COMPOSITIO MATHEMATICA

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Compositio Mathematica, tome 100, nº 2 (1996), p. 125-130
<http://www.numdam.org/item?id=CM_1996__100_2_125_0>

Compositio Mathematica **100:** 125–130, 1996.

Singularity of the moduli space of stable bundles on surfaces

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Received 23 June 1994; accepted in final form 31 October 1994

1. Introduction

Let (S, H) be a polarized algebraic surface defined over $\mathbb{C}$. For given divisor D on S and an integer c, let $M_H(r, D, c)$ be the moduli space of rank r torsion-free sheaves E on S which are Gieseker semistable with respect to H, with $\det E \cong \mathcal{O}_S(D)$, $c_2(E) = c$. Recently the singularity of $M_H(r, D, c)$ has been studied by several authors. J.-M.Drezet considered the case $S = \mathbb{P}^2$ and proved that $M_H(r, D, c)$ is locally factorial ([D]). For arbitrary surface S, J. Li proved that $M_H(2, D, c)$ is normal if c is sufficiently large ([L]) and, under additional assumption on the canonical divisor K_S, D. Huybrechts showed that $M_H(2, D, c)$ is a $\mathbb{Q}$-Gorenstein variety ([H]). The purpose of this note is to generalize their results to the case $r > 2$. Our main result is the following

THEOREM. *For $r \geqslant 2$ and sufficiently large c, $M_H(r, D, c)$ is normal. If we assume further that there exist integers m, $l (m \neq 0)$ such that $mK_S = lH$, then $M_H(r, D, c)$ is a $\mathbb{Q}$-Gorenstein variety.*

Our proof of the above theorem rests on two results concerning $M_H(r, D, c)$. One is the generic smoothness of $M_H(r, D, c)$ for sufficiently large c and another is the construction of determinant line bundles on it([O1], [O2], [LP]).

We are grateful to the referee for pointing out some inaccuracies in the original version of this paper and for providing references.

2. Determinant line bundles

In what follows, all varieties are defined over the complex number field $\mathbb{C}$. In this section we describe the determinant bundle formalism in [O1], [LP] for higher rank sheaves. Let C be a smooth curve. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a family of sheaves of rank r on C, parametrized by a scheme T, which we assume to be irreducible. We let $\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F})$ be the line bundle on X defined by

$$\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}) = (\det(p_T)_!\mathcal{F})^\vee.$$

LEMMA 1.1. *Let C, T, $\mathcal{F}$ be as above. Assume that there exist line bundles L_1(*resp. *L_2) on C (*resp. *on T) such that* $\det \mathcal{F} \cong p_C^* L_1 \otimes p_T^* L_2$ *and assume further that $\chi(\mathcal{F}_x) = 0$ for all $x \in T$. Then*

$$c_1(\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F})) = (p_T)_* \left(c_2(\mathcal{F}) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F})^2 \right).$$

Proof. By Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch theorem, we obtain

$$c_1(\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F})) = (p_T)_*(c_2(\mathcal{F}) - \tfrac{1}{2}c_1(\mathcal{F})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}c_1(\mathcal{F}) \,.\, p_C^*[K_C]).$$

The claim follows from the assumption $\chi(\mathcal{F}_x) = 0$ for all $x \in T$. □

Let S be a smooth projective surface and $H = \mathcal{O}_S(1)$ an ample divisor on S. As in the introduction, we denote by $M_H(r, D, c)$ the moduli of semistable sheaves with the given invariants. There exists an integer n such that for all $F \in M_H(r, D, c)$, $F(n) = F \otimes \mathcal{O}_S(n)$ is globally generated and $h^i(F(n)) = 0$ for $i > 0$. We fix such n and let $N = h^0(F(n))$.

