

COMPACTNESS OF THE $\bar{\partial}$ - NEUMANN OPERATOR ON WEIGHTED $(0, q)$ - FORMS.

FRIEDRICH HASLINGER

ABSTRACT.

As an application of a new characterization of compactness of the $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator we derive a sufficient condition for compactness of the $\bar{\partial}$ - Neumann operator on $(0, q)$ -forms in weighted L^2 -spaces on \mathbb{C}^n .

1. INTRODUCTION.

In this paper we continue the investigations of [12] and [11] concerning existence and compactness of the canonical solution operator to $\bar{\partial}$ on weighted L^2 -spaces over \mathbb{C}^n . Let $\varphi : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be a plurisubharmonic \mathcal{C}^2 -weight function and define the space

$$L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) = \{f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C} : \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |f|^2 e^{-\varphi} d\lambda < \infty\},$$

where λ denotes the Lebesgue measure, the space $L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ of $(0, q)$ -forms with coefficients in $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$, for $1 \leq q \leq n$. Let

$$(f, g)_\varphi = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} f \bar{g} e^{-\varphi} d\lambda$$

denote the inner product and

$$\|f\|_\varphi^2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |f|^2 e^{-\varphi} d\lambda$$

the norm in $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$.

We consider the weighted $\bar{\partial}$ -complex

$$L^2_{(0,q-1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \xrightarrow[\leftarrow_{\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*}]{\bar{\partial}} L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \xrightarrow[\leftarrow_{\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*}]{\bar{\partial}} L^2_{(0,q+1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi),$$

where for $(0, q)$ -forms $u = \sum'_{|J|=q} u_J d\bar{z}_J$ with coefficients in $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\mathbb{C}^n)$ we have

$$\bar{\partial}u = \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial u_J}{\partial \bar{z}_j} d\bar{z}_j \wedge d\bar{z}_J,$$

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and

$$\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u = - \sum_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_k u_{kK} d\bar{z}_K,$$

where $\delta_k = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_k} - \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z_k}$.

There is an interesting connection between $\bar{\partial}$ and the theory of Schrödinger operators with magnetic fields, see for example [5], [2], [8] and [6] for recent contributions exploiting this point of view.

The complex Laplacian on $(0, q)$ -forms is defined as

$$\square_\varphi := \bar{\partial} \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* + \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* \bar{\partial},$$

where the symbol \square_φ is to be understood as the maximal closure of the operator initially defined on forms with coefficients in \mathcal{C}_0^∞ , i.e., the space of smooth functions with compact support.

\square_φ is a selfadjoint and positive operator, which means that

$$(\square_\varphi f, f)_\varphi \geq 0, \text{ for } f \in \text{dom}(\square_\varphi).$$

The associated Dirichlet form is denoted by

$$(1.1) \quad Q_\varphi(f, g) = (\bar{\partial} f, \bar{\partial} g)_\varphi + (\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* f, \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* g)_\varphi,$$

for $f, g \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$. The weighted $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator $N_{\varphi, q}$ is - if it exists - the bounded inverse of \square_φ .

We indicate that a $(0, 1)$ -form $f = \sum_{j=1}^n f_j d\bar{z}_j$ belongs to $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ if and only if

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial f_j}{\partial z_j} - \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z_j} f_j \right) \in L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

and that forms with coefficients in $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\mathbb{C}^n)$ are dense in $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ in the graph norm $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial} f\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* f\|_\varphi^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ (see [10]).

We consider the Levi - matrix

$$M_\varphi = \left(\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} \right)_{jk}$$

of φ and suppose that the sum s_q of any q (equivalently: the smallest q) eigenvalues of M_φ satisfies

$$(1.2) \quad \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} s_q(z) > 0.$$

We show that (2.2) implies that there exists a continuous linear operator

$$N_{\varphi, q} : L^2_{(0, q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow L^2_{(0, q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi),$$

such that $\square_\varphi \circ N_{\varphi, q} u = u$, for any $u \in L^2_{(0, q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$.

If we suppose that the sum s_q of any q (equivalently: the smallest q) eigenvalues of M_φ satisfies

$$(1.3) \quad \lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} s_q(z) = \infty.$$

Then the $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator $N_{\varphi,q} : L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \rightarrow L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ is compact. This generalizes results from [12] and [11], where the case of $q = 1$ was handled. Finally we discuss some examples in \mathbb{C}^2 .

2. THE WEIGHTED KOHN-MORREY FORMULA

First we compute

$$(\square_\varphi u, u)_\varphi = \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2$$

for $u \in \text{dom}(\square_\varphi)$.

