

On a Question of B. Teissier

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Abstract We answer positively a question of B. Teissier on existence of resolution of singularities inside an equivariant map of toric varieties.

1 Introduction

It is sometimes convenient to study an algebraic variety if it is embedded in a toric variety. Teissier asks in [6] if it is possible to perform resolution of singularities of an arbitrary algebraic variety inside an equivariant map of toric varieties. The following theorem provides an affirmative answer, in fact we show that any embedded resolution of singularities is induced by an equivariant map of toric varieties.

Theorem 1.1 *Consider an embedded resolution of singularities of X , or more generally any commutative diagram of irreducible projective algebraic varieties*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \hookrightarrow & W \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ X & \hookrightarrow & S \end{array} \quad (1.1)$$

where

- W and S are smooth;
- π is birational and $D := \text{Exc}(\pi)$ is a divisor with simple normal crossings;
- Y is smooth and intersects D transversally.

Then we can extend this diagram to a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Y & \hookrightarrow & W & \hookrightarrow & Z \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi & & \downarrow \\ X & \hookrightarrow & S & \hookrightarrow & \mathbb{P}^N \end{array}$$

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where

- Z is smooth toric variety of an algebraic torus $\mathbb{G}_m^N = \mathbb{P}^N \setminus \bigcup_i H_i$ for some choice of hyperplanes $H_0, \dots, H_N \subset \mathbb{P}^N$;
- $Z \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ is a toric morphism;
- Y and W intersect the toric boundary of Z transversally.

Moreover, we can assume that the embedding $S \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ is given by a complete linear system associated with a sufficiently high multiple of any ample divisor on S .

The proof is not original: it is a souped-up version of the proof by Luxton and Qu of [5, Theorem 1.4.] conjectured by the author. It is based on a criterion of Hacking, Keel, and Tevelev from [3, sect. 2], which shows that, given a pair (W, G) of a smooth variety W and a divisor $G \subset W$ with simple normal crossings, which satisfy certain strong but easily verified conditions (see the next section), there exists an embedding of W into a smooth toric variety Z such that G is the scheme-theoretic intersection of W with the toric boundary of Z .

In practice we may want to say more about Z . We can easily make Z proper by adding toric strata that don't intersect W . Applying a theorem of De Concini and Procesi [1, Theorem 2.4], it is easy to prove that

Corollary 1.2 *Let X be an irreducible subvariety of a smooth projective variety S (over an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0). Then there exist*

- a projective embedding $S \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ (given by a sufficiently high multiple of any ample divisor on S);
- coordinate hyperplanes $H_0, \dots, H_N \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ such that $X \not\subset H_0 \cup \dots \cup H_N$;
- a smooth projective toric variety Z of an algebraic torus $\mathbb{G}_m^N = \mathbb{P}^N \setminus \bigcup_i H_i$

such that

- a toric morphism $Z \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ is a composition of blow-ups in smooth equivariant centers of codimension 2;
- a proper transform W of S in Z is smooth, intersects toric boundary of Z transversally, and in particular $D = \text{Exc}(W \rightarrow S)$ is a divisor with simple normal crossings.
- a proper transform Y of X in Z is smooth and intersects the toric boundary of Z (and in particular D) transversally.

The trade-off in this corollary is that the resolution of singularities $Y \rightarrow X$ could fail to be an isomorphism over a smooth locus of X .

2 Proof of Theorem 1.1 and Corollary 1.2

Essentially we would like to prove that (W, D) embeds in a toric variety in such a way that D is a scheme-theoretic intersection with the toric boundary. This is not true in general, but the main idea is that this is going to work after we add a lot of random divisors to D .

