

PROJECTIVE VARIETIES

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(MPI-MIS)

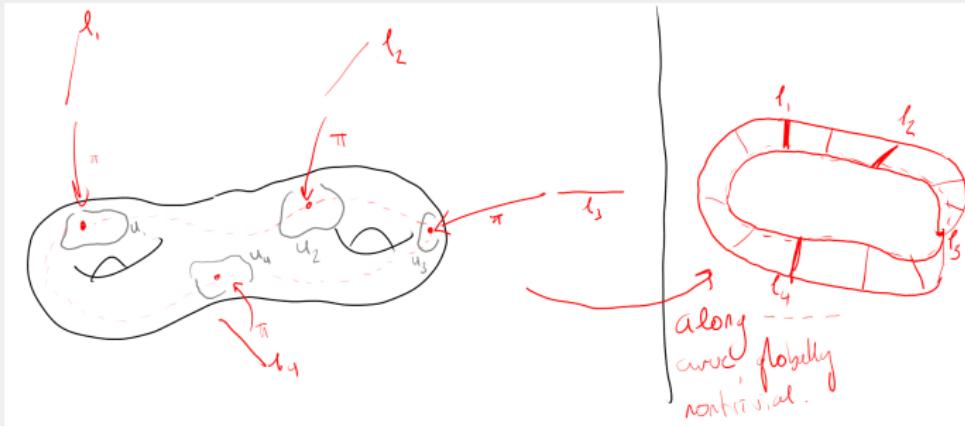
MAY 23, 2022



WARNINGS

- This talk will necessarily be sketchy.
- We always assume (usually without explicit statement) that the objects are ‘nice enough to make the theorems true’.
- Usually this means all varieties are complete and smooth over \mathbb{C} .

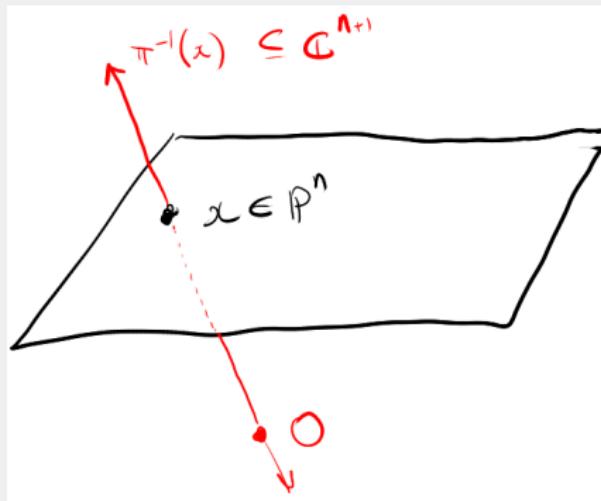
LINE BUNDLES



Line bundle over X : A space \mathcal{E} with a map $\pi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow X$ such that

- $\pi^{-1}(x)$ is a 1-dimensional vector space for all $x \in X$, and
- around each $x \in X$ there is a neighbourhood U such that $\pi^{-1}(U)$ is isomorphic (as a vector space) to $U \times \mathbb{R}$ in a way compatible with the two projections π and $U \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow U$.

THE NATURAL LINE BUNDLE ON \mathbb{P}^n



The tautological line bundle $\pi : \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ with $\pi^{-1}(x)$ the line in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} defining x . The local trivialisation cover can be chosen to be the usual open cover of \mathbb{P}^n by $n + 1$ affine spaces.

INVERTIBLE SHEAVES

- Let \mathcal{E} be a line bundle over X . Let (U_i) be an open cover giving a local trivialisation.
- For each U_i , set $\mathcal{E}(U_i)$ to be the set of continuous sections of \mathcal{E} over U_i , i.e. the set of maps $\phi : U_i \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ such that $\pi\phi = \text{id}$.
- If X is actually a variety then we replace ‘continuous’ with ‘polynomial’ and take lines to be 1D over \mathbb{C} , so \mathcal{E} becomes a subsheaf of \mathcal{O}_X .
- The sheaves associated to line bundles are called **invertible sheaves**.

WEIL DIVISORS AND LINE BUNDLES

- Suppose \mathcal{L} is a line bundle whose associated sheaf has global sections generated by s_0, \dots, s_n .
- Then there is a natural Weil divisor associated to \mathcal{L} , namely the union of the zeros of the s_i .
- Conversely, if $D = \sum a_i D_i$ is a Weil divisor then we can associate an invertible sheaf $\mathcal{L}(D)$, namely the ‘sheaf whose sections are functions who locally have poles at of order at worst $-a_i$.

