THETA-REGULARITY AND LOG–CANONICAL THRESHOLD

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ABSTRACT. We show that a sharp inequality, proven by Küronya–Pintye, which governs the behavior of the log–canonical threshold of an ideal over $\mathbb{P}^n$ and that of its Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity, can be applied to the setting of principally polarized abelian varieties by substituting the Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity with $\Theta$-regularity of Pareschi–Popa.

INTRODUCTION

In [3] the authors provide an inequality which ties two important invariants of an ideal sheaf over $\mathbb{P}^n$, namely its Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity and its log–canonical threshold. The main ingredients of their proof are Nadel Vanishing Theorem for multiplier ideals, which works on any smooth projective variety, and Mumford Theorem on Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity ([4, Theorem 1.8.3]).

In a long series of articles (see for example [7–13]) Pareschi–Popa developed a regularity theory for abelian varieties which shares many points in common with Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity. In particular, in [7], they introduced the $\Theta$-regularity index for a sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ on a principally polarized abelian variety $(A, \Theta)$, $\Theta$-reg($\mathcal{F}$), and they showed some striking similarities of its behavior with that of the Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity index of sheaves on the projective space. For example they prove Theorem 2.2 below that can be seen as an analogue of the aforementioned Mumford Theorem.

In this paper we show that the same inequality proved by Küronya and Pintye governs the behavior of the log–canonical threshold and the $\Theta$-regularity index of an ideal sheaf over an principally polarized abelian variety. More precisely, our main result is the following:

**Theorem A.** Let $(A, \Theta)$ be a principally polarized abelian variety. For any coherent sheaf of ideals $I \neq O_A$, the following inequality holds:

$$1 < \text{lct}(I)(\Theta\text{-reg}(I)).$$
This reinforces the idea, presented for the first time in [10, Section 2] and strengthened in [9], that there should be a mysterious analogy between the geometry of $\mathbb{P}^n$ and that of principally polarized abelian varieties.

The paper is organized as follows: in the first section we recall the definition of the multiplier ideal and of the log–canonical threshold of an ideal sheaf on a smooth projective variety. We also give a very brief overview of the theory of $\Theta$-regularity for principally polarized abelian varieties. We then turn to the proof of the main theorem. We first find a lower bound for the $\Theta$-regularity index of nontrivial ideal sheaves on ppav. As a consequence of this we can give a new proof of a celebrated result of Ein–Lazarsfeld on the singularities of pluri-theta-divisor. Then we prove an upper bound for the $\Theta$-regularity index of multiplier ideals, by following a similar argument to the one of [3]. This together with Nadel Vanishing will allow us to conclude. We end the paper by computing some examples. The first one, that was suggested to us by Z. Jiang, shows that the inequality provided is sharp.

**Notation and conventions.** We work over the field of the complex numbers. Given a morphism $\mu : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ of smooth projective varieties, we denote the relative canonical divisor by

$$K_{\tilde{X}/X} := K_{\tilde{X}} - \mu^* K_X,$$

where $K_X$ and $K_{\tilde{X}}$ stand for the canonical classes on $X$ and $\tilde{X}$ respectively. The round up and round down of rational numbers and $\mathbb{Q}$-divisors are denoted by $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ and $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$.

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A. Set up and definitions

1. Log–canonical thresholds and multiplier ideals. In this section we introduce multiplier ideals and log–canonical thresholds.

Let $X$ be a smooth projective variety over the complex numbers. Consider $I$ an ideal sheaf on $X$. A log–resolution of $I$ is a projective birational map $\mu : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$, where $\tilde{X}$ is a smooth variety, such that the the inverse image $\mu^{-1} I \cdot O_{\tilde{X}} \cong O_{\tilde{X}}(-E)$ for some effective divisor $E$ and such that the divisor $E + \text{Except}(\mu)$ has simple normal crossing support. Given such a $\mu$ and a nonnegative rational number $c$ we can define the multiplier ideal sheaf associated to $I$ and $c$:

$$J(c \cdot I) := \mu^*(K_{\tilde{X}/X} - \lfloor cE \rfloor).$$

As $c$ goes to zero, we see that the multiplier ideal $J(c \cdot I)$ gets bigger and bigger. We define the log–canonical threshold of $I$ to be

$$\lct(I) := \inf\{ c \in \mathbb{Q} \mid J(c \cdot I) \not\sim O_X \}.$$

2. Regularity on abelian varieties. In this paragraph we recall the definition of $M$–regular sheaves on abelian varieties and we present some of their properties.

