



INSTITUT DE FRANCE  
**Académie des sciences**



# A sharp lower bound for the log canonical threshold of an isolated plurisubharmonic singularity

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# Singularities of plurisubharmonic (psh) functions

**Goal:** study **local singularities** of a plurisubharmonic function  $\varphi$  on a neighborhood of a point in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

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**Algebraic setting:**

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{2} \log(|g_1|^2 + \dots + |g_N|^2)$$

associated to some ideal  $\mathcal{J} = (g_1, \dots, g_N) \subset \mathcal{O}_{X,p}$  of holomorphic (algebraic) functions on some complex variety  $X$ .

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**More generally:** consider a sequence  $(\mathcal{J}_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  of such ideals, with

$$\mathcal{J}_k \mathcal{J}_\ell \subset \mathcal{J}_{k+\ell}$$

Try to understand “ $\lim(\mathcal{J}_k)^{1/k}$ ” (Lazarsfeld, Ein, Mustață...)



# Lelong numbers and log canonical thresholds

The easiest way of measuring singularities of psh functions is by using **Lelong numbers**:

$$\nu(\varphi, p) = \liminf_{z \rightarrow p} \frac{\varphi(z)}{\log |z - p|}.$$

**Example :**

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{2} \log(|g_1|^2 + \dots + |g_N|^2) \Rightarrow \nu(\varphi, p) = \min \text{ord}_p(g_j) \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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## Definition

Let  $X$  be a complex manifold,  $p \in X$ , and  $\varphi$  be a plurisubharmonic function defined on  $X$ . The **log canonical threshold** or *complex singularity exponent* of  $\varphi$  at  $p$  is defined by

$$c_p(\varphi) = \sup \{ c \geq 0 : e^{-2c\varphi} \text{ is } L^1 \text{ on a neighborhood of } p \}.$$

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Calculation in the case of analytic singularities : take

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Then by Hironaka,  $\exists$  modification  $\mu : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$  such that

$$\mu^* \mathcal{J} = (g_1 \circ \mu, \dots, g_N \circ \mu) = \mathcal{O}(-\sum a_j E_j)$$

for some normal crossing divisor.

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for some normal crossing divisor. Let  $\mathcal{O}(\sum b_j E_j)$  be the divisor of  $\text{Jac}(\mu)$ . We have

$$c(\varphi) = \min_{E_j, \mu(E_j) \ni 0} \frac{1 + b_j}{a_j} \in \mathbb{Q}_+^*.$$

# Proof of the formula for the log canonical threshold

In fact, we have to find the supremum of  $c > 0$  such that

$$I = \int_{V \ni 0} \frac{d\lambda(z)}{(|g_1|^2 + \dots + |g_N|^2)^c} < +\infty.$$

Let us perform the change of variable  $z = \mu(w)$ . Then

$$d\lambda(z) = |\text{Jac}(\mu)(w)|^2 \sim \left| \prod w_j^{b_j} \right|^2 d\lambda(w)$$

with respect to coordinates on the blow-up  $\tilde{V}$  of  $V$ , and

$$I \sim \int_{\tilde{V}} \frac{|\prod w_j^{b_j}|^2 d\lambda(w)}{|\prod w_j^{a_j}|^{2c}}$$

so convergence occurs if  $ca_j - b_j < 1$  for all  $j$ .

# Notations and basic facts

- A domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  is called *hyperconvex* if  $\exists \psi \in \mathcal{PSH}(\Omega)$ ,  $\psi \leq 0$ , such that  $\{z : \psi(z) < c\} \Subset \Omega$  for all  $c < 0$ .

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- $\mathcal{E}_0(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \mathcal{P}SH \cap L^\infty(\Omega) : \lim_{z \rightarrow \partial\Omega} \varphi(z) = 0, \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi)^n < +\infty \right\}$

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- $\mathcal{F}(\Omega) = \left\{ \varphi \in \mathcal{P}SH(\Omega) : \exists \varphi_p \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega) \searrow \varphi, \text{ and } \sup_{p \geq 1} \int_{\Omega} (dd^c \varphi_p)^n < +\infty \right\}$ ,
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## Theorem (U. Cegrell)

$\tilde{\mathcal{E}}(X)$  is the largest subclass of psh functions defined on a complex manifold  $X$  for which the complex Monge-Ampère operator is **locally well-defined**.



