ON THE ALGEBRA RANGE OF AN OPERATOR ON A HILBERT $C^*$-MODULE OVER COMPACT OPERATORS

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Abstract. Let $X$ be a Hilbert $C^*$-module over the $C^*$-algebra $K(H)$ of all compact operators on a complex Hilbert space $H$. Given an orthogonal projection $p \in K(H)$, we describe the set $V^p(A) = \{ \langle Ax, x \rangle : x \in X, \langle x, x \rangle = p \}$ for an arbitrary adjointable operator $A \in B(X)$. The relationship between the set $V^p(A)$ and the matricial range of $A$ is established.

1. Introduction and preliminaries

A left Hilbert $C^*$-module $X$ over a $C^*$-algebra $A$ is by definition (see [6]) a linear space which is a left $A$-module, together with an $A$-valued inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on $X \times X$ that is linear in the first and conjugate-linear in the second variable. $X$ is also a Banach space with respect to the norm $\|x\| = \|\langle x, x \rangle\|^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

Let $B(X)$ be the set of all maps $A : X \to X$ for which there is a map $A^* : X \to X$ such that $\langle Ax, y \rangle = \langle x, A^*y \rangle$ for all $x, y \in X$. Furthermore, let $K(X)$ be the closed linear subspace of $B(X)$ spanned by $\{ \theta_{x,y} : x, y \in X \}$ where $\theta_{x,y}$ is a map in $B(X)$ defined by $\theta_{x,y}(z) = \langle z, y \rangle x$. It is well known that $B(X)$ is a $C^*$-algebra containing $K(X)$ as a two-sided ideal (for details see [6]).

By $B(H)$ and $K(H)$ we denote the algebra of all bounded operators and the ideal of all compact operators acting on a fixed complex Hilbert space $H$, respectively.

In the sequel $X$ will denote a left Hilbert $C^*$-module over the $C^*$-algebra $K(H)$. $X$ is assumed to be a full Hilbert $K(H)$-module which means that the ideal spanned by all inner products $\langle x, y \rangle$, $x, y \in X$, is dense in $K(H)$. (Otherwise, $X$ would be trivial, since $K(H)$ is a simple $C^*$-algebra.) It was shown in [3, Theorem 2] that $X$ possesses an orthonormal basis (i.e., an orthogonal system $(x_\lambda)$ that generates a dense submodule of $X$ such that $\langle x_\lambda, x_\lambda \rangle$ is an orthogonal projection in $K(H)$ of rank 1). Furthermore, $X$ contains a Hilbert space $X_e$ with respect to the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle = \text{tr}(\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ where ‘tr’ means the trace. More precisely, for a fixed orthogonal projection $e$ in $K(H)$ of rank 1, $X_e$ is given as the set of all $ex$, $x \in X$. It is known that $X$ and the Hilbert space $X_e$ have the same dimension (i.e., the cardinality of any orthonormal basis). (For all this see [3].) We shall assume that $X$ (and therefore $X_e$) is infinite dimensional.
It was proved in [3, Remark 4(b), Theorem 5] that $X_e$ is an invariant subspace for each $A$ in $B(X)$ and that the map $A \mapsto A[X_e]$ establishes an isomorphism between $C^*$-algebras $B(X)$ and $B(X_e)$ where $B(X_e)$ denotes the algebra of all bounded operators on $X_e$. This isomorphism enables us to describe the relationship between the matricial range of an operator $A$ and the set $V_p^n(A) = \{ \langle Ax, x \rangle : x \in X, \langle x, x \rangle = p \}$ where $p$ is a fixed projection of rank $n$. This is done in Section 3. In Section 2, $V_p^n(A)$ is described in terms of isometries mapping the range of $p$ into $X_e$.

Before stating the results we establish some more notation as follows. First, a positive integer $n$ is fixed and it is supposed that $H$ has dimension greater than or equal to $n$. The inner product in $H$ will be denoted by $(\cdot, \cdot)$. Then let us fix an $n$-dimensional orthogonal projection $p$ in $K(H)$. $H_n$ will designate the $n$-dimensional range of $p$. We now choose an orthonormal basis $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}$ for $H_n$ which is to be held fixed for the rest of this paper. For $\xi, \eta \in H$, $e_{\xi, \eta}$ in $B(H)$ is defined by $e_{\xi, \eta}(\nu) = (\nu|\eta)\xi$. From now on we denote $e_i = e_{\xi_i, \xi_i}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Evidently, $p = e_1 + \cdots + e_n$. In the rest of the paper let us also fix a unit vector $\xi$ in $H$ and denote by $e$ the orthogonal projection $e_{\xi, \xi}$ to the one-dimensional subspace spanned by $\xi$.

