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## PRODUCTS OF TOEPLITZ OPERATORS ON THE BERGMAN SPACES $A_\alpha^2$

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We give a sufficient and a necessary condition for the product of Toeplitz operators  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$ ,  $f, g$  analytic, to be bounded on the weighted Bergman space  $L_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, (1 - |z|^2)^\alpha dA)$ . We also show that the only compact product of weighted Toeplitz operators is the trivial one.

### §1. Introduction

Let  $dA$  denote Lebesgue area measure on the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ , normalized so that the measure of  $\mathbb{D}$  equals 1, and, for  $\alpha > -1$ , let  $dA_\alpha$  denote the measure  $dA_\alpha(z) = (\alpha + 1)(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha dA(z)$ . For  $1 \leq p < +\infty$  the space  $L^p(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  is a Banach space. The (weighted) Bergman space  $A_\alpha^2$  is the closed subspace of analytic functions in the Hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ . We write  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\alpha$  for the inner product on  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ .

Let  $P^\alpha$  denote the orthogonal projection from  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  onto  $A_\alpha^2$ . For each  $f$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ , we have a densely defined Toeplitz operator with symbol  $f$ , given by

$$T_f^\alpha(u) = P^\alpha(fu).$$

If the function  $f$  is analytic (or even harmonic), then it is easy to see that the Toeplitz operator  $T_f^\alpha$  is bounded if and only if  $f$  is an essentially bounded function on  $\mathbb{D}$ . In general, the boundedness of  $f$  is easily seen to be sufficient to guarantee the boundedness of the operator  $T_f^\alpha$ , but it is not, in fact, always necessary (see §2).

We shall consider here the question of when, for analytic functions  $f$  and  $g$ , the product  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  extends to a bounded linear operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ .

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*Key words:* weighted Bergman spaces, Toeplitz operators, reproducing kernel thesis.

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This question is motivated by two conjectures of Sarason [S] (see §2) and by results of Stroethoff and Zheng [StZh1] (see Theorem 2.1 in this paper) and of Nazarov [N1]. We shall see that the results of Stroethoff and Zheng can be extended to (and perhaps be more naturally understood in the context of) the weighted Bergman spaces  $A_\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > -1$ . The weighted Bergman spaces  $A_\alpha^2$  provide a natural setting for a simultaneous generalization of Sarason’s two conjectures.

The second motivation for this paper is, more generally, the idea of the “reproducing kernel thesis” [HaNik], namely the question whether certain classes of operators on reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces can be understood by studying their behavior on the reproducing kernel. Our Berezin transform condition can be understood as such a reproducing kernel condition.

### §2. Principal results and their motivation

It is well known that the space  $A_\alpha^2$  is a reproducing kernel Hilbert space on  $\mathbb{D}$ , with reproducing kernels

$$k_z^\alpha(w) = \frac{1}{(1 - w\bar{z})^{2+\alpha}},$$

that is,

$$f(z) = \langle f, k_z^\alpha \rangle_\alpha \quad (z \in \mathbb{D}, f \in A_\alpha^2).$$

Let  $P^\alpha$  denote the orthogonal projection from  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  onto  $A_\alpha^2$ . Then

$$(P^\alpha f)(z) = \langle f, k_z^\alpha \rangle_\alpha = \int_{\mathbb{D}} f \bar{k}_z^\alpha dA_\alpha \quad (z \in \mathbb{D}, f \in A_\alpha^2).$$

Thus, if  $g \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  is such that the Toeplitz operator  $T_g^\alpha$  defined in § 1 is bounded, then

$$T_g^\alpha(u)(w) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{g(z)u(z)}{(1 - w\bar{z})^{2+\alpha}} dA_\alpha(z). \tag{1}$$

In fact, for any  $g \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  and  $u \in A_\alpha^2$ , the function  $T_g^\alpha(u)$  thus defined is a well-defined analytic function on the unit disk.

But so far, there seems to exist no satisfactory characterization of those  $g$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  for which the operator defined in (1) is bounded.

However, there are several partial results, for which we need to introduce some notation. For  $\alpha > -1$  and  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ , let  $B_\alpha$  denote the (weighted) Berezin transform of  $f$ , which is defined by

$$B_\alpha f(w) = \langle f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha, \tilde{k}_w^\alpha \rangle_\alpha = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |w|^2)^{\alpha+2}}{|1 - w\bar{z}|^{4+2\alpha}} f(z) dA_\alpha(z) \quad (w \in \mathbb{D}).$$

If  $f$  is a positive function, then the operator  $T_f^\alpha$  defined in (1) is bounded if and only if the function  $B_\alpha(f)$  is. This result is not true for general  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ . Indeed, F. Nazarov has shown that there exist functions in  $A_0^2$  such that

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} \|T_f^0 \tilde{k}_z^0\| < \infty, \quad (2)$$

but  $T_f^0$  is not a bounded operator [N2].

Our work here follows the attempt to understand the boundedness of Toeplitz operators via the boundedness of their Berezin transforms. We find a relationship between the boundedness of the product of two Toeplitz operators  $T_f^\alpha$  and  $T_g^\alpha$  on  $A_\alpha^2$  and the boundedness of the product of the weighted Berezin transforms of  $|f|^2$  and  $|g|^2$ .

