

Bounded functional calculi for unbounded operators

Charles Batty (University of Oxford)

with Alexander Gomilko and Yuri Tomilov

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What is a bounded functional calculus for operators?

Operator A on a Banach space X , a class \mathcal{F} of functions defined on the spectrum $\sigma(A)$. A functional calculus for A is an assignment

$$f \in \mathcal{F} \mapsto f(A) \quad (\text{operator on } X)$$

which reflects the structure of \mathcal{F} and relates sensibly to A .

Often \mathcal{F} is a (Banach) algebra, and this assignment is a (bounded) algebra homomorphism of \mathcal{F} into $L(X)$. If $-z \in \rho(A)$ and $r_z(w) = (z + w)^{-1}$, then $r_z(A)$ should be $(z + A)^{-1}$, and so on. In this situation we have a *bounded functional calculus*.

If X is a Hilbert space and A is self-adjoint, there is a bounded functional calculus for bounded measurable functions on $\sigma(A)$.

Otherwise, the functions will normally be holomorphic on a set containing $\sigma(A)$, for example the Riesz-Dunford calculus

$$f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} f(z)(z - A)^{-1} dz.$$

Here A may be bounded, or unbounded with special properties.

Sectorial functional calculus

If A is an (injective) sectorial operator of angle $\theta \in (0, \pi)$, one can define a functional calculus for bounded holomorphic functions on sectors Σ_ψ , where $\psi \in (\theta, \pi)$, based on a Riesz-Dunford integral and an extension process (McIntosh, Haase, etc).

This produces a bounded functional calculus for many differential operators, but not for all sectorial operators.

There is a similar procedure for half-planes.

Semigroup generators and Hille-Phillips calculus

Let $-A$ be the generator of a bounded C_0 -semigroup $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ on X , and $K = \sup_{t \geq 0} \|T(t)\|$. Then, in some sense,

$$T(t) = e_t(A), \quad e_t(z) = e^{-tz}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}_+,$$

$$(z + A)^{-1}x = \int_0^\infty e^{-tz} T(t)x \, dt, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}_+, x \in X.$$

Let $\mathcal{LM} := \{\hat{\mu} : \mu \in M(\mathbb{R}_+)\}$. Write m for $\hat{\mu}$.

$$m(z) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-zt} \, d\mu(t) \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}_+),$$

$$m(A)x := \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} T(t)x \, d\mu(t),$$

$$\|m(A)\| \leq K \|\mu\|_{M(\mathbb{R}_+)} =: K \|m\|_{\text{HP}}.$$

The norm-estimate is often far from sharp.

Cayley transform question

Suppose that $-A$ generates a bounded C_0 -semigroup. The operator $V(A) := (A - I)(A + I)^{-1}$ is the cogenerator. The question was raised whether $V(A)$ is power-bounded. One approach is as follows.

Let

$$f_n(z) = \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1} \right)^n.$$

Then $f_n \in \mathcal{LM}$, $f_1 = \hat{\mu}$, $d\mu = \delta_0 - 2e^{-t}dt$, $\|f_1\|_{\text{HP}} = 3$,

$$\|f_n\|_{\text{HP}} \asymp n^{1/2}.$$

So this tells us that $\|V(A)^n\|$ do not grow faster than $n^{1/2}$. Can we do better?

An alternative formula

Assume that $\mu(\{0\}) = 0$. Informally,

$$\begin{aligned}m(A)x &= \int_0^\infty T(t)x \, d\mu(t) \\&= 4 \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \tau t^2 e^{-2\tau t} T(t)x \, d\tau \, d\mu(t) \\&= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \tau \int_0^\infty \tau t e^{-\tau t} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\tau - is + A)^{-2} x \, e^{-ist} \, ds \, d\tau \, d\mu(t) \\&= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^\infty \tau (\tau - is + A)^{-2} x \int_0^\infty t e^{-(\tau+is)t} \, d\mu(t) \, d\tau \, ds \\&= -\frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^\infty \tau (\tau - is + A)^{-2} x \, m'(\tau + is) \, d\tau \, ds\end{aligned}$$

A definition

Operator A with dense domain and $\sigma(A) \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{C}_+}$,

