A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups to compute the minimal log discrepancy for smooth 3-folds

BY SHIHO KO ISHII

Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences, 3-8-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8914, Japan.

e-mail: shihokoishii@mac.com

(Received 26 May 2021; revised 18 October 2023; accepted 16 October 2023)

Abstract

We study a pair consisting of a smooth 3-fold defined over an algebraically closed field and a “general” $\mathbb{R}$-ideal. We show that the minimal log discrepancy (“mld” for short) of every such a pair is computed by a prime divisor obtained by at most two weighted blow-ups. This bound is regarded as a weighted blow-up version of Mustaţă–Nakamura’s conjecture. We also show that if the mld of such a pair is not less than 1, then it is computed by at most one weighted blow-up. As a consequence, ACC of mld holds for such pairs.

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 14B05 (Primary); 14E99 (Secondary)

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper, the base field $k$ of varieties is an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. We study pairs $(A, \alpha)$ consisting of a smooth variety $A$ of dimension $N > 1$ and an “$\mathbb{R}$-ideal” $\alpha$ which means $\alpha = a_1^{e_1} \cdots a_r^{e_r}$, where $a_i$’s are non-zero coherent ideal sheaves on $A$ and $e = (e_1, \ldots, e_r) \in \mathbb{R}^r_{>0}$. We fix a closed point $0 \in A$.

The minimal log discrepancy (“mld” for short) $\text{mld}(0; A, \alpha)$ is an important invariant to measure the singularity of the pair $(A, \alpha)$ at 0 and plays important roles in birational geometry. We consider every prime divisor over $A$ with the center at 0 and construct a “good model” of the divisor to approximate the mld. The prototype is as follows:
THEOREM 1.1 ([9, 6]). Assume $N = 2$. For every prime divisor $E$ over $A$ with the center at $0$, there exists a prime divisor $F$ obtained by one weighted blow-up with the center at $0$ satisfying
\[ a(E; A, a) \geq a(F; A, a), \]
for every $\mathbb{R}$-ideal $a$ such that $a(E; A, a) \geq 0$.

The inequality in the theorem implies that $F$ is a better divisor to approximate the mld. Therefore the theorem states that every prime divisor over $A$ with the center at 0 has a better divisor which is obtained in a simple procedure. Here, we note that $F$ is constructed from $E$ and does not depend on the choice of an $\mathbb{R}$-ideal $a$.

Actually, in the paper [9] and [6], the main theorem is not stated in this form, but its proof shows Theorem 1.1. The paper [9] is for char $k = 0$, and the paper [6] is for char $k = p > 0$ and the main statements of both papers are in the following form:

COROLLARY 1.2 ([9, 6]). Assume $N = 2$. Then, for every pair $(A, a)$, the minimal log discrepancy $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ is computed by a prime divisor obtained by one weighted blow-up.

The corollary follows from the theorem immediately. See, for example, the proof of Corollary 1.9 in Section 5.

When we consider the case $N = 3$, we can see that one weighted blow-up is not sufficient to obtain a prime divisor computing the mld (see Example 3.3). On the other hand, in the example we can also show that the mld is computed by a prime divisor obtained by two weighted blow-ups. So it is natural to expect the following conjecture:

CONJECTURE 1.3. Assume $N \geq 3$. For every prime divisor $E$ over $A$ with the center at $0$, there exists a prime divisor $F$ centered at $0$ obtained by at most $N - 1$ weighted blow-ups satisfying
\[ a(E; A, a) \geq a(F; A, a), \]
for every $\mathbb{R}$-ideal $a$ such that $a(E; A, a) \geq 0$.

As an immediate consequence of the conjecture, we obtain the following:

CONJECTURE 1.4 (Corollary of Conjecture 1.3). Assume $N \geq 3$. Then, for every pair $(A, a)$, the minimal log discrepancy $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ is computed by a prime divisor obtained by at most $N - 1$ weighted blow-ups.

One of the motivations of the conjectures is that it is considered as a “weighted blow-up version” of Mustață–Nakamura Conjecture (MN-Conjecture for short):

CONJECTURE 1.5 (MN-Conjecture [13].) Fix $N$ and the exponent $e$ of $\mathbb{R}$-ideals. Then, there exists a number $\ell_{N,e} \in \mathbb{N}$ depending only on $N$ and $e$ such that for any $\mathbb{R}$-ideal $a$ with the exponent $e$ the minimal log discrepancy $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ is computed by a prime divisor obtained by at most $\ell_{N,e}$ times blow-ups. Here, the blow-up means the “usual blow-up”, i.e., blow-up with the center at an irreducible reduced closed subset.

If this conjecture holds, then ACC Conjecture for these pairs holds ([13]), so it seems to be a significant conjecture. On the other hand, MN-Conjecture is equivalent to a reasonable conjecture on arc spaces ([5]), so it makes sense to study it.
A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups

Note that MN-Conjecture requires to fix an exponent \( e \), while the weighted blow-up versions (Conjecture 1·3, 1·4) do not require it. Assume Conjecture 1·3 holds, it is also an interesting question whether the weights of the blow-ups can be bound uniformly in terms of exponents. This will strengthen the MN-Conjecture.

Another motivation of Conjecture 1·3 is for the project to bridge between positive characteristic and characteristic 0 ([5]). In [5], we have:

**Lemma 1·6.** Let \( a \) be an \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal on a smooth variety \( A_k \) over \( k (\operatorname{char} k = p > 0) \) and \( E \) a prime divisor over \( (A_k, 0_k) \) computing \( \operatorname{mld}(0_k; A_k, a) \).

If there exists an \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( \tilde{a} \) on a smooth variety \( A_C \) over \( C \) and a prime divisor \( \tilde{E} \) over \( (A_C, 0_C) \), where \( 0_C \in A_C \) such that

1. \( \tilde{a} \pmod{p} = a \) (see [5] for the definition of \( \pmod{p} \))
2. \( a(\tilde{E}; A_C, \tilde{a}) \leq a(E; A_k, a) \),

then, \( \operatorname{mld}(0_C; A_C, \tilde{a}) = \operatorname{mld}(0_k; A_k, a) \).

**Remark 1·7.** In particular, if such \( \tilde{a} \) and \( \tilde{E} \) exist for every \( a \) and \( E \) and assume that \( \operatorname{mld}(0_k; A_k, a) \) is computed by a divisor, then the set of \( \operatorname{mld}(0_k; A_k, a) \)'s is contained in the set of \( \operatorname{mld}(0_C; A_C, b) \)'s. Therefore, if we fix the exponent \( e \) and the dimension \( N \) of \( A_k \), then the number of the values \( \Lambda_e := \{ \operatorname{mld}(0_k, A_k, a) \mid a \text{ is a } \mathbb{R} \text{-ideal with the exponent } e \} \) is finite for \( \operatorname{char} k > 0 \), because it is proved to be finite in characteristic 0 by [8]. Similarly, if ACC holds in characteristic 0, then it also holds in positive characteristic.

Now, the problem is to construct appropriate \( \tilde{E} \) and \( \tilde{a} \) for given \( E \) and \( a \). If Conjecture 1·3 holds, we can reduce this problem to a divisor \( F \) of special type (i.e., obtained by at most \( N - 1 \) weighted blow-ups), which seems easier to handle.

The main results of this paper are the following:

**Theorem 1·8.** Assume \( N = 3 \). For every prime divisor \( E \) over \( A \) with the center at 0, there exists a prime divisor \( F \) centered at 0 obtained by at most two weighted blow-ups satisfying

\[
a(E; A, a) \geq a(F; A, a),
\]

for every “general” \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) for \( E \) such that \( a(E; A, a) \geq 0 \).

The terminology “general” will be defined in Definition 4·9. The weighted blow-ups will be constructed by “squeezed” blow-ups (see, Definition 4·4) depending only on \( E \) and it works for every general ideal. Here, “general” is necessary, because there exists an example of non-general ideal such that two squeezed blow-ups do not give the required divisor in the theorem (cf. Example 5·5). But it does not give a counter example for Conjecture 1·3, indeed for the example there exists another sequence of weighted blow-ups to obtain the required divisor (see, also Example 5·5).

As a corollary we obtain:

**Corollary 1·9.** Assume \( N = 3 \). Then, for every pair \( (A, a) \) with a “general” \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \), the minimal log discrepancy \( \operatorname{mld}(0; A, a) \) is computed by a prime divisor obtained by at most two weighted blow-ups.
It is known as the Zariski’s sequence that every prime divisor $E$ over $A$ with the center at 0 is obtained by successive usual blow-ups from $A$, such that the centers of blow-ups are the center of $E$ on each step ([11, VI, 1.3]). The following corollary shows that in some cases, we obtain the two weighted blow-ups to compute the mld by just looking at the center of the second blow-up in the Zariski’s sequence.

**Corollary 1.10** (Corollary 5.9). Assume $N = 3$. Let $E$ be a prime divisor over $A$ computing $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ for a pair $(A, a)$. Let $A_1 \to A$ be the first usual blow-up with the center at 0 in the Zariski’s sequence. Assume that the center $C \subset A_1$ of $E$ is a curve of degree $\geq 2$ in the exceptional divisor $E_1 \cong \mathbb{P}^2$. Then a weighted blow-up which is called “squeezed blow-up” at $C$ gives a divisor computing $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$.

Note that in this case the first blow-up is also a squeezed blow-up. Example 3.3 is just in this case. In Section 5, we show a more general corollary. On the other hand, if we restrict to the case $\text{mld} \geq 1$, then we have the following:

**Theorem 1.11.** Assume $N = 3$. Then, for every general pair $(A, a)$ with $\text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 1$, the minimal log discrepancy is computed by a prime divisor obtained by one weighted blow-up.

