

## PROPERTIES OF SUBGENERATORS OF $C$ -REGULARIZED SEMIGROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** We introduce two operations  $\wedge, \vee$  in the set  $\mathcal{G}$  of subgenerators of a given  $C$ -regularized semigroup and prove that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a complete partially ordered lattice with respect to  $\wedge, \vee$  and the operator inclusion  $\subseteq$ . Also presented are some other properties and examples for  $\mathcal{G}$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In dealing with the many physical problems that may be modeled as an abstract Cauchy problem

$$(ACP) \quad \frac{d}{dt}u(t, x) = Au(t, x) \quad (t \geq 0), \quad u(0, x) = x,$$

where  $A$  is a closed linear operator on a Banach space  $X$ , and  $u(\cdot, x) \in \mathbf{C}([0, \infty), X)$ , well-posedness corresponds to  $A$  generating a strongly continuous semigroup. When (ACP) is not well-posed, a useful concept for dealing with it is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup (Definition 1.1). When  $A$  generates a  $C$ -regularized semigroup, then (ACP) has a unique mild solution, for all  $x$  in the image of  $C$ , a unique strong solution, for all  $x \in C(D(A))$ , and  $u(t, x_n) \rightarrow u(t, x)$ , uniformly for  $t$  in every compact subset of  $[0, \infty)$ , whenever  $C^{-1}x_n \rightarrow C^{-1}x$ .

However, in order that (ACP) have all these solutions, it is not necessary that  $A$  generates a  $C$ -regularized semigroup; it is only necessary that  $A$  be a subgenerator (Definition 1.2) of a  $C$ -regularized semigroup. This was first observed only very recently, in [7, Counter example 0.2]. In fact, (ACP) has a unique mild solution for all  $x \in \text{Im}(C)$  if and only if  $A$  is a subgenerator of a  $C$ -regularized semigroup [7, Theorem 3.3].

Thus from the point of view of applications, there is no difference between a generator and a subgenerator. In practice, verifying that  $A$  is a subgenerator of a  $C$ -regularized semigroup is much easier than showing that  $A$  itself is the generator. Hence, the subgenerators become the objects of interest. Unfortunately, up to now the properties of the set of subgenerators of a  $C$ -regularized semigroup are not clear. This paper attempts to study these and presents several results and examples.

Throughout  $X$  is a Banach space and  $L(X)$  is the algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $X$ . Let  $C \in L(X)$ .

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**Definition 1.1** ([3], [4], [6], [7], [8]). The strongly continuous family of operators

$$\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \subset L(X)$$

is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup if it satisfies:

- (1)  $W(0) = C$ , and
- (2)  $W(t)W(s) = CW(t+s)$ , for all  $t, s \geq 0$ .

$\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is nondegenerate if  $W(t)x \equiv 0$ , for all  $t \geq 0$ , implies  $x = 0$ .

In [7, Proposition 2.2] it is shown that  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is nondegenerate if and only if  $C$  is injective. In this paper, we assume that  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is nondegenerate.

**Definition 1.2** ([7], [12]). Assume  $B$  is closed. We say that  $B$  is a subgenerator of the  $C$ -regularized semigroup  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  if

- (1)  $W(t)B \subseteq BW(t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , and
- (2)  $\int_0^t W(s)xds \in D(B)$  and  $B \int_0^t W(s)xds = W(t)x - Cx \quad \forall x \in X, t \geq 0$ .

We also say that  $B$  has a  $C$ -regularized semigroup  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  or  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup for  $B$ .

For convenience, we will use the term subgenerator.

Generally, subgenerators of a given  $C$ -regularized semigroup are not unique (see Examples 2.13, 2.14). However, it is shown in [7, Proposition 2.9] that a  $C$ -regularized semigroup is uniquely determined by one of its subgenerators.

**Definition 1.3** ([7]). Assume  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup. Let  $D(\tilde{A})$  be the set of all  $x \in X$  such that there exists  $y \in X$  satisfying

$$W(t)x - Cx = \int_0^t W(s)yds \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Then  $\tilde{A}x = y$ .  $\tilde{A}$  is called the generator of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ .

