

CHARACTERIZATION OF DIAGONALITY FOR OPERATORS

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ABSTRACT. Let A be an invertible $n \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{C} . If the k -th power A^k of A and the k -th power $A^{\circ k}$ of Schur product of A equals ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n+1$), then A becomes diagonal. In the case that A is an invertible bounded linear operator on an infinite dimensional Hilbert space H , we can also define Schur product of operators, and we can show that A is diagonal, if it satisfies $A^k = A^{\circ k}$ for any $k = 1, 2, \dots$.

1 Introduction We denote by $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ the set of all $n \times n$ matrices over \mathbb{C} . For $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$, we define their Schur product (or Hadamard product) $A \circ B$ as follows:

$$A \circ B = (a_{ij}b_{ij})_{i,j=1}^n,$$

where $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^n$ and $B = (b_{ij})_{i,j=1}^n$. We denote the k -th power of Schur product of A by

$$A^{\circ k} = \overbrace{A \circ A \circ \dots \circ A}^k.$$

By definition, for any diagonal matrix A , we have

$$A^k = A^{\circ k}$$

for all $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

In the field of operator inequality, many results are known related to Schur product ([1],[2]). In other words, Schur product is useful for topics related to self-adjoint or positive operators. For example, if A is self-adjoint, i.e., $A = A^*$, then we can easily check that the property $A^2 = A^{\circ 2}$ implies the diagonality of A . But, without the assumption of self-adjointness of operators, we remark that the property $A^k = A^{\circ k}$ for any k does not imply the diagonality of A . The following matrix A is not diagonal, but A satisfies this property:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C}), \quad A^k = A = A^{\circ k} \quad \text{for any } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

In this paper, first we show the following fact:

Theorem 1.1. *Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{C} satisfying*

$$A^k = A^{\circ k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n+1.$$

Then we have the followings:

- (1) $A^k = A^{\circ k}$ for any positive integer k .
- (2) If A is invertible, then A is diagonal.

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As the infinite dimensional case, we consider a bounded linear operator on a (infinite dimensional) Hilbert space. Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space. We fix the completely orthonormal system $\{\xi_i\}_{i \in I}$ of \mathcal{H} . Let A be a bounded linear operator on \mathcal{H} with

$$A\xi_j = \sum_{i \in I} a_{ij}\xi_i, \quad (a_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}, j \in I).$$

Then we denote $A \in B(\mathcal{H})$ by $(a_{ij})_{i,j \in I}$. For two operators $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j \in I}, B = (b_{ij})_{i,j \in I} \in B(\mathcal{H})$, we can define $A \circ B \in B(\mathcal{H})$ as follows([4]):

$$A \circ B = (a_{ij}b_{ij})_{i,j \in I}.$$

Since A is bounded, we have

$$\sum_{j \in I} |a_{ij}|^2 < \infty, \quad \sum_{i \in I} |a_{ij}|^2 < \infty.$$

We remark that

$$\sum_{k \in I} |a_{ik}a_{kj}| < \infty$$

and the set $\{k \in I \mid a_{ik}a_{kj} \neq 0\}$ is at most countable for any $i, j \in I$. Then we can show the following theorem as infinite dimensional version of Theorem 1.1.

Theorem 1.2. *Let A be a bounded invertible linear operator on \mathcal{H} with*

$$A^n = A^{\circ n} \quad \text{for any } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Then A is diagonal, i.e., $a_{ij} = 0$ when $i \neq j$.

Let $A \in \mathbb{M}_3(\mathbb{C})$ be as follows:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then A is invertible, is not diagonal and satisfies

$$A^2 = A^{\circ 2} \text{ and } A^3 \neq A^{\circ 3}.$$

In the last section, we determine the smallest integer m satisfying that, for any invertible $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$,

$$A^k = A^{\circ k} \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, m)$$

implies the diagonality of A .

