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# $\beta$ -admissibility of observation operators for hypercontractive semigroups

Birgit Jacob\*, Jonathan R. Partington†, Sandra Pott‡ and Andrew Wynn§

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## Abstract

We prove a Weiss conjecture on  $\beta$ -admissibility of observation operators for discrete and continuous  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive semigroups of operators, by representing them in terms of shifts on weighted Bergman spaces and using a reproducing kernel thesis for Hankel operators. Particular attention is paid to the case  $\gamma = 2$ , which corresponds to the unweighted Bergman shift.

**Keywords:** Admissibility; semigroup system; dilation theory; Bergman space; hypercontraction; reproducing kernel thesis; Hankel operator

**2010 Subject Classification:** 30H10, 30H20, 47B32, 47B35, 47D06, 93B28

## 1 Introduction

We study infinite dimensional observation systems of the form

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t), & y(t) &= Cx(t), & t &\geq 0, \\ x(0) &= x_0 \in X,\end{aligned}$$

where  $A$  is the generator of a strongly continuous semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $C$  is a linear bounded operator from  $D(A)$ , the domain of  $A$  equipped with the graph topology, to another Hilbert space  $\mathcal{Y}$ . For well-posedness of the system with respect to the output space  $L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{Y}) := \{f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \mid f \text{ measurable, } \|f\|_\beta^2 := \int_0^\infty \|f(t)\|^2 t^\beta dt < \infty\}$  it is required that  $C$  is an  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $A$ , that is, there exists an  $M > 0$  such that

$$\|CT(\cdot)x_0\|_{L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{Y})} \leq M\|x_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}, \quad x_0 \in D(A). \quad (1)$$

It is easy to show that  $\beta$ -admissibility implies the resolvent condition

$$\sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_+} (\operatorname{Re} \lambda)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|C(\lambda - A)^{-(1+\beta)}\| < \infty \quad (2)$$

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where  $\mathbb{C}_+$  denotes the open right half plane of  $\mathbb{C}$ . Whether or not the converse implication holds is commonly referred to as a *weighted Weiss conjecture*. For  $\beta = 0$  the conjecture was posed by Weiss [23]. In this situation the conjecture is true for contraction semigroups if the output space is finite-dimensional, for right-invertible semigroups, and for bounded analytic semigroups if  $(-A)^{1/2}$  is 0-admissible. However, in general the conjecture is not true. We illustrate this in Figure 1.

$\dim \mathcal{Y} < \infty$	$\dim \mathcal{Y} \leq \infty$
<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> contraction semigroup [12] </div>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> analytic &amp; bounded semigr. and <math>(-A)^{1/2}</math> 0-admissible [17] </div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> right-invertible semigroup [23] </div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counterexample in general [14]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counterexample in general [13]</li> </ul>

Figure 1: Weighted Weiss conjecture: Case  $\beta = 0$

For  $\beta \neq 0$ , much less is known. The first positive results are due to Haak and Le Merdy [9], who proved that in case  $\beta \in (-1, 1)$ , the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for bounded analytic semigroups if  $(-A)^{1/2}$  is 0-admissible, and to Wynn [24], who showed that in case  $\beta > 0$  the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for normal contraction semigroups. Wynn showed that in the latter case the weighted Weiss conjecture holds also for the right-shift on  $L^2_{-\alpha}(0, \infty)$  for  $\alpha > 0$  if the output space is finite-dimensional [26]. However, the weighted Weiss conjecture fails for general contraction semigroups both in case  $\beta < 0$  and  $\beta > 0$ , as Wynn showed in [25]. The situation is summarised in Figure 2. Again, in general the conjecture is not true. The counterexamples mean that there is no possibility of obtaining a positive result for all contraction semigroups, even with finite-dimensional output space. However, we show in Theorem 4.4 that the weighted Weiss conjecture holds if the semigroup is "slightly better than contractive", that means, the dual of the cogenerator  $T^*$  of the semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive for some  $\gamma > 1$ . The proof is based on the fact that  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions are unitarily equivalent to the restriction of the backward shift to an invariant subspace of a weighted Bergman space, the Cayley transform between discrete-time and continuous-time systems, and the fact that the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for the backward shift on an invariant subspace of a weighted Bergman space [11]. In contrast to the above-mentioned result on the validity of the Weiss conjecture for contraction semigroups [12], Theorem 4.4 holds even in case of infinite-dimensional output space. In order to apply the results of [11] we first have to extend them to the vector-valued Bergman spaces. Due to the fact that  $C$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  if and only if  $C^*$  satisfies the  $(-\beta)$ -dual estimate for  $(T^*(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , where  $\beta \in (-1, 1)$  (cf. Remarks 3.1 and 4.2

$\dim \mathcal{Y} < \infty$	$\dim \mathcal{Y} \leq \infty$
<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> normal contraction semigroup [24] </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>T^*</math> <math>\gamma</math>-hypercontractive,  <math>\gamma &gt; 1</math> (Thm. 4.4) </div> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> right-shift on <math>L^2_{-\alpha}(0, \infty)</math>, <math>\alpha &gt; 0</math>, [11] </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counterexample in general [26]</li> </ul> </div>	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <math>(T(t))_{t \geq 0}</math> analytic &amp; bounded semigr. and <math>(-A)^{1/2}</math> 0-admissible [9] </div> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <math>T^*</math> <math>\gamma</math>-hypercontractive,  <math>\gamma &gt; 1</math> (Thm. 4.4) </div>

Figure 2: Weighted Weiss conjecture: Case  $\beta > 0$

below), the resolvent growth conditions for control operators satisfying the  $\beta$ -dual condition can be derived from those of  $(-\beta)$ -admissible observation operators.

