

# Smoothing a Calabi-Yau manifold

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# Chapter 1

## Preliminary definitions

We work over  $\mathbb{C}$ , but some theorems may be stated over a field  $k$ .

### 1.1 Stanley-Reisner basics

Given a simplicial complex  $\mathcal{K}$ , one can associate to it a projective scheme  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})$  defined as follows. Let  $P$  be the polynomial ring with one variable for each vertex of  $\mathcal{K}$ . Then the *Stanley-Reisner ideal*  $I_{\mathcal{K}}$  corresponding to  $\mathcal{K}$  is generated by the monomials corresponding to *non-faces* of  $\mathcal{K}$ . Then we define the *Stanley-Reisner scheme* to be  $\text{Proj } P/I_{\mathcal{K}}$ .

**Example 1.1.1.** Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the square, with vertices  $v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3$ . Then the Stanley-Reisner ideal is generated by  $v_0v_2$  and  $v_1v_3$ . ★

Some of the topology of the simplicial complex is encoded in the scheme structure of  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})$ . In particular, the simplicial (co)homology groups of  $\mathcal{K}$  can be computed as the sheaf cohomology of  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})$

**Lemma 1.1.2.** *Let  $(K; \mathbb{C})$  denote the singular cohomology groups of  $\mathcal{K}$ . Then there are isomorphisms  $H^i(K; \mathbb{C}) = H^i(\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K}), \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})})$  for all  $i$ .*

*Proof.* ———to come——— □

**Corollary 1.1.3.** *We have isomorphisms  $H^i(K, \mathbb{C}) \simeq H^{2i}(\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K}); \mathbb{C})$  of singular cohomology groups.*

*Proof.* Something about  $i$ -cells in even dimensions □

## 1.2 Calabi-Yau basics

**Definition 1.2.1.** A *Calabi-Yau variety* is a smooth projective variety satisfying the following two conditions:

1.  $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$  for  $0 < i < \dim X$ .
2. The canonical sheaf is trivial:  $\omega_X \simeq \mathcal{O}_X$ .

■

The classical example of a Calabi-Yau manifold is the quintic threefold in  $\mathbb{P}^5$ . Another example is the following:

**Example 1.2.2.** Let  $X$  be the double cover of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  ramified along a smooth octic. The projection map is affine, so the conditions on  $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$  are fulfilled. To see that the canonical sheaf is trivial, we use the adjunction formula, which says that  $K_X = 2K_{\mathbb{P}^3}|_X + R$ , where  $R$  is the ramification divisor. In this case  $R \sim 8H$ , where  $H$  is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Then, since  $K_{\mathbb{P}^3} = -4H$ , it follows that  $K_X = 0$ . ★

If  $\mathcal{K}$  is a simplicial sphere, then a smoothing of  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})$  will give a Calabi-Yau manifold.

— ref: bayer-eisenbud graph curves.

The most basic invariants of Calabi-Yau manifolds are their *Hodge numbers*  $h^{pq}$ . In algebraic geometry these can be defined as the dimensions of the cohomology groups  $H^q(X, \Omega_X^p)$ . This definition is however not so transparent. On a complex manifold, it is true that  $h^{pq} = h^{qp}$ , but this is not obvious from our definition. Instead, let us define these groups in complex algebraic geometry terms.

The de Rham complex  $(\Omega^\bullet, d)$  refines to a bigraded complex  $(\Omega^{\bullet, \bullet}, d)$ , where a differential form of bidegree  $(p, q)$  can be written as

$$\omega = \sum f_{IJ} dz_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dz_{i_p} \wedge d\bar{z}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge d\bar{z}_q.$$

The differential  $d$  splits as  $\partial + \bar{\partial}$ , where  $\partial : \Omega^{\bullet, \bullet} \rightarrow \Omega^{\bullet+1, \bullet}$ , and  $\bar{\partial} : \Omega^{\bullet, \bullet} \rightarrow \Omega^{\bullet, \bullet+1}$ . The decomposition passes respects cohomology, so we can form the *Dolbeault cohomology groups*  $H^{p,q}(X)$ .

With this definition, applying complex conjugation shows that  $H^{p,q} = \overline{H^{q,p}}$ .

**Lemma 1.2.3.** *We have natural isomorphisms  $H^{p,q}(X) \simeq H^q(X, \Omega_X^p)$ .*

*Proof.* Use that the de Rham complex is flabby □

For more details on this and other details from complex geometry, see [Voi07].

