

VOLUME AND HILBERT FUNCTION OF \mathbb{R} -DIVISORS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let X be a proper, normal algebraic variety of dimension n over a field K and D an \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . The *Hilbert function* of D is the function

$$\mathcal{H}(X, D) : m \mapsto h^0(mD) := \dim_K H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\lfloor mD \rfloor));$$

defined for all $m \in \mathbb{R}$. If D is an ample Cartier divisor then $\mathcal{H}(X, D)$ agrees with the usual Hilbert polynomial whenever $m \gg 1$ is an integer, but in general $\mathcal{H}(X, D)$ is not a polynomial, not even if D is a \mathbb{Z} -divisor and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. The simplest numerical invariant associated to the Hilbert function is the *volume* of D , defined as

$$\text{vol}(D) := \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h^0(mD)}{m^n/n!}.$$

If E is an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor, then

$$h^0(mD - mE) \leq h^0(mD) \leq h^0(mD + mE) \tag{*}$$

holds for every $m > 0$, hence

$$\text{vol}(D - E) \leq \text{vol}(D) \leq \text{vol}(D + E). \tag{**}$$

Furthermore, if equality holds in (*) for every $m \gg 1$ then equality holds in (**). The aim of this note is to prove the converse for *big* divisors, that is, when $\text{vol}(D) > 0$. Although the volume does not determine the Hilbert function, we prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(X, D) \equiv \mathcal{H}(X, D - E) &\Leftrightarrow \text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D - E) \quad \text{and} \\ \mathcal{H}(X, D) \equiv \mathcal{H}(X, D + E) &\Leftrightarrow \text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D + E). \end{aligned}$$

As a byproduct of the proof we also obtain a characterization of such divisors E in terms of the negative part $N_\sigma(D)$ of the *Zariski–Nakayama-decomposition* (also called σ -decomposition) and of the divisorial part of the *augmented base locus* $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$; see [Nak04], (4.3.1) and (5.1) for definitions.

Another interesting consequence is that the answer depends only on the \mathbb{R} -linear equivalence class of D . This is obvious for \mathbb{Z} -linear equivalence, but it can easily happen that $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ yet $h^0(X, mD) \neq h^0(X, mD')$ for every $m > 0$; see (2.6). In fact, the only relationship between $\mathcal{H}(X, D)$ and $\mathcal{H}(X, D')$ that we know of is $\text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D')$.

Our main results are the following.

Theorem A. *Let X be a proper, normal algebraic variety over a perfect field, D a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on X and E an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Then the following are equivalent.*

- i) $\text{vol}(D - E) = \text{vol}(D)$.
- ii) $E \leq N_\sigma(D)$.
- iii) $h^0(mD' - mE) = h^0(mD')$ for every $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ and all $m > 0$.
- iv) $h^0(mD - mE) = h^0(mD)$ for all $m > 0$.

Furthermore, if D is \mathbb{R} -Cartier and nef then these are also equivalent to

- v) $E = 0$.

Theorem B. *Let X be a proper, normal algebraic variety over a perfect field, D a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on X and E an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Then the following are equivalent.*

- i) $\text{vol}(D + E) = \text{vol}(D)$.
- ii) $\text{Supp}(E) \subseteq \mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$.
- iii) $h^0(mD' + rE) = h^0(mD')$ for every $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ and $m, r > 0$.
- iv) $h^0(mD + mE) = h^0(mD)$ for all $m > 0$.

Furthermore, if D is \mathbb{R} -Cartier and nef then these are also equivalent to

- v) $D^{n-1} \cdot E = 0$.

Special cases of these theorems were first conjectured in connection with the numerical stability criteria for families of canonical models of varieties of general type [Kol15]. In trying to prove these, we gradually realized that the above results hold and the general setting led to shorter proofs.

The theorems are proved in Section 2 but the necessary technical background results involving \mathbb{R} -divisors, the Zariski–Nakayama-decomposition and of the augmented base locus on singular varieties are left to Sections 3 through 5. Much of the relevant literature works with smooth projective varieties over \mathbb{C} but many of these proofs apply in more general settings. We went through them and we state clearly which parts work for normal varieties in any characteristic. We also establish several results that show how to reduce similar types of questions to smooth and projective varieties. These should be useful in similar contexts.

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2. PROOFS OF THE THEOREMS

Proposition 2.1. *Let X be a normal proper variety over an algebraically closed field and D a big \mathbb{R} -divisor. Suppose that $D = P + N$ with $\text{vol}(P) = \text{vol}(D)$ and N effective. Then $N \leq N_{\sigma}(D)$.*

The proof is a modification of [FL13, Prop.5.3].

Proof. By Corollary 3.4, we may find a projective birational model X' and \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors D' and P' on X' such that for any positive real m the pushforward of $\mathcal{O}_{X'}(mD')$ and $\mathcal{O}_{X'}(mP')$ are respectively $\mathcal{O}_X(mD)$ and $\mathcal{O}_X(mP)$, and the difference $D' - P'$ is effective. Note that D' and P' still satisfy the hypotheses of the theorem. If we prove the statement on X' , we can conclude the statement on X by pushing forward and applying Lemma 4.2. So without loss of generality we may assume that P and D , and hence N , are \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors and that X is projective.

If $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a generically finite proper morphism from a normal projective variety Y , then

$$\pi_* N_{\sigma}(\pi^* D) = (\deg \pi) \cdot N_{\sigma}(D)$$

by Lemma 4.12.ii). Furthermore

$$\text{vol}(\pi^* D) = (\deg \pi) \cdot \text{vol}(D)$$

by Theorem 3.5.ii), the homogeneity of vol , and [Kür06, Prop.2.9.(1)] (the proof there does not use the assumption that the characteristic is zero). Therefore after passing to a nonsingular alteration (cf. [dJ96]), it is enough to consider the case when X is nonsingular and projective.

