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Generalized Schur complements and oblique projections

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Abstract

Let \mathcal{S} be a closed subspace of a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and A a bounded linear selfadjoint operator on \mathcal{H} . In this note, we show that the existence of A -selfadjoint projections with range \mathcal{S} is related to some properties of shorted operators, Schur complements (in Ando's generalization of the classical concept) and compressions. © 2002 Elsevier Science Inc. All rights reserved.

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1. Introduction

Let \mathcal{S} be a closed subspace of a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and A a bounded linear selfadjoint operator on \mathcal{H} . In this note, we study the relationship between the properties

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of the shorted operator of A by \mathcal{S} (if A is positive), the complementability of A by \mathcal{S} and the compatibility of the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) , which means that there exists an A -selfadjoint projection onto \mathcal{S} , i.e., a bounded operator Q on \mathcal{H} such that $Q^2 = Q$, the range of Q is \mathcal{S} and $AQ = Q^*A$.

Schur complements were introduced by Haynsworth [15], but they have been implicitly used since the beginning of the theory of matrices. Shorted operators, which are related to Schur complements, were defined by Anderson and Trapp [3,4] and applied it in electrical network theory, but it was Krein [17] who first studied a similar notion as part of the theory of extensions of Hermitian operators. Complementable matrices by a subspace were defined by Ando [2] as a useful generalization of Schur complements. Finally, compatible pairs have been recently studied by Hassi and Nordström [14] and Corach et al. [10], because they define classes of projections which have minimality properties that may be relevant in different areas, e.g., approximation theory, abstract splines and least square problems [11].

The relationship between shorted operators and compatible pairs is studied in the authors' work [10], where it is shown that, if A is positive and $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ is the shorted operator of A by \mathcal{S} , then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \min\{Q^*AQ : Q^2 = Q, \ker Q = \mathcal{S}\}$. It is also shown in [10] that if A is injective, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$ and $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S}$.

This paper can be seen as a continuation of [10]. Several results of that work are collected as Theorem 2.6. Some other results proven in [10] appear in Section 3, some of them with a short proof. The main results of the present paper are the following:

1. The notions of compatibility and complementability for a selfadjoint operator on a Hilbert space are equivalent.
2. If A is positive, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$ and $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$ (see Theorem 3.8). This result generalizes the characterizations for compatibility for injective or closed range operators obtained in [10].
3. If A is positive, denote by $A_{\mathcal{S}} = A - A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ the *compression* of A by \mathcal{S} , then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$ (see Proposition 3.9).
4. If A is positive, then $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$ if and only if the pair $(A, \ker A_{/\mathcal{S}})$ is compatible (see Proposition 3.6).

Section 2 contains the definitions and some properties of the three notions involved in the paper. In Section 3 we present several results which relate these concepts in a Hilbert space. Section 4 contains some examples.

2. Preliminaries

In this paper \mathcal{H} is a Hilbert space, $L(\mathcal{H})$ is the algebra of all linear bounded operators on \mathcal{H} , $L(\mathcal{H})_{\text{h}}$ is the real subspace of all Hermitian (or selfadjoint) operators in $L(\mathcal{H})$, $L(\mathcal{H})^+$ is the subset of $L(\mathcal{H})_{\text{h}}$ of all positive (semi-definite) operators and $\text{GL}(\mathcal{H})^+$ is the set of all positive invertible operators. We denote

by $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q \in L(\mathcal{H}) : Q^2 = Q\}$ the set of projections and $\mathcal{P} = \{P \in \mathcal{Q} : P^* = P\}$ the set of orthogonal projections. For a closed subspace \mathcal{M} of \mathcal{H} , $P_{\mathcal{M}}$ denotes the orthogonal projection onto \mathcal{M} . For every $C \in L(\mathcal{H})$ its range is denoted by $R(C)$ and its nullspace by $\ker C$. Every closed subspace \mathcal{S} of \mathcal{H} induces a decomposition $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{S} \oplus \mathcal{S}^\perp$. In this decomposition every $C \in L(\mathcal{H})$ can be written as 2×2 operator matrix. Under this representation $P_{\mathcal{S}}$ can be identified with

$$\begin{pmatrix} I_{\mathcal{S}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and all idempotents Q with range \mathcal{S} have the form

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for some $x \in L(\mathcal{S}^\perp, \mathcal{S})$.

Along this note, the following result, due to Douglas [13], will be used several times. For $A, B \in L(\mathcal{H})$, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) $R(B) \subseteq R(A)$;
- (b) there exists a positive number λ such that $BB^* \leq \lambda AA^*$;
- (c) there exists $D \in L(\mathcal{H})$ such that $B = AD$. In this case, there exists a unique $D \in L(\mathcal{H})$ such that

$$B = AD, \quad \ker D = \ker B, \quad \text{and} \quad R(D) \subseteq \overline{R(A^*)}.$$

D will be called the *reduced solution* of the equation $AX = B$.

