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The existence problem of S-plurisubharmonic currents

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Le problème de l'existence de courants S-plurisousharmoniques

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we prove the existence of the trivial extension of *S*-plurisubharmonic currents of bidimension (p, p) defined outside an obstacle *A* of Hausdorff measure $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A) = 0$. Furthermore, a valid definition of the current $dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T$ is achieved for every positive closed current *T* and plurisubharmonic function *g*. The above results rely on an improvement of a classical result due to Demailly on the Monge–Ampère operator with a sharp condition on the Hausdorff measure.

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RÉSUMÉ

Dans cette Note, nous montrons l'existence de l'extension triviale des courants *S*-plurisousharmoniques de bi-dimension (p, p), définis en-dehors d'un obstacle *A* de mesure de Hausdorff $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A) = 0$. De plus, nous montrons que le courant $dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T$ est bien défini, pour tout courant positif fermé *T* et toute fonction plurisousharmonique *g*. Ces résultats reposent sur un relâchement de la condition de nullité d'une mesure de Hausdorff, dans un résultat classique de Demailly sur l'opérateur de Monge–Ampère.

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1. Introduction

Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{C}^n and T be a positive current of bidimension (p, p) on Ω . Recall that T is said to be closed if dT = 0, and is said to be *S*-plurisubharmonic if there exists a positive current *S* on Ω such that $dd^cT \ge -S$. In the first part of this paper, which treats the existence problem, we give the sufficient conditions that guarantee the existence of the trivial extension of negative *S*-plurisubharmonic currents.

Theorem 1.1. Let *A* be a closed complete pluripolar subset of Ω and *T* be a negative *S*-plurisubharmonic current on $\Omega \setminus A$. If the Hausdorff measure $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A \cap \overline{\text{Supp }T})$ vanishes, then \widetilde{T} exists. Moreover, the residual current $R = \widetilde{\text{dd}^c T} - \text{dd}^c \widetilde{T}$ is negative and supported in *A*.

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This result generalizes a situation considered by Dabbek–Elkhadhra–El Mir result [4] where the authors studied the case S = 0. Both cases when the current S is closed and when S is plurisubharmonic were considered in [9] and [2], respectively. In [1], Al Abdulaali succeeded to obtain the extension \tilde{T} , under the same hypotheses above, but when $\mathcal{H}_{2p-1}(A \cap \overline{\text{Supp } T}) = 0$.

The second part deals with the wedge product of currents. Namely, our interest is to define the current $dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T$.

Theorem 1.2. Let A be a closed subset of Ω and T be a positive closed current on Ω , and let $g \in Psh(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}_{loc}(\Omega \setminus A)$. If $\mathcal{H}_{2p-2}(A \cap Supp T) = 0$, then the current $dg \wedge d^{c}g \wedge T$ is well defined.

As an application of Theorem 1.2, one can show that $\frac{\partial g}{\partial z_j}$ is of class L^2_{loc} when $\mathcal{H}_{2n-2}(A) = 0$. Notice that, this result is not true for subharmonic function, and the Newton kernel $\frac{-1}{||z||^{2n-2}}$ is a counterexample. In this part, we also give a new proof which improves a classical result due to Demailly [5], dealing with Monge–Ampère operators of certain unbounded plurisubharmonic functions.

Theorem 1.3. Let A be a closed subset of Ω and T be a positive closed current on Ω . Assume that $g \in Psh(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}_{loc}(\Omega \setminus A)$ such that $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$. Then the currents gT and $dd^{c}g \wedge T$ are well defined.

2. Existence problem

In order to prove the existence of an extension \tilde{T} of T, we follow here the strategy previously employed by Ben Messaoud and El Mir, which consists in establishing a capacity inequality.

Theorem 2.1. Let A be a closed complete pluripolar subset of Ω and T be a positive dd^cS -negative current on $\Omega \setminus A$. Let v be a plurisubharmonic function of class C^2 , $v \ge -1$ on Ω such that $\Omega' = \{z \in \Omega : v(z) < 0\}$ is relatively compact in Ω . Let K be a compact subset of Ω' and set $c_K = -\sup_{z \in K} v(z)$. Then for every plurisubharmonic function u on Ω' of class C^2 satisfying $-1 \le u < 0$, we have:

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge \mathrm{dd}^{c} u \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c} v)^{p-1} \leq c_{K}^{-1} \int_{\Omega'\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c} v)^{p} + \|S \wedge \mathrm{dd}^{c} v\|_{\Omega'}$$
(2.1)

