

# Two basic lifting theorems in the continuous case

Fernando Peláez

## Abstract

The relation between the lifting theorems due to Nagy-Foias and Cotlar-Sadosky in the continuous case is discussed.

## THE NAGY-FOIAS COMMUTANT LIFTING THEOREM

The Nagy-Foias commutant lifting theorem ([N-F.1], [N-F.2]) is an abstract generalization of Sarason's generalized interpolation theorem ([S.1]) and is a basic result in Operator Theory and its applications to interpolation problems. We refer the reader to the fundamental selfcontained book [F-F] in which is presented a unified geometric approach, based in this theorem, to a large array of classical and modern interpolation problems arising in mathematics and engineering. To state the theorem in the continuous (monoparametric) version we need to recall a few definitions and basic results.

A strongly continuous semigroup of contractions in the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  is a family  $T = \{T(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  of contractive operators in  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $T(0) = I$  (the identity operator in  $\mathcal{H}$ ),  $T(t+s) = T(t)T(s)$ , for all  $t, s \geq 0$ , and  $\|T(t)h - h\| \rightarrow 0$  if  $t \rightarrow 0^+$ , for each  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ . A minimal unitary dilation of such a semigroup  $T$  is a strongly continuous group  $U = \{U(t)/t \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})$  of unitary operators on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{F}$  that contains  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $T(t) = P_{\mathcal{H}}^{\mathcal{F}}U(t)|_{\mathcal{H}}$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , and that the minimality condition holds:  $\mathcal{F} = \bigvee \{U(t)\mathcal{H}/t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the closed linear span of  $\{U(t)\mathcal{H}/t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ). Every strongly continuous semigroup of contractions has minimal unitary dilations and two minimal unitary dilations are always isomorphic ([N-F.2] I.8.2). If  $U = \{U(t)/t \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})$  is the minimal unitary dilation of  $T = \{T(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  then a minimal isometric dilation is associated as follows: if  $\mathcal{M} = \bigvee \{U(t)\mathcal{H}/t \geq 0\}$  and  $W(t) = U(t)|_{\mathcal{M}}$  then

$W = \{W(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M})$  is a strongly continuous group of isometries such that  $T(t) = P_{\mathcal{H}}^{\mathcal{M}} W(t) |_{\mathcal{H}}$  for all  $t \geq 0$ ,  $\mathcal{M} = \bigvee \{W(t)\mathcal{H}/t \geq 0\}$  and  $T(t)P_{\mathcal{H}}^{\mathcal{M}} = P_{\mathcal{H}}^{\mathcal{M}} T(t)$ , for all  $t \geq 0$ .

**THEOREM A** *For  $j = 1, 2$  let  $T_j = \{T_j(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_j)$  be a strongly continuous semigroup of contractions in the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_j$ ,  $U_j = \{U_j(t)/t \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_j)$  with  $\mathcal{F}_j = \bigvee \{U_j(t)\mathcal{H}_j/t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  its minimal unitary dilation and  $W_j = \{W_j(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}_j)$  with  $\mathcal{M}_j = \bigvee \{U_j(t)\mathcal{H}_j/t \geq 0\}$  its minimal isometric dilation. If  $X \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2)$  is such that  $XT_1(t) = T_2(t)X$  holds for all  $t \geq 0$  then:*

1. *Exists  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2)$  such that  $YU_1(t) = U_2(t)Y$ ,  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $P_{\mathcal{H}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} Y |_{\mathcal{H}_1} = X$  and  $\|Y\| = \|X\|$ .*
2. *Exists  $Z \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{M}_2)$  such that  $ZW_1(t) = W_2(t)Z$ ,  $\forall t \geq 0$ ,  $P_{\mathcal{H}_2}^{\mathcal{M}_2} Z = X P_{\mathcal{H}_1}^{\mathcal{M}_1}$  and  $\|Z\| = \|X\|$ .*

The theorem says that every operator  $X$  which intertwines the semigroups  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  can be *lifted* to an operator  $Y$  (with the same norm as  $X$ ) which intertwines the minimal unitary dilations of these semigroups. This continuous version of the Nagy-Foias commutant lifting theorem was first proved by Arocena ([A.1]) and it was applied in [F] to the solution of an interpolation problem of Dym and Gohberg [D-G]. Combining Arocena's approach to lifting problems in general groups developed in [A.3] (see also [A.2] and [S.2]) with the theory of extensions of local semigroups of contractions ([B]) a simpler and more conceptual proof was given in [A.3].

