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CHARLES FAVRE

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**NOTE ON PULL-BACK AND
LELONG NUMBER OF CURRENTS**

BY CHARLES FAVRE (*)

ABSTRACT. — We prove a uniform estimate of the Lelong number of the pull-back of a plurisubharmonic function by a holomorphic map in term of the original Lelong number of this function.

RÉSUMÉ. — NOTE SUR LE NOMBRE DE LELONG DES PULL-BACK DE COURANTS. Cet article est consacré à l'étude du nombre de Lelong $\nu(f^*u, 0)$ du pull-back d'une fonction plurisousharmonique u par une application holomorphe $f: (\mathbb{C}^m, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ génériquement de rang maximal. Nous prouvons l'estimée $\nu(f^*u, 0) \leq C_f \times \nu(u, 0)$ avec une constante C_f uniforme en u .

1. Statement of the main result

Fix $f: (\mathbb{C}^m, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ a holomorphic germ, and T a positive closed current of bidegree $(1, 1)$ defined in a neighborhood of the origin in $(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$. Let $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ be a plurisubharmonic (psh) potential for T such that $T = dd^c u$. One can set

$$f^*T := dd^c(u \circ f)$$

as soon as the psh function $u \circ f$ is not identically $-\infty$.

DEFINITION 1 (Lelong number, see [LG86]). — Let $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$. The function $r \mapsto \sup_{|z|=r} u(z)$ is an increasing convex function of $\log r$.

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C. FAVRE, Department of Mathematics, Royal Institute of Technology, S-100 44 Stockholm (Sweden). Email: favre@math.kth.se.
Département de Mathématiques, Bât. 425, Université Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay CEDEX (France). Charles.Favre@anh.math.u-psud.fr.

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- We can hence define the *Lelong number* of u at 0 by setting

$$\nu(u, 0) := \max\{c \geq 0; \text{ such that } u(z) \leq c \log |z| + O(1)\}$$

which is a finite non-negative real number.

- For a positive closed $(1,1)$ current T in $(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$, the *Lelong number* of T at 0 is

$$\nu(T, 0) := \nu(u, 0)$$

for any psh potential $T = dd^c u$.

For a given positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$ so that f^*T exists, we are interested in estimating the Lelong number of the pull-back $\nu(f^*T, 0)$ in terms of $\nu(T, 0)$. Our theorem can be stated as follows.

THEOREM 2. — *Let $f: (\mathbb{C}^m, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ be a holomorphic map. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- 1) *the map f has generic (maximal) rank equal to n ;*
- 2) *for any positive closed current T of bidegree $(1,1)$ f^*T is well defined, and the operator f^* is continuous for the weak topology of currents;*
- 3) *the range of f is not pluripolar;*
- 4) *for any positive closed current T of bidegree $(1,1)$ f^*T is well defined, and there exists a constant $C > 0$ (depending only on f) such that one has the inequality*

$$\nu(T, 0) \leq \nu(f^*T, 0) \leq C \cdot \nu(T, 0)$$

*between Lelong numbers of T and f^*T at the origin.*

REMARK 3. — The proof gives an estimate for the constant C above. Assume $n = m$ and 1) is satisfied. Then 4) holds with

$$C = 1 + 2(\mu(Jf, 0) + n - 1),$$

where $\mu(Jf, 0)$ is the order of vanishing of the Jacobian determinant of f at 0.

Using this remark, we also have a semi local version of Theorem 2.

COROLLARY 4. — *Let X and Y be two connected complex manifolds, and $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic map whose generic rank is maximal equal to $\dim(Y)$. Then for any compact set $K \subset X$, there exists a constant $C_K > 0$ such that for all positive closed current T of bidegree $(1,1)$ and all $p \in K$, one has the inequality*

$$\nu(T, p) \leq \nu(f^*T, p) \leq C_K \cdot \nu(T, f(p))$$

between Lelong numbers.

Before giving a proof of this theorem and of its corollary, we will make some remarks about the stated results.