By assumption the volume of P does not change if we add a small multiple of N . Thus by [Cut13b, Theorem 5.6] (see also [BFJ09, Thm.A] and [LM09, Cor.C]),

$$\langle P^{n-1} \rangle \cdot N = 0,$$

where $\langle P^{n-1} \rangle$ is the positive intersection product defined in [Cut13b], inspired by [BFJ09] and classical work of Matsusaka ([Mat72, p.1031]; see also [LM75, p.515])

As in the proof of [BFJ09, Thm.4.9], it follows that for any ample \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor A on X and any small $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\text{Supp}(N) \subseteq \text{Supp}(N_{\sigma}(P - \epsilon A)).$$

(Otherwise from $P = \frac{\epsilon}{2}A + (\frac{\epsilon}{2}A + P_\sigma(P - \epsilon A)) + N_\sigma(P - \epsilon A)$ we get $P \geq_{N_i} \frac{\epsilon}{2}A$ for any component N_i of N , i.e. $P - \frac{\epsilon}{2}A$ is numerically equivalent to an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor that does not contain N_i in its support. Using [BFJ09, Rem.4.5], we see that $\frac{\epsilon^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}}A^{n-1} \cdot N \leq \langle P^{n-1} \rangle_N \leq \langle P^{n-1} \rangle \cdot N$, but the LHS is only zero when $N = 0$.)

In particular, Lemma 4.13 shows that $N_\sigma(P - \epsilon A + N) = N_\sigma(P - \epsilon A) + N$. Letting ϵ tend to 0 and using continuity of σ as in Lemma 4.1.iv), we see that $N_\sigma(D) = N_\sigma(P) + N$. \square

We reduce our main theorems to the case where the base field is algebraically closed.

Remark 2.2. Let K be a field and L/K a separable field extension. Base change to L is denoted by the subscript L . If X_K is a proper, normal algebraic variety over K then X_L is a disjoint union of proper, normal algebraic varieties over L . If $E_K \subset X_K$ is a prime divisor then $E_L \subset X_L$ is a sum of prime divisors, each appearing with coefficient 1. Thus if D_K is an \mathbb{R} -divisor on X_K then $[D_K]_L = [D_L]$. Thus

$$(\mathcal{O}_{X_K}(D_K))_L = \mathcal{O}_{X_L}(D_L) \quad \text{and} \quad h^0(D_K) = h^0(D_L). \quad (2.2.1)$$

Similarly, if D_K is a \mathbb{Z} -divisor then $|D_K|_L = |D_L|$ and hence the base locus commutes with separable field extensions. Using the characterization given in Lemma 4.1.i) and Lemma 5.3 this implies that

$$N_\sigma(D_L) = (N_\sigma(D_K))_L \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D_L) = (\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D_K))_L. \quad (2.2.2)$$

(If X_K is geometrically normal but L/K is not separable then it can happen that $[D_K]_L \neq [D_L]$. However (2.2.2) still holds.)

If Theorems A and B hold for proper, normal varieties over an algebraically closed field then they clearly also hold for proper, normal, equidimensional schemes over an algebraically closed field. Thus, by the above considerations, they hold for proper, normal varieties over any perfect field.

Proof of Theorem A. By Remark 2.2 we may work over an algebraically closed field. The implications $ii) \rightarrow iii) \rightarrow iv) \rightarrow i)$ are immediate, while $i) \rightarrow ii)$ is Proposition 2.1. Any nef \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor D is movable, i.e. $N_\sigma(D) = 0$. Then the equivalence between $ii)$ and $v)$ is clear. \square

Remark 2.3. The work of [KL15] hints to an approach to Theorem A using the theory of Okounkov bodies.

Remark 2.4. Related cases of Theorem A include:

- i)* If D is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then in $iii)$ we may set D' to be any \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor numerically equivalent to D .
- ii)* If X is nonsingular and projective over an algebraically closed field, if D is big and *movable*, and E is *pseudoeffective* (i.e. its numerical class is in the closure of the effective cone), then $\text{vol}(D - E) = \text{vol}(D)$ if and only if $E = 0$.

The first statement is a consequence of Lemma 4.1.iv). For the second, by [FL13, Prop.5.3] we get

$$P_\sigma(D - E) + (N_\sigma(D - E) + E) \equiv D = P_\sigma(D) \equiv P_\sigma(D - E).$$

Consequently $N_\sigma(D - E) + E \equiv 0$. Since the pseudoeffective cone is pointed (e.g. by [CHMS13, Lem.2.4]), it follows that $E = 0$. \square

Proof of Theorem B. As in Theorem A, we may work over an algebraically closed field. The implications $iii) \rightarrow iv) \rightarrow i)$ are immediate. Part $ii)$ of Theorem A and Lemma 4.13 prove $i) \rightarrow iii)$.

Assume $\text{Supp}(E) \subseteq \mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$. Let A be ample in codimension 1 (cf. Definition 4.7). By Lemma 5.3 and Lemma 5.2, we have $\text{Supp}(E) \subseteq \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$ for arbitrarily small $\epsilon > 0$. By Lemma 4.13, we see that $\text{vol}(D + E - \epsilon A) = \text{vol}(D - \epsilon A)$ for sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$. If D , E and A are \mathbb{R} -Cartier, we can conclude $\text{vol}(D + E) = \text{vol}(D)$ by the continuity of volumes for \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors. To show that $\text{vol}(D + E) = \text{vol}(D)$ in general, we reduce to the \mathbb{R} -Cartier case by applying Theorem 3.5.ii) and Corollary 3.4. Hence $ii) \rightarrow i)$.

Let F be an irreducible component of E and assume $F \not\subset \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$. Then by Lemma 4.9 there exists $m > 0$ such that

$$mD + F = \left(\frac{1}{2}m\epsilon A + F\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2}m\epsilon A + mP_\sigma(D - \epsilon A)\right) + mN_\sigma(D - \epsilon A)$$

is \mathbb{R} -linearly equivalent to an effective divisor that does not contain F in its support. In particular $h^0(mD' + rE) \geq h^0(mD' + F) > h^0(mD')$ for some $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ and some $r > 0$, e.g. $r = \frac{1}{\text{mult}_F(E)}$. Therefore $iii) \rightarrow ii)$.