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 &= \sum'_{|J|=|M|=q} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \epsilon_{jJ}^{kM} \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \frac{\partial u_J}{\partial \bar{z}_j} \overline{\frac{\partial u_M}{\partial \bar{z}_k}} e^{-\varphi} d\lambda \\ &+ \sum'_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \delta_j u_{jK} \overline{\delta_k u_{kK}} e^{-\varphi} d\lambda, \end{aligned}$$

where $\epsilon_{jJ}^{kM} = 0$ if $j \in J$ or $k \in M$ or if $k \cup M \neq j \cup J$, and equals the sign of the permutation $\binom{kM}{jJ}$ otherwise. The right-hand side of the last formula can be rewritten as

$$\sum'_{|J|=q} \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{\partial u_J}{\partial \bar{z}_j} \right\|_\varphi^2 + \sum'_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \left(\delta_j u_{jK} \overline{\delta_k u_{kK}} - \frac{\partial u_{jK}}{\partial \bar{z}_k} \overline{\frac{\partial u_{kK}}{\partial \bar{z}_j}} \right) e^{-\varphi} d\lambda,$$

see [18] Proposition 2.4 for the details. Now we mention that for $f, g \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\mathbb{C}^n)$ we have

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}_k}, g \right)_\varphi = -(f, \delta_k g)_\varphi$$

and hence

$$\left(\left[\delta_j, \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}_k} \right] u_{jK}, u_{kK} \right)_\varphi = - \left(\frac{\partial u_{jK}}{\partial \bar{z}_k}, \frac{\partial u_{kK}}{\partial \bar{z}_j} \right)_\varphi + (\delta_j u_{jK}, \delta_k u_{kK})_\varphi.$$

Since

$$\left[\delta_j, \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}_k} \right] = \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k},$$

we get

$$(2.1) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 = \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{\partial u_J}{\partial \bar{z}_j} \right\|_\varphi^2 + \sum'_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_{jK} \overline{u_{kK}} e^{-\varphi} d\lambda.$$

Formula (2.1) is a version of the Kohn -Morrey formula, compare [18] or [16].

Proposition 2.1. *Let $1 \leq q \leq n$ and suppose that the sum s_q of any q (equivalently: the smallest q) eigenvalues of M_φ satisfies*

$$(2.2) \quad \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} s_q(z) > 0.$$

Then there exists a uniquely determined bounded linear operator

$$N_{\varphi,q} : L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi),$$

such that $\square_\varphi \circ N_{\varphi,q} u = u$, for any $u \in L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$.

Proof. Let $\mu_{\varphi,1} \leq \mu_{\varphi,2} \leq \dots \leq \mu_{\varphi,n}$ denote the eigenvalues of M_φ and suppose that M_φ is diagonalized. Then, in a suitable basis,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum'_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_{jK} \bar{u}_{kK} &= \sum'_{|K|=q-1} \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_{\varphi,j} |u_{jK}|^2 \\ &= \sum'_{J=(j_1, \dots, j_q)} (\mu_{\varphi,j_1} + \dots + \mu_{\varphi,j_q}) |u_J|^2 \\ &\geq s_q |u|^2 \end{aligned}$$

It follows from (2.1) that there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$(2.3) \quad \|u\|_\varphi^2 \leq C(\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2)$$

for each $(0, q)$ -form $u \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$. For a given $v \in L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ consider the linear functional L on $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ given by $L(u) = (u, v)_\varphi$. Notice that $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ is a Hilbertspace in the inner product Q_φ . Since we have by 2.3

$$|L(u)| = |(u, v)_\varphi| \leq \|u\|_\varphi \|v\|_\varphi \leq C Q_\varphi(u, u)^{1/2} \|v\|_\varphi.$$

Hence by the Riesz representation theorem there exists a uniquely determined $(0, q)$ -form $N_{\varphi,q} v$ such that

$$(u, v)_\varphi = Q_\varphi(u, N_{\varphi,q} v) = (\bar{\partial}u, \bar{\partial}N_{\varphi,q} v)_\varphi + (\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u, \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* N_{\varphi,q} v)_\varphi,$$

from which we immediately get that $\square_\varphi \circ N_{\varphi,q} v = v$, for any $v \in L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$. If we set $u = N_{\varphi,q} v$ we get again from 2.3

$$\begin{aligned} \|\bar{\partial}N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2 &= Q_\varphi(N_{\varphi,q} v, N_{\varphi,q} v) = (N_{\varphi,q} v, v)_\varphi \leq \|N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi \|v\|_\varphi \\ &\leq C_1(\|\bar{\partial}N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2)^{1/2} \|v\|_\varphi, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$(\|\bar{\partial}N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2)^{1/2} \leq C_2 \|v\|_\varphi$$

and finally again by 2.3

$$\|N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi \leq C_3(\|\bar{\partial}N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* N_{\varphi,q} v\|_\varphi^2)^{1/2} \leq C_4 \|v\|_\varphi,$$

where $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 > 0$ are constants. Hence we get that $N_{\varphi,q}$ is a continuous linear operator from $L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ into itself (see also [13] or [4]). \square

3. COMPACTNESS OF $N_{\varphi,q}$

We use a characterization of precompact subsets of L^2 -spaces, see [1]:

A bounded subset \mathcal{A} of $L^2(\Omega)$ is precompact in $L^2(\Omega)$ if and only if for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a number $\delta > 0$ and a subset $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$ such that for every $u \in \mathcal{A}$ and $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $|h| < \delta$ both of the following inequalities hold:

$$(3.1) \quad (i) \int_{\Omega} |\tilde{u}(x+h) - \tilde{u}(x)|^2 dx < \epsilon^2 \quad , \quad (ii) \int_{\Omega \setminus \bar{\omega}} |u(x)|^2 dx < \epsilon^2.$$

In addition we define an appropriate Sobolev space and prove compactness of the corresponding embedding, for related settings see [3], [14], [15].