**Corollary 1.12.** Assume $N = 3$. In

$$\Lambda = \{(A, a) \mid \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 1 \text{ with general } a\}$$

the Mustaţă–Nakamura Conjecture holds and also the ACC Conjecture holds for $\text{char } k \geq 0$. Here, ACC Conjecture means that the set of $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ for the pairs in the subset $\Lambda_J \subset \Lambda$ consisting of $\mathbb{R}$-pairs with the exponents in $J \subset \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ satisfies the Ascending Chain Condition. Here, $J$ is a DCC set.

The corollary follows from Theorem 1.11 in the same way as in the proof of [6, corollary 1.6], since the mld is computed by one weighted blow-up.

This paper is organised as follows: in Section 2 we prepare basic terminologies which will be used in this paper. In Section 3 we discuss about weighted blow-up at a (not necessarily closed) smooth point and basic formula on weighted projective space, that is the exceptional divisor appearing in a weighted blow-up. In Section 4 we construct an appropriate regular system of parameter (RSP for short) with the weight, in order to make a weighted blow-up. In Section 5 we give the proofs of the main results.

2. Preliminaries

Let $A$ be an $N$-dimensional smooth variety defined over an algebraically closed field $k$. We fix a closed point $0 \in A$.

**Definition 2.1.** We call $E$ a prime divisor over $A$, if there is a proper birational morphism $\varphi: A' \to A$ from a normal variety $A'$ on which $E$ is an irreducible divisor. The generic point $P \in A$ of the image $\varphi(E)$ is called the center of $E$ on $A$. In this case, we sometimes call $E$ a prime divisor over $(A, P)$.

**Definition 2.2.** For a prime divisor $E$ over a non-singular variety $A$, let $\varphi: A' \to A$ be a proper birational morphism with normal $A'$ such that $E$ appears on $A'$. Let $k_E$ (or sometimes written as $k_{E/A}$) be the coefficient of the relative canonical divisor $K_{A'/A}$ at $E$ and $v_E$ the
valuation defined by the prime divisor $E$. Here, note that $k_E (k_E/A)$ does not depend on the choice of $A'$.

Let $a$ be an $\mathbb{R}$-ideal on $A$ as in the beginning of the first section and $e_i$'s are the exponents. The log discrepancy of the pair $(A, a)$ at $E$ is defined as

$$a(E; A, a) := k_E - \sum_i e_i v_E(a_i) + 1$$

and the minimal log discrepancy of the pair at a closed point 0 is defined as

$$\text{mld}(0; A, a) := \inf \{ a(E; A, a) \mid E \text{ prime divisor over } A \text{ with the center at 0} \}$$

It is known that for $N \geq 2$, either $\text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 0$ or $\text{mld}(0; A, a) = -\infty$ holds. For $N = 1$, we define $\text{mld}(0; A, a) = -\infty$ if the left-hand side is negative, by abuse of notation, because it is convenient to describe the Inversion of adjunction.

**Definition 2.3.** We say that a prime divisor $E$ over $A$ with the center at 0 computes $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$

- if either $a(E; A, a) = \text{mld}(0; A, a)$ (when the right-hand side is $\geq 0$)
- or $a(E; A, a) < 0$ (when the mld is $-\infty$).

**Remark 2.4.** Assume there exists a log resolution of the pair $(A, \mathfrak{m}_0)$, where $\mathfrak{m}_0$ is the maximal ideal defining 0 in $A$. If $\text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 0$, then, on every such resolution there is a prime divisor computing $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$. If $\text{mld}(0; A, a) = -\infty$ and $\mathbb{Z}(a) \subset A$ contains an irreducible component of codimension one, there may not exist a prime divisor computing the mld among the exceptional divisors appearing in a given log resolution (cf. [3, proposition 7-2]). But in this case, if we construct an appropriate log resolution of $(A, \mathfrak{m}_0)$ by taking more blowing-ups from the given one, a prime divisor computing $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$ appears on that. Therefore, for $\text{char} k = 0$ or $N \leq 3$, every pair $(A, a)$ has a prime divisor computing $\text{mld}(0; A, a)$, since there is a log resolution for every pair.

3. Weighted blow-ups and weighted projective spaces

In this section $A$ is always a smooth variety of dimension $N \geq 2$ defined over an algebraically closed field $k$ and $P \in A$ is a (not necessarily closed) point.

**Definition 3.1.** Let $x_1, \ldots, x_c$ be an RSP of a regular local ring $R$ with the algebraically closed residue field and $w_1, \ldots, w_c$ be positive integers with $\gcd (w_1, \ldots, w_c) = 1$. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, denote by $I_n$ the ideal in $R$ generated by all monomials of degree $w_1^{s_1} \cdots w_c^{s_c}$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{c} s_j w_j \geq n$. The weighted blow-up of $\text{Spec } R$ with $w_1 (x_1, \ldots, x_c) = (w_1, \ldots, w_c)$ is the canonical projection:

$$\text{Proj}_A (\oplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} I_n) \longrightarrow A := \text{Spec } R.$$  

The exceptional divisor $E$ for the weighted blow-up is called a prime divisor obtained by a weighted blow-up of $A$ at $P$.

More generally, let $P \in A$ be a smooth point with the not-necessarily-algebraically closed residue field $K$. Let $\overline{K}$ be the algebraic closure of the residue field of $\mathcal{O}_{A,P}$. A weighted blow-up of $A$ at the point $P$ is the canonical morphism induced from a weighted blow-up $\overline{A} \longrightarrow \text{Spec } \overline{K} \mathcal{O}_{A,P}$ for some RSP $x_1, \ldots, x_c$ of $\overline{K} \mathcal{O}_{A,P}$ with $w_1 (x_1, \ldots, x_c) = (w_1, \ldots, w_c)$.
for some \((w_1, \ldots, w_c) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^c\), where \(\overline{\mathcal{O}}_{A,P}\) is the extension of the formal power series ring \(\mathcal{O}_{A,P}\) over \(K\) to the one over \(\overline{K}\). Let \(\overline{E}\) be the prime divisor obtained by the weighted blow-up \(\overline{A} \rightarrow \text{Spec} \overline{\mathcal{O}}_{A,P}\). The prime divisor \(E\) over \(A\) with the center at \(P\) corresponding to \(\overline{E}\) is called a prime divisor obtained by a weighted blow-up of \(A\) at \(P\). Note that if \(\overline{E}\) gives a valuation \(v\) and the valuation ring \(\mathcal{O}_v\), the prime divisor \(E\) corresponds to the valuation \(v\) whose valuation ring is \(K(A) \cap \mathcal{O}_v\).

Note that weighted blow-ups are only defined at smooth points.

Here, we show a 3-dimensional example that the minimal log discrepancy is not computed by a divisor obtained by only one weighted blow-up, but computed by a divisor obtained by two weighted blow-ups.

The following are well known, for example see [10, remark 2.6, lemma 2.7].

**Remark 3.2.** Let \(P \in A\) be a point of a smooth variety with the residue field \(K\).

1. The set of prime divisors over \(A\) with the center at \(P\) corresponds bijectively to the set of prime divisors over \(A := \text{Spec} \overline{\mathcal{O}}_{A,P}\) with the center at the closed point. Moreover, if prime divisors \(E\) and \(\overline{E}\) correspond under the above bijection, then for every \(\mathbb{R}\)-ideal \(a\) on \(A\) we have \(v_E(a) = v_{\overline{E}}(a)\) and also \(a(E; A, a) = a(\overline{E}, \overline{A}, \overline{a}\mathcal{O}_{\overline{A}})\).

2. Let \(K' \supset K\) be a field extension and \(A' := \text{Spec} K' \overline{\mathcal{O}}_{A,P}\). Then, there is a surjective map from the set of prime divisors over \(A'\) with the center at the closed point to the set of prime divisors over \(A\) with the center at \(P\). If prime divisors \(E'\) and \(E\) correspond by the above surjective map, then it follows \(a(E'; A', a\mathcal{O}_{A'}) = a(E; A, a)\) for every \(\mathbb{R}\)-ideal \(a\) on \(A\).

**Example 3.3.** Assume \(\text{char } k \neq 2, 5\). Let \(A := \mathbb{A}^3_k\) and \(a = (f)^{7/10}\), where

\[
f = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^2 + x^5 + y^5 + z^5.
\]

Then, a divisor computing \(\text{mld}(0; A, a) = 0\) is not obtained by one weighted blow-up ([12, exercise 6.45]).

On the other hand, there is a sequence of weighted blow-ups

\[
A_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} A_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} A,
\]

where \(\varphi_1\) is the usual blow-up at 0 and \(\varphi_2\) is a weighted blow-up with weight \((1, 2)\) at the generic point of the curve \(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0\) on \(E_1 = \mathbb{P}^2_k\). Here, \(E_1\) is the exceptional divisor for \(\varphi_1\). The exceptional divisor \(E_2\) for \(\varphi_2\) computes \(\text{mld}(0; A, a) = 0\)

The following lemma for a weighted projective space with a special weight is used for our main results. The statement is easily generalised to higher dimensional case, but for simplicity of notation we state here only for 2-dimensional case.

