

## Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

# C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I



www.sciencedirect.com

# **Complex Analysis**

# Analytic sets extending the graphs of holomorphic mappings between domains of different dimensions $^{\updownarrow}$

# Ensembles analytiques prolongeant les graphes d'applications holomorphes entre domaines de dimensions différentes

Maryam Al-Towailb, Nabil Ourimi

Department of Mathematics, College of Science, King Saud University, P.O. Box 2455, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia

#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 15 May 2012 Accepted after revision 29 August 2012 Available online 15 September 2012

Presented by the Editorial Board

#### ABSTRACT

Let D, D' be arbitrary domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}^N$  respectively,  $1 < n \leq N$ , both possibly unbounded and let  $M \subset \partial D$ ,  $M' \subset \partial D'$  be open pieces of the boundaries. Suppose that  $\partial D$ is smooth real-analytic and minimal in an open neighborhood of  $\overline{M}$  and  $\partial D'$  is smooth realalgebraic and minimal in an open neighborhood of  $\overline{M'}$ . Let  $f : D \to D'$  be a holomorphic mapping. Assume that the cluster set  $cl_f(M)$  does not intersect D'. It is proved that if the cluster set  $cl_f(p)$  of a point  $p \in M$  contains some point  $q \in M'$  and the graph of f extends as an analytic set to a neighborhood of  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$ , then f extends as a holomorphic map near p.

© 2012 Académie des sciences. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

### RÉSUMÉ

Soient D, D' deux domaines respectivement de  $\mathbb{C}^n$  et  $\mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $1 < n \leq N$  et soient  $M \subset \partial D$ ,  $M' \subset \partial D'$  deux parties ouvertes des frontières. Supposons que  $\partial D$  (resp.  $\partial D'$ ) est lisse, minimale et analytique réelle dans un voisinage de  $\overline{M}$  (resp. lisse, minimale et algébrique réelle dans un voisinage de  $\overline{M'}$ ). Soit  $f: D \to D'$  une application holomorphe telle que l'ensemble des points limites  $cl_f(M)$  n'intersecte pas D'. Nous montrons que si l'ensemble des points limites  $cl_f(p)$  d'un point  $p \in M$  contient un point  $q \in M'$  et le graphe de f se prolonge comme un ensemble analytique dans un voisinage de  $(p,q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$ , alors f se prolonge holomorphiquement dans un voisinage de p.

@ 2012 Académie des sciences. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

## Version française abrégée

Le but principal de cette Note est de généraliser un résultat de Diederich–Pinchuk [4] quand le domaine cible est algébrique réel, mais de dimension supérieure. On montre le théorème suivant :

**Théorème 0.1.** Soient D, D' deux domaines respectivement de  $\mathbb{C}^n$  et  $\mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $1 < n \leq N$  et soient  $M \subset \partial D$ ,  $M' \subset \partial D'$  deux parties ouvertes des frontières. Supposons que  $\partial D$  (resp.  $\partial D'$ ) est lisse, minimale et analytique réelle dans un voisinage de  $\overline{M}$  (resp. lisse, minimale et

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup> The project was supported by the Research Center, College of Science, King Saud University.

E-mail addresses: mtowaileb@ksu.edu.sa (M. Al-Towailb), ourimi@ksu.edu.sa (N. Ourimi).

<sup>1631-073</sup>X/\$ – see front matter  $\odot$  2012 Académie des sciences. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.crma.2012.08.008

algébrique réelle dans un voisinage de  $\overline{M}'$ ). Soit  $f: D \to D'$  une application holomorphe telle que l'ensemble des points limites  $cl_f(M)$ n'intersecte pas D'. Si  $cl_f(p)$  d'un point  $p \in M$  contient un point  $q \in M'$  et le graphe de f se prolonge comme un ensemble analytique dans un voisinage de  $(p,q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$ , alors f se prolonge holomorphiquement dans un voisinage de p.