The “Hodge diamond” is ...

**Example 1.2.4.** Let  $X$  be a smooth quintic in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . We will compute its Hodge numbers. Let us first compute  $H^{1,1}(X)$ . We have the following exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}/\mathcal{I}^2 \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^4}|_X \rightarrow \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0$$

Since  $\mathcal{I}/\mathcal{I}^2 \simeq \mathcal{O}_X(-5)$ , it follows from the long exact sequence of cohomology that  $H^1(X, \Omega_X^1) \simeq H^1(X, \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^4}^1|_X)$ . .... ★

## 1.3 Deformation theory

Deformation theory is the study how varieties (or other algebraic structures like line bundles, vector bundles, ...) vary in families.

There is a lot of technical machinery available for the deformation theorist, but for us just a few vector spaces will be of importance.

**Definition 1.3.1.** Let  $X$  be a scheme over  $k$ . Then a *deformation of  $X$  over  $S$*  is a flat morphism  $\mathfrak{X} \rightarrow S$  together with an isomorphism  $X \simeq \mathfrak{X} \times_S 0$  for a closed point  $0 \in S$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \simeq X_0 & \hookrightarrow & \mathfrak{X} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

■

Recall that a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is *flat* if the associated morphism  $f^{\$} : \mathcal{O}_Y \rightarrow f_* \mathcal{O}_X$  of  $\mathcal{O}_Y$ -modules is a flat morphism.



## Chapter 2

# Two topologically distinct smoothings

Denote by  $dP_6$  the del Pezzo surface of degree 6 embedded in  $\mathbb{P}^6$ . This can be realized as the blow-up of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  in three points not lying on a line. Let  $X$  denote the affine cone over  $dP_6$ . Then it has long been known that  $X$  has two smoothing components, and we show here that they are topologically distinct.

Recall that a *del Pezzo* surface is a surface such that the anti-canonical bundle is ample. The degree is the degree given by the anticanonical embedding. It is a classical result that every del Pezzo surface is obtained either by blowing up  $\mathbb{P}^2$  in  $r = 0, \dots, 6$  points in suitable positions, or as the 2-uple embedding of a quadric surface in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ .

### 2.1 Different embeddings of $dP_6$

We first obtain the equations of  $dP_6$  directly from the description of it as blow-up. Let  $x_0, x_1, x_2$  be coordinates of  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Recall that the blowup of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  in the point  $(1 : 0 : 0)$  can be realized as the closed subscheme of  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  given by the equation  $r_0x_1 - r_1x_2 = 0$ , where  $r_0, r_1$  are coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . We can repeat this process on the points  $(0 : 1 : 0)$  and  $(0 : 0 : 1)$  to obtain similar equations.

Collecting these, we see that  $dP_6$  is given by the matrix equation

$$M\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & r_0 & -r_1 \\ s_1 & 0 & -s_0 \\ -t_0 & t_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

in  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ . Here  $r_i, s_i$  and  $t_i$  ( $i = 0, 1$ ) are of course coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

We can do more than this however.

**Lemma 2.1.1.** *We can also realize  $dP_6$  embedded in  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  with equation  $r_0 s_0 t_0 = r_1 s_1 t_1$ .*

*Proof.* Note that the matrix cannot have rank 1 or lower. Now consider the projection onto the last three factors:

$$\pi : \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1.$$

Each point  $P$  in the product on the right-hand side gives a matrix  $M_P$  of rank 2. Thus there is a line of solutions, which correspond exactly to a point in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .

Hence the restriction of  $\pi$  to  $dP_6$  is an isomorphism onto the hypersurface given by  $\det M = 0$  in  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ .  $\square$

Another way to realize blow-ups is this: let  $\mathfrak{d}$  be the linear system of quadrics with assigned basepoints  $(1 : 0 : 0)$ ,  $(0 : 1 : 0)$  and  $(0 : 0 : 1)$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . We can choose a basis given by  $x_0 x_1$ ,  $x_0 x_2$  and  $x_1 x_2$ . This gives a rational map  $\mathbb{P}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ . The closure of the graph of this map is a subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$  defined by two bilinear equations. Each of the projections correspond to the blowup.

Explicitly, if we let  $y_0, y_1, y_2$  be coordinates on the other  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , then the equations are  $x_1 y_0 - x_2 y_1 = x_1 y_0 - x_0 y_2 = 0$ .

