

# Radial balanced metrics on the unit disk

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## Abstract

Let  $\Phi$  be a strictly plurisubharmonic and radial function on the unit disk  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{C}$  and let  $g$  be the Kähler metric associated to the Kähler form  $\omega = \frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \Phi$ . We prove that if  $g$  is  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced of height 3 (where  $g_{eucl}$  is the standard Euclidean metric on  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}^2$ ), and the function  $h(x) = e^{-\Phi(z)}$ ,  $x = |z|^2$ , extends to an entire analytic function on  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $g$  equals the hyperbolic metric. The proof of our result is based on a interesting characterization of the function  $f(x) = 1 - x$ .

*Keywords:* Kähler metrics; balanced metrics; quantization.

*Subj. Class:* 53D05, 53C55, 58C25, 58F06.

## 1 Introduction and statement of the main results

Let  $\Phi: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a strictly plurisubharmonic function on an  $n$ -dimensional complex manifold  $M$  and let  $g_0$  be a Kähler metric on  $M$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{H} = L^2_{hol}(M, e^{-\Phi} \frac{\omega_0^n}{n!})$  the separable complex Hilbert space consisting of holomorphic functions  $\varphi$  on  $M$  such that

$$\langle \varphi, \varphi \rangle = \int_M e^{-\Phi} |\varphi|^2 \frac{\omega_0^n}{n!} < \infty, \quad (1)$$

where  $\omega_0$  is the Kähler form associated to the Kähler metric  $g_0$  (this means that  $\omega_0(X, Y) = g_0(JX, Y)$ , for all vector fields  $X, Y$  on  $M$ , where  $J$  is the complex structure of  $M$ ). Assume for each point  $x \in M$  there exists  $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}$  non-vanishing at  $x$ . Then, one can consider the following holomorphic map into the  $N$ -dimensional ( $N \leq \infty$ ) complex projective space:

$$\varphi_\Phi : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^N : x \mapsto [\varphi_0(x), \dots, \varphi_N(x)], \quad (2)$$

where  $\varphi_j$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, N$ , is a orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{H}$ . In the case  $N = \infty$ ,  $\mathbb{C}P^\infty$  denotes the quotient space of  $l^2(\mathbb{C}) \setminus \{0\}$  (the space of sequences  $z_j$  such that  $\sum_{j=1}^\infty |z_j|^2 < \infty$ ), where two sequences  $z_j$  and  $w_j$  are equivalent iff there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $w_j = \lambda z_j$ ,  $\forall j$ .

Let  $g$  be the Kähler metric associated to the Kähler form  $\omega = \frac{i}{2}\partial\bar{\partial}\Phi$  (and so  $\Phi$  is a Kähler potential for  $g$ ). We say that the metric  $g$  is  $g_0$ -balanced of height  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ , if  $\varphi_\Phi^* g_{FS} = \alpha g$ , or equivalently

$$\varphi_\Phi^* \omega_{FS} = \alpha \omega, \quad (3)$$

where  $g_{FS}$  is the Fubini–Study metric on  $\mathbb{C}P^N$  and  $\omega_{FS}$  its associated Kähler form, namely

$$\omega_{FS} = \frac{i}{2} \partial\bar{\partial} \log \sum_{j=0}^N |Z_j|^2,$$

for a homogeneous coordinate system  $[Z_0, \dots, Z_N]$  of  $\mathbb{C}P^N$  (note that this definition is independent of the choice of the orthonormal basis). Therefore, if  $g$  is a  $g_0$ -balanced metric of height  $\alpha$ , then  $\alpha g$  is projectively induced via the map (2) (we refer the reader to the seminal paper [5] for more details on projectively induced metrics). In the case a metric  $g$  is  $g$ -balanced, i.e.  $g = g_0$ , one simply calls  $g$  a *balanced* metric.

The study of balanced metrics is a very fruitful area of research both from mathematical and physical point of view (see [2], [6], [7], [11], [12], [13], [15], [16], [17] and [18]). The map  $\varphi_\Phi$  was introduced by J. Rawnsley [21] in the context of quantization of Kähler manifolds and it is often referred to as the *coherent states map*.