$f : \mathbb{C}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ holomorphic, $f(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t)$, $x \in X, x^* \in X^*$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f(A)x, x^* \rangle &:= f(\infty) \langle x, x^* \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^\infty \tau \langle (\tau - is + A)^{-2} x, x^* \rangle f'(\tau + is) d\tau ds \end{aligned}$$

This double integral is absolutely convergent if

$f \in \mathcal{B} := B_{\infty,1}^0(\mathbb{C}_+)$, i.e., f is holomorphic on \mathbb{C}_+ and

$$\int_0^\infty \sup_{s \in \mathbb{R}} |f'(\tau + is)| d\tau < \infty,$$

and the functions $z \mapsto \langle (z + A)^{-1} x, x^* \rangle$ all belong to the space $\mathcal{E} := B_{1,\infty}^0(\mathbb{C}_+)$ of all holomorphic functions g on \mathbb{C}_+ such that

$$\sup_{\tau > 0} \tau \int_{\mathbb{R}} |g'(\tau + is)| ds < \infty$$

Let A be a densely defined operator, $\sigma(A) \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{C}}_+$,
 $z \mapsto \langle (z + A)^{-1}x, x^* \rangle \in \mathcal{E}$ for all $x \in X$, $x^* \in X^*$.

By the Closed Graph Theorem, there exists Γ_A such that

$$\tau \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\langle (\tau + is + A)^{-2}x, x^* \rangle| ds \leq \Gamma_A \|x\| \|x^*\|. \quad (\text{GSF})$$

1999/2000: Gomilko, and independently Shi and Feng, showed that (GSF) implies that $-A$ generates a bounded C_0 -semigroup.

If $-A$ is the generator of a bounded C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space, then (GSF) holds.

If A is sectorial of angle less than $\pi/2$, then (GSF) holds (and $-A$ generates a bounded holomorphic semigroup).

Let A be the generator of the C_0 -group of shifts on $L^p(\mathbb{R})$, where $1 \leq p < \infty$, $p \neq 2$. Then $\pm A$ do not satisfy (GSF).

The analytic Besov algebra $B_{\infty,1}^0(\mathbb{C}_+)$

Any $f \in \mathcal{B}$ extends to a bounded uniformly continuous function on $\overline{\mathbb{C}_+}$, and moreover $f(\infty) := \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} f(\tau)$ exists. Furthermore, \mathcal{B} is a Banach algebra in the norm

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}} := \|f\|_{\infty} + \int_0^{\infty} \sup_{s \in \mathbb{R}} |f'(\tau + is)| d\tau.$$

There is a partial duality between \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{E} :

$$\langle g, f \rangle_{\mathcal{B}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{\infty} g'(\tau - is) f'(\tau + is) d\tau ds \quad (g \in \mathcal{E}, f \in \mathcal{B})$$

Moreover

$$f(z) = f(\infty) + \frac{2}{\pi} \langle r_z, f \rangle_{\mathcal{B}}, \quad r_z(w) = (w + z)^{-1}.$$

1. *Hille-Phillips algebra.* Let $\mathcal{LM} := \{\widehat{\mu} : \mu \in M(\mathbb{R}_+)\}$. If $m \in \mathcal{LM}$, then $m \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\|m\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq 2\|m\|_{\text{HP}}$.
2. *Entire functions of exponential type.* For $0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \infty$, let $H^\infty[\tau_1, \tau_2]$ be the space of all $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{C}_+)$ such that the “spectrum” of $f(i \cdot)$ is contained in $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$. Then f is an entire function of exponential type.

$H^\infty[\tau_1, \tau_2] \subset \mathcal{B}$ and

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq \left(1 + 4 \log \left(1 + \frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1}\right)\right) \|f\|_{\infty}$$

(earlier partial results by White, Vitse, Haase, following a discrete version by Peller)

The closure of $\bigcup_{0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2} H^\infty[\tau_1, \tau_2]$ in \mathcal{B} is $\{f \in \mathcal{B} : f(\infty) = 0\}$.

