

## HOMOGENEOUS IDEALS ASSOCIATED TO A SMOOTH SUBVARIETY

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper we show that a smooth subvariety  $Z$  on an odd-dimensional complex projective smooth variety  $X$  is determined by the sufficiently many Hodge conjectures it solves on hypersurfaces  $Y$  on  $X$  of high degrees containing  $Z$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In this article we consider the following situation: Let  $X$  be a complex projective smooth variety of dimension  $2n + 1$  with a given ample line bundle  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . Let  $Z \subset X$  be a smooth subvariety of dimension  $n$ . For any smooth hypersurface  $Y \in |\mathcal{O}(d)|$  of  $X$  containing  $Z$ , let  $\gamma$  be the projection of  $[Z]$  in  $H^{n,n}(Y) \cap H^{2n}(Y, \mathbb{Q})_{\text{van}}$ , where  $H^{2n}(Y, \mathbb{Q})_{\text{van}}$  is the orthogonal complement of the restriction of  $H^{2n}(X, \mathbb{Q})$ . The cycle  $Z$  solves the Hodge conjecture for the Hodge class  $\gamma$  in the following sense of reversed induction on dimension: *Assume* that the Hodge conjecture is known on  $X$ . Then to prove the Hodge conjecture on  $Y$  for a given Hodge class  $\tilde{\gamma} \in H^{n,n}(Y) \cap H^{2n}(Y, \mathbb{Q})$ , it suffices to find a cycle  $Z$  having the same projection in  $H^{2n}(Y, \mathbb{Q})_{\text{van}}$  as  $\tilde{\gamma}$ , since then  $[Z] - \tilde{\gamma}$  lifts to a Hodge class on  $X$  and is algebraic by assumption.

In general, when a vanishing Hodge class  $\gamma$  is given, we may consider a natural homogeneous ideal  $E$  in the homogeneous coordinate ring of  $X$ ; see §3.2 below. The point is that  $E$  can be constructed using only Hodge theory, or more precisely using the Poincaré residue, and so apparently is not dependent on the algebraicity of the class  $\gamma$ . By considering varying hypersurfaces  $Y$  containing  $Z$  of large degrees, we then obtain a system of homogeneous ideals  $\{E_Y\}$ .

We will show that  $Z$  can be recovered from the system  $\{E_Y\}$ ; see Corollary 5.2.1. The underlying philosophy is to find enough Hodge-theoretic data associated to a Hodge class  $\gamma$  so that an algebraic realization  $Z$  may be constructed; this work may be considered as a basic step toward understanding the Hodge conjecture from a constructive viewpoint.

1.2. In [4, Corollary (4.a.8)] it was shown that when a smooth curve  $C \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  is non-special in the sense that  $H^1(C, N_{C|\mathbb{P}^3}) = 0$ , its defining equations are determined by Hodge-theoretic data. The result above may be considered as analogous.

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In [2, 6, 7, 8] the geometry of the Noether-Lefschetz locus  $NL(\gamma)$  is used to construct cycles  $Z$  solving the Hodge conjecture for  $\gamma$  under the assumption that  $NL(\gamma)$  contains a component of large dimension. The ideal  $E$  (and its generalizations) is one of the main tools used to prove these results.

2. NOTATION AND POSITIVITY CONDITIONS

2.1. Throughout this article  $X$  will denote a fixed complex projective smooth variety of dimension  $2n + 1$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  denotes a fixed ample line bundle, and  $Z$  denotes a smooth subvariety of dimension  $n$  with ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{I}$ . Let  $N = N_{Z|X} = (\mathcal{I}/\mathcal{I}^2)^\vee$ .

Denote by  $S = \bigoplus S^k$  the graded algebra with  $S^k = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(k))$ . Then we have  $X \cong \text{Proj}(S)$ . Let  $M$  be the graded  $S$ -module with  $M^k = H^0(X, K_X(k))$ .

