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Abstract. We extend the decomposition theorem for numerically K-trivial varieties with log terminal singularities to the Kähler setting. Along the way we prove that all such varieties admit a strong locally trivial algebraic approximation, thus completing the numerically K-trivial case of a conjecture of Campana and Peternell.

Contents

1. Introduction

For a compact Kähler manifold X with vanishing first Chern class, the Beauville–Bogomolov theorem [Bog78, Bea83] tells us that a (finite) étale cover of X splits as a product of a complex torus, irreducible symplectic manifolds, and irreducible Calabi–Yau manifolds. Work of Druel–Greb–Guenancia–Höring–Kebekus–Peternell [GKKP11, DG18, Dru18, GGK19, HP19] over the past decade has culminated in an analog of this theorem for projective varieties with log terminal singularities and numerically trivial canonical class, see [HP19, Theorem 1.5].

Our main result is a generalization of the decomposition theorem to the Kähler setting:

Theorem A. *Let X be a numerically K-trivial compact Kähler variety with log terminal singularities. Then there is a quasi-étale cover $\widetilde{X} \longrightarrow X$ such that $\widetilde{X}$ splits as a*

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product

$$\widetilde{X} = T \times \prod_i Y_i \times \prod_j Z_j$$

where T is a complex torus, the Y_i are irreducible[1] *Calabi–Yau varieties, and the Z_j are irreducible holomorphic symplectic varieties.*

A morphism $\widetilde{X} \longrightarrow X$ of normal complex spaces is *quasi-étale* if it is étale on the complement of an analytic subset which is locally of codimension at least 2 in $\widetilde{X}$ and a *cover* if it is finite surjective. For convenience, we reproduce the definitions of irreducible Calabi–Yau and irreducible holomorphic symplectic varieties due to Greb–Kebekus–Peternell [GKP16b, Definition 8.16] here. Recall that if X is a normal complex variety, the sheaf of reflexive p-forms $\Omega_X^{[p]}$ may be equivalently thought of as either the reflexive hull $(\Omega_X^p)^{\vee\vee}$ or the push-forward $j_*\Omega^p_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ from the regular locus $j : X^{\mathrm{reg}} \longrightarrow X$. If X furthermore has rational singularities, it admits a third interpretation as $\pi_*\Omega^p_Y$ for any resolution $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ by Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8].

Definition 1.1. Let X be a compact Kähler variety with rational singularities. We call X *irreducible holomorphic symplectic* (IHS) if for all quasi-étale covers $q : \widetilde{X} \longrightarrow X$, the algebra $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega^{[\bullet]}_{\widetilde{X}})$ is generated by a holomorphic symplectic form $\widetilde{\sigma} \in H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega^{[2]}_{\widetilde{X}})$. We call X *irreducible Calabi–Yau* (ICY) if for all quasi-étale covers $q : \widetilde{X} \longrightarrow X$, the algebra $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega^{[\bullet]}_{\widetilde{X}})$ is generated by a nowhere vanishing reflexive form in degree $\dim X$.

Note that this is equivalent to the definition in [GKP16b]: in the presence of a reflexive form of degree $\dim X$ the singularities of X are rational if and only if they are canonical by [Elk81, Théorème 1] and [KS18, Corollary 1.8].

The proof of the decomposition theorem in the projective case uses algebraic techniques (particularly regarding integrability of algebraic foliations, even though the usage of characteristic p methods can be avoided by a recent paper of Campana [Cam20]) which at the moment cannot be directly generalized to the analytic category. Instead, we reduce to the projective case via locally trivial deformations. A crucial ingredient is therefore the following theorem, which resolves the numerically K-trivial case of a conjecture of Campana–Peternell[2] saying that Kähler minimal models admit an algebraic approximation:

Theorem B. *Any X as in Theorem A admits a strong locally trivial algebraic approximation: there is a locally trivial family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ over a smooth base S specializing to X over $s_0 \in S$ such that points $s \in S$ for which X_s is projective are analytically dense near s_0.* □

[1] Greb–Kebekus–Peternell use the term *Calabi–Yau* for the irreducible factors in the decomposition of the second type, but it seems natural to call them *irreducible Calabi–Yau*.

[2] The conjecture has been attributed to Campana and Peternell in [CHL19]. The authors are grateful to Thomas Peternell for bringing this conjecture to our attention.

It is natural to ask whether the Bogomolov–Tian–Todorov theorem holds in this context—that is, whether locally trivial deformations of numerically K-trivial X as in the theorem are always unobstructed (which would be sufficient to prove Theorem B, see [GS20]). On the one hand, flat deformations of such X are known to be potentially obstructed by an example of Gross [Gro97a]. On the other hand, the proof of unobstructedness in the smooth case is fundamentally Hodge-theoretic, and from this perspective locally trivial deformations are more natural as they are topologically trivial (see [AV19, Proposition 6.1]). While some special cases have been established (see [BL16, BL18, GS20]), it is as yet unclear whether a locally trivial Bogomolov–Tian–Todorov theorem should hold.

The main difficulty in the proof of Theorem B is therefore to produce sufficiently many unobstructed deformations, and to achieve this we show that deformations along split symplectic foliations are always unobstructed. As in the proof of the corresponding result for symplectic varieties [BL18], a crucial role is played by the degeneration of reflexive Hodge-to-de Rham in low degrees [BL16]. The results of [Gue16] extending to the Kähler category the existence of the holonomy splitting of T_X into foliations (up to a quasi-étale cover) can then be used to show that X always admits a split symplectic foliation which accounts for all of its 2-forms, and this is what guarantees that most fibers are projective, by the singular version of the Green–Voisin criterion of [GS20]. The general results we prove about locally trivial deformations along foliations (Section 2) and the existence of simultaneous resolutions in locally trivial families (Corollary 2.23) are of independent interest as well.

With Theorem B in hand, to prove Theorem A we must show that the product structure at the dense set of projective fibers implies that the special fiber X has a product structure too. By cycle-theoretic arguments the leaves of the foliations on projective fibers deform to nearby fibers, and thanks to the properness of a suitable (component of a) Douady space, one obtains closed limits leaves of the expected dimension on X. These limits correspond, at least generically, to the closure of the leaves defined by the polystable decomposition of T_X. In particular, they are rather well understood on X^{reg}. In order to control their behavior near X^{sing} and prove Theorem A, we show that the limit decomposition of $H^2(X,\mathbb{R})$ induces a splitting of the Kähler–Einstein metric in some strong sense, and this allows us to control the limit leaves purely on the level of cohomology.

Patrick Graf informed us that he independently obtained a Kähler version of the decomposition theorem in dimension at most four.

1.2. **Outline.**

- Section 2. We collect some background on locally trivial deformations, define locally trivial deformations along foliations, and prove unobstructedness of deformations along split symplectic foliations.

- Section 3. We recall the precise notions of K-triviality and prove Theorem B. We derive some first applications about fundamental groups and deformation of the irreducible building blocks.
- Section 4. We recall some foundational aspects of relative Douady spaces and show that local product decompositions can be spread out over Zariski open sets.
- Section 5. A locally trivial family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ which is a product over Δ^* admits a limit product decomposition on cohomology. We deduce from that a splitting for the relative tangent sheaf.
- Section 6. We prove that the Kähler–Einstein metric in the limit splits off two positive currents with bounded local potentials.
- Section 7. Building upon the previous results, we prove a global splitting result for locally trivial families $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ that are a product over Δ^*, under some additional conditions.
- Section 8. We proceed to checking that the assumptions in the splitting theorem from the previous section are fulfilled in our geometric setting, thereby proving Theorem A.

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Notation and Conventions. A resolution of singularities of a variety X is a proper surjective bimeromorphic morphism $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ from a nonsingular variety Y. The term variety will denote an integral separated scheme of finite type over $\mathbb{C}$ in the algebraic setting or an irreducible and reduced separated complex space in the complex analytic setting. For a field k, an algebraic k-scheme is a scheme of finite type over k. We will denote by $\Delta := \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| < 1\}$ the complex unit disk and by $\Delta^* := \Delta \setminus \{0\}$ the punctured disk.

2. Locally trivial deformations along foliations and resolutions

Throughout we define Art_k to be the category of local artinian k-algebras. To simplify the notation, we agree that k will denote an algebraically closed field when speaking about schemes and $k = \mathbb{C}$ when speaking about complex spaces.

2.1. Locally trivial deformations.

We begin with some background on locally trivial deformations.

Definition 2.2. Let $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a morphism of complex spaces (or algebraic schemes[3]). We say:

(1) $\mathcal{X}$ is *locally trivial* over S if there is a cover $\mathcal{X}_i$ of $\mathcal{X}$, a cover S_i of S such that $\mathcal{X}_i \longrightarrow S$ factors through S_i, complex spaces (or schemes) X_i, and diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X}_i & \xrightarrow{\cong} & X_i \times S_i \\ \downarrow & \swarrow & \\ S_i & & \end{array}$$

where the diagonal map is the projection.

(2) $\mathcal{X}$ is *formally locally trivial* over S if for any $T = \operatorname{Spec} A \longrightarrow S$ with $A \in \operatorname{Art}_k$ the base-change $\mathcal{X}_T \longrightarrow T$ is locally trivial.

Remark 2.3.

(1) Of course, over an artinian base, the notions of formal local triviality and local triviality are equivalent.

(2) In the analytic category, by results of Artin [Art68, Theorem (1.5)(ii)], $\mathcal{X}/S$ is locally trivial if and only if $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{\mathcal{X},x} \cong \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{X_s,x} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{S,f(x)}$ as $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_{S,f(x)}$-algebras for all points $x \in \mathcal{X}$. Thus, in the analytic category $\mathcal{X}/S$ is locally trivial if and only if it is formally locally trivial. In the algebraic category, local triviality is in general much stronger than formal local triviality over nonartinian bases.

Definition 2.4. Let X/k be a complex space (or an algebraic scheme). The locally trivial deformation functor $F_X^{\mathrm{lt}} : \operatorname{Art}_k \longrightarrow \operatorname{Sets}$ is defined as follows: $F_X^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ is the set isomorphism classes of locally trivial families $\mathcal{X}/\operatorname{Spec} A$ together with a k-morphism $X \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ which is an isomorphism modulo $\mathfrak{m}_A$. Here, we consider isomorphism classes for isomorphisms which are the identity modulo $\mathfrak{m}_A$.

We recall that locally trivial deformations are controlled by the tangent sheaf $T_{\mathcal{X}/S} := \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(\Omega^1_{\mathcal{X}/S}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}})$. This will be made precise in a way that can be adapted easily to deformations preserving a foliation in Section 2.10. For A in Art_k let

$$\mathbf{G}_X(A) := \operatorname{Aut}_A(\mathcal{O}_X \otimes_k A)$$

be the sheaf of A-algebra automorphisms of $\mathcal{O}_X \otimes_k A$, and let $\mathbf{U}_X(A) \subset \mathbf{G}_X(A)$ be the subsheaf of automorphisms which are the identity modulo $\mathfrak{m}_A$.

The following proposition is immediate:

Proposition 2.5. *Let X/k be a complex space (or an algebraic scheme) and F_X^{lt} its locally trivial deformation functor. Then we have a natural identification:*

$$F_X^{\mathrm{lt}}(A) = \check{H}^1(X, \mathbf{U}_X(A)).$$

[3] or algebraic spaces, if we use the étale topology in the sequel.

Note that in characteristic zero we have an isomorphism of sheaves of pointed sets

$$\exp : T_X \otimes_k \mathfrak{m}_A \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}_X(A)$$

where $T_X \otimes_k A$ is given the obvious structure of a sheaf of A-linear Lie algebras. For any small extension

$$0 \longrightarrow J \longrightarrow A' \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow 0$$

with $A, A' \in \mathrm{Art}_k$ the first row of the following commutative diagram is then exact:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & T_X \otimes_k J & \longrightarrow & T_X \otimes_k \mathfrak{m}_{A'} & \longrightarrow & T_X \otimes_k \mathfrak{m}_A & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \| & & \downarrow \exp & & \downarrow \exp & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & T_X \otimes_k J & \xrightarrow{\exp} & \mathbf{U}_X(A') & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{U}_X(A) & \longrightarrow & 1. \end{array} \tag{2.1}$$

Here the horizontal maps are morphisms of sheaves of groups and the right and center vertical maps are isomorphisms of sheaves of pointed sets.

It follows that the bottom row is exact. Moreover, as the top row is exact on global sections, it follows that the bottom row is exact on global sections as well.

Corollary 2.6. *Assume* $\mathrm{char}(k) = 0$ *and suppose* X/k *is a separated complex space (or a separated algebraic scheme). Then the following hold.*

1. *The functor* F_X^{lt} *admits a tangent-obstruction theory with tangent space equal to* $H^1(X, T_X)$ *and obstructions in* $H^2(X, T_X)$.
2. *For any family* $\mathcal{X}/S = \operatorname{Spec} A$ *in* $F_X^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$, *the lifts of* $\mathcal{X}/S$ *to* $F_X^{\mathrm{lt}}(A[\epsilon])$ *are canonically parametrized by a functorial quotient of* $H^1(\mathcal{X}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S})$.

Remark 2.7. It follows that F_X^{lt} satisfies Schlessinger's axioms (H_1)-(H_3), see [Sch68, Theorem 2.11]. Note that while F_X^{lt} may not satisfy (H_4), it does satisfy axiom (H_5) of [Gro97b, § 1], since the fibered coproduct of two deformations may be constructed by taking the fibered direct product of the sheaves of rings. Thus, the deformation module $T^1(\mathcal{X}/S)$ has the structure of an A-module, and in part (2) we mean that it is a quotient of $H^1(\mathcal{X}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ as an A-module which is compatible with restriction maps. If $\mathcal{X}/S$ has no automorphisms restricting to the identity on the special fiber, then $H^1(\mathcal{X}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow T^1(\mathcal{X}/S)$ will be an isomorphism. These remarks likewise hold for the other deformation functors defined in Section 2.10.

Proof of Corollary 2.6. The following lemma describes how much of the long exact sequence survives in the cohomology of $\mathbf{U}_X(A)$:

Lemma 2.8. *Let*

$$0 \longrightarrow T \longrightarrow G' \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow 1 \tag{2.2}$$

be an exact sequence of sheaves of groups on a topological space where T *is abelian.*

1. *If* T *is central in* G, *then we have a sequence*

$$\check{H}^1(X, T) \longrightarrow \check{H}^1(X, G') \longrightarrow \check{H}^1(X, G) \xrightarrow{\delta} \check{H}^2(X, T)$$

where

(a) *The natural action of* $\check{H}^1(X,T)$ *on* $\check{H}^1(X,G')$ *is transitive on fibers;*
(b) *The image of* $\check{H}^1(X,G') \longrightarrow \check{H}^1(X,G)$ *is the inverse image of* 0 *under* δ.

(2) *If* (2.2) *is split exact, then for each* $\alpha \in \check{H}^1(X,G)$ *the natural action of* $\check{H}^1(X,T^\alpha)$ *on the fiber of the map*

$$\check{H}^1(X,G') \longrightarrow \check{H}^1(X,G)$$

above α *is transitive, where* T^α *is the sheaf obtained from* T *by twisting by* α.

Proof. Easily checked with Čech cochains. □

Now, the first claim is immediate upon taking the long exact sequence on Čech cohomology of the second row of (2.1) using the first part of the lemma (where we used separatedness to identify Čech cohomology with sheaf cohomology). For the second part, we have a split exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T_X \otimes_k A \xrightarrow{\exp} \mathbf{U}_X(A[\epsilon]) \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}_X(A) \longrightarrow 1 \tag{2.3}$$

and the claim follows from the second part of the lemma, as the stabilizer of an element $(\mathcal{X}'/S')$ under the action of $H^1(\mathcal{X}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ is easily seen to be an A-submodule. Note that for $\alpha = (\mathcal{X}/S) \in \check{H}^1(X, \mathbf{U}_X(A))$ we naturally have $(T_{X\times S/S})^\alpha = T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$. □

Remark 2.9. We would like to make a couple of remarks regarding (2.1).

(1) The restriction morphism $\mathbf{U}_X(A') \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}_X(A)$ may fail to be surjective in characteristic p. If we take $X = \operatorname{Spec} k[x]/(x^p)$, $A = k[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^p)$, and $A' = k[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^{p+1})$, the automorphism $x \mapsto x + \epsilon$ of $X \times \operatorname{Spec} A$ does not lift.
(2) Let $A' \longrightarrow A$ be a small extension in Art_k, let $\mathcal{X}' \longrightarrow \operatorname{Spec} A'$ be flat, and $\mathcal{X} := \mathcal{X}' \times_{\operatorname{Spec} A'} \operatorname{Spec} A$. The same argument shows that $\operatorname{Aut}_{A'}(\mathcal{X}') \longrightarrow \operatorname{Aut}_A(\mathcal{X})$ is surjective whenever $T_{\mathcal{X}'/A'} \longrightarrow T_{\mathcal{X}/A}$ is. Example 2.6.8(i) in [Ser06] shows that for $A' = k[t]/t^3 \longrightarrow k[t]/t^2 = A$ and $\mathcal{X}' = k[x,y,t]/(xy-t,t^3)$ the automorphism of $\mathcal{X}$ determined by $x \mapsto x + tx$ and $y \mapsto y$ does not lift to $\mathcal{X}'$. But neither does the vector field $t\dfrac{\partial}{\partial x} \in T_{\mathcal{X}/A}$.

