

A Class of Weighted Composition Operators on the Fock Space

Liankuo ZHAO*, Changbao PANG

School of Mathematics and Computer Science, Shanxi Normal University, Shanxi 041004, P. R. China

Abstract This paper studies a class of weighted composition operators and their spectrum on the Fock space. As an application, bounded self-adjoint, a class of complex symmetric weighted composition operators on the Fock space are characterized.

Keywords Fock space; weighted composition operator; self-adjoint; complex symmetric; spectrum

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1. Introduction

Recently weighted composition operators on various function spaces have been studied deeply [1–4]. In this paper, we study a class of weighted composition operators on the Fock space and give a complete characterization for such weighted composition operators to be bounded and their spectrum. We will see that such weighted composition operators are closely related to the self-adjoint, normal and complex symmetric weighted composition operators on the Fock space.

Recall the Fock space \mathcal{F}^2 is the space of entire functions f on \mathbb{C} for which

$$\|f\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f(z)|^2 e^{-\frac{|z|^2}{2}} dm(z),$$

where dm is the usual Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{C} .

It is well known that \mathcal{F}^2 is a reproducing kernel Hilbert space with inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{C}} f(z) \overline{g(z)} e^{-\frac{|z|^2}{2}} dm(z), \quad f, g \in \mathcal{F}^2$$

and reproducing kernel function $K_w(z) = e^{\frac{wz}{2}}$, $w, z \in \mathbb{C}$. Let k_w be the normalization of K_w . Then $k_w(z) = e^{\frac{wz}{2} - \frac{|w|^2}{4}}$. The book [5] is a good reference for the Fock spaces and their operators.

For entire function φ on \mathbb{C} and $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^2$, the weighted composition operator $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ on \mathcal{F}^2 is defined as

$$C_{\psi, \varphi} f = \psi(f \circ \varphi), \quad f \in \mathcal{F}^2.$$

When $\psi = 1$, denote $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ as C_{φ} , the composition operator defined by φ , which has been studied in [6,7]. In some sense, bounded composition operators on the Fock space are trivial. But there

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* Corresponding author

E-mail address: liankuozhao@sina.com (Liankuo ZHAO)

are plenty of nontrivial bounded weighted composition operators on the Fock space as we will show. Note that in [8–11], the bounded and compact weighted composition operators between Fock spaces are characterized for general symbols.

In the next section, we firstly characterize bounded weighted composition operator $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ and their spectrum $\sigma(C_{\psi,\varphi})$ on \mathcal{F}^2 with $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c . Then, we consider self-adjoint, a class of complex symmetric weighted composition operators on \mathcal{F}^2 and obtain a complete characterization for such operators.

In summary, we have the following results.

Theorem 1.1 *Let $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c . Then $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ is bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if one of the following conditions holds:*

- (1) $|a| < 1$; (2) $|a| = 1$ and $c + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Furthermore,

- (1) If $|a| < 1$, then $\sigma(C_{\psi,\varphi}) = \{0, \psi(p), a\psi(p), a^2\psi(p), a^3\psi(p), \dots\}$, where $p = \frac{b}{1-a}$;
- (2) If $a = 1$, then $\sigma(C_{\psi,\varphi}) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = e^{\frac{|b|^2}{4}}\}$;
- (3) If $|a| = 1, a \neq 1$, then $\sigma(C_{\psi,\varphi}) = \overline{\{\beta a^m\}_{m=0}^\infty}$, where $\beta = e^{\frac{|b|^2}{2(a-1)}}$.

Theorem 1.2 *Let φ be an entire function on \mathbb{C} and ψ be a nonzero function in \mathcal{F}^2 . Then*

- (1) $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ is a bounded self-adjoint operator on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if

$$\varphi(z) = az + b, \quad \psi(z) = sK_b(z)$$

for some constant b , real constants a, s with $s \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $b + ab = 0$.

- (2) $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ is a bounded complex symmetric operator with conjugation \mathcal{J}_λ on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if

$$\varphi(z) = az + b, \quad \psi(z) = sK_{\lambda\bar{b}}(z)$$

for some constants a, b, s with $s \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $\lambda\bar{b} + \bar{a}b = 0$. Here

$$(\mathcal{J}_\lambda f)(z) = \overline{f(\lambda\bar{z})}, \quad f \in \mathcal{F}^2$$

with $|\lambda| = 1$.

