Toeplitz Operators, Kähler Manifolds, and Line Bundles*

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Abstract. This is a survey paper. We discuss Toeplitz operators in Kähler geometry, with applications to geometric quantization, and review some recent developments.

Key words: Kähler manifolds; holomorphic line bundles; geometric quantization; Toeplitz operators

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1 Historical remarks

Toeplitz operators have been studied by analysts for many years. In [17] a *Toeplitz operator* on $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} |\ |z| = 1\}$ is defined as follows. Denote by μ the normalized Lebesgue measure, and by $e_n = e_n(z) = z^n$, $z \in S^1$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Functions e_n are bounded, measurable, and they form an orthonormal basis in $L^2 = L^2(S^1, \mu)$. A function $f \in L^2$ is called *analytic* if $\int_{S^1} f\bar{e}_n d\mu = 0$ for all $n < 0$, and the *Hardy space* H^2 is defined as the space of all functions in L^2 which are analytic. Denote by $P : L^2 \to H^2$ the orthogonal projector. Let φ be a bounded measurable function on S^1. The corresponding *Toeplitz operator* $T_\varphi : H^2 \to H^2$ is defined by $T_\varphi = P \circ M_\varphi$, where M_φ is the operator of multiplication by φ. The function φ is called *the symbol of* T_φ. We immediately observe: for $\varphi(z) = 1$ T_φ is the identity operator, and for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ and bounded measurable functions f, g on S^1 we have: $T_{\alpha f+\beta g} = \alpha T_f + \beta T_g$. These operators have various remarkable properties. For example, Theorem 4 [17] states: A necessary and sufficient condition that an operator on H^2 be a Toeplitz operator is that its matrix (with respect to the orthonormal basis $\{e_n :\ n = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$) be a Toeplitz matrix.

Remark 1. Otto Toeplitz (1881–1940) was a German born Jewish mathematician, professor in Bonn from 1928 until 1935. A *Toeplitz matrix* is a one-way infinite matrix (a_{ij}) (i.e. $i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$) such that $a_{i+1,j+1} = a_{ij}$. For example, the matrix of T_{e_1} in the basis $\{e_n :\ n = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix}.$$

Toeplitz operators on bounded domains in $\mathbb{C}^n$, $n \geq 1$, (on various function spaces) have been studied extensively, and it would be a very difficult task to give a comprehensive description of

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all the work done in this area. See, in particular, [11, 24, 25, 30, 31, 33, 34, 38, 40, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52], and references in [11].

The purpose of this paper is different: we outline how Toeplitz operators appear in complex and symplectic geometry (often in problems coming from mathematical physics) and we overview some recent results in this area.

2 Kähler manifolds, geometric quantization and Toeplitz operators

2.1 Preliminaries

The use of Toeplitz operators in geometric quantization has its origins in work of F. Berezin, L. Boutet de Monvel, and J. Sjöstrand, see, in particular, [1, 2, 3, 12, 15, 16], and see also [37, 44].

Many of the key ideas are contained in [12]. The article [16] laid down the foundations for the analysis. Other important, more recent, papers include [4] and [14].

In the following "smooth" will always mean C^∞. Let W be a strictly pseudoconvex domain in a complex n-dimensional manifold, $n \geq 1$. Assume that the boundary ∂W is smooth and $\overline{W} = W \cup \partial W$ is compact. Let $r \in C^\infty(M)$ be a defining function for W: $r|_W < 0$, $r|_{\partial W} = 0$, $dr \neq 0$ near ∂W. Let $j : \partial W \hookrightarrow \overline{W}$ be the inclusion map. The 1-form $\alpha = j^*\mathrm{Im}(\overline{\partial r})$ is a contact form on ∂W. Denote by ν the measure on ∂W associated to the $(2n-1)$-form $\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^{n-1}$, and denote $L^2 = L^2(\partial W, \nu)$. Denote by $A(W)$ the space of functions on $\overline{W}$ which are continuous on $\overline{W}$, smooth on ∂W, and holomorphic on W. Define *the Hardy space* $H^2 = H^2(\partial W)$ to be the closure in L^2 of $\{f|_{\partial W} \mid f \in A(W)\}$. Denote by $\Pi : L^2 \to H^2$ the orthogonal projector.

By definition an operator $T : C^\infty(\partial W) \to C^\infty(\partial W)$ is called a *Toeplitz operator of order* k if it is of the form $\Pi Q \Pi$, where Q is a pseudodifferential operator of order k. The *symbol* of T is $\sigma(T) := \sigma(Q)|_\Sigma$ (a function on Σ), where $\sigma(Q)$ is the symbol of Q and

$$\Sigma = \{(x, \xi) \,|\, x \in \partial W,\ \xi = r\alpha_x,\ r > 0\}$$

is a symplectic submanifold of $T^*\partial W$. Note that the symbol is well-defined: if Q_1, Q_2 are pseudodifferential operators and $T = \Pi Q_1 \Pi = \Pi Q_2 \Pi$, then $\sigma(Q_1)|_\Sigma = \sigma(Q_2)|_\Sigma$. Boutet de Monvel and Guillemin also show that for Toeplitz operators T_1, T_2 $\sigma(T_1T_2) = \sigma(T_1)\sigma(T_2)$, $\sigma([T_1, T_2]) = \{\sigma(T_1), \sigma(T_2)\}$, where $\{\cdot,\cdot\}$ is the intrinsic Poisson bracket on the symplectic manifold Σ, and Toeplitz operators form a ring under composition.

