

On the Iitaka Fibration of Varieties of Maximal Albanese Dimension

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We prove that the tetracanonical map of a variety X of maximal Albanese dimension induces the Iitaka fibration. Moreover, if X is of general type, then the tricanonical map is birational.

1 Introduction

In the study of smooth complex algebraic varieties, the natural maps defined by differential forms are of special importance. In particular, pluricanonical maps have been extensively studied.

When X is of maximal Albanese dimension, the study was started by Chen and Hacon [4, 5]. Their results were improved by Jiang [10], who showed that the fifth canonical map induces the Iitaka fibration. Recently, Tirabassi [17], showed that if X is of general type, then the fourth pluricanonical is birational.

Combining Theorems 4.1 and 5.1, we obtain the following statement.

Theorem A. Let X be a smooth projective variety of maximal Albanese dimension. Then,

- (1) the linear system $|4K_X|$ induces the Iitaka fibration of X ;

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- (2) if X is of general type, then the linear system $|3K_X|$ induces a birational map. \square

These bounds are optimal for varieties of maximal Albanese dimension. On the one hand, if X is a curve of genus 2, then $|2K_X|$ is not birational (varieties of general type whose bicanonical map is not birational have been studied in [1, 13]). Furthermore, we produce varieties of dimension at least 4, whose tricanonical map does not induce the Iitaka fibration (see Example 5.6).

We observe that when $\chi(X, \omega_X) > 0$, the birationality of the tricanonical map was proved by Chen and Hacon [5, Theorem 5.4]. Hence, we restrict ourselves to the case $\chi(X, \omega_X) = 0$. In this situation, we have a special fibration where the m th pluricanonical linear system restricts surjectively to a general fibre for $m \geq 3$ (see Lemma 3.5). On the base of this fibration, we construct two positive line bundles (see Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4). One of them induces a birational map φ on the base. The other one is used to prove a nonvanishing result which shows that the fibration followed by φ factors through the pluricanonical map. We use these line bundles to apply Lemma 2.1, which allows us to proceed by induction on the dimension of X . When X is of general type, it is enough to consider the tricanonical map to get the nonvanishing mentioned above. The lack of this nonvanishing is what forces us to consider the tetracanonical map for nongeneral type varieties (as we note in Remark 5.5).

Notation. In the sequel, X will always be a smooth complex projective variety of maximal Albanese dimension. We denote by $a_X: X \rightarrow A_X$ the Albanese morphism. Given an abelian variety A , let \hat{A} be its dual. For a morphism $t: X \rightarrow A$ to an abelian variety and a coherent sheaf \mathcal{F} on X , we denote by $V^i(\mathcal{F}, t)$ the i th cohomological support loci:

$$\{P \in \text{Pic}^0(A) \mid H^i(X, \mathcal{F} \otimes t^*P) \neq 0\}.$$

We will use the terms M -regular, I.T.-index j (IT^j for short) and continuously globally generated (CGG for short) as they are defined in [15]. We will say that \mathcal{F} is a GV-sheaf if $\text{codim}_{\text{Pic}^0(X)} V^i(\mathcal{F}, a_X) \geq i$ for all $i \geq 0$. Given two divisors E and F , we will write $E \preceq F$ if $F - E$ is effective.

2 Preliminaries

We begin with some easy lemmas.

Lemma 2.1. Let $f: X \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} Y$ be fibrations between smooth projective varieties. Let L be a line bundle on X . If the following two conditions hold:

- (1) the image of $H^0(X, L) \rightarrow H^0(X_Y, L|_{X_Y})$ induces a map birationally equivalent to $g|_{X_Y}: X_Y \rightarrow Z_Y$ for a general fibre X_Y of f ;
- (2) there are line bundles $H_i, 1 \leq i \leq M$, on Y such that $L - f^*H_i$ is effective and the multiple evaluation map

$$\varphi_Y: Y \rightarrow \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, H_1)^*) \times \cdots \times \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, H_M)^*)$$

is birational.

Then, the linear system $|L|$ induces a map birationally equivalent to $g: X \rightarrow Z$. □

Proof. Since the $L - f^*H_i$ are effective we have a map π that induces the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{|L|}} & \mathbf{P}(H^0(X, L)^*) \\
 \downarrow g & \nearrow \varphi_Z & \downarrow \pi \\
 Z & & \\
 \downarrow h & & \\
 Y & \xrightarrow{\varphi_Y} & \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, H_1)^*) \times \cdots \times \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, H_M)^*)
 \end{array}$$

Condition (2) guarantees that $\varphi_{|L|}$ separates generic fibres of f and condition (1) shows that the map $\varphi_{|L|}$ factorizes as $\varphi_Z \circ g$ and a general fibre of h is mapped birationally via φ_Z . ■

We will need the following lemma to ensure the birationality of φ_Y in the previous lemma.

Lemma 2.2. Let $\hat{\pi}: \hat{Y} \rightarrow Y$ be a generically abelian Galois covering between smooth projective varieties of maximal Albanese dimensions. Denote by G the Galois group of $\hat{\pi}$.

We denote $b_{\hat{Y}} = a_Y \circ \hat{\pi} : \hat{Y} \rightarrow A_Y$. Assume that $V^0(\omega_{\hat{Y}}, b_{\hat{Y}}) = \text{Pic}^0(Y)$ and

$$\hat{\pi}_* \omega_{\hat{Y}}^2 = \bigoplus_{\chi \in G^*} \mathcal{H}_\chi,$$

where \mathcal{H}_χ is the torsion-free rank-1 sheaf corresponding to the character $\chi \in G^*$.