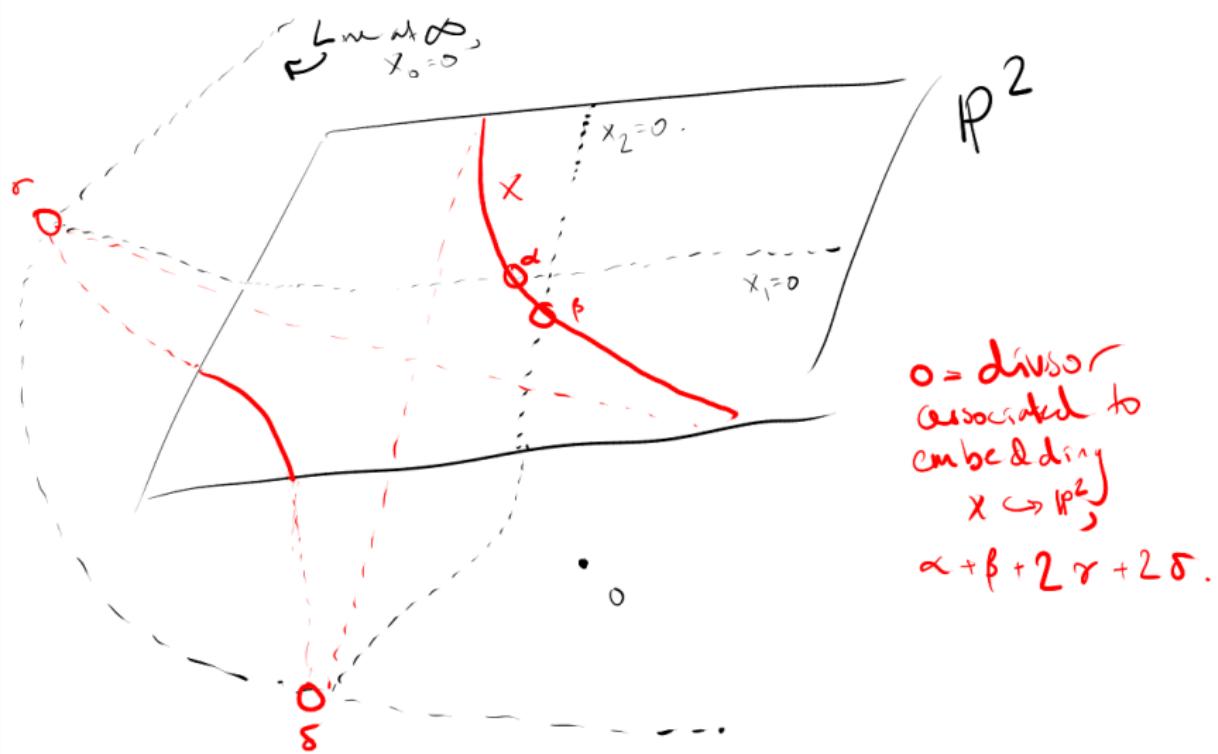
THE DUAL BUNDLE: THE SERRE TWISTING SHEAF

- The dual vector bundle to the tautological bundle is the bundle $\mathcal{O}(1)$ whose fibre over x is the set of hyperplanes in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} orthogonal to the line defining x (i.e. the 1-dimensional vector space of linear functionals on \mathbb{C}^{n+1} which kill the line).
- Let $f : \mathbb{P}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a global section of $\mathcal{O}(1)$; then f is a polynomial map $\mathbb{P}^n \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}, \mathbb{C}) \simeq \mathbb{C}$; this map has to behave linearly when passing between the affine open subsets and so must be of degree 1.
- Thus the global sections of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ are the linear forms on \mathbb{P}^n .
- Hence there is a global set of section generators for $\mathcal{O}(1)$, the coordinate forms x_0, \dots, x_n .