2. Main results

2.1 Boundedness of $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ with $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$

In this subsection, we characterize bounded weighted composition operator $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ and their spectrum $\sigma(C_{\psi,\varphi})$ on \mathcal{F}^2 with $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$.

The following lemma is easy to verify and the similar result holds on any reproducing kernel function spaces.

Lemma 2.1 *Let φ be an entire function and $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^2$. If $C_{\psi,\varphi}$ is bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 , then*

$$C_{\psi,\varphi}^* K_w = \overline{\psi(w)} K_{\varphi(w)}.$$

In [8], bounded and compact weighted composition operators with general symbols on \mathcal{F}^2 are characterized. As an application, we obtain the following result.

Proposition 2.2 *Let $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c . Then $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if one of the following condition holds:*

- (1) $|a| < 1$; (2) $|a| = 1$ and $c + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Proof By [8, Theorem 2.2], $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if $\varphi(z) = az + b$ with $|a| \leq 1$ and

$$\sup\{|\psi(z)|^2 e^{\frac{|\varphi(z)|^2 - |z|^2}{2}} : z \in \mathbb{C}\} < \infty. \tag{1}$$

For $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$, it is easy to verify that

$$|\psi(z)|^2 e^{\frac{|\varphi(z)|^2 - |z|^2}{2}} = e^{\frac{(|a|^2 - 1)|z|^2 + (a\bar{b} + \bar{c})z + (\bar{a}b + c)\bar{z} + |b|^2}{2}}.$$

So $\sup\{|\psi(z)|^2 e^{\frac{|\varphi(z)|^2 - |z|^2}{2}} : z \in \mathbb{C}\} < \infty$ if and only if

$$\sup\{(|a|^2 - 1)|z|^2 + (a\bar{b} + \bar{c})z + (\bar{a}b + c)\bar{z} + |b|^2 : z \in \mathbb{C}\} < \infty.$$

Obviously,

$$\sup\{(|a|^2 - 1)|z|^2 + (a\bar{b} + \bar{c})z + (\bar{a}b + c)\bar{z} + |b|^2 : z \in \mathbb{C}\} < \infty$$

if and only if either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $c + \bar{a}b = 0$. The conclusion follows. \square

Remark 2.3 The Eq. (1) is a little different from the Eq. (5) in [8, Theorem 2.2] since in our paper the reproducing kernel function $K_w(z) = e^{\frac{w\bar{z}}{2}}$, but $K_w(z) = e^{\bar{w}z}$ in [8].

The following corollary shows that the bounded operator $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ on \mathcal{F}^2 with $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c is either a unitary operator or a compact operator.

Corollary 2.4 *Let $\varphi(z) = az + b$, $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c and $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ be bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 .*

- (1) *If $|a| = 1$, then $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is constant multiples of a unitary operator.*
- (2) *If $|a| < 1$, then $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is compact.*

Proof (1) If $|a| = 1$, then $c + \bar{a}b = 0$ by Proposition 2.2, i.e., $c = -\bar{a}b$. It follows from [12, Corollary 1.2] that $C_{k_c, \varphi}$ is a unitary operator on \mathcal{F}^2 . Obviously, $C_{\psi, \varphi} = sC_{k_c, \varphi}$ with $s = e^{\frac{|c|^2}{4}}$.

- (2) If $|a| < 1$, then

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} [(|a|^2 - 1)|z|^2 + (a\bar{b} + \bar{c})z + (\bar{a}b + c)\bar{z} + |b|^2] = -\infty,$$

which implies that

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} |\psi(z)|^2 e^{\frac{|\varphi(z)|^2 - |z|^2}{2}} = \lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{(|a|^2 - 1)|z|^2 + (a\bar{b} + \bar{c})z + (\bar{a}b + c)\bar{z} + |b|^2}{2}} = 0.$$

It follows from [8, Theorem 2.4] that $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is compact on \mathcal{F}^2 . \square

By Corollary 2.4 and [12, Corollary 1.4], we obtain the following result.

Corollary 2.5 Let $\varphi(z) = az + b$, $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c with $|a| = 1$ and $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ be bounded on \mathcal{F}^2 .

