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Dan Coman  
*Syracuse University*

Vincent Guedj  
*Université Aix-Marseille 1*

Ahmed Zeriahi  
*Université Paul Sabatier,*

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# EXTENSION OF PLURISUBHARMONIC FUNCTIONS WITH GROWTH CONTROL

DAN COMAN, VINCENT GUEDJ AND AHMED ZERIAHI

ABSTRACT. Suppose that  $X$  is an analytic subvariety of a Stein manifold  $M$  and that  $\varphi$  is a plurisubharmonic (psh) function on  $X$  which is dominated by a continuous psh exhaustion function  $u$  of  $M$ . Given any number  $c > 1$ , we show that  $\varphi$  admits a psh extension to  $M$  which is dominated by  $cu$  on  $M$ .

We use this result to prove that any  $\omega$ -psh function on a subvariety of the complex projective space is the restriction of a global  $\omega$ -psh function, where  $\omega$  is the Fubini-Study Kähler form.

## INTRODUCTION

Let  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a (closed) analytic subvariety. In the case when  $X$  is smooth it is well known that a plurisubharmonic (psh) function on  $X$  extends to a psh function on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  [Sa] (see also [BL, Theorem 3.2]). Using different methods, Coltoiu generalized this result to the case when  $X$  is singular [Co, Proposition 2].

In this article we follow Coltoiu's approach and show that it is possible to obtain extensions with global growth control:

**Theorem A.** *Let  $X$  be an analytic subvariety of a Stein manifold  $M$  and let  $\varphi$  be a psh function on  $X$ . Assume that  $u$  is a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $M$  so that  $\varphi(z) < u(z)$  for all  $z \in X$ . Then for every  $c > 1$  there exists a psh function  $\psi = \psi_c$  on  $M$  so that  $\psi|_X = \varphi$  and  $\psi(z) < c \max\{u(z), 0\}$  for all  $z \in M$ .*

We recall that a function  $\varphi : X \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$  is called psh if  $\varphi \not\equiv -\infty$  on  $X$  and if every point  $z \in X$  has a neighborhood  $U$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  so that  $\varphi = u|_U$  for some psh function  $u$  on  $U$ . We refer to [FN] and [D2, section 1] for a detailed discussion of this notion. We note here that if  $\varphi$  is not identically  $-\infty$  on an irreducible component  $Y$  of  $X$  then  $\varphi$  is locally integrable on  $Y$  with respect to the area measure of  $Y$ . Let us stress that the more general notion of *weakly psh* function is not appropriate for the extension problem (see section 3).

We then look at a similar problem on a compact Kähler manifold  $V$ . Here psh functions have to be replaced by quasisubharmonic (qsh) ones. Given a Kähler form  $\omega$ , we let

$$PSH(V, \omega) = \{ \varphi \in L^1(V, [-\infty, +\infty)) : \varphi \text{ upper semicontinuous, } dd^c \varphi \geq -\omega \}$$

denote the set of  $\omega$ -plurisubharmonic ( $\omega$ -psh) functions. If  $X \subset V$  is an analytic subvariety, we define similarly the class  $PSH(X, \omega|_X)$  of  $\omega$ -psh functions on  $X$  (see section 2 for precise definitions).

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By restriction,  $\omega$ -psh functions on  $V$  yield  $\omega|_X$ -psh functions on  $X$ . Assuming that  $\omega$  is a *Hodge form*, i.e. a Kähler form with integer cohomology class, our second result is that every  $\omega|_X$ -psh function on  $X$  arises in this way.

**Theorem B.** *Let  $X$  be a subvariety of a projective manifold  $V$  equipped with a Hodge form  $\omega$ . Then any  $\omega|_X$ -psh function on  $X$  is the restriction of an  $\omega$ -psh function on  $V$ .*

Note that in the assumptions of Theorem B there exists a positive holomorphic line bundle  $L$  on  $V$  whose first Chern class  $c_1(L)$  is represented by  $\omega$ . In this case the  $\omega$ -psh functions are in one-to-one correspondence with the set of (singular) positive metrics of  $L$  (see [GZ]). Thus an alternate formulation of Theorem B is the following:

**Theorem B'.** *Let  $X$  be a subvariety of a projective manifold  $V$  and  $L$  be an ample line bundle on  $V$ . Then any (singular) positive metric of  $L|_X$  is the restriction of a (singular) positive metric of  $L$  on  $V$ .*

Recall that it is possible to regularize qpsH functions on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , since it is a homogeneous manifold. Hence Theorem B has the following immediate corollary:

**Corollary C.** *Let  $X$  be a subvariety of a projective manifold  $V$  equipped with a Hodge form  $\omega$ . If  $\varphi \in PSH(X, \omega|_X)$  then there exists a sequence of smooth functions  $\varphi_j \in PSH(V, \omega)$  which decrease pointwise on  $V$  so that  $\lim \varphi_j = \varphi$  on  $X$ .*

When  $X$  is smooth this regularization result is well known to hold even when the cohomology class of  $\omega$  is not integral (see [D3], [BK]).

Corollary C allows to show that the singular Kähler-Einstein currents constructed in [EGZ1] have *continuous* potentials, a result that has been obtained recently in [EGZ2] by completely different methods (see also [DZ] for partial results in this direction).

We prove Theorem A in section 1. The compact setting is considered in section 2, where Theorem B is derived from Theorem A. In section 3 we discuss the special situation when  $X$  is an algebraic subvariety of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . As an application of Theorem B, we give a characterization of those psh functions in the Lelong class  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which admit an extension in the Lelong class  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$  (see section 3 for the necessary definitions). In particular, we give simple examples of algebraic curves  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  and of functions  $\eta \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  which do not have extensions in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ .

## 1. PROOF OF THEOREM A

The following proposition will allow us to reduce the proof of Theorem A to the case  $M = \mathbb{C}^n$ . We include its short proof for the convenience of the reader.

