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## PERTURBATION OF 2-VARIABLE HYPONORMAL WEIGHTED SHIFTS

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**Abstract :** In this paper we consider a hyponormal 2-variable weighted shift  $T$  on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$  and investigate conditions under which its perturbation  $\tilde{T}$  will still remain hyponormal. We show how hyponormality of the perturbed shift  $\tilde{T}$  can be completely determined by identifying a set of positivity conditions. Finally we show that perturbation of a 2-variable hyponormal weighted shift is weakly hyponormal.

**1. Introduction.** A bounded linear operator  $T$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is said to be hyponormal if  $[T^*, T] := T^*T - TT^* \geq 0$  on  $H$ .

Let  $\{e_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  be the orthonormal basis of  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ . For a positive bounded weight sequence  $\alpha = \{\alpha_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ , the unilateral weighted shift on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$  with weight sequence  $\alpha$  is the operator  $W_\alpha$  defined as follows:  $W_\alpha e_n = \alpha_n e_{n+1}$  for all  $n$ .

It easily follows that  $W_\alpha$  is hyponormal if and only if  $\alpha_n \leq \alpha_{n+1}$  for all  $n$ . Now suppose the  $i^{th}$  weight  $\alpha_i$  is slightly perturbed and is replaced by  $x$ . If  $W_{[i:x]}$  denote the perturbed shift, then  $W_{[i:x]}$  will still remain hyponormal provided  $\alpha_{i-1} \leq x \leq \alpha_{i+1}$ .

Thus, if we originally have a strictly increasing weight sequence  $\{\alpha_n\}$  then for each  $i$  it is possible to choose  $\delta_i > 0$  such that  $W_{[i:x]}$  is again hyponormal for  $x \in (\alpha_i - \delta_i, \alpha_i + \delta_i)$ . In other words, any slight perturbation of the  $i^{th}$  weight still keeps the perturbed shift hyponormal.

In this paper we consider a hyponormal 2-variable weighted shift on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$  and investigate conditions under which its perturbation will still remain hyponormal. For this we consider 2-variable positive weight sequences  $\alpha = \{\alpha_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  and  $\beta = \{\beta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  such that  $\alpha_k < \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}$  and  $\beta_k < \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$  and  $\varepsilon_1 = (1, 0)$ ,  $\varepsilon_2 = (0, 1)$ .

Let  $\{e_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  denote the orthonormal basis for  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$ , and  $T_1, T_2$  be operators on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$  defined as follows:  $T_1 e_k = \alpha_k e_{k+\varepsilon_1}$  and  $T_2 e_k = \beta_k e_{k+\varepsilon_2}$ , for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$ .

It is assumed that  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  commute and hence  $\alpha_k \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} = \beta_k \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$ .

We then consider the 2-variable weighted shift  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$ . From (Curto, 1990) we have the following results:

**THEOREM 1.1**  $T$  is hyponormal if and only if

$$\Delta_k := \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_k^2 & \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} - \alpha_k \beta_k \\ \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} - \alpha_k \beta_k & \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_k^2 \end{pmatrix} \geq 0 \quad (\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2)$$

**THEOREM 1.2**  $T$  is weakly hyponormal if and only if

$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} [T_1^*, T_1] & [T_2^*, T_1] \\ [T_1^*, T_2] & [T_2^*, T_2] \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \lambda x \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \lambda x \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \geq 0 \quad (\forall x \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2) \text{ and } \lambda \in \mathbb{C}).$$

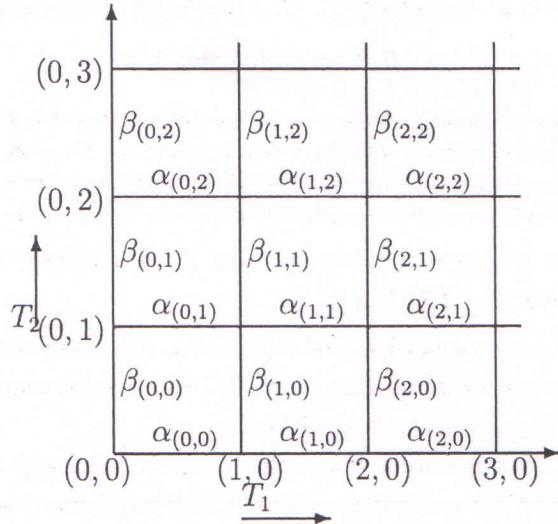


Figure 1

Here we begin with a hyponormal weighted shift  $T = (T_1, T_2)$ , as defined above, and having the following weight diagram.