Suppose now that D is a big and nef \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor. Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a proper birational morphism with Y projective. By Lemma 3.3 there exists an effective π -exceptional divisor F on Y such that $\text{vol}(D + E) = \text{vol}(\pi^*D + \overline{E} + F)$, where \overline{E} is a divisor with $\pi_*\overline{E} = E$. We can make choices such that \overline{E} and F are \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors. Of course $\text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(\pi^*D)$.

If $\text{vol}(D + E) = \text{vol}(D)$, then $\text{vol}(\pi^*D + \overline{E} + F) = \text{vol}(\pi^*D)$. By [Cut13b, Theorem 5.6], we get $\langle \pi^*D^{n-1} \cdot (\overline{E} + F) \rangle = 0$. Since D is nef, we have $(\pi^*D)^{n-1} = \langle (\pi^*D)^{n-1} \rangle$ from [Cut13b, Proposition 4.11]. By the projection formula $D^{n-1} \cdot E = 0$.

Conversely, if $D^{n-1} \cdot E = \pi^*D^{n-1} \cdot (\overline{E} + F) = 0$, then [Luo90] shows that $h^0(\pi^*D + \overline{E} + F) = h^0(\pi^*D)$ (the analogous equality also holds for multiples). The proof there is carried out with \mathbb{Z} -coefficients and over base fields of characteristic zero, but extends to \mathbb{R} -coefficients over arbitrary algebraically closed base fields. We conclude by pushing forward to X . \square

Remark 2.5. As in the previous theorem, if D is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then in $iii)$ we may set D' to be any \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor numerically equivalent to D . In fact even in the \mathbb{R} -Weil case we may replace $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ with $D' - D$ being a numerically trivial \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor (cf. Lemma 4.1.iv)).

As mentioned in the introduction, if $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$, there is no clear connection between the Hilbert functions $\mathcal{H}(X, D)$ and $\mathcal{H}(X, D')$ other than that $\text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D')$ (cf. Theorem 3.5.iv)):

Example 2.6. Let $S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be a minimal ruled surface with a negative section $E \subset S$ and a positive section $C \subset S$ that is disjoint from E . Let F_1, \dots, F_4 be distinct fibers. Then

$$C \sim_{\mathbb{R}} C + (F_1 - F_2) + \sqrt{2}(F_3 - F_4).$$

Note that $\lfloor mC + m(F_1 - F_2) + m\sqrt{2}(F_3 - F_4) \rfloor$ has negative intersection with E for all real $m > 0$. This implies that

$$h^0(S, \mathcal{O}_S(mC + m(F_1 - F_2) + m\sqrt{2}(F_3 - F_4))) < h^0(S, \mathcal{O}_S(mC))$$

for every $m > 0$. \square

3. WEIL DIVISORS

Let X be a normal variety over a field. The basics of the theory of Weil \mathbb{R} -divisors can be found in [Sch10]. An \mathbb{R} -divisor (also called Weil \mathbb{R} -divisor or \mathbb{R} -Weil \mathbb{R} -divisor) is an \mathbb{R} -linear combination of prime divisors. D is *effective*, denoted $D \geq 0$, if it is a nonnegative combination of prime divisors on X . If $D \geq E$, i.e. $D - E \geq 0$, we say that D *dominates* E . For an \mathbb{R} -divisor D , the rule

$$U \mapsto H^0(U, D) := \{f \in K(X)^* \mid (\text{div}(f) + D)|_U \geq 0\} \cup \{0\}$$

defines a coherent sheaf $\mathcal{O}_X(D)$ on X . This coincides with the classical notation when D is a \mathbb{Z} -divisor. Note that $\mathcal{O}_X(D) = \mathcal{O}_X(\lfloor D \rfloor)$. If $D \geq 0$, then $\mathcal{O}_X(-D)$ is an ideal sheaf in \mathcal{O}_X . If M is a Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisor, then $\mathcal{O}_X(D + M) \simeq \mathcal{O}_X(D) \cdot \mathcal{O}_X(M) \simeq \mathcal{O}_X(D) \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(M)$ for any \mathbb{R} -divisor D .

If D and D' are \mathbb{R} -divisors such that $D' - D = \text{div}(f)$ for some $f \in K(X)$, we say that D and D' are *linearly equivalent* and denote this relation by $D \sim D'$ or $D \sim_{\mathbb{Z}} D'$. Denote by $|D|$ the complete linear series $\{D' \mid D' \geq 0, D' \sim_{\mathbb{Z}} D\}$. It coincides with $\lfloor |D| \rfloor + \{D\}$, where $\{D\}$ denotes the fractional part of D . If $mD \sim mD'$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}^*$, we write $D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} D'$. If $D' - D = \sum_{i=1}^r a_i \text{div}(f_i)$ for some $r \in \mathbb{N}^*$, some $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f_i \in K(X)$, we write $D \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D'$. Denote by $|D|_{\mathbb{Q}}$ and $|D|_{\mathbb{R}}$ the set of

effective \mathbb{R} -divisors D' that are \mathbb{Q} -linearly and respectively \mathbb{R} -linearly equivalent to D . If $D \sim D'$, then $H^0(X, D) \simeq H^0(X, D')$ and if $D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} D'$, then $H^0(X, mD) \simeq H^0(X, mD')$ for sufficiently divisible m . However, no obvious connection seems to exist between $H^0(X, D)$ and $H^0(X, D')$ if $D \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D'$.

An \mathbb{R} -divisor H is *ample* if $H = \sum_i a_i (H_i + \text{div}(f_i))$, where $a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$, where $f_i \in K(X)$, and H_i are effective ample Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisors. Note that an ample \mathbb{R} -divisor is always \mathbb{R} -Cartier, and that this definition coincides with the classical one in [Laz04, §2].

