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GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORMALIZATION OF STEIN SPACES

by Sandra Hayes and Geneviève Pourcin

Introduction

A fundamental tool in the theory of complex manifolds X is Riemann's Theorem on Removable Singularities of holomorphic functions which ensures that all functions holomorphic outside of a rare analytic subset of X and locally bounded on X can be extended to functions holomorphic on all of X. In other words, all weakly holomorphic functions on X are actually holomorphic. Although this theorem does not hold for arbitrary complex spaces, Oka [12] showed in 1951 that every complex space X can be modified to a complex space X for which Riemann's continuation theorem is valid, the so-called normalization of X.

Stein spaces X are complex spaces which can be completely described by the algebra $\mathcal{C}(X)$ of global holomorphic functions. Since a complex space is Stein if and only if its normalization is Stein [11], it is natural to ask if the normalization \tilde{X} of a Stein space X can be constructed just from the holomorphic functions on X. Phrased differently, the question is whether the algebra $\mathcal{C}(\tilde{X})$ of all holomorphic functions on \tilde{X} or equivalently, the algebra $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ of all weakly holomorphic functions on X, can be derived from the algebra $\mathcal{C}(X)$ of holomorphic functions on X.

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate that this is possible when X is irreducible: $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ is the topological closure of the integral closure $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ of $\mathcal{C}(X)$. An example given in § 1 shows that $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ is not in general topologically closed even if X is locally irreducible. $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ can also be obtained by taking the intersection of the localizations $S_x^{-1}\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ of the integral closure $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ of $\mathcal{C}(X)$ with respect to $S_x := \{g \in \mathcal{C}(X) : g(x) \neq 0\}$ for every $x \in X$ (see § 3).

The proof relies on an analytic and an algebraic theorem, namely Rossi's theorem [13] generalizing the Remmert quotient and the integral closure theorem of Mori-Nagata [7].

An analytic consequence of the construction presented here is that the normalization \tilde{X} of an irreducible Stein space X is $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -convex, $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -separable and has local coordinates by functions in $\mathcal{O}(X)$. Some algebraic results are that $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is completely normal and that the two algebras $\mathcal{O}(X)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ are always locally equal, i.e. their localizations at all maximal ideals in $\mathcal{O}(X)$ are equal.

In this paper, a complex space refers to a reduced complex space with countable topology.

1. Example of a Stein space X with $\mathcal{O}(X) \neq \mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$

Let (X, \mathcal{O}) be a complex space with normalization $\pi: \tilde{X} \to X$. Since π is surjective, the map $\pi^*: \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$, $f \mapsto f \circ \pi$, is injective and the holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(X)$ on X can be considered to be a subring of the holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ on the normalization \tilde{X} of X; this will be indicated by $\mathcal{O}(X) \subset \mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$. If X is irreducible and Stein, then $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ contains the integral closure $\mathcal{O}(X)$ of $\mathcal{O}(X)$ but does not always coincide with it, as will be shown in this section.

For an irreducible complex space (X, \mathcal{O}) , the integral domain $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is said to be *normal*, if it is integrally closed in its field of fractions $Q(\mathcal{O}(X))$, i.e. $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)} = \mathcal{O}(X)$. Recall that $Q(\mathcal{O}(X))$ is the field of meromorphic functions M(X) on X when X is irreducible and Stein due to Theorem B [10, 53.1, 52.17], and that the algebras M(X) and $M(\tilde{X})$ are isomorphic for every complex space X [8, p. 161].

The following characterization of normal irreducible Stein spaces X by their global function algebra $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is essentially contained in [2, § 1, p. 35].

Theorem 1. An irreducible Stein space X is normal if and only if the integral domain $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is normal.

An analysis of the proof shows that even when X is just irreducible and normal, $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is also normal. Theorem 1 implies

COROLLARY 1. For an irreducible Stein space X with normalization \tilde{X} , the integral closure $\mathcal{O}(X)$ of $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is contained in $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$.

The following example shows that there are functions $f \in \mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ which are not integral over $\mathcal{O}(X)$. In this example, $X := (\mathbb{C}, \mathcal{O}')$ is an irreducible

and locally irreducible Stein space given by a substructure of the canonical complex plane (C, \mathcal{O}) , which is then the normalization \tilde{X} of X. The substructure is defined by a "Strukturausdünnung" (see [10]) which results by replacing the stalks \mathcal{O}_n , $n \in \mathbb{N}$, with the stalks of generalized Neil parabolas becoming steeper as n increases. More precisely, let $(p_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a strictly increasing sequence of prime numbers. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$X_n$$
: = $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : x^{p_n} = y^{p_n+1} \}$

is an irreducible, locally irreducible analytic subset of \mathbb{C}^2 with the origin as the only singularity and with normalization

$$\pi_n: \mathbb{C} \to X_n, \ t \mapsto (t^{p_n+1}, t^{p_n}).$$

Let $f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C})$ be the identity and denote by \mathcal{O}_{X_n} the canonical complex structure on X_n . The germ $f_0 \in \mathcal{O}_0$ of f at the origin is integral over $\mathcal{O}_{X_{n,0}}$ with respect to a polynomial of degree p_n , and p_n is the minimal degree of all such polynomials.