Beside continuous-time systems we also prove a discrete-time version of the Weiss conjecture. For  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $E \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{H})$  and  $F \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$  we consider the discrete time linear systems:

$$x_{n+1} = Tx_n + Eu_{n+1}, \quad y_n = Fx_n \quad \text{with } x_0 \in \mathcal{H} \quad (3)$$

and  $u_n \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Here,  $\mathcal{H}$  is the state space,  $\mathcal{U}$  the input space and  $\mathcal{Y}$  is the output space of the system.

Let  $\beta > -1$ . By  $\ell^2_\beta(\mathcal{U})$  we denote the sequence space

$$\ell^2_\beta(\mathcal{U}) := \{\{u_n\}_n \mid u_n \in \mathcal{U} \text{ and } \|\{u_n\}_n\|_\beta^2 := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta |u_n|^2 < \infty\}.$$

Clearly,  $\ell^2_\beta(\mathcal{U})$  equipped with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_\beta$  is a Hilbert space. Following [9] and [24], we say that  $F$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \|FT^n x\|^2 \leq M \|x\|^2 \quad (4)$$

for every  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ .

To test whether a given observation operator is  $\beta$ -admissible, a frequency-domain characterization is convenient and, to this end, it is not difficult to show that  $\beta$ -admissibility of  $F$  for  $T$  implies the resolvent growth condition

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|F(I - \bar{z}T)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})} < \infty, \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbb{D}$  is the open unit disc.

The question of whether the converse statement holds, commonly referred to as a (weighted) Weiss conjecture, is much more subtle. For  $\beta = 0$ , the conjecture is true if  $T$  is a contraction

and the output space  $\mathcal{Y}$  is finite-dimensional [10]. It was shown by [25, 24] that for  $T$  a normal contraction and finite-dimensional output spaces the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for positive  $\beta$ , but not in the case  $\beta \in (-1, 0)$ . Moreover, the weighted Weiss conjecture holds if  $T$  is a Ritt operator and a contraction for  $\beta > -1$  [18], but it is not true for general contractions if  $\beta > 0$ , see [26]. Recently, in [11] it was shown that the Weiss conjecture holds for the forward shift on weighted Bergman spaces. One aim of this paper is to show that the Weiss conjecture holds for adjoint operators of  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions. We obtain a characterisation of  $\beta$ -admissibility,  $\beta > 0$ , with respect to  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions ( $\gamma > 1$ ) by characterising  $\beta$ -admissibility with respect to the shift operator on vector-valued weighted Bergman spaces.

It is shown in [11] that in the case of a scalar-valued Bergman space,  $\beta$ -admissibility with respect to the shift operator can be characterised by the resolvent growth bound (5). We extend this analysis to the vector-valued setting.

We proceed as follows. In Section 2 we introduce and study  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive operators and  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive strongly continuous semigroups. In particular,  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions are unitarily equivalent to the restriction of the backward shift to an invariant subspace of a weighted Bergman space. Section 3 is devoted to the weighted Weiss conjecture for discrete-time systems. We first extend the result of [11] concerning the shift operator on a scalar-valued Bergman space to the vector-valued setting and then we prove that the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for  $\beta > 0$  if  $T^*$  is a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Finally, in Section 4 positive results concerning the weighted Weiss conjecture for continuous-time systems are given.

## 2 $\gamma$ -hypercontractions

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space. For  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ , we define

$$M_T : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}), \quad M_T(X) = T^*XT.$$

**Definition 2.1** ([2], [4]). *Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space and let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $\|T\| \leq 1$ . Let  $\gamma \geq 1$ . We say that  $T$  is a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction, if for each  $0 < r < 1$ ,*

$$(\mathbf{1} - M_{rT})^\gamma(I) \geq 0.$$

Note that the left hand side in the definition is well-defined in the sense of the usual holomorphic functional calculus, since  $\sigma(\mathbf{1} - M_{rT}) \subset \mathbb{C}_+$ . A 1-hypercontraction  $T$  satisfies  $I - T^*T \geq 0$ , that is,  $T$  is an ordinary contraction. If  $T$  is a normal contraction, then it is easy to show by the usual continuous functional calculus that  $T$  is also a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction for each  $\gamma \geq 1$ . Moreover, all strict contractions are  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions, as the next result shows.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  with  $\|T\| < 1$ . Then  $T$  is a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction for sufficiently small  $\gamma > 1$ .*

**Proof:** Suppose that  $\|T\| < 1$ . Then  $\|M_T\| < 1$ , and  $\sigma(\mathbf{1} - M_T)$  is bounded away from the negative real axis, so an analytic branch of the logarithm exists on some open set  $\Omega \supseteq \sigma(\mathbf{1} - M_T)$ . For  $\gamma \geq 1$ , define  $f_\gamma(z) = \exp(\gamma \log z)$ , analytic on  $\Omega$ .

