



The Weighted Bergman Kernel and the Green's Function

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Abstract We study the connection between the weighted Bergman kernel and the Green's function on a domain $W \subset \mathbb{C}$ for which the Green's function exists.

Keywords Weighted Bergman kernel · Green's function · Harmonic function

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1 Introduction

The Bergman kernel (see for instance [1, 7–9, 14, 18]) has become a very important tool in geometric function theory, both in one and several complex variables. It turns out that not only the classical Bergman kernel, but also the weighted one can be useful (see [4, 5, 11] for applications in quantum field theory). Let $W \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain (i.e., a connected, open set) such that the Bergman space $L^2_H(W)$ is a non-zero space and G_W the classical Green's function of W (let us recall that G_W exists if $\mathbb{C} \setminus W$ is not polar, and this is only if $L^2_H(W) \neq 0$ —see [3, 10]).

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It is known, in the classical case, that

$$K_W(z, w) = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_W(z, w)$$

(see [19]) for $z, w \in W$, $z \neq w$ (it was originally proved in [2] with additional assumptions on ∂W). On the other hand, if ∂W consists of a finite number of Jordan curves, $\rho(\bar{z})$ is a positive continuously differentiable function of x and y on a neighborhood of \bar{W} , $K_{W, \rho}(z, w)$ a weighted Bergman kernel of the space $L^2_H(W, \rho)$ and $G_{W, \rho}$ the Green's function for an operator $P_\rho = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \frac{1}{\rho(z)} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$, then

$$K_{W, \rho}(z, w) = -\frac{2}{\pi \rho(z) \rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_{W, \rho}(z, w)$$

(see [6]). A very natural question is: “can we relax the regularity of ∂W ?”. In this paper we prove that the connection above holds for any domain $W \subset \mathbb{C}$, for which $L^2_H(W) \neq 0$ (any bounded domain share this property) and for weights ρ such that $\log \rho$ is harmonic. The generalization is not straightforward, since we need to find the connection between a classical Green function and $G_{W, \rho}$. We shall begin with the definitions and basic facts used in this paper. Additionally, because we are dealing with the weighted Bergman kernels, we will recall for which weights in general the weighted Bergman kernel exists (although we are working here with differentiable weights only).

2 Definitions and Notation

Let $W \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain, and let $\mathcal{W}(W)$ be the set of weights on W , i.e., $\mathcal{W}(W)$ is the set of all Lebesgue measurable, real-valued, positive functions μ on W (we consider two weights as equivalent if they are equal almost everywhere with respect to the Lebesgue measure on W). For $\mu \in \mathcal{W}(W)$ we denote by $L^2(W, \mu)$ the space of all Lebesgue measurable, complex-valued, μ -square integrable functions on W , equipped with the norm $\| \cdot \|_{W, \mu} := \| \cdot \|_\mu$ and given by the scalar product

$$\langle f | g \rangle_\mu := \int_W f(z) \overline{g(z)} \mu(z) dV, \quad f, g \in L^2(W, \mu).$$

The space $L^2_H(W, \mu) = \mathcal{O}(W) \cap L^2(W, \mu)$ is called the *weighted Bergman space*, where $\mathcal{O}(W)$ denotes the space of all holomorphic functions on the domain W . For any $z \in W$ we define the evaluation functional E_z on $L^2_H(W, \mu)$ by the formula

$$E_z f := f(z), \quad f \in L^2_H(W, \mu).$$

Let us recall the definition (Definition 2.1) of admissible weight given in [13].

Definition 2.1 (*Admissible weight*) A weight $\mu \in \mathcal{W}(W)$ is called an *admissible weight*, an *a-weight* for short, if $L^2_H(W, \mu)$ is a closed subspace of $L^2(W, \mu)$ and for any $z \in W$, the evaluation functional E_z is continuous on $L^2_H(W, \mu)$. The set of all a-weights on W will be denoted by $\mathcal{AW}(W)$.

