

# CONVERGENCE OF QUASI-PLURISUBHARMONIC FUNCTIONS

MINGCHEN XIA

This is a preliminary version. Please send your comments to mingchen@imj-prg.fr. Please reproduce the arguments if you need the results in this note instead of citing it.

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Preliminaries	2
3. The $d_S$ -pseudometric	7
References	18

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this note is to explain the state of the art of the study of the  $d_S$ -topology on the space of qpsh functions. It contains a number of results of interest which have not appeared in the literature yet.

**Motivation.** Let us fix a connected compact Kähler manifold  $X$  of dimension  $n$ , a big  $(1, 1)$ -class  $\alpha \in H^{1,1}(X, \mathbb{R})$  on  $X$  and a closed smooth real  $(1, 1)$ -form  $\theta \in \alpha$ . The global pluripotential theory seeks to understand the space  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  of  $\theta$ -psh functions. In this note, we are interested in the topologies/convergences on  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ .

The most well-known topology is of course the  $L^1$ -topology. See [GZ17, Section 1.4]. This topology seems natural to many problems. However, it has two essential drawbacks:

- (1) the Lelong numbers are only upper semi-continuous with respect to this topology, not continuous. See [GZ17, Exercise 2.7];
- (2) the non-pluripolar masses are neither lower semi-continuous nor upper semi-continuous.

Another well-known convergence notion in the literature is the convergence in capacity. In this case, problem (1) persists while problem (2) gets slightly better: the non-pluripolar masses are lower semi-continuous, but not continuous.

There is a less well-known solution to problem (1) through the non-Archimedean methods, defining a convergence notion which we call the *non-Archimedean convergence*. We say a sequence  $\varphi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  converges to  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  if for all proper bimeromorphic morphism  $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$  from a compact Kähler manifold  $Y$  to  $X$  and all  $y \in Y$ ,  $\nu(\pi^*\varphi_j, y) \rightarrow \nu(\pi^*\varphi, y)$ . This convergence might seem *ad hoc* at first, but it can be naturally reformulated in terms of non-Archimedean potentials. However, problem (2) persists.

A fourth topology is introduced in [DDNL21]. In fact, they introduced even a pseudo-metric on  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , called the  $d_S$ -pseudometric. In this case, we say a sequence  $\varphi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  converges to  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  if

$$2 \int_X \theta_{\varphi \vee \varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_\varphi^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \rightarrow 0$$

for all  $k = 0, \dots, n$ , where  $V_\theta$  is the greatest function in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  below 0. It turns out that both problems are solved at the same time. This topology has already been shown to be useful in various situations. In this note, we focus mostly on this topology.

To summarize the discussion, we have the following table:

Topology/Convergence	Lelong numbers	Non-pluripolar masses
$L^1$ topology	usc	$\times$
Convergence in capacity	usc	lsc
Non-Archimedean convergence	continuous	$\times$
$d_S$ -topology	continuous	continuous

**What is new?** Most results regarding  $d_S$  presented here are fairly standard. Most of the basic facts are proved in [DDNL21; Xia21b; Xia22]. Here is a list of new things:

- (1) The continuity of Lelong numbers in full generality: [Theorem 3.19](#). This result is slightly more general than the result in [Xia22].
- (2) A convergence criterion: [Corollary 3.15](#). This result is the most useful way of establishing  $d_S$ -convergence in practice.
- (3) A convergence theorem about subtracting a  $d_S$ -convergent sequence from another: [Theorem 3.22](#). This result has important applications in transcendental Okounkov bodies and is the motivation of a large part of this note.
- (4) A quasi-equisingular property of  $d_S$ -convergence: [Theorem 3.26](#).
- (5) A new convergence notion in the space of currents: [Definition 3.31](#). This is motivated by the same problem as above.

Apart from these, we want to argue a few new points of view regarding the  $d_S$ -topology:

- (1) The pseudometric  $d_S$  itself is not natural, but the topology and the uniform structure it induces are both natural. So in general, when comparing  $d_S$ -distances, we do not care about the extra multiplicative constant.
- (2) The non-pluripolar pluripotential theory is poorly behaved at 0 mass, one should consider the direct limit  $\text{PSH}(X, \omega)$  with respect to all Kähler forms  $\omega$ . From this perspective, instead of introducing the *ad hoc* notion of  $C$ -projection as in [DDNL21], we use the direct limit point of view. This is explained in [Remark 2.10](#). We also explain that why  $d_S$  is the good notion at 0 mass in [Corollary 3.16](#).
- (3) The  $d_S$ -convergence of a decreasing sequence is the same as a quasi-equisingular approximation. This is explained in [Theorem 3.26](#) and [Corollary 3.27](#). So the results we proved about  $d_S$ -pseudometrics can be seen as generalizations of the classical results of Demailly [Dem15].

All results in this note work on a general unibranch compact Kähler space, but for simplicity we restrict ourselves to compact Kähler manifolds in the presentation.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Fix a compact Kähler manifold  $X$  of pure dimension  $n$ .

**2.1. The space of finite energy potentials.** We fix a big  $(1, 1)$ -class  $\alpha \in H^{1,1}(X, \mathbb{R})$  on  $X$  and a closed smooth real  $(1, 1)$ -form  $\theta \in \alpha$ .

Let

$$V_\theta = \sup\{\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \varphi \leq 0\}.$$

Observe that  $V_\theta \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . In fact, the usc regularization  $V_\theta^*$  of  $V_\theta$  belongs to  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  by Hartogs lemma, so  $V_\theta^* \leq V_\theta$  and hence the equality holds. So  $V_\theta \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ .

We will be constantly using the non-pluripolar products. We refer to [BEGZ10] for the details. We write

$$\text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0} = \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \int_X \theta_\varphi^n > 0 \right\}.$$

The non-pluripolar theory is not the only extension of the Bedford–Taylor theory to unbounded qpsh functions, but two features indicate that it is probably the most natural theory: first of all, the non-pluripolar product is defined for all functions in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ ; secondly, there is a monotonicity theorem:

**Theorem 2.1** ([WN19; DDNL18b]). *Suppose that  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  and  $\varphi \preceq \psi$  (see Definition 2.6), then*

$$\int_X \theta_\varphi^n \leq \int_X \theta_\psi^n.$$

*More generally, if  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  are pseudoeffective classes represented by  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ ,  $\varphi_j, \psi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_j)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) and  $\varphi_j \preceq \psi_j$  for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , then*

$$\int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n} \leq \int_X \theta_{1, \psi_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \theta_{n, \psi_n}.$$

In particular, the non-pluripolar mass of any  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  is always bounded from above by  $V := \int_X \theta_\theta^n$ . The number  $V > 0$  is known as the *volume* of the class  $\alpha$ .

The space of finite energy potentials is defined as

$$\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta) := \left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \int_X \theta_\varphi^n = V, \int_X |V_\theta - \varphi| \theta_\varphi^n < \infty \right\}.$$

We will need the Monge–Ampère energy functional  $E : \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as follows:

$$E(\varphi) := \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^n \int_X (\varphi - V_\theta) \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j}.$$

⚠ The difference  $\varphi - V_\theta$  is only defined outside the pluripolar set  $\{V_\theta = -\infty\}$ . The non-pluripolar product  $\theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j}$  does not put mass on pluripolar sets, so the integral is still defined.

It is useful to know that  $E(\varphi)$  is increasing in  $\varphi$  and  $E(V_\theta) = 0$ .

We recall the definition of the metric  $d_1$  on  $\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ . Take  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ . When  $\varphi \leq \psi$ , the metric is simply defined as

$$(2.1) \quad d_1(\varphi, \psi) = E(\psi) - E(\varphi).$$

By a simple argument using approximations and the integration by parts formula [Xia19; Lu21], one can show that

$$E(\psi) - E(\varphi) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^n \int_X (\psi - \varphi) \theta_\psi^j \wedge \theta_\varphi^{n-j}.$$

More generally, we need to use  $\varphi \wedge \psi$ , the maximal element in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  lying below both  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$ . It is shown in [DDNL18c] that  $\varphi \wedge \psi \in \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ . We define

$$d_1(\varphi, \psi) = d_1(\varphi \wedge \psi, \varphi) + d_1(\varphi \wedge \psi, \psi) = E(\varphi) + E(\psi) - 2E(\varphi \wedge \psi).$$

This is indeed a metric, as studied in [DDNL18a].

