

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO DE BRANGES–ROVNYAK SPACES

DAN TIMOTIN

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Preliminaries	2
3. Introducing de Branges–Rovnyak spaces	3
3.1. Model spaces	3
3.2. Reproducing kernels	4
3.3. Contractively included subspaces	5
3.4. The complementary space	6
4. More about contractively included subspaces	8
5. Back to $\mathcal{H}(b)$	9
5.1. Some properties of $\mathcal{H}(b)$; definition of X_b	9
5.2. Another representation of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ and X_b	10
5.3. The dichotomy extreme/nonextreme	11
6. The nonextreme case	11
7. The extreme case	13
8. $\mathcal{H}(b)$ as a model space	15
9. Further reading	17
References	17

ABSTRACT. The notes provide a short introduction to de Branges–Rovnyak spaces. They cover some basic facts and are intended to give the reader a taste of the theory, providing sufficient motivation to make it interesting.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these notes is to provide a short introduction to de Branges–Rovnyak spaces, that have been introduced in [6, 7], an area that has seen significant research activity in the last years. They are intended to give to a casual reader a taste of the theory, providing sufficient motivation and connections with other domains to make it, hopefully, interesting. There exist two comprehensive references on the subject: the older book of Sarason [22] that contains most of the basic facts, and the more recent monograph of Fricain and Mashreghi [14]. The interested reader may study in depth the subject from there.

The author is partially supported by a grant of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS UEFISCDI, project number PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0119.

The prerequisites are basic facts in operator theory on Hilbert space and in Hardy spaces. Many books contain them, but we have preferred to give as a comprehensive reference Nikolski's treaty [19], where all can be found (see the beginning of Section 2).

So the plan of the notes is the following. We introduce the de Branges–Rovnyak spaces as natural reproducing kernel spaces, generalizing the model spaces that appear prominently in the theory of contractions. The challenge here is to justify in a sufficient manner a rather exotic object of study, namely contractively included subspaces; we have considered the reproducing kernel approach as especially convenient. We give next some basic properties, following closely [22].

The dichotomy b extreme/nonextreme appears soon. The general idea is that the extreme case has many features that are not far from the case of b inner (the classical model spaces), while the nonextreme case is more exotic from this point of view.

Originally, the de Branges–Rovnyak spaces have been developed in view of model theory, that is, giving a universal model for certain class of operators on Hilbert space. They have been in the shade for a few decades, as the much more popular and well developed model theory of Sz–Nagy and Foias [24] has gained the upper hand. It is known to experts that the two theories are equivalent, and we thought that a justification of the study of de Branges–Rovnyak spaces should include some presentation of their role as model spaces. It turns out that this is easier done for the extreme case, and we have chosen to present this case at the end of the notes.

As noted above, the basic reference for de Branges–Rovnyak spaces, that has been frequently used in these notes, is the book of Sarason [22]. Some simple unproved results appear in the text as exercises; for the others, references are indicated in the text at the relevant places, occasionally with a hint of the proof.

This work will appear in the Proceedings Volume of the CRM Conference *Invariant Subspaces of the Shift Operator*, August 26–30, 2013. The author is grateful to the organizers of the Conference for the support provided.

2. PRELIMINARIES

A comprehensive reference for all facts in this section is [19], which has the advantage to contain both the necessary prerequisites from function theory (Part A, chapters 1–3) and from operator theory (part C, chapter 1).

If H is a Hilbert space and $H' \subset H$ a closed subspace, we will write $P_{H'}$ for the orthogonal projection onto H' . The space of bounded linear operators from H_1 to H_2 is denoted $\mathcal{B}(H_1, H_2)$; in case $H_1 = H_2 = H$ we write just $\mathcal{B}(H)$. If $T \in \mathcal{B}(H_1, H_2)$ is a contraction, we will denote by D_T the selfadjoint operator $(I - T^*T)^{1/2}$ and by \mathcal{D}_T the closed subspace $\overline{D_T H_1} = \ker T^\perp$. Thus $\mathcal{D}_T \subset H_1$ and $\mathcal{D}_{T^*} \subset H_2$. Obviously $D_T|_{\mathcal{D}_T}$ is one-to-one.

Exercise 2.1. We have $TD_T = D_{T^*}T$. In particular, T maps \mathcal{D}_T into \mathcal{D}_{T^*} .

We may also consider the domain and/or the range of D_T to be \mathcal{D}_T ; by an abuse of notation all these operators will still be denoted by D_T . Note that the adjoint of $D_T : \mathcal{D}_T \rightarrow H_1$ is $D_T : H_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_T$.

Exercise 2.2. If $T \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ is a contraction, $H_1 \subset H$ is a closed subset invariant by T , and we denote $T_1 = T|_{H_1}$, then $\mathcal{D}_{T_1} = \overline{P_{H_1} \mathcal{D}_T}$.

We denote by L^2, L^∞ the Lebesgue spaces on the unit circle \mathbb{T} ; we will also meet their closed subspaces $H^2 \subset L^2$ and $H^\infty \subset L^\infty$ (the *Hardy spaces*). The corresponding norms will be denoted by $\|\cdot\|_2$ and $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ respectively. As usual, H^2 and H^∞ can be identified with their analytic extension inside the unit disc \mathbb{D} . We assume known basic facts about inner and outer functions. We will write $P_+ := P_{H^2}$ (the orthogonal projection in L^2). The symbols $\mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{1}$ will denote the constant functions that take this value.

Each function ϕ in L^∞ acts as multiplication on L^2 ; the corresponding operator will be denoted by M_ϕ , and we have $\|M_\phi\| = \|\phi\|_\infty$. In particular, if $\phi(z) = z$, we will write $Z = M_\phi$. Actually, the commutant of Z (the class of all operators T on L^2 such that $ZT = TZ$) coincides precisely with the class of all M_ϕ for $\phi \in L^\infty$. (Obviously we have to define $\phi = T\mathbf{1} \in L^2$; a little work is needed to show that it is in L^∞ .)

The compression $P_+M_\phi P_+$ restricted to the space H^2 is called the Toeplitz operator with symbol ϕ and is denoted by T_ϕ . Again we have $\|T_\phi\| = \|\phi\|_\infty$; moreover, if $\phi \in H^\infty$, then T_ϕ is one-to-one (this is a consequence of the brothers Riesz Theorem: a function in H^2 is $\neq 0$ a.e.). In particular, if $\phi(z) = z$, we will write $S = T_\phi$; its adjoint S^* acts as

$$(2.1) \quad (S^*f)(z) = \frac{f(z) - f(0)}{z}.$$

We have $T_\phi^* = T_{\bar{\phi}}$.

As noted above, the multiplication operators commute; this is in general not true for the Toeplitz operators.

Exercise 2.3. If $\phi \in H^\infty$, or $\psi \in \overline{H^\infty}$, then $T_\psi T_\phi = T_{\psi\phi}$.

If $k_\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{1-\lambda z}$ (a *reproducing vector* in H^2 —see more on reproducing kernels in Subsection 3.2 below), then for any $\phi \in H^\infty$ we have

$$(2.2) \quad T_{\bar{\phi}} k_\lambda = \overline{\phi(\lambda)} k_\lambda.$$

3. INTRODUCING DE BRANGES–ROVNYAK SPACES

3.1. Model spaces. Beurling’s theorem says that any subspace of H^2 invariant by S is of the form uH^2 , with u an inner function.

Exercise 3.1. $S|uH^2$ is unitarily equivalent to S .

From some points of view, the orthogonal $\mathbf{K}_u = H^2 \ominus uH^2$ is more interesting: it is a *model space*. It is invariant by S^* , but $S^*|\mathbf{K}_u$ may behave very differently. Actually, we know exactly *how differently*:

Theorem 3.2. *If T is a contraction on a Hilbert space H , then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) $I - T^*T$ and $I - TT^*$ have rank one and T^n tends strongly to 0.
- (2) T is unitarily equivalent to $S_u := S^*|\mathbf{K}_u \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{K}_u)$ for some inner function u .

