REGULAR AND RIGID CURVES ON SOME CALABI-YAU AND GENERAL-TYPE COMPLETE INTERSECTIONS

ZIV RAN

ABSTRACT. Let $X$ be either a general hypersurface of degree $n+1$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ or a general $(2,n)$ complete intersection in $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}, n \geq 4$. We construct balanced rational curves on $X$ of all high enough degrees. If $n = 4$ or $g = 1$, we construct rigid curves of genus $g$ on $X$ of all high enough degrees. As an application we construct some rigid bundles on Calabi-Yau threefolds. In addition, we construct some low-degree balanced rational curves on hypersurfaces of degree $n+2$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$.

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INTRODUCTION

Setup. Let $C$ be a curve of genus $g$ on a variety $X$ of dimension $m \geq 3$ whose canonical bundle $K_X$ is ample or trivial. Deformations of $C$ in $X$ (and sometimes with $X$) are controlled by the normal bundle $N = N_{C/X}$. In particular, $C$ is said to be rigid (or sometimes isolated) if $H^0(N) = 0$, i.e. $C$ does not move on $X$, even infinitesimally. $C$ is regular or strongly unobstructed if $H^1(N) = 0$ which means that deformations of $C$ in $X$ are unobstructed and not oversize. Now in general one has

$$\chi(N) = C.(-K_X) + (m - 3)(1 - g).$$

This number is always $< 0$ if $K_X$ is ample and $g > 0$. On the other hand, when $X$ is a Calabi-Yau ($K_X$ trivial) and either $m = 3$ or $g = 1$, one always has $\chi(N) = 0$. So in that case rigidity ($h^0 = 0$) is equivalent to regularity ($h^1 = 0$). One ‘expects’ any curve on such $X$ to be rigid: e.g. Clemens has famously conjectured that on a general quintic threefold in $\mathbb{P}^4$, all rational curves are rigid. However the most obvious curves one can construct are often not rigid, so it is a nontrivial problem, partially motivated by Physics [15], [7], to construct rigid, or more generally regular curves (and relatedly, vector bundles) on Calabi-Yau manifolds, in particular those that are complete intersections in projective space, the so-called CICY manifolds, which anyhow contain a lot of non-rigid curves. In the case $K_X$ ample, one has $C > (-K_X) < 0$ in the above formula for $\chi(N)$, hence a regular curve $C \subset X$ (more generally, a curve with $\chi(N) \geq 0$) must anyhow have genus 0 and canonical degree $C.K_X \leq m - 3$. And whenever $0 \leq \chi(N) \leq \text{rk}(N)$ and $g = 0$, regularity is equivalent to balancedness of $N$ (no $O(-2)$ summands).

Known results. Results to date have largely focused on rigid curves on CY 3-folds. They go back to Clemens [1], who first constructed infinitely many rigid rational curves on the general quintic in $\mathbb{P}^4$. This was extended by Katz [4], then by Ekedahl, Johnsen and Sommervoll [3], to rigid rational curves on all
CICY threefolds (CICY3fs). Subsequently, based on Clemens’s method, Kley [5] constructed on any CICY3f $X$ curves of positive but sufficiently low genus $g$ (depending on $X$, e.g. $g < 35$ for the quintic) and sufficiently high degree (depending on the genus). For the quintic threefold, any $g \geq 0$ and large $d$, Zahariuc [18] constructs a map of degree $d$ to its image from a smooth curve of genus $g$ to $X$ which is set-theoretically isolated (it is not proved the map is an embedding or infinitesimally rigid). Other existence and nonexistence results for curves of small degree (relative to the genus or otherwise) were obtained by Knutsen [6], Clemens and Kley [2] and Yu [16], [17]. I am not aware of results in the literature for curves on higher-dimensional CICYs. Some results on vector bundles are in [7], [13] and references therein. On the other hand results on balanced rational and irrational curves on Fano hypersurfaces were obtained in [9] and [11].

**New results.** The purpose of this paper is to enlarge the known collection of ‘good’ curves and bundles on CICY and general type manifolds by constructing, on some $m$-dimensional CICYs, curves $C$ of all large enough degrees with the following properties:

- $C$ rigid of any genus, $m = 3$; or
- $C$ rigid of genus 1, $m \geq 3$; or
- $C$ rational and balanced, $m \geq 3$;

Additionally, we will construct some balanced rational curves of degree at most $n - 4$ on a general canonical (degree- $(n + 2)$) hypersurface in $\mathbb{P}^n$.

Precisely, we will prove the following.

**Theorem 1.** Let $X$ be either a general hypersurface of degree $n + 1$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ or a general $(2, n)$ complete intersection in $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}$, $n \geq 4$, and let $e$ be an integer. Then

(i) if $e \geq 2n - 1$, there exist smooth rational curves of degree $e$ on $X$ with normal bundle $(n - 4)O \oplus 2O(-1)$;

(ii) let $g \geq 1$ be an integer and assume

$$e \geq 2n(n - 1)(g + 1) + 1. \tag{1}$$

If either $g = 1$ or $n = 4$, then there exists a smooth rigid curve of genus $g$ and degree $e$ on $X$.

As noted above, this yields, e.g. the first construction of rigid curves of any genus on the quintic 3-fold, as well as the first construction of rigid or balanced curves on higher-dimensional CYs. Note the assumption $g = 1$ or $n = 4$ implies $\chi(N) = 0$, so in that case rigidity is equivalent to regularity. For $g = 0$ we have
χ(N) = n − 4 so the curve cannot be rigid if n > 4. Anyhow we have χ(N) ≥ 0 in all cases.

The case g = 1, n = 4 (already done by Kley [5]) has the following application to rigid vector bundles. See §4 for the proof.

**Corollary 2.** If X is either a general quintic threefold in \(\mathbb{P}^4\) or a general (2, 4) complete intersection in \(\mathbb{P}^5\), then for every integer \(e ≥ 49\) X carries a rigid, indecomposable, semistable rank-2 vector bundle \(E\) with \(c_1(E) = 0, c_2(E) = eλ\) where \(λ\) is the class of a line.

