

CONTINUOUS PROPER HOLOMORPHIC MAPS INTO BOUNDED DOMAINS

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ABSTRACT. A continuous proper holomorphic map is constructed from the unit ball of \mathbb{C}^N to a smooth bounded domain in \mathbb{C}^M ($2 \leq N \leq M - 1$). The construction is done at a strongly convex corner of the target domain. At each stage the map is pushed farther into the boundary in a direction almost tangent to the boundary at a close vicinity. The close point property is employed, along with suitable peak functions, to obtain a minimal codimension. It appears to be close to the most general construction that can be made by summation of peak functions.

Theorem 1. *Let $2 \leq N \leq M - 1$, and let $D \subset\subset \mathbb{C}^M$ be a bounded domain with C^2 boundary. Then there exists a proper holomorphic map from B^N to D which is continuous on \bar{B}^N .*

The construction of this map evolved from the construction of nonsmooth proper holomorphic maps from B^N to B^{N+1} in [D1], which uses ideas from the constructions in [HS, L1, L2, F, S]. However, in [D1] the constructed proper map can approximate a given holomorphic map in the following sense: If $f: B^N \rightarrow B^M$ (where $2 \leq N \leq M - 1$) is holomorphic, $\varepsilon > 0$, and $K \subset B^N$ is compact, then there exists a proper holomorphic map $F: B^N \rightarrow B^M$ continuous on \bar{B}^N such that $|F - f| < \varepsilon$ on K . This is not the case when the target domain is an arbitrary bounded smooth domain. A recent paper by Forstnerič and Globevnik [FG] provides an example of a bounded smooth domain D in \mathbb{C}^M ($2 \leq M$), with disconnected boundary, where no proper holomorphic map from Δ to D goes through a prescribed point $w_0 \in D$. Their proof can easily be adapted to show that the proper holomorphic maps from B^N (for any $N \leq M - 1$) to the domain D cannot approximate the constant map $f(z) = w_0$ in the above sense.

The following question remains open: Is there a proper holomorphic map from a ball (or, equivalently, a smooth, bounded, strongly pseudoconvex domain) into a general domain D of higher dimension? It seems likely that the answer for the most general domain is negative, but it may be rather hard to

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characterize the domains for which the answer is positive. Such a characterization will have to be in terms of a thin and local subset of the boundary of the target domain. Our proof gives a positive answer to this question whenever there exists $p \in bD$ with a neighborhood G of p such that $bD \cap G$ is C^2 -smooth and p is a point of strong convexity. By application of the Narasimhan Lemma (see [R, 15.5.3, p. 320]) this holds also when p is a point of strong pseudoconvexity. The map we constructed here lies within a small neighborhood of the point p .

An interesting characterization is that of target domains with connected smooth boundaries that admit approximations by proper holomorphic maps (as described above) from lower-dimensional balls. The codimension is an important parameter in these questions.

One can combine our proof with the proof of Theorem 2 in [D1] to obtain a map in Theorem 1 with an image that contains an open subset of the boundary of D . On the other hand, we cannot verify that the images of the maps constructed in this paper or in [D1, D2] do not contain an open subset of the boundary of the target domain in the one-codimensional case.

In [D2] a proper holomorphic map was constructed from a ball in \mathbb{C}^N to a polydisc in \mathbb{C}^M ($2 \leq N \leq M - 1$); however, it was shown there that such a map cannot be continuous on any open subset of the boundary.

All the constructions of proper holomorphic maps mentioned above can be made from smooth (C^∞) bounded strongly pseudoconvex domains since they depend only on the existence of peak functions of the type constructed in [D1]. In [S] it is realized that such peak functions exist for strongly pseudoconvex domains with smooth boundary.

Familiarity with the proofs in [D1] is required in order to understand the proof of Lemma 1.

1. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

I. Let $p \in bD$ be such that $|p| = \max\{|z| : z \in \bar{D}\}$. Then $|p|B^M \supset D$. The point p will be fixed for the entire proof, and we will assume that $|p| = \frac{1}{2}$. We can find $10^{-10} > \delta_0 > 0$ small enough such that to every $z \in (p + \delta_0 B^M) \cap \bar{D}$ a unique point $z' \in (p + 2\delta_0 B^M) \cap bD$ with $|z - z'| = d(z, bD)$ can be assigned. Define, for every point $z \in (p + \delta_0 B^M) \cap \bar{D}$, $\mathbf{N}(z)$ to be the unit outer normal to the boundary of D at the point z' . We can assume that $\delta_0 > 0$ is small enough so that \mathbf{N} is continuous on $(p + \delta_0 B^M) \cap \bar{D}$ and that for every $z \in (p + 2\delta_0 B^M) \cap bD$ there is a ball B with radius 1 containing D so that $\{z\} = bD \cap bB$, and a ball B' with radius $10\delta_0$ contained in D , where $\{z\} = bD \cap bB'$.

