

## APPROXIMATION OF HOLOMORPHIC MAPS WITH A LOWER BOUND ON THE RANK

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ABSTRACT. Let  $K$  be a closed polydisc or ball in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and let  $Y$  be a quasi-projective algebraic manifold which is Zariski locally equivalent to  $\mathbb{C}^p$ , or a complement of an algebraic subvariety of codimension  $\geq 2$  in such a manifold. If  $r$  is an integer satisfying  $(n - r + 1)(p - r + 1) \geq 2$ , then every holomorphic map from a neighborhood of  $K$  to  $Y$  with rank  $\geq r$  at every point of  $K$  can be approximated uniformly on  $K$  by entire maps  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  with rank  $\geq r$  at every point of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we consider the following problem of approximating holomorphic maps with a lower bound on their rank. Let  $K$  be a closed polydisc (or a closed ball) in a complex Euclidean space  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and let  $f$  be a holomorphic map from an open neighborhood of  $K$  to a complex manifold  $Y$  such that  $\text{rank}_z f := \text{rank}(df_z) \geq r$  for all  $z \in K$ , where  $r$  is an integer satisfying  $1 \leq r \leq \min\{n, \dim Y\}$ . *Is it possible to approximate  $f$  uniformly on  $K$  by entire maps  $\tilde{f}: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  satisfying  $\text{rank}_z \tilde{f} \geq r$  at every point  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ?*

The answer clearly depends on the complex analytic properties of  $Y$ . If  $Y$  is Kobayashi hyperbolic [18], this fails already when  $r = 1$  and  $K$  is a disc in  $\mathbb{C}$ . More generally, if  $Y$  is Eisenman  $k$ -hyperbolic for some  $1 \leq k \leq \dim Y$  [5], then  $Y$  admits no holomorphic maps  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  of rank  $\geq k$ , and hence the answer is negative for  $r \geq k$ . More precise quantitative obstructions to the existence of large polydiscs in complex manifolds were obtained by Kodaira [19].

In the positive direction, Forster proved that holomorphic maps  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y = \mathbb{C}^p$  satisfy the jet transversality theorem [6], which gives a positive answer if  $r$  is sufficiently small compared to  $n$  and  $p$  (see Theorem 1.6 below). If  $r = n < p$ , the above rank condition is satisfied by immersions  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^p$ , and in this case an affirmative answer follows from the  $h$ -principle due to Eliashberg and Gromov [14]. If  $n > r = p$ , the rank condition is satisfied by submersions, and the approximation result follows from the  $h$ -principle proved by Forstnerič [9]. The Runge approximation problem for holomorphic immersions  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$  in the equidimensional case is still open.

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In this paper we consider maps to certain algebraic manifolds. We shall say that a  $p$ -dimensional complex manifold is of *Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$*  if it is quasi-projective algebraic and is covered by finitely many Zariski open sets biregularly isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}^p$ . Examples include all complex projective spaces and Grassmannians. *Class  $\mathcal{A}$*  will consist of all algebraic manifolds of the form  $Y = \widehat{Y} \setminus A$  where  $\widehat{Y}$  is a manifold of class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $A$  is a closed algebraic subvariety of  $\widehat{Y}$  of complex codimension at least two. (See Definition 2.1 in §2.) The following is our main result.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a closed polydisc, a closed ball, or a product of a (lower-dimensional) closed polydisc and a ball. Let  $Y$  be a  $p$ -dimensional manifold of Class  $\mathcal{A}$ . Assume that  $1 \leq r \leq \min\{n, p\}$ , and that  $r < n$  if  $n = p$ . Every holomorphic map  $f$  from a neighborhood of  $K$  to  $Y$  and satisfying  $\text{rank } {}_z f \geq r$  at every point  $z \in K$  can be approximated uniformly on  $K$  by entire maps  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  with  $\text{rank} \geq r$  at every point of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .*

We wish to emphasize that Theorem 1.1 does not follow from the jet transversality theorem, except for values of  $r$  which are small compared to  $n$  and  $p$ ; compare with Theorem 1.6 below. The following special case may be of particular interest; the analogous result for submersions (when  $n > \dim Y$ ) was proved in [9].

**Corollary 1.2.** *Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  and let  $Y$  be as in Theorem 1.1. If  $n < \dim Y$ , then every holomorphic immersion from a neighborhood of  $K$  to  $Y$  can be approximated uniformly on  $K$  by entire immersions  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$ .*

*Remark 1.3.* (Added in final revision.) It was necessary to put restrictions upon  $K$  in Theorem 1.1 and Corollary 1.2 since at the time of writing this paper the author was not aware of a better result about approximation with automorphisms than the one contained in Lemma 3.1. Using recent results [16] of S. Kaliman and F. Kutzschebauch it is however possible to prove the main result of the paper (Theorem 1.1) in the case when  $K$  is a polynomially convex set in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that:

- (1) There is an open neighborhood  $\Omega$  of  $K$  and a class  $\mathcal{C}^2$  map  $\Phi : [0, 1] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$  such that for every  $t \in (0, 1]$  the map  $\Phi_t(z) = \Phi(t, z)$  is injective and holomorphic,
- (2) for  $t \in [0, 1]$  the image  $\Phi_t(K)$  is polynomially convex and a subset of  $K$ ,
- (3)  $\Phi_0(z) = z$  for  $z \in K$  and  $\Phi_1$  is a constant map.

To see this, the reader should observe that a main step in the proof involves using an automorphism to send a large polydisc  $Q$  containing  $K$  to the complement of algebraic variety  $\Sigma_f$  while at the same time approximating identity on  $K$ . The first step in Lemma 3.2 was to replace  $f$  with an approximation to get  $\dim \Sigma_f \leq n - 2$ . Then using Theorem 5 in [16] with  $0 < t \leq 1$  we obtain an automorphism  $\Psi_t$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  fixing  $\Sigma_f$  and approximating  $\Phi_t$  uniformly on a neighborhood of  $K$ . Choosing  $t$  sufficiently close to 0, the image  $\Psi_t(K)$  is contained in a small ball around the origin. Now work with  $f' = f \circ \Psi_t^{-1}$ ,  $K' = \Psi_t(K)$  and observe that  $K' \subset Q' \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Sigma_{f'}$  for some polydisc  $Q'$ . Use automorphism  $\Phi$  (from Lemma 3.1) to push a polydisc containing  $\Psi_t(Q)$  into  $\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Sigma_{f'}$  while approximating identity on  $Q'$ . The map  $f \circ \Psi_t^{-1} \circ \Phi \circ \Psi_t$  approximates  $f$  on  $K$  and satisfies rank condition on  $Q$ . This allows us to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 by the inductive scheme described below.