Notice that one can easily give an alternative definition of balanced metrics (not involving projectively induced Kähler metrics) in terms of the reproducing kernel of the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Nevertheless the definition given here is motivated by the recent results on compact manifolds. In fact, it can be easily extended to the case when  $(M, \omega)$  is a polarized compact Kähler manifold, with polarization  $L$ , i.e.,  $L$  is a holomorphic line bundle  $L$  over  $M$ , such that  $c_1(L) = [\omega]$  (see e.g. [1] and [3] for details). In the quantum mechanics terminology the bundle  $L$  is called the *quantum line bundle* and the pair  $(L, h)$  a *geometric quantization* of  $(M, \omega)$ . The problem of the existence and uniqueness of balanced metrics on a given Kähler class of a compact manifold  $M$  was solved by S. Donaldson [9] when the group of biholomorphisms of  $M$  which lifts to the quantum line bundle  $L$  modulo the  $\mathbb{C}^*$  action is finite and by C. Arezzo and the second author in the general case (see also [19]).

Nevertheless, many basic and important questions on the existence and uniqueness of balanced metrics on noncompact manifolds are still open. For example, it is unknown if there exists a complete balanced metric on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  different from the euclidean metric. The case of  $g_0$ -balanced metric on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,

where  $g_0 = g_{eucl}$  is the Euclidean metric has been studied by the second author and F. Cuccu in [8]. There they proved the following.

**Theorem A** *Let  $g$  be a  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced metric (of height one) on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . If  $\Phi$  is rotation invariant then (up to holomorphic isometries)  $g = g_{eucl}$ .*

In this paper we are concerned with the  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced metrics  $g$  on the unit disk  $\mathcal{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z|^2 < 1\}$ , where  $g_{eucl} = dz \otimes d\bar{z}$  is the standard Euclidean metric on  $\mathbb{C}$ . In this case, the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  consists of all holomorphic functions  $\varphi: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} e^{-\Phi} |\varphi|^2 \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z} < \infty,$$

where  $\Phi$  is a Kähler potential for  $g$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{H}$  is the weighted Bergman space  $L^2_{hol}(\mathcal{D}, e^{-\Phi} \omega_{eucl})$  on  $\mathcal{D}$  with weight  $e^{-\Phi}$ . Notice that when  $g = g_{hyp} = \frac{dz \otimes d\bar{z}}{(1-|z|^2)^2}$  is the hyperbolic metric on  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\Phi(z) = -\log(1-|z|^2)$  is a Kähler potential for  $g_{hyp}$  and the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = L^2_{hol}(\mathcal{D}, e^{-\Phi} \omega_{eucl})$  consists of holomorphic functions  $f$  on  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $\int_{\mathcal{D}} (1-|z|^2) |f|^2 \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z} < \infty$ . It is easily seen that  $\sqrt{\frac{(j+1)(j+2)}{\pi}} z^j$ ,  $j = 0, \dots$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$ . The map (2), in this case, is given by:

$$\varphi_{\Phi}: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^{\infty}: z \mapsto [\dots, \sqrt{\frac{(j+1)(j+2)}{\pi}} z^j, \dots].$$

Thus,

$$\varphi_{\Phi}^* g_{FS} = \frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \log \left[ \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} (j+1)(j+2) |z|^{2j} \right] = \frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \log \frac{1}{(1-|z|^2)^3} = 3\omega_{hyp}$$

and so  $g_{hyp}$  is a  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced metric of height  $\alpha = 3$ . Notice that the function  $\Phi = -\log(1-|z|^2)$  is a radial function and  $h(x) = e^{-\Phi(z)} = 1-|z|^2$ ,  $x = |z|^2$ , is an entire analytic function defined on all  $\mathbb{R}$ .

The following theorem, which is the main result of this paper, shows that the hyperbolic metric on the unit disk can be characterized by the previous data.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $g$  be a Kähler metric on the unit disk  $\mathcal{D}$ . Assume that  $g$  admits a (globally) defined Kähler potential  $\Phi$  which is radial and such that the function  $h(x) = e^{-\Phi(z)}$ ,  $x = |z|^2$ , extends to a (real valued) entire analytic function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . If the metric  $g$  is  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced of height 3, then  $g = g_{hyp}$ .*

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is based on the following characterization of the function  $f(x) = 1 - x$  very interesting on its own sake.