Next we recall the notion of geodesics in  $\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ . Let us fix  $\varphi_0, \varphi_1 \in \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ . A *subgeodesic* from  $\varphi_0$  to  $\varphi_1$  is a curve  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in (0,1)}$  in  $\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$  such that

(1) if we define

$$\Phi : X \times \{z \in \mathbb{C} : e^{-1} < |z| < 1\} \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty), \quad (x, z) \mapsto \varphi_{-\log |z|}(x),$$

then  $\Phi$  is  $p_1^* \theta$ -psh, where  $p_1 : X \times \{z \in \mathbb{C} : e^{-1} < |z| < 1\} \rightarrow X$  is the natural projection;

(2) When  $t \rightarrow 0+$  (resp. to  $1-$ ),  $\varphi_t$  converges to  $\varphi_0$  (resp.  $\varphi_1$ ) with respect to  $L^1$ .

The maximal subgeodesic from  $\varphi_0$  to  $\varphi_1$  is called the *geodesic*  $(\varphi_t)$  from  $\varphi_0$  to  $\varphi_1$ . The geodesic always exists and  $\varphi_t \in \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ . We refer to [DDNL18c] for the details.

By abuse of language, we say that  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$  (with a closed interval instead of an open interval) is the geodesic from  $\varphi_0$  to  $\varphi_1$ . More generally, given  $t_0 \leq t_1$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , we say a curve  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in [t_0, t_1]}$  in  $\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$  is a geodesic from  $\varphi_{t_0}$  to  $\varphi_{t_1}$  if after a linear rescaling from  $[t_0, t_1]$  to  $[0, 1]$ , it becomes a geodesic. One can show that  $E$  is linear along a geodesic. In fact, by a simple perturbation argument, one can reduce this to [DDNL18c, Theorem 3.12].

**2.2. The space of geodesic rays.** The notion of geodesics naturally gives us a notion of geodesic rays:

**Definition 2.2.** A *geodesic ray* is a curve  $\ell = (\ell_t)_{t \in [0, \infty)}$  in  $\mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$  such that for any  $0 \leq t_1 < t_2$ , the restriction  $(\ell_t)_{t \in [t_1, t_2]}$  is a geodesic from  $\ell_{t_1}$  to  $\ell_{t_2}$ .

The space of geodesic rays  $\ell$  with  $\ell_0 = V_\theta$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ .

The assumption  $\ell_0 = V_\theta$  is not very restrictive. In fact, given any other  $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^1(X, \theta)$ , we can always find a unique geodesic ray  $\ell'$  with  $\ell'_0 = \varphi$  such that  $d_1(\ell_t, \ell'_t)$  is bounded. So if we are only interested in the asymptotic behaviour of a geodesic ray, we do not lose any information. We refer to [DL20] for the details.

Next we recall the metric  $d_1$  on  $\mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ . Given  $\ell, \ell' \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ , one can show as in [DL20] that  $d_1(\ell_t, \ell'_t)$  is a convex function in  $t \in [0, \infty)$ . It follows that

$$d_1(\ell, \ell') := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} d_1(\ell_t, \ell'_t)$$

exists. It is not hard to show that  $d_1$  is indeed a metric on  $\mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ . In fact, it is a complete metric. We refer to [DL20; DDNL21] for the details.

Similarly, one can introduce  $\mathbf{E} : \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$\mathbf{E}(\ell) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} E(\ell_t).$$

As we recalled above, the function  $E(\ell_t)$  is linear in  $t$ , so the limit  $\mathbf{E}(\ell)$  is nothing but the slope of this linear function. When  $\ell, \ell' \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ ,  $\ell \leq \ell'$ , using (2.1), we have

$$(2.2) \quad d_1(\ell, \ell') = \mathbf{E}(\ell') - \mathbf{E}(\ell).$$

**Example 2.3.** Given  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , we construct a geodesic ray  $\ell^\varphi \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ . For each  $C > 0$ , let  $(\ell_t^{\varphi, C})_{t \in [0, C]}$  be the geodesic from  $V_\theta$  to  $(V_\theta - C) \vee \varphi$ . For each  $t \geq 0$ , it is not hard to see that  $\ell_t^{\varphi, C}$  is increasing in  $C \in [t, \infty)$ . We let

$$\ell_t^\varphi := \sup_{C \geq t}^* \ell_t^{\varphi, C}.$$

One can show that  $\ell^\varphi \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ . A simple computation shows that

$$(2.3) \quad \mathbf{E}(\ell^\varphi) = \frac{1}{n+1} \left( \sum_{j=0}^n \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - V \right).$$

See [DDNL21, Theorem 3.1].

We need the following result concerning these geodesic rays: given  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , then  $\ell^\varphi = \ell^\psi$  if and only if  $\varphi \sim_P \psi$  (see Definition 2.6). This follows from [DDNL21, Proposition 3.2] and Remark 2.10.

Next we recall that  $\vee$  operator at the level of geodesic rays. Given  $\ell, \ell' \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ . We define  $\ell \vee \ell'$  as the minimal ray  $\mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$  lying above both  $\ell$  and  $\ell'$ . In fact, it is easy to construct such a ray: for each  $t > 0$ , let  $(\ell_s''')_{s \in [0, t]}$  be the geodesic from  $V_\theta$  to  $\ell_t \vee \ell'_t$ . It is easy to see that for each fixed  $s \geq 0$ ,  $\ell_s'''$  is increasing in  $t \in [s, \infty)$ . Let  $(\ell \vee \ell')_s = \sup_{t \geq s}^* \ell_s'''$ . Then we get a geodesic ray  $\ell \vee \ell'$ . It is clear that this ray is minimal among all rays dominating  $\ell$  and  $\ell'$ . By construction, we have

$$E(\ell \vee \ell')_s = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E(\ell_s''') = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s}{t} E(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t).$$

In particular,

$$(2.4) \quad \mathbf{E}(\ell \vee \ell') = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} E(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t).$$

**Lemma 2.4.** For any  $\ell, \ell' \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$ , we have

$$(2.5) \quad d_1(\ell, \ell') \leq d_1(\ell, \ell \vee \ell') + d_1(\ell', \ell \vee \ell') \leq C_n d_1(\ell, \ell'),$$

where  $C_n = 3(n+1)2^{n+2}$ .

*Proof.* The first inequality is trivial. As for the second, we estimate

$$\begin{aligned} d_1(\ell, \ell \vee \ell') &= \mathbf{E}(\ell \vee \ell') - \mathbf{E}(\ell) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} E(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t) - \mathbf{E}(\ell) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} d_1(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t, \ell_t). \end{aligned}$$

where on the second line, we used (2.4), the third line follows from (2.2). In all, we find

$$d_1(\ell, \ell \vee \ell') + d_1(\ell', \ell \vee \ell') \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} (d_1(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t, \ell_t) + d_1(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t, \ell'_t)).$$

By [DDNL18a, Theorem 3.7],

$$d_1(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t, \ell_t) + d_1(\ell_t \vee \ell'_t, \ell'_t) \leq 3(n+1)2^{n+2}d_1(\ell_t, \ell'_t).$$

Now (2.5) follows.  $\square$

**2.3. The space of quasi-plurisubharmonic functions.** We write  $\text{QPSH}(X)$  for the direct limit in the category of sets

$$\text{QPSH}(X) := \varinjlim_{\theta} \text{PSH}(X, \theta),$$

where  $\theta$  runs over the set of all smooth real closed  $(1, 1)$ -forms on  $X$  with  $\theta \prec \theta'$  if  $\theta' - \theta$  is a Kähler form. The transition maps are given by inclusions. In other words,  $\text{QPSH}(X)$  is the set of quasi-plurisubharmonic functions on  $X$ .

*Remark 2.5.* I am always curious about the possibility of enriching the set  $\text{QPSH}(X)$ , but I have never been able to figure out the correct generality/category to work with. One should view the direct limit as in other categories instead of barely the category of sets.

A few failed options: pseudo-metric spaces, uniform spaces, topological spaces, condensed spaces. None of these options gives rise to the correct notion of convergence on  $\text{QPSH}(X)$  as we define later, which is closer to the strict direct limit as studied in functional analysis by Dieudonné-Schwarz.

Take a big class  $\alpha$  on  $X$  with a representative  $\theta$ , we will need the following envelope operators:

(1) Let  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$ , we set

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\theta}[\varphi] &= \sup \{ \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \psi \leq 0, \psi \leq \varphi + C \text{ for some } C \in \mathbb{R} \} \\ &= \sup \left\{ \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \psi \leq 0, \int_X \theta_{\varphi}^n = \int_X \theta_{\psi}^n, \varphi \leq \psi + C \text{ for some } C \in \mathbb{R} \right\}; \end{aligned}$$

Observe that in the two conditions, the relation between  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are reversed.

