ON THE MODEL OF A SKEW–SELFADJOINT OPERATOR WITH A SIMPLE SPECTRUM ON A HILBERT QUATERNION MODULE

© Karpenko I. I., Tyshkevich D. L.

Taurida National V. I. Vernadsky University
Department of Mathematics and Informatics
Vernadsky ave., 4, Simferopol, 95007, Ukraine
E-mail: dtyshk@inbox.ru, i.karpenko@inbox.ru

Abstract. In this work we construct the model of a skew–selfadjoint operator with a simple spectrum acting on a Hilbert quaternion bimodule. This result is based on the Spectral Theorem for a skew–selfadjoint operator. In the case of a bounded normal operator this Spectral Theorem was announced in the report [3]. The more detailed research was carried out in the paper [4].

In the same paper we pointed out that the given reasonings enable us to prove corresponding results for an unbounded skew–selfadjoint operators too. Results of this article essentially develop the result of the paper [1].

Keywords. Quaternion, Hilbert space, quaternion module, quaternion bimodule, spectral theorem, normal operator, skew–selfadjoint operator, operator with a simple spectrum, model of a linear operator, operator of left multiplication by an independent variable.

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INTRODUCTION

On the skew field of quaternions \(\mathbb{H}\) and \(\mathbb{R}\)–containing subfields of \(\mathbb{H}\). For reader’s convenience recall some definitions and facts concerning quaternions.

The real quaternionic skew-field \(\mathbb{H}\) is a four-dimensional associative division algebra of a rank 4 over \(\mathbb{R}\) with the basis \(\{1, i, j, k\}\) and multiplication rules

\[
\begin{align*}
    i^2 &= -1, \\
    j^2 &= -1, \\
    k^2 &= -1, \\
    ij &= k, \\
    jk &= i, \\
    ki &= j, \\
    ji &= -k, \\
    k &= -i, \\
    ik &= -j.
\end{align*}
\]

For any \(q \in \mathbb{H}\) there exist unique \(q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3 \in \mathbb{R}\) such that \(q = q_0 + q_1i + q_2j + q_3k\) (real representation of \(q\)). Also it is useful to deal with the vector form of quaternion \(q = q_0 + \vec{q}\) where \(\vec{q} = q_1i + q_2j + q_3k\) is the vector or imaginary part of \(q\) (if \(q = \vec{q}\) then \(q\) is called to be a vector or an imaginary quaternion).

For instance the vector form for the product of quaternions \(q\) and \(p\) is nothing more than the well-known formula of multiplication \(qp = q_0p_0 - (\vec{q}, \vec{p}) + (\vec{q}, \vec{p}) + q_0\vec{p} + p_0\vec{q} + q_0p\). Here

\[\text{Note that since the issue of } [1] \text{ investigations of spectral problems in infinite–dimensional Hilbert (bi)modules were not carried out as far as we know. As it seems for us our papers } [4, 5] \text{ are the first in this row after } [1].\]
Write down this quaternion in the vector form:
and $F$ dimension of $C$ is just a specimen of a field in $F$.

An imaginary quaternion whose absolute value equals 1 is called an imaginary unit. From this point of view one can consider $\mathbb{H}$ as a real subalgebra of $\mathbb{H}$: $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}(1, i)$. Inclusion $\mathbb{C}$ in $\mathbb{H}$ allows us to obtain the complex (or symplectic) representation of a quaternion. Namely, for $q = q_0 + q_1 i + q_2 j + q_3 k$ we have $q = (q_0 + q_1 i) + (q_2 + q_3 i) j = z_1 + z_2 j$ where $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$.

Often it is useful to restrict not oneself by choice of a concrete field; e.g. $\mathbb{C}$. In fact $\mathbb{C}$ is just a specimen of a field in $\mathbb{H}$, which extends $\mathbb{R}$. Everywhere in this paper we denote such a field by $F$. $F$ is a commutative and associative division algebra over $\mathbb{R}$; and dimension of $F$ is greater than 1. Hence by Frobenius theorem dimension of $F$ equals 2; and $F$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}$.

