TRUNCATED SECOND MAIN THEOREM WITH MOVING TARGETS

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ABSTRACT. We prove a truncated Second Main Theorem for holomorphic curves intersecting a finite set of moving or fixed hyperplanes. The set of hyperplanes is assumed to be non-degenerate. Previously only general position or subgeneral position was considered.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we prove a truncated Second Main Theorem for holomorphic curves intersecting a finite set of moving or fixed hyperplanes. The set of hyperplanes is assumed to be non-degenerate (see the definition below). Previously only general position or subgeneral position was considered. Applications to the uniqueness problem appeared elsewhere (see [Ru2]). This paper is partially motivated by Ru's result (see [Ru1]) that $\mathbb{P}^n - \mathcal{H}$ is Brody hyperbolic if and only $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate, where $\mathcal{H}$ is a finite set of hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^n$.

To state our results, we first introduce some standard definitions in Nevanlinna theory. Let

$$f = [f_0 : \cdots : f_n] : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$$

be a holomorphic map, where $f_0, \dots, f_n$ are entire and without common zeros. Define $\mathbf{f} = (f_0, \dots, f_n)$. $\mathbf{f}$ is called a **reduced representation** of f . The characteristic function $T_f(r)$ of f is defined by

$$(1.1) \quad T_f(r) = \int_0^{2\pi} \log \|\mathbf{f}(re^{i\theta})\| \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} - \log \|\mathbf{f}(0)\|.$$

Note that the characteristic function $T_f(r)$ is independent of the choice of the reduced representation of f . A moving hyperplane assigns, to every $z \in \mathbb{C}$, a hyperplane given by

$$H(z) = \left\{ [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \in \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) \mid \sum_{i=0}^n a_i(z)x_i = 0 \right\},$$

where $a_i, 0 \leq i \leq n$, are entire functions without common zeros. Denote by $\mathbf{a} = (a_0, \dots, a_n)$ the vector associated with H . A moving hyperplane H gives a holomorphic map $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{a}) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$. We define $T_H(r) = T_{\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{a})}(r)$.

Received by the editors January 17, 2001 and, in revised form, February 11, 2002.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 32H25, 32Q45.

The first author was supported in part by NSF grant DMS-9800361 and by NSA under grant number MDA904-01-1-0051, MSPF-02G-175.

The second author was supported in part by a NSC grant of Taiwan.

We now define the counting function. For a moving hyperplane H , we say (f, H) is **free** if $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{f} \not\equiv 0$, where $\mathbf{a}$ is the vector associated to H and $\cdot$ is the dot product in $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$. Under the assumption that (f, H) is free, let $n_f(r, H)$ be the number of zeros of $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{f}$ in $|z| < r$. Let $n_f^{(n)}(r, H)$ be the number of zeros of $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{f}$ in $|z| < r$, where the multiplicity is counted only as n if the vanishing order of $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{f}$ at the point is greater than or equal to n . The counting function is defined by

$$N_f(r, H) = \int_0^r \frac{n_f(t, H) - n_f(0, H)}{t} dt + n_f(0, H) \log r,$$

and the truncated counting function is

$$N_f^{(n)}(r, H) = \int_0^r \frac{n_f^{(n)}(t, H) - n_f^{(n)}(0, H)}{t} dt + n_f^{(n)}(0, H) \log r.$$

Denote by $\mathcal{M}$ the field of meromorphic functions on $\mathbb{C}$.

Definition 1.1. We say the set of moving hyperplanes $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ (or $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_q\}$) is **non-degenerate over $\mathcal{M}$** if $\dim(\mathcal{A})_{\mathcal{M}} = n + 1$ and for each proper subset $\mathcal{A}_1$ of $\mathcal{A}$

$$(1.2) \quad (\mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} \cap (\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} \cap \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset,$$

where $(\mathcal{A})_{\mathcal{M}}$ is the linear span of $\mathcal{A}$ over the field $\mathcal{M}$.

Our result is stated as follows:

Theorem 1.1. *Let $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map. Let $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ be a finite collection of moving hyperplanes. Assume that $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathcal{M}$, and (f, H) is free for every $H \in \mathcal{H}$. Then*

$$T_f(r) \leq \sum_{i=1}^q n(2n-1)N_f^{(n)}(r, H_i) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

where O_{exc} means the estimate holds except for r in a set of finite Lebesgue measure.

Note that when $H_1, \dots, H_q$ are (fixed) hyperplanes, we say that $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ (or $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_q\}$) is **non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$** if $\dim(\mathcal{A}) = n + 1$ and for each proper subset $\mathcal{A}_1$ of $\mathcal{A}$

$$(\mathcal{A}_1) \cap (\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_1) \cap \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset,$$

where $(\mathcal{A})$ is the linear span of $\mathcal{A}$ over $\mathbb{C}$. The proof of Theorem 1.1 implies that if $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$, then every holomorphic map $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - (\bigcup_{j=1}^q H_j)$ must be constant. In this case we say that $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - (\bigcup_{j=1}^q H_j)$ is **Brody hyperbolic**. We note that Min Ru (cf. [Ru1]) proved that $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - (\bigcup_{j=1}^q H_j)$ is Brody hyperbolic if and only if $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$, so Theorem 1.1 can also be viewed as a quantitative extension of Ru's result.

