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**Algebraic Contractions and Complete Intersections**

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**Geometria.** — *Algebraic Contractions and Complete Intersections.*

Nota di LUCIAN BĂDESCU e MIHNEA MOROIANU, presentata (\*) dal Socio B. SEGRE.

RIASSUNTO. — Si studiano dilatazioni e contrazioni di varietà algebriche, con particolare riguardo al caso in cui queste siano delle intersezioni complete.

In the following  $K$  will denote a commutative, algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. We shall consider only irreducible algebraic varieties over  $K$ .

Let  $X'$  be a projective algebraic variety embedded in the projective space  $P_n$ , such that it is a complete intersection in  $P_n$ , i.e. its homogeneous ideal  $I(X')$  is generated by  $n - \dim X'$  independent elements (which are even homogeneous forms) of  $K[T_0, \dots, T_n]$ .  $O_{X'}(1)$  stands for the inverse image of  $O_{P_n}(1)$  by this embedding, while  $S(X')$  represents the homogeneous coordinates ring of  $X'$ , i.e.  $K[T_0, \dots, T_n]/I(X')$ .

We shall need the following results:

(A) [FAC, § 78, Proposition 5]. — *If  $X'$  is a complete intersection in  $P_n$  defined by the equations  $f_i = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n - \dim X'$ , of degrees  $m_i$ , then:*

a) *The canonical homomorphism of graded algebras:*

$$\alpha : S(X') \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{s \in \mathbb{Z}} H^0(X', O_{X'}(s))$$

*is an isomorphism;*

b)  $H^q(X', O_{X'}(s)) = 0$  for every  $s$  and  $0 < q < \dim X'$ ;

c) *The vector space  $H^d(X', O_{X'}(s))$  (with  $d = \dim X'$ ) is isomorphic with the dual of  $H^0(X', O_{X'}(N - s))$ , where  $N = \sum_{i=1}^{n-d} m_i - n - 1$ .*

(B) [SGA-1962, Corollaire (3.7)]. — *Let  $X'$  be an algebraic variety of dimension  $\geq 3$ , which is embedded in  $P_n$  as a complete intersection. Then  $\text{Pic } X'$  (the group equivalence classes of isomorphic invertible sheaves) is cyclic and generated by the class of  $O_{X'}(1)$ .*

*Remarks.* — 1) If  $\dim X' = 2$ , and if  $X'$  is a complete intersection in  $P_n$ ,  $\text{Pic } X'$  is finitely generated by a result of Hartshorne [6], but not in general cyclic. For instance  $X' = P_1 \times P_1$  is the quadric  $T_0 T_1 - T_2 T_3 = 0$  in  $P_3$  and  $\text{Pic } X' = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ , hence (B) does not hold in this case.

2) If  $\dim X' = 1$ , e.g. if  $X'$  is an elliptic curve,  $\text{Pic } X'$  has not a finite number of generators, though it is a plane curve.

(\*) Nella seduta del 16 giugno 1972.

Let  $Y$  be an algebraic variety,  $y \in Y$  a (closed) point,  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  the blowing-up of  $Y$  at  $y$ ,  $X' = \varphi^{-1}(y)$  the exceptional locus, such that we have the cartesian diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X' & \xrightarrow{i} & X \\ \varphi' \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \text{Spec } K = y & \xrightarrow{j} & Y \end{array}$$

$j$  and  $i$  being the corresponding closed immersions given by the ideals  $J$  and  $I = \mathcal{O}_X(I)$  respectively. We assume that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) There exists an embedding of  $X'$  in a projective space  $P_n$ , such that  $X'$  is complete intersection in  $P_n$ ;
- b) The conormal sheaf  $i^*I = I/I^2$  of  $X'$  in  $X$  is isomorphic to a strictly positive tensor power of  $\mathcal{O}_{X'}(I)$ , i.e.  $i^*I = \mathcal{O}_{X'}(s)$  with  $s > 0$ .

