

# On the approximation theory of $C_0$ -semigroups

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# Set-up: three classical approximations

**Theorem** Let  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  be a bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup on a Banach space  $X$ . Then for every  $x \in X$ ,

a) [Yosida's approximation]

$$e^{-tA}x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-ntA(n+A)^{-1}}x;$$

b) [Dunford-Segal's approximation]

$$e^{-tA}x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-nt(1-e^{-A/n})}x$$

c) [Euler's approximation]

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Problem 1. Is it possible to unify a), b) and c) ?

# Some motivations to study semigroup approximations

- indispensable in semigroup theory: Hille-Yosida theorem, Trotter-Kato theorems, Chernoff theorems ...
- of importance in numerical analysis of PDE's: Brenner, Hersh, Kato, Thomee, Wahlbin, ...
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## One of the major problems (Problem 2):

Quantify semigroup approximations, i.e. equip them with (optimal) rates

It was treated mainly for analytic semigroups: Crouzeix, Fujita, Larsson, le Roix, C. Palencia, Thomée, Wahlbin, Zagrebnov and many others ...

Mainly scattered facts ...

## An example of history: Euler's approximation

**Theorem** Let  $-A$  be the generator of a bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on a Banach space  $X$ . Then there exists  $c > 0$  such that for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t > 0$ ,

(i) (Brenner-Thomé)

$$\|e^{-tA}x - (1 + tA/n)^{-n}x\| \leq c \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^2 \|A^2x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^2);$$

(ii) (Flory-Weis)

$$\|e^{-tA}x - (1 + tA/n)^{-n}x\| \leq c \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \|Ax\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A);$$

(iii) (Kovacs)

$$\|e^{-tA}x - (1 + tA/n)^{-n}x\| \leq c \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^\alpha \|x\|_{\alpha,2,\infty}, \quad x \in X_{\alpha,2,\infty},$$

where  $X_{\alpha,2,\infty}$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 2$ , is a certain Favard space.

# Observation for the scalar exponent

Consider

$$\Delta_{t,n}^{\varphi}(z) := e^{-nt\varphi(z/n)} - e^{-tz} \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

or

$$E_{t,n}^{\varphi}(z) := e^{-n\varphi(tz/n)} - e^{-tz} \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$$

for all  $t > 0$  and  $z > 0$ , with  $\varphi$  being an appropriate function.



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**This way we get all three approximations:**

- Yosida approximation  $\rightarrow \Delta_{t,n}^{\varphi}$  with  $\varphi(z) = z/(z+1)$
- Dunford-Segal approximation  $\rightarrow \Delta_{t,n}^{\varphi}$  with  $\varphi(z) = 1 - e^{-z}$
- Euler approximation  $\rightarrow E_{t,n}^{\varphi}$  with  $\varphi(z) = \log(1+z)$

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Note that all of  $\varphi$ 's are Bernstein and try to plug in  $A$  instead of  $z$

# Formalization

Start from the generator  $-A$  of a bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup on a Banach space and consider

$$\Delta_t^\varphi(z) := e^{-t\varphi(z)} - e^{-tz}.$$

- choose **function class** to specify  $\varphi$

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- do **scaling**:  $\Delta_{nt}^\varphi(z/n) = \Delta_{t,n}^\varphi$ ,  $\Delta_n^\varphi(tz/n) = E_{t,n}^\varphi(z)$ .
- obtain universal **approximation formulas with (optimal) convergence rates**

## Bernstein functions: why ?

A function  $\varphi : (0, \infty) \mapsto (0, \infty)$  is *completely monotone* if there exists a positive measure  $\mu$  such that

$$\varphi(z) = \int_0^\infty e^{-zt} d\mu(t), \quad z > 0.$$

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A family of positive Borel measures  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  is called a vaguely continuous convolution semigroup of subprobability measures if for all  $s, t \geq 0$  :

$$\mu_t(\mathbb{R}_+) \leq 1, \quad \mu_{t+s} = \mu_t * \mu_s, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{weak*} - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \mu_t = \delta_0.$$

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**Theorem (Bochner subordination)** A function  $\varphi$  is Bernstein if and only if there exists a vaguely continuous semigroup  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  of subprobability measures on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  such that for all  $t \geq 0$  :

$$e^{-t\varphi(z)} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sz} d\mu_t(s), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}_+.$$

# Bernstein functions: remarks and class $\Phi$

1. A function  $f \in C^\infty(0, \infty)$  is completely monotone if

$$f(t) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (-1)^n \frac{d^n f(t)}{dt^n} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } t > 0.$$

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2. **A flavour of positivity:** If  $f$  is **compl. monotone** and  $\varphi$  is **Bernstein**  $\Rightarrow f \circ \varphi$  is **compl. monotone**. If, in addition,  $f$  is **bdd**  $\Rightarrow f \circ \varphi$  is **bdd** and **compl. monotone**, and

$$\|f \circ \varphi\|_{A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)} = (f \circ \varphi)(0+) \leq \|f\|_{A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)}.$$

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3. **Definition of our function class**

$$\Phi := \{\varphi \text{ is Bernstein} : \varphi(0) = 0, \quad \varphi'(0+) = 1, \quad |\varphi''(0+)| < \infty\}.$$

# Hille-Phillips functional calculus

Let  $M(\mathbb{R}_+)$  be the Banach algebra of bounded Radon measures on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ .

*Laplace transform* of  $\mu \in M(\mathbb{R}_+)$  :

$$(\mathcal{L}\mu)(z) := \int_0^\infty e^{-sz} \mu(ds), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}_+.$$

$$A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+) := \{\mathcal{L}\mu : \mu \in M(\mathbb{R}_+)\}$$

$$\|\mathcal{L}\mu\|_{A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)} := \|\mu\|_{M(\mathbb{R}_+)} = |\mu|(\mathbb{R}_+).$$

$(A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+), \|\cdot\|_{A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)})$  is a commutative Banach algebra with pointwise multiplication, the Laplace transform

$$\mathcal{L} : M(\mathbb{R}_+) \mapsto A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)$$

is an isometric isomorphism.

## Hille-Phillips calculus:cd

Let  $-A$  be the generator of a bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on a Banach space  $X$ .

The mapping

$$g = \mathcal{L}\mu \quad \mapsto \quad g(A) := \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-tA} \mu(dt)$$

defines a continuous algebra homomorphism (“functional calculus”) from  $A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)$  into the Banach space of bounded linear operators on  $X$  satisfying

$$\|g(A)\| \leq \left( \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\| \right) \|g\|_{A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+)}, \quad g \in A_+^1(\mathbb{C}_+).$$

This homomorphism is called the *Hille–Phillips* (HP) functional calculus for  $A$ .

## Rates for approximations: general case

The Hille-Phillips calculus (and Bochner subord.) yields

**Theorem** Let  $\varphi \in \Phi$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 2]$  and  $M := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\|$ . Then for all  $x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha)$ ,  $t > 0$ , and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\|e^{-nt\varphi(A/n)}x - e^{-tA}x\| \leq 8M \left( \frac{t|\varphi''(0+)|}{n} \right)^{\alpha/2} \|A^\alpha x\|,$$



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**The main point:**

$\frac{e^{-\varphi(z)} - e^{-z}}{z^2}$  is a bdd completely monotone function

**Remark**

- Theorem  $\Rightarrow$  the convergence of  $\Delta_{t,n}^\varphi(A)$  and  $\Delta_{t,n}^\varphi(A)$  in SOT.
- The domain  $(0, 2]$  for  $\alpha$  in Theorem cannot, in general, be enlarged.

## A corollary: rates for three classical approximations

**Theorem** Let  $\alpha \in (0, 2]$  and  $M := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\|$ . Then for all  $x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha)$ ,  $t > 0$ , and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

a) [Yosida's approximation]

$$\|e^{-tA}x - e^{-ntA(n+A)^{-1}}x\| \leq 16M \left(\frac{t}{n}\right)^{\alpha/2} \|A^\alpha x\|;$$

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Can Theorem be improved for analytic semigroups? Rich history ...

# Rates for approximations: (sectorially) bounded analytic semigroups

**Theorem** Let  $\varphi \in \Phi$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . Then there exists  $C > 0$  such that

$$\|(e^{-nt\varphi(A/n)} - e^{-tA})x\| \leq \frac{C}{nt^{1-\alpha}} \|A^\alpha x\|,$$

and

$$\|(e^{-n\varphi(tA/n)} - e^{-tA})x\| \leq \frac{Ct^\alpha}{n} \|A^\alpha x\|,$$

for all  $x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t > 0$ .

**Note:**  $\alpha$  can be zero = convergence with (optimal) rates in the uniform op. topology !

# A corollary for three classical approximations

**Corollary** Let  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . Then there exists  $C > 0$  such that

a) [Yosida's approximation]

$$\|e^{-tA}x - e^{-ntA(n+A)^{-1}}x\| \leq C(nt^{1-\alpha})^{-1} \|A^\alpha x\|;$$

b) [Dunford-Segal's approximation]

$$\|e^{-tA}x - e^{-nt(1-e^{-A/n})}x\| \leq C(nt^{1-\alpha})^{-1} \|A^\alpha x\|;$$

c) [Euler's approximation]

$$\|e^{-tA}x - (1 + t/nA)^{-n}x\| \leq C(nt^{-\alpha})^{-1} \|A^\alpha x\|,$$

for all  $t > 0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha)$ .