We also have a natural embedding in  $\mathbb{P}^6$  as follows. Denote by  $E_1, E_2, E_3$  the exceptional divisors on the blowup. Let  $L$  be a line in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Then the divisor  $\pi^* 3L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3$  is ample, and gives an embedding in  $\mathbb{P}^6$  (see [Har77, Chapter V, Theorem 4.6]). A basis for the corresponding linear system is given by all monomials in  $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(3))$  except  $x^3, y^3$  and  $z^3$ .



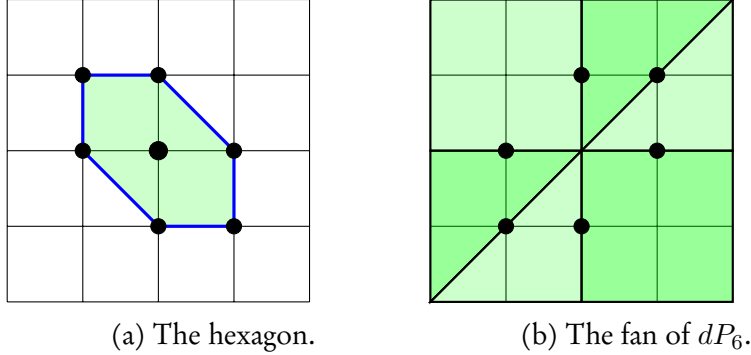


Figure 2.1: Toric description of  $dP_6$ .

The equations can be arranged in a particularly symmetric form: let  $y, x_1, \dots, x_1$  be coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^6$ . Then the equations of  $dP_6$  are the  $2 \times 2$  minors of the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & y & x_6 \\ x_2 & x_3 & y \\ y & x_4 & x_5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This gives 9 equations, which can be compactly written as  $x_i x_{i+2} - y x_i = 0$  and  $x_i x_{i+3} - y^2 = 0$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 6$  (where  $i$  is taken modulo 6). Note that the equations have a visible  $D_6$ -symmetry, where  $D_6$  denotes the dihedral group.

### 2.1.1 As a toric variety

There is a nice combinatorial description of  $dP_6$  as a toric variety associated to a polytope. Namely, let  $P$  denote the hexagon in Figure 2.1a. Then the normal fan of this polytope defines a fan in  $N_{\mathbb{R}}$ , defining a toric variety.

The polytope is reflexive, implying that the normal fan of  $P$  is the face fan over the same polytope. See Figure 2.1b. From standard toric geometry, it is clear that  $dP_6$  is the blowup of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  in the three torus-fixed points.

## 2.2 Divisors and topology

Consider the exponential sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{dP_6} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{dP_6}^* \rightarrow 0.$$

Since  $dP_6$  is a rational surface, it follows from the long-exact sequence that  $H^2(dP_6, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \text{Pic}(dP_6)$ . From the description of  $dP_6$  as a blowup, we know from [Har77, Chapter V], that the Picard group is spanned by the three exceptional divisors, together with the class of the pullback of a hyperplane. Denote these by  $E_i$  and  $H$ , respectively. Then, since the  $E_i$  are exceptional divisors, we have  $E_i \cdot E_j = -\delta_{ij}$ , and also  $H^2 = 1$ , since we can compute intersections downstairs.

Consider the embedding of  $dP_6$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$  given by the equations  $x_1y_0 - x_2y_1 = x_1y_0 - x_0y_2 = 0$ . This is the closure of the graph of a Cremona transformation of  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . The three exception divisors in  $dP_6$  are given by  $\pi_1(P_i)$ , where  $P_i$  are the three (torus-invariant) blown up points. There are three more interesting lines in  $dP_6$ : let  $L_{ij}$  be the line through  $P_i$  and  $P_j$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Also denote the proper transform of  $L_{ij}$  by  $L_{ij}$ . These are elements of the Picard group, and hence is a linear combination of the  $E_i$  and  $H$ . Since  $L_{ij}$  goes through  $P_i$  and  $P_j$  once each, we must have  $L_{ij} \cdot E_i = 1$ . Similarly,  $L_{ij} \cdot H = 1$ . Since  $E_i \cdot E_j = -\delta_{ij}$ , it follows that  $L_{ij} = H - E_i - E_j$ .

Make hexagon figure

## 2.3 The affine cone and its two smoothings

Let  $X$  denote the affine cone over  $dP_6$ . It is an affine variety with an isolated singularity at the origin. One can compute that it has two smoothing components: the union of a plane and a line. They both come from different ways of perturbing the equations of  $dP_6$ .

