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ON THE WEAKLY SEMI-FREDHOLM STRUCTURE OF A CLASS OF SINGULAR HILBERT TYPE OPERATOR EQUATIONS

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We studied the solution space of a linear singular Hilbert type operator equation

$$T(a(z)f(z)) + b(z)f(z) = 0$$

in the Banach space $L_q(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma)$, $q > p > 1$, specified by coefficients $a, b \in L_r(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma)$ and the operator action

$$Tf(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} v.p. \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{f(\xi) - f(z)}{(z - \xi)^2} d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}),$$

$f \in L_p(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma)$, $r = pq/(q - p)$. Based on classical functional analysis A.N. Kolmogorov and F. Riesz compactness theorems, we formulated conditions under which the singular operator equation under regard possesses the weakly semi-Fredholm structure.

1. Introduction. Singular operator equations on complex domains are widely used [5, 17, 18, 21] in many investigations of important problems of modern mechanics, radiophysics, solid state physics and other applied sciences. Their theory is closely related [6, 17] with partial differential equations, geometry of complex-analytic and quasi-conformal mappings. In particular, the following [5, 10] class of expressions

$$Af(z) := T(a(z)f(z)) + b(z)f(z), \quad (1)$$

characterized by its coefficients $a, b \in L_r(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma)$, $q > r > 1$, and acting on complex function $f \in L_q(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma)$, $q > 1$, endowed with the norm

$$\|f\|_q = \left(\int_{\mathbb{C}} |f(\xi)|^q d\sigma(\bar{\xi}, \xi) \right)^{1/q} \quad (2)$$

with respect to the Lebesgue measure $d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}) = d\bar{\xi} \wedge d\xi / (2i)$ on the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$, define singular integral operator equations

$$Af(z) = 0, \quad (3)$$

specified by the singular Beurling-Ahlfors [1, 8, 9, 20, 22] transform

$$Tf(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{|z - \xi| > \varepsilon} \frac{f(z) - f(\xi)}{(z - \xi)^2} d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}), \quad (4)$$

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which is equivalent to the Calderon-Zygmund [8] mapping

$$T = \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}}^{-1}: L_q(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(\mathbb{C}, d\sigma), q > 1, \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

The linear singular operator equation (3) makes it possible to pose a related problem of studying the functional analytic and geometric properties of the corresponding reduced operator

$$A: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_p(K, d\sigma), \quad (5)$$

defined on the closed space of functions $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$ with a compact support $K \subset \mathbb{C}$, where $K: P = \bar{\Omega}$ for some bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$, and, respectively, its solution space $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$, whose properties are of the most interest for applications.

Let us introduce the following definition, which reflects [10, 17, 20] some weaker versions of the classical Fredholm operators.

A bounded operator $A: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_p(K, d\sigma)$ with closed $\text{Range } A \subset L_p(K, d\sigma)$ is called *semi-Fredholm*, if its kernel $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$, or its cokernel

$$\text{coKer } A = L_p(K, d\sigma) / \overline{\text{Range } A}$$

is finite dimensional. If the image $\text{Range } A \subset L_p(K, d\sigma)$ is neither closed nor its cokernel $L_p(K, d\sigma) / \overline{\text{Range } A}$ is finite dimensional, the bounded operator $A: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_p(K, d\sigma)$ is called *weakly semi-Fredholm*.

In particular, our special interest lies in proving the weakly semi-Fredholm structure of the operator (5), which consists in stating the finite dimension of its kernel $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ and the infinite dimension of its coimage $L_p(K, d\sigma) / \overline{\text{Range } A}$. Based on the functional analytic properties of the Beurling-Ahlfors singular transform (4) as well as on the structural properties of the singular operator mapping (4) on the Banach space $L_p(K, d\sigma)$, we stated our main theorem.

