

TRACE AND COMMUTATORS OF MEASURABLE OPERATORS  
AFFILIATED TO A VON NEUMANN ALGEBRA

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UDC 517.983, 517.986

**Abstract.** In this paper, we present new properties of the space  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  of integrable (with respect to the trace  $\tau$ ) operators affiliated to a semifinite von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ . For self-adjoint  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $A$  and  $B$ , we find sufficient conditions of the  $\tau$ -integrability of the operator  $\lambda I - AB$  and the real-valuedness of the trace  $\tau(\lambda I - AB)$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Under these conditions,  $[A, B] = AB - BA \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ . For  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $A$  and  $B = B^2$ , we find conditions that are sufficient for the validity of the relation  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ . For an isometry  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  and a nonnegative  $\tau$ -measurable operator  $A$ , we prove that  $U - A \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  if and only if  $I - A, I - U \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . For a  $\tau$ -measurable operator  $A$ , we present estimates of the trace of the autocommutator  $[A^*, A]$ . Let self-adjoint  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $X \geq 0$  and  $Y$  be such that  $[X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then  $\tau([X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}]) = it$ , where  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t = 0$  for  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ .

**Keywords and phrases:** Hilbert space, linear operator, von Neumann algebra, normal semifinite trace, measurable operator, integrable operator, commutator, autocommutator.

**AMS Subject Classification:** 47C15, 46L51

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## 1. Introduction

Let a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$  of operators act in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\tau$  be an exact, normal, semifinite trace on  $\mathcal{M}$ . We state new properties of the space  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  of integrable operators affiliated to the algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ . For an operator  $X \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , we examine conditions under which  $\tau(X) \in \mathbb{R}$  or  $\tau(X) = 0$ . For self-adjoint  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $A$  and  $B$ , we find sufficient conditions of the integrability of the operator  $\lambda I - AB$  and the real-valuedness of the trace  $\tau(\lambda I - AB)$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Under these conditions, the commutator  $[A, B] = AB - BA$  belongs to  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$  (see Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 and Propositions 4.1–4.4). For  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $A$  and  $B = B^2$ , we find conditions sufficient for the validity of the relation  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$  (Theorem 4.3). Item (ii) of Theorem 4.3 is a generalization of [6, Theorem 2.26].

For an isometry  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  and a nonnegative  $\tau$ -measurable operator  $A$ , we prove that  $U - A \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  if and only if  $I - A, I - U \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  (Theorem 4.5). For a  $\tau$ -measurable operator  $A$ , we find estimates of the trace of autocommutator  $[A^*, A]$  (Corollary 4.4 and Theorem 4.7).

Let self-adjoint,  $\tau$ -measurable operators  $X \geq 0$  and  $Y$  be such that  $[X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then

$$\tau([X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}]) = it,$$

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Translated from *Itogi Nauki i Tekhniki, Seriya Sovremennaya Matematika i Ee Prilozheniya. Tematicheskie Obzory*, Vol. 151, Quantum Probability, 2018.

where  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t = 0$  for  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  (Theorem 4.8). Our results are new for the  $*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  of all bounded linear operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  equipped with the canonical trace  $\tau = \text{tr}$ .

## 2. Notation and Definitions

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a von Neumann algebra of operators in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}$  be the lattice of projectors in  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $I$  be the identity operator in  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $P^\perp = I - P$  for  $P \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}$ , and  $\mathcal{M}^+$  be the cone of positive elements of  $\mathcal{M}$ .

A mapping  $\varphi : \mathcal{M}^+ \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  is called a *trace* if

$$\varphi(X + Y) = \varphi(X) + \varphi(Y), \quad \varphi(\lambda X) = \lambda\varphi(X)$$

for any  $X, Y \in \mathcal{M}^+$  and  $\lambda \geq 0$  (moreover,  $0 \cdot (+\infty) \equiv 0$ ) and  $\varphi(Z^*Z) = \varphi(ZZ^*)$  for all  $Z \in \mathcal{M}$ . A trace  $\varphi$  is said to be

- (i) *exact* if  $\varphi(X) > 0$  for all  $X \in \mathcal{M}^+$ ,  $X \neq 0$ ;
- (ii) *semifinite* if  $\varphi(X) = \sup \{\varphi(Y) : Y \in \mathcal{M}^+, Y \leq X, \varphi(Y) < +\infty\}$  for all  $X \in \mathcal{M}^+$ ;
- (iii) *normal* if for  $X_i \nearrow X$  ( $X_i, X \in \mathcal{M}^+$ ) we have  $\varphi(X) = \sup \varphi(X_i)$ .

