

Sobolev inequalities for $(0, q)$ forms on CR manifolds of finite type

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Introduction

- ▶ Goal: to study Sobolev inequalities for differential forms
- ▶ 3 parts of the talk:
 1. Known result: the exterior derivative d in \mathbb{R}^N (elliptic complex)
 2. Corresponding result for $\bar{\partial}_b$ complex (subelliptic)
 3. A key element in the proof: a decomposition lemma
- ▶ Shall focus almost entirely on the L^1 theory only

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The elliptic complex

- ▶ Work of Bourgain-Brezis, Lanzani-Stein and van Schaftingen
- ▶ Set-up: Introduce componentwise L^p norm on the space of q forms on \mathbb{R}^N
- ▶ d : Hodge de-Rham exterior derivative
 $d : q \text{ forms} \rightarrow (q + 1) \text{ forms}$
- ▶ d^* : adjoint of d under the Euclidean inner product
 $d^* : q \text{ forms} \rightarrow (q - 1) \text{ forms}$
- ▶ Question: Suppose u is a q form on \mathbb{R}^N and $du, d^*u \in L^1$.
What can we say about u ?
- ▶ If $q = 0$, du is just the gradient of u , so

$$du \in L^1 \Rightarrow u \in L^{\frac{N}{N-1}}.$$

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More generally

Theorem (Sobolev inequality for Hodge d)

If u is a compactly supported smooth q form on \mathbb{R}^N , and if $q \neq 1$ nor $N - 1$, then

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{N}{N-1}}} \leq C (\|du\|_{L^1} + \|d^*u\|_{L^1}).$$

- ▶ Result not true if $q = 1$ or $N - 1$ ('the forbidden degrees', dual to each other)
- ▶ Essence of the theorem is contained in the following L^1 -duality inequality:

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Theorem (L^1 -duality inequality)

If $f = (f_1, \dots, f_N)$ is a divergence free vector field on \mathbb{R}^N , i.e. if

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_j} = 0$$

with $f_j \in C_c^\infty$, then for any $\Phi \in C_c^\infty$,

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f_1 \Phi \right| \leq C \|f\|_{L^1} \|\nabla \Phi\|_{L^N}.$$

- ▶ Remedy of failure of embedding of $W^{1,N}$ into L^∞ on \mathbb{R}^N .
- ▶ Relevant to previous Sobolev inequality for q forms because every component of du and d^*u is a component of a divergence free vector field, to which we can apply this duality inequality.

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- ▶ Example: $q = 0$, u is a function, $du = \sum \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_j} dx_j$.

Each component of du is a component of a divergence free vector field: e.g. $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2}$ satisfies

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \left(-\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \right) = 0.$$

This is because $d \circ d = 0$.

- ▶ Similar phenomenon for d^*u , since $d^* \circ d^* = 0$.
- ▶ Works as long as du is not top form and d^*u is not a function, which is why we needed $q \neq 1$ nor $N - 1$.

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The subelliptic complex

- ▶ M : boundary of a bounded smooth pseudoconvex domain in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} , $n \geq 2$
- ▶ Question: Suppose u is $(0, q)$ form on M , and $\bar{\partial}_b u, \bar{\partial}_b^* u \in L^1$. What can you say about u ?
- ▶ Problem is subelliptic in nature:
 $\bar{\partial}_b u, \bar{\partial}_b^* u \in L^p$, $1 < p < \infty$ does NOT imply $u \in W^{1,p}$
- ▶ Will associate to M a non-isotropic dimension $Q > \dim_{\mathbb{R}}(M)$ and obtain a corresponding Sobolev inequality
- ▶ Recall that in Sobolev inequalities, the bigger the dimension, the less one gains in exponent
- ▶ But this is in the nature of subelliptic analysis, and we cannot hope to gain as much as in the elliptic setting

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We have the following Sobolev inequality for $\bar{\partial}_b$ on M :

Theorem (Y. 2009)

- ▶ Assume M is of finite commutator type m at every point i.e. Commutators of $Z_1, \dots, Z_n, \bar{Z}_1, \dots, \bar{Z}_n$ of length $\leq m$ span the tangent space to M , where Z_1, \dots, Z_n is a basis of holomorphic vector fields tangent to M
e.g. strongly pseudoconvex \Rightarrow commutator type 2
- ▶ Also assume M satisfy condition $D(q_0)$ for some $1 \leq q_0 \leq n/2$ i.e. there is a constant $C > 0$ such that for any point $x \in M$, the sum of any q_0 eigenvalues of the Levi form at x is bounded by C times any other such sum.
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- ▶ Assume M is of finite commutator type m at every point i.e. Commutators of $Z_1, \dots, Z_n, \bar{Z}_1, \dots, \bar{Z}_n$ of length $\leq m$ span the tangent space to M , where Z_1, \dots, Z_n is a basis of holomorphic vector fields tangent to M
e.g. strongly pseudoconvex \Rightarrow commutator type 2
- ▶ Also assume M satisfy condition $D(q_0)$ for some $1 \leq q_0 \leq n/2$ i.e. there is a constant $C > 0$ such that for any point $x \in M$, the sum of any q_0 eigenvalues of the Levi form at x is bounded by C times any other such sum.
e.g. strongly pseudoconvex \Rightarrow condition $D(1)$.