**Lemma 1.2** *Let  $\lambda$  be a positive real number, and let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be an entire analytic function such that  $f(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in (0, 1)$ . Define*

$$I_j = \int_0^1 f(t) t^j dt \quad \text{for } j \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (4)$$

*If*

$$\frac{2\lambda^2}{f^3(x)} = \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^j}{I_j} \quad \text{for all } x \in (0, 1), \quad (5)$$

*then  $f(x) = \lambda(1 - x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

Note that the radius of convergence of the series above is 1: indeed, since  $f$  is bounded and positive we have

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} I_j^{1/j} = \lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \|t\|_{L^j((0,1), f(t) dt)} = \|t\|_{L^\infty((0,1), f(t) dt)} = \sup_{t \in (0,1)} |t| = 1.$$

Despite the very natural statement the proof of Lemma 1.2 is far from being trivial, and is based on a careful analysis of the behaviour of  $f(x)$  and its derivatives as  $x \rightarrow 1^-$ .

In view of this lemma the authors believe the validity of the following conjecture which could be an important step towards the classification of  $g_{\text{eucl}}$ -balanced metrics of height  $\alpha$  on the complex hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{C}H^n$ , namely the unit ball  $B^n \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  equipped with the hyperbolic form  $\omega_{\text{hyp}} = -\frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \log(1 - \|z\|^2)$ ,  $z \in B^n$ .

**Conjecture:**

*Fix a positive integer  $n$  and let*

$$D_n = \{x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid 0 < x_1 + \dots + x_n < 1, x_j > 0\}.$$

*Suppose that there exists an integer  $\alpha > n + 1$ , a positive real number  $\lambda$  and an entire analytic function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in D_n$  and*

$$\frac{(\alpha - 1) \cdots (\alpha - n) \lambda^{n+1}}{f^\alpha(x)} = \sum_J \frac{x^J}{I_J(\alpha)}, \quad \forall J = (j_1, \dots, j_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n,$$

where

$$I_J(\alpha) = \int_{D_n} f^{\alpha-(n+1)}(x) x^J dx_1 \cdots dx_n.$$

Then  $f(x) = \lambda(1 - x_1 - \cdots - x_n)$ .

Notice that Lemma 1.2 shows the validity of the previous conjecture for  $n = 1$  and  $\alpha = 3$ .

**Remark 1.3** The studies of balanced metrics on the unit ball  $B^n \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is far more complicated than one of studying the  $g_{\text{eucd}}$ -balanced metrics (we refer the reader to a recent paper of Miroslav Engliš [14] for the study of radial balanced metrics on  $B^n$ ). The situation is similar in the compact case where there are no obstructions for the existence of  $g_0$ -balanced metrics (where  $g_0$  is a fixed metric) on a given integral Kähler class of a compact complex manifold  $M$  while the existence of balanced metric on  $M$  is subordinated to the existence of a constant scalar curvature metric in that class (cf. [3] and [4]).

**Remark 1.4** Lemma 1.2 should be compared with the following characterization of the exponential function due to Miles and Williamson [20] which is the main tool in [8] in order to prove Theorem A: *let  $f(x) = \sum_j b_j x^j$  be an entire function on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $b_0 = 1$ ,  $b_j > 0$ ,  $\forall j \in \mathbb{N}$ , and*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{b_j t^j}{f(t)} dt = 1, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N},$$

*then  $f(x) = e^x$ .*

The paper contains another section where we prove Lemma 1.2 and Theorem 1.1.

## 2 Proof of the main results

In the proof of Lemma 1.2 we need the following elementary result.

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $r_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ . If a sequence  $\{c_j\}$  satisfies  $c_j = O(j^{r_0})$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$ , then the power series  $\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} c_j x^j$  converges in the interval  $(-1, 1)$  to a function  $S(x)$  such that  $S(x) = O((1-x)^{-r_0-1})$  as  $x \rightarrow 1^-$ .*

**Proof:** If  $r_0 = 0$  then the conclusion follows from the definition of the symbol  $O$  and the fact that  $\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} x^j = (1-x)^{-1}$ . If, instead,  $r_0 > 0$  then the conclusion follows similarly after the observation that  $a_j = O((j+1) \cdot \dots \cdot (j+r_0))$  and  $\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} (j+1) \cdot \dots \cdot (j+r_0) x^j = r_0! (1-x)^{-r_0-1}$ .  $\square$