The main result of Theorem 2 is contained in the implication 1) \Rightarrow 4). All the others are either obvious, or were known before.

The second assertion is contained in [M96]. We also refer the reader to this article for more general problems concerning pull-back of positive closed currents by holomorphic mappings.

The upper estimate given in 4) was already known in several different cases (the other inequality is easy to prove).

PROPOSITION 5 (see [De93]). — *Let f be a finite holomorphic germ $(\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ of local degree d and T a positive closed current (of any bidegree). Then*

$$\nu(f^*T, 0) \leq d \times \nu(T, 0).$$

C. Kiselman also proved 1) \Rightarrow 4) for monomial morphisms.

PROPOSITION 6 (see [K87]). — *Let $M = [a_{ij}] \in M(n, \mathbb{N})$ be an $n \times n$ matrix with non-negative integer coefficients. We assume that $\det M \neq 0$. If*

$$f(z) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^n z_j^{a_{1j}}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^n z_j^{a_{nj}} \right)$$

then for any positive closed (1,1) current T

$$\nu(f^*T, 0) \leq \max_i \left\{ \sum_j a_{ij} \right\} \cdot \nu(T, 0).$$

Diller in [D98] also proved the main estimate 4) for birational mappings of \mathbb{P}^2 .

A warning concerning the implication 1) \Rightarrow 3). When f does not have generic maximal rank, it is not true in general that the image of f is contained in a countable union of hypersurfaces. It is contained in a countable union of polydisks of dimension strictly less than n .

EXAMPLE 7 (see [H73, 4.2]). — *Define $f: (\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^3, 0)$ by*

$$f(z, w, t) = (z, ze^w, ze^{e^w}).$$

Note that f is independent of the last variable t . Then the set $f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0)$ is pluripolar, but it is not included in a countable union of hypersurfaces.

Proof. — We give a short proof of these facts. We begin proving that $f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0)$ is pluripolar. Decompose the mapping $f = \pi \circ g \circ p$ with

$$\begin{aligned} p(z, w, t) &= (z, w), \\ g(x, y) &= (y, e^x, e^{e^x}), \\ \pi(z, w, t) &= (z, zw, zt). \end{aligned}$$

The range of g is included in the hypersurface $g(\mathbb{C}^2, 0) \subset \{e^w = t\}$, hence is pluripolar. The morphism π is an isomorphism outside $\{z = 0\}$. As countable union of pluripolar sets remains pluripolar, we see that the image

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0) &= \pi \circ g \circ p(\mathbb{C}^3, 0) = \pi(g(\mathbb{C}^2, 0)) \\ &= \{0\} \bigcup_{k \geq 0} \pi(g(\mathbb{C}^2, 0) \cap \{|z| > 1/k\}) \end{aligned}$$

is also pluripolar.

For the second fact, we proceed as follows. Assume first that $f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0)$ is included in an hypersurface defined by a non identically zero holomorphic map h . We thus have the identity

$$h(z, ze^w, ze^{e^w}) = 0$$

for every z, w in a neighborhood of $0 \in \mathbb{C}$. Expand h in power series $h = \sum_{k \geq 0} h_k$ where h_k is a homogeneous polynomial of degree k in three variables. Take an index $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $h_{k_0} \not\equiv 0$. Then

$$h_{k_0}(z, ze^w, ze^{e^w}) = z^{k_0} h_{k_0}(1, e^w, e^{e^w}) \equiv 0.$$

This would contradict the fact that the three functions $(1, e^w, e^{e^w})$ are algebraically independent.

Now assume $f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_n$ is included in a countable union of hypersurfaces. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the complex space $f^{-1}H_n$ is also an hypersurface by what precedes. But we have

$$(\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \subset f^{-1}f(\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \subset \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f^{-1}H_n,$$

which can not contain any open subset of $(\mathbb{C}^3, 0)$. \square

Finally, a word about the motivations of this article. The author came to the problem of estimating Lelong numbers of pull-back of positive closed $(1, 1)$ current while working on dynamics of rational maps of the projective space $f: \mathbb{P}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^k$ with maximal generic rank. Let us give a simple application of Theorem 2 in this context. We first recall some well-known facts which can be found for instance in [Si99].