Two \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors are numerically equivalent if they have the same intersection against every proper curve in X .

We review some of the basic theory of \mathbb{R} -divisors. Over \mathbb{C} , many of the results in this section appear in [Nak04, §II] or [Fuj09].

Lemma 3.1. *Let X be a normal variety and D an effective \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor. Then D is a positive \mathbb{R} -linear combination $\sum_i a_i D_i$ of effective Cartier divisors.*

Proof. The argument in [Fuj09, Lem.0.14] is characteristic free. □

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a proper birational morphism of normal varieties, and D an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Then $\pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\pi^* D + E) = \mathcal{O}_X(D)$ for any effective π -exceptional \mathbb{R} -divisor E .*

Proof. The argument is similar to [Nak04, Lem.2.11]. Let $U \subset X$ be open and $f \in K(X)^*$. By the projection formula [Ful84, Prop.2.3.(c)], if $\text{div}_Y(f) + \pi^* D + E \geq 0$ over $\pi^{-1}U$, then $\text{div}_X(f) + D \geq 0$ over U . By Lemma 3.1, we see that if $\text{div}_X(f) + D \geq 0$ on U , then $\text{div}_Y(f) + \pi^* D \geq 0$ on $\pi^{-1}U$. In particular $\text{div}_Y(f) + \pi^* D + E \geq 0$ on $\pi^{-1}U$. □

The following lemma can be used to reduce many questions involving the sheaves $\mathcal{O}_X(D)$ to normal projective varieties.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a proper birational morphism of normal varieties and D_i a finite collection of \mathbb{R} -divisors on X . Then there are \mathbb{R} -divisors D_i^Y on Y such that $\pi_* D_i^Y = D_i$ for every i and*

$$\pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(F + \pi^* M + \sum_i m_i D_i^Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(M + \sum_i m_i D_i)$$

for every $m_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$, effective π -exceptional \mathbb{R} -divisor F on Y , and \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor M on X .

Proof. If the statement is true for $F = 0$, then it is true for every $F \geq 0$, so we assume that $F = 0$ throughout. The question is local on X , so we may also assume that X is affine. Let E be the reduced Weil divisor whose support is the divisorial component of the exceptional locus of π . For D an \mathbb{R} -divisor on X , and \overline{D} an \mathbb{R} -divisor on Y with $\pi_* \overline{D} = D$, we have $\mathcal{O}_X(D) = \bigcup_{r \geq 0} \pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\overline{D} + rE)$. Then by coherence there exists r_D such that

$$(3.3.1) \quad \pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\overline{D} + rE) = \mathcal{O}_X(D) \text{ for all } r \geq r_D.$$

Let ϕ be a regular function on X such that $L := \text{div}_X(\phi) \geq D_i$ for all i . Let \overline{D}_i be \mathbb{R} -divisors on Y such that $\pi_* \overline{D}_i = D_i$. For any $r \geq 0$, we have $\overline{D}_i + rE \leq E'_i + L$ for some effective π -exceptional \mathbb{R} -divisor E'_i . By Lemma 3.2, any global section of $\mathcal{O}_Y(\sum_i m_i \overline{D}_i + rE)$ for any $r \geq 0$ is also a global section of $\mathcal{O}_X((\sum_i m_i) L)$. Thus the poles along E of rational functions that are sections of $\sum_i m_i \overline{D}_i + rE$ are bounded below by $-(\sum_i m_i) \pi^* L$. This implies that there exists $r > 0$ such that $H^0(Y, \sum_i m_i (\overline{D}_i + (r+t)E))$ is independent of $t \geq 0$ for each $m_i \geq 0$. In particular it is equal to $H^0(\mathcal{O}_X(\sum_i m_i D_i))$ by (3.3.1). Since X is affine, this implies $\pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\sum_i m_i (\overline{D}_i + rE)) = \mathcal{O}_X(\sum_i m_i D_i)$. Set $D_i^Y := D_i + rE$.

We now show that if M is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor on X , then $\pi^* M + \sum_i m_i D_i^Y \geq 0$ if and only if $M + \sum_i m_i D_i \geq 0$. Up to replacing M by $M + \text{div}_X(f)$, this completes the proof. One implication

is clear by the projection formula. Assume now $M + \sum_i m_i D_i \geq 0$. If M is a \mathbb{Q} -Cartier \mathbb{Q} -divisor, then uM is a Cartier divisor for some positive integer u , and by the projection formula,

$$\pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\pi^*(uM) + \sum_i (um_i) D_i^Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(uM) \otimes \pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(\sum_i (um_i) D_i^Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(u(M + \sum_i m_i D_i))$$

for all $m_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$. Thus if 1 is a section of $\mathcal{O}_X(u(M + \sum_i m_i D_i))$, then it is also a section of $\mathcal{O}_Y(u(\pi^* M + \sum_i m_i D_i^Y))$.

Assume now $M = \sum_j a_j M_j$ is an \mathbb{R} -combination of Cartier divisors, with $M + \sum_i m_i D_i \geq 0$. We may further assume that D_i or $-D_i$ is a prime divisor for each i . As a condition on the m_i 's and a_j 's, the effectivity of $M + \sum_i m_i D_i$ is a system of linear inequalities with integer coefficients. Any of its real solutions can be approximated arbitrarily close by rational solutions. We conclude from the case when M is a \mathbb{Q} -Cartier \mathbb{Q} -divisor by taking limits coefficientwise. \square

The following corollary allows us to reduce questions about \mathbb{R} -divisors to \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors.

Corollary 3.4. *Let D_i be a finite set of \mathbb{R} -divisors on a normal variety X . Then there exist a quasiprojective, normal variety Y , a proper birational morphism $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ and \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors D_i^Y on Y such that $\pi_* D_i^Y = D_i$ and*

$$\pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y(G + \pi^* M + \sum_i m_i D_i^Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(M + \sum_i m_i D_i)$$

holds for all $m_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$, all effective π -exceptional \mathbb{R} -divisors G on Y and all \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors M on X .