A field $F$ is uniquely determined by some nonreal quaternion. Indeed, let $q \in F \setminus \mathbb{R}$. Write down this quaternion in the vector form: $q = q_0 + \vec{q}$. Then we have $\vec{q} = q - q_0 \in F \setminus \{0\}$. Let $f := \frac{1}{|q|^2} \vec{q}$. The vector system $\{1, f\}$ is linear independent. Hence it is a basis of $F$ as a two–dimensional $\mathbb{R}$–algebra. These arguments show that any two nonreal elements of $F$ have proportional vector parts, and this condition is necessary and sufficient for quaternions with the corresponding vector parts to commute. Thus, we can characterize any subfield of $\mathbb{H}$ satisfying the above conditions as a set of all quaternions commuting with some fixed nonreal quaternion. In addition this necessary and sufficient condition implies possibility for a corresponding imaginary unit $f$ to be determined by $F$ up to $\pm 1$.

Consider now $\mathbb{H}$ as a real Euclidean space with dimension 4. Choose any normed quaternion $\phi$ to be orthogonal to 1, $f$. Then we have $\phi^2 = (\phi, \phi) = -1$. The quaternion $f\phi(= [f, \phi])$ is orthogonal to 1, $f, \phi$; and $f\phi = [f, \phi] = -[\phi, f] = -\phi f$. Hence $(f\phi)^2 = -1$. Thus, the system $\{1, f, \phi, f\phi\}$ is an $\mathbb{R}$–basis of $\mathbb{H}$; and this basis consists of 1 and three imaginary units. This fact allows us to define the unique decomposition $q = q_0 + q_1 f + q_2 \phi + q_3 f\phi$ which implies an analogue of a complex decomposition $q = (q_0 + q_1 f) + (q_2 + q_3 f)\phi = u_1 + u_2 \phi$ ($u_1, u_2 \in F$). Note that a corresponding quaternion $\phi$ for a field $F$ is not uniquely determined.

Agreements and notations. In the paper we use substantially accepted notations. Some notations we define as one goes along (e.g. Lin, Clos, p.4).

"Linear operator" in $\mathbb{H}$–bimodule means a right–side linear operator. (All the results presented here hold true if term "bimodule" one change by term "right module". Consideration of precisely bimodules is connected with the tradition of our previous papers).

An operator of right multiplication $R_q x := x q$ ($x \in H$), $q \in \mathbb{H}$, plays a significant role in studying operators on quaternion bimodules ($R_q$ is not $\mathbb{H}$–linear but it is $F$–linear.
where the field $\mathbb{F}$ is generated by $q$; see above). It is useful to emphasize the following simple properties of an operator of right multiplication which we use throughout the paper without any special comments: $R_{p+q} = R_p + R_q; R_{pq} = R_q R_p$.

Note that an $\mathbb{R}$–linear operator $A$ is $\mathbb{F}$–linear iff $R_f A = AR_f$ ($f$ is an imaginary unit generating $\mathbb{F}$). $\mathbb{F}$–linear operator $A$ is $\mathbb{H}$–linear iff $R_q A = AR_q$.

For further consideration we fix an imaginary unit $f$ and a field $\mathbb{F}$ generated by $f$. In conclusion note that all arguments concerning $\mathbb{F}$–modules (orthogonality; etc.) copy the corresponding ones for $\mathbb{C}$–modules because of isometrical isomorphism\footnote{We pay reader’s attention to the following remarkable phenomenon arising in the quaternion theory of functions and operators. This phenomenon is connected with the relation between such notions as "equality" and "isomorphism". Although every such a field $\mathbb{F}$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}$ and therefore it is "not interesting" from the algebraic point of view nevertheless it is a unique "copy" of $\mathbb{C}$ in $\mathbb{H}$. This fact becomes crucial for analysis. In particular our theory of differentiability of functions of a quaternionic variable (\cite{2}) is based precisely on "playing by" these properties.} between $\mathbb{F}$ and $\mathbb{C}$. In this case we use the corresponding notations $\perp_\mathbb{F}, \oplus_\mathbb{F}$; etc.

