# HYPERBOLICITY FOR LOG CANONICAL PAIRS AND THE CONE THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. Given a log canonical pair  $(X, \Delta)$ , we show that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef assuming there is no non constant map from the affine line with values in the open strata of the stratification induced by the non-klt locus of  $\Delta$ . This implies a generalization of the Cone Theorem. Moreover, we give a criterion of Nakai type to determine when under the above condition  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample and we prove some partial results in the case of arbitrary singularities.

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#### 1. Introduction

Understanding the existence and distribution of curves on a given algebraic variety is a classical problem in algebraic geometry. For example, its significance in understanding the birational structure of algebraic varieits geometry – in particular, for the case of rational curves – has been evident since the early days of the subject, when the Italian School started the classification of algebraic surfaces.

In the past 30 years, with the emergence and development of the so-called Minimal Model Program (in short, MMP) such aspect has been investigated and understood in birational geometry in far greater generality, thanks to the work of many different people. The main realization has been that the existence of rational curves on a mildly singular normal variety is strictly related to the positivity properties of the cotangent bundle.

On the other hand, rational curves on varieties have been object of study long before the MMP was even imagined. Many authors turned their attention to the study of the existence/absence of rational curves and their distribution on a given

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variety, providing some interesting discoveries and conjectures. There are a number of famous open questions due to several authors that similarly predict a strong link between the positivity of the curvature of the cotangent bundle of a variety X and the absence or bounded distribution of non-trivial holomorphic maps  $f: \mathbb{C} \to X$ . The interested reader can consult [Dem12] for a survey of classical and more recent questions and results in this direction.

The main result of this paper is inscribed in this line of thought: we show that there is a clear connection between positivity properties of pairs given by algebraic varieties together with an effective divisor and the hyperbolicity properties of a stratification that is naturally induced by the singularities of the divisor and the ambient variety.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let X be a smooth projective variety and  $D = \sum j \in JD_j$  be a reduced simple normal crossing divisor on X. Assume that

- there is no non-constant morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus D$
- for any intersection of components of D,  $D_I = \cap_{i \in I} D_i$ ,  $I \subset J$  there is no non-constant morphism  $f : \mathbb{A}^1 \to (D_I \setminus \bigcup_{i \in (J \setminus I)} D_i)$ .

Then  $K_X + D$  is nef.

More generally, let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair and we assume that there is no non-constant morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus \{x \in X \mid \Delta \text{ is not Kawamata log terminal at } x\}$  and the same holds for all the open strata of the non-klt locus.

Then  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef.

Following Lu and Zhang, [LZ12], we say that a pair  $(X, \Delta)$  is Mori hyperbolic if it satisfies the assumptions in the above theorem on the non-existence of copies of  $\mathbb{A}^1$  in the stratification induced by the non-klt locus of  $\Delta$ . We generalize this definition to any normal singularity in Definition 5.1. When  $(X, \Delta)$  is a simple normal crossing pair, then the non-klt locus of  $\Delta$ , denoted  $(\Delta)$ , is the union of the components of coefficients  $\geq 1$  in  $\Delta$ . If the pair is not simple normal crossing, the non-klt locus is the image of the components of coefficient  $\geq 1$  of the pullback of  $K_X + \Delta$  to a log resolution, cf. Section 2.1.

Lu and Zhang proved a version of Theorem 1.1 for divisorial log terminal pairs assuming some factoriality conditions on the components, [LZ12, Thm. 3.1]. Similar results, in the context of algebraic stacks – and hence coarse moduli with quotient singularities – were obtained by McQuillan and Pacienza in [MP12]. Theorem 1.1 reproves these results and moreover shows it can be extended to the category of log canonical pairs: this is a much larger class of pairs that do not necessarily have rational singularities. Hence, a priori it is not clear why the stratification described in the statement of the theorem should contain rational curves at all.

The starting point for the MMP in the 80's, was the discovery, due to Mori – later improved by Kollár, Reid, Shokurov, Kawamata, Ambro – that the portion of the effective cone of curves on a normal mildly singular variety X generated by classes of negative intersection with the canonical divisor  $K_X$  is actually spanned by countably many classes of rational curves. This is a now classical result that goes under the name of Cone Theorem, cf. [KM98, Thm. 1.24]. It has been generalized to divisors of the form  $K_X + \Delta$ , when the pair  $(X, \Delta)$  has suitably nice singularities. It immediately implies that the absence of rational curves on a variety X guarantees the nefness of  $K_X + \Delta$ . Nonetheless, that is an extremely strong assumption. In order to obtain statements that apply to a wider class of cases, one is lead to wonder

what kind of hyperbolicity-like assumptions a pair  $(X, \Delta)$  could satisfy for  $K_X + \Delta$ to be nef. Moreover, in case such assumptions are not satisfied, one could then try to investigate how rational curves are distributed with respect to  $\Delta$ .

For example, let us consider a smooth quasi-projective variety U and a compactifying simple normal crossing pair (X, D),  $U = X \setminus D$ . In such context, these questions make even more sense in view of Iitaka's principle, see [Mat02, pg. 112]. In this context, Iitaka's principle is just predicting a correspondence between theorems about non-singular varieties and regular differential forms and theorems about quasi-projective varieties and their regular differential forms which extend to the boundary of a compactification with at worst order 1 poles.

Using Theorem 1.1, we are able to establish a version of the Cone Theorem describing the distribution of rational curves spanning  $K_X + D$ -negative extremal rays with respect to the boundary D.

With  $\overline{\text{NE}}_1(X)$  we shall denote the closure of the cone spanned by effective curves inside the group of curves with real coefficients modulo numerical equivalence.

# Theorem 1.2. [cf. Thm. 6.9]

Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair.

There exists countably many  $K_X + \Delta$ -negative rational curves  $C_i$  such that

$$\overline{\mathrm{NE}}_1(X) = \overline{\mathrm{NE}}_1(X)_{K_X + \Delta \ge 0} + \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{R}_{>0}[C_i].$$

Moreover, one of the two following conditions hold:

- $C_i \cap X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$  contains the image of a non constant morphism  $f : \mathbb{A}^1 \to \mathbb{A}$
- there exists an open stratum W of Nklt( $\Delta$ ) such that  $C_i \cap W$  contains the image of a non-constant morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to W$ .

When  $(X, \Delta)$  is a simple normal crossing pair, then the appearance of morphisms  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus D$  should be thought as the realization the Iitaka principle for the Cone Theorem.

Finally, for a Mori hyperbolic pair  $(X, \Delta)$ , we prove that the classical Nakai-Moishezon-Kleiman criterion, [Laz04a, Thm. 1.2.23], can be restated in a much simpler form: namely, it is enough to test ampleness only along the (finitely many) lc centers of  $\Delta$  rather than having to check postivity of the self-intersetion numbers along all subvarieties of X.

# Theorem 1.3. [cf. Cor. 7.5]

Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a dlt pair. Assume that the pair is Mori hyperbolic.

Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) K<sub>X</sub> + Δ is ample;
  (ii) (K<sub>X</sub> + Δ)<sup>dim X</sup> > 0 and (K<sub>X</sub>+)<sup>dim W</sup> ⋅ W > 0 for every log canonical center W ⊂ X of (X, Δ).

We explain now the structure of the proof of Theorem 1.1.