D. Sarason made the following two conjectures concerning products of Toeplitz operators on the Hardy space  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  and on the unweighted Bergman space  $A^2$ . For  $u, g \in H^2(\mathbb{T})$ , the Toeplitz operator  $T_{\bar{g}}$  acting on  $u$  is pointwise defined by

$$T_{\bar{g}}u(w) = \langle \bar{g}u, k_w \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{\bar{g}(\xi)u(\xi)}{1 - \xi w} d\xi \quad (w \in \mathbb{D}), \quad (3)$$

where  $k_w(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \bar{w}z}$  is the reproducing kernel in  $w$  for  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ . This can in some sense be regarded as the limit case of (1) for  $\alpha \rightarrow -1$ .

Sarason asked in [S] for which analytic functions  $f$  and  $g$  on  $\mathbb{D}$  the operator  $T_f T_{\bar{g}}$  extends to a bounded linear operator on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  and for which analytic  $f$  and  $g$  the operator  $T_f^0 T_{\bar{g}}^0$  extends to a bounded linear operator on  $A_0^2$ .

He conjectured that, in the case of the Hardy space, a necessary condition found by S. Treil, namely

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} \langle |f|^2 \tilde{k}_w, \tilde{k}_w \rangle \langle |g|^2 \tilde{k}_w, \tilde{k}_w \rangle < \infty, \quad (4)$$

where  $\tilde{k}_w = (1 - |w|^2)^{1/2} \frac{1}{1 - \bar{w}z}$  denotes the normalized reproducing kernels of  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ , is also sufficient. This question turned out to have close links with the question of boundedness of the two-weight Hilbert transform on  $L^2(\mathbb{T})$  [TVZh] and was recently answered in the negative by F. Nazarov [N1]. D. Zheng gave a slightly weaker sufficient condition in [Zh].

Furthermore, for the case of the unweighted Bergman space, Sarason conjectured that the necessary condition

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} \langle |f|^2 \tilde{k}_w^0, \tilde{k}_w^0 \rangle \langle |g|^2 \tilde{k}_w^0, \tilde{k}_w^0 \rangle = \sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_0(|f|^2)(w) B_0(|g|^2)(w) < \infty \quad (5)$$

was also sufficient for the boundedness of  $T_f^0 T_{\bar{g}}^0$  on  $A_0^2$ .

This conjecture is still open. However, the following theorem of Stroethoff and Zheng shows that (5) approximates sufficiency for the boundedness of the product of Toeplitz operators in the following sense.

**Theorem 2.1** ([StZh1, 5.1 and 5.2]). (1) *If  $f$  and  $g$  are in  $A_0^2$  and  $T_f^0 T_g^0$  is bounded, then*

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_0(|f|^2)(w) B_0(|g|^2)(w) < \infty.$$

(2) *If  $f$  and  $g$  are in  $A_0^2$  and there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that*

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_0(|f|^{2+\epsilon})(w) B_0(|g|^{2+\epsilon})(w) < \infty,$$

*then  $T_f^0 T_g^0$  is bounded.*

Here is our generalization of the Stroethoff–Zheng theorem to weighted Bergman spaces. Note that if  $\alpha > \gamma$ , then  $A_\gamma^2 \subset A_\alpha^2$ . Thus, for  $f \in A_\gamma^2$ ,  $T_f^\alpha$  is a densely defined operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** (1) *Let  $\gamma \in (-1, \infty)$ , and let  $f, g \in A_\gamma^2$ . If*

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w) B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w) < \infty,$$

*then for each  $\alpha > \gamma$ ,  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  determines a bounded linear operator  $A_\alpha^2 \rightarrow A_\alpha^2$ .*

(2) *Let  $\alpha \in (-1, \infty)$ , and let  $f, g \in A_\alpha^2$ . If  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha : A_\alpha^2 \rightarrow A_\alpha^2$  is bounded, then  $\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w) B_\alpha(|g|^2)(w) < \infty$ .*

As an immediate consequence concerning Sarason’s condition (4), we obtain

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $f, g \in H^2(\mathbb{T})$ , and suppose that (4) holds. Then for each  $\alpha > -1$ ,  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  determines a bounded linear operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ .*

Here, we have changed the Toeplitz operators together with the weighted Bergman spaces. Another option is to look at the fixed operator  $T_f^\gamma T_g^\gamma$ . Then we obtain the following result, which is in some sense opposite to Theorem 2.2.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $\gamma \in (-1, \infty)$ , and let  $f, g \in A_\gamma^2$ . If*

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w) B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w) < \infty,$$

*then*

$$T_f^\gamma T_g^\gamma : A_\alpha^2 \rightarrow A_\alpha^2$$

*is a bounded operator for  $\max\{-1, \gamma - 1\} < \alpha < \gamma$ .*

**Remark.** For the case where  $f = g$ , it is easily seen that the condition

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w) < \infty$$

for any  $\alpha > -1$  implies the boundedness of  $f$ , since

$$\|k_w\|_\alpha^2 |f(w)| = |\langle k_w f, k_w \rangle_\alpha| \leq \|k_w\|_\alpha \|k_w f\|_\alpha = \|k_w\|_\alpha^2 (B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w))^{1/2}. \quad (6)$$

**Remark.** It is easy to show that the analog of Zheng and Stroethoff's condition for  $\alpha > -1$ , namely

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\alpha(|f|^{2+\varepsilon})(w) B_\alpha(|g|^{2+\varepsilon})(w) < \infty \quad (7)$$

for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ , implies that

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_{\alpha-\delta}(|f|^2)(w) B_{\alpha-\delta}(|g|^2)(w) < \infty \quad (8)$$

for some  $\delta > 0$ . Therefore, by Theorem 2.2, Condition (7) implies that  $T_f T_{\bar{g}} : A_\alpha^2 \rightarrow A_\alpha^2$  is bounded.

