

Let $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2]$. A semigroup $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ is called holomorphic of angle α if it possesses an extension $T : S(\alpha) \rightarrow L(E)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2]$ which satisfies all the requirements of Definition 1.11 except that it is not required to be bounded on any sector $S(\alpha_1)$.

Theorem 1.14. A densely defined operator A is the generator of a holomorphic semigroup if and only if there exist $M > 0$ and $r \geq 0$ such that $\lambda \in \rho(A)$ and $\|R(\lambda, A)\| \leq M/|\lambda|$ whenever $\operatorname{Re} \lambda > 0$, $|\lambda| \geq r$.

Proof. It is not difficult to show that A generates a holomorphic semigroup of angle α if and only if for every $\alpha_1 \in (0, \alpha)$ there exists $w \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $A-w$ generates a bounded holomorphic semigroup of angle α_1 (cf. [Reed-Simon (1978b), p.252]). As a consequence one obtains the following. A densely defined operator A generates a holomorphic semigroup of angle $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2]$ if and only if for every $\alpha_1 \in [0, \alpha)$ there exist a constant $M \geq 0$ and $r \geq 0$ such that

$$S(\alpha_1 + \pi/2) \setminus B(r) \subset \rho(A) \quad (\text{where } B(r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \leq r\})$$

and

$$\|R(\lambda, A)\| \leq M/|\lambda| \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in S(\alpha_1) \setminus B(r).$$

This shows that the condition of the theorem is necessary. Conversely, assume that the condition holds. Since $\|R(\lambda, A)\| \rightarrow \infty$ when λ approaches $\sigma(A)$ (cf. Lemma 1.21 below), it follows that $\lambda \in \rho(A)$ and $\|R(\lambda, A)\| \leq M/|\lambda|$ if $\operatorname{Re} \lambda = 0$ and $|\lambda| > r$ as well.

Let $c = 1/2M$. If $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}$ satisfy $|\xi| \leq c|\eta|$, $|\eta| \geq r$, then $\|\xi R(i\eta, A)\| \leq \xi \cdot M/|\eta| \leq c \cdot M = 1/2$.

Hence $R(\xi + i\eta, A) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-\xi)^n R(i\eta, A)^{n+1}$ exists and

$$\begin{aligned} \|R(\xi + i\eta, A)\| &\leq (|\xi + i\eta|)^{-1} \cdot |\xi + i\eta| \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\xi|^n M^{n+1} / |\eta|^{n+1} \\ &\leq (|\xi + i\eta|)^{-1} \cdot M \cdot (|\xi|^2 + |\eta|^2)^{-1/2} / |\eta| \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M^n c^n \\ &\leq (2M \cdot (c^2 + 1)^{-1/2}) / |\xi + i\eta| \\ &= N / |\xi + i\eta|. \end{aligned}$$

This together with the assumption implies that there exist $N' \geq 0$ and $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2]$ such that $\lambda \in \rho(A)$ and $\|R(\lambda, A)\| \leq N'/|\lambda|$ for all $\lambda \in S(\alpha + \pi/2)$.

□

Compared with the Hille-Yosida theorem, Theorem 1.14 gives a very simple criterion for an operator to be the generator of a (holomorphic) semigroup. Merely the resolvent and not its powers have to be