## 2.1 Proof of Lemma 1.2

By replacing  $f(x)$  with  $\lambda f(x)$  we may assume  $\lambda = 1$ . Unless otherwise stated, the variable  $x$  ranges in the interval  $(0, 1)$ . The starting idea of the proof of Lemma 1.2 is the following. From the Taylor series of  $f(x)$  at  $x_0 = 1$ ,

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^k f^{(k)}(1)}{k!} (1-x)^k, \quad (6)$$

we obtain an asymptotic estimate of the left-hand side of (5) (with  $\lambda = 1$ ) as  $x \rightarrow 1^-$ . Moreover, by repeatedly integrating by parts we obtain, for every  $j, k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$

$$I_j = \sum_{k=0}^{k_0} \frac{(-1)^k f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k+1)} + \frac{(-1)^{k_0+1}}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k_0+1)} \int_0^1 f^{(k_0+1)}(t) t^{j+k_0+1} dt. \quad (7)$$

Passing to the reciprocal  $1/I_j$  and using Lemma 2.1 we obtain an asymptotic estimate of the right-hand side of (5) (with  $\lambda = 1$ ). Since equality holds, we subsequently determine  $f(1), f'(1), f''(1)$ . Then, the proof is concluded by means of a more sophisticated argument.

Step 1:  $f(1) = 0$  and  $f'(1) = -1$ . Denote by  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  the smallest natural number such that  $f^{(k_0)}(1) \neq 0$ . By (6) we get  $f(x) = \frac{1}{k_0!} (-1)^{k_0} f^{(k_0)}(1) (1-x)^{k_0} (1 + O(1-x))$ . In the sequel we will make often use of the following elementary expansion:

$$(1+t)^p = 1 + pt + O(t^2) \text{ as } t \rightarrow 0, \quad p \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (8)$$

which implies, in particular,  $(1 + O(1-x))^{-3} = 1 + O(1-x)$ . Taking this into account, we deduce

$$\frac{2}{f^3(x)} = \frac{2(k_0!)^3 (1 + O(1-x))}{(-1)^{k_0} (f^{(k_0)}(1))^3 (1-x)^{3k_0}}. \quad (9)$$

Since we are assuming  $f^{(k)}(1) = 0$  for  $k < k_0$ , and since the integral in (7) tends to zero at least as fast as  $1/j$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$ , we may write

$$I_j = \frac{(-1)^{k_0} f^{(k_0)}(1)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k_0+1)} (1 + O(1/j)),$$

which in turn, by (8), implies

$$\frac{1}{I_j} = \frac{(j+1) \cdots (j+k_0+1)}{(-1)^{k_0} f^{(k_0)}(1)} + O(j^{k_0}).$$

Taking Lemma 2.1 into account, multiplication by  $x^j$  followed by summation over  $j$  yields

$$\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^j}{I_j} = \frac{(k_0 + 1)!}{(-1)^{k_0} f^{(k_0)}(1) (1-x)^{k_0+2}} + O((1-x)^{-k_0-1}) \text{ as } x \rightarrow 1^-.$$

By comparing the last equality with (9) it follows that  $k_0$  must satisfy  $3k_0 = k_0 + 2$ , and therefore  $k_0 = 1$ . This implies  $f(1) = 0$  and  $(f'(1))^3 = f'(1)$ . Since  $f(x) > 0$  for  $x \in (0, 1)$ ,  $f'(1)$  must be negative and we conclude  $f'(1) = -1$ .

Step 2:  $f''(1) = 0$ . By Taylor expansion we have  $f(x) = (1-x)[1 + \frac{1}{2} f''(1)(1-x) + O((1-x)^2)]$ . Using (8) we get

$$\frac{2}{f^3(x)} = \frac{2}{(1-x)^3} - \frac{3f''(1)}{(1-x)^2} + O((1-x)^{-1}). \quad (10)$$

Choosing  $k_0 = 2$  in (7) and arguing as before, we also find  $1/I_j = (j+1)(j+2) - (j+1)f''(1) + O(1)$  and therefore by Lemma 2.1

$$\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^j}{I_j} = \frac{2}{(1-x)^3} - \frac{f''(1)}{(1-x)^2} + O((1-x)^{-1}).$$

By comparing the last estimate with (10) for  $x \rightarrow 1^-$  we deduce  $f''(1) = 0$ .

