

The comparison principle and Dirichlet problem in the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$, $p > 0$

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Abstract. We establish the comparison principle in the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$. The result obtained is applied to the Dirichlet problem in $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$.

1. Introduction. Let Ω be a bounded hyperconvex domain in \mathbb{C}^n . We denote by $\text{PSH}(\Omega)$ the set of plurisubharmonic (psh) functions on Ω . In [BT1,2] the authors established and used the comparison principle to study the Dirichlet problem in $\text{PSH} \cap L_{\text{loc}}^\infty(\Omega)$. Recently, Cegrell introduced a general class \mathcal{E} of psh functions on which the complex Monge–Ampère operator $(dd^c \cdot)^n$ can be defined. He obtained many important results of pluripotential theory in the class \mathcal{E} , for example, the comparison principle and solvability of the Dirichlet problem (see [Ce1–3]). In [H], the author proved the comparison principle in the class \mathcal{F} .

The aim of the present paper is to continue the study of the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$. In Section 3 we prove a comparison principle of the Xing type in the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$, $p > 0$. This is applied to the Dirichlet problem in $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$. In particular, in Section 4, we prove that for a positive measure μ on Ω the equation $(dd^c u)^n = \mu$ has a solution in $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$ if and only if $\mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) \subset L_p(\Omega, \mu)$.

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2. Preliminaries. First we recall some elements of pluripotential theory that will be used throughout the paper. All this can be found in [BT1,2], [Ce1–3].

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2.1. Unless otherwise specified, Ω will be a bounded hyperconvex domain in \mathbb{C}^n , meaning that there exists a negative exhaustive psh function for Ω .

2.2. Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbb{C}^n . The C_n -capacity in the sense of Bedford and Taylor on Ω is the set function given by

$$C_n(E) = C_n(E, \Omega) = \sup \left\{ \int_E (dd^c u)^n : u \in \text{PSH}(\Omega), -1 \leq u \leq 0 \right\}$$

for every Borel set E in Ω . It is known [BT2] that

$$C_n(E) = \int_{\Omega} (dd^c h_{E, \Omega}^*)^n$$

where $h_{E, \Omega}^*$ is the relative extremal psh function for E (relative to Ω) defined as the smallest upper semicontinuous majorant of $h_{E, \Omega}$,

$$h_{E, \Omega}(z) = \sup\{u(z) : u \in \text{PSH}(\Omega), -1 \leq u \leq 0, u \leq -1 \text{ on } E\}.$$

The following definition was introduced in [Xi]: A sequence $u_j \in \text{PSH}^-(\Omega)$ converges to u in C_n -capacity if

$$C_n(K \cap \{|u_j - u| > \delta\}) \rightarrow 0, \quad j \rightarrow \infty, \quad \forall K \subset\subset \Omega, \delta > 0.$$

2.3. The following classes of psh functions were introduced by Cegrell in [Ce1,2]:

$$\mathcal{E}_0 = \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega) : \lim_{z \rightarrow \partial\Omega} \varphi(z) = 0, \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi)^n < \infty \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(\Omega) : \forall z_0 \in \Omega \exists \text{ a neighbourhood } \omega \ni z_0, \right. \\ \left. \exists \mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi \text{ on } \omega, \sup_{j \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi_j)^n < \infty \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(\Omega) : \exists \mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi, \sup_{j \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi_j)^n < \infty \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{E}_p = \mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(\Omega) : \exists \mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi, \sup_{j \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi_j)^p (dd^c \varphi_j)^n < \infty \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_p = \mathcal{F}_p(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) : \exists \mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi, \sup_{j \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi_j)^n < \infty \right\}.$$

2.4. Let $f : \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function. Recall that the Perron-Bremermann envelope of f is defined by

$$U(0, f)(z) = \sup\{\varphi(z) : \varphi \in \text{PSH}(\Omega), \overline{\lim}_{w \rightarrow \xi} \varphi(w) \leq f(\xi) \forall \xi \in \partial\Omega\}.$$

A plurisubharmonic function u defined on Ω belongs to the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$ if

there exists a function $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that

$$\varphi + U(0, f) \leq u \leq U(0, f).$$

Next we introduce some results needed for our paper:

