

Tame families of Stein Manifolds

Álfheiður Edda Sigurðardóttir,

Chalmers University of Technology
University of Gothenburg

May 23, 2026

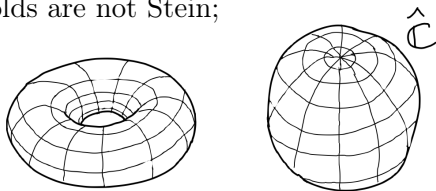
Joint work with Franc Forstnerič

Based on the paper *The Oka principle for tame families of Stein manifolds*

Stein manifolds have “many global holomorphic functions”.

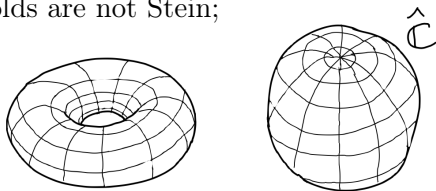
Stein manifolds have “many global holomorphic functions”.

Compact manifolds are not Stein;



Stein manifolds have “many global holomorphic functions”.

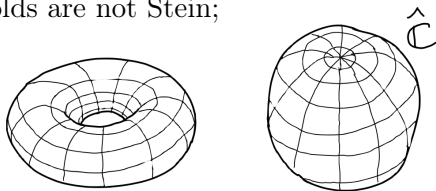
Compact manifolds are not Stein;



- a continuous function on a compact set attains a maximum

Stein manifolds have “many global holomorphic functions”.

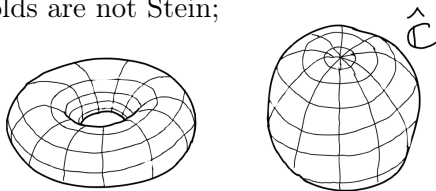
Compact manifolds are not Stein;



- a continuous function on a compact set attains a maximum
- by the maximum principle, all global holomorphic functions are constant

Stein manifolds have “many global holomorphic functions”.

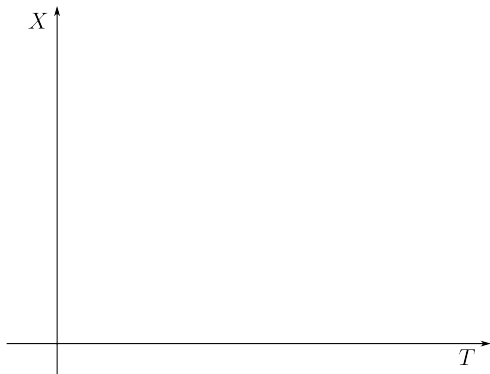
Compact manifolds are not Stein;



- a continuous function on a compact set attains a maximum
- by the maximum principle, all global holomorphic functions are constant

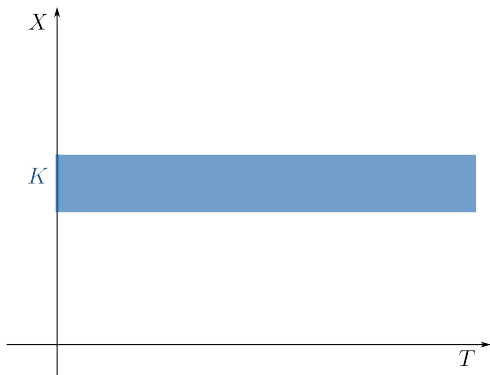
Oka-Weil theorem

If X is a Stein manifold, $K \subset X$ is compact and f is holomorphic in a neighbourhood of \hat{K} , then we can approximate f uniformly on K with some holomorphic $F: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.



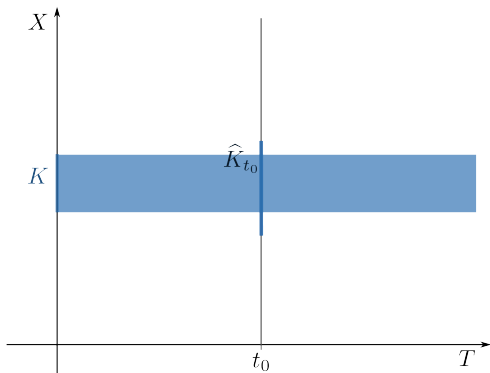
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.



