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GROWTH OF WEIGHTED VOLUME
AND SOME APPLICATIONS

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Abstract. We define cut-off functions in order to allow higher growth for Dirichlet energy. Our results are generalizations of the classical Cheng-Yau’s growth conditions of parabolicity. Finally we give some applications to the function theory of Kähler and quaternionic-Kähler manifolds.

1. Introduction

Let $M$ denote a complete non-compact $n$-dimensional Riemannian manifold and $\text{Vol}(B_{x_0}(R))$ denote the volume of the geodesic ball with center at $x_0$ and radius $R$. If the center is not relevant, we write simply $B(R)$. The volume growth is a geometric condition which is useful in the function theory of $M$. For instance, Cheng and Yau [1] showed that if the volume growth of $M$ satisfies $\text{Vol}(B(R)) \leq CR^2$ for some constant $C > 0$, then $M$ must be parabolic, i.e. every superharmonic positive function on $M$ must be constant. The growth condition in Cheng and Yau’s result has been improved to $\text{Vol}(B(R)) \leq K(R)$, with $K(R)$ a function such that $R/K(R)$ is not $L^1$-integrable (cf. [4, 5, 9, 20]). We refer to [6] for other definitions and more properties of parabolicity.

Let us now consider another definition of parabolicity. The non-compact manifold $M$ is parabolic if considering the exhaustion by balls $\{B(R_i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $M$, the sequence $\int_{B(R_i)} |\nabla \phi_{R_i}|^2 dv$ goes to zero when $i$ approaches infinity, where $\phi_{R_i}$ are cut-off functions supported on the ball $B(R_i)$, harmonic on the annulus $B(R_i) - B(r_0)$ and identically one on the boundary sphere $\partial B(r_0)$, with $r_0 < R_i$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

Looking for a generalization of the above definition, consider a non-negative continuous function $P$ on $M$. We want to find sufficient conditions in order to ensure that the integral of the form $I_R := \int_M P |\nabla \phi_R|^2 dv$ goes to zero for large $R$, where $\phi_R$ is a cut-off function (a non-negative, bounded, smooth function with compact support) supported on the ball $B_{x_0}(R)$. That kind of integral appears often in computations using integration by parts and its asymptotic vanishing could help to show that some related integrals of the form $\int_{B(R)} |Q|^2 \phi_R^2 dv$ converges

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also to zero as $R \to \infty$, implying that $Q$ is identically zero, where $Q$ is a useful expression having a geometric meaning.

Consequently, in order to prove that $I_R \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$ we choose a suitable cut-off function and use the condition on the growth of the $P$-weighted volume $\int_{B_{x_0}(R)} P \, dv$. Thus it is interesting to give the next definition motivated by the definition of parabolicity and consider manifolds where the property $I_R \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$ holds. For other definitions on weighted parabolicity we refer to [7], where the weight $P$ is taken positive.

**Definition 1.1.** Let $P \in C^0(M)$ be a non-negative function. A complete Riemannian manifold $M$ is said to be $P$-weighted parabolic if for any compact subset $K \subset M$ and each $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a cut-off function $\phi_R \in C^\infty(M)$ with $0 \leq \phi_R \leq 1$, $\phi_R \equiv 1$ in a neighbourhood of $K$ and $\int_M P |\nabla \phi_R|^2 \, dv < \epsilon$ as $R \to \infty$.

Note that parabolicity corresponds to taking the constant function $P \equiv 1$. Using the above definition we get the following result, the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let $M$ be a complete Riemannian manifold and $P \in C^0(M)$, non-negative and not identically zero. We define a function $K$ by $K(R) := \int_{B_{x_0}(R)} P \, dv$ for some point $x_0$ such that $P(x_0) \neq 0$.

(i) If the function $K$ satisfies

$$\int_{r_0}^R \frac{r}{K(r)} \, dr \to \infty \quad \text{as} \quad R \to \infty,$$

then $M$ is $P$-weighted parabolic.

(ii) If $K'(r) > 0$ almost everywhere and $\int_{r_0}^R \frac{1}{K'(r)} \, dr \to \infty$ as $R \to \infty$, then $M$ is $P$-weighted parabolic.

The volume growth of orders $O(R^2)$ and $O(R^2 \ln(R))$ can be usually obtained with standard cut-off functions, see Remark 3.2. These cases are included in the condition that $r/K(r)$ is not $L^1$-integrable of our theorem. A cut-off function with similar properties appeared in [19] in a geometric application. Our result was obtained independently, avoids the condition of $r/K(r)$ being non-increasing and makes explicit the method which can be used in other applications.

