

## STABILITY OF HÖLDER ESTIMATES FOR $\bar{\partial}$ ON PSEUDOCONVEX DOMAINS OF FINITE TYPE IN $\mathbb{C}^2$

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**Abstract.** Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  and let  $b\Omega$  be of finite type  $m$ . Then we prove the stability of Hölder estimates for  $\bar{\partial}$  under some perturbations of  $b\Omega$ . As an application, we prove the Mergelyan property with respect to  $C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})$  norms for  $0 \leq \alpha < 1/m$ .

### §1. Introduction

Methods of integral representations for estimating solutions for  $\bar{\partial}$ -equation in several complex variables have been successfully used for strongly pseudoconvex domains [G-L, H, R1]. For weakly pseudoconvex domains of finite type in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , Range [R2] has introduced a method for constructing integral kernels on smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domains. This method was based on Skoda's  $L^2$  estimates [S] for holomorphic solutions  $h_j(p, z)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , of the division problem

$$h_1(p, z)(z_1 - p_1) + h_2(p, z)(z_2 - p_2) = 1, \quad p \in b\Omega, \quad z \in \Omega.$$

He has used the detailed geometric analysis of Catlin [C], near a boundary point  $p_0 \in b\Omega$  of finite type to get pointwise estimates of  $h_j(p, z)$ ,  $z \in \Omega$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . The result was:

**THEOREM.** ([R2]) *Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  of finite type  $m$ , and let  $f \in C_{0,1}^1(\bar{\Omega})$  be  $\bar{\partial}$ -closed. Then for every  $\eta > 0$ , there is a solution  $u^{(\eta)}$  of  $\bar{\partial}u = f$  on  $\Omega$  which satisfies*

$$(1.1) \quad |u^{(\eta)}(z) - u^{(\eta)}(w)| \leq C_\eta \|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} |z - w|^{\frac{1}{m} - \eta}$$

for  $z, w \in \Omega$ . The constant  $C_\eta$  is independent of  $f$ .

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Throughout this paper,  $\Omega$  will be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  and  $b\Omega$  is of finite type. In this paper, we will prove that the estimates in (1.1) are stable under suitable perturbations of the domain  $\Omega$ .

**DEFINITION 1.1.** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain with  $C^\infty$  defining function  $r$ . By a smooth bumping family of  $\Omega$  we mean a family of smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domains  $\{\Omega^t\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$  satisfying the following properties:

- (1)  $\Omega^0 = \Omega$
- (2)  $\Omega^{t_1} \Subset \Omega^{t_2}$  if  $t_1 < t_2$ ,
- (3)  $\{b\Omega^t\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$  is a  $C^\infty$  family of real hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,
- (4) the boundary defining functions  $r^t$  of  $\Omega^t$  varies smoothly with respect to  $t$  and  $r^t \rightarrow r$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$  in  $C^\infty$  topology.

*Remark 1.2.* In [Ch], the first author constructed a smooth bumping family of  $\Omega$  if  $b\Omega$  is of finite type. Also he showed that there is a family of diffeomorphisms  $\{\phi_t\}$ ,  $\phi_t : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega^t$ , such that  $\phi_0 : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  is an identity and the complex structure on  $\Omega^t$  is  $C^\infty$  close to the complex structure on  $\Omega$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ .

Now we state our main result:

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  of finite type  $m$ , and let  $\{\Omega^t\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$  be a smooth bumping family of  $\Omega$ . Then there is  $t_\Omega > 0$ , depending only on  $\Omega$ , such that for each  $\eta > 0$  and  $t < t_\Omega$ , and for each  $\bar{\partial}$ -closed function  $f^t \in C_{0,1}^1(\bar{\Omega}^t)$ , there is a solution  $u_t^{(\eta)}$  of  $\bar{\partial}u = f^t$  on  $\Omega^t$  which satisfies*

$$(1.2) \quad |u_t^{(\eta)}(z) - u_t^{(\eta)}(w)| \leq C_\eta \|f^t\|_{L^\infty(\Omega^t)} |z - w|^{\frac{1}{m} - \eta},$$

for  $z, w \in \Omega^t$ . The constant  $C_\eta$  is independent of  $f$  and  $t$ .

For each  $\alpha \geq 0$ , we denote  $\|\cdot\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})}$  the Hölder norm of order  $\alpha$  on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . Here  $\|\cdot\|_{C^0(\bar{\Omega})}$  is the supremum norm on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . As an application of Theorem 1.3, we prove the following Mergelyan property:

**THEOREM 1.4.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  of finite type  $m$ , and let  $f \in H(\Omega) \cap C^{\alpha'}(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha' \leq 1/m$ . Then for each  $\alpha < \alpha'$  ( $\alpha = \alpha'$  if  $\alpha' = 0$ ), there is a sequence  $\{g_n\} \subset H(\bar{\Omega})$  such that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|g_n - f\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} = 0.$$

## §2. Stability of local geometry under perturbations

In this section we will investigate how the local geometry of  $\Omega$  changes under small perturbations of the boundary of  $\Omega$  near a point  $p_0 \in b\Omega$  of finite type  $m$ .

