

## ON THE STABILITY OF SEMI-FREDHOLM OPERATORS

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ABSTRACT. We give some stability results for the “nullity” and “deficiency” of semi-Fredholm operators. We also give characterizations of the operators that are bounded from below (resp. surjective) in terms of the stability of the “nullity” (resp. the “deficiency”), as well as a generalization of the “punctured neighbourhood theorem”.

KEYWORDS: *Semi-Fredholm operator, s-regular, generalized kernel, generalized range, perturbation.*

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### 0. INTRODUCTION AND NOTATION

If a bounded linear operator  $A \in B(X)$  on a Banach space  $X$  is semi-Fredholm then the “punctured neighbourhood theorem” says that there is  $k_A > 0$  for which

$$(0.1) \quad n(A - \lambda I) \text{ is constant } (0 < |\lambda| < k_A) \text{ if } A \in \Phi_+(X)$$

and

$$(0.2) \quad d(A - \lambda I) \text{ is constant } (0 < |\lambda| < k_A) \text{ if } A \in \Phi_-(X).$$

Here the nullity and deficiency of  $A$  are

$$n(A) = \dim N(A) \text{ and } d(A) = \operatorname{codim} R(A)$$

where  $N(A)$  and  $R(A)$  denote respectively the kernel and the range of  $A$ ;

$$\Phi_+(X) = \{A \in B(X) : n(A) < \infty \text{ and } R(A) \text{ closed}\}$$

is the set of upper semi-Fredholm, and

$$\Phi_-(X) = \{A \in B(X) : d(A) < \infty \text{ and } R(A) \text{ closed}\}$$

the set of lower semi-Fredholm operators on  $X$ . We write

$$\Phi_{\pm}(X) = \Phi_+(X) \cup \Phi_-(X) \text{ and } \Phi(X) = \Phi_+(X) \cap \Phi_-(X)$$

the semi-Fredholm and the Fredholm operators on  $X$ . If  $A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X)$  we write

$$(0.3) \quad \text{ind}(A) = n(A) - d(A)$$

for the index of  $A$ . By the punctured neighbourhood theorem we can define  $j(A)$ , the "jump" of  $A$ , by setting

$$(0.4) \quad j(A) = n(A) - n(A - \lambda I) \text{ if } 0 < |\lambda| < k_A$$

if  $A \in \Phi_+(X)$ , and

$$(0.5) \quad j(A) = d(A) - d(A - \lambda I) \text{ if } 0 < |\lambda| < k_A$$

if  $A \in \Phi_-(X)$ . If in particular  $A \in \Phi(X)$  then by the continuity of the index

$$(0.6) \quad j(A) = n(A) - n(A - \lambda I) = d(A) - d(A - \lambda I) \text{ if } 0 < |\lambda| < k_A.$$

We call  $A \in B(X)$  *s-regular* ("semi-regular") ([5], [7], [8]) if

$$(0.7) \quad R(A) \text{ is closed and } N^{\infty}(A) \subseteq R^{\infty}(A)$$

where

$$(0.8) \quad N^{\infty}(A) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} N(A^n) \text{ and } R^{\infty}(A) = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} R(A^n)$$

are respectively the generalized kernel and generalized range of  $A$ .

$$(0.9) \quad \text{If } A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X) \text{ then } A \text{ is s-regular if and only if } j(A) = 0$$

( see [3], [5] and [10], Corollaire 2.3).

In this note we show (Theorem 2.5) that the nullity or the deficiency of a semi-Fredholm operator  $A$  remains constant under small " $A$ -s-regular" (Definition 2.1) perturbations, we show (Theorems 2.6 and 2.7) that this constancy holds under small arbitrary perturbations precisely when  $A$  is surjective or bounded from below, and extend (Theorem 3.1) the punctured neighbourhood theorem by relaxing both the scalarity and the invertibility of the perturbations.

1. ALGEBRAIC PRELIMINARIES

Suppose  $X$  is a vector space and  $A$  a linear operator from  $X$  to itself.

**DEFINITION 1.1.**  $A$  is said to be of *type*  $n$  if  $N(A^n) \subseteq R(A)$ , and of *type*  $\infty$  if this is so for all  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ . We denote these classes by  $\text{Typ}_n(X)$  and  $\text{Typ}_\infty(X)$  respectively.

