

EMBEDDABILITY OF SOME STRONGLY PSEUDOCONVEX CR MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. We obtain an embedding theorem for compact strongly pseudoconvex CR manifolds which are boundaries of some complete Hermitian manifolds. We use this to compactify some negatively curved Kähler manifolds with compact strongly pseudoconvex boundary. An embedding theorem for Sasakian manifolds is also derived.

1. INTRODUCTION

A natural question in the study of CR manifolds is the embeddability question: given a strongly pseudoconvex CR manifold X , do there exist an integer N and a smooth embedding $M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ such that the CR structure on X is the one induced from the complex structure on \mathbb{C}^N ? It is known that the embeddability of X is equivalent to the fillability, that is the existence of a compact complex manifold T with strongly pseudoconvex boundary, such that $\partial T = X$. Indeed, Harvey-Lawson's theorem [HL75] shows that X is fillable if it is embeddable. Conversely, if X is fillable and $\partial T = X$, a theorem of Grauert [Gra62] shows that T can be taken to be a Stein space with isolated singularities, and one can apply the embedding theorem of Remmert-Bishop-Narasimhan [Nar60].

By a theorem due to Boutet de Monvel [BdM75], any compact $(2n - 1)$ -dimensional strongly pseudoconvex CR manifold is embeddable in some \mathbb{C}^N if its dimension is greater than or equal to five ($n \geq 3$). On the other hand, there is a classical example of H. Rossi [Ros65] (see also [Bur79], [Fal92]) which shows that an arbitrarily small, real-analytic perturbation of the standard structure on the three-sphere may fail to be embeddable. There exists an extensive literature on the embeddability of deformations of CR structures, see e.g. J. Bland and C. L. Epstein [BE96], D. M. Burns and C. L. Epstein [BE90], C. L. Epstein and G. M. Henkin [EH00], L. Lempert [Lem95].

Our goal is to get embedding theorems for compact strongly pseudoconvex CR manifolds, which are already boundaries of non-compact strongly pseudoconvex complex manifolds (see Definition 3.1). The complex manifolds we consider are complete Hermitian manifolds with an additional assumption on the spectral properties of the operator $\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*$ acting on square integrable forms. Our main technical result is the following theorem:

Theorem 1.1. *Let M be a complex manifold with compact strongly pseudoconvex boundary and of complex dimension $n \geq 2$. Assume that $\text{Int}M$ has a complete Hermitian metric such that $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. Then there exists a CR embedding of the boundary ∂M in \mathbb{C}^N for some integer N .*

We then give two applications of this result. The first one concerns manifolds with pinched negative curvature and compact strongly pseudoconvex boundary.

Date: March 3, 2004.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 32V30, 32V15, 32Q05.

The second-named author has been (partially) supported by the European Commission through the Research Training Network HPRN-CT-1999-00118 "Geometric Analysis".

Theorem 1.2. *Let M be a connected complex manifold with compact strongly pseudoconvex boundary and of complex dimension $n \geq 2$. Assume that $\text{Int}M$ is endowed with a complete Kähler metric with pinched negative curvature, such that away from a neighborhood of ∂M , the volume of M is finite. Then*

- (1) ∂M is embeddable in some \mathbb{C}^N .
- (2) M can be compactified to a strongly pseudoconvex domain in a projective variety by adding an exceptional analytic set, that is, there exists a compact strongly pseudoconvex domain D in a smooth projective variety and an embedding $h : M \rightarrow D$ which is a biholomorphism between $\text{Int}M$ and $h(\text{Int}M)$, $h(\partial M) = \partial D$, and $D \setminus h(M)$ is an exceptional analytic set which can be blown down to a finite set.

This is a generalization of [SY82, Main Theorem] in the case when a strongly pseudoconvex end is allowed. The method follows [NR98] and consists in filling ∂M with a Stein space S (this is granted by Theorem 1.1) and using a theorem of Lempert [Lem95, Theorem 1.2] to embed S in a projective variety X . The complement $Y := X \setminus S$ can be glued to the original manifold M to construct a projective pseudoconcave manifold \widehat{M} . By using the results of [And63] we can compactify this manifold and by [SY82] or [MD02] the complement of \widehat{M} is an exceptional analytic set.

As a consequence we study some quotients of the unit complex ball B in \mathbb{C}^n which were considered by Burns and Napier-Ramachandran [NR98, Theorem 4.2].

Corollary 1.3. *Let Γ be a torsion-free discrete group of automorphisms of the unit ball B in \mathbb{C}^2 and let $M = B/\Gamma$. Assume that the limit set Λ is a proper subset of ∂B and that the quotient $(\partial B \setminus \Lambda)/\Gamma$ has a compact component A . Let E be the end of M corresponding to A and assume that $M \setminus E$ has finite volume. Then A is embeddable in some \mathbb{C}^N and M can be compactified to a strongly pseudoconvex domain in a projective variety by adding an exceptional analytic set.*

In [NR98] the case $n \geq 3$ is considered and it is shown that the volume of $M \setminus E$ is automatically finite. Indeed, if $n \geq 3$, ∂M is embeddable by [BdM75] and the method described above, combined with the holomorphic Morse inequalities of [NT88], show that $\text{vol}(M \setminus E) < \infty$. Napier and Ramachandran also remark [NR98, Remark, p. 392] that one could prove an analogue of Corollary 1.3 in the case $n \geq 3$, by using the techniques of Siu-Yau [SY82].