Proof. We may assume that D_i or $-D_i$ is a prime divisor for each i . Successively normalize the blow-up of the birational transform of each D_i , obtaining a birational morphism $f : Z \rightarrow X$ with \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors D_i' such that $f_* D_i' = D_i$. Let $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be the normalized blow-up of the exceptional locus of f . Let $\pi = f \circ g$. Then $\overline{D}_i := g^* D_i'$ is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor with $\pi_* \overline{D}_i = D_i$. The relative $\mathcal{O}(-1)$ for g is an effective Cartier divisor F whose support is the exceptional locus of π . As in the proof of Lemma 3.3, for $r \gg 0$, we may set $D_i^Y := \overline{D}_i + rF$. To obtain Y quasiprojective, apply Chow's Lemma and normalize. \square

We have defined $\text{vol}(D) := \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h^0(mD)}{m^n/n!}$. For \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -classes on projective varieties, this definition of volume differs from the classical one (cf. [Laz04, Cor.2.2.45]). The definitions coincide for \mathbb{Z} -classes but in [Laz04] the volume of \mathbb{Q} -classes is defined by homogeneous extension from \mathbb{Z} and for \mathbb{R} -classes it is given by continuous extension from \mathbb{Q} . We check that the definitions in fact agree. We also check that we can replace \limsup by \lim .

Theorem 3.5. *Let D be an \mathbb{R} -divisor on a proper normal variety X of dimension n . Then*

- i) $\text{vol}(D) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h^0(mD)}{m^n/n!}$.
- ii) If D is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then $\text{vol}(D)$ agrees with the definition in [Laz04, Cor.2.2.45].
- iii) (Kodaira lemma) $\text{vol}(D) > 0$ if and only if for every \mathbb{R} -divisor B there exists $\epsilon > 0$ and an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor C such that $D \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} \epsilon \cdot B + C$.
- iv) If D' is an \mathbb{R} -divisor on X such that $D' - D$ is a numerically trivial \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then $\text{vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D')$.

Most of the references used in the proof work over \mathbb{C} . [Cut13b, §2.2] and the references therein explain how to extend these to arbitrary fields.

Proof. By Corollary 3.4, we may assume that X is projective and D (hence also D') and B are \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisors. Then there exists an ample \mathbb{Z} -divisor H with $D \leq H$. Hence $H^0(X, mD)$ is a graded linear series. If D is not big, then the limit is zero. Otherwise by [Cut13a, Thm.1.2] we have

$$(3.5.1) \quad \text{vol}(D) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h^0(m \cdot m_0 D)}{(m \cdot m_0)^n/n!} < \infty,$$

where $m_0 = \gcd\{m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid h^0(mD) \neq 0\}$. We will return to showing that $m_0 = 1$.

For now we prove *ii*) and *iii*). Provisionally denote by $\text{Vol}(D)$ the volume of the \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor D in the sense of [Laz04, Cor.2.2.45]. From (3.5.1) we see that vol is also homogeneous, so that for a \mathbb{Q} -Cartier \mathbb{Q} -divisor D we have $\text{vol}(D) = \text{Vol}(D)$.

We first show that if $\text{vol}(D) > 0$, then $\text{Vol}(D) = \text{Vol}(D)$. By homogeneity we may assume $h^0(D) > 0$. Then $D = E + \text{div}(f)$ for some effective \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor E and for some rational function f on X . By Lemma 3.1, we have $E = \sum_i a_i E_i$ for some positive $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$ and effective Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisors E_i . Then

$$\frac{1}{m^n} \text{vol}(\sum_i \lfloor ma_i \rfloor E_i + \text{div}(f^m)) \leq \text{vol}(D) \leq \frac{1}{m^n} \text{vol}(\sum_i \lceil ma_i \rceil E_i + \text{div}(f^m)).$$

The LHS and RHS both converge to $\text{Vol}(D)$ as m grows. Furthermore if $\text{vol}(D) > 0$, then $\sum_i \lfloor ma_i \rfloor E_i + \text{div}(f^m)$ is a big Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisor for large enough m , hence it dominates some ample \mathbb{Q} -divisor by Kodaira's Lemma (cf. [Laz04, Cor.2.2.7]).

It remains to show that if $\text{Vol}(D) > 0$, then $\text{vol}(D) > 0$. First observe that if $\text{Vol}(D) > 0$, then D is big in the sense of [Laz04, §2.2.B], i.e. D dominates an ample \mathbb{R} -divisor. Indeed by continuity (cf. [Laz04, Cor.2.2.45]) there exists a small ample \mathbb{R} -divisor H such that $D - H$ is a \mathbb{Q} -Cartier \mathbb{Q} -divisor with $\text{Vol}(D - H) > 0$. Then the claim follows from Kodaira's Lemma. We can write

$$D = \sum_i a_i (H_i + \text{div}(f_i)) + \sum_j b_j E_j,$$

where H_i are ample effective \mathbb{Z} -divisors, f_i are rational functions, E_j are effective \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisors, a_i and b_j are positive real numbers. Let F be the union of the supports of $\text{div}(f_i)$. There exists a real number $N > 0$ such that $\{ma_i\} \text{div}(f_i) > -N \cdot F$ for all i and all m . Furthermore there exists a positive integer r such that for each i the Weil divisor $rH_i - N \cdot F$ has a section given by some rational function g_i . In particular

$$rH_i + \{ma_i\} \text{div}(f_i) + \text{div}(g_i) > 0.$$

Then

$$mD > \sum_i ((\lfloor ma_i \rfloor - r)H_i + \lfloor ma_i \rfloor \text{div}(f_i) - \text{div}(g_i)) + \sum_j \lfloor mb_j \rfloor E_j.$$