There are various equivalent forms of these conditions:

**LEMMA 1.2.** *If  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $A$  is of type  $n$ ;
- (ii)  $N(A^k) \subseteq R(A^j)$  for all  $1 \leq j + k \leq n + 1$ ;
- (iii)  $N(A^k) = A^j(N(A^{j+k}))$  for all  $1 \leq j + k \leq n + 1$ .

*Proof.* For the equivalence between (i) and (ii) suppose  $U : W \rightarrow X, T : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $V : Y \rightarrow Z$  are linear between vector spaces and note ([2], Lemma 1)

$$(1.1) \quad N(V) \subseteq R(TU), N(T) \subseteq R(U) \Rightarrow N(VT) \subseteq R(U)$$

and

$$(1.2) \quad N(VT) \subseteq R(U), N(V) \subseteq R(T) \Rightarrow N(V) \subseteq R(TU).$$

For the implication (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) note

$$(1.3) \quad N(V) \subseteq R(T) \Rightarrow N(V) = TN(VT). \quad \blacksquare$$

It is clear that the generalized range and the generalized kernel are “invariant subspaces” for an operator:

$$(1.4) \quad A(M) \subseteq M \text{ if } M = N^\infty(A) \text{ or } M = R^\infty(A).$$

Conversely

$$(1.5) \quad A^{-1}M \subseteq M \text{ if } M = N^\infty(A).$$

**PROPOSITION 1.3.** *If  $TA = AT$  then*

- (i)  $N(A - T) \cap N^\infty(A) \subseteq N^\infty(T)$ .

*If  $A$  is of type  $\infty$  then*

- (ii)  $AR^\infty(A) = R^\infty(A)$

and

- (iii)  $AN^\infty(A) = N^\infty(A)$ .

*Proof.* If  $Ax = Tx$  and  $AT = TA$  then  $A^n x = T^n x$  for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , so that if  $A^d x = 0$  then also  $T^d x = 0$ , giving (i). If  $x \in R^\infty(A)$  then there is  $(v_n)_{n \geq 0}$  in  $X$  for which

$$x = Av_0 = A^{n+1}v_{n+1}.$$

It follows that  $v_0 - A^n v_{n+1} \in N(A) \subseteq R(A^n)$  and hence  $v_0 \in R(A^n)$  for each  $n$ , so that  $x = Av_0$  with  $v_0 \in R^\infty(A)$ . This gives (ii); for (iii) note that if  $A$  is of type  $\infty$  then  $N^\infty(A) \subseteq R^\infty(A)$ . Now, using (1.5),

$$x \in N^\infty(A) \Rightarrow x = Aw \in N^\infty(A) \Rightarrow w \in N^\infty(A). \quad \blacksquare$$

## 2. s-REGULAR SEMI-FREDHOLM OPERATORS

Suppose  $X$  is a Banach space:  $A \in B(X)$  is “s-regular” in the sense of (0.7) if and only if it is of type  $\infty$ , with closed range.

DEFINITION 2.1.  $T \in B(X)$  will be called *A-s-regular* if there exists a closed subspace  $M \subseteq X$  for which

$$(2.1) \quad N(A) \subseteq M = A(M) \text{ and } T(M) \subseteq M.$$

Notice that if there exist a subspace  $M \subseteq X$  satisfying (2.1) then the operator  $A$  must be of type  $\infty$ , although not necessarily with closed range. When  $A$  also has closed range then we are in the situation of Definition 3.1 of [8] (see also Definition 4.1 of [9]). In this case however Definition 2.1 is not changed if we relax the requirement that the subspace  $M$  of (2.1) be closed: we claim that if  $A$  has closed range and (2.1) holds then also

$$(2.2) \quad A(\overline{M}) = \overline{M}.$$

This is because it is true that ([3], Lemma 331), when  $R(A)$  is closed,

$$(2.3) \quad N(A) \subseteq \overline{M} \Rightarrow A(\overline{M}) \text{ closed.}$$

Two special kinds of s-regular operators are the *bounded from below* operators and the *surjective* operators: for such  $A$  every operator  $T \in B(X)$  is *A-s-regular*. If  $A$  is s-regular then

$$(2.4) \quad TA = AT \Rightarrow T \text{ is } A\text{-s-regular.}$$

The adjoint  $T^*$  of an *A-s-regular* operator  $T$  is s-regular relative to the adjoint of  $A$ .

