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## NORMAL EXTENSIONS OF OPERATORS TO KREIN SPACES

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## Abstract

In this paper, it is proved that every bounded linear operator on a Hilbert space has a normal extension to a Krein space. Two criteria for J-subnormality are given. In particular, in order that T be subnormal, it suffices that  $\exp(-\overline{\lambda}T^*)\exp(\lambda T)$  be a positive definite operator function on a bounded infinite subset of complex plane. This improves the condition of Bram [4]. Also it is proved that the local spectral subspaces are closed for J-subnormal operators.

In [1] we introduced the concept of *J*-subnormality. A bounded linear operator T on a Hilbert space H is called a *J*-subnormal operator of order n if on some  $\Pi_n$ -Pontrjagin space  $\Pi$  containing H, there exists a buonded *J*-normal operator  $\tilde{T}$ such that  $\tilde{T}f = Tf$  for every f in H and  $\Pi$  is spanned by the vectors of the form  $\tilde{T}^{*k}f$ , where  $f \in H$  and  $k=0, 1, 2, \cdots$ . Here the  $\Pi_n$ -Pontrjagin space is a Krein space with negative rank  $n^{[2]}$ . The *J*-subnormality of order 0 is equivalent to subnormality. In the first part of the paper, we prove that every bounded linear operator on a Hilbert space has a normal extension to a Krein space. As an application, we obtain two criteria for *J*-subnormality. In the second part of the paper, we investigate the local spectral theory for *J*-subnormal operators.

Throughout the paper, by an operator we mean a bounded linear transformation acting on a space. The inner product on a Hilbert space is denoted by  $\langle . , . \rangle$  and the indefinite inner product on a Krein space is denoted by  $\langle . , . \rangle$ .

**Theorem 1.** If T is an operator on a Hilbert space H, then there is a Krein space K containing H such that  $\langle f,g \rangle = (f,g)$  for all f and g in H and a normal operator  $\tilde{T}$  on K such that  $\tilde{T}f = Tf$  for all f in H and K is spanned by the vectors of the form  $\tilde{T}^{*b}f$ , where  $f \in H$  and  $k = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$ . In brief, every operator has a minimal normal extension to a Krein space.

*Proof* Without loss of generality, we may assume that 0 < ||T|| < 1.

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have

$$\|\overline{T}\overline{x}\|^{2} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \|\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} T^{*i}T^{j}x_{i}\|^{2} \ll \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \|T\|^{i+j} \|x_{i}\|)^{2} \ll \|\overline{x}\|^{2} / (1 - \|T^{2}\|^{2})$$

and

$$(\overline{T}\overline{x}, \overline{x}) = \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} (T^{*i}T^j x_i, x_j) = (\overline{x}, \overline{T}\overline{x}).$$

Hence  $\overline{T}$  is a bounded symmetric operator on  $\overline{H}$ .

Let  $K_0$  be the set of all sequences of the form  $f = \{f_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ , where

$$f_{k} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} T^{*j} T^{k} x_{j}, \ \bar{x} = \{x_{j}\}_{j=0}^{\infty} \in \overline{H}.$$

Define

 $\langle f, g \rangle = (\overline{T}\overline{x}, \overline{y}), \ [f, g] = (|\overline{T}|\overline{x}, \overline{y})$ (1)

for  $f = \{f_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$  and  $g = \{g_k\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$  in  $K_0$ , where  $g_k = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} T^{*j} T^k y_j$ ,  $\overline{y} = \{y_j\}_{j=0}^{\infty} \in \overline{H}$ . Hence

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (f_j, y_j) = \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} (T^j x_i, T^i y_j).$$
 (2)

