# POSITIVE SOLUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF OPERATOR EQUATIONS $A_1X = C_1$ , $XA_2 = C_2$ , $A_3XA_3^* = C_3$ , AND $A_4XA_4^* = C_4$ IN HILBERT C\*-MODULES\*

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Abstract. Necessary and sufficient conditions are given for the operator system  $A_1X = C_1$ ,  $XA_2 = C_2$ ,  $A_3XA_3^* = C_3$ , and  $A_4XA_4^* = C_4$  to have a common positive solution, where  $A_i$ 's and  $C_i$ 's are adjointable operators on Hilbert C\*-modules. This corrects a published result by removing some gaps in its proof. Finally, a technical example is given to show that the proposed investigation in the setting of Hilbert C\*-modules is different from that of Hilbert spaces.

Key words. Hilbert  $C^*$ -module, Operator equation, Orthogonally complemented submodule.

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**1. Introduction.** Let  $\mathfrak{A}$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra. A Hilbert  $\mathfrak{A}$ -module is a right  $\mathfrak{A}$ -module equipped with an  $\mathfrak{A}$ -valued inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : H \times H \to \mathfrak{A}$  such that H is complete with respect to the induced norm defined by  $||x|| = ||\langle x, x \rangle||^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for  $x \in H$ . Suppose that H and K are Hilbert  $\mathfrak{A}$ -modules. Let  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$  be the set of maps  $A : H \to K$  for which there is a map  $A^* : K \to H$ , called the *adjoint operator* of A, such that

$$\langle Ax, y \rangle = \langle x, A^*y \rangle$$
 for each  $x \in H$  and  $y \in K$ .

It is known that each element A of  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$  must be a bounded linear operator, which is also  $\mathfrak{A}$ -linear in the sense that A(xa) = (Ax)a for each  $x \in H$  and  $a \in \mathfrak{A}$ . We use the notations  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(H)_+$  to denote the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$  and the set of positive elements of  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ , respectively. Let  $A \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ . By  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(A)$  we mean the range and the null space of A, respectively. By [3, Lemma 4.1], we know that A is positive if and only if  $\langle Ax, x \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $x \in H$ .

Let H be a Hilbert  $\mathfrak{A}$ -module. A closed submodule K of H is said to be orthogonally complemented in H if  $H = K \oplus K^{\perp}$ , where

$$K^{\perp} = \{ x \in H : \langle x, y \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } y \in K \}.$$

Evidently, K is orthogonally complemented in H if and only if there exists a projection P on H, whose range is K and  $\mathcal{R}(P) \oplus \mathcal{N}(P) = H$ .

Throughout the rest of this section, H and K are Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules, and A is an element of  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$ . Recall that an operator A is *regular* if  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  is closed in K.

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## R. Eskandari, X. Fang, M.S. Moslehian, and Q. Xu

LEMMA 1.1. (See [3, Theorem 3.2] and [9, Remark 1.1]) The closedness of any one of the following sets implies the closedness of the remaining three sets:

 $\mathcal{R}(A), \ \mathcal{R}(A^*), \ \mathcal{R}(AA^*), \ and \ \mathcal{R}(A^*A).$ 

If  $\mathcal{R}(A)$  is closed, then  $\mathcal{R}(A) = \mathcal{R}(AA^*)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(A^*) = \mathcal{R}(A^*A)$ , and the following orthogonal decompositions hold:

(1.1) 
$$H = \mathcal{N}(A) \oplus \mathcal{R}(A^*) \quad and \quad K = \mathcal{R}(A) \oplus \mathcal{N}(A^*).$$

Recall that each element  $A^-$  of  $A\{1\} = \{X \in \mathcal{L}(K, H) : AXA = A\}$  is called an *inner inverse* of A. Clearly, it can be deduced from [9, Theorem 2.2] that A has an inner inverse if and only if A is regular. In this case, we put

$$(1.2) L_A := I - A^- A,$$

where  $A^- \in A\{1\}$  is unspecified.