On the (2, 4) complete intersection, two other rigid rank-2 bundles (with odd \(c_1\)) were constructed by Richard Thomas [13], who also constructs numerous other rigid examples on K3 fibrations. He has also constructed in [12] an example of a curve and a bundle on a CY3f of special moduli that are set-theoretically isolated but not (infinitesimally) rigid.

Finally we will undertake a (necessarily limited) incursion into the forbidding territory of general type by proving the following:

**Theorem 3.** Let X be a general hypersurface of degree \(n + 2\) in \(\mathbb{P}^n, n ≥ 5\). Then X contains rational curves of degree \(e ≤ n − 4\) with normal bundle

\[N = (n − 4 − e)O \oplus (e + 2)O(−1).\]

For \(n = 5, 6\) the curve in question is a line or conic and the result follows from the elementary Lemma 7. So Theorem 3 is only interesting for \(n ≥ 7\). Of course here again \(χ(N) ≥ 0\).

Actually the proof of Theorem 3 extends to hypersurfaces of degree \(d ≥ n + 2\) to yield balanced rational curves of degree \(≤ (n − 4)/(d − n − 1)\).

**Methods.** The idea of the proof of Theorem 1 is to use a suitable degeneration of X to a reducible normal-crossing variety \(X_1 \cup X_2\). In the case where X is a hypersurface we use a so-called quasi-cone degeneration where \(X_1\) is ‘resolved quasi-cone’ i.e. the blowup at a point \(q\) of a quintic with multiplicity \(n\) at \(q\), and \(X_2\) is a degree-\(n\) hypersurface in \(\mathbb{P}^n\). In the case where X is a (2, \(n\)) complete intersection, \(X_0\) is the complete intersection of a degree-\(n\) hypersurface with a reducible quadric, so that \(X_1, X_2\) are both degree-\(n\) hypersurfaces in hyperplanes \(H_1, H_2 \cong \mathbb{P}^{n+1}\) such that \(X_1 \cap H_1 \cap H_2 = X_2 \cap H_1 \cap H_2\). We use results from [9] and [11] about existence of curves on a degree-\(n\) hypersurface with ‘good’ normal bundle, together with a new notion, introduced in §1, of relative regularity of a curve or bundle, which is analogous to a special case of the notion of ‘ultra-balance’ introduced in [11] but where the ‘test points’ are not general but lie on a divisor in a specified system.
Theorem 3 is proved similarly.

The question of existence of good curves of genus \( g > 0 \) and high degree on other CICY types of any dimension, or of rigid curves of genus \( > 1 \) on any CICYs of dimension \( > 3 \) (where \( \chi(N) < 0 \)) remains open.

As for general type we mention here the following

Conjecture. A general hypersurface of degree \( \geq n + 2 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^n \), \( n \geq 4 \) does not contain any irreducible rational curves of degree \( \geq n - 3 \).

The conjecture is true for \( n = 4 \) (no rational curves at all) by [14]. As for \( n = 5 \), an easy dimension count shows that a general septic \( X \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \) contains no irreducible conics. The case of higher-degree rational curves is not clear.

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Notation and conventions. In this paper we work over \( \mathbb{C} \).

On a curve \( C \) isomorphic to \( \mathbb{P}^1 \) we denote by \( O(k) \) the line bundle of degree \( k \). A bundle on \( C \) is balanced if it has the form \( aO(k) \oplus bO(k - 1) \). In this case the subbundle \( aO(k) \) is uniquely determined, called the upper subbundle.

A quasi-cone is a hypersurface \( X \) of degree \( d \) in \( \mathbb{P}^n \) with a point of multiplicity \( d - 1 \), called the quasi-vertex. Via projection, the blowup of \( X \) in the quasi-vertex is realized as the blowup of \( \mathbb{P}^n \) in a \((d, d - 1)\) complete intersection \( Y \), where the exceptional divisor is the birational transform of the unique hypersurface of degree \( d - 1 \) containing \( Y \). The blow-up of a variety \( X \) in a subvariety \( Y \) is denoted by \( B_Y X \).

1. Fan, Fang and Quasi-cone Degenerations

See [9] for details. We recall that a fan (also called a 2-fan) is a reducible normal-crossing variety of the form

\[
P_0 = P_1 \cup_E P_2
\]

where

\[
P_1 = B_p \mathbb{P}^n, P_2 = \mathbb{P}^n
\]

and \( E \subset P_1 \) is the exceptional divisor and \( E \subset P_2 \) is a hyperplane. The family

\[
\mathcal{P} = B_{(p,0)}(\mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{A}^1)
\]

is called a standard fan degeneration and realizes \( P_0 \) as the special fibre in a family with general fibre \( \mathbb{P}^n \).

A hypersurface of type \((d_1, d_2)\) in \( P_0 \) has the form

\[
X_0 = X_1 \cup_Z X_2
\]
where
\[ X_1 \in |d_1 H_1 - d_2 E|_{p_1}, X_2 \in |d_2 H_2|_{p_2}, X_1 \cap Z = X_2 \cap Z \]
\((H_1, H_2\) are the respective hyperplanes). If \(d_2 = d_1 - 1\), \(X_0\) is said to be of \textit{quasi-cone type}. Given a family \(\bar{X} \subset \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{A}^1\) of hypersurfaces of degree \(d_1\) whose special fibre has multiplicity \(d_2\) at \(p\), its birational transform \(X \subset \mathbb{P}\) is a family of hypersurfaces in \(\mathbb{P}^n\) specializing to one of type \((d_1, d_2)\).

More generally, a \textit{fang of type} \(\ell\) is a variety of the form
\[ P_0 = P_1 \cup \ell P_2 \]
where
\[ P_1 = B_{\mathbb{P}^n}, P_2 = B_{\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \mathbb{P}_n, E = \mathbb{P}^\ell \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1-\ell}. \]
This is the special fibre of the degeneration
\[ \mathcal{P} = B_{\mathbb{P}_0 \times 0} \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{A}^1 \to \mathbb{A}^1. \]

2. RELATIVELY REGULAR BUNDLES AND CURVES

The purpose of this section is to study a property of vector bundles which, when applied to normal bundles, is helpful in studying the normal bundle to a union of curves.

