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## nC- symmetric operators

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### Abstract:

In this paper, we present a concept of nC- symmetric operator as follows: Let A be a bounded linear operator on separable complex Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , the operator A is said to be nC-symmetric if there exists a positive number n ( $n > 1$ ) such that  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$  ( $A^n = C A^{*n} C$ ). We provide an example and study the basic properties of this class of operators. Finally, we attempt to describe the relation between nC-symmetric operator and some other operators such as Fredholm and self-adjoint operators.

**Keywords:** Separable Complete Hilbert Space, Conjugation operators, C-symmetric operators, nC-symmetric operators.

### لمؤثرات المتماثلة من النمط nC

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### الخلاصة

في هذا البحث ، قدمنا مفهوم المؤثر المتناظر من النمط nC على أنه : المؤثر المُقيد الخطي المُعرف على فضاء هلبرت العقدي القابل للفصل  $\mathcal{H}$  إذا وجد عدد صحيح n ( $n > 1$ ) بحيث أن  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$  . كذلك تم اعطاء مثال عن هذا النوع من المؤثرات و قمنا بدراسة الخواص المهمة وكذلك حاولنا وصف العلاقة بين المؤثر المتناظر من النمط nC و بعض المؤثرات الأخرى.

### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries:

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a separable complex Hilbert space and  $B(\mathcal{H})$  be an algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ . A conjugation on  $\mathcal{H}$  is an antilinear operator  $C: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  which is both involution ( $C^2 = I$ ) and isometric operator which satisfies  $\langle Cx, Cy \rangle = \langle y, x \rangle$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . An operator  $A \in B(\mathcal{H})$  is said to be C-symmetric operator if  $CA = A^* C$  ( $A = CA^* C$ ); it is complex symmetric if A is C-symmetric with respect to some C [1]. In particular, an  $n \times n$  matrix A is symmetric if and only if  $A = CA^* C$  where C denotes the standard conjugation  $C(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n) = (\bar{z}_1, \bar{z}_2, \dots, \bar{z}_n)$ . Thus, Complex symmetric operators generalize of concepts of symmetric matrices of linear algebra. In fact, if C is a conjugation on  $\mathcal{H}$ , then there exists an orthonormal basis  $\{e_n\}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $Ce_n = e_n$  for all n [1, lemma1] and since  $\langle Cx, Cy \rangle = \langle y, x \rangle$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , then the matrix of a C-symmetric operator A with respect to  $\{e_n\}$  is symmetric:

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$$[A]_{i,j} = \langle A e_n, e_j \rangle = \langle CA^*Ce_j, e_i \rangle = \langle Ce_i, A^*Ce_j \rangle = \langle Ae_i, e_j \rangle = [A]_{j,i}.$$

The converse of this fact is also true. That is, if there is an orthonormal basis such that  $A$  has a symmetric matrix representation, then  $A$  is complex symmetric [1]. The class of complex symmetric operators includes all normal operators, Toeplitz operators (including finite Toeplitz matrices and the compressed shift) and Volterra integration operator [1], [2], [3].

The study of complex symmetric operators has an interaction between the fields of operator theory and complex analysis. Recently, many authors have been interested in non-Hermitian quantum mechanics and the spectral analysis of certain complex symmetric operators [4], [5]. In particular, several authors have studied an antilinear operator which is the only type of a nonlinear operator that is important in quantum mechanics [6]. If  $C$  and  $J$  are conjugation on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , then  $U = CJ$  is a unitary operator. Moreover,  $U$  is both  $C$ -symmetric and  $J$ -symmetric [2].

In this paper, the concept of  $nC$ -symmetric operator is introduced. We also investigate the basic properties of this kind of operators like if  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator and  $A^{-1}$  exists then  $A^{-1}$  is also  $nC$ -symmetric. Moreover, If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric and Fredholm operator, then  $\text{ind}A=0$ .

## 2. Main Results:

In this section, we present the concept of  $nC$ -symmetric operators. We also discuss the basic properties of this class of operators.

**Definition 2.1.** An operator  $A \in B(\mathcal{H})$  is said to be  $nC$ -symmetric operator if there exists a positive number  $n$  ( $n > 1$ ) such that  $CA^n = A^{*n}C$  ( $A^n = CA^{*n}C$ ).

