

Partially Hyperbolic Compact Complex Manifolds

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Starting point

If X is an Oeljeklaus-Toma (O-T) manifold, its universal cover is

$$\tilde{X} = \mathbb{H}^p \times \mathbb{C}^q,$$

for some p, q such that $p + q = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$, where

\mathbb{H} is the upper half-plane of \mathbb{C} (a typical hyperbolic manifold)

\mathbb{C}^q is very non-hyperbolic.

(I) Definition (Kasuya-P. 2023)

Let X be a compact complex manifold with $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$. Let $p \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$. Suppose:

- $\exists E \subset T^{1,0}X$ a C^∞ complex vector subbundle, $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{C}} E \geq p$;
- $\exists \omega_E \geq 0, \exists \omega_{nE} \geq 0$ C^∞ (1, 1)-forms on X

such that

- (i) $\omega := \omega_E + \omega_{nE} > 0$ on X (i.e. ω is a *Hermitian metric*);
- (ii) $\omega_E(x)(\xi, \bar{\xi}) > 0 \quad \forall x \in X, \forall \xi \in E_x \subset T_x^{1,0}X$;
- (iii) $\omega_{nE}(x)(\xi, \bar{\xi}) = 0 \quad \forall x \in X, \forall \xi \in E_x \subset T_x^{1,0}X$;
- (iv) $\Omega := \frac{\omega_E^p}{p!}$ is *d-closed* and *\tilde{d} (bounded)* on (X, ω) .

Then, X is **partially p -Kähler hyperbolic** in the *E -directions*.

The triple $(E, \Omega, \omega = \omega_E + \omega_{nE})$ is called a **partially p -Kähler hyperbolic structure** on X .

Observation

(a) *If $p \leq n - 2$ and $\omega_E > 0$ in all directions, then ω_E is a **Kähler metric***

on X . Otherwise, the manifold X need not be Kähler.

(b) *If $p = n - 1$ and $\omega_E > 0$ in all directions, we can choose $E = T^{1,0}X$ and $\omega_{nE} = 0$. Then, the manifold (X, ω_E) is **balanced hyperbolic***

(Marouani-P. 2022).

(II) Let

$$f : \mathbb{C}^q \longrightarrow (X, \omega)$$

be a holomorphic map, $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$ and $q \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$.

Suppose f is non-degenerate at some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^q$:

$$d_{x_0} f : \mathbb{C}^q \longrightarrow T_{x_0}^{1,0} X \quad \text{has maximal rank.}$$

Let

$$\Sigma_f := \left\{ x \in \mathbb{C}^q \mid f \text{ is degenerate at } x \right\} \subset \mathbb{C}^q$$

a proper analytic subset.

Then: $f^* \omega \geq 0$ on \mathbb{C}^q and $f^* \omega > 0$ on $\mathbb{C}^q \setminus \Sigma_f$.

($f^* \omega$ is a degenerate Hermitian metric on X .)

(i) For every $r > 0$, the (ω, f) -*volume* of the ball $B_r \subset \mathbb{C}^q$ is

$$\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r) := \int_{B_r} f^* \omega_q > 0.$$

(ii) For $z \in \mathbb{C}^q$, let $\tau(z) := |z|^2$ be its squared Euclidean norm. At every point $z \in \mathbb{C}^q \setminus \Sigma_f$, we have:

$$\frac{d\tau}{|d\tau|_{f^*\omega}} \wedge \star_{f^*\omega} \left(\frac{d\tau}{|d\tau|_{f^*\omega}} \right) = f^* \omega_q, \quad (1)$$

where $\star_{f^*\omega}$ is the [Hodge star operator](#) induced by $f^*\omega$.

Thus, the $(2q - 1)$ -form

$$d\sigma_{\omega, f} := \star f^*\omega \left(\frac{d\tau}{|d\tau|_{f^*\omega}} \right)$$

on $\mathbb{C}^q \setminus \Sigma_f$ is the [area measure](#) induced by $f^*\omega$ on the spheres of \mathbb{C}^q . This means that its restriction

$$d\sigma_{\omega, f, t} := \left(\star f^*\omega \left(\frac{d\tau}{|d\tau|_{f^*\omega}} \right) \right) |_{S_t} \quad (2)$$

is the [area measure](#) induced by the degenerate metric $f^*\omega$ on the sphere $S_t = \{\tau(z) = t^2\} \subset \mathbb{C}^q$ for every $t > 0$.