For a trace  $\varphi$ , we set

$$\mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+ = \left\{ X \in \mathcal{M}^+ : \varphi(X) < +\infty \right\}, \quad \mathfrak{M}_\varphi = \text{lin}_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+.$$

The restriction  $\varphi|_{\mathfrak{M}_\varphi^+}$  can be continuously extended by linearity to a functional on  $\mathfrak{M}_\varphi$ , which will be denoted by the same symbol  $\varphi$ .

An operator in  $\mathcal{H}$  (not necessarily bounded or densely definite) is said to be *affiliated to a von Neumann algebra*  $\mathcal{M}$  if it commutes with an arbitrary unitary operator from the commutator subalgebra  $\mathcal{M}'$  of the algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ . In the sequel, we denote by  $\tau$  an exact, normal, semifinite trace on  $\mathcal{M}$ . A closed operator  $X$  affiliated to  $\mathcal{M}$  whose domain  $\mathcal{D}(X)$  is everywhere dense in  $\mathcal{H}$  is said to be  $\tau$ -*measurable* if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $P \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}$  such that  $P\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{D}(X)$  and  $\tau(P^\perp) < \varepsilon$ . The set  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  of all  $\tau$ -measurable operators is a  $*$ -algebra with respect to passing to adjoint operators, multiplication by scalars, and the operations of strong addition and multiplication obtained by the closure of ordinary operations (see [22, 23]). For a family  $\mathcal{L} \subset \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{L}^+$  and  $\mathcal{L}^{\text{sa}}$  its positive and Hermitian parts, respectively. The partial order in  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  generated by the proper cone  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  is denoted by  $\leq$ . Let  $i \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $i^2 = -1$ , and  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ . For  $\text{Re } X = (X + X^*)/2$  and  $\text{Im } X = (X - X^*)/(2i)$ , we have  $X = \text{Re } X + i \text{Im } X$  and  $\text{Re } X, \text{Im } X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$ .

If  $X$  is a closed, densely defined linear operator affiliated to  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $|X| = (X^*X)^{1/2}$ , then the spectral decomposition  $P^{|X|}(\cdot)$  is contained in  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  if and only if there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\tau(P^{|X|}((\lambda, +\infty))) < +\infty.$$

If  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  and  $X = U|X|$  is the polar decomposition of  $X$ , then  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $|X| \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$ . Moreover, if

$$|X| = \int_0^\infty \lambda P^{|X|}(d\lambda)$$

is the spectral decomposition, then

$$\tau(P^{|X|}((\lambda, +\infty))) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow +\infty.$$

We denote by  $\mu_t(X)$  a *permutation* of an operator  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  (see [15, 27]), i.e., a nonincreasing right-continuous function  $\mu(X) : (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  defined by the formula

$$\mu_t(X) = \inf \left\{ \|XP\| : P \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}, \tau(P^\perp) \leq t \right\}, \quad t > 0.$$

Let  $m$  be a linear Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ . The noncommutative Lebesgue  $L_p$ -space ( $0 < p < \infty$ ) associated with  $(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  can be defined as follows:

$$L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau) = \left\{ X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}} : \mu(X) \in L_p(\mathbb{R}^+, m) \right\}$$

with the  $F$ -norm (or the norm for  $1 \leq p < \infty$ )  $\|X\|_p = \|\mu(X)\|_p$ ,  $X \in L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . The restriction  $\tau|_{\mathfrak{M}_\tau^+}$  can be extended to a linear bounded functional on  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , which will be denoted by the same symbol  $\tau$ . We have

$$\mathfrak{M}_\tau = \mathcal{M} \cap L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \|X\|_p = \tau(|X|^p)^{1/p}, \quad 0 < p < \infty.$$

If  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is the  $*$ -algebra of all bounded linear operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\tau = \text{tr}$  is the canonical trace, then  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  coincides with  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ . We have

$$\mu_t(X) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} s_n(X) \chi_{[n-1, n)}(t), \quad t > 0,$$

where  $\{s_n(X)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is sequence of  $s$ -numbers of the operator  $X$  and  $\chi_A$  is the indicator of a set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  (see [17]). Then the space  $L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  is a Schatten–von Neumann ideal  $\mathfrak{S}_p$ ,  $0 < p < \infty$ .

