

CRITERIA FOR σ -AMPLENESS

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the past ten years a study of “noncommutative projective geometry” has flourished. By using and generalizing techniques of commutative projective geometry, one can study certain noncommutative rings and obtain results for which no purely algebraic proof is known.

The most basic building block of the theory is the twisted homogeneous coordinate ring. Let X be a projective scheme over an algebraically closed field k with σ a scheme automorphism, and let \mathcal{L} be an invertible sheaf on X . In [ATV] a twisted version of the homogeneous coordinate ring $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{L})$ of X was invented with the grading $B = \bigoplus B_m$ for

$$B_m = H^0(X, \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^\sigma \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}^{\sigma^{m-1}})$$

where $\mathcal{L}^\sigma = \sigma^*\mathcal{L}$ is the pullback of \mathcal{L} . Multiplication on sections is defined by $a \cdot b = a \otimes b^{\sigma^m}$ when $a \in B_m$ and $b \in B_n$.

Soon after their seminal paper, Artin and Van den Bergh formalized much of the theory of these twisted homogeneous coordinate rings in [AV]. In the commutative case, the most useful homogeneous coordinate rings are associated with an ample invertible sheaf. A generalization of ampleness was therefore needed and defined as follows.

An invertible sheaf \mathcal{L} is called right σ -ample if for any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} ,

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^\sigma \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}^{\sigma^{m-1}}) = 0$$

for $q > 0$ and $m \gg 0$. Similarly, \mathcal{L} is called left σ -ample if for any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} ,

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^\sigma \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}^{\sigma^{m-1}} \otimes \mathcal{F}^{\sigma^m}) = 0$$

for $q > 0$ and $m \gg 0$. A divisor D is called right (resp. left) σ -ample if $\mathcal{O}_X(D)$ is right (resp. left) σ -ample. If σ is the identity automorphism, then these conditions are the same as saying \mathcal{L} is ample. Artin and Van den Bergh proved that if \mathcal{L} is right (resp. left) σ -ample, then B is a finitely generated right (resp. left) noetherian k -algebra [AV].

Twisted homogeneous coordinate rings have been instrumental in the classification of rings, such as the 3-dimensional Artin-Schelter regular algebras [ATV, St1,

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St2] and the 4-dimensional Sklyanin algebras [SS]. Artin and Stafford showed that any connected (i.e. $B_0 = k$) graded domain of GK-dimension 2 generated by B_1 is the twisted homogeneous coordinate ring (up to a finite dimensional vector space) of some projective curve X , with automorphism σ and (left and right) σ -ample \mathcal{L} [AS]. Therefore any such ring is automatically noetherian!

While the concept of noncommutative schemes has grown to encompass more than just twisted homogeneous coordinate rings (cf. [AZ]), they remain a guide for how such a scheme ought to behave. However, fundamental open questions about these coordinate rings and σ -ample divisors have persisted for the past decade. In [AV], the authors derived a simple criterion for a divisor to be σ -ample in the case X is a curve, a smooth surface, or certain other special cases. With this criterion, they showed that B must have finite GK-dimension. In other words, they showed that B has polynomial growth. They ask

- Questions 1.1** ([AV, Question 5.19]). (1) What is the extension of our simple criterion to higher dimensions?
 (2) Does the existence of a σ -ample divisor imply that B has polynomial growth?

The second question was asked again after [AS, Theorem 4.1].

One would also like to know if the conditions of right and left σ -ampleness are related and if B could be right noetherian, but not left noetherian. One might ask for which (commutative) schemes and automorphisms a σ -ample divisor even exists and if one can be easily found.

In this paper, all these questions will be settled very satisfactorily. We obtain

Theorem 1.2. *The following are true for any projective scheme X over an algebraically closed field.*

- (1) *Right and left σ -ampleness are equivalent. Thus every associated B is (right and left) noetherian.*
- (2) *A projective scheme X has a σ -ample divisor if and only if the action of σ on numerical equivalence classes of divisors is quasi-unipotent (cf. §3 for definitions). In this case, every ample divisor is σ -ample.*
- (3) *GKdim B is an integer if $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{L})$ and \mathcal{L} is σ -ample. Here GKdim B is the Gel'fand-Kirillov dimension of B in the sense of [KL].*

The first two results are handled in §5, while the third is covered in §6.

These facts are all consequences of

Theorem 1.3 (see Remark 5.2). *Let X be a projective scheme with automorphism σ . Let D be a Cartier divisor. D is (right) σ -ample if and only if σ is quasi-unipotent and*

$$D + \sigma D + \cdots + \sigma^{m-1} D$$

is ample for some $m > 0$.

This is the “simple criterion” which was already known if X is a smooth surface [AV, Theorem 1.7]. We obtain the result mainly by use of Kleiman’s numerical theory of ampleness [K].

Besides the results above, we derive other corollaries in §5 and find bounds for the GK-dimension in §6 via Riemann-Roch theorems. We also examine what happens in the non-quasi-unipotent case and obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1.4 (see Remark 6.2). *Let X be a projective scheme with automorphism σ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) *The automorphism σ is quasi-unipotent.*
- (2) *For all ample divisors D , $B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$ has finite GK-dimension.*
- (3) *For all ample divisors D , $B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$ is noetherian.*

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2. REDUCTIONS

Throughout this paper, we will work in the case of a projective scheme X over an algebraically closed base field of arbitrary characteristic. A variety will mean a reduced, irreducible scheme. All divisors will be *Cartier divisors* unless otherwise stated. For a projective scheme, the group of Cartier divisors, modulo linear equivalence, is naturally isomorphic to the Picard group of invertible sheaves. Since much of our work will entail intersection theory, we will work from the divisor point of view. Several times we use the facts that the ample divisors form a cone, that ampleness depends only on the numerical equivalence class of a divisor, and that ampleness is preserved under an automorphism. Hence the cone of ample divisors and its closure, the cone of numerically effective divisors, are invariant under an automorphism. As a reference for these and related facts we suggest [K].