The Moore–Penrose inverse  $A^{\dagger}$  of A (if it exists) is the unique element X of  $\mathcal{L}(K, H)$  which satisfies

(1.3) 
$$AXA = A, XAX = X, (AX)^* = AX, \text{ and } (XA)^* = XA.$$

We remark that as in the Hilbert space case,  $A^{\dagger}$  exists if and only if A is regular [9, Theorem 2.2], in which case  $\mathcal{R}(A^{\dagger}) = \mathcal{R}(A^*)$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(A^{\dagger}) = \mathcal{N}(A^*)$ , and

(1.4) 
$$(A^{\dagger})^* = (A^*)^{\dagger}$$
 and  $(AA^*)^{\dagger} = (A^*)^{\dagger}A^{\dagger} = (A^{\dagger})^*A^{\dagger}$ .

If H = K and A is Hermitian, then  $A^{\dagger}$  is also Hermitian and  $AA^{\dagger} = A^{\dagger}A$ .

The study of operator equations has been developed from matrices to infinite dimensional spaces; for example, arbitrary Hilbert spaces and Hilbert  $\mathfrak{A}$ -modules, by several mathematicians; see [1, 4, 8, 11, 12] and references therein. In [8], some necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of common Hermitian and positive solutions  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  for the equations AX = C and XB = D are proposed and some formulas for the general forms of their common solutions are given.

In this paper, we give some necessary and sufficient conditions for the operator system  $A_1X = C_1$ ,  $XA_2 = C_2$ ,  $A_3XA_3^* = C_3$ , and  $A_4XA_4^* = C_4$  to have a common positive solution, where  $A_i$ 's and  $C_i$ 's are adjointable operators on Hilbert C<sup>\*</sup>-modules. This corrects the main result of Song and Wang [7] by removing some gaps in its proof. Finally, we give a technical example and show that our investigation in the setting of Hilbert C<sup>\*</sup>-modules differs from that in the framework of Hilbert spaces.

## **2.** Main results. Throughout this section, H, K, L, and $K_i (1 \le i \le 4)$ are Hilbert $\mathfrak{A}$ -modules.

The proof of Lemma 2.1 below is straightforward.

LEMMA 2.1. Let  $A \in \mathcal{L}(H, K), C \in \mathcal{L}(L, K)$  be such that A is regular. Then the operator equation AX = C has a solution  $X \in \mathcal{L}(L, H)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{R}(C) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A)$ . In this case, the general solution to AX = C is of the form

(2.5) 
$$X = A^{-}C + (I - A^{-}A)T,$$

where  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L, H)$  is arbitrary.



Positive Solutions of a System of Operator Equations in Hilbert  $C^*$ -Modules

LEMMA 2.2. (See [8, Theorem 2.1]) Let  $A, C \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  be such that both A and  $CA^*$  are regular. Then the operator equation AX = C has a solution  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  if and only if  $CA^* \ge 0$  and  $\mathcal{R}(C) = \mathcal{R}(CA^*)$ . In this case, the general positive solution to AX = C is of the form

$$X = C^* (CA^*)^- C + L_A SL_A^*,$$

where  $S \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is arbitrary and  $C^*(CA^*)^-C$  is a positive element, which is independent of the choice of the inner inverse  $(CA^*)^-$ .

LEMMA 2.3. (See [8, Theorem 3.7]) Let  $A_1, C_1 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K), A_2, C_2 \in \mathcal{L}(L, H)$ ,

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ A_2^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad and \quad F = \begin{pmatrix} C_1A_1^* & C_1A_2 \\ (A_1C_2)^* & C_2^*A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

be such that D and F are regular. Then the system

$$(2.6) A_1 X = C_1, \quad X A_2 = C_2, \quad X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$$

has a solution  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  if and only if  $F \ge 0$  and  $\mathcal{R}(E) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(F)$ . In this case, the general positive solution to system (2.6) can be expressed as

$$X = E^* F^- E + L_D T L_D^*,$$

where  $T \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is arbitrary and  $E^*F^-E$  is a positive element, which is independent of the choice of the inner inverse  $F^-$ .

