

## ASYMPTOTIC PROPERTIES OF COMPOSITION OPERATORS ON THE BERGMAN SPACE

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Abstract. In this paper we derive certain asymptotic properties of composition operators involving the shift operators, Berezin transform and a class of unitary operators defined on the Bergman space. We also discuss about some intertwining properties of composition operators which leads to obtain many ergodicity properties of composition operators.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $dA(z)$  denote the Lebesgue area measure on the open unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ , normalized so that the measure of the disk  $\mathbb{D}$  equals 1. The Bergman space  $L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$  is the Hilbert space consisting of analytic functions on  $\mathbb{D}$  that are also in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , the Bergman reproducing kernel is the function  $K_z \in L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $f(z) = \langle f, K_z \rangle$  for every  $f \in L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$ . The normalized reproducing kernel  $k_z$  is the function  $\frac{K_z}{\|K_z\|_2}$ . Here the norm  $\|\cdot\|_2$  and the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  are taken in the space  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For any  $n \geq 0, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $e_n(z) = \sqrt{n+1}z^n$ . Then  $\{e_n\}$  forms an orthonormal basis for  $L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $K(z, \bar{w}) = \overline{K_z(w)} = \frac{1}{(1-z\bar{w})^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e_n(z)\overline{e_n(w)}$ .

For  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$  with symbol  $\phi$  is the operator on  $L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$  defined by  $T_\phi f = P(\phi f)$ ; here  $P$  is the orthogonal projection from  $L^2(D, dA)$  onto  $L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$ . The Hankel operator  $H_\phi : L^2_a(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow (L^2_a(\mathbb{D}))^\perp$  with symbol  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  is defined by  $H_\phi f = (I - P)(\phi f)$ . The little Hankel operator  $S_\phi : L^2_a(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$  is defined by  $S_\phi f = PJ(\phi f)$  where  $J : L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  is defined as  $Jf(z) = f(\bar{z})$ . Let  $H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  be the space of bounded analytic functions on  $\mathbb{D}$  and  $h^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  be the space of bounded harmonic functions on  $\mathbb{D}$ . Let  $Aut(\mathbb{D})$  be the Lie group of all automorphisms (biholomorphic mappings) of  $\mathbb{D}$ . We can define for each  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , an automorphism  $\phi_a$  in  $Aut(\mathbb{D})$  such that

- (i)  $(\phi_a \circ \phi_a)(z) \equiv z$ ;
- (ii)  $\phi_a(0) = a, \phi_a(a) = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $\phi_a$  has a unique fixed point in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

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In fact,  $\phi_a(z) = \frac{a-z}{1-\bar{a}z}$  for all  $a$  and  $z$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . An easy calculation shows that the derivative of  $\phi_a$  at  $z$  is equal to  $-k_a(z)$ . It follows that the real Jacobian determinant of  $\phi_a$  at  $z$  is  $J_{\phi_a(z)} = |k_a(z)|^2 = \frac{(1-|a|^2)^2}{|1-\bar{a}z|^4}$ . Given  $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f$  any measurable function on  $\mathbb{D}$ , we define a function  $U_\lambda f$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  by  $U_\lambda f(z) = k_\lambda(z)f(\phi_\lambda(z))$ . Notice that  $U_\lambda$  is a bounded linear operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  and  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ . Further, it can be verified that  $U_\lambda^2 = I$ , the identity operator,  $U_\lambda^* = U_\lambda$ ,  $U_\lambda(L_a^2(\mathbb{D})) \subset L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $U_\lambda((L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))^\perp) \subset (L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))^\perp$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ . Thus  $U_\lambda P = P U_\lambda$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ . Let  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  be analytic. Define the composition operator  $C_\phi$  from  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  into itself by  $C_\phi f = f \circ \phi$ . The operator  $C_\phi$  is a bounded linear operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\|C_\phi\| \leq \frac{1+|\phi(0)|}{1-|\phi(0)|}$ . Given  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f$  any measurable function on  $\mathbb{D}$ , we define the function  $C_a f = f \circ \phi_a$ , where  $\phi_a \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ . The map  $C_a$  is a composition operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $L_h^2(\mathbb{D}) = L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \oplus (\overline{L_a^2(\mathbb{D})})_0$  where  $(\overline{L_a^2(\mathbb{D})})_0 = \{\bar{f} : f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D}), f(0) = 0\}$  and  $L_h^1$  be the space of harmonic functions in  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . Let  $H(\mathbb{D})$  be the space of holomorphic functions from  $\mathbb{D}$  into itself.

In this paper we discuss about some asymptotic properties and ergodicity properties of composition operators defined on the Bergman space. In section 2, we derive certain asymptotic properties of composition operators involving the shift operators, the Berezin transform and the class of unitary operators  $U_\lambda, \lambda \in \mathbb{D}$ . In section 3, we established certain intertwining properties of composition operators and exploited these to obtain some ergodicity properties of composition operators. The applications of these results are discussed in section 4.

Let  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  be the space of all bounded linear operators from  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  into itself and  $\mathcal{CC}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  be the set of all compact operators in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . For a bounded linear operator  $S$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , the Berezin transform of  $S$  is the function  $B(S)$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  defined by  $B(S)(z) = \langle S k_z, k_z \rangle = \tilde{S}(z)$ . The Berezin transform  $B(\phi)(z)$  of a function  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  is defined to be the Berezin transform of the Toeplitz operator  $T_\phi$ . In other words,

$$B(\phi)(z) = B(T_\phi)(z) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \phi \left( \frac{z-w}{1-\bar{z}w} \right) dA(w) = \tilde{\phi}(z).$$

The last equality follows from a change of variable in the definition of the Berezin transform. The above integral formula extends the Berezin transform to  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  and clearly gives  $(B\phi)(z) = \phi(z)$  for any harmonic function  $\phi \in L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For  $\phi \in L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ ,  $B\phi = \tilde{\phi}$  is an infinitely differentiable function on  $\mathbb{D}$  and if  $\phi$  is bounded then so is  $B\phi = \tilde{\phi}$  and  $\|\tilde{\phi}\|_\infty \leq \|\phi\|_\infty$ . If  $\phi \geq \psi$ , then  $\tilde{\phi} \geq \tilde{\psi}$ . On  $\mathbb{D}$ , the only measure left invariant by all Mobius transformations is the pseudo-hyperbolic measure  $d\eta(z) = \frac{dA(z)}{(1-|z|^2)^2}$ . It turns out that the Berezin transform behaves well with respect to the invariant measures. The mapping  $B : f \rightarrow \tilde{f}$  is a contractive linear operator on each of the spaces  $L^p(\mathbb{D}, d\eta), 1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . Further, the Berezin

transform  $B$  is a bounded operator on the spaces  $L^p(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$  but  $B$  is not a bounded operator on  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . For details see [12].

Let  $\mathbb{T} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$  and  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  be the space of square integrable, measurable functions on  $\mathbb{T}$  with respect to the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{T}$ . The sequence  $\{e^{int}\}_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}$  form an orthonormal basis for  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ . Given  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{T})$ , the Fourier coefficients of  $f$  are  $a_n(f) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{i\theta})e^{-in\theta} d\theta$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of all integers. The Hardy space  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  is the subspace of  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  consisting of functions  $f$  with  $a_n(f) = 0$  for all negative integers  $n$ . Since  $a_n(f)$  is a bounded linear functional on  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  for any fixed  $n$ , and  $H^2 = \bigcap_{n < 0} \ker a_n$ , it follows that  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  is a closed subspace of  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  and therefore a Hilbert space. Let  $\mathcal{P}$  denote the orthogonal projection from  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  onto  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . Let  $L^\infty(\mathbb{T})$  be the space of all essentially bounded measurable functions on  $\mathbb{T}$ . For  $\varphi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T})$ , the Toeplitz operator  $L_\varphi$  from  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  into itself is defined by  $L_\varphi f = \mathcal{P}(\varphi f)$  and the Hankel operator  $D_\varphi$  from  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  into itself is defined by  $D_\varphi f = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{J}(\varphi f))$ . Here  $\mathcal{J}$  is the mapping from  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  into  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  defined by  $\mathcal{J}f(e^{it}) = f(e^{-it})$ . Let  $H^\infty(\mathbb{T}) = \{f \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}) : a_n(f) = 0 \text{ for } n < 0, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . A function  $q \in H^\infty(\mathbb{T})$  is said to be an inner function if  $|q(e^{it})| = 1$  almost everywhere on  $\mathbb{T}$ .