II. Instead of proving Theorem 1 we will prove the following stronger theorem that implies Theorem 1.

Theorem 1*. *There exists $\alpha > 0$ such that if $f: bB^N \rightarrow D \cap (p + \alpha B^M)$ is continuous and $\varepsilon > 0$, then there exists $g: \bar{B}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ continuous and holomorphic in B^N such that $(f + g)(\bar{B}^N) \subset (p + \delta_0 B^M) \cap \bar{D}$, $(f + g)(bB^N) \subset bD$, and $|g(z)| < \varepsilon$ whenever $z \in (1 - \varepsilon)\bar{B}^N$.*

The following lemma is the main tool in the proof of Theorem 1*. After the lemma is stated, Theorem 1* is proved by inductive application of this lemma. In the last section of the paper the technical and difficult proof of Lemma 1 is presented.

The constant $\beta > 0$ is defined in Lemma 3 of [D1] and $\varepsilon_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 10^{-(10N)!/\beta\delta_0}$.

Lemma 1. *For a given $z_0 \in bB^N$ there exists W , an open neighborhood of z_0 in the topology of $\overline{B^N}$, such that the following holds.*

For every continuous $f: bB^N \rightarrow D \cap B(p, \delta_0)$ and $\varepsilon_0 > \varepsilon > 0$ there exists $g: \overline{B^N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ continuous and holomorphic B^N with the following properties:

- (a) for all $z \in bB^N$, $0 < d((f + g)(z), D^c) < \varepsilon + d(f(z), D^c)$;
- (b) for all $z \in W \cap bB^N$, $d((f + g)(z), bD) < d(f(z), bD)(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^2)$;
- (c) for all $z \in bB^N$, $|g(z)|^2 < (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2}d(f(z), bD)$; and
- (d) for all $z \in (1 - \varepsilon)\overline{B^N}$, $|g(z)| < \varepsilon$.

Lemma 1 is used to push the map increasingly toward the boundary. It will be shown by (a) and (b) that the distance to the boundary at the n th stage is bounded from above by C^n , where $1 > C > 0$ is a constant. Therefore, it will follow from (c) that the convergence is uniform and it goes to a holomorphic map that takes boundary to boundary.

1.1. Let W_1, \dots, W_m be open subsets of $\overline{B^N}$, where $\bigcup\{W_i : 1 \leq i \leq m\} \supset bB^N$ and W_i ($1 \leq i \leq m$) has the properties of W in Lemma 1. Assume that $m \geq 100$. The integer m and the sets W_1, \dots, W_m will be fixed henceforth.

1.2. When n is an integer define \bar{n} to be the unique integer so that $1 \leq \bar{n} \leq m$ and $(n - \bar{n})/m$ is an integer.

1.3. Define $\alpha = (\delta_0)^2 \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{20}(2m)^{-2}$.

1.4. Define $f_1 = f$, $g_0 \equiv 0$. Let $n \geq 1$, and assume inductively that the maps g_0, \dots, g_{n-1} , f_1, \dots, f_n are defined, where $f_i: \overline{B^N} \rightarrow D \cap B(p, \delta_0)$, $g_j: \overline{B^N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$, $0 \leq j \leq n - 1$) are continuous and holomorphic in B^N and $f_n = f_1 + g_1 + \dots + g_{n-1}$.

1.5. Define $\varepsilon_n = \varepsilon \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{10} \cdot \min\{d(f_i(z), bD)\}^2 : z \in bB^N, 0 \leq i \leq n\}/2^n$, where $\varepsilon > 0$ is as in the statement of Theorem 1*.