*Remark.* – If  $\dim Y \geq 4$ , it follows from (B) that b) is a consequence of a) because  $i^*I$  is ample on  $X'$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $Y$  be an algebraic variety,  $y \in Y$  a normal point,  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  the blowing-up of  $Y$  at  $y$ ,  $X' = \varphi^{-1}(y)$ . Assume that the conditions a) and b) are fulfilled. Then:*

- i)  $R^q \varphi_*(I^n) = 0$  if  $q > 0$ ,  $q \neq \dim Y - 1$ , and  $n \geq 0$ ;
- ii) if further,  $R^1 \varphi_*(I^n) = 0$  for  $n \geq 1$ , then the canonical homomorphism

$$\alpha : \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} J^n \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \varphi_* I^n$$

is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* – The case  $q > \dim Y - 1$  is a consequence of EGA III (4.4.2), therefore we can assume that  $0 < q < \dim Y - 1$ . Since  $I = \mathcal{O}_X(I)$  is  $\varphi$ -very ample and  $\varphi$  is a proper morphism, we have  $R^q \varphi_*(I^n) = 0$  for  $n \gg 0$ . On the other hand, from b) we deduce the exact sequence:

$$(1) \quad 0 \longrightarrow I^{n+1} \longrightarrow I^n \longrightarrow i_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn) \longrightarrow 0,$$

which gives rise to the exact sequence:

$$(2) \quad R^q \varphi_*(I^{n+1}) \longrightarrow R^q \varphi_*(I^n) \longrightarrow R^q \varphi_*(i_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn)).$$

But  $R^q \varphi_*(i_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn)) = j_* R^q \varphi'_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn) = H^q(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn)) = 0$  [by (A)], consequently the canonical homomorphism:

$$R^q \varphi_*(I^{n+1}) \longrightarrow R^q \varphi_*(I^n)$$

is surjective and the required property follows by descending induction on  $n$ .

In order to prove ii) we remark that from the normality of  $y$  on  $Y$  it follows  $\varphi_*(O_X) = O_Y$ . In fact, consider Stein's factorisation

$$(3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} & Y_1 = \text{Spec } \varphi_*(O_X) \\ & \searrow \varphi & \nearrow \varphi_1 \\ & & Y \end{array}$$

where  $\varphi_*(O_X)$  is a coherent  $O_Y$ -algebra and, therefore,  $\varphi_1$  is a finite morphism [EGA III (3.2.1) and II (6.1.3)]; we conclude remarking that  $\varphi_1$ , in view of Zariski Main's Theorem, is an isomorphism, since it establishes an isomorphism between  $Y_1 - \varphi_1^{-1}(y)$  and  $Y - y$ .

Next we prove that  $\varphi_* I = J$ ; this follows from the commutative diagram

$$(4) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} O_Y & \longrightarrow & j_* O_{Y'} \\ \downarrow \lambda & & \downarrow \lambda \\ \varphi_*(O_X) & \longrightarrow & \varphi_* i_* O_{X'} \end{array}$$

in which the first vertical arrow is the isomorphism established above,  $Y' = y$ , the second one is the isomorphism which follows from  $\varphi_* i_* O_{X'} = i_* \varphi'_* O_{X'} = j_* O_{Y'}$  and the kernels of the horizontal arrows are  $J$  and  $\varphi_*(I)$  respectively.

It remains to be proved that  $\alpha_n$  is an isomorphism for  $n \geq 2$ . From the commutative diagram

$$(5) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} J^n & \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} & \varphi_*(I^n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ O_Y & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\alpha_0} & \varphi_*(O_X) \end{array}$$

we deduce that  $\alpha_n$  is injective. From the exact sequence (1), and since  $R^1 \varphi_* I^{n+1} = 0$ , one can obtain the exact sequence:

$$(6) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \varphi_* I^{n+1} \longrightarrow \varphi_* I^n \longrightarrow \varphi_* i_* O_{X'}(ns) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Therefore  $\varphi_* I^n / \varphi_* I^{n+1} \cong \varphi_* i_* O_{X'}(ns) = j_* \varphi'_* O_{X'}(ns)$ ; we get the commutative diagram