Denote by  $\bar{S}$  the graded algebra with  $\bar{S}^k = H^0(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z(k))$ , where  $\mathcal{O}_Z(1) := \mathcal{O}(1)|_Z$ . Then we have a natural homomorphism  $S \rightarrow \bar{S}$ . Let  $I$  be its kernel. Then  $I^k = H^0(X, \mathcal{I}(k))$  is the vector space of sections of  $\mathcal{O}(k)$  vanishing along  $Z$ . We have  $Z \cong \text{Proj}(\bar{S}) \cong \text{Proj}(S/I)$ , whose inclusion in  $X$  is induced by  $S \rightarrow \bar{S}$ . Let  $\bar{M}$  be the graded  $\bar{S}$ -module with  $\bar{M}^k = H^0(Z, K_X|_Z(k))$ . Then we have a restriction map  $M \rightarrow \bar{M}$ ; denote its kernel by  $K$ .

2.2. We will need various positivity assumptions:

- (B) :  $H^{>0}(X, \Omega_X^\ell(kd)) = 0$  for all  $k \geq 1, \ell \geq 0$ , and  $d \geq d_0$ .
- (M) :  $S^a \otimes M^b \rightarrow M^{a+b}$  is surjective for all  $a \geq a_0$  and  $b \geq b_0$ .
- (S) :  $\mathcal{I}(d) \rightarrow N^\vee(d)$  is surjective on global sections for all  $d \geq d_0$ .
- (Z) :  $\mathcal{O}_Z(c_0)$  is very ample and  $N^\vee(d - c_0)$  is globally generated for some  $c_0 \geq 1$  and for all  $d \geq d_0$ .

For sufficiently large  $a_0, b_0, c_0, d_0$  these conditions hold since  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  is ample and

- (B) :  $\Omega_X^\ell = 0$  when  $\ell > \dim(X)$ , and the cohomological criterion of ampleness [5, Chapter III, Proposition 5.3].
- (M) : [1, Lemma 1.28].
- (S) : we have a sheaf surjection  $I \rightarrow N^\vee$ , and [5, Chapter III, Proposition 5.3].
- (Z) : we have  $H^i(Z, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}(c)) \cong H^i(X, (i_*\mathcal{F})(c))$  by [5, Chapter III, Exercise 8.1] and the projection formula, for any coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $Z$ . Then by [5, Chapter III, Proposition 5.3] we know that  $\mathcal{O}_Z(c)$  is very ample for all sufficiently large  $c$ .

3. HOMOGENEOUS IDEAL ASSOCIATED TO A VANISHING CLASS

3.1. Let  $Y \subset X$  be a smooth divisor in  $H^0(\mathcal{O}(d))$  with  $d$  sufficiently large so that condition (B) in §2.2 is satisfied with  $d_0 = d$ . We can then express the Hodge decomposition of  $H^{2n}(Y, \mathbb{C})_{\text{van}}$  purely in terms of algebra; see for example [9, section 6.1.2] and [3, Lecture 4]. More precisely, we have residue maps

$$r^{pd} : M^{pd} = H^0(K_X(pd)) \rightarrow H^{2n-p+1, p-1}(Y)_{\text{van}}.$$

In particular every vanishing Hodge class  $\gamma$  of degree  $2n$  is of the form  $r^{(n+1)d}(\omega)$  for some  $\omega \in M^{(n+1)d}$ .

The non-degenerate intersection pairing on  $H^{2n}(Y)_{\text{van}}$  can also be understood in terms of the module  $M$ : There is a non-zero linear functional

$$\lambda : W := H^0(X, K_X((n + 1)d)^{\otimes 2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

such that the pairing between the Hodge groups of complementary bi-degrees is induced by the composition

$$M^{pd} \otimes M^{(2n+2-p)d} \longrightarrow W \xrightarrow{\lambda} \mathbb{C},$$

where the first map is induced by the tensor product.

