

# BOTT-CHERN COHOMOLOGY AND $q$ -COMPLETE DOMAINS

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ABSTRACT. In studying the Bott-Chern and Aeppli cohomologies for  $q$ -complete manifolds, we introduce the class of cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete manifolds.

Dans l'étude des cohomologies de Bott-Chern et d'Aeppli pour variétés  $q$ -completes, nous introduisons la classe des variétés cohomologiquement Bott-Chern  $q$ -completes.

## INTRODUCTION

The notion of  $q$ -complete manifolds has been introduced and studied in [2, 11]. In particular, in [2, Proposition 27], A. Andreotti and H. Grauert proved a vanishing result for the higher-degree Dolbeault cohomology groups of  $q$ -complete manifolds  $D$ , namely, that  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(D) = \{0\}$  for any  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  and for any  $s \geq q$ , see also [3, Theorem 5]. Domains having such a vanishing property are called *cohomologically  $q$ -complete*, and coincide with  $q$ -complete domains under some regularity conditions. In fact, M. G. Eastwood and G. Vigna Suria proved that cohomologically  $q$ -complete domains of a Stein manifold with boundary of class  $\mathcal{C}^2$  are in fact  $q$ -complete, [7, Theorem 3.8]; see also [9, §V.5] for a sheaf-theoretic characterization of Stein domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

Besides Dolbeault cohomology, other relevant tools to study geometry and analysis of complex manifolds  $X$  are provided by Bott-Chern and Aeppli cohomologies, [5, 1], namely,

$$H_{BC}^{\bullet,\bullet}(X) := \frac{\ker \partial \cap \ker \bar{\partial}}{\text{im } \partial \bar{\partial}}, \quad H_A^{\bullet,\bullet}(X) := \frac{\ker \partial \bar{\partial}}{\text{im } \partial + \text{im } \bar{\partial}}.$$

In this note, we are concerned with studying Bott-Chern and Aeppli cohomologies of open manifolds, in particular, assuming the vanishing of certain Dolbeault cohomology groups.

In particular, as a consequence of Theorem 3.2, we get that cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifolds are also cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete. Here, by *cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete* manifold, we mean a complex manifold  $X$  of complex dimension  $n$  such that  $H_{BC}^{r,s}(X)$  vanishes for  $r + s \geq n + q$ . In this sense, such a notion provides a natural generalization of the classical notion of cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifolds.

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## 1. DOLBEAULT COHOMOLOGY VANISHING AND BOTT-CHERN AND AEPPLI COHOMOLOGIES

In this section, we prove that the vanishing of certain Dolbeault cohomology groups assures connections between Bott-Chern cohomology and de Rham cohomology, and the vanishing of some Aeppli cohomology.

Inspired by [1], we prove the following inequalities, involving Bott-Chern and de Rham cohomologies, under the assumption of the vanishing of some Dolbeault cohomology groups. (As regards the compact case, we refer to [4], where an inequality *à la* Frölicher is proven, yielding also a characterization of the  $\partial\bar{\partial}$ -Lemma on compact complex manifolds.)

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $X$  be a complex manifold. Fix  $(p, q) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$ .*

- (a) *If  $\sum_{s \geq \min\{p, q\}}^{r+s=p+q-1} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = 0$ , then there is a natural injective map  $H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) \rightarrow H_{dR}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C})$ .*
- (b) *If  $\sum_{s \geq \min\{p, q\}+1}^{r+s=p+q} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = 0$ , then there is a natural surjective map  $H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) \rightarrow H_{dR}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C})$ .*

*Proof.* We split the proof in the following steps.

**Step 1.** Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{p-1, q-1} \xrightarrow{\partial\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q} \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves, [12, Lemme 4.1(2.i)]. Since the sheaf  $\mathcal{A}^{p-1, q-1}$  is (a fine sheaf over a para-compact Hausdorff space and hence) acyclic, one gets the exact sequence

$$\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{A}^{p-1, q-1}) \xrightarrow{\partial\bar{\partial}} \check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q}) \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1}) \rightarrow 0.$$

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It follows that

$$(1) \quad \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1}) \simeq \frac{\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q})}{\partial\bar{\partial}\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{A}^{p-1, q-1})} = H_{BC}^{p, q}(X).$$

**Step 2.** Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p-1, q-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1} \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1} \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves, because of the Dolbeault and Grothendieck Lemma, see, e.g., [6, Lemma I.3.29].