Now suppose we perturb the weight  $\alpha_k$  to  $x$ . If  $\tilde{T} = (\tilde{T}_1, \tilde{T}_2)$  denotes the perturbed shift then  $\tilde{T}_1, \tilde{T}_2$  fail to be commutative. So to preserve commutativity it is absolutely necessary to perturb more weights in other blocks. Since it is a necessity we restrict the number of these subsequent perturbations to the bare minimum. The further perturbation of weights in adjacent blocks are as follows :

- (1)  $\beta_k$  changes to  $y = \frac{\beta_k x}{\alpha_k}$
- (2)  $\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}$  changes to  $z = \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \alpha_k}{x}$
- (3)  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}$  changes to  $t = \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} \alpha_k}{x}$

with the understanding that if  $k = (0, k_2)$  then we neglect (2), and if  $k = (k_1, 0)$  we neglect (3).

$\tilde{T} = (\tilde{T}_1, \tilde{T}_2)$  is the perturbed shift with weight sequences  $\{\tilde{\alpha}_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  and  $\{\tilde{\beta}_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  given as follows:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_\tau = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } \tau = k \\ z, & \text{if } \tau = k - \varepsilon_1 \\ \alpha_k, & \text{if } \tau \neq k, \tau \neq k - \varepsilon_1 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\beta}_\tau = \begin{cases} y, & \text{if } \tau = k \\ t, & \text{if } \tau = k - \varepsilon_2 \\ \beta_k, & \text{if } \tau \neq k, \tau \neq k - \varepsilon_2 \end{cases}$$

Figure 2 gives the corresponding weight diagram:

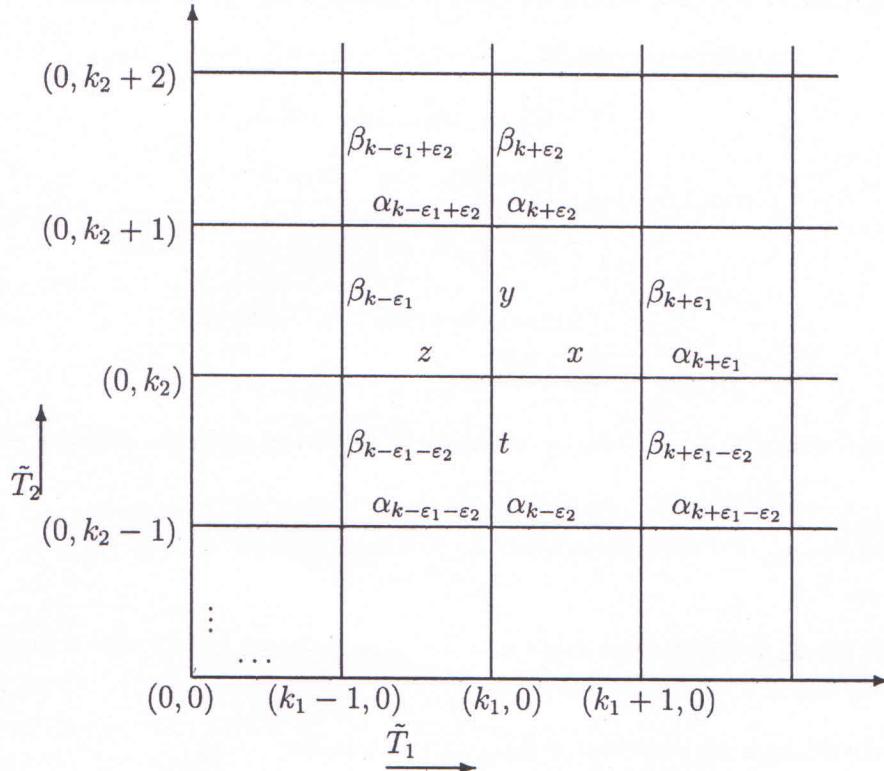


Figure 2

As  $\alpha_k < \left( \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2}} \right) \alpha_k$ , so by keeping  $x < \left( \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2}} \right) \alpha_k$  we will preserve the condition  $\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2} < t$ . Similarly, by keeping  $x$  suitably near  $\alpha_k$ , we can preserve the conditions  $\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2} < t < y < \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  and  $\alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1} < z < x < \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}$ .