**The model of a skew–selfadjoint operator with a simple spectrum**

**Spectral Theorem.** The spectral theorem for a skew–selfadjoint operator mentioned in introduction can be written as follows.

**Theorem 1.** Let $A$ be a skew–selfadjoint operator acting on a Hilbert quaternion bimodule $H$ (whose domain $\mathcal{D}(A)$ is dense in $H$), $\mathbb{F}$ be an $\mathbb{R}$–containing subfield of $\mathbb{H}$. Then there exists a spectral measure $E$ defined on the Borel $\sigma$–algebra $\mathcal{B}(f_+)$ (consisting of all Borel subsets of the half–axis $f_+ = \{ \tau f \mid \tau \geq 0 \}$), skew–selfadjoint operator $J$ commuting with $E$ and satisfying the condition $J^2 = -I$ such that the following equalities hold

$$\mathcal{D}(A) = \{ h \in H \mid \int_{\sigma f_+} |q|^2 \langle E(dq)h, h \rangle < \infty \};$$

$$A = \int_{f_+} R_{-q} J E(dq).$$

The integral in (2) is understood as a strong limit

$$Ah = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{[0, nf]} R_{-q} J E(dq)h, \quad h \in \mathcal{D}(A).$$

We can determine

$$E(\alpha) := \begin{cases} E_\mathbb{F}(\alpha) + E_\mathbb{F}(-\alpha), & 0 \notin \alpha, \\ E_\mathbb{F}(\alpha) + E_\mathbb{F}(-\alpha) - E_\mathbb{F}(\{0\}), & 0 \in \alpha \quad (\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(f_+)) \end{cases}$$

where $E_\mathbb{F}$ is a $\mathbb{F}$–linear spectral measure defined on Borel subsets of the axis $f = f\mathbb{R}$; i.e. the spectral measure of $A$ where $A$ acts on $H$ as on a $\mathbb{F}$–module. The last is isometrically
isomorphic to $H$ as to a $C$–module, therefore, we can use the classical spectral theorem for constructing $E_F$. In addition, $J$ and $E_F$ are connected by the formula

$$J = R_f(E_F(f_+) - E_F(f_-))$$

(4)

where $f_- = \{\tau f \mid \tau < 0\}$ is the negative half–axis of $F$. Concerning (3) note that $H$–linearity of $E$ is equivalent to validity of the equality

$$E_F(\alpha)R_\phi = R_\phi E_F(-\alpha) \quad (\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(f_+)).$$

(5)

In particular, putting $H^+ = E_F(f_+)H$ we have the decomposition

$$H = H^+ \oplus_F R_\phi H^+.$$  

(6)

A skew–selfadjoint operator with a simple spectrum. Let $A$ be a skew–selfadjoint operator acting on a Hilbert quaternion bimodule $H$. By theorem [1] every such an operator determines the spectral measure $E$ and the corresponding operator $J$ commuting with $E$.

Denote by $I$ the set of all (bounded) intervals $\Delta$ of half-axis $f_+$; $\Delta = [af, bf]; \ a, b \in \mathbb{R}; \ 0 \leq a < b$.

Definition 1. $A$ is called to be an operator with a simple spectrum if there exists a generating vector $g \in H$:

$$\text{Clos Lin}\{E(\Delta)g \mid \Delta \in I\} = H$$

(7)

(Lin is the (right-side) $H$–span, Clos is the $H$–norm closure).

