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The stability radius of a bundle of closed linear operators

by

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Abstract. Given a bundle of linear operators $T - \lambda S$, where T is closed and S is bounded, a sequence $\{\gamma_m(T; S)\}$ of extended real numbers is defined. When T is the identity operator, $\gamma_m(T; S)$ is equal to $\|S^{m-1}\|^{-1}$; when S is the identity operator, $\gamma_m(T; S)$ is the reduced minimum modulus $\gamma(T^m)$ of T^m . It is shown that in several important cases (including the case when T is a Fredholm operator and S is arbitrary)

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}$$

exists and is equal to the supremum of all positive r such that the ranges $\mathcal{R}(T - \lambda S)$ are closed and $\dim \mathcal{N}(T - \lambda S)$ and $\text{codim } \mathcal{R}(T - \lambda S)$ are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$. This work generalizes the usual spectral radius formula, a recent theorem of K.-H. Förster and M. A. Kaashoek, and an earlier result of H. A. Gindler and A. E. Taylor.

0. Introduction. If S is a bounded linear operator on a Banach space, the usual spectral radius formula implies that

$$(0.1) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|S^m\|^{-1/m}$$

exists and is equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $I - \lambda S$ is a bijective operator on $|\lambda| < r$. Recently, K.-H. Förster and M.A. Kaashoek [6] studied a similar limit, namely

$$(0.2) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma(T^m)^{1/m},$$

where T is a (possibly unbounded) Fredholm operator and $\gamma(T^m)$ is the reduced minimum modulus of T^m . Förster and Kaashoek showed that the limit in (0.2) exists and equals the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that the dimensions of the null spaces $\mathcal{N}(T - \lambda I)$ and the codimensions of the ranges $\mathcal{R}(T - \lambda I)$ are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$.

In the present paper we describe a general setting which includes the results involving (0.1) and (0.2) as special cases. We consider an operator bundle $T - \lambda S$, where S is a bounded linear operator between two

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Banach spaces X and Y , and T is a closed linear operator with domain in X and range in Y . For such a bundle we define a sequence $\{\gamma_m(T: S)\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$ of non-negative extended real numbers. When $X = Y$ and $T = I$, one has $\gamma_m(T: S) = \|S^{m-1}\|^{-1}$; when $X = Y$ and $S = I$, one has $\gamma_m(T: S) = \gamma(T^m)$. We also introduce the notion of the stability radius $r(T: S)$ of T and S . In most of the cases discussed in this paper $r(T: S)$ is equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $\dim N(T - \lambda S)$, $\text{codim } R(T - \lambda S)$ and $\dim R(T - \lambda S)$ are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$. We prove that under rather general conditions

$$(0.3) \quad r(T: S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T: S)^{1/m}.$$

Our main results apply to the following situations:

- (i) T is a Fredholm operator, S is arbitrary;
- (ii) T is a semi-Fredholm operator with complemented range and null space, S is compact;
- (iii) T has closed range, S is degenerate (i.e., S is of finite rank);
- (iv) The resolvent $(T - \lambda S)^{-1}$ of T and S has a pole at the origin.

We also present an example showing that the condition in (ii) that T is a semi-Fredholm operator by itself is not enough, not even when $X = Y$ is a Hilbert space.

The idea of finding expressions (or estimates) similar to (0.3) for the stability radius originated in a paper of H. A. Gindler and A. E. Taylor [7]. They studied the case when $X = Y$ (possibly non-complete), $S = I$ and T has a bounded inverse.

1. Preliminaries. Throughout this paper X and Y are complex Banach spaces, T is a closed linear operator with domain $D(T)$ in X and range $R(T)$ in Y , and S is a bounded linear operator from (all of) X into Y . Whenever we write Tx , it will be understood that $x \in D(T)$.

