

A VARIATIONAL APPROACH TO THE YAU–TIAN–DONALDSON CONJECTURE

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INTRODUCTION

The Yau–Tian–Donaldson conjecture is a central conjecture in Kähler geometry, whose broad goal is to relate the existence of a canonical metric in a given Kähler cohomology class to an algebro-geometric condition of stability. For metrics in the anticanonical class of a Fano manifold X , the conjecture asserts that X admits a Kähler–Einstein metric iff X is K-polystable; this case was settled a few years ago by Chen–Donaldson–Sun [CDS15] (see also [Tia15]), following a strategy based on a continuity method with respect to the cone angle of a Kähler–Einstein metric with cone singularities along a fixed anticanonical divisor, as well as an in-depth use of the Cheeger–Colding–Tian theory of Gromov–Hausdorff limits of Kähler manifolds with Ricci bounds. Shortly thereafter, a proof based on the ‘classical’ continuity method was provided by Datar and Székelyhidi [Szé16, DS16], followed by another one by Chen–Sun–Wang [CSW18], based on the Kähler–Ricci flow.

In the preprint version [BBJ15] of the present paper, we proved that a Fano manifold X without nontrivial holomorphic vector fields admits a Kähler–Einstein metric iff X is uniformly K-stable. While only a special case of the previous results,

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one virtue of our approach, which is based on variational arguments and regularization techniques from pluripotential theory, lies in its relative simplicity. As we shall see, our variational method easily extends to the setting of twisted Kähler–Einstein currents, and contains, in particular, the smooth setting in [DS16], as well as the log Fano case, at least as long as the underlying variety is smooth (compare [LTW17]). Moreover, our approach naturally leads to an algebro-geometric description of the greatest (twisted) Ricci lower bound. The present paper is thus an expanded version of [BBJ15], upgraded to the setting of twisted Kähler–Einstein currents.

Main results. Let X be a (smooth) projective manifold, L an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle on X , and θ a closed, quasi-positive $(1, 1)$ -current on X , i.e. the sum of a positive current and a smooth form. A θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current is a positive $(1, 1)$ -current $\omega \in c_1(L)$, of finite energy in the sense of [BBGZ13], such that

$$(TKE) \quad \text{Ric}(\omega) = \lambda\omega + \theta, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

When θ is a smooth form, this equation amounts to a complex Monge–Ampère equation for a potential of ω , and pluripotential theory thus provides an interpretation of (TKE) in the singular case as well. The constant λ is determined by the cohomological condition

$$c_1(X, \theta) := c_1(X) - [\theta] = \lambda c_1(L).$$

In the case $\lambda \geq 0$, the Monge–Ampère formulation shows that (TKE) only admits a solution when θ is *klt*¹ (see §2 for details). By [BBEGZ19], each solution ω of (TKE) is an honest Kähler form on any open set on which θ is smooth. When θ is the integration current on an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor Δ with (X, Δ) klt, ω further has cone singularities along the normal crossing part of Δ [GP16].

When $\lambda < 0$ (resp. $\lambda = 0$ and θ klt), the variational approach of [BBGZ13] provides a unique solution to (TKE) (compare [BG14]), generalizing classical results of Aubin and Yau [Aub78, Yau78]. We refer to [Tsu08, ST12, Tos10] for natural examples attached to Calabi–Yau fibrations, with θ of Weil–Petersson type.

The main result of the present paper deals instead with the ‘twisted Fano case’.

Theorem A. *Let X be a smooth projective manifold, L an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle, and θ a semipositive klt current such that $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$.*

- (i) *If $c_1(L)$ contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current (resp. a unique θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current), then (X, L) is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to θ .*
- (ii) *Conversely, if (X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ , then $c_1(L)$ contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.*

Under a mild technical condition on the singularities of θ , the twisted Kähler–Einstein current in (ii) is in fact unique, yielding a more symmetric statement; see Corollary 5.2.

The notion of Ding-stability used here is phrased in terms of the non-Archimedean Ding functional, defined on test configurations and involving the log discrepancy $A_\theta(v)$ of divisorial valuations v on X with respect to the ‘klt pair’ (X, θ) . In the preprint version [BBJ15] of the present paper, uniform Ding-stability was shown to be equivalent to uniform K-stability (as defined in [BHJ17, Der16]) in

¹A shorthand for Kawamata log terminal, borrowed from birational geometry.

the usual Fano case ($L = -K_X, \theta = 0$), building on the Minimal Model Program very much in the same way as [LX14]; this equivalence was then extended to the log Fano case in [Fuj19]. As a result, we obtain:

Theorem B. *Let (X, Δ) be a log Fano manifold, i.e. X is a smooth projective variety and Δ an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor such that (X, Δ) is klt and $-(K_X + \Delta)$ is ample. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) $c_1(X, \Delta)$ contains a unique Δ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current;
- (ii) $c_1(X, \Delta)$ contains a Δ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current, and $\text{Aut}(X, \Delta)$ is finite;
- (iii) the log Fano pair (X, Δ) is uniformly (log) K -stable.

As already mentioned, when $\Delta = 0$, Theorem B is basically a special case of [CDS15, DS16, CSW18]. Closely related results were obtained in [LS14, SW16] when $\text{supp } \Delta$ is a smooth divisor, and in [LTW17] in the general case (building on the preprint version [BBJ15] of the present paper).

As we now explain, Theorem A also yields a purely algebro-geometric description of the greatest (twisted) Ricci lower bound in terms of a stability threshold. Given a polarized manifold (X, L) and a klt current θ , we define the *greatest twisted Ricci lower bound* as

$$\beta_\theta(X, L) = \sup\{\beta \in \mathbb{R} \mid \text{Ric}(\omega) \geq \beta\omega + \theta \text{ for some } \omega \in c_1(L)\},$$

where ω is a current of finite energy and where the inequality means that $\text{Ric}(\omega) - \beta\omega - \theta$ is smooth and semipositive. The invariant $\beta_\theta(X, L)$ is clearly bounded above by the *nef threshold* $s_\theta(X, L)$, i.e. the supremum of $s \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c_1(X, \theta) - sc_1(L)$ nef.

In the usual smooth Fano case ($L = -K_X, \theta = 0$), the greatest Ricci lower bound was implicitly considered in [Tia92], and explicitly defined and studied by Rubinstein in [Rub08, Rub09]. Székelyhidi later showed in [Szé11] that it coincides with the existence time in Aubin’s continuity method. Note also that the nef threshold is equal to 1 in that case.

Slightly extending [BJJ20, BoJ18b], we introduce, on the other hand, the *stability threshold*

$$\delta_\theta(X, L) := \inf_v \frac{A_\theta(v)}{S_L(v)},$$

where v ranges over all divisorial valuations on X , $A_\theta(v)$ is the log discrepancy of v mentioned above, and $S_L(v)$ is the *expected vanishing order* of multisections of L along v , defined as the limit as $m \rightarrow \infty$ of the (scaled) mean value of v on sections of mL . Following [BJJ20, BoJ18b], we show that the stability threshold above coincides with the twisted analogue of the invariant originally defined in [FO18], i.e.

$$\delta_\theta(X, L) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \inf \{\text{lct}_\theta(D) \mid D \text{ of } m\text{-basis type}\}$$

where a divisor of *m -basis type* is a \mathbb{Q} -divisor of the form

$$D = \frac{1}{mN_m} \sum_{j=1}^{N_m} \text{div}(s_j)$$

for some basis (s_1, \dots, s_{N_m}) of $H^0(mL)$, and

$$\text{lct}_\theta(D) = \inf_v \frac{A_\theta(v)}{v(D)}$$

is the log canonical threshold of D with respect to θ . As in [BoJ18b], we use non-Archimedean pluripotential theory to show that for each $\delta \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$, $(X, \delta L)$ is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to θ iff $\delta \leq \delta_\theta(X, L)$ (resp. $\delta < \delta_\theta(X, L)$); this characterizes $\delta_\theta(X, L)$ and explains the chosen terminology.

When X is smooth and θ is a semipositive klt current with $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$, Theorem A therefore implies that the existence of a unique θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current is characterized by the condition $\delta_\theta(X, L) > 1$, at least when θ is strictly positive or has small unbounded locus; see Corollary 5.2.

Similarly, we infer the following result from Theorem A.

Theorem C. *If (X, L) is a polarized manifold and θ a semipositive klt current, then*

$$\beta_\theta(X, L) = \min\{\delta_\theta(X, L), s_\theta(X, L)\}.$$

Here we do *not* assume $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$. In the usual smooth Fano case, i.e. $L = -K_X$ and $\theta = 0$, Theorem C was independently obtained in the appendix of [CRZ19], as a consequence of [LS14, SW16], and hence ultimately [CDS15] (see also [Li11] for the toric case and [Cab19] for the case of Fano manifolds of complexity one with respect to a torus action).

The usefulness of the stability threshold to the study of K-stability has recently been further explored in several works, such as [PW18, CZ19, CP18, BIL18, BLX19].

Coercivity and Ding-stability. We now describe our strategy of proof of Theorem A. Choose a Kähler form $\omega_0 \in c_1(L)$, so that finite energy currents in $c_1(L)$ get parametrized by the space $\mathcal{E}^1 = \mathcal{E}^1(X, \omega_0)$ of finite energy potentials [GZ07, BBGZ13], a complete geodesic space with respect to a metric d_1 introduced by Darvas [Dar15].

By [BBEGZ19], if $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$, then ω_u is a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current iff u minimizes the *Ding functional* $D_\theta = L_\theta - E$, where

$$L_\theta(u) = -\frac{1}{2} \log \int_X e^{-2u} \mu_\theta$$

for a certain probability measure μ_θ , and E is the *Monge–Ampère energy* functional. Further, D_θ admits a minimizer in \mathcal{E}^1 as soon as it is *coercive*, i.e. $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J - C$ for some constants $\varepsilon, C > 0$, with $J \geq 0$ denoting the Aubin energy functional. A key ingredient here is the convexity of D_θ along plurisubharmonic (psh) geodesics in \mathcal{E}^1 , a consequence of [Bern09].

In a first step towards Theorem A, we prove that D_θ is coercive iff $D_\theta(U_t) \rightarrow +\infty$ along each non-trivial (psh) geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ (cf. Corollary 2.18), which equivalently means that the slope at infinity of D_θ along U is positive, by convexity. The proof is based on the thermodynamical formalism of [Berm13], which shows that the coercivity of D_θ is equivalent to that of the twisted K-energy, and on an argument by contradiction inspired by [DaH17, DaR17], based on the entropy/energy compactness theorem of [BBEGZ19] and convexity of the K-energy [BB17].

We next consider the set of (normal, ample) test configurations for (X, L) ; as in [BHJ17, BoJ18b] we view this as a space \mathcal{H}^{NA} of functions φ on the set X^{div} of (\mathbb{Q} -valued) divisorial valuations on X . To each test configuration is attached a geodesic ray [PS06, Berm16], giving rise to a one-to-one correspondence between \mathcal{H}^{NA} and geodesic rays with *algebraic singularities* (emanating from 0). It further follows from [BHJ19, Berm16] that to each functional F among E, L_θ, D_θ, J corresponds a

non-Archimedean version² $F: \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with the property that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} F(U_t) = F(\varphi)$$

for the geodesic ray U with algebraic singularities associated to $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$. In particular,

$$L_\theta(\varphi) = \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} (A_\theta + \varphi),$$

where $A_\theta > 0$ denotes as above the θ -twisted log discrepancy function.

We say that (X, L) is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to θ if $D_\theta \geq 0$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} (resp. $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$). As we just saw, uniform Ding-stability precisely means that the (Archimedean) Ding functional D_θ grows uniformly at infinity along geodesic rays with algebraic singularities. In order to show Theorem A, it remains to show that this condition implies that D_θ grows along *all* non-trivial geodesic rays in \mathcal{E}^1 .

To do this, we attach to each such ray U a function $\varphi = U_{\text{NA}}$ on X^{div} , defined in terms of Lelong numbers, and compatible with the previous discussion when U has algebraic singularities. Using the characterization of integrability exponents of psh functions in terms of Lelong numbers [FJ05b, BFJ08] (see Appendix B) we prove that the L_θ part of the Ding functional $D_\theta = L_\theta - E$ satisfies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} L_\theta(U_t) = L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}),$$

where the right-hand side is defined by the same formula as above. On the other hand, we show that Demailly’s approximation technique, based on multiplier ideals, gives rise to a sequence of rays (U^j) with algebraic singularities such that $L(U_{\text{NA}}^j) \rightarrow L(U_{\text{NA}})$ and $E(U_{\text{NA}}^j) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} E(U_t)$, which is enough to conclude that $D_\theta(U_t) = L_\theta(U_t) - E(U_t)$ has positive slope at infinity.

From geodesic rays to non-Archimedean functions of finite energy, and back. As we now explain, the previous arguments admit a natural interpretation in the framework of non-Archimedean pluripotential theory, leading to a refined version of Theorem A.

In [BFJ16, BFJ15], a non-Archimedean version of the Calabi–Yau theorem was first obtained for smooth, projective Berkovich spaces over fields of Laurent series. In [BoJ18a], this was adapted to the trivially valued case, in which the Berkovich analytification X^{NA} of a projective variety X provides a natural compactification of the set of divisorial valuations on X . Given a polarization L , normal, ample test configurations for (X, L) are in one-to-one correspondence with non-Archimedean Kähler potentials, which form a space $\mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}} = \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}(X, L)$ of continuous functions on the compact Hausdorff space X^{NA} . Functions of finite energy are defined as decreasing limits of sequences in \mathcal{H}^{NA} , forming a space $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$, and the non-Archimedean Calabi–Yau theorem then shows that the Monge–Ampère operator induces a one-to-one correspondence between $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}/\mathbb{R}$ and Radon probability measures of finite energy on X^{NA} .

In §6, we revisit the arguments used in the proof of Theorem A in the light of this theory. We prove that the function U_{NA} attached to a geodesic ray U in \mathcal{E}^1 belongs to $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$, and we conversely attach to each $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$ a unique maximal geodesic ray in \mathcal{E}^1 . This allows us to refine Theorem A as follows:

²For notational simplicity, we denote a functional and its non-Archimedean version by the same letter, dropping the superscript ‘NA’ used in [Bhj17, Bhj19].

Theorem D. *Let (X, L) be a polarized manifold, and θ a semipositive klt current such that $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *the (Archimedean) Ding functional D_θ is coercive on \mathcal{E}^1 ;*
- (ii) *the non-Archimedean Ding functional D_θ is positive on all non-constant functions in $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$;*
- (iii) *(X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ .*

Recent developments. Several new results have appeared since this paper was submitted, and even more since the preprint version [BBJ15] first appeared. First, a version of Theorem A was proved by Li, Tian and Wang in [LTW17, LTW19] for an arbitrary (possibly singular) log Fano pair. The proof is based on the methods in this paper, but additionally uses a delicate perturbation argument on a resolution of singularities.

As in the current paper, the existence results for Kähler–Einstein metrics in [LTW17, LTW19] are applicable in the case when the log Fano pair in question has finite automorphism group. The general case was recently treated by Chi Li [Li19] using a notion of uniform K-stability relative to suitable reductive subgroups of the automorphism groups. See also [His16a, His16b] for some earlier work.

Finally, there has been tremendous progress towards the Yau–Tian–Donaldson conjecture for cscK metrics. Consider a polarized manifold (X, L) with finite automorphism group (modulo the scaling action of \mathbb{C}^*). The work of Chen–Cheng [CC17, CC18a, CC18b], combined with [DaR17, BDL17], shows that $c_1(L)$ contains a cscK metric iff the Mabuchi K-energy functional M grows at infinity along each nontrivial geodesic ray in \mathcal{E}^1 . Very recently, Chi Li [Li20] proved that any geodesic ray in \mathcal{E}^1 along which the Mabuchi energy grows at most linearly must be a maximal geodesic ray in the sense above. This allows him to prove that if (X, L) is uniformly K-stable in the sense of an inequality on $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$, then (X, L) admits a cscK metric. In fact, his approach also works when the automorphism group is non-discrete.

Organization of the paper. The paper is organized as follows.

- Section 1 recalls preliminary material on geodesics in the space of finite energy potentials.
- Section 2 reviews the thermodynamical formalism for twisted Kähler–Einstein currents, and proves a coercivity criterion which plays a key role in the proof of Theorem A.
- Section 3 discusses test configurations and Ding-stability, emphasizing the valuative point of view.
- Section 4 analyzes the singularities of a geodesic ray, whose Lelong numbers are encoded in a function on the space of divisorial valuations.
- Section 5 proves Theorems A and B.
- Section 6 studies the relation between geodesic rays in \mathcal{E}^1 and non-Archimedean functions of finite energy, and proves Theorem D.
- Section 7 studies the stability threshold, and proves Theorem C.

The paper ends with two appendices where we prove certain estimates for mixed Monge–Ampère integrals, and revisit the valuative criterion of integrability.

1. FINITE ENERGY POTENTIALS AND PSH GEODESICS

In what follows, (X, ω_0) denotes an n -dimensional compact Kähler manifold. In this preliminary section, we discuss plurisubharmonic (psh) paths and geodesics in the space of ω_0 -psh functions on X . Most results are known, except perhaps for the characterization of geodesics given in Corollary 1.8.

1.1. Finite energy potentials. Denote by $\text{PSH} := \text{PSH}(X, \omega_0)$ the space of ω_0 -psh functions $u : X \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$, endowed with its natural weak topology, which coincides with the L^1 -topology. The functional $u \mapsto \sup_X u$ is continuous on PSH , and the space

$$\text{PSH}_{\text{sup}} := \left\{ u \in \text{PSH} \mid \sup_X u = 0 \right\}$$

of sup-normalized ω -psh functions is compact. By [BK07], every $u \in \text{PSH}$ can be written as the pointwise limit of a decreasing sequence of *Kähler potentials*, i.e. elements of

$$\mathcal{H} := \{ u \in C^\infty(X) \mid \omega_u := \omega_0 + dd^c u > 0 \}.$$

The *Monge–Ampère energy functional* $E : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the antiderivative of the Monge–Ampère operator $\text{MA}(u) := V^{-1} \omega_u^n$, normalized by $E(0) = 0$. Here $V := \int_X \omega_0^n$, so that $\text{MA}(u)$ is a probability measure. The functional E is explicitly given by

$$(1.1) \quad E(u) - E(v) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{j=0}^n V^{-1} \int_X (u-v) \omega_u^j \wedge \omega_v^{n-j}$$

for all $u, v \in \mathcal{H}$, and hence

$$(1.2) \quad E(u+c) = E(u) + c \text{ for } u \in \mathcal{H}, c \in \mathbb{R};$$

$$(1.3) \quad u \leq v \implies E(u) \leq E(v) \text{ for } u, v \in \mathcal{H}, \text{ with equality iff } u = v.$$

It follows that the functional E admits a unique extension as a monotone, upper semicontinuous (usc) functional

$$E : \text{PSH} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\},$$

obtained by setting, for each $u \in \text{PSH}$,

$$E(u) := \inf \{ E(v) \mid v \in \mathcal{H}, v \geq u \}.$$

The space of *finite energy potentials*, first introduced in [GZ07] building upon the pioneering work of Cegrell [Ceg98], can be defined as

$$\mathcal{E}^1 = \mathcal{E}^1(X, \omega_0) := \{ u \in \text{PSH} \mid E(u) > -\infty \}.$$

We also set

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1 := \mathcal{E}^1 \cap \text{PSH}_{\text{sup}} = \left\{ u \in \mathcal{E}^1 \mid \sup_X u = 0 \right\}.$$

Unless otherwise specified, we endow \mathcal{E}^1 with the *strong topology*, defined as the coarsest refinement of the weak topology in which $E : \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ becomes continuous [BBGZ13, BBEGZ19].