Recall that (fixed) hyperplanes $\{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ (or $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_q\}$) are said to be in general position if $\mathbf{a}_{\mu(0)}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{\mu(n)}$ are linearly independent for any injective map $\mu : \{0, 1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, q\}$. Moving hyperplanes $\{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ are said to be in general position if $\{H_1(z), \dots, H_q(z)\}$ are in general position for some (and hence for almost all) $z \in \mathbb{C}$. A typical example of $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ being non-degenerate over $\mathcal{M}$ is that $\mathcal{H}$ is in general position. In this case, we have a stronger result.

Theorem 1.2. *Let $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map. Let $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ be a finite set of moving hyperplanes in general position. Assume that (f, H) is free for every $H \in \mathcal{H}$. If $q \geq 2n + 1$, then*

$$\frac{q}{2n+1} T_f(r) \leq \sum_{i=1}^q n N_f^{(n)}(r, H_i) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

where O_{exc} means the estimate holds except for r in a set of finite Lebesgue measure.

For the applications of the above truncated SMT with moving targets to the uniqueness problem, see [Ru2]. We also note that Ru and Stoll [R-S2] obtained the following inequality without truncation: Under the same assumptions as in Theorem 1.2, for every $\epsilon > 0$, the inequality

$$(q - 2n - \epsilon) T_f(r) \leq \sum_{i=1}^q N_f(r, H_i) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right)$$

holds for all r outside a set of finite Lebesgue measure.

2. A REFINEMENT OF DIAGONAL EQUATIONS OF HOLOMORPHIC FUNCTIONS

In this section, we give the following refinement for holomorphic functions satisfying a diagonal equation, which generalizes the well-known Borel Lemma in Nevanlinna theory. We use the standard notation in Nevanlinna theory.

Theorem 2.1. *Let $f = [f_0 : \dots : f_n] : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map, with $f_0, \dots, f_n$ entire and no common zeros. Assume that f_{n+1} is a holomorphic function and $f_0 + \dots + f_n + f_{n+1} = 0$. If $\sum_{i \in I} f_i \neq 0$ for any proper subset I of $\{0, \dots, n+1\}$, then*

$$T_f(r) \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r))$$

for $r \rightarrow \infty$, where O_{exc} means the estimate holds except for r in a set of finite Lebesgue measure.

To prove Theorem 2.1, we recall the following lemma from [B-M].

Lemma 2.2. *Assume $\sum_{i=0}^m f_i = 0$ but no non-empty proper subsum vanishes. If some proper subset of $\{f_0, \dots, f_m\}$ is linearly dependent, then we can find an integer $l \geq 2$, a partition*

$$\{0, 1, \dots, m\} = I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_l$$

into non-empty disjoint sets $I_1, \dots, I_l$, and non-empty sets

$$J_1 \subseteq I_1, J_2 \subseteq I_1 \cup I_2, \dots, J_{l-1} \subseteq I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_{l-1}$$

such that

$$I_1, I_2 \cup J_1, \dots, I_l \cup J_{l-1}$$

are minimal. Here, we say an index set $I \subset \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ is **minimal** if the set $\{f_i \mid i \in I\}$ is linearly dependent, and for any proper subset I' of I the set $\{f_i \mid i \in I'\}$ is linearly independent.

Proof. Throughout this proof, we use the term **linear forms**. Linear forms are the homogeneous polynomials of degree one in $m+1$ variables with coefficients in $\mathbb{C}$; that is, $L(X) = c_0x_0 + \cdots + c_mx_m$, where $c_0, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{C}$, $X = (x_0, \dots, x_m)$. We denote by $\mathcal{L}$ the set of linear forms which vanish on $(f_0, \dots, f_m)$, so $L(X) = c_0x_0 + \cdots + c_mx_m$ is in $\mathcal{L}$ if and only if $c_0f_0 + \cdots + c_mf_m = 0$. By the assumption $f_0 + \cdots + f_m = 0$, $\mathcal{L}$ is non-empty. We make the following claim.

Claim 1. *Every linear form L in $\mathcal{L}$ can be written as*

$$L = \sum c_J L_J \text{ with } L_J \in \mathcal{L}$$

for certain minimal sets J , where L_J is a linear combination of $\{x_j \mid j \in J\}$, and c_J is constant.

We prove Claim 1 by induction on the length t of L , i.e., the number of nonzero coefficients. The case $t = 1$ is trivial. So assume that for some $t > 1$ this holds for all elements of $\mathcal{L}$ of length strictly less than t . If $L \in \mathcal{L}$ has length exactly t , we may suppose that

$$L = c_0x_0 + \cdots + c_{t-1}x_{t-1}, \quad c_i \neq 0, \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq t-1.$$

If $I = \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\}$ is minimal, we are done. Otherwise, there is a linear form L' in $\mathcal{L}$ with less length. Without loss of generality we can assume that

$$L' = c'_0x_0 + \cdots + c'_kx_k$$

lies in $\mathcal{L}$ for some k with $0 \leq k < t-1$ and $c'_0 \neq 0$. Then L' and $L'' = c'_0L - c_0L'$ are both of length strictly less than t , and so the induction hypothesis can be applied to both linear forms. Since

$$L = (c_0/c'_0)L' + (1/c'_0)L'',$$

L has the desired decomposition. So Claim 1 is proved.

