

ERRATUM FOR “A RELATIVE INDEX ON THE SPACE OF EMBEDDABLE CR-STRUCTURES, I”

CHARLES L. EPSTEIN

1. SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS

As stated, there is a gap in the proof of Proposition 7.2 in [1]; this is because Lemma 7.1 and formula (7.13) are incorrect. In this note we follow the notation of [1] which in turn uses that of [4]. Let $\square_t^{p,q}$ denote the $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator acting (p, q) -forms defined by the complex structure on X_t . These operators are continuous functions of t in the L^2 -strong resolvent sense; however a little care is needed to make this precise as they act on sections of different, though isomorphic bundles. Let $\Lambda_t^{p,q} \rightarrow X_t$ denote the (p, q) -form bundle with respect to the complex structure on X_t . There exists a smooth family of bundle isomorphisms $\Phi_t^{p,q} : \Lambda_0^{p,q} \rightarrow \Lambda_t^{p,q}$ converging to the identity at $t = 0$. If f is a section of $\Lambda_0^{p,q}$ then $\Phi_t^{p,q} \circ f$ is a section of $\Lambda_t^{p,q}$. These operations are continuous with respect to the H^s -topologies on sections. We denote these operators by $\Phi_t^{p,q}$ as well. As a function of t , $\{\Phi_t^{p,q} : t \in [0, 1]\}$ is a strongly continuous family of operators in H^s -topology for any $s \geq 0$.

Proposition 1. *Fix a $q > 0$ and $t_0 \in [0, 1]$. If $\lambda_0 \notin \text{spec}(\square_{t_0}^{p,q})$ then there is an $\epsilon > 0$ such that the family of operators*

$$A_{t,\lambda}^{p,q} = [\Phi_t^{p,q}]^{-1}(\square_t^{p,q} - \lambda)^{-1}\Phi_t^{p,q}$$

is $L^2(X_0; \Lambda_0^{p,q})$ -strongly continuous for $|t - t_0| < \epsilon$ and $|\lambda - \lambda_0| < \epsilon$.

Proof. Using the argument used to prove Proposition 7.1 in [1] one easily shows the existence of an $\epsilon > 0$ such that, for $|t - t_0| < \epsilon$,

$$\text{spec}(\square_t^{p,q}) \cap D_\epsilon(\lambda_0) = \emptyset$$

where $D_\epsilon(\lambda_0) = \{\lambda : |\lambda - \lambda_0| < \epsilon\}$. For such (t, λ) and $\eta \in C^\infty(X_0; \Lambda_0^{p,q})$ there is a unique solution to the equation

$$(\square_t^{p,q} - \lambda)\omega_t = \Phi_t^{p,q}\eta$$

satisfying the the $\bar{\partial}_t$ -Neumann boundary conditions. Let $\{t_n\}$ be a sequence in $D_\epsilon(t_0)$ converging to t , also in this disk. Using the estimates in Theorem 3.1.14 in [2] it is easy to show that $\{\omega_{t_n}\}$ is pre-compact in $L^2(X)$, indeed in $H^s(X)$ for any $s \geq 0$. As we have control of the higher Sobolev norms the limit of any convergent subsequence satisfies the $\bar{\partial}_t$ -Neumann boundary conditions. Therefore, by uniqueness, any convergent subsequence converges to ω_t . This implies that $\{\omega_{t_n}\}$ itself converges, in the L^2 -norm to ω_t . For

a fixed $\lambda \in D_\epsilon(\lambda_0)$ and $t \in D_\epsilon(t_0)$ the L^2 -norms of the operators $A_{t,\lambda}^{p,q}$ are uniformly bounded. As $C^\infty(X_0; \Lambda_0^{p,q})$ is dense in the L^2 -topology this completes the proof of the proposition. \square

Using this result and Proposition 7.1 in [1] it follows that there is an $\epsilon > 0$ so that $\{A_{t,\lambda}^{p,q} : t \in [0, 1]\}$ is a strongly continuous family of operators for $0 < |\lambda| < \epsilon$. Using an argument from section VII.1.1 of [3] we see that this family is uniformly, strongly continuous on compact subsets of $\{\lambda : 0 < |\lambda| < \epsilon\}$. Let $P_{p,q}^t$ denote the orthogonal projection onto the null-space of $\square_t^{p,q}$.