### 3. Lemmas and Examples

Let  $\tau$  be an exact, normal, semifinite trace on a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Lemma 3.1** (see [11, Theorem 17]). *If  $X, Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  and  $XY, YX \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau(XY) = \tau(YX)$ .*

**Lemma 3.2** (see [1, Theorem 3] and [2, Theorem 1]). *If  $X, Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $X^{1/2}YX^{1/2} \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau(XY) = \tau(X^{1/2}YX^{1/2})$ .*

**Lemma 3.3** (see [3, Theorem 3.1]). *If  $X, Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  and  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $YX \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau(XY) = \tau(YX) \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

**Lemma 3.4** (see [3, Theorem 2.3]). *If  $X \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau(X^*) = \overline{\tau(X)}$ .*

Here and below, the bar - means complex conjugation.

**Lemma 3.5** (see [5, Theorem 4.8]). *If  $\tau(I) = 1$ , then for  $X \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\tau(X) = 0$ ;
- (ii)  $\|I + zX\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

In particular, if  $\tau(I) = 1$  and  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$ , then  $\|I + z[A, B]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . For a type-II<sub>1</sub> factor of the algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ , commutators of  $\tau$ -measurable operators were examined in [13]; the problem on the representability of an arbitrary  $\tau$ -measurable operator  $X$  possessing the property  $\tau(X) = 0$  as the commutator  $X = [A, B]$  was studied in [14].

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let operators  $A, B, D \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  be such that  $T = D - AB \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , and if  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Since

$$[A, B] = T^* - T \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \tag{1}$$

due to Lemma 3.4 for  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\tau([A, B]) = \tau(T^* - T) = \tau(T^*) - \tau(T) = \overline{\tau(T)} - \tau(T) = 0. \tag{2}$$

The lemma is proved. □

**Lemma 3.7.** *For  $X \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\tau(X) \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (ii)  $\tau(\operatorname{Im} X) = 0$ .

Lemmas 3.5 and 3.7 imply that if  $\tau(I) = 1$  and  $X \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then the condition  $\tau(X) \in \mathbb{R}$  is equivalent to the validity of the inequality  $\|I + z \operatorname{Im} X\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

**Example 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\tau = \operatorname{tr}$  be a trace on  $\mathcal{M}$ . The following Jacobi formula is well known:

$$\det e^X = e^{\tau(X)}, \quad X \in \mathcal{M}.$$

In particular, if  $\det e^X = 1$ , then  $\tau(X) = 0$ . For  $X \in \mathcal{M}$ , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $X$  is unitary equivalent to a matrix with zero diagonal;
- (ii)  $\tau(X) = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $X$  is a commutator.

A proof of (i) $\Leftrightarrow$ (ii) can be found in [16, Chap. II, problem 209]; the assertion (ii) $\Leftrightarrow$ (iii) is proved in [18, problem 182]. Therefore, each matrix  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  is unitary equivalent to a matrix with “constant” diagonal and can be represented as the sum  $A = \lambda I + X$ , where  $\tau(X) = 0$  and  $\lambda = \operatorname{tr}(A)/n$ .

**Example 3.2** (see [7, Example 1]). Let  $0 < p, q < \infty$  and  $a_n = 2^{n+1}n^{-q}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We endow the von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M} = \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{M}_2(\mathbb{C})$  with an exact normal finite trace  $\tau = \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{-n} \operatorname{tr}_2$  and set

$$A = \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_n \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have  $A = A^2$  and  $A \in L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  for  $pq > 1$  and  $A \notin L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  for  $pq \leq 1$ .