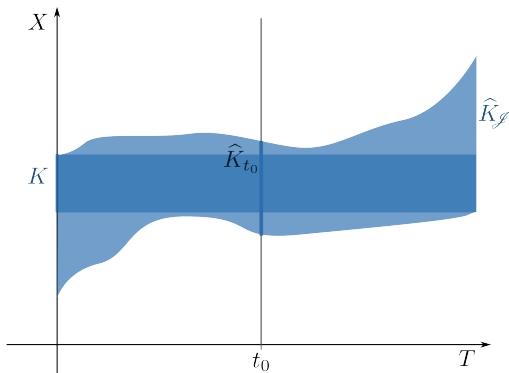
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact



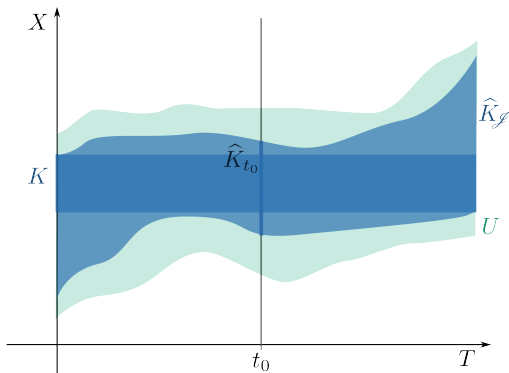
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact



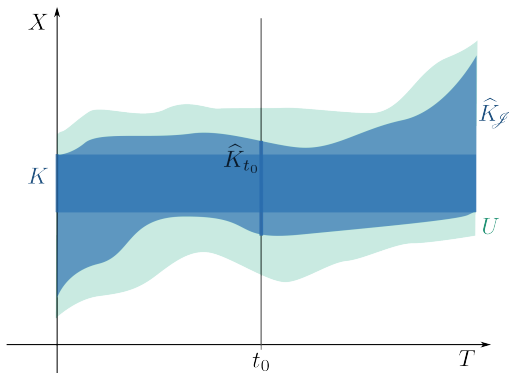
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact and $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.



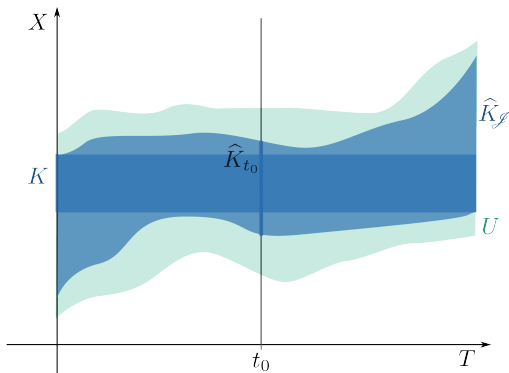
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact and $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.
- $U \subset T \times X$ open and contains $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$.



Setup:

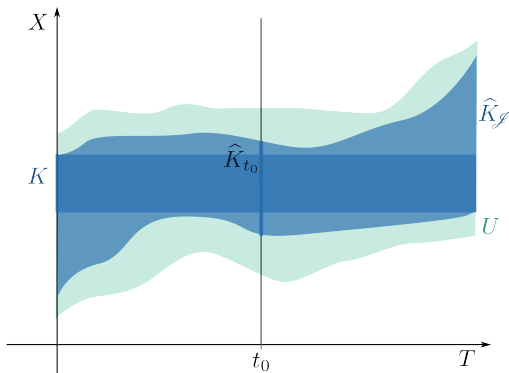
- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact and $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.
- $U \subset T \times X$ open and contains $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$.
- $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ continuous, $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic $\forall t \in T$.



Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a C^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact and $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.
- $U \subset T \times X$ open and contains $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$.
- $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ continuous, $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic $\forall t \in T$.

An Oka-Weil theorem in this setting with a constant complex structure exists (Forstnerič 2018).



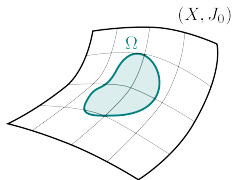
Setup:

- X is a smooth manifold
- $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a \mathcal{C}^∞ -continuous family of Stein structures.
- $K \subset X$ compact and $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.
- $U \subset T \times X$ open and contains $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$.
- $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ continuous, $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic $\forall t \in T$.

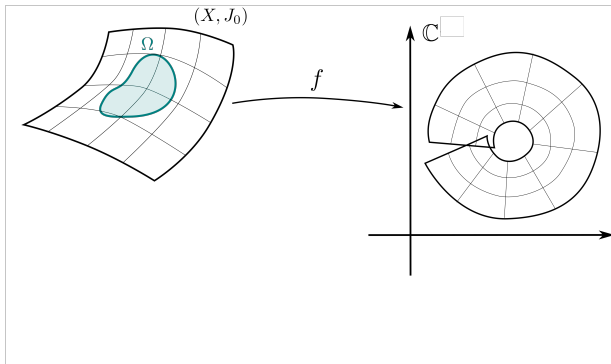
An Oka-Weil theorem in this setting with a constant complex structure exists (Forstnerič 2018).

