# **EFFECTIVE IITAKA FIBRATIONS**

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ABSTRACT. For every *n*-dimensional projective manifold X of Kodaira dimension 2 we show that  $\Phi_{|MK_X|}$  is birational to an Iitaka fibration for a *computable* positive integer  $M = M(b, B_{n-2})$ , where b > 0 is minimal with  $|bK_F| \neq \emptyset$  for a general fibre F of an Iitaka fibration of X, and where  $B_{n-2}$  is the Betti number of a smooth model of the canonical  $\mathbb{Z}/(b)$ -cover of the (n-2)-fold F. In particular, M is a universal constant if the dimension  $n \leq 4$ .

Building up on the work of H. Tsuji, C.D. Hacon and J. McKernan in [HM] and independently S. Takayama in [Ta] have shown the existence of a constant  $r_n$  such that  $\Phi_{|mK_X|}$  is a birational map for every  $m \ge r_n$  and for every complex projective *n*-fold X of general type.

If the Kodaira dimension  $\kappa = \kappa(X) < n$ , consider an Iitaka fibration  $f : X \to Y$ , i.e. a rational map onto a projective manifold Y of dimension  $\kappa$  with a connected general fibre F of Kodaira dimension zero. We define the *index b* of F to be

$$b = \min\{b' > 0 \mid |b'K_F| \neq \emptyset\},\$$

and  $B_{n-\kappa}$  to be the  $(n-\kappa)$ -th Betti number of a nonsingular model of the  $\mathbb{Z}/(b)$ -cover of F, obtained by taking the *b*-th root out of the unique member in  $|bK_F|$ , or as we will say, the *middle Betti number* of the *canonical covering* of F.

**Question 0.1.** Is there a constant  $M := M(n, b, B_{n-\kappa})$  such that  $\Phi_{|MK_X|}$  is (birational to) an Iitaka fibration  $f : X \to Y$  for all projective n-folds X of Kodaira dimension  $\kappa$ ?

Assume that for all  $s \leq n$  there exists an effective constant a(s) such that for every projective s-fold V one has  $|a(s)K_V| \neq \emptyset$  and such that the dimension of  $|a(s)K_V|$  is at least one if  $\kappa(V) > 0$ . Then J. Kollár gives in [Ko86, Th 4.6] a formula for the constant M in 0.1 in terms of a(s) and n.

Question 0.1 has been answered in the affirmative by Fujino-Mori [FM] for  $\kappa = 1$ . In this note we show that the answer is also affirmative for  $\kappa = 2$ . In the proof we do not

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assume the existence of minimal models in dimension n. However, the existence of good log minimal models of surfaces will be used in an essential way.

**Theorem 0.2.** Let X be an n-dimensional projective manifold of Kodaira dimension 2 with Iitaka fibration  $f : X \to Y$ . Then there exists a computable positive integer M depending only on the index b of a general fibre F of f and on the middle Betti number  $B_{n-2}$  of the canonical covering of F, such that  $\Phi_{|MK_X|}$  is birational to f.

For F an elliptic curve one has b = 1 and  $B_1 = 2$ . For surfaces F of Kodaira dimension zero, the index b divides 12 and there is an upper bound 22 for the middle Betti number  $B_2$  of the smooth minimal model of the canonical covering of F. Hence for  $n \leq 4$  the constant M in Theorem 0.2 can be chosen to be independent of X, or as we will say, as a universal constant.

When dim X = 3 and  $\kappa(X) = 0, 1$ , or 3, one finds similar results in [Mo, §10], [FM, Corollary 6.2], [CC, Th 1.1], [HM] and [Ta]. So we can state:

**Corollary 0.3.** There is a computable universal constant  $M_3$  such that  $\Phi_{|M_3K_X|}$  is an *litaka fibration for every 3-dimensional projective manifold X*.

We remark that when dim X = 3 and  $\kappa(X) = 2$ , Kollár [Ko94, (7.7)] has already shown that there exists a universal constant M' such that  $H^0(X, mK_X) \neq 0$  for all  $m \geq M'$ , under the additional assumption that the Iitaka fibration is non-isotrivial. A direct proof of Corollary 0.3, using the existence of good minimal models, will be given at the end of Section 4.<sup>1</sup>

# 0.4. Conventions.

We adopt the conventions of Hartshorne's book, of [KMM] and and of [KM]. However, if D is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor on X we will often write  $H^0(X, D)$  or  $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D))$  instead of  $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\lfloor D \rfloor))$ , and write |D| instead of  $|\lfloor D \rfloor|$ . By abuse of notations we will not distinguish line bundles and linear equivalence classes of divisors.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>After a first version of this article was submitted to the arXiv-server, we learned that the Corollary 0.3 has been obtained independently by Adam T. Ringler in [Ri], using different arguments.

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# 1. Some auxiliary results

Set-up 1.1. Let X be a complex n-fold of Kodaira dimension  $\kappa$ . We will consider an litaka fibration  $f: X \to Y$  of X with Y nonsingular, and F will denote a general fibre of f. Replacing X by some nonsingular blowup, as in [Vi83, §3] or [FM, §2, §4], one may assume that  $f: X \to Y$  is a morphism, that the discriminant of f is contained in a normal crossing divisor of Y and that each effective divisor E in X, with  $\operatorname{codim}_Y(f(E)) \ge 2$ , is exceptional for some morphism  $X \to X'$  with X' nonsingular. In particular, for all  $i \ge 1$  and for all such divisors E one has

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(ibK_X)) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(ibK_X + E)) = H^0(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(ibK_Y) \otimes f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})^{\vee \vee}),$$

where b denotes again the index of F and where  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})^{\vee\vee}$  is the invertible sheaf, obtained as the reflexive hull of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})$ . By [FM, Corollary 2.5] one can define the semistable part of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})$  as a Q-Cartier divisor  $iL_{X/Y}^{ss}$ , compatible with base change, such that  $\mathcal{O}_Y(iL_{X/Y}^{ss}) \subset f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})^{\vee\vee}$  for *i* sufficiently divisible, and such that both sheaves coincide if  $f: X \to Y$  is semistable in codimension one. In particular,  $L_{X/Y}^{ss}$  is nef. We will write

$$L_Y = \frac{1}{b} L_{X/Y}^{ss}$$
 and  $D_Y = \sum_P \frac{s_P}{b} P$ 

for the Q-divisors with  $\mathcal{O}_Y(ib(L_Y + D_Y)) = f_*\mathcal{O}_X(ibK_{X/Y})^{\vee\vee}$ . We remark that  $D_Y$  is supported in the discriminant locus of f and  $b(L_Y + D_Y)$  is only a Q-divisor; see [FM, Proposition 2.2].

