

## ON HÖLDER ESTIMATES FOR CAUCHY TRANSFORMS ON CONVEX DOMAINS IN $\mathbb{C}^2$

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ABSTRACT. The main purpose of this paper is to establish Hölder estimates for the Cauchy transform in a class of finite/infinite type convex domains in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\Omega$  be a domain of the complex plane with piecewise smooth boundary  $b\Omega$ . The Cauchy transform on the complex plane is

$$\mathcal{C}[u](z) = \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta - z}$$

for  $z \in \Omega$ . It maps  $L^1$ -functions on  $b\Omega$  to holomorphic functions in  $\Omega$ . The term  $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta - z}$  is called the Cauchy kernel on the complex plane, and it is universal. A basic property of the kernel is that: for each  $\zeta \in b\Omega$ , the kernel is holomorphic in  $z \in \bar{\Omega} \setminus \{\zeta\}$ . We list some well-known operator-theoretic properties of the Cauchy transform:

- (1) Let  $\mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  be the space of functions that are holomorphic in  $\Omega$ , with the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of  $\Omega$ . Let  $\sigma$  be the length measure on  $b\Omega$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}[u] \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  for each  $f \in L^1(b\Omega, d\sigma)$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{O} : L^p(b\Omega, d\sigma) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  is continuous for all  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ .
- (2) Let  $E \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a bounded set. For each  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $\Lambda_\alpha(E)$  denotes the standard Hölder class of order  $\alpha$  on  $E$ . Then

$$\mathcal{C} : \Lambda_\alpha(b\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\Omega) \cap \Lambda_\alpha(\Omega)$$

is bounded. The boundedness also provides a sufficient condition so that  $\mathcal{C}[u]$  extends continuously on the closure  $\bar{\Omega}$  when  $u$  is at least Hölder continuous of order  $\alpha$ .

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The question which we can ask is: *Do the properties above hold in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , for  $n \geq 2$ ?* To answer this question, as the first step, we must construct a multi-dimensional version for the Cauchy kernel. The simplest and oldest answer may be the Cauchy kernel on distinguished boundaries of polydiscs, that is the product of  $n$  Cauchy kernels on  $\mathbb{C}$ . For non-trivial domains, in 1932, A. Weil introduced a Cauchy kernel for polynomial polyhedra in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . Since then there were some different versions for the multi-dimensional Cauchy kernel constructed on particular domains. Unfortunately, there is not a canonical Cauchy kernel on natural boundaries of arbitrary smooth domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

In 1938 by Martinelli and in 1943 by Bochner, they did construct a differential form kernel which now we called the Bochner-Martinelli kernel  $K_0(\zeta, z)$  (see [20, Section 1.2, page 148]). It can be considered as the first multi-dimensional version for the Cauchy kernel on arbitrary smooth domains. However, this kernel is not holomorphic in  $z$ . In 1959, in [9], J. Leray introduced the second version for the Cauchy kernel for convex domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . This significant paper marks the beginning of an interest that today is called Cauchy-Fantappiè Theory. The Cauchy kernel in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  was then developed by W. Koppelman in [14, 15], by N. Kerzman and E. Stein in [16], by S. Chen in [3], by L. Lanzani and E. Stein in [5]. E. Ligocka adapted the method by Kerzman-Stein to study the unweighted and weighted Bergman projections in [10–12]. Recently, in the series of perceptive workings [6–8] by Lanazani and Stein, this topic has been advanced to consider different problems. The Cauchy kernel constructed via Cauchy-Fantappiè Theory admits the holomorphicity as itself in  $\mathbb{C}$ . However, as M. Range wrote “we had to pay a price” in his book ([20]), the kernel is not universal, it strictly depends on the boundary of the considered domains.

Now let  $\Omega$  be a bounded convex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with smooth boundary  $b\Omega$ . Let  $\rho$  be a defining function for  $\Omega$  so that  $\Omega = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : \rho(z) < 0\}$  and  $b\Omega = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : \rho(z) = 0\}$ ,  $\nabla\rho \neq 0$  on  $b\Omega$ .