Let  $r(z)$  be a defining function for  $\Omega$ . We may assume that there is a coordinate functions  $z_1, z_2$  defined near  $p_0$  such that  $|\frac{\partial r}{\partial z_2}(z)| \geq c > 0$  for all  $z$  in a small neighborhood  $U$  of  $p_0$ , for some constant  $c > 0$ . Let us fix  $p \in U$  for a moment. Then we have the following special coordinates  $\zeta = \zeta(p) = (\zeta_1, \zeta_2)$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** ([C, Proposition 1.1]) *For each  $p \in U$ , there is a biholomorphism  $\Phi_p : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $\Phi_p(0) = p$ ,  $\Phi(\zeta) = z$ , such that the domain  $D_p = \Phi_p^{-1}(\Omega)$  has a defining function given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\zeta) = r \circ \Phi_p(\zeta) = r(p) + \operatorname{Re} \zeta_2 + \sum_{\substack{j+k \leq m \\ j, k > 0}} a_{j,k}(p) \zeta_1^j \bar{\zeta}_1^k \\ + \mathcal{O}(|\zeta_1|^{m+1} + |\zeta_2| |\zeta|). \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\Phi_p$  and the coefficients  $a_{j,k}(p)$  depend smoothly on  $p \in U$ . For  $l = 2, \dots, m$ , and  $\delta > 0$ , set

$$A_l(p) = \max\{|a_{j,k}(p)| : j + k = l\},$$

and

$$\tau(p, \delta) = \min\{(\delta/A_l(p))^{1/l} : 2 \leq l \leq m\}.$$

Since  $p_0$  is of finite type  $m$ , it follows that  $A_m(p_0) \neq 0$ , and hence  $A_m(p) \neq 0$ , for  $p \in U$ . So

$$\delta^{1/2} \lesssim \tau(p, \delta) \lesssim \delta^{1/m}, \quad p \in U,$$

provided that  $U$  is sufficiently small. Now consider a smooth bumping family  $\{\Omega^t\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$  of  $\Omega$  with defining functions  $\{r^t\}$ . Let us investigate how the quantity  $\tau(p, \delta)$  changes as  $t$  (and hence  $r^t$ ) varies.

If we apply Proposition 2.1 at the point  $p$  with  $r$  replaced by  $r^t$ , then we obtain another special coordinates  $\zeta = \zeta^t(p) = (\zeta_1, \zeta_2)$  about  $p$ , defined by the biholomorphic map  $\Psi_p^t : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $z = \Psi_p^t(\zeta)$ ,  $\Psi_p^t(0) = p$ , and the defining function  $\rho^t = r^t \circ \Psi_p^t$ , for the domain  $D_p^t = (\Psi_p^t)^{-1}(\Omega^t)$ , has the form

$$\begin{aligned} (2.1) \quad \rho^t(\zeta) = r^t(p) + \operatorname{Re} \zeta_2 + \sum_{\substack{j+k \leq m \\ j, k > 0}} a_{j,k}^t(p) \zeta_1^j \bar{\zeta}_1^k \\ + \mathcal{O}(|\zeta_1|^{m+1} + |\zeta_2| |\zeta|). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\Psi_p^t$  is given by

$$\Psi_p^t = \Psi^1 \circ \dots \circ \Psi^m,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^1(u) &= (p_1 + u_1, p_2 + \left(\frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p)\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{u_2}{2} - \frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_1}(p)u_1\right)), \\ \Psi^\nu(\zeta) &= (\zeta_1, \zeta_2 - \frac{2}{\nu!} \frac{\partial^\nu s_\nu^t}{\partial u_1^\nu}(0)\zeta_1^\nu), \quad \nu = 2, \dots, m, \end{aligned}$$

and where

$$(2.2) \quad s_{\nu+1}^t = s_\nu^t \circ \Psi^\nu, \quad \text{and} \quad s_1^t = r^t.$$

Therefore  $\Psi_p^t$  can be written as

$$\Psi_p^t(\zeta) = (p_1 + \zeta_1, p_2 + d_0(t, p)\zeta_2 + \sum_{k=1}^m d_k(t, p)\zeta_1^k),$$

where

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} d_0(t, p) &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p)\right)^{-1}, \quad \text{and} \\ d_k(t, p) &= -\frac{1}{k!} \left(\frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p)\right)^{-1} \frac{\partial^k s_k^t}{\partial u_1^k}(0), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $r = r^0, \rho = \rho^0, s_\nu = s_\nu^0, \Phi_p = \Psi_p^0$ . To investigate how the quantity  $\tau(p, \delta)$  change as  $t$  varies, we have to compare  $a_{j,k}^t(p)$  with  $a_{j,k}(p)$ . The defining function  $r^t$  of  $\Omega^t$  can be written as

$$r^t = r + tG,$$

where  $G$  is a smooth function of  $z$ . Therefore we get

$$(2.4) \quad \rho^t = r^t \circ \Psi_p^t = r \circ \Psi_p^t + t(G \circ \Psi_p^t).$$

Throughout this paper, we denote by  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  the bounded functions or bounded vector valued functions in  $\bar{U}$ . We need two lemmas.

LEMMA 2.2. *For each  $p \in U$  and for all sufficiently small  $t > 0$ , we have*

$$d_j(t, p) = d_j(0, p) + t\mathcal{O}(1), \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, m.$$