**Proposition 1.1.** *Let  $V$  be a complex submanifold of  $\mathbb{C}^N$  and  $u$  be a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $V$ . Then there exists a continuous psh exhaustion function  $\tilde{u}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^N$  so that  $\tilde{u}|_V = u$ .*

*Proof.* The argument is very similar to the one of Sadullaev ([Sa],[BL, Theorem 3.2]). By [Si], there exists an open neighborhood  $W$  of  $V$  in  $\mathbb{C}^N$  and a holomorphic retraction  $r : W \rightarrow V$ . We can find an open neighborhood  $U$  of  $V$  so that  $U \subset W$  and  $\|r(z) - z\| < 2$  for every  $z \in U$ . Indeed, if  $B(p, r)$  denotes the open ball in  $\mathbb{C}^N$  centered at  $p$  and of radius  $r$ , then  $U_p = r^{-1}(B(p, 1)) \cap B(p, 1)$  is an open

neighborhood of  $p \in V$ , and we let  $U = \bigcup_{p \in V} U_p$ . Since  $u$  is a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $V$ , it follows that the function  $u(r(z))$  is continuous psh on  $U$  and  $\lim_{z \in U, \|z\| \rightarrow +\infty} u(r(z)) = +\infty$ .

It is well known that there exist entire functions  $f_0, \dots, f_N$ , so that  $V = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^N : f_k(z) = 0, 0 \leq k \leq N\}$  (see [Ch, p.63]). The function  $\rho = \log(\sum |f_k|^2)$  is psh on  $\mathbb{C}^N$  and  $V = \{\rho = -\infty\}$ .

Let  $D$  be an open set so that  $V \subset D \subset \overline{D} \subset U$ . Since  $\rho$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{C}^N \setminus V$ , we can find a convex increasing function  $\chi$  on  $[0, +\infty)$  which verifies for every  $R \geq 0$  the following two properties:

- (i)  $\chi(R) > R - \rho(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}^N \setminus D$  with  $\|z\| = R$ .
- (ii)  $\chi(R) > u(r(z)) - \rho(z)$  for all  $z \in \partial D$  with  $\|z\| = R$ .

Then

$$\tilde{u}(z) = \begin{cases} \max\{u(r(z)), \chi(\|z\|) + \rho(z)\}, & \text{if } z \in D, \\ \chi(\|z\|) + \rho(z), & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}^N \setminus D, \end{cases}$$

is a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $\mathbb{C}^N$  and  $\tilde{u} = u$  on  $V$ .  $\square$

Employing the methods of Coltoiu [Co] we now construct psh extensions with growth control over bounded sets in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

**Proposition 1.2.** *Let  $\chi$  be a psh function on a subvariety  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  and let  $v$  be a continuous psh function on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with  $\chi < v$  on  $X$ . If  $R > 0$ , there exists a psh function  $\tilde{\chi} = \tilde{\chi}_R$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  so that  $\tilde{\chi}|_X = \chi$  and  $\tilde{\chi}(z) < v(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $\|z\| \leq R$ .*

*Proof.* We use a similar argument to the one in the proof of Proposition 2 in [Co]. Consider the subvariety  $A = (X \times \mathbb{C}) \cup (\mathbb{C}^n \times \{0\}) \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ , and let

$$D = \{(z, w) \in X \times \mathbb{C} : \log |w| + \chi(z) < 0\} \cup (\mathbb{C}^n \times \{0\}) \subset A.$$

Since  $D \cap (X \times \mathbb{C})$  is Runge in  $X \times \mathbb{C}$ , it follows that  $D$  is Runge in  $A$ . Let

$$K = \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} : \rho(z, w) = \max\{\log^+(\|z\|/R), \log |w| + v(z)\} \leq 0\}.$$

Since  $v$  is continuous,  $\rho$  is a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ , so  $K$  is a polynomially convex compact set. As  $\chi < v$  on  $X$ , we have  $K \cap A \subset D$ . By [Co, Theorem 3] there exists a Runge domain  $\tilde{D} \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ , with  $\tilde{D} \cap A = D$  and  $K \subset \tilde{D}$ . Let  $\delta(z, w)$  denote the distance from  $(z, w) \in \tilde{D}$  to  $\partial \tilde{D}$  in the  $w$ -direction. Since  $\tilde{D}$  is pseudoconvex,  $-\log \delta$  is psh on  $\tilde{D}$  (see e.g. [FS, Proposition 9.2]). Hence  $\tilde{\chi}(z) = -\log \delta(z, 0)$  is psh on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , as  $\mathbb{C}^n \times \{0\} \subset \tilde{D}$ . Since  $\tilde{D} \cap A = D$ , it follows that  $\tilde{\chi}|_X = \chi$ . Moreover,  $K \subset \tilde{D}$  implies that  $\tilde{\chi}(z) < v(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $\|z\| \leq R$ .  $\square$

The proof of Theorem A proceeds like this. Given a partition

$$\mathbb{C}^n = \bigcup \{m_{j-1} < u \leq m_j\},$$

where  $m_j \nearrow +\infty$ , we apply Proposition 1.2 inductively to construct an extension dominated in each ‘‘annulus’’  $\{m_{j-1} < u \leq m_j\}$  by  $\gamma_j u$ , where  $\gamma_j > 1$  is an increasing sequence defined in terms of the  $m_j$ 's. Theorem A will follow by showing that it is possible to choose  $\{m_j\}$  rapidly increasing so that  $\lim \gamma_j$  is arbitrarily close to 1.

We fix next an increasing sequence  $\{m_j\}_{j \geq -1}$  so that

$$m_{-1} = m_0 = 0 < m_1 < m_2 < \dots, \{u < m_1\} \neq \emptyset, m_j \nearrow +\infty.$$

Define inductively a sequence  $\{\gamma_j\}_{j \geq 0}$ , as follows:

$$(1) \quad \gamma_0 = 1, \quad \gamma_j(m_j - m_{j-1}) = \gamma_{j-1}(m_j - m_{j-2}) + 1 \text{ for } j \geq 1.$$

Clearly,  $\gamma_j > \gamma_{j-1} > 1$  for all  $j > 1$ .