We let $\pi: \mathbb{C}^{k+1} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^k$ be the natural projection onto \mathbb{P}^k , and take $F = (F_0, \dots, F_k): \mathbb{C}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{k+1}$ a polynomial lift of f so that

$$F \circ \pi = \pi \circ f.$$

We assume that the $k + 1$ polynomials $\{F_i\}_{0 \leq i \leq k}$ do not contain any common factors. The indeterminacy set of f is equal to

$$I(f) := \pi \left(\bigcap_{i=0}^k F_i^{-1} \{0\} \right).$$

Given any positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$ on \mathbb{P}^k , one can find a psh function G on \mathbb{C}^{k+1} , called its *potential*, such that

1) there exists a constant $c > 0$ for which for all $Z \in \mathbb{C}^{k+1}$ and for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$G(\lambda Z) = c \log |\lambda| + G(Z);$$

2) $\pi^* T = dd^c G$.

Conversely, given a psh function G on \mathbb{C}^{k+1} satisfying the homogeneity condition 1), one can find a unique positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$ on \mathbb{P}^k such that 2) holds.

DEFINITION 8. — Let $f: \mathbb{P}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^k$ be a rational map of maximal generic rank k , and T be a positive current of bidegree $(1, 1)$ with potential G . We define $f^* T$ to be the positive closed current of bidegree $(1, 1)$ whose potential is $G \circ F$.

The study of the operator f^* turns out to give many interesting informations on f and on its dynamics (see [Si99]). When f is not holomorphic, for any positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$, the current $f^* T$ admits singularity points even if T has a smooth potential. The computation of Lelong numbers of $f^* T$ can be viewed as a quantitative measure of how bad the singularities of this current are. The estimate 4) allows us to extend a result of [D98].

PROPOSITION 9. — *Let $f: \mathbb{P}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^k$ be a rational map with maximal generic rank and T be a positive closed current of bidegree $(1,1)$. Then $\nu(f^*T, p) > 0$ if and only if either $p \in I(f)$ or $\nu(T, f(p)) > 0$.*

Proof. — Assume that $p \notin I(f)$. As f has generic maximal rank, we can apply Theorem 2. This yields a constant $C_f > 0$ such that

$$\nu(T, f(p)) \leq \nu(f^*T, p) \leq C_f \cdot \nu(T, f(p)).$$

And it follows that $\nu(f^*T, p) > 0$ if and only if $\nu(T, f(p)) > 0$. It remains to check that if p belongs to $I(f)$, then $\nu(f^*T, p) > 0$. Choose σ a local section of π around p , and $G \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^{k+1})$ a potential for T . One can find a constant $A > 0$ so that

$$|F(\sigma(z))| \leq A|z - p|$$

for points z near p . As the function G satisfies an homogeneity relation, one can bound it by

$$G(Z) \leq B \log |Z| + O(1),$$

with $B > 0$. We thus have

$$G(F(\sigma(z))) \leq B \log |z - p| + O(1) \quad \text{and} \quad \nu(f^*T, p) \geq B > 0,$$

which concludes the proof. \square

NOTE. — The main theorem has been proved independently by C. Kiselman (see [K99]) with a different method. His proof relies on volume estimates of sublevel sets of psh functions.

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2. Proof of the main theorem

We shall first prove the equivalence between the first three assertions. We conclude by proving $4) \Rightarrow 3)$, and $1) \Rightarrow 4)$.

$1) \Rightarrow 2)$. — We assume that f has generic maximal rank equal to n . If $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ is non degenerate, the psh function $u \circ f$ can not be identically $-\infty$ as the range of f contains some open ball. Hence f^*T is well-defined for any closed positive current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$. For a sequence of positive closed $(1, 1)$ current $T_j \rightarrow T$ converging weakly towards T , one can find a sequence u_j of psh potential of T_j converging in L^1_{loc} to a psh potential for T . It remains to check that $u_j \circ f \rightarrow u \circ f$ in L^1_{loc} .