Proof. We apply the same technique as in [4]. By ([7], Proposition II.2) there exists a negative plurisubharmonic function f on Ω' which is smooth on $\Omega' \setminus A$, such that

$$A \cap \Omega' = \left\{ z \in \Omega' : f(z) = -\infty \right\}$$
(2.2)

Choose λ , μ such that $0 < \mu < \lambda < c_K$. For $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and ε small enough, we set

$$\varphi_m(z) = \mu u(z) + \frac{f(z) + m}{m+1} \text{ and } \varphi_{m,\varepsilon}(z) = \max_{\varepsilon} \left(v(z) + 1, \varphi_m(z) \right)$$
(2.3)

Thus, $\varphi_{m,\varepsilon} \in Psh(\Omega') \cap C^{\infty}(\Omega')$. Furthermore, $\varphi_{m,\varepsilon}(z) = v(z) + 1$ on a neighborhood of $\partial \Omega' \cup (\Omega' \cap \{f \le -m\})$. Consider the open subset

$$\Omega'_m = \Omega' \cap \{f > -m\}$$
(2.4)

By Stokes' formula,

$$\int_{\Omega'_m} T \wedge \mathrm{dd}^c (\varphi_{m,\varepsilon} - \nu - 1) \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \nu)^{p-1} \leq \int_{\Omega'_m} (\varphi_{m,\varepsilon} - \nu - 1) S \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \nu)^{p-1}$$

Hence, there exists a constant $\eta_v > 0$ depending on $\partial \overline{\partial} v$ so that

$$\int_{\Omega'_{m}} T \wedge \mathrm{dd}^{c} \varphi_{m,\varepsilon} \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c} \nu)^{p-1} \leq \int_{\Omega'_{m}} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c} \nu)^{p} + \eta_{\nu} \|S\|_{\Omega'}$$
(2.5)

Let R > 0 and $K_R = \{z \in K : f(z) \ge -R\}$. For *m* sufficiently large, we have $K_R \subset \Omega'_m$ and $\varphi_m(z) \ge -\mu + \frac{m-R}{m+1} > 1 - \lambda$ for any $z \in K_R$. Since $v \le -c_K$ on K_R , then $v + 1 \le 1 - c_K \le 1 - \lambda$, and because of this we find that $\varphi_{m,\varepsilon} = \varphi_m$ on a neighborhood of K_R . Therefore, by (2.5) we get

$$\int_{K_R} T \wedge \mathrm{dd}^c \varphi_m \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \nu)^{p-1} \leq \int_{\Omega'_m} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \nu)^p + \eta_\nu \|S\|_{\Omega'}.$$
(2.6)

As $dd^c f \ge 0$, we see that we have an inequality of (1, 1)-forms $dd^c \varphi_m \ge \mu dd^c u$, thus

$$\mu \int_{K_R} T \wedge \mathrm{dd}^c u \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c v)^{p-1} \leq \int_{\Omega' \setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c v)^p + \eta_v \|S\|_{\Omega'}.$$
(2.7)

The relation in the theorem follows by letting $R \to \infty$ and $\mu \to c_K$. Similarly, one can also show that

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p} \leq \frac{1}{c_{K}} \int_{\Omega'\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-1} \wedge \mathrm{dd}^{c}v + \|S \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-1}\|_{\Omega'} \qquad \Box$$

$$(2.8)$$

Now, under the preceding hypotheses, our goal is to prove that the boundedness of $\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c u)^p$ can be achieved by estimating from above the mass of $T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c v)^p$ near A. This fact will imply our claims. We proceed as follows.

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, set $v_n = v + \frac{1}{n}$ and $\Omega'_n = \{v_n < 0\}$. Take $n_1 < n_2 < \ldots < n_{p-1}$ so that $K \subset \Omega'_{n_1} \Subset \ldots \Subset \Omega'_{n_{p-1}} \Subset \Omega'$ and put $c_{n_j} = -\sup_{\Omega'_i} v_j$. Now by applying (2.8) to v_{n_1} , we find:

