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<th>項目</th>
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A method of diminishing intervals and semiclosed subspaces

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $H$ be an infinite dimensional separable complex Hilbert space and let $\mathcal{B}(H)$ be the set of all bounded operators on $H$. A bounded operator on $H$ means a linear bounded operator from $H$ to $H$. This report is treated with the Invariant Subspace Problem on $H$. That is, for any bounded operator $T$, does there exist nontrivial closed subspace $M(\neq \{0\}, H)$ such that $TM \subseteq M$? This problem has not been completely solved yet. But it is known that, under additional conditions with $T$ (normal, subnormal, having rich spectrum and so on), there exists a nontrivial $T$-invariant closed subspace.

In our study for ISP, we do not set additional conditions on $T$. However, we set hypotheses on something which are not concerned with $T$. Something is 'a choice function' which assigns a Hilbert norm to each semiclosed subspace. Among of all, we particularly consider a choice function satisfying hypotheses (h1), (h2) and (h3) as stated in the following section. We do not know whether the choice function truly exists or not. A reason why we consider hypotheses is that, if a proposition 'any bounded operator $T$ on $H$ has nontrivial $T$-invariant closed subspace' is independent of ZFC (+CH), then we are disconsolate.

Our aim of this report is to state an outline of our approach to ISP, which does not mean that ISP can be solved by this way. There are some key words in our approach, that is, a linear dimension, a Hilbert dimension, a choice function with hypotheses, $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces, a codimension and so on. The following Theorem1.1 is one of motivations for our study. It says that, under CH (continuous hypothesis), a separable Hilbert space is the only case the Hilbert dimension and
the linear dimension are different. We feel a kind of corresponding between Theorem 1.1 and ISP from the fact that a separable Hilbert space is the only case ISP is not solved.

**Theorem 1.1** ([2]). Let $H$ be a Hilbert space. Then,

1. $\dim H < \infty \iff \dim l H < \infty$. In this case, $\dim H = \dim l H$.
2. If $\aleph_0 \leq \dim H < 2^{\aleph_0}$, then $\dim l H = 2^{\aleph_0}$. Hence, $\dim H < \dim l H$.
3. If $2^{\aleph_0} \leq \dim H$, then $\dim H = \dim l H$.

2. **From semiclosed subspaces to a closed subspace**

It is well known ([3]) that any bounded operator $T$ on $H$ have many $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces. If ISP is affirmatively solved, then the set of all nontrivial $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces necessarily contains a closed subspace. In the following, we seek (but now, can not obtain) a nontrivial closed subspace among the set of all $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces by a method of diminishing intervals of semiclosed subspaces, which are based on a choice function as stated above.

**Definition 2.1.** A subspace $M$ in $H$ is said to be semiclosed if there exists a Hilbert norm $\| \cdot \|_M$ on $M$ such that $(M, \| \cdot \|_M) \hookrightarrow H$ (continuously embedded).

It is easily shown that a semiclosed subspace is equivalent to an operator range. Clearly, a closed subspace is semiclosed.

The following theorem plays a central role for applying a method of diminishing intervals to ISP.

**Theorem 2.1** ([4]). Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ and let $M_1$ and $M_2$ be nontrivial $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces such that $M_1 \subsetneq M_2$ in $H$. Suppose that $\dim l M_2/M_1 > 1$. Then, there exists $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_3$ such that

$$M_1 \subsetneq M_3 \subsetneq M_2.$$ 

3. **A choice function $\alpha$**

By Definition 2.1, we can consider a concept of the following function in Definition 3.1.
Definition 3.1. We choose a Hilbert norm from each semiclosed subspace. Denote such a choice function by $\alpha$.

Given a choice function $\alpha$. For a semiclosed subspace $M$, there is the Hilbert norm $\| \cdot \|_M$ by $\alpha$ such that $(M, \| \cdot \|_M) \rightarrow H$. It follows from [1] that $(M, \| \cdot \|_M)$ is isometrically isomorphic to de Branges space $(\mathcal{M}(A), \| \cdot \|_A)$ for a unique positive operator $A \in \mathcal{B}(H)$. Then, we denote $M \cong AH$. A corresponding between $\| \cdot \|_M$ and $A$ is one to one. Hence, we consider a choice function $\alpha$ as a choice of positive operators. Summing up, the notation $\alpha$ has two meanings such as a choice of Hilbert norms or a choice of positive operators.

