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TRIANGULARIZING
SEMIGROUPS OF POSITIVE
OPERATORS ON AN ATOMIC
NORMED RIESZ SPACE

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Triangularizing semigroups of positive operators on an atomic normed Riesz space*

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Abstract

In the first part of the paper we prove several results on the existence of invariant closed ideals for semigroups of bounded operators on a normed Riesz space (of dimension greater than 1) possessing an atom. For instance, if \mathcal{S} is a multiplicative semigroup of positive operators on such space that are locally quasinilpotent at the same atom, then \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal. Furthermore, if T is a non-zero positive operator that is quasinilpotent at an atom and if \mathcal{S} is a multiplicative semigroup of positive operators such that $TS \leq ST$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then \mathcal{S} and T have a common non-trivial invariant closed ideal. We also give a simple example of a quasinilpotent compact positive operator on the Banach lattice l^∞ with no non-trivial invariant band.

The second part is devoted to the triangularizability of collections of operators on an atomic normed Riesz space L . For a semigroup \mathcal{S} of quasinilpotent, order continuous, positive, bounded operators on L we determine a chain of invariant closed bands. If, in addition, L has order continuous norm, then this chain is maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L .

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1. Introduction and Preliminaries

Invariant closed subspaces of bounded operators are among the most studied topics in the operator theory. In the case of positive operators on Banach lattices the order structure enable us to obtain invariant subspaces of simple geometrical forms. In the paper [7] Choi *et al.* studied invariant closed subspaces of semigroups of positive operators on L^2 -spaces. The discrete part of these results motivated our investigations. On the other hand, Abramovich, Aliprantis, and Burkinshaw [1] obtained some results on existence of invariant closed subspaces of an operator on an l^p -space ($1 \leq p < \infty$) which commutes with some non-zero locally quasinilpotent positive operator. In the present normed Riesz space setting we are extending and strengthening the results of both papers. The proofs of our results mainly follow similar ideas that were introduced in [7], [1], and [2]. It should be noted that Jahandideh [8, 9] also studied collections of positive operators. In [8] he considered the positive commutant of a given positive operator and collections of positive operators dominated by a given operator. In [9, Theorem 6] he proved a special case of our Theorem 2.4, while in the rest of [9] operators on AM -spaces are studied.

The reader is assumed familiar with the general notions on normed Riesz spaces; see the books of Luxemburg, Zaanen [10], Zaanen [17], Schaefer [15], Aliprantis, Burkinshaw [5], and Meyer-Nieberg [11]. We shall recall some of the relevant facts. Let L be a real normed Riesz space. The norm of L is said to be **order continuous** if $\|f_\tau\| \downarrow 0$ for any downwards directed system $f_\tau \downarrow 0$ in L ($f_\tau \downarrow 0$ means that $\inf\{f_\tau\} = 0$, and for each τ_1 and τ_2 there exists τ_3 such that $f_{\tau_3} \leq \inf\{f_{\tau_1}, f_{\tau_2}\}$). The space L is **Dedekind complete** if every non-empty subset which is bounded from above has a supremum. The cone of positive elements of L is denoted by L^+ . The positive part, the negative part and

the modulus (or the absolute value) of $f \in L$ are defined by $f^+ = \sup\{f, 0\}$, $f^- = \sup\{-f, 0\}$ and $|f| = \sup\{f, -f\}$, respectively. A vector subspace I of L is said to be an **(order) ideal** if $|g| \leq |f|$ and $f \in I$ imply that $g \in I$. An ideal I is called a **band** if $A \subseteq I$ with $\sup A \in L$ imply that $\sup A \in I$. Recall that bands are necessarily closed subspaces. Two elements $f, g \in L$ are called **orthogonal** or **disjoint** if $\inf\{|f|, |g|\} = 0$. If A is a subset of L , let A^d be the **disjoint complement** of A , i.e., $f \in A^d$ if and only if f is orthogonal to all elements of A . An **atom** of L is a non-zero element $f \in L^+$ such that if $0 \leq g \leq f$, then $g = \lambda f$ for some $\lambda \in [0, 1]$. In other words, $f \in L^+$ is an atom iff the ideal (or the band) generated by f is one-dimensional. In this case the ray $\mathcal{R}_f := \{\lambda f : \lambda \geq 0\}$ is said to be **an extreme ray**. A normed Riesz space L is said to be **atomic** if there exists an orthogonal maximal system of atoms $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A} \subseteq L^+$, that is, $\inf\{f_\alpha, f_\beta\} = 0$ if $\alpha \neq \beta$, and if $\inf\{f, f_\alpha\} = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$, then $f = 0$. It is worth mentioning that every atomic normed Riesz space is Riesz isomorphic to an order dense Riesz subspace of \mathbb{R}^A with the coordinatewise order.