Then, there exists \mathcal{H}_{χ_0} such that the multiple evaluation map

$$\varphi_{P_1 \dots P_M} : Y \rightarrow \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, \mathcal{H}_{\chi_0} \otimes P_1)^*) \times \dots \times \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, \mathcal{H}_{\chi_0} \otimes P_M)^*)$$

is birational for some $P_i \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, $1 \leq i \leq M$. □

If $\hat{\pi}$ is an isomorphism, then Lemma 2.2 is contained in the proof of Chen and Hacon [5, Theorem 4.4].

Proof. We first write

$$\hat{\pi}_* \omega_{\hat{Y}} = \bigoplus_{\chi \in G^*} \mathcal{L}_\chi,$$

where $\mathcal{L}_0 = \omega_Y$ and all \mathcal{L}_i are torsion-free rank-1 sheaves on Y .

Since $V^0(\omega_{\hat{Y}}, b_{\hat{Y}}) = \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, we conclude that there exists χ_1 such that $V^0(\mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}, a_Y) = \text{Pic}^0(Y)$. Denote by Z the closed subset where \mathcal{L}_{χ_1} is not locally free. Then, for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, the line bundle $\mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}^{\otimes 2} \otimes P$ is globally generated on the open dense subset

$$Y - \left(Z \cup \bigcap_{P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)} \text{Bs}(|\mathcal{L}_{\chi_1} \otimes P|) \right).$$

Since there is the natural G -map of torsion-free sheaves on Y ,

$$(\hat{\pi}_* \omega_{\hat{Y}})^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow \hat{\pi}_* \omega_{\hat{Y}}^2,$$

if we take $\chi_0 = \chi_1^2$, then we have an inclusion $\mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}^2 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{H}_{\chi_0}$. Hence, there is an open dense subset U of Y such that the sheaf $\mathcal{H}_{\chi_0}|_U$ is locally free and for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, $\mathcal{H}_{\chi_0} \otimes P$ is globally generated over U , that is, $\varphi_P|_U$ is a morphism.

On the other hand, we consider $\hat{\pi}_*(\omega_{\hat{Y}}^2 \otimes \mathcal{I}(\|\omega_{\hat{Y}}\|))$. Since $\mathcal{I}(\|\omega_{\hat{Y}}\|) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\hat{Y}}$ is G -invariant, we can write

$$\hat{\pi}_*(\omega_{\hat{Y}}^2 \otimes \mathcal{I}(\|\omega_{\hat{Y}}\|)) = \bigoplus_{\chi \in G^*} \mathcal{H}'_{\chi},$$

where \mathcal{H}'_{χ} is torsion-free sub-sheaf of \mathcal{H}_{χ} . Moreover, we have

$$H^0(Y, \mathcal{H}'_{\chi}) \simeq H^0(Y, \mathcal{H}_{\chi})$$

and

$$H^i(Y, \mathcal{H}'_{\chi} \otimes P) = 0,$$

for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$ and $i \geq 1$.

Therefore, $\mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \otimes P$ is globally generated and locally free on the open subset U and $\text{Supp}(\mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0}/\mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \otimes P)$ is contained in $Y - U$. Now, let $V = U - \text{Exc}(a_Y)$ and for any point $y \in V$, from the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_y \otimes \mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_y \rightarrow 0,$$

we see that $a_{Y*}(\mathcal{I}_y \otimes \mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0})$ is a M -regular sheaf, so it is CGG (see [15, Proposition 2.13]). Hence, for any $z \in V$ different from y , there exists $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$ such that $\mathcal{I}_y \otimes \mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \otimes P$ is globally generated on z .

This shows that for any two different points $y, z \in V$ there exists $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$ and a divisor D_P in $|\mathcal{H}'_{\chi_0} \otimes P|$ such that $y \in D_P$ but $z \notin D_P$. Therefore $\varphi_P(y) \neq \varphi_P(z)$.

We take P_1, \dots, P_M such that $\varphi_{P_1 \dots P_M}$ becomes stable, namely $\varphi_{P_1 \dots P_M}$ is birational equivalent to $\varphi_{P_1 \dots P_M P}$ for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$. Then, $\varphi_{P_1 \dots P_M}$ is birational. ■

The following lemma should be compared with [3, Lemma 3.1].

Lemma 2.3. Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a surjective morphism between smooth projective varieties. Assume that X is of maximal Albanese dimension. Then, $K_{X/Y}$ is effective. □

Proof. We have the natural inclusion $f^* \Omega_Y^1 \xrightarrow{i} \Omega_X^1$. Denote by \mathcal{F} the saturation of $i(f^* \Omega_Y^1)$. Then, $\det(\mathcal{F}) - f^* K_Y$ is an effective divisor on X . We then consider the exact

sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow 0.$$

Since X is of maximal Albanese dimension, Ω_X^1 is generically globally generated and hence so is \mathcal{Q} .

Hence, $\det(\mathcal{Q})$ is also an effective divisor. Hence, $K_{X/Y} = \det(\mathcal{F}) - f^*K_Y + \det(\mathcal{Q})$ is effective. ■

The following lemma is used in [9, Lemma 2.3] under the assumption that the plurigenera are positive (since X is of maximal Albanese dimension, this condition is automatically satisfied). We recall it here for easy reference.

Lemma 2.4. Suppose that $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is an algebraic fibre space between smooth projective varieties. Assume that Y is of general type. Then, the Iitaka model of $(X, K_X + (m - 2)K_{X/Y})$ dominates Y , for any $m \geq 2$. □

3 Positive Bundles on the Base and Surjectivity of the Restriction Map to a Fibre

We will use the following definition that it is strongly related to Hypotheses 4.7 in [1].