Define subspaces $N_m = N_m(T: S)$ and $R_m = R_m(T: S)$ of X by

$$N_0 = (0), \quad R_0 = X,$$

$$N_{m+1} = T^{-1}SN_m, \quad R_{m+1} = S^{-1}TR_m, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

The sequence $\{N_m\}$ is increasing; the sequence $\{R_m\}$ is decreasing. Put

$$k(T: S) = \dim \frac{N(T)}{N(T) \cap R},$$

where $N(T)$ is the null space of T and R is the intersection of the subspaces R_m . The extended integer $k(T: S)$ will be called the *stability number* of T and S . One can show that $k(T: S)$ is less than or equal to

each of the extended integers

$$\dim N(T), \quad \text{codim } R(T), \quad \dim SN(T).$$

Thus, for example, $k(T: S)$ is finite whenever T is semi-Fredholm or S is degenerate.

The *reduced minimum modulus* of T is defined as the supremum $\gamma(T)$ of all $c \geq 0$ such that

$$\|Tx\| \geq c \cdot d(x, N(T)), \quad x \in D(T).$$

Here $d(x, N(T))$ denotes the distance from x to $N(T)$. We recall from [9] that T has closed range if and only if $\gamma(T) > 0$.

The following theorem is due to M. A. Kaashoek; it is a generalization of the well-known perturbation results of I. O. Gohberg, M. G. Krein and T. Kato for semi-Fredholm operators. (See [8], [10], [11]. Part (ii) of the theorem does not appear in [10] but may be deduced without difficulty from the statements (iii) and (iv).)

1.1. THEOREM. *Suppose that $R(T)$ is closed and $k(T: S) = k < \infty$. Then there exists $r > 0$ such that, for $0 < |\lambda| < r$,*

- (i) $\dim N(T - \lambda S) = \dim N(T) - k$,
- (ii) $\dim R(T - \lambda S) = \dim R(T) + k$,
- (iii) $\text{codim } R(T - \lambda S) = \text{codim } R(T) - k$,
- (iv) $k(T - \lambda S: S) = 0$,
- (v) $R(T - \lambda S)$ is closed.

In the particular case when $k = 0$, the constant r may be taken to be $\gamma(T)/\|S\|$.

Motivated by this theorem we define the *stability radius* of T and S as the supremum $r(T: S)$ of all $r > 0$ such that $R(T - \lambda S)$ is closed and $k(T - \lambda S: S) = 0$ for $0 < |\lambda| < r$. It is clear that the functions

$$(1.1) \quad \lambda \mapsto \dim N(T - \lambda S), \quad \lambda \mapsto \dim R(T - \lambda S), \quad \lambda \mapsto \text{codim } R(T - \lambda S),$$

are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r(T: S)$. In most of the cases discussed in this paper $r(T: S)$ is actually the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that functions (1.1) are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$.

Given $m \geq 1$ and elements a_1, \dots, a_m in $D(T)$, we say that the tuple (a_1, \dots, a_m) is a *chain* for T and S if

$$T a_i = S a_{i-1}, \quad i = 2, \dots, m.$$

It is easily verified that $a \in N_m$ if and only if there exists a chain (a_1, \dots, a_m) with $a_m = a$ and $T a_1 = 0$. We let $\gamma_m = \gamma_m(T: S)$ denote the supremum of all $c \geq 0$ with the property that

$$\|T a_1\| \geq c \cdot d(a_m, N_m)$$

for every chain (x_1, \dots, x_m) . Observe that γ_1 is just the reduced minimum modulus $\gamma(T)$ of T .

To illustrate the definition of γ_m , we examine the two special cases mentioned in the introduction.

1.2. **EXAMPLE.** Assume that T is bijective and let L be the inverse of T . Then L is a bounded linear operator from all of Y into X . It is clear that $N_m = (0)$ for all m . Also, the chains for T and S are of the form

$$(Ly, LSLy, \dots, L(SL)^{m-1}y), \quad y \in Y.$$

It follows that, for $m = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$(1.2) \quad \gamma_m = \|L(SL)^{m-1}\|^{-1}.$$

But then, if $r_\sigma(SL)$ denotes the spectral radius of SL , we have

$$(1.3) \quad r_\sigma(SL)^{-1} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m^{1/m}.$$

Observe that $r_\sigma(SL)^{-1}$ is also equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $T - \lambda S$ is bijective for $|\lambda| < r$. When $X = Y$ and $T = I$, the right-hand side of (1.2) becomes $\|S^{m-1}\|^{-1}$ and the left-hand side of (1.3) is equal to $r_\sigma(S)^{-1}$.