In Section 2 we recall some of the various concepts related to parabolicity and its weighted generalization. The main result is proved in Section 3. Finally in Section 4 we use our cut-off function to improve some known results on Kähler and quaternionic-Kähler manifolds.

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2. Preliminaries

Let $(M, g)$ be a Riemannian manifold and $\nabla$ the Levi-Civita connection. As usual $B_{x_0}(R)$ denotes the geodesic ball centered at point $x_0$ of radius $R > 0$, $\nabla f$ denotes the gradient of a function $f$ and $\Delta = dd^* + d^*d$ is the Hodge Laplacian.
The function $u$ is said to be harmonic if Laplace’s equation holds, i.e.
\[
\Delta u = 0.
\]

When $M$ is a complex manifold we say that a function $u$ is pluriharmonic if \( \bar{\partial}\partial u = 0 \). Where \( \partial: A^{p,q}(M) \to A^{p+1,q}(M) \), \( \bar{\partial}: A^{p,q} \to A^{p,q+1}(M) \) are given in local coordinates by \( \partial\omega = dz^k \wedge \nabla_{\bar{\partial} z^k} \omega \), \( \bar{\partial}\omega = dz^k \wedge \nabla_{\partial z^k} \omega \), and \( A^{p,q}(M) \) denotes the space of \((p,q)\)-forms on \((M, g)\).

**Definition 2.1** (\cite{13}). A manifold $M$ is parabolic if for any the sequence of functions \( \{f_i\} \) defined on the annulus $B(R_i) - B(R_0)$, satisfying $\Delta f_i = 0$ on $B(R_i) - B(R_0)$, with boundary conditions
\[
f_i = \begin{cases} 
1, & \text{on } \partial B(R_0) \\
0, & \text{on } \partial B(R_i),
\end{cases}
\]
we have that $\int_M \|\nabla f_i\|^2 \to 0$ as $R_i \to \infty$ for any fixed $R_0$.

It is known that when $\text{Vol}(B_{x_0}(R))$ satisfies $\int_0^\infty \frac{R}{\text{Vol}(B_{x_0}(R))} dR = \infty$, then the manifold is parabolic (cf. \cite{6}).

We are more interested in the following definition of parabolicity:

**Definition 2.2** (\cite{16}). A Riemannian manifold $M$ is called parabolic if for each compact subset $K \subset M$ and each $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a smooth cut-off function $\phi \in C^\infty(M)$ with $0 \leq \phi \leq 1$, $\phi \equiv 1$ on a neighborhood of $K$ and $\int_M |\nabla \phi|^2 dv < \epsilon$.

Definitions 2.1 and 2.2 are related by the concept of capacity. We denote by $\text{Cap}(K, \Omega)$ the capacity of a compact set $K$ inside a domain $\Omega \subset M$. It is defined as
\[
\text{Cap}(K, \Omega) = \inf_{u \in L(K, \Omega)} \int_\Omega \|\nabla u\|^2 dv,
\]
where $L(K, \Omega)$ is the set of Lipschitz functions $u$ on $M$ with a compact support in $\Omega$ such that $u|_K = 1$, $0 \leq u \leq 1$. If $\Omega = M$, we write $\text{Cap}(K) = \text{Cap}(K, M)$. It is known that
\[
\text{Cap}(K) = \lim_{i \to \infty} \text{Cap}(K, \Omega_i),
\]
for any exhaustion sequence \( \{\Omega_i\} \), $K \subset \Omega_1 \subset \Omega_2 \subset \cdots \subset M$ and $\bigcup \Omega_i = M$.

Taking $\Omega_i = B_{x_0}(R_i)$, with $R_i \to \infty$, we have a harmonic function $h_i$ that is the solution to the Dirichlet problem in $\Omega_i - K$:
\[
\Delta h_i = 0, \quad h_i|_{\partial \Omega_i} = 0, \quad h_i|_{\partial K} = 1.
\]

Then from Definition 2.1, we have $\lim_{i \to \infty} \int_{\Omega_i} \|\nabla h_i\|^2 dv = 0$, which implies $\text{Cap}(B_{x_0}(R_0)) = 0$. From this we conclude that $\text{Cap}(K) = 0$ for any compact set $K$, that is we have Definition 2.2 (see \cite{6}, Theorem 5.1, (6)).