2.5. PROPOSITION. *Let $u_j \in \text{PSH}^-(\Omega)$ be such that u_j is increasing a.e. with respect to the Lebesgue measure to some $u \in \text{PSH}^-(\Omega)$. Then $u_j \rightarrow u$ in C_n -capacity as $j \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. Let $K \subset\subset \Omega$ and $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$. By [BT1,2] we can choose $t > 0$ such that

$$C_n(K \cap \{u_1 < -t\}) < \varepsilon.$$

By Proposition 2.5 in [Cz] there exists j_0 such that

$$C_n(K \cap \{|\max(u_j, -t) - \max(u, -t)| > \delta\}) < \varepsilon, \quad \forall j \geq j_0.$$

For each $j \geq j_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_n(K \cap \{|u_j - u| > \delta\}) &\leq C_n(K \cap \{|\max(u_j, -t) - \max(u, -t)| > \delta\}) \\ &\quad + C_n(K \cap \{u_j < -t\}) + C_n(K \cap \{u < -t\}) \\ &\leq C_n(K \cap \{|\max(u_j, -t) - \max(u, -t)| > \delta\}) \\ &\quad + 2C_n(K \cap \{u_1 < -t\}) \\ &\leq 3\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

2.6. PROPOSITION. *Let $u_j \in \mathcal{E}$ be such that u_j is increasing a.e. with respect to the Lebesgue measure to some $u \in \mathcal{E}$. Then $(dd^c u_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c u)^n$ weakly as $j \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. Let $D \subset\subset \Omega$. By the remark after Definition 4.6 in [Ce2] we can find $v \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $v|_D = u_1|_D$. We set

$$\tilde{u}_j = \max(u_j, v), \quad \tilde{u} = \max(u, v).$$

We have $\mathcal{F} \ni \tilde{u}_j \nearrow \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\tilde{u}_j|_D = u_j|_D, \tilde{u}|_D = u|_D$. By Proposition 2.5 and Theorem 1.1 in [Ce4] we have $(dd^c \tilde{u}_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c \tilde{u})^n$ weakly as $j \rightarrow \infty$. Hence $(dd^c u_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c u)^n$ weakly as $j \rightarrow \infty$.

2.7. PROPOSITION. *Let $u \in \mathcal{E}$ be such that*

$$s^n C_n(\{u < -s\}) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then $(dd^c u)^n$ is locally absolutely continuous with respect to C_n -capacity.

Proof. Let $D \subset\subset \Omega$. By the remark following Definition 4.6 in [Ce2] we can choose $v \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $v = u$ on D and $v \geq u$ on Ω . We have

$$s^n C_n(\{v < -s\}) \leq s^n C_n(\{u < -s\}) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow \infty.$$

By Proposition 3.4 in [CKZ], $(dd^c v)^n$ is absolutely continuous with respect to C_n -capacity. Therefore, $(dd^c u)^n$ is locally absolutely continuous with respect to C_n -capacity.

2.8. PROPOSITION. *Let $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. Then $(dd^c u)^n$ is locally absolutely continuous with respect to C_n -capacity.*

Proof. We can assume that $0 \leq f \leq 1$. By the definition of $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$, there exists a function $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that

$$\varphi + U(0, f) \leq u \leq U(0, f).$$

We set $v = u - 1 \in \mathcal{E}$. By Proposition 3.1 in [CKZ] we have

$$s^n C_n(\{v < -s\}) \leq s^n C_n(\{\varphi < -s + 1\}) \leq c_{n,p} e_p(\varphi) \frac{s^n}{(s-1)^{n+p}} \rightarrow 0$$

as $s \rightarrow \infty$. Using Proposition 2.7 we conclude that $(dd^c u)^n = (dd^c v)^n$ is locally absolutely continuous with respect to C_n -capacity.

2.9. THEOREM. *Let $u, v \in \mathcal{E}_p$ be such that $(dd^c u)^n \leq (dd^c v)^n$. Then $u \geq v$.*

Proof. See the proof of Theorem 6.2 in [Ce1] for $p \geq 1$ and Theorem 4.2 in [CHÅ] for $0 < p < 1$.

2.10. THEOREM. *Let $u, v \in \mathcal{E}_p$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\{u < v\}} (v-u)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n + \int_{\{u < v\}} (r-w_1)(dd^c v)^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u < v\}} (r-w_1)(dd^c u)^n \end{aligned}$$

for all $w_j \in \text{PSH}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq w_j \leq 1$, $j = 1, \dots, n$ and all $r \geq 1$.

Proof. Use Theorem 2.9 and Proposition 4.7 of [KH].

The following theorem was proved by Persson [Per] for $p \geq 1$ and in [CHÅ] for $0 < p < 1$.