Let us define, for  $\zeta, z \in \bar{\Omega}$ :

$$(1.1) \quad \Phi(\zeta, z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial\zeta_j}(\zeta)(\zeta_j - z_j).$$

The convexity of  $\Omega$  implies

$$\Phi(\zeta, z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial\zeta_j}(\zeta)(\zeta_j - z_j) \neq 0$$

for all  $\zeta \in b\Omega$  and  $z \in \Omega$ . Now we set

$$C(\zeta, z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial\rho}{\partial\zeta_j}(\zeta) d\zeta_j \right] \frac{1}{\Phi(\zeta, z)}$$

for  $\zeta \in b\Omega, z \in \Omega$ , which is a  $(1, 0)$ -form of  $\zeta$ -variables. The Cauchy kernel for the convex domain  $\Omega$  is

$$\Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)) = C(\zeta, z) \wedge (\bar{\partial}_\zeta C(\zeta, z))^{n-1},$$

where  $(\bar{\partial}_\zeta C(\zeta, z))^{n-1}$  is the  $(n-1)$  wedge product  $(\bar{\partial}_\zeta C(\zeta, z)) \wedge \dots \wedge (\bar{\partial}_\zeta C(\zeta, z))$ .

**Theorem 1.1** ([20, Theorem 3.4, page 171]). *For any  $u \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  and  $z \in \Omega$ , we have*

$$u(z) = \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)).$$

By Stoke's Theorem and  $\bar{\partial}u = 0$ , we have

$$u(z) = \int_{\Omega} u(\zeta) \bar{\partial}_\zeta \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)).$$

It is clear that when  $n = 1$ ,

$$\Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta - z}.$$

**Example 1.2.** Let  $\Omega$  be the unit ball in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) and let  $\rho(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n |z_j|^2 - 1$  be a defining function of  $\Omega$ . Then,  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_j} = \bar{\zeta}_j$  for  $j = 1, \dots, n$  and

$$\Phi(\zeta, z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{\zeta}_j (\zeta_j - z_j) = |\zeta|^2 - \langle z, \zeta \rangle$$

for  $z, \zeta \in \bar{\Omega}$ . Then  $\Phi(\zeta, z) = 1 - \langle z, \zeta \rangle$  for  $\zeta \in b\Omega$ . By calculus for differential forms, it follows that

$$\bar{\partial}_\zeta \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)) = \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n \frac{n!}{\pi^n} \frac{1}{(1 - \langle z, \zeta \rangle)^{n+1}} \bigwedge_{j=1}^n d\zeta_j \wedge d\bar{\zeta}_j.$$

It is quite different from the complex plane that a geometric condition on boundaries must be required to obtain Hölder estimates for the Cauchy transform

$$\mathcal{C}[u](z) = \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)),$$

where  $u \in L^1(b\Omega, d\sigma)$ , and in this case  $d\sigma$  is the surface measure on  $b\Omega$ .

**Definition 1.3** ([4]). Let  $F: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a smooth, increasing function such that

- (1)  $F(0) = 0$ ;
- (2)  $\int_0^\delta |\ln F(r^2)| dr < \infty$  for some small  $\delta > 0$ ;
- (3)  $\frac{F(r)}{r}$  is increasing.

The function  $F$  with the properties above is supposed to be used throughout this paper.

**Definition 1.4.** A domain  $\Omega$  is said to be *admitting maximal type  $F$*  at the boundary point  $P \in b\Omega$  if there are positive constants  $c, c'$ , such that, for all  $\zeta \in b\Omega \cap B(P, c')$  we have

$$\rho(z) \gtrsim F(|z - \zeta|^2)$$

for all  $z \in B(\zeta, c)$  with  $\Phi(\zeta, z) = 0$ .

It is to be noted that, by shrinking  $c > 0$  if necessary, Corollary 1.13 in [18] implies

$$\rho(z) > 0 \quad \text{for all } z \text{ with } \Phi(\zeta, z) = 0 \text{ and } 0 < |z - \zeta| < c.$$

Here the notation  $B(\zeta, r)$  means the Euclidean ball centered at  $\zeta$  of radius  $r > 0$ . Also the notations  $\lesssim$  and  $\gtrsim$  denote inequalities up to a positive constant, and  $\approx$  means the combination of  $\lesssim$  and  $\gtrsim$ .