The RHS is an effective big Cartier \mathbb{Z} -divisor for m sufficiently large, therefore $\text{vol}(D) > 0$. The proof of *ii*) is complete. Part *iii*) follows easily from the projective and \mathbb{R} -Cartier case. We have showed that if D is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, and $\text{Vol}(D) = \text{vol}(D) > 0$, then mD is effective for m large enough. This proves that $m_0 = 1$, and completes the proof of *i*). The volume function Vol is defined on the real Néron–Severi space $N^1(X)_{\mathbb{R}}$, and then part *iv*) follows. \square

4. DIVISORIAL ZARISKI DECOMPOSITIONS

Let X be a normal proper variety over a field K . Let D be a big \mathbb{R} -divisor. Following Nakayama ([Nak04]), for Γ a prime divisor on X we define

$$\sigma_{\Gamma}(D) = \inf\{\text{mult}_{\Gamma} D' \mid D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D, D' \geq 0\},$$

where we write $D \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D'$ if there exist rational functions f_i on X and real numbers a_i such that $D - D' = \sum_i a_i \cdot \text{div}(f_i)$. The basic properties of $\sigma_{\Gamma}(D)$ are studied by [Nak04] for smooth projective varieties in characteristic 0, and by [Mus13], [CHMS13] for smooth projective varieties in arbitrary characteristic. We make the brief verifications necessary to extend these results to normal proper varieties as well. We start with the projective case.

Lemma 4.1. *Let X be a normal projective variety and D a big \mathbb{R} -divisor. Fix a prime divisor Γ .*

i) We also have $\sigma_{\Gamma}(D) = \inf\{\text{mult}_{\Gamma} D' \mid D' \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} D, D' \geq 0\}$ and

$$\sigma_{\Gamma}(D) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} \min\{\text{mult}_{\Gamma} D'' \mid D'' \sim_{\mathbb{Z}} mD, D'' \geq 0\}.$$

ii) Let A be an ample \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor. Then $\lim_{\epsilon \searrow 0} \sigma_{\Gamma}(D + \epsilon A) = \sigma_{\Gamma}(D)$.

- iii) The \mathbb{R} -divisor $F := D - \sigma_\Gamma(D)\Gamma$ has $\sigma_\Gamma(F) = 0$ and $\sigma_{\Gamma'}(F) = \sigma_{\Gamma'}(D)$ for any other prime divisor Γ' . Furthermore the natural inclusion $H^0(X, mF) \hookrightarrow H^0(X, mD)$ is an equality for any positive real number m .
- iv) If L is a numerically trivial \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor then $\sigma_\Gamma(D+L) = \sigma_\Gamma(D)$. The induced function $\sigma_\Gamma : N^1(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ sending a numerical class $\alpha \in N^1(X)$ to $\sigma_\Gamma(D + \alpha)$ is continuous in a sufficiently small neighborhood of 0.

Proof. The proofs are analogous to [Nak04, Lem.III.1.4] and [Nak04, Lem.III.1.7]. \square

We can usually reduce questions involving σ_Γ to the projective case by using Lemma 3.3 and the following:

Lemma 4.2. *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a birational morphism of normal, proper varieties. Suppose that D is a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Assume that one of the following holds:*

- i) *There exists a big \mathbb{R} -divisor L on Y with $\pi_*L = D$ such that for every \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor M on X the condition $D + M \geq 0$ holds iff $L + \pi^*M \geq 0$.*
- ii) *X and Y are projective and there exists a big \mathbb{R} -divisor L on Y such that $\pi_*\mathcal{O}_Y(mL) = \mathcal{O}_X(mD)$ for all integers $m \geq 0$.*

Then for any prime divisor Γ on X we have $\sigma_\Gamma(D) = \sigma_{\Gamma'}(L)$ where Γ' is the birational transform of Γ on Y .

Proof. By letting M range through the \mathbb{R} -linearly trivial divisors on X we immediately obtain i). Part ii) is a consequence of Lemma 4.1.i) and the fact that π_* induces an equality of global sections for sheaves. \square

Remark 4.3. Let X be a normal proper variety. Suppose that D is a big \mathbb{R} -Weil \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Then there are at most finitely many prime divisors Γ such that $\sigma_\Gamma(D) > 0$ (since $0 \leq \sigma_\Gamma(D) \leq \text{mult}_\Gamma(D')$ for any fixed effective $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$.) \square

We can now define

$$(4.3.1) \quad N_\sigma(D) = \sum_{\Gamma \text{ prime divisor on } X} \sigma_\Gamma(D) \cdot \Gamma \quad \text{and} \quad P_\sigma(D) = D - N_\sigma(D).$$

We call the decomposition $D = P_\sigma(D) + N_\sigma(D)$ the *divisorial Zariski decomposition* of D .

Definition 4.4. We say that a big \mathbb{R} -divisor D is *movable* if $N_\sigma(D) = 0$ or equivalently $D = P_\sigma(D)$.

Remark 4.5. Let D be a big, movable \mathbb{R} -divisor on a normal proper variety X . Let $D' \sim_{\mathbb{R}} D$ with $D' \geq 0$. Then $D' = P_\sigma(D')$ is the componentwise limit of the divisors $D'_m := D' - \frac{1}{m} \min\{\text{mult}_\Gamma D'' \mid D'' \sim_{\mathbb{Z}} mD', D'' \geq 0\}$. (This is Lemma 4.1.i) when X is projective, and we can reduce to this case via Lemma 4.2.i).) Observe that $|mD'_m|$ is a linear series without fixed divisorial components for large m . In this sense, we understand movable \mathbb{R} -divisors as limits of divisors moving in linear series without fixed divisorial components.

Remark 4.6. If D is a big and nef \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then D is movable.

Definition 4.7. Let X be a normal variety. An \mathbb{R} -divisor A is *ample in codimension 1* if there exists a closed subset $Z \subset X$ of codimension at least 2 such that $A|_{X \setminus Z}$ is an ample \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor.