Now  $f_\gamma(z) \rightarrow 0$  uniformly for  $z$  in compact subsets of  $\Omega$  as  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$ , and therefore  $f_\gamma(\mathbf{1} - M_T)$ , defined by the analytic functional calculus, converges to  $\mathbf{1} - M_T$  in the norm on  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}))$  (see, e.g., [5, Thm. 3.3.3]).

Hence, in particular,  $(\mathbf{1} - M_T)^\gamma(I) \rightarrow (\mathbf{1} - M_T)(I) = I - T^*T$  in norm in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  as  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$ . Since  $\|T\| < 1$ ,  $\sigma((\mathbf{1} - M_T)(I))$  is strictly contained in the positive real axis, and thus for sufficiently small  $\gamma > 1$  the spectrum of  $(\mathbf{1} - M_T)^\gamma(I)$  is also strictly contained in the positive real axis, by continuity properties of the spectrum (see, e.g., [5, Thm. 3.4.1]). Hence  $(\mathbf{1} - M_T)^\gamma(I) \geq 0$  for all  $\gamma$  sufficiently close to 1, and so  $T$  is a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction. ■

If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then equivalently,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  is an  $n$ -hypercontraction if and only if

$$\sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k \binom{m}{k} T^{*k} T^k \geq 0$$

for all  $1 \leq m \leq n$ .

In particular, a Hilbert space operator  $T$  is *2-hypercontractive* if it satisfies

$$I - T^*T \geq 0$$

(that is, it is a contraction), and also

$$I - 2T^*T + T^{*2}T^2 \geq 0. \quad (6)$$

Note, that for  $1 < \mu < \gamma$ , the  $\gamma$ -hypercontractivity property implies  $\mu$ -hypercontractivity. We are particularly interested in  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive operators as they are unitarily equivalent to the restriction of the backward shift to an invariant subspace of a weighted Bergman space, which we now define.

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $\mathbb{D}$  denote the open unit disk in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . For  $\alpha > -1$ , the weighted Bergman space  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is a Hilbert space, consists of analytic functions  $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  for which

$$\|f\|_\alpha^2 = \int_{\mathbb{D}} \|f(z)\|^2 dA_\alpha(z) < \infty, \quad (7)$$

where  $dA_\alpha(z) = (1 + \alpha)(1 - |z|^2)^\alpha dA(z)$  and  $dA(z) := \frac{1}{\pi} dx dy$  is area measure on  $\mathbb{D}$  for  $z = x + iy$ . We note that the norm  $\|f\|_\alpha$  is equivalent to

$$\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \|f_n\|^2 (1+n)^{-(1+\alpha)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (8)$$

where  $f_n$  are the Taylor coefficients of  $f$ .

For each  $\alpha > -1$ , let  $S_\alpha$  denote the shift operator on the weighted Bergman space  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$ ,

$$S_\alpha f(z) = zf(z) \quad (f \in \mathcal{A}_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}))$$

The following theorem is a special case of Corollary 7 in [4]. For the case of integer  $\gamma$ , this was proved in [2]. Such results are part of the broad theory of analytic models for operators of certain classes; the pioneering work in this area is the dilation theory of Sz.-Nagy and Foiaş, for which a standard reference is [22].

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $\alpha > -1$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space and let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  be an  $\alpha + 2$ -hypercontraction with  $\sigma(T) \subset \mathbb{D}$ . Then  $T$  is unitarily equivalent to the restriction of  $S_\alpha^*$  to an invariant subspace of  $\mathcal{A}_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is a Hilbert space.

Next we introduce the concept of  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive semigroups.

**Definition 2.5.** *Let  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be a strongly continuous contraction semigroup on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , with infinitesimal generator  $A$ . We call a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$   $\gamma$ -hypercontractive if each operator  $T(t)$  is a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction.*

In the following we assume that  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is a strongly continuous contraction semigroup on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , with infinitesimal generator  $A$ . As in [22], the *cogenerator*  $T := (A + I)(A - I)^{-1}$  exists, and is itself a contraction. Rydhe [21] studied the relation between  $\gamma$ -hypercontractivity of a strongly continuous contraction semigroup and its cogenerator. He proved that  $T$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive if every operator  $T(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive. The converse holds if  $\gamma$  is a positive integer: If the co-generator  $T$  is  $N$ -hypercontractive for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , then every operator  $T(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is  $N$ -hypercontractive. However, by means of an example, Rydhe [21] showed that for general  $\gamma > 1$ , this reverse implication is false. In the case of normal semigroups, contractivity and  $\gamma$ -contractivity coincide. If  $A$  generates a contraction semigroup of normal operators, then the cogenerator of  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is normal and contractive, and hence  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive for each  $\gamma \geq 1$ .

In particular 2-hypercontractivity can be characterized as follows, see [21]. For completeness we include a more elementary proof, which also yields additional information.