**Démonstration abrégée.** La preuve est basée sur la propagation de l'analycité des applications holomorphes à travers les variétés de Segre et sur un résultat de Tumanov [12] qu'on utilise pour montrer que le prolongement de *f* comme correspondance est en fait un prolongement comme application. Le prolongement du graphe comme un ensemble analytique dans un voisinage de (p, q) assure l'existence d'un ensemble ouvert  $\Gamma \subset M$  à travers lequel *f* se prolonge holomorphiquement, en plus  $p \in \overline{\Gamma}$ . Nous montrons d'abord le résultat quand *p* est un point générique. L'autre cas se déduit par induction sur la dimension.  $\Box$ 

Comme application du théorème précédent, nous montrons le résultat suivant :

**Théorème 0.2.** Soient D, D' deux domaines bornés, respectivement de  $\mathbb{C}^n$  et  $\mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $1 < n \le N$ . Supposons que  $\partial D$  (resp.  $\partial D'$ ) est lisse, analytique réelle (resp. lisse, algébrique réelle). Soit  $f : D \to D'$  une application holomorphe propre. Si le graphe de f se prolonge comme un ensemble analytique dans un voisinage de  $(p,q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$  pour un certain  $p \in \partial D$  et  $q \in cl_f(p)$ , alors f se prolonge holomorphiquement dans un voisinage de  $\overline{D}$ .

**Démonstration abrégée.** Soit  $M_h$  l'ensemble des points du bord, où f se prolonge holomorphiquement. D'après le Théorème 0.1, l'ensemble  $M_h$  est non vide. Pour montrer que  $M_h = \partial D$ , il suffit de montrer que  $M_h$  est fermé dans  $\partial D$  (puisque par définition  $M_h$  est ouvert). La preuve est identique à celle dans [1]. Elle est par l'absurde et elle est basée sur la construction d'une famille d'ellipsoïdes utilisée par Merker et Porten dans [7]. Cette construction nous ramène à étudier le prolongement de f au voisinage des points génériques. Cette étude se déduit de la preuve du Théorème 0.1.  $\Box$ 

### 1. Introduction and main results

It was proved in [4] that a proper holomorphic mapping  $f: D \to D'$  between bounded domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with smooth real-analytic boundaries extends holomorphically to a neighborhood of any point  $p \in \partial D$ , if the graph of f extends as an analytic set near (p,q) for some  $q \in cl_f(p)$ . The purpose of this Note is to study this result when the boundary of the target domain is smooth real-algebraic but of higher dimension.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let D, D' be arbitrary domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}^N$  respectively,  $1 < n \le N$ , both possibly unbounded and let  $M \subset \partial D$ ,  $M' \subset \partial D'$  be open pieces of the boundaries. Suppose that  $\partial D$  is smooth real-analytic and minimal in an open neighborhood of  $\overline{M}$  and  $\partial D'$  is smooth real-algebraic and minimal in an open neighborhood of  $\overline{M'}$ . Let  $f : D \to D'$  be a holomorphic mapping. Assume that the cluster set  $cl_f(M)$  does not intersect D'. If the cluster set  $cl_f(p)$  of a point  $p \in M$  contains some point  $q \in M'$  and the graph of f extends as an analytic set to a neighborhood of  $(p,q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$ , then f extends as a holomorphic map near p.

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is based on the method of analytic continuation along Segre varieties and a result of Tumanov [12]. Here, f is not assumed to be proper and we do not require compactness of M'. Also, we do not assume that  $cl_f(M) \subset M'$ . Therefore, a priori  $cl_f(p)$  may contain the point at infinity or boundary points which do not lie in M'. In particular, this is the main reason why our result cannot be directly derived from [11], even in the case where M' is strictly pseudoconvex. Note that the assumption that f sends D to D' may be replaced by  $f: D \to \mathbb{C}^N$  with  $cl_f(M) \subset M'$ .

As an application of Theorem 1.1, one has the following:

**Theorem 1.2.** Let D, D' be smoothly bounded domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\mathbb{C}^N$  respectively,  $1 < n \le N$ ,  $\partial D$  is real-analytic and  $\partial D'$  is real-algebraic. Let  $f : D \to D'$  be a proper holomorphic mapping. If the graph of f extends as an analytic set to a neighborhood of  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^N$  for some  $p \in \partial D$  and  $q \in cl_f(p)$ , then f extends as a holomorphic map in a neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$ .