**Lemma 3.4.** Let \(r \leq s\) be positive integers such that \(\gcd (r, s) = 1\). Let \(g \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3]\) be a weighted homogeneous polynomial with respect to the weight \(w = (w(x_1), w(x_2), w(x_3)) = (r, r, s)\) and \(Q \in \mathbb{P}_k(r, r, s)\) a closed point not contained in the coordinate planes, i.e., \(Q \notin (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot x_3 = 0)\). Let \(\ell \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3]\) be a weighted homogeneous polynomial of \(\deg_{w}(\ell) = r\) such that \(\ell(Q) = 0\). If \(\ell|_g\), then it follows

\[
r \cdot s \cdot \text{ord}_Q(g) \leq r \cdot s \cdot \text{ord}_Q(g|_L) \leq \deg_{w} g,
\]

where \(L \subset \mathbb{P}_k(r, r, s)\) is the divisor defined by \(\ell = 0\) in \(\mathbb{P}_k(r, r, s)\).
A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups

Proof. As \( \text{ord} \, q \leq \text{ord}_\pi (q |_L) \), the first inequality is trivial. We will show the second inequality. Let \( G \subseteq \mathbb{P}_k(r, r, s) \) be the subscheme defined by \( g = 0 \) on \( \mathbb{P}_k(r, r, s) \). Let

\[
\pi : \mathbb{P}_k^2 \to \mathbb{P}(r, r, s), (X_1, X_2, X_3) \mapsto (X_1^r, X_2^r, X_3^r) = (x_1, x_2, x_3)
\]

be the canonical covering. Then, as \( \pi^*L \) and \( \pi^*G \) has no common irreducible components, Bezout’s theorem on \( \mathbb{P}^2 \) implies

\[
\pi^*L \cdot \pi^*G = \deg \pi^* \ell \cdot \deg \pi^* g = \deg_w \ell \cdot \deg_w g = r \cdot \deg_w g, \tag{1}
\]

In case char \( k = 0 \) or char \( k = p > 0 \) and \( p \, | \, r \cdot s \), the morphism \( \pi \) is étale around \( Q \). Therefore, \( \pi^{-1}(Q) \) consists of \( r^2 \cdot s \) closed points \( \{ Q_i | i = 1, \ldots, r^2 \cdot s \} \) whose analytic neighbourhoods of \( \pi^*G \) and \( \pi^*L \) are isomorphic to those of \( G \) and \( L \) at \( Q \), respectively. Then, by (1) we obtain

\[
r^2 \cdot s \cdot \text{ord}_G(g |_L) = \sum_{i=1}^{r^2 s} \text{ord}_{Q_i}(\pi^*g |_{\pi^*L}) \leq \pi^*L \cdot \pi^*G = r \cdot \deg_w g,
\]

which yields the required inequality.

In case \( p \, | \, r \), denote \( r = p^e \cdot q \) \((\gcd(p, q) = 1)\). Then, the fiber \( \pi^{-1}(Q) \) consists of \( q^2 \cdot s \) closed points, as a topological space. For a closed point \( Q_i \) \((i = 1, \ldots, q^2 \cdot s)\) in the fiber \( \pi^{-1}(Q) \) we obtain

\[
m_Q \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2} \subseteq m_{Q_i}^{p^e},
\]

where \( m_Q \) and \( m_{Q_i} \) are the maximal ideals of \( Q \in \mathbb{P}(r, r, s) \) and of \( Q_i \in \mathbb{P}^2 \), respectively. Let \( C \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2 \) be the subscheme with the reduced structure of \( \pi^*L \). Then, we have

\[
m_{L,Q} \mathcal{O}_C \subseteq m_{C,Q_i}^{p^e},
\]

where \( m_{L,Q} \) and \( m_{C,Q_i} \) are the maximal ideals of \( Q \in L \) and of \( Q_i \in C \), respectively. Therefore, for every \( i = 1, \ldots, q^2 \cdot s \) it follows

\[
p^e \cdot \text{ord}_Q(g |_L) \leq \text{ord}_{Q_i}(\pi^*g) |_C.
\]

Now, there are \( q \cdot s \) points \( Q_i \) lying on \( C \). Then, by Bezout’s theorem on \( \mathbb{P}^2 \) for \( C \) and \( \pi^*G \), we obtain

\[
q \cdot s \cdot p^e \text{ord}_Q(g |_L) \leq q \cdot s \cdot \text{ord}_{Q_i}(\pi^*g) |_C \leq C \cdot \pi^*G = \deg_w g.
\]

Here noting that \( q \cdot s \cdot p^e = r \cdot s \), this is the required inequality.

In case \( p \, | \, s \), the proof is similar.

4. Squeezed systems and squeezed blow-ups

Let \( A \) be a variety of dimension \( N \geq 2 \) over an algebraically closed field \( k \).

Definition 4.1. Let \( P \in A \) be a smooth point (not necessarily closed), \( K \) the residue field, and \( E \) a prime divisor over \( A \) with the center at \( P \). Denote the algebraic closure of \( K \) by \( \overline{K} \). An RSP \( \{x_1, \ldots, x_c\} \) of \( \overline{K} \mathcal{O}_{A,P} \) at the closed point is called a squeezed system for \( E \) at \( P \), if \( v_i := v_E(x_i) \) \((i = 1, \ldots, c)\) satisfy:
where $\mathcal{O}_{A,p}$ is the extension of the coefficient field $K$ of the formal power series ring $\mathcal{O}_{A,p}$ to $\mathcal{O}$, and $m \subset \mathcal{O}_{A,p}$ is the maximal ideal.

In this case,

$$v' := (v'_1, \ldots, v'_c) = \frac{(v_1, \ldots, v_c)}{\gcd(v_1, \ldots, v_c)}$$

is called a *squeezed weight* for $E$ at $p$.

Let $E$ and $v' = (v'_1, \ldots, v'_c)$ be as above. In this case, we call $E$ a prime divisor of squeezed type $v'$.

Note that the squeezed weight for $E$ is determined by a prime divisor but squeezed system is not uniquely determined by the prime divisor $E$.

**Remark 4.2.** For every $A$, $P$ and $E$ as in Definition 4.1, there exists a squeezed system of $\mathcal{O}_{A,p}$. Indeed, it is obvious that there is $x_1 \in m \setminus m^2$ such that $v(x_1)$ is the minimal value among $\{v_E(x) \mid x \in m \setminus m^2\}$. Existence of the maximal $v(x_c)$ among the set is proved by Zariski’s subspace theorem (cf. [1, (10-6)]). Now, we extend $\psi(x_1) \in K_{A,p}$ to an RSP $\psi(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_c)$ of $\mathcal{O}_{A,p}$. Here, if $v_E(x_i) > v_E(x_1)$ for $2 \leq i \leq r - 1$, replace $x_i$ by $x_1 + x_i$. Then, we obtain a squeezed system $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_c\}$.

Actually in [9] and [6], the proofs of Theorem 1.1 show the following:

**Example 4.3** (Theorem 1.1). For every prime divisor $E$ over a smooth surface $A$ with the center at $0$ such that $a(E; A, a) \geq 0$ for an $\mathbb{R}$-ideal $a$ on $A$. Then, the exceptional divisor $E_1$ obtained by a squeezed blow-up for $E$ satisfies

$$a(E; A, a) \geq a(E_1; A, a).$$

**Definition 4.4.** Let $A$, $P$ and $E$ be as above and let $\{x_1, \ldots, x_c\}$ be a squeezed system for $E$ and $v' = (v'_1, \ldots, v'_c)$ be the squeezed weight. We call the weighted blow-up of weight $v'$ with respect to the coordinate system $\{x_1, \ldots, x_c\}$ a *squeezed blow-up* for $E$.

**Remark 4.5.** As in the definitions, a squeezed system is a RSP in the local ring with extended coefficient field. A squeezed system is not in general a RSP of the original local ring $\mathcal{O}_{A,p}$.

**Example 4.6.** Let $A_K := \text{Spec } K[[y, z]]$ and $A_{\overline{K}} := \text{Spec } \overline{K}[[y, z]]$, where $\overline{K}$ is the algebraic closure of $K$. Take an element $a \in \overline{K} \setminus K$ and let $\phi \in K[T]$ be the minimal polynomial of $a$. Let $\phi : A_1 \longrightarrow A_K$ be the usual blow-up at the closed point of $A_K$. Then the exceptional divisor $E_1$ is the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1_K$ with the homogeneous coordinates $[y, z]$. Denote the homogenised polynomial of $\phi$ by $\Phi(y, z) := z^{\deg \phi} \phi(y/z)$. Take the blow-up $\phi_2 : A_2 \longrightarrow A_1$ with the center at the closed subscheme $C$ defined by the ideal $(\Phi(y, z))$ on $E_1$. As the proper transforms of any curves defined by linear forms $\ell = cy + dz = 0$ ($c, d \in K$) on $A_1$ do not intersect to $C$, it follows $v_E(\ell) = 1$. Therefore, every RSP $\{f_1, f_2\}$ of $K[[y, z]]$ satisfies $v_E(f_1) = v_E(f_2) = 1$. 

\[ v_1 = \cdots = v_{c-1} \leq v_c; \]
\[ v_1 := \min\{v_E(x) \mid x \in m \setminus m^2\}; \]
\[ v_c := \max\{v_E(x) \mid x \in m \setminus m^2\}; \]
On the other hand, take the base change $\psi: A_K \rightarrow A_K$ by the field extension $\overline{K} \supset K$. Let $z' := y - az \in \overline{K}[[y, z]]$. Then, the proper transform of the curve defined by $z' = 0$ contains the point $(a:1) \in \mathbb{P}_K^1 = E_1$ where $E_1$ is the exceptional divisor of the blow-up at the closed point of $A_K$. As $(a:1) \in E_1$ satisfies $\Phi(y, z) = 0$, the proper transform of $z' = 0$ intersects the center of the second blow-up induced from $\varphi_2$. One can see that $v_E(z') > 1$, and therefore a squeezed system cannot be taken from $K[[y, z]]$.

Now we are going to define “general” ideal.

**Definition 4.7.** Let $E$ be a prime divisor over $A$ of squeezed type $(v_1', v_2', v_3')$ (note that $v_1' = v_2'$) and let $E_1$ be the exceptional divisor obtained by the squeezed blow-up with respect to a squeezed system $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$.

An irreducible curve $B \subset E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v_1', v_2', v_3')$ with the following properties is called a bad curve for $E$ on $E_1$.

1. $B$ is a curve of degree $v_1'$ with respect to $(v_1', v_2', v_3')$. (In the discussions on a weighted projective space, “degree” always means degree with respect to $(v_1', v_2', v_3')$, and it is sometimes denoted by $\text{deg}_{v_1'}$.)
2. $B$ contains the center of $E$.