LEMMA 2.2. *If  $A \in B(X)$  is s-regular and if  $T \in B(X)$  is A-s-regular then  $T^*$  is  $A^*$ -s-regular.*

*Proof.* Proposition 2.3 of [7] shows that the adjoint  $A^*$  of an s-regular operator  $A$  is s-regular, and Lemme 3.2 of [8] shows that if  $M$  satisfies (2.1) then

$$N^\infty(A) \subseteq M \subseteq R^\infty(A).$$

It follows that  $R^\infty(A)^\perp \subseteq M^\perp \subseteq N^\infty(A)^\perp$ , where  $M^\perp$  is the usual annihilator  $\{f \in X^* : M \subseteq f^{-1}(0)\}$  of  $M$ . Using Lemme 1.2 of [8], this gives

$$N(A^*) \subseteq N^\infty(A^*) \subseteq M^\perp \subseteq R^\infty(A^*).$$

Now since  $A(M) \subseteq M$  and  $T(M) \subseteq M$  it follows that  $A^*(M^\perp) \subseteq M^\perp$  and  $T^*(M^\perp) \subseteq M^\perp$ ; then it remains only to show that

$$M^\perp \subseteq A^*(M^\perp).$$

But if  $f \in M^\perp \subseteq R^\infty(A^*)$  then there is  $g \in R^\infty(A^*)$  for which  $f = A^*g$ , and we claim that  $g \in M^\perp$ . If  $x \in M = A(M)$  then there is  $w \in M$  for which  $x = Aw$ , giving  $g(x) = g(Aw) = (A^*g)(w) = f(w) = 0$ . ■

Corollaries 3.6 and 3.7 of [8] (see also [9], Section 4) give the following stability result, which we state without proof.

THEOREM 2.3. *If  $A$  is s-regular then there is  $\delta > 0$  for which if  $T \in B(X)$  is A-s-regular with  $\|T\| < \delta$  then*

- (i)  $A - T$  is s-regular;
- (ii)  $R^\infty(A - T) = R^\infty(A)$ ;
- (iii)  $N^\infty(A - T) = N^\infty(A)$ .

Theorem 2.3 shows in particular that the bounded from below operators and the surjective operators are stable under arbitrary small perturbations; further, the generalized range of a bounded from below operator and the closure of the generalized kernel of a surjective operator are unchanged by small perturbations.

We shall write

$$(2.5) \quad \text{SReg}(A) = \{T \in B(X) : A - T \text{ is s-regular}\}$$

and

$$(2.6) \quad \text{biSReg}(A) = \text{SReg}(A) \cap \text{bicomm}(A),$$

where

$$(2.7) \quad \text{bicomm}(A) = \{T \in B(X) : SA = AS \Rightarrow TS = ST\}$$

is the usual bicommutant of  $A$ . It is familiar that  $\text{bicomm}(A)$  is always a closed commutative subalgebra of  $B(X)$ .

**THEOREM 2.4.** *If  $A \in B(X)$  is s-regular then  $\text{biSReg}(A)$  is open in  $\text{bicommm}(A)$ . The mappings  $T \mapsto R^\infty(A - T)$  and  $T \mapsto \overline{N^\infty(A - T)}$  are constant on each connected component of  $\text{biSReg}(A)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $T_0 \in \text{biSReg}(A)$  then  $T - T_0$  commutes with  $A - T_0$  for arbitrary  $T \in \text{bicommm}(A)$ , and hence by (2.4)  $T - T_0$  is  $A - T_0$ -s-regular. Theorem 2.3 applied with  $A - T_0$  in place of  $A$  gives local constancy for the generalized range and the closure of the generalized kernel. ■

We can now see stability of the nullity and deficiency.