In some cases, an operator  $A$  is not  $C$ -symmetric, while the following example shows that  $A^n$  is a  $C$ -symmetric for some  $n$ :

**Example 2.2.** Let  $A: \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$  be an operator defined by the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

With  $xy \neq 0$  or  $|x| \neq |y|$ . It follows from [7, Ex.1] that  $A$  is not  $C$ -symmetric operator.

However,  $A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & xy \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  has rank one so that by [7, Corl. 5]  $A^2$  is  $C$ -symmetric operator.

Hence,  $A$  is  $2C$ -symmetric operator.

**Proposition 2.3.** Let  $A \in B(\mathcal{H})$ , then  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator for a conjugation  $C$  if and only if there exists an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$  with respect to which  $A$  has a symmetric matrix representation.

**Proof:** If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator that is  $CA^n = A^{*n}C$  and  $\{e_n\}$  orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$  then:

$$[A^n]_{i,j} = \langle A^n e_j, e_i \rangle = \langle CA^{*n}Ce_j, e_i \rangle = \langle Ce_i, A^{*n}Ce_j \rangle = \langle A^n e_i, e_j \rangle = [A^n]_{j,i}$$

Conversely, let  $\{e_n\}$  be an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $A^n$  has a symmetric matrix representation such that  $\langle A^n e_i, e_j \rangle = \langle A^n e_j, e_i \rangle$ .

Now, define a conjugation  $C$  by  $C(\sum_n a_n e_n) = \overline{a_n} e_n$  for  $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

$$\text{Then, } \langle CA^{*n}C e_i, e_j \rangle = \langle Ce_j, A^{*n}Ce_i \rangle = \langle e_j, A^{*n}e_i \rangle = \langle A^n e_j, e_i \rangle = \langle A^n e_i, e_j \rangle.$$

Hence, we obtain that  $A^n = CA^{*n}C$ .

**Proposition 2.4.** Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$  matrix of complex entries. If  $A^n = CA^{*n}C$  for some conjugation  $C$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , then  $A$  is unitarily equivalent to a complex symmetric matrix.

**Proof:** Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$  matrix of complex entries such that  $A^n = CA^{*n}C$  for some conjugation  $C$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Then there exists an orthonormal basis  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  such that  $Ce_i = e_i$ , for all  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ .

Let  $R = (e_1|e_2|\dots|e_n)$  be the unitary matrix where columns are these basis vectors.

Because of  $[W]_{i,j} = \langle A^n e_j, e_i \rangle = \langle CA^{*n}C e_j, e_i \rangle = \langle e_i, A^{*n}e_j \rangle = \langle A^n e_i, e_j \rangle = [W]_{j,i}$ , we have the matrix  $W = R^* A^n R$  is complex matrix.

**Proposition 2.5.** If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator, then

1.  $A^m$  is also  $nC$ -symmetric operator for  $m > n$ .
2.  $p(A^n)$  is  $C$ -symmetric for any polynomial  $p(z)$ .

**Proof: 1.** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator that is  $CA^n = A^{*n}C$  for  $n > 1$ . Hence,  
 $C(A^m)^n = C(A^n)^m = (A^{*n})^m C = (A^m)^{*n} C$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 2. C p(A^n) &= C [a_0 I + a_1 A^n + a_2 (A^n)^2 + \dots + a_m (A^n)^m] \\ &= \overline{a_0} C + \overline{a_1} A^{*n} C + \overline{a_2} (A^*)^2 C + \dots + \overline{a_m} (A^{*n})^m C \\ &= [\overline{a_0} + \overline{a_1} A^{*n} + \overline{a_2} (A^*)^2 + \dots + \overline{a_m} (A^{*n})^m] C \\ &= p(A^n)^* C. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.6.** If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator, then

1. If  $A^{-1}$  exists, then  $A^{-1}$  is also  $nC$ -symmetric operator.
2.  $A^n$  is left invertible if and only if  $A^n$  is right invertible.