A special generating vector. Now we prove the key fact for further consideration of existence of a generating vector $g \in H$ with the property

$$Jg = R_f g.$$  

(8)

Let $\mathcal{T} = \{T_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a set of operators on $H$, $g \in H$ is a vector. Define

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T}, g) = \text{Clos Lin}\{T_ig \mid i \in I\}; \quad \mathcal{E}_F(\mathcal{T}, g) = \text{Clos Lin}_F\{T_ig \mid i \in I\}$$

(Lin$_F$ is the (right–side) $F$–span). The following properties are quite elementary:

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T}, g_1 + g_2) \subseteq \text{Clos} (\mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g_1) + \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g_2));$$

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T}, g) = \text{Clos} (\mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g) + R_\phi \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g)).$$

(9)

(10)

If the set $\mathcal{T}$ is closed respectively to the product of operators then we have

$$h \in \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g) \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, h) \subseteq \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{T}, g) \quad (\text{if} \ \forall i, j \in I \quad T_iT_j \in \mathcal{T})$$

(11)

(the same is true for $\mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$). Denote

$$\mathcal{E} = \{E(\Delta) \mid \Delta \in \mathcal{J}\}, \quad \mathcal{E}_F = \{E_F(\Delta) \mid \Delta \in \mathcal{J}\}.$$  

(9)

By use of (9) — (11) the following relations can be easily derived from the properties of a spectral measure:

$$\forall g \in H \quad \mathcal{C}_F(\mathcal{E}_F, g) \subseteq H^+.$$

(12)
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\[ g \in H^+ \Rightarrow C(E, g) = C_F(E_F, g); \quad (13) \]
\[ \forall g \in H \quad C(E, R_\phi g) = R_\phi C(E, g); \quad (14) \]
\[ h \perp_F C_F(E_F, g) \Rightarrow C_F(E_F, h + g) = C_F(E_F, h) \oplus_F C_F(E_F, g). \quad (15) \]

**Statement 1.** Let \( A \) be an operator with a simple spectrum. Then there exists a generating vector \( g \) satisfying (8).

**Proof.** Let \( y \) be an arbitrary generating vector for \( A \). Then we have
\[ H = C(E, y). \quad (16) \]
By (8) for some vectors \( y^+, x^+ \in H^+ \quad y = y^+ + R_\phi x^+ \). Denote
\[ Y^+ = C_F(E_F, y^+), \quad X^+ = C_F(E_F, x^+). \quad (17) \]
Then we have
\[ C_F(E, y) \subseteq \text{Clos}(C(E, y^+) + C(E, R_\phi x^+)) \overset{(13), (14), (17)}{=} \text{Clos}(Y^+ + R_\phi X^+). \quad (18) \]
Hence
\[ R_\phi C_F(E, y) \subseteq \text{Clos}(R_\phi Y^+ + X^+). \quad (19) \]
Furthermore,
\[ H \overset{(16), (18)}{=} \text{Clos}(Y^+ + R_\phi X^+ + R_\phi Y^+ + X^+) \overset{(20)}{=} \text{Clos}((Y^+ + X^+) \oplus_F R_\phi (Y^+ + X^+)) = \text{Clos}(Y^+ + X^+) \oplus_F R_\phi \text{Clos}(Y^+ + X^+); \]
then by (6), (12)
\[ H^+ = \text{Clos}(Y^+ + X^+). \quad (21) \]
Let \( v^+ \) be an \( \mathbb{F} \)-orthogonal projection of the vector \( x^+ \) on \( H^+ \oplus_F X^+ \); and \( x^+ = v^+ + w^+, \ w^+ \in X^+ \). Let \( g = y^+ + v^+ \). Since \( g \in H^+ \); therefore, by (11) \( g \) satisfies (8). Now we can easily prove that \( g \) is a generating vector. Denote \( Y^+ = C_F(E, v^+) \). By (11)
\[ C_F(E, w^+) \subseteq Y^+. \quad (22) \]
Hence
\[ Y^+ + X^+ = Y^+ + C_F(E_F, v^+ + w^+) \overset{18}{=} Y^+ + Y^+ + C_F(E_F, w^+) \overset{22, 18}{=} Y^+ \oplus_F Y^+. \quad (23) \]
On the other hand
\[ H^+ = Y^+ + C_F(E_F, v^+) \overset{24, 26}{=} C_F(E_F, y^+) \oplus_F C_F(E_F, v^+) \overset{18}{=} C_F(E_F, y^+ + v^+) \overset{18}{=} C_F(E, g). \quad (24) \]
By (24), (11), (6) we obtain \( H = C(E, g) \); i.e. \( g \) is a generating vector. \( \square \)

\(^3\)The main idea how to construct a special generating vector in statement [1] is borrowed from the [1] Prop.5.2].
**Model.** Further we assume that a generating vector $g$ of a skew–selfadjoint operator $A$ with a simple spectrum satisfies (10).