Let  $B_{n-\kappa}$  be the middle Betti number of the canonical covering of F, and

$$N = N(B_{n-\kappa}) = \operatorname{lcm}\{m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \mid \varphi(m) \le B_{n-\kappa}\}.$$

By [FM, Theorem 3.1],  $NbL_Y = NL_{X/Y}^{ss}$  is an integral Cartier divisor. By [FM, Proposition 2.8], if  $s_P \neq 0$ , there exist  $u_P, v_P \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  with  $0 < v_P \leq bN$  such that

$$0 < \frac{s_P}{b} = \frac{bNu_P - v_P}{bNu_P} < 1.$$

So all the non-zero coefficients of  $D_Y$  are contained in

$$A(b, N) := \{ \frac{bNu - v}{bNu} \mid u, v \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}; \ 0 < v \le bN \} \setminus \{0\}.$$

Lemma 1.2. In the Set-up 1.1, the following holds true.

(1) The set A(b, N) is a DCC set in the sense of [AM, §2], and one has

$$\frac{1}{Nb} \le \inf \mathcal{A}(b, N).$$

- (2)  $(Y, D_Y)$  is klt.
- (3) The Q-divisor  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y$  is big.
- (4) For every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , the map  $\Phi_{|mbK_X|}$  is birational to the Iitaka fibration f if and only if  $|mb(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y)|$  gives rise to a birational map.
- (5)  $NbL_Y$  is an integral Cartier divisor.
- (6) If  $s + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  is divisible by Nb, then  $(s + 1)D_Y \ge \lceil sD_Y \rceil$ .

*Proof.* Part (1) is obvious and (5) was mentioned already in Set-up 1.1. For (2), we remark that  $D_Y$ , as part of the discriminant locus, is a simple normal crossing divisor and that  $s_P/b \in (0, 1)$ . The parts (3) and (4) are obvious, since for all  $i \ge 1$ 

$$H^{0}(X, ibK_{X}) = H^{0}(Y, ib(K_{Y} + L_{Y} + D_{Y})).$$

Finally (6) is a consequence of the description of the coefficients of  $D_Y$  as elements of A(b, N). In fact, since all  $\beta = \frac{bNu-v}{bNu} \in A(b, N)$  are larger than or equal to  $1 - \frac{1}{u}$  and since  $(s+1)\beta \in \frac{1}{u} \cdot \mathbb{Z}$ , one finds that  $(s+1)\beta \geq \lceil s\beta \rceil$ .

**Remark 1.3.** If the general fibre F of the Iitaka fibration is a good minimal model, and hence if  $\omega_F^b \cong \mathcal{O}_F$ , choose an ample invertible sheaf  $\mathcal{A}$  on X. Writing h for the Hilbert polynomial of  $\mathcal{A}|_F$  one obtains a morphism from the complement  $Y_0$  of the discriminant locus to the moduli scheme  $M_h$  of polarized minimal models with Hilbert polynomial h. In [Vi06] we constructed a compactification  $\overline{M}_h$  of  $M_h$  and a nef Q-Cartier divisor  $\lambda$  on  $\overline{M}_h$ , which on each curve meeting  $M_h$  corresponds to the semistable part. Moreover,  $\lambda$ is ample with respect to  $M_h$ . In different terms, there is an effective Q-Cartier divisor  $\Gamma$ on  $\overline{M}_h$ , supported in  $\overline{M}_h \setminus M_h$ , such that  $\alpha \lambda - \Gamma$  is ample for all  $\alpha \geq 1$ .

If we choose Y such that  $Y_0 \to M_h$  extends to a morphism  $\varphi : Y \to \overline{M}_h$ , one finds that  $L_Y = \varphi^*(\lambda)$ , and hence that  $\alpha L_Y - \varphi^*(\Gamma)$  is semi-ample. For some constant C > 0, depending only on h, both  $CL_Y$  and  $C(L_Y - \varphi^*(\Gamma))$  are divisors, and choosing C large enough  $C(\alpha L_Y - \varphi^*(\Gamma))$  will have lots of global sections for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  (provided that  $L_Y$ is not numerically trivial). Perhaps this allows to answer Question 0.1 in the affirmative, assuming the existence of good minimal models. However, the constant M will depend on the Hilbert polynomial h.

**Remark 1.4.** Gianluca Pacienza [Pa] recently gave an affirmative answer to Question 0.1 for  $\kappa = n - 2$ , or more precisely if the general fibre F of the Iitaka fibration has a good minimal model, assuming that Y is non-uniruled and that the morphism  $Y_0 \to M_h$ 

in Remark 1.3 is generically finite over its image. Note that the last assumption implies that  $L_Y$  is big.

## 2. Log minimal models of surfaces and pseudo-effectivity

From now on we will restrict ourselves to the case  $\kappa = 2$ .

**Remark 2.1.** As we will see in proving Theorem 0.2, the constant  $M(b, B_{n-2})$  (later written as M(b, N)) can be computed using invariants  $\beta(A)$  and  $\epsilon(A)$  of the DCC set A = A(b, N) (see [AM, Th 4.12] and [Ko94, Complement 5.7.4], or [La, Th 5.4]).

**Lemma 2.2.** There is a birational morphism  $\sigma : Y \to W$  such that the following holds true.

- (1)  $K_W + D_W + L_W$  is ample and  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y = \sigma^*(K_W + D_W + L_W) + E_{\sigma}$ . Here  $D_W := \sigma_* D_Y$ ,  $L_W := \sigma_* L_Y$ ;  $E_{\sigma} \ge 0$  is an effective  $\sigma$ -exceptional divisor.
- (2)  $(W, D_W)$  is klt.
- (3) Suppose that  $L_S$  is big for S = Y or for S = W. Then  $L_S \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} L'_S$  with  $(S, D_S + L'_S)$  klt.

*Proof.* As in the proof of [FM, Th 5.2], the nefness of  $L_Y$  and the bigness of  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y$ allows to find some  $a \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$  and a klt-pair  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$  such that

$$K_Y + L_Y + D_Y \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} a(K_Y + \Delta_Y).$$

Construction 2.3. Starting with the klt-pair  $(Y, \Delta_Y)$ , the log minimal model program (LMMP) for surfaces provides us with a sequence  $\gamma : Y \to Z$  of contractions of  $(K_Y + \Delta_Y)$ negative extremal rays. If  $K_Y + \Delta_Y$  is big or more generally pseudo-effective,  $\gamma$  will be
birational. Writing  $\Delta_Z = \gamma_* \Delta_Y$ , the Q-divisor  $E := K_Y + \Delta_Y - \gamma^* (K_Z + \Delta_Z)$  is effective
and  $\gamma$ -exceptional, the Q-divisor  $K_Z + \Delta_Z$  is nef and  $(Z, \Delta_Z)$  is klt.