Theorem 3.2 is a particular case of the general Sz.-Nagy–Foias theory of contractions (see, for instance, the revised edition [24] of the original monography); one can find it also in [19].

So S_u is a *model operator* for a certain class of contractions. We will meet in this course model operators for a more general class.

3.2. Reproducing kernels. We introduce a larger class of spaces that include \mathbf{K}_u for inner u ; this will be done by means of reproducing kernels. A Hilbert space \mathcal{R} of functions on a set X is called a *reproducing kernel space* (RKS) if the evaluations at points of X are continuous; we will always have $X = \mathbb{D}$. By Riesz's representation theorem it follows then that for each $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ there exists a function $\mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R} \in \mathcal{R}$, called the *reproducing vector* for λ , such that $f(\lambda) = \langle f, \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R} \rangle$. The function of two variables $\mathfrak{L}^\mathcal{R}(z, \lambda) := \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R}(z) = \langle \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R}, \mathfrak{I}_z^\mathcal{R} \rangle$ is called the *reproducing kernel* of the space \mathcal{R} . There is a one-to-one correspondence between RKS's and positive definite kernels (see for instance [1]).

Exercise 3.3. (1) If \mathcal{R} is a RKS, and $\mathcal{R}_1 \subset \mathcal{R}$ is a closed subspace, then \mathcal{R}_1 is also a RKS, and $\mathfrak{I}_\lambda^{\mathcal{R}_1} = P_{\mathcal{R}_1} \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R}$.
 (2) If $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_1 \oplus \mathcal{R}_2$, then

$$(3.1) \quad \mathfrak{L}^\mathcal{R} = \mathfrak{L}^{\mathcal{R}_1} \oplus \mathfrak{L}^{\mathcal{R}_2}.$$

All three spaces discussed above have reproducing kernels, namely:

$$\begin{aligned} H^2 &\longrightarrow \frac{1}{1-\lambda z}, \\ uH^2 &\longrightarrow \frac{\overline{u(\lambda)}u(z)}{1-\lambda z}, \\ \mathbf{K}_u &\longrightarrow \frac{1-\overline{u(\lambda)}u(z)}{1-\lambda z}, \end{aligned}$$

and one can check that equality (3.1) is satisfied.

Our plan is to obtain RKSs with similar formulas, but replacing the *inner* function u with an *arbitrary* function b in the unit ball of H^∞ . That is, we want spaces with kernels $\frac{\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$ and $\frac{1-\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$.

Of course it is not obvious that such RKSs exist. Then, if they exist, we want to identify them concretely, hoping to relate them to the familiar space H^2 .

Things are simpler for the first kernel. Note first the next (general) exercise.

Exercise 3.4. If $\mathfrak{L}(z, \lambda)$ is a positive kernel on $X \times X$ and $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, then $\phi(z)\overline{\phi(\lambda)}\mathfrak{L}(z, \lambda)$ is a positive kernel.

So $\frac{\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$ is the kernel of *some* space \mathcal{R} ; but we would like to know it more concretely. The case $b = u$ inner suggests that a good candidate might be bH^2 . Now, we already have a problem: if b is a general function, bH^2 might not be closed in H^2 , so it is not a genuine Hilbert space. But let us be brave and go on: we want

$$\mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R}(z) = \overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)k_\lambda.$$

Since the reproducing kernel property should be valid in \mathcal{R} , we must have, for any $f \in H^2$,

$$b(\lambda)f(\lambda) = \langle bf, \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^\mathcal{R}(z) \rangle_{\mathcal{R}} = b(\lambda)\langle bf, bk_\lambda \rangle_{\mathcal{R}}$$

and therefore

$$f(\lambda) = \langle bf, bk_\lambda \rangle_{\mathcal{R}}.$$

On the other hand, since $f \in H^2$, we have $f(\lambda) = \langle f, k_z \rangle_{H^2}$.

We have now arrived at the crucial point. If b is inner, then $\langle bf, bk_z \rangle_{H^2} = \langle f, k_z \rangle_{H^2}$ and everything is fine: the scalar product in bH^2 is the usual scalar product in H^2 . But, in the general case, we have to define a *different* scalar product on $\mathcal{R} = bH^2$, by the formula

$$(3.2) \quad \langle bf, bg \rangle_{\mathcal{R}} := \langle f, g \rangle_{H^2}.$$

This appears to solve the problem. Since $bf_1 = bf_2$ implies $f_1 = f_2$, formula (3.2) is easily shown to define a scalar product on bH^2 . We will denote the corresponding Hilbert space by $\mathcal{M}(b)$. Let us summarize the results obtained.

Theorem 3.5. *$\mathcal{M}(b)$, defined as bH^2 endowed with the scalar product (3.2), is a Hilbert space, which as a set is a linear subspace (in general not closed) of H^2 . Its reproducing kernel is $\frac{\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$, and the inclusion $\iota : \mathcal{M}(b) \rightarrow H^2$ is a contraction. $\mathcal{M}(b)$ is invariant by S , and S acts as an isometry on $\mathcal{M}(b)$.*

Proof. From (3.2) it follows that the map $f \mapsto bf$ is isometric from H^2 onto $\mathcal{M}(b)$, whence $\mathcal{M}(b)$ is complete. The formula for the reproducing kernel has been proved (in fact, it lead to the definition of the space $\mathcal{M}(b)$). We have

$$\|\iota(bf)\|_{H^2} = \|bf\|_{H^2} \leq \|f\|_{H^2} = \|bf\|_{\mathcal{M}(b)},$$

and thus ι is a contraction.

Finally $\mathcal{M}(b)$ is invariant by S since $z(bf) = b(zf)$, and

$$\|zbf\|_{\mathcal{M}(b)} = \|b(zf)\|_{\mathcal{M}(b)} = \|zf\|_{H^2} = \|f\|_{H^2} = \|bf\|_{\mathcal{M}(b)},$$

and thus the restriction of S is an isometry. □

This settles the case of the kernel $\frac{\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$. To discuss $\frac{1-\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$ is slightly more complicated, and a preliminary discussion is needed.

3.3. Contractively included subspaces. Let $T : E \rightarrow H$ be a bounded one-to-one operator. Define on the image $T(E)$ a scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle'$ by the formula

$$(3.3) \quad \langle T\xi, T\eta \rangle' := \langle \xi, \eta \rangle_E.$$

Then T is a unitary operator from E to $T(E)$ endowed with $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle'$. The space obtained is complete; we will denote it by $M(T)$. The linear space $M(T)$ is contained as a set in H , and the inclusion is a contraction if and only if T is a contraction. In this case the space $M(T)$ will be called a *contractively included subspace* of H , and the scalar product will be denoted $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{M(T)}$.

A slight modification is needed in case T is not one-to-one; then (3.3) cannot be used directly since there $T\xi$ does not determine ξ uniquely. We may however recapture this uniqueness and use (3.3) if we require that $\xi, \eta \in \ker T^\perp$; then T becomes a unitary from $\ker T^\perp$ to $M(T)$.

In almost all cases in this course the corresponding contraction T will be one-to-one, and thus we will apply directly (3.3). The only exception appears in Theorem 5.3, when we will use Lemma 3.6 below, with no direct reference to the scalar product.

We have already met a particular case of this notion: with the above notations, we have $\mathcal{M}(b) = M(T_b)$. Remember that, since $b \in H^\infty$, the operator T_b is one-to-one.

The following is a basic result that is used when we have to deal with two contractively embedded subspaces. It is essentially contained in [10].