**Lemma 4.8.** Under the setting of Definition 4.7, the following hold:

(i) A bad curve does not always exist. More precisely a bad curve does not exist if and only if one of the following holds;

(a) the squeezed weight is $(1, 1, 1)$; or
(b) the squeezed weight $(v_1', v_2', v_3')$ satisfies $v_1' < v_3'$ and the center of $E$ on $A_1$ is a curve of $\text{deg}_{v_1'} > v_1'$ on $E_1 \cong \mathbb{P}(v_1', v_2', v_3')$; or
(c) $E = E_1$.

(ii) If a bad curve exists, then it is unique in $E_1$.

**Proof.** It is clear that if $E = E_1$, then the center of $E$ on $E_1$ is the generic point, so there is no bad curve on $E_1$. We exclude this trivial case in the following discussions. In case the squeezed blow-up is the usual blow-up, then the exceptional divisor does not have a bad curve. Because if $B$ is a bad curve, it is defined by linear form $\ell = \sum_i a_i x_i = 0$ with $a_3 \neq 0$, where $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ is the projective coordinate system on $E_1 = \mathbb{P}^2$ corresponding to the squeezed system $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ on $\mathcal{O}_{A_0,0}$. This is a contradiction to the fact that $(1, 1, 1)$ is the squeezed system, as we obtain another RSP $\{x_1, x_2, \ell(x_1)\}$ such that $v_E(x_1) < v_E(\ell(x_1))$.

Here, we give the proof of this inequality, as this kind of discussion is used frequently in this paper.

Let $\varphi_1: A_1 \rightarrow A$ be the squeezed blow-up and $\psi: \widetilde{A} \rightarrow A_1$ a birational morphism on which $E$ appears. Denote the composite $\varphi_1 \circ \psi$ by $\varphi$. Let $D$ be the proper transform of $Z(\ell(x_1)) \subset A$ in $A_1$, then $D \cap E_1$ contains the center of $E$ on $A_1$ by the assumption. Note that we can express

\[(\varphi_1^* \ell(x_1)) = rE_1 + D, \quad (r = v_E(\ell(x_1))).\]
Here, we remind the reader that \( v_E(\ell(x_1)) \) is the coefficient of the divisor \( (\varphi^*\ell(x_1)) = \psi^*(rE_1 + D) \) at the component \( E \). The center of \( E \) on \( A_1 \) is contained in \( D \), therefore the contribution from \( \psi^*(D) \) to \( v_E(\ell(x_1)) \) is positive. Therefore, \( v_E(\ell(x_1)) = v_{E_1}(\ell(x_1))v_E(E_1) = v_E(x_1) \). This shows the inequality (2).

For the case where \( E_1 \) is an exceptional divisor of a squeezed blow-up with respect to \( (v'_1, v'_2, v'_3) \) with \( v'_1 < v'_3 \), if the center \( C \) of \( E \) on \( E_1 \) is a curve of degree \( > v'_1 \), then there is no bad curve. Because, a curve of degree \( v'_1 \) cannot contain a curve of degree \( > v'_1 \). This gives the proof of “if” part of (i).

Assume a bad curve exists on \( E_1 \). When the center of \( E \) on \( E_1 \) is a curve, then it should coincide with the bad curve by the definition, therefore the center should be of degree \( v'_1 \). When the center of \( E \) on \( E_1 \) is a closed point \( P \), then a bad curve should contain \( P \). Express the point \( P \) by the homogeneous coordinates \((a, b, c)\) with \( a, b, c \in k \). Then a curve of degree \( v'_1 \) containing \( P \) is defined by \( bX_1 - aX_2 = 0 \). Now we obtain the uniqueness of the bad curve on \( E_1 \). This completes the proof of “only if” part of (i) and the proof of (ii).

**Definition 4.9.** Let \( E \) be a prime divisor over a smooth variety \( A \) with the center at a closed point 0. An \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) is called *general for \( E \)* if there exists a squeezed blow-up \( A_1 \rightarrow A \) for \( E \) with the exceptional divisor \( E_1 \) satisfying the following:

1. ord\( B a_{A_1} \mathcal{O}_{E_1} \leq 1 \), where \( B \) is the bad curve on \( E_1 \) and \( a_{A_1} \) is the weak transform of \( a \) at \( A_1 \). If there is no bad curve on \( E_1 \), then we account it as the inequality automatically holds;

2. in addition, if \( a(E; A, a) < a(E_1; A, a) \) and the center \( P \) of \( E \) on \( A_1 \) is a smooth closed point, then there exists a squeezed blow-up \( A_2 \rightarrow A_1 \) for \( E \) at \( P \). Let \( E_2 \) be the exceptional divisor. Then, \( \text{ord}_{B'} I_L a_{A_2} \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \leq 1 \), where \( B' \) is the bad curve on \( E_2 \), \( a_{A_2} \) is the weak transform of \( a \) at \( A_2 \) and \( I_L \) is the defining ideal of the intersection \( L := E_2 \cap E'_1 \) in \( E_2 \). Here, \( E'_1 \) is the proper transform of \( E_1 \) on \( A_2 \). If there is no bad curve on \( E_2 \), then we account it as the inequality automatically holds.

We say that a pair \((A, a)\) is general if the \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) is general for a prime divisor computing \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \). Here, the weak transform \( a_{A_2} \) of an ideal \( a_i \subset \mathcal{O}_A \) on \( A_2 \) is defined as

\[
a_i \mathcal{O}_{A_2} = a_{iA_2} \mathcal{O}_{A_2} (-v_{E_1}(a_i)E_1 - v_{E_2}(a_i)E_2).
\]

The weak transform \( a_{A_2} \) of an \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) on \( A \) is defined as the canonical extension of the one for an ideal of \( \mathcal{O}_A \) (see, for example [9]).

**Remark 4.10.** In (2), we assume smoothness of the center \( P \) of \( E \) on \( A_1 \). But it turns out that it always holds by Lemma 5.1.

**Remark 4.11.** The definition of generality of an \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal is rather complicated. However, one can see that under a fixed exponent, the inequalities of orders at specific curves of \( E_1 \) and \( E_2 \) are open conditions in the space of regular functions of \( A \), which is the reason why we call the ideal \( a \) “general”. The following gives a sufficient condition for generality of the ideal.

Under the same symbols as in Definition 4.9, the \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) is general for \( E \) if one of the following hold:

1. there is no bad curve on \( E_1 \) or \( E_2 \);
(2) assume the bad curves $B \subset E_1$ and $B' \subset E_2$ exist. ord$_B a_{A_1} O_{E_1} = 0$, and ord$_{B'} a_{A_2} O_{E_2} = 0$.

5. Proofs of the main results

For the proofs of the main theorems we need the following lemma which guarantees that the second weighted blow-up is possible.

**Lemma 5.1.** Let $E$ be a prime divisor over a smooth $N$-fold $A$ ($N \geq 2$) with the center at the closed point $0$. Let $\{x_1, \ldots, x_N\}$ be a RSP at $0$. Let $v := v_E(x_i)$, $v := (v_1, \ldots, v_N)$ and define

$$v' := \left(\frac{v_1, \ldots, v_N}{\gcd v}\right).$$

Let $\varphi_1: A_1 \to A$ be the weighted blow-up with respect to $\{x_1, \ldots, x_N\}$ with weight $v'$. Denote the exceptional divisor of $\varphi_1$ by $E_1$. Assume $E \neq E_1$ and let $C$ be the center of $E$ on $A_1$ and $P \in C$ the generic point of $C$.

Then,

$$P \in E_1 \setminus \left(\bigcup (X_i = 0)\right) \subseteq E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v_1', \ldots, v_N'),$$

where $X_i$ is a homogeneous coordinate function corresponding to $x_i$. In particular, $P$ is smooth on $A_1$ and also on $E_1$.

**Proof.** Assume that the statement does not hold, then we may assume that $P$ is in the hyperplane defined by $X_1 = 0$ in $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v')$. There exists at least one homogeneous coordinate function $X_i$ such that $P$ does not lay in the hyperplane defined by $X_i = 0$. Then we obtain:

$$v_E(x_i) = v_{E_1}(x_i) \cdot v_{E_1}(E_1) = v'_1 \cdot v_{E_1}(E_1);$$

$$v_E(x_1) = v_{E_1}(x_1) \cdot v_{E_1}(E_1) + \text{ord}_P X_1 \geq v'_1 \cdot v_{E_1}(E_1) + 1.$$

This is a contradiction to the fact that

$$v_E(x_1) : v_E(x_i) = v'_1 : v'_1.$$

The following lemma is a basic idea appeared in [9].

**Lemma 5.2.** Let $a$ be an $\mathbb{R}$-ideal on $A$ with $a(E; A, a) \geq 0$. Let $A' \to A$ be a proper birational morphism with normal $A'$, and $D$ an irreducible divisor on $A'$ with the same center on $A$ as that of $E$. Assume $a(D; A, a) > a(E; A, a)$ and the generic point $P$ of the center of $E$ on $A'$ is smooth and not contained in the other exceptional divisors for $A' \to A$.

Then, we have

$$\text{mld}(P; D, a_{A'} O_D) < 0,$$

in particular

$$\text{ord}_P a_{A'} O_D > 1,$$

where $a_{A'}$ is a weak transform of $a$ on $A'$.
Proof. First we express the log discrepancy at $E$ as follows:

$$a(E; A, a) = k_{E/A} + 1 - v_E(a)$$

$$= k_{E/A'} + k_{D/A} \cdot v_D(D) + 1 - v_D(a) \cdot v_E(D) - v_E(a_{A'}) \quad (3)$$

$$= a(E; A', I_D \cdot a_{A'}) + v_E(D) \cdot a(D; A, a),$$

where $k_{E/A'}$ is the coefficient of the relative canonical divisor $K_{A/A'}$ at $E$ and $I_D$ is the defining ideal of $D$ in $A'$. Then, by the assumption, it follows $a(E; A', I_D \cdot a_{A'}) < 0$ and therefore we obtain

$$\text{mld}(P; A', I_D \cdot a_{A'}) = -\infty.$$

By Inversion of adjunction ([(3, 7)]) we obtain $\text{mld}(P; D, a_{A'} \cdot O_D) = -\infty$. Hence, it follows $\text{ord}_P(a_{A'} \cdot O_D) > 1$ as claimed.