In particular, the [\(\$\omega, f\$ \)-area](#) of the sphere $S_r \subset \mathbb{C}^q$ is

$$A_{\omega, f}(S_r) = \int_{S_r} d\sigma_{\omega, f, r} > 0, \quad r > 0.$$

Definition (Marouani-P. 2022) $f : \mathbb{C}^q \longrightarrow X$ has **subexponential growth** if the following two conditions are satisfied:

(i) there exist constants $C_1 > 0$ and $r_0 > 0$ such that

$$\int_{S_t} |d\tau|_{f^*\omega} d\sigma_{\omega, f, t} \leq C_1 t \text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_t), \quad t > r_0;$$

(ii) for every constant $C > 0$, we have:

$$\limsup_{b \rightarrow +\infty} \left(\frac{b}{C} - \log \int_0^b \text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_t) dt \right) = +\infty.$$

Definition

$f : \mathbb{C}^q \longrightarrow X$ is **E -horizontal** if $\forall x \in X$,

$$\text{Im} \left(d_x f : \mathbb{C}^q \longrightarrow T_x^{1,0} X \right) \subset E_x \subset T_x^{1,0} X.$$

Definition (Kasuya-P. 2023)

X is **partially p -hyperbolic** if $\exists E \subset T^{1,0} X$ C^∞ complex vector subbundle, $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{C}} E \geq p$, such that

$\nexists E$ -horizontal holomorphic map $f : \mathbb{C}^p \longrightarrow X$ with the properties:

- f is *non-degenerate* at some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^p$;
- f has *subexponential growth*.

Theorem A (Kasuya-P. 2023)

X is *partially p -Kähler hyperbolic* \implies X is *partially p -hyperbolic*

Idea of proof. By contradiction: suppose \exists a map $f : \mathbb{C}^p \longrightarrow X$ as above. Then, f lifts to a map $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{C}^p \longrightarrow \tilde{X}$ such that $f = \pi_X \circ \tilde{f}$. Put $\tilde{\omega} := \pi_X^* \omega$ on \tilde{X} .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \tilde{X} & \\
 \tilde{f} \nearrow & & \downarrow \pi_X \\
 \mathbb{C}^p & \xrightarrow{f} & (X, \omega)
 \end{array}$$

$$\pi_X^* \Omega = d\tilde{\Gamma} \quad \text{on } \tilde{X}, \quad \text{with } \tilde{\Gamma} \text{ } \tilde{\omega}\text{-bounded}$$

$$\Omega := \frac{\omega_E^p}{p!} \quad \text{on } X$$

- $f^* \omega = f^* \omega_E$ on \mathbb{C}^p (since f is E -horizontal)
- $f^* \Omega = \tilde{f}^* (\pi_X^* \Omega) = d(\tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma})$ on \mathbb{C}^p , where $\tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma}$ is $(f^* \omega)$ -bounded

For every $r > 0$, we compute $\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)$ in two ways:

- Using **Fubini**:

$$\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r) := \int_{B_r} f^* \omega_p = \int_0^r \left(\int_{S_t} d\mu_{\omega, f, t} \right) dt \stackrel{\text{Hölder}}{\geq} \dots$$

(depends on $A_{\omega, f}(S_t)$, with $t \in [0, r]$)

- Using **Stokes** (and the [partial \$p\$ -Kähler hyperbolicity](#) assumption):

$$\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r) = \int_{B_r} f^* \Omega = \int_{B_r} d(\tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma}) = \int_{S_r} \tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma} \leq \text{Const } A_{\omega, f}(S_r)$$

since $\tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma}$ is $\tilde{\omega}$ -bounded in \mathbb{C}^p .

Then, we get a contradiction via a [Gronwall Lemma](#)-type argument.

(III) Examples

O-T manifolds: $X = G/\Lambda$ solvmanifolds

(G is a solvable Lie group, $\Lambda \subset G$ is a lattice)

Specifically: given positive integers s and t , G is the Lie group defined as the semi-direct product

$$G = \mathbb{R}^s \rtimes_{\phi} (\mathbb{R}^s \oplus \mathbb{C}^t)$$

via the map

$$\phi : \mathbb{R}^s \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^s \oplus \mathbb{C}^t),$$

$$\phi(x) = \text{diag} \left(e^{x_1}, \dots, e^{x_s}, e^{\psi_1(x)}, \dots, e^{\psi_t(x)} \right),$$

where $x = (x_1, \dots, x_s) \in \mathbb{R}^s$ and $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_t : \mathbb{R}^s \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are functions

of the shape

$$\psi_j(x) = \sum_{k=1}^s a_{jk} x_k, \quad j = 1, \dots, t,$$

with **constant coefficients** $a_{jk} \in \mathbb{C}$, while diag stands for the diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are those indicated.