# Intermediate Lelong numbers

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$$e_j(\varphi) = \nu((dd^c\varphi)^j, 0).$$

In other words

$$e_j(\varphi) = \int_{\{0\}} (dd^c\varphi)^j \wedge (dd^c \log \|z\|)^{n-j}.$$

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$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{2} \log(|g_1|^2 + \dots + |g_N|^2),$$

one has  $e_j(\varphi) \in \mathbb{N}$ .

# The main result

## Main Theorem (Demailly & Phạm)

Let  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$ . If  $e_1(\varphi) = 0$ , then  $c(\varphi) = \infty$ .

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$$c(\varphi) \geq \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{e_j(\varphi)}{e_{j+1}(\varphi)}.$$

The lower bound improves a classical result of H. Skoda (1972), according to which

$$\frac{1}{e_1(\varphi)} \leq c(\varphi) \leq \frac{n}{e_1(\varphi)}.$$

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Remark: The above theorem is optimal, with equality for

$$\varphi(z) = \log(|z_1|^{a_1} + \dots + |z_n|^{a_n}), \quad 0 < a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \dots \leq a_n.$$

$$\text{Then } e_j(\varphi) = a_1 \dots a_j, \quad c(\varphi) = \frac{1}{a_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_n}.$$



# Geometric applications

The log canonical threshold has a lot of applications. It is essentially a local version of Tian's invariant, which determines a sufficient condition for the **existence of Kähler-Einstein metrics**.

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Another important application is to **birational rigidity**.

**Theorem (Pukhlikov 1998, Corti 2000, de Fernex 2011)**

Let  $X$  be a smooth hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{C}P^{n+1}$ .

Then if  $d = n + 1$ ,  **$\text{Bir}(X) \simeq \text{Aut}(X)$**

It was first shown by Manin-Iskovskih in the early 70's that a 3-dim quartic in  $\mathbb{C}P^4$  ( $n = 3$ ,  $d = 4$ ) is not rational.



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## Question

For  $3 \leq d \leq n + 1$ , when is it true that  $\text{Bir}(X) \simeq \text{Aut}(X)$  (birational rigidity) ?

# Lemma 1

## Lemma 1

Let  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$  and  $0 \in \Omega$ . Then we have that

$$e_j(\varphi)^2 \leq e_{j-1}(\varphi)e_{j+1}(\varphi),$$

for all  $j = 1, \dots, n-1$ .

In other words  $j \mapsto \log e_j(\varphi)$  is convex, thus we have  $e_j(\varphi) \geq e_1(\varphi)^j$  and the ratios  $e_{j+1}(\varphi)/e_j(\varphi)$  are increasing.

## Corollary

If  $e_1(\varphi) = \nu(\varphi, 0) = 0$ , then  $e_j(\varphi) = 0$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

A hard conjecture by V. Guedj and A. Rashkovskii ( $\sim 1998$ ) states that  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$ ,  $e_1(\varphi) = 0$  also implies  $e_n(\varphi) = 0$ .

# Proof of Lemma 1

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Without loss generality we can assume that  $\Omega$  is the unit ball and  $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega)$ . For  $h, \psi \in \mathcal{E}_0(\Omega)$  an integration by parts and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \int_{\Omega} -h(dd^c\varphi)^j \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j} \right]^2 \\ &= \left[ \int_{\Omega} d\varphi \wedge d^c\psi \wedge (dd^c\varphi)^{j-1} \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j-1} \wedge dd^c h \right]^2 \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} d\psi \wedge d^c\psi \wedge (dd^c\varphi)^{j-1} \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j-1} \wedge dd^c h \\ &\quad \int_{\Omega} d\varphi \wedge d^c\varphi \wedge (dd^c\varphi)^{j-1} \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j-1} \wedge dd^c h \\ &= \int_{\Omega} -h(dd^c\varphi)^{j-1} \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j+1} \int_{\Omega} -h(dd^c\varphi)^{j+1} \wedge (dd^c\psi)^{n-j-1}, \end{aligned}$$

# Proof of Lemma 1, continued

Now, as  $p \rightarrow +\infty$ , take

$$h(z) = h_p(z) = \max\left(-1, \frac{1}{p} \log \|z\|\right) \nearrow \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } z \in \Omega \setminus \{0\} \\ -1 & \text{if } z = 0. \end{cases}$$

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By the monotone convergence theorem we get in the limit that

$$\left[ \int_{\{0\}} (dd^c \varphi)^j \wedge (dd^c \psi)^{n-j} \right]^2 \leq \int_{\{0\}} (dd^c \varphi)^{j-1} \wedge (dd^c \psi)^{n-j+1} \int_{\{0\}} (dd^c \varphi)^{j+1} \wedge (dd^c \psi)^{n-j-1}.$$

For  $\psi(z) = \ln \|z\|$ , this is the desired estimate.  $\square$

# Lemma 2

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$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{e_j(\varphi)}{e_{j+1}(\varphi)} \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{e_j(\psi)}{e_{j+1}(\psi)}.$$

The argument is based on the monotonicity of Lelong numbers with respect to the relation  $\varphi \leq \psi$ , and on the monotonicity of the right hand side in the relevant range of values.