If f=0, then  $|\overline{T}|\overline{x}=\overline{T}\overline{x}=0$ . It is easy to see that the values  $\langle f, g \rangle$  and [f, g] are uniquely determined by f and g. If [f, f]=0, then  $\overline{T}\overline{x}=|\overline{T}|\overline{x}=0$ , and so f=0. Thus  $K_0$  is a pre-Hilbert space with inner product [.,.]. Let K be the completion of  $K_0$ . Define  $\overline{H}_- = \ker \overline{T}^+$  and  $\overline{H}_+ = \overline{H} \bigcirc \overline{H}_-$ . Let  $K^{\underline{0}}$  and  $K^0_+$  be sets of all sequences of forms  $f^- = \{f_k^-\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$  and  $f^+ = \{f_k^+\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ , respectively, where

$$f_k^- = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} T^{*j} T^k x_j^-, \ x^- = \{x_j^-\}_{j=0}^{\infty} \in \overline{H}.$$

and

$$f_k^+ = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} T^{*j} T^k x_j^+, \ \bar{x}^+ = \{x_j^+\}_{j=0}^{\infty} \in \overline{H}_+.$$

Let  $K_{-}$  and  $K_{+}$  be the completions of  $K_{-}^{0}$  and  $K_{+}^{0}$ , repectively. For

$$f^- = \{f_k^-\}_{k=0}^\infty \in K^0_-$$
 and  $f^+ = \{f_k^+\}_{k=0}^\infty \in K^0_+,$ 

it follows from (1) that

$$[f^-, f^+] = (|\overline{T}||\bar{x}^-, \bar{x}^+) = (\overline{T}^-\bar{x}^-, \bar{x}^+) = (\bar{x}^-, \overline{T}^-\bar{x}^+) = 0.$$

Thus  $K_+ \perp K_-$ , and so  $K = K_+ \oplus K_-$  (with respect to [.,.]). Let  $P_+$  and  $P_-$  be the orthogonal projections (with respect to [.,.]) of K onto  $K_+$  and  $K_-$ , respectively. Denote  $J = P_+ - P_-$ . For  $f, g \in K_0$ , it follows from (1) that

$$\langle f,g \rangle = [Jf, g]$$

Then K may be considered to be a Krein space with indefinite inner product  $\langle ., . \rangle$ It is clear that  $K_+ \oplus K_-$  be a fundamental decomposition of K.

The space H may be embedded as a subspace in K. In fact, we define

$$f_{\boldsymbol{x}} = \{T^k x\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$$

for all  $x \in H$  and note that  $\langle f_x, f_y \rangle = (x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in H$ . For  $f = \{f_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty} \in K_0$ ,

(3)

define  $\widetilde{T}f = \{f_{k+1}\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ . It follows that  $f_{Tx} = \widetilde{T}f_x$  for  $x \in H$ .

We are going now to show that the operator T is bounded in  $K_0$ . Define  $\overline{S}$  on  $\overline{H}$  by  $(\overline{Sx})_j = Tx_j$ , where  $\overline{x} = \{x_j\}_{j=0}^{\infty} \in \overline{H}$ . We have

$$\|\overline{T}\overline{S}\overline{x}\|^{2} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \|\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} T^{*i}T^{j+1}x_{i}\|^{2} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \|\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} T^{*i}T^{j}x_{i}\|^{2} \leqslant \|\overline{T}\overline{x}\|^{2}.$$

It follows that

 $\|\overline{S}^*|\overline{T}|\|\overline{S}\overline{x}\| \leq \|T\| \cdot \||T||\overline{S}\overline{x}\| = \|T\| \cdot \|T\overline{S}\overline{x}\| \leq \|T\| \cdot \|\overline{T}\overline{x}\| = \|T\| \cdot \||\overline{T}|\overline{x}\|.$ By Heinz's inequality <sup>[8]</sup>, we have

 $(\overline{S}^*|\overline{T}||\overline{S}\overline{x}, \overline{x}) \leq ||T|| (|\overline{T}||\overline{x}, \overline{x}).$ 

For  $f \in K_0$ , this implies that

 $[\widetilde{T}f, \widetilde{T}f] = (|\overline{T}||\overline{S}\overline{x}, \overline{S}\overline{x}) \leqslant ||T|| (|\overline{T}||\overline{x}, \overline{x}) = ||T|| [f, f].$ 

Thus  $\tilde{T}$  may be considered to be a bounded operator on K.