2. Main result

Definition 2.1. For an operator $A \in B(X)$ we define the set

$$V_p^n(A) = \{ \langle Ax, x \rangle : x \in X, \langle x, x \rangle = p \}.$$ 

Remark 2.2. Note that for $n = 1$, $V_p^1(A)$ coincides (up to natural identification) with the classical numerical range of an operator $A|X_{e_1}$ in $B(X_{e_1})$. Namely, $(x, x) = e_1$ if and only if $x$ is a unit vector in a Hilbert space $X_{e_1}$. Further, we then have $e_{\xi, \xi}(\nu) = (\nu|\eta)\xi$. From now on we denote $e_i = e_{\xi_i, \xi_i}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Evidently, $p = e_1 + \cdots + e_n$. In the rest of the paper let us also fix a unit vector $\xi$ in $H$ and denote by $e$ the orthogonal projection $e_{\xi, \xi}$ to the one-dimensional subspace spanned by $\xi$.

Lemma 2.3. There exists a vector $x \in X$ such that $\langle x, x \rangle = p$.

Proof. Since $X$ is infinite dimensional we can choose an orthogonal set $\{y_1, \ldots, y_n\}$ in $X$ such that $\langle y_i, y_j \rangle = e$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, n$ (see [3] Remark 4(d)]. Let us denote $x_i = e_{\xi, \xi}y_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Then we have

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = e_{\xi, \xi}(y_i, y_j) = e_{\xi, \xi}(y_i; x_j) = e_{\xi, \xi}(y_i; e_{\xi, \xi}) = e_{\xi, \xi}(y_i; \delta_{i,j}e_{\xi, \xi}) = \delta_{i,j}e_{\xi, \xi}$$

for all $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. It remains to define $x = x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n$. 

Remark 2.4. It is clear that each $x \in X$ such that $\langle x, x \rangle = p$ satisfies $\langle x - px, x - px \rangle = 0$, so $x = px$. Further, for every such vector $x$ we have

$$p\langle Ax, x \rangle = \langle A(px), x \rangle = \langle Ax, x \rangle = \langle Ax, px \rangle = \langle Ax, x \rangle p.$$ 

Hence, the subspace $H_n$ reduces $\langle Ax, x \rangle$ for all $A \in B(X)$. Moreover, for $\eta \perp H_n$ we have $\langle Ax, x \rangle \eta = \langle Ax, x \rangle p\eta = 0$. This shows that the operator $\langle Ax, x \rangle$ acts trivially on $H_n^\perp$, so that, without loss of generality, $\langle Ax, x \rangle$ can be regarded as an operator acting on the $n$-dimensional space $H_n$. 


Let $A$ be an arbitrary operator in $B(X)$. We shall see that the set $V^n_p(A)$ basically does not depend on the choice of the rank $n$ projection $p \in K(H)$. Namely, if $q \in K(H)$ is an arbitrary projection of rank $n$, then the sets $V^n_p(A)$ and $V^n_q(A)$ can be naturally identified, as shown in the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.5.** Let $A \in B(X)$ and let $p,q \in K(H)$ be projections of finite rank $n$. Let $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}$ and $\{\eta_1, \ldots, \eta_n\}$ be orthonormal bases for the ranges of $p$ and $q$, respectively. Then a map $\Phi : V^n_p(A) \to V^n_q(A)$ defined by $\Phi(\langle Ax, x \rangle) = \langle A(\sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}) \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}, x \rangle$ is a bijection.

**Proof.** Let $\Phi$ be as in the statement of the proposition. Since

$$\langle \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}, x \rangle \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}, x \rangle = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} \langle x, x \rangle e_{\xi_j, \eta_j} = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} p e_{\xi_j, \eta_j}$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \delta_{i,j} e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} e_{\xi_j, \eta_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} e_{\xi_i, \eta_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \eta_i} = q,$$

we conclude that $\Phi$ is a well-defined map.