Definition 3.1. Let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf on an abelian variety A . We say that \mathcal{F} is almost M -regular if $V^0(\mathcal{F}) = \hat{A}$, $\text{codim}_{\hat{A}} V^i(\mathcal{F}) \geq i + 1$, for $1 \leq i \leq \dim A - 1$, and $\dim V^{\dim A}(\mathcal{F}) = 0$. □

Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension n and maximal Albanese dimension. We know that the pushforward of the canonical bundle $a_{X*}\omega_X$ is a GV-sheaf but it often fails to be M -regular, which makes the tricanonical map difficult to study. Hence, we consider the set

$$\mathcal{S}_X := \{0 < j < n \mid V^j(\omega_X, a_X) \text{ has a component of codimension } j\},$$

which measures how far $a_{X*}\omega_X$ is from being almost M -regular.

Setting 3.2. Assume that \mathcal{S}_X is not empty. We denote by k the maximal number of \mathcal{S}_X and $Q + \hat{B} \subseteq V^k(\omega_X, a_X)$ a codimension- k component, where Q is zero or a torsion element

of $\text{Pic}^0(X) - \hat{B}$. Let the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{a_X} & A_X \\
 f \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{pr} \\
 Y & \xrightarrow{a_Y} & B
 \end{array}$$

be a suitable birational modification of the Stein factorization of the composition $\text{pr} \circ a_X$, such that Y is smooth. □

Lemma 3.3. Assume \mathcal{S}_X is not empty, so we are in Setting 3.2. Then, for some birational model of $f: X \rightarrow Y$, there exists a line bundle \mathcal{L} on Y such that $a_{Y*}\mathcal{L}$ is almost M -regular, $V^0(\mathcal{L}, a_Y) = \hat{B}$, and $\mathcal{O}_X(K_X + jQ) \otimes f^*\mathcal{L}^{-1}$ has a nontrivial section for some $j \in \mathbb{Z}$. Moreover:

- (1) if Q is trivial, we can take \mathcal{L} to be ω_Y and $j = 0$;
- (2) if $Q \in \text{Pic}^0(X) - \hat{B}$, then we can take \mathcal{L} such that $a_{Y*}\mathcal{L}$ is M -regular. □

Proof. We know by Green and Lazarsfeld [7, Theorem 0.1] that the dimension of a general fibre of f is k .

Assume first that Q is trivial. For $P_B \in \hat{B} - \bigcup_j V^1(R^j f_*\omega_X, a_Y) \neq \emptyset$ (e.g., [16, Theorem 5.8]),

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 < h^k(X, \omega_X \otimes a_X^*P_B) &= h^k(X, \omega_X \otimes f^*P_B) \\
 &= h^0(Y, R^k f_*\omega_X \otimes a_Y^*P_B) \quad \text{for example [16, Proposition. 3.14]} \\
 &= h^0(Y, \omega_Y \otimes a_Y^*P_B) \quad \text{[11, Proposition 7.6]}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By generic vanishing $\chi(Y, \omega_Y) = h^0(Y, \omega_Y \otimes a_Y^*P_B)$ for a general $P_B \in \hat{B}$. Hence $\chi(Y, \omega_Y) > 0$ and $V^0(\omega_Y, a_Y) = \text{Pic}^0(Y)$.

Moreover, the pull-back by pr of any codimension- j component of $V^j(\omega_Y, a_Y)$ is a codimension- $(j + k)$ component of $V^{j+k}(\omega_X, a_X)$ (by Kollár [12, Theorem 3.1]). Hence by the maximality of k , we know that

$$\text{codim}_{\hat{B}} V^i(\omega_Y, a_Y) \geq i + 1$$

for all $0 < i < \dim Y$ and $a_{Y*}\omega_Y$ is almost M -regular. By Lemma 2.3, $\mathcal{O}_X(K_X - f^*K_Y)$ is effective.

Now, assume that $Q \in \text{Pic}^0(X) - \hat{B}$. We may choose Q such that $G \cap \hat{B} = 0$, where $G := \langle Q \rangle$ is the subgroup generated by Q .

Claim. Up to a birational modification of X and Y , there exists a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \xrightarrow{\pi} & & \\
 & & & \xrightarrow{b_{\tilde{X}}} & \\
 \tilde{X} & \longrightarrow & X & \longrightarrow & A_X \\
 & & & & \\
 \downarrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow \text{pr} \\
 \hat{Y} & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & B \\
 & & & & \\
 & & \xrightarrow{\hat{\pi}} & & \\
 & & & \xrightarrow{b_{\hat{Y}}} &
 \end{array} \tag{1}$$

where all varieties are smooth and the vertical morphisms are fibrations (in particular, \hat{Y} is a modification of the Stein factorization of $f \circ \pi$). Moreover $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ is birational to G -cover, $\hat{\pi} : \hat{Y} \rightarrow Y$ is a generically G -cover, and \tilde{f} is a G -equivariant morphism. We also have

$$\hat{\pi}_*\omega_{\hat{Y}} = \bigoplus_i \mathcal{L}_i, \tag{2}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_0 = \omega_Y$ and all \mathcal{L}_i are torsion-free rank-1 sheaves on Y . □