Let  $\tilde{T}^*$  be the adjoint of  $\tilde{T}$  with respect to  $\langle . , . \rangle$ . For  $f \in K_0$ , we have

$$\widetilde{T}^{*}f = \{f_k^{\prime}\}_{k=0}^{\infty},$$

where

$$f'_k = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} T^{*j} T^k \boldsymbol{x}_{j-1}.$$

It follows that

$$\widetilde{T}^*\widetilde{T}f = \widetilde{T}^*\{f_{k+1}\}_{k=0}^{\infty} = \left\{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} T^{*j}T^{k+1}x_{j-1}\right\}_{k=0}^{\infty} = \widetilde{T}\{f_k'\}_{k=0}^{\infty} = \widetilde{T}\widetilde{T}^*f.$$

Thus  $\tilde{T}$  is normal with respecto  $\langle . , . \rangle$ .

For every  $f = \{f_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty} \in K_0$ , let  $f^m = \{f_k^m\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ , where  $f_k^m = \sum_{j=0}^m T^{*j} T^k x_j$ . Define  $\bar{x}^m = \{x_k^m\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ , where  $x_k^m = 0$  for  $k \leq m$  and  $x_k^m = x_k$  for k > m. Since  $\lim \|x^m\| = 0$ , we have

$$\lim_{m\to\infty} [f-f^m, f-f^m] = \lim_{m\to\infty} (|\overline{T}| \, \overline{x}^m, \, \overline{x}^m) = 0.$$

It is easy to see that  $f^m = \sum_{j=0}^m \widetilde{T}^{*j} f_{x_j}$ . Then K is spanned by the vectors of the form  $\widetilde{T}^{*k} f_x$ , where  $x \in H$  and  $k = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 2.** Let T be an operator on a Hilbert space H and let  $\Omega$  be a bounded infinite subset of complex plane. A necessary and sufficient condition for T to be a J-subnormal operator of order n is that the Hermitian form

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\exp(\lambda_j T) x_i, \, \exp(\lambda_i T) x_j) \alpha_j \overline{\alpha}_j$$

has at most n negative squares for every choice of a finite number of  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$  and has exactly n negative squares for the least one choice of  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ . In particular, a necessary and sufficient condition for T to be subnormal is that

 $\sum_{i,j=1}^{u} (\exp(\lambda_j T) x_i, \exp(\lambda_i T) x_j) \ge 0$ 

for every choice of a finite number of  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$ .

**Proof** Let  $\lambda_0$  be a limit point of  $\Omega$ . By Theorem 1, operator T has a minimal normal extension  $\tilde{T}$  to a Krein space K. For  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$ , we have

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{m} (\exp(\lambda_{i}T)x_{i}, \exp(\lambda_{i}T)x_{j}) \alpha_{i}\overline{\alpha_{j}} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{m} \langle \exp(\lambda_{j}\widetilde{T})x_{i}, \exp(\lambda_{i}\widetilde{T})x_{j} \rangle \alpha_{i}\overline{\alpha_{j}}$$
$$= \langle \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_{i} \exp(\overline{\lambda_{i}}\widetilde{T}^{*})x_{i}, \sum_{j=1}^{m} \alpha_{j} \exp(\overline{\lambda_{j}}\widetilde{T}^{*})x_{j} \rangle.$$
(4)

Let K' be the linear closed set spanned by the vectors of the form  $\exp(\bar{\lambda}\tilde{T}^*)x$ , where  $\lambda \in \Omega$  and  $x \in H$ . It is clear that  $\exp(\bar{\lambda}_0\tilde{T}^*)x \in K'$  for  $x \in H$ . Assume that  $\exp(\bar{\lambda}_0\tilde{T}^*)\tilde{T}^{*i}x \in K'$  for  $x \in H$  and i=0, 1, ..., k-1. It follows that for  $x \in H$ 

