



ON THE CLASS OF n -REAL POWER POSITIVE OPERATORS ON A HILBERT SPACE

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Abstract. In this paper, we introduce a new class of operators acting on a complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} which is called n -real power positive operators, denoted by $[n\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}]$. An operator $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is called n -real power positive operator if $T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0$ or equivalently $\operatorname{Re} \langle T^n x | x \rangle \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$, where n is positive integer number greater than 1.

1. Introduction and terminologies

Let \mathcal{H} be a complex Hilbert space. Let $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be the algebra of all bounded linear operators defined in \mathcal{H} . Let T be an operator in $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. The operator T is called normal if it satisfies the following condition $T^*T = TT^*$, i.e., T commutes with T^* . The class of quasi-normal operators denoted by $[QN]$, was first introduced and studied by A. Brown ([1]) in 1953. The operator T is quasi-normal if T commutes with T^*T , i.e.; $T(T^*T) = (T^*T)T$. A. A. S. Jibril (see [2, 3]), in 2008 introduced the class of n -power normal operators as a generalization of normal operators and its denoted by $[nN]$. The operator T is called n -power normal if T^n commutes with T^* , i.e.; $T^n T^* = T^* T^n$. In the year 2011, O. A. Mahmoud Sid Ahmed introduced the class of n -power quasi-normal operators denoted by $[nQN]$ (see [6, 7]), as a generalization of quasi-normal operators. An operator T is called n -power quasi-normal if T^n commutes with T^*T , i.e.; $T^n(T^*T) = (T^*T)T^n$.

Recently in [5], the authors introduced and studied the operator T satisfying $T^2 \geq -T^{*2}$. In this search, we introduce a new class of operators namely n -real power positive operator denoted by $[n\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}]$. An operator $T \in [n\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}]$ if and only $T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0$, for some integer $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. We can write

$$T = A + iB \tag{1}$$

where A, B are Hermitian. Such a decomposition is unique, and we have

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(T + T^*), \quad B = \frac{1}{2i}(T - T^*). \tag{2}$$

The operators A and B are called the real and imaginary parts of T , and the decomposition (1) is called the Cartesian decomposition of T .

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2. Some basic properties of $[n\mathcal{RP}]$

In section two we study some of the basic properties of operators in $[n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Definition 2.1. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, an operator $T \in \mathcal{L}(H)$ is said to be n -real power positive operator if

$$T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0.$$

We denote the set of n -real power positive operators by $[n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Example 2.2. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^n)$. A simple computation shows that for all $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$ we have

$$\langle (T^n + T^{*n})z \mid z \rangle = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} (\lambda_k^n + \overline{\lambda_k}^n) |z_k|^2 = 2 \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} \operatorname{Re}(\lambda_k^n) |z_k|^2.$$

We deduce that if $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda_k^n) \geq 0$ for all $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ and if $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda_k^n) < 0$ for all $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$, then $T \notin [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proposition 2.3. Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the following properties hold

- (1) if $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ then so T^* .
- (2) $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ if and only if $\operatorname{Re} \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle \geq 0$, for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$.
- (3) If T is invertible, then $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ if and only if $T^{-1} \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proof. (1) Obvious from the Definition 2.1.

(2) In fact, it is well know that

$$\begin{aligned} T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \iff T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0 &\iff \langle (T^n + T^{*n})x \mid x \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{H} \\ &\iff \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle + \langle T^{*n} x \mid x \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{H} \\ &\iff \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle + \langle x \mid T^n x \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{H} \\ &\iff \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle + \overline{\langle T^n x \mid x \rangle} \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{H} \\ &\iff 2\operatorname{Re} \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Assume that T is invertible and $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$. We have $\operatorname{Re} \langle T^n x \mid x \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{H}$.