In a special case  $K$  can be a convex set. One might ask whether Theorem 1.1 holds whenever  $K$  is a polynomially convex set in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The following example shows

that this is not the case: the conclusion fails in general if  $K$  is not contractible in the complement of a certain algebraic subvariety of codimension 2.

**Example 1.4.** Let  $(z_1, z_2, w_1, w_2)$  be the coordinates on  $\mathbb{C}^4$  and let

$$\Sigma = \mathbb{C}^2 \times \{0\}^2 \times \mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{C}^5, \quad Y = \mathbb{C}^5 \setminus \Sigma, \quad K = \{(z, \bar{z}) : z \in \mathbb{C}^2, |z| = 1\}.$$

Then  $Y$  is a manifold of class  $\mathcal{A}$ , and the set  $K$  is compact polynomially convex in  $\mathbb{C}^4$  since it is the intersection of the cylinder  $|z| = 1$  and the totally real plane  $w = \bar{z}$ . Note that  $K$  is a 3-sphere which is not contractible in  $X = \mathbb{C}^4 \setminus (\mathbb{C}^2 \times \{0\}^2)$ ; indeed, it generates the group  $\pi_3(X) = H_3(X, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $f$  be the inclusion map  $\mathbb{C}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^4 \times \{0\} \subset \mathbb{C}^5$ . Then  $f(K) \subset Y$  and  $\text{rank } f = 4$  on  $K$ . However, the map  $f$  cannot be approximated on  $K$  even by a continuous map  $F: \mathbb{C}^4 \rightarrow Y$  since that would imply contractibility of  $K$  in  $X$ , a contradiction.

Manifolds of Class  $\mathcal{A}$  were considered by Gromov under the name Ell-regular manifolds [13, §3.5], and by Forstnerič [11, §2]; in those papers the reader can find many further examples. Both classes are stable with respect to blowing up points. Every such manifold  $Y$  enjoys the following properties which will play an important role in our proof:

- holomorphic maps from (neighborhoods of) compact convex sets in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  to  $Y$  can be approximated by regular algebraic maps (morphisms)  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  [11, Corollary 1.2];
- algebraic maps from affine algebraic manifolds to  $Y$  enjoy a version of the jet transversality theorem (see [11, Sect. 5] and §3 below).

**Example 1.5.** Theorem 1.1 fails in general for maps to manifolds of the form  $Y = \widehat{Y} \setminus A$  where  $\widehat{Y}$  is of Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $A$  is a complex analytic (but not algebraic) subvariety of codimension at least two, or if  $A$  contains a hypersurface component. We recall a few examples to this effect:

(1) In [20, §5] Rosay and Rudin constructed discrete sets  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  such that the only holomorphic map  $F: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$  with nondegenerate Jacobian ( $JF \neq 0$ ) and satisfying  $F(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus D) \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D$  is the identity map  $F(z) = z$  ( $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ); thus any holomorphic map  $F: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D$  has  $\text{rank } F < n$  at each point.

(2) In [7, §6] a proper holomorphic embedding  $F: \mathbb{C}^m \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m+n}$  is constructed for any pair of integers  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the image of any holomorphic map  $G: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m+n}$  satisfying  $\text{rank}_z G = n$  at some point  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  intersects the submanifold  $A = F(\mathbb{C}^m) \subset \mathbb{C}^{m+n}$  infinitely many times. It follows that any entire map  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m+n} \setminus A$  has  $\text{rank} < n$  at each point.

(3) According to Corollary 2 in [4] the complement  $\mathbb{P}_2 \setminus A$  of a very generic algebraic curve  $A$  of degree  $d \geq 21$  in the projective plane  $\mathbb{P}_2$  is hyperbolic, i.e., there exist no nonconstant holomorphic maps  $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_2 \setminus A$ , and hence Theorem 1.1 fails for  $r = 1$ .

We now give another result whose main ingredient is the jet transversality theorem for holomorphic maps. In many analytic applications it is important to know the dimension of ‘degeneration sets’ of a generically chosen holomorphic map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  between a given pair of complex manifolds. Denote by  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  the space of holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  equipped with the compact-open topology. By  $J^k(X, Y)$  we denote the manifold of all  $k$ -jets of holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$ . Given  $f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  and an integer  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  we set

$$\Sigma_{f,r} = \{x \in X : \text{rank}_x f < r\}.$$

We shall say that  $\text{rank } f \geq r$  on a set  $K \subset X$  if  $\text{rank}_x f \geq r$  for all  $x \in K$ ; if we do not specify  $K$ , it will be understood that  $K = X$ .

Following [10] we say that a complex manifold  $Y$  satisfies the *Convex Approximation Property* (CAP) if every holomorphic map from a neighborhood of a compact convex set  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^m$  ( $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ) to  $Y$  can be approximated uniformly on  $K$  by entire maps  $\mathbb{C}^m \rightarrow Y$ . By the main result of [10] CAP is equivalent to the classical Oka property. Examples of complex manifolds with CAP include complex Lie groups and complex homogeneous spaces.

**Theorem 1.6.** *Let  $X$  be a Stein manifold and let  $Y$  be a complex manifold satisfying CAP. Let  $\dim X = n$ ,  $\dim Y = p$ , and let  $r$  be an integer satisfying  $r \leq \min(n, p)$ . Set  $d = (n - r + 1)(p - r + 1)$ .*

- (1) *If  $d \leq n$ , then the set  $\Omega = \{f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y) : \dim \Sigma_{f,r} = n - d\}$  is open and everywhere dense in  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$ .*
- (2) *If  $d > n$ , then the set  $\Omega' = \{f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y) : \text{rank } f \geq r\}$  is open and everywhere dense in  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$ .*

*Remark 1.7.* The examples in 1.5 show that Theorem 1.6 fails in general if we do not assume anything on  $Y$ . In the proof we shall use the jet transversality theorem for holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  which holds if  $X$  is a Stein manifold and  $Y$  satisfies CAP [11, Theorem 1.4] or the  $\text{Ell}_1$  property introduced by Gromov (see Definition 2.6 below and [11, Theorem 4.2]).

