in \mathcal{B}_1(\Omega)$ . Let  $S$  be a bounded linear operators such that  $S T_1 = T_0 S$ . Let  $\mu$  be positive real number. Set,  $T_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & \mu S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $T_\mu$  is unitarily equivalent to  $T_{\tilde{\mu}}$  if and only if  $\mu = \tilde{\mu}$ .



## Theorem

Let  $T, \tilde{T} \in \mathcal{F}B_2(\Omega)$ ,  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\tilde{T} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{T}_0 & \tilde{S} \\ 0 & \tilde{T}_1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Let  $t_1$  and  $\tilde{t}_1$  be non zero section of  $E_{T_1}$  and  $E_{\tilde{T}_1}$  respectively.

$$T \cong \tilde{T} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{H}_{T_0} = \mathcal{H}_{\tilde{T}_0}, \frac{\|S(t_1)(w)\|}{\|t_1(w)\|} = \frac{\|\tilde{S}(\tilde{t}_1)(w)\|}{\|\tilde{t}_1(w)\|}, \text{ for all } w \in \Omega.$$

Equivalently,

$$T \cong \tilde{T} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{H}_{T_0} = \mathcal{H}_{\tilde{T}_0}, \text{ and } \theta_{12} = \tilde{\theta}_{12},$$

where  $\theta_{12}$  is second fundamental form of  $E_{T_0}$  in  $E_T$ .

## Proof.

⇒

- $\begin{pmatrix} U_1 & 0 \\ 0 & U_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{T}_0 & \tilde{S} \\ 0 & \tilde{T}_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U_1 & 0 \\ 0 & U_2 \end{pmatrix}$
- $U_1(S(t_1)) = \phi_1(\tilde{S}(\tilde{t}_1))$  and  $U_2 t_1 = \phi_2 \tilde{t}_1$
- $U_1 S = \tilde{S} U_2 \Rightarrow \phi_1 = \phi_2$
- $\mathcal{H}_{T_0} = \mathcal{H}_{\tilde{T}_0}$  and  $\frac{\|S(t_1)\|^2}{\|t_1\|^2} = \frac{\|\tilde{S}(\tilde{t}_1)\|^2}{\|\tilde{t}_1\|^2}$

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- $\mathcal{K}_{T_0} = \mathcal{K}_{\tilde{T}_0}$  and  $\frac{\|S(t_1)\|^2}{\|t_1\|^2} = \frac{\|\tilde{S}(\tilde{t}_1)\|^2}{\|\tilde{t}_1\|^2}$

⇐

- Set,  $\gamma_0(w) := S(t_1(w))$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma}_0(w) := \tilde{S}(\tilde{t}_1(w))$ ,  
 $\gamma_1(w) := \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \gamma_0(w) - t_1(w)$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_1(w) := \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \tilde{\gamma}_0(w) - \tilde{t}_1(w)$
- $\mathcal{K}_{T_0} = \mathcal{K}_{\tilde{T}_0} \Rightarrow \|\gamma_0\|^2 = |\phi|^2 \|\tilde{\gamma}_0\|^2$
- $\frac{\|\gamma_0\|^2}{\|t_1\|^2} = \frac{\|\tilde{\gamma}_0\|^2}{\|\tilde{t}_1\|^2} \Rightarrow \|t_1\|^2 = |\phi|^2 \|\tilde{t}_1\|^2$
- $\Psi : E_T \rightarrow E_{\tilde{T}}$ ,  $\Psi(\gamma_0) = \phi \tilde{\gamma}_0$  and  $\Psi(\gamma_1) = \phi' \tilde{\gamma}_0 + \phi \tilde{\gamma}_1$
- $\langle \Psi(\gamma_i), \Psi(\gamma_j) \rangle = \langle \gamma_i, \gamma_j \rangle$ , for  $0 \leq i, j \leq 1$ .

□

## Theorem

$$T \in \mathcal{FB}_2(\mathbb{D}), T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S \\ 0 & T_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$T$  is a homogeneous operator  $\Leftrightarrow$

- (1)  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  are homogeneous;
- (2)  $\mathcal{H}_{T_0} = \mathcal{H}_{T_1} + \mathcal{H}_{B^*}$ ,  $B$  is Bergman shift;
- (3)  $S(t_1(w)) = \alpha \gamma_0(w)$  where  $\|t_1(w)\|^2 = \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^\mu}$  and  $\|\gamma_0(w)\|^2 = \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^\lambda}$ ,  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

## Definition

We let  $\mathcal{F}B_n(\Omega)$  be the set of all operators  $T$  defined on complex separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}_{n-1}$  which is of the form

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S_{0,1} & S_{0,2} & \cdots & S_{0,n-1} \\ 0 & T_1 & S_{1,2} & \cdots & S_{1,n-1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & T_{n-2} & S_{n-2,n-1} \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & T_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $T_i : \mathcal{H}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i$ , defined on the complex separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ , is assumed to be in  $B_1(\Omega)$  and  $S_{i,i+1} : \mathcal{H}_{i+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_i$ , is assumed to be a non-zero intertwining operator, namely,  $T_i S_{i,i+1} = S_{i,i+1} T_{i+1}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-2$ .

## Theorem

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## Theorem

$T, \tilde{T} \in \mathcal{F}B_n(\Omega)$ .

$T \cong \tilde{T} \Leftrightarrow$  there exist unitary operators  $U_i : \mathcal{H}_i \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$  such that  $U_i \tilde{T}_i U_i^* = T_i$  and  $U_i S_{i,j} = \tilde{S}_{i,j} U_j$ , for any  $i < j$ .

## Theorem

Suppose  $T$  is an operator in  $\mathcal{F} B_n(\Omega)$  and that  $t_{n-1}$  is a non-vanishing section of  $E_{T_{n-1}}$ . Then

- the curvature  $\mathcal{K}_{T_0}$ ,
- $\frac{\|t_{i-1}\|}{\|t_i\|}$ , where  $t_{i-1} = S_{i-1,i}(t_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ;
- $\frac{\langle S_{k,j}(t_j), t_k \rangle}{\|t_k\|^2}$ ,  $0 \leq k < l \leq n-2$  with  $i-j \geq 2$ .

are a complete set of unitary invariants for the operator  $T$ .



## Corollary

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & S_{0,1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & T_1 & S_{1,2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-2} & S_{n-2,n-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n},$$

$$\tilde{T} = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & \tilde{S}_{0,1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & T_1 & \tilde{S}_{1,2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-2} & \tilde{S}_{n-2,n-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n};$$

$$T \cong \tilde{T} \Leftrightarrow \tilde{S}_{j,j+1} = e^{i\theta_j} S_{j,j+1}, \theta_j \in \mathbb{R}, 0 \leq j \leq n-2.$$

## Corollary

$$T_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} T_0 & \mu_0 S_{0,1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & T_1 & \mu_1 S_{1,2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-2} & \mu_{n-2} S_{n-2,n-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T_{n-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\mu_i > 0, 0 \leq i \leq n-2$ ,  $\mu = (\mu_0, \dots, \mu_{n-2})$ .  $T_{\mu}$  is unitarily equivalent to  $T_{\tilde{\mu}}$  if and only if  $\mu = \tilde{\mu}$ .

Thank You and Happy  
Birthday to Prof. Baruch  
Solel