Let  $H$  and  $K$  be nonzero complex Hilbert spaces. The tensor product of  $x \in H$  and  $y \in K$  is a conjugate bilinear functional  $x \otimes y : H \times K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $(x \otimes y)(u, v) = \langle x, u \rangle \langle y, v \rangle$  for every  $(u, v) \in H \times K$ . The collection of all (finite) sums of tensors  $x_i \otimes y_i$  with  $x_i \in H$  and  $y_i \in K$ , denoted by  $H \otimes K$ , is a complex linear space equipped with an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : (H \otimes K) \times (H \otimes K) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined, for arbitrary  $\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \otimes y_i$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^M w_j \otimes z_j$  in  $H \otimes K$ , by  $\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \otimes y_i, \sum_{j=1}^M w_j \otimes z_j \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \langle x_i, w_j \rangle \langle y_i, z_j \rangle$  (the same notation for the inner products on  $H$ ,  $K$  and  $H \otimes K$ ). The tensor product on  $H \otimes K$  of two operators  $T$  in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  and  $S$  in  $\mathcal{L}(K)$  is the operator  $T \otimes S : H \otimes K \rightarrow H \otimes K$  defined by  $(T \otimes S) \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \otimes y_i = \sum_{i=1}^N T x_i \otimes S y_i$  for every  $\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \otimes y_i \in H \otimes K$ , which lies in  $\mathcal{L}(H \times K)$ . The completion of the inner product space  $H \otimes K$ , denoted by  $H \hat{\otimes} K$ , is the tensor product space of  $H$  and  $K$ . The extension of  $T \otimes S$  over the Hilbert space  $H \hat{\otimes} K$  denoted by  $T \hat{\otimes} S$ , is the tensor product of  $T$  and  $S$  on the tensor product space, which lies in  $\mathcal{L}(H \hat{\otimes} K)$ .

## 2. Asymptotic Properties Involving Shift Operators and Berezin Transform

Let  $R : L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  be such that  $(Rf)(z) = \frac{f(z)-f(0)}{z}$ . Let  $S = T_z$ , the Toeplitz operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  with symbol  $z$  which is called the Bergman shift operator. Suppose  $f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ . Then  $Sf = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^{k+1}$ , and  $S^*f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k}{k+1} a_k z^{k-1}$ . Notice that  $RS = I, R1 = 0$  and  $Rz^j = z^{j-1}, j \geq 1$ . Moreover,

$$T_{\bar{z}}z^j = P(\bar{z}z^j) = P(|z|^2z^{j-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{j}{j+1}z^{j-1}, & \text{if } j \geq 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Hence  $R = T_{\bar{z}} + K$  where  $K$  is a compact operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and if  $\{e_j\}_{j \geq 0} = \{\sqrt{j+1}z^j\}_{j \geq 0}$  is the standard orthonormal basis for  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , then

$$\langle Re_j, e_i \rangle = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{j+1}{i+1}}, & \text{if } j = i + 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Barria and Halmos [3] introduced the concept of asymptotic Toeplitz operators on the Hardy space as follows. An operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(H^2(\mathbb{T}))$  is asymptotic Toeplitz if  $\{L^{*n}TL^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  converges in the strong operator topology in  $\mathcal{L}(H^2(\mathbb{T}))$  where  $L$  is the unilateral shift on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . Shapiro in [27] obtained conditions on  $\phi$  such that the composition operator  $C_\phi$  on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  is asymptotic Toeplitz. In this section we obtained conditions on  $\phi$  such that  $\{S^{*n}C_\phi S^n\}$  converges strongly as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We have shown that if  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  is holomorphic, then the sequence  $\{S^{*n}C_\phi S^n\}$  and  $\{S^{*n}C_\phi^* S^n\}$  converges in SOT. Further, we have shown that if  $\phi$  fixes the origin but is not a rotation then the sequence  $\{S^{*n}C_\phi S^n\}$  converges to 0 in the SOT.

**Theorem 2.1** If  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  is holomorphic, then  $S^{*n}C_\phi^* S^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly and  $S^{*n}C_\phi S^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly.

**Proof :** Fix  $f$  and  $n$ . Then choose  $g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D}), \|g\| = 1$  such that  $\|S^{*n}C_\phi^* S^n f\| = \langle S^{*n}C_\phi^* S^n f, g \rangle$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \|S^{*n}C_\phi^* S^n f\| &= \langle S^n f, C_\phi S^n g \rangle \\ &= \langle z^n f, \phi^n(g \circ \phi) \rangle \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f| |g \circ \phi| |\phi|^n dA \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f|^2 |\phi|^{2n} dA \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |g \circ \phi|^2 dA \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \|C_\phi\| \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f|^2 |\phi|^{2n} dA \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|\phi| < 1$  on  $\mathbb{D}$ , the last integral above converges to 0 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  which establishes that  $S^{*n}C_\phi^*S^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly. Now we shall show  $S^{*n}C_\phi S^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly. Fix  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and observe that because  $\|S^*\| = 1$ ,  $\|S^{*n}C_\phi S^n f\|^2 \leq \|C_\phi S^n f\|^2 = \|\phi^n(f \circ \phi)\|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{D}} |\phi|^{2n} |f \circ \phi|^2 dA$ . Since  $|\phi| < 1$ , we have  $|\phi|^n \rightarrow 0$  a.e. on  $\mathbb{D}$ . Now because  $f \circ \phi \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , we see that  $\|S^{*n}C_\phi S^n f\|^2 \rightarrow 0$  by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2** If  $\phi$  fixes the origin but is not a rotation, then the sequence  $\{S^{*n}C_\phi^*S^n\}$  converges to 0 in the strong operator topology provided we assume  $0 \cdot \infty = 0$ .

**Proof :** The reproducing kernels  $\{K_z : z \in \mathbb{D}\}$  have linear span dense in  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and the operator norms  $\|S^{*n}C_\phi^*S^n\|$  are uniformly bounded, so it suffices to prove that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|S^{*n}C_\phi^*S^n K_z\| = 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  where  $S = T_w$ . Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} (S^n K_z)(w) &= w^n K_z(w) = \frac{w^n}{(1 - \bar{z}w)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ K_z(w) - \frac{P_{n-1}(w)}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right] \end{aligned}$$

where  $P_{n-1}(w) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (\bar{z}w)^k$ . Thus  $(C_\phi^* S^n K_z)(w) = \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ K_{\phi(z)}(w) - C_\phi^* \frac{P_{n-1}(w)}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right]$ . Since  $\phi(0) = 0$ , the operator  $C_\phi$  has lower triangular matrix with respect to the orthonormal basis  $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  for  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Thus  $C_\phi^*$  has upper triangular matrix, that is,  $C_\phi^* z^k$  is a polynomial of degree  $\leq k$  for each nonnegative integer  $k$ . Now  $C_\phi^* \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) = \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w}$  and  $S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) = \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} S^{*n} \left( \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \right) = \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w}$ . Further,

$$\begin{aligned} S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left( \frac{\bar{z}w}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} - 1 \right] \\ &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ C_\phi^* \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) - C_\phi^* 1 \right] \\ &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} - 1 \right] \\ &= \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left( \frac{\bar{z}^2 w^2}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} - (1 + \bar{z}w) \right] \\
 &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ C_\phi^* \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) - C_\phi^*(1 + \bar{z}w) \right] \\
 &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} - 1 - C_\phi^*(\bar{z}w) \right] \\
 &= \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} - 0 = \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we can calculate

$$S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \left( \frac{\bar{z}^k w^k}{1 - \bar{z}w} \right) = \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \text{ for all } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 (S^{*n} C_\phi^* S^n K_z)(w) &= S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} K_{\phi(z)}(w) - S^{*n} \frac{1}{\bar{z}^n} C_\phi^* \frac{P_{n-1}(w)}{1 - \bar{z}w} \\
 &= \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n K_{\phi(z)}(w) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \\
 &= \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \left[ K_{\phi(z)}(w) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \right] \\
 &= \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^n \left[ K_{\phi(z)}(w) - \frac{n}{1 - \phi(z)w} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\|S^{*n} C_\phi^* S^n K_z\| \leq \left| \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right|^n \left[ \|K_{\phi(z)}\| + \left\| \frac{n}{1 - \phi(z)w} \right\| \right]$ . Now since

$$\frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right)^k w^k,$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{1}{|1 - \phi(z)w|^2} dA(w) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\phi(z)|^{2k} \int_{\mathbb{D}} |w|^{2k} dA(w) \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{|\phi(z)|^{2k}}{k+1} \\
 &= \log \frac{1}{1 - |\phi(z)|^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

and  $n \left\| \frac{1}{1 - \phi(z)w} \right\| = \log \frac{1}{(1 - |\phi(z)|^2)^n}$  tends to  $\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus

$$\|S^{*n} C_\phi^* S^n K_z\| \leq \left| \frac{\phi(z)}{\bar{z}} \right|^n \left[ \|K_{\phi(z)}\| + n \log \frac{1}{(1 - |\phi(z)|^2)} \right]$$

for all  $n \geq 0$  and  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Since  $\phi$  fixes the origin and is not a rotation, the Schwarz lemma guarantees that  $|\phi(z)| < |z|$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $\left|\frac{\phi(z)}{z}\right|^n \|K_{\phi(z)}\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for each  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $\left|\frac{\phi(z)}{z}\right|^n n \log \frac{1}{(1-|\phi(z)|^2)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  provided we assume  $0.\infty = 0$ .  $\square$