Our second application of Theorem 1.1 is an embedding result for Sasakian manifolds (the definition of this particular class of strongly pseudoconvex manifolds will be given in §5). Let X be a Sasakian manifold. In [BH02], O. Biquard and M. Herzlich construct a Kähler metric on the product $(0, \infty) \times X$, called asymptotically complex hyperbolic. X can then be viewed as the pseudoconvex boundary of some Kähler manifold, and therefore our technique can be applied to prove

Theorem 1.4. *Let X be a Sasakian manifold of dimension at least 3. Then there is a CR embedding of X in \mathbb{C}^N for some integer N .*

This paper is organized as follows. In §2, we discuss the Hodge decomposition for the space of square integrable forms. In §3-4, we prove Theorem 1.1 and 1.2. Finally in §5, we review some basic facts about Sasakian manifolds, explain the construction of asymptotically hyperbolic manifolds, and prove Theorem 1.4.

2. HODGE DECOMPOSITION

Let (M, g) be a complex complete Hermitian manifold. For any integers p and q , we denote by $C_0^{p,q}(M)$ the space of smooth (p, q) -differential forms with compact support, and

by $L_2^{p,q}(M)$ the space of square integrable (p,q) -forms. Now consider the operator $\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*$, where $\bar{\partial}$ acts as an unbounded operator on square integrable forms, and $\bar{\partial}^*$ is the Hilbert space adjoint of $\bar{\partial}$. The L_2 -kernel $\mathcal{H}^{p,q}(M, g)$ of $\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*$ is by definition the space of L_2 harmonic (p,q) -forms. In order to solve the $\bar{\partial}$ -equation, one is primarily interested to know whether $\mathcal{H}^{p,q}(M, g)$ is finite dimensional and $\bar{\partial}$ has a closed range as an unbounded operator acting on L_2 -forms. For example, this is the case if $\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*$ (or equivalently $\bar{\square} := (\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$) is Fredholm on its domain. It is well known that we have the following characterization of Fredholmness (see for example [Ang93]).

Proposition 2.1. *The operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree (p, q) if and only if we have a Poincaré inequality at infinity: there exist a compact subset K of M and a constant $C > 0$ such that*

$$(2.1) \quad \forall u \in C_0^{p,q}(M \setminus K), C \|u\|_{L_2}^2 \leq \|\bar{\partial}u\|_{L_2}^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*u\|_{L_2}^2.$$

Our discussion applies to weighted spaces too. Namely, let $\xi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function defined on M , and let $L_{2,\xi}(M)$ be the Hilbert space completion of $C_0^{*,*}(M)$ with respect to the weighted norm

$$\|u\|_{L_{2,\xi}}^2 = \int_M |u|^2 e^{-\xi} dv_g,$$

where dv_g is the Riemannian measure. The operator $\bar{\partial}$ acts as an unbounded operator on $L_{2,\xi}(M)$, and its adjoint is denoted by $\bar{\partial}_\xi^*$; we have

$$\bar{\partial}_\xi^* = e^{\xi} \bar{\partial}^* e^{-\xi}.$$

The space of $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}_\xi^*)$ -harmonic (p, q) forms is

$$\mathcal{H}_\xi^{p,q}(M, g) = \{u \in L_{2,\xi}^{p,q}(M) : \bar{\partial}u = \bar{\partial}_\xi^*u = 0\}.$$

A key property of Fredholmness is the following:

Proposition 2.2. *Let (M, g) be a complete Hermitian complex manifold. Assume that $\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}_\xi^*$ is Fredholm in bidegree (p, q) . Then $\mathcal{H}_\xi^{p,q}(M, g)$ is finite dimensional, and we have the following strong orthogonal Hodge decomposition*

$$(2.2) \quad L_{2,\xi}^{p,q} = \mathcal{H}_\xi^{p,q}(M, g) \oplus \text{Im}(\bar{\partial} : L_{2,\xi}^{p,q-1} \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{p,q}) \oplus \text{Im}(\bar{\partial}_\xi^* : L_{2,\xi}^{p,q+1} \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{p,q}).$$

For the proof of Theorem 1.2 we need the following example of manifolds for which the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm at certain degrees.

Proposition 2.3 (Gromov). *If (M, g) is a complete Kähler manifold whose fundamental form is d (bounded) (at least outside a compact subset) in the sense of Gromov, the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree (p, q) , if $p + q \neq \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(M)$.*

Recall that the hypothesis means that for a bounded 1-form η , the fundamental form ω of the metric g satisfies $\omega = d\eta$ outside a compact subset K . Then the method of proof of [Gro91, Theorem 1.4.A], using the Lefschetz decomposition theorem, shows that for some constant $C > 0$ depending only on the dimension of M and the bound on the norm of η , we have

$$\forall p + q \neq \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(M), \forall u \in C_0^{p,q}(M \setminus K), C \|u\|_{L_2}^2 \leq \langle \Delta u, u \rangle_{L_2} = 2 \langle \bar{\square} u, u \rangle_{L_2}.$$

Here, the last equality is a consequence of the Kähler assumption, for we then have $\Delta = 2\bar{\square}$, and after integrating by parts, we get the estimates of (2.1).

