

ON THE YAU CYCLE OF A NORMAL SURFACE SINGULARITY*

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Abstract. The notion of the Yau sequence was introduced by Tomaru, as an attempt to extend Yau's elliptic sequence for (weakly) elliptic singularities to normal surface singularities of higher fundamental genera. We show some fundamental properties of the sequence. Among other things, it is shown that its length gives us the arithmetic genus for singular points of fundamental genus two. Furthermore, an upper bound on the geometric genus is given for certain surface singularities of degree one. The relation between the canonical cycle and the Yau cycle is also discussed.

Key words. Surface singularity, Yau cycle, canonical cycle.

AMS subject classifications. 14J17.

Introduction. Let (V, o) be a germ of a normal singular point on a complex surface V . If $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ denotes a resolution, then the intersection form is negative definite on the exceptional set $\pi^{-1}(o)$. Hence, there exists a non-zero effective divisor with support $\pi^{-1}(o)$ that has a non-positive intersection number with every exceptional curve. We denote by Z the smallest one among such divisors and call it the *fundamental cycle*. Apparently, $-Z^2$ is one of the most naive invariants of (V, o) independent of the choice of resolutions. We call $-Z^2$ the *degree* of (V, o) .

In this paper, we study surface singularities by considering decompositions of various cycles on $\pi^{-1}(o)$. One of the main objects is the *Yau sequence* introduced by Tomaru [9], which formally generalizes S.S.T. Yau's elliptic sequence [11] to singularities of bigger fundamental genera. We define the *Yau cycle* Y to be the sum of all curves appearing in the sequence. Then one can associate to (V, o) some new numerical invariants such as $-Y^2$, $p_a(Y)$ and $\dim H^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$. Furthermore, as is naturally expected after [11], Y enjoys nice numerical properties similar to those of the canonical cycle of a numerically Gorenstein elliptic singularity. Though, in this paper, we can only give small applications with a special regard to singularities of degree one, we hope that the Yau cycle will work in large for fruitful results in future studies of surface singularities of general type.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In §1, we recall the notion of the Yau sequence [9] and state fundamental properties of cycles canonically associated to the sequence. Several known facts on the elliptic sequence (see, e.g., [11], [7], [5]) will be successfully extended to Yau cycles. Among other things, in Theorem 1.5, we give a formula computing $\dim H^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ in the spirit of [6]. In §2, we observe the relation between Yau sequence and the arithmetic genus of a singular point of fundamental genus 2, and show in Corollary 2.5 that the length of the sequence actually computes the arithmetic genus. We also discuss two conjectures posed by Okuma in [6] for numerically Gorenstein elliptic singularities. We give an affirmative answer to Conjecture 1.4 and a counterexample to Conjecture 5.14 in [6].

The rest is basically devoted to singularities of degree one. Such singular points are attractive not only for the naive reason that the degree is the smallest possible, but also for the fact shown in [2] that each connected component of the base locus of the linear system $|L|$ is contained in the exceptional set of a singularity of degree one,

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for any invertible sheaf L on X such that $L - K_X$ is nef. In §3, we study the Yau cycle on the minimal resolution and show in Lemma 3.4 that some multiple of it gives us the canonical cycle, when Z is essentially irreducible, a condition automatically satisfied in the elliptic case. See Theorem 3.5 for a slightly more general result that gives a sufficient condition for a singularity of degree one to be numerically Gorenstein and shows how Yau cycles can describe the canonical cycle. For those with essentially irreducible Z , we also give in Theorem 3.9 the upper bound of the geometric genus. Example 3.10 tells us that the bound is optimal. In §4, we discuss decompositions of the canonical cycle of a numerically Gorenstein singular point in order to supplement a result in [3]. Theorem 4.5 shows, as predicted by Theorem 3.5, that a certain multiple of the Yau cycle forms the “leading term” of the canonical cycle when the singular point is of degree one. Theorem 4.7 describes the case of fundamental genus 2 (of given degree).

NOTATION. Throughout the paper, a *curve* means a non-zero effective divisor (with compact irreducible components) on a non-singular complex surface. For a curve D , the *arithmetic genus* $p_a(D)$ is defined by $p_a(D) = 1 - \chi(\mathcal{O}_D)$. If D is on a non-singular surface X , then the invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_D(K_X + D)$ is the dualizing sheaf ω_D of D , by the adjunction formula. We have $2p_a(D) - 2 = \deg \omega_D = D(K_X + D)$. An invertible sheaf (or a line bundle) on a curve is *nef* if it is of non-negative degree on any irreducible components.

A curve D is *chain-connected* if $\mathcal{O}_{D-\Gamma}(-\Gamma)$ is not nef for any proper subcurve Γ , $0 \prec \Gamma \prec D$. One of the remarkable features of a chain-connected curve D is that, if $\mathcal{O}_D(-C)$ is nef for a curve C , then either $D \preceq C$ or $\text{Supp}(C) \cap \text{Supp}(D) = \emptyset$. If D is chain-connected and $p_a(D) > 0$, then there uniquely exists a chain-connected subcurve D_{\min} of D such that $p_a(D_{\min}) = p_a(D)$ and $K_{D_{\min}}$ is nef. We call D_{\min} the minimal model of D . We have

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\min} &= \min\{\Gamma \mid 0 \prec \Gamma \preceq D, p_a(\Gamma) = p_a(D)\} \\ &= \max\{\Gamma \mid 0 \prec \Gamma \preceq D, K_\Gamma \text{ is nef}\}. \end{aligned}$$

A maximal chain-connected subcurve of a curve C is called a *chain-connected component* of C . Every curve C decomposes as $C = \sum_{i=1}^n C_i$ in such a way that C_i is a chain-connected component of $C - \sum_{j<i} C_j$. Then $\mathcal{O}_{C_j}(-C_i)$ is nef for $i < j$. Such an ordered decomposition is essentially unique and called a *chain-connected component decomposition* (a CCC decomposition, for short) of C . See [3] for these facts and further properties.

We sometimes need a stronger connectivity for curves. For a fixed integer k (usually non-negative), D is called (numerically) *k-connected*, if $(D - \Gamma)\Gamma \geq k$ holds for any proper subcurve $\Gamma \prec D$. Every 1-connected curve is chain-connected. But the converse is not true. For further properties of numerically connected curves, we refer the readers to [1, Appendix].

Let (V, o) be an isolated surface singularity and $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ a resolution. Let Z be the fundamental cycle on $\pi^{-1}(o)$. Then Z is chain-connected. We call the arithmetic genus of Z the *fundamental genus* of (V, o) and denote it by $p_f(V, o)$. The *arithmetic genus* and the *geometric genus* of (V, o) are respectively defined by $p_a(V, o) = \max\{p_a(D) \mid 0 \prec D, \text{Supp}(D) \subseteq \pi^{-1}(o)\}$ and $p_g(V, o) = \dim(R^1\pi_*\mathcal{O}_X)_o$. It is known that $p_f(V, o) \leq p_a(V, o) \leq p_g(V, o)$. See [10]. Since the intersection form is negative definite on $\pi^{-1}(o)$, there is a \mathbb{Q} -divisor Z_K with support in $\pi^{-1}(o)$ such that $-Z_K$ is numerically equivalent to K_X . We call it the *canonical cycle*. When Z_K is

an integral divisor, we call (V, o) a *numerically Gorenstein* singularity. Note that a normal surface singularity (V, o) is Gorenstein i.e., $\mathcal{O}_{V,o}$ is a Gorenstein local ring, if and only if $-Z_K$ is linearly equivalent to K_X .

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1. The minimal model and Yau cycle. In this section, we recall the notion of the Yau sequence introduced by Tomaru [9] and study cycles canonically associated to it.

Let (V, o) be a germ of a normal surface singular point and $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ a resolution. We denote by Z the fundamental cycle on $\pi^{-1}(o)$ and always assume that $p_f(V, o) := p_a(Z) > 0$. Let Z_{\min} denote the minimal model of Z . Recall that Z_{\min} is obtained from Z by removing $(-1)_Z$ -curves, i.e., non-singular rational curves C with $C(Z - C) = 1$, one by one (see, [3, Sect.2]). Note also that $Z - C$ is chain-connected, $H^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) \simeq H^1(Z - C, \mathcal{O}_{Z-C})$ and $H^1(Z, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq H^1(Z - C, \mathbb{Z})$ for any $(-1)_Z$ -curve C (if exists).

LEMMA 1.1. *Assume that $-Z$ is numerically trivial on Z_{\min} . Let $D \prec Z$ be a maximal subcurve such that $\mathcal{O}_D(-Z)$ is numerically trivial and $p_a(D) = p_f(V, o)$. Then the following hold.*

- (1) D is the fundamental cycle on its support.
- (2) $\Delta \preceq D$ holds for any chain-connected curve $\Delta \preceq Z$ such that $\mathcal{O}_\Delta(-Z)$ is numerically trivial and $p_a(\Delta) > 0$.
- (3) If $C \prec Z$ is an irreducible component such that $CD > 0$, then $C \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$, $CD = 1$ and $CZ < 0$.

Proof. Let D be a maximal subcurve of Z such that $\mathcal{O}_D(-Z)$ is numerically trivial and $p_a(D) = p_f(V, o)$. Recall that the last condition assures the chain-connectivity of D by [3, Lemma 3.2]. We show (1) holds for D . Assume that there is a component $C \preceq D$ satisfying $CD > 0$. Since $\mathcal{O}_D(-Z)$ is numerically trivial and $C \preceq D$, we have $C(Z - D) < 0$ and, hence, $C \preceq Z - D$. Then $C + D$ is a subcurve of Z and $\mathcal{O}_{C+D}(-Z)$ is numerically trivial. Furthermore, we have $p_a(D+C) = p_a(D) + p_a(C) - 1 + CD \geq p_a(D) = p_f$. Then $p_a(D+C) = p_f$, since $p_a(D+C) \leq h^1(D+C, \mathcal{O}_{D+C}) \leq h^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = p_f$. This contradicts the assumption that D is maximal. Hence we get (1).

Let Δ be as in (2). If $\mathcal{O}_\Delta(-D)$ is not nef, then there exists a component $C \preceq \Delta$ satisfying $CD > 0$. Since D is the fundamental cycle on its support, this shows $C \not\preceq D$ and it follows $C+D \preceq Z$. But, $\mathcal{O}_{C+D}(-Z)$ is numerically trivial and $p_a(D+C) = p_f$, contradicting the maximality of D . Hence $\mathcal{O}_\Delta(-D)$ is nef. Then, since Δ is chain-connected, either $\text{Supp}(\Delta) \cap \text{Supp}(D) = \emptyset$ or $\Delta \preceq D$. If the first alternative happens, then $D+\Delta \preceq Z$ and we would have $p_a(D)+p_a(\Delta) = h^1(D+\Delta, \mathcal{O}_{D+\Delta}) \leq h^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = p_f$, which is impossible by $p_a(D) = p_f$ and $p_a(\Delta) > 0$. Therefore, Δ is a subcurve of D .

