

ZERO-DIMENSIONAL SCHEMES, BLOWING-UP  
AND ASYMPTOTIC POSTULATION

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**Abstract:** Here we look at the postulation of general unions of zero-dimensional schemes more general than fat points with respect to a very positive linear system.

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**Key Words:** blowing-up, fat point, zero-dimensional scheme, postulation

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Fix an integral  $n$ -dimensional projective variety  $X$  and integers  $h > 0$  and  $s_1 \geq \dots \geq s_h \geq 0$ . Set  $X_0 := X$ . Fix  $s_1$  distinct points  $P_1, \dots, P_{s_1} \in X_{reg}$  and let  $f_1 : X_1 \rightarrow X$  be the blowing-up of the points  $P_1, \dots, P_{s_1}$ . Set  $P_{i,0} := P_i$ . Let  $D_{i,1} := f_1^{-1}(P_{i,0})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s_1$ , denote the exceptional divisors of  $f_1$ . If  $h \geq 2$ , then fix  $P_{i,1} \in D_{i,1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s_2$ , and let  $f_2 : X_2 \rightarrow X_1$  the blowing-up of the points  $P_{1,1}, \dots, P_{s_2,1} \in X_1$ . Let  $D_{i,2} := f_2^{-1}(P_{i,1})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s_2$ , denote the exceptional divisors of  $f_2$ . For  $s_2 < i \leq s_1$  set  $D_{i,2} := f_2^{-1}(D_{i,1})$ . Hence, if  $h \geq 3$ , then fix  $P_{i,2} \in D_{i,2}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s_3$ , and let  $f_3 : X_3 \rightarrow X_2$  the blowing-up of the points  $P_{1,2}, \dots, P_{s_3,2} \in X_2$ . Let  $D_{i,3} := f_3^{-1}(P_{i,2})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s_3$ , denote the exceptional divisors of  $f_3$ . As in the first blowing-up use a similar convention for  $s_3 < i \leq s_2$ , and so on, defining for every integer  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq h$  blowing-ups  $f_i : X_i \rightarrow X_{i-1}$ , disjoint integral divisors  $D_{j,i} \subset X_i$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq s_i$ , with  $D_{j,i} = f_i^{-1}(P_{j,i-1})$  for some  $P_{j,i-1} \in X_{i-1}$ ; if  $i \geq 2$ , then we also have  $P_{j,i-1} \in D_{j,i-2}$ . For  $0 \leq j < i \leq h$  set  $g_{i,j} := f_1 \circ \dots \circ f_i : X_i \rightarrow X_j$ . Set  $g_i := g_{i,0}$ . For all integers  $1 \leq j < i \leq h$  and  $1 \leq x \leq s_j$  let  $D_{x,j,i} \subset X_i$  denote the strict

