

## SELF-ADJOINT INTERPOLATION FOR OPERATORS IN TRIDIAGONAL ALGEBRAS

JOO HO KANG AND YOUNG SOO JO

ABSTRACT. Given operators  $X$  and  $Y$  acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , an interpolating operator is a bounded operator  $A$  such that  $AX = Y$ . An interpolating operator for  $n$ -operators satisfies the equation  $AX_i = Y_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . In this article, we obtained the following : Let  $X = (x_{ij})$  and  $Y = (y_{ij})$  be operators in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  such that  $x_{i\sigma(i)} \neq 0$  for all  $i$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.

(1) There exists an operator  $A$  in  $\text{Alg } \mathcal{L}$  such that  $AX = Y$ , every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$  and  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.

(2)  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$   
and  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a collection of operators acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and let  $X$  and  $Y$  be operators acting on  $\mathcal{H}$ . An *interpolation question* for  $\mathcal{C}$  asks for which  $X$  and  $Y$  is there a bounded operator  $T$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $TX = Y$ . A variation, the ' $n$ -operator interpolation problem', asks for an operator  $T$  such that  $TX_i = Y_i$  for fixed finite collections  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$  and  $\{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\}$ .

In this article, we investigate self-adjoint interpolation problems in tridiagonal algebras: Given operators  $X$  and  $Y$  acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , when does there exist a self-adjoint operator  $A$  in a tridiagonal algebra such that  $AX = Y$ ?

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First, we establish some notations and conventions. A commutative subspace lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , or CSL  $\mathcal{L}$  is a strongly closed lattice of pairwise-commuting projections acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . We assume that the projections  $0$  and  $I$  lie in  $\mathcal{L}$ . We usually identify projections and their ranges, so that it makes sense to speak of an operator as leaving a projection invariant. If  $\mathcal{L}$  is CSL,  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  is called a CSL-algebra. The symbol  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  is the algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  that leave invariant all the projections in  $\mathcal{L}$ . Let  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of all natural numbers and let  $\mathbb{C}$  be the set of all complex numbers. Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then  $\bar{z}$  means the complex conjugate of  $z$ .

## 2. Results

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a separable complex Hilbert space with a fixed orthonormal basis  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ . Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be vectors in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then  $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  means the closed subspace generated by the vectors  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ . Let  $M$  be a subset of a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then  $\bar{M}$  means the closure of  $M$  and  $\bar{M}^\perp$  the orthogonal complement of  $M$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a subspace lattice of orthogonal projections generated by the subspaces  $[e_{2k-1}], [e_{2k-1}, e_{2k}, e_{2k+1}]$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ). Then the algebra  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  is called a tridiagonal algebra which was introduced by F. Gilfeather and D. Larson [3]. These algebras have been found to be useful counterexamples to a number of plausible conjectures. Recently, such algebras have been found to be use in physics, in electrical engineering and in general system theory.

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the algebra consisting of all bounded operators acting on  $\mathcal{H}$  of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} * & * & & & \\ & * & & & \\ & * & * & * & \\ & & & * & \\ & & & & \ddots \\ & & & * & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

with respect to the orthonormal basis  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ , where all non-starred entries are zero. It is easy to see that  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{A}$ . Let  $D = \{A : A \text{ is diagonal in } \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})\}$ . Then  $D$  is a masa of  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  and  $D = (\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}) \cap (\text{Alg}\mathcal{L})^*$ , where  $(\text{Alg}\mathcal{L})^* = \{A^* : A \in \text{Alg}\mathcal{L}\}$ .

In this paper, we use the convention  $\frac{0}{0} = 0$ , when necessary.

From now, let  $\sigma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a mapping in this paper.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $X = (x_{ij})$  and  $Y = (y_{ij})$  be operators in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  such that  $x_{i\sigma(i)} \neq 0$  for all  $i$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.*

(1) *There exists an operator  $A$  in  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  such that  $AX = Y$ , every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$  and  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.*

(2)  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$  and  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) : Since  $E$  reduces  $A$  and  $AX = Y$ ,  $AEX = EY$  for every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$ . So  $A(\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i$  and hence  $\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\| \leq \|A\| \|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $E_i \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $f_i \in \mathcal{H}$ . If  $\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\| \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} \leq \|A\|$ .

Hence  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L}, \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$ . Since every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ ,  $A$  is a diagonal operator. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX = Y$ ,  $y_{ij} = a_{ii}x_{ij}$  for all  $i$  and all  $j$ . Since  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator,  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) : If  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$ , then without loss of generality, we may assume that

$$\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|} : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\} = 1. \text{ So,}$$

$$\|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i\| \leq \|\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i\|, n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \dots (*)$$

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i : n \in \mathbb{N}, E_i \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_i \in \mathcal{H} \right\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a linear manifold.

Define  $A : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  by  $A(\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i$ . Then  $A$  is well-defined by (\*). Extend  $A$  to  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  by continuity. Define  $A|_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp} = 0$ . Then  $\|A\| \leq 1$  and  $AX = Y$ .  $AE(\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i) = A(\sum_{i=1}^n EE_i X f_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n EE_i Y f_i$  and  $EA(\sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i) = E(\sum_{i=1}^n E_i Y f_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n EE_i Y f_i$ . And  $EA(g) = E(0) = 0$  and  $AE(g) = 0$  for  $g$  in  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp$  since  $\langle Eg, \sum_{i=1}^n E_i X f_i \rangle = \langle g, \sum_{i=1}^n EE_i X f_i \rangle = 0$ . Hence every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ . Therefore,  $A$  is a diagonal operator. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX = Y$ ,  $y_{ij} = a_{ii}x_{ij}$  for all  $i$  and all  $j$ . Since  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator. □

**THEOREM 2.** Let  $X_p = (x_{ij}^{(p)})$  and  $Y_p = (y_{ij}^{(p)})$  be operators in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) such that  $x_{i\sigma(i)}^{(q)} \neq 0$  for some  $q$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.