An analogous definition of the generator of an integrated semigroup appears in [1], [14]. Moreover, it has been proved in [7, Proposition 2.6] that

- (1) if  $\tilde{A}$  is the generator of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  then  $\tilde{A}$  is a subgenerator of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ ;
- (2)  $\tilde{A}x = C^{-1} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0+} \frac{1}{t}(W(t)x - Cx)$ , with maximal domain.

## 2. PROPERTIES OF SUBGENERATORS

In this section, we are devoted to the study of properties of subgenerators. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the set of all subgenerators of the  $C$ -regularized semigroup  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ .

**Definition 2.1** ([12]). Let  $A$  be the operator defined by

$$D(A) = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^m \int_0^{t_k} W(s)x_k ds : x_k \in X, t_k \geq 0, k = 1, \dots, m \right\};$$

$$A \left[ \sum_{k=1}^m \int_0^{t_k} W(s)x_k ds \right] = \sum_{k=1}^m [W(t_k)x_k - Cx_k].$$

**Proposition 2.2** ([7], [12]). Assume  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup. Then

- (1)  $A$  in Definition 2.1 is well-defined and closable;
- (2)  $\bar{A}$ , the closure of  $A$ , and  $\tilde{A}$  are respectively the smallest and largest elements in  $\mathcal{G}$ , that is, every  $B \in \mathcal{G}$  satisfies  $\bar{A} \subseteq B \subseteq \tilde{A}$ ;
- (3) for every  $B \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $C^{-1}BC = \tilde{A}$ .

The following lemma is clear.

**Lemma 2.3.** *For every  $T \in L(X)$  and every closable  $S$ ,  $TS \subseteq ST$  implies  $T\bar{S} \subseteq \bar{S}T$ , where  $\bar{S}$  is the closure of  $S$ .*

**Lemma 2.4.** *For any  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ , the following hold:*

- (1) *if  $x \in D(B_1) \cap D(B_2)$  then  $B_1x = B_2x$ ;*
- (2) *let  $B$  be the operator*

$$D(B) = D(B_1) \cap D(B_2), Bx = B_1x \quad \forall x \in D(B).$$

*Then  $B$  is closed and  $B \in \mathcal{G}$ .*

*Proof.* (1) is obvious. As for (2), from Proposition 2.2(2),  $\bar{A} \subseteq B \subseteq \tilde{A}$ . This, together with the obvious inclusion  $W(t)B \subseteq BW(t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , gives  $B \in \mathcal{G}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *For any  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ , let  $B^0$  be the operator*

$$D(B^0) = \text{span}[D(B_1) \cup D(B_2)];$$

$$B^0(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2) = a_1B_1x_1 + a_2B_2x_2 \quad \forall x_i \in D(B_i), \quad a_i \in \mathbf{C}, i = 1, 2.$$

*Then  $B^0$  is closable and its closure  $\tilde{B} \in \mathcal{G}$ .*

*Proof.*  $B^0$  is clearly the restriction of  $\tilde{A}$  to  $\text{span}[D(B_1) \cup D(B_2)]$ , it is well-defined and closable. The inclusions  $\bar{A} \subseteq B^0 \subseteq \tilde{A}$  imply  $\bar{A} \subseteq \tilde{B} \subseteq \tilde{A}$ . From Lemma 2.3,  $W(t)\tilde{B} \subseteq \tilde{B}W(t)$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . Hence  $\tilde{B} \in \mathcal{G}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.6.** For any  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ , define  $B = B_1 \wedge B_2, \tilde{B} = B_1 \vee B_2$ , where  $B, \tilde{B}$  are operators defined in Lemmas 2.4 and 2.5, respectively.

**Proposition 2.7.** *With respect to the operations  $\wedge, \vee$  and the operator inclusion  $\subseteq, \mathcal{G}$  is a complete partially ordered lattice.*

*Proof.* It suffices to claim that  $\mathcal{G}$  is complete with respect to  $\wedge, \vee$ , since the fact that  $\mathcal{G}$  is partially ordered with respect to the operator inclusion  $\subseteq$  is clear.

