

# COMPARISON RESULTS FOR GENERALIZED KOLMOGOROV SYSTEMS WITH RESPECT TO MULTIPLICATIVE SEMIGROUPS

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**Abstract.** The group  $G(\mathcal{A})$  of the invertible elements of a Banach algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  can be pre-ordered by a closed semigroup  $S$ . We prove a comparison theorem for ODEs of the form  $u' = f_1(t, u)u + uf_2(t, u)$  in Banach algebras under the assumption that  $S$  is permutation stable. Applications to monotonicity properties of initial value problems and dynamical systems are given.

**1. Introduction.** Let  $(\mathcal{A}, \|\cdot\|)$  be a real Banach algebra with unit  $\mathbf{1}$ , and let  $G(\mathcal{A})$  denote the open group of all invertible elements in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  be a closed semigroup, that is  $\overline{S} = S$ ,  $\mathbf{1} \in S$ , and  $x, y \in S \Rightarrow xy \in S$ .

A closed semigroup  $S$  will be called permutation stable if it has the following property for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ : If  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in G(\mathcal{A})$  then

$$x_{\pi(1)} \cdots x_{\pi(n)} \in S$$

either for each permutation  $\pi : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$  or for none. Note that this property holds for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  if it holds for  $n = 3$ , and that each closed semigroup is permutation stable in case  $\mathcal{A}$  is commutative.

Each closed semigroup  $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  defines a pre-ordering on  $G(\mathcal{A})$ : For  $x, y \in G(\mathcal{A})$  let

$$x \preceq y \text{ if and only if } x^{-1}y \in S. \tag{1}$$

For general closed semigroups it is possible to obtain invariance results for equations of the type  $u'(t) = f(t, u(t))u(t)$  or  $u'(t) = u(t)f(t, u(t))$ , see for example L. Markus [3] for invariance of matrix Lie groups.

The aim of this paper is to prove comparison results for ODEs of the form

$$u'(t) = f_1(t, u(t))u(t) + u(t)f_2(t, u(t))$$

in  $G(\mathcal{A})$ , with respect to pre-orderings induced by permutation stable closed semigroups. Equations of this type can be considered as generalized Kolmogorov systems, since the classical Kolmogorov systems [5] are obtained by concentration on the case  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}^n$  (endowed with the coordinatewise multiplication).

As an introductory example which will illustrate our concepts, consider  $\mathcal{A} = M^{n \times n}$ , the Banach algebra of all real  $n \times n$  matrices. Here

$$S = \{X : 0 \leq \det(X) \leq 1\}$$

is a permutation stable closed semigroup. Thus, if  $X, Y \in M^{n \times n}$  are invertible then  $X \preceq Y$  means  $0 \leq \det(X^{-1}Y) \leq 1$ .

**2. Preliminaries and Notations.** In the sequel always let  $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  be a permutation stable closed semigroup.

Obviously  $\preceq$  defined by (1) is a reflexive and transitive relation on  $G(\mathcal{A})$ , and

$$S \cap G(\mathcal{A}) = \{x \in \mathcal{A} : \mathbf{1} \preceq x\}.$$

Since  $S$  is permutation stable  $x \preceq y$  if and only if  $yx^{-1} \in S$ . In particular, if  $x \preceq y$  then  $y^{-1} \preceq x^{-1}$ , since  $(y^{-1})^{-1}x^{-1} = yx^{-1} \in S$ .

We define

$$W(S) = \{a \in \mathcal{A} : \exp(ta) \in S \ (t \geq 0)\}.$$

The set  $W(S)$  is a closed wedge, that is  $W(S) \neq \emptyset$  (since  $\mathbf{1} \in S \Rightarrow 0 \in W(S)$ ),  $\overline{W(S)} = W(S)$  (since  $S$  is closed),  $\lambda W(S) \subseteq W(S)$  for each  $\lambda \geq 0$ , and  $W(S) + W(S) \subseteq W(S)$  (according to Trotter's product formula).

We consider a second pre-ordering on  $\mathcal{A}$ . We define

$$a \trianglelefteq b \text{ if and only if } b - a \in W(S).$$

Since  $W(S)$  is a wedge,  $\trianglelefteq$  is a reflexive and transitive relation on  $\mathcal{A}$ .