As f has maximal generic rank, $u_j \circ f \rightarrow u \circ f$ almost everywhere. Now one can extract a subsequence $u_{j_k} \circ f$ converging in L^1_{loc} to a psh function (see [Ho83] p.94). As any such limit should be equal to $u \circ f$, we infer $u_j \circ f \rightarrow u \circ f$ in L^1_{loc} , thus $f^*T_j \rightarrow f^*T$ in the weak topology.

$2) \Rightarrow 3)$. — If the range $f(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ is pluripolar, one can find $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ non-degenerate such that $u \circ f \equiv -\infty$. In that case, if $T := \text{dd}^c u$, f^*T is not defined.

We also give an example of a sequence of positive closed currents of bidegree $(1, 1)$ so that $T_n \rightarrow T$, f^*T_n and f^*T are all well-defined, but for which the sequence f^*T_n fails to converge to f^*T . For this, work in the unit ball, and take $f(z, w) = (0, w)$, $T_n = \text{dd}^c u_n$, with

$$u_n(z, w) = \max\{n^{-1} \log |z|, -2 + |w|^2\}.$$

Then $T_n \rightarrow 0$ but $f^*T_n = \text{dd}^c |w|^2$.

$3) \Rightarrow 1)$. — We only sketch the proof. We proceed by induction on m . Assume $f: (\mathbb{C}^m, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ is a holomorphic germ such that $\text{rk } Df_z$ the rank of Df_z is smaller than $n - 1$ for any $z \in (\mathbb{C}^m, 0)$. Set

$$N := \max\{\text{rk } Df_z\} \leq n - 1,$$

and define for each $k \leq N$,

$$V_k := \{z \in (\mathbb{C}^m, 0); \text{rk } Df_z \leq k\}.$$

By assumption, V_N contains an open neighborhood of the origin. Define

$$W := V_N - V_{N-1}.$$

The set V_k is the set where all minors of Df_z of size $k + 1$ have zero determinant, and hence defines a closed analytic subspace of $(\mathbb{C}^m, 0)$.

Hence W is a Zariski open set of V_N . Now, on W the rank of the differential of f is constant equal to N . We can thus apply locally the constant rank theorem. Take any countable covering $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ of W by open subsets such that for each $i \in I$, the set $f(U_i)$ is a (non-closed) analytic subset of $(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ of dimension $N < n$. For any $i \in I$ $f(U_i)$ is pluripolar. A countable union of pluripolar sets remains pluripolar, hence $f(W) = \bigcup_{i \in I} f(U_i)$ is pluripolar.

As $\dim(V_{N-1}) < m$, we can apply the induction hypothesis to conclude that

$$f(\mathbb{C}^m, 0) = f(W) \cup f(V_{N-1})$$

is pluripolar too.

The implication 4) \Rightarrow 3) follows from 2) \Rightarrow 3).

In fact, we even have that when the range of f is pluripolar, the supremum of $(\nu(T, 0))^{-1} \nu(f^*T, 0)$ over all positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$ for which f^*T is well-defined, is not finite.

Take $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ non-degenerate such that $u \circ f \equiv -\infty$. For any $\alpha > 0$, define

$$v_\alpha(z) := \max\{\alpha \log |z|, u(z) + \log |z|\}.$$

Then

$$\nu(f^*v_\alpha, 0) = \alpha \cdot \nu(\log |f|, 0), \quad \nu(v_\alpha, 0) = \min\{\alpha, \nu(u, 0) + 1\}.$$

Hence for $\alpha \geq \nu(u, 0) + 1$,

$$(\nu(\text{dd}^c v_\alpha, 0))^{-1} \nu(f^* \text{dd}^c v_\alpha, 0) = C\alpha$$

with $C = (\nu(u, 0) + 1)^{-1} \nu(\log |f|, 0)$.