1.3. **EXAMPLE.** Suppose that $X = Y$ and $S = I$. Then

$$\gamma_m = \gamma(T^m), \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

The proof of this is based on the observation that the chains are now of the form

$$(T^{m-1}x, \dots, Tx, x), \quad x \in D(T^m),$$

and $N_m = N(T^m)$.

We conclude this section with two lemmas, the second of which will be used in Sections 3 and 4.

1.4. **LEMMA.** Let T be surjective and suppose that

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

Then $R(T - \mu S)$ is dense in Y .

Proof. Take $0 \neq y \in Y$, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and choose r such that

$$|\mu| < r < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m^{1/m}.$$

Select m so that

$$\gamma^m < \gamma_m, \quad \frac{|\mu|^m \|S\| \|y\|}{\gamma^m} < \varepsilon.$$

Since $R(T) = Y$, there exists a chain (x_1, \dots, x_m) with $Tx_1 = y$. Observe that $d(x_m, N_m) \leq r^{-m} \|y\|$. Hence there is a chain (u_1, \dots, u_m) with $Tu_1 = 0$ and $\|x_m - u_m\| < r^{-m} \|y\|$. Now put

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^m \mu^{i-1} (x_i - u_i), \quad z = (T - \mu S)x.$$

Then $z \in R(T - \mu S)$ and a straightforward calculation shows that $\|y - z\| < \varepsilon$. This proves the lemma.

The Banach space of all bounded linear operators from X into Y will be denoted by $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$.

1.5. **LEMMA.** Let $R(T)$ be closed and $k(T; S) = 0$. If

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}$$

and $R(T - \mu S)$ is closed, then $k(T - \mu S; S) = 0$.

Proof. Define

$$X_\infty = \bigcap_m R_m, \quad Y_\infty = \bigcap_m TR_m.$$

From [10], Lemma 2.3 we know that

$$(1.4) \quad TX_\infty = Y_\infty, \quad S^{-1}Y_\infty = X_\infty.$$

Furthermore, since $\mu \neq 0$,

$$(1.5) \quad N(T - \mu S) \subset X_\infty.$$

The condition $k(T; S) = 0$ means that $N(T) \subset R_m$ for all m . Using this one easily shows, as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 in [10], that R_m and TR_m are closed. Hence X_∞ and Y_∞ are closed.

Let T_∞ and S_∞ be the restrictions of T and S to X_∞ considered as operators into Y_∞ . Then T_∞ is closed and $S_\infty \in \mathcal{L}(X_\infty, Y_\infty)$. Observe that $R(T_\infty) = Y_\infty$. By [11], Lemma 5.11, the hypothesis $k(T; S) = 0$ implies that $N_m(T; S) \subset X_\infty$ for all m . Hence $N_m(T_\infty; S_\infty) = N_m(T; S)$ and consequently

$$\gamma_m(T; S) = \gamma_m(T_\infty; S_\infty), \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

But then we have

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T_\infty; S_\infty)^{1/m}.$$

Applying Lemma 1.4 we find that $(T - \mu S)X_\infty = R(T_\infty - \mu S_\infty)$ is dense in Y_∞ . However, in view of (1.5), Lemma IV.2.9 in [9] implies that $(T - \mu S)X_\infty$ is closed. So $(T_\infty - \mu S_\infty)X_\infty = Y_\infty$. This, together with (1.5)

and the second part of (1.4), gives

$$N(T - \mu S) \subset \bigcap_m R_m(T - \mu S; S),$$

and the proof is complete.