The notion of Mori hyperbolicity for a log pair  $(X, \Delta)$  has an inherently inductive nature. Hence, it is fair to expect that some sort of inductive approach could possibly lead to the above theorem. Indeed, this is the philosophy that we adopt in the course of the proof. A fundamental step in this sense is represented by the following result which makes clear the connection between the positivity of a Mori hyperbolic pair and its positivity along the non-klt locus of  $(X, \Delta)$ . That is in fact a general guiding principle in the study of purely lc pairs.

**Theorem 1.4.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$ , be a log pair. Assume that  $(X, \Delta)$  is Mori hyperbolic. Then  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef if it is nef when restricted to its  $(X, \Delta)$ .

To be able to use this result, we are actually forced to deal with singularities worse than log canonical. In the log smooth case, in fact, Theorem 1.4 immediately implies Theorem 1.1 simply by performing adjunction along the components of  $\Delta$  of coefficient 1 and by using Kawamata's estimates on the length of extremal rays, [Kaw91].

In the log canonical case, instead, the strata of the non-klt locus of  $(X, \Delta)$  are not as well behaved as in the log smooth case. It is just not possible to perform adjunction along a divisorial component, as there may not be any. Because of this, one tries to construct a new log pair  $(X', \Delta')$  with positive coefficients and nice singularities (of dlt type) together with a birational morphism  $\pi \colon X' \to X$  such that  $K_{X'} + \Delta' = \pi^*(K_X + \Delta)$ , cf. Theorem 3.3. The proof is then carried out by conducting a careful analysis of adjunction along lc centers of codimension greater than 1 with respect to the morphism  $\pi$ , by means of the canonical bundle formula. It is in the course of this last part of the proof that we have to consider also log pairs with singularities worse then log canonical. This is the truly new insight which is needed to generalize the whole result to the log canonical case and for which Theorem 1.4 has been developed.

The paper is structured as follows: in Section 2 and 4, we recall some preliminaries about singularities of the Minimal Model Program and the canonical bundle formula. In Section 3, we prove a special version of the existence of dlt modifications that will be needed in the proof of the Theorem 1.1. In Section 5, we define Mori hyperbolicity and describe some of its properties. Section 6 is devoted to the proof of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2, while in Section 7 we prove Theorem 1.3.

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**Notation and Conventions.** By the term variety, we will always mean an integral, separated, projective scheme over an algebraically closed field k. Unless otherwise stated, it will be understood that  $k = \mathbb{C}$ .

Unless otherwise specified, we adopt the same notations and conventions as in [KM98].

If  $D = \sum d_i D_i$  is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor on a normal variety X, where the  $D_i$ 's are the distinct prime components of D, then we define  $D^{*c} := \sum_{d_i * c} d_i D_i$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , where \* is any of  $=, \geq, \leq, >, <$ .

The support of an  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor  $\Delta = \sum_{i \in I} d_i D_i$  is the union of the prime divisors appearing in the formal sum,  $\operatorname{Supp}(D) = \bigcup_{\{i \in I \mid d_i \neq 0\}} D_i$ .

A log pair  $(X, \Delta)$  consists of a normal variety X and a Weil  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor  $\Delta \geq 0$  such that  $K_X + \Delta$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ -Cartier.

A log pair  $(X, \Delta = \sum_{i \in I} a_i D_i)$  is simple normal crossing (snc) if X and every component of D are smooth and all components  $D_i$  of D intersect transversally, i.e. for every  $p \in X$  one can choose a neighborhood  $U \ni p$  (in the Zariski topology) and local coordinates  $x_j$  s.t. for every i there is an index c(i) for which  $D_i \cap U = (x_{c(i)} = 0)$ . If  $(X, \Delta)$  is snc a stratum of  $(X, \Delta)$  is either X or an irreducible component of the intersection  $\bigcap_{\{i \in I \mid d_i = 1\}} D_j$ . Given a (closed) stratum, W, the corresponding  $open\ stratum$  is obtained from W by removing all the strata contained in W.

Given a normal variety X, a  $\mathbb{K}$ -b-divisor is a (possibly infinite) sum of geometric valuations of k(X) with coefficients in  $\mathbb{K}$ ,

$$\mathbb{D} = \sum_{i \in I} b_i V_i, \ V_i \subset k(X) \text{ and } b_i \in \mathbb{K}, \ \forall i \in I,$$

such that for every normal variety X' birational to X, only a finite number of the  $V_i$  can be realized by divisors on X'. The trace of  $\mathbb{D}$  on X',  $\mathbb{D}_{X'}$ , is defined as

$$\mathbb{D}_{X'} = \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ c_{X'}(V_i) = D_i \\ D_i \text{ is a divisor}}} b_i D_i.$$

## 2. Pairs and their singularities

**Definition 2.1.** A log resolution for a log pair  $(X, \Delta)$  is a projective birational morphism  $\pi: X' \to X$  such that the exceptional divisor E supports a  $\pi$ -ample divisor and  $\operatorname{Supp}(E + \pi_*^{-1}\Delta)$  is a simple normal crossing divisor.

Given a log resolution of  $(X, \Delta)$  as above, we can write

(1) 
$$K_{X'} + \pi_*^{-1} \Delta + \sum b_i E_i = \pi^* (K_X + \Delta),$$

where the  $E_i$ 's are the irreducible components of E.

**Definition 2.2.** The log discrepancy of  $E_i$  with respect to  $\Delta$  is  $a(E_i; X, \Delta) := 1 - b_i$ .

Given a pair  $(X, \Delta)$  and a geometric valuation V, we say that the valuation is exceptional if V is not associated to any divisor on X. In this case, it is possible to find a log resolution  $\pi: X' \to X$  such that V is realized on X' as the valuation associated to an exceptional prime Cartier divisor  $D \subset X'$  (cf. [KM98, Lemma 2.45]).

**Definition 2.3.** The log discrepancy of V is  $a(V; X, \Delta) := a(D; X, \Delta)$ .

It is easy to verify that the definition of log discrepancy does not depend on the choice of the log resolution.

The center of V on X, denoted  $c_X(V)$  or  $c_X(D)$ , is defined as  $\pi(D)$ . This notion is independent of the choice of the log resolution, too.

**Definition 2.4.** The discrepancy of a pair  $(X, \Delta)$  is

 $\operatorname{discrep}(X, \Delta) := \inf\{a(V; X, \Delta) | V \text{ divisorial valuation, exceptional over } X\}.$ 

For  $Z \subset X$  an integral subvariety and  $\eta_Z$  its generic point, we define

$$\mathbf{a}(Z; X, \Delta) = \inf_{V, c_X(V) \subseteq Z} \mathbf{a}(V; X, \Delta)$$
  
$$\mathbf{a}(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) = \inf_{V, c_X(V) = Z} \mathbf{a}(V; X, \Delta).$$

The log discrepancy of a divisorial valuations is the central object in the study of singularities of pairs. It is a well known fact (cf. [KM98]), that

$$0 \le \operatorname{discrep}(X, \Delta) \le \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X \text{ or } \operatorname{discrep}(X, \Delta) = -\infty.$$

The Minimal Model Program mainly focuses on studying those pairs whose log discrepancy is non-negative.

**Definition 2.5.** A log pair  $(X, \Delta)$  is kawamata log terminal (klt) (respectively log canonical (lc); divisorial log terminal (dlt)) if  $\operatorname{discrep}(X, \Delta) > 0$  and  $\lfloor \Delta \rfloor = 0$  (resp.  $\operatorname{discrep}(X, \Delta) \geq 0$ ; if the coefficients of  $\Delta$  are in [0, 1] and there exists a log resolution  $\pi: X' \to X$  such that all exceptional divisors have log discrepancy < 1).