*Proof.* By (2.3), we see that for all sufficiently small  $t$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} d_0(t, p) &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p) \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial r}{\partial z_2}(p) + t \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial z_2}(p) \right) \right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial r}{\partial z_2}(p) \right)^{-1} + t\mathcal{O}(1) = d_0(0, p) + t\mathcal{O}(1), \end{aligned}$$

because  $|\frac{\partial r}{\partial z_2}| \geq c > 0$ . By induction on  $\nu$  in (2.2), it is easy to show that  $s_\nu^t = s_\nu + t\mathcal{O}(1)$ . Hence for all sufficiently small  $t > 0$ , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} d_k(t, p) &= -\frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p) \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial^k s_k^t}{\partial u_1^k}(0) \\ &= -\frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{\partial r^t}{\partial z_2}(p) \right)^{-1} \left[ \frac{\partial^k s_k}{\partial u_1^k}(0) + t\mathcal{O}(1) \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{\partial r}{\partial z_2}(p) \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial^k s_k}{\partial u_1^k}(0) + t\mathcal{O}(1) = d_k(0, p) + t\mathcal{O}(1), \end{aligned}$$

for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . □

LEMMA 2.3. *For each  $p \in U$  and for all sufficiently small  $t > 0$ , we have*

$$a_{j,k}^t(p) = a_{j,k}(p) + t\mathcal{O}(1).$$

*Proof.* From (2.1) and (2.4), we can get

$$a_{j,k}^t(p) = \frac{1}{j!k!} \frac{\partial^{j+k} \rho^t}{\partial \zeta_1^j \partial \bar{\zeta}_1^k}(0) = \frac{1}{j!k!} \frac{\partial^{j+k} r \circ \Psi_p^t}{\partial \zeta_1^j \partial \bar{\zeta}_1^k}(0) + t\mathcal{O}(1).$$

Hence it suffices to show that

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{1}{j!k!} \frac{\partial^{j+k} r \circ \Psi_p^t}{\partial \zeta_1^j \partial \bar{\zeta}_1^k}(0) = \frac{1}{j!k!} \frac{\partial^{j+k} r \circ \Psi_p^0}{\partial \zeta_1^j \partial \bar{\zeta}_1^k}(0) + t\mathcal{O}(1).$$

By Lemma 2.2, we can write  $\Psi_p^t = \Psi_p^0 + tF$ , where  $F$  is a smooth vector valued function on  $\bar{U}$ . Hence we have  $r \circ \Psi_p^t = r \circ \Psi_p^0 + t\mathcal{O}(1)$ , and this proves (2.5).

For  $l = 2, \dots, m$  and  $\delta > 0$ , set

$$(2.6) \quad A_l^t(p) = \max\{|a_{j,k}^t(p)| : j + k = l\},$$

and

$$(2.7) \quad \tau^t(p, \delta) = \min\{(\delta/A_l^t(p))^{1/t} : 2 \leq l \leq m\}.$$

Note that there is a constant  $c > 0$  so that  $|A_m^0(p)| \geq c > 0$  for all  $p \in U$ . Then by virtue of Lemma 2.3, we have  $|A_m^t(p)| \geq \frac{c}{2}$  for all  $p \in U$  provided that  $t$  is sufficiently small. Hence  $\tau^t(p, \delta)$  is well defined for all sufficiently small  $t$  and satisfies the relation

$$(2.8) \quad \frac{1}{C}\delta^{1/2} \leq \tau^t(p, \delta) \leq C\delta^{1/m},$$

for some constant  $C > 0$  independent of  $t$  and  $p$ . Also the definition of  $\tau^t(p, \delta)$  easily implies that if  $\delta' < \delta''$ , then

$$(\delta'/\delta'')^{1/2}\tau^t(p, \delta'') \leq \tau^t(p, \delta') \leq (\delta'/\delta'')^{1/m}\tau^t(p, \delta'').$$

Now define

$$R_\delta^t(p) = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^2; |\zeta_1| < \tau^t(p, \delta) \text{ and } |\zeta_2| < \delta\}$$

and

$$Q_\delta^t(p) = \{\Psi_p^t(\zeta); \zeta \in R_\delta^t(p)\}.$$

In the sequel we denote  $D_1^l$  any partial derivative operator of the form  $\frac{\partial^l}{\partial \zeta_1^\mu \partial \zeta_2^\nu}$ , where  $\mu + \nu = l$ . If we combine the definitions in (2.6), (2.7) and by virtue of Taylor's theorem, we can easily get the following derivative estimates of  $\rho^t$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.4.** *Let  $p$  be an arbitrary point in  $U$ . There are independent constants  $C > 0$  and  $t_0 > 0$  such that the function  $\rho^t = r^t \circ \Psi_p^t$  satisfies*

$$(2.9) \quad |\rho^t(\zeta) - \rho^t(0)| \leq C\delta, \quad \zeta \in R_\delta^t(p), \text{ and}$$

$$(2.10) \quad |D_1^l \rho^t(\zeta)| \leq C(\tau^t(p, \delta))^{-l}, \quad \zeta \in R_\delta^t(p), \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

for all  $0 \leq t \leq t_0$ .

By Lemma 2.2, it follows that there is an independent constant  $C > 0$  such that  $|d_0(t, p)| \leq C$  for all sufficiently small  $t \geq 0$  and for all  $p \in U$ . Thus  $|\frac{\partial \rho^t}{\partial \zeta_2}| \geq \frac{1}{C}$  in  $U$ , for all sufficiently small  $t$ . This fact and (2.8), (2.9), (2.10) in Proposition 2.4 imply that all the constants in the theorems in

section 1–3 in [C] are stable with respect to  $t$ . Let  $\Omega^t(\epsilon) = \{z; r^t(z) < \epsilon\}$  and define

$$S^t(\epsilon) = \{z; -\epsilon < r^t(z) < \epsilon\} \text{ and} \\ S_-(\epsilon)^t = \{z; -\epsilon < r^t(z) \leq 0\}.$$

Let  $\{L_1, L_2\}$  be the local frame on  $\bar{U}$  satisfying  $L_1 r^t = 0, L_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_2}$ . Then, in particular, the following important theorem holds.