**THEOREM 2.5.** *If  $A \in B(X)$  is s-regular then there is  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $T \in B(X)$  is A-s-regular with  $\|T\| < \delta$  then we have the following implications:*

- (i)  $A \in \Phi_+(X) \Rightarrow n(A - T) = n(A)$ ;
- (ii)  $A \in \Phi_-(X) \Rightarrow d(A - T) = d(A)$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 2.3 there is  $\delta > 0$  such that  $N(A - T) \subseteq R^\infty(A)$  whenever  $T$  is A-s-regular with  $\|T\| < \delta$ . It follows that

$$N(A - T) = N(A - T) \cap R^\infty(A) = N(A - T)^\wedge,$$

where we write  $S^\wedge$  for the restriction to  $R^\infty(A)$  of operators  $S$  leaving  $R^\infty(A)$  invariant. Now  $(A - T)^\wedge$  and  $A^\wedge$  are both surjective; by the continuity of the index it follows that

$$(2.8) \quad n(A - T) = n((A - T)^\wedge) = \text{ind}((A - T)^\wedge) = \text{ind}(A^\wedge).$$

The right hand side of (2.8) is independent of  $T$  giving (i), and (ii) follows by duality. ■

Now let  $Y$  also be a Banach space, and let  $B(X, Y)$  be the space of all bounded operators from  $X$  into  $Y$ .

One might attempt to generalize the notion of “jump” (see (0.4) and (0.5)) in the following manner:

$$j(A) = \lim_{T \rightarrow 0} (n(A) - n(A - T)) \text{ if } A \in \Phi_+(X, Y),$$

and

$$j(A) = \lim_{T \rightarrow 0} (d(A) - d(A - T)) \text{ if } A \in \Phi_-(X, Y).$$

But generally, these two limits do not exist. The following results characterize those operators for which these limits do exist.

**THEOREM 2.6.** *If  $A \in B(X, Y)$ , then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *A is bounded from below;*
- (ii)  *$A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y)$  with  $\text{ind}(A) \leq 0$  and the limit*

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} (n(A) - n(A - T))$$

*exists;*

- (iii)  *$A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y)$  with  $\text{ind}(A) \leq 0$  and there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that for every  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$  one has*

$$n(A - T) = n(A);$$

- (iv)  *$A \in \text{int}\{\text{injective operators}\}$ , where  $\text{int}\{M\}$  denotes the interior of the set  $M$ .*

*Proof.* Since the set of operators that are bounded from below is open in  $B(X, Y)$ , it is clear that (i) implies (ii), (iii) and (iv).

We prove that (ii) implies (iii). By the definition of the limit, there are  $\delta > 0$  and  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$  one has  $0 \leq n(A) - n(A - T) - d < 1$ . Hence  $n(A - T) = n(A) - d$  for all  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$ . If  $T = (\delta/2\|A\|)A$ , then  $\|T\| < \delta$ . Thus  $n((1 - (\delta/2\|A\|))A) = n(A) - d$ , and consequently,  $d = 0$ . Hence  $n(A - T) = n(A)$  for all  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$ .

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv). By [6], Corollaire 3 (2), for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $A_{\varepsilon} \in B(X, Y)$  that is bounded from below such that  $\|A - A_{\varepsilon}\| < \varepsilon$ . Let  $\varepsilon = \delta$  and  $T_{\varepsilon} = A - A_{\varepsilon}$ . Then  $\|T_{\varepsilon}\| < \delta$ , so we have  $n(A) = n(A - T_{\varepsilon}) = n(A_{\varepsilon}) = 0$ . Thus for every  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$ , we obtain  $n(A - T) = 0$ , and consequently,  $A \in \text{int}\{\text{injective operators}\}$ .

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Assume that  $A$  is not bounded from below. Then there is a sequence  $\{x_n\} \subset X$  with  $\|x_n\| = 1$  and  $Ax_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . By the Hahn-Banach theorem, we can find a sequence  $\{f_n\} \subset X^*$  (where  $X^*$  is the topological dual of  $X$ ) such that  $f_n(x_n) = 1 = \|f_n\|$ .

Let  $T_n = f_n \otimes Ax_n \in B(X, Y)$  be given by  $T_n(x) = f_n(x)Ax_n$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $T_n(x_n) = f_n(x_n)Ax_n = Ax_n$ . Hence  $x_n \in N(A - T_n)$ .

But since

$$\|A - (A - T_n)\| = \|T_n\| = \|Ax_n\| \rightarrow 0 \quad (n \rightarrow \infty),$$

this show that  $A \notin \text{int}\{\text{injective operators}\}$ . The implication (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) follows. ■

By duality, we have the following result.