3. Cayley transforms. $f_n(z) := \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^n$ is in \mathcal{LM} and hence in \mathcal{B} . Moreover,

$$\|f_n\|_{\mathcal{B}} \asymp \log n, \quad \|f_n\|_{\text{HP}} \asymp n^{1/2}.$$

4. $e^{-1/z}$ is not in \mathcal{B} —it is not uniformly continuous near 0

$e^{-1/(z+1)}$ is in \mathcal{B} —in fact it is in \mathcal{LM}

$\left(\frac{z}{z+1}\right)^2 e^{-1/z}$ is also in \mathcal{B} ; it is in the norm-closure of \mathcal{LM}

5. If f is a Bernstein function, then $(\lambda + f(z^\alpha)^\beta)^{-1}$ is in \mathcal{B} , for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $\beta \in (1, 1/\alpha)$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_+$.

Suppose that A satisfies (GSF). For $f \in \mathcal{B}$, define

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f(A)x, x^* \rangle &:= f(\infty) \langle x, x^* \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{\infty} \tau \langle (\tau - is + A)^{-2} x, x^* \rangle f'(\tau + is) d\tau ds \end{aligned}$$

Then $f(A)x \in X^{**}$, $f(A) : X \rightarrow X^{**}$, $\|f(A)\| \leq 2\Gamma_A \|f\|_{\mathcal{B}}$.

Does $f(A)$ map X into X ?

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Yes, if $f \in \mathcal{LM}$; moreover, $f(A)$ agrees with the Hille-Phillips functional calculus, i.e., $f(A)x = \int_0^\infty e^{-tA}x d\mu(t)$ if $f(z) = \int_0^\infty e^{-tz} d\mu(t)$.

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Yes, if $f \in H^\infty[\tau_1, \tau_2]$ where $0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \infty$. Let $\delta > 0$,

$$e_\delta(z) = \frac{1 - e^{-\delta z}}{\delta z}$$

Then $e_\delta \in \mathcal{LM}$, $fe_\delta \in \mathcal{LM}$, and $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} (fe_\delta)(A) = f(A)$ in the strong operator topology.

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Yes, for all $f \in \mathcal{B}$ because $f - f(\infty)$ is in the norm-closure of $\bigcup_{0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2} H^\infty[\tau_1, \tau_2]$.

So $f \mapsto f(A)$ is a bounded algebra homomorphism from \mathcal{B} to $L(X)$, extending the Hille-Phillips calculus.

The \mathcal{B} -calculus

If A is an operator such that $\sigma(A) \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{C}}_+$ and there is a bounded algebra homomorphism $\Phi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow L(X)$ such that

$$\Phi(r_\lambda) = (\lambda + A)^{-1}, \quad r_\lambda(z) = (\lambda + z)^{-1}, \quad \lambda, z \in \mathbb{C}_+.$$

Then

- A satisfies (GSF),
- Φ is the homomorphism $f \mapsto f(A)$ defined above.

We call this the \mathcal{B} -calculus (or the Besov calculus).

The \mathcal{B} -calculus is compatible with:

- Sectorial calculus
- Half-plane calculus

in the sense that the \mathcal{B} -calculus definition of $f(A)$ agrees with definitions of $f(A)$ in these calculi whenever they can also be defined.

Theorem

Let A be an operator satisfying (GSF). Let (f_n) be a sequence in \mathcal{B} with $\sup_n \|f_n\|_{\mathcal{B}} < \infty$, and assume that

- $f(z) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(z)$ exists for all $z \in \mathbb{C}_+$,
- For all $r > 0$,

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^\delta \sup_{|\beta| \leq r} |f'_n(\alpha + i\beta)| d\alpha = 0,$$

uniformly in n .

Then $f \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(A) = f(A)$ in the strong operator topology.

Theorem

Let $f \in \mathcal{B}$.

- 1 If A satisfies (GSF), then $f(\sigma(A)) \subseteq \sigma(f(A))$.
- 2 If A is sectorial of angle less than $\pi/2$ then $f(\sigma(A)) \cup \{f(\infty)\} = \sigma(f(A)) \cup \{f(\infty)\}$.