[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,

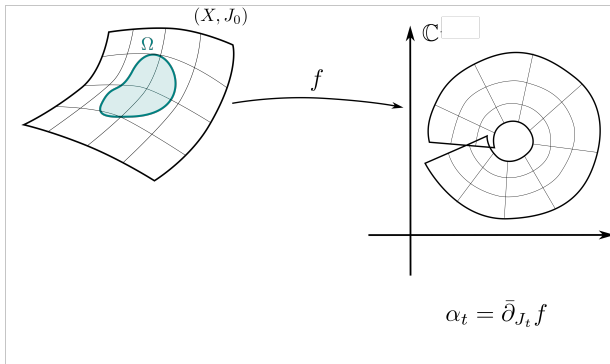
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \in X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



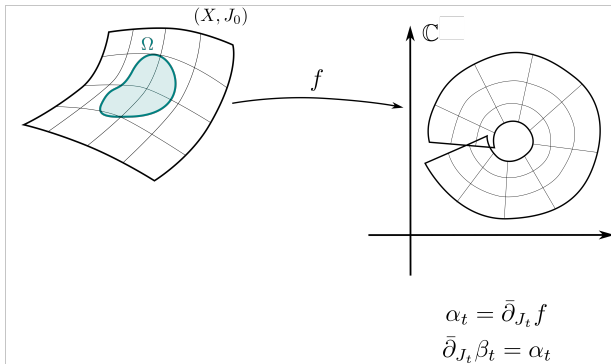
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \in X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



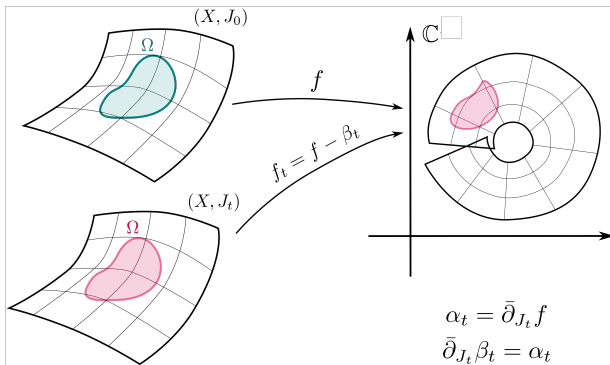
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



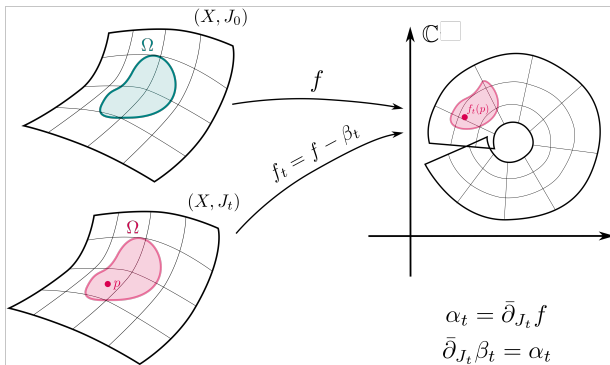
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



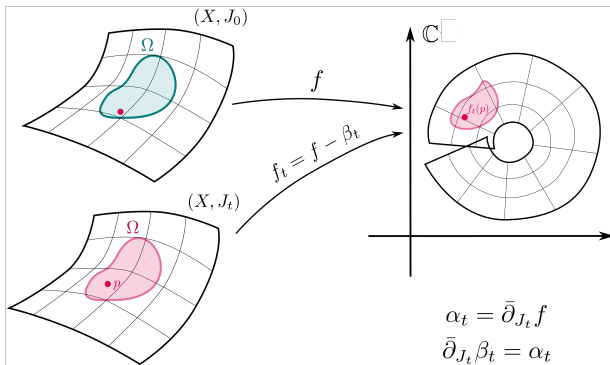
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \in X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



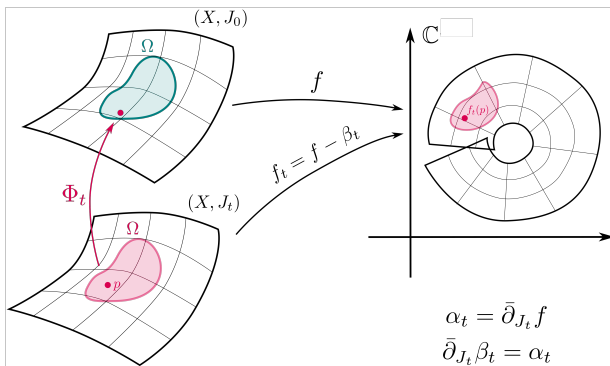
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



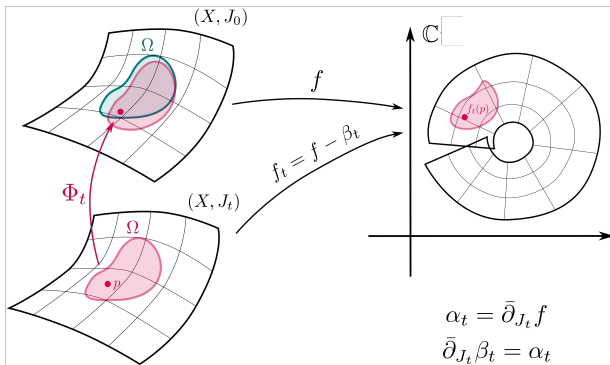
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



