

**Thin Discs and a Modera Theorem
for CR Functions**

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THIN DISCS AND A MORERA THEOREM FOR CR FUNCTIONS

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Introduction

The classical Morera theorem says that a continuous function f in a domain $D \subset \mathbf{C}$ is holomorphic if $\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for any closed curve Γ in D .

There are generalizations of this theorem to domains and real hypersurfaces in \mathbf{C}^n . See [A] and [GS] and references there.

In this paper, we obtain a version of the Morera theorem for CR functions on manifolds of higher codimension.

Let M be a smooth real manifold in \mathbf{C}^n . Recall that M is generic if the tangent space $T_z M$ spans the whole space \mathbf{C}^n for $z \in M$. A CR function on M is a continuous function that satisfies the weak tangential Cauchy-Riemann equations. An analytic disc is a continuous mapping $A : \bar{\Delta} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^n$ holomorphic in the standard disc $\Delta = \{\zeta \in \mathbf{C} : |\zeta| < 1\}$. We say that the disc A is attached to M if it maps the circle $b\Delta$ to M , that is $A(b\Delta) \subset M$.

Let f be a continuous function on a real manifold $M \subset \mathbf{C}^n$. We say that f has the Morera property with respect to an analytic disc A attached to M if

$$\int_{b\Delta} f(A(\zeta)) d\zeta = 0. \quad (1)$$

Note that for any analytic disc A attached to M there are also discs attached to M that differ from A by a change of variable in Δ only. Let $A_c(\zeta) = A(\frac{\zeta-c}{1-\bar{c}\zeta})$, $c \in \mathbf{R}$, $|c| < 1$. If a function f has the Morera property (1) with respect to all the discs A_c , then

$$f \circ A|_{b\Delta} \text{ extends holomorphically inside } \Delta. \quad (2)$$

Agranovsky and Val'sky [AV], Nagel and Rudin [NR], Stout [S], and others (see [A], [GS]) show that if a continuous function f on a real hypersurface $M \subset \mathbf{C}^n$ satisfies (2) or even (1) for discs obtained as sections of M by complex lines, then f is a CR function on M .

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We prove the following theorem.

THEOREM. *Let f be a continuous function on a C^2 smooth generic manifold $M \subset \mathbf{C}^n$. Suppose f has the holomorphic extension property (2) for all analytic discs A attached to M . Then f is a CR function on M .*

Our goal is that the function f in Theorem is merely continuous. In case the function f is C^1 smooth, the conclusion of Theorem follows immediately by applying the holomorphic extendibility condition (2) to “infinitely small” discs attached to M .

In [T1] we prove an analogue of Theorem for $f \in C^1(M)$ without using arbitrarily small discs. Precisely, if (2) holds for all discs close to a given disc A , then f is CR in a neighborhood of $A(b\Delta)$. The author does not have a proof of this version for merely continuous functions.

Most of the results on the Morera theorem for hypersurfaces were obtained by applying harmonic analysis (see [A], [GS]). In particular, they use homogeneity of the family of complex lines in \mathbf{C}^n . In contrast, we do not use any group structure here. Our methods are based on polynomial approximations.

By Baouendi-Treves’s approximation theorem [BT], a continuous CR function is locally a uniform limit of complex polynomials. We show that if a continuous function f satisfies (2) for a special $(d - 1)$ parameter family of discs, where $d = \dim M$, then the approximation by polynomials still holds, whence f is a CR function.

To obtain the approximation result, we construct a family of discs that we call thin. These are discs stretched along complex tangential directions to M . We believe that the existence of such discs is of interest by itself.

Since our family of discs depends on $(d - 1)$ parameters, we can raise the following question. Does Theorem still hold if (2) (respectively (1)) is assumed only for a given “generic” $(d - 1)$ (respectively d) parameter family of discs? If this family does not admit a “nice” group structure, this question is open even for $M = \mathbf{C}$.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 1, we introduce a special space of functions on the unit circle. We need this space to estimate solutions to Bishop’s [B] equation. In Section 2, we construct the family of discs. In section 3, we give a precise version of the main result.

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1. A special Lipschitz space

Let $C^{k,\alpha}$ denote the space of all functions with derivatives to order k satisfying a Lipschitz condition with exponent α . We denote the norm in this space by $\|\cdot\|_{k,\alpha}$ and the norm in the space C^k by $\|\cdot\|_k$.