In this paper, we show how hyponormality of the perturbed shift  $\tilde{T}$  can be completely determined by identifying the conditions of positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2}, \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}, \tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_1}, \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1}, \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2}$

and  $\tilde{\Delta}_k$ , where

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\tau := \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\alpha}_{\tau+\varepsilon_1}^2 - \tilde{\alpha}_\tau^2 & \tilde{\alpha}_{\tau+\varepsilon_2}\tilde{\beta}_{\tau+\varepsilon_1} - \tilde{\alpha}_\tau\tilde{\beta}_\tau \\ \tilde{\alpha}_{\tau+\varepsilon_2}\tilde{\beta}_{\tau+\varepsilon_1} - \tilde{\alpha}_\tau\tilde{\beta}_\tau & \tilde{\beta}_{\tau+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \tilde{\beta}_\tau^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\forall \tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2)$$

Finally, we show that it is always possible to choose  $\delta_k$  such that for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ ,  $\tilde{T}$  will remain weakly hyponormal. In other words, perturbation of 2-variable hyponormal shift remains weakly hyponormal.

**2. Hyponormality conditions.** To check positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2}$  we consider

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) : &= \det \tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \\ &= (t^2 - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2}^2)(\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-2\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_2}^2) \\ &\quad - (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-2\varepsilon_2} - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2})^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2\alpha_k^2}{x^2} - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2}^2 \right) (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-2\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_2}^2) \\ &\quad - (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-2\varepsilon_2} - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_2})^2 \\ \therefore f'_1(x) &= - \frac{2\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2\alpha_k^2}{x^3} (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-2\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_2}^2) < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now,  $f_1(\alpha_k) = \det \Delta_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$ . So by continuity of  $f_1$  we can make the following conclusion C1:

- (1) If  $\det \Delta_{k-2\varepsilon_2} > 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$   $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$ .
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_{k-2\varepsilon_2} = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ , and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .

Similarly to check the positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}$ , we consider

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(x) : &= \det \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \\ &= (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2)(\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2) \\ &\quad - (zt - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2})^2 \\ &= (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2)(\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2) \\ &\quad - \left( \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}\alpha_k^2\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{x^2} - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$f'_2(x) = 4 \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{x^3} \left( \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{x^2} - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \right)$$

$$\therefore f'_2(\alpha_k) = 4 \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{\alpha_k} (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2})$$

$$\begin{cases} > 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} > \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \\ < 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} < \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \\ = 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} = \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \end{cases}$$

From the continuity of  $f_2$  we can make the following conclusion C2:

- (1) If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} > 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that
  - (i) If  $\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} > \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}$ , then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ , and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ ,
  - (ii) If  $\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} < \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}$ , then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ , and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ ,
  - (iii) If  $\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} = \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}$ , then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k + \delta_k, \alpha_k - \delta_k)$ .

For positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_1}$ , we consider

$$f_3(x) := \det \tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_1}$$

$$= (z^2 - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2)(\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2)$$

$$- (\alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1} - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1})^2$$

$$= \left( \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \alpha_k^2}{x^2} - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2 \right) (\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2)$$

$$- (\alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1} - \alpha_{k-2\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1})^2$$

So,

$$f'_3(x) = -2 \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \alpha_k^2}{x^3} (\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2)$$

$$\therefore f'_3(\alpha_k) = -2 \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2}{\alpha_k} (\beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-2\varepsilon_1}^2) < 0.$$

Now from the continuity of  $f_3$  we can make the conclusion C3:

- (1) If  $\det \Delta_{k-2\varepsilon_1} > 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_1} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_{k-2\varepsilon_1} = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ , and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-2\varepsilon_1} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .

For positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2}$ , we consider

$$\begin{aligned} f_4(x) &:= \det \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \\ &= (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2)(y^2 - t^2) - (x\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} - t\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2})^2 \\ &= (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2) \left( \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2 x^2}{\alpha_k^2} - \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2 \alpha_k^2}{x^2} \right) - \left( x\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} - \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} \alpha_k \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}}{x} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha_k^2} \left[ x^2 \{ \beta_k^2 (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2) - \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 \} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} \alpha_k^3 \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} - \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2 \alpha_k^4}{x^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_2} = 0$  then  $f_4(\alpha_k) = \det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_2} = 0$ . Therefore,

$$\lambda := \beta_k^2 (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2) - \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 = \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2 (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - 2\alpha_k^2)$$

Again,

$$\begin{aligned} f'_4(x) &= \frac{1}{\alpha_k^2} \left[ 2x\lambda + \frac{2\alpha_k^4 \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2}{x^3} \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{\alpha_k^2 x} \left[ x^2 \lambda + \frac{\alpha_k^4 \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2}{x^2} \right] \\ f'_4(\alpha_k) &= \frac{2}{\alpha_k} \left[ \lambda + \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{4\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2}{\alpha_k} (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_k^2) \\ &\quad \begin{cases} > 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} > \alpha_k \\ < 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} < \alpha_k \\ = 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} = \alpha_k \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Now since  $f_4$  is a continuous function, therefore conclusion C4:

- (1) If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_2} > 0$  or  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} = \alpha_k$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_2} = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that
  - (i) If  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} > \alpha_k$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ .
  - (ii) If  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} < \alpha_k$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_2} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .

For positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1}$ , we consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_5(x) &:= \det \tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \\
 &= (x^2 - z^2)(\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2) - (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}y - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}z)^2 \\
 &= \left( x^2 - \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \alpha_k^2}{x^2} \right) (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2) - \left( \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} \beta_k x}{\alpha_k} - \frac{\alpha_k \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}}{x} \right)^2 \\
 &= \frac{x^2}{\alpha_k^2} \left[ \alpha_k^2 (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2) - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 \beta_k^2 \right] \\
 &\quad + 2\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} \beta_k \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1} - \frac{1}{x^2} (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1} = 0$  then  $f_5(\alpha_k) = \det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1} = 0$ . Therefore

$$\mu := \alpha_k^2 (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2) - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 \beta_k^2 = \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - 2\beta_k^2)$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'_5(x) &= \frac{2x\mu}{\alpha_k^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \alpha_k^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 \\
 \therefore f'_5(\alpha_k) &= \frac{2}{\alpha_k} (\mu + \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2 \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2) \\
 &= \frac{4\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2}{\alpha_k} (\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_k^2) \\
 &\quad \begin{cases} > 0, & \text{if } \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} > \beta_k \\ < 0, & \text{if } \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} < \beta_k \\ = 0, & \text{if } \beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} = \beta_k \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Again from the continuity of  $f_5$ , we can make the conclusion C5:

- (1)  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1} > 0$  or  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} = \beta_k$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_{k-\varepsilon_1} = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that
  - (i) If  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} > \beta_k$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ .
  - (ii) If  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} < \beta_k$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{k-\varepsilon_1} \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .

Finally, to check the positivity of  $\tilde{\Delta}_k$  we consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_6(x) &:= \det \tilde{\Delta}_k \\
 &= (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2 - x^2)(\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - y^2) - (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} - xy)^2 \\
 &= (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2 - x^2)\left(\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \frac{\beta_k^2 x^2}{\alpha_k^2}\right) - \left(\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} - \frac{\beta_k x^2}{\alpha_k}\right)^2 \\
 &= x^2\left(-\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \frac{\beta_k^2 \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2}{\alpha_k^2} + \frac{2\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_k}{\alpha_k}\right) + (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2) \\
 &= \frac{x^2}{\alpha_k^2}\left(2\alpha_k\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_k - \alpha_k^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_k^2\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\right) + (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\det \Delta_k = 0$  then  $f_6(\alpha_k) = \det \Delta_k = 0$ . Therefore

$$\gamma := \left(2\alpha_k\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_k - \alpha_k^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_k^2\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\right) = (\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2)$$

Again,

$$f'_6(x) = \frac{2x\gamma}{\alpha_k^2} = \frac{2x}{\alpha_k^2}(\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}^2\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}^2)$$

$$\begin{cases} > 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} > \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2} \\ < 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} < \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2} \\ = 0, & \text{if } \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} = \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1}\beta_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{cases}$$

From the continuity of  $f_6$  we can make the conclusion C6:

- (1)  $\det \Delta_k > 0$  or  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} = \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $\tilde{\Delta}_k \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .
- (2) If  $\det \Delta_k = 0$  then there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that
  - (i) If  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} > \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_k \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_k \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$ .
  - (ii) If  $\alpha_{k+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_1} < \alpha_{k+\varepsilon_1} \beta_{k+\varepsilon_2}$  then  $\tilde{\Delta}_k \geq 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_k \not\geq 0$  for  $x \in (\alpha_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ .

From the above analysis we can exhaustively determine whether perturbation of  $\alpha_k$  will again result in a hyponormal shift  $\tilde{T}$  or not.

For illustration let us consider the following examples:

**EXAMPLE 2.1** Let  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  be hyponormal with  $\Delta_{(0,3)} > 0$ ,  $\Delta_{(0,5)} > 0$ ,  $\Delta_{(0,4)} = 0$  and  $\alpha_{(1,4)} < \alpha_{(0,5)}$ . We want to perturb  $\alpha_{(0,5)}$ .

Applying C1(1), C6(1) and C4(2)(ii) we conclude that  $\tilde{T}$  will still be hyponormal for a slight left perturbation of  $\alpha_{(0,5)}$ , but will not be hyponormal for any right perturbation of  $\alpha_{(0,5)}$ .

**EXAMPLE 2.2** We want to perturb  $\alpha_{(7,11)}$ . Hence we need to consider  $\Delta_{(7,9)}, \Delta_{(6,10)}, \Delta_{(5,11)}, \Delta_{(7,10)}, \Delta_{(6,11)}, \Delta_{(7,11)}$ . Suppose  $\Delta_{(6,10)}, \Delta_{(5,11)}, \Delta_{(7,10)}, \Delta_{(7,11)} > 0$  and  $\Delta_{(7,9)} = \Delta_{(6,11)} = 0$ . So by C1(2) and C5, we make the following conclusions:

- (1) If  $\beta_{(6,12)} \leq \beta_{(7,11)}$  then  $\tilde{T}$  will be hyponormal for a slight left perturbation of  $\alpha_{(7,11)}$ , but will not be hyponormal for any right perturbation of  $\alpha_{(7,11)}$ .
- (2) If  $\beta_{(6,12)} > \beta_{(7,11)}$  then for any slight perturbation of  $\alpha_{(7,11)}$ ,  $\tilde{T}$  will fail to be hyponormal.

**3. Weak hyponormality.** For  $\tau = (\tau_1, \tau_2) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$  and  $|\tau| = \tau_1 + \tau_2$ , let  $a_\tau := \alpha_{\tau+\varepsilon_1}^2 - \alpha_\tau^2$ ,  $b_\tau := \alpha_{\tau+\varepsilon_2} \beta_{\tau+\varepsilon_1} - \alpha_\tau \beta_\tau$ ,  $d_\tau := \beta_{\tau+\varepsilon_2}^2 - \beta_\tau^2$ , so that  $\Delta_\tau = \begin{pmatrix} a_\tau & b_\tau \\ b_\tau & d_\tau \end{pmatrix}$ .

**LEMMA 3.1**  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  is weakly hyponormal if and only if for all  $x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} c_k e_k \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$  and for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |c_{(0,j)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,j)}^2 + |\lambda|^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |c_{(i,0)}|^2 \beta_{(i,0)}^2 + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} \left\langle \Delta_k \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \geq 0.$$

*Proof:*  $T$  is weakly hyponormal

$$\begin{aligned} &\Leftrightarrow T_1 + \bar{\lambda}T_2 \text{ is hyponormal; } \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \langle [T_1^*, T_1]x, x \rangle & \langle [T_2^*, T_1]x, x \rangle \\ \langle [T_1^*, T_2]x, x \rangle & \langle [T_2^*, T_2]x, x \rangle \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \geq 0; \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } \forall x \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2) \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} [T_1^*, T_1]e_k &= (\alpha_k^2 - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}^2)e_k \\ [T_2^*, T_1]e_k &= (\alpha_k\beta_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_2}\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2})e_{k+\varepsilon_1-\varepsilon_2} \\ [T_1^*, T_2]e_k &= (\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2}\beta_k - \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}\beta_{k-\varepsilon_1})e_{k-\varepsilon_1+\varepsilon_2} \\ [T_2^*, T_2]e_k &= (\beta_k^2 - \beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}^2)e_k \end{aligned}$$

assuming  $\alpha_{(t_1, t_2)} = 0$  for all  $t_1 < 0$ ,  $t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  and  $\beta_{(t_1, t_2)} = 0$  for all  $t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ ,  $t_2 < 0$ .