REMARK 2.4. Suppose that  $A \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  and  $C \in \mathcal{L}(K)$  are both regular. It is indicated in [10, Lemma 3.2] that the equation

$$AXA^* = C, \quad X \in \mathcal{L}(H),$$

has a solution  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  if and only if

(2.8) 
$$C \ge 0 \text{ and } \mathcal{R}(C) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A).$$

In this case, the general positive solution for equation (2.7) can be expressed as

(2.9) 
$$X = A^{\dagger}C(A^{\dagger})^{*} + A^{\dagger}C(A^{\dagger})^{*}VF_{A} + F_{A}V^{*}A^{\dagger}C(A^{\dagger})^{*} + F_{A}V^{*}A^{\dagger}C(A^{\dagger})^{*}VF_{A} + F_{A}WF_{A},$$

where  $F_A = I - A^{\dagger}A$ ,  $V \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  is arbitrary, and  $W \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is arbitrary.

The point is, as shown in [2] by Groß for matrices, we can replace  $A^{\dagger}$  in (2.9) by a general inner inverse  $A^{-}$ , and meanwhile give a simplified formula for X. For the sake of completeness, we give a detailed proof of Lemma 2.5 below, using a method somewhat different from that in [2].

LEMMA 2.5. (See [2, Theorem 1]) Suppose that  $A \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  and  $C \in \mathcal{L}(K)$  are both regular such that condition (2.8) is satisfied. Then the general positive solution to equation (2.7) can be expressed as

(2.10) 
$$X = [A^{-}B + L_A Y][A^{-}B + L_A Y]^* + L_A S(L_A)^*,$$

where  $L_A$  is defined by (1.2),  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(K, H)$  is arbitrary,  $S \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is arbitrary, and  $B \in \mathcal{L}(K)$  is an arbitrary operator satisfying  $BB^* = C$ .

383

384

#### R. Eskandari, X. Fang, M.S. Moslehian, and Q. Xu

*Proof.* Let  $B \in \mathcal{L}(K)$  be chosen such that  $BB^* = C$ . By Lemma 1.1, we have  $\mathcal{R}(B) = \mathcal{R}(C)$ ; hence,  $AA^{-}B = B$ , which means that each operator X of the form (2.10) is a positive solution to equation (2.7).

Conversely, suppose that  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is a solution to equation (2.7). Let  $U = XA^* - A^-C$ . Then AU = 0; hence,  $XA^* = A^-C + L_AU$ . Taking the \*-operation, we have

(2.11) 
$$AX = C(A^{-})^{*} + U^{*}(L_{A})^{*} \stackrel{def}{=} C'.$$

Note that  $C'A^* = AXA^* = C$ , which is regular. Note also that X is a positive solution to the equation  $AZ = C', Z \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ ; so by Lemma 2.2, there exists  $S \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  such that

(2.12) 
$$X = (C')^* (C'A^*)^{\dagger} C' + L_A S(L_A)^* = (C')^* (BB^*)^{\dagger} C' + L_A S(L_A)^*.$$

Clearly,  $C(B^{\dagger})^* = BB^*(B^{\dagger})^* = B$ , and, by (1.4), we have  $(BB^*)^{\dagger} = (B^{\dagger})^*B^{\dagger}$ . In view of the observation above, formula (2.10) for X follows immediately from (2.11) and (2.12) by putting  $Y = U(B^{\dagger})^*$ . 

LEMMA 2.6. (See [6, Proposition 1.4.5]) Let x and a be elements in a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  such that  $a \geq 0$  and  $x^*x \leq a$ . If  $0 < \beta < \frac{1}{2}$ , then there exists  $u \in \mathfrak{A}$  with  $||u|| \leq ||a^{\frac{1}{2}-\beta}||$  such that  $x = ua^{\beta}$ .

