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Failures of weak approximation in families

M. J. Bright, T. D. Browning and D. Loughran

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ABSTRACT

Given a family of varieties $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ over a number field, we determine conditions under which there is a Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation for 100% of the fibres which are everywhere locally soluble.

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1. Introduction

This paper is concerned with the Hasse principle and weak approximation for families of varieties defined over a number field k . Given a smooth projective geometrically integral variety X over k , we have the obvious diagonal embedding

$$X(k) \rightarrow X(\mathbf{A}_k) = \prod_{\text{all places } \nu} X(k_{\nu}),$$

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where $X(\mathbf{A}_k)$ is the set of adèles of X . Recall that a class \mathcal{X} of smooth projective geometrically integral varieties X over k is said to satisfy the *Hasse principle* if $X(k) \neq \emptyset$ whenever $X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$. Likewise \mathcal{X} is said to satisfy *weak approximation* if for any X in \mathcal{X} , the image of $X(k)$ in $X(\mathbf{A}_k)$ is dense with respect to the product topology. Note that with these definitions, weak approximation holds for X if $X(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$. In 1970, Manin used the Brauer group, given by $\text{Br } X = H_{\text{ét}}^2(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$, to define the *Brauer set* $X(\mathbf{A}_k)^{\text{Br}} \subset X(\mathbf{A}_k)$. This set contains the rational points of X and can sometimes be used to obstruct the Hasse principle or weak approximation (see, for example, [Sko01, § 5]). It has been conjectured by Colliot-Thélène (see [Col03]) that this *Brauer–Manin obstruction* is the only obstruction to the Hasse principle or weak approximation for any smooth projective geometrically integral variety X over k which is geometrically rationally connected. Here we are interested in the following special case of Colliot-Thélène’s conjecture.

CONJECTURE 1.1 (Colliot-Thélène). Let X be a smooth projective geometrically integral variety over a number field k , which is geometrically rationally connected, such that $X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$ and $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } k = 0$. Then $X(k) \neq \emptyset$ and X satisfies weak approximation.

There are many examples in the literature where the converse of Conjecture 1.1 holds, and in this paper we are motivated by the extent to which this converse holds in general. For example, consider the Châtelet surface X which arises over \mathbb{Q} as a smooth proper model of the affine surface

$$y^2 + z^2 = L_1(t)L_2(t)L_3(t)L_4(t),$$

where $L_1, \dots, L_4 \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ are pairwise non-proportional linear polynomials. Then $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } \mathbb{Q} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$ and $X(\mathbb{Q}) \neq \emptyset$, and it follows from [dlBBP12, Remark 3.4] that X fails weak approximation. For varieties whose dimension is large compared to the degree, the Hardy–Littlewood circle method can be used to show that the converse of Conjecture 1.1 is true. Recent work of Browning and Heath-Brown [BH14, Theorem 1.1], for example, shows that the Hasse principle and weak approximation hold for any smooth geometrically integral variety $X \subset \mathbb{P}^m$ over \mathbb{Q} for which

$$\dim(X) \geq (\deg(X) - 1)2^{\deg(X)} - 1.$$

Note that here one has $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } \mathbb{Q} = 0$ (see [BH14, § 1]).

On the other hand, it is possible to construct examples of varieties X over k covered by Colliot-Thélène’s conjecture for which $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } k \neq 0$ and yet X satisfies the Hasse principle and weak approximation. The following example is due to Colliot-Thélène and Sansuc [CS77, Exemple D, p. 223].

Example 1.2. Let K/k be a biquadratic extension and let $\mathbf{N}_K \in k[x_1, \dots, x_4]$ be the associated *norm form*. Then the equation $\mathbf{N}_K(x_1, \dots, x_4) = 1$ defines a k -torus T . Let X be a smooth compactification of T . Then we have $X(k) \neq \emptyset$ and $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } k \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. However, as explained in [CS77, Exemple D, p. 223], if all decomposition groups of K/k are cyclic then weak approximation holds for T , and so also for X (this occurs for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{13}, \sqrt{17})/\mathbb{Q}$, for example).

A further example involving del Pezzo surfaces of degree 4 can be found in recent work of Jahnel and Schindler [JS15, Example 4.3].

These examples illustrate that we cannot expect the converse to hold in every case. Instead, we shall establish a weak converse to Conjecture 1.1, by considering this problem in families. Namely, suppose that we are given a family $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ over a number field k , with X non-singular

projective and geometrically integral. Let K be the function field of \mathbb{P}^n and assume that the generic fibre X_η is such that either $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_\eta)$ or $\text{Br } X_\eta/\text{Br } K = \text{coker}(\text{Br } K \rightarrow \text{Br } X_\eta)$ is non-trivial. Under suitable hypotheses, our main result shows that with probability 1 any element of the family which is everywhere locally soluble fails weak approximation.

An important first step in our investigation is to understand the proportion of elements in a family of varieties that are everywhere locally soluble. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a dominant projective k -morphism with geometrically integral generic fibre. Let $H : \mathbb{P}^n(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1}$ be the standard exponential height (see §3.2 for its definition). Then we let

$$\sigma(\pi) = \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : H(P) \leq B, X_P(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset\}}{\#\{P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : H(P) \leq B\}}, \tag{1.1}$$

if the limit exists, where $X_P = \pi^{-1}(P)$. This is the proportion of varieties in the family which are everywhere locally soluble.

Recall that a scheme over a field is said to be *split* if it contains a geometrically integral open subscheme. Bearing this in mind, we will establish the following result.

THEOREM 1.3. *Let k be a number field. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a dominant quasi-projective k -morphism with geometrically integral generic fibre. Assume that:*

- (1) *the fibre of π above each codimension-1 point of \mathbb{P}^n is split;*
- (2) *$X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$.*

Then $\sigma(\pi)$ exists, is non-zero and is equal to a product of local densities.

This result proves a special case of a conjecture due to Loughran [Lou13, Conjecture 1.7]. A precise statement about the shape of the leading constant is recorded in Theorem 3.8.

Theorem 1.3 should be compared with work of Poonen and Voloch [PV04, Theorem 3.6], which is concerned with the family $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ of all hypersurfaces of degree d in \mathbb{P}^m over \mathbb{Q} , where $n = \binom{m+d}{d} - 1$ and $d, m \geq 2$ are such that $(d, m) \neq (2, 2)$. Our work generalises this to number fields, but also applies, for example, to the family of all diagonal hypersurfaces of degree d and dimension exceeding 1. Hypothesis (1) in Theorem 1.3 generalises the condition $(d, m) \neq (2, 2)$ in the work of Poonen and Voloch. Indeed, consider the family

$$X = \left\{ \sum_{0 \leq i < j \leq 2} a_{i,j} x_i x_j = 0 \right\} \subset \mathbb{P}^5 \times \mathbb{P}^2$$

of all conics over \mathbb{Q} in \mathbb{P}^2 . Serre [Ser90] has shown that $\sigma(\pi) = 0$ for this family and one can easily check that the fibre over the generic point of the discriminantal hypersurface

$$\Delta(a_{0,0}, \dots, a_{2,2}) = 0$$

is not split, being a union of two lines which are conjugate over a quadratic field extension. Hypothesis (2) is also clearly necessary in the statement of Theorem 1.3. The result is proved using the sieve of Ekedahl [Eke91] together with Deligne’s work on the Weil conjectures [Del80], and is carried out in §3.

We are also able to obtain a version of Theorem 1.3 for integral points on affine spaces. For a number field k over \mathbb{Q} , let \mathfrak{o} be its ring of integers and let $k_\infty = \mathfrak{o} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}$ be the associated commutative \mathbb{R} -algebra. To state the result, we say that an open subset $\Theta \subset V$ of a finite-dimensional real vector space V is a *semi-cone* if $B\Theta \subset \Theta$ for all $B \geq 1$.

THEOREM 1.4. *Let k be a number field. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$ be a dominant quasi-projective k -morphism with geometrically integral generic fibre. Assume that:*

- (1) *the fibre of π above each codimension-1 point of \mathbb{A}^n is split;*
- (2) *$X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$;*
- (3) *$\pi(X(k_\nu)) \subset k_\nu^n$ contains a semi-cone for every real place ν of k .*

Let $\Psi \subset k_\infty^n$ be a bounded subset of positive measure that lies in some semi-cone contained in $\pi(X(k_\infty))$ and whose boundary has measure zero. Then the limit

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{P \in \mathfrak{o}^n \cap B\Psi : X_P(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset\}}{\#\{P \in \mathfrak{o}^n \cap B\Psi\}}$$

exists, is non-zero and is equal to a product of local densities.

Note that some form of ‘unboundedness’ assumption at the real places, such as condition (3), is clearly necessary for the conclusion to hold. Indeed, the conclusion of Theorem 1.4 does not hold if, for example, $\pi(X(k_\nu))$ is bounded for some real place ν . Such unboundedness conditions naturally arise in the study of integral points and fibrations; see Derenthal and Wei [DW13], for example.

Now let X be as in Theorem 1.3. A simple consequence of this result is the fact that there exists a member of the family which is everywhere locally soluble. In particular, this allows us to deduce the following corollary.

COROLLARY 1.5. *Let k be a number field. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a dominant quasi-projective k -morphism with geometrically integral generic fibre. Assume that:*

- (1) *the fibre of π above each codimension-1 point of \mathbb{P}^n is split;*
- (2) *the smooth fibres of π satisfy the Hasse principle.*

Then X satisfies the Hasse principle.

Whilst this result does not explicitly occur in the literature, it has long been known in some form to experts (cf. [Sko96, Theorem 2.1] and [Har97, Theorem 3.2.1]). Our Theorem 1.3 may be viewed as a quantitative refinement of this fact.

Suppose now that $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ is a family over k satisfying the hypotheses of Theorem 1.3 and whose generic fibre is smooth. Let K be the function field of \mathbb{P}^n and put $\eta : \text{Spec}(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ for the generic point. Our hypotheses imply that fibres of π are smooth and geometrically integral over some dense open subset of \mathbb{P}^n . One would like to study the Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation for these fibres, for which one requires a non-constant Brauer group element on these fibres. It is natural to try and achieve this by assuming that the generic fibre has non-constant Brauer group. A significant problem with this, however, is that there are families of varieties which we would like to address where this does not happen. For example, if k contains a primitive third root of unity, then Uematsu [Uem14, Theorem 5.1] has shown that the generic diagonal cubic surface over K has constant Brauer group.

One of the chief novelties of our investigation is that one can work directly with non-trivial elements of the group $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$. Here $\bar{\eta} : \text{Spec}(\bar{K}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ denotes a geometric point lying above η . Note that the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence (see, for example, [Uem14, § 2]) yields the exact sequence

$$\text{Br } K \rightarrow \text{Br}_1 X_\eta \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \rightarrow H^3(K, \mathbb{G}_m),$$

where $\text{Br}_1 X_\eta = \ker(\text{Br } X_\eta \rightarrow \text{Br } X_{\bar{\eta}})$. In particular, elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ do not necessarily lift to $\text{Br}_1 X_\eta$, due to a possible obstruction lying in $H^3(K, \mathbb{G}_m)$. For those $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$ such that X_P is smooth, however, such an element specialises to give an element of $H^1(k, \text{Pic } X_P)$. Since $H^3(k, \mathbb{G}_m) = 0$, such elements *do* lift to an element of $\text{Br}_1 X_P$, with which one can try to obstruct weak approximation on X_P . Our strategy is to show that, under appropriate geometric hypotheses, almost surely a non-trivial element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ or $\text{Br } X_\eta/\text{Br } K$ gives an obstruction to weak approximation on X_P , if X_P is everywhere locally soluble. Our main result in this direction is as follows.

THEOREM 1.6. *Let k be a number field and let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a flat, surjective k -morphism of finite type, with X smooth, projective and geometrically integral over k . Let $\eta : \text{Spec } K \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ denote the generic point and suppose that the generic fibre X_η is geometrically connected. Assume the following hypotheses:*

- (1) $X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$;
- (2) the fibre of π at each codimension-1 point of \mathbb{P}^n is geometrically integral;
- (3) the fibre of π at each codimension-2 point of \mathbb{P}^n has a geometrically reduced component;
- (4) $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}) = 0$;
- (5) $\text{Br } \bar{X} = 0$;
- (6) $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \mathbb{P}_k^n) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective;
- (7) either $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \neq 0$ or $\text{Br } X_\eta/\text{Br } K \neq 0$.

Then the fibre X_P is smooth and fails weak approximation for 100% of rational points $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) \cap \pi(X(\mathbf{A}_k))$.

On letting $S = \mathbb{P}^n(k) \cap \pi(X(\mathbf{A}_k))$, the conclusion of the theorem means that

$$\limsup_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{P \in S : H(P) \leq B \text{ and } X_P \text{ satisfies weak approximation}\}}{\#\{P \in S : H(P) \leq B\}} = 0.$$

Theorem 1.6 is proved in §§ 4–6.

Let us briefly explain how the conditions given in Theorem 1.6 arise. First note that any family $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ satisfying the hypotheses of Theorem 1.6 will automatically satisfy those of Theorem 1.3. Hence a positive proportion of the varieties in the family are everywhere locally soluble. As already explained, condition (7) is a natural condition to impose so that one actually has a Brauer group element on the fibres to work with. The remaining conditions in Theorem 1.6 are there to guarantee that one can actually use this element to obstruct weak approximation. Note that, assuming condition (5), condition (4) is equivalent to the condition $\text{Br } X = \text{Br } k$. Condition (6) is perhaps the least natural looking in the theorem; it will be discussed further in § 5.4. It holds, for example, if the map π admits a section. In Proposition 5.17, furthermore, we shall show that conditions (4)–(6) hold whenever $X \subset \mathbb{P}^r \times \mathbb{P}^n$ is a complete intersection of dimension ≥ 3 .

One of the main tools in the study of the Brauer group is Grothendieck’s purity theorem. This implies that if Y is a smooth projective variety over a field k of characteristic zero satisfying $\text{Br } Y = \text{Br } k$, then any non-constant Brauer group element defined on some open subset $U \subset Y$ must be ramified somewhere on Y . One of the challenges of this paper is to define the residue of an element of $H^1(k, \text{Pic } Y_{\bar{k}})$ and to prove an analogue of the purity theorem in this setting, under suitable assumptions. This need to develop so much theory from scratch is a partial explanation

for the length of the proof of Theorem 1.6. In this setting, for $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$, conditions (4) and (6) are necessary in the sense that the failure of either of them gives rise to non-zero unramified elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$; such elements may or may not give an obstruction to weak approximation on the fibres, but the methods of this article say nothing about them. Conditions (3) and (5) are sufficient to ensure that this is the only way such unramified elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ can arise, but we do not know whether they are also necessary. Once we have these conditions, we use them to deduce that any non-zero element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$, or any non-zero element of $\text{Br } X_{\eta}/\text{Br } K$, must be ramified along some fibre above a divisor $D \subset \mathbb{P}^n$. We then find conditions so that if the reduction of a rational point $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$ modulo some prime \mathfrak{p} of k lies in D , then X_P has a suitable kind of bad reduction at \mathfrak{p} which forces a Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation for X_P to occur at \mathfrak{p} . Once we have this criterion, we then prove Theorem 1.6 by showing that this type of bad reduction occurs 100% of the time, using the large sieve.

In § 2 we shall collect together some examples to illustrate our main results. Foremost among those, which we explicate here, is the smooth biprojective hypersurface

$$X = \{a_0x_0^3 + a_1x_1^3 + a_2x_2^3 + a_3x_3^3 = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^3 \times \mathbb{P}^3 \tag{1.2}$$

over a number field k , viewed as the family of diagonal cubic surfaces $X_P \subset \mathbb{P}^3$. It is easy to see that X is k -rational and so conditions (1), (4) and (5) are automatically met in Theorem 1.6. Condition (6) follows from Proposition 5.17. For a given rational point $P = (a_0, \dots, a_3) \in \mathbb{P}^3(k)$ the fibre X_P is smooth whenever the product $a_0a_1a_2a_3$ is non-zero. The locus of bad reduction consists of the union of the four coordinate planes $\{a_i = 0\}$ in \mathbb{P}^3 . Above each of these divisors the generic fibre is a cone over a smooth cubic curve, and hence is geometrically integral. Worse reduction happens over the intersections of these divisors, that is, where more than one of the a_i vanish. However, one notes that the fibre over any point of codimension 2 has a geometrically reduced component. Thus conditions (2) and (3) in Theorem 1.6 are also satisfied. Colliot-Thélène, Kanevsky and Sansuc [CKS87] have carried out an extensive investigation of the Brauer–Manin obstruction for the smooth fibres X_P . Under the assumption that the number field k contains a primitive cube root of unity, it follows from their work that $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$. In Lemma 2.1 we shall show that this continues to hold over any number field k . This takes care of condition (7) and so all of the hypotheses of Theorem 1.6 are met. Thus, when ordered by height, 100% of diagonal cubic surfaces over k which are everywhere locally soluble fail weak approximation. Since the hypotheses of Theorem 1.3 are also satisfied, it is possible to calculate the precise proportion of X_P which are everywhere locally soluble. This will be done in § 2.1 when $k = \mathbb{Q}$ and leads to the following rather succinct result.

