Internat. J. Math. & Math. Sci.
VOL. 14 NO. 3 (1991) 439-442

FACTORIZATION OF k-QUASIHYPONORMAL OPERATORS

S. C. ARORA

Department of Mathematics
University of Delhi
Delhi - 110007
India

and

J. K. THUKRAL

Department of Mathematics
S.R.C.C.
University of Delhi
Delhi - 110007
India

(Received January 1, 1987 and in revised form March 17, 1989)

ABSTRACT. Let A be the class of all operators T on a Hilbert space H such that $R(T^{*k}T)$, the range space of $T^{*k}T$, is contained in $R(T^{*k+1})$, for a positive integer k. It has been shown that if $T \in A$, there exists a unique operator C_T on H such that

(i) $T^{*k}T = T^{*k+1}C_T$;

(ii) $||C_T||^2 = \inf\{\mu: \mu > 0 \text{ and } (T^{*k}T)(T^{*k}T)^* \leq \mu\, T^{*k+1}\, T^{k+1}\}$;

(iii) $N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T)$ and

(iv) $R(C_T) \subseteq \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$

The main objective of this paper is to characterize k-quasihyponormal; normal, and self-adjoint operators T in A in terms of C_T. Throughout the paper, unless stated otherwise, H will denote a complex Hilbert space and T an operator on H, i.e., a bounded linear transformation from H into H itself. For an operator T, we write R(T) and N(T) to denote the range space and the null space of T.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES. Self-adjoint, normal, unitary, quasinormal, hyponormal, quasihyponormal, k-quasihyponormal, isometry, partial isometry, null space, range space and the projection.
1980 AMS SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION CODES. 47B20; 47B15.

1. INTRODUCTION

T is said to be quasinormal if $T(T^*T) = (T^*T)T$, hyponormal if $T^*T \geq TT^*$ or equivalently $||T^*x|| \leq ||Tx||$ for each x in H, k-quasihyponormal (Campbell and Gupta

[1]) for a positive integer k if $T^{*k}(T^*T - TT^*)T^k \geq 0$ or equivalently $||T^*T^k x|| \leq ||T^{k+1}x||$ for each x in H.

The purpose of this paper is to consider the class A of those operators T such that $R(T^{*k}T) \subseteq R(T^{*k+1})$ for a positive integer k. More precisely, our aim is to identify those operators T in A which are k-quasihyponormal, normal and self-adjoint. The motivation is due to Embry [2] who considered the class of operators T satisfying $R(T) \subseteq R(T^*)$ and Patel [5] who discussed the class of operators T satisfying $R(T^*T) \subseteq R(T^{*2})$. If $T \in A$, then by Douglas' theorem [3, Theorem 1] there exists a unique operator C_T such that

(i) $T^{*k}T = T^{*k+1} C_T$;

(ii) $||C_T||^2 = \inf\{\mu: \mu \geq 0 \text{ and } (T^{*k}T)(T^{*k}T)^* \leq \mu T^{*k+1}T^{k+1}\}$;

(iii) $N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T)$; and

(iv) $R(C_T) \subseteq \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$.

2. MAIN RESULTS.

By Douglas' theorem [3, Theorem 1], the class A contains all k-quasihyponormal operators.

THEOREM 2.1. An operator T in A is k-quasihyponormal if and only if $||C_T|| \leq 1$.

PROOF. If $||C_T|| \leq 1$, $||T^*T^k x|| = ||C_T^* T^{k+1}x|| \leq ||T^{k+1}x||$ for all x in H and hence T is k-quasihyponormal.

Conversely, assume that T is k-quasihyponormal. Since

$$||C_T^* T^{k+1}x|| = ||T^*T^k x|| \leq ||T^{k+1}x||$$

for all x in H, $||C_T^* y|| \leq ||y||$ for all y in $\overline{R(T^{k+1})}$. Also since $R(C_T) \subseteq \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$, i.e. $\overline{R(T^{k+1})}^{\perp} \subseteq N(C_T^*)$, we have $C^*_T x = 0$ for all x in $\overline{R(T^{k+1})}^{\perp}$. Thus for each x in H, $||C_T^* x|| \leq ||x||$ and consequently $||C_T|| = ||C_T^*|| \leq 1$.

