J. OPERATOR THEORY
59:2(2008), 435–454

MULTIPLICATION OPERATORS ON THE BERGMAN SPACE AND WEIGHTED SHIFTS

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Communicated by Kenneth R. Davidson

ABSTRACT. In this paper we show that the multiplication operator on the Bergman space is unitarily equivalent to a weighted unilateral shift operator of finite multiplicity if and only if its symbol is a constant multiple of the N-th power of a Möbius transform.

KEYWORDS: *Multiplication operators, Bergman space, weighted shifts.*

MSC (2000): Primary 47B37, 47B35; Secondary 47A15.

INTRODUCTION

Let $\mathbb{D}$ be the open unit disk in $\mathbb{C}$. Let dA denote Lebesgue area measure on the unit disk $\mathbb{D}$, normalized so that the measure of $\mathbb{D}$ equals 1. The Bergman space L_a^2 is the Hilbert space consisting of the analytic functions on $\mathbb{D}$ that are also in the space $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ of square integrable functions on $\mathbb{D}$. Because the nonnegative powers $\{z^n\}$ span the Bergman space L_a^2, $\{\sqrt{n+1}z^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ form an orthonormal basis of L_a^2.

For a bounded analytic function ϕ on the unit disk, the multiplication operator M_ϕ is defined on the Bergman space L_a^2 by

$$M_\phi h = \phi h$$

for $h \in L_a^2$.

Let $e_n = \sqrt{n+1}z^n$. Then $\{e_n\}_0^\infty$ form an orthonormal basis of the Bergman space L_a^2. On the basis $\{e_n\}$, the multiplication operator M_z by z is a weighted shift operator:

$$M_z e_n = \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{n+2}} e_{n+1}.$$

So it is usually called the Bergman shift.

A reducing subspace M for an operator T on a Hilbert space H is a subspace M of H such that $TM \subset M$ and $T^*M \subset M$. In [7] and [8] we have studied reducing subspaces of multiplication operators on the Bergman space via the Hardy space of the bidisk. The multiplication operator M_z is a weighted shift. The general multiplication operator M_ϕ is a holomorphic calculus of the weighted shift. Shift operators have been studied very extensively [2], [3]. In [4], Stessin and Zhu obtained a complete description of the reducing subspaces of weighted unilateral shift operators of finite multiplicity to shed a light on that M_{z^N} on the Bergman space has N nontrivial minimal reducing subspaces, but the multiplication operator by z^N on the Hardy space has infinitely many reducing subspaces.

A natural question is to characterize the multiplication operators on the Bergman space unitarily equivalent to a weighted unilateral shift operators of finite multiplicity. This paper continues our study on the multiplication operators M_ϕ on the Bergman space in [7], [8] by using the Hardy space of the bidisk to completely answer the question. Our main result of this paper almost says that only M_{z^N} up to unitary equivalence is a weighted unilateral shift operator of finite multiplicity.

THEOREM 0.1. *If the multiplication operator M_ϕ on the Bergman space is unitarily equivalent to a weighted unilateral shift operator of finite multiplicity, then $\phi = c\phi_\lambda^N$, for a constant c and some Möbius transform $\phi_\lambda(z) = \frac{z-\lambda}{1-\bar{\lambda}z}$.*

Let $\mathbb{T}$ denote the unit circle. The torus $\mathbb{T}^2$ is the Cartesian product $\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T}$. Let $d\sigma$ be the rotation invariant Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{T}^2$. The Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ is the subspace of $L^2(\mathbb{T}^2, d\sigma)$, each function in $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ can be identified with the boundary value of the function holomorphic in the bidisk $\mathbb{D}^2$ with the square summable Fourier coefficients. The Toeplitz operator on $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ with symbol f in $L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^2, d\sigma)$ is defined by

$$T_f(h) = P(fh),$$

for $h \in H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ where P is the orthogonal projection from $L^2(\mathbb{T}^2, d\sigma)$ onto $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$.

For each integer $n \geqslant 0$, let

$$p_n(z, w) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} z^i w^{n-i}.$$

Let $\mathcal{H}$ be the subspace of $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ spanned by functions $\{p_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$. Thus

$$H^2(\mathbb{T}^2) = \mathcal{H} \oplus \operatorname{cl}\{(z-w)H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)\}.$$

Let

$$\mathcal{B} = P_{\mathcal{H}} T_z|_{\mathcal{H}} = P_{\mathcal{H}} T_w|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

where $P_{\mathcal{H}}$ be the orthogonal projection from $L^2(\mathbb{T}^2, d\sigma)$ onto $\mathcal{H}$. So $\mathcal{B}$ is unitarily equivalent to the *Bergman shift* M_z on the Bergman space L_a^2 via the following unitary operator $U : L^2_a(\mathbb{D}) \to \mathcal{H}$,

$$Uz^n = \frac{p_n(z,w)}{n+1}.$$

This implies that the Bergman shift is lifted up as the compression of an isometry on a nice subspace of $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$. Indeed, for each Blaschke product $\phi(z)$ with finite order, the multiplication operator M_ϕ on the Bergman space is unitarily equivalent to $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ on $\mathcal{H}$.

By Lemma 13 in [7], it is easy to see that for each Blaschke product ϕ with order N, $\mathcal{H}$ can be decomposed as a direct sum of at most N reducing subspaces of M_ϕ. We will show that if ϕ has more than two distinct roots and at least one root is repeated, then $\mathcal{H}$ can not be decomposed as a direct sum of N reducing subspaces of M_ϕ (Theorem 3.1).

1. PREMIMINARIES

We need some basic constructions from [7]. Let

$$\mathcal{K}_\phi = \operatorname{span}\{\phi^l(z)\phi^k(w)\mathcal{H}; l,k \geqslant 0\}.$$

Then $\mathcal{K}_\phi$ is a reducing subspace for both $T_{\phi(z)}$ and $T_{\phi(w)}$, and so $T_{\phi(z)}$ and $T_{\phi(w)}$ are also a pair of doubly commuting isometries on $\mathcal{K}_\phi$. Introduce the wandering space

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = \ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)} \cap \mathcal{K}_\phi.$$

Let L_0 be $\ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)} \cap \mathcal{H}$. In [7], for each $e \in L_0$, we construct functions $\{d_e^k\}$ and d_e^0 in $\mathcal{L}_\phi$ such that for each $l \geqslant 1$,

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k} \in \mathcal{H}$$

and

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^0 \in \mathcal{H}.$$

We have a precise formula of d_e^0 but d_e^k is orthogonal to $\ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)} \cap \mathcal{H}$, and for a reducing subspace $\mathcal{M}$, and $e \in \mathcal{M}$,

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

The relation between d_e^1 and d_e^0 is given in [7] and stated as follows:

THEOREM 1.1. *If $\mathcal{M}$ is a reducing subspace of $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ orthogonal to the distinguished reducing subspace $\mathcal{M}_0$, for each $e \in \mathcal{M} \cap L_0$, then there is an element $\widetilde{e} \in \mathcal{M} \cap L_0$ and a number λ such that*

$$d_e^1 = d_e^0 + \widetilde{e} + \lambda e_0.$$

We will often use the above theorem and the following theorem from [7].