Corollary 1. *Under the hypotheses of Proposition 7.1 in [1] the conjugated projectors $\{[\Phi_t^{p,q}]^{-1} P_{p,q}^t \Phi_t^{p,q} : t \in [0, 1]\}$ are strongly continuous in the H^s -operator topology for any $s \geq 0$.*

Proof. These operators are given by the Cauchy integral

$$(1) \quad [\Phi_t^{p,q}]^{-1} P_{p,q}^t \Phi_t^{p,q} = \int_{|\lambda|=\frac{\epsilon}{2}} [\Phi_t^{p,q}]^{-1} (\square_t^{p,q} - \lambda)^{-1} \Phi_t^{p,q} \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi i}.$$

The strong continuity of the projectors in the L^2 -norm follows easily from the uniform strong continuity of the integrand on the path of integration. It follows from (7.4) in [1] that for each $s \geq 0$ there is a constant C_s , independent of t so that

$$(2) \quad \|P_{p,q}^t \omega\|_{H^s} \leq C_s \|\omega\|_{L^2}.$$

The interpolation inequalities for Sobolev norms imply that for each $s > 0$ there is a constant C'_s so that

$$\|f\|_{H^s} \leq C'_s \|f\|_{L^2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \|f\|_{H^{2s}}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Using this observation and (2) we obtain estimates

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} \|P_{p,q}^{t_1} \omega - P_{p,q}^{t_2} \omega\|_{H^s}^2 &\leq C'_s \|P_{p,q}^{t_1} \omega - P_{p,q}^{t_2} \omega\|_{L^2} \|P_{p,q}^{t_1} \omega - P_{p,q}^{t_2} \omega\|_{H^{2s}} \\ &\leq 2C_s C'_s \|P_{p,q}^{t_1} \omega - P_{p,q}^{t_2} \omega\|_{L^2} \|\omega\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where $t_1, t_2 \in [0, 1]$. This shows that the projectors are also strongly continuous in the H^s -topology. \square

2. CORRECTION TO THE PROOF OF PROPOSITION 7.2

We return now to the proof of Proposition 7.2 in [1]. The proof is correct up to equation (7.12). Recall equations (7.10) and (7.11)

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}_t v_t &= \alpha'_t - \beta_t + P_{0,1}^t(\alpha'_t - \beta_t), \\ \bar{\partial}_b^t v_t &= \bar{\partial}_b^t u + [P_{0,1}^t(\alpha'_t - \beta_t)]_b. \end{aligned}$$

The second equation in (4) shows that the cohomology class of $P_{0,1}^t(\alpha'_t - \beta_t)$ is in the null-space, $K_t^{0,1}$ of the restriction map $H^{0,1}(X_t) \rightarrow H_b^{0,1}(bX_t)$. To

complete the proof of Proposition 7.2 in [1] we need to find functions g_t so that

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}_b^t g_t &= [P_{0,1}^t(\alpha'_t - \beta_t)]_b \\ \|g_t\|_{L^2(bX_t)} &\leq C \|\bar{\partial}_b^t u\|_{L^2(bX_t)}, \end{aligned}$$

where of course the constant C is independent of u and t .

In [5] it is shown that $K_t^{0,1} = [H_t^{n,n-1}]'$, thus the hypothesis of the proposition implies that

$$m = \dim K_t^{0,1} = \dim H_t^{n,n-1}$$

is independent of t . If $*$ denotes the Hodge star operator (defined by the complex structure on X_t) then results in section 6 of [5] imply that $K_t^{0,1}$ is spanned by $*$ ran $P_{n,n-1}^t$. These are, however not harmonic representatives. Let $\{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m\}$ be a basis for ran $P_{n,n-1}^0$ and set

$$\eta_j^t = *P_{n,n-1}^t \Phi_t^{n,n-1} \theta_j.$$

Since $\bar{\partial}_t \eta_j^t = 0$ the $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann-Hodge decomposition gives