We explain an example of $\alpha$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ($d \geq 1$). A subspace

$$M^\sigma := \{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) : (1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} \hat{f}(\xi) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \} \ (\sigma > 0)$$

of $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is semiclosed. Because, the inclusion mapping $(M^\sigma, \| \cdot \|_\sigma) \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is contraction, where $\| f \|_\sigma := \| (1 + |\xi|^2)^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} \hat{f} \|_{L^2}$ ($\hat{f}$ is the Fourier transform of $f$). As you know, $H^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^d) := (M^\sigma, \| \cdot \|_\sigma)$ is known as Sobolev spaces of the order $\sigma$. Then, we choose Sobolev norm $\| \cdot \|_\sigma$ for each semiclosed subspace $M^\sigma$ for $\sigma > 0$, and we choose the appropriate Hilbert norm for other semiclosed subspaces.

On the other hand, it is proved ([5]) that Sobolev space $H^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is isometrically isomorphic to de Branges space $\mathcal{M}(A_\sigma)$, where $A_\sigma = (I - \Delta)^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}}$ (the Bessel potential of the order $\sigma$). Hence we can also say that we choose the Bessel potential $A_\sigma$ from Sobolev space $H^\sigma(\mathbb{R}^d)$, and we choose the appropriate positive operator from each semiclosed subspace except for Sobolev spaces.

4. Hypothesises of $\alpha$

From this section, we handle a particular choice function for constructing a method of diminishing intervals. A ‘particular’ choice function means that it satisfies some hypotheses (h1), (h2) and (h3).

In the following statements (h2) and (h3), we use the notation $\alpha$ as a subset of $\mathcal{B}(H)$. 
(h1) For semiclosed subspaces $M, N$ such that $M \subseteq N$,
\[ (M, \| \cdot \|_M) \mapsto (N, \| \cdot \|_N) \quad \text{(contractively)} \]

(h2) $\alpha = \alpha^2$, where $\alpha^2 := \{ A^2 : A \in \alpha \}$.

(h3) A set $\alpha$ is closed in $\mathcal{B}(H)$, that is, $\alpha = \overline{\alpha}$.

Remark 4.1.

(i) A set $\alpha$ consists of positive contractions $A$ ($0 \leq A \leq I$).
(ii) For $M \alpha \triangleq AH$ and $N \alpha \triangleq BH$ ($M \subseteq N$), (h1) if and only if $A^2 \leq B^2$.
(iii) For a closed subspace $M \alpha \triangleq AH$, it deduces $AH = A^{\frac{1}{2}}H$. Since $A \in \alpha$ implies $A^{\frac{1}{2}} \in \alpha$ by (h2), we see $A = A^{\frac{1}{2}}$. That is, $A$ is the orthogonal projection.

5. A METRIC ON SEMICLOSED SUBSPACES

Let $S$ be the set of all semiclosed subspaces in $H$. For semiclosed subspaces $M \alpha \triangleq AH$ and $N \alpha \triangleq BH$, we define a metric $\rho_\alpha$ on $S$ by
\[ \rho_\alpha(M, N) := \| A - B \| \quad \text{(the operator norm)} \]

Example 5.1 ([5]). The metric between Sobolev spaces are given by the following. For $0 < \sigma_1 < \sigma_2$,
\[ \rho((H^{\sigma_1}(\mathbb{R}^d), H^{\sigma_2}(\mathbb{R}^d))) = \left( \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \right)^{\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1}} - \left( \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \right)^{\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1}}. \]

In particular, $\rho(H^1(\mathbb{R}^d), H^2(\mathbb{R}^d)) = 0.25$.

Under the hypothesises (h1), (h2) and (h3), we have the following propositions.

Proposition 5.1. The metric space $(S, \rho_\alpha)$ is complete.