## A COTLAR-SADOSKY LIFTING THEOREM

Let us consider two arbitrary vector spaces  $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2$  and two arbitrary subspaces  $\mathcal{W}_1 \subset \mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{W}_2 \subset \mathcal{V}_2$ . For  $j = 1, 2$  suppose that  $\tau_j(t) : \mathcal{V}_j \longrightarrow \mathcal{V}_j$  ( $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ) is a group of linear isomorphisms such that:

$$\tau_1(t)\mathcal{W}_1 \subset \mathcal{W}_1 \quad \tau_2(-t)\mathcal{W}_2 \subset \mathcal{W}_2, \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

$\{\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \mathcal{W}_1, \mathcal{W}_2, \tau_1, \tau_2\}$  is called an algebraic scattering system ([C-S.2]). Let  $B_j : \mathcal{V}_j \times \mathcal{V}_j \rightarrow C$  be a sesquilinear form. We recall the following definitions:

- $B_j$  is positive  $\iff B_j(v, v) \geq 0, \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}_j$ .
- $B_j$  is  $\tau_j$ -Toeplitz  $\iff B_j(\tau_j(t)v, \tau_j(t)w) = B_j(v, w), \quad \forall (v, w) \in \mathcal{V}_j \times \mathcal{V}_j, \quad \forall t \in \mathfrak{R}$ .
- $B_j$  is  $\tau_j$ -continuous  $\iff \forall (v, w) \in \mathcal{V}_j \times \mathcal{V}_j, \quad B_j(\tau_j(\cdot)v, w)$  is continuous.

Analogously, a form  $B' : \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2 \rightarrow C$  is said  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Toeplitz,  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -continuous respectively if:

- $B'(\tau_1(t)v_1, \tau_2(t)v_2) = B'(v_1, v_2), \quad \forall (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2, \quad \forall t \in \mathfrak{R}.$
- for each  $(v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2, \quad B'(\tau_1(\cdot)v_1, v_2), \quad B'(v_1, \tau_2(\cdot)v_2)$  are continuous.

We also consider sesquilinear forms  $B : \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2 \rightarrow C$ . Such a form is called  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Hankel if:

$$B(\tau_1(t)w_1, w_2) = B(w_1, \tau_2(-t)w_2), \quad \forall (w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2, \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Fix an algebraic scattering system  $\{\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2, \mathcal{W}_1, \mathcal{W}_2, \tau_1, \tau_2\}$  and two positive forms  $B_1 : \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_1 \rightarrow C, B_2 : \mathcal{V}_2 \times \mathcal{V}_2 \rightarrow C, \tau_1$ -Toeplitz and  $\tau_2$ -Toeplitz respectively. If  $B' : \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2 \rightarrow C$  and  $B : \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2 \rightarrow C$  are other two sesquilinear forms then we write:

- $B' \leq (B_1, B_2) \iff |B'(v_1, v_2)|^2 \leq B_1(v_1, v_1) B_2(v_2, v_2), \quad \forall (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2.$
- $B \prec (B_1, B_2) \iff |B(w_1, w_2)|^2 \leq B_1(w_1, w_1) B_2(w_2, w_2), \quad \forall (w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2.$

If  $B_j$  is  $\tau_j$ -Toeplitz and  $\tau_j$ -continuous for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $B' \leq (B_1, B_2)$  then  $B'$  is  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -continuous. Indeed, if  $(v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2$  then we have:

$$|B'(\tau_1(t)v_1, v_2) - B'(\tau_1(t_0)v_1, v_2)|^2 = |B'((\tau_1(t) - \tau_1(t_0))v_1, v_2)|^2 \leq$$

$$B_1((\tau_1(t) - \tau_1(t_0))v_1, (\tau_1(t) - \tau_1(t_0))v_1) B_2(v_2, v_2) =$$

$$[2 B_1(v_1, v_1) - 2 \operatorname{Re} B_1(\tau_1(t)v_1, \tau_1(t_0)v_1)] B_2(v_2, v_2) \longrightarrow 0 \text{ if } t \rightarrow t_0$$

Similar considerations holds for  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Hankel forms. With this notation we can formulate the following:

**THEOREM B** For  $j = 1, 2$  let  $\mathcal{V}_j$  be a vector space,  $\mathcal{W}_j$  a subspace,  $\tau_j(t) : \mathcal{V}_j \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_j$  a group of linear isomorphisms such that  $\tau_1(t)\mathcal{W}_1 \subset \mathcal{W}_1 \quad \forall t \geq 0,$