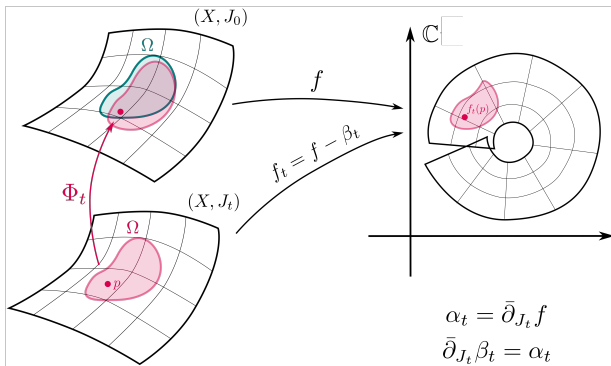
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,



[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,

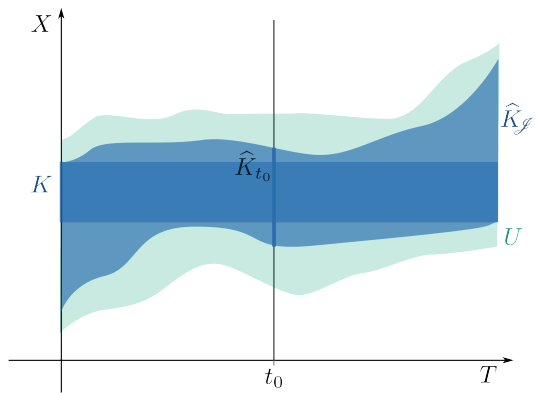


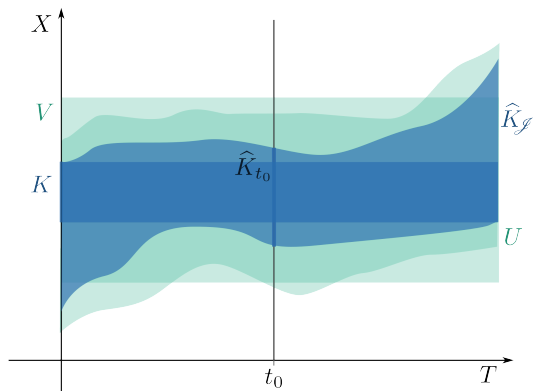
[Greene & Krantz 1981] Solutions of $\bar{\partial}_{J_t}$ -problem that are continuous in the parameter $t \in T_0$ on $\Omega \Subset X$ that is J_t -psc for all $t \in T_0$,

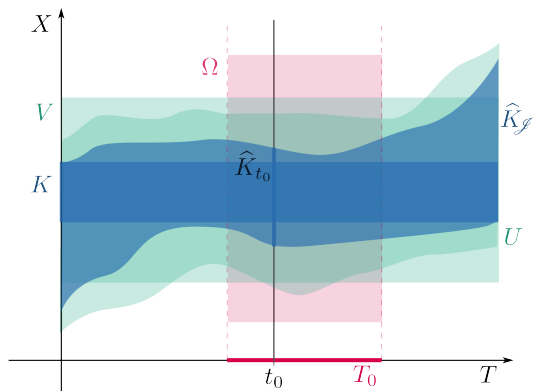


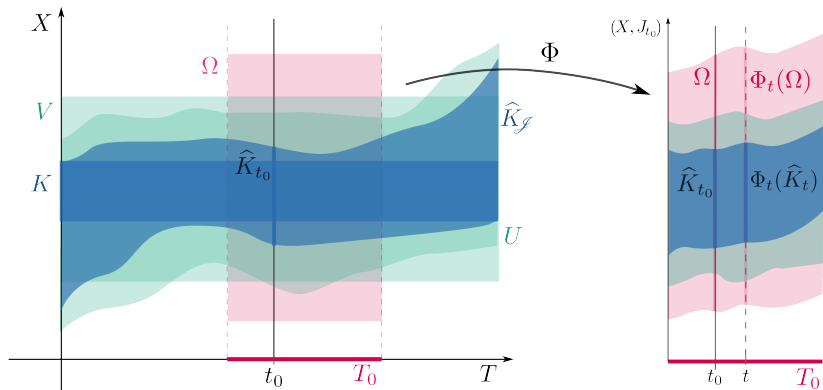
Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

