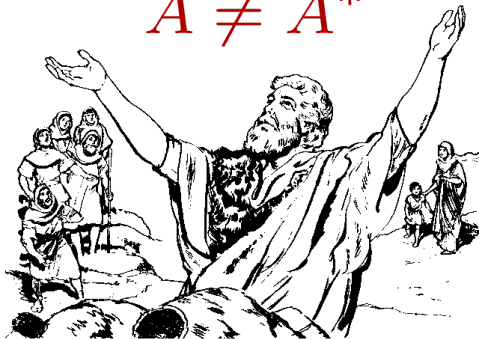


An Invitation to the Non-self-adjoint Church

František Štampach

$$A \neq A^*$$



Contents

- 1 An operator with empty spectrum
- 2 Shift operators
- 3 Research topics - open problems

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Partial A: Well, if it exists, then it has to be an unbounded and non-self-adjoint operator.

Intermezzo - Volterra integral operators

- For $\mathcal{K} \in C([0, 1]^2)$, put

$$Kf(x) := \int_0^x \mathcal{K}(x, y)f(y)dy, \quad x \in [0, 1].$$

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- Conclusion:

$$\sigma(K) = \{0\}.$$

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An operator with empty spectrum

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Remark: The operator T acts on the Banach space $C([0, 1])$. A similar example works on the Hilbert space $L^2(0, 1)$:

$$Tg := g', \quad \text{Dom } T := \{g \in AC([0, 1]) \mid g(0) = 0\},$$

where

$$AC([0, 1]) = \{g \text{ a.c. on } [0, 1] \mid g' \in L^2(0, 1)\}.$$

Then $\sigma(T) = \emptyset$.

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The above comments fail to hold if $T \neq T^*$.

Simple but important observation

- Easy exercise:

$$\text{Ker } T^* = (\text{Ran } T)^\perp.$$

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- Corollaries of $\text{Ker}(T^* - \bar{\lambda}) = (\text{Ran}(T - \lambda))^\perp$:

$$(i) \quad \lambda \in \sigma_r(T) \implies \bar{\lambda} \in \sigma_p(T^*)$$

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Two good candidates for counter-examples

- On $\ell^2(\mathbb{N})$, define

$$R(x_1, x_2, \dots) := (0, x_1, x_2, \dots) \quad \text{and} \quad L(x_1, x_2, \dots) := (x_2, x_3, \dots).$$

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$$Lx = \lambda x \Leftrightarrow x_{n+1} = \lambda x_n$$

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Contents

- 1 An operator with empty spectrum
- 2 Shift operators
- 3 Research topics - open problems

Where NSA operators can appear

- **Operator and Spectral Theory:** general properties of NSA operators possessing additional symmetry, real spectrum, similarity to SA operators, business of eigenvectors (completeness, Schauder, Riezs), perturbation theory, spectral approximation, pseudospectral analysis, generalized eigenvalue problems - matrix pencils, ...
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Lets look briefly on two topics...

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- Ignoring some results (perturbation-like, Krein or Pontryagin spaces,...), we can say that there are not many (general) sufficient conditions guaranteeing reality of the spectrum.
- Instead, there exist several very involved concrete examples:

$$\text{i) } -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + ix^3 \text{ on } L^2(\mathbb{R}), \quad \text{ii) } \frac{d}{dx} \left(\sin(x) \frac{d}{dx} \right) + \frac{d}{dx} \text{ on } L^2(-\pi, \pi),$$

iii) some Jacobi matrices.

Toeplitz matrices with real eigenvalues

- Toeplitz matrix:

$$T_n(b) = (a_{j-k})_{j,k=0}^{n-1} = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_{-1} & a_{-2} & \dots & a_{-n+1} \\ a_1 & a_0 & a_{-1} & \dots & a_{-n+2} \\ a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & \dots & a_{-n+3} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n-1} & a_{n-2} & a_{n-3} & \dots & a_0 \end{pmatrix},$$

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Theorem:

Assume (for simplicity!) that b is a Laurent polynomial. Then

$$\sigma(T_n(b)) \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \iff b^{-1}(\mathbb{R}) \text{ contains a Jordan curve.}$$

Toeplitz matrices - explicit examples

- Tridiagonal Toeplitz matrix:

$$b(z) = z^{-1} + az, \quad (a \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}).$$

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- A banded Toeplitz matrix:

$$b(z) = z^{-r} (1 + az)^{r+s}, \quad (r, s \in \mathbb{N}, a \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}).$$

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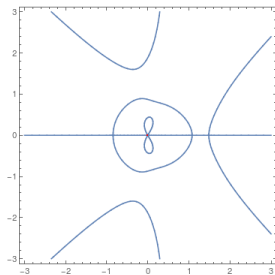
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- A non-banded Toeplitz matrix:

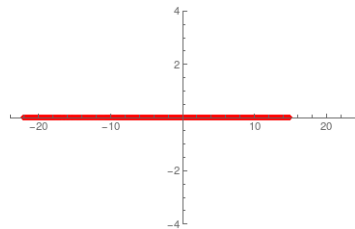
$$b(z) = e^{az} + e^{b/z}, \quad (ab > 0).$$

Then $\sigma(T_n(b)) \subset \mathbb{R}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.

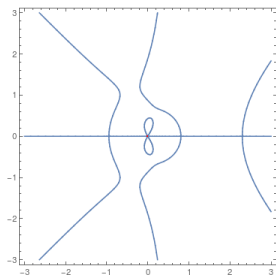
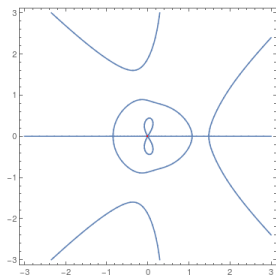
Toeplitz matrices - numerical examples



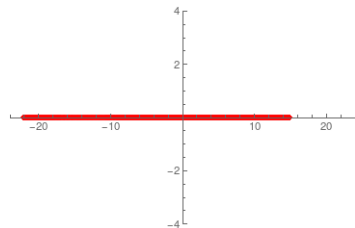
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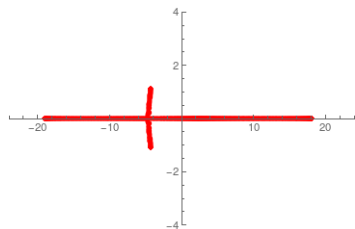
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- Hence $B = (A - \lambda)^{-1}$ and $\lambda \notin \sigma(A)$.

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Q: Are there other classes of NSA operators for which $\Lambda(A) \subset \sigma(A)$?