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be a strongly continuous contraction semigroup acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.*

1.  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is 2-hypercontractive.
2. The function  $t \mapsto \|T(t)x\|^2$  is convex for all  $x \in H$ .
- 3.

$$\operatorname{Re}\langle A^2 y, y \rangle + \|Ay\|^2 \geq 0 \quad (y \in \mathcal{D}(A^2)). \quad (9)$$

or equivalently,

$$\|(A + A^*)x\|^2 + \|Ax\|^2 \geq \|A^*x\|^2 \quad (y \in \mathcal{D}(A) \cap \mathcal{D}(A^*)).$$

4. The cogenerator  $T$  is a 2-hypercontraction.

**Proof** We first prove that Part 1 and Part 2 are equivalent. Take  $t \geq 0$  and  $\tau > 0$ . If  $T(\tau)$  is a 2-hypercontraction, then, by (6) we have

$$\langle T(t)x, T(t)x \rangle - 2\langle T(t+\tau)x, T(t+\tau)x \rangle + \langle T(t+2\tau)x, T(t+2\tau)x \rangle \geq 0,$$

or

$$\|T(t+\tau)x\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} (\|T(t)x\|^2 + \|T(t+2\tau)x\|^2), \quad (10)$$

which is the required convexity condition.

Conversely, the convexity condition (10) implies that  $T(\tau)$  is a 2-hypercontraction (take  $t = 0$ ). Next we show that Part 2 are Part 3 equivalent. For  $t > 0$  and  $y \in \mathcal{D}(A^2)$  we calculate the second derivative of the function  $g : t \mapsto \|T(t)y\|^2$ .

$$g'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \langle T(t)y, T(t)y \rangle = \langle AT(t)y, T(t)y \rangle + \langle T(t)y, AT(t)y \rangle.$$

Similarly,

$$g''(t) = \langle A^2T(t)y, T(t)y \rangle + 2\langle AT(t)y, AT(t)y \rangle + \langle T(t)y, A^2T(t)y \rangle.$$

If  $g$  is convex, then letting  $t \rightarrow 0$  gives the condition (9).

Conversely, the condition (9) gives the convexity of  $t \rightarrow \|T(t)y\|^2$  for  $y \in \mathcal{D}(A^2)$ , and by density this holds for all  $y$ .

Finally we show the equivalence of Part 3 and Part 4. We start with the condition (9) and calculate

$$\langle (I - 2T^*T + T^{*2}T^2)x, x \rangle$$

for  $x = (A - I)^2y$  (note that  $(A - I)^{-2} : H \rightarrow H$  is defined everywhere and has dense range). We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle (A - I)^2y, (A - I)^2y \rangle - 2\langle (A^2 - I)y, (A^2 - I)y \rangle + \langle (A + I)^2y, (A + I)^2y \rangle \\ & = 4\langle A^2y, y \rangle + 8\langle Ay, Ay \rangle + 4\langle y, A^2y \rangle \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus condition (9) holds if and only if the cogenerator  $T$  is 2-hypercontractive.  $\blacksquare$

Thus every normal contraction semigroup is 2-hypercontractive. Moreover, even every hyponormal contraction semigroup is 2-hypercontractive. Note, that a semigroup is hyponormal if the generator  $A$  satisfies  $D(A) \subset D(A^*)$  and  $\|A^*x\| \leq \|Ax\|$  for all  $x \in D(A)$ , see [15, 19]. Clearly, a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is contractive if and only if the adjoint semigroup  $(T^*(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is contractive. Unfortunately, a similar statement does not hold for 2-hypercontractions: The right shift semigroup on  $L^2(0, \infty)$  is 2-hypercontractive, but the adjoint semigroup, the left shift semigroup on  $L^2(0, \infty)$ , is not.

### 3 Discrete-time $\beta$ -admissibility

Let  $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces,  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $E \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{H})$  and  $F \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Consider the discrete time linear system:

$$x_{n+1} = Tx_n + Eu_{n+1}, \quad y_n = Fx_n \quad \text{with } x_0 \in \mathcal{H} \quad (11)$$

and  $u_n \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Following [9] and [24], we say that  $F$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \|FT^n x\|^2 \leq M\|x\|^2$$

for every  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ . Moreover, we say that  $E$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible control operator for  $T$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that

$$\left\| \sum_{n=1}^k T^{k-n} Eu_n \right\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq M \|\{u_n\}_n\|_\beta \quad (12)$$

for every  $\{u_n\}_n \in \ell_\beta^2(\mathcal{U})$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and we say that  $E$  satisfies the  $\beta$ -dual estimate for  $T$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that

$$\left\| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} T^n Eu_n \right\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq M \|\{u_n\}_n\|_\beta \quad (13)$$

for every  $\{u_n\}_n \in \ell_\beta^2(\mathcal{U})$ . Note that (12) and (13) are equivalent for  $\beta = 0$ , but not otherwise.

**Remark 3.1.** 1. If  $E$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible control operator for  $T$ , then the input to state operators  $\Phi_n : \ell_\beta^2(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , given by

$$\Phi_n(\{u_n\}_n) := \sum_{k=1}^n T^{n-k} E u_k,$$

satisfy  $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|\Phi_n\| \leq M$ .