For a family  $\{B_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ , define  $B$  to be the operator

$$D(B) = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} D(B_\alpha);$$

$$Bx = B_\alpha x \quad \forall x \in D(B) \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathcal{A}.$$

Define  $\tilde{B}$  to be the closure of the following operator:

$$D(B^0) = \text{span} \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} D(B_\alpha);$$

$$B^0(a_1x_{\alpha_1} + \dots + a_kx_{\alpha_k}) = a_1B_{\alpha_1}x_{\alpha_1} + \dots + a_kB_{\alpha_k}x_{\alpha_k},$$

where  $x_{\alpha_j} \in D(B_{\alpha_j}), a_j \in \mathbf{C}$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Then  $B, \tilde{B} \in \mathcal{G}$  are the lower bound and upper bound of  $\{B_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ , respectively.  $\mathcal{G}$  is thus a partially ordered lattice.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.8.** *Assume  $\text{Im}(C)$  is dense in  $X$ . Then the following hold.*

- (1)  *$\bar{A}$  equals the closure of  $A$  restricted to  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$ .*
- (2)  *$\mathcal{G}$  is a singleton if and only if  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ .*

*Proof.* (1) follows from [7, Proposition 2.6(3) and Theorem 3.3(h)].

(2). From (1),  $\mathcal{G}$  is a singleton if and only if  $\tilde{A}$  is the closure of itself restricted to  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  if and only if  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.9.** *If  $\tilde{A}$  is densely defined and  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{G}$  consists of only the element  $\tilde{A}$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ , it is dense in  $D(\tilde{A})$ . By the density of  $D(\tilde{A})$ ,  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is dense in  $X$ . Now the corollary follows from Proposition 2.8.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.10.**  *$\mathcal{G}$  is totally ordered if and only if  $\mathcal{G}$  contains at most two elements.*

*Proof.* “Only if”. Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}$  contains at least three elements  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  satisfying

$$A_1 \subsetneq A_2 \subsetneq A_3.$$

Let  $x_0 \in D(A_3) \setminus D(A_2)$ . Define

$$D(A'_2) = D(A_1) + \{ax_0\}, \quad a \in \mathbf{C};$$

$$A'_2(y + ax_0) = A_1y + aA_3x_0 \quad \forall y \in D(A_1), a \in \mathbf{C}.$$

Then  $A'_2$  is well-defined. We now claim that  $A'_2$  is closed. Assume  $y_n + a_nx_0 \rightarrow x$  and  $A'_2(y_n + a_nx_0) \rightarrow z$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded. Otherwise we may assume  $a_n \rightarrow \infty$ . Then  $(y_n + a_nx_0)/a_n \rightarrow 0$ , hence  $y_n/a_n \rightarrow -x_0$ . Since

$$A_1(y_n/a_n) = A'_2(y_n + a_nx_0)/a_n - A_3x_0 \rightarrow -A_3x_0$$

and  $A_1$  is closed, we have  $x_0 \in D(A_1)$ , contradicting the fact that  $x_0 \notin D(A_1)$ . Thus we may assume  $a_n \rightarrow a_0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . From

$$y_n \rightarrow x - a_0x_0, \quad \text{and}$$

$$A_1y_n = A'_2(y_n + a_nx_0) - a_nA_3x_0 \rightarrow z - a_0A_3x_0,$$

we have  $x - a_0x_0 \in D(A_1)$  and

$$A_1(x - a_0x_0) = z - a_0A_3x_0.$$

This implies

$$x = (x - a_0x_0) + a_0x_0 \in D(A'_2), \quad \text{and}$$

$$A'_2x = A_1(x - a_0x_0) + a_0A_3x_0 = z.$$

$A'_2$  is closed.

