

# Homomorphisms similar to completely contractive homomorphisms

Wilson R. Pacheco R.

Departamento de Matemáticas, Facultad Experimental de Ciencias  
Universidad del Zulia, Apdo. 526, Maracaibo, Venezuela

## Abstract

Paulsen has proved that a unital homomorphism from an operator algebra contained in a  $C^*$ -algebra is similar to a completely contractive homomorphism if and only if it is completely bounded. In the present note we obtain a different characterization when the operator algebra is separable.

**Key words:** Homomorphism, similarity, completely contractive.

# Homomorfismos similares a homomorfismos completamente contractivos

## Resumen

Paulsen ha probado que un homomorfismo unital de un álgebra de operadores contenida en una álgebra- $C^*$  es similar a un homomorfismo completamente contractivo si y sólo si es completamente acotado. En la presente nota damos una caracterización distinta cuando el álgebra de operadores es separable.

**Palabras claves:** Homomorfismo, similitud, completamente contractivo.

## Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra,  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$  an operator algebra and  $H$  a Hilbert space. In [1] it is proved that every unital homomorphism  $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow L(H)$  is similar to a completely contractive homomorphism if, and only if,  $\rho$  is completely bounded. Moreover, when  $\rho$  is completely bounded it is well known that there exist a Hilbert space  $K$ , operators  $A, B \in L(H, K)$  and a representation  $\pi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow L(K)$  such that

$$\rho(a) = A^* \pi(a) B, \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{A} \quad (1)$$

The purpose of the present note is to prove the following generalization of the above result, and give an answer to the problem of similarity for completely contractive homomorphisms, when  $\mathcal{A}$  is separable.

**Theorem 1.** - Let  $B$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra,  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}$  a separable operator algebra and  $H$  a Hilbert space.  $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow L(H)$  a unital homomorphism. Then  $\rho$  is similar to a completely contractive homomorphism if, and only if, there exist a Hilbert space  $K$ , operators  $A, B \in L(H, K)$  and one representation  $\pi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow L(K)$  such that

$$\inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(a_i) - A^* \pi(a_i) B\|^2 \right\} < \infty \quad (2)$$

where the infimum is taken over all countable families linear generators  $\{a_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Let  $H$  be a Hilbert space,  $L(H)$  the algebra of all bounded operators over  $H$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  a  $C^*$ -algebra with unit and  $\mathcal{A}$  a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}$  that contains the unit of  $\mathcal{B}$ . Such subalgebras are called **Operator Algebras**. An operator algebra is **separa-**

ble if it possesses a countable family of linear generators. Thus, the closure of the spanned subspace by the family is the whole subalgebra.

In the sequel,  $M_n$  will denote the  $n \times n$  matrix over  $\mathbf{C}$  and we set  $M_n(\mathcal{A}) = M_n \otimes \mathcal{A}$  ( $M_n(\mathcal{A})$  can be thought of as subspace of the  $C^*$ -algebra  $M(\mathcal{A})$ ). We will denote by  $\mathbf{H}^n$  the direct sum of  $n$  copies of  $\mathbf{H}$ , with  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ . If  $\|\cdot\|$  is the norm of  $\mathbf{H}$ , then the norm  $\|\cdot\|_n$  of the Hilbert space  $\mathbf{H}^n$  is given by

$$\|\tilde{h}\|_n^2 = \|h_1\|^2 + \|h_2\|^2 + \dots + \|h_n\|^2, \tag{3}$$

where  $\tilde{h} = (h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n)$

Given a linear map,  $\rho : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{H})$  for every  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  the mapping  $\rho_n : M_n(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{H}^n)$  is defined as follows:

$$\rho_n((a_{ij})) = (\rho(a_{ij})), \text{ for } (a_{ij}) \in M_n(\mathcal{A}). \tag{4}$$

It is known that the sequence  $\{\|\rho_n\|_n : n \in \mathbf{N}\}$  is increasing. The map  $\rho$  is called **completely bounded** if

$$\sup \{ \|\rho_n\|_n : n \in \mathbf{N} \} < \infty; \tag{5}$$

in that case, we will write  $\|\rho\|_{cb}$  to denote this supremum. Then  $\|\cdot\|_{cb}$  is a norm on the space of all completely bounded maps. If  $\|\rho\|_{cb} \leq 1$ , then we say that  $\rho$  is **completely contractive**.

To prove our theorem we give the following lemmas. The norm given in lemma 3 is a modification of that given in the proof of theorem 8.1 of [3].

