

Noncommutative Function-Theoretic Operator Theory and Applications

This concise monograph explores how core ideas in Hardy-space function theory and operator theory continue to be useful and informative in new settings, leading to new insights for noncommutative multivariable operator theory. Beginning with a review of the confluence of system-theory ideas and reproducing-kernel techniques, the book then covers representations of backward-shift-invariant subspaces in the Hardy space as ranges of observability operators, and representations for forward-shift-invariant subspaces via a Beurling–Lax representer equal to the transfer function of the linear system. This pair of backward-shift-invariant and forward-shift-invariant subspaces form a generalized orthogonal decomposition of the ambient Hardy space. All this leads to the de Branges–Rovnyak model theory and characteristic operator function for a Hilbert-space contraction operator. The chapters that follow generalize the system theory and reproducing-kernel techniques to enable an extension of the ideas above to weighted Bergman-space multivariable settings.

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Noncommutative Function-Theoretic Operator Theory and Applications

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316518991

DOI: 10.1017/9781009004305

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Ball, Joseph A., 1947– author. | Bolotnikov, Vladimir, 1962– author.

Title: Noncommutative function-theoretic operator theory and applications / Joseph A. Ball and Vladimir Bolotnikov.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2021. |

Series: Cambridge tracts in mathematics | Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021024660 (print) | LCCN 2021024661 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781316518991 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009004305 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Hardy spaces. | Functions of complex variables. |

BISAC: MATHEMATICS / Algebra / Abstract

Classification: LCC QA331 .B24 2021 (print) | LCC QA331 (ebook) | DDC 515/.9–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021024660>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021024661>

ISBN 978-1-316-51899-1 Hardback

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Preface

This book aims to present Hardy-space function theory and related operator theory in various multivariable, free noncommutative, weighted Bergman-space settings with an emphasis on system theory and reproducing-kernel approaches. The authors have been working together in this area for the last couple of decades. The idea is to focus on the settings related to the unit-ball extensions of the classical unit-disk case that came up some 10 years ago in the course of examining possible system-theoretic interpretations of Bergman-inner functions as transfer functions of certain discrete-time linear systems and, on the other hand, as characteristic functions of hypercontractive Hilbert-space operators.

The early stages of the study started within the single-variable setting and were particularly inspired by the papers of Hedenmalm and Olofsson. From the very beginning, we were planning to present the results in the form suitable for subsequent multivariable (commutative and non-commutative) extensions. The book presents the multivariable noncommutative part of the theory; some single-variable results have already appeared in journal publications of the authors, while the noncommutative multivariable results have only been exposed at various conferences and meetings. After the first draft of the book was prepared and posted, it took almost two years to revise it, filling in the gaps and displaying additional connections between different parts of the theory. Portions of the commutative part of the theory are already appearing in the literature, in particular, in papers of Eschmeier, Sarkar, and others.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their gratitude to their home institutions, Virginia Tech and William & Mary, for providing a collegial working environment, as well as to the organizers of the International Workshop on Operator Theory and its Applications (IWOTA), SEAM, the annual conferences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Chapman University, the Sz.-Nagy Centennial Conference in Szeged in 2013, and a multivariable noncommutative operator theory workshop at the Fields Institute in Toronto in 2019 for the opportunity to present preliminary results to the mathematical community. The second author wishes to thank the Simons Foundation for the awarding of a collaboration grant, which has supported this project during recent years. Finally, the authors are very grateful to their wives, Amelia and Elena, for their encouragement and inspiration, as well as patience and understanding.