By the abundance theorem for klt log surfaces (see [Ko+], for example), there is a morphism with connected fibres  $\psi : Z \to W$  such that  $K_Z + \Delta_Z$  is the pullback of an ample  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor H on W.

If  $K_Y + \Delta_Y$  is big, as we assumed in Lemma 2.2,  $\sigma = \psi \circ \gamma : Y \to W$  is birational and the ample Q-divisor on W is  $H = K_W + \Delta_W$ . So  $K_Z + \Delta_Z = \psi^*(K_W + \Delta_W)$  and hence the divisor E in Construction 2.3 is  $K_Y + \Delta_Y - \sigma^*(K_W + \Delta_W)$ . In particular,  $(W, \Delta_W)$ is again klt. We find

$$K_Y + L_Y + D_Y \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} a\sigma^*(K_W + \Delta_W) + aE =$$
  
$$\sigma^*\sigma_*(K_Y + L_Y + D_Y) + aE = \sigma^*(K_W + L_W + D_W) + aE.$$

(1) is true by Lemma 1.2 (3). Part (2) follows from (1) and Lemma 1.2 (2).

For part (3), we refere to [KM, Proposition 2.61, Corollary 3.5].

The answer to Question 0.1 is quite easy when  $K_Y + D_Y$  is big, and especially when  $L_Y \equiv 0$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** Suppose that  $K_Y + D_Y$  is big. Then there is a constant M = M(b, N) such that for all  $s \ge M(b, N)$  with s+1 divisible by Nb, the linear system  $|(s+1)(K_Y+D_Y+L_Y)|$  defines a birational map. In particular,  $\Phi_{|MK_X|}$  is an Iitaka fibration for some M = M(b, N) depending only on the set A(b, N), and hence only on b and  $N = N(B_{n-2})$ .

Proof. Applying Construction 2.3 to  $(Y, D_Y)$ , we get a birational morphism  $\eta : Y \to Z$ such that  $K_Z + D_Z = \eta_*(K_Y + D_Y)$  is ample and  $E_\eta := K_Y + D_Y - \eta^*(K_Z + D_Z)$  is an  $\eta$ -exceptional effective Q-divisor.

Note that the coefficients of  $D_Z = \eta_* D_Y$  still belong to the same DCC set A(b, N). The Remark (3) on page 60 of [La] allows to apply [La, Th 3.2]. As in [La, Th 5.3] one finds a constant M(b, N), depending only on the set A(b, N), such that the linear system

$$|K_Y + \lceil s\eta^*(K_Z + D_Z)\rceil|$$

gives rise to a birational map for every  $s \ge M(b, N)$ . The same [La, Th 3.2] applies to

$$|K_Y + \lceil s(K_Y + D_Y) + (s+1)L_Y \rceil|,$$

since  $(s+1)L_Y$  is pseudo-effective and hence the boundary divisor of the above adjoint linear system has nef part larger than  $s\eta^*(K_Z + D_Z)$ .

Assume further that Nb divides s + 1. Then by Lemma 1.2

$$K_Y + [sK_Y + sD_Y + (s+1)L_Y] \le (s+1)(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y).$$

This implies the first part of Lemma 2.4. Now the second part follows from the first part using Lemma 1.2 (4).  $\hfill \Box$ 

**Lemma 2.5.** Suppose that  $L_Y$  is big and  $K_Y + D_Y + eL_Y$  is pseudo-effective for some  $e \in [0,1)$ . Then there is a constant M = M(b, N, e) such that  $\Phi_{|MK_X|}$  is an Iitaka fibration.

*Proof.* Consider the Zariski decompositions

$$K_Y + D_Y + eL_Y = P_e + N_e$$
 and  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y = P_Y + N_Y$ .

Then  $P_Y \ge (1-e)L_Y + P_e$ . Since  $NbL_Y$  is an integral divisor

$$P_Y^2 \ge (1-e)^2 L_Y^2 \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{(Nb)^2}.$$

For a very general curve  $C_t$ , we have

$$P_Y.C_t \ge (1-e)L_Y.C_t \ge \frac{1-e}{Nb}.$$

Assume that s(1 - e) > 4Nb. Applying [La, Th 3.2] one finds that the adjoint linear system  $|K_Y + \lceil s(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) + L_Y \rceil|$  (whose boundary divisor has the nef part larger than  $sP_Y$ ) gives rise to a birational map. Assume further that Nb divides (s + 1). The lemma follows from the observation that the latter system is included in the following (see Lemma 1.2):

$$|(s+1)(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y)|.$$

The most difficult part of the proof of Theorem 0.2 is the one where  $K_Y + D_Y$  is not pseudo-effective, and hence where  $L_Y$  is not numerically trivial.

**Proposition 2.6.** Suppose that  $K_Y + D_Y$  is not pseudo-effective. Then in addition to the birational morphism  $\sigma : Y \to W$  constructed in Lemma 2.2 there are a birational morphism  $\tau : W \to V$ , some  $e \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0,1)$  and effective divisors  $E_{\tau\sigma}$ ,  $E_{\tau}$ ,  $E_{\sigma}$  and  $E_{L_Y}$ satisfying:

a)  $E_{\tau}$  is  $\tau$ -exceptional,  $E_{\sigma}$  and  $E_{L_{Y}}$  are  $\sigma$ -exceptional, and

$$E_{\tau\sigma} = E_{\sigma} + (1-e)E_{L_Y} + \sigma^* E_{\tau},$$

b) Writing  $D_W := \sigma_* D_Y, D_V := \tau_* D_W$  etc. one has

$$K_Y + D_Y + eL_Y = \sigma^* (K_W + D_W + eL_W) + E_\sigma + (1 - e)E_{L_Y}$$
  
=  $\sigma^* \tau^* (K_V + D_V + eL_V) + E_{\tau\sigma}.$ 

- c)  $\sigma^* L_W = L_Y + E_{L_Y}$ , and  $L_W$  is nef.
- d)  $e = \min\{e' | K_S + D_S + e'L_S \text{ is pseudo-effective}\}$ . Here S can be chosen to be equal to Y, W, or V and the resulting e is independent of this choice.
- e)  $(V, D_V)$  and hence V are klt.
- f) One of the following holds true:
  - (1)  $K_V + D_V + eL_V \equiv 0$ , the Picard number  $\rho(V) = 1$ , and V is a klt del Pezzo (rational) surface. In particular,  $-K_V$  is an ample Q-divisor and V has at most quotient singularities.
  - (2) V is the total space of a  $\mathbb{P}^1$ -fibration over a curve with general fibre  $\Gamma$ , the Picard number  $\rho(V) = 2$ , and  $K_V + D_V + eL_V \equiv \beta\Gamma$  for some  $\beta \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ .

Proof. We start with the morphism  $\sigma: Y \to W$  from Lemma 2.2. For  $L_W := \sigma_* L_Y$  one has  $\sigma^* L_W = L_Y + E_{L_Y}$  where  $E_{L_Y}$  is supported in the exceptional locus of  $\sigma$ . Since  $L_Y$ is nef,  $L_W$  is also nef, and  $E_{L_Y}$  is effective. By Lemma 2.2 one finds for all e'

(2.1) 
$$K_Y + D_Y + e'L_Y = \sigma^*(K_W + D_W + e'L_W) + E_\sigma + (1 - e')E_{L_Y}$$

So the assertion c) and the first equation in the assertion b) hold true.

Starting from  $W_0 = W$  we will construct for some  $r \ge 0$  and for i = 0, ..., r-1 a chain of birational morphisms  $\tau_i : W_i \to W_{i+1}$ , such that  $W_r$  satisfies the conditions stated in Proposition 2.6, f) (1) or (2). We will show inductively that the following conditions (c1) - (c5) hold for i = 1, ..., r and that (c6)-(c8) hold for i = 1, ..., r-1.

- (c1)  $(W_i, D_i)$  is klt.
- (c2)  $K_i + D_i$  is not pseudo-effective.
- (c3)  $K_i + D_i + L_i$  is ample.
- (c4)  $e_i = \min\{e' \in (0,1) \mid K_i + D_i + e'L_i \text{ is nef }\}$  exists and is rational.
- (c5)  $1 > e_0 \ge e_1 \ge \dots \ge e_r > 0.$
- (c6)  $\rho(W_{i+1}) = \rho(W_i) 1.$
- (c7)  $L_i$  is nef, and  $\tau_i^* L_{i+1} = L_i + E_{L_i}$  for an effective  $\tau_i$ -exceptional divisor  $E_{L_i}$ .
- (c8)  $K_i + D_i + e_i L_i = \tau_i^* (K_{i+1} + D_{i+1} + e_i L_{i+1}).$

Here  $K_i = K_{W_i}$ , and  $D_i$  or  $L_i$  denotes the pushdowns of  $D_Y$  or  $L_Y$  to  $W_i$ . We write  $\rho(W_i)$  for the Picard number of  $W_i$ .

Claim 2.7. (c3) and (c7) are true for all  $i \ge 0$ , and (c1) and (c2) hold for i = 0.

Proof. Note that  $\tau_i$  is birational. (c3) and (c7) are true for i = 0 and hence they are true for all  $i \ge 0$  on surfaces; see Lemma 2.2 and the proof for the assertion c) above. (c1) is also part of Lemma 2.2. For (c2) set e' = 0 in the equation (2.1) and use the non-pseudo-effectiveness of  $K_Y + D_Y$ .

# Claim 2.8.

- (i) The conditions (c2) and (c3) for some *i* imply (c4) with  $e_i \in (0, 1)$ .
- (ii) In particular, (c4) and (c5) hold for i = 0.

*Proof.* Knowing (c2) for some i the condition (c3) allows to deduce from [KMM, Th 4-1-1] or [KM, Th 3.5] that there exists a rational number

$$d_i = \max\{d \mid (K_i + D_i + L_i) + d(K_i + D_i) \text{ is nef } \}.$$

Since  $K_i + D_i + L_i$  is ample,  $d_i > 0$ . Then  $e_i = 1/(1 + d_i)$ .

Assume now we have found the birational morphisms  $\tau_i$  for  $i < i_0$ , that (c1)-(c5) hold for  $i = 0, \ldots, i_0$  and that (c6)-(c8) hold for  $i = 0, \ldots, i_0 - 1$ . By [KM, Complement 3.6], the condition (c2) implies the existence of a  $K_{i_0} + D_{i_0}$ negative extremal ray  $R_{i_0}$ , perpendicular to  $K_{i_0} + D_{i_0} + e_{i_0}L_{i_0}$ . We choose  $\tau_{i_0} : W_{i_0} \to W_{i_0+1}$  to be the contraction of  $R_{i_0}$  (i.e., of all the curves proportional to  $R_{i_0}$ ). In particular, one finds

(2.2) 
$$\tau_{i_0}^* \tau_{i_0*} (K_{i_0} + D_{i_0} + e_{i_0} L_{i_0}) = K_{i_0} + D_{i_0} + e_{i_0} L_{i_0}.$$

Suppose that  $\tau_{i_0}$  is birational. Then for  $i = i_0$  the condition (c6) holds. (c8) follows from the equation (2.2).

Knowing (c1)-(c8) for  $i = i_0$  it is easy to verify (c1)-(c5) for  $i = i_0 + 1$ . We remark that (c7) and (c8) for  $i_0$  imply that

$$K_{i_0} + D_{i_0} = \tau_{i_0}^* (K_{i_0+1} + D_{i_0+1}) + e_{i_0} E_{L_{i_0}},$$

so (c1) and (c2) for  $i_0 + 1$  follow from the corresponding statements for  $i_0$ , and hence (c4) for  $i_0 + 1$  follows from Claim 2.8.

By the choice of  $e_{i_0}$ 

$$K_{i_0} + D_{i_0} + e_{i_0}L_{i_0} = \tau_{i_0}^*(K_{i_0+1} + D_{i_0+1} + e_{i_0}L_{i_0+1})$$

is nef. This is possible only if  $K_{i_0+1} + D_{i_0+1} + e_{i_0}L_{i_0+1}$  is nef, and hence only if  $e_{i_0} \ge e_{i_0+1}$ , as claimed in (c5).

If  $\tau_{i_0}$  is birational, we can continue this process. This way, one obtains birational morphisms  $\tau_j : W_j \to W_{j+1}$   $(0 \le j \le r)$  satisfying the conditions (c1) - (c8). The condition (c6) implies that  $r < \rho(W)$ .

If  $\tau_{i_0}$  is non-birational we set  $V = W_{i_0}$  and  $e = e_{i_0}$  in Proposition 2.6. The assertions a) and the second half of b) follow from (c5), (c7) and (c8), whereas e) is the same as (c1). It remains to verify d) and f).