Lemma 3.6. *Suppose $T_1 : E_1 \rightarrow H$, $T_2 : E_2 \rightarrow H$ are two contractions. Then:*

- (1) *The space $M(T_1)$ is contained contractively in $M(T_2)$ (meaning that $M(T_1) \subset M(T_2)$ and the inclusion is a contraction) if and only if $T_1 T_1^* \leq T_2 T_2^*$.*
- (2) *The spaces $M(T_1)$ and $M(T_2)$ coincide as Hilbert spaces (that is, they are equal as sets, and the scalar product is the same) if and only if $T_1 T_1^* = T_2 T_2^*$.*
- (3) *$T : H \rightarrow H$ acts contractively on $M(T_1)$ (meaning that $T(M(T_1)) \subset M(T_1)$ and $T|_{M(T_1)}$ is a contraction) if and only if $TT_1 T_1^* T^* \leq T_1 T_1^*$.*

It is worth at this point to note the following theorem of de Branges and Rovnyak [6], which is an analogue of Beurling's theorem.

Theorem 3.7. *Suppose $X \subset H^2$ is a contractively included subspace of H^2 . The following are equivalent*

- (1) *X is invariant by S and the restriction $S|_X$ is an isometry (in the norm of X).*
- (2) *There exist a function b in the unit ball of H^∞ , such that $X = \mathcal{M}(b)$.*

The function b is determined up to a multiplicative constant of modulus 1.

Suppose now that H is a reproducing kernel Hilbert space, with kernel $\mathfrak{L}(z, \lambda)$. We may obtain for the reproducing vectors of $M(T)$ a formula similar to the particular case from the previous subsection.

Lemma 3.8. *Suppose $T : E \rightarrow H$ is one-to-one. With the above notations, we have*

$$\mathfrak{I}_\lambda^{M(T)} = TT^* \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^H.$$

Proof. We have, using (3.3),

$$\langle Tf, TT^* \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^H \rangle_{M(T)} = \langle f, T^* \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^H \rangle_H = \langle Tf, \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^H \rangle_H = (Tf)(\lambda) = \langle Tf, \mathfrak{I}_\lambda^{M(T)} \rangle_{M(T)},$$

which proves the theorem. \square

In case $H = H^2$, $T = T_b$, we recapture the previous result: $M(T_b) = \mathcal{M}(b)$ and, using (2.2),

$$\mathfrak{I}_\lambda^{M(b)} = T_b T_b^* k_\lambda = \overline{bb(\lambda)} k_\lambda.$$

3.4. The complementary space. Remember that our current purpose is to find, if possible, an RKS with kernel $\frac{1 - \overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1 - \lambda z}$. Let us note that

$$\frac{1 - \overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1 - \lambda z} = \frac{1}{1 - \lambda z} - \frac{\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1 - \lambda z} = \mathfrak{L}^{H^2}(z, \lambda) - \mathfrak{L}^{\mathcal{M}(b)}(z, \lambda).$$

Can we obtain in the general case a formula for such a difference? The answer is positive.

Lemma 3.9. *With the above notations,*

$$\mathfrak{L}^H(z, \lambda) - \mathfrak{L}^{M(T)}(z, \lambda) = \mathfrak{L}^{M(D_{T^*})}(z, \lambda),$$

where $D_{T^} : \mathcal{D}_{T^*} \rightarrow H$.*

Proof. Using Lemma 3.8, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathfrak{L}^H(z, \lambda) - \mathfrak{L}^{M(T)}(z, \lambda) &= \langle \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_H - \langle \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^{M(T)}, \mathfrak{l}_z^{M(T)} \rangle_{M(T)} \\
&= \langle \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_H - \langle TT^* \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, TT^* \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_{M(T)} \\
&= \langle \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_H - \langle T^* \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, T^* \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_E \\
&= \langle \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, (I - TT^*) \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_H = \langle D_{T^*} \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, D_{T^*} \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_H \\
&= \langle D_{T^*}^2 \mathfrak{l}_\lambda^H, D_{T^*}^2 \mathfrak{l}_z^H \rangle_{M(D_{T^*})},
\end{aligned}$$

(the last equality being a consequence of the fact that D_{T^*} is one-to-one as an operator from D_{T^*} into H). Then Lemma 3.8, applied to D_{T^*} instead of T , says that the last quantity is precisely $\mathfrak{L}^{M(D_{T^*})}(z, \lambda)$. \square

Since D_{T^*} is a contraction, the RKS corresponding to $\mathfrak{L}^H(z, \lambda) - \mathfrak{L}^{M(T)}(z, \lambda)$ is also a space contractively included in H ; it is called the space *complementary* to $M(T)$ and will be denoted by $C(T)$.

Exercise 3.10. If T is an isometry, then $M(T)$ is a usual subspace of H (with the norm restricted), and $C(T)$ is its orthogonal complement.

If $x \in H$, then one can write

$$(3.4) \quad x = TT^*x + D_{T^*}^2x.$$

The first term in the right hand side is in $M(T)$, while the second is in $C(T)$. Moreover,

$$\|TT^*x\|_{M(T)}^2 = \|T^*x\|_H^2, \quad \|D_{T^*}^2x\|_{C(T)}^2 = \|D_{T^*}x\|_H^2,$$

whence

$$\|x\|^2 = \|TT^*x\|_{M(T)}^2 + \|D_{T^*}^2x\|_{C(T)}^2.$$

In case T is an isometry, $M(T)$ and $C(T)$ form an orthogonal decomposition of H , and (3.4) is the corresponding orthogonal decomposition of H . In the general case $M(T)$ and $C(T)$ may have a nonzero intersection, and so a decomposition $x = x_1 + x_2$ with $x_1 \in M(T)$, $x_2 \in C(T)$ is no more unique.

Exercise 3.11. If T is a contraction, and $x = x_1 + x_2$ with $x_1 \in M(T)$, $x_2 \in C(T)$, then

$$\|x\|^2 \leq \|x_1\|_{M(T)}^2 + \|x_2\|_{C(T)}^2,$$

and equality implies $x_1 = TT^*x$, $x_2 = D_{T^*}^2x$.

At this point we have achieved our first purpose. Lemma 3.9 applied to the case $H = K = H^2$ and $T = T_b$ yields the identification of the reproducing kernel corresponding to $\frac{1-\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$.

Theorem 3.12. *The RKS with kernel $\frac{1-\overline{b(\lambda)}b(z)}{1-\lambda z}$ is $M(D_{T_b^*})$. It is a contractively included subspace of H^2 that will be denoted $\mathcal{H}(b)$ and called the de Branges–Rovnyak space associated to the function b in the inner ball of H^∞ .*

As noted above, if $b = u$ is inner, then $\mathcal{H}(b) = \mathbf{K}_u$.

Exercise 3.13. (1) $H^2 = \mathcal{H}(0) = \mathcal{M}(1)$.

(2) If $\|b\|_\infty < 1$, then $\mathcal{H}(b)$ is a renormed version of H^2 .

(3) If $\inf_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |b(z)| > 0$, then $\mathcal{M}(b)$ is a renormed version of H^2 .

We will denote from now on $k_\lambda^b = k_\lambda^{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \frac{1-\overline{b(\lambda)b(z)}}{1-\lambda z}$.

4. MORE ABOUT CONTRACTIVELY INCLUDED SUBSPACES

Lemma 4.1. *If $T : E \rightarrow H$ is a contraction, then:*

- (1) $\xi \in H$ belongs to $C(T)$ if and only if $T^*\xi \in C(T^*)$.
- (2) If $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in C(T)$, then

$$\langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle_{C(T)} = \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle_H + \langle T^*\xi_1, T^*\xi_2 \rangle_{C(T^*)}.$$

Proof. The inclusion $T^*(C(T)) \subset C(T^*)$ follows from the intertwining relation in Exercise 2.1. On the other hand, if $T^*\xi \in C(T^*)$, we have $T^*\xi = D_T\eta$ for some $\eta \in H$, and, using again Exercise 2.1,

$$\xi = TT^*\xi + D_{T^*}^2\xi = TD_T\eta + D_{T^*}^2\xi = D_{T^*}(D_{T^*}\xi + T\eta),$$

which shows that $\xi \in C(T)$.