Example 1.1. If X is a Riemann surface, i.e. $n = 1$, a function $u \in \text{PSH}$ belongs to \mathcal{E}^1 iff it satisfies the classical finite energy condition $\int_X du \wedge d^c u < +\infty$, which means that the gradient of u is in L^2 . In other words, \mathcal{E}^1 is the intersection of PSH with the Sobolev space L^2_1 , and the strong topology is the induced Sobolev norm topology.

The following criterion for strong convergence will be useful below.

Lemma 1.2. *A sequence (u_j) in \mathcal{E}^1 converges strongly to $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ iff $\limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} u_j \leq u$ pointwise and $E(u_j) \rightarrow E(u)$.*

Proof. Strong convergence $u_j \rightarrow u$ by definition means $E(u_j) \rightarrow E(u)$ and $u_j \rightarrow u$ weakly, and the latter property is well-known to imply

$$\limsup_j u_j \leq (\limsup_j u_j)^* = u$$

pointwise, the star denoting usc regularization. Conversely, assume $\limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} u_j \leq u$ and $E(u_j) \rightarrow E(u)$. In order to show that $u_j \rightarrow u$ strongly, it suffices to show that the non-negative quantity

$$J_u(u_j) := \int_X (u_j - u) \text{MA}(u) + E(u) - E(u_j)$$

tends to 0, by [BBGZ13, Proposition 5.6]. But this follows from Fatou’s lemma, which yields

$$\limsup_j \int_X u_j \text{MA}(u) \leq \int_X (\limsup_j u_j) \text{MA}(u) \leq \int_X u \text{MA}(u),$$

since we are dealing with functions bounded above. □

By [BBEGZ19], the mixed Monge–Ampère integrals

$$\int_X u_0 \omega_{u_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{u_n}$$

are well-defined for $u_0, \dots, u_n \in \mathcal{E}^1$, and continuous with respect to (u_0, \dots, u_n) in the strong topology. In particular, (1.1)–(1.3) are still valid for $u, v \in \mathcal{E}^1$ [BBGZ13, Theorem 4.1].

1.2. Psh paths. Every connected S^1 -invariant subset of \mathbb{C}^* with nonempty interior is of the form

$$\mathbb{D}_I := \{ \tau \in \mathbb{C}^* \mid -\log |\tau| \in I \},$$

with $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ an interval (not necessarily open or closed). We are mainly interested in the case when I is bounded below; then \mathbb{D}_I is an annulus or a punctured disc.

Slightly abusively, we will in what follows identify maps $U: I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ with S^1 -invariant functions on $X \times \mathbb{D}_I$, the correspondence being given by

$$U_{-\log |\tau|}(x) = U(x, \tau).$$

Definition 1.3. A *psh path*³ is a map $U: I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ defined on an open interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, such that corresponding function on $X \times \mathbb{D}_I$ is $p_1^* \omega_0$ -psh, with $p_1: X \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ the first projection.

³Such a map was called a *subgeodesic* in [Bern15a, §2.2] and subsequent works.

The condition implies in particular that $t \mapsto U_t(x)$ is convex on I for each fixed $x \in X$, and hence admits limits in $[-\infty, +\infty]$ as t tends to ∂I . Psh paths satisfy the following basic properties.

Proposition 1.4. *Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open interval. Every psh path $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is continuous. If a sequence of psh paths $U^j : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ converges to a map $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ locally uniformly with respect to the L^1 -norm, then U is psh as well.*

Proof. Let $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ be a psh path. Convexity of $t \mapsto U_t(x)$ implies that $t \mapsto \int_X U_t \omega^n$ is convex, and hence continuous on I . Given $t_0 \in I$, this also applies to $t \mapsto \int_X \max\{U_t, U_{t_0}\} \omega^n$, as the max of two psh paths is psh. Thanks to the elementary identity

$$\int_X |U_t - U_{t_0}| \omega^n = 2 \int_X (\max\{U_t, U_{t_0}\} - U_{t_0}) \omega^n - \int_X (U_t - U_{t_0}) \omega^n,$$

we conclude that $U_t \rightarrow U_{t_0}$ in L^1 as $t \rightarrow t_0$, which proves the first point.

To say that a sequence U^j of psh paths converges locally uniformly to a map $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ means that U_t is ω -psh for each t , and $\int_X |U_t^j - U_t| \omega^n$ converges to 0 as $j \rightarrow \infty$, locally uniformly with respect to $t \in I$. By Fubini, the corresponding functions on $X \times \mathbb{D}_I$ satisfy $U^j \rightarrow U$ in L^1_{loc} . In particular, $p_1^* \omega + dd^c U \geq 0$ in the sense of currents, which shows that U is equal a.e. to an S^1 -invariant $p_1^* \omega_0$ -psh function \tilde{U} on $X \times \mathbb{D}_I$. For a.e. $t \in I$, we thus have $U_t = \tilde{U}_t$ a.e. on X , and hence $U_t = \tilde{U}_t$ on X since both functions are ω -psh. By local uniform convergence, the map $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is continuous. Since $\tilde{U} : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is continuous as well, and these two maps coincide outside a set of measure 0 in I , they are equal, which proves the second point. \square

As the next result shows, psh paths interact nicely with \mathcal{E}^1 .

Proposition 1.5. *The image of any psh path $U : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$, with $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ open, is either disjoint from \mathcal{E}^1 or contained in it. In the latter case, $U : I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is continuous (in the strong topology), and $t \mapsto E(U_t)$ is convex.*

The proof relies on the following well-known computation (cf. [BBGZ13, Proposition 6.2], [Bern15a, §2.4]).

Lemma 1.6. *Assume $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ is open. For each smooth function U on $X \times \mathbb{D}_I$, the Laplacian of $E(U(\cdot, \tau))$ is expressed as the fiber integral*

$$dd^c_\tau E(U(\cdot, \tau)) = V^{-1} \int_X (p_1^* \omega_0 + dd^c U)^{n+1}.$$

Proof of Proposition 1.5. After slightly shrinking I , the regularization result of [BK07] yields a sequence of smooth psh paths $U^j : I \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ decreasing pointwise to U . For each j , Lemma 1.6 shows that $E(U_t^j)$ is a convex function of t . This is thus also the case for $E(U_t)$, which is the pointwise limit of $E(U_t^j)$, by continuity of E along monotone sequences. By convexity of $E(U_t)$, the set of $t \in I$ with $E(U_t) = -\infty$ is either empty or equal to I . In the former case, we have $U_t \notin \mathcal{E}^1$ for all t . In the latter case, the map $t \mapsto E(U_t)$, being convex and finite valued, is continuous on I , and $U : I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is thus continuous in the strong topology. \square

1.3. Psh geodesics. Following the envelope description of geodesics provided in [Bern15a, §2.2], we say that a psh path $V : (0, 1) \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is *dominated by* two given ω -psh functions $U_0, U_1 \in \text{PSH}$ if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} V_t \leq U_0, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} V_t \leq U_1,$$

where the pointwise limits in question exist, by convexity. If such a psh path V exists, a simple envelope argument shows that there exists a largest one $U : (0, 1) \rightarrow \text{PSH}$, which we call the *psh geodesic* joining U_0 to U_1 .

When $U_0, U_1 \in \mathcal{H}$ are Kähler potentials, X.X. Chen’s fundamental work [Che00a], further refined in [Bł09, Bł12, CTW18], implies that the psh geodesic joining them is $C^{1,1}$ as a function on $X \times \mathbb{D}_{[0,1]}$. When U_0, U_1 belong to \mathcal{E}^1 , it was proved by Darvas in [Dar15] that the psh geodesic joining them exists and yields a constant speed geodesic in the Darvas metric (see §1.4).

We provide here a direct proof of the following result, which provides an alternative characterization of psh geodesics in \mathcal{E}^1 to be used later (see Proposition 1.11).

Theorem 1.7. *For any pair $U_0, U_1 \in \mathcal{E}^1$, the psh geodesic joining them exists, and defines a continuous map $U : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ (in the strong topology) with $E(U_t)$ affine on $[0, 1]$.*

Conversely, any continuous path $\tilde{U} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ joining U_0 to U_1 with $E(\tilde{U}_t)$ affine and \tilde{U} psh on $(0, 1)$ satisfies $\tilde{U} = U$.

Proof. Assume first that U_0, U_1 are bounded. As in [Bern15a, §2.2], we note that for $C \gg 1$, the bounded psh path $V : (0, 1) \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ defined by

$$V_t = \max\{U_0 - Ct, U_1 - C(1 - t)\}$$

is dominated by U_0, U_1 , so the psh geodesic U joining U_0, U_1 exists and satisfies $V_t \leq U_t$. By maximality, we have $(p_1^* \omega + dd^c U)^{n+1} = 0$ on $X \times \mathbb{D}^*$ in the sense of pluripotential theory, and $E(U_t)$ is thus affine on $(0, 1)$ by Lemma 1.6 and a regularization argument. Further, the inequality $V_t \leq U_t$ implies $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} U_t = U_0$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} U_t = U_1$ uniformly on X ; hence $U : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is (strongly) continuous.

Let now $U_0, U_1 \in \mathcal{E}^1$ be arbitrary. For each j , denote by U^j the psh geodesic joining the bounded ω -psh functions $U_0^j := \max\{U_0, -j\}$ to $U_1^j := \max\{U_1, -j\}$. Since the sequences (U_0^j) and (U_1^j) are decreasing, the corresponding sequence of functions U^j on $X \times \mathbb{D}_{[0,1]}$ is decreasing as well, thanks to the envelope description, and its limit is thus a usc function $U : X \times \mathbb{D}_{[0,1]} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$, which is either $-\infty$ or $p_1^* \omega_0$ -psh on the interior $X \times \mathbb{D}_{(0,1)}$. Since $E(U_t^j)$ is affine, we further have $E(U_t^j) = (1 - t)E(U_0^j) + tE(U_1^j)$. By monotone continuity of E , it follows that U induces a psh path $U : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ such that $E(U_t) = (1 - t)E(U_0) + tE(U_1)$. Being usc on $X \times \mathbb{D}_{[0,1]}$, it further satisfies $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} U_t \leq U_0$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} U_t \leq U_1$, and Lemma 1.2 thus shows that $U : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is continuous.

Consider finally a continuous path $\tilde{U} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ joining U_0 to U_1 with $E(\tilde{U}_t)$ affine and \tilde{U} psh on $(0, 1)$. By Lemma 1.2 again, the restriction of \tilde{U} to $(0, 1)$ is a psh path dominated by U_0, U_1 , and hence $\tilde{U}_t \leq U_t$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$. Since $E(\tilde{U}_t) \leq E(U_t)$ are both affine functions on $[0, 1]$ with the same boundary values, they coincide, and we conclude that $\tilde{U}_t = U_t$. □

As a direct consequence of Theorem 1.7, we get:

Corollary 1.8. *For a map $U: I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ defined on a (not necessarily open, or bounded) interval, the following properties are equivalent:*

- (i) *the restriction of U to each compact interval $[a, b] \subset I$ coincides (up to affine reparametrization) with the psh geodesic joining U_a to U_b ;*
- (ii) *U is strongly continuous on I , psh on the interior \dot{I} , and $E(U_t)$ is affine on I .*

Definition 1.9. A map $U: I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ satisfying the equivalent conditions of Corollary 1.8 is called a *psh geodesic* in \mathcal{E}^1 . A *psh geodesic ray* is a psh geodesic $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$.

For later use, we finally record the following mild generalization of [Dar17b, Theorem 1] (which deals with bounded potentials).

Proposition 1.10. *Let $U: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ be a psh geodesic with U_b more singular than U_a , i.e. $U_b \leq U_a + C$ for some constant $C > 0$. Then*

$$t \mapsto \sup_X (U_t - U_a)$$

is affine on $[a, b]$. In particular, if $U_a = 0$ and U_t is sup-normalized (i.e. $\sup_X U_t = 0$) for some $t > a$, then U_t is sup-normalized for all $t \in [a, b]$.

Proof. After reparametrizing, we assume for ease of notation that $a = 0$ and $b = 1$. Set $m := \sup_X (U_1 - U_0)$. For $t \in [0, 1]$, the inequality $\sup_X (U_t - U_0) \leq tm$ follows directly from the convexity of $t \mapsto U_t(x)$. On the other hand, the psh path $V: (0, 1) \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ defined by $V_t = U_1 + (t - 1)m$ is dominated by U_0, U_1 . By the envelope description of U , it follows that $U_1 + (t - 1)m \leq U_t$ for $t \in [0, 1]$, and hence

$$tm = \sup_X (U_1 - U_0) + (t - 1)m \leq \sup_X (U_t - U_0),$$

which completes the proof. □

1.4. The Darvas metric. The weak topology of \mathcal{E}^1 coincides with the topology induced by the $L^1(\omega^n)$ -norm. The strong topology of \mathcal{E}^1 , being the coarsest refinement with respect to which E becomes continuous, is thus metrizable, defined by the metric

$$d(u, v) = \|u - v\|_{L^1(\omega)} + |E(u) - E(v)|.$$

Thanks to the work of Darvas, \mathcal{E}^1 can be equipped with a much better behaved metric. Indeed, answering a conjecture due to Guedj, it is proved in [Dar15] that \mathcal{E}^1 can be viewed as the metric completion of \mathcal{H} with respect to a natural L^1 -Finsler metric d_1 , defined by letting $d_1(u, u')$ be the infimum of the L^1 -lengths $\int_0^1 \|\dot{u}_t\|_{L^1(\text{MA}(u_t))} dt$ of all smooth paths $(u_t)_{t \in [0, 1]}$ in \mathcal{H} joining u to u' .

By [Dar15, Corollary 4.14], if $u, v \in \mathcal{E}^1$ satisfy $u \geq v$, then

$$d_1(u, v) = E(u) - E(v).$$

In particular, $d_1(u, 0) = -E(u)$ when $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ is sup-normalized.

Finally, [Dar17a, Theorem 2] implies that any psh geodesic $U: I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ in the sense of Definition 1.9 is a constant speed geodesic for d_1 , i.e. there exists $c \geq 0$ such that

$$(1.4) \quad d_1(U_t, U_s) = c|t - s|$$

for all $t, s \in I$. Note, however, that not all metric geodesics in (\mathcal{E}^1, d_1) are psh.

Proposition 1.11. *If a sequence $U^j : I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ of psh geodesics converges pointwise to a map $U : I \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$, then U is a psh geodesic as well.*

Proof. For each compact interval $[a, b] \subset I$, the d_1 -geodesic property yields

$$d_1(U_t^j, U_s^j) = \left(\frac{d_1(U_a^j, U_b^j)}{|b - a|} \right) |t - s|$$

for $t, s \in [a, b]$. It follows that U^j is equicontinuous on $[a, b]$, and hence converges uniformly to U on $[a, b]$, by Ascoli. As a result, U is continuous on I , and psh on \mathring{I} , by Proposition 1.4. Since $U_t^j \rightarrow U_t$ strongly, the affine functions $E(U_t^j)$ converge pointwise to $E(U_t)$, which is thus affine as well, and Corollary 1.8 shows that U is a psh geodesic. \square

2. TWISTED KÄHLER–EINSTEIN CURRENTS AND COERCIVITY

In this section, we review the thermodynamical formalism for twisted Kähler–Einstein currents, following [Berm13], and provide a coercivity criterion for certain functionals on \mathcal{E}^1 .

2.1. Twisted Kähler–Einstein currents. In what follows, (X, ω_0) denotes as above a compact Kähler manifold. As is well-known, smooth positive volume forms μ on X are in one-to-one correspondence with Hermitian metrics h on the canonical bundle K_X , the relation being

$$(2.1) \quad \mu = e^{-2f} i^{n^2} \Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega}$$

with $f := \log |\Omega|_h$, for any local holomorphic volume form Ω . The *Ricci curvature* of μ is defined as minus the curvature of h , i.e. $\text{Ric}(\mu) = dd^c f$ in terms of (2.1), so that $\text{Ric}(\omega^n) = \text{Ric}(\omega)$ is the usual Ricci curvature for a Kähler form ω .

We shall say more generally that a positive measure μ on X has *well-defined Ricci curvature* if it corresponds to a singular metric on K_X , and define its Ricci curvature $\text{Ric}(\mu)$ as minus the corresponding curvature current. In other words, it is required that the measure μ locally satisfies (2.1) with $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}$, and its Ricci curvature is locally given by $\text{Ric}(\mu) = dd^c f$. Given a closed $(1, 1)$ -current θ , we further introduce the θ -*twisted Ricci curvature* of μ as

$$\text{Ric}_\theta(\mu) := \text{Ric}(\mu) - \theta,$$

which is thus a closed $(1, 1)$ -current in the cohomology class

$$c_1(X, \theta) := c_1(X) - [\theta].$$

Note that $\text{Ric}_\theta(\mu)$ determines μ up to a multiplicative constant.

Definition 2.1. A θ -*twisted Kähler–Einstein current* in $[\omega_0]$ is a positive current of finite energy $\omega = \omega_u$, $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$, such that ω^n has well-defined Ricci curvature, and which satisfies

$$(2.2) \quad \text{Ric}_\theta(\omega) = \lambda \omega, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Here the left-hand side of (2.2) is defined as the twisted Ricci curvature of ω^n ; hence $c_1(X, \theta) = \lambda[\omega_0]$.

Lemma 2.2. *Assume $c_1(X, \theta) = \lambda[\omega_0]$, let θ_0 be a smooth form in the class of θ , and pick a distribution ψ and smooth function ρ_0 such that $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c\psi$ and $\text{Ric}(\omega_0) - \theta_0 = \lambda\omega_0 + dd^c\rho_0$. For each $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$, $\omega = \omega_u$ then satisfies (2.2) iff $\psi \in L^1$ and*

$$(2.3) \quad \text{MA}(u) = e^{2(\rho_0 - \lambda u - \psi + c)} \omega_0^n$$

for some $c \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. If ψ is L^1 and u solves (2.3), then ω_u has well-defined Ricci curvature, and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ric}_\theta(\omega_u) &= \text{Ric}\left(e^{2(\rho_0 - \lambda u - \psi + c)} \omega_0^n\right) - \theta \\ &= -dd^c\rho_0 + \lambda dd^c u + dd^c\psi + \text{Ric}(\omega_0) - \theta_0 - dd^c\psi = \lambda\omega_u. \end{aligned}$$

Assume, conversely, that ω_u solves (2.2). Then $\omega_u^n = e^{-2f} \omega_0^n$ with $f \in L^1$ such that

$$\text{Ric}(\omega_0) + dd^c f - \theta_0 - dd^c\psi = \lambda\omega_0 + \lambda dd^c u,$$

which implies that $f + \rho_0 - \lambda u - \psi$ is pluriharmonic on X , and hence constant. \square

Definition 2.3. We shall say that a closed $(1,1)$ -current θ is *klt* if θ is quasi-positive, i.e. $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c\psi$ with θ_0 smooth and ψ quasi-psh, and has trivial multiplier ideal sheaf, i.e. $e^{-2\psi} \in L^1$.