transform by  $g_{i,j}$  of the divisor  $D_{x,j} \subset X_j$ . Hence each  $D_{x,j,i}$  is irreducible. For every integer  $x$  such that  $1 \leq x \leq s_1$  let  $c_x$  be the maximal integer  $y$  such that  $1 \leq y \leq h$  and  $1 \leq x \leq s_y$ . Hence  $g_h^{-1}(P_{x,1}) = \sum_{j=1}^{c_x} D_{x,j,h}$  (both scheme-theoretically and as effective Cartier divisors) for all  $x \in \{1, \dots, s_1\}$ . Set  $\Phi := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus 2} : 1 \leq x \leq s_1 \text{ and } 1 \leq y \leq c_x\}$ . For all  $(x, y) \in \Phi$  fix a non-negative integer  $m_{x,y}$  and call  $\tilde{m}$  the set of all  $(x, y, m_{x,y})$ . Call  $\Psi$  the set of all data  $\{(x, y, m_{x,y}) : (x, y) \in \Phi \text{ and } m_{x,y} \leq m_{x,y+1} \text{ if } y < c_x\}$ . For any  $\psi \in \Psi$ , say  $\{(x, y, m_{y,x})\}$  set  $I_\psi := \mathcal{O}_{X_h}(-\sum_{x=1}^{s_1} \sum_{y=1}^{c_x} m_{x,y} D_{x,y,h})$ . Hence  $I_\psi \in \text{Pic}(X_h)$  and its dual has a non-zero section whose zero-locus is a linear combination of the exceptional components  $D_{x,y,h}$ ,  $1 \leq x \leq s_1$ ,  $1 \leq y \leq c_x$ , of  $g_h$ . Since  $g_{h*}$  is a left exact functor,  $\mathcal{I}_\psi$  is an ideal sheaf and we will write  $Z(\psi)$  for the associated zero-dimensional subscheme of  $X$ . Write  $\text{length}(\psi) = \sum_{x=1}^{s_1} \sum_{y=1}^{c_x} \binom{n+m_{x,y}-m_{x,y-1}-1}{n}$  with the convention  $m_{x,0} = 0$  for all  $x$  and  $\binom{n-1}{n} = 0$ . Set  $\mathcal{I}_\psi := g_{h*}(I_\psi)$ . Under this assumption we have  $\text{length}(Z(\psi)) = \text{length}(\psi)$  and  $I_\psi$  is the blowing-up of the ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{I}_\psi$ . Fix any  $i \in \{1, \dots, s_1\}$  and assume  $i_c = 2$ . Set  $m_1 := m_{1,i}$  and  $m_2 := m_{2,i}$ . Let  $Z(P_i, m_1, m_2)$  denote the connected component of  $Z(\psi)$  supported by  $P_i$ . We will say that  $Z(P_i, m_1, m_2)$  is a subscheme of type  $[m_1, m_2]$  of  $X$ . Notice that if  $m_1 = m_2$ , then  $Z(P_i, m_1, m_1)$  is the fat point  $\{m_1 P_i, X\}$ , i.e. the closed subscheme of  $X$  with  $(\mathcal{I}_{P_i})^{m_1}$  as its ideal sheaf. We will say that an  $[0, x]$ -scheme,  $x > 0$ , is an  $[x, x]$ -scheme, while the empty set is the only  $[0, 0]$ -scheme. Here we will generalize [1], Theorem 1.1, and prove the following two statements which are easily seen equivalent.

**Theorem 1.** *Fix an integer  $m > 0$ , an integral projective variety, a zero-dimensional scheme  $A \subset X$  and  $M, R \in \text{Pic}(X)$  with  $R$  ample. There is an integer  $\tau > 0$  with the following property. Fix any integer  $t \geq \tau$ . Let  $\Theta(m)$  denote the set of all pairs of integers  $m_2 \geq m_1 > 0$  such that  $m_2 < 2m_1$  and  $m_2 \leq m$ . For all  $(m_1, m_2) \in \Theta(m)$  fix an integer  $x_{m_1, m_2} \geq 0$ . Let  $Z \subset X$  be a general union for all  $(m_1, m_2) \in \Theta(m)$  of  $x_{m_1, m_2}$  subschemes of type  $[m_1, m_2]$ . Then either  $h^0(X, \mathcal{I}_{AUZ} \otimes M \otimes R^{\otimes t}) = 0$  or  $h^1(X, \mathcal{I}_{AUZ} \otimes M \otimes R^{\otimes t}) = 0$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *Fix an integer  $m > 0$ , an integral projective variety, a zero-dimensional scheme  $A \subset X$  and  $M, R \in \text{Pic}(X)$  with  $R$  ample. There is an integer  $\delta > 0$  with the following property. Let  $\Theta(m)$  denote the set of all pairs of integers  $m_2 \geq m_1 > 0$  such that  $m_2 < 2m_1$  and  $m_2 \leq m$ . For all  $(m_1, m_2) \in \Theta(m)$  fix an integer  $x_{m_1, m_2} \geq 0$ . Let  $Z \subset X$  be a general union for all  $(m_1, m_2) \in \Theta(m)$  of  $x_{m_1, m_2}$  subschemes of type  $[m_1, m_2]$ . Assume  $\text{length}(Z) \geq \delta$ . Fix an integer  $t \geq 0$ . Then either  $h^0(X, \mathcal{I}_{AUZ} \otimes M \otimes R^{\otimes t}) = 0$  or  $h^1(X, \mathcal{I}_{AUZ} \otimes M \otimes R^{\otimes t}) = 0$ .*

Different connected components of  $Z$  may be associated to different integers

$m_1, m_2$ , with the only restriction  $m \geq m_2 \geq m_1 > 0$ . The case  $m_1 = m_2$  for all connected components of  $Z$  is just [1], Theorem 1.1 and Remark 7.2. The restriction “ $m_2 < 2m_1$ ” in the statements of Theorems 1 and 2 is very unpleasant, but we do not know how to avoid it (at least for many of the points of  $Z_{red}$ ). It is used to get  $e_{m_1} = 1$  in the set-up of Remark 2.