#### 4. Basic Results

Let  $\tau$  be an exact, normal, semifinite trace on a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

- (i) *If  $T = \lambda A^n - AB \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$ .*
- (ii) *If  $T = \lambda I - AB \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $A = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k P_k$ , where  $a_k \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $P_k \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pf}}$ ,  $P_k P_j = 0$  for  $k \neq j$  for all  $k, j = 1, \dots, n$ , then  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*In both cases  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* (i) Since

$$T = \begin{cases} A(\lambda I - B) & \text{for } n = 1, \\ A^{n-1}(\lambda A - B) & \text{for } n \geq 2, \end{cases}$$

we have  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$  due to Lemma 3.3.

- (ii) For each  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  we have

$$T_k = P_k T = \lambda P_k - a_k P_k B = P_k(\lambda I - a_k B) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$$

and  $\tau(T_k) \in \mathbb{R}$  due to Lemma 3.3. For the projector  $P = (P_1 + \dots + P_n)^\perp$  we have

$$PT = \lambda P \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)^{\text{sa}}, \quad \tau(PT) \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Therefore,

$$\tau(T) = \tau(PT) + \sum_{k=1}^n \tau(P_k T) \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In both cases, we can apply Lemma 3.6. The theorem is proved. □

**Theorem 4.2.** Let operators  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  and numbers  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that

$$T = \lambda I - AB \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

If  $A$  is invertible in  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  or  $I - B \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$ . In both cases,

$$[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \tau([A, B]) = 0.$$

*Proof.* For an invertible operator  $A$ , we have

$$T = A(\lambda A^{-1} - B), \quad \lambda A^{-1} - B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}};$$

therefore,  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$  due to Lemma 3.3.

Now let  $I - B \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Since

$$T = (\lambda I - A)B + \lambda(I - B),$$

we have

$$(\lambda I - A)B \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$$

and due to Lemma 3.3 we obtain

$$\tau((\lambda I - A)B), \tau(I - B) \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Therefore,  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$ . In both cases we can apply Lemma 3.6. The theorem is proved.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.1.** Let operators  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  and numbers  $a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that

$$\lambda = a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1 \neq 0, \quad T = (a_1 A + b_1 B)(a_2 A - b_2 B) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

Then

$$[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \tau([A, B]) = 0.$$

If  $\tau(I) = 1$ , then  $\|I + z[A, B]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* We have  $\tau(T) \in \mathbb{R}$  due to Lemma 3.3. Since  $T^* \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $T^* - T = \lambda[A, B]$ , we have  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then due to Lemma 3.4 we have

$$\lambda \tau([A, B]) = \tau(T^* - T) = \tau(T^*) - \tau(T) = \overline{\tau(T)} - \tau(T) = 0.$$

For  $\tau(I) = 1$  we apply Lemma 3.5. The assertion is proved.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.2.** Let operators  $X, Y, Z \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  and numbers  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that

$$XY + YZ, XY - \lambda Y^n \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

Then

$$\tau(XY + YZ) \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \tau([X - Z, Y]) = 0.$$

If  $\tau(I) = 1$ , then  $\|I + z[X - Z, Y]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* Obviously,  $\lambda Y^n + YZ \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Due to Lemma 3.3 we have

$$\tau(XY + YZ) = \tau((XY - \lambda Y^n) + (\lambda Y^n + YZ)) = \tau((X - \lambda Y^{n-1})Y) + \tau(Y(\lambda Y^{n-1} + Z)) \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 3.4 we have

$$\tau([X - Z, Y]) = \tau(XY + YZ - (XY + YZ)^*) = \tau(XY + YZ) - \overline{\tau((XY + YZ))} = 0.$$

For  $\tau(I) = 1$  we apply Lemma 3.5. The proposition is proved.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let operators  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{M}$  and a number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that*

$$A - B^n \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

*Then*

$$[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \tau([A, B]) = 0.$$

*If  $\tau(I) = 1$ , then  $\|I + z[A, B]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* We set  $X = A - B^n$  and  $Y = B$ . Then

$$XY, YX \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad [A, B] = [X, Y].$$

Now due to Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\tau([A, B]) = \tau([X, Y]) = \tau(XY) - \tau(YX) = 0.$$

