

## CHARACTERIZATION OF ADJOINTABLE OPERATORS ON HILBERT $C^*$ -modules

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**Abstract:** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . In this paper, we find the general form of the mappings  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfying

$$2\langle T(x), T(y) \rangle = \langle T(x), y \rangle + \langle x, T(y) \rangle \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H}),$$

as adjointable (bounded)  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operators. The generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the functional equation is discussed.

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**Key Words:** Hilbert  $C^*$ -module,  $C^*$ -algebra,  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping

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### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

The notion of a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module initiated by Kaplansky [3] as a generalization of a Hilbert space in which the inner product takes its values in a  $C^*$ -algebra.

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra. A pre-Hilbert  $\mathcal{A}$ -module or an inner product  $\mathcal{A}$ -module is a complex linear space  $\mathcal{H}$  which is a left  $\mathcal{A}$ -module with compatible scalar multiplication  $\lambda(ax) = (\lambda a)x = a(\lambda x)$  ( $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}, x \in \mathcal{H}, a \in \mathcal{A}$ ), together with an  $\mathcal{A}$ -valued inner product  $(x, y) \mapsto \langle x, y \rangle : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  such that for each  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{H}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ ,

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- (i)  $\langle x, x \rangle \geq 0$  and the equality holds if and only if  $x = 0$ .
- (ii)  $\langle \alpha x + \beta y, z \rangle = \alpha \langle x, z \rangle + \beta \langle y, z \rangle$ ,
- (iii)  $\langle ax, y \rangle = a \langle x, y \rangle$ ,
- (iv)  $\langle x, y \rangle^* = \langle y, x \rangle$ .

The notion of a right Hilbert  $\mathcal{A}$ -module can be defined similarly. Note that the condition (i) is understood as a statement in the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , where an element  $a$  is called positive if it can be represented as  $bb^*$  for some  $b \in \mathcal{A}$ . The conditions (ii) and (iv) imply the inner product to be conjugate-linear in its second variable. Validity of a useful version of the classical Cauchy-Schwartz inequality follows that  $\|x\| = \|\langle x, x \rangle\|^{\frac{1}{2}}$  defines a norm on  $\mathcal{H}$  making it into a normed left  $\mathcal{A}$ -module. An inner product  $\mathcal{A}$ -module  $\mathcal{H}$  which is complete with respect to the norm  $\|x\|$  is called a Hilbert  $\mathcal{A}$ -module or a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Every  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a Hilbert  $\mathcal{A}$ -module under the  $\mathcal{A}$ -valued inner product  $\langle a, b \rangle = a^*b$  ( $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ ). Every complex Hilbert space is a left Hilbert  $\mathbb{C}$ -module.

One may define an  $\mathcal{A}$ -valued norm  $|x| = \langle x, x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}$  (where,  $|a|$  denotes the unique square root of the positive element  $a$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ ). Clearly,  $\| |x| \| = \|x\|$ , for each  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ . The  $\mathcal{A}$ -valued norm  $|x|$  is a useful device but it needs to be handled with care. For example, it is known that  $|\cdot|$  does not satisfy the triangle inequality  $|x + y| \leq |x| + |y|$  for each  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ ; cf. [4].

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . A system  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is called orthogonal, if  $\langle e_i, e_j \rangle = 0$  whenever  $i \neq j$ . An orthogonal system  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is said to be an orthonormal, provided  $\mathcal{A}$  is unital and for the inner squares it happens that  $\langle e_i, e_i \rangle = 1$  for all  $i \in I$ . Let  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  be an orthonormal system in a Hilbert module  $\mathcal{H}$  over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Landi and Pavlov showed in Theorem 2.10 of [5] that the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) For any  $x$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  there are elements  $a_i$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that

$$x = \sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i \tag{1}$$

where convergence in norm is meant and

$$\sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i = \lim_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_{i \in F} a_i e_i$$

indicates the limit over the set  $\mathcal{F}$  of all finite subsets of  $I$ , directed by inclusions.