Conversely, (8) implies, e.g. by the Carleson-type inequality (see Theorem A in [Lu, p. 86]), that (7) holds for  $\varepsilon/2 = \frac{2+\alpha}{2+\alpha-\delta} - 1$ . In this sense, our Theorem 2.2 is indeed a generalization of Theorem 2.1 to the standard scale of weighted Bergman spaces.

### §3. Introductory lemmas

As in [StZh1], we begin with a decomposition of the inner product in the space  $A_\alpha^2$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *For  $\alpha > -1$  and  $F, G \in A_\alpha^2$  we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{D}} F(z) \overline{G}(z) dA_\alpha(z) &= \left(\frac{\alpha+3}{\alpha+1}\right) \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|z|^2)^2 F(z) \overline{G}(z) dA_\alpha(z) \\ &+ \frac{1}{(\alpha+2)(\alpha+1)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|z|^2)^2 F'(z) \overline{G'}(z) dA_\alpha(z) \\ &+ \frac{1}{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+3)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|z|^2)^3 F'(z) \overline{G'}(z) dA_\alpha(z). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Since the weights are radial, the monomials form an orthonormal basis for  $A_\alpha^2$ , and it suffices to prove the identity for the monomials. But in this case, the identity follows from elementary properties of the Beta function defined by

$$\beta(m, n) = \frac{\Gamma(m)\Gamma(n)}{\Gamma(m+n)} = \int_0^1 u^{m-1}(1-u)^{n-1} du$$

(see, e.g., [M]). •

Note also that

$$\|z^n\|_\alpha^2 = (\alpha + 1)\beta(n + 1, \alpha + 1) \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \alpha > -1. \tag{9}$$

Now, let  $a$  and  $b$  be two real numbers. For  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , we define

$$P^{a,b}(f)(w) = (1 - |w|^2)^a \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^b}{|1 - w\bar{z}|^{2+a+b}} f(z) dA(z).$$

The theorem below (a special case of, e.g., [HKZ, Theorem 1.9]) will be used frequently in the following calculations.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Suppose  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers and  $\alpha > -1$ . Then, for  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $P^{a,b}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  if and only if  $-pa < \alpha + 1 < p(b + 1)$ .*

§4. Proof of the first part of Theorem 2.2

For  $\gamma \in (-1, \infty)$  and  $\alpha > \gamma$ , we establish a relationship between the boundedness of the product  $B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w)B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w)$  and the boundedness of the operator  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  acting on the space  $A_\alpha^2$ . First, we use the preceding results to get some estimates.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $\gamma \in (-1, \infty)$  and  $\alpha > \gamma$ . Suppose that  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ . Then for each  $h \in A_\alpha^2$  and  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  we have*

$$|(T_f^\alpha h)(w)| \leq \left(\frac{\alpha + 1}{\gamma + 1}\right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(1 - |w|^2)^{1+\frac{\epsilon}{2}}} (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|h\|_\alpha.$$

**Proof.** Let  $\epsilon = \alpha - \gamma$ . First we notice that, for any  $u, v \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\gamma)$ , we have

$$\langle u, v \rangle_\alpha = \frac{\alpha + 1}{\gamma + 1} \langle u, v(1 - |z|^2)^\epsilon \rangle_\gamma, \tag{10}$$

$$\|u\|_\gamma = \left(\frac{\gamma + 1}{\alpha + 1}\right)^{1/2} \|u(1 - |z|^2)^{-\frac{\epsilon}{2}}\|_\alpha, \tag{11}$$

and that

$$k_w^\alpha = \frac{1}{(1 - \bar{w}z)^\epsilon} k_w^\gamma. \tag{12}$$

Using (10) and (11), and then dividing by the norm of  $k_w^\gamma$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} |(T_f^\alpha h)(w)| &= \langle h, f k_w^\alpha \rangle_\alpha \\ &= \frac{\alpha + 1}{\gamma + 1} \left\langle h \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\epsilon}{(1 - w\bar{z})^\epsilon}, f k_w^\gamma \right\rangle_\gamma \\ &= \frac{\alpha + 1}{\gamma + 1} \frac{1}{(1 - |w|^2)^{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}} \left\langle h \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\epsilon}{(1 - w\bar{z})^\epsilon}, f \frac{k_w^\gamma}{\|k_w^\gamma\|} \right\rangle_\gamma. \end{aligned}$$

Then, using Hölder's inequality, (11), and a little division, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |(T_f^\alpha h)(w)| &\leq \frac{\alpha+1}{\gamma+1} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}} \left\| h \frac{(1-|z|^2)^\epsilon}{(1-w\bar{z})^\epsilon} \right\|_\gamma (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{\alpha+1}{\gamma+1} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}} \left\| h \frac{(1-|z|^2)^\epsilon (1-|w|^2)^{\frac{\epsilon}{2}}}{(1-w\bar{z})^\epsilon} \right\|_\gamma (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \left( \frac{\alpha+1}{\gamma+1} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}} \left\| h \frac{(1-|z|^2)^{\frac{\epsilon}{2}} (1-|w|^2)^{\frac{\epsilon}{2}}}{(1-w\bar{z})^\epsilon} \right\|_\alpha (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, since

$$\frac{(1-|z|^2)^{1/2} (1-|w|^2)^{1/2}}{|1-\bar{z}w|} \leq 1$$

we see that

$$|(T_f^\alpha h)(w)| \leq \left( \frac{\alpha+1}{\gamma+1} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}} \|h\|_\alpha (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad \bullet$$