$$(7) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} J^n / J^{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\bar{\alpha}_n} & \varphi_*(I^n) / \varphi_*(I^{n+1}) \\ \downarrow \alpha'_n & & \downarrow \lambda \\ j_* \varphi'_* O_{X'}(ns) & & \end{array}$$

in which  $\alpha'_n$  is the canonical homomorphism [EGA II (3.3.2)] and all the involved sheaves are concentrated in  $y$ . But  $\bar{\alpha}_1$  is a surjection, since  $\alpha_1$  is an

isomorphism; hence  $\alpha'_n$  is a surjection too, and therefore  $\alpha_n$  is surjective for every  $n \geq 1$  [because of (A) which implies that the graded algebra  $\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \varphi'_*(\mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns))$  is generated by its component of degree one]. In this way,  $\bar{\alpha}_n$  is an isomorphism and then  $\alpha_n$  is an isomorphism too, using the fact that this is true for  $n \gg 0$  [EGA III (2.3.1)].

It is useful to remark that the additional hypothesis  $R^1 \varphi_* I^n = 0$  is always fulfilled if  $\dim Y \geq 3$  [by (i)].

COROLLARY. – *In the above conditions we have:*

(i) *The canonical homomorphism*

$$\alpha' : \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} J^n/J^{n+1} \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \varphi'_*(\mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns))$$

is an isomorphism;

(ii) *There is a canonical isomorphism*

$$\alpha'' : \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^0(X', J^n/J^{n+1}) \longrightarrow S(X')^{(s)},$$

where  $S(X')$  is the graded  $K$ -algebra such that  $(S(X')^{(s)})_n = S(X')_{ns}$  [see EGA II].

*Proof.* – (i) follows considering again the commutative diagram (7) in which  $\bar{\alpha}_n$  is this time an isomorphism, since this is true for  $\alpha_n$ ; (ii) follows from (i) and from (A).

*Remark.* – Using the same notations as in Proposition 1, if  $\mathcal{O}_y$  is the local ring of  $y$  on  $Y$  and  $m_y$  its maximal ideal, the above corollary points out the existence of a canonical isomorphism

$$\alpha'' : \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} m_y^n/m_y^{n+1} \longrightarrow S(X')^{(s)}.$$

In particular, the dimension of Zariski's tangent space of  $Y$  at  $y$  is exactly  $\dim_K S(X')_s$ , [the dimension of the  $s$ -th component of the graded algebra  $S(X')$ ].

If  $X' = P_{r-1}$ , then  $S(X') = K[T_1, \dots, T_r]$  and  $\dim m_y^n/m_y^{n+1} = \binom{ns+r-1}{r-1}$ , while the multiplicity of the local ring  $\mathcal{O}_y$  is  $s^{r-1}$  (see [3]).

On the other hand, if  $X'$  satisfies a) and b) with  $s = 1$ , then  $gr_{\mathcal{O}_y}(m_y)$  is isomorphic to  $S(X')$ ; in other words, the dimension of Zariski's tangent space of  $Y$  at  $y$  and the multiplicity of  $\mathcal{O}_y$  respectively coincide with the dimension of Zariski's tangent space of the affine cone defined by  $S(X')$  at its vertex and the multiplicity of the local ring corresponding to the vertex of this cone.

Next we make some remarks concerning the blowing-up of an algebraic surface  $Y$  at a normal point,  $y$ , whose exceptional locus is an elliptic curve. In this case the condition a) fulfilled because  $X'$  is a plane curve of degree 3 and the condition b) can be stated in the form:

$$b') \quad \deg i(I) = 3s \quad \text{with } s \text{ an integer, } s > 0.$$

In fact it is sufficient to observe that  $\text{deg } \mathcal{O}_{X'}(1) = 3$  on an elliptic curve; conversely, every invertible sheaf of degree 3 is very ample and gives rise to an imbedding of  $X'$  in the projective plane (straightforward consequence of Riemann-Roch's theorem).