For  $\tau(I) = 1$  we apply Lemma 3.5. The proposition is proved.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.4.** *Let numbers  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  and operators  $A \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  be such that*

$$\lambda_1 I - A, \lambda_2 I - B \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

*Then*

$$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 I - AB, [A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \tau([A, B]) = 0.$$

*Proof.* The operator

$$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 I - AB = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 ((I - \lambda_1^{-1} A) + \lambda_1^{-1} A (I - \lambda_2^{-1} B)) \quad (3)$$

belongs to  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . The operators  $(\lambda_1 I - A)(\lambda_2 I - B)$  and  $(\lambda_2 I - B)(\lambda_1 I - A)$  belong to  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ ; therefore

$$[A, B] = [\lambda_1 I - A, \lambda_2 I - B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$$

and  $\tau([A, B]) = \tau([\lambda_1 I - A, \lambda_2 I - B]) = 0$  due to Lemma 3.1 with  $X = \lambda_1 I - A$  and  $Y = \lambda_2 I - B$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let the conditions of Proposition 4.4 be fulfilled and let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$ . Then  $\tau(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 I - AB) \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

This assertion follows from (3) and Lemma 3.3.

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ ,  $B = B^2$ , and  $[AB, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ .*

- (i) *The relation  $\tau([AB, B]) = 0$  holds.*
- (ii) *If  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* (i) We set

$$X = [AB, B] = AB - BAB, \quad Y = B.$$

Then the operators  $XY = X$  and  $YX = 0$  belong to  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and due to Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\tau(X) = \tau(XY) = \tau(YX) = \tau(0) = 0.$$

(ii) Since  $BA - BAB = AB - BAB - [A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , the conditions of item (i) are fulfilled for the adjoint operators  $A^*$  and  $B^*$ :

$$\tau(BA - BAB) = \overline{\tau(A^* B^* - B^* A^* B^*)} = \overline{0} = 0$$

(see Lemma 3.3). Further,

$$\tau([A, B]) = \tau(AB - BAB - (BA - BAB)) = \tau(AB - BAB) - \tau(BA - BAB) = 0 - 0 = 0.$$

The theorem is proved.  $\square$

Note that Theorem 4.3(ii) is a generalization of [6, Theorem 2.26]. From Theorem 4.3 and Lemma 3.5 we obtain the following assertion.

**Corollary 4.2.** *Under the conditions of Theorem 4.3, let  $\tau(I) = 1$ . Then*

- (i)  $\|I + z[AB, B]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ;
- (ii) if  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\|I + z[A, B]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

**Proposition 4.5.** *Let  $A, B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  and  $B = B^2$ . If  $[B, BA] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau([B, BA]) = 0$ . Moreover, if  $\tau(I) = 1$ , then  $\|I + z[B, BA]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* We set  $X = [B, BA]$  and  $Y = B$ . Then the operators  $XY (= 0)$  and  $YX (= X)$  belong to  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , and due to Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\tau(X) = \tau(YX) = \tau(XY) = \tau(0) = 0.$$

For  $\tau(I) = 1$ , we apply Lemma 3.5. The proposition is proved.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ ,*

$$B = \sum_{k=1}^n b_k P_k, \quad b_k \in \mathbb{C}, \quad P_k = P_k^2 \in \mathcal{M}, \quad b_k \neq b_j, \quad P_k P_j = 0 \text{ for } k \neq j \text{ and all } k, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

*If  $[A, B] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Since

$$[A, B] = \sum_{k=1}^n b_k (AP_k - P_k A) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad (4)$$

for all  $k, j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $k \neq j$ , we have

$$P_j [A, B] = P_j AB - b_j P_j A \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad (5)$$

and also  $P_j [A, B] P_k = (b_k - b_j) P_j A P_k \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ ; therefore,  $P_j A P_k \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Now from (5) we obtain

$$P_j A P_j - P_j A \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau) \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, n. \quad (6)$$

Considering the operators  $[A, B] P_j$  instead of (5), we similarly obtain

$$P_j A P_j - A P_j \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau) \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, n.$$

