

NORM INEQUALITY OF $AP + BQ$ FOR SELFADJOINT PROJECTIONS P AND Q WITH $PQ = 0$

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Abstract. Let A, B, P and Q be bounded operators on a Hilbert space \mathcal{L} which P and Q are selfadjoint projections with $PQ = 0$. We study the norm of $AP + BQ$ using a Hankel type operator : $H_{B^*A} = QB^*A | P\mathcal{L}$.

Let \mathcal{L} be a Hilbert space and let \mathcal{H} and \mathcal{K} denote closed subspaces of \mathcal{L} such that \mathcal{H} is orthogonal to \mathcal{K} . P and Q denote orthogonal projections with $PQ = 0$. We suppose $\mathcal{H} = P\mathcal{L}$ and $\mathcal{K} = Q\mathcal{L}$. For a bounded linear operator X on \mathcal{L} , we define a Hankel type operator H_X from \mathcal{H} to \mathcal{K} : $H_X f = Q(Xf)$ ($f \in \mathcal{H}$).

In a very special case, Yamamoto and the author [3] have established a theorem about the norm of $AP + BQ$. Let m be the normalized Lebesgue measure on the unit circle T . For $p = 2, \infty$, $L^p(T)$ denotes the usual Lebesgue space on T and $H^p(T)$ denotes the usual Hardy space on T . Let $\mathcal{L} = L^2(T)$, $\mathcal{H} = H^2(T)$ and $\mathcal{K} = L^2(T) \ominus H^2(T)$. Suppose $A = M_\alpha$ and $B = M_\beta$ are multiplication operators on $L^2(T)$ where α and β are in $L^\infty(T)$. Then the following formula is known [3].

$$\|M_\alpha P + M_\beta Q\| = \inf_{g \in H^\infty} \left\| \frac{|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2}{2} + \sqrt{\|\alpha\bar{\beta} + g\|_\infty^2 + \left(\frac{|\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2}{2}\right)^2} \right\|_\infty.$$

In the proof, a lifting theorem of Cotlar and Sadosky was essential (see [1]). Later the author [4] tried to generalize it when A, B, P and Q have a lifting property. In this paper, we do not use such a lifting theorem. In the formula above, it is well known that $\|H_{B^*A}\| = \|\alpha\bar{\beta} + H^\infty\| = \inf\{\|\alpha\bar{\beta} + g\|_\infty : g \in H^\infty\}$ by a theorem of Nehari (see [5]). In this special case, we usually write $H_{B^*A} = H_{\bar{\beta}\alpha}$.

LEMMA. For any bounded A and B ,

$$\|AP + BQ\|^2 = \sup_{\|f\|=\|g\|=1} \left\{ \frac{\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \sqrt{|\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2 + \left(\frac{\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2}\right)^2} : f \in \mathcal{H}, g \in \mathcal{K} \right\}$$

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Proof. Put $\gamma = \|AP + BQ\|$, then $\|Af + Bg\|^2 \leq \gamma^2 \|f + g\|^2$ where $f \in \mathcal{H}$ and $g \in \mathcal{K}$. For any $f \in \mathcal{H}$ and $g \in \mathcal{K}$

$$\langle (\gamma^2 - A^*A)f, f \rangle + \langle (\gamma^2 - B^*B)g, g \rangle - 2\operatorname{Re}\langle (B^*A - \gamma^2)f, g \rangle \geq 0$$

and hence as $g = 0$, $\langle (\gamma^2 - A^*A)f, f \rangle \geq 0$ and as $f = 0$, $\langle (\gamma^2 - B^*B)g, g \rangle \geq 0$. Hence

$$\langle (\gamma^2 - A^*A)f, f \rangle \langle (\gamma^2 - B^*B)g, g \rangle \geq |\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2$$

for any $f \in \mathcal{H}$ and $g \in \mathcal{K}$. Therefore

$$\gamma^4 \|f\|^2 \|g\|^2 - \gamma^2 (\|Af\|^2 \|g\|^2 + \|f\|^2 \|Bg\|^2) + \|Af\|^2 \|Bg\|^2 - |\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2 \geq 0$$

for any $f \in \mathcal{H}$ and $g \in \mathcal{K}$. If $\|f\| = \|g\| = 1$, then

$$\gamma^4 - \gamma^2 (\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2) + \|Af\|^2 \|Bg\|^2 - |\langle B^*Af, g \rangle| \geq 0.$$

Thus, either

$$\gamma^2 \leq \frac{\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} - \left\{ |\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2 + \left(\frac{\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2}$$

or

$$\gamma^2 \geq \frac{\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \left\{ |\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2 + \left(\frac{\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2}.$$

The first inequality above is not valid because $\gamma^2 \geq \max(\|Af\|^2, \|Bg\|^2)$. Hence

$$\gamma^2 \geq \sup_{\|f\|=\|g\|=1} \left\{ \frac{\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \sqrt{|\langle B^*Af, g \rangle|^2 + \left(\frac{\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right)^2} : f \in \mathcal{H}, g \in \mathcal{K} \right\}.$$

Since the argument are reversible, the converse inequality is also valid. \square

When A and B are unitary operators, by Lemma we can prove $\|AP + BQ\|^2 = 1 + \|H_{B^*A}\|$. In fact, we can show the following theorem.

