

# Modified Cartan's Conjecture

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Denote  $D(R) = \{z : |z| < R\}$ . For a fixed integer  $p \geq 3$ , consider the set  $V(D)$  of all vectors  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_p)$ , where  $f_j$  are functions, holomorphic and zero-free in a region  $D$  in the complex plane, and satisfying

$$f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_p = 0.$$

If  $S$  is an infinite sequence of such vectors, and  $D_1 \subset D$ , we call a subset  $I \subset \{1, \dots, p\}$  a  $C$ -class for  $S$  in  $D_1$ , if

- (a) for some  $k \in I$  all sequences  $(f_j/f_k)$ ,  $f \in S$ ,  $j \in I$  are uniformly bounded on compact subsets of  $D_1$ , and
- (b)  $\sum_{j \in I} f_j/f_k \rightarrow 0$  for  $f \in S$ , uniformly on compact subsets of  $D_1$ .

It follows from (b) that every  $C$ -class contains at least 2 elements.

**Conjecture.** *Given an infinite sequence  $S$  of vectors in  $V(D(1))$ , there exists and infinite subsequence  $S'$  of  $S$ , such that the set  $\{1, \dots, p\}$  is a union of disjoint  $C$ -classes for  $S'$  in  $D(R_p)$ , where  $R_p > 0$  depends only on  $p$ .*

For  $p = 3$  one can take  $R_3 = 1$ , and the Conjecture is equivalent to Montel's Theorem. For  $p = 4$  one can also take  $R_4 = 1$ , and in this case the Conjecture is a consequence of the following result of H. Cartan, which is true for every  $p$ :

**Cartan's Theorem** [1,3] *Given an infinite sequence of vectors in  $V(D(1))$ , there exists a subsequence  $S'$  of  $S$ , such that either the set  $\{1, \dots, p\}$  constitutes a  $C$ -class, or it contains at least two disjoint  $C$ -classes.*

When  $p = 5$  one cannot take  $R = 1$  anymore, but the Conjecture is true with  $R_5 = 1/64$  [2]. If the Conjecture is true, can one take  $R_p > 0$

independent of  $p$ ? What is the geometric interpretation of the Conjecture? Apparently it says something on the Kobayashi pseudometric in  $p - 2$  dimensional projective space minus  $p$  hyperplanes in general position.

[1] H. Cartan, Ann. Sci. Ecole Norm. Super., 45 (1928), 255-346.

[2] A. Eremenko, Amer. J. Math., 118 (1996), 1141-1151.

[3] S. Lang, Introduction to Complex Hyperbolic Spaces, Springer, 1987.