

An \mathcal{H}_∞ calculus of admissible operators

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Abstract—Given a Hilbert space and the generator A of a strongly continuous, exponentially stable, semigroup on this Hilbert space. For any $g(-s) \in \mathcal{H}_\infty$ we show that there exists an infinite-time admissible output operator $g(A)$. If g is rational, then this operator is bounded, and equals the “normal” definition of $g(A)$. In particular, when $g(s) = 1/(s + \alpha)$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_0^+$, then this admissible output operator equals $(\alpha I - A)^{-1}$.

Although in general $g(A)$ may be unbounded, we always have that $g(A)$ multiplied by the semigroup is a bounded operator for every (strictly) positive time instant. Furthermore, when there exists an admissible output operator C such that (C, A) is exactly observable, then $g(A)$ is bounded for all g 's with $g(-s) \in \mathcal{H}_\infty$.

I. INTRODUCTION

Functional calculus is a sub-field of mathematics with a long history. It started in the thirties of the last century with the work by von Neumann for self-adjoint operators [9], and was further extended by many researchers, see e.g. [8] and [3]. For an overview, see the book by Markus Haase, [7]. The basic idea behind functional calculus for the operator A is to construct a mapping from an algebra of (scalar) functions to the class of bounded operators, such that

- The function identically equals to one is mapped to the identity operator;
- If $f(s) = (s - a)^{-1}$, then $f(A) = (sI - A)^{-1}$;
- Furthermore, the operator associated to $f_1 \cdot f_2$ equals $f(A)f_2(A)$.

Before we explain the contribution of this paper, we introduce some notation. By X we denote separable Hilbert space with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and norm $\| \cdot \|$, and by A we denote an unbounded operator from its domain $D(A) \subset X$ to X . We assume that A generates an exponentially stable semigroup on X , which we denote by $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$.

By \mathcal{H}_∞ we denote the space of all bounded, analytic functions defined on the half-plane $\mathbb{C}^- := \{s \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re}(s) < 0\}$. It is clear that this function class is an algebra under pointwise multiplication and addition. Hence this could serve as a class for which one could build a functional calculus. However, it is known that there exists a generator of exponential stable semigroup, which does not have a functional calculus with respect to \mathcal{H}_∞ . For a proof of this and many more we refer to [1], [7], and the references therein. Although a bounded functional calculus is not possible, an unbounded functional calculus is always possible.

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Theorem 1.1: Under the assumptions stated above, we have that for all $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty$ there exists an operator $g(A)$ which is bounded from the domain of A to X , and which is admissible, i.e.,

$$\int_0^\infty \|g(A)T(t)x_0\|^2 dt \leq \gamma_A \|g\|_\infty^2 \|x_0\|^2, \quad x_0 \in X.$$

The mapping $g \mapsto g(A)$ satisfies the conditions of a functional calculus. Furthermore, for all $t > 0$, we have that $g(A)T(t)$ can be extended to a bounded operator, and

$$\|g(A)T(t)\| \leq \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{t}}.$$

Apart from proving this theorem, we shall also rediscover some classes of generators for which $g(A)$ is bounded for all $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty$, i.e., for which there is a bounded functional calculus. For more results, we refer to [11].

For the proof of the above result, we need beside the Hardy space \mathcal{H}_∞ also the Hardy spaces $\mathcal{H}_2(X)$ and $\mathcal{H}_2^\perp(X)$.

$\mathcal{H}_2(X)$ and $\mathcal{H}_2^\perp(X)$ denote the Laplace transform, \mathcal{L} , of functions in $L^2((0, \infty), X)$ and $L^2((-\infty, 0), X)$, respectively. It is known that this transformation is an isometry. Every function in \mathcal{H}_∞ , $\mathcal{H}_2(X)$ and $\mathcal{H}_2^\perp(X)$ has a unique extension to the imaginary on which this functions are bounded, and square integrable, respectively. Furthermore, the norm of $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty$ equals the (essential) supremum over the imaginary axis of the boundary function. Let $f(t)$ be a function in $L^2((0, \infty), X)$ with Laplace transform $F(s)$, and let $f_{\text{ext}}(t)$ be the function in $L^2((-\infty, \infty), X)$ defined by

$$f_{\text{ext}}(t) = \begin{cases} f(t) & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & t < 0 \end{cases}$$

Then the Fourier transform \hat{f}_{ext} of $f_{\text{ext}}(t)$ satisfies $\hat{f}_{\text{ext}}(\omega) = F(i\omega)$, for almost all $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$. Here $F(i \cdot)$ denote the boundary function of the Laplace transform $F(s)$.