At this point one could try to obtain the higher order derivatives  $f^{(k)}(1)$ ,  $k \geq 3$ , as in Steps 1 and 2. Unfortunately this does not work. Indeed one can easily verify that by iterating the previous procedure one gets  $f^{(k)}(1)$ ,  $k \geq 4$  in terms of  $f^{(3)}(1)$  but the latter remains undetermined. In order to overcome this problem notice that the previous steps imply that the function

$$z(x) := \frac{2}{f^3(x)} - \frac{2}{(1-x)^3} - \frac{f'''(1)}{1-x} \quad (11)$$

is real analytic in a neighbourhood of  $x = 1$ . Indeed, we have  $f(x) = (1-x)[1 - \frac{1}{6} f'''(1)(1-x)^2 + (1-x)^3 \varphi(x)]$  for an entire analytic function  $\varphi(x)$ . Furthermore,  $(1+t)^{-3} = 1 - 3t + t^2 \psi(t)$ , where  $\psi(t)$  is analytic for  $t \in (-1, +\infty)$  and the claim follows.

Further, by (5) (with  $\lambda = 1$ ),  $z(x)$  admits the following expansion around the origin  $z(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} a_j x^j$ , where

$$a_j = 1/I_j - (j+1)(j+2) - f'''(1), \text{ for } j \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (12)$$

The proof of the lemma will be completed by showing that  $z(x)$  vanishes identically. Indeed this is equivalent to

$$1/I_j = (j+1)(j+2) + f'''(1), \quad \text{for } j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (13)$$

which plugged into (5) (with  $\lambda = 1$ ) gives

$$\frac{2}{f^3(x)} = \frac{2}{(1-x)^3} + \frac{f'''(1)}{1-x}. \quad (14)$$

This shows that  $f(1-t)$  is an odd function of  $t$  and therefore  $f^{(4)}(1) = 0$ . Taking this into account, and using (7) with  $k_0 = 4$  we obtain

$$I_j = \frac{1}{(j+1)(j+2)} - \frac{f'''(1)}{(j+1) \cdot \dots \cdot (j+4)} + O(j^{-6}),$$

which in turn implies  $1/I_j = (j+1)(j+2) + f'''(1) - 4f'''(1)/j + O(j^{-2})$ . By comparing the last expansion with (13) we deduce  $f'''(1) = 0$ . This and (14) imply  $f(x) = 1-x$  and this concludes the proof of the lemma.

In order to prove that the sequence  $\{a_j\}$  vanishes identically we need the following steps.

Step 3. For every integer  $k_1$  there exists a rational function  $Q_{k_1}(j)$  such that

$$a_j = Q_{k_1}(j) + O(j^{-k_1}) \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow +\infty. \quad (15)$$

Observe, firstly, that if (15) holds for a particular  $k_1 = \bar{k}_1$ , then it also holds for every  $k_1 < \bar{k}_1$  with  $Q_{k_1} = Q_{\bar{k}_1}$ . Hence, it suffices to prove (15) for  $k_1 \geq 1$ . Letting  $k_0 = k_1 + 2$  in (7) we obtain:

$$I_j = [(j+1)(j+2)]^{-1} [1 + \tilde{Q}_{k_1}(j) + O(j^{-k_1-2})],$$

where

$$\tilde{Q}_{k_1}(j) = \sum_{k=3}^{k_1+2} \frac{(-1)^k f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+3) \cdot \dots \cdot (j+k+1)} = \frac{-f'''(1)}{(j+3)(j+4)} + O(j^{-3}).$$

Therefore

$$1/I_j = (j+1)(j+2) [1 + \hat{Q}_{k_1}(j) + O(j^{-k_1-2})],$$

where  $\hat{Q}_{k_1}(j) = -\frac{\tilde{Q}_{k_1}(j)}{1 + \tilde{Q}_{k_1}(j)}.$



Letting  $Q_{k_1}(j) = (j+1)(j+2)\hat{Q}_{k_1}(j) - f'''(1)$ , the claim follows by the definition (12) of  $a_j$ . In the next step we will need the observation that

