Kodaira Vanishing Theorem

1 Preliminary

Theorem 1 (Serre Duality)**.** Let X be a Cohen-Macaulay projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbf{k}$ and D a divisor on X. Then there is an isomorphism

$$H^i(X, D) \cong H^{n-i}(X, K_X - D)^\vee, \quad \forall i = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Theorem 2 (Log Resolution of Singularities)**.** Let X be an irreducible reduced algebraic variety over $\mathbb{C}$ (or a suitably small neighborhood of a compact set of an irreducible reduced analytic space) and $I \subset \mathcal{O}_X$ a coherent sheaf of ideals defining a closed subscheme (or subspace) Z. Then there is a smooth variety (or analytic space) Y and a projective morphism $f : Y \to X$ such that

(a) f is an isomorphism over $X - (\operatorname{Sing}(X) \cup \operatorname{Supp} Z)$,

(b) $f^*I \subset \mathcal{O}_Y$ is an invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_Y(-D)$ and

(c) $\operatorname{Exc}(f) \cup D$ is an snc divisor.

Theorem 3 (Lefschetz Hyperplane Theorem)**.** Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbb{C}$ and Y a hyperplane section of X. Then the restriction map

$$H^k(X, \mathbb{C}) \to H^k(Y, \mathbb{C})$$

is an isomorphism for $k < n - 1$ and an injection for $k = n - 1$.

Theorem 4 (Hodge Decomposition)**.** Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbb{C}$. Then for any k, there is a functorial decomposition

$$H^k(X, \mathbb{C}) = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} H^p(X, \Omega_X^q).$$

Combine Theorem 3 and Theorem 4, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 5. Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbb{C}$ and Y a hyperplane section of X. Then the restriction map $r_k : H^k(X, \mathbb{C}) \to H^k(Y, \mathbb{C})$ decomposes as

$$r_k = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} r_{p,q}, \quad r_{p,q} : H^p(X, \Omega_X^q) \to H^p(Y, \Omega_Y^q).$$

And $r_{p,q}$ is an isomorphism for $p + q < n - 1$ and an injection for $p + q = n - 1$. In particular,

$$H^p(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \to H^p(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$$

is an isomorphism for $p < n - 1$ and an injection for $p = n - 1$.

Date: September 13, 2025, **Author**: Tianle Yang, My Website

Theorem 6 (Leray spectral sequence)**.** Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of varieties and $\mathcal{F}$ a coherent sheaf on Y. Then there is a spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(X, R^q f_* \mathcal{F}) \implies H^{p+q}(Y, \mathcal{F}).$$

2 Kodaira Vanishing Theorem

Lemma 7. Let X be a smooth projective variety over $\mathbf{k}$ and $\mathcal{L}$ a line bundle on X. Suppose there is an integer m and a smooth divisor $D \in H^0(X, \mathcal{L}^m)$. Then there exists a finite surjective morphism $f : Y \to X$ of smooth projective varieties such that $D' := f^{-1}(D)$ is smooth and satisfies that $bD' = af^*D$.

Proof. Let $s \in \mathcal{L}^m$ be the section defining D. It induces a homomorphism $\mathcal{L}^{-m} \to \mathcal{O}_X$. Consider the $\mathcal{O}_X$-algebra

$$\mathcal{A} := \left(\bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{L}^{-i} \right) \Big/ (\mathcal{L}^{-m} \to \mathcal{O}_X) \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^{m-1} \mathcal{L}^{-i}.$$

Then $\mathcal{A}$ is a finite $\mathcal{O}_X$-algebra. Let $Y \coloneqq \operatorname{Spec}_X \mathcal{A}$. Then Y is a finite $\mathcal{O}_X$-scheme and the natural morphism $f : Y \to X$ is finite and surjective.

For every $x \in X$, let $\mathcal{L}$ locally generated by t near x. Then $\mathcal{O}_Y$ locally equal to $\mathcal{O}_X[t]/(t^m - s)$. Let D' be the divisor locally given by $t = 0$ on Y. Since X and D are smooth, then Y is a smooth variety and D' is smooth. Since f is finite, it is proper. Then Y is proper and hence Y is projective. □

Remark 8. Let D_i be reduced effective divisors on X such that $D + \sum_{i=1}^k D_i$ is snc. Set $D_i' = f^*(D_i)$. Then $D' + \sum_{i=1}^k D_i'$ is snc on Y by considering the local regular system of parameters.

