
Calabi conjecture

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Work distribution:

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1 Introduction

This survey is mainly based on S-T Yau, On The Ricci Curvature of a Compact Kahler Manifold and the Complex Monge-Ampère Equation.

Our first goal is to solve the Calabi conjecture:

Theorem (Calabi conjecture). Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with Kähler metric g . Let

$$\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$$

be a tensor whose associated $(1,1)$ -form $\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2\pi} \tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \wedge d\bar{z}^\beta$ represents $c_1(M)$. Then we can find a Kähler metric \tilde{g} whose Ricci tensor is given by $\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$.

Furthermore, we can require that \tilde{g} has the same Kähler class as g . In this case, \tilde{g} is unique.

To solve this conjecture, we will see (in Section 4) that it suffices to prove the following theorem:

Theorem. Let $F \in C^{k \geq 3}(M)$ and $\int_M e^F = 1$. Then there is $\varphi \in C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ for any $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ such that $\tilde{g} = (g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric and

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}).$$

In the first three sections, we are going to use Schauder theory and continuity method to find a solution of this partial differential equation. Hence, we must have the second and third order estimates, which will be completely computed in Section 2 and 3. Similar to what we establish Hodge theory through Gårding's inequality, we can find a solution.

After proving the theorem and the Calabi conjecture, we consider the complex Monge-Ampère equation. In section 5, we will solve the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = |s|^{2k} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}),$$

where s is a nontrivial holomorphic section of a line bundle L . The main difference between these equations is whether the functions on the right-hand side vanish or not. To solve this problem, we consider the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}),$$

where C_ε is a suitable constant that will be determined later. Then by estimate the differentiability of φ_ε , we will get a solution when ε tends to zero.

In Section 6 \sim 9, we consider more general right-hand side of the complex Monge-Ampère equation. For instance, we will replace the function $F(x)$ by $F(x, \varphi)$ and apply iteration method to solve it. In the end, we can solve the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = \frac{t_1 \cdots t_{n_1}}{t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2}} e^{F(x, \varphi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}),$$

where $t_i = \sum_{j=1}^\ell |s_j|^{2k_j}$ with $k_j \geq 0$ and s_j being a section of some holomorphic line bundle.

2 Estimates up to Second Order

Consider the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) \quad (2.1)$$

where $F \in C^3(M)$.

We are going to find solutions φ of (2.1) such that $\tilde{g}_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j = (g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric on M .

Before proving the existence of φ , we need a priori estimates of φ . Since $F \in C^3(M)$, we assume that $\varphi \in C^5(M)$. We will give second order estimates of φ up to second derivatives under the normalization

$$\int_M \varphi = 0.$$

Differentiating (2.1), we get

$$F_k = \tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} (g_{i\bar{j},k} + \varphi_{i\bar{j},k}) - g^{i\bar{j}} g_{i\bar{j},k} = \tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},k}.$$

We differentiate the above equation again and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_{k\bar{\ell}} &= -\tilde{g}^{t\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} (g_{t\bar{n},\bar{\ell}} + \varphi_{t\bar{n},\bar{\ell}}) (g_{i\bar{j},k} + \varphi_{i\bar{j},k}) \\ &\quad + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} (g_{i\bar{j},k\bar{\ell}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j},k\bar{\ell}}) + g^{t\bar{j}} g^{i\bar{n}} g_{t\bar{n},\bar{\ell}} g_{i\bar{j},k} - g^{i\bar{j}} g_{i\bar{j},k\bar{\ell}} \\ &= \tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},k\bar{\ell}} - \tilde{g}^{t\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} \varphi_{t\bar{n},\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},k}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Let $\tilde{\Delta}$ be the Laplacian associated with the metric \tilde{g} . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) &= \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} \partial_k \bar{\partial}_{\bar{\ell}} (g^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) \\ &= \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} g^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},k\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} g^{i\bar{j}}_{,k\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}} + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} g^{i\bar{j}}_{,k} \varphi_{i\bar{j},\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} g^{i\bar{j}}_{,\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},k}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Since M is Kähler, we may take $g_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}$, $g_{i\bar{j},k} = g_{i\bar{j},\bar{\ell}} = 0$ and $\varphi_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij} \varphi_{i\bar{i}}$. Then inserting (2.2) into (2.3), we have

$$\tilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) = \Delta F + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} \varphi_{k\bar{n},\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j},\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} R_{i\bar{j}\bar{\ell}\bar{\ell}} - R_{i\bar{i}\bar{\ell}\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} R_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}}. \quad (2.4)$$

Since $\tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})^{-1}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} R_{i\bar{j}\ell\bar{\ell}} - R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{\ell}} R_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}} &= -R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} + R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} \\
&= -R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{i}}(\varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}} - \varphi_{i\bar{i}})}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(-R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{i}}(\varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}} - \varphi_{i\bar{i}})}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})} - R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{\varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}(\varphi_{i\bar{i}} - \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \frac{(\varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}} - \varphi_{i\bar{i}})^2}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})} \\
&\geq \left(\inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{(\varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}} - \varphi_{i\bar{i}})^2}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}})} \right) \\
&= \left(\inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} - m^2 \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (2.4) and the above equation, we see that

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) \geq \Delta F + \tilde{g}^{k\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} \varphi_{k\bar{n}\ell} \varphi_{i\bar{j}\ell} + \left(\inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} - m^2 \right). \quad (2.5)$$

Let C be a positive constant. We want to estimate $e^{C\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta}(e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi))$. Using (2.5) and Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
e^{C\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta}(e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)) &= \widetilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) + C^2 |\widetilde{\nabla}\varphi|^2(m + \Delta\varphi) \\
&\quad - C \left(2\langle \widetilde{\nabla}\varphi, \widetilde{\nabla}(\Delta\varphi) \rangle + (\widetilde{\Delta}\varphi)(m + \Delta\varphi) \right). \\
&\geq \widetilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) - \frac{|\widetilde{\nabla}(\Delta\varphi)|^2}{m + \Delta\varphi} - C(\widetilde{\Delta}\varphi)(m + \Delta\varphi) \\
&\geq \Delta F + \frac{\varphi_{k\bar{i}j} \varphi_{i\bar{k}j}}{(1 + \varphi_{k\bar{k}})(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})} - \frac{1}{m + \Delta\varphi} \sum_i \frac{|\sum \varphi_{k\bar{k}i}|^2}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} \\
&\quad + \left(\inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} - m^2 \right) - C(\widetilde{\Delta}\varphi)(m + \Delta\varphi). \quad (2.6)
\end{aligned}$$

By Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{m + \Delta\varphi} \sum_i \frac{|\sum \varphi_{k\bar{k}i}|^2}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} &\leq \frac{1}{m + \Delta\varphi} \left(\sum \frac{\varphi_{k\bar{k}i} \varphi_{k\bar{k}i}}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{k\bar{k}})} \right) \sum (1 + \varphi_{k\bar{k}}) \\
&\leq \frac{\varphi_{k\bar{i}j} \varphi_{i\bar{k}j}}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{k\bar{k}})}. \quad (2.7)
\end{aligned}$$

Inserting the above equation into (2.6), we obtain

$$e^{C\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta}(e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)) \geq \Delta F + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \cdot \left(\frac{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} - m^2 \right) - C(\widetilde{\Delta}\varphi)(m + \Delta\varphi).$$

Note that

$$\widetilde{\Delta}\varphi = \sum \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} = m - \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}.$$

So, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
e^{C\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta}(e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)) &\geq \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \cdot \left(\sum \frac{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} \right) \\
&\quad - Cm(m + \Delta\varphi) + C(m + \Delta\varphi) \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}. \\
&= \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - Cm(m + \Delta\varphi) \\
&\quad + \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) (m + \Delta\varphi) \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}. \tag{2.8}
\end{aligned}$$

By AM-GM inequality,

$$\sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} \geq \left(\frac{\sum (1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})}{\prod (1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})} \right)^{1/(m-1)} = (m + \Delta\varphi)^{1/(m-1)} e^{-F/(m-1)}. \tag{2.9}$$

Choose C so that

$$C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \geq 1.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
e^{C\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta}(e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)) &\geq \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - Cm(m + \Delta\varphi) \\
&\quad + \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) e^{-F/(m-1)} (m + \Delta\varphi)^{1+1/(m-1)}. \tag{2.10}
\end{aligned}$$

By maximum principle, at some point x that $e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)$ achieve its maximum, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\geq \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - Cm(m + \Delta\varphi) \\
&\quad + \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) e^{-F/(m-1)} (m + \Delta\varphi)^{1+1/(m-1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence $(m + \Delta\varphi)(x)$ has an upper bound C_1 depending only on $\sup(-\Delta F)$, $\sup |\inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}}|$, Cm and $\sup F$.

Since $e^{-C\varphi}(m + \Delta\varphi)$ achieves its maximum at x , we have the following inequality

$$0 < m + \Delta\varphi \leq C_1 e^{C(\varphi - \inf \varphi)}. \tag{2.11}$$

We want to estimate $\sup |\varphi|$. Since

$$m + \Delta\varphi = \sum_i (1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}) = g^{i\bar{j}} \tilde{g}_{i\bar{j}} > 0,$$

we can estimate $\sup \varphi$ by using the Green's function.

Let $G(p, y)$ be the Green's function of the operator Δ on M . Let A be a constant (depending only on M) such that $G(p, y) + A \geq 0$. Then

$$\varphi(p) = - \int_M G(p, y) \Delta \varphi(y) dy = - \int_M (G(p, y) + A) \Delta \varphi(y) dy$$

by the normalization of φ (which gives $\varphi \in \text{Im } \Delta$). Therefore,

$$\sup \varphi \leq m \sup_p \int_M (G(p, y) + A) dy.$$

The inequality and the normalization also imply

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M |\varphi| &\leq \int_M |\sup \varphi - \varphi| + \int_M |\sup \varphi| \\ &\leq 2m \sup_p \int_M (G(p, y) + A) dy. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

Let us now give an estimate of $-\inf \varphi$. Choose N large enough so that $N + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \geq N/2$. Then, by (2.9),

$$\left(N + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) (m + \Delta \varphi) \left(\sum_i \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}} \right) \geq \frac{N}{2} e^{-F/(m-1)} (m + \Delta \varphi)^{m/(m-1)}.$$

There is a constant C_1 depending only on $\sup F$ and m such that

$$\frac{N}{2} e^{-F/(m-1)} (m + \Delta \varphi)^{m/(m-1)} \geq 2Nm(m + \Delta \varphi) - NC_1.$$

Inserting above inequalities into (2.7) with C replaced by N , we get

$$e^{N\varphi} \widetilde{\Delta} (e^{-N\varphi} (m + \Delta \varphi)) \geq \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - NC_1 + Nm(m + \Delta \varphi).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &e^{N\varphi+F} \widetilde{\Delta} (e^{-N\varphi} (m + \Delta \varphi)) \\ &\geq e^F \left(\Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - NC_3 \right) + Ne^{\inf F} m(m + \Delta \varphi) \\ &= e^F \left(\Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - NC_3 + m^2 Ne^{\inf F - F} \right) + mNe^{\inf F} \Delta \varphi \\ &= e^F \left(\Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - NC_3 + m^2 Ne^{\inf F - F} \right) + me^{\inf F} (-e^{N\varphi} \Delta e^{-N\varphi} + N^2 |\nabla \varphi|^2) \\ &\geq me^{\inf F} (-e^{N\varphi} \Delta e^{-N\varphi} + N^2 |\nabla \varphi|^2) - C_2, \end{aligned}$$

where C_2 depends only on N , F and M . Multiplying the above inequality by $e^{-N\varphi}$ and integrating, we get the inequality

$$\int_M |\nabla e^{-N\varphi/2}|^2 = \frac{N^2}{4} \int_M e^{-N\varphi} |\nabla \varphi|^2 \leq \frac{C_2}{4m} e^{-\inf F} \int_M e^{-N\varphi}.$$

Claim. We have an estimate of $\int_M e^{-N\varphi}$ (depending on N , F and M).

Proof of Claim. We are going to prove this statement by contradiction. Suppose there exists a sequence $\{\varphi_i\}$ satisfying the above inequality and (2.12) such that

$$\lim \int_M e^{-N\varphi_i} = \infty.$$

Then we define

$$e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i} = e^{-N\varphi_i} \left(\int_M e^{-N\varphi_i} \right)^{-1} \quad (2.13)$$

so that $\int_M e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i} = 1$.

