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# Finitely Generated Ideals in $A^{\infty}(D)$

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### INTRODUCTION

Let  $D \in \mathbb{C}^n$  be a bounded pseudoconvex domain with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary bD and let V be an analytic subvariety of a neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$ . Let  $\mathscr{C}_V$  denote the sheaf of ideals of V. From the general theory of Oka-Cartan-Serre it follows that if  $f_1,...,f_k \in \Gamma(\overline{D}, \mathscr{C}_V)$  generate  $\mathscr{C}_{V,z}$  at every point  $z \in D$ , then they generate  $\Gamma(D, \mathscr{C}_V)$  over  $\mathscr{O}(D)$  (= $\Gamma(D, \mathscr{O})$ ).

Let A be a subalgebra (or more generally a vector subspace) of  $\mathcal{C}(D)$  containing  $f_1, ..., f_k$ . It is a natural question to ask whether  $f_1, ..., f_k$  generate  $\Gamma(D, \mathscr{C}_V) \cap A$  over A. There are several results in this direction in the special case V is a point and A is the algebra of holomorphic functions satisfying some regularity condition at the boundary [3, 6, 7, 10, 14].

The situation becomes much more complicated when V has positive dimension, as the following elementary example shows: the holomorphic function  $f(z_1, z_2) = z_2(1 - z_1)^{-1/4}$  is continuous up to the boundary on the unit ball B in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  but its factor in  $z_2$  is not even bounded (and it can be easily proved that the ideal of the complex line  $z_2 = 0$  is not finitely generated over  $A^0(B)$ , the algebra  $\mathcal{O}(B) \cap C^0(\overline{B})$ ).

The aim of the present paper is to prove that similar phenomena disappear in a high regularity situation, i.e., for the algebra  $A^{\infty}(D) = \mathcal{C}(D) \cap C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$ . Namely, we prove that if D is strictly pseudoconvex, bD and V are "regularly separated" (see Section 1) and V is smooth near bD then  $f_1,...,f_k$ generate  $I^{\infty}(V) = \Gamma(D, \mathscr{C}_V) \cap C^{\infty}(D)$  over  $A^{\infty}(D)$ . Some of these results were announced in [5].

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# 1. THE LOCAL AND SEMI-LOCAL CASES

1. From now on D will denote a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary bD, D' a neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$  and  $V' \subset D'$  a closed complex analytic subset, such that Sing  $V' \cap bD = \emptyset$ .

Let  $\mathcal{C}_{V'}$  be the ideal of germs of holomorphic functions vanishing on V'.

A complete defining system for V' is a finite set of holomorphic functions on  $D', f_1, ..., f_k$  such that for every  $z \in D$  the germs  $f_{1,z}, ..., f_{k,z}$  generate  $\mathscr{C}_{\Gamma',z}$ . It is well known that such a system always exists if D' is a Stein neighborhood of  $\overline{D}$ .

Let  $V = V' \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . For every relative open subset U of  $\overline{D}$  we set

$$\mathscr{O}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}(U) = \{ f \in \mathscr{O}(\dot{U}) : f \in C^{\infty}(\dot{U} \cup (bD \cap U)) \},$$
$$\mathscr{O}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}(U \cap \overline{V}) = \{ f \in \mathscr{O}(\dot{U} \cap V) : f = \tilde{f}|_{\dot{U} \cap V}, \tilde{f} \in C^{\infty}(U \cup (bD \cap U)) \};$$

 $U \mapsto \mathscr{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}(U)$  and  $U \cap \overline{V} \mapsto \mathscr{C}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}(U \cap \overline{V})$  define two sheaves on  $\overline{D}$  and  $\overline{V}$  respectively,  $\mathscr{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}$  and  $\mathscr{C}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}$  such that

$$\mathscr{O}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}|_{D} = \mathscr{O}_{D}$$
 and  $\mathscr{O}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}|_{V} = \mathscr{O}_{V}.$ 

Let  $\mathscr{C}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)} \subset \mathscr{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}$  be the ideal of germs vanishing on  $\overline{V}$ . In particular we have

$$A^{\infty}(D) = \Gamma(\overline{D}, \mathcal{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}), \qquad A^{\infty}(V) = \Gamma(\overline{V}, \mathcal{C}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}), \qquad I^{\infty}(V) = \Gamma(\overline{V}, \mathscr{E}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}).$$

We say that V' and bD are regularly separated at  $p \in bD \cap V'$  if there exist  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , c > 0 and a neighborhood U of p such that

$$\operatorname{dist}(z, U \cap bD \cap V')^N \leqslant C \operatorname{dist}(z, U \cap V') \tag{(*)}$$

for every  $z \in U \cap bD$ .