THEOREM 1.2. *If ϕ is a finite Blaschke product, then there is a unique reducing subspace $\mathcal{M}_0$ for $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ such that $\phi(\mathcal{B})|_{\mathcal{M}_0}$ is unitarily equivalent to the Bergman shift. In fact,*

$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \operatorname*{span}_{l \geqslant 0}\{p_l(\phi(z), \phi(w))e_0\},$$

and $\left\{\frac{p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_0}{\sqrt{l+1}\|e_0\|}\right\}_0^\infty$ *form an orthonormal basis of $\mathcal{M}_0$.*

We call $\mathcal{M}_0$ the distinguished reducing subspace for $\phi(\mathcal{B})$. $\mathcal{M}_0$ is unitarily equivalent to a reducing subspace of M_ϕ contained in the Bergman space, denoted by $M_0(\phi)$. The space plays an important role in classifying the minimal reducing subspaces of M_ϕ [7], [8]. If 0 is a zero of ϕ, it was shown [5] that

$$M_0(\phi) = \operatorname{span}\{\phi'\phi^n : n = 0, 1, \ldots, m, \ldots\}.$$

The following lemmas give some properties for functions in $\mathcal{H}$ or $\mathcal{H}^\perp$.

LEMMA 1.3. *If f is in $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ and continuous on the closed bidisk and e is in $\mathcal{H}$, then*

$$\langle f(z,w), e(z,w)\rangle = \langle f(z,z), e(z,0)\rangle = \langle f(w,w), e(0,w)\rangle.$$

Proof. Since $f(z,w)$ is continuous on the closed bidisk, there are a sequence $\{P_n\}$ of polynomials of z and w converging uniformly to $f(z,w)$ on the closed bidisk. Thus it suffices to show

$$\langle P_n(z,w), e(z,w)\rangle = \langle P_n(z,z), e(z,0)\rangle = \langle P_n(w,w), e(0,w)\rangle.$$

Noting that $T^*_{z^l}|_{\mathcal{H}} = T^*_{w^l}|_{\mathcal{H}}$, we see that

$$T^*_{P_n(z,w)}e = T^*_{P_n(z,z)}e = T^*_{P_n(w,w)}e.$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned}\langle P_n(z,w), e(z,w)\rangle &= \langle 1, \overline{P_n(z,w)}e(z,w)\rangle = \langle 1, T^*_{P_n(z,w)}e\rangle = \langle 1, T^*_{P_n(z,z)}e\rangle \\ &= \langle 1, \overline{P_n(z,z)}e(z,w)\rangle = \langle P_n(z,z), e(z,w)\rangle = \langle P_n(z,z), e(z,0)\rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly we also obtain the following which completes the proof:

$$\langle P_n(z,w), e(z,w)\rangle = \langle P_n(w,w), e(0,w)\rangle. \quad \blacksquare$$

The proofs of the following lemmas are easy and left for readers.

LEMMA 1.4. *For $h(z,w) \in H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, h is in $\mathcal{H}^\perp$ if and only if $h(z,z) = 0$, for $z \in \mathbb{D}$.*

LEMMA 1.5. *Suppose that $e(z,w)$ is in $\mathcal{H}$. If $e(z,z) = 0$ for each z in the unit disk, then $e(z,w) = 0$ for (z,w) on the torus.*

The above lemma tells us that a function in $\mathcal{H}$ is completely determined by its value on the diagonal. The following result says that $e(z,w)$ is symmetric with respect to z and w.

LEMMA 1.6. *If $e(z,w)$ is in $\mathcal{H}$, then*

$$e(z,w) = e(w,z).$$

LEMMA 1.7. *Suppose $f(z,w)$ is in $\mathcal{H}$. Let $F(z) = f(z,0)$. Then, for each $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$,*

$$f(\lambda,\lambda) = \lambda F'(\lambda) + F(\lambda).$$

For $\alpha \in \mathbb{D}$, let k_α be the *reproducing kernel* of the Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ at α. That is, for each function f in $H^2(\mathbb{T})$,

$$f(\alpha) = \langle f, k_\alpha \rangle.$$

For an integer $s \geqslant 0$, define

$$k_\alpha^s(z) = \frac{s! z^s}{(1-\overline{\alpha} z)^{s+1}}.$$

Let ϕ be a Blaschke product with zeros $\{\alpha_k\}_0^K$ and α_k repeats n_k+1 times. That is,

$$\phi(z) = \prod_{k=0}^{K} \left(\frac{z-\alpha_k}{1-\overline{\alpha}_k z} \right)^{n_k+1}.$$

The order of ϕ is given by

$$N = \sum_{i=0}^{K} (n_i + 1).$$

We assume that $\alpha_0 = 0$, and so $\phi(z) = z\phi_0(z)$ where ϕ_0 is the following Blaschke product:

$$\phi_0(z) = z^{n_0} \prod_{k=1}^{K} \left(\frac{z-\alpha_k}{1-\overline{\alpha}_k z} \right)^{n_k+1}.$$

For each $\alpha \in \mathbb{D}$ and integer $t \geqslant 0$, let

$$e_\alpha^t(z,w) = \sum_{s=0}^{t} \frac{t!}{s!(t-s)!} k_\alpha^s(z) k_\alpha^{t-s}(w). \tag{1.1}$$

The Mittag-Leffler expansion of the finite Blaschke product ϕ_0 is

$$\phi_0(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{K} \sum_{t=0}^{n_i} c_i^t k_{\alpha_i}^t(z),$$

for some constants $\{c_i^t\}$. Define

$$e_0(z,w) = \sum_{i=0}^{K} \sum_{t=0}^{n_i} c_i^t e_{\alpha_i}^t(z,w).$$

Clearly,

$$e_0(z,0) = \phi_0(z).$$

Simple calculations give the following lemmas.

