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Adjunction inequality and coverings of Stein surfaces

Stefan Nemirovski

Abstract

A stronger form of the adjunction inequality is proved for immersed real surfaces in non simply-connected Stein surfaces. The result is applied to the geometry of Stein domains and analytic continuation on complex surfaces.

1. Introduction

A complex manifold X is Stein if it admits a strictly plurisubharmonic exhaustion function $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. (A C^2 -smooth function on a complex manifold is called strictly plurisubharmonic if $dd^c\varphi$ is a Kähler form.) Every connected component of a regular sublevel set $\{x \in X \mid \varphi(x) < r\}$ is a strictly pseudoconvex Stein domain, which provides an important example of an exact symplectic manifold with contact boundary.

Applying Morse theory to a perturbation of φ , one shows that X is diffeomorphic to the interior of a (infinite) handlebody without handles of index greater than the complex dimension of X . If X is a Stein complex surface, i.e. $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = 2$, then there are further (and subtler) restrictions on the representatives of 2-dimensional homology classes. Namely, if $\Sigma \subset X$ is a closed oriented real surface of genus g embedded in X , then the following *adjunction inequality* holds:

$$[\Sigma] \cdot [\Sigma] + |\langle c_1(X), [\Sigma] \rangle| \leq 2g - 2 \quad (1)$$

provided that Σ is *not* an embedded 2-sphere with trivial homology class $[\Sigma] \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$.

Inequality (1) was independently derived by Lisca–Matić and the author from similar inequalities for real surfaces in compact Kähler surfaces and the algebraic approximation theorem for Stein manifolds (see [16], [8], and [18] for details and bibliography). Alternatively, one can argue that a strictly pseudoconvex Stein domain has a unique Spin^c -structure with non-zero Seiberg–Witten invariant (in the sense of Kronheimer–Mrowka [14]) whereas a homologically non-trivial embedded surface violating (1) would yield another such structure by the work of Ozsváth–Szabó [21].

The present note explores homotopy theoretic consequences of the adjunction inequality. One result concerns the “exceptional” case of homologically trivial two-spheres.

Theorem 1.1. *A smoothly embedded two-sphere in a Stein complex surface violates adjunction inequality (1) if and only if its **homotopy** class is trivial.*

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Let \mathcal{S} be an isotopy class of immersed closed real surfaces not necessarily orientable in a complex surface X . Then the following are equivalent

- there exists a surface $S \in \mathcal{S}$ with a Stein neighbourhood base
- there exist a surface $S \in \mathcal{S}$ and a Stein domain $U \subset S$ such that the homomorphisms of homotopy groups $\pi_* S \rightarrow \pi_* U$ are injective
- $e(T^*S) = e(\nu_S) - c_1(X) \cdot [S]$, for every surface $S \in \mathcal{S}$.

Here e denotes the Euler number of a vector bundle, and $c_1(X)$ for non-orientable X .

$$2 \quad \pi_* \quad \pi_* U$$

$$P^2$$

Any covering of a Stein complex manifold is Stein.

Y > Y
homeomorphic

Suppose that Y is an open n -manifold such that Y is diffeomorphic to a Stein complex surface. Then every embedded n -sphere in Y bounds a homotopy n -ball.

Proof. $S \subset Y$ Y $S \subset Y$
 Y Y S
 Y Y S \square

M $M^{(n)}$
 n M If the smooth manifold $M^{(n)}$ admits a Stein complex structure, then n and M is a homotopy n -sphere

