

A Remark on Invariant Subspaces of Index One in  $p^t(\mu)$ -Spaces

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, isometric equivalence of the multiplication operator  $M_z$  restricted to the invariant subspaces of index 1 in  $p^t(\mu)$  are investigated. Also, the reducing subspaces of the operators  $M_z^i$ ,  $i \geq 1$  on  $p^2(\mu)$  are discussed.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Let  $\mu$  be a finite, nonnegative measure on the closure of the open unit disc  $D$ . For  $1 \leq t < \infty$ , let  $p^t(\mu)$  denote the closure of analytic polynomials in  $L^t(\mu)$ . A point  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  is called a bounded point evaluation for  $p^t(\mu)$  if there is a positive constant  $c$  such that  $|p(z)| \leq c \|p\|_{L^t(\mu)}$  for all polynomials  $p$ ; the collection of all such points is denoted  $bpe(p^t(\mu))$ . If  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and there are positive constants  $M$  and  $r$  such that  $|p(w)| \leq M \|p\|_{L^t(\mu)}$ , whenever  $p$  is a polynomial, and  $|w - z| < r$ , then  $z$  is called an analytic bounded point evaluation for  $p(\mu)$ . Denote the set of all such points by  $abpe(p^t(\mu))$ . Observe that  $abpe(p^t(\mu))$  is an open subset of  $bpe(p^t(\mu))$ .

We will, assume that  $\text{support}(\mu) = D$ ,  $\mu(\{\lambda\}) = 0$  for every  $\lambda \in D$ ,  $abpe(p^t(\mu)) = D$ , and  $p^t(\mu)$  is irreducible, by which we mean that  $p^t(\mu)$  contains no nontrivial characteristic functions. It is known that  $p^t(\mu)$  has the division property at all  $\lambda \in D$ ; that is, if  $f \in p^t(\mu)$  and  $\lambda \in D$  with  $f(\lambda) = 0$ , then,  $f(z)/(z - \lambda) \in p^t(\mu)$ . Multiplication by  $z$  defines a bounded linear operator on  $p(\mu)$  which we will denote by  $S$ . An invariant subspace of  $p^t(\mu)$  is a closed linear subspace  $M \subseteq p^t(\mu)$  such that  $SM \subseteq M$ . It is also known that  $S - \lambda I$  is bounded below for every  $\lambda \in D$ ; so if  $M$  is an invariant subspace of  $p^t(\mu)$  then  $(S - \lambda I)M$  is closed. Furthermore, it follows from the Fredholm theory that  $\dim M / (S - \lambda I)M$  does not depend on  $\lambda \in D$ . The index of an invariant subspace of  $M$  is the dimension of  $M/SM$ . Recall that if  $\mu = \frac{1}{\pi} A$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $D$  then  $p^t(\mu)$  is the Bergman space  $L_a^t$ .

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## 2. ISOMETRICALLY EQUIVALENT INVARIANT SUBSPACES

Recall that an operator  $U$  is an isometry if  $\|Uf\| = \|f\|$  for every  $f$  in  $\text{dom}(U)$ . Two invariant subspaces  $M$  and  $N$  of  $p^t(\mu)$  are called isometrically equivalent if there is a linear isometry  $U : M \rightarrow N$  such that  $US|_M = S|_N U$ . It follows from Beurling's theorem that all invariant subspaces of the multiplication by  $z$ ,  $M_z$ , on the Hardy space  $H^2$  are isometrically equivalent to one another. If the underlying space is a Hilbert space and  $U$  is a linear surjective isometry then  $M$  and  $N$  are called unitarily equivalent. Richter in [3] has shown that no two invariant subspaces of the Bergman space  $L_a^2$  are unitarily equivalent to one another, unless they are equal. Also, he has proved that if  $M$  and  $N$  are invariant subspaces of  $M_z$  on the Dirichlet space  $D$  and  $N \subseteq M$  then  $M = N$ .

**Theorem 1:** Suppose that  $M$  and  $N$  are two isometrically equivalent invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  both of indices 1. If  $N \subseteq M$  then  $M = N$ .