THEOREM 1.7. *Approximately 86% of diagonal cubic surfaces over \mathbb{Q} , when ordered by height, fail weak approximation.*

It is worth emphasising (see [PV04, Proposition 3.4]) that the analogous result for the full family $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{19}$ of *all* cubic surfaces is presumed to be false. Indeed, since $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{V}) = 0$ for a randomly chosen cubic surface $V \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ over a number field k , it follows from Conjecture 1.1 that the Hasse principle and weak approximation *hold* for 100% of the surfaces which are everywhere locally soluble.

We close by comparing Theorem 1.6 with far-reaching work of Harari [Har94] on the fibration method. Specialising his work to families given by a surjective morphism $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ over a number field k , with X a smooth and geometrically integral variety over k , we make the following hypotheses:

- the generic fibre X_η has a K -point,
- $X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$,
- $\text{Br } X/\text{Br } k = 0$,
- $\text{Br } X_\eta/\text{Br } K \neq 0$.

Then it follows from [Har94, Proposition 6.1.2] that there is a Zariski dense set of points $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$ such that the fibre X_P fails weak approximation. Our result provides finer quantitative information about the frequency of counter-examples to weak approximation, does not require π to have a section, and works with non-trivial elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ regardless of whether they lift to $\text{Br } X_\eta$.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In §2 we will complete the proof of Theorem 1.7 and collect together further examples to illustrate Theorem 1.6. In §3 we will prove Theorem 1.3. This part of the paper is completely self-contained. In §4 we give an overview of the proof of Theorem 1.6. The algebraic part is the object of §5 and the analytic part is handled in §6.

2. Examples

2.1 Diagonal cubic surfaces

The aim of this section is to prove Theorem 1.7. We begin by verifying that the Picard group of the generic diagonal cubic surface has non-trivial first cohomology group. The proof runs along very similar lines to the proof of [PT01, Proposition 6.1], so we shall be brief on the details.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let k be a field of characteristic zero, and let*

$$S : x_0^3 + a_1x_1^3 + a_2x_2^3 + a_3x_3^3 = 0$$

over the function field $K = k(a_1, a_2, a_3)$. Then $H^1(K, \text{Pic } S_{\bar{K}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. If $\mu_3 \subset k$, then the result follows from [CKS87, Proposition 1]. (This result is stated only for number fields and local fields, but the proof works in our more general setting.) Thus we assume that $\mu_3 \not\subset k$. Let $L = k(\theta)$, where θ is a primitive third root of unity. The splitting field of S is $k(\theta, \sqrt[3]{a_1}, \sqrt[3]{a_2}, \sqrt[3]{a_3})$, whose Galois group is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, where the non-trivial element of $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ acts as multiplication by -1 on $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^3$. As in the proof of [PT01, Proposition 6.1], inflation restriction yields an isomorphism

$$H^1(K, \text{Pic } S_{\bar{K}}) \cong H^1(K(\theta), \text{Pic } S_{\bar{K}})^{\text{Gal}(L/k)}.$$

To prove the result, it suffices to show that the group $\text{Gal}(L/k)$ acts trivially on $H^1(K(\theta), \text{Pic } S_{\bar{K}})$. This is proved in a similar manner to [PT01, Proposition 6.1], on using the explicit description of the above cohomology group given in [CKS87, Lemma 2]. □

Lemma 2.1, once combined with the discussion given in the introduction, confirms that the family (1.2) of all diagonal cubic surfaces over any number field k meets the hypotheses of Theorems 1.3 and 1.6.

We now explicitly calculate the proportion σ of diagonal cubic surfaces over \mathbb{Q} which are everywhere locally soluble, in order to prove Theorem 1.7. It follows from Theorem 1.3 that we have an Euler product $\sigma = \sigma_\infty \prod_p \sigma_p$ of local densities (see (3.6) for a precise description). Clearly $\sigma_\infty = 1$, and we shall soon see that $\sigma_p = 1$ if $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ (since then every element of \mathbb{F}_p is a cube). The main result here is as follows.

THEOREM 2.2. *The proportion of diagonal cubic surfaces which are everywhere locally soluble is*

$$\sigma = \sigma_3 \prod_{p \equiv 1 \pmod 3} \sigma_p,$$

where

$$\sigma_p = \begin{cases} \frac{(1 - 1/p)^3}{(1 - 1/p^3)^3} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p^2}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{3p^2}\right) \left(1 + \frac{3}{p} + \frac{3}{p^2}\right), & p \equiv 1 \pmod 3, \\ \frac{(1 - 1/p)^3}{(1 - 1/p^3)^3} \left(1 + \frac{3}{p} + \frac{46}{9p^2} + \frac{7}{p^3} + \frac{62}{9p^4} + \frac{19}{9p^5} + \frac{1}{p^6}\right), & p = 3. \end{cases}$$

Here σ has approximate value 0.860 564 (as one confirms on taking the product of all primes up to 10^6). This suffices to complete the proof of Theorem 1.7.

To prove the theorem we use a criterion for testing local solubility at each prime given in [CKS87], then calculate the density of each case which occurs. Our approach is inspired by the corresponding result for (non-diagonal) ternary cubic forms considered by Bhargava *et al.* [BCF13], who show that the density of plane cubic curves over \mathbb{Q} which are everywhere locally soluble is approximately 97%.

2.1.1 An equivalence relation. We define an equivalence relation on the set $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^4$ by declaring that

$$(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) \sim (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$$

if and only if at least one of the following holds.

- $(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$ is a permutation of $(\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$.
- There exists $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ such that

$$(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) = (\beta_0 + k, \beta_1 + k, \beta_2 + k, \beta_3 + k).$$

- $(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) \equiv (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3) \pmod 3$.

Given $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^4$, we define its *weight* $w(\alpha)$ to be the sum of its coordinates. One can easily check that the following vectors give representatives of the equivalence classes of \sim :

$$\delta_1 = \mathbf{0}, \quad \delta_2 = (0, 0, 0, 1), \quad \delta_3 = (0, 0, 0, 2), \quad \delta_4 = (0, 0, 1, 1), \quad \delta_5 = (0, 0, 1, 2).$$

2.1.2 Volumes in a special case. Now fix a prime p with associated valuation v . We extend v in the natural way to a function $v : \mathbb{Z}_p^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^4$. For a vector $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4$, we shall denote by $S_{\mathbf{a}}$ the diagonal cubic surface with coefficients \mathbf{a} , namely

$$S_{\mathbf{a}} : a_0x_0^3 + a_1x_1^3 + a_2x_2^3 + a_3x_3^3 = 0.$$

The equivalence relation \sim has been chosen in such a way that if $\alpha \sim \beta$, then

$$p^{w(\alpha)} \mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) = \alpha, S_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \neq \emptyset\}) = p^{w(\beta)} \mu_p(\{\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{b}) = \beta, S_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \neq \emptyset\}),$$

where μ_p denotes the usual Haar measure on \mathbb{Z}_p^4 . We now calculate the relevant volumes for coefficient vectors with valuations $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_5$.

LEMMA 2.3. For each prime p and each $i \in \{1, \dots, 5\}$, there exists a rational number \mathcal{A}_i such that

$$\mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) = \delta_i, S_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \neq \emptyset\}) = \mathcal{A}_i \cdot \mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) = \delta_i\}).$$

These are explicitly given in the following table.

p	\mathcal{A}_1	\mathcal{A}_2	\mathcal{A}_3	\mathcal{A}_4	\mathcal{A}_5
3	1	1	7/9	1	1
1 mod 3	1	1	1	5/9	1/3
2 mod 3	1	1	1	1	1

Proof. We use the criterion for solubility in \mathbb{Q}_p given in [CKS87, p. 28] (but see Remark 2.4 for the case $p = 3$). For $p \equiv 2 \pmod 3$ we have $\mathcal{A}_i = 1$ for each i , as every such surface has a \mathbb{Q}_p -point. For $p = 3$ we similarly have $\mathcal{A}_i = 1$ for $i \neq 3$. For δ_3 , by Remark 2.4 we find that $\mathcal{A}_3 = 1 - (48 \cdot 6)/6^4 = 7/9$.

Consider now the case $p \equiv 1 \pmod 3$. Here we have $\mathcal{A}_i = 1$ for $i \notin \{4, 5\}$. For δ_4 , there is a \mathbb{Q}_p -point if and only if $-a_1/a_0$ is a cube, or if $-a_1/a_0$ is not a cube but $-a_3/a_2$ is a cube. Thus $\mathcal{A}_4 = 1/3 + 2/9 = 5/9$ (this volume computation follows from the simple generalisation of the fact that when $p \equiv 1 \pmod 3$, we have $\mu_p(\{a \in \mathbb{Z}_p^* : a \text{ is a cube}\}) = (1/3) \cdot \mu_p(\{a \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*\})$). For δ_5 there is a \mathbb{Q}_p -point if and only if $-a_0/a_1$ is a cube, hence $\mathcal{A}_5 = 1/3$. \square

Remark 2.4. Let us take the opportunity to correct a small error in the criterion for solubility at the prime $p = 3$ given in [CKS87, p. 28]. Namely, let $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_3^4$ with $v(\mathbf{a}) = (0, 0, 0, 2)$. In [CKS87] the authors claim that the surface $S_{\mathbf{a}}$ has no \mathbb{Q}_3 -point if and only if \mathbf{a} is congruent to $(1, 2, 4, 0)$ modulo 9, up to permuting coordinates. However, this is clearly false; indeed, the coefficient vector $(-1, 2, 4, 9) \in \mathbb{Z}_3^4$ gives rise to a cubic surface over \mathbb{Q}_3 with no \mathbb{Q}_3 -point.

The correct condition is that the surface $S_{\mathbf{a}}$ has no \mathbb{Q}_3 -point if and only if \mathbf{a} is congruent to $(1, 2, 4, 0)$ modulo 9, up to permuting (a_0, a_1, a_2) , multiplying some of the a_i by -1 or multiplying (a_0, a_1, a_2) by an element of $(\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^*$ (this gives a choice of 48 elements of $(\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^4$).

2.1.3 *Volumes in the general case.* To calculate the density σ_p , we shall integrate over the equivalence classes of \sim . Namely, it follows from the above calculations that

$$\sigma_p = \sum_{i=1}^5 \mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) \sim \delta_i, S_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \neq \emptyset\}) = \sum_{i=1}^5 \mathcal{A}_i V_i, \tag{2.1}$$

where $V_i = \mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) \sim \delta_i\})$. (Note that we have the relation $\sum_{i=1}^5 V_i = 1$, which can be used as a check for the calculations.)

LEMMA 2.5. For each $i = 1, \dots, 5$, we have

$$V_i = \frac{(1 - 1/p)^4}{(1 - 1/p^3)^4} f_i(1/p),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= 1 + x^4 + x^8, & f_2(x) &= 4(x + x^5 + x^6), & f_3(x) &= 4(x^2 + x^3 + x^7), \\ f_4(x) &= 6(x^2 + x^4 + x^6), & f_5(x) &= 12(x^3 + x^4 + x^5). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We first need to calculate all those elements of $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^4$ which are equivalent to δ_i . We begin by enumerating the set $C_i = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^4 : \alpha \sim \delta_i, w(\alpha) \leq 8\}$. The value of V_i is then the volume of the set of elements whose valuations lie in the coset $C_i + (3\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0})^4$. The corresponding volumes can then be calculated using the fact that

$$\mu_p(\{a \in \mathbb{Z}_p : 3 \mid v(a)\}) = \frac{1 - 1/p}{1 - 1/p^3}.$$

For example, one has $C_1 = \{(0, 0, 0, 0), (1, 1, 1, 1), (2, 2, 2, 2)\}$. This implies that

$$V_1 = \mu_p(\{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^4 : v(\mathbf{a}) \equiv \mathbf{0} \pmod{3}\}) \left(1 + \frac{1}{p^4} + \frac{1}{p^8}\right) = \frac{(1 - 1/p)^4}{(1 - 1/p^3)^4} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p^4} + \frac{1}{p^8}\right),$$

which proves the result in this case. The calculations in the other cases proceed in a similar manner, and the details are omitted. □

Combining Lemma 2.3 with (2.1) and Lemma 2.5, one easily confirms the values of σ_p recorded in Theorem 2.2 for $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ and $p = 3$.

2.2 Diagonal quartic surfaces

Consider the smooth biprojective hypersurface

$$X = \{a_0x_0^4 + a_1x_1^4 + a_2x_2^4 + a_3x_3^4 = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^3 \times \mathbb{P}^3$$

over a number field k , viewed as the family of diagonal quartic surfaces $X_P \subset \mathbb{P}^3$. The hypotheses of Theorem 1.3 are obviously met. Similarly, the same argument given for cubics implies that the conditions of Theorem 1.6 are all met, except possibly for condition (7). However, if S is a diagonal quartic surface over a field L of characteristic zero, then a complete list for the possible choices for $H^1(L, \text{Pic } S_{\bar{L}})$, depending on the Galois action of the lines of the surface, was compiled by Bright in [Bri02, §A]. An inspection of this list reveals that for any number field k , the generic diagonal quartic over the function field K of \mathbb{P}_k^3 satisfies $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$; hence condition (7) also holds, as required.

Although we will not repeat the argument here, it is possible to calculate the exact proportion $\sigma_\infty \prod_p \sigma_p$ of diagonal quartic surfaces over \mathbb{Q} which are everywhere locally soluble, using a similar method to the proof of Theorem 1.7. There are a few differences, however, from the case of diagonal cubic surfaces. Firstly, one has $\sigma_p < 1$ for all primes p . This is due to the fact that the surface

$$x_0^4 + px_1^4 + p^2x_2^4 + p^3x_3^4 = 0$$

over \mathbb{Q}_p never has a \mathbb{Q}_p -point. Secondly, one finds that the proportion is rather smaller than the one occurring for diagonal cubic surfaces. This comes from the fact that for diagonal quartics, asking that the surface be soluble at the infinite place and at small primes imposes very strong conditions. In fact $\sigma_\infty = 3/4$, $\sigma_2 \approx 0.55$, $\sigma_3 \approx 0.87$ and $\sigma_5 \approx 0.79$, as can be confirmed numerically on a computer. This leads to the conclusion that about 28% of diagonal quartic surfaces are soluble at infinity and at these primes. In truth approximately 24% of diagonal quartic surfaces over \mathbb{Q} , when ordered by height, are everywhere locally soluble. This leads to the following analogue of Theorem 1.7.

THEOREM 2.6. *Approximately 24% of all diagonal quartic surfaces over \mathbb{Q} , when ordered by height, fail weak approximation.*

3. The sieve of Ekedahl

The aim of this section is to prove Theorem 1.3. The main tool for this is the sieve of Ekedahl. This sieve was first introduced by Ekedahl [Eke91], but was developed extensively by Poonen and Stoll [PS99] and Bhargava [Bha14]. We shall push the analysis further, by producing versions of this sieve over general number fields, both in the context of integral points on affine space and rational points on projective space.

3.1 Integral points

Let Λ be a free \mathbb{Z} -module of finite rank and put

$$\Lambda_\infty = \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \Lambda_p = \Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_p,$$

for each prime p . Choose Haar measures μ_∞ and μ_p on Λ_∞ and Λ_p , respectively, such that $\mu_p(\Lambda_p) = 1$ for almost all primes p . Our first result generalises work of Poonen and Stoll [PS99, Lemma 20] to deal with points lying in arbitrary free \mathbb{Z} -modules of finite rank that are constrained to lie in dilations of bounded subsets of Λ_∞ . For a subset $\Omega \subset X$ of a topological space X , we denote by $\partial\Omega = \overline{\Omega} \setminus \Omega^\circ$ its boundary.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let Λ be a free \mathbb{Z} -module of finite rank n , let $\Omega_\infty \subset \Lambda_\infty$ be a bounded subset and for each prime p let $\Omega_p \subset \Lambda_p$. Assume that:*

- (1) $\mu_\infty(\partial\Omega_\infty) = 0$ and $\mu_p(\partial\Omega_p) = 0$ for each prime p ;
- (2) $\mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) > 0$ and $\mu_p(\Omega_p) > 0$ for each prime p .

Suppose also that

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda \cap B\Omega_\infty : \exists a \text{ prime } p > M \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{x} \notin \Omega_p\}}{B^n} = 0. \tag{3.1}$$

Then the limit

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{B^n} \#\{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda \cap B\Omega_\infty : \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_p \text{ for all primes } p\}$$

exists, is non-zero and equals

$$\frac{\mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty)}{\mu_\infty(\Lambda_\infty/\Lambda)} \prod_p \frac{\mu_p(\Omega_p)}{\mu_p(\Lambda_p)}.$$

Proof. Note that (1) implies that the sets Ω_∞ and Ω_p are Jordan measurable, hence measurable. We equip \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{Z}_p^n with the usual Haar measures and choose an isomorphism $\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$. Then the measures μ_∞ and μ_p induce measures on \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{Z}_p^n which differ from the usual Haar measures by $\mu_\infty(\Lambda_\infty/\Lambda)$ and $\mu_p(\Lambda_p)$, respectively. Hence it suffices to prove the result when $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^n$ and μ_∞ and μ_p are the usual Haar measures.