On the other hand, Kaliman and M. Zaidenberg proved in [17] that every holomorphic mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  from a Stein manifold  $X$  to any complex manifold  $Y$  can be approximated on any compact set  $K \subset X$  by holomorphic maps from a neighborhood of  $K$  to  $Y$  whose  $k$ -jet extension is transversal to a given analytic subset of the jet manifold  $J^k(X, Y)$ . See also [11, Theorem 4.8]. This gives the following analogue of Theorem 1.6:

*Let  $X$  be a Stein manifold, and let  $Y$  be a complex manifold. Let  $n, p, r, d$  be as in Theorem 1.6. Given a compact set  $K \subset X$  and a holomorphic map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , there is a holomorphic map  $\tilde{f}$  from an open neighborhood of  $K$  in  $X$  to  $Y$  which approximates  $f$  on  $K$  as close as desired and satisfies*

- (1) *if  $d \leq n$ , then  $\dim_z \Sigma_{\tilde{f},r} = n - d$  for all  $z \in K$ ;*
- (2) *if  $d > n$ , then  $\text{rank } \tilde{f} \geq r$  on  $K$ .*

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Recall [12] that a *projective algebraic set* (or variety) is a closed subset of a complex projective space  $\mathbb{P}_n$  of the form

$$A = \bigcap_{j=1}^k \{[z_0 : \dots : z_n] \in \mathbb{P}_n : p_j(z_0, \dots, z_n) = 0\}$$

where the  $p_j$ 's are homogeneous holomorphic polynomials on  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ . Such  $A$  is a closed complex analytic subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}_n$ , and every closed complex analytic subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is of this form by Chow's theorem [3, p. 74]. Occasionally we shall omit the adjective 'projective'. The topology on  $\mathbb{P}_n$  in which the closed sets are exactly the projective algebraic sets is called the *Zariski topology* on  $\mathbb{P}_n$ . A *quasi-projective algebraic set* is a difference  $Y \setminus Y'$  of two closed algebraic subvarieties  $Y, Y' \subset \mathbb{P}_n$ . A

(quasi-) projective *algebraic manifold* is a (quasi-) projective algebraic set without singularities.

Let  $U \subset \mathbb{P}_n$  be a quasi-projective algebraic set. A function  $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a *regular function* if

$$f(Z) = f(z_0, \dots, z_n) = P(z_0, \dots, z_n)/Q(z_0, \dots, z_n), \quad Z \in U,$$

where  $P$  and  $Q$  are homogeneous polynomials on  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  of the same degree and  $Q(Z) \neq 0$  for all  $Z \in U$ . A continuous map  $F: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_N$  is a *regular map* if its components with respect to any affine chart  $\mathbb{C}^N \subset \mathbb{P}_N$  are regular functions on  $U \cap F^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^N)$ . If  $U' \subset \mathbb{P}_N$  is another quasi-projective algebraic set, then a bijective map  $F: U \rightarrow U'$  is a *biregular isomorphism* if both  $F$  and  $F^{-1}$  are regular maps.

**Definition 2.1** (Class  $\mathcal{A}$  manifolds). Let  $Y$  be a quasi-projective algebraic manifold.

- (i)  $Y$  is of *Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$*  if it is covered by finitely many Zariski open sets biregularly isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}^m$ ,  $m = \dim Y$ .
- (ii)  $Y$  is of *Class  $\mathcal{A}$*  if  $Y = \widehat{Y} \setminus A$ , where  $\widehat{Y}$  is a manifold of class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $A$  is an algebraic set in  $\widehat{Y}$  with complex codimension at least two.

Manifolds of class  $\mathcal{A}$  were used by Gromov under the name Ell-regular manifolds [13, §3.5]; our terminology conforms to the one by Forstnerič [11].

**Example 2.2.** Complex affine and projective space, as well as complex Grassmannians, are manifolds of Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . Further examples are the *rational surfaces*, i.e., complex surfaces birationally equivalent to  $\mathbb{P}_2$  [2, p. 244]. Apart from  $\mathbb{P}_2$  these include the Hirzebruch surfaces  $\Sigma_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ .

We recall a few relevant notions regarding transversality of mappings.

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a smooth map of manifolds and let  $B$  be a smooth submanifold of  $Y$ . We say that  $f$  is *transverse* to  $B$  at a point  $x \in X$ , denoted by  $f \pitchfork_x B$ , if either (i)  $f(x) \notin B$ , or (ii)  $f(x) \in B$  and  $T_{f(x)}Y = T_{f(x)}B + df_x(T_xX)$ . If  $f \pitchfork_x B$  for all  $x \in X$ , we say that  $f$  is transverse to  $B$ , and denote it by  $f \pitchfork B$ .

For latter application we state a couple of known transversality lemmas. The first one provides a lot of transversal maps to choose from a transversal family of maps; a proof consists of a reduction to Sard’s theorem and can be found in [1] or [23].

**Lemma 2.4** (Transversality Lemma). *Let  $X, Y, P$  be complex manifolds, let  $B$  be a complex submanifold of  $Y$ , and let  $\Phi: X \times P \rightarrow Y$  be a holomorphic map such that  $\Phi \pitchfork B$ . Let  $f_t(z) := \Phi(z, t)$ . Then  $\{t \in P: f_t \pitchfork B\}$  is dense in  $B$ .*

The following lemma, together with Sard’s theorem, implies a jet version of the Transversality Lemma for holomorphic maps. See [11, Lemma 4.5] or [17]; here we supply some additional details to the proof. Recall that  $J^k(X, Y)$  denotes the complex manifold of all  $k$ -jets of holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  between a pair of complex manifolds.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be a Stein manifold of dimension  $r$ , embedded as a closed complex submanifold of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , let  $Y$  be a complex manifold of dimension  $p$ , and let  $F: X \times \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow Y$  be a holomorphic map such that for every  $x \in X$  the map  $F(x, \cdot): \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow Y$  is a submersion at  $0 \in \mathbb{C}^N$ . Let  $W$  denote the vector space of all*

holomorphic polynomial maps  $P: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$  of degree  $\leq k$ . For each  $P \in W$  set  $F_P(x) = F(x, P(x))$ ,  $x \in X$ . Then the map  $H: X \times W \rightarrow J^k(X, Y)$ , defined by  $H(x, P) = j_x^k(F_P)$ , is a submersion in a neighborhood of  $X \times \{0\}$  in  $X \times \mathbb{C}^N$ .

