

## Chain-Finite Operators and Locally Chain-Finite Operators

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### 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

The problem we are concerned with in this research announcement is the algebraic characterization of chain-finite operators (global case) and of locally chain-finite operators (local case).

In the global case, recall that a bounded linear operator  $T$  on a Banach space  $X$  ( $T \in L(X)$ ) is a *chain-finite* operator, denoted by  $T \in CF(X)$ , if there exists a non negative integer  $k$  such that  $N(T^k) = N(T^{k+1})$  and  $R(T^k) = R(T^{k+1})$ , where  $N(T)$  and  $R(T)$  denote the kernel and the range of  $T$ , respectively. The smallest non negative integer  $k$  for which this occurs will be denoted by  $l(T)$ . The following characterizations of chain-finite operators are well-known. Given  $T \in L(X)$ ,  $T$  is chain-finite operator with  $l(T) = k$  if and only if 0 is a pole of the resolvent operator  $(\lambda - T)^{-1}$  of  $T$  of order  $k$  [8, Theorem V.10.1 & V.10.2]. Moreover,  $T$  is a chain-finite operator if and only if

$$X = N(T^k) \oplus R(T^k) \tag{1}$$

for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  [6, Proposition 38.4].

In [5], González and Onieva prove the following algebraic property: if  $T \in CF(X)$ , then there exists a positive integer  $k$  and an operator  $B \in L(X)$  such that

$$T^k BT^k = T^k \text{ and } TB = BT. \tag{2}$$

The following condition is similar and apparently weaker than (2)

$$T^k BT^k = T^k \text{ and } T^k B = BT^k. \quad (3)$$

Also Laursen and Mbekhta [7] prove that  $T$  is chain-finite operator with  $l(T) \leq 1$  if and only if  $T$  is relatively regular and commutes with some generalized inverse, namely there exists  $S \in L(X)$  such that  $T = TST$  and  $ST = TS$ .

In the local case, taking into account [1, Remark 1.5]

$$\sigma(Tx, T) \subset \sigma(x, T) \subset \sigma(Tx, T) \cup \{0\},$$

where  $\sigma(x, T)$  denotes the local spectrum of  $T$  at  $x$ , we can easily derive the following chain of inclusions for the local spectra

$$\sigma(x, T) \supset \sigma(Tx, T) \supset \cdots \supset \sigma(T^k x, T) \supset \cdots, \quad (4)$$

where 0 is the only point which may make these subsets different. Hence there is at most one inclusion in (4) which is not an equality. Then it is said that  $T$  is a locally chain-finite operator at  $x$  if the chain given in (4) breaks. Namely, given  $T \in L(X)$  and  $x \in X$ , we say that  $T$  is a *locally chain-finite operator* at  $x$  with  $l(T, x) = k > 0$  if  $\sigma(T^{k-1}x, T) \neq \sigma(T^k x, T)$  and with  $l(T, x) = 0$  if  $0 \notin \sigma(x, T)$  [3, Definition 4.1]. This notion is a localization of the concept of chain-finite operator: if  $T$  satisfies the *Single Valued Extension Property* (hereafter referred to as SVEP), then  $T$  is a chain-finite operator if and only if  $T$  is a locally chain-finite operator at  $x$  for every  $x \in X$  [3, Theorem 4.2]. Moreover, locally chain-finite operators are related with the facts that 0 is a pole of the local resolvent function and that the vector has a unique decomposition similar to (1). Indeed, given  $T \in L(X)$  and  $x \in X$ , if  $T$  has SVEP and  $0 \in \sigma(x, T)$  then by [2, Theorem 1], 0 is a pole of order  $k$  of the local resolvent function if and only if

$$0 \in \sigma(T^{k-1}x, T) \setminus \sigma(T^k x, T); \quad (5)$$

equivalently, there exists a unique decomposition  $x = x_1 + x_2$  such that  $x_1 \in N(T^k) \setminus N(T^{k-1})$  and  $\sigma(x_2, T) = \sigma(x, T) \setminus \{0\}$  [3, Theorem 3.3].

Given  $T \in L(X)$ , a complex number  $\lambda$  belongs to the *resolvent set*  $\rho(T)$  of  $T$  if there exists  $(\lambda - T)^{-1} =: R(\lambda, T) \in L(X)$ . We denote  $\sigma(T) = \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(T)$  the *spectrum* of  $T$ . The resolvent map  $R(\cdot, T) : \rho(T) \rightarrow L(X)$  is analytic, hence the following equation has an analytic solution on  $\rho(T)$

$$(\mu - T)w(\mu) = x, \quad (6)$$

given by  $w(\mu) = R(\mu, T)x$  for every  $\mu \in \rho(T)$  and  $x \in X$ . This function may admit an analytic extension for some  $x \in X$ . So, we say that a complex number  $\lambda$  belongs to the *local resolvent set* of  $T$  at  $x$ , denoted  $\rho(x, T)$ , if there exists an analytic function  $w : U \rightarrow X$ , defined on a neighborhood  $U$  of  $\lambda$ , which satisfies (6) for every  $\mu \in U$ . The *local spectrum* of  $T$  at  $x$  is the complement  $\sigma(x, T) := \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(x, T)$ .