$$\text{In } G = \mathbb{R}^s \times_{\phi} (\mathbb{R}^s \oplus \mathbb{C}^t),$$

$x = (x_1, \dots, x_s)$ is the variable in the first copy of \mathbb{R}^s ;

$y = (y_1, \dots, y_s)$ is the variable in the second copy of \mathbb{R}^s ;

$z = (z_1, \dots, z_t)$ the variable of \mathbb{C}^t .

We get C^∞ (1, 0)-forms on G :

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_j &= dx_j + ie^{-x_j} dy_j, & j &= 1, \dots, s, \\ \beta_k &= e^{-\psi_k} dz_k, & k &= 1, \dots, t.\end{aligned}$$

They induce:

- an *invariant complex structure* on G ;
- C^∞ (1, 0)-forms (denoted by the same symbols) and a *complex structure* on the solvmanifold $X = G/\Lambda$, for any *lattice* $\Lambda \subset G$.

A natural *Hermitian metric* on X is

$$\begin{aligned}\omega &= i\alpha_1 \wedge \bar{\alpha}_1 + \dots + i\alpha_s \wedge \bar{\alpha}_s + i\beta_1 \wedge \bar{\beta}_1 + \dots + i\beta_t \wedge \bar{\beta}_t > 0 \\ &= \omega_E + \omega_n E.\end{aligned}$$

Main observation *On X , we have:*

$$\Omega = \omega_E = d\left(2i\alpha_1 + \cdots + 2i\alpha_s\right).$$

Conclusion *These solvmanifolds (containing all the O - T manifolds) are partially 1-Kähler hyperbolic.*

Recall the construction of **O-T manifolds**

- Let $K \supset \mathbb{Q}$ be a **finite extension field** of degree $s + 2t$ admitting **real embeddings**

$$\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s : K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

and **complex embeddings**

$$\sigma_{s+1}, \dots, \sigma_{s+2t} : K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

such that

$$\sigma_{s+i} = \overline{\sigma_{s+i+t}}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, t\}.$$

- Let U be a **free subgroup** of rank s of the **group of units** in the ring \mathcal{O}_K (= the algebraic integers satisfying certain conditions).

(i) Associate with (K, U) , via suitable functions $\psi_j : \mathbb{R}^s \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ as above, a *lattice*

$$\Lambda \simeq U \rtimes \mathcal{O}_K \subset G.$$

(ii) Associate with Λ the *O-T manifold*

$$X := G/\Lambda.$$

(IV) Ahlfors currents

(1) **Background** Let:

- (X, ω) be a **compact** complex hermitian manifold, $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$;
- $f : \mathbb{C}^p \longrightarrow (X, \omega)$ be a **holomorphic** map, non-degenerate at some point $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^p$ ($1 \leq p \leq n - 1$);

Consider, for every $r > 0$:

- $[B_r] \geq 0$ the **current of integration** on the ball $B_r \subset \mathbb{C}^p$;
(bidimension (p, p) -current in \mathbb{C}^p , so of bidegree $(0, 0)$)
- the **direct-image current** $f_{\star}[B_r] \geq 0$
(a **strongly positive** bidegree $(n - p, n - p)$ -current in X)

The current

$$T_r := \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} f_*[B_r] \geq 0$$

has **unit mass** w.r.t. ω in X :

$$\int_X T_r \wedge \omega_p = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} \int_{\mathbb{C}^p} [B_r] \wedge f^* \omega_p = 1, \quad \forall r > 0.$$

Therefore, $\exists (T_{r_\nu})_{\nu \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $T_{r_\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{weakly}} T \geq 0$ in X .

So, T is a **strongly positive** bidegree $(n - p, n - p)$ -current in X .

Observation T need not be closed.

Indeed, Stokes yields: $d[B_r] = -[S_r] \neq 0$ for all $r > 0$.

Definition (standard)

T is called an **Ahlfors current** if $dT = 0$.

Question

When does an Ahlfors current exist?

De Thélin (2010) gave sufficient conditions.