The definition of admissible weight provides us with existence and uniqueness of the related Bergman kernel and completeness of the space $L^2_H(W, \mu)$. The concept of a-weight was introduced in [12], and in [13] several theorems concerning admissible weights are proved. An illustrative result is:

Theorem 2.2 [13, Corollary 3.1] *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{W}(W)$. If the function μ^{-a} is locally integrable on W for some $a > 0$ then $\mu \in \mathcal{AW}(W)$.*

Now, let us fix a point $t \in W$ and minimize the norm $\|f\|_\mu$ in the class $E_t = \{f \in L^2_H(W, \mu); f(t) = 1\}$. It can be proved, in a fashion similar to the classical case, that if μ is an admissible weight then there exists exactly one function minimizing the norm. Let us denote it by $\phi_\mu(z, t)$. The *weighted Bergman kernel function* $K_{W, \mu}$ is defined as follows:

$$K_{W, \mu}(z, t) = \frac{\phi_\mu(z, t)}{\|\phi_\mu\|_\mu^2}.$$

3 From the Unweighted to the Weighted Case

Let us recall that we are working with a domain $W \subset \mathbb{C}$, for which $L^2_H(W) \neq 0$ (any bounded domain has this property). We define the Green's function $G_{W, \rho}$ as the limit in $C^2(W)$ of the sequence $\{G_{W_j, \rho_j}\}_{j=0}^\infty$, for an arbitrary exhaustion $\{W_j\}$ of W by domains with the boundary consisting of a finite number of smooth Jordan curves, and for $\rho_j = \rho|_{W_j}$. We are assuming here that the limit exists and is independent of the exhaustion. Now we will use the result from [19] to prove the following

Theorem 3.1 *If $\rho(z) = |\mu(z)|^2$, where $\mu \in \mathcal{O}(\overline{W})$, and has no zeros on \overline{W} , then*

$$K_{W, \rho}(z, w) = -\frac{2}{\pi\rho(z)\rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \overline{w}} G_{W, \rho}(z, w).$$

Proof It is well known that any domain $W \subset \mathbb{C}$ may be written as

$$W = \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty W_j, \quad W_1 \Subset W_2 \Subset W_3 \Subset \dots,$$

where ∂W_j consists of a finite number of smooth Jordan curves (we do not assume any regularity of ∂W), for any $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $\rho_j(z) = |\mu_j(z)|^2$ where $\mu_j = \mu|_{W_j}$. One can find in ([6], p. 494) that

$$G_{W_j, \rho_j}(z, w) = \overline{\mu_j(z)}\mu_j(w)G_{W_j}(z, w),$$

which in the limit $j \rightarrow \infty$ yields

$$G_{W, \rho}(z, w) = \overline{\mu(z)}\mu(w)G_W(z, w)$$

(it is a standard fact that G_{W_j} converges in $C^2(W)$ to G_W). Moreover (by a standard calculation)

$$\frac{\partial^2 G_{W, \rho}(z, w)}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} = \overline{\mu(z)}\mu(w) \frac{\partial^2 G_W(z, w)}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}}.$$

Let us note that $L^2_H(W, |\mu|^2) = L^2_H(W) \neq 0$. Multiplication by μ is a unitary map from the $L^2_H(W, |\mu|^2)$ onto $L^2_H(W)$, so

$$\mu(z)\overline{\mu(w)}K_{W, \rho}(z, w) = K_W(z, w),$$

because the image of a reproducing kernel by a unitary map is the corresponding reproducing kernel in the target space (this may be also seen by using the complete orthonormal system $\{\varphi_k(\cdot)\}$ in $L^2_H(W)$ to express K_W and $\{\varphi_k(\cdot)/\mu(\cdot)\}$ in $L^2_H(W, |\mu|^2)$ to express $K_{W, \rho}(z, w)$). Now Theorem 3.1 follows from the result in [19]. □

3.1 Non-Holomorphic Weights

On closer scrutiny, the crucial thing in the proof of Theorem 3.1 was to relate the weighted Green’s function to the unweighted one. However, that was possible since holomorphicity of μ allowed us to find a “bridge” between Green’s functions. This relationship turns out to be preserved even if we relax the assumption about holomorphicity of the weight. We will do some reduction which transforms the problem to solving some PDE. It turns out to be possible if only $\log \rho$ is harmonic, as the following reveals.