2. An upper bound for the stability radius. The proof of Proposition 2.1 will be based on the existence of global relative inverses of certain holomorphic operator functions [2]. A similar argument was used in [6].

An operator $L \in \mathcal{L}(Y, X)$ is called a *relative inverse* of T if $R(L) \subset D(T)$ and

$$Tx = TLTx, \quad Ly = LTLy$$

for $x \in D(T)$ and $y \in Y$. If $D(T) = X$, then LT is a projection of X along $N(T)$ and TL is a projection of Y onto $R(T)$.

Let \hat{X} be $D(T)$ endowed with the graph norm $\|x\| = \|x\| + \|Tx\|$. Then \hat{X} is a Banach space.

2.1. PROPOSITION. *Suppose $N(T - \lambda S)$ is complemented in \hat{X} and $R(T - \lambda S)$ is complemented in Y for $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$, and $k(T; S) < \infty$. Then*

$$(2.1) \quad r(T; S) \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

Proof. Let \hat{T} and \hat{S} be the operators T and S considered as maps from \hat{X} into Y . Then $\hat{T}, \hat{S} \in \mathcal{L}(\hat{X}, Y)$ and, for $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$, the operator $\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}$ has complemented range and null space. Also $k(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}; \hat{S}) = k(T - \lambda S; S) = 0$ for $0 < |\lambda| < r(T; S)$. But then [2], Theorem 2.2 ensures the existence of an $\mathcal{L}(Y, \hat{X})$ -valued function L with the following properties:

- (i) L is holomorphic on $0 < |\lambda| < r(T; S)$ and meromorphic on $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$;
- (ii) $L(\lambda)$ is a relative inverse of $\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}$ for $0 < |\lambda| < r(T; S)$;
- (iii) The projection functions $\lambda \mapsto L(\lambda)(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})$ and $\lambda \mapsto (\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})L(\lambda)$ have holomorphic extensions to all of $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$.

Now let p be a positive integer and let

$$L(\lambda) = \sum_{n=-p}^{\infty} \lambda^n L_n$$

be the Laurent expansion of L at the origin. From (i) we have

$$r(T; S) \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|L_{m-1}\|^{-1/m}.$$

So it suffices to show that $\gamma_m(T; S) \geq \|L_{m-1}\|^{-1}$ for $m \geq p$.

Take $m \geq p$. From (iii) we have

$$\hat{T}L_{-p} = 0, \quad \hat{T}L_{-p+i} = \hat{S}L_{-p+i-1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, p-1.$$

Hence $R(L_{-1}) \subset N_p$. Since $m \geq p$, it follows that

$$(2.2) \quad R(J_{-1}) \subset N_m$$

(notice that $N_m(T; S) = N_m(\hat{T}; \hat{S})$).

Now let (w_1, \dots, w_m) be a chain for \hat{T} and \hat{S} . Define, for $0 < |\lambda| < r(T; S)$,

$$\psi(\lambda) = [L_X - L(\lambda)(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda^{i-1} w_i \right).$$

By (iii), the function ψ has a holomorphic extension, also denoted by ψ , to all of $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$. On account of (ii), we have

$$(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})\psi(\lambda) = 0, \quad |\lambda| < r(T; S).$$

It follows that the $(m-1)$ -th coefficient ψ_{m-1} in the Taylor expansion of ψ at the origin belongs to N_m . A routine computation, based on the fact that (w_1, \dots, w_m) is a chain, shows that

$$\psi_{m-1} = w_m - L_{m-1}T w_1 + L_{-1}S w_m.$$

But then we see from (2.2) that $w_m - L_{m-1}T w_1 \in N_m$, and so

$$d(w_m, N_m) \leq \|L_{m-1}T w_1\| \leq \|L_{m-1}T w_1\| \leq \|L_{m-1}\| \|T w_1\|.$$

Hence $\gamma_m(T; S) \geq \|L_{m-1}\|^{-1}$, and the proof is complete.

In the following remark we show how to apply Proposition 2.1 in three important cases.