We define the following Toeplitz operator on $L^2(0, \infty); X$

Definition 1.2: Let g be an element of \mathcal{H}_∞ . Associated to this function we define the mapping M_g as

$$M_g f = \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(gF)), \quad f \in L^2((0, \infty), X), \quad (1)$$

where F denotes the Laplace transform of f . Π denotes the projection onto $\mathcal{H}_2(X)$.

It is clear that this is a linear bounded map from $L^2((0, \infty); X)$ into itself, and

$$\|M_g\| \leq \|g\|_\infty. \quad (2)$$

Furthermore, it follows easily from (1) that if K is a bounded mapping on X , then it commutes with M_g , i.e.,

$$KM_g = M_g K. \quad (3)$$

It is easy to see that \mathcal{H}_∞^- is an algebra under the multiplication and addition. In particular $g_1 g_2 \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$ whenever $g_1, g_2 \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$. Furthermore, we have the following result.

Lemma 1.3: Let g_1 and g_2 be elements of \mathcal{H}_∞^- . Then

$$M_{g_1 g_2} = M_{g_1} M_{g_2}. \tag{4}$$

In particular, if g is invertible in \mathcal{H}_∞^- , then M_g is (boundedly) invertible and $(M_g)^{-1} = M_{g^{-1}}$.

Proof We use the fact that any $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$ maps \mathcal{H}_2^\perp into \mathcal{H}_2^\perp .

$$\begin{aligned} M_{g_1} M_{g_2} f &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi g_1(\Pi(g_2 F))) \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g_1 g_2 F)) + \\ &\quad \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g_1(I - \Pi)(g_2 F))) \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g_1 g_2 F)) + 0, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the above mentioned fact that $g_1(I - \Pi)$ maps into \mathcal{H}_2^\perp , and so $\Pi g_1(I - \Pi) = 0$. Since by definition $\mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g_1 g_2 F))$ equals $M_{g_1 g_2} f$, we have proved the first assertion.

The last assertion follows directly, since $M_1 = I$. \square

By σ_τ we denote the shift with τ , i.e.,

$$(\sigma_\tau(f))(t) = f(t + \tau), \quad t \geq 0. \tag{5}$$

This is also a linear bounded map from $L^2((0, \infty); X)$ into itself. This mapping commutes with M_g as is shown next.

Lemma 1.4: For all $\tau > 0$ and all g in \mathcal{H}_∞^- , we have that

$$\sigma_\tau(M_g f) = M_g(\sigma_\tau f), \quad f \in L^2((0, \infty), X). \tag{6}$$

Proof We use the following well-known equality. If h is Fourier transformable, then the Fourier transform of $h(\cdot + \tau)$ equals $e^{i\omega\tau} \hat{h}(\omega)$, where \hat{h} denotes the Fourier transform of h .

Let $h \in L^2(0, \infty; X)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\sigma_\tau h) &= \widehat{(\sigma_\tau h)_{\text{ext}}} = \widehat{\sigma_\tau h_{\text{ext}}} - \hat{q} \\ &= e^{i\omega\tau} \widehat{h_{\text{ext}}} - \hat{q} = e^{i\omega\tau} \mathcal{L}(h) - \hat{q}, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

with $q \in L^2((-\infty, 0); X)$. In particular, we find for every $h \in L^2(0, \infty; X)$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\sigma_\tau h) &= \Pi(\mathcal{L}(\sigma_\tau h)) \\ &= \Pi(e^{i\omega\tau} \mathcal{L}(h)) - 0 = \mathcal{L}(M_{e^{i\cdot\tau}} h), \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where we have used that $e^{i\omega\tau}$ is the boundary function corresponding to $e^{is\tau} \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$.

Using (7) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} M_g(\sigma_\tau f) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g e^{i\cdot\tau} \mathcal{L}(f))) - \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g \hat{q})) \\ &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g e^{i\cdot\tau} \mathcal{L}(f))), \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

since $\hat{q} \in \mathcal{H}_2^\perp(X)$, and since $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$. Using Lemma 1.3, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} M_g(\sigma_\tau f) &= \mathcal{L}^{-1}(\Pi(g e^{i\cdot\tau} \mathcal{L}(f))) \\ &= M_{e^{i\cdot\tau} g} f = M_{e^{i\cdot\tau}} M_g f. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Now using (8), we see that

$$M_g(\sigma_\tau f) = \sigma_\tau(M_g f). \tag{11}$$

\square

II. OUTPUT MAPS AND ADMISSIBLE OUTPUT OPERATORS

In this section we study admissible operators which commute with the semigroup. We begin by defining well-posed output maps.

