

ABSTRACT. There has been much recent interest in the problem of approximating in the space of bounded linear operators $L(X, Y)$ from one normed linear space X into another Y by certain subsets U of $L(X, Y)$. In particular, the cases when $U = K(X, Y)$, the compact operators, or $K_N(X, Y)$, the rank N operators, have received considerable attention (see, e.g., [7, 10-17]).

This paper represents a further contribution to a solution of the problem: When is $K_N(X, Y)$ proximal in $L(X, Y)$ or in $K(X, Y)$? The main result of Section 2 (Theorem 2.2) states that $K_N(X, Y^*)$ is proximal in $L(X, Y^*)$ for any normed spaces X and Y .