For the converse, we take a sequence of harmonic functions $h_i$ satisfying the boundary conditions \( \{3\} \). By Definition 2.2, we have that $\text{Cap}(B_{x_0}(R_0)) = 0$, which, using \( \{2\} \), implies by that $\lim_{i \to \infty} \int_{\Omega_i} \|\nabla h_i\|^2 dv = 0$, i.e. we have Definition 2.1.

Now we give our definition of $P$-weighted parabolicity. Observe that when $P \equiv 1$, it coincides with Definition 2.2 of parabolicity.
**Definition 2.3.** Let $M$ be a complete Riemannian manifold and $P$ a non-negative continuous function on $M$. Then $M$ is said $P$-weighted parabolic if for each geodesic ball $B_{x_0}(R)$ and each $\epsilon > 0$, there exist a cut-off function $\phi_R \in C^\infty(M)$ with $0 \leq \phi_R \leq 1$, $\phi_R \equiv 1$ in the ball $B_{x_0}(R)$ and such that $\int_M P|\nabla \phi_R|^2 dv \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$.

**Example 2.4.** A manifold $M$ is called rotationally symmetric at a point $p \in M$ if the isotropy subgroup at $p$ of the isometry group of $M$ is $O(n)$. By Greene and Wu [3], the rotationally symmetric manifolds are recognized as model spaces for comparison in Riemannian geometry because of the simplicity of their geometric structure. A rotationally symmetric manifold is diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^n$ or to the sphere $S^n$. The Riemannian metric on $M$ in polar coordinates has the form
\[
ds^2 = dr^2 + g^2(r)d\theta^2,
\]
with $g(0) = 0$ and $g'(0) = 1$. For instance, when $g(r) = r$, we get the Euclidean space $M = \mathbb{R}^n$, and when $g(r) = \sin r$, we get the round sphere $M = S^n$. On a rotationally symmetric manifold $M$ it is known that the condition
\[
\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{\text{Vol}(S_{R^{-1}}^{n-1})} dR = \infty
\]
is equivalent to $M$ being parabolic [8], where $S_{R}^{n-1}$ denotes any $(n-1)$-sphere of radius $R$.

Given a non-negative continuous function $P$ and defining $K(R) = \int_{B_{x_0}(R)} PdV$ as before, it is easy to see that the condition
\[
(4) \quad K'(R) \leq CR \ln R
\]
for some constant $C$, implies that $K(R) \leq CR^2 \ln R$ and then $\int_1^\infty \frac{R}{K(R)} dR = \infty$. Therefore $M$ is $P$-weighted parabolic by our main Theorem 1.2.

Let us now assume that the function $P$ depends on the radial coordinate, that is $P = P(r)$. We compute,
\[
K(R) = \int_{B_{x_0}(R)} P(r)dV = \int_0^R \int_{S^{n-1}} P(r)g^{n-1}(r)d\Omega dr = \omega_{n-1} \int_0^R P(r)g^{n-1}(r)dr,
\]
where $\omega_{n-1} = \int_{S^{n-1}} d\Omega$ is the volume of the $(n-1)$-sphere of radius one. It follows that
\[
K'(R) = \omega_{n-1}P(R)g^{n-1}(R).
\]
Using (4), we conclude that if $P(R)g^{n-1}(R) \leq CR \ln R$, then $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{K'(R)} dR = \infty$, that is $M$ is $P$-weighted parabolic.

Therefore, we have the following:

**Proposition 2.5.** Let $M$ be a rotationally symmetric manifold with a metric $ds^2 = dr^2 + g^2(r)d\theta^2$. If the radial function $P(r)$ satisfies $P(r)g^{n-1}(r) \leq Cr \ln r$, then $M$ is $P(r)$-weighted parabolic.

For instance the Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^3$ (i.e. $g(r) = r$) is not parabolic but it is $P(r)$-weighted parabolic for any $P(r) \leq C\frac{\ln r}{r}$. 
3. Proof of the main theorem

In this section we prove the main result of this paper following some ideas of Section 7 in [6].

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** For item (i), since $P(x_0) \neq 0$, by continuity of $P$ we have that $K(r) > 0$ for any $r > 0$.