Thus for  $x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} c_k e_k \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle [T_1^*, T_1]x, x \rangle &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |c_{(0,j)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,j)}^2 + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} a_k |c_{k+\varepsilon_1}|^2 \\ \langle [T_2^*, T_1]x, x \rangle &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} b_k \bar{c}_{k+\varepsilon_1} c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \\ \langle [T_1^*, T_2]x, x \rangle &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} b_k c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \bar{c}_{k+\varepsilon_2} \\ \langle [T_2^*, T_2]x, x \rangle &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |c_{(i,0)}|^2 \beta_{(i,0)}^2 + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} d_k |c_{k+\varepsilon_2}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $T$  is weakly hyponormal

$$\Leftrightarrow \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |c_{(0,j)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,j)}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |c_{(i,0)}|^2 \beta_{(i,0)}^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

$$+\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} a_k |c_{k+\varepsilon_1}|^2 & \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} b_k \bar{c}_{k+\varepsilon_1} c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \\ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} b_k c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \bar{c}_{k+\varepsilon_2} & \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} d_k |c_{k+\varepsilon_2}|^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \geq 0;$$

$$\text{for all } \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} c_k e_k \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |c_{(0,j)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,j)}^2 + |\lambda|^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |c_{(i,0)}|^2 \beta_{(i,0)}^2$$

$$+ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} \left\langle \Delta_k \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \geq 0;$$

$$\text{for all } \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} c_k e_k \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2).$$

REMARKS 3.1 If  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  is hyponormal then  $\Delta_k \geq 0$ ,  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$  and hence (by Lemma 3.1)  $T$  is also weakly hyponormal.

For  $s \geq 0$  define  $L_s$  as follows:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccccccc} a_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \beta_{(s+1,0)}^2 & b_{(s,0)} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ b_{(s,0)} & d_{(s,0)} + \frac{a_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{b_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{b_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{d_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} + \frac{a_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} & \frac{b_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{d_{(1,s-1)}}{|\lambda|^{2(s-1)}} + \frac{a_{(0,s)}}{|\lambda|^{2s}} & \frac{b_{(0,s)}}{|\lambda|^{2s}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{b_{(0,s)}}{|\lambda|^{2s}} & \frac{d_{(0,s)}}{|\lambda|^{2s}} + \frac{\alpha_{(0,s+1)}^2}{|\lambda|^{2(s+1)}} \end{array} \right)$$

LEMMA 3.2 A 2-variable weighted shift  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  with weight sequences  $\alpha = \{\alpha_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  and  $\beta = \{\beta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  is weakly hyponormal if and only if for all  $x = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} c_k e_k \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}_+^2)$ , and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$

we have  $|c_{(0,0)}|^2(\alpha_{(0,0)}^2 + |\lambda|^2\beta_{(0,0)}^2) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \langle L_n X_n, X_n \rangle \geq 0$ , where

$$X_n = \begin{pmatrix} c_{(n+1,0)} \\ \lambda c_{(n,1)} \\ \lambda^2 c_{(n-1,2)} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda^{n+1} c_{(0,n+1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

*Proof:* Direct calculation shows that :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle L_0 X_0, X_0 \rangle &= |\lambda|^2 |c_{(1,0)}|^2 \beta_{(1,0)}^2 + |c_{(1,0)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,1)}^2 \\ &\quad + \left\langle \Delta_{(0,0)} \begin{pmatrix} c_{(0,0)+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{(0,0)+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{(0,0)+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{(0,0)+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \langle L_1 X_1, X_1 \rangle &= |\lambda|^2 |c_{(2,0)}|^2 \beta_{(2,0)}^2 + |c_{(0,2)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,2)}^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{|k|=1} \left\langle \Delta_k \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle L_n X_n, X_n \rangle &= |\lambda|^2 |c_{(n+1,0)}|^2 \beta_{(n+1,0)}^2 + |c_{(0,n+1)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,n+1)}^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{|k|=n} \left\langle \Delta_k \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &|c_{(0,0)}|^2 (\alpha_{(0,0)}^2 + |\lambda|^2 \beta_{(0,0)}^2) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \langle L_n X_n, X_n \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |c_{(0,j)}|^2 \alpha_{(0,j)}^2 + |\lambda|^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} |c_{(i,0)}|^2 \beta_{(i,0)}^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2} \left\langle \Delta_k \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c_{k+\varepsilon_1} \\ \lambda c_{k+\varepsilon_2} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

The result now follows from Lemma 3.1

Let  $\alpha_k$  be perturbed to the weight to  $x$ . For commutativity,  $\beta_k$  is changed to  $y = \frac{\beta_k x}{\alpha_k}$ ,  $\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}$  is changed to  $z = \frac{\alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1} \alpha_k}{x}$  and  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}$  is changed to  $t = \frac{\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2} \alpha_k}{x}$ .