**THEOREM 2.7.** *If  $A \in B(X, Y)$ , then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  *$A$  is surjective;*
- (ii)  *$A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y)$  with  $\text{ind}(A) \geq 0$ , and the limit*

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} (d(A) - d(A - T))$$

*exists;*

- (iii)  *$A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y)$   $\text{ind}(A) \geq 0$  and there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that for every  $T \in B(X, Y)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$  we have*

$$d(A - T) = d(A);$$

- (iv)  *$A \in \text{int}\{\text{operators with dense range}\}$ .*

We introduce the following notation:

$$CR(X, Y) = \{T \in B(X, Y); T \text{ has closed range}\},$$

and

$$M(X, Y) = \{T \in B(X, Y); T \text{ is surjective or bounded from below}\}.$$

An operator  $A \in M(X, Y)$  will be called *monojjective*.

**REMARK 2.8.** The condition " $A \in \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y)$ " in Theorem 2.6 (ii), (iii), Theorem 2.7 (ii) and (iii) may be replaced by the condition " $A \in \text{int}\{CR(X, Y)\}$ ". Indeed, using [1], Theorem V.2.6, it is easy to deduce that

$$\text{int}\{CR(X, Y)\} = \Phi_{\pm}(X, Y).$$

For every  $n \in \mathbf{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$  we define the sets

$$S \text{Reg}_n(X) = \text{Typ}_n(X) \cap CR(X)$$

(cf. Definition 1.1). Then we have the following inclusions :

$$M(X, X) = M(X) \subseteq S \text{Reg}_{\infty}(X) \subseteq \dots \subseteq S \text{Reg}_n(X) \subseteq \dots \subseteq S \text{Reg}_1(X).$$

**PROPOSITION 2.9.** *For all  $n \in \mathbf{N}^* \cup \{\infty\}$*

$$\text{int}\{S \text{Reg}_n(X)\} = M(X).$$

*Proof.* It suffices to show that

$$\text{int}\{S \text{Reg}_1(X)\} \subset M(X).$$

Assume that  $A \in \text{int}\{\text{Typ}_1(X)\}$  and  $N(A) \neq 0$ ,  $R(A) \neq X$ . Then there exist  $u \in N(A)$  with  $\|u\| = 1$  and  $z \notin R(A)$ . By the Hahn-Banach theorem, there exists  $f \in X^*$  such that  $f(u) = 1 = \|f\|$  and  $f(z) = 0$ . For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $A_{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon f \otimes Az$  be given by  $A_{\varepsilon}x = \varepsilon f(x)Az$  for all  $x \in X$ . We also set  $w_{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon^{-1}u + z$ . Then  $w_{\varepsilon} \in N(A - A_{\varepsilon}) \setminus R(A)$ . On the other hand,  $R(A - A_{\varepsilon}) \subseteq R(A) + R(A_{\varepsilon}) \subset R(A)$ . Consequently,  $A - A_{\varepsilon} \notin \text{Typ}_1(X)$ , which is a contradiction. ■



REMARK 2.10. Proposition 2.9 generalizes [4], Théorème 6.5 to Banach spaces.

COROLLARY 2.11.

(i)  $\text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); j(T) = 0\} = M(X)$ .

(ii) If  $A \in B(X)$  then the conditions of Theorem 2.6 (with  $X = Y$ ) are equivalent to:

$$A \in \text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); \text{ind}(T) \leq 0 \text{ and } j(T) = 0\}.$$

(iii)  $A \in B(X)$  then the conditions of Theorem 2.7 (with  $X = Y$ ) are equivalent to :

$$A \in \text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); \text{ind}(T) \geq 0 \text{ and } j(T) = 0\}.$$

(iv)  $\text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); \text{ind}(T) = 0 = j(T)\} = \text{GL}(X)$  where  $\text{GL}(X)$  denotes the group of invertible operators of  $B(X)$ .

*Proof.* By (0.9),  $\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); j(T) = 0\} \subset \text{SReg}_n(X)$  for all  $n \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ . But since  $M(X) \subset \{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); j(T) = 0\} \subset \text{SReg}_n(X)$ , it follows from Proposition 2.9 that (i) holds.