In this section we introduce a suitable space of functions that are $C^{1,\alpha}$ except at finitely many points where they are only $C^{0,\alpha}$.

Let a_1, \dots, a_k be distinct points on $b\Delta$. For a function f on $b\Delta$, we set $f'(e^{i\theta}) = df(e^{i\theta})/d\theta$. Let $\chi(\zeta) = (\zeta - a_1) \dots (\zeta - a_k)$.

DEFINITION 1.1. Let $0 < \alpha < 1$. Let $\mathcal{F}^\alpha(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ be the set of all functions on $b\Delta$ for which the following norm is finite.

$$\|f\| = \|f\|_0 + \|\chi f'\|_{0,\alpha}.$$

We will write \mathcal{F}^α instead of $\mathcal{F}^\alpha(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ if it is clear or unimportant what a_1, \dots, a_k are.

PROPOSITION 1.2. Let $0 < \alpha < 1$.

- (i) Let $f \in \mathcal{F}^\alpha$. Then $|f'| \leq \text{const} \|f\| \cdot |\chi|^{\alpha-1}$.
- (ii) $\mathcal{F}^\alpha \subset C^{0,\alpha}(b\Delta)$; $\|f\|_{0,\alpha} \leq \text{const} \|f\|$.
- (iii) Let $H \in C^2$, $u \in \mathcal{F}^\alpha$, $H(0) = 0$, $dH(0) = 0$. Then $\|H \circ u\| \leq \text{const} \|H\|_2 \|u\|^2$.
- (iv) Let T denote the Hilbert transform on $b\Delta$. Then $\|T\| < \infty$.

The constants above depend on a_1, \dots, a_k and α only.

PROOF. By partition of unity, $\mathcal{F}^\alpha(a_1, \dots, a_k) = \sum_{j=1}^k \mathcal{F}^\alpha(a_j)$. Therefore, in proving (i)–(iv), we can assume that $k = 1$, $\chi(\zeta) = \zeta - a$, $a \in b\Delta$, $\mathcal{F}^\alpha = \mathcal{F}^\alpha(a)$.

(i) We have

$$|(\zeta - a)f'(\zeta) - (\zeta_1 - a)f'(\zeta_1)| \leq \|\chi f'\|_{0,\alpha} |\zeta - \zeta_1|^\alpha. \quad (1.1)$$

Let $\zeta_1 \rightarrow a$. Then $(\zeta_1 - a)f'(\zeta_1) \rightarrow 0$, otherwise f would be unbounded. Passing to the limit in (1.1) as $\zeta_1 \rightarrow a$, we get the needed estimate.

(ii) follows by integrating the estimate (i).

(iii) follows by straightforward estimates. Indeed, by definition, $|||H \circ u||| = ||H \circ u||_0 + ||\chi(H \circ u)'||_{0,\alpha}$. The first term $||H \circ u||_0$ obviously satisfies the needed estimate because $|H(u)| \leq \text{const}||H||_2 \cdot |u|^2$.

To estimate the second term, for brevity, we set $\Delta f = f(\zeta_1) - f(\zeta_2)$, where $\zeta_1, \zeta_2 \in b\Delta$. Then $\Delta(fg) = \Delta f g(\zeta_1) + f(\zeta_2)\Delta g$. Let H' denote $\partial H/\partial u$. We have $|H'(u)| \leq \text{const}||H||_2|u|$, $|\Delta u| \leq |||u||| \cdot |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|^\alpha$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta(\chi(H \circ u)')| &= |\Delta(\chi(H' \circ u)u')| \leq |\Delta(\chi u')| \cdot |H'(u(\zeta_1))| + |(\chi u')(\zeta_2)| \cdot |\Delta(H' \circ u)| \\ &\leq |||u||| \cdot ||H' \circ u||_0 |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|^\alpha + |||u||| \cdot ||H||_2 |\Delta u| \\ &\leq \text{const}||H||_2 |||u||| \cdot |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|^\alpha, \end{aligned}$$

what we need.

