

Holomorphically convex sets and domains of holomorphy

by

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Introduction: The purpose of these seminar notes is to show that if  $U$  is a holomorphically convex open set of an arbitrary complex space, then every point on the boundary is the natural frontier of a holomorphic function of  $\bar{U}$ . This was proved for connected open sets in  $C^n$  by Cartan-Thullen in 1932 [1], and it turns out that the essential idea of their proof carries over to the general case. The question whether a holomorphically convex relatively compact open subset of a complex space is a domain of holomorphy, is of importance in study of Levi's problem. In the papers of Grauert and Narasimhan ([3] and [5]) the problem is to establish the implications:

1.  $U$  is strongly pseudoconvex  $\implies U$  is holomorphically convex, and
2.  $U$  is holomorphically convex  $\implies U$  is a domain of holomorphy.

In these papers, special properties of  $U$  are used to construct a function that cannot be extended to a given boundary point, and the technique is not always applicable. The main theorem of this note shows that implication 2 is always true.

This note is highly preliminary. There is a step in the reasoning of Cartan-Thullen that I don't understand, and it seems probable that if there is not a lacuna in their proof, a stronger result and a simpler proof in the general case may also be obtained.

Part I: Notation and preliminaries.

In the sequel, we use the standard notation of set theory.  $\mathbb{N}$  denotes the set of natural numbers, and  $\mathbb{C}$  the field of complex numbers.

Let  $U$  be a set, and  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$  a family of complex-valued functions on  $U$ . We write  $N((f_i)_{i \in I}) = \{X \subseteq U : f_i(x) = 0; i \in I\}$

To avoid ambiguity, we sometimes add a subscript  $U$ , and write  $N_U((f_i)_{i \in I})$ .

Let  $x$  be a point in a topological space  $X$ .  $N_x$  shall denote the set of open neighbourhoods of  $x$  in  $X$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $X$ . If  $A$  is a subspace of  $X$  and  $x \in A$ ,  $N_x(A)$  is the set of open neighbourhoods of  $x$  in  $A$ .

$U$  and  $V$  are open subsets of topological space  $X$ . We write  $U \subset\subset V$  iff  $\bar{U}$  is compact subset of  $V$ .

If  $E$  is a subset of a topological space  $X$ , we write  $\dot{E} = \bar{E} - E^{\circ}$ , i.e. the set of frontier points of  $E$ .

For the notions of analytic and locally analytic sets of a domain  $G$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and the basic results on irreducibility and local decomposition in irreducible components we refer the reader to [2], §1 or to [6]. Notice that if  $B$  is a proper analytic subset of an irreducible analytic set  $A$ , then  $A - B$  is connected, and  $B$  is nowhere dense in  $A$ .

By a complex space, we mean a (reduced) complex space in the sense of Serre. For simplicity, we always assume that a complex space satisfies the second axiom of countability. If  $A$  is a locally analytic subset of  $X$ , the sheaf of traces of holomorphic functions on  $A$  induces a structure of complex space on  $A$ . (Remark that open subsets and irreducible components of  $X$  are locally analytic subsets.)

When we consider  $A$  as a complex space, it is always with its induced complex structure. By  $H(X)$  we denote the vectorspace of holomorphic functions on  $X$ .

When  $E$  is a relatively compact subset of  $X$ ,  $f \longrightarrow \|f\|_E = \sup_{x \in E} |f(x)|$  is a seminorm on  $H(X)$ .  $H(X)$ , equipped with the topology generated by these seminorms, is a locally convex topological vectorspace.

We say that a sequence  $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $H(X)$  converges u.e.c. (uniformly on every compact), if it converges in this topology. By [2], Satz 28,  $H(X)$  is complete.

Let  $K$  be a compact subset of a complex space  $X$ .

By  $\hat{K}$  we denote  $\{x \in X : |f(x)| \leq \|f\|_K ; f \in H(X)\}$ .

We say that  $f$  is holomorphically convex, iff  $K$  is compact  $\Rightarrow \hat{K}$  is compact.

Part II: The theorem.

Theorem: Let  $X$  be a complex space, and  $U$  an open set in  $X$ .

$U$  is holomorphically convex  $\Rightarrow (\forall x \in \dot{U})(\exists f \in H(U) [f \text{ is not extendable to a holomorphic function in any neighbourhood of } x])$ .

Proof: We assume  $\dot{U} \neq \emptyset$ . If not, the theorem is trivially true.