Engliš in [13] has shown that the set of all Toeplitz operators  $T_\phi, \phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  is dense in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  in strong operator topology. In fact, the result remains in force if we consider Toeplitz operators with symbols in any  $w^*$  dense subset of  $L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ . If  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{D})$  is the set of all infinitely differentiable functions on  $\mathbb{D}$  whose support is a compact subset of  $\mathbb{D}$  then the set  $\{T_\phi : \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{D})\}$  is strong operator topology dense in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . There is a natural intermediate function space between  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{D})$  and  $L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , namely  $C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ , the functions continuous on the closed unit disk  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ . Engliš also proved that [13], the norm closure of  $\{T_\phi : \phi \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})\}$  coincides with  $\{T_\phi : \phi \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})\} + \mathcal{LC}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . We shall show below that if  $\psi \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$  is harmonic and if  $C_\phi$  is neither the identity nor a compact operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  then  $T_\psi - C_\phi$  cannot be compact. Now fix a composition operator  $C_\phi$ , which is neither the identity nor compact and a Toeplitz operator  $T_\psi$  where  $\psi \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$  is harmonic and set  $\Delta = T_\psi - C_\phi$ . We claim  $\Delta$  is not compact. Assume  $\psi$  is not a.e. zero on  $\mathbb{T}$ , since otherwise  $T_\psi$  is the zero operator and then  $\Delta = -C_\phi$ , which we are assuming non compact. It is enough to show that the adjoint operator  $\Delta^* = T_\psi^* - C_\phi^*$  is not compact. Since  $k_a \rightarrow 0$  weakly as  $|a| \rightarrow 1^-$ , to show  $\Delta^*$  is not compact, it suffices to show that  $\{\|\Delta^* k_a\|\}$  does not converge to zero as  $|a| \rightarrow 1^-$ . In what follows we shall prove  $\{\langle \Delta^* k_a, k_a \rangle\}$  does not converge to zero. Now

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Delta^* k_a, k_a \rangle &= \left\langle T_\psi^* k_a, k_a \right\rangle - \left\langle C_\phi^* k_a, k_a \right\rangle \\ &= \langle \overline{\psi} k_a, k_a \rangle - (1 - |a|^2)^2 \langle K_{\phi(a)}, K_a \rangle \\ &= \widetilde{\psi}(a) - (1 - |a|^2)^2 K_{\phi(a)}(a) \\ &= \widetilde{\psi}(a) - \frac{(1 - |a|^2)^2}{(1 - \overline{\phi(a)}a)} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\widetilde{\psi}$  denotes the Berezin transform of  $\overline{\psi}$ . Since  $C_\phi$  is not the identity operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , the map  $\phi$  is not the identity on  $\mathbb{D}$ . By the “boundary uniqueness” property of bounded holomorphic functions [10], the set  $E = \{\xi \in \mathbb{T} : \phi(\xi) \neq \xi\}$  therefore has full measure:  $m(E) = 1$  where  $dm$  denotes the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{T}$  and  $\phi(\xi)$  denotes the radial limit of  $\phi$  at  $\xi$  (which exists at m.a.e. point of  $\mathbb{T}$ , see [10]). Since we have assumed  $\psi$  is not a.e. zero on  $\mathbb{T}$ , the set  $F = \{\xi \in \mathbb{T} : \psi(\xi) \neq 0\}$  has positive measure. Thus  $E \cap F$  has positive measure and in particular is not empty. Fix a point  $\xi \in E \cap F$ . We have as  $r \rightarrow 1^-$ ,  $\widetilde{\psi}(r\xi) \rightarrow \overline{\psi}(\xi) \neq 0$  and

$\frac{(1-r^2)^2}{(1-\phi(r\xi)r\xi)^2} \rightarrow \frac{0}{(1-\phi(\xi)\xi)^2} = 0$  (the denominator of the last function is not zero because  $\phi(\xi) \neq \xi$ ). Thus  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \langle \Delta^* k_{r\xi}, k_{r\xi} \rangle = \bar{\psi}(\xi) \neq 0$ , thus establishing that  $\Delta^*$  and therefore  $\Delta$  is not compact.

Let  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  denote the space of analytic functions on  $\mathbb{D}$  which are harmonic extensions of functions in  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . It is not very important to distinguish  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  from  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . For details see [33]. Hence in the sequel we shall always refer  $L_\phi$  as a Toeplitz operator on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  or  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  with symbol  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T})$ . Suppose  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$ . Then  $\phi$  induces a linear operator  $\mathcal{E}_\phi$  on the Hardy space  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  as follows :  $\mathcal{E}_\phi f = f \circ \phi$ . The operator  $\mathcal{E}_\phi$  is called the composition operator induced by  $\phi$  on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $L_z f = zf, z \in \mathbb{D}, f \in H^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

**Theorem 2.3** If  $\phi, \psi \in H(\mathbb{D})$ , then  $(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^{*n} (C_\phi \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi) \xrightarrow{s} 0$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2 \hat{\otimes} H^2)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , where  $L_z$  is the operator of multiplication by  $z$  on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Further,

$$(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^{*n} (C_\phi \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi) (U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$$

and

$$(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^{*n} (C_\phi^* \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi^*) (U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^n \xrightarrow{s} 0.$$

**Proof** The operator  $U_z$  is an unitary operator for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $L_z$  is an isometry on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Hence by [22],  $U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \hat{\otimes} H^2(\mathbb{D}))$  is an unilateral shift for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Hence  $(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^{*n} \xrightarrow{s} 0$  and  $\|(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)\| = \|U_z\| \|L_z\| = 1$ .

Further  $(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^{*n} (C_\phi \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi) (U_z \hat{\otimes} L_z)^n = (U_z^{*n} C_\phi U_z^n) \hat{\otimes} (L_z^{*n} \mathcal{E}_\psi L_z^n)$ . It follows from [27] that  $L_z^{*n} \mathcal{E}_\psi L_z^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$  and  $L_z^{*n} \mathcal{E}_\psi^* L_z^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$ . The result follows since  $\|U_z^{*n} C_\phi U_z^n\| \leq \|C_\phi\|$  for all  $n$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.4** Let  $q$  be an inner function in  $H^\infty(\mathbb{T})$  and  $L_q$  be the Toeplitz operator on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  with symbol  $q$  and  $\mathcal{E}_\psi$  be the composition operator with symbol  $\psi$  on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$ . If  $\phi, \psi \in H(\mathbb{D})$ , then  $(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_q)^{*n} (C_\phi \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi) \rightarrow 0$  in SOT in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \hat{\otimes} H^2(\mathbb{D}))$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Further,

$$(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_q)^{*n} (C_\phi \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi) (U_z \hat{\otimes} L_q)^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$$

and

$$(U_z \hat{\otimes} L_q)^{*n} (C_\phi^* \hat{\otimes} \mathcal{E}_\psi^*) (U_z \hat{\otimes} L_q)^n \xrightarrow{s} 0 \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

**Proof** The proof is similar to theorem 2.3, as  $L_q$  is an isometry on  $H^2(\mathbb{D})$  and it follows from [26] that  $L_q^{*n} \mathcal{E}_\psi L_q^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$  and  $L_q^{*n} \mathcal{E}_\psi^* L_q^n \xrightarrow{s} 0$  in  $\mathcal{L}(H^2(\mathbb{D}))$  for all inner functions  $q \in H^\infty(\mathbb{T})$ .  $\square$

Recall that  $\{e_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty = \{\sqrt{n+1}z^n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is an orthonormal basis for  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $\{u_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is an orthonormal basis for  $(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))^\perp$ . Reindexing the sequence  $\{u_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  by a subset of  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ , we obtain the collection  $f_{ij} (i \geq 1, j \in \mathbb{Z})$  which is an orthonormal

basis for  $(L^2_a(\mathbb{D}))^\perp$ . Thus  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  is the Hilbert space with an orthonormal basis formed by the vectors  $\{e_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  and  $\{f_{ij}\}_{i \geq 1, j \in \mathbb{Z}}$ .

Define the function  $r : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by  $r(k) = s$  whenever  $2^{s-1} \leq k < 2^s (k \geq 1, s \geq 1)$ .

Define  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA))$  by

$$\begin{aligned} Tf_{i,j} &= f_{i,j-1} \quad (i \geq 1, j \neq 0) \\ Tf_{i,0} &= 4^{-i} f_{i,-1} \quad (i \geq 1) \\ Te_j &= e_{j+1} \quad (j \notin \{3^k : k = 1, 2, \dots\}) \\ Te_{3^k} &= e_{3^k+1} + f_{r(k),3^k} \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $H_0 = L^2_a(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  and  $H_i = \vee \{f_{ij}, j \in \mathbb{Z}\}, i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Then  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^\infty H_i$ . In this decomposition  $T$  can be written in the matrix form as

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} S_0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ Q_1 & S_1 & 0 & \cdots \\ Q_2 & 0 & S_2 & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $S_0$  is the unilateral shift (forward shift) and  $S_i (i \geq 1)$  is a bilateral weighted shift. All weights of  $S_i (i \geq 1)$  but one are equal to 1 and these are ‘‘backward’’ shifts.