**Case (1).** If the image of  $\tau_{i_0}$  is a point, we claim that in Proposition 2.6 f) we are in Case (1) there. By the construction,  $\rho(V) = 1$ .

Recall that the singularities of a klt surface are just quotient singularities. Since  $L_Y$  and hence  $L_V = \tau_* \sigma_* L_Y$  can not be numerically trivial, it must be a positive multiple of the generator of the Neron-Severi group of V. So the definition of e implies that  $K_V + D_V + eL_V \equiv 0$ . By [GZ, Lemma 1.3] a klt surface with -K ample is rational.

**Case (2).** We claim that the second case in Proposition 2.6 f) occurs if  $\tau_{i_0}$  has a curve  $W_{i_0+1}$  as its image. Let  $\Gamma$  denote a general fibre of  $\tau_{i_0}$ .

For  $V = W_{i_0}$  one finds  $\rho(V) = 1 + \rho(W_{i_0+1}) = 2$ . Our  $\Gamma$  generates the extremal ray  $R_{i_0}$  giving rise to the contraction  $\tau_{i_0}$ . So every fibre of  $V \to W_{i_0+1}$  is irreducible (also because

 $\rho(V) = 2$ ). Since the nef divisor  $K_V + D_V + eL_V$  is perpendicular to  $R_{i_0}$  and hence to the nef divisor  $\Gamma$ , one finds that  $K_V + D_V + eL_V \equiv \beta\Gamma$  for some  $\beta > 0$ .

Since  $K_V + D_V + L_V \equiv (1 - e)L_V + \beta\Gamma$  is ample, we have  $\Gamma L_V > 0$ . Now  $0 = \Gamma \beta\Gamma = \Gamma (K_V + D_V + eL_V) > \Gamma K_V$  and hence  $\Gamma \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ .

We still have to characterize e as the pseudo-effective threshold as claimed in the assertion d) of Proposition 2.6.

Clearly, when S = V, our  $K_S + D_S + eL_S \equiv \beta \Gamma$  (setting  $\beta = 0$  and  $\Gamma$  to be any ample divisor, in Case (1)) is pseudo-effective, so by the assertion b) of Proposition 2.6 the same is true when S = Y or S = W.

Conversely, suppose that  $K_S + D_S + e'L_S$  is pseudo-effective for some e' and some  $S \in \{Y, W, V\}$ . Then the same holds for S = V by considering the pushdown.

For S = V we can write this divisor as  $\beta \Gamma + (e' - e)L_V$ . Thus  $0 \leq \Gamma . (\beta \Gamma + (e' - e)L_V) = (e' - e)\Gamma . L_V$ . Since  $K_V + D_V + L_V \equiv \beta \Gamma + (1 - e)L_V$  is ample, we have  $\Gamma . L_V > 0$  in both Cases (1) and (2), and hence  $e' \geq e$ .

The next two Lemmata give a universal upper bound for the threshold e in Proposition 2.6.

**Lemma 2.9.** In the situation considered in Proposition 2.6 f), Case (1), there is a constant e(b, N) < 1, depending only on b and N, such that the threshold  $e \le e(b, N)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\pi: \tilde{V} \to V$  be a minimal resolution. So one has a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & W \\ \xi & & \tau \\ \tilde{V} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & V. \end{array}$$

As usual, when there is a birational morphism  $Y \to S$  we will write  $D_S$  and  $L_S$  for the direct images of  $D_Y$  and  $L_Y$ , respectively.

Write  $\pi^* K_V = K_{\widetilde{V}} + J$  with J an effective and  $\pi$ -exceptional  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor. Note that  $(V, D_V)$  and hence V and  $(\widetilde{V}, J)$  are klt. Since  $H_{Nb} := NbL_{\widetilde{V}}$  is a nef line bundle with  $H_{Nb} - (K_{\widetilde{V}} + J)$  nef and big, [Ka, Th 3.1] tells us that  $|2H_{Nb}|$  is base point free.

So  $L_{\widetilde{V}}$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linearly equivalent to  $L'_{\widetilde{V}} := H_{2Nb}/2Nb$  for a smooth divisor  $H_{2Nb} \in |2H_{Nb}|$ intersecting  $D_{\widetilde{V}}$  transversely and away from the fundamental point of the inverse of the birational morphism  $\xi : Y \to \widetilde{V}$ .

For  $L'_Y := \xi^* L'_{\widetilde{V}}$ , the pair  $(Y, D_Y + L'_Y)$  is klt. Write  $\xi^* L_{\widetilde{V}} = L_Y + E$  with  $E \ge 0$  $\xi$ -exceptional. Then  $K_Y + D_Y + L'_Y \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} (K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) + E$  is big.

So we are allowed to apply the first part of Lemma 2.4 and we find a constant M(b, N)such that  $|(t_0 + 1)(K_Y + D_Y + L'_Y)|$  gives rise to a birational map for all  $t_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  with  $2Nb|(t_0+1)$  and  $t_0 \ge M(b, N)$ . Thus the same holds for  $|(t_0+1)(K_V+D_V+L'_V)|$  with  $(L_V \sim_{\mathbb{Q}}) L'_V$  the pushdown of  $L'_Y$ .

So  $(t_0 + 1)(K_V + D_V + L_V).\overline{\Gamma} \geq 1$  for any movable curve  $\overline{\Gamma}$  on V. On  $\widetilde{V}$ , we take  $\Gamma \cong \mathbb{P}^1$  with  $\Gamma^2 = 0$  or 1 (when  $\widetilde{V}$  is ruled or  $\mathbb{P}^2$ ) such that  $\overline{\Gamma} = \pi(\Gamma)$ . Note that  $\overline{\Gamma}.K_V = \Gamma.(K_{\widetilde{V}} + J) \geq \Gamma.K_{\widetilde{V}} \geq -3$ .

If  $e \leq 1/2$  there is nothing to show. Otherwise

$$0 = \bar{\Gamma}.(K_V + D_V + eL_V) \ge -3 + e\bar{\Gamma}.L_V \ge -3 + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\Gamma}.L_V,$$

Then

$$6(1-e) \ge (1-e)\bar{\Gamma}.L_V = \bar{\Gamma}.(K_V + D_V + L_V) \ge \frac{1}{t_0 + 1}$$

gives an upper bound for e.