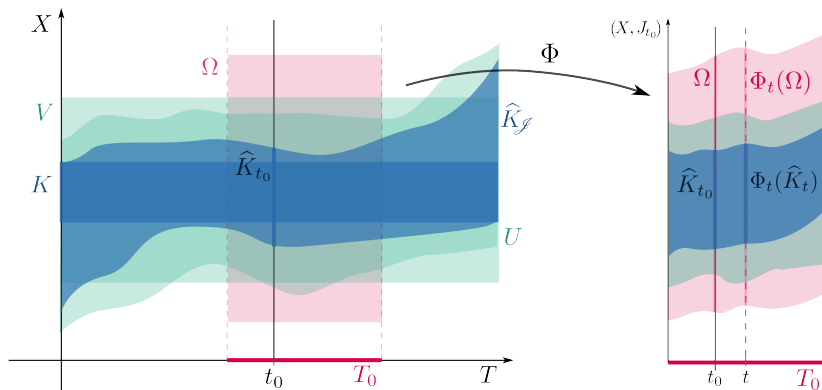
If $\Omega \Subset X$ and $t_0 \in T$, there is a nbhd. T_0 of t_0 and a family $\Phi: T_0 \times \Omega \rightarrow X$ such that $\Phi_{t_0} = \text{id}_\Omega$ and $\Phi_t: \Omega \rightarrow \Phi_t(\Omega) \subset X$ is a (J_t, J_{t_0}) -biholomorphism depending continuously on $t \in T_0$.



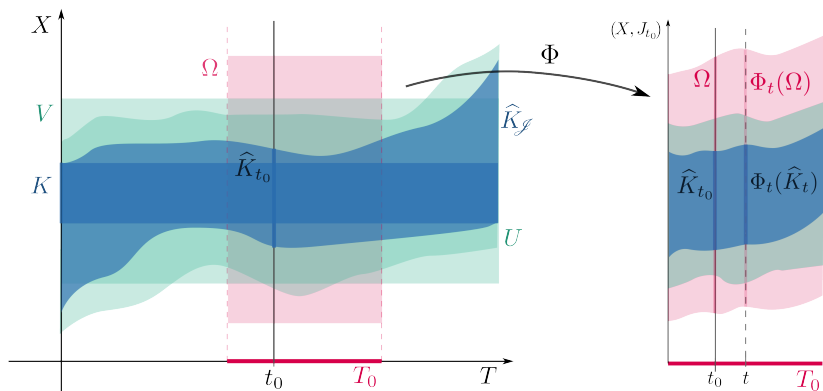




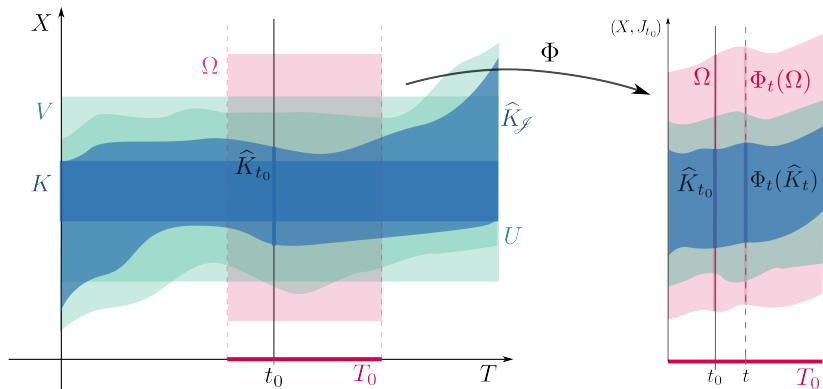




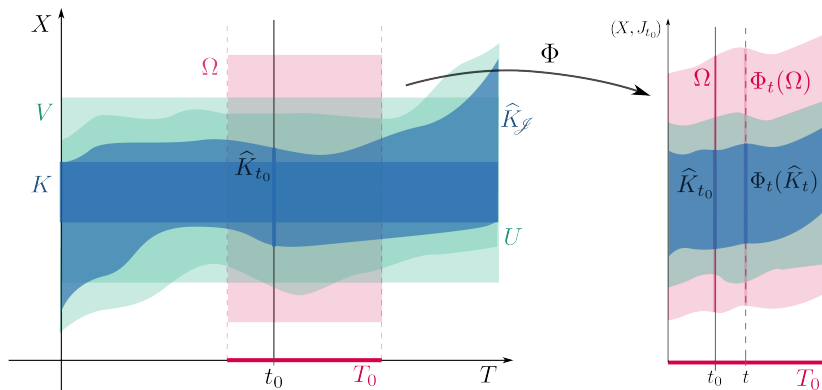
○ $f'_t = f \circ \Phi_t^{-1}$ is J_{t_0} -holomorphic



- $f'_t = f \circ \Phi_t^{-1}$ is J_{t_0} -holomorphic
- Approximate f'_t on $\Phi_t(K)$ by F'_t defined in a nbhd of $\Phi_t(V_t)$