It can be verified similarly as in [25] that the operator  $T$  is a power bounded operator  $(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f\| < \infty)$  and  $T^n \xrightarrow{w} 0$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ . Since any two separable infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces are isometrically isomorphic, there is an unitary map  $U$  from  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$  onto  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ . Thus  $M = UTU^* \in \mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta))$  and  $M = UTU^*$  is power bounded and  $M^n = UT^nU^* \xrightarrow{w} 0$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta))$ .

**Theorem 2.5** If  $\phi, \psi \in H(\mathbb{D})$ , then as an operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ ,  $\{M^n C_\phi B^n\}$  converges to 0 in the strong operator topology and  $(B^n \hat{\otimes} M^n)(C_\phi \hat{\otimes} C_\psi) \rightarrow 0$  in the strong operator topology in  $\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta) \hat{\otimes} L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta))$ .

**Proof:** Since  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, d\eta) \subset L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ , the Berezin transform  $B$  is defined on the former space and

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(w)| &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(z) \frac{(1 - |w|^2)^2}{|1 - \bar{w}z|^4} dA(z) \right| \\ &\leq B(|f|)(w). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{D}} |\tilde{f}(w)| \frac{dA(w)}{(1 - |w|^2)^2} &\leq \int_{\mathbb{D}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(z)| \frac{(1 - |w|^2)^2}{|1 - \bar{w}z|^4} dA(z) \right) \frac{dA(w)}{(1 - |w|^2)^2} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(z)| \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{dA(w)}{|1 - \bar{w}z|^4} dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(z)| \frac{dA(z)}{(1 - |z|^2)^2}, \end{aligned}$$

the change of order of integration being justified by the positivity of the integrand. It follows that  $B$  is a contraction on  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ . The same is true for  $L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and from the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem it follows that  $B$  is a contraction on  $L^p(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . Further on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ ,  $Bf = F(\Delta_h)f$  where  $\Delta_h$  is the self adjoint operator given by  $\Delta_h = (1 - |z|^2)^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{z}}$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \frac{x}{n(n+1)} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{\pi x}{\sin \pi \left( \sqrt{x + \frac{1}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} \right)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the spectrum of  $B$  must be contained in  $[0,1]$ . Let  $E(\lambda)$  be the resolution of identity for the self adjoint operator  $B$ . Then

$$\|B^n f\|^2 = \int_0^1 |\lambda^n|^2 d\langle E(\lambda)f, f \rangle.$$

Hence by Lebesgue monotone convergence theorem,

$$\|B^n f\|^2 \rightarrow \|(I - E(1^-))f\|^2 = \|P_{\ker(B-I)}f\|^2.$$

Since there is no nonzero harmonic function in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$  and  $(B - I)g = 0$  implies  $g$  is harmonic in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ , hence  $\ker(B - I) = \{0\}$  and therefore  $\|B^n f\| \rightarrow 0$ . That is,  $B^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ . Since  $M^n$  is power bounded, there exists a constant  $k$  such that  $\|M^n\| \leq k$  for all  $n$ . Now for  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|M^n C_\phi B^n f\| &\leq \|M^n\| \|C_\phi\| \|B^n f\| \\ &\leq k \|C_\phi\| \|B^n f\| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $B^n \rightarrow 0$  strongly and  $\|M^n\| \leq k$ , hence by [22], the sequence  $\{B^n \hat{\otimes} M^n\} \rightarrow 0$  in strong operator topology in  $\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta) \hat{\otimes} L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta))$ . Thus

$$(B^n \hat{\otimes} M^n)(C_\phi \hat{\otimes} C_\psi) = (B^n C_\phi \hat{\otimes} M^n C_\psi) \rightarrow 0 \text{ in SOT as } n \rightarrow \infty. \square$$

Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L^2_a(\mathbb{D}))$ . We say  $T$  is power bounded if  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f\| < \infty$  for all  $f \in L^2_a(\mathbb{D})$ . If  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L^2_a(\mathbb{D}))$  is similar to a contraction, that is, if there exists an

invertible operator  $U \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  with  $\|UTU^{-1}\| \leq 1$ , then  $T$  is power bounded, for in this case

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^n\| &= \|U^{-1}UT^nU^{-1}U\| \\ &\leq \|U^{-1}\| \|UTU^{-1}\|^n \|U\| \\ &\leq \|U^{-1}\| \|U\| \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The converse is not true; a power bounded operator need not be similar to a contraction [17]. The operator  $C_\phi : L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  is an isometry [5] if and only if  $\phi$  is a rotation. Below we find conditions such that  $C_\phi$  is similar to an isometry.

**Proposition 2.6** (i) Let  $C_\phi$  be similar to a contraction on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and the set  $\{f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) : \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^+} \|(r-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}(r\xi - C_\phi)^{-1}f\| = 0 \text{ for every } \xi \in \mathbb{T}\}$  is dense in  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  then  $(C_a C_\phi C_a)^n \rightarrow 0$  and  $(U_a C_\phi U_a)^n \rightarrow 0$  in the strong operator topology in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ .

(ii) Let  $C_\phi \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  be such that the sequence  $\{\|C_\phi^n f\|\}_{n \geq 1}$  converges for every  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , and let  $B_\phi$  be the operator given by

$$\langle B_\phi f, g \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle C_\phi^{*n} C_\phi^n f, g \rangle, f, g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D}).$$

Then  $C_\phi$  is similar to an isometry if and only if  $B_\phi$  is invertible.

**Proof:**(i) The result follows from [31] as  $(C_a C_\phi C_a)^n = C_a C_\phi^n C_a$  and  $(U_a C_\phi U_a)^n = U_a C_\phi^n U_a$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $C_\phi$  is power bounded.

(ii) Suppose that  $C_\phi$  is similar to an isometry. Then there exists a positive invertible operator  $S \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  with  $\|S\| = 1$  such that  $C_\phi^* S C_\phi = S$ . Thus

$$\langle C_\phi^{*n} (I - S) C_\phi^n f, f \rangle \rightarrow \langle (B_\phi - S)f, f \rangle$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for every  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $I - S \geq 0$  we obtain  $B_\phi - S \geq 0$ . Thus  $B_\phi$  is invertible because  $S$  is positive and invertible in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . Conversely, if  $B_\phi$  is invertible then since  $C_\phi^* B_\phi C_\phi = B_\phi$ , we obtain  $C_\phi$  is similar to an isometry.  $\square$

The operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  is asymptotically regular if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f - T^{n+1} f\| = 0$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . If the convergence of this limit is uniform, that is,  $\|T^n - T^{n+1}\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we then say that  $T$  is uniformly asymptotically regular. The operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  is strongly stable if  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T^n f\| = 0$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . For  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , let  $m_a$  be the geodesic midpoint between 0 and  $a$ , that is,  $m_a = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - |a|^2}}{|a|^2} a$ .

**Lemma 2.7** For any  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , the operators  $C_a, U_a$  are not asymptotically regular and not uniformly asymptotically regular. Further, these operators are not strongly stable.

**Proof:** The points to note are the following :

(i)  $C_a f = f$  if and only if  $f = g\phi_{m_a}$  where  $g$  is an even function.

(ii)  $U_a f = f$  if and only if  $f = (g\phi_{m_a})k_{m_a}$ ,  $g$  is an even function.

For proof of these see [32]. Since  $C_a^2 = I$  and  $U_a^2 = I$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , hence there exists  $f, g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_a^n f - C_a^{n+1} f\| \neq 0$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_a^n g - U_a^{n+1} g\| \neq 0$ . It may be noted here that  $\|C_a^n - C_a^{n+1}\| = \|I - C_a\|$  and  $\|U_a^n - U_a^{n+1}\| = \|I - U_a\|$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  which does not tend to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Further,  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_a^n f\| = \|f\| \neq 0$ , if  $f = g\phi_{m_a}$ ,  $g$  even,  $g \neq 0$  and  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_a^n f\| = \|f\| \neq 0$  if  $f = (g\phi_{m_a})k_{m_a}$ ,  $g$  even,  $g \neq 0$ .  $\square$

The Berezin transform  $B$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$  has no nonzero fixed points [11] and  $B$  is strongly stable as by theorem 2.5,  $B^n \rightarrow 0$  in the strong operator topology on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)$ . But it is not known to authors if  $B$  is uniformly asymptotic regular. Further if  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  is such that  $H_\phi$  is a Hilbert schmidt operator then

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \|B^n \phi - B^{n+1} \phi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{D}, d\eta)}^2 \leq \|H_\phi\|_{HS}^2 < \infty.$$

For details see [2].

A power bounded operator  $T$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is called almost weakly stable if 0 is a weak accumulation point of every orbit  $\{T^n x : n \in \mathbb{N}\}, x \in H$ .

**Theorem 2.8** Let  $\phi, \psi \in H(\mathbb{D})$ . Then there exists a sequence of almost weakly stable unitary operators  $T_m$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and a sequence  $\{z_m\}_{m=1}^\infty$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  with  $|z_m| \rightarrow 1$  such that  $(U_{z_m} \hat{\otimes} T_m)(C_\phi \hat{\otimes} C_\psi) \xrightarrow{w} 0$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \hat{\otimes} L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . If  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1 - |z|^2}{1 - |\phi(z)|^2} = 0$  then  $(U_{z_m} \hat{\otimes} T_m)(C_\phi \hat{\otimes} C_\psi) \rightarrow 0$  in strong operator topology in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \hat{\otimes} L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ .

**Proof:** Since  $\text{span}\{k_z : z \in \mathbb{D}\}$  is dense in  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , it suffices to show that for all  $z, w \in \mathbb{D}$ , we have  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \langle U_{z_m} k_z, k_w \rangle = 0$ . Fix  $z, w \in \mathbb{D}$ . For  $m \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle U_{z_m} k_z, k_w \rangle &= (1 - |w|^2)(U_{z_m} k_z)(w) \\ &= (1 - |w|^2)k_z(\phi_{z_m}(w))k_{z_m}(w) \\ &= \frac{[(1 - |w|^2)(1 - |z|^2)(1 - |z_m|^2)]}{[(1 - \langle \phi_{z_m}(w), z \rangle)(1 - \langle w, z_m \rangle)]^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|\langle \phi_{z_m}(w), z \rangle| \leq |z|$  and  $|\langle w, z_m \rangle| \leq |w|$ , we obtain

$$|\langle U_{z_m} k_z, k_w \rangle| \leq \frac{(1 - |w|^2)(1 - |z|^2)(1 - |z_m|^2)}{(1 - |z|)^2(1 - |w|)^2}.$$

It then follows that  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \langle U_{z_m} k_z, k_w \rangle = 0$ . From [14], it also follows that there exists a sequence of almost weakly stable unitary operators  $T_m$  such that  $T_m \rightarrow I$  in norm in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . Thus from [22], it follows that  $(U_{z_m} \hat{\otimes} T_m) \xrightarrow{w} 0$ . Now if

$K$  is compact then  $KU_{z_m} \xrightarrow{s} 0$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . If  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  is analytic and  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1 - |z|^2}{1 - |\phi(z)|^2} = 0$ , then it is shown in [33], that  $C_\phi$  is compact and hence  $(U_{z_m} \hat{\otimes} T_m)(C_\phi \hat{\otimes} C_\psi) = U_{z_m} C_\phi \hat{\otimes} T_m C_\psi \rightarrow 0$  in SOT. This follows from [22].  $\square$

An operator  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is said to be quasinormal if  $A$  commutes with  $A^*A$ . Moreover  $A$  is said to be subnormal if there exists a normal operator  $Q$  on a Hilbert space  $K$  such that  $H$  is a subspace of  $K$ ,  $H$  is invariant under the operator  $Q$ , and the restriction of  $Q$  to  $H$  is  $A$ . The operator  $A$  is said to be hyponormal if and only if  $A^*A - AA^* \geq 0$ . The operator  $A$  is pure in case, the only subspace of  $H$  reducing  $A$  on which  $A$  is a normal operator is the zero subspace. It is well known that normal operators  $\subset$  quasinormal operators  $\subset$  subnormal operators  $\subset$  hyponormal operators. Excellent references on subnormal and hyponormal operators are [6] and [7].

If  $\Upsilon(z) = z + \lambda\bar{z}$ ,  $|\lambda| < 1$ , then the Toeplitz operator  $T_\Upsilon$  defined on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  is a pure hyponormal operator. To verify this let  $G$  be the smallest reducing subspace of  $T_\Upsilon$  which contains the image of the self-commutator of  $T_\Upsilon$ ,  $T_\Upsilon^*T_\Upsilon - T_\Upsilon T_\Upsilon^*$ . By direct computation  $T_\Upsilon^*T_\Upsilon - T_\Upsilon T_\Upsilon^* = (1 - |\lambda|^2)(T_{\bar{z}}T_z - T_zT_{\bar{z}})$ . But, for all  $i \geq 0$ ,  $(T_{\bar{z}}T_z - T_zT_{\bar{z}})(z^i) = \left(\frac{i+1}{i+2} - \frac{i}{i+1}\right)z^i$ . Since the polynomials are dense in  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , it follows that  $G = L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , and this will imply that  $T_\Upsilon$  is pure. Also, it is clear that  $T_\Upsilon$  is hyponormal.

Under a smoothness assumption, Kriete and Cowen [9] have given conditions on  $\phi$  that are necessary and sufficient that  $C_\phi^*$  be subnormal on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . For  $\phi$  an analytic map of the unit disk into itself, Cowen in [8] has shown that the subnormality of  $C_\phi^*$  on the Hardy space implies its subnormality on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

**Theorem 2.9** Let  $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  be analytic. If  $C_\phi^*$  is a hyponormal contraction on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  which is also pure then  $C_\phi^{*n} \rightarrow 0$  in SOT in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . Further, if for some  $\Upsilon \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , the Toeplitz operator  $T_\Upsilon$  is a pure hyponormal contraction, then  $T_\Upsilon^n C_\phi T_\Upsilon^{*n} \rightarrow 0$  in SOT.

**Proof** If  $C_\phi^*$  is a pure hyponormal contraction, then from [30] it follows that  $C_\phi^{*n} \rightarrow 0$  in SOT and if  $T_\Upsilon$  is a pure hyponormal contraction then for  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $\|T_\Upsilon^n C_\phi T_\Upsilon^{*n} f\| \leq \|T_\Upsilon\|^n \|C_\phi\| \|T_\Upsilon^{*n} f\| \leq \|C_\phi\| \|T_\Upsilon^{*n} f\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  $\square$

### 3. Intertwining Property of Composition Operators

In this section we discuss about some intertwining properties of composition operators and from it derive certain ergodicity properties of composition operators.

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $T, S \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  are power bounded and  $C_a T = S C_a$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ . Then  $T^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT if and only if  $S^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT. Further, if for

each nonincreasing subsequence of positive integers  $(n_j)$  and every  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  the limit  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N T^{n_j} f$  exists in norm topology then  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N S^{n_j} f$  exists for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

**Proof** Suppose  $T^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT. Then  $\langle T^n h, h' \rangle \rightarrow 0$  for all  $h, h' \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Thus for all  $h, k \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  we have,  $\langle S^n C_a h, k \rangle = \langle C_a T^n h, k \rangle = \langle T^n h, C_a^* k \rangle \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence  $S^n f \rightarrow 0$  weakly for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  as  $\text{Range } C_a = L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $S$  is power bounded, we have  $S^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT.

Conversely, suppose that  $S^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT. Then  $S^{*n} \rightarrow 0$  in WOT and  $C_a^* S^* = T^* C_a^*$ . Hence  $T^{*n} \rightarrow 0$  in WOT and so  $T^n \rightarrow 0$  in WOT.

Suppose  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N T^{n_j} f$  exists in the norm topology for each  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Then  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N S^{n_j} C_a f = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N C_a T^{n_j} f$  exists for each  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $\text{Range } C_a = L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and the sequence  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N T^{n_j}$  is bounded, the limit  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N S^{n_j} f$  exists for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .  $\square$

This result shows that the intertwining relations with the composition operators  $C_a, a \in \mathbb{D}$  is important in describing certain asymptotic properties of composition operators on Bergman space.

**Definition 3.2** A function  $g(x, \bar{y})$  on  $\mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{D}$  is called of positive type (or positive definite), written  $g \gg 0$ , if

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^n c_j \bar{c}_k g(x_j, \bar{x}_k) \geq 0 \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

for any n-tuple of complex numbers  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$  and points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{D}$ . We write  $g \gg h$  if  $g - h \gg 0$ . We shall say  $\gamma \in \mathcal{A}$  if  $\gamma \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and is such that

$$\gamma(z) = \Theta(z, \bar{z}) \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

where  $\Theta(x, \bar{y})$  is a function on  $\mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{D}$  meromorphic in  $x$  and conjugate meromorphic in  $y$ . It is a fact that (see [19],[21])  $\Theta$  as in (2), if it exists, is uniquely determined by  $\gamma$ . The function  $\Theta$  satisfies the condition  $(\star)$  if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$CK(x, \bar{y}) \gg \Theta(x, \bar{y})K(x, \bar{y}) \gg -CK(x, \bar{y}).$$

The function  $\gamma$  is said to satisfy the condition  $(\star\star)$ , if  $\gamma \in \mathcal{A}$  and if  $\gamma(z) = \Theta(z, \bar{z})$  as in (2), then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$\Theta_1(x, \bar{y}) = \Theta(x, \bar{y}) + \overline{\Theta(y, \bar{x})}$$

and

$$\Theta_2(x, \bar{y}) = i[\Theta(x, \bar{y}) - \overline{\Theta(y, \bar{x})}]$$

satisfy the condition  $(\star)$ .

The following theorem gives a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of a bounded linear operator  $T$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  with prescribed Berezin transform and is such that  $TC_a = C_aT$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ .

**Theorem 3.3** Let  $f \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ . Then  $f(w) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(\phi_z(w))dA(z)$  for all  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f$  satisfies  $(\star\star)$ , if and only if there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  such that  $\tilde{T}(z) = f(z)$  and  $C_aT = TC_a$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $f \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and  $f$  satisfies  $(\star\star)$ . Then by [11], there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  such that  $\tilde{T}(w) = \langle Tk_w, k_w \rangle = f(w)$  for all  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ . Now  $f(w) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(\phi_z(w))dA(z)$  implies

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Tk_w, k_w \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \langle Tk_{\phi_z(w)}, k_{\phi_z(w)} \rangle dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \langle U_z T U_z k_w, k_w \rangle dA(z) \\ &= \left\langle \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} U_z T U_z dA(z) \right) k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \langle \hat{T} k_w, k_w \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for all  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  where  $\hat{T} = \int_{\mathbb{D}} U_z T U_z dA(z)$ . From [11], it follows that  $T = \hat{T}$ . It is shown in [32] that if  $T = \hat{T}$  then  $TC_a = C_aT$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ . Conversely, if there exists  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  such that  $\tilde{T}(z) = f(z)$  and  $TC_a = C_aT$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , then  $\tilde{T} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  and  $\tilde{T}$  satisfies the condition  $(\star\star)$ . For details see [11]. Now since  $TC_a = C_aT$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  we have  $\hat{T} = T$ . For more details see [32]. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} f(w) &= \tilde{T}(w) \\ &= \langle Tk_w, k_w \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} U_z T U_z dA(z) \right) k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \langle U_z T U_z k_w, k_w \rangle dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \langle Tk_{\phi_z(w)}, k_{\phi_z(w)} \rangle dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \tilde{T}(\phi_z(w))dA(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(\phi_z(w))dA(z). \end{aligned}$$

The result follows.  $\square$

In the following theorem, we find conditions on  $C_\phi$  such that  $C_a C_\phi = C_\phi C_a^*$ .

**Theorem 3.4** Let  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $C_\phi$  be a positive composition operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . If  $C_\phi \leq Re(C_a C_\phi)$ , then  $C_a C_\phi C_a^* = C_\phi$  and hence  $C_a^n C_\phi C_a^{*n} \rightarrow C_\phi$  strongly. Further in this case  $\phi = go\phi_{m_a}$  where  $g$  is an even function.

**Proof:** For  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , by Heinz inequality [20], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle C_\phi f, f \rangle &\leq \langle Re(C_a C_\phi) f, f \rangle \\ &= Re \langle C_a C_\phi f, f \rangle \\ &\leq |\langle C_a C_\phi f, f \rangle| \\ &= \langle C_\phi f, C_a^* f \rangle \\ &\leq \langle C_\phi f, f \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}} \langle C_\phi C_a^* f, C_a^* f \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}} \dots\dots\dots(3). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\langle C_\phi f, f \rangle \leq \langle C_a C_\phi C_a^* f, f \rangle$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and thus

$$C_\phi \leq C_a C_\phi C_a^* \dots\dots\dots(4).$$

In addition to  $C_\phi \leq Re(C_a C_\phi)$ ; if  $C_\phi = C_a C_\phi C_a^*$  is assumed, then (3) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle C_\phi f, f \rangle &= Re \langle C_a C_\phi f, f \rangle \\ &= |\langle C_a C_\phi f, f \rangle| \\ &= \langle C_a C_\phi f, f \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , and hence  $C_\phi = C_a C_\phi$ . From (4), since  $C_a C_\phi C_a^* - C_\phi \geq 0$ , it follows that  $C_a(C_a C_\phi C_a^* - C_\phi)C_a^* \geq 0$ , that is  $C_a^2 C_\phi (C_a^*)^2 \geq C_a C_\phi C_a^*$ . Repeating this process  $n$  times, we have  $C_a^{n+1} C_\phi (C_a^*)^{n+1} \geq C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n$ . Thus,  $\{C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$  is an increasing sequence of positive operators. This sequence is bounded, since  $C_a^2 = I$ . Therefore, it converges to a positive operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , say  $S$ , in the strong operator topology. Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} C_a S C_a^* &= C_a \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n \right) C_a^* \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_a^{n+1} C_\phi (C_a^*)^{n+1} \\ &= S \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_a^{2n} C_\phi (C_a^*)^{2n} \\ &= C_\phi. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $C_a C_\phi C_a^* = C_\phi$  and therefore  $C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n \rightarrow C_\phi$  strongly as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . From  $C_\phi \leq \frac{(C_a C_\phi + C_\phi C_a^*)}{2}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n &\leq \frac{[C_a^n (C_a C_\phi + C_\phi C_a^*) (C_a^*)^n]}{2} \\ &= \frac{[C_a (C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n) + (C_a^n C_\phi (C_a^*)^n) C_a^*]}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

By letting  $n$  tends to  $\infty$ , we have  $S \leq \frac{C_a S + S C_a^*}{2} = Re(C_a S)$ . Thus  $S = C_a S$ . That is,  $C_\phi = C_a C_\phi$ . Hence for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $C_\phi f$  is a fixed point of  $C_a$ . In particular, taking  $f(z) = z$ , we obtain that  $C_\phi z = C_a C_\phi z$ . That is  $\phi = \phi \circ \phi_a$ . From [32], it follows that  $\phi = g \circ \phi_{m_a}$  where  $g$  is an even function.  $\square$

Let  $T$  be a contraction (that is, a linear operator of norm  $\leq 1$ ) on the Hilbert space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . For  $T \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ , by  $\mathcal{M}_T$  we shall denote the uniformly closed subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  generated by  $T$  and  $I$ . Let  $\mathbb{T} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$  and  $\sigma(T)$  denote the spectrum of  $T$ . Let  $\sigma_u(T) = \sigma(T) \cap \mathbb{T}$ , the unitary spectrum of  $T$ . By lemma 2.7, the operators  $C_a, U_a$  are neither strongly stable nor asymptotically regular. But the following holds:

**Theorem 3.5** Let  $C_\phi$  be a contraction on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Then if the Gelfand transform of  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{M}_{C_\phi}$  vanishes on  $\sigma_u(C_\phi)$ , then  $\|U_a C_\phi^n \Gamma C_a f\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .

**Proof:** Since  $C_\phi$  is a contraction on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , hence for every  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , the limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_\phi^n f\|$  exists and is equal to  $\inf_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|C_\phi^n f\|$ . Define an inner product on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  by the formula  $[f, g] = \langle B_\phi f, g \rangle$  where  $\langle B_\phi f, g \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle C_\phi^{*n} C_\phi^n f, g \rangle$ . It is easy to see that the limit on the right hand side exists. This induced a semi-norm on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  defined by  $p(f) = \langle B_\phi f, f \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Let  $E = \ker p$ . It is clear that  $E$  is a closed, invariant subspace of  $C_\phi$ . If  $E = L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , then there is nothing to prove. Hence, we may assume that  $E \neq L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Let  $J : L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow L_a^2(\mathbb{D})/E$  be the quotient mapping. Then the semi-norm  $p$  induces a norm  $\tilde{p}$  on  $K_0 = L_a^2(\mathbb{D})/E$  by  $\tilde{p}(Jf) = p(f)$  and we have  $\|Jf\| = (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_\phi^n f\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Let  $K$  be the completion of  $K_0$  with respect to the norm  $\tilde{p}$ . Define  $V_0 : K_0 \rightarrow K_0$  by  $V_0 J = J C_\phi$ . Since  $\|V_0 Jf\| \leq \|C_\phi\| \|Jf\|$ ,  $V_0$  extends to a bounded operator  $V$  on  $K$ . Then we have  $VJ = J C_\phi$ , where  $J : L_a^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow K$  has dense range. Also since  $[Vp(f), Vp(g)] = [p(f), p(g)], f, g \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $V$  is an isometry on  $K$ . Let  $\lambda \notin \sigma(C_\phi)$ . Since  $p((\lambda - C_\phi)^{-1} f) \leq \|(\lambda - C_\phi)^{-1}\| p(f), f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , it follows that  $\lambda \notin \sigma(V)$ . Thus  $\sigma(V) \subset \sigma(C_\phi)$ . Now assume  $V$  is an isometry but not unitary. Then  $\sigma(V) = \mathbb{D}$  and consequently,  $\sigma(C_\phi) = \mathbb{D}$ . Hence,  $\sigma_u(C_\phi) = \mathbb{T}$ . Let  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{M}_{C_\phi}$  be such that  $\hat{\Gamma}(\xi) \equiv 0$  on  $\sigma_u(C_\phi)$  where  $\hat{\Gamma}$  denote the Gelfand transform of  $\Gamma$ . Since  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{M}_{C_\phi}$ , there exists a sequence  $\{p_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of polynomials such that

$\|p_n(C_\phi) - \Gamma\| \rightarrow 0$  and  $p_n(z) \rightarrow 0$  uniformly on  $\mathbb{T}$ . By the Von-Neumann inequality,  $\|p_n(C_\phi)\| \leq \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{T}} |p_n(\xi)| \rightarrow 0$ , and so  $\Gamma = 0$ . Hence we may assume that  $V$  is a unitary operator. As above, there exists a sequence of polynomials  $\{p_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  such that  $\|p_n(C_\phi) - \Gamma\| \rightarrow 0$ . It follows that  $p_n(z) \rightarrow 0$  uniformly on  $\sigma_u(C_\phi)$ . Since  $\sigma(V) \subset \sigma_u(C_\phi)$ , we have  $\|p_n(V)\| \rightarrow 0$ . Now from the identity  $p_n(V)J = Jp_n(C_\phi)$ , we obtain that  $J\Gamma = 0$ . Hence we have that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|C_\phi^n \Gamma f\| = 0$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Since  $C_a^2 = I$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $U_a$  is a unitary operator and  $U_a^2 = I$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , we obtain  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_a C_\phi^n \Gamma C_a f\| = 0$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  and for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ .  $\square$

In the following theorem, we prove that if there is a self-adjoint composition operator  $C_\phi$  lying between the self-adjoint composition operator  $C_\psi$  and  $U_z C_\psi U_z$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and if either  $\sigma(C_\phi)$  or  $\sigma(C_\psi)$  is a null set with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  then  $C_\psi = C_\phi = U_z C_\psi U_z$ .