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $X, \varphi, u$  be as in Theorem A with  $M = \mathbb{C}^n$ , and let  $\{m_j\}, \{\gamma_j\}$  be as above. There exists a psh function  $\psi$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  so that  $\psi|_X = \varphi$  and for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we have*

$$\psi(z) < \begin{cases} \gamma_j u(z), & \text{if } m_{j-1} < u(z) \leq m_j, \quad j \geq 2, \\ \gamma_1 \max\{u(z), 0\}, & \text{if } u(z) \leq m_1. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* We introduce the sets

$$D_j = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : u(z) < m_j\}, \quad K_j = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : u(z) \leq m_j\}.$$

Since  $u$  is a continuous psh exhaustion function,  $K_j$  is a compact set. Let

$$\rho_j = \gamma_j \max\{u - m_{j-1}, 0\} - j, \quad j \geq 0.$$

Then  $\rho_j$  is psh on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and (1) implies that

$$(2) \quad \rho_j(z) = \rho_{j-1}(z) \text{ if } u(z) = m_j, \quad j \geq 1.$$

We claim that

$$(3) \quad \rho_j(z) \geq u(z) \text{ if } z \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D_j, \quad j \geq 0.$$

Indeed, since  $\gamma_j \geq 1$  and using (1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_j(z) - u(z) &= (\gamma_j - 1)u(z) - \gamma_j m_{j-1} - j \geq (\gamma_j - 1)m_j - \gamma_j m_{j-1} - j \\ &= (\gamma_{j-1} - 1)m_j - \gamma_{j-1} m_{j-2} - j + 1 \\ &\geq (\gamma_{j-1} - 1)m_{j-1} - \gamma_{j-1} m_{j-2} - (j - 1). \end{aligned}$$

So  $x_j := (\gamma_j - 1)m_j - \gamma_j m_{j-1} - j \geq x_0 = 0$ , and (3) is proved.

Let  $\varphi_j = \max\{\varphi, -j\}$ . We construct by induction on  $j \geq 1$  a sequence of continuous psh functions  $\psi_j$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with the following properties:

$$(4) \quad \psi_j(z) > \varphi_j(z) \text{ for } z \in X, \quad \int_{X \cap K_{j-1}} (\psi_j - \varphi_j) < 2^{-j}.$$

$$(5) \quad \psi_j(z) \geq \rho_j(z) \text{ for } z \in D_j, \quad \psi_j(z) = \rho_j(z) \text{ for } z \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D_j.$$

$$(6) \quad \psi_j(z) < \psi_{j-1}(z) \text{ for } z \in K_{j-1}, \text{ where } \psi_0 = \rho_0 = \max\{u, 0\}.$$

Here the integral in (4) is with respect to the area measure on each irreducible component, i.e.

$$\int_{X \cap K} f := \sum \int_{Y \cap K} f \beta^{\dim Y},$$

where the sum is over all irreducible components  $Y$  of  $X$  which intersect  $K$  and  $\beta$  is the standard Kähler form on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . (Note that this is a finite sum.)

Assume that the function  $\psi_{j-1}$  is constructed with the desired properties. We construct  $\psi_j$  by applying Proposition 1.2 with  $\chi = \varphi_j$  and  $v = \psi_{j-1}$ . (If  $j = 1$ ,  $\psi_1$  is constructed in the same way by applying Proposition 1.2 with  $\chi = \varphi_1$  and  $v = \psi_0$ .) By (4),  $\varphi_j \leq \varphi_{j-1} < \psi_{j-1}$  on  $X$  (and for  $j = 1$ , clearly  $\varphi_1 < \psi_0$  on  $X$ ). Therefore Proposition 1.2 yields a psh function  $\tilde{\varphi}_j$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  so that  $\tilde{\varphi}_j|_X = \varphi_j$  and  $\tilde{\varphi}_j < \psi_{j-1}$  on  $K_j$ . Using the standard regularization of  $\tilde{\varphi}_j$  and the dominated

convergence theorem (as  $\varphi_j \geq -j$ ) we obtain a continuous psh function  $\tilde{\psi}_j$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  which verifies

$$\tilde{\psi}_j(z) > \varphi_j(z) \text{ for } z \in X, \quad \int_{X \cap K_j} (\tilde{\psi}_j - \varphi_j) < 2^{-j}.$$

Moreover, since  $\psi_{j-1}$  is continuous, we can ensure by the Hartogs lemma that we also have  $\tilde{\psi}_j(z) < \psi_{j-1}(z)$  for  $z \in K_j$ .

We now define

$$\psi_j(z) = \begin{cases} \max\{\tilde{\psi}_j(z), \rho_j(z)\}, & \text{if } z \in D_j, \\ \rho_j(z), & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D_j. \end{cases}$$

By (5) and (2) we have  $\tilde{\psi}_j < \psi_{j-1} = \rho_{j-1} = \rho_j$  on  $\partial D_j$  (for  $j = 1$ , recall that  $\psi_0 = \rho_0$  by definition). So  $\psi_j$  is a continuous psh function on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  which verifies (5). On  $X \setminus D_j$  we have by (3) that  $\psi_j = \rho_j \geq u > \varphi_j$ , while on  $X \cap D_j$ ,  $\psi_j \geq \tilde{\psi}_j > \varphi_j$ . Since  $\rho_j = -j \leq \varphi_j < \tilde{\psi}_j$  on  $X \cap K_{j-1}$ , we see that  $\psi_j = \tilde{\psi}_j$  on  $X \cap K_{j-1}$  so

$$\int_{X \cap K_{j-1}} (\psi_j - \varphi_j) \leq \int_{X \cap K_j} (\tilde{\psi}_j - \varphi_j) < 2^{-j}.$$

Hence  $\psi_j$  verifies (4). Finally, we have by (5),  $\rho_j = -j < \rho_{j-1} \leq \psi_{j-1}$  on  $K_{j-1}$  (and for  $j = 1$ ,  $\rho_1 = -1 < \psi_0 = 0$  on  $K_0$ ). Since  $\tilde{\psi}_j < \psi_{j-1}$  on  $K_j$  we conclude that  $\psi_j < \psi_{j-1}$  on  $K_{j-1}$ , so (6) is verified.

So we have constructed a sequence of continuous psh functions  $\psi_j$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  verifying properties (4)-(6). Since  $\bigcup_{j \geq 1} D_j = \mathbb{C}^n$ , we have by (6) that the function

$$\psi(z) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \psi_j(z)$$

is well defined and psh on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . As  $\dots < \psi_{j+2} < \psi_{j+1} < \psi_j$  on  $K_j$ , it follows that  $\psi < \psi_j$  on  $K_j$ .

