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## Sufficient conditions on nonunitary operators that imply the unitary operators

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we give sufficient conditions on nonunitary operators on the Bergman space that imply the unitary operators.

**Key words:** Unitary operators, Toeplitz operators, composition operators, Berezin transform

### 1. Introduction

Let  $dA(z)$  denote the Lebesgue area measure on the open unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ , normalized so that the measure of the disk  $\mathbb{D}$  equals 1. The Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  is the Hilbert space consisting of analytic functions on  $\mathbb{D}$  that are also in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , the Bergman reproducing kernel is the function  $K_z \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $f(z) = \langle f, K_z \rangle$  for every  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . The normalized reproducing kernel  $k_z$  is the function  $\frac{K_z}{\|K_z\|_2}$ . Here the norm  $\|\cdot\|_2$  and the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  are taken in the space  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For any  $n \geq 0, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $e_n(z) = \sqrt{n+1}z^n$ .

Then  $\{e_n\}$  forms an orthonormal basis for  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $K(z, \bar{w}) = \overline{K_z(w)} = \frac{1}{(1-z\bar{w})^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e_n(z)\overline{e_n(w)}$ . For

$\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  with symbol  $\phi$  is the operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  defined by  $T_\phi f = P(\phi f)$ ; here  $P$  is the orthogonal projection from  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  onto  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

Let  $Aut(\mathbb{D})$  be the Lie group of all automorphisms (biholomorphic mappings) of  $\mathbb{D}$ . We can define for each  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  an automorphism  $\phi_a$  in  $Aut(\mathbb{D})$  such that:

- (i)  $(\phi_a \circ \phi_a)(z) \equiv z$ ;
- (ii)  $\phi_a(0) = a, \phi_a(a) = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $\phi_a$  has a unique fixed point in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

In fact,  $\phi_a(z) = \frac{a-z}{1-\bar{a}z}$  for all  $a$  and  $z$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . An easy calculation shows that the derivative of  $\phi_a$  at  $z$  is equal to  $-k_a(z)$ . It follows that the real Jacobian determinant of  $\phi_a$  at  $z$  is  $J_{\phi_a(z)} = |k_a(z)|^2 = \frac{(1-|a|^2)^2}{|1-\bar{a}z|^4}$ . Given  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f$  any measurable function on  $\mathbb{D}$ , we define a function  $U_z f$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  by  $U_z f(w) = k_z(w)f(\phi_z(w))$ . Notice that  $U_z$  is a bounded linear operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  and  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Furthermore, it can be verified that  $U_z^2 = I$ , the identity operator,  $U_z^* = U_z, U_z(L_a^2(\mathbb{D})) \subset L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $U_z((L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))^\perp) \subset (L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))^\perp$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Thus,  $U_z P = P U_z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ .

Let  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  be analytic. Define the composition operator  $C_\phi$  from  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  into itself by  $C_\phi f = f \circ \phi$ .

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The operator  $C_\phi$  is a bounded linear operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\|C_\phi\| \leq \frac{1+|\phi(0)|}{1-|\phi(0)|}$ . Given  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f$  any measurable function on  $\mathbb{D}$ , we define the function  $C_a f = f \circ \phi_a$ , where  $\phi_a \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ . The map  $C_a$  is a composition operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  denote the algebra of bounded, linear operators from a Hilbert space  $H$  into itself. Let  $H(\mathbb{D})$  be the space of holomorphic functions from  $\mathbb{D}$  into itself. Let us denote  $E_{n,\phi} = \langle T_\phi \sqrt{n+1}z^n, \sqrt{n+1}z^n \rangle$ .

If  $T$  is a compact operator on a separable Hilbert space  $H$ , then there exist orthonormal sets  $\{u_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  and  $\{\sigma_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  in  $H$  such that  $Tx = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \lambda_n \langle x, u_n \rangle \sigma_n$ ;  $x \in H$  where  $\lambda_n$  is the  $n$ th singular value of  $T$ . Given  $0 < p < \infty$ , we define the Schatten  $p$ -class of  $H$ , denoted by  $S_p(H)$  or simply  $S_p$ , to be the space of all compact operators  $T$  on  $H$  with its singular value sequence  $\{\lambda_n\}$  belonging to  $l^p$  (the  $p$ -summable sequence space). We

will focus in the range  $1 \leq p < \infty$ . In this case,  $S_p$  is a Banach space with the norm  $\|T\|_p = \left[ \sum_n |\lambda_n|^p \right]^{\frac{1}{p}}$ .

