

The Gromov width of symmetric spaces

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Evora, 3 September 2013



AL, R. Mossa, F. Zuddas,

Symplectic capacities of Hermitian symmetric spaces,
[arXiv:1302.1984](https://arxiv.org/abs/1302.1984) (2013).

- 1 Basic facts on Symplectic Topology
 - Darboux Theorem
 - Gromov width
 - Symplectic capacities
 - The Gromov width as a symplectic capacity
- 2 Hermitian symmetric spaces
 - Definition and some properties
 - Duality
- 3 Main results: the Gromov width of Hermitian symmetric spaces
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- 4 Open problems and other symplectic invariants
 - Biran's conjecture
 - Hofer–Zehnder capacity
 - Symplectic Lusternik-Schnirelmann category
 - Darboux charts
 - Symplectic packings and Fefferman invariant

Darboux Theorem

Let (M^{2n}, ω) be a symplectic manifold and let $\omega_0 = \sum_{j=1}^n dx_j \wedge dy_j$ be the standard symplectic form on \mathbb{R}^{2n} . Given $p \in M$ there exist an open set $U_p \subset M$ and a diffeomorphism

$$\psi : U_p \rightarrow \psi(U_p) \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

such that

$$\psi^* \omega_0 = \omega|_{U_p}$$

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Question

How large U_p can be taken?

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Gromov's exotic symplectic structures

There exists a symplectic form ω on \mathbb{R}^{2n} , $n \geq 2$, such that $(\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega)$ cannot be symplectically embedded into $(\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega_0)$. [Gromov, Inv. Math., 1985]

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Gromov width

The Gromov width [Gromov, Inv. Math., 1985] of a $2n$ -dimensional symplectic manifold (M, ω) is defined as

$$c_G(M, \omega) = \sup\{\pi r^2 \mid B^{2n}(r) \text{ symplectically embeds into } (M, \omega)\},$$

where

$$B^{2n}(r) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid \sum_{j=1}^n |x_j|^2 + |y_j|^2 < r^2\}$$

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- $c_G > 0$ by Darboux theorem.
- M compact $\Rightarrow c_G(M, \omega) < \infty$.

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where

$$Z^{2n}(r) = B^2(r) \times \mathbb{R}^{2n-2} = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid x_1^2 + y_1^2 < r^2\}.$$

Some remarks on symplectic capacities 1

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When $n = 1$ (2-dimensional symplectic manifolds)

$$c(M, \omega) := \left| \int_M \omega \right|$$

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In contrast, when $n > 1$,

$$c(M, \omega) := \left(\int_M \frac{\omega^n}{n!} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

does not define a symplectic capacity since $Z^{2n}(r)$ has infinite volume.

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It is hard to prove the existence of a symplectic capacity.

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Let $\varphi : B^{2n}(r) \rightarrow M$ be a symplectic embedding. Then

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The (nontriviality) for c_G , i.e. $c_G(B^{2n}(r), \omega_0) = \pi = c_G(Z^{2n}(r), \omega_0)$, follows by the celebrated Gromov's nonsqueezing theorem:

Gromov nonsqueezing theorem

There exists a symplectic embedding $B^{2n}(r) \hookrightarrow Z^{2n}(R)$ iff $r \leq R$.


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Remark

Assuming the existence of any symplectic capacity c one easily deduces Gromov's nonsqueezing theorem. Indeed, let $\varphi : B^{2n}(r) \rightarrow Z^{2n}(R)$ be a symplectic embedding. Then (monotonicity)+(nontriviality)  \Rightarrow

$$\pi r^2 = c(B^{2n}(r), \omega_0) \leq c(Z^{2n}(R), \omega_0) = \pi R^2.$$

Some known results for homogeneous Kähler manifolds

- Upper and lower bounds of the Gromov width of some coadjoint orbits

[A. C. Castro, Upper bound for the Gromov width of coadjoint orbits of type A, arXiv:1301.0158v1]

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Aim of this talk: to compute the Gromov width for all Hermitian symmetric spaces of compact and noncompact type (bounded symmetric domains) and their products.

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- Every Hermitian symmetric space is a direct product

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- Any Hermitian symmetric space of compact or non-compact type is simply connected and is a direct product of irreducible Hermitian symmetric spaces.

Hermitian symmetric spaces of noncompact type (HSSNT)

An irreducible HSSNT is holomorphically isometric to a **bounded symmetric domain** $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ centered at the origin $0 \in \mathbb{C}^n$ equipped with (a multiple of) the Bergman metric ω_{Berg} .