LEMMA 1.8. *For each $\alpha \in \mathbb{D}$ and $t \geqslant 0$, then*

$$e_\alpha^t(z,z) = \frac{(t+1)!z^t}{(1-\overline{\alpha}z)^{t+2}}.$$

LEMMA 1.9. *For each $F(z,w) \in H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$,*

$$\langle F, e_\alpha^t \rangle = [(\partial_z + \partial_w)^t F(z,w)]|_{z=w=\alpha}.$$

Noting that the dimension of L_0 is N and $\{e_{\alpha_i}^{t_i}(z,w) : 0 \leqslant i \leqslant K,\ 0 \leqslant t_i \leqslant n_i\}$ are linearly independent, we immediately have the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.10. *We have*

$$L_0 = \operatorname{span}\{e_{\alpha_i}^{t_i}(z,w) : 0 \leqslant i \leqslant K,\ 0 \leqslant t_i \leqslant n_i\}.$$

Consequently, the above lemma gives the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.11. *For each function $F(z,w) \in \ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)}$, there is a function $E(z,w) \in L_0$ such that*

$$F(z,0) = E(z,0).$$

Theorem 18 in [7] only gives the existence of the family of functions $\{d_e^{(k)}\} \subset \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$. It will be useful to know how those functions are constructed from e. Theorem 1.14 will give a recursive formula of $\{d_e^{(k)}\}$. First we need the following simple but useful lemma.

For two functions x, y in $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, the symbol $x \otimes y$ is the operator on $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$ defined, for $g \in H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, by

$$(x \otimes y)g = [\langle g, y \rangle_{H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)}]x.$$

LEMMA 1.12. *On the Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, the identity operator equals*

$$I = T_z T_z^* + \sum_{l \geqslant 0} w^l \otimes w^l = T_w T_w^* + \sum_{l \geqslant 0} z^l \otimes z^l.$$

LEMMA 1.13. *Suppose that $\phi(z) = z\phi_0(z)$ for some Blaschke product $\phi_0(z)$ with finite order. If f is a function in $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, then for each $l \geqslant 1$,*

$$\begin{aligned} T^*_{z-w}(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f) = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))T^*_{z-w}f + \phi_0(z)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(0,w) \\ - \phi_0(w)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(z,0). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let $f \in H^2(T^2)$. By Lemma 1.12, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &T_z^*(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f) \\ &\quad = T_z^*\Big[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))\Big(T_zT_z^* + \sum_{i\geqslant 0} w^i \otimes w^i\Big)f\Big] \\ &\quad = T_z^*[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))(T_zT_z^*f)] + T_z^*\Big[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))\Big(\sum_{i\geqslant 0} w^i \otimes w^i\Big)f\Big] \end{aligned}$$

$$= p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))(T_z^* f) + T_z^*\Big[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))\Big(\sum_{i\geqslant 0} w^i \otimes w^i\Big)f\Big].$$

Noting

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w)) = \sum_{k=0}^{l} \phi(z)^k \phi(w)^{l-k} = \phi(w)^l + \phi(z)\sum_{k=1}^{l}\phi(z)^{k-1}\phi(w)^{l-k}$$
$$= \phi(w)^l + z\phi_0(z)\sum_{k=1}^{l}\phi(z)^{k-1}\phi(w)^{l-k},$$

and

$$\Big(\sum_{i\geqslant 0} w^i \otimes w^i\Big)f = f(0,w),$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&T_z^*\Big[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))\Big(\sum_{i\geqslant 0} w^i \otimes w^i\Big)f\Big]\\
&\quad = T_z^*[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(0,w)]\\
&\quad = T_z^*[\phi(w)^l f(0,w)] + T_z^*\Big[z\phi_0(z)\sum_{k=1}^{l}\phi(z)^{k-1}\phi(w)^{l-k}f(0,w)\Big]\\
&\quad = \phi_0(z)\Big[\sum_{k=1}^{l}\phi(z)^{k-1}\phi(w)^{l-k}\Big]f(0,w) = \phi_0(z)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(0,w).
\end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$T_z^*(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f) = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))(T_z^* f) + \phi_0(z)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(0,w). \tag{1.2}$$

Similarly, we also have

$$T_w^*(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f) = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))(T_w^* f) + \phi_0(w)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(z,0). \tag{1.3}$$

Combining (1.2) and (1.3) yields as desired

$$\begin{aligned}
T_{z-w}^*(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f) = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))T_{z-w}^* f &+ \phi_0(z)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(0,w)\\
&- \phi_0(w)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))f(z,0). \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

The following theorem gives a recursive formula for those functions $\{d_e^k\}$, which will be used in the construction of d_e.

THEOREM 1.14. *Suppose that e is in L_0 and $\{d_e^k\}$ are a family of functions in $H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$. Then for a given integer $n \geqslant 1$,*

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k} \in \mathcal{H},$$

for each $1 \leqslant l \leqslant n$, if and only if the following recursive formula holds

$$\phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T_{z-w}^* d_e^1(z,w) = 0;$$

and, for $1 \leqslant k \leqslant n-1$,

$$\phi_0(z)d_e^k(0,w) - \phi_0(w)d_e^k(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}(d_e^{k+1})(z,w) = 0.$$

Proof. For a given $e \in L_0$ and a family of functions $\{d_e^k\} \subset H^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, for each integer $l \geqslant 1$, let

$$E_l = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k}.$$

E_l is in $\mathcal{H}$ for each $1 \leqslant l \leqslant n$, if and only if $T^*_{z-w}E_l = 0$ for each $1 \leqslant l \leqslant n$. We need only show that for each $1 \leqslant l \leqslant n$, $T^*_{z-w}E_l = 0$ is equivalent to the recursive formula in the theorem.

By Lemma 1.13, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&T^*_{z-w}E_l \\
&= T^*_{z-w}[p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e] + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} T^*_{z-w}[p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k}] \\
&= p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))T^*_{z-w}e + \phi_0(z)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))e(0,w) \\
&\qquad - \phi_0(w)p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))e(z,0) + \sum_{k=1}^{l-1}[p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))T^*_{z-w}d_e^{l-k} \\
&\qquad + \phi_0(z)p_{k-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k}(0,w) - \phi_0(w)p_{k-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e^{l-k}(z,0)] \\
&= p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))[\phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}d_e^1] \\
&\qquad + \sum_{k=0}^{l-2}[p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))(T^*_{z-w}d_e^{l-k} + \phi_0(z)d_e^{l-k-1}(0,w) - \phi_0(w)d_e^{l-1-k}(z,0))]
\end{aligned}$$

since e is in L_0. Thus $T^*_{z-w}E_l = 0$ for each $1 \leqslant l \leqslant n$ if and only if

$$\phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}d_e^1 = 0,$$

and

$$T^*_{z-w}d_e^{l-k} + \phi_0(z)d_e^{l-k-1}(0,w) - \phi_0(w)d_e^{l-1-k}(z,0)) = 0,$$

for $1 \leqslant k < l \leqslant n$. This completes the proof. ∎

LEMMA 1.15. *If for a function* $f \in \mathcal{H}$, $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f \in \mathcal{H}$, *for each* $l \geqslant 0$, *then* $f(z,0) = \lambda\phi_0(z)$, *for constant* λ.