The following lemma shows that all normal varieties admit such divisors.

Lemma 4.8. *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a proper, generically finite, dominant morphism of normal varieties, and A an \mathbb{R} -divisor on Y that is ample in codimension 1. Then π_*A is ample in codimension 1.*

Proof. By removing a suitable subset of codimension 2 from X we may assume that π is finite and A is ample on Y . Note π_*A is \mathbb{R} -Cartier in codimension 1, so that by shrinking Y and X further we may assume π_*A is also \mathbb{R} -Cartier. If B is a \mathbb{Q} -divisor whose multiples separate finite subsets on Y , then multiples of π_*B also separate finite subsets on Y . Thus π_*A is ample. \square

Lemma 4.9. *Let X be a normal proper variety over a field, Γ a prime divisor, and A an \mathbb{R} -divisor that is ample in codimension 1. Then*

- i) If E is an \mathbb{R} -divisor, then, for m sufficiently large, $E + mA \sim_{\mathbb{R}} B_m$, for some $B_m \geq 0$ with $\Gamma \not\subset \text{Supp}(B_m)$.*
- ii) If P is a big \mathbb{R} -divisor with $\sigma_{\Gamma}(P) = 0$, then $P + A \sim_{\mathbb{R}} C$, for some $C \geq 0$ with $\Gamma \not\subset \text{Supp}(C)$.*

Proof. For *i)*, by working over the smooth locus of X we see that $E + mA$ is ample in codimension 1 for m sufficiently large and then the statement is clear.

Let m be as in part *i)* for $E = \Gamma$. By the definition of σ_{Γ} , there exists an effective $P_m \sim_{\mathbb{R}} P$ such that $\text{mult}_{\Gamma}(P_m) \leq \frac{1}{m}$. By *i)*, we have that $P_m + A$ is \mathbb{R} -linearly equivalent to an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor C without Γ in its support. \square

Lemma 4.10. *Let X be a normal proper variety. Then*

- i) If D is a big \mathbb{R} -divisor, then $P_{\sigma}(D)$ is big and movable. If D is effective, then so is $P_{\sigma}(D)$.*
- ii) If P and D are big \mathbb{R} -divisors with P movable and $P \leq D$, then $P \leq P_{\sigma}(D)$.*
- iii) If $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a proper generically finite dominant morphism of normal proper varieties and P is a big movable \mathbb{R} -divisor on Y , then π_*P is also big and movable.*
- iv) Let A be an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor that is ample in codimension 1. Then for every \mathbb{R} -divisor E there exists $\epsilon_E > 0$ such that $A - \epsilon_E E$ is big and movable.*

Proof. Part *i)* is a consequence of Lemma 4.1.iii) in the projective case, and can be reduced to this case in general by Lemma 4.2.i) and Lemma 3.3.

For part *ii)*, assume $D = P + N$ with N effective. By Lemma 4.2.i), and Lemma 3.3 we can assume that X is projective. Let A be an effective ample divisor. For all prime divisors Γ on X we have

$$\sigma_{\Gamma}(D + \epsilon A) \leq \sigma_{\Gamma}(P) + \sigma_{\Gamma}(N + \epsilon A) = \sigma_{\Gamma}(N + \epsilon A).$$

By summing over all Γ 's we obtain $N_{\sigma}(D + \epsilon A) \leq N_{\sigma}(N + \epsilon A)$, and hence $P_{\sigma}(D + \epsilon A) \geq P$. The continuity property in Lemma 4.1.ii) implies $P_{\sigma}(D) \geq P$.

In *iii)*, observe first that any divisor ample in codimension 1 is big. Furthermore, an \mathbb{R} -divisor is big if and only if it dominates some divisor ample in codimension 1. From Lemma 4.8 it follows that if P is big, then π_*P is also big.

To settle the movability of π_*P , by Lemmas 4.1.i), 4.2.i) and Remark 4.5, it is enough to show that if V is a linear series without fixed divisorial components on Y , then π_*V spans a linear series without fixed divisorial components on X . By Remark 2.2 we may assume that the base field is infinite. If Γ is a prime divisor on X , let Γ'_i with $1 \leq i \leq r$ be the divisorial components of $\pi^{-1}\Gamma$. If π_*V spans a linear series with a fixed component Γ , then $\text{mult}_{\Gamma}Q > \epsilon$ for all $Q \in \pi_*V$ and for some $\epsilon > 0$ by the finite dimensionality of V . Then V is the union of the proper subspaces $V_i = \{R \in V \mid \text{mult}_{\Gamma'_i} R > \frac{\epsilon}{r \cdot \deg \pi}\}$. This is impossible over an infinite field.

Since global sections are determined outside any codimension 2 subset, it is enough to consider the projective case of *iv)*. By the lower convexity of N_{σ} , it is enough to treat the case when A and E are \mathbb{Z} -divisors with A ample Cartier. Then $\mathcal{O}_X(mA - E) \simeq \mathcal{O}_X(-E) \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(A)^{\otimes m}$ is globally generated for large m . In particular the linear series $|mA - E|$ has no fixed components and $N_{\sigma}(A - \frac{1}{m}E) = 0$. \square

Remark 4.11. When $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ is a finite morphism of normal proper varieties, for every \mathbb{R} -divisor D on X we can define π^*D as the closure in Y of $\pi_U^*D_U$, where $U \subset X$ is the smooth locus, and $\pi_U : Y \times_X U \rightarrow U$ is the induced finite morphism. Since $\text{codim}(X \setminus U, X) \geq 2$, we see that π^* respects linear equivalence (with \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{Q} , and \mathbb{R} coefficients).