Setting for the proof of Theorem 1.8.

Let $E$ be a prime divisor over a smooth 3-fold $A$ with the center at a closed point 0. Let $a$ be a general $\mathbb{R}$-ideal on $A$ such that $a(E; A, a) \geq 0$. Let

$$\varphi_1: A_1 \longrightarrow A$$

be a squeezed blow-up for $E$ satisfying the condition (1) in Definition 4.9. Let the squeezed system \{x_1, x_2, x_3\} and the weight $v' = (v'_1, v'_2, v'_3)$ correspond to the squeezed blow-up $\varphi$ (note that $v'_1 = v'_2$). Denote the exceptional divisor for $\varphi$ by $E_1$. If $a(E_1; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a)$, then $E_1$ is the required prime divisor $F$ in the theorem. Therefore, from now on, we assume that the inequalities $a(E_1; A, a) > a(E; A, a) \geq 0$ hold.

Lemma 5.3. Let $A$, $E$ and $E_1$ be as above. If $a$ is general for $E$ and the inequalities $a(E_1; A, a) > a(E; A, a) \geq 0$ hold, then we obtain the following:

(i) $0 < a(E_1; A, a) < 1$;

(ii) $v' = (1, 1, n)$ with $n \geq 1$ or $v' = (2, 2, 3)$.

(a) In case $(1, 1, n)$ the center of $E$ on $A_1$ is a curve in $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(1, 1, n)$ of degree $n + 1$.

(b) In case $(2, 2, 3)$ the center of $E$ on $A_1$ is either a curve of degree 6 or a closed point in $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(2, 2, 3)$.

Proof. Let $f^e = f_1^{e_1} \cdots f_r^{e_r} \in a$ be a general element, i.e., $v_{E_1}(a) = \sum_i e_i \cdot \deg_{v'}(\text{in}_v f_i)$, where $\text{in}_v f$ is the initial part of $f$ with respect to the weight $v'$.

We divide the proof into two cases according to the dimension of the center of $E$ on $A_1$. Let $P \in A_1$ be the generic point of the center of $E$ on $A_1$.

Case 1. $\dim \overline{\{P\}} = 1$.

Let $C := \overline{\{P\}}$ defined by $\ell = 0$ on $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v')$, where $\ell$ is homogeneous of degree $\geq v'_1$ with respect to the weight $v'$. 
A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups

The $\mathbb{R}$-divisor on $E_1$ induced from a general element $f^e = f_1^{e_1} \cdots f_r^{e_r}$ is expressed as follows:

\[
\left( \prod \text{in}_j f_i^{e_i} \right) = \alpha C + \sum_j \gamma_j C_j, \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha > 1, \gamma_i \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}
\]

Here, note that $\alpha > 1$ follows from Lemma 5.2. As $\alpha$ is general, $C$ is not a bad curve, therefore its degree is greater than $v'$. Then, $\deg_{v'} \ell \geq v'_1 v'_3$, because $\ell$ is an irreducible weighted homogeneous polynomial in $x_1, x_2, x_3$ of weight $v'_1, v'_1, v'_3$ not contained in the coordinate hyperplanes in $E_1 \simeq \mathbb{P}(v')$. (Note that such a polynomial with smallest degree is in the form $a x_1^{v'_3} + b x_2^{v'_3} + c x_3^{v'_1}$.) Then, we have:

\[
v_{E_1}(a) = \sum_i e_i \cdot \deg_{v'}(\text{in}_j f_i) = \deg_{v'}(\alpha C + \sum_j \gamma_j C_j) > \deg_{v'} C = \deg_{v'} \ell \geq v'_1 v'_3.
\]

By the assumption $\alpha(E_1; A, a) > \alpha(E; A, a) \geq 0$, it follows

\[
0 \leq \alpha(E_1; A, a) = 2v'_1 + v'_3 - v_{E_1}(a) < 2v'_1 + v'_3 - v'_1 v'_3.
\] (4)

The possibilities of $(v'_1, v'_1, v'_3)$ are only $(1, 1, n)$ with $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $(2, 2, 3)$. In case $(2, 2, 3)$, by (4) we have $\alpha(E_1; A, a)) < 2 \cdot 2 + 3 - 2 \cdot 3 = 1$. Then, in this case we have (i) and (b) of (ii).

In case $(1, 1, n)$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $\deg_{v'} \ell \geq n + 1$. Indeed, if not, we have $\deg_{v'} \ell = n$ and $\ell = X_3 + h(X_1, X_2)$ for a nonzero homogeneous polynomial $h$ of degree $n$. As $E$ has the center at the curve $\ell = 0$, in the same way as the proof of (2) we have

\[v_E(x_3 + h(x_1, x_2)) > v_E(x_3),\]

and also $x_3 + h(x_1, x_2) \in m_0 \setminus m_0^2$ which is a contradiction to the maximality of $v_E(x_3)$. Therefore, in this case also we have $\alpha(E_1; A, a)) < 2 + n - (n + 1) = 1$, which shows (i) and (a) of (ii).

Case 2. \dim [P] = 0

We can take $P = (1: a: b) \in E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v') (a, b \neq 0)$ as the homogeneous coordinate of the point $P$ by Lemma 5.1.

First we will show that $v'_1 \neq 1$. To see this, assume that $v'_1 = 1$. Then a curve $b x_1^{v'_3} - X_3 = 0$ contains $P$, therefore

\[v_E(b x_1^{v'_3} - x_3) > v_E(x_3) = v_3,
\]

and also $b x_1^{v'_3} - x_3 \in m_0 \setminus m_0^2$ which is a contradiction to the maximality of $v_E(x_3)$.

Now we may assume that $v'_1 \geq 2$. Then, of course $v'_1 < v'_3$ and the curve $B$ defined by $a X_1 - X_2 = 0$ contains $P$. Note that $B$ is the bad curve.

Take a general element $f^e = f_1^{e_1} \cdots f_r^{e_r} \in a$ such that $v_{E_1}(a) = v_{E_1}(f^e) = \deg_{v'}(\text{in}_j f_i^{e_i})$. The $\mathbb{R}$-divisor on $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(v')$ induced from a general element $f^e = f_1^{e_1} \cdots f_r^{e_r}$ is expressed as follows:

\[
\left( \prod \text{in}_j f_i^{e_i} \right) = \alpha B + \sum_j \gamma_j C_j, \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha, \gamma_i \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}.
\] (5)
By generality of \( a \), we have \( \alpha \leq 1 \). By Lemma 5.2, we have \( \text{mld}(P; E_1, a_{A_1} \mathcal{O}_{E_1}) = -\infty \). By the description (5) of the divisor defined by a general element \( f^e \), we have

\[
-\infty = \text{mld}(P; E_1, a_{A_1} \mathcal{O}_{E_1}) = \text{mld}(P; E_1, I_B' \cdot \prod_i I_{C_i}^{\gamma_i}) \geq \text{mld}(P; E_1, I_B \cdot \prod_i I_{C_i}^{\gamma_i})
\]

\[
= \text{mld}(P; B, (\prod_i I_{C_i}^{\gamma_i}) \mathcal{O}_B).
\]

Hence, it follows \( \text{ord}_P(\prod_i I_{C_i}^{\gamma_i}) \mathcal{O}_B > 1 \). Applying Lemma 3.4 to the curve \( B \) of degree \( v'_1 \), we obtain

\[
1 < \text{ord}_P(\prod_i I_{C_i}^{\gamma_i}) \mathcal{O}_B \leq \frac{\sum \gamma_i \deg_{v'} C_i}{v'_1 v'_3} \leq \frac{v_{E_1}(f^e)}{v'_1 v'_3} \leq \frac{2v'_1 + v'_3}{v'_1 v'_3},
\]

Here, for the third inequality, we use

\[
\sum \gamma_i \deg_{v'} C_i \leq v_{E_1}(f^e) - \alpha v'_1.
\]

Then, the only possibility of \( v' \) satisfying these inequalities is \( (2, 2, 3) \) and we also have \( v_{E_1}(a) = v_{E_1}(f^e) > 2 \cdot 3 \) which completes the proof of (i) and (ii) in case \( \dim [\overline{P}] = 0 \).

**Corollary 5.4 (Theorem 1.11)**. Let \( A \) be a smooth variety of dimension 3 over an algebraically closed field \( k \). For any general pair \((A, a)\) with \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 1 \) the minimal log discrepancy is computed by a prime divisor obtained by one weighted blow-up.

**Proof.** As \( a(E_1; A, a) \geq \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 1 \), the inequality \( a(E_1; A, a) > a(E; A, a) \) does not hold by (i) in Lemma 5.3.

**Proof of Theorem 1.8.** Let \( A_1, E_1 \) be as in the setting above. Assuming \( 0 \leq a(E; A, a) < a(E_1; A, a) \), we will prove that \( a(E; A, a) \geq a(E_2; A, a) \) for a divisor \( E_2 \) obtained by the second “blow-up” constructed below in Case 1 and Case 2.

Let \( P \in E_1 \subset A_1 \) be the center of \( E \). First, for every prime divisor \( D \) over \( A_1 \) with the center at \( P \) and with the inequality \( a(D; A, a) > a(E; A, a) \geq 0 \), we observe that

\[
a(D; A_1, a_{A_1}) \geq 0.
\]

Indeed, we have an expression of \( a(D; A, a) \) as follows:

\[
a(D; A, a) = a(D; A_1, a_{A_1}) + v_D(E_1)(a(E_1; A, a) - 1).
\]

As \( a(D; A, a) \geq 0 \) and \( a(E_1; A, a) - 1 < 0 \) (Lemma 5.3), we have \( a(D; A_1, a_{A_1}) \geq 0 \).