Now define $X := (\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{O}')$ as a substructure of the canonical plane $(\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{O})$ with stalks

$$\mathcal{O}_x' \cong \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}_x &, & x \notin \mathbf{N} \\ \mathcal{O}_{X_{n,0}}, & x = n \in \mathbf{N} \end{cases}$$

such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathscr{O}'_n & \to & \mathscr{O}_n \\
\cong \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\
\mathscr{O}_{X_{n,0}} & \xrightarrow{\pi_n^*} & \mathscr{O}_0,
\end{array}$$

where $\mathcal{O}'_n \to \mathcal{O}_n$ is the map induced by the identity $(\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{O}) \to (\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{O}')$ and $\mathcal{O}_n \cong \mathcal{O}_0$ is determined by the translation $\mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}$, $z \mapsto z - n$.

The identity $f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C})$ is not integral over $\mathcal{O}'(\mathbb{C})$, because otherwise every polynomial of integral dependence would have degree at least p_n for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is almost integral over $\mathcal{O}(X)$ [7, § 3] for every irreducible Stein space X, since X has a global universal denominator [10, E.73a].

2. Construction of $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ from $\mathcal{O}(X)$ for Stein spaces X

According to a theorem of Oka [12], the normalization sheaf $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$ of weakly holomorphic functions on a complex space (X,\mathcal{O}) is coherent. Consequently, there is a canonical topology making $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$ a Fréchet sheaf; the global weakly holomorphic functions $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ will always carry this topology. Since the holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ on the normalization \widetilde{X} of X are topologically isomorphic to $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ [8, 8.3], the question posed in the introduction can now be answered.

Main theorem. For an irreducible Stein space X, the integral closure $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ of $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is dense in $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$.

Proof. Let $\pi: \tilde{X} \to X$ be the normalization of X and put $A:=\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$. Since π is proper, \tilde{X} is $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -convex and therefore \bar{A} -convex. Note that Corollary 1 implies $A \subset \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ and that \bar{A} is the closure of A with respect to the canonical topology in $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$.

Consider the equivalence relation R on \widetilde{X} defined by \overline{A} , i.e. $(x, y) \in R$ iff for every $f \in \overline{A}$, f(x) = f(y). Rossi's theorem [13] ensures that the topological quotient $Y := \widetilde{X}/R$ can be given the complex structure of a Stein space such that the projection $p : \widetilde{X} \to Y$ is holomorphic and proper and the map $p^* : \mathcal{O}(Y) \to \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$, $f \mapsto f \circ p$, induces an isomorphism $\mathcal{O}(Y) \cong \overline{A}$.

It suffices to show that every $f \in \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ can be factorized through a holomorphic function on Y, meaning that an $F \in \mathcal{O}(Y)$ exists with $F \circ p = f$. This will be accomplished by first factorizing $f \in \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ through a continuous function F on Y and then proving that F is actually holomorphic. The existence of such a continuous factor F for f is equivalent to demonstrating that every $f \in \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ is constant on the fibers of p. The validity of this geometric statement will be shown now using commutative algebra.

 $\mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ is almost integral over $\mathcal{O}(X)$ (see § 1), and hence over the localization $S_x^{-1}A$ of A with respect to $S_x:=\{g\in\mathcal{O}(X):g(x)\neq 0\}$ for every $x\in X$. Moreover,

$$S_x^{-1}A = \widetilde{S_x^{-1}\mathcal{O}(X)}$$

holds [3, V, 1.5, Corollary 1]. The localization $S_x^{-1}\mathcal{O}(X) = \mathcal{O}(X)_{m(x)}$ of the Stein algebra $\mathcal{O}(X)$ at the maximal ideal $m(x) := \{ f \in \mathcal{O}(X) : f(x) = 0 \}$ is noetherian — even more, it's excellent [2, p. 35]. According to a theorem of Mori-Nagata, the integral closure of a noetherian integral domain is completely normal [7, 4.3, 3.6], implying

$$\mathscr{O}(\widetilde{X}) \subset \bigcap_{x \in X} S_x^{-1} A.$$

For $f \in \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$, $a \in \widetilde{X}$ and $b \in p^{-1}(p(a))$, it is now possible to conclude that f(a) = f(b) is true. Let $x := \pi(a)$. Due to (*), functions $g \in S_x$ and $h \in A$ exist with $f = h/g \circ \pi$. Since a and b are equivalent with respect to the equivalence relation R, f(a) = f(b) follows, and a continuous function $F: Y \to \mathbb{C}$ exists with $F \circ p = f$.