2.10. **Locally trivial deformations along foliations.** The above results now easily extend to the situation of deformations along a foliation.

Proposition 2.11. *Assume* $\operatorname{char}(k) = 0$ *and suppose* X/k *is a separated complex space (or a separated algebraic scheme) with a foliation* $E \subset T_X$. *For* $A \in \mathrm{Art}_k$ *set* $\mathbf{U}_E(A) := \exp(E \otimes_k \mathfrak{m}_A) \subset \mathbf{U}_X(A)$. *Then*

(1) $F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A) := \check{H}^1(X, \mathbf{U}_E(A))$ *admits a tangent-obstruction theory with tangent space* $H^1(X,E)$ *and obstructions in* $H^2(X,E)$.
(2) *Associated to any family* $\mathcal{X}/S = \operatorname{Spec} A$ *in* $F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ *there is a functorial foliation* $E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \subset T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ *which locally agrees with the trivial extension of* E *on any local trivialization of the* $\mathbf{U}_E(A)$*-cocycle representing* $\mathcal{X}/S$. *The lifts of* $\mathcal{X}/S$ *to* $F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A[\epsilon])$ *are canonically parametrized by a functorial quotient of* $H^1(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S})$.

We somewhat abusively refer to sections of F_E^{lt} as $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ even though the natural map $F_E^{\mathrm{lt}} \longrightarrow F_X^{\mathrm{lt}}$ may not be injective on sections.

Remark 2.12. Note that the functor F_E^{lt} is not the functor of locally trivial deformations for which E lifts locally trivially: there may well be sections of $\mathbf{U}_X(A)$ which stabilize $E \otimes_k A$ but do not come from exponentiating $E \otimes_k \mathfrak{m}_A$. Indeed, take $X = Y \times Z$ with the induced splitting

$$T_X = \pi_1^* T_Y \oplus \pi_2^* T_Z$$

and $E = \pi_1^* T_Y$. Then any locally trivial deformation of the two factors will obviously yield a locally trivial deformation of X for which the two foliations lift locally trivially, but such a deformation does not in general come from a section of F_E^{lt}. Moreover, in this case, the gluing maps for a section of F_E^{lt} are not required to preserve $\pi_2^* T_Z$—that is, they are not required to be constant in the Z direction.

In view of the above remark, we also introduce a functor of deformations along a foliation which preserve a splitting.

Definition 2.13. Let X/k be a complex space (or an algebraic scheme) and assume we have a splitting $T_X = E \oplus P$ where E is a foliation. For $A \in \mathrm{Art}_k$ and $S := \operatorname{Spec} A$ we define $F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ to be the set of $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ together with a lift $P_{\mathcal{X}/S} \subset T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ of P for which $T_{\mathcal{X}/S} = E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \oplus P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$, up to the obvious notion of isomorphism. We usually write $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ when we mean $(\mathcal{X}/S, P_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$.

Note that choices of a split complement to $E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \subset T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ naturally form a pseudo-torsor[4] for $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(E_{\mathcal{X}/S}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S}/E_{\mathcal{X}/S})$. Thus, on a local trivialization of the $\mathbf{U}_E(A)$-cocycle representing $\mathcal{X}/S$ over a cover U_i, the sheaf $P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ is locally identified with $(1 + f_i)(P|_{U_i} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A) \subset T_{U_i} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A$ for some $f_i \in H^0(U_i, \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_X}(P, E)) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{m}_A$.

Given a locally trivial deformation $\mathcal{X}/S$ over an artinian base S, the relative tangent sheaf $T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ acts via the adjoint representation on $T_{\mathcal{X}/S}$, and for $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ and any local section e of $E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ we locally obtain an $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}$-linear map $\mathrm{ad}_P(e) : P_{\mathcal{X}/S} \longrightarrow T_{\mathcal{X}/S}/P_{\mathcal{X}/S} \cong E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$. We define a two-term complex

$$M_{\mathcal{X}/S} := [E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ad}_P} \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S})]$$

supported in degrees $[0, 1]$. For simplicity we write $M := M_{X/k}$.

Proposition 2.14. *Assume* $\mathrm{char}(k) = 0$ *and suppose X/k is a separated complex space (or a separated algebraic scheme) with a splitting $T_X = E \oplus P$ where E is a foliation. Then*

1. *The functor $F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}$ admits a tangent-obstruction theory with tangent space equal to $\mathbb{H}^1(X, M)$ and obstructions in $\mathbb{H}^2(X, M)$.*
2. *For any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$, the lifts of $\mathcal{X}/S$ to $F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A[\epsilon])$ are canonically parametrized by a functorial quotient of $\mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}/S})$.*

[4] that is, a torsor if nonempty.

Before the proof it will be useful to explicitly describe the Čech hypercohomology of two-term complexes. For a two-term complex $K = [A \xrightarrow{f} B]$ of sheaves on a topological space supported in degrees $[0,1]$ and a cover $\underline{U} = \{U_i\}$, by taking the total Čech complex we see that the Čech cochains and coboundary operators are given by

$$\begin{aligned} C^k(\underline{U}, K) &= C^k(\underline{U}, A) \oplus C^{k-1}(\underline{U}, B) \\ \delta(a,b) &= (\delta a, \delta b + (-1)^{\deg a} f(a)). \end{aligned}$$

We write

$$\begin{aligned} Z^k(\underline{U}, K) &:= \ker\left(C^k(\underline{U}, K) \xrightarrow{\delta} C^{k+1}(\underline{U}, K)\right) \\ B^k(\underline{U}, K) &:= \operatorname{im}\left(C^{k-1}(\underline{U}, K) \xrightarrow{\delta} C^{k}(\underline{U}, K)\right) \end{aligned}$$

for the k-cocycles and k-coboundaries.

Proof of Proposition 2.14. Both parts are easily seen via Čech cohomology. By Proposition 2.11, any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ is trivialized on a Stein open cover $\{U_i\}$ of X. As nilpotent thickenings of Stein spaces are Stein, we may compute (hyper)cohomology in the following using Čech cohomology with the cover $\{U_i\}$.

For the tangent space claim in the first part, take a small extension $A' \longrightarrow A$ with kernel J, and assume $(\mathcal{X}'/S'), (\mathcal{X}'', S') \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A')$ both lift $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$. If $\mathcal{X}'/S'$ is given by gluing data g'_{ij} on U_{ij}, then $\mathcal{X}''/S'$ is given by gluing data $g'_{ij}(1-e_{ij})$ for a 1-cocycle e valued in $E \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J$, by Proposition 2.11. With respect to those local trivializations we have $P_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} = (1+f'_i)(P \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A')$, and therefore $P_{\mathcal{X}''/S} = (1+f'_i+v_i)(P \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A')$ for a 0-cochain v valued in $\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_X}(P,E) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J$. Now for the $P_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$ to glue we must have that $(1-f'_j)g'_{ij}(1+f'_i)$ preserves P, and likewise for the $P_{\mathcal{X}''/S'}$ to glue we must have that

$$(1-f'_j-v_j)g'_{ij}(1-e_{ij})(1+f'_i+v_i) = (1-f'_j)g'_{ij}(1+f'_i) + (-e_{ij}+v_i-v_j)$$

preserves P, and therefore that $\mathrm{ad}_P(e) = \delta v$. Working backward, $Z^1(\underline{U}, M) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J$ naturally acts transitively on the set of lifts of $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$, and the 1-coboundaries are easily seen to act trivially.

For the obstruction space claim in the first part, take $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(A)$ with gluing data g_{ij} and such that $P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ is locally identified with $(1+f_i)(P \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A)$. Choose arbitrary lifts g'_{ij} of g_{ij} and f'_i of f_i. Then taking $1+e_{ijk} = g'^{-1}_{ik} g'_{jk} g'_{ij}$ and $-v_{ij} \in H^0(U_{ij}, \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_X}(P,E) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J)$ the map induced by $(1-f'_j)g'_{ij}(1+f'_i)$, (e,v) is easily seen to be a 2-cocycle for $M \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J$ and to have cohomology class in $\mathbb{H}^2(X,M) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} J$ which is independent of the choices. If its a coboundary $(e,v) = \delta(x,y)$, then $g'_{ij}(1-x_{ij})$ satisfies the cocycle condition and thus gives gluing data for a lift $(\mathcal{X}'/S') \in F_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(A')$, and further $v_{ij} = -x_{ij} + y_i - y_j$, so the $(1+f_i+y_i)(P \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A)$ glue.

The second part follows by the same sort of computation as the proof of the tangent space claim in the first part, and is left to the reader. □

By Schlessinger's criterion [Sch68, Theorem 2.11], Proposition 2.5, Proposition 2.11, and Proposition 2.14, when X/k is proper, the functors F_X^{lt}, F_E^{lt}, and $F_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}$ all admit miniversal formal families in the category of formal complex spaces (or formal algebraic schemes), and we denote by $\widehat{\mathrm{Def}}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$, $\widehat{\mathrm{Def}}_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$, and $\widehat{\mathrm{Def}}_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$ the bases of such a miniversal formal family, which is unique up to (not necessarily unique) isomorphism.

Corollary 2.15. *In the setup of the proposition, assume further that X/k is proper. Then there are maps*

$$\widehat{\mathrm{Def}}_{E,P}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X) \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathrm{Def}}_E^{\mathrm{lt}}(X) \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathrm{Def}}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$$

of formal spaces whose derivatives are the natural maps

$$\mathbb{H}^1(X, M_X) \longrightarrow H^1(X, E) \longrightarrow H^1(X, T_X).$$

2.16. **Kuranishi spaces for locally trivial deformations.** We recall some results in the analytic category realizing formal deformation-theoretic objects as completions of germs.

Theorem 2.17 (Grauert, Douady)**.** *For any compact complex space Z there exists a miniversal deformation $\mathscr{Z} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Def}(Z)$ over a germ $\mathrm{Def}(Z)$ which is a versal deformation of all of its fibers.*

Proof. This is [Gra74, Hauptsatz, p 140], see also [Dou74, Théorème principal, p 598]. □

The family $\mathscr{Z} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Def}(Z)$ is called the *Kuranishi family* and $\mathrm{Def}(Z)$ is called *Kuranishi space*. If Z is a complex space satisfying $H^0(Z, T_Z) = 0$, then every miniversal deformation is universal.

We recall the analog of Theorem 2.17 for locally trivial deformations.

Theorem 2.18 (Flenner–Kosarew)**.** *For a miniversal deformation $\mathscr{Z} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Def}(Z)$ of a compact complex space Z there exists a closed complex subspace $\mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(Z) \subset \mathrm{Def}(Z)$ of the Kuranishi space such that*

$$\mathscr{Z} \times_{\mathrm{Def}(Z)} \mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(Z) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(Z)$$

is a locally trivial deformation of Z and is miniversal for locally trivial deformations of Z.

Proof. This is [FK87, (0.3) Corollary]. □

2.19. **Locally trivial resolutions.**

Definition 2.20. Let $S, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ be complex spaces (or finite type algebraic schemes), $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ and $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow S$ morphisms, and $f : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ an S-morphism. We say:

(1) f is *locally trivial* over S if there is a cover $\mathcal{X}_i$ of $\mathcal{X}$, a cover S_i of S, and morphisms $g_i : Y_i \longrightarrow X_i$ together with diagrams (over S)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Y}_i & \xrightarrow{\cong} & Y_i \times S_i \\ {\scriptstyle f|_{\mathcal{Y}_i}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle g_i \times \mathrm{id}} \\ \mathcal{X}_i & \xrightarrow{\cong} & X_i \times S_i \end{array}$$

where $\mathcal{Y}_i = f^{-1}(\mathcal{X}_i)$.

(2) f is *formally locally trivial* over S if for any $T = \operatorname{Spec} A \longrightarrow S$ with $A \in \operatorname{Art}_k$ the base-change $f_T : \mathcal{Y}_T \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}_T$ is locally trivial over T.

If f is (formally) locally trivial and fiberwise a resolution, we say it is a *(formally) locally trivial resolution (over S)*.

Let $X, Y/k$ be separated complex spaces (or separated finite type algebraic schemes) and $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ a k-morphism. There is a naturally defined deformation functor $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{Y/X} : \operatorname{Art}_k \longrightarrow \mathrm{Sets}$ of locally trivial deformations $\mathcal{X}/S$ and $\mathcal{Y}/S$ of X and Y, respectively, together with a locally trivial deformation $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of π. Let $\mathbf{U}_{Y/X}(A) \subset \pi_*\mathbf{U}_Y(A) \times \mathbf{U}_X(A)$ be the sheaf of subgroups whose sections over $U \subset X$ are pairs of A-automorphisms (f, g) making the following square commute over $\operatorname{Spec} A$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_U \times \operatorname{Spec} A & \xrightarrow{f} & Y_U \times \operatorname{Spec} A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ U \times \operatorname{Spec} A & \xrightarrow{g} & U \times \operatorname{Spec} A \end{array}$$

where $Y_U = \pi^{-1}(U)$. We have a natural identification

$$F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{Y/X}(A) = \check{H}^1(X, \mathbf{U}_{Y/X}(A)).$$

There is also a natural map of functors $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{Y/X} \longrightarrow F^{\mathrm{lt}}_X$ coming from the projection map $\mathbf{U}_{Y/X}(A) \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}_X(A)$.

Proposition 2.21. *Let $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ be a morphism for which $\pi_*T_Y \cong T_X$ via the natural map. Then for all $A \in \operatorname{Art}_k$ the natural map $\mathbf{U}_{Y/X}(A) \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}_X(A)$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. Obvious by induction on small extensions using the condition $\pi_*T_Y \cong T_X$. □

Corollary 2.22. *In the setup of the proposition, $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{Y/X} \xrightarrow{\cong} F^{\mathrm{lt}}_X$ via the natural map.*

By [GKK10, Corollary 4.7], for a reduced and normal complex space X, a log resolution $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ for which $\pi_*T_Y = T_X$ always exists, cf. also [Wło09, Theorem 2.0.1]. We deduce:

Corollary 2.23. *Let X be a normal compact complex variety and let $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$ be a miniversal locally trivial deformation. Then there is a locally trivial log resolution $\bar{\pi} : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ such that $\bar{\pi}_*T_{\mathcal{Y}/\operatorname{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)} = T_{\mathcal{X}/\operatorname{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)}$.*

Note that by this we mean $\bar{\pi} : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is a locally trivial resolution which is fiberwise a log resolution, which by the local triviality of $\bar{\pi}$ is equivalent to the special fiber being a log resolution. Moreover, it follows that the inclusion $\mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ of the exceptional divisor (and even the map $\mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$) is locally trivial.

Proof. Set $S = \mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$ and take a log resolution $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ for which $\pi_* T_Y = T_X$. From the proposition, we have a formal deformation $\widehat{\mathcal{Y}} \longrightarrow \widehat{S}$ of Y and a locally trivial formal deformation $\widehat{\pi} : \widehat{\mathcal{Y}} \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{X}}$ of π over $\widehat{S}$. We may trivialize $\mathcal{X}/S$ on a Stein cover $\mathcal{X}_i$ of $\mathcal{X}$ so that we have analytic gluing maps g_{ij} as in the right side of the diagram below

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_{i|j} \times \widehat{S} & \xrightarrow{\phi_{ij}} & Y_{j|i} \times \widehat{S} \\ {\scriptstyle \pi\times\mathrm{id}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \pi\times\mathrm{id}} \\ X_{i|j} \times \widehat{S} & \xrightarrow{\widehat{g}_{ij}} & X_{j|i} \times \widehat{S} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} Y_{i|j} \times S & \overset{f_{ij}}{\dashrightarrow} & Y_{j|i} \times S \\ {\scriptstyle \pi\times\mathrm{id}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \pi\times\mathrm{id}} \\ X_{i|j} \times S & \xrightarrow{g_{ij}} & X_{j|i} \times S \end{array}$$

where $\mathcal{X}_{i|j} := \mathcal{X}_i \times_{\mathcal{X}} \mathcal{X}_j$, $X_{i|j} := \mathcal{X}_{i|j} \times_{\mathcal{X}} S$, $Y_{i|j} := \pi^{-1}(X_{i|j})$, and all morphisms are S-morphisms. By the proposition, the resulting cocycle $(X_i, \widehat{g}_{ij})$ of $\mathbf{U}_X(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_S) := \varprojlim \mathbf{U}_X(\mathcal{O}_S/\mathfrak{m}_S^k)$ gives a cocycle for $\mathbf{U}_{Y/X}(\widehat{\mathcal{O}}_S)$ (analogously defined), as in the left part of the diagram. As π is an isomorphism on a Zariski open set and the $Y_{j|i} \times S$ are separated, the f_{ij} in the diagram on the right are locally uniquely determined, and if they exist they satisfy the cocycle condition. By [Art68, Theorem (1.5)(ii)], the f_{ij} exist locally, and so by the previous remark we obtain a locally trivial resolution $\bar{\pi} : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$. Since the ϕ_{ij} in the left diagram are also uniquely determined by $\widehat{g}_{ij}$, the map $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ in fact completes to $\widehat{\mathcal{Y}} \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{X}}$. □

Recall that the *Fujiki class* $\mathscr{C}$ consists of all those compact complex varieties which are meromorphically dominated by a compact Kähler manifold, see [Fuj79, §1]. Recall also that a normal complex variety X has *rational singularities* if for some (hence any) resolution $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ we have $R^q \pi_* \mathcal{O}_Y = 0$ for $q > 0$.