Moreover, the Gauss-Manin connection on the smooth locus of  $H^0(\mathcal{O}(d))$  is given by the multiplication map. More precisely we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{CD} S^d \otimes M^{pd} @>\text{multiplication}>> M^{(p+1)d} \\ @VVV @VVV \\ H^0(Y, N_{Y|X}) \otimes H^{2n-p+1,p-1}(Y)_{\text{van}} @>\nabla>> H^{2n-p,p}(Y)_{\text{van}} \end{CD}$$

3.2. Now let  $\gamma$  be a vanishing Hodge class of degree  $2n$  on  $Y$ ; we will denote also by  $\gamma$  a preimage under  $r^{(n+1)d}$  in  $M^{(n+1)d}$ . It then defines a linear functional  $(-).\gamma : \omega \mapsto \lambda(\omega \otimes \gamma)$  on  $M^{(n+1)d}$ , non-zero if  $\gamma$  is non-zero, since the intersection pairing on vanishing cohomology is non-degenerate. Now we define

$$E^k := \{P \in S^k \mid (PM^{(n+1)d-k}).\gamma = 0\},$$

and dually

$$F^{(n+1)d-k} := \{\omega \in M^{(n+1)d-k} \mid (S^k\omega).\gamma = 0\}.$$

In other words, they are kernels with respect to the pairing

$$S^k \otimes M^{(n+1)d-k} \longrightarrow M^{(n+1)d} \xrightarrow{(-).\gamma} \mathbb{C}.$$

It is easy to see that  $E := \bigoplus E^k$  is a homogeneous ideal in  $S$ . This construction was studied in [6, section 1.2]; in fact the ideal  $E$  here is called  $E_0$  in [6], where a family of homogeneous ideals  $\{E_r \mid r \geq -1\}$  is constructed.

3.3. The ideal  $E$  constructed above is considered to contain information about the Noether-Lefschetz locus  $NL(\gamma) \subset H^0(\mathcal{O}(d))$  associated to  $\gamma$ , which consists of smooth divisors  $Y \in H^0(\mathcal{O}(d))$  on which the flat transport of  $\gamma$  is still a Hodge class. For example, using the description of the Gauss-Manin connection above, it is easy to see that  $E^d \subset S^d$  is the tangent space to  $NL(\gamma)$  at  $Y$ . See [6, 1.2.3] for a geometric interpretation of some other pieces of the ideals  $E_r$ .

#### 4. HOMOGENEOUS IDEALS ASSOCIATED TO A SMOOTH SUBVARIETY

4.1. For any given  $d$ , if  $Y \in I^d$  is a smooth divisor, then we may apply §3.1 to the vanishing class  $\gamma_Y$ , defined as the image of  $[Z]$  in the vanishing cohomology of  $Y$ , and obtain a homogeneous ideal  $E_Y$ . In the case when  $d$  is sufficiently large so that (B) is satisfied with  $d_0 = d$ , we denote also by  $\gamma_Y \in M^{(n+1)d}$  a preimage under the residue map of  $\gamma_Y$  and by  $(-).\gamma_Y$  the corresponding functional on  $M^{(n+1)d}$ .

**Proposition 4.1.1.** *For any fixed integer  $k$  sufficiently large so that (B) holds with  $d_0 = k$ , we have  $I^k \subset E_Y^k$  for every smooth  $Y$  in  $I^d$  with  $d$  sufficiently greater than  $k$ .*

*Proof.* First assume  $d = k$ , in which case the containment is clear since  $I^k$  consists of sections of  $\mathcal{O}(k)$  vanishing on  $Z$ , while  $E_Y^k$  is the tangent space to  $NL(\gamma_Y)$  at the hypersurface  $Y$ ; see §3.3.