Next, we present a bound for the values of the derivative of  $T_f^\alpha h$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $\alpha, \gamma \in (-1, \infty)$  with  $\alpha > \gamma$  and  $\epsilon = \alpha - \gamma$ , and let  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, A_\gamma)$ . Then for each  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  we have*

$$|(T_f^\alpha h)'(w)| \leq \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{(\gamma+1)^{1/2}} \frac{(B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}} (P^{0, 2\epsilon}(|h|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

**Proof.** By direct calculation,

$$\begin{aligned} |(T_f^\alpha h)'(w)| &= \left| (2+\alpha) \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{\bar{z}f(z)h(z)}{(1-\bar{z}w)^{3+\alpha}} dA_\alpha(z) \right| \\ &\leq (\alpha+2) \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|f(z)||h(z)|}{|1-\bar{z}w|^{3+\alpha}} dA_\alpha(z). \\ &= \frac{(\alpha+2)(\alpha+1)}{\gamma+1} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|f(z)||h(z)|(1-|z|^2)^\epsilon}{|1-\bar{z}w|^{2+\gamma}|1-\bar{z}w|^{1+\epsilon}} dA_\gamma(z). \end{aligned}$$



Now, with an obvious application of Hölder's inequality, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(T_f^\alpha h)'(w)| &\leq \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{\gamma+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|f(z)|^2}{|1-\bar{z}w|^{4+2\gamma}} dA_\gamma(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|h(z)|^2(1-|z|^2)^{2\epsilon}}{|1-\bar{z}w|^{2+2\epsilon}} dA_\gamma(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &= \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{(\gamma+1)^{1/2}} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}} (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|h(z)|^2(1-|z|^2)^{2\epsilon+\gamma}}{|1-\bar{z}w|^{2+2\epsilon}} dA(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &= \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{(\gamma+1)^{1/2}} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{1+\frac{\gamma}{2}}} (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &\quad \times (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|h|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}},
 \end{aligned}$$

which finishes the proof. •

Now we are ready to prove the first part of Theorem 2.2.

**Proof of 2.2 (1).** Let  $\gamma > -1$  and  $\alpha > \gamma$ , and let  $u$  and  $v$  be in  $A_\alpha^2$ . As in [StZh1], we use a decomposition of  $\langle T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha u, v \rangle_\alpha$  to show that  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  is bounded on  $A_\alpha^2$ . It follows from Lemma 3.1 that

$$\langle T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha u, v \rangle_\alpha = \langle T_g^\alpha u, T_f^\alpha v \rangle_\alpha = \text{I} + \text{II} + \text{III},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{I} &= \left( \frac{\alpha+3}{\alpha+1} \right) \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|w|^2)^2 (T_g^\alpha u)(w) \overline{(T_f^\alpha v)(w)} dA_\alpha(w), \\
 \text{II} &= \frac{1}{(\alpha+2)(\alpha+1)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|w|^2)^2 (T_g^\alpha u)'(w), \overline{(T_f^\alpha v)'(w)} dA_\alpha(w) \\
 \text{III} &= \frac{1}{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+3)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|w|^2)^3 (T_g^\alpha u)'(w) \overline{(T_f^\alpha v)'(w)} dA_\alpha(w).
 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $M = \sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w)B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w)$ . Using Lemma 4.1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I} &\leq \left(\frac{\alpha+3}{\gamma+1}\right) \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{(1-|w|^2)^2}{(1-|w|^2)^{2+\alpha}} \\ &\quad \times ((B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} ((B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq \left(\frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+3)}{(\gamma+1)}\right) \int_{\mathbb{D}} ((B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} ((B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq \left(\frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+3)}{(\gamma+1)}\right) M^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha, \end{aligned}$$

which takes care of the first term.

As for the second term, by Lemma 4.2, once again setting  $\epsilon = \alpha - \gamma$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II} &\leq \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{\gamma+1} \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^\gamma} (B_\gamma(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} (B_\gamma(|g|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|u|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|v|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq M^{1/2} \frac{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)}{\gamma+1} \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^\gamma} (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|u|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|v|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} dA_\alpha(w) \\ &= M^{1/2} \frac{(\alpha+1)^2(\alpha+2)}{\gamma+1} \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|w|^2)^\epsilon (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|u|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times (P^{0,2\epsilon}(|v|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} dA(w). \end{aligned}$$

So, applying Hölder's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II} &\leq M^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{(\alpha+1)^2(\alpha+2)}{(\gamma+1)(\alpha-\gamma+1)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{0,2\epsilon}(|u|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w) dA_\epsilon(w) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{0,2\epsilon}(|v|^2(1-|z|^2)^\gamma)(w) dA_\epsilon(w) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

But, by Theorem 3.2, the operator  $P^{0,2\epsilon}$  is bounded on  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\epsilon)$ , and so