Let \(C\) be a smooth curve, \(L\) a line bundle on \(C\), \(0 \neq V \subset H^0(L)\) a linear system, and \(D \in V\) a reduced member.

**Definition 4.** (i) A vector bundle \(E\) on \(C\) is said to be regular relative to to \(D\) if it is regular, i.e. \(H^1(E) = 0\) and, for any subset \(D_1 \subset D\) and a general quotient \(U\) of \(E|_{D_1}\) locally of rank 1, the composite map
\[ \rho_U : H^0(E) \to E|_{D_1} \to U \]
has maximal rank. \(E\) is said to be regular relative to \(V\) if it is regular relative to some divisor (or equivalently, a general divisor) \(D \in V\).

(ii) A curve \(C\) on a variety \(X\) endowed with a linear system \(V\) is said to be regular relative to \(V\) if the corresponding property holds for its normal bundle \(N = N_{C/X}\) and the restricted system \(V|_C\).

More explicitly, Condition (i) means that for any distinct \(p_1, \ldots, p_k \in D\) and respective general 1-dimensional quotients \(U_1, \ldots, U_k\) of \(E_{p_1}, \ldots, E_{p_k}\), the natural map \(H^0(E) \to \bigoplus_{i=1}^k U_i\) has maximal rank. Or equivalently, the kernel \(E'\) of the natural map \(E \to \bigoplus U_i\) has either \(H^1(E') = 0\) or \(H^0(E') = 0\).

This notion is essentially meaningless in genus 0:
Lemma 5. If $D$ is any reduced divisor on $\mathbb{P}^1$ then any regular vector bundle is regular relative to $D$.

Proof. We use the above notation. The proof is by induction on $h^0(E)$ which may be assumed $> 0$. We may also assume $D_1 = D$ is nontrivial and write $D = D' + p$. Let $L \subset E$ be a line subbundle of maximal degree which we may assume surjects to $U|_p$ which is 1-dimensional. Then letting $E' \subset E$ denote the kernel of $E \to U|_p$, we get an exact diagram

$$
0 \to H^0(E') \to H^0(E) \to \mathbb{C}_p \to 0 \\
0 \to U' \to U \to U|_p \to 0
$$

As the right vertical arrow is an isomorphism and the left vertical arrow has maximal rank by induction, it is easy to see that the middle vertical arrow likewise has maximal rank. □

In the higher-genus case relative regularity seems related to the property of ultra-balancedness studied in [11], but there is no implication either way. Relative regularity is stronger in that the support of the quotient is a general divisor in $V$ which may not be a general divisor on $C$; it is weaker in that the quotient must have local rank 1.

The main result of this section is

Proposition 6. For $X = \mathbb{P}^n, n \geq 3$ (resp. $X$ a general hypersurface of degree $n$ in $\mathbb{P}^n, n \geq 4$) and $g \geq 0$, there exists a curve of genus $g$ and degree $e \geq 2(g + 1)n$ (resp. $e \geq 2(g + 1)n(n - 1)$) in $X$ that is regular relative to $| - K_X|$.

Proof. Case 1: $X = \mathbb{P}^n$.

We follow closely the proof of Theorem 29 in [11], using induction on the genus $g$. Thus we will be constructing curves on a fang and smoothing them as the fang smooths to $\mathbb{P}^n$. As the case $g = 0$ is automatic we begin with the case $g = 1$. Thus let $\ell$ be an integer in $[0, n - 1]$ and consider a fang of type $\ell$ (see §1)

$$
P_0 = P_1 \cup_Q P_2, Q := \mathbb{P}^\ell \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1-\ell}
$$

where $P_1$ resp $P_2$ is the blowup of $\mathbb{P}^n$ in $\mathbb{P}^\ell$ resp. $\mathbb{P}^{n-1-\ell}$, with common exceptional divisor $Y = \mathbb{P}^\ell \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1-\ell}$. As $\mathbb{P}^n$ degenerates to $P_0$, hyperplanes have different types of limits depending on the dimension of the limiting intersection with $\mathbb{P}^\ell$. At one extreme, if the limiting intersection is transverse, the limit in $P_0$ will have the form $H'_1 \cup H'_2$ where $H'_1$ is the birational transform of a hyperplane in $\mathbb{P}^n$ transverse to $\mathbb{P}^\ell$, while $H'_2$ is the birational transform of a hyperplane containing $\mathbb{P}^{n-1-\ell}$. This is the type we will use below.
Thus let
\[ C_1 \subset P_1, C_2 \subset P_2 \]
be rational curves with the property that
\[ C_1 \cap Q = C_2 \cap Q = \{ p, q \}. \]

Let
\[ C_0 = C_1 \cup_{p,q} C_2 \subset P_0 \]
be a the resulting curve of arithmetic genus 1 as in loc. cit. and set \( e_i = \deg(C_i), i = 1, 2 \) so the degree of the smoothing of \( C_0 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^n \) is \( e = e_1 + e_2 - 2 \). As \( C_0 \) is a locally complete intersection in \( P_0 \), it has a locally free normal bundle denoted \( N_0 = N_{C_0/P_0} \). Also set \( N_i = N_{C_i/P_i}, i = 1, 2 \). In [11], Lemma 31 it is proven that we may assume \( N_1, N_2 \) are balanced. Then
\[
\chi(N_0) = (e_1 + e_2 - 2)(n + 1),
\]
\[
\chi(N_1) = e_1(n + 1) + (n - 3) - 2(n - \ell - 1), \chi(N_2) = e_2(n + 1) + (n - 3) - 2\ell.
\]

Now let \( \ell = [(n - 1)/2] \) which makes \( \chi(N_1) \leq e_1(n + 1) \). Let
\[ H'_1, H'_2, ..., H'_{1,n+1}, H'_{2,n+1} \]
be \( n + 1 \) general hyperplane limits as above, and let \( D \) consist of \( s = \chi(N_1) \) many points on \( C_1 \cap (H'_1 \cup ... \cup H'_{1,n+1}) \) plus \( \chi(N) - s \) many points on \( C_2 \cap (H'_2 \cup ... \cup H'_{2,n+1}) \), and let \( U \) be a general, locally rank \( \leq 1 \) quotient of \( N_D \) and let \( N' \) be the kernel of \( N \to U \). To prove \( H^0(N) \to U \) has maximal rank we may assume \( U \) has length \( \chi(N) \), i.e. has rank exactly 1 at each point of \( D \). Then we must prove \( H^0(N') = 0 \).