Since  $w$  is not necessarily unique, a complementary property is needed to prevent ambiguity. An operator  $T \in L(X)$  satisfies the SVEP if  $h \equiv 0$  is the unique analytic solution of  $(\lambda - T)h(\lambda) = 0$  on any open subset of the plane with values in  $X$ . If  $T$  satisfies the SVEP, then for every  $x \in X$  there exists a unique analytic function  $\hat{x}_T$  defined on  $\rho(x, T)$  satisfying (6), which is called the *local resolvent function* of  $T$  at  $x$ . See [4] for further details.

## 2. CHAIN-FINITE OPERATORS

The following result proves that conditions (2) and (3) are algebraic characterizations of a chain-finite operator.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $T \in L(X)$  and let  $k$  be a positive integer. The following assertions are equivalent:*

- (a) *There exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k BT^k = T^k$  and  $BT = TB$ .*
- (b) *There exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k BT^k = T^k$  and  $BT^k = T^k B$ .*
- (c)  *$T \in CF(X)$  and  $l(T) \leq k$ .*

*Remark 1.* By Theorem 1, it is clear that  $T \in CF(X)$  with  $l(T) \leq k$  if and only if  $T^k \in CF(X)$  with  $l(T^k) \leq 1$ . Using that  $T \in CF(X)$  with  $l(T) = k$  if and only if 0 is a pole of the resolvent operator of  $T$  of order  $k$ , we have that 0 is a pole of the resolvent operator of  $T$  of order less than or equal to  $k$  if and only if 0 is a pole of the resolvent operator of  $T^k$  of order less than or equal to 1.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 1 we get the following result of Laursen and Mbekhta [7, Theorem 3].

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $T \in L(X)$ . The following assertions are equivalent:*

- 1. *There exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $TBT = T$  and  $BT = TB$ .*
- 2.  *$X = N(T) \oplus R(T)$ .*

## 3. LOCALLY CHAIN-FINITE OPERATORS

The following proposition is a useful property to the remainder results.

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Assume that  $T \in L(X)$  has the SVEP, let  $k$  be a positive integer and let  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $T$  is locally chain-finite operator with  $l(T, x) \leq k$  if and only if  $T^k$  is locally chain-finite at  $x$  with  $l(T^k, x) \leq 1$ .*

Next, we give a sufficient condition of locally chain-finite operators.

**THEOREM 2.** *Assume that  $T \in L(X)$  has the SVEP, let  $k$  be a positive integer and let  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ . If there exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k B^n T^k x = B^{n-1} T^k x$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ , then  $T$  is locally chain-finite at  $x$  with  $l(T, x) \leq k$ .*

**COROLLARY 2.** *Assume that  $T \in L(X)$  has the SVEP and let  $k$  be a positive integer. Then  $T$  is chain-finite operator with  $l(T) \leq k$  if and only if there exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k B^n T^k = B^{n-1} T^k$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

*Remark 2.* In the proof of Corollary 2, we do not need the hypothesis of the SVEP to show the necessity of the condition that characterizes chain-finite operators. On the contrary, this hypothesis cannot be neglected to establish that the condition is sufficient.

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let  $T$  be the left shift operator on  $\ell_2(\mathbb{N})$ , i.e.  $T(x_1, x_2, \dots) := (x_2, x_3, \dots)$  and  $B$  the right shift operator, i.e.  $B(x_1, x_2, \dots) := (0, x_1, x_2, \dots)$ . Then  $T$  has not the SVEP. Moreover,  $T$  is not chain-finite operator and  $TB^nT = B^{n-1}T$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

With some additional hypotheses we have the converse of Theorem 2.

**PROPOSITION 2.** *Let  $T \in L(X)$  with the SVEP such that  $0$  is an isolated point of  $\sigma(T)$ , let  $k$  be a positive integer and let  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $T$  is locally chain-finite operator at  $x$  with  $l(T, x) \leq k$  if and only if there exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k B^n T^k x = B^{n-1} T^k x$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

In the next proposition, we give a necessary condition for an operator to be locally chain-finite operators similar to the necessary condition of chain-finite operators given in Theorem 1.

PROPOSITION 3. Let  $T \in L(X)$  with the SVEP, let  $k$  be a positive integer and let  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ . If  $T$  is locally chain-finite operator at  $x$  with  $l(T, x) \leq k$ , then there exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k BT^k x = T^k x$  and  $TBx = BTx$ .

COROLLARY 3. Assume that  $T \in L(X)$  has the SVEP, let  $k$  be a positive integer and let  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ . If there exists  $B \in L(X)$  such that  $T^k B^n T^k x = B^{n-1} T^k x$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then there exists  $S \in L(X)$  which  $T^k ST^k x = T^k x$  and  $TSx = STx$ .

The necessary condition given in Proposition 3 is not a sufficient condition.

EXAMPLE 2. Let  $T$  be the right shift operator on  $\ell_2(\mathbb{N})$ ,  $B$  the left shift operator and  $x := (0, 1, 0, \dots)$ . Then  $T$  is not locally chain-finite operator at  $x$ ,  $TBTx = Tx$  and  $TBx = BTx$ .

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