# Proof of Lemma 2

Set

$$D = \{t=(t_1, \dots, t_n) \in [0, +\infty)^n : t_1^2 \leq t_2, t_j^2 \leq t_{j-1}t_{j+1}, \forall j = 2, \dots, n-1\}.$$

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Then  $D$  is a convex set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , as can be checked by a straightforward application of the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality. Next, consider the function  $f : \text{int } D \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  defined by

$$f(t_1, \dots, t_n) = \frac{1}{t_1} + \frac{t_1}{t_2} \dots + \frac{t_{n-1}}{t_n}.$$

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We have

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t_j}(t) = -\frac{t_{j-1}}{t_j^2} + \frac{1}{t_{j+1}} \leq 0, \quad \forall t \in D.$$

# Proof of Lemma 2, continued

For  $a, b \in \text{int } D$  such that  $a_j \geq b_j, j = 1, \dots, n$ , the function

$$[0, 1] \ni \lambda \rightarrow f(b + \lambda(a - b))$$

is decreasing.

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On the other hand, the hypothesis  $\varphi \leq \psi$  implies that  $e_j(\varphi) \geq e_j(\psi), j = 1, \dots, n$ , by the comparison principle. Therefore we have that

$$f(e_1(\varphi), \dots, e_n(\varphi)) \leq f(e_1(\psi), \dots, e_n(\psi)).$$



# Proof of the Main Theorem

It will be convenient here to introduce Kiselman's refined Lelong number.

## Definition

Let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{PSH}(\Omega)$ . Then the function defined by

$$\nu_{\varphi}(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\max \{ \varphi(z) : |z_1| = e^{x_1 t}, \dots, |z_n| = e^{x_n t} \}}{t}$$

is called the **refined Lelong number** of  $\varphi$  at 0.



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The refined Lelong number of  $\varphi$  at 0 is increasing in each variable  $x_j$ , and concave on  $\mathbb{R}^n_+$ .

# Proof of the Main Theorem

The proof is divided into the following steps:

- **Proof of the theorem in the toric case**, i.e.

$\varphi(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \varphi(|z_1|, \dots, |z_n|)$  depends only on  $|z_j|$  and therefore we can without loss of generality assume that  $\Omega = \Delta^n$  is the unit polydisk.

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- **Reduction to the case of plurisubharmonic functions with analytic singularity**, i.e.  $\varphi = \log(|f_1|^2 + \dots + |f_N|^2)$ , where  $f_1, \dots, f_N$  are germs of holomorphic functions at 0.

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- **Reduction to the case of monomial ideals**, i.e. for  $\varphi = \log(|f_1|^2 + \dots + |f_N|^2)$ , where  $f_1, \dots, f_N$  are germs of monomial elements at 0.

# Proof of the theorem in the toric case

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We choose  $x^0 = (x_1^0, \dots, x_n^0) \in \Sigma$  such that

$$\nu_\varphi(x^0) = \max\{\nu_\varphi(x) : x \in S\}.$$

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Set

$$\Sigma = \left\{ x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : \sum_{j=1}^n x_j = 1 \right\}.$$

We choose  $x^0 = (x_1^0, \dots, x_n^0) \in \Sigma$  such that

$$\nu_\varphi(x^0) = \max\{\nu_\varphi(x) : x \in \Sigma\}.$$

By Theorem 5.8 in [Kis94] we have the following formula

$$c(\varphi) = \frac{1}{\nu_\varphi(x^0)}.$$

# Proof of the theorem in the toric case, continued

$$\text{Set } \zeta(x) = \nu_\varphi(x^0) \min \left( \frac{x_1}{x_1^0}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_n^0} \right), \quad \forall x \in \Sigma.$$



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Set  $\zeta(x) = \nu_\varphi(x^0) \min \left( \frac{x_1}{x_1^0}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_n^0} \right), \quad \forall x \in \Sigma.$

Then  $\zeta$  is the smallest nonnegative concave increasing function on  $\Sigma$  such that  $\zeta(x^0) = \nu_\varphi(x^0)$ , hence  $\zeta \leq \nu_\varphi$ .