We show (3). Since we must have $p_a(D+C) = p_a(D)$, we get $p_a(C) - 1 + CD = 0$. Hence $p_a(C) = 0$ and $CD = 1$. Since $D \prec C+D$, by the maximality of D , $\mathcal{O}_{C+D}(-Z)$ is nef but cannot be numerically trivial. This implies $CZ < 0$. Note also that D has a non-multiple component meeting C . \square

We call D as in the above lemma the *Tyurina component* of Z . Since Z_{\min} is also the minimal model of D , an obvious induction gives us the longest sequence of curves

$$(1.1) \quad 0 \prec D_m \prec D_{m-1} \prec \cdots \prec D_2 \prec D_1 = Z$$

such that D_{i+1} is the Tyurina component of D_i for $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$. We call it the *Yau sequence* for Z according to [9]. Note that $Z_{\min} \preceq D_m$ and $D_m Z_{\min} < 0$ hold. The case $Z_{\min} Z < 0$, which was excluded from the above consideration, corresponds to $m = 1$. Since the Yau sequence is uniquely determined, its length m is a numerical invariant of (V, o) . We put

$$(1.2) \quad Y = \sum_{i=1}^m D_i$$

and call it the *Yau cycle*.

LEMMA 1.2. *Consider the Yau sequence for Z as in (1.1). Then the following hold.*

- (1) *If $m \geq 3$, then $\text{Supp}(D_i - D_j) \cap \text{Supp}(D_k) = \emptyset$ for $i < j < k$.*
- (2) *Choose an index ν with $1 \leq \nu \leq m$ and put $Y_\nu = \sum_{i=\nu}^m D_i$. Then $-Y_\nu$ is nef on $\text{Supp}(D_\nu)$. In particular, $-Y$ is nef on $\pi^{-1}(o)$.*
- (3) *$D_i^2 \leq D_{i+1}^2$ for $1 \leq i < m$.*

Proof. Assume $m \geq 3$ and take three indices i, j, k with $i < j < k$. Then $\mathcal{O}_{D_k}(-(D_i - D_j))$ is numerically trivial. Since D_k is chain-connected, we have either $D_k \preceq D_i - D_j$ or $\text{Supp}(D_i - D_j) \cap \text{Supp}(D_k) = \emptyset$. Assume the first alternative happens. Then $D_j + D_k \preceq D_i$ and we get $p_a(D_i) = h^1(D_i, \mathcal{O}) \geq h^1(D_j + D_k, \mathcal{O}) \geq p_a(D_j + D_k) = p_a(D_j) + p_a(D_k) - 1$. When $p_f(V, o) > 1$, this immediately leads us to a contradiction, since $p_a(D_i) = p_a(D_j) = p_a(D_k) > 1$. So, we may assume that $p_f(V, o) = 1$. Then we have $p_a(D_i) = p_a(D_j + D_k) = 1$. Recall that, for a chain-connected curve E with $p_a(E) > 0$, any subcurve $E' \preceq E$ satisfying $p_a(E') = p_a(E)$ is also chain-connected ([3, §3]). Since D_i is chain-connected, $D_j + D_k$ must be chain-connected, too. However, it is not the case, because $\mathcal{O}_{D_k}(-D_j)$ is numerically trivial. In sum, we cannot have $D_j + D_k \preceq D_i$. Hence (1).

We show (2). It suffices to show that $-Y$ is nef on $\text{Supp}(Z)$. Take any irreducible component $C \preceq Y$ and let i be the biggest index such that $C \preceq D_i$. Since D_i is the fundamental cycle on its support, we have $CD_i \leq 0$. Furthermore, we have $CD_j = 0$ for any j satisfying either $j < i$ or $j > i + 1$ by (1). So, $CY = CD_i + CD_{i+1}$. If $CD_{i+1} = 0$, then $CY \leq 0$. If $CD_{i+1} > 0$, then we also have $CY \leq 0$, since Lemma 1.1 (3) implies that $CD_{i+1} = 1$ and $CD_i < 0$. Hence $-Y$ is nef. It follows $0 \geq (D_i - D_{i+1})Y = (D_i - D_{i+1})(D_i + D_{i+1}) = D_i^2 - D_{i+1}^2$. This gives (3). \square

LEMMA 1.3. *Let the notation be as in the previous lemma. For a subcurve $\Delta \prec Y$, the following three conditions are equivalent.*

- (1) *$-(Y - \Delta)$ is nef on $\text{Supp}(\Delta)$.*
- (2) *$-(Y - \Delta)$ is nef on $\pi^{-1}(o)$.*
- (3) *$\Delta = Y_\nu$ for some $\nu, 1 < \nu \leq m$.*

Proof. Let Δ be a proper subcurve of Y . Assume that (1) holds. If B is a component with $B \not\preceq \Delta$, then $B\Delta \geq 0$ and $BY \leq 0$. Hence $-B(Y - \Delta) \geq 0$. So, (2) holds. We next assume (2). Since $-(Y - \Delta)$ is nef on the chain-connected curve $Z = D_1$ and $\text{Supp}(D_1) \cap \text{Supp}(Y - \Delta) \neq \emptyset$, we get $D_1 \preceq Y - \Delta$, that is, $\Delta \preceq Y - D_1 = Y_2$. If $\Delta \neq Y_2$, then, since $\mathcal{O}_{D_2}(-D_1)$ is numerically trivial, $-(Y_2 - \Delta) = -(Y - \Delta) + D_1$ is nef on the chain-connected curve D_2 and $\text{Supp}(D_2) \cap \text{Supp}(Y_2 - \Delta) \neq \emptyset$, we get $D_2 \preceq Y_2 - \Delta$, or equivalently, $\Delta \preceq Y_2 - D_2 = Y_3$. Now, we can show that (3) holds inductively. Clearly, (3) implies (1), because $Y - Y_\nu$ is numerically trivial on Y_ν . \square

LEMMA 1.4. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ be the minimal resolution of a numerically Gorenstein, isolated surface singularity (V, o) with $p_f(V, o) > 0$. Then $Y \preceq Z_K$. If furthermore K_Y is nef and $p_f(V, o) \geq 2$, then $2Y \preceq Z_K$.*

Proof. Let Z_K be the canonical cycle. Since π is minimal, $-Z_K$ is nef on $\pi^{-1}(o)$. Let $Y = \sum_{i=1}^m D_i$ be the Yau cycle as in (1.2). Then each D_i is chain-connected and $\mathcal{O}_{D_j}(-D_i)$ is numerically trivial for $i < j$. In particular, $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Z_K - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} D_j)$ is numerically equivalent to the nef invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Z_K)$ of positive degree. From this, one gets $D_i \preceq Z_K - D_1 - \dots - D_{i-1}$. By induction, $Y \preceq Z_K$.

K_Y is numerically equivalent to $-(Z_K - Y)$ and it is non-trivial when $p_f > 1$. Hence, similarly as above, one can show that $Y \preceq Z_K - Y$ if K_Y is nef. \square

Now, the formula $p_a(Y) - 1 = \sum_{i=1}^m (p_a(D_i) - 1) + \sum_{i < j} D_i D_j$ gives us

$$(1.3) \quad p_a(Y) = m(p_f - 1) + 1.$$

Another numerical invariant to be investigated is $h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$. When $m = 1$, we clearly have $h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = p_f$. For $m \geq 2$, we have the following:

THEOREM 1.5. *When $m \geq 2$, let γ be the order of $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(-Z)$ (possibly $\gamma = +\infty$). Then*

$$h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = (p_f - 1)m + 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m - 1}{\gamma} \right\rfloor,$$

where $\lfloor (m - 1)/\gamma \rfloor$ denotes the integer part of $(m - 1)/\gamma$. In particular, if $\pi^{-1}(o)$ is simply connected, then $h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = m \cdot p_f$.

Proof. We may assume that $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(-Z)$ is a torsion element of order γ in $\text{Pic}(D_m)$. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Y_{i+1}}(-Y + Y_{i+1}) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Y_i}(-Y + Y_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Y + Y_i) \rightarrow 0$$

inductively for $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$. We remark that $\mathcal{O}_{Y_i}(-Y + Y_i) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{Y_i}$ holds if and only if $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Y + Y_i) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_i}$ and $H^0(Y_i, -Y + Y_i) \rightarrow H^0(D_i, -Y + Y_i)$ is surjective, since $\text{Supp}(Y_i)$ is connected and D_i is the chain-connected component of Y_i . Furthermore, we have $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Y + Y_i) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-(i - 1)Z)$, since $\text{Supp}(D_1 - D_{i-1}) \cap \text{Supp}(D_i) = \emptyset$ when $i > 2$, by Lemma 1.2 (1). Note also that $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-Z)$ for $i \geq 2$ and $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(-Z)$ have the same order, since we have natural isomorphisms $H^1(D_i, \mathcal{O}_{D_i}) \rightarrow H^1(D_m, \mathcal{O}_{D_m})$ and $H^1(D_i, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(D_m, \mathbb{Z})$ by the process obtaining the minimal model (cf. [6, Lemma 3.7]).

We put $a_i = h^0(Y_i, -Y + Y_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $a_{m+1} = 0$. Then the above consideration implies

$$a_i - a_{i+1} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \gamma | (i - 1), \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Hence $h^0(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = a_1 = \sum_{i=1}^m (a_i - a_{i+1}) = \lfloor (m - 1)/\gamma \rfloor + 1$. Then the formula for $h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ follows from the Riemann-Roch theorem. \square

REMARK 1.6. All the above results are modeled on the known facts for $p_f = 1$. Let (V, o) be an elliptic numerically Gorenstein singularity and $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ the minimal resolution. It is shown in [11, Theorem 3.7] that the Yau cycle coincides with the canonical cycle. (See also Lemma 2.1 below.) Then the formula

for $p_g(V, o) = h^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ in Proposition 1.5 is due to Okuma [6], and Lemma 1.3 corresponds to Tomari-Némethi's Lemma ([7] and [5], see also [6, Proposition 2.9]). The result corresponding to Lemma 1.2, which might be overlooked in preceding researches, can be found in [3].

2. Applications.

2.1. Numerically Gorenstein elliptic singularities. For the convenience of the reader, we give a proof based on the CCC decomposition for the following well-known result due to Yau [11].