We say V' and bD are regularly separated if in the previous definition U can be chosen in such a way as to be a neighborhood of bD.

Note that if bD is real analytic (\*) is the well known Łojasiewicz's inequality [12]. It is worth noting also that (\*) does not follow from strict pseudoconvexity of D.

Suppose now V' is smooth near bD and let d be its complex dimension. We say that V' is *transversal* to bD at  $z \in bD$  if  $V' \cap bD$  is smooth of real dimension 2d-1 and

$$T_z^{\mathbb{C}}(V' \cap bD) = T_z^{\mathbb{C}}(V') \cap T_z^{\mathbb{C}}(bD)$$

(where  $T_z^{\mathbb{C}}(\cdot)$  is the complex tangent space at z).

It is a very simple matter to prove that if V' and bD are transversal at z then they are regularly separated at z.

2. We shall consider first the case where V' is a linear subspace: our first statement is the following:

PROPOSITION 1. Let D be pseudoconvex and let  $V' = \{z_{k+1} = \cdots = z_n = 0\}$ . Assume  $V = V' \cap D \neq \emptyset$  and V' and bD are regularly separated. Then for every  $f \in A^{\infty}(D)$  such that  $f|_V = 0$  there exist  $\lambda_{k+1}, \dots, \lambda_n \in A^{\infty}(D)$  such that

$$f = \sum_{j=k+1}^n \lambda_j z_j.$$

We prove first the following result in codimension 1:

LEMMA 2. Let  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a bounded domain with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary and let V' be the hyperplane  $z_n = 0$ . Assume  $V = V' \cap D \neq \emptyset$  and V' and bD are regularly separated. Then:

(i) every  $f \in A^{\infty}(D)$  such that  $f|_{v} = 0$  can be written as  $f = gz_{n}$ , where  $g \in A^{\infty}(D)$ ,

(ii) if D is pseudoconvex the restriction homomorphism  $A^{\infty}(D) \rightarrow A^{\infty}(V)$  is onto.

*Proof.* We shall divide the proof into several steps.

(a) If  $f \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  satisfies  $f|_{v} = 0$  then  $f = gz_{n} + h\overline{z}_{n}$ , where  $g, h \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$ .

Using the fact that V' and bD are regularly separated, via Whitney's extension theorem we can find a ball B containing  $\overline{D}$  and  $F \in C^{\infty}(\overline{B})$  such that  $F|_{B \cap V'} = 0$ ,  $F_{\overline{D}} = f$ . Fix  $z \in B$  and set  $\varphi(t) = F(z_1, ..., z_{n-1}, tz_n)$ . We have

$$F(z_1,...,z_n) = \varphi(1) = \int_0^1 \frac{d\varphi}{dt} dt = z_n \int_0^1 \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_n} (z_1,...,z_{n-1}, tz_n) dt$$
$$+ \bar{z}_n \int_0^1 \frac{\partial F}{\partial \bar{z}_n} (z_1,...,z_{n-1}, tz_n) dt.$$

(b) If  $f \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  is  $\overline{n}$ -flat on V (i.e.,  $(\partial^m f/\partial \overline{z}_n^m)|_V = 0 \ \forall m \ge 0$ ) then for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  there exist  $g, h \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  such that  $f = gz_n + h\overline{z}_n^k$ .

By induction on k. Assume it is true for k; we have

$$\frac{\partial^k f}{\partial \bar{z}_n^k} = \frac{\partial^k g}{\partial \bar{z}_n^k} z_n + k! h \sum_{j=1}^k \binom{k}{j} \frac{k!}{j!} \frac{\partial^j h}{\partial \bar{z}_n^j} \bar{z}_n^j;$$

from the  $\bar{n}$ -flatness it follows that  $h|_{v} = 0$  and so by step (a)  $h = z_{n}u + \bar{z}_{n}v$ , where  $u, v \in A^{\infty}(\bar{D})$  and  $f = z_{n}(g + \bar{z}_{n}^{k}u) + \bar{z}_{n}^{k+1}v$ .