To prove (2), write $\xi_1 = D_{T^*}\eta_1$, $\xi_2 = D_{T^*}\eta_2$, with $\eta_1, \eta_2 \in \mathcal{D}_{T^*}$; then $T^*\eta_1, T^*\eta_2 \in \mathcal{D}_T$. Since both $D_T : \mathcal{D}_T \rightarrow H$ and $D_{T^*} : \mathcal{D}_{T^*} \rightarrow H$ are one-to-one, we have, using (3.3) and Exercise 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle_{C(T)} &= \langle \eta_1, \eta_2 \rangle = \langle D_{T^*}\eta_1, D_{T^*}\eta_2 \rangle + \langle T^*\eta_1, T^*\eta_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle + \langle D_T T^*\eta_1, D_T T^*\eta_2 \rangle_{C(T^*)} \\ &= \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle + \langle T^* D_{T^*}\eta_1, T^* D_{T^*}\eta_2 \rangle_{C(T^*)} \\ &= \langle \xi_1, \xi_2 \rangle + \langle T^*\xi_1, T^*\xi_2 \rangle_{C(T^*)}. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

There is a more direct way in which complementarity is related to orthogonality. If $T \in \mathcal{B}(E, H)$ is a contraction, we define the *Julia operator* $J(T) : E \oplus \mathcal{D}_{T^*} \rightarrow H \oplus \mathcal{D}_T$ by

$$J(T) = \begin{pmatrix} T & D_{T^*} \\ D_T & -T^* \end{pmatrix}.$$

Exercise 4.2. The Julia operator is unitary.

Lemma 4.3. *Suppose $T : E \rightarrow H$ is one-to-one. Denote*

$$\mathcal{X}_1 = J(T)(E \oplus \{0\}), \quad \mathcal{X}_2 = (H \oplus \mathcal{D}_T) \ominus \mathcal{X}_1 = J(T)(\{0\} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{T^*}),$$

and by P_1 the projection of $H \oplus \mathcal{D}_T$ onto its first coordinate H . Then $P_1|_{\mathcal{X}_1}$ is unitary from \mathcal{X}_1 onto $M(T)$, and $P_1|_{\mathcal{X}_2}$ is unitary from \mathcal{X}_2 onto $C(T)$.

Proof. We have

$$P_1\mathcal{X}_1 = P_1(\{Tx \oplus D_Tx : x \in E\}) = \{Tx : x \in E\} = M(T).$$

Moreover, if $x_1 \in \mathcal{X}_1$, then $x_1 = Tx \oplus D_Tx$ for some $x \in E$, and

$$\|P_1x_1\|_{M(T)} = \|Tx\|_{M(T)} = \|x\|_E = \|J(T)(x \oplus 0)\| = \|x_1\|,$$

which proves the first part of the lemma.

Now $\mathcal{X}_2 = J(T)(\{0\} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{T^*})$, so

$$P_1\mathcal{X}_2 = P_1(\{D_{T^*}y \oplus -T^*y : y \in \mathcal{D}_{T^*}\}) = \{D_{T^*}y : y \in \mathcal{D}_{T^*}\} = C(T).$$

If $x_2 \in \mathcal{X}_2$, then $x_2 = D_{T^*}y \oplus -T^*y$ for some $y \in \mathcal{D}_{T^*}$, and

$$\|P_1x_2\|_{C(T)} = \|D_{T^*}y\|_{C(T)} = \|y\|_{\mathcal{D}_{T^*}} = \|J(T)(0 \oplus y)\| = \|x_2\|,$$

as required. □

We can view this result as saying that the orthogonal decomposition of $H \oplus \mathcal{D}_T$ as $\mathcal{X}_1 \oplus \mathcal{X}_2$ is mapped by projecting onto the first coordinate into the complementary decomposition $H = M(T) + C(T)$ (which is not, in general, a direct sum). So the rather exotic definition of complementary spaces is in fact the projection of a more familiar geometric structure.

5. BACK TO $\mathcal{H}(b)$

5.1. Some properties of $\mathcal{H}(b)$; definition of X_b . We denote $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b}) := \mathcal{H}(T_{\bar{b}})$. Although our focus is on $\mathcal{H}(b)$, the space $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$ is a useful tool for its study.

Lemma 5.1. *$\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$ is contained contractively in $\mathcal{H}(b)$.*

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} T_b T_{\bar{b}} &= P_+ M_b P_+ M_{\bar{b}} P_+ |H^2 \leq P_+ M_b M_{\bar{b}} P_+ |H^2 \\ &= P_+ M_{\bar{b}} M_b P_+ |H^2 = P_+ M_{\bar{b}} P_+ M_b P_+ |H^2 = T_{\bar{b}} T_b. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$D_{T_b}^2 \leq D_{T_{\bar{b}}}^2,$$

whence Lemma 3.6(1) implies that $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$ is contained contractively in $\mathcal{H}(b)$. \square

Lemma 4.1 applied to the case $T = T_b$ yields the following result.

Lemma 5.2. *If $h \in H^2$, then $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ if and only if $T_{\bar{b}} h \in \mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$. If $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}(b)$, then*

$$(5.1) \quad \langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{H^2} + \langle T_{\bar{b}} h_1, T_{\bar{b}} h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})}.$$

We now show that, similarly to model spaces, de Branges–Rovnyak spaces are invariant by adjoints of Toeplitz operators.

Theorem 5.3. *If $\phi \in H^\infty$, then $\mathcal{H}(b)$ and $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$ are both invariant under $T_\phi^* = T_{\bar{\phi}}$, and the norm of this operator in each of these spaces is at most $\|\phi\|_\infty$.*

Proof. We may assume that $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$. By Lemma 3.6(3), in order to show that $T_{\bar{\phi}}$ acts as a contraction in $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$ we have to prove the inequality

$$T_{\bar{\phi}}(I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b) T_\phi \leq I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b,$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b - T_{\bar{\phi}}(I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b) T_\phi = I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b - T_{\bar{\phi}} T_\phi + T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{b}} T_b T_\phi \\ &= I - T_{|b|^2} - T_{|\phi|^2} + T_{|b|^2 |\phi|^2} = T_{(1-|b|^2)(1-|\phi|^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

But the last operator is the compression to H^2 of $M_{(1-|b|^2)(1-|\phi|^2)}$, which is positive, since $(1-|b|^2)(1-|\phi|^2) \geq 0$.

This proves the statement for $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$. Take now $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$. Lemma 5.2 implies that $T_{\bar{b}} h \in \mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$. By what has been just proved, $T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{b}} h = T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{b}} h \in \mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$, and then applying again Lemma 5.2 we obtain $T_{\bar{\phi}} h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$.

Finally, using (5.1) and the contractivity of $T_{\bar{\phi}}$ on H^2 as well as on $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$, we have

$$\|T_{\bar{\phi}} h\|_{\mathcal{H}(b)}^2 = \|T_{\bar{\phi}} h\|_{H^2}^2 + \|T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{b}} h\|_{\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})}^2 \leq \|h\|_{H^2}^2 + \|T_{\bar{b}} h\|_{\mathcal{H}(\bar{b})}^2 = \|h\|_{\mathcal{H}(b)}^2,$$

so $T_{\bar{\phi}}$ acts as a contraction in $\mathcal{H}(b)$. \square

The most important case is obtained when $\phi(z) = z$. Theorem 5.3 says then that $\mathcal{H}(b)$ is invariant under S^* and the restriction of S^* is a contraction. We will denote by X_b this restriction $S^*|_{\mathcal{H}(b)}$.