**Proof:** Let  $U : M \rightarrow N$  be a linear isometry such that  $US|_M = S|_N U$ . For any  $\lambda \in D$ , define  $K_\lambda^M$  to be the element in  $\ker(S|_M - \lambda)^*$  such that  $f(\lambda) = \langle f, K_\lambda^M \rangle$  for every  $f \in M$ . If  $Z(M) = \{\lambda \in D : f(\lambda) = 0, \text{ for each } f \in M\}$  then by Lemmas 2.1 and 3.1 of [2], for every  $\lambda \in D \setminus Z(M)$ ,  $\ker(S|_M - \lambda)^* = C \cdot K_\lambda^M$ . Similarly,  $\ker(S|_N - \lambda)^* = C \cdot K_\lambda^N$  for every  $\lambda \in D \setminus Z(N) \subseteq D \setminus Z(M)$ . Since  $U^*$  maps  $\ker(S|_N - \lambda)^*$  into  $\ker(S|_M - \lambda)^*$ , we see that  $U^* K_\lambda^N = \varphi(\lambda) K_\lambda^M$  for every  $\lambda \in D \setminus Z(N)$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (Uf)(\lambda) &= \langle Uf, K_\lambda^N \rangle = \langle f, U^* K_\lambda^N \rangle = \langle f, \varphi(\lambda) K_\lambda^M \rangle \\ &= \varphi(\lambda) \langle f, K_\lambda^M \rangle = \varphi(\lambda) f(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

for each  $f \in M$  and  $\lambda \in D \setminus Z(N)$ .

Since  $N \neq \{0\}$ , the set  $Z(N)$  is a countable subset of  $D$  with accumulation points only on the unit circle  $T$ . Thus,  $D \setminus Z(N)$  is always a nonempty open set. Let  $f$  be a nonzero function in  $M$ . If  $f$  has a zero of order  $n$  at  $z \in D \setminus Z(N)$  and  $\varphi f$  has a zero of order  $m$  at  $z$ , then  $(j-1)n \leq jm$  for every  $j \geq 1$ , because  $f^{j-1}(f \varphi^j) = (f \varphi)^j$  and  $f \varphi^j$  is analytic on  $D \setminus Z(N)$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{j-1}{j} \leq \frac{m}{n} \quad j = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

Letting  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , we conclude that  $n \leq m$  which implies that  $\varphi = \frac{\varphi f}{f}$  is analytic on  $D \setminus Z(N)$ . From now on, suppose that  $f$  is a fixed nonzero element in  $M$ . Since  $\|U\| = 1$ , we have

$$|(\varphi^n f)(\lambda)| = |\langle U^n f, K_\lambda^M \rangle| \leq \|f\| \|K_\lambda^M\|$$

for each  $n \geq 1$  and all  $\lambda \in D \setminus Z(N)$ ; thus

$$|\varphi(\lambda)| \|f(\lambda)\|^{1/n} \leq (\|f\| \|K_\lambda^M\|)^{1/n}.$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we see that  $|\varphi(\lambda)| \leq 1$  for all  $\lambda$  such that  $f(\lambda) \neq 0$ . Thus,  $|\varphi(\lambda)| \leq 1$  on  $D \setminus Z(N)$ , and so can be extended to an analytic function on  $D$ . Hence,  $(Ug)(\lambda) = \varphi(\lambda)g(\lambda)$  for every  $g \in M$  and  $\lambda \in D$ . Put  $\Omega = \{z : |\varphi(z)| < 1\}$ . Then

$$\|\varphi^n f\|_p = \|f\|_p;$$

that is

$$\int_{\Omega} |\varphi|^{np} |f|^p d\mu = \int_{\Omega} |f|^p d\mu, n \geq 1.$$

Applying the dominated convergence theorem, we conclude that  $\int_{\Omega} |f|^p d\mu = 0$ . Consequently, if

$$\Omega_n = \{z \in \Omega : |f(z)| \geq \frac{1}{n}\}, n \geq 1$$

then

$$\frac{1}{n^p} \mu(\Omega_n) \leq \int_{\Omega_n} |f|^p d\mu \leq \int_{\Omega} |f|^p d\mu = 0.$$