Theorem (Gomilko 2004)

Assume that $-A$ generates a bounded C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space, with $\|e^{-tA}\| \leq M$. Let $V(A) = (A - 1)(A + 1)^{-1}$. Then

$$\|V(A)^n\| \leq cM^2(1 + \log n).$$

Inverse generator problem

$e^{-1/z}$ is not in \mathcal{B} —it is not uniformly continuous near 0

$e^{-1/(z+1)}$ is in \mathcal{B} —in fact it is in \mathcal{LM}

$\left(\frac{z}{z+1}\right)^2 e^{-1/z}$ is also in \mathcal{B} ; it is in \mathcal{LM}

Theorem (*Zwart 2007)

Let $-A$ be the generator of a bounded C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space with $\|e^{-tA}\| \leq M$, and assume that A has a bounded inverse. Then

$$\|e^{-tA^{-1}}\| \leq cM^2 \|(1 + A^{-1})^2\| (1 + \log(1 + t)).$$

*Zwart assumed that $-A$ generates an exponentially stable C_0 -semigroup.

Theorem (Gomilko–Tomilov 2015)

Let A be sectorial of angle $\omega \in [0, \pi/2)$, and let f be a Bernstein function. Then $f(A)$ is sectorial of angle ω (or less).

Suppose that A is sectorial of angle less than $\pi/2$, so that $\|z(z + A)^{-1}\| \leq M_A$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}_+, z \neq 0$.

There is an absolute constant C such that

$$\tau \int_{\mathbb{R}} \|(\tau + A)^{-2}\| d\tau \leq CM_A(\log M_A + 1) \quad (\tau > 0)$$

Hence

$$\|f(A)\| \leq CM_A(\log M_A + 1)\|f\|_{\mathcal{B}} \quad (f \in \mathcal{B}).$$

This was first proved by Vitse, using dyadic decompositions, and with a somewhat larger “constant”.

$s > -1$, $f : \mathbb{C}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ holomorphic; $f \in \mathcal{D}_s$ if

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_{s,0}} = \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{|f'(\alpha + i\beta)|}{(\alpha^2 + \beta^2)^{(s+1)/2}} d\beta d\alpha < \infty.$$

For A sectorial of angle less than $\pi/2$,

$$f_{\mathcal{D}}(A) := f(\infty) - \frac{2^s}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(\alpha + i\beta)(A + \alpha - i\beta)^{-(s+1)/2} d\beta d\alpha.$$

$$\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{D}_s \subset \mathcal{D}_\tau \quad (0 < s < \tau)$$

\mathcal{D}_s is a Banach space, but it is not an algebra; $\bigcup_{s>0} \mathcal{D}_s$ is an algebra but not a Banach space; $\mathcal{D}_s \cap H^\infty(\mathbb{C}_+)$ is a Banach algebra.

$f_{\mathcal{D}}(A)$ does not depend on s , and it has the properties of a functional calculus.

Let $f_n(z) = \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^n$. For $s > 0$, the sequence $\|f_n\|_{\mathcal{D}_s}$ is bounded.

Hence the Cayley transform question has a positive answer for bounded holomorphic C_0 -semigroups (first proved by deLaubenfels in 1985)

If there is a \mathcal{D} -calculus for an operator A , then A is sectorial of angle less than $\pi/2$.

$\psi \in (0, \pi)$, $f : \Sigma_\psi \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ holomorphic; $f \in \mathcal{H}_\psi$ if $f' \in H^1(\Sigma_\psi)$

\mathcal{H}_ψ is a Banach algebra in the norm

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_\psi} = \|f\|_{H^\infty(\Sigma_\psi)} + \|f'\|_{H^1(\Sigma_\psi)}.$$

A sectorial of angle $\theta \in (0, \pi/2)$, $\psi \in (\theta, \pi/2)$, $\gamma = \pi/(2\psi)$,

$f \in \mathcal{H}_\psi$, $g(z) = f(z^{1/\gamma})$. Then $g \in \mathcal{D}_s$ for all $s > -1$.

$$f_{\mathcal{H}}(A) := g_{\mathcal{D}}(A^\gamma).$$

This does not depend on ψ , and it defines a bounded functional calculus.

If there is a \mathcal{H}_ψ -calculus for an operator A , then A is sectorial of angle less than ψ .

There is a Banach algebra \mathcal{A} of holomorphic functions on \mathbb{C}_+ such that \mathcal{B} is continuously included in \mathcal{A} , and every operator A which is the negative generator of a bounded C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space has a bounded \mathcal{A} -calculus.