3. EMBEDDING OF SOME STRONGLY PSEUDOCONVEX CR MANIFOLDS

The aim of this section is to prove Theorem 1.1. We first review the notion of CR structure and complex manifold with strongly pseudoconvex boundary. In Lemma 3.3, we construct a complete metric and a suitable weight ξ on a strongly pseudoconvex subdomain Ω_0 of M , such that the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}_\xi^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. Then Lemma 3.4 provides peak holomorphic functions at $\partial\Omega_0$. We use these peak functions in the proof of Theorem 1.1 in order to fill $\partial\Omega_0$ and then ∂M .

Let Ω be a strongly pseudoconvex domain in a complex manifold M . From the complex structure of M , we can build on the boundary of Ω a partial complex structure which is called a Cauchy-Riemann or CR structure. More generally, let Y be a smooth orientable manifold of (real) dimension $(2n-1)$. A CR structure on Y is an $(n-1)$ -dimensional complex subbundle $H_{(1,0)}Y$ of the complexified tangent bundle $T_{\mathbb{C}}Y$ such that

$$H_{(1,0)}Y \cap \overline{H_{(1,0)}Y} = \{0\},$$

and such that $H_{(1,0)}$ is integrable as a complex subbundle of $T_{\mathbb{C}}Y$ (i.e. if u and v are sections of $H_{(1,0)}Y$, the Lie bracket $[u, v]$ is still a section of $H_{(1,0)}Y$).

If Y is a CR manifold, then its Levi distribution H is the real subbundle of TY defined by $H = \text{Re}\{H_{(1,0)}Y \oplus \overline{H_{(1,0)}Y}\}$. There exists on H a complex structure J given by $J(u + \bar{u}) = \sqrt{-1}(u - \bar{u})$, with $u \in H_{(1,0)}Y$. As Y is orientable, the real line bundle $H^\perp \subset T^*Y$ admits a global nonvanishing section θ . The CR structure is said to be *strongly pseudoconvex* if $d\theta(\cdot, J\cdot)$ defines a positive definite metric on H . Notice that in this case, $\theta \wedge (d\theta)^{n-1} \neq 0$, and θ defines a real contact structure on Y .

We need the notion of complex manifold with strongly pseudoconvex boundary.

Definition 3.1. A complex manifold M with strongly pseudoconvex boundary is a real manifold with boundary, of dimension $2n$, satisfying the following conditions: (i) the interior $\text{Int}M = M \setminus \partial M$ has an integrable complex structure and (ii) for each point $x \in \partial M$ there exist a neighborhood U in M , a strongly pseudoconvex domain $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with smooth boundary, and a diffeomorphism h from U onto a relatively open subset $h(U)$ such that $h(\partial U) \subset \partial D$ and h is biholomorphic from $\text{Int}U$ to $\text{Int}h(U)$.

From this definition we infer:

Consequence 3.2. The complex structure induces an integrable Cauchy-Riemann structure on the boundary ∂M . Moreover, if ∂M is compact, there exists a defining function $\varphi : M \rightarrow (-\infty, c]$ such that $\partial M = \{\varphi = c\}$, with the properties: (1) its Levi form is positive definite on the holomorphic tangent space of ∂M and (2) φ is strictly plurisubharmonic on $\{c_0 < \varphi < c\}$. We can assume that $c_0 < 0 < c$ and that 0 is a regular value of φ and consider the strongly pseudoconvex domain $\Omega_0 = \{\varphi < 0\}$.

For the lemmas leading to Theorem 1.1, we construct a smooth function $\lambda : (-\infty, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $\lambda = 0$ in a neighborhood of $-\infty$ and $\lambda' > 0$, $\lambda'' > 0$ in a neighborhood of 0. We will impose two conditions on the growth of λ near 0. Let $0 < \delta < C$ be two constants and let $\psi : \Omega_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function such that

$$\psi = \begin{cases} -(n+2) \log(-\varphi) & \text{on } \{\varphi > -\delta\}, \\ 0 & \text{on } \{\varphi < -C\}. \end{cases}$$

First, we may choose λ such that

$$(3.1) \quad \lambda(\varphi) \geq \psi \quad \text{on } \Omega_0$$

Lemma 3.3. *Assume that M can be endowed with a complete Hermitian metric such that the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. Then there exists on Ω_0 a complete Hermitian metric (sending the boundary at infinity) for which the weight $e^{-\lambda(\varphi)}$ is integrable near the boundary and the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}_{\lambda(\varphi)}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$.*

Proof. Consider the complete metric g on Ω_0 obtained by gluing the original metric of M with the Kähler metric defined near the boundary $\partial\Omega_0$ by the Kähler form

$$\begin{aligned}\omega &= -\sqrt{-1} \partial\bar{\partial} \log(-\varphi), \\ &= -\sqrt{-1} \frac{\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi}{\varphi} + \sqrt{-1} \frac{\partial\varphi \wedge \bar{\partial}\varphi}{\varphi^2}.\end{aligned}$$

Strict plurisubharmonicity of φ ensures that ω is positive. Near the boundary, the volume of g behaves like $O((-\varphi)^{-(n+1)})$ (see e.g. [Yeg04, Lemma 4.2]), so that $e^{-\Psi} = (-\varphi)^{n+2}$ is integrable around $\varphi = 0$. By (3.1), $e^{-\lambda(\varphi)} \leq e^{-\Psi}$, hence $e^{-\lambda(\varphi)}$ is also integrable around $\varphi = 0$.

