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Pete L. Clark

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## The Cardinal Krull Dimension of a Ring of Holomorphic Functions

Pete L. Clark

Department of Mathematics, Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 7403, USA plclark@gmail.com

#### Abstract

We give an exposition of a recent result of M. Kapovich on the cardinal Krull dimension of the ring of holomorphic functions on a connected C-manifold. By reducing to the one-dimensional case we give a stronger lower bound for Stein manifolds.

### 1. Introduction

Recently Kapovich proved the following striking result: if a connected  $\mathbb{C}$ -manifold M has a noncontant holomorphic function, then the ring  $\operatorname{Hol}(M)$  of holomorphic functions on M has a chain of prime ideals of continuum length [9].

Here we give an exposition of Kapovich's Theorem, in which the algebraic part of the proof is shortened and simplified. Kapovich defines a class of "ample rings" and shows – by a beautiful use of Sard's Theorem that we follow closely – that if  $\operatorname{Hol}(M) \supseteq \mathbb{C}$  then  $\operatorname{Hol}(M)$  is ample, and then he shows that any ample ring has a chain of prime ideals of continuum length [9, Thm. 4]. The proofs, and even the definition of ample rings, make use of hyperreals and hypernatural numbers.

We observe that the analytic part of Kapovich's argument shows that if  $\operatorname{Hol}(M) \supseteq \mathbb{C}$  then  $\operatorname{Hol}(M)$  admits an infinite sequence of discrete valuations  $\{v_k\}$  which are independent in the sense that for any sequence  $\{n_k\}$  of natural numbers there is  $f \in \operatorname{Hol}(M)$  such that  $v_k(f) = n_k$  for all k, and then we show (Theorem 1.4) that any ring admitting a sequence of independent discrete valuations has a chain of prime ideals of continuum length. In place of nonstandard analysis our proofs use *ultralimits*. In order to understand these, a reader need only know what an ultrafilter is and that an ultrafilter on a compact space converges to a unique point.

Although  $\mathfrak{c}$  is a large number, it may not be large enough! Results of Henriksen [7] and Alling [1], [2] show that if M is a noncompact Riemann surface then Spec Hol(M) has a chain of length  $2^{\aleph_1}$ . Building on these results we show (Theorem 3.3) that for a connected  $\mathbb{C}$ -manifold M, if  $M \cong V \times N$  for a Stein manifold V of positive dimension, then Hol(M) admits a chain of prime ideals of length  $2^{\aleph_1}$ .

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