

# Binormal and Idempotent Integral Operators

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## Abstract

In this paper we study the kernel of integral operators as well as kernel of composite integral operator. The conditions for composite integral operator to be binormal, idempotent and projection are obtained.

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**Keywords:** Integral operator, composite integral operator, separable kernel, binormal operator, idempotent operator, projection operator

## 1 Preliminaries

Let  $(X, S, \mu)$  is a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space and let  $\phi : X \rightarrow X$  be a non-singular measurable transformation ( $\mu(E) = 0 \Rightarrow \mu\phi^{-1}(E) = 0$ ). Then a composition transformation, for  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $C_\phi : L^p(\mu) \rightarrow L^p(\mu)$  is defined by  $C_\phi f = f \circ \phi$  for every  $f \in L^p(\mu)$ . In case  $C_\phi$  is continuous, we call it a composition operator induced by  $\phi$ . It is easy to see that  $C_\phi$  is a bounded operator if and only if  $\frac{d\mu\phi^{-1}}{d\mu} = f_\phi$ , the Radon-Nikodym derivative of the measure  $\mu\phi^{-1}$  with respect to the measure  $\mu$ , is essentially bounded. For more detail about composition operators we refer to Nordgen [5], Shapiro [6], Singh and Manhas [10], Singh and Komal [9].

A kernel  $K \in L^p(\mu \times \mu)$  always induces a bounded integral operator

$$T_K : L^p(\mu) \rightarrow L^p(\mu)$$

defined by

$$(T_K f)(x) = \int K(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y).$$

Given a kernel  $K$  and a non-singular measurable function  $\phi : X \rightarrow X$ , the composite integral operator  $T_{K_\phi}$  induced by  $(K, \phi)$  is a bounded linear operator  $T_{K_\phi} : L^p(\mu) \rightarrow L^p(\mu)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (T_{K_\phi} f)(x) &= \int K(x, y) f(\phi(y)) d\mu(y) \\ &= \int K_\phi(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$\begin{aligned} K_\phi(x, y) &= (E(K(x, \cdot)) \circ \phi^{-1} f_o)(y) \\ &= E(K(x, \phi^{-1}(y)) f_o(y)) \\ &= E(K_x(\phi^{-1}(y)) f_o(y)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $E$  is called conditional expectation. For more properties of the expectation operator, see Parthasarthy [7] and Lambert [4]. The integral operators received considerable attention of several mathematicians like Halmos and Sunder [8], Bloom and Kerman [12], Gupta and Komal ([1],[2],[3]). In his paper Whitley [11] established the Lyubic's conjecture [13] and generalized it to Volterra composition operator on  $L^p[0, 1]$ . Gupta and Komal [1] established the conditions which characterize the Hermitian and normal composite integral operators. In this paper we study the some basic operator theoretic properties of composite integral operators. Some conditions which characterize binormal projection and idempotent composite integral operators are established.

$A$  is binormal if  $A^* A A A^* = A A^* A^* A$

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $T_K$  be an integral operator induced by separable kernel on  $L^2(\mu)$ . Then*

$$\text{Ker } T_K = \text{span}(\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\})^\perp$$

and

$$\text{Ker } T_K^* = \text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp.$$

**Proof:** *Firstly, suppose  $f \in \text{span}(\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\})^\perp$  and*

$$K(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x) b_i(y).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (T_K f)(x) &= \int K(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
 &= \int [a_1(x)b_1(y) + a_1(x)b_2(y) + \dots + a_n(x)b_n(y)] f(y) d\mu(y). \\
 &= a_1(x) \int b_1(y) f(y) d\mu(y) + a_2(x) \int b_2(y) f(y) d\mu(y) \\
 &\quad + \dots + a_n(x) \int b_n(y) f(y) d\mu(y) = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $f \in \text{Ker} T_K$ . Thus  $\text{span}(\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\})^\perp \subset \text{Ker} T_K$ .

Conversely, suppose  $f \in \text{Ker} T_K$ .

Then  $(T_K f)(x) = 0$  for  $\mu$ -almost all  $x \in X$ .

$$\Rightarrow a_1(x) \int b_1(y) f(y) d\mu(y) + a_2 \int b_2(y) f(y) d\mu(y) + \dots + a_n \int b_n(y) f(y) d\mu(y) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_x b_1(y) f(y) d\mu(y) = 0, \int_x b_2(y) f(y) d\mu(y) = 0, \dots, \int b_n(y) f(y) d\mu(y) = 0,$$

as  $a_1(x), a_2(x), \dots, a_n(x)$  are linearly independent.

Hence  $f \in \text{span}(\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\})^\perp$ .

This proves that

$$\text{Ker} f = \text{span}(\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\})^\perp.$$

Next, suppose  $g \in \text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle T_K^* g, f \rangle &= \langle g, T_K f \rangle \\
 &= \int g(x) (T_K f)(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int g(x) \int K(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int g(x) \left[ \int \sum a_i(x) b_i(y) f(y) d\mu(y) \right] d\mu(x), \\
 &= \int_X \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \int_X a_i(x) b_i(y) g(x) f(y) d\mu(y) \right] d\mu(x), \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \int_X \left[ \int_X a_i(x) b_i(y) g(x) f(y) d\mu(y) \right] d\mu(x), \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \int_X \left[ \int_X a_i(x) g(x) d\mu(x) \right] b_i(y) f(y) d\mu(y), \\
 &= 0 \text{ for every } f \in L^2(\mu).
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp \subset \text{Ker}T_K^*$ .