- (ii) The system  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  generates  $\mathcal{H}$  over  $\mathcal{A}$ , that is to say, the closure of its  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear span coincides with  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- (iii) The system  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  is closed, that is to say, for any  $x \in \mathcal{H}$

$$\langle x, x \rangle = \sum_{i \in I} \langle x, e_i \rangle \langle e_i, x \rangle,$$

where the series converges in norm.

An orthonormal system  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  satisfying the equivalent conditions (i)-(iii) is called a *Schauder basis* for  $\mathcal{H}$  over  $\mathcal{A}$ . If  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  is a Schauder basis for  $\mathcal{H}$ , then the coefficients in the decomposition (1) are unique for any vector  $x$  of  $\mathcal{H}$ . In fact for any  $i \in I$ ,  $a_i = \langle x, e_i \rangle$ . Thus any vector of  $\mathcal{H}$  is the limit in norm of its Fourier series. Any Schauder basis  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  is complete, i.e. there is no non-zero vector  $x$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\langle x, e_i \rangle = 0$  for all  $i \in I$ . Note that by Proposition 3.1. of [5] any two closed orthonormal systems of a Hilbert module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra have the same cardinality.

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{K}$  be Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . A mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  is said to be  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear, if

$$T(ax + \lambda y) = aT(x) + \lambda T(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . A mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  is said to be adjointable, if there exists a mapping  $S : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\langle T(x), y \rangle = \langle x, S(y) \rangle$$

for all  $x \in D_T \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ ,  $y \in D_S \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ . The unique mapping  $S$  is denoted by  $T^*$  and is called the adjoint of  $T$ . It is well known that any adjointable mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear and bounded.  $L(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})$ , the set of adjointable maps from  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{K}$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra [4]. The  $C^*$ -algebra of adjointable maps from  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  is denoted by  $L(\mathcal{H})$ .

In general, bounded  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator may fail to possess an adjoint (cf., [4]). However, if  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{K} = K(H)$  of all compact operators on a Hilbert space  $H$ , then (with another concept of orthonormal basis for Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules) D. Bakić and B. Guljaš ([1], Remark 5) showed that each bounded  $\mathcal{K}$ -linear operator on  $\mathcal{H}$  is necessarily adjointable.

In 2003, Radu [6] employed the following result, due to Diaz and Margolis [2], to prove the stability of a Cauchy functional equation.

**Proposition 1.1.** *(The fixed point alternative principle). Let  $(X, d)$  be a generalized complete metric space and  $J : X \rightarrow X$  be a strictly contractive mapping; that is*

$$d(J(x), J(y)) \leq Ld(x, y) \quad (x, y \in X)$$

for some (Lipschitz) constant  $0 < L < 1$ . Then, for a given element  $x \in X$ , exactly one of the following assertions is true: either

- (a)  $d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) = \infty$  for all  $n \geq 0$ , or
- (b) there exists some integer  $n_0$  such that  $d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) < \infty$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

Actually, if (b) holds, then

- (b<sub>1</sub>) the sequence  $\{J^n x\}$  converges to a fixed point  $x^*$  of  $J$ ,
- (b<sub>2</sub>)  $x^*$  is the unique fixed point of  $J$  in  $X_0 := \{y \in X; d(J^{n_0} x, y) < \infty\}$ ;
- (b<sub>3</sub>)  $d(y, x^*) \leq \frac{1}{1-L} d(y, Jy)$  for all  $y \in X_0$ .

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  be a mapping. In this paper, we introduce the new functional equation

$$2\langle T(x), T(y) \rangle = \langle T(x), y \rangle + \langle x, T(y) \rangle \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H}). \quad (\diamond)$$

In the first section, we show that  $T$  is a bounded  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping and we find all of such bounded  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mappings. Also we show that  $T$  is adjointable. We will show that the unique inner product preserving solution of the functional equation  $(\diamond)$ , is the identity function.