Next, we prove that

$$(2.1) \quad W(t)A'_2 \subseteq A'_2W(t) \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

For  $x \in D(A_3)$ , differentiate both sides of

$$A_1 \int_0^t W(s)x ds = \int_0^t W(s)A_3x ds$$

to obtain

$$(2.2) \quad A_1W(t)x = W(t)A_3x$$

by the closedness of  $A_1$ . For the previous  $y$  and  $x_0$ , (2.2) implies

$$W(t)A'_2(y + ax_0) = W(t)A_3(y + ax_0) = A_1W(t)(y + ax_0) = A'_2W(t)(y + ax_0),$$

proving (2.1). Hence  $A'_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ . Clearly,  $A_2, A'_2$ , are not comparable with respect to the operator inclusion, contradicting the hypotheses on  $\mathcal{G}$ .

“If” is clear.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.11.** *If  $\mathcal{G}$  is finite then there exists  $n \in N \cup \{0\}$  such that the cardinality of  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $2^n$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\mathcal{G}$  is finite, the codimension of  $D(\bar{A})$  in  $D(\tilde{A})$  is finite. Assume  $\bar{A} \subsetneq \tilde{A}$ . Then there exist  $n \in N$  and linearly independent elements  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  in  $D(\tilde{A}) \setminus D(\bar{A})$  such that

$$(2.3) \quad D(\tilde{A}) = D(\bar{A}) \oplus \text{span}\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\},$$

where “ $\oplus$ ” is the algebraic direct sum. For any subset  $\{x_{n_1}, \dots, x_{n_k}\}$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ) of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ , define

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{cases} D(B) &= D(\bar{A}) \oplus \text{span}\{x_{n_1}, \dots, x_{n_k}\}, \text{ and} \\ B(y + x) &= \bar{A}y + \tilde{A}x, \end{cases}$$

where  $y \in D(\bar{A}), x = a_1x_{n_1} + \dots + a_kx_{n_k}$  for some  $a_j \in \mathbf{C}$  ( $1 \leq j \leq k$ ). As with the argument for the closedness of  $A'_2$  in Proposition 2.10, it is easy to show that  $B$  is closed by induction. Moreover,

$$W(t)B \subseteq BW(t);$$

$$B \int_0^t W(s)x ds = W(t)x - Cx, \quad \forall x \in X.$$

$B$  is a subgenerator of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ .

Now assume  $B \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $\bar{A} \subsetneq B$ . From (2.3) there exists  $\{x_{n_1}, \dots, x_{n_k}\} \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ) such that every  $z \in D(B)$  has the decomposition

$$(2.5) \quad z = y + x,$$

where  $y \in D(\bar{A}), x = a_1x_{n_1} + \dots + a_kx_{n_k}$  for some  $a_j \in \mathbf{C}$  ( $1 \leq j \leq k$ ) and  $k$  is the minimal positive integer such that (2.5) holds for all  $z \in D(B)$ . Then

$$Bz = By + Bx = \bar{A}y + \tilde{A}x.$$

Hence every subset of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  corresponds to a unique element  $B$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  defined as in (2.4) and *vice versa*. In particular, the empty set corresponds to  $\bar{A}$  and  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  itself corresponds to  $\tilde{A}$ . Since the cardinality of the collection of all subsets of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  is  $2^n$ , that of  $\mathcal{G}$  is also.

The following examples show that the set  $\mathcal{G}$  of subgenerators of a given  $C$ -regularized semigroup may contain  $2^n$  elements for every  $n \in N \cup \{0\}$  or even infinitely many elements.

**Example 2.12** ([8]). Let  $\mu$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbf{C}$ . Define the operator  $\tilde{A}$  on  $L^2(\mathbf{C}, \mu)$ :

$$(\tilde{A}f)(z) = zf(z); \quad D(\tilde{A}) = \{f | f(z), zf(z) \in L^2(\mathbf{C}, \mu)\}.$$

It is known that  $\tilde{A}$  generates the  $\exp(-|\tilde{A}|^2)$ -regularized semigroup

$$(W(t)f)(z) = e^{-|z|^2} e^{tz} f(z).$$

We now prove that the set  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  consists of only the element  $\tilde{A}$ .