We now prove Claim 2.

Claim 2. *Suppose $\sum_{i=0}^m f_i = 0$ and $\sum_{i \in I} f_i \neq 0$ for some $I \subset N = \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$. Then there is a minimal set J with $L_J \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $J \cap I \neq \emptyset$ and $J \cap I^c \neq \emptyset$, where I^c is the complement of I in N .*

In fact, the set $L = \sum_{i=0}^m x_i$ is in $\mathcal{L}$ because $\sum_{i=0}^m f_i = 0$. By Claim 1, we have

$$L = \sum c_J L_J \text{ with } L_J \in \mathcal{L}$$

for certain minimal sets J . If Claim 2 is false, then every such J is contained either in I or in I^c . So $\sum_{i=0}^m x_i = L(x_0, \dots, x_m) = \sum_{J \subset I} c_J L_J(x_0, \dots, x_m) + \sum_{J \subset I^c} c_J L_J(x_0, \dots, x_m)$. However, for those $J \subset I$, $L_J(x_0, \dots, x_m)$ involves only $\{x_i \mid i \in I\}$ while for those $J \subset I^c$, $L_J(x_0, \dots, x_m)$ involves only $\{x_i \mid i \in I^c\}$. If we set $x_i = 0$ for $i \in I^c$, the above equation becomes

$$\sum_{i \in I} x_i = \sum_{J \subset I} c_J L_J(x_0, \dots, x_m).$$

Since $L_J \in \mathcal{L}$, $L_J(f_0, \dots, f_m) = 0$. Hence $\sum_{i \in I} f_i = 0$, which leads to a contradiction that proves Claim 2.

We now pick any minimal set I_1 . By hypothesis $N = \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ is not minimal, so $I_1 \neq N$. Hence, $\sum_{i \in I_1} f_i \neq 0$. So Claim 2 implies that there exists a minimal set I'_2 with $L_{I'_2} \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $I'_2 \cap I_1 \neq \emptyset$ and $I'_2 \cap I_1^c \neq \emptyset$, where I_1^c is the

complement of I_1 in N . Put $I_2 = I'_2 \cap I_1^c$ and $J_1 = I'_2 \cap I_1$. If $N = I_1 \cup I_2$, then we are done. Otherwise, let $I = I_1 \cup I_2$. Applying Claim 2 to I , there exists a minimal set I'_3 with $L_{I'_3} \in \mathcal{L}$, such that $I'_3 \cap I \neq \emptyset$ and $I'_3 \cap I^c \neq \emptyset$. Let $I_3 = I'_3 \cap (I_1 \cup I_2)^c$ and $J_2 = I'_3 \cap (I_1 \cup I_2)$. If $N = I_1 \cup I_2 \cup I_3$, then we are done. Otherwise, we repeat the same procedures until the union reaches N . This proves Lemma 2.2. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 2.1. If $f_0, \dots, f_n$ are linearly independent, then this is a consequence of Cartan's truncated Second Main Theorem. If $f_0, \dots, f_n$ are linearly dependent, then by Lemma 2.2, we can find an integer $l \geq 2$, a partition

$$\{0, 1, \dots, n+1\} = I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_l$$

into non-empty disjoint sets $I_1, \dots, I_l$, and non-empty sets

$$J_1 \subseteq I_1, J_2 \subseteq I_1 \cup I_2, \dots, J_{l-1} \subseteq I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_{l-1}$$

such that

$$I_1, I_2 \cup J_1, \dots, I_l \cup J_{l-1}$$

are minimal. Let $n_i = \#I_i$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^l n_i = n+2$. Without loss of generality we may assume that

$$\{0, \dots, n_1-1\} = I_1, \{n_1, \dots, n_1+n_2-1\} = I_2, \dots, \{n+2-n_l, \dots, n+1\} = I_l.$$

We also write

$$(2.1) \quad \hat{n}_\lambda = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\lambda} n_\nu.$$

Since I_1 is minimal, there is a linear relation among $\{f_0, \dots, f_{n_1-1}\}$. That is,

$$c_{0,1}f_0 + \dots + c_{n_1-1,1}f_{n_1-1} = \sum_{j \in I_1} c_{j,1}f_j = 0.$$

Define $c_{j,1} = 0$ for all $j \geq n_1$. Then

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} c_{j,1}f_j = 0.$$

Differentiation yields, for each positive integer ρ ,

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} c_{j,1}f_j^{(\rho)} = 0.$$