LEMMA 2.1. *If (V, o) is a numerically Gorenstein elliptic singular point and $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ is the minimal resolution, then the Yau cycle coincides with the canonical cycle on X .*

Proof. We compare the Yau cycle $Y = \sum_{i=1}^m D_i$ with the canonical cycle Z_K . Let $Z_K = \Gamma_1 + \dots + \Gamma_n$ be the CCC decomposition. It is shown in [3] that $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_j}(-\Gamma_i)$ is numerically trivial when $i < j$, $p_a(\Gamma_i) = 1$ for any i , $\Gamma_1 = Z$ and $\Gamma_n = Z_{\min}$. Since D_2 is the Tyurina component of $D_1 = \Gamma_1$, we get $\Gamma_2 \preceq D_2$. Since we are working on the minimal resolution $-Z_K$ is nef and, hence, $-(Z_K - \Gamma_1)$ is nef on D_2 . This implies that $D_2 \preceq Z_K - \Gamma_1$ by the chain-connectivity of D_2 . Then $D_2 \preceq \Gamma_2$, because Γ_2 is the chain-connected component of $Z_K - \Gamma_1$. Hence $D_2 = \Gamma_2$. Now the obvious induction shows that $n = m$ and $D_i = \Gamma_i$ for any i , that is, $Y = Z_K$. \square

In the situation of the above lemma, we consider two conjectures in [6]. Put $\omega_Y = \mathcal{O}_Y(\kappa)$ and consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \omega_{Y_{i+1}} \rightarrow \omega_{Y_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i}(\kappa - (Y - Y_i)) \rightarrow 0$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m - 1$. Note that $\mathcal{O}_Y(\kappa)$ is numerically trivial. As in the proof of Proposition 1.5, we have $h^0(\omega_{Y_i}) - h^0(\omega_{Y_{i+1}}) = 1$ if $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(\kappa) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_i}((i-1)Z)$; $h^0(\omega_{Y_i}) = h^0(\omega_{Y_{i+1}})$ otherwise. Put $\alpha := \min\{1 \leq i \leq m \mid \mathcal{O}_{D_m}(\kappa) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_m}((i-1)Z)\}$. Recall that D_m is a minimally elliptic cycle and we have $\mathcal{O}_{D_m} \simeq \omega_{D_m} = \mathcal{O}_{D_m}(\kappa - (Y - Y_m))$, i.e., $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(\kappa) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_m}((m-1)Z)$. Hence, letting $\gamma = \text{ord}(\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(Z))$, we get $\gamma|(m - \alpha)$ and $p_g(V, o) = h^0(\omega_Y) = 1 + (m - \alpha)/\gamma$ as shown in [6].

Put $\beta = \min(\{1 \leq i < m \mid \mathcal{O}_{Y_{i+1}}(-(Y - Y_{i+1})) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{Y_{i+1}}\} \cup \{m\})$. By Theorem 5.13 and Corollary 2.15 in [6], respectively, we have $0 \leq \beta - \alpha < \gamma$ and see that $\beta = m$ is equivalent to $\alpha = m$. It should be noticed that the index set of the Tyurina components here is $\{1, \dots, m\}$, while it is $\{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ in [6]; so, Okuma's α, β are smaller than ours by one, although such differences are not essential.

PROPOSITION 2.2. *Let the situation be as above. If $\beta < m$, then $\gamma|\beta$. In particular, Conjecture 1.4 in [6] is true, that is, α and β determine each other if the resolution graph and the invariant γ are given.*

Proof. We have $\mathcal{O}_{Y_{\beta+1}}(-(Y - Y_{\beta+1})) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{Y_{\beta+1}}$. By restricting it to D_m , we get $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(-\beta Z) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_m}$ by Lemma 1.2 (1). Hence $\gamma|\beta$. \square

Okuma also conjectured in [6, Conjecture 5.14] that D_i coincides D_{i+1} on $\text{Supp}(D_{i+1})$. Unfortunately, such a strong assertion does not always hold as the following simple example shows.

EXAMPLE 2.3. Let A_i $1 \leq i \leq 4$ be a non-singular rational curve satisfying $A_1^2 = -4$, $A_2^2 = A_3^2 = A_4^2 = -2$, $A_1A_2 = 2$, $A_1A_3 = A_1A_4 = A_2A_4 = 0$ and $A_2A_3 = A_3A_4 = 1$. (See, Fig. 1.) Put $\Gamma_1 = A_1 + 2A_2 + 2A_3 + A_4$ and $\Gamma_2 = A_1 + A_2$.

Then Γ_1 is the fundamental cycle on its support, $p_a(\Gamma_1) = 1$ and Γ_2 is the minimal model of Γ_1 for which $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_2}(-\Gamma_1)$ is numerically trivial. Furthermore, $Z_K = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2$ is the canonical cycle. On $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_2)$, Γ_1 is not Γ_2 but $A_1 + 2A_2$.

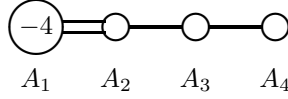


FIG. 1.

2.2. Arithmetic genus of a singularity with $p_f = 2$. Here, we assume $p_f(V, o) = 2$. Unlike elliptic singular points, not only the geometric genus but also the arithmetic genus can be arbitrarily big. We show that the Yau sequence gives us a natural way to compute $p_a(V, o)$:

PROPOSITION 2.4. *Assume that $p_f(V, o) = 2$. Let k be the biggest positive integer such that there exists a decreasing sequence $0 \prec E_k \prec E_{k-1} \prec \dots \prec E_1$ of chain-connected curves E_i with support in $\pi^{-1}(o)$ satisfying*

- (1) $p_a(E_i) = 2$ for any i , and
- (2) $\mathcal{O}_{E_j}(-E_i)$ is numerically trivial for $i < j$.

Then $p_a(V, o) = p_a(\sum_{i=1}^k E_i) = k + 1$. Furthermore, E_1 can be assumed to be Z .

Proof. Let E be a curve whose support is in $\pi^{-1}(o)$ such that $p_a(E) = p_a(V, o)$. Let $E = E_1 + \dots + E_k$ be a CCC decomposition, where E_i is a chain-connected curve and $\mathcal{O}_{E_j}(-E_i)$ is nef for $i < j$. We have

$$p_a(E) - 1 = \sum_{i=1}^k (p_a(E_i) - 1) + \sum_{i < j} E_i E_j.$$

If $p_a(E_i) < 2$ for some i , then $p_a(E) = p_a(E - E_i) + p_a(E_i) - 1 + E_i(E - E_i) \leq p_a(E - E_i)$. So, we can assume from the first time that $p_a(E_i) = 2$ for any i . Then, it follows from the uniqueness of the minimal model of Z that $E_k \preceq E_{k-1} \preceq \dots \preceq E_2 \preceq E_1$.

We have $p_a(E) = k + 1 + \sum_{i < j} E_i E_j$. If there are indices $i < j$ with $E_i E_j < 0$, then $p_a(E) = p_a(E - E_j) + 1 + E_j(E - E_j) \leq p_a(E - E_j)$. This enables us to assume that $E_i E_j = 0$ holds for any $i < j$. Then $E_k \prec E_{k-1} \prec \dots \prec E_2 \prec E_1$, $\mathcal{O}_{E_j}(-E_i)$ is numerically trivial for $i < j$, and $p_a(E) = k + 1$.

We show that we can replace E_1 by Z . Since E_1 is chain-connected and $\mathcal{O}_{E_1}(-Z)$ is nef, we have $E_1 \preceq Z$. Put $F = Z - E_1$ and assume $F \neq 0$. Since $\mathcal{O}_{E_2}(-E_1) = \mathcal{O}_{E_2}(-Z + F)$ is numerically trivial and $\mathcal{O}_{E_2}(-Z)$ is nef, $\mathcal{O}_{E_2}(-F)$ is nef. Then, since E_2 is chain-connected, we have either $E_2 \preceq F$ or $\text{Supp}(E_2) \cap \text{Supp}(F) = \emptyset$. If $E_2 \preceq F$ is the case, then $E_1 + E_2 \preceq Z$ and it would follow $p_a(E_1 + E_2) \leq h^1(E_1 + E_2, \mathcal{O}_{E_1 + E_2}) \leq h^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = p_a(Z)$. This is impossible, because $p_a(Z) = 2$ and $p_a(E_1 + E_2) = p_a(E_1) + p_a(E_2) - 1 + E_1 E_2 = 3 > 2$. Hence $\text{Supp}(E_2) \cap \text{Supp}(F) = \emptyset$. In particular, we see that $\mathcal{O}_{E_2}(-Z)$ is also numerically trivial. \square

It is clear that the longest sequence as in the above proposition can be realized by the Yau sequence. Hence, we get:

COROLLARY 2.5. *Let (V, o) be a normal 2-dimensional singular point with $p_f(V, o) = 2$. Then $p_a(V, o) = p_a(Y) = m + 1$ holds, where Y denotes the Yau*

cycle for Z as in (1.2) and m is its length. In particular, $p_a(V, o) = 2$ holds if and only if $Z_{\min}Z < 0$.

COROLLARY 2.6. *Assume that $p_f(V, o) = 2$ and $p_a(V, o) > 2$. Let D be the Tyurina component of Z . If (V', o') denotes the singular point obtained by contracting D , then $p_a(V', o') = p_a(V, o) - 1$.*

We give one more remark to see that Z_{\min} is numerically 1-connected when $p_f = 2$.

LEMMA 2.7. *Let Δ be a minimal, chain-connected curve of arithmetic genus 2. Then Δ is numerically 1-connected.*

Proof. Take a proper subcurve Γ of Δ . Then $p_a(\Gamma) < p_a(\Delta) = 2$ and, since K_Δ is nef, we have

$$0 \leq \deg K_\Delta|_\Gamma = \deg K_\Gamma + (\Delta - \Gamma)\Gamma.$$

It follows that $(\Delta - \Gamma)\Gamma \geq 0$, where the equality sign holds only if $\deg K_\Delta|_\Gamma = 0$ and $p_a(\Gamma) = 1$. Assume that $(\Delta - \Gamma)\Gamma = 0$ and put $\Gamma' = \Delta - \Gamma$. Then we also have $\deg K_\Delta|_{\Gamma'} = 0$ and $p_a(\Gamma') = 1$. This is impossible, since $2 = \deg K_\Delta = \deg K_\Delta|_\Gamma + \deg K_\Delta|_{\Gamma'} = 0 + 0 = 0$. Therefore, $(\Delta - \Gamma)\Gamma \geq 1$, that is, Δ is numerically 1-connected. \square

3. Singularities of degree one. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ be the *minimal* resolution of an isolated singularity (V, o) of a complex surface. Throughout the section, we denote by Z the fundamental cycle on $\pi^{-1}(o)$ and assume that $Z^2 = -1$. Since π is the minimal resolution, we automatically have $p_f(V, o) > 0$. Note also that Z is numerically 1-connected by $Z^2 = -1$ (see, e.g., [2, Lemma 2.1]).