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{0,2\epsilon}(|u|^2(1 - |z|^2)^\gamma)(w) dA_\epsilon(w) \\ & \leq \|P^{0,2\epsilon}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\epsilon)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (|u|^2(1 - |z|^2)^\gamma)(w) dA_\epsilon(w) \\ & = \frac{\alpha - \gamma + 1}{(\alpha + 1)^{1/2}} \|P^{0,2\epsilon}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\epsilon)} \|u\|_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{0,2\epsilon}(|v|^2(1 - |z|^2)^\gamma)(w) dA_\epsilon(w) \leq \frac{\alpha - \gamma + 1}{(\alpha + 1)^{1/2}} \|P^{0,2\epsilon}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\epsilon)} \|v\|_\alpha.$$

Thus,

$$\text{II} \leq M^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{(\alpha + 1)(\alpha + 2)}{(\gamma + 1)} \|P^{0,2\epsilon}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\epsilon)} \|v\|_\alpha \|u\|_\alpha.$$

An analogous estimate for III follows easily. This makes it clear that there exists a constant  $K$  such that

$$|\langle T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha u, v \rangle_\alpha| \leq K \|v\|_\alpha \|u\|_\alpha,$$

and the proof is finished. •

### §5. The second part of Theorem 2.2

To prove the second part of Theorem 2.2, first we introduce some notation. Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space, and let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ . Then we can define the bounded linear operator

$$M_T : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}), \quad A \mapsto T^*AT$$

(see, e. g., [VMü]). If  $T$  is a contraction, then so is  $M_T$ . In this case, we can observe that the Taylor expansion of the function  $x \mapsto (1 - x)^{\alpha+2}$  around 0,  $(1 - x)^{\alpha+2} = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \gamma_{\alpha,k} x^k$ , is absolutely convergent on the closed unit disk in  $\mathbb{C}$  for  $\alpha \geq -1$ , and we can use the obvious functional calculus to define the operator  $(1 - M_T)^{\alpha+2}$  by the equation

$$(1 - M_T)^{\alpha+2}(A) = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \gamma_{\alpha,k} (T^*)^k A (T)^k.$$

Now, let  $\alpha > -1$ , and let  $(e_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0}$  denote the standard orthonormal basis of  $A_\alpha^2$ , which consists of normalized monomials.

**Lemma 5.1.** *We have*

$$e_n = \beta_{\alpha,n}^{1/2} z^n,$$

where the  $\beta_{\alpha,n}$  denote the coefficients of the Taylor expansion of the function  $x \mapsto (1-x)^{-2-\alpha}$  around 0.

**Proof.** Integration by parts shows that  $\|z^n\|_{A_\alpha}^2 = \frac{n}{\alpha+2}\|z^{n-1}\|_{A_{\alpha+1}}^2$ , and differentiation shows that

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_{\alpha,n}^2 &= \frac{1}{n!} \left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^n (1-x)^{-\alpha-2}|_{x=0} \\ &= \frac{1}{n!} (\alpha+2) \left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^{n-1} (1-x)^{-(\alpha+1)-2}|_{x=0} = \frac{\alpha+2}{n} \beta_{\alpha+1,n-1}.\end{aligned}$$

The remainder follows by induction. •

For  $e, f \in A_\alpha^2$ , let  $e \otimes f$  denote the rank one operator given by  $h \mapsto \langle h, f \rangle e$ . Let  $\mathbf{1}$  denote the identity operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ .

**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $\alpha > -1$ . Then*

$$(1 - M_{T_{\bar{z}}^\alpha})^{\alpha+2}(\mathbf{1}) = e_0 \otimes e_0.$$

**Proof.** We can write  $\mathbf{1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,n} z^n \otimes z^n$  in the sense of a series convergent in the strong operator topology. Thus for  $h \in A_\alpha^2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle (1 - M_{T_{\bar{z}}^\alpha})^{\alpha+2}(\mathbf{1})h, h \rangle_\alpha &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} \left\langle (T_z^\alpha)^k \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,n} z^n \otimes z^n \right) (T_{\bar{z}}^\alpha)^k h, h \right\rangle_\alpha \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} \beta_{\alpha,n} \langle z^{n+k} \otimes z^{n+k} h, h \rangle_\alpha = \langle e_0 \otimes e_0 h, h \rangle_\alpha. \quad \bullet\end{aligned}$$

As usual, we let  $\phi_w$  denote the Möbius transformation  $\mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ ,  $z \mapsto \frac{w-z}{1-\bar{w}z}$ . We define the operator  $U_w^\alpha$  by

$$U_w^\alpha : A_\alpha^2 \rightarrow A_\alpha^2, \quad h \mapsto (h \circ \phi_w) \tilde{k}_w^\alpha. \quad (13)$$

Using the facts that

$$\tilde{k}_w^\alpha(\phi_w(z)) = \frac{1}{\tilde{k}_w^\alpha(z)} \quad (14)$$

and that

$$\int_{\mathbb{D}} f(\phi_w(z)) dA_\alpha(z) = \int_{\mathbb{D}} f(z) |\tilde{k}_w^\alpha(z)|^2 dA_\alpha(z), \quad (15)$$

it is easy to see that  $U_w^\alpha$  is unitary and that we have the intertwining relation

$$U_w^\alpha T_f^\alpha = T_{f \circ \phi_w}^\alpha U_w^\alpha \quad (16)$$

for a Toeplitz operator with analytic symbol  $f$ . This also means that

$$T_{\bar{g}}^\alpha (U_w^\alpha)^* = (U_w^\alpha)^* T_{g \circ \phi_w}^\alpha$$

for a Toeplitz operator with antianalytic symbol  $\bar{g}$ .