$\tau_2(-t)\mathcal{W}_2 \subset \mathcal{W}_2 \forall t \geq 0$  and  $\mathcal{V}_j = \text{Lin}\{\tau_j(t)\mathcal{W}_j/t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . Let  $B_j : \mathcal{V}_j \times \mathcal{V}_j \rightarrow C$  be a positive form  $\tau_j$ -Toeplitz,  $\tau_j$ -continuous ( $j = 1, 2$ ) and  $B : \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2 \rightarrow C$  a  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Hankel form. If  $B \prec (B_1, B_2)$  then there exists a form  $\tilde{B} : \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2 \rightarrow C$ ,  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Toeplitz such that  $\tilde{B} \leq (B_1, B_2)$  and  $\tilde{B}(w_1, w_2) = B(w_1, w_2)$ ,  $\forall (w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$ .

Theorem B is a result concerning Toeplitz extensions of generalized Hankel forms in the continuous case. It was first stated and proved (as a consequence of the discrete version) in [C-S 2] (Theorem 2 of [C-S 2]) where several applications were also given. We are going to give a direct proof independently of the discrete case and based on the theory of unitary extensions of local semigroups of isometries [B].

**Proof of Theorem B:** In the vector space  $E = \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$  we set:

$$\langle (w_1, w_2), (w'_1, w'_2) \rangle = B_1(w_1, w'_1) + B_2(w_2, w'_2) + B(w_1, w'_2) + \overline{B(w'_1, w_2)}$$

It follows that  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : E \times E \rightarrow C$  is a sesquilinear form, which is positive since  $B \prec (B_1, B_2)$ . By a standard way (quotient and completion) we obtain a Hilbert space  $(\mathcal{H}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  and a natural operator  $\pi$  from  $E$  to a dense subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$ . The formulae  $\lambda_1 w_1 = \pi(w_1, 0)$ ,  $\lambda_2 w_2 = \pi(0, w_2)$ , determines two isometries  $\lambda_j \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}_j, \mathcal{H})$  such that  $\mathcal{H} = \lambda_1 \mathcal{W}_1 \vee \lambda_2 \mathcal{W}_2$ . For each  $t \geq 0$  set:

$$\mathcal{D}_t = \lambda_1 \mathcal{W}_1 \vee \lambda_2 \tau_2(-t)\mathcal{W}_2$$

If  $w_1 \in \mathcal{W}_1$ ,  $w_2 \in \mathcal{W}_2$  and  $t \geq 0$  then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\lambda_1 w_1 + \lambda_2 \tau_2(-t)w_2\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \\ &= B_1(w_1, w_1) + B_2(\tau_2(-t)w_2, \tau_2(-t)w_2) + 2\text{Re}B(w_1, \tau_2(-t)w_2) \\ &= B_1(\tau_1(t)w_1, \tau_1(t)w_1) + B_2(w_2, w_2) + 2\text{Re}B(\tau_1(t)w_1, w_2) \\ &= \|\lambda_1 \tau_1(t)w_1 + \lambda_2 w_2\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2. \end{aligned}$$

This allows us to define an isometric operator  $V(t)$  with domain  $\mathcal{D}_t$  by:

$$V(t) (\lambda_1 w_1 + \lambda_2 \tau_2(-t)w_2) = \lambda_1 \tau_1(t)w_1 + \lambda_2 w_2$$

Remark that,  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \mathcal{H}$ ,  $V(0) = I$  (the identity operator), if  $t, s \geq 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{t+s} \subset \mathcal{D}_s$ ,  $V_s \mathcal{D}_{t+s} \subset \mathcal{D}_t$  and  $V_{t+s} = V_t V_s|_{\mathcal{D}_{t+s}}$ . Fix  $t_0 > 0$  and put  $h = \lambda_1 w_1 + \lambda_2 \tau_2(-t_0)w_2$ . If  $t < t_0$  we have:

$$V(t) (\lambda_1 w_1 + \lambda_2 \tau_2(-t_0)w_2) = \lambda_1 \tau_1(t)w_1 + \lambda_2 \tau_2(t - t_0)w_2$$

and then  $\|V(t)h - h\|^2 = B_1[\tau_1(t)w_1 - w_1, \tau_1(t)w_1 - w_1] + B_2[\tau_2(t - t_0)w_2 - \tau_2(-t_0)w_2, \tau_2(t - t_0)w_2 - \tau_2(-t_0)w_2] +$