(2) Let  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , we set

$$P_{\theta}[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}} = \sup \{ \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \psi \leq 0, \mathcal{I}(k\varphi) = \mathcal{I}(k\psi) \text{ for all } k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \}.$$

We refer to [DDNL18c] for a detailed study of the former envelope and to [DX21; DX22] for the latter.

$\diamond$  The first envelop is pathological when  $\int_X \theta_{\varphi}^n = 0$ . There are multiple different ways to extend its definition. None of these seem to be natural to the author, so we will avoid them.

A potential  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$  (resp.  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ ) is *model* (resp.  $\mathcal{I}$ -model) if  $P_{\theta}[\varphi] = \varphi$  (resp.  $P_{\theta}[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}} = \varphi$ ).

$\diamond$  Both notions depends strongly on the choice of  $\theta$ , which makes them not so natural. By contrast, the notion of  $\mathcal{I}$ -good potentials introduced in [Xia22] depends only on  $\varphi \in \text{QPSH}(X)$ .

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{QPSH}(X)$ , we say

(1)  $\varphi$  is *more singular* than  $\psi$  and write  $\varphi \preceq \psi$  if there is  $C \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\varphi \leq \psi + C;$$

- (2)  $\varphi$  is  $P$ -more singular than  $\psi$  and write  $\varphi \preceq_P \psi$  if for some Kähler form  $\omega$  such that  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \omega)_{>0}$ , we have

$$P_\omega[\varphi] \leq P_\omega[\psi];$$

- (3)  $\varphi$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -more singular than  $\psi$  and write  $\varphi \preceq_{\mathcal{I}} \psi$  if for some Kähler form  $\omega$  such that  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \omega)$ , we have

$$P_\omega[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}} \leq P_\omega[\psi]_{\mathcal{I}}.$$

All three relations define partial orders on  $\text{QPSH}(X)$ . We denote the corresponding equivalence relation by  $\sim$ ,  $\sim_P$  and  $\sim_{\mathcal{I}}$  respectively.

⚠ In (1), one cannot replace  $\varphi \leq \psi + C$  by  $\varphi - \psi \leq C$  without extra care. The problem is that  $\varphi - \psi$  is only defined outside the pluripolar set  $\{\varphi = \psi = -\infty\}$ .

We observe that Condition (2) does not depend on the choice of  $\omega$  by [Lemma 2.7](#). On the other hand, Condition (3) is equivalent to  $\mathcal{I}(k\varphi) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(k\psi)$  for all  $k > 0$  (either real or integral). So Condition (3) is also independent of the choice of  $\omega$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$ . For any Kähler form  $\omega$  on  $X$ , the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $P_\theta[\varphi] \leq P_\theta[\psi]$ ;
- (2)  $P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi] \leq P_{\theta+\omega}[\psi]$ .

*Proof.* (1) implies (2): Observe that

$$P_\theta[\varphi] \leq P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi], \quad \varphi \preceq P_\theta[\varphi].$$

It follows that

$$(2.6) \quad P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi] = P_{\theta+\omega}[P_\theta[\varphi]].$$

A similar formula holds for  $\psi$ . So we see that (2) holds.

(2) implies (1): By [\(2.6\)](#), we may assume that  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are both model potentials in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ .

Observe that  $\varphi \vee \psi \preceq P_{\theta+\omega}[\psi]$ . It follows that  $P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi \vee \psi] \leq P_{\theta+\omega}[\psi]$ . The reverse inequality is trivial, so

$$P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi \vee \psi] = P_{\theta+\omega}[\psi].$$

From the direction we have proved, for any  $C \geq 1$ ,

$$P_{\theta+C\omega}[\varphi \vee \psi] = P_{\theta+C\omega}[\psi].$$

So

$$\int_X (\theta + C\omega + \text{dd}^c(\varphi \vee \psi))^n = \int_X (\theta + C\omega + \text{dd}^c\psi)^n.$$

In particular,

$$\int_X \theta_{\varphi \vee \psi}^n = \int_X \theta_\psi^n.$$

As  $\psi$  is model, it follows that  $\varphi \vee \psi = \psi$ . So (1) follows. □

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$ . Then for any  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,*

$$t\varphi + (1-t)\psi \sim_P tP_\theta[\varphi] + (1-t)P_\theta[\psi].$$

*Proof.* By symmetry, it suffices to show that  $t\varphi + (1-t)\psi \sim_P tP_\theta[\varphi] + (1-t)\psi$ . As  $t\varphi + (1-t)\psi \preceq tP_\theta[\varphi] + (1-t)\psi$  and both sides have positive masses, it suffices to show that

$$\int_X \theta_{t\varphi + (1-t)\psi}^n = \int_X \theta_{tP_\theta[\varphi] + (1-t)\psi}^n.$$

By binary expansion, it suffices to show that for any  $j = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$\int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_\psi^{n-j} = \int_X \theta_{P_\theta[\varphi]}^j \wedge \theta_\psi^{n-j},$$

which follows from [\[DDNL18b, Corollary 3.2\]](#). □

**Corollary 2.9.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi, \varphi', \psi' \in \text{QPSH}(X)$ . Assume that  $\varphi \sim_P \varphi'$  and  $\psi \sim_P \psi'$ , then for any  $a, b > 0$ ,  $a\varphi + b\psi \sim_P a\varphi' + b\psi'$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume that  $a + b = 1$  by rescaling. Take a Kähler form  $\omega$  on  $X$  so that  $\varphi, \psi, \varphi', \psi' \in \text{PSH}(X, \omega)_{>0}$ . Then it suffices to apply [Lemma 2.8](#).  $\square$

*Remark 2.10.* In [\[DDNL21\]](#), Darvas–Di Nezza–Lu introduced a different envelope operator  $C$  which is better behaved when the mass of a qpsH function is 0. We will show that for our purpose, it is not necessary to introduce it.

To be more precise, let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . We will show that the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $\varphi \sim_P \psi$ ;
- (2)  $C_\theta[\varphi] = C_\theta[\psi]$ .

Assume (1). Then by [Corollary 2.9](#),  $t\varphi + (1-t)V_\theta \sim_P t\psi + (1-t)V_\theta$  for all  $t \in [0, 1)$ . In particular,

$$P_\theta[t\varphi + (1-t)V_\theta] = P_\theta[t\psi + (1-t)V_\theta].$$

Let  $t \rightarrow 1-$ , we conclude (2).

Conversely assume (2). Let  $\omega$  be a Kähler form on  $X$ . It suffices to show that

$$P_{\theta+\omega}[C_\theta[\varphi]] = P_{\theta+\omega}[\varphi].$$

In fact, the  $\geq$  inequality is clear. As both sides are model potentials, it suffices to show that they have the same mass:

$$\int_X (\theta + \omega + \text{dd}^c C_\theta[\varphi])^n = \int_X (\theta + \omega + \text{dd}^c \varphi)^n.$$

After binary expansion, it suffices to show that for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$(2.7) \quad \int_X \theta_{C_\theta[\varphi]}^j \wedge \omega^{n-j} = \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \omega^{n-j}.$$

As  $C_\theta[\varphi]$  is the decreasing limit of  $P_\theta[tV_\theta + (1-t)\varphi]$  as  $t$  decreases to 0, we have

$$\int_X \theta_{C_\theta[\varphi]}^j \wedge \omega^{n-j} \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0+} \int_X \theta_{P_\theta[tV_\theta + (1-t)\varphi]}^j \wedge \omega^{n-j} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0+} \int_X \theta_{tV_\theta + (1-t)\varphi}^j \wedge \omega^{n-j} = \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \omega^{n-j}.$$

The reverse inequality follows from the monotonicity theorem [Theorem 2.1](#). So (2.7) follows. We conclude the proof.

**Lemma 2.11.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\varphi \preceq_P \psi$  (resp.  $\varphi \preceq_{\mathcal{I}} \psi$ );
- (2)  $\varphi \vee \psi \sim_P \psi$  (resp.  $\varphi \vee \psi \sim_{\mathcal{I}} \psi$ ).

*Proof.* We may assume that  $\int_X \theta_\varphi^n > 0$ ,  $\int_X \theta_\psi^n > 0$ . We only prove the  $P$  case, the  $\mathcal{I}$  case is similar.

(2) implies (1): We may assume that  $\varphi, \psi$  are both model in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . By (2),  $P_\theta[\varphi \vee \psi] = \psi$ . But  $\varphi \leq P_\theta[\varphi \vee \psi]$ , so (1) follows.

(1) implies (2): We may still assume that  $\varphi, \psi$  are both model in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  as

$$P_\theta[\varphi \vee \psi] = P_\theta[P_\theta[\varphi] \vee P_\theta[\psi]].$$

Then  $\varphi \leq \psi$  and (2) follows.  $\square$

### 3. THE $d_S$ -PSEUDOMETRIC

Let  $X$  be a compact Kähler manifold of pure dimension  $n$ .