Proof of the claim. We first consider the étale cover $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ induced by G . Let \hat{Y} be the Stein factorization of $f \circ \pi$. By Pareschi and Popa [16, Theorem 5.8 and Proposition 3.14], $R^j f_* (\omega_X \otimes Q)$ are GV-sheaves for all $j \geq 0$. Then, by Kollár [12, Theorem 3.1], for $P_B \in \hat{B}$ general $h^k(\omega_X \otimes Q \otimes a_Y^* P_B) = h^0(Y, R^k f_* (\omega_X \otimes Q) \otimes a_Y^* P_B)$. Since $Q + \hat{B} \subset V^k(\omega_X, a_X)$, $R^k f_* (\omega_X \otimes Q) \neq 0$. If we denote by X_Y a general fibre of f , then we know that $Q|_{X_Y}$ is \mathcal{O}_{X_Y} . Hence, a general fibre of \tilde{f} is isomorphic via π to a general fibre of f . So G is also the Galois group of the field extension $k(\hat{Y})/k(Y)$. After modifications of $\tilde{f} : \tilde{X} \rightarrow \hat{Y}$, we may assume that G acts also on \hat{Y} , \tilde{f} is a G -equivariant morphism, and $\hat{\pi} : \hat{Y} \rightarrow Y$ is a generically G -cover of smooth projective varieties. Hence

$$\hat{\pi}_*\omega_{\hat{Y}} = R^k(f \circ \pi)_*\omega_{\tilde{X}} = \bigoplus_i (R^k f_* (\omega_X \otimes Q^i)) = \bigoplus_i \mathcal{L}_i,$$

where $\mathcal{L}_0 = \omega_Y$ and all \mathcal{L}_i are torsion-free rank-1 sheaves on Y and we conclude the proof of the Claim. ■

The same arguments as in the case where Q is trivial show that $V^0(\hat{Y}, b_{\hat{Y}}) = \hat{B}$ and $\text{codim}_{\hat{B}} V^i(\omega_{\hat{Y}}, b_{\hat{Y}}) \geq i + 1$ for all $0 < i < \dim \hat{Y}$. Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \ker(\hat{B} \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(\hat{Y})) &= \hat{B} \cap \ker(\hat{A}_X \rightarrow \hat{A}_{\hat{X}}) \\ &= \hat{B} \cap \langle Q \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence for $i \neq 0$, $V^{\dim Y}(\mathcal{L}_i, a_Y) = \emptyset$ and $a_{Y*} \mathcal{L}_i$ is M -regular (in particular, $\chi(Y, \mathcal{L}_i) > 0$).

We can take a modification $\epsilon : Y' \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\mathcal{L}'_i := \epsilon^* \mathcal{L}_i \tag{3}$$

is locally free for all i . Moreover, we consider a birational model of diagram (1):

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \tilde{X} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & X \\ & \nearrow \pi' & | & & \nearrow \eta \\ \tilde{X}' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X' & & \downarrow f \\ & \searrow \tilde{f} & \downarrow & & \\ & & \hat{Y} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y \\ \tilde{f} \downarrow & \nearrow & \hat{\pi} \downarrow & & \nearrow f' \\ \hat{Y}' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y' & & \epsilon \\ & \hat{\pi}' & & & \end{array} \tag{4}$$

where all varieties are smooth, all slanted arrows are birational modifications, and π' is birational equivalent to the étale cover induced by G .

Since we have $\hat{\pi}^* \mathcal{L}_i \hookrightarrow \omega_{\hat{Y}}$, we conclude that $\omega_{\hat{Y}} \otimes \hat{\pi}'^* \mathcal{L}'_i{}^{-1}$ has a nontrivial section. We know $K_{\tilde{X}'/\hat{Y}'}$ is an effective divisor by Lemma 2.3. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < h^0(\tilde{X}', \omega_{\tilde{X}'} \otimes \tilde{f}'^* \omega_{\hat{Y}'}^{-1}) &\leq h^0(\tilde{X}', \omega_{\tilde{X}'} \otimes \tilde{f}'^* \hat{\pi}'^* \mathcal{L}'_i{}^{-1}) \\ &= \sum_j h^0(X', \omega_{X'} \otimes \eta^* Q^j \otimes f'^* \mathcal{L}'_i{}^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

So there exists j such that $\omega_{X'} \otimes \eta^* Q^j \otimes f'^* \mathcal{L}'_i{}^{-1}$ is effective. Thus in Condition (2), we can take $f' : X' \rightarrow Y'$ to be the birational model of f and take \mathcal{L} to be any \mathcal{L}'_i for $i \neq 0$. ■

Lemma 3.4. Assume \mathcal{S}_X is not empty, so we are in Setting 3.2. Consider the birational model obtained in Lemma 3.3. Then, after modifying f by blowing-up Y , there exists a line bundle \mathcal{H} on Y and $i \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that $\mathcal{O}_X(2K_X + iQ) \otimes f^*\mathcal{H}^{-1}$ has a nontrivial section. Moreover, we can take $P_i \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, $1 \leq i \leq M$ such that the multiple evaluation map

$$\varphi_Y : Y \rightarrow \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, \mathcal{H} \otimes P_1)^*) \times \cdots \times \mathbf{P}(H^0(Y, \mathcal{H} \otimes P_M)^*)$$

is birational. □

Proof. If Q is trivial, we just take \mathcal{H} to be ω_Y^2 . By Lemma 2.2, we conclude.

If $Q \in \text{Pic}^0(X) - \hat{B}$, then we use the same notation as in the proof of Lemma 3.3. Note that we can consider diagram (1) obtained in the Claim. Now, we apply Lemma 2.2 to $\hat{\pi}$ and we take \mathcal{H} to be the direct summand \mathcal{H}_{χ_0} of $\hat{\pi}_*\omega_Y^2$.