Theorem 1. *The bounded operator (5) on the Banach space $L_q(K, d\sigma), q > p > 1$, is weakly semi-Fredholm, that is $\dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$ and $\text{Range } A \subset L_p(K, d\sigma)$ is not closed, if the coefficients $0 \neq a, b \in L_r(K, d\sigma)$ and the chosen factorization $b = b_-^{-1} b_+$ is such, that for some measurable mapping $\omega: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ there hold conditions: $\omega(z) b_+(z)^{-1} \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$ and $\omega(z) b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m\mu}{2qm} + \nu} \in L_{\frac{qm\mu}{q-m} + \nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$, where $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$ and $\delta < |\omega(z) b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere.*

The above statement in its main part depends on the following classical functional analysis A.N. Kolmogorov and F. Riesz theorems [7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19], describing linear mappings between Banach spaces.

Theorem 2 (A.N. Kolmogorov). *Let $1 \leq p < \infty$ and $\mathcal{F}$ be a subset of $L_p(K)$, $K \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$. Then the set $\mathcal{F}$ is totally bounded if and only if (i) $\mathcal{F}$ is bounded; (ii) for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is such $r > 0$, that for every $f \in \mathcal{F}$ the estimation $\int_{K \cap \{|z| > r\}} |f(z)|^p d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) < \varepsilon^p$ holds; (iii) for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is such $\rho > 0$ that for every $f \in \mathcal{F}$ and $y \in K$ with $|y| < \rho$ the estimation $\int_K |f(y) - f(\xi)|^p d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}) < \varepsilon^p$ holds.*

Theorem 3 (F. Riesz). *If a bounded operator $A: X \rightarrow Y$ from a Banach space X to a Banach space Y is compact and its image $\text{Im } A \subset Y$ is closed, then $\dim(AX) < \infty$. Moreover, a linear subspace of a normed space X is locally compact if and only if it is finite dimensional.*

Below we proceed to studying the functional analytic properties of the singular Hilbert type transform (4) and next proving the weakly semi-Fredholm property of the linear singular operator (1).

2. Singular Beurling-Ahlfors operator T and its properties. We consider the Cauchy type integral

$$Pf(z) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_K f(\xi) \left(\frac{1}{\xi - z} - \frac{1}{\xi} \right) d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}) \quad (6)$$

for a complex variable $z \in K \subset \mathbb{C}$ on the dense subspace $C_0^2(K, d\sigma) \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ for $q > 1$, naturally defining [1, 6, 21] the following two functions:

$$\partial Pf(z)/\partial \bar{z} = f(z), \quad \partial Pf(z)/\partial z = Tf(z) \quad (7)$$

for any point $z \in K$. It is easy to check that the operator $T = \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}}^{-1}: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)$ for $z \in K$ and $1 < q < \infty$. Moreover, applying the Holder inequality to the expression (6), we obtain

$$|Pf(z)| \leq K_q \|f\|_q |z|^{\frac{-2}{q}+1} \quad (8)$$

for arbitrary function $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$ and any $z \in K$, where

$$K_q = \left(\int_K |\xi|^{\frac{-q}{q-1}} |(\xi - 1)|^{\frac{q}{1-q}} d\sigma(\xi) \right)^{\frac{q-1}{q}} < \infty.$$

In addition, from the following identity

$$Pf_{z_1}(z_2 - z_1) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_K f(\xi) \left(\frac{1}{\xi - z_2} - \frac{1}{\xi - z_1} \right) d\sigma(\xi) = Pf(z_2) - Pf(z_1) \quad (9)$$

for the shifted function $f_{z_1}(\xi) := f(\xi + z_1)$, $\xi \in K$, and the estimation (8) one derives the inequality

$$|Pf(z_1) - Pf(z_2)| \leq K_q \|f\|_q |z_2 - z_1|^{\frac{-2}{q}+1} \quad (10)$$

for arbitrary $z_1, z_2 \in K$, meaning the Hölder continuity of the mapping (6). To formulate our main statement about the solution set of the equation (3), we first state that the operator $T: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)$ for $1 < q < \infty$ is bounded. To do this, we first observe this property for the particular case $q = 2$, having calculated the integral