The word "operator" will be synonymous with "bounded linear transformation". A subset Z of L is **invariant** under an operator T on L if $Tf \in Z$ for all $f \in Z$. A subspace of L is **non-trivial** if it is different from $\{0\}$ and L . If \mathcal{C} is a collection of operators on L , then a subspace of L is said to be **\mathcal{C} -invariant** whenever it is invariant under every member of \mathcal{C} . If this subspace is non-trivial, we also say that \mathcal{C} has a non-trivial invariant subspace. An operator T on L is called **positive** if the positive cone L^+ is invariant under T . A positive operator T on L is said to be **order continuous** if $Tf_\tau \downarrow 0$ for any downwards directed system $f_\tau \downarrow 0$ in L . In general, the Banach algebra $\mathcal{B}(L)$ of all operators on L is not a Riesz space under its canonical ordering ($S \geq T$ iff the operator $S - T$ is positive). We therefore say that an operator T on L

has a modulus if the modulus $|T| := \sup\{T, -T\}$ exists in $\mathcal{B}(L)$.

If P and Q are any sets, we adopt the (standard) convention that $P \subset Q$ means $P \subseteq Q$ and $P \neq Q$. We first show the following result on the existence of closed ideals of a normed Riesz space.

Lemma 1.1 *Let I and J be closed ideals of a normed Riesz space L such that $I \subset J$ and the quotient space $G = J/I$ is at least two-dimensional. Then there exists a closed ideal K such that $I \subset K \subset J$.*

Proof. Denote by q the canonical (quotient) map $J \rightarrow G$. If we show that there exists a non-trivial closed ideal \tilde{K} of G , then $K = q^{-1}(\tilde{K})$ is a closed ideal satisfying the condition of the lemma. Assume on the contrary that $\{0\}$ and G are the only closed ideals of G . If $g \in G$, then $g^+ = 0$ or $g^- = 0$. Indeed, if $g^+ \neq 0$ and $g^- \neq 0$, then the closed ideal $I_+ \neq \{0\}$ generated by g^+ is proper, since $I_+ \subseteq \{g^-\}^d \neq L$. Thus $g \geq 0$ or $g \leq 0$ for each $g \in G$, which imply that G is totally ordered. By [15, proposition II.3.4] G is isomorphic to \mathbb{R} and hence one-dimensional. This contradiction completes the proof of the lemma. \square

A **chain** is a family of subspaces of L that is totally ordered by inclusion. A collection \mathcal{C} of operators on L is **ideal-triangularizable**, if there is a chain of \mathcal{C} -invariant closed ideals which is maximal in the lattice of all closed ideals of L . This notion has been introduced in [8] as a Banach lattice analogue of the well-known concept of triangularizability (see for example [12]). Recall that a collection \mathcal{C} of operators on L is **triangularizable**, if there is a chain of \mathcal{C} -invariant closed subspaces which is maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L . Using Lemma 1.1 we prove that a maximal closed ideal chain is also a maximal closed subspace chain.

Proposition 1.2 *Let \mathcal{C} be a chain of closed ideals of L which is maximal in the lattice of all closed ideals. Then \mathcal{C} is also maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L .*

Proof. By [14, lemma 4.3.1] it is enough to show that the chain \mathcal{C} is **simple**, i.e., it satisfies the following conditions:

- (i) $\{0\} \in \mathcal{C}, L \in \mathcal{C}$;
- (ii) if \mathcal{C}_0 is a subfamily of \mathcal{C} , then the closed subspaces

$$\cap(I : I \in \mathcal{C}_0) \quad \text{and} \quad cl(\cup(I : I \in \mathcal{C}_0))$$

are in \mathcal{C} , where cl denotes the norm closure;

- (iii) for each $I \in \mathcal{C}$, the quotient space I/I^- , where

$$I^- = cl(\cup(J : J \in \mathcal{C}, J \subset I)) ,$$

is at most one-dimensional. (We remark here that there is the standing hypothesis in [14] that spaces are complete. However, it is clear from the proof of [14, lemma 4.3.1] that the completeness is not used.)

The condition (i) is clearly satisfied. Both subspaces of the condition (ii) are closed ideals. They therefore belong to \mathcal{C} , since \mathcal{C} is maximal as a chain of closed ideals. The same fact and Lemma 1.1 imply easily that (iii) holds. This completes the proof. \square

The well-known theorem [13] states that a multiplicative semigroup \mathcal{S} of operators on a Banach space has a non-trivial invariant closed subspace whenever a non-zero semigroup ideal of \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed subspace. (A subset \mathcal{I} of a semigroup \mathcal{S} is said to be a **semigroup ideal** if ST and TS belong to \mathcal{I} for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and $T \in \mathcal{I}$.) The following is a normed Riesz space analogue of this very useful tool. It seems that this result (in the case of Banach lattices) appeared first in [9].