Corollary 5.4. *The function S^*b is in $\mathcal{H}(b)$.*

Proof. We have

$$T_{\bar{b}}S^*b = S^*T_{\bar{b}}b = S^*T_{\bar{b}}T_b1 = -S^*(I - T_{\bar{b}}T_b)1$$

(for the last equality we have used the fact that $S^*1 = 0$). Obviously $(I - T_{\bar{b}}T_b)1 \in \mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$, so Theorem 5.3 implies that $T_{\bar{b}}S^*b = -S^*(I - T_{\bar{b}}T_b)1 \in \mathcal{H}(\bar{b})$. By Lemma 5.2 it follows that $S^*b \in \mathcal{H}(b)$. \square

Note that if $b \neq \mathbf{1}$, then $S^*b \neq \mathbf{0}$. Besides S^*b , we know as inhabitants of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ the reproducing vectors k_λ^b . Other elements may be obtained, for instance, by applying to these elements powers or functions of X_b .

Exercise 5.5. Show that, if $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$, then

$$((I - \lambda X_b)^{-1}(S^*b))(z) = \frac{b(z) - b(\lambda)}{z - \lambda}.$$

Therefore the functions in the right hand side belong to $\mathcal{H}(b)$.

In general b itself may not be in $\mathcal{H}(b)$; we will see later exactly when this happens. Let us also compute the adjoint of X_b .

Lemma 5.6. *If $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$, then*

$$X_b^*h = Sh - \langle h, S^*b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)}b.$$

Proof. A computation shows that $X_b k_\lambda^b = S^*k_\lambda^b = \bar{\lambda}k_\lambda^b - \overline{b(\lambda)}S^*b$. Then, if $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (X_b^*h)(\lambda) &= \langle X_b^*h, k_\lambda^b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \langle h, X_b k_\lambda^b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \lambda \langle h, k_\lambda^b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} - b(\lambda) \langle h, S^*b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} \\ &= \lambda h(\lambda) - \langle h, S^*b \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)}b(\lambda), \end{aligned}$$

which proves the lemma. \square

5.2. Another representation of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ and X_b . In the sequel of the course we will use the notation $\Delta = (1 - |b|^2)^{1/2}$. The spaces ΔH^2 and $\overline{\Delta L^2}$ are closed subspaces of L^2 invariant with respect to Z . We will denote by V_Δ and Z_Δ the corresponding restrictions of Z .

Exercise 5.7. V_Δ is isometric, while Z_Δ is unitary.

The next result, a slight modification of Lemma 4.3, provides another representation of $\mathcal{H}(b)$.

Theorem 5.8. *Suppose that b is a function in the unit ball of H^∞ . Then:*

- (1) $S \oplus V_\Delta$ is an isometry on $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}$.
- (2) The space $\mathcal{K}_b := (H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}) \ominus \{bh \oplus \Delta h : h \in H^2\}$ is a subspace of $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}$ invariant with respect to $S^* \oplus V_\Delta^*$.
- (3) The projection $P_1 : H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2} \rightarrow H^2$ on the first coordinate maps \mathcal{K}_b unitarily onto $\mathcal{H}(b)$, and $P_1(S^* \oplus V_\Delta^*) = X_b P_1$.

Proof. The proof of (1) is immediate. Also, the map $h \mapsto bh \oplus \Delta h$ is an isometry of H^2 onto $\{bh \oplus \Delta h : h \in H^2\}$, which is therefore a closed subspace. Since $(S \oplus V_\Delta)(bh \oplus \Delta h) = b(zh) \oplus \Delta(zh)$, it is immediate that $\{bh \oplus \Delta h : h \in H^2\}$ is invariant by $S \oplus V_\Delta$, whence its orthogonal \mathcal{K} is invariant by $S^* \oplus V_\Delta^*$; thus (2) is proved.

To prove (3), let us apply Lemma 4.3 to the case $T = T_b$, when $C(T) = \mathcal{H}(b)$. It says that, if $\mathcal{X}_2 = (H^2 \oplus \mathcal{D}_{T_b}) \ominus \{T_b h \oplus D_{T_b} h\}$, then the projection onto the first coordinate maps \mathcal{X}_2 unitarily onto $\mathcal{H}(b)$. Since, for any $h \in H^2$,

$$\|D_{T_b} h\|^2 = \|h\|^2 - \|bh\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |h(e^{it})|^2 dt - \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |b(e^{it})h(e^{it})|^2 dt = \|\Delta h\|^2,$$

the map $D_{T_b} h \mapsto \Delta h$ extends to a unitary U from \mathcal{D}_{T_b} onto the closure of $\overline{\Delta H^2}$. Then $I_{H^2} \oplus U$ maps unitarily $H^2 \oplus \mathcal{D}_{T_b}$ onto $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}$, \mathcal{X}_1 onto $\{bh \oplus \Delta h : h \in H^2\}$, \mathcal{X}_2 onto \mathcal{K}_b , and it commutes with the projection on the first coordinate. Therefore P_1 maps \mathcal{K}_b unitarily onto $\mathcal{H}(b)$, and

$$P_1(S^* \oplus V_\Delta^*)|_{\mathcal{K}_b} = P_1(S^* \oplus V_\Delta^*)P_1|_{\mathcal{K}_b} = (S^* \oplus 0)P_1|_{\mathcal{K}_b} = (S^*|_{\mathcal{H}(b)})P_1 = X_b P_1. \quad \square$$

5.3. The dichotomy extreme/nonextreme. The study of the spaces $\mathcal{H}(b)$ splits further into two mutually exclusive cases: when b is an extreme point of the unit ball of H^∞ and when it is not. The first case includes $b = u$ inner, and thus will be more closely related to model spaces, while the second includes the case $\|b\| < 1$, and thus there will be properties similar to the whole of H^2 . Actually, we will not use extremality directly, but rather through one of the equivalent characterizations given by the next lemma (for which again [19] can be used as a reference).

Lemma 5.9. *If h is a function in the unit ball of H^∞ , then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) b is extreme.
- (2) $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log \Delta(e^{it}) dt = -\infty$.
- (3) $\Delta H^2 = \overline{\Delta L^2}$.

6. THE NONEXTREME CASE

When $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log \Delta(e^{it}) dt > -\infty$, there exists a uniquely defined outer function a with $|a| = \Delta$ and $a(0) > 0$; thus $|a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$. This function is a basic tool in the theory of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ in the nonextreme case. Since (see Exercise 2.3)

$$T_{\bar{a}} T_a = T_{\bar{a}a} = I - T_{\bar{b}b} = I - T_{\bar{b}} T_b$$

Lemma 3.6(2) implies that $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b}) = \mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$.

Exercise 6.1. If a is an outer function, then $\ker T_{\bar{a}} = \{0\}$.

We can apply Lemma 5.2 to the current situation.

Lemma 6.2. (1) *We have $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ if and only if $T_{\bar{b}} h \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$; when this happens there is a unique (by Exercise 6.1) function $h^+ \in H^2$ such that $T_{\bar{b}} h = T_{\bar{a}} h^+$.*

- (2) *If $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}(b)$, then*

$$\langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{H^2} + \langle h_1^+, h_2^+ \rangle_{H^2}.$$

- (3) *If $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ and $\phi \in H^\infty$, then $(T_{\bar{\phi}} h)^+ = T_{\bar{\phi}} h^+$.*

Proof. (1) is a consequence of Lemma 5.2 and the equality $\mathcal{H}(\bar{b}) = \mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$; the uniqueness of h^+ follows from Exercise 6.1.