$+2 \operatorname{Re} B[\tau_1(t)w_1 - w_1, \tau_2(t)\tau_2(-t_0)w_2 - \tau_2(-t_0)w_2]$ . By the considerations we have done about continuity it follows that  $\|V(t)h - h\| \rightarrow 0$  if  $t \rightarrow 0^+$ . Thus, we can ensure that the family  $V = \{(V(t), \mathcal{D}_t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  is a local semigroup of isometries in the sense of [B]. Then (see theorem 1 of [B]),  $V$  can be extended to a strongly continuous group of unitary operators in a larger Hilbert space  $\mathcal{F}$ . There exist a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{F}$  that contains  $\mathcal{H}$  as a closed subspace and a strongly continuous group of unitary operators  $\{U(t)/t \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $V(t) = U(t)|_{\mathcal{D}_t}$ ,  $\forall t \geq 0$ . Define a sesquilinear form  $\tilde{B} : \mathcal{V}_1 \times \mathcal{V}_2 \rightarrow C$  by:

$$\tilde{B}(\tau_1(-t)w_1, \tau_2(s)w_2) = \langle U(-t)\lambda_1 w_1, U(s)\lambda_2 w_2 \rangle$$

It is obvious that  $\tilde{B}$  extends  $B$ , that  $\tilde{B}$  is  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ -Toeplitz and for all  $w_1 \in \mathcal{W}_1$ ,  $w_2 \in \mathcal{W}_2$ ,  $t, s \in \mathbb{R}$  we have:  $\|\tilde{B}(\tau_1(-t)w_1, \tau_2(s)w_2)\|^2 \leq \|U(-t)\lambda_1 w_1\|^2 \|U(s)\lambda_2 w_2\|^2 =$

$$\|\lambda_1 w_1\|^2 \|\lambda_2 w_2\|^2 = B_1(w_1, w_1)B_2(w_2, w_2) \text{ and then } \tilde{B} \leq (B_1, B_2).$$

## EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN BOTH THEOREMS

We shall now show that theorems A and B are equivalents.

**Theorem B implies Theorem A:** Assume  $\|X\| = 1$  and, for  $j = 1, 2$  set  $\mathcal{V}_j = \mathcal{F}_j$ ,  $\tau_j(t) = U_j(t)$ ,  $\mathcal{W}_1 = \mathcal{M}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{W}_2 = \bigvee \{U_2(t)\mathcal{H}_2/t \leq 0\}$  and  $B_j$  the scalar product in  $\mathcal{F}_j$ . Let  $B : \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2 \rightarrow C$  be given by:

$$B(w_1, w_2) = \langle X P_{\mathcal{H}_1} w_1, w_2 \rangle, \quad (w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2.$$

For  $(w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$  and for all  $t \geq 0$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} B(U_1(t)w_1, w_2) &= \langle X P_{\mathcal{H}_1} W_1(t)w_1, w_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle T_2(t)X P_{\mathcal{H}_1} w_1, w_2 \rangle = \langle X P_{\mathcal{H}_1} w_1, U_2(-t)w_2 \rangle = B(w_1, U_2(-t)w_2) \text{ and} \\ |B(w_1, w_2)|^2 &= |\langle X P_{\mathcal{H}_1} w_1, w_2 \rangle|^2 \leq \langle w_1, w_1 \rangle \langle w_2, w_2 \rangle = B_1(w_1, w_1)B_2(w_2, w_2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $B$  is  $(U_1, U_2)$ -Hankel and  $B \prec (B_1, B_2)$ . Theorem B, ensures the existence of an extension  $\tilde{B} : \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2 \rightarrow C$  of  $B$  such that  $\tilde{B}$  is  $(U_1, U_2)$ -toeplitz and  $\tilde{B} \leq (B_1, B_2)$ . In this case,  $\tilde{B} \leq (B_1, B_2)$  is equivalent to say that  $\tilde{B}(f_1, f_2) \leq \|f_1\|_{\mathcal{F}_1}^2 \|f_2\|_{\mathcal{F}_2}^2$  holds for all  $(f_1, f_2) \in \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$  and then  $\tilde{B}$  is a bounded sesquilinear form with  $\|\tilde{B}\| \leq 1$ . There exists an operator  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2)$  with  $\|Y\| = \|\tilde{B}\|$  such that:

$$\tilde{B}(f_1, f_2) = \langle Y f_1, f_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_2} \quad \forall (f_1, f_2) \in \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$$