Lemma 1.3 *Let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semigroup of positive operators on a normed Riesz space L . If a non-zero semigroup ideal \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal, then the semigroup \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal as well.*

Proof. Let M be a non-trivial \mathcal{I} -invariant closed ideal. Let us show that the order ideal N generated by the set

$$\{Tf : T \in \mathcal{I}, f \in M \cap L^+\}$$

is \mathcal{S} -invariant. To end this, pick $g \in N$ and $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Since $g \in N$, there exist $\lambda \geq 0$, operators $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n \in \mathcal{I}$ and positive vectors $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n \in M$ such that

$$|g| \leq \lambda(T_1f_1 + \dots + T_nf_n).$$

Then

$$|Sg| \leq S|g| \leq \lambda(ST_1f_1 + \dots + ST_nf_n).$$

Since \mathcal{I} is a semigroup ideal, the operators ST_1, \dots, ST_n belong to \mathcal{I} , so that $Sg \in N$. Thus the closure \overline{N} of N is a closed \mathcal{S} -invariant ideal. Since $N \subseteq M$, we have $\overline{N} \neq L$. So, if $N \neq \{0\}$, we are done. Assume therefore that $N = \{0\}$. Then the closed ideal

$$K = \{f \in L : T|f| = 0 \text{ for all } T \in \mathcal{I}\}$$

contains M . (Observe that K is the intersection of all absolute kernels of operators of \mathcal{I} .) Since \mathcal{I} is a non-zero ideal, K is not equal to L , and so it is a non-trivial closed ideal. To show that K is also \mathcal{S} -invariant, fix $f \in K$ and $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Then for any $T \in \mathcal{I}$ we have $0 \leq T|Sf| \leq TS|f| = 0$, since $TS \in \mathcal{I}$. This yields $Sf \in K$, and completes the proof. \square

We now recall a notion from the local spectral theory that was first connected with the invariant subspace problems in [1]. An operator T on L is **quasinilpotent at a vector** $f_0 \in L$ if the local spectral radius of T at f_0 is 0, i.e.,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f_0\|^{1/n} = 0 .$$

Throughout the rest of this section, let L be an atomic normed Riesz space and $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A} \subseteq L^+$ the corresponding orthogonal maximal system of atoms. We may assume that $\|f_\alpha\| = 1$ for all $\alpha \in A$. We now consider positive orthomorphisms on L , since they are needed in the last section of the paper. The first proposition is given in [15, exercise II.7.] as an exercise. Recall that a family $\{g_\tau\}$ in L **order converges** to $g \in L$ whenever there exists a downwards directed system $p_\tau \downarrow 0$ in L such that $|g_\tau - g| \leq p_\tau$ for all τ .

Proposition 1.4 *Every $f \in L$ has a unique representation*

$$f = \sum_{\alpha \in A} \lambda_\alpha f_\alpha , \quad \lambda_\alpha \in \mathbb{R} ,$$

where the sum is the order limit of its finite subsums.

Sketch of the proof. Fix $f \in L^+$ and set $\lambda_\alpha = \sup\{\lambda \geq 0 : \lambda f_\alpha \leq f\}$ for each $\alpha \in A$. Since L is Archimedean, $\lambda_\alpha f_\alpha \leq f$. If \mathcal{A} denotes the collection of all finite subsets of A , then the inequality $g_B = \sum_{\alpha \in B} \lambda_\alpha f_\alpha \leq f$ holds for each $B \in \mathcal{A}$. For the proof of this, use the equality $\sup\{u, v\} = u + v$, where $u, v \in L$ and $\inf\{u, v\} = 0$. It is easily seen that f is the supremum of the upwards directed system $\{g_B\}_{B \in \mathcal{A}}$, that is, each $f \in L^+$ has the desired representation. This is also true for any $f \in L$, since $f = f^+ - f^-$. The uniqueness of the representation follows from the fact that $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$ are orthogonal. \square

Observe now that for any $\alpha \in A$ $\phi_\alpha(f) = \lambda_\alpha$ defines a positive linear functional ϕ_α on L with norm 1.

An operator on L is called an **orthomorphism** [17, p.648] if it leaves invariant every band in L . It follows from [17, lemma 144.1] that a positive operator D on L is an orthomorphism if and only if there exists a $\lambda > 0$ such that $D \leq \lambda I$, where I is the identity operator on L . This implies that a positive orthomorphism on L leaves invariant every ideal in L .

Proposition 1.5 *Let L be Dedekind complete, and let T be a positive operator on L . Then for each $f \in L$ the order limit of finite subsums of the sum*

$$Df = \sum_{\alpha \in A} \phi_\alpha(Tf_\alpha) \phi_\alpha(f) f_\alpha \quad (1)$$

exists in L , and D is a positive orthomorphism on L . If, in addition, T is an orthomorphism, then $D = T$.

Proof. We may assume that $f \in L^+$. Since $\phi_\alpha(Tf_\alpha) \leq \|T\|$ for each $\alpha \in A$, we conclude that each finite subsum of Df is less or equal to $\|T\| f$. This implies first that Df exists, since L is Dedekind complete, and $Df \leq \|T\| f$, so that D is a positive orthomorphism.

Assume that T is an orthomorphism. Since there is a $\lambda > 0$ such that $Tf_\alpha \leq \lambda f_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$, we conclude that $Tf_\alpha = \phi_\alpha(Tf_\alpha) f_\alpha$. Hence $Tf_\alpha = Df_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in A$. Consequently, $D = T$ by [17, corollary 140.6.(ii)].