(iv) Let Kf denote the inner limiting values of the Cauchy type integral of a function f on the unit circle:

$$(Kf)(z) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1-0} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{b\Delta} \frac{f(\zeta) d\zeta}{\zeta - rz}, \quad z \in b\Delta.$$

Since T can be expressed in terms of K , it suffices to show that K is bounded in \mathcal{F}^α . Let D be the differentiation with respect to the complex variable, that is $(Df)(e^{i\theta}) = f'(e^{i\theta})/(ie^{i\theta})$. Let M_a be the multiplication by $\chi(\zeta) = \zeta - a$. We note that K commutes with D and almost commutes with M_a , that is $KD = DK$, $KM_a f = M_a Kf + \int_{b\Delta} f(\zeta) d\zeta$. Hence, K commutes with $M_a D$. Since K is bounded in $C^{0,\alpha}$, by (ii) and definition of \mathcal{F}^α , this implies immediately that K whence T is bounded in \mathcal{F}^α .

Proposition 1.2 is proved.

2. Thin discs

Let M be a generic manifold in \mathbf{C}^n and $M_0 \subset M$ a totally real submanifold of dimension n . Since we are interested in local questions, we can assume that M and M_0 are defined in a neighborhood of zero by a parametric equation

$$y = h(x, t), \quad (2.1)$$

where $x + iy = z \in \mathbf{C}^n$, $t \in \mathbf{R}^l$ is a parameter, h is a C^2 smooth function in a neighborhood of zero in $\mathbf{R}_x^n \times \mathbf{R}_t^l$. For $t = 0$, the equation (2.1) defines M_0 . We assume that

$$\partial h(0, 0)/\partial x = 0, \quad \partial h_j(0, 0)/\partial t_k = \delta_{jk}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n, \quad 1 \leq k \leq l, \quad (2.2)$$

where δ_{jk} is the Kronecker symbol. It is easy to see that $\dim M = d = n + l$, $\text{CRdim} M = l$. We call x and t that satisfy (2.1) the x - and t -coordinates of the point $z = x + iy \in M$. The distance from $z \in M$ to M_0 is comparable to $|t|$, where t is the t -coordinate of z . The equation (2.1) is convenient to construct discs attached to M by Bishop's equation [B].

PROPOSITION 2.1. *For every $p \in M$ close to zero, and every small \mathbf{R}^l valued function $t \in C^{0,\alpha}(b\Delta)$ ($0 < \alpha < 1$) such that the t -coordinate of p is $t(1)$, there exists a unique analytic disc $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta)$ attached to M such that $A(1) = p$ and the t -coordinate of $A(\zeta)$ is $t(\zeta)$ for $\zeta \in b\Delta$.*

PROOF. Let $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta) = x(\zeta) + iy(\zeta)$ be an analytic disc attached to M with $A(1) = p$. Since the disc is attached to M , we have $y(\zeta) = h(x(\zeta), t(\zeta))$ for $\zeta \in b\Delta$, where $t(\zeta)$ is the t -coordinate of $A(\zeta)$, $\zeta \in b\Delta$. Since the functions x and y are harmonic conjugates, the function x must satisfy the Bishop equation

$$x = -T_1 h(x, t) + x_0, \quad (2.3)$$

where x_0 is the x -coordinate of the given point p , T_1 denotes the harmonic conjugation operator on $b\Delta$ normalized by the condition $(T_1 \phi)(1) = 0$. That is $T_1 \phi = T\phi - (T\phi)(1)$, where T is the standard Hilbert transform.

One can check that for $h \in C^2$ with small $\partial h/\partial x$, small $t \in C^{0,\alpha}(b\Delta)$, the mapping $x \mapsto -T_1 h(x, t) + x_0$ is a contraction in a small ball in $C^{0,\alpha}(b\Delta)$. Thus, given sufficiently small $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$ and $t \in C^{0,\alpha}(b\Delta)$, the equation (2.3) has a unique solution that defines the needed disc. The proof is complete.

We consider a thin disc on the complex plane \mathbf{C} . Let Δ_α be the domain in the upper half-plane bounded by the real axis and the arc of the circle $\{w \in \mathbf{C} : |\cos \alpha\pi - iw \sin \alpha\pi| =$

1}. This domain has corners at ± 1 with angles $\alpha\pi$. The domain Δ_α approaches the segment $[-1, 1]$ as $\alpha \rightarrow 0$. Let $\phi: \Delta \rightarrow \Delta_\alpha$ be the conformal mapping such that $\phi(1) = 0$, $\phi(\pm i) = \pm 1$. The mapping ϕ can be easily defined by an explicit formula. Note that $\phi \in C^{0,\alpha}(\bar{\Delta})$.