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} \eta_j^t &= P_{0,1}^t \eta_j^t + \bar{\partial}_t [\bar{\partial}_t^* G_{0,1}^t \eta_j^t] \\ &= \xi_j^t + \bar{\partial}_t g_j^t. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $[\eta_j^t]_b = 0$ and therefore

$$(7) \quad [\xi_j^t]_b = -\bar{\partial}_b^t g_j^t.$$

It follows from (7.4) in [1] and (2) that for each $s \geq 0$ there is a constant C_s'' , independent of t so that

$$(8) \quad \|g_j^t\|_{H^s} \leq C_s'' \|\eta_j^t\|_{L^2}.$$

By replacing the basis $\{\theta_j\}$ with a different basis we can arrange to have $\{\xi_j^0\}$ an orthonormal basis of harmonic representatives for $K_0^{0,1}$. It follows from Corollary 1 that there is an $\epsilon > 0$ such that, if $0 \leq t \leq \epsilon$ then the forms $\{\xi_j^t\}$ are a harmonic basis for $K_t^{0,1}$ and

$$\langle \xi_j^t, \xi_k^t \rangle = \delta_{jk} + e_{jk}(t)$$

where $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \|e(t)\| = 0$.

For sufficiently small t , the error term in (4) has the representation

$$(9) \quad P_{0,1}^t(\alpha'_t - \beta_t) = \sum_{j=1}^m c_j^t \xi_j^t,$$

where the coefficients $\{c_j^t\}$ satisfy the estimates

$$(10) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m |c_j^t|^2 \leq 2 \sum_{j=1}^m |\langle (\alpha'_t - \beta_t), \xi_j^t \rangle|^2.$$

Because “ $(\alpha'_t - \beta_t) \in H^{-\frac{1}{2}}(X)$,” the estimates, (2) satisfied by the $\{\eta_j^t\}$ and $\{\xi_j^t\}$ imply that there is a constant C' , independent of u and t so that

$$(11) \quad \sum_{j=1}^m |\langle (\alpha'_t - \beta_t), \xi_j^t \rangle|^2 \leq C' \|\bar{\partial}_b^t u\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Combining equations (4), (7) and (9) we see that, for sufficiently small t

$$\bar{\partial}_b^t u = \bar{\partial}_b^t [v_t + \sum_{j=1}^m c_j^t g_j^t].$$

Using the estimate (7.12) in [1] along with (8), (10) and (11) we see that for such t there is a constant C'' so that

$$\|v_t + \sum_{j=1}^m c_j^t g_j^t\|_{L^2(bX)} \leq C'' \|\bar{\partial}_b^t u\|_{L^2(bX)}.$$

After replacing the family $\Phi_t^{p,q}$ with $\Phi_t^{p,q} \circ [\Phi_{t_0}^{p,q}]^{-1}$, the argument can be repeated to obtain a neighborhood of each $t_0 \in [0, 1]$ where such an estimate holds. By compactness there is a single constant which works for all $t \in [0, 1]$. This completes the proof of Proposition 7.2 in [1].

REFERENCES

- [1] Charles L. Epstein, *A relative index on the space of embeddable CR-structures*, I, Ann. of Math. **147** (1998), 1–59.
- [2] G.B. Folland and J.J. Kohn, *The Neumann problem for the Cauchy-Riemann complex*, Annals of Math. studies **75**, Princeton University Press, (1972).
- [3] Tosio Kato, *Perturbation Theory of Linear Operators*, 2nd edition, Springer Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, (1980).
- [4] J.J. Kohn, *The range of the tangential Cauchy-Riemann operator*, Duke Math. Journal **53** (1986), 525–545.
- [5] J.J. Kohn and Hugo Rossi, *On the extension of holomorphic functions from the boundary of a complex manifold*, Ann. of Math. **81** (1965), 451–472 .

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

E-mail address: cle@math.upenn.edu