To prove that $\Phi$ is injective, suppose that $\Phi(\langle Ax, x \rangle) = \Phi(\langle Ay, y \rangle)$ for some $x, y \in X$, $\langle x, x \rangle = \langle y, y \rangle = p$. It follows that

$$\langle A(\sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}), x \rangle \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}, x \rangle = \langle A(\sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}) y \rangle \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}, y \rangle,$$

which implies

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} \langle Ax, x \rangle e_{\xi_j, \eta_j} = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} \langle Ay, y \rangle e_{\xi_j, \eta_j}.$$ 

Multiplying the above equality on its left side by $e_{\xi_i, \eta_i}$ and on its right side by $e_{\eta_i, \xi_i}$, we obtain

$$e_i \langle Ax, x \rangle e_j = e_i \langle Ay, y \rangle e_j$$

for all $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. Thus we have

$$\langle Ax, x \rangle = p(\langle Ax, x \rangle) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_i \langle Ax, x \rangle e_j$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_i \langle Ay, y \rangle e_j = p(\langle Ay, y \rangle) = \langle Ay, y \rangle.$$

It remains to show that $\Phi$ is surjective. To see this, take any $\langle Ay, y \rangle \in V^n_q(A)$. We define $x = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\xi_i, \eta_i} y$. Then $\langle Ax, x \rangle \in V^n_p(A)$ since

$$\langle x, x \rangle = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\xi_i, \eta_i} \langle y, y \rangle e_{\eta_j, \xi_j} = \sum_{i,j=1}^n e_{\eta_i, \eta_j} e_{\xi_j, \xi_i}$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \delta_{i,j} e_{\xi_i, \eta_i} e_{\eta_j, \xi_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\xi_i, \eta_i} e_{\eta_i, \xi_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n e_{\xi_i, \xi_i} = p.$$
Finally,

\[ \Phi(\langle Ax, x \rangle) = \langle A(\sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, \xi_i} x), \sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, \xi_i} x \rangle \]

\[ = \langle A(\sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, \xi_i} \sum_{j=1}^{n} e_{\xi_i, n_j} y), \sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, \xi_i} \sum_{j=1}^{n} e_{\xi_i, n_j} y \rangle \]

\[ = \langle A(\sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, n_j} y), \sum_{i=1}^{n} e_{n, n_j} y \rangle = \langle Ay, y \rangle. \]

This completes the proof. \(\square\)

If an arbitrary rank \(n\) projection \(p\) is fixed, then according to the identification from the above proposition, we can write \(V^n_p(A) = V^n(A)\). Remark 2.4 shows us now that the set \(V^n(A)\) can be considered as a subset of \(B(H_n)\) where \(H_n\) denotes, as before, the range of \(p\).

In the following theorem we give an alternative description of the set \(V^n(A)\). To do this, we have to introduce a “transposed” operator on \(B(H_n)\).

**Definition 2.6.** Let \(\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}\) be the fixed orthonormal basis for \(H_n\). We define a “transposed” operator \(\tau : B(H_n) \to B(H_n)\) by the formula \(t \mapsto \tau(t)\) where \(\tau(t)\) is given by its action on the basis \(\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}\):

\[ \tau(t)\xi_j = \sum_{i=1}^{n}(t|\xi_i, \xi_j)\xi_i. \]

**Remark 2.7.** According to the above definition, for \(t \in B(H_n)\) and \(\eta = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j \xi_j \in H_n\), it follows that

\[ \tau(t)\eta = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j \tau(t)\xi_j = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_j (\sum_{i=1}^{n} (t|\xi_i, \xi_j)\xi_i). \]

Further, let us denote by \([t_{ij}]\) and \([\tau(t)_{ij}]\) the matrix representations of the linear operators \(t\) and \(\tau(t)\) with respect to the orthonormal basis \(\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}\). Then we get

\[ \tau(t)_{kj} = (\tau(t)\xi_j|\xi_k) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (t\xi_i|\xi_j, \xi_k) = (t\xi_k|\xi_j) = t_{jk} \]

for all \(k, j = 1, \ldots, n\). This shows that the matrix of \(\tau(t)\) is obtained by transposing the matrix of \(t\), hence the map \(\tau\) is a linear operator on \(B(H_n)\).

In our next proposition some elementary properties of the map \(\tau\) are collected.

**Proposition 2.8.** The operator \(\tau\) from Definition 2.6 has the following properties:

(i) \(\tau(t^*) \geq 0\) for every \(t \in B(H_n)\),
(ii) \(\tau^2(t) = t\) for every \(t \in B(H_n)\),
(iii) \(\tau(t^*) = \tau(t)^*\) for every \(t \in B(H_n)\),
(iv) \(\tau(ts) = \tau(s)\tau(t)\) for all \(t, s \in B(H_n)\).