Suppose now that  $z \in K_j \setminus D_{j-1}$ , for some  $j \geq 2$ , so  $m_{j-1} \leq u(z) \leq m_j$ . By the above construction and property (5), we have

$$\tilde{\psi}_j(z) < \psi_{j-1}(z) = \rho_{j-1}(z) \implies \psi(z) < \psi_j(z) \leq \max\{\rho_{j-1}(z), \rho_j(z)\} \leq \gamma_j u(z).$$

Similarly, for  $z \in K_1$  we have

$$\psi(z) < \psi_1(z) \leq \max\{\rho_0(z), \rho_1(z)\} \leq \gamma_1 \max\{u(z), 0\}.$$

Hence  $\psi$  satisfies the desired global upper estimates on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

Property (4) implies that  $\psi(z) \geq \varphi(z)$  for every  $z \in X$ . Let  $K$  be a compact in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $Y$  be an irreducible component of  $X$  so that  $\varphi|_Y \not\equiv -\infty$ . By (4) we have that for all  $j$  sufficiently large

$$0 \leq \int_{Y \cap K} (\psi_j - \varphi) = \int_{Y \cap K} (\psi_j - \varphi_j) + \int_{Y \cap K} (\varphi_j - \varphi) \leq 2^{-j} + \int_{Y \cap K} (\varphi_j - \varphi).$$

Hence by dominated convergence,  $\int_{Y \cap K} (\psi - \varphi) = 0$ , which shows that  $\psi = \varphi$  on  $Y$ .

Assume now that  $Y$  is an irreducible component of  $X$  so that  $\varphi|_Y \equiv -\infty$ . Then using (4) and the monotone convergence theorem we conclude that

$$\int_{Y \cap K} \psi = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_{Y \cap K} \psi_j = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{Y \cap K} (\psi_j - \varphi_j) + \int_{Y \cap K} \varphi_j \right) = -\infty,$$

so  $\psi|_Y \equiv -\infty$ . Therefore  $\psi = \varphi$  on  $X$ , and the proof is finished.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem A.* We consider first the case  $M = \mathbb{C}^n$ . Fix  $c > 1$ . We define inductively a sequence  $\{m_j\}$  with the following properties:  $m_{-1} = m_0 = 0 < m_1$ ,  $\{u < m_1\} \neq \emptyset$ , and for  $j \geq 1$ ,  $m_j > m_{j-1}$  is chosen large enough so that

$$a_j = \frac{m_{j-1} - m_{j-2} + 1}{m_j - m_{j-1}} \leq \frac{\log c}{2^j}.$$

Since  $\gamma_j \geq \gamma_0 = 1$  we have by (1),

$$\gamma_j(m_j - m_{j-1}) \leq \gamma_{j-1}(m_j - m_{j-2} + 1) \implies \gamma_j \leq \gamma_{j-1}(1 + a_j).$$

Thus

$$\gamma_j < \gamma = \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 + a_j), \quad \log \gamma \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j \leq \log c.$$

Let  $\psi = \psi_c$  be the psh extension of  $\varphi$  provided by Proposition 1.3 for this sequence  $\{m_j\}$ . Then for every  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  we have

$$\psi(z) < \gamma \max\{u(z), 0\} \leq c \max\{u(z), 0\}.$$

Assume now that  $M$  is a Stein manifold of dimension  $n$ . Then  $M$  can be properly embedded in  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$ , hence we may assume that  $M$  is a complex submanifold of  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$  (see e.g. [Ho, Theorem 5.3.9]). Proposition 1.1 implies the existence of a continuous psh exhaustion function  $\tilde{u}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$  so that  $\tilde{u} = u$  on  $M$ . By what we already proved, given  $c > 1$  there exists a psh function  $\tilde{\psi}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$  which extends  $\varphi$  and such that  $\tilde{\psi} < c \max\{\tilde{u}, 0\}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^{2n+1}$ . We let  $\psi = \tilde{\psi}|_M$ .  $\square$

We end this section by noting that some hypothesis on the growth of  $u$  is necessary in Theorem A. Indeed, suppose that  $X$  is a submanifold of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  for which there exists a non-constant negative psh function  $\varphi$  on  $X$ . Then any psh extension of  $\varphi$  to  $\mathbb{C}^n$  cannot be bounded above. However, by Theorem A, given any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a psh function  $\psi = \psi_\varepsilon$  so that  $\psi|_X = \varphi$  and  $\psi(z) < \varepsilon \log^+ \|z\|$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

## 2. EXTENSION OF QPSH FUNCTIONS

Let  $V$  be a compact Kähler manifold equipped with a Kähler form  $\omega$ . We let  $PSH(V, \omega)$  denote the set of  $\omega$ -psh functions on  $V$ . These are upper semicontinuous functions  $\varphi \in L^1(V, [-\infty, +\infty))$  such that  $\omega + dd^c \varphi \geq 0$ , where  $d = \partial + \bar{\partial}$  and  $d^c = \frac{1}{2\pi i}(\partial - \bar{\partial})$ . We refer the reader to [GZ] for basic properties of  $\omega$ -psh functions.

Let  $X$  be an analytic subvariety of  $V$ . Recall that an upper semicontinuous function  $\varphi : X \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$  is called  $\omega|_X$ -psh if  $\varphi \not\equiv -\infty$  on  $X$  and if there exist an open cover  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$  of  $X$  and psh functions  $\varphi_i, \rho_i$  defined on  $U_i$ , where  $\rho_i$  is smooth and  $dd^c \rho_i = \omega$ , so that  $\rho_i + \varphi = \varphi_i$  holds on  $X \cap U_i$ , for every  $i \in I$ . Moreover,  $\varphi$  is called *strictly*  $\omega|_X$ -psh if it is  $(1 - \varepsilon)\omega|_X$ -psh for some small  $\varepsilon > 0$ . The current  $\omega|_X + dd^c \varphi$  is then called a Kähler current on  $X$  (see [EGZ1, section 5.2]). We denote by  $PSH(X, \omega|_X)$ , resp.  $PSH^+(X, \omega|_X)$ , the class of  $\omega|_X$ -psh, resp. strictly  $\omega|_X$ -psh functions on  $X$ .

Every  $\omega$ -psh function  $\varphi$  on  $V$  yields, by restriction, an  $\omega|_X$ -psh function  $\varphi|_X$  on  $X$ , as soon as  $\varphi|_X \not\equiv -\infty$ . The question we address here is whether this restriction operator is surjective. In other words, is there equality

$$PSH(X, \omega|_X) \stackrel{?}{=} PSH(V, \omega)|_X.$$

**2.1. The smooth case.** We start with the elementary observation that smooth strictly  $\omega$ -psh functions can easily be extended.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $V$  be a compact Kähler manifold equipped with a Kähler form  $\omega$ , and let  $X$  be a complex submanifold of  $V$ . Then*

$$PSH^+(X, \omega|_X) \cap \mathcal{C}^\infty(X, \mathbb{R}) = (PSH^+(V, \omega) \cap \mathcal{C}^\infty(V, \mathbb{R}))|_X.$$

We include a proof for the convenience of the reader, although this is probably part of the “folklore” (see e.g. [Sch] for the case where  $\omega$  is a Hodge form).