2. Let  $x \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\{y_n\}_n \in \ell_{-\beta}^2(\mathcal{Y})$ . Then the calculation

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \{FT^n x\}_n, \{y_n\}_n \rangle_{\beta \times -\beta}| &= \left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \langle FT^n x, y_n \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} \right| \\ &= \left| \langle x, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (T^*)^n F^* y_n \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \right| \end{aligned}$$

implies that  $F$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$  if and only if  $F^*$  satisfies the  $(-\beta)$ -dual estimate for  $T^*$ .

A characterisation of  $\beta$ -admissibility with respect to  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions ( $\gamma > 1$ ) may be obtained by characterising  $\beta$ -admissibility with respect to the shift operator on vector-valued weighted Bergman spaces, as defined just after Definition 2.3.

It is shown in [11] that in the case of a scalar-valued Bergman spaces,  $\beta$ -admissibility with respect to  $S_\alpha$  can be characterised by the resolvent growth bound (5). This result was obtained by noting that  $\beta$ -admissibility is equivalent to boundedness of an appropriate little Hankel operator, while (5) is equivalent to boundedness of the same Hankel operator on a set of reproducing kernels. That such Hankel operators satisfy a Reproducing Kernel Thesis (boundedness on the reproducing kernels is equivalent to operator boundedness) is equivalent to the characterisation of  $\beta$ -admissibility by the growth condition (5).

Here, we will extend this analysis to the vector-valued setting, and also provide a characterisation which is new even in the scalar setting. Let  $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces and consider an analytic function  $C : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{K})$  given by

$$C(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \quad (14)$$

where  $C_n \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{K})$ , for each  $n$ . We write  $L_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  for the space of measurable functions  $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  satisfying (7). We also write

$$\overline{A_\alpha^2}(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}) = \{z \mapsto g(\bar{z}) : g \in A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})\}.$$

The little Hankel operator  $h_C : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2}(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  acting between weighted Bergman spaces is defined (with a slight abuse of notation) by

$$h_C(f)(z) := \overline{P_\alpha}(C(\bar{z})f(z)), \quad f \in A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}), \quad (15)$$

where  $\overline{P_\alpha} : L_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2}(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  is the orthogonal projection onto the anti-analytic functions.

Now, for any  $g(z) = \sum_m g_m z^m \in A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y})$ , it follows from an elementary calculation that

$$\|h_C g\|_{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1+n)^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}}{(1+n+m)^{1+\alpha}} C_{n+m} g_m \right\|_{\mathcal{K}}^2. \quad (16)$$

Hence, boundedness of  $h_C : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}$  is equivalent to

$$\left( \frac{(1+n)^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}} (1+m)^{\frac{\beta}{2}}}{(1+n+m)^{1+\alpha}} C_{n+m} \right)_{n,m \geq 0} \in \mathcal{L}(\ell^2(\mathcal{Y}), \ell^2(\mathcal{K})). \quad (17)$$

To provide a link with weighted admissibility, let  $F \in \mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})$  be an observation operator and let  $F_n \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Y})$  be defined by

$$F_n x := F(x \iota^n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathcal{K}, \quad (18)$$

where  $\iota(z) = z$ . A simple calculation implies that  $\beta$ -admissibility of  $F$  with respect to  $S_\alpha$  is equivalent to

$$\left( (1+n)^{\frac{\beta}{2}} (1+m)^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}} F_{n+m} \right)_{n,m \geq 0} \in \mathcal{L}(\ell^2(\mathcal{K}), \ell^2(\mathcal{Y})), \quad (19)$$

while the vectorial analogue of [11, Proposition 2.2] implies that for any suitable scalar-valued analytic function  $g(z) = \sum_m g_m z^m$ ,

$$\|Fg(S_\alpha)\|_{\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})}^2 = \sup_{\|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}}=1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\| \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}} \bar{g}_m F_{n+m}^* y \right\|_{\mathcal{K}}^2. \quad (20)$$

In view of (17) and (19), weighted admissibility of  $F$  with respect to the shift  $S_\alpha$  on  $A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  can be characterised in terms of boundedness of the little Hankel operator with symbol

$$C(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^{1+\alpha} F_n^* z^n,$$

while (16), (20) imply the resolvent condition (5) for  $(F, S_\alpha)$  is equivalent to requiring boundedness of the same Hankel operator on only the normalized reproducing kernels  $k_{\omega, y}^{\beta-1}$  for  $A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Here,

$$k_{\omega, y}^{\beta-1}(z) := y \frac{(1-|\omega|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}}}{(1-\bar{\omega}z)^{1+\beta}}, \quad z, \omega \in \mathbb{D}, y \in \mathcal{Y},$$

where the  $y$  on both sides is omitted in the case  $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{C}$ . For clarity, we now state the following analogue of [11, Prop. 2.3], which implies that the weighted Weiss conjecture for the shift  $S_\alpha$  on weighted Bergman spaces corresponds to a reproducing kernel thesis (RKT) for vectorial Hankel operators.