Now because \( N_1, N_2 \) are balanced we have \( H^0(N'_{C_1}) = 0 \) and \( H^0(N'_{C_2}(-p - q)) = 0 \), hence \( H^0(N') = 0 \). Thus proves that \( C_0 \) is regular relative to the limit of \( |(n + 1)H| \) hence its smoothing in \( \mathbb{P}^n \) is regular relative to \( |(n+1)H| \). This proves our assertion in genus 1.

In the general case we use induction on the genus based on a fan (i.e. fang of type \( \ell = 0 \)) degeneration
\[ P_0 = P_1 \cup E, P_1 = B_q \mathbb{P}^n, P_2 = \mathbb{P}^n \]
with \( E \subset \mathbb{P}_1 \) the exceptional divisor and \( E \subset \mathbb{P}_2 \) a hyperplane. We use a limit anticanonical divisor that is a union of limit hyperplanes of the form
\[
D = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} H'_i = H'_{1,i} \cup H'_{2,i}
\]
with each $H_{1,i} \subset P_1$ the birational transform of a hyperplane through $q$ and $H_{2,i} \subset P_2$ a hyperplane with $H_{1,i}^*E = H_{2,i}^*E$. This is the opposite extreme of hyperplane limit types from the one used above. We consider a lci curve

$$C_0 = C_1 \cup C_2$$

where $C_2 \subset P_2$ a $|-K_{P_2}|$-regular curve of genus $g-1$ and degree $e-1$ and

$$C_1 = C_{1,1} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^{e-3} L_i$$

consists of the birational transforms of a plane cubic nodal at $q$ (so that $C_{1,1}.E = 2$) plus lines through $q$. Then an argument similar to the above but simpler with $H_{1,i}.L_j = 0, \forall i, j$ shows that, for a locally-rank-1 quotient $U$ of $N_0|_D$ the map $H^0(N_0) \rightarrow U$ is an isomorphism as required. This concludes the proof in the case $X = \mathbb{P}^n$.

Case 2: $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ of degree $n$.

We use the usual ‘quasi-cone’ degeneration as in [11], with the same notation:

$$X_0 = X_1 \cup_F X_2 \subset P_1 \cup_Q P_2.$$ 

Thus $P_1 = B_q\mathbb{P}^n, P_2 = \mathbb{P}^n$ and $Q = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ is embedded in $P_1$ as the exceptional divisor and in $P_2$ as a hyperplane; $X_1 \subset P_1$ is the blow-up in $q$ of a general hypersurface of degree $n$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ multiplicity $n-1$ at $q$, $X_2$ is a hypersurface of degree $n-1$ and $F = X_1 \cap Q = X_2 \cap Q$. Projection from $q$ realizes $X_1$ as the blow-up of $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ in a $(n-1,n)$ complete intersection $Y$. As in loc. cit. we consider a curve

$$C_0 = C_1 \cup C_2$$

with $C_1 \subset X_1$ the birational transform of a curve $C_1'$ of degree $e_1$ and genus $g$ in $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ that is regular with respect to the anticanonical $|-K_{\mathbb{P}^{n-1}}|$, and $C_2$ a disjoint union of lines with trivial normal bundle. Here as in loc. cit. $e = e_1 n - a, a \leq n$. Now a limit anticanonical divisor on $X_0$ has the form $F'_n$, which is the birational transform of a hypersurface of degree $n$ in $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ containing $Y$ while $N_{C_1/X_1}$ is a general corank-1 modification of $N_{C_1'/\mathbb{P}^{n-1}}$ at the $a$ points $\{p_1, ..., p_a\} = C_1' \cap Y$. From this it is easy to see that $C_1$ is regular relative to the divisor $F'_n.C_1$ and hence that $C_0$ is regular relative to $F_n.C_0$. Therefore as $C_0$ smooths to a curve $C$ on a general degree-$n$ hypersurface $X$, $C$ is regular relative to $| - K_X|$. □

3. LINES AND CONICS ON SOME HYPERSURFACES

In this section we will study some rational curves that will serve as ‘tails’ in the construction of good curves as in Theorem [11] First, an easy remark about their normal bundle:
Lemma 7. Let $X$ be a general hypersurface of degree $d$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$.

(i) If $d \leq 2n - 3$, $X$ contains a line with balanced normal bundle.
(ii) If $d \leq (3n - 2)/2$, $X$ contains a conic with balanced normal bundle.

Proof. Line case: Let $L$ be the line $V(x_2, ..., x_n)$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$. A hypersurface $X$ of degree $d$ containing $L$ has equation $\sum_{i=2}^{n} x_i f_i(x_0, x_1)$, $\deg(f_i) = d - 1$. The normal sequence reads

$$0 \to N_{L/X} \to (n-1)O_L(1) \to O_L(d) \to 0$$

where the right map is $(f_2, ..., f_n)$ which is a general map. On the other hand, let $E = (n-1-d)O_L(1) \oplus (d-1)O_L$ be the unique balanced bundle of rank $n-2$ and degree $n-1-d$ on $L$. Then there clearly exists a fibrewise injection $E \to (n-1)O_L(1)$ whose cokernel, for degree reasons, must be $O_L(d)$. By openness of the balancedness property (i.e. the fact that a balanced bundle is rigid), it follows that $N \cong E$.

The conic case is similar (note that in that case the middle term in the normal sequence is $O(4) \oplus (n-2)O(2)$ which is not balanced, but this doesn’t matter).

\[\Box\]

Remark 8. In case $n-1 \leq d \leq 2n-3$ above, the normal bundle $N = N_{L/X}$ is $N = (2n-d-3)O \oplus (d-n+1)O(-1)$ for the line. In the case $n \leq d \leq (3n-2)/2$ we have $N = (3n-2d-2)O \oplus (2d-2n)O(-1)$ for the conic. The argument doesn’t extend to higher-degree rational curves because they are not complete intersections.