We now prove that the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}_{\lambda(\varphi)}^*)^2$ associated to this metric is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. We have to show that the estimates (2.1) hold for smooth $(0, 1)$ -forms which are compactly supported at infinity.

If we are sufficiently far from the boundary $\partial\Omega_0$, then the new metric is equal to the original metric of M , and the weight $e^{-\lambda(\varphi)}$ is identically one. Therefore, by assumption and by Proposition 2.1, these estimates are valid for forms with compact support in Ω_0 , sufficiently far from the boundary $\partial\Omega_0$.

It remains to prove (2.1) for a $(0, 1)$ -form u with compact support near the boundary, i.e. in $\{\varphi > -\delta\}$. We shall use the Bochner-Kodaira formula. We endow the trivial line bundle $E = \Omega_0 \times \mathbb{C}$ with the Hermitian metric $h = e^{-\lambda(\varphi)}$. Consider the holomorphic vector bundle $\tilde{E} = E \otimes \Lambda^n TM$. We denote by $\sim: \Lambda^{0,1} T^*M \otimes E \rightarrow \Lambda^{n,1} T^*M \otimes \tilde{E}$, $u \mapsto \tilde{u}$ the natural isometry which sends a $(0, 1)$ -form with values in E to a $(n, 1)$ -form with values in \tilde{E} .

To avoid excessive subscripts, we will drop $\lambda(\varphi)$ from the notation, and write e.g. $\bar{\partial}^*$ instead of $\bar{\partial}_{\lambda(\varphi)}^*$. For a $(0, 1)$ -form u with compact support, we have

$$(3.2) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*u\|^2 = \|\bar{\partial}\tilde{u}\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*\tilde{u}\|^2$$

By the Bochner-Kodaira formula for the $(n, 1)$ -form \tilde{u} we have

$$(3.3) \quad \|\bar{\partial}\tilde{u}\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*\tilde{u}\|^2 \geq \left([\sqrt{-1}\Theta(\tilde{E}), \Lambda]\tilde{u}, \tilde{u} \right)$$

where

$$\sqrt{-1}\Theta(\tilde{E}) = \sqrt{-1}\Theta(E) + \text{Ric } \omega = \sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}\lambda(\varphi) + \text{Ric } \omega$$

is the curvature of \tilde{E} , $\text{Ric } \omega$ is the Ricci curvature and Λ is the interior product with ω . Since \tilde{u} is of bidegree $(n, 1)$, relations (3.2) and (3.3) imply

$$(3.4) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*u\|^2 \geq \left(\sqrt{-1}\Theta(\tilde{E}) \wedge \Lambda\tilde{u}, \tilde{u} \right) = \left((\sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}\lambda(\varphi) + \text{Ric } \omega) \wedge \Lambda\tilde{u}, \tilde{u} \right)$$

Since $\partial\bar{\partial}\lambda(\varphi) = \lambda'(\varphi)\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi + \lambda''(\varphi)\partial\varphi \wedge \bar{\partial}\varphi$ we can choose λ increasing enough so that

$$(3.5) \quad \sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}\lambda(\varphi) + \text{Ric } \omega \geq \omega$$

in a neighborhood $\{\varphi > -\delta\}$ of $\partial\Omega_0$. Estimates (3.4) and (3.5) entail

$$(3.6) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*u\|^2 \geq (\omega \wedge \Lambda\tilde{u}, \tilde{u}) \geq \|\tilde{u}\|^2 = \|u\|^2.$$

for u supported in $\{\varphi > -\delta\}$. This finishes the proof of the lemma. \square

The following result is the analog of [MD02, Corollary 2.6].

Lemma 3.4. *Assume that M can be endowed with a complete Hermitian metric such that the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. Let p be a point of the boundary $\partial\Omega_0$, and f a holomorphic function defined in a neighborhood of p such that $\{f = 0\} \cap \bar{\Omega}_0 = \{p\}$. Then for any m big enough, there exist a function $g \in O(\Omega_0) \cap C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}_0 \setminus \{p\})$, a smooth function Φ on a neighborhood V of p , and constants a_1, \dots, a_{m-1} such that*

$$g = \frac{1 + a_{m-1}f + \dots + a_1 f^{m-1}}{f^m} + \Phi$$

on $V \cap \Omega_0$. In particular, we have $\lim_{z \rightarrow p} |g(z)| = \infty$.