1) \Rightarrow 4). — Let us first prove the following general result.

LEMMA 10. — *If $f: (\mathbb{C}^m, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ is an arbitrary holomorphic germ, and T is a positive closed current of bidegree $(1, 1)$ so that f^*T is well-defined, one has the inequality*

$$\nu(f^*T, 0) \geq \nu(T, 0)$$

between Lelong numbers.

Proof. — We fix $u \in \text{PSH}(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ a local potential for T . We always have $|f(Z)| \leq A|Z|$ for some constant, so that the estimate

$$u(Z) \leq \nu(T, 0) \log |Z| + O(1)$$

implies

$$u(f(Z)) \leq \nu(T, 0) \log |Z| + O(1)$$

which gives us the stated inequality. \square

We now proceed with the proof of the upper bound for $\nu(f^*T, 0)$ given in 4). As before, u will denote a local potential for T .

Let us show how to reduce the proof of this estimate to the equidimensional case *i.e.* when $n = m$.

We assume the estimate has already been proved for $n = m$. By assumption, the rank of the Jacobian derivative of f is generically equal to n . We can therefore find a closed embedding

$$i: L = (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{C}^m, 0)$$

of a piece of n -plane into $(\mathbb{C}^m, 0)$ such that the rank of the Jacobian derivative of the restriction

$$\bar{f} := f \circ i$$

to $(\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ is also generically equal to n . We can now apply the estimate to \bar{f} and use Lemma 10. We get

$$\nu(f^*T, 0) \leq \nu(i^* \circ f^*T, 0) \leq \nu(\bar{f}^*T, 0) \leq C_{\bar{f}} \cdot \nu(T, 0).$$

Let us deal now with the equidimensional case. The assumption on f can be rewritten as its Jacobian derivative does not vanish identically on a neighborhood of the origin.

Take a line L passing through 0 intersecting $\text{Crit}(f)$ the critical set of f only at 0, and not tangent to any irreducible component of $\text{Crit}(f)$. We can assume it is given in coordinates $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ by

$$L := \{z_2 = \dots = z_n = 0\}.$$

We can find an open cone around this line L

$$\mathcal{C} := \{z \in U; \text{dist}(z, L) < \varepsilon|z|\}$$

such that $\mathcal{C} \cap \text{Crit}(f) = \emptyset$.

Instead of working in this cone, it is more convenient to work on an open set. We thus consider the blow-up π of the origin 0, and replace the germ f by the composition $g := f \circ \pi$. In coordinates,

$$\pi(z) = (z_1, z_1 z_2, \dots, z_1 z_n).$$

We look at g in the open set $\overline{\pi^{-1}\{\mathcal{C}\}}$. Define

$$E = \pi^{-1}\{0\} = \{z_1 = 0\}.$$

Let us point out some special properties of the map g .

- 1) $\text{Crit}(g) = E$.
- 2) $g^{-1}\{0\} = E$.

We can thus write the Jacobian determinant of g under the form

$$Jg(z) = z_1^N \psi(z)$$

for some integer $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and some holomorphic function ψ which does not vanish at any point of E . In a sufficiently small neighborhood V of the origin, we can find a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $z \in V$

$$(1) \quad |Jg(z)| \geq C|z_1|^N.$$

For the proof of Remark 3 and Corollary 4, we will need the following estimation on the integer N . It gives precisely a control on the constant C of assertion 4) of the theorem.

LEMMA 11. — *The integer N introduced above can be chosen as*

$$N = \mu(Jf, 0) + n - 1,$$

where $\mu(Jf, 0)$ is the order of vanishing of the holomorphic function Jf at the point 0.