The class  $S_1$  is also called the trace class of  $H$  and  $S_2$  is usually called the Hilbert–Schmidt class. One can easily verify that if  $T$  is a compact operator on  $H$  and  $p \geq 1$ , then  $T \in S_p$  if and only if  $|T|^p = (T^*T)^{\frac{p}{2}} \in S_1$  and  $\|T\|_p^p = \||T|\|_1^p = \||T|^p\|_1$ .

The Berezin transform  $\tilde{\phi}$  of a function  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  is defined to be the Berezin transform of the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$ . In other words,  $\tilde{\phi} = \tilde{T}_\phi$ . Furthermore,  $\tilde{\phi}(z) = \tilde{T}_\phi(z) = \langle T_\phi k_z, k_z \rangle = \langle P(\phi k_z), k_z \rangle = \langle \phi k_z, k_z \rangle$  for each  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ .

For  $\phi \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ , let

$$\tilde{\phi}(\lambda) = \langle \phi k_\lambda, k_\lambda \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \phi(z) \frac{(1 - |\lambda|^2)^2}{|1 - \bar{\lambda}z|^4} dA(z).$$

For more details, see [12]. A nice survey of earlier known results relating to the unitary operators on the Hilbert space can be found in [3, 4, 10, 11].

**Theorem 1 ([4])** *Let  $T, V, W \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ , where  $T$  is a paranormal contraction operator,  $V$  is a coisometry, and  $W$  has a dense range. Assume that  $TW = WV$ . Then  $T$  is unitary. In particular, if  $W$  is injective and has a dense range, then  $V$  is also a unitary operator.*

**Theorem 2 ([11])** *Let  $A, V, X \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  be such that  $V, X$  are isometries and  $A^*$  is  $p$ -hyponormal. If  $VX = XA$ , then  $A$  is unitary.*

**Theorem 3 ([4])** *Let  $T, S, W \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  where  $W$  has a dense range. Assume that  $TW = WS$  and  $T^*W = WS^*$ . Then  $T$  is unitary if  $S$  is unitary.*

**Theorem 4 ([3])** *Let  $T$  be a  $k$ -paranormal contraction, and let*

$$M = \{x \in H : \|T^{*n}x\| \geq \varepsilon_x > 0 \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots\}.$$

*Then  $T|_M$  is unitary.*

**Corollary 1 ([3])** Let  $A$  be a  $k$ -paranormal contraction, let  $B$  be a right invertible operator with a power bounded right inverse  $B_1$ , and let  $X$  be an operator with dense range such that  $AX = XB$ . Then  $A$  is unitary.

**Theorem 5 ([10])** If  $T$  is a  $k$ -paranormal contraction operator,  $V$  has a right inverse  $V_r$ , which is power bounded, and operator  $W$  has a dense range such that  $TW = WV_r$ , and then  $T^*W = WV_r$ . Moreover,  $T$  is unitary.

**Main results**

**Proposition 1** Let  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  be such that  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . Suppose that  $\zeta = \inf_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |\tilde{\phi}(z)| > 0$  and there exists a sequence  $\mu = \{\psi_n\}_{n \geq 0} \subset \mathbb{D}$  such that

$$\lambda_\phi^\mu = \left( \sum_{n=0}^\infty (1 - 2\operatorname{Re}(\tilde{\phi}(\bar{\psi}_n)E_{n,\phi}) + |\tilde{\phi}(\psi_n)|^2) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} < \infty. \tag{1.1}$$

If  $\zeta > \lambda_\phi^\mu$ , and  $T_\phi^{-1} = T_{\phi \circ \phi_z}$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then  $T_\phi$  is unitary.