1.6. By Lemma 1 there exists a continuous map $g_n: \overline{B^N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ holomorphic in B^N so that the following hold:

- (a) for all $z \in bB^N$, $0 < d((f_n + g_n)(z), D^c) < \varepsilon_n + d(f_n(z), D^c)$;
- (b) for all $z \in W_{\bar{n}} \cap bB^N$, $d((f_n + g_n)(z), bD) < d(f_n(z), bD)(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^2)$;
- (c) for all $z \in bB^N$, $|g_n(z)|^2 < (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2}d(f_n(z), bD)$; and
- (d) for all $z \in (1 - \varepsilon_n)\overline{B^N}$, $|g_n(z)| < \varepsilon_n$.

Define $f_{n+1} = f_n + g_n$. The inductive process will stop at some $n \geq 1$ iff we do not have $f_n(\overline{B^N}) \subset B(p, \delta_0)$.

1.7. Assume now that the inductive process continues until a fixed integer $L \geq 1$.

1.8. Properties (b) and (c) imply that for all $L - 1 \geq n \geq 1$:

- (1) for all $z \in bB^N \cap W_{\bar{n}}$, $d(f_n(z), bD)(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^2) > d((f_{n+1})(z), bD)$; and
- (2) for all $z \in bB^N$, $\varepsilon_n + d(f_n(z), bD) > d((f_{n+1})(z), bD)$.

When one looks at the definition of $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots$ it follows easily that for all $L - m \geq n \geq 1$

$$d(f_n(z), bD)(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3) > d((f_{n+m})(z), bD).$$

1.9. We obtain from the above that for all $L \geq n > 1$ and $z \in bB^N$

$$2d(f_1(z), bD)(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3)^{n/m} > d(f_n(z), bD).$$

1.10. Since $d(f_1(z), bD) < \alpha$ for all $z \in bB^N$, we conclude from 1.6(c) that for all $L \geq n \geq 1$

$$|g_n| < \alpha^{1/2}(1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3)^{n/2m}.$$

Therefore using 1.3

$$\begin{aligned} |f_{L+1} - p| &\leq |f_1 - p| + |g_0| + |g_1| + \cdots + |g_L| \\ &< \alpha^{1/2}(1 + (1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3)^{1/2m} + \cdots + (1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3)^{L/2m}) \\ &< \alpha^{1/2}(1 - (1 - (\varepsilon_0)^3)^{1/2m})^{-1} < \delta_0/2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the process will continue until $L + 1$. We have thus proven that the inductive process will not stop.

It follows from 1.10 that $\sum_{0 \leq n < \infty} g_n$ converges uniformly on $\overline{B^N}$. Call its limit g . Clearly g is continuous on $\overline{B^N}$ and holomorphic on B^N .

Define $F = f + g$. Then since F is a uniform limit of $\{f_n\}$ in $\overline{B^N}$, F is continuous on $\overline{B^N}$ and holomorphic on B^N . By 1.9 $F(z) \in bD$ whenever $z \in bB^N$. Thus F is a proper map from B^N to D . Now 1.5 and 1.6(d) imply that $|g(z)| < \varepsilon$ whenever $z \in (1 - \varepsilon)\overline{B^N}$, and 1.10 and 1.6(a) imply that $F(\overline{B^N}) \subset (p + \delta_0 B^M) \cap \overline{D}$. Theorem 1* is thus proved.

2. PROOF OF LEMMA 1

We start with a construction which is typical for proper holomorphic maps in low codimension. We apply the definition of the peak functions in [D1] and use their properties that are developed there. Then the peak functions are distributed on the boundary of B^N with accordance to Lemma 3 of [D1], following the presentation there. In an attempt to keep the text short, we will not repeat calculations that were done in [D1].

2.1. Assume (as we may) that $\varepsilon < (\varepsilon_0 \cdot d(f(bB^N), bD))^{100}$.

2.2. Take $r > 0$ so that:

- (i) $\varepsilon^{30} > r$;
- (ii) when $z, w \in \overline{B^N}$ and $|z - w| < r^{1/30}$

$$|\mathbf{N}(f(z)) - \mathbf{N}(f(w))|, |f(z) - f(w)| < \varepsilon^{10};$$

- (iii) $(\log \varepsilon)/(r^{1/2} \cdot N^5 \cdot 2\pi)$ is an integer.

We might have to shrink $r > 0$ later.

2.3. Now adopt from [D1] Definitions 0.1–0.5 and Sublemma 1 and also the definitions and calculations done in 6.1–6.10 where the r is the one chosen above. At this point it is advised that the reader become familiar with this material before continuing. Define $V^* = \{X \in V' : d(X, V) < r^{1/3}\}$.