2 Proof of Theorem 1.1 In this section, we give a proof of Theorem 1.1.

Proof. (1) Let $p(t) = \det(tI_n - A)$ be a characteristic polynomial of A . Then we have, by Cayley-Hamilton theorem,

$$p(A) = 0.$$

We define

$$q_1(t) = t^{n+1} - tp(t) = \sum_{k=1}^n b_k t^k,$$

then we have $q_1(A) = A^{n+1}$.

We assume that $N \geq n + 1$ and it holds

$$A^l = A^{\circ l} \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

If we can show that $A^{N+1} = A^{\circ(N+1)}$, then (1) holds by induction. It follows from

$$\begin{aligned} A^{\circ(N+1)} &= A^{\circ(N-n)} \circ (A^{\circ(n+1)}) = A^{\circ(N-n)} \circ (A^{n+1}) = A^{\circ(N-n)} \circ q_1(A) \\ &= A^{\circ(N-n)} \circ \left(\sum_{k=1}^n b_k A^k \right) = A^{\circ(N-n)} \circ \left(\sum_{k=1}^n b_k A^{\circ k} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n b_k A^{\circ(N-n+k)} = \sum_{k=1}^n b_k A^{N-n+k} \quad (\text{since } 0 < N - n + k \leq N) \\ &= A^{N-n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n b_k A^k \right) = A^{N-n} q_1(A) = A^{N+1}. \end{aligned}$$

(2) Since A is invertible, if we define

$$q_2(t) = \frac{p(t) - (-1)^n \det(A)}{(-1)^{n+1} \det(A)} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k t^k,$$

we can get $q_2(A) = I_n$.

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} A \circ I_n &= A \circ q_2(A) = A \circ \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k A^k \right) = A \circ \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k A^{\circ k} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k A^{\circ k+1} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k A^{k+1} \\ &= A \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k A^k \right) = A q_2(A) = A I_n = A. \end{aligned}$$

Since $A \circ I_n$ is diagonal, so is A . □

3 Proof of Theorem 1.2

Lemma 3.1. *Let $(x_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ be a 1-summable sequence of complex numbers, i.e., $\sum_{i=1}^\infty |x_i| < \infty$. If it holds that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^\infty x_i^j = 0, \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

then $x_i = 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Proof. We set $x_n = r_n e^{2\pi\theta_n\sqrt{-1}}$ ($r_n = |x_n| \geq 0$). We assume that some of x_i 's is not equal to 0. Arranging the sequence, we may assume that

$$1 = r_1 \geq r_2 \geq \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=k+1}^\infty r_n < \frac{1}{2}$$

for some k . Since $\mathbb{T} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$ is compact, we can choose an infinite subset N_1 of \mathbb{N} such that

$$s, t \in N_1 \Rightarrow |e^{2\pi s\theta_1\sqrt{-1}} - e^{2\pi t\theta_1\sqrt{-1}}| < \frac{1}{3}.$$

By the same method, we can choose an infinite subset N_2 of N_1 such that

$$s, t \in N_2 \Rightarrow |e^{2\pi s\theta_2\sqrt{-1}} - e^{2\pi t\theta_2\sqrt{-1}}| < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Continuing this argument, we can choose numbers $s, t \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$|e^{2\pi s\theta_j\sqrt{-1}} - e^{2\pi t\theta_j\sqrt{-1}}| < \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

We set $K = |s - t|$. Then we have

$$|1 - e^{2\pi K\theta_j\sqrt{-1}}| < \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

This means that

$$\operatorname{Re}(e^{2\pi K\theta_j\sqrt{-1}}) > \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

By the assumption, we have

$$\left| \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} x_n^K \right| \leq \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n^K \leq \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n < \frac{1}{2}.$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{n=1}^k x_n^K \right| &\geq \operatorname{Re}\left(\sum_{n=1}^k x_n^K\right) = \sum_{n=1}^k r_n^K \operatorname{Re}(e^{2\pi K\theta_n\sqrt{-1}}) \\ &> \frac{2}{3}(1 + r_2^K + \dots + r_k^K) > \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts to