It follows that for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$

$$0 \leq \operatorname{Re} \langle T^n T^{-n} x \mid T^{-n} x \rangle = \operatorname{Re} \langle x \mid T^{-n} x \rangle = \operatorname{Re} \overline{\langle T^{-n} x \mid x \rangle} = \operatorname{Re} \langle T^{-n} x \mid x \rangle.$$

Hence $T^{-1} \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$. The converse is obvious. \square

The following examples show that the two classes $[n\mathcal{RP}]$ and $[(n+1)\mathcal{RP}]$ are not the same.

Example 2.4. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^2)$. A simple computation shows that

$$T^2 + T^{*2} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T^3 + T^{*3} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For all $(u, v) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \left(T^2 + T^{*2} \right) \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle &= 2|u|^2 + 4\operatorname{Re}(u\bar{v}) + 2|v|^2 \\ &= 2\left(\operatorname{Re}(u) + \operatorname{Re}(v)\right)^2 + 2\left(\operatorname{Im}(u) + \operatorname{Im}(v)\right)^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $T \in [2\mathcal{RP}]$.

On the other hand

$$\left\langle \left(T^3 + T^{*3} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle = -2 < 0.$$

So $T \notin [3\mathcal{RP}]$.

Example 2.5. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^2)$. A simple computation shows that

$$T^2 + T^{*2} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } T^3 + T^{*3} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It follows that $T \notin [2\mathcal{RP}]$ and $T \in [3\mathcal{RP}]$.

Example 2.6. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^3)$. It is easily to see that $T \notin [n\mathcal{RP}]$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$

Proposition 2.7. ([5]) Let $T = A + iB \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, then $T^2 \geq T^{*2}$ if and only if $A^2 \geq B^2$.

In the following proposition, we generalize Proposition 2.2.

Proposition 2.8. Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, $T = A + iB$ such that $AB + BA = 0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then the following properties hold

- (1) $T \in [2n\mathcal{RP}]$ if and only if $(A^2 - B^2)^n \geq 0$.
- (2) $T \in [(2n + 1)\mathcal{RP}]$ if and only if $A(A^2 - B^2)^n \geq 0$.

Proof. (1) A simple computation shows that

$$T^{2n} = (A + iB)^{2n} = (A^2 - B^2)^n \text{ and } T^{*(2n)} = (A - iB)^{2n} = (A^2 - B^2)^n$$

and so

$$T^{2n} + T^{*2n} = 2(A^2 - B^2)^n.$$

Hence

$$T \in [2n\mathcal{RP}] \iff (A^2 - B^2)^n \geq 0$$

as required.

(2) A similar argument gives

$$T^{(2n+1)} = (A + iB)^{2n+1} = (A + iB)(A^2 - B^2)^n \text{ and } T^{*(2n+1)} = (A + iB)^{*(2n+1)} = (A - iB)(A^2 - B^2)^n$$

and so

$$T^{2n+1} + T^{*2n+1} = 2A(A^2 - B^2)^n.$$

Hence,

$$T \in [(2n + 1)\mathcal{RP}] \iff A(A^2 - B^2)^n \geq 0$$

as required. \square

Proposition 2.9. Let $T, S \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ and S is unitary equivalent to T , then $S \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proof. By assumption, there is a unitary equivalent operator $U \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ such that $S = U^*TU$, which implies that

$$S^* = U^*T^*U.$$

Thus we have

$$S^n = U^*T^nU \quad \text{and} \quad S^{*n} = U^*T^{*n}U.$$

Since U is unitary and using the fact that $T^n \geq -T^{*n}$ we conclude that

$$U^*T^nU \geq -U^*T^{*n}U.$$

Thus $S^n \geq -S^{*n}$. \square

Remark 2.10. The following example shows that in general the class $[n\mathcal{RP}]$ is not closed under translation.

Example 2.11. Consider $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1+i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1+i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1+i \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^3)$. From Example 2.1, it is easy to see that $T \in [3\mathcal{RP}]$

and $T - 2I = \begin{pmatrix} -1+i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1+i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1+i \end{pmatrix} \notin [3\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proposition 2.12. Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. If $T \in \bigcap_{1 \leq k \leq n} [k\mathcal{RP}]$ for some $n = 1, 2, \dots$, then $T + \lambda I \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ for all $\lambda \geq 0$.