An elementary result that we shall use sometimes is that, for $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$, it holds $R(A) \subseteq R(A^{1/2}) \subseteq \overline{R(A)}$; moreover, $R(A) = R(A^{1/2})$ if and only if $R(A)$ is closed.

2.1. Shorted operator and compressions

Anderson [3] showed that if $A = \begin{pmatrix} B & C \\ C^* & D \end{pmatrix}$ is an $n \times n$ positive (semi-definite) matrix and B is a square $k \times k$ submatrix, then the operator

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D - C^*B^\dagger C \end{pmatrix},$$

where B^\dagger is the Moore–Penrose pseudoinverse of B and \mathcal{S} the subspace of \mathbb{C}^n generated by the first k canonical vectors, has the following interpretation in electrical network theory: if A is the impedance matrix of a resistive n -port network, then $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ is the impedance matrix of the network obtained by shorting the first k ports. He proved that

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \max \left\{ X \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} : 0 \leq X \leq A \text{ and } R(X) \subseteq \mathcal{S}^\perp \right\}$$

and used this property to extend the notion to Hilbert space positive operators.

Definition 2.1. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Then:

1. The *shorted operator* of A by \mathcal{S} is defined by

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \max \left\{ X \in L(\mathcal{H})^+ : X \leq A \text{ and } R(X) \subseteq \mathcal{S}^\perp \right\},$$

where the maximum is taken for the natural order relation in $L(\mathcal{H})^+$ (see [4]).

2. The \mathcal{S} -compression $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ of A is defined as $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A - A_{/\mathcal{S}}$.

The existence of this maximum has been proven by Krein [17] but the result has been widely used only after its rediscovering by Anderson and Trapp [4]. The reader is also referred to [1,6,18,21,22]. In the following theorem we collect some results on shorted operators proved by Anderson and Trapp [4] and Krein [17] (see also [16,21]) which are relevant in this paper.

Theorem 2.2. *Let \mathcal{S} be a closed subspace of a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ with matrix representation $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$ in terms of \mathcal{S} . Then:*

1. $R(b) \subseteq R(a^{1/2})$ and if $d \in L(\mathcal{S}^\perp, \mathcal{S})$ is the reduced solution of the equation $a^{1/2} x = b$, then

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c - d^*d \end{pmatrix}.$$

2. If $\mathcal{M} = \overline{A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})}$ and $P_{\mathcal{M}}$ is the orthogonal projection onto \mathcal{M} , then

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A^{1/2}(1 - P_{\mathcal{M}})A^{1/2}.$$

3. $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ is the infimum of the set $\{R^*AR : R \in \mathcal{Q}, \ker R = \mathcal{S}\}$; in general, the infimum is not attained.

4. $R(A) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp \subseteq R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R((A_{/\mathcal{S}})^{1/2}) = R(A^{1/2}) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp$; in general, the inclusions are strict.

The reader is referred to [4,17] for proofs of these facts. One of the goals of this paper is to find conditions such that the infimum of item 3 becomes a minimum and the first inclusion of item 4 becomes an equality.

Corollary 2.3. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Then:*

1. $\overline{\ker A + \mathcal{S}} \subseteq \ker(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) = A^{-1/2}(\overline{A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})})$.

2. $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$ if and only if $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A^{1/2})$.

Proof.

1. By Theorem 2.2, if $\mathcal{M} = \overline{A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})}$, then $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A^{1/2}(1 - P_{\mathcal{M}})A^{1/2}$. Hence both $\ker A$ and \mathcal{S} are contained in $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}}$. On the other hand,

$$\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \ker A^{1/2}(1 - P_{\mathcal{M}})A^{1/2} = \ker(1 - P_{\mathcal{M}})A^{1/2} = A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{M})$$

2. It is clear that $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A^{1/2})$ if and only if $\mathcal{M} \cap R(A^{1/2}) = A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$, which is equivalent to $A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{M}) = A^{-1/2}(A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})) = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$. □

Proposition 2.4. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Then the following properties hold:

1. $(A_{\mathcal{S}})_{/\mathcal{S}} = 0$.
2. If $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$ and d is the reduced solution of the equation $a^{1/2}x = b$, then

$$A_{\mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & d^*d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a^{1/2} & 0 \\ d^* & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a^{1/2} & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

3. $A_{\mathcal{S}} = A^{1/2}P_{\mathcal{M}}A^{1/2}$, where $\mathcal{M} = \overline{A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})}$.
4. $\ker A_{\mathcal{S}} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp})$.
5. $A(\mathcal{S}) \subseteq R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq \overline{A(\mathcal{S})}$.