We set $\tau(\zeta) = \text{Im}\phi(\zeta)$. Then $(T_1\tau)(\zeta) = -\text{Re}\phi(\zeta)$. Note that $\tau(e^{i\theta}) \geq 0$, and $\tau(e^{i\theta}) = 0$ for $|\theta| < \pi/2$.

We consider discs attached to M with t -coordinate $t = \lambda\tau$, where $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}^l$. This leads to the equation

$$x = -T_1h(x, \lambda\tau) + x_0. \quad (2.4)$$

The solution to this equation defines a family of discs $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$, where $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$ and $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}^l$ are small. The boundary of each disc of this family is split into two parts. The mapping A sends the right (respectively, left) half-circle to M_0 (respectively, $M \setminus M_0$). We claim these discs are thin as follows.

PROPOSITION 2.2. *The family $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$, $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}^l$ has the following properties.*

- (i) *The family A is $C^{0,\alpha}$ in ζ uniformly in x_0 and λ ; A is C^1 in x_0 and λ uniformly in ζ .*
- (ii) *For $\zeta_0 \in b\Delta$ with $\text{Re}\zeta_0 < 0$, the evaluation map $(x_0, \lambda) \mapsto A(\zeta_0, x_0, \lambda)$ is a diffeomorphism from a neighborhood of zero in $\mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^l$ to a neighborhood of zero in M . For $\lambda = 0$ or $\zeta_0 = 1$, this map sends (x_0, λ) to $x_0 + ih(x_0, 0) \in M_0$.*
- (iii) *There are $\epsilon_0 > 0$, $c > 0$ such that for any $0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0$, the set $\{A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda) : \zeta \in b\Delta, |x_0| \leq c, |\lambda| = \epsilon\}$ contains a neighborhood of zero in M .*
- (iv) *The family A is C^1 in $\zeta \in b\Delta$ except at $\zeta = \pm 1$. Let $v = A' = \partial A(e^{i\theta}, x_0, \lambda)/\partial\theta$, $\tilde{\lambda} = (\lambda, 0) \in \mathbf{C}^n$. Then for small α , the direction of v is close to that of $\tilde{\lambda}$. Precisely, $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{(x_0, \lambda) \rightarrow (0, 0)} |v/|v| \pm \tilde{\lambda}/|\lambda|| = 0$ for $\pm \text{Re} e^{i\theta} < 0$.*

PROOF. The proof of (i) and (ii) is quite standard. The existence of the solution of class $C^{0,\alpha}$ has been already proved in Proposition 1. Estimates in $C^{0,\alpha}$ show that $A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$ is $C^{0,1}$ in x_0 and λ . Therefore one can differentiate the equation (2.4) with respect to x_0 and λ . Estimates show again that the derivatives still have Lipschitz regularity with respect to all the variables (see, e. g., [T2]). Plugging $x_0 = 0$, $\lambda = 0$ in the equations for the derivatives, by (2.2), we get the Jacobian matrix at zero of the evaluation map in the (x, t) -coordinates:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial x/\partial x_0 & \partial x/\partial \lambda \\ \partial t/\partial x_0 & \partial t/\partial \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & * \\ 0 & \tau(\zeta_0)\mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\mathbf{1}$ is the identity matrix, and the asterisk denotes unimportant matrix elements. Since $\tau(\zeta_0) > 0$ for $\text{Re}\zeta_0 < 0$, the first statement of (ii) follows. Plugging $\lambda = 0$ or $\zeta_0 = 1$ in (2.4), by uniqueness, we get the second statement of (ii).

The property (iii) follows from (i) and (ii) by a simple continuity argument. Indeed, the family of discs A is also a one parameter deformation of maps $A_{\zeta_0} : B_c^n \times S_\epsilon^{l-1} \rightarrow M$, where $B_c^n \subset \mathbf{R}_{x_0}^n$ is the ball of radius c and $S_\epsilon^{l-1} \subset \mathbf{R}_\lambda^l$ is the sphere of radius ϵ , the parameter is $\zeta_0 \in b\Delta$. By (ii), the image of, say A_{-1} is a smooth tube-like hypersurface around a piece of M_0 in M . On the other hand, A_1 maps (x_0, λ) to M_0 . The deformation is “small” since the discs $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$ have diameters comparable to $|\lambda| = \epsilon$ (see (2.9) below). Therefore, choosing ϵ much smaller than c , we get what we need.