**Proof: 1.** To verify that  $A^{-1}$  is also  $nC$ -symmetric operator, we need only to show that  
 $C(A^{-1})^n = (A^{-1})^{*n} C$ :

$$C(A^{-1})^n = C(A^n)^{-1} = C(CA^{*n}C)^{-1} = CC A^{-n*} C = (A^{-1})^{*n} C.$$

**2.** Let  $A^n$  be left invertible operator, to show that  $A^n$  is right invertible, thus

$$(A^n)^{-1} A^n = I = C^2$$

$$(A^n)^{-1} A^n C = C$$

$$C(A^n)^{-1} C A^{*n} = CC$$

$C(A^n)^{-1} C A^{*n} = I$ , then by (1) we obtain  $(A^{*n})^{-1} A^{*n} = I$ . Therefore,  $(A^n(A^n)^{-1})^* = I$ . Hence,  
 $A^n(A^n)^{-1} = I$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $A^n$  is right invertible. To show that  $A^n$  is left invertible, we have

$$A^n (A^n)^{-1} = I, \text{ it follows } (A^n (A^n)^{-1} = I)^*, \text{ thus } (A^{*n})^{-1} A^{*n} = I = C^2.$$

Also,  $C(A^{*n})^{-1} A^{*n} = C^3 = C$ , then by (1) we obtain  $(A^n)^{-1} C A^{*n} = C$  and  $(A^n)^{-1} C A^{*n} C = C^2 = I$ . Then, we get  $(A^n)^{-1} A^n = I$ .

**Proposition 2.7.** If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator, then  $A^n$  is one to one if and only if  $\text{Ran } A^n$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $A^n$  be one to one operator. Since  $C$  is isometric operator (hence one to one), then  $C A^n C$  is also one to one. But,  $A^{*n} = C A^n C$  thus we obtain  $A^{*n}$  is also one to one ( $\text{Ker } A^{*n} = 0$ ).

Now,  $\overline{\text{Ran } A^n} = (\text{Ker } A^{*n})^\perp = \{0\}^\perp = H$ . Hence,  $\text{Ran } A^n$  is dense in  $H$ .

Conversely,  $\overline{\text{Ran } A^n} = (\text{Ker } A^{*n})^\perp = H$ , then  $(\text{Ker } A^{*n})^{\perp\perp} = H^\perp = 0$ . Since  $\text{Ker } A^{*n}$  is a closed linear subspace of  $H$ , so  $\text{Ker } A^{*n} = 0$  and then we obtain  $A^{*n}$  is one to one and so is  $A^{*n} C$ . But,  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$  hence  $A^n$  is one to one.

**Proposition 2.8.** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator. If  $A$  is Fredholm operator, then  $\text{ind } A = 0$ .

**Proof:** Since  $A$  is Fredholm operator, then  $A^n$  is Fredholm operator for nonnegative integer  $n$ ,  $\text{ind } A^n = n \text{ ind } A$  and  $\text{ind}(A^*) = -\text{ind } A$  ([8],[9]).

Now, we have  $\text{Ker } C = \text{Ker } C^* = 0$  and  $\text{Ran } C$  is closed linear subspace of  $H$ , thus  $C$  is Fredholm operator and  $\text{ind } C = 0$ . We conclude the proof by showing that  $\text{ind } A = 0$ .

Since  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$ , then it follows that:

$$\text{ind } CA^n = \text{ind } A^{*n} C$$

$$\text{ind } C + n \text{ ind } A = -n \text{ ind } A + \text{ind } C.$$

Then, we obtain  $2n \text{ ind } A = 0$  and thus  $\text{ind } A = 0$ .

**Proposition 2.9.** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator. If  $M$  is invariant subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  under  $C$  and  $A$ , then  $M$  reduces  $A^n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $M$  be an invariant subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  under  $C$  and  $A$ , so we have  $C(M) \subset M$  and  $A(M) \subset M$  so  $A^n(M) \subset M$  for some  $n > 1$  and hence  $CA^n C \subset M$ . But,  $A^{*n} = CA^n C$ , it follows that  $A^{*n}(M) \subset M$  which implies that  $M$  is reduced to  $A^n$ .

**Proposition 2.10.** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator. Then,  $M$  reduces  $A^n$  if and only if  $CM$  reduces  $A^n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $M$  be reduces  $A^n$  such that  $A^n(M) \subset M$  and  $A^{*n}(M) \subset M$ . A short computation reveals that  $C A^n(M) = A^{*n} C(M) \subset CM$  and  $CA^{*n}(M) = A^n C(M) \subset CM$ , thus we obtain  $CM$  reduces  $A^n$ .

Conversely, if  $CM$  reduces  $A^n$ , then we have  $A^n(CM) \subset CM$  and  $A^{*n}(CM) \subset CM$ . Then  $C A^n(CM) = C A^n C(M) = A^{*n}(M) \subset C(CM) = M$ . In a similar way, we can obtain  $A^n(M) \subset M$ .