Look at Figure 2.2a. One can read off the equations of  $dP_6$  by taking minors along “faces” and long diagonals of this square. This correspond to a hyperplane cut of  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  in the Segre embedding. Then the one-dimensional component of the versal deformation of  $X$  is obtained by perturbing one of the  $y_0$ -corners as in Figure 2.2b.

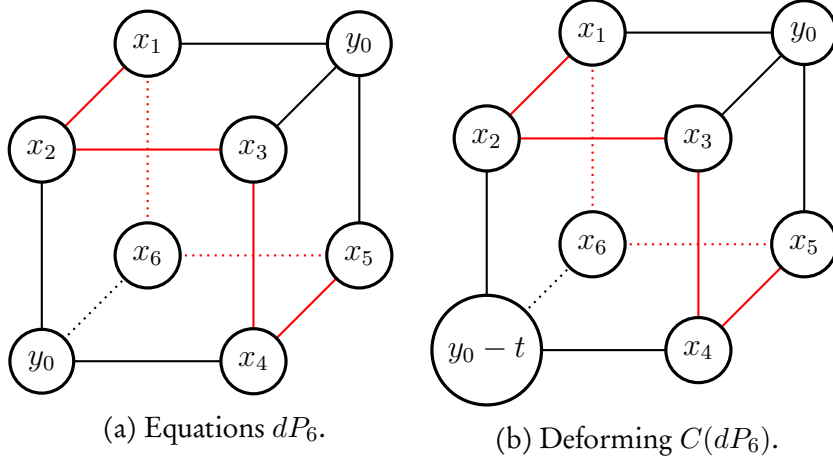


Figure 2.2: Forms of equations.

It is clear the corresponding deformation is smooth, since it is a hyperplane cut of cone over  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  outside the origin. Call this smoothing  $X_1$ .

**Lemma 2.3.1.** *The smoothing  $X_1$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus dP_6$ .*

*Proof.* Specialize to some  $t \neq 0$ . Then we can homogenize the equations with respect to  $y_1$  to obtain a projective variety in 8 variables. However, in this form,  $y_0 - ty_1$  and  $y_0$  are linearly independent, hence by a change of variables, we see that this variety is in fact isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  in its Segre embedding. See Figure 2.2b.

What we gained by homogenizing is exactly the projective variety given by setting  $y_1 = 0$ . But then we get back the equations of  $dP_6$  in  $\mathbb{P}^6$ .  $\square$

The second smoothing is obtained by deforming the equations of  $dP_6$  as a subvariety of  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$ . Namely, consider the following matrix:

$$\begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_0 & x_6 \\ x_2 & x_3 & y_0 - t_1 \\ y_0 - t_2 & x_4 & x_5 \end{vmatrix} \leq 1. \quad (2.1)$$

For  $t_1 = t_2 = 0$ , we get the cone over  $dP_6$ , while for generic  $t_i$ , we get a smooth variety. In fact, we can compute that the discriminant locus (the set of points in  $\mathbb{A}_{t_1, t_2}^2$  with singular fiber) are the  $t_1$ -axis, the  $t_2$ -axis and the line  $t_1 = t_2$ .

Call (any) smooth fiber  $X_2$ .

**Lemma 2.3.2.** *Let  $M = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{P}^2})$  be the projective bundle associated to the tangent sheaf on  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Then the smoothing  $X_2$  is isomorphic to  $M \setminus dP_6$ .*

*Proof.* The technique is the same as in the previous proof. First homogenize the equations (2.1) with respect to  $y_1$ . Call the homogenized variety  $M$ . Put  $y'_0 = y_0$ ,  $y'_1 = y_0 - ty_1$  and  $y'_2 = y_0 - t_2y_1$ . Then we have the relation

$$h = t_2y'_1 - t_1y'_2 - (t_1 - t_2)y'_0 = 0.$$

Hence we see that  $M = \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2 \cap (h = 0)$ . We can pull back the coordinates  $y'_i$  to  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$  have coordinates  $x_0, x_1, x_2$  and  $y_0, y_1, y_2$ . Then  $h$  pulls back to the equation

$$(x_0, x_1, x_2) \cdot (-t_1y_2, (t_1 - t_2)y_0, t_2y_1) = 0$$

in  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$ . As long as  $t_1 \neq t_2$  and  $t_1, t_2 \neq 0$ , we can do a change of coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}_{y_0y_1y_2}^2$ , so that  $h$  transforms to

$$(x_0, x_1, x_2) \cdot (y_0, y_1, y_2) = 0.$$

Hence we see that  $M$  is isomorphic to the total space of the Grassmannian of lines in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  (each point in one of the  $\mathbb{P}^2$ 's give a line in the other  $\mathbb{P}^2$ ). This is in turn isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{P}^2})$ , since each tangent vector through a point determines a line through it.

