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MITTAG-LEFFLER EXPANSIONS AND SPECTRAL THEORY

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1. Introduction and Summary. Consider a bounded linear operator A acting in a complex Banach space X having some nonzero elements. In this paper we shall assume that $\sigma(A)$, the spectrum of A , consists of 0 and the distinct points $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots$, where $\lambda_n \neq 0$ and $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. We shall denote by $[X]$ the Banach space of all bounded linear operators mapping X into itself, with the usual operator norm. The inverse operator $(\lambda - A)^{-1} \equiv R_\lambda(A)$ (the resolvent of A) is an analytic function from the resolvent set $\rho(A)$ (the complement of $\sigma(A)$) to $[X]$. We shall assume that each of the points λ_n is a simple pole of $R_\lambda(A)$. Let E_n be the residue of $R_\lambda(A)$ at λ_n . Then it is known, from general spectral theory, that

$$(1.1) \quad E_n^2 = E_n, \quad E_n E_m = 0 \text{ if } m \neq n,$$

and further, that $E_n \neq 0, E_n \neq I$. It is also important to note that $AE_n = E_n A$. For these facts and other relevant parts of general theory we refer the reader to Chapter 5 of the author's book [3].

By using the extension of Mittag-Leffler's theorem to vector-valued analytic functions, along with an inversion to convert $R_\lambda(A)$ into a meromorphic function, and then converting back again, we find that $R_\lambda(A)$ can be expressed in the form

$$(1.2) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n^{\nu_n}}{\lambda^{\nu_n}(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n + \phi(\lambda),$$

where each ν_n is a nonnegative integer and ϕ is an entire function of $1/\lambda$. The series involving the E_n 's converges (in the uniform operator topology) uniformly on each compact set in the complement of $\sigma(A)$. It turns out that $\nu_n > 0$ for all sufficiently large values of n . Also, the coefficients in the expansion of ϕ as a power series in $1/\lambda$ are expressible in terms of A and the E_n 's. The details of all this are given in § 2.

The main purpose of this paper is to investigate the particular cases in which ν_n is the same for all values of n . The case $\nu_n \equiv 1$ is the simplest and the most fundamental. In that case the series in (1.2) takes the form

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n \equiv \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n.$$

In a certain sense this series supplies a notation for the entire investigation, for a series of this form occurs in the theory of compact self-adjoint operators in Hilbert space.

Let us suppose, in fact, that T is a compact self-adjoint operator on a complex Hilbert space X of infinite dimension, and let it have distinct nonzero eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots$. Then, if E_n is the projection associated with the spectral set consisting of the single point λ_n , we can represent T in the form

$$(1.3) \quad Tx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n x.$$

The resolvent of T has the representation

$$(1.4) \quad (\lambda - T)^{-1}x = \frac{1}{\lambda}x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n x.$$

For reference, see § 6-4 in [3]. These series representations are also valid in the forms

$$(1.5) \quad T = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n,$$

$$(1.6) \quad (\lambda - T)^{-1} = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} \right] E_n,$$

with convergence in the sense of the operator norm. To prove (1.5), for example, we make use of the fact that in this situation the E_n 's themselves are self-adjoint and mutually orthogonal. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| Tx - \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k E_k x \right\|^2 &= \left(\sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \lambda_k E_k x ; \sum_{j=n+1}^{\infty} \lambda_j E_j x \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^2 (E_k x, x) = \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^2 \|E_k x\|^2 \leq \|x\|^2 \sup_{k>n} \lambda_k^2. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality results from the fact that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|E_k x\|^2 \leq \|x\|^2.$$

Since $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$, it follows that

$$\sup_{\|x\| \leq 1} \left\| Tx - \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k E_k x \right\| \rightarrow 0$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$; thus (1.5) is proved. The proof of (1.6) is entirely similar in principle.

Let us now return to the general context of (1.2). Our first main theorem is concerned with the case in which $v_n = 1$ for all values of n

(actually if we merely assume that $\nu_n \leq 1$ for all values of n , we can alter the function Φ slightly in (1.2) and thereby arrange to make $\nu_n = 1$ for every value of n).