LEMMA 2.7. Let  $A \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  and  $B \in \mathcal{L}(K)_+$  be such that  $AA^* \leq B$ . Then, for each  $\beta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , there exists  $C \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  such that  $A = B^{\beta}C$ .

*Proof.* We consider the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{L}(H \oplus K)$ , which contains  $\widetilde{A}$  and  $\widetilde{B}$ , where

$$\widetilde{A} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 0 \\ A & 0 \end{array}\right), \quad \widetilde{B} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B \end{array}\right).$$

It is obvious that  $\widetilde{A}(\widetilde{A})^* \leq \widetilde{B}$ ; so, for each  $\beta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , by Lemma 2.6, there exists  $W = \begin{pmatrix} W_{11} & W_{12} \\ C & W_{22} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}$  $\mathcal{L}(H \oplus K)$  such that  $\widetilde{A} = \widetilde{B}^{\beta} W$ . Direct computation yields  $A = B^{\beta} C$ .

Now we state the main result of this paper, which is a modification of [7, Theorem 3.5].

THEOREM 2.8. Let  $A_1, C_1 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_1), A_2, C_2 \in \mathcal{L}(K_2, H), A_3 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_3), A_4 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_4), C_3 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_4), C_3 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_4), C_4 \in \mathcal{L}(H, K_4$  $\mathcal{L}(K_3)$ , and  $C_4 \in \mathcal{L}(K_4)$  be given such that  $A_{11}, M, A_{33}, C_{33}, A_{44}, C_{44}$ , and  $A_{44}L_{A_{33}}$  are all regular, where

$$A_{11} = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ A_2^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 A_1^* & C_1 A_2 \\ C_2^* A_1^* & C_2^* A_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad N = (C_1^* \ C_2) M^- \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix},$$
$$A_{33} = A_3 L_{A_{11}}, \quad A_{44} = A_4 L_{A_{11}}, \quad C_{33} = C_3 - A_3 N A_3^*, \quad C_{44} = C_4 - A_4 N A_4^*.$$

Then the system

A

(2.13) 
$$A_1X = C_1, \ XA_2 = C_2, \ A_3XA_3^* = C_3, \ A_4XA_4^* = C_4, \ X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$$

has a solution  $X \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  if and only if the following three conditions hold:

- (i) The operators  $M, C_{33}$  and  $C_{44}$  are all positive; (ii)  $\mathcal{R}\begin{pmatrix} C_1\\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathcal{R}(M), \mathcal{R}(C_{33}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{33}), \mathcal{R}(C_{44}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{44});$
- (iii) There exist  $S \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  and  $T \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, K_4)$  such that
  - (2.14) $C_S := C_{44} - A_{44} L_{A_{33}} S L^*_{A_{33}} A^*_{44} \ge 0,$

(2.15) 
$$\mathcal{R}\left(C_{S}^{\frac{1}{3}}T - A_{44}A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{44}L_{A_{33}}).$$

Positive Solutions of a System of Operator Equations in Hilbert  $C^*$ -Modules

If conditions (i)–(iii) are satisfied, then the general positive solution X to system (2.13) can be expressed as

(2.16) 
$$X = N + L_{A_{11}} \left( A_{33}^{-} C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}} Y \right) \left( A_{33}^{-} C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}} Y \right)^{*} (L_{A_{11}})^{*} + L_{A_{11}} L_{A_{33}} S L_{A_{33}}^{*} L_{A_{11}}^{*},$$

where  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, H)$  is defined by

385

(2.17) 
$$Y = (A_{44}L_{A_{33}})^{-} \left(C_{S}^{\frac{1}{3}}T - A_{44}A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}\right) + W - (A_{44}L_{A_{33}})^{-}(A_{44}L_{A_{33}})W,$$

in which  $W \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, H)$  is arbitrary.

*Proof.* The proof is carried out along the same line initiated in [7]. We take two steps: firstly, we consider the necessity and secondly, we consider the sufficiency.