**Step 2a.** In case (a), since  $\check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p-1, q-1}) \simeq H_{\partial}^{p, q-1}(X) = \overline{H_{\partial}^{q-1, p}(X)} = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the injective map

$$(2) \quad 0 \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1}).$$

**Step 2b.** In case (b), since  $\check{H}^2(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p-1, q-1}) \simeq H_{\partial}^{p+1, q-1}(X) = \overline{H_{\partial}^{q-1, p+1}(X)} = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the surjective map

$$(3) \quad \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1}) \rightarrow 0.$$

**Step 3.** Fix  $\ell \in \{0, \dots, q-2\}$ . Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p, \ell} \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell+1} \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves, [12, Lemme 4.1(2.i, 2.ii)].

**Step 3a.** In case (a), since  $\check{H}^{q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p, \ell}) \simeq H_{\partial}^{p+q-\ell-1, \ell}(X) = \overline{H_{\partial}^{\ell, p+q-\ell-1}(X)} = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the injective map

$$0 \rightarrow \check{H}^{q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell+1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell}).$$

Hence one gets the injective map

$$(4) \quad 0 \rightarrow H^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, 0}).$$

**Step 3b.** In case (b), since  $\check{H}^{q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial}^{p, \ell}) \simeq H_{\partial}^{p+q-\ell, \ell}(X) = \overline{H_{\partial}^{\ell, p+q-\ell}(X)} = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the surjective map

$$\check{H}^{q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell+1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, \ell}) \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence one gets the surjective map

$$(5) \quad \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1}) \rightarrow \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, 0}) \rightarrow 0.$$

**Step 4.** Fix  $\ell \in \{0, \dots, p-1\}$ . Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell, 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{\ell, 0} \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell+1, 0} \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves, [12, Lemme 4.1(2.ii)].

**Step 4a.** In case (a), since  $\check{H}^{p+q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{\ell, 0}) \simeq H_{\bar{\partial}}^{\ell, p+q-\ell-1}(X) = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the injective map

$$0 \rightarrow \check{H}^{p+q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell+1, 0}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{p+q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell, 0}).$$

Hence one gets the injective map

$$(6) \quad 0 \rightarrow \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, 0}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}_X).$$

**Step 4b.** In case (b), since  $\check{H}^{p+q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{\ell, 0}) \simeq H_{\bar{\partial}}^{\ell, p+q-\ell}(X) = \{0\}$  by the hypothesis, one gets the surjective map

$$\check{H}^{p+q-\ell-1}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell+1, 0}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{p+q-\ell}(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{\ell, 0}) \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence one gets the surjective map

$$(7) \quad \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, 0}) \rightarrow \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \check{H}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}_X) \rightarrow 0.$$

**Step 5a.** In case (a), by using (1), (2), (4), and (6), one gets

$$H_{BC}^{p, q}(X) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1, q-1}) \hookrightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, q-1}) \hookrightarrow \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p, 0}) \hookrightarrow \check{H}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}_X) \xrightarrow{\simeq} H_{dR}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}),$$

concluding the proof of the item (a).

**Step 5b.** In case (b), by using (1), (3), (5), and (7), one gets

$$H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q-1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p,q-1}) \rightarrow \check{H}^q(X; \mathcal{Z}_d^{p,0}) \rightarrow \check{H}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}_X) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_{dR}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}),$$

concluding the proof of the item (b).  $\square$

As regards the Aeppli cohomology, we have the following vanishing result.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $X$  be a complex manifold. Fix  $(p, q) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$ . If,*

$$H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_{\bar{\partial}}^{q,p}(X) = \{0\},$$

then

$$H_A^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}.$$

*Proof.* We split the proof in the following steps.