Question: Let $f_n(z) = \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^n$. Is the sequence $\|f_n\|_{\mathcal{A}}$ bounded?

If the answer is Yes, then the Cayley transform question has a positive answer for bounded C_0 -semigroups on Hilbert space.

***B*-calculus**

Batty, Gomilko and Tomilov, *Math. Ann.* 379 (2021), no. 1-2, 23–93

Batty, Gomilko and Tomilov, *JFA* 281 (2021), no. 6, 109089

***D*-calculus and *H*-calculus**

Batty, Gomilko and Tomilov, [arxiv.org:2101.05083](https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.05083)

ALM-calculus

L. Arnold and C. Le Merdy, [arxiv.org:2012.04440](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.04440)

CJKB

von Neumann's inequality

Let T be a contraction on Hilbert space, and $p(z)$ be a polynomial.

$$\|p(T)\| \leq \|p\|_\infty \quad (\text{sup-norm on the unit disc})$$

Then we can extend to the disc algebra, by continuity

$$\|f(T)\| \leq \|f\|_\infty$$

If $S = V^{-1}TV$,

$$f(S) = V^{-1}f(T)V$$

What about power-bounded operators in general?

Peller (1982):

T power-bounded on Hilbert space

Besov norm for holomorphic f on the unit disc \mathbb{D} :

$$\|f\|_B := \int_0^1 \sup_{\theta} |f'(re^{i\theta})| dr$$

$$\|p(T)\| \leq C\|p\|_B$$

Hence there is a bounded functional calculus for the analytic Besov space $B_{\infty,1}^0(\mathbb{D})$ of functions $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ for which $\|f\|_B < \infty$.

Theorem (Zwart 2012, Haase–Rozendaal 2013)

If $f \in H^\infty[\tau, \infty)$ and f extends to a function in H_ω^∞ , and $-A$ generates a bounded C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space, where $\|e^{-tA}\| \leq M$, then

$$\|f(A)\| \leq cM^2 e^{-\omega\tau} \|f\|_{H_\omega^\infty} \left(2 + \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{\tau\omega} \right) \right).$$

Theorem (Schwenninger–Zwart*)

Assume that $-A$ generates an exponentially stable C_0 -semigroup on a Hilbert space, so that there exist $M, \delta > 0$ such that

$$\|e^{-tA}\| \leq Me^{-\delta t} \quad (t \geq 0).$$

Let $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{C}_+)$ and assume that there is a monotonic decreasing function $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ such that

$$|f(is)| \leq h(|s|), \quad \|h\|_\delta := \int_0^\infty \frac{h(t)}{t + \delta} < \infty.$$

Then

$$\|f(A)\| \leq cM^2 \|h\|_\delta.$$

*Announced at Bedlewo, April 2017, for $h(s) = (\log(s + e))^{-\alpha}$ where $\alpha > 1$.

Appendix: proof of density

Proposition (Arveson?, Olesen?, Pedersen?)

Let $\{U(t) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be a bounded C_0 -group on a Banach space Y , with generator G , and let $Y(K)$ denote the spectral subspace corresponding to a closed subset K of \mathbb{R} . Assume that G has dense range. Then

$$\bigcup \{Y(K) : K \text{ compact, } 0 \notin K\}$$

is dense in Y .

Let $Y = \mathcal{B}_0 := \{f \in \mathcal{B} : f(\infty) = 0\}$. For $f \in \mathcal{B}_0$ and $a \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}_+$, let

$$(T_{\mathcal{B}}(a)f)(z) = f(z + a).$$

Then $\{T_{\mathcal{B}_0}(a) : a \in \mathbb{C}_+ \cup \{0\}\}$ is a holomorphic C_0 -semigroup of contractions on \mathcal{B}_0 , and $\{T_{\mathcal{B}_0}(is) : s \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is a C_0 -group of isometries. Moreover the generator has dense range and its spectrum is $i\mathbb{R}_+$.

Littlewood-Paley decomposition

It follows that \mathcal{B} is the space of all functions $f \in H^\infty(\mathbb{C}_+)$, such that the boundary function f^b has a Littlewood–Paley decomposition for $(0, \infty)$ of the form

$$f^b = f(\infty) + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f^b * \psi_k,$$

which is absolutely convergent in the norm of $L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$.