Definition 3.1. *Let*

$$\mathcal{W}_q^{Q_\varphi} = \{u \in L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) : \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2 < \infty\}$$

with norm

$$\|u\|_{Q_\varphi} = (\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2)^{1/2}.$$

Remark: $\mathcal{W}_q^{Q_\varphi}$ coincides with the form domain $dom(\bar{\partial}) \cap dom(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ of Q_φ (see [9], [10]).

Proposition 3.2. *Let φ be a plurisubharmonic \mathcal{C}^2 -weight function. Let $1 \leq q \leq n$ and suppose that the sum s_q of any q (equivalently: the smallest q) eigenvalues of M_φ satisfies*

$$(3.2) \quad \lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} s_q(z) = \infty.$$

Then $N_{\varphi,q} : L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ is compact.

Proof. For $(0, q)$ forms one has by (2.1) and Proposition 2.1 that

$$(3.3) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2 \geq \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} s_q(z) |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z).$$

We indicate that the embedding

$$j_{\varphi,q} : \mathcal{W}_q^{Q_\varphi} \hookrightarrow L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

is compact by showing that the unit ball of $\mathcal{W}_q^{Q_\varphi}$ is a precompact subset of $L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$, which follows by the above mentioned characterization of precompact subsets in L^2 -spaces with the help of Gårding's inequality to verify (3.1) (i) (see for instance [7] or [4]) and to verify (3.1) (ii) : we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} \frac{s_q(z) |u(z)|^2}{\inf\{s_q(z) : |z| \geq R\}} e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z),$$

which implies by (3.3) that

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \leq \frac{\|u\|_{Q_\varphi}^2}{\inf\{s_q(z) : |z| \geq R\}} < \epsilon,$$

if R is big enough, see [11] for the details.

This together with the fact that $N_{\varphi,q} = j_{\varphi,q} \circ j_{\varphi,q}^*$, (see [18]) gives the desired result. \square

Remark 3.3. *If $q = 1$ condition (3.2) means that the lowest eigenvalue $\mu_{\varphi,1}$ of M_{φ} satisfies*

$$(3.4) \quad \lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{\varphi,1}(z) = \infty.$$

This implies compactness of $N_{\varphi,1}$ (see [11]).

Examples: a) We consider the plurisubharmonic weight function $\varphi(z, w) = |z|^2|w|^2 + |w|^4$ on \mathbb{C}^2 . The Levi matrix of φ has the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} |w|^2 & \bar{z}w \\ \bar{w}z & |z|^2 + 4|w|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and the eigenvalues are

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\varphi,1}(z, w) &= \frac{1}{2} \left(5|w|^2 + |z|^2 - \sqrt{9|w|^4 + 10|z|^2|w|^2 + |z|^4} \right) \\ &= \frac{16|w|^4}{2 \left(5|w|^2 + |z|^2 + \sqrt{9|w|^4 + 10|z|^2|w|^2 + |z|^4} \right)}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mu_{\varphi,2}(z, w) = \frac{1}{2} \left(5|w|^2 + |z|^2 + \sqrt{9|w|^4 + 10|z|^2|w|^2 + |z|^4} \right).$$

It follows that (3.4) fails, since even

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} |z|^2 \mu_{\varphi,1}(z, 0) = 0,$$

but

$$s_2(z, w) = \frac{1}{4} \Delta \varphi(z, w) = |z|^2 + 5|w|^2,$$

hence (3.2) is satisfied for $q = 2$.

b) In the next example we consider decoupled weights. Let $n \geq 2$ and

$$\varphi(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n) = \varphi(z_1) + \varphi(z_2) + \dots + \varphi(z_n)$$

be a plurisubharmonic decoupled weight function and suppose that $|z_{\ell}|^2 \Delta \varphi_{\ell}(z_{\ell}) \rightarrow +\infty$, as $|z_{\ell}| \rightarrow \infty$ for some $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then the $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator $N_{\varphi,1}$ acting on $L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ fails to be compact (see [12], [9], [17]).

Finally we discuss two examples in \mathbb{C}^2 : for $\varphi(z_1, z_2) = |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2$ all eigenvalues of the Levi matrix are 1 and $N_{\varphi,1}$ fails to be compact by the above result on decoupled weights, for the weightfunction $\varphi(z_1, z_2) = |z_1|^4 + |z_2|^4$ the eigenvalues are $4|z_1|^2$ and $4|z_2|^2$ and $N_{\varphi,1}$ fails to be compact again by the above result, whereas $N_{\varphi,2}$ is compact by 3.2.

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F. HASLINGER: INSTITUT FÜR MATHEMATIK, UNIVERSITÄT WIEN, NORDBERGSTRASSE 15, A-1090 WIEN, AUSTRIA
E-mail address: `friedrich.haslinger@univie.ac.at`