Since  $f$  is a nonzero analytic function,  $\Omega_0 = \{z \in \Omega : f(z) = 0\}$  is a countable set and so  $\mu(\Omega_0) = 0$ . Hence,

$$\mu(\Omega) \leq \mu\left(\bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \Omega_n\right) \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu(\Omega_n) = 0.$$

This shows that  $|\varphi(z)| = 1$  a.e.  $[\mu]$ . The continuity of the function  $\psi(z) = |\varphi(z)|$  on  $D$  implies that if  $\psi(z_0) \neq 1$  for some  $z_0$  in  $D$  then  $\psi(z) \neq 1$  on a neighborhood of  $z_0$ , which contradicts the fact that  $\sup p\mu = \overline{D}$ . Therefore,  $|\varphi(z)| = 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and the open mapping theorem implies that  $\varphi$  is a constant function. Hence,  $M \subseteq N$ .

We now give some direct consequences of the above theorem.

**Corollary 1:** Suppose that  $\mu(\partial D) > 0$ , and  $M$  and  $N$  are two nonzero isometrically equivalent invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  such that  $N \subseteq M$ . Then  $M = N$ .

**Proof:** By Theorem A of [1],  $M$  and  $N$  have index 1, and so the result follows using Theorem 1.

We remark that there are various subclasses of invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  having index 1 (see, for example, [2]). In particular, it is shown that any invariant subspace of the Bergman space  $L_a^p, p \geq 1$ , generated by functions in  $L_a^{2p}$ , must have index 1. Recall that for a family  $\{M_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  of invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$ ,  $\bigvee_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$  is the smallest closed subspace that contains each  $M_\gamma$ .

**Corollary 2:** Suppose that  $M$  and  $N$  are two distinct invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  of index 1 such that  $M \cap N \neq \{0\}$ . Then  $M$  and  $N$  are not isometrically equivalent to  $M \vee N$ .

**Proof:** By Corollary 3.12 of [2],  $M \vee N$  has index 1. So in light of Theorem 1, we get the result.

**Corollary 3:** Let  $\{M_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  be a family of invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  of index 1, and  $M_{\gamma_0}$  be a nonzero element of this family such that  $M_{\gamma_0} \vee M_\gamma$  has index 1 for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . If there is  $\gamma_1 \in \Gamma$  so that  $M_{\gamma_1}$  and  $\bigvee_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$  are isometrically equivalent then  $M_{\gamma_1} = \bigvee_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$ .

**Proof:** By Theorem 3.13 (b) of [2],  $\bigvee_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$  has index 1. So using Theorem 1, the result follows.

**Corollary 4:** Suppose that  $\{M_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  is a family of invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  of index 1. If  $M_{\gamma_0}$  and  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$  are isometrically equivalent then  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma = M_{\gamma_0}$ .

**Proof:** By Theorem 3.16 of [2],  $\bigcap_{\gamma \in \Gamma} M_\gamma$  is of index 1. Now, apply Theorem 1.

For a subspace  $N$  of  $p^t(\mu)$  recall that  $N^\perp$  is the annihilator of  $N$  in  $(p^t(\mu))^*$ ; i.e.,  $N^\perp = \{x \in (p^t(\mu))^* : x(g) = 0, \forall g \in N\}$ . Keeping this in mind, we bring another consequence of the preceding theorem.

**Corollary 5:** Suppose that the spectrum of the operator  $S$  is  $\sigma(S) = D$ . Let  $M$  and  $N$  be two isometrically equivalent, invariant subspaces of  $p^t(\mu)$  such that  $N \subseteq M$  and  $N$  has index 1. Moreover, suppose that there is a unimodular complex number  $\lambda$  which is not in  $\sigma(S^*|_{N^\perp})$ . Then  $M = N$ .

