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Jacob Sturm<sup>\*</sup> (sturm@andromeda.rutgers.edu), Department of Mathematics, 101 Warren Street, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 07102. *Geodesics in the space of Kähler metrics* 

We discuss some joint work with D.H. Phong:

Let  $L \to X$  be an ample line bundle over a compact complex manifold X, and let  $\mathcal{H}$  be the space of positively curved hermitian metrics on L. Then  $\mathcal{H}$  is an infinite dimensional symmetric space (known as the space of Kähler potentials) and it contains, for each sufficiently large integer k, the space  $H_k$  of Bergman metrics, which is a finite dimensional symmetric space. It is known, by the work of Tian-Yau-Zelditch, that  $\bigcup_k H_k \subset \mathcal{H}$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}$  with respect to the  $C^{\infty}$  norm. We shall show that given two points  $h_0, h_1 \in \mathcal{H}$ , that there is a canonically defined sequence of smooth geodesic segments in  $H_k$  which approach, as k tends to infinity, the  $C^{1,1}$  geodesic in  $\mathcal{H}$  which joins  $h_0$  to  $h_1$ . Moreover, given a point in  $h_0 \in \mathcal{H}$ and a test configuration T, we shall construct a canonical sequence of geodesic rays in  $H_k$  which approach a weak ray in  $\mathcal{H}$  emanating from  $h_0$ . Finally, we show that associated to a point  $h_0 \in \mathcal{H}$  and test configuration T, one can construct a  $C^{1,1}$  ray emanating from  $h_0$ . (Received August 06, 2007)