**Lemma 5.3.** *We have*

$$\tilde{k}_w^\alpha \otimes \tilde{k}_w^\alpha = (1 - M_{T_{\phi_w}})^{\alpha+2}(\mathbf{1}).$$

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{k}_w^\alpha \otimes \tilde{k}_w^\alpha &= (U_w^\alpha e_0) \otimes (U_w^\alpha e_0) = U_w^\alpha (e_0 \otimes e_0) U_w^{\alpha*} \\ &= U_w^\alpha \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} T_z^{\alpha k} T_{\bar{z}}^{\alpha k} \right) U_w^{\alpha*} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} T_{\phi_w}^{\alpha k} T_{\bar{\phi}_w}^{\alpha k} \\ &= (1 - M_{T_{\phi_w}})^{\alpha+2}(\mathbf{1}). \quad \bullet \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 5.4.** *If  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  determines a bounded linear operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ , then  $(T_f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) \otimes (T_g \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)$  is also bounded, and there exists an absolute constant  $K > 0$  such that*

$$\|(T_f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) \otimes (T_g \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)\| \leq K \|T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha\|.$$

**Proof.** Using commutativity of analytic Toeplitz operators, we find

$$\begin{aligned} (T_f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) \otimes (T_g \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} T_f^\alpha (T_{\phi_w}^\alpha)^k (T_{\bar{\phi}_w}^\alpha)^k T_g^\alpha \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,k} (T_{\phi_w}^\alpha)^k T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha (T_{\bar{\phi}_w}^\alpha)^k \\ &= (1 - M_{T_{\phi_w}^\alpha})^{\alpha+2} (T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha). \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Since  $M_{T_{\phi_w}^\alpha}$  is a contraction on  $\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2)$  and  $(1-x)^{\alpha+2}$  has an absolutely convergent power series expansion on the closed unit disk, it follows that  $(1 - M_{T_{\phi_w}^\alpha})^{\alpha+2}$  is a bounded operator on  $\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2)$ , and therefore, letting  $K = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\gamma_{\alpha,k}|$ , we have

$$\|(1 - M_{T_{\phi_w}^\alpha})^{\alpha+2} (T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha)\| \leq K \|T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha\|. \quad \bullet$$

**Proof of Theorem 2.2(2).** The reverse direction of Theorem 2.2 is an easy consequence of Lemma 5.4, because if  $f, g \in A_\alpha^2$  and  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w))^{1/2} (B_\alpha(|g|^2)(w))^{1/2} &= \|f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha\|_\alpha \|g \tilde{k}_w^\alpha\|_\alpha \\ &= \|T_f^\alpha \tilde{k}_w^\alpha\|_\alpha \|T_g^\alpha \tilde{k}_w^\alpha\|_\alpha = \|(T_f \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) \otimes (T_g \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)\| \leq K \|T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha\|. \quad \bullet \end{aligned}$$

Formally inverting identity (17), we obtain the following description of  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  on  $A_\alpha^2$ . As before, let  $\beta_{\alpha,k}$  denote the  $k$ th Taylor coefficient of  $x \mapsto (1-x)^{-\alpha-2}$  at  $x = 0$ .

**Proposition 5.5.** *Let  $f, g \in A_\alpha^2$ .  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  determines a bounded linear operator on  $A_\alpha^2$  if and only if the series*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} f \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha \otimes g \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha$$

*converges in the strong operator topology of  $\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2)$  for some (and equivalently, for all)  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ . In this case,*

$$T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} f \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha \otimes g \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} f z^k \otimes g z^k \quad \text{for all } w \in \mathbb{D}.$$

**Proof.** Suppose  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  determines a bounded linear operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ . Since  $(\beta_{\alpha,k}^{1/2} \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0} = (U_w^\alpha \beta_{\alpha,k}^{1/2} z^k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}_0}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $A_\alpha^2$  for each  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  by Lemma 5.1, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} T_f T_g h &= T_f \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} (z^k \otimes z^k) T_g h \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} (f z^k \otimes g z^k) h = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{\alpha,k} (f \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha \otimes g \phi_w^k \tilde{k}_w^\alpha) h \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

for each  $h \in A_\alpha^2$  and for each  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ . Conversely, the convergence of the last sum in (18) for each  $h \in A_\alpha^2$  and some fixed  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  implies the boundedness of  $T_f T_g$  by the Banach–Steinhaus theorem. •

We proceed to the proof of Corollary 2.3. Note that, as in (13),

$$U_w : H^2(\mathbb{T}) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{T}), \quad h \mapsto (h \circ \phi_w) \tilde{k}_w$$

determines a unitary operator on  $H^2(\mathbb{T})$  for each  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , which satisfies the intertwining relation

$$U_w T_f = T_{f \circ \phi_w} U_w \quad (19)$$

for each analytic  $f$ .