By the solution of the openness conjecture [Bern15b, GZh15], we actually have $e^{-2\psi} \in L^p$ for some $p > 1$; see Appendix B.

Lemma 2.4. *Let θ be a quasi-positive current, assume $c_1(X, \theta) = \lambda[\omega_0]$ with $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and let $\omega \in [\omega_0]$ be a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.*

- (i) *If $\lambda \geq 0$, then θ is necessarily a klt current.*
- (ii) *If θ is klt, then ω has continuous potentials, and is further a smooth Kähler form on any open set on which θ is smooth.*

Proof. In the notation of Lemma 2.2, u is bounded above, and (i) thus follows directly from (2.3). Assume now that θ is klt, i.e. $e^{-2\psi} \in L^p$ for some $p > 1$. Since u has zero Lelong number at each point of X , a well-known result of Skoda implies that e^{-u} belongs to L^q for all $q < \infty$, and hence $e^{-2(\lambda u + \psi)} \in L^{p'}$ for some $p' > 1$, by Hölder’s inequality. Continuity of u is now a consequence of [Kol98], while the final assertion follows from [BBEGZ19, Theorem B.1]. \square

Example 2.5. If $H \subset X$ is a smooth hypersurface with integration current δ_H and $\theta = (1 - \beta)\delta_H$, $\beta \in (0, 1)$, then ω is a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current iff ω is a (smooth) Kähler–Einstein metric on $X \setminus H$, with conical singularities along H of cone angle $2\pi\beta$. More generally, for any effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor Δ on X with (X, Δ) klt, δ_Δ -twisted Kähler–Einstein currents have cone singularities along the snc part of Δ , cf. [GP16, §6.2].

2.2. The Ding functional. In what follows, we fix a klt current θ , and assume that $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$.

Lemma 2.6. *There exists a unique probability measure μ_θ such that $\text{Ric}_\theta(\mu_\theta) = \omega_0$. Further, $\mu_\theta \geq \varepsilon\omega_0^n$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$, and μ_θ has L^p density for some $p > 1$.*

Proof. As noted above, any positive measure μ with well-defined Ricci curvature is uniquely determined by $\text{Ric}_\theta(\mu)$ up to a multiplicative constant, and the uniqueness part is thus clear. To prove existence, write as above $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c\psi$ and $\text{Ric}(\omega_0) - \theta_0 = \omega_0 + dd^c\rho_0$, with $\rho_0 \in C^\infty(X)$ normalized by $\int_X e^{2(\rho_0 - \psi)}\omega_0^n = 1$. Then

$$\mu_\theta := e^{2(\rho_0 - \psi)}\omega_0^n$$

yields the desired measure, which proves the final two points as well. □

By Lemma 2.2, for each $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ we have

$$\text{Ric}_\theta(\omega_u) = \omega_u \iff \text{MA}(u) = e^{-2u+c}\mu_\theta$$

with $c \in \mathbb{R}$ a normalizing constant.

Definition 2.7. The *Ding functional* $D_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ associated to a klt current θ such that $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$ is defined as $D_\theta := L_\theta - E$, with

$$L_\theta(u) := -\frac{1}{2} \log \int_X e^{-2u} \mu_\theta.$$

By [BBEGZ19, §4] we have:

Lemma 2.8. *The Ding functional D_θ satisfies the following properties.*

- (i) D_θ is (strongly) continuous on \mathcal{E}^1 ;
- (ii) if $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ minimizes D_θ , then ω_u is a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current;
- (iii) if D_θ is coercive, then D_θ admits a minimizer in \mathcal{E}^1 , and $[\omega_0]$ thus contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.

Recall that a translation invariant functional F on \mathcal{E}^1 is *coercive* if $F \geq \varepsilon J - C$ for some $\varepsilon, C > 0$, where $J: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the translation invariant functional defined by

$$(2.4) \quad J(u) := V^{-1} \int_X u \omega_0^n - E(u).$$

In the semipositive case, Berndtsson’s convexity results [Bern15a, §7] further provide:

Lemma 2.9. *If $\theta \geq 0$, then:*

- (i) D_θ is convex along psh geodesics in \mathcal{E}^1 ;
- (ii) $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ minimizes D_θ iff ω_u is a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.

2.3. The twisted K-energy. Consider as above a klt current θ with $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$. Note that this condition can always be achieved by choosing θ to be a smooth representative of $c_1(X) - [\omega_0]$, since θ is not required to be semipositive at this stage.

We define the θ -entropy of a probability measure μ on X as (half) the entropy of μ relative to the associated probability measure μ_θ , i.e.

$$\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) := \frac{1}{2} \int_X \log \left(\frac{\mu}{\mu_\theta} \right) \mu \in [0, +\infty]$$

if μ is absolutely continuous with respect to μ_θ , and $\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) = +\infty$ otherwise. It can be written as a Legendre transform

$$(2.5) \quad \text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) = \sup_{g \in C^0(X)} \left(\int g \mu - \frac{1}{2} \log \int e^{2g} \mu_\theta \right),$$

which implies that the functional $\text{Ent}_\theta: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is convex on the space \mathcal{M} of probability measures, and lower continuous (lsc) in the weak topology.

Definition 2.10. The θ -entropy functional $H_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is defined by

$$H_\theta(u) := \text{Ent}_\theta(\text{MA}(u)).$$

By [BBEGZ19, Theorem 2.17], we have:

Lemma 2.11. *The functional $H_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is lsc, coercive, and its sublevel sets in $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ are compact in the strong topology.*

Definition 2.12. We say that a translation invariant functional $F: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ has θ -entropy growth if $F \geq H_\theta - AJ - B$ on \mathcal{E}^1 for some constants $A, B > 0$.

This condition only depends on the singularities of θ . When θ is smooth, we simply say that F has entropy growth. It then also has θ -entropy growth for any klt current θ , by Lemma 2.6.

Example 2.13. The usual Mabuchi K-energy functional, extended to a functional

$$M: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$$

as in [BDL17], has entropy growth. Indeed, denoting by $\text{Ent}(\mu)$ the entropy of a measure μ relative to $V^{-1}\omega_0^n$, the Chen–Tian formula [Che00b, Tia00] expresses $M(u) - \text{Ent}(\text{MA}(u))$ as linear combination of terms of the form

$$\int_X u \omega_u^j \wedge \omega_0^{n-j} \text{ and } \int_X u \text{Ric}(\omega_0) \wedge \omega_u^j \wedge \omega_0^{n-j-1}.$$

As a result, there exist $A, B > 0$ with $|M(u) - \text{Ent}(\text{MA}(u))| \leq AJ(u) + B$ (see e.g. Lemma A.2).

By Legendre duality, we have

$$(2.6) \quad L_\theta(u) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \left(\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) + \int u \mu \right)$$

for $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$, whereas

$$(2.7) \quad \text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) \geq \sup_{u \in \mathcal{E}^1} \left(L_\theta(u) - \int u \mu \right)$$

for $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$ (cf. [BBEGZ19, Lemma 2.11]). On the other hand, recall that the pluricomplex energy of $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$ is defined as

$$(2.8) \quad E^\vee(\mu) = \sup_{u \in \mathcal{E}^1} \left(E(u) - \int u \mu \right) \in [0, +\infty].$$

Here Legendre duality shows that, for each $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$,

$$(2.9) \quad E(u) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \left(E^\vee(\mu) + \int u \mu \right),$$

the infimum being achieved precisely at $\mu = \text{MA}(u)$. Further, the Monge–Ampère operator induces a bijection between $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ and the set $\mathcal{M}^1 \subset \mathcal{M}$ of finite energy measures μ [GZ07, BBGZ13].

Definition 2.14. The twisted Mabuchi K-energy $M_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ is defined by

$$M_\theta(u) := \text{Ent}_\theta(\text{MA}(u)) - E^\vee(\text{MA}(u)).$$

Equivalently,

$$M_\theta(u) = \text{Ent}_\theta(\text{MA}(u)) - E(u) + \int_X u \text{MA}(u),$$

showing compatibility with the general definition of [BDL17, §2.1] (which does not require θ to satisfy $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$).

Lemma 2.15. *The Ding and twisted Mabuchi functionals satisfy the following properties:*

- (i) M_θ has θ -entropy growth;
- (ii) $M_\theta(u) \geq D_\theta(u)$ for all $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$, with equality iff ω_u is a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current;
- (iii) $\inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} M_\theta = \inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} D_\theta \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}$; in particular, D_θ is bounded below iff M_θ is;
- (iv) D_θ is coercive iff M_θ is;
- (v) if $\theta \geq 0$, then M_θ is geodesically convex on \mathcal{E}^1 .

Proof. (i)–(iii) are proved just as in [Berm13, BBEGZ19]. Indeed, (i) is a consequence of the known estimates $n^{-1}J(u) \leq E^\vee(\text{MA}(u)) \leq nJ(u)$; (ii) follows from (2.6)–(2.9), and implies $\inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} M_\theta \geq \inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} D_\theta$. To prove the reverse inequality, we can assume that $c := \inf M_\theta > -\infty$. Then $\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) \geq c + E^\vee(\mu)$ for all μ , and hence

$$L_\theta(u) = \inf_\mu \left(\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) + \int u \mu \right) \geq c + \inf_\mu \left(E^\vee(\mu) + \int u \mu \right) = c + E(u),$$

i.e. $D_\theta \geq c$, which proves (iii). Next, (v) follows from [BDL17, Theorem 1.2], itself a consequence of [BB17, CLP16]. It remains to prove (iv), for which we argue as in [Berm13, Corollary 3.6]. Since $M_\theta \geq D_\theta$, M_θ is coercive as soon as D_θ is. For the converse, the surjectivity of the Monge–Ampère operator $\text{MA}: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^1$ implies that the coercivity of M_θ is equivalent to the existence of $C > 0$ and $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ such that $E^\vee(\mu) \leq \varepsilon \text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) + C$ for all probability measures μ . (Recall that $E^\vee(\mu) = \infty$ implies $\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) = \infty$, cf. [BBEGZ19, Lemma 2.18]). By (2.9) and (2.6), we infer

$$E(\varepsilon u) = \inf_\mu \left(E^\vee(\mu) + \int \varepsilon u \mu \right) \leq \varepsilon \inf_\mu \left(\text{Ent}_\theta(\mu) + \int u \mu \right) + C = \varepsilon L_\theta(u) + C.$$

Normalizing u by $\int u \omega^n = 0$, an inequality due to Ding [Din88, Remark 2] yields

$$-E(\varepsilon u) = J(\varepsilon u) \leq \varepsilon^{1+\frac{1}{n}} J(u) = -\varepsilon^{1+\frac{1}{n}} E(u).$$

We infer $\varepsilon' E(u) \leq L_\theta(u) + C'$ with $\varepsilon' := \varepsilon^{1/n}$ and $C' = \varepsilon^{-1}C$, which gives the coercivity estimate

$$D_\theta(u) = L_\theta(u) - E(u) \geq (\varepsilon' - 1) E(u) - C' = (1 - \varepsilon') J(u) - C'$$

since $\varepsilon' < 1$ and $\int u \omega^n = 0$. □

2.4. The coercivity criterion. The next result is based on the first version of the present paper [BBJ15, §2.3], itself inspired by [DaH17, DaR17]. The statement below is basically [Bou18, Theorem 3.6], but see also [CC18a, Theorem 6.1] for a closely related result.

Theorem 2.16. *Let $F: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be a translation invariant functional, and assume that F is lsc, geodesically convex, and has θ -entropy growth for some klt current θ such that $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$.*

- (a) If F is coercive, then it admits a minimizer in \mathcal{E}^1 .
- (b) If F is not coercive, then given any $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ there exists a nontrivial psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ emanating from u along which $F(U_t)$ decreases.

Here we say that U is trivial if $U_t - U_0$ only depends on t .

Example 2.17. The dichotomy (a)–(b) applies in particular to the Mabuchi K-energy functional of any compact Kähler manifold, which is geodesically convex by [BB17, CLP16, BDL17], and has entropy growth by Example 2.13.

Proof of Theorem 2.16. Assume that F is coercive, and pick a minimizing sequence (u_j) in \mathcal{E}^1 , such that $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} F(u_j) = \inf F > -\infty$. By translation invariance, we may assume u_j is sup-normalized. Since $F(u_j)$ is bounded above, so is $J(u_j)$, by coercivity, and the entropy growth assumption implies that $H_\theta(u_j)$ is bounded as well. By Lemma 2.11, (u_j) stays in a (strongly) compact subset of \mathcal{E}^1 , and may thus be assumed to converge. Since F is lsc, the limit is then a minimizer of F .

Assume, conversely, that F is not coercive, and pick sequences $u_j \in \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$, $\varepsilon_j \searrow 0$ and $C_j \rightarrow +\infty$ such that

$$(2.10) \quad F(u_j) \leq \varepsilon_j J(u_j) - C_j.$$

By entropy growth, we have $F(u_j) \geq -A J(u_j) - B$ for some constants $A, B > 0$; hence $(A + \varepsilon_j) J(u_j) \geq C_j - B$, which shows that

$$T_j := d_1(u_j, 0) = -E(u_j) = J(u_j) + O(1)$$

tends to $+\infty$. Denote by $U^j: [0, T_j] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ the unit speed psh geodesic connecting u to u_j ; this takes values in $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ by Proposition 1.10. By convexity of F along U^j , we get for, $j \gg 1$ and all $t \in [0, T_j]$,

$$(2.11) \quad F(U_t^j) - F(u) \leq t T_j^{-1} (F(u_j) - F(u)) \leq t \varepsilon_j.$$

By θ -entropy growth of F , it follows that the 1-Lipschitz maps $U^j: [0, T_j] \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}^1, d_1)$ send every given compact subset of $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ to a fixed subset of $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ with bounded θ -entropy, and hence compact for the metric space topology, by Lemma 2.11. By the general Arzelà-Ascoli theorem (for maps into metric spaces), U^j therefore converges uniformly on compact sets of $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ to a continuous map $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$, after perhaps passing to a subsequence. By Proposition 1.11, U is a psh geodesic ray, and $F(U_t) \leq F(u)$ by (2.11) and lower semicontinuity; this implies that $t \mapsto F(U_t)$ is decreasing, by convexity. \square

Corollary 2.18. *Assume $\theta \geq 0$. If M_θ , or equivalently D_θ , is not coercive, then given any $u \in \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ there exists a nonconstant psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ emanating from u such that $D_\theta(U_t) \leq M_\theta(U_t) \leq M_\theta(u)$.*

Proof. The lsc functional $M_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ has θ -entropy growth, and is geodesically convex by Lemma 2.15, since $\theta \geq 0$. The result thus follows from Theorem 2.16. \square

As a further consequence of Theorem 2.16, we obtain the following version of [DaR17, Theorem 2.12].

Theorem 2.19. *Let θ be a semipositive klt current with $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$.*

- (i) *If $[\omega_0]$ contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current, then D_θ and M_θ are bounded below on \mathcal{E}^1 ;*

- (ii) if $[\omega_0]$ contains a unique θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current, then D_θ and M_θ are coercive on \mathcal{E}^1 .

Proof. Assume given $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ with $\text{Ric}_\theta(\omega_u) = \omega_u$. By Lemma 2.9, $\inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} D_\theta = D_\theta(u) > -\infty$, and M_θ is bounded below as well, by Lemma 2.15. If M_θ fails to be coercive, Corollary 2.18 yields a non-constant psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ emanating from u such that $M_\theta(U_t) \leq M_\theta(u)$ for all $t \geq 0$. Using Lemma 2.15 again, we infer

$$D_\theta(U_t) \leq M_\theta(U_t) \leq M_\theta(u) = D_\theta(u) = \inf_{\mathcal{E}^1} D_\theta.$$

By Lemma 2.8, ω_{U_t} provides a whole ray of twisted Kähler–Einstein currents in $c_1(X, \theta)$. □

2.5. Uniqueness of twisted Kähler–Einstein currents. We briefly discuss here how coercivity implies uniqueness of twisted Kähler–Einstein currents, under a mild regularity assumption on θ .

Lemma 2.20. *Let θ be a semipositive klt current such that $c_1(X, \theta) = [\omega_0]$, and assume that one of the following two conditions holds:*

- (i) θ has small unbounded locus, i.e. its local potentials are locally bounded outside a closed complete pluripolar subset of X .
- (ii) θ is strictly positive, i.e. $\theta \geq \varepsilon\omega_0$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$.

If D_θ (or, equivalently, M_θ) is coercive, then $[\omega_0]$ contains a unique θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.

Proof. Existence is already a consequence of Lemma 2.8. In case (ii), uniqueness follows from the strict convexity of the twisted K-energy, as in [BDL17, Theorem 4.13]. In case (i), [Bern15a, Theorem 6.1] applies, and shows that the geodesic segment joining any two θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein currents ω, ω' is realized by the flow $\omega_t := \exp(tv)^*\omega$ of a holomorphic vector field v . Now ω_t makes sense for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, extending the geodesic segment to a whole geodesic line, and we can then argue as in the proof of [BBEGZ19, Theorem 5.4]. Indeed, the coercivity property implies that $J_\omega(\omega_t)$ is bounded, the Ding functional being constant along ω_t . By convexity, $J_\omega(\omega_t)$ is thus constant, and hence $\omega_t = \omega$ for all t , yielding in particular $\omega' = \omega_1 = \omega$. □

3. VALUATIONS AND STABILITY

In this section, X is smooth complex projective variety endowed with an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle L . We use [BHJ17, BoJ18a, BoJ18b] as references.

3.1. Log discrepancy. Denote by X^{div} the set of (rational) *divisorial valuations* on X , i.e. valuations $v: \mathbb{C}(X)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ of the form $v = c \text{ord}_E$ with $c \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ and E a prime divisor on some normal variety Y mapping birationally to X . The *log discrepancy* of $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ is

$$A_X(v) := c(1 + \text{ord}_E(K_{Y/X})),$$

where $K_{Y/X}$ denotes the relative canonical divisor. It is convenient to also include in X^{div} the *trivial valuation* on $\mathbb{C}(X)$. This will be denoted by v_{triv} , and has $A_X(v_{\text{triv}}) = 0$.

The projection $p_1 : X \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ induces a map $(X \times \mathbb{C})^{\text{div}} \rightarrow X^{\text{div}}$; this has a canonical section $\sigma : X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow (X \times \mathbb{C})^{\text{div}}$, the *Gauss extension*, defined by

$$\sigma(v) \left(\sum_i f_i \tau^i \right) = \min_i \{v(f_i) + i\}$$

for each finite sequence of functions $f_0, \dots, f_r \in \mathbb{C}(X)$, with τ denoting the coordinate on \mathbb{C} . The image of σ consists precisely of rational divisorial valuations w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ that are \mathbb{C}^* -invariant (under the action on the second factor), and normalized by $w(\tau) = 1$. For each $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ we have

$$A_{X \times \mathbb{C}}(\sigma(v)) = A_X(v) + 1.$$

Assume now that we are given a quasi-positive closed $(1, 1)$ -current θ , and write as above $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c \psi$ with θ_0 smooth and ψ quasi-psh. For each $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ we can make sense of $v(\theta) = v(\psi)$ as a generic Lelong number on some blowup; see [FJ05a, BFJ08] and Appendix B.