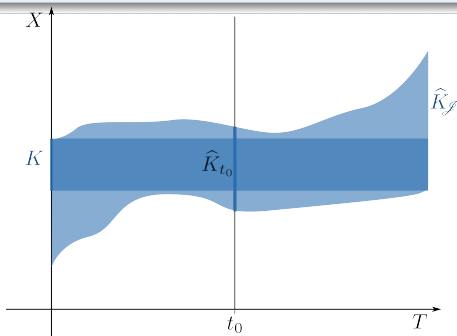
- $f'_t = f \circ \Phi_t^{-1}$ is J_{t_0} -holomorphic
- Approximate f'_t on $\Phi_t(K)$ by F'_t defined in a nbhd of $\Phi_t(V_t)$
- $F_t = F'_t \circ \Phi_t$ is J_t -holomorphic and approximates f_t on K_t



- $f'_t = f \circ \Phi_t^{-1}$ is J_{t_0} -holomorphic
- Approximate f'_t on $\Phi_t(K)$ by F'_t defined in a nbhd of $\Phi_t(V_t)$
- $F_t = F'_t \circ \Phi_t$ is J_t -holomorphic and approximates f_t on K_t
- P.o.u. $\{\chi_j\}_{j \in I}$ in T and take $F_t = \sum_{j \in I} \chi_j(t) F_t^j$.

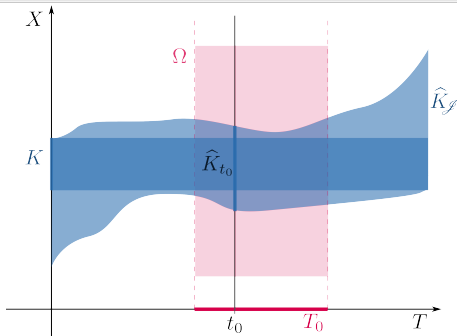
Definition

A continuous family $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ of complex structures on X is *tame* if for every compact $K \subset X$, its \mathcal{J} -convex hull $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$ is *locally bounded*:



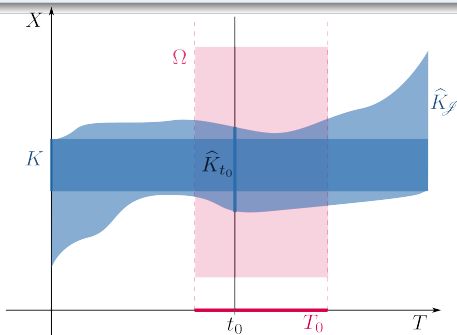
Definition

A continuous family $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ of complex structures on X is *tame* if for every compact $K \subset X$, its \mathcal{J} -convex hull $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$ is *locally bounded*: i.e. if for any t_0 there is a relatively compact $\Omega \Subset X$ and a neighbourhood $T_0 \subset T$ of t_0 such that $\widehat{K}_t \subset \Omega$ for all $t \in T_0$.



Definition

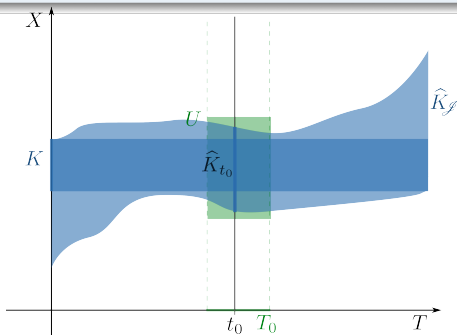
A continuous family $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ of complex structures on X is *tame* if for every compact $K \subset X$, its \mathcal{J} -convex hull $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$ i.e. if for any t_0 there is a relatively compact $\Omega \Subset X$ and a neighbourhood $T_0 \subset T$ of t_0 such that $\widehat{K}_t \subset \Omega$ for all $t \in T_0$.



Tameness is also equivalent to $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$ being *upper semicontinuous*:

Definition

A continuous family $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ of complex structures on X is *tame* if for every compact $K \subset X$, its \mathcal{J} -convex hull $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$ i.e. if for any t_0 there is a relatively compact $\Omega \Subset X$ and a neighbourhood $T_0 \subset T$ of t_0 such that $\widehat{K}_t \subset \Omega$ for all $t \in T_0$.



Tameness is also equivalent to $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$ being *upper semicontinuous*: i.e. if for any t_0 and an open set $U \subset X$ containing \widehat{K}_{t_0} there is a neighbourhood $T_0 \subset T$ of t_0 such that $\widehat{K}_t \subset U$ for all $t \in T_0$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X ,

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X , where T is a locally compact paracompact Hausdorff space.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X , where T is a locally compact paracompact Hausdorff space. Let $K \subset X$ be compact and let U be a neighbourhood of $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X , where T is a locally compact paracompact Hausdorff space. Let $K \subset X$ be compact and let U be a neighbourhood of $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous where $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic for all $t \in T$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X , where T is a locally compact paracompact Hausdorff space. Let $K \subset X$ be compact and let U be a neighbourhood of $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous where $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic for all $t \in T$.