Remark 2.1. The main results of this paper will be proved in terms of divisors rather than line bundles. However, the reader should note that, unravelling the definitions, one has $\mathcal{O}_X(\sigma D) \cong \mathcal{O}_X(D)^{\sigma^{-1}}$. It is therefore notationally more convenient to work with a right σ^{-1} -ample line bundle $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{O}_X(D)$, since then D is right σ^{-1} -ample if and only if $H^q(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1} D)) = 0$ for all $q > 0$ and $m \gg 0$. Obviously, this will have no effect on the final theorems. Throughout this paper, we will use the notation $\Delta_m = D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1} D$.

Before deriving our main criterion for σ -ampleness, we must first prove other equivalent criteria. We will need

Lemma 2.2 ([Fj, p. 520, Theorem 1]). *Let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf on a projective scheme X and let H be an ample divisor on X . Then there exists an integer c_0 such that for all $c \geq c_0$,*

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(cH + N)) = 0$$

for $q > 0$ and any ample divisor N . □

Proposition 2.3. *Let X be a projective scheme with σ an automorphism. Let D be a divisor on X and $\Delta_m = D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1} D$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) *For any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} , there exists an m_0 such that $H^q(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = 0$ for $q > 0$ and $m \geq m_0$.*
- (2) *For any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} , there exists an m_0 such that $\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)$ is generated by global sections for $m \geq m_0$.*
- (3) *For any divisor H , there exists an m_0 such that $\Delta_m - H$ is very ample for $m \geq m_0$.*
- (4) *For any divisor H , there exists an m_0 such that $\Delta_m - H$ is ample for $m \geq m_0$.*

The first condition is the original definition of right σ^{-1} -ample.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2) is [AV, Proposition 3.2].

(2) \Rightarrow (3) follows from the fact that a very ample divisor plus a divisor generated by its sections is a very ample divisor. Given any divisor H and a very ample divisor H' , choose m_0 such that $\Delta_m - H - H'$ is generated by global sections for $m \geq m_0$. Then $\Delta_m - H - H' + H' = \Delta_m - H$ is very ample for $m \geq m_0$.

(3) \Rightarrow (4) is trivial.

(4) \Rightarrow (1). For any ample divisor H and any $c \geq 0$, one can choose m_0 so that for $m \geq m_0$, we have $N = \Delta_m - cH$ is an ample divisor. Then (1) follows immediately from Lemma 2.2. □

A similar proposition holds for left σ^{-1} -ample divisors, with \mathcal{F} and H replaced by $\mathcal{F}\sigma^{-m}$ and $\sigma^m H$. One deduces this easily from

Lemma 2.4 ([St3, p. 31]). *A divisor D is right σ^{-1} -ample if and only if D is left σ -ample.*

Proof. Let D be right σ^{-1} -ample. Then for any coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} , there exists an m_0 such that

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1}D) \otimes \mathcal{F}^\sigma) = 0$$

for $q > 0$ and $m \geq m_0$. Since cohomology is preserved under automorphisms, pulling back by σ^{m-1} , we have

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D + \sigma^{-1}D + \dots + \sigma^{-(m-1)}D) \otimes \mathcal{F}^{\sigma^m}) = 0$$

for $q > 0$ and $m \geq m_0$. So D is left σ -ample. □

It is often useful to replace D with Δ_m and σ with σ^m to assume D and σ have a desired property. Using standard techniques, one can also show

Lemma 2.5 ([AV, Lemma 4.1]). *Let D be a divisor on X . Given a positive integer m , D is right σ^{-1} -ample if and only if Δ_m is right σ^{-m} -ample.* □

3. THE NON-QUASI-UNIPOTENT CASE

Let $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ be the set of divisors of X modulo numerical equivalence. That is, for divisors D and D' , one has $D \equiv D' \in A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ if and only if $(D.C) = (D'.C)$ for all integral curves $C \subset X$. We will use this definition implicitly several times, especially the fact that a nonzero element of $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ has nonzero intersection with some curve. Further, one has that $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ is a finitely generated free abelian group [K, p. 305, Remark 3]. Let P be the action of σ on $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$; hence $P \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{Z}^\ell)$ for some ℓ .

A matrix is called *quasi-unipotent* if all of its eigenvalues are roots of unity. We call an automorphism σ quasi-unipotent if P is. The main goal of this section is to show that a non-quasi-unipotent σ cannot give a σ -ample divisor.

First, we must review a useful fact about integer matrices.

Lemma 3.1. *Let $P \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{Z}^\ell)$. Then P is quasi-unipotent if and only if all eigenvalues of P have absolute value 1. Thus if P is not quasi-unipotent, then P has an eigenvalue of absolute value greater than 1.*

Proof. The first claim is [AV, Lemma 5.3]. For the second claim, the property of P not being quasi-unipotent is reduced to saying P has an eigenvalue of absolute value not 1. Since P has determinant ± 1 , P has an eigenvalue of absolute value greater than 1. □

The following lemma shows a relationship between the spectral radius $r = \rho(P)$ and the intersection numbers $(\sigma^m D.C)$, where D is an ample divisor.