**Case 1.** \( \dim [\overline{P}] = 1 \)

Let \( \{y_1, y_2\} \) be a squeezed system for \( E \) on \( A_1 \) at \( P \) and \( E_2 \) the prime divisor obtained by the squeezed blow-up of \( A_1 \) at \( P \) with respect to \( \{y_1, y_2\} \). Let \( K := \mathcal{O}_{A_1, P}/m_{A_1, P} \) and \( \overline{K} \) the algebraic closure of \( K \). Let \( A_{1K} := \text{Spec} \overline{\mathcal{O}_{A_1, P}} \) and \( A_{1\overline{K}} := \text{Spec} \overline{K} \). Denote the both closed points of \( A_{1K} \) and of \( A_{1\overline{K}} \) by 0. Here, we note that \( \{y_1, y_2\} \) is not necessarily a squeezed system on \( A_{1\overline{K}} \) as is shown in Example 4.6, but it does not matter. Because we are interested only in ideals which came from \( A_1 \) and in this case a squeezed system on \( A_1 \) for \( E \) works in the same way as in [9] and [6], which one can see below:
Let $\tilde{A} \longrightarrow A_1$ be a log resolution of $(A_1, a\mathcal{O}_{A_1})$ on which $E$ appears. Then, the base change $\tilde{A} \longrightarrow A_{1\mathbb{K}}$ by $A_{1\mathbb{K}} \longrightarrow A_1$ is also a log resolution of $(A_{1\mathbb{K}}, a\mathcal{O}_{A_{1\mathbb{K}}})$ on which the prime divisor $\tilde{E}$ corresponding to $E$ appears. Let $A_2 \longrightarrow A_1$ be the squeezed blow-up with respect to the squeezed system $\{y_1, y_2\}$ and $E_2$ the exceptional divisor. By definition, it means that $A_{2\mathbb{K}} \longrightarrow A_{1\mathbb{K}}$ is squeezed weighted blow-up with respect to the squeezed system $\{y_1, y_2\}$ and $E_2$ be the exceptional divisor corresponding to $E_2$.

If $\tilde{E} = \tilde{E}_2$, then we have $E = E_2$ and we are done. So, we may assume that the center of $E$ on $A_{2\mathbb{K}}$ is a point. Then the center $Q \in A_{2\mathbb{K}}$ is not on the proper transform of $\tilde{E}_1$ on $A_{2\mathbb{K}}$. This is proved as follows:

Let $w = (r, s)$ be the weight of the squeezed system $\{y_1, y_2\}$ on $A_1$.

First, we show that $r = s$ does not happen. Assume $r = s$, i.e., $w = (1, 1)$, then we can take an expression $Q = (a, b)$ of $Q \in \tilde{E}_2 = \mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{K}}$ by homogeneous coordinates with $a, b \neq 0$. Let $z := by_1 - ay_2 \in \mathcal{O}_{A_{1\mathbb{K}}}$. As $Q$ is the center of $E$ on $\tilde{E}_2 \subset A_{2\mathbb{K}}$ and satisfying $by_1 - ay_2 = 0$ ($y_1, y_2$ are the homogeneous coordinates on $E_2 = \mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{K}}$ corresponding to $y_1, y_2$), it follows

$$z \in m_Q \setminus m_Q^2, \quad \text{and} \quad v_E(z) > v_E(y_1), v_E(y_2),$$

which is a contradiction to the fact that $\{y_1, y_2\}$ is a squeezed system. Now, we may assume that $r < s$. Let $h = 0$ be the defining equation of $E_1$ in $A_1$ around $P$, then $\tilde{E}_1$ is also defined by $h = 0$ and it is smooth at the closed point $0 \in A_{1\mathbb{K}}$. Therefore, we have $\text{ord}_{y_1, y_2} h = 1$. Then the initial part of $h$ with respect to $w$ is one of the following:

1. $\text{in}_w(h) = y_1$,
2. $\text{in}_w(h) = y_2$,
3. $\text{in}_w(h) = y_2 + ay_1^d$ ($a \in \mathbb{K}, w_1 d = w_2$).

In the first two cases, $\tilde{E}_1 |_{\tilde{E}_2}$ is in the zero locus of the coordinate functions, where $\tilde{E}_1$ is the proper transform of $\tilde{E}_1$ on $A_{2\mathbb{K}}$. Therefore it does not contain the center $Q$ of $E$ by Lemma 5.1. In case (3), it follows $w = (1, d)$. If $Q$ is in $\tilde{E}_1 |_{\tilde{E}_2}$, then we have $y_2' := y_2 + ay_1^d \in m_{A_{1\mathbb{K}}} \setminus m_{A_{1\mathbb{K}}}^2$ and $v_E(y_2') > v_E(y_2)$ which is a contradiction to the assumption that $\{y_1, y_2\}$ is a squeezed system. Now, in any case we obtain that $Q \not\in \tilde{E}_1$.

On the other hand, $a(E; A, a)$ has another expression as follows:

$$a(E; A, a) = k_{E/A_1} + k_{E_1/A} \cdot v_E(E_1) + 1 - v_E(a).$$

It is sufficient to show that

$$a(\tilde{E}; A, a) \geq a(\tilde{E}_2; A, a).$$

Assume contrary, then

$$0 > a(\tilde{E}; A, a) - a(\tilde{E}_2; A, a) = a(\tilde{E}; A_{2\mathbb{K}}, I_{\tilde{E}_2} \cdot a_{A_{2\mathbb{K}}}) + (v_E(\tilde{E}_2) - 1) \cdot a(\tilde{E}_2; A, a), \quad (7)$$

where $a_{A_{2\mathbb{K}}}$ is the weak transform of $a_{A_1} \mathcal{O}_{A_{1\mathbb{K}}}$. For the calculation of (7), we used

(i) $v_E(\tilde{E}_1) = v_E(\tilde{E}_2)v_E^{E_2}(\tilde{E}_1) + v_E(\tilde{E}_1) = v_E(\tilde{E}_2)v_E^{E_2}(\tilde{E}_1)$.

Then the inequality (7) shows that $a(\tilde{E}; A_{2\mathbb{K}}, I_{\tilde{E}_2} \cdot a_{A_{2\mathbb{K}}}) < 0$ which implies

$$\text{mld}(Q; A_{2\mathbb{K}}, I_{\tilde{E}_2} \cdot a_{A_{2\mathbb{K}}}) = -\infty.$$ 

Then, by Inversion of adjunction ($\{3, 7\}$), it follows

$$\text{mld}(Q; E_2, a_{A_{2\mathbb{K}}} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) < 0.$$
which yields \( \text{ord}_Q((a_{A_1}\mathcal{O}_{A_{1R}})_{A_{2R}} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) = \text{ord}_Q(a_{A_{2R}} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) > 1 \).

Let \((r,s)\) be the squeezed weight for \(E\) at the closed point \(0 \in A_{1R}\), then

\[
a(E; A_1, a_{A_1}) = a(E; A_1, a_{A_1}) \geq 0,
\]

where we the last inequality follows from (6). Now we reach the situation in Theorem 1.1 and apply the argument in ([9]) for the surface pair \((A_{1R}, a_{A_{1R}})\), we obtain

\[
1 < \text{ord}_Q((a_{A_1}\mathcal{O}_{A_{1R}})_{A_{2R}} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) \leq \frac{v_{E_2}(a_{A_1}\mathcal{O}_{A_{1R}})}{r \cdot s} \leq \frac{r + s}{r \cdot s},
\]

where we note that \(a_{A_{2R}} = (a_{A_1}\mathcal{O}_{A_{1R}})_{A_{2R}}\) and the third inequality follows from

\[
r + s - v_{E_2}(a_{A_1}\mathcal{O}_{A_{1R}}) = a(E_2; A_{1R}, a_{A_1}) = a(E_2; A_1, a_{A_1}) \geq 0
\]

by (6). The possible positive integers \([r, s]\) satisfying (8) with \(\text{gcd}(r, s) = 1\) are only \([1, s]\).

In this case let \(z' := y_1' - cy_2\), where \(Q = (c, 1) \in E_2 = \mathbb{P}(1, s)\), then \(v_{E}(z') > v_{E}(y_2)\), which is a contradiction to that \([y_1, y_2]\) is a squeezed system for \(E\). Hence we obtain

\[
\overline{a}(E; A, a) \geq \overline{a}(E_2; A, a),
\]

which completes the proof of the theorem for Case 1.

**Case 2.** \(\dim [P] = 0\)

Since we are assuming \(0 \leq a(E; A, a) < a(E_1; A, a)\), by Lemma 5.3 only possibility of \(v'\) is \((2, 2, 3)\) and we have \(0 \leq a(E_1; A, a) < 1\).

Now take a squeezed blow-up \(A_2 \rightarrow A_1\) of weight \(w = (w_1, w_2, w_3)\) at \(P\) and let \(E_2\) be the exceptional divisor. We may assume that the condition (2) in Definition 4.9 holds. Let \(Q \in E_2\) be the center of \(E\) on \(A_2\).

Let \(E_1'\) be the proper transform of \(E_1\) on \(A_2\). Denote the defining ideals of \(E_1'\) and \(E_2\) in \(A_2\) by \(I_{E_1'}\) and \(I_{E_2}\), respectively.

Then, we have the similar expansion of \(a(E; A, a)\) as in (3) as follows:

\[
a(E; A, a) = a(E; A_2, I_{E_1'} \cdot I_{E_2} \cdot a_{A_2}) + v_{E}(E_2)a(E_2; A, a) + v_{E}(E_1')a(E_1; A, a),
\]

where \(a_{A_2}\) is the weak transform of \(a\) on \(A_2\) and is also the weak transform of \(a_{A_1}\) on \(A_2\).

