

$$\langle \operatorname{Re}[(\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})(Af)], \phi \rangle = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \langle |T(t)f|, \phi \rangle \right|_{t=0} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \langle T(t)|f|, \phi \rangle \right|_{t=0} = \langle |f|, A'\phi \rangle.$$

Conversely, assume that (2.9) holds. Let $t > 0$, $f \in C_0(X)$. We have to show that $|T(t)f| = T(t)|f|$. Since $D(A)$ is dense in $C_0(X)$, we can assume that $f \in D(A)$. Moreover, since $D(A')$ is $\sigma(M(X), C_0(X))$ -dense in $M(X)$, it suffices to show that

$$(2.13) \quad \langle |T(t)f|, \phi \rangle = \langle T(t)|f|, \phi \rangle$$

for all $\phi \in D(A')$.

Let $\phi \in D(A')$ and define the function $k(s) = \langle T(t-s)|T(s)f|, \phi \rangle$ ($s \in [0, t]$). We claim that k is right-sided differentiable with derivative $k'(s) = 0$ for all $s \in [0, t]$. This implies that $k(0) = k(t)$ which is (2.13).

Since $\phi \in D(A')$ we have

$$(2.14) \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h \langle g, (T(t-(s+h)) - T(t-s))'\phi \rangle = - \langle g, A'T(t-s)'\phi \rangle$$

for all $g \in C_0(X)$. Consequently,

$$\overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h \| (T(t-(s+h)) - T(t-s))'\phi \| < \infty$$

by the uniform boundedness principle. Hence, since

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} |T(s+h)f| = |T(s)f|$, (2.14) implies that

$$(2.15) \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h \langle |T(s+h)f|, (T(t-(s+h)) - T(t-s))'\phi \rangle = - \langle |T(s)f|, A'T(t-s)'\phi \rangle.$$

Using this we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h (k(s+h) - k(s)) \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h (\langle T(t-(s+h))|T(s+h)f|, \phi \rangle - \langle T(t-s)|T(s+h)f|, \phi \rangle + \\ & \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h (\langle T(t-s)|T(s+h)f| - T(t-s)|T(s)f|, \phi \rangle) \\ &= - \langle |T(s)f|, A'T(t-s)'\phi \rangle + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1/h \langle (|T(s+h)f| - |T(s)f|), T(t-s)'\phi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.6 the last term is

$$- \langle |T(s)f|, A'T(t-s)'\phi \rangle + \langle \operatorname{Re}[(\operatorname{sign} \overline{T(s)f})(AT(s)f)], T(t-s)'\phi \rangle,$$

and this is 0 by hypothesis.

□

Remark 2.7. We will see in Chapter C-II that the inequality $|T(t)f| \leq T(t)|f|$, which holds precisely for positive semigroups, implies the inequality corresponding to (2.9). For $A = \Delta$ (the Laplacian) this is a version of the classical Kato's inequality.