Proof. — Set $N_0 := \mu(Jf, 0)$. We first check that for a (generic) suitable choice of line L , one has in a small cone \mathcal{C} around L as above

$$(2) \quad |Jf(z)| \geq C|z|^{N_0}.$$

Expand the holomorphic jacobian determinant Jf in power series

$$Jf = \sum_{k \geq N_0} h_k$$

where h_k is a homogeneous polynomial of degree k and h_{N_0} is not identically zero. Let \mathbb{P}^{n-1} be the set of complex lines in \mathbb{C}^n passing through the origin, and for a point $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ set $L_z = \mathbb{C}z$. By homogeneity of h_{N_0} , one can define the continuous function $H: \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ by

$$H(L_z) = |z|^{-N_0} |h_{N_0}(z)|.$$

Take a generic line L such that $H(L) > 0$. Then for all lines L' close to L , one has $H(L') \geq \frac{1}{2}H(L)$. Hence in a small cone \mathcal{C} around L , one has $H(L_z) \geq \frac{1}{2}H(L)$.

We infer for all $z \in \mathcal{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z)| &\geq \left| h_{N_0}(z) - \sum_{k \geq N_0+1} h_k(z) \right| \\ &\geq |h_{N_0}(z)| - \left| \sum_{k \geq N_0+1} h_k(z) \right| \\ &\geq 2^{-1}H(L)|z|^{N_0} - C'|z|^{N_0+1} \geq C|z|^{N_0}, \end{aligned}$$

for some constants $C, C' > 0$.

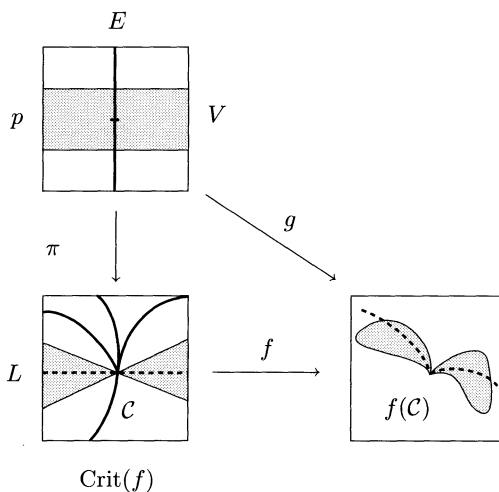
Now a direct computation yields

$$\det(D\pi_z) = z_1^{n-1}.$$

Therefore, if we have chosen a line L so that equation (2) applies, we get for all $z \in \mathcal{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\det(Dg_z)| &= |\det(D\pi_z) \cdot \det(Df_{\pi(z)})| \\ &\geq |z_1|^{n-1} \cdot C|z_1|^{\mu(Jf,0)}, \end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof of Lemma 11. \square



In the sequel, we will assume that V is a small ball in \mathbb{C}^n endowed with the usual euclidean metric. If $r > 0$ and K is a compact set, we set

$$B(K, r) := \{z ; \text{dist}(z, K) < r\}.$$

The key lemma is:

LEMMA 12. — *There exists two integers $N_0, N_1 \in \mathbb{N}^*$, and two positive constants $C_0, C_1 > 0$ such that for all $z \in V$,*

$$g(B(z, C_0|z_1|^{N_0})) \supset B(g(z), C_1|z_1|^{N_1}).$$

Moreover, we can choose $N_0 = N + 1$, and $N_1 = 2N + 1$ (with the above notations).

Proof. — The idea is to approximate the range of $g(B(z, r))$ by $Dg_z(B(z, r))$ and estimate the size of the latter.

We have $|Jg(z)| \geq C|z_1|^N$ for all $z \in V$. In V , all eigenvalues of Dg_z are uniformly bounded by some constant $D > 0$. Therefore for all $z \in V - E$,

$$|Dg_z^{-1}|^{-1} \geq \inf\{|\lambda|; \lambda \in \text{Spec}(Dg_z)\} \geq \frac{C}{D^{n-1}}|z_1|^N.$$