To prove our next result, we need the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. Let T be a quasinormal operator. Then for any positive integer k

(a) $T^*T^k = T^{k-1}T^*T$

(b) $||(T^*T)^{k/2}x|| = ||T^k x||$ for all vectors x in H

(c) $N(T^{*k}T) \subseteq N(T^{*k})$.

PROOF. (a) We prove it by induction on k. For k = 1, trivial. For k = 2, again it holds since T is quasinormal. Now assume that the result is true for any positive integer m > 2. Then $T^*T^{m+1} = (T^*T^m)T = (T^{m-1}T^*T)T = T^{m-1}(T^*T)T = T^{m-1}TT^*T = T^mT^*T$. Hence by induction the result follows. (b) It is an immediate consequence of the fact that if T is quasinormal, then $(T^*T)^k = T^{*k}T^k$ for any positive integer k. (c)

Let $x \in N(T^{*k}T)$. Then $T^{*k}Tx = 0$, i.e., $T^*T\, T^{*k-1}x = 0$ by (a). Thus $T^{*k-1}x \in N(T^*T) = N(T)$. But $N(T) \subseteq N(T^*)$ since T is quasinormal. Therefore $T^{*k}x = 0$, i.e., $x \in N(T^{*k})$.

By using the lemma we obtain the following

THEOREM 2.2. Let $T \in A$ be a quasinormal operator. Then C_T is a quasinormal partial isometry with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$.

PROOF. We have $||C_T^* T^{k+1}x|| = ||T^* T^k x|| = ||T^{k-1}T^*Tx|| =$

$||(T^* T)^{k-1/2} T^*Tx|| = ||(T^*T)^{k+1/2}x|| = ||T^{k+1}x||$ for any x in H. Thus C_T^* is an isometry on $\overline{R(T^{k+1})}$. But $\overline{R(T^{k+1})} \supseteq R(C_T) = N(C_T^*)^{\perp}$. Therefore C_T^* hence C_T is a partial isometry. Further, since the initial space of a partial isometry S equals the set of all those vectors x satisfying $||Sx|| = ||x||$ [4, p. 63] and since C_T^* is an isometry on $\overline{R(T^{k+1})}$, therefore $\overline{R(T^{k+1})} \subseteq N(C_T^*)^{\perp}$, the initial space of C_T^*. Hence $\overline{R(T^{k+1})} = N(C_T^*)^{\perp} = \overline{R(C_T)} = R(C_T)$ as $R(C_T)$ is closed.

We now prove that C_T is quasinormal. By making use of Lemma 2.1 again, we see that $N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T) \subseteq N(T^{*k}) \subseteq N(T^{*k+1}) = N(C_T^*)$ since $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$. From this it follows that $N(C_T)^{\perp}$ reduces C_T and since C_T is a partial isometry, C_T is of the form $A \oplus 0$, where A is an isometry. This gives that C_T commutes with $C^*_T\, C_T$ and hence C_T is quasinormal.

LEMMA 2.2. Let $T \in A$ be such that $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$. Then $N(T^{*k}T) = N(T)$.

PROOF. Since $R(C_T) \subseteq \overline{R(T^{k+1})} \subseteq \ldots \subseteq \overline{R(T)}$ and, by hypothesis, $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$, we have $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})} = \ldots = \overline{R(T)}$. Thus $N(T^*) = N(T^{*2}) = \ldots = N(T^{*k}) = N(T^{*k+1})$. Now, if $x \in N(T^{*k}T)$, then $T^{*k}Tx = 0$, i.e. $Tx \in N(T^{*k}) = N(T^*)$. That means $T^*Tx = 0$ or $x \in N(T^*T) = N(T)$. This completes the proof.

Our next result gives a characterization of normal operators in A.

THEOREM 2.3. An operator T in A is normal if and only if C_T is a normal partial isometry with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$.