Proof. We follow the same line of reasoning as in [MD02, Corollary 2.6] with only minor changes. For $\varepsilon > 0$, set

$$\Omega_\varepsilon = \{\varphi < \varepsilon\},$$

and choose ε small enough so that Ω_ε is strongly pseudoconvex. Replacing Ω_0 by Ω_ε in Lemma 3.3, we can find a complete metric g on Ω_ε and a suitable function $\xi : \Omega_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, of the form $\xi = \lambda(\varphi - \varepsilon)$, with the properties stated in that lemma. By Proposition 2.2 we have

$$(3.7) \quad \text{Ker}(\bar{\partial} : L_{2,\xi}^{0,1}(\Omega_\varepsilon) \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{0,2}(\Omega_\varepsilon)) = \mathcal{H}_\xi^{0,1}(\Omega_\varepsilon, g) \oplus \text{Im}(\bar{\partial} : L_{2,\xi}^{0,0}(\Omega_\varepsilon) \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{0,1}(\Omega_\varepsilon)),$$

and

$$(3.8) \quad \dim(\mathcal{H}_\xi^{0,1}(\Omega_\varepsilon, g)) < \infty.$$

Now, let U be a small neighborhood of p where f is defined, and let ψ be a smooth function with compact support in U , such that $\psi = 1$ in a neighborhood V of p . Set

$$h_m = \psi / f^m \quad \text{on } U \text{ and } 0 \text{ on } M \setminus U$$

and

$$v_m = 0 \quad \text{on } V \text{ and } \bar{\partial} h_m \text{ on } M \setminus V.$$

If ε is sufficiently small, v_m is smooth on $\bar{\Omega}_\varepsilon$, with compact support (not disjoint from the boundary). In particular, as the weight $e^{-\xi}$ is assumed to be integrable near $\partial\Omega_\varepsilon$, v_m is in $L_{2,\xi}^{0,1}(\Omega_\varepsilon)$. Moreover, we have $\bar{\partial} v_m = 0$ on Ω_ε . By (3.7) and (3.8), the codimension of the image $\text{Im}(\bar{\partial} : L_{2,\xi}^{0,0} \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{0,1})$ in the kernel $\text{Ker}(\bar{\partial} : L_{2,\xi}^{0,1} \rightarrow L_{2,\xi}^{0,2})$ is finite, so that for every m big enough, there are constants a_1, \dots, a_{m-1} such that $v = v_m + a_{m-1}v_{m-1} + \dots + a_1 v_1$ belongs to this image. Hence there is a function Φ' such that $\bar{\partial}\Phi' = -v$, and by elliptic regularity, Φ' is smooth on Ω_ε . Set $h = h_m + a_{m-1}h_{m-1} + \dots + a_1 h_1$ and $g = h + \Phi'$. Then $\bar{\partial}g = 0$ on $\Omega_\varepsilon \setminus \{f = 0\}$, $g \in O(\Omega_0) \cap C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}_0 \setminus \{p\})$, and the function Φ in the lemma is equal to Φ' on V . \square

We can now prove Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let us consider a strictly plurisubharmonic function φ as in Consequence 3.2. Let $\varepsilon \in (0, c)$ be sufficiently small. By Lemma 3.4, we can construct peak holomorphic functions for each point of $\partial\Omega_\varepsilon = \{\varphi = \varepsilon\}$. Using this fact, it is shown in [MD02, Proposition 3.1] that if $\delta > 0$ is sufficiently small, the holomorphic functions on $\{\varphi < \varepsilon\}$ separate points and give local coordinates on $\{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi < \varepsilon\}$. By the method of [AS70, Proposition 3.2] (see also [MD02, §3]) there exists a compact Stein space S with boundary (and with at most isolated singularities) and an embedding of $\{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi < \varepsilon\}$ as an open set in S such that $\partial S = \{\varphi = \varepsilon\}$. By gluing $\{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi < c\}$ with S along $\{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi < \varepsilon\}$ we obtain a Stein space S' with boundary $\{\varphi = c\}$. Using [Heu86, Theorem 0.2] (see also

Ohsawa [Ohs84]) the space S' can be embedded as a domain with boundary in a larger Stein space S'' such that $\partial S'$ is a hypersurface in S'' . By the embedding theorem of Remmert-Bishop-Narasimhan [Nar60], S'' admits a proper holomorphic embedding in \mathbb{C}^N for some N . Restricting this embedding to $\partial S' = \{\varphi = c\} = \partial M$ we obtain the conclusion of the theorem. \square

4. COMPACTIFICATION OF MANIFOLDS WITH PINCHED NEGATIVE CURVATURE

Let us first of all review some standard facts about manifolds with pinched negative curvature (see the works Eberlein [Ebe80] and Heintze-Im Hof [HIH77], or the book [BGS85]). Thus, let (X, g) be any complete manifold with pinched negative sectional curvature σ , that is, we assume that there are positive constants a and b such that

$$-b^2 \leq \sigma \leq -a^2 < 0.$$

For a compact subset K of X , an unbounded connected component of $X \setminus K$ is called an end of X (with respect to K). If $K_1 \subset K_2$ are two compact subsets, the number of ends with respect to K_1 is at most the number of ends with respect to K_2 , so that we can define the number of ends of X . Namely, X is said to have finitely many ends if for some integer k , and for any $K \subset X$, the number of ends with respect to K is at most k . The smallest such k is called the number of ends of X , and then there exists $K_0 \subset X$ such that the number of ends with respect to K_0 is precisely the number of ends of X . If no such k exists, we say that X has infinitely many ends.