And for all $z \in V$, for all $r > 0$,

$$Dg_z(B(z, r)) \supset B(g(z), C'|z_1|^N r),$$

for some constant $C' > 0$. Now by Taylor's formula, there exists another constant $C'' > 0$ such that for all $z, w \in V$,

$$|g(w) - g(z) - Dg_z \cdot (w - z)| \leq C''|w - z|^2.$$

If we choose $M > N$ and take $r = |z_1|^M$, we infer for z sufficiently small

$$g(B(z, |z_1|^M)) \supset B(g(z), C'|z_1|^{N+M} - C''|z_1|^{2M}),$$

which gives the desired result with $N_1 = N + M$. \square

To conclude, we follow Diller [D98]. Define

$$\Delta_r := L \cap \{|z| \leq r\}.$$

We first apply Lemma 12 to each point of the set $\partial\Delta_r$. We obtain

$$(3) \quad g(B(\partial\Delta_r, C_0 r^{N_0})) \supset B(\partial g(\Delta_r), C_1 r^{N_1}).$$

We consider now translated of $g(\Delta_r)$ by vectors z of norm $|z| < C_1 r^{N_1}$. The estimate (3) tells us that $\partial(z + g(\Delta_r))$ is still included in the range of g . We have more precisely for all $|z| \leq C_1 r^{N_1}$,

- 1) $z \in z + g(\Delta_r)$,
- 2) $\partial(z + g(\Delta_r)) \subset g(B(\partial\Delta_r, C_0 r^{N_0}))$.

We are now in position to prove the desired inequality. We start with

$$u(g(z)) \leq \nu(g^*u, 0) \log |z| + D$$

for some constant $D \in \mathbb{R}$. We want to prove an analog estimate for u . Fix $z \in V$ and $r > 0$ such that $|z| < C_1 r^{N_1}$. Then the maximum principle applied to u on the analytic disk $z + g(\Delta_r)$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} u(z) &\leq \max_{z+g(\Delta_r)} u \leq \max_{\partial(z+g(\Delta_r))} u \\ &\leq \max_{g(B(\partial\Delta_r, C_0 r^{N_0}))} u \\ &\leq \max_{w \in B(\partial\Delta_r, C_0 r^{N_0})} u(g(w)) \\ &\leq \max_{w \in B(\partial\Delta_r, C_0 r^{N_0})} \nu(g^*u, 0) \log |w| + D \\ &\leq \nu(g^*u, 0) \log r + D' \end{aligned}$$

for $D' := D + \nu(g^*u, 0) \log(\frac{3}{2})$ (by possibly reducing C_0 we can assume that $C_0 r^{N_0-1} \leq \frac{1}{2}$). As this is true for any r satisfying $|z| \leq C_1 r^{N_1}$, we obtain

$$u(z) \leq \frac{1}{N_1} \nu(g^*u, 0) \log |z| + D''.$$

Thus $\nu(u, 0) \geq N_1^{-1} \nu(g^*u, 0)$. To conclude the proof we use the general inequality in Lemma 10

$$\nu(u, 0) \geq \frac{1}{N_1} \nu(g^*u, 0) \geq \frac{1}{N_1} \nu((f \circ \pi)^*u, 0) \geq \frac{1}{N_1} \nu(f^*u, 0).$$

The proof combined with Lemmas 11 and 12 gives more precisely (see Remark 3):

LEMMA 13. — *If $f: (\mathbb{C}^n, z) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, f(z))$ is a germ of holomorphic map of maximal generic rank, then for any positive closed current T of bidegree $(1, 1)$, one has the inequality*

$$\nu(f^*T, z) \leq (2(n - 1 + \mu(Jf, 0)) + 1) \cdot \nu(T, f(z))$$

between Lelong numbers.

Proof of Corollary 4. — We localize first the problem and assume that $X = B^m(0, 1)$, $Y = B^n(0, 1)$ are unit balls respectively in \mathbb{C}^m and \mathbb{C}^n . As before, it is sufficient to prove it in the equidimensional case *i.e.* $X = Y = B^n(0, 1)$.

As f has maximal generic rank, we can apply Lemma 13 at each point $z \in K$. Now on the compact set K , the function $z \mapsto \mu(Jf, z)$ is upper semi continuous, hence bounded above by a constant C_K . This yields Corollary 4. \square

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