□

Proposition 1.6 *Let L be Dedekind complete, and let T be a positive operator on L . Then T has a unique decomposition $T = D_T + N_T$, where D_T*

is a positive orthomorphism on L and N_T is a positive operator satisfying $\phi_\alpha(N_T f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$. Moreover, the operators D_T and N_T are given by

$$D_T f = \sum_{\alpha \in A} \phi_\alpha(T f_\alpha) \phi_\alpha(f) f_\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad N_T f = \sum_{\alpha \in A} \phi_\alpha(T(f - \phi_\alpha(f) f_\alpha)) f_\alpha \quad (2)$$

for each $f \in L$.

Proof. The operator D_T defined by (2) is a positive orthomorphism on L by Proposition 1.5. Setting $N_T = T - D_T$ the equality $Tf = \sum_{\alpha \in A} \phi_\alpha(Tf) f_\alpha$ gives the second equality of (2). The operator N_T is positive, because $f \geq \phi_\alpha(f) f_\alpha$ for all $f \in L^+$ and for all $\alpha \in A$. Also, $\phi_\alpha(N_T f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$. We have therefore proved that T has the desired decomposition. To show its uniqueness, assume that $T = D_1 + N_1$ is another such decomposition. Since $\phi_\alpha(D_1 f_\alpha) = \phi_\alpha(T f_\alpha)$ for each $\alpha \in A$, we conclude that $D_T = D_1$ by putting $D := D_T$ and $T := D_1$ in Proposition 1.5. \square

If T is a positive operator on L satisfying $\phi_\alpha(T f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$, then it is obvious that $D_T = 0$ and $N_T = T$. Of course, in this case we do not need the assumption that L is Dedekind complete.

Although orthomorphisms and the above decomposition of operators on an arbitrary Riesz space have been extensively studied (see [17] or [5]), we include here an example for those readers that are not familiar with this topic.

Example 1.7 Let $L = l^p$, $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. Then the sequence of standard unit vectors $\{e_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is the corresponding orthogonal maximal system of atoms. Each positive operator T on l^p can be represented by a matrix $[t_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^\infty$, where non-negative numbers t_{ij} satisfy equations

$$T e_j = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} t_{ij} e_i, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Here the sum is taken as an order limit of its finite subsums. It is clear that D_T is the "diagonal part" of T , that is, the corresponding matrix of D_T is a diagonal matrix with the sequence $\{t_{ii}\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ on the diagonal. The operator N_T is the "non-diagonal part" of T , that is, its matrix has zero diagonal, while non-diagonal elements are the same as in the matrix of T .

2. A common invariant closed ideal

Let L be a real normed Riesz space of dimension greater than 1, and let $f_0 \in L^+$ be an atom. The band generated by f_0 in L is denoted by B_0 . One can show that B_0 is a projective band of L , i.e., $L = B_0 \oplus B_0^d$ (see [10, theorem 26.4, p.147]). Therefore, for each $f \in L$ there exist (uniquely determined) $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $g \in B_0^d$ such that $f = \lambda f_0 + g$. Let ϕ_0 be the positive linear functional on L defined by $\phi_0(f) = \lambda$. Since the vectors λf_0 and g are orthogonal, $|f| = |\lambda|f_0 + |g|$. Then $|\lambda|f_0 \leq |f|$ implies that $\|\phi_0\| \leq 1$. Since $\phi_0(f_0) = 1$, we have $\|\phi_0\| = 1$.

Theorem 2.1 *Let $f_0 \in L^+$ be an atom and let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semi-group of positive operators on L such that $\phi_0(Sf_0) = 0$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Then \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal. If, in addition, each member of \mathcal{S} is order continuous, then \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed band.*

Proof. If $Sf_0 = 0$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then B_0 is a non-trivial \mathcal{S} -invariant band. Therefore, we have to consider the case when $Sf_0 \neq 0$ for some $S \in \mathcal{S}$.

Let I be the order ideal generated in L by the set $\{Sf_0 : S \in \mathcal{S}\}$, i.e., I is the ideal of all $f \in L$ such that there exist $\lambda \geq 0$ and $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n \in \mathcal{S}$

such that $|f| \leq \lambda(S_1 + S_2 + \dots + S_n)f_0$. We claim that I is invariant under arbitrary $S \in \mathcal{S}$. To show this, pick $f \in I$. Then $|f| \leq \lambda(S_1 + S_2 + \dots + S_n)f_0$ for some $\lambda \geq 0$ and $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n \in \mathcal{S}$, and hence

$$|Sf| \leq S|f| \leq \lambda(SS_1 + SS_2 + \dots + SS_n)f_0 .$$

Since \mathcal{S} is a semigroup, we conclude that $Sf \in I$. Now, the closure \bar{I} of I is invariant under S as well, because the operator S is continuous. Since $\phi_0(Sf_0) = 0$, we have $Sf_0 \in B_0^d$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$, so that $\{0\} \neq \bar{I} \subseteq B_0^d \neq L$. Thus we have shown that \bar{I} is a non-trivial \mathcal{S} -invariant closed ideal, and so the proof of the first assertion is finished.