FIRST MAIN THEOREM. *Let A be a bounded linear operator on the complex Banach space X , with spectrum and spectral projections $\{E_n\}$ as set forth at the beginning of this section. Suppose that the resolvent $R_\lambda(A)$ is representable in the form*

$$(1.7) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n + \Phi(\lambda),$$

where Φ is an entire function of $1/\lambda$. Then there exist bounded operators B_1, C_1 such that B_1 and C_1 commute with A , $B_1 C_1 = C_1 B_1 = 0$, B_1 has the same spectrum as A , C_1 is quasi-nilpotent and hence has spectrum consisting of the single point 0, and, finally,

$$(1.8) \quad A = B_1 + C_1.$$

Furthermore,

$$(1.9) \quad B_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n,$$

$$(1.10) \quad R_\lambda(B_1) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n,$$

and

$$(1.11) \quad R_\lambda(A) = R_\lambda(B_1) + R_\lambda(C_1) - \frac{I}{\lambda}$$

The proof is given in §3.

The second main theorem is concerned with the case in which $\nu_n = p$ (where $p > 1$) for all values of n . In other words, the spectrum of A is as before, but it is assumed that for some $p > 1$ the resolvent of A is expressible in the form

$$(1.12) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n^p}{\lambda^p(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n + \Phi(\lambda),$$

where Φ is an entire function of $1/\lambda$.

SECOND MAIN THEOREM. *When $R_\lambda(A)$ is expressible in the form (1.12), the first main theorem is applicable to the operator A^p , and the result is that there is a decomposition*

$$(1.13) \quad A^p = B_p + C_p,$$

where

$$(1.14) \quad B_p = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n^p E_n ,$$

and the relations between A^p, B_p, C_p are the same as the relations between A, B_1, C_1 in the first main theorem, and

$$(1.15) \quad R_\lambda(B_p) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n^p} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n .$$

The proof of this second theorem is given in § 4.

Subject to the general conditions on A stated at the outset of the paper, there is a sort of “simple canonical form of order p ” which $R_\lambda(A)$ may take under certain conditions. It is

$$(1.16) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \frac{A}{\lambda^2} + \cdots + \frac{A^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n^p}{\lambda^p(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n .$$

The infinite series here may also be written in the form

$$(1.17) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda^2} - \cdots - \frac{\lambda_n^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} \right] E_n .$$

When (1.16) holds we also have

$$(1.18) \quad A^p = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^p E_k .$$

It is shown in § 5 that, conversely, if $\nu_n = p$ for all n (where $p \geq 1$), and if (1.18) holds, then $R_\lambda(A)$ can be expressed in the form (1.16).

When (1.16) holds for a certain value of p , it also holds for the next larger value of p . This is clear from (1.17) and (1.18). If (1.16) holds and if p is minimal—i.e. if (1.16) does not hold with p replaced by a smaller exponent q , we shall say that A is of finite type p . There is a growth condition on $R_\lambda(A)$ which insures that A shall be of finite type not exceeding p . This is the subject of our third main theorem.

THIRD MAIN THEOREM. Suppose there exists a sequence $\{C_n\}$ of rectifiable closed Jordan curves of the following sort:

(1) The origin and $\lambda_{n+1}, \lambda_{n+2}, \dots$ are inside C_n , but $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ are outside C_n ;

(2) if $\varepsilon_n = \max |t|$ for t on C_n , then $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, and $l(C_n) = O(\varepsilon_n)$, where $l(C_n)$ is the length of C_n ;

(3) if $M_n = \max \|R_t(A)\|$ for t on C_n , then $\varepsilon_n^{p+1} M_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$; here p denotes some positive integer.

Under these conditions A is of some finite type not exceeding p .

This theorem is proved in § 5.

The last two sections of the paper (§§ 6, 7) are concerned with operators of the form

$$B = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n ,$$

where the series converges in $[X]$, the E_n 's are mutually orthogonal non-zero projections, and $\{\lambda_n\}$ is a sequence of distinct constants (which must necessarily converge to zero). In § 6 two different kinds of conditions are given which are sufficient to insure that B is of finite type 1. One condition bears on the sequence $\{\lambda_n\}$. It is that the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n|$$

be convergent. This is of course satisfied if the λ_n 's approach 0 monotonely along some ray. The other condition bears on the projections E_n . It is that for all finite sets of constants c_1, \dots, c_n

$$\left\| \sum_{k=1}^n c_k E_k \right\| \leq M \sup_i |c_i| ,$$

where M is some absolute constant. This condition is satisfied (with $M=1$) if in particular the space X is a Hilbert space and the projections are symmetric and mutually orthogonal.