Proof. Items 1–3 are direct consequences of Theorem 2.2.

4. Note that $\mathcal{M}^{\perp} = A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp})$. Therefore

$$\ker A_{\mathcal{S}} = \ker P_{\mathcal{M}}A^{1/2} = A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{M}^{\perp}) = A^{-1/2}(A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp})) = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}).$$

5. Since $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \ker A_{/\mathcal{S}}$, then $A(\mathcal{S}) = A_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{S}) \subseteq R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq (\ker A_{\mathcal{S}})^{\perp} = \overline{A(\mathcal{S})}$. This completes the proof. \square

2.2. Complementable matrices

We start with Haynsworth’s definition of Schur complements of square matrices [15]: given a block matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} B & C \\ D & E \end{pmatrix}$, with B invertible, then $A/B = E - DB^{-1}C$ is the Schur complement of B in A . The reader is referred to the nice surveys by Cottle [9], Carlson [7] and Ouellette [19] for many properties and applications. The notion was extended in several directions. In particular, Ando [2] introduced the following generalization.

Definition 2.5. Given a closed subspace \mathcal{S} of \mathcal{H} and $A \in L(\mathcal{H})$, A is said to be \mathcal{S} -complementable if there exist operators $M_r, M_l \in L(\mathcal{H})$ such that $PM_r = M_r$, $M_lP = M_l$, $PAM_r = PA$ and $M_lAP = AP$, where $P = P_{\mathcal{S}}$. In this case it can be shown that AM_r only depends on A and \mathcal{S} , not on M_r . The operator $A_{\mathcal{S}} = AM_r$ is called the \mathcal{S} -compression of A to \mathcal{S} and $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A - A_{\mathcal{S}}$ is the Schur complement of A to \mathcal{S} .

The use of the same notation as for shorted operators can be justified as follows: if $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$, $\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{C}^k \times \{0\}$ and $\mathcal{S}^{\perp} = \{0\} \times \mathbb{C}^{n-k}$, then every $A \in L(\mathcal{H})$ can be written as $A = \begin{pmatrix} B & C \\ D & E \end{pmatrix}$ and, if B is invertible, then $M_r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & B^{-1}C \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $M_l = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ DB^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ satisfy the equations above and

$$A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} B & C \\ D & DB^{-1}C \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E - DB^{-1}C \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus, $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ is determined by the classical Schur complement. On the other hand, if $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$, we shall see in Corollary 3.5 below that, if A is \mathcal{S} -complementable, then the Schur complement $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ coincides with the shorted operator of Anderson and Trapp. The reader will find more information on these matters in [2,7,8].

2.3. A -selfadjoint projections and compatibility

Any selfadjoint operator $A \in L(\mathcal{H})$ defines a bounded Hermitian sesquilinear form $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle_A = \langle A\xi, \eta \rangle$, $\xi, \eta \in \mathcal{H}$. The A -orthogonal subspace of a subset \mathcal{S} of \mathcal{H} is

$$\mathcal{S}^{\perp A} := \{ \xi : \langle A\xi, \eta \rangle = 0 \forall \eta \in \mathcal{S} \} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}) = A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp}.$$

Given $T \in L(\mathcal{H})$, an operator $W \in L(\mathcal{H})$ is called an A -adjoint of T if $\langle T\xi, \eta \rangle_A = \langle \xi, W\eta \rangle_A$ for every $\xi, \eta \in \mathcal{H}$, or, which is the same, if $T^*A = AW$. Therefore, the existence of an A -adjoint W of T is equivalent to $R(T^*A) \subseteq R(A)$. In particular, if $Q \in L(\mathcal{H})$ and $Q^2 = Q$, then the existence of an A -adjoint of Q is also equivalent to the decomposition

$$R(A) = R(A) \cap \ker Q^* \oplus R(A) \cap R(Q^*). \tag{1}$$

We say that $C \in L(\mathcal{H})$ is A -selfadjoint if $AC = C^*A$. We consider the existence and uniqueness of A -selfadjoint projections whose range is exactly \mathcal{S} , namely in the elements of

$$\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S}) = \{ Q \in \mathcal{Q} : R(Q) = \mathcal{S}, AQ = Q^*A \}.$$

A pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is called *compatible* if $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$ is not empty. Sometimes we say that A is \mathcal{S} -compatible or that \mathcal{S} is A -compatible. In the following theorem we present several results about compatibility, extracted from the authors' paper [10] (see also [14]).