Now suppose  $d$  is sufficiently large so that condition (M) is satisfied with  $a_0 = d - k$  and  $b_0 = nd$ . Then we have  $S^{d-k}M^{nd} = M^{(n+1)d-k}$ . Let  $P \in I^k$ . Then  $PS^{d-k} \subset I^d \subset E_Y^d$  by the case above for any smooth  $Y$  in  $I^d$ . Hence we have  $0 = (PS^{d-k}M^{nd}) \cdot \gamma_Y = (PM^{(n+1)d-k}) \cdot \gamma_Y$ , which says exactly that  $P \in E_Y^k$ .  $\square$

4.2. The functional  $(-)\cdot\gamma_Y$  on  $M^{(n+1)d}$  corresponding to the containments  $Z \subset Y \subset X$  can be described in terms of the geometry as explained in [3, Proposition on page 49]: Let  $\bar{N} := N_{Z|Y}$ . Then we have a short exact sequence of vector bundles

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z(-d) \longrightarrow N^\vee \longrightarrow \bar{N}^\vee \longrightarrow 0,$$

where the first map is the restriction to  $Z$  of the inclusion  $\mathcal{O}(-d) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}$  given by the defining equation of  $Y$ . Then by the construction in [3, page 39] and twisting by  $\mathcal{O}_Z(nd)$  we get an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z \longrightarrow N^\vee(d) \longrightarrow \bigwedge^2 N^\vee(2d) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd) \longrightarrow \bigwedge^n \bar{N}^\vee(nd) \longrightarrow 0$$

where all arrows except for the last two are given by contracting with the defining equation of  $Y$  (restricted to  $Z$ ).

Now we have  $K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n \bar{N}^\vee \cong K_Y|_Z \cong K_X(d)|_Z \cong K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^{n+1} N^\vee(d)$  by the adjunction formula. Hence we can rewrite the sequence above as

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z \longrightarrow N^\vee(d) \longrightarrow \bigwedge^2 N^\vee(2d) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd) \longrightarrow \bigwedge^{n+1} N^\vee((n+1)d) \longrightarrow 0$$

where now every arrow is given by contracting with the defining equation of  $Y$ .

Twisting this last sequence by  $K_Z$  we get  
(4.1)

$$0 \longrightarrow K_Z \longrightarrow K_Z \otimes N^\vee(d) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd) \longrightarrow K_X|_Z((n+1)d) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Every element in  $\bar{M}^{(n+1)d} = H^0(Z, K_X|_Z((n+1)d))$  can be viewed as a morphism

$$\mathcal{O}_Z \longrightarrow K_X|_Z((n+1)d),$$

which gives by pulling-back (4.1) an extension of  $\mathcal{O}_Z$  by  $K_Z$ , namely an element in  $\text{Ext}^n(\mathcal{O}_Z, K_Z) \cong H^n(Z, K_Z) \cong \mathbb{C}$ .

The construction above gives the map  $\alpha$  in the following commutative (up to a non-zero scalar multiple) diagram:

$$\begin{CD} H^0(X, K_X((n+1)d)) @>\beta>> H^0(Z, K_X|_Z((n+1)d)) \\ @V r^{(n+1)d} VV @VV \alpha V \\ H^n(Y, \Omega_Y^n) @>\delta>> H^n(Z, K_Z^n) @>\lambda_{\cong}>> \mathbb{C} \end{CD}$$

Here  $\beta$  is the restriction map from  $M^{(n+1)d}$  to  $\bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  as in §2.1,  $\delta$  is the restriction map, and  $r^{(n+1)d}$  is the residue map as in §3.1, whose image is  $H^{n,n}(Y)_{\text{van}}$ . The composition  $\lambda \circ \delta \circ r^{(n+1)d}$  is by definition the functional  $(-)\cdot\gamma_Y$ , which is then equal to  $\lambda \circ \alpha \circ \beta$ . Note that as long as  $[Z]$  is non-zero, the map  $\delta$  is not zero, but the composition  $\delta \circ r^{(n+1)d}$  could be zero: this happens exactly when the vanishing component  $\gamma_Y$  of  $[Z]$  is zero.