**Theorem 3.6** Let  $C_\phi$  and  $C_\psi$  be self-adjoint operators on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . If either  $\sigma(C_\phi)$  or  $\sigma(C_\psi)$  is a null set with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $C_\psi \leq C_\phi \leq U_z C_\psi U_z$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  then  $\mathcal{M}_z = \{(g \circ \phi_{m_z})k_{m_z} : g \text{ even}\}$  is a reducing subspace of  $U_z C_\psi U_z = C_\psi = C_\phi$  and if  $C_\psi \leq C_\phi \leq U_z C_\psi U_z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  then  $C_\psi = C_\phi = \alpha I$ . In both the cases  $U_z^n C_\psi U_z^n \rightarrow C_\psi$  strongly.

**Proof :** Without loss of generality, assume  $\sigma(C_\psi)$  is a null set with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Choose  $\lambda > 0$  such that  $C_\psi + \lambda I$  is positive and invertible. Let  $T = (C_\psi + \lambda I)^{\frac{1}{2}} U_z$ . Then by our assumption,  $TT^* \leq C_\phi + \lambda I \leq T^*T$  and  $|T| = U_z (C_\psi + \lambda I)^{\frac{1}{2}} U_z = U_z T$ . Thus  $T$  is a hyponormal operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Notice that  $\sigma(|T|)$  is a null set with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  because  $\sigma((C_\psi + \lambda I)^{\frac{1}{2}})$  is also a null set with respect to Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Now  $T = U_z |T|$  as  $U_z^2 = I$ . Since  $U_z^* = U_z$ ; thus  $U_z$  is a self-adjoint unitary operator and  $U_z \neq \pm I$ . This implies that the spectrum  $\sigma(U_z) = \{-1, 1\}$ . By [29],  $T$  is normal. Thus  $C_\psi = C_\phi = U_z C_\psi U_z$ . By the spectral decomposition, there exists a unique orthogonal projection  $P_z$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  such that  $U_z = P_z - P_z^\perp$ . Let  $M_z$  be the range of  $P_z$ . Thus  $U_z f = f$  if and only if  $P_z f = f$  for any  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . By [32],  $M_z = \{k_{m_z}(g \circ \phi_{m_z}) : g \text{ even}\}$ . Thus  $C_\psi U_z = U_z C_\psi$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  if and only if  $C_\psi P_z = P_z C_\psi$ . This is true if and only if  $M_z$  is a reducing subspace of  $C_\psi$ . If  $C_\psi = C_\phi = U_z C_\psi U_z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  then  $C_\psi U_z = U_z C_\psi$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , and therefore  $C_\psi = \alpha I$ . For details see [11].  $\square$

For  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{T}$  and  $f$  a function on  $\mathbb{D}$ , let  $(R_\epsilon f)(z) = f(\epsilon z)$ . Then  $R_\epsilon^{-1} = R_\epsilon^* = R_{\bar{\epsilon}}$  and  $R_\epsilon$  is an unitary operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ . Thus the transformation  $\Xi(T) = R_\epsilon^* T R_\epsilon$  is an isometry in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  since  $R_\epsilon$  is unitary. The map  $\Xi$  also maps compact operators onto the set of compact operators and it has the following

interesting properties.

**Theorem 3.7** (i) If  $\phi(z) = \alpha z, \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\psi(z) = \beta z, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$  then the following hold:  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n = C_\phi, R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi^* R_\epsilon^n = C_\phi^*, R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi C_\psi R_\epsilon^n = C_\phi C_\psi$  for all  $n, \epsilon \in \mathbb{T}$  and hence  $\{R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi^* R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi C_\psi R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  converges in norm to  $C_\phi, C_\phi^*, C_\phi C_\psi$  respectively as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(ii) If  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , then  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_{R_\epsilon^n \phi} \rightarrow C_\phi$  in norm as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(iii) If  $T_\phi, H_\phi, S_\phi$  are the Toeplitz, Hankel, little Hankel operators on the Bergman space  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  respectively with symbol  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , then the following hold:

$$R_\epsilon^{*n} T_\phi R_\epsilon^n = T_{R_\epsilon^{*n} \phi}, R_\epsilon^{*n} H_\phi R_\epsilon^n = H_{R_\epsilon^{*n} \phi}, R_\epsilon^{*n} S_\phi R_\epsilon^n = S_{R_\epsilon^{*n} \phi}$$

for all  $n$  and therefore

$$\{R_\epsilon^{*n} T_{R_\epsilon^n \phi} R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{R_\epsilon^{*n} H_{R_\epsilon^n \phi} R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty, \{R_\epsilon^{*n} S_{R_\epsilon^n \phi} R_\epsilon^n\}_{n=0}^\infty$$

converges in norm to  $T_\phi, H_\phi, S_\phi$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  respectively.

**Proof:**(i) Since for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}, f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$

$$\begin{aligned} (R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(z) &= (C_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(\bar{\epsilon}^n z) \\ &= (R_\epsilon^n f \circ \phi)(\bar{\epsilon}^n z) \\ &= (R_\epsilon^n f)(\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^n z)) \\ &= (R_\epsilon^n f)(\alpha \bar{\epsilon}^n z) \\ &= f(\epsilon^n \alpha \bar{\epsilon}^n z) \\ &= f(\alpha z) \\ &= (f \circ \phi)(z) \\ &= (C_\phi f)(z) \end{aligned}$$

hence  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n = C_\phi$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi^* R_\epsilon^n = C_\phi^*$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n \rightarrow C_\phi$  in norm as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi^* R_\epsilon^n \rightarrow C_\phi^*$  in norm as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Further

$$\begin{aligned} R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi C_\psi R_\epsilon^n &= R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\phi R_\epsilon^n R_\epsilon^{*n} C_\psi R_\epsilon^n \\ &= C_\phi C_\psi \end{aligned}$$

for all  $n$ . Hence  $\{R_\epsilon^{*n}C_\phi C_\psi R_\epsilon^n\}$  converges in norm to  $C_\phi C_\psi$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(ii) Since

$$\begin{aligned} (R_\epsilon^{*n}C_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f)(z) &= C_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f(\bar{\epsilon}^nz) \\ &= (f \circ R_\epsilon^n\phi)(\bar{\epsilon}^nz) \\ &= f(R_\epsilon^n\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)) \\ &= f(\phi(\epsilon^n\bar{\epsilon}^nz)) \\ &= f(\phi(z)) \\ &= (C_\phi f)(z) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , hence  $R_\epsilon^{*n}C_{R_\epsilon^n\phi} = C_\phi$  for all  $n$  and  $R_\epsilon^{*n}C_{R_\epsilon^n\phi} \rightarrow C_\phi$  in norm as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(iii) For  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $(R_\epsilon^{*n}T_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(z) = (T_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (T_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(\bar{\epsilon}^nz) &= P(\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)f(z)) \\ &= P((R_\epsilon^n\phi)f)(z) \\ &= (T_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f)(z). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $(R_\epsilon^{*n}T_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(z) = (T_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f)(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and therefore  $R_\epsilon^{*n}T_\phi R_\epsilon^n = T_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}$  on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and

$$R_\epsilon^{*n}T_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}R_\epsilon^n = T_{R_\epsilon^n R_\epsilon^n\phi} = T_\phi.$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} (R_\epsilon^{*n}H_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(z) &= (H_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(\bar{\epsilon}^nz) \\ &= (I - P)(\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)f(z)) \\ &= (H_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f)(z) \end{aligned}$$

and the result follows. If  $S_\phi$  is the little Hankel operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ , we proceed similarly. For  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (R_\epsilon^{*n}S_\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(z) &= S_\phi R_\epsilon^n f(\bar{\epsilon}^nz) \\ &= PJ((\phi R_\epsilon^n f)(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)) \\ &= PJ(\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)R_\epsilon^n f(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)) \\ &= PJ(\phi(\bar{\epsilon}^nz)f(z)) \\ &= (S_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}f)(z). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $R_\epsilon^{*n}S_\phi R_\epsilon^n = S_{R_\epsilon^n\phi}$  and therefore  $R_\epsilon^{*n}S_\phi R_\epsilon^n \rightarrow S_\phi$  in norm as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  $\square$