2.4. Define for $a \in L$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}^N$

$$p_a(z) = \exp(u_a(z) \cdot (\log \varepsilon_0)/(rN^5)).$$

So $1 > |p_a| > 0$ on $\overline{B^N} \setminus \{z_a\}$, and $p_a(z_a) = 1$. We will suppress the distinction between z and $X(z)$ when $z \in W'$ and $X(z)$ represents the coordinates of z

defined in [D1, 0.1–0.5]. Thus $p_a(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p_a(z)$ when $z \in W'$ and $X = X(z)$. Since ε_0 is a constant, this definition differs from the parallel ones in [D1, D2] and the calculations will have to change accordingly. Now adopt all of the material in [D1, 6.11–6.13] where ε_0 replaces ε (ε_0 is defined before the statement of Lemma 1).

2.5. Take $a, b \in L$ where $a' = b'$. Then

$$p_a(X) \cdot \bar{p}_b(X) = |p_a(X) \cdot \bar{p}_b(X)| \cdot \theta_a(X) \cdot \bar{\theta}_b(X).$$

The proof in [D1, 1.12] can be employed to show that if $\text{Re}(u_a(X)/(rN^5))$, $\text{Re}(u_b(X)/(rN^5)) < (d_1)^{-1}$, then

$$|\theta_a(X) - 1|, |\theta_b(X) - 1| < 10^{-20}.$$

The proofs of (A)–(D), to follow, show that the rapid decline of the peak functions means that only those closest to the point X have a significant size. By 2.5 the arguments of peak functions, whose peak points are in a close vicinity of a fixed point X and have the same y -coordinates, are close to a constant (see definition [D1, 6.4]), and therefore such peak functions can be added without cancelling each other. Placing of the peak functions along the y -coordinates is done with great care, using the close point lemma in [D1, 5.1, 5.2], so that their sum does not cancel.

2.6. Let $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N: V^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ be continuous functions, such that $|v_i(X)| = 1$ (for all $1 \leq i \leq N$) and $\{v_1(X), \dots, v_N(X)\}$ are mutually orthogonal for every $X \in V^*$, and they are perpendicular to $\mathbf{N}(f(X))$. Such functions exist since \mathbf{N} is continuous in $B(p, \delta_0) \cap D$, the function f is continuous, and the dimension M is larger than N . By shrinking r further we can assume that when $X, Y \in V^*$ are such that $|X - Y| < r^{1/30}$ then for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$

$$|\mathbf{N}(f(X)) - \mathbf{N}(f(Y))|, |f(X) - f(Y)|, |v_i(X) - v_i(Y)| < \varepsilon^{10}.$$

Define for $a \in L$

$$t_a = (\varepsilon_0 d(f(X_a), bD))^{1/2}.$$

Take $a \in L$; then there exists a unique $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ so that $a' \in S_i$ (see [D1, 6.7]). Define $v_a = t_a \cdot v_i(X_a)$. One can easily verify (as in [D1, 1.14; D2, 2.25]) the following (i)–(v). For all $a, b \in L$

- (i) $(v_a, \mathbf{N}(f(X_a))) = 0$; and
- (ii) $|v_a|^2 = \varepsilon_0 d(f(X_a), bD)$.

Let $a, b \in L$, $|a - b| < r^{-0.1}$ so that $a' \in S_i, b' \in S_j$. Then the following hold:

- (iii) if $i \neq j$, $|(v_a, v_b)| < \varepsilon^5$;
- (iv) if $i = j$, $|(v_a, v_b) - |v_a|^2| < \varepsilon^5$;
- (v) $||v_b|^2 - |v_a|^2| < \varepsilon^5$.

We will proceed with a few technical definitions.

2.7. Define for $z \in W'$ and $n \geq 0$

$$L(z, n) = \{a \in L : n^2 \leq |\text{Re}(u_a(z/|z|))|^2 / rN^5 < (n + 1)^2\}.$$

2.8. When looking at the peak function distribution defined in [D1, 6.5–6.8], we obtain the following estimates for all $z \in W'$, $n \geq 0$:

- (1) $\text{car}(\bigcup_{0 \leq k \leq n} L(z, k)) < (C_N) \cdot (n+1)^{2N}$, where C_N is a positive constant that depends on the dimension N , $C_N < N^N$ (we will now fix C_N).
- (2) When $a \in L(z, n)$, $|p_a(z)| \leq (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2+(1-|z|^2)/2rN^5}$.
- (3) When $z \in z(V)$ (see [D1, 0.3]) $L(z, 0) \neq \emptyset$.