This and (6) imply that  $[A, P_j] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Due to [6, Theorem 2.26] we obtain  $\tau([A, P_j]) = 0$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$  and from (4) we obtain  $\tau([A, B]) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.5.** *For an isometry  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  and an operator  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $U - A \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ ;
- (ii)  $I - A, I - U \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) Let

$$A = \int_0^\infty \lambda P^A(d\lambda)$$

be the spectral decomposition of the operator  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$ . We represent  $A$  as the sum

$$A = AP^A([0; 1]) + AP^A((1; \infty)) \equiv A_1 + A_2.$$

Then

$$A_1 \in \mathcal{M}, \quad A_2 = (U - A_1) - (U - A) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau) + \mathcal{M}.$$

Therefore, there exists a number  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\tau P^{A_2}((k; \infty)) < \infty$ . Note that

$$P^{A_2}((n; \infty)) = P^A((n; \infty)) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Thus, the operator  $B_2 = P^{A_2}((k; \infty))$  belongs to the class  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)^+$ . For  $B_1 = A - B_2 \in \mathcal{M}^+$ , we have  $U - B_1 \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau$  and the operator  $I + B_1$  are invertible in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Due to [10, Theorem 2], the operators  $I - B_1$  and  $I - U$  lie in  $\mathfrak{M}_\tau$ . Therefore,

$$I - A = I - B_1 - B_2 \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) We have  $U - A = I - A - (I - U) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.3.** *Under the conditions of Theorem 4.5, we have*

- (i)  $[U, A] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ ;
- (ii)  $\tau(U - A) \in \mathbb{R}$  if and only if  $\tau(I - U) \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (iii) if, in addition,  $U = U^*$ , then  $\tau([U, A]) = 0$ .

*Proof.* (i) We have

$$[U, A] = (I - A)U - U(I - A) \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau).$$

(iii) Due to Lemma 3.3, we obtain  $\tau((I - A)U) \in \mathbb{R}$  and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \tau([U, A]) &= \tau((I - A)U) - \tau(U(I - A)) = \tau((I - A)U) - \tau(((I - A)U)^*) \\ &= \tau((I - A)U) - \overline{\tau((I - A)U)} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

For  $\tau(I) = 1$ , due to Lemma 3.5, we have  $\|I + z[U, A]\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.6.** *If  $U \in \mathcal{M}$  is a unitary operator and  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ , then  $|[U, A]| = |A - U^*AU|$ .*

*Proof.* We have

$$|[U, A]|^2 = A^*A - A^*U^*AU - U^*A^*UA + U^*A^*AU = |A - U^*AU|^2,$$

and the assertion follows from the uniqueness of the square root of a nonnegative  $\tau$ -measurable operator.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.6.** *Let operators  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$  be such that  $I - A, I - B \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau$ . Then  $[A, B] \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau$  and*

$$|\tau([A, B])| \leq (1 + \|B\|)\|I - A\|_1 + (1 + \|A\|)\|I - B\|_1.$$

*Proof.* Recall that

$$|\tau(XY)| \leq \|X\|\tau(|Y|) \quad \text{for all } X \in \mathcal{M}, \quad Y \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau \quad (7)$$

(see [26, Chap. V, Sec. 2, formula (2)]). We have

$$I - AB = A(I - B) + I - A \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau$$

and due to the triangle inequality for  $\mathbb{C}$  and (7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\tau([A, B])| &= |\tau(I - BA - (I - AB))| \leq |\tau(I - BA)| + |\tau(I - AB)| \\ &= |\tau(B(I - A) + I - B)| + |\tau(A(I - B) + I - A)| \\ &\leq |\tau(B(I - A))| + |\tau(I - B)| + |\tau(A(I - B))| + |\tau(I - A)| \\ &\leq (1 + \|B\|)\|I - A\|_1 + (1 + \|A\|)\|I - B\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

The theorem is proved.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.4.** *Let an operator  $A \in \mathcal{M}$  be such that  $I - A \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau$ . Then*

$$[A^*, A] \in \mathfrak{M}_\tau, \quad |\tau([A^*, A])| \leq 2(1 + \|A\|)\|I - A\|_1.$$