**Lemma 2.10.** In Case (2) of Proposition 2.6 f), there is a constant  $\nu = \nu(N, b)$  (depending only on N, b) such that the threshold e satisfies

$$e \le 1 - \frac{1}{4\nu} < 1.$$

*Proof.* Again it is sufficient to consider the case  $e \ge 1/2$ . We calculate

$$0 = \Gamma . \beta \Gamma = \Gamma . (K_V + D_V + eL_V) \ge -2 + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma . L_V = -2 + \frac{1}{2} \widetilde{\Gamma} . L_Y.$$

Here the fibre  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  is the pullback on Y of the general fibre  $\Gamma$  on V in Proposition 2.6 f), Case (2). Since  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y$  is big and  $N\tilde{\Gamma}(K_Y + L_Y) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , we apply [FM, Prop 6.3], obtain  $\nu = \nu(N, b)$  satisfying the following and hence conclude the lemma (noting that  $E_{\tau\sigma}$  is contained in fibres):

$$\nu \leq \widetilde{\Gamma}.(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) = (1 - e)\widetilde{\Gamma}.L_Y \leq 4(1 - e).$$

## 3. The proof of Theorem 0.2 and Corollary 0.3

When  $K_Y + D$  is big, especially when  $L_Y \equiv 0$ , the statement of Theorem 0.2 has been verified in Lemma 2.4. If  $L_Y$  is big the theorem follows from Lemmata 2.5, 2.9 and 2.10. So for Theorem 0.2 it remains to consider the case:

Assumption 3.1.  $L_Y$  is not numerically trivial,  $\kappa(L_Y) \leq 1$ , and  $\kappa(K_Y + D_Y) \leq 1$ .

In particular, the first condition implies that the nef dimension  $n(L_Y)$  is one or two.

The morphism  $\sigma : Y \to W$ , constructed in Lemma 2.2, factors through a minimal resolution  $\widetilde{W}$  of W. So  $\sigma = \pi \circ \eta$  for

$$Y \xrightarrow{\eta} \widetilde{W} \xrightarrow{\pi} W.$$

Write  $\pi^* K_W = K_{\widetilde{W}} + J$  with J an effective  $\pi$ -exceptional  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor. As in the last section  $L_{\widetilde{W}}$ ,  $L_W$ ,  $D_{\widetilde{W}}$  and  $D_W$  denote the direct images of  $L_Y$  and  $D_Y$ .

# Lemma 3.2.

- (1)  $0 \le L_Y^2 \le L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 \le L_W^2$ .
- (2) Suppose that  $L^2_{\widetilde{W}} = 0$ . Then  $L^2_Y = 0$ ,  $L_Y = \eta^* L_{\widetilde{W}}$  and  $L_{\widetilde{W}} \cdot K_{\widetilde{W}} = L_Y \cdot K_Y$ .
- (3) If  $n(L_Y) = 2$ , then  $L_Y K_Y \ge 0$ .
- (4) Let e be the threshold from Proposition 2.6 and let  $P_Y$  be the positive and  $N_Y$  the negative part in the Zariski decomposition

$$K_Y + D_Y + L_Y = P_Y + N_Y$$

Then  $P_Y - (1 - e)\sigma^* L_W$  is pseudo-effective. Furthermore,

(3.1) 
$$P_Y^2 \ge (1-e)^2 L_W^2 \ge (1-e)^2 L_{\widetilde{W}}^2.$$

*Proof.* Recall that  $L_Y$  is nef. Hence the direct images  $L_{\widetilde{W}}$  and  $L_W$  have the same property. Then  $L_{\widetilde{W}} \leq \pi^* L_W$  and  $L_Y \leq \eta^* L_{\widetilde{W}}$  which imply (1) and (2). Part (3) is shown in [Am, Th 0.3].

Using the notations from Lemma 2.2,  $P_Y = \sigma^*(K_W + D_W + L_W)$  and  $N_Y = E_{\sigma}$ . Moreover  $K_Y + D_Y + eL_Y$  is pseudo-effective by the choice of e. Then its  $\sigma$ -pushdown  $K_W + D_W + eL_W$  is pseudo-effective as well and one obtains the first part of (4). Since  $P_Y$  and  $L_W$  are nef, the pseudo-effectivity of  $P_Y - (1 - e)\sigma^*L_W$  implies (3.1).

**Lemma 3.3.** Assume that  $L_Y$  is not numerically trivial, that  $\kappa(L_Y) \leq 1$  and that either  $L^2_{\widetilde{W}} > 0$  or  $L_Y.K_Y \geq 0$ . Then  $|MK_X|$  is an Iitaka fibration for some M = M(b, N, e) depending only on b, N, e.

*Proof.* Keeping the notations from Lemma 3.2 (4), one has:

Claim 3.4. 
$$P_Y^2 \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2}.$$

*Proof.* Assume first that  $L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 > 0$ . Since  $NbL_{\widetilde{W}}$  is an integral Cartier divisor,  $L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 \ge 1/(Nb)^2$  and the claim follows from (3.1) in Lemma 3.2 (4).

Assume next that  $L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 = 0$ . By Lemma 3.2 (2) this implies that  $L_Y = \eta^* L_{\widetilde{W}}$  and that  $L_{\widetilde{W}}.K_{\widetilde{W}} = L_Y.K_Y$ . By the assumption, this intersection number is non-negative. Thus

$$L_W.K_W = L_{\widetilde{W}}.(K_{\widetilde{W}} + J) \ge L_{\widetilde{W}}.K_{\widetilde{W}} \ge 0.$$

If  $L_{\widetilde{W}}.K_{\widetilde{W}}$  is positive, by Lemma 1.2 (5) it has to be larger than or equal to 1/Nb. Applying Lemma 3.2 (4) one finds

$$P_Y^2 \ge P_Y (1-e)\eta^* L_W = (1-e)(K_W + D_W + L_W) L_W$$
$$\ge (1-e)L_W K_W \ge (1-e)L_{\widetilde{W}} K_{\widetilde{W}} \ge \frac{1-e}{Nb} \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2}.$$

If  $L_{\widetilde{W}}.K_{\widetilde{W}} = 0$ , consider first the case  $L_{\widetilde{W}}.\pi' D_W > 0$ , where  $\pi'$  stands for the proper transform. By Lemma 1.2 this intersection number is  $\geq 1/(Nb)^2$ . As above one obtains

$$P_Y^2 \ge (1-e)L_W . D_W = (1-e)L_{\widetilde{W}} . \pi^* D_W \ge (1-e)L_{\widetilde{W}} . \pi' D_W \ge \frac{1-e}{(Nb)^2} \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2}.$$

It remains the case  $L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 = L_{\widetilde{W}}.K_{\widetilde{W}} = L_{\widetilde{W}}.\pi'D_W = 0$ . Since  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y$  and its  $\eta$ -pushdown  $K_{\widetilde{W}} + D_{\widetilde{W}} + L_{\widetilde{W}}$  are big,  $0 < L_{\widetilde{W}}.(K_{\widetilde{W}} + D_{\widetilde{W}} + L_{\widetilde{W}}) = L_{\widetilde{W}}.D_{\widetilde{W}}$ . Thus  $L_{\widetilde{W}}.D_1 > 0$  for some irreducible curve  $D_1$  in Supp $D_{\widetilde{W}}$  and in the exceptional locus of  $\pi$ . The second condition implies that  $D_1 \cong \mathbb{P}^1$  and that  $D_1^2 \leq -2$ .