Let us recursively define the matrices  $R_m \in M_n(\mathbf{C})$  with  $n = 2^m$  by  $R_0 = (1)$  and

$$R_{m+1} = \begin{pmatrix} R_m & R_m \\ R_m & -R_m \end{pmatrix}, \tag{6}$$

for  $m=0, 1, 2, \dots$

**Lemma 1.**- (i)  $R_m$  is invertible,  $R_m^{-1} = 2^{-m} R_m$  and therefore  $\|R_m\|_n^2 = 2^m$

(ii) If  $\mathbf{H}$  is a Hilbert space and  $\tilde{h} = (h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n) \in \mathbf{H}^n$  and

$\tilde{k} = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n) = R_m(\tilde{h})$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|k_i\|^2 = 2^m \sum_{i=1}^n \|h_i\|^2 \tag{7}$$

Proof: (i) Obvious, by using inductivity.

(ii) If,  $\tilde{k} = R_m(\tilde{h})$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|k_i\|^2 = \|\tilde{k}\|_n^2 = \|R_m(\tilde{h})\|_n^2 \leq \tag{8}$$

$$\|R_m\|_n^2 \|\tilde{h}\|_n^2 = 2^m \sum_{i=1}^n \|h_i\|^2$$

Now,  $2^m \tilde{h} = R_m(\tilde{k})$ , therefore,

$$2^{2m} \|\tilde{h}\|_n^2 = \|2^m \tilde{h}\|_n^2 = \|R_m(\tilde{k})\|_n^2 \leq \tag{9}$$

$$\|R_m\|_n^2 \|\tilde{k}\|_n^2 = 2^m \|\tilde{k}\|_n^2$$

So, dividing by  $2^m$  we conclude that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|k_i\|^2 \geq 2^m \sum_{i=1}^n \|h_i\|^2 \tag{10}$$

By (8) and (10) the equality holds. ■

**Lemma 2.**-Under the hypothesis of Theorem 1, let  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\alpha \geq 1$  and set  $|\cdot|$  defined by

$$|h|^2 = \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \pi(a_i) B h_i \right\|^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n \|h_i\|^2 : \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(a_i) h_i = h \right\} \tag{11}$$

where the infimum is taken over all countable families of linear generators  $(a_i)$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  and over all sequences  $(h_i)$  of finite support (this means that only a finite number of elements of the sequence is non null). Then  $(\mathbf{H}, |\cdot|)$  is a Hilbert space and  $|\cdot|$  is equivalent to  $\|\cdot\|$

Proof: Clearly  $|zh|^2 = |z|^2 |h|^2$ , for all  $z \in \mathbf{C}$ . Thus,

$$|zh| = |z| |h|, \tag{12}$$

If  $h = \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(a_i) h_i$  and  $k = \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(a_i) k_i$  where  $(a_i)$  is any countable family of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $h+k = \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(a_i) (h_i + k_i)$ . Therefore  $|h+k| \leq \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \pi(a_i) \mathbf{B}(h_i + k_i) \right\|^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n \|h_i + k_i\|^2 \right\}^{1/2}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} k_i \right\|^2 + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i + k_i\|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &= \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} k_i \right\|^2 + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha^{1/2} \|h_i + k_i\|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i \right\|^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &\quad + \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} k_i \right\|^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|k_i\|^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
 &= |h| + |k|
 \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is due to the triangular inequality for  $l_2$ . So, we get

$$|h + k| \leq |h| + |k| \tag{13}$$

By (12) and (13), it follows that  $|\cdot|$  is a seminorm in  $\mathbf{H}$ .

As  $\rho$  is unital, it yields that

$$h = \rho(I)h + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)0, \text{ where } \{\mathbf{a}_i\} \text{ is any count-}$$

able family of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

So,

$$\|h\|^2 \leq \|\rho(I)h\|^2 + \|h\|^2 = \|\mathbf{B}h\|^2 + \|h\|^2$$

Thus,

$$|h| \leq (\|\mathbf{B}h\|^2 + \|h\|^2)^{1/2} = (\|\mathbf{B}\|^2 \|h\|^2 + \|h\|^2)^{1/2} =$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(\|\mathbf{B}\|^2 + 1)^{1/2} \|h\| \\
 |h| &\leq (\|\mathbf{B}\|^2 + 1)^{1/2} \|h\| \tag{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if  $h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|h\| &= \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i \right\| = \\
 &\left\| \mathbf{A}^* \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}) h_i \right\| \\
 &\leq \left\| \mathbf{A}^* \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i \right\| + \\
 &\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\| \|h_i\| \\
 &\leq \left[ \left( \|\mathbf{A}^*\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\|^2 \right) \right] \\
 &\left[ \left( \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i \right\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 \right) \right]^{1/2} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{by Schwarz inequality} \\ \text{for } l_2 \end{array} \right) \\
 &\leq \left[ \left( \|\mathbf{A}^*\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\|^2 \right) \right] \\
 &\left[ \left( \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B} h_i \right\|^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 \right) \right]^{1/2}
 \end{aligned}$$