Lemma 3.2. *Let P be as described above with spectral radius $r = \rho(P)$. There exists an integral curve C with the following property: If D is an ample divisor, then there exists $c > 0$ such that*

$$(\sigma^m D.C) \geq cr^m \quad \text{for all } m \geq 0.$$

Proof. Let κ be the cone generated by numerically effective divisors in $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X) \otimes \mathbb{R}$. In the terminology of [V], κ is a solid cone since it has a nonempty interior [K, p. 325, Theorem 1]. Since P maps κ to κ , the spectral radius r is an eigenvalue of P and r has an eigenvector $v \in \kappa$ [V, Theorem 3.1].

Since $v \in \kappa \setminus \{0\}$, there exists a curve C with $(v.C) > 0$. Given an ample divisor D , there is a positive ℓ so that $\ell D - v$ is in the ample cone [V, p. 1209]. Thus

$$\ell(\sigma^m D.C) = \ell(P^m D.C) > (P^m v.C) = r^m(v.C).$$

Taking $c = (v.C)/\ell$, we have the lemma. □

Now a graded ring $B = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} B_i$ is finitely graded if $\dim B_i < \infty$ for all i . Such a ring B has exponential growth (see [SZ]) if

$$(3.3) \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sum_{i \leq n} \dim B_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} > 1.$$

If B has exponential growth, it is neither right nor left noetherian [SZ, Theorem 0.1]. This fact combined with the intersection numbers above allow us to prove

Theorem 3.4. *Let X be a projective scheme with automorphism σ . If X has a right σ^{-1} -ample divisor, then σ is quasi-unipotent.*

Proof. Suppose that D is a right σ^{-1} -ample divisor. Let $\Delta_m = D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1} D$. By (2.3) and (2.5), we may replace D with Δ_m and σ with σ^m and assume that D is ample.

Let P be the action of σ on $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$. Suppose P is non-quasi-unipotent with spectral radius $r > 1$ and choose an integral curve C as in Lemma 3.2. Let \mathcal{I} be the ideal sheaf defining C in X . Since D is right σ^{-1} -ample, the higher cohomologies of $\mathcal{I}(\Delta_m) = \mathcal{I} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)$ and $\mathcal{O}_C(\Delta_m)$ vanish for $m \gg 0$. So one has an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{I}(\Delta_m)) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) \rightarrow H^0(C, \mathcal{O}_C(\Delta_m)) \rightarrow 0.$$

For $m \gg 0$, the Riemann-Roch formula for curves [Fl, p. 360, Example 18.3.4] gives

$$\dim H^0(C, \mathcal{O}_C(\Delta_m)) = (\Delta_m.C) + \text{a constant term.}$$

Thus using the exact sequence and the previous lemma, there exists $c > 0$ so that

$$\dim H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) > cr^m$$

for $m \gg 0$. Thus the associated twisted homogeneous coordinate ring has exponential growth and hence is not (right or left) noetherian [SZ, Theorem 0.1]. So D cannot be right σ^{-1} -ample, by [AV, Theorem 1.4]. □

Remark 3.5. One can give a more elementary, computational proof of Theorem 3.4. Indeed, examining the Jordan form of P gives an upper bound on $(\sigma^m D.C)$. Further, using the full strength of [V, Theorem 3.1] and asymptotic estimates, one can improve the lower bound of Lemma 3.2. We then have

$$(3.6) \quad c_1 m^k r^m > (\sigma^m D.C) > cm^k r^m$$

for $m > 0$, where $k + 1$ is the size of the largest Jordan block associated to r . Then using estimates similar to those in the proof of [AV, Lemma 5.10], one can find an ample divisor H such that

$$(\Delta_m - H.\sigma^m C) < 0$$

for all $m \gg 0$. This contradicts the fourth equivalent condition for right σ^{-1} -ampleness in Proposition 2.3.

Even when an automorphism σ is not quasi-unipotent, one can form associated twisted homogeneous coordinate rings. As might be expected, some of these rings have exponential growth.

Proposition 3.7. *Let X be a projective scheme with non-quasi-unipotent automorphism σ . Let D be an ample divisor. Then there exists an integer $n_0 > 0$ such that for all $n \geq n_0$, the ring $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(nD))$ has exponential growth and is neither right nor left noetherian.*

Proof. Again choose a curve C as in Lemma 3.2 with ideal sheaf \mathcal{I} . By Lemma 2.2, there exists n_0 such that for all $n \geq n_0$ and $q > 0$,

$$H^q(X, \mathcal{I}(nD + N)) = H^q(C, \mathcal{O}_C(nD + N)) = 0$$

for any ample divisor N . In particular, the above cohomologies vanish for $nD + N = nD + \sigma(nD) + \cdots + \sigma^{m-1}(nD)$ where $m > 1$. Then repeating the last paragraph of the proof of Theorem 3.4 shows that B has exponential growth. \square

When X is a nonsingular surface, [AV, Corollary 5.17] shows that the above proposition is true for $n_0 = 1$. Their proof makes use of the relatively simple form of the Riemann-Roch formula and the vanishing of $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))$ when Δ_m is the sum of sufficiently many ample divisors. The proof easily generalizes to the singular surface case, but not to higher dimensions.

Question 3.8. Given a non-quasi-unipotent automorphism σ and ample divisor D on a scheme X , must $B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$ have exponential growth?

There do exist varieties with non-quasi-unipotent automorphisms. If the canonical divisor K is ample or minus ample, then any automorphism σ must be quasi-unipotent (cf. (5.6)). So intuitively, one expects to find non-quasi-unipotent automorphisms far away from this case, i.e., when $K = 0$. Further, there are strong existence theorems for automorphisms of $K3$ surfaces (which do have $K = 0$). Indeed, a $K3$ surface with non-quasi-unipotent automorphism is studied in [W].