In our introductory example  $\mathcal{A} = M^{n \times n}$ ,  $S = \{X : 0 \leq \det(X) \leq 1\}$ , and

$$W(S) = \{A : \text{trace}(A) \leq 0\}.$$

According to Wronski's Theorem:

$$\det(\exp(tA)) = \exp(t \cdot \text{trace}(A)) \quad (t \geq 0).$$

Thus,  $A \trianglelefteq B$  means  $\text{trace}(B - A) \leq 0$  in this case.

Proposition 1. Let  $a, b, x \in \mathcal{A}$ . If  $\mathbf{1} \preceq x$  and  $0 \trianglelefteq a + b$ , then

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq \exp(ta)x \exp(tb) \quad (t \geq 0).$$

Proof. Fix  $t \geq 0$ . We set

$$y_n = \left( \exp\left(\frac{ta}{n}\right) \exp\left(\frac{tb}{n}\right) \right)^n \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Each  $y_n$  is invertible, and  $y_n \rightarrow \exp(t(a+b))$  ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) according to Trotter's product formula. Hence,  $y_n^{-1} \rightarrow \exp(-t(a+b))$  ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ). We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{1} &\preceq x \exp(t(a+b)) \\ &= x \left( \exp\left(\frac{ta}{n}\right) \exp\left(\frac{tb}{n}\right) \right)^n y_n^{-1} \exp(t(a+b)). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S$  is permutation stable

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq \exp(ta)x \exp(tb)y_n^{-1} \exp(t(a+b)).$$

For  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{1} &\preceq \exp(ta)x \exp(tb) \exp(-t(a+b)) \exp(t(a+b)) \\ &= \exp(ta)x \exp(tb), \end{aligned}$$

since  $S$  is closed.

Next, we prove that  $W(S)$  is similarity stable.

Proposition 2. If  $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $0 \preceq a + b$  and  $x \in G(\mathcal{A})$ , then  $0 \preceq x^{-1}ax + b$ .

Proof. Let  $t \geq 0$ . We have

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq \exp(t(a+b))x^{-1}x$$

hence,

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq x^{-1} \exp(t(a+b))x.$$

Applying Trotter's product formula twice, as in the proof of Proposition 1, leads to

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq x^{-1} \exp(ta)x \exp(tb) = \exp(tx^{-1}ax) \exp(tb),$$

and then to

$$\mathbf{1} \preceq \exp(t(x^{-1}ax + b)).$$

Hence,  $0 \preceq x^{-1}ax + b$ .

**3. Linear Equations.** Let  $a, b, x \in \mathcal{A}$ , and consider the initial value problem

$$u'(t) = au(t) + u(t)b, \quad u(0) = x. \quad (2)$$

The solution of (2) is

$$u(t) = \exp(ta)x \exp(tb).$$

Proposition 1 says that  $u(t) \in S \cap G(\mathcal{A})$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) if  $x \in S \cap G(\mathcal{A})$  and  $a + b \in W(S)$ . This leads to the invariance condition which will be used later.

Proposition 3. Let  $a, b, x \in \mathcal{A}$ . If  $0 \preceq a + b$  and  $\mathbf{1} \preceq x$ , then

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} \text{dist}(x + h(ax + xb), S) = 0.$$

Proof. We have

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x + h(ax + xb) - u(h)}{h} = 0.$$

By Proposition 1,  $u(h) \in S$  ( $h \geq 0$ ). Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{h} \text{dist}(x + h(ax + xb), S) \leq \frac{\|x + h(ax + xb) - u(h)\|}{h} \rightarrow 0$$

as  $h \rightarrow 0^+$ .