Let $A$ be an abelian variety and denote by $A^\vee$ its dual abelian variety. Given a coherent sheaf $F$ on $A$ we can consider its $i$–th cohomological support locus

$$V_i(A, F) := \{ \alpha \in A^\vee \mid H^i(A, F \otimes \alpha) \neq 0 \}.$$

These are Zariski closed subsets of $A^\vee$. We say that the sheaf $F$ is $M$–regular if for every positive index $i$ we have that

$$\text{codim}_{A^\vee} V_i(A, F) > i.$$

An important and useful property of $M$–regular sheaves is the following:

**Proposition 2.1.** The Euler characteristic of an $M$–regular sheaf is always positive.

**Proof.** Immediate from [6, Lem 1.7 and Lem 1.12 (b)].  □

Turning our attention to a principally polarized abelian variety, $(A, \Theta)$ where $\Theta$ is a symmetric theta-divisor, we say that a coherent sheaf $F$ on $A$ is called $m$–$\Theta$–regular if $F((m-1)\Theta)$ is $M$–regular. If $m = 0$ the sheaf is simply called $\Theta$–regular. The following theorem shows that $m$–$\Theta$–regular sheaves behaves under some aspect as Castelnuovo–Mumford regular sheaves on $\mathbb{P}^n$.

**Theorem 2.2** ([7] Theorem 6.3). Suppose $F$ is a $\Theta$–regular sheaf on a principally polarized abelian variety $(A, \Theta)$. The following statements hold:
(i). $F$ is globally generated;
(ii). $F$ is $m$–$\Theta$–regular for any $m \geq 1$;
(iii). the multiplication map
\[
H^0(F(\Theta)) \otimes H^0(O_A(k\Theta)) \longrightarrow H^0(F((k + 1)\Theta))
\]
is surjective whenever $k \geq 2$.

Thanks to this result we may introduce the $\Theta$-regularity index for a coherent sheaf $F$ on a principally polarized abelian variety $(A, \Theta)$:
\[
\Theta\text{-reg}(F) = \inf\{m \in \mathbb{Z} | F \text{ is } m\text{-}\Theta\text{-regular}\}
\]

B. Proof of the main theorem

3. Bounds on the $\Theta$-regularity index. In this paragraph we present some preliminary results which we will need to prove Theorem A. In particular we give upper bounds and lower bounds for the $\Theta$–regularity index of an ideal sheaf. We begin with a lower bound:

**Proposition 3.1.** Let $I \neq O_A$ be a nonzero ideal sheaf on $A$. Then $I$ cannot be $m$–$\Theta$–regular for $m < 3$. In other words, $\Theta$–reg($I$) $\geq$ 3.

**Proof.** By Theorem 2.2 b), it suffices to prove the statement for the case $m = 2$. So assume for a contradiction that $I$ is a 2–$\Theta$–regular ideal sheaf, and consider the associated short exact sequence:
\[
0 \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow O_A \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow 0
\]
where $G = O_A/I$. Twisting this sequence with $O_A(\Theta)$ we get
\[
0 \longrightarrow I(\Theta) \longrightarrow O_A(\Theta) \longrightarrow G(\Theta) \longrightarrow 0.
\]
Since $I(\Theta)$ is M-regular by assumption, then we see that the same holds for $G(\Theta)$. In fact the long exact sequence in cohomology yields that
\[
V^i(A, G(\Theta)) \subseteq V^{i+1}(A, I(\Theta)) \cup V^i(A, O_A(\Theta)),
\]
thus we conclude by observing that the loci $V^i(A, O_A(\Theta))$ are empty for every positive $i$. On the other side, the additivity of the Euler characteristic gives the equality
\[
1 = \chi(O_A(\Theta)) = \chi(I(\Theta)) + \chi(G(\Theta))
\]
(1)
We conclude by observing that by Proposition 2.1 the Euler characteristic of M-regular sheaves is always positive, and so we get an immediate contradiction to (1). Hence $I$ cannot be 2–$\Theta$–regular. $\square$
As a corollary of this lower bound for the $\Theta$-regularity index of a non-trivial sheaf of ideals, we can give a new proof of a celebrated result of Ein-Lazarsfeld:

**Theorem 3.2** (Ein–Lazarsfeld [1]). Let $(A, \Theta)$ be a principally polarized abelian variety and $m \geq 1$. If we fix any divisor $D \in |m\Theta|$, then $\frac{1}{m}D$ is log–canonical.