Example 3.9. There exists a $K3$ surface with automorphism σ such that X has no σ -ample divisors.

Proof. Wehler [W, Proposition 2.6, Theorem 2.9] constructs a family of $K3$ surfaces whose general member X has

$$\text{Pic}(X) \cong A_{\text{Num}}^1(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2, \quad \text{Aut}(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}.$$

(That is, $\text{Aut}(X)$ is the free product of two cyclic groups of order 2.) The ample generators H_1 and H_2 of $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ have intersection numbers

$$(H_1^2) = (H_2^2) = 2, \quad (H_1.H_2) = 4.$$

$\text{Aut}(X)$ has two generators σ_1, σ_2 whose actions on $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ can be represented as two quasi-unipotent matrices

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

However, the action of $\sigma_1\sigma_2$ has eigenvalues $7 \pm 4\sqrt{3}$. So X has no $\sigma_1\sigma_2$ -ample divisor. Note that by Corollary 5.4 below, any ample divisor is σ_1 -ample and σ_2 -ample. \square

4. THE QUASI-UNIPOTENT CASE

Now let σ be a quasi-unipotent automorphism with P its action on $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$. We will have several uses for a particular invariant of σ .

Definition 4.1. Let $k + 1$ be the rank of the largest Jordan block of P . We define $J(\sigma) = k$.

Note that $J(\sigma) = J(\sigma^m)$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. It may be that k is greater than 0, as seen in [AV, Example 5.18]. We will see in the next section that k must be even, but this is not used here.

To prove Theorem 1.3, it remains to show that (for σ quasi-unipotent) if D is a divisor such that Δ_m is ample for some m , then D is right σ^{-1} -ample. So fix such a D . We may again replace D with Δ_n and σ with σ^n via (2.5), so that D is ample and P is unipotent, that is, $P = I + N$, where N is the nilpotent part of P . In this case, $k = J(\sigma)$ is the smallest natural number such that $N^{k+1} = 0$.

We let \equiv denote numerical equivalence and reserve $=$ for linear equivalence. We then have, for all $m \geq 0$,

$$(4.2) \quad \sigma^m D \equiv P^m D = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{m}{i} N^i D,$$

$$(4.3) \quad \Delta_m \equiv \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{m}{i+1} N^i D.$$

Once a basis for $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ is chosen, one can treat $N^i D$ as a divisor. Of course, this representation of $N^i D$ is not canonical. However, since ampleness and intersection numbers only depend on numerical equivalence classes, this is not a problem.

Lemma 4.4. Let σ be a unipotent automorphism with $P = I + N$ and $k = J(\sigma)$. If D is an ample divisor, then $N^k D \not\equiv 0$ in $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$.

Proof. Since $N^k \neq 0$, there exists a divisor E and curve C such that $(N^k E.C) > 0$. Choose ℓ so that $\ell D - E$ is ample. By equation (4.2) above, the intersection numbers $(\sigma^m(\ell D - E).C)$ are given by a polynomial in m with leading coefficient $(\ell N^k D - N^k E.C)/k!$. Since this polynomial must have positive values for all m , we must have $N^k D \not\equiv 0$. \square

We now turn towards proving that for any divisor H , there exists m_0 such that $\Delta_{m_0} - H$ is ample, when σ is unipotent and D is ample. Then since D is ample, $\Delta_m - H$ is ample for $m \geq m_0$. For certain H , this is true even if σ is not quasi-unipotent.

Lemma 4.5. *Let X be a projective scheme with automorphism σ (not necessarily quasi-unipotent). Let D be an ample divisor and H a divisor whose numerical equivalence class is fixed by σ . Then there exists an m such that $\Delta_m - H$ is ample.*

Proof. Choose m such that $D' = mD - H$ is ample. Let

$$\Delta'_j = D' + \sigma D' + \dots + \sigma^{j-1} D'.$$

Then $\Delta'_m \equiv m\Delta_m - mH$ is ample and thus $\Delta_m - H$ is ample. □

Proposition 4.6. *Let X be a projective scheme with unipotent automorphism σ . Let D be an ample divisor and H any divisor. Then there exists an m_0 such that $\Delta_{m_0} - H$ is ample. Hence $\Delta_m - H$ is ample for $m \geq m_0$.*

Proof. Let $W \subset A^1_{\text{Num}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ be the span of $D, ND, \dots, N^k D$. W is a $k + 1$ -dimensional vector space by Lemma 4.4. By equation (4.2), it contains the real cone κ generated by $S = \{\sigma^i D | i \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Using a lemma of Caratheodory [H, p. 45, Lemma 1], any element of κ can be written as a linear combination of $k + 1$ elements of S with nonnegative real coefficients. Thus for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\Delta_m \equiv \sum_{i=0}^k f_i(m) \sigma^{g_i(m)} D$$

where $f_i : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and $g_i : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. Expanding the $\sigma^{g_i(m)} D$ above and comparing the coefficient of D with equation (4.3), one finds that

$$\sum_{i=0}^k f_i(m) = m.$$

Since $f_i(m) \geq 0$, for each m , there must be some j such that $f_j(m) \geq m/(k + 1)$.