M $M^{(n)}$
 n M $M^{(n)}$
 4
 2

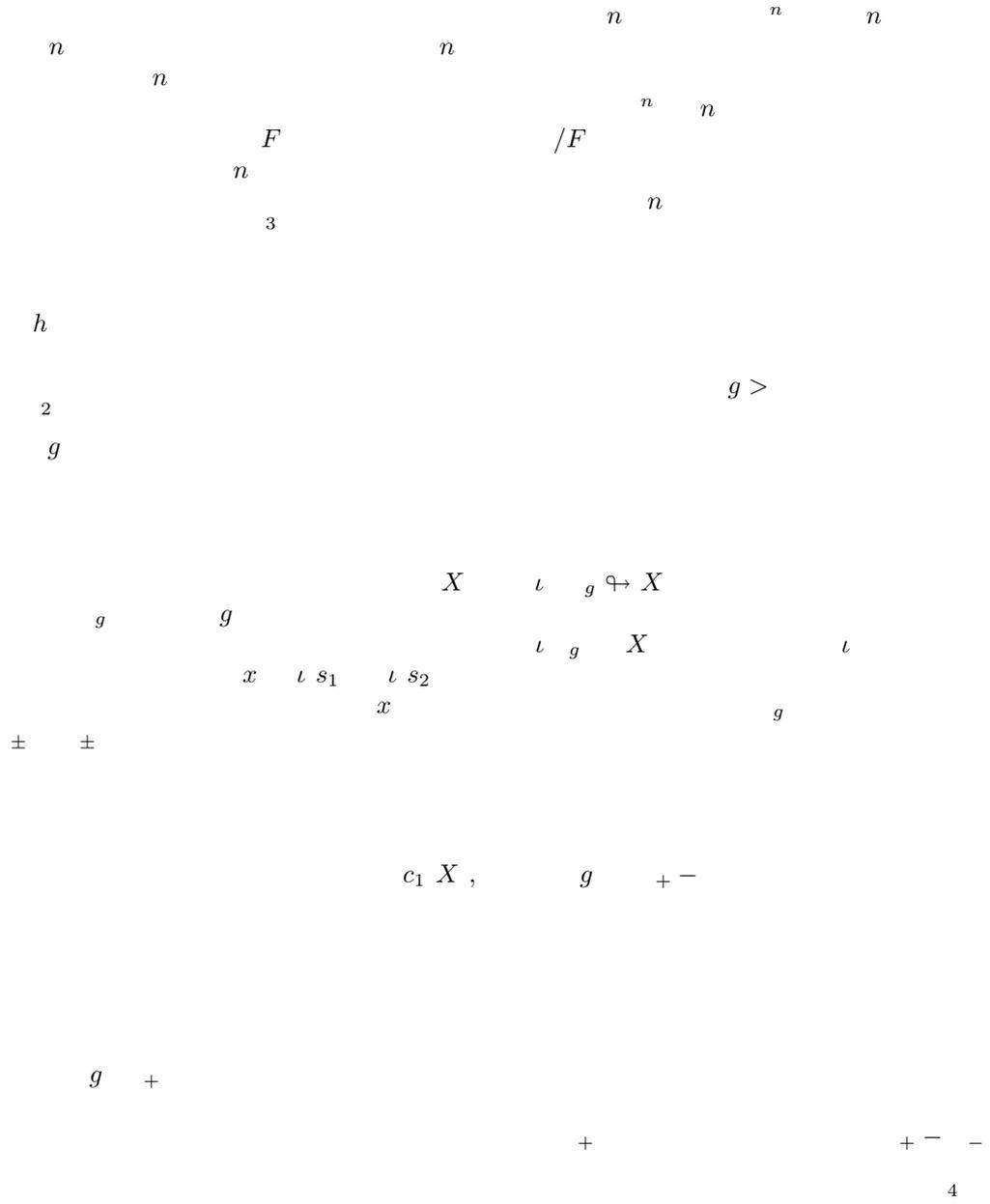
U U $S \subset U$ 2

All holomorphic functions in U can be holomorphically extended to a Riemann domain $\tilde{U} \supset U$ in which S becomes homotopically trivial.