Corollary 2.24. *Let $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a locally trivial family of normal varieties of Fujiki class $\mathscr{C}$ with rational singularities. Then for all p the function $s \mapsto h^0(X_s, \Omega^{[p]}_{X_s})$ is locally constant.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ be a locally trivial resolution. By Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8] we have $h^0(Y_s, \Omega^p_{Y_s}) = h^0(X_s, \Omega^{[p]}_{X_s})$, and so the claim follows from the local constancy of Hodge numbers in smooth families. □

Remark 2.25. Corollary 2.22 in particular applies to the following situation. Suppose that Y is a compact normal variety and that there is a holomorphic symplectic form $\sigma \in H^0(Y^{\mathrm{reg}}, \Omega^2_{Y^{\mathrm{reg}}})$ on the regular part. If $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ is a proper bimeromorphic map to a normal variety X with rational singularities, then σ induces a symplectic form on X^{reg} and vector fields lift from X to Y as 1-forms do by Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8]. In particular, we obtain an analog of Corollary 2.23, i.e. the existence of a locally trivial deformation $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of π over $\mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$. Interesting cases

where this applies are when $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ is a $\mathbb{Q}$-factorial terminalization or just any crepant partial resolution of a singular symplectic variety X. This greatly simplifies the deformation theory of [BL16, Section 4], in particular, it allows to prove an analog of [BL16, Proposition 4.5] for arbitrary crepant bimeromorphic morphisms.

2.26. **Deformations along split symplectic foliations.** In this section we show that locally trivial deformations along split symplectic foliations (in the sense of Section 2.10) are unobstructed. The following definition will be useful,

Definition 2.27. Let $\mathcal{X}/S$ be a locally trivial family of normal varieties. Given $\tau \in H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[p]}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$, we define the radical

$$\operatorname{rad}(\tau) := \{t \in T_{\mathcal{X}/S} \mid \iota_t \tau = 0\} \subset T_{\mathcal{X}/S}.$$

Remark 2.28. Note that if τ is a reflexive p-form on a normal compact variety X of Fujiki class $\mathscr{C}$ with rational singularities, then $P = \operatorname{rad}(\tau)$ is automatically a foliation. Indeed, for any $u, v \in P$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\iota_{[u,v]}\tau &= \underbrace{L_u \iota_v \tau}_{=0} - \iota_v L_u \tau \\ &= -\iota_v \iota_u d\tau - \iota_v d\iota_u \tau = -\iota_v \iota_u d\tau = 0.\end{aligned}$$

since $d\tau = 0$ by Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8]. In particular, any splitting of T_X into $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules of trivial determinant is a splitting into foliations.

The precise setting for the main results of this section (Proposition 2.30 and Corollary 2.32) is as follows:

Setting 2.29. *Let $X/\mathbb{C}$ be a compact variety of Fujiki class $\mathscr{C}$ with rational singularities. Assume we have chosen a reflexive form $\sigma \in H^0(X, \Omega^{[2]}_X)$ and that we have a splitting*

$$T_X = E \oplus P$$

where

(i) E is a foliation and
(ii) $\operatorname{rad}(\sigma) = P$.

Proposition 2.30. *Assume Setting 2.29. Then $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}$ is unobstructed.*

Proof. For $\mathcal{X}/S$ in $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A)$, the deformation module of $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}$ is canonically a functorial quotient of $\mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ by Proposition 2.14. We will use the T^1-lifting criterion of [Ran92, Kaw92, Kaw97]. While $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}$ is not necessarily pro-representable, by Remark 2.7 we may use the version in [Gro97b, Theorem 1.8]. The claim follows once we know for any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A)$ and any lift $(\mathcal{X}'/S') \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A')$ through a small extension $A' \longrightarrow A$ that the restriction map

$$\mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}', M_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}/S})$$

is surjective.

Step 1. For any $A \in \mathrm{Art}_{\mathbb{C}}$ and for any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A)$ there exists a lift $\sigma_S \in H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ of σ for which $\mathrm{rad}(\sigma_S) = P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$.

It suffices to assume the existence of σ_S for $\mathcal{X}/S$ and show it can be lifted to any lift $\mathcal{X}'/S'$ of $\mathcal{X}/S$ through a small extension $A' \longrightarrow A$. Let $\bar{\pi}' : \mathcal{Y}' \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}'$ be a simultaneous locally trivial resolution with special fiber $\pi : Y \longrightarrow X$ as in Corollary 2.23. By Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8] we have $\pi_* \Omega^2_Y = \Omega^{[2]}_X$ via the natural map. By local triviality we then have $\bar{\pi}'_* \Omega^2_{\mathcal{Y}'/S'} = \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$ via the natural map, as both are flat and the natural map is an isomorphism on the special fiber. By Deligne [Del68, Théorème 5.5] (see also e.g. [BL18, Lemma 2.4] for the necessary changes in the analytic category), $H^0(\mathcal{X}', \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) = H^0(\mathcal{Y}', \Omega^2_{\mathcal{Y}'/S'})$ is free and compatible with base-change, and it follows that the restriction map $H^0(\mathcal{X}', \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) \longrightarrow H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ is surjective. The restriction map respects the splitting

$$\Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} = \bigwedge^{[2]} E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} \oplus \left(E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} [\otimes] P^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S} \right) \oplus \bigwedge^{[2]} P^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$$

and likewise over S. It follows that the claimed $\sigma_{S'}$ exists.

Step 2. For any $A \in \mathrm{Art}_{\mathbb{C}}$, any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A)$, and any lift $(\mathcal{X}'/S') \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A')$ through a small extension $A' \longrightarrow A$ the restriction map

$$H^1(\mathcal{X}', E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) \longrightarrow H^1(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S})$$

is surjective.

Taking $\sigma_{S'}$ as in the previous step and σ_S its restriction to $\mathcal{X}$, we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
H^1(\mathcal{X}', E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}', T_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \xrightarrow{\sigma_{S'}} & H^1(\mathcal{X}', \Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}', E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
H^1(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}, T_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \xrightarrow{\sigma_S} & H^1(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}, E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}/S})
\end{array}$$

where the vertical maps are restriction maps, the first horizontal maps are induced by the canonical inclusion $E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} \longrightarrow T_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$ (and likewise for $\mathcal{X}/S$), and the third horizontal maps are induced by the canonical quotient $\Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'} \longrightarrow E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$.

From [BL16, Lemma 2.4] the third vertical map is surjective, and from the splitting $\Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} = E^\vee_{\mathcal{X}/S} \oplus P^\vee_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ the fourth vertical map is surjective. The compositions of the three maps in each row are both isomorphisms by the properties of $\sigma_{S'}$ and $P_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}$, and the claim follows.

Step 3. For any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}(A)$ the natural sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow H^1(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact.

Using the long exact sequence associated to the triangle

$$M_{\mathcal{X}/S} \longrightarrow E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ad}_P} \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow M_{\mathcal{X}/S}[1]$$

its sufficient to show that the induced map

$$\mathrm{ad}_P : H^q(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \longrightarrow H^q(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}))$$

vanishes for $q = 0, 1$. Together with the degeneration of reflexive Hodge-to-de Rham $H^q(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[p]}_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \Rightarrow \mathbb{H}^{p+q}(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[\bullet]}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ in the range $p+q \leq 2$ [BL16, Lemma 2.4], it is enough to show the following:

Claim. Choose σ_S as in Step 1. Then we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_{\mathcal{X}/S} & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ad}_P} & \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \\ \downarrow & & \uparrow \\ \Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \end{array} \tag{2.4}$$

where the left vertical map is $t \mapsto \iota_t \sigma_S$ and the right vertical map associates to a form α the map $f \in \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ such that $\sigma_S(f(u), v) = -\alpha(u, v)$ for $u \in P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ and $v \in E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$.

Note that we have identifications $E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \cong E^{\vee}_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ (via σ_S), and

$$\Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \cong \bigwedge\nolimits^{[2]} E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \oplus (E_{\mathcal{X}/S}[\otimes] P^{\vee}_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \oplus \bigwedge\nolimits^{[2]} P^{\vee}_{\mathcal{X}/S}$$

under which the right vertical map of (2.4) is projection onto the middle factor (up to a sign).

Proof of the Claim. We need to show for sections t, e of $E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ and p of $P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ that

$$(d\iota_t\sigma_S)(p, e) = -\sigma_S([t, p], e).$$

On the one hand, since σ_S is closed (again by the low degree degeneration of reflexive Hodge-to-de Rham), we have

$$L_t\sigma_S = d\iota_t\sigma_S.$$

On the other hand, since σ_S vanishes on $P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}(L_t\sigma_S)(p, e) &= t.\underbrace{\sigma_S(p, e)}_{=0} - \sigma_S(L_t p, e) - \underbrace{\sigma_S(p, L_t e)}_{=0} \\ &= -\sigma_S([t, p], e).\end{aligned}$$

□

Step 4. Final step of the proof.

Now for $\mathcal{X}'/S'$ lifting $\mathcal{X}/S$, we have a natural diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}'}}(P_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}, E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}', E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}^1(\mathcal{X}, M_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S}) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

where the vertical maps are restrictions. The right vertical map is surjective by Step 2, while the left vertical map is surjective since $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}'}}(P_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}, E_{\mathcal{X}'/S'})$ is a summand of $H^0(\mathcal{X}', \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'})$ (after choosing a lift $\sigma_{S'}$) that is compatible with the restriction map $H^0(\mathcal{X}', \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}'/S'}) \longrightarrow H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$, which is surjective as in Step 1. The rows are exact by Step 3, and it follows that the middle vertical map is surjective, thus completing the proof. □

Remark 2.31. What is important in Proposition 2.30 is that P is the radical of a 2-form. If $P = \mathrm{rad}(\tau)$ for a higher degree reflexive p-form τ, then if $p = \mathrm{rank}(E)$ we may realize $E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ as a factor of $\Omega^{[p-1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ and the map $\mathrm{ad}_P : E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(P_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E_{\mathcal{X}/S})$ factors through $d : \Omega^{[p-1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \longrightarrow \Omega^{[p]}_{\mathcal{X}/S}$. Reflexive Hodge-to-de Rham does not however degenerate in general in higher degrees (although see [Dan91, Theorem 3.4] and [Ste77, (1.12) Theorem] for some special cases over a point).

Corollary 2.32. *Assume Setting 2.29. Then $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P} \longrightarrow F^{\mathrm{lt}}_E$ is formally smooth and the functor F^{lt}_E is unobstructed. In particular, there exists a locally trivial deformation $\mathscr{X} \longrightarrow (H^1(X,E), 0)$ of X whose Kodaira–Spencer map is the natural map $H^1(X,E) \longrightarrow H^1(X, T_X)$.*

Proof. As $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P} \longrightarrow F^{\mathrm{lt}}_E$ is surjective on tangent spaces by Step 3 of the proof of the proposition and $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}$ is unobstructed, it follows easily by induction on small extensions that $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P} \longrightarrow F^{\mathrm{lt}}_E$ is surjective on sections. The unobstructedness of $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E,P}$ then immediately implies that F^{lt}_E is unobstructed. By Corollary 2.15 we have a map on the level of formal spaces $(\widehat{H^1(X,E)}, 0) \longrightarrow \widehat{\mathrm{Def}}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$ with the required derivative, and by Artin approximation [Art68, Theorem (1.2)] there is a map on the level of analytic germs with the required derivative. □

Remark 2.33. Corollary 2.32 in particular says that in Setting 2.29 and for any $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_E(A)$ the splitting $T_X = E \oplus P$ lifts to a splitting $T_{\mathcal{X}/S} = E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \oplus P_{\mathcal{X}/S}$. One can by a similar argument show the following refinement. In Setting 2.29, further assume that we have chosen reflexive forms $\sigma^{(i)} \in H^0(X, \Omega^{[2]}_X)$ and that

(iii) $E = \bigoplus E^{(i)}$ and for each i we have $\mathrm{rad}(\sigma^{(i)}) = E^{(\neq i)} \oplus P$ where $E^{(\neq i)} := \bigoplus_{j \neq i} E^{(j)}$.

Then the functor $F^{\mathrm{lt}}_{E^{(1)},\dots,E^{(k)},P}$ of locally trivially deformations along E together with a lift of the splitting is unobstructed, and therefore for every $(\mathcal{X}/S) \in F^{\mathrm{lt}}_E(A)$ the splitting $T_X = \bigoplus E^{(i)} \oplus P$ lifts. The proof is largely the same, with the obstructions to lifting $E^{(i)}_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ now governed by the map

$$E_{\mathcal{X}/S} \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ad}_{E^{(i)}}} \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(E^{(i)}_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E^{(\neq i)}_{\mathcal{X}/S})$$

with the analogous notation, since $E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$ is stable under the adjoint action of $E_{\mathcal{X}/S}$. The key point is once again that we have a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_{\mathcal{X}/S} & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{ad}_{E^{(i)}}} & \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}}(E^{(i)}_{\mathcal{X}/S}, E^{(\neq i)}_{\mathcal{X}/S}) \\ \downarrow & & \uparrow \\ \Omega^{[1]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} & \xrightarrow{\quad d \quad} & \Omega^{[2]}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \end{array}$$

where the left vertical map is now $t \mapsto \iota_t \sigma_S^{(\neq i)}$ where $\sigma_S^{(\neq i)} := \sum_{j \neq i} \sigma_S^{(j)}$. We leave the details to the interested reader. This provides an alternative to the use of Proposition 5.1 in the proof of Theorem A.

3. K-trivial varieties and strong approximations

Let us fix terminology. Recall that a normal n-dimensional variety X with rational singularities is Cohen–Macaulay and therefore the dualizing complex $\omega_X^\bullet$ is quasi-isomorphic to the shifted sheaf $\omega_X[n]$ where ω_X is the double dual of $\det \Omega^1_X$. We denote the reflexive powers by $\omega_X^{[m]} := (\omega_X^{\otimes m})^{\vee\vee}$.

Definition 3.1. A *numerically K-trivial* variety is a normal complex variety X with rational singularities such that $\omega_X^{[m]}$ is a line bundle for some $m > 0$ and $c_1(\omega_X) = 0$ as an element of $H^2(X, \mathbb{Q})$. If ω_X satisfies $\omega_X^{[m]} \cong \mathcal{O}_X$ for some $m > 0$ we say that X is *K-torsion*. We say X is *K-trivial* if $\omega_X^{\vee\vee} \cong \mathcal{O}_X$.

Remark 3.2. Let X be a compact Kähler space with log terminal singularities. By [CGP19, Corollary 1.18], numerical K-triviality is equivalent to X being K-torsion. A closer look at the proof shows that the results also holds if X is merely in Fujiki class $\mathscr{C}$. Note that by normality, $\omega_X^{[m]} \cong \mathcal{O}_X$ if and only if $\omega_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}^m \cong \mathcal{O}_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}$. Moreover, by the result of Kebekus–Schnell ([KS18, Corollary 1.8]), if X is normal with rational singularities and $\omega_X^{\vee\vee} \cong \mathcal{O}_X$, then it has canonical singularities (and is in particular K-trivial in the above sense).

It is easy to construct examples of numerically K-trivial varieties in the sense of Definition 3.1. For example, any anti-canonical divisor with rational singularities in a Gorenstein variety is K-trivial. Kähler varieties with symplectic singularities in the sense of Beauville provide some other examples (in particular, see the primitive symplectic varieties of [BL18]).

3.3. **Proof of Theorem B.** We are now ready to prove Theorem B. Given the results of Section 2.26, the main step is to show the following:

Lemma 3.4. *Let X be a numerically K-trivial compact Kähler variety with log terminal singularities. Then there exists a splitting $T_X = E \oplus P$ where E is a foliation such that*

(1) every reflexive 2-form $H^0(X, \Omega_X^{[2]})$ vanishes on P;

(2) there is a reflexive 2-form $\sigma \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^{[2]})$ which is nondegenerate on E.