- (1) If $a \neq 1$, then $\sigma(C_{\psi, \varphi}) = \overline{\{\beta a^m\}_{m=0}^\infty}$, where $\beta = e^{\frac{|b|^2}{2(a-1)}}$.
- (2) If $a = 1$, then $\sigma(C_{\psi, \varphi}) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = e^{\frac{|b|^2}{4}}\}$.

In [13], the spectra of a class of compact weighted composition operators on weighted Hardy space were characterized. Check the proof of Theorem 1 in [13] carefully, it is easy to obtain the following result.

Proposition 2.6 Let φ be a nonconstant entire function on \mathbb{C} with $\varphi(p) = p$ for some $p \in \mathbb{C}$ and ψ be a nonzero function in \mathcal{F}^2 . If $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is a compact operator on \mathcal{F}^2 , then

$$\sigma(C_{\psi, \varphi}) = \{0, \psi(p), \psi(p)\varphi'(p), \psi(p)(\varphi'(p))^2, \psi(p)(\varphi'(p))^3, \dots\}.$$

In fact, Proposition 2.6 gives the spectral characterization of all compact weighted composition operators on \mathcal{F}^2 by [8, Theorem 2.4]. Combining Corollary 2.4 and Proposition 2.6, we obtain the following result.

Corollary 2.7 Let $\varphi(z) = az + b$ and $\psi(z) = K_c(z)$ for some constants a, b, c with $|a| < 1$. Then

$$\sigma(C_{\psi, \varphi}) = \{0, \psi(p), a\psi(p), a^2\psi(p), a^3\psi(p), \dots\},$$

where $p = \frac{b}{1-a}$.

Proof When $0 < |a| < 1$, by Corollary 2.4, $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is compact on \mathcal{F}^2 . Let $p = \frac{b}{1-a}$. Then $\varphi(p) = p$. Obviously $\varphi'(z) = a$. By Proposition 2.6, the conclusion follows.

When $a = 0$, $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is the rank-one operator $K_c \otimes K_b$, it is easy to verify that

$$\sigma(K_c \otimes K_b) = \{0, K_c(b)\},$$

which implies that $\sigma(C_{\psi, \varphi}) = \{0, \psi(p)\}$. \square

By Proposition 2.2, Corollaries 2.5 and 2.7, we obtain Theorem 1.1.

2.2 Self-adjoint weighted composition operators

In this subsection, we consider bounded self-adjoint weighted composition operators on \mathcal{F}^2 . The self-adjoint weighted composition operators on the Hardy space were characterized in [14,15]. More generally, we consider the problem when the adjoint of a weighted composition operator is another weighted composition operator.

Theorem 2.8 Let φ_1, φ_2 be entire functions and ψ_1, ψ_2 be nonzero functions in \mathcal{F}^2 . Then $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1}^* = C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}$ if and only if

$$\varphi_1(z) = az + b, \psi_1(z) = dK_c(z), \varphi_2(z) = \bar{a}z + c, \psi_2(z) = \bar{d}K_b(z),$$

where a, d are constants with $d \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $c + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Proof Necessity. Since $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1}^* = C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}$, we have

$$\psi_2(z)K_w(\varphi_2(z)) = (C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}K_w)(z) = (C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1}^*K_w)(z) = \overline{\psi_1(w)}K_{\varphi_1(w)}(z) \tag{2}$$

for all $w, z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Let $w = 0$ in Eq. (2). Then $\psi_2(z) = \overline{\psi_1(0)}K_{\varphi_1(0)}(z)$, $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Let $z = 0$ in Eq. (2). Then $\overline{\psi_1(w)} = \psi_2(0)K_w(\varphi_2(0)) = \psi_2(0)\overline{K_{\varphi_2(0)}(w)}$, $w \in \mathbb{C}$.

In particular, let $w = 0$, $z = 0$ in Eq. (2). We have $\overline{\psi_1(0)} = \psi_2(0)$.