2.2. Remark. (i) Suppose that T is a Fredholm operator. Then it follows from Theorem 1.1 that $T - \lambda S$ is a Fredholm operator for $|\lambda| < r(T; S)$. In particular the conditions of Proposition 2.1 are satisfied. We conclude that formula (2.1) holds.

(ii) Assume that S is compact and that T is a semi-Fredholm operator with complemented range and null space. Let \hat{T} and \hat{S} be as in the proof of Proposition 2.1. Then \hat{S} is compact and \hat{T} is a bounded semi-Fredholm operator with complemented range and null space. This implies that, for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, the operator $\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}$ is semi-Fredholm with complemented range and null space (cf. [4]). In particular the hypotheses of Proposition 2.1 are satisfied, and so we obtain the inequality (2.1).

(iii) The set of all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $T - \lambda S$ is bijective is called the *resolvent set* of T and S and denoted by $\rho(T; S)$. For λ in $\rho(T; S)$, let

$R(\lambda)$ be the resolvent of T and S given by

$$R(\lambda)y = (T - \lambda S)^{-1}y, \quad y \in Y.$$

Then $\rho(T; S)$ is an open (possibly empty) subset of \mathbb{C} and R is a holomorphic $\mathcal{L}(Y, X)$ -valued function (cf. [3], Section 5). Suppose now that R has a pole (or is holomorphic) at the origin. Then it follows from Theorem 1.1 that $\lambda \in \rho(T; S)$ for $0 < |\lambda| < r(T; S)$. Moreover, if $L(\lambda)$ is $R(\lambda)$ viewed as an operator from Y into \hat{X} , then obviously L has the properties mentioned in the proof of Proposition 2.1. As a result, formula (2.1) is valid.

3. The case when T is a Fredholm operator. When T is a Fredholm operator, $r(T; S)$ is equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $\dim N(T - \lambda S)$ and $\text{codim } R(T - \lambda S)$ are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$. This is a consequence of Theorem 1.1.

3.1. THEOREM. Let T be a Fredholm operator. Then

$$r(T; S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

This theorem is a generalization of [6], Theorem 5 and [7], Theorem 3.5. The proof requires the following lemma.

3.2. LEMMA. Suppose that T is a Fredholm operator and $k(T; S) = 0$.

Let

$$(3.1) \quad 0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

Then $T - \mu S$ is a Fredholm operator and $k(T - \mu S; S) = 0$.

Proof. In order to show that $T - \mu S$ is a Fredholm operator, we shall relate the right-hand side of (3.1) to the spectral radius of a certain element in the Calkin algebra over X . Let m be a positive integer. As $k(T; S) = 0$, we have $N(T) \subset R_{m-1}$. Since T is Fredholm, the subspaces R_n are closed and have finite codimension. Using these facts one can construct a relative inverse L_m of T such that $L_m T R_n \subset R_n$ for $n = 0, \dots, m-1$. (First construct a projection of X along $N(T)$ which maps R_n into R_n for $n = 0, \dots, m-1$.)

Since T is a Fredholm operator, we have TR_{m-1} closed and

$$\dim N_m \leq mN, \quad \text{codim } TR_{m-1} \leq mN,$$

where $N = \max\{1, \dim N(T), \text{codim } R(T)\}$. Hence there exist a projection P of X along N_m and a projection Q of Y onto TR_{m-1} such that

$$\|P\| \leq 2(mN)^{1/2}, \quad \|Q\| \leq 3(mN)^{1/2}$$

(cf. [5], and the references given there).