Let  $X = \bigcup_{i \in I} X_i$  be a decomposition into irreducible components and  
 $(U_s)_{s \in S} = \bigcup_{i \in I} \{V : V \text{ is a connected component of } U \cap X_i\}$ . \*

We may assume  $S = \mathbb{N}$ , or  $S = \{1 \dots n_0\}$ ;  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

The first step of the proof is to construct a function  $f \in H(U)$ , such that:

- i.  $(\forall s \in S) [f|_{U_s} \not\equiv 0, \text{ unless } U_s \text{ is compact}]$ .
- ii.  $\overline{N(f)} \supset \dot{U}$ . (Closure taken in  $X$ ).

\* See correction at the end, 1.)

The principle of construction, which goes back to Cartan-Thullen [1] is as follows:

1. Choose a sequence  $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  of points in  $U$ , with every point in  $\dot{U}$  as an accumulation point.

2. Find a sequence  $(f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $H(U)$ , such that:

a.  $(\forall s \in S) [f_i|_{U_s} \not\equiv 0, \text{ unless } U_s \text{ is compact}]$ .

b.  $f_i(x_i) = 0$ .

c.  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i$  converges u.e.c. in  $U$ .

Then  $N(\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} N(f_i)$ , so  $f = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i$  satisfies i and ii

Let  $(V_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an increasing sequence of open sets in  $U$ , with

$$V_i \subset \subset U, \quad i \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$V_i \cap U_s \neq \emptyset, \quad \text{for } i \in s.$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} V_i = U$$

$$\text{Set } \bar{V}_i = K_i.$$

Choose a dense subsequence  $(y_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $\dot{U}$ , and for each  $j$ , a fundamental system  $(O_{j,k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  of neighbourhoods of  $y_j$ .

Let  $(O_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an enumeration of  $(O_{j,k})_{(j,k) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}$ .

Choose a sequence  $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ , such that  $x_i \in (O_i \cap U) - \hat{K}_i$ .

Obviously  $\overline{\{x_i : i \in \mathbb{N}\}} \supset \dot{U}$ .

$$x_i \notin \hat{K}_i \Rightarrow (\exists h_i \in H(U)) [ |h_i(x_i)| < \|h_i\|_{K_i}$$

$$(\exists c \in \mathbb{N}) [ \| (\frac{h_i}{h_i(x_i)})^c \|_{K_i} < \frac{1}{2^i} ]. \quad \text{Set } (\frac{h_i}{h_i(x_i)})^c = g_{i,0}$$

and  $f_{i,0} = 1 - g_{i,0}$ . Notice that  $f_{i,0}(x_i) = 0$ .

If  $X$  is irreducible and  $U$  is connected,  $f_{i,0}$  is the sought function, because  $\sum_{i=1}^n \|f_{i,0} - 1\|_{K_1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \|g_{i,0}\|_{K_1}$  converges for

every  $1 \Rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_{i,0}$  converges u.e.c. on  $U$ . (Just as in [1]).  
 In the general case we must modify  $f_{i,0}$  to get a. satisfied,  
 without destroying property b and c.

We are going to construct inductively two sequences  $(g_{i,n})_{n \geq 0}$   
 and  $(f_{i,n})_{n \geq 0}$  of functions in  $H(U)$ , with  $g_{i,0}$  as defined above,  
 and

$$f_{i,n} = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^n g_{i,k}.$$

$(f_{i,n})_{n \geq 0}$  and  $(g_{i,n})_{n \geq 0}$  shall satisfy

- A.  $f_{i,n} | U_s \not\equiv 0$  for  $s \leq n+i$ , unless  $U_s$  is compact.
- B.  $f_{i,n}(x_i) = 0$ ,
- C.  $\|g_{i,n}\|_{K_{i+n}} < \frac{1}{2^{i+n}}$
- D.  $\|g_{i,n+1}\|_{U_s \cap K_1} \leq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap K_1}$  for  $0 < s \leq 1 \leq i+n$ ,  
 and  $U_s$  noncompact.

Let  $f_{i,0} \dots f_{i,n}, g_{i,0} \dots g_{i,n} \in H(U)$ , satisfying A - D,  
 be given.

Case 1. If  $i+n+1 \notin S$ ,  $U_{i+n+1}$  is compact, or  $f_{i,n} | U_{i+n+1} \not\equiv 0$ ,  
 set  $g_{i,n+1} = 0$ , (and  $f_{i,n+1} = f_{i,n}$ ). A - D are verified.