Since all assertions are clear, the proof is omitted.
We now state our theorem.

**Theorem 2.9.** Let $A$ be an operator in $B(X)$. Then

$$\tau(V^+(A)) := \{\tau((Ax, x)) \mid x \in X, \langle x, x \rangle = p\}$$

$$= \{v^* A|x_v v : v : H_n \to X_e \text{ is an isometry}\}.$$

**Remark 2.10.** Note that in the assertion of this theorem we use the fact that $X_e$ is an invariant subspace for each $A$ in $B(X)$ (see [3] Remark 4(b)).

**Proof of Theorem 2.9.** Given an isometry $v : H_n \to X_e$, we define for $i = 1, \ldots, n$ the vector $x_i = e_{\xi, v_\xi v_i}$. Then $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ is an orthogonal set in $X$ such that $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \delta_{i,j} e_i$. Indeed, for $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ we have

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = e_{\xi, \xi}(v_{\xi_i}, v_{\xi_j}) e_{\xi, \xi} = e_{\xi, \xi}(v_{\xi_i}, v_{\xi_j}) e_{\xi, \xi} e_{\xi, \xi} = \delta_{i,j} e_{\xi, \xi} = \delta_{i,j} e_i,$$

since the equality $\langle y, z \rangle = (y, z)e$ is satisfied for all $y, z$ from $X_e$ (see [3] Remark 4(c)). The vector $x = x_1 + \cdots + x_n$ clearly satisfies $\langle x, x \rangle = p$. Furthermore, for $1 \leq i, j \leq n$, we obtain

$$(\tau((Ax, x))_{\xi_j} |_{\xi_i}) = (\langle Ax, x \rangle_{\xi_j} |_{\xi_i})$$

$$= \sum_{k,l=1}^n ((Ax_k, x_l)_{\xi_j} |_{\xi_i}) = \sum_{k,l=1}^n ((A(e_{\xi_k, v_{\xi_k}}), e_{\xi_j, v_{\xi_j}})_{\xi_i})$$

$$= \sum_{k,l=1}^n (e_{\xi_k, \xi}(Av_{\xi_k}, v_{\xi_l}) e_{\xi_j, \xi} |_{\xi_j}) = \sum_{k,l=1}^n (e_{\xi_k, \xi}(Av_{\xi_k}, v_{\xi_l}) e_{\xi_j, \xi} e_{\xi_j, \xi} |_{\xi_j})$$

$$= \sum_{k,l=1}^n (v^* A|x_v v_{\xi_k} |_{\xi_l}) (e_{\xi_j, \xi} |_{\xi_j}) = (v^* A|x_v v_{\xi_j} |_{\xi_j}).$$

Therefore, we have shown that $v^* A|x_v v = \tau((Ax, x))$.

Conversely, let $x$ be a vector in $X$ such that $\langle x, x \rangle = p$. We define an operator $v : H_n \to X_e$ on the orthonormal basis $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}$ by putting $v_{\xi_i} = e_{\xi, \xi}. x$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Observe that the operator $v$ takes its values in $X_e$, since

$$(v_{\xi_i}, v_{\xi_j}) = e_{\xi, \xi} \langle x, x \rangle e_{\xi, \xi} = e_{\xi, \xi} p e_{\xi, \xi} = e_{\xi, \xi} = e$$

for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Moreover, $v$ is an isometry since

$$(v_{\xi_i}, v_{\xi_j}) = \text{tr}(v_{\xi_i}, v_{\xi_j}) = \text{tr}(e_{\xi, \xi} \langle x, x \rangle e_{\xi, \xi}) = \text{tr}(e_{\xi, \xi} p e_{\xi, \xi}) = \delta_{i,j}$$

for all $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. If we put $x_i = e_{i, x}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$, then $\langle x, x \rangle = p$ implies $x = px = (e_1 + \cdots + e_n)x = x_1 + \cdots + x_n$. Observe that $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \delta_{i,j} e_i$ and also that $x_i = e_{i, x} = e_{i, \xi} e_{\xi, \xi} x = e_{i, \xi} v_{\xi_i}$ for $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. Thus, as in the proof of the first part, we conclude that $\tau((Ax, x)) = v^* A|x_v v$. This completes the proof. \[\square\]

3. **Relation between $V^+(A)$ and $W^+(A)$**

Let $A$ be a unital $C^*$-algebra. Given an element $a$ in $A$, we shall denote by $C^*_a(a)$ the $C^*$-algebra generated by $a$ and the identity. Let $CP(C^*_a(a), C^*_a, 1)$ be the set of all completely positive maps of $C^*_a(a)$ into $B(C^*_a)$ which preserve the identity. (The reader is referred to [11] or [7] for the definition and more details about completely positive maps.)