Proof. We fix a Kähler class on X and consider the (unique) singular Ricci flat metric ω in that class. By [CGGN20, Theorem C], there is a Galois quasi-étale cover $\pi : \widetilde{X} \longrightarrow X$ such that

$$T_{\widetilde{X}} = F \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in I} C_i \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J} S_j.$$

is a splitting into foliations that are parallel with respect to $\pi^*\omega$ on $\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}$. Moreover, $F|_{\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ is flat, the $C_i|_{\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ have holonomy $\mathrm{SU}(\mathrm{rank}(C_i))$, and the $S_j|_{\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ have holonomy $\mathrm{Sp}(\mathrm{rank}(S_j)/2)$. Let G be the Galois group; it preserves the Kähler–Einstein metric $\pi^*\omega$. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega_{\widetilde{X}}^{[2]}) &= H^0(\widetilde{X}, \textstyle\bigwedge^{[2]} F^\vee) \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J} H^0(\widetilde{X}, \bigwedge^{[2]} S_j^\vee) \\ &= H^0(\widetilde{X}, \textstyle\bigwedge^{[2]} F^\vee) \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathbb{C}\sigma_J. \end{aligned}$$

Since G fixes F and permutes the S_j's, it follows that $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \bigwedge^{[2]} F^\vee)$ and $U := \bigoplus_j \mathbb{C}\sigma_j$ are G-subrepresentations of $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega_{\widetilde{X}}^{[2]})$. Let $J_E \subset J$ be the subset of indices for which there is a $\sigma \in U^G$ with a nonzero σ_j coefficient. Let $J_P := J \setminus J_E$. Clearly, the action of G on J by permutations preserves J_E and J_P.

The common radical of $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \bigwedge^{[2]} F^\vee)^G$ inside F defines a G-invariant subfoliation $V \subset F$ which admits a G-invariant complementary foliation $W \subset F$, namely the orthogonal complement with respect to the flat hermitian metric induced by $\pi^*\omega$ on $F|_{\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}}$.

Consider the splitting

$$T_{\widetilde{X}} = \left(W \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J_E} S_j \right) \oplus \left(V \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in I} C_i \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J_P} S_j \right). \tag{3.1}$$

A sufficiently general element of $H^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega_{\widetilde{X}}^{[2]})^G$ will be nondegenerate on the first factor (as each of the σ_j are nondegenerate on S_j), while every invariant reflexive 2-form will vanish on the second factor. Each of the two factors of (3.1) is G-invariant, and therefore descends to the desired splitting. Note that each factor is parallel and hence a foliation (but see also Remark 2.28). □

By the lemma, we are in Setting 2.29, and therefore Corollary 2.32 applies. In view of Graf–Schwald [GS20, Theorem 3.1], the proof is completed by the following:

Lemma 3.5. *For X as in the previous lemma, suppose there is a splitting $T_X = E \oplus P$ such that every reflexive 2-form vanishes on P. Then for any Kähler class ω on X, the contraction map*

$$\iota_\omega : H^1(X, E) \longrightarrow H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$$

is surjective.

Proof. Set $n := \dim X$; one may assume $n > 1$. The contraction map

$$\iota_\omega : H^1(X, T_X) \longrightarrow H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$$

is already surjective by [GS20, Theorem 4.1], and the proof of the lemma follows by a similar computation. We have a perfect pairing

$$H^0(X, \Omega_X^{[2]}) \otimes H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} : (\alpha, \beta) \mapsto \int_X \omega^{n-2} \wedge \alpha \wedge \beta$$

and so ι_ω is identified with the surjective map $f : H^1(X, T_X) \longrightarrow H^0(X, \Omega_X^{[2]})^\vee$ given by

$$f(t) : \alpha \mapsto \int_X \omega^{n-2} \wedge \alpha \wedge \iota_t(\omega) = -\frac{1}{n-1} \int_X \omega^{n-1} \wedge \iota_t(\alpha)$$

using that $\omega^{n-1} \wedge \alpha = 0$ and

$$\iota_t(\omega^{n-1} \wedge \alpha) = (n-1)\, \omega^{n-2} \wedge \iota_t(\omega) \wedge \alpha + \omega^{n-1} \wedge \iota_t(\alpha).$$

Now any $\alpha \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^{[2]})$ vanishes on P, so f kills $H^1(X, P)$, whence the lemma. □

The proof of Theorem B is now complete. □

3.6. **Quasi-étale covers in families and applications.** In this section we deduce some first consequences of Theorem B. We refer to the introduction for the definitions of quasi-étale maps and quasi-étale covers. We first prove two lemmas asserting that quasi-étale covers can be spread out in locally trivial families, and that the resulting families are also locally trivial. Because it is all we will need, for simplicity we only consider families over the disk Δ.

Recall that a quasi-étale cover restricts to an étale cover of X^{reg}, and conversely any étale cover of X^{reg} can be extended to a quasi-étale cover of X [DG94, Thm. 3.4].

Lemma 3.7. *Let $\pi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ be a locally trivial family of normal varieties.*

(1) Let $f : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ be a quasi-étale cover. Then for any $t \in \Delta$, f induces a quasi-étale cover $f_t : Y_t \longrightarrow X_t$.

(2) Conversely, let $t \in \Delta$ and let $f_t : Y_t \longrightarrow X_t$ be a étale cover. Then there exists a finite, quasi-étale cover $f : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ such that $f|_{Y_t} = f_t$.

Proof. The first part is straightforward; by Nagata's purity of branch locus, f is étale over $\mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}$ hence f_t is étale over $\mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}} \cap X_t = X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}$. As for the second assertion, note that the canonical morphism $\pi_1(X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}) \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}})$ induced by the inclusion $X_t^{\mathrm{reg}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}$ is actually isomorphic since π is topologically trivial. In particular, any étale cover $Y_t^{\mathrm{reg}} \longrightarrow X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}$ is the restriction of an étale cover $\mathcal{Y}^{\mathrm{reg}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}$ over Δ. □

Lemma 3.8. *Let $\pi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ be a locally trivial family of normal varieties and $f : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ a quasi-étale cover. Then $f \circ \pi : \mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \Delta$ is locally trivial.*

Proof. Let $U \subset \mathcal{X}$ be an (Euclidean) open set such that the top arrow below is an isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X_0 \cap U) \times \Delta & \xrightarrow{\cong} & U \\ & {\scriptstyle \mathrm{pr}_2} \searrow \quad \swarrow {\scriptstyle \pi} & \\ & \Delta & \end{array}$$

Performing a base change by $f|_{f^{-1}(U)}$, we get over Δ

$$\begin{array}{ccc} ((X_0 \cap U) \times \Delta) \times_U f^{-1}(U) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & f^{-1}(U) \\ \downarrow {\scriptstyle g} & & \downarrow {\scriptstyle f} \\ (X_0 \cap U) \times \Delta & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{X}|_U \end{array}$$

For simplicity, set $U_0 := U \times X_0$, $V := U_0 \times_U f^{-1}(U)$ and $V^\circ := g^{-1}(U_0^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \Delta)$ so that the diagram above becomes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} V^\circ & \hookrightarrow & V & \xrightarrow{\cong} & f^{-1}(U) \\ \downarrow {\scriptstyle g|_{V^\circ}} & & \downarrow {\scriptstyle g} & & \downarrow {\scriptstyle f} \\ U_0^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \Delta & \hookrightarrow & U_0 \times \Delta & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{X}|_U \end{array}$$

The map $g|_{V^\circ} : V^\circ \to U_0^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \Delta$ is étale and Δ is simply connected, so there exists an étale cover $r^\circ : W^\circ \to U_0^{\mathrm{reg}}$ and an isomorphism of (étale) covers

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W^\circ \times \Delta & \xrightarrow{\cong} & V^\circ \\ \downarrow {\scriptstyle r^\circ \times \mathrm{id}} & & \downarrow {\scriptstyle g|_{V^\circ}} \\ U_0^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \Delta & \longrightarrow & U_0^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \Delta \end{array}$$

By [DG94, Theorem 3.4], one can find a normal Kähler space W with a finite cover $r : W \to U_0$ extending r°. By the uniqueness statement of *loc. cit.*, the cover $r \times \mathrm{id} : W \times \Delta \to U_0 \times \Delta$ is isomorphic to $g : V \to U_0 \times \Delta$. This shows that $\mathcal{Y}|_{f^{-1}(U)} \to \Delta$ is trivial, hence $\mathcal{Y} \to \Delta$ is locally trivial. □

Corollary 3.9. *Let X be a numerically K-trivial variety with log terminal singularities. Then X admits a maximally quasi-étale cover $\widetilde{X} \to X$; i.e. the natural morphism $\hat{\pi}_1(\widetilde{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}) \to \hat{\pi}_1(\widetilde{X})$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. This is an immediate consequence of Theorem B combined with [GKP16a, Theorem 1.5] and Lemma 3.7 above. □

Recall that for X a compact Kähler variety with rational singularities, the augmented irregularity $\widetilde{q}(X)$ [CGGN20, Definition 2.1] is

$$\widetilde{q}(X) = \max\left\{ h^1(\widetilde{X}, \mathcal{O}_{\widetilde{X}}) = h^0(\widetilde{X}, \Omega^{[1]}_{\widetilde{X}}) \mid \widetilde{X} \to X \text{ quasi-étale cover} \right\}.$$

Corollary 3.10. *Let $\mathcal{X} \to \Delta$ be a locally trivial deformation of a K-trivial Kähler variety X with canonical singularities. Then the augmented irregularity $\widetilde{q}(X_t)$ is constant, and one fiber is IHS (resp. ICY) if and only if every fiber is IHS (resp. ICY).*

Proof. The first statement is immediate from the lemmas and Corollary 2.24.

For the second part, assume that one fiber, say X_0, is ICY or IHS. This implies that $\widetilde{q}(X_0) = 0$, and $\widetilde{q}(X_t) = 0$ for all t. We fix $t \in \Delta$. By [CGGN20, Theorem C & Proposition 6.9] and Corollary 3.9, there exists a quasi-étale cover $\widetilde{X}_t \longrightarrow X_t$ such that the tangent sheaf of $\widetilde{X}_t$ has a decomposition $T_{\widetilde{X}_t} = (\oplus_{i\in I} C_i) \oplus (\oplus_{j\in J} S_j)$ where C_i (resp. S_j) is of ICY type (resp. IHS type). By the lemmas above, one can find $\widetilde{\mathcal{X}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ quasi-étale extending $\widetilde{X}_t \longrightarrow X_t$ and inducing a locally trivial deformation.

If one can show that $T_{\widetilde{X}_t}$ has a single summand, then $\widetilde{X}_t$ will be either ICY or IHS by [CGGN20, Corollary E] and the type of $\widetilde{X}_t$ will then be determined by the Hodge numbers $t \mapsto h^0(\widetilde{X}_t, \Omega^{[p]}_{X_t})$ which are independent of t, cf. Corollary 2.24. By the same argument, X_t itself will be ICY or IHS, with type determined by that of X_0.

Since each of the factors in the decomposition of $T_{\widetilde{X}_t}$ accounts for at least one holomorphic form (in maximal rank), there can be only one such factor if X_0 is ICY.

It now remains to show the corollary in the case where X_0 is IHS. Write $\dim X_0 = 2n$. First, one observes that $|J| = h^0(\widetilde{X}_t, \Omega^{[2]}_{\widetilde{X}_t}) = 1$. Let $\sigma \in H^0(\widetilde{X}_t, \Omega^{[2]}_{\widetilde{X}_t})$ a non-zero element and let $m := \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{rank}(S_1)$. We have $m \leq n$, and we want to show that this inequality is actually an equality. Clearly, one has $\sigma^{m+1} = 0$. Remember that the cup product map $\mathrm{Sym}^k H^2(\widetilde{X}_0, \mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H^{2k}(\widetilde{X}_0, \mathbb{Q})$ is injective for any $k \leq n$, cf. [BL18, Proposition 5.15], so the same statement is true for $\widetilde{X}_t$ as locally trivial families (over Δ) are topologically trivial. This implies that $m + 1 > n$, and given that $n \geq m$, we have $n = m$ as desired. □

4. Reminder on the Douady space

For a proper morphism $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ of complex spaces we denote by $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S) \longrightarrow S$ the relative Douady space constructed by Pourcin [Pou69], who generalized the work of Douady [Dou66] to the relative situation. Let us denote by $\overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}/S) \subset \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ the union of all irreducible components whose general element parametrizes a pure dimensional reduced subspace of dimension q. Let $\mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}/S)$ be the relative Barlet space of dimension q cycles in the fibers of f, see [Bar75, Théorème 5]. By [Bar75, Théorème 8], there is a morphism of complex spaces

$$\varrho : (\overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}/S))_{\mathrm{red}} \longrightarrow \mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}/S) \tag{4.1}$$

where $(\overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}/S))_{\mathrm{red}}$ denotes the reduction of $\overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}/S)$.

Remark 4.1. As the following example shows, pure dimensionality is not an open property. The Hilbert scheme $H = \mathrm{Hilb}^{3n+1}(\mathbb{P}^3)$ is a union $H = H' \cup H''$ where H' and H'' are smooth and irreducible (of dimension 12, 15 respectively) and intersect transversally with $\dim H' \cap H'' = 11$, see the main theorem of [PS85]. Generically, H' parametrizes twisted cubics and H'' parametrizes plane cubics in $\mathbb{P}^3$ union an additional point. Both may degenerate to a singular plane cubic with an embedded point at a singularity. In particular, elements of $H' \cap H''$ are pure dimensional (with embedded points) while the general element of H'' is not.

Fujiki has obtained important properness results about the Douady and the Barlet space. These results are fairly comprehensive for Kähler morphisms. We need however a slight generalization to weakly Kähler morphisms. Following [Bin83a] we call a morphism $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ *weakly Kähler* if for any $s_0 \in S$, there exists a neighborhood $S^\circ \subset S$ of S and a smooth $(1,1)$-form θ on $\mathcal{X}^\circ := \mathcal{X} \times_S S^\circ$ such that for all $s \in S^\circ$, the restriction $\theta|_{X_s^\circ}$ is a Kähler form. Here, X_s° is the fiber at s of $\mathcal{X}^\circ \longrightarrow S^\circ$. See [Bin83b, Example 3.9] for an example attributed to Deligne showing that a deformation of a Kähler manifold need not be a Kähler morphism.

We call a morphism $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ *weakly of Fujiki class* if there is a weakly Kähler morphism $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow S$ and a proper surjective S-morphism $\mathcal{Y} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$. The following result is proven with exactly the same methods as in Fujiki's articles [Fuj79, Fuj82]. We include a sketch of a proof as we could not find it anywhere in the literature. The argument is similar to [GLR13, Proposition 2.6].

Proposition 4.2. *Let $\mathcal{X}, S$ be reduced and irreducible complex spaces, let $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a proper locally trivial morphism which is weakly of Fujiki class, let $S^\circ \subset S$ be any simply connected relatively compact subspace, and denote $\mathcal{X}^\circ := \mathcal{X} \times_S S^\circ$. Then every irreducible component $D \subset \overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ respectively $B \subset \mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ is proper over S°.*

Proof. Using the argument of [Fuj82, (5.2) Theorem], we may reduce to the case where $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ is weakly Kähler. By [Fuj79, Proposition 3.1], the morphism $\varrho : D \longrightarrow \mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ is proper, so it suffices to show the statement for the Barlet space. Let $B \subset \mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ be an irreducible component and denote by $\{F_b\}_{b\in B}$ the universal family of cycles parametrized by B. Let θ be a weak Kähler metric for f. The key point is to show that $\lambda(b) := \int_{F_b} \theta^q$ is bounded as $b \in B$ varies, cf. the proof of [Fuj79, Proposition 4.1].

By [AV19, Proposition 6.1], the sheaf $(R^{2q} f_* \mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}^\circ})^\vee$ is a local system, and the argument of [Ful98, Lemma 19.1.3] shows that $b \mapsto [F_b]$ defines a section of the pulled back local system along the projection $\pi : B \longrightarrow S^\circ$. As S° is simply connected, the local system is constant and thus the $[F_b]$ determine a global section L of $(R^{2q} f_* \mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}^\circ})^\vee$. In particular, the continuous function $\lambda' : S^\circ \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $\lambda'(s) := L_s([\theta_s]^q)$ satisfies $\pi^*\lambda' = \lambda$. As λ' can be extended to the closure $\overline{S}^\circ$ in S, we see that λ is bounded. □

The following is an immediate consequence.

Corollary 4.3. *Let S be a reduced and irreducible complex space, let $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a locally trivial deformation of a compact Kähler variety X with rational singularities. With the notation of Proposition 4.2, every irreducible component $D \subset \overline{\mathscr{D}}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ respectively $B \subset \mathscr{B}_q(\mathcal{X}^\circ/S^\circ)$ is proper over S°.*

Proof. By [Bin83a, Theorem 6.3], f is weakly Kähler. □

As a consequence of properness, we obtain the following result.