The most important part of Proposition 2 is (iv) which expresses the fact that the discs are thin. One cannot prove (iv) by estimates in the standard Lipschitz spaces since the discs are merely $C^{0,\alpha}$.

We show that the solution to (2.4) is in $\mathcal{F}^\alpha = \mathcal{F}^\alpha(-i, i)$. We first note that $\phi = -T_1\tau + i\tau \in \mathcal{F}^\alpha$, which can be seen from an explicit formula for ϕ . We also note that there is $C > 0$ such that

$$|(T_1\tau)'| \geq C|\chi|^{\alpha-1}. \quad (2.5)$$

Let $x = x_0 + u$. We rewrite (2.4) in the form

$$u = F(u), \quad \text{where } F(u) = -T_1h(x_0 + u, \lambda\tau). \quad (2.6)$$

Consider the successive approximations:

$$u_0 = 0, \quad u_{j+1} = F(u_j).$$

One can see that F is a contraction in $C^{0,\alpha}$. Hence, the sequence converges in $C^{0,\alpha}$. It suffices to show that the sequence is bounded in \mathcal{F}^α . Then by the Arzela lemma, there is a subsequence that converges to the solution in \mathcal{F}^α .

By Taylor’s formula,

$$\begin{aligned} h(x_0 + u, t) &= h(x_0, 0) + h_t(x_0, 0)t + h_x(x_0, 0)u + H(x_0, u, t), \\ \|H(x_0, \cdot, \cdot)\|_2 &\leq \text{const}\|h\|_2, \quad H(x_0, u, t) = O(|u|^2 + |t|^2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Plugging (2.7) in (2.6) yields

$$F(u) = -h_t(x_0, 0)\lambda T_1\tau - h_x(x_0, 0)T_1u - T_1H(x_0, u, \lambda\tau). \quad (2.8)$$

By Proposition 1.2 and (2.7), we have

$$\|T_1 u\| \leq \text{const} \|u\|, \quad \|T_1 H(x_0, u, \lambda \tau)\| \leq \text{const} \|h\|_2 (\|u\|^2 + |\lambda|^2).$$

Therefore, estimating (2.8) yields

$$\|F(u)\| = O(|\lambda|) + o(1) \|u\| \quad \text{as } x_0 \rightarrow 0, \quad \lambda \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence, the solution to (2.4) is in \mathcal{F}^α and

$$\|x - x_0\| = \|u\| = O(|\lambda|) \tag{2.9}$$

For $t, \lambda \in \mathbf{R}^l$, we set $\tilde{t} = (t, 0) \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\tilde{\lambda} = (\lambda, 0) \in \mathbf{R}^n$. By (2.2), we have $h(x, t) = \tilde{t} + O(|x|^2 + |t|^2)$. The equation (2.4) is a perturbation of the trivial “equation” obtained by neglecting the big “O”. Therefore, the discs $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$ are perturbations of the flat discs $\zeta \mapsto A_0(\zeta, x_0, \lambda) = -\tilde{\lambda} T_1 \tau + x_0 + i \tilde{\lambda} \tau$. The direction of $A'_0 = -\tilde{\lambda} (T_1 \tau)' + i \tilde{\lambda} \tau' = \tilde{\lambda} \phi'$ is close to that of $\tilde{\lambda}$ just because the domain Δ_α is close to the segment $[-1, 1]$.

We compare the discs A and A_0 in the space \mathcal{F}^α . By (2.8), we get

$$\|x - (x_0 - h_t(x, 0) \lambda T_1 \tau)\| = \|u + h_t(x, 0) \lambda T_1 \tau\| = o(|\lambda|)$$

as $x_0 \rightarrow 0, \lambda \rightarrow 0$. Note that by (2.2), $|h_t(x, 0) \lambda - \tilde{\lambda}| = o(|\lambda|)$, also. Hence,

$$\|x - (x_0 - \tilde{\lambda} T_1 \tau)\| = o(|\lambda|).$$

Therefore, by Proposition 1.2 (i),

$$|x' + \tilde{\lambda} (T_1 \tau)'| = |\chi|^{\alpha-1} o(|\lambda|). \tag{2.10}$$

By (2.2), the direction of $v = A' = x' + i h(x, \lambda \tau)'$ is close to that of $x' + i \tilde{\lambda} \tau'$. The latter, by (2.5) and (2.10), is close to the direction of $A'_0 = -\tilde{\lambda} (T_1 \tau)' + i \tilde{\lambda} \tau' = \tilde{\lambda} \phi'$, whence to that of $\tilde{\lambda}$.