2.11. THEOREM. *Let u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n be functions in $\text{PSH} \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ such that $\lim_{z \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u_j(z) = 0$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (-u_0)^p dd^c u_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c u_n \\ \leq C_{p,n} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_0)^p (dd^c u_0)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_1)^p (dd^c u_1)^n \right]^{1/(p+n)} \\ \dots \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_n)^p (dd^c u_n)^n \right]^{1/(p+n)}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we need the following theorem on the Dirichlet problem.

2.12. THEOREM. *Let $p > 0$ and μ a positive measure on Ω . Then there exists a unique function $u \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that $(dd^c u)^n = \mu$ if, and only if, there*

is a constant $A > 0$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p d\mu \leq A \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}$$

for every $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0$.

Proof. The assumption on μ implies that it vanishes on pluripolar sets and therefore Theorem 5.11 in [Ce2] shows that there exist $\phi \in \mathcal{E}_0$ and $0 \leq f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}((dd^c \phi)^n)$ such that $\mu = f(dd^c \phi)^n$. Kołodziej's theorem ([Ko]) implies that there exist $u_j \in \mathcal{E}_0$ such that $(dd^c u_j)^n = \min\{f, j\}(dd^c \phi)^n$. Using the assumption on μ for $\varphi = u_j$, we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n \leq A^{(n+p)/n}.$$

Thus $u_j \searrow u \in \mathcal{E}_p$ and $(dd^c u)^n = d\mu$. Uniqueness follows from Theorem 2.9. For the converse, let $p > 0$ and assume that there exists $u \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that $(dd^c u)^n = \mu$. By Theorem 2.1 in [Ce2] there exist $u_j \in \mathcal{E}_0$ such that $u_j \searrow u$. We have

$$B = \sup_{j \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n < \infty.$$

Theorem 2.11 yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p d\mu &\leq \varliminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c u_j)^n \\ &\leq \varliminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n \right]^{n/(p+n)} \\ &\leq B^{n/(p+n)} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}. \end{aligned}$$

3. The comparison principle in $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$. In this section we prove the comparison principle in the class $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$ with $p > 0$. The theorem is proved using the ideas from the proof of Theorem 3.10 in [Ce3].

3.1. THEOREM. *Let $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and $v \in \mathcal{E}_p(g)$ with $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$ and $f \geq g$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} (*) \quad \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\{u < v\}} (v - u)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n + \int_{\{u < v\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c v)^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u < v\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c u)^n \end{aligned}$$

for all $w_j \in \text{PSH}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq w_j \leq 1$, $j = 1, \dots, n$ and all $r \geq 1$.

We need the following

3.2. LEMMA. *Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p$. There exist $\mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi$ and $\mathcal{E}_p \ni \psi_j \nearrow 0$ a.e. such that $\varphi_j + \psi_j \leq \varphi \leq \varphi_j, \psi_j$.*

Proof. Let $h \in \mathcal{E}_0$ with $h \not\equiv 0$. For every $j > 0$ by Proposition 4.1 in [KH] we have

$$\begin{aligned} (dd^c \varphi)^n &= 1_{\{\varphi > jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n + 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n \\ &= 1_{\{\varphi > jh\}}(dd^c \max(\varphi, jh))^n + 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n, \end{aligned}$$

where 1_E denotes the characteristic function of $E \subset \Omega$. By Kołodziej’s theorem ([Ko]) there exists $\varphi_j \in \mathcal{E}_0$ such that

$$(dd^c \varphi_j)^n = 1_{\{\varphi > jh\}}(dd^c \max(\varphi, jh))^n = 1_{\{\varphi > jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n.$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 2.12 there exists $\psi_j \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that

$$(dd^c \psi_j)^n = 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \max((dd^c \varphi_j)^n, (dd^c \psi_j)^n) &= \max(1_{\{\varphi > jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n, 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}}(dd^c \varphi)^n) \\ &\leq (dd^c \varphi)^n = (dd^c \varphi_j)^n + (dd^c \psi_j)^n \\ &\leq (dd^c(\varphi_j + \psi_j))^n. \end{aligned}$$

Using Theorem 2.9 we get

$$\varphi_j + \psi_j \leq \varphi \leq \varphi_j, \psi_j$$

and

$$\varphi_j \searrow \tilde{\varphi} \geq \varphi \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_j \nearrow \tilde{\psi} \in \mathcal{E}_p \quad \text{a.e.}$$

Thus by Theorem 4.5 in [Ce2] and Proposition 2.6, we have

$$(dd^c \varphi_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c \tilde{\varphi})^n, \quad (dd^c \psi_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c \tilde{\psi})^n \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow \infty.$$

