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Bergman kernel functions for planar domains and conformal equivalence of domains

Abstract. The Bergman kernels of multiply connected domains are related with proper holomorphic maps onto the unit disc. We study multiply connected planar domains and represent conformal equivalence of the Bell representative domains with annuli or any doubly connected domains by explicit formulae. We study the expression for the Bergman kernels of circular multiply connected planar domains.

1 Introduction

In this paper, we study the Bergman kernels of multiply connected domains and their Bell representations and circular multiply connected domains.

Let $\Omega$ be a bounded domain in $\mathbb{C}$. The Bergman projection $P$ is the orthogonal projection of $L^2(\Omega)$ onto its subspace $H^2(\Omega)$ of holomorphic functions. The Bergman kernel $K_\Omega(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the kernel for $P$ in the sense that for $f \in L^2(\Omega)$

$$Pf(z) = \int_\Omega K_\Omega(z, \zeta) f(\zeta) \, dA, \quad z \in \Omega.$$ 

Let $U$ be the unit disc in $\mathbb{C}$ with the area measure $dA = dx \wedge dy = \frac{i}{2}dz \wedge d\overline{z}$. Then the Bergman kernel for $U$ is given by

$$K_U(z, \zeta) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{(1 - z\overline{\zeta})^2}, \quad z, \zeta \in U. \tag{1.1}$$

Let $\Omega \neq \mathbb{C}$ be a simply connected planar domain and $f: \Omega \to U$ be the Riemann map with $f(a) = 0$ and $f'(a) > 0$. The transformation formula for the Bergman kernel is

$$K_\Omega(z, \zeta) = f'(z)K_U(f(z), f(\zeta))f'(\zeta). \tag{1.2}$$
It implies that
\[ K_\Omega(z, \zeta) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{f'(z)f'(\zeta)}{(1 - f(z)f(\zeta))^2}, \quad z, \zeta \in \Omega. \quad (1.3) \]

Hence, \( K_\Omega(a, a) = \frac{1}{\pi}(f'(a))^2 \). Therefore, the derivative of \( f(z) \) is determined through the Bergman kernel by the formula
\[ f'(z) = K_\Omega(z, a) \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{K_\Omega(a, a)}}. \quad (1.4) \]

The transformation formula (1.2) for the Bergman kernel holds under any biholomorphic map between two domains. Let us determine the Bergman kernel for \( \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 2 \} \).

**Example 1.1**

Let \( U' = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 2 \} \). Let \( f(z) = \frac{i}{2} z \) be a biholomorphic map from \( U' \) to the unit disc. Then the transformation formula for the Bergman kernels implies that
\[ K_{U'}(z, \zeta) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{f'(z)f'(\zeta)}{(1 - f(z)f(\zeta))^2} \]
\[ = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\left(1 - \frac{i}{2} \right)^2}{(1 - \frac{i}{2} \zeta)^2} \]
\[ = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{4}{4 - i \zeta^2}. \quad (1.5) \]

Let \( \Omega_\rho = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \rho < |z| < 1 \} \) be a circular annulus. The orthonormal complete set for \( H^2(\Omega) \) is given by
\[ \varphi_{2n-1}(z) = z^{n-1} \left( \frac{n}{\pi(1 - \rho^{2n})} \right) \zeta^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad n = 1, 2, \ldots, \]
\[ \varphi_2(z) = \frac{1}{z} \left( \frac{1}{-2\pi \ln \rho} \right) \zeta^{\frac{1}{2}}, \]
\[ \varphi_{2n}(z) = \frac{1}{z^n} \left( \frac{1 - n}{\pi(1 - \rho^2(n-1))} \right) \zeta^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad n = 2, \ldots. \]

Hence, we have
\[ K_{\Omega_\rho}(z, \zeta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \varphi_n(z) \varphi_n(\zeta) \]
\[ = \frac{1}{\pi \zeta^{\frac{1}{2}}} \left( P(\ln z \zeta) + \frac{\eta_i}{\pi i} - \frac{1}{2 \ln \rho} \right), \quad (1.6) \]
where $P$ is the Weierstrass function with the periods $\omega_1 = \pi i$, $\omega_2 = \ln \rho$, and $2\eta_1$ is the increment of the Weierstrass $\zeta$-function related to the period $\omega_1$ (see [5]).