**Theorem 4.7.** *Let  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ ,  $0 < p, q, r \leq \infty$ , and  $1/p + 1/q = 1/r$ . If*

$$\operatorname{Re} A \in L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \operatorname{Im} A \in L_q(\mathcal{M}, \tau),$$

*then*

$$[A^*, A] \in L_r(\mathcal{M}, \tau), \quad \|[A^*, A]\|_r \leq 2^{\max\{1+1/r, 2\}} \|\operatorname{Re} A\|_p \|\operatorname{Im} A\|_q.$$



*Proof.* We set  $\|\cdot\|_\infty = \|\cdot\|$  and  $L_\infty(\mathcal{M}, \tau) = \mathcal{M}$ . Note that

$$2[A^*, A] = [A + A^*, A - A^*] = 4i[\operatorname{Re} A, \operatorname{Im} A]. \quad (8)$$

Due to [20, Proposition 6], we obtain for  $0 < r \leq 1$

$$\|X + Y\|_r \leq 2^{1/r-1}(\|X\|_r + \|Y\|_r) \quad \text{for all } X, Y \in L_r(\mathcal{M}, \tau). \quad (9)$$

If  $X \in L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $Y \in L_q(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ , then  $XY \in L_r(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and, due to [20, Lemma 1], we have

$$\|XY\|_r \leq \|X\|_p \|Y\|_q. \quad (10)$$

Using the triangle inequality (for  $r \geq 1$ ) or (9) (for  $0 < r \leq 1$ ) and then applying the inequality (10), we obtain the required estimate from (8). The theorem is proved.  $\square$

**Remark 4.1.** If operators  $A \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $P \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}$  are such that  $AP + PA \geq 0$ , then  $[A, P] = 0$  due to [8, Lemma 2]. In [4], sufficient conditions of the validity of the inclusions  $XY, YX \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  for operators  $X, Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  were obtained. For such operators, we have  $\tau([X, Y]) = 0$  owing to Lemma 3.1. In [9], sufficient conditions of the  $\tau$ -compactness of the product of  $\tau$ -measurable operators were established. Sometimes, these conditions provide the  $\tau$ -compactness of commutators of these operators.

**Theorem 4.8.** *Let operators  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  be such that  $[X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then  $\tau([X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}]) = it$ , where  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t = 0$  for  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ .*

*Proof.* We have  $X^{1/2}YX^{1/2} - XY = ([X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}])^* \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . We set

$$A = X^{1/2}, \quad B = [X^{1/2}, Y].$$

Then the operators  $XY - X^{1/2}YX^{1/2} = AB$  and  $X^{1/2}YX^{1/2} - YX = BA = [X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}]$  lie in  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $\tau(AB) = \tau(BA)$  due to Lemma 3.1. Since  $AB = -(BA)^*$ , by Lemma 3.4 we have

$$\tau(AB) = \tau(-(BA)^*) = -\tau((BA)^*) = -\overline{\tau(BA)} = -\overline{\tau(AB)}.$$

Therefore,  $\tau(AB) = \tau([X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}]) = it$  with some  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore,

$$\tau(XY + YX - 2X^{1/2}YX^{1/2}) = 0. \quad (11)$$

Now let  $XY \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $Y = Y_+ - Y_-$  be the Jordan decomposition, where  $Y_+, Y_- \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $Y_+Y_- = 0$ , and let  $P_+, P_- \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}$  be the supports of the operators  $Y_+$  and  $Y_-$ , respectively. If  $A \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $B \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ , then

$$\mu_t(AB) \leq \|A\| \mu_t(B)$$

for all  $t > 0$  (see [15, 27]). Therefore, the operators

$$XY_+ = XYP_+, \quad XY_- = XYP_-$$

lie in  $L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Owing to Lemma 3.2, we have

$$X^{1/2}Y_+X^{1/2}, X^{1/2}Y_-X^{1/2} \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau);$$

therefore,  $X^{1/2}YX^{1/2} \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and

$$\tau(XY) = \tau(XY_+) - \tau(XY_-) = \tau(X^{1/2}Y_+X^{1/2}) - \tau(X^{1/2}Y_-X^{1/2}) = \tau(X^{1/2}YX^{1/2}) \geq 0.$$

