

# One-dimensional and multidimensional spectral order

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- If the operator  $A$  is closable, we denote by  $\bar{A}$  its closure.

## Definitions

- Denote by  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  the  $C^*$ -algebra of all bounded operators  $A$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $\mathcal{D}(A) = \mathcal{H}$ . As usual,  $I = I_{\mathcal{H}}$  stands for the identity operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ .

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- $\mathbf{B}_s(\mathcal{H}) = \{A \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H}) : A = A^*\}$
- Given two selfadjoint operators  $A, B \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$ , we write  $A \preceq B$  whenever  $\langle Ah, h \rangle \leq \langle Bh, h \rangle$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ .



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- A densely defined operator  $A$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is said to be *selfadjoint* if  $A = A^*$  and *positive* if  $\langle Ah, h \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ .

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- If  $A$  and  $B$  are positive selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mathcal{D}(B^{1/2}) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(A^{1/2})$  and  $\|A^{1/2}h\| \leq \|B^{1/2}h\|$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{D}(B^{1/2})$ , then we write  $A \preceq B$ .

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- 
- The last definition of  $\preceq$  is easily seen to be consistent with that for bounded operators.

### Remark

In general inequality  $0 \leq A \leq B$ , where  $A, B \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$ , may not imply  $A^n \leq B^n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

### Theorem (M.P. Olson, A. P., J. Stochel)

*Let  $A$  and  $B$  be positive selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $A^n \leq B^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
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- (iii)  $A \preceq B$ .

Let us consider two-dimensional Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$ . Let  $A$  and  $B_\theta$  be the matrices given by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B_\theta = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & \theta \end{bmatrix} \text{ for } \theta \in [1, \infty). \quad (1)$$

Clearly,  $A \geq 0$  and  $B_\theta \geq 0$ .

### Proposition

*Let  $A$  and  $B_\theta$  be as in (1). Then for every positive integer  $k$  there exists  $\theta_k \in (2, \infty)$  such that for all  $\theta \in [\theta_k, \infty)$ ,*

- (i)  $A^n \leq B_\theta^n$  for all  $n = 0, \dots, k$ ,
- (ii)  $A \not\leq B_\theta$ .

## The definition of spectral order

- Let  $A, B \in \mathbf{B}_s(\mathcal{H})$  with spectral measure  $E_A$  and  $E_B$ , respectively. We write  $A \preceq B$  if  $E_B((-\infty, x]) \leq E_A((-\infty, x])$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

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- The relation  $\preceq$  is a partial order in the set of all selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- This definition was introduced in 1971 by Olson.

## Lattices

- Kadison (1951):  $(\mathbf{B}_s(\mathcal{H}), \preceq)$  is an anti-lattice, i.e., for any  $A, B \in \mathbf{B}_s(\mathcal{H})$ , the supremum of the set  $\{A, B\}$  exists if and only if  $A, B$  are comparable (either  $A \preceq B$  or  $B \preceq A$ ).

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- Sherman (1951): If the set of all selfadjoint elements of a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  with the usual order forms a lattice, then  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative.
- Olson (1971): If  $\mathcal{S}$  is the set of all selfadjoint elements of a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{V}$  in  $\mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$  then,  $(\mathcal{S}, \preceq)$  is a conditionally complete lattice.

## The definition of spectral order for unbounded operators

Given two selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  with spectral measure  $E_A$  and  $E_B$ , respectively, we write  $A \preceq B$  if  $E_B((-\infty, x]) \leq E_A((-\infty, x])$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In the case of unbounded operators closed supports of  $E_A$  and  $E_B$  are not compact.

## Proposition

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $A \preceq B$ . Then  $\langle Ah, h \rangle \leq \langle Bh, h \rangle$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{D}(A) \cap \mathcal{D}(B)$ . Moreover, if  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded from below, then  $\mathcal{D}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(A)$ .

## Remark

In general, the relation  $A \preceq B$  implies neither  $\mathcal{D}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(A)$  nor  $\mathcal{D}(A) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(B)$ . It is even possible to find operators  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A \preceq B$  and  $\mathcal{D}(A) \cap \mathcal{D}(B) = \{0\} \neq \mathcal{H}$ .

