

Fano varieties with finitely generated semigroups in the Okounkov body construction

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The Okounkov body is a construction which, to an effective divisor D on an n -dimensional algebraic variety X , associates a convex body $\Delta(D)$ in the n -dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n . It may be seen as a generalization of the moment polytope of an ample divisor on a toric variety, and it encodes rich numerical information about the divisor D . When constructing the Okounkov body, an intermediate product is a lattice semigroup $\Gamma(D) \subset \mathbb{N}^{n+1}$, which we will call the Okounkov semigroup. Recently it was discovered that finite generation of the Okounkov semigroup has interesting geometric implication for X regarding toric degenerations and integrable systems, however the finite generation condition is difficult to establish except for some special varieties X . In this article, we show that smooth projective Fano varieties of coindex ≤ 2 have finitely generated Okounkov semigroups, providing the first family of nontrivial higher dimensional examples that are not coming from representation theory. Our result also gives a partial answer to a question of Anderson, Küronya, and Lozovanu.

1. Introduction

A few years ago, Kaveh-Khovanskii [5] and Lazarsfeld-Mustața [6] independently discovered very similar constructions which, to an effective (Cartier) divisor D (or more generally a graded linear system) on an n -dimensional algebraic variety X , associates a convex body $\Delta(D)$ in the n -dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n . The convex body $\Delta(D)$, called the Okounkov body in [6], may be seen as a generalization of the moment polytope of an ample divisor on a toric variety, and it encodes rich numerical information about

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the divisor D [4]. The construction of $\Delta(D)$ in [6] can be outlined in three steps as follows.

Step 1: Fix a flag of subvarieties Y_\bullet on X

$$Y_\bullet: X = Y_0 \supset Y_1 \supset Y_2 \supset \cdots \supset Y_{n-1} \supset Y_n = \{\text{pt}\}$$

such that each Y_i is smooth at the point Y_n . For any effective divisor E on X , the flag determines a valuation-like function $\nu(E) = (\nu_1(E), \dots, \nu_n(E)) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ in the following manner: $\nu_1(E)$ is the vanishing order of E along Y_1 , $\nu_2(E)$ is the vanishing order along Y_2 of $E - \nu_1(E)Y_1$ restricted to Y_1 , and so on.

Step 2: Let $\Gamma(D) = \Gamma_{Y_\bullet}(D) = \{(\nu(E), m) \mid E \in |mD|, m \in \mathbb{N}\}$. This is a sub-semigroup of $\mathbb{N}^n \times \mathbb{N}$, which we will call the *Okounkov semigroup* of D with respect to Y_\bullet .

Step 3: The Okounkov body of D with respect to Y_\bullet is

$$\Delta(D) = \Delta_{Y_\bullet}(D) = \overline{\text{cone}(\Gamma(D))} \cap (\mathbb{R}^n \times \{1\}),$$

where $\overline{\text{cone}(\Gamma(D))} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}$ is the closed convex cone spanned by $\Gamma(D)$.

A similar construction can be applied to any graded linear system V_\bullet on X . A graded linear system V_\bullet on X associated with a divisor D is a collection of linear systems $\{V_m \subseteq |mD| \mid m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ such that $V_i + V_j \subseteq V_{i+j}$ for all $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ (where the sum denotes the sum of divisors in V_i and V_j). The condition $V_i + V_j \subseteq V_{i+j}$ and the valuation-like property of ν imply that the Okounkov semigroup $\Gamma(V_\bullet)$ can still be defined by

$$\Gamma(V_\bullet) = \{(\nu(E), m) \mid E \in V_m, m \in \mathbb{N}\},$$

which in turn gives the Okounkov body $\Delta(V_\bullet) = \overline{\text{cone}(\Gamma(V_\bullet))} \cap (\mathbb{R}^n \times \{1\})$.