Take $2 \leq \lambda \leq l$. Since $I_\lambda \cup J_{\lambda-1}$ is minimal, there are non-zero complex numbers $c_{j,\lambda}$ such that

$$\sum_{j \in I_\lambda \cup J_{\lambda-1}} c_{j,\lambda}f_j = 0.$$

Put $c_{j,\lambda} = 0$ for all $j \notin (I_\lambda \cup J_{\lambda-1})$. Then

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} c_{j,\lambda}f_j = 0.$$

Differentiation yields, for each positive integer ρ ,

$$(2.3) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} c_{j,\lambda}f_j^{(\rho)} = 0.$$

We consider an $(n+1) \times (n+2)$ **master matrix** M given by

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} c_{0,1}f_0 & \cdots & c_{n+1,1}f_{n+1} \\ c_{0,1}f'_0 & \cdots & c_{n+1,1}f'_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{0,1}f_0^{(n_1-2)} & \cdots & c_{n+1,1}f_{n+1}^{(n_1-2)} \\ c_{0,2}f_0 & \cdots & c_{n+1,2}f_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{0,2}f_0^{(n_2-1)} & \cdots & c_{n+1,2}f_{n+1}^{(n_2-1)} \\ c_{0,3}f_0 & \cdots & c_{n+1,3}f_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{0,3}f_0^{(n_3-1)} & \cdots & c_{n+1,3}f_{n+1}^{(n_3-1)} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{0,l}f_0^{(n_l-1)} & \cdots & c_{n+1,l}f_{n+1}^{(n_l-1)} \end{bmatrix},$$

where we note that $n_1 + \cdots + n_l = n+2$. We also note that, by (2.2) and (2.3), the sum of each row of M is zero. Let D_j be the determinant of the matrix obtained by deleting the j -th column of the master matrix M . Then, since the sum of each row of M is zero, we actually have

$$(2.4) \quad D_j = (-1)^j D_0.$$

We now show that

$$(2.5) \quad D_0 \neq 0.$$

For this, we first prove that

$$(2.6) \quad D_0 = \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_l,$$

where

$$\gamma_1 = \begin{vmatrix} c_{1,1}f_1 & \cdots & c_{n_1-1,1}f_{n_1-1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{1,1}f_1^{(n_1-2)} & \cdots & c_{n_1-1,1}f_{n_1-1}^{(n_1-2)} \end{vmatrix}$$

and, for $2 \leq \lambda \leq l$,

$$\gamma_\lambda = \begin{vmatrix} c_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1,\lambda}f_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1} & \cdots & c_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1,\lambda}f_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1,\lambda}f_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1}^{(n_\lambda-1)} & \cdots & c_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1,\lambda}f_{\hat{n}_\lambda-1}^{(n_\lambda-1)} \end{vmatrix},$$

where $\hat{n}_\lambda$ is defined in (2.1). (2.6) is true because of the definition of D_0 and the fact that $c_{j,1} = 0$ for $j \geq n_1$ and $c_{j,\lambda} = 0$ for $j \geq \hat{n}_\lambda$ for $\lambda = 2, \dots, l$. Now, since I_1 is minimal, $c_{i,1} \neq 0$ for $0 \leq i \leq n_1 - 1$, and also $\{f_1, \dots, f_{n_1-1}\}$ is linearly independent, so $\gamma_1 \neq 0$ by the property of the Wronskian. Also, since $I_\lambda \cup J_{\lambda-1}$ is minimal, $c_{i,\lambda} \neq 0$ for $\hat{n}_{\lambda-1} \leq i \leq \hat{n}_\lambda - 1$ and also $\{f_j, j \in I_\lambda\}$ is linearly independent. So $\gamma_\lambda \neq 0$ for $2 \leq \lambda \leq l$. Hence $D_0 \neq 0$ by (2.6). So (2.5) is verified. The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Cartan's Second Main Theorem, replacing the Wronskian W by D_0 . The following is the detail. Consider the coordinate hyperplanes $H_i = \{[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mid x_{i-1} = 0\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ and $H_{n+2} = \{[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \mid x_0 + \cdots + x_n = 0\}$, and notice that these hyperplanes are

in general position. By the well-known “product to the sum formula” (see [Ru3], Lemma A3.1.6), we have

$$(2.7) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{n+2} m_f(r, H_j) \leq \int_0^{2\pi} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n+1} \log \frac{\|\mathbf{f}(re^{i\theta})\|^{n+1}}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} + O(1).$$

However, using (2.4),

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_0^{2\pi} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n+1} \log \frac{\|\mathbf{f}(re^{i\theta})\|^{n+1}}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n+1} \log \frac{|D_0(re^{i\theta})|}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &+ (n+1) \int_0^{2\pi} \log \|\mathbf{f}(re^{i\theta})\| \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} - \int_0^{2\pi} \log |D_0(re^{i\theta})| \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \max_{0 \leq j \leq n+1} \log \frac{|D_j(re^{i\theta})|}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} + (n+1)T_f(r) + O(1) \\ &- \int_0^{2\pi} \log |D_0(re^{i\theta})| \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} \int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ \frac{|D_j(re^{i\theta})|}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &+ (n+1)T_f(r) - N_{D_0}(r, 0) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

where, in the last step, we used the fact that, by Jensen’s formula,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \log |D_0(re^{i\theta})| \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} = N_{D_0}(r, 0).$$