Now choose l such that $lD - H$ is ample and choose m_0 such that $m_0/(k + 1) \geq l$. Then

$$f_j(m_0) \sigma^{g_j(m_0)} D - \sigma^{g_j(m_0)} H$$

is in the ample cone for the given j . Set $g = g_j(m_0)$. The other $f_i(m_0)$ are nonnegative. Then $\Delta_{m_0} - \sigma^g H$ is in the ample cone as it is a sum of elements in the ample cone. Since it is a divisor, it is ample [K, p. 324, Remark 3].

We now prove the lemma by induction on q , the smallest positive integer such that $N^q H \equiv 0$. Since N is nilpotent, there is such a q for any H . The case $q = 1$ is handled by the previous lemma.

Now as $\sigma \equiv I + N$, we know $\sigma^{-m_0}(\sigma^g H - H)$ is killed by N^{q-1} . So there is an m_1 so that

$$Y = \Delta_{m_1} + \sigma^{-m_0}(\sigma^g H - H)$$

is ample. Then as σ fixes the ample cone,

$$\Delta_{m_0} - \sigma^g H + \sigma^{m_0} Y = \Delta_{m_0+m_1} - H$$

is ample. □

We now immediately have by Propositions 2.3 and 4.6 and Theorem 3.4:

Theorem 4.7. *Let X be a projective scheme with an automorphism σ . A divisor D is right σ^{-1} -ample if and only if σ is quasi-unipotent and $D + \sigma D + \dots + \sigma^{m-1} D$ is ample for some m . \square*

5. COROLLARIES

The characterization of (right) σ^{-1} -ampleness has many strong corollaries which are now easy to prove, but were only conjectured before.

Corollary 5.1. *Right σ -ample and left σ -ample are equivalent conditions. Further, σ -ampleness and σ^{-1} -ampleness are equivalent.*

Proof. Let D be right σ^{-1} -ample. By Theorem 4.7, σ is quasi-unipotent and Δ_m is ample for some m . Then σ^{-1} is quasi-unipotent and

$$\sigma^{-(m-1)} \Delta_m = D + \sigma^{-1} D + \dots + \sigma^{-(m-1)} D$$

is ample. Applying the theorem again, we have that D is right σ -ample. Thus D is left σ^{-1} -ample by Lemma 2.4. The same lemma gives the second statement of the corollary. \square

Remark 5.2. Combined with Theorem 4.7, this proves Theorem 1.3 and so we may refer to a divisor as being simply “ σ -ample”.

In [AV], left σ -ampleness was shown to imply the associated twisted homogeneous coordinate ring is left noetherian. However, as noted in the footnote of [AS, p. 258], the paper says, but does not prove, that B is noetherian. This actually is the case.

Corollary 5.3. *Let $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$ be the twisted homogeneous coordinate ring associated to a σ -ample divisor D . Then B is a (left and right) noetherian ring, finitely generated over the base field. \square*

Analysis of the GK-dimension of B will be saved for the next section.

From the definition of σ -ample, it is not obvious when σ -ample divisors even exist. Theorem 4.7 makes the question much easier.

Corollary 5.4. *A projective scheme X has a σ -ample divisor if and only if σ is quasi-unipotent. In particular, every ample divisor is a σ -ample divisor if σ is quasi-unipotent. \square*

Thus, it is important to know when an automorphism σ is quasi-unipotent. From the bounds in equation (3.6), we obtain

Proposition 5.5. *Let D be an ample divisor. Then σ is quasi-unipotent if and only if for all curves C , the intersection numbers $(\sigma^m D.C)$ are bounded by a polynomial for positive m . \square*

Proposition 5.6. *Let X be a projective scheme such that*

- (1) *X has a canonical divisor K which is an ample or minus-ample divisor, or*
- (2) *the Picard number of X , i.e., the rank of $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$, is 1.*

Then any automorphism σ of X is quasi-unipotent. Indeed, some power of σ is numerically equivalent to the identity.

Proof. In the first case, for K to be ample or minus-ample, it must be a Cartier divisor. Thus the intersection numbers $(\sigma^m K.C)$ are defined, where C is a curve. Since K must be fixed by σ , some power of σ must be numerically equivalent to the identity by equation (3.6). In the second case, the action of σ itself must be numerically equivalent to the identity. \square

Thus for many important projective varieties, such as curves, projective n -space, Grassmann varieties [Fl, p. 271], and Fano varieties [Ko, p. 240, Definition 1.1], one automatically has that any automorphism must be quasi-unipotent.

Returning to corollaries of Theorem 4.7, we see that building new σ -ample divisors from old ones is also possible.

Corollary 5.7. *Let D be a σ -ample divisor and let D' be a divisor with one of the following properties:*

- (1) σ -ample,
- (2) generated by global sections, or
- (3) numerically effective.

Then $D + D'$ is σ -ample.

Proof. Take m such that Δ_m is ample and $\Delta'_m = D' + \cdots + \sigma^{m-1}D'$ is respectively ample, generated by global sections, or numerically effective. Then $\Delta_m + \Delta'_m$ is ample and we again apply the main theorem. \square

The following could be shown directly from the definition, but also using a similar method to the proof above, one can see

Corollary 5.8. *Let σ and τ be automorphisms. Then D is σ -ample if and only if τD is $\tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ -ample.* \square

Note that τ need not be quasi-unipotent.

Finally, as in the case of ampleness, σ -ampleness is a numerical condition.