Denote $b = \varphi_1(0)$, $c = \varphi_2(0)$, $d = \overline{\psi_2(0)}$, then $d \neq 0$ since ψ_1 is nonzero, and

$$\psi_1(z) = dK_c(z), \quad \psi_2(z) = \bar{d}K_b(z).$$

Taking the formulas above into Eq. (2), we obtain

$$\bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}z}e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{w}\varphi_2(z)} = \bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{w}c}e^{\frac{1}{2}\overline{\varphi_1(w)}z} \tag{3}$$

for all $w, z \in \mathbb{C}$. So we have

$$\frac{1}{2}(\bar{b}z + \bar{w}\varphi_2(z)) = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{w}c + \overline{\varphi_1(w)}z) + 2n(z, w)\pi i,$$

where $n(z, w)$ is a continuous integer-valued function. Let $z = w = 0$ in the formula above. Then $n(0, 0) = 0$, which implies that $n(z, w) = 0$. We get

$$\frac{\varphi_2(z) - c}{z} = \overline{\left(\frac{\varphi_1(w) - b}{w}\right)} \tag{4}$$

for all $w, z \in \mathbb{C}$, so

$$\frac{\varphi_2(z) - c}{z} = \overline{\left(\frac{\varphi_1(w) - b}{w}\right)} = \bar{a}$$

for some constant a . Therefore $\varphi_1(z) = az + b$, $\varphi_2(z) = \bar{a}z + c$.

Since C_{ψ_1, φ_1} , C_{ψ_2, φ_2} are bounded, by Theorem 1.1, we have either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $c + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Sufficiency. By Theorem 1.1, C_{ψ_1, φ_1} , C_{ψ_2, φ_2} are bounded. It is easy to verify that

$$(C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1}^* K_w)(z) = \overline{\psi_1(w)}K_{\varphi_1(w)}(z) = \bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}c\bar{w}}e^{\frac{1}{2}\overline{(aw+b)}z} = \bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}(c\bar{w} + \bar{a}\bar{w}z + \bar{b}z)},$$

$$(C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2} K_w)(z) = \psi_2(z)K_w(\varphi_2(z)) = \bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{b}z}e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{w}(\bar{a}z+c)} = \bar{d}e^{\frac{1}{2}(c\bar{w} + \bar{a}\bar{w}z + \bar{b}z)}$$

for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$. So we have $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1}^* = C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}$. \square

As an application, we obtain the characterization of bounded self-adjoint weighted composition operator on \mathcal{F}^2 , which is Theorem 1.2 (1).

Corollary 2.9 *Let φ be an entire function on \mathbb{C} and ψ be a nonzero function in \mathcal{F}^2 . Then $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is a bounded self-adjoint operator on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if*

$$\varphi(z) = az + b, \quad \psi(z) = sK_b(z)$$

for some constant b , real constants a, s with $s \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $b + ab = 0$.

2.3 Complex symmetric weighted composition operators

Recall a conjugation on a separable complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is an antilinear operator \mathcal{C} on \mathcal{H} which satisfies $\langle \mathcal{C}f, \mathcal{C}g \rangle = \langle g, f \rangle$, $f, g \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{C}^2 = I$, where I is the identity operator on \mathcal{H} .

A bounded operator T on \mathcal{H} is said to be complex symmetric with respect to \mathcal{C} if

$$CTC = T^*.$$

In [16,17], complex symmetric weighted composition operators on the Hardy space were studied. Inspired by [16,17], in this subsection, we consider a class of complex symmetric weighted composition operator on \mathcal{F}^2 .

For $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| = 1$, define $(\mathcal{J}_\lambda f)(z) = \overline{f(\lambda\bar{z})}$, $f \in \mathcal{F}^2$. It is easy to verify that \mathcal{J}_λ is a conjugation on \mathcal{F}^2 and $\mathcal{J}_\lambda K_w = K_{\lambda\bar{w}}$.

To characterize \mathcal{J}_λ -complex symmetric weighted composition operators on \mathcal{F}^2 , we consider the more general problem when $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda = \mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^*$.

Theorem 2.10 *Let φ_1, φ_2 be entire functions and ψ_1, ψ_2 be nonzero functions in \mathcal{F}^2 . Then $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda = \mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^*$ on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if*

$$\varphi_1(z) = az + b, \psi_1(z) = sK_{\lambda\bar{c}}(z), \varphi_2(z) = az + c, \psi_2(z) = sK_{\lambda\bar{b}}(z)$$

for some constants a, b, s with $s \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $\lambda\bar{c} + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Proof Necessity. Assume $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda = \mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^*$.