Take $y \in Y$ and put

$$x_i = (L_m S)^{i-1} L_m Q y, \quad i = 1, \dots, m.$$

Using the special properties of L_m , one can show that (x_1, \dots, x_m) is a chain with $T x_i = Q y$. But then

$$d(x_m, N_m) \leq \frac{\|Q y\|}{\gamma_m} \leq \frac{\|Q\| \|y\|}{\gamma_m}.$$

Since P is a projection of X along N_m , we have

$$\|P x_m\| \leq \|P\| \cdot d(x_m, N_m) \leq \frac{\|P\| \|Q\| \|y\|}{\gamma_m}.$$

It follows that

$$\|P(L_m S)^{m-1} L_m Q\| \leq \frac{\|P\| \|Q\|}{\gamma_m} \leq \frac{6mN}{\gamma_m}.$$

Since $I_X - P$ and $I_Y - Q$ are degenerate, we have

$$(3.2) \quad \|(L_m S)^m - P_m\| \leq \frac{6mN \|S\|}{\gamma_m},$$

for some degenerate operator P_m in $\mathcal{L}(X, X)$.

Let κ denote the canonical mapping from $\mathcal{L}(X, X)$ onto the Calkin algebra over X (see for instance [4]). Since for each m the operators L_m and L_1 are relative inverses of the Fredholm operator T , we have that $L_m - L_1$ is degenerate. Hence $\kappa L_m S = \kappa L_1 S$, and it follows from formula (3.2) that

$$(3.3) \quad \|(\kappa L_1 S)^m\| \leq \frac{6mN \|S\|}{\gamma_m}.$$

The spectral radius $r_\alpha(\kappa L_1 S)$ of $\kappa L_1 S$ is given by

$$r_\alpha(\kappa L_1 S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|(\kappa L_1 S)^m\|^{1/m}.$$

Formula (3.3) now implies that

$$\limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m^{1/m} \leq r_\alpha(\kappa L_1 S)^{-1}.$$

Thus $\mu^{-1} \kappa I_X - \kappa L_1 S$ is invertible. As is well known, this means that $I_X - \mu L_1 S$ is Fredholm, and hence so is $T - \mu T L_1 S$. But $T L_1 = I_Y - Q_1$, where Q_1 is a degenerate projection. It follows that $T - \mu S$ is a Fredholm operator. In particular, $R(T - \mu S)$ is closed. But then we know from Lemma 1.5 that $k(T - \mu S; S) = 0$, and the proof is complete.

We are now able to prove Theorem 3.1. The proof uses a decomposition theorem due to T. Kato [11]. In this connection we note that

the hypothesis $k(T: S) = 0$ is equivalent to the condition $\nu(T: S) = \infty$ appearing in [11].

Proof of Theorem 3.1. In view of Remark 2.2(i), it suffices to show that

$$r(T: S) \geq \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T: S)^{1/m}.$$

So take μ satisfying

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T: S)^{1/m}.$$

We need to show that $R(T - \mu S)$ is closed and $k(T - \mu S: S) = 0$.

Consider topological decompositions $X = X_0 \oplus X_1$ and $Y = Y_0 \oplus Y_1$ as given in [11], Theorem 4. These decompositions completely reduce T and S . For $i = 0, 1$, let T_i and S_i denote the restrictions of T and S to X_i viewed as operators into Y_i . From [11] we know that $T_1, S_1 \in \mathcal{L}(X_1, Y_1)$, that S_1 is bijective and that $S_1^{-1}T_1$ is nilpotent. Since $\mu \neq 0$, it follows that $T_1 - \mu S_1$ is bijective.

Next we consider T_0 and S_0 . Clearly $S_0 \in \mathcal{L}(X_0, Y_0)$. Recall from [11], that T_0 is Fredholm and $k(T_0: S_0) = 0$. Let P be the projection of X onto X_0 along X_1 . A routine argument shows that $N_m(T_0: S_0) = PN_m(T: S)$. Hence

$$\gamma_m(T_0: S_0) \geq \|P\|^{-1} \cdot \gamma_m(T: S), \quad m = 1, 2, \dots,$$

and consequently

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T_0: S_0)^{1/m}.$$

But then Lemma 3.2 yields that $T_0 - \mu S_0$ is Fredholm and $k(T - \mu S: S_0) = 0$. It is now clear that $T - \mu S$ is Fredholm. In particular $R(T - \mu S)$ is closed. Moreover, $k(T - \mu S: S) = k(T_0 - \mu S_0: S_0) + k(T_1 - \mu S_1: S_1) = 0$, and the proof is complete.