Theorem 3.2 *If $\rho(z) = |\mu(z)|^2$, where $\log \rho$ is harmonic on a neighborhood of \overline{W} (and μ has no zeros on \overline{W}) then*

$$K_{W, \rho}(z, w) = -\frac{2}{\pi\rho(z)\rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_{W, \rho}(z, w).$$

Proof Let $\{W_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$ be an exhaustion of W and $\rho_j = |\mu_j|^2$ where $\mu_j = \mu|_{W_j}$. The crucial thing is to find $g_j(z)$ such that $u_j(w) = g_j(w)U_j(w)$ is a general solution of the equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\rho_j(w)} \frac{\partial}{\partial w} u_j(w) = 0,$$

and $U_j(w)$ is (an arbitrary) complex and harmonic function on W_j (we define g on the same way by means of P_ρ). Thus

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\rho_j(w)} \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \mu_j(w) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial w} (g_j(w) U_j(w)) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} U_j \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} g_j \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial w} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \right) \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} U_j + \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \left(\frac{\partial^2 g_j}{\partial \bar{w} \partial w} U_j + \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial \bar{w}} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \right) g_j \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial w} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \left(\frac{\partial g_j}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial w} + g_j \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 U_j}{\partial \bar{w} \partial w}}_0 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \right) \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} + \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial^2 g_j}{\partial \bar{w} \partial w} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} = 0 \\ \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \right) g_j + \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial \bar{w}} = 0 \end{cases}$$

□

Remark 3.3 By the equation above, g_j is an antiholomorphic function.

Examining the system above, we see that the first equation is a consequence of the second one. Let us focus on the third one:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \right) g_j + \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial \bar{w}} = 0.$$

It may be written in the form

$$\frac{1}{g_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial \bar{w}} = \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} (\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j)$$

Thus, for a given μ_j , there is a function g_j which must satisfy:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{g_j} \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial \bar{w}} = \frac{1}{\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} (\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j) \\ \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Notice that, if μ_j is holomorphic and $g_j = \bar{\mu}_j$, then the system above is satisfied (in this case we get the result of [6]). We may proceed to get the exact form of $g_j(z)$, namely:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \log g_j &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{w}} \log(\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j), \\ \log g_j &= \log(\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j) + h_j(w), \\ g_j(w) &= \mu_j \bar{\mu}_j e^{h_j(w)} = |\mu_j(w)|^2 e^{h_j(w)},\end{aligned}$$

where $h_j \in \mathcal{O}(\overline{W}_j)$. Since the g_j need to be antiholomorphic, h_j is not an arbitrary holomorphic function. Let us proceed to get the exact form of h_j .

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial w} = \frac{\partial}{\partial w} (\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j) e^{h_j} + \mu_j \bar{\mu}_j e^{h_j} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial w}, \\ 0 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w} (\mu_j \bar{\mu}_j) + \mu_j \bar{\mu}_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial w}.\end{aligned}$$

So

$$h_j(w) = -\log |\mu_j|^2 + l_j(w)$$

where l_j is antiholomorphic. Taking $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial w \partial \bar{w}}$ we see that $\log |\mu_j|^2$ must be harmonic. Take $l_j(w) = \overline{h_j(w)} + \log |\mu_j|^2 + 2i \operatorname{Im} h_j(w)$. So

$$0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial w} (\overline{h_j(w)} + \log |\mu_j|^2 + 2i \operatorname{Im} h_j(w)) = \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \log |\mu_j|^2 + 2i \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \operatorname{Im} h_j(w)$$

By $\frac{\partial}{\partial w} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$ we see that