Let E be an end of X , and assume that E has finite volume. E is called a cusp and is diffeomorphic to a product $(0, \infty) \times \Sigma$ where Σ is a connected closed manifold. The slices $\{t\} \times \Sigma$ are the level sets of a Busemann function r associated to E . Moreover, the metric restricted to E is given by

$$g|_E = dr^2 + h_r,$$

where h_r is a family of metrics on Σ . Finally, standard Jacobi field estimates show that for all r , we have $e^{-br}h_0 \leq h_r \leq e^{-ar}h_0$.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. For the proof of 1), we shall prove that the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1 are fulfilled.

Let U be a neighbourhood of ∂M such that $M \setminus U$ has finite volume. Then $M \setminus U$ has finitely many ends, each of them being a cusp.

Using the Busemann functions associated to each of these cusps, it is shown for example in [Yeg04, Lemma 3.2] that the Kähler form of the metric is d (bounded) on each cusp. Let us explain the details of the construction. Let E be a cusp of M , and let r be a Busemann function associated to E such that E is diffeomorphic to a product $(0, \infty) \times \Sigma$, with Σ a closed connected manifold. Let φ_t be the flow of the gradient ∇r of r . If $x = (s, y)$ is a point of $(0, \infty) \times \Sigma$, we simply have

$$\varphi_t(s, y) = (s + t, y).$$

The properties of the differential of this flow are well understood. First, for $x \in E$, we have $d_x \varphi_t(\nabla r(x)) = \nabla r(\varphi_t(x))$. Let u be a tangent unitary vector at x , and orthogonal to ∇r . Then $t \rightarrow d_x \varphi_t(u)$ is a stable Jacobi field along the geodesic $t \rightarrow (s + t, y)$, orthogonal to ∇r , and is equal to u at $t = 0$. As the sectional curvature is less than or equal to $-a^2$, the classical estimates on Jacobi fields [HIH77] show that

$$|d_x \varphi_t(u)| \leq e^{-at}.$$

Now, if ω is the Kähler form of the metric, it is closed, so that by Cartan formula, we have

$$\varphi_t^* \omega - \omega = d \int_0^t \varphi_s^* (i_{\nabla_r} \omega) ds.$$

By using the estimate of the differential of φ_t , we can take the limit as t goes to infinity and get that $\omega = d\eta$ on the cusp E , with

$$\eta = - \int_0^\infty \varphi_s^* (i_{\nabla_r} \omega) ds.$$

The same estimate imply that η is bounded.

From Proposition 2.3 it follows that $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$. By Theorem 1.1 this achieves the proof of 1).

We consider conclusion 2). The first observation is that M can be compactified, which allows the use of the extension theorem of Kohn-Rossi. Indeed, let E_1, \dots, E_m be the cusps of $M \setminus U$. We fix some end E_j and consider the associated Busemann function $r : E_j \rightarrow (0, \infty)$. It follows from [SY82, Proposition 1] that $-r : E_j \rightarrow (-\infty, 0)$ is a strictly plurisubharmonic proper function (note that for the Busemann function, Siu and Yau use the opposite sign convention). From Lemma 3.4 for $\Omega_0 = \{-r < c\}$, $c < 0$, we infer as in the proof of Theorem 1.1 that each strip $\{c < -r < 0\}$ can be compactified to a Stein space with isolated singularities $S_{j,c}$. By the uniqueness of the Stein completion [AS70, Corollary 3.2] all spaces $S_{j,c}$, $c < 0$, are biholomorphic to a fixed Stein space S_j . Letting $c \rightarrow -\infty$, we see that E_j is biholomorphic to an open set of S_j . Therefore all ends of $M \setminus U$, and together with them also M , can be compactified.

In particular, the Kohn-Rossi theorem [KR65] shows that every holomorphic function defined in a neighborhood of ∂M extends to a holomorphic function on M . As a by-product we obtain that ∂M is connected.

The next step is to glue M to a pseudoconcave projective manifold. Since ∂M is embeddable in \mathbb{C}^N we can apply [Lem95, Theorem 1.2] which allows to assume that the Stein space S'' constructed in the proof of Theorem 1.1 is an open set in an affine algebraic variety, hence also in a projective variety X . We use now the notations from the proof of Theorem 1.1. We set $N = \{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi \leq c\}$ and glue the manifolds M and $(X \setminus S') \cup N$ along N . The resulting manifold will be denoted by \widehat{M} . Hence M is a domain with compact strongly pseudoconvex boundary in \widehat{M} .

Since S'' is an affine space in some \mathbb{C}^N , we can regard the embedding of $N' = \{\varepsilon - \delta < \varphi < \varepsilon\}$ in X as a map with values in \mathbb{C}^N . Now M can be compactified to a compact strongly pseudoconvex domain, so the extension theorem of Kohn-Rossi, applied to the components of this embedding, show that the embedding extends to a holomorphic map from M to $\mathbb{C}^N \subset \mathbb{P}^N$.