Definition 3.1. The θ -twisted log discrepancy function $A_\theta : X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by setting

$$A_\theta(v) := A_X(v) - v(\theta).$$

Example 3.2. When θ is smooth, A_θ is simply equal to A_X . When $\theta = \delta_\Delta$ is the integration current of a \mathbb{Q} -divisor Δ , $A_\theta = A_{(X, \Delta)}$ is the usual log discrepancy of the pair (X, Δ) .

As explained in Appendix B, it follows from the (now established) openness conjecture and the valuative criterion of integrability that θ is klt (in the sense of Definition 2.3) iff there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $A_\theta \geq \varepsilon A_X$ on X^{div} ; see Corollary B.8.

3.2. Test configurations and non-Archimedean potentials. Recall that a *test configuration* $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ for (X, L) is a \mathbb{C}^* -equivariant partial compactification over \mathbb{C} of $(X, L) \times \mathbb{C}^*$; more precisely, it consists of a flat projective morphism $\pi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, a \mathbb{Q} -line bundle \mathcal{L} on \mathcal{X} , a \mathbb{C}^* -action on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ lifting the standard one on \mathbb{C} , and an identification of the fiber over $1 \in \mathbb{C}$ with (X, L) . We say that $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ is normal (resp. ample) when \mathcal{X} is normal (resp. \mathcal{L} is relatively ample).

Each test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ defines a non-Archimedean metric on the Berkovich analytification of L with respect to the trivial absolute value on \mathbb{C} ; this will be viewed in the present paper through its canonical potential $\varphi = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$, a function on X^{div} defined as follows. Pick a test configuration \mathcal{X}' dominating both \mathcal{X} and the trivial test configuration $X \times \mathbb{C}$, with \mathbb{C}^* -equivariant morphisms $\rho : \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ and $\mu : \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{C}$, and let $p_1 : X \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ be the projection. Then $\rho^* \mathcal{L} = \mu^* p_1^* L + D$ for a unique \mathbb{Q} -divisor D supported on the central fiber, and we set, for each $v \in X^{\text{div}}$,

$$\varphi(v) := \sigma(v)(D)$$

with $\sigma(v)$ the \mathbb{C}^* -invariant lift of v as above.

The trivial test configuration induces the zero function. Two test configurations $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ and $(\mathcal{X}', \mathcal{L}')$ determine the same function on X^{div} iff the pullbacks of \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{L}' to some test configuration dominating \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{X}' coincide. Further, the map $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L}) \mapsto \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$ is injective on the set of normal, ample test configurations. Its image is denoted by \mathcal{H}^{NA} . Functions attached to arbitrary test configurations are then differences of functions in \mathcal{H}^{NA} .

Functions in \mathcal{H}^{NA} can alternatively be described in terms of \mathbb{C}^* -invariant ideals on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ (called *flag ideals* in [Oda13]). Denoting by τ the coordinate on the \mathbb{C} -factor, each such ideal is of the form $\mathfrak{a} = \sum_{i=0}^r \tau^i \mathfrak{a}_i$ for a sequence of ideals $\mathfrak{a}_0 \subset \dots \subset \mathfrak{a}_r$ on X , and defines a function $\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}}$ on X^{div} by setting for $v \in X^{\text{div}}$

$$\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}}(v) := -\sigma(v)(\mathfrak{a}) = \max_i \{-v(\mathfrak{a}_i) - i\}.$$

A function $\varphi: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ then belongs to \mathcal{H}^{NA} iff it is of the form $\varphi = m^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}} + c$ with $c \in \mathbb{Q}$, $m \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and \mathfrak{a} a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant ideal on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, cosupported on $X \times \{0\}$ (i.e. $\mathfrak{a}_r = \mathcal{O}_X$ in the above notation), and such that the sheaf $p_1^*(mL) \otimes \mathfrak{a}$ is globally generated on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ (i.e. $mL \otimes \mathfrak{a}_i$ globally generated for all i). Using this description, it is easy to check:

Lemma 3.3. *Each function $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$ is bounded on X^{div} , with $\sup_{X^{\text{div}}} \varphi = \varphi(v_{\text{triv}})$.*

3.3. Non-Archimedean functionals and stability. In [BHJ17], non-Archimedean versions of a number of usual functionals on \mathcal{H} were introduced. They are defined as functionals on \mathcal{H}^{NA} , the idea being that the non-Archimedean version of a functional F should compute the slopes at infinity of F along psh rays in \mathcal{H}^{NA} with algebraic singularities in the sense of §4.4.⁴

First, we define non-Archimedean versions of the Monge–Ampère energy and J -energy by

$$(3.1) \quad E(\varphi) = \frac{(\bar{\mathcal{L}}^{n+1})}{(n+1)V} \quad \text{and} \quad J(\varphi) = \sup \varphi - E(\varphi)$$

for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$, where $(\bar{\mathcal{X}}, \bar{\mathcal{L}})$ is the compactification of the unique normal, ample test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ such that $\varphi = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$, and $V = (L^n)$ is the volume of L .

Now fix a klt current θ on X .

Definition 3.4. The *non-Archimedean Ding functional* $D_{\theta}: \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with respect to θ is defined as $D_{\theta} := L_{\theta} - E$ with

$$(3.2) \quad L_{\theta}(\varphi) = \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} (A_{\theta} + \varphi).$$

Since $A_{\theta} \geq 0$, $L_{\theta}(\varphi) \geq \inf \varphi$ is indeed finite, by Lemma 3.3. Note also that non-Archimedean Ding functional D_{θ} , in contrast to its Archimedean counterpart, only depends on the singularities of θ , and thus makes sense without requiring $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$ (which could anyway always be achieved by adding a smooth form to θ).

Definition 3.5. The polarized variety (X, L) is *Ding-semistable* (resp. *uniformly Ding-stable*) with respect to θ if $D_{\theta} \geq 0$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} (resp. $D_{\theta} \geq \varepsilon J$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} for some $\varepsilon > 0$).

When θ is smooth, $A_{\theta} = A_X$, and we then drop the reference to θ in the above definitions, as in [BoJ18b]. By [BoJ18b, Corollary 2.11, Theorem 2.12], Ding-semistability (resp. uniform Ding-stability) of (X, L) implies (and is conjecturally equivalent to) twisted K-semistability (resp. uniform twisted K-stability) in the twisted Fano case, in the sense of [Der16].

⁴As opposed to the convention in [BBJ15, BHJ17] we do not include “NA” in the notation for the non-Archimedean functionals. However, these functionals are defined on \mathcal{H}^{NA} rather than \mathcal{H} .

Suppose now that θ is the integration current on an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor Δ with (X, Δ) klt and $c_1(L) = c_1(X, \Delta)$. Ding-stability with respect to θ then coincides with Ding-stability of the log Fano variety (X, Δ) , as studied in [BHJ17, Fuj19], and we thus have:

Theorem 3.6 ([BBJ15, Fuj19]). *Let Δ be an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor with (X, Δ) klt and $c_1(L) = c_1(X, \Delta)$. Then (X, L) is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to Δ iff the log Fano variety (X, Δ) is log K -semistable (resp. uniformly log K -stable).*

When $\Delta = 0$, this result was indeed proved in the preprint version [BBJ15], the argument relying on the Minimal Model Program along the lines of [LX14]. The result was later extended to the general log Fano case in [Fuj19].

4. PSH RAYS AND LELONG NUMBERS

In this section we study psh rays of linear growth, to which we associate functions on X^{div} defined in terms of Lelong numbers. We also introduce the class of rays with algebraic singularities; these provide a bridge between psh rays and test configurations.

In what follows, we fix an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle L on X and a Kähler form $\omega_0 \in c_1(L)$.

4.1. Rays of linear growth. For each psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$, $\sup_X U_t$ is a convex function of t . As a result, $\sup_X U_t \geq -Ct$ for some $C > 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, and the slope at infinity

$$(4.1) \quad \lambda_{\max} := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} \sup_X U_t$$

exists in $\mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$. We have $\lambda_{\max} < \infty$ iff $\sup_X U_t = O(t)$, in which case we say that U has *linear growth*. For rays in \mathcal{E}^1 , we equivalently have:

Proposition 4.1. *A psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ has linear growth iff $d_1(U_t, 0) = O(t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. In particular, any psh geodesic ray has linear growth.*

Proof. By Proposition 1.5, $E(U_t)$ is convex, and hence admits a linear lower bound $E(U_t) \geq -Ct$ for $t \geq 1$. Assume U has linear growth, and pick $a > 0$ such that $U_t \leq at$ for $t \geq 1$. Then $d_1(U_t, at) = at - E(U_t) \leq C't$, and $d_1(U_t, 0) = O(t)$, by the triangle inequality. Assume, conversely, that $d_1(U_t, 0) = O(t)$. By [GZ05, Proposition 2.7],

$$\sup_X U_t = V^{-1} \int_X U_t \omega^n + O(1),$$

while Corollary A.3 gives $|\int_X U_t \omega^n| \leq C_n d_1(U_t, 0)$; hence $\sup_X U_t = O(t)$ and the result follows. \square

4.2. Lelong numbers. For a psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ of linear growth, $U - at$ is bounded above as $t \rightarrow \infty$, for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Equivalently, the S^1 -invariant $p_1^* \omega_0$ -psh function V on $X \times \mathbb{D}^*$ defined by

$$V(x, \tau) := U_{-\log |\tau|}(x) + a \log |\tau|$$

is bounded above near $X \times \{0\}$, and hence uniquely extends to a quasi-psh function on $X \times \mathbb{D}$. For each divisorial valuation w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, we can make sense of $w(V) \geq 0$ as a generic Lelong number on a suitable blowup; see [BFJ08] and Appendix B.

Following [Berm19, §5], we set $w(U) := w(V) - aw(\tau)$; this is independent of the choice of a by additivity of Lelong numbers.

Definition 4.2. To each psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ of linear growth we associate a function

$$U_{\text{NA}}: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

by setting $U_{\text{NA}}(v) = -\sigma(v)(U)$ for $v \in X^{\text{div}}$.

Recall that the function $\sigma: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow (X \times \mathbb{C})^{\text{div}}$ denotes Gauss extension, cf. §3.1. It sends the trivial valuation v_{triv} to $\text{ord}_{X \times \{0\}}$.

Lemma 4.3. *We have $U_{\text{NA}}(v_{\text{triv}}) = \sup_{X^{\text{div}}} U_{\text{NA}} = \lambda_{\text{max}}$ (see (4.1)).*

Proof. After adding a linear function of t , we may assume that U itself extends to a quasi-psh function on $X \times \mathbb{D}$. The left-hand side is then minus the generic Lelong number of U along $X \times \{0\}$, which is also the maximum of all $c \geq 0$ such that $U \leq c \log |\tau| + O(1)$ near $X \times \{0\}$, i.e. $\sup_X U_t \leq -ct + O(1)$. By convexity of $t \mapsto \sup_X U_t$, we infer $U_{\text{NA}}(v_{\text{triv}}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} \sup_X U_t$. Finally, if $U \leq c \log |\tau| + O(1)$ for some $c \geq 0$, then $w(U) \geq cw(\tau)$ for every divisorial valuation w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, and hence $U_{\text{NA}}(v) \leq U_{\text{NA}}(v_{\text{triv}})$ for all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$. \square

4.3. Relation to the Ross–Witt Nyström Legendre transform. Recall from [RWN14, §6] that the *Legendre transform* of a psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is the concave family of functions $(\hat{U}^\lambda)_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}}$ on X defined by

$$\hat{U}^\lambda := \inf_{t > 0} \{U_t - t\lambda\}.$$

By the Kiselman minimum principle, for each λ we either have $\hat{U}^\lambda \in \text{PSH}$ or $\hat{U}^\lambda \equiv -\infty$, and Legendre duality yields

$$(4.2) \quad U_t = \sup_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}} \{\hat{U}^\lambda + \lambda t\}.$$

By (4.2), $\sup_X U_t = \sup_\lambda \{\sup_X \hat{U}^\lambda + \lambda t\}$, which shows that

$$(4.3) \quad \lambda_{\text{max}} = \sup \left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \mid \hat{U}^\lambda \neq -\infty \right\} \text{ and } U_t = \sup_{\lambda < \lambda_{\text{max}}} \{\hat{U}^\lambda + \lambda t\}.$$

Assuming U is of linear growth, i.e. $\lambda_{\text{max}} < \infty$, the function U_{NA} can also be described in terms of the Legendre transform (\hat{U}^λ) . For each $\lambda < \lambda_{\text{max}}$, \hat{U}^λ is a quasi-psh function on X , and we can thus define $\hat{U}_{\text{NA}}^\lambda: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0}$ by $\hat{U}_{\text{NA}}^\lambda(v) := -v(\hat{U}^\lambda)$. This function is homogeneous of degree 1 with respect to the scaling action of $\mathbb{Q}_{>0}$, and we have

$$U_{\text{NA}} = \sup_{\lambda < \lambda_{\text{max}}} \{\hat{U}_{\text{NA}}^\lambda + \lambda\}.$$

4.4. Algebraic singularities. Choosing a smooth Hermitian metric h_0 on L with curvature ω_0 sets up a one-to-one correspondence between psh rays $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ and S^1 -invariant psh metrics $e^{-2U} p_1^* h_0$ on $(X \times \mathbb{D}^*, p_1^* L)$. We say that U induces a psh metric on a normal test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ if the corresponding psh metric on $(X \times \mathbb{D}^*, p_1^* L) \simeq (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})|_{\mathbb{D}^*}$ extends to a psh metric on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})|_{\mathbb{D}}$.

Lemma 4.4. *Given a psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ and a normal test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$, the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) U induces a psh metric on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$;
- (ii) U has linear growth, and $U_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$.

If the induced psh metric in (i) is further locally bounded, then $U_{\text{NA}} = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$.

Proof. By normality of \mathcal{X} , a psh metric on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})|_{\mathbb{D}^*}$ extends to $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})|_{\mathbb{D}}$ iff the same holds for its pull-back to a higher test configuration. After passing to a higher test configuration, we may thus assume, without loss of generality, that \mathcal{X} is smooth and dominates the trivial test configuration via $\rho: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{C}$. Write $\mathcal{L} = \rho^* p_1^* L + D$, and pick a positive integer m such that mD is Cartier. Then (i) holds iff $U + m^{-1} \log |f|$ is locally bounded above for any choice of local equation f for mD . Since $D + a\mathcal{X}_0$ is effective for $a > 0$ large enough, it follows that $U_t \leq at + O(1)$, which shows that U has linear growth. For any divisorial valuation w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ with $w(\tau) > 0$, we also get $w(U) \geq -m^{-1}w(f) = -w(D)$. Applying this to $w = \sigma(v)$ with $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ shows that $U_{\text{NA}}(v) \leq \sigma(v)(D) = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}(v)$. This proves (i) \implies (ii), and the final assertion is proved similarly.

Conversely, assume (ii). Then $\text{ord}_E(U) \geq -\text{ord}_E(D)$ for each irreducible component E of \mathcal{X}_0 , and hence $U + m^{-1} \log |f| \leq O(1)$ for any local equation f of mD , by, for instance, the Siu decomposition of $dd^c U$. \square

Definition 4.5. A psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ has *algebraic singularities* if it induces a locally bounded psh metric on some normal, semiample test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$.

By Lemma 4.4, such a ray U has linear growth, and $U_{\text{NA}} = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})} \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$.

Lemma 4.6. For each $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$, there exists a smooth psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ with algebraic singularities such that $U_{\text{NA}} = \varphi$. Further, every psh ray $V: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ with $V_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi$ satisfies $V \leq U + O(1)$.

Proof. By definition of \mathcal{H}^{NA} , we can pick a normal, semiample test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ with $\varphi = \varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}$. Since \mathcal{L} is semiample, it admits a smooth S^1 -invariant psh metric, which induces the desired psh ray U . If a psh ray V satisfies $V_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi$, then V induces a psh metric on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ by Lemma 4.4, and it follows that $V - U$ is bounded above. \square

5. DING-STABILITY AND TWISTED KÄHLER–EINSTEIN CURRENTS

This section contains proofs of Theorems A and B. In what follows, (X, ω_0) is a compact Kähler manifold, L an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle such that $\omega_0 \in c_1(L)$, and θ is a (quasi-positive) klt current with $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$.

5.1. Main results. The rest of this section will be devoted to the proof of the following result.

Theorem 5.1. *If the Ding functional $D_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is coercive, then (X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ . If θ is further semipositive, the converse holds.*

Combining this with Theorem 2.19, we obtain the following result, which is a more precise version of Theorem A.

Corollary 5.2. *If θ is semipositive, then:*

- (i) *if $c_1(L)$ contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current (resp. unique θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current), then (X, L) is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding stable) with respect to θ ;*

- (ii) if (X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable, then $c_1(L)$ contains a θ -twisted Kähler–Einstein current.

If we further assume that θ either has small unbounded locus or is strictly positive, then the twisted Kähler–Einstein current in (ii) is unique.

Proof. The statements in (i) and (ii) follow by combining Theorems 2.19 and 5.1. The uniqueness statement follows by also invoking Lemma 2.20. □

Theorem B will be proved at the end of this section.

5.2. Slopes of functionals. Recall that each psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ of linear growth induces a function $U_{\text{NA}}: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined in terms of Lelong numbers. When U has algebraic singularities, U_{NA} belongs to \mathcal{H}^{NA} , and we then have the following result, which is a reformulation of [BHJ19, Theorem 3.6] (see also [SD18, Theorem 4.9], and [PRS08] for a previous result in the same direction).

Lemma 5.3. *If $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ is a psh ray with algebraic singularities, then*

- (i) $E(U_t) = tE(U_{\text{NA}}) + O(1)$;
- (ii) $J(U_t) = tJ(U_{\text{NA}}) + O(1)$.

Recall that we denote by the same letter a functional on \mathcal{H} and the induced functional on \mathcal{H}^{NA} . Coming back to the case of a general psh ray U , we set, as in (3.2),

$$L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}) := \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} \{A_\theta + U_{\text{NA}}\} \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}.$$

The following result is a generalization of [Berm16, Proposition 3.8], which basically corresponds to the case of algebraic singularities. The proof relies on a valuative criterion of integrability as discussed in Appendix B.

Theorem 5.4. *For any psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ of linear growth, $L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}})$ is finite, and coincides with the integrability threshold*

$$\sup \left\{ c \in \mathbb{R} \mid \int_1^\infty e^{2(ct - L_\theta(U_t))} dt < \infty \right\}.$$

Further, when $\theta \geq 0$, the function $t \mapsto L_\theta(U_t)$ is convex (Lemma 2.9), and the integrability threshold is equal to its slope at infinity $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} L_\theta(U_t)$.

