

Corollary 2.8. Let  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be a lattice semigroup on  $C_0(X)$  with generator  $A$ . If  $f \in D(A)$  and  $f(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in X$ , then

$$|f| \in D(A) \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{Re}[(\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})(Af)] = A|f|.$$

Proof. If  $f \in D(A)$  and  $f(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in X$ , then  $(\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})(Af) = (\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})(Af) \in C_0(X)$ . Hence by (2.9),  $\langle \operatorname{Re}[(\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})(Af)], \phi \rangle = \langle |f|, A'\phi \rangle$  for all  $\phi \in D(A')$ . So the assertion follows from the following lemma. □

Lemma 2.9. Let  $A$  be a densely defined closed operator on a (real or complex) Banach space  $G$ . Let  $f, g \in G$  such that  $\langle f, \phi \rangle = \langle g, A'\phi \rangle$  for all  $\phi \in D(A')$ . Then  $g \in D(A)$  and  $Ag = f$ .

Proof. Denote by  $G(A) := \{(h, Ah) : h \in D(A)\} \subset G \times G$  the graph of  $A$ . Assume that  $(g, f) \notin G(A)$ . Since  $G(A)$  is closed, it follows from the Hahn-Banach theorem that there exists  $(\psi_1, \psi_2) \in G' \times G'$  such that  $\langle h, \psi_1 \rangle + \langle Ah, \psi_2 \rangle = 0$  for all  $h \in D(A)$  and  $\langle g, \psi_1 \rangle + \langle f, \psi_2 \rangle \neq 0$ . By the definition of  $A'$  this implies that  $\psi_2 \in D(A')$  and  $A'\psi_2 = -\psi_1$ . Hence  $\langle f, \psi_2 \rangle \neq -\langle g, \psi_1 \rangle = \langle g, A'\psi_2 \rangle$ . So the condition in the lemma is violated. □

Next we prove a converse of Corollary 2.8.

Theorem 2.10. Let  $A$  be the generator of a real semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on  $C(K, \mathbb{C})$ , where  $K$  is compact. Then  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is a lattice semigroup if and only if

$$f \in D(A), \quad f(x) \neq 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in K \quad \text{implies} \quad |f| \in D(A) \quad \text{and} \\ A|f| = \operatorname{Re}((\operatorname{sign} \bar{f})Af).$$

Remark. Although we assume that  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is a real semigroup (i.e.,  $T(t)C(K, \mathbb{R}) \subset C(K, \mathbb{R})$  for all  $t \geq 0$ ), it is important for the proof that we consider the space of all complex-valued continuous functions on  $K$ . In fact, if  $K$  is connected, the condition in the theorem is always trivially satisfied for all  $f \in C(K, \mathbb{R})$ .

Proof. It follows from Cor. 2.8 that the condition is necessary. So assume that the condition is satisfied. Since  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is real, the restriction  $T_{\mathbb{R}}(t)$  of  $T(t)$  to  $C(K, \mathbb{R})$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) defines a strongly continuous semigroup. Its generator  $A_{\mathbb{R}}$  is a restriction of  $A$ . Since  $D(A_{\mathbb{R}})$  is dense in  $C(K, \mathbb{R})$ , there exists a strictly positive