Proof. Suppose that $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f \in \mathcal{H}$, for each $l \geqslant 0$. Let $d_f^k = 0$. Then

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_f^{l-k} \in \mathcal{H},$$

for each $l \geqslant 1$. By Theorem 1.14, we have

$$\phi_0(z)f(0,w) - \phi_0(w)f(z,0) = 0.$$

This gives

$$\frac{f(z,0)}{\phi_0(z)} = \frac{f(0,w)}{\phi_0(w)}$$

holds for all $(z,w) \in \mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{D}$ except for a finite vertical or horizontal lines. Thus the equality holds for an open subset of D^2, and so there is a constant λ such that $f(z,0) = \lambda\phi_0(z)$ on the unit disk. This completes the proof. ∎

The following theorem is proved in [7] and is used in the proof of Theorem 1.17.

THEOREM 1.16. *If for a function $f \in \mathcal{H}$, $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f \in \mathcal{H}$, for each $l \geqslant 0$, then there exists a constant λ such that $f = \lambda e_0$.*

Next for a given $e \in L_0$, we will show that there is a unique function $d_e \in \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus e_0$ such that, for each $l \geqslant 1$,

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e \in \mathcal{H}.$$

THEOREM 1.17. *For a given $e \in L_0$, there is a unique function $d_e \in \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus e_0$ such that*

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e \in \mathcal{H}$$

for each $l \geqslant 1$. If e is linearly independent of e_0, then $d_e \neq 0$. Moreover, the mapping

$$e \to d_e$$

is a linear operator from L_0 into $\mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus e_0$.

Proof. First we show the existence of d_e. For the given e, by Theorem 18 in [7], there is a function $d_e^1 \in \mathcal{L}_\phi$ such that

$$p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + d_e^1 \in \mathcal{H}.$$

By Theorem 1.14 we have

$$\phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}d_e^1(z,w) = 0. \tag{1.4}$$

Since $e(z,w)$ is in $\mathcal{H}$, by Lemma 1.6, $d_e^1(z,w)$ is symmetric with respect to z and w. In addition, $p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))$ is also symmetric with respect to z and w. This gives $d_e^1(z,w) = d_e^1(w,z)$. Thus $d_e^1(z,0) = d_e^1(0,z)$. By Lemma 1.11, choose a function $\widetilde{e}(z,w) \in L_0$ such that $d_e^1(z,0) = \widetilde{e}(z,0)$. Hence $d_e^1(0,z) = \widetilde{e}(0,z)$, because $\widetilde{e}(z,w)$ is also symmetric with respect to z and w. Let $d_e = d_e^1 - \widetilde{e}$. Clearly,

$$p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + d_e \in \mathcal{H}, \quad \text{and} \quad d_e(z,0) = d_e(0,z) = d_e^1(z,0) - \widetilde{e}(z,0) = 0.$$

Letting $\widetilde{d_e^1} = d_e$ and $\widetilde{d_e^k} = 0$, for $k > 1$, by (1.4), we have the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}\widetilde{d_e^1}(z,w) \\
&\qquad\qquad = \phi_0(z)e(0,w) - \phi_0(w)e(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}[d_e^1(z,w) - \widetilde{e}(z,w)] = 0, \\
&\phi_0(z)\widetilde{d_e^k}(0,w) - \phi_0(w)\widetilde{d_e^k}(z,0) + T^*_{z-w}(\widetilde{d_e^{k+1}})(z,w) = 0 - 0 - 0 = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

for $1 \leqslant k \leqslant l-1$. The last equality in the first equation follows from $T^*_{z-w}\widetilde{e}(z,w) = 0$. By Theorem 1.14, we conclude that, as desired,

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Next we show that if there is another function $b_e \in \mathcal{L}_\phi$ such that

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))b_e \in \mathcal{H},$$

for each $l \geqslant 1$, then $d_e - b_e = \mu e_0$ for some constant μ.

Since

$$\begin{aligned} p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))[d_e - b_e] = {} & p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_e \\ & - (p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))b_e) \in \mathcal{H}, \end{aligned}$$

letting $f = d_e - b_e$, we have that $f \in \mathcal{H}$ and $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))f \in \mathcal{H}$. By Theorem 1.16, we obtain that $f = \lambda e_0$ to conclude

$$d_e = b_e + \lambda e_0.$$

If $d_e = 0$, i.e.,

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e \in \mathcal{H},$$

then Theorem 1.16 again implies that $e = \lambda e_0$. This gives that if e is linearly independent of e_0, then $d_e \neq 0$.

As showed above, we know that the mapping $e \to d_e$ is well-defined from L_0 into $\mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus e_0$. To finish the proof we need to show that the mapping is linear. To do so, let e_1 and e_2 be in L_0. For given constants c_1 and c_2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_1 + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_{e_1} \in \mathcal{H}, \\ & p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_2 + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_{e_2} \in \mathcal{H}, \\ & p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))[c_1e_1 + c_2e_2] + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_{c_1e_1+c_2e_2} \in \mathcal{H}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))[c_1d_{e_1} + c_2d_{e_2} - d_{c_1e_1+c_2e_2}] \in \mathcal{H}$, for each $l \geqslant 1$. By Theorem 1.16,

$$c_1d_{e_1} + c_2d_{e_2} - d_{c_1e_1+c_2e_2} = c_3e_0,$$

for some constant c_3. But d_{e_1}, d_{e_2}, and $d_{c_1e_1+c_2e_2}$ are orthogonal to e_0. We conclude

$$c_1d_{e_1} + c_2d_{e_2} - d_{c_1e_1+c_2e_2} = 0. \qquad \blacksquare$$

2. WEIGHTED SHIFTS

In this section we will characterize multiplication operators on the Bergman space which are unitarily equivalent to a weighted shift of finite multiplicity to prove our main result.