Pulling back the hyperplane line bundle of \mathbb{P}^N through this map, we obtain a line bundle $E \rightarrow \widehat{M}$ which is semi-positive on \widehat{M} and positive on $(X \setminus S') \cup N$.

A partition of unity argument delivers a Hermitian metric on \widehat{M} which agrees with the original metric ω of $\text{Int} M$ on say $\{\varphi < \varepsilon\}$. With respect to this metric the canonical bundle of M is positive on $\{\varphi < \varepsilon\}$. Hence, the bundle $L = E^k \otimes K_{\widehat{M}}$ is positive on \widehat{M} for k sufficiently large. Moreover, the curvature $\sqrt{-1}\Theta(L)$ of L dominates ω on $\{\varphi < \varepsilon\}$ and therefore $\Theta(L)$ is a complete metric on \widehat{M} . The L_2 estimates of Hörmander-Andreotti-Vesentini [Dem01] produce sections of $\oplus_{\nu} H^0(L^{\nu} \otimes K_{\widehat{M}})$ that separate points and give local coordinates on \widehat{M} .

On the other hand the manifold \widehat{M} is 1-concave in the sense of Andreotti-Grauert (we use again the plurisuperharmonicity of the Busemann function on each cusp). Therefore, the embedding theorem of Andreotti-Tomassini [AT70] implies that the ring $\oplus_{\nu} H^0(L^{\nu} \otimes K_{\widehat{M}})$

gives an embedding of \widehat{M} in some projective space \mathbb{P}^N . By [And63] the projective closure of \widehat{M} in \mathbb{P}^N is a projective variety \widetilde{M} of the same dimension.

We have thus found a compactification $\widetilde{M} \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ of \widehat{M} and therefore of M . The set $\widetilde{M} \setminus M$ is a pluripolar set, namely the set where the plurisubharmonic function $-r$ takes the value $-\infty$. By Wu's theorem [GW79], any simply connected complete Kähler manifold of nonpositive sectional curvature is Stein. Hence the universal covering of M is Stein. It is then shown in [SY82, § 4] (using the Schwarz-Pick Lemma of Yau) and in [MD02, Theorem 1.3] (using Wermer's theorem) that $\widetilde{M} \setminus M$ is an exceptional analytic set in the sense of Grauert [Gra62, Definition 3, p. 341].

More precisely, let us consider the compact strongly pseudoconvex domain $V = \widetilde{M} \setminus (X \setminus S')$ which compactifies M . By [Gra62, Satz 3, p.338] there exists a maximal nowhere discrete analytic set A of V and by [Gra62, Satz 5, p.340] there exists a Remmert reduction $\pi: V \rightarrow V'$, which blows down A to a discrete set of points. Here V' is a normal Stein space with at most isolated singularities. Then $\pi(\widetilde{M} \setminus M) = \pi(V \setminus M)$ is a subset of $\text{Sing} V'$ and each point of $\pi(\widetilde{M} \setminus M)$ compactifies one of the ends E_1, \dots, E_m of $M \setminus U$. Thus $\widetilde{M} \setminus M$ consists of those components of A obtained by blowing-up points in $\pi(\widetilde{M} \setminus M)$. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.3. As is well known, the limit set Λ is the set of accumulation points of any orbit $\Gamma \cdot x$, $x \in B$, and is a closed Γ -invariant subset of the sphere at infinity ∂B . The complement $\partial B \setminus \Lambda$ is precisely the set of points at which Γ acts properly discontinuously, and the space $M \cup (\partial B \setminus \Lambda)/\Gamma$ is a manifold with boundary $(\partial B \setminus \Lambda)/\Gamma$ (see for example [EO73, §10]). A is a compact subset of this boundary, hence there is a neighborhood E of A in M which is diffeomorphic to the product $A \times (0, 1)$. It follows that E is an end of M , because A is compact and connected. Actually, E is a strongly pseudoconvex end, in the sense that its boundary A at infinity is strictly pseudoconvex. Since $M = B/\Gamma$ is a complete manifold with sectional curvature pinched between -4 and -1 , Corollary 1.3 is an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.2. \square

Remark 4.1. By [NR98, Theorem 4.2] the following holds:

Theorem (Burns, Napier-Ramachandran). *Let Γ be a torsion-free discrete group of automorphisms of the unit ball B in \mathbb{C}^n with $n \geq 3$ and let $M = B/\Gamma$. Assume that the limit set Λ is a proper subset of ∂B and that the quotient $(\partial B \setminus \Lambda)/\Gamma$ has a compact component A . Then M has only finitely many ends, all of which, except for the unique end corresponding to A , are cusps. In fact, M is diffeomorphic to a compact manifold with boundary and can be compactified.*

The proof is based on [NR98, Theorem 4.1] which shows that the finite volume hypothesis of Corollary 1.3 is automatically satisfied in the case $n \geq 3$. The presence of the strongly pseudoconvex boundary forces the volume to be finite, since ∂M is then embeddable by [BdM75], having real dimension at least 5.