*Proof.* We need to prove that  $H$  is a submersion at points  $(x_0, 0) \in X \times W$ . Set  $F(x_0, 0) = y_0$ . Choose a neighborhood  $U$  of  $x_0$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , a neighborhood  $V$  of  $y_0$  in  $Y$  and a neighborhood  $E$  of  $0$  in  $W$  such that  $\Phi(X \cap U) = \Phi(U) \cap (\mathbb{C}^r \times \{0\}^{n-r}) = U'$  for biholomorphic maps  $\Phi: U \rightarrow \Phi(U) \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $\Psi: V \rightarrow \Psi(V) = V' \subset \mathbb{C}^p$  and such that  $F((X \cap U) \times E) \subset V$ . We can consider  $U'$  to be an open subset of  $\mathbb{C}^r$ . The map  $\Psi_1: J^k(X \cap U, V) \rightarrow J^k(U', V')$  sending  $j_x^k f \in J^k(X \cap U, V)$  to  $j_{\Phi(x)}^k(\Psi \circ f \circ \Phi^{-1})$  is well defined and biholomorphic. Let  $H' = \Psi_1 \circ H \circ (\Phi|_{U \cap X} \times \text{id})^{-1}$ . Then  $H': U' \times E \rightarrow J^k(U', V')$  with  $H'(\Phi(x), P) = j_{\Phi(x)}^k F'(\cdot, P(\cdot))$ , where  $F' = \Psi \circ F \circ (\Phi|_{X \cap U} \times \text{id})^{-1}$ . It is enough to show that  $H'$  is a submersion at  $(\Phi(x), 0)$ . Therefore we can assume that  $X = \mathbb{C}^r \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  and also  $Y = \mathbb{C}^p$ .

Given  $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^r$  we denote by  $W_{x_0}$  the set of all polynomials  $P \in W$  such that  $P(x_0) = 0$ . For a fixed  $x \in \mathbb{C}^r \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  the map  $W_x \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{M(r, N, k)}$ ,  $P \mapsto \partial_x^k P(x)$ , is a submersion. Here  $J^k(\mathbb{C}^r, \mathbb{C}^N) = \mathbb{C}^r \times \mathbb{C}^N \times \mathbb{C}^{M(r, N, k)}$  for some  $M(r, N, k) \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\partial_x^k P(x)$  denotes all partial derivatives of  $P$  of order less than or equal to  $k$  without the 0-th derivative. For every multiindex  $I = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$  we can write

$$\partial_x^I(F(x, P(x))) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial F}{\partial t_j}(x, P(x)) \partial_x^I P_j(x) + R(x).$$

Here  $R$  contains derivatives of  $P$  of order lower than  $|I|$  and derivatives of  $F$ . For a fixed  $x = x_0$  we get

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial F}{\partial t_j}(x_0, 0) \partial_x^I|_{x=x_0} P_j(x) + R(x_0) = \partial_t|_{t=0} F(x_0, \cdot) \cdot \partial_x^I|_{x=x_0} P(\cdot) + R(x_0),$$

where  $R(x_0)$  depends linearly on the components of  $j_{x_0}^{(|I|-1)} P(x)$ . We also see that  $H(x_0, P)$  is a block-wise lower triangular linear map in the base  $\{\partial_{x_0}^J P(x), |J| \leq k\}$  of  $\mathbb{C}^{M(r, N, k)}$ . Since  $\partial_t|_{t=0} F(x_0, \cdot)$  is surjective, the map  $P \mapsto j_{x_0}^k(F_P)$  from  $W_{x_0}$  to  $\mathbb{C}^{N(r, p, k)}$  is a submersion, and hence  $H$  is a submersion at  $(x_0, 0)$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be complex manifolds. Holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  satisfy *Condition Ell<sub>1</sub>* if for every map  $f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  there is a holomorphic map  $H: X \times \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow Y$  for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , satisfying

- (1)  $H(x, 0) = f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ , and
- (2) the map  $H(x, \cdot): \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow Y$  is a submersion at  $0 \in \mathbb{C}^N$  for every  $x \in X$ .

The  $\text{Ell}_1$  condition is useful when combined with the (Jet) Transversality Lemma in approximating a given holomorphic map by a holomorphic map transversal to a given submanifold. Condition  $\text{Ell}_1$  holds for holomorphic maps from any Stein manifold to any complex manifold  $Y$  which enjoys the CAP property [11, Proposition 4.6 (b)]. In short the idea is to construct a finite collection of sprays on  $Y$  using bundles described in Lemma 2.10 and combining them into map  $H$  from the definition of  $\text{Ell}_1$ . In particular,  $\text{Ell}_1$  holds for maps of Stein manifolds to manifolds of Class  $\mathcal{A}$  since these enjoy the CAP property.

The following result from [11] follows from Lemma 2.5 and Sard's theorem.

**Lemma 2.7** ([11, Theorem 4.2]). *Let  $X$  be a Stein manifold and let  $Y$  be a complex manifold such that holomorphic maps  $X \rightarrow Y$  satisfy Condition Ell<sub>1</sub>. Choose a distance function  $d$  on  $Y$ . Let  $Z$  be a closed complex submanifold (or a closed complex subvariety) in  $J^k(X, Y)$ . Given a compact set  $K \subset X$ , a holomorphic map  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and an  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a holomorphic map  $f_1: X \rightarrow Y$  such that*

- (1)  $d(f(x), f_1(x)) < \epsilon$  for every  $x \in K$ , and
- (2)  $j^k f_1 \pitchfork Z$  on  $K$ .