For $0 < r_0 < R$, define the cut-off function $\phi_R$ such that

$$\phi_R(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq x \leq r_0 \\ 0, & x \geq R. \end{cases}$$

Denoting by $\rho$ the distance function with respect to the point $x_0$, $\rho(\cdot) = \text{dist}(x_0, \cdot)$, choose $\phi_R$ on the interval $(r_0, R)$ such that

$$\phi_R'(\rho) = -a_R \frac{\rho}{K(\rho)},$$

where $a_R := \left( \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{s}{K(s)} ds \right)^{-1}$. Hence $\phi_R(\rho) = a_R \int_{\rho}^{R} \frac{s}{K(s)} ds$, and the function $\phi_R$ verifies $\phi_R(r_0) = a_R \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{s}{K(s)} ds = a_R a_R^{-1} = 1$ and $\phi_R(R) = 0$. Let us divide the interval $[r_0, R]$ into $N$ subintervals of equal length. Denoting by $t_k := r_0 + k \frac{R-r_0}{N}$, $k = 0, \ldots, N-1$, we compute

$$I_R := \int_{B(x_0(R))} |\nabla \phi_R|^2 Pdv = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \int_{B(x_0(t_{k+1}))} |\nabla \phi_R|^2 Pdv$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{2}{(K(s_k))^2} \int_{B(x_0(t_{k+1}))} Pdv = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{a_R^2 s_k^2}{(K(s_k))^2} (K(t_{k+1}) - K(t_k)),$$

where $s_k \in [t_n, t_{n+1}]$ gives the maximum of $|\nabla \phi_R|$ in the annulus $B(x_0(t_{k+1})) - B(x_0(t_k))$. The last expression in (5) can be interpreted as a Riemann sum which converges to $\int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{a_R^2 \rho^2}{K(\rho)^2} dK(\rho)$ as $N \to \infty$. Using integration by parts, we get

$$\int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{a_R^2 \rho^2}{K(\rho)^2} dK(\rho) = -a_R \int_{r_0}^{R} \rho^2 d\left( \frac{1}{K(\rho)} \right)$$

$$= -a_R \frac{\rho^2}{K(\rho)} \bigg|_{r_0}^{R} + a_R \int_{r_0}^{R} 2 \frac{\rho}{K(\rho)} d\rho \leq 2 a_R^2 a_R^{-1} = 2a_R.$$

By the growth assumption (1), the expression $a_R \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$, which means that $I_R \to 0$ as $R \to \infty$. This concludes the proof of item (i).

For item (ii), using the notations of (i), we choose the cut-off function $\phi_R$ in the interval $(r_0, R)$ so that

$$\phi_R'(\rho) = -\frac{a_R}{K'(\rho)},$$
where \( a_R = \left( \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{ds}{K'(s)} \right)^{-1} \). Hence, \( \phi_R(\rho) = a_R \int_{\rho}^{R} \frac{ds}{K'(s)} \). The same computation as in [1] gives
\[
I_R \leq \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{a_R^2}{K'(\rho)^2} dK(\rho).
\]

Moreover \( \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{a_R^2}{K'(\rho)^2} dK(\rho) \leq a_R^2 \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{K'(\rho)}{K'(\rho)^2} d\rho = a_R^2 a_R^{-1} = a_R \). As before, by the growth assumption [1], we have \( a_R \to 0 \) as \( R \to \infty \), and then \( I_R \to 0 \) as \( R \to \infty \).

The conclusion follows.

Note that in the case \( K'(r) > 0 \) almost everywhere, item (i) is a consequence of item (ii) using the fact that the condition \( r \to \infty \implies \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{1}{K'(r)} dr \to \infty, R \to \infty \) (see [15]). For \( P = 1 \), we get the well known sufficient condition of parabolicity:

**Corollary 3.1.** Let \( M \) be a complete Riemannian manifold such that \( \text{Vol}(B(R)) = K(R) \), where \( \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{r}{K(r)} dr \to \infty \) as \( R \to \infty \), then \( M \) is parabolic.

**Remark 3.2.** One standard cut-off function is:
\[
\phi_R(x) = \begin{cases} 
1, & x \in B_{x_0}(e^R) \\
2 - \frac{\log \rho(x)}{R}, & x \in B_{x_0}(e^{2R}) - B_{x_0}(e^R) \\
0, & x \in M - B_{x_0}(e^{2R}),
\end{cases}
\]
where \( \rho(x) \) denotes the distance from a fixed point \( x_0 \). Then \( |\nabla \phi_R(x)| = \frac{1}{R \rho(x)} \).

