

49. Examples of Obstructed Holomorphic Maps

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(Communicated by Kunihiko KODAIRA, M. J. A., Sept. 12, 1978)

1. By a complex space, we mean a reduced, Hausdorff, complex analytic space. For a complex manifold X , the set $S(X)$ of all compact complex submanifolds of X has a complex space structure (Douady [1]). For $V \in S(X)$, $\dim T_V S(X) \leq \dim H^0(V, \mathcal{O}(N))$, where $T_V S(X)$ is the Zariski tangent space to $S(X)$ at V and $\mathcal{O}(N)$ is the sheaf of sections of the normal bundle N along V (see Namba [4]). We say that V is *unobstructed relative to X* if $S(X)$ is non-singular at V and $\dim T_V S(X) = \dim H^0(V, \mathcal{O}(N))$. Otherwise, V is said to be *obstructed relative to X* . If $H^1(V, \mathcal{O}(N)) = 0$, then V is unobstructed relative to X (Kodaira [2]). Examples of obstructed submanifolds were given by Zappa [5] and Mumford [3].

Now, let V and W be compact complex manifolds. Then, the set $\text{Hol}(V, W)$ of all holomorphic maps of V into W is a complex space. In fact, by identifying $f \in \text{Hol}(V, W)$ with the graph $\Gamma_f \subset V \times W$, $\text{Hol}(V, W)$ is regarded as an open subspace of $S(V \times W)$. Note that the normal bundle along Γ_f is canonically isomorphic to the pull back f^*TW over f of the tangent bundle TW of W . We say that $f \in \text{Hol}(V, W)$ is *unobstructed* if the graph Γ_f is unobstructed relative to $V \times W$. Otherwise, f is said to be *obstructed*. It seems that no example of obstructed holomorphic maps is known. The purpose of this note is to give such examples.

2. Let V be a compact Riemann surface of genus g . Let P^1 be the complex projective line. Then $\text{Hol}(V, P^1)$ is nothing but the set of all meromorphic functions on V . It is divided into open (and closed) subspaces:

$$\text{Hol}(V, P^1) = \text{Const} \cup R_1(V) \cup R_2(V) \cup \dots,$$

where Const is the set of all constant functions and $R_n(V)$ is the set of all meromorphic functions on V of (mapping) order n . If $n \geq g+1$, then $R_n(V)$ is non-empty. If $n \geq g$, then every $f \in R_n(V)$ is unobstructed so that $R_n(V)$ is non-singular and of dimension $2n+1-g$. This follows from the fact that $f^*TP^1 = [2D_\infty(f)]$, where $D_\infty(f)$ is the polar divisor of f and $[2D_\infty(f)]$ is the line bundle determined by the divisor $2D_\infty(f)$.

Theorem. For $f \in R_{g-1}(V)$, assume that $[2D_\infty(f)] = K_V$ (the canonical bundle of V). Then f is unobstructed if and only if

$$2 \dim |D_\infty(f)| + 1 = g.$$

Proof. If f is unobstructed, then there is a connected non-singular open neighbourhood U of f in $R_{g-1}(V)$ such that every $h \in U$ is also unobstructed. In particular, $\dim H^0(V, \mathcal{O}([2D_\infty(h)])) = g$. Hence (1)

$$[2D_\infty(h)] = K_V, \quad \text{for all } h \in U.$$

Let $J(V)$ be the Jacobi variety of V . Consider the following holomorphic maps:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha: h \in U &\mapsto [D_\infty(h) - (g-1)P_0] \in J(V), \\ \beta: x \in J(V) &\mapsto 2x \in J(V), \end{aligned}$$

where $P_0 \in V$ is the base point. The map β is an (unramified) covering map of order 2^{2g} . (1) implies that the composition $\beta\alpha$ is constant on U . Hence α must be constant, i.e.,

$$[D_\infty(h)] = [D_\infty(f)], \quad \text{for all } h \in U.$$

This means that h is obtained as a pencil in $|D_\infty(f)|$. Hence

$$g = \dim U = 2 \dim |D_\infty(f)| + 1.$$

The converse is easy.

Q.E.D.

By Clifford's theorem, we have

Corollary. *Let V be a non-hyperelliptic compact Riemann surface of genus $g \geq 4$. For $f \in R_{g-1}(V)$, assume that $[2D_\infty(f)] = K_V$. Then f is obstructed.*

3. Let V be a non-hyperelliptic compact Riemann surface of genus 4. The canonical curve C of V is the complete intersection of a quadric surface F and a cubic surface G in P^3 meeting transversally. Assume that F is singular, i.e., a quadric cone. Then the ruling on F gives $f \in R_3(V)$ which satisfies $[2D_\infty(f)] = K_V$. Hence, f is obstructed. In this case, $R_3(V) \cong \text{Aut}(P^1)$ (the automorphism group of P^1), so that $\dim R_3(V) = 3$, while $\dim H^0(V, \mathcal{O}([2D_\infty(f)])) = 4$.

For example, let V be the normalization of the closure in P^2 of the curve: $y^3 = x^6 - 1$. Then, the meromorphic function $f = x$ on V is obstructed.

4. Let $V = C$ be a non-singular plane quintic curve. It is non-hyperelliptic and has the genus 6. The line sections on C determine a complete linear system $|D|$ such that $[2D] = K_C$. Hence the projection π_P with the center $P \in P^2 - C$ is obstructed. Moreover, we can show that

(1) every element of $R_5(C)$ is obtained in this way, hence is obstructed,

(2) $R_5(C)$ is a principal $\text{Aut}(P^1)$ -bundle over $P^2 - C$.

5. Let V be the normalization of the closure in P^2 of the curve: $y^3 = x^8 - 1$. Then V is non-hyperelliptic and has the genus 7. The meromorphic function $f = x^2$ on V satisfies $[2D_\infty(f)] = K_V$. Hence, f is obstructed. Moreover, we can show that

(1) $R_6(V)$ is singular at $f = x^2$: the tangent cone at f is given by

- $\{(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_7) \in \mathbb{C}^7 \mid z_1 z_2 = 0\}$,
(2) $R_3(V) \cong \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^1)$,
(3) $R_4(V)$ and $R_5(V)$ are empty.

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