Theorem 1.2 generalizes [4] when the boundary of the target domain is real-algebraic but of higher dimension. The algebraicity of D' allows to show that the extension is in a neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$  and not only near p. If f is a proper holomorphic map as in Theorem 1.2 that extends smoothly in a neighborhood of some boundary point p, then according to [2] and [8] f extends holomorphically across p. Hence, Theorem 1.2 implies that f extends holomorphically to a neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$ . This result was proved in [11], when D' is strictly pseudoconvex.

We say that  $\Gamma_f$ , the graph of f, extends as an analytic set to a neighborhood of  $(p, q) \in \partial D \times \partial D'$ , if there exist neighborhoods  $U \ni p$ ,  $U' \ni q$ , an irreducible analytic subset  $\mathcal{A} \subset U \times U'$  of pure dimension n and a sequence  $\{a_{\nu}\} \subset U \cap D$  with  $a_{\nu} \to p$  and  $f(a_{\nu}) \to q$  such that  $\mathcal{A}$  contains an open piece of  $\Gamma_f$  near  $(a_{\nu}, f(a_{\nu}))$  for each  $\nu$ . A hypersurface is called minimal if it does not contain germs of complex hypersurfaces. We refer the reader to [3] for definitions and details on Segre varieties.

#### 2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Assume that p = 0, q = 0' and 0 is not in the envelope of holomorphy of *D*. Let *U*, *U'* be small neighborhoods of 0 and 0' respectively. We denote by A the irreducible analytic subset in  $U \times U'$  extending the graph of *f*. According to [4], one has the following:

**Lemma 2.1.** There exists an open set  $\Gamma \subset M \cap U$  such that f extends holomorphically to a neighborhood of  $(U \cap D) \cup \Gamma$ , and the graph of f near any point  $(z, f(z)), z \in \Gamma$ , is contained in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Moreover,  $0 \in \overline{\Gamma}$  and  $\lim_{z \to 0, z \in \Gamma} f(z) = 0'$ .

Since *M* is real-analytic, the set  $\Gamma$  given by Lemma 2.1 can be constructed in a way that  $\partial \Gamma \cap M$  is a real-analytic set defined by a finite system of equations. If  $0 \in \Gamma$ , then the proof follows from Lemma 2.1. Therefore, we may assume that  $0 \in \partial \Gamma$ . First, we consider the case where 0 is a generic point (i.e.,  $\partial \Gamma \cap M$  is a smooth generic submanifold near 0).

#### 2.1. Extension across generic submanifolds

Recall that a real submanifold  $M \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  of real dimension  $d \ge n$  is called generic if for any  $z \in M$ , the complex tangent space  $T_z^c M$  to M at z has complex dimension equal to d - n. In this subsection, we consider the restriction of f on  $\Gamma$  (still denoted by f). This restriction  $f : \Gamma \to M'$  is holomorphic in a neighborhood of  $\Gamma$  and its graph extends as an analytic set to a neighborhood of (0, 0'). In all this paragraph, we will assume that  $\partial \Gamma \cap M$  is a smooth generic submanifold near 0. Our aim here is to prove that f extends holomorphically near 0. First, we will prove the extension of f as a holomorphic correspondence near 0. The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 1.3 in [11] (here, M' is not assumed to be compact). For the sake of completeness, we add an abbreviated proof. In view of Proposition 4.1 in [10], there exists an open subset  $\omega$  of  $Q_0$  such that for all  $b \in \omega$ ,  $Q_b \cap \Gamma$  is non-empty. Furthermore, there exists a non-constant curve  $\gamma \subset \Gamma \cap Q_b$  with the end point at 0. Thus, we may choose t and b such that  $b \in Q_0$  and  $t \in \gamma \subset \Gamma \cap Q_b$ . For simplicity, we will also denote by  $f : U_t \to \mathbb{C}^N$  a germ of a holomorphic mapping defined from the extension of f in some neighborhood  $U_t$  of t. Let V be a neighborhood of  $Q_t$  and define  $X = \{(w, w') \in V \times \mathbb{C}^N : f(Q_w \cap U_t) \subset Q'_{w'}\}$ . Since  $w \in Q_t$  implies that  $t \in Q_w$ , then we may choose V such that  $Q_w \cap U_t$  is non-empty for all  $w \in V$ . The analytic set X allows us to extend the graph of f and with dimension equal to n (the same dimension as the graph of f). For this construction, we will follow the ideas in [11]. The analytic set  $X^*$  allows us to prove that f extends as a holomorphic correspondence to a neighborhood of 0. This extending the graph of 0. This construction, we will follow the ideas in [11]. The analytic set  $X^*$  allows us to prove that f extends as a holomorph