# 2.1. The non-klt locus, lc centers and their stratification.

**Definition 2.6.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log pair and  $Z \subset X$  an integral subvariety. Then, Z is a non-kawamata log terminal center (in short, a non-klt center) if  $a(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) \leq 0$ .

The non kawamata log terminal locus (non-klt locus) of the pair  $(X, \Delta)$ ,  $Nklt(\Delta)$ , is the union of all the non-klt centers of X,

$$\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta) := \bigcup_{\{Z \mid \operatorname{a}(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) \leq 0\}} Z.$$

The non log canonical locus (non-lc locus) of the pair  $(X, \Delta)$ ,  $Nlc(\Delta)$ , is

$$Nlc(\Delta) := \{X \ni p \text{ closed point } | a(p; X, \Delta) = -\infty \}.$$

Z is a log canonical center (lc center) if  $a(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) = 0$  and for a generic point  $p \in Z$ ,  $a(p; X, \Delta) \geq 0$ , i.e.  $Z \nsubseteq Nlc(\Delta)$ .

**Remark 2.7.** Given a subvariety  $Z \subset X$  for which  $a(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) < 0$ , then for every point  $p \in Z$ ,  $a(p; X, \Delta) = -\infty$ , as it is easy to verify by passing to a log resolution. Hence, the above definition of  $Nlc(\Delta)$  is equivalent to the following alternative definition

$$\operatorname{Nlc}(\Delta) := \bigcup_{\{Z \subset X \mid \operatorname{a}(\eta_Z; X, \Delta) < 0\}} Z.$$

If we pass to a log resolution of  $(X, \Delta)$ ,  $\pi: X' \to X$  and write as in (1)

$$K_{X'} + \Delta_{X'} = K_{X'} + \pi_*^{-1} \Delta + \sum_i b_i E_i = \pi^* (K_X + \Delta) = K_{X'} + \sum_i b_i \Delta_i',$$

then 
$$\text{Nklt}(\Delta) = \pi(\text{Supp}(\sum_{i|b_i \geq 1} \Delta_i'))$$
 and  $\text{Nlc}(\Delta) = \pi(\text{Supp}(\sum_{i|b_i > 1} \Delta_i'))$ .

The complement in X of  $\mathrm{Nklt}(\Delta)$  is the biggest open set on which  $\Delta$  has just klt singularities and, analogously, the complement of  $\mathrm{Nlc}(\Delta)$  is the biggest open set of X on which  $\Delta$  has lc singularities.

The divisor  $\Delta_{X'}^{=1}$  is the source of lc centers of  $\Delta$ . It is easy to see (cf. [KM98, Lemma 2.29]) that all valuations of log discrepancy 0 with respect to  $\Delta$ , not contained in Nlc( $\Delta$ ), are given either by the components of  $\Delta_{X'}^{=1}$  or by blowing up the strata of  $\Delta_{X'}^{=1}$  and repeating the same procedure. Hence, the lc centers are nothing but the closures of the lc centers for the pair  $(X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta), \Delta|_{X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)})$ .

The union of the lc centers of  $(X, \Delta)$  is a subvariety of X (or a subscheme), but it carries a richer structure. It is in fact a subvariety stratified by the lc centers and it will be important for us to keep track of the strata.

**Definition 2.8.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log pair. Given a lc center W for  $(X, \Delta)$ , the total space of the stratification associated to  $(X, \Delta)$  on W is given by

$$\operatorname{Strat}(W,\Delta) := \bigcup_{\substack{W' \subsetneq W \\ W' \text{ lc center}}} W',$$

the union of the log canonical centers contained in W.

An important result about the structure of the non-klt locus, that we will need in the next sections of the paper, is the following connectedness theorem for negative maps, originally due to Shokurov.

**Theorem 2.9.** [K<sup>+</sup>92, Theorem 17.4] Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a lc pair and let  $\phi : X \to Y$  be a contraction of projective varieties, i.e.  $\phi_* \mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{O}_Y$ . Assume that  $-(K_X + \Delta)$  is  $\pi$ -nef and  $\pi$ -big. Then, every fiber of  $\pi$  has a neighborhood (in the classical topology) in which the Nklt( $\Delta$ ) is connected.

#### 3. Dlt modifications

When dealing with a pair  $(X, \Delta)$  that is not log smooth easy examples show that the adjunction formula might need the introduction of a correction term. That is, given a component D of  $\Delta$  of coefficient 1, it could happen that in the adjunction formula

$$(K_X + D)|_D \neq K_D.$$

For more details on this, see  $[K^+92, \S 16]$ .

When  $(X, \Delta)$  is dlt, it is possible to modify the theory and obtain something analogous to the classical adjunction setting, that furthermore behaves well when restricting to higher codimension lc centers.

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a dlt pair and  $W \subset X$  a lc center. There exists on W a naturally defined  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor  $\mathrm{Diff}_W^*\Delta \geq 0$  such that

$$(K_X + \Delta)|_W \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} K_W + \mathrm{Diff}_W^* \Delta$$

and the pair  $(W, \operatorname{Diff}_W^* \Delta)$  has all singularities. Moreover, the non-klt locus of  $(W, \operatorname{Diff}_W^* \Delta)$  is equal to the union of the lc centers of  $\Delta$  strictly contained in W.

The divisor  $\operatorname{Diff}_W^*\Delta$  can be defined inductively starting as in [K<sup>+</sup>92, Sec.16] from the case in which W=D is a divisor. Then

$$(K_X + D + (\Delta - D))|_D \sim_{\mathbb{O}} K_D + \operatorname{Diff}_D^* \Delta.$$

Working inductively,  $\mathrm{Diff}_W^*\Delta$  is constructed analogously whenever W is an irreducible component of a complete intersection of divisors in  $\lfloor \Delta \rfloor$ . In the case of dlt singularities, every lc center is of this form.

**Definition 3.2.** The divisor  $\operatorname{Diff}_W^* \Delta$  from Theorem 3.1 is called the different of  $\Delta$ 

An important fact, that will be needed multiple times in the following sections is that, starting with an lc pair, there always exists a crepant resolution giving a dlt pair.

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $(X, \Delta = \sum_i b_i D_i)$  be a log pair,  $0 < b_i \le 1$ . Then there exists a Q-factorial pair  $(Y, \Delta_Y = \sum_i b_i \Delta_i \geq 0)$  and a birational map  $\pi: Y \to X$  with the following properties:

- (i)  $K_Y + \Delta_Y = \pi^*(K_X + \Delta);$
- (ii) the pair  $(Y, \Delta'_Y) := \sum_{i|b_i < 1} b_i \Delta_i + \sum_{i|b_i \geq 1} \Delta_i)$  is dlt; (iii) every divisorial component of  $Exc(\pi)$  appears in  $\Delta'_Y$  with coefficient 1;
- (iv)  $\pi^{-1}(Nklt(\Delta)) = Nklt(\Delta_Y) = Nklt(\Delta_Y')$ .