To prove Theorem 5.4, we may and do assume that U extends to a quasi-psh function on $X \times \mathbb{D}$, after adding, as before, a linear function of t . Then $U_{\text{NA}} \leq 0$, and hence $L(U_{\text{NA}}) \leq L(0) = 0$, while the above integrability threshold is similarly nonpositive, since $L(U_t) \leq O(1)$ for $t \gg 1$.

In what follows, we denote for simplicity the log discrepancy function of $X \times \mathbb{C}$ by $A := A_{X \times \mathbb{C}}$. Write $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c \psi$ with θ_0 smooth and ψ quasi-psh, and introduce the quasi-psh function

$$V := U + p_1^* \psi$$

on $X \times \mathbb{D}$. Using $A_X(v) = A(\sigma(v)) - 1$ for $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ and σ the Gauss extension, we have

$$(5.1) \quad L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}) = \inf_{w \in W} \{A(w) - w(V)\} - 1$$

with W the set of all \mathbb{C}^* -invariant divisorial valuations w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ such that $w(\tau) = 1$.

Lemma 5.5. *There exist $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and $C > 0$ such that $w(V) \leq (1 - \varepsilon)A(w) + C$ for all $w \in W$.*

Proof. The restriction of the quasi-psh function U on $X \times \mathbb{D}$ to each submanifold $X \times \{\tau\}$ with $\tau \in \mathbb{D}^*$ is in \mathcal{E}^1 , and hence has zero Lelong numbers. Since Lelong numbers can only increase upon restriction, it follows that U has zero Lelong number at each point of $X \times \mathbb{D}^*$, and hence $e^{-U} \in L^q_{\text{loc}}$ on $X \times \mathbb{D}^*$ for every finite q , by Skoda’s theorem. On the other hand, the assumption that θ is klt implies that $e^{-2\psi}$ locally in L^p_{loc} for some $p > 1$ [Bern15b, GZh15]. By Hölder’s inequality, it follows that $e^{-2(1+\varepsilon)V} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}$ on $X \times \mathbb{D}^*$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$. In other words, the multiplier ideal sheaf $\mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon)V)$ is cosupported on $X \times \{0\}$, and hence contains some power of τ , which yields $\sup_{w \in W} w(\mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon)V)) < \infty$. On the other hand, Lemma B.4 shows that $w(\mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon)V)) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)w(V) - A(w)$ for all divisorial valuations w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ with $w(\tau) > 0$, and the result follows. \square

Proof of Theorem 5.4. By definition of L_θ , we have

$$L_\theta(U_t) = -\frac{1}{2} \log \int_X e^{-2(V_t + \rho)} \omega_0^n$$

for some function $\rho \in C^\infty(X)$. Given $c \in \mathbb{R}$, using $t = -\log |\tau|$, polar coordinates, and Fubini’s theorem, it is straightforward to see that the function $t \mapsto \exp(ct - L_\theta(U_t))$ is L^2 in a neighborhood of $t = +\infty$ iff $|\tau|^{-c-1} e^{-V}$ is L^2 in a neighborhood of the central fiber in $X \times \mathbb{D}$, or, equivalently, L^2_{loc} on $X \times \mathbb{D}$. In view of (5.1), we thus need to show

$$(5.2) \quad \inf \{s \in \mathbb{R} \mid |\tau|^s e^{-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}\} = \sup_{w \in W} \{w(V) - A(w)\} < +\infty.$$

First suppose $|\tau|^s e^{-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}$. Applying Theorem B.5 (or Theorem B.7) to $U = \log |\tau|$ shows that there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $s = w(U) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)w(V) - A(w) \geq w(V) - A(w)$ for all $w \in W$.

For the reverse inequality we use Theorem B.7 and Lemma 5.5. Suppose $s = \sup_{w \in W} \{w(V) - A(w)\} + \delta$, where $\delta > 0$. In particular, $s > -1$ as follows by taking w as the order of vanishing along the central fiber. We claim that $|\tau|^s e^{-U} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}$. By Theorem B.7, it suffices to prove that there exists $\varepsilon' > 0$ such that $s - (1 + \varepsilon')w(V) + A(w) \geq 0$ for all $w \in W$. Pick $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and $C \geq 1$ as in Lemma 5.5.

If $A(w) \leq 4C/\varepsilon$, then $w(V) \leq (4/\varepsilon + 1)C$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} s - (1 + \varepsilon')w(V) + A(w) &\geq \delta + w(V) - A(w) - (1 + \varepsilon')w(V) + A(w) \\ &= \delta - \varepsilon'w(V) \\ &\geq \delta - \varepsilon'(4/\varepsilon + 1)C, \end{aligned}$$

which is nonnegative if $0 < \varepsilon' \ll 1$. If instead $A(w) \geq 4C/\varepsilon$, then

$$\begin{aligned} s - (1 + \varepsilon')w(V) + A(w) &> -1 - (1 + \varepsilon')(1 - \varepsilon)(A(w) + C) + A(w) \\ &\geq -1 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}A(w) - C, \end{aligned}$$

which again is nonnegative. This completes the proof. \square

5.3. Proof of Theorem 5.1. Assume first that the Ding functional is coercive, i.e. $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J - C$ on \mathcal{E}^1 for some $\varepsilon, C > 0$. We then claim that $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} , which will prove that (X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ . By Lemma 4.6, every $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$ is of the form $\varphi = U_{\text{NA}}$ for some psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ with algebraic singularities. By Lemma 5.3, we have $E(U_t) = t E(U_{\text{NA}}) + O(1)$ and $J(U_t) = t J(U_{\text{NA}}) + O(1)$, while Theorem 5.4 shows that $L_\theta(\varphi)$ is the supremum of all $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\int_1^\infty e^{2(ct - L_\theta(U_t))} dt < \infty$. Now the coercivity assumption yields

$$L_\theta(U_t) \geq E(U_t) + \varepsilon J(U_t) - C = t(E(\varphi) + \varepsilon J(\varphi)) + O(1),$$

and we infer $L_\theta(\varphi) \geq E(\varphi) + \varepsilon J(\varphi)$; hence $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} .

Before proving the converse direction, let $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ be a psh ray with $U_t \leq O(1)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so that U defines a quasi-psh function on $X \times \mathbb{D}$ with multiplier ideals $\mathfrak{a}_m := \mathcal{J}(mU)$ cosupported on the central fiber $X \times \{0\}$ (cf. the proof of Lemma 5.5). By S^1 -invariance of U , \mathfrak{a}_m is S^1 -invariant, and hence uniquely extends to a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant coherent ideal sheaf on $X \times \mathbb{C}$.

Lemma 5.6. *There exists $m_0 \gg 1$ such that the sheaf $\mathcal{O}((m + m_0)p_1^*L) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_m$ is generated by its global sections on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ for each $m \geq 1$.*

Proof. It is enough to show that $\mathcal{O}((m + m_0)p_1^*L) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_m$ is p_2 -globally generated, with $p_2: X \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ denoting the second projection. We argue as in [DEL00, Corollary 1.5]. Pick a very ample line bundle H on X , and choose m_0 such that $A := m_0L - K_X - (n + 1)H$ is ample on X . By the relative version of the Castelnuovo-Mumford criterion, $\mathcal{O}((m + m_0)p_1^*L) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_m$ is p_2 -globally generated as soon as

$$R^j(p_2)_*(\mathcal{O}((m + m_0)p_1^*L - jp_1^*H) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_m) = 0$$

for $1 \leq j \leq n$, which holds away from $0 \in \mathbb{C}$ by Kodaira vanishing, and near $0 \in \mathbb{C}$ as a consequence of Nadel vanishing (compare [BFJ16, Theorem B.8]). \square

Lemma 5.7. *Set $\varphi_m := (m + m_0)^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}_m}$. Then:*

- (i) $\varphi_m \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$;
- (ii) $U_{\text{NA}} \leq \frac{m}{m+m_0}U_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi_m \leq \frac{m}{m+m_0}U_{\text{NA}} + \frac{1}{m+m_0}(A_X + 1)$ on X^{div} ;
- (iii) $L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}) = \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} L_\theta(\varphi_m)$.

Proof. That $\varphi_m \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$ is a direct consequence of Lemma 5.6. As for (ii), the first inequality holds since $U_{\text{NA}} \leq 0$. The remaining inequalities follow by applying the valuative analysis of multiplier ideals; see Appendix B. Specifically, Lemma B.4 gives

$$w(\mathcal{J}(mU)) \leq m w(U) \leq w(\mathcal{J}(mU)) + A(w),$$

for each divisorial valuation w on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, and this implies the last two inequalities in (ii) by setting $w = \sigma(v)$, where $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ and σ is the Gauss extension; indeed $A(w) = A_X(v) + 1$.

To prove (iii), first note that $\varphi_m \geq U_{\text{NA}}$ implies

$$L_\theta(\varphi_m) = \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} \{A_\theta + \varphi_m\} \geq \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} \{A_\theta + U_{\text{NA}}\} = L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}).$$

To obtain an estimate in the opposite direction, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and pick $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ such that $A_\theta(v) + U_{\text{NA}}(v) \leq L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}) + \varepsilon$. Then

$$L_\theta(U_{\text{NA}}) \geq A_\theta(v) + U_{\text{NA}}(v) - \varepsilon \geq L(\varphi_m) + U_{\text{NA}}(v) - \varphi_m(v) - \varepsilon,$$

which proves (iii) since $\varphi_m(v) \rightarrow U_{\text{NA}}(v)$ by (ii). \square

Lemma 5.8. *For each m we have $E(\varphi_m) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} t^{-1} E(U_t)$.*

Remark 5.9. Thus $\liminf E(\varphi_m) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} E(U_t)$. Here the inequality may be strict, see Example 6.10, based on [Dar17a].

Proof. By Lemma 4.6, we can choose a psh ray $U^m: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ with algebraic singularities such that $U_{\text{NA}}^m = \varphi_m$, and hence $E(U_t^m) = tE(\varphi_m) + O(1)$, in view of Lemma 5.3. Since $U_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi_m$, Lemma 4.6 yields a constant $C > 0$ such that $U_t \leq U_t^m + C$ for $t \geq 1$. By monotonicity of E , we infer

$$E(U_t) \leq E(U_t^m) + O(1) = tE(\varphi_m) + O(1),$$

which concludes the proof □

We are now in a position to prove the reverse direction of Theorem 5.1. Arguing by contradiction, assume that $\theta \geq 0$, $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} for some $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, and that D_θ is not coercive. By Corollary 2.18, we can then find a non-constant psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\text{sup}}^1$ emanating from 0 along which $M_\theta(U_t) \leq 0$, and hence also $D_\theta(U_t) \leq 0$, since $D_\theta \leq M_\theta$. The assumptions on U guarantee that $E(U_t) = ct$ for some $c < 0$. As $D_\theta(U_t) = L(U_t) - E(U_t) \leq 0$, we infer $L(U_t) \leq ct$, and hence $L(U_{\text{NA}}) \leq c$, by Theorem 5.4. Now consider the sequence $\varphi_m \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$ constructed above. By Lemma 4.3, we have $U_{\text{NA}}(v_{\text{triv}}) = 0$; hence also $\sup \varphi_m = \varphi_m(v_{\text{triv}}) = 0$ by Lemma 5.7(ii). The assumption $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} thus yields

$$L(\varphi_m) \geq (1 - \varepsilon) E(\varphi_m)$$

for all m , and hence $L(U_{\text{NA}}) \geq (1 - \varepsilon)c$, by Lemma 5.7 and Lemma 5.8. We end up with $c \geq (1 - \varepsilon)c$, a contradiction.

5.4. Proof of Theorem B. Let X be a projective manifold, L an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle, and Δ an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor with (X, Δ) klt and $c_1(L) = c_1(X, \Delta)$. By [BBEGZ19, Theorem 5.1], the identity component of the algebraic group $\text{Aut}^0(X, \Delta)$ acts transitively on Δ -twisted Kähler–Einstein currents in $c_1(X, \Delta)$, and the stabilizer is compact by [BBEGZ19, Theorem 5.2]. If $c_1(X, \Delta)$ contains a unique such current ω , then $\text{Aut}^0(X, \Delta)$ is contained in the compact group of isometries of ω , and is thus trivial, being an affine algebraic group. This proves (i) \iff (ii). By Theorem 3.6, (X, Δ) is uniformly K-stable iff it is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to Δ . Thus (i) \implies (iii) follows from (ii) in Corollary 5.2. By Theorem 5.1, (iii) conversely implies that the Ding functional D_Δ is coercive. Since the twisted Mabuchi functional M_Δ satisfies $M_\Delta \geq D_\Delta$, it is also coercive, and [BBEGZ19, Theorem 5.4] shows that $c_1(X, \Delta)$ contains a unique twisted Kähler–Einstein current; hence (iii) \implies (i).

6. NON-ARCHIMEDEAN POTENTIALS OF FINITE ENERGY AND GEODESIC RAYS

As above, (X, ω_0) is a compact Kähler manifold, and L is an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle with $\omega_0 \in c_1(L)$. Using part of the proof of Theorem 5.1, we now undertake a deeper study of the relationship between psh rays and non-Archimedean L -psh functions, and prove Theorem D.

6.1. The Berkovich analytification. Denote by X^{NA} the Berkovich analytification⁵ of X with respect to the trivial absolute value on the ground field \mathbb{C} . We view X^{NA} as a topological space, whose points can be understood as semivaluations on X , i.e. valuations $v: \mathbb{C}(Y)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ on the function field of subvarieties Y of X , trivial on \mathbb{C} . In particular, X^{NA} contains the set X^{div} of divisorial valuations on $\mathbb{C}(X)$. Recall that, by convention, X^{div} contains the trivial valuation of $\mathbb{C}(X)$, denoted by v_{triv} . The topology of X^{NA} is generated by functions of the form $v \mapsto v(f)$ with f a regular function on some Zariski open set $U \subset X$, and one shows that X^{NA} is compact (Hausdorff), and that $X^{\text{div}} \subset X^{\text{NA}}$ is dense. The projection $p_1: X \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ induces a map $(X \times \mathbb{C})^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow X^{\text{NA}}$ that has a canonical continuous section, the Gauss extension

$$\sigma: X^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow (X \times \mathbb{C})^{\text{NA}},$$

extending the map in §3.1. Its image consists of all \mathbb{C}^* -invariant semivaluations w satisfying $w(\tau) = 1$.

6.2. L -psh functions and psh rays. As explained in [BoJ18a], any test configuration $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ for (X, L) defines a continuous metric on the Berkovich analytification of L . By subtracting the *trivial metric*, defined by the trivial test configuration, we obtain a continuous function $\varphi_{(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})}: X^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ whose restriction to the dense subset X^{div} is the function defined in §3.2.

This allows us to view the elements of \mathcal{H}^{NA} as continuous functions on all of X^{NA} . Concretely, it can be explained as follows. Let \mathfrak{a} be a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant ideal on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, and write $\mathfrak{a} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \tau^i \mathfrak{a}_i$ with \mathfrak{a}_i ideals on X . The function $\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}}: X^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$ given by

$$\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}}(v) := -\sigma(v)(\mathfrak{a}) = \max_i \{-v(\mathfrak{a}_i) - i\}$$

is continuous, and finite-valued iff \mathfrak{a} is cosupported on $X \times \{0\}$. This applies in particular to functions in \mathcal{H}^{NA} , which are of the form $\varphi = m^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}} + c$ with \mathfrak{a} cosupported on $X \times \{0\}$, $p_1^*(mL) \otimes \mathfrak{a}$ globally generated, and $c \in \mathbb{Q}$.

An *L -psh function* is a function $\varphi: X^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty)$, not identically $-\infty$, that can be written as the limit of a decreasing sequence in \mathcal{H}^{NA} . These functions are usc, satisfy the ‘maximum principle’

$$(6.1) \quad \sup_{X^{\text{NA}}} \varphi = \varphi(v_{\text{triv}}),$$

and are uniquely determined by their (finite) values on X^{div} . The space $\text{PSH}^{\text{NA}} = \text{PSH}^{\text{NA}}(X, L)$ of L -psh functions is closed under decreasing limits. It is endowed with the weak topology of pointwise convergence on X^{div} , and it is proved in [BoJ18a], as a consequence of [BFJ16], that the space of sup-normalized functions

$$\text{PSH}_{\text{sup}}^{\text{NA}} := \{\varphi \in \text{PSH}^{\text{NA}} \mid \sup \varphi = \varphi(v_{\text{triv}}) = 0\}$$

is compact.

Lemma 6.1. *Let $m \geq 1$, and let \mathfrak{a} be a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant coherent ideal sheaf on $X \times \mathbb{C}$ such that mL is a line bundle and $p_1^*(mL) \otimes \mathfrak{a}$ is globally generated. Then $m^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}}$ is L -psh.*

⁵This is usually denoted X^{an} in the literature [Berk90].

Proof. For each $r \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\varphi_{a^r} = r\varphi_a$. After replacing m with a large enough multiple rm , we may thus assume that mL is globally generated as well. For each integer $k \geq 1$, the \mathbb{C}^* -invariant ideal $\mathfrak{a}_k := \mathfrak{a} + (\tau^k)$ is cosupported on $X \times \{0\}$, and $p_1^*(mL) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_k$ is globally generated since $p_1^*(mL) \otimes (\tau^k)$ and $p_1^*(mL) \otimes \mathfrak{a}$ are both globally generated. As a result, $m^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}_k} \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$, and we get the desired result since $\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}_k} = \max\{\varphi_a, -k\}$ decreases pointwise to φ_a . \square

Theorem 6.2. *For each psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \text{PSH}$ of linear growth, the function $U_{\text{NA}}: X^{\text{div}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ admits a unique extension to a function in PSH^{NA} .*

Proof. Uniqueness follows from the fact that L -psh functions are determined by their restriction to X^{div} . After adding to U a linear function of t , we may as usual assume that it extends to a quasi-psh function on $X \times \mathbb{D}$. By homogeneity, we may also assume that L is an actual line bundle.

For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, the multiplier ideal sheaf $\mathfrak{a}_m := \mathcal{J}(mU)$ can be viewed as a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant ideal sheaf on $X \times \mathbb{C}$, by S^1 -invariance of U , and the proof of Lemma 5.6 applies without change to yield $m_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\mathcal{O}((m + m_0)p_1^*L) \otimes \mathfrak{a}_m$ is globally generated for all m . As a result,

$$\varphi_m := (m + m_0)^{-1}\varphi_{\mathfrak{a}_m}$$

is L -psh, by Lemma 6.1. As in Lemma 5.7, we further have

$$mU_{\text{NA}} \leq (m + m_0)\varphi_m \leq mU_{\text{NA}} + A_X + 1$$

on X^{div} , which proves that φ_m converges pointwise to U_{NA} on X^{div} . Finally, the subadditivity property of multiplier ideals yields $\mathfrak{a}_{2m} \subset \mathfrak{a}_m^2$; hence

$$\varphi_{2m} \leq \frac{2m + 2m_0}{2m + m_0}\varphi_m \leq \varphi_m,$$

since $\varphi_m \leq 0$. All in all, $\psi_j := \varphi_{2^j}$ is a decreasing sequence of L -psh functions, converging pointwise to U_{NA} on X^{div} , and we conclude as desired that $U_{\text{NA}} \in \text{PSH}^{\text{NA}}$. \square

6.3. L -psh functions of finite energy. As in the complex case, the non-Archimedean Monge–Ampère energy $E: \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined in §3.3 admits a unique extension to a monotone, usc functional

$$E: \text{PSH}^{\text{NA}} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty),$$

obtained by setting for each L -psh function φ

$$E(\varphi) = \inf \{E(\psi) \mid \psi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}, \psi \geq \varphi\}.$$

We say that φ has *finite energy* if $E(\varphi) > -\infty$ and write $\mathcal{E}^{1,\text{NA}}$ for the space of such functions. To any $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,\text{NA}}$ is attached a non-Archimedean Monge–Ampère measure $\text{MA}(\varphi)$, a Radon probability measure on X^{NA} .