Since the set of those  $f$ 's in  $L^2(\mathbf{C}, \mu)$  with compact support is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ , for every  $f \in D(\tilde{A})$ , there exists a sequence  $\{f_n\}$  in  $L^2(\mathbf{C}, \mu)$  with compact support such that

$$(2.6) \quad \int_{\mathbf{C}} |f_n(z) - f(z)|^2 d\mu \longrightarrow 0, \quad \int_{\mathbf{C}} |z|^2 |f_n(z) - f(z)|^2 d\mu \longrightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \longrightarrow \infty.$$

Write  $g_n(z) = f_n(z)e^{|z|^2}$ . Then  $g_n \in D(\tilde{A})$ . Introduce  $f_n(z) = g_n(z)e^{-|z|^2}$  into (2.6) to conclude that  $e^{-|\tilde{A}|^2}(D(\tilde{A}))$  is a core for  $\tilde{A}$ . Since  $\tilde{A}$  is densely defined, Corollary 2.9 gives the conclusion.

**Example 2.13.** Let  $X = l^2$ . For  $x = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \in X$ , define

$$W(t)x = e^t(0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \quad \text{for } t \geq 0.$$

Then  $\{W(t)\}$  is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup with

$$C : x = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \longrightarrow (0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots).$$

It is easy to see that  $\{I, I_0\} = \mathcal{G}$ , where  $I$  is the identity on  $X$  and  $I_0$  is the identity on  $X_0 \equiv \text{Im}(C)$ .

More generally, let  $n \in N$  and define

$$W(t)x = e^t(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n \text{ folds}}, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \quad \forall x = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \in X.$$

Then  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is a  $C$ -regularized semigroup with

$$C : x = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots) \longrightarrow (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n \text{ folds}}, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots),$$

and  $\mathcal{G}$  contains  $2^n$  elements.

Example 2.13 shows that there exists a  $C$ -regularized semigroup so that even if  $\tilde{A}(= I)$  is bounded, the set  $\mathcal{G}$  of subgenerators may contain more than one element. This is because  $C(D(\tilde{A})) (= I_0(D(\tilde{A}))$  is not a core for  $\tilde{A}$ .  $\square$

**Example 2.14 ([7]).** Let  $G \equiv \frac{d}{dx}$ , on  $X \equiv L^\infty(R)$ , with maximal domain. Let  $A$  be the restriction of  $G$  to  $D(G^2)$ , the domain of  $G^2$ ; that is,

$$D(A) \equiv D(G^2), \quad Ax \equiv Gx \quad \forall x \in D(A).$$

Let  $\bar{A}$  be the closure of  $A$ . Let  $C \equiv (1-G)^{-2}$ , and define a  $C$ -regularized semigroup  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  by

$$[W(t)f](s) = (Cf)(t+s) \quad (t \geq 0, s \in R).$$

Then  $G$  is the generator of  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ . The domain of  $\bar{A}$  equals the graph closure of the domain of  $G^2$ , which may be shown to equal  $(1-G)^{-1}(BUC(R))$ , which does not equal  $D(G) = (1-G)^{-1}(L^\infty(R))$ , where  $BUC(R)$  is the space of all bounded uniformly continuous functions on  $R$ .

Before proceeding further, we define one more regularized semigroup  $\{W_1(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  by (see [7, Example 2.11])

$$[W_1(t)f](s) = [(I - G)^{-1}f](t + s) \quad (t \geq 0, s \in R).$$

Then  $G$  is also the generator of  $\{W_1(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  and for any  $f \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{t} \int_s^{t+s} [(I - G)^{-1}f](r)dr &= \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t [W_1(r)f](s)dr \\ (2.7) \quad \longrightarrow [W_1(0)f](s) &= [(I - G)^{-1}f](s), \quad \text{as } t \longrightarrow 0+, \\ \text{in } X. \end{aligned}$$