That cut-off function allows a growth of order \( O(R^2) \) as in the classical Cheng-Yau theorem on parabolicity. On the other hand, the following less-known (to our knowledge) cut-off function improves the order to \( O(R^2 \ln(R)) \). Put
\[
\phi_R(x) = \begin{cases} 
1, & x \in B_{x_0}(e^R) \\
2 - \frac{\ln(\ln \rho(x))}{R}, & x \in B_{x_0}(e^{2R}) - B_{x_0}(e^R) \\
0, & x \in M - B_{x_0}(e^{2R}),
\end{cases}
\]
then \( |\nabla \phi_R(x)| = \frac{1}{R \rho(x) \ln \rho(x)} \). The growth orders can be slightly improved following the pattern but they are all contained in our condition [1].

4. **Some applications**

Recall that the differential form \( \Omega \) is parallel if \( \nabla_X \Omega = 0 \) for any vector field \( X \in TM \), where as usual \( \nabla \) denotes the Levi-Civita connection.

A quaternionic Kähler manifold is a Riemannian manifold \((M, g)\) with a rank 3 vector bundle \( V \subset \text{End}(TM) \) satisfying:

1. In any coordinate domain \( U \) of \( M \) there exists a local basis \( \{I, J, K\} \) of \( V \) such that
\[
I^2 = J^2 = K^2 = -1, \quad IJ = -JI = K, \quad JK = -KJ = I, \quad KI = -IK = J,
\]
and \( g(IX, IY) = g(JX, JY) = g(KX, KY) = g(X, Y) \) for all \( X, Y \in TM \).
(2) If $\phi \in \Gamma(V)$, then $\nabla_X \phi \in \Gamma(V)$ for all $X \in TM$.

If for any nonzero tangent vector $X$, we have $u_{X,X} + u_{IX,X} + u_{JX,JX} + u_{KX,KX} = 0$, then the function $u$ is said quaternionic harmonic. Here we used the notation $u_{X,X} = \nabla^2 u(X,X)$.

First we recall the following theorem which illustrates the kind of results that can be improved with our main Theorem 1.2.

**Theorem 4.1** ([10, Theorem 3.1]). Let $M$ be a complete Riemannian manifold with a parallel $p$-form $\Omega$. Assume that $u$ is a harmonic function with its Dirichlet integral over geodesic balls centered at $x_0$ of radius $R$ satisfying the growth condition

$$\int_{B_{x_0}(R)} |\nabla u|^2 dv = o(R^2)$$

as $R \to \infty$. Then $u$ satisfies

(6)  
$$d^* (du \wedge \Omega) = 0.$$

Note that the vanishing of $d^* (du \wedge \Omega)$ implies the vanishing of $\nabla du$ and then $u$ is harmonic. The result can be interpreted as an generalization to the non-compact case of the fact that exterior multiplication with a parallel form on a Riemannian manifold commutes with the Laplacian. For others generalizations of expression (6) and further consequences see [2].

Using our main Theorem, we improve the growth of Dirichlet integral to a function $K(r)$ verifying condition [1]. We suppose that the harmonic function $u$ is non-constant. Otherwise, the conclusion holds trivially.

**Proposition 4.2.** Let $M$ be a complete Riemannian manifold with parallel $p$-form $\Omega$. Assume that $u$ is a non-constant harmonic function and define the growth function $K$ by $K(r) := \int_{B_{x_0}(r)} |\nabla u|^2 dv$ for some $x_0$ with $|\nabla u|(x_0) \neq 0$. If the function $K(\cdot)$ verifies that

$$\int_{r_0}^R \frac{r}{K(r)} dr \to \infty, \quad R \to \infty,$$

then $d^* (du \wedge \Omega) = 0$.

**Proof.** We use the same cut-off function $\phi_R$ as in our main theorem. The same computations done in the proof of Theorem 3.1 of [10] leads to

(7)  
$$\int_M \phi_R^2 |d^* (du \wedge \Omega)|^2 dv \leq C \int_M |\nabla \phi_R|^2 (du \wedge \Omega)|^2 dv \leq C \int_M |\nabla \phi_R|^2 |du|^2 dv ,$$

where $C$ is a positive constant.

Because of the growth assumption, the manifold is $P$-weighted parabolic with $P = |\nabla f|^2$. Thus the right hand side of (7) tends to zero as $R \to \infty$ which implies that $d^* (du \wedge \Omega) = 0$.  