(c) If  $f \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  is  $\overline{n}$ -flat on V then  $z_n^{-1}f \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$ .

For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $z_n^{-1}f = g + \overline{z}_n^{k+2}z_n^{-1}h \in C^k(\overline{D})$ . Now if  $f \in A^{\infty}(\overline{D})$ and  $f|_{V} = 0$  then f is  $\overline{n}$ -flat on V and so setting  $g = fz_n^{-1}$  we have  $f = gz_n$ , where  $g \in A^{\infty}(D)$ : this proves (i).

Now let  $\pi: \mathbb{C}^n \to V'$  be the natural projection; for every  $f \in A^{\infty}(V)$  let  $\tilde{f}: V' \to \mathbb{C}$  be a  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth extension of f and let  $\tilde{F} = \tilde{f} \circ \pi|_{\overline{D}}$ . We have  $\tilde{F} \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  and  $\bar{\partial}\tilde{F} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} b_j d\bar{z}_j$ , where  $b_1, ..., b_n$  are  $\bar{n}$ -flat on V. Then  $\alpha = z_n^{-1} \bar{\partial}\tilde{F}$  is  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth on  $\overline{D}$  so that we can find  $u \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  such that  $\bar{\partial}u = \alpha$  [11]. Then  $F = \tilde{F} - z_n u$  belongs to  $A^{\infty}(D)$  and it is the required extension of f (cf. also [8]).

We are now in a position to prove Proposition 1.

*Proof of Proposition* 1. Let  $V'_p$  be defined by  $z_{k+1+p} = \cdots = z_n = 0$ ,  $1 \le p \le n-k-1$ , and set  $D_p = D \cap V'_p$ .

We may assume (possibly after a linear transformation of coordinates) that  $V'_p \cap bD$  is  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth and  $V'_p$  and  $V'_{p+1} \cap bD$  are regularly separated.

Let  $f \in A^{\infty}(D)$  be such that  $f|_{V} = 0$ . In view of Lemma 2 we have  $f|_{D_{1}} = z_{k+1}g_{k+1}$ , where  $g_{k+1}$  is the restriction to  $D_{1}$  of a function in  $A^{\infty}(D_{2})$ .

It follows that  $f - z_{k+1}g_{k+1}$  vanishes on  $D_1$  so that on  $D_2$  we have  $f - g_{k+1}z_{k+1} = g_{k+2}z_{k+2}$ , etc.

With the same notations, as a consequence of Proposition 1, we get the following:

COROLLARY 3. Assume D is pseudoconvex, V' and bD are regularly separated and Sing  $V' \cap bD = \emptyset$ . Let  $f_1, ..., f_k$  be a complete defining system for V'. Then the sheaf homomorphisms

(i) 
$$(\mathscr{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)})^{\oplus k} \to \mathscr{E}_{\overline{V}}^{(\infty)}$$
 (given by  $(\lambda_1, ..., \lambda_k) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i f_i$ ),

(ii)  $\mathscr{O}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)} \to \mathscr{O}_{V}^{(\infty)}$  (given by "restriction to V") are onto.

## 2. The General Case

1. In view of Corollary 3 the problem we are dealing with is locally solvable.

In order to get the global result, in the case V' is a global complete intersection (i.e., k = n-dim<sub>C</sub> V') cohomological techniques can be employed proving that the sheaf  $\mathscr{R}$  of  $\mathscr{C}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)}$ -relations between  $f_1, ..., f_k$  actually satisfies  $H^1(\overline{D}, \mathscr{R}) = 0$  [1].

In the general case here we use a construction which reduces the problem to the linear case, via an extension theorem.

THEOREM 4. Assume D is strongly pseudoconvex and let  $V'_1, V'_2$  be analytic subvarieties of D' such that if we set  $V'_3 = V'_1 \cap V'_2$  we have:

- (i) Sing  $V'_i \cap bD = \emptyset, j = 1, 2, 3,$
- (ii)  $V'_i$  and bD are regularly separated, j = 1, 2, 3.