It is clear that Theorem 2.6 (i) implies  $A \in \text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); \text{ind}(T) \leq 0 \text{ and } j(T) = 0\}$ .

Assume that  $A \in \text{int}\{T \in \Phi_{\pm}(X); \text{ind}(T) \leq 0 \text{ and } j(T) = 0\}$ . Then  $A \in M(X)$  and  $\text{ind}(A) \leq 0$ . This proves (ii), and (iii) follows by duality.

The equality (iv) is immediate from (ii) and (iii). ■

### 3. THE PUNCTURED NEIGHBOURHOOD THEOREM

Theorems 2.6 and 2.7 show that a definition of “jump” involving all perturbations of  $A$  necessarily leads to the jump being 0. On the other hand, the classical theory shows that if one considers only perturbations subject to certain restrictions, e.g.  $\lambda I$ , or  $T$  where  $T$  is invertible and commutes with  $A$ , or  $\lambda B$  where  $B$  is a fixed bounded operator (see [1], Corollary V.1.7), then positive jumps may occur. In the following result we consider another class of perturbations.

We say that the operator  $T$  is *dense* if its range  $R(T)$  is a dense subset of  $X$ , or equivalently if the adjoint  $T^*$  is injective.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *If  $A \in B(X)$  then there is  $\delta > 0$  for which if  $T$  and  $T'$  in  $\text{bicomm}(A)$  satisfy  $\max(\|T\|, \|T'\|) < \delta$  then we have the following implications:*

- (i)  $A \in \Phi_+(X)$  and  $T, T'$  injective  $\Rightarrow n(A - T) = n(A - T')$ ;
- (ii)  $A \in \Phi_-(X)$  and  $T, T'$  dense  $\Rightarrow d(A - T) = d(A - T')$ .

*Proof.* This proceeds via the *Kato decomposition* ([3], [10]) of  $A$ :

$$(3.1) \quad X = X_1 \oplus X_0,$$

where  $X_1$  and  $X_0$  are invariant subspaces for  $A$ ,  $X_0$  is finite dimensional, the restriction  $A_1$  of  $A$  to  $X_1$  is  $s$ -regular and the restriction  $A_0$  of  $A$  to  $X_0$  is nilpotent. Towards the proof of (i), we claim that if  $T \in \text{bicomm}(A)$  with  $\|T\| < \delta$  then

$$(3.2) \quad N(A - T) \subseteq X_1.$$

Since  $T$  commutes with the induced projection it leaves both  $X_1$  and  $X_0$  invariant; now if  $x = x_1 + x_0 \in N(A - T)$  with  $x_1 \in X_1$  and  $x_0 \in X_0$  then  $(A - T)x_1 + (A - T)x_0 = (A - T)x = 0$  giving

$$(A - T)x_1 = -(A - T)x_0 \in X_1 \cap X_0 = \{0\},$$

so that  $(A - T)x_0 = 0$ . Now, recalling Proposition 1.3 (i), if  $T$  is also injective then

$$x_0 \in N(A - T) \cap X_0 \subseteq N(A - T) \cap N^\infty(A) = \{0\}.$$

This means that  $x_0 = 0$  and hence  $x = x_1 \in X_1$  giving (3.2). Thus

$$N(A - T) = N(A - T) \cap X_1 = N(A_1 - T_1),$$

writing  $T_1$  and  $T_0$  for the restrictions of  $T$  to  $X_1$  and  $X_0$ . Since  $A_1$  is  $s$ -regular and commutes with  $T_1$ , Theorem 2.4 gives  $\delta > 0$  for which  $A_1 - T_1$  is  $s$ -regular with

$$R^\infty(A_1 - T_1) = R^\infty(A_1) = R^\infty(A).$$

Thus  $N(A_1 - T_1) \subseteq R^\infty(A)$ , and the restriction of  $A_1 - T_1$  to  $R^\infty(A)$  is surjective. Once more the continuity of the index gives

$$n(A_1 - T_1) = n((A_1 - T_1)^\wedge) = \text{ind}(A_1^\wedge) = \text{ind}(A^\wedge).$$

It follows that

$$n(A - T) = n(A_1 - T_1) = \text{ind}(A^\wedge),$$

independent of  $T$ . This proves (i), and (ii) follows by duality. ■

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