As in diagram (4), we can take an appropriate model of f and assume that \mathcal{H} is a line bundle. Since $\hat{\pi}^*\mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow \omega_Y^2$, as in the proof of Lemma 3.3, there exists an integer $i \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that $\mathcal{O}_X(2K_X + iQ) \otimes f^*\mathcal{H}^{-1}$ is effective. ■

Lemma 3.5. Assume \mathcal{S}_X is not empty, so we are in Setting 3.2. Let \mathcal{L} be the line bundle obtained in Lemma 3.3. Then, for y a general point of Y , the restriction map

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(mK_X - (m - 3)f^*\mathcal{L}) \otimes P) \rightarrow H^0(X_y, \mathcal{O}_{X_y}(mK_{X_y}) \otimes P)$$

is surjective, for any $m \geq 2$ and $P \in V^0(\omega_X^m, a_X)$. □

Proof. We just prove the statement for $P = \mathcal{O}_X$, the same argument works for any $P \in V^0(\omega_X^m, a_X)$.

There are two distinguished cases, whether Q is trivial or not, which we address with slightly different techniques.

Case A. Assume that Q is trivial.

We have seen in the proof of Lemma 3.3 that $\chi(Y, \omega_Y) > 0$, so Y is of general type. By Lemma 2.4, the Iitaka model of $(X, K_X + (m - 2)K_{X/Y})$ dominates Y and by Jiang [9, Lemma 2.1] there exists an asymptotic multiplier ideal sheaf $\mathcal{I} := \mathcal{I}(\|K_X + (m - 2)K_{X/Y}\|)$ on X such that $a_{Y*}f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(2K_X + (m - 2)K_{X/Y}) \otimes \mathcal{I})$ is an IT^0 sheaf. Hence, by Pareschi and Popa [15, Proposition 2.13],

$$\mathcal{F} := f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(2K_X + (m - 2)K_{X/Y}) \otimes \mathcal{I})$$

is CGG outside the exceptional locus of a_Y .

We conclude, similarly to [1, Proposition 4.4 and Corollary 4.11] that, $\mathcal{F} \otimes \omega_Y$ is globally generated in an open dense subset of Y . Indeed, we first note that $|\omega_Y \otimes P|$ is not empty for all $P \in \hat{B}$. Take $P_i, 1 \leq i \leq N$ such that the evaluation map

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^N H^0(Y, \mathcal{F} \otimes P_i) \otimes P_i^{-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

is surjective. Then

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^N H^0(Y, \mathcal{F} \otimes P_i) \otimes H^0(Y, \omega_Y \otimes P_i^{-1}) \otimes \mathcal{O}_Y \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \otimes \omega_Y$$

is surjective over $Y - \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq N} \text{Bs}(|\omega_Y \otimes P_i|)$. Finally, this evaluation map factors through $H^0(Y, \mathcal{F} \otimes \omega_Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}_Y \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \otimes \omega_Y$.

Moreover, by Jiang [9, Lemma 3.5], \mathcal{F} is a nonzero sheaf on Y of rank $P_m(X_Y)$. Hence, over a general point $y \in Y$, $\mathcal{F} \otimes k(y)$ is isomorphic to $H^0(X_y, \mathcal{O}_{X_y}(mK_{X_y}))$. Since

$$\mathcal{F} \otimes \omega_Y \subset f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(mK_X - (m - 3)f^*K_Y))$$

and they have the same rank $P_m(X_Y)$, we conclude the proof of the lemma when Q is trivial.

Case B. If Q is nontrivial, we use the same notation as in the proof of Lemma 3.3. After the modification performed in diagram (4), we can assume that we have a birational model of $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that there exists a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \xrightarrow{\pi} & & \\ & & \xrightarrow{b_{\tilde{X}}} & & \\ \tilde{X} & \longrightarrow & X & \longrightarrow & A_X \\ & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow \text{pr} \\ \downarrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow \hat{\pi} & & \downarrow a_Y \\ \hat{Y} & \longrightarrow & Y & \longrightarrow & B \\ & & \xrightarrow{b_Y} & & \end{array}$$

where all varieties are smooth, the vertical morphisms are fibrations, and π is birational to an étale cover. Moreover, if $\hat{\pi}_*\omega_{\hat{Y}} = \bigoplus_i \mathcal{L}_i$, then the line bundle \mathcal{L} constructed in Lemma 3.3 is a birational modification of \mathcal{L}_i for $i \neq 0$.

We claim that the Iitaka model of $(X, (m - 1)K_X - (m - 2)f^*\mathcal{L})$ dominates Y . Indeed, by Lemma 2.4, the Iitaka model of $(\tilde{X}, (m - 1)K_{\tilde{X}/\hat{Y}} + \tilde{f}^*K_{\hat{Y}})$ dominates \hat{Y} . By definition of \mathcal{L}_i (see (2)), we have $\hat{\pi}^*\mathcal{L}_i \leq K_{\hat{Y}}$, which implies that $\pi^*f^*\mathcal{L} \leq f^*K_{\hat{Y}}$ (recall (3) and $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}'_i$ for some $i \neq 0$). This implies that $(m - 1)K_{\tilde{X}/\hat{Y}} + \tilde{f}^*K_{\hat{Y}} \leq \pi^*((m - 1)K_X - (m - 2)f^*\mathcal{L}) + E$, where E is some π -exceptional divisor. Since π is birational to an étale cover, the claim is clear.

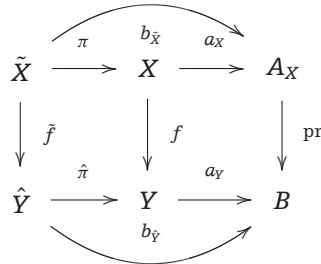
Then, by Jiang [9, Lemma 2.1] there is an ideal \mathcal{I} of X such that

$$a_{Y*}(f_*\mathcal{O}_X(mK_X) \otimes \mathcal{I} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-(m-2)})$$

is an IT^0 sheaf and by Jiang [9, Proof of Lemma 3.9] $f_*\mathcal{O}_X(mK_X) \otimes \mathcal{I} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-(m-2)}$ has rank $P_m(X_Y)$. We conclude as before, that for $i \neq 0$, $f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(mK_X - (m - 3)f^*\mathcal{L}))$ is globally generated over an open dense subset of Y . ■

Remark 3.6. Observe that we can consider a birational model $f: X \rightarrow Y$ such that both \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{H} are line bundles in Y that fulfil the desired properties listed in Lemmas 3.3–3.5.