Given the sequence (4.1), an element  $\mathcal{O}_Z \rightarrow K_X|_Z((n+1)d)$  in  $\bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  maps to zero in  $\text{Ext}^n(\mathcal{O}_Z, K_Z)$  if and only if it lifts to a morphism  $\mathcal{O}_Z \rightarrow K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd)$ ; hence we can describe the kernel of  $(-)\cdot\gamma_Y$  as follows:

**Lemma 4.2.1.** *Given an element  $P_1 \in I^d$  defining a smooth divisor  $Y$ , let  $Q_1$  be its image in  $H^0(N^\vee(d))$ . Then the kernel of the functional  $(-)\cdot\gamma_Y$  on  $M^{(n+1)d}$  consists of elements whose images in  $\bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  lie in  $Q_1 \wedge H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd))$  under the wedge product map*

$$H^0(N^\vee(d)) \otimes H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd)) \xrightarrow{\wedge} \bar{M}^{(n+1)d}.$$

5. RECOVERING A SMOOTH SUBVARIETY FROM ITS ASSOCIATED IDEALS

5.1. We will need the following lemmas:

**Lemma 5.1.1.** *Let  $\ell$  be an integer sufficiently large so that  $K_X(\ell)$  is base-point-free. If  $P$  in  $S^k$  satisfies  $PM^\ell \subset K = \ker(M \rightarrow \bar{M})$ , then it also satisfies  $PS^\ell \subset I$ .*

*Proof.* The condition  $PM^\ell \subset K$  implies that  $P\omega$  vanishes along  $Z$  for every  $\omega \in M^\ell = H^0(K_X(\ell))$ . Since the line bundle  $K_X(\ell)$  is base-point-free, for every point  $z \in Z$  we can find a global section  $\omega$  not vanishing at  $z$ . Hence  $P$  must vanish at  $z$ , for every  $z \in Z$ . □

**Lemma 5.1.2.** *Suppose  $\mathcal{O}_Z(c_0)$  is very ample and  $N^\vee(d-c_0)$  is globally generated; namely condition (Z) holds. For every non-zero element  $R \in S^{c_0}$  there is an element  $Q' \in H^0(N^\vee(d-c_0))$  such that  $RQ' \neq 0$  in  $H^0(N^\vee(d))$ .*

*Proof.* For any  $z \in Z$  at which  $R$  is non-zero, find  $Q'$  also not vanishing at  $z$ . □

**Lemma 5.1.3.** *Suppose  $\mathcal{O}_Z(c_0)$  is very ample. If  $\eta \in \bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  lies in  $R\bar{M}^{(n+1)d-c_0}$  for every non-zero  $R \in \bar{S}^{c_0} = H^0(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z(c_0))$ , then  $\eta = 0$ .*

*Proof.* The condition implies that  $\eta$  as a global section of  $K_X|_Z((n+1)d)$  vanishes along the divisor  $Z(R)$  on  $Z$ . But  $\mathcal{O}_Z(c_0)$  is very ample; hence every point  $z \in Z$  is contained in  $Z(R)$  for some non-zero  $R$ . □

5.2. For any fixed  $k$  we denote by  $d \gg k$  that condition (M) is satisfied for  $a_0 = d-k$  and  $b_0 = nd$ ; notice that if  $d_1 \geq d$  and  $d \gg k$ , then  $d_1 \gg k$ . With the notation as in §4.1, define

$$J_d^k := \bigcap_{\text{smooth } Y \in I^d} E_Y^k$$

and

$$J^k := \bigcap_{d \gg k} J_d^k.$$

Then  $J := \bigoplus J^k$  is a homogeneous ideal, and we have  $I \subset J$  in all sufficiently large degrees by Proposition 4.1.1.

**Theorem 5.2.1.** *For every element  $P \in J$  of sufficiently large degree, there is an integer  $\ell$  such that  $PS^\ell \subset I$ .*

*Proof.* Fix an integer  $k$  sufficiently large so that condition (B) holds with  $d_0 = k$ , and fix any  $d \gg k$  so that moreover conditions (S) and (Z) are satisfied with  $d_0 = d$  and some  $c_0$ . Let  $P \in S^k$  be an element which does not satisfy the conclusion of the statement, and we will show that  $P$  does not lie in  $J$ .