In § 7 some unsettled questions regarding B are raised, for the case in which the foregoing conditions are not satisfied.

Our first main theorem is somewhat reminiscent of Dunford's theory of spectral operators, as developed in [2], because a spectral operator, in Dunford's sense, admits a decomposition as a sum of a spectral operator of scalar type and a quasi-nilpotent operator. However, the operator B_1 of (1.9) need not be a spectral operator, for examples may be constructed in which the norms $\{\|E_n\|\}$ form an unbounded sequence.

2. The Mittag-Leffler expansion of the resolvent. Let f be a function which is analytic in the entire complex z -plane except for simple poles at a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots , where $a_n \neq 0$ and $a_n \rightarrow \infty$. The values of f are assumed to be in a complex Banach space. Let the residue of f at a_n be r_n . According to the classical theorem of Mittag-Leffler, whose statement and proof remain valid when the function values are in a Banach space, there exists a sequence $\{\nu_n\}$ of nonnegative integers such that if

$$(2.1) \quad p_n(z) = -\frac{r_n}{a_n} \left[1 + \frac{z}{a_n} + \dots + \left(\frac{z}{a_n} \right)^{\nu_n} \right] ,$$

then

$$(2.2) \quad f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{r_n}{z - a_n} - p_n(z) \right] + \phi(z),$$

where ϕ is an entire function of z and the first series in (2.2) converges uniformly on each compact set which contains none of the a_n 's.

It may be noted that $p_n(z)$ is a partial sum of the Taylor's series of the function

$$\frac{r_n}{z - a_n}$$

when it is expanded in powers of z .

Let us now consider $R_\lambda(A)$ as a function of λ , where A is the operator described in the first paragraph of § 1. The function values here are in $[X]$. If we set $z = 1/\lambda$ and $f(z) = R_\lambda(A)$, the fact that $R_\lambda(A)$ has a simple pole with residue E_n at λ_n is readily found to mean that f has a simple pole of residue $(-1/\lambda_n^2 E_n)$ at $z = 1/\lambda_n$. When we write

$$z = \frac{1}{\lambda}, \quad a_n = \frac{1}{\lambda_n}, \quad r_n = -\frac{1}{\lambda_n^2} E_n, \quad \phi(\lambda) = \phi(z)$$

in (2.2), we find, after some simplification,

$$(2.3) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - P_n(\lambda) \right] E_n + \phi(\lambda),$$

where ϕ is an entire function of $1/\lambda$, and

$$(2.4) \quad P_n(\lambda) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\lambda_n} \left[\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda} + \dots + \left(\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda} \right)^{\nu_n} \right] & \text{if } \nu_n \geq 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } \nu_n = 0. \end{cases}$$

It is an easy matter to verify that

$$\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - P_n(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda_n^{\nu_n}}{\lambda^{\nu_n}(\lambda - \lambda_n)};$$

consequently (2.4) and (1.2) are equivalent.

We shall refer to (2.3) or (1.2) as a Mittag-Leffler development of $R_\lambda(A)$. It is not claimed to be unique, since there is considerable freedom in the choice of the integers ν_1, ν_2, \dots .

The fact that $R_\lambda(A)$ is a resolvent has many implications for the structure of the series (2.3). We shall proceed to explore these implications.

LEMMA 2.1. *It follows from (1.2) that $\nu_n > 0$ for all sufficiently large values of n .*

Proof. We have $\|E_n\| \geq 1$ as a result of the fact that E_n is a projection. Now

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda} \right)^{\nu_n} \frac{E_n}{\lambda - \lambda_n} = 0 ,$$

as a result of the convergence of the series in (1.2). Since $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$, the assertion of the lemma must be true, if we are to avoid a contradiction.

Let us now express $\phi(\lambda)$ in the form

$$(2.5) \quad \phi(\lambda) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{Q_n}{\lambda^n} ,$$

where the series converges for all nonzero values of λ . We shall see how to obtain information about the Q_n 's by contour integration.

