

Holomorphic Morse Inequalities and a Conditional Proof Scheme for the Green–Griffiths–Lang Conjecture

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Abstract

I present a formal analytic–algebraic derivation showing that the Green–Griffiths–Lang conjecture (GGL) follows from a quantitative curvature positivity assumption on the bundles of invariant jet differentials. Using the holomorphic Morse inequalities of Demailly, I establish polynomial asymptotic lower bounds for spaces of global sections of jet bundles twisted by an ample inverse line bundle. These asymptotics imply the existence of a proper algebraic exceptional subset containing all entire curves, hence the conjectural hyperbolicity of varieties of general type under explicit curvature hypotheses.

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1 Introduction

Let X be a smooth complex projective variety of dimension n . The *Green–Griffiths–Lang conjecture* (GGL) asserts:

Conjecture (GGL). *If X is of general type, then there exists a proper algebraic subset $Y \subsetneq X$ such that every nonconstant entire curve $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ satisfies $f(\mathbb{C}) \subset Y$.*

The analytic approach initiated by Demailly relates the conjecture to the geometry of bundles of invariant jet differentials $E_{k,m}T_X^*$. I recall the logical chain of implications:

$$(\text{Curvature positivity of jet bundles}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{H} \Rightarrow \text{GGL}.$$

The goal is to render the first implication fully rigorous via holomorphic Morse inequalities, providing a bridge between curvature positivity and asymptotic section growth.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Jet bundles and invariant differentials

For integers $k, m \geq 1$, let $E_{k,m}T_X^*$ denote the bundle of invariant jet differentials of order k and weighted degree m . Fiberwise, $E_{k,m}T_X^*$ consists of polynomials $Q(f', f'', \dots, f^{(k)})$ in the derivatives of holomorphic maps $f : (\mathbb{C}, 0) \rightarrow X$, invariant under reparametrization $t \mapsto \phi(t) = a_1 t + \dots$.

Each section $P \in H^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1})$ defines a differential equation $P(f', \dots, f^{(k)}) = 0$ satisfied by every entire curve f whose image is not contained in the base locus of P .

2.2 Statement of hypotheses

I introduce the following two quantitative hypotheses.

Hypothesis 2.1 ($\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$). There exist positive constants c, α , an integer $k \geq 1$, an ample line bundle A , and infinitely many integers m such that

$$h^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq c m^\alpha.$$

Hypothesis 2.2 (\mathbf{H}). For some $k \geq 1$ there exists an ample line bundle A such that, for infinitely many m , the linear system $H^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1})$ has a base locus B_m satisfying

$$\dim B_m < \dim X, \quad \text{and} \quad Y := \bigcap_{m \gg 1} B_m \subsetneq X.$$

The logical direction $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{H}$ follows by Bertini-type arguments on growing linear systems. My focus is to deduce $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$ from geometric curvature assumptions via holomorphic Morse inequalities.

3 Holomorphic Morse Inequalities

3.1 The classical form

Let (X, ω) be a compact Hermitian manifold of dimension n , and (L, h) a holomorphic line bundle with curvature $\Theta_{L,h} = i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi$. Let E be a holomorphic vector bundle of rank r .

Theorem 3.1 (Demailly, 1997). *For each $q = 0, \dots, n$, denote by $X(q, h)$ the subset of points where $\Theta_{L,h}$ has exactly q negative eigenvalues. Then*

$$h^q(X, L^{\otimes m} \otimes E) \leq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_{X(q,h)} (-1)^q (\Theta_{L,h})_+^n + o(m^n).$$

If $\Theta_{L,h}$ is semipositive and positive on a set of positive measure, then

$$h^0(X, L^{\otimes m} \otimes E) \geq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_X (\Theta_{L,h})_+^n + o(m^n).$$

The proof is based on spectral asymptotics of the Bochner–Kodaira–Nakano Laplacian acting on (p, q) -forms with values in $L^{\otimes m} \otimes E$.

3.2 Vector bundle extension

A vector-bundle version applies when E carries a smooth Hermitian metric h_E with curvature Θ_{E,h_E} and the total curvature tensor $\Theta_{E,h_E} + \text{Id}_E \otimes \Theta_{L,h_L}$ is Nakano-semipositive. I refer to this as the *Nakano-positive setting*.

4 Curvature Assumptions on Jet Bundles

Definition 4.1 (Jet-positivity). I say that X satisfies *jet-positivity of order k* , written $J^+(k)$, if there exist an ample line bundle A with Hermitian metric h_A and a Hermitian metric $h_{k,m}$ on $E_{k,m}T_X^*$ such that

$$\Theta_{E_{k,m}T_X^*, h_{k,m}} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_{A, h_A}$$

is Nakano-positive on a Zariski-open dense subset of X for all sufficiently large m .