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *There is a constant  $c > 0$  (independent of  $t$  and  $\delta$ ) such that for all small  $\delta > 0$  and small  $t > 0$ , there is a plurisubharmonic function  $\lambda_\delta^t \in C^\infty(U \cap \Omega^t(\delta))$  with the following properties:*

- (1)  $|\lambda_\delta^t(z)| \leq 1, z \in U \cap \Omega^t(\delta),$
- (2) for all  $L = s_1 L_1 + s_2 L_2$  at  $z$ , where  $z \in U \cap S^t(\delta),$

$$\partial \bar{\partial} \lambda_\delta^t(L, \bar{L}) \geq c(|s_1|^2 (\tau^t(p, \delta))^{-2} + |s_2|^2 \delta^{-2}),$$

$$\partial \bar{\partial} \lambda_\delta^t(L, \bar{L}) \geq c|L \lambda_\delta^t|^2, \text{ and}$$

- (3) if  $\Psi_p^t$  is the map associated with a given  $p \in U \cap S^t(\delta)$ , then for all  $\zeta \in R_\delta^t(p)$  with  $|\rho^t(\zeta)| < \delta,$

$$|D_1^k D_2^l (\lambda_\delta^t \circ \Psi_p^t(\zeta))| \leq C_{k,l} (\tau^t(p, \delta))^{-k} \delta^{-l},$$

where  $C_{k,l}$  does not depend on  $t$ .

Now set  $U' = \{\zeta : \Psi_p^0(\zeta) \in U\}$ , and define

$$J_\delta^t(p, \zeta) = [\delta^2 + |\zeta_2|^2 + \sum_{k=2}^m A_k^t(p)^2 |\zeta_1|^{2k}]^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ and}$$

$$W_{s,\delta}^t(p) = \{\zeta \in U' : |\rho^t(\zeta)| < s J_\delta^t(\zeta)\}.$$

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *There is an independent constant  $C > 0$  such that for each  $p \in U \cap b\Omega^t$  and each small  $\delta > 0$  and  $t > 0$  there exists a smooth real valued function  $H_{p,\delta}^t(\zeta)$  defined in  $W_{s,\delta}^t(p)$  (where  $s$  is a small constant independent of  $p, \delta$  and  $t$ ) such that*

- (1)  $-C J_\delta^t(p, \zeta) \leq H_{p,\delta}^t(\zeta) \leq -\frac{1}{C} J_\delta^t(p, \zeta),$

(2) for any  $L = s_1 L'_1 + s_2 L'_2$  at  $\zeta$ ,

$$\frac{1}{C} \partial \bar{\partial} H_{p,\delta}^t(L, \bar{L})(\zeta) \leq J_\delta^t(p, \zeta) \left[ \frac{|s_1|^2}{\tau^t(p, J_\delta^t(p, \zeta))^2} + \frac{|s_2|^2}{J_\delta^t(p, \zeta)^2} \right], \text{ and}$$

(3) for any  $L = s_1 L'_1 + s_2 L'_2$  at  $\zeta$ ,

$$|LH_{p,\delta}^t| \leq C J_\delta^t(p, \zeta) \left( \frac{|s_1|}{\tau^t(p, J_\delta^t(p, \zeta))} + \frac{|s_2|}{J_\delta^t(p, \zeta)} \right),$$

where  $L'_i = (\Psi_p^t)^{-1} L_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* Note that the proof of Proposition 4.1 in [C] only uses the properties of  $\lambda_\delta^t$  in Proposition 2.5. Since the estimates in Proposition 2.5 are stable with respect to  $t$ , we can prove Proposition 2.6 by the method similar as Proposition 4.1 in [C].

Set  $\rho_{p,\delta}^{\epsilon,t} = \rho^t(\zeta) + \epsilon H_{p,\delta}^t(\zeta)$ , with  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_2} \approx 1$  (where  $\zeta_2 = x_2 + iy_2$ ), we also have  $\frac{\partial \rho^t}{\partial x_2} \approx 1$  for all sufficiently small  $t$ . Thus it follows that for all sufficiently small  $\epsilon$  (independent of  $t$ ),  $\frac{\partial \rho_{p,\delta}^{\epsilon,t}}{\partial x_2} \approx 1$ . Then as Catlin did in [C], the set  $S_\delta^{t,\epsilon} = \{\zeta \in W_{s,\delta}^t(p) : \rho_{p,\delta}^{\epsilon,t} = 0\}$  is a smooth pseudoconvex hypersurface (from the side  $\rho_{p,\delta}^{\epsilon,t} < 0$ ) for all sufficiently small  $t$ . Let us fix  $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$  and set  $\rho_{p,\delta}^t = \rho_{p,\delta}^{\epsilon_0,t}$ . For  $t, \delta \geq 0$  and  $a > 0$ , we define the nonisotropic polydiscs  $P_\delta^a(t, \zeta')$  centered at  $\zeta'$  by

$$P_\delta^a(t, \zeta') = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^2 : |\zeta_2 - \zeta'_2| < a J_\delta^t(p, \zeta'), |\zeta_1 - \zeta'_1| < \tau^t(p, a J_\delta^t(p, \zeta'))\}.$$

We now state the main result of this section.

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *There are positive constants  $a$  and  $c$  (independent of  $p, \delta$  and  $t$ ) such that for each  $p \in U \cap b\Omega^t$  where  $t$  is sufficiently small, there is a pseudoconvex domain  $D_p^{t*}$  with the following properties:*

- (1)  $0 \in bD_p^{t*}$ ,
- (2)  $\{\zeta \in \overline{D_p^t} : 0 < |\zeta| < c\} \subset D_p^{t*}$ ,
- (3) for  $\zeta' \in D_p^t$  with  $|\zeta'| < a$  one has  $P_0^a(t, \zeta') \subset D_p^{t*}$ .