Proof. Since

$$(T + \lambda I)^n = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \binom{n}{k} \lambda^{n-k} T^k = \lambda^n + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} \binom{n}{k} \lambda^{n-k} T^k$$

we have for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$

$$\operatorname{Re} \langle (T + \lambda I)^n x \mid x \rangle = \lambda^n \|x\|^2 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} \binom{n}{k} \lambda^{n-k} \underbrace{\operatorname{Re} \langle T^k x \mid x \rangle}_{\geq 0} \geq 0.$$

\square

In the following theorem we give a sufficient conditions under which the class $[n\mathcal{RP}]$ is closed under sum of two operators.

Theorem 2.13. Let $T, S \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ such that $T^k S = -S^k T$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ for some integer $n = 2, 3, \dots$, then $T + S \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proof. Form the hypothesis it is clear that $(T + S)^n = T^n + S^n$ and so that

$$(T + S)^n + (T^* + S^*)^n = \underbrace{T^n + T^{*n}}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{S^n + S^{*n}}_{\geq 0} \geq 0.$$

\square

The following lemma is well know.

Lemma 2.14. Let $T, S \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ such that $T \geq S$. Then for all $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ we have $A^*TA \geq A^*SA$.

Proposition 2.15. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ is such that $T^*T^2 = T^2T^*$, then $T^*T^2 \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proof. Since $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ we have by Lemma 2.1 that

$$\begin{aligned} T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0 &\implies T^{*n}T^nT^n + T^{*2n}T^n \geq 0 \\ &\implies (T^*T^2)^n + (T^{*2}T)^n \geq 0 \text{ (since } T^*T^2 = T^2T^*) \\ &\implies (T^*T^2)^n + (T^*T^2)^{*n} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $T^*T^2 \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ as required. \square

In the following proposition we give a characterization of the class $[2\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proposition 2.16. *If $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is normal then we have*

$$T \in [2\mathcal{RP}] \text{ if and only if } 2(\operatorname{Re}(T))^2 \geq |T|^2$$

where $|T| = (T^*T)^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

Proof. Assume that $2(\operatorname{Re}(T))^2 \geq |T|^2$ so we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2(\operatorname{Re}(T))^2 \geq |T|^2 &\implies 2\left(\frac{T+T^*}{2}\right)^2 \geq T^*T \\ &\implies T^2 + 2T^*T + T^{*2} \geq 2T^*T \text{ (since } T \text{ is normal)} \\ &\implies T^2 + T^{*2} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

We deduce that $T \in [2\mathcal{RP}]$.

Conversely, assume that $T \in [2\mathcal{RP}]$. By the fact that T^*T is positive we have the following implications

$$\begin{aligned} T^2 + T^{*2} \geq 0 &\implies T^2 + 2T^*T + T^{*2} \geq 2T^*T \\ &\implies (T+T^*)^2 \geq 2T^*T \text{ (since } T \text{ is normal)} \\ &\implies (2\operatorname{Re}(T))^2 \geq 2|T|^2 \\ &\implies 2(\operatorname{Re}(T))^2 \geq |T|^2. \end{aligned}$$

\square

Theorem 2.17. *Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. Then the following properties hold:*

(1) *For $n = 2, 3, \dots$, if T^n is unitary equivalent to T^{*n-1} then*

$$T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \iff T \in [(n-1)\mathcal{RP}].$$

(2) *For $n = 2, 3, \dots$, if T^k is unitary equivalent to T^{*k-1} for all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, then*

$$T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \iff T \in [\mathcal{RP}].$$

Proof. (1) From the hypothesis there exists an operator $U \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$: $U^*U = UU^* = I$ such that $T^n = U^*T^{*n-1}U$.

Firstly, assume that $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$, it follows that

$$T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0 \implies U^*T^{*n-1}U + U^*T^{n-1}U \geq 0 \implies U^*(T^{n-1} + T^{*n-1})U \geq 0.$$

By Lemma 2.1, we deduce that $T^{n-1} + T^{*n-1} \geq 0$ and hence $T \in [(n-1)\mathcal{RP}]$.