The proof is complete.

3. Main result

Let $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$ be the family of discs from Proposition 2.2 and let $\epsilon > 0$ and $c > 0$ satisfy (iii) of this proposition. We need (iii) only to reduce by 1 the number of parameters. Recall $\dim M = d = n + l$.

THEOREM 3.1. *Let f be a continuous function on M defined by (2.1). Suppose $f \circ A|_{b\Delta}$ extends to be holomorphic in Δ for the $(d - 1)$ parameter family of discs $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$, where $|x_0| \leq c$, $|\lambda| = \epsilon$. Then f is a CR function in a neighborhood of zero in M .*

PROOF. We follow the proof of the Baouendi-Treves approximation theorem. We set

$$f_N(z) = (N/\pi)^{n/2} \int_{M_0} f(w) e^{-N(z-w)^2} dw_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dw_n, \quad (3.1)$$

where $(z - w)^2 = (z_1 - w_1)^2 + \cdots + (z_n - w_n)^2$. If M is small, then by (2.2), there is $\kappa < 1$ such that

$$|\operatorname{Im}(z - w)| \leq \kappa |\operatorname{Re}(z - w)| \quad (3.2)$$

for $z, w \in M_0$. This condition ensures that $K_N(z, w) = (N/\pi)^{n/2} e^{-N(z-w)^2} dw_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dw_n$ forms a $\delta(z - w)$ -shaped sequence as $N \rightarrow \infty$, $z, w \in M_0$. Thus, f_N converges to f uniformly on M_0 .

We will show that f_N converge to f on boundaries of the discs $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$, $|x_0| \leq c$, $|\lambda| = \epsilon$. By Proposition 2.2 (iii), they fill a neighborhood of zero in M . Hence, the function f will be a CR function in that neighborhood as a limit of a sequence of the entire functions f_N , completing the proof.

Without a loss of generality, we choose the disc with $\lambda = (\epsilon, 0, \dots, 0)$, $x_0 = 0$ and show that f_N converge to f on the boundary of this disc. We consider a $(n - 1)$ parameter subfamily of $\zeta \mapsto A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda)$ with fixed $\lambda = (\epsilon, 0, \dots, 0)$ and fixed $x_{01} = 0$, the first component of x_0 . Using this subfamily, we perturb M_0 by replacing for each disc the part of its boundary in M_0 by the other part. We set

$$K_{\pm} = \{A(\zeta, x_0, \lambda) : |\zeta| = 1, \pm \operatorname{Re}\zeta > 0, |x_0| < c/2, x_{01} = 0\}.$$

K_+ is an open subset of M_0 . The set K_- is C^1 smooth, but presumably, merely $C^{0,\alpha}$ up to the boundary. Nevertheless, for small α , the tangent planes $T_z K_-$ are close to \mathbf{R}_x^n . Indeed, $T_z K_-$ at $z = A(e^{i\theta}, x_0, \lambda)$ is spanned by $v_1 = \partial A(e^{i\theta}, x_0, \lambda)/\partial \theta$ and $v_j = \partial A(e^{i\theta}, x_0, \lambda)/\partial x_{0j}$, where $1 < j \leq n$. By Proposition 2.2 (ii, iv), the direction of v_j is close to the x_j -axis for $1 \leq j \leq n$.

Let $M_1 = (M \setminus K_+) \cup K_-$. Since f extends holomorphically to the discs, the integrand in (3.1) also extends there. Therefore, we can replace integration over M_0 by integration over M_1 . For small α , the condition (3.2) still holds for $z \in M_1$ near $A(\zeta, 0, \lambda)$ and every $w \in M_1$ by the above remark regarding $T_z K_-$. Hence, f_N converges to f at $z = A(\zeta, 0, \lambda)$, what we need.

The proof is complete.

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