Case 2.  $f_{i,n+1} | U_{i+n+1} \equiv 0$ . Let  $Z_{i,n+1} \in U_{i+n+1} - \hat{K}_{i+n+1}$ .  
 $(\exists h_{i,n+1} \in H(U)) [ |h_{i,n+1}(Z_{i,n+1})| > \|h_{i,n+1}\|_{K_{i+n+1}} ]$ .

Thus  $h_{i,n+1} - h_{i,n+1}(x_i)$  is nonconstant on  $U_{i+n+1}$ .

For each  $s$ ,  $U_s$  is an irreducible complex space.  $f_{i,n} | U_s \equiv 0$   
 $\Rightarrow N(f_{i,n} | U_s)$  is nowhere dense in  $U_s$ . Therefore  $f_{i,n} | U_s \cap V_s \not\equiv 0$   
 if  $n+i \geq 1 \geq s$ , and  $\|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap V_s} > 0$ .

We may find a positive constant  $r_{i,n+1}$ , such that  $\|r_{i,n+1} h_{i,n+1} - h_{i,n+1}(x_i)\|_{K_{i+n+1}} < \frac{1}{2^{i+n+1}}$  and

$$r_{i,n+1} \|h_{i,n+1} - h_{i,n+1}(x_i)\|_{K_1 \cap U_s} < \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \|f_{i,n}\|_{K_1 \cap U_s}, \text{ for}$$

$0 < s \leq 1 \leq i+n$  and  $U_s$  noncompact.

$g_{i,n+1} = r_{i,n+1}(h_{i,n+1} - h_{i,n+1}(x_i))$  satisfies C and D.

$$f_{i,n+1}(x_i) = f_{i,n}(x) - g_{i,n+1}(x_i) = 0$$

$$\|f_{i,n+1}\|_{U_s \cap V_1} \geq \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap V_1} - \|g_{i,n+1}\|_{U_s \cap V_1} > (1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}) \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s}$$

Thus  $f_{i,n+1}$ ,  $g_{i,n+1}$  satisfies A - D, and there exists sequences satisfying A - D.

For every compact  $K$ , we can find a  $K_{i+m}$  containing  $K$ .

When  $n > m$ ,  $\|g_{i,n}\|_{K} \leq \|g_{i,n}\|_{K_{i+n}} < \frac{1}{2^{i+n}}$ , so  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{i,n}$  converges

u.e.c. on  $U$  against a  $g_i \in H(U)$ .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{i,n} = 1 - g_i = f_i. \text{ Evidently } f_i(x_i) = 0 \text{ and}$$

$\|g_i\|_{K_i} < \frac{1}{2^{i-1}}$ . Let  $0 < s \leq 1$ , and  $U_s$  noncompact. If  $i+n \geq 1$

$$n \geq 0, \|f_{i,n+1}\|_{U_s \cap K_1} \geq \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap K_1} - \|g_{i,n+1}\|_{U_s \cap K_1} > (1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}) \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap K_1}$$

$$\cdot \|f_{i,n}\|_{U_s \cap K_1}$$

By induction and going to the limit, we get  $\|f_i\|_{U_s \cap K_1} \geq$

$$\|f_{i,0}\|_{U_s \cap K_1} \cdot \prod_{s=1}^{\infty} (1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+s}}) = \prod_{s=1}^{\infty} (1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+s}}) \text{ is con-}$$

vergent with positive limit, so  $f_i \not\equiv 0$  on  $U_s$ . Now form

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i. \|f_i\|_{K_i} < \frac{1}{2^{i+1}} \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|f_i\|_{K_1} \text{ converges for every } 1$$

So  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{i=1}^n f_i$  converges u.e.c. against a function  $f \in H(U)$ .

Let  $U_S$  be noncompact.  $N_{U_S}(f) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} N_{U_S}(f_i)$ .  $N_{U_S}(f_i)$  is nowhere dense in  $U_S$ , so by Baire's category theorem  $N_{U_S}(f) \neq U_S$  and a  $f|_{U_S} \not\equiv 0$ .  $f$  is 0 on every  $x_i$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , and therefore satisfies ii.