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p} \leq \frac{1}{c_{K}} \int_{\Omega'_{n_{1}}\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-1} \wedge \mathrm{dd}^{c}v_{n_{1}} + \|S \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-1}\|_{\Omega'}$$

$$\tag{2.9}$$

But $dd^c v = dd^c v_{n_1} = \ldots = dd^c v_{n_{p-1}}$, and as $\Omega'_{n_1} \Subset \Omega'_{n_2}$, then (1) implies that

$$\int_{\overline{\Omega}'_{n_1} \setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c u)^{p-1} \wedge \mathrm{dd}^c v_{n_1} \leq \frac{1}{c_{n_1}} \int_{\Omega'_{n_2} \setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c u)^{p-2} \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c v_{n_2})^2 + \eta_v \|S \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c u)^{p-2}\|_{\Omega'}$$

$$(2.10)$$

Hence,

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p} \leq \frac{1}{c_{K}c_{n_{1}}} \int_{\Omega_{n_{2}}^{\prime}\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-2} \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}v_{n_{2}})^{2} + \frac{\eta_{\nu,u}^{(p-2)}}{c_{K}} \|S\|_{\Omega^{\prime}}$$
(2.11)

By iterating the above process p - 1 times, we obtain that

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p} \leq \frac{1}{c_{K}c_{n_{1}}} \int_{\Omega_{n_{2}}'\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p-2} \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}v_{n_{2}})^{2} \\ + \frac{\eta_{\nu,u}^{(p-2)}}{c_{K}} \|S\|_{\Omega'} \\ \leq \\ \vdots \\ \leq \frac{1}{c_{K}c_{n_{1}}\dots c_{n_{p-1}}} \int_{\Omega_{n_{p-1}}'\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u) \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}v_{n_{p-1}})^{p-1} \\ + \frac{\eta_{\nu,u}'}{c_{K}c_{n_{1}}\dots c_{n_{p-2}}} \|S\|_{\Omega'} \\ \leq D_{\nu} \int_{\Omega' \setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}\nu)^{p} + \eta_{\nu,u} \|S\|_{\Omega'},$$

for some positive constant D_{ν} . Clearly, the argument above leads to the following result.

Theorem 2.2. Let A be a closed complete pluripolar subset of Ω and T be a positive dd^cS-negative current on $\Omega \setminus A$ of dimension p. Let v be a plurisubharmonic function of class C^2 , $v \ge -1$ on Ω such that $\Omega' = \{z \in \Omega : v(z) < 0\}$ is relatively compact in Ω and $\int_{\Omega' \setminus A} T \wedge (dd^c v)^p \ne 0$. Let K be a compact subset of Ω' . Then there exists a positive constant D_v depending only on v such that for every plurisubharmonic function u on Ω' of class C^2 satisfying we have

$$\int_{K\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}u)^{p} \leq D_{\nu}N_{2}^{p}(u) \int_{\Omega'\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^{c}\nu)^{p},$$
(2.12)

where $N_2(u) = \sup\{|\partial^{\alpha} u(z)|, |\alpha| \le 2, z \in \Omega\}.$

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let us first assume that \tilde{T} exists. Then by ([6], Theorem 1.3), the extension $\widetilde{dd^c T}$ exists and *R* is negative current.

Now, we show the existence of \tilde{T} . Since the problem is local, it is enough to show that T is of locally finite mass near every point z_0 in A. Without loss of generality, one can assume that z_0 is the origin. Since $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T}) = 0$, then by ([3] and [10]) there exist a system of coordinates (z', z'') of $\mathbb{C}^p \times \mathbb{C}^{n-p}$ and a polydisk $\Delta^p \times \Delta^{n-p} \subset \mathbb{C}^p \times \mathbb{C}^{n-p}$ such that $(A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T}) \cap (\Delta^p \times \partial \Delta^{n-p}) = \emptyset$. Moreover, the projection map $\pi : (A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T}) \cap (\Delta^p \times \Delta^{n-p}) \to \Delta^p$ is proper, and as $\pi(A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T})$ is closed with a zero Lebesgue measure in Δ^p , one can find an open subset $O \subset \Delta^p \setminus \pi(A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T})$. Therefore the current has locally finite mass on $O \times \Delta^{n-p}$. Let $0 < \delta < 1$ such that $(A \cap \overline{\operatorname{Supp} T}) \cap (\Delta^p \times \{z'', \delta < |z''| < 1\}) = \emptyset$, and fix a and t two real numbers such that $\delta < a < t < 1$. Set

$$\rho_{\varepsilon} = \max_{\varepsilon} \left(\pi^* \rho, \frac{1}{t^2 - a^2} (|z''|^2 - t^2) \right)$$
(2.13)