Definition 2.1: Let $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ be a strongly continuous semigroup on the Hilbert space X , and let Y be another Hilbert space. We say that the mapping \mathcal{O} is a well-posed (infinite-time) output map if

- \mathcal{O} is a bounded linear mapping from X into $L^2((0, \infty); Y)$, and
- For all $\tau \geq 0$ and all $x_0 \in X$, we have that $\sigma_\tau \mathcal{O} x_0 = \mathcal{O}(T(\tau)x_0)$.

Closely related to well-posed output mapping are admissible operators, which are defined next.

Definition 2.2: Let $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ be a strongly continuous semigroup on the Hilbert space X . Let $D(A)$ be the domain of its generator A . A linear mapping C from $D(A)$ to Y , another Hilbert space, is said to be an (infinite-time) admissible output operator for $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ if $CT(\cdot)x_0 \in L^2((0, \infty), Y)$ for all $x_0 \in D(A)$ and there exists an m independent of x_0 such that

$$\int_0^\infty \|CT(t)x_0\|_Y^2 dt \leq m \|x_0\|_X^2. \tag{12}$$

If C is (infinite-time) admissible, then for all $x_0 \in X$ we can uniquely define an $L^2((0, \infty), X)$ -function. We denote this function by $CT(\cdot)x_0$. Hence $\mathcal{O} : X \rightarrow L^2((0, \infty); Y)$ defined by $\mathcal{O}x_0 = CT(\cdot)x_0$ is a well-posed output map. From [10] we know that the converse holds as well.

Lemma 2.3: If \mathcal{O} is a well-posed output mapping, then there exists a (unique) linear bounded mapping from $D(A)$ to Y , C , such that $\mathcal{O}x_0 = CT(\cdot)x_0$ for all x_0 .

In the sequel of this section we concentrate on admissible output operators which commute with A , i.e., C a linear operator from $D(A)$ to X and

$$CA^{-1} = A^{-1}C \quad \text{on } D(A). \tag{13}$$

For these operators we have the following results.

Lemma 2.4: Let C be the admissible output operator associated with the well-posed output map \mathcal{O} . Then (13) holds if and only if for all $t \geq 0$ there holds $\mathcal{O}T(t) = T(t)\mathcal{O}$.

Theorem 2.5: Let C be a bounded linear operator from $D(A)$ to X , which is admissible for the exponentially stable semigroup $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ and which commutes with A . Then the following holds

- 1) For all $x_0 \in D(A)$ and all $t \geq 0$, we have that $CT(t)x_0 = T(t)Cx_0$.
- 2) For all $t > 0$, the operator $CT(t) : D(A) \rightarrow X$ can be extended to a bounded operator on X . Furthermore, $\|CT(t)\| \leq \gamma t^{-1/2}$ for some γ independent of t .

Proof The first assertion follows easily from (13) by using Laplace transforms. We concentrate on the second assertion.

Let $x_0 \in D(A)$ and $x_1 \in X$, then for $t > 0$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned} t\langle x_1, CT(t)x_0 \rangle &= \int_0^t \langle x_1, CT(\tau)x_0 \rangle d\tau \\ &= \int_0^t \langle x_1, CT(\tau)T(t-\tau)x_0 \rangle d\tau \\ &= \int_0^t \langle x_1, T(\tau)CT(t-\tau)x_0 \rangle d\tau \\ &= \int_0^t \langle T(\tau)^*x_1, CT(t-\tau)x_0 \rangle d\tau \\ &\leq \sqrt{\int_0^t \|T(\tau)^*x_1\|^2 d\tau} \cdot \\ &\quad \sqrt{\int_0^t \|CT(t-\tau)x_0\|^2 d\tau}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that the semigroup, and hence its adjoint, are uniformly bounded, and the fact that C is (infinite-time) admissible, we find that

$$t\langle x_1, CT(t)x_0 \rangle \leq \sqrt{t}M\|x_1\|m\|x_0\|.$$

Since this holds for all $x_1 \in X$, we conclude that

$$t\|CT(t)x_0\| \leq \sqrt{t}mM\|x_0\|.$$

This inequality holds for all $x_0 \in D(A)$. The domain of a generator is dense, and hence we have proved the second assertion. \square

From the above it is clear that if the semigroup is surjective, then any admissible C which commutes with the generator is bounded.

The Lebesgue extension of an admissible operator is defined by

$$C_Lx = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} C \int_0^t T(\tau)x d\tau,$$

where

$$D(C_L) = \{x \in X \mid \text{limit exists}\}.$$

Lemma 2.6: Let C be an admissible operator which commutes with the generator, then the same holds for its Lebesgue extension. Furthermore, this Lebesgue extension is a closed operator.