Now assume that each member of \mathcal{S} is order continuous. Then the band B generated by I is non-trivial, since $B \subseteq B_0^d \neq L$. It is also invariant under each $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Indeed, for each $f \in B \cap L^+$ there exists an upwards directed system $\{f_\tau\}$ of vectors in I such that $0 \leq f_\tau \uparrow f$. Hence $0 \leq Sf_\tau \uparrow Sf$, since S is order continuous. This implies that $Sf \in B$. \square

As a consequence we obtain

Theorem 2.2 *Let $f_0 \in L^+$ be an atom and let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semigroup of positive operators on L such that each of them is quasinilpotent at f_0 . Then \mathcal{S} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal. If, in addition, each member of \mathcal{S} is order continuous, then there exists a non-trivial \mathcal{S} -invariant band.*

Proof. Fix $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and set $\lambda = \phi_0(Sf_0)$. From $Sf_0 \geq \lambda f_0$ we conclude that $S^n f_0 \geq \lambda^n f_0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so that $\lambda \|f_0\|^{1/n} \leq \|S^n f_0\|^{1/n}$. Since S is quasinilpotent at f_0 , this gives $\lambda = 0$, and so the condition of Theorem 2.1 is satisfied. \square

One may ask if we can drop the additional assumption of Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 that each member of \mathcal{S} is order continuous. In the next example we construct a quasinilpotent compact positive operator S on l^∞ with no non-trivial invariant band. Consequently, the semigroup \mathcal{S} generated by S does not have a non-trivial invariant band.

Example 2.3 Let ϕ be a Banach limit on l^∞ . (Actually, it is enough that ϕ is a positive linear functional on l^∞ such that $\phi(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ for each $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)$ from the Banach subspace c of all convergent sequences of l^∞ .) Let $u = (1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, \dots) \in l^\infty$. Define the compact positive operators K and T on l^∞ by

$$Kx = \phi(x)u \quad \text{and} \quad Tx = (0, x_1/2, x_2/4, x_3/8, \dots).$$

Obviously, the operator K is nilpotent of index 2. Since $\|T^n\| = 2^{-n(n+1)/2}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the operator T is a quasinilpotent. Clearly, $S = K + T$ is a compact positive operator on l^∞ . Since $K^2 = 0$ and $KT = 0$, we have $KS = 0$. By a simple induction we obtain that $S^n = T^{n-1}S$, and so $\|S^n\| \leq \|T^{n-1}\| \|S\|$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It follows from this that the operator S is quasinilpotent as well.

We now show that S has no non-trivial invariant band. Assume that a band $B \neq \{0\}$ is invariant under S . Then $e_n \in B$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where $\{e_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ are the standard unit vectors of l^∞ . From $Se_{n+k} = Te_{n+k} = (1/2^{n+k})e_{n+k+1}$, $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$, we conclude that $e_{n+k} \in B$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. It follows that $g = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e_{n+k} \in B$, because g is the supremum of the increasing sequence $\{g_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ of B defined by $g_m = \sum_{k=0}^m e_{n+k}$. Since $Sg \geq Kg = u$, we have $u \in B$ (as B is an ideal), and so $B = l^\infty$.

In the study [3] of various extensions of de Pagter's and the Ando-Krieger results Abramovich, Aliprantis, and Burkinshaw constructed an example of

quasinilpotent compact positive operator with no non-trivial invariant band. This operator is defined on a less known Marcinkiewicz function space. Therefore, the operator S of Example 2.3 seems to be a new example of such operators, which is in addition defined on a nice atomic Banach lattice. However, it should be noted that the operator of the example in [3] is even a nilpotent rank-one operator.

Theorem 2.4 *Let T be a non-zero positive operator on L that is quasinilpotent at an atom $f_0 \in L^+$. Let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semigroup of operators such that each of them has a modulus. If $T|S| \leq |S|T$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then T has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal that is also \mathcal{S} -invariant.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{T} be a semigroup generated by T and the set $\{|S| : S \in \mathcal{S}\}$. Denote by \mathcal{I} the semigroup ideal of \mathcal{T} generated by T . We claim that each member of \mathcal{I} is quasinilpotent at f_0 . Indeed, if $U \in \mathcal{I}$, then $U \leq |S_1||S_2| \dots |S_p|T^k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, and $S_1, \dots, S_p \in \mathcal{S}$. Denoting $V = |S_1||S_2| \dots |S_p|T^{k-1}$ we have $U \leq VT$. Since $TV \leq VT$ by the assumption on \mathcal{S} , an easy induction shows that $U^n \leq V^n T^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We therefore have

$$\|U^n f_0\| \leq \|V^n T^n f_0\| \leq \|V\|^n \cdot \|T^n f_0\|$$

for all n , which implies that U is quasinilpotent at f_0 . By Theorem 2.2 the semigroup ideal \mathcal{I} has a non-trivial invariant closed ideal. Now Lemma 1.3 gives a non-trivial \mathcal{T} -invariant closed ideal I . Let us show that I is \mathcal{S} -invariant as well. To end this, let $f \in I$ and $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Since $|f| \in I$ and $|S| \in \mathcal{T}$, we conclude that $|S||f| \in I$, and finally the inequality $|Sf| \leq |S||f|$ implies that $Sf \in I$ (as I is an order ideal). \square

Corollary 2.5 *Let S be an operator on L with modulus and let T be a non-zero positive operator on L such that*

1. $T|S| \leq |S|T$, and
2. T is quasinilpotent at an atom of L^+ ,

then S and T have a common non-trivial invariant closed ideal.