It follows that $\int_M |\nabla e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}|^2$ is uniformly bounded from above by a constant. Since $W^{1,2} \subset\subset L^2(M)$, there exists a subsequence of $e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}$, which we may assume is itself, converges to $f \in L^2(M)$.

For any $\lambda > 0$,

$$\text{Vol}\{x \mid \lambda \leq e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}\} = \text{Vol}\left\{x \mid \frac{2}{N} \log \lambda + \frac{1}{N} \log \int_M e^{-N\varphi_i} \leq -\varphi_i\right\}.$$

Since $\lim \int_M e^{-N\varphi_i/2} = \infty$, we conclude that, for i large enough,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vol}\{x \mid \lambda \leq e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}\} &\leq \text{Vol}\left\{x \mid \frac{2}{N} \log \lambda + \frac{1}{N} \log \int_M e^{-N\varphi_i} \leq |\varphi_i|\right\} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{2}{N} \log \lambda + \frac{1}{N} \log \int_M e^{-N\varphi_i}\right)^{-1} \int_M |\varphi_i|. \end{aligned}$$

By (2.12), $\int_M |\varphi_i|$ is uniformly bounded and thus,

$$\text{Vol}\{x \mid \lambda \leq e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}\} \rightarrow 0$$

for all $\lambda > 0$. For all $\lambda > 0$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vol}\{x \mid \lambda \leq f\} &\leq \text{Vol}\left\{x \mid \frac{\lambda}{2} \leq |f - e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}|\right\} + \text{Vol}\left\{x \mid \frac{\lambda}{2} \leq e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}\right\} \\ &\leq \frac{4}{\lambda^2} \int_M |f - e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}|^2 + \text{Vol}\left\{x \mid \frac{\lambda}{2} \leq e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}\right\} \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Since f is the L^2 -limit of $e^{-N\tilde{\varphi}_i/2}$, f is zero almost everywhere. This is a contradiction because $\int_M f^2 = 1$. ■

Using (2.11) and the Schauder estimate, there are constants C_3 and C_4 depending only on M such that

$$\sup |\nabla \varphi| \leq C_3 \left(e^{-C \inf \varphi} + \int_M |\varphi| \right) \leq C_4 (e^{-C \inf \varphi} + 1). \quad (2.15)$$

We introduce the geodesic ball trick. Let q be a point in M where $\varphi(q) = \inf \varphi$. Then in the geodesic ball, with center q and radius

$$\frac{-\frac{1}{2} \inf \varphi}{C_4(e^{-C \inf \varphi} + 1)},$$

φ is not greater than $\frac{1}{2} \inf \varphi$. Since we may assume $-\inf \varphi$ to be large (otherwise we get an upper bound), we may assume that the radius is smaller than $\text{inj}(M)$. Then we choose N larger so that $N \geq 4mC$. Since

$$\int_B e^{-N\varphi} \geq e^{-N \inf \varphi/2} \text{Vol}(B) \gtrsim e^{-N \inf \varphi/2} \left(\frac{-\frac{1}{2} \inf \varphi}{C_4(e^{-C \inf \varphi} + 1)} \right)^{2m},$$

we have an estimate of $-\inf \varphi$.

Together with the estimate of $\sup \varphi$, we get an estimate of $\sup |\varphi|$. The inequalities (2.15) and (2.11) then give estimates of $\sup |\nabla \varphi|$ and $\sup(m + \Delta \varphi)$. Since $(\delta_{ij} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})$ is positive definite, we can find upper estimates of $(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})$ for each i . The equation $\prod_i (1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}) = e^F$ then gives a positive lower estimate of $(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})$ for each i . Hence, the metric \tilde{g} is uniformly equivalent to g .

So we get

Proposition 1. Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with metric g . Let φ be a real-valued function in $C^4(M)$ such that $\int_M \varphi = 0$ and $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines another metrix tensor on M . Suppose

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}).$$

Then there are positive constants $C_1 \sim C_4$, depending on $\inf F$, $\sup F$, $\inf \Delta F$ and M such that $\sup |\varphi| \leq C_1$, $\sup |\nabla \varphi| \leq C_2$ and $C_3 \cdot g \leq \tilde{g} \leq C_4 \cdot g$.

3 Third-Order Estimates

We now estimate the third derivatives $\varphi_{;i\bar{j}k}$ assuming φ solves the equation (2.1) and F is $C^3(M)$. Consider the function

$$S = \sum \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{;\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \geq 0.$$

We are going to compute $\widetilde{\Delta}S$. We say that

- $A \simeq B$ if $|A - B| \lesssim \sqrt{S} + 1$,
- $A \cong B$ if $|A - B| \lesssim S + \sqrt{S} + 1$.

Since \tilde{g} is uniformly equivalent to g , we see that $\varphi_{;i\bar{j}k} \simeq 0$.

Claim. Take $g_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}$, $g_{i\bar{j},k} = g_{i\bar{j},\bar{\ell}} = 0$ and $\varphi_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}\varphi_{i\bar{i}}$ at a point. We have the following estimate:

$$\widetilde{\Delta}S \cong \frac{\left| \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k\alpha} - \frac{\varphi_{;i\bar{p}k}\varphi_{;\bar{p}j\alpha}}{1 + \varphi_{;p\bar{p}}} \right|^2 + \left| \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k\alpha} - \frac{\varphi_{;\bar{p}i\alpha}\varphi_{;p\bar{j}k} + \varphi_{;\bar{p}i\bar{k}}\varphi_{;p\bar{j}\alpha}}{1 + \varphi_{;p\bar{p}}} \right|^2}{(1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1 + \varphi_{j\bar{j}})(1 + \varphi_{k\bar{k}})(1 + \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}})} \quad (3.1)$$

Proof of Claim. Since \tilde{g} is uniformly equivalent to g ,

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\Delta}S &= \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} S_{\bar{\beta}\alpha} \\ &= \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \left(-\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} - \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{t}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}} \right)_{\alpha} \\ &\simeq \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \left(-2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} - \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} (\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}}) \right)_{\alpha} \\ &\simeq \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \left(2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + 2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\ &\quad + 2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}b} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + 2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \\ &\quad - 2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} (\varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}\alpha} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha}) \\ &\quad + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}b} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}p} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \\ &\quad + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}q} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}q} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{b}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \\ &\quad - \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}p} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} (\varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}\alpha} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha}) \\ &\quad - (2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}b} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha}) (\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}}) \\ &\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{j}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} (\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}\alpha}) \right). \quad (3.2) \end{aligned}$$

From the commutation formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}\alpha} &= \varphi_{i\bar{j}\bar{\beta}k\alpha} + \left(\varphi_{i\bar{p}} R_{\bar{j}\bar{\beta}k}^{\bar{p}} - \varphi_{p\bar{j}} R_{ik\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{p}} \right)_{\alpha} \\
&= \varphi_{i\bar{\beta}\alpha\bar{j}k} + \left(\varphi_{i\bar{p}} R_{\bar{\beta}j\alpha}^{\bar{p}} - \varphi_{p\bar{\beta}} R_{i\alpha\bar{j}}^p \right)_k + \left(\varphi_{i\bar{p}} R_{\bar{j}\bar{\beta}k}^{\bar{p}} - \varphi_{p\bar{j}} R_{ik\bar{\beta}}^p \right)_{\alpha} \\
&\simeq \varphi_{i\bar{\beta}\alpha\bar{j}k}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

We can see from (2.2) that

$$\tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k\bar{\ell}} = F_{k\bar{\ell}} + \tilde{g}^{t\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} \varphi_{;t\bar{n}\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k}. \tag{3.4}$$

Differentiating this one more time, we get

$$\tilde{g}^{i\bar{j}} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k\bar{\ell}s} = \tilde{g}^{i\bar{t}} \tilde{g}^{n\bar{j}} \varphi_{;n\bar{t}s} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k\bar{\ell}} + F_{k\bar{\ell}s} + \left(\tilde{g}^{t\bar{j}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{n}} \varphi_{;t\bar{n}\bar{\ell}} \varphi_{;i\bar{j}k} \right)_s.$$

By (3.3),

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}\alpha} &\simeq \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i\bar{j}k} \\
&= \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}k} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i\bar{j}} + F_{i\bar{j}k} + \left(\tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} \right)_k \\
&= \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}k} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i\bar{j}} + F_{i\bar{j}k} - \tilde{g}^{p\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{\bar{a}bk} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} \\
&\quad - \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{q}} \varphi_{\bar{a}bk} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} + \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} + \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}ik}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

Using (3.2), (3.4) and (3.5), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\widetilde{\Delta} S &\cong 2\tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \left(\tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{b}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right) \\
&\quad - 2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \left(F_{q\bar{p}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{t\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{n}} \varphi_{t\bar{n}p} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}q} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha} \right) \\
&\quad + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \left(\tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{b}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}p} \tilde{g}^{\bar{q}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{q}b} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{q}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} \varphi_{p\bar{q}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right) \\
&\quad - \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{q}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \left(F_{q\bar{p}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{t\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{n}} \varphi_{t\bar{n}p} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}q} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha} \right) \\
&\quad - \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} (2\tilde{g}^{i\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha} + \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{b}} \tilde{g}^{\bar{a}s} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{a}b\alpha}) (\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}}) \\
&\quad + 2 \operatorname{Re} \left(\tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}} (\tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{p}} \tilde{g}^{q\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{q\bar{p}k} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i\bar{j}} + F_{i\bar{j}k} - \tilde{g}^{p\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{\bar{a}bk} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{a}} \tilde{g}^{b\bar{q}} \varphi_{\bar{a}bk} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} + \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}i} + \tilde{g}^{p\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{q}} \varphi_{p\bar{q}j} \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}ik}) \right) \\
&\quad + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} \tilde{g}^{i\bar{r}} \tilde{g}^{j\bar{s}} \tilde{g}^{k\bar{t}} (\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\beta}} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\alpha} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} \varphi_{\bar{r}s\bar{t}\bar{\beta}}).
\end{aligned}$$

Take a coordinate such that at some point, $g_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}$, $g_{i\bar{j}k} = g_{i\bar{j}\bar{\ell}} = 0$ and $\varphi_{i\bar{j}} = \delta_{ij}\varphi_{i\bar{i}}$. We get

$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{\Delta}S &\cong \frac{2\varphi_{i\bar{p}\alpha}\varphi_{q\bar{p}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}\varphi_{q\bar{j}k} + 2\varphi_{k\bar{p}\alpha}\varphi_{q\bar{i}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}\varphi_{q\bar{j}p} + \varphi_{p\bar{q}\alpha}\varphi_{j\bar{q}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}\varphi_{i\bar{p}k}}{(1+\varphi_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}})(1+\varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1+\varphi_{j\bar{j}})(1+\varphi_{k\bar{k}})(1+\varphi_{p\bar{p}})(1+\varphi_{q\bar{q}})} \\ &\quad - 2\operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{\varphi_{p\bar{i}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha}\varphi_{p\bar{j}k} + \varphi_{j\bar{p}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}\varphi_{i\bar{p}k\alpha} + \varphi_{i\bar{p}\alpha}\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}\varphi_{p\bar{j}k\alpha}}{(1+\varphi_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}})(1+\varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1+\varphi_{j\bar{j}})(1+\varphi_{k\bar{k}})(1+\varphi_{p\bar{p}})}\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{|\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha}|^2 + |\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\bar{\alpha}}|^2}{(1+\varphi_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}})(1+\varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1+\varphi_{j\bar{j}})(1+\varphi_{k\bar{k}})} \\ &= \frac{\left|\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} - \frac{\varphi_{i\bar{p}k}\varphi_{p\bar{j}\alpha}}{1+\varphi_{p\bar{p}}}\right|^2 + \left|\varphi_{i\bar{j}k\alpha} - \frac{\varphi_{p\bar{i}\alpha}\varphi_{p\bar{j}k} + \varphi_{p\bar{i}k}\varphi_{p\bar{j}\alpha}}{1+\varphi_{p\bar{p}}}\right|^2}{(1+\varphi_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}})(1+\varphi_{i\bar{i}})(1+\varphi_{j\bar{j}})(1+\varphi_{k\bar{k}})}.\end{aligned}\quad \square$$

By (2.5) and Proposition 1,

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(\Delta\varphi) \geq \sum \frac{|\varphi_{k\bar{i}j}|^2}{(1+\varphi_{k\bar{k}})(1+\varphi_{i\bar{i}})} - C_1,$$

where C_1 is a constant that can be estimated. Take C_2 large enough, we get

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(S + C_2\Delta\varphi) \geq -C_3(S + \sqrt{S} + 1) + C_2(C_4S - C_1) \geq C_5S - C_6,$$

where $C_2 \sim C_6$ are positive constants that can be estimated.