► Let $Q = 2n + m$.

(a) Let $u =$ smooth $(0, q)$ form on M orthogonal to $\text{Kernel}(\square_b)$, where $q_0 \leq q \leq n - q_0$ and $q \neq 1$ nor $n - 1$. Then

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{Q}{Q-1}}(M)} \lesssim \|\bar{\partial}_b u\|_{L^1(M)} + \|\bar{\partial}_b^* u\|_{L^1(M)}.$$

(b) Let $v =$ smooth $(0, q_0 - 1)$ form orthogonal to $\text{Kernel}(\bar{\partial}_b)$. Then

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Corollary

- ▶ M : boundary of a bounded smooth strongly pseudoconvex domain in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} , $n \geq 2$
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Remarks

- ▶ *There is also a version of these Sobolev inequalities for abstract CR manifolds.*
- ▶ *The proof of the Sobolev inequality for $\bar{\partial}_b$ relies on a subelliptic version of L^1 -duality inequality (to be stated on the next page), and the fact that $\bar{\partial}_b \circ \bar{\partial}_b = 0$.*
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- ▶ Assume they are linearly independent at 0, and their commutators of length $\leq r$ span at 0.
- ▶ Let $V_j(0)$ be the span of the restrictions of the commutators of X_1, \dots, X_n of length $\leq j$ to 0
- ▶ Let $Q = \sum_{j=1}^r j \cdot (\dim V_j(0) - \dim V_{j-1}(0))$
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- ▶ *Chanillo-van Schaftingen has proved the theorem above when the underlying space is a homogeneous group and X_1, \dots, X_n is a basis of vector fields of degree 1 on that group.*
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- ▶ X_1, \dots, X_n smooth real vector fields near 0 on \mathbb{R}^N
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A Model Example

- ▶ On \mathbb{R}^2 , use coordinates (x, t) , and let $X = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, $Y = x \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$.
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If $Xf_1 + Yf_2 = 0$ on \mathbb{R}^2 , with $f_1, f_2 \in C_c^\infty$, then for all $\Phi \in C_c^\infty$,

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- ▶ Recap: So far we have hinted at that

L^1 -duality inequality \Rightarrow Sobolev inequality for d

Subelliptic L^1 -duality inequality \Rightarrow Sobolev inequality for $\bar{\partial}_b$

because $d \circ d = 0$ and $\bar{\partial}_b \circ \bar{\partial}_b = 0$.

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Given any function $\Phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{N-1})$ and any $\lambda > 0$, there exists a decomposition $\Phi = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2$ such that

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To prove Euclidean Decomposition Lemma, it suffices to observe that

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Lemma (Subelliptic Decomposition Lemma in model example)

Given $\Phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$, for each $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lambda > 0$, there is a decomposition $\Phi = \Phi_1^a + \Phi_2^a$ on the hyperplane $\{x = a\}$ and an extension of Φ_2^a into the whole \mathbb{R}^2 such that

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- ▶ Key idea in its proof: *lifting*
(also important for the general case)
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$$\pi: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (x, y, t) \mapsto (x, t)$$

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- ▶ Another observation is that we actually obtained a *homogeneous group*, i.e. a group that carries an automorphic dilation

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Given $\Phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$, for each $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lambda > 0$, there is a decomposition $\Phi|_{\{x=a\}} = \Phi_1^a + \Phi_2^a$ on the hyperplane $\{x = a\}$ and an extension of Φ_2^a into the whole \mathbb{R}^2 such that

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- ▶ To prove lemma, fix $\lambda > 0$, $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

Let $\eta \in C_c^\infty$ be a bump function on the group \mathbb{R}^3 , $\int \eta = 1$.

The desired decomposition of $\Phi|_{\{x=a\}}$ is given by

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Integrate in v : **(Important!)**

$$\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{I}(a + u) \|\eta_1\left(\frac{u}{\tau}, v, w\right)\|_{L^{3/2}(dw)L^1(dv)} \tau^{-4 + \frac{4}{3} + 1} du$$

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Estimate by maximal function:

$$\leq C \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-C\tau}^{C\tau} \mathcal{I}(a + u) du \cdot \tau^{-4 + \frac{4}{3} + 1 + 1}$$

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This basically completes the proof of the model case.

Some difficulties in the general case are:

- ▶ In general one cannot expect the lifted vector fields be left-invariant under a group law; rather one can only *approximate* the lifted vector fields by left-invariant vector fields of a homogeneous group. Need to take care of error terms that arise.
- ▶ In general it is not possible to put a coordinate system on \mathbb{R}^N so that X_2, \dots, X_n are all tangent to level sets of x_1 . When X_1, \dots, X_n are linearly independent, a perturbation argument would work, but it is not clear whether the condition of linear independence is necessary.

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Further directions of exploration:

- ▶ Sobolev inequality for d on bounded smooth domains with boundaries
- ▶ Sobolev inequality for $\bar{\partial}$ on bounded pseudoconvex domains of finite type

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Thank you!