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### A NEW CAPACITY IN THE CLASS OF $sh_m$ FUNCTIONS DEFINED BY LAPLACE OPERATOR

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#### Abstract

In this paper, we define a new capacity  $\Delta_m$  on the class of  $sh_m$  functions, which is defined by Laplace operator. We prove that  $\Delta_m$ -capacity satisfies Choquet's axioms of measurability. Moreover, we compare our capacity with Sadullaev-Abdullaev capacities. In particular, it implies that  $\Delta_m$ -capacity of a set E is zero if and only if E is a m-polar set.

**Keywords:** strongly m-subharmonic functions, Laplace operator, capacity, condenser capacity, external capacity, m-convex domain, m-polar set, m-capacity.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2020): 31B05, 31B15.

#### 1 Introduction

Capacity is a set function arising in (pluri)potential theory as the analogue of the physical concept of the electrostatic capacity. In this paper, we study capacities in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Capacities actively studied by many authors Sadullaev (see [1-4]), Bedford and Taylor (see [6]), Abdullaev (see [1]), Rakhimov (see [4,8,9]) and other mathematicians. There are several capacities in the class of subharmonic and plurisubharmonic functions in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ : capacity of condenser, *P*-capacity,  $\Delta$ -capacity (see [1-8]). Moreover, similar capacities is defined in the class of strongly *m*-subharmonic (*sh*<sub>m</sub>) functions and actively studied by Sadullaev and Abdullaev (see [1]). In this work, we will define a new capacity on the class of *sh*<sub>m</sub> functions defined by Laplace operator  $\Delta u = dd^c u \wedge \beta^{n-1}$ , where  $\beta = dd^c |z|^2$ . Since it is a linear operator this operator is more practical in use.

Our paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 we recall some notions and theorems, and moreover, we define a new capacity and prove some of its properties. In Section 3 we give definitions and some properties of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ -capacities defined by Sadullaev and Abdullaev. Finally, in Section 4 we compare our capacity with Sadullaev-Abdullaev capacities.

#### 2 $\Delta_m$ -capacity and its properties

Firstly, let us recall some definitions and results from [1]. Let D be a domain in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . For a real function  $u \in C^2(D)$  the second order differential

$$dd^{c}u = \frac{i}{2}\sum_{j,k} u_{j\overline{k}}dz_{j} \wedge d\overline{z}_{k}$$

(at a fixed point  $z^0 \in D$ ) is a Hermitian quadratic form, where  $u_{j\bar{k}} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k}$ . After approaching a general unitary transformation of coordinates, it is reduced to the following diagonal form

$$dd^{c}u = \frac{i}{2} \left[ \lambda_{1} dz_{1} \wedge d\overline{z}_{1} + \ldots + \lambda_{n} dz_{n} \wedge d\overline{z}_{n} \right]$$

where  $\lambda_1(u), ..., \lambda_n(u)$  are the eigenvalues of the Hermitian matrix  $(u_{j,\overline{k}})$ , which are real, i.e.  $(\lambda_1(u), ..., \lambda_n(u)) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . It's not hard to see that

$$(dd^{c}u)^{k} \wedge \beta^{n-k} = k!(n-k)!H_{m}(u)\beta^{n}, \ \forall k = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

where  $H_k(u) = \sum_{1 < j_1 < \ldots < j_k \leq n} \lambda_{j_1} \ldots \lambda_{j_k}$  is Hessian of dimension k of vector  $\lambda = \lambda(u) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\beta = dd^c ||z||^2$ .