In the next section, we consider the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability for the above functional equation. We use the fixed point alternative theorem to show that if  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \varphi(x, y) \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H})$$

then under suitable conditions on  $\varphi : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , there is a unique adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , which suitably approximates  $f$ .

### 2. General Solution

In this section, we show that a function  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , if and only if,  $T$  is an adjointable (bounded)  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator satisfying the equation  $2T^*T = T + T^*$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . Any mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfying  $(\diamond)$  is a bounded  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator with  $\|T\| \leq 1$ .*

*Proof.* It follows from  $(\diamond)$  that

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(z) \rangle \\ &= 2\langle T(x + y), T(z) \rangle - 2\langle T(x), T(z) \rangle - 2\langle T(y), T(z) \rangle \\ &= \langle T(x + y), z \rangle + \langle x + y, T(z) \rangle \\ &\quad - \langle T(x), z \rangle - \langle x, T(z) \rangle - \langle T(y), z \rangle - \langle y, T(z) \rangle \\ &= \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), z \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{H}$ , which implies that

$$\langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(z) \rangle = \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), \frac{z}{2} \rangle \tag{2}$$

for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{H}$ . It follows from (2) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y) \rangle \\ &= \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(x + y) \rangle \\ &\quad - \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(x) \rangle \\ &\quad - \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), T(y) \rangle \\ &= \langle T(x + y) - T(x) - T(y), \frac{x + y}{2} - \frac{x}{2} - \frac{y}{2} \rangle = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . From the above equation, we get

$$T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . Hence  $T$  is an additive mapping.

From

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2\langle T(ax) - aT(x), T(ax) - aT(x) \rangle \\
&= 2\langle T(ax), T(ax) \rangle - 2\langle aT(x), T(ax) \rangle \\
&\quad - 2\langle T(ax), aT(x) \rangle + 2\langle aT(x), aT(x) \rangle \\
&= \langle T(ax), x \rangle a^* + a\langle x, T(ax) \rangle - a\langle T(x), x \rangle a^* - a\langle x, T(ax) \rangle \\
&\quad - \langle T(ax), x \rangle a^* - a\langle x, T(x) \rangle a^* + a\langle T(x), x \rangle a^* + a\langle x, T(x) \rangle a^* \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ , we deduce that  $T(ax) = aT(x)$ . In the same manner, we deduce that  $T(\lambda x) = \lambda T(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . Thus

$$T(ax + \lambda y) = aT(x) + \lambda T(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , i.e.  $T$  is an  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator.

Putting  $x = y$  in  $(\diamond)$ , we get

$$2\langle T(x), T(x) \rangle = \langle T(x), x \rangle + \langle x, T(x) \rangle \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}). \quad (3)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
2\|T(x)\|^2 &= 2\| |T(x)|^2 \| = 2\|\langle T(x), T(x) \rangle\| = \|\langle T(x), x \rangle + \langle x, T(x) \rangle\| \\
&\leq 2\|T(x)\|\|x\| \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}).
\end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\|T\|^2 = \sup_{\|x\| \leq 1} \|T(x)\|^2 \leq \sup_{\|x\| \leq 1} \|T(x)\|\|x\| = \|T\|$$

which implies that  $\|T\| \leq 1$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *An  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , if and only if  $T$  satisfies*

$$2\langle T(e_i), T(e_j) \rangle = \langle T(e_i), e_j \rangle + \langle e_i, T(e_j) \rangle \quad (i, j \in I). \quad (4)$$