The formula for the scalar product in Lemma 5.2 becomes

$$\langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} = \langle h_1, h_2 \rangle_{H^2} + \langle T_{\bar{a}} h_1^+, T_{\bar{a}} h_2^+ \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(\bar{a})} = \langle h_1^+, h_2^+ \rangle_{H^2},$$

the last equality being a consequence of the fact that $T_{\bar{a}}$ is one-to-one. This proves (2).

Finally,

$$T_{\bar{b}} T_{\bar{\phi}} h = T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{b}} h = T_{\bar{\phi}} T_{\bar{a}} h^+ = T_{\bar{a}} T_{\bar{\phi}} h^+,$$

proving (3). \square

We gather in a theorem some properties of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ for b nonextreme.

Theorem 6.3. *Suppose b is nonextreme.*

- (1) *The polynomials belong to $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$ and are dense in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$.*
- (2) *$\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$ is dense in $\mathcal{H}(b)$.*
- (3) *The polynomials are dense in $\mathcal{H}(b)$.*
- (4) *The function b is in $\mathcal{H}(b)$, and $\|b\|_{\mathcal{H}(b)}^2 = |a(0)|^{-2} - 1$.*
- (5) *The space $\mathcal{H}(b)$ is invariant by the unilateral shift S .*

Proof. By checking the action on monomials, it is immediate that the space \mathcal{P}_n of polynomials of degree less or equal to n is invariant by $T_{\bar{a}}$. But $T_{\bar{a}}$ is one-to-one, and so $T_{\bar{a}}|_{\mathcal{P}_n}$ is also onto. So all polynomials belong to the image of $T_{\bar{a}}$, which is $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$. Moreover, since $T_{\bar{a}}$ is one-to-one, it is unitary as an operator from H^2 to $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$. Then the image of all polynomials, which form a dense set in H^2 , is a dense set in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$ which proves (1).

Suppose that $h \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ is orthogonal in $\mathcal{H}(b)$ to all $\mathcal{M}(\bar{a})$. In particular, h is orthogonal to $T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h$ for every $n \geq 0$. By Lemma 6.2(3), $(T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h)^+ = T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h^+$; applying then 6.2(2), we have, for any $n \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle h, T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h \rangle_{\mathcal{H}(b)} \\ &= \langle h, T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h \rangle_{H^2} + \langle h^+, T_{\bar{a}} S^{*n} h^+ \rangle_{H^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a(e^{it}) (|h(e^{it})|^2 + |h^+(e^{it})|^2) e^{int} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the function $a(|h|^2 + |h^+|^2)$ belongs to H_0^1 . A classical fact about outer functions (see, for instance, [19]) implies that we also have $|h|^2 + |h^+|^2 \in H_0^1$. But the only real-valued function in H_0^1 is the zero function, so $h = 0$, which proves (2). Obviously, (1) and (2) imply (3).

We have

$$T_{\bar{b}} b = P_+(bb) = P_+(1 - \bar{a}a) = T_{\bar{a}}(1/\bar{a}(0) - a).$$

By Lemma 6.2 it follows that $b \in \mathcal{H}(b)$ and $b^+ = 1/\bar{a}(0) - a$; moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \|b\|_{\mathcal{H}(b)}^2 &= \|b\|_{H^2}^2 + \|1/\bar{a}(0) - a\|_{H^2}^2 \\ &= \|b\|_{H^2}^2 + \|a - a(0)\|_{H^2}^2 + \|1/\bar{a}(0) - a(0)\|_{H^2}^2 \\ &= \|b\|_{H^2}^2 + \|a\|_{H^2}^2 - |a(0)|^2 + |a(0)|^{-2} + |a(0)|^2 - 2 \\ &= |a(0)|^{-2} - 1, \end{aligned}$$

which proves (4).

Finally, Lemma 5.6 together with (4) prove the invariance of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ to S . \square

7. THE EXTREME CASE

We point out first some differences with respect to the nonextreme case.

Theorem 7.1. *Suppose b is extreme. Then:*

- (1) *The function b does not belong to $\mathcal{H}(b)$.*
- (2) *If $b \neq \mathbf{1}$, then $\mathcal{H}(b)$ is not invariant by S .*

Proof. Suppose $b \in \mathcal{H}(b)$. By Theorem 5.8, it follows that there exists $\psi \in \overline{\Delta H^2} \subset L^2$, such that $b \oplus \psi \perp \{bh \oplus \Delta h : h \in H^2\}$. So

$$\langle b \oplus \psi, bh \oplus \Delta h \rangle = 0, \text{ for all } h \in H^2,$$

which is equivalent to $|b|^2 + \Delta\psi \in \overline{H_0^2}$. This is equivalent to $1 - \Delta^2 + \Delta\psi \in \overline{H_0^2}$, whence $f := \Delta^2 - \Delta\psi$ is a nonzero (note that its zeroth Fourier coefficient is 1) function in H^2 . Thus $\Delta^{-1}f = \Delta - \bar{\psi} \in L^2$, or $\Delta^{-2}|f|^2 \in L^1$.

We assert that this is not possible. Indeed,

$$\Delta^{-2}|f|^2 \geq \log(\Delta^{-2}|f|^2) = 2 \log |f| - 2 \log \Delta.$$

Integrating, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \Delta^{-2}(e^{it})|f(e^{it})|^2 dt \geq 2 \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \log |f(e^{it})| dt + 2 \frac{1}{2\pi} \int (-\log \Delta(e^{it})) dt,$$

which cannot be true, since the first two integrals are finite, while the third is infinite by Lemma 5.9.

We have thus proved (1). Then (2) follows from Lemma 5.6, which can be restated as

$$\langle h, S^* b_{\mathcal{H}(b)} \rangle b = Sh - X_b^* h.$$

So, if we choose h not orthogonal (in $\mathcal{H}(b)$) to $S^* b$ (in particular, $h = S^* b$), we must have $Sh \notin \mathcal{H}(b)$. \square

In the sequel we will use the geometrical representation of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ given by Theorem 5.8. Using Lemma 5.9, we may replace in its statement $\overline{\Delta H^2}$ by $\overline{\Delta L^2}$.

Denote $\tilde{b}(z) = \overline{b(\bar{z})}$, and $\tilde{\Delta} = (1 - |\tilde{b}|^2)^{1/2}$. The map $f \mapsto \tilde{f}$ is a unitary involution that maps L^2 onto L^2 , H^2 onto H^2 , and $\overline{\tilde{\Delta} L^2}$ onto $\overline{\Delta L^2}$.

Exercise 7.2. b is extreme if and only if \tilde{b} is extreme.

Theorem 7.3. *Suppose b is extreme. Define*

$$\Omega : L^2 \oplus \overline{\tilde{\Delta} L^2} \rightarrow L^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}$$

by the formula

$$\Omega(f \oplus g) = \left(b(z)\bar{z}f(\bar{z}) + \Delta\bar{z}g(\bar{z}) \right) \oplus \left(\Delta\bar{z}f(\bar{z}) - \bar{b}\bar{z}g(\bar{z}) \right).$$

Then Ω is unitary, it maps $\mathcal{K}_{\tilde{b}}$ onto \mathcal{K}_b , and

$$(7.1) \quad \Omega X_{\tilde{b}} = X_b^* \Omega.$$

Proof. Ω acts as the unitary $f \oplus g \mapsto \bar{z}f(\bar{z}) \oplus \bar{z}g(\bar{z})$ followed by the unitary $J(M_b)$, so it is unitary. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{K}_b &= (L^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}) \oplus [(H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}) \oplus (\{bf \oplus \Delta f : f \in H^2\})], \\ \mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}} &= (L^2 \oplus \overline{\bar{\Delta} L^2}) \oplus [(H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}) \oplus (\{\bar{b}f \oplus \bar{\Delta} f : f \in H^2\})].\end{aligned}$$

If $f \in H_-^2$, then

$$\Omega(f \oplus 0) = b\bar{z}f(\bar{z}) \oplus \Delta\bar{z}f(\bar{z}).$$

But the map $f \mapsto \bar{z}f(\bar{z})$ is a unitary from H_-^2 onto H^2 , whence it follows that $\Omega(H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}) = \{bf \oplus \Delta f : f \in H^2\}$. Similarly we obtain $\Omega(\{\bar{b}f \oplus \bar{\Delta} f : f \in H^2\}) = H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}$. Therefore

$$\Omega((H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}) \oplus (\{\bar{b}f \oplus \bar{\Delta} f : f \in H^2\})) = (H_-^2 \oplus \{0\}) \oplus (\{bf \oplus \Delta f : f \in H^2\}),$$

whence $\Omega(\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}) = \Omega(\mathcal{K}_b)$.