Lemma 9. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a finite surjective morphism of projective varieties and $\mathcal{L}$ a line bundle on X. Suppose that X is normal. Then for any $i \geq 0$, $H^i(X, \mathcal{L})$ is a direct summand of $H^i(Y, f^*\mathcal{L})$.

Proof. Since f is finite, we have $H^i(Y, f^*\mathcal{L}) \cong H^i(X, f_*\mathcal{O}_Y \otimes \mathcal{L})$. Since X are normal, the inclusion $\mathcal{O}_X \to f_*\mathcal{O}_Y$ splits by the trace map $(1/n)\operatorname{Tr}_{Y/X}$. Thus we have $f_*\mathcal{O}_Y \cong \mathcal{O}_X \oplus \mathcal{F}$ and hence

$$H^i(X, f_*\mathcal{O}_Y \otimes \mathcal{L}) \cong H^i(X, \mathcal{L}) \oplus H^i(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{L}).$$

Then the conclusion follows. □

Theorem 10 (Kodaira Vanishing Theorem)**.** Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 and A an ample divisor on X. Then

$$H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X(-A)) = 0, \quad \forall i < n.$$

Equivalently, we have

$$H^i(X, K_X + A) = 0, \quad \forall i > 0.$$

Proof. By Lemma 7 and 9, after taking a multiple of A, we can assume that A is effective. Then we have an exact sequence

$$0 \to \mathcal{O}_X(-A) \to \mathcal{O}_X \to \mathcal{O}_A \to 0.$$

Taking the long exact sequence of cohomology, we have

$$H^{i-1}(X,\mathcal{O}_X) \to H^{i-1}(X,\mathcal{O}_A) \to H^i(X,\mathcal{O}_X(-A)) \to H^i(X,\mathcal{O}_X) \to H^i(X,\mathcal{O}_A).$$

Then the conclusion follows from Lemma 5 and Serre duality (Theorem 1). □

3 Kawamata-Viehweg Vanishing Theorem

We list three versions of Kawamata-Viehweg Vanishing Theorem here.

Theorem 11 (Kawamata-Viehweg Vanishing Theorem I)**.** Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 and D a nef and big $\mathbb{R}$-divisor on X. Then

$$H^i(X,K_X+D)=0, \quad \forall i>0.$$

Theorem 12 (Kawamata-Viehweg Vanishing Theorem II)**.** Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n over $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 and D a nef and big $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor on X. Suppose that $\lceil D\rceil - D$ has snc support. Then

$$H^i(X,K_X+\lceil D\rceil)=0, \quad \forall i>0.$$

Theorem 13 (Kawamata-Viehweg Vanishing Theorem III)**.** Let (X,B) be a klt pair over $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0. Let D be a nef $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor on X such that $D+K_{(X,B)}$ is a Cartier divisor. Then

$$H^i(X,K_{(X,B)}+D)=0, \quad \forall i>0.$$

If we replace the assumption "nef and big" of D by "ample" in II and III, we denote them as “II(ample)” and “III(ample)” respectively. Then the proof follows the following line:

$$\text{Kodaira Vanishing} \implies \text{II(ample)} \implies \text{III(ample)} \implies \text{I} \implies \text{II} \implies \text{III}.$$

The proofs leave here and the lemmas used in the proofs are collected in the end of this section.

Proof of II (Theorem 12). Set $M := \lceil D\rceil$. Let

$$B := \sum_{i=1}^{k} b_iB_i := \lceil D\rceil - D = M-A, \quad b_i\in(0,1)\cap\mathbb{Q}.$$

We do not require that B_i are irreducible but we require that B_i are smooth.

We induct on k. When $k=0$, the conclusion follows from Theorem 11. (For the ample case, it follows Kodaira Vanishing Theorem (Theorem 10.)) Let $b_k=a/c$ with lowest terms. Then $a<c$. By Lemma 15 and 9, we can assume that $(1/c)B_k$ is a Cartier divisor (not necessarily effective). Applying Lemma 7 on B_k, we can find a finite surjective morphism $f: X'\to X$ such that $f^*B_k=cB_k', B_i'=f^*B_i$ for $i<k$ and $\sum_{i=1}^k B_i'$ is an snc divisor on X'. Let $B'=\sum_{i=1}^{k-1}B_i', A'=f^*A$ and $M'=f^*M$. Then $A'+B'=M'-aB_k'$ is Cartier. Hence by induction hypothesis, $H^i(X',-A'-B')$ vanishes for $i>0$. On the other hand, we have

$$\mathcal{O}_{X'}(-M'+aB_k') \cong \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} f^*\mathcal{O}_X(-M+(a-i)B_k).$$