Corollary 5.9. *Let D, D' be numerically equivalent divisors and let σ, σ' be numerically equivalent automorphisms (i.e., their actions on $A_{\text{Num}}^1(X)$ are equal). Then D is σ -ample if and only if D' is σ' -ample.*

Proof. As $\Delta_m \equiv D' + (\sigma')D' + \cdots + (\sigma')^{m-1}D'$ and ampleness depends only on the numerical equivalence class of a divisor, the corollary follows from our main theorem. \square

6. GK-DIMENSION OF B

As mentioned, our main goal of this section is to prove

Theorem 6.1. *Let $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{L})$ for some projective scheme X and σ -ample invertible sheaf \mathcal{L} .*

- (1) $\text{GKdim } B$ is an integer. Hence B is of polynomial growth. In addition, $\text{GKdim } B$ is independent of the σ -ample \mathcal{L} chosen.
- (2) If $\sigma^m \equiv I$ for some m , then $\text{GKdim } B = \dim X + 1$.
- (3) If X is an equidimensional scheme, then

$$k + \dim X + 1 \leq \text{GKdim } B \leq k(\dim X - 1) + \dim X + 1$$

where $k = J(\sigma)$ (cf. Definition 4.1) is an even natural number depending only on σ .

Remark 6.2. We now have all the necessary pieces of Theorem 1.4. In that result, (1) \implies (2) is the theorem above. (1) \implies (3) is from Corollaries 5.3 and 5.4, and finally (2) \implies (1) and (3) \implies (1) both follow from Proposition 3.7.

Theorem 6.1 generalizes [AV, Proposition 1.5, Theorem 1.7]. The authors of [AV] further show that if X is a smooth surface, then $k = 0, 2$ and thus the only possible GK-dimensions are 3 and 5. The proof that $k \leq 2$ in the surface case uses the Hodge Index Theorem and thus far we have been unable to find a similar bound in higher dimensions. Note that if X is a curve or $X = \mathbb{P}^n$, then $\text{rank } A_{\text{Num}}^1(X) = 1$ and hence by Proposition 5.6, some power of σ is numerically equivalent to the identity (in fact, $P = I$). So the theorem implies that $\text{GKdim } B = \dim X + 1$.

In studying the GK-dimension of $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$ with D σ -ample, [AV, p. 263] proves that

$$(6.3) \quad \text{GKdim } B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{O}_X(D)) = \text{GKdim } B(X, \sigma^m, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))$$

for any positive m . Therefore, we may again assume P is unipotent, D is ample, and $H^q(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = 0$ for $q > 0$ and all $m > 0$. Then

$$\dim B_m = \dim H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))$$

where χ is the Euler characteristic on X . We will soon see this is a polynomial in m with positive leading coefficient. Again replacing B with an appropriate Veronese subring, we may assume $\dim B_m \leq \dim B_{m+1}$ for all $m \geq 0$. Then the proof of [AS, Lemma 1.6] shows that

$$(6.4) \quad \text{GKdim } B = \deg(\dim B_m) + 1 = \deg(\chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))) + 1.$$

Thus far, we have only used the intersection numbers $(D.C)$, where D is a divisor and C is a curve. In studying the growth of Δ_m in terms of m , we will need to examine the intersection of divisors on higher dimensional subvarieties. More precisely, for an n -dimensional variety V , we use the symmetric n -linear form

$$(D_1 \dots D_n)_V = (\mathcal{O}_X(D_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_X(D_n) \cdot \mathcal{O}_V)$$

defined in [K, p. 296, Definition 1].

Recall that a polynomial with rational coefficients, integer valued on integers, is called a *numerical polynomial*. We prove

Lemma 6.5. *Let X be a projective scheme with unipotent automorphism σ and ample divisors D and D' with $\Delta'_m = D' + \dots + \sigma^{m-1}D'$. Further let V be a closed subvariety of X of dimension n . Then for $0 \leq i \leq n$,*

- (1) $(D^i \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ is a numerical polynomial in m with positive leading coefficient.
- (2) $\deg(D^i \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_V = \deg((D')^i \cdot (\Delta'_m)^{n-i})_V$.
- (3) $\deg(D^{i-1} \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_W \leq \deg(D^i \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ where $W \subset V$ is a closed subvariety with $\dim W = \dim V - 1$.
- (4) $\deg(D^i \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_V < \deg(D^{i-1} \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i+1})_V$.
- (5) $\deg(\Delta_m^j)_W < \deg(\Delta_m^n)_V$ where $W \subset V$ is a closed subvariety and $\dim W = j < n$.

Proof. Since σ is unipotent and intersection numbers only depend on numerical equivalence classes, we may replace Δ_m by the divisor on the right hand side of equation (4.3). As noted below that equation, it is not a problem to treat the $N^i D$ as divisors. Since the intersection form is multilinear and integer valued on divisors, $(D^i \cdot \Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ must be a numerical polynomial. By the Nakai criterion for ampleness

[H, p. 30, Theorem 5.1], the function is positive for all positive m (since Δ_m is ample) and hence has a positive leading coefficient. Thus part (1) is proven.

Now for some fixed ℓ , we know that $\ell D' - D$ is ample. Hence

$$\ell(D'.D^{i-1}.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V - (D^i.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V = (\ell D' - D.D^{i-1}.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V > 0$$

for all $m > 0$. Thus

$$\deg(D'.D^{i-1}.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V \geq \deg(D^i.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$$

and by symmetry the two degrees are equal. We can continue this argument, replacing each D with D' , so $\deg(D^i.\Delta_m^{n-i}) = \deg((D')^i.\Delta_m^{n-i})$. By also noting that

$$\ell\Delta'_m - \Delta_m = (\ell D' - D) + \dots + \sigma^{m-1}(\ell D' - D)$$

is ample, one can similarly replace each Δ_m with Δ'_m . Thus the second claim is proven.