*Proof.* Set  $D_p^{\delta,t} = \{|\zeta| < c : \rho^t(\zeta) < 0\} \cup \{\zeta \in W_{s,\delta}^t(p) : \rho_{p,\delta}^t(\zeta) < 0\}$ . Then  $D_p^{\delta,t}$  is a pseudoconvex domain which satisfies

$$\overline{D_p^t} \cap \{|\zeta| < c\} \subset D_p^{\delta,t} \subset (D_p^t \cap \{|\zeta| < c\}) \cup W_{s,\delta}^t(p).$$

Define  $D_p^{t*} = \text{int} \cap_{0 < \delta \leq \delta_0} D_p^{\delta,t}$ . Then  $D_p^{t*}$  is pseudoconvex and we can prove properties (1), (2) and (3) following Range's proof of Proposition 2.4 in [R2].

### §3. Stability of estimates of holomorphic generating form

In this section, we will show the stability of some pointwise estimates for holomorphic  $L^2$  functions. We will use Proposition 2.7 and Cauchy estimate on  $P_0^{\frac{a}{2}}(t, z) \subset D_p^{t*}$  for a fixed  $z \in D_p^t$ . Set  $\delta^t(z) = \text{dist}(z, bD_p^{t*})$  for  $z \in D_p^t$ . Suppose  $h \in \mathcal{O}(D_p^{t*})$  satisfies

$$(3.1) \quad (M_\eta^t)^2 = \int_{D_p^{t*}} \frac{|h(\zeta)|^2}{|\zeta|^2} (\delta_p^t)^{2\eta}(\zeta) dV(\zeta) < \infty$$

for some  $\eta > 0$ . Set  $\beta = (a/2)J^t(p, z)$ . We may assume  $\beta \leq 1$  by choosing  $a$  sufficiently small for all small  $t$ . Then from (2.8), it follows that there exists  $C > 0$  so that  $\frac{1}{C}\beta^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \tau^t := \tau^t(p, \beta) \leq C\beta^{\frac{1}{m}}$ . If we use Proposition 2.7 and Cauchy estimates on  $P_0^{\frac{a}{2}}(t, z) \subset D_p^{t*}$ , we obtain the following estimates as Range did in [R2].

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} |h(z)| &\leq C_2 C^{1+\eta} \left[ \frac{1}{\beta^{1+\eta}} + \frac{|z|}{\tau^t \beta^{1+\eta}} \right] M_\eta^t; \\ \left| \frac{\partial h}{\partial z_1}(z) \right| &\leq C_2 C^{1+\eta} \left[ \frac{1}{\tau^t \beta^{1+\eta}} + \frac{|z|}{(\tau^t)^2 \beta^{1+\eta}} \right] M_\eta^t; \text{ and} \\ \left| \frac{\partial h}{\partial z_2}(z) \right| &\leq C_2 C^{1+\eta} \left[ \frac{1}{\beta^{2+\eta}} + \frac{|z|}{\tau^t \beta^{2+\eta}} \right] M_\eta^t, \end{aligned}$$

for all sufficiently small  $t$  where  $C_2$  depends only on the dimension of the domain.

By Lemma 2.3 and Proposition 2.7, it follows that  $a \cdot \min(1, \sum_{k=2}^m A_k^t(p)) \geq c > 0$  for all sufficiently small  $t$ . Hence by estimating  $\beta$  and  $\tau^t$  from below, we see that

$$(3.3) \quad \beta \gtrsim |\rho^t(z)| + |z_2| + |z|^m \text{ and}$$

$$(3.4) \quad \tau^t \gtrsim |z|,$$

hold uniformly for all sufficiently small  $t$ . Since  $\Psi_p^t$  is a biholomorphism which changes smoothly as  $t$  varies, Proposition 2.7 implies that there are positive constants  $c$  and  $\gamma$  which are independent of  $p$  and  $t$  (for all small  $t$ ) such that

$$r^t \geq c|z - p|^m \text{ for } |z - p| \leq \gamma \text{ and } z \notin \Psi_p^t(D_p^{t*}).$$

Since a pseudoconvex domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  of finite type is regular [Ch], it follows that there is a pseudoconvex domain  $\Omega^*$  with  $\overline{\Omega^0} \subset \Omega^* \Subset \{z : r(z) < c\gamma^m\}$ . Choose  $t_1 > 0$  so that

$$0 \leq \text{dist}(b\Omega^0, b\Omega_t) < \text{dist}(b\Omega^0, b\Omega^*) \text{ for all } 0 \leq t \leq t_1.$$

Let  $\mu = \sup\{r^t(\zeta) : \zeta \in b\Omega^*, 0 \leq t \leq t_1\}$ . Then  $0 < \mu < c\gamma^m$  and we can choose  $\gamma' > 0$  such that  $0 < \mu < c(\gamma')^m < c\gamma^m$ . Define  $\Omega_p^t$  by

$$\Omega_p^t := [\Omega^* \cap \{z : |z - p| < \gamma\} \cap \Psi_p^t(D_p^{t*})] \cup (\Omega^* \cap \{z : |z - p| > \gamma'\}).$$

Then  $\Omega_p^t$  for  $0 \leq t \leq t_1$  is still pseudoconvex.