A weighted shift T of finite multiplicity n on Hilbert space H is an operator that maps each vector in some orthonormal basis $\{e_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ into a scalar multiple of the next nth vector

$$Te_k = w_k e_{k+n},$$

for all k. The sequence $\{w_k\}$ is called the weight of the weighted shift T. In fact, T is unitarily equivalent to the multiplication operator by z^n on some Hilbert space of analytic functions on the unit disk. [2] and [3] contain many results on the shift operators, which will be used in this paper.

Indeed, a weighted shift of finite multiplicity is unitarily equivalent to a direct sum of finite weighted shifts. The following theorem tells us that if a multiplication operator on the Bergman space is unitarily equivalent to a weighted shift of finite multiplicity, then the first construction in [7] will become much simpler.

THEOREM 2.1. *Suppose that ϕ is a Blaschke product with order N. If there are N mutually orthogonal reducing subspaces $\{M_i\}$ of $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ such that $\phi(\mathcal{B})|_{M_i}$ is unitarily equivalent to a weighted shift, then for each $e_i \in M_i \cap L_0$ and each $l > 1$,*

$$d^l_{e_i} = 0.$$

Proof. By Theorem 1.2 we may assume that $\phi(\mathcal{B})|_{M_1}$ is unitarily equivalent to the Bergman shift. Let e_i be a nonzero vector in $M_i \cap L_0$. By Theorem 19 in [7], there are functions $d^l_{e_i} \in \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$ such that

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d^{l-k}_{e_i} \in M_i.$$

Theorem 1.2 implies that $d^l_{e_1} = 0$ for $l \geqslant 1$ and $d^1_{e_i} \neq 0$, for $i > 1$. Let

$$E_{il} = p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d^{l-k}_{e_i}.$$

Then E_{il} is in M_i and

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(\mathcal{B})^* E_{il} = T^*_{\phi(z)} E_{il} &= P\Big[\overline{\phi(z)}\Big(p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d^{l-k}_{e_i}\Big)\Big] \\ &= p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + \sum_{k=0}^{l-2} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))d^{l-k}_{e_i} = E_{i(l-1)}.\end{aligned}$$

The last equality follows from $P(\overline{\phi(z)}e_i) = 0$ and $P(\overline{\phi(z)}d^l_{e_i}) = 0$. Thus $\{E_{il}\}_l$ are orthogonal to $\{E_{jl}\}_l$ for $i \neq j$ and so $\{d^l_{e_i}\}_l$ are orthogonal to $\{d^l_{e_j}\}_l$. Since $\dim[\mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0]$ equals $N-1$ and $d^1_{e_i}$ does not equal zero for $i > 1$, $\{d^1_{e_i}\}$ form an orthogonal basis of $\mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$. This gives that there are constants β_{il} such that

$$d^l_{e_i} = \beta_{il} d^1_{e_i}.$$

Because $\phi(\mathcal{B})|_{M_i}$ is a weighted shift, there is an orthonormal basis $\{F_l\}$ of M_i such that

$$\phi(\mathcal{B})F_l = a_l F_{l+1}$$

where $\{a_l\}$ are weights of $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ on M_i. Thus F_0 is in the kernel of $[\phi(\mathcal{B})|_{M_i}]^*$, and so $F_0 = \lambda_0 e_i$ for some constant λ_0. Since $\phi(\mathcal{B})^* F_1 = a_0 F_0$, we have $\phi(\mathcal{B})^*[F_1 -$

$a_0\lambda_0 E_{i1}] = 0$. Thus $F_1 = a_0\lambda_0 E_{i1} + \mu_1 e_i$. But both F_1 and E_{i1} are orthogonal to e_i. So $\mu_1 = 0$. Hence there is a constant λ_1 such that

$$F_1 = \lambda_1 E_{i1}.$$

By induction, we obtain that there are constants λ_l such that

$$F_l = \lambda_l E_{il}.$$

This implies that $\{E_{il}\}$ form an orthogonal set. Note that

$$E_{il} = p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + \Big[\sum_{k=0}^{l-1} p_k(\phi(z),\phi(w))\beta_{i(l-k)}\Big] d^1_{e_i}.$$

We conclude that $\beta_{il} = 0$ for $l > 1$. This gives

$$E_{il} = p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d^1_{e_i} \in M_i$$

and $d^l_{e_i} = 0$ for $l > 1$. This completes the proof. ∎

THEOREM 2.2. *Suppose that ϕ is a finite Blaschke product and $\phi(0) = 0$. If ϕ has a nonzero root α, then there is a function $e \in L_0$ such that d^0_e is not orthogonal to L_0.*

Proof. Recall that L_0 equals $\ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)} \cap \mathcal{H}$. Assuming that for each $e \in L_0$, d^0_e is orthogonal to L_0, we will derive a contradiction.

Observe that $\{\{e^{s_k}_{\alpha_k}\}_{s_k=0,\dots,n_k}\}_{k=0,\dots,K}$ form a basis for L_0. So for each $e \in L_0$ there is a vector

$$(u^0_0,\dots,u^{n_0}_0,\dots,u^0_{\alpha_K},\dots,u^{n_K}_{\alpha_K}) \in C^N$$

such that

$$e(z,w) = \sum_{i=0}^{K}\sum_{t=0}^{n_i} u^t_{\alpha_i} e^t_{\alpha_i}(z,w).$$

Noting that $\dim L_0 = N$, we see that $e \to (u^0_0,\dots,u^{n_0}_0,\dots,u^0_{\alpha_K},\dots,u^{n_K}_{\alpha_K})$ is a linear invertible mapping from L_0 onto C^N.

Let α_j be a nonzero root of ϕ with multiplicity $n_j + 1$. Then

$$\phi^{(t)}(\alpha_j) = \langle \phi, k^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j \quad \text{and} \quad \phi^{(n_j+1)}(\alpha_j) = \langle \phi, k^{n_j+1}_{\alpha_j}\rangle \neq 0.$$