LEMMA 2.2. *The coefficients Q_n in (2.5) are given by the formulas*

$$(2.6) \quad Q_0 = 0 ,$$

$$(2.7) \quad Q_1 = I - \sum_{\nu_n=0} E_n ,$$

$$(2.8) \quad Q_{k+1} = A^k - \sum_{\nu_n \leq k} \lambda_n^k E_n , \quad (k \geq 1) .$$

It is part of the implication here that, if there are infinitely many ν_n not exceeding k , the series in (2.8) is convergent.

Proof. We know that

$$(2.9) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \frac{A}{\lambda^2} + \frac{A^2}{\lambda^3} + \dots$$

when $|\lambda| > \|A\|$. Hence, integration around a very large circle centered at $\lambda = 0$ gives

$$(2.10) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \lambda^k R_\lambda(A) d\lambda = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k = -1 , \\ I & \text{if } k = 0 , \\ A^k & \text{if } k \geq 1 . \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, we can compute the integral in (2.10) by using (2.3) and (2.5). The calculations are simple, and formulas (2.6), (2.7) and (2.8) are the results.

3. The case $\nu_n \leq 1$ for all n . In this section we assume that ν_n never exceeds 1. We may just as well assume that $\nu_n = 1$ for all values of n , for, since there can be only finitely many integers n for which $\nu_n = 0$, it is easy to see with the aid of Lemma 2.2 that we can write

$$(3.1) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^{n+1}} \left[A^n - \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k E_k \right].$$

Let us define an operator B_1 by the formula

$$(3.2) \quad B_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n.$$

The convergence of this series (in the uniform operator topology) is assured by Lemma 2.2.

LEMMA 3.1. B_1 has the same spectrum as A , and

$$(3.3) \quad R_\lambda(B_1) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n.$$

Proof. Let us denote by S_λ the right member of the formula (3.3); it is defined when $\lambda \in \rho(A)$, where $\rho(A)$ denotes the resolvent set of A . From (1.1) we see that

$$(3.4) \quad E_m S_\lambda = \frac{E_m}{\lambda} + \left(\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_m} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right) E_m = \frac{E_m}{\lambda - \lambda_m}.$$

Moreover, S_λ commutes with each E_n and hence with B_1 . Using (3.4) we see that

$$B_1 S_\lambda = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \lambda_m E_m S_\lambda = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_m E_m}{\lambda - \lambda_m}.$$

But

$$S_\lambda = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n E_n}{\lambda(\lambda - \lambda_n)}.$$

Hence

$$B_1 S_\lambda = \lambda \left(S_\lambda - \frac{I}{\lambda} \right) = \lambda S_\lambda - I,$$

or

$$(\lambda - B_1) S_\lambda = I.$$

Since B_1 and S_λ commute, it now follows that $(\lambda - B)^{-1}$ exists and is

equal to S_λ when $\lambda \in \rho(A)$. Hence $\rho(A) \subset \rho(B_1)$.

It remains to prove that $\rho(B_1) \subset \rho(A)$, or what is the same, that $\sigma(A) \subset \sigma(B_1)$. Now, elements x in the range of E_n are characterized by the relation $E_n x = x$. Since $E_n \neq 0$, we can choose an x of this kind such that $x \neq 0$. Then

$$B_1 x = B_1 E_n x = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k E_k E_n x = \lambda_n E_n x = \lambda_n x .$$

This shows that λ_n is an eigenvalue of B_1 . Since the spectrum of an operator is a closed set, it follows that $\sigma(A) \subset \sigma(B_1)$. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Proof of the first main theorem. We now come to the proof of this theorem, whose statement appears in §1. Let us define

$$C_1 = A - B_1 .$$

It follows readily from (3.2) and (1.1) that

$$(3.5) \quad B^k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n^k E_n \quad \text{if } k \geq 1 .$$

From (3.1) and Lemma 2.2 we see that

$$(3.6) \quad R_\lambda(A) = R_\lambda(B_1) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{Q_n}{\lambda^n} ,$$

where

$$(3.7) \quad Q_{n+1} = A^n - B_1^n \quad \text{if } n \geq 1 .$$

We observe that $Q_2 = A - B_1 = C_1$. We shall prove that

$$(3.8) \quad Q_2 B_1 = B_1 Q_2 = 0 ,$$

and that

$$(3.9) \quad Q_{n+1} = Q_2^n \quad \text{if } n \geq 2 .$$

To prove (3.8) we start by observing that, since λ_n is a first-order pole of $R_\lambda(A)$, we have the relation