For integers n, N as above, let $\mathrm{Quot}(r, D, c)$ denote Grothendieck's Quot-scheme parametrizing all quotient sheaves $\mathcal{O}_S(-n) \otimes \mathbb{C}^N \to F$ such that $\det(F) \cong \mathcal{O}_S(D)$ and $c_2(F) = c$. Let $p_S : S \times \mathrm{Quot} \to S$, $p_Q : S \times \mathrm{Quot} \to \mathrm{Quot}$ be the natural projections. There exists a universal quotient morphism

$$\theta : p_S^*(\mathcal{O}_S(-n) \otimes \mathbb{C}^N) \to \mathcal{F}$$

on $\mathrm{Quot}(r, D, c) \times S$. We denote by $\mathrm{Quot}^{ss} = \mathrm{Quot}(r, D, c)^{ss}$ the open subset consisting of semistable points $x \in \mathrm{Quot}(r, D, c)$ such that

$$\theta_x : \mathcal{O}_S(-n) \otimes \mathbb{C}^N \to \mathcal{F}_x$$

induces an isomorphism

$$\mathbb{C}^N \cong H^0(\mathcal{F}_x(n)).$$

$M_H(r, D, c)$ is constructed as the good quotient by $PGL(N)$ of Quot^{ss} ([Ma]). Let Σ be an irreducible component of the Picard scheme $\mathrm{Pic}(S)$ containing $\mathcal{O}_S(D)$. Similarly we define $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ and $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)$ as the scheme parametrizing sheaves F with $\det(F) \in \Sigma$. Let

$$\pi : \mathrm{Quot}^{ss} \to M_H(r, D, c)$$

denote the quotient morphism.

Using the above $\mathcal{F}$, we define the linear map

$$\nu_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathrm{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \to \mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Quot}^{ss}) \otimes \mathbf{Q}$$

by

$$\nu_{\mathcal{F}}([C]) = (p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F})^2 \right) . p_S^*[C] \right).$$

For a curve $C \subset S$, let $\mathcal{F}^C = \mathcal{F}_{|C \times \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}}$. We have

LEMMA 1.2. *Let C be a smooth complete curve of genus $g(C)$ on S. Assume that for every point $x \in \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$, we have $\deg \mathcal{F}_x^C = D.C = rd$ for some integer d. Then for every line bundle L on C with $\deg L = -d + g(C) - 1$, we have the following equality in $\mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Quot}^{ss})$.*

$$c_1(\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)) = \nu_{\mathcal{F}}([C]).$$

Proof. Let $p_Q^C : C \times \mathrm{Quot}^{ss} \to \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$ be the projection. $\mathcal{F}^C$ clearly satisfies the first assumption in Lemma 1.1. Furthermore, we have $\chi(\mathcal{F}_x^C \otimes p_C^* L) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$. Hence we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)) &= (p_Q^C)_* \left(c_2(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)^2 \right) \\ &= (p_Q^C)_* \left(c_2(\mathcal{F}^C) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}^C)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

If we denote by $\tau : C \times \mathrm{Quot}^{ss} \hookrightarrow S \times \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$ the inclusion map, we have $c_i(\mathcal{F}^C) = \tau^* c_i(\mathcal{F})$ for $i = 1, 2$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)) &= (p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F})^2 \right) . p_S^*[C] \right) \\ &= \nu_{\mathcal{F}}([C]). \end{aligned}$$

□

PROPOSITION 1.3. *Let C be a smooth irreducible curve with $C \in |rnH|$ for a positive integer n. Let $d(n) = -nD \,.\, H + g(C) - 1$. Then for every $L \in \mathrm{Pic}^{d(n)}(C)$, there exists a line bundle $\mathrm{Det}_{\mathcal{F}}(C)$ on $M_H(r, D, c)$ such that*

$$\pi^* \mathrm{Det}_{\mathcal{F}}(C) \cong \mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L).$$

Proof. This is essentially a consequence of [LP, Théoréme (2.5)]. We note that Le Potier's theorem cannot be applied directly to our case since we don't know whether $\mathcal{F}_x^C$ is semistable for all $x \in \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$. However, the argument used in its proof, which we sketch below, works without change.