*Proof.* For the proof of (i), (ii), (iii) one can refer to [KK10, 3.10]. Let  $\pi_Z: (Z, \Delta_Z) \to \mathbb{R}$ X be a modification satisfying these properties. Then

(2) 
$$\Delta_Z = \Delta_Z^{<1} + \Delta_Z^{\geq 1} = \sum_{i|b_i < 1} b_i D_i + \sum_{i|b_i \ge 1} b_i D_i$$

and  $(Z, \Delta_Z^{<1})$  is a klt pair. Moreover, as  $K_Z + \Delta_Z = \pi_Z^*(K_X + \Delta)$ ,

(3) 
$$K_Z + \Delta_Z^{<1} \sim_{\pi_Z, \mathbb{R}} -\Delta_Z^{\geq 1}.$$

Therefore, we can run a relative  $(K_Z + \Delta_Z^{<1})$ -MMP over X,  $\psi \colon (Z, \Delta_Z^{<1}) \dashrightarrow (Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{<1} := \psi_* \Delta_Z^{<1})$  and reach a model Z' on which the following conditions hold

- a)  $(Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1})$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial, klt pair; b)  $K_{Z'} + \Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1} + \Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1} = \pi_{Z'}^*(K_X + \Delta)$ , where  $\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1} := \psi_* \Delta_Z^{\geq 1}$  and  $\pi_{Z'} \colon Z' \to X$  is the structural map;
- c)  $K_{Z'} + \Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1}$  is  $\pi_{Z'}$ -nef and by (3) the same holds for  $-\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1}$ .

Properties a) and b) imply that  $Nklt(\Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1} + \Delta_{\overline{Z'}}^{\geq 1}) = Supp(\Delta_{\overline{Z'}}^{\geq 1})$ . In fact, the inclusion  $Nklt(\Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1} + \Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1}) \supseteq Supp(\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})$  follows form Definition 2.6. To prove the other inclusion, let W be a non-klt center not contained in  $\operatorname{Supp}(\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})$ . There exists a log resolution  $r: (S, \Delta_S) \to (Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{<1} + \Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})$  and a component  $F_1$  of  $\Delta_S$ whose coefficient is  $\geq 1$  and  $c_{Z'}(F_1) = W$ . As  $c_{Z'}(F_1) \nsubseteq \Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1}$ , it follows that  $a(F_1; Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1}) \leq 0$  as well, which is impossible as  $(Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{\leq 1})$  is klt.

Finally, take another dlt modification

$$\psi \colon (Y, \Delta_Y) \to (Z', \Delta_{Z'}^{<1} + \sum_{F_i \subset \text{Supp}(\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})} F_i)$$

with properties (1), (2), (3) from the statement of the theorem. The divisor  $-\psi^*(\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})$  will be a  $\pi$ -nef divisor, where  $\pi = \pi_{Z'} \circ \psi$ . The support of  $-\psi^*(\Delta_{Z'}^{\geq 1})$ contains all and only those components of  $\Delta_Y$  of coefficient  $\geq 1$ . By negativity, [KM98, Lemma 3.39],  $\pi: Y \to X$  satisfies condition (4) of the theorem.

4. Subadjunction for higher codimensional LC centers

# 4.1. Canonical bundle formula.

**Definition 4.1.** [FG12b] An lc-trivial fibration is the datum of a contraction of normal varieties  $\pi: Y \to Z$  and a pair  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$  s.t.

- (1)  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$  has sublc singularities over the generic point of Y, i.e.,  $Nlc(\Delta_Y)$  does not dominate Z and  $\Delta_Y$  could possibly contain components of negative coefficient;
- (2) rank  $\widetilde{\pi}_*\mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{Y}}(\lceil \mathbb{A}^*(Y,\Delta) \rceil) = 1$ , where  $\widetilde{\pi} = \pi \circ l$  and  $l \colon \widetilde{Y} \to Y$  is a log resolution of  $(Y,\Delta_Y)$ .  $\mathbb{A}^*(Y,\Delta)$  is the b-divisor whose trace on  $\widetilde{Y}$  is defined by the following equality

$$K_{\widetilde{Y}} = \widetilde{\pi}^*(K_Y + \Delta_Y) + \sum_{a_i \le -1} a_i D_i + \mathbb{A}^*(Y, \Delta)_{\widetilde{Y}}.$$

(3) there exist  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , a rational function  $\phi \in k(Y)$  and a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Cartier divisor D on Y s.t.

(4) 
$$K_Y + \Delta_Y + \frac{1}{r}(\phi) = \pi^* D$$
, i.e.  $K_Y + \Delta_Y \sim_{\pi, \mathbb{Q}} 0$ .

At times, we will denote an lc-trivial structure by  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$ .

**Definition 4.2.** An integral subvariety  $W \subset Z$  is an lc center of an lc-trivial fibration  $\pi \colon Y \to Z$ , if it is the image of an lc center  $W_Y \subset Y$  for  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$ .

**Remark 4.3.** A sufficient condition for (2) in definition 4.1 to hold is that  $\Delta_Y$  is log canonical, in which case,

$$\lceil \mathbb{A}^*(Y, \Delta_Y)_{\widetilde{Y}} \rceil = \lceil K_{\widetilde{Y}} - \pi^*(K_Y + \Delta_Y) + \sum_{a(E, Y, \Delta_Y) = 1} E \rceil$$

is always exceptional over Y. Under this hypothesis, an lc-trivial fibration is also a crepant log structure in the sense of [Kol11, Def. 2].

**Example 4.4.** One of the main reasons to study lc-trivial fibrations comes from resolutions and adjunction. Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be an lc pair and  $W \subset X$  an lc center. In the purely lc case, when  $(X, \Delta)$  is not dlt, the structure of Nklt $(\Delta)$  is not as easily determined as in Theorem 3.1. Nonetheless, Theorem 3.3 shows that it is always possible to pass to a dlt pair crepant to the original one. Let  $\pi \colon X' \to X$  be a dlt modification as in the Theorem 3.3, with

$$K_{X'} + \Delta_{X'} = \pi^* (K_X + \Delta_X).$$

Let S be a log canonical center of  $\Delta_{X'}$ , i.e., an irreducible component of intersections of components of coefficient 1. Let W be its image on X. Taking the contraction in the Stein factorization of  $\pi_{|S|}: S \to W$  and considering the pair  $(S, \operatorname{Diff}_S^* \Delta_{X'})$  yields an lc-trivial fibration.

Starting with an lc center S minimal among those dominating W the singularities of  $(S, \operatorname{Diff}_S^* \Delta_{X'})$  are actually of klt type over the generic point of W.

**Definition 4.5.** Given an lc-trivial fibration  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$  as above, let  $T \subseteq Z$  be a prime divisor in Z. The log canonical threshold of  $\pi^*(T)$  with respect to the pair  $(X, \Delta)$  is

$$a_T = \sup\{t \in \mathbb{R} | (Y, \Delta_Y + t\pi^*(T)) \text{ is lc over } T\}.$$

We define the discriminant of  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$  to be the divisor

(5) 
$$B_Z := \sum_T (1 - a_T)T.$$

It is easy to verify that the above sum is finite: a necessary condition for a prime divisor to have non-zero coefficient is to be dominated by some component of  $B_Z$  of non-zero coefficient. There finitely many such components on Y. Hence,  $B_Z$  is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -Weil divisor.

**Definition 4.6.** Let  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$  be an lc-trivial fibration. With the same notation as in equation (4), fix  $\phi \in k(Y)$  for which  $K_Y + \Delta_Y + \frac{1}{r}(\phi) = \pi^*D$ . Then there is a unique divisor  $M_Z$  for which the following equality holds

(6) 
$$K_Y + \Delta_Y + \frac{1}{r}(\phi) = \pi^*(K_Z + B_Z + M_Z).$$

The  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Weil divisor  $M_Z$  is called the moduli part.