**3.1. The construction.** Let  $\alpha$  be a big  $(1, 1)$ -class on  $X$  represented by a smooth form  $\theta$ .

**Definition 3.1.** For  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , we define

$$d_S(\varphi, \psi) := d_1(\ell^\varphi, \ell^\psi).$$

When necessary, we also write  $d_{S, \theta}$  instead. It turns out that this is never necessary once we finish the proof of [Corollary 3.16](#).

By definition,  $d_S$  is a pseudo-metric on  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . By [Example 2.3](#), we have

**Proposition 3.2.** *For  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , the following are equivalent:*



- (1)  $\varphi \sim_P \psi$ ;
- (2)  $d_S(\varphi, \psi) = 0$ .

The pseudo-metric  $d_S$  itself does not seem to be a natural choice, however, the convergence notion it defines is certainly natural, as we will see repeatedly in this note.

We derive a few elementary properties from the definition.

**Lemma 3.3** ([DDNL21, Lemma 3.4]). *Suppose that  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  and  $\varphi \preceq_P \psi$ , then*

$$d_S(\varphi, \psi) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \int_X \theta_\psi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} \right).$$

*Proof.* This follows trivially from (2.3). □

**Lemma 3.4.** *For any  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , we have*

$$(3.1) \quad d_S(\varphi, \psi) \leq \sum_{j=0}^n \left( 2 \int_X \theta_{\varphi \vee \psi}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_\psi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} \right) \leq C_n d_S(\varphi, \psi),$$

where  $C_n = 3(n+1)2^{n+2}$ .

*Proof.* It suffices to show that

$$(3.2) \quad \ell^\varphi \vee \ell^\psi = \ell^{\varphi \vee \psi}.$$

Assuming this, then (3.1) follows from Lemma 3.3 and Lemma 2.4.

Next we prove (3.2). Of course by definition, it is trivial that

$$\ell^\varphi \leq \ell^{\varphi \vee \psi}, \quad \ell^\psi \leq \ell^{\varphi \vee \psi}.$$

So

$$\ell^\varphi \vee \ell^\psi \leq \ell^{\varphi \vee \psi}.$$

Conversely, if  $\ell \in \mathcal{R}^1(X, \theta)$  and  $\ell^\varphi \vee \ell^\psi \leq \ell$ , then for any  $C \geq 0$ ,

$$(V_\theta - C) \vee \varphi \leq \ell, \quad (V_\theta - C) \vee \psi \leq \ell.$$

It follows that

$$(V_\theta - C) \vee (\varphi \vee \psi) \leq \ell_C.$$

From this, we conclude that

$$\ell^{\varphi \vee \psi} \leq \ell.$$

□

From this lemma, we find that the  $d_S$ -convergence is characterized by numerical conditions of non-pluripolar masses. The criterion here is still way too complicated for applications, we will see a better criterion in Corollary 3.15. For now, let us record the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that one of the following conditions holds:*

- (1)  $\varphi_j \succeq \varphi$  for all  $j$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi_j \preceq \varphi$  for all  $j$ .

*Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ ;
- (2)  $\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \rightarrow \int_X \theta_\varphi^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k}$  for all  $k = 0, \dots, n$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi, \eta \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ , then*

$$(3.3) \quad d_S(\varphi \vee \eta, \psi \vee \eta) \leq C_n d_S(\varphi, \psi),$$

where  $C_n = 3(n+1)2^{n+2}$ .



*Proof.* According to [Lemma 3.4](#), we may assume that  $\varphi \leq \psi$ .

We will show that for each  $C \geq t \geq 0$ ,

$$(3.4) \quad d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi \vee \eta, C}, \ell_t^{\psi \vee \eta, C}) \leq d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi, C}, \ell_t^{\psi, C}).$$

When  $C \rightarrow \infty$ , by [\[DDNL18a, Proposition 2.7\]](#), it follows that

$$d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi \vee \eta}, \ell_t^{\psi \vee \eta}) \leq d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi}, \ell_t^{\psi}),$$

which implies [\(3.3\)](#).

It remains to argue [\(3.4\)](#). As  $\varphi \leq \psi$ , we know that

$$d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi}, \ell_t^{\psi}) = \frac{t}{C} d_1(\ell_C^{\varphi}, \ell_C^{\psi}), \quad d_1(\ell_t^{\varphi \vee \eta}, \ell_t^{\psi \vee \eta}) = \frac{t}{C} d_1(\ell_C^{\varphi \vee \eta}, \ell_C^{\psi \vee \eta}).$$

It suffices to handle the case  $t = C$ , namely,

$$d_1(\varphi \vee \eta \vee (V_\theta - C), \psi \vee \eta \vee (V_\theta - C)) \leq d_1(\varphi \vee (V_\theta - C), \psi \vee (V_\theta - C)).$$

This is just [\[Xia21a, Proposition 6.8\]](#).  $\square$

### 3.2. Convergence theorems.

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $(\varphi^k)_k$  be a sequence in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  and  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . Assume that  $\varphi^k \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Then for any  $t \in (0, 1]$ ,*

$$(1-t)\varphi^k + tV_\theta \xrightarrow{d_S} (1-t)\varphi + tV_\theta$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $t \in (0, 1]$ , we write

$$\varphi_t^k = (1-t)\varphi^k + tV_\theta, \quad \varphi_t = (1-t)\varphi + tV_\theta.$$

By [Lemma 3.4](#), it suffices to show that for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$(3.5) \quad 2 \int_X \theta_{\varphi_t^k \vee \varphi_t}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_{\varphi_t^k}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_{\varphi_t}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} \rightarrow 0.$$

Observe that

$$\varphi_t^k \vee \varphi_t = (1-t)(\varphi \vee \varphi^k) + tV_\theta.$$

So after binary expansion, [\(3.5\)](#) follows from [Lemma 3.4](#).  $\square$

We need the existence of an extraordinary envelope, which looks like a miracle to the author. This envelope plays a key role in reducing problems with general positive currents to problems with Kähler currents.

**Lemma 3.8** ([\[DDNL21, Lemma 4.3\]](#)). *Let  $\varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ ,  $\varphi \preceq \psi$  and  $\int_X \theta_\psi^n > 0$ . Then for any*

$$a \in \left(1, \left(\frac{\int_X \theta_\psi^n}{\int_X \theta_\psi^n - \int_X \theta_\varphi^n}\right)^{1/n}\right),$$

there is  $\eta \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  such that


$$a^{-1}\eta + (1-a^{-1})\psi \leq \varphi.$$

The fraction is understood as  $\infty$  if  $\int_X \theta_\psi^n = \int_X \theta_\varphi^n$ .

We write  $P(a\varphi + (1-a)\psi) \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  for the regularized supremum of all such  $\eta$ 's. In fact, observe that  $\psi \geq \varphi - C$ , so  $\eta$  is uniformly bounded from above. It follows that  $P(a\varphi + (1-a)\psi) \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . On the other hand, by Hartogs lemma,

$$a^{-1}P(a\varphi + (1-a)\psi) + (1-a^{-1})\psi \leq \varphi$$

holds outside a pluripolar set, hence everywhere.

 We remind the readers that in [\[DDNL21, Lemma 4.3\]](#), the notation  $P(a\varphi + (1-a)\psi)$  is used without rigorous justification. The above justification is necessarily as  $a\varphi + (1-a)\psi$  is not everywhere defined.

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that  $\varphi_j$  is an increasing sequence converging almost everywhere to  $\varphi$ . Then  $d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi) \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ .*

*Proof.* This follows from [Lemma 3.4](#) and the lower semi-continuity of non-pluripolar products.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.10** ([\[DDNL21, Proposition 4.8\]](#)). *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that  $\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n$  is bounded from below by a positive constant,  $\varphi_j$  is model for each  $j$  and  $\varphi_j$  decreases pointwisely to  $\varphi$ , then  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $b_j \in \mathbb{R}$  be a sequence converging to  $\infty$  such that

$$b_j \in \left(1, \left(\frac{\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n}{\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n - \int_X \theta_{\varphi}^n}\right)^{1/n}\right).$$

The existence of this sequence is non-trivial. It requires the fact that  $\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n \rightarrow \int_X \theta_{\varphi}^n$ . This is proved in [\[DDNL21, Proposition 4.6\]](#). As the technique is quite unrelated to the techniques in this note, we do not reproduce the argument.