$$\exp(\bar{\lambda}_{0}\tilde{T}^{*})\tilde{T}^{*k}x = \lim_{\lambda \in \mathcal{Q}, \lambda \to \lambda_{0}} \frac{k!}{(\bar{\lambda} - \bar{\lambda}_{0})^{k}} \Big[ \exp(\bar{\lambda}\tilde{T}^{*})x \\ - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{i!} (\bar{\lambda} - \bar{\lambda}_{0})^{i} \exp(\bar{\lambda}_{0}\tilde{T}^{*})\tilde{T}^{*i}x \Big]$$

and so  $\exp(\overline{\lambda}_0 \widetilde{T}^*) \widetilde{T}^{*k} x \in K'$ . This means that  $\exp(\overline{\lambda}_0 \widetilde{T}^*) \widetilde{T}^{*k} x \in K'$  for all  $x \in H$  and  $k = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$ . Since the extension is minimal, this implies that K' = K. The desired conclusion follows from (4).

**Remark.** Setting  $x_i = \exp(-\lambda_i T)y_i$ , Theorem 2 gives an improvement of Theorem 2 of [1]. More precisely, in order that T be a *J*-subnormal operator of order n, it suffices that  $\exp(-\overline{\lambda}T^*)\exp(\lambda T)$  be a quasi-positive definite operator function of order n on a bounded infinite subset of complex plane. In particular, in order that T be subnormal, it suffices that  $\exp(-\overline{\lambda}T^*)\exp(\lambda T)$  be a positive definite operator function on a bounded infinite subset of complex plane. The last proposition is an improvement of a theorem of Bram<sup>[4]</sup>.

**Corollary.** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n and let S be a normal operator which commutes with T. Then T+S is a J-subnormal operator of order n and TS is a J-subnormal operator of order  $\leq n$ .

*Proof* By the Fuglede Theorem, we have  $S^*T = TS^*$ . For complex numbers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$  and for  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$ ,

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{m} (\exp(\lambda_j(T+S))x_i, \exp(\lambda_i(T+S)x_j)\alpha_i\overline{\alpha_j})$$
$$= \sum_{i,j=1}^{m} (\exp(\lambda_jT)\exp(\overline{\lambda_i}S^*)x_i, \exp(\lambda_iT)\exp(\overline{\lambda_j}S^*)x_j)\alpha_i\overline{\alpha_j}.$$

By Theorem 2, T+S is a J-subnormal operator of order *n*. For  $x_{ij} \in H$ , *i*,  $j=1, \dots, m$ ,

$$\sum_{j,k,l=0}^{m} ((TS)^{j} x_{ik}, (TS)^{i} x_{jl}) \alpha_{ik} \overline{\alpha}_{jl} = \sum_{i,j,k,l=0}^{m} (T^{j} S^{*i} x_{ik}, T^{i} S^{*j} x_{jl}) \alpha_{ik} \overline{\alpha}_{jl}.$$

By Theorem 1 of [1], TS is a J-subnormal operator of order  $\leq n$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let T be an operator on a Hilbert space H and let  $\Omega$  be an unbounded

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subset of complex plane with  $|\lambda| > ||T||$  for every  $\lambda \in \Omega$ . A necessary and sufficient condition for T to be a J-subnormal operator of order n is that the Hermitian form

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^m ((\lambda_j - T)^{-1} x_i, (\lambda_i - T)^{-1} x_j) \alpha_i \overline{\alpha_j}$$

has at most n negative squares for every choice of a finite number of  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$  and has exactly in negative squares for the least one choice of  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ . In particular, a necessary and sufficient condition for T to be subnormal is that

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{m} ((\lambda_{j} - T)^{-1} x_{i}, (\lambda_{i} - T)^{-1} x_{j}) \ge 0$$

for every choice of a finite number of  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$ .