3.1. Canonical cycle. Firstly, we study the Tyurina component of Z .

LEMMA 3.1. *Let (V, o) be an isolated singular point of degree one and $p_f(V, o) > 0$. Let Z be the fundamental cycle on the minimal resolution and assume that $Z \neq Z_{\min}$. Then $Z_{\min}Z = 0$ and $Z - D$ is a (-2) -curve, where D denotes the Tyurina component of Z .*

Proof. Since $Z^2 = -1$, we have the unique non-multiple component A_1 with $-A_1Z = 1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{Z-A_1}(-Z)$ is numerically trivial. We assume that Z is not minimal and let $B \prec Z$ be a $(-1)_Z$ -curve, i.e., $B \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ and $B(Z - B) = 1$. Since we are working on the minimal resolution, we get $B^2 \leq -2$. Then $BZ \leq -1$ by $B(Z - B) = 1$. This implies that $B = A_1$ and $B^2 = -2$, that is, A_1 is a (-2) -curve. It is then clear that $D = Z - A_1$ is the Tyurina component of Z . \square

Note that we have $D^2 = -1$ by $-1 = Z^2 \leq D^2 < 0$. So, D has a unique irreducible component A_2 of multiplicity one satisfying $-A_2D = 1$. Since $A_2Z = 0$, we get $A_1A_2 = 1$. Therefore, by induction, Yau sequence for Z is of the form

$$(3.1) \quad 0 \prec Z_{\min} = D_m \prec D_{m-1} \prec \cdots \prec D_1 = Z,$$

where $D_i^2 = -1$ for any i , $\mathcal{O}_{D_j}(-D_i)$ is numerically trivial for $i < j$ and $A_i = D_i - D_{i+1}$ is a (-2) -curve with $-A_iD_i = 1$ and $A_iD_{i+1} = 1$ for $1 \leq i < m$. In particular, $Z - Z_{\min}$ is the fundamental cycle of the rational double point of type (\mathbf{A}_{m-1}) and a part of the dual graph of Z is as in Fig. 2. (This fact also follows from [9, Proposition 5.2].) We denote by A the unique irreducible component of D_m such that $-AD_m = 1$. Since D_m is minimal, A is not a $(-1)_{D_m}$ -curve. Hence, either $p_a(A) > 0$ or $A \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$, $A^2 \leq -3$.

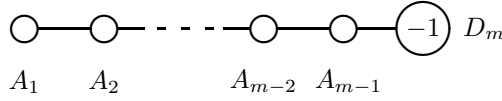


FIG. 2. Rough dual graph of Z

Next, we give a lower bound of $p_a(V, o)$ by using the Yau cycle $Y = \sum_{i=1}^m D_i$. As we shall see in Example 3.10, the bound is sharp.

LEMMA 3.2. $p_a(V, o) \geq p_f(p_f - 1)m/2 + 1$ holds for an isolated surface singularity (V, o) of degree one and $p_f(V, o) > 0$.

Proof. Let k be a positive integer. We have

$$p_a(kY) - 1 = k(p_a(Y) - 1) + \binom{k}{2} Y^2 = (p_f - 1)mk - \frac{m}{2}k(k - 1).$$

Then $p_a(kY) \leq p_f(p_f - 1)m/2 + 1$, where the equality sign holds only when $k = p_f - 1, p_f$. In particular, we get the assertion, since $p_a(V, o) \geq p_a(kY)$ for any k . \square

We already know that A is not a (-2) -curve.

DEFINITION 3.3. We say that Z is essentially irreducible if either $Z = A$ or $Z - A$ consists of (-2) -curves.

We remark that, when $p_f = 1$, the condition $Z^2 = -1$ automatically assures that Z is essentially irreducible: in fact, either $Z_{\min} = A$ or A is a (-3) -curve.

LEMMA 3.4. Let (V, o) be a normal surface singularity with $p_f(V, o) > 0$ and $Z^2 = -1$. Assume that Z is essentially irreducible (on the minimal resolution). Then (V, o) is numerically Gorenstein with canonical cycle $(2p_f - 1)Y$. Furthermore, $Z_{\min}(= D_m)$ is numerically 2-connected and $|K_{Z_{\min}}|$ is free from base points.

Proof. We have $K_X A = K_X Z = 2p_f(V, o) - 1 > 0$. We claim that $BY = 0$ for any component $B \prec Z - A$. This can be seen as follows. If $B = A_i$ for some i , $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$, then we clearly have $BY = B(D_i + D_{i+1}) = 0$. If $B \preceq D_m - A$, then $\mathcal{O}_B(-D_i)$ is numerically trivial for any $1 \leq i \leq m$ and, hence, $BY = 0$. In sum, we have shown that $(2p_f - 1)Y$ is the canonical cycle on $\pi^{-1}(o)$, since Z is essentially irreducible.

It follows from $D_m^2 = -1$ that D_m is at least numerically 1-connected (e.g., [2], Lemma 2.1). We know that $(2p_f - 1)D_m$ is the canonical cycle on $\text{Supp}(D_m)$, because $\mathcal{O}_{D_m}(-D_i)$ is numerically trivial for $i < m$. By the adjunction formula, K_{D_m} is numerically equivalent to $-2(p_f - 1)D_m$ on $\text{Supp}(D_m)$. If C is a proper subcurve of D_m , then $\deg K_{D_m}|_C = \deg K_C + C(D_m - C)$. It follows that $C(D_m - C) = -2(p_f - 1)CD_m + 2 - 2p_a(C)$ is even. This implies that D_m is 2-connected. Then it is known that $|K_{D_m}|$ is free from base points (see, e.g., [1, Proposition (A.7)]). \square

THEOREM 3.5. Let (V, o) be a normal surface singularity of degree one, $p_f(V, o) > 0$ and Z the fundamental cycle on the minimal resolution of (V, o) . Assume that one of the following two conditions (1), (2) is satisfied for any curve Γ which is the fundamental cycle on its support and satisfies $\Gamma \preceq Z$, $\Gamma^2 = -1$ and K_Γ nef.

- (1) Γ is essentially irreducible.
- (2) The irreducible component A_Γ with $A_\Gamma \Gamma = -1$ is a fixed component of $|K_\Gamma|$.

Then (V, o) is a numerically Gorenstein singularity and there exists a sequence $\{Z_i\}_{i=1}^r$ of fundamental cycles of singularities of degree one satisfying $Z = Z_1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{Z_j}(-Z_i)$ is numerically trivial when $i < j$, such that the canonical cycle on $\text{Supp}(Z)$ can be written as

$$(3.2) \quad Z_K = \sum_{i=1}^r (2p_i - 1)Y_i,$$

where Y_i denotes the Yau cycle for Z_i and $p_i = p_a(Z_i)$ ($i = 1, \dots, r$).

Proof. We do it by induction on the fundamental genus.

As already remarked, Z is essentially irreducible when $p_f(V, o) = 1$. Hence (V, o) is numerically Gorenstein by Lemma 3.4.

Suppose that $p_f(V, o) > 1$. As usual, take the Yau sequence $D_m \prec \dots \prec D_1 = Z$ for Z and let A be the component with $AD_m = -1$. Then D_m satisfies either (1) or (2). When (1) is the case, we are done by Lemma 3.4. So, we have (2), that is, A is a fixed component of $|K_{D_m}|$. Then it follows from [2, Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 1.4] that $A \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ and D_m decomposes as

$$(3.3) \quad D_m = A + \Gamma_1 + \dots + \Gamma_{n-1}, \quad A^2 = -n,$$

where each Γ_i is the fundamental cycle on its support, $A\Gamma_i = -\Gamma_i^2 = 1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_j}(-\Gamma_i) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_j}$ when $i < j$. We have $p_a(\Gamma_i) > 0$, $p_a(D_m) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} p_a(\Gamma_i)$ and, either $\Gamma_j \prec \Gamma_i$ or $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i) \cap \text{Supp}(\Gamma_j) = \emptyset$ for $i < j$. Furthermore, if $\Gamma_k \prec \Gamma_j \prec \Gamma_i$, then we have $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_j) \cap \text{Supp}(\Gamma_k) = \emptyset$, because the condition $A\Gamma_i = A\Gamma_j = A\Gamma_k = 1$ forbids $\Gamma_k \preceq \Gamma_i - \Gamma_j$. Note also that we have $n \geq 3$ by the minimality of D_m . Hence $p_a(\Gamma_i)$ is strictly smaller than $p_f(V, o)$.

After re-labeling if necessary, we may assume that $\{\Gamma_i\}_{i=1}^s$, $s \leq n-1$, is the set of all chain-connected components of $D_m - A$, i.e., maximal members in $\{\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_{n-1}\}$. Then $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i) \cap \text{Supp}(\Gamma_j) = \emptyset$ for $i < j \leq s$. Since $p_a(\Gamma_i) < p_a(D_m)$ and Γ_i is the fundamental cycle of a singularity of degree one for any $i \leq s$, the hypothesis of induction allows us to assume that Γ_i contracts to a numerically Gorenstein singularity. We let Z_{K_i} be the canonical cycle on $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i)$ and put $d_i = AZ_{K_i}$ for $i = 1, \dots, s$. Then d_i is a positive integer.

Consider the integral cycle $\Xi = (n - 2 + \sum_{i=1}^s d_i)Y + \sum_{i=1}^s Z_{K_i}$. Recall that $\text{Supp}(D_1 - D_m) \cap \text{Supp}(D_m - A) = \emptyset$ and $-Y$ is numerically trivial on $Z - A$. Using this, one easily sees that $\Xi B = -K_X B$ holds for any component B of $Z - A$. Furthermore, since $AY = -1$ and A is a $(-n)$ -curve, we get $\Xi A = 2 - n = -K_X A$ by the choice of d_i 's. Hence, Ξ gives us the canonical cycle on $\text{Supp}(Z)$.

Since $ZY = -1$ and $ZZ_{K_i} = 0$ for any $1 \leq i \leq s$, we get $\Xi Z = -(n - 2 + \sum_{i=1}^s d_i)$. On the other hand, we have $K_X Z = 2p_f(V, o) - 1$ by $Z^2 = -1$. Hence the equality $n - 2 + \sum_{i=1}^s d_i = 2p_f(V, o) - 1$ holds for the coefficient of Y in Ξ . \square

REMARK 3.6. (1) In the above situation, similarly as in Lemma 2.4, we have

$$p_a(V, o) - 1 \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^r p_i(p_i - 1)m_i,$$

where m_i denotes the length of the Yau sequence for Z_i .

(2) For a numerically Gorenstein singularity of degree one, $(2p_f - 1)Y$ is a subcurve of the canonical cycle on the minimal resolution, as we shall see in the next section.

(3) A surface singularity of degree one is not necessarily numerically Gorenstein when $p_f > 1$, as the following example shows. Let C_1, C_2 be irreducible curves with $C_1^2 = -4, C_1C_2 = -C_2^2 = 3, C_2 \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$. Then $C_1 + C_2$ is the fundamental cycle of a singularity of degree one and $p_f = p_a(C_1) + 2$ for which the canonical cycle $(2p_f - 1)C_1 + (2p_f - 2/3)C_2$ is not integral.

