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Algebraic and analytic bubbles in algebraic varieties

In analysis, the failure in "compactness" in some space of maps to a compact analytic object X is often explained by the existence of "bubbles" in X. In holomorphic geometry (resp. algebraic geometry) bubbles are given by nonconstant holomorphic maps from C, i.e. Brody curves, (resp. from \mathbb{CP}^1 , i.e. rational curves) to X. We will discuss the role of bubbles for a quasi projective varieties U and their effect on the positivity of the log-canonical divisor of U. This is joint work with De-Qi Zhang.