**Step 1.** Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{A}^{p,q-1} \xrightarrow{(\partial, \bar{\partial})} \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p,q} \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves, [12, Lemme 4.1(3.i)]. Since the sheaf  $\mathcal{A}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{A}^{p,q-1}$  is (a fine sheaf over a para-compact Hausdorff space and hence) acyclic, one gets the exact sequence

$$\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{A}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{A}^{p,q-1}) \xrightarrow{(\partial, \bar{\partial})} \check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}) \rightarrow \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q-1}) \rightarrow 0,$$

It follows that

$$(8) \quad \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q-1}) \simeq \frac{\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\partial\bar{\partial}}^{p,q})}{\partial\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{A}^{p-1,q}) + \bar{\partial}\check{H}^0(X; \mathcal{A}^{p,q-1})} = H_A^{p,q}(X).$$

**Step 2.** Since  $\check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q}) \simeq H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X) = \overline{H_{\bar{\partial}}^{q,p}(X)} = \{0\}$  and  $\check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q-1}) \simeq H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}$  by the hypotheses, one gets

$$(9) \quad \check{H}^1(X; \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p-1,q} \oplus \mathcal{Z}_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q-1}) = \{0\}.$$

**Step 3.** By (8) and (9), one gets the vanishing of  $H_A^{p,q}(X)$ .  $\square$

As a straightforward consequence, we get the following vanishing result for cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifold.

**Corollary 1.3.** *Let  $X$  be a cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifold. Then  $H_A^{r,s}(X) = \{0\}$  for any  $(r, s) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  such that  $\min\{r, s\} \geq q$ .*

## 2. DOLBEAULT COHOMOLOGY VANISHING AND BOTT-CHERN AND AEPPLI COHOMOLOGIES

As partial converse of Theorem 1.1 and of Theorem 1.2 respectively, we provide the following results.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $X$  be a complex manifold of complex dimension  $n$ . Fix  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{N} \times (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})$ . If*

$$H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_{BC}^{p+1,q}(X) = \{0\},$$

then

$$H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}.$$

*Proof.* Take  $\mathbf{a} = [\alpha] \in H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X)$ , and consider  $[\partial\alpha] \in H_{BC}^{p+1,q}(X) = \{0\}$ . (As a matter of notation, we set  $\wedge^{\ell,m}X := \{0\}$  for  $\ell \notin \mathbb{N}$  or  $m \notin \mathbb{N}$ .) Hence there exists  $\beta \in \wedge^{p,q-1}X$  such that  $\partial\alpha = \partial\bar{\partial}\beta$ . Consider  $[\alpha - \bar{\partial}\beta] \in H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}$ . Hence there exists  $\gamma \in \wedge^{p-1,q-1}X$  such that  $\alpha - \bar{\partial}\beta = \partial\bar{\partial}\gamma$ . Therefore  $\alpha = \bar{\partial}(\beta - \partial\gamma)$ , that is,  $\mathbf{a} = 0 \in H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $X$  be a complex manifold of complex dimension  $n$ . Fix  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{N} \times (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})$ . If*

$$H_A^{p-1,q}(X) = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_A^{p,q}(X) = \{0\},$$

then

$$H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}.$$

*Proof.* Take  $\mathbf{a} = [\alpha] \in H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X)$ , and consider  $[\alpha] \in H_A^{p,q}(X) = \{0\}$ . (As a matter of notation, we set  $\wedge^{\ell,m}X := \{0\}$  for  $\ell \notin \mathbb{N}$  or  $m \notin \mathbb{N}$ .) Hence there exist  $\beta \in \wedge^{p-1,q}X$  and  $\gamma \in \wedge^{p,q-1}X$  such that  $\alpha = \partial\beta + \bar{\partial}\gamma$ . Consider  $[\beta] \in H_A^{p-1,q}(X) = \{0\}$ . Hence there exist  $\xi \in \wedge^{p-2,q}X$  and  $\eta \in \wedge^{p-1,q-1}X$  such that  $\beta = \partial\xi + \bar{\partial}\eta$ . Therefore  $\alpha = \bar{\partial}(\gamma - \partial\eta)$ , that is,  $\mathbf{a} = 0 \in H_{\bar{\partial}}^{p,q}(X)$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.3.** Note that, by Proposition 2.2, respectively Proposition 2.1, and by [9, Theorem V.5.2], for domains  $D$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  to be Stein, it is sufficient that  $H_A^{0,\ell}(D) = \{0\}$  for any  $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ , respectively that  $H_{BC}^{0,\ell}(D) = H_{BC}^{1,\ell}(D) = \{0\}$  for any  $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ , but not the converse.