By the non-Archimedean Calabi–Yau theorem proved in [BoJ18a] (building on [BFJ15]), the non-Archimedean Monge–Ampère operator sets up a one-to-one correspondence between $\mathcal{E}^{1,\text{NA}}/\mathbb{R}$ and the set $\mathcal{M}^{1,\text{NA}}$ of Radon probability measures μ of finite energy, i.e. such that

$$(6.2) \quad E^\vee(\mu) := \sup_{\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,\text{NA}}} (E(\varphi) - \int \varphi d\mu) < \infty;$$

given $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^{1,NA}$, the supremum in (6.2) is attained for a unique $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$, up to an additive constant, which then satisfies $MA(\varphi) = \mu$. Conversely, we have

$$(6.3) \quad E(\varphi) = \inf\{E^\vee(\mu) + \int \varphi d\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{M}^{1,NA}\},$$

and the infimum is attained uniquely for $\mu = MA(\varphi)$. As a consequence, we have the following result.

Lemma 6.3. *Any two $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$ with $\varphi \geq \psi$ satisfy $E(\varphi) \geq E(\psi)$, with equality iff $\varphi = \psi$.*

Proof. The inequality $E(\varphi) \geq E(\psi)$ is clear from the definition. Now suppose $\varphi \geq \psi$ and $E(\varphi) = E(\psi)$. Set $\mu = MA(\varphi)$. Then $E(\psi) - \int \psi \mu \geq E(\varphi) - \int \varphi \mu$, so since the supremum in (6.2) is obtained uniquely for φ , up to an additive constant, and since $E(\varphi) = E(\psi)$, we must have $\psi = \varphi$. \square

6.4. Maximal geodesic rays. By Proposition 4.1, any psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ has linear growth; by Theorem 6.2, it thus gives rise to an L -psh function $U_{NA} \in PSH^{NA}$, and the following result implies that U_{NA} has finite energy.

Theorem 6.4. *For any psh ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{> 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ of linear growth, the associated L -psh function U_{NA} belongs to $\mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$, and*

$$(6.4) \quad E(U_{NA}) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} t^{-1} E(U_t) > -\infty.$$

The inequality can be strict in general, even for geodesic rays—see Example 6.10.

Proof. Using the notation of the proof of Theorem 6.2, $\psi_j := \varphi_{2^j}$ is a decreasing sequence of functions in \mathcal{H}^{NA} , converging pointwise to U_{NA} . By Lemma 5.8, we further have, for each j , $E(\psi_j) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} t^{-1} E(U_t)$, which yields the desired result by continuity of E along decreasing sequences. \square

We now conversely show how to attach to each $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$ a geodesic ray in \mathcal{E}^1 .

Definition 6.5. We say that a psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is *maximal* if any psh ray of linear growth $V: \mathbb{R}_{> 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ with $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} V_t \leq U_0$ and $V_{NA} \leq U_{NA}$ satisfies $V \leq U$.

A maximal geodesic ray is thus uniquely determined by U_0 and U_{NA} . Not every psh geodesic ray is maximal; see Example 6.10.

Theorem 6.6. *For any $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ and any $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$, there exists a unique maximal geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ emanating from u such that $U_{NA} = \varphi$.*

Proof. As already noticed, uniqueness is clear, so we need only prove existence. First assume $u \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{NA}$. By Lemma 4.6, the set of smooth psh rays $V: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow PSH$ with $V_0 = u$ and $V_{NA} = \varphi$ is non-empty; its usc upper envelope defines a psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ with algebraic singularities such that $U_0 = u$ and $U_{NA} = \varphi$, by [Berm16, Proposition 2.7], and Lemma 4.4 shows that U is maximal.

Now consider the general case. Write u and φ as the limits of decreasing sequences $u^j \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\varphi^j \in \mathcal{H}^{NA}$, respectively. For each j , we have a maximal geodesic ray U^j with $U^j_0 = u_j$ and $U^j_{NA} = \varphi_j$. By maximality, $U^{j+1} \leq U^j$, so the

limit $U := \lim_j U^j$ exists. By Corollary 1.8 and Lemma 5.3, we have, for each j and t ,

$$E(U_t^j) = E(u^j) + t E(\varphi^j) \geq E(u) + t E(\varphi) > -\infty,$$

so $U_t \in \mathcal{E}^1$ and $E(U_t) = E(u) + t E(\varphi)$. Thus $U : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is a psh geodesic ray, by Corollary 1.8. On the one hand, $U \leq U^j$ implies $U_{\text{NA}} \leq U_{\text{NA}}^j = \varphi_j$ for all j , and hence $U_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi$. On the other hand, the formula $E(U_t) = E(u) + t E(\varphi)$ yields $E(U_{\text{NA}}) \geq E(\varphi)$ by Theorem 6.4, and hence $U_{\text{NA}} = \varphi$, by Lemma 6.3.

Finally, suppose $V : \mathbb{R}_{> 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is a psh ray of linear growth with $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} V_t \leq u$ and $V_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi$. Since $u \leq u_j$ and $U_{\text{NA}} \leq \varphi_j$, we have $V \leq U^j$ by maximality of U^j , and hence $V \leq U$. □

Corollary 6.7. *A psh geodesic ray $U : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1$ is maximal iff equality holds in (6.4), or, equivalently, $E(U_t) = E(U_0) + t E(U_{\text{NA}})$ for all $t \geq 0$.*

Proof. Since $E(U_t)$ is an affine function of t , $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} E(U_t) = E(U_{\text{NA}})$ is equivalent to $E(U_t) = E(U_0) + t E(U_{\text{NA}})$, and the proof of Theorem 6.6 shows that the latter holds when U is maximal. Assume, conversely, that $E(U_t) = E(U_0) + t E(U_{\text{NA}})$ for all t , and let U' be the maximal geodesic ray with $U'_0 = U_0$ and $U'_{\text{NA}} = U_{\text{NA}}$. Then $U \leq U'$, and, as we have seen, $E(U'_t) = E(U_0) + t E(U_{\text{NA}})$ for all t . For each $t \geq 0$, we thus have $U_t \leq U'_t$ and $E(U_t) = E(U'_t)$, which yields $U_t = U'_t$, proving that $U = U'$ is maximal. □

Example 6.8. By Lemma 5.3, every psh geodesic ray U with algebraic singularities is maximal. Conversely, a maximal geodesic ray U has algebraic singularities iff U_{NA} belongs to \mathcal{H}^{NA} .

Example 6.9. By [BoJ18b], every linearly bounded filtration \mathcal{F} of the algebra of sections

$$R(X, L) = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} H^0(X, mL)$$

gives rise to a bounded L -psh function φ on X^{NA} . On the other hand, Ross and Witt Nyström associate to \mathcal{F} a psh geodesic ray U emanating from 0 [RWN14, Corollary 7.12], and one can check that U is indeed the maximal geodesic ray with $U_{\text{NA}} = \varphi$.

Example 6.10. Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1$, $L = \mathcal{O}(1)$ and $\omega \in c_1(L)$ the Fubini-Study metric. Following e.g. [Car67, Thm 3, p.31], we can construct a polar Cantor set $K \subset \mathbb{P}^1$. This carries an atom-free probability measure μ , whose potential $v \in \text{PSH}(X, \omega)$ has no Lelong numbers (because μ has no atoms), but does not belong to the class \mathcal{E} defined in [GZ07] (since μ has positive mass on the polar set K). Now use v to construct a psh geodesic ray U emanating from 0 as in [Dar17a, Theorem 2]. Since v has zero Lelong numbers, so does U , so $U_{\text{NA}} = 0$. However, U is not constant by [Dar17a, Theorem 4.1], and hence not maximal by Corollary 6.7.

6.5. Uniform Ding-stability, reprise. Ding-stability of (X, L) with respect to θ was defined in §3.3 in terms of the non-Archimedean Ding functional D_θ on \mathcal{H}^{NA} . As in [BoJ18a, Lemma 2.9], we first show that it can equivalently be formulated as a condition on the whole space $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$.

Lemma 6.11. *Given any klt current θ , (X, L) is Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to θ iff $D_\theta \geq 0$ on $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$ (resp. $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$).*

Proof. Given $\varepsilon \geq 0$ and $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$, $D_\theta(\varphi) \geq \varepsilon J(\varphi)$ is equivalent to

$$A_\theta(v) + \varphi(v) \geq (1 - \varepsilon) E(\varphi) + \varepsilon \varphi(v_{\text{triv}})$$

for all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$. If this holds for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{NA}$, then it also holds for $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$, by continuity of E along decreasing sequences. \square

Using the results of §6.4, we are now in a position to prove Theorem D, which we reformulate here for convenience.

Theorem 6.12. *Let θ be a semipositive klt current such that $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$. The following are equivalent:*

- (i) $D_\theta: \mathcal{E}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is coercive;
- (ii) $D_\theta(\varphi) > 0$ for all non-constant $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$;
- (iii) (X, L) is uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ .

Proof. (i) \iff (iii) is the content of Theorem 5.1, and Lemma 6.11 shows that (ii) \implies (iii). Now assume (ii), and suppose by contradiction that (i) fails. By Theorem 2.16,

$$L_\theta(U_t) - E(U_t) = D_\theta(U_t) \leq 0$$

for some non-constant psh geodesic ray $U: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^1_{\text{sup}}$, which thus satisfies $E(U_t) = ct$ for all t , where $c < 0$. By Theorem 5.4 and Theorem 6.4, we infer

$$L_\theta(U_{NA}) \leq c \leq E(U_{NA}).$$

Thus $U_{NA} \in \mathcal{E}^{1,NA}$ satisfies $D_\theta(U_{NA}) = L(U_{NA}) - E(U_{NA}) \leq 0$ and is sup-normalized, see Lemma 4.3, so (ii) yields $U_{NA} = 0$, which contradicts $L_\theta(U_{NA}) \leq c < 0$. \square

7. THE STABILITY THRESHOLD AND THE GREATEST RICCI LOWER BOUND

As before, X is a smooth projective variety with an ample \mathbb{Q} -line bundle L . Following [FO18, BIJ20, BoJ18b], we characterize Ding-stability with respect to a klt current in terms of a stability threshold, and then prove Theorem C.

7.1. The expected vanishing order. Assume first that L is an actual line bundle (as opposed to a \mathbb{Q} -line bundle). Given a valuation $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ and a nonzero section $s \in H^0(X, L)$, we can make sense of $v(s) \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$, by evaluating v on the local function corresponding to s in a trivialization of L at the center of v . This defines a filtration $F^\lambda := \{s \mid v(s) \geq \lambda\}$ of $H^0(X, L)$, which shows that v takes only finitely many values $\lambda \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ on $H^0(X, L) \setminus \{0\}$, and provides a way to count these with multiplicity $\dim \text{Gr}^\lambda$, giving rise to the *vanishing sequence* of v on L [BKMS15].

For each $m \in \mathbb{N}$, define $S_m(L)$ as the mean value of the vanishing sequence of mL , divided by m . By [BIJ20, Lemma 3.5], we have

$$(7.1) \quad S_m(v) = \max \{v(D) \mid D \text{ of } m\text{-basis type}\},$$

where a divisor of *m -basis type* for L is a \mathbb{Q} -divisor of the form

$$D = \frac{1}{mN_m} \sum_{j=1}^{N_m} \text{div}(s_j)$$

for some basis (s_1, \dots, s_{N_m}) of $H^0(mL)$. By [BC11, BKMS15], the vanishing sequence of v on mL , scaled by $1/m$, equidistributes as $m \rightarrow \infty$. The sequence $S_m(v)$

thus admits a limit $S_L(v) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$, the *expected vanishing order* of multisections of L along v .

By [BKMS15, §2.4] and [BHH17, Lemma 5.13], this invariant can be expressed as

$$(7.2) \quad S_L(v) = V^{-1} \int_0^{+\infty} \text{vol}(L, v \geq \lambda) \, d\lambda,$$

where $\text{vol}(L, v \geq \lambda)$ denotes the volume of the graded subalgebra of the section ring $R(X, L) = \bigoplus_{m=0}^{\infty} H^0(X, mL)$ consisting of sections $s \in H^0(X, mL)$ such that $v(s) \geq m\lambda$ (see *loc. cit.* for details). In particular, if $x \in X$, then $S_L(\text{ord}_x)$ coincides with the invariant considered in [MR15, §4].

By construction, $S_L(v)$ is homogeneous of degree 1 with respect to L , and it can thus be defined for L a \mathbb{Q} -line bundle, by setting $S_L(v) := m^{-1}S_{mL}(v)$ for any $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that mL is a line bundle.

A key point for what follows is that the convergence of $S_m(v)$ towards $S_L(v)$ is actually semiuniform, in the following sense:

Lemma 7.1 ([BLJ20, Corollary 3.6]). *For each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists m_0 such that $S_m(v) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)S_L(v)$ for all $m \geq m_0$ and all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$.*

7.2. The stability threshold. Following [FO18, BLJ20, BoJ18b], we introduce:

Definition 7.2. Given a klt current θ , we define the *stability threshold* of (X, L) with respect to θ as

$$\delta_\theta(X, L) := \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}}} \frac{A_\theta(v)}{S_L(v)}.$$

When $\theta = 0$, we simply write $\delta(X, L)$, and recover the invariant studied in [BLJ20, BoJ18b]. Since the latter is positive, so is $\delta_\theta(X, L)$, as follows from Corollary B.8. Note also that $\delta_\theta(X, tL) = t^{-1}\delta_\theta(X, L)$ for $t \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$.

On the other hand, the *log canonical threshold* of an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor D with respect to θ is defined as

$$(7.3) \quad \text{lct}_\theta(D) := \sup \{c \geq 0 \mid \mathcal{J}(\theta + cD) = \mathcal{O}_X\} = \inf_{v_{\text{triv}} \neq v \in X^{\text{div}}} \frac{A_\theta(v)}{v(D)};$$

see Corollary B.9 for the second equality. Adapting, respectively, the arguments of [BLJ20, Theorem 4.4] and [BoJ18b, Theorem 2.14], we will prove:

Theorem 7.3. *The twisted stability threshold satisfies the following properties:*

(i) $\delta_\theta(X, L)$ is the limit as $m \rightarrow \infty$ of

$$\delta_\theta^{(m)}(X, L) := \inf \{\text{lct}_\theta(D) \mid D \text{ of } m\text{-basis type}\};$$

(ii) (X, L) is *Ding-semistable* (resp. *uniformly Ding-stable*) with respect to θ iff $\delta_\theta(X, L) \geq 1$ (resp. $\delta_\theta(X, L) > 1$).

When $\theta = 0$, (ii) follows from [Fuj19, Theorem 1.3] (note that the invariant $\beta(v)$ therein is $A_X(v) - S_L(v)$ multiplied by V , by (7.2)). While Fujita’s arguments rely on the Minimal Model Program, our proof of Theorem 7.3 builds on the non-Archimedean analogue of the thermodynamical formalism (compare Lemma 2.15), as in [BoJ18b].

Lemma 7.4. *For each $v \in X^{\text{div}}$, there exists a unique $\varphi_v \in \mathcal{E}^{1,\text{NA}}$ such that $\text{MA}(\varphi_v) = \delta_v$ and $\varphi_v(v) = 0$. Further, we have $\text{E}(\varphi_v) = \text{E}^\vee(\delta_v) = S_L(v)$ and $\text{J}(\varphi_v) \geq n^{-1}S_L(v)$.*

Proof. By [BoJ18b, Proposition 5.6], any valuation $v \in X^{\text{div}}$ is nonpluripolar in the sense that $\varphi(v) > -\infty$ for all $\varphi \in \text{PSH}$. The existence of φ_v is therefore a special case of [BoJ18b, Theorem 5.13], which also gives the formulas $E(\varphi_v) = E^\vee(\delta_v) = S_L(v)$ and $J(\varphi_v) = T_L(v) - S_L(v)$, where $T_L(v) = -\inf\{\varphi(v) \mid \varphi \in \text{PSH}_{\text{sup}}\} < \infty$. The inequality $J(\varphi_v) \geq n^{-1}S_L(v)$ now follows from equation (5.3) in [BoJ18b]. \square

Proof of Theorem 7.3. By (7.1) and (7.3), we have $\delta_\theta^{(m)}(X, L) = \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}}} \frac{A_\theta(v)}{S_m(v)}$, and hence

$$\limsup \delta_\theta^{(m)}(X, L) \leq \delta_\theta(X, L).$$

On the other hand, for each $\varepsilon > 0$ we have $S_m \leq (1 + \varepsilon)S_L$ on X^{div} for all $m \gg 1$, thanks to Lemma 7.1. This implies $\delta_\theta^{(m)}(X, L) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1}\delta_\theta(X, L)$, and proves (i).

To prove (ii), assume first (X, L) Ding-semistable (resp. uniformly Ding-stable) with respect to θ . By Lemma 6.11, $D_\theta \geq \varepsilon J$ on $\mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$ with $\varepsilon \geq 0$ (resp. $\varepsilon > 0$). Pick any $v \in X^{\text{div}}$, and consider $\varphi_v \in \mathcal{E}^{1, \text{NA}}$ as in Lemma 7.4. The inequality $D_\theta(\varphi_v) \geq \varepsilon J(\varphi_v)$ gives

$$A_\theta(v) - S_L(v) \geq \inf_{X^{\text{div}}} (A_\theta + \varphi_v) - S_L(v) = D_\theta(\varphi_v) \geq \varepsilon J(\varphi_v) \geq \varepsilon n^{-1}S_L(v),$$

so $A_\theta(v) \geq (1 + \varepsilon n^{-1})S_L(v)$ for all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$, and hence $\delta_\theta(X, L) \geq 1 + \varepsilon n^{-1}$.