Because d^0_e is orthogonal to L_0 and $\{e^t_{\alpha_j}\}^t_{t=0}$ is in L_0, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \langle d^0_e, e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= \langle [w\phi_0(w)e(z,w) - we(0,w)e_0(z,w)], e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle \\ &= \langle w\phi_0(w)e(z,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle - \langle we(0,w)e_0(z,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1.9,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle w\phi_0(w)e(z,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= \{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^t \phi(w)e(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{t} \frac{t!}{s!(t-s)!}\phi^{(s)}(\alpha_j)\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^{t-s} e(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\langle we(0,w)e_0(z,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle = 0$$

for $0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j$. By Lemma 1.9 again, we have

$$0 = \langle we(0,w)e_0(z,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle = \{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^t we(0,w)e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j}$$

$$= \sum_{s=0}^{t} \frac{t!}{s!(t-s)!}(we(0,w))^{(s)}(\alpha_i)\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^{t-s}e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} \tag{2.1}$$

for $0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j$. When $t = 0$, the above equation gives $\alpha_j e(0,\alpha_j)e_0(\alpha_j,\alpha_j) = 0$. Noting that $\alpha_j e(0,\alpha_j) = 0$ is equivalent to $\sum\limits_{i=0}^{K}\sum_{t=0}^{n_i} u_i^t e^t_{\alpha_i}(0,\alpha_j) = 0$, we see that there is a function e in L_0 such that $\alpha_j e(0,\alpha_j) \neq 0$. Hence $e_0(\alpha_j,\alpha_j) = 0$. Letting $t = 1$, (2.1) gives

$$\alpha_j e(0,\alpha_j)\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} + (we(0,w))^{(1)}|_{w=\alpha_j}e_0(\alpha_j,\alpha_j) = 0,$$

Thus $\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} = 0$. By induction we obtain

$$\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^t e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} = 0,$$

for $0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j$. In particular, $0 = \{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^{n_j}e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j}$. A simple calculation gives

$$\{[\partial_z+\partial_w]^{n_j}e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} = \langle e_0, e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}\rangle = \langle \overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}}e_0(z,w), 1\rangle = \langle P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,w)}e_0(z,w)], 1\rangle.$$

Because $e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}$ is in $H^\infty(\mathbb{T}^2)$ and $e_0(z,w)$ is in $\mathcal{H}$, we have

$$P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,w)}e_0(z,w)] = P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,z)}e_0(z,w)].$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
&\{[\partial_z + \partial_w]^{n_j}e_0(z,w)\}|_{z=w=\alpha_j} \\
&\quad = \langle P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,z)}e_0(z,w)], 1\rangle = \langle \overline{e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,z)}e_0(z,w), 1\rangle = \langle e_0(z,w), e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,z)\rangle \\
&\quad = \langle e_0(z,0), e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}(z,z)\rangle = \Big\langle \phi_0(z), \frac{(n_j+1)!z^{n_j}}{(1-\overline{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+2}}\Big\rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we also have

$$0 = \phi_0^{(n_j)}(\alpha_j) = \langle \phi_0, k^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}\rangle = \Big\langle \phi_0, \frac{n_j! z^{n_j}}{(1-\overline{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+1}}\Big\rangle.$$

Combining the above two equalities gives

$$0 = \Big\langle \phi_0(z), \Big[\frac{z^{n_j}}{(1-\overline{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+2}} - \frac{z^{n_j}}{(1-\overline{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+1}}\Big]\Big\rangle = \Big\langle \phi_0(z), \frac{\overline{\alpha}_j z^{n_j+1}}{(1-\overline{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+2}}\Big\rangle.$$

Hence

$$\phi_0^{(n_j+1)}(\alpha_j) = \langle \phi_0(z), k_{\alpha_j}^{n_j+1}(z)\rangle = \frac{(n_j+1)!}{\bar{\alpha}_j}\left\langle \phi_0(z), \frac{\bar{\alpha}_j z^{n_j+1}}{(1-\bar{\alpha}_j z)^{n_j+2}}\right\rangle = 0.$$

This contradicts the fact that α_j is a nonzero root of ϕ_0 with multiplicity n_j+1. ∎

We are ready to prove our main result.

Proof of Theorem 0.1. We may assume that $\|M_\phi\| = 1$. Suppose that M_ϕ is unitarily equivalent to the direct sum $\bigoplus_{i=1}^{N} W_i$ where W_i is a weighted shift. Then

$$\dim\ker M_\phi^* = \sum_i \dim\ker W_i^*$$

and the essential spectrum of M_ϕ is

$$\sigma_{\mathrm{e}}(M_\phi) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_{\mathrm{e}}(W_i).$$

Noting that W_i is subnormal, we see that the essential spectrum of W_i is a circle with center at origin. So $\bigcup_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_{\mathrm{e}}(W_i)$ is a union of circles with the same center at origin. On the other hand, by Corollary 20 of [6], the essential spectrum of M_ϕ is connected. Thus $\bigcup_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_{\mathrm{e}}(W_i)$ is the unit circle and $|\phi(z)| = 1$ on $\mathbb{T}$. So ϕ is an inner function.

We claim that ϕ is a Blaschke product with N zeros in the unit disk. If ϕ is not so, there is a singularity $z_0 \in \mathbb{T}$ of $\phi(z)$ (that is a point that $\phi(z)$ does not extend analytically), by Theorem 6.6 in [1], the cluster set of $\phi(z)$ is the closed unit disk. Note that a point η in the cluster set of $\phi(z)$ at z_0 if and only if there are points z_n in $\mathbb{D}$ tending to z_0 such that $\phi(z_n)$ converges to η. This implies that the cluster set of $\phi(z)$ at every point z_0 on the unit circle is contained in the essential spectrum of M_ϕ, which is a contradiction.

By Theorem 1.17, there are N linearly independent functions $\{e_i\}$ of L_0 such that $\{d_{e_i}\}$ are orthogonal to e_0 and

$$p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_{e_i} \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Also we have $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + p_{l-1}(\phi(z),\phi(w))d_{e_i}^0 \in \mathcal{H}$, for $l \geqslant 0$. Thus $p_l(\phi(z),\phi(w))(d_{e_i} - d_{e_i}^0) \in \mathcal{H}$. So $d_{e_i} - d_{e_i}^0$ is in L_0 and hence Theorem 1.16 gives that there are constants λ_i such that $d_{e_i} = d_{e_i}^0 + \lambda_i e_0$. Since $e_0^{n_0}$ is in L_0 and d_{e_i} is orthogonal to L_0, we have

$$0 = \langle d_{e_i}, e_0^{n_0}\rangle = \langle d_{e_i}^0, e_0^{n_0}\rangle + \lambda_i \langle e_0, e_0^{n_0}\rangle.$$

On the other hand, Lemma 1.9 gives

$$\begin{aligned}\langle e_0, e_0^{n_0}\rangle &= \langle e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,z)\rangle = \langle e_0(z,0), e_0^{n_0}(z,z)\rangle = (n_0+1)!\langle \phi_0(z), z^{n_0}\rangle \\ &= (n_0+1)!\phi_0^{(n_0)}(0) \neq 0, \\ \langle d_{e_i}^0, e_0^{n_0}\rangle &= \langle w\phi_0(w)e_i(z,w) - we_i(0,w)e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle \\ &= \langle \phi(w)e_i(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle - \langle we_i(0,w)e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle.\end{aligned}$$