Let D_1, \dots, D_m be irreducible components of D and let $D_0 := \emptyset$. Choose an invertible sheaf \mathcal{L} on W such that $\mathcal{L}(D_i)$ is very ample for any $i \geq 0$. Then

$$\mathcal{L} \simeq \pi^* \mathcal{M} \left(- \sum_{i=1}^m a_i D_i \right)$$

for some line bundle \mathcal{M} on S . By tensoring \mathcal{M} with an appropriate very ample line bundle on S , we can arrange that \mathcal{M} is very ample and moreover is isomorphic to a tensor power of any given ample line bundle on S . By Kodaira's Lemma [4, 2.19], $a_i > 0$ for any i . Let

$$\alpha = 2 \dim(W) - 1 + \max_{0 \leq i \leq m} h^0(W, \mathcal{L}(D_i)) \quad \text{and} \quad r = \alpha(m + 1) \tag{2.1}$$

Let

$$F_0, \dots, F_{r-1} \subset W$$

be divisors obtained by taking α general divisors from each linear system $|\mathcal{L}(D_i)|$ for $i = 0, \dots, m$. Let

$$s_0, \dots, s_{r-1} \in H^0(S, \mathcal{M})$$

be equations of divisors $\pi(F_0), \dots, \pi(F_{r-1}) \subset S$. Since F_i 's are general, $\pi(F_i) \not\subset \pi(F_j)$ for $i \neq j$, and therefore sections

$$z_i := s_0 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_{r-1} \in H^0(S, \mathcal{M}^{\otimes(r-1)}), \quad i = 0, \dots, r - 1,$$

are linearly independent. Add general sections z_r, \dots, z_N so that z_0, \dots, z_N is a basis of $H^0(S, \mathcal{M}^{\otimes(r-1)})$. Let $E_r, \dots, E_N \subset W$ be pull-backs of the hypersurfaces $(z_r = 0), \dots, (z_N = 0) \subset S$. We let

$$G = D_1 + \dots + D_m + F_0 + \dots + F_{r-1} + E_r + \dots + E_N \subset W.$$

By Bertini's theorem, all components of G are irreducible, smooth, and have simple normal crossings. Also, Y and W intersect G transversally.

Consider the embedding $S \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ given by a complete linear system of $\mathcal{M}^{\otimes(r-1)}$ and homogeneous coordinates z_0, \dots, z_N . Let \mathbb{G}_m^N be the corresponding torus. Since $D = \text{Exc}(\pi)$ and F_i is ample, we have $\pi(F_i) \supset \pi(D)$ for any $i = 0, \dots, r - 1$. Therefore, the map π induces an isomorphism

$$W \setminus G \simeq S \cap \mathbb{G}_m^N.$$

Let I be the indexing set for irreducible components of G , so we have

$$G = \sum_{i \in I} G_i = D_1 + \dots + D_m + F_0 + \dots + F_{r-1} + E_r + \dots + E_N.$$

Let

$$M \subset \mathcal{O}^*(W \setminus G)$$

be a sublattice generated by z_i/z_j for $i, j = 0, \dots, N$.

Lemma 2.1 *Let $J \subset I, |J| \leq 2 \dim(W) - 1$, and let $i \in I \setminus J$. Then there exists a subset $T \subset I \setminus J$ such that $i \in T$ and*

- $U = W \setminus \bigcup_{i \in T} G_i$ is affine and $\mathcal{O}(U)$ is generated by $M \cap \mathcal{O}(U)$.
- There exists $m \in M$ such that $\text{val}_{G_i} m = 1, \text{val}_{G_j} m = 0$ for any $j \in J$.

Proof We consider three cases.

Case I (G_i is an F -type divisor; i.e. $G_i \in |\mathcal{L}(D_p)|$ for some p) By definition (2.1) of α , we can choose a subset $T = \{i, k_1, \dots, k_q\} \subset I \setminus J$ such that $G_i, G_{k_1}, \dots, G_{k_q}$ is a basis of $|\mathcal{L}(D_p)|$. Then U is affine as a closed subvariety of an algebraic torus \mathbb{G}_m^q [(the complement of the union of coordinate hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^q = \mathbb{P}H^0(W, \mathcal{L}(D_p))^\vee$]. Moreover, $\mathcal{O}(U)$ is generated by ratios of coordinate functions in \mathbb{P}^q . As a rational function on W , such a function f has a simple zero at G_i , a simple pole at some G_{k_s} , and is invertible along other components of G .