Lemma 4.12. *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow X$ be a generically finite morphism of normal proper varieties and D a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on X . Then*

*i) If π is finite, then $N_\sigma(\pi^*D) = \pi^*N_\sigma(D)$.*

*ii) If π is only generically finite, but D is an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor, then $\pi_*N_\sigma(\pi^*D) = (\deg \pi) \cdot N_\sigma(D)$.*

Proof. If π is finite, then $N_\sigma(\pi^*D) \leq \pi^*N_\sigma(D)$ because $H^0(Y, \pi^*D) \supseteq \pi^*H^0(X, D)$. When π is only generically finite and D is \mathbb{R} -Cartier, the same argument and the projection formula (cf. [Ful84, Proposition 2.3.(c)]) prove $\pi_*N_\sigma(\pi^*D) \leq (\deg \pi) \cdot N_\sigma(D)$. On the other hand $D = \frac{1}{\deg \pi} \pi_*P_\sigma(\pi^*D) + \frac{1}{\deg \pi} \pi_*N_\sigma(\pi^*D)$, and $\pi_*P_\sigma(\pi^*D)$ is big and movable by Lemma 4.10.iii). By Lemma 4.10.ii) it follows that $\frac{1}{\deg \pi} \pi_*P_\sigma(\pi^*D) \leq P_\sigma(D)$ and hence $\frac{1}{\deg \pi} \pi_*N_\sigma(\pi^*D) \geq N_\sigma(D)$. Therefore in both i) and ii),

$$\pi_*N_\sigma(\pi^*D) = (\deg \pi) \cdot N_\sigma(D).$$

When π is finite, this forces equality in $N_\sigma(\pi^*D) \leq \pi^*N_\sigma(D)$. \square

Lemma 4.13. *If D is a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on the proper normal variety X , and $E \geq 0$ with $\text{Supp}(E) \subset \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D))$, then*

$$N_\sigma(D + E) = N_\sigma(D) + E$$

and

$$H^0(X, D) = H^0(X, D + E) = H^0(X, P_\sigma(D) + E) = H^0(X, P_\sigma(D)).$$

Proof. We argue just as in [Nak04, III.1.8 Lemma] and [Nak04, III.1.9 Corollary]. When X is not projective, we replace the ample A from the proof of [Nak04, III.1.8 Lemma] by a divisor ample in codimension 1. \square

5. DIVISORIAL AUGMENTED BASE LOCUS

The augmented base locus of an \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor on a normal complex projective variety X is defined in [ELM⁺06, Definition 1.2] as $\mathbf{B}_+(D) = \bigcap_{D=A+E} \text{Supp}(E)$, where A is an ample \mathbb{R} -divisor and E is an effective \mathbb{R} -Cartier \mathbb{R} -divisor. For normal proper varieties, we mimic this construction by using divisors ample in codimension 1. The resulting subset is a good analogue of the augmented base locus in codimension 1.

Definition 5.1. Let D be a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on a normal proper variety X . The *divisorial augmented base locus* of D is the divisorial component $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ of

$$(5.1.1) \quad \bigcap_{D=A+E} \text{Supp}(E)$$

with the intersection being taken over all decompositions $D = A + E$ with A an \mathbb{R} -divisor, ample in codimension 1, and E an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor.

The next lemma implies that if X is projective then $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ equals the divisorial part of $\mathbf{B}_+(D)$ and that we can also compute $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ in terms of just one divisor that is ample in codimension 1.

Lemma 5.2. *Let X be a normal proper variety. Let D be a big \mathbb{R} -divisor and let A be an \mathbb{R} -divisor that is ample in codimension 1 on X . Then $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ is the divisorial component of the intersection of the supports of all $D' \in |D - \epsilon A|_{\mathbb{R}}$ for all $\epsilon > 0$.*

Proof. Let U denote the above intersection. Its index set is a subset of the one in (5.1.1), therefore $U \supseteq \mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$. Let now Γ be a prime divisor which is a component of the supports of all $D' \in |D - \epsilon A|_{\mathbb{R}}$ for all sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$. Let $D = A' + E$ with A' ample in codimension 1 and $E \geq 0$. By Lemma 4.9.i), for all sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $B_\epsilon \sim_{\mathbb{R}} \epsilon A$ such that $A' - B_\epsilon \geq 0$ and $\Gamma \not\subset \text{Supp}(A' - B_\epsilon)$. Then

$$|D - \epsilon A| \ni D - B_\epsilon = (A' - B_\epsilon) + E.$$

Consequently Γ is a component of $\text{Supp}(E)$. \square

The relationship between $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ and the Zariski decomposition is given by the following.

Lemma 5.3. *Let X be a normal proper variety. Let D be a big \mathbb{R} -divisor and let A be an \mathbb{R} -divisor which is ample in codimension 1 on X . Then*

$$\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D) = \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$$

for all sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$.

Proof. Note that since $\text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$ is a closed set, for any sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$ the sets $\text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$ all coincide. Thus we may show that $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D)$ coincides with the intersection over all sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$ of the sets $\text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$.

By Theorem 3.5.iii), we see that $D - \epsilon A$ is big for sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$. Let Γ be a prime divisor on X . Assume $\sigma_\Gamma(D - \epsilon A) = 0$. Lemma 4.9.ii) shows that $\Gamma \not\subset \text{Supp}(D')$ for some $D' \in |D - \frac{\epsilon}{2}A|_{\mathbb{R}}$. Therefore $\mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D) \subseteq \bigcap_{\epsilon > 0} \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D - \epsilon A))$. The reverse inclusion is straightforward from the previous lemma and the definition of $\sigma_\Gamma(D - \epsilon A)$. \square

Remark 5.4. Inspired by [ELM⁺06, Lemma 1.14] we define the *divisorial restricted base locus* as

$$\mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D) := \bigcup_A \mathbf{B}_+^{\text{div}}(D + A),$$

where A ranges through all \mathbb{R} -divisors on X that are ample in codimension 1. One can show that if the base field K is uncountable and D is a big \mathbb{R} -divisor, then $\mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D) = \text{Supp}(N_\sigma(D))$.

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