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Let $P$ denote the blow-up of $\mathbb{P}^n$ at a point $q$. By a resolved quasi-cone in $P$ we mean the birational transform $X \subset P$ of a quasi-cone, i.e. a hypersurface $\tilde{X}$ of degree $d$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ having multiplicity $d-1$ at $q$, the quasi-vertex. Projection from $q$ realizes $X$ as the blow-up of $\mathbb{P}^n$ in a $(d, d-1)$ complete intersection curve $Y$ so that the exceptional divisor corresponds to the unique degree-$(d-1)$ hypersurface containing $Y$, while hyperplane sections from $\mathbb{P}^n$ correspond to hypersurfaces of degree $d$ containing $Y$. In particular, taking $d = n+1$, $(n-1)$-secant lines to $Y$ in $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ correspond to conics in $\tilde{X}$ through the quasi-vertex $q$.

Before stating the next result we recall that for a balanced bundle $aO(m+1) \oplus bO(m)$, $a > 0$ on $\mathbb{P}^1$ the upper subbundle is by definition $aO(m+1)$ and the upper subspace at a point $p$ is the fibre of the upper subbundle at $p$.

Lemma 9. Let $X$ be either

Case (a) a general, degree-$n$ hypersurface in $\mathbb{P}^n$, $n \geq 4$, or
Case (b) a general resolved quasi-cone of degree $(n+1)$ in $P$.

Let $L \subset X$ be either

Case (a) a general line, or
Case (b): the transform of a general conic through the quasi-vertex.

Let \( Z \) be either

Case (a): \( Z = X \cap H \) a general hyperplane section from \( \mathbb{P}^n \), or

Case (b): the exceptional divisor; and let \( p = Z.L. \)

Then:
(i) We have \( N := N_{L,X} = (n - 3)O \oplus O(-1). \)
(ii) Varying \( X \) with fixed \( L \) and \( Z \), and identifying \( N|_p \approx T_pZ \), the upper subspace \( (n - 3)O|_p \subset T_pZ \) becomes a general hyperplane.
(iii) There is a deformation \( ((X_t, L_t) : t \in T) \), fixing \( Z \), such that the image of the map
\[
T \ni t \mapsto L_t \cap Z
\]
contains a neighborhood of \( p. \)

Remark 10. From the proof below it will follow that \( X \) actually contains a 1-parameter family of such curves.

Proof of Lemma. Note that all our assertions are open in \( L.Z \) and \( X \), so it suffices to prove them for some special case.

Case (a):
(i) This is just Lemma \([\text{7}]\) above. Note that it implies that \( L \) moves on \( X \) in a smooth \( (n - 3) \)-dimensional family and, because the restriction map \( H^0(N) \rightarrow N|_p \)
for general \( p \in L \) has \( (n - 3) \)-dimensional image, this family fills up an \( (n - 2) \)-dimensional scroll that is a divisor on \( X. \)
(ii) Let \( x_0 \) be the equation of \( H \) and \( x_1, \ldots, x_n \) be general linear forms, and consider the case of a simplex
\[
X_0 = H_1 \cup \ldots \cup H_n, H_i = V(x_i)
\]
and let \( A_1 \cup \ldots \cup A_n = X_0 \cap H \) be its \( H \)-section. \( X_0 \) has singular locus
\[
S = \bigcup S_{ij}, S_{ij} := H_i \cap H_j, 1 \leq i < j \leq n.
\]

Let \( L \subset H_1 \) be a general line and
\[
p_j = L.H_j = L.S_{1j}, j = 2, ..., n; p = L.H = L.A_1.
\]
Set \( f_0 = x_1 \cdots x_n, \) let \( g \) be a general degree-\((n - 1)\) form vanishing at \( p_2, ..., p_n, \) and let \( X_1 \subset \mathbb{P}^n \) be the hypersurface with equation \( f_0 + x_0 g. \) Thus \( X_1 \) contains \( p_2, ..., p_n \) and because \( x_0 \) is the equation of \( H \) in \( \mathbb{P}^n, \) one has \( X_1 \cap H = X_0 \cap H = Z \) and this has equation \( f_0 \) in \( H. \) Set \( Q_j = V(g) \cap S_{1j}, j = 2, ..., n, \) which is a degree-\((n - 1)\) subvariety in \( S_{1j} \) containing \( p_j, \) and \( X_1 \cap S_{1j} \) consists of the hyperplane \( V(x_0) \) plus \( Q_j. \) Let \( t \)
be a coordinate on \( \mathbb{A}^1 \) and consider the linear family, depending on \( g
\)
\[
\pi = \pi(g) : X(g) = V(f_0 + tx_0 g) \subset \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1, X_t = \pi^{-1}(t). \]
This is a pencil of hypersurfaces with fixed $H$-section $Z$. Then $X(g)$ is singular at $S \cap X_1$ and, away from $S_0 = S \cap V(x_0, g)$, $X'_g$ has singularity of type (3-fold ordinary double point) $\times A^{n-3}$ and so admits a small resolution $X' \to A^1$ with fibre $X'_0$. Note that $S_0$ also coincides with the singular locus of a general fibre $X_0$.