We have a $\mathrm{GL}(N)$-action on $\mathrm{Det}(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)$, which is induced from the natural $\mathrm{GL}(N)$-action on $\mathcal{F}$. Since $\chi(\mathcal{F}_x^C \otimes p_C^* L) = 0$ for every $x \in \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$

and $L \in \mathrm{Pic}^{d(n)}(C)$, the center of GL$(N)$ acts trivially on $\mathcal{F}$. Hence this action descends to a PGL(N)-action. By a descent lemma [LP, Lemma (1.4)] which generalizes [D-N, Theorem 2.3], it suffices to show that for every point $x \in \mathrm{Quot}^{ss}$ with the closed PGL(N)-orbit, the stabilizer Stab(x) of x acts trivially on the fiber of Det$(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)$ at x. If a point x has the closed orbit, then $\mathcal{F}_x \cong F_1^{m_1} \oplus \cdots F_s^{m_s}$ where F_i are pairwise non-isomorphic stable sheaves of rk$F_i = r_i$ satisfying

$$\frac{\chi(F_i)}{r_i} = \frac{\chi(F)}{r}, \quad \frac{c_1(F_i) \,.\, H}{r_i} = \frac{D \,.\, H}{r}.$$

Then we have Stab$(x) \cong \prod_{i=1}^s \mathrm{GL}(m_i)$ and it acts on the fiber Det$(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)_x$ via the character defined by

$$(g_1, \ldots, g_s) \mapsto \prod_{i=1}^{s} (\det g_i)^{\chi_i},$$

where $\chi_i = \chi(F_{i|C} \otimes L)$. For each i, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(F_{i|C} \otimes L) &= c_1(F_i) \,.\, C + r_i(d(n) + 1 - g(C)) \\ &= r_i(nD \,.\, H + d(n) + 1 - g(C)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that Stab(x) acts trivially on Det$(\mathcal{F}^C \otimes p_C^* L)_x$. This proves the claim. □

3. Singularity of the moduli space

In this section we prove our main result on the singularity of the moduli space. Let $M_H(r, D, c)$, $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ be as in the previous section. We define the expected dimensions of $M_H(r, D, c)$ and $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} d(r, D, c) &= 2rc - (r-1)D^2 - (r^2 - 1)\chi(\mathcal{O}_S), \\ d(r, \Sigma, c) &= d(r, D, c) + h^1(\mathcal{O}_S). \end{aligned}$$

For a torsion-free sheaf F on S, let $\mathrm{Ext}^2(F, F)^0$ denote the kernel of the trace map

$$\mathrm{tr} : \mathrm{Ext}^2(F, F) \to H^2(\mathcal{O}_S).$$

Let M^0 be the open subset of $M_H(r, D, c)$ defined as follows:

$$M^0 = \{F \in M_H(r, D, c) | \mathrm{Ext}^2(F, F)^0 = 0\}.$$

By [Mu], we see that M^0 is smooth. The following result is due to K.G.O'Grady.

THEOREM 2.1 ([O2]). *There exists an integer c_0 such that for all $c \geq c_0$, the followings hold.*

(1) *$M_H(r, D, c)$ has pure dimension $d(r, D, c)$;*

(2) $\mathrm{codim}(M_H(r, D, c) \setminus M^0) \geq 2$.

We define Q^0 to be the inverse image of M^0 by the morphism $\pi : \mathrm{Quot}^{ss} \to M_H(r, D, c)$. For a universal quotient sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ on $S \times Q$, let $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}_{S \times Q^0}$. We denote by $p_S : S \times Q^0 \to S$ and $p_Q : S \times Q^0 \to Q^0$ the projections. The following is a generalization of [L, Theorem 1.2].

PROPOSITION 2.2. *For sufficiently large c, we have*
(1) $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)^{ss}$ *has pure dimension* $e(r, \Sigma, c) = d(r, \Sigma, c) + N^2 - 1$*;*
(2) $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)^{ss}$ *is normal and locally complete intersection.*

Proof. Let P be the identity component of $\mathrm{Pic}(S)$ and let $\hat{P}$ be the quotient of P by the subgroup of r-torsion points. Then $\hat{P}$ is a smooth group scheme which acts freely on $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ and $M_H(r, D, c)$ is isomorphic to $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)/\hat{P}$(cf. [L, p.11]). From Theorem 2.1 it follows that $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ has pure dimension $d(r, \Sigma, c)$ and is smooth in codimension two for $c >> 0$ since $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ is a principal bundle over $M_H(r, D, c)$. Hence by construction of $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$, $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)^{ss}$ has dimension at most $e(r, \Sigma, c)$. On the other hand, the argument in [L, Sect. 1] shows that locally $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)^{ss}$ is defined by an ideal $J \subset \mathbb{C}[t_1, \ldots, t_k]$ which is generated by at most $k - e(r, \Sigma, c)$ elements. Therefore $\mathrm{Quot}(r, \Sigma, c)^{ss}$ is normal and locally complete intersection. □

