

## Spectral theorem for compact, self-adjoint operators

Example: (later we'll see this example describes the general situation...)

$H = \ell^2_{\mathbb{C}}$ , fix a sequence  $(\lambda_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \in \ell^{\infty}_{\mathbb{C}}$  ✓

take  $T: \ell^2_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \ell^2_{\mathbb{C}}$  defined by

$$T(a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots) = (\lambda_0 a_0, \lambda_1 a_1, \lambda_2 a_2, \dots)$$

• bounded  $\|Ta\|_{\ell^2} \leq \underbrace{\|\lambda\|_{\ell^{\infty}}}_{\text{bound}} \|a\|_{\ell^2}$

• adjoint (?)  $(Ta, b) = (a, T^*b)$

recall: we're working /  $\mathbb{C}$   $(y, z) = \overline{(z, y)}$

$$T^*(a_0, a_1, \dots) = (\overline{\lambda_0} a_0, \overline{\lambda_1} a_1, \dots)$$

• self-adjoint (?)  $T = T^* \iff \lambda_k \in \mathbb{R} \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$

• normal (?)  $TT^* = T^*T$  you can check this is always the case

$$TT^*a = T^*Ta = (|\lambda_0|^2 a_0, |\lambda_1|^2 a_1, \dots)$$

• unitary (?)  $TT^* = T^*T = \text{id} \iff |\lambda_k| = 1 \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$

• compact (?)  $T$  is compact  $\iff \lambda_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} 0$

$\implies$  by contradiction, suppose  $\exists \Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}$  unbounded set w/  $\forall k \in \Lambda$  have  $|\lambda_k| \geq r > 0$

Then, if  $r > 0$ ,  $T(B_1(0; \ell^2_{\mathbb{C}})) \supseteq B_r(0; Y)$

where  $Y = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}(e_k : k \in \Lambda)$  uncountable sequence

not compact (requirement as in Chapter 2:  $\{re_{k_2}, re_{k_1}\}$   $\leadsto$  no Cauchy subseq)



notation:  $x_k^j$   $k$ -th element of a sequence  $x^j$   
 i.e.  $x^j = (x_k^j)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$   
 $\in \ell_c^2$

1) take a sequence  $(x^j)$  in  $\ell_c^2$

w/  $|x^j| \leq 1$

set  $Tx^j =: y^j$  we want to extract a <sup>strongly</sup> converging subsequence in  $\ell_c^2$

by Eberlein-Smuljan  $\exists x \in \ell_c^2$   $x^j \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \infty} x$   
 (w/ to a subsequence, but I'll not reuse)

in part. for any fixed  $\kappa_0 > 0$  have  $x_k^j \rightarrow x_k$   
 $0 \leq \kappa \leq \kappa_0$

2) given  $\epsilon > 0 \exists l = l(\epsilon)$

w/  $|\lambda_k| < \epsilon \quad \forall k \geq l$

set  $y = Tx$   
 $y^j = Tx^j$

we claim

$y^j \xrightarrow{\ell_c^2} y$

why is this true?

$y_{(l)}^j = ( \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{l-1 \text{ slots}}, y_l^j, y_{l+1}^j, \dots )$

$\limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \|y^j - y\|^2 = \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \|y_{(l)}^j - y_{(l)}\|^2$

use Parseval

(and pointwise convergence of the first  $l$  components)

$\leq \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon^2 \|x^j - x\|^2 \leq 4\epsilon^2$

Same argument is true  $\forall \epsilon > 0 \rightsquigarrow \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} \|y^j - y\|^2 = 0$   
 i.e.  $y^j \rightarrow y$   $\blacksquare$

Spectrum of this operator:  $\sigma(T) = \overline{\{\lambda_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}}$

- $\lambda_k$  eigenvalue of  $T$  w/ eigenvector  $e_k = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$   
( $\lambda_k \in \sigma_p(T) \subset \sigma(T)$ )

these are the only eigenvalues, because if  $Tx = \lambda x$  get  
 $(\lambda_0 x_0, \lambda_1 x_1, \dots) = (\lambda x_0, \lambda x_1, \dots)$

if  $x \neq 0$  then  $\lambda = \lambda_i$  for some  $i$

- if  $\lambda \neq \lambda_k$  ( $\forall k$ ) then  $(\lambda - T) : \ell_c^2 \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \ell_c^2 \mathbb{R}$  surjective

- how about surjectivity? given  $b \in \ell_c^2 \mathbb{R}$  want to solve

$$(\lambda - T)a = b \quad \leadsto \quad a_k = \frac{b_k}{\lambda - \lambda_k} \quad \text{but we don't know if } a \in \ell_c^2 \mathbb{R} \text{ in case } \lambda_k \rightarrow \lambda$$

Reality check: the linear inverse  $(\lambda - T)^{-1}$  is well-defined

and bounded iff  $\lambda \notin \overline{\{\lambda_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}}$

Spectral Theorem: let  $H$  be Hilbert /  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H = \infty \end{array} \right.$

$T \neq 0$  self-adjoint and compact. Then there are at most countably many non-zero eigenvalues  $\lambda_k \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .

Also  $\lambda_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  and

$$(a) \quad H = \ker(T) \oplus \overline{\text{span}\{e_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}}$$

$$(b) \quad Tx = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_k e_k (x, e_k) \quad \forall x \in H.$$

Remark: setting aside,  $T$  self-adjoint and compact  $\rightsquigarrow T$  as an infinite diagonal matrix

Remark 1: eigenvalues may have multiplicity  
e.g.  $\lambda_{10} = \lambda_{11} = \lambda_{12}$

Remark 2:  $H$  is not required to be separable, and (in gen.)  
 $\ker(T)$  may be a closed, non-separable subspace of  $H$ .  
However, if  $H$  is separable, then  $\ker(T)$  is also a separable Hilbert space in its own so (in this case) I can find an Hilbertian basis for  $H$  diagonalising  $T$ .

Proof: we already know:

①  $\sigma(T) \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}$  (spectrum is real) [ $T$  self-adjoint]

②  $T$  compact and self-adjoint  $\implies \sigma(T) \setminus \{0\} = \overline{\nu_p(T) \setminus \{0\}}$   
(orthogonality relations)

③  $T$  bounded  $\implies$  set  $r_0 := \overline{\|T\|_{L(X)}}$   
 $\sigma(T) \subset \overline{B_{r_0}(0)}$

Step 1: given any  $\lambda \in \nu_p(T) \setminus \{0\}$  consider

$X_\lambda := \ker(\lambda - T)$ . We know  $\dim(X_\lambda) < \infty$

(proof already seen). Also (Linear Algebra requirement)

$$\lambda_\kappa \neq \lambda_e$$

$$\rightsquigarrow X_{\lambda_\kappa} \perp X_{\lambda_e}$$

$$T e_\kappa = \lambda_\kappa e_\kappa, T e_e = \lambda_e e_e \quad \lambda_\kappa (e_\kappa, e_e) = (T e_\kappa, e_e) = (e_\kappa, T e_e) = (e_\kappa, \lambda_e e_e) = \lambda_e (e_\kappa, e_e)$$

Step 2: "0 ∈ ℂ is the only potential accumulation point for σ(T)"

i.e. ∀ r > 0    σ<sub>p</sub>(T) ∖ B<sub>r</sub>(0) is finite.

Pf (by contradiction) if not, then (possibly extracting a subsequence...)

$$\lambda_k \longrightarrow \lambda \neq 0 \in \mathbb{C}$$

wlog     $\lambda_k \neq \lambda_l$  if  $k \neq l$

∀ k let e<sub>k</sub> be an eigenvector corresponding to λ<sub>k</sub>  
 $\|e_k\| = 1$

T compact     $\rightsquigarrow$     T e<sub>k</sub> → y ∈ H

(possibly extracting a 2<sup>nd</sup> subsequence)

but then

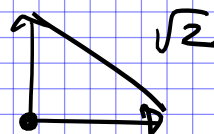
$$e_k = \lambda_k^{-1} \underbrace{T e_k}_{\rightarrow y}$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\lambda^{-1} \qquad y$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  (e<sub>k</sub>) converging

⇓  
 (e<sub>k</sub>) Cauchy



Hence  $\underbrace{\sigma_p(T) \setminus \{0\}}_{\text{this is countable!}} = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \sigma_p(T) \setminus B_{r_k}(0)$

this is countable!

Step 3: using the notation as above (e<sub>k</sub>) is trivially an Hilbertian basis

$$X := \overline{\text{span} \{e_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}}$$

closed subspace of H  
 (itself a Hilbert space)

$$= \overline{\bigoplus_{\lambda \in \sigma_p(T) \setminus \{0\}} X_\lambda}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  ∀ x ∈ X have  $x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (x, e_k) e_k$

action of  $T$  on  $X$ :  $Tx = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (\alpha_k e_k) T e_k = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_k (\alpha_k e_k) e_k.$

Step 4: set  $Y := X^\perp \subset H$  then

Claim:  $Y = \ker(T)$

(and so  $H = X \oplus X^\perp = \ker(T) \oplus \text{span}\{e_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ )

$\bullet$   $TY \subseteq Y$   $(e_k, Ty) = (Te_k, y) = \lambda_k \underbrace{(e_k, y)}_{=0} = 0$

set  $T_0 = T|_Y \in L(Y)$

$\bullet \bullet$   $T_0$  compact and self-adjoint

$\rightsquigarrow \sigma(T_0) \subset \sigma_p(T_0) \cup \{0\}$

but let  $\lambda_0 \in \sigma_p(T_0)$  then  $T_0 e_0 = \lambda_0 e_0 = T e_0$

$\rightsquigarrow$  either  $\lambda_0 = 0$  or  $e_0 \in X \cap Y = \{0\}$

contrary to the def. of eigenvector

$\Rightarrow \sigma(T_0) = \{0\}$

cannot be empty!

$\Rightarrow \|T_0\| = 0$

(class of spectral radius of normal operators)

$\Rightarrow Y = \ker(T)$

Remark.