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n^K = 0.$$

□

Proposition 3.2. *Let $(x_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$ be a 1-summable sequence of complex numbers. For some $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, it holds that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} x_i^j = \alpha^j, \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Then there is a number i_0 such that

$$x_i = \begin{cases} \alpha, & i = i_0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Put $r_n = |x_n|$. In the case $\alpha = 0$, it follows from the preceding lemma. So we may assume that

$$\alpha = 1, \quad r_1 \geq r_2 \geq \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n < \frac{1}{2}$$

for some k . Then we show that $r_1 \geq 1$. Assume that $r_1 < 1$. We can choose a number N_0 satisfying

$$r_1^{N_0} < \frac{1}{2k}.$$

So we have

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n^{N_0} \right| \leq \sum_{n=1}^k r_n^{N_0} + \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n^{N_0} \leq k \cdot \frac{1}{2k} + \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n < 1 = \alpha.$$

This is a contradiction.

We set

$$r_1 \geq r_2 \geq \dots \geq r_l \geq 1 > r_{l+1} \geq r_{l+2} \geq \dots \geq r_k.$$

Using the same argument in the proof of Lemma 3.1, for any positive integer N , we can choose a positive integer $K(N)$ satisfying that

$$\operatorname{Re}(e^{2\pi K(N)N\theta_j\sqrt{-1}}) > \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re}\left(\sum_{n=1}^k x_n^{K(N)N}\right) &= \sum_{n=1}^k r_n^{K(N)N} \operatorname{Re}(e^{2\pi K(N)N\theta_n\sqrt{-1}}) \\ &> \frac{2}{3} \left(\sum_{n=1}^l r_n^{K(N)N} + \sum_{n=l+1}^k r_n^{K(N)N}\right) > \frac{2l}{3} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\left| \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} x_n^{K(N)N} \right| \leq \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n^{K(N)N} \leq \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} r_n r_{k+1}^{K(N)N-1} < \frac{1}{2} r_{k+1}^{K(N)N-1}.$$

For a sufficiently large N , we may assume that

$$\frac{1}{2} r_{k+1}^{K(N)N-1} < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Since

$$\left| 1 - \operatorname{Re}\left(\sum_{n=1}^k x_n^{K(N)N}\right) \right| = \left| \operatorname{Re}\left(\sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} x_n^{K(N)N}\right) \right| \leq \left| \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} x_n^{K(N)N} \right| < \frac{1}{3},$$

we have $l = 1$ and get the relation $r_1 \geq 1 > r_2 \geq \dots \geq r_k$.

If $r_1 > 1$, then we may also assume that $r_1^{K(N)N} > 2$, i.e., $\operatorname{Re}\left(\sum_{n=1}^k x_n^{K(N)N}\right) > \frac{4}{3}$. This contradicts to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n^{K(N)N} = 1$. So we have $r_1 = 1$.

If $x_1 \neq 1$, we can choose a sequence of integers

$$0 < m(1) < m(2) < \dots < m(k) < \dots$$

such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_1^{m(k)} = e^{\theta\sqrt{-1}} \neq 1$$

for some real θ . For a sufficiently large k , we may assume

$$|1 - x_1^{m(k)}| > \frac{1}{2}|1 - e^{\theta\sqrt{-1}}| \text{ and}$$

$$\left| \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} x_n^{m(k)} \right| \leq |x_2|^{m(k)-1} \left(\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} |x_n| \right) < \frac{1}{2}|1 - e^{\theta\sqrt{-1}}|.$$

This contradicts to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n^{m(k)} = 1$. So we have $x_1 = 1$.