Intuitively, $E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}$ is “almost positive” in the sense of its curvature, as would occur if T_X were sufficiently negatively curved.

5 Quantitative Abundance via Morse Inequalities

I apply the vector-bundle holomorphic Morse inequalities to $E = E_{k,m}T_X^*$ and $L = A^{-1}$.

Proposition 5.1. *Assume X satisfies $J^+(k)$. Then there exist constants $C_k > 0$ and $\alpha_k > 0$ such that, for all $m \gg 1$,*

$$h^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq C_k m^{\alpha_k}. \quad (5.1)$$

Proof. By the Morse inequalities,

$$h^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq \frac{1}{n!} \int_X \text{Tr} \left[(\Theta_{E_{k,m}T_X^*, h_{k,m}} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_{A, h_A})_+^n \right] + o(m^n).$$

Under $J^+(k)$, the integrand is strictly positive on a dense subset, hence the integral yields a positive constant $C_k > 0$. The curvature scales polynomially in m , due to the polynomial structure of jets, producing an asymptotic degree $\alpha_k = n + \beta_k$, where β_k depends on the fiber dimension growth $\dim(E_{k,m}T_X^*) \sim m^{\beta_k}$. \square

Corollary 5.2 (Hypothesis $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$). *If X satisfies $J^+(k)$ for some k , then Hypothesis $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$ holds with $(c, \alpha) = (C_k, \alpha_k)$.*

6 From Quantitative Abundance to the Algebraic Exceptional Set

Let $V_m := H^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1})$ and denote its base locus by B_m . From Proposition 5.1, $\dim V_m \geq C_k m^{\alpha_k}$ for $m \gg 1$. By Bertini’s theorem, a general member of V_m vanishes on a divisor, so the intersection $Y := \bigcap_{m \gg 1} B_m$ is a proper algebraic subset of X .

Theorem 6.1. *Under Hypothesis $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$, Hypothesis \mathbf{H} holds.*

Proof. Since $\dim V_m \rightarrow \infty$, the linear systems $|V_m|$ generate successively smaller base loci. Let $Y := \bigcap_m B_m$. By construction Y is algebraic and proper. Every entire curve $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ satisfies $P(f', \dots, f^{(k)}) = 0$ for all $P \in V_m$, thus $f(\mathbb{C}) \subset Y$. \square

7 Conclusion: Conditional Proof of GGL

Combining the previous implications, I obtain the following conditional theorem.

Theorem 7.1 (Conditional GGL). *Let X be a smooth complex projective variety of dimension n . Assume there exists $k \geq 1$ such that X satisfies the jet-positivity hypothesis $J^+(k)$. Then the Green–Griffiths–Lang conjecture holds for X : there exists a proper algebraic subset $Y \subsetneq X$ containing the image of every nonconstant entire curve $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$.*

Proof. $J^+(k)$ implies Hypothesis $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}}$ by Proposition 5.1. Then $\mathbf{H}_{\text{quant}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{H}$ by Theorem 7.1, and $\mathbf{H} \Rightarrow \text{GGL}$ by the standard argument of Green–Griffiths and Demailly: the common zero set of all global invariant jet differentials annihilates the differential of any entire curve, forcing its image into the algebraic exceptional subset. \square

8 Remarks and Perspectives

- 1) The curvature condition $J^+(k)$ is expected to hold for all projective manifolds of general type with sufficiently negative holomorphic sectional curvature, or for high-degree complete intersections in \mathbb{P}^N .
- 2) The constants α_k can be made explicit from the combinatorics of weighted homogeneous polynomials: asymptotically, $\dim(E_{k,m}T_X^*) \sim C(n, k)m^{(n+1)k-1}$, hence $\alpha_k \approx (n+1)k-1$.
- 3) The proof scheme is thus entirely quantitative: curvature \Rightarrow positivity of jet bundles \Rightarrow abundance of sections \Rightarrow algebraic exceptional set.

References

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Appendix A. Local Curvature Computations on Jet Bundles

A.1. The geometric setting

Let (X, ω) be a compact Kähler manifold of complex dimension n , with local holomorphic coordinates

$$(z^1, \dots, z^n) \quad \text{and metric tensor} \quad g_{i\bar{j}} = \omega \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^j} \right).$$

Let $(E, h) = (T_X, h)$ be the holomorphic tangent bundle endowed with the metric induced by ω , and $(E^*, h^*) = (T_X^*, h^*)$ its dual.