Our argument closely follows the proof of [PS99, Lemma 20] (although we shall be working with the complements of the sets U_∞, U_p considered there). We begin by dealing with the case that there exists M such that $\Omega_p = \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ for all finite $p > M$. For any prime p , a box $K_p \subset \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ is defined to be a cartesian product of closed balls of the shape $\{x \in \mathbb{Z}_p : |x - a|_p \leq b\}$, for $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $P = \prod_{p \leq M} \Omega_p$ and $Q = \prod_{p \leq M} (\mathbb{Z}_p^n \setminus \Omega_p)$. By hypothesis Ω_p and $\mathbb{Z}_p^n \setminus \Omega_p$ have boundary of measure zero. Hence by compactness we can cover the closure \overline{P} of P (respectively, the closure \overline{Q} of Q) by a finite number of boxes $\prod_{p \leq M} I_p$ (respectively, $\prod_{p \leq M} J_p$) the sum of

whose measures is arbitrarily close to the measure of \overline{P} (respectively, \overline{Q}), which equals $\prod_p \mu_p(\Omega_p)$ (respectively, $1 - \prod_p \mu_p(\Omega_p)$). We claim that

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{B^n} \# \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \cap B\Omega_\infty : \mathbf{x} \in \prod_{p \leq M} K_p \right\} = \mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) \prod_p \mu_p(K_p),$$

for any box $\prod_p K_p$. Indeed, the set of those $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ for which $\mathbf{x} \in \prod_{p \leq M} K_p$ is a translate of a sublattice, the determinant of which is $\prod_{p \leq M} \mu_p(K_p)^{-1}$. The claim therefore follows from a classical lattice point counting result, which applies here as Ω_∞ is Jordan measurable (see Lemma 2 and its proof in [Mar77, § 6], for example). Applying this with $\prod_{p \leq M} K_p$ taken to be first $\prod_{p \leq M} I_p$ and second $\prod_{p \leq M} J_p$, we easily complete the proof of the lemma when there exists M such that $\Omega_p = \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ for all finite $p > M$.

We now turn to the general case. For $M \leq M' < \infty$ and $B > 0$, let

$$f_{M,M'}(B) = \frac{1}{B^n} \# \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \cap B\Omega_\infty : \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_p \text{ for all primes } p \in [M, M'] \}$$

and put $f_M(B) = f_{1,M}(B)$. Note that $f_M(B) \geq f_{M+r}(B)$ for any $r \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{ \infty \}$. The hypothesis (3.1) implies that

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{B \rightarrow \infty} (f_M(B) - f_\infty(B)) = 0. \tag{3.2}$$

Moreover, our work so far shows that

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} f_{M,M'}(B) = \mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) \prod_{M \leq p < M'} \mu_p(\Omega_p), \quad \text{for all } M < M' < \infty. \tag{3.3}$$

Thus (3.2) and (3.3) together imply that

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} f_\infty(B) = \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} f_M(B) = \mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \prod_{p < M} \mu_p(\Omega_p).$$

To complete the proof, it suffices to show the convergence of the above infinite product. But (3.1) and (3.3) together imply that

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \left| 1 - \prod_{M \leq p < M+r} \mu_p(\Omega_p) \right| = \frac{1}{\mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty)} \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} |f_1(B) - f_{M,M+r}(B)| = 0.$$

Thus the infinite product converges by Cauchy’s criterion, as required. □

We now use Lemma 3.1 to obtain a version over number fields. The following notation will remain in use for the rest of this section. Let k be a number field of degree d over \mathbb{Q} with ring of integers \mathfrak{o} and discriminant Δ_k . We identify \mathfrak{o} with its image as a rank d lattice inside the commutative \mathbb{R} -algebra $k_\infty = \mathfrak{o} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}$. It has covolume $|\Delta_k|^{1/2}$ with respect to the usual Haar measure μ_∞ (see, for example, [Neu99, Proposition I.5.2]). For any rational prime p we have

$$\mathfrak{o} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_p = \prod_{\mathfrak{p}|p} \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}},$$

where $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is the ring of integers of the completion $k_{\mathfrak{p}}$ of k at a prime ideal \mathfrak{p} . We equip each $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ with the Haar measure $\mu_{\mathfrak{p}}$ normalised so that $\mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 1$. We put $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}$ for the residue field and $N\mathfrak{a}$ for the ideal norm of any fractional ideal \mathfrak{a} of k . We equip k_∞^n and each $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^n$ with the induced product measures, which by abuse of notation we also denote by μ_∞ and $\mu_{\mathfrak{p}}$, respectively. The following result is now an easy consequence of Lemma 3.1.

PROPOSITION 3.2. Let k/\mathbb{Q} be a number field of degree d , with notation as above. Let $\Omega_\infty \subset k_\infty^n$ be a bounded subset and let $\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}} \subset \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^n$ for each prime \mathfrak{p} . Assume that:

- (1) $\mu_\infty(\partial\Omega_\infty) = 0$ and $\mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\partial\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 0$ for each prime \mathfrak{p} ;
- (2) $\mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) > 0$ and $\mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}) > 0$ for each prime \mathfrak{p} .

Suppose also that

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}^n \cap B\Omega_\infty : \exists \mathfrak{p} \text{ s.t. } N\mathfrak{p} > M \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \notin \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}\}}{B^{dn}} = 0. \tag{3.4}$$

Then the limit

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{B^{dn}} \#\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}^n \cap B\Omega_\infty : \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}} \text{ for all primes } \mathfrak{p}\}$$

exists, is non-zero and equals

$$\frac{1}{|\Delta_k|^{n/2}} \mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}).$$

The following result furnishes us with a large class of subsets $\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}$ which satisfy (3.4).

LEMMA 3.3. Let k/\mathbb{Q} be a number field and let $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{A}_{\mathfrak{o}}^n$ be a closed subset of codimension at least 2 defined over \mathfrak{o} . Let $\Omega_\infty \subset k_\infty^n$ be a bounded subset with $\mu_\infty(\partial\Omega_\infty) = 0$ and $\mu_\infty(\Omega_\infty) > 0$. Let

$$\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^n : \mathbf{x} \bmod \mathfrak{p} \notin \mathcal{Z}(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}})\},$$

for each prime ideal \mathfrak{p} . Then (3.4) holds.

Proof. When $k = \mathbb{Q}$ this is due to Ekedahl [Eke91, Theorem 1.2]. (See also [Bha14, Theorem 3.3] for a version with an effective error term.) This method generalises to give the result over any number field [BSW15, Theorem 18]. \square

Note that the conclusion of Lemma 3.3 is generally false for subsets of codimension 1, as consideration of the subset cut out by a single linear equation in $\mathbb{A}_{\mathfrak{o}}^n$ readily confirms.

3.2 Rational points

We now combine the affine version of the sieve of Ekedahl with the method of Schanuel [Sch79] to obtain a version of this sieve for rational points in projective space over number fields k/\mathbb{Q} . This gives a version of Schanuel’s theorem in which one is allowed to impose infinitely many local conditions.

For any field F and any subset $\Omega \subset \mathbb{P}^n(F)$, we denote by Ω^{aff} the affine cone of Ω . This is the pull-back of Ω via the map $\mathbb{A}^{n+1}(F) \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(F)$. We denote

$$H_\nu : k_\nu^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \quad (x_0, \dots, x_n) \mapsto \max\{\|x_0\|_\nu, \dots, \|x_n\|_\nu\},$$

where $\|\cdot\|_\nu = |\cdot|_\nu^{[k_\nu:\mathbb{Q}_\lambda]}$ and λ is the unique place of \mathbb{Q} lying below ν . The product of these local height functions $\prod_{\nu \in \text{Val}(k)} H_\nu$ descends to a well-defined height function $H : \mathbb{P}^n(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1}$, which satisfies

$$H(x) = \frac{1}{N(\langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle)} \prod_{\nu|\infty} H_\nu(x),$$

for any choice of representative $x = (x_0 : \dots : x_n) \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$. Here $\langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$ denotes the \mathfrak{o} -span of x_0, \dots, x_n . Bearing this notation in mind, we proceed by establishing the following result.

PROPOSITION 3.4. Let k/\mathbb{Q} be a number field of degree d . For each $\nu \in \text{Val}(k)$ let $\Omega_\nu \subset \mathbb{P}^n(k_\nu)$ be a subset such that $\mu_\nu(\partial\Omega_\nu^{\text{aff}}) = 0$ and $\mu_\nu(\Omega_\nu^{\text{aff}}) > 0$. Suppose that

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}^{n+1} \cap B\Psi : \exists \mathfrak{p} \text{ s.t. } N\mathfrak{p} > M \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \notin \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}}\}}{B^{d(n+1)}} = 0, \tag{3.5}$$

for all bounded subsets $\Psi \subset k_\infty^{n+1}$ of positive measure with $\mu_\infty(\partial\Psi) = 0$. Then the limit

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{x \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : H(x) \leq B, x \in \Omega_\nu \text{ for all } \nu \in \text{Val}(k)\}}{\#\{x \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : H(x) \leq B\}},$$

exists, is non-zero and equals

$$\prod_{\nu|\infty} \frac{\mu_\nu(\{x \in \Omega_\nu^{\text{aff}} : H_\nu(x) \leq 1\})}{\mu_\nu(\{x \in k_\nu^{n+1} : H_\nu(x) \leq 1\})} \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\{x \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^{n+1}\}).$$

Proof. Choose integral ideal representatives $\mathfrak{c}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{c}_h$ of the elements of the class group of k . We obtain a partition

$$\mathbb{P}^n(k) = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^h \{(x_0 : \dots : x_n) \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : [x_0, \dots, x_n] = [\mathfrak{c}_i]\}.$$

Here $[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ denotes the element of the class group of k given by the fractional ideal $\langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$. Let $\mathfrak{c} \in \{\mathfrak{c}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{c}_h\}$ and put $\Omega = (\Omega_\nu)_{\nu \in \text{Val}(k)}$. We are interested in the counting function

$$N(\Omega, \mathfrak{c}, B) = \#\{x \in \mathbb{P}^n(k) : H(x) \leq B, [x] = [\mathfrak{c}], x \in \Omega_\nu \forall \nu \in \text{Val}(k)\}.$$

Let $\mathfrak{F} \subset k_\infty^{n+1}$ be the fundamental domain for the action of the units of k constructed by Schanuel [Sch79, § 1]. As before we identify \mathfrak{o}^{n+1} with its image in k_∞^{n+1} as a sublattice of full rank. Then we have

$$N(\Omega, \mathfrak{c}, B) = \frac{1}{w_k} \#\left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{F} \cap \mathfrak{o}^{n+1} : \begin{array}{l} H_\infty(\mathbf{x}) \leq B(N\mathfrak{c}), \langle \mathbf{x} \rangle = \mathfrak{c}, \\ \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_\nu^{\text{aff}} \forall \nu \in \text{Val}(k) \end{array} \right\},$$

where w_k denotes the number of roots of unity in \mathfrak{o} and $H_\infty = \prod_{\nu|\infty} H_\nu$.

The condition $\langle \mathbf{x} \rangle = \mathfrak{c}$ is in fact a collection of local conditions, being equivalent to asking that $\langle \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{c}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for all prime ideals \mathfrak{p} of k , where for an integral ideal \mathfrak{a} we write $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{a} \otimes_{\mathfrak{o}} \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$. Hence

$$N(\Omega, \mathfrak{c}, B) = \frac{1}{w_k} \#\left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_\infty^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{F} \cap \mathfrak{o}^{n+1} : \begin{array}{l} H_\infty(\mathbf{x}) \leq B(N\mathfrak{c}), \\ \langle \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{c}_{\mathfrak{p}} \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}} \forall \text{primes } \mathfrak{p} \end{array} \right\},$$

where $\Omega_\infty = \prod_{\nu|\infty} \Omega_\nu$. By [Sch79, Proposition 2], the set $\mathfrak{F}(1) = \mathfrak{F} \cap \{\mathbf{x} \in k_\infty^{n+1} : H_\infty(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\}$ is bounded and has Lipschitz parametrisable boundary, hence is Jordan measurable (see [Spa95]). As the intersection of two Jordan measurable sets is Jordan measurable, we find that

$$\Theta_\infty = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_\infty^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{F} : H_\infty(\mathbf{x}) \leq N\mathfrak{c}\}$$

is bounded and Jordan measurable, hence satisfies the conditions of Proposition 3.2. Next, let $\Theta_{\mathfrak{p}} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^{n+1} : \langle \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{c}_{\mathfrak{p}}\}$. The Jordan measurability of each $\Theta_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is clear, being the intersection of two Jordan measurable sets. We also claim that the $\Theta_{\mathfrak{p}}$ satisfy (3.4). Indeed, given our assumption (3.5), an application of De Morgan’s laws shows that it suffices to note that the

sets $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^{n+1} : \langle \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}\}$ satisfy (3.4) (this follows, for example, from applying Lemma 3.3 to the subscheme $x_0 = \dots = x_n = 0$). We are therefore in a position to apply Proposition 3.2 to deduce that

$$\lim_{B \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(\Omega, \mathfrak{c}, B)}{B^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{w_k |\Delta_k|^{(n+1)/2}} \mu_{\infty}(\Theta_{\infty}) \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\Theta_{\mathfrak{p}}).$$

For the non-archimedean densities we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\Theta_{\mathfrak{p}}) &= \frac{1}{(\mathbb{N}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathfrak{c})^{n+1}} \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^{n+1} : \langle \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}\}) \\ &= \frac{1}{(\mathbb{N}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathfrak{c})^{n+1}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{(\mathbb{N}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathfrak{p})^{n+1}} \right) \mu_{\mathfrak{p}}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}^{n+1}\}). \end{aligned}$$

The archimedean density is

$$\mu_{\infty}(\Theta_{\infty}) = (\mathbb{N} \mathfrak{c})^{n+1} \mu_{\infty}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\infty}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{F} : H_{\infty}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\}).$$

In the usual way (see [Sch79, p. 443] or [FP13, Lemma 5.1], for example), we obtain

$$\frac{\mu_{\infty}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\infty}^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{F} : H_{\infty}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})}{\mu_{\infty}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{F} : H_{\infty}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})} = \prod_{\nu | \infty} \frac{\mu_{\nu}(\{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\nu}^{\text{aff}} : H_{\nu}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})}{\mu_{\nu}(\{\mathbf{x} \in k_{\nu}^{n+1} : H_{\nu}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})},$$

which proves the result. □

On passing to the affine cone, the following result is a straightforward consequence of Lemma 3.3.

LEMMA 3.5. *Let k be a number field and let $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathfrak{o}}^n$ be a closed subset of codimension at least 2. Let*

$$\Omega_{\mathfrak{p}} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{P}^n(\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}) : \mathbf{x} \bmod \mathfrak{p} \notin \mathcal{Z}(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}})\},$$

for each prime ideal. Then (3.5) holds for any bounded subset $\Psi \subset k_{\infty}^{n+1}$ with positive measure and $\mu_{\infty}(\partial \Psi) = 0$.

3.3 Proof of Theorems 1.3 and 1.4

Let k be a number field with ring of integers \mathfrak{o} . We begin with the following result, which generalises work of Skorobogatov [Sko96, Lemma 2.3]. The statement is a little more general than we will require in this section, because we will use it again in § 5.6. Recall that two varieties X, Y over a field F are said to be *geometrically isomorphic* if they become isomorphic after base change to an algebraic closure of F .

LEMMA 3.6. *Let $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be a morphism of integral schemes, both separated and of finite type over \mathfrak{o} . Suppose that the generic fibre of f is split. Then there exist non-empty open subsets $U \subset \text{Spec } \mathfrak{o}$ and $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ such that, for all $\mathfrak{p} \in U$, and for all $\bar{y} \in \mathcal{V}(\bar{\mathbb{F}}_{\mathfrak{p}})$, any $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -variety geometrically isomorphic to $\mathcal{X}_{\bar{y}}$ has a $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -rational point. (In particular, for all $y \in \mathcal{V}(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}})$, the fibre \mathcal{X}_y has an $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -rational point.)*

If, in addition, the fibre of f over every point of codimension 1 in \mathcal{Y} is split, then we can take \mathcal{V} to have complement of codimension at least 2 in \mathcal{Y} .

Proof. As the generic fibre of f is split, there is a dense open set $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ above which all fibres are split. If the fibre of f at every point of codimension 1 is also split, then we can take \mathcal{V} to have complement of codimension at least 2. Removing a closed subset of \mathcal{X} makes the fibres of \mathcal{X} above \mathcal{V} geometrically integral. In particular, the fibres are generically smooth; removing a further closed subset of \mathcal{X} makes the fibres smooth and geometrically irreducible.