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X, \mathbb{R})$  be such that  $(1 - \varepsilon)\omega|_X + dd^c\varphi \geq 0$  on  $X$ , for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We first choose  $\tilde{\varphi}$  to be any smooth extension of  $\varphi$  to  $V$ . Consider

$$\psi := \tilde{\varphi} + A\chi \operatorname{dist}(\cdot, X)^2,$$

where  $\chi$  is a test function supported in a small neighborhood of  $X$  and such that  $\chi \equiv 1$  near  $X$ . Here  $\operatorname{dist}$  is any Riemannian distance on  $V$ , for instance the distance associated to the Kähler metric  $\omega$ . Then  $\psi$  is yet another smooth extension of  $\varphi$  to  $V$ , which now satisfies  $(1 - \varepsilon/2)\omega + dd^c\psi \geq 0$  near  $X$ , if  $A$  is chosen large enough.

The function  $\log(\operatorname{dist}(\cdot, X)^2)$  is well defined and qpsH in a neighborhood of  $X$ . Let  $\chi$  be a test function supported in this neighborhood so that  $\chi \equiv 1$  near  $X$ . The function  $u = \chi \log(\operatorname{dist}(\cdot, X)^2)$  is  $N\omega$ -psh on  $V$  for a large integer  $N$ . Moreover,  $\exp(u)$  is smooth and  $X = \{u = -\infty\}$ . Replacing  $\omega$  by  $N\omega$ ,  $\varphi$  by  $N\varphi$ , and  $\psi$  by  $N\psi$ , we may assume that  $N = 1$ . Set now

$$\psi_C := \frac{1}{2} \log [e^{2\psi} + e^{u+C}].$$

This again is a smooth extension of  $\varphi$ , and a straightforward computation yields

$$dd^c\psi_C \geq \frac{2e^{2\psi} dd^c\psi + e^{u+C} dd^c u}{2(e^{2\psi} + e^{u+C})}.$$

Hence

$$\left(1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\right)\omega + dd^c\psi_C \geq \frac{2e^{2\psi} \left[\left(1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\right)\omega + dd^c\psi\right] + (1 - \varepsilon)e^{u+C}\omega}{2(e^{2\psi} + e^{u+C})} \geq 0,$$

if  $C$  is chosen large enough. □

This proof breaks down when  $\varphi$  is singular and hence a different approach is needed. We consider in the next section the particular case when  $\omega$  is a Hodge form.

**2.2. Proof of Theorem B.** We assume here that  $\omega$  is a *Hodge form*, i.e. that the cohomology class  $\{\omega\}$  belongs to  $H^2(V, \mathbb{Z})$  (more precisely to the image of  $H^2(V, \mathbb{Z})$  in  $H^2(V, \mathbb{R})$  under the mapping induced by the inclusion  $\mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ). We prove the following more precise version of Theorem B.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be a subvariety of a projective manifold  $V$  equipped with a Hodge form  $\omega$ . If  $\varphi \in PSH(X, \omega|_X)$  then given any constant  $a > 0$  there exists  $\psi \in PSH(V, \omega)$  so that  $\psi|_X = \varphi$  and  $\max_V \psi < \max_X \varphi + a$ .*



In the assumptions of Theorem 2.2 there exists a positive holomorphic line bundle  $L$  on  $V$  whose first Chern class  $c_1(L)$  is represented by  $\omega$ . By Kodaira's embedding theorem  $L$  is ample, hence for large  $k$  there exists an embedding  $\pi : V \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$  such that  $L^k = \pi^*\mathcal{O}(1)$ .

Replacing  $\omega$  by  $k\omega$ ,  $\varphi$  by  $k\varphi$ , we can assume that  $L = \mathcal{O}(1)$ ,  $V$  is an algebraic submanifold of the complex projective space  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , and  $\omega = \omega_{FS}|_V$  is the Fubini-Study Kähler form. Hence  $X$  is an algebraic subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , and Theorem 2.2 follows if we show that  $\omega_{FS}$ -psh functions on  $X$  extend to  $\omega_{FS}$ -psh functions on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .

Therefore we assume in the sequel that  $X \subset V = \mathbb{P}^n$  and  $\omega$  is the Fubini-Study Kähler form on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Let  $[z_0 : \dots : z_n]$  denote the homogeneous coordinates. Without loss of generality, we may assume that they are chosen so that no coordinate hyperplane  $\{z_j = 0\}$  contains any irreducible component of  $X$ .

Let

$$\theta(z) = \log \frac{\max\{|z_0|, \dots, |z_n|\}}{\sqrt{|z_0|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2}}, \quad z = [z_0 : \dots : z_n] \in \mathbb{P}^n.$$

This is an  $\omega$ -psh function and for all  $z \in \mathbb{P}^n$ ,

$$-m \leq \theta(z) \leq 0, \quad \text{where } m = \log \sqrt{n+1}.$$

We start by noting that Theorem A yields special subextensions of  $\omega$ -psh functions on  $X$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and  $u$  be a continuous  $(1 + \varepsilon)\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  so that  $u(z) \leq 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{P}^n$ . If  $c > 1$  and  $\varphi$  is an  $\omega$ -psh function on  $X$  so that  $\varphi < u$ , then there exists a  $c\omega$ -psh function  $\psi$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  so that*

$$\frac{1}{c} \psi(z) \leq \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} u(z), \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{P}^n,$$

and

$$\psi(z) = \varphi(z) + (c - 1)\theta(z) + (c - 1) \min_{\zeta \in \mathbb{P}^n} u(\zeta), \quad \forall z \in X.$$

*Proof.* Let

$$M = - \min_{\zeta \in \mathbb{P}^n} u(\zeta) \geq 0.$$

We work first in an affine chart  $\{z_j = 1\} \cong \mathbb{C}^n$ . Let  $X_j = X \cap \{z_j = 1\}$  and let  $\rho_j \geq 0$  be the potential of  $\omega$  in this chart with  $\rho_j(0) = 0$ . Then  $\varphi + \rho_j$  is psh on  $X_j$  and since  $u \leq 0$ ,

$$\varphi + \rho_j + M < u + \rho_j + M \leq \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} u + \rho_j + M \text{ on } X_j.$$