For a sufficiently small  $b > 0$ , we set  $U_0 = U \cap S^0(b) = \{z \in U : -b < r(z) < b\}$  and choose  $t_2 > 0$  so that  $U \cap b\Omega^t \subset U \cap S^0(\frac{b}{2})$  for all  $0 \leq t < t_2$ . We set  $\delta_p^t(z) = \text{dist}(z, b\Omega_p^t)$  and given  $\eta > 0$ , we define the weighted  $L^2$  norm  $I_{p,\eta}^t$  on  $\Omega_p^t$  by

$$I_{p,\eta}^t(h) = \left[ \int_{\Omega_p^t} \frac{|h(z)|^2}{|z - p|^2} (\delta_p^t(z))^{2\eta} dV(z) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Also we let  $g^t(p, \cdot)$  denote the second component of the inverse of the biholomorphic map  $\Psi_p^t$  and  $\{L_1^t, L_2^t\}$  be a fixed orthonormal frame for  $T^{(1,0)}$  on a neighborhood of  $\overline{U_0}$  which satisfies  $L_1^t r^t(p) = 0$ . If we use the relations in (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain the following stable estimates.

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *There are constants  $C'$  and  $a$  such that for all  $p \in U_0 \cap b\Omega^t$  and for all sufficiently small  $t$ , the following holds: If  $h \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega_p^t)$  and  $I_{p,\eta}^t(h)$  is finite for some  $\eta > 0$ , then*

- (1)  $|h(z)| + |dh(z)| \leq C' I_{p,\eta}^t(h)$  for  $z \in \Omega^t$  with  $|z - p| \geq a$ , and if  $z \in \Omega^t$  with  $|z - p| < a$ , then
- (2)

$$|h(z)| \leq C' \frac{I_{p,\eta}^t(h)}{(|r^t(z)| + |g^t(p, z)| + |z - p|^m)^{1+\eta}},$$

(3)

$$|L_1^t h(z)| \leq C' \frac{I_{p,\eta}^t(h)}{|z-p|(|r^t(z)| + |g^t(p,z)| + |z-p|^m)^{1+\eta}}, \text{ and}$$

(4)

$$|L_2^t h(z)| \leq C' \frac{I_{p,\eta}^t(h)}{(|r^t(z)| + |g^t(p,z)| + |z-p|^m)^{2+\eta}},$$

where  $C'$  is independent of  $t$  and  $h$ .

*Proof.* Note that for  $z \in \Omega^t$  with  $|z-p| \geq a$ , one has  $\delta_p^t(z) \geq \text{dist}(\bar{\Omega}^t, b\Omega^*) > 0$ . So (1) follows from the Cauchy estimates. For all sufficiently small  $t \leq \min\{t_0, t_1, t_2\}$ , we replace  $\beta$  and  $\tau^t$  with  $|\rho^t(z)| + |z_2| + |z|$  and  $|z|$  respectively. Note that  $\rho^t = r^t \circ \Psi_p^t$  and  $\Psi_p^t$  are smooth functions in  $p$  and  $t$ . So the Jacobian determinants of  $\Psi_p^t$  and  $(\Psi_p^t)^{-1}$  with respect to  $z$  are uniformly bounded by a constant as  $t$  and  $p$  vary slightly. So we pull back the estimates given by (3.2) via the map  $(\Psi_p^t)^{-1}$  to get the estimates in (2), (3) and (4).  $\square$

Next, we will prove the existence of a holomorphic generating form with stable estimates. For the existence, one can refer Theorem 4.2 in [R2]. Let  $\eta > 0$  be given. We apply Theorem 1 in [S] to pseudoconvex domains  $\Omega_p^t \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  with  $\alpha = 1 + \eta/2, q = 1, f = 1, g = z - p$ , and  $\psi = -2\eta \log \delta_p^t$ . Note that  $e^{-\psi(z)} = (\delta_p^t(z))^{2\eta} \geq |z-p|^{2\eta}$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (3.5) \quad I_{p,\eta}^t(h) &\leq \frac{2+\eta}{\eta} \int_{\Omega_p^t} 1 \cdot |z-p|^{-2\alpha-2} e^{-\psi} dV \\ &\leq \frac{2+\eta}{\eta} \int_{\Omega^*} |z-p|^{-4+\eta} dV \\ &\leq \frac{2+\eta}{\eta} \int_B |z-p|^{-4+\eta} dV \leq C'_\eta < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

where  $B$  is a large ball containing  $\Omega^*$ , and  $C'_\eta$  depends only on  $\eta$ . Let us fix  $t \geq 0$  for a moment. Then there are holomorphic functions  $h_{\eta,j}^t(p, \cdot)$  which satisfies the equation

$$h_{\eta,1}^t(p, z)(z_1 - p_1) + h_{\eta,2}^t(p, z)(z_2 - p_2) = 1, \quad z \in \Omega_p^t.$$

Set  $h_j^t = h_{\eta,j}^t$  for convenience. In general, we can not guarantee the smoothness of  $h_j^t(p, z)$  on  $p \in b\Omega^t$ . We need some modification. For  $\epsilon > 0$ , let  $\Omega_\epsilon^t = \{z : r^t(z) < -\epsilon\} \Subset \Omega^t$ . For each  $p \in U_0 \cap b\Omega^t$ , define  $\phi_p^t(\zeta, z) = \sum_{j=1}^2 h_j^t(p, z)(z_j - \zeta_j)$ . Then  $\phi_p^t \in C^\infty(\mathbb{C}^2 \times \Omega_p^t)$  is holomorphic in  $z$  and  $\phi_p^t(p, z) \equiv 1$  on  $\Omega_p^t$ . Thus, given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a neighborhood  $V_{p,\epsilon}^t$  of  $p$  such that

$$(3.6) \quad |\phi_p^t(\zeta, z)| \geq \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{on} \quad (V_{p,\epsilon}^t \cap b\Omega^t) \times \bar{\Omega}_\epsilon^t.$$