To prove the inclusion other way, let  $T_K^*f = 0$ .

Then  $(T_K^*f)(x) = 0$  for  $\mu$ -almost all  $x$ .

or  $\int K^*(x, y)f(y)d\mu(y) = 0$  for  $\mu$  almost all  $x$ .

or  $\int \bar{K}(y, x)f(y)d\mu(y) = 0$  for  $\mu$  almost all  $x$ .

or  $\int \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(y)b_i(x)f(y)d\mu(y) = 0$  for  $\mu$  almost all  $x$ .

or  $\sum_{i=1}^n b_i(x) \left( \int a_i(y)f(y)d\mu(y) \right) = 0$ .

$\Rightarrow \int a_i(y)f(y)d\mu(y) = 0$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$\Rightarrow f \perp a_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

$\Rightarrow f \in \text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp$ .

Thus  $\text{Ker}T_K^* \subset \text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp$ ,

so that

$$\text{Ker}T_K^* = \text{span}(\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\})^\perp$$

**Corollary 1.2** Let  $(X, S, \mu)$  be a non-atomic measure space. Suppose  $K$  is a separable kernel. Then  $T_K$  is never injective on  $L^2(X, S, \mu)$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $K(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x) \cdot b_i(y)$  where  $a_1(x), \dots, a_n(x)$ , and  $b_1(y), b_2(y), \dots, b_n(y)$  are linearly independent vectors. Then  $\text{span}\{a_1(x), a_2(x), \dots, a_n(x)\}$  is finite dimensional.

Choose a non-zero vector  $f \in \text{span}(\{a_1(x), a_2(x), \dots, a_n(x)\})^\perp$ .

Then  $T_K f = 0$ , so that  $T_K$  has non-trivial kernel.

**Corollary 1.3** Let  $(X, S, \mu)$  be a finite atomic measure space and  $K$  be a separable kernel. Then  $T_K$  is injective if and only if  $X$  has  $n$  atoms.

**Proof:** Suppose  $X$  has  $n$  atoms. Then  $L^2(X, S, \mu)$  is  $n$ -dimensional space. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ker}T_K &= \text{span}(\{a_1(x), a_2(x), \dots, a_n(x)\})^\perp \\ &= (L^2(X, S, \mu))^\perp \\ &= \{0\} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1.4** Suppose  $K(x, y)$  is a separable kernel. Then

$$\text{Ker}T_{K_\phi} = \text{span}(\{f \circ E(b_1) \circ \phi^{-1}, f \circ E(b_2) \circ \phi^{-1}, \dots, f \circ E(b_n) \circ \phi^{-1}\})^\perp$$

**Proof:** Suppose  $f \perp \text{span}\{f_o E(b_1) o \phi^{-1}, f_o E(b_2) o \phi^{-1}, \dots, f_o E(b_n) o \phi^{-1}\}$ .  
Then

$$\begin{aligned} (T_{K_\phi} f)(x) &= \int_X K(x, y) f(\phi(y)) d\mu(y) \\ &= \int_X \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x) b_i(y) f(\phi(y)) d\mu(y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x) \int_X b_i(y) f(\phi(y)) d\mu(y) \\ &= \sum a_i(x) \int f_o E(b_i) o \phi^{-1} f(y) d\mu(y) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for  $\mu$ - almost all  $x \in X$ .

Hence

$$\text{Span}(\{f_o E(b_1) o \phi^{-1}, f_o E(b_2) o \phi^{-1}, \dots, f_o E(b_n) o \phi^{-1}\})^\perp \subset \text{Ker} T_{K_\phi}.$$

Again if  $f \in \text{Ker} T_{K_\phi}$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x) \int f_o(y) E(b_i) o \phi^{-1} f(y) d\mu(y) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \int_X f_o(y) E(b_i) o \phi^{-1} f(y) d\mu(y) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow f \perp f_o \cdot E(b_i o \phi^{-1}) &\text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \\ \text{or } f \perp \text{span}(\{f_o \cdot E(b_1) o \phi^{-1}, f_o E(b_2) o \phi^{-1}, \dots, f_o E(b_n) o \phi^{-1}\}) &. \end{aligned}$$

This proves that

$$\text{Ker} T_{K_\phi} \subseteq \text{span}(\{f_o \cdot E(b_1) o \phi^{-1}, f_o E(b_2) o \phi^{-1}, \dots, f_o E(b_n) o \phi^{-1}\})^\perp$$

Thus

$$\text{Ker} T_{K_\phi} = \text{span}(\{f_o \cdot E(b_1) o \phi^{-1}, f_o E(b_2) o \phi^{-1}, \dots, f_o E(b_n) o \phi^{-1}\})^\perp$$

**Theorem 1.5** Let  $K_\phi \in L^2(\mu \times \mu)$ . Then  $T_{K_\phi}$  is binormal if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} &\int \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) K_\phi(z, t) K_\phi^*(t, p) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t) \\ &= \int \int \int K_\phi(x, y) K_\phi^*(y, z) K_\phi^*(z, t) K_\phi(t, p) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof:** Suppose the condition is true.

