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ARITHMETIC GEOMETRY OF TORIC
VARIETIES.
METRICS, MEASURES AND HEIGHTS

ASTÉRISQUE 360

Société Mathématique de France 2014

Astérisque est un périodique de la Société mathématique de France.

Numéro 360

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Diffusion

Maison de la SMF
B.P. 67
13274 Marseille Cedex 9
France
smf@smf.univ-mrs.fr

Hindustan Book Agency
O-131, The Shopping Mall
Arjun Marg, DLF Phase 1
Gurgaon 122002, Haryana
Inde

AMS
P.O. Box 6248
Providence RI 02940
USA
www.ams.org

Tarifs 2014

Vente au numéro : 52 € (\$ 78)

Abonnement Europe : 530 €, hors Europe : 569 € (\$ 853)

Des conditions spéciales sont accordées aux membres de la SMF.

Secrétariat : Nathalie Christiaën

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75231 Paris Cedex 05, France
Tél : (33) 01 44 27 67 99 • Fax : (33) 01 40 46 90 96
revues@smf.ens.fr • <http://smf.emath.fr/>

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ISSN 0303-1179

ISBN 978-285629-783-4

Directeur de la publication : Marc Peigné

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Publié avec le concours du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

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2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. — Primary 14M25; Secondary 14G40, 52A41.

Key words and phrases. — Toric variety, Berkovich space, integral model, metrized line bundle, height of a variety, concave function, Legendre-Fenchel dual, real Monge-Ampère measure.

Burgos Gil and Sombra were partially supported by the MICINN research projects MTM2006-14234-C02-01 and MTM2009-14163-C02-01. Burgos Gil was also partially supported by the CSIC research project 2009501001 and the MICINN research project MTM2010-17389. Sombra was also partially supported by the MINECO research project MTM2012-38122-C03-02. Philippon was partially supported by the CNRS research projects PICS “Properties of the heights of arithmetic varieties” and “Diophantine geometry and computer algebra” and by the ANR research project “Hauteurs, modularité, transcendance”.

ARITHMETIC GEOMETRY OF TORIC VARIETIES. METRICS, MEASURES AND HEIGHTS

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Abstract. — We show that the height of a toric variety with respect to a toric metrized line bundle can be expressed as the integral over a polytope of a certain adelic family of concave functions. To state and prove this result, we study the Arakelov geometry of toric varieties. In particular, we consider models over a discrete valuation ring, metrized line bundles, and their associated measures and heights. We show that these notions can be translated in terms of convex analysis, and are closely related to objects like polyhedral complexes, concave functions, real Monge-Ampère measures, and Legendre-Fenchel duality.

We also present a closed formula for the integral over a polytope of a function of one variable composed with a linear form. This formula allows us to compute the height of toric varieties with respect to some interesting metrics arising from polytopes. We also compute the height of toric projective curves with respect to the Fubini-Study metric and the height of some toric bundles.

Résumé (Géométrie arithmétique des variétés toriques. Métriques, mesures et hauteurs)

Nous montrons que la hauteur d'une variété torique relative à un fibré en droites métrisé torique s'écrit comme l'intégrale sur un polytope d'une certaine famille adélique de fonctions concaves. Afin d'énoncer et démontrer ce résultat, nous étudions la géométrie d'Arakelov des variétés toriques. En particulier, nous considérons des modèles de ces variétés sur des anneaux de valuation discrète, ainsi que les fibrés en droites métrisés et leurs mesures et hauteurs associées. Nous montrons que ces notions se traduisent en termes d'analyse convexe et sont intimement liées à des objets tels que les complexes polyédraux, les mesures de Monge-Ampère et la dualité de Legendre-Fenchel.

Nous présentons également une formule close pour l'intégration sur un polytope d'une fonction d'une variable composée avec une forme linéaire. Cette formule nous permet de calculer la hauteur de variétés toriques relativement à plusieurs métriques intéressantes, provenant de polytopes. Nous calculons aussi la hauteur des courbes toriques projectives relativement à la métrique de Fubini-Study et la hauteur des fibrés toriques.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Conventions and notations	13
1. Metrized line bundles and their associated heights	15
1.1. Smooth metrics in the Archimedean case	15
1.2. Berkovich spaces of schemes	18
1.3. Algebraic metrics in the non-Archimedean case	20
1.4. Semipositive and DSP metrics, measures and local heights	27
1.5. Metrics and global heights over adelic fields	32
2. The Legendre-Fenchel duality	39
2.1. Convex sets and convex decompositions	39
2.2. The Legendre-Fenchel dual of a concave function	44
2.3. Operations on concave functions and duality	49
2.4. The differentiable case	54
2.5. The piecewise affine case	57
2.6. Differences of concave functions	66
2.7. Monge-Ampère measures	69
3. Toric varieties	77
3.1. Fans and toric varieties	77
3.2. Orbits and equivariant morphisms	79
3.3. $\mathbb{T}$ -Cartier divisors and toric line bundles	84
3.4. Positivity properties of $\mathbb{T}$ -Cartier divisors	90
3.5. Toric schemes over a discrete valuation ring	94
3.6. $\mathbb{T}$ -Cartier divisors on toric schemes	102
3.7. Positivity on toric schemes	107

