#### Rational curves and bounds on the Picard number of Fano manifolds

Gianluca Occhetta (joint work with Carla Novelli)

Projective Algebraic Geometry in Milano, June 2009



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$$\begin{array}{c}
U \xrightarrow{i} X \\
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\end{array}$$

Locus(V) = 
$$i(U)$$
,  $V_x = \pi(i^{-1}(x))$ 

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[V] is the numerical class of a curve parametrized by V.

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- dim Locus(V) + dim Locus(V<sub>x</sub>)  $\geq$  dim X K<sub>X</sub> · V 1;
- dim Locus $(V_x) \ge -K_X \cdot V 1$ .

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If all the irreducible components of reducible cycles are numerically proportional we say that  $\mathscr{V}$  is quasi-unsplit.

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Analogously we define  $Locus(\mathscr{W}^1, \ldots, \mathscr{W}^k)_Y$  for Chow families  $\mathscr{W}^1, \ldots, \mathscr{W}^k$  of rational 1-cycles.

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#### Campana, Kollár-Miyaoka-Mori

There exists an open subvariety  $X^0 \subset X$  and a proper morphism with connected fibers  $\pi \colon X^0 \to Z^0$  such that

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 restricts to an equivalence relation on  $X^0$ ;

• 
$$\pi^{-1}(z)$$
 is a rc( $\mathscr{V}$ )-equivalence class for every  $z \in Z^0$ ;

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X is  $rc(\mathcal{V})$ -connected if and only if dim  $Z^0 = 0$ .

#### V family of rational curves, $\mathscr V$ associated Chow family.

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- $C_i(x) \subset C_{i+1}(x)$ ,
- $\dim C_i(x) < \dim C_{i+1}(x)$ ,
- $\overline{C_{m_0}(x)} = X.$

 $x \in X$  general; there exists  $m_0$  and irreducible components  $C_i(x)$  of  $ChLocus_i(V)_x$ , with  $i = 1, ..., m_0$ , such that

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 $Y \subset X$  closed,  $\mathscr{V}$  Chow family of rational 1-cycles. Every curve contained in  $Locus(\mathscr{V})_Y$  is numerically equivalent to a linear combination with rational coefficients of a curve in Y and of irreducible components of cycles parametrized by  $\mathscr{V}$  which meet Y.

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If X is  $rc(\mathcal{V}^1, \ldots, \mathcal{V}^k)$ -connected, then  $N_1(X)$  is generated by the classes of irreducible components of cycles in  $\mathcal{V}^1, \ldots, \mathcal{V}^k$ .

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Rational curves, and bounds on the Picard number, of Fano manifolds

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Rational curves, and bounds on the Picard number, of Fano manifolds

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In the Basic Construction at the *i*-th step, denoted by  $x_i$  a general point in  $Locus(V^i)$ , the dimension of the quotient drops at least by dim $Locus(V^i)_{x_i}$ , which, by lonescu-Wiśniewski inequality is  $\geq -K_X \cdot V^i - 1$ .

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The last assertion follows from

Theorem (\_) A smooth complex projective variety X of dimension n is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^{n(1)} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{n(k)}$  iff  $\exists V^1, \dots, V^k$  unsplit and covering with  $\sum -K_X \cdot V^k = n+k$ such that dim $\langle [V^1], \dots, [V^k] \rangle = k$  in  $N_1(X)$ .



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If for some j the family  $V^j$  is not unsplit we have  $-K_X \cdot V^j \ge 2i_X$ so this can happen for at most one j and implies k = 1.

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We can assume  $-K_X \cdot V < 3i_X$ , otherwise  $C_1(x) = X$ .

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hence [W] and [V] are proportional, hence also  $[\overline{\gamma}]$  is proportional to [V].

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If for some j the family  $V^j$  is not unsplit we have  $-K_X \cdot V^j \ge 2i_X$  so this can happen for at most one j.

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# **Fivefolds revisited**

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