Using maximum principle, we see that

$$C_5(S + C_2\Delta\varphi) \leq C_6 + C_5C_2\Delta\varphi.$$

The estimate on $\Delta\varphi$ then gives an estimate of $\sup(S + C_2\Delta\varphi)$ and hence of $\sup S$. Finally, we get the estimates of $\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}$ for all i, j, k .

Proposition 2. Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with metric g . Let φ be a real-valued function in $C^5(M)$ such that $\int_M \varphi = 0$ and $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines another metric on M . Suppose

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}).$$

Then there is an estimate of $\varphi_{i\bar{j}k}$ in terms of g , $\sup|F|$, $\sup|\nabla F|$, $\sup(\sup_{i,j}|F_{i\bar{j}}|)$ and $\sup(\sup_{i,j,k}|F_{i\bar{j}k}|)$.

4 Solutions of the Equation

So we are going to solve the equation

$$\det(\tilde{g}_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (4.1)$$

where F satisfies

$$\int e^F = 1. \quad (4.2)$$

With the estimates of Section 2 and Section 3, we shall now prove that if $F \in C^k(M)$ with $k \geq 3$ and F satisfies (4.2), then we can find a solution φ of (4.1) where $\varphi \in C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ for any $0 \leq \alpha < 1$. ($C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ are the functions whose $(k+1)$ -derivatives are Hölder continuous with exponent α .) We are going to use the continuity method. Consider the set

$$S = \left\{ t \in [0, 1] \mid \frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})}{e^{tF} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})} = \left(\int_M e^{tF} \right)^{-1} \text{ has a solution in } C^{k+1,\alpha}(M) \right\}.$$

Since $0 \in S$, we need only to show that S is both closed and open in $[0, 1]$.

S is open: Let

$$U = \left\{ \varphi \in C^{k+1,\alpha}(M) \mid \int_M \varphi = 0 \text{ and } (g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) \text{ is positive definite.} \right\}$$

and

$$B = \left\{ f \in C^{k-1,\alpha}(M) \mid \int_M f = 1 \right\}.$$

Then U is an open subset of a hyperplane in the Banach space $C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ and B is a hyperplane in the Banach space $C^{k-1,\alpha}(M)$. We have a map $G : U \rightarrow B$:

$$G(\varphi) = \frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}})}.$$

We see that

$$dG_{\varphi_0} = \frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{0,i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}})} \Delta_0,$$

where Δ_0 is the Laplacian of the metric $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{0,i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$.

It is well-known that the condition for $\Delta_0 \varphi = f$ to have a weak solution on M is that $\int_M f d\text{Vol}_{\varphi_0} = 0$. Hence the condition for

$$\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{0,i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}})} \Delta_0 \varphi = f$$

to have a weak solution is that $\int_M f = 0$. The Schauder theory makes sure that $\varphi \in C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ when $f \in C^{k-1,\alpha}(M)$, which is exactly the tangent space of B . The solution is unique if we assume that $\int_M \varphi = 0$. Hence dG_{φ_0} is invertible. By the inverse function theorem for Banach spaces, G maps an open neighborhood of φ_0 to an open neighborhood of $G(\varphi_0)$ in B . this proves that S is open.

S is closed: Let $\{t_q\}$ be a sequence in S with limit $t_0 \in [0, 1]$. Then we have a sequence $\varphi_q \in C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ such that

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{q,i\bar{j}}) = \left(\int_M e^{t_q F} \right)^{-1} \cdot e^{t_q F} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_M \varphi_q = 0.$$

Differentiating the above equation (in direction ∂_p), we have

$$\left(\det(\tilde{g}_{q,i\bar{j}}) \cdot \tilde{g}_q^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j \right) \varphi_{q,p} = \left(\int_M e^{t_q F} \right)^{-1} \cdot \partial_p (e^{t_q F} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})). \quad (4.3)$$

Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 shows that the operator $\left(\det(\tilde{g}_{q,i\bar{j}}) \cdot \tilde{g}_q^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j \right)$ is uniformly elliptic and the coefficients are Hölder continuous with exponent α for any $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$.

Using the Schauder estimate, we get an estimate on the $C^{2,\alpha}$ -norm of $\varphi_{q,p}$ (and $\varphi_{q,\bar{p}}$ similarly). So the coefficients of $\left(\det(\tilde{g}_{q,i\bar{j}}) \cdot \tilde{g}_q^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j \right)$ have better differentiability. The Schauder estimate now gives better differentiability of $\varphi_{q,p}$ and $\varphi_{q,\bar{p}}$.

Iterating the process, we get $C^{k+1,\alpha}$ -estimates of φ_q (since $F \in C^k(M)$). So the sequence $\{\varphi_q\}$ converges in the $C^{k+1,\alpha}$ -norm for $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ (by the compact embedding $C^{k+1,1} \rightarrow C^{k+1,\alpha}$) to a solution φ_0 of the equation

$$\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})}{e^{t_0 F} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})} = \left(\int_M e^{t_0 F} \right)^{-1}.$$

Hence S is closed.

Theorem 1. Assume that M is a compact Kähler manifold with metric g . Let F be $C^k(M)$ with $k \geq 3$ and $\int_M e^F = 1$. Then there is a function φ in $C^{k+1,\alpha}(M)$ for any $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ such that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric and

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}).$$

Corollary (Calabi conjecture). Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with Kähler metric g . Let $\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$ be a tensor whose associated $(1, 1)$ -form $\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2\pi} \tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \wedge d\bar{z}^\beta$

represents $c_1(M)$. Then we can find a Kähler metric \tilde{g} whose Ricci tensor is given by $\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$. Furthermore, we can require that this Kähler metric has the same Kähler class as the original one. In this case, the required Kähler metric is unique.

Note that

$$R_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} = -\partial_\alpha \bar{\partial}_\beta \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}}). \quad (4.4)$$

Since we assume that $\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2\pi} \tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \wedge d\bar{z}^\beta$ represents $c_1(M)$, we see that

$$\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} = R_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} - \partial_\alpha \bar{\partial}_\beta f \quad (4.5)$$

for some smooth real-valued function f .

By Theorem 1, we can find a smooth function φ so that $(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$ defines a Kähler metric and that

$$\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) = C e^f \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}), \quad (4.6)$$

where C is a constant chosen to satisfy the equation

$$\int_M C e^f = 1.$$

From (4.4), (4.5) and (4.6), it is easy to see that $\tilde{R}_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$ is the Ricci tensor of $(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$. This proves the Calabi conjecture.

Remark. The uniqueness was proved by Calabi and will also be indicated and proved in Theorem 2.

5 Complex Monge-Ampère Equation with Degenerate Right-Hand Side

Let L be a line bundle over M . Let s be a nontrivial holomorphic section of L . Suppose L is equipped with a Hermitian metric. Then we have a globally defined function $|s|^2$ on M .

For $k \geq 0$, we consider the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = |s|^{2k} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (5.1)$$

where F is a smooth function such that

$$\int_M |s|^{2k} e^F = 1.$$

In order to solve (5.1), we approximate the equation by

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (5.2)$$

where $\varepsilon > 0$ is a small constant and

$$C_\varepsilon = \left(\int_M (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \right)^{-1} \leq \left(\int_M |s|^{2k} e^F \right)^{-1} = 1.$$

By Theorem 1, (5.2) has a smooth solution φ_ε such that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}})$ is positive definite and

$$\int_M \varphi_\varepsilon = 0. \quad (5.3)$$

We are going to prove that when $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, φ_ε tends to a solution of (5.1). So we need some estimates of φ_ε which are independent of ε .

To estimate $\inf \varphi_\varepsilon$ and $\Delta \varphi_\varepsilon$ we notice that, when $s \neq 0$,

$$\Delta \log(|s|^2 + \varepsilon) = \frac{\Delta |s|^2}{|s|^2 + \varepsilon} - \frac{|\nabla |s|^2|^2}{(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^2} \geq \frac{|s|^2}{|s|^2 + \varepsilon} \cdot \Delta \log |s|^2 \geq -|\Delta \log |s|^2|. \quad (5.4)$$

Since $\Delta \log |s|^2$ is the trace of $c_1(L)$ with respect to g for $s \neq 0$, we see that $\Delta \log(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)$ is uniformly bounded from below. Note that both sides of the above inequality are smooth. By taking limit to the points where $|s|^2$ vanish, we see that the above inequality holds on M .

Let Δ_ε be the Laplacian of the metric g_ε . Then according to (2.10), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon} \Delta_\varepsilon (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)) &\geq k \Delta \log(|s|^2 + \varepsilon) + \Delta F - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} - mC(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ &\quad + C_\varepsilon^{-1/(m-1)} \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \frac{(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{1+1/(m-1)}}{e^{F/(m-1)} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k/(m-1)}}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

Same as in Section 2, we get

$$m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon \lesssim e^{C(\varphi_\varepsilon - \inf \varphi_\varepsilon)}. \quad (5.6)$$

For $s \neq 0$, $\Delta_\varepsilon \log |s|^2$ is dominated from below by the trace of $c_1(L)$ with respect to g_ε .

Hence there is a positive constant C_1 independent of ε such that

$$\Delta_\varepsilon \log |s|^2 \geq -C_1 \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}}. \quad (5.7)$$

Let p be any non-negative number. Then by Schwarz inequality, when $C > pC_1$,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon} \Delta_\varepsilon (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p) &= \Delta_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p + 2 \langle \nabla_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p, \nabla_\varepsilon e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \rangle \\ &\quad + (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \left(|\nabla_\varepsilon e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}|^2 - C \Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon \right) \\ &\geq \Delta_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p - \frac{|\nabla_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p|^2}{(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} - C (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon \\ &= (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \Delta_\varepsilon \log (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p - C (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon \\ &\geq -pC_1 (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}} - C (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon \\ &= (C - pC_1) (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \sum_i \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}} - mC (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p \\ &\geq m(C - pC_1) \frac{(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-k/m}}{C_\varepsilon^{1/m} e^{F/m}} - mC (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^p, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is due to the AM-GM inequality. Multiplying the above inequality by $(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F-C\varphi_\varepsilon}$ and integrating, we get

$$\begin{aligned} C e^{\sup F} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p} &\geq C \int_M e^{F-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p} \\ &\geq (C - pC_1) C_\varepsilon^{-1/m} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{(m-1)k/m+p} e^{(m-1)F/m} \\ &\gtrsim (C - pC_1) \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{(m-1)k/m+p}. \end{aligned}$$

By the above inequality, we see that, for all $q \in [\frac{m-1}{m}k + p, k + p]$, there exists a positive constant C_2 such that

$$\int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^q \leq C_2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p}.$$

Hence, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $p - \frac{(n-1)k}{m} \geq 0$,

$$\int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p-\frac{nk}{m}} \lesssim \dots \lesssim \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p-\frac{k}{m}} \lesssim \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p},$$

Let n be the largest integer so that $p - \frac{(n-1)k}{m} \geq 0$. Then we have $k \in [k + p - \frac{nk}{m}, k + p - \frac{(n-1)k}{m}]$ and hence,

$$\int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k \leq C'_3 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p-\frac{nk}{m}} \leq \dots \leq C_3 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+p}. \quad (5.8)$$

for some $C_3, C'_3 > 0$. By (5.5), we can find positive constants C_4 and C_5 such that

$$e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon} \Delta_\varepsilon (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)) \geq C_4 (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) - C_5.$$

Multiplying the above inequality by $(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F-C\varphi_\varepsilon}$ and integrating, we obtain

$$\int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \leq \frac{C_5 e^{\sup F - \inf F}}{C_4} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k.$$

Since $m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon > 0$, it follows from the above inequality that we can find a positive constant C_6 independent of ε (for ε small) such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon &\leq \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ &\leq C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating by parts in the above inequality, we derive

$$\begin{aligned} C \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon|^2 &\leq (k+1) \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k \langle \nabla\varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla|s|^2 \rangle \\ &\quad + C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k \\ &\leq \frac{(k+1)^2}{C} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k-1} |\nabla|s|^2|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4}C \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon|^2 \\ &\quad + C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{4}C^2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon|^2 &\leq (k+1)^2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k-1} |\nabla|s|^2|^2 \\ &\quad + CC_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k. \end{aligned}$$