On the other hand, the Bergman kernels for domains in $\mathbb{C}^n$ are known in special cases such as the unit ball, the polydisc, the Thullen domain [8], convex domains [6], the Lie ball [10], the minimal ball [17] and so on. For example, the Bergman kernel for the unit ball $B$ in $\mathbb{C}^n$ is

$$K_B(z, \zeta) = \frac{n!}{\pi^n} \frac{1}{(1 - z\overline{\zeta})^{n+1}}.$$

Suppose that $\Omega$ is a bounded domain with $C^\infty$ smooth boundary. The Green function $G_\Omega(z, w)$ and the Bergman kernel $K_\Omega(z, w)$ associated to $\Omega$ are related via the following formula, see [1]:

$$K_\Omega(z, \zeta) = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\partial^2 G_\Omega(z, \zeta)}{\partial z \partial \overline{\zeta}}. \quad (1.7)$$

2. Bell representations

A holomorphic function $A(z, w)$ on an open set in $\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$ is called algebraic if there exists a polynomial $P(A(z, w), z, w) = 0$.

The kernel $K_\Omega(z, w)$ is algebraic if and only if $K_\Omega(z, w) = R(z, \overline{w})$ where $R$ is a holomorphic algebraic function of $\{(z, w) : (z, w) \in \Omega \times \Omega\}$. It is the same as for fixed $b \in \Omega$, $K_\Omega(z, b)$ is an algebraic function of $z$.

In this section we study the Bell representative domains where the Bergman kernels are algebraic. One can see from (1.3) that it is possible to represent the Bergman kernel for simply connected planar domains via the Riemann map. It is rational if and only if the corresponding Riemann map is rational. For a bounded $n$-connected domain, the Bergman kernel cannot be rational if $n > 1$ (see [2]). Hence, for $n$-connected domains, it is interesting to study the question, when the Bergman kernel is algebraic even though we cannot express it explicitly.

Let $\Omega$ be an $n$-connected planar domain and let $f_a: \Omega \longrightarrow U$ be the Ahlfors map with $f_a(a) = 0$, $f'_a(a) > 0$. Then

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} K_\Omega(z, F_k(\zeta)) F'_k(\zeta) = f'_a(z)K_U(f_a(z), \zeta)$$

for $z \in \Omega$, $\zeta \in U - f_a(V)$ where $V = \{z \in \Omega : f'_a(z) = 0\}$ (see [1]).

The following theorem in [3] tells us when the Bergman kernel is algebraic.

**Theorem 2.1**

Let $\Omega$ be an $n$-connected non-degenerate planar domain. The following statements are equivalent:
1) The Bergman kernel $K_{\Omega}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is algebraic.

2) The Szegő kernel $S_{\Omega}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is algebraic.

3) There exists a proper holomorphic map $f: \Omega \rightarrow U$ which is algebraic.

4) Every proper holomorphic map from $\Omega$ onto $U$ is algebraic.

Let us consider an example. Let 

$$A_r = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z + \frac{1}{2}| < r \}$$

for $r > 2$. Then $A_r$ is a 2-connected domain with real analytic boundary if $r > 2$. The algebraic function

$$f_r(z) = \frac{1}{r} \left( z + \frac{1}{z} \right)$$

defines a proper holomorphic map from $A_r$ to $U$ which is a 2-sheeted branched covering map and it is algebraic. By the above theorem, the Bergman kernel for $A_r$ is algebraic.

Additionally, the mapping $f_r$ which is a 2-to-1 map from $A_r$ to $U$ extends to a 1-to-1 biholomorphic from every connected component of $A_r$ in $\mathbb{C}$ onto $U$ in $\mathbb{C}$. The modulus of $A_r$ is a continuous increasing function of $r$ that approaches to 0 as $r \rightarrow 2^+$ and to $\infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. Hence, every 2-connected domain is biholomorphic to one of $A_r$ (see [3]).

This result leads to the conjecture (see [3]) that any $n$-connected non-degenerate planar domain $\Omega$ is biholomorphic to a domain

$$\left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \left| z + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{z - b_k} \right| < r \right\}$$

with $a_k, b_k \in \mathbb{C}, r > 0$. Such a domain is called Bell representation and this conjecture is solved in [13]. Let

$$(a, b) = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{n-1}, b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^{2n-2}$$

and the corresponding domain

$$W_{a,b} = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \left| z + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{z - b_k} \right| < 1 \right\}, \quad a_k, b_k \in \mathbb{C}.$$

**Theorem 2.2 ([13])**

Let $\Omega$ be a non-degenerate $n$-connected planar domain with $n > 1$. Then $\Omega$ is biholomorphic to a domain $W_{a,b}$.