2.9. As in [D1] when $z \in W'$ is fixed we will define for $a \in L$ $[a] = n$, where n is the only integer so that $a \in L(z, n)$.

2.10. Define for $z \in \bar{B}^N$ and $1 \leq i \leq N$ $h_i(z) = \sum_{a \in L_i} p_a(z) \cdot v_a$ and $h = h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_N$ (see [D1, 6.7–6.9] and 2.4, 2.6 above). We will identify $h(X)$ (where $X \in U'$) with $h(z(X))$.

2.11. The following is true for the map h :

- (A) For all $z \in W'$, $|(N(f(z)), h(z))| < \varepsilon^3$.
- (B) For all $z \in W'$, $|h(z)|^2 < \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_0)^{(1/2+(1-|z|^2)/(rN^5))} \cdot d(f(z), bD)$.
- (C) For all $z \in W \cap bB^N$, $|h(z)|^2 > 10(\varepsilon_0)^2 d(f(z), bD)$.
- (D) If $z \in W'$ and $d(z, z(V)) > r^{0.1}$ then $|h(z)|^2 < \varepsilon^{100}$.

Similar lemmas appear in all constructions of proper holomorphic maps from strongly pseudoconvex domains.

2.12. Fix $X = (X_1, \dots, X_{2N-1}, 0) \in V$, and let $t_j = X_j/c_j$ ($j = 1, \dots, 2N-1$) and $t = (t_1, \dots, t_{2N-1})$. Let $||$ denote the standard Euclidean norm. By Lemma 3 in [D1] there exists $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ and $a \in L_i$ so that $|t' - \hat{a}'| + \beta < |t' - \hat{b}'|$ for every $b \in L_i$ such that $a' \neq b'$ (see definition [D1, 6.6]). Take the smallest such i and call it $i(X)$.

2.13. Choose $a(X) \in L_{i(X)}$ so that

$$\text{Re}(u_{a(X)}(X) - R_{a(X)}(X)) = \min\{\text{Re}(u_a(X) - R_a(X)) : a \in L_{i(X)}\}$$

(the choice may not be unique).

2.14. It follows from the calculations in 6.21–6.27 of [D1] (when we put $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0$ there) that $|p_{a(X)}(X)| > (\varepsilon_0)^{1/3}$, and if $a \in L_{i(X)}$ where $a' \neq a'(X)$ then

$$|p_a(X)/p_{a(X)}(X)| < (\varepsilon_0)^{(\beta N^{-10})}.$$

This means, as our next calculations will show, that for every point $X \in V$ the peak function $p_{a(X)}$ dominates $\{p_a : a \in L_{i(X)}\}$ in the sense that in the sum $\sum_{a \in L_{i(X)}} p_a(X)v_a$ only $p_{a(X)}(X)v_{a(X)}$ is significant and the rest of the terms sum up to a small proportion of it. This is the important part in the proof of (C) and a major step in the whole proof.

The notation $a(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a(X(z))$, $l(r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\log(r)$, $f(X_a) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(z_a)$, and $L(X, n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} L(z(X), n)$ will be used in the following calculations.

Proof of (B) and (D) (with the use of 2.8).

$$\begin{aligned}
 |h(z)|^2 &= \left| \sum_{a, b \in L} (v_a, v_b) p_a(z) \bar{p}_b(z) \right| \\
 &\leq \sum_{0 \leq m \leq l(r)} \sum_{a, b \in L, [a]+[b]=m} |(v_a, v_b) p_a(z) \bar{p}_b(z)| \\
 &\quad + \sum_{l(r) < m} \sum_{a, b \in L, [a]+[b]=m} |p_a(z) \bar{p}_b(z)| \\
 &< \sum_{0 \leq m \leq l(r)} (|v_{a(z)}|^2 + \varepsilon^4) \cdot (C_N)^2 (m+1)^{4N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{m^2/4+(1-|z|^2)/rN^5} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{l(r) < m} (C_N)^2 (m+1)^{4N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{m^2/4+(1-|z|^2)/rN^5} \\
 &< ((C_N)^3 (|v_{a(z)}|^2 + \varepsilon^4) + (\varepsilon_0)^{l(r)}) \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{(1-|z|^2)/rN^5} \\
 &< ((C_N)^3 \cdot (\varepsilon_0) \cdot d(f(z), bD) + \varepsilon^3) \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{(1-|z|^2)/rN^5} \\
 &< \frac{1}{2} (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2} d(f(z), bD) \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{(1-|z|^2)/rN^5}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We used the size of $\varepsilon > 0$ at 2.1.