**Lemma 1.5** ([4]). *Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded, convex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  of maximal type  $F$  at  $P \in b\Omega$ . Then there are positive constants  $c$  and  $A$  such that the support function  $\Phi(\zeta, z)$  satisfies the following estimate*

$$(1.2) \quad |\Phi(\zeta, z)| \geq A(|\rho(z)| + |\operatorname{Im} \Phi(\zeta, z)| + F(|z - \zeta|^2))$$

for every  $\zeta \in b\Omega \cap B(P, c)$ , and  $z \in \bar{\Omega}$ ,  $|z - \zeta| < c$ .

The main purpose of this paper is the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.6.** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  be a smoothly bounded, convex domain. Assume that  $\Omega$  admits a maximal type  $F$  at all boundary points, for some function  $F$ . Then*

- (1)  $\mathcal{C}[u] \in \mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  for all  $f \in L^1(b\Omega, d\sigma)$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{O} : L^p(b\Omega, d\sigma) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\Omega)$  is continuous for all  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ .
- (2)  $\mathcal{C} : \Lambda_{t^\alpha}(b\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\Omega) \cap \Lambda_f(\Omega)$  is bounded, for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , where

$$f(d^{-1}) := \left( \int_0^d \frac{(\sqrt{F^*(t)})^\alpha}{t} dt \right)^{-1},$$

and  $F^*$  be the inverse function of  $F$ .

Here, the spaces  $\Lambda_f$  are the  $f$ -Hölder spaces (first introduced by T. V. Khanh in [13]). That is, let  $f$  be an increasing function such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} f(t) = +\infty$ :

- $\Lambda_f(\Omega)$  consists all functions in  $L^\infty(\Omega)$  such that

$$\|u\|_{\Lambda_f(\Omega)} = \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega, dV)} + \sup_{z, z+h \in \Omega} f(|h|^{-1})|u(z+h) - u(z)|$$

finite.

- $\Lambda_f(b\Omega)$  consists all functions in  $L^\infty(b\Omega)$  such that

$$\|u\|_{\Lambda_f(b\Omega)} = \|u\|_{L^\infty(b\Omega, d\sigma)} + \sup_{\substack{x(\cdot) \in C \\ 0 \leq t \leq 1}} f(t^{-1})|u(x(t)) - u(x(0))|$$

finite, where  $C$  consists of  $C^1$ -curves  $x(t) : t \in [0, 1] \rightarrow x(t) \in b\Omega$  and  $|x'(t)| \leq 1$ . That means  $\Lambda^f(b\Omega)$  consists all complex-valued functions  $u$  such that for each curve  $x(\cdot) \in C$ , the function  $t \mapsto u(x(t)) \in \Lambda^f([0, 1])$ .

**Example 1.7.** Every strongly pseudoconvex domain is a domain admitting maximal type  $F(t) = t$  (see [20] for details). Then  $\mathcal{C} : \Lambda_{t^\alpha} \rightarrow \Lambda_{t^{\alpha/2}}$  is bounded for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . This was first proved by P. Ahern and R. Schneider in [2].

**Example 1.8.** On a smooth convex domain of finite type  $m$  in the sense of Range ([18, 19]) in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $\mathcal{C} : \Lambda_{t^\alpha} \rightarrow \Lambda_{t^{\alpha/m}}$  is bounded for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Moreover, since each convex domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  with real analytic boundary satisfies the finite Range type  $m$  (see [17]), for some  $m \geq 1$ , this boundedness is also true on such domain ([1]).