According to [11], X is a complex analytic subset of  $V \times \mathbb{C}^N$ . By the invariance property of Segre varieties, X contains the germ at t of the graph of f. From the algebraicity of M', the set X extends to an analytic subset of  $V \times \mathbb{P}^N$ . Since  $\mathbb{P}^N$  is compact and X is closed in  $V \times \mathbb{P}^N$ , the projection  $\pi : X \to V$  is proper. It follows that  $\pi(X)$  is a complex analytic subset of V. Since V is connected,  $\pi(X) = V$ . Otherwise;  $\pi(X)$  is nowhere dense in V and therefore dim $\pi(X) \leq n-1$ , which proves that  $\pi$  is surjective. Since X contains the germ at t of the graph of f, we may consider only the irreducible component of the least dimension which contains the graph of f. So, we may assume that  $\dim(X) \equiv m \ge n$ . For  $\xi \in X$ , let  $I_{\xi}\pi \subset X$  be the germ of the fiber  $\pi^{-1}(\pi(\xi))$  at  $\xi$ . For a generic point  $\xi \in X$ , dim $(I_{\xi}\pi) = m - n$  which is the smallest possible dimension of the fiber. By Cartan–Remmert's theorem (see [5]), the set  $\Sigma := \{\xi \in X: \dim(I_{\xi}\pi) > m - n\}$  is complexanalytic and by Remmert's proper mapping theorem,  $\pi(\Sigma)$  is a complex-analytic set in V. Furthermore, dim $\pi(\Sigma) < n-1$ . By the above considerations, we deduce that  $\pi(\Sigma)$  does not contain  $Q_0 \cap V$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that  $b \notin \pi(\Sigma)$ . Since the projection  $\pi$  is proper, then X defines a holomorphic correspondence. Denote the corresponding multiple-valued map by  $\widehat{F}$ . That is,  $\widehat{F} := \pi' \circ \pi^{-1} : V \to \mathbb{P}^N$ , where  $\pi' : X \to \mathbb{P}^N$  denotes the other coordinate projection. We choose suitable neighborhoods,  $U_{\gamma}$  of  $\gamma$  (including its endpoints) and  $U_b$  of b such that  $U_b \cap \pi(\Sigma) = \emptyset$  and  $Q_w \cap U_b$ is non-empty and connected for any  $w \in U_{\gamma}$ . Consider the set  $X^* = \{(w, w') \in U_{\gamma} \times \mathbb{P}^N : \widehat{F}(Q_w \cap U_b) \subset Q'_{w'}\}$ . The same arguments used for  $\pi$  show that the projection  $\pi^* : X^* \to U_{\gamma}$  is surjective and proper. Now, define  $\pi'^* : X^* \to \mathbb{P}^N$  and consider the multiple-valued mapping  $\widehat{F^*} := \pi'^* \circ \pi^{*-1} : U_{\gamma} \to \mathbb{P}^N$ . We will denote by  $w^s$  the symmetric point of  $w \in U$ , which is the unique point in the intersection  $Q_w \cap \{z \in U: z = w\}$ . Let now  $\Omega$  be a small connected neighborhood of the path  $\gamma$  which connects t and 0, such that for any  $w \in \Omega$ , the symmetric point  $w^s$  belongs to  $U_{\gamma}$ , and let  $Q_w^s$  denote the connected component of  $Q_w \cap U_v$  which contains  $w^s$ . Define further  $\Sigma^* = \{z \in U_v: \pi^{*-1}(z) \text{ does not have the generic}$ dimension). Since  $\Sigma^*$  is a complex analytic set of dimension at most n-2, then  $\Omega \setminus \Sigma^*$  is connected. According to [11], one has the following:

### Lemma 2.2.

(a) For any point  $w \in \Omega \setminus \Sigma^*$  and  $w' \in \widehat{F^*}(w)$ , we have:

$$\widehat{F^*}(Q^s_w) \subset Q'_{w'}$$

- (b)  $X^*$  contains the germ of the graph of f at (t, f(t)).
- (c)  $X^*$  is a complex-analytic subset of  $U_{\gamma} \times \mathbb{P}^N$  of complex dimension *n*.