*Proof.* If  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , then trivially  $T$  satisfies (4). Assume that  $T$  satisfies (4), and let  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $x = \sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i$  and  $y = \sum_{j \in I} b_j e_j$ , where  $a_i = \langle x, e_i \rangle$  and  $b_j = \langle y, e_j \rangle$  for  $i, j \in I$ . It follows from Theorem 2.1 that

$$2\langle T(x), T(y) \rangle = 2\langle T\left(\sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i\right), T\left(\sum_{j \in I} b_j e_j\right) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in I} a_i (2 \langle T(e_i), T(e_j) \rangle) b_j^* \\
 &= \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in I} a_i (\langle T(e_i), e_j \rangle + \langle e_i, T(e_j) \rangle) b_j^* \\
 &= \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in I} a_i \langle T(e_i), e_j \rangle b_j^* + \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in I} a_i \langle e_i, T(e_j) \rangle b_j^* \\
 &= \langle T(\sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i), \sum_{j \in I} b_j e_j \rangle + \langle \sum_{i \in I} a_i e_i, T(\sum_{j \in I} b_j e_j) \rangle \\
 &= \langle T(x), y \rangle + \langle x, T(y) \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Let  $(e_i)_{i \in I}$  be a Schauder basis for Hilbert  $C^*$ -module  $\mathcal{H}$  over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  be an  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator. Let  $a_{ij} = \langle T(e_j), e_i \rangle$  for all  $i, j \in I$  and consider the matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]$  corresponding to the  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator  $T$ . The next theorem characterizes the bounded  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operators  $T$  satisfying  $(\diamond)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . An  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , if and only if,*

$$2A^t A^* = A^t + A^* \tag{5}$$

where  $A^t$  is the transpose of  $A$  and  $A^* = [a_{ij}^*]$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , then from Lemma 2.2,  $T$  satisfies (4) for all  $i, j \in I$ . Since for all  $i \in I$ ,  $T(e_i) = \sum_{p \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle e_p$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &2 \langle \sum_{p \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle e_p, \sum_{q \in I} \langle T(e_j), e_q \rangle e_q \rangle \\
 &= \langle \sum_{p \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle e_p, e_j \rangle + \langle e_i, \sum_{q \in I} \langle T(e_j), e_q \rangle e_q \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &2 \sum_{p \in I} \sum_{q \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle \langle e_p, e_q \rangle \langle e_q, T(e_j) \rangle \\
 &= \sum_{p \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle \langle e_p, e_j \rangle + \sum_{q \in I} \langle e_i, e_q \rangle \langle e_q, T(e_j) \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore it follows from the last equation that

$$2 \sum_{p \in I} \langle T(e_i), e_p \rangle \langle e_p, T(e_j) \rangle = \langle T(e_i), e_j \rangle + \langle e_i, T(e_j) \rangle \quad (i, j \in I).$$

Let  $a_{ij} = \langle T(e_j), e_i \rangle$  for all  $i, j \in I$ , then the last equation implies that

$$2 \sum_{p \in I} a_{pi} a_{pj}^* = a_{ji} + a_{ij}^* \quad (i, j \in I).$$

This means that  $2A^t A^* = A^t + A^*$ . Conversely, if  $2A^t A^* = A^t + A^*$ , it is easy to see that  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ . □

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . An  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , if and only if  $T$  is adjointable and satisfies the equation  $2T^*T = T + T^*$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ . From (5) we have

$$2(A^*)^t A = A + (A^*)^t. \tag{6}$$

Define the  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator  $S : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  by the matrix  $(A^*)^t$ . Then trivially  $\langle S(e_j), e_i \rangle = a_{ji}^*$  for all  $i, j \in I$  and it follows that  $\langle e_j, S(e_i) \rangle = a_{ij} = \langle T(e_j), e_i \rangle$  for all  $i, j \in I$ . From  $\mathcal{A}$ -linearity of  $T$  and  $S$ , we get

$$\langle T(x), y \rangle = \langle x, S(y) \rangle \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H}).$$

So  $T$  is adjointable with  $T^* = S$ . From (6) we get  $2T^*T = T + T^*$ . Conversely, if  $T$  is an adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear operator such that  $2T^*T = T + T^*$ , then it satisfies  $(\diamond)$ . □

**Remark 2.5.** Suppose that the mappings  $T$  and  $S$  satisfy  $(\diamond)$  and  $\langle T(x), S(y) \rangle = 0$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , then for any complex number  $\lambda = (r, \theta)$  with  $r = 2 \cos \theta$ , the adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping  $\lambda T + S$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ . Also if the mapping  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , then  $I - T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ .

**Example 2.6.** The Hilbert space  $\ell^2$  is a Hilbert  $\mathbb{C}$ -module. The  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear operator  $T : \ell^2 \rightarrow \ell^2$  defined by

$$T(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (0, x_2, x_3, \dots)$$

for all  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) \in \ell^2$ , satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , also  $\|T\| < 1$  and  $T = T^*$ .



**Example 2.7.** Let  $T : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$  be a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear operator, corresponding with the complex matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]$ .  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond)$ , if and only if the complex numbers  $a_{ij}$  satisfy the following equations:

$$|a_{11} - \frac{1}{2}|^2 + |a_{21}|^2 = \frac{1}{4}, \quad |a_{22} - \frac{1}{2}|^2 + |a_{12}|^2 = \frac{1}{4},$$

$$|a_{12}| = |a_{21}| \leq \frac{1}{2}, \quad |a_{11} - \frac{1}{2}| = |a_{22} - \frac{1}{2}| \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

**Remark 2.8.** Let  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{C}$  be nonzero complex numbers and  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  be a mapping satisfying

$$\alpha \langle T(x), T(y) \rangle = \beta \langle T(x), y \rangle + \gamma \langle x, T(y) \rangle \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H}). \quad (\diamond')$$

It is easy to see that  $T$  is an adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping with  $\|T\| \leq \frac{|\beta|+|\gamma|}{|\alpha|}$ . Moreover it follows that  $\alpha T^*T = \beta T + \gamma T^*$  or equivalently  $(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}T^* - I)(\frac{\alpha}{\gamma}T - I) = I$ . Thus if  $\frac{\alpha}{\gamma}T - I$  is surjective, then it is invertible in  $L(\mathcal{H})$  with  $(\frac{\alpha}{\gamma}T - I)^{-1} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}T^* - I$ .

In particular, if the mapping  $T$  satisfies  $(\diamond')$  with  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 1$ , then  $I - T$  is inner product preserving and so is an isometry.

### 3. Stability

In this section, we prove the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the equation  $(\diamond)$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\varphi : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be an control function such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{2n} \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) = 0 \tag{7}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . Assume that there is  $0 < L < 1$  such that

$$\psi\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{2}\psi(x) \tag{8}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ , where

$$\psi(x) = \left(4\varphi(x, x) + 2\varphi(2x, x) + 2\varphi(x, 2x) + \varphi(2x, 2x)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \tag{9}$$

If a function  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \varphi(x, y) \quad (10)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , then there exists a unique adjointable mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}L}{4(1-L)}\psi(x) \quad (11)$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ .

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $2x$  in (10), we get

$$\|2\langle f(2x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(2x), y \rangle - 2\langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \varphi(2x, y). \quad (12)$$

From (10) and (12), we have

$$\|2\langle f(2x) - 2f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(2x) - 2f(x), y \rangle\| \leq 2\varphi(x, y) + \varphi(2x, y). \quad (13)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $2y$  in (13), we get

$$\|2\langle f(2x) - 2f(x), f(2y) \rangle - 2\langle f(2x) - 2f(x), y \rangle\| \leq 2\varphi(x, 2y) + \varphi(2x, 2y). \quad (14)$$