On the other hand, we also have

$$(dd^c \varphi_j)^n \rightarrow (dd^c \varphi)^n, \quad (dd^c \psi_j)^n \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow \infty.$$

Indeed, let $\omega \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$. First note that $1_{\{\varphi > jh\}} \rightarrow 1_\Omega, 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}} \rightarrow 0$ except on a pluripolar set, as $j \rightarrow \infty$. Then by Proposition 2.8 and Lebesgue’s convergence theorem we have

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega \omega (dd^c \varphi_j)^n = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega \omega 1_{\{\varphi > jh\}} (dd^c \varphi)^n = \int_\Omega \omega (dd^c \varphi)^n$$

and

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega \omega (dd^c \psi_j)^n = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega \omega 1_{\{\varphi \leq jh\}} (dd^c \varphi)^n = 0.$$

Thus

$$(dd^c \tilde{\varphi})^n = (dd^c \varphi)^n \quad \text{and} \quad (dd^c \tilde{\psi})^n = 0.$$

Hence $\tilde{\varphi} = \varphi$ and $\tilde{\psi} = 0$.

Proof of Theorem 3.1. Obviously, we may assume that $f \leq -1$. First consider the case $u, v \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ be such that

$$\varphi + U(0, f) \leq u, v \leq U(0, f).$$

Replacing u by $u + \varepsilon$, without loss of generality we may assume that

$$U(0, f + \varepsilon) + \varphi \leq u \leq U(0, f + \varepsilon).$$

Using Lemma 3.2 we can find $\mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi$ and $\mathcal{E}_p \ni \psi_j \nearrow 0$ a.e. such that

$$\varphi_j + \psi_j \leq \varphi \leq \varphi_j, \psi_j.$$

For each $j \geq 1$ take $h_j \in \mathcal{E}_0$ such that $h_j < U(0, f)$ on $\{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\} \subset\subset \Omega$. We set

$$\begin{aligned} u_j &= \max(u, \varphi + \max(U(0, f), h_j)) \in \mathcal{E}_p, \\ v_j &= \max(v + \psi_j, 2\varphi + \max(U(0, f), h_j)) \in \mathcal{E}_p. \end{aligned}$$

Using Theorem 2.10, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\{u_j < v_j\}} (v_j - u_j)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n + \int_{\{u_j < v_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c v_j)^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u_j < v_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c u_j)^n \end{aligned}$$

for all $w_j \in \text{PSH}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq w_j \leq 1$, $j = 1, \dots, n$ and all $r \geq 1$. From the inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} \{u < v + \psi_j\} &\subset \{\varphi + U(0, f + \varepsilon) < \psi_j + U(0, f)\} \\ &\subset \{\varphi_j + \psi_j + U(0, f + \varepsilon) < \psi_j + U(0, f)\} \subset \{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\}. \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\{u_j < v_j\} \subset \{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\}.$$

Moreover, $u_j = u$ and $v_j = v + \psi_j$ on $\{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\}$ because $h_j < U(0, f)$ on $\{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\}$. It follows from (1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} (v + \psi_j - u)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n + \int_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c(v + \psi_j))^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c u)^n. \end{aligned}$$

We get

$$\begin{aligned} (2) \quad \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\Omega} 1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} (v + \psi_j - u)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n \\ + \int_{\Omega} 1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c v)^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u < v\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c u)^n. \end{aligned}$$

From $\sup_{j \geq 1} \psi_j = (\sup_{j \geq 1} \psi_j)^* = 0$ except on a pluripolar set, it follows that $1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} \nearrow 1_{\{u < v\}}$ and $1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}}(v + \psi_j - u)^n \nearrow 1_{\{u < v\}}(v - u)^n$ except on a pluripolar set. On the other hand, from the locally absolute continuity of $dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n$ and $(dd^c v)^n$ with respect to C_n -capacity (see Proposition 2.8) it follows that $1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}} \nearrow 1_{\{u < v\}}$ and $1_{\{u < v + \psi_j\}}(v + \psi_j - u)^n \nearrow 1_{\{u < v\}}(v - u)^n$ a.e. with respect to these measures. Thus applying Lebesgue's monotone convergence theorem to (2) we obtain (*) in Theorem 3.1.

