ISTANBUL ANALYSIS SEMINARS

TRANSFINITE DIAMETER, CHEBYSHEV CONSTANTS AND CAPACITIES IN \mathbb{C}^n

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Abstract: One of the fundamental results in complex analysis is the classical result of the first third of 20th century (Fekete, Szegö et al) which says that for any compact set $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ the transfinite diameter d(K), the Chebyshev constant $\tau(K)$ and the capacity c(K) coincide, although they are defined from very different points of view. Indeed, the transfinite diameter derives from a geometrical approach as the limit of geometrical means of some extremal distances between points of K:

$$d(K) := \lim_{s \to \infty} d_s(K),$$

$$d_s(K) := \left(\max\left\{ \left| \det \left(z_j^{k-1} \right)_{k,j=1}^s \right| : z_j \in K \right\} \right)^{2/s(s-1)};$$
(1)

the Chebyshev constant is defined in *terms of the least uniform deviation of monic polynomials from zero*:

$$\tau(K) := \lim_{s \to \infty} \inf \left\{ \max_{z \in K} \left| z^s + \sum_{j < s} c_j \, z^j \right| : c_j \in \mathbb{C}, \ j = 1, \dots, s - 1 \right\}^{1/s},$$

while the capacity appears from the *potential theory* considerations:

$$c(K) := \exp(-\lambda(K)), \ \lambda(K) := \lim_{z \to \infty} \left(g_K(z) - \ln|z|\right)$$

where $g_K(z)$ is the Green function for K with a logarithmic singularity at ∞ .

For a compact set K in \mathbb{C}^n , the transfinite diameter was introduced by F. Leja in 1957: $d(K) := \limsup_{s \to \infty} d_s(K)$, where $d_s(K)$ is determined analogously to (1). He posed a problem whether there exists the usual limit in his definition. This problem has been solved positively by the speaker in 1975, it was shown also that the *Leja transfinite diameter* coincides with, so-called, *principal Chebyshev constant*, which is expressed as a continual geometric mean of *directional Chebyshev constants*.

In my talk I give a survey of results concerned with the above notions for several complex variables (Bloom, Bos, Levenberg, Calvi, Zeriahi, Rumely, Lau, Varley, Berman, Boucksom, Nystrom et al) and discuss a new approach to the notions of the transfinite diameter and Chebyshev constants on Stein manifolds.

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