THEOREM 1. *Suppose α and β are complex numbers. If $A^*A = |\alpha|^2 I$ and $B^*B = |\beta|^2 I$ then*

$$\|AP + BQ\|^2 = \frac{|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2}{2} + \sqrt{\|H_{B^*A}\|^2 + \left(\frac{|\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2}{2} \right)^2}.$$

Proof. It is clear by Lemma. \square

From the C^* -identity and the triangle inequality, it follows that $\|AP + BQ\|^2 \leq \|AP\|^2 + \|BQ\|^2 + \|QB^*AP\| + \|PA^*BQ\|$. The following theorem gives a better inequality.

THEOREM 2. For any bounded operators A and B ,

$$\begin{aligned} \max(\|AP\|^2, \|BQ\|^2) &\leq \|AP+BQ\|^2 \\ &\leq \max(\|AP\|^2, \|BQ\|^2) + \|H_{B^*A}\| \end{aligned}$$

Proof. At first we show the first inequality assuming $\|AP\| \geq \|BQ\|$. By Lemma,

$$\begin{aligned} \|AP+BQ\|^2 &\geq \sup_{\|g\|=1} \sup_{\|f\|=1} \left\{ \frac{\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \left| \frac{\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right| : f \in \mathcal{H}, g \in \mathcal{K} \right\} \\ &= \sup_{\|g\|=1} \left\{ \frac{\|AP\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \left| \frac{\|AP\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right| : g \in \mathcal{K} \right\} \\ &= \|AP\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

because $\|AP\|^2 \geq \|Bg\|^2$. When $\|AP\| \leq \|BQ\|$, the same argument implies $\|AP+BQ\|^2 \geq \|BQ\|^2$. This shows the first inequality.

We show the second inequality. We may assume $\|AP\| \geq \|BQ\|$. By Lemma and the inequality $\sqrt{x+y} \leq \sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|AP+BQ\|^2 &\leq \sup_{g \in \mathcal{K}, \|g\|=1} \left\{ \frac{\|AP\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2}{2} + \|H_{B^*A}\| + \left| \frac{\|AP\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2}{2} \right| \right\} \\ &= \|AP\|^2 + \|H_{B^*A}\| \end{aligned}$$

because $\|AP\|^2 \geq \|Bg\|^2$. When $\|AP\| \leq \|BQ\|$, the same argument implies $\|AP+BQ\|^2 \leq \|BQ\|^2 + \|H_{B^*A}\|$. This shows the second inequality. \square

REMARK. Let $Q = I - P$, that is, $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{K}$. Let \mathcal{B} denote a von Neumann algebra on \mathcal{L} which contains I and \mathcal{A} denote a weakly closed subalgebra of \mathcal{B} which has \mathcal{H} as an invariant subspace. Suppose A and B are in \mathcal{B} and D is in \mathcal{A} .

- (1) Lemma shows that $\|AP+BQ\|^2 = \sup_{\|f\|=\|g\|=1} \{ (\|Af\|^2 + \|Bg\|^2)/2 + \sqrt{|\langle (B^*A+D)f, g \rangle|^2 + (\|Af\|^2 - \|Bg\|^2)^2/4} : f \in \mathcal{H}, g \in \mathcal{K} \}$.
- (2) If $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{M}, P)$ has a lifting property (see [2]), then it is known [4, Proposition 1] that $\|AP+BQ\|^2 = \inf_{D \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{\|F\|=\|G\|=1} \{ (\|AF\|^2 + \|BG\|^2)/2 + \sqrt{|\langle (B^*A+D)F, G \rangle|^2 + (\|AF\|^2 - \|BG\|^2)^2/4} : F, G \in \mathcal{L} \}$. This is stronger than Lemma.
- (3) When $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A}, P)$ has a lifting property, $\|H_{B^*A}\| = \|B^*A + \mathcal{A}\|$ but in general the inequality may hold, that is, $\|H_{B^*A}\| \leq \|B^*A + \mathcal{A}\|$.
- (4) Theorem 1 should be compared with [4, Corollary 1]. It is clearly general by (3).
- (5) Theorem 2 should be compared with [4, Theorem 2]. These two theorems are similar but different even if with (3). The first point is that we do not assume $\max(\|A\|, \|B\|) \leq \|S_{A,B}\|$. The second point is that the old one is better in the lower estimate and the new one is better in the upper estimate.

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