If  $n$  is a nonnegative integer and  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , the function  $K_z^{(n)}(w) = \frac{1}{(1-\bar{z}w)^{2+n}}$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  is the reproducing kernel of  $z$  in the weighted Bergman space  $L_a^2(dA_n)$ , where

$$dA_n(w) = (n + 1)(1 - |w|^2)^n dA(w).$$

The  $n$ -Berezin transform of an operator  $S \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  is defined as

$$(B_n S)(z) = (n + 1)(1 - |z|^2)^{2+n} \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (-1)^j \left\langle S(w^j K_z^{(n)}), w^j K_z^{(n)} \right\rangle.$$

It is clear that  $B_n S \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$  for every  $S \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ . Using the fact that

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (-1)^j |w|^{2j} = (1 - |w|^2)^n,$$

we see that if  $S = T_\phi$  with  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (B_n \phi)(z) &= (B_n T_\phi)(z) \\ &= (n + 1)(1 - |z|^2)^{2+n} \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (-1)^j \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{\phi(w) |w|^{2j}}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^{2(2+n)}} dA(w) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \phi(w) \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^{2+n}}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^{2(2+n)}} (n + 1)(1 - |w|^2)^n dA(w) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{D}} \phi(\phi_z(\rho)) (n + 1)(1 - |\rho|^2)^n dA(\rho), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality comes from the change of variables  $w = \phi_z(\rho)$ . Notice that  $\|B_n(\phi)\|_\infty \leq \|\phi\|_\infty$  for all  $\phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ . The 0-Berezin transform of an operator is the usual Berezin transform, which has been extensively used in this work. The  $n$ -Berezin transforms of functions (not necessarily bounded) were introduced by Berezin in [4]. It is not difficult to verify that for  $S \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  and  $n \geq 0$ ;

$$(n + 2)(1 - |z|^2) B_n (S - T_{\bar{w}} S T_w)(z) = (n + 1) B_{n+1} (T_{1-\bar{w}z} S T_{1-w\bar{z}})(z)$$

for every  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $\|B_n S\|_\infty \leq (n + 2)2^n \|S\|$ .

In the following theorem we use the concept of  $n$ -Berezin transform to describe an intertwining property of composition operators. This theorem can be compared with theorem 3.3. For  $\phi \in L^\infty(D, dA)$ , we define a function  $\widehat{\phi}$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  as follows:

$$\widehat{\phi}(z) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \phi(\phi_w(z)) dA(w).$$

This should not be confused with the Berezin transform defined previously. As one can verify, the function  $\widehat{\phi}$  differs spectacularly from  $B\phi$  for harmonic functions  $\phi$ .

**Theorem 3.8** Let  $C_\phi$  be a composition operator on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and suppose there is  $p > 3$  such that

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} \|T_{(B_n C_\phi) \circ \phi_z} 1\|_p < C \text{ and } \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} \|T_{(B_n C_\phi) \circ \phi_z}^* 1\|_p < C \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

where  $C > 0$  is independent of  $n$ . Then  $C_a C_\phi C_a = C_\phi$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{D}$  if and only if  $\tilde{C}_\phi(w) = \tilde{\psi}(w)$  where  $\psi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{B_n C_\phi}$  for all  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ .

**Proof :** Let  $C_\phi \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  and satisfies the condition (5). It follows from [28] that,  $T_{B_n C_\phi} \rightarrow C_\phi$  in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  norm. It is shown in [32] that  $C_a C_\phi C_a = C_\phi$  if and only if  $\tilde{C}_\phi(w) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \langle U_z C_\phi U_z k_w, k_w \rangle dA(z)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{C}_\phi(w) &= \left\langle \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} U_z C_\phi U_z dA(z) \right) k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} U_z \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{B_n C_\phi} \right) U_z dA(z) \right) k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\langle \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} (U_z T_{B_n C_\phi} U_z) dA(z) \right) k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\langle T_{\widehat{B_n C_\phi}} k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle T_{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{B_n C_\phi}} k_w, k_w \right\rangle \\ &= B \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{B_n C_\phi} \right) (w) \\ &= B(\psi)(w) = \tilde{\psi}(w) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{B_n C_\phi}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.9** If  $C_\phi \in \mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$  and there exists a sequence  $\{\psi_n\}$  such that  $T_{\psi_n} \rightarrow C_\phi$  strongly then there exists a sequence  $\{\phi_n\}$  such that  $T_{\phi_n} \rightarrow C_\phi$  strongly and  $T_{\phi_n}^* \rightarrow C_\phi^*$  strongly in  $\mathcal{L}(L_a^2(\mathbb{D}))$ .

**Proof:** It is well known [18] that if  $\{A_n\}$  is a sequence of operators on a Hilbert space  $H$  and  $A_n \rightarrow A$  in strong operator topology, then there exists  $\{B_n\}, B_n = \sum_{k=1}^{m_n} \gamma_k A_k$  such that  $\gamma_k \geq 0, \sum \gamma_k = 1, B_n \rightarrow A$  strongly and  $B_n^* \rightarrow A_n^*$  strongly. The corollary is a direct consequence of this.  $\square$

#### 4. Applications

The applications of these asymptotic results and the intertwining property of composition operators in this article are manifold (see [3],[16],[27]). We shall present here only one application of these results relating to distances between the unitary operator  $U_a$  and  $C_\phi, a \in \mathbb{D}$ . Notice that if  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  (the space of all holomorphic functions from  $\mathbb{D}$  into itself)  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , then  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| < 1$  implies the operator  $C_\phi$  is invertible. This is so for the following reasons : since  $U_a$  is unitary and  $U_a^2 = I$  hence  $\|I - U_a C_\phi\| = \|U_a^2 - U_a C_\phi\| = \|U_a - C_\phi\| < 1$ . Thus  $U_a C_\phi$  is invertible and therefore  $C_\phi = U_a(U_a C_\phi)$  is invertible. This implies  $\phi$  is conformal [24]. The following is also true.

**Theorem 4.1** (i) Let  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  be conformal and  $(x_n)$  be a sequence of real

numbers such that  $x_n = o(1)$ . Suppose  $\|U_a f - rT_{B_n C_\phi} f\| < 1 + x_n$  for some real number  $r > 1$  and for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| < 1$ .

(ii) Let  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  be a rotation, that is,  $\phi(z) = \alpha z, |\alpha| = 1$ . Suppose  $(x_n)$  is a sequence of real numbers such that  $x_n = o(1)$ . If  $\|U_a f - T_{B_n C_\phi} f\| = 2 + x_n$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  then  $U_a + C_\phi$  is not invertible.

**Proof:**(i) Suppose  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  is conformal and  $\|U_a f - rT_{B_n C_\phi} f\| = 1 + x_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ . Then  $C_\phi$  is invertible [24] and since  $T_{B_n C_\phi} \rightarrow C_\phi$  in strong operator topology, we have for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|U_a f - rC_\phi f\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_a f - rT_{B_n C_\phi} f\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + x_n) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\|U_a - rC_\phi\| = 1$ . By [23], 0 is not in the approximate point spectrum of the operator  $rC_\phi = \|U_a - rC_\phi\|U_a + (rC_\phi - U_a)$  if and only if  $\|(r-1)U_a - (rC_\phi - U_a)\| < (r-1) + \|rC_\phi - U_a\| = r$ . Hence,  $r\|U_a - C_\phi\| = \|rU_a - rC_\phi\| = \|(r-1)U_a - (rC_\phi - U_a)\| < r$  and so  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| < 1$ . This proves (i). For proof of (ii), let  $\phi \in H(\mathbb{D})$  be a rotation. By [5], this implies  $C_\phi$  is an isometry on  $L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and so  $\|C_\phi\| = 1$ . Let  $r > 1 = \|C_\phi\|$  and  $W = \frac{U_a + C_\phi}{r}$ . Then  $C_\phi = rW - U_a$  and  $\|U_a - rW\| = \|C_\phi\| = 1$ . Proceeding as in (i), one can show that  $W = \frac{U_a + C_\phi}{r}$  is not invertible if and only if  $\|U_a - \frac{U_a + C_\phi}{r}\| \geq 1$ . That is, if and only if  $\|(r-1)U_a - C_\phi\| = r$ . Equivalently, if and only if  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| = 1 + \|C_\phi\| = 2$ . Thus we have shown that  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| = 2$  if and only if  $U_a + C_\phi$  is not invertible. In (ii), it is given that  $\|U_a f - T_{B_n C_\phi} f\| = 2 + x_n$  for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$  and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $T_{B_n C_\phi} \rightarrow C_\phi$  in strong operator topology, hence for all  $f \in L_a^2(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $\|U_a f - C_\phi f\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|U_a f - T_{B_n C_\phi} f\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2 + x_n) = 2$ . That is,  $\|U_a - C_\phi\| = 2$  and hence  $U_a + C_\phi$  is not invertible.  $\square$

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