

ZARISKI-DECOMPOSITIONS ON THREEFOLDS

GAEL XXI

KTH and Stockholm University,
Stockholm, June 24th-28th, 2013

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Zariski decomposition on surfaces Let S be a smooth projective surface defined over \mathbf{C} . Let D be an effective divisor on S . Zariski proved in [8] the existence of two divisors P, N such that

(1) $N = \sum a_i N_i$ is effective, P is nef and $D = P + N$;
(2) either $N = 0$ or the matrix $(N_i \cdot N_j)$ is negative definite;

(3) $(P \cdot N_i) = 0$ for all i .

Such a decomposition is called Zariski decomposition of D and it is unique. Fujita in [4] generalized the statement to pseudoeffective divisors. Moreover he noticed in [5] that the divisor P is the unique divisor that satisfies the following property:

(α) for any birational model $f: X' \rightarrow X$ and any nef divisor L on X' such that $f_* L \leq D$ we have $f_* L \leq P$.

In higher dimension: the Fujita-Zariski decomposition.

There are several generalizations of the Zariski decomposition in higher dimension.

The property (α) gives rise to the following.

Definition Let X be a smooth complex projective variety and D a pseudoeffective divisor. A decomposition $D = P_f + N_f$ is called **Fujita-Zariski decomposition** if

(1) $N_f \geq 0$;

(2) P_f is nef;

(3) for any birational model $f: X' \rightarrow X$ and any nef divisor L on X' such that $f_* L \leq D$, we have $f_* L \leq P_f$.

It follows from the definition that, if a Fujita-Zariski decomposition exists, then it is unique.

The question of the existence of the Fujita-Zariski decomposition has been discussed for a longtime because of the importance of its role in applications in birational geometry: Birkar [1] and Birkar-Hu [2] proved the equivalence between the existence of a log minimal model for a pair and the existence of a Fujita-Zariski decomposition for the log canonical divisor.

First of all many examples show that, instead of looking for a decomposition of a pseudoeffective divisor D on X , it is more natural to look for a decomposition of f^*D on a suitable birational model $f: Y \rightarrow X$. If such a decomposition exists, we say that D admits birationally a Fujita-Zariski decomposition. Even in this setting the existence of such a decomposition fails.

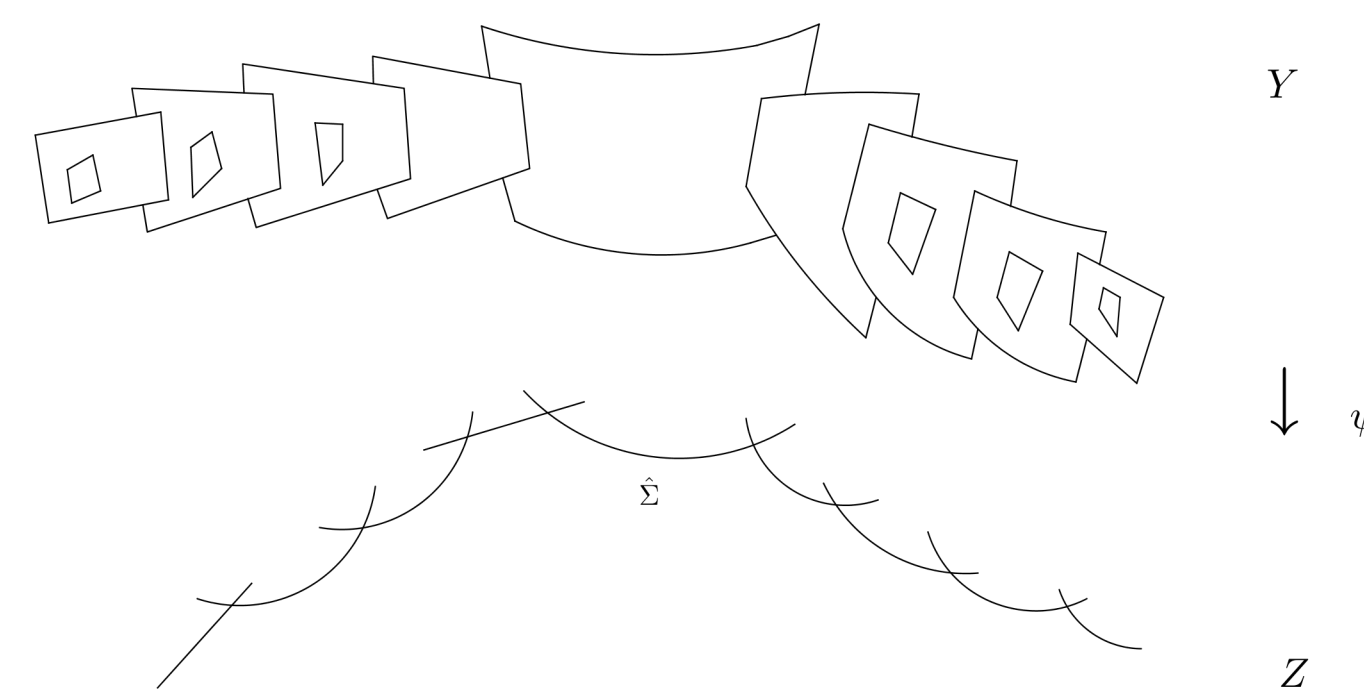
Indeed very recently J. Lesieutre in [6] found an example of a three-dimensional smooth variety X and a pseudoeffective divisor D on X such that its diminished base locus is dense in X and that cannot admit a Fujita-Zariski decomposition on any birational model of X .