We will need the following lemma which was also used in the proof of Proposition 2 in [6].

**Lemma 2.8.** *The set  $M^r(n, m) = \{A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m} : \text{rank } A = r\}$  is a (nonclosed) complex submanifold of  $\mathbb{C}^{nm}$  of complex codimension  $(n - r)(m - r)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A \in M^r(n, m)$ . Change bases in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}^m$  such that  $A$  takes the form  $A = \begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ D & E \end{bmatrix}$  where  $B$  is an invertible  $r \times r$  matrix. Denote by  $U$  the neighborhood of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{nm}$  consisting of all matrices  $A' = \begin{bmatrix} B' & C' \\ D' & E' \end{bmatrix}$  where  $B'$  is invertible. Define a map  $\Phi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{(n-r)(m-r)}$  by  $\Phi(A') = E' - D'B'^{-1}C'$ . If  $B', C', D'$  are fixed, this is just a translation, and therefore  $\Phi$  is a submersion.

To conclude the proof it now suffices to show  $M^r(n, m) \cap U = \Phi^{-1}(0)$ . Let  $A' = \begin{bmatrix} B' & C' \\ D' & E' \end{bmatrix} \in U$ . Note that  $F = \begin{bmatrix} I_r & 0 \\ -D'B'^{-1} & I_{n-r} \end{bmatrix}$  is an invertible matrix and hence  $\text{rank } A' = \text{rank}(FA')$ . But  $FA' = \begin{bmatrix} B' & C' \\ 0 & E' - D'B'^{-1}C' \end{bmatrix}$  which has rank  $r$  if and only if  $E' - D'B'^{-1}C' = 0$ , and this is equivalent to  $A' \in \Phi^{-1}(0)$ . □

**Definition 2.9** (Spray on a manifold). A spray on a complex manifold  $X$  is a holomorphic map  $s: E \rightarrow X$  from total space of a holomorphic vector bundle  $p: E \rightarrow X$  satisfying  $s(0_x) = x$  for all  $x \in X$ . The spray is algebraic if  $p: E \rightarrow X$  is an algebraic vector bundle and  $s: E \rightarrow X$  is an algebraic map.

The following lemma is due to Gromov [13] (Lemmas 3.5B and 3.5C); see also [8, Lemma 1.3]. Here we supply additional details of the proof.

**Lemma 2.10.** *Let  $\widehat{Y}$  be an  $n$ -dimensional manifold of Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and let  $U \subset \widehat{Y}$  be a Zariski open subset biregularly isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}^n$  via an isomorphism  $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ . Let  $\Lambda$  be a closed algebraic subset of  $\widehat{Y}$  of pure dimension  $n - 1$  such that  $U \cup \Lambda = \widehat{Y}$ . Let  $s: U \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow U$  be a spray defined by*

$$s(y, t) := \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(y) + t), \quad y \in U, t \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

*and let  $L = [\Lambda]^{-1}$  where  $[\Lambda]$  is the line bundle defined by the divisor of  $\Lambda$ . There are an integer  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and an algebraic spray  $\tilde{s}: E = (\widehat{Y} \times \mathbb{C}^n) \otimes L^{\otimes m} \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  such that  $\tilde{s} = s$  on  $E|_{\widehat{Y} \setminus \Lambda}$  and  $s(E_y) = \{y\}$  for all  $y \in \Lambda$ . (Here we have identified  $E|_{\widehat{Y} \setminus \Lambda}$  with  $(\widehat{Y} \setminus \Lambda) \times \mathbb{C}^n$  since  $L|_{\widehat{Y} \setminus \Lambda}$  is trivial.)*

*Proof.* We can't just extend  $s$  to  $\widehat{Y} \times \mathbb{C}^n$  because of the singularities on  $\Lambda$ . However, we will show that any point  $y \in \Lambda$  admits a Zariski neighborhood  $\mathbb{C}^n \simeq V \subset \widehat{Y}$  such that  $s$  extends to  $E|_V$  for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  large enough. Since  $\widehat{Y} = \bigcup_{j=1}^r U_j$  for Zariski

open sets  $U_j$  biregularly isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $U_1 = U$ , we will get the desired extension by choosing the largest  $m$ .

Let  $\varphi_j: \mathbb{U}_j \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq r$ , be biregular isomorphisms; the collection  $\{(U_j, \varphi_j): 1 \leq j \leq r\}$  is then an algebraic atlas on  $\widehat{Y}$ . Choose  $y_0 \in \Lambda \setminus U$ ; without loss of generality we may assume that  $y_0 \in U_2$  and  $\varphi_2(y_0) = 0$ . Recall that the spray  $s$  is given in the local chart  $U_1 \times \mathbb{C}^n$  on  $\widehat{Y} \times \mathbb{C}^n$  by  $s'_1(z, t) = z + t$ . In the local chart  $U_2 \times \mathbb{C}^n$  the same spray is of the form

$$s'_2(z, t) = \varphi_{1,2}^{-1}(\varphi_{1,2}(z) + t), \quad z \in \varphi_2(U_{1,2}) \subset \mathbb{C}^n, \quad t \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

where  $\varphi_{1,2} = \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_2^{-1}$  and  $U_{1,2} = U_1 \cap U_2$ . Clearly  $s'_2$  is holomorphic on the set

$$\{(z, t) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n : z \in \varphi_2(U_{1,2}), \varphi_{1,2}(z) + t \in \varphi_1(U_{1,2})\}$$

and has singularities in the complement. In particular,  $s'_2$  is holomorphic at all points  $(z, 0)$  with  $z \in \varphi_2(U_{1,2})$ . Since  $U_2 \setminus U_1 \subset \mathbb{P}^n \setminus U_1 \subset \Lambda$ , we have  $\Omega := \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \varphi_2(\Lambda \cap U_2) \subset \varphi_2(U_{1,2})$  and hence  $s'_2$  is holomorphic on a neighborhood of  $\Omega \times \{0\}$ .