**Notation 1.** Fix an integral projective scheme  $X$ , an effective Cartier divisor  $D \subset X$ ,  $P \in D_{reg}$  and a zero-dimensional scheme  $A \subset X$  such that  $A_{red} = \{P\}$ . Set  $A_0 := A$ . Define inductively the schemes  $A_i$  and  $B_i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , by the formulas  $A_i := \text{Res}_D(A_{i-1})$  and  $B_i := A_i \cap D$ . For every integer  $i \geq 1$ , set  $e_i := \text{length}(B_{i-1})$ . We will say that  $A$  has type  $(e_1, e_2, \dots)$  with respect to  $D$ . Since  $A$  is zero-dimensional and  $A_{red} \subseteq D$ , we have  $e_i = 0$  for  $i \gg 0$ ,  $e_{i+1} \leq e_i$  for all  $i$ , and  $\text{length}(A) = \sum_{i \geq 1} e_i$ . Instead of a sequence  $(e_1, e_2, \dots)$  we will usually write a finite string  $(e_1, \dots, e_s)$  if  $e_{s+1} = 0$ , i.e. if  $e_i = 0$  for all  $i > s$ .

**Remark 1.** Fix  $i \in \{1, \dots, h\}$  and set  $P := P_{i,0}$ ,  $c := c_i$  and  $m_j := m_{i,j}$ . Let  $D \subset X$  such that  $P \in D_{reg}$  and that  $P_{i,1}$  is not contained in the strict transform of  $D$  in  $X_1$ . Let  $Z(\psi, P)$  (or  $Z_X(\psi, P)$ ) denote the connected component of  $Z(\psi)$  supported by  $P$  and  $(e_1, \dots)$  its associated sequence with respect to  $D$ . The integers  $e_i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , are determined in the following way. Obviously,  $e_i \geq e_j$  if  $i \leq j$ , and  $e_i \neq 0$  if and only if  $i \leq m_c$ . Set  $A_0 := Z(\psi, P)$  and  $B_0 := A_0 \cap D$ . For all integers  $i \geq 1$  set  $A_i := \text{Res}_H(A_{i-1})$  and  $B_i := A_i \cap D$ . Since  $B_0$  is an For all  $1 \leq i \leq m_c$  there is a non-negative integer  $d_i$  such that  $e_i = \binom{n+d_j-1}{n-1}$  and the values of the integers  $d_1, \dots, d_{m_c}$  are determined in the following way. Set  $m_0 := 0$ . Each integer  $m_i - m_{i-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq c$ , gives  $m_i - m_{i-1}$  integers  $d_j$ , which are the integers  $t$  such that  $1 \leq t \leq m_i - m_{i-1}$ . For instance in the case  $c = 2$  we get  $c_i = \binom{n+m_2-i}{n-1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m_2 - m_1$  and  $c_{m_2-m_1+2j-1} = c_{m_2-m_1+2j} = \binom{n+m_1-j}{n-1}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq m_1$  and  $c_i = 0$  for all  $i > m_2$ . Now assume  $c \leq 2$ . If  $m_1 = m_2$ , i.e. if  $c = 1$ , then the situation is as in the case  $D = H$ , because in this case  $Z(\psi, P) = m_1 P$ . Now assume  $c = 2$ , i.e. assume  $m_2 > m_1$ . Let  $H$  be an effective Cartier divisor of  $X$  such that  $P \in H_{reg}$  and the tangent space  $T_P H$  of  $H$  at  $P$  contains the tangent vector of  $X$  at  $P$  corresponding to the blowing-up  $X_2 \rightarrow X_1$ . We have  $Z(\psi, P) \cap H = Z(\psi, P)_H$  and  $\text{Res}_H(Z(\psi, P)) = Z(\psi', P)$ , where  $\psi'$  is associated to the sequence  $(m_1 - 1, m_2 - 2)$ , with the convention that if  $m_2 = m_1 + 1$ , then  $Z(\psi', P)$  is the fat point  $xP$ . If  $m_2 \geq m_1 + 2$ , then we continue. If  $m_2 \leq 2m_1$ , we are sure that after  $m_2 - m_1$  steps we arrive at the fat point  $(2m_1 - m_2)P$ . Then we continue  $2m_1 - m_2$  times as in the case  $c = 1$ .

