

# Closed subideals of bounded operators

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*Structures in Banach Spaces*  
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# 1. Aim of talk/notation

- Aim of talk: to describe examples and properties of non-trivial closed subideals and closed  $n$ -subideals of the Banach algebra  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  of bounded linear operators on a Banach space  $X$ .
- The talk is based on
  - ★ H.-O. Tylli & H. Wirzenius: *Exotic closed subideals of algebras of bounded operators*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 152 (2024).
  - ★ H.-O. Tylli & H. Wirzenius: *Structure of closed subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$* , in preparation.

- Notation: Let  $X, Y$  be  $\infty$ -dim. (real or complex) Banach spaces, and denote

$$\mathcal{L}(X, Y) = \{ \text{bounded linear operators } X \rightarrow Y \}.$$

$$\mathcal{S}(X, Y) = \{ \text{strictly singular operators } X \rightarrow Y \}.$$

$$\mathcal{K}(X, Y) = \{ \text{compact operators } X \rightarrow Y \}.$$

$$\mathcal{A}(X, Y) = \{ \text{approximable operators } X \rightarrow Y \} := \overline{\mathcal{F}(X, Y)}, \text{ where}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(X, Y) = \{ \text{bounded finite rank operators } X \rightarrow Y \} \text{ and closure in operator norm.}$$

- $\mathcal{F}(X, Y) \subsetneq \mathcal{A}(X, Y) \subset \mathcal{K}(X, Y) \subset \mathcal{S}(X, Y) \subset \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$ .
- For  $X = Y$  write  $\mathcal{L}(X) := \mathcal{L}(X, X)$  etc.

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- Observation : Suppose  $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals, and there is a Banach algebra isomorphism  $\theta : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{J}$ . Then

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{J}. \tag{1}$$

In other words: distinct closed ideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  are never isomorphic as Banach algebras.

Reason:  $\theta$  above is of the form

$$\theta(S) = USU^{-1} \quad (S \in \mathcal{I})$$

for some linear isomorphism  $U \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  by (Chernoff '73).

- (Tylli & W. '22) There is a Banach space  $X$  (failing the approximation property) with an uncountable family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of distinct closed ideals of  $\mathcal{K}(X)$ , where none of the ideals  $\mathcal{I} \in \mathfrak{F}$  are ideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .
- Question (Schechtman): Are the ideals in  $\mathfrak{F}$  pairwise non-isomorphic as Banach algebras?
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- (Fong & Radjavi '83) Examples of non-trivial, but non-closed,  $\mathcal{K}(\ell^2)$ -subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(\ell^2)$ . (Terminology due to Patnaik & Weiss '13.)
- Remark: If the closed ideal  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  has an approximate identity, then there are no non-trivial closed  $\mathcal{I}$ -subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .  
(A net  $(U_\alpha) \subset \mathcal{I}$  is an approximate identity if  $S = \lim_\alpha U_\alpha S = \lim_\alpha S U_\alpha$  for all  $S \in \mathcal{I}$ .)
  - ★ Consequence: If  $H$  is a Hilbert space, then there are no non-trivial closed subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ . Reason: every closed ideal  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{L}(H)$  has an approximate identity.

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## 4. Closed subideals for classical spaces

- **Question:** Non-trivial closed subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  for classical Banach spaces  $X$ ?
- If  $X = \ell^p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$  or  $X = c_0$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  does not have any non-trivial closed subideals. Reason:
  - (i) In these cases  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  is the unique non-trivial closed ideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , and  $X$  has the approximation property, so  $\mathcal{A}(X) = \mathcal{K}(X)$ .
  - (ii) General fact for any  $X$ : If  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , then  $\mathcal{A}(X) \subset \mathcal{I}$ .
- How about non-trivial closed subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  for  $X = L^p(0, 1)$ , where  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $p \neq 2$  or  $X = C(0, 1)$ ? In these cases,  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  has plenty of closed ideals.

### Theorem (Tylli & W. 2024)

Let  $X = L^p(0, 1)$  for  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $p \neq 2$ . Then there are large families (even of size  $2^c$ ) of non-trivial closed  $\mathcal{S}(X)$ -subideals  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{S}(X) \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  that, respectively

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### Theorem (Tylli & W. 2024)

Let  $X = L^p(0, 1)$  for  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $p \neq 2$ . Then there are large families (even of size  $2^c$ ) of non-trivial closed  $\mathcal{S}(X)$ -subideals  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{S}(X) \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  that, respectively

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- **Question:** Non-trivial closed subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  for classical Banach spaces  $X$ ?
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## 5. Generalization: closed $n$ -subideals

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$\mathcal{J}_k = [\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{J}_{k-1}]_{\mathcal{J}_{k-1}} = [\mathcal{M}]_{\mathcal{J}_{k-1}}$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n-2$ . Then

$$\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_{n-2} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \cdots \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_1 \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{A}.$$

## 6. Generalization: closed $n$ -subideals, II

- Recall:  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  if

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{J}_n \subset \mathcal{J}_{n-1} \subset \cdots \subset \mathcal{J}_1 \subset \mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{L}(X),$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_k$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{J}_{k-1}$  for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .

- If  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , then  $\mathcal{A}(X) \subset \mathcal{I}$ .
- The closed subalgebra

$$\mathcal{M} := \mathcal{A}(X) + \mathbb{K}Id \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$$

is not a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  when  $\mathcal{M} \neq \mathcal{L}(X)$ .

### Lemma

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a closed subalgebra of a non-unital Banach algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $n \geq 2$  and suppose

$$a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow a_1 \cdots a_n \in \mathcal{M}.$$

Then  $\mathcal{M}$  is a closed  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

In particular: if  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals and  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent, then any closed subalgebra  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{J}$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

\*  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent:  $T_1, \dots, T_n \in \mathcal{J} \Rightarrow T_1 \cdots T_n \in \mathcal{I}$ .

Sketch of proof: Define  $\mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{A}$  and successively

$\mathcal{J}_k = [\mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{J}_{k-1}]_{\mathcal{J}_{k-1}} = [\mathcal{M}]_{\mathcal{J}_{k-1}}$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n-2$ . Then

$$\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_{n-2} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \cdots \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_1 \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{A}.$$

## 7. Example of closed $n$ -subideal

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define

$$X = \ell^{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \ell^{p_n}.$$

Then there is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

Sketch of proof:

**Step 1.**  $\mathcal{S}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is  $n$ -nilpotent:

$$\mathcal{S}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_1}) & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_2}, \ell^{p_1}) & \dots & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_n}, \ell^{p_1}) \\ \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_1}, \ell^{p_2}) & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_2}) & \dots & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_n}, \ell^{p_2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_1}, \ell^{p_n}) & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_2}, \ell^{p_n}) & \dots & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_n}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_1}) & \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_2}, \ell^{p_1}) & \dots & \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_n}, \ell^{p_1}) \\ \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_1}, \ell^{p_2}) & \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_2}) & \dots & \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_n}, \ell^{p_2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_1}, \ell^{p_n}) & \mathcal{S}(\ell^{p_2}, \ell^{p_n}) & \dots & \mathcal{K}(\ell^{p_n}) \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 2.** There is  $T \in \mathcal{S}(X)$  such that  $T^{n-1} \notin \mathcal{K}(X)$ :

Let  $i_k : \ell^{p_k} \rightarrow \ell^{p_{k+1}}$  be the inclusion map. Then

$$T = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} J_{k+1} i_k P_k \in \mathcal{S}(X) \quad (T : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (0, i_1 x_1, \dots, i_{n-1} x_{n-1})), \text{ and}$$

$$T^{n-1} = J_n i_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ i_1 P_1 \notin \mathcal{K}(X) \quad (T^{n-1} : (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (0, \dots, 0, i_{n-1} \dots i_1 x_1)).$$

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## 8. Closed $n$ -subideals of $\mathcal{L}(X)$ : Example, II

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define

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**Step 1.**  $\mathcal{S}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is  $n$ -nilpotent. ✓

**Lemma.** Suppose  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals,  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent and  $\mathcal{I} \subset M \subset \mathcal{J}$  is a closed subalgebra. Then  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ . ✓

Define  $U = \begin{bmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}(X \oplus X)$  and

$$M = \text{span}\{U, \dots, U^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X \oplus X).$$

**Step 3.**  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ :

$M$  is a closed subalgebra such that  $\mathcal{K}(X \oplus X) \subset M \subset \mathcal{S}(X \oplus X)$  and thus  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$  by Step 1 and the lemma.

## 8. Closed $n$ -subideals of $\mathcal{L}(X)$ : Example, II

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define

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**Lemma.** Suppose  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals,  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent and  $\mathcal{I} \subset M \subset \mathcal{J}$  is a closed subalgebra. Then  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ . ✓

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## 8. Closed $n$ -subideals of $\mathcal{L}(X)$ : Example, II

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define

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**Step 1.**  $\mathcal{S}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is  $n$ -nilpotent. ✓

**Lemma.** Suppose  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals,  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent and  $\mathcal{I} \subset M \subset \mathcal{J}$  is a closed subalgebra. Then  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ . ✓

Define  $U = \begin{bmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}(X \oplus X)$  and

$$M = \text{span}\{U, \dots, U^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X \oplus X).$$