$$\begin{aligned} \int_K |Tf(z)|^2 d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) &= \int_K |Tf(z)|^2 d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) = \int_K \partial^2 \overline{Pf(z)} / \partial \bar{z} \partial z Pf(z) d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) = \\ &= \int_K \partial \overline{f(z)} / \partial \bar{z} Pf(z) d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) = \int_K \overline{f(z)} \partial Pf(z) / \partial \bar{z} d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) = \\ &= \int_K \overline{f(z)} f(z) d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) = \int_K |f(z)|^2 d\sigma(z, \bar{z}), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where we took into account that the space $C_0^2(K, d\sigma) \subset L_2(K, d\sigma)$ is dense in $L_2(K, d\sigma)$. The result (11) evidently means that the mapping $T: L_2(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_2(K, d\sigma)$ is isometry of the Hilbert space $L_2(K, d\sigma)$ with the norm $\|T\| = 1$. Moreover, for any $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$ there holds [1, 21, 22], the following general Zygmund-Kalderon inequality

$$\|Tf\|_q \leq \alpha_q \|f\|_q, \quad (12)$$

where $\alpha_q > 0$, $1 < q < \infty$, are some bounded constants. The estimation (12) in its main part significantly depends on the operator representation $T = -S^2: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)$, where, by definition,

$$Sf(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_K \frac{f(\xi) - f(z)}{(\xi - z) |\xi - z|} d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}). \quad (13)$$

The latter is considered on the dense subspace $C_0^2(K, d\sigma) \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ for $q \geq 2$ and satisfies the following inequality

$$\|Sf\|_q \leq \sqrt{\alpha_q} \|f\|_q \quad (14)$$

for $f \in C_0^2(K, d\sigma) \subset L_2(K, d\sigma)$ and some constant $\alpha_q > 0$, $q \geq 2$, which makes it possible to extend the operator $T = -S^2: C_0^2(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)$ by continuity on the whole space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$, $q \geq 2$, and to obtain the classical Zygmund-Calderón inequality (12) for all $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$, $q \geq 2$. Based on the properties of the adjoint operator

$$T^* = T: L_{q'}(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_{q'}(K, d\sigma), \quad 1 < q' \leq 2,$$

one finally obtains that the operator $T: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)$ is well defined and bounded on the space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$ for all $1 < q < \infty$. Moreover, the singular operator (13), as well as that of (4), can be interpolated [3, 4, 14, 20] as operators from $L_{q_1}(K, d\sigma)$ to $L_{q_2}(K, d\sigma)$, where $1 < q_1 < q < q_2$, where they become compact, thus presenting a useful tool for studying functional properties of the operator (5). So, proceed now to studying them in detail and proving Theorem 1.

3. Operator A and its weakly semi-Fredholm structure. We consider the operator mapping (1) and observe that, owing to the inequality (12), the following estimation

$$\|Af\|_p \leq \|T(af)\|_p + \|b\|_r \|f\|_q \leq (\alpha_q \|a\|_r + \|b\|_r) \|f\|_q, \quad (15)$$

holds for $1 < p < q < \infty$, where $r = pq/(q - p)$, and $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$, thus meaning that the corresponding operator norm $\|A\| \leq (\alpha_q \|a\|_r + \|b\|_r)$, that is bounded.

Now we formulate our main theorem about the weakly semi-Fredholm structure of the bounded operator (1) from the Banach space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$, $1 < q < \infty$, into the Banach space $L_p(K, d\sigma)$, $q > p \geq 1$.