Hence $H^i(X,\mathcal{O}_X(-M))$ is a direct summand of $H^i(X',\mathcal{O}_{X'}(-M'+aB_k'))$ by Lemma 9. □

Proof of III (Theorem 13). Let $f : \tilde{X} \to X$ be a resolution such that $\operatorname{Supp} f^*B \cup \operatorname{Exc} f$ is snc. We can write

$$f^*(K_{(X,B)} + D) + E = K_{(\tilde{X},\tilde{B})} + f^*D,$$

where $\tilde{B} \in (0,1)$ has snc support and E is an effective exceptional divisor.

By Lemma 14, we have

$$H^i(\tilde{X}, K_{(\tilde{X},\tilde{B})} + f^*D) = H^i(X, f_*\mathcal{O}_Y(f^*(K_{(X,B)} + D) + E)) = H^i(X, K_{(X,B)} + D),$$

and the left hand vanishes by Theorem 12 in either case relative to the assumption of D. □

Proof of I (Theorem 11). By Lemma 17, we can choose $k \gg 0$ such that $(X, 1/kB)$ is a klt pair with $D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} A + \frac{1}{k}B$ for some ample divisor A. Then the theorem comes down to Theorem 13. □

Lemma 14. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a birational morphism of projective varieties with Y smooth and X has only rational singularities. Let E be an effective exceptional divisor on Y and D a divisor on X. Then we have

$$f_*(\mathcal{O}_Y(f^*D + E)) \cong \mathcal{O}_X(D), \quad R^i f_*(\mathcal{O}_Y(f^*D + E)) = 0, \quad \forall i > 0.$$

Proof. Yang: I am unable to proof this lemma. □

Lemma 15. Let X be a projective variety, $\mathcal{L}$ a line bundle on X and $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Then there exists a finite surjective morphism $f : Y \to X$ and a line bundle $\mathcal{L}'$ on Y such that $f^*\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{L}'^m$. If X is smooth, then we can take Y to be smooth. Moreover, if $D = \sum D_i$ is an snc divisor on X, then we can take f such that f^*D is an snc divisor on Y.

Proof. We can assume that $\mathcal{L}$ is very ample by writing it as a difference of two very ample line bundles. Consider the fiber product $Y := \mathbb{P}^N \times_{\mathbb{P}^N} X$ as the following diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} Y \arrow[r, "\psi"] \arrow[d, "f"'] & \mathbb{P}^N \arrow[d, "g"] \\ X \arrow[r, "\varphi_{\mathcal{L}}"] & \mathbb{P}^N \end{tikzcd},$$

where $g : [x_0 : \ldots : x_N] \mapsto [x_0^m : \ldots : x_N^m]$. The morphism f is finite and surjective since so is g. Let $\mathcal{L}' := \psi^*\mathcal{L}$.

For smoothness, we can compose g with a general automorphism of $\mathbb{P}^N$. Then the conclusion follows from [Har77, Chapter III, Theorem 10.8]. □

Lemma 16 (ref. [KM98, Theorem 5.10, 5.22])**.** Let (X, B) be a klt pair over $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0. Then X has rational singularities and is Cohen-Macaulay.

Lemma 17. Let X be a projective variety of dimension n and D a nef and big divisor on X. Then there exists an effective divisor B such that for every k, there is an ample divisor A_k such that

$$D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} A_k + \frac{1}{k}B.$$

Proof. By Yang: definition of big divisor, there exists an ample divisor A_1 and effective divisor B such that

$$D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} A_1 + B.$$

Then we have

$$D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} \frac{A + (k-1)D}{k} + \frac{1}{k}B.$$

Since A is ample and D is nef, we can take $A_k = (A + (k-1)D)/k$ which is ample. □

References

[Har77] Robin Hartshorne. *Algebraic geometry*. Vol. No. 52. Graduate Texts in Mathematics. Springer-Verlag, New York-Heidelberg, 1977, pp. xvi+496. ISBN: 0-387-90244-9 (cit. on p. 4).

[KM98] János Kollár and Shigefumi Mori. *Birational geometry of algebraic varieties*. Vol. 134. Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics. With the collaboration of C. H. Clemens and A. Corti, Translated from the 1998 Japanese original. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998, pp. viii+254. ISBN: 0-521-63277-3. DOI: 10.1017/CBO9780511662560. URL: https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511662560 (cit. on p. 4).