Conversely, assume that $T \in [(n - 1)\mathcal{RP}]$. We have by Lemma 2.1

$$T^{n-1} + T^{*n-1} \geq 0 \implies U^*(T^{n-1} + T^{*n-1})U \geq 0 \implies T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0.$$

Hence $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

(2) From the hypothesis there exists a unitary operator U_k such that

$$T^k = U_k^* T^{*k-1} U_k \text{ for } k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

If we assume that $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ we have from (1) that $T \in [(n-1)\mathcal{RP}]$. Repeating the process with $T \in [(n-1)\mathcal{RP}]$ we obtain that $T \in [(n-2)\mathcal{RP}]$. Hence the following implications hold

$$T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \implies T \in [(n-1)\mathcal{RP}] \implies T \in [(n-2)\mathcal{RP}] \implies \dots T \in [2\mathcal{RP}] \implies T \in [\mathcal{RP}].$$

Conversely, assume that $T \in [\mathcal{RP}]$. By Lemma 2.1 we obtain

$$T^2 + T^{*2} = U_2^*(T + T^*)U_2 \geq 0 \implies T \in [2\mathcal{RP}].$$

Also

$$T^3 + T^{*3} = U_3^*(T^2 + T^{*2})U_3 \geq 0 \implies T \in [3\mathcal{RP}].$$

Repeating the process we obtain

$$T^n + T^{*n} = U_n^*(T^{n-1} + T^{*n-1})U_n \geq 0 \implies T \in [n\mathcal{RP}].$$

This completes the proof. \square

Proposition 2.18. *Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. Consider $F = T^{n-1} + T^*$ and $G = T^{n-1} - T^*$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If T is normal then the following equivalence holds*

$$T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \text{ if and only if } FF^* \geq GG^*.$$

Proof. Since T is normal we have

$$\begin{aligned} FF^* - GG^* &= (T^{n-1} + T^*)(T^{*n-1} + T) - (T^{n-1} - T^*)(T^{*n-1} - T) \\ &= 2(T^n + T^{*n}). \end{aligned}$$

From which it follows that

$$T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \iff T^n + T^{*n} \geq 0 \iff FF^* - GG^* \geq 0.$$

\square

Proposition 2.19. *Let $T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$.*

(1) *If T is almost subprojection, then*

$$T \in [2\mathcal{RP}] \text{ if and only if } T \in [4\mathcal{RP}].$$

(2) *If T is idempotent, then*

$$T \in [\mathcal{RP}] \text{ if and only if } T \in [n\mathcal{RP}] \text{ for } n = 2, 3, \dots$$

Proof. (1) Since T is almost subprojection, $T^4 = T^{*2}$ (see [4]) we have for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$

$$\operatorname{Re} \langle T^2 x | x \rangle = \operatorname{Re} \langle T^{*4} x | x \rangle = \operatorname{Re} \langle x | T^4 x \rangle = \operatorname{Re} \overline{\langle T^4 x | x \rangle} = \operatorname{Re} \langle T^4 x | x \rangle$$

So

$$T \in [2\mathcal{RP}] \iff T \in [4\mathcal{RP}].$$

(2) Since T is idempotent we have $T = T^2 = \dots = T^n$ and so that

$$T^n + T^{*n} = T + T^*.$$

Hence the desired result.

□

The following examples show that a operator $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$ need not be almost subprojection and vice versa.

Example 2.20. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ be an operator acting in two- dimensional complex Hilbert space. then $T \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Now, by direct calculation $T^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 16 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = T^{*2}$

Theorem 2.21. Let $T, S \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$. Assume that $T, S \in \bigcap_{1 \leq k \leq n} [k\mathcal{RP}]$ for some integer $n = 1, 2, \dots$. If $TS = ST = T + S$, then $TS \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

Proof. For $n = 1$. Assume that T and S are in $[\mathcal{RP}]$. We have

$$TS + (TS)^* = T + T^* + S + S^* \geq 0$$

and so $TS \in [\mathcal{RP}]$.