We define an interval $[M, N]$ for semiclosed subspaces $M \subset N$.
\[ [M, N] := \{ L \in S : M \subseteq L \subseteq N \}. \]

Proposition 5.2. An interval $[M, N]$ is closed in $(S, \rho_\alpha)$.

We define the diameter of $I = [M, N]$ by a usual way.
\[ \text{diam}I := \sup_{L, L' \in I} \rho_\alpha(L, L'). \]
Proposition 5.3. Let $I_n := [M_n, N_n]$ $(n = 1, 2, \cdots)$. Then, as $n \to \infty$,
\[ \text{diam} I_n \to 0 \iff \rho\alpha(M_n, N_n) \to 0 \]

From previous propositions, we have 'a method of diminishing intervals' of semiclosed subspaces.

Theorem 5.4. Let $I_n := [M_n, N_n]$ $(n = 1, 2, \cdots)$ such that $I_n \supset I_{n+1}$. If $\rho\alpha(M_n, N_n) \to 0$ $(n \to \infty)$, then there exists a unique semiclosed subspace $M_\infty \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n$.

6. A THINKING FOR ISP

Given any $T \in B(H)$. By [3], there exists many $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces. We want to find a closed subspace among the set of all non-trivial $T$-invariant semiclosed subspaces $\{M_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$. Without a loss of generality, we may assume that the linear dimension $\dim_l H/M_\lambda = \infty$ for all $\lambda$. For, $\dim_l H/M_\lambda < \infty$ for some $\lambda$ implies that $M_\lambda$ is closed. (It is known that a semiclosed subspace which has finite codimension in $H$ is closed in $H$.)

Roughly explaining, an idea related with a codimension is the following.

\[ (\star) \quad \begin{cases} M_1 \subsetneq M_2 \\ \dim_l M_2/M_1 = \infty. \end{cases} \]

We put the interval $I_1 := [M_1, M_2]$.

The second step.

Since $\dim_l M_2/M_1 = \infty$, there exists ([4]) a $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_3$ such that

\[ M_1 \subsetneq M_3 \subsetneq M_2. \]

Then, we see that $\dim_l M_3/M_1 = \infty$ or $\dim_l M_2/M_3 = \infty$. Now we suppose that $\dim_l M_3/M_1 = \infty$. Then we put the interval $I_2 := [M_1, M_3]$.

The third step.

Since $\dim_l M_3/M_1 = \infty$, there exists a $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_4$ such that

\[ M_1 \subsetneq M_4 \subsetneq M_3. \]
Then, we see that \( \dim_{l} M_{4}/M_{1} = \infty \) or \( \dim_{l} M_{3}/M_{4} = \infty \). Now we suppose that \( \dim_{l} M_{3}/M_{4} = \infty \). Then we put the interval \( I_{3} := [M_{4}, M_{3}] \).

By an inductive way, we get a sequence \( \{I_{n}\}_{n} \) of intervals. Note that semiclosed subspaces \( M_{i} \) \( (i = 1, 2, \cdots) \) are \( T \)-invariant.

\[
\underbrace{[M_{1}, M_{2}]}_{I_{1}} \supset \underbrace{[M_{1}, M_{3}]}_{I_{2}} \supset \underbrace{[M_{4}, M_{3}]}_{I_{3}} \supset \cdots
\]

'If' \( \text{diam } I_{n} \to 0 \), then, by Theorem 5.4, we get the semiclosed subspace \( \exists! M_{\infty} \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_{n} \).

We want to expect that \( M_{\infty} \) is the \( T \)-invariant closed subspace, so that it is necessary to check the following questions.

Q1. Does there exist \( M_{1} \) and \( M_{2} \) satisfying \( (*) \)?
Q2. Does there exist a sequence \( \{I_{n}\}_{n} \) such that 'diam \( I_{n} \to 0' \)?
Q3. Is \( M_{\infty} \) \( T \)-invariant?
Q4. Is \( M_{\infty} \) closed?