Note that  $(1 + \varepsilon)^{-1}u + \rho_j + M \geq 0$  is a continuous psh exhaustion function on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Theorem A yields a psh function  $\tilde{\psi}$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  so that

$$\tilde{\psi} < \frac{c}{1 + \varepsilon} u + c\rho_j + cM \text{ on } \mathbb{C}^n, \quad \tilde{\psi} = \varphi + \rho_j + M \text{ on } X_j.$$

The function  $\psi_j = \tilde{\psi} - c\rho_j - cM$  extends uniquely to a  $c\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  which verifies

$$\psi_j \leq \frac{c}{1 + \varepsilon} u \text{ on } \mathbb{P}^n.$$

Moreover on  $X \cap \{z_j = 1\}$  we have

$$\psi_j = \varphi - (c - 1)\rho_j - (c - 1)M = \varphi + (c - 1)\theta_j - (c - 1)M,$$

where

$$\theta_j(z) = \log \frac{|z_j|}{\sqrt{|z_0|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2}}.$$

Hence  $\psi_j = -\infty$  on  $X \cap \{z_j = 0\}$ .

We finally let  $\psi = \max\{\psi_0, \dots, \psi_n\}$ . This is a  $c\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  which verifies the desired conclusions, since  $\theta = \max\{\theta_0, \dots, \theta_n\}$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.2.* Fix  $a > 0$ . Replacing  $\varphi$  by  $\varphi - \max_X \varphi - a$  we may assume that  $\max_X \varphi = -a$ . We will show that there exists a sequence of smooth  $\omega$ -psh functions  $\varphi_j$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  which decrease pointwise on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  to a negative  $\omega$ -psh function  $\psi$  so that  $\psi = \varphi$  on  $X$ .

Let  $X'$  be the union of the irreducible components  $W$  of  $X$  so that  $\varphi|_W \not\equiv -\infty$ . We first construct by induction on  $j \geq 1$  a sequence of numbers  $\varepsilon_j \searrow 0$  and a sequence of negative smooth  $(1 + \varepsilon_j)\omega$ -psh functions  $\psi_j$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  so that for all  $j \geq 2$

$$\frac{\psi_j}{1 + \varepsilon_j} < \frac{\psi_{j-1}}{1 + \varepsilon_{j-1}} \text{ on } \mathbb{P}^n, \quad \psi_{j-1} > \varphi \text{ on } X, \quad \int_{X'} (\psi_j - \varphi) < \frac{1}{j}, \quad \int_W \psi_j < -j,$$

for every irreducible component  $W$  of  $X$  where  $\varphi|_W \equiv -\infty$ . Here the integrals are with respect to the area measure on each irreducible component  $X_j$  of  $X$ , i.e.

$$\int_X f := \sum_{X_j} \int_{X_j} f \omega^{\dim X_j}.$$

Let  $\varepsilon_1 = 1$ ,  $\psi_1 = 0$ , and assume that  $\varepsilon_{j-1}, \psi_{j-1}$ , where  $j \geq 2$ , are constructed with the above properties. Since  $\varphi < \psi_{j-1}|_X$  and the latter is continuous on the compact set  $X$ , we can find  $\delta > 0$  so that  $\varphi < \psi_{j-1} - \delta$  on  $X$ .

Let  $c > 1$ . By Lemma 2.3, there exists a  $c\omega$ -psh function  $\psi_c$  so that

$$\frac{\psi_c}{c} \leq \frac{\psi_{j-1} - \delta}{1 + \varepsilon_{j-1}} \text{ on } \mathbb{P}^n, \quad \psi_c = \varphi + (c-1)\theta - (c-1)M_{j-1} \text{ on } X,$$

where

$$M_{j-1} = \delta - \min_{\zeta \in \mathbb{P}^n} \psi_{j-1}(\zeta) \geq 0.$$

We can regularize  $\psi_c$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ : there exists a sequence of smooth  $c\omega$ -psh functions decreasing to  $\psi_c$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Therefore we can find a smooth  $c\omega$ -psh function  $\psi'_c$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  so that

$$\frac{\psi'_c}{c} < \frac{\psi_{j-1} - \frac{\delta}{2}}{1 + \varepsilon_{j-1}} \text{ on } \mathbb{P}^n, \quad \psi'_c > \varphi + (c-1)\theta - (c-1)M_{j-1} \geq \varphi - (c-1)(m + M_{j-1}) \text{ on } X.$$

By dominated, resp. monotone convergence, we can in addition ensure that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{X'} (\psi'_c - \varphi) &\leq \int_{X'} (\psi'_c - \varphi - (c-1)\theta + (c-1)M_{j-1}) < c-1, \\ \int_W \psi'_c &< -j - (c-1)(m + M_{j-1})|W|, \end{aligned}$$

for every irreducible component  $W$  of  $X$  where  $\varphi|_W \equiv -\infty$ . Here  $|W|$  denotes the (projective) area of  $W$ .

Now let  $\psi''_c = \psi'_c + (c-1)(m + M_{j-1})$ . Then on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  we have

$$\frac{\psi''_c}{c} < \frac{\psi_{j-1} - \frac{\delta}{2}}{1 + \varepsilon_{j-1}} + \frac{(c-1)(m + M_{j-1})}{c} < \frac{\psi_{j-1}}{1 + \varepsilon_{j-1}} - \frac{\delta}{4} + (c-1)(m + M_{j-1}).$$

Moreover,  $\psi''_c > \varphi$  on  $X$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{X'} (\psi''_c - \varphi) &= \int_{X'} (\psi'_c - \varphi) + (c-1)(m + M_{j-1})|X'| \\ &< (c-1)(1 + m|X'| + M_{j-1}|X'|), \\ \int_W \psi''_c &= \int_W \psi'_c + (c-1)(m + M_{j-1})|W| < -j, \end{aligned}$$

for every irreducible component  $W$  of  $X$  where  $\varphi|_W \equiv -\infty$ .

We take  $c = 1 + \varepsilon_j$  and  $\psi_j = \psi''_c$ , where  $\varepsilon_j > 0$  is so that

$$\varepsilon_j < \varepsilon_{j-1}/2, \quad \varepsilon_j(m + M_{j-1}) < \frac{\delta}{4}, \quad \varepsilon_j(1 + m|X'| + M_{j-1}|X'|) < \frac{1}{j}.$$

Then  $\varepsilon_j, \psi_j$  have the desired properties.