On $|s| \neq 0$,

$$|\nabla |s|^2|^2 = |s|^2 \Delta |s|^2 - |s|^4 \Delta \log |s|^2.$$

Note that $\Delta |s|^2$ and $|s|^2$ are upper bounded and $\Delta \log |s|^2$ is lower bounded. So we see that

$$|\nabla |s|^2|^2 \leq (\sup \Delta |s|^2 + \max\{\sup |s|^2 \cdot \sup(-\Delta \log |s|^2), 0\}) \cdot |s|^2.$$

Since both side are smooth on M , we see that $|\nabla |s|^2|^2$ is dominated by $|s|^2$ on M . Together with (5.8), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M \left| \nabla (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon/2} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{(k+1)/2}) \right|^2 \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2}(k+1)^2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k-1} |\nabla |s|^2|^2 + \frac{1}{2}C^2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|^2 \\ & \leq \frac{7}{6}(k+1)^2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k-1} |\nabla |s|^2|^2 + \frac{2}{3}CC_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k \\ & \lesssim \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k \\ & \lesssim \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.9}$$

Using the Green's function as before, we get an estimate of $\int_M |\varphi_\varepsilon|$ that is independent of ε , we apply the normalization trick in Section 2 that (5.9) gives an estimate of

$$\int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1}$$

independent of ε . (Suppose there is no estimate. Then we can find a sequence $\varepsilon_j \rightarrow 0$ such that $\int_M e^{-C\varphi_{\varepsilon_j}} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon_j)^{k+1}$ tends to infinity. Then we define

$$e^{-C\tilde{\varphi}_j} = e^{-C\varphi_{\varepsilon_j}} \left(\int_M e^{-C\varphi_{\varepsilon_j}} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon_j)^{k+1} \right)^{-1}.$$

By (5.9), $(|s|^2 + \varepsilon_j)^{(k+1)/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}C\tilde{\varphi}_j}$ converges to some f in $L^2(M)$. Using the L^1 -estimate of $|\varphi_\varepsilon|$ on the set $\{x \in M \mid |s| \geq 1/n\}$, we see that $f \equiv 0$ a.e. and get a contradiction.)

As in (2.15), inequality (5.6) and the estimate of $\sup \varphi_\varepsilon$ give an estimate of

$$\frac{|\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|}{e^{-C \inf \varphi_\varepsilon} + 1}$$

independent of ε . Now we use the geodesic ball trick. For some geodesic ball B of radius

$$R = \frac{C_7(-\inf \varphi_\varepsilon)}{e^{-C \inf \varphi_\varepsilon} + 1},$$

φ_ε is not greater than $\frac{1}{2} \inf \varphi_\varepsilon$. (Here C_7 is a positive constant independent of ε , and R is less than the injectivity radius of M .) We see that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_B e^{-N \inf \varphi_\varepsilon} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k+1} &\geq e^{-N \inf \varphi_\varepsilon / 2} \int_B |s|^{2(k+1)} \\ &\gtrsim e^{-N \inf \varphi_\varepsilon / 2} \int_0^R r^{a(k+1)} dr \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2a(k+1)} e^{-N \inf \varphi_\varepsilon / 2} \left(\frac{C_7(-\inf \varphi_\varepsilon)}{e^{-C \inf \varphi_\varepsilon} + 1} \right)^{ak+a+1}. \end{aligned}$$

By choosing $N > 2C(ak + a + 1)$, we get an estimate of $-\inf \varphi_\varepsilon$ independent of ε and (5.6) gives an upper estimate of $m + \Delta \varphi_\varepsilon$ independent of ε .

Now we want to find the third-order estimate. Let $\rho \geq 0$ be a smooth function in M with $\text{supp } \rho \subseteq K$. Since $(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F$ has a uniform lower bound over K , the metric g_ε is uniformly equivalent to g .

As in Section 3, we define

$$S_\varepsilon = g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{r}} g_\varepsilon^{\bar{j}s} g_\varepsilon^{k\bar{t}} \varphi_{\varepsilon; i\bar{j}k} \varphi_{\varepsilon; \bar{r}s\bar{t}}.$$

From (2.6), we can find positive constants C_8 and C_9 independent of ε such that

$$\rho \Delta_\varepsilon (\Delta \varphi_\varepsilon) \geq C_8 \rho S_\varepsilon - C_9 \rho$$

Integrating the above inequality with respect to the volume form $(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F d\text{Vol}$, we see that

$$C_8 \int_M \rho S_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \leq C_9 \int_M \rho (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F + \int_M \Delta_\varepsilon \rho \cdot \Delta \varphi_\varepsilon \cdot (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F.$$

Note that the RHS can be estimated. Since $\inf |s| > 0$ on K , we can find an estimate of $\int_M \rho S_\varepsilon$ independent of ε .

Since the compact set K and the function ρ are chosen arbitrary, we see that we have found an L^1 -estimate of S_ε over any compact subset K of M which is disjoint from the divisor of s . Say

$$\int_K S_\varepsilon < C_K, \tag{5.10}$$

where C_K is independent to ε .

Let

$$B(R) = \left\{ (z_1, \dots, z_m) \mid \sum_i |z_i|^2 \leq R \right\} \subseteq K$$

be a coordinate chart. We want to estimate $S_\varepsilon(0)$ by the L_1 -norm of S_ε over $B(R)$.

Using the computations of Section 3, we know that there are positive constants C_{10} and C_{11} independent of ε and φ_ε , such that on $B(R)$,

$$\Delta_\varepsilon \left(S_\varepsilon + C_{10} \Delta \varphi_\varepsilon + C_{11} \sum_i |z_i|^2 \right) \geq C_{12} S_\varepsilon - C_{13} + C_{11} \Delta_\varepsilon \left(\sum_i |z_i|^2 \right) > 0.$$

We may also assume that the function $\bar{S}_\varepsilon = S_\varepsilon + C_{10} \Delta \varphi_\varepsilon + C_{11} (\sum_i |z_i|^2 + 1) > 0$.

The Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_\varepsilon \psi = 0 & \text{on } B(R), \\ \psi = \bar{S}_\varepsilon & \text{on } \partial B(R). \end{cases}$$

has a smooth solution \tilde{S}_ε . By the maximum principle, $\tilde{S}_\varepsilon \geq \bar{S}_\varepsilon > 0$ in $B(R)$.

Since g_ε is uniformly equivalent to g on $B(R)$, we know that \tilde{S}_ε is a solution of a uniform elliptic equation of divergence form whose ellipticity is estimated (this means that the eigenvalues have a uniform bound).

By Moser's Harnack inequality

$$\sup_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \lesssim \inf_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon,$$

we get

$$\tilde{S}_\varepsilon(0) \lesssim \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon. \quad (5.11)$$

Let σ be a non-decreasing C^∞ -function defined on \mathbb{R} such that

- (i) $\sigma(t) = 0$ for $t \leq 0$,
- (ii) $\sigma(t) = 1$ for $t \geq \delta$ and
- (iii) $\sigma'(t) \leq \frac{2}{\delta}$ for all t .

For $\tau < R$, we define $\psi_\tau(s) = \int_s^\infty t \sigma(\tau - t) dt$. We see that $\psi_\tau(r) = \psi_\tau((\sum_i |z_i|^2)^{1/2})$ vanishes outside a compact subset of the interior of $B(R)$.

By direct computation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_\varepsilon \psi_\tau(r) &= g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j \psi_\tau(r) = r \sigma'(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} (\partial_i r) (\bar{\partial}_j r) - \frac{1}{2} \sigma(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j r^2 \\ &= r \sigma'(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} (\partial_i r) (\bar{\partial}_j r) - \frac{1}{2} \sigma(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying the above equation by $\tilde{S}_\varepsilon \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}})$ and integrating with respect to the Euclidean volume form dE , we obtain (by integration by parts)

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{B(R)} (\Delta_\varepsilon \tilde{S}_\varepsilon) \psi_\tau(r) \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) dE = \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon (\Delta_\varepsilon \psi_\tau(r)) \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) dE \\ &= \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon r \sigma'(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}}(\partial_i r)(\bar{\partial}_j r) \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) dE - \frac{1}{2} \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \sigma(\tau - r) g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) dE. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sigma \geq 0$, and $\sigma' \geq 0$, it follows from the above equation that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \inf_{B(R)} \left(g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) \right) \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \sigma(\tau - r) dE \\ &\leq \sup_{B(R)} \left(r g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}}(\partial_i r)(\bar{\partial}_j r) \det(g_{\varepsilon p\bar{q}}) \right) \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \sigma'(\tau - r) dE. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the uniform bound of g_ε , we can find a positive constant C_{14} independent of $\sigma, \tau, \varepsilon$ such that

$$\int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \sigma(\tau - r) dE \leq C_{14} \int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon \sigma'(\tau - r) dE.$$

Letting $\tau \rightarrow R^-$, we may replace τ by R in the above inequality. Then

$$\int_{B(R-\delta)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon dE \leq \frac{2C_{14}}{\delta} \int_{B(R) \setminus B(R-\delta)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon dE.$$

Letting $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$, we see that $\int_{B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon dE$ can be estimated by $\int_{\partial B(R)} \tilde{S}_\varepsilon$. Since $\bar{S}_\varepsilon|_{\partial B(R)} = \tilde{S}_\varepsilon|_{\partial B(R)}$ and $\tilde{S}_\varepsilon > 0$, we conclude from (5.11) that there is a positive constant C_{15} independent of φ_ε and ε such that

$$\bar{S}_\varepsilon(0) \leq \tilde{S}_\varepsilon(0) \leq C_{15} \int_{\partial B(R)} \bar{S}_\varepsilon.$$

Since C_{15} can be chosen to be independent of R when $B(R)$ lies in K , we can integrate the above inequality (over R) to find an estimate of $\bar{S}_\varepsilon(0)$ in terms of the L^1 -norm of \bar{S}_ε over K . Together with the L^1 -estimate (5.10) of \bar{S}_ε , we get an estimate of \bar{S}_ε on K .

Using the method in Section 4, we can estimate the higher derivatives of φ_ε . Differentiate

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

in direction ∂_k . Then

$$\left(g_\varepsilon^{i\bar{j}} \partial_i \bar{\partial}_j \right) \varphi_{\varepsilon, k} = \partial_k \left(\log \left(C_\varepsilon(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) \right) \right).$$

Since we have Lipschitz estimates (Hölder exponent 1) of these coefficients over K , the Schauder estimate shows that all higher derivatives of φ_ε can be estimated over these sets.

Since K is arbitrary, by letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, we can now conclude that $\{\varphi_\varepsilon\}$ has a subsequence converging to a solution φ of (5.1) such that φ is smooth outside of the divisor of s and $\{|\varphi_{i\bar{j}}|\}$ is bounded for all i, j .

Theorem 2. Let L be a holomorphic line bundle over a compact Kähler manifold M . Let s be a holomorphic section of L . Let g be the Kähler metric of M . Then, for any $k \geq 0$ and any smooth function F with $\int_M |s|^{2k} e^F = 1$, we can find a solution φ of the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = |s|^{2k} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

with the following properties:

- (i) φ is smooth outside the divisor of s , and
- (ii) $\Delta\varphi$ is bounded over M

Furthermore, any function ψ satisfying the above properties must be equal to φ plus a constant.

Proof. We only need to prove the last statement. We claim that, if f is a function such that $\{|\widetilde{\Delta}f|\}$ is bounded over M for all i, j , then

$$\int_M (\widetilde{\Delta}f) |s|^{2k} e^F = 0. \quad (5.12)$$

Indeed, if we let $c(g_\varepsilon)_{i\bar{j}}$ be the (i, \bar{j}) -th cofactor of the matrix $(g_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}})$, we have

$$\int_M (\Delta_\varepsilon f) (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^F = \int_M c(g_\varepsilon)_{i\bar{j}} f_{i\bar{j}} dz^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dz^m \wedge d\bar{z}^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge d\bar{z}^m = 0. \quad (5.13)$$

Since $c(g_\varepsilon)_{i\bar{j}}$ and $f_{i\bar{j}}$ are bounded independent of ε , we can use the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem to obtain (5.12) from (5.13).