PROJECTIVE VARIETIES

- Let X be a smooth variety over \mathbb{C} . Let $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a morphism.
- The pullback $\varphi^*\mathcal{O}(1)$ entirely determines X , since points in \mathbb{P}^n are determined by the set of hyperplanes through them (= the fibres of $\varphi^*\mathcal{O}(1)$).
- The invertible sheaf $\varphi^*\mathcal{O}(1)$ has an associated Weil divisor: the intersection of $\varphi(X)$ with the standard coordinate hyperplanes of \mathbb{P}^n (= the individual zero sets of the global generators of the pullback sheaf).
- **Theorem.** Conversely, if \mathcal{L} is an invertible sheaf on X and if s_0, \dots, s_n generate $\mathcal{L}(X)$, then there exists a unique morphism $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ such that $\mathcal{L} \simeq \varphi^*\mathcal{O}(1)$ and $s_i = \varphi^*(x_i)$ for each i .

PROJECTIVE VARIETIES

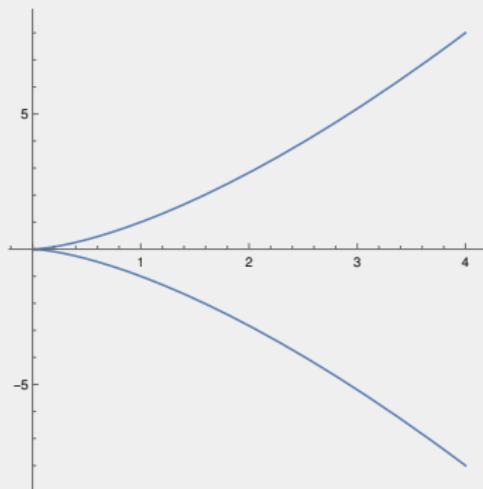


VOLUME POLYNOMIALS

- The choice of embedding $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ has an associated degree $\deg \varphi$.
- $\mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ -linear combinations of divisors which give embeddings also give embeddings.
- **Question.** What is $\deg(\lambda_1 \varphi_1 + \dots + \lambda_k \varphi_k)$?
- **Answer.** It is a homogeneous polynomial in the variables $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$, called the **volume polynomial** of $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k$.

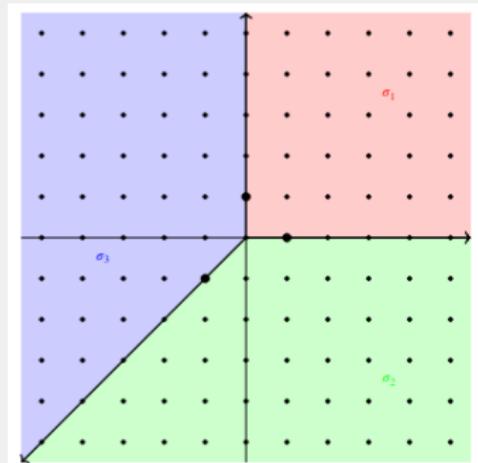
TORIC VARIETIES

- **Toric variety:** a variety V/\mathbb{C} which contains an open subvariety isomorphic to $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ such that the action of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ on itself by multiplication extends algebraically to the entirety of V .
- **Examples.** \mathbb{A}^n ; \mathbb{P}^n (the torus is the projection of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n+1}$); the cusped cubic $Z(Y^2 - X^3)$.



TORIC VARIETIES AND FANS

The toric variety structure is determined locally (on torus-invariant open sets) by the semigroup of characters $\chi : (\mathbb{C}^*)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ which extend regularly to the whole open set. The gluing of the open sets to form the variety is reflected in the gluing of the character semigroups into a polyhedral fan.



VOLUME POLYNOMIALS IN THE TORIC CASE

- Let $X = X_\Sigma$ for some fan Σ over M . The divisor class group of X_Σ is generated by the characters χ^m .
- Let D be a torus-invariant divisor of X_Σ . Then D is the closure of an orbit corresponding to one of the rays of Σ . The group of torus-invariant divisors is $\langle D_\tau : \tau \in \Sigma(1) \rangle$.
- **Lemma.** $\text{Div } \chi^m = \langle m, u_\tau \rangle D_\tau$ where u_τ is a minimal ray generator for τ .
- **Theorem.** If $D = \sum a_\tau D_\tau$ then $\chi^m \in \mathcal{L}(D)(X_\Sigma)$ iff $\langle m, u_\tau \rangle \geq -a_\tau$ for all τ .
- **Corollary.** The set of torus-invariant Weil divisors of X_Σ is in bijection with the set of polyhedra.