Now assume that $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and $v \in \mathcal{E}_p(g)$. Then $v_1 = \max(u, v) \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and thus (*) holds for u and v_1 . Thus using Proposition 4.1 of [KH] and the inclusion $\{u < v\} = \{u < v_1\}$ it follows that (*) holds for u and v . The theorem is proved.

3.3. THEOREM. *Let $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and $v \in \mathcal{E}(g)$ be such that $f, g \in C(\partial\Omega)$ and $f \geq g$. If $(dd^c u)^n \leq (dd^c v)^n$ then $u \geq v$.*

Proof. Obviously, we may assume that $f \leq -1$. First consider the case $u, v \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ be such that

$$\varphi + U(0, f) \leq u, v \leq U(0, f).$$

Using Lemma 3.2 we can find $\mathcal{E}_0 \ni \varphi_j \searrow \varphi$ and $\mathcal{E}_p \ni \psi_j \nearrow 0$ a.e. such that

$$\varphi_j + \psi_j \leq \varphi \leq \varphi_j, \psi_j.$$

Theorem 3.1 yields

$$\begin{aligned} (3) \quad \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\{u + \varepsilon < v + \psi_j\}} (v + \psi_j - u - \varepsilon)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n \\ + \int_{\{u + \varepsilon < v + \psi_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c(v + \psi_j))^n \\ \leq \int_{\{u + \varepsilon < v + \psi_j\}} (r - w_1)(dd^c u)^n \end{aligned}$$

for all $w_j \in \text{PSH}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq w_j \leq 1$, $j = 1, \dots, n$ and all $r \geq 1$. From the inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} \{u < v + \psi_j\} &\subset \{\varphi + U(0, f) + \varepsilon < \psi_j + U(0, f)\} \\ &\subset \{\varphi_j + \psi_j + U(0, f) + \varepsilon < \psi_j + U(0, f)\} \subset \{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\} \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\{u + \varepsilon < v + \psi_j\} \subset \{\varphi_j < -\varepsilon\} \subset \subset \Omega.$$

Moreover $(dd^c u)^n \leq (dd^c v)^n$. It follows from (3) that

$$\int_{\{u + \varepsilon < v + \psi_j\}} (v + \psi_j - u - \varepsilon)^n dd^c w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c w_n = 0$$

for all $w_j \in \text{PSH}(\Omega)$, $0 \leq w_j \leq 1$, $j = 1, \dots, n$. Therefore $u + \varepsilon \geq v + \psi_j$. Letting $j \rightarrow \infty$ and $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we obtain $u \geq v$.

Now assume that $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and $v \in \mathcal{E}_p(g)$. Then $v_1 = \max(u, v) \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. By Proposition 4.3 in [KH], we have $(dd^c u)^n \leq (dd^c v_1)^n$. Hence $u \geq v_1 \geq v$. The theorem is proved.

4. The Dirichlet problem in $\mathcal{E}_p(f)$. In this section, first using Theorem 3.3 by a standard method we prove the following

4.1. THEOREM. *Let μ be a positive measure such that $\mu \leq (dd^c v)^n$ with $v \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. If $\lim_{z \rightarrow \xi} U(0, f) = f(\xi)$ for all $\xi \in \partial\Omega$ then there is a unique function $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ such that $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$.*

Proof. The uniqueness is known from Theorem 3.3. It remains to show the existence of $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ such that $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$. By Theorem 6.3 in [Cel] we can find $\psi \in \mathcal{E}_0$ and $0 \leq \varphi \in L^1_{\text{loc}}((dd^c \psi)^n)$ such that $\mu = \varphi(dd^c \psi)^n$. We set $\mu_k = \min(\varphi, k)(dd^c \psi)^n$. Then $\mu_k \leq (dd^c k^{1/n} \psi)^n$. By Kołodziej's theorem (see [Ko]) there exists $\omega_k \in \mathcal{E}_0$ such that $(dd^c \omega_k)^n = \mu_k$. From the relations

$$\begin{cases} U((dd^c(\omega_k + U(0, f)))^n, f) = \omega_k + U(0, f), \\ (dd^c(\omega_k + U(0, f)))^n \geq \mu_k, \end{cases}$$

and from Theorem 8.1 in [Cel] it follows that

$$\begin{cases} (dd^c U(\mu_k, f))^n = \mu_k, \\ U(0, f) \geq U(\mu_k, f) \geq \omega_k + U(0, f). \end{cases}$$

Theorem 3.3 implies that $U(\mu_k, f) \searrow u \geq v$. Obviously, we have $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ and $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$.