$\square$
Theorem 1.2 in [14]. Thus with was proven that if, in addition,
where the co-differential verifies
Let Proposition 4.5.
\[ (8) \]
Proof. By the growth assumption, for \( \theta := \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \), we have
\[ \int_{B_{x_0}(r)} |\theta|^2 e^{-f} dv \leq C K(r), \]
with \( \int_{r_0}^R \frac{r}{K(r)} dr \to \infty \) as \( R \to \infty \), and \( C > 0 \). By Theorem 1.2 M is \( P \)-weighted parabolic with \( P = |\theta|^2 e^{-f} \). We repeat the steps (1.3) and (1.4) as in the proof of Theorem 1.2 in [14]. Thus \( \theta \) is \( f \)-harmonic and we get
\[ (8) \quad \int_M |d\theta|^2 \phi_R e^{-f} + \int_M |d^*_f \theta|^2 \phi_R e^{-f} \leq C' \int_M |\theta|^2 |\nabla \phi_R|^2 e^{-f}. \]

By \( P \)-weighted parabolicity the right-hand side goes to zero as \( R \to \infty \), and therefore \( (8) \) implies that \( d\theta = d^*_f \theta = 0 \). The conclusion follows by observing that \( \bar{\partial} \partial u = d\partial u = d\theta = 0 \).

Using the proof of Proposition 4.4 we can also apply our main theorem to one result of Lam on \( L^2 \) harmonic 1-forms (c.f. [14], Theorem 5), where the 1-form \( \Theta \) verifies \( \int_M |\Theta|^2 < +\infty \).

Proposition 4.5. Let \( M \) be a complete Riemannian manifold with a parallel \( p \)-form \( \Omega \). Assume that \( \Theta \) is a harmonic 1-form satisfying \( \int_{B_{x_0}(R)} |\Theta|^2 = K(R) \), where \( \int_{r_0}^R \frac{r}{K(r)} dr \to \infty \) as \( R \to \infty \). Then \( \Theta \) satisfies \( d^* (\Theta \wedge \Omega) = 0 \).
Proof. Since $\Theta$ is a harmonic 1-form and under the growth condition on $\int_{B_{x_0}(R)} |\Theta|^2$, one shows that $\Theta$ is closed and co-closed, that is $d\Theta = d^*\Theta = 0$. Indeed, following the steps mentioned in the last proposition we get the estimate [5], without the factors $e^{-f}$. Then, the same computation as in the original proof of Theorem 5 in [11] gives $*d*(\Theta \wedge \Omega) = (-1)^{n-1}d*(\Theta \wedge *\Omega)$ and the conclusion follows by replacing the cut-off function $\phi$ by the cut-off function $\phi_R$ in our main theorem. □

Remark 4.6. The argument above can be generalized to $k$-forms. In fact, Vieira [21] showed that on a smooth metric measure space $(M, g, e^{-f}dv)$, a $L^2_f$-integrable $f$-harmonic $k$-form $\Theta$ is closed and co-closed (i.e. $d_f^*\Theta = 0$). Using our cut-off function, instead of $L^2_f$-integrability we can allow the growth condition $\int_{B(R)} |\Theta|^2 e^{-f}dv \leq K(R)$, with $K(R)$ verifying condition [4], and conclude as in the proof of Proposition 4.4 that $\Theta$ is closed and co-closed.

Remark 4.7. Li showed in [12] a Lemma analogous to Proposition 4.4 (in the unweighted case) for a harmonic map $u$ from a complete Kähler manifold $M$ into a Riemannian manifold $N$ with hermitian negative curvature as defined in [17] and having an energy growth of order $o(R^2)$. When $N$ is also Kähler with strongly seminegative curvature and $M$ is compact, the result was due originally to Siu [18] (see also [17] for a generalization). In the $e^{-f}$-weighted case, the argument of Siu was generalized by Munteanu-Wang [14] for $f$-harmonic maps between Kähler manifolds, the target having strongly seminegative curvature, with $\nabla f$ real holomorphic and energy growth of order $O(R^2)$.

The consequences of those results are Liouville-type theorems and deep rigidity results which do not depend on our technical improvements. See for instance Chapter 8 of [8] for an introduction on harmonic maps, other related results and more bibliography. Nevertheless, our cut-off function may be useful for other applications having geometrical or topological consequences.

REFERENCES


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