By [Lemma 3.8](#), we can find  $\eta_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  such that

$$b_j^{-1} \eta_j + (1 - b_j^{-1}) \varphi_j \leq \varphi.$$

It follows from [Theorem 2.1](#) that for any  $k = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$\int_X \theta_{\varphi}^k \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta}}^{n-k} \geq (1 - b_j^{-1})^k \int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta}}^{n-k}.$$

Together with [Theorem 2.1](#), we conclude that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta}}^{n-k} = \int_X \theta_{\varphi}^k \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta}}^{n-k}.$$

Hence  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  by [Lemma 3.3](#).  $\square$

The following proposition allows us to reduce a number of problems to monotone sequences.

**Proposition 3.11.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ),  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ . Assume that there is  $\delta > 0$  such that*

$$\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n \geq \delta, \quad \int_X \theta_{\varphi}^n \geq \delta$$

*for all  $j$  and  $P_{\theta}[\varphi_j] = \varphi_j$ ,  $P_{\theta}[\varphi] = \varphi$  for all  $j$ . Then up to replacing  $(\varphi_j)_j$  by a subsequence, there is a decreasing sequence  $\psi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  and an increasing sequence  $\eta_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  such that*

(1)

$$d_S(\varphi, \psi_j) \rightarrow 0, \quad d_S(\varphi, \eta_j) \rightarrow 0$$

*as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ ;*

(2)  $\psi_j \geq \varphi_j \geq \eta_j$  for all  $j$ .

In fact, we will take

$$\eta_j = \varphi_j \wedge \varphi_{j+1} \wedge \dots$$

and

$$\psi_j = \sup_{k \geq j}^* \varphi_k.$$

*Proof.* We are free to replace  $(\varphi_j)_j$  by a subsequence. So we may assume that

$$d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_{j+1}) \leq C_n^{-2j},$$

where  $C_n$  is the constant in [Lemma 3.4](#).

**Step 1.** We handle  $\psi_j$ 's. For each  $j \geq 1$  and  $k \geq 1$ , by [Lemma 3.4](#) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_j \vee \varphi_{j+1} \vee \dots \vee \varphi_{j+k}) &\leq C_n d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_{j+1} \vee \dots \vee \varphi_{j+k}) \\ &\leq C_n d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_{j+1}) + C_n d_S(\varphi_{j+1}, \varphi_{j+1} \vee \dots \vee \varphi_{j+k}). \end{aligned}$$

By iteration, we find

$$d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_j \vee \varphi_{j+1} \vee \cdots \vee \varphi_{j+k}) \leq \sum_{a=j}^{j+k-1} C_n^{a+1-j} d_S(\varphi_a, \varphi_{a+1}) \leq \sum_{a=j}^{j+k-1} C_n^{a+1-j} C_n^{-2a}.$$

From this we see that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d_S(\varphi_j, \varphi_j \vee \varphi_{j+1} \vee \cdots \vee \varphi_{j+k}) = 0.$$

By [Lemma 3.9](#), we conclude that  $d_S(\varphi, \psi_j) \rightarrow 0$ .

**Step 2.** We consider the  $\eta_j$ 's. This case is more tricky and the proof requires some different techniques, we omit the proof and refer to [\[DDNL21, Theorem 5.6\]](#) for the details.  $\square$

In fact the construction in Step 1 works more generally for any Cauchy sequence. This gives the following

**Corollary 3.12.** *Let  $\varphi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  be a  $d_S$ -Cauchy sequence. Then up to replacing  $\varphi_j$  by a subsequence, there is a decreasing Cauchy sequence  $\psi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  such that  $d_S(\varphi_j, \psi_j) \rightarrow 0$  and  $\varphi_j \preceq \psi_j$ .*

**Corollary 3.13.** *For any  $\delta > 0$ , the space*

$$\left\{ \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta) : \int_X \theta_\varphi^n \geq \delta \right\}$$

*is complete with respect to  $d_S$ .*

*Proof.* Take a Cauchy sequence  $\varphi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ) with  $\int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^n \geq \delta$ . It suffices to show that each subsequence of  $\varphi_j$  admits a convergent subsequence. In turn, we are free to replace  $\varphi_j$  by a subsequence. By [Corollary 3.12](#), we may therefore assume that we can find an equivalent decreasing Cauchy sequence  $(\psi_j)_j$  with  $\varphi_j \preceq \psi_j$ . It suffices to show that  $\psi_j$  converges. But this follows from [Lemma 3.10](#).  $\square$

**Theorem 3.14.** *Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be big  $(1, 1)$ -classes on  $X$  represented by  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ . Suppose that  $(\varphi_j^k)_k$  are sequences in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta_j)$  for  $j = 1, \dots, n$  and  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . We assume that  $\varphi_j^k \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi_j$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  for each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Then*

$$(3.6) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1^k} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n^k} = \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n}.$$

*Proof. Step 1.* We reduce to the case where  $\varphi_j^k, \varphi_j$  all have positive masses and there is a constant  $\delta > 0$ , such that for all  $j$  and  $k$ ,

$$\int_X \theta_{j, \varphi_j^k}^n > \delta.$$

Take  $t \in (0, 1)$ . By [Lemma 3.7](#), we have

$$(1-t)\varphi_j^k + tV_{\theta_j} \xrightarrow{d_S} (1-t)\varphi_j + tV_{\theta_j}$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Assume that we have proved the special case of the theorem, we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{1, (1-t)\varphi_1^k + tV_{\theta_1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, (1-t)\varphi_n^k + tV_{\theta_n}} = \int_X \theta_{1, (1-t)\varphi_1 + tV_{\theta_1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, (1-t)\varphi_n + tV_{\theta_n}}.$$

From this, (3.6) follows easily.

**Step 2.** Now we may assume that  $\varphi_j^k$  and  $\varphi_j$  are all of positive mass and are model potentials.

It suffices to prove that any subsequence of  $\int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1^k} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n^k}$  has a converging subsequence with limit  $\int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n}$ . Thus, by [Proposition 3.11](#), we may assume that for each fixed  $i$ ,  $\varphi_i^k$  is either increasing or decreasing. We may assume that for  $i \leq i_0$ , the sequence is decreasing and for  $i > i_0$ , the sequence is increasing.

Recall that in (3.6) the  $\geq$  inequality always holds by [Theorem 2.1](#), it suffices to prove

$$(3.7) \quad \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1^k} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n^k} \leq \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n}.$$

By [Theorem 2.1](#) in order to prove (3.7), we may assume that for  $j > i_0$ , the sequences  $\varphi_j^k$  are constant. Thus, we are reduced to the case where for all  $i$ ,  $\varphi_i^k$  are decreasing.

In this case, for each  $i$  we may take an increasing sequence  $b_i^k > 1$ , tending to  $\infty$ , such that

$$(b_i^k)^n \int_X \theta_{i, \varphi_i}^n \geq \left( (b_i^k)^n - 1 \right) \int_X \theta_{i, \varphi_i^k}^n.$$

Let  $\psi_i^k$  be the maximal  $\theta_i$ -psh function such that

$$(b_i^k)^{-1} \psi_i^k + \left( 1 - (b_i^k)^{-1} \right) \varphi_i^k \leq \varphi_i,$$

whose existence is guaranteed by [Lemma 3.8](#).

Then by [Theorem 2.1](#) again,

$$\prod_{i=1}^n \left( 1 - (b_i^k)^{-1} \right) \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1^k} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n^k} \leq \int_X \theta_{1, \varphi_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n, \varphi_n}.$$

Let  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , we conclude (3.7). □

**Corollary 3.15.** *Suppose that  $\varphi, \varphi_i \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $i \geq 1$ ). Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\varphi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi_i \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  and

$$(3.8) \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{\varphi_i}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} = \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j}$$

for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ .

The corollary allows us to reduce a number of convergence problems related to  $d_S$  to the case  $\varphi_i \geq \varphi$ , which is much easier to handle by [Lemma 3.3](#). This is the most handy way of establishing  $d_S$ -convergence in practice.

*Proof.* (1) implies (2):  $\varphi_i \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  follows from [Lemma 3.4](#). While (3.8) follows from [Theorem 3.14](#).

(2) implies (1): By (3.1), we need to show that for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ , we have

$$2 \int_X \theta_{\varphi_i \vee \varphi}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_{\varphi_i}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} \rightarrow 0.$$

This follows from [Theorem 3.14](#) and (3.8). □

**Corollary 3.16.** *Let  $\varphi_k, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $k \geq 1$ ) and  $\omega$  be a Kähler form on  $X$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\varphi_k \xrightarrow{d_{S, \theta}} \varphi$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi_k \xrightarrow{d_{S, \theta + \omega}} \varphi$ .