If  $D_1^2 = -n$  with  $n \ge 3$ , then [Z, Lemma 1.7] implies that

$$J \ge \frac{n-2}{n} D_1 \ge \frac{1}{3} D_1, \quad \text{and}$$
$$P_Y^2 \ge (1-e) L_W K_W = (1-e) L_{\widetilde{W}} (K_{\widetilde{W}} + J) \ge (1-e) L_{\widetilde{W}} \frac{1}{3} D_1 \ge \frac{1-e}{3Nb} \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2}$$

If  $D_1^2 = -2$  one can factorize  $\pi : \widetilde{W} \to W$  as  $\pi_1 : \widetilde{W} \to W_1$  and  $W_1 \to W$ , where  $\pi_1$  is the contraction of  $D_1$ . Then  $\pi_1^* L_{W_1} = L_{\widetilde{W}} + aD_1$  with  $a = L_{\widetilde{W}} \cdot D_1/2 \ge 1/2Nb$ . Note that  $0 = L_{\widetilde{W}}^2 = (\pi_1^* L_{W_1} - aD_1)^2 = L_{W_1}^2 - 2a^2$ , so  $L_W^2 \ge L_{W_1}^2 = 2a^2 \ge 1/2(Nb)^2$  and

$$P_Y^2 \ge (1-e)L_W^2 \ge \frac{1-e}{2(Nb)^2} \ge \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2}.$$

In order to prove Lemma 3.3 consider two general points  $x_1, x_2$  of Y.

If the nef dimension  $n(L_Y) = 1$ , then by [8aut, Proposition 2.11]  $L_Y$  is numerically equivalent to a positive multiple of the general fibre  $\Gamma$  of a morphism from Y to a curve. In this case we assume that  $x_1, x_2$  are not in the same fibre of this fibration.

Thus for a very general curve  $C_t$  on Y containing  $x_1, x_2$ , one has

$$P_Y.C_t \ge (1-e)L_Y.C_t \ge \frac{1-e}{Nb}.$$

Then the adjoint linear system

$$|K_Y + \lceil s_0(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) + L_Y \rceil|$$
, for  $s_0 = b(\lceil \frac{5Nb}{1-e} \rceil + 1) - 1$ 

separates the points  $x_1, x_2$ . In fact, the nef part of the divisor

$$\left\lceil s_0(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) + L_Y \right\rceil$$

is larger than  $s_0 P_Y$  and the inequalities

$$s_0 P_Y . C_t \ge s_0 (1-e) L_Y . C_t \ge \frac{s_0 (1-e)}{Nb} \ge 4$$
 and  $(s_0 P_Y)^2 \ge s_0^2 \frac{(1-e)^2}{3(Nb)^2} > 8$ 

allow to apply [La, Th 3.2]. Thus, by Lemma 1.2,

$$h^{0}(X, (s_{0}+1)K_{X}) = h^{0}(Y, (s_{0}+1)(K_{Y}+D_{Y}+L_{Y})) \ge$$
  
 $h^{0}(X, K_{Y}+\lceil s_{0}(K_{Y}+D_{Y}+L_{Y})+L_{Y}\rceil) \ge 2.$ 

Now by [Ko86, Th 4.6],  $\Phi_{|tK_X|}$  is an Iitaka fibration for  $t = (s_0 + 1)(2M + 1) + M$ , where M is a constant as in [FM, Corollary 6.2], depending only on A(b, N).

Recall that Assumption 3.1 implies that  $n(L_Y)$  is one or two. In the second case, Lemma 3.2 (3) allows to apply Lemma 3.3. So it remains to consider the case below:

**Lemma 3.5.** Assume that  $n(L_Y) = 1$ ,  $L^2_{\widetilde{W}} = 0$  and  $L_Y.K_Y < 0$ . Then Y is a ruled surface over a curve C of genus q(Y) with general fibre  $\Sigma \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ . The  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor  $L_Y$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linearly equivalent to a positive multiple of  $\Sigma$ , and  $|MK_X|$  is an Iitaka fibration for some constant M = M(b, N, q(Y)) depending only on b, N, q(Y).

Proof. By Lemma 3.2, one has  $L_Y^2 = 0$  and  $L_Y = \eta^* L_{\widetilde{W}}$ . By [8aut, Proposition 2.11]  $L_Y$ is numerically equivalent to a positive multiple of the general fibre  $\Sigma$  of the nef reduction  $\tau : Y \to C$ . Since  $L_Y K_Y < 0$ , one has  $\Sigma K_Y < 0$ . Thus  $2g(\Sigma) - 2 = \Sigma K_Y < 0$  and  $\Sigma \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ . So  $\tau : Y \to C$  is a  $\mathbb{P}^1$ -fibration and Y is a ruled surface with g(C) = q(Y).

So the divisor  $NbL_Y$  on the ruled surface  $Y \to C$  is numerically equivalent to some  $\alpha\Sigma$ . Considering the intersection of  $\Sigma$  with a section of  $\tau : Y \to C$  one sees that  $\alpha$  is an integer. The numerically trivial sheaf  $NbL_Y - \alpha\Sigma$  is linearly equivalent to the pullback of a numerically trivial sheaf on a relative minimal model of Y which in turn must be the pullback of a sheaf on C. Hence  $NbL_Y \sim \tau^*\Pi$  for some integral divisor  $\Pi$  on C of positive degree. Then  $(2g(C) + 1)\Pi$  is very ample and  $(2g(C) + 1)NbL_Y$  is linearly equivalent to the disjoint union H of smooth fibres in general position. For  $(L_Y \sim_{\mathbb{Q}})$   $L'_Y = H/(2g(C) + 1)Nb$  the pair  $(Y, D_Y + L'_Y)$  is klt and  $K_Y + D_Y + L'_Y$  is big. The coefficients of  $D_Y + L'_Y$  lie in the DCC set  $A(b, N) \cup \{1/(2g(C) + 1)Nb\}$ . Hence by the proof of Lemma 2.4 there is a constant M depending only on b, N and g(C) such that  $|(s+1)(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y)|$  defines a birational map for all  $s \geq M$  with s + 1 divisible by (2g(C) + 1)Nb. Now the lemma follows from Lemma 1.2 (4).