*Proof* By Theorem 1, operator T has a minimal normal extension  $\tilde{T}$  to a Krein space K. By the inequality (3), we have  $\lambda \in \rho(\tilde{T})$  and  $\bar{\lambda} \in \rho(\tilde{T}^*)$  for every  $\lambda \in \Omega$ . For  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in H$  and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in \Omega$ , we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} \left( (\lambda_{j} - T^{-1}) x_{i}, (\lambda_{i} - T)^{-1} x_{i} \right) \alpha_{i} \overline{\alpha}_{j} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left\langle (\lambda_{j} - \widetilde{T})^{-1} x_{i}, (\lambda_{i} - \widetilde{T})^{-1} x_{j} \right\rangle \alpha_{i} \overline{\alpha}_{j}$$
$$= \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_{i} (\overline{\lambda}_{i} - \widetilde{T}^{*})^{-1} x_{i}, \sum_{j=1}^{m} \alpha_{j} (\lambda_{j} - \widetilde{T}^{*})^{-1} x_{j} \right\rangle.$$
(5)

Let  $K \alpha$  be the linear closed set spanned by the vectors of the form  $(\bar{\lambda} - \tilde{T}^*)^{-1}x$ , where  $\lambda \in \Omega$  and  $x \in H$ . Since  $\underset{\lambda \in \Omega, \lambda \to \infty}{s-\lim \bar{\lambda}(\bar{\lambda} - \tilde{T}^*)^{-1} = I}$ , we have  $H \subset K'$ . Assume that  $\tilde{T}^{*i} x \in K'$  for  $x \in H$  and  $i = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$ . It follows that for  $x \in H$ ,

$$\widetilde{T}^{*k}x = \lim_{\lambda \in \mathcal{Q}, \lambda \to \infty} \overline{\lambda}^{k+1} [(\overline{\lambda} - \widetilde{T}^*)^{-1} - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \overline{\lambda}^{-j-1} \widetilde{T}^{*j}]x$$

and so  $\tilde{T}^{*k}x \in K'$ . Since the extension is minimal, this means that K' = K. Thus the desired conclusion follows from (5).

**Theorem 4.** Suppose that T is a J-subnormal operator of order n. Then T has the single-valued extension property.

**Proof** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n on H. By [5], there exists a polynomial  $Q(\lambda) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} (\lambda - \mu_k)$  such that  $T | H_0$  is a subnormal operator on  $H_0 =$  $[\operatorname{ran} Q(T)]^-$ . Suppose that  $f(\lambda)$  is an H-valued function analytic on an open subset  $\Omega$  of complex plane such that

$$(T-\lambda)f(\lambda) = 0, \quad \lambda \in \Omega.$$
 (6)

Since a subnormal operator has the single-valued extension property, it follows from (6) that

$$\prod_{k=1}^{n} (T-\mu_k)f(\lambda) = 0, \quad \lambda \in \Omega.$$
(7)

From (6) and (7), we have  $(\mu_n - \lambda) \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (T - \mu_k) f(\lambda) = 0$ , and so  $\prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (T - \mu_k) f(\lambda) = 0, \quad \lambda \in \Omega.$  Along this way, we conclude that  $f(\lambda) = 0$ ,  $\lambda \in \Omega$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 5.** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n on H and let x be in H. Suppose that the open subset  $\Omega$  of complex plane contains no eigenvalues of T and that there is a bounded H-valued function  $x(\lambda)$  anablytic on  $\Omega$ , such that  $(T-\lambda)x(\lambda) = x$  for all  $\lambda \in \Omega$ . Then  $x(\lambda)$  is analytic on  $\Omega$ .

Proof By [5], there is a polynomial  $Q(\lambda) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} (\lambda - \mu_k)$  such that  $T | H_0$  is a subnormal operator on  $H_0 = [\operatorname{ran} Q(T)]^-$ . The identity  $(T - \lambda)x(\lambda) = x(\lambda \in \Omega)$  implies that  $(T - \lambda)Q(T)x(\lambda) = Q(T)x(\lambda \in \Omega)$ . Directly from a theorem of Putnam [6], it follows that  $\prod_{k=1}^{n} (T - \mu_k) x(\lambda)$  is analytic on  $\Omega$ . By the assumption,  $x(\lambda)$  is weakly continuous on  $\Omega$ . Since  $(T - \lambda) \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (T - \mu_k) x(\lambda)$  is constant on  $\Omega$ ,  $(\lambda - \mu_n)$ ,  $\prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (T - \mu_k)x(\lambda)$  is analytic on  $\Omega$  and so is  $\prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (T - \mu_k)x(\lambda)$ . Along this way, we conclude that  $x(\lambda)$  is analytic on  $\Omega$ . This completes the proof.