From now on, we mostly write  $d_S$  instead of  $d_{S, \theta}$ . This corollary shows that the  $d_S$ -convergence is the correct notion even at 0 mass.

*Proof.* (1) implies (2): It suffices to show that for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ , we have

$$2 \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{\varphi_k \vee \varphi}^j \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{\varphi_k}^j \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_\varphi^j \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j} \rightarrow 0$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Note that this quantity is a linear combination of terms of the following form:

$$2 \int_X \theta_{\varphi_k \vee \varphi}^r \wedge \omega^{j-r} \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_{\varphi_k}^r \wedge \omega^{j-r} \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j} - \int_X \theta_\varphi^r \wedge \omega^{j-r} \wedge (\theta + \omega)_{V_{\theta + \omega}}^{n-j},$$

where  $r = 0, \dots, j$ . By [Theorem 3.14](#), it suffices to show that  $\varphi \vee \varphi_k \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ . But this follows from [Corollary 3.15](#)

(2) implies (1): From the direction we already proved, for each  $C \geq 1$ , we have that

$$\varphi_k \xrightarrow{d_{S, \theta + C\omega}} \varphi.$$

By [Theorem 3.14](#), it follows that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X (\theta + C\omega)_{\varphi_k}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} = \int_X (\theta + C\omega)_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j}$$

for all  $j = 0, \dots, n$ . It follows that

$$(3.9) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{\varphi_k}^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j} = \int_X \theta_\varphi^j \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-j}.$$

By [Corollary 3.15](#), it remains to show that  $\varphi_k \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_{S,\theta}} \varphi$ . By [Corollary 3.15](#) again, we know that  $\varphi_k \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_{S,\theta+\omega}} \varphi$ . So it suffices to apply (3.9) to  $\varphi_k \vee \varphi$  instead of  $\varphi_k$  and we conclude by [Lemma 3.3](#).  $\square$

**Theorem 3.17.** *The map  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$  given by  $\varphi \mapsto P[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}}$  is continuous with respect to  $d_S$ .*

Here  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$  denotes the subset of  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  consisting of  $\varphi$  with  $\int_X \theta_\varphi^n > 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi_i, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)_{>0}$ ,  $\varphi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ . We want to show that

$$(3.10) \quad P[\varphi_i]_{\mathcal{I}} \xrightarrow{d_S} P[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}}.$$

We may assume that the  $\varphi_i$ 's and  $\varphi$  are all model potentials. By [Proposition 3.11](#), we may assume that  $(\varphi_i)_i$  is either increasing or decreasing. Both cases follow from [[DX22](#), Lemma 2.21] and [Lemma 3.10](#).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.18.** *Let  $\varphi, \varphi_j, \psi_j, \eta_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that*

- (1)  $\psi_j \leq \varphi_j \leq \eta_j$ ;
- (2)  $\eta_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ ,  $\psi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ .

*Then  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ .*

*Proof.* Observe that for each  $k = 0, \dots, n$ , we have

$$\int_X \theta_{\psi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \leq \int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \leq \int_X \theta_{\eta_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k}$$

for all  $j \geq 1$ . By [Theorem 3.14](#), the limit of the both ends are  $\int_X \theta_\varphi^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k}$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . It follows that

$$(3.11) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \theta_{\varphi_j}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} = \int_X \theta_\varphi^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k}.$$

By [Corollary 3.15](#), it remains to prove that  $\varphi_j \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ . By [Corollary 3.15](#), up to replacing  $\psi_j$  (resp.  $\varphi_j, \eta_j$ ) by  $\psi_j \vee \varphi$  (resp.  $\varphi_j \vee \varphi, \eta_j \vee \varphi$ ), we may assume from the beginning that  $\psi_j, \varphi_j, \eta_j \geq \varphi$ . Now  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  by (3.11) and [Lemma 3.3](#).  $\square$

At this point, we can recall another fundamental property about  $d_S$ : the non-Archimedean data are continuous with respect  $d_S$ .

**Theorem 3.19.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ , then for any prime divisor  $E$  over  $X$ , we have*

$$(3.12) \quad \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \nu(\varphi_j, E) = \nu(\varphi, E).$$

*Proof.* By [Corollary 3.16](#), we may assume that the masses of  $\varphi_j$  and of  $\varphi$  are bounded from below by a positive constant.

By [Theorem 3.17](#), we may assume that  $\varphi_i$  and  $\varphi$  are both  $\mathcal{I}$ -model. When proving (3.12), we are free to pass to subsequences. By [Proposition 3.11](#), up to passing to a subsequence, we may assume that  $\varphi_i \rightarrow \varphi$  almost everywhere.

By Hartogs lemma, there is a null set  $Z \subseteq X$  such that on  $X \setminus Z$ , we have

$$\sup_{j \geq i}^* \varphi_j = \sup_{j \geq i} \varphi_j$$

for all  $i \geq 1$ . It follows that

$$\varphi = \inf_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{j \geq i}^* \varphi_j$$

on  $X \setminus Z$  hence everywhere on  $X$ . In fact, we can also assume that

$$\psi_i := \sup_{j \geq i}^* \varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$$

as  $i \rightarrow \infty$  by [Proposition 3.11](#).

It then follows that  $P_\theta[\psi_i] \rightarrow \varphi$  everywhere. By [Lemma 3.20](#), we then have

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nu(\psi_i, E) = \nu(\varphi, E).$$

By [\[DX22, Lemma 3.4\]](#), we have

$$\nu(\varphi, E) = \varliminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nu(\varphi_i, E).$$

Together with the upper semi-continuity of Lelong numbers, we find

$$\nu(\varphi, E) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nu(\varphi_i, E).$$

□

**Lemma 3.20.** *Let  $\varphi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ) be a decreasing sequence of model potentials. Let  $\varphi$  be the limit of  $\varphi_j$ . Assume that  $\varphi$  has positive mass. Then for any prime divisor  $E$  over  $X$ ,*

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \nu(\varphi_j, E) = \nu(\varphi, E).$$

*Proof.* Since  $\varphi := \lim_j \varphi_j$  and the  $\varphi_j$ 's are model, we obtain that  $\int_Y \theta_\varphi^n = \lim_j \int_Y \theta_{\varphi_j}^n > 0$  by [Lemma 3.10](#). By [Lemma 3.8](#), for any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , for  $j$  big enough there exists  $\psi_j \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  such that  $(1 - \epsilon)\varphi_j + \epsilon\psi_j \leq \varphi$ . This implies that for  $j$  big enough we have

$$(1 - \epsilon)\nu(\varphi_j, E) + \epsilon\nu(\psi_j, E) \geq \nu(\varphi, E) \geq \nu(\varphi_j, E).$$

However  $\nu(\chi, E)$  is uniformly bounded (by some Seshadri type constant) for any  $\chi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  and  $E$  fixed. So letting  $\epsilon \searrow 0$  we conclude. □

**Lemma 3.21.** *Let  $\varphi_i, \varphi, \psi_j, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . Assume that  $\varphi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ ,  $\psi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \psi$ . Then*

$$\varphi_i \vee \psi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi \vee \psi.$$

*Proof.* We compute

$$\begin{aligned} d_S(\varphi_i \vee \psi_i, \varphi \vee \psi) &\leq d_S(\varphi_i \vee \psi_i, \varphi_i \vee \psi) + d_S(\varphi_i \vee \psi, \varphi \vee \psi) \\ &\leq C_n (d_S(\psi_i, \psi) + d_S(\varphi_i, \varphi)), \end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality follows from [Lemma 3.6](#). The right-hand side converges to 0 by our hypothesis. □

**Theorem 3.22.** *Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  be big classes represented by  $\theta_1, \theta_2$ . Suppose that  $\varphi, \varphi_i \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_1)$ ,  $\psi, \psi_i \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_2)$ . Consider the following three conditions:*

- (1)  $\varphi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ ;
- (2)  $\psi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \psi$ ;
- (3)  $\varphi_i + \psi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi + \psi$ .

*Then any two of these conditions imply the third.*

*Proof.* By [Corollary 3.16](#), we may assume that  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  are both Kähler forms. We denote them by  $\omega_1, \omega_2$  instead.