Furthermore, given a subset $S$ of a unital $C^*$-algebra $A$, we denote by $mconv(S)$ the matricial convex hull of $S$, i.e., the set of all finite sums of the type $\sum t^*_i a_i t_i$, where each $a_i \in S$ and where the elements $t_i \in A$ are such that $\sum t^*_i t_i = 1$. 

By $S^-$ we denote the topological closure of a set $S$.

In what follows, let us fix a unitary operator $u : C^n \to H_n$. (If $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$ and $\{\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n\}$ denote the standard orthonormal basis for $C^n$ and our fixed orthonormal basis for $H_n$, respectively, then $u$ can be chosen by its action on the basis $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$, i.e., $\xi_j = \xi_j$ for $j = 1, \ldots, n$.) In the sequel $\psi : B(H_n) \to B(C^n)$ will denote an isomorphism between $C^*$-algebras $B(H_n)$ and $B(C^n)$ defined by $\psi(t) = u^* t u$, $t \in B(H_n)$.

We begin by recalling the definition of the matricial range of an element in a unital $C^*$-algebra (see [2], [4] or [9]).

**Definition 3.1.** Let $A$ be a unital $C^*$-algebra. For an element $a \in A$, the matricial range of $a$ is the set

$$W^n(a) = \{ \varphi(a) : \varphi \in CP(C^*(a), C^n, 1) \}.$$

**Remark 3.2.** It is clear that the corresponding elements of $*$-isomorphic $C^*$-algebras have the same matricial range. In particular, for all $A \in B(X)$ we have $W^n(A) = W^n(A | X_e)$.

In [3] Theorem 3.5 J. Bunce and N. Salinas showed that for a given operator $A$, $X_e$ in $B(X_e)$ it holds that

$$W^n(A | X_e) = \text{mconv}\{ v^* A | X_e v : v : C^n \to X_e \text{ is an isometry} \}^-.$$

Theorem 2.9 immediately implies that

$$\psi(\tau(V^n(A))) = \{ \psi(v^* A | X_e v) : v : H_n \to X_e \text{ is an isometry} \} = \{ v^* A | X_e v : v : C^n \to X_e \text{ is an isometry} \}.$$

Thus we have the following result:

**Theorem 3.3.** If $A \in B(X)$, then $W^n(A) = \text{mconv}(\psi(\tau(V^n(A))))^-.$

Further, for an operator $T \in B(H)$, recall that the essential matricial range of $T$ is the set

$$W^n_e(T) = \{ \varphi(T) : \varphi \in CP(C^*(T), C^n, 1), \varphi | C^*(T) \cap K(H) = 0 \}.$$

We now introduce the definition of the essential matricial range of $A \in B(X)$ as follows:

**Definition 3.4.** For an operator $A \in B(X)$ the essential matricial range of $A$ is the set

$$W^n_e(A) = \{ \varphi(A) : \varphi \in CP(C^*(A), C^n, 1), \varphi | C^*(A) \cap K(X) = 0 \}.$$

**Remark 3.5.** Since $A \in K(X)$ if and only if $A | X_e \in K(X_e)$ (see [3] Theorem 6)), it follows that $W^n_e(A) = W^n(A | X_e)$.

Given an operator $A \in B(X)$, there is an interesting relationship between the sets $W^n(A)$, $\psi(\tau(V^n(A)))$ and $W^n_e(A)$, as an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.9 and Theorem 3.7 of [3].

**Theorem 3.6.** If $A \in B(X)$, then $W^n(A) = \text{mconv}(\psi(\tau(V^n(A))) \cup W^n_e(A))$.

Finally, as a consequence of the equivalence of the conditions (a) and (c) in Theorem 3.1 of [3], we get a description of the essential matricial range of an operator $A$ in $B(X)$.
Theorem 3.7. Let $A$ be in $B(X)$. Then $l \in W^e_n(A)$ if and only if there exists an orthogonal sequence $(x_k)$ in $X$ such that $\langle x_k, x_k \rangle = p$ for all $k \in N$ and $\lim_{k \to \infty} \psi(\tau(\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle)) = l$.