We now apply Theorem 3.1 to the case when T has closed range and S is degenerate.

3.3. THEOREM. *Suppose T has closed range and S is degenerate. Then*

$$r(T: S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T: S)^{1/m}.$$

Proof. Put $Y_1 = R(T) + R(S)$. Then Y_1 is a closed subspace of Y . Further, let $\hat{X} = X/W$, where $W = N(T) \cap N(S)$, and let \hat{T} and \hat{S} be the induced operators from \hat{X} into \hat{Y} . The hypothesis that S is degenerate ensures that

$$(3.4) \quad \dim \frac{N(T)}{N(T) \cap N(S)} < \infty, \quad \dim \frac{R(T) + R(S)}{R(T)} < \infty.$$

Hence \hat{T} is a Fredholm operator, and so, by Theorem 3.1,

$$r(\hat{T}: \hat{S}) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(\hat{T}: \hat{S})^{1/m}.$$

It remains to prove that $\gamma_m(\hat{T}: \hat{S}) = \gamma_m(T: S)$ and $r(\hat{T}: \hat{S}) = r(T: S)$.

Let φ be the canonical mapping from X onto \hat{X} . Observe that $(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_m)$ is a chain for T and S if and only if $(\varphi(\omega_1), \dots, \varphi(\omega_m))$ is a chain for \hat{T} and \hat{S} . Hence $N_m(\hat{T}: \hat{S}) = \varphi N_m(T: S)$. Using the fact that $W \subset N_m(T: S)$ one now easily deduces that

$$d(w, N_m(T: S)) = d(\varphi(w), N_m(\hat{T}: \hat{S})), \quad w \in X.$$

It follows that $\gamma_m(\hat{T}: \hat{S}) = \gamma_m(T: S)$.

Let $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}$. It is clear that $R(T - \lambda S)$ is closed if and only if $R(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})$ is closed. Observe that $N(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}) = \varphi N(T - \lambda S)$ and $R_m(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}: \hat{S}) = \varphi R_m(T - \lambda S: S)$. Put

$$R_\lambda = \bigcap_m R_m(T - \lambda S: S), \quad \hat{R}_\lambda = \bigcap_m R_m(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}: \hat{S}).$$

Since $W \subset N(T - \lambda S) \cap R_\lambda$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \frac{N(T - \lambda S)}{N(T - \lambda S) \cap R_\lambda} &= \dim \frac{\varphi N(T - \lambda S)}{\varphi [N(T - \lambda S) \cap R_\lambda]} \\ &= \dim \frac{\varphi N(T - \lambda S)}{\varphi N(T - \lambda S) \cap \varphi R_\lambda} \\ &= \dim \frac{N(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S})}{N(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}) \cap \hat{R}_\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $k(\hat{T} - \lambda \hat{S}: \hat{S}) = k(T - \lambda S: S)$, and the proof is complete.

Theorem 3.3 remains valid if the condition that S is degenerate is replaced by the weaker assumption that (3.4) holds. Also, Theorem 3.3 applies when T and S are both degenerate. In this latter case, Theorem 1.1 implies that $r(T: S)$ is equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $\dim R(T - \lambda S)$ is constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$.

4. The case when T is a semi-Fredholm operator. Theorem 3.1 does not remain true if the condition that T is Fredholm is replaced by the weaker assumption that T is semi-Fredholm.

4.1. EXAMPLE. Let $X = Y$ be the Hilbert space l_2 and define $T, S \in \mathcal{L}(l_2, l_2)$ by

$$T(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots) = (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_5, x_7, \dots),$$

$$S(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots) = (x_0, x_1 + x_2, x_3 + \frac{1}{2}x_4, x_5 + \frac{1}{3}x_6, \dots).$$

Here $0 \leq a < 1$. One can show that

$$\gamma_m(T; S) = a^{-(m-1)}, \quad m = 2, 3, \dots,$$

where, as usual, $0^{-1} = \infty$. Therefore

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m} = a^{-1} > 1.$$

On the other hand, the range of $T - S$ is not closed, and so $r(T; S) \leq 1$. In fact, $r(T; S) = 1$. Observe that T is surjective. Hence this example also shows that the hypotheses of Lemma 1.4 do not imply that $T - \mu S$ is surjective.