The Bergman kernel associated with $W_{a,b}$ is algebraic since $f: W_{a,b} \rightarrow U$ defined by
\[ f_{a,b}(z) = z + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{z - b_k} \]
is an algebraic proper holomorphic map. To describe domains which possess algebraic proper holomorphic maps onto the unit disc is an important task in the problem of the equivalence between domains. Let

\[ B_n = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^{2n-2} : W_{a,b} \text{ is an } n\text{-connected planar domain}\} .\]

\( B_n \) is called the coefficient body for \( n\)-connected canonical domains. In [14], \( B_n \) is explicitly figured out.

**Theorem 2.3 ([14])**

For \( a \in \mathbb{C} \), let \( a' \in \mathbb{C} \) be such that \((a')^2 = a\). Then,

\[ B_2 = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : a \neq 0, \quad |b + 2a'| < 1, \quad |b - 2a'| < 1\} .\]

Fix \((a, b) \in B_n\) and let \( W_{a,b} \) be the corresponding \( n\)-connected canonical domain. Let \( E(W_{a,b}) \) be the leaf in \( B_n \) for \( W_{a,b} \) consisting of all the points which correspond to \( n\)-connected canonical domains biholomorphically equivalent to \( W_{a,b} \).

**Theorem 2.4 ([14])**

For \( r > 2 \),

\[ E(A_r) = \left\{ (a, b) \in B_2 : \frac{4a'}{1 - (b + 2a')(b - 2a')} = \frac{4r}{4 + r^2} \right\} .\]

In particular, \( E(A_r) \cap \{(a, 0) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \} = \{(a, 0) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : |a| = r^{-2} \} .\)

Now, we give two examples of points in \( E(A_r) \) explaining the above theorems.

**Example 2.5**

For any real \( \theta \), let \( a = r^{-2}e^{i\theta} \) and \( a' = r^{-1}e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} \) be so that \((a')^2 = a\) and \((a, 0) \in E(A_r)\). Let \( f \) be defined by \( f(z) = a'z \). Take \( z \in A_r \) so that \( |z + \frac{1}{2}| < r \). Then \( f(z) = w \) satisfies

\[ |w| + \left| \frac{a}{w} \right| = |a'z + \frac{a}{a'z}| = |a'| \left| z + \frac{1}{z} \right| < |a'|r = 1 .\]

So, \( f \) is a biholomorphic map from \( A_r \) onto \( W_{a,0} \).

**Example 2.6**

Let \( r = 3, \ a = \frac{2}{15}, \) and \( a' = \frac{3}{4} \) so that \((a')^2 = a\). Then \((a, 2a') \in B_2\) by Theorem 2.3. Also, since \( 4a' = \frac{12}{4} = 3 \), it belongs to \( E(A_3) \) by Theorem 2.4.
For $n > 2$ we have the following theorem suggesting the basic idea for describing $B_n$.

**Theorem 2.7 ([15])**

$B_n$ is the set of $(a, b)$ such that equation $f'_{a,b}(z) = 0$ has $2n - 2$ solutions $c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_{2n-2}$ counted with multiplicities such that $|f_{a,b}(c_j)| < 1$ for every $j$.

In particular, $B_n$ is an open subset of $\mathbb{C}^{2n-2}$.

Now, we give an example for a point in $B_3$.

**Example 2.8**

Let $a_1 = a_2 = \frac{-2 + \sqrt{20}}{16}$ and $b_1 = b_2 = \frac{1}{16}$. Then $(a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2) \in B_3$. In fact

\[ \left\{ \pm \frac{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{20}}{16}, \pm \frac{\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{20}}{16} \right\} \]

is the set of critical points of $f_{a,b}$ and $|f_{a,b}| < 1$ at each critical point.

### 3. Conformal equivalence between domains

In the previous section, we get the biholomorphic equivalence of any $n$-connected domain and a Bell representation while we studied the algebraicity property of the Bergman kernel. For 2-connected domains, annuli $\Omega_{\rho}$ and Bell representations $A_r$ are two canonical domains. So, it is interesting to demonstrate the equivalence of these domains. In order to check the conformal equivalence of them, we project them onto the unit disc.