$$(3.10) \quad (A - \lambda_n) E_n = 0 ,$$

This is because $(A - \lambda_n) E_n$ is the coefficient of $(\lambda - \lambda_n)^{-2}$ in the Laurent expansion of $R_\lambda(A)$ about the point $\lambda = \lambda_n$; see formulas (5.8.1) and (5.8.6) in [3], p. 306. The same reasoning, or a direct argument from (3.2), shows that

$$(3.11) \quad (B_1 - \lambda_n) E_n = 0 ,$$

It follows that

$$Q_2 E_n = (A - B_1) E_n = 0 ,$$

and from (3.2) we then deduce $Q_2 B_1 = 0$. Since E_n commutes with A and B_1 , (3.8) is now proved.

From (3.6) we see that

$$(3.12) \quad I = (\lambda - A) R_\lambda(B_1) + (\lambda - A) \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{Q_n}{\lambda^n}$$

when $\lambda \in \rho(A)$. Now $A = B_1 + Q_2$, and hence

$$(\lambda - A) R_\lambda(B_1) = (\lambda - B_1 - Q_2) R_\lambda(B_1) = I - Q_2 R_\lambda(B_1) .$$

Going back to (3.12) and using the Neumann expansion for $R_\lambda(B_1)$, we find that, for all sufficiently large values of λ ,

$$0 = -Q_2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_1^n}{\lambda^{n+1}} + (\lambda - B_1 - Q_2) \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{Q_n}{\lambda^n} .$$

On comparing coefficients, we obtain the recurrence relations

$$(3.13) \quad Q_{n+1} = (B_1 + Q_2) Q_n \quad \text{if } n \geq 2 .$$

In view of (3.8), the truth of (3.9) now follows at once by induction.

The series

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{Q_n}{\lambda^n}$$

now takes the form

$$(3.14) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_1^n}{\lambda^{n+1}}$$

Since the series converges when $\lambda \neq 0$, it follows that C_1 is quasi-nilpotent, i.e. that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_1^n\|^{1/n} = 0$$

and that $\sigma(C_1)$ is the single point 0. Moreover, in view of the form of the Neumann expansion, the series in (3.14) has the value

$$R_\lambda(C_1) - \frac{I}{\lambda} .$$

In connection with these arguments, see § 5.2 of [3]. The proof of the first main theorem is now completed.

4. **The case $\nu_n = p$ for all n .** According to Lemma 2.2, the form of $R_\lambda(A)$ in this case is

$$(4.1) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \frac{A}{\lambda^2} + \cdots + \frac{A^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} \\ + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} - \cdots - \frac{\lambda_n^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} \right] E_n \\ + \sum_{n=p}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^{n+1}} \left[A^n - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^n E_k \right].$$

We remark in passing that if we merely assume $\nu_n \leq p$ for all n , $R_\lambda(A)$ can still be brought to the form (4.1), so that one might as well assume $\nu_n = p$ for all n . Also, the expansion (4.1) will be valid if $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \nu_n = p$, for in that case $\nu_n \leq p$ when n is sufficiently large, and it is possible, by a finite number of rearrangements, to arrange matters just as they would be if we had $\nu_n \leq p$ for *all* values of n .

Now we define an operator B_p by the formula

$$(4.2) \quad B_p = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n^p E_n,$$

and we proceed to prove the second main theorem, as stated in §1.

By the spectral mapping theorem (see §5.71 of [3]) we know that $\sigma(A^p)$ consists of 0 and the points $\lambda_1^p, \lambda_2^p, \lambda_3^p, \dots$. We shall compute the resolvent of A^p . If λ is different from 0 and all of the λ_n^p , we know by the operational calculus that

$$(\lambda - A^p)^{-1} = f(A), \text{ where } f(t) = (\lambda - t^p)^{-1};$$

see §5-6 of [3], especially Theorem 5.6-B. Thus

$$(4.3) \quad (\lambda - A^p)^{-1} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{1}{\lambda - t^p} R_t(A) dt,$$

where the integral is extended over the boundary of a Cauchy domain which contains $\sigma(A)$ and whose closure excludes all the p th roots of λ . When we use (4.1) to give $R_t(A)$, and compute the integral in (4.3) by term-by-term integration, the result is

$$(4.4) \quad (\lambda - A^p)^{-1} = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n^p} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n \\ + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda^{r+1}} \left[A^{rp} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^{rp} E_k \right].$$

It is a simple matter to show that the series with index n converges

uniformly on compact subsets of $\rho(A^p)$, while the series with index r converges whenever $\lambda \neq 0$.