When dealing with an lc-trivial fibration,  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$ , one can pass to a higher birational model of Z, Z', take a higher birational model Y' of the normalization of the main component of the fibre product  $Y \times_Z Z'$  and form the corresponding cartesian diagram,

$$(7) Y \stackrel{r_Y}{\longleftarrow} Y' \\ \pi \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \pi' \\ Z \stackrel{r}{\longleftarrow} Z'.$$

By base change, we get a new pair,  $(Y', \Delta_{Y'})$ , from the formula

$$K_{Y'} + \Delta_{Y'} = r_{Y'}^* (K_Y + \Delta_Y).$$

It follows from the definition that, under these hypotheses,  $\pi': (Y', \Delta_{Y'}) \to Z'$  will be an lc-trivial fibration as well, allowing to compute  $B_{Z'}$  and  $M_{Z'}$ .

The discriminant and the moduli divisor have a birational nature: they are bdivisors, as their definition immediately implies that

$$r_*B_{Z'} = B_Z$$
, and  $r_*M_{Z'} = M_Z$ .

As they are b-divisors, we will denote them using the symbols  $\mathbb{B}$  and  $\mathbb{M}$ , respectively. Fujino and Gongyo proved, generalizing results of Ambro, that these divisors have interesting features.

**Theorem 4.7.** ([FG12b], [Amb05]) Let  $\pi: (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$  be an lc-trivial fibration. There exists a birational model Z' of Z on which the following properties are satisfied:

- (i)  $K_{Z'} + \mathbb{B}_{Z'}$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Cartier, and  $\mu^*(K_{Z'} + \mathbb{B}_{Z'}) = K_{Z''} + \mathbb{B}_{Z''}$  for every higher model  $\mu \colon Z'' \to Z'$ .
- (ii)  $\mathbb{M}_{Z'}$  is nef and  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Cartier. Moreover,  $\mu^*(\mathbb{M}_{Z'}) = \mathbb{M}_{Z''}$  for every higher model  $\mu \colon Z'' \to Z'$ . More precisely, it is b-nef and good, i.e., there is a contraction  $h \colon Z' \to T$  and  $\mathbb{M}_{Z'} = h^*H$ , for some H big and nef on Z'.

When the model Z' satisfies both conditions in the theorem, we say that  $\mathbb B$  and  $\mathbb M$  descend to Z'.

#### 5. Mori hyperbolicity

**Definition 5.1.** Let  $(X, \Delta = \sum_i b_i D_i)$ ,  $0 < b_i \le 1$  be a log pair. We say that  $(X, \Delta)$  is a Mori hyperbolic pair if

- (1) there is no non-constant morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ ;
- (2) for any  $W \subset X$  lc center, there is no non-constant morphism

$$f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to W \setminus \{(W \cap \operatorname{Nlc}(\Delta)) \cup \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta)\}.$$

The following result is already implicitly contained in [LZ12, §4]. We restate it here for the reader's convenience since it does not appear there in this generality. The following proposition is the starting point of our approach to the proof of Theorem 1.1.

**Proposition 5.2.** Let  $(X, \Delta = \sum_i b_i D_i \geq 0)$  be a normal, projective,  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial log pair such that  $(X, \Delta' = \sum_{i|b_i < 1} b_i D_i + \sum_{i|b_i \geq 1} D_i)$  is dlt.

Suppose that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef when restricted to Supp $(\Delta^{\geq 1})$ . Then

- either  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef or
- there exists a non-constant morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \to (X \setminus Nklt(\Delta))$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $K_X + \Delta$  is not nef. Then there exists a  $(K_X + \Delta)$ -negative extremal ray, R in the cone of effective curves,  $\overline{\text{NE}}(X)$ . Since  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef on Nklt $(\Delta)$ , R is both a  $(K_X + \Delta')$ -negative and a  $(K_X + \Delta^{<1})$ -negative extremal ray. In particular, there exists an extremal contraction  $\mu \colon X \to S$  associated to R.

As R does not contain classes of curves laying in Nklt( $\Delta$ ),  $\mu$  induces a finite morphism when restricted to Nklt( $\Delta$ ). Thus, the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factoriality of X implies that we are in either of these three cases:

- 1)  $\mu$  is a Mori fibre space and all the fibres are one dimensional;
- 2)  $\mu$  is birational and the exceptional locus does not intersect Nklt( $\Delta$ );
- 3)  $\mu$  is birational and the exceptional locus intersects Nklt( $\Delta$ ).

As  $\mu$  is a  $(K_X + \Delta^{<1})$ -negative fibration and  $K_X + \Delta^{<1}$  is klt, then all of its fibres are rational chain connected, by [HM07, Corollary 1.5]. Moreover,

$$R^1 \mu_* \mathcal{O}_W = 0,$$

by relative Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing [Laz04b, page 150]. Thus, Theorem 2.9 implies that  $Nklt(\Delta') = Nklt(\Delta)$  is connected in a neighborhood of every fibre. In case 1), the generic fibre of  $\mu$  is a smooth projective rational curve. Theorem 2.9 implies that the generic fibre intersects  $Nklt(\Delta)$  in at most one point. This concludes the proof in case 1).

In case 2), as the fibres of  $\mu$  are rationally chain connected, there exists a rational projective curve contained in  $X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ . This concludes the proof in case 2).

In case 3), the positive dimensional fibres are chains of rational curves and by the vanishing in 8 above, the generic fibre has to be a tree of smooth rational curves. By Theorem 2.9,  $Nklt(\Delta)$  intersects this chain in at most one point. In particular, there exists a complete rational curve C such that  $C \cap (X \setminus \lfloor \Delta \rfloor) = f(\mathbb{A}^1)$ , where f is a non-constant morphism. This concludes the proof in case 3).

In the case of a general log pair, using dlt modifications we get the following criterion, which will be fundamental in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

**Corollary 5.3.** Let  $(X, \Delta = \sum_i b_i D_i \ge 0), 0 < b_i \le 1$  be a log pair. Assume that there is no non-constant morphism  $f : \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ .

Then  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef if and only if  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef when restricted to Nklt( $\Delta$ ).

*Proof.* Nefness of  $K_X + \Delta$  immediately implies nefness of its restriction to every subscheme of X. Hence, we just have to prove the converse implication.

Let  $\pi: (X', \Delta_{X'}) \to (X, \Delta)$  be a dlt modification for  $(X, \Delta)$  as in Theorem 3.3. We can reduce to proving nefness for  $K_{X'} + \Delta_{X'}$ . As  $\pi(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{X'})) = \operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta)$ ,  $K_{X'} + \Delta_{X'}$  is nef when restricted to  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{X'})$ .

Suppose  $K_{X'} + \Delta'$  is not nef. By the proposition, there exists a non-constant morphism  $f \colon \mathbb{A}^1 \to (X' \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta'))$ . This contradicts the assumption in the statement of the corollary, as the properties of dlt modifications imply that the image of  $\pi \circ f$  lies in  $X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ .

Let us notice that in the above corollary, we did not impose any condition on the singularities of  $\Delta$ , besides the coefficients being in [0, 1].

#### 6. Proof of theorem 1.1

We will work inductively on the strata of  $Nklt(\Delta)$ . Namely, we will prove that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef when restricted to every stratum of  $Nklt(\Delta)$ . As the union of all the strata is the non-klt locus itself, the theorem will follow from Corollary 5.3.