Proof. As in the proof of Theorem 2.9 we conclude that $v : H_n \to X_e$ is an isometry if and only if there exists a vector $x$ in $X$ such that $\langle x, x \rangle = p$. Thereby $v^* A \tau(Xe) = \tau(\langle Ax, x \rangle)$ and the vectors $x_i = e_i x$ satisfy $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \delta_{i,j} e_i$, $x_1 + \cdots + x_n = x$, $x_i = e_i, v v_i = e_i \xi_i$ and $\xi_i = \xi_i \xi_i$ for all $i, j = 1, \ldots, n$. Observe that isometries $v v, v^\prime : C^n \to X_e$ have mutually orthogonal ranges if and only if isometries $v, v^\prime : H_n \to X_e$ have mutually orthogonal ranges, that is, if and only if $\langle x, x^\prime \rangle = 0$ is satisfied for the corresponding vectors $x$ and $x^\prime$. To complete the proof, it remains to apply Theorem 3.1 ((a) $\Leftrightarrow$ (c)) of [5].

Remark 3.8. We provide here an alternative proof for the sufficiency part. To do this, we need the following lemma concerning the characterisation of an operator in $K(X)$. Notice that if $n = \text{rank}(p) = 1$, our lemma reduces to Theorem 7 ((a) $\Leftrightarrow$ (c)) from [3].

Lemma 3.9. For $A \in B(X)$ the following statements are mutually equivalent:

(i) $A \in K(X)$.

(ii) $\lim_{k \to \infty} \langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle = 0$ for each orthogonal system $(x_k)$ in $X$ such that $\langle x_k, x_k \rangle = p$ for all $k \in N$.

Proof. (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii). Since $A = B + iC$, where $B, C \in K(X)$ are self-adjoint operators, we may assume that $A$ is self-adjoint. First, observe that $\|\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle\| \leq \|A\| \|x_k\|^2 = \|A\| \|p\| = \|A\|$ for all $k \in N$. If $l$ is a cluster point of the norm bounded sequence $(\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle)$ in $B(H_n)$, then there exists a subsequence $(\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle)$ of $(\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle)$ converging to $l$. Obviously, $l$ is a self-adjoint operator in $B(H_n)$. We shall show that $l$ must be zero. Let $(\eta_1, \ldots, \eta_n)$ be an orthonormal basis for $H_n$ consisting of eigenvectors of $l$. Put $f_j = e_{\eta_j, \eta_j}$ for $j = 1, \ldots, n$. Then $(f_j x_k)_i$ is an orthonormal system in $X$ (i.e., an orthonormal system of vectors whose inner squares are orthogonal projections of rank 1). Indeed,

$$\langle f_j x_k, f_j x_k \rangle = \langle f_j x_k, x_k \rangle f_j = f_j \delta_{s,t} p f_j = \delta_{s,t} f_j$$

for all $s, t \in N$. Now, for $j = 1, \ldots, n$, we have

$$f_j f_j = \lim_{i \to \infty} f_j (Ax_k, x_k) f_j = \lim_{i \to \infty} \langle Af_j x_k, f_j x_k \rangle = 0,$$

where the last equality follows from Theorem 7 of [3]. We conclude that $l = 0$.

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i). Let $(y_k)$ be an arbitrary orthonormal system in a Hilbert space $X_e$. We define

$$x_k = c_{\xi_1, \xi_2} y_{(k-1)n+1} + e_{\xi_2, \xi_2} y_{(k-1)n+2} + \cdots + c_{\xi_n, \xi_n} y_{kn}$$

for $k \in N$. It is easy to see that $(x_k)$ is an orthogonal system in $X$ such that $\langle x_k, x_k \rangle = p$ for all $k \in N$. By the hypothesis it follows that

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \langle Ae_i x_k, e_i x_k \rangle = \lim_{k \to \infty} e_i \langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle e_i = 0$$

for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Now we use the facts that $X_e$ is invariant for $A$ and that $\langle x, y \rangle = (x, y)e$ for all $x, y \in X_e$ (see [3] Remark 4(b), (c)) to obtain

$$\langle Ae_i x_k, e_i x_k \rangle = e_i, \xi \langle Ay_{(k-1)n+i}, y_{(k-1)n+i} \rangle e_i \xi_i$$

$$= (A|Xe y_{(k-1)n+i}, y_{(k-1)n+i}) e_i \xi_i$$
for $i = 1, \ldots, n$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence, $\lim_{k \to \infty} (A[X_ey_{(k-1)n+i}, y_{(k-1)n+i}]) = 0$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n$. It obviously follows that $\lim_{k \to \infty} (A[X_ey_k, y_k]) = 0$, so by Theorem 1.8.7 of [8], $A[X_e]$ is a compact operator on $X_e$. Therefore, Theorem 6 of [8] implies that $A \in K(X)$.