(1) Suppose that  $X_0 \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  is a solution to system (2.13). Then from the first two equations in (2.13), we know that  $X_0$  is a positive solution to the equation

(2.18) 
$$A_{11}X = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad X \in \mathcal{L}(H).$$

As both  $A_{11}$  and M are regular, by Lemma 2.3, we conclude that

(2.19) 
$$M \ge 0 \text{ and } \mathcal{R} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathcal{R}(M)$$

and there exists  $V \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  such that

(2.20) 
$$X_0 = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix}^* M^- \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2^* \end{pmatrix} + L_{A_{11}} V L_{A_{11}}^* = N + L_{A_{11}} V L_{A_{11}}^*.$$

Substituting the expression of  $X_0$  above into the third equation in (2.13) yields

Therefore, V is a positive solution to the following equation:

$$A_{33}XA_{33}^* = C_{33}, \quad X \in \mathcal{L}(H).$$

As both  $A_{33}$  and  $C_{33}$  are regular, by (2.8), we conclude that

$$C_{33} \ge 0$$
 and  $\mathcal{R}(C_{33}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{33}),$ 

and by (2.10), there exist  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, H)$  and  $S \in \mathcal{L}(H)_+$  such that

(2.22) 
$$V = \left[A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}}Y\right] \left[A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}}Y\right]^{*} + L_{A_{33}}SL_{A_{33}}^{*}$$

Since  $X_0$  satisfies the last equation in (2.13), by (2.20), we can get

As both  $A_{44}$  and  $C_{44}$  are regular, once again by (2.8), we have

$$C_{44} \ge 0$$
 and  $\mathcal{R}(C_{44}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{44})$ .

# R. Eskandari, X. Fang, M.S. Moslehian, and Q. Xu

We may combine (2.22) and (2.23) to get

(2.24) 
$$\left[A_{44}\left(A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}+L_{A_{33}}Y\right)\right]\left[A_{44}\left(A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}+L_{A_{33}}Y\right)\right]^{*}=C_{5}$$

which means that  $C_S \in \mathcal{L}(K_4)_+$ , and by Lemma 2.7, there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, K_4)$  such that

(2.25) 
$$A_{44}\left(A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}}Y\right) = C_{S}^{\frac{1}{3}}T.$$

Therefore, Y is a solution to the following equation

(2.26) 
$$A_{44}L_{A_{33}}X = C_S^{\frac{1}{3}}T - A_{44}A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad X \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, H).$$

Since  $A_{44}L_{A_{33}}$  is regular, by Lemma 2.1, there exists  $W \in \mathcal{L}(K_3, H)$  such that Y is given by (2.17). We may combine (2.20) with (2.22) to conclude that  $X_0$  can be expressed as (2.16). This completes the proof of the necessity.

(2) Suppose that conditions (i)–(iii) are all satisfied. Let X be given by (2.16) with Y be formulated by (2.17). Then X is positive since its first term N in summation is positive by Lemma 2.3, and its other two terms are also positive. By (2.15), Y is a solution to (2.26); or equivalently, equation (2.25) is satisfied; hence, by the second equation in (2.14), we know that (2.24) is also valid.

Now, let V be defined by (2.22). Then (2.23) follows immediately from (2.22), (2.24), and (2.14). Since  $\mathcal{R}(C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}}) = \mathcal{R}(C_{33}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(A_{33})$ , equation (2.21) can be derived from (2.22). Furthermore, by (2.16) and (2.22), we can conclude that

(2.27) 
$$X = N + L_{A_{11}} V L_{A_{11}}^*.$$

The equation above, together with (2.21) and (2.23), yields the last two equations in (2.13). In view of (2.19), we have

$$A_{11}N = M^*M^- \left(\begin{array}{c} C_1\\ C_2^* \end{array}\right) = MM^- \left(\begin{array}{c} C_1\\ C_2^* \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} C_1\\ C_2^* \end{array}\right),$$

and thus, X formulated by (2.27) is a solution to (2.18); that is, the first two equations in (2.13) are also true. This completes the proof of the sufficiency.