Notice that the function $f_0 = \frac{s_{i-m-1}}{s_{k_s-m-1}} = \frac{z_{k_s-m-1}}{z_{i-m-1}}$ has the same property, except that apriori it may also have some zeros and poles along the exceptional divisor D . But then f/f_0 has zeros and poles only along the exceptional divisor D , and so it must be a constant. Thus, any of these rational functions can be used as m .

Case II (G_i is a D -type divisor, i.e. $G_i = D_p$ for some p) Choose a subset $T = \{i, j, k_1, \dots, k_q\} \subset I \setminus J$ such that $G_j \in |\mathcal{L}|$, $G_{k_1}, \dots, G_{k_q} \in |\mathcal{L}(D_p)|$ and $G_i + G_j, G_{k_1}, \dots, G_{k_q}$ is a basis of $|\mathcal{L}(D_p)|$. Then U is affine as a closed subvariety of an algebraic torus \mathbb{G}_m^q (the complement to the union of coordinate hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^q = \mathbb{P}H^0(W, \mathcal{L}(D_p))^\vee$). Moreover, $\mathcal{O}(U)$ is generated by ratios of coordinate functions in \mathbb{P}^q . As a rational function on W , such a function has a simple zero at D_p and G_j , a simple pole at some G_{k_s} , and is invertible along other components of G . As in Case I, it follows that this function must be equal to $\frac{s_{j-m-1}}{s_{k_s-m-1}} = \frac{z_{k_s-m-1}}{z_{j-m-1}}$ (up to a scalar multiple). We can take any of them as m .

Case III (G_i is an E -type divisor, i.e. $G_i = E_p$ for some p) Let $n = \dim W$. By Riemann–Roch, we can substitute \mathcal{M} with its tensor power if necessary to ensure that $N-r > 3n$. It follows that we can find a subset $T = \{i_0, \dots, i_q, j_1, \dots, j_{n+1}\} \subset I \setminus J$, where G_{i_0}, \dots, G_{i_q} forms a basis of $|\mathcal{L}|$, $G_{j_1}, \dots, G_{j_{n+1}}$ are E -type divisors, and $G_{j_1} = E_p$. Let $\mathbb{P}^q = \mathbb{P}H^0(W, \mathcal{L})^\vee$ with coordinates that correspond to G_{i_0}, \dots, G_{i_q} . Since G is a divisor with normal crossings, $G_{j_1} \cap \dots \cap G_{j_{n+1}} = \emptyset$. It follows that $S \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ misses the intersection of the corresponding $n+1$ coordinate hyperplanes. Projecting from this subspace gives a morphism $W \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$, where \mathbb{P}^n has coordinate hyperplanes that correspond to $G_{j_1}, \dots, G_{j_{n+1}}$. Consider a diagonal embedding

$$W \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^q \times \mathbb{P}^n.$$

Then U is naturally a closed subvariety of an algebraic torus $\mathbb{G}_m^q \times \mathbb{G}_m^n$ and $\mathcal{O}(U)$ is generated by ratios of coordinate functions in \mathbb{P}^q and ratios of coordinate functions in \mathbb{P}^n . Arguing as in the previous cases, these ratios are equal to some z_α/z_β , where $\alpha, \beta < r$ (in case of \mathbb{P}^q) and $\alpha, \beta \geq r$ (in case of \mathbb{P}^n). One of the latter ones can be used as m . \square

Lemma 2.2 W can be embedded in a smooth toric variety Z of \mathbb{G}_m^N in such a way that G is a scheme-theoretic intersection with the toric boundary. Moreover, intersecting with W induces a bijection between toric divisors of Z and irreducible components of G . A collection of toric divisors has a non-empty intersection if and only if the corresponding components of G have a non-empty intersection.

Proof For any subset $S \subset I$, let

$$W_S := \bigcap_{i \in S} G_i \quad \text{and} \quad U_S := \bigcap_{i \notin S} (W \setminus G_i).$$

In particular, we have

$$W_\emptyset := W \quad \text{and} \quad U_\emptyset = W \setminus G.$$

If W_S is non-empty, we call it a *stratum* of W (which could be reducible). For any $S \subset I$, let $M_S = M \cap \mathcal{O}(U_S)$. By [3, §2], Lemma 2.2 will follow if we can check the following three conditions:

1. For any stratum W_S , U_S is affine and M_S generates $\mathcal{O}(U_S)$.

2. For any stratum W_S , and any $i \in S$, there exists $m \in M$ with $\text{val}_{G_i} m = 1$ and $\text{val}_{G_j} m = 0$ for any $j \in S \setminus \{i\}$.
3. The collection of cones in $M^\vee \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ convexly dual to cones spanned by semi-groups M_S forms a smooth fan (as W_S runs over strata).