Lemma 4.4. *Let X be a normal compact Kähler variety with rational singularities. Let $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a locally trivial deformation of X over an irreducible and reduced base S. Suppose that for some nonempty Euclidean open $V \subset S$ we have a product decomposition*

$$\mathcal{X} \times_S V \cong \mathcal{Y}_V \times_V \mathcal{Z}_V$$

for locally trivial $\mathcal{Y}_V, \mathcal{Z}_V/V$ and suppose that V is contained in a relatively compact simply connected subspace $S^\circ \subset S$. Then up to replacing S by S°, there is a finite morphism $S' \longrightarrow S$, a Euclidean open $V' \subset S'$ mapping generically isomorphically onto V, and a Zariski open $U' \subset S'$ containing V' such that the base change $\mathcal{X} \times_S U' \longrightarrow U'$ has a product decomposition

$$\mathcal{X} \times_S U' \cong \mathcal{Y} \times_{U'} \mathcal{Z} \tag{4.2}$$

for locally trivial $\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}/U'$ that specializes to the pullback of the one of $\mathcal{X} \times_S V$ over V'.

Proof. We may also assume S is normal by passing to the normalization. We will proceed in three steps.

Step 1. Let $v \in V$ and $z \in Z_v$ be smooth points. Then the relative Douady space $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ is smooth over S at $Y(z) := Y_v \times \{z\}$ and $\dim_{[Y(z)]} \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S) = \dim Z_v + \dim S$.

The normal bundles form a short exact sequence $0 \longrightarrow N_{Y(z)/\mathcal{X}_v} \longrightarrow N_{Y(z)/\mathcal{X}} \longrightarrow N_{\mathcal{X}_v/\mathcal{X}}|_{Y(z)} \longrightarrow 0$ where the outer terms are trivial bundles of rank $\dim Z_v$ respectively $\dim S$. We deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \dim T_{\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S),[Y(z)]} &= \dim H^0(Y(z), N_{Y(z)/\mathcal{X}}) \\ &\leq \dim Z_v + \dim S \\ &= \dim \mathcal{Z}_V \\ &\leq \dim_{[Y(z)]} \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the last inequality follows from the fact that the second projection $\mathcal{X} \times_S V \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_V$ can be thought of as the family of fibers $Y(z)$ and the resulting classifying map $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ is clearly injective. We infer that equality holds above and $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ is smooth at $[Y(z)]$.

Before the next step, we set some notation. By the previous step, there is a unique irreducible component $D \subset \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ passing through $[Y(z)] \in \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ and we let $D^\nu \longrightarrow D$ be its normalization. We denote by $\mathcal{F} \subset D^\nu \times_S \mathcal{X}$ the (pullback of the) universal family and consider the S-morphism $e : \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ induced by projection. Replacing S by S°, we may assume that $D^\nu \longrightarrow S$ is proper by Corollary 4.3 and therefore has a Stein factorization $D^\nu \longrightarrow S' \longrightarrow S$. Moreover, S' is irreducible and $S' \longrightarrow S$ is surjective, as D respectively $D \longrightarrow S$ are.

Step 2. There is a nonempty Zariski open $U' \subset S'$ and a Euclidean open $V' \subset U' \cap (S' \times_S V)$ such that the induced morphisms $e \times \mathrm{id} : \mathcal{F} \times_{S'} U' \longrightarrow \mathcal{X} \times_S U'$ and $V' \longrightarrow V$ are isomorphisms.

Clearly, the classifying map of $\mathcal{Z}_V$ factors as $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow D \subset \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$. By construction, $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow D$ is injective and as the induced map $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow D \times_S V$ is proper (since $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow V$ is), $\mathcal{Z}_V$ maps bijectively onto an irreducible component of $D \times_S V$. As $D^\nu \times_S V = (D \times_S V)^\nu$, we have a factorization $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow D^\nu \longrightarrow D$ such that $\mathcal{Z}_V$ is isomorphic to a connected component of $D^\nu \times_S V$. The map $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow V$ factors through an isomorphism $V' \longrightarrow V$ for a connected component $V' \subset S' \times_S V$. Indeed, $V' \longrightarrow V$ is finite and bimeromorphic as $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow V$ has connected fibers and V is normal by assumption. Over $V' \subset S'$ we have a diagram

(4.3)
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \overset{\alpha}{\frown} & & \\ \mathcal{X} \times_S V' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} \times_{S'} V' & \longrightarrow & (\mathcal{X} \times_S S') \times_{S'} V' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ \mathcal{Z}_V & \longrightarrow & D^\nu \times_{S'} V' & & \\ & \searrow & \downarrow & & \\ & & V' & & \end{array}$$

where α is the identity, so $\mathcal{F} \times_{S'} V' \longrightarrow (\mathcal{X} \times_S S') \times_{S'} V'$ is an isomorphism. The locus $U' \subset S'$ over which $\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X} \times_S S'$ is an isomorphism, is Zariski open (and nonempty as $V' \subset U'$).

Step 3. Final step of the proof.

We also apply the preceding steps swapping Y and Z, and thus obtain for $i = Y$ (resp. $i = Z$) finite morphisms $S_i \longrightarrow S$ and nonempty Zariski open subsets $U_i \subset S_i$ such that the following hold:

(1) Let D_i be the unique component of $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ containing all points corresponding to subspaces of the form $Y(z)$ (resp. $Z(y)$). Let $D_i^\nu \longrightarrow D_i$ be the normalization. Then $D_i^\nu \longrightarrow S_i \longrightarrow S$ is the Stein factorization.
(2) Let $\mathcal{F}_i \longrightarrow D_i^\nu$ is the pullback of the universal family to the normalization. Then the morphism $\mathcal{F}_i \longrightarrow \mathcal{X} \times_S S_i$ is an isomorphism over U_i.
(3) The inclusion $V \subset S$ lifts to $V_i \subset S_i$ and the canonical map $\mathcal{Z}_V \longrightarrow D_Y^\nu \times_{S_Y} V_Y$ (resp. $\mathcal{Y}_V \longrightarrow D_Z^\nu \times_{S_Z} V_Z$) is an isomorphism over V.

Passing to $S' := S_Y \times_S S_Z$ and the intersection U' of the preimages of U_i under $S' \longrightarrow S_i$ we obtain morphisms $\mathcal{F}_i \times_{S_i} S' \longrightarrow \mathcal{X} \times_S S'$ whose restrictions to U' are isomorphisms. In particular, we have projections $\mathcal{X} \times_S U' \longrightarrow D_i^\nu \times_{S_i} U'$. Set $\mathcal{Y} = D_Z^\nu \times_{S_Z} U'$ and $\mathcal{Z} = D_Y^\nu \times_{S_Y} U'$. The product morphism

$$\mathcal{X} \times_S U' \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y} \times_{U'} \mathcal{Z} \tag{4.4}$$

is an isomorphism when restricted over $V' \subset U'$. Note that

$$(\mathcal{Y} \times_{U'} \mathcal{Z}) \times_{S'} V' \cong \mathcal{Y}_V \times_V \mathcal{Z}_V$$

by construction. By shrinking U' we may assume that (4.4) is an isomorphism and that $\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}/U'$ are locally trivial, as the former is Zariski open and the latter Zariski closed (by Theorem 2.18). □

Remark 4.5. The proof actually shows a little more, namely that $\mathcal{X} \times_S S'$ is bimeromorphic to a fiber product whose factors are locally trivial families over $U' \subset S'$.

We also record another consequence of the proof, mainly to set the notation for later use.

Corollary 4.6. *Let X be a normal compact Kähler variety with rational singularities. Suppose we have a locally trivial family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ with special fiber X such that $\mathcal{X}^* := \mathcal{X} \times_\Delta \Delta^* = \mathcal{Y}^* \times_{\Delta^*} \mathcal{Z}^*$ where $\mathcal{Y}^*, \mathcal{Z}^*/\Delta^*$ are locally trivial. Then up to replacing Δ by a relatively compact open subset containing the origin there is a (reduced) component $D_Y \subset \mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/\Delta)$ which is proper over Δ such that, setting $D_Y^* := D_Y \times_\Delta \Delta^*$ and $\mathcal{F}_Y^* := \mathcal{F}_Y \times_\Delta \Delta^*$ the restriction of the universal family $\mathcal{F}_Y \subset \mathcal{X} \times_\Delta D_Y$, the graph of the second projection $\mathcal{X}^* \subset \mathcal{X}^* \times_{\Delta^*} \mathcal{Z}^*$ is isomorphic as a family of subspaces of $\mathcal{X}^*$ over $\mathcal{Z}^*$ to $\mathcal{F}_Y^* \subset \mathcal{X}^* \times_{\Delta^*} D_Y^*$ over D_Y^*. Likewise for $D_Z, \mathcal{F}_Z$.*

Proof. By Corollary 4.3, we can shrink Δ and find a component D_Y of $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/\Delta)$ which contains the generic fibers $Y_t \times \{z\}$ and which is proper over Δ. The projection $\mathcal{X}^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}^*$ yields a bijective classifying map $\mathcal{Z}^* \longrightarrow D_Y^*$ as in the proof of the lemma. The resulting pullback map $\mathcal{X}^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_Y^*$ is in fact an isomorphism, as the evaluation map $\mathcal{F}_Y^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}^*$ provides an inverse. It follows that the Stein factorization of $\mathcal{F}_Y^* \longrightarrow D_Y^*$ is identified with $\mathcal{X}^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}^* \longrightarrow D_Y^*$, but as $\mathcal{X}^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}^*$ is faithfully flat and $\mathcal{F}_Y^* \longrightarrow D_Y^*$ is flat, it follows that $\mathcal{Z}^* \longrightarrow D_Y^*$ is flat hence an isomorphism. □

5. Splittings of relative tangent sheaves

In this section we show that given a product decomposition on the general fiber of a locally trivial family of K-trivial varieties, the induced splitting of the tangent bundle extends to the special fiber.

Proposition 5.1. *Let $\pi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ be a locally trivial family of K-trivial Kähler varieties with rational singularities. Let X be the special fiber. Assume we have a product decomposition $\mathcal{X}^* := \mathcal{X} \times_\Delta \Delta^* = \mathcal{Y}^* \times_{\Delta^*} \mathcal{Z}^*$ for locally trivial families $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}^* \longrightarrow \Delta$ and $\pi_2 : \mathcal{Z}^* \longrightarrow \Delta^*$. Then there is a splitting*

$$T_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta} = A \oplus B$$

into foliations such that $A|_{\mathcal{X}^*} = \pi_1^* T_{\mathcal{Y}^*/\Delta^*}$ and $B|_{\mathcal{Y}^*} = \pi_2^* T_{\mathcal{Z}^*/\Delta^*}$ as subsheaves of $T_{\mathcal{X}^*/\Delta^*}$.

Before the proof of Proposition 5.1 we make some preliminary remarks. We start by observing that there is a limit Künneth decomposition on the level of cohomology.

Lemma 5.2. *Assume the setup of Proposition 5.1. Let $j : \Delta^* \longrightarrow \Delta$ be the inclusion. Then we have decompositions of local systems*

$$R^k\pi_*\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}} \cong \bigoplus_{r+s=k} j_*R^r\pi_{1*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} j_*R^s\pi_{2*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Z}^*} \tag{5.1}$$

extending the Künneth decompositions over Δ^*.

Proof. As π is topologically trivial, each $R^k\pi_*\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}}$ has no local monodromy, and it follows that each $R^k\pi_{1*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}$ and $R^k\pi_{2*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$ also has no monodromy (since for instance $\pi_{1*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}$ and $\pi_{2*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$ have no monodromy). □

Note that the isomorphisms preserve the integral structure—that is, the torsion-free quotients of cohomology with integral coefficients—and that we also have the corresponding decomposition on the level of homology. The decompositions are also compatible with cup and cap products.

Next we upgrade Lemma 5.2 to a Künneth decomposition of variations of mixed Hodge structures.

Lemma 5.3. *Let $f : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ be a locally trivially family over a smooth base S. Then for all k, $R^kf_*\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}}$ underlies a variation of mixed Hodge structures*

Proof. Note that because S is smooth, the normalization of $\mathcal{X}$ is locally trivial and specializes to the normalization fiberwise. Following for instance the proof of [PS08, Theorem 5.26], the family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ then admits a locally trivial semi-simplicial resolution over S by Corollary 2.23, and this is enough. □

Corollary 5.4. *In the setup of Proposition 5.1, the Hodge filtrations of $R^r\pi_{1*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}_{\Delta^*}$ and $R^s\pi_{2*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}_{\Delta^*}$ extend so that (5.1) holds as variations of mixed Hodge structures. Moreover, the cup-product maps are morphisms of variations of Hodge structures.*

Proof. Let U_k, V_r, W_s be the special fibers of $R^k\pi_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}}, j_*R^r\pi_{1*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}, j_*R^s\pi_{2*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$, respectively. Now denoting by Fl the appropriate flag varieties, the period map $\Delta \longrightarrow \prod_k \mathrm{Fl}(U_k)$ associated to $R^\bullet\pi_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}}$ maps Δ^* to the image of the closed embedding of $\prod_k \mathrm{Fl}(V_k) \times \prod_k \mathrm{Fl}(W_k)$ via taking the graded tensor product. It therefore maps Δ into $\prod_k \mathrm{Fl}(V_k) \times \prod_k \mathrm{Fl}(W_k)$, and the first claim follows. The second claim is obvious as it is true fiber-wise. □

For simplicity, in the following we denote the Hodge filtration on $R^kf_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}_\Delta$ (resp. $j_*R^rg_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}_\Delta$, $j_*R^sh_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}_\Delta$) by $F^\bullet R^kf_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}}$ (resp. $F^\bullet j_*R^rg_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}$, $F^\bullet j_*R^sh_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$).

Proof of Proposition 5.1. Let $m = \dim \mathcal{Y}^* - 1$ and $n = \dim \mathcal{Z}^* - 1$. By Corollary 2.23 there is a locally trivial resolution $f : \widetilde{\mathcal{X}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$. By Kebekus–Schnell [KS18, Corollary 1.8] we have $f_*\Omega^p_{\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}/\Delta} = \Omega^{[p]}_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta}$ via the natural map, and likewise for $\mathcal{Y}^*$ and $\mathcal{Z}^*$. In particular, we naturally identify $F^pR^p\pi_*\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}} = \Omega^{[p]}_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta}$ for each p. Moreover, both

$F^m R^m \pi_{1*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} = \Omega^{[m]}_{\mathcal{Y}^*/\Delta^*}$ and $F^n R^n \pi_{2*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*} = \Omega^{[n]}_{\mathcal{Z}^*/\Delta^*}$ are line bundles as $\mathcal{Y}^*$ and $\mathcal{Z}^*$ are both families of K-trivial varieties. From Corollary 5.4 it follows that $F^m j_* R^m \pi_{1*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}$ is a vector subbundle of $F^m R^m \pi_* \mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}}$, and so there is a $\tau_Y \in H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[m]}_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta})$ which specializes to the pullback of a nonzero top-dimensional reflexive form on the fibers of $\mathcal{Y}^*$ and which is nonzero on the special fiber of $\mathcal{X}$. Likewise for $\tau_Z \in H^0(\mathcal{X}, \Omega^{[n]}_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta})$ and $\mathcal{Z}^*$.

We claim that $A = \mathrm{rad}(\tau_Z)$ and $B = \mathrm{rad}(\tau_Y)$ provides the desired splitting. Note that the radical can only increase in rank under specialization, and that A and B are generically complementary. The claim therefore follows provided $\tau_Y \wedge \tau_Z$ is nonzero on the special fiber. But Corollary 5.4 implies the Künneth decomposition provides us with an identification

$$F^{m+n} R^{m+n} \pi_* \mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{X}} \cong F^m j_* R^m \pi_{1*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} \otimes F^n j_* R^n \pi_{2*}\mathbb{C}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$$

where $\tau_Y \wedge \tau_Z$ on the left-hand side is identified with $\tau_Y \otimes \tau_Z$ on the right-hand side, and the claim follows. □

6. Splittings of relative Kähler–Einstein metrics

By the results of the last section, given a locally trivial family which is generically a product, there is both a limit splitting of the cohomology of the special fiber and a limit splitting of the tangent sheaf. We show in this section that the decomposition of the Kähler–Einstein metrics carries over to the limit.

6.1. **Forms and currents on singular spaces.** The references for this section are [Dem85] or [BG13, §4.6.1]. Let X be normal complex space. We introduce the following sheaves on X:

- L^1_X is the sheaf of locally integrable real-valued functions on X,
- $\mathcal{C}^\infty_X$ is the sheaf of real-valued functions which are locally the restriction of a smooth function under a local embedding $X \underset{\text{loc}}{\hookrightarrow} \mathbb{C}^N$,
- $\mathrm{PH}_X \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty_X$ is the subsheaf made of pluriharmonic functions. A pluriharmonic function can be equivalently defined as being locally the real part of a holomorphic function (which by definition comes from a local embedding) or a function in the kernel of the dd^c operator.

We recall the following definitions.