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## Theorem (M. P. Olson, M. Fujii, I. Kasahara, A. P., J. Stochel)

If  $A$  and  $B$  are selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ , then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $A \preceq B$ ,
- (ii)  $f(A) \preceq f(B)$  for each bounded continuous monotonically increasing function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ ,
- (iii)  $f(A) \preceq f(B)$  for each bounded monotonically increasing function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .



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- An element of

$$\mathcal{B}(A) = \bigcup_{a>0} \{h \in \mathcal{D}^\infty(A) : \exists c>0 \forall n \geq 0 \|A^n h\| \leq ca^n\}$$

is called a *bounded vector* of  $A$ .

## Theorem

If  $A$  and  $B$  are positive selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ , then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $A \preceq B$ ,
- (ii)  $\mathcal{D}^\infty(B) \subseteq \mathcal{D}^\infty(A)$  and the set  $\mathcal{I}_{A,B}(h)$  is unbounded for all  $h \in \mathcal{D}^\infty(B)$ ,
- (iii)  $\mathcal{B}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{D}^\infty(A)$  and the set  $\mathcal{I}_{A,B}(h)$  is unbounded for all  $h \in \mathcal{B}(B)$ ,
- (iv)  $\mathcal{B}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{B}(A)$  and the set  $\mathcal{I}_{A,B}(h)$  is unbounded for all  $h \in \mathcal{B}(B)$ ,

where  $\mathcal{I}_{A,B}(h) := \{s \in [0, \infty) : \langle A^s h, h \rangle \leq \langle B^s h, h \rangle\}$  for  $h \in \mathcal{D}^\infty(A) \cap \mathcal{D}^\infty(B)$ .

Recall that due to Stone's theorem the infinitesimal generator of a  $C_0$ -semigroup of bounded selfadjoint operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  is always selfadjoint.

### Theorem

Let  $\{T_j(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \subseteq B(\mathcal{H})$  be a  $C_0$ -semigroup of selfadjoint operators and  $A_j$  be its infinitesimal generator,  $j = 1, 2$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $A_1 \preceq A_2$ ,
- (ii)  $T_1(t) \preceq T_2(t)$  *for some*  $t > 0$ ,
- (iii)  $T_1(t) \preceq T_2(t)$  *for every*  $t > 0$ ,
- (iv)  $T_1(t) \leq T_2(t)$  *for some*  $t > 0$  and  
 $E_A((-\infty, x])E_B((-\infty, x]) = E_B((-\infty, x])E_A((-\infty, x])$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,
- (v)  $T_1(nt) \leq T_2(nt)$  *for some*  $t > 0$  and for infinitely many  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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- We say that selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  (*spectrally commute*) if their spectral measures commute, i.e.,  $E_A(\sigma)E_B(\tau) = E_B(\tau)E_A(\sigma)$  for all Borel subsets  $\sigma, \tau$  of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

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- $E_{\mathbf{A}}$ -joint spectral measure of  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$ ,

*Definition*

Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  be a  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ . We write  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$  if  $E_{\mathbf{B}}((-\infty, x]) \leq E_{\mathbf{A}}((-\infty, x])$  for every  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_\kappa) \in \mathbb{R}^\kappa$ , where  $(-\infty, x] := (-\infty, x_1] \times \dots \times (-\infty, x_\kappa]$ .



## Notation and definitions

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- $|\alpha| := \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_\kappa$  for  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\kappa) \in [0, \infty)^\kappa$ ,
- $x^\alpha := x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_\kappa^{\alpha_\kappa}$  for  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_\kappa)$  and  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\kappa)$ .

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  be  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  such, that  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$ . If  $\varphi \in S(\mathbb{R}^\kappa, E_{\mathbf{A}}) \cap S(\mathbb{R}^\kappa, E_{\mathbf{B}})$  is separately monotonically increasing Borel function, then  $\varphi(\mathbf{A}) \preceq \varphi(\mathbf{B})$ . In particular  $\varphi(\mathbf{A}) \preceq \varphi(\mathbf{B})$  for every separately monotonically increasing Borel function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

*Remark*

Suppose that  $\dim \mathcal{H} \geq 1$ . Then each Borel function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying condition

$$\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B} \implies \varphi(\mathbf{A}) \preceq \varphi(\mathbf{B}) \quad (2)$$

for every  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$   $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators, has to be separately monotonically increasing.