Now, what have we gained by homogenizing? The divisor at infinity is  $y_1 = 0$ , which is a  $dP_6$  again. In our new coordinates this is equivalent to  $y'_1 = y'_2 = y'_0$ . Hence in the coordinates of  $\mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$ , the  $dP_6$  is given by the two equations  $x_1y_0 - x_2y_1 = x_1y_0 - x_0y_2 = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.3.** *The cohomology ring of  $M = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{P}^2})$  is  $\mathbb{Z}[x, y]/(x^3, y^2 + c_1y + c_2)$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  have degree 2. In particular, the cohomology of  $M$  is given by  $(1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1)$ .*

*Proof.* The first claim follows from the Leray-Hirsch theorem. See [BT82, page 270]. The next claim follows since  $x$  and  $y$  both have degree 2.  $\square$

We can use what we know about the topology of these spaces to compute homology groups of the two affine smoothings.

**Theorem 2.3.4.** *The two affine smoothings are topologically different. The homology groups are:*

Group	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Euler-characteristic
$H^i(X_1, \mathbb{Z})$	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2
$H^i(X_2, \mathbb{Z})$	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0

*Proof.* The singular cohomology of  $M = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  is given by  $(1, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 1)$ , which can be computed by the Künneth formula. The cohomology of  $dP_6$  is given by  $(1, 0, 4, 0, 1)$ .

We will use the Lefschetz duality theorem [Spa66], which in this case says that  $H_q(M \setminus dP_6, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^{6-q}(M, dP_6, \mathbb{Z})$ . Then the long exact sequence of the pair  $(M, dP_6)$  immediately gives  $h_0(X_1, \mathbb{Z}) = 1$ . Similarly, we see that  $h_5(X_1, \mathbb{Z}) = h_6(X_1, \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ , since the map  $H^1(M, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(D, \mathbb{Z})$  is an isomorphism.

The other groups depend upon the explicit form of the maps  $H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(D, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $H^4(M, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^4(D, \mathbb{Z})$ .

By Poincaré duality ((reference)), the induced map corresponds to intersecting the divisors on  $M$  with  $dP_6$ . Computing, we get that map is given by the following matrix:

$$H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H_4(M, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^3 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}^4 \simeq H_2(dP_6, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^2(dP_6, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Find reference

This is an injective map, and it follows from the long-exact sequence and the Lefschetz theorem that  $H_3(X_1) \simeq H^3(M, dP_6) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ , and also that  $H_4(X_1) = 0$ .

Similarly, the map  $H^4(M) \rightarrow H^4(dP_6)$  is computed to be given by  $(a, b, c) \mapsto a + b + c$ , since the three  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 's intersect  $dP_6$  in a single point. This map has two-dimensional kernel, and we conclude that  $H_2(X_1) \simeq H^4(M, dP_6) = \mathbb{Z}^2$ , and that  $H^1(X_1) = 0$ .

The computations for  $X_2$  are similar but more involved. We first note that the Picard group of  $M = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{P}^2})$  is generated by the pullbacks  $F, G$  of the generators of  $\text{Pic}(\mathbb{P}_{x_0x_1x_2}^2 \times \mathbb{P}_{y_0y_1y_2}^2)$ . Say  $F$  is represented by  $V(x_0)$  and  $G$  is represented by  $V(y_0)$ .

check transversal  
intersection with  
dP6

Again we compute the intersections of  $F$  and  $G$  with  $dP_6$ . Intersecting with  $F$  is computed by decomposing the ideal  $(x_0, x_1y_0 - x_2y_1, x_1y_0 - x_0y_2)$  in  $k[x_0, x_1, x_2, y_0, y_1, y_2]$  and saturating by  $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$  and  $(y_0, y_1, y_2)$ . This can either be done by hand or by using Macaulay2. Either way, we find that  $F|_{dP_6} = E_3 + L_{23} + E_2 = H$ , using the notation from earlier this chapter. Similarly  $G|_{dP_6} = L_{23} + L_{12} + E_2 = 2H - E_1 - E_2 - E_3$ . Hence the map on cohomology is given by the matrix

$$H^2(M, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H_4(M, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^2 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}^4 \simeq H_2(dP_6, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^2(dP_6, \mathbb{Z}).$$

This is an injective map, and as above, we conclude that  $H_3(X_2) \simeq H^3(M, dP_6) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^2$ , and also that  $H_4(X_1) = 0$ . □

**Remark.** In fact, the Andreotti-Frankel theorem [AF59] states the following: if  $V$  is any smooth affine variety of complex dimension  $n$ , then it has the homotopy type of a CW complex of dimension  $n$ .