Theorem 2.6. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})_h$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Write $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$.*

Then:

1. (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(b) \subseteq R(a)$ if and only if $\mathcal{S} + A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}) = \mathcal{H}$.
2. In this case, if $d \in L(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}, \mathcal{S})$ is the reduced solution of the equation $ax = b$, then

$$P_{A, \mathcal{S}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & d \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$$

and, if $\mathcal{N} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}) \cap \mathcal{S}$, then $\ker P_{A, \mathcal{S}} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}) \ominus \mathcal{N}$.

3. $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$ is an affine manifold that can be parametrized as

$$\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S}) = P_{A, \mathcal{S}} + L(\mathcal{S}^\perp, \mathcal{N}),$$

where $L(\mathcal{S}^\perp, \mathcal{N})$ is viewed as a subspace of $L(\mathcal{H})$. Observe that $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$ has a unique element (namely, $P_{A, \mathcal{S}}$) if and only if $\mathcal{N} = \{0\}$, i.e., if $\mathcal{S} \oplus A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^\perp) = \mathcal{H}$.

4. $P_{A, \mathcal{S}}$ has minimal norm in $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$. Nevertheless, $P_{A, \mathcal{S}}$ is not in general the unique element of $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$ that realizes the minimum.
5. If $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$, then $\mathcal{N} = \ker A \cap \mathcal{S}$.
6. If $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ has closed range, then the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if any of the following subspaces: $R(P_{\mathcal{S}}AP_{\mathcal{S}})$, $\mathcal{S} + \ker A$, $R(A) + \mathcal{S}^\perp$, $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ or $A(\mathcal{S})$ is closed.
7. If $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ is injective, then the following conditions are equivalent:
 - (a) The pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible.
 - (b) $\mathcal{S}^\perp \oplus A(\mathcal{S})$ is closed.
 - (c) $\ker A|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S}$ and $R(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$.
 - (d) $\mathcal{S}^\perp \subseteq R(A + \lambda(1 - P_{\mathcal{S}}))$ for some (and then for any) $\lambda > 0$.

For a proof of these facts see [10]. In [11] estimations for the norm of $P_{A, \mathcal{S}}$ are given, in terms of its applications to abstract spline interpolation.

Remark 2.7.

1. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Denote by $P = P_{\mathcal{S}}$. Then, if $R(PAP)$ is closed, the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. Indeed, if $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$, then, by Theorem 2.2, $R(b) \subseteq R(a^{1/2})$. But if $R(PAP)$ is closed, $R(a^{1/2}) = R(a)$, then, by Theorem 2.6, the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. In particular, if $\dim \mathcal{S} < \infty$, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. As a consequence, if $\dim \mathcal{H} < \infty$, then every pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible.
2. If $A \in GL(\mathcal{H})^+$, then $R(PAP) = \mathcal{S}$ so that (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. In this case, $P_{A, \mathcal{S}}$ is determined (see [5] or [20]) by the formulae

$$\begin{aligned} P_{A, \mathcal{S}} &= P(1 + P - A^{-1}PA)^{-1} = (PAP + (1 - P)A(1 - P))^{-1}PA \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a^{-1}b \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

3. Given two subspaces \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T} the cosine of the Friedrichs angle between them is defined by $c(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}) = \sup\{|\langle \xi, \eta \rangle| : \xi \in \mathcal{S} \cap (\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{T})^\perp, \|\xi\| \leq 1, \eta \in \mathcal{T} \cap (\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{T})^\perp, \|\eta\| \leq 1\}$. It is well known (see [12]) that $c(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T}) < 1$ if and only if $\mathcal{S} + \mathcal{T}$ is closed. Then compatibility, if A is injective or $R(A)$ is closed, is related to an angle condition between two subspaces (see Theorem 2.6):
 - (a) If $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ has closed range, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $c(\mathcal{S}, \ker A) < 1$.
 - (b) If $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ is injective, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $c(\mathcal{S}^\perp, A(\mathcal{S})) < 1$.