We now prove that  $\bar{A}$  is the smallest element in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Let  $A' \in \mathcal{G}$ . From the boundedness of  $G(I - G)^{-1}$ ,  $A'(I - G)^{-2} = G(I - G)^{-2}$  and (2.7),

$$\begin{aligned} A'\left\{C\left[\frac{1}{t} \int_s^{t+s} f(r)dr\right]\right\} &= G(I - G)^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{t} \int_s^{t+s} [(I - G)^{-1}f](r)dr\right] \\ &\longrightarrow [G(I - G)^{-2}f](s), \quad \text{as } t \longrightarrow 0+, \end{aligned}$$

in  $X$ . (2.7) also implies that

$$C\left[\frac{1}{t} \int_s^{t+s} f(r)dr\right] \longrightarrow (Cf)(s), \quad \text{as } t \longrightarrow 0+,$$

in  $X$ . Then  $Cf \in D(A')$  for any  $f \in X$ . This means that  $\text{Im}(C) \subseteq D(A')$ , or equivalently,  $D(A) \subseteq D(A')$ . Hence  $\bar{A} \subseteq A'$ .  $\bar{A}$  is thus the smallest element in  $\mathcal{G}$ .

Let  $x_0 \in D(G) \setminus D(\bar{A})$  and define

$$A_1(y + ax_0) = \bar{A}y + aGx_0 \quad \forall y \in D(\bar{A}), a \in \mathbf{C}.$$

From the proof of Proposition 2.10,  $A_1$  is in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Since there are infinitely many linearly independent choices of  $x_0$ ,  $\mathcal{G}$  contains infinitely many elements.

### 3. REMARKS

In this last section, we present several remarks about the  $C$ -resolvent sets and eigenvalues of subgenerators of a given  $C$ -regularized semigroup.

**Definition 3.1** ([6], [7]). Let  $A$  be closed. The complex number  $\lambda$  is in  $\rho_c(A)$ , the  $C$ -resolvent set of  $A$ , if  $\lambda - A$  is injective and  $\text{Im}(C) \subseteq \text{Im}(\lambda - A)$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}, x \in D(\tilde{A})$ , where  $\tilde{A}$  is the generator of the  $C$ -regularized semigroup  $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ . Then  $(\lambda - \tilde{A})x = 0$  if and only if  $(\lambda - B)Cx = 0$  for every  $B \in \mathcal{G}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\tilde{A} = C^{-1}BC$ ,  $\tilde{A}x = \lambda x$  if and only if  $C^{-1}BCx = \lambda x$  if and only if  $BCx = \lambda Cx$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** The following are true.

- (1) All elements in  $\mathcal{G}$  have the same eigenvalues.
- (2) Corresponding to the same eigenvalue  $\lambda$ ,  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $\tilde{A}$  if and only if  $Cx$  is an eigenvector of  $B$  for every  $B \in \mathcal{G}$ .
- (3) For any  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{G}$ , if  $B_1 \subseteq B_2$  then  $\rho_c(B_1) \subseteq \rho_c(B_2)$ .

*Proof.* (1),(2) are consequences of Lemma 3.2.

(3) Assume  $\lambda \in \rho_c(B_1)$ . Then  $(\lambda - B_1)$  is injective, so  $(\lambda - B_2)$  is also by (1). Since  $\text{Im}(C) \subseteq \text{Im}(\lambda - B_1) \subseteq \text{Im}(\lambda - B_2)$ , we have  $\lambda \in \rho_c(B_2)$ .  $\square$

It is easy to verify that all results presented in this paper remain valid for sequentially complete locally convex spaces, which appear in [11], [12], and it is also easy to generalize all results obtained in this paper to the case of  $n$ -times integrated  $C$ -regularized semigroups (see [12]).

**Open questions.** The following were proposed by the referee.

(1) When  $\text{Im}(C)$  is dense in  $X$ , are there examples where  $\mathcal{G}$  consists of more than one element? Or equivalently, when  $\text{Im}(C)$  is dense in  $X$ , are there examples where  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$  is not a core for the generator  $\tilde{A}$ ? (See Proposition 2.8(2).)

(2) Proposition 2.8(1) proves that when  $\text{Im}(C)$  is dense in  $X$ , then the minimal element of  $\mathcal{G}$  equals the closure of  $\tilde{A}$  restricted to  $C(D(\tilde{A}))$ . Does this remain true in general?

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