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $\alpha > -1$ ,  $\beta > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces and suppose that  $F \in \mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})$ . Define  $F_n \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Y})$  by (18) and consider the little Hankel operator  $h_C : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}$  with symbol (14) given by  $C_n = (1+n)^{1+\alpha} F_n^*$ . Then*

(i)  *$F$  is  $\beta$ -admissible for  $S_\alpha$  on  $A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  if and only if  $h_C$  is bounded;*

(ii) The resolvent bound (5) holds with  $T = S_\alpha$  and  $\mathcal{H} = A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  if and only if

$$\sup_{\omega \in \mathbb{D}, \|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}}=1} \|h_C k_{\omega, y}^{\beta-1}\|_{\overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}} < \infty. \quad (21)$$

The fact that a RKT holds for vectorial little Hankel operators (i.e., that (21) is equivalent to boundedness of  $h_C$ ) follows directly from a vectorial extension of [11, Theorem 2.7]:

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $\alpha > -1$ ,  $\beta > 0$ , let  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces, and let  $C = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n z^n$  be analytic on  $\mathbb{D}$ ,  $C_n \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{K})$ . Consider the little Hankel operator  $h_C$  as in (15). Then the following are equivalent:*

(i) The little Hankel operator  $h_C : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}$  is bounded;

(ii)

$$\sup_{\omega \in \mathbb{D}, \|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}}=1} \|h_C k_{\omega, y}^{\beta-1}\|_{\overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}} < \infty; \quad (22)$$

(iii)

$$\sup_{\omega \in \mathbb{D}, \|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}}=\|x\|_{\mathcal{K}}=1} \left| \langle h_C k_{\omega, y}^{\beta-1}, \overline{k_{\omega, x}^\alpha} \rangle_{\overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}} \right| < \infty; \quad (23)$$

(iv) For  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ ,  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , let  $c_{x, y}(z) = \langle C(z)y, x \rangle$ . Then

$$\sup_{\|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}}=\|x\|_{\mathcal{K}}=1} \|h_{c_{x, y}}\|_{A_{\beta-1}^2 \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2}} < \infty. \quad (24)$$

**Proof** The equivalence of (i) and (ii) is the vector-valued version of [11, Theorem 2.7], the proof of which extends readily to this setting. The equivalence with (iii) is not explicitly contained in the statement of [11, Theorem 2.7], but follows directly from [11, Lemma 2.6] and the proof of [11, Theorem 2.7]. Clearly (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii), so (iv) follows from the equivalence of (i) and (iii).  $\blacksquare$

Consequently, the weighted Weiss conjecture holds for the shift on weighted Bergman spaces.

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $\alpha > -1$  and  $\beta > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces and let  $F \in \mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})$ . Then the following are equivalent :*

(i)  $F$  is  $\beta$ -admissible for  $S_\alpha$ ;

(ii) the resolvent condition

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|F(I - \bar{z}S_\alpha)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})} < \infty;$$

(iii) the condition

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}, \|x\|_{\mathcal{K}}=1} \|F k_{z, x}^{\beta+\alpha+1}\|_{\mathcal{Y}} < \infty.$$

**Proof** The implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) follows from the usual testing argument on fractional derivatives of reproducing kernels. To obtain (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii), we just have to apply  $F(I - \bar{z}S_\alpha)^{-\beta-1}$  to  $f = k_{z,x}^\alpha \in A_\alpha^2(\mathcal{K})$ . This leaves the implication (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Let  $C_n = (1+n)^{1+\alpha}F_n^*$  as above. Repeating the calculation in the proof of [11, Proposition 2.2], we obtain for suitable scalar-valued analytic functions  $f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n z^n$ ,  $g = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n z^n$

$$\langle Fg(S_\alpha)fx, y \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} = \sum_{n,k=0}^{\infty} f_n g_k \langle x, C_{n+k}y \rangle_{\mathcal{K}} (1+n+k)^{-(1+\alpha)} = \langle h_{\tilde{c}_{x,y}}g, \bar{f} \rangle, \quad (25)$$

where  $\tilde{c}_{x,y}(z) = \overline{c_{x,y}(\bar{z})}$ . Following (20), in order to prove (i), we have to prove the boundedness of the little Hankel operator  $h_C : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})}$ , or equivalently, the uniform boundedness of the scalar little Hankel operators  $h_{\tilde{c}_{x,y}} : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \overline{A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D})}$  for  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ ,  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ ,  $\|x\|_{\mathcal{K}} = \|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}} = 1$ . By Proposition 3.3 (iii), it is sufficient to check this for  $f = k_z^\alpha$ ,  $g = k_z^{\beta-1}$ . This translates by (25) to

$$\langle Fg(S_\alpha)fx, y \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} = \langle Fk_z^{\beta-1}(S_\alpha)k_z^\alpha x, y \rangle = \langle Fk_z^{\beta+\alpha+1}x, y \rangle.$$

The uniform boundedness of this expression for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $\|x\|_{\mathcal{K}} = \|y\|_{\mathcal{Y}} = 1$  is exactly (iii).  $\blacksquare$

This is the main step required to prove a positive result concerning the weighted Weiss conjecture for hypercontractive operators.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $\beta > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y}$  be Hilbert spaces and let  $T^* \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  be a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Let  $F \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

1.  $F$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$ .