REMARK 2.9. Due to Lemma 2.7, we choose the number  $\frac{1}{3}$  as the power of  $C_S$  in (2.25). Evidently, in the Hilbert space case this number can be changed more naturally to be  $\frac{1}{2}$ , since each closed subspace of a Hilbert space is orthogonally complemented. In fact, based on the equation (2.24) a partial isometry T can be constructed which satisfies

$$A_{44}\left(A_{33}^{-}C_{33}^{\frac{1}{2}} + L_{A_{33}}Y\right) = C_{S}^{\frac{1}{2}}T$$

such that the equation of  $C_S^{\frac{1}{2}}TT^*C_S^{\frac{1}{2}} = C_S$  is satisfied automatically. It is remarkable that the same is not always true for general Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules. We construct a counterexample as follows.

EXAMPLE 2.10. Let  $\Omega = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - 1| \leq 1\}$  and  $\mathfrak{A} = C(\Omega)$  be the C<sup>\*</sup>-algebra consisting of all complex-valued continuous functions on  $\Omega$ . With the inner product defined by  $\langle f, g \rangle = f^*g$ , for  $f, g \in \mathfrak{A}$ , the

387

#### Positive Solutions of a System of Operator Equations in Hilbert $C^*$ -Modules

 $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  itself is also a Hilbert  $\mathfrak{A}$ -module. Define adjointable operators  $A, B, C \in \mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{A})$  by

$$(Af)(z) = \begin{cases} |z|e^{i4\arg z}f(z), & z \neq 0, \\ 0, & z = 0, \end{cases}$$
$$(Cf)(z) = \begin{cases} |z|e^{i\arg z}f(z), & z \neq 0, \\ 0, & z = 0, \end{cases}$$
$$(Bf)(z) = |z|^2 f(z), \end{cases}$$

where  $\arg z \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$  for  $z \neq 0$  is the argument function and  $\arg(0, 0) = 0$ , which is discontinuous only at the origin (0, 0). Then  $B = B^*$  and

$$(A^*f)(z) = \begin{cases} |z|e^{-i4\arg z}f(z), & z \neq 0, \\ 0, & z = 0, \end{cases}$$
$$(C^*f)(z) = \begin{cases} |z|e^{-i\arg z}f(z), & z \neq 0, \\ 0, & z = 0. \end{cases}$$

It follows that  $AA^* = A^*A = C^*C = CC^* = B$ . We show that there does not exist an  $X \in \mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{A})$  such that AX = C. Indeed, if such an X exists, then, for each  $z \neq 0$  and  $f \in \mathfrak{A}$  with  $f(0) \neq 0$ , we have

$$|z|e^{i\arg z}f(z) = (Cf)(z) = (AXf)(z) = |z|e^{i4\arg z}(Xf)(z).$$

Hence, if  $z \neq 0$ , then

(2.28) 
$$(Xf)(z) = e^{i3 \arg z} f(z) \quad \text{for each } f \in \mathfrak{A} \text{ with } f(0) \neq 0.$$

Let f satisfy the condition in (2.28). If  $z \in \Omega$  and  $z = re^{i \arg z} \to 0$  with  $\arg z \longrightarrow \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^-$ , then  $(Xf)(z) \to e^{i\frac{3\pi}{2}}f(0)$ . On the other hand,  $(Xf)(z) \to e^{-i\frac{3\pi}{2}}f(0)$  when  $z \in \Omega$  and  $z = re^{i \arg z} \to 0$  with  $\arg z \longrightarrow \left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^+$ . Hence,  $\lim_{z\to 0} (Xf)(z)$  dose not exist; this shows that  $Xf \notin \mathfrak{A}$ .

REMARK 2.11. The counterexample above shows that Lemma 3.4 stated in [7] is incorrect, which leads to the wrong expression of Y given in (3.5) of [7] and the nonsufficiency of the conditions stated in [7, Theorem 3.5].

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# I L AS

388

R. Eskandari, X. Fang, M.S. Moslehian, and Q. Xu

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