(2.1)

From the algebraicity of M' the analytic subset  $\mathcal{A} \subset U \times U'$  extending the graph of f, extends to an analytic subset in  $U \times \mathbb{P}^N$ . Denote this extension by  $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ .

**Lemma 2.3.**  $X^* \cap [(U \cap U_{\gamma}) \times \mathbb{P}^N] = \overline{\mathcal{A}} \cap [(U \cap U_{\gamma}) \times \mathbb{P}^N].$ 

**Proof.** We may assume that *t* is close to 0 so that  $U_t \subset U \cap U_{\gamma}$ . By Lemma 2.1, *f* extends holomorphically across *t*, and the graph of *f* near (t, f(t)) is contained in  $\overline{A}$ . The set  $X^*$  contains the graph of *f* near (t, f(t)) by Lemma 2.2. By considering dimensions of  $X^*$  and  $\overline{A}$ , and by shrinking  $U_t$  if necessary we have:  $X^*|_{U_t \times \mathbb{P}^N} = \overline{A}|_{U_t \times \mathbb{P}^N}$ . Now the proof follows from the uniqueness theorem for analytic sets.  $\Box$ 

Our aim now is to prove that f extends as a holomorphic correspondence to a neighborhood of 0. First, suppose that  $0 \notin \Sigma^*$ . In view of Lemma 2.3,  $(0, 0') \in X^*$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $(z, z') \in X^* \setminus \pi^{*^{-1}}(\Sigma^*)$  implies that  $\widehat{F^*}(Q_z^s) \subset Q'_{z'}$ . In particular,  $\widehat{F^*}(z) \subset Q'_{z'}$ . Hence,  $z' \in Q'_{z'}$  and so  $z' \in M'$ . Then, for any  $z \in M$  close to 0 and any z' close to 0', the inclusion  $(z, z') \in X^*$  implies  $z' \in M'$ . Since  $\widehat{F^*}(z)$  is contained in a countable union of complex analytic sets and M' is minimal, it follows that  $\pi^{*^{-1}}(z)$  is discrete near (0, 0'). Therefore, we may choose U and U' so small such that  $\pi'^*|_{X^* \cap (U \times U')} \circ \pi^{*^{-1}}|_U$  is the desired extension of f as a holomorphic correspondence. Now, suppose that  $0 \in \Sigma^*$ . Consider a sequence of points  $w_j \in (\Gamma \cap \Omega) \setminus \Sigma^*$  such that  $w_j \to 0$  and  $f(w_j) \to 0'$ . Then  $\widehat{F^*}(Q_{w_j}^s) \subset Q'_{f(w_j)}$ . Since dim  $\Sigma^* < \dim Q_0$ , to prove that

$$\widehat{F^*}(Q_0^s) \subset Q_{0'}^{\prime},\tag{2.2}$$

it suffices to prove this inclusion in a neighborhood of any point in  $Q_0^s \setminus \Sigma^*$ . But this follows by analyticity of the fibers of  $\pi^* : X^* \to U_{\gamma}$ . Then as above  ${\pi^*}^{-1}(0)$  is discrete near (0, 0') and f extends to a neighborhood of 0 as a holomorphic correspondence. We denote this correspondence by G. To prove that the extension of f is in fact an extension as a map, we need the following result:

**Theorem** (A. Tumanov). (See [12].) Let  $N \subset \mathbb{C}^N$  be a real-analytic (resp. a real-algebraic) minimal submanifold. Then N can be stratified as  $N = \bigcup_{j=1}^k N_j$  so that each stratum  $N_j$  is a real-analytic (resp. a real-algebraic) CR manifold and locally is contained in a Levi non-degenerate real-analytic (resp. real-algebraic) hypersurface.