# Step 1. Start of the induction: the case of minimal lc centers.

When W is a minimal lc center, then nefness of  $(K_X + \Delta)|_W$  follows from the following classical result in the MMP.

**Theorem 6.1** (Kawamata subadjunction). ([FG12a], [Amb05] or [Kaw91]). Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair and W a minimal lc center. Then there exists an effective divisor  $\Delta_W$  on W s.t.  $(W, \Delta_W)$  is klt and

$$(K_X + \Delta)|_W \sim_{\mathbb{R}} K_W + \Delta_W.$$

Since  $(K_X + \Delta)|_W \sim_{\mathbb{R}} K_W + \Delta_W$  and by definition of Mori hyperbolicity W does not contain rational curves, it follows that  $K_W + \Delta_W$  must be nef by the Cone theorem.

## Step 2. Moving the computation to the spring of W.

We assume now that W is no longer minimal and that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef when restricted to any other stratum W' strictly contained in W. Recall the following notation

$$\operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta) = \bigcup_{\substack{W' \subsetneq W, \\ W' \text{ lc center}}} W'$$

to indicate the union of all substrata contained in W.

Let us fix a dlt modification of  $(X, \Delta)$ ,  $\pi: (X', \Delta') \to (X, \Delta)$ . We also fix a nonklt center  $W \subset X$  and let  $S \subset X'$  be an lc center, minimal among those dominating W. Let us consider the Stein factorization

$$\pi_{|S} \colon S \xrightarrow{\pi_S} W_S \overset{\operatorname{spr}_W}{\longrightarrow} W.$$

The variety  $W_S$  is normal, projective and is naturally equipped with the  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor

$$L := \operatorname{spr}_W^*(K_X + \Delta).$$

The morphism  $\pi_S \colon S \to W_S$  is an lc-trivial fibration with respect to  $\Delta_S = \operatorname{Diff}_S^* \Delta_{X'}$  on S, as we saw in Example 4.4 and it is also a dlt log crepant structure. The

following theorem, due to Kollár, shows that the contraction  $\pi_S \colon S \to W_S$  already contains all the relevant data in terms of the geometry of the non-klt locus.

**Theorem 6.2.** [Kol11, Cor. 11] Let  $\pi: (Y, \Delta) \to Z$  be a dlt crepant log structure and  $S \subset Y$  be an lc center, with  $\pi(S) = W$ . Consider the Stein factorization

(9) 
$$\pi|_W \colon S \xrightarrow{\pi_S} W_S \xrightarrow{\operatorname{spr}_W} W$$

and let  $\Delta_S$ : = Diff<sup>\*</sup><sub>S</sub> $\Delta_Y$  be the different of  $\Delta_Y$  on S. Then:

- (1)  $\pi_S: (S, \Delta_S) \to W_S$  is a dlt, crepant log structure;
- (2) Given an lc center  $Z_S \subset W_S$  for  $\pi_S$ ,  $\operatorname{spr}_W(Z_W) \subset W$  is an lc center for  $\pi \colon (Y, \Delta_Y) \to Z$ . Every minimal lc center of  $(S, \Delta_S)$  dominating  $Z_S$  is also a minimal lc center of  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$  and dominates  $\pi(Z_W)$ .
- (3) For  $Z \subset W$  an lc center of  $\pi|_S \colon (S, \Delta_S) \to W$ , every irreducible component of  $\operatorname{spr}_W^{-1}(Z)$  is an lc center of  $\pi_S \colon (S, \Delta_S) \to W_S$ . We denote the total space of this stratification by

$$\operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S) := \bigcup_{\substack{W' \subseteq W, \\ W' \text{ lc center}}} \bigcup_{\substack{V \text{ irreducible} \\ \operatorname{component of} \\ \operatorname{spr}^{-1}(W)}} V.$$

**Remark 6.3.** Kollár proved that the isomorphism class of the variety  $W_S$  over W in Theorem 6.2 is independent of the choice of S. He also proved that for any two pairs  $(S_1, \Delta_{S_1})$ ,  $(S_2, \Delta_{S_2})$  such that the  $S_i$  are minimal among the lc centers dominating W the varieties  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are birational and there exists a common resolution  $p_i \colon W \to S_i$ , i = 1, 2 such that

$$p_1^*(K_{S_1} + \Delta_{S_1}) = p_2^*(K_{S_2} + \Delta_{S_2}),$$

see [Kol11, Thm. 1].

**Definition 6.4.** [Kol11, Def. 18 and page 10] With the notation of Theorem 6.2, let S be an lc center of  $(Y, \Delta)$  minimal with respect to inclusion among the lc centers T with  $\pi(T) = W$ . We call the pair  $(S, \Delta_S = \text{Diff}_S^* \Delta_Y)$  a source of W.

The normal variety  $W_S$  appearing in the Stein factorization of the morphism  $\pi|_S \colon S \to W$  in  ${}^{9}$  is called the spring of W.

Proving nefness of  $(K_X + \Delta)_{|W}$  is equivalent to proving nefness of L and we can assume that L is nef on  $\operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S)$  since

$$\operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S) = \operatorname{spr}_{W}^{-1}(\operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta)),$$

by 3. in Theorem 6.2.

Hence, without loss of generality, we could substitute the triple  $(W, (K_X + \Delta)|_W, \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta))$  with the triple  $(W_S, L, \operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S))$ . In fact, if L is not nef, then we will show that there exists a non-constant morphism  $f \colon \mathbb{A}^1 \to W_S \setminus \operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S)$ . By Theorem 6.2, it follows that there exists a non-constant morphism  $f' \colon \mathbb{A}^1 \to W \setminus \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta)$ , violating the Mori hyperbolicity assumption for W.

To ease the notation, in the following we will denote  $W_S$  simply by W and  $\operatorname{Strat}(W_S, \Delta_S)$  by  $\operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta_S)$ .

Step 3. Constructing a good approximation for L on W.

By the results of Section 4, there exist sufficiently high birational models S' of S and W' of W together with a commutative diagram

(10) 
$$S \stackrel{r_{S'}}{\longleftarrow} S'$$

$$\pi_{S} \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow^{\pi_{S'}}$$

$$W \stackrel{r}{\longleftarrow} W'$$

having the following properties:

- (1)  $r^*(L) = K_{W'} + \mathbb{B}_{W'} + \mathbb{M}_{W'};$
- (2)  $(W', \mathbb{B}_{W'})$  is log smooth and suble, i.e.,  $\mathbb{B}_{W'}$  is not necessarily effective;
- (3)  $K_{W'} + \mathbb{B}_{W'}$  descends to W' and  $\mathbb{M}_{W'}$  is nef and abundant.
- (4)  $(S', \Delta_{S'})$  is a suble pair, where  $K'_S + \Delta_{S'} = r^*_{S'}(K_S + \Delta_S)$ ;

In this context, we compare singularities of  $(W', \mathbb{B}_{W'})$  with those of the original pair  $(W, \Delta)$ .