If $n = 2$ we have to assume the volume to be finite in order to obtain the embedding of the boundary. It is interesting to ask whether Burns' theorem holds also in dimension 2 or, equivalently, whether the compact strongly pseudoconvex component of a set $(\partial B \setminus \Lambda)/\Gamma$ is embeddable for all torsion-free discrete groups of automorphisms of the unit ball B in \mathbb{C}^2 .

5. EMBEDDING OF SASAKIAN 3-MANIFOLDS

5.1. Sasakian manifolds. In this section, we explain some well known facts about Sasakian manifolds. Let X be a strictly pseudoconvex CR manifold, with compactible complex structure J , and compactible contact form θ . This allows us to define a Riemannian metric g_θ on

X given by

$$g_\theta(.,.) = d\theta(.,J.) + \theta(.)\theta(.).$$

Let R be the Reeb vector field associated to θ , defined by

$$i_R\theta = 1, \quad i_Rd\theta = 0.$$

Associated to the data $(X, \theta, R, J, g_\theta)$, there is a canonical connection ∇ on TX , called the *Webster connection* (see Tanaka [Tan75] and Webster [Web78]), which is the unique affine connection on TX such that

- (1) $\nabla g_\theta = 0, \nabla J = 0, \nabla \theta = 0.$
- (2) For any u, v in the Levi distribution H , the torsion T of ∇ satisfies $T(u, v) = d\theta(u, v)R$ and $T(R, Ju) = JT(R, u)$

In particular, the torsion of the Webster connection cannot vanish identically. However, we have the following definition

Definition 5.1. A strictly pseudoconvex manifold is called a Sasakian manifold if the torsion of its Webster connection in the direction of the Reeb vector field vanishes, i.e. $T(R, .) = 0$ with the notations above.

Examples of compact Sasakian manifolds are the unit sphere in \mathbb{C}^n or the Heisenberg nilmanifold (see Urakawa [Ura93]). Sasakian 3-manifolds were classified up to diffeomorphism by H. Geiges [Gei97]. They were further studied by F. Belgun in [Bel01]: every Sasakian 3-manifold is obtained as a deformation of some standard model (see [Bel01] for more details).

5.2. Asymptotically complex hyperbolic manifolds. In [BH02], O. Biquard and M. Herzlich consider a class of manifolds which are modelled on the complex unit ball, and are thus called asymptotically complex hyperbolic. This construction will allow us to get an embedding theorem for Sasakian manifolds, but let us first recall what an asymptotically complex hyperbolic manifold is.

Let X be a $(2m - 1)$ -dimensional compact manifold, $m \geq 2$. We assume that X has a strongly pseudoconvex CR-structure. Let θ be a compatible contact form, and J a compatible almost complex structure. $\gamma(.,.) := d\theta(.,J.)$ is then a metric on the contact distribution. Following Biquard and Herzlich [BH02], we endow $\Omega := (0, \infty) \times X$ with the metric

$$(5.1) \quad g = dr^2 + e^{-2r}\theta^2 + e^{-r}\gamma.$$

Actually, in [BH02], the authors consider the metric $dr^2 + e^{2r}\theta^2 + e^r\gamma$ on Ω , but the reason for our choice will become clear later.

We can extend the almost complex structure to act on the whole tangent bundle as follows. Consider the Reeb vector field R and define

$$J\partial_r = e^rR,$$

where ∂_r is the unit vector field in the r direction. g is then a Hermitian metric with respect to J , i.e. J is an g -isometry. The fundamental 2-form associated to g is

$$(5.2) \quad \omega = d(e^{-r}\theta).$$

Although ω is a closed form, in this general setting, $((0, \infty) \times X, g)$ is not necessarily a Kähler manifold, because J is not necessarily an integrable almost complex structure. Indeed, the proof of [BH02, Proposition 3.1] shows that J is integrable if and only if the torsion of the Webster connection of (X, θ) in the direction of the Reeb vector field vanishes identically, i.e. if and only if X is a Sasakian manifold (see Definition 5.1).

From now on, X will be a Sasakian manifold, so that (Ω, g) is a Kähler manifold. Note that $\eta := e^{-r}\theta$ is a bounded 1-form, hence the Kähler form (5.2) associated to g is $d(\text{bounded})$. In particular, by Proposition 2.3, the operator $(\bar{\partial} + \bar{\partial}^*)^2$ on (Ω, g) is Fredholm in bidegree $(0, 1)$ if $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} X \geq 3$. Moreover, we can also write

$$\omega = -2\sqrt{-1}\partial\bar{\partial}r,$$

so that Ω has a strongly pseudoconvex boundary $\{0\} \times X$ (this explains the choice of sign of the r variable for g in (5.1): with our choice, Ω has a strongly pseudoconvex boundary, whereas with the choice of [BH02] Ω has a strongly pseudoconcave boundary). From Theorem 1.1 we can conclude:

Theorem 5.2. *Let X be a Sasakian manifold of dimension at least 3. Then there is a CR embedding of X in \mathbb{C}^N for some integer N .*

Remark. The function $-r : \Omega \rightarrow (-\infty, 0)$ is a proper smooth strictly plurisubharmonic function. Therefore Ω is a hyperconcave end, and our theorem is also a direct consequence of [MD02].

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