**Proof.** We want to show that for every rational $\epsilon > 0 < \epsilon < 1$ the multiplier ideal associated to the $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor $\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D$, $\mathcal{J}\left(\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D\right)$ (cfr. [4, Definition 9.2.1]) is $O_A$. We will do so by proving that its $\Theta$–regularity index is at most 2, contradicting Proposition 3.1 above.

To this aim choose $L = \Theta + F$, where $F$ is a divisor associated to an element $\alpha \in \text{Pic}^0(A)$. We choose $E$ an effective divisor linearly equivalent to $m\Theta$ and $c = \frac{1-\epsilon}{m}$ for a rational number $0 < \epsilon < 1$. Then

$$L - cE \sim \Theta + F - \frac{1-\epsilon}{m}m\Theta = c\Theta + F$$

which is an ample $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor and hence nef and big. For $D \in |m\Theta|$, by Nadel Vanishing for multiplier ideals ([4, Theorem 9.4.8]) we have that

$$H^i\left(A, O_A(\Theta) \otimes J\left(\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D\right)\right) = 0 \text{ for } i > 0.$$  

In particular $O_A(\Theta) \otimes J\left(\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D\right)$ is an M-regular sheaf (all the higher cohomology support loci are empty) and so we have that $J\left(\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D\right)$ is $2$-$\Theta$-regular. Proposition 3.1 implies that

$$J\left(\frac{1-\epsilon}{m}D\right) \simeq O_A,$$

and concludes the proof. $\square$

Going back to the $\Theta$–regularity index, we now provide an upper bound for it in the special case of multiplier ideal sheaves:

**Proposition 3.3.** Let $I$ be a non–trivial sheaf of ideals with $m = \Theta$–reg$(I)$. If $c$ is a rational number $0 < c < 1$, then we have the following bound

$$\Theta - \text{reg}(J(c \cdot I)) \leq \min\{m, \lceil cm \rceil + 1\}$$

**Proof.** We will show that $J(c \cdot I)$ is both $m$–$\Theta$–regular and $\lceil cm \rceil + 1$–$\Theta$–regular. This, together with Theorem 2.2(b) will imply that the $\Theta$–regularity index of $J(c \cdot I)$ is less than or equal to both numbers, concluding the proof.

Note that by Proposition 3.1 we have $m \geq 3$. For the rest of the proof we fix the divisor $D = (m - 1)\Theta$, so that $I \otimes O_A(D)$ is globally generated by Theorem 2.2 a).
We have $0 < c < 1$. Let $\alpha$ be any element in $\text{Pic}^0(A)$ and take $P$ a divisor representing $\alpha$. Choose $L = (m - 1)\Theta + P$ and observe that

$$(m - 1) - c(m - 1) = m - cm - 1 + c = (m - 1)(1 - c) > 0.$$ 

This makes the $\mathbb{Q}$–divisor

$$L - cD = (m - 1)(1 - c)\Theta + P$$ 

ample. In particular $L - cD$ is also big and nef. Keeping in mind that $\omega_A$ is trivial, we can apply the Nadel Vanishing Theorem for ideal sheaves ([4, Corollary 9.4.15]) and get that

$$H^i(A, \mathcal{J}(c \cdot I) \otimes O_A((m - 1)\Theta) \otimes \alpha) = 0, \text{ for all } i > 0.$$ 

In particular this shows that $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I) \otimes O_A((m - 1)\Theta)$ is $M$–regular, and so $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I)$ $m$–$\Theta$–regular.

In a similar manner one can show that $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I)$ is also $([cm] + 1)$–$\Theta$–regular. Indeed, keeping $D$ and $P$ as above, we now redefine $L = [cm]\Theta + P$. Observe that $[cm] - c(m - 1) \geq c > 0$, so the same argument as before shows that $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I)$ is indeed $([cm] + 1)$–$\Theta$–regular.