(2) **Our result:** in the spirit of this work

Theorem (Kasuya-P. 2023)

Suppose $\exists f : \mathbb{C}^p \longrightarrow (X, \omega)$ holomorphic map, non-degenerate at some point.

If

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{A_{\omega, f}(S_r)}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} = 0, \quad (\star)$$

then $\exists (T_{r_\nu})_{\nu \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $T_{r_\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{weakly}} T \geq 0$ in X with $dT = 0$.

So, T is an Ahlfors current.

Idea of proof. This follows from the estimate:

$$\|\partial T_r\| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{A_{\omega, f}(S_r)}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)}, \quad r > 0,$$

that is proved using integral estimates handled differently to De Thélin's treatment.

The norm $\|\cdot\|$ used on bidegree $(n - p + 1, n - p)$ -currents (such as ∂T_r) on X is defined as follows:

- consider the closed unit ball of C^∞ forms of bidegree $(p - 1, p)$ with respect to the C^0 -norm induced by the metric ω :

$$\mathcal{F}_\omega(p-1, p) := \left\{ \psi \in C_{p-1, p}^\infty(X, \mathbb{C}) \mid \|\psi\|_{C_\omega^0} := \max_{x \in X} |\psi(x)|_\omega \leq 1 \right\}$$

- for every bidegree- $(n - p + 1, n - p)$ -current S on X , set

$$\|S\| := \sup_{\psi \in \mathcal{F}_\omega(p-1, p)} |\langle S, \psi \rangle|.$$

(3) Link with partial hyperbolicity

Definition (Kasuya-P. 2023)

Let $E \subset T^{1,0}X$ be a complex vector subbundle with $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{C}}E = p \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, where $n = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}X$.

X is said to be **strongly partially p -hyperbolic** in the E -directions if $\nexists f : \mathbb{C}^p \rightarrow X$ holomorphic such that:

(i) f is *non-degenerate* at some $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}^p$;

(ii) f is *E -horizontal*;

(iii) f satisfies the *growth condition* (\star) :

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{A_{\omega, f}(S_r)}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} = 0.$$

Theorem (Kasuya-P. 2023)

X is partially p -Kähler hyperbolic in the E -directions

$\Downarrow (a)$

X is strongly partially p -hyperbolic in the E -directions

$\Downarrow (b)$

X is partially p -hyperbolic in the E -directions.

Proof of (a). By contradiction: suppose an E -horizontal holomorphic map $f : \mathbb{C}^p \rightarrow X$ that is non-degenerate at some point and satisfies the growth condition (\star) existed.

$$f \text{ is } E\text{-horizontal} \implies f^*\omega = f^*\omega_E \implies f^*\omega_p = f^*\Omega = d(\tilde{f}^*\tilde{\Gamma})$$

on \mathbb{C}^p , where

$\tilde{\Gamma}$ is the $\tilde{\omega}$ -bounded $(2p - 1)$ -form on the universal cover \tilde{X} with the property

$$\pi_X^* \Omega = d\tilde{\Gamma}$$

given by the p -Kähler hyperbolicity hypothesis on X .

We get:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} \int_{B_r} f^* \omega_p = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} \int_{B_r} d(\tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma}) = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} \int_{S_r} \tilde{f}^* \tilde{\Gamma} \\ &\leq \frac{C}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)} \int_{S_r} \sigma_{\omega, f, r} = C \frac{A_{\omega, f}(S_r)}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_r)}, \quad r > 0, \end{aligned}$$

contradicting the growth hypothesis (\star) on f .

(V) Curvature sign and partial hyperbolicity

Recall (Kobayashi 1967)

Let (X, ω) be a Hermitian manifold.

If the holomorphic sectional curvature of (X, ω) is $\leq -C$, for some constant $C > 0$,

then

X is Kobayashi hyperbolic.

Our case

(a) Brief reminder of a construction from [P.2022]

(X, ω) compact complex Hermitian manifold, $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$;

The multiplication map:

$$\omega_{n-2} \wedge \cdot : \Lambda^{1,1} T^* X \longrightarrow \Lambda^{n-1, n-1} T^* X$$

is **bijjective**. Hence:

$$\exists ! \rho_{\omega} \in C_{1,1}^{\infty}(X, \mathbb{R}) \quad \text{such that} \quad i\partial\bar{\partial}\omega_{n-2} = \omega_{n-2} \wedge \rho_{\omega}.$$

An explicit computation yields:

$$\star\rho_\omega = \frac{1}{n-1} \frac{\omega \wedge i\partial\bar{\partial}\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_n} \omega_{n-1} - i\partial\bar{\partial}\omega_{n-2}.$$