# Chapter 3

## A smooth Calabi-Yau

Consider the hexagon  $E_6$ . The join  $E_6 * E_6$  is a 3-dimensional sphere, and so a smoothing of the corresponding Stanley-Reisner scheme would correspond to a smooth Calabi-Yau manifold. In this chapter I prove that there does indeed exist a smoothing, and I describe some of its properties.

Description, singularities, etc.

### 3.1 Isolated singularities

The smoothing process is done by deforming the ambient space. First, note that  $\mathcal{K} = E_6 * \mathcal{E}_6 * \Delta^0 * \Delta^0$ , is a 5-dimensional simplicial sphere, which is the join of two hexagons with interior. The Stanley-Reisner ring of  $\mathcal{K}$  is the tensor product  $k[E_6 * \Delta^0] \otimes_k k[E_6 * \Delta^0]$ . Each of the factors deform to the affine cone over a del Pezzo surface of degree 6, the same one as in Chapter 2.

It follows that  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K})$  deforms to a toric variety  $Y_0$ , whose defining polytope is the *join* of two hexagons. Since the ideal of  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{K}) \subset \mathbb{P}^{13}$  splits into two groups  $I + J$ , it is not hard to see that the singular locus of  $Y_0$  consists of two disjoint copies of  $\mathrm{dP}_6$ .

**Lemma 3.1.1.** *Let  $X_0$  be the intersection of  $Y_0$  with two general hyperplanes in  $\mathbb{P}^{13}$ . Then  $X_0$  is a singular Calabi-Yau variety with 12 isolated singularities.*

find better section title

*Proof.* Away from the singular locus of  $Y_0$ , the intersection is smooth by Bertini.

The singular locus of  $Y_0$  is equal to  $\mathrm{dP}_6 \sqcup \mathrm{dP}_6$ , hence is of dimension 2 and degree 12. Two general hyperplanes will intersect the singular locus in 12 points.

Then one form of Bertini's theorem [Har95, page 216], says that all singular points on  $X$  comes from those of  $Y$ .  $\square$

We can determine the types of the singularities of  $X_0$ .

**Lemma 3.1.2.** *Let  $(U, p_i)$  be the germ of  $X_0$  at  $p_i$ . Then  $(U, p_i) \simeq (C(\mathrm{dP}_6), 0)$ .*

*Proof.* In each chart,  $X_0$  looks like  $\mathbb{A}^2 \times C(\mathrm{dP}_6)$ . Let  $\mathbb{A}^2$  have coordinates  $x_2, x_6$  and  $C(\mathrm{dP}_6)$  have coordinates  $z_1, \dots, z_6, y_1$ . Then  $X_0$  is the zero set of  $I(f, g)$ , where  $f, g$  are polynomials that are linear in the  $z_i, y_1$  and degree 4 in  $x_2$  and  $x_6$  (in fact, the Newton polyhedron of  $f(x_2, x_6, 0, \dots, 0)$  is a hexagon).

Let  $p_i = (a_1, a_2, 0, \dots, 0)$  be a singular point. By a change of variables, we can translate  $p_i$  to the origin. Then  $f = x_2 u_1 + l(z_1, \dots, z_6, y_1)$  and  $g = x_6 u_2 + l'(z_1, \dots, z_6, y_1)$ , where  $u_1, u_2$  are units around the origin, and  $l, l'$  are linear forms in  $k[z_1, \dots, z_6, y_1]$ .

Hence for a small enough  $U$  (such that  $u_1, u_2$  are units restricted to  $U$ ), we can do another change of variables, letting  $x'_2 = x_2 u_1$ , and  $x'_6 = x_6 u_2$ . This allows us to eliminate  $x_2, x_6$  locally from the equations, and we are left with  $C(\mathrm{dP}_6)$ .  $\square$

## 3.2 Euler characteristic



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