The Leibniz rule and Lemma 1.9 give

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \phi(w)e_i(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle &= [(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0}(\phi(w)e_i(z,w))]|_{z=w=0} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{n_0}\frac{n_0!}{s!(n_0-s)!}\phi^{(s)}(0)[(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0-s}e_i](0,0) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

The last equality follows from the fact that 0 is a root of ϕ with multiplicity n_0+1. Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle we_i(0,w)e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle &= [(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0}(we_i(0,w)e_0(z,w))]|_{z=w=0} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{n_0}\frac{n_0!}{s!(n_0-s)!}(we_i(0,w))^{(s)}(0)[(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0-s}e_0](0,0).\end{aligned}$$

Lemmas 1.3 and 1.9 give

$$\begin{aligned}[(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0-s}e_0](0,0) &= \langle e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0-s}(z,w)\rangle = \langle e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0-s}(z,z)\rangle \\ &= \langle e_0(z,0), e_0^{n_0-s}(z,z)\rangle = \langle \phi_0(z), (n_0-s+1)!z^{n_0-s}\rangle = 0\end{aligned}$$

for $0 < s \leqslant n_0$. The second equality follows from $P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e_0^{n_0-s}(z,w)}e_0(z,w)] = P_{\mathcal{H}}[\overline{e_0^{n_0-s}(z,z)}e_0(z,w)]$. Thus

$$\sum_{s=0}^{n_0}\frac{n_0!}{s!(n_0-s)!}(we_i(0,w))^{(s)}(0)[(\partial_z+\partial_w)^{n_0-s}e_0](0,0) = 0,$$

and so

$$\langle we_i(0,w)e_0(z,w), e_0^{n_0}(z,w)\rangle = 0.$$

Hence we have that the constant $\lambda_i = 0$. Therefore $d_{e_i}^0$ is orthogonal to L_0 for each i. Noting that $\{e_i\}$ form a basis for L_0 we see that d_e^0 is orthogonal to L_0 for each $e \in L_0$. By Theorem 2.2, we conclude that $\phi = \phi_\lambda^N$, to complete the proof. ∎

3. DECOMPOSITION OF $\mathcal{H}$

The proof of Theorem 0.1 in the previous section suggests a more general result stating that if ϕ has more than two distinct roots and at least one root is repeated, then $\mathcal{H}$ can not be decomposed as a direct sum of N reducing subspaces of M_ϕ. In this section we will prove the result.

THEOREM 3.1. *Suppose that ϕ is a Blaschke product of order N. If 0 is a zero and a critical point of ϕ and the zero set of ϕ contains at least one nonzero point in the unit disk, then $\mathcal{H}$ cannot be decomposed as a direct sum $\bigoplus_{i=0}^{N-1} M_i$ of N mutually orthogonal nontrivial reducing subspaces $\{M_i\}_{i=0}^{N-1}$ of $\phi(\mathcal{B})$.*

Proof. By the assumption, we may write

$$\phi = z\phi_0 = z^{n_0+1}\phi_1,$$

where

$$\phi_0 = z^{n_0}\phi_{\alpha_1}^{n_1+1}\cdots\phi_{\alpha_K}^{n_K+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_1 = \phi_{\alpha_1}^{n_1+1}\cdots\phi_{\alpha_K}^{n_K+1}$$

for some nonzero points $\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_K$ in the unit disk and nonegative integers $n_0,\ldots,n_K$.

Recall that L_0 is equal to $\ker T^*_{\phi(z)} \cap \ker T^*_{\phi(w)} \cap \mathcal{H}$. Then

$$L_0 = \text{span}\{1, p_1, \ldots, p_{n_0}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^{n_1}_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \ldots, e^{n_K}_{\alpha_K}\}.$$

Assume that $\phi(\mathcal{B})$ has N mutually orthogonal nontrivial reducing subspaces $\{M_i\}_{i=0}^{N-1}$ such that

$$\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{N-1} M_i$$

where M_0 is the distinguished reducing subspace $\mathcal{M}_0$ in Theorem 1.2.

By Lemma 1.10, for each i, there is an $e_i \neq 0$ such that $e_i \in M_i \cap L_0$, and

$$L_0 = \text{span}\{e_0, e_1, \ldots, e_{N-1}\}.$$

By Theorems 19 in [7], there are functions $\{d^1_{e_i}\} \subset \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$ such that

$$p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + d^1_{e_i} \in M_i.$$

Since M_i is orthognal to M_j for distinct i and j, we have

$$\langle p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + d^1_{e_i}, p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_j + d^1_{e_j}\rangle = 0.$$

On the other hand, a simple calculation gives

$$\begin{aligned}
&\langle p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + d^1_{e_i}, p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_j + d^1_{e_j}\rangle \\
&\quad = \langle p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + d^1_{e_i}, p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_j\rangle + \langle p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i + d^1_{e_i}, d^1_{e_j}\rangle \\
&\quad = \langle p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_i, p_1(\phi(z),\phi(w))e_j\rangle + \langle d^1_{e_i}, d^1_{e_j}\rangle = \langle d^1_{e_i}, d^1_{e_j}\rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

The second equality follows from the fact that d_{e_i} and d_{e_j} are in $\mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$. The equality follows since e_i and e_j are in L_0. Thus,

$$\langle d^1_{e_i}, d^1_{e_j}\rangle = 0.$$

By Theorems 19 in [7], each $d^1_{e_i} \neq 0$ for $i > 0$ and

$$\{d^1_{e_i}\}_{i=1}^{N-1} \subset \mathcal{L}_\phi \ominus L_0$$

are linearly independent.

By Theorem 1.1, there are numbers β_i, λ_i such that

$$d^1_{e_i} = d^0_{e_i} + \beta_i e_i + \lambda_i e_0 \quad i = 1, \ldots, N-1. \tag{3.1}$$

We will show that $d^0_{e_i}$ and e_0 are in

$$\{1, p_1, \ldots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \ldots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}\}^\perp.$$

To do this, observe that for $0 \leqslant k \leqslant n_0$,

$$\begin{aligned}
-\langle d^0_{e_i}, p_k\rangle
&=\langle \phi(w)e_i - we_i(0,w)e_0, p_k\rangle\\
&=\langle \phi(w)e_i(w,w), p_k(0,w)\rangle - \langle we_i(0,w)e_0(w,w), p_k(0,w)\rangle\\
&=\langle \phi(w)e_i(w,w), w^k\rangle - \langle we_i(0,w)(w\phi_0'(w) + \phi_0(w)), w^k\rangle\\
&=\langle w^{n_0+1-k}\phi_1(w)e_i(w,w), 1\rangle - \langle w^{n_0+1-k}[w\phi_1'(w) + (n_0+1)\phi_1(w)]e_i(0,w), 1\rangle = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

The second equality follows from Lemma 1.3 and the third equality follows from Lemma 1.7.