7. About Q1

There exist semiclosed subspaces \( M_{1} \) and \( M_{2} \) such that \( (*) \). Pick any \( T \)-invariant \( M_{1} \). Put \( M_{1} = A_{1}H \). Since \( A_{1} \in \alpha \), \( A_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \in \alpha \) by (h2). Hence, we define \( M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \) to be the semiclosed subspace \( A_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}}H \), and let \( M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} = A_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}}H \). If \( M_{1} = M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \), then \( M_{1} \) is a \( (T \)-invariant) closed subspace. This attains our goal. Thus, without a loss of generality, we assume that \( M_{1} \subset M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \).

Since \( M_{1} \) is \( T \)-invariant, \( M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \) is also \( T \)-invariant. Since \( \dim_{l} H/M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} = \infty \), there exists \( T \)-invariant \( M_{2} \) satisfying \( M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} \subset M_{2} \subset H \). Moreover we can prove that \( \dim_{l} M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}}/M_{1} = \infty \). Then we get the interval \( [M_{1}, M_{2}] \) which satisfies the condition \( (*) \).

8. About Q2, Q3 and Q4

We do not know that how do we try to solve these questions Q2, Q3 and Q4. But we think that these questions are linked each other. In the following, we state an idea in our brain.
Let $M = \alpha AH$ and $N = \alpha BH$. By (h1) and Douglas's majorization theorem, the interval

$[M, N] = \{L \in S : M \subseteq L \subseteq N\}$

is order isomorphic to the operator interval

$[A^2, B^2] := \{X^2 : A^2 \leq X^2 \leq B^2\}$,

where $X \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ is a positive operator.

Let $I_{1} = [M_{1}, M_{2}]$ be the interval satisfying the condition $(*)$ in the section 6. Since $\dim_{i} M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}} / M_{1} = \infty$ and $M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is $T$-invariant, there exists a $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_{3}$ such that $M_{1} \subsetneq M_{3} \subsetneq M_{1}^{\frac{1}{2}}$. In the same way, we have a $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_{5}$ such that $M_{3} \subsetneq M_{5} \subsetneq M_{3}^{\frac{1}{2}}$. Hence, we have inductively $M_{2k+1}$ ($k = 1, 2, \cdots$) such that $M_{2k-1} \subsetneq M_{2k+1} \subsetneq M_{2k-1}^{\frac{1}{2}}$. On the other hand, with respect to indexes of even numbers, we choose a $T$-invariant semiclosed subspace $M_{2k+2}$ so that $\rho_{\alpha}(M_{2k+1}, M_{2k+2}) \to 0 \ (k \to \infty)$, and let $I_{k+1} = [M_{2k+1}, M_{2k+2}]$ ($k = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$).

By $\rho_{\alpha}(M_{2k+1}, M_{2k+2}) \to 0$, that is, $\text{diam} I_{k} \to 0 \ (k \to \infty)$, there uniquely exists the semiclosed subspace $M_{\infty} \in \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} I_{k}$. For intervals $[M_{n}, \cdot]$ or $[\cdot, M_{n}]$, $\rho_{\alpha}(M_{n}, M_{\infty}) = ||A_{n} - A_{\infty}|| \to 0 \ (n \to \infty)$, where $M_{n} \overset{\alpha}{=} A_{n} H$, $M_{\infty} \overset{\alpha}{=} A_{\infty} H$. Therefore, since $A_{2k+1}^{2} \leq A_{2k-1} \leq A_{2k+2}^{2}$ ($k = 1, 2, \cdots$), we have that $A_{\infty}^{2} \leq A_{\infty} \leq A_{\infty}^{2}$. This means that $A_{\infty}$ is the orthogonal
projection, i.e., $M_{\infty} \overset{\alpha}{=} A_{\infty}H$ is closed, which is a thinking for Q2 and Q4. For Q3, we note that $M_{2k+1}$ and $M_{2k+2}$ are $T$-invariant and $M_{2k+1} \subsetneq M_{\infty} \subsetneq M_{2k+2}$. Now $\rho_{\alpha}(M_{2k+1}, M_{2k+2}) \to 0 (k \to \infty)$, is $M_{\infty}$ $T$-invariant?

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