The Nakayama-Zariski decomposition and the diminished base locus. The diminished base locus of a pseudoeffective divisor D , is defined as

$$B_-(D) = \bigcap_{A \text{ ample}} B(D+A)$$

where $B(D+A) = \bigcap \{ \text{Supp} \Delta \mid \Delta \geq 0, \Delta \approx D+A \}$.

The diminished base locus depends only on the numerical equivalence class of D . A decomposition that is easier to use for computations and very important in applications is the **Nakayama-Zariski decomposition**.



We will not give a precise definition (see [Definition III.1.12, Definition III.1.16, 7]), we just list here the properties that we will need.

- $D = P_\sigma(D) + N_\sigma(D)$ with $P_\sigma(D)$ nef and $N_\sigma(D)$ effective.
- A Nakayama-Zariski decomposition of D is also a Fujita-Zariski decomposition of D .
- If X is smooth, the support of $N_\sigma(D)$ is the divisorial part of the diminished base locus.
- If D admits birationally a Nakayama-Zariski decomposition, then $B_-(D)$ is closed.

From the above properties it follows that, if D admits birationally a Nakayama-Zariski decomposition, then $B_-(P_\sigma(D))$ is closed and of codimension at least 2.

For threefolds the converse is true:

Theorem ([3]) Let X be a complex projective smooth variety of dimension 3. Let D be a pseudoeffective divisor such that its diminished base locus is the union of a finite number of curves. Then there exists a birational morphism $\mu: Y \rightarrow X$ such that μ^*D has a Nakayama-Zariski decomposition on Y .

Proof of the theorem. The idea of the proof is constructing the birational model $\mu: Y \rightarrow X$ and verifying that $P_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ is nef. For the sake of simplicity, we explain here the case where the diminished base locus is one connected smooth curve, $B_-(D) = \Sigma$, the proof in the general case being analogous. There are mainly two steps. The goal of the first step is making the conormal bundle of Σ semistable and of sufficiently high degree. This is achieved with a sequence of blow ups of smooth curves $\varphi: Z \rightarrow X$. The diminished base locus $B_-(\varphi^*D)$ is the union of the strict transform of Σ and of two chains of rational curves.

In the second step we blow up the curves of $B_-(\varphi^*D)$ in a suitable order, as shown in the picture.

We obtain $\psi: Y \rightarrow Z$ and we define the morphism μ as $\psi \circ \varphi$. Finally, the divisor $N_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ is supported on the exceptional divisor of ψ . Thanks to a result by Nakayama we are able to compute all the coefficients of $N_\sigma(\mu^*D)$.

The locus where $P_\sigma(\mu^*D) = D - N_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ is not nef is contained in the support of $N_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ and since the components of $N_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ are birational to ruled surfaces the verification of the nefness of $P_\sigma(\mu^*D)$ can be done explicitly.

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