An alternative proof of the sufficiency part of Theorem 3.7. For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we define a map $\varphi_k : C^*(A) \to B(H_n)$ by setting

$$\varphi_k(T) = \tau((Tx_k, x_k)) \quad (T \in C^*(A)).$$

Then, $\varphi_k$ is a completely positive map which takes $I$ to $p$. Namely, since every positive element of $M_r(C^*(A))$ is a finite sum of the elements of the type $[T_i^*T_j]$ where $T_i \in C^*(A)$, it is sufficient to show that $[\varphi_k(T_i^*T_j)]$ is a positive element of $M_r(B(H_n))$ for all $T_1, \ldots, T_r \in C^*(A)$. We have

$$[\varphi_k(T_i^*T_j)] = [\tau((T_i^*T_jx_k, x_k))] = [\tau((T_jx_k, T_i^*x_k))] = \tau((Tx_k, T_i^*x_k))$$

where $\tau$ also stands for the “transposed” operator on $M_r(B(H_n))$. By Lemma 4.2 of [11] (the assertion is also true for left Hilbert $C^*$-modules), we have $[\tau((T_i^*T_jx_k, x_k))] \geq 0$, so $[\varphi_k(T_i^*T_j)] \geq 0$. Since the set of all completely positive maps of $C^*(A)$ into $B(H_n)$ which take $I$ to $p$ is BW-compact (the BW-topology is introduced in [11]), there exists a subsequence $(\varphi_{k_i})$ of $(\varphi_k)$ and a completely positive map $\varphi : C^*(A) \to B(H_n)$ such that $\varphi(T) = \lim_{i \to \infty} \varphi_{k_i}(T)$ for all $T \in C^*(A)$. In particular, by the preceding lemma, for $K \in C^*(A) \cap K(X)$ it holds that $\varphi(K) = \lim_{i \to \infty} \tau((Kx_{k_i}, x_{k_i})) = 0$. Hence, $\psi \circ \varphi$ is a completely positive map of $C^*(A)$ into $B(C^\infty)$ satisfying $(\psi \circ \varphi)(I) = \psi(p) = u^*pu = 1$ and such that $(\psi \circ \varphi)(K) = 0$ for all $K \in C^*(A) \cap K(X)$. Therefore,

$$l = \lim_{i \to \infty} \psi(\tau((Ax_{k_i}, x_{k_i}))) = \lim_{i \to \infty} (\psi \circ \varphi_{k_i})(A) = (\psi \circ \varphi)(A) \in W^\psi_e(A),$$

as desired.

In conclusion, let us consider the case when a given operator $A$ in $B(X)$ is normal. W. B. Arveson proved in [2] Proposition 2.4.1] that the matricial range of a normal operator $T \in B(H)$ is the set

$$W^n(T) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_i k_i : r \geq 1, \lambda_i \in \sigma(T), k_i \in B(C^\infty), k_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^{r} k_i = 1 \right\},$$

where $\sigma(T)$ denotes the spectrum of $T$.

Notice that Proposition 2.8 (i) implies $l \in W^n(T)$ if and only if $\psi(\tau(\psi^{-1}(l))) \in W^n(T)$.

We need only to apply Proposition 2.8, Theorem 3.3, Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 3.7 to obtain

**Corollary 3.10.** Let $A$ be a normal operator in $B(X)$. Then the following statements hold:

(i) $W^n(A) = \text{mconv}(\psi(V^n(A))) \cap B(C^\infty)\).  
(ii) $W^\psi(A) = \text{mconv}(\psi(V^n(A))) \cup W^\psi_e(A)\).  
(iii) $l \in W^\psi_e(A)$ if and only if there is an orthogonal sequence $(x_k)$ in $X$ such that $\langle x_k, x_k \rangle = p$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\lim_{k \to \infty} \psi(\langle Ax_k, x_k \rangle) = l$. 

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