Since the Stein complex structure on Y is not in general the canonical ringed quotient structure, it is still necessary to verify that F is holomorphic in order to prove the density of A in $\mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$. To that end, let $H \in \mathcal{O}(Y)$ and $G \in \mathcal{O}(Y)$ have the property that $H \circ p = h$ and $G \circ p = g \circ \pi$. Such functions exist because $p^*(\mathcal{O}(Y)) = \overline{A}$ holds. Then F = H/G follows, and the germ $F_{p(a)}$ is the germ of a holomorphic function at p(a), since the germ $G_{p(a)}$ of G at p(a) is a unit. The surjectivity of p implies that F is holomorphic on Y, completing the proof of the theorem.

Note that the topology induced by $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ on any subalgebra A of $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is the metrizable topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of X. Because the closure \bar{A} of A in $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is its completion, \bar{A} can be obtained without referring directly to $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$. Thus the Main Theorem can be stated as follows:

If \tilde{X} denotes the normalization of an irreducible Stein space X, then $\mathcal{C}(\tilde{X})$ is the completion of the integral closure $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}(X)}$ of $\mathcal{C}(X)$.

3. Applications

In this section X will denote an irreducible Stein space with normalization $\pi\colon \tilde{X}\to X,\, \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ will be the integral closure of the holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(X)$ on $X,\,\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ the Fréchet algebra of weakly holomorphic functions on X (or equivalently, the Fréchet algebra of holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ on \tilde{X}), and

$$S_x := \{g \in \mathcal{O}(X) : g(x) \neq 0\}$$
 for $x \in X$.

Although the example given in the first section shows that the algebras $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ and $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ are not always equal, the inclusion (*) in the proof of the Main Theorem implies that they are locally equal in the following sense.

Theorem 2. For every $x \in X$, the localizations of $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}(X)}$ and $\mathcal{C}(\widetilde{X})$ with respect to S_x coincide.

The next theorem implies an algebraic description of the topological closure of $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ in $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$.

Theorem 3.
$$\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X}) = \bigcap_{x \in X} S_x^{-1} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$$
.

Proof. Let $f \in M(\tilde{X}) = M(X)$ be such that for every $x \in X$ there is a $g \in S_x$ and an $h \in \mathcal{O}(X)$, with $f = h/g \circ \pi$. Then the germ f_a of f at an arbitrary point $a \in \tilde{X}$ is holomorphic, because the germ of $g \circ \pi$ at a is a unit. Hence $f \in \mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$, and the assertion is proved.

COROLLARY 2. The topological closure of $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ in $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ is the intersection of the localizations of $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ with respect to S_x for all $x \in X$.

The next result characterizes the weakly holomorphic functions on X as being exactly those meromorphic functions on X which are almost integral over $\mathcal{O}(X)$.

Corollary 3. $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is completely normal.

Proof. Let $f \in M(\widetilde{X})$ be almost integral over $\mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$. Then f is almost integral over $\mathcal{O}(X)$ and therefore over $S_x^{-1} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ for every $x \in X$ which has been shown to be completely normal in the proof of the Main Theorem. An application of Theorem 3 yields $f \in \mathcal{O}(\widetilde{X})$ and hence the assertion.

Using the classical Oka-Weil-Cartan Theorem [1, Anhang zu VI, § 4], an immediate consequence of the Main Theorem is

THEOREM 4. \widetilde{X} is $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ -convex, $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$ -separable and has local coordinates by functions in $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$.

A property which ensures that the holomorphic functions on \tilde{X} are integral over the holomorphic functions on X is that $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is a finite $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -module.

THEOREM 5. Let $u \in \mathcal{O}(X)$ be any global universal denominator for X. Then $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is isomorphic to the closed ideal $u\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ in $\mathcal{O}(X)$, and $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is a finite $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -module if and only if this ideal is finitely generated.

Proof. Recall that a global universal denominator u for X always exists [10, E.73a]. The multiplication map

$$\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X}) \to \mathcal{O}(X), f \mapsto uf,$$

defines an injective $\mathcal{O}(X)$ -module homomorphism. Thus, $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ is isomorphic to the ideal $u\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ in $\mathcal{O}(X)$ which will now be denoted by I. Consider the transporter ideal $J:=\tilde{\mathcal{O}}:\frac{1}{u}\mathcal{O}$ of $\frac{1}{u}\mathcal{O}$ into $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$ which is a coherent sheaf of ideals in $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$. The global sections J(X) form a closed ideal of $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(X)$ by a theorem of Cartan [4, 5], due again to the fact that X is Stein. Because J(X)=I holds, the assertion follows.

COROLLARY 4. If $\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ does not coincide with $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}(X)}$, the closed ideal $u\mathcal{O}(\tilde{X})$ in $\mathcal{O}(X)$ is not finitely generated.

In a Stein algebra $\mathcal{O}(X)$, every finitely generated ideal is closed, as Cartan [4, 5] showed. If X is at least two-dimensional, Forster [6] gave examples of closed ideals in $\mathcal{O}(X)$ which are not finitely generated. According to Corollary 4, the space constructed in § 1 gives a one-dimensional example.

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