The normal bundle $N_{L/X_0}$ is a corank-1 down modification (i.e. subsheaf of colength 1) of $N_{L/H_1}$ at $p_2, \ldots, p_n$. Identifying $N_{L/H_1}|_{p_i} \simeq T_{p_i}S_{1j}$, this is the down modification corresponding to the subspace $T_{p_i}Q_j$, $j = 2, \ldots, n$. Since these subspaces may be chosen generally it follows firstly that the modification is general, so that $N_{L/X_0} = (n - 3)O \oplus O(-1)$. Moreover clearly, and as one can check by a coordinate computation, as the hyperplanes $T_{p_i}Q_j$, $j = 2, \ldots, n$ vary, so does the $(n - 3)O$ subsheaf and its fibre at $p$. Explicitly, write $N_{L/H_1} = L_2 \oplus \ldots \oplus L_{n-1}$ where $L_i \simeq O(1)$ and the fibre of $L_i$ at $p_i$ corresponds to $T_{p_i}Q_i$, $i = 2, \ldots, n-1$. Then the down modification corresponding to $T_{p_i}Q_i$, $i = 2, \ldots, n-1$ replaces each $L_i$ by $O_L$ so it is just $(n - 2)O_L$ with basis $e_2, \ldots, e_{n-1}$. Then if the hyperplane $T_{p_i}Q_i$ is represented by $(a_2, \ldots a_{n-1})$ in this basis, then the $(n - 3)O$ subsheaf is generated by $a_3e_2 - a_2e_3, \ldots, a_{n-1}e_{n-2} - a_{n-2}e_{n-1}$ and this clearly moves with $T_{p_i}Q_i$.

(iii) What (ii) shows is that the set of limit lines in the family $X(g)$ is a smooth $(n - 3)$-parameter family which traces out on $A_1$ a smooth divisor $D(g)$ whose tangent hyperplane at $p$ corresponds to the aforementioned $(n - 3)O$ subsheaf. This depends on $g$ through the $Q_i$ curves. As $g$ varies, the latter computation shows that $D(g)$ will vary and with it the tangent hyperplane $T_{p_i}D(g)$. Therefore the divisors $D(g)$ will sweep out $A_1$, filling up an open set.

Case (b):

It is convenient to start with a line $L \subset P^{n-1}$ with $n - 1$ distinct points $p_1, \ldots, p_{n-1}$, then let $F_n, F_{n+1}$ be general hypersurfaces of the indicated degrees containing $p_1, \ldots, p_{n-1}$, then let $Y = F_n \cap F_{n+1}$ and $P = B_{Y}P^{n-1}$. Then $N_{L/P}$ is the down modification of $N_{L/P^{n-1}} = (n - 2)O(1)$ in the rank-1 quotients corresponding to $T_{p_i}Y$, $i = 1, \ldots, n - 1$. Because these tangent spaces are general, we have $N_{L/P} = (n - 3)O \oplus O(-1)$. Then because we can vary $Y$ while fixing $Z = F_{n-1}$, assertions (ii-iii) are clear. \(\blacksquare\)

4. Conclusions

Proof of Theorem \[Q.\]

(2, $n$) complete intersection case:

Assume first $e = 2e_1$ even. We first prove assertion (ii), so we assume $g = 1$ or $n = 4$. Let

$$X_0 = X_1 \cup X_2 \subset P^{n+1}$$
where \(X_1, X_2\) are general degree-\(n\) hypersurfaces in respective hyperplanes \(P_1, P_2 \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}\) with the property that

\[
X_1 \cap P_1 \cap P_2 = X_2 \cap P_1 \cap P_2 =: Z.
\]

We may assume \(Z\) is a general hyperplane section of \(X_1\) and \(X_2\). A smoothing of \(X_0\) is given by a smoothing of the reducible quadric \(P_1 \cup P_2\), and has total space that is singular along a divisor \(Z_q \subset Z\).

Let \(C_1 \subset X_1\) be a curve of degree \(e_1 = e/2\) and genus \(g\), regular with respect to \(|O_{X_1}(1)| = |−K_{X_1}|\) (cf. Proposition 9), and meeting \(Z\) transversely in \(p_1, \ldots, p_{e_1}\) and disjoint from \(Z_q\). As \((g - 1)(n - 3) = 0\) and \(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}\) is balanced, \(C_1\) moves in a smooth family of dimension \(e_1 + n - 5 = \chi(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1})\) on \(X_1\). Now because

\[
e_1 - 2 = e_1 + n - 4 - (n - 2) = \chi(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}(-p_i)) > 0,
\]
hence \(H^1(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}(-p_i)) = 0\), so each \(p_i\) moves on \(Z\) filling up an analytic open set \(U_i\). By restricting, we may assume the \(U_i\) pairwise disjoint. On the other hand consider a balanced line \(L \subset X_2\) with normal bundle \((n - 3)\mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{O}(−1)\). As we saw in Lemma 9 as the pair \((X_2, L)\) moves while fixing \(Z\), the point \(L \cap Z\) moves, filling up a Zariski open set \(V\) (NB it is obviously necessary here that the hypersurface move together with the line). As \(V\) must intersect each \(U_i\), we may assume that we have a balanced line \(L_i \in X_2\) through \(p_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, e_1\). Moreover by Lemma 9 Case (a), the may assume the upper subspace \(M_i\) of \(\mathcal{N}_{L_i/X_2}|_{p_i}\) is general as subspace of \(T_{p_i}Z\). Let \(N_1 \subset \mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}\) be the down modification corresponding to \(M_1, \ldots, M_{e_1}\) and \(N_0 = \mathcal{N}_{C_0/X_0}\).

Now recall we are assuming either \(g = 1\) or \(n = 4\). Then because \(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}\) is regular relative to \(|\mathcal{O}(1)|\) and the modification is general, we have \(H^0(N_1) = 0\). let

\[
C_2 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{e_1} L_i, C_0 = C_1 \cup C_2.
\]

Now note that \(H^0(\mathcal{N}_{C_0/X_0}) = H^0(N_1)\) and as we have seen this vanishes. Thanks to our assumption that either \(n = 4\) or \(g = 1\), we have \(\chi(\mathcal{N}_{C_0/X_0}) = 0\) so it follows that \(H^1(\mathcal{N}_{C_0/X_0}) = 0\) as well. Thus, \(C_0\) is rigid on \(X_0\) and deforms with it to a rigid curve of degree \(2e_1 = e\) on a general \((2, n)\) complete intersection in \(\mathbb{P}^n\). This completes the proof of assertion (ii) \(e\) is even.