**4. An Invariance Theorem.** In the sequel always let  $T \in (0, \infty]$ . Let  $E$  be a Banach space, and let  $K(x, \rho)$  denote the open ball in  $E$  with center  $x \in E$  and radius  $\rho > 0$ . Let  $D \subseteq E$ . A function  $g: [0, T) \times D \rightarrow E$  is called locally Lipschitz continuous if to each  $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T) \times D$  there exist numbers  $L \geq 0$ ,  $\rho > 0$ ,  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\|g(t, y) - g(t, x)\| \leq L\|y - x\|$$

for

$$t \in [t_0, t_0 + \delta) \cap [0, T), \quad x, y \in K(x_0, \rho) \cap D.$$

The following invariance theorem is a special case of an invariance theorem of Volkmann [7], see also the closely related invariance and existence results of Martin [3], Chapter 6.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $D \subseteq E$  be open,  $C \subseteq E$  be closed, and let  $g: [0, T) \times D \rightarrow E$  be locally Lipschitz continuous such that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} \text{dist}(x + hg(t, x), C) = 0 \quad (t \in [0, T), x \in D \cap \partial C).$$

If  $w: [0, T_1) \rightarrow D$ ,  $T_1 \leq T$  satisfies

$$w'(t) = g(t, w(t)) \quad (t \in [0, T_1)), \quad w(0) \in C,$$

then  $w(t) \in C$  ( $t \in [0, T_1)$ ).

**Remark.** Theorem 1 is a pure invariance theorem, since  $g$  is not assumed to be continuous.

**5. Comparison Results.** By means of Theorem 1 we prove the following comparison theorem.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4: [0, T) \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be locally Lipschitz continuous. Let  $u_0, v_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$  with  $u_0 \preceq v_0$  and let

$$u: [0, T_u) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A}), \quad v: [0, T_v) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$$

be solutions of the initial value problems

$$\begin{aligned} u'(t) &= f_1(t, u(t))u(t) + u(t)f_2(t, u(t)), & u(0) &= u_0, \\ v'(t) &= f_3(t, v(t))v(t) + v(t)f_4(t, v(t)), & v(0) &= v_0, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

respectively. Assume for each  $t \in [0, \min\{T_u, T_v\})$  that

$$f_1(t, u(t)) + f_2(t, u(t)) \preceq f_3(t, y) + f_4(t, y) \quad (u(t) \preceq y), \quad (4)$$

or that

$$f_1(t, x) + f_2(t, x) \preceq f_3(t, v(t)) + f_4(t, v(t)) \quad (x \preceq v(t)). \quad (5)$$

Then

$$u(t) \preceq v(t) \quad (t \in [0, \min\{T_u, T_v\})).$$

**Proof.** We assume (4). Set  $J = [0, \min\{T_u, T_v\})$  and consider  $w: J \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$  defined by  $w(t) = u^{-1}(t)v(t)$ . We have  $w(0) \in S$ , and an easy calculation shows that  $w$  is a solution of the differential equation

$$w'(t) = g(t, w(t)) = g_1(t, w(t))w(t) + w(t)g_2(t, w(t))$$

with

$$g, g_1, g_2: J \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

defined by

$$g_1(t, x) = (u(t))^{-1} \left( f_3(t, u(t)x) - f_1(t, u(t)) \right) u(t) - f_2(t, u(t)),$$

$$g_2(t, x) = f_4(t, u(t)x), \quad g(t, x) = g_1(t, x)x + xg_2(t, x).$$

Obviously  $g_1, g_2$  and therefore  $g$  are locally Lipschitz continuous. Let  $t \in J$  and  $x \in S \cap G(\mathcal{A})$ . Then  $u(t) \preceq u(t)x$ , hence, by (4)

$$f_1(t, u(t)) + f_2(t, u(t)) \trianglelefteq f_3(t, u(t)x) + f_4(t, u(t)x),$$

that is

$$0 \trianglelefteq (f_3(t, u(t)x) - f_1(t, u(t))) - (f_2(t, u(t)) - f_4(t, u(t)x)).$$

By Proposition 2

$$0 \trianglelefteq (u(t))^{-1} (f_3(t, u(t)x) - f_1(t, u(t))) u(t) - (f_2(t, u(t)) - f_4(t, u(t)x)),$$

that is  $0 \trianglelefteq g_1(t, x) + g_2(t, x)$ , and by Proposition 3

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} \text{dist}(x + hg(t, x), S) = 0.$$

According to Theorem 1  $w(t) \in S$  ( $t \in J$ ), that is  $u(t) \preceq v(t)$  ( $t \in J$ ). If (5) holds we consider

$$g, g_1, g_2: J \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

defined by

$$g_1(t, x) = (u(t))^{-1} \left( f_3(t, v(t)) - f_1(t, v(t)x^{-1}) \right) u(t) - f_2(t, v(t)x^{-1}),$$

$$g_2(t, x) = f_4(t, v(t)), \quad g(t, x) = g_1(t, x)x + xg_2(t, x).$$

Again  $w'(t) = g(t, w(t))$  ( $t \in J$ ), and  $g_1, g_2, g$  are locally Lipschitz continuous since  $x \mapsto x^{-1}$  is locally Lipschitz continuous on  $G(\mathcal{A})$ .