Now let $W \subset V$ be a closed subvariety with $\dim W = \dim V - 1$. One has

$$(D^{i-1}.\Delta_m^{n-i})_W = (D^{i-1}.W.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$$

by [K, p. 298, Proposition 5]. We claim that for some fixed ℓ , the intersection number of $\ell D - W$ with any collection of $n - 1$ ample divisors is positive. This is well known if V is normal so W is a Weil divisor; so for some ℓ , the Weil divisor $\ell D - W$ is effective [R, p. 282]. The general case can be seen by pulling back to the normalization of V . Since normalization is a finite, birational morphism, ampleness [H, p. 25, Proposition 4.4] and intersection numbers [K, p. 299, Proposition 6] are both preserved under pull-back. Thus the claim is proven. An argument similar to the proof of part (2) proves the third claim of the lemma.

For part (4), equation (4.3) shows that the leading coefficient of $(D^{i-1}.D'.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ is a sum of terms

$$a_\alpha(D^{i-1}.D'.N^{\alpha_1}D.\dots.N^{\alpha_{n-i}}D)_V$$

where $a_\alpha((k + 1)!)^n$ is an integer. So any leading coefficient times $((k + 1)!)^n$ is a positive integer. Thus given any set of ample divisors $\{D'\}$, there is a D' in that set such that $(D^{i-1}.D'.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ has the smallest leading coefficient.

Now let j be a natural number such that $(D^{i-1}.\sigma^j D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$ has the smallest leading coefficient of all $(D^{i-1}.\sigma^l D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$. Then for any $l \geq 0$,

$$\frac{(D^{i-1}.\sigma^l D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V}{(D^{i-1}.\sigma^j D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V}$$

is a rational function with limit, as $m \rightarrow \infty$, greater than or equal to 1. So given any natural number M ,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(D^{i-1}.\Delta_m.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V}{(D^{i-1}.\sigma^j D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V} \geq M.$$

Since this is true for any M , the limit must be $+\infty$. So

$$\deg(D^{i-1}.\Delta_m.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V > \deg(D^{i-1}.\sigma^j D.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V.$$

Examining the proof of part (2), we see the right hand side equals $\deg(D^i.\Delta_m^{n-i})_V$, proving part (4).

Finally, for part (5), find a chain of subvarieties $W = V_0 \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq V_{n-j} = V$. Then part (3) combined with part (4) proves the claim for each part of the chain. \square

By a version of the Riemann-Roch Theorem for an n -dimensional complete scheme X and coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} [Fl, p. 361, Example 18.3.6]:

$$(6.6) \quad \chi(\mathcal{F}(\Delta_m)) = \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{1}{j!} \int_X (\Delta_m^j) \cap \tau_{X,j}(\mathcal{F}).$$

The $\tau_{X,j}(\mathcal{F})$ is a j -cycle, a linear combination of j -dimensional closed subvarieties of $\text{Supp } \mathcal{F}$. In other words,

$$(6.7) \quad \tau_{X,j}(\mathcal{F}) = \sum_V a_V [V]$$

where V is a subvariety of X , $[\]$ denotes rational equivalence, and a_V is a rational number. The terms of (6.6), for $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{O}_X$, can then be interpreted as

$$\int_X (\Delta_m^j) \cap \tau_{X,j}(\mathcal{O}_X) = \sum_V a_V (\Delta_m^j)_V.$$

If X_i is an irreducible component of X of dimension j , then $[X_i] = n[(X_i)_{\text{red}}]$ is a term in $\tau_{X,j}(\mathcal{O}_X)$, where n is the degree of the natural map $(X_i)_{\text{red}} \rightarrow X_i$. To see this, first note that $(\Delta_m^{\dim X_i})_{X_i} / (\dim X_i)!$ must be the $\dim X_i$ term of $\chi(\mathcal{O}_{X_i}(\Delta_m))$ [Fl, *ibid.*]. Also $a_{(X_i)_{\text{red}}} = n$ by [K, p. 298, Corollary 2]. The short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_i} \rightarrow 0$$

gives $\chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_{X_i}(\Delta_m)) + \chi(\mathcal{I}_i(\Delta_m))$. The support of \mathcal{I}_i does not contain X_i and an irreducible component is rationally equivalent only to itself [Fl, p. 11, Example 1.3.2]. So there is no $[X_i]$ term in $\chi(\mathcal{I}_i(\Delta_m))$ which could cancel out the $[X_i]$ term in the first summand.

Lemma 6.8. *Let X be a projective scheme with unipotent automorphism σ and irreducible components X_i . Then*

$$\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \max_{X_i} \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim X_i})_{X_i}.$$

Proof. If the left hand side is larger than the right hand side, then by the discussion before the lemma, there is a subvariety V with

$$\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim V})_V > \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim X_j})_{X_j},$$

where X_j is an irreducible component *properly* containing V . This cannot happen by Lemma 6.5(5).

On the other hand, if the right hand side is larger, then there exists a subvariety V with $a_V < 0$ in the notation of equation (6.7) and

$$\deg(\Delta_m^{\dim V})_V = \max_{X_i} \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim X_i})_{X_i}.$$

The earlier discussion shows that $a_{X_i} > 0$ for each i . Hence V is properly contained in some irreducible component. But again this cannot happen by Lemma 6.5(5). \square

Lemma 6.9. *Let X be a projective scheme with unipotent automorphism σ . Let $V \subset X$ be a closed subscheme which does not contain (the reduction of) an irreducible component of X . Then $\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_V(\Delta_m)) < \deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))$.*

Proof. By Lemma 6.8 we may pick an irreducible component V_0 of V with

$$\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_V(\Delta_m)) = \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim V_0})_{V_0}.$$

Then X has an irreducible component X_0 with $V_0 \subsetneq X_0$. Combining Lemmata 6.5(5) and 6.8, the claim is proven. \square

Proposition 6.10. *Let X be a projective scheme with unipotent automorphism σ and ample divisor D . Then $\chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m))$ is a numerical polynomial in m . The degree of this polynomial is independent of the ample divisor D chosen. Further, if σ is numerically equivalent to the identity, this polynomial has degree $\dim X$.*

Proof. The first claim is obvious since the intersection numbers in equation (6.6) are numerical polynomials, as noted in Lemma 6.5. The independence of the degree comes from Lemma 6.5(2).

