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# On $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators

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## Abstract

For positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , an operator  $T \in B(H)$  is said to be an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator if there exists some conjugation  $C$  such that  $T^{*n}(\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} CT^{m-j}CT^{m-j})T^n = 0$ . In this paper, some basic structural properties of  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators are established with the help of operator matrix representation. As an application, we obtain that a power of an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator is again an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator. Moreover, we show that the class of  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators is norm closed. Finally, we examine the stability of  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator under perturbation by nilpotent operators commuting with  $T$ .

**MSC:** 47B20; 47A05

**Keywords:**  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator; Perturbation; Nilpotent operator

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  be the sets of natural numbers and complex numbers, respectively, and let  $B(H)$  denote the algebra of all bounded linear operators on a separable complex Hilbert space  $H$ . If  $T \in B(H)$ , we shall write  $N(T)$ ,  $R(T)$ , and  $\sigma(T)$  for the null space, range space, and the spectrum of  $T$ , respectively. The closure of a set  $M$  will be denoted by  $\overline{M}$ .

An antilinear operator  $C$  on  $H$  is said to be conjugation if  $C$  satisfies  $C^2 = I$  and  $(Cx, Cy) = (y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in H$ . In 1990s, Agler and Stankus [1] studied the theory of  $m$ -isometric operators which are connected to Toeplitz operators, ordinary differential equations, classical function theory, classical conjugate point theory, distributions, Fejer–Riesz factorization, stochastic processes, and other topics. For fixed  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , an operator  $T \in B(H)$  is said to be an  $m$ -isometric operator if it satisfies the identity

$$\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} T^{*m-j} T^{m-j} = 0,$$

where  $\binom{m}{j}$  is the binomial coefficient. Several authors have studied the  $m$ -isometric operator. We refer the reader to [2–6, 9, 11] for further details.

In [7], Chō, Ko, and Lee introduced  $(m, C)$ -isometric operators with conjugation  $C$  as follows: For an operator  $T \in B(H)$  and an integer  $m \geq 1$ ,  $T$  is said to be an  $(m, C)$ -isometric

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operator if there exists some conjugation  $C$  such that

$$\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} T^{*m-j} . C T^{m-j} C = 0.$$

In [8], Chō, Lee, and Motoyoshi introduced  $[m, C]$ -isometric operators with conjugation  $C$  as follows: For an operator  $T \in B(H)$  and an integer  $m \geq 1$ ,  $T$  is said to be an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator if there exists some conjugation  $C$  such that

$$\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C . T^{m-j} = 0.$$

For an operator  $T \in B(H)$  and a conjugation  $C$ , define the operator  $\lambda_m(T)$  by

$$\lambda_m(T) = \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C . T^{m-j}.$$

Then  $T$  is an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator if and only if

$$\lambda_m(T) = 0.$$

Moreover,

$$C T C . \lambda_m(T) . T - \lambda_m(T) = \lambda_{m+1}(T)$$

holds. Hence, an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator is an  $[n, C]$ -isometric operator for every  $n \geq m$ .

In [13], Mahmoud Sid Ahmed, Chō, and Lee introduced  $n$ -quasi- $(m, C)$ -isometric operators, which generalize  $(m, C)$ -isometric operators. For positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , an operator  $T \in B(H)$  is said to be an  $n$ -quasi- $(m, C)$ -isometric operator if there exists some conjugation  $C$  such that

$$T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} T^{*m-j} . C T^{m-j} C \right) T^n = 0.$$

In [10], Duggal studied  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators and gave some properties of them. For positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , an operator  $T \in B(H)$  is said to be an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator if there exists some conjugation  $C$  such that

$$T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C . T^{m-j} \right) T^n = 0.$$

It is clear that every  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator.

The following example provides an operator which is an  $n$ -quasi- $[2, C]$ -isometric operator, but not a  $[2, C]$ -isometric operator.

*Example 1.1* Let  $H = \mathbb{C}^2$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$  given by  $C(x, y) = (\bar{y}, \bar{x})$ . If  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H$ , then  $CTC = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & (CTC)^2.T^2 - 2CTC.T + I \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $T$  is not a  $[2, C]$ -isometric operator.