Although the Okounkov body may not be rational polyhedral in general, it is clear from the definition that if the Okounkov semigroup is finitely generated, then the Okounkov body is rational polyhedral. Anderson [1] showed that if D is a very ample divisor on a projective variety X , and if the graded linear system V_\bullet given by

$$V_m = m|D| = \{D_1 + \cdots + D_m \mid D_1, \dots, D_m \in |D|\}$$

has finitely generated Okounkov semigroup, then X admits a flat degeneration to a (not necessarily normal) toric variety whose normalization is the

toric variety associated to the rational polytope $\Delta(V_\bullet)$. Furthermore, Harada and Kaveh [3] showed that this toric degeneration can be used to construct a complete integrable system on X with moment polytope $\Delta(V_\bullet)$. Unfortunately, finite generation of the Okounkov semigroup is a condition which is difficult to establish except for a few special cases, and the examples given in [1] and [3] are either representation-theoretic or of dimension less than three. The aim of this article is to provide another family of higher-dimensional examples which satisfy that elusive yet important condition:

Theorem 1. *Let X be a smooth complex projective Fano variety of dimension n and index r , and let H be an ample divisor on X such that $-K_X = rH$. Let c be a positive integer such that $D = cH$ is very ample, and let V_\bullet be the graded linear system given by $V_m = m|D|$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$. If $r \geq n - 1$, then there exists a flag*

$$Y_\bullet: X = Y_0 \supset Y_1 \supset Y_2 \supset \cdots \supset Y_{n-1} \supset Y_n = \{pt\}$$

of irreducible smooth subvarieties of X such that

- (i) *The Okounkov semigroups $\Gamma_{Y_\bullet}(V_\bullet)$ and $\Gamma_{Y_\bullet}(D)$ are both finitely generated.*
- (ii) *The Okounkov bodies $\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(V_\bullet)$ and $\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(D)$ are both equal to the simplex in \mathbb{R}^n with vertices $0, ce_1, \dots, ce_{n-1}$ and cde_n , where $d = H^n$ and $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ is the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^n .*

As discussed above, this theorem implies the following

Corollary 2. *A smooth complex projective Fano variety X of coindex ≤ 2 admits a flat degeneration to a (not necessarily normal) toric variety whose normalization is a weighted projective space, and there exists a complete integrable system on X whose moment polytope is a simplex.*

It is well-known that the dimension n and the index r of a Fano manifold X satisfy $r \leq n + 1$ [7, Corollary 2.1.13], and that if $r = n + 1$ then X is the projective space, and if $r = n$ then X is a quadric [7, Theorem 3.1.14]. If $r = n - 1$ then X is often called a del Pezzo variety, which has also been completely classified [7, Theorem 3.3.1], but our proof of Theorem 1 is not by individually verifying each case on the classification list.

Our proof of Theorem 1 actually shows that X satisfies a geometric property which is stronger than finite generation of the Okounkov semigroup. Roughly speaking, the property is that there exist $H_1, \dots, H_n \in |H|$ which

intersect at only one point set-theoretically. See Proposition 4 for a more precise statement. A slight variant of this property and its implication for finite generation of the Okounkov semigroup were first noted in [2], and finding varieties with this property was posed as an open question at the end of *loc. cit.* Thus our result also provides del Pezzo varieties as the first nontrivial answer to that question, as far as we know.

2. Proof of Theorem 1

Lemma 3. *Every complete linear system on a smooth elliptic curve contains a member whose support is a single point.*

Proof. Let C be a smooth elliptic curve, and let $\text{Pic}^d(C)$ be the Picard variety parametrizing line bundles of degree d on C , where d is any positive integer. The morphism $C \rightarrow \text{Pic}^d(C)$ given by $P \mapsto dP$ is finite and surjective, hence every effective divisor of degree d on C is linearly equivalent to dP for some $P \in C$. \square

Proposition 4. *Let X be a smooth complex projective Fano variety of dimension n and index r , and let H be an ample divisor on X such that $-K_X = rH$. If $r \geq n - 1$, then there exists a flag*

$$Y_\bullet: X = Y_0 \supset Y_1 \supset Y_2 \supset \cdots \supset Y_{n-1} \supset Y_n = \{pt\}$$

of irreducible smooth subvarieties of X , where $\text{codim}_X(Y_i) = i$, which satisfies both of the following conditions:

- (i) *There exist $n - 1$ general members $H_1, \dots, H_{n-1} \in |H|$ of the linear system $|H|$ such that Y_i is the scheme-theoretic intersection of H_1, \dots, H_i for all $i \leq n - 1$.*
- (ii) *There exists a member of the linear system $|H|$ whose set-theoretic intersection with Y_{n-1} is the single point Y_n .*

Proof. If $r = n + 1$, then $X = \mathbb{P}^n$ and H is a hyperplane, so the lemma obviously holds in this case. If $r = n$, then X is a quadric in \mathbb{P}^{n+1} and H is a hyperplane section. Let $H_1, \dots, H_{n-1} \in |H|$ be general members of the linear system $|H|$, and let Y_i be the scheme-theoretic intersection of H_1, \dots, H_i for each $i \leq n - 1$. Then Y_1, \dots, Y_{n-1} are smooth and irreducible by Bertini's theorem. The curve Y_{n-1} is a conic in this case, so the point Y_n can be chosen arbitrarily on Y_{n-1} , and any hyperplane tangent to Y_{n-1} at Y_n gives a divisor which satisfies (ii).

The remaining case is $r = n - 1$, that is, X is a del Pezzo variety. By [7, Proposition 3.2.4 (i)], the base locus $\text{Bs } |H|$ is empty if $H^n > 1$, while if $H^n = 1$ then $\text{Bs } |H|$ consists of a single point at which a general member of $|H|$ is smooth. This together with Bertini’s theorem imply that a general member of $|H|$ is smooth. Pick any smooth $H_1 \in |H|$ and set $Y_1 = H_1$. By [7, Proposition 3.2.3], $(Y_1, H|_{Y_1})$ is a del Pezzo variety as well, so a general member of $|H|_{Y_1}$ is again smooth. Pick any smooth $Y_2 \in |H|_{Y_1}$. Since $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(H)) \rightarrow H^0(Y_1, \mathcal{O}_{Y_1}(H|_{Y_1}))$ is surjective [7, Proposition 3.2.3], there exists an $H_2 \in |H|$ such that Y_2 is the (scheme-theoretic) intersection of H_1 and H_2 . Continue in this way to inductively select the subvarieties Y_i and the divisors $H_i \in |H|$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$. Then the curve Y_{n-1} is a smooth elliptic curve, and the restriction of $|H|$ on Y_{n-1} is a complete linear system. Hence by Lemma 3, there exists an $H_n \in |H|$ whose set-theoretic intersection with Y_{n-1} is a single point, and we set Y_n to be this point. \square

Proof of Theorem 1. Let Y_\bullet be a flag of smooth subvarieties of X as in Proposition 4. The proof of [2, Proposition 4] goes without change to show that the Okounkov body $\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(H)$ is the n -dimensional simplex $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ with vertices $0, e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}$ and de_n . By the homogeneity property of Okounkov bodies [6, Proposition 4.1],

$$\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(D) = \Delta_{Y_\bullet}(cH) = c\Delta.$$

Obviously $\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(V_\bullet) \subseteq \Delta_{Y_\bullet}(D) = c\Delta$ since $V_m \subseteq |mD|$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$. On the other hand, by Proposition 4, the set of valuation vectors $\nu_{Y_\bullet}(|H|)$ contains every vertex of the simplex Δ , hence the set of valuation vectors $\nu_{Y_\bullet}(V_1) = \nu_{Y_\bullet}(|D|)$ contains every vertex of the simplex $c\Delta$. This implies that $\Delta_{Y_\bullet}(V_\bullet) = c\Delta$, and then by [1, Proposition 1] the Okounkov semigroups $\Gamma_{Y_\bullet}(V_\bullet)$ and $\Gamma_{Y_\bullet}(D)$ are both finitely generated. \square

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