3.2. A p_g -bound in the essentially irreducible case. We keep the notation just after Lemma 3.1.

LEMMA 3.7. *Let k be a non-negative integer and L a line bundle on D_i numerically equivalent to $\mathcal{O}_{D_i}(-kY)$. Then the restriction map $H^0(D_i, L) \rightarrow H^0(A, L)$ is injective.*

Proof. Recall that $\text{mult}_A(D_i) = 1$ and consider the cohomology long exact sequence for

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i-A}(L - A) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i}(L) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_A(L) \rightarrow 0.$$

We have the decomposition $D_i - A = (D_i - D_m) + (D_m - A)$ with $(D_i - D_m) \cap (D_m - A) = \emptyset$. It is clear that $H^0(D_i - D_m, L - A) = 0$, because $\mathcal{O}_{D_i - D_m}(L) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_i - D_m}$ and $(D_i - D_m)A = 1$ when $i < m$. It follows $H^0(D_i - A, L - A) \simeq H^0(D_m - A, L - A)$. Since $\mathcal{O}_{D_m - A}(L - A) \equiv \mathcal{O}_{D_m - A}(D_m - A)$ and the intersection form on $D_m - A$ is negative definite, we get $H^0(D_m - A, L - A) = 0$. \square

If $h^1(D_i, L) = 0$, then $h^0(D_i, L) = \text{deg } L|_{D_i} + 1 - p_f = k + 1 - p_f$ which is not greater than $k/2 + 1$ when $k \leq 2p_f$. We need the following Clifford-type lemma.

LEMMA 3.8. *Let L be as above and suppose that $h^1(D_i, L) \neq 0$. If $D_m - A$ supports at most exceptional sets of rational singular points, then $H^0(D_i, L) \otimes H^0(D_i, K_{D_i} - L) \rightarrow H^0(D_i, K_{D_i})$ is non-degenerate in each factor and $h^0(D_i, L) \leq k/2 + 1$.*

Proof. We consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i-A}(K_{D_i-A} - L) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i}(K_{D_i} - L) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_A(K_{D_i} - L) \rightarrow 0.$$

By duality, $H^0(D_i - A, K_{D_i-A} - L)^\vee \simeq H^1(D_i - A, L)$ which is zero, because $D_i - A$ supports exceptional sets of rational singular points.

Take $s \in H^0(D_i, L)$ and $t \in H^0(D_i, K_{D_i} - L)$ such that $st = 0$ in $H^0(D_i, K_{D_i})$. If $s \neq 0$, then $s|_A \neq 0$. The same is true for t . Hence $st = 0$ implies that either s or t is zero. By Hopf's lemma, we get $h^0(D_i, L) + h^0(D_i, K_{D_i} - L) \leq h^0(D_i, K_{D_i}) + 1 = p_f + 1$. By the Riemann-Roch theorem, $h^0(D_i, L) - h^0(D_i, K_{D_i} - L) = k + 1 - p_f$. So, $2h^0(D_i, L) \leq k + 2$. \square

Suppose now that Z is essentially irreducible. Then, by Lemma 3.4, $Z_K = (2p_f - 1)Y$ is the canonical cycle. We shall give a bound for $p_g(V, o) = h^0(Z_K, \mathcal{O}_{Z_K})$. When $p_f = 1$, we have $Z_K = Y$ and the task has already done in [6] or Proposition 1.5 with a more accurate result. Anyway, we have $p_g(V, o) \leq m$ when $p_f = 1$. So, we may assume that $p_f \geq 2$. By using the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{(2p_f-1-k)Y}(-kY) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{(2p_f-k)Y}(-(k-1)Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Y(-(k-1)Y) \rightarrow 0$$

for $k = 1, \dots, 2p_f - 2$, one gets $h^0(Z_K, \mathcal{O}_{Z_K}) \leq \sum_{k=0}^{2p_f-2} h^0(Y, -kY)$. When $k > p_f - 1$, we use $h^0(Y, -kY) = h^1(Y, K_Y + kY) = h^0(Y, K_Y + kY) + (k - p_f + 1)m$. Hence, putting $\eta = K_X + (2p_f - 1)Y$, we get

$$p_g(V, o) \leq \sum_{k=0}^{p_f-2} \{h^0(Y, -kY) + h^0(Y, \eta - kY)\} + \frac{m}{2}p_f(p_f - 1) + h^0(Y, -(p_f - 1)Y).$$

If we put $L = \mathcal{O}_Y(-kY)$ or $\mathcal{O}_Y(\eta - kY)$, then it follows from Lemma 3.8 that $h^0(Y, L) \leq \sum_{i=1}^m h^0(D_i, L - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} D_j) \leq m([k/2] + 1)$ for $0 \leq k \leq p_f - 1$, where $[k/2]$ denotes the integer part of $k/2$. So,

$$p_g(V, o) \leq 2m \sum_{k=0}^{p_f-2} \left\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \right\rfloor + m(p_f^2 + 3p_f - 2)/2 + m \left\lfloor \frac{p_f - 1}{2} \right\rfloor = p_f^2 m.$$

This shows the first half of the following:

THEOREM 3.9. *Let (V, o) be an isolated surface singularity of degree one, Z the fundamental cycle on the minimal resolution. Assume that Z is essentially irreducible. Then $p_g(V, o) \leq p_f^2 m$, where m denotes the length of the Yau sequence for Z . If $p_g(V, o) = p_f^2 m$, then (V, o) is a hypersurface double point and the maximal ideal cycle for (V, o) is Z .*

Proof. If $p_g(V, o) = p_f^2 m$, then the above computation shows that $h^0(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = h^0(Y, \eta) = m$. Hence K_X is linearly equivalent to $-(2p_f - 1)Y$ and we have $\mathcal{O}_{D_j}(-D_i) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{D_j}$ whenever $i < j$ (see, e.g., [3, §2]). In particular, (V, o) is Gorenstein.

Consider the cohomology long exact sequence for

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-Z_K) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Z_K-Z}(-Z) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $H^1(X, -Z_K) = 0$ by the Kodaira-type vanishing theorem, the restriction map $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z_K - Z, -Z)$ is surjective. If $m = 1$, then $H^0(Z_K - Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ has to be surjective and $h^0(Z, -Z) = 1$, in order for $p_g(V, o) = p_f^2$ to hold. Recall that Z is 2-connected in this case by Lemma 3.4. It follows that a non-zero element in $H^0(Z, -Z)$ vanishes only at a non-singular point of Z (see, e.g., [1, Appendix]). Assume that $m \geq 2$. Recall that $D_1 = Z$ and consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(Z_K - Z - D_2, -Z - D_2) \rightarrow H^0(Z_K - Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(D_2, -Z).$$

Since we have $p_g(V, o) = p_f^2 m$, the restriction map $H^0(Z_K - Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(D_2, -Z) \simeq H^0(D_2, \mathcal{O}_{D_2})$ has to be surjective. Since it factors through $H^0(Z, -Z)$, we see that $H^0(Z_K - Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ is also non-trivial and, furthermore, the image contains an element that does not vanish on D_2 . In sum, we see that $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ is non-trivial and there exists a section in $H^0(X, -Z)$ that vanishes only at a unique non-singular point x of Z ($x \in A_1 \setminus (A_1 \cap D_2)$). We have shown that $\mathcal{O}_Z(-Z) \simeq \mathcal{O}_Z(x)$.

We remark that, when $m \geq 2$, we have $h^0(Z, -Z) = 2$ but the restriction map $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ is of rank one. This can be seen as follows. Consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(A_1, -Z - D_2) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(D_2, -Z) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $\mathcal{O}_{A_1}(-Z - D_2)$ and $\mathcal{O}_{D_2}(-Z)$ are trivial, we get $h^0(Z, -Z) = 2$. Then, $|\mathcal{O}_Z(-Z)|$ is a free pencil by a result in [3, §2]. If $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ were surjective, then $\mathcal{O}_X(-Z)$ is π -free and it would follow that $\mathfrak{m}\mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{O}_X(-Z)$, where \mathfrak{m} denotes the ideal sheaf for $o \in V$. But then $\text{mult}(V, o) = -Z^2 = 1$, which is absurd.

Since $|\mathcal{O}_X(-Z)|$ has no fixed components, Z is the maximal ideal cycle for (V, o) on X . By using the fact that the base point x of $|\mathcal{O}_X(-Z)|$ is a non-singular point of Z , it is easy to see that $\mathfrak{m}\mathcal{O}_X \simeq \mathfrak{m}_x\mathcal{O}_X(-Z)$ and $\text{mult}(V, o) = -Z^2 + 1 = 2$. \square

EXAMPLE 3.10. Let (V, o) be a hypersurface singularity defined by $x^a + y^b + z^{abm} = 0$, where a, b, m are positive integers with $(a, b) = 1$. We have

$$p_f(V, o) = \frac{(a - 1)(b - 1)}{2}$$

by Tomaru’s formula [9, Theorem 4.3], $Z^2 = -1$ and $Z_K = (2p_f - 1)(D_1 + \dots + D_m)$, where the minimal model D_m of $Z = D_1$ is non-singular. One can also calculate the arithmetic genus by Tomari’s formula [8, Theorem (3.8)] as:

$$p_a(V, o) = \max_{r \geq 1} \left\{ r(p_f - 1) + 1 - \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} \left\lfloor \frac{k}{m} \right\rfloor \right\} = \frac{m}{2} p_f(p_f - 1) + 1.$$

This shows that our bound for the arithmetic genus in Lemma 3.2 is sharp.

We put $a = 2, b = 2p + 1$ and consider the double point defined by $x^2 + y^{2p+1} + z^{2(2p+1)m} = 0$. Then $p_f = p$ and it can be checked, by using the canonical resolution for double coverings for instance, that $p_g(V, o) = p_f^2 m$ holds. So, the bound of the geometric genus in Theorem 3.9 is also sharp.

3.3. Certain Gorenstein singularities of degree one and $p_f = 2$. By a theorem of Tomari [8], we have $p_a(U, o) \leq p_g(U, o) - 1$ for any Gorenstein singular point (U, o) . In particular, it follows that a Gorenstein surface singularity with $p_g = 2$ is elliptic. So, the next target should be the classification of those with $p_g = 3$. When $p_a(U, o) = 1, (U, o)$ is an elliptic singularity by definition. When $p_a(U, o) = 2$, we have $p_f(U, o) = 2$ and the Yau sequence is of length one by Corollary 2.5. In view of Theorem 3.9, in which the p_g -bound is 4 when $p_f = 2, m = 1$, we have a chance to find a Gorenstein singularity of degree one satisfying $p_f = p_a = 2, p_g = 3$, among those with essentially irreducible fundamental cycle. In fact, we have:

THEOREM 3.11. *Let (V, o) be a Gorenstein surface singularity with $p_f(V, o) = 2$ such that $Z^2 = -1$ and $Z_K = 3Z$ hold on the minimal resolution. Then $p_a(V, o) = 2$ and there are the following two cases, where Z_m denotes the maximal ideal cycle.*

- (1) $p_g(V, o) = 4, Z_m = Z, \mathfrak{m}\mathcal{O}_X \simeq \mathfrak{m}_x\mathcal{O}_X(-Z)$ with a non-singular point $x \in Z, \text{mult}(V, o) = 2$ and $\text{embdim}(V, o) = 3$.
- (2) $p_g(V, o) = 3, Z_m = 2Z, \mathfrak{m}\mathcal{O}_X \simeq \mathcal{O}_X(-2Z), \text{mult}(V, o) = 4$ and $\text{embdim}(V, o) = 4$.