On the other hand, since

$$\begin{aligned} & T^{*2}((CTC)^2.T^2 - 2CTC.T + I)T^2 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $T$  is a 2-quasi- $[2, C]$ -isometric operator.

*Remark 1.1* Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$ .

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} CT^{m-j} C.T^{m-j} \right) T^n \\ &= C(CT^{*n}C) \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} T^{m-j}.CT^{m-j}C \right) CT^n C. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator if and only if  $CTC$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator.

*Remark 1.2* It is clear that every quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator for  $n \geq 2$ . The converse is not true in general as shown in the following example.

*Example 1.2* Let  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in B(\mathbb{C}^3)$ , and let  $C : \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$  satisfy  $C(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (-\bar{x}_3, \bar{x}_2, -\bar{x}_1)$ . We have  $CTC = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} T^*(CTC.T - I)T &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $T$  is not a quasi-[1,  $C$ ]-isometric operator.

On the other hand, since

$$\begin{aligned} & T^{*2}(CTCT - I)T^2 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

it follows that  $T$  is a 2-quasi-[1,  $C$ ]-isometric operator.

### 2 $n$ -quasi-[ $m, C$ ]-isometric operators

In this section we give some basic properties of  $n$ -quasi-[ $m, C$ ]-isometric operators. We begin with the following theorem, which is a structural theorem for  $n$ -quasi-[ $m, C$ ]-isometric operators.

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $C = C_1 \oplus C_2$  be a conjugation on  $H$  where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are conjugations on  $\overline{R(T^n)}$  and  $N(T^{*n})$ , respectively. If  $T^n \neq 0$  does not have a dense range, then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1)  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi-[ $m, C$ ]-isometric operator;
- (2)  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ , where  $T_1$  is an  $[m, C_1]$ -isometric operator and  $T_3^n = 0$ . Furthermore,  $\sigma(T) = \sigma(T_1) \cup \{0\}$ .

*Proof* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Consider the matrix representation of  $T$  with respect to the decomposition  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ :

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $P$  be the projection onto  $\overline{R(T^n)}$ . Since  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi-[ $m, C$ ]-isometric operator, it follows that

$$P \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} CT^{m-j} C.T^{m-j} \right) P = 0.$$

This means that

$$\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C_1 T_1^{m-j} C_1.T_1^{m-j} = 0.$$

Hence  $T_1$  is an  $[m, C_1]$ -isometric operator on  $\overline{R(T^n)}$ . On the other hand, for any  $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n}) = H$ , we have

$$(T_3^n x_2, x_2) = (T^n(I - P)x, (I - P)x) = ((I - P)x, T^{*n}(I - P)x) = 0,$$

which implies  $T_3^n = 0$ . Since  $\sigma(T) \cup M = \sigma(T_1) \cup \sigma(T_3)$ , where  $M$  is the union of the holes in  $\sigma(T)$ , which happens to be a subset of  $\sigma(T_1) \cap \sigma(T_3)$  by Corollary 7 of [12], and  $\sigma(T_1) \cap \sigma(T_3)$  has no interior point since  $T_3$  is nilpotent, we have  $\sigma(T) = \sigma(T_1) \cup \{0\}$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Suppose that  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ , where  $\sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C_1 \times T_1^{m-j} C_1 \cdot T_1^{m-j} = 0$  and  $T_3^n = 0$ . Since

$$T^n = \begin{pmatrix} T_1^n & \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{n-1-j} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} & T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C \cdot T^{m-j} \right) T^n \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}^{*n} \\ &\quad \times \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & 0 \\ 0 & C_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}^{m-j} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & 0 \\ 0 & C_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}^{m-j} \right) \\ &\quad \times \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}^n \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} T_1^{*n} F T_1^n & T_1^{*n} F \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{n-1-j} \\ (\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{n-1-j})^* F T_1^n & (\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{n-1-j})^* F \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{n-1-j} \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $F = \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C_1 T_1^{m-j} C_1 \cdot T_1^{m-j}$ . Hence

$$T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C \cdot T^{m-j} \right) T^n = 0,$$

i.e.,  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator. □

As a consequence, we obtain the following corollaries.