Set  $h_{j,p}^t(\zeta, z) = h_j^t(p, z)/\phi_p^t(\zeta, z)$  and shrink  $U_0$  so that all the above hold for every  $q \in U_0 \cap b\Omega^t$  and denote it again by  $U_0$ . Let us cover  $\bar{U}_0 \cap b\Omega^t$  by finitely many sets  $\{V_{q_1,\epsilon}^t, \dots, V_{q_l,\epsilon}^t\}$ . Then there is a partition of unity  $\{\chi_\nu^t \in C_0^\infty(V_{q_\nu,\epsilon}^t) : \nu = 1, \dots, l\}$  which is subordinated to the covering  $\{V_{q_1,\epsilon}^t, \dots, V_{q_l,\epsilon}^t\}$ . Define  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z) = \sum_{\nu=1}^l \chi_\nu^t(\zeta) h_{j,q_\nu}^t(\zeta, z)$ . Then for each sufficiently small  $\epsilon$  and  $t$ , the following hold:

$$(3.7) \quad h_j^{t,\epsilon} \in C^\infty((U_0 \cap b\Omega^t) \times \Omega_\epsilon^t), \quad j = 1, 2;$$

$$(3.8) \quad h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, \cdot) \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega_\epsilon^t) \text{ for } \zeta \in U_0 \cap b\Omega^t;$$

$$(3.9) \quad h_1^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)(z_1 - \zeta_1) + h_2^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)(z_2 - \zeta_2) = 1 \text{ on } (U_0 \cap b\Omega^t) \times \Omega_\epsilon^t.$$

Note that if  $t$  and  $\epsilon$  are sufficiently small, then  $|r^t(z)| - \epsilon \gtrsim \text{dist}(z, b\Omega_\epsilon^t)$  uniformly for  $t$  and  $z \in \Omega_\epsilon^t$ . Combining Proposition 3.1, (3.5) and (3.6), we get the following proposition.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *For all sufficiently small  $t \geq 0$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ , above  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}$  satisfies the following stable estimates:*

$$(1) \quad |h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)| + |d_z h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)| \leq C_\eta \text{ for } z \in \Omega_\epsilon^t \text{ with } |z - \zeta| \geq a;$$

$$\text{and for } z \in \Omega_\epsilon^t \text{ with } |z - \zeta| < a,$$

$$(2) \quad |h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)| \leq \frac{C_\eta}{[\Gamma_\epsilon^t(\zeta, z)]^{1+\eta}};$$

$$(3) \quad |L_1^t h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)| \leq \frac{C_\eta}{|z - \zeta| [\Gamma_\epsilon^t(\zeta, z)]^{1+\eta}};$$

$$(4) \quad |L_2^t h_j^{t,\epsilon}(\zeta, z)| \leq \frac{C_\eta}{[\Gamma_\epsilon^t(\zeta, z)]^{2+\eta}},$$

where  $\Gamma_\epsilon^t(\zeta, z) := \text{dist}(z, \Omega_\epsilon^t) + |g^t(\zeta, z)| + |z - \zeta|^m$ , and the functions  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}$  depend on  $\eta$  and  $t$ , but the constant  $C_\eta$  is independent of  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $t \geq 0$ .

The functions  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}$  in (3.7) are locally defined. For the globally defined holomorphic generating form on  $b\Omega^t \times \Omega_\epsilon^t$ , we will patch together the function  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}$  using a partition of unity. Note that for all sufficiently small  $0 \leq t < t_4$ ,  $U_0$  is a neighborhood of  $q \in b\Omega^t \cap (\frac{1}{2}U_0)$ . Since  $b\Omega^t$  is compact, finitely many neighborhoods,  $U_0, U_1, \dots, U_k$  (independent of  $t$ ), will cover the set  $\{b\Omega^t : 0 \leq t < t_4\}$ . Thus we may choose a partition of unity in  $\zeta$ , subordinated to  $\{U_j : j = 0, \dots, k\}$ , to patch the locally defined functions  $h_j^{t,\epsilon}$  to obtain a globally defined smooth functions  $w_j^{t,\epsilon}$  and we obtain a holomorphic generating form  $W_\eta^{t,\epsilon} = \sum_{j=1}^2 w_j^{t,\epsilon} d\zeta_j$  on  $b\Omega^t \times \Omega_\epsilon^t$ .

#### §4. Proof of Main Theorems

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.3 and Theorem 1.4 using the estimates on the holomorphic generating form in Section 3.

*Proof of Theorem 1.3.* Integral operator for  $\Omega_\epsilon^t$  can be written as  $T_{\eta,\epsilon}^t = S_1 + S_2$ , where

$$S_1(f) = c_2 \int_{b\Omega^t} f \wedge W_\eta^{t,\epsilon} \wedge \partial_\zeta \log |z - \zeta|^2$$

and  $S_2(f)$  involves integration of Bochner-Martinelli-Koppelman kernel over  $\Omega^t$ . In standard method for Hölder estimate, the only nontrivial part is

$$(4.1) \quad c_2 \int_{b\Omega^t \cap \{|\zeta - z| < a\}} f \wedge d_z (W_\eta^{t,\epsilon} \wedge \partial_\zeta \log |z - \zeta|^2).$$