Consider the operator $(Qh)(\lambda) = \lambda h(\lambda)$
acting on the $\mathbb{H}$–bimodule $L^2_\sigma(\mathfrak{f}_+, \mathbb{H})$ of all square integrable by a measure $\sigma$ $\mathbb{H}$–valued functions on the half–axis $\mathfrak{f}_+$. Since the domain of $Q$ is

$${\mathcal{D}}(Q) = \{ h \in L^2_\sigma | \int_{\mathfrak{f}_+} |\lambda|^2 |h(\lambda)|^2 \sigma(d\lambda) < \infty \};$$

therefore, by standard arguments one can show that $Q$ is a skew–selfadjoint operator.

To find out the spectral measure $E_F$ we use a slight modification of the standard algorithm which was considered in our paper [4]. In particular, for any interval $(af, bf)$, $-\infty < a < b < \infty$; and any function $h$ from $\mathcal{D}(Q)$ which has the form $h(\lambda) = h_1(\lambda) + h_2(\lambda)\phi$ where $h_1(\lambda), h_2(\lambda) \in F$ we have

$$E_F((af, bf)) h(\lambda) = \chi_{(a,b)}(-\lambda f)h_1(\lambda) + \chi_{(a,b)}(\lambda f)h_2(\lambda)\phi =$$
$$= \chi_{(af,bf)}(\lambda)h_1(\lambda) + \chi_{(-bf,-af)}(\lambda)h_2(\lambda)\phi.$$
By virtue of (4) and above formulae the corresponding operator $J$ for $Q$ has the form

$$(Jh)(\lambda) = (h_1(\lambda) - h_2(\lambda)\phi)f.$$  

(almost everywhere and except 0)

Define the step function

$$g(\lambda) = \alpha_k, \quad \lambda \in \Delta_k = ((k-1)f, kf), \quad \alpha_k \in f_+ \setminus \{0\},$$

with the condition $\sum |\alpha_k|^2 \sigma(\Delta_k) < \infty$. This function generates $Q$ in the sense of definition 1. Indeed, the (right) quaternionic span of the set of functions $E(\Delta)g$ coincides with the set of all finite step functions and this set is dense in $L^2_{\sigma}(f_+, \mathbb{H})$. Note that $(Jg)(\lambda) = \alpha_kf, \quad \lambda \in \Delta_k$; i.e. $Jg = Rfg$. Briefly denote $L^2_{\sigma}(f_+, \mathbb{H})$ by $L^2_{\sigma}$.

**Theorem 2.** Let $A$ be a skew-selfadjoint operator with a simple spectrum acting on a Hilbert quaternion bimodule $H$, $g$ be a generating vector, $\sigma(\alpha) = \langle E(\alpha)g, g \rangle$ be a measure defined on the $\sigma$–algebra $\mathfrak{B}(f_+)$. Then the map $\Phi : L^2_{\sigma} \to H$ determined by the integral

$$\Phi h = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g,$$

sets an isometric isomorphism between $L^2_{\sigma}$ and $H$ such that

$$A\Phi h = \int_{f_+} R_{\lambda h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g.$$

**Proof.** Denote

$$G = \{ \hat{h} \in H | \exists h \in L^2_{\sigma} : \hat{h} = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g \} = \mathfrak{I}(\Phi)$$

(range of $\Phi$). Let $\Delta$ be an interval of $f_+$. Then $\chi_{\Delta} \in L^2_{\sigma}$; and

$$\Phi \chi_{\Delta} = \int_{f_+} E(d\lambda)g \chi_{\Delta}(\lambda) = \int_{\Delta} E(d\lambda)g = E(\Delta)g.$$