where ρ is a smooth plurisubharmonic function on \triangle^p such that $(dd^c \rho)^p$ supported in 0. We have $-1 \le \rho_{\varepsilon} < 0$ in $t \triangle^n$ and $\rho_{\varepsilon} = \pi^* \rho$ on $\{|z''| \le a\}$, and we obtain

$$\int_{(t\Delta^n)\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \rho_{\varepsilon})^p = \int_{(t\Delta^p)\times \{|z''| < a\}\setminus A} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c (\pi^* \rho))^p + \int_{(t\Delta^p)\times \{a \le |z''| < t\}} T \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \rho_{\varepsilon})^p$$

since $(\mathrm{dd}^c \pi^* \rho)^p$ supported in $O \times \triangle^{n-p}$ then both integrals of the right hand side are finite. By applying the previous result on -T for $v = \rho_{\varepsilon}$ and $u = \frac{|z|^2 - nt^2}{nt^2}$, we infer that \widetilde{T} exists. \Box

3. Wedge product of currents

In this section we study the wedge product of positive currents. From now on, in this section, we assume that *A* is a closed subset of Ω and $g \in Psh(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}_{loc}(\Omega \setminus A)$. Here we start by giving a new proof of a classical result due to Fornæss and Sibony [8] which asserts Theorem 1.3.

Theorem 1.3. Let *T* be a positive closed current on Ω and let $\mathcal{H}_{2p}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$. Then the currents gT together with $dd^c g \wedge T$ are well defined.

The result was first considered by Demailly in [5] where he studied the case when $\mathcal{H}_{2p-1}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$.

Proof. Let us first assume that *g* smooth and negative. Now, the current -gT is positive dd^{*c*}-negative current of bidimension (p, p) on Ω . Using the same notation as in the proof of Theorem 1.1, we find

$$\int_{(t\Delta^n)} -gT \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \rho_{\varepsilon})^p = \int_{(t\Delta^p \times \{|z''| < a\}} -gT \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c (\pi^* \rho))^p + \int_{(t\Delta^p) \times \{a \le |z''| < t\}} -gT \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \rho_{\varepsilon})^p$$

Therefore, there exists a neighborhood *V* of $t \triangle^n \cap A$ such that

$$\int_{(t\Delta^n)} -gT \wedge (\mathrm{dd}^c \rho_{\varepsilon})^p \le \eta ||gT||_{t\Delta^n \setminus V}$$
(3.1)

for some positive constant η . To conclude the proof, we let K be a compact subset of $t \triangle^n$ and set $\Gamma_m = \{z \in K, d(z, A) < \frac{1}{m}\}$. Now, suppose that $g \in L^{\infty}_{loc}(\Omega \setminus A)$, we put

$$a_m = \inf_{z \in K \setminus \Gamma_m} g(z) \tag{3.2}$$

Since g is smooth on $\Omega \setminus A$, then $a_m > -\infty$ for all m. For $\varepsilon_m > 0$ small enough, set

$$g_m = \max_{\varepsilon_m} (g, a_m - \frac{1}{2^m})$$
 (3.3)

Observe that, g_m is smooth plurisubharmonic function and $g_m = g$ on $K \setminus \Gamma_m$. Then by the previous part, for *m* sufficiently large, we have:

$$\int_{K\setminus\Gamma_m} -gT \wedge \beta^p \leq \int_K -g_mT \wedge \beta^p$$
$$\leq C \|g_m\|_{\mathcal{L}^{\infty}(t\triangle^n\setminus V)} \|T\|_{t\triangle^n\setminus V}$$
$$= C \|g\|_{\mathcal{L}^{\infty}(t\triangle^n\setminus V)} \|T\|_{t\triangle^n\setminus V}$$

By letting *m* tends to ∞ we find that \widetilde{gT} exists. Hence, by monotone convergence, we deduce that the current gT is well defined, and the existence of dd^c $g \wedge T$ is obtained from the continuity of the operators d and d^c. \Box

Now, we show our second main theorem.

Theorem 1.2. Let T be a positive closed current on Ω and let $\mathcal{H}_{2p-2}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$. Then the current $dg \wedge d^cg \wedge T$ is well defined.