Pick an auxiliary prime ℓ , and set $U = \text{Spec } \mathfrak{o} \setminus \{\ell\}$. The sheaves $R^i f_! \mathbb{Q}_\ell$ are constructible sheaves of \mathbb{Q}_ℓ -modules on \mathcal{Y} , and zero for i sufficiently large. It follows that the function sending a geometric point \bar{y} of \mathcal{Y} to the i th compactly supported Betti number $\dim H_c^i(X_{\bar{y}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ is constructible. Since \mathcal{Y} is quasi-compact, these Betti numbers take only finitely many values.

Fix a point $\bar{y} \in \mathcal{V}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$, and let Z be a variety over \mathbb{F}_p geometrically isomorphic to the fibre $\mathcal{X}_{\bar{y}}$. Because $\mathcal{X}_{\bar{y}}$ is smooth and geometrically irreducible, Poincaré duality shows that its top Betti number is 1. The Lefschetz trace formula, together with Deligne’s bound [Del80, Théorème 1] on the traces of the Frobenius operators, shows that Z has an \mathbb{F}_p -point as long as \mathbb{F}_p is sufficiently large and p is prime to ℓ . Shrinking U to exclude all primes too small for this to apply gives the result. \square

COROLLARY 3.7. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ be a dominant morphism of varieties over k . Suppose that the fibre of π over every point of codimension 1 is split and that the generic fibre of π is geometrically integral. Then there exists a non-empty open subset $U \subset \text{Spec } \mathfrak{o}$, together with models \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} of X and Y over U and a closed subset $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathcal{Y}$ of codimension at least 2, such that the map*

$$(\mathcal{X} \setminus \pi^{-1}(\mathcal{Z}))(\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{Y} \setminus \mathcal{Z})(\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}})$$

is surjective for all $\mathfrak{p} \in U$.

Proof. Choose a model $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ of π over a non-empty open subset U of $\text{Spec } \mathfrak{o}$. Shrinking U , we can assume that the fibre of f over each point of codimension 1 in \mathcal{Y} is split. Now using Lemma 3.6 on the smooth locus of f and applying Hensel’s lemma gives the result. \square

We now come to the main result of this section, which implies Theorem 1.3.

THEOREM 3.8. *Let k be a number field. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a dominant quasi-projective k -morphism with geometrically integral generic fibre. Assume that:*

- (1) *the fibre of π at each codimension-1 point of \mathbb{P}^n is split;*
- (2) *$X(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$.*

Then the limit $\sigma(\pi)$ given in (1.1) exists, is non-zero and equals

$$\prod_{\nu|\infty} \frac{\mu_\nu(\{\mathbf{x} \in \pi(X(k_\nu))^{\text{aff}} : H_\nu(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})}{\mu_\nu(\{\mathbf{x} \in k_\nu^{n+1} : H_\nu(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\})} \prod_p \mu_p(\{\mathbf{x} \in \pi(X(k_p))^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathfrak{o}_p^{n+1}\}).$$

Specialising to $k = \mathbb{Q}$, it is easy to see that the product of local densities becomes

$$\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \mu_\infty(\{\mathbf{x} \in \pi(X(\mathbb{R}))^{\text{aff}} : H_\infty(\mathbf{x}) \leq 1\}) \prod_p \mu_p(\{\mathbf{x} \in \pi(X(\mathbb{Q}_p))^{\text{aff}} \cap \mathbb{Z}_p^{n+1}\}). \tag{3.6}$$

To prove Theorem 3.8, we let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be as in the statement. We want to show that Proposition 3.4 applies, with the choice $\Omega_\nu = \pi(X(k_\nu))$ for each $\nu \in \text{Val}(k)$. Beginning with

hypothesis (3.5), it follows from Corollary 3.7 that there exists a closed subset $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{P}_o^n$ of codimension at least 2, such that $(\mathbb{P}_{o_p}^n \setminus \mathcal{Z})(o_p) \subset \pi(X(k_p))$ for all sufficiently large primes ideals \mathfrak{p} . Thus

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{P}^n(o_p) : \mathbf{x} \bmod \mathfrak{p} \notin \mathcal{Z}(\mathbb{F}_p)\} \subset \pi(X(k_p))$$

for all sufficiently large primes ideals \mathfrak{p} . Condition (3.5) therefore follows from Lemma 3.5. The following result, which we apply to the affine cone of π , establishes the measurability conditions, and so concludes the proof of Theorem 3.8. For a place $\nu \in \text{Val}(k)$, we denote by μ_ν the corresponding measure, as defined in §3.1.

LEMMA 3.9. *Let $\nu \in \text{Val}(k)$ and let X be a quasi-projective variety over k_ν equipped with a dominant k_ν -morphism $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$. Assume that $X(k_\nu) \neq \emptyset$. Then $\pi(X(k_\nu))$ is measurable with respect to μ_ν , and*

$$\mu_\nu(\partial(\pi(X(k_\nu)))) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_\nu(\pi(X(k_\nu))) > 0.$$

Proof. The Tarski–Seidenberg–Macintyre theorem implies that $\pi(X(k_\nu))$ is a semi-algebraic set (see [Pon95, Theorem 3]). From this it easily follows that $\pi(X(k_\nu))$ is measurable and that its boundary has measure zero. It thus suffices to show that it has positive measure. To do this, we may replace X by an open subset if necessary to assume that π is smooth. Then the induced map $X(k_\nu) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n(k_\nu)$ is a submersion, hence $\pi(X(k_\nu)) \subset \mathbb{A}^n(k_\nu)$ is open and thus has positive measure, as required. \square

We close this section by indicating the proof of Theorem 1.4, which runs very similarly to the proof of Theorem 3.8. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$ and let $\Psi \subset k_\infty^n$ be as in Theorem 1.4. We want to show that Proposition 3.2 applies, with $\Omega_\infty = \Psi$ and $\Omega_p = \pi(X(k_p))$ for each prime ideal \mathfrak{p} . Note that, by our assumptions on Ψ , we have $B\Psi \subset \pi(X(k_\infty))$ for all $B \geq 1$. To check hypothesis (3.4), we first deduce from Corollary 3.7 that there exists a closed subset $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{A}_o^n$ of codimension at least 2, such that

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{A}^n(o_p) : \mathbf{x} \bmod \mathfrak{p} \notin \mathcal{Z}(\mathbb{F}_p)\} \subset \pi(X(k_p))$$

for all sufficiently large primes ideals \mathfrak{p} . Condition (3.4) therefore follows from Lemma 3.3. Finally, the measurability conditions at the finite places are a straightforward consequence of Lemma 3.9. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.4. \square

4. Proof of Theorem 1.6: strategy

In this section we describe the structure of the proof of Theorem 1.6 and introduce some notation. Let us begin by giving an overview of the main ideas of the proof. We focus our discussion on the case where there is a non-trivial element of the group $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$, as this case is more difficult. Along the way, we shall indicate the changes that need to be made when working with a non-trivial element of $\text{Br } X_{\bar{\eta}}/\text{Br } K$. Our strategy is to show that, for most $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$, the element we work with specialises to give a class in $\text{Br } X_P/\text{Br } k$, which can obstruct weak approximation on X_P . We need to understand how this obstruction varies with P .

Suppose that we have a variety V over a number field k and an element $\mathcal{A} \in \text{Br } V$. According to work of Bright [Bri15, §5.2], if there is a prime \mathfrak{p} of k with $N\mathfrak{p}$ sufficiently large and such that \mathcal{A} is ramified at \mathfrak{p} , then the evaluation map $\text{ev}_{\mathcal{A}} : V(k_p) \rightarrow \text{Br } k_p$ takes many values. In particular, it follows that \mathcal{A} gives an obstruction to weak approximation on V .

Our plan will be to understand how this condition varies in the family of varieties considered in Theorem 1.6. In the family $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$, there is a dense open subset $U \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ above which the fibres are smooth and proper varieties over k . These are the ‘good’ members of the family. The complement of U is a union $\mathbb{P}^n \setminus U = \bigcup_i S_i$ of locally closed components. Above the generic point of each component S_i , the fibre of X is ‘bad’ in some way. We shall think of the components S_i as the different possible types of bad reduction of a smooth variety in our family, as follows. Let \mathfrak{o} be the ring of integers of k . If $P \in U(k)$ is a point, then P extends uniquely to a point of $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathfrak{o})$ and so it makes sense to talk about the reduction of P modulo any prime \mathfrak{p} of \mathfrak{o} . The reduction of P will usually land in U , but at finitely many bad primes it will land in one of the components S_i . At such a prime, the smooth k -variety X_P will have bad reduction, of a type corresponding to the component S_i . The crucial observation, recorded in Proposition 4.3, is that if some S_i has codimension 1 in \mathbb{P}^n , then almost every variety X_P (for $P \in U(k)$) has *some* prime \mathfrak{p} at which it has the bad reduction type corresponding to S_i . This bad reduction will then be used to force a Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation for X_P at \mathfrak{p} .

To illustrate matters, consider the family of diagonal cubic surfaces (1.2). The open subset $U \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ over which the fibres are smooth is given by $a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 \neq 0$. Above each of the four divisors $\{a_i = 0\}$, the generic fibre is a cone; above the closed subset where more than one of the a_i vanish, the reduction is something more singular. Here it is easy to show by elementary methods that 100% of the smooth members of the family have the property that there exists a prime \mathfrak{p} dividing just one of a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3 , so have bad reduction at \mathfrak{p} which is a cone. This type of bad reduction is enough to guarantee that there is a Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation (as first noticed in [CKS87, § 5] in the context of the Brauer–Manin obstruction to the Hasse principle).

Returning to the proof of Theorem 1.6, the strategy of the proof can be summarised in the following steps.

(1) For any prime divisor $D \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, and any class $\alpha \in H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$, we define the *residue* of α at D ; when that residue is non-zero, we will say that α is *ramified* at D .

(2) We show that, under the hypotheses of Theorem 1.6, every non-zero element of the group $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ is ramified at some prime divisor $D \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, necessarily contained in the complement of U .

(3) Fix an element $\alpha \in H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ which is ramified at a prime divisor D . Suppose that $P \in U(k)$ is such that the smooth variety X_P has bad reduction at a prime \mathfrak{p} , of the type corresponding to the divisor D . (In other words, the reduction of P modulo \mathfrak{p} lies in D , in a suitably ‘generic’ way.) Then, using the result of [Bri15, § 5.2] described above, we prove that there is an obstruction to weak approximation on X_P . This obstruction is given by an element of $\text{Br } X_P$ obtained by ‘specialising’ α in an appropriate way.

(4) Finally, we show that the previous statement applies to 100% of $P \in U(k)$.

Steps (2)–(4) are independent. Step (1) will be addressed in §§ 5.1–5.3, Step (2) in § 5.4, Step (3) in § 5.6 and Step (4) in § 6.

We proceed to state formally the primary way-points in each step of the proof. Steps (1)–(3) are purely algebraic and apply in a wider context than that of Theorem 1.6. It will be convenient to specify here the particular families of schemes that we will be working with for most of the remainder of this paper.

CONDITION 4.1. $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ is a flat, surjective morphism of finite type between regular integral Noetherian schemes. If K is the function field K of B and $\eta : \text{Spec } K \rightarrow B$ is the generic

point, then the generic fibre X_η is smooth, proper and geometrically connected with torsion-free geometric Picard group. The fibre of π at each codimension-1 point of B is geometrically integral. The fibre of π at each codimension-2 point of B has a geometrically reduced component.

The assumption that the generic fibre has torsion-free geometric Picard group is very natural when dealing with weak approximation. Indeed, if V is an everywhere locally soluble smooth proper variety over a number field k with $\text{Pic } \bar{V}$ not torsion-free, then V is not geometrically simply connected, and hence a result of Minchev (see [Har04, Theorem 2.4.5]) implies that V always fails weak approximation. In particular, the non-trivial case of Theorem 1.6 is when the geometric Picard group is torsion-free. This condition also simplifies many of the constructions carried out in §5.

Throughout we will fix an algebraic closure \bar{K} of K and also a geometric point $\bar{\eta} : \text{Spec } \bar{K} \rightarrow B$ lying over η . Our chief interest lies in the case that X and B are varieties over a number field k . All cohomology will be étale cohomology.

Step (1). The first step of the proof of Theorem 1.6 is to define the residue of an element of the group $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ at a prime divisor $D \subset B$. Recall that there is an exact sequence

$$\text{Br } K \rightarrow \text{Br}_1 X_\eta \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \rightarrow H^3(K, \mathbb{G}_m)$$

coming from the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence. For any prime divisor $Z \subset X$, Grothendieck defined a residue map

$$\partial_Z : \text{Br } X_\eta \rightarrow H^1(\kappa(Z), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}).$$

Grothendieck’s purity theorem for the Brauer group [Gro68, III, Theorem 6.1] shows that $\text{Br } X \subset \text{Br } X_\eta$ is precisely the subgroup consisting of those classes having zero residue at every vertical prime divisor Z . As we have already seen, however, work of Uematsu [Uem14] shows that $\text{Br } X_\eta$ is not as useful as it might appear, since interesting elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ do not necessarily lift to $\text{Br}_1 X_\eta$. Our aim is therefore to define a residue map directly on $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$, compatible with that on $\text{Br } X_\eta$, and prove a corresponding purity theorem.

It turns out to be easier to work with the group $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$, where $n > 1$ is a fixed integer which is invertible on B ; this allows us to treat elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ and elements of $\text{Br } X_\eta$ in a uniform manner. Let us show how this group appears. The exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}} \xrightarrow{n} \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}} \rightarrow (\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})/n \rightarrow 0$$

gives rise to an exact sequence in cohomology

$$H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \rightarrow H^0(K, (\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})/n) \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n] \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus every n -torsion class in $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ is represented by a Galois-fixed element of the group $(\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})/n$. On the other hand, the Kummer sequence gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})/n \rightarrow H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n) \rightarrow \text{Br } X_{\bar{\eta}}[n] \rightarrow 0$$

and so a Galois-fixed element of $(\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})/n$ gives rise to a Galois-fixed element of $H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)$.

To any codimension-1 point d of B we will associate a *relative residue map*

$$\rho_d : H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \rightarrow H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$$

in Proposition 5.6, which is closely related to the usual residue map for the Brauer group. Here $X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}$ denotes the non-singular locus of the variety $X_{\bar{d}}$, where \bar{d} is a geometric point lying over d . In Proposition 5.10 we will prove a purity result: the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$$

is exact. This completes Step (1) of the proof.

Step (2). The second stage of the proof of Theorem 1.6 is to show that, given any non-trivial element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ giving rise to $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$, there exists a codimension-1 point $d \in B^{(1)}$ satisfying $\rho_d(\alpha) \neq 0$. This will be achieved in §5.4, where it will be established under the following assumptions:

- $B = \mathbb{P}^n$;
- $\text{Br } \bar{X} = 0$;
- $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}) = 0$;
- $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective.

As input to Step (3), we need not only $\rho_d(\alpha) \neq 0$ but the stronger condition $\text{ord} \rho_d(\alpha) = n$. However, this is easily arranged by starting with an element of prime order n in $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$.

If instead we have a non-trivial element of $\text{Br } X_{\bar{\eta}}/\text{Br } K$, then in §5.5 we prove that a class in $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ associated to it has non-trivial residue at some $d \in B^{(1)}$.

Step (3). Assume that $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ is a morphism of smooth varieties over a number field k satisfying Condition 4.1. Let $U \subset B$ be a non-empty open subset over which π is smooth and proper. For any point $P \in U(k)$ such that X_P is everywhere locally soluble, and any element $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$, we will define the specialisation $\text{sp}_P(\alpha) \in \text{Br } X_P[n]$, defined only up to elements of $\text{Br } k[n]$.

To state the main ingredient in Step (3) of the proof of Theorem 1.6, we need to define some more terms. By a *model* of π over \mathfrak{o} we mean an integral scheme \mathcal{B} , separated and of finite type over \mathfrak{o} , satisfying $\mathcal{B} \times_{\mathfrak{o}} k = B$, together with an \mathfrak{o} -morphism $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$, separated and of finite type, extending π . Next, let S be a regular integral Noetherian scheme of dimension d . Two locally closed subschemes Y, Z of codimensions c and $d - c$ are said to *meet transversely* at a closed point $P \in Y \cap Z$ if, in the local ring $\mathcal{O}_{S,P}$, the ideals defining Y and Z together generate the maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{S,P}$. Bearing all this in mind, the following result will be established in §5.6.

PROPOSITION 4.2. *Let $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ be a class with $n > 1$ and suppose that there is a point $d \in B^{(1)}$ such that the relative residue*

$$\rho_d(\alpha) \in H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$$

has order n . Let $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ be a model of π over \mathfrak{o} . Denote by \mathcal{D} the Zariski closure of d in \mathcal{B} . Then there is a dense open subset $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{D}$ with the following property.