Now let ψ be another solution of (5.1) satisfying the properties mentioned in the theorem. Then we have

$$\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}} + (\psi - \varphi)_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})} = 1.$$

Using the AM-GM inequality, we have

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) = \frac{1}{m} \left(m + \widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) \right) - 1 \geq 0.$$

Since $|\psi_{i\bar{j}}|$ and $|\varphi_{i\bar{j}}|$ are both bounded, $|(\psi - \varphi)_{i\bar{j}}^2|$ is also bounded over M and $\psi - \varphi \in C^1(M)$. We may assume that $\psi - \varphi \geq 0$ by adding a constant to $\psi - \varphi$. Then applying (5.12) to $f = (\psi - \varphi)^2$, we obtain

$$2 \int_M (\psi - \varphi) \widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) + 2 \int_M \left| \widetilde{\nabla}(\psi - \varphi) \right|^2 = \int_M \widetilde{\Delta}((\psi - \varphi)^2) = 0.$$

Since $(\psi - \varphi) \geq 0$ and $\widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) \geq 0$, we conclude that $\widetilde{\nabla}(\psi - \varphi) = 0$ and $\psi - \varphi$ is a constant. ■

6 Complex Monge-Ampère Equation with More General Right-Hand Side

Consider the following equation:

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{F(x, \varphi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (6.1)$$

where $F(x, t)$ is a smooth function defined on $M \times \mathbb{R}$ with $F_t \geq 0$.

If such φ exists, then integrating (6.1), the integral of the RHS is equal to the volume of M . So we assume that there exists a smooth function ψ such that

$$\int_M e^{F(x, \psi)} = 1.$$

We are going to use an iteration method to solve (6.1).

Lemma 1 (Uniqueness of the solution of (6.1)). Let φ and ψ be two smooth solutions of (6.1) such that both $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ and $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ define Kähler metrics on M . Then $\varphi - \psi$ is a constant.

Proof. Note that

$$\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}} + (\psi - \varphi)_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})} = e^{F(x, \psi) - F(x, \varphi)}.$$

Let Δ_φ be the normalized metric Laplacian of the metric $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$. Then it follows from the AM-GM inequality and the above equation that we have the inequality

$$m + \Delta_\varphi(\varphi - \psi) \geq m e^{(F(x, \psi) - F(x, \varphi))/m}.$$

By the mean value theorem we have

$$F(x, \psi) - F(x, \varphi) = \int_{\varphi(x)}^{\psi(x)} F_t(x, \tau) d\tau = F_t(x, \bar{t}(x))(\psi(x) - \varphi(x)),$$

where $\bar{t}(x)$ is a number between $\inf\{\varphi(x), \psi(x)\}$ and $\sup\{\varphi(x), \psi(x)\}$.

Since $F_t \geq 0$, we can combine the inequality and the equation above to conclude that whenever $\psi(x) - \varphi(x)$ is strictly positive, $\Delta_\varphi(\psi - \varphi)(x)$ is nonnegative.

Suppose $\sup(\psi - \varphi)(x) > 0$. By the maximal principle we see that $\psi - \varphi$ is locally constant on the set $\{x \in M \mid (\psi - \varphi)(x) > 0\}$. Interchanging φ and ψ , we see that $\psi - \varphi$ must be a constant function. ■

We now introduce the iteration method. By Theorem 1, we can find a smooth function φ_0 such that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{0,i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric and

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{0,i\bar{j}}) = e^{F(x,\psi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}). \quad (6.2)$$

If we define

$$\varphi_0^\pm = \varphi_0 \pm \sup |\varphi_0 - \psi|,$$

then both φ_0^+ and φ_0^- satisfy the equation.

The set $A = \{(x, t) \mid x \in M, \varphi_0^+(x) \geq t \geq \varphi_0^-(x)\}$ is a compact subset of $M \times \mathbb{R}$. Hence we can define

$$k = \sup_{(x,t) \in A} F_t(x, t) + 1 > 0.$$

For each $i \geq 1$, we define φ_i^+ and φ_i^- as the smooth solutions of the following equations:

$$\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^\pm) = e^{k(\varphi_i^\pm - \varphi_{i-1}^\pm) + F(x, \varphi_{i-1}^\pm)} \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) \quad (6.3)$$

so that $g_i^\pm = (g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^\pm) dz^\alpha \otimes d\bar{z}^\beta$ define Kähler metrics.

Lemma 2 (Existence of φ_i^\pm). Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with Kähler metric g . Let $F(x)$ be any smooth function defined on M . Then, for any constant $\bar{k} > 0$, there exists a unique smooth function φ such that

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{\bar{k}\varphi + F} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

and $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric.

Proof. As in Theorem 1, we can use the continuation method where the one parameter family (with parameter t) of equations is

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{\bar{k}\varphi + tF} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}).$$

By maximum principle and AM-GM inequality, when φ achieves its maximum at a point x_0 , we must have

$$e^{\bar{k}\varphi(x_0) + tF(x_0)} = \frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}})} \leq 1.$$

This implies immediately $\sup \varphi \leq -(t/\bar{k})F(x_0)$. Similarly one can draw an estimate of $\inf \varphi$. Since $\bar{k} > 0$, the uniqueness part follows from Lemma 1. ■

Claim. For all $i \geq 0$, $\varphi_i^- \leq \varphi_{i+1}^- \leq \varphi_{i+1}^+ \leq \varphi_i^+$.

Proof of Claim. The proof is almost based on the maximum principle and AM-GM inequality. We induction on i . For $i = 0$, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+) &= e^{k\varphi_1^+ - k\varphi_0^+} e^{F(x, \varphi_0^+)} \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) \\ &\geq e^{k(\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_0^+)} e^{F(x, \psi)} \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}) = e^{k(\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_0^+)} \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{0,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+).\end{aligned}$$

At the point where $\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_0^+$ achieves its maximum, by AM-GM inequality,

$$\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+) \leq \det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{0,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+).$$

Hence $\sup(\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_0^+) \leq 0$. Similarly, $\sup(\varphi_0^- - \varphi_1^-) \leq 0$.

To show that $\varphi_1^- \leq \varphi_1^+$, by (6.3) we see that

$$\frac{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+)}{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^-)} = e^{k(\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_1^-) + F(x, \varphi_0^+) - F(x, \varphi_0^-) - k(\varphi_0^+ - \varphi_0^-)}.$$

Since $\varphi_0^+ \geq \varphi_0^-$, by mean value theorem we get

$$F(x, \varphi_0^+) - F(x, \varphi_0^-) - k(\varphi_0^+ - \varphi_0^-) \leq 0.$$

Therefore

$$\frac{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+)}{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^-)} \leq e^{k(\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_1^-)}.$$

At the point where $\varphi_1^+ - \varphi_1^-$ achieves its minimum, (by maximum principle and AM-GM inequality,) the RHS of the above inequality is greater than or equal to 1 and hence $\varphi_1^+ \geq \varphi_1^-$.

For general i . Applying (6.3) twice, we have

$$\frac{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i+1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+)}{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+)} = e^{k(\varphi_{i+1}^+ - \varphi_i^+) + F(x, \varphi_i^+) - F(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) - k(\varphi_i^+ - \varphi_{i-1}^+)} \geq e^{k(\varphi_{i+1}^+ - \varphi_i^+)},$$

where the inequality is due to MVT. Hence the maximal principle shows that $\varphi_i^+ \geq \varphi_{i+1}^+$.

Similarly one can show that $\varphi_i^- \leq \varphi_{i+1}^-$.

To prove that $\varphi_{i+1}^+ \geq \varphi_{i+1}^-$, by (6.3) we see that

$$\frac{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i+1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+)}{\det(g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} + \varphi_{i+1,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^-)} = e^{k(\varphi_{i+1}^+ - \varphi_{i+1}^-) + F(x, \varphi_i^+) - F(x, \varphi_i^-) - k(\varphi_i^+ - \varphi_i^-)}.$$

Using $\varphi_i^+ \geq \varphi_i^-$, one can repeat the above argument to show that $\varphi_i^+ \geq \varphi_i^-$. \square

Therefore both φ_i^+ and φ_i^- are uniformly bounded. Again, we want to find a uniform estimate of $\varphi_{i,\alpha\bar{\beta}}^+$. As in Section 2, it suffices to estimate $\Delta\varphi_i^+$.

Let Δ_i^+ be the Laplacian operator associated with the metric g_i^+ . Let C be any positive constant such that $C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} > 1$. Then by same computation as in (2.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{C\varphi_i^+} \Delta_i^+ (e^{-C\varphi_i^+} (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)) &= k(\Delta\varphi_i^+ - \Delta\varphi_{i-1}^+) + g^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} F_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) \\ &\quad + g^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} F_{t\alpha}(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) \varphi_{i-1, \bar{\beta}}^+ + g^{\alpha\bar{\beta}} F_{t\bar{\beta}}(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) \varphi_{i-1, \alpha}^+ \\ &\quad + F_{tt}(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) |\nabla \varphi_{i-1}^+|^2 + F_t(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+) \Delta\varphi_{i-1}^+ \\ &\quad - Cm(m + \Delta\varphi_i^+) \\ &\quad + \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+) \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i, \alpha\bar{\alpha}}^+}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sup |\varphi_i^+|$ has been estimated, it follows from Schauder's estimate that

$$\sup |\nabla \varphi_i^+| \lesssim (\sup |\Delta\varphi_i^+| + 1).$$

As in (2.9),

$$\begin{aligned} \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i, \alpha\bar{\alpha}}^+} &\geq (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)^{1/(m-1)} e^{(-k(\varphi_i^+ - \varphi_{i-1}^+) + F(x, \varphi_{i-1}^+))/(m-1)} \\ &\gtrsim (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)^{1/(m-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Noting again that $\sup |\varphi_i^+|$ has been estimated, it follows from above inequalities that there are positive constants C_1, C_2 , independent of i , such that

$$\begin{aligned} e^{C\varphi_i^+} \Delta_i^+ (e^{-C\varphi_i^+} (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)) \\ \geq C_1 (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)^{1+1/(m-1)} - C_2 ((m + \Delta\varphi_i^+) + (m + \sup \Delta\varphi_{i-1}^+) + 1) \end{aligned}$$

At the point where $e^{-C\varphi_i^+} (m + \Delta\varphi_i^+)$ achieves its maximum, the RHS must be non-positive and so

$$C_1 (m + \sup \Delta\varphi_i^+)^{1+1/(m-1)} \leq e^{\frac{mC}{m-1} \sup \varphi_i^+} C_2 ((m + \sup \Delta\varphi_i^+) + (m + \sup \Delta\varphi_{i-1}^+) + 1)$$

Then we can find a positive constant C_3 , independent of i , such that

$$(m + \sup \Delta\varphi_i^+) \leq \frac{1}{2} (m + \sup \Delta\varphi_{i-1}^+) + C_3.$$

By iteration, this gives

$$m + \sup \Delta\varphi_i^+ \leq \frac{m + \sup \Delta\varphi_0^+}{2^i} + 2C_3.$$

Therefore we have found estimates for $\varphi_{i, \alpha\bar{\beta}}^+$. To find uniform estimate of $\varphi_{i, \alpha\bar{\beta}\gamma}^+$, let

$$S_i = g_i^{+\alpha\bar{\ell}} g_i^{+\bar{\beta}p} g_i^{+\gamma\bar{q}} \varphi_{i, \alpha\bar{\beta}\gamma}^+ \varphi_{i, \bar{\ell}p\bar{q}}^+.$$

By a computation similar to that of (3.1), we have

$$\Delta_i^+(S_i + C_4 \Delta \varphi_i^+) \geq C_5 S_i - C_6 \sqrt{S_i} \sqrt{S_{i-1}} - C_7, \quad (6.4)$$

where $C_4 \sim C_7$ are positive constants independent of i .

Since $|\Delta \varphi_i^+|$ has been estimated, it follows from the maximum principle that

$$\sup S_i \leq \frac{C_6}{C_5} \sqrt{\sup S_i} \sqrt{\sup S_{i-1}} + \frac{C_7}{C_5} + C_4 \sup |\Delta \varphi_i^+|.$$

It should be noted that in (6.4), we can choose C_5 to be arbitrarily large if we are allowed to increase C_4 and C_7 . In particular, we may assume that $2C_6 \leq C_5$. By AM-GM inequality,

$$\frac{C_6}{C_5} \sqrt{\sup S_i} \sqrt{\sup S_{i-1}} \leq \frac{3}{4} \sup S_i + \frac{1}{12} \sup S_{i-1}.$$

Then we get

$$\sup S_i \leq \frac{1}{3} \sup S_{i-1} + \frac{4C_7}{C_5} + 4C_4 \sup |\Delta \varphi_i^+|.$$

By iteration, we can find a uniform estimate of S_i and hence a uniform estimate of $\varphi_{i,\alpha\bar{\beta}\gamma}^+$.

Letting $i \rightarrow \infty$, we can then obtain a solution of (6.1). The Schauder estimate guarantees the solution to be smooth.