Now let  $x \in \dot{U}$ .  $x$  is element of finitely many irreducible components of  $X$ , say  $X_1 \dots X_n$ , and has a neighbourhood  $O$  that does only meet  $X_1 \dots X_n$ . \*

There are two possibilities:

Case 1.  $(\exists i)(1 \leq i \leq n)(\forall W \in \mathcal{N}_x) [W \cap X_i \cap U \neq \emptyset \ \& \ W \cap X_i \cap \overset{\circ}{U} \neq \emptyset.]$

or Case 2.  $(\forall i)(1 \leq i \leq n)(\exists W \in \mathcal{N}_x) [W \cap X_i \cap U = \emptyset \ \vee \ W \cap X_i \cap \overset{\circ}{U} = \emptyset.]$

Proof of the theorem in case 1: Suppose  $f$  may be extended to a function  $\bar{f} \in H(U \cup W)$ , for some  $W \in \mathcal{N}_x$ .

Let  $V$  be the connected component of  $x$  in  $W \cap X_i$ .  $V$  must meet some  $U_S$ , so  $\bar{f}$  cannot be  $\equiv 0$  on  $V$ .  $N_V(\bar{f})$  is nowhere dense in  $V$ , so  $V - N_V(\bar{f})$  must contain points of both  $U$  and  $\overset{\circ}{U}$ .

$N_V(f)$  is closed, so  $V - N_V(f)$  is contained in the disjoint union of  $V \cap U$  and  $V \cap \overset{\circ}{U}$ , which are open in  $V$ . Contradiction.

Proof of the theorem in case 2. Suppose  $f$  may be extended to a function  $\bar{f} \in H(U \cup W)$ , for some  $W \in \mathcal{N}_x$ .

$x \in \dot{U} \Rightarrow (\forall O \in \mathcal{N}_x)(\forall i)(1 \leq i \leq n) [O \cap X_i \cap \overset{\circ}{U} = \emptyset.]$

Thus by possibly shrinking  $W$ , we get that for some  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$W \cap X_i \cap U \neq \emptyset$  and  $W \cap X_i \cap \overset{\circ}{U} = \emptyset$ , that is,  $W \cap X_i \cap \overset{\circ}{U} = \emptyset$   
 \* See correction 2.)  $W \cap X_i \cap \dot{U}$ .

Let  $V$  be the connected component of  $x$  in  $W \cap X_i$ .  $V$  must meet some  $U_s$ , so  $\bar{F} \not\equiv 0$  on  $V$ .  $N_V(\bar{F}) \supset V \cap U$ .

Now we want to construct a one-dimensional locally analytic subset  $A$  of  $V$ , and an open set  $D$  on  $A$ , with compact boundary in  $A$ , such that  $\bar{D} \cap U = \{x\}$ .

We make use of the Remmert-Stein local description theorem. A neighbourhood  $V'$  of  $x$  may be mapped by a biholomorphic mapping  $F$  onto an analytic subset of polycylinder  $P_n = P_d \times P_{n-d}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .  $F(x) = 0$ . By choosing  $V'$  and  $P_n$  suitably, we may assume that there are  $n-d$  pseudopolynomials

$$p_i(z_1 \dots z_d) = z_i^{l_i} + a_1^{(i)}(z_1 \dots z_d) : z_i^{l_i-1} + \dots + a_{l_i}^{(i)}(z_1 \dots z_d), \quad d+1 \leq i \leq n,$$

with  $a_j^{(i)}(z_1 \dots z_d)$  holomorphic functions in  $P_d$ , such that  $F(V)$  is an irreducible component of  $N(p_{d+1}, \dots, p_n)$ .

We may also assume that the projection  $\pi : N(p_{d+1} \dots p_n) \longrightarrow P_d$  is surjective, proper, and with discrete fiber, and that

$$a_j^{(i)}(0 \dots 0) = 0, \quad d+1 \leq i \leq n, \quad 1 \leq j \leq l_i, \quad \text{such that}$$

$$\pi^{-1}(0, \dots, 0) = \{(0, \dots, 0)\} = \{F(x)\}. \quad ([2] \text{ p.255}).$$

$B = \pi(F(N_V(\bar{F}))$  is a lowerdimensional analytic subset of  $P_d$ , so there is an  $y \in P_d - B$ . Set  $L = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^d : z = x + \lambda(y-x) : \lambda \in \mathbb{C}\}$ .