In particular, when in Setting 3.2 Q is nontrivial, we also have the following diagram:



where all varieties are smooth, the vertical morphisms are fibrations, and π is birational to an étale cover. Moreover, $\omega_{\hat{Y}} \otimes \hat{\pi}^*\mathcal{L}^{-1}$ and $\omega_{\hat{Y}}^2 \otimes \hat{\pi}^*\mathcal{H}^{-1}$ have nontrivial sections. □

4 General Type Case

In this section, X will be a variety of general type.

Theorem 4.1. Let X be a smooth projective variety, of maximal Albanese dimension and general type. Then, the linear system $|3K_X + P|$ induces a birational map, for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(X)$. □

Proof. We reason by induction on the dimension of X , which we will denote by n . Note that for $n=1$ the result is well known. So we assume that for any $P_Y \in \text{Pic}^0(Y)$, $|3K_Y + P_Y|$ induces birational map for any smooth projective variety Y of maximal Albanese dimension, general type, and $\dim Y \leq n - 1$.

Observe that \mathcal{S}_X is empty if and only if $a_{X*}\omega_X$ is almost M -regular. Since X is of general type, if \mathcal{S}_X is empty, then $\chi(X, \omega_X) > 0$ (e.g., [1, Proposition 4.10]). We note that Chen and Hacon have proved that $|3K_X + P|$ induces a birational map in this situation (see [5, Theorem 5.4]).

From now on, we will assume \mathcal{S}_X is not empty. As in the last section, we are in Setting 3.2:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{a_X} & A_X \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{pr} \\ Y & \xrightarrow{a_Y} & B \end{array}$$

Consider an appropriate birational model of $f: X \rightarrow Y$ in the sense of Remark 3.6.

Let $y \in Y$ be a general point and denote by X_y a general fibre of f . By Lemma 3.5, the restriction map

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X) \otimes P) \rightarrow H^0(X_y, \mathcal{O}_{X_y}(3K_{X_y}) \otimes P) \tag{5}$$

is surjective for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(X)$ and, by the induction hypothesis,

$$|3K_{X_y} + P|_{X_y}|$$

induces a birational map. ■

We have also produced interesting line bundles on Y in Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4. Let \mathcal{H} be the line bundle on Y constructed in Lemma 3.4. According to Lemma 2.1, in order to conclude the proof of the theorem, we just need to prove the following claim.

Claim †. For every $P \in \hat{A}_X$ and every $P' \in \hat{B}$, the line bundle

$$3K_X + P - f^*(\mathcal{H} + P')$$

has a nontrivial section.

Let be $\mathcal{J} := \mathcal{J}(\|2K_X - f^*\mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{N}f^*H\|)$, where N is an integer large enough and H is an ample divisor on Y . For any $P \in \hat{A}_X$, we define

$$\mathcal{F}_P := f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(3K_X - f^*\mathcal{H}) \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes P).$$

Observe that to conclude the proof of the claim it is enough to see that $V^0(\mathcal{F}_P, a_Y) = \hat{B}$.

For any ample divisor H' on Y , we have that

$$H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X - f^*\mathcal{H}) \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes P \otimes f^*\mathcal{O}_Y(H')) = 0, \tag{†}$$

for any $i > 0$. We postpone the proof of (†) to the end of the proof of this theorem. From (†) we deduce that

$$R^i f_*(\mathcal{O}_X(3K_X - f^*\mathcal{H}) \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes P) = 0,$$

for any $i > 0$ (see, e.g., [14, Lemma 4.3.10]). Therefore,

$$\chi(Y, \mathcal{F}_P) = \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X - f^*\mathcal{H}) \otimes \mathcal{J} \otimes P)$$

is constant for $P \in \hat{A}_X$.

By Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4, there exist integers i and j and effective divisors $D_1 \in |K_X + iQ - f^*\mathcal{L}|$ and $D_2 \in |2K_X + jQ - f^*\mathcal{H}|$. Let $m = i + j$ and write $D = D_1 + D_2 \in |3K_X + mQ - f^*\mathcal{H} - f^*\mathcal{L}|$, that is,

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X + mQ - f^*\mathcal{H} - f^*\mathcal{L})) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D)) \neq 0.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} &= \mathcal{J}\left(\|2K_X - f^*\mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{N}f^*H\|\right) \\ &\supset \mathcal{J}(\|2K_X - f^*\mathcal{H}\|) \quad H \text{ is ample on } Y \\ &= \mathcal{J}(\|2K_X + jQ - f^*\mathcal{H}\|) \quad Q \text{ is torsion} \\ &\supset \mathcal{O}_X(-D_2) \quad \text{by Lazarsfeld [14, Theorem 11.1.8],} \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 H^0(Y, \mathcal{F}_{mQ} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1}) &= H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X + mQ - f^* \mathcal{H} - f^* \mathcal{L}) \otimes \mathcal{I}) \\
 &\supset H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D_1)) \neq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Therefore, since $V^0(\mathcal{L}, a_Y) = \hat{B}$, we have $h^0(Y, \mathcal{F}_{mQ} \otimes P') > 0$ for all $P' \in \hat{B}$.