As for Assertion (i), i.e. the case \(g = 0\), still assuming \(e\) is even, the argument is similar but simpler. Using the same notation, note that it suffices to prove \(h^0(N_0) = n - 4\). We have an exact sequence

\[
0 \to H^0(N_0) \to H^0(\mathcal{N}_{C_1/X_1}) \oplus H^0(\mathcal{N}_{C_2/X_2}) \to \bigoplus_{i=1}^{e_1} M_i
\]
By Proposition 6, we may assume $C_1 \subset X_1$ is regular with respect to $O(1)$. Then because the $M_i$ are general hyperplanes in $N_{C_1/X_1}$ it follows that
\[ h^0(N_0) = h^0(N_{C_1/X_1}) - e_1 = n - 4. \]

Now consider the case $e = 2e_1 + 1$ odd. The idea is to use the same $C_1$ of degree $e_1$ and to replace one of the lines, say $L_1$, by a suitable conic $M$. Now recall that the smoothing of $X_0$ corresponds to smoothing the reducible quadric with equation $x_1x_2 + tq$. As such it is singular in $x_1 = x_2 = t = q = 0$, i.e. the intersection $Z_q$ of $Z$, the double locus of the special fibre, with the quadric $q = 0$. There the total space admits a small resolution $\tilde{X}$ by blowing up $x_1 = q_0$ (this makes sense globally) and the special fibre in $\tilde{X}$ replaces the component $X_2$ by its blowup in $Z_q$. Choosing the quadratic $q$ suitably, we can arrange that $M$ meets $Z_q$ in exactly 1 point and there transversely. Then the birational transform of $M$ meets that of $Z$ in exactly 1 point and has normal bundle $(n - 3)O \oplus O(-1)$ by Lemma 7, so we can proceed as before, for both assertion (i) and (ii).

Hypersurface Case:
Suppose $e$ is even. Here we use a standard quasi-cone degeneration to
\[ X_0 = X_1 \cup_Z X_2 \]
with $X_1$ a resolved quasi-cone of degree $n + 1$ and $X_2$ a hypersurface of degree $n$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$. The degeneration has smooth total space. As in the $(2, n)$ case, we have a lci curve
\[ C_0 = C_1 \cup C_2 \]
with $C_1$ a disjoint union of $e_1 = e/2$ many ‘conics’ with normal bundle $(n - 3)O \oplus O(-1)$ as in Lemma 9 Case (b), and $C_2$ is a curve of genus $g$ and degree $e_1 = e/2$ on $X_2$ that is regular relative to $| - K_{X_2}| = |O_{X_2}(1)|$, and with
\[ C_1 \cap Z = C_2 \cap Z. \]
Then an argument as above shows that $H^0(N_{C_0/X_0}) = 0$ so we can conclude as above.

Finally in case $e$ is odd we replace one of the ‘conics’ by a ‘twisted cubic’. This is obtained by starting with a conic $M \subset \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ with $2n-1$ points $p_1, ..., p_{2n-1}$, choosing general hypersurfaces $F_n, F_{n+1}$ through $p_1, ..., p_{2n-1}$ and blowing up $Y = F_n \cap F_{n+1}$. The birational transform $\tilde{M}$ of $M$ meets $Z = \tilde{F}_n$ in 1 point and contributes 2 to the total degree of $C_0$ and its smoothing. Even though the $M$ has normal bundle $N = O(4) \oplus (n - 3)O(2)$ which is unbalanced, the down modification of $N$ in $> 0$ points is balanced and so $\tilde{M}$ has balanced normal bundle i.e. $(n-2)O \oplus O(-1)$. □
Remark 11. It is proved in [14] that the general sextic in $\mathbb{P}^4$ contains no rational or elliptic curves, thus showing that Theorem 3 is sharp.

Remark 12. Let $C$ be a rational curve on a CICY $X$ as in Theorem 1 with normal bundle $N = (n-4)\mathcal{O}_C \oplus 2\mathcal{O}_C(-1)$. Then for $p \in C$ the image of restriction $H^0(N) \to N|_p$ is $(n-4)$-dimensional. It follows that $C$ moves in $X$ filling up an $(n-3)$-dimensional ruled subvariety birational to a fibration with fibre $\mathbb{P}^1$, i.e. either a $\mathbb{P}^1$-bundle ($e$ odd) or a conic bundle ($e$ even).

For example, for $n = 5$ and $X \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ a sextic, such a rational curve fills up a surface. When $C$ is a line, the degree of the surface is easily computed to be $d = c_7(Q)$. Evaluating this number is a routine if tedious calculation (which we have undertaken at the referee’s behest). If $r_1, r_2$ are the Chern roots of $Q$ then those of $\text{Sym}^6(Q)$ are $6r_1, 5r_1 + r_2, \ldots, 5r_1, r_2$, hence

$$c_7(Q) = 4320r_1r_2(r_1^5 + r_2^5) + 37584r_1^2r_2^2(r_1^3 + r_2^3) + 98064r_1^3r_2^3(r_1 + r_2)$$

hence, where $c_i = c_i(Q)$,

$$d = 4320c_1^2c_2 + 15984c_1^4 + 6912c_1^2c_2^3$$

The Chern numbers is question are, respectively, $8! 144 = 5806080, 2, 1$ hence

$$d = 25082304480.$$  

Remark 13. If $C$ is as in Remark 12 then clearly $T_{X|_C} = \mathcal{O}(2) \oplus (n-2)\mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{O}(-1)$ which is not balanced. Thus in the terminology of [11], $C$ is never ambient-balanced.

Remark 14. The above method of constructing curves yields rigid nodal lci curves of any genus on $X_0$ for any $n$. However for $n > 4, g > 1$ these curves have $H^1(N) \neq 0$, so it’s not clear these curves smooth out with $X_0$.