One can show easily that if a positive operator on an atomic Riesz normed space is quasinilpotent at a non-zero positive vector, then it is quasinilpotent at some atom as well. This observation together with Corollary 2.5 gives the following

Corollary 2.6 *Let S be an operator with modulus on an atomic Riesz normed space L . If there exists a non-zero positive operator T on L such that*

1. $T|S| \leq |S|T$, and
2. T is quasinilpotent at a non-zero positive vector,

then S and T have a common non-trivial invariant closed ideal.

Using the fact that every closed ideal of a Banach lattice with order continuous norm is a band (see e.g. [17, Theorem 105.2]), the main result of [1] follows from Corollary 2.6. In fact, we state here a slight improvement of [1, Theorem 3.1], which has been proved in the survey paper [4].

Corollary 2.7 [1, 4] *Let L be an atomic Banach lattice with order continuous norm, and let S be an operator on L with modulus. If there exists a non-zero positive operator T on L such that*

1. $T|S| \leq |S|T$, and
2. T is quasinilpotent at a non-zero positive vector,

then S has a non-trivial invariant band.

We shall prove next that the conclusion of Theorem 2.2 holds also for additive semigroups of positive operators. In the proof of this we need the following result.

Proposition 2.8 *Let \mathcal{S} be an additive semigroup of positive operators on L such that each of them is quasinilpotent at an atom $f_0 \in L^+$. Then every operator in the algebra generated by \mathcal{S} is quasinilpotent at f_0 .*

Proof. Let A be an operator in the algebra generated by \mathcal{S} . Then there exist positive integers m and p and operators $S_1, \dots, S_k \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $A = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i A_i$, where $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and each A_i is a product of at most p (not necessarily distinct) elements of $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$. Let $S = S_1 + \dots + S_k$ and $T = \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} S^j$. From $\|(ST)^n f_0\| \leq \|T\|^n \|S^n f_0\|$ it follows that ST is quasinilpotent at f_0 . This implies that the operator $\tilde{A} = \sum_{i=1}^m |a_i| A_i$ is also quasinilpotent at f_0 , since $\tilde{A} \leq a \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} S^j \leq a ST$, where $a = \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \{|a_i|\}$. From the fact that $|A_i f| \leq A_i |f|$ for all $f \in L$ it follows easily that $|Af| \leq \tilde{A}|f|$ for all $f \in L$. Hence $|A^n f_0| \leq \tilde{A}^n f_0$, and so $\|A^n f_0\| \leq \|\tilde{A}^n f_0\|$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. From this it follows that A is quasinilpotent at f_0 as well. \square

Theorem 2.9 *Let \mathcal{S} be an additive semigroup of positive operators on L that are quasinilpotent at an atom $f_0 \in L^+$. Then there exists a non-trivial \mathcal{S} -invariant closed ideal I . If each member of \mathcal{S} is order continuous, then I can be chosen to be a band.*

Proof. Proposition 2.8 implies that all operators of the multiplicative semigroup \mathcal{T} generated by \mathcal{S} are quasinilpotent at f_0 . Now apply Theorem 2.2 for the semigroup \mathcal{T} . For the proof of the second assertion, observe first that a

product of order continuous operators is order continuous. Hence every operator of \mathcal{T} is order continuous, and the second assertion of Theorem 2.2 applies.

□

3. A maximal chain of common invariant bands

We first answer negatively the question posed in [8] whether every quasinilpotent positive operator on a Banach lattice, which contains an atom, is ideal-triangularizable.

Example 3.1 Let $E = L^p(\Gamma, \mu)$ ($1 \leq p < \infty$), where μ is a Haar measure on the circle group Γ . Schaefer [16] (see also [11, section 4.2]) constructed a quasinilpotent positive operator T on E with no non-trivial invariant closed ideal. Let L be the direct sum of Banach lattices E and \mathbb{R} . Then L is a Banach lattice with an atom $0 \oplus 1$, and the operator $S = T \oplus 0$ is a quasinilpotent positive operator on L whose only non-trivial invariant closed ideals are $E \oplus 0$ and $0 \oplus \mathbb{R}$. Therefore, S is not ideal-triangularizable.

From now on, let L be an atomic normed Riesz space of dimension greater than 1, and let $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A} \subseteq L^+$ be the corresponding orthogonal maximal system of atoms.