On the other hand, we see by Jiang [9, Lemma 2.5] that \mathcal{F}_P is a GV-sheaf for any $P \in \hat{A}_X$. Therefore, for $P' \in \hat{B}$ general and any $P \in \hat{A}_X$,

$$h^0(Y, \mathcal{F}_P \otimes P') = \chi(Y, \mathcal{F}_P) = \chi(Y, \mathcal{F}_{mQ}) = h^0(Y, \mathcal{F}_{mQ} \otimes P') > 0.$$

Hence, by semicontinuity, for any $P \in \hat{A}_X$, $V^0(\mathcal{F}_P, a_Y) = \hat{B}$.

Proof of (†). We use the same notation as in the proof of Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4, which is summarized in Remark 3.6.

Note that $2K_{\tilde{X}/\tilde{Y}} \preceq \pi^*(2K_X - f^* \mathcal{H}) + E$, where E is some π -exceptional divisor. Since $K_{\tilde{X}/\tilde{Y}} + \frac{1}{N} \tilde{f}^* \hat{\pi}^* H$ is a big \mathbf{Q} -divisor on \tilde{X} , then $2K_X - f^* \mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{N} f^* H$ is a big \mathbf{Q} -divisor on X . So (†) is a consequence of Nadel vanishing theorem (see [14, Theorem 11.2.12]). ■

5 Iitaka Fibration

In this section, X will not necessarily be a variety of general type.

Theorem 5.1. Let X be a smooth projective variety, of maximal Albanese dimension. Then, the linear system $|4K_X + P|$ induces a model of the Iitaka fibration of X , for any $P \in V^0(\omega_X^2, a_X)$. □

Before starting the proof of Theorem 5.1, which is parallel to the proof of Theorem 4.1, let us fix the notation.

Setting 5.2. Consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{a_X} & A_X \\
 \downarrow g & & \downarrow \text{pr}_Z \\
 Z & \xrightarrow{a_Z} & A_Z
 \end{array}$$

where $g: X \rightarrow Z$ is a model of the Iitaka fibration of X such that Z is smooth. Let K be the kernel of pr_Z . We denote by X_z a general fibre of g , which is birational to its Albanese variety \tilde{K} , and the natural map $\tilde{K} \rightarrow K$ is an isogeny. We know that $\text{pr}_Z^* \hat{A}_Z$ is an irreducible component of

$$\mathcal{K} := \ker(\hat{A}_X \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X_z))$$

and denote by $\mathcal{Q} := \mathcal{K} / \text{pr}_Z^* \hat{A}_Z$. Observe that \mathcal{Q} can be also identified with $\ker(\hat{K} \rightarrow \hat{\tilde{K}})$. \square

Remark 5.3. The group \mathcal{Q} is often nontrivial and this is exactly the reason why the tricanonical map cannot always induce the Iitaka fibration. In some specific cases, given information about \mathcal{Q} , we can prove that the tricanonical map or some twisted tricanonical map (the maps induced by $|3K_X + P|$ for some $P \in \text{Pic}^0(X)$) will induce the Iitaka fibration (see Remark 5.5).

Nevertheless, we will construct a variety of maximal Albanese dimension (see Example 5.6), where NONE of the twisted tricanonical maps is birationally equivalent to the Iitaka fibration. \square

Before proving the theorem, we start with an easy well-known observation. We add its proof for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 5.4. The kernel \mathcal{K} defined in Setting 5.2, satisfies

$$\mathcal{K} = V^0(\omega_X^m, a_X) \quad \text{for all } m \geq 2. \quad \square$$

Proof. It is clear that $V^0(\omega_X^m, a_X) \subseteq \mathcal{K}$. If $P \in \mathcal{K}$, then $g_*(\omega_X^m \otimes P)$ is a nontrivial torsion-free sheaf. By Jiang [9, Lemma 2.1], $g_*(\omega_X^m \otimes \mathcal{I}(\|\omega_X^{m-1}\|) \otimes P)$ is an IT^0 sheaf for any $m \geq 2$. Hence, we conclude since $0 < h^0(Z, g_*(\omega_X^m \otimes \mathcal{I}(\|\omega_X^{m-1}\|) \otimes P)) \leq h^0(X, \omega_X^m \otimes P)$. \blacksquare

Claim. For every $P \in \mathcal{K}$ and every $P' \in \hat{B}$,

$$4K_X + P - f^*(\mathcal{H} + P')$$

has a nontrivial section.

Let be $\mathcal{J} := \mathcal{J}(\|3K_X - f^*\mathcal{H} + \frac{1}{N}f^*H\|)$, where N is an integer large enough and H is an ample divisor on Y . For any $P \in \mathcal{K}$, we define

$$\mathcal{G}_P := g_*(\mathcal{O}_X(4K_X + P - f^*\mathcal{H}) \otimes \mathcal{J}).$$

To conclude the proof of the claim it is enough to see that $V^0(h_*\mathcal{G}_P, a_Y) = \hat{B}$.

By Jiang [9, Lemma 2.1], we have

$$H^i(Z, \mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q'' \otimes h^*H') = 0,$$

for any $i \geq 1$, any ample divisor H' on Y , and any $Q'' \in \hat{A}_Z$. Hence,

$$R^i h_*(\mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q'') = 0,$$

for any $i > 0$ (see, e.g., [14, Lemma 4.3.10]). Therefore,

$$\chi(Y, h_*(\mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q'')) = \chi(Z, \mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q'') \tag{7}$$

is constant for $Q'' \in \hat{A}_Z$.

By Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4, we know there exists $m \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(3K_X + mQ - f^*\mathcal{H} - f^*\mathcal{L})) \neq 0.$$

Observe that $P - mQ$ is not necessarily in $\text{pr}_Z^*\hat{A}_Z$. But, since $P - mQ \in \mathcal{K}$, we have that $a_{Z*}g_*\mathcal{O}_X(K_X + P - mQ)$ is a nontrivial GV-sheaf. In particular, $V^0(g_*\mathcal{O}_X(K_X + P - mQ), a_Z) \neq \emptyset$. Hence there exists $Q_0 \in \text{pr}_Z^*\hat{A}_Z$ such that $P - mQ + Q_0 \in V^0(\omega_X, a_X)$.

Therefore,

$$4K_X + P + Q_0 - f^*\mathcal{H} - f^*\mathcal{L} = (K_X + P - mQ + Q_0) + (3K_X + mQ - f^*\mathcal{H} - f^*\mathcal{L})$$

is the sum of two effective divisors. By the same argument as in (6),

$$H^0(Z, \mathcal{G}_P \otimes h^* \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes Q_0) \neq 0.$$

We know that $V^0(\mathcal{L}, a_Y) = \hat{B}$ (see Lemma 3.3) and $h_*(\mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q')$ is a GV-sheaf for any $P \in \mathcal{K}$ and any $Q' \in \hat{A}_Z$ (see [9, Lemma 2.5]). Hence, for $P' \in \hat{B}$ general,

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(Y, h_* \mathcal{G}_P \otimes P') &= \chi(Y, h_* \mathcal{G}_P) = \chi(Y, h_*(\mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q_0)) \quad \text{by (7)} \\ &= h^0(Y, h_*(\mathcal{G}_P \otimes Q_0) \otimes P') > 0. \end{aligned}$$

By semicontinuity, $V^0(h_* \mathcal{G}_P, a_Y) = \hat{B}$ for any $P \in \mathcal{K}$. ■

Now, we can make more precise Remark 5.3.

Remark 5.5. In the previous proof, observe that if $P - mQ$ lies in $\text{pr}_Z^* \hat{A}_Z$, then $3K_X + P + Q_0 - f^* \mathcal{H} - f^* \mathcal{L}$ is effective for some $Q_0 \in \text{pr}^* \hat{A}_Z$. So, we could have improved the result to the tricanonical map (assuming the induction hypothesis). In particular, if $\mathcal{Q} := \mathcal{K} / \text{pr}_Z^* \hat{A}_Z$ is trivial for X and the successive fibres of the induction process, then the tricanonical map twisted by an element in \mathcal{K} induces the Iitaka fibration.

Moreover, if for some $P \in \mathcal{K}$, $P + \text{pr}_Z^* \hat{A}_Z$ is an irreducible component of $V^0(\omega_X, a_X)$, then we can again prove that the tricanonical map twisted by an element in \mathcal{K} induces the Iitaka fibration. This shows that varieties of maximal Albanese dimension, where none of the twisted tricanonical map is birational equivalent to the Iitaka fibration, are closely related to varieties of maximal Albanese dimension, of general type with vanishing holomorphic Euler characteristic. □

We finish with an example of maximal Albanese dimension, whose tricanonical map does not induce the Iitaka fibration. This example is based on the famous Ein-Lazarsfeld threefold, which is constructed in [6, Example 1.13] and further investigated in [2].

Example 5.6. We take three bielliptic curves C_i of genus 2, $i = 1, 2, 3$. Let $\rho_i : C_i \rightarrow E_i$ be the double cover over an elliptic curve E_i and denote by τ_i the involution of fibres of ρ_i .

We write

$$\rho_{i*}\mathcal{O}_{C_i} = \mathcal{O}_{E_i} \oplus \mathcal{L}_i^{-1},$$

where \mathcal{L}_i is a line bundle on E_i of degree 1.

Let Y be the threefold $(C_1 \times C_2 \times C_3)/(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3)$, which has only rational singularities. We know that $a_Y : Y \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2 \times E_3$ is a $(\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})$ -cover.

We then take an abelian variety A and a $(\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})$ -étale cover $\tilde{A} \rightarrow A$. Set $\{\mathcal{O}_A, P_1, P_2, P_3\}$ to be the kernel $\hat{A} \rightarrow \tilde{A}$.

Denote $H = (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})$ and let X' be the variety $(Y \times \tilde{A})/H$, where H acts diagonally on $Y \times \tilde{A}$. Note that X' has only rational singularities and let X be a resolution of singularities of X' . The Albanese morphism

$$a_X : X \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2 \times E_3 \times A$$

is birationally a $(\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})$ -cover.

After permutation of $\{P_i, i = 1, 2, 3\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{X*}\omega_X^3 \simeq & (\mathcal{L}_1^2 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_2^2 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_3^2 \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_A) \oplus (\mathcal{L}_1^3 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_2^3 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_3^2 \boxtimes P_1) \\ & \oplus (\mathcal{L}_1^3 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_2^2 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_3^3 \boxtimes P_2) \oplus (\mathcal{L}_1^2 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_2^3 \boxtimes \mathcal{L}_3^3 \boxtimes P_3). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to check that for any $P \in \text{Pic}^0(X)$, the linear series $|3K_X + P|$ cannot induce the Iitaka fibration $X \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2 \times E_3$.

Using, the notation of Setting 5.2, observe that

$$\mathcal{K} = V^0(\omega_X^2, a_X) = \bigcup_{Q \in \{\mathcal{O}_A, P_1, P_2, P_3\}} E_1 \times E_2 \times E_3 \times \{Q\}$$

and $\mathcal{Q} = \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$. Indeed, \mathcal{Q} can be identified with $\{\mathcal{O}_A, P_1, P_2, P_3\}$. □

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