PROPOSITION 2. - *Let  $Y$  be an algebraic surface,  $y \in Y$  a normal point,  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  the blowing-up of  $Y$  at  $y$ . Assume that the exceptional locus is an elliptic curve and that  $\text{deg } i^* I = 3s$  with  $s$  a strictly positive integer. Then the canonical homomorphism*

$$\alpha : \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} J^n \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \varphi_* (I^n)$$

is an isomorphism, and  $R^q \varphi_* (I^n) = 0$  for  $q \geq 2$  or for  $q = 1$  and  $n \geq 1$ . Furthermore,  $\dim R^1 \varphi_* \mathcal{O}_X = 1$ .

Proof. - By Proposition 1 and the remark made above, we have only to prove that  $R^1 \varphi_* I^n = 0$  if  $n \geq 1$ ; but we are sure that  $R^1 \varphi_* I^n = 0$  for  $n \gg 0$ . From the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow I^{n+1} \longrightarrow I^n \longrightarrow i_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns) \longrightarrow 0,$$

we deduce the exact sequence

$$R^1 \varphi_* (I^{n+1}) \longrightarrow R^1 \varphi_* (I^n) \longrightarrow R^1 \varphi_* (i_* \mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns)) = H^1(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns)).$$

In view of (A) (in which we take  $d = 1, m_1 = 3, N = 0$ ),  $H^1(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(ns))$  is the dual of the vector space  $H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(-ns))$ , which is zero if  $n > 0$  and isomorphic with  $K$  if  $n = 0$ . This proves our proposition.

We wish to investigate now the following problem: let  $X'$  be a projective variety,  $i : X' \hookrightarrow X$  a closed immersion given by an invertible ideal,  $I$ , such that the conditions a) and b) are fulfilled; when does exist an algebraic variety  $Y$  with a proper morphism  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $X$  coincides with the blowing-up of  $Y$  at some normal point  $y$  and  $X'$  with the exceptional locus of  $\varphi$ ? When such a variety exists we say that  $X$  is contractible along  $X'$  and  $Y$  will be referred to the contraction of  $X$  along  $X'$ . It follows immediately that this contraction is unique up to an isomorphism, if it exists.

PROPOSITION 3. - *Let  $X'$  be a projective variety,  $i : X' \hookrightarrow X$  a closed immersion given by an invertible sheaf of ideals  $I$ , such that  $X$  is normal in every point of  $X'$ . Assume that  $R^1 \psi_* (I^2) = 0$ , where  $\psi : X \rightarrow T$  is the canonical continuous map into the quotient space  $T$  obtained by identifying the points of  $X'$ . Then, if the conditions a) and b) are fulfilled,  $X$  is contractible along  $X'$ .*

First of all we prove the following:

LEMMA. - *In the hypotheses stated above, there exists an open neighbourhood  $U$  of  $X'$  in  $X$  such that the following conditions are fulfilled:*

i) *The homomorphism of restriction*

$$H^0(U, I) \longrightarrow H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(s))$$

is surjective;

ii)  $p\mathcal{O}_X = I$ , where  $p = H^0(U, I)$ .

*Proof.* – Consider the commutative diagram (in the category of topological spaces):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X' & \xrightarrow{i} & X \\
 \varphi' \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi \\
 \text{Spec } K = \{y\} & \xrightarrow{j'} & T
 \end{array}$$

and the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow I^2 \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow i_* O_{X'}(s) \longrightarrow 0$$

which gives rise to the exact sequence

$$\psi_*(I) \longrightarrow \psi_* i_* O_{X'}(s) \longrightarrow R^1 \psi_*(I^2) = 0.$$

In particular, we get the surjection

$$(*) \quad (\psi_*(I))_y \longrightarrow (\psi_* i_* O_{X'}(s))_y.$$

On the other hand,  $(\psi_*(I))_y = \lim_{\substack{\longrightarrow \\ V \ni y}} H^0(V, \psi_*(I)) = \lim_{\substack{\longrightarrow \\ U \supset X'}} H^0(U, I)$  and  $(\psi_* i_* O_{X'}(s))_y = (j'_* \varphi'_* O_{X'}(s))_y = H^0(\{y\}, \varphi'_* O_{X'}(s)) = H^0(X', O_{X'}(s))$ .