Theorem 3.2 *Let L be Dedekind complete, and let \mathcal{S} be a collection of positive operators on L with the following property: whenever there is an $S \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) > 0$ and a $T \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\gamma(N_T f_\beta) > 0$, then there is a*

$U \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\gamma(N_U f_\alpha) > 0$. Then there is a total ordering of the index set A such that $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) = 0$ whenever $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and $\alpha \leq \beta$.

Proof. Define an order on A by : $\alpha > \beta$ if there exists an operator $S \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) > 0$. Set $\alpha \geq \beta$ if either $\alpha > \beta$ or $\alpha = \beta$. We claim that \geq is a partial ordering. If $\alpha > \beta$ and $\beta > \alpha$, then there are $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) > 0$ and $\phi_\alpha(N_T f_\beta) > 0$. Then, by our assumption, there exists a $U \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\phi_\alpha(N_U f_\alpha) > 0$ which is impossible. This proves that \geq is anti-symmetric. The same assumption also implies that \geq is transitive. Using Zorn's Lemma one can show that the partial ordering \geq can be extended to a total ordering that we denote by \geq as well. Now, if $\beta > \alpha$ and $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) > 0$ for some $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then $\alpha > \beta$, and hence $\alpha > \alpha$ which is a contradiction. \square

Let \geq be a total ordering of the index set A , obtained in Theorem 3.2. Let $\mathcal{D}(A)$ be the Dedekind completion (by cuts) of the set A ; see e.g. [6]. We adjoin a smallest element and a largest element to $\mathcal{D}(A)$, unless $\mathcal{D}(A)$ has these elements already. Let \mathcal{H} be the collection of all subsets of A that have the form either $\{\alpha \in A : \alpha < \delta\}$ or $\{\alpha \in A : \alpha \leq \delta\}$ for some $\delta \in \mathcal{D}(A)$. Observe that \mathcal{H} is closed under arbitrary unions and intersections, and $\emptyset \in \mathcal{H}$, $A \in \mathcal{H}$. For any $H \in \mathcal{H}$ let B_H be the band generated in L by the set $\{f_\alpha : \alpha \in H\}$. (If $H = \emptyset$, then $B_H = \{0\}$.) Observe that $B_H = \cap(\text{Ker}(\phi_\alpha) : \alpha \notin H) = \cap(\{f_\alpha\}^d : \alpha \notin H)$. Denote $\mathcal{C} = \{B_H : H \in \mathcal{H}\}$.

Theorem 3.3 *Assume that all members of the collection \mathcal{S} of Theorem 3.2 are order continuous. Then the chain \mathcal{C} consists of \mathcal{S} -invariant bands, and it is maximal in the lattice of all bands of L . If, in addition, L has order continuous norm, then the chain \mathcal{C} is even maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L .*

Proof. Pick $H \in \mathcal{H}$, $\alpha \in H$ and $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Since $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\beta \geq \alpha$, we have

$$N_S f_\alpha = \sum_{\beta \in A} \phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) f_\beta = \sum_{\beta < \alpha} \phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) f_\beta ,$$

so that $N_S f_\alpha \in B_H$ as B_H is a band. Because $D_S f_\alpha \in B_H$ as well, we obtain that $S f_\alpha = D_S f_\alpha + N_S f_\alpha \in B_H$. Since each $f \in B_H$ is an order limit of elements belonging to the linear hull of $\{f_\alpha : \alpha \in H\}$, since S is order continuous and since B_H is a band, we conclude easily that B_H is invariant under S . We have therefore shown that \mathcal{C} consists of \mathcal{S} -invariant bands.

Assume now that \mathcal{C} is not maximal in the lattice of all bands. Then there exists a band $B \notin \mathcal{C}$ such that $\mathcal{C} \cup \{B\}$ is still a chain of bands. Let B_1 be the supremum of all bands of \mathcal{C} that are contained in B , and let B_2 be the infimum (intersection) of all bands of \mathcal{C} that contain B . Since $\mathcal{D}(A)$ is Dedekind complete, the bands B_1 and B_2 belong to \mathcal{C} . From $B_1 \subset B \subset B_2$ we conclude that there exists $\alpha \in A$ such that $f_\alpha \in B \setminus B_1$. Let $H = \{\beta \in A : \beta \leq \alpha\}$. Then the band B_H satisfies inclusions $B_1 \subset B_H \subset B_2$. Since $\mathcal{C} \cup \{B\}$ is a chain of bands, we have either $B_1 \subset B_H \subset B$ or $B \subset B_H \subset B_2$. In either case we obtain a contradiction with the definitions of the bands B_1 and B_2 . Thus \mathcal{C} is maximal in the lattice of all bands of L .

If the norm of L is order continuous, then each closed ideal is a band (see e.g. [17, theorem 105.2]). Thus, the chain \mathcal{C} is maximal in the lattice of all closed ideals of L , and so, by Proposition 1.2, the chain \mathcal{C} is also maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L . \square

Corollary 3.4 *Let L be Dedekind complete, and let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semigroup of order continuous positive operators on L . Assume that $\phi_\alpha(N_S N_T f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$ and for all $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$. Then for \mathcal{S} the conclu-*

sions of Theorems 3.2 and 3.3 hold.