2.

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|F(I - \bar{z}T)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})} < \infty.$$

**Proof** The implication (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) follows as usual from the testing on fractional derivatives of reproducing kernels.

For (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1), write  $K = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|F(I - \bar{z}T)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})}$  and let us first replace  $T$  by  $rT$  for some  $0 < r < 1$ . Write  $\gamma = 2 + \alpha$ . By Theorem 2.4,  $(rT)^*$  is the restriction of  $S_\alpha^*$  to the invariant subspace  $\mathcal{H} \subset A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is another Hilbert space. Extend  $F$  trivially to  $A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$  by letting  $F = 0$  on  $\mathcal{H}^\perp \subset A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K})$ . Then  $F^*y \in \mathcal{H}$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ .

Then for each  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|F(I - \bar{z}S_\alpha)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{K}), \mathcal{Y})} &= \sup_{h \in A_\alpha^2(\mathcal{K}), \|h\|=1} \|F(I - \bar{z}S_\alpha)^{-\beta-1}h\|_{\mathcal{Y}} \\
&= \sup_{h \in A_\alpha^2(\mathcal{K}), \|h\|=1} \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle (I - \bar{z}S_\alpha)^{-\beta-1}h, F^*y \rangle| \\
&= \sup_{h \in A_\alpha^2, \|h\|=1} \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle h, (I - zS_\alpha^*)^{-\beta-1}F^*y \rangle| \\
&= \sup_{h \in A_\alpha^2, \|h\|=1} \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle h, (I - z(rT)^*)^{-\beta-1}F^*y \rangle| \\
&= \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}, \|h\|=1} \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle h, (I - z(rT)^*)^{-\beta-1}F^*y \rangle| \\
&= \|F(I - \bar{z}rT)^{-\beta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})} \\
&\leq K \frac{1}{(1 - |rz|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}}} \\
&\leq K \frac{1}{(1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}}}. \tag{26}
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Proposition 3.3,  $F$  is an  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $S_\alpha$ .

Thus there exists a constant  $M$  such that for each  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \|F(rT)^n x\|_{\mathcal{Y}}^2 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle (rT)^n x, F^*y \rangle|_{\mathcal{Y}}^2 \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle x, ((rT)^n)^* F^*y \rangle|^2 \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle x, (S_\alpha^n)^* F^*y \rangle|^2 \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \sup_{y \in \mathcal{Y}, \|y\|=1} |\langle S_\alpha^n x, F^*y \rangle|^2 \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \|FS_\alpha^n x\|_{\mathcal{Y}}^2 \leq M \|x\|^2
\end{aligned}$$

Here, the constant  $M$  depends only on  $K$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , but not on  $r$ . It therefore follows easily from the Monotone Convergence Theorem that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1+n)^\beta \|FT^n x\|_{\mathcal{Y}}^2 \leq M \|x\|^2 \quad (x \in \mathcal{H})$$

and  $F$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$ . ■

**Remark 3.6.** *Theorem 3.5 in particular shows Wynn's result [24] for  $\beta$ -admissibility of normal discrete contractive semigroups, also for infinite-dimensional output space.*

By duality we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $\beta \in (-1, 0)$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{U}$  be Hilbert spaces and let  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  be a  $\gamma$ -hypercontraction for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Let  $E \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{H})$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

1.  *$E$  satisfies the  $\beta$ -dual estimate for  $T$ .*
- 2.

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|(I - \bar{z}T)^{-\beta-1} E\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})} < \infty.$$

## 4 Continuous-time $\beta$ -admissibility

We consider a continuous-time control system of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), & x(0) &= x_0, t \geq 0, \\ y(t) &= Cx(t), t \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Here  $A$  is the generator of a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Writing  $\mathcal{H}_1 = D(A)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{-1} = D(A^*)^*$ , we suppose that  $B \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{H}_{-1})$  and  $C \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{Y})$ , where  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  are Hilbert spaces as well.

**Definition 4.1.** *Let  $\beta > -1$ .*

1.  *$B$  is called a  $\beta$ -admissible control operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that*

$$\left\| \int_0^t T(t-s)Bu(s) ds \right\| \leq M \|u\|_{L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{U})}$$

*for every  $t > 0$  and  $u \in L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{U})$ .*

2.  *$B$  satisfies the  $\beta$ -dual estimate for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that*

$$\left\| \int_0^\infty T(t)Bu(t) dt \right\| \leq M \|u\|_{L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{U})}$$

*for every  $u \in L^2_\beta(0, \infty; \mathcal{U})$ .*

3.  *$C$  is called a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ , if there exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that*

$$\int_0^\infty t^\beta \|CT(t)x\|^2 dt \leq M \|x\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2$$

*for every  $x \in \mathcal{H}_1$ .*

Note that 1. and 2. are equivalent for  $\beta = 0$ , but not otherwise.