(1) + (2) implies (3): Let  $\omega = \theta_1 + \theta_2$ . It suffices to show that for each  $r = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$2 \int_X \omega_{(\varphi_j + \psi_j) \vee (\varphi + \psi)}^r \wedge \omega^{n-r} - \int_X \omega_{\varphi_j + \psi_j}^r \wedge \omega^{n-r} - \int_X \omega_{\varphi + \psi}^r \wedge \omega^{n-r} \rightarrow 0.$$

Observe that

$$(\varphi_j + \psi_j) \vee (\varphi + \psi) \leq \varphi_j \vee \varphi + \psi_j \vee \psi.$$

Thus, it suffices to show that

$$2 \int_X \omega_{\varphi_j \vee \varphi + \psi_j \vee \psi}^r \wedge \omega - \int_X \omega_{\varphi_j + \psi_j}^r \wedge \omega^{n-r} - \int_X \omega_{\varphi + \psi}^r \wedge \omega^{n-r} \rightarrow 0.$$

The left-hand side is a linear combination of

$$2 \int_X \omega_{1, \varphi_j \vee \varphi}^a \wedge \omega_{2, \psi_j \vee \psi}^{r-a} \wedge \omega^{n-r} - \int_X \omega_{1, \varphi_j}^a \wedge \omega_{2, \psi_j}^{r-a} \wedge \omega^{n-r} - \int_X \omega_{1, \varphi}^a \wedge \omega_{2, \psi}^{r-a} \wedge \omega^{n-r}$$

with  $a = 0, \dots, r$ . Observe that  $\varphi_j \vee \varphi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$  and  $\psi_j \vee \psi \xrightarrow{d_S} \psi$  by [Lemma 3.4](#), each term tends to 0 by [Theorem 3.14](#).

(1)+(3) implies (2): For each  $C \geq 1$ , from the direction we already proved,

$$C\varphi_i + \psi_i \xrightarrow{d_S} C\varphi + \psi.$$

By [Theorem 3.14](#), for each  $j = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_X (C\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \text{dd}^c(C\varphi_i + \psi_i))^j \wedge \omega_2^{n-j} = \int_X (C\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \text{dd}^c(C\varphi + \psi))^j \wedge \omega_2^{n-j}.$$

It follows that

$$(3.13) \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \omega_{2, \psi_i}^j \wedge \omega_2^{n-j} = \int_X \omega_{2, \psi}^j \wedge \omega_2^{n-j}.$$

Therefore, (2) follows if  $\psi_i \geq \psi$  for each  $i$  by [Lemma 3.3](#).

Next we prove the general case. By the direction that we already proved, we know that  $\varphi_i + \psi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi + \psi$ . By [Lemma 3.21](#), we have that

$$\varphi_i + \psi_i \vee \psi \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi + \psi.$$

It follows from the special case above that  $\psi_i \vee \psi \xrightarrow{d_S} \psi$ . It follows from (3.13) and [Corollary 3.15](#) that (2) holds.  $\square$

Finally, let us show that the uniform structure defined by  $d_S$  is natural at mass 0.

**Lemma 3.23.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \geq 1$ ). Assume that the sequence  $(\varphi_j)_j$  is Cauchy with respect to  $d_{S, \theta}$ , then it is also Cauchy with respect to  $d_{S, \theta + \omega}$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $t \in (0, 1)$ , we claim that  $((1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta)_j$  is also a Cauchy sequence with respect to  $d_{S, \theta}$ . To see this, observe that for each  $k = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & 2 \int_X \theta_{((1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta) \vee ((1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta)}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_{(1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_{(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \\ &= 2 \int_X \theta_{(1-t)\varphi_i \vee \varphi_j + tV_\theta}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_{(1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} - \int_X \theta_{(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta}^k \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-k} \\ &= \sum_{a=0}^k \binom{k}{a} \left( 2\theta_{\varphi_i \vee \varphi_j}^a \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-a} - \theta_{\varphi_i}^a \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-a} - \theta_{\varphi_j}^a \wedge \theta_{V_\theta}^{n-a} \right). \end{aligned}$$

By [Corollary 3.13](#), we can find  $\psi_t \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  so that

$$(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta \xrightarrow{d_{S, \theta}} \psi_t.$$

It follows from [Corollary 3.16](#) that

$$(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta \xrightarrow{d_{S, \theta + \omega}} \psi_t.$$



In particular,  $((1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta)_j$  is also a Cauchy sequence with respect to  $d_{S,\theta+\omega}$ . But observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{a=0}^n \left( 2 \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{((1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta) \vee ((1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta)}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{(1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \right. \\ & \quad \left. \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} \right) \\ &= \sum_{a=0}^n \left( 2 \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{(1-t)\varphi_i \vee \varphi_j + tV_\theta}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{(1-t)\varphi_i + tV_\theta}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{(1-t)\varphi_j + tV_\theta}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} \right) \\ &\geq \sum_{a=0}^n (1-t)^a \left( 2 \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{\varphi_i \vee \varphi_j}^{n-a} \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{\varphi_i}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} - \int_X (\theta + \omega)_{\varphi_j}^a \wedge \theta_{V_{\theta+\omega}}^{n-a} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $(\varphi_j)_j$  is also a Cauchy sequence with respect to  $d_{S,\theta+\omega}$ .  $\square$

### 3.3. Quasi-equisingular approximations.

**Definition 3.24.** Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ). We say  $\varphi_j$  is a *quasi-equisingular approximation* of  $\varphi$  if

- (1)  $\varphi_j$  has analytic singularities for each  $j$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi_j$  is decreasing with limit  $\varphi$ ;
- (3) for each  $\lambda' > \lambda > 0$ , there is  $j > 0$  such that

$$(3.14) \quad \mathcal{I}(\lambda' \varphi_j) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(\lambda \varphi).$$

The following comparison result is well-known.

**Lemma 3.25.** Let  $\varphi_j, \psi_j, \varphi, \psi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ). Assume that  $\varphi_j$  (resp.  $\psi_j$ ) is a quasi-equisingular approximation of  $\varphi$  (resp.  $\psi$ ) and  $\varphi \leq \psi$ . Then for each  $\epsilon > 0$  and any  $j > 0$ , we can find  $k > 0$  so that

$$\psi_k \preceq (1 - \epsilon) \varphi_j.$$

*Proof.* This follows from the well-known comparison method. See [Dem15, Proof of Corollary 4.1.7] for example.  $\square$

We prove that a general  $d_S$ -convergent sequence enjoys a quasi-equisingular property.

**Theorem 3.26.** Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ). Assume that  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} \varphi$ . Then for each  $\lambda' > \lambda > 0$ , there is  $j_0 > 0$  so that for  $j \geq j_0$ , (3.14) holds.

*Proof.* Fix  $\lambda' > \lambda > 0$ , we want to find  $j_0 > 0$  so that for  $j \geq j_0$ , (3.14) holds.

**Step 1.** We first assume that  $\varphi$  has analytic singularities.

Let  $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$  be a log resolution of  $\varphi$  and let  $E_1, \dots, E_N$  be all prime divisors of the singular part of  $\varphi$  on  $Y$ . Recall that a local holomorphic function  $f$  lies in the right-hand side of (3.14) if and only if

$$(3.15) \quad \text{ord}_{E_i}(f) > \lambda \text{ord}_{E_i}(\varphi) - A_X(E_i)$$

whenever they make sense. Here  $A_X$  denotes the log discrepancy. Similarly,  $f$  lies in the left-hand side of (3.14) implies that there is  $\epsilon > 0$  so that

$$\text{ord}_{E_i}(f) \geq (1 + \epsilon) \lambda' \text{ord}_{E_i}(\varphi_j) - A_X(E_i).$$

As Lelong numbers are continuous with respect to  $d_S$  by Theorem 3.19, we can find  $j_0 > 0$  so that when  $j \geq j_0$ ,  $\lambda' \text{ord}_{E_i}(\varphi_j) \geq \lambda \text{ord}_{E_i}(\varphi)$  for all  $i$ . In particular, (3.15) follows.

**Step 2.** We handle the general case.

By Corollary 3.16, we are free to increase  $\theta$  and assume that  $\theta_\varphi$  is a Kähler current.

Take a quasi-equisingular approximation  $\psi_k$  of  $\varphi$ . The existence is guaranteed by [DPS01]. Take  $\lambda'' \in (\lambda, \lambda')$ , then by definition, we can find  $k > 0$  so that

$$\mathcal{I}(\lambda'' \psi_k) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(\lambda \varphi).$$

Observe that  $\varphi_j \vee \psi_k \xrightarrow{d_S} \psi_k$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  by [Lemma 3.21](#). By Step 1, we can find  $j_0 > 0$  so that for  $j \geq j_0$ ,

$$\mathcal{I}(\lambda'(\varphi_j \vee \psi_k)) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(\lambda''\psi_k).$$

It follows that for  $j \geq j_0$ ,

$$\mathcal{I}(\lambda'\varphi_j) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(\lambda\varphi).$$

□

**Corollary 3.27.** *Let  $\varphi_j, \varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . Assume that  $\varphi_j$  have analytic singularities,  $\varphi_j$  decreases to  $\varphi$  and  $\int_X \theta_\varphi^n > 0$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\varphi_j \xrightarrow{d_S} P[\varphi]_{\mathcal{I}}$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi_j$  is a quasi-equisingular approximation of  $\varphi$ .