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This implies that

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(z_1, \dots, z_n) &\leq -\nu_\varphi(-\ln |z_1|, \dots, -\ln |z_n|) \\ &\leq -\zeta(-\ln |z_1|, \dots, -\ln |z_n|) \\ &\leq \nu_\varphi(x^0) \max\left(\frac{\ln |z_1|}{x_1^0}, \dots, \frac{\ln |z_n|}{x_n^0}\right) := \psi(z_1, \dots, z_n).\end{aligned}$$

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By Lemma 2 we get that

$$f(e_1(\varphi), \dots, e_n(\varphi)) \leq f(e_1(\psi), \dots, e_n(\psi)) = c(\psi) = \frac{1}{\nu_\varphi(x^0)} = c(\varphi).$$

# Reduction to the case of plurisubharmonic functions with analytic singularity

Let  $\mathcal{H}_{m\varphi}(\Omega)$  be the Hilbert space of holomorphic functions  $f$  on  $\Omega$  such that

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and let  $\psi_m = \frac{1}{2m} \log \sum |g_{m,k}|^2$  where  $\{g_{m,k}\}_{k \geq 1}$  be an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{H}_{m\varphi}(\Omega)$ .

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$$\varphi(z) - \frac{C_1}{m} \leq \psi_m(z) \leq \sup_{|\zeta-z|<r} \varphi(\zeta) + \frac{1}{m} \log \frac{C_2}{r^n}$$

for every  $z \in \Omega$  and  $r < d(z, \partial\Omega)$ .

# Reduction to the case of plurisubharmonic functions with analytic singularity, continued

and

$$\nu(\varphi) - \frac{n}{m} \leq \nu(\psi_m) \leq \nu(\varphi), \quad \frac{1}{c(\varphi)} - \frac{1}{m} \leq \frac{1}{c(\psi_m)} \leq \frac{1}{c(\varphi)}.$$

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By Lemma 2, we have that

$$f(\mathbf{e}_1(\varphi), \dots, \mathbf{e}_n(\varphi)) \leq f(\mathbf{e}_1(\psi_m), \dots, \mathbf{e}_n(\psi_m)), \quad \forall m \geq 1.$$



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The above inequalities show that in order to prove the lower bound of  $c(\varphi)$  in the Main Theorem, we only need prove it for  $c(\psi_m)$  and then let  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Reduction to the case of monomial ideals

For  $j = 0, \dots, n$  set

$$\mathcal{J} = (f_1, \dots, f_N), \quad c(\mathcal{J}) = c(\varphi), \quad \text{and} \quad e_j(\mathcal{J}) = e_j(\varphi).$$

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Now, by fixing a multiplicative order on the monomials

$$z^\alpha = z_1^{\alpha_1} \dots z_n^{\alpha_n}$$

it is well known that one can construct a flat family  $(\mathcal{J}_s)_{s \in \mathbb{C}}$  of ideals of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{C}^n, 0}$  depending on a complex parameter  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , such that  $\mathcal{J}_0$  is a monomial ideal,  $\mathcal{J}_1 = \mathcal{J}$  and

$$\dim(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{C}^n, 0} / \mathcal{J}_s^t) = \dim(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{C}^n, 0} / \mathcal{J}^t) \quad \text{for all } s, t \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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In fact  $\mathcal{J}_0$  is just the initial ideal associated to  $\mathcal{J}$  with respect to the monomial order.

# Reduction to the case of monomial ideals, continued

Moreover, we can arrange by a generic rotation of coordinates  $\mathbb{C}^p \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  that the family of ideals  $\mathcal{J}_{s|\mathbb{C}^p}$  is also flat,

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in particular,  $e_p(\mathcal{J}_0) = e_p(\mathcal{J})$  for all  $p$ . The semicontinuity property of the log canonical threshold implies that  $c(\mathcal{J}_0) \leq c(\mathcal{J}_s) = c(\mathcal{J})$  for all  $s$ , so the lower bound is valid for  $c(\mathcal{J})$  if it is valid for  $c(\mathcal{J}_0)$ .

# About the continuity of Monge-Ampère operators

## Conjecture

Let  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$  and  $\Omega \ni 0$ . Then the analytic approximations  $\psi_m$  satisfy  $e_j(\psi_m) \rightarrow e_j(\varphi)$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ , in other words, we have “strong continuity” of Monge-Ampère operators and higher Lelong numbers with respect to Bergman kernel approximation.