**Proof** From [5] it follows that the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  is invertible on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , since  $T_\phi^{-1} = T_{\phi \circ \phi_z} = U_z T_\phi U_z$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . This implies  $T_\phi^{-1}$  is unitarily equivalent to  $T_\phi$ . Therefore,  $\|T_\phi^{-1}\| = \|T_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . Thus, for any  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $\|f\| = \|T_\phi^{-1}T_\phi f\| \leq \|T_\phi f\| \leq \|f\|$ . Hence,  $\|T_\phi f\| = \|f\|$ , which implies  $T_\phi^{-1}T_\phi = I$ . Furthermore, since  $\|T_\phi\| = \|T_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $\|(T_\phi^{-1})^{-1}\| = \|(T_\phi^{-1})^*\| = \|T_\phi^{-1}\| = \|T_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ , we get for any  $g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $\|g\| = \|(T_\phi^{-1})^{-1}T_\phi^{-1}g\| \leq \|T_\phi^{-1}g\| \leq \|g\|$ . Thus,  $\|T_\phi^{-1}g\| = \|g\|$ , which implies that  $T_\phi T_\phi^{-1} = I$ . Hence,  $T_\phi$  is unitary.  $\square$

**Theorem 6** Let  $\phi \geq 0$ . If  $V \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  be an isometry such that  $T_\phi - V \in S_p, 1 \leq p < \infty$ . Then  $V$  is unitary.

**Proof** The Schatten ideal  $S_p, 1 \leq p < \infty$  is a two-sided ideal. Given that  $T_\phi - V \in S_p, 1 \leq p < \infty$ . Hence,  $T_\phi V - V^*T_\phi = V^*(V - T_\phi) - (V^* - T_\phi)V \in S_p$ . Hence,  $T_\phi^2 - I = (V^* + T_\phi)(T_\phi - V) + T_\phi V - V^*T_\phi \in S_p$ . As  $T_\phi$  is positive,  $(T_\phi + I)$  is invertible and so  $T_\phi - I = (T_\phi^2 - I)(T_\phi + I)^{-1} \in S_p, 1 \leq p < \infty$ . So  $V - I = (T_\phi - I) - (T_\phi - V) \in S_p$ . Hence,  $V - I = A$ , say, is compact. Now  $V = I + A$  is isometric and hence one-one, so  $\ker(I + A) = \{0\}$  and hence  $-1$  is not an eigenvalue of the compact operator  $A$ ; otherwise,  $\ker(I + A)$  would contain a nonzero eigenvector of  $A$  with corresponding eigenvalue  $-1$ . Therefore, by the Fredholm alternative [6],  $A - (-1)I (= V)$  is invertible and hence unitary.  $\square$

**Theorem 7** Let  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\psi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $\psi \geq 0$ . If  $T_\psi \leq \operatorname{Re}(C_\phi^* T_\psi)$ ,

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1 - |z|^2}{1 - |\phi(z)|^2} = 0, \text{ and } \frac{1 + |\phi(0)|}{1 - |\phi(0)|} \leq 1; \text{ then } C_\phi \text{ is unitary.}$$

**Proof** For  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , by Heinz inequality [7], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_\psi f, f \rangle &\leq \langle \operatorname{Re}(C_\phi^* T_\psi) f, f \rangle \\ &= \operatorname{Re} \langle C_\phi^* T_\psi f, f \rangle \\ &\leq |\langle C_\phi^* T_\psi f, f \rangle| \\ &= |\langle T_\psi f, C_\phi f \rangle| \\ &\leq \langle T_\psi f, f \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}} \langle T_\psi C_\phi f, C_\phi f \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\langle T_\psi f, f \rangle \leq \langle C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi f, f \rangle$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , so  $T_\psi \leq C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi$ . The operator  $T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} C_\phi$  is compact [12] since  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1 - |z|^2}{1 - |\phi(z)|^2} = 0$ . Let  $M = T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} C_\phi$ . Then

$$MM^* = T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} C_\phi C_\phi^* T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq T_\psi.$$

Hence,  $0 \leq C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi - T_\psi \leq C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi - T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} C_\phi C_\phi^* T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} = M^* M - M M^*$ . That is, the operator  $M$  is hyponormal. Hence,  $M$  is normal [2] as  $M$  is compact. Therefore,  $T_\psi = C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi = T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}} C_\phi C_\phi^* T_\psi^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and hence  $C_\phi^*$  is an isometry on  $\overline{\operatorname{Ran}(T_\psi)}$ . Furthermore,  $T_\psi$  commutes with  $C_\phi$  and also with  $C_\phi^*$ , so

$$C_\phi^* C_\phi T_\psi = C_\phi^* T_\psi C_\phi = T_\psi = T_\psi C_\phi C_\phi^*.$$

Hence,  $C_\phi$  is unitary. □

**Theorem 8** Let  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  be such that  $\phi \geq 0$  with  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $\|T_{1+\phi}\| < 1$ . Then  $T_\phi$  can be expressed as the mean of two unitary operators.