For $n = 2$. Assume that T and S are in $[k\mathcal{RP}]$ for $k = 1, 2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (TS)^2 + (TS)^{*2} &= (T + S)^2 + (T^* + S^*)^2 \\ &= T^2 + 2TS + S^2 + T^{*2} + 2T^*S^* + S^{*2} \\ &= \underbrace{T^2 + T^{*2}}_{\geq 0} + 2 \underbrace{(TS + (TS)^*)}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{S^2 + S^{*2}}_{\geq 0} \end{aligned}$$

and so $TS \in [2\mathcal{RP}]$. Assume that this result is true for $n - 1$ and we prove it for n . Let T and S are in $[k\mathcal{RP}]$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Since $TS = ST = T + S$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} (TS)^n + (TS)^{*n} &= (T + S)^n + (T^* + S^*)^n \\ &= T^n + T^{*n} + \sum_{1 \leq p \leq n-1} \binom{n}{p} (T^p S^{n-p} + T^{*p} S^{*n-p}) + S^n + S^{*n}. \end{aligned}$$

It suffice to prove under the assumptions that $T^p S^{n-p} + T^{*p} S^{*n-p} \geq 0$ for $p = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$.

For $p = 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 TS^{n-1} + T^*S^{*n-1} &= TSS^{n-2} + T^*S^*S^{*n-2} \\
 &= (T + S)S^{n-2} + (T^* + S^*)S^{*n-2} \\
 &= TS^{n-2} + T^*S^{*n-2} + \underbrace{S^{n-1} + S^{*n-1}}_{\geq 0} \\
 &= TSS^{n-3} + T^*S^*S^{*n-3} + \underbrace{S^{n-1} + S^{*n-1}}_{\geq 0} \\
 &= TS^{n-3} + T^*S^{*n-3} + \underbrace{S^{n-2} + S^{*n-2}}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{S^{n-1} + S^{*n-1}}_{\geq 0} \\
 &= \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \\
 &= \underbrace{T + T^*}_{\geq 0} + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n-1} \underbrace{(S^k + S^{*k})}_{\geq 0}.
 \end{aligned}$$

For $p = 2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 T^2S^{n-2} + T^{*2}S^{*n-2} &= TSTS^{n-3} + T^*S^*T^*S^{*n-3} \\
 &= T^2S^{n-3} + TS^{n-2} + T^{*2}S^{*n-3} + T^*S^{*n-2} \\
 &= T^2S^{n-4} + TS^{n-3} + TS^{n-2} + T^{*2}S^{*n-4} + T^*S^{*n-3} + T^*S^{*n-2} \\
 &= T^2S^{n-5} + TS^{n-4} + TS^{n-3} + TS^{n-2} \\
 &\quad + T^{*2}S^{*n-5} + T^*S^{*n-4} + T^*S^{*n-3} + T^*S^{*n-2} \\
 &= \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \\
 &= T^2 + T^{*2} + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n-2} (TS^k + T^*S^{*k}).
 \end{aligned}$$

A simple calculation shows that

$$TS^k + T^*S^{*k} = T + T^* + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} (S^j + S^{*j}).$$

We deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &T^2S^{n-2} + T^{*2}S^{*n-2} \\
 &= T^2 + T^{*2} + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n-2} \left(T + T^* + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} (S^j + S^{*j}) \right) \geq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Same way for $p = 3, \dots, n - 1$. Hence $(TS)^n + (TS)^{*n} \geq 0$ as required. \square

Example 2.22. Let $S = T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. It is easy to see that $T \in [k\mathcal{RP}]$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $TS \in [n\mathcal{RP}]$.

The following example shows that Theorem 2.3 is not necessarily true if $TS \neq S + T$.

Example 2.23. Let $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. We have T and S are in $[\mathcal{RP}]$, $TS \neq T + S$ and $TS \notin [2\mathcal{RP}]$.

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