Since  $\tilde{B}$  is  $(U_1, U_2)$ -Toeplitz we have:  
 $\langle YU_1(t)f_1, f_2 \rangle = \tilde{B}(U_1(t)f_1, f_2) = \tilde{B}(f_1, U_2(-t)f_2) =$   
 $= \langle Yf_1, U_2(-t)f_2 \rangle = \langle U_2(t)Yf_1, f_2 \rangle$ . and then  $YU_1(t) = U_2(t)Y, \forall t \in \mathfrak{R}$ .  
 For  $(h_1, h_2) \in \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{H}_2$  we have  $\langle P_{\mathcal{H}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} Yh_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_2} = \langle Yh_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_2} = \tilde{B}(h_1, h_2) =$   
 $B(h_1, h_2) = \langle Xh_1, h_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_2}$  and then

$$P_{\mathcal{H}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} Y|_{\mathcal{H}_1} = X$$

Since  $\|X\| = 1$  and  $\|Y\| \leq 1$  it follows that  $\|Y\| = 1$  and A1 holds.

Using again the fact that  $\tilde{B}$  is an extension of  $B$  and taking  $(w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$  instead of  $(h_1, h_2) \in \mathcal{H}_1 \times \mathcal{H}_2$  we obtain:

$$P_{\mathcal{W}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} Y|_{\mathcal{W}_1} = X P_{\mathcal{H}_1}^{\mathcal{W}_1}$$

This equality together with the known relation  $\mathcal{F}_2 \ominus \mathcal{M}_2 = \mathcal{W}_2 \ominus \mathcal{H}_2$  implies  $Y\mathcal{M}_1 \subset \mathcal{M}_2$ . Setting  $Z = Y|_{\mathcal{M}_1}$  A2 follows.

**Theorem A implies Theorem B:** For  $j = 1, 2$  let  $(\mathcal{F}_j, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_j)$  be the Hilbert space generated (after quotient and completion) by the vector space  $\mathcal{V}_j$  and the positive form  $B_j$ . Let us identify  $\mathcal{V}_j$  as a dense subspace of  $\mathcal{F}_j$ . For each  $t \in \mathfrak{R}$  and for all  $v \in \mathcal{H}_j$  we have:

$$\|\tau_j(t)v\|_j^2 = B_j(\tau_j(t)v, \tau_j(t)v) = B_j(v, v) = \|v\|_j^2$$

and then  $\tau_j(t)$  can be extended to an unitary operator  $U_j(t) \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_j)$ . It is clear that  $U_j = \{U_j(t)/t \in \mathfrak{R}\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_j)$  is a unitary group. Let us see the continuous property, for each  $v \in \mathcal{V}_j$  we have:

$$\|U_j(t)v - v\|_j^2 = 2\|v\|^2 - 2\operatorname{Re}\langle U_j(t)v, v \rangle = 2\|v\|^2 - 2\operatorname{Re}B_j(\tau_j(t)v, v) \longrightarrow 0 \text{ if } t \rightarrow 0^+$$

It follows that  $U_j$  is strongly continuous. If  $\mathcal{M}_j$  is the closure of  $\mathcal{W}_j$  in  $\mathcal{F}_j$  then:

$$U_1(t)\mathcal{M}_1 \subset \mathcal{M}_1 \quad U_2(-t)\mathcal{M}_2 \subset \mathcal{M}_2 \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = \bigvee \{U_1(t)\mathcal{M}_1/t \leq 0\} \quad \mathcal{F}_2 = \bigvee \{U_2(t)\mathcal{M}_2/t \geq 0\}$$

For each  $t \geq 0$  set:

$$T_1(t) = U_1(t)|_{\mathcal{M}_1}, \quad T_2(t) = P_{\mathcal{M}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} U_2(t)|_{\mathcal{M}_2}.$$

Then  $T_j = \{T_j(t)/t \geq 0\} \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}_j)$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) is a strongly continuous semi-group of contractions. This is obvious for  $T_1$ . For  $T_2$  we only have to show that

$P_{\mathcal{M}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} U_2(t) P_{\mathcal{M}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} U_2(s)|_{\mathcal{M}_2} = P_{\mathcal{M}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} U_2(t) U_2(s)|_{\mathcal{M}_2}$ ,  $\forall t, s \geq 0$  but this equality holds since  $U_2(t)\mathcal{M}_2^\perp \subset \mathcal{M}_2^\perp$  for  $t \geq 0$ .