Proof Let x_n be a sequence in $D(C_L)$ which converges to $x \in X$, such that C_Lx_n converges to $z \in X$. For $\tau \geq 0$, we have that

$$C_LT(\tau)x_n = T(\tau)C_Lx_n \rightarrow T(\tau)z.$$

Hence

$$C_L \int_0^t T(\tau)x_n d\tau \rightarrow \int_0^t T(\tau)z d\tau$$

The expression on the left-hand side equals

$$\begin{aligned} C_L \int_0^t T(\tau)x_n d\tau &= C_LA^{-1}[T(t)x_n - x_n] \\ &= CA^{-1}[T(t)x_n - x_n] \\ &\rightarrow CA^{-1}[T(t)x - x] \\ &= C \int_0^t T(\tau)x d\tau, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that CA^{-1} is bounded. Hence we have that

$$\int_0^t T(\tau)z d\tau = C \int_0^t T(\tau)x d\tau.$$

Since $t^{-1} \int_0^t T(\tau)z d\tau$ converges to z for $t \downarrow 0$, we conclude from the above equality that $x \in D(C_L)$ and $C_Lx = z$. \square

III. \mathcal{H}_∞ -CALCULUS

For $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$ we define the following mapping from X to $L^2((0, \infty); X)$

$$\mathfrak{D}_g x_0 = M_g(T(t)x_0). \quad (14)$$

Hence we have taken in Definition 1.2 $f(t) = T(t)x_0$.

It is clear that \mathfrak{D}_g is a linear bounded operator from X into $L^2((0, \infty); X)$. Furthermore, from (6) we have that

$$\sigma_\tau(\mathfrak{D}_g x_0) = M_g(\sigma_\tau(T(t)x_0)) = M_gT(t+\tau)x_0 = \mathfrak{D}_g(T(\tau)x_0), \quad (15)$$

where we have used the semigroup property. Hence \mathfrak{D}_g is a well-posed output map, and so by Lemma 2.3 we conclude that \mathfrak{D}_g can be written as

$$\mathfrak{D}_g x_0 = g(A)T(t)x_0 \quad (16)$$

for some infinite-time admissible operator $g(A)$ which is bounded from the domain of A to X .

Since $A^{-1}T(t) = T(t)A^{-1}$ we conclude from (14) and (3) that

$$\mathfrak{D}_g A^{-1} = A^{-1}\mathfrak{D}_g$$

Hence by (16), we see that $g(A)$ is an admissible operator which commutes with A^{-1} . Theorem 2.5 implies that for $t > 0$, $g(A)T(t)$ can be extended to a bounded operator and

$$\|g(A)T(t)\| \leq \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{t}}. \quad (17)$$

Since we have written this admissible operator as the function g working on the operator A , there is likely to be a relation with functional calculus. This is shown next.

Lemma 3.1: If $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$ is the inverse Fourier transform of the function h , with $h \in L^1(-\infty, \infty)$ with support in $(-\infty, 0)$, then $g(A)$ is bounded

$$g(A)x_0 = \int_0^\infty T(t)h(-t)x_0 dt, \quad (18)$$

and so $g(A)$ corresponds to the classical definition of the function of an operator.

So if g is the Fourier transform of an absolutely integrable function, then $g(A)$ is bounded. We would like to know when it is bounded for every g . For this, we extend the definition of \mathfrak{D}_g .

Let C be an admissible output operator for the semigroup $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$. By definition, we know that $CT(\cdot)x_0 \in L^2((0, \infty); Y)$ for all $x_0 \in X$. We define

$$(C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g)x_0 = M_g(CT(t)x_0) \quad (19)$$

It is clear that this is a bounded mapping from X to $L^2((0, \infty); Y)$.

As before we have that

$$\sigma_\tau((C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g)(x_0)) = (C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g)(T(\tau)x_0). \quad (20)$$

And so we can write $(C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g)x_0$ as $\tilde{C}_g T(\cdot)x_0$ for some infinite-time admissible \tilde{C}_g . We have that

Lemma 3.2: The infinite-time admissible operator \tilde{C}_g satisfies

$$\tilde{C}_g x_0 = Cg(A)x_0, \quad \text{for } x_0 \in D(A^2). \quad (21)$$

Proof For $x_0 \in D(A^2)$, we introduce $x_1 = Ax_0$. Then in $L^2((0, \infty); Y)$ there holds

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{C}_g T(t)x_0 &= (C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g)x_0 \\ &= M_g(CT(t)x_0) \\ &= M_g(CT(t)A^{-1}x_1) \\ &= M_g(CA^{-1}T(t)x_1) \\ &= CA^{-1}g(A)T(t)x_1 \\ &= Cg(A)T(t)A^{-1}x_1 = Cg(A)T(t)x_0, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used (3). Since both functions are continuous, we find that (21) holds. \square

Based on this result, we denote \tilde{C}_g by $C \circ g(A)$.