Assume also that  $V'_1$  and  $V'_2$  intersect transversally along bD and let  $Z' = V'_1 \cup V'_2$ ,  $V_j = V'_j \cap D$ , j = 1, 2, 3. Then the restriction homomorphism  $A^{\infty}(D) \rightarrow A^{\infty}(Z)$  is onto, where  $Z = Z' \cap D$ .

*Proof.* (1) First of all we prove that the restriction homomorphism  $\mathscr{O}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)} \to \mathscr{O}_{\overline{Z}}^{(\infty)}$  is onto.

For this let  $p \in bD$  and U be a small neighborhood of p. Let  $f \in A^{\infty}(U \cap Z)$ : in view of Corollary 3(ii) we may assume  $f|_{V_3 \cap U} = 0$ . Assume for the moment we may choose complex coordinates  $z_1, ..., z_n$  in such a way that

$$V'_{1} \cap U = \{ z \in U : z_{1} = \dots = z_{k} = 0 \},$$
  
$$V'_{2} \cap U = \{ z \in U : z_{s} = \dots = z_{m} = 0, s \leq k+1 \}.$$

Let  $f_i = f|_{V_i \cap U}$ ; from Corollary 3(i) we get

$$f_1 = \sum_{j=k+1}^m h_j z_j, \qquad h_j \in A^{\infty}(V_1 \cap U), \ k+1 \leq j \leq m,$$

and in view of part (ii) we can extend  $h_j$  as  $H_j \in A^{\infty}(U \cap D)$ . If we set  $F_1 = \sum_{i=k+1}^{m} H_i z_i$  we have  $F_1 \in A^{\infty}(U \cap D)$  and  $F_1|_{V_2 \cap D} = 0$ .

In the same way we can construct  $F_2 \in A^{\infty}(U \cap D)$  extending  $f_2$  and vanishing on  $V_1 \cap U$ . The function  $F = F_1 + F_2$  satisfies  $F|_{Z \cap U} = f$ . This shows that the sequence of sheaves

$$0 \to \mathscr{C}_{\overline{Z}}^{(\infty)} \to \mathscr{O}_{\overline{D}}^{(\infty)} \to \mathscr{O}_{\overline{Z}}^{(\infty)} \to 0$$

is exact and so in order to conclude the proof we have to show that the group  $H^1(\overline{D}, \mathscr{E}_{\overline{Z}}^{(\infty)})$  is actually zero. This amounts to proving the following claim: let F be a (0, 1)-form,  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth up to bD,  $\overline{\partial}$ -closed and such that  $F|_{\mathbb{Z}} = 0$ ; then there exists  $u \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  such that  $\overline{\partial u} = F$  and  $u|_{\mathbb{Z}} = 0$ .

(2) The proof of this claim is based on a construction on the theme of the "bumps lemma" of Andreotti and Grauert [2, p. 237] (cf. also [4] and [9]).

2. Consider a finite covering  $\{B_j\}$ ,  $1 \le j \le q$ , of bD where  $B_j = B(\zeta_j, \rho)$  is the open ball of radius  $\rho$  centered at  $\zeta_j \in bD$ , in such a way that  $\{B(\zeta_j, \rho/2)\}$ ,  $1 \le j \le q$ , is also a covering and  $Z \cap B_j$  is holomorphically equivalent to a plane crossing,  $1 \le j \le q$ . In view of the bumps lemma we can find an increasing family of pseudoconvex domains  $\{D_j\}$ ,  $0 \le j \le q$ , with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary, such that  $D_0 = D$ ,  $D_{j-1} \cup \{\zeta_j\} \subset D_j \subset D_{j-1} \cup B(\zeta_j, \rho/2)$  and  $\overline{D} \subset D_q \subseteq D'$ .