**Definition 1.** (see [1]) Twice smooth function  $u(z) \in C^2(D)$  is called strongly msubharmonic at the point  $z^0 \in D$ , if:

$$(dd^{c}u)^{k} \wedge \beta^{n-k} \ge 0, \ \forall k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1.$$

Now let us define strongly m-subharmonic functions in a larger class

**Definition 2.** (see [1]) A function  $u \in L^1_{loc}(D)$ , is called strongly m-subharmonic  $(sh_m)$  in  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ , if it is upper semicontinuous and for any twice smooth strongly m-subharmonic functions  $v_1, \ldots, v_{m-1}$  the current  $dd^c u \wedge dd^c v_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge dd^c v_{m-1} \wedge \beta^{n-m}$  is positive, where the current is defined as

$$\left[dd^{c}u \wedge dd^{c}v_{1} \wedge \ldots \wedge dd^{c}v_{m-1} \wedge \beta^{n-m}\right](\omega) = \int u dd^{c}v_{1} \wedge \ldots \wedge dd^{c}v_{m-1}\beta^{n-m} \wedge dd^{c}\omega$$

for any smooth function  $\omega$  with compact support in D.

The class of strongly *m*-subharmonic  $(sh_m)$  functions on *D* denoted by  $sh_m(D)$ . Let us remind that it is called strongly  $sh_m$  in the domain *D*, if  $\rho(z)$  is strongly  $sh_m$ at every point  $z^0 \in D$ . Domain  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is called strongly *m*-convex, if there exists a strongly  $sh_m$  function  $\rho(z)$  in a neighbourhood *G* of  $\overline{D}$ , such that  $D = \{\rho < 0\}$ . Let us recall the notion of *m*-polarity, which plays the role of null measure sets for *m*-capacities.

**Definition 3.** The set  $E \subset D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is called *m*-polar in *D*, if there is a function  $u(z) \in sh_m(D), u(z) \not\equiv -\infty$  such that  $u|_E = -\infty$ .

 $\Delta_m$ -capacity. For simplicity, we work on a strongly m-convex domain  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ . For a compact  $K \subset \subset D$  define a class of functions

$$\mathcal{U}_m(K,D) = \left\{ u(z) \in sh_m(D) \cap C(D) : \ u|_K \le -1, \ u|_D \le 0, \ \lim_{z \to \partial D} u(z) \ge 0 \right\}$$

and set the following quantity

$$\Delta_m(K,D) := \inf \left\{ \int_D \Delta u : \quad u \in \mathcal{U}_m(K,D) \right\}.$$

The quantity  $\Delta_m(K, D)$  is called  $\Delta_m$ -capacity of K with respect to D.

From now on, we write  $\Delta_m(K)$  instead of  $\Delta_m(K, D)$  when the role of D is not important. The capacity  $\Delta_m(K)$  has the following properties:

1°.  $\Delta_m(K)$  is monotone, i.e. for  $K_1 \subset K_2$  we have  $\Delta_m(K_1) \leq \Delta_m(K_2)$ .

*Proof.* Thanks to  $K_1 \subset K_2$ , any function u, with  $u|_{K_2} \leq -1$ , is clearly less -1 on  $K_1$ . Hence, we have  $\mathcal{U}_m(K_1, D) \supset \mathcal{U}_m(K_2, D)$ . Consequently, by definition we can easily see that  $\Delta_m(K_1) \leq \Delta_m(K_2)$ .

2°.  $\Delta_m(K)$  is sub-additive, i.e.  $\Delta_m(K_1 \cup K_2) \leq \Delta_m(K_1) + \Delta_m(K_2)$ .

*Proof.* Clearly, if  $u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_1, D)$  and  $u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_2, D)$  then  $u_1 + u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K, D)$ , where  $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_m(K) &= \inf\left\{\int_D \Delta u: \ u \in \mathcal{U}_m(K, D)\right\} \leq \\ &\leq \inf\left\{\int_D \Delta(u_1 + u_2): \ u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_1, D), u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_2, D)\right\} = \\ &= \inf\left\{\int_D \Delta u_1 + \int_D \Delta u_2: \ u_1(z) \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_1, D), u_2(z) \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_2, D)\right\} = \\ &= \inf\left\{\int_D \Delta u_1: \ u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_1, D)\right\} + \\ &+ \inf\left\{\int_D \Delta u_2: \ u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_m(K_2, D)\right\} = \Delta_m(K_1) + \Delta_m(K_2). \end{aligned}$$

The proof of the property is complete.