4.2. EXAMPLE. *There exists $0 \leq \varphi \in L^1(\Omega)$ such that no function*

$$u \in \bigcup \{ \mathcal{E}_p(f) : p > 0, f \in C(\partial\Omega) \}$$

satisfies $(dd^c u)^n \geq \varphi d\lambda$, where $d\lambda$ is the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{C}^n .

Indeed, take an arbitrary subdomain $D \subset\subset \Omega$. Let $z_j \in D$, $s_j \searrow 0$, $p_j \searrow 0$ and $a_j > 0$ be such that $B(z_j, s_j) = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : \|z - z_j\| < s_j\} \subset D$ and $\sum_{j=1}^\infty a_j < \infty$. Define

$$\varphi = \sum_{j=1}^\infty \frac{a_j}{d_n r_j^{2n}} 1_{B(z_j, r_j)} \in L^1(\Omega)$$

where d_n is the volume of the unit ball in \mathbb{C}^n and $0 < r_j < s_j$ are chosen so that

$$\frac{1}{a_j} (C_n(B(z_j, r_j), \Omega))^{p_j/(p_j+n)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow \infty.$$

Assume that $\varphi d\lambda \leq (dd^c u)^n$ for some $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ with $p > 0$ and $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$. Obviously, we may assume that $f < 0$. Take $\psi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that $\psi + U(0, f) \leq u \leq U(0, f)$. Put

$$\omega = \max \left(U(0, f), -\frac{M}{\sup_{\bar{D}} h_{D, \Omega}} h_{D, \Omega} \right) \in \mathcal{E}_0$$

where $M > 0$ is such that $-M < \inf_{\partial\Omega} f < 0$. Hence $\omega = U(0, f)$ on D . Let $\tilde{u} = \max(u, \psi + \omega)$. We have $\psi + \omega \leq \tilde{u} \leq 0$ and $\psi + \omega \in \mathcal{E}_p + \mathcal{E}_0 \subset \mathcal{E}_p$. By [Ce1] we have $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{E}_p$. Moreover $\tilde{u} = u$ on D . Thus for $B_j = B(z_j, r_j)$ we have

$$a_j = \int_{B_j} \varphi d\lambda \leq \int_{B_j} (dd^c u)^n = \int_{B_j} (dd^c \tilde{u})^n.$$

Let $\mathcal{E}_0 \ni \tilde{u}_k \searrow \tilde{u}$ be as in the definition of \mathcal{E}_p . Then $(dd^c \tilde{u}_k)^n \rightarrow (dd^c \tilde{u})^n$ weakly (see [Ce1]). Theorem 2.11 implies the estimates

$$\begin{aligned} a_j &\leq \int_{B_j} (dd^c \tilde{u})^n \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{B_j} (dd^c \tilde{u}_k)^n \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (-h_{B_j, \Omega})^p (dd^c \tilde{u}_k)^n \\ &\leq C_{p,n} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-h_{B_j, \Omega})^p (dd^c h_{B_j, \Omega})^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\tilde{u}_k)^p (dd^c \tilde{u}_k)^n \right]^{n/(p+n)} \\ &\leq \alpha \left[\int_{\Omega} (dd^c h_{B_j})^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} = \alpha [C_n(B_j, \Omega)]^{p/(p+n)} \end{aligned}$$

where $C_{p,n}$ is a positive constant and

$$\alpha = C_{p,n} \left[\sup_{k \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (-\tilde{u}_k)^p (dd^c \tilde{u}_k)^n \right]^{n/(p+n)} < \infty.$$

This is impossible, because

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[C_n(B_j, \Omega)]^{p/(p+n)}}{a_j} \leq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[C_n(B_j, \Omega)]^{p_j/(p_j+n)}}{a_j} = 0.$$

4.3. THEOREM. *Let $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$ be such that*

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \xi} U(0, f)(z) = f(\xi) \quad \forall \xi \in \partial\Omega$$

and

$$U(0, f) + U(0, -f) \in \mathcal{E}_p.$$

Assume that μ is a positive measure on Ω . Then the following are equivalent:

(i) *There exists a function $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$ with $(dd^c u)^n = \mu$.*

(ii) *There exists a constant $A > 0$ such that*

$$(**) \quad \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p d\mu \leq A \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega).$$

(iii) There exists a constant $A > 0$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega'} (-\varphi)^p d\mu \leq A \left[\int_{\Omega'} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega')$$

for all hyperconvex subdomains $\Omega' \subset\subset \Omega$.