From (13) and (14), we have

$$\|2\langle f(2x) - 2f(x), f(2y) - 2f(y) \rangle\| \leq \psi(x)^2. \quad (15)$$

Letting  $x = y$  in (15), we obtain

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\|^2 = \| |f(2x) - 2f(x)|^2 \| \leq \frac{1}{2}\psi(x)^2.$$

and so

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\psi(x) \quad (16)$$

Let  $X = \{g : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, g(0) = 0\}$  and define  $d : X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  by

$$d(g, h) = \inf\{\alpha \geq 0 : \|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq \alpha\psi(x), \forall x \in \mathcal{H}\} \quad (g, h \in X).$$

Define  $J : X \rightarrow X$  by  $J(g)(x) = 2g(\frac{x}{2})$  for each  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then  $(X, d)$  is a complete generalized metric space and from (8) it follows that  $J$  is a strictly contractive mapping on  $X$  with the Lipschitz constant  $L = \frac{1}{2}$ . From (8) and (16) we have

$$\|J(f)(x) - f(x)\| = \|2f(\frac{x}{2}) - f(x)\| = 2\|f(\frac{x}{2}) - \frac{f(x)}{2}\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}L\psi(x)$$

for each  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ . This means that  $d(J(f), f) \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}L$ . Therefore, by Proposition 1.1,  $J$  has a unique fixed point in the set  $X_0 = \{g \in X : d(f, g) < \infty\}$ . Let  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  be the unique fixed point of  $J$ . We have  $\lim_n(J^n(f), T) = 0$ , so  $T$  is defined by

$$T(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}). \tag{17}$$

On the other hand, we have  $d(f, J(f)) \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}L$  and  $J(T) = T$ , then

$$d(f, T) \leq d(f, J(f)) + d(J(f), J(T)) \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}L + Ld(f, T).$$

So

$$d(f, T) \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}L}{4(1-L)},$$

which implies the inequality (11).

It is easy to see that for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), y \rangle = \langle T(x), y \rangle, \tag{18}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle x, 2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \rangle = \langle x, T(y) \rangle. \tag{19}$$

Since for every  $x \in \mathcal{H}$  the sequence  $\{2^n f(\frac{x}{2^n})\}$  is convergent, so it is bounded. Therefore for every  $x \in \mathcal{H}$  there exists  $K_x > 0$  such that  $\|2^n f(\frac{x}{2^n})\| \leq K_x$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), 2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \rangle - \langle T(x), T(y) \rangle \right\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), 2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \rangle - \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), T(y) \rangle \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), T(y) \rangle - \langle T(x), T(y) \rangle \right\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), 2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) - T(y) \rangle + \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - T(x), T(y) \rangle \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \|2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)\| \|2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) - T(y)\| + \|2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - T(x)\| \|T(y)\| \right) \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( K_x \|2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) - T(y)\| + \|2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - T(x)\| \|T(y)\| \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . This shows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle 2^n f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right), 2^n f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \rangle = \langle T(x), T(y) \rangle \quad (x, y \in \mathcal{H}). \tag{20}$$

It follows from (7), (18), (19) and (20) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|2\langle T(x), T(y) \rangle - \langle T(x), y \rangle - \langle x, T(y) \rangle\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{2n} \|2\langle f(\frac{x}{2^n}), f(\frac{y}{2^n}) \rangle - \langle f(\frac{x}{2^n}), \frac{y}{2^n} \rangle - \langle \frac{x}{2^n}, f(\frac{y}{2^n}) \rangle\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{2n} \varphi(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . Whence

$$2\langle T(x), T(y) \rangle = \langle T(x), y \rangle + \langle x, T(y) \rangle \tag{21}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$  and so by Corollary (2.4), T is a adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping.