Hence

$$\tau(YX) = \tau((XY)^*) = \overline{\tau(XY)} = \overline{\tau(X^{1/2}YX^{1/2})} = \tau(X^{1/2}YX^{1/2})$$

due to Lemma 3.4. The theorem is proved.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5.** *Let  $\tau(I) = 1$  and operator  $X \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{sa}}$  be such that  $[X^{1/2}, YX^{1/2}] \in L_1(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . Then  $\|I + z(XY + YX - 2X^{1/2}YX^{1/2})\|_1 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* This assertion follows from (11) and Lemma 3.5. □

A vector subspace  $\mathcal{E}$  in  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$  is called an *ideal space* on  $(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  if

- (1)  $X \in \mathcal{E}$  implies  $X^* \in \mathcal{E}$ ;
- (2) the conditions  $X \in \mathcal{E}$ ,  $Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ , and  $|Y| \leq |X|$  imply that  $Y \in \mathcal{E}$ .

As examples, we mention  $\mathcal{M}$  and the set of elementary operators  $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{M})$ ,  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_0$ ,  $(L_1 + L_\infty)(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  and  $L_p(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  for  $0 < p < +\infty$ . If  $\mathcal{E}$  is an ideal space on  $(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ ,  $X \in \mathcal{E}$ , and  $Y, Z \in \mathcal{M}$ , then  $YXZ \in \mathcal{E}$ .

The following hypothesis strengthens Theorem 3 from [1] and Theorem 1 from [2] (see Lemma 3.2).

**Hypothesis.** Let  $\tau$  be an exact, normal, semifinite trace on the von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  be an ideal space on  $(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$ . If  $X, Y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}^+$  and  $XY + YX \in \mathcal{E}$ , then  $X^{1/2}YX^{1/2}$ ,  $Y^{1/2}XY^{1/2} \in \mathcal{E}$ .

We show that in the particular case where

$$Y = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k P_k, \quad \lambda_k > 0, \quad P_k \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}, \quad P_k P_j = 0 \quad \text{for } k \neq j, \quad k, j = 1, \dots, n,$$

the hypothesis is valid. We have

$$P = \sum_{k=1}^n P_k \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{pr}}.$$

The operator

$$Z = P(XY + YX)P = 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k P_k X P_k + \sum_{\substack{k=1, \\ j < k}}^n (\lambda_k + \lambda_j) (P_k X P_j + P_j X P_k)$$

lies in  $\mathcal{E}$ . Then  $P_k X P_j = (\lambda_k + \lambda_j)^{-1} P_k Z P_j \in \mathcal{E}$ ,  $k, j = 1, \dots, n$ . We have

$$Y^{1/2} X Y^{1/2} = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^{1/2} P_k \cdot X \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k^{1/2} P_k = \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k P_k X P_k + \sum_{\substack{k=1, \\ j < k}}^n (\lambda_k \lambda_j)^{1/2} (P_k X P_j + P_j X P_k) \in \mathcal{E}.$$

Let  $X^{1/2} Y^{1/2} = U |X^{1/2} Y^{1/2}|$  be the polar decomposition of the operator  $X^{1/2} Y^{1/2}$ . Then

$$X^{1/2} Y X^{1/2} = (Y^{1/2} X^{1/2})^* (Y^{1/2} X^{1/2}) = U Y^{1/2} X^{1/2} (Y^{1/2} X^{1/2})^* U^* = U Y^{1/2} X Y^{1/2} U^* \in \mathcal{E}.$$

**Remark 4.2.** The hypotheses is valid for  $X \in \mathcal{E} \cap \mathcal{M}^+$  and  $Y \in \mathcal{M}^+$  (see [21, Proposition 14]; for  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  and  $\tau = \text{tr}$  see [19]). In [12], commutator inequalities related to the polar decompositions of  $\tau$ -measurable operators are stated. In [24, 25], [1, Theorem 3] and [2, Theorem 1] were strengthened.

**Acknowledgments.** This work was partially supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan (project No. 15-41-02433) and by subsidies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation allocated to the Kazan Federal University (project Nos. 1.1515.2017/4.6 and 1.9773.2017/8.9).

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