For a fixed  $z \in \Omega$  we can write  $s'_2(z, t) = z + \sum_{|\alpha|=1}^{\infty} f_{\alpha}(z)t^{\alpha}$ , where  $\alpha$  is a multiindex and  $f_{\alpha}$  are matrices with rational functions as elements. Note that the transition maps of the bundle  $E \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  are  $\Phi_{ij}: U_{i,j} \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow U_{i,j} \times \mathbb{C}^n$  where

$$\Phi_{ij}(y, t) = (y, (b_j(y)/b_i(y))^m t).$$

Here  $b_j$  is a regular defining function for  $\Lambda \cap U_j$  and  $b_i$  is a regular defining function for  $\Lambda \cup U_i$ . The bundle  $E|_{U_1}$  is trivial and can be identified with  $U_1 \times \mathbb{C}^n$ . Denote by  $\tilde{s}'_2$  the map  $s$  in the local chart  $U_2 \times \mathbb{C}^n$  on  $E$ . Then

$$\tilde{s}'_2(z, t) = (s'_1 \circ (\varphi_1 \times \text{id}) \circ \Phi_{12} \circ (\varphi_2 \times \text{id})^{-1})(z, t) = s'_2(z, t b_2(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^m / b_1(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^m).$$

For  $z \in U_2 \cap \varphi_2(U_{1,2})$  this can be written as

$$\tilde{s}'_2(z, t) = z + \sum_{|\alpha|=1}^{\infty} f_{\alpha}(z) \cdot t^{\alpha} b_2(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^{m|\alpha|} / b_1(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^{m|\alpha|}$$

using the above series expansion for  $s'_2$ . By the Cauchy formula for the coefficients of a power series for the rational map  $s'_2$ , holomorphic on a neighborhood of  $(z, 0)$ , the maximum of the degrees of the poles of  $f_{\alpha}(z)$  is bounded by some integer which is independent of  $z$  and  $\alpha$ . Hence there is  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_2(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^m f_{\alpha}(z)$  is holomorphic on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and equals zero when  $z \in \varphi_2(\Lambda \cap U_2)$ ,  $|\alpha| \in \mathbb{N}$ . This shows that for such  $m$  the map  $\tilde{s}$  is holomorphic on  $E$  at points  $0 \in E_y$ ,  $y \in \Lambda$ . For other points  $t \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we can still write  $s'_2$  as power series, since the intersection of the singular set of  $s'_2$  with  $\{z\} \times \mathbb{C}^n \cong \mathbb{C}^n$  is nowhere dense in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Furthermore, because of the factors  $b_2(\varphi_2^{-1}(z))^m$  we can extend  $\tilde{s}'_2$  to a continuous, locally bounded map on a neighborhood of hypersurfaces  $\varphi_2(\Lambda \cap U_2) \times \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $\tilde{s}'_2(z, t) = z$  for  $z \in \varphi_2(\Lambda \cap U_2)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . By the Riemann extension theorem  $\tilde{s}'_2$  extends to a holomorphic map on a neighborhood of  $\varphi_2(\Lambda \cap U_2) \times \mathbb{C}^n$ . □

### 3. PROOFS OF MAIN THEOREMS

The following is Lemma 3.4 in [9, p. 156] with  $r = n - 2$ ,  $s = 2$  and  $D \times L$  instead of  $L$ .



**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a product of a closed polydisc and a ball, and let  $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K$  be an algebraic set with  $\dim \Sigma \leq n - 2$ . Let  $D = \pi(K)$ , where  $\pi: \mathbb{C}^{n-2} \times \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$  is a standard projection and  $L \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  is a compact polydisc such that  $K \subset D \times L$ . Given  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists an automorphism  $\Psi$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  of the form  $\Psi(z', z'') = (z', \psi(z', z''))$  ( $z' \in \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$ ,  $z'' \in \mathbb{C}^2$ ) such that*

- (i)  $|\Psi(z) - z| < \epsilon$  for all  $z \in K$ , and
- (ii)  $\Psi(D \times L) \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Sigma$ .

The following lemma is the main ingredient in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $Y$  be a manifold of class  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $\dim Y = p$ . Choose a distance function  $d$  on  $Y$ . Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{C}^{n-2} \times \mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $L \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$  be as in Lemma 3.1. Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfy  $(n - r + 1)(p - r + 1) \geq 2$ . Given a holomorphic map  $f: K \rightarrow Y$  satisfying  $\text{rank } f \geq r$  on  $K$  and an  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an algebraic map  $\tilde{f}: D \times L \rightarrow Y$  such that*

- (i)  $d(\tilde{f}(z), f(z)) < \epsilon$  for all  $z \in K$ , and
- (ii)  $\text{rank } \tilde{f} \geq r$  on  $D \times L$ .

*Proof.* By Corollary 3.2 in [11] we can approximate the map  $f: K \rightarrow Y$  with an algebraic map  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$ . So we can assume that  $f$  is algebraic, defined on the whole  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and with  $\text{rank } f \geq r$  on  $K$ . Let  $\Sigma_{f,r} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n: \text{rank}_z f < r\}$ . Then  $\Sigma_{f,r} \cap K = \emptyset$  provided the above approximation was good enough.

If  $\dim \Sigma_{f,r} \leq n - 2$ , Lemma 3.1 furnishes an automorphism  $\Psi$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  which approximates the identity on  $K$  and satisfies  $\Psi(D \times L) \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Sigma_{f,r}$ . The map we are looking for is  $\tilde{f} = f \circ \Psi$ .

Now suppose that  $\dim \Sigma_{f,r} = n - 1$ . We will reduce this to the previous case  $\dim \Sigma_f = n - 2$ . This reduction is similar to the one used in the proof of Proposition 5.4 in [11]. By the definition of a Class  $\mathcal{A}$  manifold we have  $Y = \hat{Y} \setminus A$  where  $\hat{Y}$  is a manifold of Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $A$  an algebraic subset of codimension at least two in  $\hat{Y}$ . We will approximate  $f$  on  $D \times L$  by an algebraic map  $f_0: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \hat{Y}$  such that  $\dim \Sigma_{f_0,r} \leq n - 2$ . By approximating well enough we will also get  $f_0(D \times L) \subset \hat{Y} \setminus A$ . In each step of the approximation a given map  $f$  will be replaced by a nearby algebraic map  $f_1$  such that the corresponding set  $\Sigma_{f_1,r} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  has fewer  $n - 1$ -dimensional irreducible components than  $\Sigma_f$ .

