

1. Let  $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  with  $\|T\| \leq 1$ , and let  $V \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{K})$  be its minimal isometric coextension and let  $U \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{L})$  be its minimal unitary dilation.
  - (a) Show that  $V$  is a pure isometry (i.e. no unitary summand) if and only if  $T^{*n}$  converges to 0 in the strong operator topology (i.e.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^{*n}x = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ ).
  - (b) Define  $M_+ = (\mathcal{H} \vee U\mathcal{H}) \ominus \mathcal{H}$  and  $M_- = (\mathcal{H} \vee U^*\mathcal{H}) \ominus \mathcal{H}$ . Show that these subspaces are wandering for  $U$ , meaning that  $U^n M$  are pairwise orthogonal for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Hence deduce that the restrictions of  $U$  to the reducing subspaces  $\mathcal{L}_\pm = \bigvee_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} U^n M_\pm$  are unitarily equivalent to the direct sum of copies of the bilateral shift.
  - (c) Show that  $N := (\mathcal{L}_+ \vee \mathcal{L}_-)^{\perp}$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $T|_N$  is unitary.
  
2. Let  $A_1 = A_2 = [0]$  acting on  $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}e_0$ . Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a Hilbert space containing  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let  $V_1$  be any pure isometry such that  $V_1^*e_0 = 0$ . Prove that there is an isometry  $V_2$  commuting with  $V_1$  so that  $(V_1, V_2)$  is a minimal isometric coextension of  $(A_1, A_2)$ .
  
3. (a) If  $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  with  $\text{spr}(T) < 1$ , show that  $A = \sum_{n \geq 0} T^{*n}T^n$  converges to a positive invertible operator with  $A^{-1} \leq I$ .
  - (b) (Rota) Show that  $\|A^{1/2}TA^{-1/2}\| \leq 1$ . (Thus  $T$  is similar to a contraction.)
  - (c) Show that if  $K$  is compact and  $\text{spr}(K) \leq 1$ , then  $K$  is similar to  $K_0 \oplus T$  where  $\text{spr}(K_0) < 1$  and  $T$  acts on a finite dimensional space.
  - (d) (Sz.Nagy) Show that if  $K$  is compact, then  $K$  is similar to a contraction if and only if it is power bounded. **Hint:** to deal with  $T$  of part (c), use Jordan form.
  
4. (a) (Douglas) If  $\| \begin{bmatrix} A \\ C \end{bmatrix} \| \leq 1$ , show that there is a contraction  $L$  so that  $C = LD_A$ . What is the analogue for  $\| \begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix} \| \leq 1$ ?
  - (b) (Parrott) Suppose that  $\| \begin{bmatrix} A \\ C \end{bmatrix} \| \leq 1$  and  $\| \begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix} \| \leq 1$ . Prove that there is a matrix  $X$  so that  $\left\| \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & X \end{bmatrix} \right\| \leq 1$ . **Hint:** use  $X = -LA^*K$  for certain  $K, L$ .

5. (a) Prove that  $n \times n$  matrix  $A_n$  below has norm

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ a_2 & a_1 & a_0 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ a_{n-1} & a_{n-2} & \dots & a_1 & a_0 \end{bmatrix} \right\| \leq \inf_{q \in \mathbb{C}[z]} \|a_0 + a_1z + \dots + a_{n-1}z^{n-1} + z^n q(z)\|_{\infty}.$$

- (b) Suppose that  $\|A_n\| = 1$ . Use 4(b) to find a constant  $a_n$  so that the  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrix  $A_{n+1}$  defined with  $a_0, \dots, a_n$  satisfies  $\|A_{n+1}\| = 1$ .
- (c) (Carathéodory) Hence given  $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}$  with  $\|A_n\| = 1$ , find a power series

$$h(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n = a_0 + a_1 z + \dots + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \text{higher order terms}$$

so that  $\sup_{|z| < 1} |h(z)| = 1$ . **Hint:** express  $h$  as a limit of polynomials which converges uniformly on each disk  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}_r = \{z : |z| \leq r\}$  for all  $r < 1$ .