Example 2.8. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ be injective such that $R(A)$ is not closed. Consider

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} A & A^{1/2} \\ A^{1/2} & I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A^{1/2} & 0 \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A^{1/2} & I \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in L(\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H})^+.$$

If $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \{0\}$, then (M, \mathcal{S}) is not compatible, because $R(A)$ is properly contained in $R(A^{1/2})$. Also $M/\mathcal{S} = 0$, because the reduced solution (actually, the unique solution) of the equation $A^{1/2}X = A^{1/2}$ is $D = I$. Therefore, $M = M_{\mathcal{S}}$ and $M(\mathcal{S}) \neq R(M_{\mathcal{S}})$. Moreover, $R(M_{\mathcal{S}})$ is closed, because

$$R \begin{pmatrix} A^{1/2} & I \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (R(A^{1/2}) + R(I)) \oplus \{0\} = \mathcal{S}$$

is closed. Hence, in this example, $R(M) = R(M_{\mathcal{S}}) = \overline{M(\mathcal{S})}$ while $M(\mathcal{S})$ is not closed (see Propositions 2.4 and 3.9). Observe that

$$\ker M = \ker M_{\mathcal{S}} = \ker \begin{pmatrix} A^{1/2} & I \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \left\{ \xi \oplus -A^{1/2}\xi : \xi \in \mathcal{H} \right\},$$

which is the graph of $-A^{1/2}$. Note that $c(\mathcal{S}, \ker M) = 1$.

3. Compatibility and shorted operators

In this section we compare the notions introduced in the previous one. As a first result, we prove that \mathcal{S} -compatibility and \mathcal{S} -complementability are equivalent properties for selfadjoint operators.

Proposition 3.1. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})_h$. Then the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if A is \mathcal{S} -complementable.*

Proof. Suppose that (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible and let $Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$. Then $M_r = Q$ and $M_l = Q^*$ satisfy the equations of Definition 2.5. Conversely, if $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$ is \mathcal{S} -complementable, then the equation $P_{\mathcal{S}}M_r = M_r$ implies that M_r has matrix form $\begin{pmatrix} u & v \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and the equation $P_{\mathcal{S}}AM_r = P_{\mathcal{S}}A$ implies that $av = b$. Then $R(b) \subseteq R(a)$ and (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible by Theorem 2.6 (1). \square

Proposition 3.2. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$. Then:*

1. $(A_{|\mathcal{S}}^2)^{1/2} \leq A_{|\mathcal{S}}$.
2. If (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, then $A(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A)$.
3. If $A(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A)$, then $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A^{1/2})$.

Proof.

1. Observe that, by the monotonicity of the square root, the inequality $A_{|\mathcal{S}}^2 \leq A^2$ implies that $(A_{|\mathcal{S}}^2)^{1/2} \leq A$. On the other hand, $R((A_{|\mathcal{S}}^2)^{1/2}) \subseteq \mathcal{S}^\perp$ so that $(A_{|\mathcal{S}}^2)^{1/2} \leq A_{|\mathcal{S}}$ by Definition 2.1.

2. Assume that (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible and let $Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$. Then, by Eq. (1), $R(A) = R(A) \cap R(Q^*) \oplus R(A) \cap \ker Q^*$. Therefore $A(\mathcal{S}) = R(A)Q = R(Q^*A) = R(Q^*) \cap R(A)$ is closed in $R(A)$.
3. Using Corollary 2.3, the fact that $A(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A)$ implies that $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}}^2 = \ker A^2 + \mathcal{S} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$. Then, by item 1, $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} \subseteq \ker A_{/\mathcal{S}}^2 \subseteq \ker A + \mathcal{S}$ so that $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A^{1/2})$, again by Corollary 2.3. \square

The following lemma gives equivalent conditions for a projection to be A -selfadjoint.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

1. Q is A -selfadjoint.
2. $\ker Q \subseteq R(Q)^{\perp A} = A^{-1}(R(Q)^\perp) = \ker Q^*A$.
3. Q is an A -contraction, i.e., $Q^*AQ \leq A$.

Proof. See 3.2 of [10]. \square

The following proposition relates, when (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, the shorted operator $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ with the elements of $\mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$. Items 1, 2 and the first part of item 3 were previously proven in [10]. We include a short proof of them because they appear as the key point of the relationship between shorted operators and A -selfadjoint projections.

Proposition 3.4. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ such that the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. Then:*

1. $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = AQ = Q^*AQ$ for every $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$ such that $1 - Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$.
2. $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \min\{R^*AR : R \in \mathcal{Q}, \ker R = \mathcal{S}\}$. Actually, this property is equivalent to the compatibility of the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) .
3. $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) = R(A) \cap S^\perp$ and $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$.

Proof.