Conversely, assume $\delta_\theta(X, L) \geq \delta$ for some $\delta \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [1, +\infty)$, i.e. $A_\theta(v) \geq \delta S(v)$ for $v \in X^{\text{div}}$, and pick $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$ with $\sup \varphi = 0$. Then $\delta^{-1}\varphi \in \mathcal{H}^{\text{NA}}$, so (6.3) yields

$$\begin{aligned} E(\delta^{-1}\varphi) &= \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}^{1, \text{NA}}} (E^\vee(\mu) + \int \delta^{-1}\varphi \mu) \leq \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}}} (E^\vee(\delta_v) + \delta^{-1}\varphi(v)) \\ &= \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}}} (S_L(v) + \delta^{-1}\varphi(v)) \leq \delta^{-1} \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}}} (A_\theta(v) + \varphi(v)) = \delta^{-1} L_\theta(\varphi). \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with the inequality $\delta E(\delta^{-1}\varphi) \geq \delta^{-1/n} E(\varphi)$ from [BoJ18a, Lemma 6.17], we get $L_\theta(\varphi) \geq \delta^{-1/n} E(\varphi)$. Since $\sup \varphi = 0$, we have $J(\varphi) = -E(\varphi)$, and so

$$D_\theta(\varphi) = L_\theta(\varphi) - E(\varphi) \geq (\delta^{-1/n} - 1) E(\varphi) = (1 - \delta^{-1/n}) J(\varphi),$$

which completes the proof. \square

7.3. The greatest twisted Ricci lower bound. In order to state the next result, we introduce the following invariants:

(a) the *greatest twisted Ricci lower bound*

$$\beta_\theta(X, L) := \sup \{ \beta \in \mathbb{R} \mid \exists \omega \in c_1(L), \text{Ric}_\theta(\omega) \geq \beta \omega \};$$

(b) the *nef threshold*

$$s_\theta(X, L) := \max \{ s \in \mathbb{R} \mid c_1(X, \theta) \geq s c_1(L) \}.$$

In (a), ω is a current of finite energy in $c_1(L)$, and $\text{Ric}(\omega) \geq \beta \omega + \theta$ means that the difference is a smooth semipositive $(1, 1)$ -form. In (b), $c_1(X, \theta) \geq s c_1(L)$ means that the difference is nef.

The next result is Theorem C.

Theorem 7.5. *For any semipositive klt current θ , we have*

$$\beta_\theta(X, L) = \min\{\delta_\theta(X, L), s_\theta(X, L)\}.$$

Note that we do not require $c_1(X, \theta) = c_1(L)$. In the usual Fano case $\theta = 0$, $L = -K_X$, the nef threshold is clearly equal to 1, and hence:

Corollary 7.6. *If X is a Fano manifold, then $\beta(X) = \min\{\delta(X), 1\}$. In particular, X is K -semistable iff for each Kähler form $\omega \in c_1(X)$ and $t \in (0, 1)$ there exists a Kähler form $\omega_t \in c_1(X)$ such that*

$$\text{Ric}(\omega_t) = t\omega_t + (1 - t)\omega.$$

This corollary was independently established in the appendix of [CRZ19], as a consequence of [LS14, SW16] (see also [Li11] for the toric case and [Cab19] for the case of Fano θ -manifolds of complexity one). The final statement was also previously obtained in [Li17], building on [CDS15].

Proof of Theorem 7.5. We obviously have $\beta_\theta(X, L) \leq s_\theta(X, L)$. Consider first $s > 0$ with $c_1(X, \theta) + sc_1(L)$ ample, and pick a Kähler form α in this class. The equation $\text{Ric}(\omega_u) = -s\omega_u + \theta + \alpha$ with $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ corresponds to a Monge–Ampère equation of the form $\text{MA}(u) = e^{2(su - \psi - \rho)}\omega_0^n$ with $\theta - dd^c\psi$ and ρ smooth, and hence admits a solution [BBGZ13]. It follows that $s_\theta(X, L) \leq 0 \implies s_\theta(X, L) = \beta_\theta(X, L)$, which proves the theorem in that case.

Assume now $s_\theta(X, L) > 0$, and pick $s \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ with $c_1(X, \theta) - sc_1(L)$ ample. If $\text{Ric}(\omega) = s\omega + \theta + \alpha$ for some $\omega \in c_1(L)$ and $\alpha \geq 0$, Corollary 5.2 shows that (X, sL) is Ding-semistable with respect to $\theta + \alpha$, and hence with respect to θ as well, which yields $s \leq s_\theta(X, L)$, and hence $\beta_\theta(X, L) \leq \min\{s_\theta(X, L), \delta_\theta(X, L)\}$.

Conversely, pick $s \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ with $c_1(X, \theta) - sc_1(L)$ ample and $s < \delta_\theta(X, L)$, i.e. (X, sL) uniformly Ding-stable with respect to θ . For any choice of Kähler form $\alpha \in c_1(X, \theta) - sc_1(L)$, we have $c_1(X, \theta + \alpha) = c_1(sL)$, and Corollary 5.2 thus yields $\omega \in c_1(L)$ solving $\text{Ric}(\omega) = s\omega + \theta + \alpha$, which proves $\beta_\theta(X, L) \geq \min\{s_\theta(X, L), \delta_\theta(X, L)\}$. \square

APPENDIX A. ESTIMATES

In what follows, (X, ω) is a compact Kähler manifold, and C_n denotes a constant that only depends on the dimension $n = \dim X$, but whose value may change from line to line.

Lemma A.1. *If $u_j, v_j \in \mathcal{E}^1$, $0 \leq j \leq n$, then*

$$\left| \int (u_0 - v_0)(\omega_{u_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{u_n} - \omega_{v_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{v_n}) \right| \leq C_n I(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2n}} \max_{1 \leq p \leq n} I(u_p, v_p)^{\frac{1}{2n}} M^{1 - \frac{1}{2n-1}},$$

where $M = \max_{0 \leq j \leq n} \max\{I(u_j), I(v_j)\}$.

Here $I(u, v) = V^{-1} \int_X (u - v)(\omega_v^n - \omega_u^n)$ for $u, v \in \mathcal{E}^1$. We also write $I(u) := I(u, 0)$.

Proof. After regularization [BK07], we may assume that $u_j, v_j \in \mathcal{H}$ for all j . For $0 \leq p \leq n$, set $\eta_p := \omega_{u_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{u_p} \wedge \omega_{v_{p+1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{v_n}$ and $A_p := \int (u_0 - v_0)\eta_p$. Then we want to estimate $|A_n - A_0|$. Now $A_p - A_{p-1} = \int (u_0 - v_0) dd^c(u_p - v_p) \wedge \tau_p$ where $\tau_p := \omega_{u_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{u_{p-1}} \wedge \omega_{v_{p+1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{v_n}$, so by Stokes and Cauchy–Schwarz, we have $|A_p - A_{p-1}|^2 \leq b_p c_p$, where $b_p = \int d(u_0 - v_0) \wedge d^c(u_0 - v_0) \wedge \tau_p$ and $c_p = \int d(u_p - v_p) \wedge d^c(u_p - v_p) \wedge \tau_p$. Set $w_p := \frac{1}{n-1}(u_1 + \cdots + u_{p-1} + v_{p+1} + \cdots + v_n)$. Then

$$b_p \leq C_n \int d(u_0 - v_0) \wedge d^c(u_0 - v_0) \omega_{w_p}^n \leq C_n I(u_0, v_0)^{1 - \frac{1}{2n-1}} \max\{I(u_0, w_p), I(v_0, w_p)\}^{1 - \frac{1}{2n-1}}$$

where the second equality follows from [BBEGZ19, Lemma 1.9]. Now $I(u_0, w_p) \leq C_n \max\{I(u_0), I(w_p)\}$. Since the I and J functionals are comparable, and $u \mapsto J(u)$

is convex, it easily follows that $I(w_p) \leq C_n M$. Applying the analogous estimate with v_0 instead of u_0 , we get $b_p \leq C_n I(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2^n-1}} M^{1-\frac{1}{2^n-1}}$. Similarly, $c_p \leq C_n I(u_p, v_p)^{\frac{1}{2^n-1}} M^{1-\frac{1}{2^n-1}}$, and the result follows. \square

Lemma A.2. *If $u_0, v_0 \in \mathcal{E}^1$ and $f_j \in \mathcal{E}^1$, $1 \leq j \leq n$, then*

$$\left| \int (u_0 - v_0) \omega_{f_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{f_n} \right| \leq C_n d_1(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2^n}} M^{1-\frac{1}{2^n}},$$

where $M = \max\{I(u_0), I(v_0), \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} I(f_j)\}$.

Proof. By Lemma A.1 we have

$$(A.1) \quad \left| \int (u_0 - v_0) (\omega_{f_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \omega_{f_n} - \omega_{u_0}^n) \right| \leq C_n I(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2^n}} M^{1-\frac{1}{2^n}}.$$

Now [Dar15, Theorem 5.5] shows that

$$C_n^{-1} d_1(u_0, v_0) \leq \int |u_0 - v_0| (\omega_{u_0}^n + \omega_{v_0}^n) \leq C_n d_1(u_0, v_0).$$

This first implies that $I(u_0, v_0) = \int (u_0 - v_0) (\omega_{u_0}^n + \omega_{v_0}^n) \leq C_n d_1(u_0, v_0)$, and then that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int (u_0 - v_0) \omega_{u_0}^n \right| &\leq C_n I(u_0, v_0) \leq C_n I(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2^n}} \max\{I(u_0), I(v_0)\}^{1-\frac{1}{2^n}} \\ &\leq C_n d_1(u_0, v_0)^{\frac{1}{2^n}} M^{1-\frac{1}{2^n}}. \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with (A.1) completes the proof. \square

Corollary A.3. *If $u \in \mathcal{E}^1$ then $\left| \int_X u \omega^n \right| \leq C_n d_1(u, 0)$.*

Proof. This is a consequence of Lemma A.2, since $I(u) \leq C_n d_1(u, 0)$. \square

APPENDIX B. A VALUATIVE CRITERION OF INTEGRABILITY

The study of the asymptotics of the Ding functional along psh rays in §5 relies on the valuative analysis of singularities of psh functions, as developed in [BFJ08] following earlier work in [FJ05a, FJ05b] in dimension two. Here we revisit some of this analysis, taking advantage of the solution of the openness conjecture that was unknown at the time of *loc. cit.*

B.1. Preliminaries. Throughout this section, X is a connected complex manifold of dimension n . Recall that a *quasi-psh* function on X is a function that is locally the sum of a smooth function and a psh function.

A holomorphic map between complex manifolds is called a *modification* if it is proper and bimeromorphic. For example, the analytification of a proper birational morphism between smooth algebraic varieties is a modification. If $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ is a modification (with X' a complex manifold), we denote by $K_{X'/X}$ the relative canonical divisor, defined locally by the Jacobian determinant of μ .

A modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ is called *projective* if for any point $x \in X$, there exists $N \geq 1$ and an open neighborhood U of x in X such that the restriction of μ to $U' = \mu^{-1}(U)$ is the composition of a closed embedding $U' \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{P}^N$ and the projection to the first factor.

If $Z \subset X$ is any subset, $L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, Z)$ denotes the set of Lebesgue measurable functions h defined in a neighborhood of Z in X such that $|h|^2$ is locally integrable in a neighborhood of every point $x \in Z$.

B.2. Singularity classes of quasi-psh functions. If D is an effective divisor on X , then we say that a quasi-psh function U on X has *divisorial singularities of type D* if for every $x \in X$, we have that $U = \log |f| + O(1)$ near x , where f is a local equation for D . A partition of unity argument shows that given any effective divisor D there exists a quasi-psh function U with divisorial singularities of type D , and any two such functions differ by a locally bounded function; see e.g. [Bou02, Prop. 1.1.4].

An effective \mathbb{R} -divisor on X is a formal sum $D = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i D_i$, where D_i is an effective divisor and $c_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ for all i . We say that a quasi-psh function U has divisorial singularities of type D if, locally, $U = \sum c_i \log |f_i| + O(1)$, where f_i is a local equation for D_i . If D' is an effective divisor whose support contains the D_i , then we also say that U has *divisorial singularities along D'* .

More generally, consider coherent ideal sheaves $\mathfrak{a}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{a}_m$ and real numbers $c_1, \dots, c_m \geq 0$. We say that a quasi-psh function U has *analytic singularities of type $\prod_i \mathfrak{a}_i^{c_i}$* if, locally, $U = \sum_i c_i \log |\mathfrak{a}_i| + O(1)$. Here we write $\log |\mathfrak{a}|$ for the function defined locally near $x \in X$ by $\max_j \log |f_j|$, where $\{f_j\}_j$ is a set of generators of \mathfrak{a}_x ; this is well defined up to $O(1)$. The class of quasi-psh functions with analytic singularities is stable under finite sums.

It follows from Hironaka’s theorem that given any quasi-psh function U on X with analytic singularities, there exists a projective modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ such that $U \circ \mu$ has divisorial singularities along an snc divisor whose support contains the support of $K_{X'/X}$. We call μ a *log resolution* of the singularities of U .

B.3. Multiplier ideals and the openness conjecture. If U is a quasi-psh function on X , then the *multiplier ideal sheaf* $\mathcal{J}(U) \subset \mathcal{O}_X$ is a coherent ideal sheaf whose stalk at any point $x \in X$ is given by the set of holomorphic germs $f \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ such that $|f|e^{-U} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, x)$.⁶ It was formally introduced by Nadel [Nad90]. The coherence of $\mathcal{J}(U)$ follows from the strong Noetherian property, Krull’s Lemma, and Hörmander’s L^2 -estimates; see the proof of [Dem93, Lemma 4.4]. For general information on multiplier ideals, see e.g. [DK01] and the references therein.

If $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon'$, then $\mathcal{J}(U) \supset \mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon)U) \supset \mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon')U)$, so by the strong Noetherian property of coherent ideals, $\mathcal{J}^+(U) := \bigcup_{\varepsilon > 0} \mathcal{J}((1 + \varepsilon)U)$ is a coherent ideal sheaf on X .

The following result is known as the ‘strong openness conjecture’ of Demailly–Kollár [DK01], and was established by Guan–Zhou [GZh15]; see also [Bern15b] for the case $f = 1$ and [FJ05b, JM14] for the two-dimensional case.

Theorem B.1. *For each quasi-psh function U on X , we have $\mathcal{J}_+(U) = \mathcal{J}(U)$. Equivalently, for any compact subset $K \subset X$, and every holomorphic function f in a neighborhood of K such that $|f|e^{-U} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|f|e^{-(1+\varepsilon)U} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$.*

The proofs in [Bern15b, GZh15] are based on the Ohsawa–Takegoshi theorem.

B.4. More general integrability. Generalizing the study of multiplier ideals, given a compact subset $K \subset X$ and quasi-psh functions U and V on a neighborhood

⁶In the literature, the multiplier ideal sheaf $\mathcal{J}(U)$ is usually defined for a psh (rather than quasi-psh) function U , but there is no real difference since adding a bounded function U does not affect the multiplier ideal. The same remark applies to many other constructions in this appendix.

of K in X , we shall analyze whether $e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$. When studying this problem, we will use the change of variables formula in the following form: if $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ is a modification, then $e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$ iff $e^{U \circ \mu + W_\mu - V \circ \mu} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X', \mu^{-1}(K))$, where W_μ is a quasi-psh function on X' with divisorial singularities of type $K_{X'/X}$.

Together with Hironaka’s theorem in the form above, this allows us, in principle, to determine integrability of e^{U-V} in the case when U and V have analytic singularities. Indeed, passing to a log resolution of the singularities of $U + V$, we reduce to the case when U and V have divisorial singularities along a common snc divisor. Thus we can cover K by finitely many coordinate charts (z_1, \dots, z_n) on which $U = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \log |z_i| + O(1)$ and $V = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \log |z_i| + O(1)$, where $c_i, d_i \geq 0$, and then $e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$ iff $c_i + 1 > d_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ and each chart.

Calculations similar to the one just performed will appear repeatedly in what follows. For example, they allow us to prove the following generalization of Theorem B.1.

Corollary B.2. *Let $K \subset X$ be a compact set, U, V quasi-psh functions defined in a neighborhood of K in X , and assume that U has analytic singularities in a neighborhood of K . Then $e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$ iff $e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$.*

Proof. We only need to prove the direct implication as V is bounded above near K . After replacing X by a neighborhood of K and applying a log resolution of the singularities of U , we reduce to the case when U has divisorial singularities along an snc divisor. By compactness, we may also assume that $K = \{x\}$ is a singleton.

Pick local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) at x such that $U = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \log |z_i| + O(1)$, where $c_i \geq 0$. If m is an integer with $m \geq \max_i c_i$, then $V' := V + \sum_i (m - c_i) \log |z_i|$ is quasi-psh near x , the function $f = \prod_{i=1}^n z_i^m$ is holomorphic near x , and $|f|e^{-V'} = e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, x)$. By Theorem B.1, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|f|e^{-(1+\varepsilon)V'} = e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V - \varepsilon(V'-V)} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, x)$. This implies $e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, x)$ since $V' - V$ is bounded above near x . \square

B.5. Divisorial valuations. By a *prime divisor over X* we mean a connected (closed) smooth hypersurface $E \subset X'$, where X' is a complex manifold and $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ a modification. The *center* of E on X is defined as $c_X(E) := \mu(E)$.

Two prime divisors $E_1 \subset X'_1$ and $E_2 \subset X'_2$ over X are *equivalent* if there exist modifications $X'' \rightarrow X'_i$, $i = 1, 2$ such that the two compositions $X'' \rightarrow X'_i \rightarrow X$ coincide, and the strict transform of E_1 and E_2 on X'' is a common smooth hypersurface. By Hironaka’s theorem, this defines an equivalence relation. Furthermore, any two non-equivalent prime divisors over X are equivalent, respectively, to two disjoint smooth hypersurfaces in a single X' , where $X' \rightarrow X$ is a modification. Equivalent prime divisors have the same center on X .

Any prime divisor E over X defines a valuation ord_E on the field of meromorphic functions on X : if $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ is a modification, $E \subset X'$ a prime divisor, and $f \neq 0$ a meromorphic function on X , then $\text{ord}_E(f) \in \mathbb{Z}$ is the order of vanishing of $f \circ \mu$ along E . We call ord_E a *divisorial valuation*. We can also define $\text{ord}_E(\mathfrak{a}) \in \mathbb{N}$ for any coherent ideal sheaf \mathfrak{a} on X . The *log discrepancy* of E is $A_X(E) := 1 + \text{ord}_E(K_{X'/X})$.

Equivalent prime divisors over X induce the same divisorial valuation. The converse is not true in general, since X may not admit any nonconstant meromorphic functions. Similarly, if \tilde{X} is an open subset of X , a prime divisor over \tilde{X} may not

extend to a prime divisor over X , and a prime divisor E over X with $c_X(E) \cap \tilde{X} \neq \emptyset$ does not define a unique prime divisor over \tilde{X} , in general.

We have a better understanding of prime divisors over X whose center on X is a point $x \in X$. We will use the following piece of (non-standard) terminology. A *blowup over x* is the blowup $X' \rightarrow X$ of a coherent ideal sheaf $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{O}_X$ co-supported at x , such that X' is a complex manifold. This is the same thing as a projective modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ (with X' a complex manifold) that is an isomorphism above $X \setminus \{x\}$. We also note that coherent ideal sheaves on X co-supported at x are in 1-1 correspondence with \mathfrak{m}_x -primary ideals of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$, where \mathfrak{m}_x is the maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$.

Lemma B.3. *If $x \in X$ is a point, then:*

- (i) *any prime divisor E over X with $c_X(E) = x$ induces a valuation $\text{ord}_E: \mathcal{O}_{X,x} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ that is strictly positive on the maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m}_x \subset \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$;*
- (ii) *two prime divisors E_1, E_2 over X with $c_X(E_1) = c_X(E_2) = x$ are equivalent iff they induce the same valuation on $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$;*
- (iii) *any prime divisor over X with center x is equivalent to a connected smooth hypersurface on a blowup over x .*

Proof. The statement in (i) is clear, as is the direct implication in (ii).