**Lemma 3.6.** Keeping the assumptions made in Lemma 3.5, either  $K_Y + D$  is big or  $q(Y) \leq 1$ .

Proof. If  $K_Y + D_Y$  is not pseudo-effective we can apply Proposition 2.6 f). There, in Case (1) the irregularity is zero. So we only have to consider Case (2). Using the notations introduced there,  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y \equiv (1 - e)L_Y + \beta\Gamma + E_{\tau\sigma}$  is big,  $\Gamma L_Y > 0$  and hence, using the notation from Lemma 3.5,  $\Gamma \Sigma > 0$ . Further  $\Gamma \cong \mathbb{P}^1$ . So there are two different  $\mathbb{P}^1$ -fibrations on Y with fibres  $\Gamma$  and  $\Sigma$ , and Y is rational.

Therefore, we may assume that  $K_Y + D_Y$  is pseudo-effective with  $\kappa(K_Y + D_Y) \leq 1$ . Applying Construction 2.3 to the klt-pair  $(Y, D_Y)$ , we get morphisms  $\gamma : Y \to Z$  and  $\psi_Z : Z \to B$  with  $\gamma$  birational, and an ample Q-divisor H on B such that

$$E_{\gamma} = K_Y + D_Y - \gamma^* \psi_Z^*(H)$$

is an effective  $\gamma$ -exceptional Q-divisor consisting of rational curves. By the assumption

$$\dim B = \kappa(H) = \kappa(K_Y + D_Y) \le 1.$$

Consider the case dim B = 1. So  $\psi = \psi_Z \circ \gamma : Y \to B$  is a family of curves over a curve with general fibre  $\Gamma$ . By abuse of notation  $\Gamma$  will also be considered as the general fibre of  $\psi_Z$ . For  $\alpha := \deg H$ , one has

$$K_Y + D_Y \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} \equiv \alpha \Gamma + E_\gamma$$
 and  $K_Z + D_Z \equiv \alpha \Gamma$ .

Since  $E_{\gamma}$  is contained in fibres

$$0 = \Gamma.(\alpha\Gamma + E_{\gamma}) = \Gamma.(K_Y + D_Y) \ge \Gamma.K_Y$$

and  $\Gamma$  is either  $\mathbb{P}^1$  or an elliptic curve.

Since  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y \equiv \alpha \Gamma + E_{\gamma} + L_Y$  is big,  $\Gamma L_Y > 0$ . Using the notations from Lemma 3.5, this implies that  $\Gamma \Sigma > 0$  where Y is ruled over C with general fibre  $\Sigma$ . So  $\Gamma$  dominates the base curve C and  $q(Y) = q(C) \leq 1$ , as claimed.

In case dim B = 0 one has  $K_Z + D_Z \equiv 0$  (indeed,  $\sim_{\mathbb{Q}} 0$  by [Ko+]). If  $L_Y \cdot E_\gamma = 0$ , then  $K_Y + D_Y + L_Y \equiv L_Y + E_\gamma$  is the Zariski decomposition and hence

$$2 = \kappa(K_Y + D_Y + L_Y) = \kappa(L_Y) \le n(Y) = 1,$$

a contradiction.

Thus  $L_Y \cdot E_{\gamma} > 0$  and, using the notations from Lemma 3.5, one finds  $\Sigma \cdot E_{\gamma} > 0$ . The divisor  $E_{\gamma}$  is exceptional for the birational morphism to the klt surface Z, whence all its components are isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . Since one of them intersects  $\Sigma$ , the base curve C in Lemma 3.5 is dominated by  $\mathbb{P}^1$  and hence g(C) = q(Y) = 0.

Proof of Theorem 0.2. As recalled at the beginning of this section it remains to verify the theorem under Assumption 3.1. Then the theorem follows from Lemmata 3.3, 3.5, and 3.6, using Lemmata 2.9 and 2.10.  $\Box$ 

Proof of Corollary 0.3. When  $\kappa(X) = 0$ , one can take  $M_3$  to be the Beauville number as in [Mo, §10]. When  $\kappa(X) = 1$ , the result is just [FM, Corollary 6.2]. When  $\kappa(X) = 3$ , we can take  $M_3 = 77$  by [CC, Th 1.1] (see also [HM], [Ta]). So the only remaining case is the one where  $\kappa(X) = 2$ . Here the corollary follows from Theorem 0.2 for n = 3, b = 1,  $B_{n-2} = 2$  and  $N = N(B_{n-2}) = 12$ .

One can avoid the use of Theorem 0.2 in the proof of the Corollary 0.3 if one uses the existence of good minimal models in dimension three:

Proof of Corollary 0.3, using the existence of minimal models.

As before all cases are known, except the one where  $\kappa(X) = 2$ . Assume that X is a good minimal threefold. For some  $m \gg 0$  the morphism  $\pi : X \to S$  associated with  $|mK_X|$  has connected fibres and, by the Abundance theorem for threefolds,  $K_X \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} \pi^* G$  for an ample  $\mathbb{Q}$ -Cartier divisor G.

As in [Na, Proof of Corollary (0.4)]  $(S, \Delta)$  is klt for the effective Q-divisor

$$\Delta := \frac{1}{12}H' + \sum_{j} a_{j}D'_{j} + \sum_{i} (1 - \frac{1}{m_{i}})\Gamma'_{i} \quad \text{and} \quad K_{X} \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} \pi^{*}(K_{S} + \Delta).$$

Here  $H', D'_i, \Gamma'_i$  stand for the divisors  $\mu_* H, \mu_* D_j, \mu_* \Gamma_i$  in the notation of [Na]. Moreover

$$a_j \in K_2 := \{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\}$$

We remark that by [KM, Th 3.5.2] S is the canonical model, denoted by W in Lemma 2.2, and that  $\Delta = L_W + D_W$ . Note that  $\Delta$  has coefficients in the DCC set

Ell := 
$$\{1 - \frac{1}{m} | m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 2}\} \cup K_2 \cup \{\frac{1}{12}\}.$$

By [La, Th 5.4] there exists a computable constant M, depending only on the DCC set Ell, such that the adjoint linear system  $|K_S + \lceil t(K_S + \Delta) \rceil|$  gives rise to a birational map for all  $t \ge M$ . This adjoint divisor is smaller than or equal to  $(t + 1)(K_S + \Delta)$ provided that 12|t. So  $\Phi_{|(t+1)(K_S + \Delta)|}$  is birational and hence  $\Phi_{|(t+1)K_X|}$  an Iitaka fibration (see Lemma 1.2 (4)).

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