*Proof.* (2) implies (1): This is proved more generally in [\[DX21; DX22\]](#).

(1) implies (2): This follows from [Theorem 3.26](#). □

This corollary shows in particular that being a quasi-equisingular approximation is invariant under blowing-ups with smooth centers, a fact which is not obvious by the very definition.

**3.4. The space of currents.** It will be convenient to descend the previous discussions to the space of currents.

**Definition 3.28.** We introduce the following notations:

- (1)  $\mathcal{Z}_+(X)$  denotes the space of closed positive  $(1, 1)$ -currents on  $X$ ;
- (2) Given a pseudo-effective  $(1, 1)$ -class  $\alpha$  on  $X$ , we write  $\mathcal{Z}_+(X, \alpha)$  for the set of  $T \in \mathcal{Z}_+(X)$  such that  $\{T\} = \alpha$ ;
- (3) Given a pseudo-effective  $(1, 1)$ -class  $\alpha$  on  $X$ , we write  $\mathcal{Z}_+(X, \alpha)_{>0}$  for the subset of  $\mathcal{Z}_+(X, \alpha)$  consisting of  $T$  such that  $\int_X T^n > 0$ .

**Definition 3.29.** Let  $\alpha$  be a pseudo-effective  $(1, 1)$ -class on  $X$ . A *representative* of  $\alpha$  is a smooth real closed  $(1, 1)$ -form  $\theta$  on  $X$  representing the cohomology class of  $\alpha$ . Given  $T \in \mathcal{Z}_+(X, \alpha)$ , we can always write  $T = \theta + \text{dd}^c \varphi$  for some  $\varphi \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . We call  $\varphi$  a *representative* of  $T$  in  $\text{PSH}(X, \theta)$ . It is well-defined up to an additive constant.

**Definition 3.30.** Let  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{Z}_+(X)$ . We say

- (1)  $T_1$  is *more singular* than  $T_2$  and write  $T_1 \preceq T_2$  if given representatives  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  of  $\{T_1\}, \{T_2\}$  respectively, then the representatives  $\varphi_1 \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_1), \varphi_2 \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_2)$  of  $T_1, T_2$  satisfy  $\varphi_1 \leq \varphi_2 + C$  for some  $C \in \mathbb{R}$ ;
- (2)  $T_1$  is *P-more singular* than  $T_2$  and write  $T_1 \preceq_P T_2$  if given representatives  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  of  $\{T_1\}, \{T_2\}$ , then the representatives  $\varphi_1 \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_1), \varphi_2 \in \text{PSH}(X, \theta_2)$  satisfy  $\varphi_1 \preceq_P \varphi_2$ ;
- (3)  $T_1$  is *I-more singular* than  $T_2$  and write  $T_1 \preceq_{\mathcal{I}} T_2$  if for any real (or equivalently integral)  $k \geq 0$ , we have

$$\mathcal{I}(kT_1) \subseteq \mathcal{I}(kT_2).$$

Observe that (1) and (2) do not depend on the choice of  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \varphi_1, \varphi_2$ . We write  $T_1 \sim T_2$  if  $T_1 \preceq T_2$  and  $T_2 \preceq T_1$ . In this case, we say that  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  have the same *singularity type*. Similarly, the equivalence relations defined by (2) and (3) are denoted by  $\sim_P$  and  $\sim_{\mathcal{I}}$  respectively.

**Definition 3.31.** Let  $T, T_1, T_2, \dots \in \mathcal{Z}_+(X)$ . We say  $T_j \implies T$  if there are Kähler forms  $\omega, \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots$  on  $X$  so that

- (1)  $\{T + \omega\} = \{T_j + \omega_j\}$  and it is a Kähler class;
- (2)  $T_j + \omega_j \xrightarrow{d_S} T + \omega$ .

Here (2) is understood in the sense that the corresponding Kähler potentials converge with respect to  $d_S$ .

Observe that this definition is independent of the choices of  $\omega_i, \omega$  by [Corollary 3.16](#).

We leave it to the readers to reformulate our previous results into the language of currents. The applications of these results to Okounkov bodies will be written elsewhere.

## REFERENCES

- [BEGZ10] S. Boucksom, P. Eyssidieux, V. Guedj, and A. Zeriahi. Monge-Ampère equations in big cohomology classes. *Acta Math.* 205.2 (2010), pp. 199–262. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11511-010-0054-7>.
- [DDNL18a] T. Darvas, E. Di Nezza, and C. H. Lu.  $L^1$  metric geometry of big cohomology classes. *Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble)* 68.7 (2018), pp. 3053–3086. URL: [http://aif.cedram.org/item?id=AIF\\_2018\\_\\_68\\_7\\_3053\\_0](http://aif.cedram.org/item?id=AIF_2018__68_7_3053_0).
- [DDNL18b] T. Darvas, E. Di Nezza, and C. H. Lu. Monotonicity of nonpluripolar products and complex Monge-Ampère equations with prescribed singularity. *Anal. PDE* 11.8 (2018), pp. 2049–2087. URL: <https://doi.org/10.2140/apde.2018.11.2049>.
- [DDNL18c] T. Darvas, E. Di Nezza, and C. H. Lu. On the singularity type of full mass currents in big cohomology classes. *Compos. Math.* 154.2 (2018), pp. 380–409. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1112/S0010437X1700759X>.
- [DDNL21] T. Darvas, E. Di Nezza, and H.-C. Lu. The metric geometry of singularity types. *J. Reine Angew. Math.* 771 (2021), pp. 137–170. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1515/crelle-2020-0019>.
- [Dem15] J.-P. Demailly. On the cohomology of pseudoeffective line bundles. *Complex geometry and dynamics*. Vol. 10. Abel Symp. Springer, Cham, 2015, pp. 51–99.
- [DL20] T. Darvas and C. H. Lu. Geodesic stability, the space of rays and uniform convexity in Mabuchi geometry. *Geom. Topol.* 24.4 (2020), pp. 1907–1967. URL: <https://doi.org/10.2140/gt.2020.24.1907>.
- [DPS01] J.-P. Demailly, T. Peternell, and M. Schneider. Pseudo-effective line bundles on compact Kähler manifolds. *Internat. J. Math.* 12.6 (2001), pp. 689–741. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0129167X01000861>.
- [DX21] T. Darvas and M. Xia. The volume of pseudoeffective line bundles and partial equilibrium. *Geometry & Topology* (2021). arXiv: [2112.03827](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.03827) [math.DG].
- [DX22] T. Darvas and M. Xia. The closures of test configurations and algebraic singularity types. *Adv. Math.* 397 (2022), Paper No. 108198, 56. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aim.2022.108198>.
- [GZ17] V. Guedj and A. Zeriahi. Degenerate complex Monge-Ampère equations. Vol. 26. EMS Tracts in Mathematics. European Mathematical Society (EMS), Zürich, 2017, pp. xxiv+472. URL: <https://doi.org/10.4171/167>.
- [Lu21] C. H. Lu. Comparison of Monge-Ampère capacities. *Ann. Polon. Math.* 126.1 (2021), pp. 31–53. URL: <https://doi.org/10.4064/ap200513-2-1>.
- [WN19] D. Witt Nyström. Monotonicity of non-pluripolar Monge-Ampère masses. *Indiana Univ. Math. J.* 68.2 (2019), pp. 579–591. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1512/iumj.2019.68.7630>.
- [Xia19] M. Xia. Integration by parts formula for non-pluripolar product. 2019. arXiv: [1907.06359](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.06359) [math.DG].
- [Xia21a] M. Xia. Mabuchi geometry of big cohomology classes with prescribed singularities. 2021. arXiv: [1907.07234](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.07234) [math.DG].
- [Xia21b] M. Xia. Partial Okounkov bodies and Duistermaat–Heckman measures of non-Archimedean metrics. 2021. arXiv: [2112.04290](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.04290) [math.AG].
- [Xia22] M. Xia. Non-pluripolar products on vector bundles and Chern–Weil formulae on mixed Shimura varieties. 2022. arXiv: [2210.15342](https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.15342) [math.AG].

Mingchen Xia, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, INSTITUT DE MATHÉMATIQUES DE JUSSIEU-PARIS RIVE GAUCHE

Email address, [mingchen@imj-prg.fr](mailto:mingchen@imj-prg.fr)

Homepage, <https://mingchenxia.github.io/home/>.