PROOF. Let T be normal. Then by Theorem 2.2, C_T is a partial isometry with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$ and hence $R(C_T) = N(T^{*k+1})^{\perp} = N(T^*)^{\perp} = \overline{R(T)}$. Thus by Lemma 2.2, $N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T) = N(T)$. Therefore $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)} = N(T^*)^{\perp} = N(T)^{\perp} = N(C_T)^{\perp} = R(C^*_T)$. Since $C_T^*\, C_T$ is the projection on $R(C_T^*)$ and $C_T C_T^*$ is the projection on $R(C_T)$, we conclude that $C_T C_T^* = C_T^* C_T$.

Assume on the other hand that C_T is a normal partial isometry with $R(C_T) = R(T)$. Since $R(C_T) \subseteq \overline{R(T^{k+1})} \subseteq \overline{R(T^k)} \subseteq \ldots \subseteq \overline{R(T)}$, we have $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})} = \overline{R(T^k)} = \ldots = \overline{R(T)}$ and consequently $N(T^*) = N(T^{*2}) = \ldots = N(C^*_T) = N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T) =$

$N(T)$ by Lemma 2.2. Thus $||T^*x|| = ||Tx||$ for each x in $\overline{R(T^k)}^{\perp}$. Further since C^*_T is a partial isometry on $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$, we have $||T^*T^kx|| = ||C^*_T\, T^{k+1}x|| = ||T^{k+1}x||$ for each x in H. Thus $||T^*y|| = ||Ty||$ for each y in $\overline{R(T^k)}$. Hence $||T^*x|| = ||Tx||$ for each x in H, i.e., T is normal.

COROLLARY 2.1. Let $T \in A$. Then T is normal and one-to-one if and only if C_T is a unitary operator with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$.

PROOF. Suppose T is normal and one-to-one. Then by Theorem 2.3, C_T is a normal partial isometry with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$. Since $N(C_T) = N(T) = \{0\}$, we have $N(C_T)^{\perp} = H$ and thus C_T is an isometry and consequently C_T is a unitary operator.

Conversely, if C_T is a unitary operator with $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$, T is normal by Theorem 2.3. Also by Lemma 2.2, $N(T) = N(T^{*k}T) = N(C_T) = \{0\}$, therefore T is one-to-one.

The next corollary characterizes self-adjoint operators in A.

COROLLARY 2.2. Let $T \in A$. T is self-adjoint if and only if C_T is the projection on $\overline{R(T)}$.

PROOF. Suppose T is self-adjoint. Then by Theorem 2.3, $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)} = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$. Since $T^{*k}T = T^{*k+1}\, C_T$ and T is self-adjoint, we have $T^{k+1} = T^{k+1}C_T$, i.e., $C^*_T\, T^{k+1} = T^{k+1}$. This means $C^*_T = I$ on $\overline{R(T^{k+1})} = \overline{R(T)}$. Also $C^*_T = 0$ on $\overline{R(T)}^{\perp}$ as $\overline{R(T)}^{\perp} = \overline{R(C_T)}^{\perp} = N(C^*_T)$. Therefore C_T is the projection on $\overline{R(T)}$.

Assume now that C_T is the projection on $\overline{R(T)}$. Then $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T)}$ and hence by Lemma 2.2, $N(C_T) = N(T^{*k}T) = N(T)$. Also, as in the proof of Theorem 2.3, we have $R(C_T) = \overline{R(T^{k+1})} = \ldots = \overline{R(T)}$ and thus $N(T^*) = N(T^{*2}) = \ldots = N(C^*_T) = N(C_T) = N(T)$. Therefore $T^*x = Tx$ for all x in $\overline{R(T^k)}^{\perp}$. Moreover $T^{*k}T = T^{*k+1}C_T$, implies $T^*T^k = C_TT^{k+1}$ as C_T is self-adjoint. But C_T is the projection on $\overline{R(T)} = \overline{R(T^{k+1})}$, therefore $C_TT^{k+1} = T^{k+1}$, That means $T^*y = Ty$ for all y in $\overline{R(T^k)}$. Thus $T^*x = Tx$ for all x in H or T is self-adjoint.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support by the U.G.C. India, vide Research Grant No. F-26-1(1629)/85(SR-IV). The authors are thankful to Professor B.S. Yadav for his kind guidance and encouragement during the preparation of this paper. Thanks are also due to the referee for suggesting an improvement over the original version of the paper.

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