- A $(1,1)$-form on X is a smooth $(1,1)$-form on X^{reg} that extends smoothly under local embeddings.
- A $(1,1)$-form is said to have *local potentials* if it arises as a global section of $\mathcal{C}^\infty_X/\mathrm{PH}_X$ via the dd^c operator. In particular, it is closed.
- A closed $(1,1)$-current *with local potentials* is a global section of L^1_X/PH_X.
- A *plurisubharmonic* function (psh for short) on X is a locally integrable function on X which is the restriction of a psh function under a local embedding. If θ is a $(1,1)$-form with local potentials on X, a function φ on X is said to

be θ-*psh* if it is locally the sum of a smooth and a psh function and it satisfies $\theta + dd^c\varphi \geq 0$ weakly. We denote by $\mathrm{PSH}(X,\theta)$ the set of θ-psh functions on X. If we do not specify θ, we also speak of *quasi-psh functions*.

– A *Kähler metric* on X is a $(1,1)$-form with local potentials whose local potentials are strictly plurisubharmonic, i.e. they are the restriction of a (smooth) strictly psh function under a local embedding.

Remark 6.2. A closed $(1,1)$-current T with local potentials on X enjoys the important property that given a surjective morphism $f : Y \longrightarrow X$ of complex varieties, one can define its pull-back by f^*T by lifting its local potentials. The current f^*T is again closed, of type $(1,1)$ and admits local potentials on Y. Moreover, f^*T is positive if and only if T is positive.

We have the following exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathrm{PH}_X \longrightarrow L^1_X \longrightarrow L^1_X/\mathrm{PH}_X \longrightarrow 0 \tag{6.1}$$

and similarly with $\mathcal{C}^\infty_X$ in place of L^1_X, as well as

$$0 \longrightarrow \underline{\mathbb{R}}_X \xrightarrow{i\cdot} \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{\mathrm{Re}(\cdot)} \mathrm{PH}_X \longrightarrow 0 \tag{6.2}$$

These exact sequences yield exact sequences in cohomology

$$H^0(X, L^1_X/\mathrm{PH}_X) \xrightarrow{[\cdot]} H^1(X, \mathrm{PH}_X) \longrightarrow 0 \tag{6.3}$$

and

$$H^1(X, \mathrm{PH}_X) \xrightarrow{\alpha} H^2(X, \mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\beta} H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \tag{6.4}$$

A class in $H^1(X, \mathrm{PH}_X)$ (resp. in $H^2(X,\mathbb{R})$) is said to be Kähler if it is the image of a Kähler metric under the map $[\cdot]$ in (6.3) (resp. under the map $\alpha \circ [\cdot]$). According to [BL18, Proposition 2.8], the Kähler class ends up in $H^{1,1}(X,\mathbb{R}) := F^1H^2(X,\mathbb{C}) \cap H^2(X,\mathbb{R})$. The following elementary result is very useful.

Proposition 6.3. *Let X be a compact, normal variety of class $\mathscr{C}$ with rational singularities. Then α is injective and β is surjective; i.e. we have an exact sequence*

$$0 \longrightarrow H^1(X, \mathrm{PH}_X) \xrightarrow{\alpha} H^2(X, \mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\beta} H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow 0. \tag{6.5}$$

Proof. The injectivity of α is proved in [GK20, Remark 3.2 (2)]. Surjectivity of β follows because the Hodge structure on $H^2(X,\mathbb{C})$ is pure and β can be identified with the projection on the $(0,2)$-part. Clearly, for $\alpha \in H^{0,2}(X)$ the class $\alpha + \bar{\alpha}$ is real. □

6.4. **Continuity of the relative KE metric.** For the remainder of this section, we work with the following setup.

Setting 6.5. *Let $\mathcal{X}$ be a normal complex space with canonical singularities equipped with a proper, holomorphic, surjective map $\pi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ and a smooth hermitian positive definite $(1,1)$-form θ such that, setting $X_t := \pi^{-1}(t)$ and $X = X_0$, one has*

(i) $\omega_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{X}}$.

(ii) *The map π is a locally trivial and $H^1(X_0, \mathbb{R}) = 0$.*

(iii) *The restriction $\theta_t := \theta|_{X_t}$ is a Kähler form.*

(iv) *There is a splitting $\mathcal{X} \times_\Delta \Delta^* \cong \mathcal{Y}^* \times_{\Delta^*} \mathcal{Z}^*$ with $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}^* \longrightarrow \Delta^*$ and $\pi_2 : \mathcal{Z}^* \longrightarrow \Delta^*$ locally trivial.*

(v) *The relative tangent sheaf splits: $T_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta} = A \oplus B$ such that $A|_{\mathcal{X}^*} = \pi_1^* T_{\mathcal{Y}^*/\Delta^*}$ and $B|_{\mathcal{Y}^*} = \pi_2^* T_{\mathcal{Z}^*/\Delta^*}$ as subsheaves of $T_{\mathcal{X}^*/\Delta^*}$.*

As mentioned before, this in particular implies that π is topologically, even real analytically trivial by [AV19, Proposition 6.1].

In Setting 6.5, we can consider for any $t \in \Delta$ the unique singular Kähler–Einstein metric $\omega_t \in \{\theta_t\}$, provided by [EGZ09, Theorem A]. One can write ω_t in a unique way as

$$\omega_t = \theta_t + dd^c \varphi_t$$

where φ_t is a θ_t-psh function normalized by $\int_{X_t} \varphi_t \, \theta_t^n = 0$. Moreover, it is known from *loc. cit.* that $\varphi_t \in L^\infty(X_t)$ and from [Pău08, Corollary 1.1] that ω_t is a genuine Kähler form on X_t^{reg}, the regular locus of X_t. Up to shrinking Δ, it follows from [DGG20, Theorem D] that there exists a constant $C > 0$ independent of $t \in \Delta$ such that

$$\sup_{X_t} \varphi_t - \inf_{X_t} \varphi_t \leq C. \tag{6.6}$$

Actually, the quoted result requires θ to be globally Kähler on X. However, the same proof applies as long as θ_t is Kähler and $\int_{X_t} \theta_t^n$ remains bounded away from 0 and $+\infty$ when $t \in \Delta$, which up to shrinking Δ is clearly our case.

Let us also observe that the normalization condition $\int_{X_t} \varphi_t \, \theta_t^n = 0$ implies that $\sup_{X_t} \varphi_t \geq 0$ and $\inf_{X_t} \varphi_t \leq 0$. The bound on the oscillation (6.6) thus implies that with the same constant C, we have

$$-C \leq \varphi_t \leq C \tag{6.7}$$

for all $t \in \Delta$.

Up to shrinking Δ, by local triviality one can assume that there exists a finite covering $(U_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \Gamma}$ of $\mathcal{X}$ by Euclidean open subsets such that if we set $U_{t,\alpha} := U_\alpha \cap X_t$ for $t \in \Delta$, there exist biholomorphisms $F_\alpha : U_{\alpha,0} \times \Delta \longrightarrow U_\alpha$ over Δ and such that $F_\alpha|_{U_{\alpha,0} \times \{0\}}$ coincides with $\mathrm{id}_{U_{\alpha,0}}$ via the natural identification $U_{\alpha,0} \times \{0\} \cong U_{\alpha,0}$. In other words, restriction to a fiber gives a family of biholomorphisms

$$F_{\alpha,t} : U_{\alpha,0} \longrightarrow U_{\alpha,t} \tag{6.8}$$

depending holomorphically on t such that $F_{\alpha,t}$ converges to $\mathrm{id}_{U_{\alpha,0}}$ when $t \longrightarrow 0$. In the following, we will replace each U_α by a slightly smaller open set so that we can assume that the biholomorphisms $F_{\alpha,t}$ extend to a neighborhood of $\partial U_{\alpha,0}$.

Proposition 6.6. *For any $\alpha \in \Gamma$, the currents $F_{\alpha,t}^* \omega_t|_{U_{\alpha,t}}$ converge to $\omega_0|_{U_{\alpha,0}}$ when $t \longrightarrow 0$, weakly on $U_{\alpha,0}$ and locally smoothly on the regular locus of that set.*

Proof. Let us write $F_{\alpha,t}^*\omega_t = \theta_{\alpha,t} + dd^c\psi_{\alpha,t}$ on $U_{\alpha,0}$ where $\theta_{\alpha,t} := F_{\alpha,t}^*\theta_t$ and $\psi_{\alpha,t} := \varphi_t \circ F_{\alpha,t}$. First observe that $\psi_{\alpha,t}$ is a $\theta_{\alpha,t}$-psh function. We are going to show at the same time the following three assertions, which altogether prove the proposition.

- The family $(\psi_{\alpha,t})$ is precompact in the L^1_{loc} topology.
- Any weakly convergent subsequence (ψ_{α,t_j}) actually converges locally smoothly on $U_{\alpha,0}^{\mathrm{reg}}$.
- The only cluster value for $(\psi_{\alpha,t})$ when $t \longrightarrow 0$ is $\varphi_0|_{U_{\alpha,0}}$.

Note that even though the results above are local (i.e. on $U_{\alpha,0}$), we need a global argument to identify the sequential limits and obtain the last item.

The first item follows directly from classical pluripotential theory given the estimate

$$\|\psi_{\alpha,t}\|_{L^\infty(U_{\alpha,0})} \leq C \tag{6.9}$$

infered by (6.7) and the fact that $\theta_{\alpha,t}$ converges (smoothly) to θ_0 on U_{α_0}.

We now proceed to prove the remaining two assertions. Let us first observe that if α, β are two indices such that $U_{\alpha\beta,0} := U_{\alpha,0} \cap U_{\beta,0} \neq \emptyset$ and ψ_{α,t_j} converges to a quasi-psh function $\psi_{\alpha,0}$ on $U_{\alpha,0}$, then any sequential limit $\psi_{\beta,t'_j} \longrightarrow \psi_{\beta,0}$ for a subsequence (t'_j) of (t_j) will satisfy $\psi_{\alpha,0} = \psi_{\beta,0}$ on $U_{\alpha\beta,0}$. This follows from the fact that $(F_{\alpha,t}|_{U_{\alpha\beta,0}}) \circ (F_{\beta,t}|_{U_{\alpha\beta,0}})^{-1}$ converges to $\mathrm{id}_{U_{\alpha\beta,0}}$ when $t \longrightarrow 0$. Since the set Γ of indices is finite, we can iterate this construction and out of any sequence $t_j \longrightarrow 0$, one can find a subsequence (t'_j) and a function $\psi_0 \in \mathrm{PSH}(X_0, \theta_0) \cap L^\infty(X_0)$ such that for any $\alpha \in \Gamma$, the current $F_{\alpha,t'_j}^*\omega_{t'_j}$ converges to $\theta_0 + dd^c\psi_0$ on $U_{\alpha,0}$ in the weak topology.

In order to finish the proof of the proposition, we will show the following.

- The weak convergence $F_{\alpha,t'_j}^*\omega_{t'_j} \longrightarrow \theta_0 + dd^c\psi_0$ is locally smooth over X_0^{reg};
- The current $\theta_0 + dd^c\psi_0$ coincides with ω_0.

Since π is locally trivial, the functorial resolutions $p_t : \widetilde{X}_t \longrightarrow X_t$ can be patched together to induce a simultaneous resolution $p : \widetilde{\mathcal{X}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ that restricts to p_t over X_t for any $t \in \Delta$, cf. [BL18, Lemma 4.8]. As the simultaneous resolution is a projective morphism, one can reproduce verbatim the argument in [Pău08, § 3] (see also [BBE+19, Appendix B]) relying on Tsuji's trick [Tsu88] to get laplacian estimates

$$(\mathrm{tr}_{\theta_t}\omega_t)|_{K_t} \leq C_K \tag{6.10}$$

for any compact subset $K \Subset \mathcal{X}^{\mathrm{reg}}$ where $K_t := K \cap X_t$ and $C_K > 0$ is a constant independent of t. From (6.10), one can get higher order estimates

$$\|\varphi_t\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(K_t)} \leq C_{K,k} \tag{6.11}$$

for any integer $k \geq 0$ using standard results (Evans-Krylov and Schauder estimates).

Now, let $\Omega \in H^0(\mathcal{X}, \omega_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta})$ be a trivialization. We know from e.g. the proof of [DGG20, Theorem 6.1] that there exists a constant $c_t > 0$ uniformly bounded away from 0 and $+\infty$ when $t \in \Delta$ such that

$$(\theta_t + dd^c\varphi_t)^n = c_t \cdot i^{n^2}\Omega_t \wedge \overline{\Omega}_t \quad \text{on } X_t. \tag{6.12}$$

By (6.11), the function $\psi_{\alpha,t}$ is locally bounded for any $\mathcal{C}^k$-norm on $U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0} := U_{\alpha,0} \cap X_0^{\mathrm{reg}}$. Therefore, the Arzela–Ascoli theorem guarantees that one can find a subsequence (t''_j) of (t'_j) such that ψ_{α,t''_j} converges locally smoothly on $U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0}$. Since ψ_{α,t''_j} already converges weakly to ψ_0 on $U_{\alpha,0}$, we have $\psi_{\alpha,0}|_{U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0}} = \psi_0|_{U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0}}$. This shows that $\psi_{\alpha,t}$ converges locally smoothly to ψ_0 on $U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0}$ when $t \longrightarrow 0$. Applying F^*_{α,t''_j} to (6.12) and passing to the limit on each $U^{\mathrm{reg}}_{\alpha,0}$, one finds that

$$(\theta_0 + dd^c\psi_0)^n = c_0 \cdot i^{n^2}\Omega_0 \wedge \overline{\Omega}_0 \quad \text{on } X_0^{\mathrm{reg}}. \tag{6.13}$$

As $\psi_0 \in L^\infty(X_0)$, the uniqueness of the Kähler–Einstein metric [EGZ09, Proposition 1.4] guarantees that $\theta_0 + dd^c\psi_0 = \omega_0$. □

6.7. **Decomposition of the KE metric on X_0.** We now prove the splitting of the Kähler-Einstein metric.

Proposition 6.8. *In Setting 6.5, one can decompose the Kähler-Einstein metric ω_t on X_t^{reg} as*

$$\omega_t = \omega_t^1 + \omega_t^2 \tag{6.14}$$

where

(1) The ω_t^i are closed, semi-positive smooth $(1,1)$-forms on X_t^{reg}.
(2) One has $\ker \omega_t^1 = B_t$ and $\ker \omega_t^2 = A_t$.
(3) When $t \longrightarrow 0$, we have local smooth convergence $\omega_t^i \longrightarrow \omega_0^i$ on X_0^{reg} under any local trivialization of the family.
(4) If $t \neq 0$, then ω_t^1 (resp. ω_t^2) is the pull-back of a KE metric on Y_t (resp. Z_t). In particular, they extend to X_t as positive currents with bounded local potentials satisfying the identity (6.14).

Proof.
Items (1) and (2). The decomposition of the tangent sheaf $T_{X_t} = A_t \oplus B_t$ induces a decomposition of $T_{X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ into *parallel* subbundles with respect to ω_0 by [GGK19, Theorem 8.1.2]. That result was stated for projective varieties but the proof goes through without any changes in the Kähler setting, cf. also [Gue16].

This implies that the Kähler–Einstein metric ω_t splits canonically on X_t^{reg} as follows

$$\omega_t = \omega_t^1 + \omega_t^2$$

where ω_t^1 (resp. ω_t^2) is a smooth, closed semipositive $(1,1)$-form on X_t^{reg} whose kernel is $B_t|_{X_0^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ (resp $A_t|_{X_0^{\mathrm{reg}}}$) and which is positive definite in restriction to $A_t|_{X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ (resp. $B_t|_{X_t^{\mathrm{reg}}}$).

Item (3). This is an easy consequence of the local smooth convergence of ω_t to ω_0 on X_0^{reg} via the local biholomorphisms $F_{\alpha,t}$ shown in Proposition 6.6 combined with the definition of the ω_t^i and the fact that the summand A_t of T_{X_t} coincides with the

restriction of the subbundle $A \subset T_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta}$ to X_t^{reg}.

Item (4). From now on, we assume $t \neq 0$. We will need the following

Lemma 6.9. *For any $t \in \Delta^*$, the natural map*

$$H^1(Y_t, \mathrm{PH}_{Y_t}) \oplus H^1(Z_t, \mathrm{PH}_{Z_t}) \longrightarrow H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t})$$

is an isomorphism.

Proof. Recall from Proposition 6.3 that $H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t})$ is the kernel of the natural map $H^2(X_t, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow H^2(X_t, \mathcal{O}_{X_t})$. We claim that this map is given by the sum map $H^2(Y_t, \mathbb{R}) \oplus H^2(Z_t, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow H^2(Y_t, \mathcal{O}_{X_t}) \oplus H^2(Z_t, \mathcal{O}_{X_t})$, from which the Lemma follows.