Proof. In the above situation, consider the cohomology long exact sequence for

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-(i + 1)Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(-iZ) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z(-iZ) \rightarrow 0.$$

Since $-3Z$ is the canonical cycle, we have $H^1(X, -(i + 1)Z) = 0$ for $i \geq 2$ by the vanishing theorem. Hence $H^0(X, -iZ) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -iZ)$ is surjective when $i \geq 2$. If $H^0(X, -2Z) \rightarrow H^0(X, -Z)$ is not surjective, then $H^0(Z, -Z) \neq 0$ and we get (1) of Theorem 3.11 by the proof of Theorem 3.9. So, we assume that $H^0(X, -2Z) \rightarrow H^0(X, -Z)$ is surjective. Then $2Z \preceq Z_m$. Since $|K_Z| = |\mathcal{O}_Z(-2Z)|$ is free from base points by Lemma 3.4, $|\mathcal{O}_X(-2Z)|$ is π -free. Hence $Z_m = 2Z$ and $\text{mult}(V, o) = -Z_m^2 = 4$.

CLAIM 3.12. $H^0(Z, -Z) = H^1(Z, -Z) = 0$ and $p_g(V, o) = 3$.

Proof. To compute $p_g(V, o)$, we consider the cohomology long exact sequence for

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{2Z}(-Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Z_K} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z \rightarrow 0.$$

Since the restriction map $H^0(Z_K, \mathcal{O}_{Z_K}) \rightarrow H^0(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z)$ is surjective, we get $p_g(V, o) = h^0(Z_K, \mathcal{O}_{Z_K}) = h^0(2Z, -Z) + 1$. Consider

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z(-2Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{2Z}(-Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z(-Z) \rightarrow 0.$$

The restriction map $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(2Z, -Z)$ is surjective by the fact that $H^1(X, -3Z) = 0$, while $H^0(X, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ is zero by the assumption. It follows that $H^0(2Z, -Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -Z)$ is also zero. Then $h^0(2Z, -Z) = h^0(Z, -2Z) = 2$ and we get $p_g(V, o) = 3$.

It remains to show that $h^0(Z, -Z) = 0$. Since $h^1(2Z, -Z) = 1$, we get $h^0(2Z, \mathcal{O}_{2Z}) = 1$ by the duality theorem. Then, since $H^0(2Z, \mathcal{O}_{2Z}) \rightarrow H^0(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z)$ is an isomorphism, it follows from the cohomology long exact sequence for

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z(-Z) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{2Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z \rightarrow 0$$

that $H^0(Z, -Z) = H^1(Z, -Z) = 0$. \square

We compute the embedding dimension. Before going in detail, we remark that $|\mathcal{O}_Z(-3Z)|$ is free from base points. This can be seen as follows. If it has a base point x , then, by [2, Proposition 5.1], there exists a subcurve Δ of Z such that $\Delta^2 = -1$, x is a non-singular point of Δ and $\mathcal{O}_\Delta(-3Z) \simeq \omega_\Delta \otimes \mathcal{O}_\Delta(x)$. Since $\Delta^2 = -1$, Δ is 1-connected. By $Z\Delta = 0, -1$ and $\deg \omega_\Delta = 2p_a(\Delta) - 2$, the possible case is only: $Z\Delta = -1$ and $p_a(\Delta) = 2$. This implies that $\Delta = Z$, since Z is its own minimal model. Then we get $\mathcal{O}_Z(-Z) \simeq \mathcal{O}_Z(x)$, contradicting that $H^0(Z, -Z) = 0$.

We study the graded ring $R(Z, -Z) = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} H^0(Z, -iZ)$. We have $h^0(Z, -2Z) = 2$ and $h^0(Z, -iZ) = i - 1$ for $i \geq 3$. By the free-pencil trick, $\mu_i : H^0(Z, -iZ) \otimes H^0(Z, -2Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -(i+2)Z)$ is surjective for $i \geq 2, i \neq 4$. This is because $H^1(Z, -(i-2)Z) = 0$ when $i = 3$ or $i \geq 5$, while we get it by dimension count when $i = 2$. Therefore, $R(Z, -Z)$ is generated in degrees at most 6. Let $\{x_0, x_1\}$ be a basis for $H^0(Z, -2Z)$. Then $H^0(Z, -4Z)$ is generated by x_0^2, x_0x_1, x_1^2 . Let $\{y_0, y_1\}$ be a basis for $H^0(Z, -3Z)$. Then $H^0(Z, -5Z)$ is generated by $x_0y_0, x_0y_1, x_1y_0, x_1y_1$. We consider $H^0(Z, -6Z)$. Here, we have four elements $x_0^j x_1^{3-j}$ ($0 \leq j \leq 3$) which generate a subspace V_1 of codimension one. Recall that $|\mathcal{O}_Z(-3Z)|$ is free from base points. By the free-pencil-trick, one can show that $\text{Sym}^2 H^0(Z, -3Z) \rightarrow H^0(Z, -6Z)$ is injective, and the image $V_2 = \langle y_0^2, y_0y_1, y_1^2 \rangle$ is a subspace of dimension three. We claim that $H^0(Z, -6Z) = V_1 + V_2$. Assume not. Then $V_2 \subset V_1$ and we have three relations: $y_0^2 = c_1(x), y_0y_1 = c_2(x)$ and $y_1^2 = c_3(x)$, where c_1, c_2, c_3 are cubic forms in x_0, x_1 . It follows $y_1/y_0 = c_2(x)/c_1(x)$. This implies that the morphism defined by $|\mathcal{O}_Z(-3Z)|$ is the composite of the morphism defined by $|\mathcal{O}_Z(-2Z)|$ and the morphism $\mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ given by c_2/c_1 , which is impossible, because $-3Z^2 = 3$ and $-2Z^2 = 2$. Therefore, $V_2 \not\subset V_1$. For the same reasoning, we may assume that $y_0^2, y_1^2 \in V_1$ and $y_0y_1 \notin V_1$. Now, we have two relations: $y_0^2 = \varphi_0(x_0, x_1), y_1^2 = \varphi_1(x_0, x_1)$, where φ_0, φ_1 are cubic forms. It is not hard to confirm that there are no further relations in $R(Z, -Z)$. Therefore, $R(Z, -Z) \simeq \mathbb{C}[X_0, X_1, Y_0, Y_1]/(Y_0^2 - \varphi_0(X_0, X_1), Y_1^2 - \varphi_1(X_0, X_1))$ as graded \mathbb{C} -algebras, where $\deg X_0 = \deg X_1 = 2$ and $\deg Y_0 = \deg Y_1 = 3$.

Let \bar{x}_i and \bar{y}_i ($i = 0, 1$) be preimages of x_i in $H^0(X, -2Z)$ and y_i in $H^0(X, -3Z)$, respectively. Then \bar{y}_0, \bar{y}_1 generate $H^0(X, -3Z)/H^0(X, \mathfrak{m}^2\mathcal{O}_X)$. Hence

$$\dim \mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2 = \dim \frac{H^0(X, \mathfrak{m}\mathcal{O}_X)}{H^0(X, \mathfrak{m}^2\mathcal{O}_X)} = \dim \frac{H^0(X, -2Z)}{H^0(X, -3Z)} + 2 = h^0(Z, -2Z) + 2$$

and we get $\text{embdim}(V, o) = 4$ as wished. \square

The complete intersection singularity defined by $y^2 = w^3 + x^3, z^2 = w^3 - x^3$ in \mathbb{C}^4 (with coordinates w, x, y, z) serves an example, as the above description of $R(Z, -Z)$ shows.

4. A remark on the canonical cycle. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ be the minimal resolution of a numerically Gorenstein surface singularity (V, o) . Let Z_K be the canonical cycle and $Z_K = \Gamma_1 + \dots + \Gamma_n$ a CCC decomposition, that is, each Γ_i is a maximal chain-connected subcurve of $Z_K - \sum_{j < i} \Gamma_j$. When $p_f(V, o) > 0$, we showed in [3] the following:

- $\Gamma_1 = Z$ is the fundamental cycle and, if $n \geq 2$,
- $\Gamma_2 = \text{gcd}(\Gamma_1, Z_K - \Gamma_1)$, $p_a(\Gamma_2) = p_f(V, o)$ and $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2) \cap \text{Supp}(Z_K - \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2) = \emptyset$,
- $p_a(\Gamma_i) > 0$ and $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_2$ for any $i \geq 3$,
- for $i < j$, either $\Gamma_j \preceq \Gamma_i$ or $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i) \cap \text{Supp}(\Gamma_j) = \emptyset$,
- the dualizing sheaf of every minimal curve in $\{\Gamma_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is nef.

LEMMA 4.1. *Assume that $p_f(V, o) > 1$. Then $n \geq 2$ and $2 - 2p_f(V, o) \leq \Gamma_1 \Gamma_2 \leq -1$.*

Proof. If $n = 1$, then $Z_K = Z$ and $1 = p_a(Z_K) = p_a(Z) = p_f(V, o) > 1$, a contradiction. Hence $n \geq 2$. We have $2p_a(\Gamma_1) - 2 = \Gamma_1(K_X + \Gamma_1) = -\Gamma_1(Z_K - \Gamma_1)$. This implies that there exists an index $i \geq 2$ with $-\Gamma_1 \Gamma_i > 0$, if $p_a(\Gamma_1) > 1$. Since $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_2$ for $i \geq 2$ and $-\Gamma_1$ is nef, we get $-\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2 > 0$. We have $\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2 \geq \Gamma_1(Z_K - \Gamma_1) = 2 - 2p_f$. \square

In fact, when $p_f(V, o) > 0$, we have $n = 1$ if and only if (V, o) is a minimally elliptic singularity [4].

LEMMA 4.2. *Assume that $i < j$, $\Gamma_j \preceq \Gamma_i$ and $p_a(\Gamma_i) = p_a(\Gamma_j)$. Then $\Gamma_i^2 \leq \Gamma_j^2$ with equality holding only when, either $\Gamma_i = \Gamma_j$ or $\Gamma_i - \Gamma_j$ consists of (-2) -curves.*

Proof. We have $2p_a(\Gamma_i) - 2 = -Z_K \Gamma_i + \Gamma_i^2$. Hence $\Gamma_j^2 - \Gamma_i^2 = 2(p_a(\Gamma_j) - p_a(\Gamma_i)) - Z_K(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_j) = -Z_K(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_j) \geq 0$, since $-Z_K \equiv K_X$ is nef. \square

In particular, we have $\Gamma_1^2 \leq \Gamma_2^2$.

LEMMA 4.3. *Assume that $\Gamma_{i+1} \preceq \Gamma_i$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}}(-\sum_{j < i} \Gamma_j)$ is numerically trivial. Then the following hold.*

(1) $\Gamma_{i+1} = \text{gcd}(\Gamma_i, Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j)$, $p_a(\Gamma_{i+1}) = p_a(\Gamma_i)$ and $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) \cap \text{Supp}(Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i+1} \Gamma_j) = \emptyset$.