This throws up the C^∞ function $f_\omega : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$f_\omega := \frac{\omega \wedge i\partial\bar{\partial}\omega_{n-2}}{\omega_n}.$$

- the [function](#) f_ω plays a role similar in certain respects to the [scalar curvature](#) of ω ;
- the [\(\$n-1, n-1\$ \)-form](#)

$$\star\rho_\omega = \frac{1}{n-1} f_\omega \omega_{n-1} - i\partial\bar{\partial}\omega_{n-2}$$

plays a role similar to various curvature forms (e.g. Ricci).

Definition (P. 2022)

The metric ω is said to be **pluriclosed star split** if

$$\partial\bar{\partial}(\star\rho_\omega) = 0.$$

Theorem (P. 2022)

Suppose X is **compact**, $n = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}X \geq 3$.

(i) If ω is **pluriclosed star split**, then

$$f_\omega > 0 \text{ on } X \quad \text{or} \quad f_\omega < 0 \text{ on } X \quad \text{or} \quad f_\omega = 0 \text{ on } X.$$

(ii) If $f_\omega = \text{Const} \neq 0$, then

$$\omega \text{ is } \text{pluriclosed star split} \iff \omega \text{ Gauduchon.}$$

(iii) If ω is **Gauduchon**, then

$$\omega \text{ is } \text{pluriclosed star split} \iff f_\omega = \text{Const.}$$

(iv) If ω is *balanced* and *pluriclosed star split*, then

$$f_\omega = \text{Const} \geq 0.$$

Question (P. 2022)

When ω is *pluriclosed star split*, does the sign of f_ω depend only on the complex structure of X ?

- **Yes** if X is a complex *nilmanifold* of complex dimension 3.

(follows from Fino-Ugarte 2013)

- **Open** in general.

(b) Link with partial hyperbolicity

Definition $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$

Let

- $E \subset T^{1,0} X$ be a C^∞ complex vector *subbundle* with $\text{rk} E = p \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$;
- Ω be a *real* (p, p) -form on X .

Ω is **negative in the E -directions** $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall x_0 \in X \exists C^\infty$ frame $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_p\}$ of E on a neighbourhood U of x_0 such that

$$\Omega(\xi_1, \bar{\xi}_1, \dots, \xi_p, \bar{\xi}_p) < 0, \quad \forall x \in U.$$

Theorem (Kasuya-P. 2023)

Let

- X be a *compact* complex manifold, $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$;
- $E \subset T^{1,0}X$ be a C^∞ complex vector *subbundle* with $\text{rk} E = n - 1$.

If $\exists \omega$ *Hermitian metric* on X such that

- $f_\omega > 0$ on X ;
- the $(n - 1, n - 1)$ -form $\star \rho_\omega$ is *negative* in the *E -directions*

then

X is *strongly partially* $(n - 1)$ -*hyperbolic* in the *E -directions*.

Proof. By contradiction: suppose $\exists f : \mathbb{C}^{n-1} \longrightarrow X$ holomorphic, non-degenerate at some point,

E-horizontal and satisfying the growth condition (\star) .

Then, f induces an Ahlfors current

$$T = \lim_{r_\nu \rightarrow +\infty} T_{r_\nu} \geq 0 \quad \text{bidegree } (1, 1) \text{ - current on } X.$$

We get:

(a) on the one hand, from $dT = 0$ and the formula for $\star\rho_\omega$, we get, via Stokes:

$$\int_X T \wedge \star\rho_\omega = \frac{1}{n-1} \int_X f_\omega T \wedge \omega_{n-1} > 0,$$

where the inequality follows from the hypothesis $f_\omega > 0$ and the property $T \geq 0$ (with $T \neq 0$).

(b) on the other hand,

f is E -horizontal and $\star\rho_\omega$ is negative in the E -directions \implies

$f^*(\star\rho_\omega)$ is a negative $(n-1, n-1)$ -form on \mathbb{C}^{n-1} .

Therefore, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_X T \wedge \star\rho_\omega &= \lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty} \int_X T_{r_\nu} \wedge \star\rho_\omega \\ &= \lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{\omega, f}(B_{r_\nu})} \int_{B_{r_\nu}} f^\star(\star\rho_\omega) \leq 0.\end{aligned}$$

This [contradicts](#) the inequality obtained under (a). q.e.d.