W W V p_V V 2 j V W p_V V p_W j p_V
 Warning V 2 j j

Proof. \tilde{U} U \tilde{U} U
 \tilde{U} S \tilde{U} S
 U 2 \tilde{U} 2 S
 \tilde{U} S 2 \square

NE ROV



$$\begin{array}{c}
 x \quad \iota \quad s_1 \quad \iota \quad s_2 \\
 x \\
 \iota_* \pi_1 \quad g \quad \pi_1 \quad X \\
 x \quad \iota \quad g \\
 X \quad \pm \quad \text{ess} \quad \pm \quad \text{ess} \quad , X \quad \text{essential}
 \end{array}$$

4

Let $\iota : g \rightarrow X$ be an immersed real surface in a Stein complex surface. Then either ι is a homotopically trivial two-sphere or

$$c_1(X), \quad g = \left(+ - \frac{\text{ess}}{-} \right) - .$$

Proof.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \iota_* \pi_1 \quad g \quad \pi_1 \quad X \\
 \hat{\iota} \quad g \\
 H_2 \hat{X} \quad \pi_2 \hat{X} \\
 \hat{X} \\
 c_1 \hat{X}, \quad g \quad + \quad - \quad .
 \end{array}$$

Each lift of ι is an immersed surface $\hat{\iota} : g \rightarrow \hat{X}$ such that

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \pm \quad \hat{\iota} \quad \pm \quad - \quad \frac{\text{ess}}{\pm} \quad , X \\
 c_1 \hat{X}, \quad \hat{\iota} \quad c_1 X, \quad \frac{\text{ess}}{+} \quad , X \quad \frac{\text{ess}}{-} \quad , X
 \end{array}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \hat{X} \quad \hat{x} \\
 p \quad \hat{X} \\
 \nu \quad \iota^* TX/T \quad g \quad \nu \quad \hat{X} \quad \nu \\
 e \nu \quad + \quad - \quad - \quad ,
 \end{array}$$

$\widehat{e \nu}$

$$c_1 \widehat{X}, \widehat{p^* c_1 X}, \widehat{c_1 X}, p_* \widehat{c_1 X}, \widehat{c_1 X},$$

□

$$C^0, Y, g, c_1 Y, g, + - - -, Y$$

$$e T, \chi_g, e T, e \nu, c_1 Y, - g, e \nu, - + - -$$

$U, Y, -$

Let \mathcal{I} be an isotopy class of immersions of g into a complex surface. Suppose that there exist a surface S and a Stein domain U such that the homomorphisms of homotopy groups $\pi_* S \rightarrow \pi_* U$ are injective. Then every surface in \mathcal{I} satisfies inequality (1) and there exists a surface S' with a Stein neighbourhood base.

Proof. $\iota_g: g \rightarrow S$, $\pi_1 S \rightarrow \pi_1 U$

□

$$g, \iota_g, + - -$$

$$g + - - <$$

$$- - + - g$$

$$g +$$

$$S^2$$

the double point loop of the negative double point of S bounds an immersed disc in the envelope of holomorphy of any domain $U \subset S$

$$P^2$$

$$Y$$

adjunction formula

$$- c_1 Y, \quad g + - - - .$$

$$c_1 Y,$$

$$P^2$$

$$P^2$$

$$\begin{matrix} P^2 \\ P^2 \end{matrix}$$

$$P^2$$

$$S \quad P^2$$

$$S$$

$$\begin{matrix} S' & P^2 \\ S' & \end{matrix}$$

$$C^0$$

$$P^2 \quad d \quad \begin{matrix} P^1 > \\ d \end{matrix} \quad P^2$$

$$U$$

$$U$$

$$P^2$$

$$\mathfrak{S}_h \underbrace{P^2 \quad P^2}_{h+1 \text{ times}}, \quad h \quad .$$

$\varepsilon >$ ρ $A_\varepsilon^{-2}\rho$
 $B(x, \varepsilon)$ $\varepsilon < /$ x X_r
 $X_{r'}$
 V V' ρ $A_\varepsilon^{-2}\rho$
 $\rho v - \rho v$ $\varepsilon <$ $\lambda \rho, v$ C^2
 V $p^{-1} X_r$ G G $X_{r'}$ X_r $\lambda \rho, v$
 $X_{r'}$ C^2 \square
 Ψv ρv $K p v$ v V
 Ψ ρv $K p v$
 Ψ
 $\lambda \Psi, v$ $\lambda \rho, v$ $K \lambda$ $, p v >$

.. ..

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