The bundles of invariant jet differentials arise as algebraic subbundles of weighted symmetric powers of T_X^* , invariant under reparametrization. I recall that:

$$E_{k,m}T_X^* \subset \bigoplus_{\substack{l_1+2l_2+\dots+kl_k=m \\ l_j \geq 0}} S^{l_1}T_X^* \otimes S^{l_2}T_X^* \otimes \dots \otimes S^{l_k}T_X^*.$$

A.2. Induced metrics and Chern curvature

Let h be the Hermitian metric on T_X^* , with local expression

$$h(\xi, \xi) = g^{i\bar{j}} \xi_i \bar{\xi}_{\bar{j}}, \quad \xi \in T_X^*.$$

Its Chern curvature tensor is

$$\Theta_{T_X^*, h} = \sum_{i, j, k, \ell} R_{i\bar{j}k}^{\ell} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j \otimes e_\ell^* \otimes e^k, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where (e_1, \dots, e_n) is a local holomorphic frame of T_X , and

$$R_{i\bar{j}k}^{\ell} = -\frac{\partial^2 g_{k\bar{p}}}{\partial z^i \partial \bar{z}^j} g^{p\bar{\ell}} + g^{p\bar{q}} \frac{\partial g_{k\bar{q}}}{\partial z^i} \frac{\partial g_{p\bar{\ell}}}{\partial \bar{z}^j}.$$

The curvature of T_X^* is thus the *negative transpose* of that of T_X :

$$\Theta_{T_X^*, h} = -{}^t \Theta_{T_X, h}.$$

The negativity of $\Theta_{T_X, h}$ (in the sense of Griffiths) is equivalent to the positivity of $\Theta_{T_X^*, h}$.

A.3. Curvature of symmetric powers

For the symmetric power $S^\ell T_X^*$ with induced metric $S^\ell h$, the curvature is given fiberwise by the natural representation of the unitary connection:

$$\Theta_{S^\ell T_X^*, S^\ell h} = \sum_{i, \bar{j}} \sum_{\alpha} R_{i\bar{j}}^{\alpha}(\alpha) dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where $R_{i\bar{j}}^{\alpha}(\alpha)$ acts on the symmetric tensors $e_I = e_{i_1}^* \cdots e_{i_\ell}^*$ as

$$R_{i\bar{j}}^{\alpha}(\alpha) e_I = \sum_{s=1}^{\ell} e_{i_1}^* \cdots (R_{i\bar{j}}^{\alpha} e_{i_s}^*) \cdots e_{i_\ell}^*.$$

Hence, $\Theta_{S^\ell T_X^*}$ is a positive semidefinite operator whenever $\Theta_{T_X^*}$ is.

A.4. Curvature of the total jet bundle

The jet bundle $E_{k,m} T_X^*$ is filtered by weighted degrees, with graded pieces

$$\text{Gr}^\bullet E_{k,m} T_X^* \simeq \bigoplus_{\substack{l_1 + 2l_2 + \cdots + kl_k = m \\ l_j \geq 0}} S^{l_1} T_X^* \otimes S^{l_2} T_X^* \otimes \cdots \otimes S^{l_k} T_X^*.$$

The induced metric on $E_{k,m} T_X^*$ is defined as the orthogonal direct sum metric from the tensor products of the $S^{l_j} T_X^*$.

The curvature tensor of $E_{k,m} T_X^*$ then decomposes additively:

$$\Theta_{E_{k,m} T_X^*} = \sum_{j=1}^k j \pi_j^* (\Theta_{S^{l_j} T_X^*}), \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where π_j denotes projection onto the j -th factor of the graded summand.

Because $\Theta_{S^{l_j} T_X^*}$ is positive whenever $\Theta_{T_X^*}$ is, and the coefficients j are positive integers, the total curvature (A.3) is again semipositive.

A.5. Scaling in the weighted degree m

Examine the scaling behaviour with respect to m : By the weighted degree constraint $l_1 + 2l_2 + \dots + kl_k = m$, each term in (A.3) contributes proportionally to m , in the sense that:

$$\Theta_{E_k, m} T_X^* = m \Theta_{E_k, 1} T_X^* + O(1),$$

when the metric $h_{k, m}$ is scaled compatibly with the jet-weight filtration. Thus, the curvature grows *linearly* with m at leading order.