By Lemma 5.1.1 the assumption on  $P$  implies that for all sufficiently large integers  $e'$  we have  $PM^{e'} \not\subseteq K = \ker(M \rightarrow \bar{M})$ . Replacing  $d$  with a larger integer if necessary, we can find  $e := (n+1)d - k$  sufficiently large satisfying  $PM^e \subset \bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  and  $PM^e \not\subseteq K$ . Let  $\eta \in \bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$  be any non-zero element in the image  $\overline{PM^e}$  of  $PM^e$  in  $\bar{M}^{(n+1)d}$ .

Now consider the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{CD} \bar{S}^{c_0} \otimes H^0(N^\vee(d - c_0)) \otimes H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd)) @>\wedge>> \bar{S}^{c_0} \otimes \bar{M}^{(n+1)d - c_0} \\ @VVV @VVV \\ H^0(N^\vee(d)) \otimes H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd)) @>\wedge>> \bar{M}^{(n+1)d} \end{CD}$$

where the horizontal maps are the wedge product and the vertical ones are multiplication.

We claim that there exists a non-zero element  $Q_1 \in H^0(N^\vee(d))$  such that  $\eta$  does not lie in  $Q_1 \wedge H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd))$ . Suppose to the contrary that for every non-zero  $Q_1$  we have

$$\eta \in Q_1 \wedge H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd)).$$

Then by Theorem 5.1.2, for every non-zero element  $R \in \bar{S}^{c_0}$  we can find  $Q' \in H^0(N^\vee(d - c_0))$  such that  $RQ' \neq 0$  and therefore  $\eta \in RQ' \wedge H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd))$ . But this implies

$$\eta \in R\bar{M}^{(n+1)d - c_0},$$

which implies that  $\eta = 0$  by Lemma 5.1.3, a contradiction.

Note that the set of non-zero  $Q_1$  satisfying the condition  $\eta \notin Q_1 \wedge H^0(K_Z \otimes \bigwedge^n N^\vee(nd))$  is a Zariski open subset of  $H^0(N^\vee(d))$ , and we just showed it is non-empty.

By condition (S) we can lift any  $Q_1$  as above to an element  $P_1 \in I^d$ , and we can find such a  $P_1$  defining a smooth divisor  $Y$  on  $X$  containing  $Z$ . So by Lemma 4.2.1 we know that  $PM^e$  is not contained in the kernel of  $(-)\cdot\gamma_Y$ . In other words,  $P \notin E_Y^k$ ; hence  $P \notin J^k$  as required.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.2.1.** *The subvariety  $Z$  can be recovered from  $J$ . More precisely,  $Z \cong \text{Proj}(S/J)$ .*

*Proof.* Indeed, in all sufficiently large degrees,  $J$  lies between the ideal  $I$  and its saturation in  $S$ ; see [5, Ex. 2.14 and Ex. 5.10].  $\square$

*Remark 5.2.2.* In its stated form Corollary 5.2.1 requires the knowledge of all smooth divisors  $Y$  containing  $Z$ , and such knowledge clearly already determines  $Z$ . But the proof gives more: Suppose the saturation  $\bar{I}$  of  $I$  is generated by its degree  $e$  homogeneous piece  $\bar{I}^e$  and we have  $Z \subset Y$  with  $\deg(Y) = d$  sufficiently large. This defines  $E_Y$ , which may be viewed as a first approximation of  $I$ . The proof of Corollary 5.2.1 says that for every element  $P$  in  $E_Y^e$  but not in  $\bar{I}^e$  we can find another  $Y'$  containing  $Z$  and possibly of higher degree, so that  $P$  does not lie in  $E_{Y'}$ . Therefore we can take  $E_Y \cap E_{Y'}$  as a refinement. Since  $\bar{I}^e$  is finite dimensional, a finite intersection  $(E_Y \cap E_{Y'} \cap E_{Y''} \cap \dots)^e$  will be contained in  $\bar{I}^e$ , and then  $Z$  is determined by these finitely many divisors  $Y, Y', Y'', \dots$

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