□

**Remark 3.4.** This result could seem in contradiction with Proposition 3.1 when $c$ is very small: in fact as $c$ goes to 0 we will have $\Theta$-regularity index of $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I)$ is bounded above by 2. On the other side when $c$ is small then $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I) \simeq O_A$ whose $\Theta$-regularity index is indeed 2.

4. **The Proof.** We are now ready to show the proof of Theorem A. Set $c = \text{lct}(I)$ and note that if $c \geq 1$ then the result follows immediately from Proposition 3.1. Otherwise, by definition of log–canonical threshold we have that $\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I) \neq O_A$, and by Propositions 3.1 and 3.3 we get

$$3 \leq \Theta\text{–reg}(\mathcal{J}(c \cdot I)) \leq [c(\Theta\text{–reg}(I))] + 1 < c(\Theta\text{–reg}(I)) + 2$$ 

which concludes the proof. □

As a final remark, we point out that the provided inequality is indeed sharp. In fact we will give a sequence of ideals $I_n$ such that

$$\text{lct}(I_n) \cdot (\Theta - \text{reg}(I_n)) \to 1.$$ 

We compute also other examples.
Example 4.1. (a) (Sharpness) Let \((A, \Theta)\) a principally polarized abelian variety, and consider \(I_k = O_A(-k\Theta)\), where \(k\) is a positive integer. Then the \(\Theta\)-regularity index of \(I_k\) is \(k + 2\), while its log–canonical threshold is \(\frac{1}{k}\). So we have that
\[
\text{lct}(I_k) \cdot (\Theta - \text{reg}(I_k)) = \frac{k + 2}{k}.
\]

(b) Consider \(C \subseteq J(C)\) an Abel–Jacobi embedded curve. Then \(C\) is smooth of codimension \(g - 1\), where \(g \geq 2\) denotes the genus of \(g\). In [7] Pareschi–Popa computed the \(\Theta\)-regularity index of \(I_C\) and proved that it is equal to 3. On the other side we can consider the blow-up of \(J(C)\) along \(C\):
\[
\mu : \tilde{J} := \text{Bl}_C(J(C)) \to J(C).
\]
This is a log–resolution of \(I_C\). Denote by \(E\) its exceptional divisor. We have that
\[
\mu^{-1}I_C \cdot O_{\tilde{J}} \simeq O_{\tilde{J}}(-E)\]
while the relative canonical divisor is given by \(K_{\tilde{J}/J(C)} \sim (g-2)E\). Then we have that
\[
\text{lct}(I_C) = \inf\{c \in \mathbb{Q} \mid g - 2 - \lfloor c \rfloor < 0\} = g - 1.
\]
We conclude that
\[
\text{lct}(I_C) \cdot (\Theta - \text{reg}(I_C)) = 3g - 3 \geq 3
\]
(c) Consider \(X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^4\) a smooth cubic threefold and let \(J(X)\) be its intermediate Jacobian. Then \(J(X)\) is a five dimensional abelian variety which admits a principal polarization \(\Theta\). The scheme \(S\) parametrizing lines in \(\mathbb{P}^4\) which are contained in \(X\) is a smooth surface (called Fano surface of lines of \(X\)) which admits an embedding \(i : S \hookrightarrow J(X)\). In [2] Höring showed that \(\Theta - \text{reg}(I_S) = 3\). On the other side, a similar argument to that used for Abel–Jacobi embedded curves will show that \(\text{lct}(I) = 3\). So we get
\[
\text{lct}(I_S) \cdot (\Theta - \text{reg}(I_S)) = 9
\]
We conclude this paper with two questions.

Question. The \(\Theta\)-regularity index of Brill–Noether loci \(W_d\) inside Jacobians is it known to be 3 (see for example [7]). What is the log–canonical threshold of \(I_{W_d}\)?

More generally in [5] the authors give a bound for the \(\Theta\)-regularity of other Brill-Noether loci (for example those associated to Petri general curves). What is the log–canonical threshold of these loci?

Question. The example above shows that when the zero locus of the ideal sheaf \(I\) is reduced, then values much higher of the provided bound are achieved. Is it possible that
\[
3 \leq \text{lct}(I)(\Theta - \text{reg}(I))
\]
for every ideal sheaf \(I\) on a principally polarized abelian variety whose zero locus is reduced?
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