Given a continuous $\varepsilon: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$,

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Let $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ be a tame family of Stein structures on X , where T is a locally compact paracompact Hausdorff space. Let $K \subset X$ be compact and let U be a neighbourhood of $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}} = \bigcup_{t \in T} \{t\} \times \widehat{K}_t$. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous where $f_t = f(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic for all $t \in T$.

Given a continuous $\varepsilon: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^*$, there is a continuous $F: T \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F_t = F(t, \cdot)$ is J_t -holomorphic and $|F_t - f_t|_K < \varepsilon(t)$ for all $t \in T$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$,

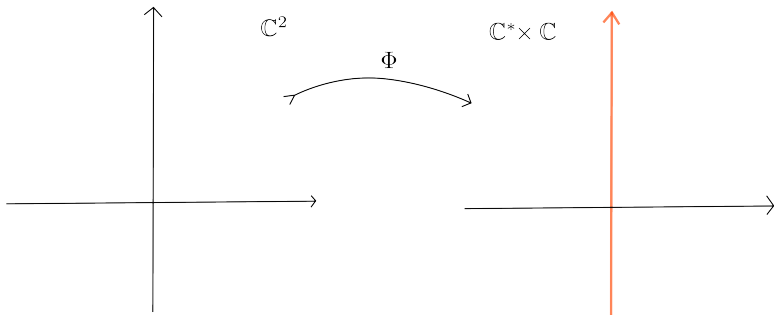
Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

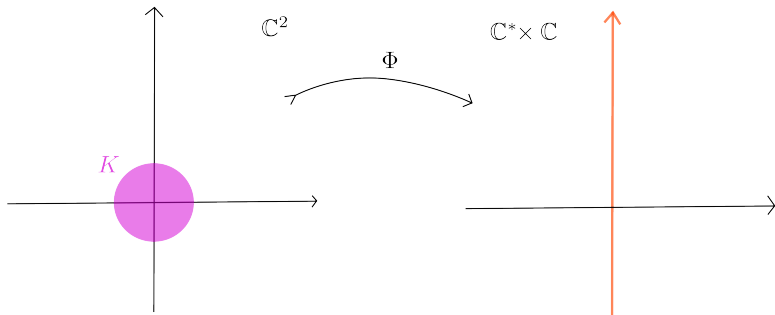
Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

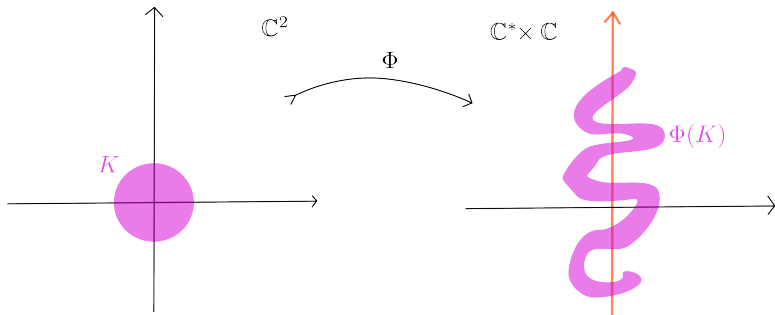
Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

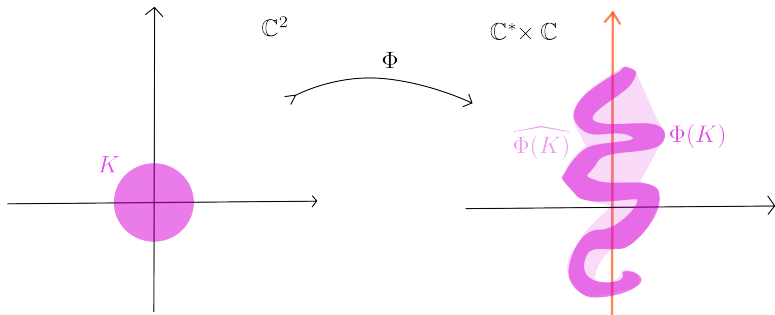
Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

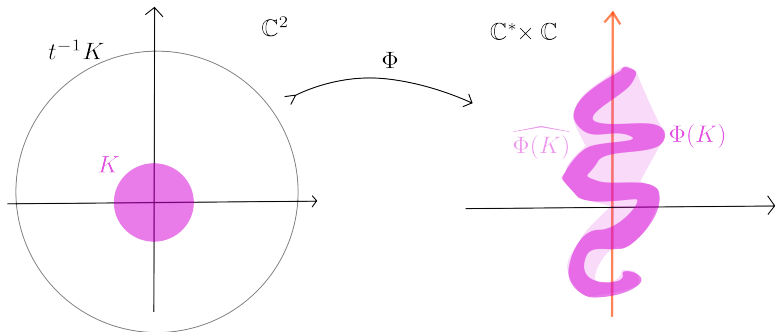
Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