Let P be a point of $U(k)$ such that X_P is everywhere locally soluble, and suppose that the Zariski closure of P in \mathcal{B} meets \mathcal{V} transversely at a closed point s . Let \mathfrak{p} be the prime of \mathfrak{o} over which s lies. Then the evaluation map $X_P(k_{\mathfrak{p}}) \rightarrow \text{Br } k_{\mathfrak{p}}[n]$ given by the algebra $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$ is surjective. In particular, weak approximation fails for X_P .

This result says that if X_P has a certain kind of bad reduction at \mathfrak{p} , then a Brauer–Manin obstruction to weak approximation occurs for X_P at \mathfrak{p} . Note that the conclusion of the proposition does not depend on the choice of $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$ modulo $\text{Br } k[n]$.

Step (4). The final step in the proof of Theorem 1.6 is to show that, with polynomial decay, 100% of the points P in $U(k) \cap \pi(X(\mathbf{A}_k))$ satisfy the condition appearing in Proposition 4.2. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ satisfy the conditions of Theorem 1.6 and let $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathfrak{o}}$ be a model of π over \mathfrak{o} . Let \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{V} be as in the statement of Proposition 4.2. The following result will be established in §6 using the large sieve inequality.

PROPOSITION 4.3. *Let $T = U(k) \cap \pi(X(\mathbf{A}_k))$ and let T_{trans} be the set of points $P \in T$ such that the Zariski closure \bar{P} in $\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathfrak{o}}$ meets \mathcal{V} transversely in at least one point. Then*

$$\#\{P \in T : H(P) \leq B\} - \#\{P \in T_{\text{trans}} : H(P) \leq B\} = O_{\mathcal{V}}\left(\frac{B^{n+1}}{\log B}\right).$$

This result implies that the type of bad reduction encountered in Proposition 4.2 occurs 100% of the time. This therefore suffices to complete the proof of Theorem 1.6.

5. Elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ and residues

This section contains the algebraic part of the proof of Theorem 1.6, an overview of which is given in §4.

Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a map of schemes satisfying Condition 4.1. Our first task is to define, for any positive integer n invertible on B , a relative residue map

$$\rho_d : H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \rightarrow H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)).$$

The group $H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)$ is the stalk at the generic point of the sheaf $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$, so an element of $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ can be thought of as a generic section of $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$. In §5.1 we will investigate the sheaf $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$ for an arbitrary morphism of regular schemes, and in particular look at the consequences for this sheaf of the absolute cohomological purity theorem. In §5.2 we return to the situation of Condition 4.1, define a residue map for each codimension-1 point of B , and prove the appropriate purity theorem. In §5.3 we relate this back to the group $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$.

Having defined the residue maps, we turn in §5.4 to finding conditions on $X \rightarrow B$ which ensure that every non-trivial element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ is ramified somewhere. Finally, §5.6 is devoted to the proof of Proposition 4.2.

5.1 Purity and relative residue maps

In this section we prove some purity-type results on the sheaf $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$ associated to a morphism $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ of regular schemes. We will use the language of derived categories, which is particularly useful in the proof of Proposition 5.6(3). All cohomology will be étale cohomology.

Let us first recall some tools relating the cohomology of a scheme to that of an open subscheme. Let X be a scheme, $i : Z \rightarrow X$ a closed immersion and $j : U \rightarrow X$ the inclusion of the complement of Z . Let $i^!$ denote the functor taking a sheaf on $X_{\text{ét}}$ to its subsheaf of sections with support in Z , considered as a sheaf on $Z_{\text{ét}}$. Let n be a positive integer invertible on X , and let Λ be the sheaf \mathbb{Z}/n . All the following general results will be stated for Λ but will be equally applicable to any twist $\Lambda(r)$, because all the functors involved commute with twists.

As described in [Sta14, Tag 0A45], there is a distinguished triangle

$$i_* Ri^! \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow Rj_* \Lambda \rightarrow i_* Ri^! \Lambda[1] \tag{5.1}$$

in $D^+(X_{\text{ét}})$. We will need to understand how the triangle (5.1) behaves functorially. Let $f : X' \rightarrow X$ be a morphism, and denote by U', Z', i', j' the base changes of U, Z, i, j by f . Applying Rf_* to the triangle (5.1) for X' gives the second row of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} i_* Ri^! \Lambda & \longrightarrow & \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rj_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & i_* Ri^! \Lambda[1] \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \alpha[1] \downarrow \\ Rf_* i'_* R(i')^! \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rf_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rf_* Rj'_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rf_* i'_* R(i')^! \Lambda[1] \end{array} \tag{5.2}$$

in $D^+(X_{\text{ét}})$ in which both rows are distinguished triangles; let us define the vertical maps and show that the diagram commutes. The map β is the natural map $\Lambda \rightarrow Rf_* f^* \Lambda$ arising by adjunction (since the group scheme \mathbb{Z}/n is étale over X , we have $f^* \Lambda = \Lambda$). The map γ is the composition of the natural map

$$Rj_* \Lambda \rightarrow Rj_* R(f_U)_* f_U^* \Lambda$$

given by adjunction with the natural isomorphism $Rj_* R(f_U)_* \Lambda = Rf_* Rj'_* \Lambda$. The middle square commutes because the composite morphism $\Lambda \rightarrow Rf_* Rj'_* \Lambda$ is given by the unit of the adjunction between ϕ_* and ϕ^* , where $\phi = fj' = jf_U$; the two ways round the square correspond to viewing this adjunction as the composite of two adjunctions in two different ways. By [BBD82, Proposition 1.1.9], a map α exists making the diagram into a morphism of triangles; moreover, since we have $\text{Hom}(i_* \mathcal{F}, j_* \mathcal{G}) = 0$ for any $\mathcal{F} \in D^+(Z_{\text{ét}})$ and $\mathcal{G} \in D^+(U_{\text{ét}})$, the criterion given there shows that α is uniquely determined.

We now state the absolute cohomological purity theorem, proved by Gabber [Rio14].

THEOREM 5.1 (Gabber). *Let X be a regular scheme and Z a regular closed subscheme of codimension c . Let n be a positive integer invertible on X . Then there is a canonical isomorphism $\text{Cl}_i : \Lambda \rightarrow i^! \Lambda(c)[2c]$ in $D^+(Z_{\text{ét}})$.*

Shifting and twisting appropriately gives an isomorphism $\Lambda(-c)[-2c] \rightarrow i^! \Lambda$. Combining this with the triangle (5.1) gives a distinguished triangle

$$i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c] \rightarrow \Lambda \rightarrow Rj_*(\Lambda) \rightarrow i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c + 1]. \tag{5.3}$$

It follows from [Rio14, Proposition 2.3.4] that, under the canonical identification

$$\text{Hom}_{D^+(X)}(i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c], \Lambda) = H_{\mathbb{Z}}^{2c}(X, \Lambda(c)),$$

the homomorphism $i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c] \rightarrow \Lambda$ in (5.3) corresponds to the cycle class $\text{cl}(Z) \in H_{\mathbb{Z}}^{2c}(X, \Lambda(c))$ as defined in [SGA4₃].

COROLLARY 5.2. *Under the conditions of Theorem 5.1, there are isomorphisms*

$$H^p(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow H^p(U, \Lambda)$$

for $0 \leq p \leq 2c - 1$, and a long exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^p(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow H^p(U, \Lambda) \rightarrow H^{p-2c}(Z, \Lambda(-c)) \rightarrow H^{p+1}(X, \Lambda) \rightarrow \dots$$

Proof. Apply the global sections functor $R\Gamma_X$ to (5.3) and take homology. □

The purity theorem has the following interpretation in terms of the higher direct images $R^p j_* \Lambda$.

COROLLARY 5.3. *Under the conditions of Theorem 5.1, we have $j_* \Lambda = \Lambda$; $R^p j_* \Lambda = 0$ for $0 < p < 2c - 1$, and $R^{2c-1} j_* \Lambda \cong i_* \Lambda(-c)$.*

Proof. Take the long exact sequence in homology of the triangle (5.3). □

An easy and well-known consequence is the following *semi-purity* statement.

LEMMA 5.4. *Let X be a regular, Noetherian, excellent scheme and $i : Z \rightarrow X$ any closed immersion of codimension at least c . Suppose that n is invertible on X . Then we have $R^p i^! \Lambda = 0$ for $0 \leq p < 2c$.*

Proof. Let $j : U \rightarrow X$ be the inclusion of the complement of Z . The triangle (5.1) shows that the conclusion is equivalent to the statement $j_* \Lambda = \Lambda$ and $R^p j_* \Lambda = 0$ for $0 < p < 2c - 1$. Since this statement does not depend on the scheme structure on Z , we may assume that Z is reduced. The purity theorem shows that the conclusion holds if Z is regular, and so in particular if $\dim Z = 0$. In the general case, we use Noetherian induction. Let S be the union of all irreducible components of Z of codimension greater than c in X , together with the non-regular locus of Z . Then S is a proper closed subset of Z . Write $V = X \setminus S$ and consider the open immersions $j_1 : U \rightarrow V$ and $j_2 : V \rightarrow X$. Then $Z \setminus S$ is a regular closed subscheme of codimension at least c in V , and so by purity we have $R^p (j_1)_* \Lambda = 0$ for $0 < p < 2c - 1$. Since S is of codimension greater than c in X , we have $R^q (j_2)_* \Lambda = 0$ for $0 < q < 2c + 1$ by induction. The Leray spectral sequence for the composition $j = j_2 \circ j_1$ then gives the desired conclusion. □

Now let us understand how the triangle (5.3) behaves under base change. Suppose that $f : X' \rightarrow X$ is a morphism of regular schemes, that $Z \subset X$ is a regular closed subscheme of codimension c , and that the inverse image $Z' = f^{-1}(Z) \subset X'$ is also regular and of codimension c . Combining Theorem 5.1 with the diagram (5.2) we obtain a morphism of triangles as follows, with notation as above.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c] & \longrightarrow & \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rj_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & i_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c + 1] \\
 \alpha' \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \alpha'[1] \downarrow \\
 Rf_* i'_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c] & \longrightarrow & Rf_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rf_* Rj'_* \Lambda & \longrightarrow & Rf_* i'_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c + 1]
 \end{array}$$

As before, the morphism α' is uniquely determined. There is an obvious candidate for the morphism α' , namely that obtained by applying i_* to the natural morphism $\phi : \Lambda(-c)[-2c] \rightarrow R(f_Z)_* \Lambda(-c)[-2c]$. Let us show that this is indeed the same morphism; to do so, we just need to show that the diagram commutes if we put $i_* \phi$ in place of α' . But then the two routes round the left-hand square are the homomorphisms defined by the classes $f^* \text{cl}(Z)$ and $\text{cl}(Z')$ respectively in $H_{Z'}^{2c}(X', \Lambda(c))$, which agree.

We now return to the situation of interest: $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ is a flat morphism, and we are interested in $R^2 \pi_* \mu_n$. The first result is concerned with removing a closed subscheme of codimension at least 2 in X .

LEMMA 5.5. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a morphism of regular, excellent, Noetherian schemes, and let $Z \subset X$ be a closed subset of codimension at least 2. Denote by π' the restriction of π to $X \setminus Z$. Then, for any $p \leq 2$, the natural map $R^p \pi_* \mu_n \rightarrow R^p \pi'_* \mu_n$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. Write j for the inclusion of $X \setminus Z$ into X . Lemma 5.4 shows that $j_* \mu_n = \mu_n$ and $R^p j_* \mu_n = 0$ for $p = 1, 2$. The Leray spectral sequence for the composition $\pi' = \pi j$ then gives the result. \square

Next, we consider removing a closed subscheme of B .

PROPOSITION 5.6. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a flat morphism of regular, excellent, Noetherian schemes. Let n be an integer invertible on B . Let $S \subset B$ be a reduced closed subscheme, and let Z denote the inverse image $\pi^{-1}(S)$. Let U be the complement of Z in X . Suppose that the restriction $\pi_U : U \rightarrow (B \setminus S)$ satisfies $(\pi_U)_* \mu_n = \mu_n$ and $R^1(\pi_U)_* \mu_n = 0$. Let $\pi_Z : Z \rightarrow S$ be the restriction of π to Z .

(1) Suppose that S has codimension at least 3 in B . Then the natural map $H^0(B, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(B \setminus S, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n)$ is an isomorphism.

(2) Suppose that S is regular of codimension 2 in B , that Z is also regular of codimension 2, and that the natural map $(\mathbb{Z}/n)_S \rightarrow (\pi_Z)_*(\mathbb{Z}/n)_Z$ is injective. Then the natural map $H^0(B, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(B \setminus S, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n)$ is an isomorphism.

(3) Suppose that S is regular of codimension 1 in B , that Z is also regular of codimension 1, and that the natural map $(\mathbb{Z}/n)_S \rightarrow (\pi_Z)_*(\mathbb{Z}/n)_Z$ is an isomorphism. Then there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(B, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(B \setminus S, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) \xrightarrow{\rho_S} H^0(S, R^1(\pi_Z)_* \mathbb{Z}/n) \tag{5.4}$$

with the following properties.

- The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^2(X, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^2(X \setminus Z, \mu_n) & \xrightarrow{\partial_Z} & H^1(Z, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(B, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(B \setminus S, R^2 \pi_* \mu_n) & \xrightarrow{\rho_S} & H^0(S, R^1(\pi_Z)_* \mathbb{Z}/n) \end{array} \tag{5.5}$$

commutes, where the top row is part of the long exact sequence of Corollary 5.2 and the vertical maps are the edge maps from the Leray spectral sequence for π .

- If $B' \rightarrow B$ is a morphism such that the hypotheses above still hold after base change to B' , then the exact sequence (5.4) and the diagram (5.5) are functorial with respect to $B' \rightarrow B$.

In all three cases, we additionally have $\pi_* \mu_n = \mu_n$ and $R^1 \pi_* \mu_n = 0$.

The map ρ_S of Proposition 5.6(3) is called the *relative residue map* associated to the divisor $S \subset B$.

Proof. We give names to all the morphisms involved as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Z & \xrightarrow{i'} & X & \xleftarrow{j'} & U \\ \pi_Z \downarrow & & \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_U \\ S & \xrightarrow{i} & B & \xleftarrow{j} & B \setminus S \end{array}$$

The diagram (5.2) gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 i_*Ri^!\mu_n & \longrightarrow & \mu_n & \longrightarrow & Rj_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & i_*Ri^!\mu_n[1] \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 i_*R(\pi_Z)_*R(i')^!\mu_n & \longrightarrow & R\pi_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & Rj_*R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & i_*R(\pi_Z)_*R(i')^!\mu_n[1]
 \end{array}$$

in $D^+(B_{\text{ét}})$, where we have used the identities $\pi i' = i\pi_Z$ and $\pi j' = j\pi_U$. By hypothesis, the vertical map $\mu_n \rightarrow R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n$ on $B \setminus S$ induces isomorphisms on homology in degrees less than 2 and so fits into a distinguished triangle

$$\mu_n \rightarrow R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n \rightarrow \tau_{\geq 2}R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n \rightarrow \mu_n[1]$$

where $\tau_{\geq 2}$ is the canonical ‘wise’ truncation functor. We can extend the above diagram as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 i_*Ri^!\mu_n & \longrightarrow & \mu_n & \longrightarrow & Rj_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & i_*Ri^!\mu_n[1] \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 i_*R(\pi_Z)_*R(i')^!\mu_n & \longrightarrow & R\pi_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & Rj_*R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & i_*R(\pi_Z)_*R(i')^!\mu_n[1] \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 C & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & Rj_*\tau_{\geq 2}R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n & \longrightarrow & C[1] \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 i_*Ri^!\mu_n[1] & \longrightarrow & \mu_n[1] & \longrightarrow & Rj_*\mu_n[1] & \longrightarrow & i_*Ri^!\mu_n[2]
 \end{array}$$

Here all the rows and columns are distinguished triangles, and all squares commute apart from the bottom right-hand one, which anti-commutes.