In the case that $z \notin z(V^*)$ we can take $a(z)$ to be any fixed element in $\bigcup_{0 \leq n \leq l(r)} L(z, n)$. If this set is empty then the calculation above is trivial since the sum $\sum_{0 \leq m \leq l(r)} \dots = 0$, and we obtain that $|h(z)|^2 < (\varepsilon_0)^{l(r)} < \varepsilon^{100}$. This certainly happens whenever $d(z/|z|, z(V)) > r^{0.2}$. In the case that $d(z, z(V)) > r^{0.1}$ then we have $d(z/|z|, z(V)) > r^{0.2}$ or $1 - |z|^2 > r^{0.2}$. In either case it follows from the calculation above that $|h(z)|^2 < \varepsilon^{100}$; thus, (D) is also proved.

Proof of (A). By (B) we may assume that $|z| > 1 - r^{1/2}$ (if not then $|h(z)| < \varepsilon^{100}$, and (A) follows). When $a \in L(z, n)$ and $n \leq l(r)$ we have $|z - z_a| < r^{1/3}$ and by 2.2 $|\mathbf{N}(f(z)) - \mathbf{N}(f(z_a))| < \varepsilon^{10}$. Using also 2.6(i) by which for all $a \in L(v_a, \mathbf{N}(f(X_a))) = 0$, we then have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(\mathbf{N}(f(z)), h(z))| &= \left| \sum_{a \in L} (\mathbf{N}(f(z)), v_a) \bar{p}_a(z) \right| \\
 &\leq \sum_{n \leq l(r)} \sum_{a \in L(z, n)} |\mathbf{N}(f(z)) - \mathbf{N}(f(z_a))| \cdot |v_a| |p_a(z)| \\
 &\quad + \sum_{l(r) < n} \sum_{a \in L(z, n)} |p_a(z)| |v_a| \\
 &< \sum_{0 \leq n \leq l(r)} 2C_N \cdot (n+1)^{2N} \varepsilon^{10} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{l(r) < n} 2C_N \cdot (n+1)^{2N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2} < \varepsilon^3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that when $L(z, n)$ is empty, the above calculations trivially hold.

Proof of (C). We will follow the structure of the proof of (C) in [D1]. Fix $X \in V$ (recall that $V = X(W \cap bB^N)$).

2.15. When $1 \leq i, j \leq N$ and $i \neq j$ then:

$$|(h_i(X), h_j(X))| < \varepsilon^3.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} |(h_i(X), h_j(X))| &= \left| \sum_{0 \leq m \leq l(r)} \sum_{a \in L_i, b \in L_j, [a]+[b]=m} (v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{l(r) < m} \sum_{a \in L_i, b \in L_j, [a]+[b]=m} (v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X) \right| \\ &< \sum_{0 \leq m \leq l(r)} \varepsilon^5 (C_N)^2 (m+1)^{4N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{m^2/4} \\ &\quad + \sum_{l(r) < m} (C_N)^2 (m+1)^{4N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{m^2/4} < \varepsilon^3. \end{aligned}$$

2.16. **Proposition.** $|h_{i(X)}(X)|^2 > (\varepsilon_0)^{1.5} d(f(X), bD) - \varepsilon^3.$

Propositions 2.15 and 2.16 imply (C) since $h = h_1 + \dots + h_N$ and because of the choice of ε in 2.1.