Now, since π is locally trivial and $H^1(X_0, \mathbb{R}) = 0$, we have $H^1(X_t, \mathbb{R}) = 0$. Since X_t has rational singularities, this implies that $H^1(X_t, \mathcal{O}_{X_t}) = 0$ as well. The claim now follows from Künneth decomposition formula. □

Therefore, one can decompose $[\theta_t] \in H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t})$ as

$$[\theta_t] = \mathrm{pr}_{t,1}^* \alpha_t + \mathrm{pr}_{t,2}^* \beta_t$$

for some classes α_t and β_t on Y_t and Z_t respectively. Since $[\theta_t]$ is Kähler, so are α_t and β_t. By [EGZ09], there exists a unique singular Kähler–Einstein metric $\omega_{Y_t} \in \alpha_t$ (resp. $\omega_{Z_t} \in \beta_t$). Since $\mathrm{pr}_{t,1}^* \omega_{Y_t} + \mathrm{pr}_{t,2}^* \omega_{Z_t} \in [\theta_t]$ is smooth, Kähler and Ricci-flat on X_t^{reg} and has bounded potentials, it coincides with ω_t. In particular, one has $\omega_t^1 = \mathrm{pr}_{t,1}^* \omega_{Y_t}$ and $\omega_t^2 = \mathrm{pr}_{t,1}^* \omega_{Z_t}$ on X_t^{reg}, hence everywhere since none of these currents puts any mass on X_t^{sing}. □

6.10. **Properties of the currents ω_0^i.** In this section, we fix a functorial, simultaneous resolution $p : \widetilde{\mathcal{X}} \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ inducing fiber-wise resolutions $p_t : \widetilde{X}_t \longrightarrow X_t$, we set $\widetilde{\pi} := \pi \circ p$. Since $p_* T_{\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}} = T_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ is locally trivial, one can find a cover (U_α) of $\mathcal{X}$ and holomorphic vector fields v_α on U_α such that

- $\pi_* v_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$.
- $v_\alpha = p_* \widetilde{v}_\alpha$ for some holomorphic vector field $\widetilde{v}_\alpha$ on $p^{-1}(U_\alpha)$.

Using a partition of unity (χ_α) associated to (U_α), one can construct a smooth vector field v on $\mathcal{X}$ (resp. $\widetilde{v}$ on $\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}$) such that $p_* \widetilde{v} = v$ and $\pi_* v = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$. The flow of these vector fields yields diffeomorphisms $F : X_0 \times \Delta \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ and $\widetilde{F} : \widetilde{X}_0 \times \Delta \longrightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{X}}$ commuting with p; i.e. $p \circ \widetilde{F} = F \circ (p_0 \times \mathrm{id}_\Delta)$. With a slight abuse, we denote by F_t (resp. $\widetilde{F}_t$) the restriction $F|_{X_0 \times \{t\}} : X_0 \longrightarrow X_t$ (resp. $\widetilde{F}|_{\widetilde{X}_0 \times \{t\}} : \widetilde{X}_0 \longrightarrow \widetilde{X}_t$).

For $t \neq 0$, the currents ω_t^1 and ω_t^2 have local potentials by Proposition 6.8, hence they induce cohomology classes $\alpha_t, \beta_t \in H^2(X_t, \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$\alpha_t + \beta_t = [\theta_t]. \tag{6.15}$$

Lemma 6.11. *With the notation above, there exist $\alpha_0, \beta_0 \in H^2(X_0, \mathbb{R})$ such that $F_t^* \alpha_t \longrightarrow \alpha_0$ (resp. $F_t^* \beta_t \longrightarrow \beta_0$) when $t \longrightarrow 0$.*

Proof. From Lemma 5.2 we have $R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}} = j_*R^2\pi_{1*}\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{Y}^*} \oplus j_*R^2\pi_{2*}\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}$, using (ii) of Setting 6.5. The sections $t \mapsto \alpha_t$ (resp. $t \mapsto \beta_t$) of the vector bundle $(R^2\pi_{1*}\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{Y}^*}) \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta^*}$ (resp. $(R^2\pi_{2*}\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{Z}^*}) \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta^*}$) over Δ^* are such that their sum extends to a smooth section of $(R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}) \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$. This shows that both sections extend across the origin, proving the claim. □

Another helpful result is the following

Lemma 6.12. *In Setting 6.5, there is a sub-vector bundle $\mathcal{H} \subset R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$ and the inclusion is fiberwise canonically identified with $H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t}) \subset H^2(X_t, \mathbb{R})$.*

Proof. By topological triviality and purity of the weight two Hodge structure, the family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ gives rise to a variation of Hodge structures with underlying $\mathbb{R}$-local system $R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}$. We denote $\mathcal{V} := R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$ and by $F^p \subset \mathcal{V} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ the $\mathcal{C}^\infty$-sections of the Hodge filtration. Then the base change of $\mathcal{V} \longrightarrow F^0/F^1$ to $t \in \Delta$ is the surjection β from (6.5), so if we define $\mathcal{H} := \ker\left(\mathcal{V} \longrightarrow F^0/F^1\right)$, we have canonical identifications $\mathcal{H}_t = H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t})$. □

Proposition 6.13. *With the notation of Proposition 6.8, then for $i = 1, 2$, the current ω_0^i extends to positive current on X_0 having local bounded potentials and satisfying (6.14) on X_0.*

Proof. Let us first prove that ω_0^i can be extended across X_0^{sing} with local potentials. We prove the claim for $i = 1$, the case $i = 2$ being entirely similar. First of all, since the singularities of X_t are rational, p realizes $R^2\pi_*\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$ as a sub-vector bundle of $R^2\widetilde{\pi}_*\mathbb{R}_{\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$, see e.g. [BL16, Lemma 2.1]. In particular, Lemma 6.12 provides a sub-vector bundle

$$p^*\mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow R^2\widetilde{\pi}_*\mathbb{R}_{\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$$

whose fiber at t is $p^*H^1(X_t, \mathrm{PH}_{X_t}) \subset H^2(\widetilde{X}_t, \mathbb{R})$.

By Lemma 6.11, the section $t \mapsto p_t^*\alpha_t$ is a continuous section of $R^2\widetilde{\pi}_*\mathbb{R}_{\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}} \otimes \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\Delta}$ whose image lies in $p^*\mathcal{H}$ over Δ^*. It follows that the latter holds across the origin too. In particular, we get

$$p_0^*\alpha_0 \ \in p_0^*\mathcal{H}_0. \tag{6.16}$$

Moreover, the arguments laid out in [AH19, Appendix] show that one can find a sequence $t_k \longrightarrow 0$ and a closed, positive $(1,1)$-current T on $\widetilde{X}_0$ such that $\widetilde{F}_{t_k}^* p_{t_k}^* \omega_{t_k}^1$ converges to T weakly when $t_k \longrightarrow 0$. Since $\widetilde{X}_0$ is a smooth, compact Kähler manifold, one can write $T = \widetilde{\gamma} + dd^c\widetilde{v}$ where $\widetilde{\gamma}$ is a smooth, closed $(1,1)$-form on $\widetilde{X}_0$ and $\widetilde{v} \in L^1(\widetilde{X}_0)$. Since the cohomology class in $H^2(\widetilde{X}_0, \mathbb{R})$ of a closed current depends continuously on it (with respect to the weak topology), we have $[\widetilde{\gamma}] \in p_0^*\mathcal{H}_0$. Said otherwise, the local potentials of $\widetilde{\gamma}$ actually come from X_0 via p_0 modulo a global function on $\widetilde{X}_0$, i.e. one can write $\widetilde{\gamma} = p_0^*\gamma + dd^c\widetilde{w}$ where γ is a $(1,1)$-form on X_0 with potentials and $\widetilde{w} \in L^1(\widetilde{X}_0)$. Set $\widetilde{u} := \widetilde{v} + \widetilde{w}$ so that $T = p_0^*\gamma + dd^c\widetilde{u}$.

Given a fiber F of p_0, $\widetilde{u}|_F$ is either identically $-\infty$ or it is a psh function. Since F is connected and compact, $u|_F$ has to be constant. That it, there exists a γ-psh function u on X_0 such that $\widetilde{u} = \gamma^* u$ or, equivalently, $T = p_0^*(\gamma + dd^c u)$ on $\widetilde{X}_0$.

Now, recall from Proposition 6.8 that $F_t^* \omega_t^1 \longrightarrow \omega_0^1$ locally smoothly on X_0^{reg} when $t \longrightarrow 0$. By uniqueness of the limit, this shows that T agrees with $p_0^* \omega_0^1$ on $\widetilde{X}_0 \setminus \mathrm{Exc}(p_0)$. Therefore, we have $\omega_0^1 = \gamma + dd^c u$ on X_0^{reg}. This shows that ω_0^1 extends to a closed positive $(1,1)$-current with local potentials on X_0.

In the following, the extension just constructed to X_0 will still be denoted by ω_0^i, and we aim to prove that its local potentials are bounded. Pick a Stein open subset $U \subset X_0$ where $\omega_0^i|_U = dd^c v_i$ and $\omega_0|_U = dd^c v$ where $v, v_i \in \mathrm{PSH}(U)$ and v is bounded on U, say $\|v\|_{L^\infty(U)} \leq C_1$. Up to shrinking U slightly and subtracting a constant, one can assume that the upper semi-continuous functions v_i are non-positive on U. The function $v - (v_1 + v_2)$ coincides almost everywhere with a pluriharmonic function h on U. Up to shrinking U, one can assume that h is bounded; i.e. $\|h\|_{L^\infty(U)} \leq C_2$. Then, one has $0 \geq v_i \geq -(C_1 + C_2)$ almost everywhere on U, hence everywhere on U since v_i is psh. Finally, the closed $(1,1)$-current $\omega_0 - (\omega_0^1 + \omega_0^2)$ is supported on X_0^{sing} while it has local bounded potentials, so it vanishes everywhere thanks to the support theorem applied on $\widetilde{X}$, which is legitimate by Remark 6.2. Indeed, $p_0^*(\omega_0 - (\omega_0^1 + \omega_0^2))$ would have to be a current of integration along a divisor, which violates the boundedness of its potentials unless it vanishes identically. □

7. Splittings of locally trivial families

In this section, we show using the results of the previous section that the limit tangent splitting of Section 5 induces a product decomposition. The key technical result of the previous section is the existence of a splitting of the Kähler–Einstein metric as a positive current with bounded potentials.

The *boundedness* of the local potentials of a closed, positive $(1,1)$-current T on X allows us to do two things that we cannot do with closed positive $(1,1)$-currents in general, even when they admit local potentials.

(1) One can define the Bedford-Taylor Monge-Ampère operator T^n, which is a positive measure satisfying $\int_X T^n = [T]^n$ where the right-hand side is computed in cohomology, cf. [BT76, BT82] or [Dem85, § 2].
(2) If $Z \subset X$ is a closed analytic subvariety of X, then one can define $T|_Z := \theta|_Z + dd^c u|_Z$, which is again a closed, positive $(1,1)$-current with bounded local potentials on Z.

We assume we are in Setting 6.5 and adopt the notation of Corollary 4.6. Thus, after shrinking Δ we have the (reduced) irreducible components D_Y, D_Z of $\mathscr{D}(\mathcal{X}/\Delta)$ which are proper over Δ, generically parametrize fibers $Y_t \times \{z\}$ and $\{y\} \times Z_t$, respectively, and furthermore $D_Y \times_\Delta \Delta^* = \mathcal{Z}^*$ and $D_Z \times_\Delta \Delta^* = \mathcal{Y}^*$. Let $(D_Y)_0, (D_Z)_0$ be the fibers over 0, and set $m = \dim \mathcal{Y}^* - 1$, $n = \dim \mathcal{Z}^* - 1$. Let $\mathcal{F}_Y, \mathcal{F}_Z$ be the restrictions of the universal families to D_Y, D_Z.

The map $\mathcal{F}_Z \longrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is an isomorphism over Δ^*, so there is a unique (reduced) component $(\mathcal{F}_Z)_0^+$ of the special fiber $(\mathcal{F}_Z)_0$ for which the map to X is surjective and generically one-to-one. We have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathcal{F}_Z)_0^+ & \xrightarrow{e} & X. \\ {\scriptstyle p}\big\downarrow & & \\ (D_Z)_0 & & \end{array} \tag{7.1}$$

Let $(D_Z)_0^+ = p((\mathcal{F}_Z)_0^+)$. Note that for any $[V_0] \in (D_Z)_0^+$, we have that $V_0 \cap X^{\mathrm{reg}}$ is either empty or tangent to $B|_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}$, since by choosing the germ of a curve C in D_Z passing through $[V_0]$ and dominating Δ, we obtain a flat family $\mathcal{V}/C$ specializing to V_0, embedded as $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{X}' := \mathcal{X} \times_\Delta C$, and generically tangent to B. Likewise we define $(\mathcal{F}_Y)_0^+$ and $(D_Y)_0^+$.

Lemma 7.1. *Let X be as in Setting 6.5. Then for any point $[V_0] \in (D_Z)_0^+$ (resp. $[U_0] \in (D_Y)_0^+$) we have that V_0 (resp. U_0) is irreducible and generically reduced.*

Proof. Its enough to prove the claim for V_0, as the one for U_0 is the same after switching factors. With $\mathcal{V}/C$ as above, the argument of [Ful98, Lemma 19.1.3] yields an integral section v of $(R^{2n}\pi_*\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{X}'})^\vee$ with $v_t = [V_t]$. Using the decomposition of Lemma 5.2, we in fact have an integral generator η of $(j_*R^{2n}\pi_{1*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Z}'^*})^\vee$ and $v = \eta \otimes \mathrm{pt}$, where pt is the integral generator of $(j_*\pi_{2*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Y}'^*})^\vee$. Set

$$W = \bigoplus_{\substack{r+s=2n \\ r>0}} (j_*R^r\pi_{1*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Y}'^*})^\vee \otimes (j_*R^s\pi_{2*}\mathbb{Q}_{\mathcal{Z}'^*})^\vee.$$

Now, note that V_0 is pure-dimensional, and assume that we have an effective decomposition $[V_0] = [V'] + [V'']$. In $H_{2n}(X, \mathbb{Q})$ one has an integral decomposition $[V'] = \lambda' v_0 + w_0$ (resp. $[V''] = \lambda'' v_0 - w_0$) for $\lambda', \lambda'' \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $1 = \lambda' + \lambda''$ and $w_0 \in W_0$.

By Propositions 6.8 and 6.13, the Kähler–Einstein metric $\omega_t \in [\theta_t]$ can be decomposed as $\omega_t = \omega_t^1 + \omega_t^2$, and we set $\alpha_t := [\omega_t^1] \in H^2(X_t)$ (resp. $\beta_t = [\omega_t^2] \in H^2(X_t)$). Recall that these currents have bounded local potentials, hence one can take their wedge products, cf. the beginning of this section. We claim that the cap product

$$\beta_0^n \cdot u_0 = 0 \quad \text{for any } u_0 \in W_0. \tag{7.2}$$

Indeed, any such u_0 can be written as limit of elements $u_t \in W_t$ but for $t \neq 0$ we have $\beta_t^n \cdot u_t = 0$ almost by definition and $t \mapsto \beta_t^n \cdot w_t$ is continuous by Lemma 6.11. Similarly, we have

$$\alpha_0^r \beta_0^{n-r} \cdot v_0 = 0 \quad \text{for any } r > 0. \tag{7.3}$$

By Proposition 6.13 we have

$$0 \leq \int_{V'} (\omega_0^2)^n = \lambda' \beta_0^n \cdot v_0$$

and so $0 \leq \lambda'$. By the same argument, we also have $0 \leq \lambda''$, and therefore without loss of generality we have $\lambda'' = 0$; i.e. $[V''] = -w_0$. Combining (7.2) and (7.3), we find

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{V''} \omega_0^n &= -\underbrace{\beta_0^n \cdot w_0}_{=0} - \sum_{r>0} \alpha_0^r \beta_0^{n-r} \cdot v_0 \\ &= \underbrace{-\sum_{r>0} \int_{V'} (\omega_0^1)^r \wedge (\omega_0^2)^{n-r}}_{\leq 0} + \underbrace{\sum_{r>0} \alpha_0^r \beta_0^{n-r} \cdot v_0}_{=0}.\end{aligned}$$

hence $\int_{V''} \omega_0^n = 0$, so $[V''] = 0$. □

Proposition 7.2. *Let X be as in Setting 6.5, and let $[V_0] \in (D_Z)_0^+$ and $[U_0] \in (D_Y)_0^+$. Then we have*

$$\omega_0^1|_{V_0} \equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_0^2|_{U_0} \equiv 0.$$

In particular, $\omega_0|_{U_0 \cap V_0} \equiv 0$.

Proof. Since the ω_0^i have bounded local potentials by Proposition 6.13, it makes sense to restrict them to U_0 or V_0. The last statement follows from the main one thanks to Proposition 6.13.