1. Let $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$ such that $1 - Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$. Note that $0 \leq AQ = Q^*AQ \leq A$, by Lemma 3.3. Also $R(AQ) = R(Q^*A) \subseteq R(Q^*) = \mathcal{S}^\perp$. Therefore, $AQ \leq A_{/\mathcal{S}}$. On the other hand, if $0 \leq X \leq A$ and $R(X) \subseteq \mathcal{S}^\perp$, then $X = Q^*XQ \leq Q^*AQ = AQ$, where the first equality holds because $\ker Q = \mathcal{S}$ and X has the form $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x \end{pmatrix}$.
2. By item 1, $Q^*AQ = A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ and $\ker Q = \mathcal{S}$. So the minimum is attained at Q by Theorem 2.2. On the other hand, if the minimum is attained at some projection Y , then $Y^*AY = A_{/\mathcal{S}} \leq A$ implies that Y is A -selfadjoint, by Lemma 3.3. Therefore $1 - Y \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$.

3. Clearly the equation $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A Q$ implies that $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A) \cap S^\perp$. The other inclusion always holds by Theorem 2.2. The equality $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$ follows from Proposition 3.2 and Corollary 2.3. \square

The next result justifies the use of the same symbol $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ (resp. $A_{\mathcal{S}}$) denoting shorted operators and Schur complements (resp. compressions).

Corollary 3.5. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} such that A is S -complementable. Then the Schur complement (as in Definition 2.5) and the shorted operator of A by \mathcal{S} are the same operator $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$.*

Proof. If A is S -complementable, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible and, if $Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S})$, Proposition 3.4 says that the shorted operator $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A(1 - Q)$. On the other hand, by the proof of Proposition 3.1, the Schur complement also equals $A - A_{\mathcal{S}} = A - A Q = A(1 - Q)$. \square

The condition $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$, which is necessary for compatibility, implies that some subspace bigger than \mathcal{S} (actually, $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}}$) is A -compatible:

Proposition 3.6. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$. Denote $\ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{T}$. Then:*

1. $A_{/\mathcal{T}} = A_{/\mathcal{S}}$.
2. The pair (A, \mathcal{T}) is compatible if and only if $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$.

Proof. Item 1 follows directly from the definition of shorted operator, because $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ and $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq \mathcal{T}^\perp$. Suppose that $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(A)$. By Douglas theorem, there exists $Q \in L(\mathcal{H})$ such that $A Q = A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ and $\ker Q = \mathcal{T}$. Then $Q^* A = A Q$, because $A_{/\mathcal{S}}$ is selfadjoint. In order to prove that $1 - Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{T})$, it just remains to show that $Q^2 = Q$. Let us first prove that, if $\mathcal{Z} = A^{-1/2}(\mathcal{S}^\perp) = A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})^\perp$, then Q is a solution of the equation $A^{1/2} X = P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2}$. Recall that, by Theorem 2.2, $A_{/\mathcal{S}} = A^{1/2} P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2}$, so $A^{1/2}(A^{1/2} Q - P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2}) = 0$. Then, for $\xi \in \mathcal{H}$, it holds $P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2} \xi - A^{1/2} Q \xi = \eta \in \ker A^{1/2} = R(A^{1/2})^\perp$. Therefore, $\|\eta\|^2 = \langle P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2} \xi, \eta \rangle = \langle \xi, A^{1/2} \eta \rangle = 0$, because $\eta \in \ker A^{1/2} \subseteq \mathcal{Z}$. Thus, $A^{1/2} Q = P_{\mathcal{Z}} A^{1/2}$ and, as a consequence, $A^{1/2} Q^2 = (P_{\mathcal{Z}})^2 A^{1/2} = A^{1/2} Q$, so $A^{1/2}(Q^2 - Q) = 0$. Let $\rho \in R(Q)$. Then $Q\rho - \rho \in \ker A \cap R(Q)$. If $Q\rho - \rho = Q\omega$ for some $\omega \in \mathcal{H}$, then $0 = A Q\omega = A_{/\mathcal{S}} \omega$. So $\omega \in \ker A_{/\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{T} = \ker Q$. Therefore $Q\rho = \rho$ for every $\rho \in R(Q)$. This clearly implies that $Q^2 = Q$ and $1 - Q \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{T})$. Conversely, if (A, \mathcal{T}) is compatible, then $R(A_{/\mathcal{S}}) = R(A_{/\mathcal{T}}) \subseteq R(A)$ by Proposition 3.4. \square

Remark 3.7. In this remark we present a characterization of compatibility in terms of the range and nullspace of the shorted operator, which holds if A has closed range or if it is injective. They are deduced from Theorem 2.6, i.e., from authors' paper [10].

1. If A has closed range, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $\ker(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = \mathcal{S} + \ker A$. Indeed, (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed (see Theorem 2.6) if and only if $A^{1/2}(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(A^{1/2})$ (because $R(A^{1/2}) = R(A)$ is closed) if and only if $\ker A|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S} + \ker A$ (see Corollary 2.3). Note that $R(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = R(A) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp$ if $R(A)$ is closed.
2. If A is injective, then, by Theorem 2.6, (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = R(A) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp$ and $\ker(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = \mathcal{S}$ (observe that this is also a direct consequence of Propositions 3.4 and 3.6).