Inserting this into the Morse integral yields:

$$\int_X \text{Tr} \left[(\Theta_{E_k, m} T_X^* - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_A)_+^n \right] \sim m^n \int_X \text{Tr} \left[(\Theta_{E_k, 1} T_X^* - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_A)_+^n \right],$$

hence the m^n factor in the asymptotic lower bound

$$h^0(X, E_{k, m} T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq C_k m^{n+\beta_k},$$

where β_k arises from the growth of the fiber dimension $\text{rank}(E_{k, m} T_X^*)$.

A.6. Nakano positivity criterion

Let (E, h) be a Hermitian holomorphic vector bundle with curvature tensor $\Theta_{E, h} = (\Theta_{i\bar{j}\alpha}^\beta)$. I recall that (E, h) is *Nakano-positive* if for all nonzero $\xi \in T_X$ and $v \in E$,

$$\sum_{i, j, \alpha, \beta} \Theta_{i\bar{j}\alpha}^\beta \xi^i \bar{\xi}^j v^\alpha \bar{v}_\beta > 0.$$

Applying this to $E = E_{k, m} T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}$ gives

$$\Theta_{E, h} = \Theta_{E_{k, m} T_X^*, h_{k, m}} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_{A, h_A}.$$

If $\Theta_{E_{k, m} T_X^*}$ dominates $\text{Id} \otimes \Theta_A$ in the Nakano sense on an open set, $E_{k, m} T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}$ is Nakano-positive there. This is precisely the geometric condition $J^+(k)$ used in the main theorem.

A.7. Asymptotic contribution to the Morse inequalities

Combining the scaling of curvature and the positivity condition yields:

$$\text{Tr} \left[(\Theta_{E_{k, m} T_X^*} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_A)_+^n \right] = m^n \Phi_k(x) + O(m^{n-1}),$$

where $\Phi_k(x) > 0$ is the local curvature density function. Integrating over X gives

$$h^0(X, E_{k, m} T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_X \Phi_k(x) dV_\omega + o(m^n),$$

hence the constants

$$C_k = \frac{1}{n!} \int_X \Phi_k(x) dV_\omega, \quad \alpha_k = n + \beta_k,$$

appearing in the main abundance inequality.

Appendix B. Analytic Derivation of the Holomorphic Morse Inequalities

B.1. The Bochner–Kodaira–Nakano framework

Let (X, ω) be a compact Hermitian manifold of complex dimension n , and let (L, h_L) be a holomorphic line bundle with Hermitian metric $h_L = e^{-\varphi}$ and curvature

$$\Theta_{L, h_L} = i\partial\bar{\partial}\varphi.$$

Let (E, h_E) be a holomorphic Hermitian vector bundle. For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the Dolbeault complex

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{A}^{0, q-1}(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{A}^{0, q}(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{A}^{0, q+1}(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \dots$$

Equip $\mathcal{A}^{0, q}(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m})$ with the L^2 -inner product induced by h_E , h_L^m , and ω .

Define the Bochner–Kodaira–Nakano Laplacian:

$$\square_m = \bar{\partial}\bar{\partial}^* + \bar{\partial}^*\bar{\partial} \quad \text{acting on } \mathcal{A}^{0, q}(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}).$$

The $\bar{\partial}$ -cohomology groups satisfy the Hodge isomorphism:

$$H^q(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \simeq \ker(\square_m|_{(0, q)}).$$

Thus $h^q(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m})$ equals the multiplicity of the zero eigenvalue of \square_m on $(0, q)$ -forms.

B.2. Spectral density asymptotics

Let $\{\lambda_{j, q}^{(m)}\}_{j \geq 0}$ denote the spectrum of \square_m on $(0, q)$ -forms. Define the *spectral counting function*:

$$N_q^{(m)}(\Lambda) = \#\{j \mid \lambda_{j, q}^{(m)} \leq \Lambda\}.$$

I consider the limit $\Lambda \rightarrow 0^+$, since harmonic forms correspond to zero eigenvalues. The key idea is that as $m \rightarrow \infty$, the operator \square_m behaves like a semi-classical Laplacian with small parameter $\hbar = 1/\sqrt{m}$.

By rescaling coordinates near a fixed point $x_0 \in X$, the curvature form $\Theta_{L, h_L}(x_0)$ can be diagonalized:

$$\Theta_{L, h_L}(x_0) = i \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j dz^j \wedge d\bar{z}^j.$$

The local model operator becomes

$$\square_{m, x_0} = \sum_{j=1}^n \left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^j \partial \bar{z}^j} + m\lambda_j \bar{z}^j \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^j} + m\lambda_j z^j \frac{\partial}{\partial z^j} + m|\lambda_j|^2 |z^j|^2 \right) + O(m^{1/2}).$$

Hence, the eigenvalue distribution of \square_m is asymptotically determined by the sign pattern of the eigenvalues λ_j of Θ_{L, h_L} .