**Proof of Corollary 2.3.** It suffices to show that

$$B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w) \leq \langle |f|^2 \tilde{k}_w, \tilde{k}_w \rangle = \|T_f \tilde{k}_w\|^2 \quad (20)$$

for all  $\alpha > -1$ ,  $f \in H^2(\mathbb{T})$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , since in this case condition (4) implies

$$\sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w) B_\alpha(|g|^2)(w) < \infty$$

for all  $\alpha > -1$ . Since

$$B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w) = \|T_f^\alpha \tilde{k}_w^\alpha\|_\alpha^2 = \|T_{f \circ \phi_w}^\alpha k_0^\alpha\|_\alpha^2 = B_\alpha(|f \circ \phi_w|^2)(0)$$

and

$$\langle |f|^2 \tilde{k}_w, \tilde{k}_w \rangle = \|T_f \tilde{k}_w\|^2 = \|T_{f \circ \phi_w} k_0\|^2$$

for all  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $f \in H^2$ , by the intertwining relations (16) and (19), it suffices to check (20) for  $w = 0$ , in which case  $\tilde{k}_w^\alpha$  and  $\tilde{k}_w$  are constantly 1. Relation (20) now follows simply from the contractive embedding  $H^2(\mathbb{T}) \subset A_\alpha^2$ . •

Finally, as in [StZh1], we can use our results to show that the only compact product of Toeplitz operators on a weighted Bergman space is the trivial one. First, we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $A$  be a compact operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ , and suppose that  $w_n \rightarrow \eta$  where  $\eta$  is a point on the unit circle  $\mathbb{T}$ . Then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|(1 - M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^\alpha)^{\alpha+2}(A)\|_\alpha = 0. \quad (21)$$

**Proof.** Using exactly the same argument as in the proof of [StZh1, Lemma 6.1], we show that if  $A$  is any compact operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ , then

$$\|M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^\alpha(A) - A\|_\alpha \rightarrow 0 \quad (22)$$

as  $w_n \rightarrow \eta \in \mathbb{T}$ . Now, using equation (22), we easily see that

$$\|M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^k(A) - A\|_\alpha \rightarrow 0 \quad (23)$$

for each compact  $A$  and each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . So, writing

$$\begin{aligned} \|(1 - M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^\alpha)^{\alpha+2}(A)\|_\alpha &= \left\| \left( \mathbf{1} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{(\alpha+2) \cdots (\alpha-k+3)}{k!} M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^k \right) (A) \right\|_\alpha \\ &= \left\| \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{(\alpha+2) \cdots (\alpha-k+3)}{k!} (M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^k(A) - A) \right\|_\alpha \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{(\alpha+2) \cdots (\alpha-k+3)}{k!} \| (M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^k(A) - A) \|_\alpha, \end{aligned}$$

we see that the lemma follows from (23), the summability of the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha+2) \cdots (\alpha-k+3)}{k!}$ , and the dominated convergence theorem.

**Proposition 5.7.** *Let  $f, g \in A_\alpha^2$ . Then  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  extends to a compact operator on  $A_\alpha^2$  if and only if  $f = 0$  or  $g = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$  extends to a compact operator on  $A_\alpha^2$ , which we also denote by  $T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha$ . Then, by (17) and Lemma 5.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w_n) B_\alpha(|g|^2)(w_n) &= \|(T_f^\alpha \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)\|^2 \|(T_g^\alpha \tilde{k}_w^\alpha)\|^2 \\ &= \|(1 - M_{T_{\phi_{w_n}}^\alpha}^\alpha)^{\alpha+2}(T_f^\alpha T_g^\alpha)\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

and the last term tends to zero for any sequence  $w_n$  that converges to a point of the unit circle. But now, since

$$|f(w)| \leq B_\alpha(|f|^2)(w)$$

and

$$|g(w)| \leq B_\alpha(|g|^2)(w)$$

for every  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , we can apply the classical result of Lusin and Privaloff [LP] to show that the analytic function  $fg$  is identically equal to 0. Thus,  $f \equiv 0$  or  $g \equiv 0$ . •

**Remark.** It follows immediately from Proposition 5.7 that the sum in Proposition 5.5 (convergent in the strong operator topology) can never be norm convergent, except in the trivial case where  $T_f T_{\bar{g}} = 0$ .

### §6. The second theorem

Our second result concerns a relationship between the boundedness of the product  $B_\beta(|f|^2)(w)B_\beta(|g|^2)(w)$  and the boundedness of the operator  $T_f^\beta T_{\bar{g}}^\beta$  acting on the spaces  $A_\alpha^2$  for certain  $\alpha < \beta$ . As before, we begin with some estimates concerning Toeplitz operators and their derivatives.

**Lemma 6.1.** *Let  $\beta > \alpha > -1$ , and let  $f \in A_\beta^2$ . Then for  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $h \in L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$  we have*

$$|(T_{\bar{f}}^\beta h)(w)| \leq \frac{1}{(1 - |w|^2)^{1 + \frac{\beta}{2}}} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|h\|_\alpha.$$

**Proof.** Suppose  $w \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $h \in A_\alpha^2 \subseteq A_\beta^2$ . Then, using the Hölder inequality, we obtain

$$|(T_{\bar{f}}^\beta h)(w)| = \langle \bar{f}h, k_w^\beta \rangle_\beta = \langle h, f k_w^\beta \rangle_\beta \leq \|h\|_\beta \|f k_w^\beta\|_\beta.$$

Now, since

$$(B_\beta(|f|^2)(w)) = \|f \frac{k_w^\beta}{\|k_w^\beta\|_\beta}\|_\beta^2 = (1 - |w|^2)^{2+\beta} \|f k_w^\beta\|_\beta^2,$$

we see that

$$|(T_{\bar{f}}^\beta h)(w)| \leq \frac{1}{(1 - |w|^2)^{1 + \frac{\beta}{2}}} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|h\|_\beta.$$

Since  $\alpha \leq \beta$  implies  $\|h\|_\beta \leq \|h\|_\alpha$ , this finishes the proof. •

Next, we do an estimation for the values of the derivative of our Toeplitz operator.