The following theorem generalizes these results to the general case:

Theorem 3.8. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = R(A) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp$ and $\ker A|_{\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S}$.*

Proof. The necessity has been proved in Proposition 3.4. Conversely, if $R(A|_{\mathcal{S}}) = R(A) \cap \mathcal{S}^\perp$ and $\ker A|_{\mathcal{S}} = \ker A + \mathcal{S} = \mathcal{T}$, then, by Proposition 3.6, (A, \mathcal{T}) is compatible, or equivalently $\mathcal{T} + A^{-1}(\mathcal{T}^\perp) = \mathcal{H}$. But

$$\ker A \subseteq A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^\perp) = A(\mathcal{S})^\perp = A(\mathcal{T})^\perp = A^{-1}(\mathcal{T}^\perp)$$

so that $\mathcal{S} + A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^\perp) = \mathcal{H}$. Then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible. \square

3.1. Compressions

Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Recall that the *compression* of A by \mathcal{S} is defined as $A_{\mathcal{S}} = A - A|_{\mathcal{S}}$. Using Proposition 3.4, if (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, then $A_{\mathcal{S}} = AP_{A, \mathcal{S}}$. Therefore $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$. The next result shows that this equality actually characterizes compatibility:

Proposition 3.9. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . Then:*

1. *The pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible if and only if $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$.*
2. *If (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, Y is the reduced solution of the equation $(AP)X = A_{\mathcal{S}}$ and $\mathcal{N} = \ker A \cap \mathcal{S}$, then $Y = P_{A, \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ and $P_{A, \mathcal{S}} = Y + P_{\mathcal{N}}$.*

Proof. If (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, then from the properties of $A_{\mathcal{S}}$ above, $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$. Conversely, $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$ implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= A_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(R(A_{\mathcal{S}})) = A_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(A(\mathcal{S})) = A_{\mathcal{S}}^{-1}(A_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{S})) = \mathcal{S} + \ker A_{\mathcal{S}} \\ &= \mathcal{S} + A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^\perp), \end{aligned}$$

by Proposition 2.4. Then, by using Theorem 2.6, the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible.

Suppose that $R(A_{\mathcal{S}}) = A(\mathcal{S})$ and denote by Y the reduced solution of the equation $AP_{\mathcal{S}}X = A_{\mathcal{S}}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \ker Y &= \ker A_{\mathcal{S}} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp}), \\ R(Y) &\subseteq (\ker AP_{\mathcal{S}})^{\perp} = (\mathcal{S}^{\perp} + \mathcal{N})^{\perp} = \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

So $P_{\mathcal{S}}Y = Y$ and $A_{\mathcal{S}} = AY = Y^*A$, which means that Y is A -selfadjoint. On the other hand, because $A|_{\mathcal{S}} = A_{\mathcal{S}}|_{\mathcal{S}}$ and the fact that $A|_{\mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ is injective, we can deduce that $Y\xi = \xi$ for every $\xi \in \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}$, which means that $Y^2 = Y$ and $R(Y) = \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}$. The equality $P_{A, \mathcal{S}} = Y + P_{\mathcal{N}}$ follows from Theorem 2.6, because $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{S} \cap A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp})$ so that $YP_{\mathcal{N}} = P_{\mathcal{N}}Y = 0$. \square

Corollary 3.10. *Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . If (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible and $\mathcal{N} = \ker A \cap \mathcal{S}$, then:*

1. *The pairs $(A, \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N})$, $(A, A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp})$ and $(A, A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N})$ are compatible.*
2. *$A|_{\mathcal{S}} = A_{A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ and $A_{\mathcal{S}} = A_{/A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$.*
3. *$A_{/A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp}} = A_{\mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ and $A_{/\mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}} = A_{A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp}}$.*

Proof. Recall that $A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^{\perp})$.