For  $f, g \in L^2(\mu)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* f, g \rangle &= \int (T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* f)(x) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int [K_\phi^*(x, y) (T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* f)(y) \\
 &\quad d\mu(y)] \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) \left( \int K_\phi(y, z) (T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* f)(z) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. d\mu(z) \right) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) \left( \int K_\phi(z, t) (T_{K_\phi}^* f)(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. d\mu(t) \right) d\mu(z) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) K_\phi(z, t) \left( \int K_\phi^*(t, p) f(p) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. d\mu(p) \right) d\mu(t) d\mu(z) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) K_\phi(z, t) K_\phi^*(t, p) f(p) \\
 &\quad d\mu(p) d\mu(t) d\mu(z) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int \int \int K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) K_\phi(z, t) K_\phi^*(t, p) f(p) \\
 &\quad d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t) f(p) d\mu(p) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \quad \dots(1)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi} f, g \rangle &= \int (T_{K_\phi} T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi}^* T_{K_\phi} f)(x) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int \int \int K_\phi(x, y) K_\phi^*(y, z) K_\phi^*(z, t) K_\phi(t, p) f(p) \\
 &\quad d\mu(p) d\mu(t) d\mu(z) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \\
 &= \int \int \int \int \int K_\phi(x, y) K_\phi^*(y, z) K_\phi^*(z, t) K_\phi(t, p) f(p) \\
 &\quad d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t) f(p) \bar{g}(x) d\mu(x) \quad \dots(2)
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows from (1) and (2) that  $T_{K_\phi}$  is binormal.

Conversely, suppose  $T_{K_\phi}$  is binormal. Take  $f = \chi_E$  and  $g = \chi_F$ , we see that from (1) and (2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int \int_E \int_F K_\phi^*(x, y) K_\phi(y, z) K_\phi(z, t) K_\phi^*(t, p) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t) \\
 &\int \int_E \int_F K_\phi(x, y) K_\phi^*(y, z) K_\phi^*(z, t) K_\phi(t, p) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) d\mu(t)
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $E, F \in S \times S$ . Hence the required condition holds.

**Theorem 1.6** Let  $T_{K_\phi} \in B(L^2(\mu))$ . Then  $T_{K_\phi}$  is an idempotent if and only if  $K_\phi$  is an idempotent, i.e.  $K_\phi^2 = K_\phi$  a.e where

$$K_{\phi^2}(x, y) = \int K_\phi(x, z)K_\phi(z, y)dz.$$

**Proof:** First, suppose  $K_\phi$  is idempotent. Let  $f, g \in L^2(\mu)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_{K_\phi}^2 f, g \rangle &= \langle T_{K_\phi} f, T_{K_\phi}^* g \rangle \\ &= \int T_{K_\phi} f(x) (T_{K_\phi}^* g)(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \int \left( \int_X K_\phi(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \cdot \overline{\int K_\phi^*(x, z) g(z) d\mu(z)} \right) d\mu(x) \\ &= \int \left( \int_X \int K_\phi(x, y) K_\phi(z, x) f(y) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(z) d\mu(y) \right) d\mu(x) \\ &= \int \int \left( \int K_\phi(z, x) K_\phi(x, y) d\mu(x) \right) f(y) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) \\ &= \int \left( \int K_\phi^2(z, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \right) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(z) \\ &= \int (T_{K_\phi} f)(z) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(z) \\ &= \langle T_{K_\phi} f, g \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $T_{K_\phi}$  is an idempotent.

Conversely, suppose  $T_{K_\phi}$  is an idempotent.

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_{K_\phi}^2 f, g \rangle &= \langle T_{K_\phi} f, g \rangle \quad \forall f, g \in L^2(\mu) \\ &= \int \int \int K_\phi(z, x) K_\phi(x, y) d\mu(x) f(y) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) \\ &= \int \int K_\phi(z, x) f(x) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(x) d\mu(z) \\ \Rightarrow \int \int K_\phi^2(z, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(z) \\ &= \int \int K_\phi(z, y) f(y) \bar{g}(z) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $f = \chi_E$  and  $g = \chi_F$  for  $E, F \in S$ .

$$\int_{E \times F} K_\phi^2(z, y) d\mu(y) d\mu(z) = \int_{E \times F} K_\phi(z, y) d\mu(y) d\mu(z).$$

This proves  $K_\phi^2 = K_\phi$ , a.e.

Hence  $K_\phi$  is an idempotent.

**Theorem 1.7** Let  $T_{K_\phi} \in B(L^2(\mu))$ . Then  $T_{K_\phi}$  is projection if and only if  $K_\phi$  is an idempotent and  $K_\phi(x, y) = \overline{K_\phi(y, x)}$ .

**Proof:** The proof follows from the theorem 6.

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