Finally, we have $X_b = P_{\mathcal{K}_b}(Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*)P_{\mathcal{K}_b}|_{\mathcal{K}_b}$ and $X_{\bar{b}} = P_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}(Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*)P_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}|_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}$. But $\Omega(\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}) = \Omega(\mathcal{K}_b)$ implies $P_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} = \Omega^*P_{\mathcal{K}_b}\Omega$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega X_{\bar{b}} &= \Omega P_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}(Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*)P_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}|_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} = \Omega \Omega^* P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega (Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*) \Omega^* P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega |_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} \\ &= P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega (Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*) \Omega^* P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega |_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}}.\end{aligned}$$

But one checks easily that $\Omega(Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*)\Omega^* = Z \oplus Z_\Delta$, and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega (Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*) \Omega^* P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega |_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} &= P_{\mathcal{K}_b} (Z \oplus Z_\Delta) P_{\mathcal{K}_b} \Omega |_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} \\ &= (P_{\mathcal{K}_b} (Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*) P_{\mathcal{K}_b})^* \Omega |_{\mathcal{K}_{\bar{b}}} = X_b^* \Omega,\end{aligned}$$

which ends the proof of the theorem. \square

We note that in case b is nonextreme X_b^* is *never* unitarily equivalent to $X_{\bar{b}}$.

Theorem 7.4. *Suppose b is extreme. Then $\dim \mathcal{D}_{X_b} = \dim \mathcal{D}_{X_{\bar{b}}} = 1$, and there exists no subspace of \mathcal{H}_b invariant by X and such that its restriction therein is an isometry.*

Proof. From Theorem 5.8(3) it follows that we may prove the properties for the restriction $S^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*|_{\mathcal{K}_b}$. Since S^* acts isometrically on H_0^2 and Z_Δ^* is unitary, we have $\mathcal{D}_{S^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*} = \mathbb{C}(1 \oplus 0)$. By Exercise 2.2, $\mathcal{D}_{X_b} = \mathbb{C}P_{\mathcal{K}_b}(1 \oplus 0)$. But $P_{\mathcal{K}_b}(1 \oplus 0) \neq 0$; indeed, otherwise we would have $1 \oplus 0 = bh \oplus \Delta h$ for some $h \in H^2$; since $h \neq 0$ a.e., this would imply $\Delta = 0$ a.e., or b inner, which is impossible if $1 = bh$. Therefore $\dim \mathcal{D}_X = 1$.

Applying the same argument to \bar{b} and using (7.1), it follows that $\dim \mathcal{D}_{X^*} = 1$.

Finally, suppose $\mathcal{Y} \subset \mathcal{K}$ is a closed subspace on which X_b acts isometrically, and $h \oplus g \in \mathcal{Y}$, we have, for any $n \geq 0$,

$$\|h\|^2 + \|g\|^2 = \|h \oplus g\|^2 = \|S^{*n}h \oplus Z_\Delta^{*n}g\|^2 = \|S^{*n}h\|^2 + \|Z_\Delta^{*n}g\|^2 \rightarrow \|Z_\Delta^{*n}g\|^2 = \|g\|^2,$$

whence $h = 0$. But then we must have $0 \oplus g \perp bf \oplus \Delta f$ for all $f \in H^2$, or $g \perp \overline{\Delta H^2} = \overline{\Delta L^2}$. Since, on the other hand, $g \in \overline{\Delta L^2}$, it follows that $g = 0$, which ends the proof of the theorem. \square

An analogous construction can be made for \mathfrak{H}_+ . We obtain an orthonormal set $(\epsilon_n^+)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ in \mathfrak{H} , such that $(\epsilon_n^+)_{n \geq 0}$ is a basis for \mathfrak{H}_+ . Then $\omega_+ : L^2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ is the isometry that satisfies $\omega_+(e^{int}) = \epsilon_n^+$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$; $\omega_+(L^2)$ is also a reducing space for W , $\omega_+^* W \omega_+ = M_{e^{-it}}$, and $\omega_+ \omega_+^* W = W \omega_+ \omega_+^*$.

Step 3. Finding b . Consider then the map $\omega_-^* \omega_+ : L^2 \rightarrow L^2$. We have, using the above remarks as well as the equalities $\omega_+^* \omega_+ = \omega_-^* \omega_- = I_{L^2}$,

$$(8.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega_-^* \omega_+ M_{e^{-it}} &= \omega_-^* \omega_+ \omega_+^* W \omega_+ = \omega_-^* W \omega_+ \omega_+^* \omega_+ = \omega_-^* W \omega_+ \\ &= (\omega_-^* \omega_-) \omega_-^* W \omega_+ = \omega_-^* W \omega_- \omega_-^* \omega_+ = M_{e^{-it}} \omega_-^* \omega_+. \end{aligned}$$

So $\omega_-^* \omega_+$ commutes with $M_{e^{-it}}$; it follows that it commutes also with its inverse $M_{e^{it}}$ (exercise!). We have noticed in the introduction that in this case we must have $\omega_-^* \omega_+ = M_b$ for some function $b \in L^\infty$, and $\|\omega_-^* \omega_+\| \leq 1$ implies $\|b\|_\infty \leq 1$.

Now, $b = M_b \mathbf{1} = \omega_-^* \omega_+ \mathbf{1} = \omega_-^* \epsilon_0^+$. Since $\epsilon_0^+ \in \mathfrak{H}_+ \perp \mathfrak{H}_- = \omega_-(\overline{H_0^2})$, it follows that $\omega_-^* \epsilon_0^+ \in H^2$. Thus $b \in L^\infty \cap H^2 = H^\infty$, and we have found our candidate for the function in the unit ball of H^∞ . It remains now to check that it satisfies the required properties. As above, we will denote $\Delta = (1 - |b|^2)^{1/2} \in L^\infty$.

Step 4. Constructing the unitary equivalence. Let us now note that the closed linear span $\omega_+ L^2 \vee \omega_- L^2$ equals \mathfrak{H} . Indeed, it reduces W and contains \mathfrak{H}_+ and \mathfrak{H}_- ; thus its orthogonal Y has to be a reducing subspace of W contained in H (more precisely, in its embedding in \mathfrak{H}). From (8.1) it follows then that $W|_Y = T|_Y$, so Y should be a subspace of H invariant by T and such that the restriction is isometric (even unitary!), which contradicts the hypothesis. Thus $Y = \{0\}$.

We define then a mapping $U : \omega_+ L^2 \vee \omega_- L^2 \rightarrow L^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}$ by

$$U(\omega_+ f_+ + \omega_- f_-) = (f_- + b f_+) \oplus \Delta f_+.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\omega_+ f_+ + \omega_- f_-\|^2 &= \|\omega_+ f_+\|^2 + \|\omega_- f_-\|^2 + 2\Re\langle \omega_+ f_+, \omega_- f_- \rangle \\ &= \|f_+\|_2^2 + \|f_-\|_2^2 + 2\Re\langle \omega_-^* \omega_+ f_+, f_- \rangle_2 = \|f_+\|_2^2 + \|f_-\|_2^2 + 2\Re\langle b f_+, f_- \rangle_2, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|(f_- + b f_+) \oplus \Delta f_+\|^2 &= \int |f_- + b f_+|^2 + \int \Delta^2 |f_+|^2 \\ &= \int |f_-|^2 + |b f_+|^2 + 2\Re b f_+ \bar{f}_- + \Delta^2 |f_+|^2 \\ &= \int |f_-|^2 + |f_+|^2 + 2\Re b f_+ \bar{f}_-, \end{aligned}$$

whence U is an isometry, and it is easy to see that the image is dense. It can be extended to a unitary operator, that we will denote by the same letter,

$$U : \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow L^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}.$$

The commutation relations satisfied by ω_\pm imply that $UW = (Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*)U$.