**Remark 2.** Fix integers  $2m_1 > m_2 \geq m_1 > 0$  and  $X, P, H$  as in the last part of Remark 1. Let  $(e_1, \dots)$  be sequences associated to  $Z(\psi, P)$  with

respect to  $H$ . We saw that  $e_i = 0$  for all  $i > m_1$  and that  $e_{m_1} = 1$ . Notice that  $\binom{n+i-1}{n-1} / \binom{n+i-2}{n-1} = (n+i-1)/(i-1)$  for all integers  $i \geq 2$ . Hence  $(n+m_2-2)/2(m_2-1) \leq e_{i+1}/e_i < 1$  for all integers  $1 \leq i \leq m_2-1$ .

**Remark 3.** Fix integers  $a \geq 0$ ,  $m_2 \geq m_1 > 0$  and  $X, P, H$  as in the last part of Remark 1. Fix  $L \in \text{Pic}(X)$  and a zero-dimensional scheme  $W \subset X$  such that  $P \notin W_{red}$ , and  $h^1(X, L) = h^1(X, L(-H)) = 0$ . Fix a general  $Q \in X$  and let  $Z(m_1, m_2, Q)$  denote the zero-dimensional scheme obtained taking  $Q$  instead of  $P$  in Remark 1. To check  $h^1(X, \mathcal{I}_{W \cup Z(m_1, m_2, Q)} \otimes L) \leq a$  (resp.  $h^0(X, \mathcal{I}_{Z \cup Z(m_1, m_2, Q)} \otimes L) \leq a$ ) it is sufficient to prove  $h^1(X, \mathcal{I}_{\text{Res}_H(W) \cup B} \otimes L(-D)) + h^1(H, \mathcal{I}_{W \cap H \cup \{P\}} \otimes (L|H)) \leq a$  (resp.  $h^0(X, \mathcal{I}_{\text{Res}_H(W) \cup B} \otimes L(-D)) + h^0(H, \mathcal{I}_{Z \cap H \cup \{P\}} \otimes (L|H)) \leq a$ ), where  $B$  is a virtual scheme supported by  $P$  and with type  $(e_1, \dots)$  with respect to  $D$ , where  $e_i$  is the same as the integer  $e_i$  associated to  $Z(\psi, P)$  for  $i \neq m_1$ , while  $e_{m_1} = 0$ . Hence  $\text{length}(B) = \text{length}(Z(m_1, m_2, Q)) - 1$ . We will say that  $B$  is a virtual scheme of type  $[m_2, m_1, H]$  and that we applied Remark 2 with respect to the integers  $m_2, m_1$ .

*Outline of Proofs of Theorems 1 and 2.* It is easy to check that the two statements are equivalent. Set  $n := \dim(X)$ . As in [1] we will only write down the case  $A = \emptyset$ . As in [1] we easily reduce to the case  $M = \mathcal{O}_X$ ,  $R$  very ample, and  $h^i(X, R^{\otimes t}) = 0$  for all  $i > 0$  and all  $t > 0$ . We use induction on  $n$ . We follow step by step the proof of [1], Theorem 1.1, with the same numerical asymptotic estimates using the lower bounds for the integers  $e_{i+1}/e_i$  given in Remark 2 (see [1], Lemmas 4.2, 5.2 and 6.2). At each step we insert inside a divisor  $H_a$  of  $X$  only  $[m_1, m_2]$ -schemes such that, if  $m_1 \neq m_2$ , then  $H_a$  contains the tangent direction corresponding to this scheme. The condition  $e_{m_1} = 1$  allows us to use at each step the differential Horace Lemma with perfect length supported by the given divisor. The termination is as in [1], Proposition 7.1.  $\square$

We work over an algebraically closed field  $\mathbb{K}$  with either  $\text{char}(\mathbb{K}) = 0$  or  $\text{char}(\mathbb{K}) > m$ .

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### References

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