Let  $\tilde{T} = (\tilde{T}_1, \tilde{T}_2)$  be the perturbed shift with weight sequences  $\{\tilde{\alpha}_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  and  $\{\tilde{\beta}_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  as defined in section 1. Also just as  $\Delta_\tau$  and  $L_s$  are defined with respect to  $T$ , in a similar way  $\tilde{\Delta}_\tau$  and  $\tilde{L}_s$  are defined for  $\tilde{T}$ . As  $T$  is hyponormal so  $L_s \geq 0 \forall s \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$ . Also  $\tilde{L}_s = L_s$  for  $s < |k| - 2$  and  $s > |k|$ . So if we can show that  $L_s \geq 0$  for  $|k| - 2 \leq s \leq |k|$ , then by Lemma 3.2 we can conclude that  $\tilde{T}$  is weakly hyponormal.

For example if  $k = (3, 2)$  then  $\tilde{L}_3, \tilde{L}_4, \tilde{L}_5$  can be represented by the following weight diagram :

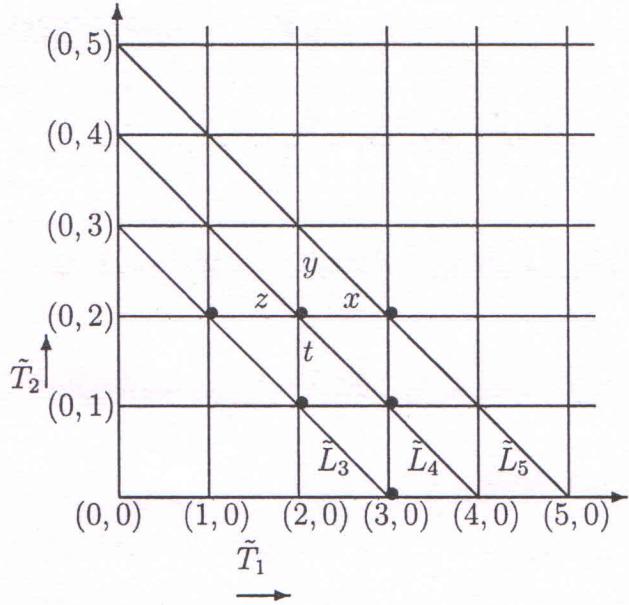


Figure 3

**THEOREM 3.1** Let  $T = (T_1, T_2)$  be hyponormal with weight sequences  $\{\alpha_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$  and  $\{\beta_\tau\}_{\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2}$ . Then for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$ , a slight perturbation of the weight  $\alpha_k$  makes the perturbed shift  $\tilde{T}$  weakly hyponormal (assuming that  $\beta_k, \alpha_{k-\varepsilon_1}$  and  $\beta_{k-\varepsilon_2}$  are also necessarily perturbed to preserve commutativity).

*Proof:* Let  $g_0(x) := \tilde{a}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 > 0$ .

$$g_1(x) := \det \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 & \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} \\ \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} & \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} g_0(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \tilde{d}_{(s,0)}$$

$$g_2(x) := \det \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 & \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} & 0 \\ \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} & \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} \\ 0 & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} g_1(x) + \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} g_1(x) - \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-1,1)}^2}{|\lambda|^4} g_0(x)$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} g_1(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-1,1)} \frac{g_0(x)}{|\lambda|^4} + \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} \left( \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} g_1(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-1,1)} \frac{g_0(x)}{|\lambda|^4} + \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} + \tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2$$

$$g_3(x) := \det \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 & \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} & 0 & 0 \\ \tilde{b}_{(s,0)} & \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} & \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\tilde{b}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} & \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4} + \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-3,3)}}{|\lambda|^6} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-3,3)}}{|\lambda|^6} g_2(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-2,2)} \frac{g_1(x)}{|\lambda|^8} + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)} \frac{g_0(x)}{|\lambda|^8}$$