Therefore we have the following relation:

$$\sum_{i=2}^{\infty} x_i^j = 0, \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

By Lemma 3.1, we can get $x_2 = x_3 = \dots = 0$. □

Now we can give the proof for Theorem 1.2 as follows:

Proof. By the assumption, we have

$$A^{\circ n} A^{\circ n} = A^n A^n = A^{2n} = A^{\circ(2n)},$$

that is,

$$\sum_{s \in I} a_{is}^n a_{sj}^n = \sum_{s \in I} (a_{is} a_{sj})^n = a_{ij}^{2n}$$

for all $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and $i, j \in I$. We fix i . When $i = j$, we can get the relation:

$$\sum_{s \in I \setminus \{i\}} (a_{is} a_{si})^n = 0.$$

By Lemma 3.1, we have $a_{ij} a_{ji} = 0$ ($j \neq i$).

We set

$$K = \{s \in I \mid a_{is} = 0\} \setminus \{i\}, \quad J = I \setminus K.$$

For $j \in J \setminus \{i\}$, $a_{ij} \neq 0$ implies $a_{ji} = 0$. When $j \in K$, it holds

$$\sum_{s \in I} (a_{is} a_{sj})^n = a_{ij}^{2n} = 0.$$

By Lemma 3.1 we have $a_{is} a_{sj} = 0$ for all s . For $s \in J \setminus \{i\}$, $a_{is} \neq 0$ implies $a_{sj} = 0$. Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{sj} &= 0 & (s \in J, j \in K), \\ a_{si} &= 0 & (s \in J \setminus \{i\}). \end{aligned}$$

To prove the diagonality of A , it suffices to show the following statement:

- (1) $a_{ii} \neq 0$ implies $a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 0$ ($j \neq i$).
- (2) $a_{ii} \neq 0$.

(1) Let $a_{ii} \neq 0$. For any $j \in J$, we have

$$\sum_{s \in I} (a_{is}a_{sj})^n = a_{ij}^{2n} \neq 0.$$

By Proposition 3.2 it holds that there exists $s_0 \in I$ with

$$a_{is_0}a_{s_0j} = a_{ij}^2, \quad a_{is}a_{sj} = 0 \quad (s \neq s_0).$$

The fact $a_{ij} \neq 0$ ($j \in J$) implies $s_0 = i$. So we have

$$a_{jk} = 0 \quad (j \in J \setminus \{i\}, k \in I).$$

This means

$$A\xi \perp \xi_j \quad (\forall \xi \in \mathcal{H}, j \in J \setminus \{i\}).$$

Since A is invertible, we can get $J = \{i\}$, that is,

$$a_{ij} = 0 \quad (j \neq i).$$

We remark that A^* is also invertible and satisfies the condition $(A^*)^n = (A^*)^{\circ n}$ for all $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. So we have

$$a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 0 \quad (j \neq i).$$

(2) Assume that $a_{ii} = 0$. For $i(1) \in J \setminus \{i\}$, we have

$$\sum_{s \in I} (a_{is}a_{s,i(1)})^n = a_{i,i(1)}^{2n} \neq 0.$$

By Proposition 3.2, there exists an $i(2) \in J \setminus \{i\}$ satisfying

$$a_{i(2),i(1)} \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad a_{s,i(1)} = 0 \quad (s \in J \setminus \{i, i(2)\}).$$

If $i(1) = i(2)$, then $a_{i(1),i(1)} \neq 0$ implies $a_{i,i(1)} = 0$ by (1). This contradicts to $i(1) \in J \setminus \{i\}$. So we have $i(1) \neq i(2)$. Since $a_{i(2),i} = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \neq a_{i(2),i(1)}^{2n} &= \sum_{s \in I} (a_{i(2),s}a_{s,i(1)})^n \\ &= \sum_{s \in J} (a_{i(2),s}a_{s,i(1)})^n \\ &= (a_{i(2),i(2)}a_{i(2),i(1)})^n. \end{aligned}$$

By the fact $a_{i(2),i(2)} \neq 0$ and (1), it contradicts to $a_{i(2),i(1)} \neq 0$. □

4 Conclusions For any positive integer n , we define $d(n)$ the smallest integer m satisfying that, for any invertible $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$,

$$A^k = A^{\circ k} \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, m)$$

implies the diagonality of A .

