

Canonical heights for nef divisors on abelian varieties and an application to the arithmetic degree conjecture

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Let A/K be an abelian variety defined over a number field. If D is a symmetric ample divisor, then the canonical height $\hat{h}_D(P)$ of a point vanishes if and only if P is a torsion point. We consider the case of nef divisors and prove that in this case, there is an abelian subvariety B_D of A such that $\hat{h}_D(P) = 0$ if and only if P is in $B_D + A_{\text{tors}}$. As an application, we prove if $f: A \rightarrow A$ is an endomorphism and if P is a point whose f -orbit $\{f^n(P) : n > 0\}$ is Zariski dense, then the arithmetic degree $a_f(P) = \lim h_H(f^n P)^{1/n}$ is maximal (equal to the dynamical degree of f), where h_H is the height relative to any ample divisor.

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