(iv) $\mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) \subset L_p(\Omega, \mu)$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii). Suppose that $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$ for some $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(f)$. Take $\psi \in \mathcal{E}_p$ with

$$\psi + U(0, f) \leq u \leq U(0, f).$$

Hence

$$\psi + U(0, f) + U(0, -f) \leq u + U(0, -f) \leq 0.$$

It follows that $u + U(0, -f) \in \mathcal{E}_p$ because $\psi + U(0, f) + U(0, -f) \in \mathcal{E}_p$. By Theorem 2.12, $(dd^c(u + U(0, -f)))^n$ satisfies (**). Hence so also does $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$.

(ii) \Rightarrow (i). Assume that μ satisfies (**). From Theorem 2.12 we find $v \in \mathcal{E}_p$ such that $(dd^c v)^n = \mu$. Since $\mu \leq (dd^c(v + U(0, f)))^n$, using Theorem 4.1 we have (ii) \Rightarrow (i).

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii). Assume that (**) holds for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega)$. Since Theorem 2.12 we can write $\mu = (dd^c u)^n$ for some $u \in \mathcal{E}_p(\Omega)$. By [Åh] we find $v \in \mathcal{F}(\Omega')$ such that $(dd^c v)^n = \mu|_{\Omega'}$. By the comparison principle we have $v \geq u|_{\Omega'}$. Therefore

$$\int_{\Omega'} (-v)^p (dd^c v)^n \leq \int_{\Omega} (-u)^p (dd^c u)^n.$$

Theorem 2.11 implies that (**) holds for $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega')$ with

$$A = C_{p,n} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u)^p (dd^c u)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)},$$

which is independent of Ω' .

(iii) \Rightarrow (ii). Take an increasing exhaustion sequence of Ω by relatively compact hyperconvex subdomains Ω_j . Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega)$. By [Åh], there are $\varphi_j \in \mathcal{F} \cap L^\infty(\Omega_j)$ such that $(dd^c \varphi_j)^n = (dd^c \varphi)^n|_{\Omega_j}$. The comparison principle implies that $\varphi_j \searrow \varphi$. We have

$$\int_{\Omega_j} (-\varphi_j)^p d\mu \leq A \left[\int_{\Omega_j} (-\varphi_j)^p (dd^c \varphi_j)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)} = A \left[\int_{\Omega_j} (-\varphi_j)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}$$

for all $j \geq 1$. Letting $j \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p d\mu \leq A \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p (dd^c \varphi)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}.$$

(ii) \Rightarrow (iv) is obvious. In order to prove (iv) \Rightarrow (ii) we need

4.4. LEMMA.

(a) If $p \geq 1$ then

$$\int_{\Omega} \left(- \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right)^p \left(dd^c \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^n \leq C_{p,n} \max_{1 \leq j \leq k} \int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n$$

for all $u_1, \dots, u_k \in \mathcal{E}_p$ and $0 \leq \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \leq 1$ with $\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j = 1$.

(b) If $0 < p < 1$ then

$$\int_{\Omega} \left(- \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right)^p \left(dd^c \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^n \leq C_{p,n} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p \right) \max_{1 \leq j \leq k} \int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n$$

for all $u_1, \dots, u_k \in \mathcal{E}_p$ and $0 \leq \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \leq 1$ with $\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j = 1$, where $C_{p,n}$ is as in Theorem 2.11.

Proof. Set

$$e_p(u) = \int_{\Omega} (-u)^p (dd^c u)^n, \quad u \in \mathcal{E}_p, \quad M = \max_{1 \leq j \leq k} \int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p (dd^c u_j)^n.$$

(a) By Theorem 2.11 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(e_p \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^{1/p} &= \left[\int_{\Omega} \left(- \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right)^p \left(dd^c \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^n \right]^{1/p} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\alpha_j u_j)^p \left(dd^c \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^n \right]^{1/p} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p \left(dd^c \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j \right) \right)^n \right]^{1/p} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} dd^c u_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c u_{i_n} \right]^{1/p} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \left[C_{p,n} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} e_p(u_j)^{p/(p+n)} e_p(u_{i_1})^{1/(p+n)} \cdots \right. \\ &\qquad \qquad \qquad \left. e_p(u_{i_n})^{1/(p+n)} \right]^{1/p} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \left[C_{p,n} M \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} \right]^{1/p} \\ &= (C_{p,n} M)^{1/p} \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j [(\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k)^n]^{1/p} = (C_{p,n} M)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $e_p(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j) \leq C_{p,n} M$.