$B = N(g_1 \dots g_m)$  in a neighbourhood of  $0$ .  $L \not\subset B \implies g_1|_L \dots g_m|_L$  are not all identically all 0, so for at least one  $g_k$ , the zeros are discr

Thus we can find  $r > 0$ , such that when  $L_r = \{z \in L : |\lambda| \geq r\}$ ,

$\bar{L}_r \cap B = \{0\}$ . Set  $\pi^{-1}(L_r) = D'$ .  $D'$  is compact, and

$\bar{D}' \cap F(N_V(\bar{F})) = \{0\}$ . Define  $D = F^{-1}(D')$ , and  $A = F^{-1}(\pi^{-1}(L \cap P_d))$

$A, D$  has the properties we want.



Assume that every  $h \in H(U)$  may be extended to a holomorphic function  $\bar{h}$  in  $U \cup V_h$ , where  $V_h$  is some neighbourhood of  $x$ , depending on  $h$ .  $\bar{h}$  induces an holomorphic function on  $\bar{D}$ , while  $x \in V_h$ . The maximum principle is valid for every complex space (Grauert-Remmert [2]), so  $(\forall h \in H(U)) \left[ \|\bar{h}\|_{\bar{D}} = \|h\|_D \right]$ . This means that  $D - \{x\} \subset \hat{D}$ , so  $\hat{D}$  cannot be compact.

Contradiction. Q.E.D.

Part III: Sketch of an alternative proof of the theorem.

We conserve the notation of part II. In essentially the same way construct a sequence of points of  $U (x_i)_{i \in I}$  and functions of  $H(U) (f_i)_{i \in I}$ , such that  $\overline{(x_i : x_i \in X_k)} \supset \dot{U} \cap X_k$ ,

$$f_i(x_i) = 0, \quad (\forall s \in S) \left[ f_i|_{U_s} \not\equiv 0. \right]$$

$$x_i \in N(f_1 \dots f_{i-1}), \quad \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i \text{ converges u.e.c. on } U.$$

Set  $f = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i$ .

We also construct sequences  $(x'_i)_{i \in N}$  and  $(f'_i)_{i \in N}$ , with the same properties, and such that  $x'_i \notin N(f)$ ,  $i \in N$ . Set  $f' = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f'_i$ .

Evidently  $f$  and  $f'$  cannot be extended to boundary points of type 1. Let  $x$  be a boundary point of type 2. We may suppose that  $W$  is a neighbourhood of  $x$ , such that  $f$  and  $f'$  may be extended to  $\bar{F}$  and  $\bar{F}'$ , holomorphic in  $U \cup W$ ,  $W \cap X_i \cap (U \cup \dot{U})$ , and that  $N(\bar{F}) \cap W$  and  $N(\bar{F}') \cap W$  consist of finitely many irreducible components. Let  $A_1 \dots A_n$  be the irreducible components of  $N(\bar{F}) \cap W \cap X_i$  and  $B_1 \dots B_r$  the irreducible components of  $N(\bar{F}') \cap W \cap X_i$  ... different from  $A_1 \dots A_n$ .

Then  $\dot{U} \cap W \cap X_i \subset \bigcup_{K=1}^n \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^r (A_K \cap B_i) \right)$ .

But  $\bigcup_{l=1}^r (A_k \cap B_l)$  is nowhere dense and does not disconnect  $A_k$ .

$A_k - \dot{U}$  is therefore connected, and  $N_U(f) \cap X_i \cap W$  has the irreducible components  $A_1 - \dot{U}, \dots, A_n - \dot{U}$ .

On the other hand  $A_k - \dot{U}$  must consist of infinitely many irreducible components, for if  $x_i \in W \cap X_i$ ,  $x_i \notin N(\bigcup_{j \leq i} f_j)$ .

Contradiction.

In fact, we have proved a slightly stronger result:

For every  $x \in \dot{U}$ , either  $f$  or  $f'$  may not be extended to a function holomorphic in a neighbourhood of  $x$ .

Part IV. Final remarks.

We begin by mentioning two immediate consequences of the theorem.

Let  $X$  be complex space. We say that  $X$  is  $K$ -convex, if for every  $x \in X$ , we can find  $f_1 \dots f_p \in H(X)$ , such that if  $F = (f_1 \dots f_p) : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^p$ ,  $x$  is an isolated point of  $F^{-1}(F(x))$ .

Suppose  $D \subset \subset X$ ,  $X$  complex space.  $D$  is (strongly) pseudoconvex  $\Leftrightarrow (\forall x \in \dot{D})(\exists V \subset N_x)(\exists \varphi : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  [  $\varphi$  is (strongly) pseudoconvex and continuous, and  $V \cap D = \varphi^{-1}(\] -\infty, 0 [ )$  ] .