Proof of Corollary 2. The proof is based on the Serre construction (see [8], §I.5.1 which, though formulated for projective spaces is actually mostly valid for arbitrary smooth varieties, as already noted in [8], §I.5.3). If $C$ is an elliptic curve as in Theorem 1, Part (ii), then the computations in [8], §I.5.1 show that $\text{Ext}^1(I_C, \mathcal{O}_X) = \mathcal{O}_C$ and there is an exact sequence

$$H^1(\mathcal{O}_X) \to \text{Ext}^1(I_C, \mathcal{O}_X) \to H^0(\text{Ext}^1(I_C, \mathcal{O}_X)) \to H^2(\mathcal{O}_X).$$

Since the extreme groups clearly vanish, the element $1 \in H^0(\mathcal{O}_C)$ yields a uniquely determined sheaf $E$ as an extension of $I_C$ by $\mathcal{O}_X$, i.e. one has exact

$$0 \to \mathcal{O}_X \to E \to I_C \to 0.$$
Thus if \( d \) is generated by the hyperplane class, indecomposability follows from the Chern classes while (proper) semistability follows from the above exact sequence.

Now an easy diagram chase around the exact sequence

\[
0 \to O_X \to E \to I_C \to 0
\]

shows that \( h^0(E) = 1, h^1(E) = 0 \), so the unique section up to scalars of \( E \) extends to (infinitesimal) deformations, therefore \( C \) deforms with deformations of \( E \). Conversely the functoriality of the Serre construction shows that deformations of \( C \) induce deformations of \( E \). Thus, there is an isomorphism between the deformation functors of \( C \) and \( E \). Therefore since \( C \) is rigid, so is \( E \). Finally since Pic(\( X \)) is generated by the hyperplane class, indecomposability follows from the Chern classes while (proper) semistability follows from the above exact sequence. □

**Proof of Theorem 3.** For the proof we use a standard quasi-cone degeneration where \( C \subset X \subset \mathbb{P}^n \) degenerates to

\[
C_0 = C_1 \subset X_1 \subset X_0 = X_1 \cup_Z X_2 \subset P_0 = P_1 \cup P_2
\]

where: \( X_1 \subset P_1 \) a resolved quasi-cone of degree \( n+2 \), i.e. the birational transform of a hypersurface of degree \( n+2 \) with a point of multiplicity \( n+1 \), also realizable as \( B_Y \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \), the blowup of \( \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \) in \( Y \) which is a codimension-2 complete intersection of general hypersurfaces \( F_{n+1}, F_{n+2} \) of the indicated degrees; \( X_2 \subset P_2 = \mathbb{P}^n \) a degree-(\( n+1 \)) hypersurface; \( Z = X_1 \cap X_2 \approx F_{n+1} \) coincides with the birational transform of \( F_{n+1} \). For \( C_1 \subset X_1 \) we take a curve constructed as follows. Start with a general rational curve \( C_1 \) of degree \( e \) in \( \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \), i.e. a rational normal curve in a general \( \mathbb{P}^e \subset \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \), let \( F_{n+1} \) be a general hypersurface and then let \( F_{n+2} \) be a general hypersurface through \( C_1 \cap F_{n+1} \). Then take for \( C_1 \) the birational transform of \( C_1 \) in the blowup of \( Y = F_{n+1} \cap F_{n+2} \). Because \( C_1 \cap Y = C_1 \cap F_{n+1} \), we have \( C_1 \cap Z = \emptyset \). Because \( N_{C_1/\mathbb{P}^e} \) is balanced, i.e. \( N_{C_1/\mathbb{P}^e} = (e-1)\mathcal{O}(e+2) \), it follows that

\[
N_{C_1/\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} = (e-1)\mathcal{O}(e+2) \oplus (n-e)\mathcal{O}(e).
\]

Then because the tangent spaces to \( Y \) at \( Y \cap C_1 \) can be specified arbitrarily (compare [9], proof of Theorem 20), it follows that \( N_{C_1/X_1} \) is a general, locally corank-1 down modification of \( N_{C_1/\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \) at \( e(n+1) \) points, it follows that

\[
N_{C_1/X_1} = (n-e-4)\mathcal{O} \oplus (e+2)\mathcal{O}(-1).
\]

Because \( H^1(N_{C_1/X_1}) = H^1(N_{C_1/X_0}) = 0 \) as \( C_1 \) is disjoint from \( Z \), it follows that \( C_1 \) deforms along as \( X_0 \) smooths to a general degree-(\( n+2 \)) hypersurface in \( \mathbb{P}^n \). □

**Remark 15.** If \( X_d \subset \mathbb{P}^n \) is a hypersurface of degree \( d \) and \( C \to X_d \) is a curve of degree \( e \) and genus \( g \) with normal bundle \( N \), then \( \chi(N) = (n+1-d)e+n-4-g(n-2) \). Thus if \( d > n+1 \) and \( e > \frac{n-4}{d-n-1} \) (any \( g \geq 0 \)), then \( \chi(N) < 0 \) and in particular
Indeed one does not expect such a curve (e.g. rational curve) to exist on a general \(X_d\). In [10] however one can find some constructions for ‘well-behaved’ families of special hypersurfaces \(X_d\), codimension \(h^1(N) = -\chi(N)\) in the family of all hypersurfaces, endowed with ‘good’ curves.

Notations as above, the above argument in the proof of Theorem 3, applied to a rational curve \(C_0\) of degree \(e > n - 4\), yields a curve \(C_1\) whose normal bundle \(N_{C_1/X_1}\) has \(O(-2)\) summands, hence has \(H^1 \neq 0\), so it’s not clear if \(C_1\) deforms along as \(X_0\) deforms to a general \(X_d\).

On the other hand whenever \(d \geq n + 2\) the same argument, using a degree-
\(d\) quasi-cone degeneration, does produce balanced rational curves of degree 
\(e \leq (n - 4)/(d - n - 1)\). In view of Lemma 7, this is interesting when we can take 
\(e \geq 3\) which means \(3 \leq (n - 4)/(d - n - 1)\) i.e. \(n + 2 \leq d \leq (4n - 1)/3, n \geq 7\). For example, 
taking \(n = 10, d = 13\), we get a balanced twisted cubic on a general degree-13 hypersurface \(X_{13} \subset \mathbb{P}^{10}\).

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UC Math Dept.
SKYE SURGE FACILITY, ABERDEEN-INVERNESS ROAD
RIVERSIDE CA 92521 US
ZIV.RAN @ UCR.EDU
HTTPS://PROFILES.UCR.EDU/APP/HOMEPROFILE/ZIVRAN

18