**Proof:** It follows from Corollary 4.8 of [2] that  $M$  has index 1, so again the result follows using Theorem 1.

### 3. REDUCING SUBSPACES

For  $i \geq 1$ , we recall that an invariant subspace  $M$  of  $S^i$  in  $p^2(\mu)$  is called a reducing subspace of  $S^i$  if  $M^\perp \subseteq M$ . Also, the operator  $S$  is irreducible if the only reducing subspaces of  $S$  are the trivial subspaces.

From now on, we assume that  $\text{support}(\mu) \subseteq \overline{D}$  and  $\langle z^n, z^m \rangle = 0$  for  $n \neq m$ , where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the inner product in  $p^2(\mu)$ . For example, if  $\nu$  is a probability measure on  $[0, 1]$  and  $\mu$  is the measure defined on  $\overline{D}$  by

$$d\mu(re^{i\theta}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta d\nu(r),$$

then a routine calculation reveals that  $\langle z^n, z^m \rangle = 0, n \neq m$ . Moreover,  $\|1\|_{L^2(\mu)} = 1$ . The next theorem is on the reducing subspaces of  $S^i, i \geq 1$ .

**Theorem 2:** Let  $w_n = \|z^n\|_{L^2(\mu)}^{1/2}, n \geq 1$  and

$$\liminf w_n = \sup_n \frac{w_{n+1}}{w_n} = 1.$$

Then  $S$ , the operator of multiplication by  $z$  on  $p^2(\mu)$ , is irreducible. Moreover, for  $i > 1$  one of the following results holds:

(i) If for every pair of distinct nonnegative integers  $m, n$  with  $0 \leq n \leq i-1$  and  $0 \leq m \leq i-1$  there exists some integer  $k > 0$  such that

$$\frac{w_{n+ki}}{w_n} \neq \frac{w_{m+ki}}{w_m}$$

then  $S^i$  has exactly  $2^i$  distinct reducing subspaces.

(ii) If there exist two distinct integers  $n, m$  such that  $0 \leq n \leq i-1$  and  $0 \leq m \leq i-1$  and

$$\frac{w_{n+ki}}{w_n} = \frac{w_{m+ki}}{w_m}$$

for all integers  $k > 0$ , then  $S^i$  has infinitely many distinct reducing subspaces.

**Proof:** The elements  $e_n = \frac{z^n}{w_n^2}, n \geq 0$  form an orthonormal basis for  $p^2(\mu)$ . So

$Se_n = (w_{n+1}/w_n)^2 e_{n+1}$ ; i.e.,  $S$  is a weighted shift with weight sequence  $V_n = (W_{n+1}/W_n)^2$ . Thus, Corollary 2 of [4] implies that  $S$  is irreducible. Without loss of generality, assume that  $w_0 = 1$ . By Proposition 7 of [4] the operator  $S$  is unitarily equivalent to  $M_z$  on the space of

$H_w^2, (w = \{w_0, w_1, w_2, \dots\})$  which is the space of all formal power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hat{f}(n)z^n$  such that

$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\hat{f}(n)|^2 w_n < \infty$ . The mentioned proposition also implies that

$$\|S\| = \sup_{n \geq 0} v_n = 1,$$

and so  $w_n^2 \leq w_0^2 = 1$ , for all  $n \geq 0$ . Therefore

$$1 = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{w_n^2} \leq \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{w_n^2} \leq 1$$

which implies that  $\sqrt[n]{w_n}$  converges to 1 as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ . Now, if  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hat{f}(n)z^n \in H_w^2$ , then

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|\hat{f}(n)|^2} = \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|\hat{f}(n)|^2 w_n} \leq 1.$$

Consequently,  $\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|\hat{f}(n)|} \leq 1$ . Hence,  $f(z)$  is analytic on  $D$ . Now, the result follows from Theorems  $B$  and  $C$  of [5].

**Remark:** It is easily seen that if  $d\mu(re^{i\theta}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta dm(r)$ , where  $m$  is the Lebesgue measure on  $[0, 1]$ ,

then condition (i) of Theorem 2 holds. Hence, for every  $i > 1$ , the operators  $S^i$  has exactly  $2^i$  distinct reducing subspaces.

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