(1) There exists an operator  $A$  in  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  such that  $AX_p = Y_p$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ), every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$  and  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.

(2)  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}\|} : m_i \in \mathbb{N}, l \leq n, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$  and  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ .

*Proof.* We assume the condition (2) holds. Then, without loss of generality, we may

assume that  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}\|}{\|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}\|} : l \leq n, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} = 1$ .

Then  $\|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}\| \leq \|\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}\| \cdots \cdots (*)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} : l \leq n, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\}$ .

Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a linear manifold. Define  $A : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  by  $A(\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}) = \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}$ . Then  $A$  is well-defined by (\*). Extend  $A$  to  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  by continuity. Define  $A|_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp} = 0$ . Clearly  $AX_p = Y_p$  and we know that  $\|A|_{\mathcal{M}}\| \leq 1$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). For  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \leq n$ ,  $E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} AE \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) &= A \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 EA \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) &= E \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For every  $g$  in  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp$ ,  $EAg = E0 = 0$  and  $AEG = 0$  since  $\langle Eg, \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \rangle = \langle g, \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \rangle = 0$ . So every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ . Therefore,  $A$  is diagonal. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX_p = Y_p$ ,  $y_{ij}^{(p)} = a_{ii}x_{ij}^{(p)}$  for all  $i, j$ , and  $p = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Since  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.

Conversely, if the condition (1) holds, then  $EAX_i = AEX_i = EY_i$  for every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). So  $AEX_i f = EY_i f$  for every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  and every  $f$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Thus  $A(\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}) = \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}$ , for  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \leq n$ ,  $E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\| &\leq \left\| A \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) \right\| \\
 &\leq \|A\| \left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\| \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} \leq \|A\|$ .

Hence,  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} : l \leq n, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} \leq \|A\|$ .

Since every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ ,  $A$  is diagonal. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX_p = Y_p$ ,  $y_{ij}^{(p)} = a_{ii}x_{ij}^{(p)}$  for all  $i, j$ , and  $p$ . Since  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator,  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . □

**THEOREM 3.** Let  $X_p = (x_{ij}^{(p)})$  and  $Y_p = (y_{ij}^{(p)})$  be in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots$ ) such that  $x_{i\sigma(i)}^{(q)} \neq 0$  for some fixed  $q$  and for all  $i$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.

(1) There exists an operator  $A$  in  $\text{Alg}\mathcal{L}$  such that  $AX_p = Y_p$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots$ ), every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$  and  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.

(2)  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} : m_i, l \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$  and  $x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ .

*Proof.* If  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} : l, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} < \infty$ , then without loss of generality, we may assume that

$$\sup \left\{ \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} : l, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} = 1.$$

So  $\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\| \leq \left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\| \dots \dots (*)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} : l, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\}$ .

Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a linear manifold. Define  $A : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  by  $A(\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}) = \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}$ . Then  $A$  is well-defined by (\*). Extend  $A$  to  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  by continuity. Define  $A|_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp} = 0$ . Clearly  $AX_p = Y_p$  and we know that  $\|A|_{\mathcal{M}}\| \leq 1$  ( $p = 1, 2, \dots$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} AE \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) &= A \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} EA \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) &= E \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} EE_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i}. \end{aligned}$$

For every  $g$  in  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^\perp$ ,  $EA(g) = E(0) = 0$  and  $AE(g) = 0$  since

$$\langle Eg, \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \rangle = \langle g, \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \rangle = 0.$$

So every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ . Therefore,  $A$  is diagonal. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX_p = Y_p$ ,  $y_{ij}^{(p)} = a_{ii}x_{ij}^{(p)}$  for all  $i, j$ , and  $p = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator.

Conversely, if  $AX_i = Y_i$ , then  $EAX_i = AEX_i = EY_i$  for every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ). So  $AEX_i f = EY_i f$  for every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  and every  $f$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ). Thus  $A(\sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i}) = \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i Y_i f_{k,i}$ ,  $m_i, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\| &\leq \left\| A \left( \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \|A\| \left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\| \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} \leq \|A\|$ .

Hence  $\sup \left\{ \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} Y_i f_{k,i} \right\|}{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} E_{k,i} X_i f_{k,i} \right\|} : l, m_i \in \mathbb{N}, E_{k,i} \in \mathcal{L} \text{ and } f_{k,i} \in \mathcal{H} \right\} \leq \|A\|$ .

Since every  $E$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  reduces  $A$ ,  $A$  is diagonal. Let  $A = (a_{ii})$ . Since  $AX_p = Y_p$ ,  $y_{ij}^{(p)} = a_{ii}x_{ij}^{(p)}$  for all  $p, i$ , and  $j$ . Since  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator,  $\overline{x_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)} y_{i,\sigma(i)}^{(q)}}$  is real for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . □

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JOO HO KANG, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, TAEGU UNIVERSITY, TAEGU 713-714, KOREA  
*E-mail*: jhkang@biho.taegu.ac.kr

YOUNG SOO JO, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, KEIMYUNG UNIVERSITY, TAEGU 704-701, KOREA  
*E-mail*: ysjo@kmucc.keimyung.ac.kr