To check (1), we use $J = S$ in Lemma 2.1, which then shows that S can be written as an intersection of subsets K_α such that U_{K_α} is affine and $\mathcal{O}(U_{K_\alpha})$ is generated by M_{K_α} . By separatedness, $U_S = \bigcap_\alpha U_{K_\alpha}$ is affine as well and $\mathcal{O}(U_S)$ is generated by restrictions of $\mathcal{O}(U_{K_\alpha})$ for all α , hence by the union of M_{K_α} for all α , and hence by M_S . To check (2), take $J = S \setminus \{i\}$ in Lemma 2.1. Finally, to check (3), it suffices to show that for any two strata W_{S_1}, W_{S_2} , there exists a unit $m \in M$ such that $\text{val}_{G_i} m = 1$ for any $i \in S_1 \setminus S_2$ and $\text{val}_{G_j} m = 0$ for each $j \in S_2$. For each $i \in S_1 \setminus S_2$, we apply Lemma 2.1 to $J = S_1 \cup S_2 \setminus \{i\}$, which gives a unit m_i such that $\text{val}_{G_i} m_i = 1$ and $\text{val}_{G_j} m_i = 0$ for any $j \in J$. But then $m = \prod_{i \in S_1 \setminus S_2} m_i$ satisfies (3). □

It remains to show that a rational equivariant map $\phi : Z \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ is in fact a morphism. Let $N = M^\vee \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}$. Let $C \subset N$ be a cone in the fan of Z with rays that correspond to toric divisors which cut out divisors $G_i, i \in J$ on W for some subset $J \subset I$. Then $|J| \leq \dim W$, and arguing as in Case III of Lemma 2.1, we can find a prime divisor G_k of type E such that $k \notin J$. This divisor corresponds to one of the coordinate hyperplanes $H \subset \mathbb{P}^N$. Let $D \subset N$ be a cone in the fan of \mathbb{P}^N with rays that correspond to coordinate hyperplanes other than H . It suffices to show that $C \subset D$. Dually, it suffices to show inclusion of semigroups $D^\vee \subset C^\vee$. Let $m \in D^\vee$. Then

$$m \in M \subset k(S) = k(W).$$

The principal divisor (m) on S has only one component with negative multiplicity, namely $H \cap S$. Since H is a general hyperplane, $\pi(G_j) \not\subset H$ for any $j \in J$. It follows that $\text{ord}_{G_j} m \geq 0$ for any $j \in J$ and therefore $m \in C^\vee$.

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.1. Now we prove Corollary 1.2. We first apply Hironaka’s resolution of singularities [2] to construct an embedded resolution of singularities (1.1). Then we apply Theorem 1.1, and compactify Z to a smooth proper toric variety, which we also call Z . Now we apply [1, Theorem 2.4], which gives a proper toric morphism $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Z$ such that the morphism $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ is a composition of blow-ups with smooth equivariant centers of codimension 2.

It remains to show that the proper transform \tilde{Y} of X in \tilde{Z} is smooth and intersects the toric boundary transversally (the proof of the corresponding facts for S is similar). This follows from [7, Th 1.4 and Prop. 2.5]. More precisely, these results apply as follows: since Z is smooth and Y is smooth and intersects the toric boundary transversally, the multiplication map

$$\Psi : Y \times \mathbb{G}_m^N \rightarrow Z$$

is smooth. The multiplication map $\tilde{\Psi} : \tilde{Y} \times \mathbb{G}_m^N \rightarrow \tilde{Z}$ is then a pull-back of Ψ , and therefore it is also smooth. Since \tilde{Z} is smooth, this finally implies that \tilde{Y} is smooth and intersects the toric boundary transversally.

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