Note that $\Omega_{\rho}$ is biholomorphic to $A_r$ for some $r > 2$ if and only if there is a biholomorphic map $T: U \rightarrow U$ with $T(\{ \pm i\rho \}) = \{ \pm \frac{1}{2} \}$. The Ahlfors map $f_{\mu}: \Omega_{\rho} \rightarrow U$ with $f_{\mu}(\sqrt{\rho}) = 0$ and $f_{\mu}'(\sqrt{\rho}) > 0$ maps $\{ |z| = \sqrt{\rho} \}$ onto a line segment with endpoints $\pm i\rho$. Hence we get the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1 ([12])**

Let $\Omega_{\rho} = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \rho < |z| < 1 \}$ with $0 < \rho < 1$. $\Omega_{\rho}$ is conformally equivalent to $A_r$, $(r > 2)$ if and only if $r = \frac{2}{c_{\rho}}$, where

\[
 c_{\rho} = \frac{2\sqrt{\rho} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\frac{k+1}{2}} \rho^k}{1 + \rho^{2k+1}}.
\]

Also, Crowdy [7] got the relation between $r$ and $\rho$ and constructed a conformal mapping from $\Omega_{\rho}$ onto $A_r$ using Schottky–Klein prime functions associated with $\Omega_{\rho}$.

Deger [9] showed that when \( J(z) = \frac{1}{2}(z + \frac{1}{z}) \), \( \frac{1}{2}J(i) = 0 \) and expressed the Bergman kernel for \( A_r \) as

\[
K_{A_r}(z, w) = C_1 \frac{2k^2 S(z, \bar{w}) + k C(z, \bar{w}) D(z, \bar{w}) + C_2}{z \bar{w} \sqrt{1 - k^2 J(z)^2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - k^2 J(w)^2}}
\]

where \( k = \left( \frac{2r}{3} \right)^2 \) and \( C_1, C_2 \) are constants that depend only on \( r \) and \( S(z, w), C(z, w), D(z, w) \) are given.

In fact, \( \frac{1}{2}J(z) = f_r(z) \) and so \( f_r \) is the Ahlfors map for \( A_r \) with \( f_r(i) = 0 \), \( f_r'(i) > 0 \). The following expression of the Bergman kernel for any 2-connected domain is given in [4].

**Theorem 3.2**

The Bergman kernel \( K_{\Omega}(z, w) \) for any 2-connected planar domain \( \Omega \) is given by

\[
\Phi'(z) K_{A_r}(\Phi(z), \Phi(w)) \Phi'(w)
\]

where the biholomorphic map \( \Phi \) from \( \Omega \) onto its representative domain \( A_r \), satisfies that \( \frac{1}{2}J(\Phi(z)) = \lambda f_a(z) \) where \( f_a: \Omega \rightarrow U \) is an Ahlfors map for a point \( a \) on the median of \( \Omega \), \( |\lambda| = 1 \).

4. **Circular multiply connected planar domain**

Let the discs

\[
D_k = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \ |z - a_k| < r_k \}, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, n
\]

be mutually disjoint and let

\[
D = \overline{\mathbb{C}} - \bigcup_{k=1}^{n} (D_k \cup \partial D_k)
\]

be the complement of these discs to the extended complex plane. The domain \( D \) is called a circular multiply connected domain. Let \( f: D \rightarrow \Omega \) be a biholomorphic mapping of \( D \) onto a bounded domain \( \Omega \) with \( C^\infty \) smooth boundary. Then

\[
K_D(z, \zeta) = f'(z) K_{\Omega}(f(z), f(\zeta)) \overline{f'(\zeta)} \quad z, \zeta \in D.
\]

In addition, the Green functions \( G_D \) and \( G_{\Omega} \) associated with \( D \) and \( \Omega \) respectively, satisfy the identity

\[
G_D(z, \zeta) = G_{\Omega}(f(z), f(\zeta)), \quad z, \zeta \in D. \quad (4.1)
\]
Hence, the Bergman kernel \( K_D \) and the Green function \( G_D(z, \zeta) \) associated to \( D \) are related via

\[
K_D(z, \zeta) = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\partial^2 G_D(z, \zeta)}{\partial z \partial \zeta}.
\]  

(4.2)

Let \( z_{(k)}^* \) denote the inversions with respect to the circles

\[
\partial D_k = \{ z : |z - a_k| = r_k \}, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, n,
\]
given by

\[
z_{(k)}^* := \frac{r_k^2}{z - a_k} + a_k.
\]  

(4.3)

We denote their compositions by:

\[
z_{(k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_s)}^* := (z_{(k_s, \ldots, k_1)})_{(k_s)}^*
\]  

(4.4)

where two adjacent numbers \( k_j, k_{j+1} \) \( (j = 1, 2, \ldots, s - 1) \) are not equal. Here \( s \) represents the number of inversions and is called the level of the mapping.