$$Q_{k_1}(j) = O(j^{-1}). \quad (16)$$

Step 4. The sequence  $\{a_j\}$  defined before tends to zero faster than every rational function of  $j$ , namely  $a_j = O(j^{-k_1})$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$  for every integer  $k_1$ . This is proved by showing that for every  $k_1 \geq 2$  and every rational function  $Q_{k_1}$  satisfying (15) we have  $Q_{k_1}(j) = O(j^{-k_1})$ . Suppose that this is not the case. Then, by (16), there exist positive integers  $d < k_1$  and a rational function  $Q_{k_1}$  satisfying (15) such that the limit  $\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} j^d Q_{k_1}(j)$  is a finite  $c \neq 0$ . This and (15) imply  $a_j = c j^{-d} + O(j^{-d-1})$ . Now recall that the sum of the series  $\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} x^j/j$  is the unbounded function  $-\log(1-x)$ , while the series  $\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} x^j/j^2$  converges to a bounded function in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . By comparison with these elementary series it follows that the  $(d-1)$ -th derivative of  $\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} a_j x^j$  is unbounded for  $x$  close to  $1^-$ . But this is impossible because the last series converges to  $z(x)$ , which is analytic in a neighbourhood of  $x = 1$ . This contradiction shows that  $Q_{k_1}(j) = O(j^{-k_1})$  and the claim follows.

Step 5. The sequence  $\{a_j\}$  is identically zero. Define  $w_j = [(j+1)(j+2) + f'''(1)] I_j - 1$ . Since  $w_j = -I_j a_j$  and  $I_j$  is positive, it suffices to show that  $w_j = 0$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . This is achieved by representing  $w_j$  as the limit  $\lim_{k_0 \rightarrow +\infty} S_{k_0}(j)$  of the sum  $S_{k_0}(j)$  defined below, and then by showing that  $S_{k_0}(j)$  is infinitesimal as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ . Taking into account that  $\int_0^1 (1-t)^k t^j dt = k! j! / (j+k+1)!$ , multiplication of (6) by  $t^j$  followed by termwise integration over the interval  $(0, 1)$  yields

$$I_j = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^k f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k+1)}.$$

Notice that it makes sense to integrate over the interval  $(0, 1)$  since, by assumption,  $f$  is entire (cf. Remark 2.2). Since  $f(1) = f''(1) = 0$  and  $f'(1) = -1$ , the preceding formula leads to

$$w_j = \frac{f'''(1)}{(j+1)(j+2)} + \sum_{k=3}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^k [(j+1)(j+2) + f'''(1)] f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k+1)}. \quad (17)$$

For  $k_0 \geq 3$  we may write  $w_j = S_{k_0}(j) + R_{k_0}(j)$ , where the partial sum  $S_{k_0}(j)$  and the remainder  $R_{k_0}(j)$  are given by

$$S_{k_0}(j) = \frac{f'''(1)}{(j+1)(j+2)} + \sum_{k=3}^{k_0} \frac{(-1)^k [(j+1)(j+2) + f'''(1)] f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k+1)}, \quad (18)$$

$$R_{k_0}(j) = \sum_{k=k_0+1}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^k [(j+1)(j+2)+f'''(1)] f^{(k)}(1)}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k+1)}.$$

With this notation, formula (17) is equivalent to saying that for every  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $S_{k_0}(j) \rightarrow w_j$  and  $R_{k_0}(j) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ . By (7), the remainder  $R_{k_0}(j)$  also admits the following representation:

$$R_{k_0}(j) = \frac{(-1)^{k_0+1} [(j+1)(j+2)+f'''(1)]}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k_0+1)} \int_0^1 f^{(k_0+1)}(t) t^{j+k_0+1} dt,$$

which shows that  $R_{k_0}(j) = O(j^{-k_0})$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$ . Furthermore, since  $w_j = -I_j a_j$  and  $I_j$  is bounded, by Step 4 we have, in particular,  $w_j = O(j^{-k_0})$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$ . It follows that  $S_{k_0}(j) = O(j^{-k_0})$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$  and therefore we may write

$$S_{k_0}(j) = \frac{P_{k_0}^1(j)}{(j+1) \cdots (j+k_0+1)}, \quad (19)$$

where  $P_{k_0}^1(j) = m_{k_0} j + q_{k_0}$  is a convenient polynomial of degree  $\deg P_{k_0}^1 \leq 1$  in the variable  $j$ . In order to show that  $S_{k_0}(j)$  is infinitesimal as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$  we have to investigate the coefficients  $m_{k_0}, q_{k_0}$ . Observe, firstly, that from (17) we get

$$S_{k_0+1}(j) = S_{k_0}(j) + \frac{(-1)^{k_0+1} [(j+1)(j+2)+f'''(1)] f^{(k_0+1)}(1)}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k_0+2)}.$$