PROPOSITION 2.3. *For sufficiently large c,* $M_H(r, D, c)$ *is normal and* $M_H(r, D, c)^s$ *is locally comlete intersection.*

Proof. From Proposition 2.2 we deduce that $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)$ is normal and $M_H(r, \Sigma, c)^s$ is locally complete intersection for $c \gg 0$. The claims for $M_H(r, D, c)$ and $M_H(r, D, c)^s$ follow from that fact that they are quotients by a smooth group scheme $\hat{P}$. □

LEMMA 2.4. *Let* T_{M^0} *denote the tangent bundle of* M^0*. In* $\mathrm{Pic}(Q^0) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$*, we have*

$$c_1(\pi^* T_{M^0}) = -r(p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}_0) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}_0)^2 \right) \cdot p_S^*[K_S] \right).$$

Proof. Let $\mathcal{E}xt^i_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})$ be the relative extension sheaf and let $\mathcal{E}xt^i_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})^0$ be the kernel of the trace map

$$\mathrm{tr}\colon\ \mathcal{E}xt^i_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}) \to R^i p_{Q*} \mathcal{O}_{S \times Q}.$$

We have $\mathcal{E}xt^i_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})^0_{|Q^0} = 0$ for $i = 0, 2$ and

$$\mathcal{E}xt^1_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F})^0_{|Q^0} \cong \pi^* T_{M^0}.$$

We choose a locally free resolution of $\mathcal{F}$

$$0 \to \mathcal{F}_2 \to \mathcal{F}_1 \to \mathcal{F} \to 0.$$

Then Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch yields

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\pi^* T_{M^0}) &= -c_1(\sum(-1)^i \mathcal{E}xt^i_{p_Q}(\mathcal{F},\mathcal{F})^0_{|Q^0}) \\ &= (p_Q)_*((\mathrm{ch}(\mathcal{F}_1^\vee \otimes \mathcal{F}_0) - \mathrm{ch}(\mathcal{F}_2^\vee \otimes \mathcal{F}_0)) \cdot p_S^* \mathrm{td}(S)) \\ &= -r(p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}_0) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}_0)^2 \right) \cdot p_S^*[K_S] \right). \end{aligned}$$

□

THEOREM 2.5. *Let (S, H) be a polarized surface with $mK_S = lH$ for some integers l, $m(m \neq 0)$. Then $M_H(r, D, c)$ is a $\mathbb{Q}$-Gorenstein variety for sufficiently large c.*

Proof. We treat the case $l > 0$ only since the proof in the case $l \leq 0$ is similar. For sufficiently large n, we choose a smooth irreducible curve $C \in |rlnH|$ and $L \in \mathrm{Pic}^{d(ln)}(C)$. Let K_{M^0} denote the canonical bundle of M^0. By Lemma 1.2 and Lemma 2.4 we have the following equality in $\mathrm{Pic}(M^0) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(\mathrm{Det}_{\mathcal{F}}(C))_{|M^0} &= \pi_*(p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}_0) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}_0)^2 \right) \cdot p_S^*[rmnK_S] \right) \\ &= rmn\pi_*(p_Q)_* \left(\left(c_2(\mathcal{F}_0) - \frac{r-1}{2r} c_1(\mathcal{F}_0)^2 \right) \cdot p_S^*[K_S] \right) \\ &= mnc_1(K_{M^0}). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that there exists an integer N_0 such that

$$\mathrm{Det}_{\mathcal{F}}(C)^{\otimes N_0}_{|M^0} \cong K_{M^0}^{\otimes N_0 mn}.$$

This completes the proof of the theorem since for sufficiently large c, $M_H(r, D, c)$ is normal and $\mathrm{codim}(M_H(r, D, c) \setminus M^0) \geq 2$. □

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