3°.  $\Delta_m(K)$  is monotonic by m, i.e.,  $\Delta_1(K) \leq \Delta_2(K) \leq \ldots \leq \Delta_n(K)$ . Proof. Since  $sh(D) = sh_1(D) \supset sh_2(D) \supset \ldots \supset sh_n(D) = psh(D)$  we have  $\mathcal{U}_1(K, D) \supset \mathcal{U}_2(K, D) \supset \ldots \supset \mathcal{U}_n(K, D)$ . Hence, we deduce that

$$\Delta_1(K,D) \le \Delta_2(K,D) \le \ldots \le \Delta_n(K,D).$$

Let us now define the external capacity in a standard way.

**Definition 4.** Let E be a subset of D. The external capacity of E is

$$\Delta_m^*(E) = \inf \left\{ \Delta_m(U) : U \supset E - open \ set \right\},\$$

where capacity of open set  $U \subset D$  is defined by

$$\Delta_m(U) = \sup \left\{ \Delta_m(K) : K \subset \subset U \right\}.$$

Now we collect the following properties of the external capacity.

4°. For any compact  $K \subset D$ , the external capacity of K is equal to  $\Delta_m$ -capacity of K, i.e.,  $\Delta_m^*(K) = \Delta_m(K)$ .

*Proof.* For any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an open set  $U \supset K$ , such that

$$\Delta_m^*(K) \ge \Delta_m(U) - \varepsilon \ge \Delta_m(K) - \varepsilon.$$

Letting  $\varepsilon \to 0$  we obtain

$$\Delta_m^*(K) \ge \Delta_m(K). \tag{1}$$

On the other hand, by definition of external capacity, we have

$$\Delta_m^*(K) \le \Delta_m(U)$$

for all  $U \supset K$ . For any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $u \in \mathcal{U}_m(K, D)$  such that  $\int_D \Delta u \leq \Delta_m(K) + \varepsilon$ . Take an open set  $K \subset U \Subset \{(1 + \varepsilon)u < -1\}$ . Since  $(1 + \varepsilon)u \in \mathcal{U}_m(\overline{U}, D)$  we have

$$\Delta_m(U) \le \Delta_m(\overline{U}) \le (1+\varepsilon) \int_D \Delta u \le (1+\varepsilon)(\Delta_m(K)+\varepsilon).$$

So, we have

$$\Delta_m^*(K) \le \Delta_m(U) \le (1+\varepsilon)(\Delta_m(K)+\varepsilon).$$

By letting  $\varepsilon \to 0$  we have

$$\Delta_m^*(K) \le \Delta_m(K). \tag{2}$$

Thanks to (1) and (2) we have  $\Delta_m^*(K) = \Delta_m(K)$  for any compact set  $K \subset C$ . The proof is complete.

5°. External capacity  $\Delta_m^*(E)$  is monotonic, e.i.,

$$E_1 \subset E_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta_m^*(E_1) \le \Delta_m^*(E_2).$$

*Proof.* Since  $E_1 \subset E_2$  we have that

$$\Delta_m^*(E_2) = \inf \left\{ \Delta_m(U) : U \supset E_2 \right\} \ge \inf \left\{ \Delta_m(U) : U \supset E_1 \right\} = \Delta_m^*(E_1).$$

6°.  $\Delta_m^*(E)$  is countable-subadditive, e.i.  $\Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_j E_j\right) \leq \sum_j \Delta_m^*(E_j).$ 