First assume $V_0 \cap X^{\mathrm{reg}} \neq \varnothing$. Set $V_0^\circ := V_0 \cap X^{\mathrm{reg}}$ which is a dense Zariski open subset of V_0. Since $\omega_0^1|_{V_0^\circ} \equiv 0$ by Proposition 6.8, it follows that the restriction $\omega_0^1|_{V_0}$ is a positive $(1,1)$-current with bounded potentials on V_0 supported on $V_0 \setminus V_0^\circ$. By Lemma 7.1 and the support theorem applied on a resolution say (cf. Remark 6.2), the current $\omega_0^1|_{V_0}$ has to be a non-negative combination of currents of integration along the codimension one components of $V_0 \setminus V_0^\circ$ which is only possible if $\omega_0^1|_{V_0}$ vanishes identically since it has bounded potentials.

Now for V_0 arbitrary, take the germ of a smooth pointed curve $(C, 0)$ with a non-constant morphism $C \longrightarrow (D_Z)_0$ sending 0 to $[V_0]$ and consider the pullback diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F} & \xrightarrow{e} & X \\ {\scriptstyle p}\downarrow & & \\ C & & \end{array}$$

where we abusively use the same letters e, p for the restrictions of the corresponding maps in (7.1). By the previous paragraph, $e^*\omega_0^1$ vanishes in restriction to F_t for t general. Since p is smooth at a generic point x_0 of $F_0 = V_0$ by Lemma 7.1 and $e^*\omega_0^1$ has local bounded potentials, Lemma 7.3 below implies that $e^*\omega_0^1$ vanishes in restriction to a neighborhood of x_0 in V_0, hence $e^*\omega_0^1|_{G_0}$ is supported on a proper analytic subset. Since its local potentials are bounded, this implies that $e^*\omega_0^1|_{G_0} \equiv 0$ as before. □

In the course of the proof above, we used the following lemma about psh functions on the total space of a trivial fibration that are pluriharmonic on all but one slice.

Lemma 7.3. *Let φ be a psh function on $\Delta^n \times \Delta$. Assume that φ is pluriharmonic in restriction to each slice $D_t := \Delta^n \times \{t\}$ for $t \in \Delta^*$. Then, either $\varphi|_{D_0} \equiv -\infty$ on D_0 or $\varphi|_{D_0}$ is pluriharmonic.*

Proof. Assume that $\varphi|_{D_0} \not\equiv -\infty$. We use the coordinates $(z_1, \ldots, z_n)$ for the first factor Δ^n and (t) for the second factor Δ. The lemma is local, and it is sufficient to prove that for every one-dimensional disk $\mathbb{D}^z_r \subset \Delta^n$ centered at $\underline{0} \in \Delta^n$ of small enough radius r, we have

$$\varphi(0,0) = \fint_{\mathbb{D}^z_r} \varphi(z,0) dV(z). \tag{7.4}$$

For that purpose, we introduce the function $u : \Delta \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}$ defined by

$$u(t) := \fint_{\mathbb{D}^z_r} \varphi(z,t) dV(z).$$

The function $\underline{\varphi}(t) := \varphi(0,t)$ is a psh function on Δ that satisfies

$$u = \underline{\varphi} \quad \text{on } \Delta^* \tag{7.5}$$

since $\varphi|_{D_t}$ is pluriharmonic for any $t \neq 0$. To show (7.4), we thus have to extend the identity (7.5) across the origin. This will be achieved if we show that u is psh on Δ since psh functions are determined by their value almost everywhere and $\underline{\varphi}$ is psh.

First of all, u is upper semi-continuous by Fatou's lemma since φ is upper semi-continuous as well (one can assume that $\varphi \leq 0$ without loss of generality). Next, if $t_0 \in \Delta$ and s is small enough, setting $\mathbb{D}^t_s := \{t \in \Delta \mid |t - t_0| < s\}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(t_0) &= \fint_{\mathbb{D}^z_r} \varphi(z,t_0) dV(z) \\ &\leq \fint_{\mathbb{D}^z_r} \fint_{\mathbb{D}^t_s} \varphi(z,t) dV(t) dV(z) \\ &= \fint_{\mathbb{D}^t_s} u(t) dV(t) \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality follows from $\varphi(z,\cdot)$ being psh while the last identity is a simple application of Fubini's theorem. This shows that u is psh, and concludes the proof of the lemma. □

We will specifically need the following corollary of the previous proposition. Let $I := (\mathcal{F}_Y)^+_0 \times_X (\mathcal{F}_Z)^+_0$ be the universal intersection, and consider the resulting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I^+ & \xrightarrow{\quad f \quad} & X \\ {\scriptstyle g}\big\downarrow & & \\ (D_Y)^+_0 \times (D_Z)^+_0 & & \end{array} \tag{7.6}$$

where I^+ is the unique (reduced) component of I dominating X.

Corollary 7.4. *In (7.6), f is surjective and generically one-to-one, and g is finite, surjective, and generically one-to-one.*

Proof. The statements for f follow from the fact that the natural maps $(\mathcal{F}_Y)^+_0 \longrightarrow X$ and $(\mathcal{F}_Z)^+_0 \longrightarrow X$ are generically one-to-one and surjective by definition and the surjectivity of g is clear as $(\mathcal{F}_Y)^+_0 \longrightarrow (D_Y)^+_0$ and $(\mathcal{F}_Z)^+_0 \longrightarrow (D_Z)^+_0$ are surjective. The

fibers of g are the intersections $U_0 \times_X V_0$ in the notation of Proposition 7.2, so the finiteness is immediate from there and the Kählerness of $[\omega_0]$.

For the rest of the claim, as $f^{-1}(X^{\mathrm{sing}})$ does not dominate $(D_Y)_0^+ \times (D_Z)_0^+$, for generic $[U_0] \in (D_Y)_0^+$ and $[V_0] \in (D_Y)_0^+$ we have $U_0 \cap V_0 \subset X^{\mathrm{reg}}$. We may take the germ of a smooth pointed curve $(C, 0)$ with a non-constant map $C \longrightarrow D_Z$ sending 0 to $[V_0]$ and dominating Δ, as well as a non-constant map $C \longrightarrow D_Y$ sending 0 to $[U_0]$ and dominating Δ. If we let $\mathcal{F}_2$ (resp. $\mathcal{F}_1$) be the pullback of $\mathcal{F}_Z$ (resp. $\mathcal{F}_Y$) to C, then both $\mathcal{F}_1$ and $\mathcal{F}_2$ are naturally embedded in $\mathcal{X}' := \mathcal{X} \times_\Delta C$. Every component[5] of $\mathcal{F}_1 \cap \mathcal{F}_2 \cap \mathcal{X}'^{\mathrm{reg}}$ has dimension at least $\dim \mathcal{F}_1 - \operatorname{codim}_{\mathcal{X}'} \mathcal{F}_2 = (m+1) - m = 1$, as for example the intersection is equal to the intersection of $\mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2 \subset \mathcal{X}' \times \mathcal{X}'$ with the diagonal embedding of $\mathcal{X}'^{\mathrm{reg}}$, which is regularly embedded in $\mathcal{X}'^{\mathrm{reg}} \times \mathcal{X}'^{\mathrm{reg}}$. The fact that $(\mathcal{F}_1)_t \cap (\mathcal{F}_2)_t$ is a single point for $t \neq 0$ implies that there is at most one zero-dimensional component of $(\mathcal{F}_1)_0 \cap (\mathcal{F}_2)_0 \cap X^{\mathrm{reg}} = U_0 \cap V_0 \cap X^{\mathrm{reg}}$, which is zero-dimensional. The claim then follows. □

Proposition 7.5. *Assume Setting 6.5. Then after shrinking Δ there is a splitting $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} \times_\Delta \mathcal{Z}$ for locally trivial $\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}/\Delta$ restricting to the given splitting over Δ^*.*

Proof. We will first show how to obtain a splitting of the central fiber and then show by deformation theory that it gives back the splitting over Δ^*. We observe the following:

Lemma 7.6. *Let X, Y, Z be normal compact complex varieties with a bimeromorphic morphism $f : Y \times Z \longrightarrow X$ and assume X is Kähler with rational singularities and $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$. Then $X \cong Y' \times Z'$ where Y' (resp. Z') is the normalization of the image of a general fiber $Y \times \{z\}$ (resp. $\{y\} \times Z$).*

Proof. By taking resolutions we may assume Y and Z are smooth. Observe that from the rationality of the singularities and the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longrightarrow H^1(Y \times Z, \mathcal{O}_{Y \times Z}) \longrightarrow H^0(X, R^1 f_* \mathcal{O}_{Y \times Z})$$

coming from the Leray spectral sequence, we obtain

$$H^1(Y \times Z, \mathcal{O}_{Y \times Z}) = H^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) \oplus H^1(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) = 0. \tag{7.7}$$

For a general fiber $Y_z := Y \times \{z\}$ let $Y'' = f(Y_z)$ and $n_Y : Y' \longrightarrow Y''$ the normalization; likewise for $n_Z : Z' \longrightarrow Z''$. Note that the map $g : Y \times Z \longrightarrow Y' \times Z'$ is birational. The situation is summarized in the diagram below

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y \times Z & \xrightarrow{\ f\ } & X \\ {\scriptstyle g}\downarrow & \nearrow & \\ Y' \times Z' & & \end{array}$$

For the claim it is enough to show that f factors through g and vice versa; note that such a factorization is obviously unique provided it exists. As both f and g are proper

[5] When we take intersections we mean the intersections of the reductions.

with connected fibers and map to normal targets, by the rigidity lemma it is sufficient to check the following claim:

Claim. f and g have the same fibers.

Proof. Let $\omega \in H^2(X,\mathbb{R})$ be a Kähler class X. By (7.7) we have that $h^1(Y,\mathcal{O}_Y)=0$, so the Künneth decomposition yields

$$f^*\omega = \mathrm{pr}_Y^*\alpha + \mathrm{pr}_Z^*\beta \tag{7.8}$$

where $\alpha \in H^2(Y,\mathbb{R})$ and $\beta \in H^2(Z,\mathbb{R})$. Identifying Y_z with Y (likewise for Z), we find that $\alpha = (f^*\omega)|_{Y_z} = f^*\omega|_{Y''}$ and $\beta = f^*(\omega|_{Z''})$. Since we have a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_z & \xrightarrow{f|_{Y_z}} & Y'' \\ {\scriptstyle g|_{Y_z}}\downarrow & \nearrow_{n_Y} & \\ Y' & & \end{array}$$

we find that $f^*\omega|_{Y''} = g^*n_Y^*\omega|_{Y''}$ and $f^*\omega|_{Z''} = g^*n_Z^*\omega|_{Z''}$. In the end, (7.8) becomes

$$f^*\omega = g^*(\omega_1+\omega_2) \tag{7.9}$$

where $\omega_1 = n_Y^*\omega|_{Y''}$ and $\omega_2 = n_Z^*\omega|_{Z''}$. Note that ω_1 and ω_2 are Kähler classes by [Vâj96, Theorem 1], see also [GK20, Proposition 3.6].

Since ω (resp. $\omega_1+\omega_2$) is a Kähler class, a subvariety $V \subset Y\times Z$ is contracted to a point by f (resp. g) if and only if $f^*\omega|_V = 0$ (resp. $g^*(\omega_1+\omega_2)|_V = 0$). The claim now follows from (7.9). □

As explained above, the lemma follows from the claim. □

Now, the map g of Corollary 7.4 is an isomorphism on normalizations, and so X is a product by Lemma 7.6. This produces a second splitting of $\mathcal{X}/\Delta$ using the following result.

Lemma 7.7. *Let Y,Z be compact irreducible and reduced varieties with $H^1(Y,\mathcal{O}_Y) = 0 = H^1(Z,\mathcal{O}_Z)$. Let $X = Y\times Z$. Then the natural map $\mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(Y)\times\mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(Z) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Def}^{\mathrm{lt}}(X)$ is an isomorphism. In particular, the universal locally trivial deformation of X is the product of the pullbacks of the universal families of Y and Z.*

Note that $H^1(X,\mathbb{R})=0$ in our case so that the hypotheses on Y and Z are fulfilled.

Proof. It suffices to show the map on tangent spaces is an isomorphism and that the map on obstruction spaces is injective. By the Künneth decomposition, the map on tangent spaces is the natural map

$$H^1(Y,T_Y)\oplus H^1(Z,T_Z) \longrightarrow H^1(Y,T_Y)\otimes H^0(Z,\mathcal{O}_Z)\oplus H^0(Y,\mathcal{O}_Y)\otimes H^1(Z,T_Z)$$

since the other Künneth factors vanish:

$$H^1(Y,\mathcal{O}_Y)\otimes H^0(Z,T_Z) = 0 = H^0(Y,T_Y)\otimes H^1(Z,\mathcal{O}_Z).$$

In particular, the map on tangent spaces is an isomorphism. The map on obstruction spaces is likewise identified via the Künneth decomposition with the inclusion of the Künneth factors

$$H^2(Y,T_Y)\otimes H^0(Z,\mathcal{O}_Z)\oplus H^0(Y,\mathcal{O}_Y)\otimes H^2(Z,T_Z)$$

and is therefore injective. □

So thanks to Lemma 7.7, after shrinking Δ we have a product decomposition $\mathcal{X}\cong\mathcal{Y}'\times_\Delta\mathcal{Z}'$ where $\mathcal{Y}',\mathcal{Z}'/\Delta$ are locally trivial. Let us denote $Y:=\mathcal{Y}'_0$ and $Z:=\mathcal{Z}'_0$. By construction, the subspaces $Y\times\{z\}$ and $\{y\}\times Z$ for general $y\in Y$, $z\in Z$ are obtained as fibers of the families $\mathcal{F}_Y\longrightarrow D_Y$ respectively $\mathcal{F}_Z\longrightarrow D_Z$ which over Δ^* coincide with $\mathcal{X}^*\longrightarrow\mathcal{Z}^*$ and $\mathcal{X}^*\longrightarrow\mathcal{Y}^*$. As one fiber of $\mathcal{F}_Y\longrightarrow D_Y$ is contracted under the projection $\mathcal{F}_Y\xrightarrow{e}\mathcal{X}\longrightarrow\mathcal{Z}'$, so are all the fibers thanks to the rigidity lemma. In other words, $\mathcal{Y}^*\cong\mathcal{Y}'^*$ and likewise for $\mathcal{Z}^*$. □

8. Proof of the decomposition theorem

In this section we prove Theorem A. Let X be a numerically K-trivial Kähler variety with log terminal singularities. By [CGGN20, Corollary 4.2], there exists a quasi-étale cover $\widetilde{X}\longrightarrow X$ that splits as $\widetilde{X}=T\times Y$ where T is a torus and Y is K-trivial with vanishing augmented irregularity, $\widetilde{q}(Y)=0$. Replacing X with Y, we may thus assume X is a K-trivial Kähler variety with canonical singularities and vanishing augmented irregularity. Moreover, by Corollary 3.9 and [CGGN20, Theorem C & Proposition 6.9], we also know T_X has a splitting

$$T_X=\bigoplus_{i\in I}C_i\oplus\bigoplus_{j\in J}S_j \tag{8.1}$$

into foliations such that with respect to some (hence any) singular Ricci-flat metric on X the sheaves $C_i|_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}$ (resp. $S_j|_{X^{\mathrm{reg}}}$) are parallel with holonomy SU (resp. Sp). We may assume (8.1) has at least two factors (or X is IHS or ICY and there is nothing to prove) and at least one symplectic factor (or X is already projective and we apply [HP19, Theorem 1.5]). It suffices to show by induction that there is a quasi-étale cover of X which splits as a product.

Given Proposition 7.5, it is enough to show we are in Setting 6.5. We obtain the weakly Kähler metric θ by [Bin83a, Theorem 6.3], see also [Nam01, Proposition 5]. It thus remains to show the following:

Claim. After replacing X with a quasi-étale cover, there is a locally trivial deformation $\mathcal{X}\longrightarrow\Delta$ of X such that we have a nontrivial product decomposition $\mathcal{X}^*=\mathcal{Y}^*\times_{\Delta^*}\mathcal{Z}^*$ over Δ^* for locally trivial families $\mathcal{Y}^*,\mathcal{Z}^*/\Delta^*$ and a splitting $T_{\mathcal{X}/\Delta}=A\oplus B$ compatible with the decomposition over Δ^*.

Proof. Taking $E=\bigoplus_{j\in J}S_j$ and $P=\bigoplus_{i\in i}C_i$, then the family $\mathcal{X}\longrightarrow S$ guaranteed by Corollary 2.32 is a strong locally trivial approximation of X by Lemma 3.5. By Corollary 3.10 every fiber has vanishing augmented irregularity. A projective fiber has a

BB decomposition on some quasi-étale cover [HP19, Theorem 1.5], so by Lemmas 3.7 and 3.8 we may assume a fiber X_t of $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S$ has a BB decomposition which is nontrivial by Corollary 3.10 and which has no torus factor. By Lemma 7.7 this product decomposition persists in a neighborhood of t, and by Lemma 4.4 after taking a finite base-change $S' \longrightarrow S$ and choosing a curve $\Delta \longrightarrow S'$ through the special point we have a locally trivial family $\mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \Delta$ with a locally trivial product decomposition over Δ^*. By Proposition 5.1 the claim follows. □

The proof of Theorem A is now complete. □

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