This and (19) yield

$$\frac{P_{k_0+1}^1(j)}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k_0+2)} = \frac{P_{k_0}^1(j)}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k_0+1)} + \frac{(-1)^{k_0+1} [(j+1)(j+2)+f'''(1)] f^{(k_0+1)}(1)}{(j+1)\cdots(j+k_0+2)}.$$

By summation of the two rational functions on the right-hand side of the last equality, and since the coefficients of  $j^2, j, j^0$  in the numerator must equal the corresponding ones in the left-hand side, we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= m_{k_0} + (-1)^{k_0+1} f^{(k_0+1)}(1), \\ m_{k_0+1} &= (k_0 - 1) m_{k_0} + q_{k_0}, \\ q_{k_0+1} &= (k_0 + 2) q_{k_0} - [2 + f'''(1)] m_{k_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the series (6) converges together with all its derivatives at  $x = 0$ , it follows that for every  $h \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $m_{k_0} = o(k_0! k_0^{-h})$  as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ . The same holds for  $q_{k_0}$  because  $q_{k_0+1} = (k_0 + 2) [m_{k_0+1} - (k_0 - 1) m_{k_0}] - [2 + f'''(1)] m_{k_0}$ . Hence, by (19), it follows that  $S_{k_0}(j) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ . Since we have already observed that  $S_{k_0}(j) \rightarrow w_j$  as  $k_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ , we finally conclude that  $w_j = 0$  for all  $j$ , as claimed.  $\square$

**Remark 2.2** The assumption in Lemma 1.2 that  $f$  is an entire analytic function can be relaxed. If equality (6) holds in the interval  $(-\varepsilon, 2 + \varepsilon)$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then the same proof shows that  $f(x) = \lambda(1 - x)$  in that interval.

## 2.2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

Since the function  $h(x) = e^{-\Phi(z)}$ ,  $x = |z|^2$ , extends to all real numbers it follows that  $e^{-\Phi(z)}$  does not blow up at the boundary of  $\mathcal{D}$ . This implies that the monomials  $z^j$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots$  are an orthogonal basis of  $\mathcal{H} = L^2_{hol}(\mathcal{D}, e^{-\Phi} \omega_{eucl})$ . Hence the sequence  $\sqrt{b_j} z^j$ ,  $j = 0, \dots$ , with

$$b_j = \left( \int_{\mathcal{D}} e^{-\Phi} |z|^{2j} \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z} \right)^{-1},$$

is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$  and the Kähler metric  $g$  is  $g_{eucl}$ -balanced of height 3 iff

$$\frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \log \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} b_j |z|^{2j} \right) = 3\omega = 3 \frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \Phi.$$

This implies that the function  $\Phi(z) - \log(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} b_j |z|^{2j})^{\frac{1}{3}}$  is a radial harmonic function on  $\mathcal{D}$  and hence equals a constant, say  $\Phi_0$ . By setting  $f(x) = (\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} b_j x^j)^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ ,  $x \in [0, 1)$ , and by the definition of the  $b_j$ 's one then gets

$$e^{-\Phi_0} b_j \int_{\mathcal{D}} f(|z|^2) |z|^{2j} \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z} = 1, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (20)$$

Observe that again the assumption that  $h(x) = e^{-\Phi(z)}$ ,  $x = |z|^2$ , extends to an entire analytic function on  $\mathbb{R}$  implies the same property for  $f(x) = h(x) e^{\Phi_0}$ . By passing to polar coordinates  $z = \rho e^{i\theta}$ ,  $\rho \in [0, +\infty)$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  and by the change of variables  $t = \rho^2$  one obtains:

$$\pi e^{-\Phi_0} b_j \int_0^1 f(t) t^j dt = 1, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By setting  $\lambda^2 = \frac{\pi e^{-\Phi_0}}{2}$ ,  $I_j = \frac{1}{2\lambda^2 b_j}$  and by the definition of  $f(x)$  one gets (4) and (5). Therefore, by Lemma 1.2,  $f(x) = \lambda(1-x)$ , i.e.  $\Phi(z) = \Phi_0 - \log \lambda - \log(1-|z|^2)$ , which implies  $\omega = \frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \Phi = -\frac{i}{2} \partial \bar{\partial} \log(1-|z|^2) = \omega_{hyp}$  and this concludes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

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