**Case 2-1.** \(\dim [Q] = 0\):

We will prove \(a(E_2; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a)\). Assume on the contrary that \(a(E_2; A, a) > a(E; A, a)\). Then, by (9), we obtain

\[
a(E; A_2, I_{E_1'} \cdot I_{E_2} \cdot a_{A_2}) < 0.
\]

It implies that \(\text{mld}(Q; A_2, I_{E_1'} \cdot I_{E_2} \cdot a_{A_2}) = -\infty\). Let \(L := E_1' \cap E_2\), by Inversion of adjunction, we obtain

\[
\text{mld}(Q; E_2, I_L \cdot a_{A_2} \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) < 0.
\]

Let \(B'\) be the bad curve on \(E_2\) (note that a bad curve exists in our case by Lemma 4.8). Then, we obtain

\[
\text{ord}_{B'} a_{A_2} \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \leq 1.
\]
A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups

Indeed, when $L = B'$, then generality of $a$ implies that $\text{ord}_B aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2} = 0$, as $\text{ord}_B I_{L} = 1$. On the other hand, when $L \neq B'$, then $Q \not\subseteq L$ and therefore generality implies $\text{ord}_B aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \leq 1$.

Now, in the same way as Case 2 in the proof of Lemma 5.3, we obtain that the weight of the second squeezed blow-up is (2, 2, 3).

We will show a contradiction under this situation. In this case, we have

$$v_{E_2}(aA_1) > 6,$$

as well as

$$v_{E_1}(a) > 6,$$

by applying (i) of Lemma 5.3 for $(A_1, aA_1)$, $E_2$ with the weight $w = (2, 2, 3)$ and also for $(A, a)$, $E_1$ with the weight $v' = (2, 2, 3)$. As the squeezed system $\{y_1, y_2, y_3\}$ at $P \in A_1$ has weight $(2, 2, 3)$, it follows $v_{E_2}(f) \leq 3 \cdot \text{ord}_P f$ for every $f \in aA_1$. Therefore we obtain

$$v_{E_2}(aA_1) \leq 3 \cdot \text{ord}_P aA_1 \leq 3 \cdot \text{ord}_P aA_1 \mathcal{O}_{E_1}.$$  

(13)

On the other hand, applying Lemma 3.4 to $E_1 = \mathbb{P}(2, 2, 3)$ and a general element of $aA_1 \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_1}$, we obtain $1 < \text{ord}_P aA_1 \mathcal{O}_{E_1} \leq v_{E_1}(a)/2 \cdot 3$. Note that the first inequality follows from Lemma 5.2.

Then, it follows

$$7 = 2 + 2 + 3 = k_{E_1} + 1 \geq v_{E_1}(a) \geq 6 \cdot \text{ord}_P aA_1 \mathcal{O}_{E_1}.$$

(14)

Using (12), (13) and (14) we obtain

$$\frac{7}{2} > 3 \cdot \text{ord}_P aA_1 \mathcal{O}_{E_1} \geq v_{E_2}(aA_1) > 6$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore $a(E_2; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a)$ holds.

Case 2.2. $\dim \{Q\} = 1$.

In the following, we will prove $a(E_2; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a)$. Assume contrary, $a(E_2; A, a) > a(E; A, a)$. The curve $\{Q\}$ is not a bad curve, because if it is, then

$$-\infty = \text{mld}(Q; A_2, I_{E_1} \cdot I_{E_2} \cdot aA_2) = \text{mld}(Q; E_2, I_{L} aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2})$$

implies $\text{ord}_{Q} I_{L} aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2} > 1$, while the generality of $a$ implies the converse inequality $\text{ord}_{Q} I_{L} aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2} = \text{ord}_{B} I_{L} aA_2 \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \leq 1$. We also have $\{Q\} \neq L$. This is proved as follows.

Let $h' \in \mathcal{O}_{A_1}$ define $E_1$ around $P$. As $P$ is smooth on $E_1$ and also on $A_1$, we have $\text{ord} h' = 1$ with respect to RSP $\{y_1, y_2, y_3\}$ of $\mathcal{O}_{A_1}$ at $P$. Then, considering of the initial term of $h'$ with respect to the weight $w$, we see that one of the following holds:

1. $L$ is a coordinate axis of $E_2 = \mathbb{P}(w)$;
2. $L$ is defined by $y_1 + aY_2$ ($a \in k$) in $E_2$;
3. $L$ is defined by $Y_3 + f(Y_1, Y_2)$ in $E_2$, where $f$ is a homogeneous polynomial of degree $d$.

In the third case, the weight $w$ must be $(1, 1, d)$. In this case, if $\{Q\} = L$, it follows

$$y_3' := y_3 + f(y_1, y_2) \in m_{A_1, P} \setminus m_{A_1, P}^2$$

and $v_{E}(y_3') > v_{E}(y_3)$, which is a contradiction to the maximality of $v_{E}(y_3)$. In case (1), $\{Q\} \neq L$ because $Q$ is not contained in the coordinate axes (Lemma 5.1). In case (2), $L$ becomes the bad curve, therefore $\{Q\} \neq L$, because $\{Q\}$ is not the bad curve, as we saw above.
Now we obtain \( Q \not\in E_1' \cap E_2 \). By using this, we have
\[
mld(Q; A_2, I_{E_2} \cdot a_{A_2}) = mld(Q; A_2, I_{E_1} \cdot I_{E_2} \cdot a_{A_2}) = -\infty.
\]
By Inversion of adjunction, we have
\[
mld(Q; E_2, a_{A_2} \mathcal{O}_{E_2}) = -\infty.
\]
Then, we have \( 1 < \text{ord}_Q a_{A_2} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \).

First we show that the squeezed weight \( w = (r, r, s) \) for \( E \) at \( P \in A_1 \) is \((1, 1, n)\) for \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

Let \( C := [Q] \) be defined by \( \ell = 0 \) in \( E_2 = \mathbb{P}(r, r, s) \). If \( w \neq (1, 1, n) \), then the other possible weight \( w \) is \((2, 2, 3)\). In this case the smallest possible value for the degree of \( \ell \) on \( \mathbb{P}(2, 2, 3) \) with respect to \( w \) is 6. Therefore, by \( 1 < \text{ord}_Q a_{A_2} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \),
\[
v_{E_2}(a_{A_1}) \geq \deg_w \ell \cdot \text{ord}_Q(a_{A_1})_{A_2} \geq 6 \cdot \text{ord}_Q(a_{A_1})_{A_2} > 6.
\]
Now we obtain the inequality (12). The inequalities (13) and (14) also hold in the present case. Therefore, we induce a contradiction and \( w \) must be \((1, 1, n)\). By Lemma 5.3, \( \deg_w \ell = 1 + n \).

Let \( \{y_1, y_2, y_3\} \) be a squeezed system at \( P \in A_1 \) with the weight \((1, 1, n)\). Let \( \{Y_1, Y_2, Y_3\} \) be the homogeneous coordinates of \( E_2 = \mathbb{P}(1, 1, n) \) corresponding to \( \{y_1, y_2, y_3\} \). As \( \ell \) is irreducible of degree \( 1 + n \) with respect to the weight \((1, 1, n)\), we can express
\[
\ell = Y_1 Y_3 - Y_2^{n+1}.
\]
For simplicity, assume \( a = a_1^e \) and take a general element \( f \in a_1 \mathcal{O}_{A,0} \subset k[[x_1, x_2, x_3]] \), where \( \{x_1, x_2, x_3\} \) is a squeezed system for \( E \) at \( 0 \in A \) of weight \((2, 2, 3)\). Then the weak transform \( f_{A_1} \) of \( f \) on \( A_1 \) is written as
\[
f_{A_1} = (y_1 \cdot y_3 - y_2^{n+1})^{e'} \cdot \ell' + g(y), \tag{15}
\]
where \( \ell' \) is weighted homogeneous and \( g(y) \) is the term with the higher weight with respect to the weight \( w = (1, 1, n) \).

Here, we may assume that \( P = (1, 1, 1) \in E_1 = \mathbb{P}(2, 2, 3) \), then we can take a RSP at \( P \in A_1 \) by making use of the squeezed system \( \{x_1, x_2, x_3\} \) of squeezed weight \((2, 2, 3)\) which gives the first weighted blow-up \( \varphi_1 : A_1 \longrightarrow A \):
\[
z_1 = \frac{x_1^3 - x_2^2}{x_3}, \quad z_2 = \frac{x_2^3 - x_3^2}{x_3}, \quad z_3 = x_3,
\]
where \( x_3 \) defines \( E_1 \) in the neighborhood of \( P \). Take the minimal \( m \in \mathbb{N} \) such that
\[
f = x_3^m \cdot f_{A_1} \in \mathcal{O}_{A,0} \subset k[[x_1, x_2, x_3]]. \tag{16}
\]
We note that for \( m \geq 2 \),
\[
\text{ord}_0 x_3^m \cdot z_i = m \quad (i = 1, 2), \quad \text{ord}_0 x_3^m \cdot z_3 = m + 1, \tag{17}
\]
where \( \text{ord}_0 \) is the order with respect to the parameters \( x_1, x_2, x_3 \) in \( \mathcal{O}_{A,0} \). Then, by (17),
\[
\text{ord}_0 f = \text{ord}_0 (x_3^m \cdot f_{A_1}) \geq m.
\]
On the other hand if \( x_3^s (y_1 Y_3 - y_2^{n+1})^{e'} \in \mathcal{O}_{A,0} \), it should be \( s \geq 4r \). In fact, if a quadratic monomial \( z_i z_j \) \((i, j \in \{1, 2\})\) appears in \( y_1 Y_3 \) which is expressed as a function of \( z_1, z_2, z_3 \), then
\[ s \geq 4r. \] If such a monomial \( z_i z_j \ (i, j \in \{1, 2\}) \) does not appear in \( y_1 y_2 \), then \( z_i \ (i < 3) \) appears in \( y_2 \), because \( \{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \) and \( \{y_1, y_2, y_3\} \) are both RSP at \( P \in A_1 \). This yields \( s \geq 2(n + 1)r \geq 4r \).