In case (1), flatness of π implies that Z has codimension at least 3 in X . Lemma 5.4 shows that $Ri^!\mu_n$ and $R(i')^!\mu_n$ both have zero homology in degrees less than 6. Looking at the left-hand column shows that C has no homology in degrees less than 5. Looking at the third row then shows that A has no homology in degrees less than 2, so that $\mu_n \rightarrow R\pi_*\mu_n$ induces isomorphisms on homology in degrees less than 2. We deduce $\pi_*\mu_n = \mu_n$, that $R^1\pi_*\mu_n$ vanishes and that A is isomorphic to the truncation $\tau_{\geq 2}R\pi_*\mu_n$. Applying the global sections functor $R\Gamma_B$ to the third row of the diagram now gives an exact triangle

$$R\Gamma_B(C) \rightarrow R\Gamma_B(\tau_{\geq 2}R\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow R\Gamma_{B \setminus S}(\tau_{\geq 2}R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n) \rightarrow R\Gamma_B(C)[1].$$

Because $\Gamma_B = H^0(B, -)$ is left exact, we have

$$H^2(R\Gamma_B(\tau_{\geq 2}R\pi_*\mu_n)) = H^0(B, H^2(\tau_{\geq 2}R\pi_*\mu_n)) = H^0(B, (R^2\pi_*\mu_n))$$

and, compatibly, $H^2(R\Gamma_{B \setminus S}(\tau_{\geq 2}R(\pi_U)_*\mu_n)) = H^0(B \setminus S, R^2(\pi_U)_*\mu_n)$. Also, $R\Gamma_B(C)$ has no homology in degrees less than 5, so applying H^2 to the above sequence shows that the natural map $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(B \setminus S, R^2(\pi_U)_*\mu_n)$ is an isomorphism. Because j is étale, we see that the sheaf $R^2(\pi_U)_*\mu_n$ is simply the restriction of $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$ to $B \setminus S$, so this completes the proof of case (1).

In case (2), Theorem 5.1 allows us to replace the left-hand column with

$$i_*\mathbb{Z}/n(-1)[-4] \rightarrow i_*R(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n(-1)[-4] \rightarrow C \rightarrow i_*\mathbb{Z}/n(-1)[-3].$$

The hypothesis shows that C has no homology in degrees less than 4. Thus the argument used in case (1) gives $\pi_*\mu_n = \mu_n$, together with the fact that $R^1\pi_*\mu_n$ vanishes, and that $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(B \setminus S, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$ is an isomorphism.

In case (3), Theorem 5.1 shows that the left-hand column is isomorphic to

$$i_*\mathbb{Z}/n[-2] \rightarrow i_*R(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n[-2] \rightarrow C \rightarrow i_*\mathbb{Z}/n[-1].$$

The hypothesis is equivalent to saying that $\mathbb{Z}/n \rightarrow R(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n$ is a quasi-isomorphism in degree 0, and so C is isomorphic to $i_*(\tau_{\geq 1}R(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n)[-2]$. In particular, C has no homology in degrees less than 3, so once again we have $\pi_*\mu_n = \mu_n$ and $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$. Now applying $R\Gamma_B$ to the middle two rows of the diagram and taking homology gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^2(X, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^2(U, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^1(Z, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 \longrightarrow & H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \longrightarrow & H^0(B \setminus S, R^2(\pi_U)_*\mu_n) \longrightarrow & H^0(S, R^1(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n) \end{array}$$

as sought. The vertical maps are, by construction of the Leray spectral sequence, the claimed edge maps. The functoriality statement follows from the functoriality of the triangle (5.3) as discussed above. \square

Remark 5.7. For $(\mathbb{Z}/n)_S \rightarrow (\pi_Z)_*(\mathbb{Z}/n)_Z$ to be injective, it is sufficient that π_Z be dominant (that is, the fibre of π above each generic point of S is non-empty). For $(\mathbb{Z}/n)_S \rightarrow (\pi_Z)_*(\mathbb{Z}/n)_Z$ to be bijective, it is sufficient that the fibre of Z above each generic point of S be geometrically connected.

Remark 5.8. Combining it with Lemma 5.5, we see that (2) of Proposition 5.6 holds under the weaker condition that Z contain an open subscheme satisfying the conditions of (2). For example, it is enough to assume that Z is reduced and dominates S .

5.2 Application to generic elements

In order to use Proposition 5.6 to study generic elements on families of schemes, we now suppose that $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfies the properties recorded in Condition 4.1. Let X^{sm} denote the smooth locus of π , and π^{sm} the restriction of π to X^{sm} . The morphism π^{sm} is flat, but not necessarily surjective. Condition 4.1 has the following consequences: the fibre of π^{sm} at every codimension-1 point of B is of codimension 1 in X and geometrically integral; and the fibre of π^{sm} at every codimension-2 point of B is of codimension 2 in X and non-empty. Thus it will allow us to apply Proposition 5.6 to π^{sm} . Also, X^{sm} contains all points of codimension 1 in X : for each such point either is in the generic fibre or lies above a codimension-1 point of B . Thus the complement of X^{sm} is of codimension at least 2 in X . We will repeatedly use this fact with Lemma 5.5 to deduce $R^i\pi_*\mu_n = R^i\pi_*^{\text{sm}}\mu_n$ for $i \leq 2$.

Because π is quasi-compact and quasi-separated, we have $(R^i\pi_*\mu_n)_{\bar{\eta}} = H^i(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)$ for all i . The conditions on $X_{\bar{\eta}}$ ensure $H^0(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n) = \mu_n$ and $H^1(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n) = 0$ whenever n is invertible in K .

To begin with, we use Proposition 5.6 inductively to show that Condition 4.1 implies that $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$.

LEMMA 5.9. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfy Condition 4.1. Then we have $\pi_*\mu_n = \mu_n$ and $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$ for every n invertible on B .*

Proof. Since π is flat with geometrically irreducible generic fibre, the natural map $\mu_n \rightarrow \pi_*\mu_n$ is locally an isomorphism, and therefore an isomorphism. This proves the first part of the lemma.

We now prove the second statement. As pointed out above, the non-smooth locus of π has codimension at least 2 in X ; by Lemma 5.5 it suffices to prove the claim for the smooth locus of π . There is a non-empty open subset $V \subset B$ such that $X_V \rightarrow V$ is smooth and proper with geometrically connected fibres. Because we have $(R^1\pi_*\mu_n)_{\bar{\eta}} = 0$, proper-smooth base change shows that $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$ holds on V . Let S denote the complement of V . We now use induction on the codimension of S . If S has codimension at least 3 in B , then the claim follows immediately from Proposition 5.6(1). If S has codimension at most 2, then let S' be the singular locus of S . Considering the regular scheme $S \setminus S'$ as a closed subscheme of $B \setminus S'$ and applying Proposition 5.6 shows that $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$ holds on $B \setminus S'$, and by induction on the whole of B . \square

We now turn to $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$. As in the case of elements of the Brauer group, it is useful to consider the residue map of Proposition 5.6(3) when D is any prime divisor (not necessarily regular), by applying the construction above to the local ring $\mathcal{O}_{B,D}$.

Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfy Condition 4.1, and let $D \subset B$ be a prime divisor with generic point d . Let $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}$ denote the base change of X to $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}$, and \mathcal{X}^{sm} its smooth locus. Suppose that n is invertible on $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}$. Applying Proposition 5.6(3) to $\mathcal{X}^{\text{sm}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}$ (with $S = d$) gives a relative residue map ρ_d fitting into an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}, R^2\pi_*^{\text{sm}}\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\rho_d} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)).$$

Since the complement of \mathcal{X}^{sm} is of codimension at least 2 in \mathcal{X} , Lemma 5.5 gives

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\rho_d} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)). \tag{5.6}$$

If both D and $Z = \pi^{-1}(D)$ happen to be regular, it might appear that there is potential for confusion between the homomorphism ρ_d described here and the ρ_D obtained by applying Proposition 5.6(3) directly. However, the two are related by the commutative diagram

$$\begin{CD} H^0(B \setminus D, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) @>\rho_D>> H^0(D, R^1(\pi_Z)_*\mathbb{Z}/n) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) @>\rho_d>> H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)) \end{CD} \tag{5.7}$$

PROPOSITION 5.10. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfy Condition 4.1. Then, for every integer n invertible on B , there is an exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$$

where the sum is over all points of codimension 1 in B .

Proof. That the sequence is a complex follows immediately from the fact that (5.6) is a complex for each d .

Let α be a class in $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$. We must show that $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$ for all but finitely many divisors D , and that if $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$ for all d then α is the image of a unique element of $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. Using the fact that all the cohomology groups involved commute with inverse limits of schemes, we have

$$H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) = H^0(\text{Spec } K, \eta^*R^2\pi_*\mu_n) = \varinjlim H^0(V, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$$

where the limit is over all non-empty open subsets $V \subset B$. So there is some non-empty open $V \subset B$ such that α lies in $H^0(V, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. For any point $d \in V$, the morphism $\eta \rightarrow V$ factors through $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}$, showing that α extends to $H^0(\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$ and so, by (5.6), $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$. This is true for all but finitely many $d \in B^{(1)}$.

Next we prove exactness in the middle. Suppose that we have $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$ for all $d \in B^{(1)}$. For any such d , (5.6) shows that α lifts to $H^0(\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$, and so there is an open neighbourhood V_d of d such that α lifts to $H^0(V_d, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. Let V' be the union of all the V_d ; by compactness, V' is actually the union of finitely many V_d , so the sheaf property for $R^2\pi_*\mu_n$ shows that α lifts to a class in $H^0(V', R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. To complete the proof, we will show that $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(V', R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$ is an isomorphism. Since V' contains every point of codimension 1 in B , the complement $S = B \setminus V'$ has codimension at least 2. If S has codimension greater than 2, then Proposition 5.6(1) completes the proof. Otherwise, the singular locus of S is of codimension at least 3 in B , and so by Proposition 5.6(1) we may remove it and assume that S is regular and of pure codimension 2. By Proposition 5.6(2) applied to π^{sm} , we deduce that $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*^{\text{sm}}\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(V', R^2\pi_*^{\text{sm}}\mu_n)$ is an isomorphism. But the complement of X^{sm} has codimension at least 2, so Lemma 5.5 completes the proof.

Finally, we prove injectivity of $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$. Let α lie in the kernel of this map. Let d be point of codimension 1 in B ; by (5.6), α restricts to 0 in $H^0(\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{B,d}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. Therefore there is an open neighbourhood V_d of d such that α restricts to 0 in $H^0(V_d, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. As before, let V' be the union of the V_d for all $d \in B^{(1)}$; the sheaf property shows that α restricts to 0 in $H^0(V', R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. But $H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(V', R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$ is an isomorphism, so α is zero. \square

5.3 Application to $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$

We now relate our results which we have proved on $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ back to the original group of interest, namely $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$.

We begin by recalling some facts about the sheaf $R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$, all of which can be found in [Kle05, § 9.2]. The sheaf $R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ is the sheaf associated to the absolute Picard functor $V \mapsto \text{Pic}(X \times_B V)$. It is also the sheaf associated to the relative Picard functor $V \mapsto \text{Pic}(X \times_B V)/\text{Pic } V$. The inverse image $\eta^*R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ is simply the sheaf on $\text{Spec } K$ associated to the Galois module $\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}$.

LEMMA 5.11. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfy Condition 4.1. Then the natural map*

$$R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \eta_*\eta^*R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$$

is an isomorphism, and the natural map $R^2\pi_\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \eta_*\eta^*R^2\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ is injective.*

Proof. Let $V \rightarrow B$ be an étale morphism, and write X_V for $X \times_B V$. We claim that the sequence

$$\text{Pic } V \rightarrow \text{Pic } X_V \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_V)_{\eta} \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. Indeed, the second arrow is surjective because X_V is regular, so Weil and Cartier divisors coincide; and any Weil divisor on $(X_V)_{\eta}$ can be extended to X_V by taking its Zariski closure. Now let us show exactness at $\text{Pic } X_V$. If D is a divisor on X_V which becomes principal on restriction to $(X_V)_{\eta}$, say $D = (f)$ for some rational function on $(X_V)_{\eta}$, then we can consider f as a rational function on X_V and see that the divisor $D - (f)$ does not meet the generic fibre of $X_V \rightarrow V$, and therefore is vertical (that is, supported on fibres of $X_V \rightarrow V$). But, by Condition 4.1, the fibres of X_V above codimension-1 points of V are integral, so every vertical divisor on X_V is

the pull-back of a divisor on V , showing the required exactness. Thus we obtain an isomorphism between the presheaves

$$V \mapsto \text{Pic } X_V / \text{Pic } V \quad \text{and} \quad V \mapsto \text{Pic } (X_V)_\eta$$

which, on sheafifying, gives an isomorphism $R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \eta_*\eta^*R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ as claimed.

Since X_V is regular, the restriction map $\text{Br } X_V \rightarrow \text{Br } (X_V)_\eta$ is injective (looking separately at each connected component, it suffices to prove this for X_V integral, when it follows from [Mil80, IV, Corollary 2.6]). Sheafifying, we see that $R^2\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \eta_*\eta^*R^2\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ is injective, as required. \square

Recall from § 4 that to pass from elements of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n]$ to $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$, we used the exact sequence

$$H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n) \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n] \rightarrow 0 \tag{5.8}$$

arising from the multiplication-by- n homomorphism on $\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}$, together with the natural injection $\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n \rightarrow H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)$ coming from the Kummer sequence. Whilst the resulting class depends on the initial choice of lift, the following lemma says that its residues do not.

LEMMA 5.12. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ satisfy Condition 4.1 and let n be invertible on B . Then the kernel of the composite homomorphism*

$$H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$$

is the image of the natural map $H^0(B, (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n)$. It contains the image of $H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n)$.

Proof. The Kummer sequence gives a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n \rightarrow R^2\pi_*\mu_n \rightarrow (R^2\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)[n] \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves on B . Taking global sections on B and on η gives a commutative diagram with exact rows as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(B, (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(B, (R^2\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)[n]) \\ & & \alpha \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n) & \xrightarrow{i} & H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Br } X_{\bar{\eta}}[n]) \end{array}$$

By Proposition 5.10, the kernel in question is $i^{-1}(\text{Im } \beta)$. This clearly contains $\text{Im } \alpha$. But γ is injective by Lemma 5.11, and a diagram chase then shows $i^{-1}(\text{Im } \beta)$ is contained in $\text{Im } \alpha$, proving the first claim.

For the second claim, we have the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) & \longrightarrow & H^0(B, (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}) & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n) \end{array}$$

The left-hand vertical arrow is an isomorphism, by Lemma 5.11, and the claim follows easily. \square

It follows from Lemma 5.12 that there is a well-defined induced homomorphism

$$H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n] \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)). \tag{5.9}$$

LEMMA 5.13. *The kernel of the homomorphism (5.9) is equal to the image of the natural map $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)[n] \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n]$.*

Proof. By Lemma 5.9 we have $R^1\pi_*\mu_n = 0$ and so the Kummer sequence shows that the multiplication-by- n map on $R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m$ is injective. We therefore have a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m \xrightarrow{n} R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n \rightarrow 0$$

of sheaves on B , giving rise to an exact sequence in cohomology

$$H^0(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^0(B, (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n) \rightarrow H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)[n] \rightarrow 0$$

compatible with (5.8). Together, these give a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(B, (R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)/n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}/n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)[n] & \longrightarrow & H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n] \end{array}$$

in which both vertical maps are surjective. By Lemma 5.12, the kernel of the homomorphism (5.9) is the image of the composite map in this square, which is equal to the image of the bottom arrow. □

5.4 Existence of ramified elements

We now return to the situation in which X and B are varieties over a number field k . The purpose of this section is to give conditions under which every non-trivial element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ is ramified along some divisor in B . According to Lemma 5.13, this means understanding the group $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)$. In what follows, we write \bar{B} and \bar{X} for the base changes of B and X , respectively, to a fixed algebraic closure \bar{k} of k .

LEMMA 5.14. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a morphism of smooth proper varieties over a field k satisfying Condition 4.1. Suppose that we have $\text{Br } X = \text{Br } k$ and that the natural map $H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ is injective. Then $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) = 0$.*

Proof. Consider the Leray spectral sequence $E_2^{p,q} = H^p(B, R^q\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$. There is a homomorphism $d : H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m)$. The hypothesis $\text{Br } X = \text{Br } k$ implies that the kernel of d is trivial. The image of d lies in the kernel of $H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$, which is also trivial by hypothesis. This gives the claimed vanishing $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m) = 0$. □

LEMMA 5.15. *Let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a morphism of smooth proper varieties over a number field k satisfying Condition 4.1. Suppose further that B is such that the groups $\text{Br } \bar{B}$ and $H^3(\bar{B}, \mathbb{G}_m)$ both vanish.*

- (1) *If $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is not injective, then neither is $H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$.*
- (2) *If $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective and $\text{Br } X \rightarrow H^0(k, \text{Br } \bar{X})$ is surjective, then $H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ is injective.*

Proof. Because k is a number field, we have $H^3(k, \mathbb{G}_m) = 0$. Taking into account the assumptions on B , the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequences for $\bar{X} \rightarrow X$ and $\bar{B} \rightarrow B$ give a commutative diagram as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & \longrightarrow & H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) & \longrightarrow & H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Br } X & \longrightarrow & H^0(k, \text{Br } \bar{X}) & \longrightarrow & H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}) & \longrightarrow & H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)
 \end{array}$$

The result is now an easy application of the snake lemma. □

COROLLARY 5.16. *Under the conditions of Theorem 1.6, for every non-zero $\alpha \in H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ there exists some $d \in B^{(1)}$ such that $\rho_d(\alpha)$ is non-zero.*

Proof. The conditions include that $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective and that $\text{Br } \bar{X}$ vanishes, so Lemma 5.15 shows that $H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ is injective. Then the conditions $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}) = 0$ and $\text{Br } \bar{X} = 0$ together imply $\text{Br } X = \text{Br } k$, and Lemma 5.14 shows that $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)$ is zero. By Lemma 5.13, this implies that the homomorphism (5.9) is injective, giving the conclusion. □

Note that $\text{Br } \bar{X}$ and $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ both vanish when X is a k -rational variety. On the other hand, the condition on $\ker(H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}))$ appears less natural, and we briefly discuss it further.