To see the uniqueness of T, let  $T' : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  be another adjointable  $\mathcal{A}$ -linear mapping satisfying (11). Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|T(x) - T'(x)\| &= 2^n \|T(\frac{x}{2^n}) - T'(\frac{x}{2^n})\| \\ &\leq 2^n (\|T(\frac{x}{2^n}) - f(\frac{x}{2^n})\| + \|f(\frac{x}{2^n}) - T'(\frac{x}{2^n})\|) \\ &\leq 2^n \frac{\sqrt{2}L}{2(1-L)} \psi(\frac{x}{2^n}) \\ &\leq \frac{\sqrt{2}L}{2(1-L)} L^n \psi(x) \end{aligned}$$

which tends to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ . This completes the proof. □

The following Theorem can be proved in a similar way as Theorem 3.1.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\varphi : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be an control function such that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varphi(2^n x, 2^n y)}{2^{2n}} = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . Assume that there is  $0 < L < 1$  such that

$$\psi(2x) \leq 2L\psi(x)$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ , where

$$\psi(x) = (4\varphi(x, x) + 2\varphi(2x, x) + 2\varphi(x, 2x) + \varphi(2x, 2x))^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

If a function  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies the inequality

$$\|2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \varphi(x, y)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , then there exists a unique adjointable mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4(1-L)}\psi(x) \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}).$$

The next result follows from Theorem 3.1, where  $\varphi(x, y) = \|x - y\|^p$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ .

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . If a function  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies the inequality*

$$\|2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \|x - y\|^p$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$  and some  $p > 2$ , then there exists a unique adjointable mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2^p} - 2}\|x\|^{\frac{p}{2}} \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}).$$

The next result follows from Theorem 3.2, where  $\varphi(x, y) = \varepsilon$ .

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ . If a function  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfies the inequality*

$$\|2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle\| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ , then there exists a unique adjointable mapping  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{3\sqrt{2\varepsilon}}{2} \quad (x \in \mathcal{H}).$$

**Example 3.5.** Consider the Hilbert  $\mathbb{C}$ -module  $\ell^2$ . Let  $\phi : \ell^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be an arbitrary bounded function such that  $|\phi(x)| \leq \|x\|$  for all  $x \in \ell^2$ , where  $\|x\| = (\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |x_n|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Define the mapping  $f : \ell^2 \rightarrow \ell^2$  by

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (\phi(x)x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)$$

for all  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) \in \ell^2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |2\langle f(x), f(y) \rangle - \langle f(x), y \rangle - \langle x, f(y) \rangle| \\
 &= |2\phi(x)x_1\overline{\phi(y)y_1} + 2\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} x_n\overline{y_n} \\
 &\quad - \phi(x)x_1\overline{y_1} - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} x_n\overline{y_n} - x_1\overline{\phi(y)y_1} - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} x_n\overline{y_n}| \\
 &= |(x_1\overline{y_1})(2\phi(x)\overline{\phi(y)} - \phi(x) - \overline{\phi(y)})| \\
 &\leq |x_1||y_1|(2|\phi(x)||\phi(y)| + |\phi(x)| + |\phi(y)|) \\
 &\leq \|x\|\|y\|(2\|x\|\|y\| + \|x\| + \|y\|) \\
 &= 2\|x\|^2\|y\|^2 + \|x\|^2\|y\| + \|x\|\|y\|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in \ell^2$ . Thus if the control function is defined by

$$\varphi(x, y) = 2\|x\|^2\|y\|^2 + \|x\|^2\|y\| + \|x\|\|y\|^2 \quad (x, y \in \ell^2),$$

then we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{2n}\varphi(2^{-n}x, 2^{-n}y) = 0$  and  $\psi(x) = (72\|x\|^4 + 48\|x\|^3)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Also for constant  $0 < L = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} < 1$ , we have  $\psi(\frac{x}{2}) \leq \frac{L}{2}\psi(x)$  for all  $x \in \ell^2$ . Then the function  $T : \ell^2 \rightarrow \ell^2$  defined by

$$T(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (0, x_2, x_3, \dots)$$

for all  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) \in \ell^2$ , is the unique adjointable mapping fulfilling the condition (11) in Theorem 3.1.

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