Theorem 3. Let M be a compact Kähler manifold with Kähler metric g . Let $F(x, t)$ be a smooth function defined on $M \times \mathbb{R}$ with $F_t \geq 0$. Suppose that, for some smooth function ψ defined on M ,

$$\int_M e^{F(x, \psi(x))} = 1.$$

Then there exists a smooth function φ on M such that

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

and $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric. Furthermore, any other smooth function satisfying the same property differs from φ by only a constant.

Corollary. Let M be a Kähler manifold with ample canonical line bundle. Then there is a Kähler-Einstein metric whose Ricci tensor is the negative of the metric tensor. Furthermore, a metric of this form is unique and depends only on the complex structure of M .

By hypothesis, $-c_1(M)$ is represented by some positive $(1, 1)$ -form $\sqrt{-1} g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j$. Take this form as our Kähler form. Since the closed $(1, 1)$ -form $-\partial\bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$ also represents $c_1(M)$, we can find a smooth function f such that

$$\partial\bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) = \sqrt{-1} g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j + \partial\bar{\partial} f.$$

Now by Theorem 3, we can solve the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{\varphi - f} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

so that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric. By these equations we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial\bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) &= -\partial\bar{\partial} \varphi + \partial\bar{\partial} f - \sqrt{-1} g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j - \partial\bar{\partial} f \\ &= -\sqrt{-1} (g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j. \end{aligned}$$

This is indeed the metric we want.

For the uniqueness. Suppose that $\tilde{g}_{i\bar{j}}$ is another such metric. Then its Kähler form must represent $-c_1(M)$. Hence we can find a smooth function ψ defined on M such that $\tilde{g}_{i\bar{j}} = g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}}$. Together with the fact that $-\tilde{R} = \tilde{g}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial\bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}}) &= -\sqrt{-1} g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j - \partial\bar{\partial} \psi \\ &= -\partial\bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) + \partial\bar{\partial} f - \partial\bar{\partial} \psi, \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\partial\bar{\partial} \log \left(\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}})} e^{f - \psi} \right) = 0$$

Therefore,

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}}) = e^{\psi + c - f} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

for some c . The function $\psi + c$ then satisfies the equation. Lemma 1 shows that $\varphi - \psi$ is a constant. Hence,

$$(g_{i\bar{j}} + \psi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j = (g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j.$$

7 Degenerate Complex Monge-Ampère Equation with General Right-Hand Side

In this section, we combine the main results of the last two sections.

Let L be a line bundle over M . Let s be a nontrivial holomorphic section of L . Suppose L is equipped with a Hermitian metric so that the function $|s|^2$ is globally defined on M . For $k \geq 0$, we consider the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (7.1)$$

where $F(x, t)$ is a smooth function defined on $M \times \mathbb{R}$ with $F_t \geq 0$.

As in Section 6, we assume that there is a function ψ whose partial derivatives $\psi_{i\bar{j}}$ are uniformly bounded on M so that

$$\int_M |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \psi)} = 1.$$

We approximate (7.1) by

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \varphi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (7.2)$$

where $\varepsilon > 0$ is a smooth constant and

$$C_\varepsilon = \left(\int_M (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \psi_\varepsilon)} \right)^{-1}.$$

Consider a sequence of smooth functions $\{\psi_\varepsilon\}$ such that $\psi_\varepsilon \rightarrow \psi$ uniformly on M and that $\sup |\psi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}|$ is uniformly bounded on every coordinate chart.

By Theorem 3, we can find smooth solutions φ_ε of (7.2) such that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a metric. As in the proof of Theorem 3, we get an estimate of $\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon|$ in the following way.

Let φ_ε^+ and φ_ε^- be two smooth solutions of the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \psi_\varepsilon)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) \quad (7.3)$$

such that $\varphi_\varepsilon^+ \geq \psi_\varepsilon \geq \varphi_\varepsilon^-$. Then the arguments of Theorem 3 show that $\varphi_\varepsilon^+ \geq \varphi_\varepsilon \geq \varphi_\varepsilon^-$.

On the other hand, for the unique solution of (7.3) with $\int_M \varphi = 0$, we can find an estimate of $\sup |\varphi|$ which is independent of ε . (This is seen in the proof of Theorem 3. Note that boundedness of $\Delta\psi_\varepsilon$ is needed.) In particular,

$$\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon| \leq \max\{\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon^-|, \sup |\varphi_\varepsilon^+|\} \leq \sup |\varphi| + \sup |\varphi - \psi_\varepsilon| \leq 2 \sup |\varphi| + \sup |\psi_\varepsilon|.$$

is bounded from above by a constant independent of ε .

Let us now proceed to estimate $\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon$ from above. Then, as in (5.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon} \Delta_\varepsilon (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)) &\geq g^{i\bar{j}} F_{i\bar{j}} + g^{i\bar{j}} F_{it} \varphi_{\varepsilon, \bar{j}} + g^{i\bar{j}} F_{t\bar{j}} \varphi_{\varepsilon, i} + g^{i\bar{j}} F_{tt} \varphi_{\varepsilon, i} \varphi_{\varepsilon, \bar{j}} - m F_t \\ &\quad + k \Delta \log(|s|^2 + \varepsilon) - m^2 \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i} \ell \bar{\ell}} - m C (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ &\quad + C_\varepsilon^{-1/(m-1)} \left(C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i} \ell \bar{\ell}} \right) \frac{(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{m/(m-1)}}{e^{F/(m-1)} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k/(m-1)}}. \end{aligned}$$

Choose C so that $C + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i} \ell \bar{\ell}} \geq \frac{1}{2}C \geq 1$. Then noting (5.4) and the fact that $\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon|$ is bounded, we can find positive constants C_1 and C_2 independent of ε such that

$$\Delta_\varepsilon (e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)) \geq C_1 (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{m/(m-1)} - C_2 ((m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) + |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon| + 1). \quad (7.4)$$

On the other hand, by Schauder's estimate and the estimate of $\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon|$, we have

$$\sup |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon| \lesssim (\sup |\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon| + \sup |\varphi_\varepsilon|) \lesssim (\sup (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) + 1).$$

By the maximum principle, we get an upper estimate of $m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon$. Therefore, we have uniform estimates of $|\varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}|$ on every coordinate chart of M .

Using the uniform estimate of $\varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}$, we follow the arguments of Section 5 to provide higher derivative estimates of φ_ε on compact subsets of the complement of the divisor of s . Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, we have then proved the following theorem.

Theorem 4. Let L be a holomorphic line bundle over a compact Kähler manifold M whose Kähler metric is given by g . Let s be a holomorphic section of L . Let $F(x, t)$ be a smooth function defined on $M \times \mathbb{R}$ such that $F_t \geq 0$. Suppose, for some function ψ with $|\psi_{i\bar{j}}|$ bounded on every coordinate chart of M , we have $\int_M |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \psi(x))} = 1$. Then we can find a solution φ of the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

with the following properties:

- (i) φ is smooth outside the divisor of s , and
- (ii) $\Delta\varphi$ is bounded over M .

Furthermore, any solution satisfying the above properties must be equal to φ plus a constant.

Proof. We have only to prove the last statement. Let $\widetilde{\Delta}$ be the normalized Laplacian of the metric $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$. Then we claim that if f is a C^1 -function on M such that, for all i, j , $|f_{i\bar{j}}|$ is bounded on every coordinate chart of M , then

$$\int_{\{x|f(x)>0\}} \widetilde{\Delta}(f^2) |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} = 0. \quad (7.5)$$

Approximating f by a sequence of smooth functions, we may assume that f is smooth.

For all $\delta > 0$ such that the boundary of $\{x \mid f(x) \geq \delta\}$ is a C^1 -manifold (which is true for $\delta \notin E$, where E the set of critical values, whose measure is zero by Sard's theorem), we know that by Stoke's theorem,

$$\int_{\{x|f(x)\geq\delta\}} \Delta_\varepsilon(f^2)(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \varphi_\varepsilon(x))}$$

can be expressed in terms of the boundary integral of $2f\partial_n f$. Here ∂_n is the normal of the sets $\{x \mid f(x) = \delta\}$ taken with respect to our metric $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$. It is clear that

$$\int_{\{x|\delta>f(x)>0\}} (|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \varphi_\varepsilon(x))} d\text{Vol} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \delta \rightarrow 0^+$$

So we can find a sequence $\delta_i \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

$$\delta_i \cdot \text{Vol}(\{x \mid f(x) = \delta_i\})$$

tends to zero as δ_i tends to zero. Otherwise, for some $c > 0$,

$$\int_{[0, \delta] \setminus E} \text{Vol}(\{x \mid f(x) = \eta\}) d\eta \geq \int_0^\delta \frac{c}{\eta} d\eta = \infty,$$

a contradiction.

Combining this with the boundary integral, we conclude that

$$\int_{\{x|f(x)\geq\delta_i\}} \Delta_\varepsilon(f^2)(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \varphi_\varepsilon(x))} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } i \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence we have

$$\int_{\{x|f(x)>0\}} \Delta_\varepsilon(f^2)(|s|^2 + \varepsilon)^k e^{F(x, \varphi_\varepsilon(x))} = 0.$$

Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ as in Theorem 3, we see that (7.5) follows from the above formula.

Suppose now that ψ is another solution of (7.1) with all the properties described in the theorem. Then

$$\frac{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}} + (\psi - \varphi)_{i\bar{j}})}{\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})} = e^{F(x, \psi) - F(x, \varphi)}.$$

Consider the set $\Omega = \{x \in M \mid \psi(x) - \varphi(x) > 0\}$; if it is nonempty, then the AM-GM inequality shows that the inequality

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) \geq m \cdot e^{(F(x, \psi(x)) - F(x, \varphi(x))) / m} - m \geq 0 \quad (7.6)$$

holds on Ω . (Note that $F_t \geq 0$ is used here.)

Applying (7.5) to $f = \psi - \varphi$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & 2 \int_{\Omega} (\psi - \varphi) \widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} + 2 \int_{\Omega} \left| \widetilde{\nabla}(\psi - \varphi) \right|^2 |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi)^2 |s|^{2k} e^{F(x, \varphi(x))} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Combining (7.6) and the above equality, we see that $\widetilde{\nabla}(\psi - \varphi) = 0$ on Ω and $\psi - \varphi$ is a constant on each component of $\Omega = \{x \mid \psi(x) - \varphi(x) > 0\}$. Since $\psi - \varphi$ is continuous, this is possible only if Ω is empty or $\Omega = M$. In the first case, $\psi(x) \leq \varphi(x)$ for all $x \in M$. In the second case, $\psi - \varphi$ is a constant. Interchanging ψ and φ , we conclude easily that, in any case, $\psi - \varphi$ is a constant. ■

8 Complex Monge-Ampère Equations with Meromorphic Right-Hand Side

Let L_1 and L_2 be two holomorphic line bundles over a compact Kähler manifold M . Let s_1 and s_2 be two (non-trivial) holomorphic sections of L_1 and L_2 that are equipped with Hermitian metrics so that we have globally defined functions $|s_1|^2$ and $|s_2|^2$ on M . Then, for $k_1 \geq 0$ and $k_2 \geq 0$, we shall study equations of the form

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}}),$$

where F is a smooth function such that

$$\int_M \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} e^F = 1. \quad (8.1)$$

As before we approximate the PDE by the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = C_\varepsilon \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2}} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

where

$$C_\varepsilon = \left(\int_M \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2}} e^F \right)^{-1}.$$

In order to prove that the normalized solutions φ_ε of the above equation converge on the complement of the divisors of s_1 and s_2 , we consider the expression $(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)$ with $p \geq 0$.