Proof. Let us show first that for any $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$ we have $D_{ST} = D_S D_T$ and $N_{ST} = D_S N_T + N_S D_T + N_S N_T$. In view of characterization of positive orthomorphisms preceding Proposition 1.5 there exist positive numbers λ and μ such that $D_S \leq \lambda I$ and $D_T \leq \mu I$, where I denotes the identity operator on L . It follows that $D_S D_T \leq \lambda \mu I$, so that the operator $D_S D_T$ is an orthomorphism. Denoting $N := D_S N_T + N_S D_T + N_S N_T$ we have, for any $\alpha \in A$,

$$0 \leq \phi_\alpha(N f_\alpha) \leq \lambda \phi_\alpha(N_T f_\alpha) + \mu \phi_\alpha(N_S f_\alpha) + \phi_\alpha(N_S N_T f_\alpha) = 0 ,$$

which yields $\phi_\alpha(N f_\alpha) = 0$. Since $ST = D_S D_T + N$, the uniqueness of the decomposition implies that $D_{ST} = D_S D_T$ and $N_{ST} = N$.

We now show that \mathcal{S} satisfies the assumption of Theorem 3.2. Suppose that $a = \phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) > 0$ and $b = \phi_\gamma(N_T f_\beta) > 0$, so that $N_S f_\alpha \geq a f_\beta$ and $N_T f_\beta \geq b f_\gamma$. Then $N_{ST} f_\alpha \geq N_S N_T f_\alpha \geq ab f_\gamma$, and hence $\phi_\gamma(N_{ST} f_\alpha) \geq ab > 0$. Since \mathcal{S} is a semigroup, we have $ST \in \mathcal{S}$, and so the proof is complete. \square

Corollary 3.4 gives the following

Corollary 3.5 *Let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative semigroup of order continuous positive operators on L . If $\phi_\alpha(S f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$ and for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$, then for \mathcal{S} the conclusions of Theorems 3.2 and 3.3 hold.*

Proof. In this case $N_S = S$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$. Since \mathcal{S} is a semigroup, we have $\phi_\alpha(ST f_\alpha) = 0$ for all $\alpha \in A$ and for all $S, T \in \mathcal{S}$. Therefore the hypothesis on operators of Corollary 3.4 is satisfied. The assumption of Theorems 3.2 and 3.3 and Corollary 3.4 that L is Dedekind complete is obviously used only to assure the decomposition from Proposition 1.6. Therefore, in view of the

remark following Proposition 1.6 the space L of Corollary 3.5 is not assumed to be Dedekind complete. \square

From Corollary 3.5 follows the most interesting result of this section.

Theorem 3.6 *Let \mathcal{S} be a multiplicative (resp. an additive) semigroup of order continuous positive operators on an atomic normed Riesz space L . Assume that all of them are quasinilpotent at f_α for each $\alpha \in A$. Then there is a total ordering of the index set A such that $\phi_\beta(N_S f_\alpha) = 0$ whenever $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and $\alpha \leq \beta$. Furthermore, the chain \mathcal{C} consists of \mathcal{S} -invariant bands, and it is maximal in the lattice of all bands of L . If, in addition, L has order continuous norm, then the chain \mathcal{C} is even maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L .*

Proof. As in the proof of Corollary 2.2 we show that $\phi_\alpha(Sf_\alpha) = 0$ for all $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and for all $\alpha \in A$. If \mathcal{S} is a multiplicative semigroup, the result follows from Corollary 3.5.

If \mathcal{S} is an additive semigroup of positive operators, then it follows from Proposition 2.8 that every operator in the multiplicative semigroup generated by \mathcal{S} is quasinilpotent at f_α for each $\alpha \in A$. Then apply what we have just proved. \square

Example 2.3 implies that the assumption of the last results that operators are order continuous can not be omitted. Also, if all members of \mathcal{S} are order continuous and if the norm of L is not order continuous, then \mathcal{C} is not necessarily maximal in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L , as the following example shows.

Example 3.7 Let S be the operator on l^∞ defined by

$$S(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (x_2, x_3/2, x_4/4, x_5/8, \dots) .$$

It is easily seen that S is a quasinilpotent, compact, order continuous, positive operator. Let \mathcal{S} be a semigroup generated by S . Then (uniquely) $A = \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{D}(A) = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ and $\mathcal{H} = \{H_n : 0 \leq n \leq \infty\}$, where $H_n = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. Since the closed ideal $cl(\cup_{n=1}^\infty B_{H_n}) = c_0$ is not in \mathcal{C} , the chain \mathcal{C} is not maximal in the lattice of all closed ideals in l^∞ , and hence in the lattice of all closed subspaces of L as well.

As in [2] we conclude by mentioning that all the results in this paper remain true if in the definition of the local quasinilpotence we replace

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f_0\|^{1/n} = 0 \quad \text{by} \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f_0\|^{1/n} = 0 .$$

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