We recall that, fixed  $q \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ , a complex manifold  $X$  is called *cohomologically  $q$ -complete* if  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = \{0\}$  for any  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  and for any  $s \geq q$ . In view of A. Andreotti and H. Grauert vanishing theorem, [2, Proposition 27],  $q$ -complete manifolds [2, 11] are cohomologically  $q$ -complete. Conversely, cohomologically  $q$ -complete domains of a Stein manifold with boundary of class  $\mathcal{C}^2$  are  $q$ -complete, [7, Theorem 3.8].

In this section, we study the Bott-Chern counterpart of  $q$ -completeness. More precisely, consider the following definition.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $X$  be a complex manifold of complex dimension  $n$ , and fix an integer  $q \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The manifold  $X$  is called *cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete* if there holds that, for any positive integers  $r$  and  $s$  such that  $r + s \geq n + q$ , then  $H_{BC}^{r,s}(X) = \{0\}$ .

In order to motivate the previous definition, we note the following straightforward corollary of Theorem 1.1.

**Corollary 3.2.** Let  $X$  be a complex manifold. Fix  $(p, q) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$ . If,

$$\sum_{\substack{r+s=p+q-1 \\ s \geq \min\{p,q\}}} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = \sum_{\substack{r+s=p+q \\ s \geq \min\{p,q\}+1}} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = 0$$

then, for any  $(h, k) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$  such that  $h + k = p + q$  and  $\min\{p, q\} \leq h, k \leq \max\{p, q\}$ , there is a natural isomorphism

$$H_{BC}^{h,k}(X) \simeq H_{dR}^{p+q}(X; \mathbb{C}).$$

In particular, for cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifolds, we get the following result.

**Corollary 3.3.** Let  $X$  be a cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifold. Then  $H_{BC}^{r,s} = H_{dR}^{r+s}(X; \mathbb{C})$  for any  $(r, s) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$  such that  $\min\{r, s\} \geq q$ .

By using the Frölicher inequality, [8, Theorem 2], see also [10, Theorem 2.15], we get the following vanishing result.

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $X$  be a complex manifold. Fix  $(p, q) \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\})^2$ . If,

$$\sum_{\substack{r+s=p+q-1 \\ s \geq q}} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = \sum_{r+s=p+q} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = 0,$$

then

$$H_{BC}^{p,q}(X) \simeq \{0\}.$$

As an application, Corollary 3.4 relates the just introduced notion of cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -completeness to the more classical notion of  $q$ -completeness.

**Corollary 3.5.** Every cohomologically  $q$ -complete manifold is also cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete.

We conclude this note indicating some directions for further investigations.

**Remark 3.6.** It would be interesting to have an example of a non-Stein domain being cohomologically Bott-Chern 1-complete. More precisely, one would have a complex manifold  $X$  of complex dimension 2 such that  $\sum_{r+s \geq 3} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H_{BC}^{r,s}(X) = 0$ , in particular, with  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{r,s}(X) = \{0\}$  for  $(r, s) \in \{(1, 1), (2, 1), (0, 2), (1, 2), (2, 2)\}$  and  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,1}(X) \neq \{0\}$ . As the anonymous Referee pointed out to us, such an example can not occur when  $X$  is a domain in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  or, more generally, in a complex manifold whose holomorphic cotangent bundle is holomorphically trivial.

**Remark 3.7.** In view of the very definition of  $q$ -complete domains, [2, 11], it would be interesting to have a geometric characterization of cohomologically Bott-Chern  $q$ -complete domains, for example in terms of positivity properties of the Levi form.

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