These are Möbius transformations \( \gamma_j \), \( (j = 0, 1, \ldots) \) in \( z \) or \( \overline{z} \) if \( s \) is even or odd, respectively. To be precise, they are defined by

\[
\begin{align*}
\gamma_0(z) &:= z, \\
\gamma_1(z) &:= z_{(1)}^*, \\
\gamma_2(z) &:= z_{(2)}^*, \\
&\vdots
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\gamma_{n+1}(z) &:= z_{(12)}^*, \\
\gamma_{n+2}(z) &:= z_{(13)}^*, \\
&\vdots
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\gamma_{n^2+1}(z) := z_{(121)}^*, \quad \text{and so on.}
\]

The level \( s \) of \( \gamma_j \) is not decreasing. The above functions generate a Schottky group \( S \) (see [16]). Let \( S_m = \{ z_{(k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_s)}^* : k_s \neq m \} \subset S - \{ \gamma_0 \} \).

Mityushev and Rogosin [16] constructed the explicit expression for the complex Green function \( M_D(z, \zeta) \) associated to \( D \) using the above \( \gamma_j \). The expression for the real Green function \( G_D(z, \zeta) \) and the calculation of \( \frac{\partial^2 G_D}{\partial z \partial \zeta} \) leads to the following expression for the Bergman kernel \( K_D(z, \zeta) \).

**Theorem 4.1 ([11])**

Let

\[
\psi^{(j)}_m(z) := \begin{cases} \\
\frac{\gamma_j'(z)}{\gamma_j(z) - a_m} & \text{if level of } \gamma_j \text{ is even,} \\
\frac{\gamma_j'(z)}{\gamma_j(\overline{z}) - a_m} & \text{if level of } \gamma_j \text{ is odd.}
\end{cases}
\]  

(4.5)
The Bergman kernel $K_D(z, \zeta)$ associated to a circular multiply connected planar domain $D$ is given by

$$K_D(z, \zeta) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{m=1}^{n} A_m \sum_{\gamma_j \in S_m} \Psi_m^{(j)}(\zeta) \sum_{\gamma_k \in S_k} \Psi_k^{(j)}(z) \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{\gamma_j \in F} \frac{\tau_j^{(j)}(z)}{(\zeta - \gamma_j(z))^2}.$$  \hfill (4.6)

where $A_m$ are some real constants and $F$ is the set of $\gamma_j$'s of the odd level.

**Example 4.2**

We consider the simply connected domain

$$D = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| > 2 \}.$$

Then we have two-element group of inversions

$$\gamma_0(z) = z, \quad \gamma_1(z) = \frac{2^2}{z}.$$

The constant $A_1$ is equal to zero and

$$K_D(z, \zeta) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\tau_1^{(1)}(z)}{(\zeta - \gamma_1(z))^2} = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{2^2}{(z^2 - z \zeta)^2}. \hfill (4.7)$$

Similarly, for a general circular simply connected domain

$$D = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a_1| > r_1 \},$$

the Bergman kernel is given by

$$K_D(z, \zeta) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{r_1^2}{(r_1^2 - (z - a_1)\zeta)^2}$$

and hence it is rational.

We find that the Bergman kernel in (4.6) for $D$ matches with the result in (1.5). Therefore, we conclude that for $n = 1$, $D$ is biholomorphic to $U$ with rational biholomorphic map $f(z) = \frac{r_1}{z-a_1}$ and hence $K_D(z, \zeta)$ is rational.

**Remarks**

If $n > 1$, $K_D(z, \zeta)$ is not rational. But, $K_D(z, \zeta)$ is algebraic if there is an algebraic proper holomorphic map from $D$ onto $U$. 
Open questions

1. Find a precise description of $B_3$ in order to make corresponding Bell representations which are canonical 3-connected domains.

2. Find a relation between the expression (1.6) of the Bergman kernel associated with an annulus and the expression (4.6) of the Bergman kernel associated with a circular doubly connected planar domain.

3. Find relations between circular multiply connected planar domains and Bell representations.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Prof. Mityushev for helpful discussions.

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Received: 15 June 2008; final version: 21 September 2008;  
available online: 14 October 2008.