*Proof.* From the definition, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there are open subsets  $U_j \supset E_j$  such that  $\Delta_m(U_j) - \Delta_m^*(E_j) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j}, \ j = 1, 2, \dots$  Then

$$\Delta_m^* \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty E_j \right) \le \Delta_m \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty U_j \right) \le \sum_{j=1}^\infty \Delta_m(U_j) \le \Delta_m^*(E_j) + \varepsilon$$

By letting  $\varepsilon \to 0$ , we get

$$\Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_j E_j\right) \le \sum_j \Delta_m^*(E_j).$$

7°. For any increasing sequence of sets  $E_j \subset E_{j+1}$  the following equality holds

$$\Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_j E_j\right) = \lim_{j \to \infty} \Delta_m^*(E_j).$$

*Proof.* Since  $E_j$  is an increasing sequence of sets, from the previous property,  $\Delta_m^*(E_j)$  is also an increasing sequence and it has a limit as  $n \to \infty$ . Again, by the monotonicity of  $\Delta_m^*$ , we have

$$\Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_j E_j\right) \ge \Delta_m^*(E_k)$$

for all  $k = 1, 2, \ldots$ . Hence

$$\Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_j E_j\right) \ge \lim_{k \to \infty} \Delta_m^*(E_k).$$

Now let  $E_j \subset E_{j+1}$  be arbitrary sets j = 1, 2... Let us fix arbitrary number  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then for every  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists open set  $U_j$ , with  $U_j \subset U_{j+1}$  and such that  $\Delta(U_j) - \Delta^*(E_j) < \sum_{l=1}^j \frac{\varepsilon}{2^l}$ . Hence, for any k

$$\Delta_m\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^k U_j\right) \le \Delta_m^*\left(\bigcup_{j=1}^k E_j\right) + \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\varepsilon}{2^j}.$$

From here, by letting k go to infinity, we obtain

$$\Delta_m^* \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^\infty E_j\right) \le \Delta_m \left(\bigcup_j U_j\right) \le \lim_{j \to \infty} \Delta^*(E_j) + \varepsilon$$

regardless of whether capacity  $\Delta_m^*(E)$  finite or not. Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, the proof is complete.

The properties above guarantee that  $\Delta_m^*$ -capacity is a Choquet capacity (see [7], page 64).

#### 3 Other capacities in the class of $sh_m$ functions

As above we fix  $1 \leq m \leq n$  and a strongly *m*-convex domain  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ . Let *E* be a subset of the domain *D*.

**Definition 5** (see [1]). Consider the class of functions

$$\mathcal{U}(E,D) = \{ u(z) \in sh_m(D) : u|_D \le 0, u|_E \le -1 \}$$

and put

$$\omega(z, E, D) = \sup \left\{ u(z) : u \in \mathcal{U}(E, D) \right\}.$$

Then the regularization  $\omega^*(z, E, D) = \overline{\lim_{w \to z}} \omega(w, E, D) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \sup_{w \in B(z,\varepsilon)} \omega(w, E, D)$ is called the *m*-subharmonic measure ( $\mathcal{P}_m$ -measure) of *E* with respect to *D*, where  $B(a, \rho)$  is a ball centred at *a* and radius  $\rho > 0$ .

Let us now define a capacity defined by Sadullaev and Abdullaev.

**Definition 6** (see [1]). Let  $E \subset D$  and  $\omega^*(z, E, D)$  be its  $\mathcal{P}_m$ -measure. Then the integral

$$\mathcal{P}_m(E,D) = -\int\limits_D \omega^*(z,E,D)dV$$

is called the  $\mathcal{P}_m$ -capacity of the set E with respect to D.

The capacity  $\mathcal{P}_m(E, D)$  is well studied. In particular, it is zero if and only if E is m-polar set. It is monotonic, countably subadditive and satisfies Choquet's axioms of measurability (see [1]).

The more natural concept is condenser capacity, which is defined using the Hessian as total mass of the measure  $(dd^c\omega^*(z, K, D))^m \wedge \beta^{n-m}$ .