Let  $\alpha_1 \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  be such that  $\overline{\partial}\alpha_1 = F$ ; in particular on  $Z \setminus \text{Sing } Z$  we have

 $\bar{\partial}\alpha_1 = 0$  and so in view of a result of Malgrange [13]  $\alpha_1|_Z$  is holomorphic. From part (1) we deduce that there exists  $g_1 \in A^{\infty}(D \cap B_1)$  such that  $g_1|_{Z' \cap B_1} = \alpha_1$ ; it follows that  $u_1 = \alpha_1 - g_1 \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D \cap B_1})$ ,  $\bar{\partial}u_1 = F$  on  $D \cap B_1$ and  $u_1 = 0$  on  $Z' \cap B_1$ . Let  $\eta_1 \in C_0^{\infty}(B_1)$  be such that  $\eta_1 = 0$  on  $B(\zeta_1, \rho/2)$ and set  $F_1 = \bar{\partial}[(1 - \eta_1)u_1]$ . We have the following:  $F_1$  is  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth on  $\overline{D}$ ,  $\bar{\partial}F_1 = 0$  and  $F_1 = 0$  on  $Z' \cap D_1$ . Moreover on  $\overline{D}$  we have  $F_1 = F - \bar{\partial}\beta_1$ , where  $\beta_1 = \eta_1 u_1 \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  and  $\beta_1|_Z = 0$ . By iteration we get a (0, 1)-form  $F_q$ ,  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth on  $\overline{D}_q$  such that  $\bar{\partial}F_q = 0$ ,  $F_q = 0$  on  $Z' \cap D_q$  and on  $\overline{D}$ ,  $F_q = F - \bar{\partial}\beta_q$ , where  $\beta_q \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$  and  $\beta_q|_Z = 0$ .

Now let  $\gamma \in C^{\infty}(D_q)$  be such that  $\overline{\partial}\gamma = F_q$ ; then  $\gamma|_{Z' \cap D_q}$  is holomorphic. Let G be holomorphic on  $D_q$  and such that  $G = \gamma$  on  $Z' \cap D_q$  and set  $u = \gamma - G + \beta_q$ . We have  $u \in C^{\infty}(\overline{D})$ ,  $\overline{\partial}u = F$  and u vanishes on Z.

Thus in order to establish Theorem 4 we only have to prove the following:

LEMMA 5. Let  $V_1, V_2$  be germs of analytic submanifolds at  $p \in \mathbb{C}^n$  such that

- (i)  $V_1 \cap V_2$  is smooth,
- (ii)  $T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1 \cap V_2) = T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) \cap T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2).$

Then we can choose complex coordinates  $z_1, ..., z_n$  in a neighborhood U of p in such a way that

$$V_1 \cap U = \{ z \in \mathbb{C}^n : z_1 = \dots = z_k = 0 \},$$
  
$$V_2 \cap U = \{ z \in \mathbb{C}^n : z_s = \dots = z_m = 0, s \leq k+1 \}.$$

*Proof.* We shall consider first the case where  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) + T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2)) = n$ . Let  $V_1$  be defined (in a neighborhood U of p) by  $z_1 = \cdots = z_{n-d} = 0$  and  $V_2$  by  $f_1 = \cdots = f_{n-k} = 0$ ; it follows that  $V_1 \cap V_2$  has dimension d + k - n and  $\partial f_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial f_{n-k} \wedge \partial z_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial z_{n-d}(p) \neq 0$ . Then there is a system of local (holomorphic) coordinates  $\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n$  such that  $\zeta_j = z_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq k$  and  $\zeta_{k+1} = f_1, \dots, \zeta_n = f_{n-k}$ .

In order to reduce the general case to the previous one we only have to check that under our assumptions  $T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) + T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2)$  is the Zariski tangent space  $T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1 \cup V_2)$  of  $V_1 \cup V_2$  at p. We have  $T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) + T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2) \subset T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1 \cup V_2)$ : in order to prove the opposite inclusion we must prove the following: given a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear map  $L: \mathbb{C}^n \to \mathbb{C}$  vanishing on  $T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) + T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2)$  there is a local holomorphic function g such that g = 0 on  $V_1 \cup V_2$  and  $\partial g(p) = L$ .

With the above notations we may suppose that on U

$$V_1 = \{ z \in U : z_j = 0, 1 \le j \le k \},\$$
  
$$V_2 = \{ z \in U : f_s(z) = \dots = f_m(z) = 0, s \le k+1 \}$$

$$V_1 \cap V_2 = \{z \in U : z_1 = \dots = z_k = f_{k+1}(z) = \dots = f_m(z) = 0\},\$$

where

$$\partial f_s \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial f_m(p) \neq 0, \qquad \partial z_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial z_k \wedge \partial f_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial f_m(p) \neq 0$$

and  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) + T_p^{\mathbb{C}}(V_2)) = n + s - k - 1$ . In particular

$$V_1 \cap V_2 = \{z \in V_1 : f_{k+1}(z) = \dots = f_m(z) = 0\}.$$

Let  $\tilde{g}$  be a local holomorphic function such that  $\partial \tilde{g}(p) = L$  and  $\tilde{g}|_{\nu_2} = 0$ ; set  $\tilde{g}_1 = \tilde{g}|_{\nu_1}$ .