We denote by  $M'_{s}^{+}$  (resp.  $M'_{s}^{-}$ ) the set of strictly pseudoconvex points (resp. strictly pseudoconcave points) of M'. The set of points where the Levi-form of M' has eigenvalues of both signs on the complex tangent space  $T^{c}(M')$  to M' and no zero will be denoted by  $M'^{\pm}$  and by  $M'_{0}$  we mean the set of points of M' where this Levi-form has at least one eigenvalue 0 on  $T^{c}(M')$ . We will discuss two cases. First assume that  $0' \in M'_{s}^{+} \cup M'_{s}^{-} \cup M'^{\pm}$ . We may shrink U' so that the Segre map  $\lambda': U' \to \{Q_{w'}, w' \in U'\}$  is one to one. Let  $w' \in G(w)$  for  $w \in M \cap U$ . In view of (2.1) and (2.2),  $G(Q_w) \subset Q'_{w'}$ . In particular,  $w' \in Q'_{w'}$  and hence  $G(M \cap U) \subset M' \cap U'$ . By using Corollary 4.2 of [3] and the fact that  $\lambda'$  is one to one, we may show that the correspondence G splits into several holomorphic maps, one of which extends the map f. Secondly, assume that  $0' \in M'_{0}$ . By Tumanov's theorem,  $M' = \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} N_{j}$  and each  $N_{j}$  is locally contained in a Levi non-degenerate real-algebraic hypersurface  $\tilde{M}_{j}$ . The extension of f as a correspondence near 0 implies that f extends continuously to  $U_{0} \cap M$ , for some neighborhood  $U_{0} \subset U$  of 0. Let  $j_{0}$  be the largest index such that  $0' \in N_{j_{0}}$ . Using the continuity of f and by shrinking  $U_{0}$  if necessary, we may assume that  $f(U_{0} \cap M) \subset \tilde{M}_{j_{0}}$ . By [6], the hypersurface  $\tilde{M}_{j_{0}}$  is minimal (since, it is Levi non-degenerate). Hence as above, we may show that f extends as a holomorphic correspondence  $\tilde{G}$  near 0 and we may choose  $U_{0}$  and U' so that  $\tilde{G}(U_{0} \cap M) \subset U' \cap \tilde{M}_{j_{0}}$ . Now as in the first case, we may show that f extends as a holomorphic map near 0.  $\Box$ 

**Remark.** In [11], Shafikov and Verma proved that if M and M' are hypersurfaces as in Theorem 1.1, M' is compact,  $\Gamma \subset M$  is a connected open set and f is a holomorphic map in a neighborhood of  $\Gamma$  with  $f(\Gamma) \subset M'$ , then f extends as a holomorphic correspondence near any generic point in  $\partial \Gamma \cap M$ . So, as above we may use the result of Tumanov to prove that this extension is in fact an extension as a map.

#### 3. Conclusion of the proof of Theorem 1.1

First, suppose that  $0 \in \text{Reg}(\partial \Gamma)$ . Then near  $0, \partial \Gamma \cap M$  is a generic submanifold of dimension 2n - 2 and the proof follows from Section 2.1. Suppose now that  $0 \in \text{Sing}(\partial \Gamma)$ . Since  $\partial \Gamma$  is a real-analytic set defined by a finite system of equations, it follows from [9] that there exists a real-analytic set  $\Gamma_1$  of real dimension at most 2n - 3, which is also defined by a finite system of equations such that  $\text{Sing}(\partial \Gamma) \subset \Gamma_1$ . If  $0 \in \text{Reg}(\Gamma_1)$ , then we may shrink U if necessary so that  $U \cap \Gamma_1$  is contained in some generic submanifold  $\widetilde{\Gamma_1}$  of M, of dimension 2n - 2, and we may show that f extends holomorphically near 0 by repeating the argument above. The singular part of  $\Gamma_1$  is now contained in a real-analytic set of dimension 2n - 4, then if  $0 \in \text{Sing}(\Gamma_1)$ , by induction on dimension we may complete the proof.  $\Box$ 