**Proposition 2.11.** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator. If  $M$  is an invariant subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  under  $C$  and  $P$  orthogonal projection on to  $M$ , then the compression  $B^n = P A^n P$  of  $A$  to  $M$  which satisfies  $CB^n = B^{*n}C$ .

**Proof:** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator.

$$C B^n = C (P A^n P) = C P A^n P = P C A^n P = P A^{*n} C P = P A^{*n} P C = B^{*n} C.$$

**Proposition 2.12.** If  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator, then we have the following:

1.  $C A^n$  commutes with  $A^{*n} A^n$ .

2.  $A^n C$  commutes with  $A^n A^{*n}$ .

**Proof: 1.** Since  $(CA^n)^2 = CA^n CA^n = A^{*n} C C A^n = A^{*n} A^n$ , then this would implies that:

$$\begin{aligned} CA^n A^{*n} A^n &= C (C A^{*n} C) A^{*n} A^n \\ &= A^{*n} C A^{*n} A^n \\ &= A^{*n} A^n C A^n. \end{aligned}$$

2. Similarly,  $(A^n C)^2 = A^n C A^n C = A^n A^{*n} C C = A^n A^{*n}$ .

Now,  $A^n C A^n A^{*n} = A^n C (C A^{*n} C) A^{*n}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= A^n A^{*n} C A^{*n} \\ &= A^n A^{*n} A^n C. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.13.** Let  $B$  be invertible and  $nC$ - symmetric operator on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $AB=BA$ , then  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator.

**Proof:** The proof is based on the equations  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$ ,  $CB^n = B^{*n} C$  and  $AB = BA$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} C (A B)^n &= C A^n B^n \\ &= A^{*n} C B^n \\ &= A^{*n} B^{*n} C \\ &= (B^n A^n)^* C \\ &= (A^n B^n)^* C \\ &= (A B)^{*n} C. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, let  $AB$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator . To show that  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator, we set

$$\begin{aligned} C A^n &= C A^n I \\ &= C A^n B^n (B^{-1})^n \\ &= C (AB)^n (B^{-1})^n && (AB \text{ is } nC\text{-symmetric}) \\ &= (AB)^{*n} C (B^{-1})^n && (B^{-1} \text{ is } nC\text{-symmetric by Prop. (2.6 (1))). \\ &= (AB)^{*n} (B^{-1})^{*n} C \\ &= (AB)^{*n} (B^{*n})^{-1} C \\ &= A^{*n} B^{*n} (B^{*n})^{-1} C \\ &= A^{*n} C. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.14.** Let  $A \in B(\mathcal{H})$  and  $C$  be conjugation on  $\mathcal{H}$ . If  $CA^n = A^n C$ , then  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator if and only if  $A^n$  is self-adjoint.

**Proof:** Let  $A$  be  $nC$ -symmetric operator such that  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$ , then we have  $A^n C = A^{*n} C$  which yields that  $A^n C C = A^{*n} C C$  and so we get  $A^n = (A^n)^*$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $A^n$  is self- adjoint such that  $A^n = (A^n)^*$ , then it follows  $A^n C = A^{*n} C$  and  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$  which implies that  $A$  is  $nC$ -symmetric operator.

**Proposition 2. 15.** If  $A$  is both  $nC$ -symmetric and  $nJ$ -symmetric, then  $A$  is both  $n(CJC)$ -symmetric and  $n(JCJ)$ - symmetric operator.

**Proof:** Since  $CA^n = A^{*n} C$  and  $J A^n = A^{*n} J$ , then

$(CJC) A^n = CJ (CA^n) = CJ A^{*n} C = CA^n JC = A^{*n} (CJC)$ , so that  $A$  is  $n(CJC)$ -symmetric operator. Analogously, we can prove that  $A$  is  $n(JCJ)$ - symmetric .

**Proposition 2. 16.** If  $A$  is both  $nC$ -symmetric and  $nJ$ -symmetric, then  $A^n U$  is  $C$ -symmetric where  $U = CJ$  is unitary operator.

**Proof:** Since  $A$  is both  $nC$ -symmetric and  $nJ$ -symmetric then by the previous proposition,  $A$  is  $n(CJC)$ -symmetric, so we have

$$(A^n U) C = A^n (CJC) = (CJC) A^{*n} = C U^* A^{*n} = C (A^n U)^*.$$

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