Since  $H^0(X', O_{X'}(s))$  is a finite dimensional vector space over  $K$ , the surjectivity of (\*) and the definition of the direct limit show the existence of a neighbourhood  $U$  satisfying i).

In order to prove ii), we remark that this assertion is equivalent to the one that the invertible sheaf  $I$  is generated by its sections on  $U$ , i.e.  $U = \cup_f U_f$  ( $f \in H^0(U, I)$ ), where  $U_f = \{x \in U / f(x) \neq 0\}$ . But since  $i^* I = O_{X'}(s)$ , we have  $X' = \cup_{f'} X'_{f'}$  [ $f' \in H^0(X', O_{X'}(s))$ ]. Let  $x \in X'$  be a point and  $f' \in H^0(X', O_{X'}(s))$  a section such that  $x \in X'_{f'}$ ; by i), there exists a section  $f \in H^0(X, I)$  such that  $f' = i^*(f)$ . Then  $x \in X_f$ , which implies that  $X_f$  contains a whole neighbourhood  $U_x$  of  $x$ . We finish the proof of ii) by taking for  $U$  the union of  $U_x$  with  $x \in X'$ .

*Proof of Proposition 3.* – We can now assume that the conditions of the lemma are fulfilled for  $X$ , replacing, if necessary,  $X$  by  $U$ , since the problem is local along  $X'$ . Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X' & \xrightarrow{i} & X \\
 \varphi' \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi_1 \\
 \{y\} & \xrightarrow{j_1} & Y_1
 \end{array}$$

where  $Y_1 = \text{Spec } H^0(X, O_X)$ ,  $\varphi_1$  corresponds to the identity of  $H^0(X, O_X)$ , and the closed immersion  $j_1$  to the surjective homomorphism  $H^0(X, O_X) \rightarrow K$

[whose kernel is  $\mathcal{p} = H^0(X, I)$ ]. Let  $\pi : X_1 = \text{Proj } \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{p}^n \rightarrow Y_1$  be the blowing-up of  $Y$  at  $y$ . Since  $I = \varphi_1^{-1}(\mathcal{p}) = \mathcal{p} \mathcal{O}_X$  is invertible, by the universal property of the blowing-up, we get a unique  $Y$ -morphism  $\varepsilon : X \rightarrow X_1$ , which corresponds to the canonical inclusion  $\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{p}^n \rightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^0(X, I^n)$ , such that  $\varepsilon^* \mathcal{O}_{X_1}(1) = I$ . In order to prove the required result, it is sufficient to show that  $\varepsilon(X') = \pi^{-1}(y)$  and that  $\varepsilon$  is an open immersion in a certain open neighbourhood of  $X'$ .

The composed homomorphism of graded algebras

$$\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{p}^n \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^0(X, I^n) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn))$$

(which corresponds to the morphism  $\varepsilon \circ i$ ) is surjective, since its first component is so [condition i) of the lemma] and the graded algebra  $\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(sn))$  is generated by  $H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(s))$  [by (A)]. It follows that the morphism  $\varepsilon \circ i : X' \rightarrow X$  is a closed immersion, consequently the inclusion  $\varepsilon \circ i(X') \subset \subset \pi^{-1}(y)$  implies  $\dim X - 1 \leq \dim X_1 - 1$ , or  $\dim X \leq \dim X_1$ ; hence  $\dim X = \dim X_1$ ,  $\varphi_1$  being dominating. From the assumption that  $X$  is a birational morphism, therefore  $\varepsilon$  is birational too.