For each fixed j with $0 \leq j \leq n+1$, we now estimate

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ \frac{|D_j(re^{i\theta})|}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}.$$

Note that D_j does not involve f_j , so we write

$$D_j = D(f_0, \dots, f_{j-1}, f_{j+1}, \dots, f_{n+1}).$$

Write $g_i = f_i/f_j$ for $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ and the fixed j . It is easy to verify that

$$\begin{aligned} & D(f_0, \dots, f_{j-1}, f_{j+1}, \dots, f_{n+1}) \\ &= f_j^{n+1} D(f_0/f_j, \dots, f_{j-1}/f_j, f_{j+1}/f_j, \dots, f_{n+1}/f_j). \end{aligned}$$

In fact, from (2.6) we see that D_j in fact is the product of several “small” Wronskians. So the above identity is true by the property of Wronskians. So

$$D_j = f_j^{n+1} D(g_0, \dots, g_{j-1}, g_{j+1}, \dots, g_{n+1}).$$

Hence, by Theorem A1.2.5 in [Ru3] (the lemma of logarithmic derivatives),

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ \frac{|D_j|}{|f_0 \cdots f_{j-1} f_{j+1} \cdots f_{n+1}|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ \frac{|D(g_0, \dots, g_{j-1}, g_{j+1}, \dots, g_{n+1})|}{|g_0 \cdots g_{j-1} g_{j+1} \cdots g_{n+1}|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \\ &\leq O\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \log T_{g_i}(r)\right), \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality holds for all r outside a set $E \subset (0, +\infty)$ with finite Lebesgue measure. Using the fact that $f_0 + \cdots + f_n + f_{n+1} = 0$, we get

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \log T_{g_i}(r) \leq O(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

Hence

$$(2.9) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ \frac{|D_j(re^{i\theta})|}{\prod_{t=0, t \neq j}^{n+1} |f_t(re^{i\theta})|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \leq O(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

where the inequality holds for all r outside a set $E \subset (0, +\infty)$ with finite Lebesgue measure. Hence, combining (2.7), (2.8) and (2.9),

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n+2} m_f(r, H_j) + N_{D_0}(r, 0) \leq (n+1)T_f(r) + O(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

or we can write, by the First Main Theorem, the above inequality as

$$T_f(r) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n+2} N_f(r, H_j) - N_{D_0}(r, 0) + O(\log^+ T_f(r));$$

here the inequality holds for all r outside a set $E \subset (0, +\infty)$ with finite Lebesgue measure. However, by the definition of H_j , we have

$$N_f(r, H_j) = N_{f_{j-1}}(r, 0).$$

So the inequality

$$T_f(r) \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}(r, 0) - N_{D_0}(r, 0) + O(\log^+ T_f(r))$$

holds for all r outside a set $E \subset (0, +\infty)$ with finite Lebesgue measure. It remains to verify that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}(r, 0) - N_{D_0}(r, 0) \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}^{(n)}(r, 0).$$

Let $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$. Since $D_j = (-1)^j D_0$ and $f_0, \dots, f_n$ have no common zeros, we may assume that $f_0(z_0) \neq 0$, f_j vanishes at z_0 for $1 \leq j \leq q_1$ and f_j does not vanish at z_0 for $j > q_1$. There are integers $k_j \geq 0$ and nowhere vanishing holomorphic functions g_j in a neighborhood U of z_0 such that

$$f_j = (z - z_0)^{k_j} g_j \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, n+1.$$

Here $k_j = 0$ if $q_1 < j \leq n+1$. Also we can assume that $k_j \geq n$ if $1 \leq j \leq q_0$ and $1 \leq k_j < n$, where $0 \leq q_0 \leq q_1$. By the definition of D_0 , we have

$$D_0 = \prod_{j=1}^{q_0} (z - z_0)^{k_j - n} h(z),$$

where $h(z)$ is a holomorphic function defined on U . Thus D_0 vanishes at z_0 with order at least $\sum_{j=1}^{q_0} (k_j - n) = \sum_{j=1}^{q_0} k_j - q_0 n$. Hence, we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}(r, 0) - N_{D_0}(r, 0) \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} N_{f_j}^{(n)}(r, 0). \quad \square$$

3. PROOF OF THEOREMS 1.1 AND 1.2

In this section, we prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let $\mathcal{H} = \{H_1, \dots, H_q\}$ be a finite set of moving hyperplanes. Assume that $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathcal{M}$; that is, (1.2) holds. Let

$$H_j = \{[x_0 : \dots : x_n] \in \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) \mid \sum_{i=0}^n a_{ij} x_i = 0\},$$

where $a_{ij}, 0 \leq i \leq n$, are entire functions without common zeros for each $1 \leq j \leq q$. For each j , there exists j_0 such that $a_{j_0, j} \not\equiv 0$. Let $b_{ij} = a_{ij}/a_{j_0, j}$. Then b_{ij} are meromorphic function with the property that, for $1 \leq j \leq q$, $T_{b_{ij}}(r) \leq T_{H_j}(r)$. Let $\mathbf{a}_j = (b_{0j}, \dots, b_{nj})$ and let $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_q\}$. Let $\{\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_m}\}$ be a subset of $\mathcal{A}$. Suppose that this set is linearly dependent over $\mathcal{M}$ and no proper subset is linearly dependent over $\mathcal{M}$. Then we have a linear equation