**Definition 7** (see [1]). Let K compact in  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ . The following quantity

$$C_m(K,D) = \inf\left\{\int_D (dd^c u)^m \wedge \beta^{n-m} : u \in sh_m(D) \cap C(D), u|_K \le -1, \lim_{z \to \delta D} u(z) \ge 0\right\}$$

is called the condenser capacity (m-capacity) of (K, D).

Note that, for  $E \subset D$  the external capacity  $C_m^*(E, D)$  defined in a standard way. The capacity  $C_m^*(E, D)$  is well studied and has all the properties of capacities (see [2]). In particular it is zero if and only if E is a *m*-polar set.

#### 4 Main result

In this section we will compare  $\Delta_m^*$ -capacity with other two capacities whose defined in the previous section.

**Theorem 1.** The following statements are true:

(i) Let  $E \subset B(0,r) \subset B(0,R)$ , r < R. Then

$$\Delta_m^*(E, B(0, r)) \le \frac{1}{(1 + a(r))(R^2 - r^2)} \mathcal{P}_m(E, B(0, R)),$$

where  $a(r) = \sup_{B(0,r)} \omega^*(z, E, B(0, R)) > -1.$ 

(ii) Let  $E \subset D$ , then there exists a constant M(D) > 0 (depending on measure of D) such that

$$\sqrt[m]{C_m^*(E,D)} \le M(D) \cdot \Delta_m^*(E,D).$$

*Proof.* First of all, we will prove the first inequality (i). We can assume that E is a regular compact. Let  $\rho(z) = |z|^2 - R^2$  and  $\omega^* := \omega^*(z, E, B(0, R)) = \omega(z, E, B(0, R))$ . For the following inequality, we use the similar steps as in [8]

$$\int_{-R^2}^{0} dt \int_{\rho(z) \le t} (dd^c \rho)^{n-1} \wedge dd^c \omega^* = \int_{|z|=R} \omega^* d^c |z|^2 \wedge (dd^c |z|^2)^{n-1} =$$
$$= -\int_{|z| \le R} \omega^* (dd^c |z|^2)^n = \mathcal{P}_m(E, B(0, R)).$$

On the other hand, we can estimate the LHS of this inequality from below:

$$\int_{-R^{2}}^{0} dt \int_{\rho(z) \le t} dd^{c} \omega^{*} \wedge (dd^{c} \rho)^{n-1} \ge \int_{r^{2}-R^{2}}^{0} dt \int_{\rho(z) \le r^{2}} dd^{c} \omega^{*} \wedge (dd^{c} \rho)^{n-1} =$$

$$= (R^{2} - r^{2}) \int_{\rho(z) \le r^{2}} dd^{c} \omega^{*} \wedge (dd^{c} \rho)^{n-1} =$$

$$= (R^{2} - r^{2}) \int_{\rho(z) \le r} \Delta \omega^{*} \ge$$

$$\ge (R^{2} - r^{2}) (1 + a(r)) \Delta_{m}^{*}(E, B(0, r)).$$

The last inequality follows due to regularity of E and  $\frac{\omega^*(z,E,B(0,R))-a(r)}{1+a(r)} \in \mathcal{U}_m(E,B(0,r)).$ So the assertion (i) is proved. Now, we will prove the assertion (ii). We shall need the following claim.

**Claim.** Let n, m be the natural numbers with  $1 \leq m \leq n$ . Suppose that,  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, ..., \lambda_n$  are real numbers and

$$\sum_{1 \le i_1 < \ldots < i_k \le n} \lambda_{i_1} \lambda_{i_2} \cdots \lambda_{i_k} \ge 0$$

for all k = 1, 2, ..., m. Then

$$C_k = \left(\frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \ldots + \lambda_n}{n}\right)^m \ge \frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}} \sum_{1 \le i_1 < \cdots < i_m \le n} \lambda_{i_1} \lambda_{i_2} \cdots \lambda_{i_m}.$$