A comparison of (4.4) and (3.1) now shows that the first main theorem is applicable to A^p . We have A^p, λ_n^p, B_p in place of A, λ_n, B_1 , respectively. There is one minor point which calls for comment. The points $\lambda_1^p, \lambda_2^p, \dots$ need not all be distinct, even though the points $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$ are all distinct. This is not an essential matter, however. If several of the λ_n^p are the same, the terms which involve them can be combined, and the sum of the corresponding E_n 's is a projection. This concludes the proof of the second main theorem.

5. Operations of finite type p . Let us start out by assuming that A is such that $\nu_n = p$ for all values of n , so that (4.1) holds. Let us also assume that

$$(5.1) \quad A^p = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^p E_k,$$

so that the C_p of (1.13) is 0 in this case. By (3.10) we know that $AE_k = \lambda_k E_k$. Hence from (5.1) it follows by induction that

$$A^n = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k^n E_k$$

if $n \geq p$. We then see from (4.1) that $R_\lambda(A)$ has the form

$$(5.2) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \dots + \frac{A^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} - \dots - \frac{\lambda_n^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} \right] E_n,$$

which means that A is of finite type $\leq p$ (see §1). Conversely, from (5.2), written more conveniently in the form (1.16), we readily deduce (5.1) (multiply by λ^p and integrate around a contour enclosing $\sigma(A)$).

Let us now undertake the proof of the third main theorem, as stated in §1. The motivation for this theorem is an expansion theorem for meromorphic functions, due originally to Cauchy, but conveniently accessible in Titchmarsh's text [4] (§3.2 and §3.21).

Let λ be confined to a compact set S lying in $\rho(A)$. Let Γ be a circle with center at the origin, large enough to enclose $S, \sigma(A)$, and all the contours C_1, C_2, \dots . Consider the integrals (in the counterclockwise sense)

$$I_n = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c_n} \frac{t^p}{\lambda - t} R_t(A) dt,$$

$$J = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{t^p}{\lambda - t} R_t(A) dt.$$

Evidently $J - I_n$ is equal to the sum of the residues of the integrand at the points $\lambda, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$. This sum of residues is

$$-\lambda^p R_\lambda(A) + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\lambda_k^p}{\lambda - \lambda_k} E_k .$$

We can calculate the value of J , for on Γ

$$R_t(A) = \frac{I}{t} + \frac{A}{t^2} + \frac{A^2}{t^3} + \dots$$

and

$$\frac{t^p}{\lambda - t} = -t^{p-1} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{t} + \frac{\lambda^2}{t^2} + \dots \right) .$$

It then follows readily that

$$(5.3) \quad J = -(A^{p-1} + \lambda A^{p-2} + \dots + \lambda^{p-1} I) .$$

Hence

$$(5.4) \quad R_\lambda(A) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \frac{A}{\lambda^2} + \dots + \frac{A^{p-1}}{\lambda^p} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\lambda_k^p}{\lambda^p(\lambda - \lambda_k)} E_k + \frac{1}{\lambda^p} I_n .$$

We shall now prove that $I_n \rightarrow 0$ uniformly with respect to λ in S . This will complete the proof of the third main theorem. Using the notation established in the theorem itself, we see that

$$|I_n| \leq \frac{\varepsilon_n^p}{2\pi(|\lambda| - \varepsilon_n)} l(C_n) M_n ,$$

provided that $\varepsilon_n < |\lambda|$. Since $l(C_n) = O(\varepsilon_n)$, $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$, and S is a compact set not containing the origin, the result now follows from the assumption that $\varepsilon_n^{p+1} M_n \rightarrow 0$.