If σ is numerically equivalent to the identity, then $k = 0$. So $\chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(mD))$ has degree $\dim X$. \square

Combined with equations (6.3) and (6.4), this proposition implies the first two parts of Theorem 6.1.

Considering Lemma 6.8 and equation (6.4), we immediately have

Proposition 6.11. *Let X be a scheme with unipotent automorphism σ , ample divisor D , and irreducible components X_i . Let $B = B(X, \sigma, \mathcal{L})$. Then*

$$\text{GKdim } B - 1 = \deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) = \max_{X_i} \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim X_i})_{X_i}.$$

In particular, if X is equidimensional, then

$$\text{GKdim } B - 1 = \deg(\Delta_m^{\dim X})_X.$$

Note that by replacing σ by a power, we may assume σ fixes each irreducible component. That is, σ is an automorphism of each component. Thus the soon to be proven bounds of Theorem 6.1 for equidimensional schemes can be used to find bounds in the general case.

Lemma 6.12. *Let σ be a unipotent automorphism with numerical action $P = I + N$, with $k = J(\sigma)$ (cf. Definition 4.1). Then k is even and $\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) \geq k + \dim X$.*

Proof. Given an ample divisor D , one has $N^k D \neq 0$ by Lemma 4.4. So there exists a curve C such that $(N^k D.C) \neq 0$. Since $(\sigma^m D.C) > 0$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ and in particular for $m > 0$, $(N^k D.C) > 0$. However, if k is odd, (4.3) implies that the leading term of $(\sigma^{-m} D.C)$ is $-\binom{m}{k}(N^k D.C)$ where $m > 0$. Then $(\sigma^{-m} D.C) < 0$ for large m , which cannot occur.

For the lower bound, note $\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_C(\Delta_m)) = \deg(\Delta_m.C) = k + 1$. Constructing a chain of subvarieties between C and X , Lemma 6.9 shows that $\deg \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(\Delta_m)) \geq \dim X + k$. \square

Lemma 6.13. *Let $n = \dim X$. Then $(\Delta_m^n)_X$ has degree at most $k(n - 1) + n$.*

Proof. If $k = 0$ the lemma is trivial. So assume that $k > 0$. Let $P = I + N$.

Expanding (Δ_m^n) gives terms of the form

$$f(m)(N^{i_1} D.N^{i_2} D \dots N^{i_n} D)$$

where $i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n$ and $\deg_m f = n + \sum i_j$. We will show that if $\sum i_j > k(n - 1)$, then $(N^{i_1} D.N^{i_2} D \dots N^{i_n} D) = 0$.

Order (i_1, \dots, i_n) in the following way: $(i_1, \dots, i_n) > (i'_1, \dots, i'_n)$ if the right-most nonzero entry of $(i_1, \dots, i_n) - (i'_1, \dots, i'_n)$ is positive. We proceed by descending induction on this ordering.

The largest n -tuple in this ordering is (k, k, \dots, k) . Since $k > 0$, $N^{k-1}D$ exists (taking $N^0 = I$) so

$$\begin{aligned} (N^{k-1}D.(N^kD)^{n-1}) &= (PN^{k-1}D.(PN^kD)^{n-1}) \\ &= (N^{k-1}D.(N^kD)^{n-1}) + ((N^kD)^n) \end{aligned}$$

and hence $((N^kD)^n) = 0$.

Now suppose (i_1, \dots, i_n) is such that $\sum i_j > k(n-1)$ and we have proven our claim for all larger (i'_1, \dots, i'_n) . Since $\sum i_j > k(n-1)$, we have $i_1 > 0$ so examine

$$(N^{i_1-1}D.N^{i_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n}D) = (PN^{i_1-1}D.PN^{i_2}D.\dots.PN^{i_n}D).$$

A typical term in the right hand side is of the form

$$(N^{i_1-1+\delta_1}D.N^{i_2+\delta_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n+\delta_n}D)$$

where $\delta_j = 0, 1$. The terms with $\delta_j = 1$ where $j > 1$ are all higher in the ordering than (i_1, \dots, i_n) and hence are zero. This only leaves

$$\begin{aligned} (N^{i_1-1}D.N^{i_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n}D) \\ = (N^{i_1-1}D.N^{i_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n}D) + (N^{i_1}D.N^{i_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n}D) \end{aligned}$$

and so $(N^{i_1}D.N^{i_2}D.\dots.N^{i_n}D) = 0$. □

Using equation (6.3) and Proposition 6.11, these lemmata complete the proof of Theorem 6.1.

Example 6.14. Let X be a 3-fold and σ an automorphism with $k = J(\sigma) = 2$. Then for any σ -ample D , $\text{GKdim } B = k + \dim X + 1 = 6$. We will not give the proof of this example, since it is not particularly illuminating. However, as one might expect, it consists of expanding (Δ_m^3) and showing that most of the terms are zero.

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