We compute the Laplacian of the above expression as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \Delta_\varepsilon ((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)) \\ &= \frac{e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \Delta_\varepsilon ((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}) (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) + \Delta_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ & \quad + \frac{2e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \langle \nabla_\varepsilon ((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}), \nabla_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \rangle \\ &\geq \frac{e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \Delta_\varepsilon ((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}) (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) + \Delta_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ & \quad - |\nabla_\varepsilon (p \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) - C\varphi_\varepsilon)|^2 (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) - \frac{|\nabla_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)|^2}{m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon} \\ &\geq (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) (p \Delta_\varepsilon \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) - C \Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon) - \frac{|\nabla_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)|^2}{m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon} + \Delta_\varepsilon (\Delta\varphi_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

By applying the same reasoning as in (2.5), (2.6) and (2.7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \Delta_\varepsilon \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \right) \\ & \geq (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) (p\Delta_\varepsilon \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) - C\Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon) + \Delta F \\ & \quad + k_1 \Delta \log(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon) - k_2 \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \left(\sum \frac{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, \ell\bar{\ell}}} - m^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

As in (5.7), we have a positive constant C_1 which is independent of ε such that

$$p\Delta_\varepsilon \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \geq -pC_1 \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}}.$$

Note that

$$\Delta_\varepsilon \varphi_\varepsilon = m - \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{i\bar{i}}}.$$

Combining the above inequalities and equation and computing as before, we can find positive constant C_2 and C_3 which are independent of ε such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{e^{C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p} \Delta_\varepsilon \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \right) \\ & \geq \left(C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \sum \frac{1}{1 + \varphi_{\varepsilon, i\bar{i}}} \\ & \quad - C_2 - mC(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) - k_2 \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \\ & \geq C_3 \left(C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \frac{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2/(m-1)}}{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1/(m-1)}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{m/(m-1)} \\ & \quad - C_2 - mC(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) - k_2 \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon). \end{aligned} \tag{8.2}$$

Clearly, for any fixed p , we can choose C large enough so that

$$C_3 \left(C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) (|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{-k_1/(m-1)} \geq 1$$

With this choice of C , we consider the point where $(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)$ achieves its maximum. At this point,

$$(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2/(m-1)} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{m/(m-1)} \lesssim \max \{ C_2, mC(m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon), k_2 \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \}.$$

It follows easily from the above inequality and

$$\Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \leq \frac{\Delta |s_2|^2}{|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon}$$

that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^p e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \right) & \lesssim (C^{m-1} + 1) \max \left\{ \sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-k_2/m} e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \right), \right. \\ & \quad \sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-k_2} e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \right), \\ & \quad \left. \sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-(m-1)/m-k_2/m} e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

From (8.1), $k_2 < 1$. Hence the third term in the RHS of the above inequality will be the dominating term. If we choose $p = \frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq$ with $q \geq 0$, we see that

$$\sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq} e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \right) \lesssim (C^{m-1} + 1) \left(\sup (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^q e^{-\varphi_\varepsilon} \right)^C. \quad (8.3)$$

We are going to estimate $\sup |\varphi_\varepsilon|$. As in (2.12), we have an estimate of $\sup \varphi_\varepsilon$. Hence it remains to found an estimate of $\inf \varphi$. Integrating (8.2) with respect to the volume form $\frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} e^{F-C\varphi_\varepsilon} d\text{Vol}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & C_3 \left(C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) e^{\inf F} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{(m-2)k_1}{m-1}}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{(m-2)k_2}{m-1}-p}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{m/(m-1)} \\ & - k_2 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} e^F \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \\ & \leq C_2 e^{\sup F} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \\ & + mC e^{\sup F} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon). \end{aligned} \quad (8.4)$$

We can find a positive constant C_4 which is independent of ε such that

$$\Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \geq \frac{|s|^2}{|s|^2 + \varepsilon} \Delta \log |s|^2 \geq -C_4.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} e^F \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \\ & \leq \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} e^F (\Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) + C_4) \\ & \lesssim \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) + \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8.5)$$

By AM-GM inequality, we know that, for any $\delta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} & m \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \\ & \leq (m-1) \delta^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{(m-2)k_1}{m-1}}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{(m-2)k_2}{m-1}-p}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon)^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \\ & + \delta^{-m} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8.6)$$

For any $p \geq 0$, we choose C large enough so that $C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \geq \frac{1}{2}C \geq 1$.

Then we choose δ so that

$$\left((m-1) \delta^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \right) C e^{\sup F} = \frac{1}{2} C_3 \left(C - pC_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) e^{\inf F}.$$

Substituting (8.6) into (8.4) and keeping (8.5) in mind, we see that we can find positive constant C_5 and C_6 which are independent of ε and C for which

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) - \frac{C_5}{C} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \Delta \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon) \\ & \lesssim C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} + C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8.7)$$

In order to make use of the above inequality to derive an integral estimate $e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}$, we shall assume that the integral $\int_M |s_2|^{-2mk_2}$ is finite. Choose $p = C_5 + k_2$.

Claim. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_M \left| \nabla \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon/2} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1/2}}{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{(k_2-p)/2}} \right) \right|^2 \\ & \lesssim C \left(\int_M \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \right)^{\frac{m-1}{m}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8.8)$$

Proof of Claim. Integrating by parts in (8.7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & -k_1 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon \rangle \\ & - (p - k_2) \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_2|^2, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon \rangle \\ & + C \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|^2 - C_5 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \\ & + \frac{k_1 C_5}{C} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \\ & + \frac{(p - k_2) C_5}{C} \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+2}} |\nabla |s_2|^2|^2 \\ & \leq C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} + C_6 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}}. \end{aligned}$$

By (5.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_7 \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-k_2}} & \geq \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{p-k_2}} \Delta \log(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon) \\ & \geq \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \left((p - k_2) \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \right. \\ & \quad + k_1 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-2}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla |s_1|^2|^2 \\ & \quad \left. - C \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_1|^2 \rangle \right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, using the above inequalities and the assumption that $p = C_5 + k_2$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_M \left| \nabla \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{1/2} \right|^2 \\
&= \int_M \frac{e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{4} \left((k_2 - p)^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+2}} |\nabla |s_2|^2|^2 + k_1^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-2}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla |s_1|^2|^2 \right. \\
&\quad + C^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|^2 + 2k_1(p - k_2) \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \\
&\quad \left. - 2C(p - k_2) \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle - 2k_1 C \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_1|^2 \rangle \right) \\
&\leq \int_M \frac{e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{4} \left(C_5^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+2}} |\nabla |s_2|^2|^2 + k_1^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-2}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla |s_1|^2|^2 \right. \\
&\quad + C^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|^2 + 2k_1 C_5 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \\
&\quad + \frac{2C(p - k_2)}{(p - k_2 + C_5)} \left[k_1 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon \rangle - C \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon|^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{k_1 C_5}{C} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle - \frac{C_5^2}{C} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+2}} |\nabla |s_2|^2|^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + C_6 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} + C_6 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}} \right] - 2k_1 C \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_1|^2 \rangle \Big) \\
&\leq \int_M \frac{e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{4} \left(-k_1 C \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon, \nabla |s_1|^2 \rangle + k_1^2 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-2}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} |\nabla |s_1|^2|^2 \right. \\
&\quad + k_1(p - k_2) \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1-1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p+1}} \langle \nabla |s_1|^2, \nabla |s_2|^2 \rangle \\
&\quad \left. + CC_6 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} + CC_6 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}} \right) \\
&\leq \int_M \frac{e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon}}{4} \left((CC_6 + k_1 C_7) \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} + CC_6 \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}} \right) \\
&\lesssim C \left(\int_M \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{\frac{m-1}{m-1}} \right)^{\frac{m-1}{m}},
\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is due to the Hölder inequalities

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \leq \left(\int_M 1 \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \left(\int_M \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \right)^{\frac{m-1}{m}}, \\
& \int_M e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{2k_2-p}} \leq \left(\int_M \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{mk_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{mk_2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \left(\int_M \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{\frac{m}{m-1}} \right)^{\frac{m-1}{m}}
\end{aligned}$$

and the assumption $\int_M |s_2|^{-2mk_2} < \infty$. ■

Since we have an estimate of $\int_M |\varphi_\varepsilon|$, we can use the method of Section 5 to find an estimate of

$$\int_M \left(e^{-C\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2-p}} \right)^{\frac{m}{m-1}}$$

which is independent of ε .

From the above inequality, we conclude that when $p = C_5 + k_2$ and N is a large constant, we can find a positive constant C_8 independent of ε such that

$$\int_M e^{-N\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{C_5} = \int_M e^{-N\varphi_\varepsilon} \frac{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}}{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2 - p}} \leq C_8. \quad (8.9)$$

From (8.3) and the estimate of $\sup \varphi_\varepsilon$, we derive that, for any $q \geq 0$,

$$\sup \left((|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq} (m + \Delta\varphi_\varepsilon) \right) \lesssim (C^{m-1} + 1) e^{C \sup \varphi_\varepsilon} (\sup e^{-\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^q)^C, \quad (8.10)$$

where C is any positive constant so that

$$C_3 \left(C - \left(\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq \right) C_1 + \inf_{i \neq \ell} R_{i\bar{i}\ell\bar{\ell}} \right) \geq \sup (|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{k_1}{m-1}}.$$

Using (8.9) and (8.10) we shall show that, for any $q > 0$, $e^{-\varphi_\varepsilon} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^q$ has an upper bound which is independent of ε . Note that we may assume q is small enough.

Suppose not, we could find $\varepsilon_i \rightarrow 0^+$ and $x_i \rightarrow x_0$ in M such that

$$e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}(x_i)} (|s_2|^2(x_i) + \varepsilon_i)^q = \sup (e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q) \rightarrow \infty.$$

Suppose the sequence $\{\varepsilon_i^{-1} |s_2|^2(x_i)\}$ is bounded. Then $\varepsilon_i^q e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}(x_i)} \rightarrow \infty$. On the other hand, using (8.10) and the L^1 -estimate of φ_ε , we can apply the Schauder estimate to get

$$\sup |\nabla \varphi_{\varepsilon_i}| \lesssim (C^{m-1} + 1) \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{\varepsilon_i^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq}} + 1.$$

It follows from the above estimate, $|\nabla |s_2|^2| \lesssim |s_2|$ and AM-GM inequality that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup |\nabla (\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i})| &\lesssim \frac{|\nabla |s_2|^2|}{|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i} + (C^{m-1} + 1) \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{\varepsilon_i^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq}} + 1 \\ &\lesssim (C^{m-1} + 1) \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{\varepsilon_i^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq}} + \varepsilon_i^{-1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly we may assume that $\sup (\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i}) \geq 0$. Then proceeding geodesic ball trick as in Section 2, we can now conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} C_8 &\geq \int_M e^{-N\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^{k_1} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^{C_5} \geq \int_M e^{N(\log(\varepsilon_i (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i))^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i})} \varepsilon_i^{k_1 + C_5} (\varepsilon_i (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i))^{-qN} \\ &\gtrsim \left(\varepsilon_i^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq} \frac{\sup (\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i})}{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C + 1} \right)^{2m} \cdot \varepsilon_i^{k_1 + C_5 - qN} \cdot (\varepsilon_i^q \sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^{N/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking $N > 4mC$, the above inequality shows that $\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}} (|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q$ is bounded.

So we may assume that $\varepsilon_i^{-1}|s_2|^2(x_i) \rightarrow \infty$. For each x_i , let $B_i = B(x_i, \delta_i)$ be a geodesic ball around x_i such that, for each $x \in B_i$,

$$\frac{3}{2}|s_2|^2(x_i) \geq |s_2|^2(x) \geq \frac{1}{2}|s_2|^2(x_i). \quad (8.11)$$

Let $C_9 \geq \sup |\nabla|s_2|^2|$ sufficiently large enough. Then we may assume

$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{2C_9}|s_2|^2(x_i),$$

and is smaller than the injectivity radius of M . It is easy to derive from (8.10) that, over the ball B_i ,

$$0 < m + \Delta\varphi_{\varepsilon_i} \lesssim \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{\left(\frac{1}{2}|s_2|^2(x_i)\right)^{(m-1+k_2)/m+Cq}}.$$

By applying the Schauder estimate on the balls B_i and $B'_i = B(x_i, \frac{\delta_i}{2})$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{x \in B'_i} |\nabla\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}|(x) &\lesssim \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{(m-1+k_2)/m+Cq}} + \frac{\int_{B_i} |\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}|}{\delta_i^{2m+1}} \\ &\lesssim \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{(m-1+k_2)/m+Cq}} + \frac{\int_{B_i} |\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}|}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{2m+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since we have an estimate of $\int_M |\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}|$, it follows from the above inequality that

$$\sup_{x \in B'_i} |\nabla(\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i})| \lesssim \frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{(m-1+k_2)/m+Cq}} + \frac{1}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{2m+1}}. \quad (8.12)$$

Since s_1 is holomorphic, one can find positive constant a such that, for any small $r > 0$ and $x \in M$,

$$\int_{B(x,r)} |s_1|^{2k_1} \gtrsim r^a.$$

As before, we may assume that $\sup(q \log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i) - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i}) \geq 0$. Then proceeding the geodesic ball trick as above, we can now conclude from (8.11), (8.12), the above inequality and $\varepsilon^{-1}|s_2|^2(x_i) \rightarrow \infty$ that

$$\begin{aligned} C_8 &\geq \int_M e^{-N\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^{k_1}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^{C_5} \gtrsim \int_{B'} e^{N(\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i})} |s_1|^{2k_1} (|s_2|^2(x_i))^{C_5 - qN} \\ &\gtrsim \left(\left(\frac{(\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^C}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + Cq}} + \frac{1}{(|s_2|^2(x_i))^{2m+1}} \right)^{-1} \cdot \sup(\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q - \varphi_{\varepsilon_i}) \right)^a \\ &\quad \cdot (|s_2|^2(x_i))^{C_5 - qN} (\sup e^{-\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q)^{N/2} \end{aligned}$$

Take N large enough, we see that the quantity $\sup e^{-C\varphi_{\varepsilon_i}}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon_i)^q$ can be estimated by a constant independent of i .