$$(3.1) \quad c_{i_1} \mathbf{a}_{i_1} + \dots + c_{i_m} \mathbf{a}_{i_m} = 0,$$

where $c_{i_j}, 1 \leq j \leq m$, are nonzero meromorphic functions. By clearing the denominators, we can assume that c_{i_j} are entire functions. We call (3.1) a **minimal relation**. Since $c_{i_1}, \dots, c_{i_m}$ are determined by solving the system of linear equations $c_{i_1} b_{j, i_1} + \dots + c_{i_m} b_{j, i_m} = 0, 0 \leq j \leq n$, they can be chosen as non-vanishing minors of the matrix with entries $b_{j, i_\alpha}, 1 \leq \alpha \leq m, 0 \leq j \leq n$, up to a sign. For such a choice of $c_{i_\alpha}, 1 \leq \alpha \leq m$, since $T_{b_{i_\alpha}}(r) \leq T_{H_{i_\alpha}}(r)$, we have the following estimate:

$$(3.2) \quad T_{c_{i_\alpha}}(r) \leq O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right).$$

Let $\mathcal{R}$ be the collection of all minimal relations associated to $\mathcal{A}$ arising in this way. We also note that $\mathbf{a}_i$'s are pairwise linearly independent, because these hyperplanes are distinct. So we have $3 \leq m \leq n+2$.

Let $f = [f_0 : \dots : f_n] : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map. Let $\mathbf{f} = (f_0, \dots, f_n)$ be a reduced representation of f . We make the following claim:

Claim. *There exist $n+1$ linearly independent vectors $\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_{n+1}}$ in $\mathcal{A}$ such that*

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{T_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_\alpha}}(r)}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_1}} \leq \sum_{j=1}^q (2n-1) N_f^{(n)}(r, H_j) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r))$$

for $2 \leq \alpha \leq n+1$.

To prove the claim, we first find a minimal relation in $\mathcal{R}$ containing $\mathbf{a}_1$. Without loss of generality, we assume that this minimal relation is

$$c_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + \cdots + c_m \mathbf{a}_m = 0.$$

Then $c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1 + \cdots + c_m \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_m = 0$. After rearranging the index again, we obtain an equation with no vanishing subsum:

$$(3.4) \quad c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1 + \cdots + c_u \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_u = 0,$$

$2 \leq u \leq n+2$. Theorem 2.1 and (3.2) thus imply

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{T_{c_j \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}(r)}{c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} &\leq T_{[c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1 : \dots : c_u \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_u]}(r) \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^u N_{c_t \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(u-2)}(r, 0) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_{[c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1 : \dots : c_u \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_u]}(r)) \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^u N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(u-2)}(r, 0) + O\left(\sum_{t=1}^u T_{c_t}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)) \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^u N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(u-2)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)), \end{aligned}$$

for $2 \leq j \leq u$.

From the definition of characteristic function,

$$\frac{T_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}(r)}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} \leq \frac{T_{c_j \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}(r)}{c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} + \frac{T_{c_j}(r)}{c_1}.$$

Therefore the above inequalities and (3.2) imply that

$$(3.5) \quad \frac{T_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}(r)}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} \leq \sum_{t=1}^q N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

for $2 \leq j \leq u$.

If the dimension of the vector space spanned by $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_u$ over $\mathcal{M}$ is $n+1$, then we are done. Otherwise we assume that the dimension of the vector space spanned by $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_u$ over $\mathcal{M}$ is less than $n+1$. Let $\mathcal{A}_1 = \{\mathbf{a}_i \in \mathcal{A} \mid \mathbf{a}_i \in (\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_u)_{\mathcal{M}}\}$. Suppose that $\mathcal{A}_1 = \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{u_1}\}$. We now prove that

$$(3.6) \quad \frac{T_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}(r)}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} \leq \sum_{t=1}^q 2N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

for $2 \leq j \leq u_1$. If $u_1 = u$, then this is done already. Otherwise for each $u+1 \leq j \leq u_1$ we have a minimal relation $c_j \mathbf{a}_j + c_{i_1} \mathbf{a}_{i_1} + \cdots + c_{i_w} \mathbf{a}_{i_w} = 0$, where $\{i_1, \dots, i_w\}$ is an index subset of $\{1, \dots, u\}$. Repeating the procedure of deriving (3.5), we can show that

$$(3.7) \quad \frac{T_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_j}}(r)}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j} \leq \sum_{t=1}^q N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

for some $1 \leq i_j \leq u$. Since

$$\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_j}} \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_j}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1},$$

its characteristic function satisfies (3.6).