Let  $t \in J$  and  $x \in S \cap G(\mathcal{A})$ . Now,  $v(t)x^{-1} \preceq v(t)$ , hence by (5)

$$f_1(t, v(t)x^{-1}) + f_2(t, v(t)x^{-1}) \preceq f_3(t, v(t)) + f_4(t, v(t)),$$

that is

$$0 \preceq (f_3(t, v(t)) - f_1(t, v(t)x^{-1})) - (f_2(t, v(t)x^{-1}) - f_4(t, v(t))),$$

and with the same conclusion as above

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} \text{dist}(x + hg(t, x), S) = 0.$$

Again Theorem 1 proves  $u(t) \preceq v(t)$  ( $t \in J$ ).

**6. Monotone Dependence on the Initial Value.** We call a function  $f: G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  monotone increasing if

$$x \preceq y \text{ implies } f(x) \preceq f(y),$$

and  $f: [0, T) \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is called monotone increasing if  $x \mapsto f(t, x)$  is monotone increasing for each  $t \in [0, T)$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let  $f_1, f_2: [0, T) \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be continuous, locally Lipschitz continuous, and let  $f_1 + f_2$  be monotone increasing. For each  $u_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$  let

$$u(\cdot, u_0): [0, \omega_+(u_0)) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$$

denote the nonextendable solution of the initial value problem (3). If  $u_0 \preceq v_0$ , then

$$u(t, u_0) \preceq u(t, v_0) \quad (t \in [0, \min\{\omega_+(u_0), \omega_+(v_0)\})).$$

**Proof.** Apply Theorem 2 with  $f_3 := f_1$ ,  $f_4 := f_2$ ,  $u(t) := u(t, u_0)$ , and  $v(t) := u(t, v_0)$ .

**7. Monotone Solutions of Dynamical Systems.** In analogy to the known results on monotone solutions of dynamical systems with quasi-monotone increasing right hand side [2, 6] we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.** Let  $g_1, g_2: G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be locally Lipschitz continuous (hence, continuous), and let  $g_1 + g_2$  be monotone increasing. Let  $u_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$ ,

and let  $u : [0, \omega_+) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$  be the nonextendable solution of the dynamical system

$$u'(t) = g_1(u(t))u(t) + u(t)g_2(u(t)), \quad u(0) = u_0.$$

If  $0 \preceq [\succeq] g_1(u_0) + g_2(u_0)$ , then  $u$  is monotone increasing [decreasing] with respect to  $\preceq$  on  $[0, \omega_+)$ .

**Proof.** First, let  $0 \preceq g_1(u_0) + g_2(u_0)$ . Let  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4: [0, \omega_+) \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be defined by  $f_1(t, x) = 0$ ,  $f_2(t, x) = 0$ ,  $f_3(t, x) = g_1(x)$ ,  $f_4(t, x) = g_2(x)$ . The solution of  $z' = f_1(t, z)z + z f_2(t, z) = 0$ ,  $z(0) = u_0$  is  $z(t) = u_0$ , and

$$0 = f_1(t, u_0) + f_2(t, u_0) \preceq f_3(t, y) + f_4(t, y) = g_1(y) + g_2(y)$$

for  $t \in [0, \omega_+)$ ,  $u_0 \preceq y$ , since  $g_1 + g_2$  is increasing. According to Theorem 2 we obtain  $u_0 \preceq u(t)$  on  $[0, \omega_+)$ .