Then  $\tilde{g}_1 = \sum_{j=k+1}^m \alpha_j f_j$ , where  $\alpha_j \in \mathcal{O}(V_1)$ , and

$$\partial_{V_1} \tilde{g}_1(p) = \partial \tilde{g}(p) | T_P^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) = L | T_P^{\mathbb{C}}(V_1) = 0$$

 $\partial_{V_1}$  being the  $\partial$ -operator for  $V_1$  and so  $\alpha_j(p) = 0$ ,  $k + 1 \leq j \leq m$ . Extend  $\alpha_j$  by  $A_j$  (holomorphically),  $k + 1 \leq j \leq m$ , and set  $G = \sum_{j=k+1}^m A_j f_j$ ; we have  $G|_{V_1} = \tilde{g}_1$ ,  $G|_{V_2} = 0$ ,  $\partial G(p) = 0$ . The function we are looking for is now  $g = \tilde{g} - G$ .

3. We are now in a position to prove our main theorem.

Let  $D \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a bounded domain with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary bD and let V' be a complex analytic subvariety of an open neighborhood D' of D such that  $V = V' \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $f_1, \dots, f_k$  be a complete defining system for V'.

THEOREM 6. Assume

- (i) D is strongly pseudoconvex,
- (ii) Sing  $V' \cap bD = \emptyset$  and V', bD are regularly separated.

Then every  $f \in A^{\infty}(D)$  vanishing on V can be written as

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^{k} h_j f_j,$$

where  $h_1, ..., h_k \in A^{\infty}(D)$ .

**Proof.** Consider the holomorphic map  $F: D' \to \mathbb{C}^k$  given by  $F(z) = (f_1(z),...,f_k(z))$  and let  $\Gamma$  be its graph. Consider in  $D' \times \mathbb{C}^k$  a bounded domain B with  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth boundary, strongly pseudoconvex and such that  $B \cap (D' \times \{0\}) = D$  and  $\Gamma$  intersects bB transversally. From the fact

 $\{f_1,...,f_k\}$  is a complete defining system for V' it follows that the jacobian matrix of F has rank n-dim<sub>C</sub> V' near bD and in particular  $\Gamma$  intersects D' transversally along bB. Let  $Z = (D' \cup \Gamma) \cap B$  and let  $f \in A^{\infty}(D)$  be such that f = 0 on V.

Let  $\tilde{f}$  be defined by:  $\tilde{f}=f$  on D and f=0 on  $\Gamma \cap B$ ; because of the transversality,  $\tilde{f}$  is holomorphic on Z and  $\tilde{f} \in A^{\infty}(Z)$ .

By Theorem 4 applied to Z we can find  $G \in A^{\infty}(B)$  such that  $G|_{Z} = \tilde{f}$ . In particular G = 0 on  $\Gamma \cap B$ . Now  $\Gamma \cap B$  is holomorphically equivalent to a plane section and thus, using Proposition 1 we can find  $\tilde{h}_{1},...,\tilde{h}_{k} \in A^{\infty}(B)$  such that  $G = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \tilde{h}_{j}(f_{j} - w_{j})$   $(w_{1},...,w_{k}$  complex coordinates in  $\mathbb{C}^{k}$ ). By restriction to  $\tilde{D}$  we get  $f = \sum_{j=1}^{k} h_{j}f_{j}$ , where  $h_{j} = \tilde{h}_{j}|_{\overline{D}}$ . This concludes the proof of our main theorem.

COROLLARY 7. In the above hypothesis assume  $f \in A^{\infty}(V)$  vanishes on V of order q > 0. Then f can be written as

$$f = \sum_{j_1 + \cdots + j_k = q} h_{j_1 \cdots j_k} f_1^{j_1} \cdots f_k^{j_q},$$

where  $h_{j_1...j_k} \in A^{\infty}(D), j_1 + \cdots + j_k = q$ .

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