We now move to the second step of the proof. Since $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate, $(\mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} \cap (\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} \cap \mathcal{A} \neq \emptyset$. We can find an $\mathbf{a}_i \in (\mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} \cap (\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}}$. From the definition of $\mathcal{A}_1$, we have $1 \leq i \leq u_1$. Since $\mathbf{a}_i \in (\mathcal{A} - \mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}}$, after rearranging the linear forms we have a minimal relation $c_i \mathbf{a}_i + c_{u_1+1} \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1} + \cdots + c_w \mathbf{a}_w = 0$. Similarly, after rearranging the index, we have an equation with no vanishing proper subsum

$$c_i \mathbf{a}_i + c_{u_1+1} \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1} + \cdots + c_\nu \mathbf{a}_\nu = 0, \quad \nu \leq w.$$

Therefore, similarly to the derivation of (3.5),

$$(3.8) \quad T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i}}(r) \leq \sum_{t=1}^q N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

Since

$$\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i} \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1},$$

from (3.6) and (3.8) we have

$$(3.9) \quad T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{u_1+1}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}}(r) \leq \sum_{t=1}^q 3N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

If $\dim(L_1, \dots, L_{u_1+1})_{\mathcal{M}} = n+1$, then we are done. Otherwise, we can repeat the same argument. Then we will obtain a sequence of collections of linear forms $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_r$ such that $\dim(\mathcal{A}_1)_{\mathcal{M}} < \dim(\mathcal{A}_2)_{\mathcal{M}} < \cdots < \dim(\mathcal{A}_r)_{\mathcal{M}} = n+1$ and

$$(3.10) \quad T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}}(r) \leq \sum_{t=1}^q 2iN_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)),$$

for $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{A}_i$. Since $\dim(\mathcal{A})_{\mathcal{M}} = n+1$ and the cardinality of $\mathcal{A}_1$ is at least 2, $r \leq n$. It's also clear from the proof that to show the claim we only need to show (3.10) up to $r-1$, and show an inequality similar to (3.8) for one element in $\mathcal{A}_r - \mathcal{A}_{r-1}$. Hence we arrive at (3.3). Thus the claim is proved.

By the claim, there are $n+1$ linearly independent vectors $\mathbf{a}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{i_{n+1}} \in \mathcal{A}$ such that (3.3) holds. Hence

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} T_f(r) &\leq \sum_{j=2}^{n+1} T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_j}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i_1}}}(r) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^q n(2n-1)N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)). \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.1. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 1.2. Let

$$H_j = \{[x_0 : \cdots : x_n] \in \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) \mid \sum_{i=0}^n a_{ij} x_i = 0\},$$

where $a_{ij}, 0 \leq i \leq n$, are entire functions without common zeros for each $1 \leq j \leq q$. For each j , there exists j_0 such that $a_{j_0, j} \neq 0$. Let $b_{ij} = a_{ij}/a_{j_0, j}$. Then b_{ij} are meromorphic functions with the property that, for $1 \leq j \leq q$, $T_{b_{ij}}(r) \leq T_{H_j}(r)$.

Let $\mathbf{a}_j = (b_{0j}, \dots, b_{nj})$. Let $I \subset \{2, \dots, q\}$ be the index set with the property that $i \in I$ if and only if

$$T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_j}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}}(r) \leq \sum_{i=1}^q N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

We first show that $\#I \geq n+1$. After rearranging the index, we assume that $I = \{2, \dots, u\}$, and $u \leq n$. For dimensional reasons, $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_{n+1}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{2n+1}\}$ is always linearly dependent over $\mathcal{M}$, i.e.

$$c_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + c_{n+1} \mathbf{a}_{n+1} + \dots + c_{2n+1} \mathbf{a}_{2n+1} = 0.$$

Moreover, since these linear forms are in general position, we can solve for $c_1, c_{n+1}, \dots, c_{2n+2}$ explicitly. In fact, let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{n+1,0} & \dots & a_{n+1,n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{2n+1,0} & \dots & a_{2n+1,n} \end{pmatrix},$$

and let $(-1)^{i-1} A_i$ be the determinant of the matrix obtained by deleting the i -th row, $1 \leq i \leq n+2$, from A ; then $c_1 = A_1, c_{n+1} = A_2, \dots, c_{2n+1} = A_{n+2}$. For such $c_1, c_{n+1}, \dots, c_{2n+1}$, since $T_{b_{ij}}(r) \leq T_{H_j}(r)$, we have

$$T_{c_1}(r) \leq O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right),$$

and, for $n+1 \leq j \leq 2n+1$,

$$T_{c_j}(r) \leq O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right).$$

After rearranging the index we will have an equation

$$c_1 \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1 + c_{n+1} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{n+1} + \dots + c_w \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_w = 0,$$

with no proper subsum vanishing. Therefore, similarly to (3.5), we conclude that

$$T_{\frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{n+1}}{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}}(r) \leq \sum_{t=1}^q N_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{a}_t}^{(n)}(r, 0) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

This contradicts the fact that $n+1$ is not in I . Thus $\#I \geq n+1$. By the “in general position” assumption, any $n+1$ hyperplanes in $\mathcal{H}$ are linearly independent. Therefore, similarly to (3.11), we can derive the following inequality:

$$(3.12) \quad T_f(r) \leq \sum_{j=1}^q n N_f^{(n)}(r, H_j) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