(b) By Theorem 2.11 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 e_p\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j\right) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(-\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j\right)^p \left(dd^c\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j\right)\right)^n \\
 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \int_{\Omega} (-\alpha_j u_j)^p \left(dd^c\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j\right)\right)^n \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p \int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p \left(dd^c\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j u_j\right)\right)^n \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p \left[\int_{\Omega} (-u_j)^p \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} dd^c u_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge dd^c u_{i_n} \right] \\
 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p \left[C_{p,n} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} e_p(u_j)^{p/(p+n)} e_p(u_{i_1})^{1/(p+n)} \right. \\
 &\qquad \qquad \qquad \left. \cdots e_p(u_{i_n})^{1/(p+n)} \right] \\
 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p \left[C_{p,n} M \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq k} \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_n} \right] \\
 &= C_{p,n} M \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p (\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k)^n = C_{p,n} M \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j^p.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we prove that (iv)⇒(ii). Assume that (**) is not true. Then we can find $\varphi_j \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega)$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi_j)^p d\mu \geq 4^{jp} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi_j)^p (dd^c \varphi_j)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}.$$

Set

$$\psi_j = \frac{\varphi_j}{e_p(\varphi_j)^{1/(p+n)}}, \quad j \geq 1.$$

Obviously, we have $e_p(\psi_j) = 1$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\Omega} (-\psi_j)^p d\mu &= \frac{1}{e_p(\varphi_j)^{p/(p+n)}} \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi_j)^p d\mu \\
 &\geq \frac{4^{jp}}{e_p(\varphi_j)^{p/(p+n)}} \left[\int_{\Omega} (-\varphi_j)^p (dd^c \varphi_j)^n \right]^{p/(p+n)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $e_p(\psi_j) = 1$ and $\int_{\Omega} (-\psi_j)^p d\mu \geq 4^{jp}$. Let $\psi = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \psi_j / 2^j$. Then

$$\mathcal{E}_0 \ni \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\psi_j}{2^j} \searrow \psi \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty$$

and by Lemma 4.4 there exists $D_{p,n} > 0$ such that

$$e_p\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\psi_j}{2^j}\right) \leq D_{p,n} \max(e_p(\psi_1), \dots, e_p(\psi_k)) \leq D_{p,n} \quad \text{for all } j \geq 1.$$

Therefore $\psi \in \mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) \subset L_p(\Omega, \mu)$. Since

$$\int_{\Omega} (-\psi_j)^p d\mu = 2^{jp} \int_{\Omega} \left(-\frac{\psi_j}{2^j}\right)^p d\mu \leq 2^{jp} \int_{\Omega} (-\psi)^p d\mu \quad \text{for all } j \geq 1,$$

it follows that

$$\infty > \int_{\Omega} (-\psi)^p d\mu \geq \frac{1}{2^{jp}} \int_{\Omega} (-\psi_j)^p d\mu \geq 2^{jp} \quad \text{for all } j \geq 1,$$

which is impossible.

4.5. COROLLARY. *Let μ be a finite positive measure on Ω such that*

$$\mu(E) \leq A(C_n(E, \Omega))^\alpha$$

for all Borel sets $E \subset \Omega$, where A and α are positive constants with $\alpha > p/(p+n)$. Then there exists a unique $u \in \mathcal{F}_p$ such that $(dd^c u)^n = \mu$.

Proof. By Theorem 4.3 it suffices to show that $\mathcal{E}_p(\Omega) \subset L_p(\Omega, \mu)$. Given $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_p(\Omega)$. By using the inequality $C_n(\{\varphi < -s\}) \leq C_\varphi/s^{p+n}$ for all $s > 0$ (see Proposition 3.1 in [CKZ]) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (-\varphi)^p d\mu &= \int_{\{\varphi < -1\}} (-\varphi)^p d\mu + \int_{\{\varphi \geq -1\}} (-\varphi)^p d\mu \\ &\leq \int_{\{\varphi < -1\}} (-\varphi)^p d\mu + \mu(\Omega) = \int_1^\infty pt^{p-1} \mu(\{\varphi < -t\}) dt + \mu(\Omega) \\ &\leq Ap \int_1^\infty t^{p-1} C_n(\{\varphi < -t\})^\alpha dt + \mu(\Omega) \\ &\leq Ap \int_1^\infty C_\varphi^\alpha \frac{dt}{t^{\alpha(p+n)+1-p}} + \mu(\Omega) < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\varphi \in L_p(\Omega, \mu)$.

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