(2) $\Gamma_i^2 \leq \Gamma_{i+1}^2$. Furthermore, $\Gamma_{i+1} = \Gamma_i$ holds if and only if $\Gamma_i(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) = 0$.

Proof. (1): Put $G = \text{gcd}(\Gamma_i, Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j)$. Then, since $\Gamma_{i+1} \preceq G \preceq \Gamma_i$,

$$\begin{aligned} 2p_a(G) - 2 &= -G(Z_K - G) \\ &= -\Gamma_i(Z_K - \Gamma_i) + (\Gamma_i - G)(Z_K - G - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j) + (\Gamma_i - G) \sum_{j < i} \Gamma_j \\ &= 2p_a(\Gamma_i) - 2 + (\Gamma_i - G)(Z_K - G - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j). \end{aligned}$$

By the choice of G , $\Gamma_i - G$ has no common components with $Z_K - G - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j$. Hence $(\Gamma_i - G)(Z_K - G - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j) \geq 0$ and we get $p_a(G) \geq p_a(\Gamma_i)$. On the other hand, since Γ_i is chain-connected, $p_a(G) \leq h^1(G, \mathcal{O}_G) \leq h^1(\Gamma_i, \mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_i}) = p_a(\Gamma_i)$. In sum, we get $p_a(G) = p_a(\Gamma_i)$ and $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i - G) \cap \text{Supp}(Z_K - G - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j) = \emptyset$. Note that G is

chain-connected, since so is Γ_i and $p_a(G) = p_a(\Gamma_i) > 0$ (see, [3], Lemma 3.2). We have $G - \Gamma_{i+1} \preceq Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i+1} \Gamma_j$. So, $\mathcal{O}_{G-\Gamma_{i+1}}(-\Gamma_{i+1})$ is nef. By the chain-connectivity of G is chain-connected, this implies $\Gamma_{i+1} = G$.

(2): The first assertion follows from (1) and Lemma 4.5. To show the last equivalence, we only have to show the converse. Since $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_i-\Gamma_{i+1}}(-\sum_{j < i} \Gamma_j)$ is numerically trivial, we have $(\Gamma_i + \Gamma_{i+1})(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) = Z_K(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) - (\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1})\sum_{j < i} \Gamma_j - (\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1})(Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i+1} \Gamma_j) = Z_K(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1})$ by (1). If $\Gamma_i(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) = 0$, then $0 \geq (\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1})^2 = -(\Gamma_i + \Gamma_{i+1})(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) = -Z_K(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1}) \geq 0$. Hence $(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_{i+1})^2 = 0$ and it follows $\Gamma_{i+1} = \Gamma_i$, since the intersection form is negative definite on $\pi^{-1}(o)$. \square

The following is useful to study the ‘‘leading term’’ of the canonical cycle in some cases.

THEOREM 4.4. *Assume that $p_f(V, o) > 1$ and write $2p_f - 2 = ab$ with two positive integers a, b . If there exist b indices $i \geq 2$ satisfying $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_i = a$, then the following hold.*

- (1) $\Gamma_{i+1} = \gcd(\Gamma_i, Z_K - \sum_{j \leq i} \Gamma_j)$ and $p_a(\Gamma_{i+1}) = p_f(V, o)$ for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, b\}$.
- (2) $\Gamma_{b+1} \preceq \Gamma_b \preceq \dots \preceq \Gamma_2 \preceq \Gamma_1$ and $\Gamma_1^2 \leq \Gamma_2^2 \leq \dots \leq \Gamma_{b+1}^2$.
- (3) For $1 \leq i < j \leq b + 1$, $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_j}(-\Gamma_i)$ is nef of degree a .
- (4) For $1 \leq i < j < k \leq b + 1$, $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_i - \Gamma_j) \cap \text{Supp}(\Gamma_k) = \emptyset$.

In particular, $p_a(\Gamma) = 1$ and $Z_K - \Gamma$ is numerically equivalent to $-K_X$ on its support for $\Gamma = \sum_{i=1}^{b+1} \Gamma_i$.

Proof. We have $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_i \in \{a, 0\}$ for $i \geq 2$ by the choice of a, b , since $-\Gamma_1(Z_K - \Gamma_1) = 2p_f - 2$. If $\Gamma_j \preceq \Gamma_i$, then $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_i \geq -\Gamma_1\Gamma_j$. Since $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_2$ for $i \geq 3$, we have $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 = a$.

Let i_0 be the smallest index with $i_0 \geq 3$ and $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_{i_0} = a$. Then Γ_{i_0} is a maximal element in $\{\Gamma_i\}_{i=3}^n$. So, we can assume that $i_0 = 3$ after renumbering if necessary. Since $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_2-\Gamma_3}(-\Gamma_1)$ is numerically trivial, it follows from Lemma 4.3 that $\Gamma_3 = \gcd(\Gamma_2, Z_K - \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2)$, $p_a(\Gamma_3) = p_a(\Gamma_2)$, $\Gamma_2^2 \leq \Gamma_3^2$ and $\text{Supp}(\Gamma_2 - \Gamma_3, Z_K - \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2 - \Gamma_3) = \emptyset$. Note that the last condition implies that Γ_1, Γ_2 and Γ_3 are linearly equivalent on $Z_K - \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2 - \Gamma_3$. We claim that $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_3$ for $i \geq 3$. If not, then Γ_3 and Γ_i are disjoint. Then $\Gamma_3 + \Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_2$ and we get $p_a(\Gamma_3) + p_a(\Gamma_i) = h^1(\Gamma_3 + \Gamma_i, \mathcal{O}) \leq h^1(\Gamma_2, \mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_2}) = p_a(\Gamma_2)$. This is impossible, since $p_a(\Gamma_3) = p_a(\Gamma_2)$ and $p_a(\Gamma_i) > 0$. Therefore, $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_3$ for $i \geq 3$.

Now, the assertions (1)–(4) can be shown inductively. The rest may be clear. \square

We apply Theorem 4.4 to two naive cases: (i) singularities of degree one and (ii) singularities of fundamental genus 2.

THEOREM 4.5. *Let (V, o) be a numerically Gorenstein surface singular point with $p_f(V, o) > 1$ and $Z^2 = -1$. Then the canonical cycle on the minimal resolution decomposes as $Z_K = (2p_f - 1)Y + \Delta$, where Y denotes the Yau cycle for Z and, either $\Delta = 0$ or Δ is a sum of (at most p_f) disjoint canonical cycles of singularities of fundamental genus $< p_f(V, o)$.*

Proof. First, we show that Z_K decomposes as $Z_K = (2p_f - 1)(\Delta_1 + \dots + \Delta_r) + \Delta$, where $\Delta_1 = Z$, Δ_i for $i \geq 2$ is the fundamental cycle of a singularity of degree one with $p_a(\Delta_i) = p_f$, $\Delta_r \prec \dots \prec \Delta_1$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_j}(-\Delta_i)$ is numerically trivial when $i < j$. To see this, let $Z_K = \sum_{i=1}^n \Gamma_i$ be a CCC decomposition. Then we have $\Gamma_1 = Z$ and $0 \geq \Gamma_1(\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2) = -1 - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2$. Since $-Z_K\Gamma_1 = 2p_f - 1$ and $\Gamma_i \preceq \Gamma_2$ for $i \geq 2$,

we may assume that $\Gamma_1\Gamma_i = -1$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2p_f - 1$. It follows from Theorem 4.4 that $p_a(\Gamma_i) = p_f$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2p_f - 1$. Furthermore, we have $-1 = \Gamma_1^2 \leq \dots \leq \Gamma_{2p_f-1}^2 < 0$. So, $\Gamma_1^2 = \Gamma_2^2 = \dots = \Gamma_{2p_f-1}^2 = -1$ and Lemma 4.3, (2) implies that $Z = \Gamma_1 = \Gamma_2 = \dots = \Gamma_{2p_f-1}$. We put $\Delta_1 = \Gamma_1$. Then $(2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$ is a subcurve of Z_K and $-\Delta_1$ is numerically trivial on $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$. If $Z_K = (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$, then we stop by putting $r = 1$ and $\Delta = 0$. Assume that $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1 \neq 0$. Then, $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$ is the canonical cycle on its support (possibly with several connected components). We may assume that Γ_{2p_f} has the biggest arithmetic genus among the chain-connected components of $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$. If $p_a(\Gamma_{2p_f}) < p_f(V, o)$, then we put $\Delta = Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$ and stop with $r = 1$. If $p_a(\Gamma_{2p_f}) = p_f$, then we have $\Gamma_{2p_f}^2 = -1$, since $-1 = \Gamma_1^2 \leq \Gamma_{2p_f}^2$ by Lemma 4.5. Note that Γ_{2p_f} is the fundamental cycle on its support, being a chain-connected component of the canonical cycle $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)\Delta_1$. As above, we can show $\Gamma_{2p_f}\Gamma_{2p_f+1} = -1$, $\Gamma_{2p_f}^2 = \dots = \Gamma_{4p_f-2}^2 = -1$ and $\Gamma_{2p_f} = \dots = \Gamma_{4p_f-2}$. We put $\Delta_2 = \Gamma_{2p_f}$. Since $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_2}(-\Delta_1)$ is numerically trivial, we have $\Delta_2 \prec \Delta_1$. We know that $Z_K - (2p_f - 1)(\Delta_1 + \Delta_2)$ is either 0 or the canonical cycle on its support. Now, the obvious induction shows the decomposition of Z_K as claimed. Note that not only each but also the total of arithmetic genus of chain-connected components of Δ does not exceed p_f .

Next, we claim that $\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1}$ is a (-2) -curve for $i < r$. Note that, for $i < j$, $\Delta_i - \Delta_j$ consists of (-2) -curves by Lemma 4.5. From $(\Delta_i - \Delta_j)^2 = -2$, we know that $\Delta_i - \Delta_j$ is connected. We denote by A_i the unique component of Δ_i with $-A_i\Delta_i = 1$. Assume that $i < r$. We have $A_i \preceq \Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1}$ and already know that A_i is a (-2) -curve. Then $2p_f - 1 = (2p_f - 1)A_i(\Delta_{i+1} + \dots + \Delta_\mu) + A_i\Delta$ by $A_iZ_K = 0$. Since $A_i \not\preceq Z_K - (2p_f - 1)(\Delta_1 + \dots + \Delta_i)$, and $\Delta_j \preceq \Delta_{i+1}$ for $j > i + 1$, we get $A_i\Delta_{i+1} = 1$ and $A_i \cap \text{Supp}(Z_K - (2p_f - 1)(\Delta_1 + \dots + \Delta_{i+1})) = \emptyset$. Hence $A_i(\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1}) = -2$. Since $(\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1})^2 = -2$, we get $(\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1} - A_i)^2 = 0$, which is sufficient to imply that $\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1} = A_i$.