Proof. By regularizing *g* and subtracting a constant, we may assume that *g* is a smooth negative function. Since $\mathcal{H}_{2p-2}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$, then $\mathcal{H}_{2p-1}(A \cap \text{Supp } T) = 0$. Let us assume that $0 \in \text{Supp } T \cap A$. Then by [3] and [10], there exist a system of coordinates $(z', z'') \in \mathbb{C}^s \times \mathbb{C}^{n-s}$, s = p - 1 and a polydisk $\Delta^n = \Delta' \times \Delta''$ such that $\overline{\Delta'} \times \partial \Delta'' \cap (\text{Supp } T \cap A) = \emptyset$. Now, take 0 < t < 1 so that $\Delta' \times \{z'', t < |z''| < 1\} \cap (\text{Supp } T \cap A) = \emptyset$. As $\overline{\Delta^n} \cap A$ is compact set, one can find a neighborhood ω of $\overline{\Delta^n} \cap A$ such that $\omega \cap (\Delta' \times \{z'', t < |z''| < 1\}) = \emptyset$. Let $a \in (t, 1)$ and choose $\rho(z') \in \mathcal{C}_0^{\infty}(a\Delta')$ such that $0 \le \rho \le 1$ and $\rho = 1$ on $\frac{1}{2}a\Delta'$. Take $\chi \in \mathcal{C}_0^{\infty}(\omega)$ such that $0 \le \chi \le 1$ and $\chi = 1$ on a neighborhood ω_0 of $\overline{\Delta^n} \cap A$. Obviously, the function $\chi(z)\rho(z')$ is positive smooth and compactly supported in $a\Delta^n$. For convenience, we set $\beta' = dd^c(|z'|^2)$, $\beta'' = dd^c(|z''|^2)$ and $\alpha(z') = \rho(z')\beta'^s$.

$$\int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} \chi g dd^{c} g \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z') = - \int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} d(\chi g) \wedge d^{c} g \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z')$$
$$= | \int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} (\chi dg \wedge d^{c} g \wedge T + g d\chi \wedge d^{c} g \wedge T) \alpha(z')|$$

Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality one can show that:

$$\int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} \chi \, dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z') \leq |\int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} \chi \, g dd^c g \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z')| \\ + \left(\int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} g^2 d\chi \wedge d^c \chi \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z') \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_{\Delta' \times \Delta''} dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T \wedge \alpha(z') \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
(3.4)

The forms $d\chi$, $d^c\chi$ vanish on some neighborhood V' of $\triangle^n \cap A$, therefore we can change $\triangle' \times \triangle''$ by $\triangle' \times \Delta'' \setminus V'$ in the last line integral of (3.4), and hence the extension $dg \wedge d^cg \wedge T$ exists. Now, a simple computation shows that

$$\mathrm{dd}^c(g^2T) = 2g\mathrm{dd}^cg \wedge T + 2\mathrm{d}g \wedge \mathrm{d}^cg \wedge T \leq 2\mathrm{d}g \wedge \mathrm{d}^cg \wedge T$$

Therefore, g^2T exists thanks to [2], and monotone convergence implies that g^2T is well-defined. As the current $gdd^cg \wedge T$ is a well-defined current by Theorem 1.3, our desired goal can be obtained by defining:

$$dg \wedge d^{c}g \wedge T = \frac{1}{2}dd^{c}(g^{2}T) - gdd^{c}g \wedge T \qquad \Box$$
(3.5)

Remark 3.1.

- (1) The statement of Theorem 1.2 is true when T is defined outside of A. Indeed, in this case the extension \tilde{T} exists by [4], and is closed.
- (2) The diagonal coefficients of dg \wedge d^cg are $2|\frac{\partial g}{\partial z_i}|^2$. Therefore, dg \wedge d^cg is of locally finite mass if and only if $\frac{\partial g}{\partial z_i}$ is L^2_{loc} .

Application of Theorem 1.2. Let *A* be a closed subset of Ω . Assume that $g \in Psh(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}_{loc}(\Omega \setminus A)$ such that $\mathcal{H}_{2n-2}(A) = 0$, then by Theorem 1.2, one can prove that $\frac{\partial g}{\partial z_i}$ is L^2_{loc} .

Finally, we wish to point out that the condition on the Hausdorff measure in Theorem 1.2 is sharp as the following example shows.

Example 3.2. In \mathbb{C} , let T = 1 and $g = \log |z|^2$. We find that $dg \wedge d^c g \wedge T$ is not of finite mass near the origin. This shows that our result since $\mathcal{H}_{2(1)-2}(\{0\}) = 1$ is sharp, and likewise that point (2) in the last remark is also sharp.

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