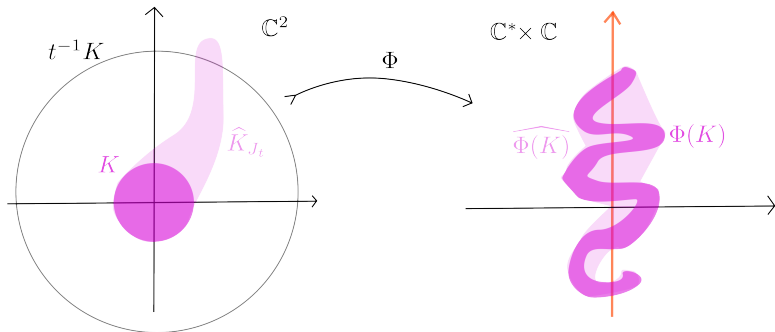
$\Psi_t: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ diffeomorphism such that $\Psi_t = \Phi$ on $t^{-1}K$.

Put $J_t = \Psi_t^* J_{\text{std}}$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

There exists a smooth family of Stein structures $\{J_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ on \mathbb{R}^4 such that $J_0 = J_{\text{std}}$, and for any neighbourhood $T_0 \subset \mathbb{R}$ of 0, the set $\bigcup_{t \in T_0} \widehat{K}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^4$ is unbounded, where K is the unit ball.

Idea: Wold's construction of an injective $\Phi: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}$ whose image is not Runge.



$\Psi_t: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ diffeomorphism such that $\Psi_t = \Phi$ on $t^{-1}K$.

Put $J_t = \Psi_t^* J_{\text{std}}$.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Assume that T is a finite CW complex, X is a smooth manifold, $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a tame family of smooth Stein structures on X depending continuously on t , and Y is an Oka manifold.

Theorem (Forstnerič & S. 2025)

Assume that T is a finite CW complex, X is a smooth manifold, $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a tame family of smooth Stein structures on X depending continuously on t , and Y is an Oka manifold.

Then every continuous map $f: T \times X \rightarrow Y$ that is \mathcal{J} -holomorphic in a neighbourhood of $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$ can be approximated on $\widehat{K}_{\mathcal{J}}$ by a \mathcal{J} -holomorphic map $F: T \times X \rightarrow Y$ that is homotopic to f .

Corollary

Assume that T is a locally compact and paracompact Hausdorff space, X is a smooth manifold, and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a continuous family of smooth Stein structures on X . The following are equivalent:

(i) If \mathcal{J} is tame.

Corollary

Assume that T is a locally compact and paracompact Hausdorff space, X is a smooth manifold, and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a continuous family of smooth Stein structures on X . The following are equivalent:

- (i) If \mathcal{J} is tame.
- (ii) For every $t_0 \in T$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}(X, J_{t_0})$, there is a \mathcal{J} -holomorphic $F : T \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F(t_0, \cdot) = f$.

Corollary

Assume that T is a locally compact and paracompact Hausdorff space, X is a smooth manifold, and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a continuous family of smooth Stein structures on X . The following are equivalent:

- (i) If \mathcal{J} is tame.
- (ii) For every $t_0 \in T$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}(X, J_{t_0})$, there is a \mathcal{J} -holomorphic $F : T \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F(t_0, \cdot) = f$.
- (iii) Let $p \geq 0$ and $q \geq 1$. Given a continuous family of smooth (p, q) -forms $\alpha_t \in \mathcal{E}^{p,q}(X, J_t)$ with $\bar{\partial}_{J_t} \alpha_t = 0$ for all $t \in T$, there exists a continuous family of $\beta_t \in \mathcal{E}^{p,q-1}(X, J_t)$ satisfying

$$\bar{\partial}_{J_t} \beta_t = \alpha_t \quad \text{on } X \text{ for every } t \in T.$$

and such that $\beta_t = 0$ whenever $\alpha_t = 0$.

Corollary

Assume that T is a locally compact and paracompact Hausdorff space, X is a smooth manifold, and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_t\}_{t \in T}$ is a continuous family of smooth Stein structures on X . The following are equivalent:

- (i) If \mathcal{J} is tame.
- (ii) For every $t_0 \in T$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}(X, J_{t_0})$, there is a \mathcal{J} -holomorphic $F : T \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F(t_0, \cdot) = f$.
- (iii) Let $p \geq 0$ and $q \geq 1$. Given a continuous family of smooth (p, q) -forms $\alpha_t \in \mathcal{E}^{p,q}(X, J_t)$ with $\bar{\partial}_{J_t} \alpha_t = 0$ for all $t \in T$, there exists a continuous family of $\beta_t \in \mathcal{E}^{p,q-1}(X, J_t)$ satisfying

$$\bar{\partial}_{J_t} \beta_t = \alpha_t \quad \text{on } X \text{ for every } t \in T.$$

and such that $\beta_t = 0$ whenever $\alpha_t = 0$.

Kiitos!