**Corollary 2.1** *Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$ . If  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator and  $T^n$  has a dense range, then  $T$  is an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator.*

**Corollary 2.2** *Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$ . If  $T$  is an invertible  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, then  $T^{-1}$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator.*

*Proof* Suppose that  $T$  is an invertible  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator. Then  $T$  is an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, and so is  $T^{-1}$  by [8]. Hence  $T^{-1}$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator. □

**Corollary 2.3** *Let  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ , and let  $C = C_1 \oplus C_2$  be a conjugation on  $H$  where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are conjugations on  $\overline{R(T^n)}$  and  $N(T^{*n})$ , respectively. If  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator and  $T_1$  is invertible, then  $T$  is similar to a direct sum of an  $[m, C_1]$ -isometric operator and a nilpotent operator.*

*Proof* Since  $T_1$  is invertible, we have  $\sigma(T_1) \cap \sigma(T_3) = \emptyset$ . Then there exists an operator  $S$  such that  $T_1S - ST_3 = T_2$  [14]. Since

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & S \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} I & -S \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix},$$

it follows that

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & S \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & 0 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & S \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}. \quad \square$$

**Corollary 2.4** *Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C = C_1 \oplus C_2$  be a conjugation on  $H$  where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are conjugations on  $\overline{R(T^n)}$  and  $N(T^{*n})$ , respectively. If  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, then  $T^k$  is also an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

*Proof* If  $T^n$  has a dense range, then  $T$  is an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, and so is  $T^k$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  by [8, Theorem 3.4]. If  $T^n$  does not have a dense range, we decompose  $T$  as  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ , where  $T_1$  is an  $[m, C_1]$ -isometric operator, and so is  $T_1^k$ . Since

$$T^k = \begin{pmatrix} T_1^k & \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} T_1^j T_2 T_3^{k-1-j} \\ 0 & T_3^k \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{on } H = \overline{R(T^k)} \oplus N(T^{*k}),$$

it follows from Theorem 2.1 that  $T^k$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . □

*Remark 2.1* The converse of Corollary 2.4 is not true in general as shown in the following example.

*Example 2.1* Let  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in B(\mathbb{C}^3)$ , and let  $C : \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$  satisfy  $C(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (-\overline{x_3}, \overline{x_2}, -\overline{x_1})$ . A simple calculation shows that  $T^{*2}(CT^2C.T^2 - I)T^2 = 0$  and  $T^*(CTC.T - I)T \neq 0$ . So, we obtain that  $T^2$  is a quasi- $[1, C]$ -isometric operator, but  $T$  is not a quasi- $[1, C]$ -isometric operator.

**Theorem 2.2** *Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C = C_1 \oplus C_2$  be a conjugation on  $H$  where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are conjugations on  $\overline{R(T^n)}$  and  $N(T^{*n})$ , respectively. If  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, then  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[k, C]$ -isometric operator for every positive integer  $k \geq m$ .*

*Proof* If  $T^n$  has a dense range, then  $T$  is an  $[m, C]$ -isometric operator, and hence  $T$  is a  $[k, C]$ -isometric operator for every positive integer  $k \geq m$ . If  $T^n$  does not have a dense range, we decompose  $T$  as  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 & T_2 \\ 0 & T_3 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $H = \overline{R(T^n)} \oplus N(T^{*n})$ , where  $T_1$  is an  $[m, C_1]$ -isometric operator and  $T_3 = 0$ . Hence  $T_1$  is a  $[k, C_1]$ -isometric operator for every positive integer  $k \geq m$ . It follows from Theorem 2.1 that  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[k, C]$ -isometric operator. □

**Theorem 2.3** *Let  $T \in B(H)$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$ . If  $\{T_k\}$  is a sequence of  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|T_k - T\| = 0$ , then  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator.*