Suppose that T is a semi-Fredholm operator and that S is compact. Then $T - \lambda S$ is semi-Fredholm for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. It follows from Theorem 1.1 that $r(T; S)$ is equal to the supremum of all $r > 0$ such that $\dim \mathcal{N}(T - \lambda S)$ and $\text{codim } R(T - \lambda S)$ are constant on $0 < |\lambda| < r$.

4.2. THEOREM. *Suppose that S is compact and that T is a semi-Fredholm operator with complemented range and null space. Then*

$$r(T; S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

Proof. In view of Remark 2.2(ii), it suffices to show that

$$r(T; S) \geq \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

So take μ satisfying

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

We know already that $R(T - \mu S)$ is closed. In order to prove that $k(T - \mu S; S) = 0$, we once more apply the decomposition result of T. Kato ([11], Theorem 4). Using the same notation as in the proof of Theorem 3.1, we have that T_0 is a semi-Fredholm operator, $k(T_0; S_0) = 0$ and

$$0 < |\mu| < \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T_0; S_0)^{1/m}.$$

But then it follows from Lemma 1.5 that $k(T_0 - \mu S_0; S_0) = 0$. This, together with the fact that $T_1 - \mu S_1$ is bijective, gives $k(T - \mu S; S) = 0$, and the proof is complete.

The conclusion of Theorem 4.2 also holds when $X = Y$ is a Hilbert space, T is a semi-Fredholm operator on X with a non-empty resolvent set and $S = I$ is the identity operator on X . The proof is basically the same as that of [6], Theorem 5, with the reference to [1], Theorem 5.2 replaced by a reference to [2], Theorem 2. The hypothesis that X is a Hilbert space serves only to ensure that $T - \lambda I$ has complemented range and null space for $|\lambda| < r(T; I)$.

5. The case when the resolvent of T and S has a pole at the origin.

Let $\sigma(T; S)$ be the set of all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $T - \lambda S$ is not bijective. If the resolvent $(T - \lambda S)^{-1}$ has a pole at the origin, then $r(T; S)$ is equal to the distance from 0 to $\sigma(T; S) \setminus \{0\}$.

5.1. THEOREM. *Suppose that the resolvent of T and S has a pole at the origin. Then*

$$r(T; S) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_m(T; S)^{1/m}.$$

The proof follows the same pattern as that of Theorem 3.1. The main differences are: the reference to Remark 2.2(i) should be replaced by a reference to Remark 2.2(iii), the reference to [11], Theorem 4 should be replaced by a reference to a decomposition result obtained in Sections 4 and 5 of [3] and, finally, Example 1.2 should be used instead of Lemma 3.2.

In the following corollary T is a closed linear operator with domain and range in X . The spectrum of T is denoted by $\sigma(T)$ and the identity operator on X by I .

5.2. COROLLARY. *Suppose that the resolvent $(T - \lambda I)^{-1}$ has a pole at the origin. Then*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \gamma(T^m)^{1/m}$$

exists and is equal to the distance from 0 to $\sigma(T) \setminus \{0\}$.

The special case when $(T - \lambda I)^{-1}$ is holomorphic at the origin was treated by H. A. Gindler and A. E. Taylor ([7], Theorem 3.5). The result of K.-H. Föhrster and M. A. Kaashoek ([6], Theorem 5) covers the situation where $(T - \lambda I)^{-1}$ has a pole of finite rank.

The conclusion of Corollary 5.2 need not be true if the origin is merely an isolated point of the spectrum of T . To see this, let T be a quasi-nilpotent operator such that for all n the range of T^n is not closed.

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