# Pacific Journal of Mathematics

DISJOINT INVARIANT SUBSPACES

MALCOLM JAY SHERMAN

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# DISJOINT INVARIANT SUBSPACES

# MALCOLM J. SHERMAN

Let  $H^2_{\mathscr{H}}$  denote the (separable) Hilbert space of all functions  $F(e^{i\theta})$  defined on the unit circle with values in the separable (usually infinite dimensional) Hilbert space  $\mathscr{H}$ , and which are weakly in the Hardy class  $H^2$ . For a closed subspace of  $H^2_{\mathscr{H}}$  "invariant" means invariant under the right shift operator. Such an invariant subspace is said to be of full range if it is of the form  $\mathscr{U}H^2_{\mathscr{H}}$ , where  $\mathscr{U}(e^{i\theta})$  is a.e. a unitary operator on  $\mathscr{H}$ ; i.e., an inner function. We show that if  $\mathscr{H}$  is infinite dimensional there exists an uncountable family  $\{\mathscr{M}_{\alpha}\}$  of invariant subspaces of  $H^2_{\mathscr{H}}$  of full range such that  $\mathscr{M}_{\alpha} \cap \mathscr{M}_{\beta} = (0)$  if  $\alpha \neq \beta$ .

This extends a theorem in the author's paper [2, p. 169] asserting the existence of *two* invariant subspaces  $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}$  of full range such that  $\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{N} = (0)$ . For basic definitions and notations consult [1], particularly Chapter VI.

For a bounded operator T on  $\mathscr{H}$ , ||T|| < 1, define the Rota subspace  $\mathscr{M}_T$  of T to be all  $F \in H^2_{\mathscr{R}}$  with Fourier series  $F = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varphi_k e^{kix}$ such that  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} T^k \varphi_k = 0$ . It is known [2, p. 161] that  $\mathcal{M}_T$  is of full range. It was shown in [2, p. 169] that if T, U are-one-to one operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  with disjoint ranges, then  $\mathcal{M}_{T} \cap \mathcal{M}_{U} = (0)$ . It suffices then to prove the existence in a separable infinite dimensional Hilbert space of an uncountable family of bounded one-to-one operators with disjoint ranges. To do this it suffices to exhibit an uncountable family of disjoint *closed* infinite dimensional subspaces of a separable Hilbert space, since the subspaces are then unitarily equivalent to the original space and the operators can be taken to be of the form U/2, where U is unitary as a mapping onto its range. It is convenient to describe such an example in  $\mathscr{H}$  realized as  $L^2_{\mathscr{H}}$ , where  $\mathscr{H}$  is some other Hilbert space. Let  $\{e_{\alpha}\}$  be an uncountable family of pairwise linearly independent vectors in  $\mathcal{K}$  (which exists if  $\mathcal{K}$  is at least two-dimensional) and for the subspaces let

$${\mathscr N}_{lpha}=\{F\in L^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}_{\mathscr X}\colon\, F(e^{ix})=f(e^{ix})e_{lpha},\ \ {
m for \ some}\ \ f\in L^2\}$$
 .

The situation when  $\mathcal{H}$  is infinite dimensional thus contrasts strongly with the finite dimensional situation [1, p. 70] where the intersection of two invariant subspaces of full range also has full range, and the implication is that only when  $\mathcal{H}$  is infinite dimensional can invariant subspaces of full range be pretty small. On the

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other hand, if nontrivial maximal invariant subspaces of  $H^2_{\mathscr{H}}$  exist (or, equivalently, if there exist bounded operators on  $\mathscr{H}$  without nontriviant subspaces [1, p. 103]), the existence of an uncountable family of disjoint maximal invariant subspaces is conceivable. For if there exists an operator T on  $\mathscr{H}$  without an invariant subspace, it may also happen that T is not invertible and the codimension of the range of T is uncountably infinite in the linear space sense. It is then almost certain that one can find an uncountable family of such operators whose ranges are disjoint.

### References

1. H. Helson, Lectures on Invariant Subspaces, Academic Press, New York, 1964.

2. M. J. Sherman, Operators and inner functions, Pacific J. Math. 22 (1967), 159-170.

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