

# THE FREDHOLM ALTERNATIVE AND COMPACT OPERATORS ON BANACH SPACES

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, we prove two interesting cases of the Fredholm alternative on Banach spaces, one is that for any compact operator  $T$  & identity operator  $I$  on a Banach spaces  $X$  with a non-zero complex number  $\lambda$ , the injectivity & surjectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)$  are equivalent and the other one is that either  $(T - \lambda I)$  is bijective or has non-trivial Kernel and nontrivial Co-Kernel of the same dimension.

**Keywords:** Fredholm alternative, compact operator, Banach space, Kernel & Co Kernel.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Fredholm alternative named after Ivar Fredholm is one of Fredholm's Theorems and is a result in Fredholm theory. It is as follows: If  $K$  is a compact operator on a Banach space  $X$ , then either the homogeneous equation possesses a non-trivial solution or the inhomogeneous equation  $(T - \lambda I)x = y$  has for every  $y \in X$ , unique solution  $x \in X$  for  $\lambda \neq 0$  and the identity map  $I$  on  $X$ .

Fredholm (1900, 1903) treated compact operators as limiting case of finite rank operators. Riesz (1917) defined and made direct use of the compactness condition, more opt for Banach spaces.

### Definition (1.1)

A continuous linear operator  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  with Banach spaces  $X$  &  $Y$ , is compact if  $T$  maps bounded sets in  $X$  to pre-compact sets in  $Y$  that is sets with compact closure.

We recall that a finite rank operator is one with finite-dimensional image and is clearly compact. If  $T$  is compact then  $\text{Ker}(T - \lambda I)$  is finite dimensional.

### Proposition (2.1)

If  $T$  is a compact operator on a Banach space  $X$  then injectivity & surjectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)$  are equivalent with identity operator  $I$  & non-zero  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ .

### Proof: -

Suppose  $(T - \lambda I)$  is injective. Let  $V_n = (T - \lambda I)^n X$ . Since images of Banach spaces under  $(T - \lambda I)$  for compact operator  $T$  &  $\lambda \neq 0$  are closed by induction these are closed subspaces of  $X$ . For  $x \notin (T - \lambda I)X$  and any  $y \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & (T - \lambda I)_x^n - (T - \lambda I)_y (T - \lambda I)_y^{n+1} \\ & = (T - \lambda I)_x^n (x - (T - \lambda I)_y) \end{aligned}$$

Injectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)$  implies injectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)_x^n$ , so this is not 0. That is,  $(T - \lambda I)_x^n \notin (T - \lambda I)_X^{n+1}$

.Thus the claim of subspaces  $V_n$  is strictly decreasing. Take  $v_n \in V_n$  such that  $\|v_n\| = 1$  and away from say by  $\inf_{y \in V_{n+1}} \|v_n - y\|$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2}$$

The effect of  $T$  is  $T_{V_m} - T_{V_{m+n}} = \lambda V_m + (T - \lambda I)_{V_m} - T_{V_{m+n}} \in \mathcal{L}_{V_m + V_{n+1}}$  (integer  $m \geq 1$  &  $n \geq 1$ )

Since  $V_{m+1}$  is T-stable. Thus  $\|T_{V_m} - T_{V_{m+n}}\| > |\lambda| \cdot \frac{1}{2}$

This is impossible. Since compact T maps the bounded set  $\{V_n\}$  to a pre-compact set. Thus, the claim of subspaces  $V_n$  cannot be strictly decreasing, and have surjectivity  $(T - \lambda I)X = X$ .

On the other hand suppose  $(T - \lambda I)$  is surjective. Then the adjoint  $(T - \lambda I)^*$  is injective. Since adjoints of compact operators are compact, we already know that  $(T - \lambda I)^*$  is surjective. Then  $(T - \lambda I)^{**}$  is injective. The natural inclusion  $X \rightarrow X^{**}$  shows that  $(T - \lambda I)$  is a restriction of  $(T - \lambda I)^{**}$ ,

So  $(T - \lambda I)$  is necessarily injective.

### Theorem (2.1):

If K is a compact operator on a Banach Space X then  $\dim \text{Ker}(T - \lambda I) = \dim \text{Co Ker}(T - \lambda I)$  for identity map I &  $\lambda \neq 0$

The above theorem is the Fredholm alternative for operators  $(T - \lambda I)$  with T compact & I the identity map with  $\lambda \neq 0$ : either  $(T - \lambda I)$  is bijective, or has non-trivial Co-Kernal of the same dimension.

Proof:-As we know from the property of compact operators, the compactness of T implies the finite dimensionality of  $\text{Ker}(T - \lambda I)$  for  $\lambda \neq 0$  & I, the identity map on X. For  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in X$  linearly independent modulo  $(T - \lambda I)X$ , by Hahn-Banach theorem, there are  $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n \in X^*$  vanishing on the image  $(T - \lambda I)X$  and  $\eta_i(y_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . Such  $\eta_i$  are in the kernel of the adjoint  $(T - \lambda I)^*$ . We know  $T^*$  is compact so  $\text{Ker}(T - \lambda I)^*$  is finite dimensional.

We have proved that injectivity & surjectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)$  are equivalent, and that the Kernal & CoKernal are finite dimensional.

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  (with  $m \geq 1$ ) span the Kernal, and let  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  (with  $n \geq 1$ ) span the Co Kernal, and show that  $m = n$ .

For  $m \leq n$ , Let  $X'$  be a closed complementary subspace to the kernel of  $(T - \lambda I)$ . Let F be the finite rank operator which is 0 on  $X'$  and  $Fx_i = y_i$ .

The adjusted operator  $T' = T + F$  is compact. For  $(T' - \lambda I)x = 0$ ,

$$(T - \lambda I)x = Fx \in (T - \lambda I)X \cap \text{span } y_1, \dots, y_n = \{0\}.$$

That is  $(T' - \lambda I)$  is injective, so is surjective, so  $m = n$ . In the opposite case  $m \geq n$ , let  $Fx_i = y_i$  for  $i \leq n$  and  $Fx_i = y_n$  for  $i \geq n$ .

With  $T' = T + F$  again. In this case  $(T' - \lambda I)$  is surjective, so is injective, and  $m = n$ .

### Conclusion

Hence, T is a compact operator on a Banach space X then injectivity & surjectivity of  $(T - \lambda I)$  are equivalent with identity operator I & non-zero  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and K is a compact operator on a Banach Space X then  $\dim \text{Ker}(T - \lambda I) = \dim \text{Co Ker}(T - \lambda I)$  for identity map I &  $\lambda \neq 0$

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