The form  $B$  verifies  $|B(w_1, w_2)|^2 \leq \|W_1\|_1^2 \|W_2\|_2^2$ , for all  $(w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$  and then it can be extended to a bounded form  $B : \mathcal{M}_1 \times \mathcal{M}_2 \rightarrow C$  with  $\|B\| \leq 1$ . There exists an operator  $X \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{M}_2)$  such that  $\langle X m_1, m_2 \rangle = B(m_1, m_2)$ , and  $\|X\| = \|B\|$ . For  $(w_1, w_2) \in \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$  and  $t \geq 0$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle X T_1(t) w_1, w_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{M}_2} &= \langle X U_1(t) w_1, w_2 \rangle = B(U_1(t) w_1, w_2) = B(w_1, U_2(-t) w_2) \\ &= \langle X w_1, U_2(-t) w_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{M}_2} = \langle U_2(t) X w_1, w_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_2} = \langle P_{\mathcal{M}_2}^{\mathcal{F}_2} U_2(t) X w_1, w_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{M}_2} \\ &= \langle T_2(t) X w_1, w_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and then  $X$  intertwines the semigroups  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ . By Theorem B,  $X$  can be lifted to an operator  $Y \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2)$  that intertwines  $(U_1, U_2)$  with  $\|Y\| = \|X\| = \|B\|$ . Setting  $\tilde{B}(f_1, f_2) = \langle Y f_1, f_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{F}_2}$  we obtain a form  $\tilde{B} : \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2 \rightarrow C$  which verifies the desired conditions.

For an enlightening discussion between generalizations of these theorems in the discrete case we refer to [A.4].

## REFERENCES

- [A1] R. Arocena, *Generalized Toeplitz kernels and dilations of intertwining operators II (the continuous case)*, Acta Sci. Math. (Szeged), **53** (1989), 123-137.
- [A2] R. Arocena, *Unitary extensions of isometries and contractive intertwining dilations*, Operator Theory: Adv. and Appl. **41** (1989), 13-23.
- [A3] R. Arocena, *On some extensions of the commutant lifting theorem*, Publicaciones Matemáticas del Uruguay, **5** (1992), 61-76.
- [A4] R. Arocena, *A dialogue between two lifting theorems*, To appear.
- [B] R. Bruzual, *Local semigroups of contractions and some applications to Fourier representation theorems*, Integral Eq. and Operator Th., **10** (1987), 780-801.
- [C-S.1] M. Cotlar and C. Sadosky, *On the Helson-Szego theorem and a related class of modified Toeplitz kernels*, Proc. Symp. Pure Math. **25.I** (1979), 383-407.

- [C-S.2] M. Cotlar and C. Sadosky, *A Lifting Theorem for Subordinated Invariant Kernels*, J. Functional Analysis, **67** (1986), 345-359.
- [C-S.3] M. Cotlar and C. Sadosky, *Prolongements des formes de Hankel généralisées en formes de Toeplitz*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Serie I **305** (1987), 167-170.
- [DG] H. Dym and I. Gohberg, *A new class of contractive interpolants and maximum entropy principles*, Operator Theory: Adv. and Appl. **29** (1988), 117-150.
- [F] C. Foias, *On an interpolation problem of Dym and Gohberg*, Integral Eq. and Operator Th. **11** (1988), 769-775.
- [F-F] C. Foias and A. E. Frazho, *The Commutant Lifting Approach to Interpolation Problems*, Birkhauser, 1990.
- [N-F.1] B. Sz.-Nagy and C. Foias, *Dilatation des commutants d'opérateurs*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Serie A **266** (1968), 493-495.
- [N-F.2] B. Sz.-Nagy and C. Foias, *Harmonic Analysis of Operators on Hilbert Space*, North-Holland, 1970.
- [S.1] D. Sarason, *Generalized interpolation in  $H^\infty$* , Trans. Am. Math. Soc. **127** (1967), 179-203.
- [S.2] D. Sarason, *New Hilbert Spaces from old*, in Paul Halmos, Celebrating 50 Years of Mathematics (J. Ewing, F. W. Gehring eds.), Springer-Verlag, 1991.

Fernando Peláez Bruno. *Centro de Matemática de la Facultad de Ciencias. Universidad de la República. Montevideo, Uruguay.*  
 e-mail address fpelaez@cmat.edu.uy

Received in July 1998.

Instituto Argentino de Matemática  
 Saavedra 15 - 3er. Piso  
 1083 - Buenos Aires  
 Argentina.