Step 5. Final checks. Now $U(\mathfrak{H}) = U(\mathfrak{H}_-) \oplus U(H) \oplus U(\mathfrak{H}_+)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} U(\mathfrak{H}_-) &= U(\omega_-(\overline{H_0^2})) = \{f_- \oplus 0 : f_- \in \overline{H_0^2} = \overline{H_0^2} \oplus \{0\}\}, \\ U(\mathfrak{H}_+) &= U(\omega_+(H^2)) = \{b f_+ \oplus \Delta f_+ : f_+ \in H^2\}, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} U(H) &= (L^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}) \ominus \left((\overline{H_0^2} \oplus \{0\}) \oplus (\{bf_+ \oplus \Delta f_+ : f_+ \in H^2\}) \right) \\ &= (H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}) \ominus (\{bf_+ \oplus \Delta f_+ : f_+ \in H^2\}). \end{aligned}$$

As shown by (8.1), T can be viewed as the compression of W to H , so it is unitarily equivalent through U to the compression of $Z^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*$ to $U(H)$. This last is easily seen to be the restriction of $S^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*$ to $(H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}) \ominus (\{bf_+ \oplus \Delta f_+ : f_+ \in H^2\})$.

We are very close to the end: Theorem 5.8 would end the proof, provided we could replace in the formula for $U(H)$ the space $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}$ with $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}$ and thus Z_Δ with V_Δ . But the space

$$Y := (H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2}) \ominus (H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}) = \{0\} \oplus (\overline{\Delta L^2} \ominus \overline{\Delta H^2})$$

is invariant with respect to $S^* \oplus Z_\Delta^*$, which acts on it isometrically. By assumption, we must have $Y = \{0\}$, which means that $H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta L^2} = H^2 \oplus \overline{\Delta H^2}$; this finishes the proof. \square

Exercise 8.2. Show that Theorem 8.1 implies Theorem 3.2.

9. FURTHER READING

We discuss in this section some directions in which the study of de Branges–Rovnyak spaces has developed.

The model spaces \mathbf{K}_u have no nonconstant multipliers. However, the theory of multipliers is interesting for the case of de Branges–Rovnyak spaces corresponding to nonextreme b ; see references [16, 17, 18].

Integral representations of de Branges–Rovnyak spaces appear in [4], and have further been developed in [21, 12, 13]. The last paper is used in [5] to obtain weighted norm inequalities for functions in de Branges–Rovnyak spaces.

The connection between de Branges–Rovnyak and Dirichlet spaces is exploited in [8, 9]; that between de Branges–Rovnyak spaces and composition operators in [15].

Finally, it is natural from many points of view (including that of model spaces) to consider also matrix or operator valued de Branges–Rovnyak spaces. These have already been introduced in [4]; see [2, 3] for some recent developments.

REFERENCES

- [1] N. Aronszajn, Theory of reproducing kernels, *Trans. AMS* **68** (1950), 337–404.
- [2] J.A. Ball, V. Bolotnikov, S. ter Horst, Interpolation in de Branges–Rovnyak spaces, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **139** (2011), 609–618.
- [3] J.A. Ball, V. Bolotnikov, S. ter Horst, Abstract interpolation in vector-valued de Branges–Rovnyak spaces, *Integral Equations Operator Theory* **70** (2011), 227–263.
- [4] J.A. Ball, Th.L. Kriete, Operator-valued Nevanlinna–Pick kernels and the functional models for contraction operators, *Integral Equations Operator Theory* **10** (1987), 17–61.
- [5] A. Baranov, E. Fricain, J. Mashreghi, Weighted norm inequalities for de Branges–Rovnyak spaces and their applications, *Amer. J. Math.* **132** (2010), 125–155.
- [6] L. de Branges, J. Rovnyak, *Square Summable Power Series*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966.
- [7] L. de Branges, J. Rovnyak, Canonical models in quantum scattering theory, in *Perturbation Theory and its Applications in Quantum Mechanics*, ed. by C.H. Wilcox, Wiley, 1966, 295–392.

- [8] N. Chevrot, D. Guillot, Th. Ransford, De Branges-Rovnyak spaces and Dirichlet spaces, *J. Funct. Anal.* **259** (2010), 2366–2383.
- [9] C. Costara, Th. Ransford, Which de Branges–Rovnyak spaces are Dirichlet spaces (and vice versa)?, *J. Funct. Anal.* **265** (2013), 3204–3218.
- [10] R.G. Douglas, On majorization, factorization, and range inclusion of operators on Hilbert space, *Proc. AMS* **17** (1966), 413–415.
- [11] E. Fricain, Bases of reproducing kernels in de Branges spaces, *J. Funct. Anal.* **226** (2005), 373–405.
- [12] E. Fricain, J. Mashreghi, Boundary behavior of functions in the de Branges-Rovnyak spaces, *Complex Anal. Oper. Theory* **2** (2008), 87–97.
- [13] E. Fricain, J. Mashreghi, Integral representation of the n -th derivative in de Branges–Rovnyak spaces and the norm convergence of its reproducing kernel, *Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble)* **58** (2008), 2113–2135.
- [14] Emmanuel Fricain, Javad Mashreghi: *Theory of $\mathcal{H}(b)$ Spaces, vol. I and II*, New Monographs in Mathematics, Cambridge University Press, to appear.
- [15] M.T. Jury, Reproducing kernels, de Branges-Rovnyak spaces, and norms of weighted composition operators, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **135** (2007), 3669–3675.
- [16] B.A. Lotto, D. Sarason, Multiplicative structure of de Branges’s spaces, *Rev. Mat. Iberoamericana* **7** (1991), 183–220.
- [17] B.A. Lotto, D. Sarason, Multipliers of de Branges-Rovnyak spaces, *Indiana Univ. Math. J.* **42** (1993), 907–920.
- [18] B.A. Lotto, D. Sarason, Multipliers of de Branges-Rovnyak spaces, II, in *Harmonic Analysis and Hypergroups*, Delhi, 1995, 51–58.
- [19] N.K. Nikolski: *Operators, Functions, and Systems: An Easy Reading*, AMS, 2002.
- [20] N.K. Nikolski, V.I. Vasyunin, Notes on two function models, in *The Bieberbach conjecture (West Lafayette, Ind., 1985)*, Math. Surveys Monogr., 21, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 1986, 113–141.
- [21] A.G. Poltoratskii, Boundary behavior of pseudocontinuable functions, *Algebra i Analiz* **5** (1993), 189–210, translation in *St. Petersburg Math. J.* **5** (1994), no. 2, 389–406.
- [22] D. Sarason, *Sub-Hardy Hilbert Spaces in the Unit Disk*, John Wiley, 1994.
- [23] D. Sarason, Local Dirichlet spaces as de Branges-Rovnyak spaces, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **125** (1997), 2133–2139.
- [24] B. Sz–Nagy, C. Foias, H. Bercovici, L. Kérchy: *Harmonic Analysis of Operators on Hilbert space*, Springer, 2010.

INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY, P.O. BOX 1-764, BUCHAREST 014700, ROMANIA

E-mail address: Dan.Timotin@imar.ro