## Corollary

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$ ,
- (ii)  $\varphi(\mathbf{A}) \leq \varphi(\mathbf{B})$  for every separately monotonically increasing bounded continuous function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,
- (iii)  $\varphi(\mathbf{A}) \leq \varphi(\mathbf{B})$  for every separately monotonically increasing bounded Borel function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^\kappa \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

*Remark*

Olson proved that the spectral order is not a vector order. In particular the implication  $A \preceq B \implies A + C \preceq B + C$  does not hold for some  $A, B, C \in \mathbf{B}_s(\mathcal{H})$ . However spectral order has still some traces of vector order properties.

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### Corollary

*Let  $(A_1, A_2)$  and  $(B_1, B_2)$  be pairs of commuting selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Assume that  $A_1 \preceq B_1$  and  $A_2 \preceq B_2$ . Then*

$$\overline{A_1 + A_2} \preceq \overline{B_1 + B_2}.$$



Let

$$X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^\kappa} x^\alpha dE_{\mathbf{A}}(x) = \overline{A_1^{\alpha_1} \dots A_\kappa^{\alpha_\kappa}},$$

for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^\kappa$ .

What are the connections between the domains of operators  $X^\alpha(\mathbf{A})$  and  $X^\alpha(\mathbf{B})$ , if  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$ ?

Let

$$\mathbf{C}_\epsilon := (C_1^{\epsilon_1}, \dots, C_\kappa^{\epsilon_\kappa}),$$

for  $\mathbf{C} = (C_1, \dots, C_\kappa)$  -  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_\kappa) \in \{-, +\}^\kappa$ , where  $C^\pm := \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^\pm dE_C(x)$ .

### Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  be  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting selfadjoint operators such that  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^\kappa$ . If

$$X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}_\epsilon) \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H}), \quad \epsilon \in \{-, +\}^\kappa \setminus \{(+, \dots, +)\},$$

then

$$\mathcal{D}(X^\alpha(\mathbf{B})) \subset \mathcal{D}(X^\alpha(\mathbf{A})). \quad (3)$$

Condition

$$X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}_\epsilon) \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H}), \quad \epsilon \in \{-, +\}^\kappa \setminus \{(+, \dots, +)\},$$

can't be weakened.

### Example

For every  $\epsilon \neq (+, \dots, +)$  we can find  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  such that  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$  and

- 1  $X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}_\delta) \in \mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$  for every  $\delta \in \{-, +\}^\kappa \setminus \{\epsilon\}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_*^\kappa$ ,
- 2  $\mathcal{D}(X^\alpha(\mathbf{B})) \not\subseteq \mathcal{D}(X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}))$  for every  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_*^\kappa$ .

Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  be  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting positive selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Define the set

$$\Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) := \{\alpha \in [0, \infty)^\kappa : X^\alpha(\mathbf{A}) \leq X^\alpha(\mathbf{B})\}.$$

We know that relation  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$  implies the equality

$$\Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) = [0, \infty)^\kappa.$$

What should be assumed about  $\Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})$  to have the reverse implication?

Without any additional informations about  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  we can formulate the following

### Proposition

*If  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  are  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting positive selfadjoint operators in  $\mathcal{H}$ , then the following conditions are equivalent*

- (i)  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$ ,*
- (ii) for every  $j = 1, \dots, \kappa$  the set  $\Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) \cap \{se_j : s \in [0, \infty)\}$ , where  $e_j = (0, \dots, \underbrace{1}_j, \dots, 0)$ , is unbounded.*

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, \dots, A_\kappa)$  and  $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, \dots, B_\kappa)$  be  $\kappa$ -tuples of commuting positive selfadjoint operators such that  $\mathcal{N}(A_j) = \{0\}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, \kappa$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B}$ ,
- (ii)  $\Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) = [0, \infty)^\kappa$ ,
- (iii)  $\sup_{\alpha \in \Lambda(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})} \frac{\alpha_j}{1 + |\alpha| - \alpha_j} = \infty, \quad j = 1, \dots, \kappa.$