Since $e^t_{\alpha_j}$ is in the kernel of $T^*_{\phi(w)}$ and $\phi^{(s)}(\alpha_j) = 0$ for $0 \leqslant s \leqslant n_j$, we have that for $0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j - 1$ and $j = 1, \ldots, K$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle d^0_{e_i}, e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= \langle we_i(0,w)e_0(w,w) - \phi(w)e_i, e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle = \langle we_i(0,w)e_0(w,w), e^t_{\alpha_j}(0,w)\rangle\\
&= \langle we_i(0,w)[w\phi_0'(w) + \phi_0(w)], e^t_{\alpha_j}(0,w)\rangle\\
&= \langle we_i(0,w)\phi', k^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle = (we_i(0,w)\phi')^{(t)}|_{w=\alpha_j} = 0;\\
\langle d^0_{e_i}, e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= [we_i(0,w)\phi'(w)]^{(n_j)}|_{\alpha_j} = \alpha_j e_i(0,\alpha_j)\phi^{(n_j+1)}(\alpha_j).
\end{aligned}$$

These give that

$$d^0_{e_i} \perp \{1, p_1, \ldots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \ldots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}\}. \tag{3.2}$$

We also have that for $0 \leqslant k \leqslant n_0 - 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle e_0, p_k\rangle &= \langle e_0(w,w), p_k(0,w)\rangle = \langle \phi'(w), w^k\rangle = 0,\\
\langle e_0, p_{n_0}\rangle &= \frac{1}{n_0!}\phi^{(n_0+1)}(0) \neq 0.
\end{aligned}$$

A simple calculation shows that for $j = 1, \ldots, K$, $0 \leqslant t \leqslant n_j - 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle e_0, e^t_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= [e_0(w,w)]^{(t)}|_{\alpha_j} = \phi^{(t+1)}(\alpha_j) = 0,\\
\langle e_0, e^{n_j}_{\alpha_j}\rangle &= \phi^{(n_j+1)}(\alpha_j) \neq 0.
\end{aligned}$$

These give

$$e_0 \perp \{1, p_1, \ldots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \ldots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \ldots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}\}. \tag{3.3}$$

We claim that there are at most K nonzero β_i's. If β_{i_0} does not equal 0 for some i_0, (3.1) yields

$$e_{i_0} = \frac{1}{\beta_{i_0}}[d^1_{e_{i_0}} - d^0_{e_{i_0}} - \lambda_{i_0} e_0].$$

Noting that $d^1_{e_i}$ is orthogonal to L_0, by (3.2) and (3.3) we have

$$e_{i_0} \perp \{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}\}.$$

Thus

$$e_{i_0} \perp \{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}, e_0\}. \tag{3.4}$$

So there are at most K nonzero β_i's and hence our claim holds.

On the other hand if $\beta_i = 0$, then (3.1) gives

$$d^1_{e_i} = d^0_{e_i} + \lambda_i e_0.$$

Since p_{n_0} is in L_0 and $d^1_{e_i} \perp L_0$, we have that $d^0_{e_i} \perp p_{n_0}$, and

$$\langle e_0, p_{n_0} \rangle \neq 0,$$

to obtain that $\lambda_i = 0$ and $d^0_{e_i} = d^1_{e_i}$ is orthogonal to L_0. By Theorem 2.2, there is at least one nonzero β_i.

Without loss of generality, assume that for some m, $\beta_{N-j} \neq 0$ for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$ and $\beta_j = 0$ for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant N-m-1$, (3.4) gives

$$e_{N-j} \perp \{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}, e_0\}$$

for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant m$. Now we extend

$$\{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}, e_0, e_{N-1}, \dots, e_{N-m}\}$$

to a basis of L_0

$$\{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}, e_0, e_{N-1}, \dots, e_{N-m}, f_1, \dots, f_{K-m}\}$$

by adding some elements $f_1, \dots, f_{K-m}$ in L_0. Let $\{g_j\}_{j=1}^{N-m-1}$ denote

$$\{1, p_1, \dots, p_{n_0-1}, e^0_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^{n_1-1}_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e^0_{\alpha_K}, \dots, e^{n_K-1}_{\alpha_K}, f_1, \dots, f_{K-m}\}.$$

Since for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant N-m-1$, e_j is in L_0 and

$$e_j \perp \{e_0, e_{N-1}, \dots, e_{N-m}\}$$

we have that e_j is in the subspace span$\{1, g_2, \dots, g_{N-m-1}\}$ of L_0. This implies that there are numbers $\{c_{jl}\}_{j,l=1}^{N-m-1}$ such that for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant N-m-1$

$$e_j = c_{j1} + c_{j2} g_2 + \cdots + c_{jN-m-1} g_{N-m-1}. \tag{3.5}$$

On the other hand, because $\beta_j = 0$ for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant N-m-1$, we have that $d^0_{e_j} = d^1_{e_j}$ is orthogonal to L_0, and

$$\langle d^0_{e_j}, e^{n_1}_{\alpha_1} \rangle = \alpha_1 e_j(0, \alpha_1) \phi^{(n_1+1)}(\alpha_1) = 0.$$

This implies that $e_j(0,\alpha_1) = 0$. Hence (3.5) gives

$$e_j(0,\alpha_1) = c_{j1}1 + c_{j2}g_2(0,\alpha_1) + \cdots + c_{jN-m-1}g_{N-m-1}(0,\alpha_1) = 0$$

for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant N-m-1$. Thus the determinant $\det[c_{jk}]$ of the coefficient matrix of the above system must be zero. So there is a nonzero vector $(x_1,\ldots,x_{N-m-1})$ such that

$$c_{1l}x_1 + c_{2l}x_2 + \cdots + c_{N-m-1l}x_{N-m-1} = 0$$

for $1 \leqslant l \leqslant N-m-1$. This implies

$$x_1e_1 + x_2e_2 + \cdots + x_{N-m-1}e_{N-m-1} = 0.$$

We obtain a contradiction that $e_1,\ldots,e_{N-m-1}$ are linearly independent to complete the proof. ∎

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank the referee for his useful comments. The first author was supported partially by the National Natural Science Foundation 10471041 of China. The second author was partially supported by the National Science Foundation.

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Received January 10, 2006.