2.17. Define $A(X) = \{a \in L_{i(X)} : [a] \leq 100, a' = a'(X)\}$ and $B(X) = L_{i(X)} \setminus A(X)$. Then

$$|h_{i(X)}(X)|^2 \geq \left| \sum_{a \in A(X)} p_a(X) v_a \right|^2 - 2 \left| \sum_{a \in A(X), b \in B(X)} (v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X) \right|.$$

Note that

$$\left| \sum_{a \in A(X)} p_a(X) v_a \right|^2 = \sum_{a, b \in A(X)} \operatorname{Re}((v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X)).$$

When $a, b \in A(X)$, since $a' = b'$ and $[a], [b] \leq 100$, by 2.5 $\operatorname{Re}(p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X)) > 0$, and by 2.6(iv), (v), since $a, b \in L_{i(X)}$, then $|(v_a, v_b) - |v_{a(X)}|^2| < \varepsilon^4$; therefore; $\operatorname{Re}((v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X)) > -\varepsilon^4$. Since $a(X) \in A(X)$ and $\operatorname{car}(A(X)) \leq \sum_{0 \leq n \leq 100} C_N (n+1)^{2N} < 10^{8N} \cdot N^N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M_0$, we obtain

$$(2.18) \quad \left| \sum_{a \in A(X)} p_a(X) v_a \right|^2 > |v_{a(X)}|^2 |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 - \varepsilon^{3.5}.$$

Recall that this result was hinted at in the remark following 2.5. Let $b \in B(X)$, $[b] = 0$. Then since $b' \neq a'(X)$, it follows from 2.14 that

$$|p_b(X)/p_{a(X)}(X)| < (\varepsilon_0)^{\beta N^{-10}}.$$

When $b \in B(X)$ and $[b] = n \geq 1$, by 2.8(2) $|p_b(X)| < (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2}$, and since $|p_{a(X)}(X)| > (\varepsilon_0)^{1/3}$, we have that

$$|p_b(X)/p_{a(X)}(X)| < (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2-1/3}.$$

2.19. It follows that when $b \in B(X)$, $[b] = n \geq 0$

$$|p_b(X)/p_{a(X)}(X)| < (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/8+\beta N^{-10}}.$$

(2.20)

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sum_{a \in A(X), b \in B(X)} (v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X) \right| \\ & \leq \sum_{\substack{a \in A(X) \\ b \in B(X), [b] \leq l(r)}} |(v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X)| \\ & \quad + \sum_{\substack{a \in A(X) \\ b \in B(X), [b] > l(r)}} |(v_a, v_b) p_a(X) \bar{p}_b(X)| \\ & < \sum_{\substack{a \in A(X) \\ b \in B(X), [b] \leq l(r)}} (|v_{a(X)}|^2 + \varepsilon^4) \cdot |p_a(X)| |\bar{p}_b(X)| + \sum_{\substack{a \in A(X) \\ b \in B(X), [b] > l(r)}} |\bar{p}_b(X)| \\ & < \sum_{0 \leq n} (|v_{a(X)}|^2 + \varepsilon^4) \cdot |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 M_0 C_N (n+1)^{2N} \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{(n^2/8+(\beta N^{-10}))} \\ & \quad + M_0 \sum_{l(r) < n} (\varepsilon_0)^{n^2/2} \\ & < (|v_{a(X)}|^2 + \varepsilon^4) \cdot |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{\beta N^{-20}} + (\varepsilon_0)^{l(r)} \\ & < |v_{a(X)}|^2 \cdot |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 \cdot (\varepsilon_0)^{\beta N^{-20}} + \varepsilon^{3.5}. \end{aligned}$$

From this and $|p_{a(X)}(X)| > (\varepsilon_0)^{1/3}$ of (2.14) we obtain (considering as usual the size of $\varepsilon > 0$):

$$\begin{aligned} & |h_{i(X)}(X)|^2 > |v_{a(X)}|^2 |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 \cdot (1 - 2(\varepsilon_0)^{\beta N^{-20}}) - 3\varepsilon^{3.5} \\ (2.21) \quad & > \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_0 \cdot |p_{a(X)}(X)|^2 \cdot d(f(X), bD) - \varepsilon^3 \\ & > (\varepsilon_0)^{1.7} \cdot d(f(X), bD) - \varepsilon^3 > 10(\varepsilon_0)^2 \cdot d(f(X), bD); \end{aligned}$$

(C) is now proved.

2.22. Applying the globalization process of [D1, 1.34–1.38] we obtain from (D), after possibly shrinking $r > 0$ in the definition of h , that there exists a C^∞ map $g: \bar{B}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^M$ which is holomorphic in B^N such that:

- (i) for all $z \in W'$, $|g(z) - h(z)| < \varepsilon^{40}$; and
- (ii) for all $z \in \bar{B}^N \setminus W'$; $|g(z)| < \varepsilon^{40}$.