Let σ be a permutation on $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. For $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^n \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$, we define $A_\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ as follows:

$$A_\sigma = (a_{\sigma(i),\sigma(j)})_{i,j=1}^n.$$

Then we can easily check the following remarks:

- (1) A is invertible $\Leftrightarrow A_\sigma$ is invertible.
 (2) A is diagonal $\Leftrightarrow A_\sigma$ is diagonal.
 (3) For $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$, we have

$$A_\sigma B_\sigma = (AB)_\sigma, \quad A_\sigma \circ B_\sigma = (A \circ B)_\sigma.$$

Proposition 4.1. (1) $d(n) \leq n + 1$.

(2) $d(2) = 3$.

(3) $d(3) = 3$.

Proof. (1) It follows from Theorem 1.1 .

(2) By (1), $d(2) \leq 3$. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C})$. Then A is invertible, not diagonal and satisfying

$$A^k = A^{\circ k} \quad (k = 1, 2).$$

So we have $d(2) \geq 3$. Therefore $d(2) = 3$.

(3) Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ be invertible and satisfy $A^k = A^{\circ k}$ ($k = 1, 2, 3$). We compute

$$A^2 = A^{\circ 2}, \quad A \cdot A^{\circ 2} = A \cdot A^2 = A^3 = A^{\circ 3}.$$

From the (i, j) -th component of above calculation, we have the following relation (i, j) :

$$a_{i1}a_{1j}^k + a_{i2}a_{2j}^k + a_{i3}a_{3j}^k = a_{ij}^{k+1} \quad (k = 1, 2).$$

We first show that A is diagonal in the case $a_{12} = a_{13} = 0$. Since A is invertible, the matrix $B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ is also invertible, and satisfies $B^k = B^{\circ k}$ ($k = 1, 2, 3$). Because $d(2) = 3$, we have $a_{23} = a_{32} = 0$. Applying the same argument for $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$, we can get $a_{21} = 0$. For $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$, considering A_σ instead of A , we have $a_{31} = 0$. So A is diagonal.

Next we show that A is diagonal in the case $a_{12} = 0$. By the relation (1, 1), we have $a_{13} = 0$ or $a_{31} = 0$. In the case $a_{13} = 0$ we have already shown that A is diagonal. Assume $a_{31} = 0$. By the relation (1, 2), we have $a_{13} = 0$ or $a_{32} = 0$. In the case $a_{32} = 0$, for $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, considering A_σ instead of A , we can get the diagonality of A .

We consider the case $a_{i_0, j_0} = 0$ for some $i_0, j_0 (i_0 \neq j_0)$. We set $k_0 \in \{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{i_0, j_0\}$ and

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} i_0 & j_0 & k_0 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ i_0 & j_0 & k_0 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}.$$

Then the (1, 2)-th component of A_σ is 0. So A is diagonal.

From the relation (1, 1), we have

$$a_{12}a_{21} + a_{13}a_{31} = 0, \quad a_{12}a_{21}^2 + a_{13}a_{31}^2 = 0.$$

Since $a_{12}a_{21}a_{31} = a_{12}a_{21}^2$, we have $a_{12} = 0$, $a_{21} = 0$ or $a_{21} = a_{31}$. We assume that A is not diagonal. Then $a_{ij} \neq 0$ if $i \neq j$. So we have

$$a_{21} = a_{31} \neq 0 \text{ and } a_{12} = -a_{13}.$$

From the relation (2, 2) and (3, 3), we can get

$$(a_{12} = a_{32} \neq 0 \text{ and } a_{21} = -a_{23}) \text{ and } (a_{13} = a_{23} \neq 0 \text{ and } a_{31} = -a_{32}).$$

This implies the contradiction

$$a_{12} = -a_{13} = -a_{23} = a_{21} = a_{31} = -a_{32} = -a_{12} \neq 0.$$

□

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