since  $\alpha \geq 1$ . Taking infimum over all sequences  $\{h_i\}$  of finite support and all countable families of linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  such that,

$$h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i \text{ we get by (2) and the definition } |h| \text{ that}$$

$$\|h\| \leq k|h|, \tag{15}$$

$$\text{where } k = \left( \|\mathbf{A}^*\|^2 + \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\|^2 \right\} \right)^{1/2}$$

where the infimum is taken over all countable families of numbering linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

By (12), (13) and (15) we conclude that  $|\cdot|$  is a norm on  $\mathbf{H}$ . Then (14) and (15) show that  $|\cdot|$  is equivalent to  $\|\cdot\|$ . As in [2] it suffices to show that  $|\cdot|$  satisfies the parallelogram law, to prove that the pair  $(\mathbf{H}, |\cdot|)$  is a Hilbert space. Indeed,

$$\text{Let } h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i \quad \text{and} \quad k = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{b}_i)h_i,$$

where  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{b}_i\}$  are any countable families of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Then

$$h+k = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{b}_i)h_i \quad (16)$$

and

$$h-k = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{b}_i)h_i \quad (17)$$

Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|h+k\|^2 + \|h-k\|^2 &\leq \\ &\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i)Bh_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{b}_i)Bh_i \right\|^2 + \\ &\alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 - \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i'\|^2 + \\ &\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i)Bh_i - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{b}_i)Bh_i \right\|^2 + \\ &\alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 - \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i'\|^2 \\ &= 2 \left( \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i)Bh_i \right\|^2 + \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{b}_i)Bh_i \right\|^2 \right) \\ &\quad \left( \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 - \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i'\|^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

In the last inequality we used the parallelogram law in  $\mathbf{K}$ . Taking infimum first over the sequences  $\{h_i\}$  and all countable families of linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , for which,

$$h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i, \text{ and, then over the sequences } \{h_i'\}$$

and all countable families of linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , for which,  $k = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{b}_i)h_i$ , we get

$$|h+k|^2 + |h-k|^2 \leq 2(|h|^2 + |k|^2) \quad (18)$$

Let us note that replacing  $h$  by  $h+h'$  and  $h'$  by  $h-h'$  in (18) one gets the reciprocal inequality. ■

**Proof of Theorem 1**

If  $\rho: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{H})$  is similar to a completely contractive homomorphism  $\varphi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{H})$ , then by Corollary 6.7 in [3], there exists a representation  $\varphi: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{K})$ , where  $\mathbf{K}$  is some Hilbert space that contains  $\mathbf{H}$ , such that,  $\varphi(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{P}\pi(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{i}$ , for all  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}$ , where  $\mathbf{P}$  denotes the orthogonal projection of  $\mathbf{K}$  onto  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\mathbf{i}$  is the inclusion from  $\mathbf{H}$  to  $\mathbf{K}$ . As  $\rho(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{S}^{-1}\varphi(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{S}$ , for all  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}$  and for some invertible operator  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbf{L}(\mathbf{H})$ , it yields,

$$\rho(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{S}^{-1}\mathbf{P}\pi(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{i}\mathbf{S}, \quad \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A} \quad (19)$$

Taking  $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{S}^{-1}\mathbf{P})^*$ ,  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{i}\mathbf{S}$ , the representation  $\pi$  and the space  $\mathbf{K}$ , we obtain for all countable families of linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  that,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\|^2 = 0 \quad (20)$$

Therefore, the infimum over such families is finite.