Fix  $t_0 \in [0, \omega_+(u_0))$ . Now,  $v(t) := u(t + t_0)$ ,  $t \in [0, \omega_+ - t_0)$  solves

$$v'(t) = g_1(v(t))v(t) + v(t)g_2(v(t)), \quad v(0) = u(t_0),$$

and  $0 \preceq g_1(u_0) + g_2(u_0) \preceq g_1(u(t_0)) + g_2(u(t_0))$ . Thus, the same argument as above proves  $u(t_0) \preceq u(t)$  ( $t \in [t_0, \omega_+)$ ).

In case  $0 \succeq g_1(u_0) + g_2(u_0)$  we consider  $g_3, g_4: G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  defined by  $g_3(x) = -g_1(x^{-1})$ ,  $g_4(x) = -g_2(x^{-1})$ . Note that  $g_3 + g_4$  is monotone increasing too. Now,  $w : [0, \omega_+) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$  defined by  $w(t) = (u(t))^{-1}$  solves

$$w'(t) = w(t)g_3(w(t)) + g_4(w(t))w(t), \quad w(0) = (u_0)^{-1},$$

and  $0 \preceq g_3((u_0)^{-1}) + g_4((u_0)^{-1})$ . According to the first case  $w$  is monotone increasing, hence,  $u$  is monotone decreasing on  $[0, \omega_+)$ .

**8. Remark on Equations Defined on  $[0, \mathbf{T}) \times \mathcal{A}$ .** Let  $a, b: [0, T) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be continuous functions, and let  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . The initial value problem

$$u'(t) = a(t)u(t) + u(t)b(t), \quad u(0) = x$$

is uniquely solvable on  $[0, T)$ . By standard reasoning  $u(t)$  is invertible for each  $t \in [0, T)$  if  $x$  is invertible, and in this case  $v: [0, T) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{A})$ ,  $v(t) = (u(t))^{-1}$  is the solution of

$$v'(t) = -b(t)v(t) - v(t)a(t), \quad v(0) = x^{-1}.$$

Therefore, if  $f_1, f_2: [0, T) \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  are continuous and locally Lipschitz continuous, and if

$$u(\cdot, u_0): [0, \omega_+(u_0)) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$



denotes the nonextendable solution of the initial value problem

$$u'(t) = f_1(t, u(t))u(t) + u(t)f_2(t, u(t)), \quad u(0) = u_0,$$

then  $u_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$  implies  $u(t) \in G(\mathcal{A})$  ( $t \in [0, \omega_+(u_0))$ ). In particular, if  $u_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$ , then the maximal interval of existence of the solution does not change if the domain of definition of  $f_1, f_2$  is restricted to  $[0, T) \times G(\mathcal{A})$ .

### 9. Examples.

1. First, we return to our introductory example  $\mathcal{A} = M^{n \times n}$ ,  $S = \{X : 0 \leq \det(X) \leq 1\}$ . We have seen that  $W(S) = \{A : \text{trace}(A) \leq 0\}$ . In particular  $X \preceq Y$  implies  $|\det(Y)| \leq |\det(X)|$ .

Let  $A_k, B_k, C_k \in M^{n \times n}$ ,  $k = 1, 2$  with  $\text{trace}(B_1 + B_2) \geq 0$  and let  $f_k: G(M^{n \times n}) \rightarrow M^{n \times n}$  be defined by

$$f_k(X) = A_k X - X A_k + |\det(X)| B_k + C_k \quad (k = 1, 2).$$

It is easy to check that  $f_1 + f_2$  is monotone increasing. According to Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 the solution of the matrix initial value problem

$$U'(t) = f_1(U(t))U(t) + U(t)f_2(U(t)), \quad U(0) = U_0$$

depends increasingly on  $U_0 \in G(M^{n \times n})$ , and if  $U_0 \in G(M^{n \times n})$  and  $f_1(U_0) + f_2(U_0) \succeq [\preceq] 0$ , which means

$$\text{trace}(|\det(U_0)|(B_1 + B_2) + C_1 + C_2) \leq [\geq] 0,$$

then  $t \mapsto U(t)$  is monotone increasing [decreasing], thus,  $t \mapsto |\det(U(t))|$  is monotone decreasing [increasing].