From Proposition 3.2, it follows that (4.1) is uniformly bounded by

$$(4.2) \quad C_\eta \|f\|_\infty \int_{b\Omega^t \cap \{|\zeta - z| < a\}} \left[ \frac{1}{|\zeta - z|^{2(\Gamma_\epsilon^t)^{1+\eta}}} + \frac{1}{|z - \zeta|^{(\Gamma_\epsilon^t)^{2+\eta}}} \right] dS(\zeta) \\ \leq C_\eta \|f\|_\infty \text{dist}(z, b\Omega_\epsilon^t)^{-\eta} \int_{b\Omega^t \cap \{|\zeta - z| < a\}} \left[ \frac{1}{|\zeta - z|^{2\Gamma_\epsilon^t}} + \frac{1}{|z - \zeta|^{(\Gamma_\epsilon^t)^2}} \right] dS(\zeta).$$

In order to estimate (4.2), we need a coordinate change. Here the main point is the choice of coordinate system  $s^t(\zeta, z) = (s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4)$ , where  $s_1 = r^t(\zeta)$ ,  $s_2 = \text{Im } g^t(\zeta, z)$  (See [R3,V Lemma 3.4]). Notice that  $dr^t(p) \wedge d_\zeta \text{Im } g^t(p, p) \neq 0$  for all small  $t$  and the Jacobian matrix  $J_{\mathbb{R}}(s^t)$  depends only on the 1st derivatives of  $r^t$  and  $\text{Im } g^t$ . In this coordinates,

$$\int_{b\Omega^t \cap \{|\zeta - z| < a\}} \left[ \frac{1}{|\zeta - z|^{2(\Gamma_\epsilon^t)^{1+\eta}}} + \frac{1}{|z - \zeta|^{(\Gamma_\epsilon^t)^{2+\eta}}} \right] dS(\zeta)$$

is estimated by  $\text{dist}(z, b\Omega_\epsilon^t)^{-1+(\frac{1}{m}-\eta)}$ . Thus we obtain

$$|d_z S_1(f)(z)| \leq C_\eta \|f\|_{L^\infty} \text{dist}(z, b\Omega_\epsilon^t)^{-1+(\frac{1}{m}-\eta)},$$

and this implies that for all  $z, w \in \Omega_\epsilon^t$ , it follows that

$$|(T_{\eta, \epsilon}^t f)(z) - (T_{\eta, \epsilon}^t f)(w)| \leq C_\eta \|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega^t)} |z - w|^{\frac{1}{m}-\eta}.$$

By a suitable limiting argument as Range did in [R2], we obtain (1.2).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.4.* Let  $U_j$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, N$  be a finite collection of open sets with the following properties:

- (1)  $\bar{\Omega} \subset \cup_{j=0}^N U_j$ ,
- (2)  $U_0 \subset\subset \Omega$ ,
- (3) On each  $U_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , there are holomorphic coordinates  $z_1^j, z_2^j$  with the property that  $\partial r / \partial x_2^j > 0$ , where  $z_2^j = x_2^j + iy_2^j$ .

Let  $\zeta_j$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, N$  be a partition of unity subordinate to the covering  $\{U_j\}$ . For a given  $f \in H(\Omega) \cap C^{\alpha'}(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha' \leq 1/m$ , and for all small  $\delta > 0$ , let  $f_\delta$  be given by

$$f_\delta(z) = \zeta_0(z)f(z) + \sum_{j=1}^N \zeta_j(z)f(z_1^j, z_2^j - \delta).$$

Let  $\alpha < \alpha'$  ( $\alpha = \alpha'$  if  $\alpha' = 0$ ) be arbitrary given. Observe that  $f_\delta \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$  and satisfies

$$(4.3) \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \|f_\delta - f\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \|\bar{\partial} f_\delta\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} = 0.$$

Assume that  $\epsilon > 0$  is arbitrary given. We choose  $\delta_0 > 0$  sufficiently small so that

$$(4.4) \quad \|f_\delta - f\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon/3,$$

for all  $\delta \leq \delta_0$ . Next, for each  $\delta \leq \delta_0$ , we solve  $\bar{\partial} p_\delta = \bar{\partial} f_\delta$  on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . Since  $\bar{\partial} f_\delta \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$  and since  $b\Omega$  is of finite type, it follows that  $p_\delta \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$  and the estimates (1.1) give  $\|p_\delta\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} \leq C_\alpha \|\bar{\partial} f_\delta\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$ . If  $\delta_0$  is sufficiently small, it follows from (4.3) that

$$(4.5) \quad \|p_\delta\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon/3,$$

for all  $\delta \leq \delta_0$ . Set  $h_\delta = f_\delta - p_\delta$ . Then  $h_\delta \in H(\Omega) \cap C^2(\bar{\Omega})$ . We may assume that  $h_\delta$  is well defined on a smooth bumping family  $\{\bar{\Omega}^t\}_{t \leq t_\Omega}$  of  $\Omega$ , for all  $\delta \leq \delta_0$ . Since  $h_\delta \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $\bar{\partial}h_\delta \equiv 0$  on  $\Omega$ , it follows for each  $\delta > 0$  that

$$(4.6) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \|\bar{\partial}h_\delta\|_{C^\alpha(\Omega^t)} = 0.$$

Now for each  $t > 0$ , we solve  $\bar{\partial}h_{\delta_0}^t = \bar{\partial}h_{\delta_0}$  on  $\bar{\Omega}^t$ . From the stability of Hölder estimates for  $\bar{\partial}$  (Theorem 1.3), and from the estimates in (4.6), there exists  $t_0 > 0$  so that

$$(4.7) \quad \|h_{\delta_0}^{t_0}\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega}^{t_0})} < \epsilon/3.$$

Set  $g_\epsilon = h_{\delta_0} - h_{\delta_0}^{t_0}$ . Then  $g_\epsilon \in H(\Omega^{t_0})$ , and from (4.4), (4.5) and (4.7) it follows that  $\|g_\epsilon - f\|_{C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon$ .

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