VOLUME POLYNOMIALS OF TORIC VARIETIES

Theorem

Let D_1, \dots, D_k be torus-invariant (ample) divisors on a toric X_Σ of (complex) dimension n with corresponding embeddings φ_i and polyhedra P_i . Then

$$\text{Vol}(\lambda_1 \varphi_1 + \dots + \lambda_k \varphi_k) = (\lambda_1 D_1 + \dots + \lambda_k D_k)^n = k! \text{Vol}(\lambda_1 P_1 + \dots + \lambda_k P_k).$$

Matching coefficients:

Corollary

$$V(P_1, \dots, P_n) = \frac{1}{k!} (D_1 \cdot \dots \cdot D_n).$$

GENERAL SITUATION

Theorem (Hodge index theorem)

Let X be a compact Kähler surface (e.g. a projective surface over \mathbb{C} , with Kähler structure induced by pulling back the Serre twisting sheaf). Then the standard middle cohomology pairing

$$H^2(X, \mathbb{R}) \times H^2(X, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow H^4(X, \mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathbb{R}$$
$$(\alpha, \beta) \mapsto \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle := \int_X \alpha \wedge \beta$$

satisfies $\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle < 0$ if α is taken in the orthogonal complement of the space of cohomology classes satisfying $\langle \beta, \beta \rangle > 0$. \(\blacksquare\)

- Then $D_1 \cdot D_2 = \langle c_1(D_1), c_1(D_2) \rangle$ is the usual intersection product.
- This generalises to give information about the middle cohomology product of higher-dimensional Kähler manifolds.

GENERAL SITUATION

Chow ring: "homology"

$D\mathcal{A}_1(X)$



X

Picard group: "cohomology"

$[f]$

corresponding
Cartier divisor



$H^2(X, \mathbb{R})$

$[F]$



Geometric idea
of "pole"

Differential forms
integrable nontrivially.

ALEXANDROV-FENCHEL INEQUALITY

Corollary

If D_1, D_2 are divisors on X , and $D_1, D_2 > 0$, then

$$(D_1 \cdot D_2)^2 \geq (D_1 \cdot D_1)(D_2 \cdot D_2).$$

Now let P_1 and P_2 be full-dimensional lattice polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^n and let D_1, D_2 be corresponding divisors giving toric embeddings.

$$V(P_1, P_2)^2 = \frac{1}{4}(D_1 \cdot D_2)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}(D_1 \cdot D_1)(D_2 \cdot D_2) = V(P_1, P_1)V(P_2, P_2).$$

A similar argument gives the full Alexandrov-Fenchel inequality for k polyhedra.

REMARKS

In general if the relevant divisors are ample then the volume polynomial

$$\text{Vol}\left(\sum \lambda_i \varphi_i\right)$$

is strictly Lorentzian.¹ In fact, one can prove a ‘Hodge index theorem’ over arbitrary loopless matroids and deduce that arbitrary Lorentzian polynomials satisfy the corresponding symmetry results.

¹A Lorentzian polynomial is a limit of strictly Lorentzian polynomials, and so if you replace ampleness with a the relevant weakened positivity criterion, **nefness** — roughly, a divisor is nef if it is a limit of ample divisors — you get Lorentzian polynomials.

ADVERTISEMENT

Reading Group: Positivity in Intersection Theory

We will take a very geometric approach
to a very geometric subject:
divisors with positive intersection numbers.

We will be interested particularly in concrete
examples and classical geometric problems (e.g.
volume calculation).



We will be reading *Positivity in Algebraic Geometry*
by Robert Lazarsfeld.

Rough background required:

basic algebraic geometry (as found in
Hartshorne chapters I and II) and differential
topology (e.g. as found in Bott/Tu). We will
take time to deal with detailed background as
needed.

Tentative start date & time:

Wed. 27 Jan, 2021 @ 2pm, location tbd

Please email aclz176@aucklanduni.ac.nz to express interest.

~Alex Elzenaar (masters student)

FURTHER READING

- Robert Lazarsfeld, *Positivity in Algebraic Geometry* (Springer)
- William Fulton, *Introduction to Toric Varieties* (Princeton)
- Claire Voisin, *Hodge Theory and Complex Algebraic Geometry* (Cambridge)
- Daniel Huybrechts, *Complex Geometry* (Springer)
- Yuriĭ D. Burago and Viktor A. Zalgaller, *Geometric Inequalities* (Springer)
- Matthew Baker, “Hodge Theory in Combinatorics” (survey article, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1705.07960>)