**Lemma 6.2.** *Suppose  $\beta > -1$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ , and  $h \in A_\beta^2$ . Then*

$$|(T_f^\beta h)'(w)| \leq \frac{(2 + \beta)}{(1 - |w|^2)} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} (P^{(-\beta, \beta)}(|h|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

**Proof.** We proceed as in the proof of Lemma 4.2 to see that

$$|(T_f^\beta h)'(w)| \leq (2 + \beta) \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|f(z)||h(z)|}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^{3+\beta}} dA_\beta(z).$$

Then, using Hölder's inequality along with the right decomposition of the product, we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} |(T_f^\beta h)'(w)| &\leq (2 + \beta) \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|f(z)|^2}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^{4+2\beta}} dA_\beta(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{|h(z)|^2}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^2} dA_\beta(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{(2 + \beta)(1 + \beta)}{(1 - |w|^2)^{1+\frac{\beta}{2}}} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |h(z)|^2 \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\beta}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^2} dA(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{(2 + \beta)(1 + \beta)}{(1 - |w|^2)} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} |h(z)|^2 \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^\beta (1 - |w|^2)^{-\beta}}{|1 - \bar{z}w|^2} dA(z) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{(2 + \beta)(1 + \beta)}{(1 - |w|^2)} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} (P^{(-\beta, \beta)}(|h|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad \bullet \end{aligned}$$

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 2.4.

**Proof of Theorem 2.4.** Let

$$M = \sup_{w \in \mathbb{D}} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))(B_\beta(|g|^2)(w)).$$

Precisely as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, it suffices to show that there exist absolute constants  $K_1, K_2, K_3$  such that for any  $u, v \in A_\alpha^2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I} &= \frac{\alpha + 3}{\alpha + 1} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |w|^2)^2 (T_g^\beta u)(w) \overline{(T_f^\beta v)(w)} dA_\alpha(w) \leq K_1 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha, \\ \text{II} &= \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)(\alpha + 2)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |w|^2)^2 (T_g^\beta u)'(w) \overline{(T_f^\beta v)'(w)} dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq K_2 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha, \\ \text{III} &= \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)(\alpha + 3)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1 - |w|^2)^3 (T_g^\beta u)'(w) \overline{(T_f^\beta v)'(w)} dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq K_3 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 6.1, we see that there exists  $K_1 > 0$  with

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{I}| &\leq \left(\frac{\alpha+3}{\alpha+1}\right) \int_{\mathbb{D}} (1-|w|^2)^2 \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{2+\beta}} (B_\beta(|f|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times (B_\beta(|g|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq \left(\frac{(\alpha+3)(\alpha+1)}{\alpha+1}\right) M^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{D}} \frac{1}{(1-|w|^2)^{\beta-\alpha}} dA(w) \\ &\leq K_1 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 6.2 and Hölder's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{II}| &\leq \frac{(\beta+2)^2}{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)} \int_{\mathbb{D}} B_\beta(|f|^2)(w)^{\frac{1}{2}} (B_\beta(|g|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times (P^{(-\beta,\beta)}(|u|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} (P^{(-\beta,\beta)}(|v|^2)(w))^{\frac{1}{2}} dA_\alpha(w) \\ &\leq \frac{(\beta+2)^2}{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)} M^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{(-\beta,\beta)}(|u|^2)(w) dA_\alpha(w) \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_{\mathbb{D}} P^{(-\beta,\beta)}(|v|^2)(w) dA_\alpha(w) \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, applying Theorem 3.2 with  $p = 1$ ,  $a = -\beta$ , and  $b = \beta$ , we see that  $P^{-\beta,\beta}$  is a bounded operator on  $L^1(\mathbb{D}, dA_\alpha)$ , and so there exists  $K_2 > 0$  such that

$$|\text{II}| \leq \frac{(\beta+2)^2}{(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)} M^{1/2} \|P^{-\beta,\beta}\|_{L^1_\alpha \rightarrow L^1_\alpha} \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha \leq K_2 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha.$$

Finally, since  $(1-|w|^2)^3 \leq (1-|w|^2)^2$  for any  $w$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ , we also have

$$|\text{III}| \leq K_2 \|u\|_\alpha \|v\|_\alpha$$

This finishes the proof. •

### §7. Remark

In the case of invertible products of Toeplitz operators on  $A_0^2$ , Stroethoff and Zheng showed that Sarason's condition (5) is indeed sufficient [StZh2]. Recently, M. Smith has obtained the corresponding result for the weighted Bergman spaces  $A_\alpha^2$ ,  $\alpha > -1$ . M. Smith has also obtained a necessary and a sufficient condition for the boundedness of product Toeplitz operators on unweighted  $p$ -Bergman  $A^p$  space for  $1 < p < \infty$ ; see [Sm].

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