Hence $G$ is dense in $H$. Let $\hat{h} \in G$. Then $\langle \hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle_H = \int_{f_+} \langle E(\alpha)g, \hat{h} \rangle h(\lambda)$. Since

$$\langle E(\alpha)g, \hat{h} \rangle = \int_{f_+} \langle E(\alpha)g, E(\lambda)gh(\lambda) \rangle = \int_{f_+} h(\lambda) \langle E(\lambda)E(\alpha)g, g \rangle =$$

$$= \int_{\alpha} h(\lambda) \langle E(\lambda)g, g \rangle = \int_{\alpha} h(\lambda) \sigma(d\lambda);$$

therefore,

$$\langle \hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle_H = \int_{f_+} |h(\lambda)|^2 \sigma(d\lambda) = \langle h(\lambda), h(\lambda) \rangle_{L^2_{\sigma}}.$$
Thus, Φ isometrically maps the dense subset of $L^2_σ$ onto a dense subset of $G$. Density of $L^2_σ$ yields closedness of $G$. Hence $G = H$; and Φ is an unitary operator.

Next prove the second part of the theorem. Let $h$ be a finite function from $L^2_σ$ with a support $[a, b]$; $\hat{h} = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g$. To prove that $\hat{h} \in D(A)$ we consider the integral $\int_{f_+} |\lambda|^2 \langle E(d\lambda)\hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle$. Since

$$\langle E(\alpha)\hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle = \int_{f_+} h(\nu) \langle E(\alpha)\hat{h}, E(d\nu)g \rangle = \int_{f_+} h(\nu) \langle \hat{h}, E(\alpha)E(d\nu)g \rangle = \int_{f_+} h(\nu) \langle \hat{h}, E(d\nu)g \rangle$$

and

$$\langle \hat{h}, E(\beta)g \rangle = \int_{f_+} \langle E(d\xi)g, E(\beta)g \rangle h(\xi) = \int_{f_+} \langle E(d\xi)g, g \rangle h(\xi) = \int \sigma(d\xi) h(\xi);$$

therefore,

$$\langle E(\alpha)\hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle = \int_{f_+} |h(\nu)|^2 \sigma(d\nu).$$

Hence

$$\int_{f_+} |\lambda|^2 \langle E(d\lambda)\hat{h}, \hat{h} \rangle = \int_{f_+} |\lambda|^2 |h(\lambda)|^2 \sigma(d\lambda) = \int |\lambda|^2 |h(\lambda)|^2 \sigma(d\lambda) < \infty.$$  

Further, for any vector $\hat{h} = \Phi h \in D(A) \quad A\hat{h} = \int_{f_+} R_{-\lambda_f} J E(d\lambda)\hat{h}$. Since

$$E(\alpha)\hat{h} = \int_{f_+} E(\alpha)R_{h(na)} E(d\nu)g = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\nu)} E(\alpha)E(d\nu)g = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\nu)} E(d\nu)g;$$

therefore, by linearity of $R_{-\lambda_f}$ and $J$; and commutativity of $J$ and $E$ we have

$$A\hat{h} = \int_{f_+} R_{-\lambda_f} J R_{h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} R_{-\lambda_f} E(d\lambda)g = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} R_{-\lambda_f} E(d\lambda)g = \int_{f_+} R_{h(\lambda)} R_{\lambda} E(d\lambda)g = \int_{f_+} R_{\lambda h(\lambda)} E(d\lambda)g.$$

Thus, on the set of finite functions from $L^2_σ$ the equality $A\Phi = \Phi Q$ holds true (or, in other words, $A = \Phi Q \Phi^{-1}$). As a consequence we obtain the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 3.** Any skew-selfadjoint operator with a simple spectrum acting on a Hilbert quaternion bimodule is unitarily equivalent to the operator of left multiplication by an independent variable on a functional bimodule $L^2_σ$. 
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