Since

$$\begin{aligned} (C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda K_w)(z) &= \psi_1(z) K_{\lambda\bar{w}}(\varphi_1(z)) = \psi_1(z) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}w\varphi_1(z)}, \\ (\mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^* K_w)(z) &= \psi_2(w) K_{\lambda\overline{\varphi_2(w)}}(z) = \psi_2(w) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}\varphi_2(w)z}, \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\psi_1(z) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}w\varphi_1(z)} = \psi_2(w) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}\varphi_2(w)z}. \tag{5}$$

Let $w = 0$ in Eq. (5). Then $\psi_1(z) = \psi_2(0) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}\varphi_2(0)z}$. In particular, $\psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0)$. Denote $s = \psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0)$, $c = \varphi_2(0)$, then

$$\psi_1(z) = s e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}cz} = s K_{\lambda\bar{c}}(z). \tag{6}$$

Since ψ_1 is nonzero, $s \neq 0$.

Let $z = 0$ in Eq. (5). Then $\psi_2(w) = \psi_1(0) e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}w\varphi_1(0)}$. Denote $b = \varphi_1(0)$, then

$$\psi_2(w) = s e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda}bw} = s K_{\lambda\bar{b}}(w). \tag{7}$$

Taking Eqs. (6) and (7) into Eq. (5), we obtain

$$e^{\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{2}(cz + w\varphi_1(z))} = e^{\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{2}(bw + z\varphi_2(w))}, \tag{8}$$

so

$$\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{2}(cz + w\varphi_1(z)) = \frac{\bar{\lambda}}{2}(bw + z\varphi_2(w)) + 2n(z, w)\pi i,$$

where $n(z, w)$ is a continuous integer-valued function. Let $w = 0, z = 0$ in the formula above. Then $n(0, 0) = 0$, which implies that $n(z, w) = 0$. We get

$$cz + w\varphi_1(z) = bw + z\varphi_2(w), \tag{9}$$

i.e., $\frac{\varphi_1(z)-b}{z} = \frac{\varphi_2(w)-c}{w}$. By the arbitrary of z and w , we have

$$\varphi_1(z) = az + b, \quad \varphi_2(w) = aw + c$$

for some constant a .

Since C_{ψ_1, φ_1} and C_{ψ_2, φ_2} are bounded, by Theorem 1.1, we have either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $\lambda\bar{c} + \bar{a}b = 0$.

Sufficiency. By Theorem 1.1, C_{ψ_1, φ_1} and C_{ψ_2, φ_2} are bounded. It is easy to verify that

$$\begin{aligned} (C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda K_w)(z) &= \psi_1(z) K_{\lambda\bar{w}}(\varphi_1(z)) = se^{\frac{1}{2}\lambda cz} e^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda} w(az+b)} = se^{\frac{\lambda}{2}(cz+awz+bw)}, \\ (\mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^* K_w)(z) &= \psi_2(w) K_{\lambda\varphi_2(w)}(z) = se^{\frac{1}{2}\bar{\lambda} bw} e^{\frac{1}{2}\lambda (aw+c)z} = se^{\frac{\lambda}{2}(cz+awz+bw)} \end{aligned}$$

for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$. So we have $C_{\psi_1, \varphi_1} \mathcal{J}_\lambda = \mathcal{J}_\lambda C_{\psi_2, \varphi_2}^*$. \square

As a corollary, we obtain the characterization of bounded complex symmetric weighted composition operator with conjugation \mathcal{J}_λ on \mathcal{F}^2 , which is Theorem 1.2 (2).

Corollary 2.11 Let φ be an entire function and ψ be a nonzero function in \mathcal{F}^2 . Then $C_{\psi, \varphi}$ is a bounded complex symmetric operator with conjugation \mathcal{J}_λ on \mathcal{F}^2 if and only if

$$\varphi(z) = az + b, \quad \psi(z) = sK_{\lambda\bar{b}}(z)$$

for some constants a, b, s with $s \neq 0$, either $|a| < 1$ or $|a| = 1$ and $\lambda\bar{b} + \bar{a}b = 0$.

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