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Hermitian symmetric spaces of compact type (HSSCT)

Let (M, ω_{FS}) be an irreducible HSSCT, where ω_{FS} is the *canonical Kähler form*, i.e. the Kähler-Einstein form such that

$$\omega_{FS}(A) = \int_A \omega_{FS} = \pi$$

for the generator $A = [\mathbb{C}P^1] \in H_2(M, \mathbb{Z})$.

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There exists a natural number N and a holomorphic embedding

$$BW : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^N$$

called the *Borel–Weil embedding*, such that

$$\omega_{FS} = BW^* \Omega_{FS}.$$

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More precisely we have the following holomorphic embeddings:

$$\Omega \xrightarrow{\text{Harish-Chandra}} \mathbb{C}^n \xrightarrow{\text{Borel}} M \xrightarrow{\text{BW}} \mathbb{C}P^N$$

The first Cartan domain and the complex Grassmannian

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Let

$$D_I[k, n] = \{Z \in M_{k,n}(\mathbb{C}) \mid I_k - ZZ^* > 0\}$$

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The compact dual of $D_I[k, n]$ is the complex Grassmannian $\text{Grass}_k(\mathbb{C}^{n+k})$ endowed with the Fubini-Study form ω_{FS} . More precisely,

$$D_I[k, n] \stackrel{\text{Harish-Chandra}}{\subset} M_{k,n}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}^{kn} \stackrel{\text{Borel}}{\subset} \text{Grass}_k(\mathbb{C}^{n+k}) \stackrel{P=\text{Plucker}}{\hookrightarrow} \mathbb{C}P^N,$$

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$$N = \binom{n+k}{k} - 1,$$

$$\omega_{FS} = P^* \Omega_{FS}, \quad \omega_{FS}|_{\mathbb{C}^{kn}} = \frac{i}{2\pi} \partial \bar{\partial} \log \det(I_k + ZZ^*)$$

$$\omega_{\text{Berg}} = -2n \frac{i}{2\pi} \partial \bar{\partial} \log \det(I_k - ZZ^*).$$

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$$c_G(\mathbb{C}P^{n_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}P^{n_r}, a_1\omega_{FS}^1 \oplus \dots \oplus a_r\omega_{FS}^r) = ?$$

if some $n_j > 1$ or $|a_j| \neq 1$.

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- The proof of the upper bound $c_G(M, \omega_{FS}) \leq \pi$ is obtained by the computations of some genus-zero three-points Gromov-Witten invariants for irreducible HSSCT [A. Beauville, *Mat. Fiz. Anal. Geom.*, 1995], [P. E. Chaput, L. Manivel, N. Perrin, *Transform. Groups*, 2008], [B. Siebert, G. Tian, *Asian J. Math.*, 1997]

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The embedding Φ_Ω induces a global symplectomorphism

$$(\Omega, \omega_0) \xrightarrow{\Phi_\Omega} (M \setminus \text{Cut}_0(M) \cong \mathbb{C}^n, \omega_{FS}) \stackrel{\text{Borel}}{\subset} (M, \omega_{FS}) \stackrel{\text{BW}}{\hookrightarrow} (\mathbb{C}P^N, \omega_{FS})$$

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and hence $c_G(M_1 \times \cdots \times M_r, \omega_{FS}^1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \omega_{FS}^r) \leq \pi$ is obtained by combining $c_G(M_j, \omega_{FS}^j) \leq \pi$ with the following theorem.

Theorem

Let (M, ω_{FS}) be an irreducible HSSCT and (N, ω) be any closed symplectic manifold. Then, for any nonzero real number a ,

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Remark

The proof of the theorem uses [Lu's pseudo symplectic capacities](#) and their estimation in terms of Gromov-Witten invariants.

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Theorem (McDuff)

Let (M, ω) be a Kähler manifold. Assume that $\pi_1(M) = \{1\}$, M is complete and $K \leq 0$. Then there exists a symplectomorphism

$$\psi : (M, \omega) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega_0).$$

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Hence the conclusion follows by (monotonicity)+(nontriviality) of c .

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Hofer–Zehnder capacity c_{HZ}

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In [H. Hofer, E. Zehnder, A new capacity for symplectic manifolds, Academic Press, New York 1990]

Hofer and Zehnder defines a symplectic capacity c_{HZ} , which satisfies

$$c_{HZ}(M, \omega) \geq c(M, \omega)$$

for all symplectic capacity c .

Known results on c_{HZ}

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Theorem (Hofer–Viterbo)

$$c_{HZ}(\mathbb{C}P^n, \omega_{FS}) = \pi$$

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Theorem (Lu)

Let $a_j \neq 0, j = 1, \dots, r$. Then

$$c_{HZ}(\mathbb{C}P^{n_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}P^{n_r}, a_1\omega_{FS}^1 \oplus \dots \oplus a_r\omega_{FS}^r) = (|a_1| + \dots + |a_r|)\pi.$$

[G. Lu, Israel J. Math., 2006].