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In the 2-dimensional case,  $e_2(\varphi)$  can be computed as follows (at least when  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\omega)$  has analytic singularities). Let  $\mu : \tilde{\Omega} \rightarrow \Omega$  be the blow-up of  $\Omega$  at  $0$ . Take local coordinates  $(w_1, w_2)$  on  $\tilde{\Omega}$  so that the exceptional divisor  $E$  can be written  $w_1 = 0$ .

# About the continuity of Monge-Ampère operators (II)

With  $\gamma = \nu(\varphi, 0)$ , we get that

$$\tilde{\varphi}(w) = \varphi \circ \mu(w) - \gamma \log |w_1|$$

is psh with generic Lelong numbers equal to 0 along  $E$ , and therefore there are at most countably many points  $x_\ell \in E$  at which  $\gamma_\ell = \nu(\tilde{\varphi}, x_\ell) > 0$ . Set  $\Theta = dd^c \varphi$ ,  $\tilde{\Theta} = dd^c \tilde{\varphi} = \mu^* \Theta - \gamma[E]$ . Since  $E^2 = -1$  in cohomology, we have  $\{\tilde{\Theta}\}^2 = \{\mu^* \Theta\}^2 - \gamma^2$  in  $H^2(E, \mathbb{R})$ , hence

$$(*) \quad \int_{\{0\}} (dd^c \varphi)^2 = \gamma^2 + \int_E (dd^c \tilde{\varphi})^2.$$

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If  $\tilde{\varphi}$  only has ordinary logarithmic poles at the  $x_\ell$ 's, then  $\int_E (dd^c \tilde{\varphi})^2 = \sum \gamma_\ell^2$ , but in general the situation is more complicated. Let us blow-up any of the points  $x_\ell$  and repeat the process  $k$  times.

# About the continuity of Monge-Ampère operators (III)

We set  $\ell = \ell_1$  in what follows, as this was the first step, and at step  $k = 0$  we omit any indices as 0 is the only point we have to blow-up to start with. We then get inductively  $(k + 1)$ -iterated blow-ups depending on multi-indices  $\ell = (\ell_1, \dots, \ell_k) = (\ell', \ell_k)$  with  $\ell' = (\ell_1, \dots, \ell_{k-1})$ ,

$$\mu_\ell : \tilde{\Omega}_\ell \rightarrow \tilde{\Omega}_{\ell'}, \quad k \geq 1, \quad \mu_\emptyset = \mu : \tilde{\Omega}_\emptyset = \tilde{\Omega} \rightarrow \Omega, \quad \gamma_\emptyset = \gamma$$

and exceptional divisors  $E_\ell \subset \tilde{\Omega}_\ell$  lying over points  $x_\ell \in E_{\ell'} \subset \tilde{\Omega}_{\ell'}$ , where

$$\gamma_\ell = \nu(\tilde{\varphi}_{\ell'}, x_\ell) > 0,$$

$$\tilde{\varphi}_\ell(\mathbf{w}) = \tilde{\varphi}_{\ell'} \circ \mu_\ell(\mathbf{w}) - \gamma_\ell \log |w_1^{(\ell)}|,$$

$$(w_1^{(\ell)} = 0 \text{ an equation of } E_\ell \text{ in the relevant chart}).$$

# About the continuity of Monge-Ampère operators (IV)

Formula (\*) implies

$$(**) \quad e_2(\varphi) \geq \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{N}^k} \gamma_\ell^2$$

with equality when  $\varphi$  has an analytic singularity at 0. We conjecture that (\*\*) is always an equality whenever  $\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$ .



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Notice that the currents  $\Theta_\ell = dd^c \tilde{\varphi}_\ell$  satisfy inductively  $\Theta_\ell = \mu_\ell^* \Theta_{\ell'} - \gamma_\ell [E_\ell]$ , hence the cohomology class of  $\Theta_\ell$  restricted to  $E_\ell$  is equal to  $\gamma_\ell$  times the fundamental generator of  $E_\ell$ . As a consequence we have

$$\sum_{\ell_{k+1} \in \mathbb{N}} \gamma_{\ell, \ell_{k+1}} \leq \gamma_\ell,$$

in particular  $\gamma_\ell = 0$  for all  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}^k$  if  $\gamma = \nu(\varphi, 0) = 0$ .

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