2. Let  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}^4$  endowed with coordinatewise multiplication. We consider the permutation stable closed semigroup

$$S = \{x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) : x_k \geq 0 \ (k = 1, 2, 3, 4), \ x_1 x_2 \geq 1, \ x_3 x_4 \geq 1\}.$$

Now,  $x \preceq y$  implies  $|x_1 x_2| \leq |y_1 y_2|$  and  $|x_3 x_4| \leq |y_3 y_4|$ . We have

$$W(S) = \{a = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) : a_1 + a_2 \geq 0, \ a_3 + a_4 \geq 0\}.$$

Let  $f: G(\mathbb{R}^4) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$  be defined by

$$f(x) = \left( -\frac{1}{|x_3 x_4|} - x_3^2 - 1, -\frac{1}{|x_1 x_2|} + x_3^2 + 1, |x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4| - x_1^3 - 2, x_1^3 \right).$$

Again,  $f$  is monotone increasing, and  $f((1, 1, -1, 1)) = (-3, 1, -2, 1) \preceq 0$ . According to Theorem 4 the solution of

$$u'(t) = u(t)f(u(t)), \quad u(0) = (1, 1, -1, 1)$$

is monotone decreasing. Thus,  $t \mapsto |u_1(t)u_2(t)|$  and  $t \mapsto |u_3(t)u_4(t)|$  are monotone decreasing.

3. Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be any unital normed Banach algebra and let  $S_0 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : \|x\| \leq 1\}$ . Then  $S_0$  is a closed semigroup but, in general, not permutation stable. Let  $m_+[x, y]$  denote the right hand side derivative of the norm at  $x$  in direction  $y$ . It is known [1], Chapter 1, that  $\|\exp(ta)\| \leq 1$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) if and only if  $m_+[\mathbf{1}, a] \leq 0$ .

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be any commutative closed subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}$  containing  $\mathbf{1}$ , fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $S = \{x \in \mathcal{A} : \|x^n\| \leq 1\}$ . Now  $S$  is a permutation stable closed semigroup, and

$$W(S) = \{a \in \mathcal{A} : m_+[\mathbf{1}, a] \leq 0\},$$

since  $\|\exp(ta)\| \leq 1$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) if and only if  $\|\exp(nta)\| \leq 1$  ( $t \geq 0$ ). For example  $a - \mu\mathbf{1} \in W(S)$  if  $\mu \geq \|a\|$ .

Let  $c_1, c_2: [0, T) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be continuous,  $c_1(t) \in W(S)$  ( $t \in [0, T)$ ) and let  $f: [0, T) \times G(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be defined by

$$f(t, x) = \|x^{-n}\|c_1(t) + c_2(t).$$

Then,  $f$  is monotone increasing. According to Theorem 3 the solution of

$$u'(t) = (\|(u(t))^{-n}\|c_1(t) + c_2(t))u(t) \quad u(0) = u_0 \in G(\mathcal{A})$$

depends monotone increasingly on  $u_0$ .

4. This time let  $\mathcal{B}$  be any unital normed commutative Banach algebra and let  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}^{n \times n}$ , the Banach algebra of all  $n \times n$ -matrices with entries from  $\mathcal{B}$ . For  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  let  $\det(A) \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $\text{trace}(A) \in \mathcal{B}$  be defined by the common algebraic formulas. It is well-known that  $X \in \mathcal{A}$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{A}$  if and only if  $\det(X)$  is invertible in  $\mathcal{B}$ , and that  $\det(XY) = \det(X)\det(Y)$  for all  $X, Y \in \mathcal{A}$ . Since the proof of Wronski's Theorem is purely algebraic too, we also obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \det(\exp(tA)) = \text{trace}(A) \det(\exp(tA)) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}) \quad (6)$$

for each  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ . Let

$$S := \{X \in \mathcal{A} : \|\det(X)\| \leq 1\}.$$

Since  $\mathcal{B}$  is commutative,  $S$  is a permutation stable semigroup, and from (6) we obtain

$$W(S) = \{A \in \mathcal{A} : m_+[1, \text{trace}(A)] \leq 0\}.$$

Moreover  $X \preceq Y$  implies  $\|\det(Y)\| \leq \|\det(X)\|$ , since  $\|\det(X^{-1}Y)\| = \|(\det(X))^{-1} \det(Y)\|$ .

Now, the functions and conclusions from Example 1 can be reformulated in this setting.

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