As in the proof of Lemma 5.11, we have an exact sequence of $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{B} \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{X} \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{X}_{\eta} \rightarrow 0,$$

where now $\text{Pic } \bar{B} \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{X}$ is injective because $X \rightarrow B$ is proper. Here \bar{X}_{η} is the generic fibre of the base change of X to \bar{k} , and is not to be confused with $X_{\bar{\eta}}$. This exact sequence can be used to give some criteria for the homomorphism $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ to be injective. For example, the associated long exact sequence in Galois cohomology shows that this morphism is injective if $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}_{\eta}) = 0$. This injectivity also holds when the natural map $\text{Pic } \bar{B} \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{X}$ has a Galois-equivariant left inverse. This is certainly true if $X \rightarrow B$ has a section, but can hold more generally, as we will see in the following proposition.

For the application to Theorem 1.6, we take $B = \mathbb{P}^m$. Recall that, if Y is a smooth projective variety, then a closed subvariety $X \subset Y$ of codimension c is a *complete intersection* if X is the scheme-theoretic intersection of c very ample divisors in Y .

PROPOSITION 5.17. *Let k be a number field. Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^r \times \mathbb{P}^m$ be a complete intersection of dimension at least 3, and suppose that the projection $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^m$ satisfies Condition 4.1. Then $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{B}) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective and, furthermore, the residue map*

$$H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})[n] \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_d^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)).$$

of (5.9) is also injective.

Proof. The Lefschetz hyperplane theorem for Picard groups gives $\text{Pic } \bar{X} \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ with trivial Galois action, with $\pi^* : \text{Pic } \mathbb{P}^m \rightarrow \text{Pic } \bar{X}$ being the inclusion of one factor; it follows that $H^2(k, \text{Pic } \mathbb{P}^m) \rightarrow H^2(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X})$ is injective. By [Sch13, Proposition 2.6] and its proof it follows that the natural map $\text{Br } \mathbb{P}^m \rightarrow \text{Br } X$ is an isomorphism and $\text{Br } \bar{X} = 0$. Thus Lemmas 5.14 and 5.15 show that $H^1(B, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{G}_m)$ vanishes, and Lemma 5.13 gives the claimed result. □

5.5 Application to elements of $\text{Br } X_\eta$

Until now we have been concentrating on the case of Theorem 1.6 in which there is a non-trivial element of $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$. The other case, in which there is a non-trivial element of $\text{Br } X_\eta/\text{Br } K$, is significantly easier, but fits into the same framework.

To begin with, fix a positive integer n , and let A be an n -torsion element of $\text{Br } X_\eta$. The Kummer sequence gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } X_\eta/n \rightarrow H^2(X_\eta, \mu_n) \rightarrow \text{Br } X_\eta[n] \rightarrow 0$$

showing that A may be lifted to $H^2(X_\eta, \mu_n)$. The natural map $H^2(X_\eta, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ gives a class $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$. Let d be any point of codimension 1 in B . It follows easily from the commutative diagram (5.5) in Proposition 5.6 that the relative residue $\rho_d(\alpha)$ coincides with the image of A under the composition

$$\text{Br } X \xrightarrow{\partial} H^1(\kappa(X_d), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\text{res}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(\kappa(X_{\bar{d}}), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})),$$

where ∂ is the usual residue map for the Brauer group associated to the codimension-1 point $X_d \in X^{(1)}$, as defined by Grothendieck, and res is the restriction map in Galois cohomology. (Here we consider $H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{ns}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ as a subgroup of $H^1(\kappa(X_{\bar{d}}), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$ in the natural way.) In particular, $\rho_d(\alpha)$ does not depend on how we lift A to $H^2(X, \mu_n)$.

PROPOSITION 5.18. *Suppose that the conditions of Theorem 1.6 hold and that $\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}$ is torsion-free. Let A lie in $\text{Br } X_\eta[n]$ and let α be constructed as above. Then we have $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$ for all $d \in B^{(1)}$ if and only if A lies in the image of $\text{Br } K \rightarrow \text{Br } X_\eta$.*

Proof. Let us first prove that $H^3(B, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mu_n)$ is injective. The Kummer sequence gives the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Br } B/n & \longrightarrow & H^3(B, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^3(B, \mathbb{G}_m)[n] \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Br } X/n & \longrightarrow & H^3(X, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)[n] \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

The assumptions $\text{Br } \bar{X} = 0$ and $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}) = 0$ together imply $\text{Br } k = \text{Br } B = \text{Br } X$, so the left-hand vertical map is an isomorphism. By Lemma 5.15, the right-hand vertical map is injective, and therefore the middle one is also injective, as claimed.

Now consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & H^2(K, \mu_n) & \\ & \downarrow & \\ H^2(X, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^2(X_\eta, \mu_n) \\ \downarrow f & & \downarrow g \\ H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \rho_d} \bigoplus_{d \in B^{(1)}} H^0(\kappa(d), H^1(X_{\bar{d}}^{\text{sm}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)) \end{array}$$

in which the bottom row is the exact sequence of Proposition 5.10, and the middle column is exact by the Leray spectral sequence and $\text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}}[n] = 0$. Again using the Leray spectral sequence, the homomorphism f fits into an exact sequence

$$H^2(X, \mu_n) \xrightarrow{f} H^0(B, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(B, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mu_n)$$

showing that f is surjective.

Let A be an n -torsion element in $\text{Br } X_{\eta}$ and lift A to a class $\beta \in H^2(X_{\eta}, \mu_n)$, so that $\alpha = g(\beta)$. An easy diagram chase now shows that $\rho_d(\alpha) = 0$ holds for all d if and only if β lies in the subgroup of $H^2(X_{\eta}, \mu_n)$ generated by $H^2(X, \mu_n)$ and $H^2(K, \mu_n)$. Using the Kummer sequence and $\text{Br } X = \text{Br } k$, we see that this holds if and only if A lies in the image of $\text{Br } K[n] \rightarrow \text{Br } X_{\eta}[n]$, and in particular in the image of $\text{Br } K$. \square

5.6 Ramified elements usually obstruct weak approximation

The main aim of this section is to establish Proposition 4.2. Throughout this section, we fix the following notation. Let k be a number field, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow B$ be a morphism of smooth varieties over k satisfying Condition 4.1. Let $U \subset B$ be a non-empty open subset over which π is smooth and proper. Fix an integer $n > 1$. Our aim is to show that a ramified element $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ obstructs weak approximation on ‘most’ fibres X_P for $P \in U(k)$. Note that α could come from an n -torsion element in $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$, as described above, or equally well from an element of $\text{Br } X_{\eta}[n]$.

We begin by showing how to specialise an element of $H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ at a point $P \in U(k)$.

LEMMA 5.19. *The natural map $H^0(U, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. Let D be any prime divisor on U , with generic point d . Then the fibre X_d is smooth, and we have $H^1(X_{\bar{d}}, \mu_n) = 0$ by Lemma 5.9 and proper base change. The sheaves \mathbb{Z}/n and μ_n are isomorphic on $X_{\bar{d}}$, giving $H^1(X_{\bar{d}}, \mathbb{Z}/n) = 0$. Thus Proposition 5.10 gives the claimed result. \square

Thus any element $\alpha \in H^0(K, H^2(X_{\bar{\eta}}, \mu_n))$ extends to U . If $P \in U(k)$ is any rational point, then α can be specialised to an element of $H^0(k, H^2(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n))$. The following lemma shows that, under suitable hypotheses, we can then lift to $H^2(X_P, \mu_n)$.

LEMMA 5.20. *Let P be a point of $U(k)$, and let $\pi_P : X_P \rightarrow P$ be the base change of π . If n is even, assume that the fibre X_P has points in every real completion of k . Let \bar{X}_P denote the base change of X_P to \bar{k} . Then the homomorphism $H^2(X_P, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(k, H^2(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n))$ is surjective, with kernel $\text{Br } k[n]$.*

Proof. By Lemma 5.9 and proper base change, we have $H^1(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n) = 0$. The Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^2(k, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2(X_P, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(k, H^2(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n)) \rightarrow H^3(k, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(X_P, \mu_n).$$

The Kummer sequence gives $H^2(k, \mu_n) \cong \text{Br } k[n]$ (since $H^1(k, \mathbb{G}_m)$ vanishes) and so the result will be established if we can show that $H^3(k, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(X_P, \mu_n)$ is injective. But the natural map $H^3(k, \mu_n) \rightarrow \prod_{v \text{ real}} H^3(k_v, \mu_n)$ is an isomorphism (see, for example, [Mil06, Theorem 4.10(c)]). So evaluating at a point in $X(k_v)$ for all real places v gives a left inverse to $H^3(k, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^3(X, \mu_n)$, which is therefore injective. \square

Under the conditions of Lemma 5.20, we can specialise a class α belonging to $H^0(U, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$ to an element of $\text{Br } X_P[n]$ using the sequence of homomorphisms

$$H^0(U, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) \rightarrow H^0(k, H^2(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n)) \leftarrow H^2(X_P, \mu_n) \rightarrow \text{Br } X_P[n].$$

The resulting class, which we will denote $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$, is determined only up to $\text{Br } k[n]$. (In fact the condition that X_P be soluble at the real places is only for convenience: in general, we can make the construction work but at the expense of possibly increasing n . Since we are only interested in everywhere locally soluble fibres, we do not mind imposing this condition.) It is straightforward to check that, if α comes from a class in $H^1(K, \text{Pic } X_{\bar{\eta}})$ as described in §4, then $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$ is the same as the class obtained by first specialising to $H^1(k, \text{Pic } \bar{X}_P)$ and then lifting to $\text{Br } X_P/\text{Br } k$.

The final ingredient needed in the proof of Proposition 4.2 is a lemma concerning the existence of rational points on a family of torsors defined over \mathfrak{o} .

LEMMA 5.21. *Let k be a number field, \mathfrak{o} the ring of integers of k and let $\pi : Z \rightarrow S$ be a dominant morphism of normal, integral, flat, separated \mathfrak{o} -schemes of finite type. Denote by η the generic point of S and $\bar{\eta}$ a geometric point lying over η . Suppose that $Z_{\bar{\eta}}$ is integral. Let $\gamma \in H^0(S, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{Z}/n)$ be a class, and suppose that the restriction of γ to $H^1(Z_{\bar{\eta}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ has order n . For a geometric point $\bar{s} \in S$, let $Y(\bar{s})$ denote the torsor over $Z_{\bar{s}}$ defined by the restriction of γ to $H^1(Z_{\bar{s}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$. Then there are dense open subsets $S' \subset S$ and $U \subset \text{Spec } \mathfrak{o}$ such that, for every $\mathfrak{p} \in U$ and any $\bar{s} \in S'(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}})$, any $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -variety geometrically isomorphic to $Y(\bar{s})$ has a $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -rational point.*

Proof. By the standard description of the stalks of $R^1\pi_*\mathbb{Z}/n$, there is an étale morphism $T \rightarrow S$ such that the restriction of γ to $H^0(T, R^1\pi_*\mathbb{Z}/n)$ lies in the image of $H^1(Z_T, \mathbb{Z}/n)$. Replacing T by a connected component, we may assume that T is integral. The image of $T \rightarrow S$ is a dense open subset, and any geometric point \bar{s} lying in the image of $T \rightarrow S$ factors through T (and this applies in particular to $\bar{\eta}$), so we may replace S by T and assume that γ lifts to $\gamma' \in H^1(Z, \mathbb{Z}/n)$.

Let $f : Y \rightarrow Z$ be a torsor representing γ' . For any geometric point $\bar{s} \in S$, the fibre $Y_{\bar{s}}$ is isomorphic to the torsor $Y(\bar{s})$ in the statement of the lemma. We claim that the geometric generic fibre $Y_{\bar{\eta}}$ is integral. The torsor $Y_{\bar{\eta}} \rightarrow Z_{\bar{\eta}}$ represents the image of γ in $H^1(Z_{\bar{\eta}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$, which by assumption has order n . Because Z is normal, it follows from [SGA1, Exposé 1, Proposition 10.1] that the natural map $H^1(Z_{\bar{\eta}}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1(\kappa(Z_{\bar{\eta}}), \mathbb{Z}/n)$ is injective, and so the étale algebra $\kappa(Y_{\bar{\eta}})$ is a torsor over $\kappa(Z_{\bar{\eta}})$ represented by a cohomology class of order n , which by Kummer theory is a field. Again by [SGA1, Exposé 1, Proposition 10.1], we see that $Y_{\bar{\eta}}$ is integral. Now applying Lemma 3.6 to $Y \rightarrow S$ completes the proof. \square

We are now in a position to prove the main proposition recorded in §4.

Proof of Proposition 4.2. We continue to denote the morphism $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ also by π . To prove the proposition, we may replace \mathcal{B} with any open subset containing both U and d . In particular, we may (and do) assume that n is invertible on \mathcal{B} ; that \mathcal{B} is flat over \mathfrak{o} and regular; that \mathcal{D} is regular; and that π satisfies Condition 4.1. Applying Proposition 5.10, we further shrink \mathcal{B} to ensure that α lies in $H^0(\mathcal{B} \setminus \mathcal{D}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n)$. Finally, we replace \mathcal{X} by the open subscheme on which π is smooth, so that (by diagram (5.7)) the relative residue $\rho_d(\alpha)$ extends to $\rho_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha) \in H^0(\mathcal{D}, R^1(\pi_{\mathcal{D}})_*\mathbb{Z}/n)$.

Since X_d is geometrically integral, there is a dense open subset $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathcal{D}$ such that the geometric fibres of π over \mathcal{V} are integral. If $s \in \mathcal{V}$ is a closed point, and \bar{s} a geometric point lying over s ,

then $\rho_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha)$ restricts to an element of $H^0(s, H^1(\mathcal{X}_{\bar{s}}, \mathbb{Z}/n))$. Because $\mathcal{X}_{\bar{s}}$ is geometrically integral, we have $H^0(\mathcal{X}_{\bar{s}}, \mathbb{Z}/n) = \mathbb{Z}/n$. The Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence gives an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^1(s, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{X}_s, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^0(s, H^1(\mathcal{X}_{\bar{s}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)) \rightarrow H^2(s, \mathbb{Z}/n).$$

The residue field $\kappa(s)$ is finite, so we have $H^2(s, \mathbb{Z}/n) = 0$. Hence the restriction of $\rho_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha)$ is represented by a torsor $\mathcal{Y}(s) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_s$, where the choice of $\mathcal{Y}(s)$ is unique only up to twisting by an element of $H^1(s, \mathbb{Z}/n)$. It follows from Lemma 5.21 that we can shrink \mathcal{V} to ensure that, for every closed point s of \mathcal{V} , every $\kappa(s)$ -twist of the variety $\mathcal{Y}(s)$ has a $\kappa(s)$ -rational point.

Now let us show that \mathcal{V} has the property claimed in the proposition. Let P be a point of $U(k)$, and suppose that its Zariski closure \mathcal{P} meets \mathcal{V} transversely at a closed point s . Let \mathfrak{p} be the prime ideal of \mathfrak{o} over which s lies. The argument that follows is local at s , so we replace \mathcal{B} by the local scheme $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{B},s}$, on which $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{D}$ is a regular divisor. Let $k_{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the completion of k at \mathfrak{p} and $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ the completion of \mathfrak{o} . Let \hat{X}_P denote the base change of X_P to $k_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and let $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{\mathcal{D}}$ denote the base change of $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{D}}$ to $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$. We have a commutative diagram with exact rows as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 H^0(\mathcal{B}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(\mathcal{B}\setminus\mathcal{D}, R^2\pi_*\mu_n) & \xrightarrow{\rho_{\mathcal{D}}} & H^0(\mathcal{D}, R^1(\pi_{\mathcal{D}})_*\mathbb{Z}/n) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 H^0(\mathcal{P}, R^2(\pi_{\mathcal{D}})_*\mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^0(k, H^2(\bar{X}_P, \mu_n)) & \xrightarrow{\rho_s} & H^0(\kappa(s), H^1(\mathcal{X}_{\bar{s}}, \mathbb{Z}/n)) \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 H^2(\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{D}}, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^2(X_P, \mu_n) & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}_s, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\
 \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{D}})[n] & \longrightarrow & \text{Br}(X_P)[n] & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathcal{X}_s, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\
 \text{Br}(\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{\mathcal{D}})[n] & \longrightarrow & \text{Br}(\hat{X}_P)[n] & \xrightarrow{\partial_{\mathcal{X}_s}} & H^1(\mathcal{X}_s, \mathbb{Z}/n)
 \end{array}$$

In this diagram, the top row comes from Proposition 5.6(3) applied to $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{B}$; the next two rows come from Proposition 5.6(3) applied to $s \subset \mathcal{P}$; and the bottom two rows come from the purity theorem from the Brauer group on $\mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{\mathcal{D}}$, respectively (see, for example, [Bri15, Corollary 2.5]). The class α lies in the middle top group, and the class $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$ (defined modulo $\text{Br } k[n]$) lies in $\text{Br}(X_P)[n]$. Denote by $\hat{\alpha}$ the image of $\text{sp}_P(\alpha)$ in $\text{Br}(\hat{X}_P)[n]$. Because the diagram commutes, the class $\partial(\hat{\alpha})$ is the class of our torsor $\mathcal{Y}(s)$, again only defined modulo twists.