Conversely, let  $|\cdot|$  be the norm of  $\mathbf{H}$  as defined in Lemma 2, with  $\alpha = 1$ . We will show that with respect to such a norm  $\rho$  is a completely contractive map. Indeed, if  $h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)h_i$ , and  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $\|\mathbf{a}\| = 1$ , then

$$\rho(\mathbf{a})h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}_i)h_i \quad (21)$$

If  $\{\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}_i\}$  is not a countable family of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Then this can always be extended to a countable family of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ , since, for  $\{\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}_i\} \cup \{\mathbf{a}_i\}$ , we have

$$\rho(\mathbf{a})h = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}_i)h_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho(\mathbf{a}_i)0 \quad (22)$$

Therefore,

$$|\rho(\mathbf{a})h|^2 \leq \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}_i)Bh_i \right\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left\| \pi(\mathbf{a}) \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}h_i \right\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 \\ &\leq \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}h_i \right\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|h_i\|^2 \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

where the last inequality is due to the fact that  $\pi(\mathbf{a})$  is a contraction. Taking the infimum over the sequences  $\{h_i\}$  and the countable families of linear generators  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , such that, one gets

$$|\rho(\mathbf{a})h|^2 \leq |h|^2 \tag{24}$$

Thus  $\rho(\mathbf{a})$  is a contraction in  $L(\mathbf{H})$  with respect to the norm  $|\cdot|$  on  $\mathbf{H}$ . Therefore  $\rho$  is contractive.

Now, we must prove that  $|\rho_n|_n \leq 1$  for all  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ . Since the sequence  $\{|\rho_n|_n\}$  is increasing on  $\mathbf{H}$  it suffices to prove that the inequality holds for all  $n=2^m$  with  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ .

First, note that if  $\{\mathbf{a}_i\}$  is a countable family of linear generators of  $\mathcal{A}$ , such that,  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i) - \mathbf{A}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{B}\|^2 < \infty$ , then the family  $\{(\mathbf{a}_i \mathbf{E}_{jk}) : i=1, 2, \dots, \text{ and } j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , (where  $\mathbf{E}_{jk}$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix with the unit of  $\mathcal{A}$  in the  $(j, k)$ -entry and zero elsewhere) generates  $\mathbf{M}_n(\mathcal{A})$ . Moreover,

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\rho(\mathbf{a}_i(\mathbf{E}_{jk})) - \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^* \pi(\mathbf{a}_i(\mathbf{E}_{jk})) \tilde{\mathbf{B}}\|^2 < \infty \tag{25}$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{I}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{I}$ ,

We define the following norm  $|\cdot|_1$ , for all  $h \in \mathbf{H}$ ,

$$|\tilde{h}|_1^2 = \inf \left\{ \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi_n(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_i) \tilde{\mathbf{B}}\tilde{h}_i \right\|^2 + n \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|\tilde{h}_i\|_n^2 : \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho_n(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_i) \tilde{h}_i = \tilde{h} \right\} \tag{26}$$

where the infimum is taken as in Lemma 2, over all countable families of linear generators  $\{\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_i\}$  of  $\mathbf{M}_n(\mathcal{A})$ , etc. By (26) and Lemma 2  $|\cdot|_1$  makes  $\mathbf{H}^n$  into a Hilbert space. Moreover  $|\cdot|_1$  is equivalent to  $\|\cdot\|_n$ , and by the argument used in the case of  $\mathbf{H}$ , it follows that  $\rho_n$  is contractive with respect to this norm. To conclude, we will prove that

$$|\tilde{h}|_n = |\tilde{h}|_1 \quad \forall \tilde{h} \in \mathbf{H}^n \quad (\text{see(3)})$$

Let  $\tilde{h} = (h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n)$  and fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_k = (\mathbf{a}_{jk})$  and  $\tilde{h}_k = (h_{1k}, h_{2k}, \dots, h_{nk})$ , be such that,  $\tilde{h} = \sum_{k=1}^n \rho(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_k) \tilde{h}_k$  and

$$|\tilde{h}|_1^2 + \varepsilon \geq \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n \pi_n(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_k) \tilde{\mathbf{B}}\tilde{h}_k \right\|^2 + n \sum_{i=1}^n \|\tilde{h}_k\|_n^2 \tag{27}$$

As  $h_i = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \rho(\mathbf{a}_{jk}) h_{jk}$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{h}|_n^2 &= \sum_{l=1}^n |h_l|^2 \leq \\ &\sum_{l=1}^n \left( \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \pi(\mathbf{a}_{jk}) \mathbf{B}_{jk} \right\|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \|h_{jk}\|^2 \right) \\ &= \left\| \sum_{k=1}^n \pi_n(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_k) \tilde{\mathbf{B}}\tilde{h}_k \right\|^2 + n \sum_{i=1}^n \|\tilde{h}_k\|_n^2 \leq |\tilde{h}|_1^2 + \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$|\tilde{h}|_n^2 \leq |\tilde{h}|_1^2 \tag{28}$$

On the other hand  $\tilde{h} = (h_{11}, h_{12}, \dots, h_{1n})$  and

$$h_i = \sum_{l=1}^n \rho(\mathbf{a}_{il}) h_{il}, \tag{29}$$

be such that,  $|h_i|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{n} \geq \left\| \sum_{l=1}^n \pi(\mathbf{a}_{il}) \mathbf{B}h_{il} \right\|^2 + \sum_{l=1}^n \|h_{il}\|^2$ .