Using this, we can prove the following theorems.

Theorem 3.3: The mapping $g \mapsto g(A)$ forms a (unbounded) \mathcal{H}_∞^- -calculus.

Proof It only remains to show that $(g_1 g_2)(A) = g_1(A)g_2(A)$. By Lemma 1.3 we have that

$$\mathfrak{D}_{g_1 g_2} x_0 = M_{g_1 g_2}(T(t)x_0) = M_{g_1} M_{g_2}(T(t)x_0).$$

For $x_0 \in D(A)$ the last expression equals $M_{g_1}(g_2(A)T(t)x_0)$, see (16). Since $g_2(A)$ commutes with the semigroup, we find that

$$\mathfrak{D}_{g_1 g_2} x_0 = M_{g_1}(T(t)g_2(A)x_0).$$

Using (16) twice, we obtain

$$(g_1 g_2)(A)T(t)x_0 = \mathfrak{D}_{g_1 g_2} x_0 = g_1(A)T(t)g_2(A)x_0$$

This is an equality in $L^2((0, \infty); X)$. However, if we take $x_0 \in D(A^2)$, then this holds pointwise, and so for $x_0 \in D(A^2)$.

$$(g_1 g_2)(A)x_0 = g_1(A)g_2(A)x_0$$

This concludes the proof. \square

Theorem 3.4: If there exists an admissible C such that (C, A) is exactly observable, i.e., there exists an $m_1 > 0$ such that for all $x_0 \in X$ there holds

$$\int_0^\infty \|CT(t)x_0\|^2 dt \geq m_1 \|x_0\|^2$$

then $g(A)$ is bounded for every $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$. Furthermore, if m_2 is the admissibility constant, see equation (12), then

$$\|g(A)\| \leq \sqrt{m_1 m_2} \|g\|_\infty. \quad (22)$$

Proof Let $x_0 \in D(A^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} \|g(A)x_0\|^2 &\leq m_1 \|CT(t)g(A)x_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= m_1 \|Cg(A)T(t)x_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= m_1 \|C \circ \mathfrak{D}_g x_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\leq m_1 \|g\|_\infty^2 \|CT(t)x_0\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\leq m_1 m_2 \|g\|_\infty^2 \|x_0\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since $D(A^2)$ is dense, we obtain the result. \square

As a corollary we obtain the well-known von Neumann inequality.

Corollary 3.5: If A is a strict contraction, then A has a bounded \mathcal{H}_∞^- calculus and for all $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$

$$\|g(A)\| \leq \|g\|_\infty. \quad (23)$$

Proof Since A is a strict contraction, we have that

$$\langle Ax, x \rangle + \langle x, Ax \rangle = -\langle x, Qx \rangle, \quad x \in D(A) \quad (24)$$

with Q self-adjoint and $Q > 0$. Define $C = \sqrt{Q}$, then (24) together with the exponential stability implies that

$$\int_0^\infty \|CT(t)x_0\|^2 dt = \|x_0\|^2. \quad (25)$$

Thus we see that the constants m_1 and m_2 in Theorem 3.4 can be chosen to be one, and so (22) gives the results. \square

If A generates an exponentially stable semigroup and if there exists an admissible C for which (C, A) is exactly observable, then it is not hard to show that the semigroup is similar to a contraction semigroup. Using this, one can also obtain the above result by Theorem G of [1]. The following result has been proved by Le Merdy.

Theorem 3.6: If A generates an analytic semigroup, and $A^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is admissible, then $g(A)$ is bounded for every $g \in \mathcal{H}_\infty^-$. Since $A^{1/2}$ is admissible, Lemma 3.2 gives that $A^{1/2} \circ g(A)$ is also admissible. For any admissible operator S there holds that $\|S(\lambda I - A)^{-1}\|^2 \leq m_2/\lambda$, $\lambda > 0$. Since A generates an analytic semigroup this implies that $SA^{-1/2}$ is bounded.

Hence the operator $(A^{1/2} \circ g(A))A^{-1/2}$ is bounded. On the dense set $D(A^3)$ this equals $g(A)$, and so the result is shown. \square

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