**Example 1.9.** Let us define

$$\Omega^\infty = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^2 : \exp(1 + 2/s) \exp\left(\frac{-1}{|z_1|^s}\right) + |z_2|^2 < 1\}$$

for  $0 < s < 1/2$ . Then  $\Omega^\infty$  is a convex domain admitting maximal type  $F(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{32t^s}\right)$  (see [21]). Therefore,  $\mathcal{C} : \Lambda_{t^\alpha}(\Omega^\infty) \rightarrow \Lambda_{g_\alpha}(\Omega^\infty)$  is bounded, for  $2s < \alpha \leq 1$ , where

$$g_\alpha(t) = \frac{1024^s(\alpha - 2s)}{2s} (|\ln t|)^{\frac{\alpha}{2s} - 1}.$$

### 2. Proof of Theorem 1.6

The assertion (a) is straightforward from the definition of  $\mathcal{C}[u]$ . In order to prove (b), we need the general Hardy-Littewood Lemma which was proved by Khanh in [13].

**Lemma 2.1** (General Hardy-Littlewood Lemma). *Let  $\Omega$  be a smoothly bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\rho$  be a defining function of  $\Omega$ . Let  $G : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an increasing function such that  $\frac{G(t)}{t}$  is decreasing and  $\int_0^d \frac{G(t)}{t} dt < \infty$  for  $d > 0$  small enough. If  $u \in C^1(\Omega)$  such that*

$$|\nabla u(x)| \lesssim \frac{G(|\rho(x)|)}{|\rho(x)|} \quad \text{for every } x \in \Omega,$$

then

$$f(|x - y|^{-1})|u(x) - u(y)| < \infty$$

uniformly in  $x, y \in \Omega$ ,  $x \neq y$ , and where  $f(d^{-1}) := \left(\int_0^d \frac{G(t)}{t} dt\right)^{-1}$ .

For each  $z \in \Omega$ , let  $\pi(z) \in b\Omega$  such that  $|z - \pi(z)| = \text{dist}(z, b\Omega)$ . Applying Theorem 1.1 with  $u = 1$ ,

$$0 = d_z(1) = \int_{b\Omega} d_z \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)),$$

and so

$$\int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) d_z \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)) = \int_{b\Omega} [u(\zeta) - u(\pi(z))] d_z \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)).$$

Then it follows that

$$\left| d_z \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \Omega_0(\zeta, z) \right| \leq \int_{b\Omega} |u(z) - u(\pi(z))| |d_z \Omega_0(\zeta, z)| d\sigma(\zeta).$$

Since  $u \in \Lambda_\alpha(b\Omega)$  and  $|z - \pi(z)| \lesssim |\zeta - z|$ , we have

$$\left| d_z \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \Omega_0(\zeta, z) \right| \leq \|u\|_{\Lambda_\alpha(b\Omega)} \int_{b\Omega} |\zeta - z|^\alpha |d_z \Omega_0(\zeta, z)| d\sigma(\zeta).$$

Rewrite the Cauchy kernel implicitly in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  (see [3]), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z)) &= C(\zeta, z) \wedge (\bar{\partial}_\zeta C(\zeta, z)) \\ &= \frac{\sum_{j=1}^2 \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_j}(\zeta) d\zeta_j}{\Phi(\zeta, z)} \wedge \bar{\partial}_\zeta \left( \frac{\sum_{j=1}^2 \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_j}(\zeta) d\zeta_j}{\Phi(\zeta, z)} \right) \\ &= \frac{\left( \sum_{j=1}^2 \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_j}(\zeta) d\zeta_j \right) \wedge \left( \sum_{j,k=1}^2 \frac{\partial^2 \rho}{\partial \zeta_k \partial \zeta_j}(\zeta) d\bar{\zeta}_k \wedge d\zeta_j \right)}{\Phi^2(\zeta, z)} \\ &= \sum_{j_0 \in \{1,2\}} \frac{A_{j_0}(\zeta)}{\Phi^2(\zeta, z)} d\zeta_1 \wedge d\zeta_2 \wedge d\bar{\zeta}_{j_0}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_{j_0}(\zeta)$  is a polynomial involving in  $\zeta$  of  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_1}(\zeta)$  and  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \zeta_2}(\zeta)$ , and their first derivatives. It is not difficult to show that

$$|d_z \Omega_0(C(\zeta, z))| \lesssim \frac{1}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3}$$

for  $\zeta \in b\Omega, z \in \Omega$ .