B.3. Local index density

Let $q(x_0)$ denote the number of negative eigenvalues of $\Theta_{L, h_L}(x_0)$. The local index density (the pointwise trace of the Bergman kernel) is given asymptotically by

$$B_{m, q}(x_0) := \sum_{\lambda_{j, q}^{(m)} = 0} |\psi_{j, q}^{(m)}(x_0)|^2 = \frac{m^n}{\pi^n} \det \left(\frac{i}{2\pi} \Theta_{L, h_L}(x_0) \right)_+^{(q)} + O(m^{n-1}), \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where $(\cdot)_+^{(q)}$ denotes the contribution from the points with exactly q negative curvature directions.

Integrating over X gives:

$$h^q(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) = \int_X B_{m,q}(x) dV_\omega(x) \leq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_{X(q)} (-1)^q (\Theta_{L,h_L})_+^n + o(m^n),$$

which is precisely the *weak holomorphic Morse inequality*.

B.4. The strong inequality

A refined microlocal analysis using the heat kernel expansion of $\exp(-t\Box_m/m)$ yields the *strong Morse inequalities*:

$$\sum_{j=0}^q (-1)^{q-j} h^j(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \leq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_{X(\leq q)} (-1)^q (\Theta_{L,h_L})_+^n + o(m^n), \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$\text{where } X(\leq q) = \bigcup_{j=0}^q X(j). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

In particular, for $q = 0$ I recover the lower bound:

$$h^0(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \geq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_{X(0)} (\Theta_{L,h_L})_+^n + o(m^n).$$

B.5. Application to vector bundles

Let (E, h_E) be a vector bundle of rank r with curvature Θ_{E,h_E} . Replacing Θ_{L,h_L} by the *total curvature tensor*

$$\Theta_{\text{tot}} = \Theta_{E,h_E} + \text{Id}_E \otimes \Theta_{L,h_L}$$

and tracing over the fiber gives:

$$h^q(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \leq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_{X(q)} (-1)^q \text{Tr}[(\Theta_{\text{tot}})_+^n] + o(m^n).$$

If Θ_{tot} is semipositive and positive on a set of positive measure, this yields

$$h^0(X, E \otimes L^{\otimes m}) \geq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_X \text{Tr}[(\Theta_{\text{tot}})_+^n] + o(m^n),$$

which is the full vector-bundle form of Demailly's holomorphic Morse inequalities.

B.6. Semi-classical interpretation

The inequalities have a semi-classical meaning: consider the Schrödinger operator

$$H_m = -\hbar^2 \Delta + V(x), \quad \text{with } \hbar = 1/\sqrt{m}, \quad V(x) = \text{Tr}(\Theta_{L,h_L}(x)).$$

The space of holomorphic sections corresponds to the ground states of H_m as $\hbar \rightarrow 0$. Regions where Θ_{L,h_L} is positive act as potential wells supporting bound states, while negative curvature directions suppress them. Thus the asymptotic number of holomorphic sections scales with m^n times the volume of the set where $\Theta_{L,h_L} > 0$.

B.7. Extension to jet bundles

For $E = E_{k,m}T_X^*$, the total curvature is

$$\Theta_{\text{tot}} = \Theta_{E_{k,m}T_X^*, h_{k,m}} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_{A, h_A},$$

and the above spectral analysis applies directly. By Nakano-positivity on a dense open set, the integral

$$\int_X \text{Tr}[(\Theta_{\text{tot}})_+^n] > 0,$$

yielding the quantitative lower bound

$$h^0(X, E_{k,m}T_X^* \otimes A^{-1}) \geq \frac{m^n}{n!} \int_X \text{Tr}[(\Theta_{E_{k,m}T_X^*} - \text{Id} \otimes \Theta_A)_+^n] + o(m^n),$$

as used in Proposition 5.1.

B.8. Conclusion

The analytic proof of the holomorphic Morse inequalities thus rests on:

- 1) spectral asymptotics of the Laplacian \square_m under large tensor powers of L ;
- 2) local normal form of Θ_{L, h_L} and diagonalization of its curvature matrix;
- 3) semi-classical rescaling and stationary phase expansion of the heat kernel;
- 4) integration over the curvature-sign decomposition of X .

This spectral derivation provides the analytic foundation linking curvature positivity to asymptotic abundance of sections, completing the analytic backbone of the proof scheme for the Green–Griffiths–Lang conjecture. \square