Results on c_{HZ}

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Open problem

$$c_{HZ}(M, \omega_{FS}) = ?$$

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Let (N, ω) be a closed symplectic manifold. The *symplectic Lusternik-Schnirelmann category* $S(N, \omega)$

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Let (M, ω) be a closed symplectic manifold. By Darboux theorem for each point $p \in M$ there exists a symplectic embedding $\varphi : (B^{2n}(r), \omega_0) \rightarrow (M, \omega)$, for some $r > 0$. One calls $(B^{2n}(r), \varphi)$ a Darboux chart. [Y. B. Rudyak, F. Schlenk, Commun. Contemp. Math., 2007] .

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Problem

Let (M, ω_{FS}) be an irreducible HSSCT. Compute (or estimate) $S_B(M, \omega_{FS})$.

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Symplectic packings

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For an integer $k > 0$ and $r > 0$, a **symplectic k -packing by balls of radius r** of a $2n$ -dimensional symplectic manifold (M, ω) is a set of symplectic embeddings

$$\varphi_i : (B^{2n}(r), \omega_0) \rightarrow (M, \omega), \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

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$$M = \overline{\bigcup_{i=1}^k \varphi_i(B^{2n}(r))}$$

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Studying (full) symplectic k -packings of HSSCT.

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Let (M, ω) be a closed symplectic manifold. Its *Fefferman invariant* $F(M, \omega)$ is the largest integer p for which there exists a symplectic p -packing (not necessarily full) of ball of radius 1.

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Problem : find a similar upper bound for HSSCT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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- Given a symplectic embedding

$$\varphi : (B^{2n}(r), \omega_0) \rightarrow (M, \lambda\omega)$$

it is not hard to construct a symplectic embedding

$$\hat{\varphi} : \left(B^{2n}\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{|\lambda|}}\right), \omega_0 \right) \rightarrow (M, \omega)$$

and viceversa. Thus (conformality) for c_G follows by the definition of Gromov width. [▶ go back](#)

Lemma

Let (M, ω) be a monotone symplectic manifold (i.e. there exists $\lambda > 0$ such that

$$\omega(B) = \lambda c_1(M)(B)$$

for all spherical classes $B = [\mathbb{C}P^1] \in H^2(M, \mathbb{Z})$). Let $A \in H_2(M, \mathbb{Z})$ be an indecomposable spherical class. (it cannot be decomposed as a sum $A = A_1 + \dots + A_k$, $k \geq 2$, of classes which are spherical and satisfy $\omega(A_i) > 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$). Let pt denote the homology class of a point. Suppose that there exist submanifolds X and Y of M such that

$$\dim X + \dim Y = 4n - 2c_1(M)(A)$$

and so that

$$\Phi_A(pt, [X], [Y]) \neq 0.$$

If $\pi r^2 > \omega(A) = \int_A \omega$, there does **not** exist a symplectic embedding of $(B^{2n}(r), \omega_0)$ into (M, ω) .

Example: symplectic embedding of the first Cartan domain into its complex dual $\text{Grass}_k(\mathbb{C}^{n+k})$

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Let

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The map

$$\Phi : D_I[k, n] \rightarrow M_{k,n}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}^{kn} \subset \text{Grass}_k(\mathbb{C}^{n+k})$$

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is a diffeomorphism such that

$$\Phi^* \omega_{FS} = \omega_0.$$

Pseudo symplectic capacities

A map c^k from the set $\mathcal{C}(2n, k)$ of all tuples $(M, \omega; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$ consisting of a $2n$ -dimensional connected symplectic manifold (M, ω) and k nonzero homology classes $\alpha_i \in H_*(M; \mathbb{Q})$, $i = 1, \dots, k$ to $[0, +\infty]$ is called a *k-pseudo symplectic capacity* [G. Lu, Israel J. Math., 2006] if it satisfies the following properties:

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- **(pseudo monotonicity)** if there exists a symplectic embedding $\varphi : (M, \omega_1) \rightarrow (M, \omega_2)$ then, for any $\alpha_i \in H_*(M_1; \mathbb{Q})$, $i = 1, \dots, k$,

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- **(conformality)** $c^{(k)}(M, \lambda\omega; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) = |\lambda|c^{(k)}(M, \omega; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$, for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ and all homology classes $\alpha_i \in H_*(M; \mathbb{Q}) \setminus \{0\}$, $i = 1, \dots, k$;

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- **(nontriviality)**

$c^{(k)}(B^{2n}(1), \omega_0; pt, \dots, pt) = \pi = c^{(k)}(Z^{2n}(1), \omega_0; pt, \dots, pt)$, where pt denotes the homology class of a point. [▶ go back](#)