# Optimality

**Theorem** Let  $\overline{\text{ran}}(A) = X$ , and let  $\varphi \in \Phi, \varphi(z) \neq z$ .

- (i) If  $\{|\mathbf{s}| : \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}, i\mathbf{s} \in \sigma(A)\} = \mathbb{R}_+$ , then there exist  $c > 0$  and  $T > 0$  such that for every  $\alpha \in (0, 2]$  and all  $t \geq T$ ,

$$\|A^{-\alpha}(e^{-nt\varphi(A/n)} - e^{-tA})\| \geq c \left(\frac{t}{n}\right)^{\alpha/2},$$

$$\|A^{-\alpha}(e^{-n\varphi(tA/n)} - e^{-tA})\| \geq c \left(\frac{t^2}{n}\right)^{\alpha/2}.$$

- (ii) If  $\mathbb{R}_+ \subset \sigma(A)$ , then there exist  $T > 0$  and  $c > 0$  such that for every  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  and all  $t \geq T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\|A^{-\alpha}(e^{-nt\varphi(A/n)}x - e^{-tA})\| &\geq cn^{-1}t^{\alpha-1}, \\ \|A^{-\alpha}(e^{-n\varphi(tA/n)} - e^{-tA})\| &\geq cn^{-1}t^{\alpha}.\end{aligned}$$



# A yet more general setting: motivation

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3. For every bounded CM function  $g$  with  $g'(0+) = -1$  :

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4. Not every bounded CM function  $g$  is as in 1:

e.g. if  $g(z) = \int_0^T e^{-sz} d\nu(s), \quad z > 0, \quad T < \infty.$

Some known approximations outside of the scope:

$$g(z) = \frac{1 - e^{-2z}}{2z}, \quad g_t(z) = 1 - t + t \exp(-z/t), \quad t \in (0, 1), \dots$$

# Approximation of general $C_0$ -semigroups: first order formulas

**Theorem**[Gomilko-Kosowicz-T.] Let  $-A$  be the generator of a bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on  $X$ , and let  $(g_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a family of CM functions such that

$$g_t(0+) = 1, \quad g'_t(0+) = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad g''_t(0+) < \infty.$$

for every  $t \geq 0$ . Let  $M := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\|$ .

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Then for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$\|g_t^n(tA/n)x - e^{-tA}x\| \leq M \frac{(g''_t(0) - 1)}{2} \frac{t^2}{n} \|A^2x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^2),$$

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and, if  $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ ,

$$\|g_t^n(tA/n)x - e^{-tA}x\| \leq 4M \left( (g''_t(0) - 1) \frac{t^2}{n} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \|A^\alpha x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha).$$



## Approximation of analytic $C_0$ -semigroups

**Theorem** Let  $(g_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be as before, and let  $-A$  be the generator of a sect. bdd analytic  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on  $X$ . Define

$$M_\beta := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|t^\beta A^\beta e^{-tA}\|, \quad \beta = 0, 1, 2.$$

Then for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t > 0$ ,

$$\|g_t^n(tA/n)x - e^{-tA}x\| \leq (2M_0 + 3M_1/2) \frac{(g_t''(0) - 1)}{n} t \|Ax\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A),$$

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where  $K = 3M_0 + 3M_1 + M_2/2$ .

# Approximation of general $C_0$ -semigroups: higher-order formulas

**Theorem** Let  $(g_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be family of CM functions such that

$$g_t(0+) = 1, \quad g'_t(0+) = -1 \quad |g_t^{(k)}(0+)| < \infty, \quad k = 3, 4,$$

for every  $t \geq 0$ . Let  $M := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\|$ .

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for every  $t \geq 0$ . Let  $M := \sup_{t \geq 0} \|e^{-tA}\|$ . Then for all  $t > 0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|g_t^n(tA/n) - (2n)^{-1}(g_t''(0) - 1)t^2 e^{-tA} A^2 x\| \\ \leq MC(g_t)t^3 n^{-3/2} \|A^3 x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^3), \end{aligned}$$

where  $C(g_t)$  is a finite linear comb. of the derivatives of  $g_t$  at 0.

Moreover, for all  $t > 0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|g_t^n(tA/n)x - (2n)^{-1}(g_t''(0) - 1)t^2 e^{-tA} A^2 x\| \\ \leq MC_1(g_t)n^{-2}t^3(\|A^3 x\|, +t\|A^4 x\|), \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^4), \end{aligned}$$

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# The “best” (final ?) Euler’s formula

**Theorem** Let  $-A$  be the generator of a sect. bdd holomorphic  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on  $X$ . Then for all  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ ,  $t > 0$ , and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\left\| e^{-tA}x - \left(1 + \frac{t}{n}A\right)^{-n}x \right\| \leq M_{2-\alpha} r_n t^\alpha \|A^\alpha x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha),$$

where

$$r_n \leq \frac{1}{n}, \quad r_n = \frac{1}{2n} + \frac{r_{0,n}}{n^2} \quad |r_{0,n}| \leq C.$$

Moreover, there exists  $C > 0$  such that for all  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ ,  $t > 0$ , and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| e^{-tA}x - \left(1 + \frac{t}{n}A\right)^{-n}x - \frac{t^2 A^2 x}{2n} e^{-tA}x \right\| \\ & \leq C[M_{3-\alpha} + M_{4-\alpha}] \frac{t^\alpha}{n^2} \|A^\alpha x\|, \quad x \in \text{dom}(A^\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

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- a) unifies known results and yields a number of new ones.
- b) allows to equip approximation theorems with the corresponding convergence rate.
- c) the convergence rates obtained in this way are optimal
- d) we get best (?) constants and optimal higher order approximations