Let  $\delta$  be a closed subset of complex plane and let T be an operator on H. We define the local spectral subspace as  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\delta) = \{x \in H : \sigma(x, T) \subset \delta\}$ , where  $\sigma(x, T)$  is the local spectrum of T at x.

**Theorem 6.** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n on H. Suppose that  $\delta$  is a closed subset of complex plane. Then  $\mathfrak{M}_{T}(\delta)$  is a closed invariant subspace for T.

**Proof** It is clear that  $\mathfrak{M}_{T}(\delta)$  is invariant under T. By [5], T has an invariant subspace  $H_{0}$  with finite codimension in H such that  $V|H_{0}$  is subnormal. By Proposition 1.10 of [7], we have  $\mathfrak{M}_{T|H_{0}}(\delta) \subset \mathfrak{M}_{T}(\delta)$ . Let  $x \in H_{0}$ . By Proposition 2.9 and Theorem 2.11 of [7], we have  $\sigma(x, T|H_{0}) = \sigma(x, T)$ . This implies that

 $[\mathfrak{M}_{T}(\delta) \ominus \mathfrak{M}_{T|H_{0}}(\delta)] \cap H_{0} = \{0\}.$ 

By Corollary I. 3.4 of [2], we have dim  $[\mathfrak{M}_T(\delta) \ominus \mathfrak{M}_{T|H_0}(\delta)] < \infty$ . Since  $\mathfrak{M}_{T|H_0}(\delta)$  is closed, so is  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\delta)$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 7.** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n and n>0. Then  $T^*$  is not dominant.

**Proof** By [5], T has an invariant subspace  $H_0$  with  $0 < \operatorname{codim} H_0 \leq n$  such that  $T \mid H_0$  is subnormal. We may assume that there does not exist another invariant subspace of T containing  $H_0$  on which T is subnormal. Since  $H_1 = H_0^{\perp}$  is invariant under  $T^*$ , there is an eigenvector x corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\mu$  of  $T^* \mid H_1$ . If  $T^*$  is dominant, then there is an  $M_{\mu}$  such that  $\|(T - \overline{\mu})x\| \leq M_{\mu}\| (T^* - \mu)x\|$ . This implies that  $Tx = \overline{\mu}x$ . Let  $H_2 = H_0 \oplus \{\alpha x: \alpha \in C\}$ . Thus  $H_2$  is invariant under T and  $T \mid H_2$  is subnormal. This gives a contradiction and completes the proof.

**Theorem 8.** Let T be a J-subnormal operator of order n. If  $[T] = T^*T - TT^*$ , then rank  $[T]_{\leq n}$ , where  $[T]_{-}$  is the negative part of [T].

**Proof** Since ran[T]\_ $\subset$ ran $[T]^{1/2}$ , it is sufficient to show that dim ran  $[T]^{1/2} \leqslant$ 

n. If dim ran  $[T]^{1/2} > n$ , then there exist  $x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in H$  such that

$$([T]_{-}^{1/2}x_i, [T]_{-}^{1/2}x_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n+1.$$

Define  $H_{-} = \ker[T]_{+}$ . Let  $P_{-}$  be the orthogonal projection of H onto  $H_{-}$ . Therefore

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^{n+1} ([T]P_{-}x_{i}, P_{-}x_{j})\alpha_{i}\overline{\alpha}_{j} = -\sum_{i,j=1}^{n+1} ([T]_{-}x_{i}, x_{j})\alpha_{i}\overline{\alpha}_{j} = -\sum_{j=1}^{n+1} |\alpha_{j}|^{2}.$$

This is in contradiction with Theorem 4 of [1]. The proof is complete.

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