We conclude that  $\varphi_j = (1 + \varepsilon_j)^{-1}\psi_j$  is a decreasing sequence of smooth negative  $\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , so that  $\varphi_j > (1 + \varepsilon_j)^{-1}\varphi > \varphi$  on  $X$ . Hence  $\psi = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_j$  is a negative  $\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  and  $\psi \geq \varphi$  on  $X$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{X'} (\varphi_j - \varphi) &= \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon_j} \int_{X'} (\psi_j - \varphi) - \frac{\varepsilon_j}{1 + \varepsilon_j} \int_{X'} \varphi < \frac{1}{j} - \frac{\varepsilon_j}{1 + \varepsilon_j} \int_{X'} \varphi, \\ \int_W \varphi_j &= \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon_j} \int_W \psi_j < -\frac{j}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

for every irreducible component  $W$  of  $X$  where  $\varphi|_W \equiv -\infty$ . It follows that  $\psi = \varphi$  on  $X$  and the proof of Theorem 2.2 is finished.  $\square$

### 3. ALGEBRAIC SUBVARIETIES OF $\mathbb{C}^n$

If  $X$  is an analytic subvariety of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $\gamma$  is a positive number, we denote by  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma(X)$  the *Lelong class* of psh functions  $\varphi$  on  $X$  which verify  $\varphi(z) \leq \gamma \log^+ \|z\| + C$  for all  $z \in X$ , where  $C$  is a constant that depends on  $\varphi$ . We let  $\mathcal{L}(X) = \mathcal{L}_1(X)$ . By Theorem A, functions  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  admit a psh extension in each class  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma(\mathbb{C}^n)$ , for every  $\gamma > 1$ .<sup>1</sup>

We assume in the sequel that  $X$  is an *algebraic* subvariety of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and address the question whether it is necessary to allow the arbitrarily small additional growth. More precisely, is it true that

$$\mathcal{L}(X) \stackrel{?}{=} \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)|_X,$$

i.e. is every psh function with logarithmic growth on  $X$  the restriction of a globally defined psh function with logarithmic growth? We will give a criterion for this to hold, but show that in general this is not the case.

<sup>1</sup>If  $X$  is algebraic this result is claimed in [BL, Proposition 3.3], but there is a gap in their proof.

**3.1. Extension preserving the Lelong class.** Consider the standard embedding

$$z \in \mathbb{C}^n \hookrightarrow [1 : z] \in \mathbb{P}^n,$$

where  $[t : z]$  denote the homogeneous coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Let  $\omega$  be the Fubini-Study Kähler form and let

$$\rho(t, z) = \log \sqrt{|t|^2 + \|z\|^2}$$

be its logarithmically homogeneous potential on  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ .

We denote by  $\overline{X}$  the closure of  $X$  in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , so  $\overline{X}$  is an algebraic subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . It is well known that the class  $PSH(\mathbb{P}^n, \omega)$  is in one-to-one correspondence with the Lelong class  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$  (see [GZ]). Let us look at the connection between  $\omega$ -psh functions on  $\overline{X}$  and the class  $\mathcal{L}(X)$ .

The mapping

$$F_X : PSH(\overline{X}, \omega|_{\overline{X}}) \longmapsto \mathcal{L}(X), \quad (F_X \varphi)(z) = \rho(1, z) + \varphi([1 : z]),$$

is well defined and injective. However, it is in general not surjective, as shown by Examples 3.2 and 3.3 that follow.

Conversely, a function  $\eta \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  induces an upper semicontinuous function  $\tilde{\eta}$  on  $\overline{X}$  defined in the obvious way:

$$\tilde{\eta}([t : z]) = \begin{cases} \eta(z) - \rho(1, z), & \text{if } t = 1, z \in X, \\ \limsup_{[1:\zeta] \rightarrow [0:z], \zeta \in X} (\eta(\zeta) - \rho(1, \zeta)), & \text{if } t = 0, [0 : z] \in \overline{X} \setminus X. \end{cases}$$

The function  $\tilde{\eta}$  is in general only *weakly  $\omega$ -psh on  $\overline{X}$* , i.e. it is bounded above on  $\overline{X}$  and it is  $\omega|_{\overline{X}_r}$ -psh on the set  $\overline{X}_r$  of regular points of  $\overline{X}$ . This notion is in direct analogy to that of *weakly psh function* on an analytic variety (see [D2, section 1]). We do not pursue it any further here.

Note that  $\eta \in F_X(PSH(\overline{X}, \omega|_{\overline{X}}))$  if and only if  $\tilde{\eta} \in PSH(\overline{X}, \omega|_{\overline{X}})$ . The following simple characterization is a consequence of Theorem B.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $\eta \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ . The following are equivalent:*

- (i) *There exists  $\psi \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$  so that  $\psi = \eta$  on  $X$ .*
- (ii)  *$\tilde{\eta} \in PSH(\overline{X}, \omega|_{\overline{X}})$ .*
- (iii) *For every point  $a \in \overline{X} \setminus X$  the following holds: if  $(X_j, a)$  are the irreducible components of the germ  $(\overline{X}, a)$  then the value*

$$\limsup_{X_j \ni [1:\zeta] \rightarrow a} (\eta(\zeta) - \rho(1, \zeta))$$

*is independent of  $j$ .*

*In particular, if the germs  $(\overline{X}, a)$  are irreducible for all points  $a \in \overline{X} \setminus X$  then  $\mathcal{L}(X) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)|_X$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that (i) holds. It follows that  $\tilde{\eta} = \varphi|_{\overline{X}}$ , where

$$\varphi([t : z]) := \begin{cases} \psi(z) - \rho(1, z), & \text{if } t = 1, \\ \limsup_{[1:\zeta] \rightarrow [0:z]} (\psi(\zeta) - \rho(1, \zeta)), & \text{if } t = 0, \end{cases}$$

is an  $\omega$ -psh function on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Hence  $\tilde{\eta} \in PSH(\overline{X}, \omega|_{\overline{X}})$ .

Conversely, if (ii) holds then by Theorem B there exists an  $\omega$ -psh function  $\varphi$  on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  which extends  $\tilde{\eta}$ . Hence  $\psi(z) = \rho(1, z) + \varphi([1 : z])$  is an extension of  $\eta$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ .

The equivalence of (ii) and (iii) follows easily from [D2, Theorem 1.10].  $\square$

**3.2. Explicit examples.** In view of section 3.1, it is easy to construct examples of algebraic curves  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  and functions in  $\mathcal{L}(X)$  which do not admit an extension in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ . We write  $z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ .

**Example 3.2.** Let  $X = \{y = 0\} \cup \{y = 1\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  and  $\eta \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ , where

$$\eta(z) = \begin{cases} \rho(1, z), & \text{if } z = (x, 0), \\ \rho(1, z) + 1, & \text{if } z = (x, 1). \end{cases}$$

The function  $\tilde{\eta}$  is not  $\omega$ -psh on  $\overline{X} = \{y = 0\} \cup \{y = t\}$ , hence  $\eta$  does not have an extension in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ . Indeed, the maximum principle is violated along  $\{y = 0\}$  near the point  $a = [0 : 1 : 0]$ , since  $\tilde{\eta}([t : 1 : 0]) = 0$  for  $t \neq 0$ , while  $\tilde{\eta}([t : 1 : t]) = 1$ .

With a little more effort we can give an example as above where  $X$  is an irreducible curve. Let  $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

**Example 3.3.** Let  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  be the irreducible cubic with equation  $xy = x^3 + 1$ . Then

$$\overline{X} = \{[t : x : y] \in \mathbb{P}^2 : xyt = x^3 + t^3\}, \quad \overline{X} = X \cup \{a\}, \quad a = [0 : 0 : 1].$$

The germ  $(\overline{X}, a)$  has two irreducible components  $X_1, X_2$ , both are smooth at  $a$ ,  $X_1$  being tangent to the line  $\{x = 0\}$ , and  $X_2$  to the line  $\{t = 0\}$ .

Note that in fact  $X \subset \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$  is the graph of the rational function  $y = x^2 + x^{-1}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . If  $(x, y) \in X$  and  $x \rightarrow 0$  then  $(x, y) \rightarrow a$  along  $X_1$ , while as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  then  $(x, y) \rightarrow a$  along  $X_2$ . The function

$$u(x, y) = \max\{-\log|x|, 2\log|x| + 1\}$$

is psh in  $\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ . It is easy to check that  $\eta := u|_X \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  and

$$\limsup_{X_1 \ni [1:\zeta] \rightarrow a} (\eta(\zeta) - \rho(1, \zeta)) = 0, \quad \limsup_{X_2 \ni [1:\zeta] \rightarrow a} (\eta(\zeta) - \rho(1, \zeta)) = 1.$$

Hence  $\eta$  does not admit an extension in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ .

We conclude this section with an example of a cubic  $X$  in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  and a psh function on  $X$  of the form  $\eta = \log|P|$ , where  $P$  is a polynomial, so that  $\eta$  admits a “transcendental” extension with exactly the same growth, but small additional growth is necessary if we look for an “algebraic” extension.

**Proposition 3.4.** Let  $X = \{x = y^3\}$  and  $\eta(x, y) = \log|1 + y|$ , so  $\eta|_X \in \mathcal{L}_{1/3}(X)$ .

Given  $k \geq 1$ , there is a polynomial  $Q_k(x, y)$  of degree  $k + 1$  so that  $Q_k(y^3, y) = (y + 1)^{3k}$ . In particular,  $\psi_k = \frac{1}{3k} \log|Q_k| \in \mathcal{L}_{(k+1)/3k}(\mathbb{C}^2)$  is an extension of  $\eta|_X$ .

There exists no polynomial  $Q(x, y)$  of degree  $k$  so that  $Q(y^3, y) = (y + 1)^{3k}$ . However,  $\eta|_X$  has an extension in  $\mathcal{L}_{1/3}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ .

*Proof.* We construct  $Q_k$  by replacing  $y^3$  by  $x$  in the polynomial

$$(y + 1)^{3k} = \sum_{j=0}^{3k} \binom{3k}{j} y^j.$$

Since  $j = 3[j/3] + r_j$ ,  $r_j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , it follows that

$$Q_k(x, y) = \sum_{j=0}^{3k} \binom{3k}{j} x^{[j/3]} y^{r_j} = 3kx^{k-1}y^2 + l.d.t. .$$

We now check that there is no polynomial  $Q(x, y)$  of degree  $k$  so that  $Q(y^3, y) = (y + 1)^{3k}$ . Indeed, if  $Q(x, y) = \sum_{j+l \leq k} c_{jl} x^j y^l$  then

$$Q(y^3, y) = c_{k0} y^{3k} + c_{k-1,1} y^{3k-2} + l.d.t.$$

does not contain the monomial  $y^{3k-1}$ .

Note that  $\overline{X} = \{xt^2 = y^3\} = X \cup \{a\}$ , where  $a = [0 : 1 : 0]$ , so the germ  $(\overline{X}, a)$  is irreducible. Proposition 3.1 implies that  $\eta|_X$  has an extension in  $\mathcal{L}_{1/3}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ .  $\square$

We conclude with some remarks regarding our last example. If  $X$  is an algebraic subvariety of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and  $f$  is a holomorphic function on  $X$ ,  $f$  is said to have polynomial growth if there is an integer  $N(f)$  and a constant  $A$  so that

$$|f(z)| \leq A(1 + \|z\|)^{N(f)}, \quad \forall z \in X.$$

Then it is well known that there exists a polynomial  $P$  of degree at most  $N(f) + \varepsilon(X)$  so that  $P|_X = f$ , where  $\varepsilon(X) > 0$  is a constant depending only on  $X$  (see e.g. [Bj] and references therein). However, if  $\overline{X} \subset \mathbb{P}^N$  is irreducible at each of its points at infinity then by Proposition 3.1 the psh function  $\eta = N(f)^{-1} \log |f| \in \mathcal{L}(X)$  has a psh extension in the Lelong class  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ .

On the other hand, Demailly [D1] has shown that in the case of the transcendental curve  $X = \{e^x + e^y = 1\}$  any holomorphic function  $f$  on  $X$ , of polynomial growth, has a polynomial extension of the same degree to  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Hence it is natural to ask if for this curve one has that  $\mathcal{L}(X) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}^n)|_X$ .

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D. COMAN: DCOMAN@SYR.EDU, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE, NY 13244-1150, USA

V. GUEDJ: GUEDJ@CMI.UNIV-MRS.FR, UNIVERSITÉ AIX-MARSEILLE 1, LATP, 13453 MARSEILLE CEDEX 13, FRANCE

A. ZERIAHI: ZERIAHI@PICARD.UPS-TLSE.FR, LABORATOIRE EMILE PICARD, UMR 5580, UNIVERSITÉ PAUL SABATIER, 118 ROUTE DE NARBONNE, 31062 TOULOUSE CEDEX 04, FRANCE