*Proof of the Claim.* We take a polynomial with roots  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_n$ :

$$P(x) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} (x - \lambda_k) = x^n + \ldots + a_1 x^1 + a_0,$$

where  $a_{n-j} = (-1)^j C_j$ . Observe that since P(x) has n real roots P'(x) has n-1 real roots counting with multiplicities. Note that  $C_j \ge 0$ . Hence, (n-m)'th derivative

$$P^{(n-m)}(x) = b_m x^m + \ldots + b_1 x^1 + b_0$$

has *m* non-negative roots, since  $b_j = (-1)^{m-j}(j+1)(j+2)...(j+n-m)C_{m-j}$  for  $0 \le j \le m-1$  and  $b_m = (m-1)(m+1) \cdot ... \cdot n$ . Denote the *m* non-negative roots of  $P^{(n-m)}(x)$  by  $x_1, \ldots, x_m$ , counted with multiplicity. By Cauchy's inequality we have

$$\left(\frac{\left|\frac{b_{m-1}}{b_m}\right|}{m}\right)^m = \left(\frac{x_1 + \ldots + x_m}{m}\right)^m \ge x_1 x_2 \ldots x_m = \left|\frac{b_0}{b_m}\right|.$$

We can easily see that the last inequality is equivalent to

$$\left(\frac{a_{n-1}}{n}\right)^m \ge \frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}} |a_{n-m}|$$

and it implies

$$\left(\frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \ldots + \lambda_n}{n}\right)^m \ge \frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}} \sum_{1 \le i_1 < \ldots < i_m \le n} \lambda_{i_1} \lambda_{i_2} \ldots \lambda_{i_m}.$$

Proof of the Claim is complete.

Let us now complete our proof. By using the Claim, we obtain that

$$\frac{1}{n} \left| \Delta u \right| \ge \frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}^{\frac{1}{m}}} \left| (dd^c u)^m \wedge \beta^{n-m} \right|^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

for any  $u \in sh_m(D) \cap C^2(D)$ . It gives us

$$\frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}^{\frac{1}{m}}}\int\limits_{D}\left|(dd^{c}u)^{m}\wedge\beta^{n-m}\right|^{\frac{1}{m}}\leq\frac{1}{n}\int\limits_{D}\Delta u$$

and thanks to Favard's inequality (see [10]) there exists a constant C > 0 (depending on measure of D) such that

$$C\int_{D} \left| (dd^{c}u)^{m} \wedge \beta^{n-m} \right|^{\frac{1}{m}} \geq \sqrt[m]{\sum}_{D} (dd^{c}u)^{m} \wedge \beta^{n-m}.$$

Thus, there exists a constant C > 0 such that

$$\frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}^{\frac{1}{m}}} \sqrt[m]{\int}_{D} (dd^{c}u)^{m} \wedge \beta^{n-m} \leq \frac{C}{n} \int_{D} \Delta u.$$
(3)

By the smooth approximation  $u_j \downarrow u$  and the convergence of currents (see [1])  $(dd^c u_j)^m \land \beta^{n-m} \mapsto (dd^c u)^m \land \beta^{n-m}$  and  $\Delta u_j \mapsto \Delta u$ , we obtain (3) for any *m*-subharmonic function. It completes the proof.

From Theorem 1 we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.**  $\Delta_m$ -capacity of E is zero if and only if E is a m-polar set.

**Remark 1.** Actually, we can obtain a similar result if we define  $\Delta_m^k$ -capacity by using  $(dd^c u)^k \wedge \beta^{n-k}$ , with  $1 \leq k \leq m$ , instead of  $dd^c u \wedge \beta^{n-1}$ . All the above properties can be proven by similar technique for  $\Delta_m^k$ -capacity. However, in this paper, our focus is exclusively on the Laplace operator, which is linear and, therefore, deemed more important.

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