**Remark 4.2.** Similarly as for discrete-time systems it can be shown for  $\beta \in (-1, 1)$  that  $B$  satisfies the  $\beta$ -dual estimate for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  if and only if  $B^*$  is a  $(-\beta)$ -admissible observation operator for  $(T^*(t))_{t \geq 0}$ . The notion of  $\beta$ -dual estimates was introduced in [9, 8].  $\beta$ -admissibility of control operators guarantees that the mild solution of (27), given by,

$$x(t) = T(t)x_0 + \int_0^t T(t-s)Bu(s) ds,$$

is a continuous function with values in the state space  $\mathcal{H}$ . However, for  $\beta$ -admissibility the duality does not hold in the above-mentioned form. We refer to the comments following [8, Rem. 1.2] for more information.

The following result is proven in [26, Propositions 2.1 and 2.2] for  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ . The trivial extension to the case  $\beta > 0$  is given for completeness. For  $\alpha > -1$  we write  $A_\alpha^2(\mathbb{C}_+)$  for the Bergman space on the right half-plane corresponding to the measure  $x^\alpha dx dy$ .

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let  $\beta > 0$ . Suppose that  $A$  generates a contraction semigroup on  $\mathcal{H}$  and that  $C \in \mathcal{L}(D(A), \mathcal{Y})$ . Define the cogenerator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  by  $T := (I + A)(I - A)^{-1}$  and  $F := C(I - A)^{-(1+\beta)} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Then the following statements hold.*

1.  $C$  is a (continuous-time)  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  if and only if  $F$  is a (discrete-time)  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $T$ .
2. The resolvent condition (5) for  $(F, T)$  holds if and only if

$$\sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_+} (\operatorname{Re} \lambda)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|C(\lambda - A)^{-(1+\beta)}\| < \infty.$$

**Proof** 1.  $F$  is  $\beta$ -admissible for  $T$  if and only if  $\Lambda : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$  defined initially on reproducing kernels by  $\Lambda f = Ff(T)$  extends to a bounded linear operator. On the other hand,  $C$  is  $\beta$ -admissible for  $A$  if and only if  $\tilde{\Lambda} : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{C}_+) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Y})$  defined initially on reproducing kernels by  $\tilde{\Lambda}(g) = Cg(-A)$  extends to a bounded linear operator. That the two conditions are equivalent follows from the fact that for any  $\beta > 0$  there is an isomorphism  $J_\beta : A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow A_{\beta-1}^2(\mathbb{C}_+)$  for which  $\Lambda = \tilde{\Lambda} \circ J_\beta$  holds on each reproducing kernel.

2. Follows directly from the identities

$$D(I - \bar{z}T)^{-(1+\beta)} = \frac{CR\left(\frac{1-\bar{z}}{1+z}, A\right)^{1+\beta}}{(1+\bar{z})^{1+\beta}}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}$$

and

$$\operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1-z}{1+z}\right) |1+z|^2 = (1-|z|^2), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Our main theorems concerning continuous-time systems are as follows.

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $\beta > 0$ . Let  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be a contraction semigroup on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that the adjoint of the cogenerator  $T^*$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

1.  $C$  is a  $\beta$ -admissible observation operator for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ .
- 2.

$$\sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_+} (\operatorname{Re} \lambda)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|C(\lambda - A)^{-(1+\beta)}\| < \infty.$$

**Proof** The statement of the theorem follows from Proposition 4.3 together with Theorem 3.5.  $\blacksquare$

**Remark 4.5.**  $T^*$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive if every operator  $T^*(t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive. If  $A$  generates a contraction semigroup of normal operators, then the adjoint of the cogenerator of  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive for each  $\gamma \geq 1$ , see Section 2.

By duality we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 4.6.** *Let  $\beta \in (-1, 0)$ . Let  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$  be a contraction semigroup on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that the cogenerator  $T$  is  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

1.  $B$  satisfies the  $\beta$ -dual estimate for  $(T(t))_{t \geq 0}$ .

2.

$$\sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_+} (\operatorname{Re} \lambda)^{\frac{1+\beta}{2}} \|(\lambda - A)^{-(1+\beta)} B\| < \infty.$$

Theorems 4.4 and 4.6 give positive results for  $\beta > 0$  and adjoints of  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions in the case of observation operators, and for  $\beta < 0$  and  $\gamma$ -hypercontractions in the case of control operators. The remaining possibilities for  $\beta \in (-1, 0) \cup (0, 1)$  can be shown not to hold by means of various counterexamples. For  $\beta \in (-1, 0)$  the counterexample for normal semigroups given in [25] shows that there is no positive result for observation operators in either the  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive or adjoint  $\gamma$ -hypercontractive case. For  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ , there is a counterexample in [25] based on the unilateral shift, which is 2-hypercontractive, see Figure 3. By Remark 4.2, these provide appropriate counterexamples for control operators as well.

	$T$ $\gamma$ -hypercontr. for some $\gamma > 1$	$T^*$ $\gamma$ -hypercontr. for some $\gamma > 1$
$\beta \in (-1, 0)$	Counterexample [25]	Counterexample [25]
$\beta \in (0, 1)$	Counterexample [25]	Conjecture holds by Theorem 4.4

Figure 3: Weighted Weiss conjecture for observation operators

## References

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