$\bullet$  if  $\ker(T) \neq 0$  then  $0 \in \sigma_p(T)$

$\bullet$  if  $\ker(T) = 0$  then  $X = H$  (so  $H$  is separable)

and  $0 \in \sigma_c(T)$  if  $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} H = \infty$ .

Extra 1: Covariant-Fischer characterization of eigenvalues

Setting above (same as in the statement of the theorem)

assume further that  $T$  be positive definite i.e.

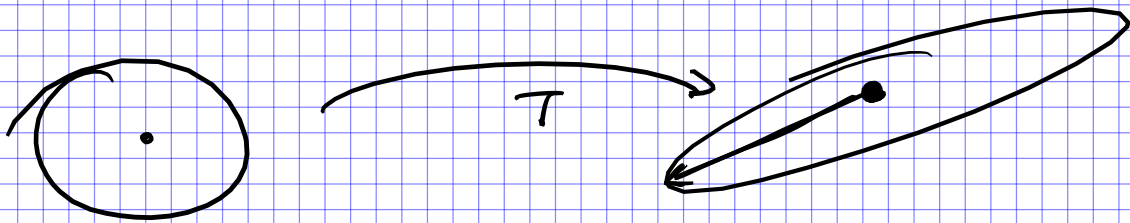
$$\forall x \in H \setminus \{0\} \quad (Tx, x) > 0$$

Then we can order the eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k \geq \dots \rightarrow 0$$

$$\lambda_k = \sup_{\substack{M \subset H \\ \dim H \geq k}} \inf_{\substack{x \in M \\ \|x\|=1}} (Tx, x) =: \mu_k$$

Ex. 9:  $\lambda_1 = \sup_{\|x\|=1} (Tx, x)$



pp.  $\lambda_k \leq \mu_k$  pick  $\pi_k := \text{span} \{e_j : 1 \leq j \leq k\}$

$$\mu_k \geq \inf_{\substack{x \in \pi_k \\ \|x\|=1}} (Tx, x) = \inf_{\substack{x \in \pi_k \\ \|x\|=1}} \left( T \left( \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} (x, e_j) e_j \right), \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} (x, e_j) e_j \right)$$

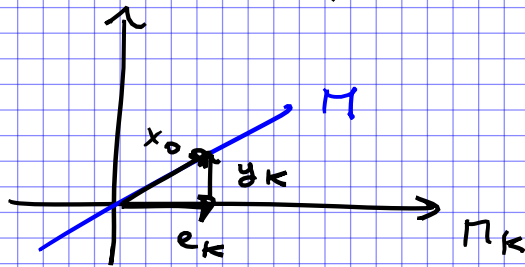
$$= \inf_{\substack{x \in \pi_k \\ \|x\|=1}} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} (x, e_i)^2 \lambda_i \geq \lambda_k \|x\|^2 = \lambda_k$$

$\lambda_k \geq \mu_k$  There are two cases here:

①  $\exists x_0 \in M, \|x_0\|=1 \quad x_0 \perp M_k$

$$\begin{aligned}
(Tx_0, x_0) &= \left( T \sum_{i \geq 0} (x_0, e_i) e_i, \sum_{j \geq 0} (x_0, e_j) e_j \right) \\
&= \left( \sum_{i \geq k} \lambda_i (x_0, e_i) e_i, \sum_{j \geq k} (x_0, e_j) e_j \right) \\
&= \sum_{i \geq k} \lambda_i (x_0, e_i)^2 \leq \lambda_k \|x_0\|^2 = \lambda_k
\end{aligned}$$

② else,  $\pi_k: M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a linear bijection  
(restriction of projector  $H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ )



set  $x_0 := \pi_k^{-1} e_k = e_k + y_k$

$$(Tx_0, x_0) = (Te_k + Ty_k, e_k + y_k)$$

$$= (Te_k, e_k) + (Ty_k, y_k)$$

$$\leq \lambda_k + \underbrace{\lambda_k \|y_k\|^2}_{\text{as in } \textcircled{1}} \leq \lambda_k \|x_0\|^2 = \lambda_k$$

$\forall M \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\mu_k \leq \lambda_k}$

9. how about spectral theory /  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

a) the  $\mathbb{R}$ -case is "harder to investigate"  
(e.g. no analytic continuation...)

b) definite link between  $\sigma_{\mathbb{R}}$  and  $\sigma_{\mathbb{C}}$   
(see short note)

c) however, the spectral theorem above is TFWC in the very same form if  $H$  Hilbert space /  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $T: H \rightarrow H$  linear, self-adjoint compact op.  
(no need to change even a single word in the proof!)



In FA 2 we'll e.g. see how "diagonalize" the Laplace operator, i.e.  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\Delta : H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega) \text{ open, bounded smooth } \partial\Omega$$

$\exists$  o.u. basis of  $L^2$ ,  $(\varphi_k)_{k \geq 0}$   
and eigenvalues  $(\lambda_k)_{k \geq 0}$

$$\text{w/} \quad \Delta \varphi_k = -\lambda_k \varphi_k$$

note:  $-\Delta$  is positive definite

$$(-\Delta u, u) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx \geq 0$$

and these  $(\lambda_k)$  are characterized by Courant-Fischer.