2.2 Berezin–Toeplitz quantization

Let X be a connected compact n-dimensional Kähler manifold, $n \geq 1$. Denote the Kähler form by ω. Assume that ω is integral. There is an (ample) holomorphic Hermitian line bundle $L \to X$, with Hermitian connection ∇, such that $curv(\nabla) = -2\pi i\omega$ (thus $c_1(L) = [\omega]$). Let N be a positive integer. We shall denote by $L^2(X, L^{\otimes N})$ the space of square-integrable sections of $L^{\otimes N}$, and by $H^0(X, L^{\otimes N})$ the space of holomorphic sections of $L^{\otimes N}$. Also denote by $C^\infty(X)$ the space of real-valued smooth functions on X and by $C^\infty_{\mathbb{C}}(X)$ the space of complex-valued smooth functions on X.

The unit disc bundle W in L^* is a strictly pseudoconvex domain. Denote $P = \partial W$ (the unit circle bundle in L^*). In this particular setting, with $k = 0$, the definition of a Toeplitz operator in Section 2.1 leads to the following (revised) definition. Let $f \in C^\infty_{\mathbb{C}}(X)$. The corresponding *Toeplitz operator* (also called *Berezin–Toeplitz operator* in this setting) is

$$T_f = \oplus_{N=0}^\infty T_f^{(N)},$$

where $T_f^{(N)} = \Pi^{(N)} \circ M_f^{(N)} \in \mathrm{End}(H^0(X, L^{\otimes N}))$,

$$M_f^{(N)} : \; H^0(X, L^{\otimes N}) \to L^2(X, L^{\otimes N}), \qquad s \mapsto fs,$$

is the operator of multiplication by f and

$$\Pi^{(N)} : \; L^2(X, L^{\otimes N}) \to H^0(X, L^{\otimes N})$$

is the orthogonal projector.

Much has been written on this subject, see, in particular, review papers [7, 41, 43].

We shall list some properties of Berezin–Toeplitz operators. For every N the map

$$C^\infty_{\mathbb{C}}(X) \to \mathrm{End}\big(H^0(X, L^{\otimes N})\big), \qquad f \mapsto T_f^{(N)}$$

is surjective [6, Proposition 4.2].

It is known that for a positive integer m, $f_1, \dots, f_m \in C^\infty(X)$

$$\mathrm{tr}\big(T_{f_1}^{(N)} \cdots T_{f_m}^{(N)}\big) = N^n \left(\int_X f_1 \cdots f_m \frac{\omega^n}{n!} + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)\right)$$

as $N \to +\infty$ [6, Section 5].

Theorem 4.2 [6] states that for $f, g \in C^\infty(X)$

$$\big\| N[T_f^{(N)}, T_g^{(N)}] - i T_{\{f,g\}}^{(N)} \big\| = O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

as $N \to +\infty$, where $\|\cdot\|$ is the operator norm, i.e. $||A^{(N)}||^2 = \sup_{s \in (H^0(X, L^{\otimes N}) - 0)} \frac{\langle As, As\rangle_N}{\langle s, s\rangle_N}$ for $A^{(N)} \in \mathrm{End}(H^0(X, L^{\otimes N}))$, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_N$ is the Hermitian inner product on $H^0(X, L^{\otimes N})$. Similar statements, for certain deformations of Lie algebra structure on $\mathrm{End}(H^0(X, L^{\otimes N}))$, were obtained in [26].

Also

$$\big\| T_{fg}^{(N)} - T_f^{(N)} T_g^{(N)} \big\| = O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

as $N \to +\infty$ [6, p. 291, (2)].

2.3 Other aspects

2.3.1. There is a strong connection between Berezin–Toeplitz quantization and deformation quantization. See, in particular, [8, 18, 29, 32, 35, 36, 39, 42].

2.3.2. Everything discussed in Section 2.2 has a traditional "translation" into the language of physics: it is customary to say that X is the classical phase space, $1/N$ is the Planck's constant, $H^0(X, L^{\otimes N})$ is the space of wave functions, f is a classical Hamiltonian, $T_f^{(N)}$ is the quantum Hamiltonian, and $N \to +\infty$ is the semiclassical limit. There are interesting and difficult results related to semiclassical behaviour of eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of Toeplitz operators, to quantization of maps, and, generally, to the relation between classical dynamics and quantum dynamics. See, in particular, [9, 13, 53, 54, 55].

2.3.3. Symbol calculus of Toeplitz operators has been used to study integrable systems [5].

2.3.4. Lagrangian submanifolds and symplectic reduction are two very important concepts in symplectic geometry. Toeplitz operators in this context have been studied and exploited in [10, 19, 20, 21, 22].

2.3.5. Let (X, ω, J_0) be a compact connected Kähler manifold (here X denotes the underlying smooth manifold, ω is the symplectic structure, J_0 is the complex structure). Denote by $\mathcal{J}$ the space of all complex structures on X compatible with ω, it is an infinite-dimensional Kähler manifold. The group $\mathrm{Symp}(X, \omega)$ acts on $\mathcal{J}$ by pull-back. It was observed by Fujiki [28] and by Donaldson [23] that $J \to s_J$, where $J \in \mathcal{J}$ and s_J is the scalar curvature of the Riemannian metric given by ω and J, is a moment map for this action. In [27] we obtain another proof of this statement, using Toeplitz operators and semiclassical asymptotics.

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