Since  $\varepsilon \circ i$  is an immersion and  $\varepsilon^{-1}(\pi^{-1}(y)) = \varphi_1^{-1}(y) = X'$ , we have  $\varepsilon^{-1}(\varepsilon(x)) = \{x\}$  for every  $x \in X'$ ; hence every  $x \in X'$  is isolated in its fibre with respect to  $\varepsilon$ . By Zariski's Main Theorem, there exists an open neighbourhood  $U_0$  of  $X'$  in  $X$  and an open immersion  $\eta : U_0 \hookrightarrow Z$ , with  $Z$  the normalisation of  $X$ , such that the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U_0 & \xrightarrow{\eta} & Z \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \xi \\ X & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & X \end{array}$$

is commutative ( $\xi$  is the canonical finite morphism). It is easily seen that  $\eta(X')$  is a connected component of  $(\pi \circ \xi)^{-1}(y)$  and, since  $Y_1$  is normal, Zariski's Connectedness Theorem shows that  $\eta(X') = (\pi \circ \xi)^{-1}(y)$ , i.e.  $\pi^{-1}(y) = \varepsilon(X')$ . Consequently  $\xi/\eta(X')$  is a bijection and, since it is a finite morphism, for every  $z \in \eta(X')$  the homomorphism of local rings

$$\xi_z^* : \mathcal{O}_{X_1, \xi(z)} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Z, z}$$

is finite; hence, for every  $x \in X'$ , the homomorphism

$$\varepsilon_x^* : \mathcal{O}_{X_1, \varepsilon(x)} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Z, z}$$

is finite. Finally, the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{p} \mathcal{O}_{X_1, \varepsilon(x)} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_{X_1, \varepsilon(x)} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_{\pi^{-1}(y), \varepsilon(x)} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & I_x & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_{X, x} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{O}_{X', x} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

in which the lines are exact and the last vertical arrow is surjective, together with the assumption  $pO_X = I$ , show that

$$m_{X_1, \varepsilon(x)} O_{X, x} = m_{X, x}.$$

Therefore  $\varepsilon_x^*$  is an isomorphism, because the local rings  $O_{X, x}$  and  $O_{X_1, \varepsilon(x)}$  have the same residue fields and one can apply Nakayama's lemma. Hence  $\varepsilon$  is biregular in every point of  $X'$ , which completes the proof.

**THEOREM.** — *Let  $X'$  be a projective variety, and  $i : X' \hookrightarrow X$  a closed immersion given by an invertible sheaf of ideals  $I$ , such that  $X$  is projective and normal at every point of  $X'$ . Assume that there exists a suitable immersion  $h : X' \hookrightarrow P_n$  such that  $X'$  is a complete intersection in  $P_n$  and the Picard group of  $X'$  is generated by the class of  $O_{X'}(1) = h^* O_{P_n}(1)$ . Then  $X$  is contractible along  $X'$  if, and only if,  $i^*I$  is ample on  $X'$  and, in this case, the contraction  $Y$  (which is unique) is also projective.*

*Remarks.* — a) The condition that  $\text{Pic } X'$  is generated by the class of  $O_{X'}(1)$  is always fulfilled if  $\dim X' \geq 3$  [by (B)], as well as for  $\dim X' = 2$  or  $\dim X' = 1$  if  $X' = P_2$  and  $X' = P_1$  respectively.

b) In [1] a more general criterion for contractibility is given (and, in particular, a more general criterion for contractibility to a point): but the contraction is there only an algebraic space. On the contrary, the previous theorem gives sufficient conditions in order that the contraction is in fact an algebraic variety.

*Proof.* — We recall that, in the proof of Proposition 3, the cohomological condition  $R^1\psi_*(I^2) = 0$  has been used only for deducing the condition i) of the lemma [from which condition ii) follows restraining again  $X$  along  $X'$ ].

On the other hand, it is easy to see that the condition “ $i^*I$  is ample on  $X'$ ” can be replaced by “ $i^*I = O_{X'}(s)$  where  $s > 0$ ”.