6. Some sufficient conditions for operators of finite type 1. Let us suppose that E_1, E_2, \dots are bounded projections on X such that $E_n \neq 0$ and $E_m E_n = 0$ if $m \neq n$. Then $E_n \neq I$. For, $E_n = I$ for some n would imply $0 = E_n E_{n+1} = E_{n+1}$. Next, let us suppose $\{\lambda_n\}$ is a sequence of distinct constants such that the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n$$

is convergent in $[X]$. (This implies that $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$.) Let

$$(6.1) \quad B = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n ,$$

We ask the question: What further conditions, if any, are required to assure us that B is of finite type 1? The necessary and sufficient condition for this is that all points except 0 and the λ_n 's be in $\rho(B)$, and that

$$(6.2) \quad R_\lambda(B) = \frac{I}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] E_n .$$

The proof of Lemma 3.1, if we re-read it in the present context, allows us to assert the following:

LEMMA 6.1. *With the assumptions made in the first paragraph of this section, the operator B defined by (6.1) is of finite type 1 if and only if the series on the right in (6.2) converges uniformly on compact subsets of the λ -plane which do not contain 0 or any of the λ_n 's.*

We shall give two types of conditions which enable us to utilize the foregoing lemma.

THEOREM 6.2. *In addition to the assumptions made in the paragraph leading up to (6.1), let us assume that the series*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n|$$

is convergent. Then the operator B defined by (6.1) is of finite type 1.

Proof. The argument is like that in certain classical tests for non-absolute convergence (see, e.g. [1], pp. 25-26 and pp. 98-100). Let S be a compact subset of the plane of the type mentioned in Lemma 6.1. Then there is a positive constant M such that $|(\lambda - \lambda_n)^{-1}| \leq M$ for all n if λ is in S . Let

$$r_0 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n ,$$

$$r_k = \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n . \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Let

$$v_n(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_n} .$$

Then $|v_n(\lambda)| \leq M$ when λ is in S , and it is easy to see that

$$(6.3) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |v_{n+1}(\lambda) - v_n(\lambda)| \leq M^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n| .$$

It suffices to prove that the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n v_n(\lambda) E_n$$

converges uniformly on S . Now, if $p \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^p \lambda_{n+k} v_{n+k}(\lambda) E_{n+k} &= \sum_{k=1}^p \{v_{n+k}(\lambda) - v_{n+k-1}(\lambda)\} r_{n+k-1} \\ &\quad + r_n v_n(\lambda) - r_{n+p} v_{n+p}(\lambda), \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{n+k} v_{n+k}(\lambda) E_{n+k} \right\| &\leq \sup_{k \geq n} \|r_k\| \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |v_{n+1}(\lambda) - v_n(\lambda)| + 2M \right\} \\ &\leq \sup_{k \geq n} \|r_k\| \left\{ M^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n| + 2M \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $r_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, this finishes the proof.

Observe that the geometrical meaning of the convergence of the series (6.3) is that the polygonal path formed by joining $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots$ in succession shall have finite length. This is true, in particular, if the λ_n 's approach the origin monotonely along some ray.

THEOREM 6.3. *Suppose that $\{E_n\}$ is a sequence of projections on the Banach space X , of such a character that $E_n \neq 0$ and $E_n E_m = 0$ if $m \neq n$. Suppose further that there is some constant M such that, for every finite set of constants c_1, \dots, c_n , we have*

$$(6.4) \quad \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n c_k E_k \right\| \leq \sup_i |c_i|.$$

Then, if $\{\lambda_n\}$ is any sequence of distinct constants such that $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$, the series

$$(6.5) \quad B = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n$$

converges in $[X]$ and defines an operator of finite type 1.

Proof. The convergence of (6.5) results from (6.4), for, if $m < n$

$$\left\| \sum_{k=m+1}^n \lambda_k E_k \right\| \leq M \sup_{m < i \leq n} |\lambda_i|,$$

and the Cauchy convergence condition is satisfied, since $\lambda_n \rightarrow 0$.

Now let S be any compact set which does not contain 0 or any of the λ_n 's. Then

$$\inf |\lambda - \lambda_n| = \delta > 0 \quad (\lambda \in S, n = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Hence, for $\lambda \in S$ and $m < n$

$$\left\| \sum_{k=m+1}^n \frac{\lambda_k}{\lambda - \lambda_k} E_k \right\| \leq \frac{M}{\delta} \sup_{m < k \leq n} |\lambda_k|.$$

The uniform convergence on S of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda - \lambda_n} E_n$$

is thus established, and the conclusion follows from Lemma 6.1.