$$+ \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^6} + \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s,0)} \tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)}}{|\lambda|^4}.$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} g_4(x) := & \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-4,4)}}{|\lambda|^8} g_3(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-3,3)} \frac{g_2(x)}{|\lambda|^{12}} + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-2,2)} \tilde{d}_{(s-3,3)} \frac{g_1(x)}{|\lambda|^{14}} \\ & + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)} \tilde{d}_{(s-3,3)} \frac{g_0(x)}{|\lambda|^{14}} + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)} \tilde{d}_{(s-3,3)}}{|\lambda|^{12}} \\ & + \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \frac{\tilde{d}_{(s,0)} \tilde{d}_{(s-1,1)} \tilde{d}_{(s-2,2)} \tilde{d}_{(s-3,3)}}{|\lambda|^{10}} \end{aligned}$$

For  $j = 0, 1, \dots, s+1$ , let  $M_j$  denote the  $(j+1) \times (j+1)$  leading submatrix of  $\tilde{L}_s$ . If  $g_j(x) := \det M_j$  then

$$\begin{aligned} g_0(x) &= \tilde{a}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2, \\ g_1(x) &= \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-1,1)}}{|\lambda|^2} g_0(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \tilde{d}_{(s,0)} \end{aligned}$$

For  $j = 2, 3, \dots, s$ ,  $g_j(x)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} g_j(x) := & \frac{\tilde{a}_{(s-j,j)}}{|\lambda|^{2j}} g_{j-1}(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-j+1,s-1)} \frac{g_{j-2}(x)}{|\lambda|^{4(j-1)}} \\ & + \sum_{l=2}^{j-1} (\det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s-j+l,j-l)}) \frac{\prod_{r=1}^{l-1} \tilde{d}_{(s-j+r,j-r)} g_{(j-l-1)}(x)}{|\lambda|^{4(j-l)+(l-1)(2j+l)}} \\ & + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} \frac{\prod_{r=1}^{j-1} \tilde{d}_{(s-r,r)}}{|\lambda|^{j(j-1)}} + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \frac{\prod_{r=0}^{j-1} \tilde{d}_{(s-r,r)}}{|\lambda|^{j(j-1)}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } g_{s+1}(x) := & \frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{(0,s+1)}^2}{|\lambda|^{2(s+1)}} g_s(x) + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(0,s)} \frac{g_{s-1}(x)}{|\lambda|^{4s}} + \frac{\tilde{d}_{(0,s)}}{|\lambda|^{2s}} \left( \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(1,s-1)} \frac{g_{s-2}(x)}{|\lambda|^{4(s-1)}} \right. \\ & + \sum_{l=2}^{s-1} (\det \tilde{\Delta}_{(l,s-l)}) \frac{\prod_{r=1}^{l-1} \tilde{d}_{(r,s-r)} g_{(s-l-1)}(x)}{|\lambda|^{4(s-l)+(l-1)(2s+l)}} + \det \tilde{\Delta}_{(s,0)} \frac{\prod_{r=1}^{s-1} \tilde{d}_{(s-r,r)}}{|\lambda|^{s(s-1)}} \\ & \left. + |\lambda|^2 \tilde{\beta}_{(s+1,0)}^2 \frac{\prod_{r=0}^{s-1} \tilde{d}_{(s-r,r)}}{|\lambda|^{s(s-1)}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

At  $x = \alpha_k$ , we have  $\det \tilde{\Delta}_\tau = \det \Delta_\tau \geq 0$  for all  $\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2$ . Also as  $g_0(\alpha_k) > 0$ , hence for all  $j = 1, \dots, s$ , we have

$$g_j(\alpha_k) \geq \frac{a_{(s-j,j)}}{|\lambda|^{2j}} g_{j-1}(\alpha_k) > 0.$$

Similarly

$$g_{s+1}(\alpha_k) = \frac{\alpha_{(0,s+1)}^2}{|\lambda|^{2(s+1)}} g_s(\alpha_k) > 0.$$

Thus by continuity of  $g_j$  there exists  $\delta_k > 0$  such that  $g_j(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in (\alpha_k - \delta_k, \alpha_k + \delta_k)$ , which implies that  $\tilde{L}_s \geq 0$ . So by lemma 3.2,  $\tilde{T}$  is weakly hyponormal for any slight perturbation of  $\alpha_k$ .

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