We shall prove that the condition i) of the lemma is a consequence of the hypothesis of projectivity of  $X$ . Let then  $H$  be a hyperplane section on  $X$  (i.e. a very ample invertible sheaf on  $X$ ) and therefore  $i^*H = O_{X'}(m)$ , where  $m > 0$ , since  $\text{Pic } X'$  is generated by  $O_{X'}(1)$ ; further we can suppose  $m$  a multiple of  $s$ , replacing, if necessary,  $H$  by  $H^s$ : hence  $m = st$  with  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ . For every integer  $N$ , we have the exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow I^{N+1} \longrightarrow I^N \longrightarrow i_* O_{X'}(sN) \longrightarrow 0$$

[because  $i^*I = O_{X'}(s)$ ]. If we choose a positive integer  $n$  sufficiently large such that  $H^1(X, I(n)) = 0$ , where  $I(n) = I \otimes H^{\otimes n}$ , we get by tensorising with  $I(n)$  the exact sequence:

$$0 \longrightarrow I^{N+2}(n) \longrightarrow I^{N+1}(n) \longrightarrow i_* O_{X'}(s(N+1+tn)) \longrightarrow 0,$$

which gives rise to the exact sequence of cohomology:

$$H^1(X, I^{N+2}(n)) \longrightarrow H^1(X, I^{N+1}(n)) \longrightarrow H^1(X', O_{X'}(s(N+1+tn))).$$

But  $H^1(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(a)) = 0$  if  $a \geq 0$  since either  $X' = P_1$  or, if  $\dim X' \geq 2$ , one can apply (A); hence  $H^1(X, I(n)) = 0$  implies (by taking inductively  $N = -1, -2, \dots, -tn - 1$ ) that  $H^1(X, I^{-tn+2}(n)) = 0$  and  $H^1(X, I^{-tn+1}(n)) = 0$ . In other words, the homomorphisms of restriction:

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(X, I^{-tn+1}(n)) &\longrightarrow H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(s)) \\ H^0(X, I^{-tn}(n)) &\longrightarrow H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}) \end{aligned}$$

are surjective. From the second surjection it follows the existence of a section  $\alpha \in H^0(X, I^{-tn}(n))$  such that  $i^*(\alpha) = 1$ , and, if  $D$  is the Cartier divisor of  $\alpha$ , we have  $X' \cap \text{Supp } D = \emptyset$ , i.e.,  $X' \subset U = X - \text{Supp } D$ ; then  $D/U$  is linearly equivalent with the zero divisor and therefore  $I^{-tn+1}(n)/U = I/U$ . The first surjection and the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(X, I^{-tn+1}(n)) & \searrow & \\ \text{res} \downarrow & & H^0(X', \mathcal{O}_{X'}(s)) \\ H^0(U, I) & \nearrow & \end{array}$$

prove the existence of the contraction  $Y$  (which is unique).

We have now only to prove that  $Y$  is projective. But  $I^{-tn}(n)/X - X'$  is very ample on  $X - X'$ , since  $I^{-tn}(n)/X - X' = H^{\otimes n}/X - X'$ .

On the other hand, if  $\alpha$  is the section considered above, the canonical rational map  $u: X \rightarrow P(H^0(X, I^{-tn}(n)))$  is every where defined and it is an isomorphism between  $X - X'$  and  $u(X - X')$ , where  $P(H^0(X, I^{-tn}(n)))$  is the projective space associated to the finite dimensional vector space  $H^0(X, I^{-tn}(n))$ . But  $u(X')$  is a single point, since, if one chooses a basis  $\alpha_1 = \alpha, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$  of this vector space such that  $i^*(\alpha_i) = 0$  for  $i \geq 2$ , then  $u(X') = (1, 0, \dots, 0) = y'$ . The projectivity of  $X$  implies that  $u(X)$  is also projective. One can suppose  $u(X)$  normal in  $y'$ , replacing, if necessary,  $u(X)$  by its normalisation (which remains projective). Then the contraction must be isomorphic with  $u(X)$ , and so  $Y$  is projective, which completes the proof of the theorem.

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