**Lemma 6.5.** With the above notation and hypotheses, we have that  $r(Nklt(\mathbb{B}_{W'})) = Strat(W, \Delta_S)$ .

Proof. We know that  $r_{S'}(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'})) = \operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_S)$  and  $\pi_S(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_S)) = \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta)$ . As the diagram in (10) commutes, we need to prove that  $\pi_{S'}(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'})) = \operatorname{Nklt}(\mathbb{B}_{W'})$ . The definition of  $\mathbb{B}_{W'}$  implies that every stratum of  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\mathbb{B}_{W'}) \subset W'$  is dominated by a stratum of  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'})$ , hence  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\mathbb{B}_{W'}) \subset \pi_{S'}(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'}))$ . The opposite inclusion is also true, as given a stratum of  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'})$ , up to going to higher models of W' and S', we can suppose that D is a divisor whose image D' on W' is a divisor, too. In this case, by the definition of  $\mathbb{B}_{W'}$  and since it descends to W',  $D' \subset \operatorname{Nklt}(\mathbb{B}_{W'})$ . Thus,  $\operatorname{Nklt}(\mathbb{B}_{W'}) \supset \pi_{S'}(\operatorname{Nklt}(\Delta_{S'}))$ .

As proving that L is nef is equivalent to proving that, for any given ample Cartier divisor A on W and any given  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $L + \epsilon A$  is nef, we focus on the divisor

(11) 
$$r^*(L + \epsilon A) = K_{W'} + \mathbb{B}_{W'} + \mathbb{M}_{W'} + r^*(\epsilon A).$$

By construction, we can assume that there exists an effective divisor E supported on the exceptional locus of r and -E is relatively ample over W. Hence, there exists a positive number  $\theta_{\epsilon} \ll \epsilon$ , such that for any  $0 < \delta \leq \theta_{\epsilon}$ ,  $\mathbb{M}_{W'} + r^*(\epsilon A) - \delta E$  is an ample divisor on W'.

**Lemma 6.6.** For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is a suitable choice of  $\delta$  and of an effective  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor  $Q_{\epsilon} \sim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{M}_{W'} + r^*(\epsilon A) - \delta E$  for which the following equalities hold

$$Nklt(\mathbb{B}_{W'} + \delta E + Q_{\epsilon}) = Nklt(\mathbb{B}_{W'} + \delta E) = Nklt(\mathbb{B}_{W'}).$$

With this notation,

(12) 
$$r^*(L + \epsilon A) \sim_{\mathbb{R}} K_{W'} + \mathbb{B}_{W'} + \delta E + Q_{\epsilon}.$$

*Proof.* The first equality is a consequence of [Laz04b, Proposition 9.2.26], once we choose  $\delta$  small enough so that  $Q_{\epsilon}$  is ample. The second equality follows immediately from the fact that we can choose  $\delta$  to be arbitrarily small, since  $(W', \mathbb{B}_{W'})$  is log smooth and suble.

## Step 4. End of the proof.

Using Lemma 6.6, we define a new divisor on W

$$\Gamma_{\epsilon} := r_*(\mathbb{B}_{W'} + \delta E + Q_{\epsilon}).$$

The pair  $(W, \Gamma_{\epsilon})$  is a log pair and its coefficients are real numbers in [0,1]. By construction, those coefficients in  $\mathbb{B}_{W'} + \delta_{\epsilon}E + Q_{\epsilon}$  that are strictly larger than 1 were those of components that are exceptional over W. Also,  $L + \epsilon A \sim_{\mathbb{R}} K_W + \Gamma_{\epsilon}$  and we are reduced to proving nefness for  $K_W + \Gamma_{\epsilon}$ , for  $\epsilon \ll 1$ . The pair  $(W, \Gamma_{\epsilon})$  fails to be lc but  $\mathrm{Nklt}(\Gamma_{\epsilon}) = \mathrm{Strat}(W, \Delta_S)$ , by Lemma 6.5 and Lemma 6.6. Moreover,  $K_W + \Gamma_{\epsilon}$  is nef, more precisely ample, when restricted to its non-klt locus. Hence, it is nef on W by Corollary 5.3. Since this holds for arbitrary choice of  $\epsilon > 0$ , it follows that L is nef on W, terminating the proof of the inductive step and of the theorem.

Remark 6.7. In Section 6, we proved the following (very) weak version of (quasi log canonical) subadjunction. Surely, this is not the most desirable version of subadjunction that is expected to hold, as we explain below.

**Theorem 6.8.** Let  $(Y, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair and  $\pi: Y \to Z$  be an lc trivial fibration. Let A be an ample divisor on Z.

Then for all  $\epsilon, \delta > 0$ , there exists an effective divisor  $\Gamma_{\epsilon, \delta}$ , with coefficients in [0, 1] satisfying the linear equivalence relation

$$K_Z + \mathbb{B}_Z + \mathbb{M}_Z + \epsilon A \sim_{\mathbb{R}} K_Z + \Gamma_{\epsilon, \delta}$$
.

The pair  $(Z, \Gamma_{\epsilon, \delta})$  is not log canonical, but there exists a log resolution  $\pi \colon Z' \to Z$  such that the log discrepancy of the  $\pi$ -exceptional divisors is bounded below by  $-\delta$ , i.e.

$$a(E; Z, \Gamma_{\epsilon, \delta}) > -\delta$$
, for every  $E \subset Z'$  prime divisor exceptional over Z.

A much stronger result should hold under the hypotheses of Theorem 6.8. The moduli b-divisor,  $\mathbb{M}$ , is expected to be semi-ample on a sufficiently high birational model of Z. That would easily imply that, for a certain choice of  $\mathbb{M}_Z$ ,  $(Z, \mathbb{B}_Z + \mathbb{M}_Z)$  is log canonical. If that were to be true, the proof of Theorem 1.1 could be considerably simplified. In fact, L would be linearly equivalent to the lc divisor  $K_Z + \mathbb{B}_Z + \mathbb{M}_Z$  and

$$Nklt(\mathbb{B}_Z + \mathbb{M}_Z) = Nklt(\mathbb{B}_Z) = Strat(W, \Delta).$$

In the proof of the Theorem 1.1 we showed that if  $K_X + \Delta$  is not nef, there is a non-constant morphism  $f \colon \mathbb{A}^1 \to X$  whose image is contained in an lc center  $W \subset X$  and it does not intersect the lc centers strictly contained in W. In particular, from the inductive procedure used in the proof, we see that it is possible to select W to be a minimal lc center among those on which the restriction of  $K_X + \Delta$  is not nef. Hence, we obtain as a consequence we obtain the following generalized version of the Cone Theorem.

**Theorem 6.9.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair. Then there exist countably many  $(K_X + \Delta)$ -negative rational curves  $C_i$  such that

$$\overline{\mathrm{NE}}(X) = \overline{\mathrm{NE}}(X)_{K_X + \Delta \ge 0} + \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{R}_{\ge 0}[C_i].$$

Moreover, one of the two following conditions hold:

- $C_i \cap (X \setminus Nklt(\Delta))$  contains the image of a non-constant morphism  $f \colon \mathbb{A}^1 \to X \setminus Nklt(\Delta);$
- there exists an lc center  $W \subset X$  such that  $C_i \cap (W \setminus \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta))$  contains the image of a non-constant morphism  $f : \mathbb{A}^1 \to (W \setminus \operatorname{Strat}(W, \Delta))$ .

In an attempt to expand the above results to arbitrary singularities, the following questions appear quite natural.

**Question 6.10.** Let  $(X, \Delta = \sum b_i D_i \geq 0), 0 < b_i \leq 1$ , be a Mori hyperbolic log pair. Assume  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef when restricted to  $Nlc(X, \Delta)$ . Is  $K_X + \Delta$  nef? Is it possible to drop the assumption  $0 < b_i \leq 1$ ?