Consider the initial part \( \langle y_1 \cdot y_3 - y_2^{n+1} \rangle \cdot \ell' \) of \( f_{A_1} \) with respect to the weight \( w = (1, 1, n) \). We know that \( a(E_2; A_1, a_{A_1}) \geq 0 \), therefore \( v_{E_2}(e_{A_1}^{\ell_1}) = v_{E_2}(e_{A_1}^{\ell_1}) \leq k_{E_2/A_1} + 1 = n + 2 \). Then, it follows that

\[ e_1(r(n + 1) + \deg w \ell') \leq n + 2. \quad (18) \]

As \( 1 < \text{ord}_Q \mathcal{O}_{E_2} \), it follows \( 1 < \text{ord}_Q \langle y_1 y_3 - y_2^{n+1} \rangle \) which yields \( r \ell_1 > 1 \). By this and (18), we have \( \deg w \ell' < r \), therefore \( \text{ord}_P \ell' < r \) which yields that the factor of \( z_3(=x_3) \) appears in \( \ell' \) at most \( r - 1 \) times. Hence, as (16) the inclusion \( \exists_{x_3} \langle y_1 \cdot y_3 - y_2^{n+1} \rangle \cdot \ell' \in \mathcal{O}_{A,0} \) should hold, which implies \( m \geq 4r - (r - 1) = 3r + 1 \).

Then, \( \text{ord}_a = \text{ord}_0(x_3^m \cdot f_{A_1}) \geq 3r + 1 \), and therefore, taking \( e_1 r > 1 \) into account, we have

\[ \text{ord}_0 a_1^{\ell_1} = \text{ord}_0 f_{A_1}^{e_1} \geq e_1(3r + 1) > 3. \]

Then, for every prime divisor \( D \) over \( A \) with the center at 0 has the discrepancy \( a(D; A, a) < 0 \), which is a contradiction to the condition that \( a(E; A, a) \geq 0 \).

The condition “general” is necessary as far as we use “squeezed” blow-ups to construct a required divisor in Theorem 1-8. Actually, we have a non-general ideal such that two squeezed blow-ups do not give the required divisor.

**Example 5-5.** Let \( f = (x_1 - x_2)^2 + x_3^3 + x_1^4 \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3], e = 6/5 \) and \( a = (f)^x \). Define \( E \) as follows:

\[ g \varphi_1: A_1 \longrightarrow A \text{ be the weighted blow-up with weight } (1, 1, 2) \text{ with respect to the coordinates } \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}. \] Let \( E_1 \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \varphi_1 \). Let \( \varphi_2: A_2 \longrightarrow A_1 \) be the (usual) blow-up with the center at \( E_1 \cap (f_{A_1} = 0) \), where \( (f_{A_1}) \) is the weak transform of \( f \) on \( A_1 \). Let \( E_2 \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \varphi_2 \). Let \( \varphi_3: \tilde{A} \longrightarrow A_2 \) be the (usual) blow-up with the center at \( E_2 \cap (f_{A_2} = 0) \), where \( (f_{A_2}) \) is the weak transform of \( f \) on \( A_2 \). Let \( E \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \varphi_3 \). Then, \( \varphi_1 \) and \( \varphi_2 \) are squeezed blow-ups for \( E, a \) is not general for \( E \) and the following hold:

\[ 0 = a(E; A, a) < a(E_2; A, a) = \frac{1}{5} < a(E_1; A, a) = \frac{3}{5}. \]

So, we can see that the squeezed blow-ups do not work for this ideal. But if we do not stick to squeezed blow-up, we can find two weighted blow-ups to obtain the required \( F \) in the theorem. Let \( \{x'_1, x'_2, x'_3\} \) be another RSP defined by \( x'_i = x_i \ (i = 1, 3) \) and \( x'_2 = x_1 - x_2 \). Then, \( v_E(x'_1) = 1, v_E(x'_2) = 2, v_E(x'_3) = 2 \). (We can see that this RSP is not squeezed.) Now, let \( \psi_1: A'_1 \longrightarrow A \) be the weighted blow-up with weight \( (1, 2, 2) \) with respect to \( \{x'_1, x'_2, x'_3\} \). Let \( E'_1 \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \psi_1 \). Let \( \psi_2: A'_2 \longrightarrow A'_1 \) be the (usual) blow-up with the center at \( E'_1 \cap (f_{A'_1} = 0) \). Let \( E'_2 \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \psi_2 \). Then, we can see that \( E = E_2 \) at the generic points. So, \( E \) itself is obtained by two weighted blow-ups.

The example suggests us that we may take an appropriate weighted blow-up to obtain the required \( F \) in the theorem, if \( a \) is not general.
Corollary 5.6 (Corollary 1.9). Assume \( N = 3 \). Then, for every “general” pair \((A, a)\), the minimal log discrepancy \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \) is computed by a prime divisor \( E \) obtained by at most two weighted blow-ups. More concretely, the blow-ups are squeezed blow-ups for \( E \).

Proof. When \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 0 \), then apply the theorem for a divisor \( E \) computing the \( \text{mld} \). When \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) = -\infty \), then in a similar way as in [9], take a prime divisor \( E \) computing the \( \text{mld} \). Then by taking a positive real number \( t < 1 \) such that \( a(E; A, a') = 0 \) and apply Theorem 1.8.

Corollary 5.7. Let \( E \) be a prime divisor over \( A \) with the center at \( 0 \) and \( E_1 = \mathbb{P}(r, r, s) \) \((r, s \geq 1)\) the exceptional divisor of a squeezed blow-up for \( E \). Assume that \( a(E; A, a) \geq 0 \) and the center of \( E \) on \( E_1 \) is a curve of degree \( > r \), then there is a prime divisor \( F \) such that

\[
a(F; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a)
\]

holds for every \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) and \( F \) is obtained by at most two weighted blow-ups.

Proof. We can see that there is no bad curve on \( E \). Therefore, every \( \mathbb{R} \)-ideal \( a \) is general for \( E \).

The proof of the theorem shows also the following corollary.

Corollary 5.8. Let \( E \) be a prime divisor over \( A \) with the center at \( 0 \) computing \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 0 \). Let \( E' \) be the exceptional divisor of a weighted blow-up with weight \( v := (r, s, t) \), where \( \text{gcd}(r, s, t) = 1 \). Assume that the center \( C \) of \( E \) on \( E' \) is a curve of degree \( d \geq r + s + t - 1 \) If \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \) is not computed by \( E' \), then the \( \text{mld} \) is computed by the divisor obtained by one additional weighted blow-up at \( C \).

Proof. Let \( A' \to A \) be the weighted blow-up with weight \((r, s, t)\). By the assumption, we have \( a(E; A, a) < a(E'; A, a) \). Then, by Lemma 5.2, we have \( \alpha := \text{ord}_pa_{A'}\mathcal{O}_{E'} > 1 \), where \( P \) is the generic point of \( C \). Therefore, we obtain \( v_{E'}(a) = ad > r + s + t - 1 \), and therefore \( a(E'; A, a) < 1 \). Now, in the same way as Case 1 in the proof of Theorem 1.8, we obtain that the squeezed blow-up at \( P \) gives a divisor \( F \) satisfying \( a(F; A, a) \leq a(E; A, a) = \text{mld}(0; A, a) \).

The following is a special case of the corollary above. Example 3.3 is in this case.

Corollary 5.9 (Corollary 1.10). Let \( E \) be a prime divisor over \( A \) with the center at \( 0 \) computing \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \geq 0 \). Let \( E' \) be the exceptional divisor of the usual blow-up with the center at \( 0 \). Assume that the center \( C \) of \( E \) on \( E' \) is a curve of degree \( d \geq 2 \). Then, \( \text{mld}(0; A, a) \) is computed by the divisor obtained by one additional weighted blow-up at \( C \).

Acknowledgements. The author would like to thank Kohsuke Shibata, Lawrence Ein, Masayuki Kawakita and Yuri Prokhorov for useful discussions. The author expresses her hearty thanks to the referee for the numerous constructible comments to improve the readability greatly of the paper.

References

[1] S. S. Abhyankar. Resolution of singularities of embedded algebraic surfaces, 2nd edition. Springer Monogr. Math. (Springer, 1998).
A bound of the number of weighted blow-ups

[2] T. De Fernex, L. Ein and S. Ishii. Divisorial valuations via arcs. *Publ. Res. Inst. Math. Sci.*, **44** (2008), 425–448.

[3] L. Ein and M. Mustață. Jet schemes and singularities. *Proc. Symp. Pure Math.*, **80** (2) (2009), 505–546.

[4] S. Ishii. Maximal divisorial sets in arc spaces, *Adv. Stud. in Pure Math.*, **50** (2008), 237–249

[5] S. Ishii, Inversion of modulo p reduction and a partial descent from characteristic 0 to positive characteristic, *Romanian J. Pure Appl. Math.*, vol. **LXIV** (4) (2019), 431–459. ArXiv: 1808.10155.

[6] S. Ishii, The minimal log discrepancies on a smooth surface in positive characteristic, *Math. Z.*, **297** (2021), 389–39

[7] S. Ishii and A. Reguera. Singularities in arbitrary characteristic via jet schemes, *Hodge theory and L2 analysis* (2017), 419–449. ArXiv: 1510.05210.

[8] M. Kawakita. Discreteness of log discrepancies over log canonical triples on a fixed pair. *J. Algebraic Geom.*, **23** (4) (2014), 765–774.

[9] M. Kawakita. Divisors computing the minimal log discrepancy on a smooth surface. *Math. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.*, **163** (1) (2017), 187–192.

[10] M. Kawakita. On equivalent conjectures for minimal log discrepancies on smooth threefolds. *J. Algebraic Geom.*, **30** (2021), 97–149.

[11] J. Kollár. *Rational Curves on Algebraic Varieties* Ergebnisse der Math. **32** (Springer-Verlag, 1995).

[12] J. Kollár, K. Smith and A. Corti, Rational and Nearly Rational Varieties. *Camb. Stud. Adv. Math.*, **92** (2002), 235 pages.

[13] M. Mustață and Y. Nakamura. A boundedness conjecture for minimal log discrepancies on a fixed germ. *Contemp. Math.*, **712** (2018), 287–306.