1. Let Y be the projection of Proposition 3.6. Then, by Eq. (2), $Y \in \mathcal{P}(A, \mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N})$ and $1 - Y \in \mathcal{P}(A, A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp})$. On the other hand, by Theorem 2.6, $\ker P_{A, \mathcal{S}} = A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N}$ so that $1 - P_{A, \mathcal{S}} \in \mathcal{P}(A, A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N})$.
2. Since $1 - P_{A, \mathcal{S}} \in \mathcal{P}(A, A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N})$, by Proposition 3.4, $A_{/ \mathcal{S}} = A(1 - P_{A, \mathcal{S}}) = A_{A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ and $A_{\mathcal{S}} = AP_{A, \mathcal{S}} = A_{/A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$.
3. As before $A_{/A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp}} = A(1 - Y) = A_{\mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}}$ and $A_{/\mathcal{S} \ominus \mathcal{N}} = AY = A_{A(\mathcal{S})^{\perp}}$. \square

4. Some examples

Example 4.1. Given a positive injective operator $A \in L(\mathcal{H})$ with non-closed range. Let $\xi \in R(A^{1/2})$ and let P_{ξ} be the orthogonal projection onto the subspace $\langle \xi \rangle$ generated by ξ . Then $R(P_{\xi}) \subseteq R(A^{1/2})$ so that, by Douglas’ theorem, $P_{\xi} \leq \lambda A$ for some positive number λ which we can suppose equal to 1, by changing A by λA . It is well known that this implies that the operator $B \in L(\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H})$ defined by

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} A & P_{\xi} \\ P_{\xi} & A \end{pmatrix}$$

is positive. Suppose that $\xi \in R(A^{1/2}) \setminus R(A)$. Let $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \{0\}$. Then the pair (B, \mathcal{S}) is incompatible, because $R(P_{\xi}) \not\subseteq R(A)$. We shall see that B is injective, that $\ker B|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S}$ and, moreover, that $B(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(B)$. Indeed, because $\xi \notin R(A)$ and A is injective,

$$\begin{aligned} B(\omega \oplus \eta) = 0 \oplus 0 &\Rightarrow A\omega + P_{\xi}\eta = 0 = A\eta + P_{\xi}\omega \\ &\Rightarrow A\omega = A\eta = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \omega = \eta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

so that B is injective. Finally, $(\mathcal{H} \oplus \langle \xi \rangle) \cap R(B) = B(\mathcal{H} \oplus \{0\})$, because if $\omega \neq 0$, then $A\omega \notin \langle \xi \rangle$ and $B(\eta \oplus \omega) \notin \mathcal{H} \oplus \langle \xi \rangle$ for every $\eta \in \mathcal{H}$. Therefore $B(\mathcal{S})$ is closed in $R(B)$. This implies, by Proposition 3.2, that $\ker B|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S} + \ker B = \mathcal{S}$. This example shows that the condition $R(B|_{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(B)$ (which does not hold in this example) is indeed necessary in Theorem 3.8.

Remark 4.2. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ and \mathcal{S} a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} . If $\dim \mathcal{S} < \infty$, then (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible by Remark 2.7. If $\dim \mathcal{S}^\perp < \infty$ and $R(A)$ is closed, then $\mathcal{S}^\perp + R(A)$ is closed and (A, \mathcal{S}) is compatible, by Theorem 2.6. If $R(A)$ is not closed, the result may fail. This is shown in the next example.

Example 4.3. Let $A \in L(\mathcal{H})^+$ be injective non-invertible. Let $\xi \in \mathcal{H} \setminus R(A)$ a unit vector. Denote by $\mathcal{S} = \langle \xi \rangle^\perp$, $P = P_{\mathcal{S}}$ and $P_\xi = 1 - P$. If $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & c \end{pmatrix}$ in terms of P and $A\xi = \lambda\xi + \eta$ with $\eta \in \mathcal{S}$, then $\lambda = \langle A\xi, \xi \rangle \neq 0$ and $\eta \neq 0$ (otherwise $\xi \in R(A)$). Therefore $c = \lambda P_\xi$ and $b(\mu\xi) = \mu\eta$, $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$. Suppose that $\eta \in R(a)$, i.e., there exists $v \in \mathcal{S}$ which verifies $av = b\xi$. Then $PA(v - \xi) = av - b\xi = 0$, so $A(v - \xi)$ is a multiple of ξ , which must be 0 ($\xi \notin R(A)$). So $v = \xi$, a contradiction. Therefore $R(b) \not\subseteq R(a)$ and the pair (A, \mathcal{S}) is incompatible, while $\dim \mathcal{S}^\perp = 1 < \infty$.

Let $B = A_{\mathcal{S}}$. Since $PA = PB$, then the pair (B, \mathcal{S}) is also incompatible. By Proposition 2.4 and the fact that $\xi \notin R(A)$, $\ker B = A^{-1}(\mathcal{S}^\perp) = \{0\}$ and also B is injective. Recall that $B|_{\mathcal{S}} = 0$ so that $R(B|_{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq R(B)$. This example shows that the condition $\ker B|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{S} + \ker B$ (which does not hold in this example, because $\ker B|_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathcal{H}$ and $\ker B = \{0\}$) is indeed necessary in Theorem 3.8.

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