**Proof** Since  $\phi \geq 0$ ,  $T_\phi$  is positive on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Then, by ([1], Theorem 3.1), for every unitary operator  $U$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , we obtain,  $\|U - T_\phi\| \leq \|I + T_\phi\| = \|T_{1+\phi}\| < 1$ . Since  $\|U - T_\phi\| < 1$ , that implies  $\|I - U^* T_\phi\| < 1$  so that  $U^* T_\phi$  and  $T_\phi$  are invertible. Let  $T_\phi = VQ$  be the polar decomposition of  $T_\phi$  with  $V$  as partial isometry and  $Q$  as positive operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $T_\phi$  is invertible,  $V$  is unitary and  $Q$  is a positive invertible operator on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

Since  $\|T_\phi\| \leq 1$ , that implies  $\|Q\| \leq 1$ . Therefore,  $I - Q^2$  is a positive operator and  $\|I - Q^2\| \leq 1$ . Let us define  $W_1 = Q + i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $W_2 = Q - i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . One can easily observe that  $W_1^* = W_2$  and  $W_1 W_1^* = Q^2 + I - Q^2 = I$ . Similarly,  $W_1^* W_1 = I$ . Hence,  $W_1 W_1^* = W_1^* W_1 = I$  and also  $W_2 W_2^* = W_2^* W_2 = I$ . That implies that  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are two unitary operators on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Therefore,  $T_\phi = VQ = V(\frac{W_1 + W_2}{2}) = \frac{1}{2}(VW_1 + VW_2) = \frac{V_1 + V_2}{2}$  where  $V_1 = VW_1$  and  $V_2 = VW_2$  are two unitary operators on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . The result follows. □

**Definition 1** An operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  is a **Fredholm** operator if and only if range of  $T$  is closed,  $\dim \ker T$  is finite, and  $\dim \ker T^*$  is finite.

Let  $\mathcal{F}(H)$  denote the collection of Fredholm operators on  $H$ . Recall that the index of an operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(H)$  denoted as  $i(T)$  is a function from  $\mathcal{F}(H)$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$  defined by  $i(T) = \dim \ker T - \dim \ker T^*$ . For more details, see [9].

**Corollary 2** *Let  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . If  $T_\phi \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  has index zero then the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  can be expressed as the mean of two unitary operators.*

**Proof** Since  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ , so  $\|T_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . Hence,  $\|T_\phi\| \leq 1$ . Let  $T_\phi = UQ$  be the polar decomposition of  $T_\phi$  where  $U$  is a partial isometry and  $Q$  is a positive operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . If a Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  with symbol  $\phi$  has index zero then  $\dim(\ker(T_\phi)) = \dim(\ker(T_\phi^*))$ . Thus, the partial isometry  $U$  of an operator  $T_\phi$  can be extended to a unitary operator. Therefore, the corollary is evident from the above Theorem 8.  $\square$

**Corollary 3** *Let  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . If  $\|U_z - T_\phi\| < 1$ , then the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  can be expressed as  $\frac{1}{4}$  times the alternating finite series of four unitary operators. That is,  $T_\phi = \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{4} U_k$  where  $U_k$  are unitary operators.*

**Proof** Since  $\|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ , so  $\|T_\phi\| \leq \|\phi\|_\infty \leq 1$ . Given that  $\|U_z - T_\phi\| < 1$ , then by ([8], Corollary-1)  $T_\phi$  is invertible. Let  $T_\phi = VQ$  be the polar decomposition of  $T_\phi$  with  $V$  as partial isometry and  $Q$  as positive operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $T_\phi$  is invertible, so  $V$  is unitary and  $Q$  is a positive invertible operator on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