Lemma 5.12 of [Bri15], in our notation, states the following. To every class $r \in \text{Br } k_{\mathfrak{p}}[n]$ we may associate a certain twist of $\mathcal{Y}(s)$, which we will denote $\mathcal{Y}(s)^{[r]}$. Then r lies in the image of the evaluation map $X_P(k_{\mathfrak{p}}) \rightarrow \text{Br } k_{\mathfrak{p}}[n]$ coming from $\hat{\alpha}$ if and only if $\mathcal{Y}(s)^{[r]}$ has a $\kappa(s)$ -rational point. By construction of \mathcal{V} , this is true for all $r \in \text{Br } k_{\mathfrak{p}}[n]$, so the evaluation map is surjective. \square

6. An application of the large sieve

This section contains the analytic part of the proof of Theorem 1.6, an overview of which is given in §4. Our main goal is to establish Proposition 4.3.

Let k be a number field of degree d over \mathbb{Q} , with associated ring of integers \mathfrak{o} , and let $H : \mathbb{P}^n(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1}$ be the height function that was constructed in §3.2. For given $M \in \mathbb{N}$ and

non-constant homogeneous polynomials $f, g \in \mathfrak{o}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$, we shall need to study the counting function

$$N(T; B, M) = \# \left\{ x \in T : \begin{array}{l} H(x) \leq B \\ \exists N\mathfrak{p} > M \text{ s.t. } \mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x}) \text{ and } \mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{x}) \end{array} \right\}, \tag{6.1}$$

for any non-empty subset $T \subset \mathbb{P}^n(k)$. In the definition of $N(T; B, M)$ the main constraint is to be understood as follows: there exists a prime ideal \mathfrak{p} such that $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ and a primitive representative $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_n) \in (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}^2)^{n+1}$ of $x \bmod \mathfrak{p}^2$ such that $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{x})$. Here we write $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x})$ to mean that $\mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{x})$ but $\mathfrak{p}^2 \nmid f(\mathbf{x})$.

The following is the main result of this section.

PROPOSITION 6.1. *Assume that $f \nmid ag$ for all $a \in \mathfrak{o}$ and that $f \neq f_1 f_2^2$ for polynomials $f_1, f_2 \in \mathfrak{o}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$. Then for fixed $M \in \mathbb{N}$ and any non-empty subset $T \subset \mathbb{P}^n(k)$ we have*

$$\#\{x \in T : H(x) \leq B\} - N(T; B, M) \ll_{M,f,g} \frac{B^{n+1}}{\log B}.$$

The implied constant is allowed to depend on ε, M, f and g .

If $f \mid ag$ for some $a \in \mathfrak{o}$, or if $f = f_1 f_2^2$ for polynomials $f_1, f_2 \in \mathfrak{o}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$, then it is clear that $N(T; B, M) = 0$. Thus the hypotheses of the proposition are both necessary and sufficient to draw the conclusion. For comparison we note that when $T = U(k)$ for some non-empty open subset $U \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, the counting function $\#\{x \in T : H(x) \leq B\}$ has exact order B^{n+1} , which exceeds the upper bound recorded in Proposition 6.1. Before proving this result, let us see how it can be used to establish Proposition 4.3.

Proof of Proposition 4.3. The generic fibre $\mathcal{D} \otimes_{\mathfrak{o}} k$ is a reduced hypersurface in \mathbb{P}^n , so is defined by a single square-free homogeneous polynomial $f \in k[X_0, \dots, X_n]$. Clearing denominators, we may ensure that f lies in $\mathfrak{o}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$. Then the subscheme of $\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathfrak{o}}$ defined by f consists of \mathcal{D} together with the whole of $\mathbb{P}^n_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for each prime \mathfrak{p} dividing f . (If \mathfrak{o} is a principal ideal domain, then we can take f to be primitive, so that \mathcal{D} is defined by the single polynomial f , but in general this may not be possible.) Set $M = \max_{\mathfrak{p} \mid f} N\mathfrak{p}$. Let S be the complement of \mathcal{V} in \mathcal{D} , and let $g \in \mathfrak{o}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ be any homogeneous polynomial vanishing on S but not identically zero on \mathcal{D} . (In the case $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{D}$, take g to be any non-constant homogeneous polynomial not zero on \mathcal{D} .)

Let $P \in U(k)$. Suppose that there exist a prime \mathfrak{p} with $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ and a representative $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_n) \in (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}^2)^{n+1}$ of P satisfying $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{x})$. Note that the latter condition implies that the x_i are not all divisible by \mathfrak{p} . We claim that \bar{P} meets \mathcal{V} transversely in the fibre above \mathfrak{p} . Indeed, let s be the closed point where \bar{P} meets the fibre above \mathfrak{p} ; explicitly, s is defined by the ideal $I = (\mathfrak{p}, X_0 - x_0, \dots, X_n - x_n)$. The condition $\mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{x})$ shows that f lies in I ; together with the condition $N\mathfrak{p} > M$, this shows that s lies in \mathcal{D} . The condition $\mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{x})$ shows that s lies in \mathcal{V} . The ideal generated by f and the defining equations for P is $J = (f(\mathbf{x}), X_0 - x_0, \dots, X_n - x_n)$, which is contained in I . The condition $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x})$ shows that, on the open neighbourhood of s obtained by inverting all other primes dividing $f(\mathbf{x})$, I coincides with the ideal defining s . That is, \bar{P} and f meet transversely at s . This establishes the claim.

It therefore follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \#\{P \in T : H(P) \leq B\} - \#\{P \in T_{\text{trans}} : H(P) \leq B\} \\ &\leq \#\{P \in T : H(P) \leq B\} - N(T; B, M), \end{aligned}$$

in the notation of (6.1). An application of Proposition 6.1 therefore completes the proof. \square

In order to establish Proposition 6.1 we will produce an upper bound for the number of $x \in T$ with $H(x) \leq B$ for which there is no prime ideal \mathfrak{p} of norm $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ such that $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{x})$. Let us write $N^\circ(T; B, M)$ for this complementary cardinality. Since we are only interested in an upper bound for $N^\circ(T; B, M)$ we may drop any of the defining conditions that we care to. In particular, we henceforth ignore the constraint that the points counted by $N^\circ(T; B, M)$ must lie in T . Define the distance function $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\star : k^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ via

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_\star = \sup_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq n \\ \nu | \infty}} \|x_i\|_\nu,$$

where $\|\cdot\|_\nu$ is the normalised absolute value associated to the place ν . For any $H \geq 1$ we introduce the set

$$Z_{n+1}(H) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{o}^{n+1} : \|\mathbf{x}\|_\star \leq H\}.$$

As explained in [Bro01, Proposition 3], a consequence of Dirichlet’s unit theorem is the existence of a constant $c_1 > 0$, depending only on n , such that any $x \in \mathbb{P}^n(k)$ with $H(x) \leq B$ has a representative $\mathbf{x} \in Z_{n+1}(c_1 B)$. (Note, however, that elements of the latter set do not uniquely determine elements of the former.)

Our work so far shows that $N^\circ(T; B, M) \leq \sum_{i=1,2} N_i(B, M)$, where

$$N_1(B, M) = \#\{\mathbf{x} \in Z_{n+1}(c_1 B) : \mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{x}) \text{ for all } N\mathfrak{p} > M \text{ s.t. } \mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{x})\}$$

and

$$N_2(B, M) = \#\{\mathbf{x} \in Z_{n+1}(c_1 B) : \mathfrak{p} \mid g(\mathbf{x}) \text{ for all } N\mathfrak{p} > M \text{ s.t. } \mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{x})\},$$

with c_1 as above. For fixed M , we need upper bounds for $N_1(B, M)$ and $N_2(B, M)$ which agree with the bound recorded in Proposition 6.1. Our primary tool in this endeavour is the following multi-dimensional version of the arithmetic large sieve inequality.

LEMMA 6.2. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $B \geq 1$ and let $\Sigma \subset \mathfrak{o}^{n+1}$ be any subset. For each prime ideal \mathfrak{p} suppose there exists $\omega(\mathfrak{p}) \in [0, 1]$ such that the image of Σ in $(\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}^m)^{n+1}$ has at most $(N\mathfrak{p})^{m(n+1)}(1 - \omega(\mathfrak{p}))$ elements. Then there is a constant $c_k > 0$ such that*

$$\#\{\mathbf{x} \in \Sigma : \|\mathbf{x}\|_\star \leq B\} \leq c_k \frac{B^{n+1}}{L(B^{1/(2m)})},$$

with

$$L(z) = \sum_{\mathfrak{a}} \prod_{\mathfrak{p} | \mathfrak{a}} \frac{\omega(\mathfrak{p})}{1 - \omega(\mathfrak{p})},$$

where the sum is over square-free integral ideals $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{o}$ such that $N\mathfrak{a} \leq z$.

Proof. When $k = \mathbb{Q}$ this is recorded in [Ser90, §6]. The extension to general number fields is standard, and follows the method given in [Ser97, ch. 12]. □

Before beginning our estimation of $N_1(B, M)$ and $N_2(B, M)$, we may clearly assume without loss of generality that f is square-free and that f and g share no common factors.

6.1 Estimating $N_1(B, M)$

Let Σ denote the set of elements $\mathbf{x} \in Z_{n+1}(c_1 B)$ such that $\mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{x})$ for all $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ with $\mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{x})$. For any prime ideal \mathfrak{p} , let $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ denote the image of Σ in $R_{\mathfrak{p}} = (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}^2)^{n+1}$. Put $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^\circ = R_{\mathfrak{p}} \setminus \Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$. If $N\mathfrak{p} \leq M$ then $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}} = R_{\mathfrak{p}}$. If $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ then $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^\circ$ is the set of $\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for which $\mathfrak{p} \parallel f(\mathbf{y})$. Thus we have

$$\#\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^\circ = \#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{y})\} - \#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{y})\},$$

for $N\mathfrak{p} > M$. Possibly after enlarging M , for any prime ideal \mathfrak{p} with $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ there exists a factorisation $f = f_1 \cdots f_r$ over $\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}^2$ such that the following statements hold:

- for each $i \neq j$ the variety $f_i = f_j = 0$ in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^n$ has codimension 2 when viewed over $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p}$; and
- for each i the reduction modulo \mathfrak{p} of the variety cut out by the equations $f_i = 0$ and $\nabla f_i = \mathbf{0}$ has codimension at least 2 in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^n$.

We proceed by establishing the following result.

LEMMA 6.3. *We have $\#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{y})\} \ll_f (N\mathfrak{p})^{2n}$ when $N\mathfrak{p} > M$.*

Proof. Assume that $N\mathfrak{p} > M$. Now $\mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f(\mathbf{y})$ if and only if either $\mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f_i(\mathbf{y})$ for some index i , or else $\mathfrak{p} \mid f_i(\mathbf{y})$ and $\mathfrak{p} \mid f_j(\mathbf{y})$ for a pair of indices $i \neq j$. Choose an element $\alpha \in \mathfrak{o}$ such that $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\alpha) = 1$. Then elements of $R_{\mathfrak{p}}$ are in bijection with elements $\mathbf{u} + \alpha\mathbf{v}$ for $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p})^{n+1} = \mathbb{F}_p^{n+1}$. Since $f_i = f_j = 0$ cuts out a codimension-2 variety in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^n$, the Lang and Weil [LW54] estimate shows that

$$\#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p} \mid f_i(\mathbf{y}) \text{ and } \mathfrak{p} \mid f_j(\mathbf{y})\} = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}_p^{n+1} \\ \mathfrak{p} \mid f_i(\mathbf{u}) \text{ and } \mathfrak{p} \mid f_j(\mathbf{u})}} \#\mathbb{F}_p^{n+1} \ll_f (N\mathfrak{p})^{2n},$$

since

$$\#\{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}_p^{n+1} : f_i(\mathbf{u}) \equiv f_j(\mathbf{u}) \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}\} \ll_f (N\mathfrak{p})^{n-1} \tag{6.2}$$

if $i \neq j$. This is satisfactory for the lemma. On the other hand, we use the Taylor expansion to deduce that

$$\#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p}^2 \mid f_i(\mathbf{y})\} = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}_p^{n+1} \\ f_i(\mathbf{u}) \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}}} D(\mathbf{u}),$$

where $D(\mathbf{u})$ is the number of $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_p^{n+1}$ such that

$$f_i(\mathbf{u}) + \alpha\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f_i(\mathbf{u}) \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}^2}.$$

If $\mathfrak{p} \nmid \nabla f_i(\mathbf{u})$ then there are $(N\mathfrak{p})^n$ choices for \mathbf{v} , and the Lang–Weil estimate yields the required bound. If $\mathfrak{p} \mid \nabla f_i(\mathbf{u})$, however, then the \mathbf{u} are constrained to lie on a variety of codimension at least 2 in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^n$. Hence a further application of the Lang–Weil estimate, combined with the trivial bound $D(\mathbf{u}) \leq (N\mathfrak{p})^{n+1}$, concludes the proof. \square

Now it follows from the Lang–Weil estimate that

$$\#\{\mathbf{y} \in R_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{y})\} \geq (N\mathfrak{p})^{n+1}((N\mathfrak{p})^n + O_f((N\mathfrak{p})^{n-(1/2)})). \tag{6.3}$$

Hence it follows from this and Lemma 6.3 that $\#\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\circ} \geq (N\mathfrak{p})^{2n+1} + O_f((N\mathfrak{p})^{2n+(1/2)})$. But this implies that $\#\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}} \leq (N\mathfrak{p})^{2(n+1)}(1 - \omega(\mathfrak{p}))$, with

$$\omega(\mathfrak{p}) = \begin{cases} 0, & N\mathfrak{p} \leq M, \\ (N\mathfrak{p})^{-1} + O_f((N\mathfrak{p})^{-3/2}), & N\mathfrak{p} > M. \end{cases} \tag{6.4}$$

With this choice we clearly have

$$L(z) \geq \sum_{\substack{Na \leq z \\ a \text{ square-free} \\ \mathfrak{p} \mid a \Rightarrow N\mathfrak{p} > M}} \frac{1}{Na} \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \mid a} \left(1 + O_f\left(\frac{1}{(N\mathfrak{p})^{1/2}}\right) \right) \gg_{M,f} \log z, \tag{6.5}$$

where we emphasise that the implied constant is allowed to depend on M . Invoking Lemma 6.2, we have therefore established the satisfactory bound

$$N_1(B, M) \ll \frac{B^{n+1}}{L(B^{1/4})} \ll_{M,f} \frac{B^{n+1}}{\log B}.$$

6.2 Estimating $N_2(B, M)$

This follows a similar pattern to before, but is simpler. By enlarging M , if necessary, we may assume that the variety $f = g = 0$ in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^n$ has codimension 2 for any prime ideal \mathfrak{p} with $N\mathfrak{p} > M$. In the present situation we only need to work with $m = 1$ in the large sieve. Let Σ be the set of $\mathbf{x} \in Z_{n+1}(c_1B)$ such that $\mathfrak{p} \mid g(\mathbf{x})$ for all $N\mathfrak{p} > M$ with $\mathfrak{p} \nmid f(\mathbf{x})$, and let $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the image in $(\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p})^{n+1}$ for any prime ideal \mathfrak{p} . Then $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\circ} = (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p})^{n+1} \setminus \Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is the set of $\mathbf{y} \in (\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{p})^{n+1}$ for which $\mathfrak{p} \mid f(\mathbf{y})$ but $\mathfrak{p} \nmid g(\mathbf{y})$. It follows from (6.2) and (6.3) that $\#\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\circ} \geq (N\mathfrak{p})^n + O_f((N\mathfrak{p})^{n-(1/2)})$. Hence $\#\Sigma_{\mathfrak{p}} \leq (N\mathfrak{p})^{n+1}(1 - \omega(\mathfrak{p}))$, with $\omega(\mathfrak{p})$ as in (6.4). In particular, we still have the lower bound (6.5), whence the large sieve yields $N_2(B, M) \ll_{M,f,g} B^{n+1}/(\log B)$. This too is satisfactory and so completes the proof of Proposition 6.1. \square

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