Theorem 4. *The bounded operator (5) on the Banach space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$, $q > p > 1$, is weakly semi-Fredholm, that is $\dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$ and $\text{Range } A \subset L_p(K, d\sigma)$ is not closed, if the coefficients $0 \neq a, b \in L_r(K, d\sigma)$ and the chosen factorization $b = b_-^{-1} b_+$ is such, that for some measurable mapping $\omega: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ there hold conditions: $\omega(z) b_+(z)^{-1} \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$ and $\omega(z) b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m\mu}{2qm} + \nu} \in L_{\frac{qm\mu}{q-m} + \nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$, where $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$ and $\delta < |\omega(z) b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere.*

First of all, take into account that for $q > p \geq 1$ the image $\text{Range } A \subset L_p(K, d\sigma)$ can not be closed, as $\dim \text{Range } A = \infty$. Moreover, the image $\text{Range } A^* \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)'$ of the adjoint singular transformation $A^* = A - \{T, b\}: L_p(K, d\sigma)' \rightarrow L_q(K, d\sigma)'$, where $\{T, b\} := T \circ b + b \circ T$, is not also closed, as owing to the Banach closed image theorem one obtains both the equality $\text{codim } \text{Range } A^* = \dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$ and $\dim \text{Ker } A^* = \infty$, contradicting the condition $\text{codim } \text{Range } A < \infty$. Thus, to state that $\dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$, we will construct a new suitably reduced operator on the kernel subspace $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$, next extend it on the whole space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$ and state its compactness by means of both the interpolating properties of the singular Beurling-Ahlfors operator (4) and the classical A.N. Kolmogorov Theorem 2, formulated in the case of the Banach space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$. As this compact operator on $L_q(K, d\sigma)$, if reduced on its closed subspace $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$, persists to be compact and its image is closed, we right away derive, as a consequence from the F. Riesz Theorem 3, that $\dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$.

Namely, consider the closed kernel subspace $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ of the operator (5), that is the condition $A \text{ Ker } A = 0$, which is equivalently rewritten as the equation

$$\mathcal{R}\omega(z)b_+^{-1}Taf = -\mathcal{R}\omega(z)b_-^{-1}f \quad (16)$$

for some nonzero mapping $\omega: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and

$$\mathcal{R}(\cdot) := -\frac{w_\nu(z)}{\pi} \int_K \frac{(\cdot)d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi})}{|\xi - z|^{2-\mu}} \quad (17)$$

is the so called fractional Cauchy-Vekua-Riesz [21] operator, where $1 < \mu < 2$, $\nu > \mu/2 + 1/m$ and $w_\nu(z) := (1 + |z|^2)^{-\nu}$, $z \in K$. The lefthand side expression of (16) defines a singular operator $A_T: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$, $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$, where

$$A_T f := \mathcal{R}\omega(z)b_+(z)^{-1}Taf \quad (18)$$

for any $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$ and $\text{Range } A_T \subset W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$, if the function $\omega(z)b_+^{-1}(z) \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$, owing to the classical [11] Hardy-Littlewood theorem. Similarly, the righthand side of (16) defines a singular operator $B_T: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$, where

$$B_T f := -\mathcal{R}\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1}f \quad (19)$$

for any $f \in L_q(K, d\sigma)$, where $\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m}{2qm}+\nu} \in L_{\frac{qm}{q-m}+\nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$ and $\delta < |\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere. The operators (18) and (19) are characterized by the following lemma.

Lemma 1. *Let $a(z) \in L_r(K, d\sigma)$ and the factorization $b(z) := b_-(z)^{-1}b_+(z) \in L_r(K, d\sigma)$, $1/r = 1/p - 1/q$, satisfy for almost all $z \in K$ the following conditions: there exists a measurable mapping $\omega: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, such that $\omega(z)b_+(z)^{-1} \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$ and $\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m}{2qm}+\nu} \in L_{\frac{qm}{q-m}+\nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$, where $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$ and $\delta < |\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere. Then 1) the linear operator (18) is bounded and compact; 2) the linear operator (19) maps the closed subspaces into the closed ones.*

Proof. To state the lemma above we first observe that, owing to the classical Kolmogorov 2 and Riesz theorem 3, the operator (18) is bounded and compact, taking into account the condition $\omega(z)b_+(z)^{-1} \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$, imposed above, and the smoothing property of the Cauchy-Vekua-Riesz operator (17), giving rise, owing to the limiting condition