As  $n = 2^k$ , let us consider the matrix  $\tilde{c}_l$ , given below:

$$\begin{pmatrix} r_{11} \mathbf{a}_{11} & r_{11} \mathbf{a}_{1l} & \dots & r_{1n} \mathbf{a}_{1l} \\ r_{21} \mathbf{a}_{21} & r_{22} \mathbf{a}_{2l} & \dots & r_{2n} \mathbf{a}_{2l} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ r_{n1} \mathbf{a}_{n1} & r_{n2} \mathbf{a}_{nl} & \dots & r_{nn} \mathbf{a}_{nl} \end{pmatrix} \tag{30}$$

where  $(r_{ij}) = R_k$  is the matrix given in Lemma 1.

Let  $\tilde{h}_l = (h_{1l}, h_{2l}, \dots, h_{nl})$  and

$$\tilde{k}_l = (k_{1l}, k_{2l}, \dots, k_{nl}) = R_m(\tilde{h}_l)$$

Let  $\beta = n^{-1}$ ; by Lemma 2 one has that

$$\tilde{h}_l = R_m(\beta \tilde{k}_l). \text{ This means that}$$

$$h_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n r_{ij} \beta k_{jl}, \tag{31}$$

and

$$h_i = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \rho(a_{il}) \sum_{j=1}^n r_{ij} \beta k_{jl} = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^n \rho(r_{ij} a_{il}) \beta k_{jl} \tag{32}$$

Therefore,

$$\tilde{h} = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \rho_n(\tilde{c}_l) \tilde{B} \beta \tilde{k}_l \tag{33}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{h}|_n^2 &\leq \left\| \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \pi_n(\tilde{c}_l) \tilde{B} \beta \tilde{k}_l \right\|_n^2 + n \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \|\tilde{k}_l\|_n^2 = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^n \pi(r_{ij} a_{il}) \beta k_{jl} \right\|^2 + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \beta \sum_{j=1}^n \|k_{jl}\|^2 = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^n \pi(a_{il}) \beta h_{jl} \right\|^2 + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^n \|h_{jl}\|^2 \leq |\tilde{h}|_n^2 + \varepsilon, \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

where we made use of (7) and the fact that  $\beta = 2^{-k}$

Thus, the reverse inequality is proved and we conclude the proof of the theorem. ■

As an application of the above result to the Operator Theory, we will characterize those operators that are similar to contractions. It is known that  $T \in L(H)$  is similar to a contraction if, and only if, the homomorphism  $\rho: P(D) \rightarrow L(H)$  to defined by

$$\rho(f) = f(T) \tag{35}$$

is completely bounded, where  $P(D)$  denotes the space of the polynomials on the unit disc (see theorem 8.11 of [3]). Then by the result of Paulsen mentioned in the introduction, it suffices to prove that  $\rho$  is completely contractive homomorphism. But, in virtue of the Theorem 1, it reduces to find a Hilbert space  $K$ , a contraction  $C \in L(K)$ , operators  $A, B \in L(H, K)$ , and a countable family  $\{f_l\}$  of linear generators of  $P(D)$  such that

$$\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \|f_l(T) - A^* f_l(C) B\|^2 < \infty. \tag{36}$$

since the homomorphism  $\pi: C(T) \rightarrow L(K)$  defined by  $\pi(f) = f(C)$  is completely bounded. In particular, if the family of generators is  $f_l = z^l$ , with  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we obtains the following corollary.

**Corollary 1. (Holbrook Theorem [2])** Suppose  $T \in L(H)$ . Then  $T$  is similar to a contraction if, and only if, there exist a Hilbert space  $K$ , a contraction  $C \in L(K)$  and operators  $A, B \in L(H, K)$ , such that,

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \|T^l - A^* C^l B\|^2 < \infty. \tag{37}$$

From this corollary, one can obtain the results of Rota [4] and the Sz-Nagy and Foias [5] about similarity to contractions by more direct procedures than those used in the proof by Paulsen in [1]. See Holbrook [2].

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