Choose a point  $z_0 \in \Sigma_f$  belonging to exactly one  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional irreducible component  $\Sigma'$  of  $\Sigma_{f,r}$ . Set  $y_0 = f(z_0)$ . By the definition of a class  $\mathcal{A}$  manifold there is a Zariski open neighborhood  $U$  of  $y_0$  in  $\hat{Y}$  which is biregularly isomorphic to  $\mathbb{C}^p$ , where  $p = \dim \hat{Y}$ . Hence there is a biregular isomorphism  $\varphi: U = \hat{Y} \setminus \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{P}_n \setminus H$  where  $H$  is the plane at infinity in  $\mathbb{P}_n$ . Since  $\varphi$  has poles at  $\Lambda$  it can be viewed as a holomorphic map  $\hat{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_n$ . Let  $\varphi(z_0) \in V \subset \mathbb{P}_n$  where  $V \equiv \mathbb{C}^n$ . There is a polynomial  $q$  defined on  $V$  which vanishes on  $\varphi(\Lambda) \cap V$  but  $q(\varphi(y_0)) \neq 0$ . The closure of the zero locus of  $q$  in  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is an algebraic set. Denote by  $\hat{\Lambda}$  its  $\varphi$ -preimage. Then  $\hat{\Lambda}$  is an algebraic set in  $\hat{Y}$  of pure dimension  $p - 1$  such that  $\hat{\Lambda} \cup U = \hat{Y}$  and  $y_0 \notin \hat{\Lambda}$ .

Let  $L$  be a holomorphic line bundle over  $\hat{Y}$  defined by the divisor of  $\hat{\Lambda}$ . Using Lemma 2.10 we get a spray  $s: E = (\hat{Y} \times \mathbb{C}^p) \otimes L^{-m} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$  such that  $s(x, t) = x + t$  on  $U$  (identifying  $E|_U$  with  $U \times \mathbb{C}^p$  and  $U$  with  $\mathbb{C}^p$  via an isomorphism) and  $s(x, t) = x$  for all  $x \in \hat{\Lambda}$ . Let  $\iota: f^*E \rightarrow E$  be a natural map covering  $f$ . Here  $f^*E = \{(z, v): z \in \mathbb{C}^n, v \in E_{f(z)}\}$  is the pullback of the bundle  $p: E \rightarrow \hat{Y}$ . In local

coordinates  $\iota$  is just  $\iota(z, v) = (f(z), v)$ . Since  $f$  is algebraic,  $f^*E$  is an algebraic vector bundle over  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . By Serre's theorem A [21] the bundle  $f^*E$  is generated by finitely many algebraic sections, and hence there is a surjective algebraic vector bundle map  $g: \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^q \rightarrow f^*E$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ . We can write  $g(z, t) = \sum_{j=1}^q g_j(z)t_j$  where  $g_j: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow f^*E$  are sections. Set  $\Phi = s \circ \iota \circ g$ ,  $\Lambda = f^{-1}(\widehat{\Lambda})$ ,  $V = \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Lambda$ . From the above statements it is easy to conclude the following properties of the algebraic bundle map  $H: \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^q \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$ :

- $H(z, 0) = f(z)$  for  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,
- $H(z, t) = z$  for  $z \in \Lambda$  and  $t \in \mathbb{C}^q$ , and
- $H(z, \cdot)$  is a submersion on  $\mathbb{C}^q$  for every  $z \in V$ .

Let  $W$  denote the space of all quadratic polynomial maps  $\mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^q$ . Set  $f_P(z) = H(z, P(z))$  for  $P \in W$ . By Lemma 2.8 the set  $Z_j = \{(z, y, \alpha) \in J^1(\mathbb{C}^n, \widehat{Y}) : \text{rank } \alpha = j\}$  is a submanifold of  $J^1(\mathbb{C}^n, \widehat{Y})$  of codimension  $(n - j)(p - j)$  and  $Z = \bigcup_{j=0}^{r-1} Z_j$  is a closed subvariety of codimension  $(n - r + 1)(p - r + 1) \geq 2$ . By Lemma 2.5 for every  $P$  in some open dense subset of  $W$  we get  $j^1 f_P \pitchfork Z$ . If we choose  $P$  close to 0, from a subset of polynomials with up to first degree terms equal to zero, we can conclude the following about the map  $f_P: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$ :

- (1)  $f_P(z) = f(z)$ ,  $df_P(z) = df(z)$  for  $z \in \Lambda$ ,
- (2)  $f_P$  approximates  $f$  on  $D \times L$ , and
- (3) the algebraic set  $\Sigma_{f_P, r} = (j^1 f_P)^{-1}(Z)$  has dimension less than  $n - 1$  at every point of  $V$ .

By (3) the only remaining irreducible  $n - 1$ -dimensional components of  $f_P$  are those lying in  $\Lambda$ , where they are equal to those of  $\Sigma_{f, r} \cap \Lambda$ . Hence the number of  $n - 1$ -dimensional components intersecting with  $\Lambda$  has not increased. At least one component  $\Sigma'$  from  $\Sigma_{f, r}$  is missing since  $z_0 \notin \Lambda$ . Set  $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_{f_P, r}$ ,  $f_1 = f_P$ . The map  $f_1: \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  has rank  $\geq r$  and  $\Sigma_1$  has fewer  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional components than  $\Sigma_{f, r}$ . By repeating this procedure we obtain in finitely many steps the desired algebraic map  $f_0$  with  $\dim \Sigma_{f_0} \leq n - 2$ . □

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $Y$  be a manifold of class  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $\dim Y = p$ . Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a product of a closed ball and a closed polydisc, and let  $Q \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a closed polydisc containing  $K$ . Let  $r$  be such that  $(n - r + 1)(p - r + 1) \geq 2$ . Every holomorphic map  $f: K \rightarrow Y$  with  $\text{rank } f \geq r$  on  $K$  can be approximated uniformly on  $K$  by algebraic maps  $\tilde{f}: Q \rightarrow Y$  satisfying  $\text{rank } \tilde{f} \geq r$  on  $Q$ .*