Most of the proof of Theorem 1.1 applies to the case of varieties with worse singularities than log canonical, through the language and techniques of quasi log varieties introduced in [Amb03]. It seems that, in order to finish the proof, one would have to prove a stronger version of the Bend and Break Lemma. Unfortunately, we are not able to prove such a result at this time, hence the above question remains still open. Some results in this direction were recently proved by M<sup>c</sup>Quillan and Pacienza in [MP12], for quotient singularities.

To address Question 6.10, one could mimic the same proof as for Theorem 1.1. Namely, starting with a log pair  $(X, \Delta)$  such that the coefficients of  $\Delta$  are in [0, 1], no matter what the singularities of  $\Delta$  are, it is sufficient to prove that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef on Nklt( $\Delta$ ), by Corollary 5.3. As there is very little control on the non lc locus of  $\Delta$  (cf. [Amb03, Theorem 0.2]), it seems inevitable to assume the nefness for the restriction of  $K_X + \Delta$ . In this setting, the formalism of the canonical bundle formula is not available anymore, but in order to study adjunction or just the restriction of  $K_X + \Delta$  to lc centers of  $\Delta$ , the formalism of log varieties can be used (cf. [Amb03] and [Fuj09]). Again, working by induction, one can restrict to a given stratum, W, and assume that nefness is known for the smaller strata and the intersection with the non-lc locus. Assuming by contradiction that  $(K_X + \Delta)|_W$  is not nef, then we can find a contraction morphism  $\pi\colon W\to S$  which contracts curves with  $(K_X + \Delta)$ -negative class in a given extremal ray contained in  $\overline{NE}(X)$ . It is not hard to prove that the fibres of  $\pi$  will contain rational curves. The hard part is to prove that it is possible to deform one of these curves to a rational curve whose normalization supports the pull-back of  $\Delta$  at most one point. The classical tool to deform curves is surely the Bend and Break Lemma, although in this case, we need not only to be able to deform a curve, but also we would like to be able to control its intersection with the components of  $\Delta$ . Hence, ideally, one would like to prove a stronger version of the Bend and Break Lemma that makes the above construction possible.

### 7. Ampleness and pseudoeffectiveness for Mori hyperbolic pairs

When dealing with Mori hyperbolic pairs, in the dlt case, one can actually go further and give criteria for the ampleness of  $K_X + \Delta$  as described in Theorem 1.3 in the Introduction. Such criteria are modeled along the lines of the classical Nakai-Moishezon-Kleiman criterion which we recall here in the version for  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisors due to Campana and Peternell.

**Theorem 7.1** (Campana-Peternell). [Laz04a, Thm. 2.3.18] Let X be a proper variety and let D be an  $\mathbb{R}$ -Cartier  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor on X.

Then D is ample on X if and only if for every proper subvariety variety  $Y \subseteq X$ 

$$\int_{Y} D^{\dim Y} > 0.$$

We will also need the following definition.

**Definition 7.2.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  a log canonical pair. An  $\mathbb{R}$ -divisor D is log big (with respect to  $(X, \Delta)$ ) if D is big and  $D|_W$  is big for any lc center W of  $\Delta$ .

**Proposition 7.3.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a log canonical pair. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) the divisor  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample;
- (2) the divisor  $K_X + \Delta$  is big, its restriction to  $Nklt(\Delta)$  is ample and  $K_X + \Delta$  has strictly positive degree on every rational curve intersecting  $X \setminus Nklt(\Delta)$ .

If  $(X, \Delta)$  is alt, then the above conditions are also equivalent to:

(3) the divisor  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef and log big and it has strictly positive degree on every rational curve.

**Remark 7.4.** The assumption on the bigness of  $K_X + \Delta$  in the proposition is necessary as the following example shows.

Let E be a curve of genus 0. Then  $K_E \sim 0$  and the pair (E,0) is terminal (hence, log canonical) with empy non-klt locus. The curve E clearly does not contain rational curves, nonetheless  $K_E$  is not ample.

Proof of Proposition 7.3. Clearly condition (1) implies conditions (2) and (3).

Condition (2) implies that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef. In fact, by the Cone Theorem, an extremal ray contained in  $\overline{\text{NE}}(X)$  on which  $K_X + \Delta$  is negative is spanned by the class of a rational curve  $C \subset X$ . As  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample along  $\text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ , C must intersect  $X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$ , which gives a contradiction.

Thus,  $K_X + \Delta$  is big and nef and it is ample along Nklt( $\Delta$ ). It follows that  $K_X + \Delta$  is semiample, by [Fuj09, Thm. 4.1]. The corresponding morphism is either an isomorphism or it has to contract some rational curves intersecting  $X \setminus \text{Nklt}(\Delta)$  as implied by [HM07, Thm. 1.2]. But this also gives a contradiction, as the intersection of  $K_X + \Delta$  with such curves must be strictly positive. Then (2) implies (1).

Let us prove that (3) implies (2). Since  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef and log big, it is also semiample. By induction on the dimension and using Theorem 3.1, it follows that  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample along  $[\Delta]$ , which concludes the proof.

**Theorem 7.5.** Let  $(X, \Delta)$  be a Mori hyperbolic log canonical pair.

Then the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample;
- (2)  $K_X + \Delta$  is big and its restriction to  $|\Delta|$  is ample.

If  $(X, \Delta)$  is dlt, then the above conditions are also equivalent to:

(3)  $K_X + \Delta$  is log big.

**Remark 7.6.** As  $(X, \Delta)$  being Mori hyperbolic implies that  $K_X + \Delta$  is nef, condition 2) in the corollary is equivalent to the condition stated in Theorem 1.3:

$$(K_X + \Delta)^{\dim X} > 0$$
 and  $(K_X + \Delta)^{\dim W} \cdot W > 0$ , for any lc center W.

Remark 7.7. The assumption on the bigness of  $K_X + \Delta$  in the theorem is necessary. In fact, the pair  $(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0\} + \{\infty\})$  is log canonical and its lc centers are the points 0 and  $\infty$ . The divisor  $K_{P^1} + \{0\} + \{\infty\}$  is clearly ample along the two lc centers, yet the divisor is linearly equivalent to 0.

*Proof of Theorem* 7.5. Again, (1) implies (2) and (3). Moreover, as  $(X, \Delta)$  is Mori hyperbolic, it is nef.

Let us prove that (2) implies (1). As  $K_X + \Delta$  is big and ample along  $\lfloor \Delta \rfloor$ , to prove its ampleness on X, it suffices to prove that  $K_X + \Delta$  intersects all rational curves on X with strictly positive degree. Let us assume there exists a rational curve C such that  $(K_X + \Delta) \cdot C = 0$ . We can assume that  $K_X + (\Delta - \epsilon \lfloor \Delta \rfloor) \cdot C < 0$ , for any  $\epsilon > 0$ . Let us notice that  $K_X + (\Delta - \epsilon \lfloor \Delta \rfloor)$  is ample along  $\lfloor \Delta \rfloor$  for  $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$ . Passing to a dlt modification as in Theorem 3.3, we can assume that X is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial and the proof is the same as that of Proposition 5.2.

If (3) holds, then by induction on dim X it follows immediately that  $K_X + \Delta$  is ample along  $\lfloor \Delta \rfloor$ . Moreover, the definition of log bigness implies that  $K_X + \Delta$  is also big, which terminates the proof.

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