

# Holomorphic curves with bounds on the spherical derivative

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Let  $f : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}^n$  be a holomorphic map; in homogeneous coordinates  $f = (f_0 : f_1 : \dots : f_n)$ , where the  $f_j$  are entire functions with no zeros common to all of them. The spherical derivative  $\|f'\|$  measures the length distortion from the Euclidean metric in  $\mathbf{C}$  to the Fubini–Study metric in  $\mathbf{P}^n$ . Explicitly,

$$\|f'\|^2 = \frac{\sum_{i < j} |f'_i f_j - f_i f'_j|^2}{\left(\sum_j |f_j|^2\right)^2}.$$

We use the standard notation for the Nevanlinna characteristic  $T(r, f)$  and Nevanlinna counting functions  $N(r, a, f)$ , for hyperplanes  $a$  in  $\mathbf{P}^n$ .

**Conjecture.** *If for some  $\sigma > -1$  we have  $\|f'\|(z) = O(z^\sigma)$ , and  $a_1, \dots, a_q$  are hyperplanes in general position, and  $f(\mathbf{C}) \not\subset \cup_{j=1}^q a_j$ , then*

$$\sum_{j=1}^q N(r, a_j, f) \geq (q + 1 - n)T(r, f) + O(r^{\sigma+1}).$$

We recall that Cartan's theorem says that

$$\sum_{j=1}^q N(r, a_j, f) \geq (q - 1 - n)T(r, f) + o(T(r, f)),$$

when  $r \rightarrow \infty$  avoiding a set of finite measure.

The Conjecture is known to be true in the following cases:

a) When  $n = 1$ , when it becomes

$$N(r, a, f) = T(r, f) + O(r^{\sigma+1}), \quad r \rightarrow \infty,$$

for every  $a \in \overline{\mathbf{C}}$ .

b) When  $f$  omits  $n - 1$  hyperplanes in general position.

A weaker form of the Conjecture, with the error term  $o(r^{2\sigma+2})$  is also known. All these results are due to J. Duval and B. da Costa, Sur les courbes de Brody dans  $\mathbf{P}^n(\mathbf{C})$ , Math. Ann. 355 (2013), no. 4, 1593–1600.