4. Metrics and measures on toric varieties	115
4.1. The variety with corners $X_{\Sigma}(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$	115
4.2. Analytic torus actions	120
4.3. Toric metrics	127
4.4. Smooth metrics and their associated measures	137
4.5. Algebraic metrics from toric models	141
4.6. The one-dimensional case	145
4.7. Algebraic metrics and their associated measures	154
4.8. Semipositive and DSP metrics	157
4.9. Adelic toric metrics	162
5. Height of toric varieties	165
5.1. Local heights of toric varieties	165
5.2. Global heights of toric varieties	174
6. Metrics from polytopes	179
6.1. Integration on polytopes	179
6.2. Metrics and heights from polytopes	186
6.3. Heights and entropy	189
7. Variations on Fubini-Study metrics	193
7.1. Height of toric projective curves	193
7.2. Height of toric bundles	200
Bibliography	207
List of Symbols	213
Index	219

INTRODUCTION

Systems of polynomial equations appear in a wide variety of contexts in both pure and applied mathematics. Systems arising from applications are not random but come with a certain structure. When studying those systems, it is important to be able to exploit that structure.

A relevant result in this direction is the Bernstein-Kušnirenko-Khovanskii theorem [Kuš76, Ber75]. Let K be a field with algebraic closure $\overline{K}$. Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a lattice polytope and $f_1, \dots, f_n \in K[t_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, t_n^{\pm 1}]$ a family of Laurent polynomials whose Newton polytope is contained in Δ . The BKK theorem says that the number (counting multiplicities) of isolated common zeros of $f_1, \dots, f_n$ in $(\overline{K}^\times)^n$ is bounded above by $n!$ times the volume of Δ , with equality when $f_1, \dots, f_n$ is generic among the families of Laurent polynomials with Newton polytope contained in Δ . This shows how a geometric problem (the counting of the number of solutions of a system of equations) can be translated into a combinatorial, simpler one. It is commonly used to predict when a given system of polynomial equations has a small number of solutions. As such, it is a cornerstone of polynomial equation solving and has motivated a large amount of work and results over the past 25 years, see for instance [GKZ94, Stu02, PS08b] and the references therein.

A natural way to study polynomials with prescribed Newton polytope is to associate to the polytope Δ a toric variety X over K equipped with an ample line bundle L . The polytope conveys all the information about the pair (X, L) . For instance, the degree of X with respect to L is given by the formula

$$\deg_L(X) = n! \operatorname{vol}(\Delta),$$

where vol denotes the Lebesgue measure of $\mathbb{R}^n$. The Laurent polynomials f_i can be identified with global sections of L , and the BKK theorem can be deduced from this formula. Indeed, there is a dictionary which allows to translate algebro-geometric properties of toric varieties in terms of combinatorial properties of polytopes and fans, and the degree formula above is one entry in this “toric dictionary”.

The central motivation for this text is an arithmetic analogue for heights of this formula, which is the theorem stated below. The height is a basic arithmetic invariant of a proper variety over the field of rational numbers. Together with its degree, it measures the amount of information needed to represent this variety, for instance, *via* its Chow form. Hence, this invariant is also relevant in computational algebraic geometry, see for instance [GHH⁺97, AKS07, DKS12]. The notion of height of varieties generalizes the height of points already considered by Siegel, Northcott, Weil and others, it is an essential tool in Diophantine approximation and geometry.

For simplicity of the exposition, in this introduction we assume that the pair (X, L) is defined over the field of rational numbers $\mathbb{Q}$, although in the rest of the book we will work with more general adelic fields (Definition 1.5.1). Let $\mathfrak{M}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ denote the set of places of $\mathbb{Q}$ and let $(\vartheta_v)_{v \in \mathfrak{M}_{\mathbb{Q}}}$ be a family of concave functions on Δ such that $\vartheta_v \equiv 0$ for all but a finite number of v . We will show that, to this data, one can associate an adelic family of metrics $(\|\cdot\|_v)_v$ on L . Write $\bar{L} = (L, (\|\cdot\|_v)_v)$ for the resulting metrized line bundle.

Theorem. — *The height of X with respect to $\bar{L}$ is given by*

$$h_{\bar{L}}(X) = (n+1)! \sum_{v \in \mathfrak{M}_{\mathbb{Q}}} \int_{\Delta} \vartheta_v \, d\text{vol}.$$

This theorem was announced in [BPS09] and we prove it in the present text. To establish it in a wide generality, we have been led to study the Arakelov geometry of toric varieties. In the course of our research, we have found that a large part of the arithmetic geometry of toric varieties can be translated in terms of convex analysis. In particular, we have added a number of new entries to the arithmetic geometry chapter of the toric dictionary, including models of toric varieties over a discrete valuation ring, metrized line bundles, and their associated measures and heights. These objects are closely related to objects of convex analysis like polyhedral complexes, concave functions, Monge-Ampère measures and Legendre-Fenchel duality.

These additions to the toric dictionary are very concrete and well-suited for computations. In particular, they provide a new wealth of examples in Arakelov geometry where constructions can be made explicit and properties tested. In relation with explicit computations in these examples, we present a closed formula for the integral over a polytope of a function of one variable composed with a linear form. This formula allows us to compute the height of toric varieties with respect to some interesting metrics arising from polytopes. Some of these heights are related to the average entropy of a simple random process on the polytope. We also compute the height of toric projective curves with respect to the Fubini-Study metric and of some toric bundles.

There are many other arithmetic invariants of toric varieties that may be studied in terms of convex analysis. For instance, in the subsequent paper [BMPS12] we give