Let $\text{EPDiv}(X, x)$ be the set of equivalence classes of prime divisors over X with center x . For any open neighborhood U of x in X , we have a canonical injective map $\text{EPDiv}(X, x) \rightarrow \text{EPDiv}(U, x)$. Also note that by Hironaka’s theorem, for any modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$, there exists an open neighborhood U of x and a projective modification $U'' \rightarrow U$ such that the induced bimeromorphic map $U'' \rightarrow \mu^{-1}(U)$ is holomorphic.

To prove the reverse implication in (ii) we may therefore assume that there exists a projective modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ with E_1, E_2 distinct (even disjoint) smooth hypersurfaces on X' . After shrinking X , if necessary, there exists a μ -ample divisor A on X . Pick $m \gg 1$ such that the line bundles $\mathcal{O}_{X'}(mA)$ and $\mathcal{O}_{X'}(mA - E_1)$ are both μ -globally generated. The quotient of two general sections of these line bundles defines an element f in the fraction field of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ such that $\text{ord}_{E_1}(f) \neq \text{ord}_{E_2}(f)$. This implies $\text{ord}_{E_1} \neq \text{ord}_{E_2}$ on $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$.

It remains to prove (iii). If U is an open neighborhood of x in X , then any blowup of U over x induces a unique blowup of X over x . Together with the observations above, we only need to consider the case of a prime divisor E over X associated to a projective modification. The induced valuation ord_E on $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ is divisorial: its value group is \mathbb{Z} and it has transcendence degree $n - 1$. It therefore follows from [JM12, Proposition 3.7] that there exists a projective birational morphism (of schemes) $\mu: V \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ that is an isomorphism over the complement of the closed point, and a prime divisor F on V such that ord_E is the order of vanishing along F . We may assume that F is smooth. Since V is smooth, μ is the blowup along an \mathfrak{m}_x -primary ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$, which we can view as coherent ideal sheaf on X . By blowing up X along \mathfrak{a} , we obtain a blowup $Y' \rightarrow X$ over x and a connected hypersurface $F' \subset Y'$ (corresponding to F) such that $\text{ord}_{F'} = \text{ord}_E$ on $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$. By (ii) it follows that E and F' are equivalent. □

B.6. Divisorial valuations and Lelong numbers. Let E be a prime divisor over X . Following [BFJ08] we can define $\text{ord}_E(U) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ for any quasi-psh function U on X . Namely, suppose $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ is a modification such that $E \subset X'$ a

connected smooth hypersurface. Then $U \circ \mu$ is a quasi-psh function on X' . Let U_E be a quasi-psh function on X' with divisorial singularities of type E . We define $\text{ord}_E(U)$ as the *generic Lelong number* of U along E , that is, the supremum of all numbers $t \geq 0$ such that $U \circ \mu \leq tU_E + O(1)$ near any point $x' \in E$. In fact, we then have $U \circ \mu \leq \text{ord}_E(U)U_E + O(1)$ near E , and even a *Siu decomposition* $U \circ \mu = \text{ord}_E(U)U_E + U'$, where U' is quasi-psh.

Note that $\text{ord}_E(U)$ only depends on the equivalence class of E . Also note that if U has analytic singularities of type $\prod_i \mathfrak{a}_i^{c_i}$, then $\text{ord}_E(U) = \sum_i c_i \text{ord}_E(\mathfrak{a}_i)$. When E is the exceptional divisor of the blowup of a point $x \in X$, $\text{ord}_E(U)$ is the usual Lelong number of U at x . In general, $\text{ord}_E(U)$ equals the Lelong number of $U \circ \mu$ at a very general point on E .

Lemma B.4. *Let U be a quasi-psh function on X . Then*

$$(B.1) \quad \text{ord}_E(\mathcal{J}(U)) \leq \text{ord}_E(U) < \text{ord}_E(\mathcal{J}(U)) + A_X(E)$$

for any prime divisor E over X .

Proof. The first inequality follows from the Ohsawa–Takegoshi theorem as in the proof of a celebrated regularization theorem due to Demailly. Namely, it follows from the proof of [DK01, Theorem 4.2 (3)] that for any $x \in X$ we can pick generators f_1, \dots, f_m of $\mathcal{J}(U)_x$ such that $U \leq \max_j \log |f_j| + O(1)$ near x . This implies the first inequality of the lemma.

The second inequality follows from a direct computation as in §B.4. Let V be a quasi-psh function with analytic singularities of type $\mathcal{J}(U)$. Thus $e^{V-U} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X)$. Pick a modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$ such that $E \subset X'$ is a smooth hypersurface and $V \circ \mu$ has divisorial singularities along an snc divisor whose support includes $E + K_{X'/X}$. Let W_μ be a quasi-psh function with divisorial singularities along $K_{X'/X}$, and set $V' = V \circ \mu + W_\mu$, $U' = U \circ \mu$. The change of variables formula shows that $e^{V'-U'} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X)$. Let (z_1, \dots, z_n) be local coordinates at a general point $x' \in E$ such that $E = \{z_1 = 0\}$. Then $U' \leq \text{ord}_E(U) \log |z_1| + O(1)$ and $V' = (\text{ord}_E(V) + A_X(E) - 1) \log |z_1| + O(1)$ near x' , and the desired inequality follows. \square

B.7. A valuative criterion of integrability. The following theorem is the main result in this appendix. It yields a valuative description of the multiplier ideal of a general quasi-psh function.

Theorem B.5. *Let X be a complex manifold, $K \subset X$ a compact subset, and U, V quasi-psh functions defined in a neighborhood of K on X . Assume that U has analytic singularities in a neighborhood of K . Then the following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) $e^{U-V} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(X, K)$;
- (ii) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$(B.2) \quad \text{ord}_E(U) + A_X(E) \geq (1 + \varepsilon) \text{ord}_E(V)$$

for all prime divisors E over X with $c_X(E) \subset K$;

- (iii) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that (B.2) holds for all prime divisors E over X such that $c_X(E)$ is a point contained in K .

Remark B.6. Condition (i) is unchanged by replacing X by an neighborhood of K in X . The same is therefore true for (ii) and (iii). In the case of (iii), this can also be seen from Lemma B.3.

Proof. Let \tilde{X} be a neighborhood of K in X such that U and V are defined on \tilde{X} , and U has analytic singularities there. It suffices to prove the statement with X replaced by \tilde{X} . Indeed, (i) is not affected by passing to \tilde{X} , and the same is true for (iii) in view of Lemma B.3. As for (ii), the version on \tilde{X} is evidently stronger than the one on X (any prime divisor E over X with $c_X(E) \subset K$ induces a unique prime divisor over \tilde{X}) and both are stronger than (iii). Thus we may assume that U and V are defined on X , and U has analytic singularities there.

Next we show that (i)–(iii) are invariant under modifications. Consider a modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow X$. Let W_μ be a quasi-psh function on X' with divisorial singularities of type $K_{X'/X}$, and set $U' := U \circ \mu + W_\mu$ and $V' := V \circ \mu$. Then U' has analytic singularities, and by the change of variables formula we see that (i) is equivalent to $e^{U'-V'} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, K')$, where $K' = \mu^{-1}(K)$. We can also identify the set of (equivalence classes of) prime divisors E over X and X' , and we have $\text{ord}_E(U) + A_X(E) = \text{ord}_E(U') + A_{X'}(E)$, $\text{ord}_E(V) = \text{ord}_E(V')$, and $c_X(E) = \mu(c_{X'}(E))$. Thus we may assume that U has divisorial singularities along an snc divisor.

We now introduce an auxiliary condition:

- (iv) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that (B.2) holds for all prime divisors E over X with $c_X(E) \cap K \neq \emptyset$.

Evidently, (iv) \Rightarrow (ii) \Rightarrow (iii), so it suffices to prove (iii) \Rightarrow (iv), (i) \Rightarrow (ii), and (iv) \Rightarrow (i).

To prove that (iii) implies (iv) we use an approximation procedure. Consider a prime divisor E over X with $c_X(E) \cap K \neq \emptyset$. Passing to a modification as above, we may assume $E \subset X$ is a connected smooth hypersurface. Consider a point $x \in c_X(E) \cap K$, and pick local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) centered at x such that $E = \{z_1 = 0\}$. For any $m \geq 1$, consider the monomial valuation w_m on $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ in these coordinates with $w_m(z_1) = 1$ and $w_m(z_j) = 1/m$ for $2 \leq j \leq n$. There exists a divisor E_m over X such that $\text{ord}_{E_m} = mw_m$. Indeed, E_1 is the exceptional divisor of the blowup of x , and, for $m \geq 2$, E_m is the exceptional divisor of the blowup of the intersection of E_{m-1} and the strict transform of E .

Now $c_X(E_m) = x$ for all m , and w_m is an approximation of $w = \text{ord}_E$ in the following sense. First, $A_X(w_m) = 1 + (n-1)/m$ and $A_X(w) = 1$, so $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} A_X(w_m) = A_X(w)$. Second, for any ideal $\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ we have $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} w_m(\mathfrak{b}) = w(\mathfrak{b})$. This immediately shows that $w_m(U) \rightarrow w(U)$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$ since U has analytic singularities. Finally, it follows from (B.1) and what precedes that $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} w_m(V) = w(V)$. Since (B.2) holds for E_m , it must also hold for E .

To prove (i) \Rightarrow (ii), we use the openness conjecture in the form of Corollary B.2. Thus assume $e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, K)$, where $\varepsilon > 0$. We must prove (B.2) for any prime divisor E over X such that $c_X(E) \subset K$. Passing to a modification, we may assume that E is a connected smooth hypersurface on X with $E \subset K$, and that U has divisorial singularities along an snc divisor whose support contains E . Then we can argue as in the proof of (B.1). Pick a general point $x \in E$ such that U and V are defined in a neighborhood of x , and let (z_1, \dots, z_n) be local analytic coordinates at x such that $E = \{z_1 = 0\}$. Then $U = \text{ord}_E(U) \log |z_1| + O(1)$ and $V \leq \text{ord}_E(V) \log |z_1| + O(1)$ near x . Since $e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(x)$ and $A_X(E) = 1$, (B.2) must hold (with strict inequality).

It remains to prove (iv) \Rightarrow (i). First suppose that U and V both have analytic singularities. After passing to a suitable modification, we may assume U and V both

have divisorial singularities along a common reduced snc divisor D . We again follow the proof of (B.1). Pick any point $x \in K$, and let E_1, \dots, E_m , where $0 \leq m \leq n$, be the irreducible components of D that contain x . Pick local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) at x such that $E_i = \{z_i = 0\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then $U = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i^{(U)} \log |z_i| + O(1)$ and $V = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i^{(V)} \log |z_i| + O(1)$ near x , where $c_i^{(U)}, c_i^{(V)} \geq 0$. Now (B.2) gives $(1 + \varepsilon)c_i^{(V)} \leq c_i^{(U)} + 1$ for all i . Since $c_i^{(U)}, c_i^{(V)} \geq 0$, this implies $c_i^{(V)} - c_i^{(U)} > -1$ for all i , and hence $e^{U-V} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, x)$.

Now consider the general case. For each $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let V_k be a quasi-psh function on X with analytic singularities of type $\mathcal{J}(kV)^{1/k}$. Combining (ii) and Lemma B.4, we have

$$\text{ord}_E(U) + A_X(E) \geq (1 + \varepsilon) \text{ord}_E(V) \geq (1 + \varepsilon) \text{ord}_E(V_k)$$

for all k and all prime divisors E over X with $c_X(E) \cap K \neq \emptyset$. By what precedes, this implies $e^{U-(1+\varepsilon)V_k} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, K)$. Pick $k \geq 1$ such that $\frac{1}{k-1} \leq \varepsilon$. Then $e^{\frac{k}{k-1}(U-V_k)} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, K)$, since U and V_k are bounded above near K . On the other hand, the definition of V_k gives $e^{k(V_k-V)} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, K)$, and we conclude using Hölder’s inequality. \square

B.8. The algebraic case. Now assume that X is a complex algebraic manifold, i.e. the analytification of a smooth complex algebraic variety. We will translate the integrability criterion in Theorem B.5 to one using the set X^{div} of (rational) divisorial valuations on X . As we need it in the proof of Theorem 5.4, we do this in the presence of a (possibly trivial) \mathbb{C}^* -action on X .

Any (nontrivial) valuation $w \in X^{\text{div}}$ is of the following form: there exists a projective birational morphism $X' \rightarrow X$, with X' a complex algebraic manifold, and a smooth hypersurface $E \subset X'$ such that $w = c \text{ord}_E$ for some $c \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$. Note that E defines a prime divisor over X in the sense above. As a partial converse, it follows from Lemma B.3 that any prime divisor over X whose center on X is a (closed) point is equivalent to a divisor over X obtained from an element of X^{div} .

Theorem B.7. *Let X be a complex algebraic manifold with a \mathbb{C}^* -action, and $Y \subset X$ a compact Zariski closed subset that is invariant under this action. Let U, V be S^1 -invariant quasi-psh functions defined in a neighborhood of Y on X . Assume that U has analytic singularities in a neighborhood of Y . Then the following assertions are equivalent:*

- (i) $e^{U-V} \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(X, Y)$;
- (ii) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$(B.3) \quad w(U) + A_X(w) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)w(V)$$

for all $w \in X^{\text{div}}$ with $c_X(w) \subset Y$;

- (iii) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that (B.3) holds for all \mathbb{C}^* -invariant valuations $w \in X^{\text{div}}$ such that $c_X(w)$ is a point contained in Y .

Proof of Theorem B.7. The implication (ii) \Rightarrow (iii) is clear, and (i) \Rightarrow (ii) is a special case of Theorem B.5. It remains to prove (iii) \Rightarrow (i). To do so, let \tilde{X} be an S^1 -invariant open neighborhood of Y in X on which U and V are defined, and U has analytic singularities. Consider the following condition:

- (iv) there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\text{ord}_E(U) + A_{\tilde{X}}(E) \geq (1 + \varepsilon) \text{ord}_E(V)$ for all S^1 -invariant prime divisors E over \tilde{X} such that $c_{\tilde{X}}(E) \cap Y \neq \emptyset$.

By the condition on E we mean the following: there exists a modification $\mu: X' \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ such that the S^1 -action on \tilde{X} lifts to X' , and E is a connected smooth S^1 -invariant hypersurface of X' .

We can then prove (iv) \Rightarrow (i) in the same way as (ii) \Rightarrow (i) in the proof of Theorem B.5. Indeed, the S^1 -invariance of U and V implies that the functions V_k can also be taken S^1 -invariant. To test the integrability of $e^{2(U - \frac{k}{k-1}V_k)}$ in a neighborhood of Y , it suffices to use S^1 -invariant prime divisors over X , as we can find a common S^1 -equivariant log resolution of the singularities of U and V_k .

We finally prove that (iii) implies (iv), using a variant of the argument in the proof of (iii) \Rightarrow (ii) in Theorem B.5. Let \tilde{X} be an S^1 -invariant neighborhood of Y in X , $\mu: X' \rightarrow \tilde{X}$ a modification such that the S^1 -action lifts to X' , and E is a connected smooth S^1 -invariant hypersurface of X' such that $\mu(E) \cap Y \neq \emptyset$. Let Z be an irreducible component of $E \cap \mu^{-1}(Y)$. Then $Z \subset X$ is a proper subvariety that is S^1 -invariant, and hence \mathbb{C}^* -invariant. By the valuative criterion of properness, there exists a (closed) point $x' \in E \cap \mu^{-1}(Y)$ that is fixed under the \mathbb{C}^* -action.

Pick local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) at x' such that $E = \{z_1 = 0\}$. Since E and x' are S^1 -invariant, the monomial valuation w_m with weights $w_m(z_1) = 1$ and $w_m(z_j) = 1/m$, $2 \leq j \leq n$ is also S^1 -invariant, and hence \mathbb{C}^* -invariant. Note that w_m is an element of X^{div} in view of Lemma B.3. The inequality in (B.3) for w_m now implies the inequality in (iv) as $m \rightarrow \infty$. \square

B.9. Twisted log-canonical thresholds. Now let X be a smooth projective variety and θ a quasi-positive $(1, 1)$ -current on X , that is, $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c\psi$, where θ_0 is smooth and ψ quasi-psh on X . We then define $\mathcal{J}(\theta) := \mathcal{J}(\psi)$. By definition, θ is klt iff $\mathcal{J}(\theta) = \mathcal{O}_X$.

For $v \in X^{\text{div}}$, we set

$$A_\theta(v) := A_X(v) - v(\theta),$$

where $v(\theta) := v(\psi)$. (This does not depend on the decomposition $\theta = \theta_0 + dd^c\psi$.)

Corollary B.8. *The current θ is klt iff there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $A_\theta \geq \varepsilon A_X$ on X^{div} .*

Proof. In the notation above, θ is klt iff $e^{-2\psi}$ is locally integrable at any point on X . It follows from Theorem B.5 that this is the case iff there exists $\varepsilon' > 0$ such that $0 \geq (1 + \varepsilon')v(\psi) - A_X(v)$ for every $v \in X^{\text{div}}$. We can then take $\varepsilon = \varepsilon'/(1 + \varepsilon')$. \square

Now suppose θ is a klt current. If D is an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor on X , then we write D also for the current of integration of D ; this allows us to define $\mathcal{J}(\theta + D)$. The *log canonical threshold* of D with respect to θ is now defined as

$$\text{lct}_\theta(D) := \sup\{c \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0} \mid \mathcal{J}(\theta + cD) = \mathcal{O}_X\}.$$

Corollary B.9. *With notation as above, we have*

$$(B.4) \quad \text{lct}_\theta(D) = \inf_{v \in X^{\text{div}} \setminus \{v_{\text{triv}}\}} \frac{A_\theta(v)}{v(D)},$$

where $A_\theta(v) = A_X(v) - v(\theta)$.

Proof. We may assume $D \neq 0$ or else the equality holds with both sides equal to $+\infty$. Pick $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that $\varepsilon_0 v(\theta) \leq A_\theta(v)$ for all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$; this is possible in view of Corollary B.8.

If $c < \text{lct}_\theta(D)$, then Theorem B.5 shows that there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $0 \geq (1 + \varepsilon)(v(\theta) + cv(D)) - A_X(v)$, and hence $A_\theta(v) \geq \varepsilon v(\theta) + (1 + \varepsilon)cv(D) \geq cv(D)$ for all $v \in X^{\text{div}}$.

Conversely, suppose $c \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ and $c > \text{lct}_\theta(D)$, so that $\mathcal{J}(\theta + cD) \neq \mathcal{O}_X$. Given any $\varepsilon > 0$, pick $\varepsilon' \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ such that $(1 - \varepsilon'/\varepsilon_0) \geq (1 + \varepsilon')/(1 + \varepsilon)$. Then we can find $v \in X^{\text{div}} \setminus \{v_{\text{triv}}\}$ such that $A_X(v) \leq (1 + \varepsilon')(v(\theta) + cv(D))$. Together with the inequality $\varepsilon_0 v(\theta) \leq A_\theta(v)$ and the choice of ε' , this implies $A_\theta(v) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)cv(D)$, which completes the proof. \square

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