Finally, we show that $\Delta_r \prec \dots \prec \Delta_1$ is the Yau sequence. Since the difference $\Delta_i - \Delta_{i+1}$ is a (-2) -curve, it suffices to show that Δ_r is the minimal model of $Z = \Delta_1$, by Lemma 3.1 and what we saw above. If $\Delta = 0$, then K_{Δ_r} is nef, because Δ_r is the smallest chain-connected curve appearing in the CCC decomposition of Z_K . So, let $\Delta \neq 0$. We assume that Δ_r is not minimal and show that this eventually leads us to a contradiction. If Δ_r is not minimal, then A_r is a (-2) -curve and $\Delta_r - A_r$ is also chain-connected of arithmetic genus p_f , by Lemma 3.1. Recall that Δ_i is numerically trivial on $\Delta_r - A_r$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$. Hence $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_r - A_r}(-\Delta)$ is numerically equivalent to the nef invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_r - A_r}(-Z_K)$. Then, either $\Delta_r - A_r \preceq \Delta$ or $\text{Supp}(\Delta_r - A_r) \cap \text{Supp}(\Delta) = \emptyset$ by the chain-connectivity of $\Delta_r - A_r$. The first alternative is impossible, since it would imply the existence of a chain-connected component of Δ whose arithmetic genus is p_f . The last alternative is also impossible by the fact $\text{Supp}(\Delta) \subseteq \text{Supp}(\Delta_r)$. Therefore, Δ_r is minimal. \square

We add a remark that may be useful to study Δ further.

LEMMA 4.6. *Let the situation be as above and assume that $\Delta \neq 0$. Then Z_{\min} decomposes as $Z_{\min} = \tilde{A} + \tilde{B}$, where*

- (1) \tilde{A} is a 2-connected curve that is the fundamental cycle on its support, $A \preceq \tilde{A}$ and $\tilde{A} - A$ consists of (-2) -curves at most, where A is the component with $AZ_{\min} = -1$,
- (2) the set of all chain-connected components of \tilde{B} coincides with that of Δ ,
- (3) $\text{Supp}(\tilde{A} - A) \cap \text{Supp}(\tilde{B}) = \emptyset$ and \tilde{B} meets A .

Proof. $Z_{\min} = \Delta_r$ and $A = A_r$ in the notation of the proof of Theorem 4.5. Since $-Z_{\min}$ is numerically trivial on Δ and $\text{Supp}(\Delta) \subseteq \text{Supp}(Z_{\min} - A)$, every chain connected component of Δ , which is the fundamental cycle on its support since Δ is a sum of disjoint canonical cycles, is a subcurve of $Z_{\min} - A$. Since $\mathcal{O}_{Z_{\min}-A}(-\Delta)$ is nef, every chain-connected component of $Z_{\min} - A$ is either a subcurve of Δ or disjoint from $\text{Supp}(\Delta)$. Let Γ be a chain-connected component of $Z_{\min} - A$ disjoint from Δ . Then $-K_X\Gamma = (2p_f - 1)Y\Gamma + \Delta\Gamma = 0$ implying that Γ consists of (-2) -curves. We define \tilde{A} as the biggest subcurve of Z_{\min} whose support is the union of A and all such Γ 's, and put $\tilde{B} = Z_{\min} - \tilde{A}$. Then we have (2) and (3). We have $-1 = AZ_{\min} = A\tilde{A} + A\tilde{B} > A\tilde{A}$. Let C be any component of \tilde{A} , $C \neq A$. Then it is a (-2) -curve that does not meet \tilde{B} , and we have $0 = -K_X C = (2p_f - 1)Z_{\min}C + \Delta C = (2p_f - 1)\tilde{A}C$. Hence, $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{A}}(-\tilde{A})$ is nef and $\tilde{A}^2 = A\tilde{A}$. To show the 2-connectivity of \tilde{A} , we can assume that $\tilde{A} - A \neq 0$. Let $\tilde{A} = C_1 + C_2$ be non-trivial decomposition by curves. We may assume $A \preceq C_1$. Then C_2 consists of (-2) -curves and it follows that C_2^2 is a negative even integer. By $0 = \tilde{A}C_2 = C_1C_2 + C_2^2$, we get $C_1C_2 \geq 2$. \square

We give our second application of Theorem 4.4.

THEOREM 4.7. *Let Z_K be the canonical cycle on the minimal resolution $\pi : X \rightarrow V$ of an isolated numerically Gorenstein surface singular point (V, o) with $p_f(V, o) = 2$. Then Z_K decomposes as*

$$Z_K = \Delta_1 + \cdots + \Delta_r + E,$$

where the Δ_i 's and E are curves satisfying the following conditions.

(1) For any i , $1 \leq i \leq r$, the CCC decomposition of Δ_i is one of the following types:

(a) $\Delta_i = \Gamma_{i,1} + \Gamma_{i,2} + \Gamma_{i,3}$, $\Gamma_{i,3} \preceq \Gamma_{i,2} \preceq \Gamma_{i,1}$, $\Gamma_{i,1}^2 \leq \Gamma_{i,2}^2 \leq \Gamma_{i,3}^2$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_{i,\nu}}(-\Gamma_{i,\mu})$ is nef of degree 1 for $1 \leq \mu < \nu \leq 3$.

(b) $\Delta_i = \Gamma_{i,1} + \Gamma_{i,2}$, $\Gamma_{i,2} \preceq \Gamma_{i,1}$, $\Gamma_{i,1}^2 \leq \Gamma_{i,2}^2$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_{i,2}}(-\Gamma_{i,1})$ is nef of degree 2.

Furthermore, $p_a(\Gamma_{i,\nu}) = 2$, $\Gamma_{i,1}$ is the fundamental cycle on its support and, when $i < j$, $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_{j,\nu}}(-\Gamma_{i,\mu})$ is numerically trivial and $\Gamma_{j,\nu} \prec \Gamma_{i,\mu}$, $\Gamma_{i,\mu}^2 \leq \Gamma_{j,\nu}^2$ for any μ, ν .

(2) $Z_K - \sum_{j=1}^i \Delta_j$ is numerically equivalent to $-K_X$ on its support for any i , $1 \leq i \leq r$.

(3) If $E \neq 0$, then E consists of at most two disjoint canonical cycles of numerically Gorenstein elliptic singular points. All the curves $\Gamma_{i,\nu}$ as in (1) are numerically trivial on E .

(4) If $E = 0$, then $\Gamma_{r,\mu}$, where $\mu = 3$ or 2 according to whether Δ_r is of type (a) or (b) in (1), is the minimal model of the fundamental cycle $Z = \Gamma_{1,1}$ for (V, o) .

Proof. Let $Z_K = \sum_{i=1}^n \Gamma_i$ be a CCC decomposition. We have $2 = 2p_a(\Gamma_1) - 2 = -\Gamma_1(Z_K - \Gamma_1) = -\Gamma_1 \sum_{i=2}^n \Gamma_i$. Since $\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma_i}(-\Gamma_1)$ is nef, we have $\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 = -1, -2$ and, in any case, the hypothesis of Theorem 4.4 is satisfied.

We put $\Delta_1 = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2$ when $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 = 2$, and $\Delta_1 = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 + \Gamma_3$ when $-\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 = 1$. Then $p_a(\Delta_1) = 1$ and $Z_K - \Delta_1$ is the canonical cycle on its support by Theorem 4.4. If $Z_K - \Delta_1 = 0$, then we stop with $r = 1$ and $E = 0$. Assume that $Z_K - \Delta_1 \neq 0$. If any chain-connected component of $Z_K - \Delta_1$ is of arithmetic genus < 2 , then we stop with $r = 1$ and $E = Z_K - \Delta_1$. Then E consists of at most two disjoint canonical cycles of elliptic singularities. So, we may assume that $Z_K - \Delta_1$ is the canonical cycle of a singular point of $p_f = 2$. Then, one can repeat the above argument to get Δ_2 consisting of two or three Γ_i 's of arithmetic genus 2. Now, the obvious induction

shows the assertions (1)–(3). We get (4), because $\Gamma_{r,\mu}$ is a minimal element in $\{\Gamma_i\}_{i=1}^n$ implying that $K_{\Gamma_{r,\mu}}$ is nef. \square

Unfortunately, we do not know whether the sequence $\Gamma_{r,1} < \dots < \Gamma_{1,1} = Z$ always forms the Yau sequence or not. We have $p_a(V, o) \geq r + 1$ by Proposition 2.4.

EXAMPLE 4.8. Let A_i ($0 \leq i \leq 4$) be non-singular projective curves with $A_i^2 = -2$. Suppose that the dual graph of $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=0}^4 A_i$ is of Dynkin type (D_5) as in Figure 3. We denote by (V, o) the singularity obtained by contracting \mathcal{A} . Then $Z = A_0 + A_1 + 2A_2 + 2A_3 + A_4$ is the fundamental cycle on \mathcal{A} and we have $Z^2 = -2$.

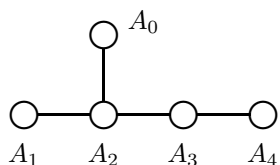


FIG. 3.

(1) This example shows that both of (a) and (b) in Theorem 4.7, (1) actually occur. Assume that A_0 is of genus two and $A_i \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ for $1 \leq i \leq 4$. Then $p_f(V, o) = 2$ and $Z_K = 5A_0 + 3A_1 + 6A_2 + 4A_3 + 2A_4$ is the canonical cycle. Hence $Z_K = \sum_{i=1}^5 \Gamma_i$, where $\Gamma_1 = \Gamma_2 = Z$, $\Gamma_3 = A_0 + A_1 + A_2$, $\Gamma_4 = A_0 + A_2$ and $\Gamma_5 = A_0$. We have $\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 = -2$ and $\Gamma_i\Gamma_j = -1$ for $3 \leq i < j \leq 5$. Put $\Delta_1 = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2$, $\Delta_2 = \Gamma_3 + \Gamma_4 + \Gamma_5$. Then $Z_K = \Delta_1 + \Delta_2$ is the decomposition as in Theorem 4.7, Δ_2 is of type (a) while Δ_1 is of type (b).

(2) Let A_2 be an elliptic curve, and $A_i \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ for $i \neq 2$. Then $p_f(V, o) = 2$ and the canonical cycle is $Z_K = 3A_0 + 3A_1 + 6A_2 + 4A_3 + 2A_4 = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 + \Gamma_3 + \Gamma_4$, where $\Gamma_1 = \Gamma_2 = Z$, $\Gamma_3 = A_0 + A_1 + A_2$ and $\Gamma_4 = A_2$. If we put $\Delta_1 = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2$ and $E = \Gamma_3 + \Gamma_4$, then $Z_K = \Delta_1 + E$ is the decomposition as in Theorem 4.7 with Δ_1 being of type (b) and E is the canonical cycle of an elliptic singularity with fundamental cycle Γ_3 . We get $p_a(V, o) = 2$ from Corollary 2.5, because $Z_{\min} = A_0 + A_1 + 2A_2 + A_3$ and $Z_{\min}Z < 0$. Note also that $\Gamma_2 \neq Z_{\min}$. Therefore, if $E \neq 0$, the curve $\Gamma_{r,\mu}$ as in Theorem 4.7, (4) is not necessarily the minimal model of the fundamental cycle.

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