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\int_{|z| > 1/\varepsilon} |A_T f(z)|^m w_\nu(z) d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) + \left(\int_{|\xi| > 1/\varepsilon} \int_{|z| > 1/\varepsilon} \frac{|A_T f(z) - A_T f(\xi)|^m}{|z - \xi|^{2+m\mu}} w_\nu(z) w_\nu(\xi) d\sigma(z, \bar{z}) d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}) \right)^{1/m} \right] = 0$$

for any $f \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$, to the compact embedding of the image $\text{Range } A_T = W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$, if $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$. Moreover, since the Vekua type multiplier $\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m}{2qm}+\nu} \in L_{\frac{qm}{q-m}+\nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$, as well as $\delta < |\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere, the smoothing property of the Cauchy-Vekua-Riesz operator (17)

$$\mathcal{R}: L_m(K, w_\nu d\sigma) \rightarrow W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$$

gives rise to the surjective condition $\text{Range } B_T = W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$. $\square$

Proof of the main Theorem. We first observe that the reduced operator

$$A_T: \text{Ker } A \rightarrow W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$$

is compact too, and whose image

$$\text{Range } A_T|_{\text{Ker } A} = -\mathcal{R}\omega b_-^{-1} \text{Ker } A \subset W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$$

is *a priori* closed, owing its surjectivity of the operator $B_T: L_q(K, d\sigma) \rightarrow W_m^\mu(K, w_\nu d\sigma)$. Then, based on the F. Riesz compactness Theorem 3, we derive the boundedness of the $\dim \text{Range } A_T$, and as a consequence, the boundedness $\dim \text{Ker } A < \infty$, since the kernel $\text{Ker } \mathcal{R} = \{0\}$ of the Cauchy-Vekua-Riesz operator (17) is trivial. The latter means that the operator (1) possesses the weakly semi-Fredholm structure, thus proving main theorem. $\square$

Remark 1. Taking into account the properties (7) of the P -operator (6), the above equation (16) can be reformulated as the following partial differential equation

$$b_+ \frac{\partial P f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} + b_- \frac{\partial P (af)(z)}{\partial z} = 0, \quad (20)$$

generating quasi-conformal mappings of the complex plane K , and whose solutions naturally generate the kernel $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ of the operator (1). This observation provides an alternative viewpoint on equation (16) and a more detailed analysis of the subspace $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ makes it possible to establish Theorem 1 in a somewhat more general form. It is also worth to mention that similar to (20) equations were extensively studied in [2], and analytical techniques there devised can be useful for studying problems, treated in the present work.

4. Conclusion. Based on the functional analytic properties of the singular Calderon-Zygmund type integral operator

$$Tf(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{K \cap |z-\xi| > \varepsilon} \frac{f(z) - f(\xi)}{(z - \xi)^2} d\sigma(\xi, \bar{\xi}),$$

on the Banach space $L_q(K, d\sigma)$, we have studied the kernel $\text{Ker } A \subset L_q(K, d\sigma)$ of the linear singular operator expression

$$Af(z) := T(a(z)f(z)) + b(z)f(z) \quad (21)$$

with coefficients $a, b \in L_r(K, d\sigma)$, $b = b_+^{-1}b_-$, where for some measurable mapping $\omega: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ there hold the embeddings $\omega(z)b_+(z)^{-1} \in L_s(K, d\sigma)$ and $\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1} \sim (1 + |z|^2)^{\frac{q-m\mu}{2qm} + \nu} \in L_{\frac{qm\mu}{q-m} + \nu, \text{loc}}(K, d\sigma)$, where $1/m = 1/r + 1/q + 1/s - \mu/2$ and $\delta < |\omega(z)b_-(z)^{-1}|$ for some $\delta > 0$ almost everywhere. Making use of the reduction operator approach and classical functional analysis results Theorem 3 and Lemma 1, we succeeded in stating the weakly semi-Fredholm property of the above operator expression (21).

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