*Proof.* If  $n$  is even, we write  $\mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{C}^2 \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}^2$  ( $n/2$  factors) and let  $\pi_j: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$  be the projection whose kernel is the  $j$ -th factor. Let  $Q = L_1 \times \dots \times L_m$  where  $L_j \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  are polydiscs. Using Lemma 3.2 we approximate  $f = f_0$  on  $K = K_0$  by  $f_1: L_1 \times \pi_1(K) \rightarrow Y$ . Set  $K_1 = L_1 \times \pi_1(K)$  and approximate  $f_1$  on  $K_1$  by  $f_2: L_2 \times \pi_2(K_1) \rightarrow Y$  using Lemma 3.2 (for purposes of shorter notation the coordinates have been permuted). By continuing in this fashion we get the desired approximation in  $m = n/2$  steps. In the case of odd  $n$  we use an extra disc. □

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* By the definition of a class  $\mathcal{A}$  manifold we have  $Y = \widehat{Y} \setminus A$ , where  $\widehat{Y}$  is a manifold of Class  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and  $A$  is a closed algebraic subset of  $\widehat{Y}$  of codimension at least two. Choose a distance function  $d$  on  $\widehat{Y}$  induced by a complete Riemannian metric.

Suppose that  $K$  is a closed polydisc in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Choose an exhaustion of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with closed polydiscs  $Q_j, j \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , where  $Q_0 = K \subset Q_1$ .

By Corollary 3.2 in [11] we can approximate  $f$  uniformly on  $K$  by an algebraic map  $f_0: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$ .

By Lemma 2.7 we can approximate  $f_0$  uniformly on  $Q_0$  by a holomorphic map transversal to  $A$  on  $Q_0$ , and hence we can assume that  $f_0 \pitchfork A$  on  $Q_0$ . Choose a positive number  $\delta_0 > 0$  such that every holomorphic map  $g: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  with  $d(g(z), f_0(z)) < \delta_0$  for all  $z \in Q_1$  satisfies  $\text{rank } g \geq r$  on  $Q_0$  and  $g \pitchfork A$  on  $Q_0$ . Using Lemma 3.3 and Corollary 3.2 in [11] we get a holomorphic map  $f_1: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  satisfying  $\text{rank } f_1 \geq r$  on  $Q_1$  and  $d(f_1(z), f_0(z)) < \min(\epsilon/2, \delta_0/2)$  for all  $z \in Q_0$ .

Proceeding inductively we get a sequence of holomorphic maps  $f_j: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  and a decreasing sequence of positive numbers  $\delta_j > 0$  satisfying the following:

- (i)  $d(f_{j+1}(z), f_j(z)) < \min(\epsilon/2^{j+1}, \delta_j/2)$  for all  $z \in Q_j$  and  $j \geq 0$ ,
- (ii)  $\text{rank } f_j \geq r$  on  $Q_j$  and  $f_j \pitchfork A$  on  $Q_j$ , and
- (iii) every holomorphic map  $g: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  with  $d(g(z), f_j(z)) < \delta_j$  for all  $z \in Q_{j+1}$  satisfies  $\text{rank } g \geq r$  on  $Q_j$  and  $g \pitchfork A$  on  $Q_j$ .

The sequence of holomorphic maps  $f_j$  converges uniformly on the compacts in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  to a holomorphic map  $F: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  satisfying  $d(F(z), f(z)) < \epsilon$  for all  $z \in Q_0 = K$  (a consequence of (i)) and  $d(F(z), f_j(z)) < \delta_j$  for all  $z \in Q_j$  and  $j \geq 0$  (because of (ii) and the definition of the numbers  $\delta_j$ ).

This implies  $F \pitchfork A$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\text{rank } F \geq r$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . To show that  $F(\mathbb{C}^n) \subset Y = \widehat{Y} \setminus A$  suppose  $F(z) \in A$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . The transversality condition  $F \pitchfork A$  implies  $\text{rank}_z F + \dim_z A \geq p = \dim \widehat{Y}$ . This and  $F \pitchfork_z A$  implies  $g(U) \cap A \neq \emptyset$  for all holomorphic maps  $g: U \rightarrow \widehat{Y}$  close enough to  $F$  on some neighborhood  $U$  of  $z$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Since  $f_j: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow Y$  for all  $j \geq 0$ , we have a contradiction. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1. □

*Proof of Theorem 1.6. Case (1):* Let  $Z = \bigcup_{j=0}^{r-1} Z_j$  where  $Z_j$  is the submanifold of  $J^1(X, Y)$  consisting of all jets with rank  $j$ . Now  $\Sigma_{f,r} = (j^1 f)^{-1}(Z)$ . Since the codimension of  $Z$  is  $(n - r + 1)(p - r + 1)$  (see Lemma 2.8), we will get  $\dim \Sigma_{f,r} = n - (n - r + 1)(p - r + 1)$  if  $j^1 f \pitchfork Z$ . If this holds, then the set  $\{f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y) : j^1 f \pitchfork Z\} \subset \Omega$  will satisfy the conclusion of Theorem 1.6.

Choose an exhaustion of  $X$  by compact sets  $K_l, l \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let

$$\Omega_l = \{f \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y) : j^1 f \pitchfork Z \text{ on } K_l\}.$$

Then  $\Omega = \bigcap_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \Omega_l$ . Since  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  is a Baire space, it is enough to show that  $\Omega_l$  is open and dense in  $\mathcal{H}(X, Y)$ . Openness follows directly from the definition of transversality and the fact that  $Z$  is closed (if we perturb  $f$  on neighborhood of  $K$  a little, the transversality condition will still be satisfied on  $K$  by the Cauchy inequality for derivatives). To prove density choose  $g \in \mathcal{H}(X, Y)$  and a compact subset  $L \subset X$ . Using Lemma 2.7 we get a holomorphic map  $f$  which approximates  $g$  on  $L \cup K_l$  and satisfies the transversality condition in the definition of  $\Omega_l$ .

*Case (2):* The assumed inequality implies  $\dim X + \dim Z < \dim J^1(X, Y)$ . Therefore  $j^1 f \pitchfork Z$  implies  $j^1 f(X) \cap Z = \emptyset$  which is equivalent to  $\text{rank } f \geq r$  on  $X$ . The set of such  $f$  is open and dense by the proof of case (1). □

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