2.23. When $z \in \bar{B}^N \setminus W'$ then since $|g(z)| < \varepsilon^{40}$, 2.1 implies that Lemma 1 clearly holds in this case. Now fix (until 2.27) $z \in W'$. By I (at the beginning of the proof of Theorem 1) there exists a ball $B \subset \mathbb{C}^M$, with radius 1 so that $\{f(z)'\} = bB \cap bD$ and $D \subset B$, and a ball $B' \subset \mathbb{C}^M$, with radius $10\delta_0$ so that $\{f(z)'\} = bB' \cap bD$ and $B' \subset D$. Note that $f(z)' - f(z)$ is a real scalar product $\mathbf{N}(f(z))$. Let q be the center of the ball B' . Then since $\mathbf{N}(f(z))$ is also the normal of bB' at $f(z)'$, it follows that $f(z) - q$ is also a real scalar product of $\mathbf{N}(f(z))$ and $\{f(z)', f(z), q\}$ lie in one real line. Observe that $|f(z) - f(z)'| = d(f(z), bD)$.

2.24. Now $|(f(z) - q, g(z))| \leq |(\mathbf{N}(f(z)), g(z))|$, and by (A) and 2.22 $|(\mathbf{N}(f(z)), g(z))| < \varepsilon^2$ and also by (B) and 2.22 $|g(z)|^2 < (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2}|f(z) - f(z)'|$. We then get (using the size of $\varepsilon > 0$ in 2.1 and the size of ε_0) that

$$\begin{aligned} |(f(z) + g(z)) - q|^2 &\leq |f(z) - q|^2 + 2|(f(z) - q, g(z))| + |g(z)|^2 \\ &< |f(z) - q|^2 + 2\varepsilon^2 + (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2}|f(z) - f(z)'| \\ &= (10\delta_0 - |f(z) - f(z)'|)^2 + 2\varepsilon^2 + (\varepsilon_0)^{1/2}|f(z) - f(z)'| < (10\delta_0)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $f(z) + g(z) \in B' \subset D$.

2.25. We continue with a similar reasoning with respect to the ball B . Let w be the center of the ball B . Then $\{w, f(z), f(z)'\}$ lie on one real line and $d(f(z), bB) = |f(z) - f(z)'| = d(f(z), bD)$. Since $f(z) - w$ is a real scalar product of $\mathbf{N}(f(z))$ and $|f(z) - w| < 1$, it follows from (A) and 2.22 that $|(f(z) - w, g(z))| \leq |(\mathbf{N}(f(z)), g(z))| < \varepsilon^2$.

2.26. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} |(f(z) + g(z)) - w|^2 - |f(z) - w|^2 &\geq -2|(f(z) - w, g(z))| + |g(z)|^2 \\ &> |g(z)|^2 - 2\varepsilon^2, \end{aligned}$$

and since $f(z) + g(z) \in B' \subset B$, $1 > |(f(z) + g(z)) - w|$, $|f(z) - w| > 1/2$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |(f(z) + g(z)) - w| - |f(z) - w| &= \frac{|(f(z) + g(z)) - w|^2 - |f(z) - w|^2}{|(f(z) + g(z)) - w| + |f(z) - w|} \\ &> \frac{1}{2}|g(z)|^2 - 2\varepsilon^2. \end{aligned}$$

2.27. Since $D \subset B$, we obtain, using 2.26, that

$$\begin{aligned} d(f(z) + g(z), bD) &\leq d(f(z) + g(z), bB) = 1 - |(f(z) + g(z)) - w| \\ &< 1 - |f(z) - w| + 2\varepsilon^2 - \frac{1}{2}|g(z)|^2 \\ &= d(f(z), bB) + 2\varepsilon^2 - \frac{1}{2}|g(z)|^2 \\ &= d(f(z), bD) + 2\varepsilon^2 - \frac{1}{2}|g(z)|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now (a) follows from 2.24 and 2.27 and (c) from (B) and 2.22. If we assume that $z \in \mathcal{W} \cap bB^N$ then (C), 2.22, and 2.27 yield (b). At last, (d) follows from (D) and 2.22. Lemma 1 is now proved.

ADDED IN PROOF

Recently the author has found an example of a bounded domain in \mathbb{C}^M , $M \geq 2$, that contains no proper images of the unit disk. Thus a smoothness assumption in Theorem 1 is necessary.

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