The condition (6.4) is automatically satisfied (with $M = 1$) if $\{E_n\}$ is a sequence of nonzero mutually orthogonal projections in Hilbert space. For, in this case we can first of all establish that

$$(6.6) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|E_n x\|^2 \leq \|x\|^2$$

for each x . In fact, let

$$v_k = \frac{E_k x}{\|E_k x\|} \text{ if } E_k x \neq 0, \quad v_k = 0 \text{ otherwise.}$$

The $(v_j, v_k) = 0$ if $j \neq k$, and $\|v_k\|$ is either 0 or 1. Hence, since an easy calculation shows that $(x, v_k) = \|E_k x\|$, we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|E_n x\|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |(x, v_n)|^2 \leq \|x\|^2,$$

by the Bessel inequality. It now follows, using (6.6), that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n c_k E_k x \right\|^2 &= \sum_{k=1}^n |c_k|^2 \|E_k x\|^2 \\ &\leq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \|E_k x\|^2 \right) \sup_k |c_k|^2 \\ &\leq \|x\|^2 \sup_k |c_k|^2. \end{aligned}$$

From this we infer

$$\left\| \sum_{k=1}^n c_k E_k \right\| \leq \sup_k |c_k|.$$

7. Some open questions. Let us consider an operator B as defined by (6.1), and let us assume nothing more than is specified in the first paragraph of § 6. It is not clear that this is enough to give us an operator of finite type 1. Indeed, the nature of $\sigma(B)$ is not clear. We can prove that each λ_n is an eigenvalue, but it is not evident that a λ different from 0 and all the λ_n 's is in $\rho(B)$. We shall prove, however, that *for such a λ the range of $\lambda - B$ is dense in X and consists of exactly those elements $y \in X$ for which the series*

$$(7.1) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda - \lambda_n} E_n y$$

is convergent. Moreover, such a λ is not an eigenvalue of B .

Proof of the italicized assertions: With λ as indicated, suppose y is in the range of $\lambda - B$, so that $(\lambda - B)x = y$ for some x . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda x - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E_n x &= y, \\ \lambda E_j x - \lambda_j E_j x &= E_j y, \\ E_j x &= \frac{E_j y}{\lambda - \lambda_j}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\lambda x - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n E_n y}{\lambda - \lambda_n} = y,$$

or

$$(7.2) \quad x = \frac{1}{\lambda} y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda(\lambda - \lambda_n)} E_n y.$$

Thus the series in (7.2) converges, and (7.2) defines x as the unique vector such that $(\lambda - B)x = y$. This guarantees that λ is not an eigenvalue of B .

Suppose now that y is a vector such that the series (7.1) is convergent (λ being fixed, different from 0 and all the λ_n 's). Define a vector x by the series (7.2). A direct calculation shows that

$$E_j x = \frac{E_j y}{\lambda - \lambda_j},$$

whence

$$x = \frac{1}{\lambda} y + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda} E_n x,$$

or $(\lambda - B)x = y$.

We have now proved all of the italicized assertions except the assertion that the range of $\lambda - B$ is dense in X . To do this we consider the first and second conjugate spaces X' , X'' , and the conjugate operators

$$B' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E'_n, \quad B'' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n E''_n$$

The original assumptions about B and the E_n 's carry over to these conjugate operators, and, accordingly, a λ different from 0 and all the λ_n 's is not an eigenvalue of B' or of B'' . Now, if the range of $\lambda - B$ were not dense in X , this would imply that λ is an eigenvalue of B' (see Theorem 4.6-E, p. 226, or the state diagram, p. 237, in [3]). Hence the range of $\lambda - B$ is dense in X , and likewise the range of $\lambda - B'$ is dense in X' . A perusal of the state diagram in [3] now shows that a λ different from 0 and all the λ_n 's, if indeed such a λ can be in $\sigma(B)$, is in the continuous spectrum of B . That is, $\lambda - B$ has range dense in X , but the inverse is discontinuous. Likewise for λ in relation to B' .

Supplementary note: After this paper had been accepted for publication, a discussion of its contents with Mr. Earl Berkson led him to settle the problems of this final section very neatly. His results are in the immediately following paper. Mr. Berkson also spotted some ambiguity in the concept of an operator of finite type. His comments of clarification, and his interesting example of a resolvent with a Mittag-Leffler development which is not unconditionally convergent, should be noted by readers of my paper.

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