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log |\mu_j|^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \operatorname{Im} h_j(w) = 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \log |\mu_j|^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \operatorname{Im} h_j(w) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Write $\int \log |\mu_j(w)| dy = F_j(x, y) + c(x)$, where $w = x + iy$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} F_j(x, y) = \log |\mu_j(w)|^2$. Since $\log |\mu_j|^2$ is harmonic, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Delta F_j = 0$$

or just $\Delta F_j = d_j(x)$, where d_j is some differentiable function of x only. Thus

$$\operatorname{Im} h_j(w) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F_j + \frac{1}{2} e_j(x)$$

where $\int d_j(x) dx = e_j(x) + c(y)$. We may easily check that $\operatorname{Im} h_j(w)$ is harmonic. To this end,

$$h_j(w) = -\frac{1}{2} \log |\mu_j|^2 + i \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F_j + \frac{1}{2} e_j(x) \right)$$

where $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} F_j(x, y) = \log |\mu_j(w)|^2$, and $e'_j(x) = d_j(x)$.
 Thus

$$g_j(z) = |\mu_j(z)|^2 e^{h_j(z)},$$

where h_j is given above. Now, by the definition of μ_j we have that $g_j \rightarrow g = |\mu(z)|^2 e^{h(z)}$, where

$$h(w) = -\frac{1}{2} \log |\mu|^2 + i \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F + \frac{1}{2} e(x) \right)$$

and by Harnack’s theorem $\log |\mu|$ is harmonic.

Again (as in [6])

$$G_{W_j, \rho_j}(z, w) = g_j(z) \overline{g_j(w)} G_{W_j}(z, w),$$

so

$$\frac{\partial^2 G_{W_j, \rho_j}(z, w)}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} = g_j(z) \overline{g_j(w)} \frac{\partial^2 G_{W_j}(z, w)}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}}.$$

By the regularity of any ∂W_j we have

$$K_{W_j, \rho_j}(z, w) = -\frac{2}{\pi \rho_j(z) \rho_j(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_{W_j, \rho_j}(z, w),$$

which in the limit as $j \rightarrow \infty$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} K_{W, \rho}(z, w) &= -\frac{2}{\pi \rho(z) \rho(w)} \overline{g(z)g(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_W(z, w) \\ &= -\frac{2}{\pi \rho(z) \rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2 G_{W, \rho}(z, w)}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}}. \end{aligned}$$

(we made use of the result in [20] for the LHS of the above).

4 Remarks and Some Applications

One could try the “reduction” used in the proof above to find a connection between the classical Green’s function and the Green’s function of some other differential operator of elliptic type.

It is well established that weighted Bergman spaces are both intrinsically interesting and a powerful analytic tool. Our purpose in this paper has been to develop this set of ideas, and particularly the connection between the Bergman kernel and the Green’s function in the weighted context. Some of the applications might be:

- (a) With the established connection between weighted Bergman kernel and Green's function in hand, we can reformulate the weighted version of the so called "small conjecture" (Is the so called Skwarczyński distance equivalent to the Bergman distance?—see [16, 17]) as:

Remark 4.1 Assume $W \Subset \mathbb{C}$, and μ is a continuously differentiable function of x and y on a neighborhood of \overline{W} . Then $t_n \rightarrow t \in \partial W$ represents defective evaluation (see [17]) iff

$$-\frac{2}{\pi \rho(z) \rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_{W, \rho}(z, w)(\cdot, t_n) \rightarrow \gamma$$

weakly in $L^2_H(W, \mu)$ and

$$-\frac{2}{\pi \rho(z) \rho(w)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{w}} G_{W, \rho}(z, w)(t_n, t_n) \rightarrow \kappa^2$$

where $\|\gamma\| \neq \kappa$. This is important, since the involved so-called Skwarczyński distance is biholomorphically invariant, and given more explicitly than the Bergman distance.

- (b) Using the method of alternating projections (see [15]), we can recover (having some Dirichlet and Neuman boundary conditions on G_W) $G_{W, \mu}$ for an arbitrary domain W lying in \mathbb{C} .

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