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## 8. Closed $n$ -subideals of $\mathcal{L}(X)$ : Example, II

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define

$$X = \ell^{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \ell^{p_n}.$$

Then there is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

**Step 1.**  $\mathcal{S}(X)/\mathcal{K}(X)$  is  $n$ -nilpotent. ✓

**Lemma.** Suppose  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{L}(X)$  are closed ideals,  $\mathcal{J}/\mathcal{I}$  is  $n$ -nilpotent and  $\mathcal{I} \subset M \subset \mathcal{J}$  is a closed subalgebra. Then  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ . ✓

Define  $U = \begin{bmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}(X \oplus X)$  and

$$M = \text{span}\{U, \dots, U^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X \oplus X).$$

**Step 3.**  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ :

$M$  is a closed subalgebra such that  $\mathcal{K}(X \oplus X) \subset M \subset \mathcal{S}(X \oplus X)$  and thus  $M$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$  by Step 1 and the lemma.

## 9. Example of closed $n$ -subideal, III

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define  $X = \ell^{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \ell^{p_n}$ . Then there is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

**Step 2.** There is  $T \in \mathcal{S}(X)$  such that  $T^{n-1} \notin \mathcal{K}(X)$ . ✓

**Step 3.**  $M := \text{span}\{U, \dots, U^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X \oplus X)$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ , where  $U = \begin{bmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . ✓

**Step 4.** Assume  $M$  is a closed  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ :

$$M = \mathcal{J}_{n-1} \subset \dots \subset \mathcal{J}_1 \subset \mathcal{L}(X \oplus X).$$

Then

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ T^{n-1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ Id & 0 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\circ U \circ \dots \circ U}_{n-1} \in M = \begin{bmatrix} \text{span}\{T, \dots, T^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X) & \mathcal{K}(X) \\ \mathcal{K}(X) & \mathcal{K}(X) \end{bmatrix},$$

so  $T^{n-1} \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ , which contradicts Step 2.

**Conclusion:** There is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal. Since  $X \approx X \oplus X$  the same holds for  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

## 9. Example of closed $n$ -subideal, III

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define  $X = \ell^{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \ell^{p_n}$ . Then there is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

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**Step 3.**  $M := \text{span}\{U, \dots, U^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X \oplus X)$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ , where  $U = \begin{bmatrix} T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . ✓

**Step 4.** Assume  $M$  is a closed  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$ :

$$M = \mathcal{J}_{n-1} \subset \dots \subset \mathcal{J}_1 \subset \mathcal{L}(X \oplus X).$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ T^{n-1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ Id & 0 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\circ U \circ \dots \circ U}_{n-1} \in M = \begin{bmatrix} \text{span}\{T, \dots, T^{n-1}\} + \mathcal{K}(X) & \mathcal{K}(X) \\ \mathcal{K}(X) & \mathcal{K}(X) \end{bmatrix},$$

so  $T^{n-1} \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ , which contradicts Step 2.

**Conclusion:** There is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X \oplus X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal. Since  $X \approx X \oplus X$  the same holds for  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .



## 9. Example of closed $n$ -subideal, III

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n$ , and define  $X = \ell^{p_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \ell^{p_n}$ . Then there is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

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## 10. Final remarks

- Recall:  $\mathcal{I}$  is a closed  $n$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  if

$$\mathcal{I} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_{n-1} \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \cdots \stackrel{\text{cl. ideal}}{\subset} \mathcal{J}_1 \subset \mathcal{L}(X). \quad (3)$$

- Examples inside the compact operators?
- Recall: there is a Banach space  $Z$  with a large family  $\mathfrak{F}$  of non-trivial closed  $\mathcal{K}(Z)$ -subideals of  $\mathcal{L}(Z)$ .
- Question: for given  $n \geq 3$ , is there a space  $X$  for which  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  contains a closed  $n$ -subideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , where  $\mathcal{J}_1 = \mathcal{K}(X)$  in (3), which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ ?

### Example

Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $2(n-1) < p \leq 2n$ . Let  $\mathcal{QN}_p$  denote the quasi  $p$ -nuclear operators. Then there is a closed subspace  $X \subset c_0$  for which  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  contains a closed  $n$ -subideal  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ , where  $\mathcal{J}_1 = \overline{\mathcal{QN}_p(X)}$  in (3), which is not an  $(n-1)$ -subideal of  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

- $T \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  is quasi  $p$ -nuclear if there is  $(x_k^*) \subset \ell^p(X^*)$  such that  $\|Tx\| \leq (\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |x_k^*(x)|^p)^{1/p}$  for all  $x \in X$ . (Persson & Pietsch '69)  
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