Since  $\|T_\phi\| \leq 1$ , that implies  $\|Q\| \leq 1$ . Therefore,  $I - Q^2$  is a positive operator and  $\|I - Q^2\| \leq 1$ . Let us define  $W_1 = Q + i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $W_2 = -Q + i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $W_3 = Q - i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , and  $W_4 = -Q - i(I - Q^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . One may observe that  $W_1^* = W_3, W_2^* = W_4$  and  $W_1 W_1^* = I, W_1^* W_1 = I$ . Similarly,  $W_2 W_2^* = I, W_2^* W_2 = I$ ,  $W_3 W_3^* = I, W_3^* W_3 = I$ , and  $W_4 W_4^* = I, W_4^* W_4 = I$ . Hence,  $W_1, W_2, W_3$  and  $W_4$  are unitary operators on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Therefore,  $T_\phi = VQ = V(\frac{W_1 - W_2 + W_3 - W_4}{4}) = \frac{1}{4}(VW_1 - VW_2 + VW_3 - VW_4) = \frac{V_1 - V_2 + V_3 - V_4}{4}$  where  $V_1 = VW_1, V_2 = VW_2, V_3 = VW_3$ , and  $V_4 = VW_4$  are four unitary operators on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Hence, the result follows.  $\square$

**Corollary 4** *If  $W \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  with  $\|W\| \leq 1$  is of finite rank then  $WW^*$  and  $W^*W$  are unitarily equivalent.*

**Proof** Assume that  $W \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  and  $\|W\| \leq 1$ . Let  $W = VQ$  be the polar decomposition of  $W$  with  $V$  as a partial isometry and  $Q$  is a positive operator on the Bergman space. Since the operator  $W$  is of finite rank, so  $\dim(\ker W) = \dim(\ker W^*)$ . Therefore, by using Corollary 2, we can conclude that the partial isometry  $V$  of the polar decomposition  $W$  extends to the unitary operator. Now

$$\begin{aligned} V^*WW^*V &= V^*VQQ^*V^*V \\ &= Q^2 \\ &= Q^*IQ \\ &= Q^*V^*VQ \\ &= W^*W. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Theorem 9** For a Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ , let  $T_\phi^*T_\phi = S \oplus 0$  defined on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) = \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi^*} \oplus \ker T_\phi$  and  $T_\phi T_\phi^* = T \oplus 0$  defined on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) = \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi} \oplus \ker T_\phi^*$ . Then  $S$  and  $T$  are unitarily equivalent.

**Proof** Since  $\overline{\text{Range } T_\phi^*} = \overline{\text{Range } (T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$  and  $\overline{\text{Range } T_\phi} = \overline{\text{Range } (T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$  we may define  $V : \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi^*} \rightarrow \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi}$  by  $V((T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f) = T_\phi f$  for  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $W : \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi} \rightarrow \overline{\text{Range } T_\phi^*}$  by  $W((T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}g) = T_\phi^*g$  for  $g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Then  $V$  and  $W$  are surjective isometries satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \langle V(T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f, (T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}g \rangle &= \langle T_\phi f, (T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}g \rangle \\ &= \langle f, T_\phi^*(T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}g \rangle \\ &= \langle f, (T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}T_\phi^*g \rangle \\ &= \langle (T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f, W(T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}g \rangle \quad \text{for all } f, g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $V = W^*$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (V^*TV)(T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f &= WTT_\phi f \\ &= W(T_\phi T_\phi^*)T_\phi f \\ &= W(T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}T_\phi f \\ &= T_\phi^*(T_\phi T_\phi^*)^{\frac{1}{2}}T_\phi f \\ &= (T_\phi^*T_\phi)(T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f \\ &= S(T_\phi^*T_\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}}f, \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $V^*TV = S$ , completing the proof. □

**Corollary 5** Let  $S, T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . If  $\langle TU_z k_z, k_z \rangle = \langle Sk_z, U_z k_z \rangle$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  then  $|PS|^2$  is unitarily equivalent to  $|QT|^2$  for any isometries  $P$  and  $Q$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ .

**Proof** Suppose  $\langle TU_z k_z, k_z \rangle = \langle Sk_z, U_z k_z \rangle$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , and then  $\langle U_z Sk_z, k_z \rangle = \langle TU_z k_z, k_z \rangle$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . That is,  $TU_z = U_z S$ . Thus,  $S = U_z T U_z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Therefore,  $S^*S = U_z T^* T U_z$ . Now  $U_z |QT|^2 U_z = U_z T^* Q^* Q T U_z = U_z T^* T U_z = S^*S = S^* P^* P S = |PS|^2$  for any isometries  $P$  and  $Q$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . □

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