In conclusion we have proved that, for any $q > 0$, $\log(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^q - \varphi_\varepsilon$ is bounded from above by a constant independent of ε . In particular, $-\varphi_\varepsilon$ is uniformly bounded over any compact subset K of the complement of the divisor of s_2 . From (8.10) and the estimate of $\sup \varphi_\varepsilon$, we see that both $|\varphi_\varepsilon|$ and $|\Delta \varphi_\varepsilon|$ are uniformly bounded over K . The arguments of Section 5 now show that one can find uniform estimates of $\{\varphi_{\varepsilon; i\bar{j}k}\}$ over K .

Theorem 5. Let L_1 and L_2 be two holomorphic line bundles over a compact Kähler manifold M whose Kähler metric is given by g . Let s_1 and s_2 be two holomorphic sections of L_1 and L_2 , respectively, and let F be a smooth function defined on M such that

$$\int_M \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} e^F = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_M |s_2|^{2mk_2} < \infty.$$

where k_1 and k_2 are two non-negative integers. Then we can solve the equation

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} e^F \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

so that

- (i) φ is smooth outside the divisors of s_1 and s_2 with $\sup \varphi < \infty$,
- (ii) $(\varphi_{i\bar{j}})$ is a bounded matrix outside the divisor of s_2 and, for any $q > 0$,

$$|s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q} \Delta \varphi$$

is bounded on M ,

- (iii) for any $q > 0$, the function $\varphi - q \log |s_2|^2$ is bounded from below,
- (iv) the matrix $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}})$ is positive definite outside the complement of the divisors of s_1 and s_2 .

Furthermore, if we assume that

$$\int_M \frac{1}{|s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q}} < \infty$$

for some $q > 0$, the any two solutions of the equation which has the above properties (i), (ii) and (iv) must differ from each other by a constant. If we also know that $(|s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q})^{-1}$ is integrable over every analytic disc of M , then the unique solution φ is bounded from below on M .

Proof. We have only to prove the last part. Suppose ψ is another solution of the equation with (i), (ii) and (iv). Then the AM-GM inequality shows that

$$\Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon) \geq m \left(C_\varepsilon^{-1} \cdot \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} \cdot \frac{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2}}{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}} \right)^{1/m} - m. \quad (8.13)$$

Let k be any constant. We claim that, over $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k} = \{x \in M \mid (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon)(x) \geq k\}$,

$$\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon) \leq 0. \quad (8.14)$$

In fact, for $\delta > 0$, $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta} = \{x \in M \mid (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon)(x) \geq k - \delta \log |s_2|^2\}$ is disjoint from the divisor of s_2 by property (i). Hence both $(\psi_{i\bar{j}})$ and $(\varphi_{\varepsilon;i\bar{j}})$ are bounded on $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}$ and we can integrate by parts on $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}$ to find

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k + \delta \log |s_2|^2) \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k + \delta \log |s_2|^2) \\ &= - \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} |\nabla_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k + \delta \log |s_2|^2)|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (8.15)$$

Using property (ii) and the assumption $\int_M \frac{1}{|s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q}} < \infty$, we can find a constant $C(\varepsilon)$ independent of δ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} \log |s_2|^2 |\Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon)| &\lesssim \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} \log |s_2|^2 |\Delta \psi| + \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} \log |s_2|^2 |\Delta \varphi_\varepsilon| \\ &\leq \left(\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} |s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q} (\log |s_2|^2 |\Delta \psi|)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad \cdot \left(\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} \frac{1}{|s_2|^{2(m-1+k_2)/m+q}} \right)^{1/2} + \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} \log |s_2|^2 |\Delta \varphi_\varepsilon| \\ &\leq C(\varepsilon). \end{aligned} \quad (8.16)$$

It follows easily from (8.15), (8.16) and the boundedness of $|\Delta_\varepsilon \log |s_2|^2|$ that

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon) \leq 0.$$

Using the definition of $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}$, we see that, over $\Omega_{\varepsilon,k,\delta}$, $(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k)$ is bounded by a constant independent of δ when δ is small. The function $(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon)$ is therefore uniformly integrable and we can apply Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem to prove (8.14).

Applying (8.13) and (8.14), we can now prove the following inequality:

$$\int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon,k}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \left(m - m \left(C_\varepsilon^{-1} \cdot \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} \cdot \frac{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2}}{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}} \right)^{1/m} \right) \geq 0. \quad (8.17)$$

When $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, the integral on the LHS tends to zero. Let K be a compact subset of the complement of the divisor of s_2 . By (8.13) and the above inequality, we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{K \cap \Omega_{\varepsilon, k}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \left(m - m \left(C_\varepsilon^{-1} \cdot \frac{|s_1|^{2k_1}}{|s_2|^{2k_2}} \cdot \frac{(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_2}}{(|s_1|^2 + \varepsilon)^{k_1}} \right)^{1/m} + \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon) \right) = 0.$$

Let $\Omega_k = \{x \in M \mid (\psi - \varphi)(x) \geq k\}$. Then the above equation gives

$$\int_{K \cap \Omega_k} (\psi - \varphi - k) \widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) = 0.$$

As in (8.13), we know that $\widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) \geq 0$ and hence, $\widetilde{\Delta}(\psi - \varphi) = 0$ on Ω_k . The AM-GM inequality now becomes equality, so $\psi_{i\bar{j}} = \varphi_{i\bar{j}}$ on $K \cap \Omega_k$. Since k and K are arbitrary, $\psi_{i\bar{j}} = \varphi_{i\bar{j}}$ on the complement of the divisor of s_2 . Letting first $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$ and then $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ in (8.15). We get

$$\int_{K \cap \Omega_k} |\widetilde{\nabla}(\psi - \varphi)|^2 \leq - \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\Omega_{\varepsilon, k}} (\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon - k) \Delta_\varepsilon(\psi - \varphi_\varepsilon),$$

which is equal to zero by (8.17). Hence, $\psi - \varphi$ is constant.

It remains to prove that $-\inf \varphi < \infty$. From (8.3) and the estimate of $e^{-\varphi_\varepsilon}(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^q$ for any $q > 0$, we know that, for any $q > 0$,

$$\sup \left((m + \Delta \varphi_\varepsilon)(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + \frac{q}{2}} \right) \lesssim 1 \quad (8.18)$$

Let x be any point on the divisor of s_2 . Let D_x be an analytic disc passing through x such that s_2 is not zero on ∂D_x . Then $|\varphi_\varepsilon|$ is uniformly bounded on ∂D_x when $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$. It follows from (8.18) that when we restrict φ_ε to D_x , the absolute value of its Laplacian is estimated by $(|s_2|^2 + \varepsilon)^{-(\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + \frac{q}{2})}$ over D_x . Cauchy integral formula gives

$$2\pi\sqrt{-1}\partial\varphi_\varepsilon(p) = \int_{\partial D_x} \frac{\partial\varphi_\varepsilon(z)}{z-p} dz + \int_{D_x} \frac{\Delta\varphi}{z-p}$$

Integrate over the curve $\gamma(t) = tp + (1-t)\bar{p}$, where $\bar{p} = \frac{p}{|p|}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |\varphi_\varepsilon(p)| &\lesssim |\varphi_\varepsilon(\bar{p})| + \int_{\partial D_x} |\partial\varphi(z)| \cdot |\log(z-p) - \log(z-\bar{p})| dz \\ &\quad + \int_{D_x} \frac{1}{|s|^{2(\frac{m-1+k_2}{m} + q)}} \cdot |\log(z-p) - \log(z-\bar{p})| \end{aligned}$$

Using Hölder inequality and taking a smaller q , we obtain an estimate of $|\varphi_\varepsilon|$ on D_x . Since x is arbitrary, we can conclude the boundedness of φ . ■

9 The General Case

Let $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{n_1+n_2}$ be non-zero non-negative functions defined on M such that $t_i = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} |s_j|^{2k_j}$, where $k_j \geq 0$ for each j and $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{\ell}$ are holomorphic sections of some holomorphic line bundle.

Then we consider

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = \frac{t_1 \cdots t_{n_1}}{t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2}} e^{F(x, \varphi)} \det(g_{i\bar{j}}), \quad (9.1)$$

where $F(x, t)$ is a smooth function defined on $M \times \mathbb{R}$ with $F_t \geq 0$.

Then we assume t_i 's satisfying the following properties:

- there exists a smooth function ψ defined on M such that

$$\int_M \frac{t_1 \cdots t_{n_1}}{t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2}} e^{F(x, \psi)} = 1.$$

- $(t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2})^{-m}$ is integrable over M .
- for some $q > 0$,

$$\frac{|\Delta \log(t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2})|^{(m-1)/m}}{(t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2})^{q/m}}$$

is integrable over M and over every analytic disk of M .

As before, we have

Theorem 6. Let M be a compact Kähler manifold. Suppose that, in equation (9.1), the t_i are functions satisfying the above mentioned properties. Then we can find a solution φ of (9.1) such that

- (i) φ is smooth outside the divisors of the t_i 's and $\sup |\varphi| < \infty$,
- (ii) $\sup \frac{(t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2})^{q+1/m} (\Delta \varphi)}{(|\Delta \log t_{n_1+1} \cdots t_{n_1+n_2}| + 1)^{(m-1)/m}} < \infty$, and
- (iii) $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric outside the divisors of the t_i 's.

Furthermore, any solution of (9.1) satisfying the above three properties differs from φ by a constant.

Corollary 1. Let M be a compact Kähler variety with log terminal singularity such that the canonical line bundle is ample. Then there is a Kähler-Einstein metric whose Ricci tensor is the negative of the metric tensor on the smooth part of M .

Take a resolution of singularities $\pi : \widetilde{M} \rightarrow M$ so that

$$K_{\widetilde{M}} = \pi^* K_M + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} a_E E$$

and $a_E > -1$ for all $E \in \mathcal{E}$. We know that there exists $c_E \in \mathbb{Q}^+$ such that

$$L = \pi^* K_M - \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} c_E E$$

is ample. Then

$$K_{\widetilde{M}} = L + \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}} (a_E + c_E) E$$

gives

$$-c_1(\widetilde{M}) = c_1(L) + \sum (a_E + c_E) c_1(E)$$

Since $c_1(L)$ is represented by some positive $(1,1)$ -form $\sqrt{-1}g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j$. Take this form as our Kähler form on \widetilde{M} . Then $-c_1(\widetilde{M})$ is represented by

$$\sqrt{-1}h_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j - \sum (a_E + c_E) \partial \bar{\partial} \log |s_E|^2.$$

Since the closed $(1,1)$ -form $-\partial \bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$ also represents $c_1(\widetilde{M})$, we can find a smooth function f such that

$$\partial \bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}}) = \sqrt{-1}g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j - \sum (a_E + c_E) \partial \bar{\partial} \log |s_E|^2 + \partial \bar{\partial} f.$$

Now by Theorem 6, we can solve the equation (since $a_E + c_E > -1$)

$$\det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) = \prod_E |s_E|^{2(a_E + c_E)} \cdot e^{\varphi - f} \det(g_{i\bar{j}})$$

so that $(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \otimes d\bar{z}^j$ defines a Kähler metric outside $\bigcup_{E \in \mathcal{E}} E$. By these equations we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial \bar{\partial} \log \det(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) &= -\partial \bar{\partial} \varphi - \sqrt{-1}g_{i\bar{j}} dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j \\ &= -\sqrt{-1}(g_{i\bar{j}} + \varphi_{i\bar{j}}) dz^i \wedge d\bar{z}^j \end{aligned}$$

on the \widetilde{M} . Since the smooth part of M is isomorphic to some open subset of \widetilde{M} , we get the metric we want.