Combining these estimates, we obtain

$$\left| d_z \int_{b\Omega} u(\zeta) \Omega_0(\zeta, z) \right| \leq \|u\|_{\Lambda_\alpha(b\Omega)} \int_{b\Omega} \frac{|\zeta - z|^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta).$$

By the smoothness of  $\Phi(z, \cdot)$  on  $b\Omega \setminus B(\pi(z), c)$  ( $c$  is the constant in Lemma 1.5), it is sufficient to estimate  $\int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z), c)} \frac{|\zeta - z|^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta)$ .

Let  $F^*$  be the inverse function of  $F$ . Then by Lemma 1.5,  $|\zeta - z| \lesssim \sqrt{F^*(|\Phi(\zeta, z)|)}$ , so

$$\int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z), c)} \frac{|\zeta - z|^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta) \lesssim \int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z), c)} \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\Phi(\zeta, z)|)}^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta).$$

Since  $\frac{F(t)}{t}$  is increasing, for each  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $\frac{\sqrt{F^*(s)}^\alpha}{s} \circ F(t^2) = \frac{t^\alpha}{F(t^2)} = \frac{t^2}{F(t^2)} \frac{1}{t^{2-\alpha}}$  is decreasing. Hence, the chain rule in calculus yields that  $\frac{\sqrt{F^*(t)}^\alpha}{t}$

is decreasing, so

$$\int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z),c)} \frac{|\zeta - z|^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta) \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\rho(z)|)}^\alpha}{|\rho(z)|} \int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z),c)} \frac{d\sigma(\zeta)}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^2}.$$

To estimate the last integral, we need a special coordinates, called to be Henkin’s coordinates.

**Lemma 2.2** ([20, Lemma V.3.4]). *There exist positive constants  $M, a$  and  $\eta \leq \epsilon$ , and, for each  $z$  with  $\text{dist}(z, b\Omega) \leq a$ , there is a smooth local coordinate system  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x = x(\zeta, z)$  on the ball  $B(z, \eta)$  such that we have*

$$\begin{cases} x_1(\zeta, z) = \rho(\zeta), \\ x(z, z) = (\rho(z), 0, 0, 0), \\ x_2(\zeta, z) = \text{Im}(\Phi(\zeta, z)), \\ |x| < 1 \text{ for } \zeta \in B(z, \eta), \\ |J_{\mathbb{R}}(x(\cdot, z))| \leq M \text{ and } |\det J_{\mathbb{R}}(x(\cdot, z))| \geq \frac{1}{M}. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, using  $\mathbb{R}^2$  polar coordinates for  $(x_3, x_4)$  and integrating in  $x_2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{b\Omega \cap B(\pi(z),c)} \frac{|\zeta - z|^\alpha}{|\Phi(\zeta, z)|^3} d\sigma(\zeta) \\ & \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\rho(z)|)}^\alpha}{|\rho(z)|} \int_{|(x_2, x_3, x_4)|} \frac{dx_2 dx_3 dx_4}{(|\rho(z)| + x_2 + F(|(x_3, x_4)|)^2)|(x_3, x_4)|} \\ & \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\rho(z)|)}^\alpha}{|\rho(z)|} \int_{|(x_2, r)| < c} \frac{r dx_2 dr}{(|\rho(z)| + x_2 + F(r^2))r} \\ & \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\rho(z)|)}^\alpha}{|\rho(z)|} \underbrace{\int_0^c |\ln F(r^2)| dr}_{\text{finite since Definition 1.3}} \\ & \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{F^*(|\rho(z)|)}^\alpha}{|\rho(z)|}. \end{aligned}$$

The function  $\frac{\sqrt{F^*(t)}^\alpha}{t}$  satisfies all conditions in the general Hardy-Littlewood Lemma, see [13, page 527] for  $\alpha = 1$ . For general  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , it is proved similarly and we shall omit the details. Thus the proof of Theorem 1.6 is complete.

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