*Proof* Suppose that  $\{T_k\}$  is a sequence of  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operators such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|T_k - T\| = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| T_k^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T_k^{m-j} C T_k^{m-j} \right) T_k^n - T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C T^{m-j} \right) T^n \right\| \\ & \leq \left\| T_k^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T_k^{m-j} C T_k^{m-j} \right) T_k^n \right. \\ & \quad \left. - T_k^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C T^{m-j} \right) T_k^n \right\| \\ & \quad + \left\| T_k^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C T^{m-j} \right) T_k^n \right. \\ & \quad \left. - T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C T^{m-j} \right) T_k^n \right\| \\ & \leq \|T_k^{*n}\| \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} \|T_k^{m-j} C T_k^{m-j+n} - T^{m-j} C T^{m-j+n}\| \\ & \quad + \|T_k^n - T^n\| \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} \|T^{m-j} C T^{m-j+n}\| \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\{T_k\}$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator,

$$T_k^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T_k^{m-j} C T_k^{m-j} \right) T_k^n = 0,$$

we have

$$T^{*n} \left( \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \binom{m}{j} C T^{m-j} C T^{m-j} \right) T^n = 0,$$

i.e.,  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator. □

**Theorem 2.4** *Let  $T, N \in B(H)$  and let  $C$  be a conjugation on  $H$ . Assume that  $T^*CNC = CNCT^*$  and  $T^*CTC = CTCT^*$ . If  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator and  $N$  is a nilpotent operator of order  $p$  such that  $TN = NT$ , then  $T + N$  is an  $n + p$ -quasi- $[m + 2p - 2, C]$ -isometric operator.*

*Proof* Since

$$\lambda_m(T + N) = \sum_{i+j+k=m} \binom{m}{i, j, k} C(T + N)^i C C N^j C \lambda_k(T) T^j N^i,$$

where  $\binom{m}{i, j, k} = \frac{m!}{i!j!k!}$  and  $\lambda_0(*) = I$  by [8].

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & (T + N)^{*n+p} \lambda_{m+2p-2}(T + N)(T + N)^{n+p} \\ &= \left( \sum_{s=0}^{n+p} \binom{n+p}{s} T^{*n+p-s} N^{*s} \right) \\ & \quad \times \left( \sum_{i+j+k=m+2p-2} \binom{m+2p-2}{i, j, k} C(T + N)^i C.CN^j C.\lambda_k(T).T^j.N^i \right) \\ & \quad \times \left( \sum_{t=0}^{n+p} \binom{n+p}{t} T^{n+p-t} N^t \right). \end{aligned}$$

- (i) If  $\max\{i, j\} \geq p$ , then  $CN^j C = 0$  or  $N^i = 0$ .
- (ii) If  $\max\{i, j\} \leq p - 1$ , then  $k \geq m$ . Since  $T$  is an  $n$ -quasi- $[m, C]$ -isometric operator,  $T^*CNC = CNCT^*$  and  $T^*CTC = CTC T^*$ , we obtain

$$T^{*n+p-s} \lambda_k(T) T^{n+p-t} = 0 \quad \text{for } 0 \leq s, t \leq p$$

and

$$N^{*s} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad N^t = 0 \quad \text{for } p + 1 \leq s \leq n + p \text{ or } p + 1 \leq t \leq n + p.$$

By (i) and (ii),  $(T + N)^{*n+p} \lambda_{m+2p-2}(T + N)(T + N)^{n+p} = 0$ . Therefore  $T + N$  is an  $n + p$ -quasi- $[m + 2p - 2, C]$ -isometric operator. □

*Example 2.2* Let  $C$  be a conjugation given by  $C(z_1, z_2, z_3) = (\bar{z}_3, \bar{z}_2, \bar{z}_1)$  on  $\mathbb{C}^3$ .

If  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m & m \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^3$ , we have  $CTC = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \bar{m} & \bar{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & I - 3CTC.T + 3(CTC)^2.T^2 - (CTC)^3.T^3 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \bar{m} & \bar{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m & m \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ & \quad + 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \bar{m} & \bar{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m & m \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^2 - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \bar{m} & \bar{m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}^3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m & m \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^3 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $T^{*2}(I - 3CTC.T + 3(CTC)^2.T^2 - (CTC)^3.T^3)T^2 = 0$ , i.e.,  $T$  is a 2-quasi- $[3, C]$ -isometric operator with conjugation  $C$ .

On the other hand, since  $T = I + N$ , where  $N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & m & m \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $N^2 = 0$ , it follows from Theorem 2.4 that  $T$  is a 2-quasi- $[3, C]$ -isometric operator with conjugation  $C$ .

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**Competing interests**

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**Authors' contributions**

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