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Let  $M_h := \{z \in \partial D: f \text{ extends holomorphically to a neighborhood of } z\}$ . The set  $M_h$  is open by construction and nonempty by Theorem 1.1. To prove the theorem, it suffices to show that  $M_h$  is closed in  $\partial D$ . By contradiction, assume that  $\overline{M_h} \neq M_h$ , and let  $q \in \partial M_h$ . Following the ideas developed in [1] and [11] there exists a CR-curve  $\gamma$  passing through q and entering  $M_h$ . After shortening  $\gamma$ , we may assume that  $\gamma$  is a smoothly embedded segment. Then  $\gamma$  can be described as a part of an integral curve of some non-vanishing smooth CR-vector field L near q. By integrating L we obtain a smooth coordinate system  $(t, s) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n-2}$  on  $\partial D$  such that for any fixed  $s_0$  the segments  $(t, s_0)$  are contained in the trajectories of L. We may assume that  $(0, 0) \in \gamma \cap M_h$  sufficiently close to q. For  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\tau > 0$ , define the family of ellipsoids on  $\partial D$ centered at 0 by  $E_{\tau} = \{(t, s): |t|^2/\tau + |s|^2 < \epsilon\}$ , where  $\epsilon > 0$  is so small that for some  $\tau_0 > 0$  the ellipsoid  $E_{\tau_0}$  is compactly contained in  $M_h$ . Observe that every  $\partial E_{\tau}$  is transverse to the trajectories of L out off the set  $\Lambda := \{(0, s): |s|^2 = \epsilon\}$ . So,  $\partial E_{\tau}$  is generic at every point except the points of  $\Lambda$ . Note that  $\Lambda$  is contained in  $M_h$ . Let  $\tau_1$  be the smallest positive number such that f does not extend holomorphically to some point  $b \in \partial E_{\tau_1}$ . Note that  $\tau_1 > \tau_0$  and b may be different from q. Near b,  $\partial E_{\tau_1}$  is a smooth generic manifold of  $\partial D$ ; since the non-generic points of  $\partial E_{\tau_1}$  are contained in  $\Lambda$ , which is contained in  $M_h$ . Then, we are in the situation of the Section 2.1. Consequently, f extends as a holomorphic map to a neighborhood of b. This contradiction finishes the proof of Theorem 1.2.  $\Box$ 

#### Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the referee's comments which improved the paper greatly.

#### References

- [1] B. Ayed, N. Ourimi, Analytic continuation of holomorphic mappings, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 347 (2009) 1011–1016.
- [2] B. Coupet, S. Damour, J. Merker, A. Sukhov, Sur l'analyticité des applications CR lisses à valeurs dans un ensemble algébrique réel, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 334 (11) (2002) 953–956.
- [3] K. Diederich, S. Pinchuk, Proper holomorphic maps in dimension 2 extend, Indiana Univ. Math. J. 44 (1995) 1089–1126.
- [4] K. Diederich, S. Pinchuk, Analytic sets extending the graphs of holomorphic mappings, J. Geom. Anal. 14 (2) (2004) 231-239.
- [5] S. Lojasiewicz, Introduction to Complex Analytic Geometry, Birkhäuser, Basel, 1991.
- [6] J. Merker, On the local geometry of generic submanifolds of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and the analytic reflection principle (part 1), J. Math. Sci. 125 (6) (2005) 751–824.
- [7] J. Merker, E. Porten, On wedge extendability of CR-meromorphic functions, Math. Z. 241 (2002) 485-512.
- [8] F. Meylan, N. Mir, D. Zaitsev, Holomorphic extension of smooth CR-mappings between real-analytic and real-algebraic CR-manifolds, Asian J. Math. 7 (4) (2003) 503–519.
- [9] R. Narasimhan, Introduction to the Theory of Analytic Spaces, Lecture Notes in Math., vol. 25, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1966.
- [10] R. Shafikov, Analytic continuation of germs of holomorphic mappings between real hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , Michigan Math. J. 47 (1) (2001) 133–149.
- [11] R. Shafikov, K. Verma, Extension of holomorphic maps between real hypersurfaces of different dimensions, Ann. Inst. Fourier, Grenoble 57 (6) (2007) 2063–2080.
- [12] A. Tumanov, Foliations by complex curves and the geometry of real surfaces of finite type, Math. Z. 240 (2002) 385-388.