$D$  is globally (strongly) pseudoconvex  $\Leftrightarrow (\exists V) (\exists \varphi : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  [  $V$  is an open neighbourhood of  $\dot{U}$ ,  $\varphi$  is (strongly) pseudoconvex, and  $V \cap D = \varphi^{-1}(\] -\infty, 0 [ )$  ] .

By [5], Theorem I,  $D$  is strongly pseudoconvex  $\Rightarrow D$  is holomorphically convex.

By [7] Theorem 2,  $X$  is  $K$ -convex and  $D$  is globally pseudoconvex  $\Rightarrow D$  is holomorphically convex.

By the theorem, in these cases  $D$  is a domain of holomorphy.

This does not seem to be wellknown, and in these cases the usual proof of implication 2 breaks down.

In [4], B. Malgrange gives a much shorter way of proving the theorem, for  $X$  a complex manifold. He obtains the stronger result (just as Cartan-Thullen) that there is a  $f \in H(U)$  that can not be extended to any boundary point of  $U$ . We may form the function

$$F = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i^i. \quad F \text{ has a } 0 \text{ of order } i \text{ at } x_i. \text{ If } M \text{ is a } C^\infty \text{ -}$$

Manifold, and  $f$  a  $C^\infty$ -function on  $M$ , then for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$\{x \in M : x \text{ is a zero of order } n \text{ of } f\}$  is closed in  $M$ . Suppose  $x \in \dot{U}$ , and  $f$  may be extended to  $\bar{f} \in H(U \cup V)$ , where  $V \in \mathbb{N}_x$ . Then, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x$  is an accumulation point of zeros of order  $n$  of  $f$ , thus  $x$  is a zero of order  $n$  of  $\bar{f}$ .  $\bar{f}$  must be identically zero in some neighbourhood of  $x$ . Contradiction.

Suppose  $x$  is element of a complex space  $X$ . By  $M_x$  we denote the maximal ideal of the local ring  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_x$  of  $x$ . If for every

$\{x \in X : f_x \in M_x^n\}$  is closed ( $f_x$  is the germ of  $f$  at  $x$ ), Malgrange's proof would carry over to the general case, because  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} M_x^n = \{0\}$ .

But I don't know whether this is true - .

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In general there is no reason to believe an irreducible complex space is locally irreducible, or that an open connected subset of an irreducible complex space is irreducible. This was mistakenly assumed in these seminar notes, and therefore some details must be changed in order to get a correct proof.

1.) Let  $(U_s)_{s \in S}$  be a decomposition of  $U$  into irreducible components. Each  $U_s$  is closed in  $U$ , so if  $K$  is a compact contained in  $U$ ,  $U_s \cap K$  is compact. Thus, if  $U_s$  is noncompact,  $U_s$  is not contained in any compact subset of  $U$ .

The construction of  $f$  is then to be made with  $\{U_s\}_{s \in S}$  Defined above.

2.) Instead of the construction given in the notes, we use the following result (Abhyankar (44.29, p. 414):

Let  $a$  be a point in complex space  $X$ . Then exists a neighbourhood  $V'$  of  $a$ , and a fundament system of neighbourhoods

$\{V_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $a$  in  $V'$ , such that:

i.)  $X \cap V'$  has finitely many irreducible components

$X_1' \dots X_p'$ , and  $X_{1_a}' \dots X_{p_a}'$  are the (distinct) irreducible components of  $X_a$ . ( $A_a$  denotes the germ of  $A$  at  $a$ , for any  $A \subset X$ ).

ii.)  $X_i' \cap V_j$  is irreducible for any  $i, j$ ;  $1 \leq i \leq p, j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In the notes we may suppose that all neighbourhoods in question are contained in  $V'$ , and substitute  $X_i'$  for  $X_i$ . The neighbourhood  $W$  may be chosen in  $V_j$ , and  $V = W \cup X_i'$ . It is easily seen that a compact  $U_s$  is also an irreducible component of  $X$ , and since <sup>it</sup> does not meet  $CU$ , we may suppose  $V' \cap U_s = \emptyset$ , for any compact  $U_s$ . Therefore  $U_s \cap V \neq \emptyset$  implies that  $f \neq 0$  on  $U_s \cap V$ .

With these changes, the rest of the proof goes through.

Reference: S. Abhyankar: "Local Analytic Geometry." Academic Press 1964.