We now deduce the inequality of the theorem by induction on q . Let $\mathcal{H}_\gamma$ be a subset of $\mathcal{H}$ consisting of $\gamma \geq 2n+1$ elements. When $\gamma = 2n+1$, this is done by

(3.12). By the induction assumption

$$(3.13) \quad \frac{\gamma}{2n+1} T_f(r) \leq \sum_{H \in \mathcal{H}_\gamma} nN_f^{(n)}(r, H) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r))$$

for any subset $\mathcal{H}_\gamma$ of $\mathcal{H}$ consisting of $\gamma \geq 2n+1$ elements. For $\mathcal{H}_{\gamma+1}$, we can choose γ linear forms at a time and apply (3.13). This gives $\gamma+1$ inequalities like (3.13). Summing up these $\gamma+1$ inequalities, we have

$$\frac{\gamma+1}{2n+1} T_f(r) \leq \sum_{j=1}^q nN_f^{(n)}(r, H_j) + O\left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq q} T_{H_i}(r)\right) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2. $\square$

4. SOME RESULTS ON ABC VARIETY

Motivated by Theorem 1.1, we introduce the concept of ABC variety. The definition is similar to the concept introduced by Buim (cf. [Bu]) in the function field case. For more discussions in this direction, see [W]. Let V be a smooth complex projective variety. Let A be an ample divisor on X . The characteristic (or height) function of f with respect to A is defined by

$$T_A(r, f) = \int_0^r \int_{\Delta_t} f^* c_1(A) \frac{dt}{t},$$

where $c_1(A)$ is the first Chern form of the line bundle $[A]$ associated with A . Since, with respect to different ample divisors, the characteristic functions of f differ only by a constant multiple plus a bounded term, we denote $T_A(r, f)$ simply by $T_f(r)$ for some ample divisor A . Let D be an effective divisor. The proximity function $m_f(r, D)$ is defined by

$$m_f(r, D) = \int_0^{2\pi} \log \frac{1}{\|s(f(re^{i\theta}))\|} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi},$$

where s is the canonical section of $[D]$. The truncated counting function $N_f^{(n)}(r, D)$ of f is the same as what we defined in Section 1.

Definition. Let V be a smooth projective variety defined over $\mathbb{C}$ of dimension n . Let D be an effective divisor over V . The pair (V, D) is called an **ABC-variety** if there is a positive constant C such that for all holomorphic map $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow V$,

$$(4.1) \quad T_f(r) \leq CN_f^{(n)}(r, D) + O_{exc}(\log^+ T_f(r)).$$

Theorem 1.1 implies that $(\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}), \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H)$ is an ABC-variety if $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate. We now prove that they are in fact equivalent.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a finite set of hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$. Then*

$$(\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}), \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H)$$

is an ABC-variety if and only if $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$. Or equivalently, $(\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}), \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H)$ is an ABC-variety if and only if $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$ is Brody hyperbolic.

In fact, if $(\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}), \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H)$ is an *ABC*-variety, then (4.1) holds, so it implies that $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$ is Brody hyperbolic. By the result of [Ru1], $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$ is Brody hyperbolic if and only if $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$. This, together with Theorem 1.1, implies Theorem 4.1. Below, for completeness, we include a proof which contains the step that explains why $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$ Brody hyperbolic implies $\mathcal{H}$ non-degenerate.

Proof of Theorem 4.1. As we indicated, we only need to prove that if $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) - \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$ is an *ABC*-variety, then $\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate. To prove this, we first recall a result from [Ru1].

Proposition (Ru). *$\mathcal{H}$ is non-degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$ if and only if for every $\mathcal{H}$ -admissible subspace V of $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ of projective dimension greater than or equal to one, $\mathcal{H} \cap V$ contains at least three distinct hyperplanes which are linearly dependent over $\mathbb{C}$, where V is called $\mathcal{H}$ -admissible if V is not contained in any hyperplane in $\mathcal{H}$.*

Assume that $\mathcal{H}$ is degenerate over $\mathbb{C}$. Then the above proposition implies that there exists an $\mathcal{H}$ -admissible subspace V of $\mathbb{P}^n$ of projective dimension greater than or equal to 1 such that $\mathcal{H} \cap V$ does not contain at least three distinct hyperplanes which are linearly dependent over $\mathbb{C}$. After a linear change of basis we may assume that $V = \mathbb{P}^m, m \leq n$. Then $\mathcal{H} \cap V$ contains exactly q distinct hyperplanes which are linearly independent over $\mathbb{C}$, and $q \leq n + 1$. Obviously there is a non-constant holomorphic map $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ which omits these coordinate hyperplanes. On the other hand, by our assumption, $(\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}), \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H)$ is an *ABC*-variety; thus (4.1) holds for $D = \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$. This implies that f must be constant. This leads to a contradiction. $\square$

Finally, we conjecture that (V, D) is an *ABC*-variety if and only if $V - D$ is Kobayashi hyperbolic.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The first author wishes to thank the Institute of Mathematics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, for kind hospitality and financial support while part of the work on this paper took place.

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