THE RELATIVE PLURICANONICAL STABILITY FOR 3-FOLDS OF GENERAL TYPE

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to improve a theorem of János Kollár by a different method. For a given smooth complex projective threefold $X$ of general type, suppose the plurigenus $P_k(X) \geq 2$. Kollár proved that the $(11k + 5)$-canonical map is birational. Here we show that either the $(7k + 3)$-canonical map or the $(7k+5)$-canonical map is birational and that the $(13k+6)$-canonical map is stably birational onto its image. Suppose $P_k(X) \geq 3$. Then the $m$-canonical map is birational for $m \geq 10k + 8$. In particular, $\phi_{12}$ is birational whenever $p_g(X) \geq 2$ and $\phi_{11}$ is birational whenever $p_g(X) \geq 3$.

Introduction

Let $X$ be a smooth projective 3-fold of general type defined over $\mathbb{C}$ and denote by $\phi_m$ the $m$-canonical map of $X$, which is the rational map associated with the linear system $|mK_X|$. Let $P_k(X) := h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(kK_X))$ for any positive integer $k$. We usually call $P_k(X)$ the $k$-th plurigenus of $X$ which is a birational invariant. For a given positive integer $m_0$, we say that $\phi_{m_0}$ is stably birational if $\phi_{m_0}$ is birational onto its image for all $m \geq m_0$. Since the Kodaira dimension $\text{kod}(X) = 3$, $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \gg 0$. In this paper, we consider the following

Problem. Suppose $P_k(X) \geq 2$. For which value $m_0(k)$, does $|m_0(k)K_X|$ define a stably birational map onto its image?

In 1986, Kollár ([5, Corollary 4.8]) first gave an effective result and proved that the $(11k+5)$-canonical map is birational if $P_k(X) \geq 2$. However, his method cannot tell whether $\phi_m$ is still birational for all $m > 11k + 5$. On the other hand, it seems to us that the number $11k + 5$ is not the optimal one. This paper aims to present a better result as the following

Main Theorem. Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective threefold of general type and suppose $P_k(X) \geq 2$. Then the following hold:

(i) either $\phi_{7k+3}$ or $\phi_{7k+5}$ is birational onto its image;

(ii) $\phi_{13k+6}$ is stably birational onto its image;

(iii) $\phi_{10k+8}$ is stably birational provided that $P_k(X) \geq 3$.

In particular, $\phi_{12}$ is stably birational if $p_g(X) \geq 2$ and $\phi_{11}$ is stably birational if $p_g(X) \geq 3$.

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Noting that the main obstacle which prevents Kollár’s method from getting a better bound is the case when \( X \) admits a rational pencil of certain surfaces of general type, we shall mainly make a special study of this situation in an alternative way. First we build some birationality criteria for adjoint systems on a surface of general type. Then we reduce the problem to the surface case while finding suitable divisors on the threefold whose restrictions to the surface satisfy those criteria. The Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem plays a key role throughout our argument.

**Definition.** Let \( X \) be a normal projective variety and \( D \) be a Weil divisor on \( X \). Denote by \( \Phi_{|D|} \) the natural rational map defined by the linear system \(|D|\). \(|D|\) is called base point free if it has neither fixed components nor base points.

If \(|L|\) is a linear system on \( X \) without fixed components and \( h^0(X, L) \geq 2 \), we mean a general irreducible element \( S \) of \(|L|\) as follows:

1. If \( \dim \Phi_{|L|}(X) \geq 2 \), then \( S \) is a general member of \(|L|\).
2. If \( \dim \Phi_{|L|}(X) = 1 \), then \( L \) is linearly equivalent to a union of distinct reduced irreducible divisors of the same type. Explicitly, \( L \sim_{\min} \sum S_i \). We mean by \( S \) a general \( S_i \).

\( X \) is called minimal if the canonical divisor \( K_X \) is nef, i.e. \( K_X \cdot C \geq 0 \) for all proper curves \( C \subset X \).

\( X \) is said to be of general type if the Kodaira dimension \( \text{kod}(X) = \dim(X) \).

\( X \) is said to have only terminal singularities according to Reid (\[17\]) if the following two conditions hold:

(i) for some integer \( r \geq 1 \), \( rK_X \) is Cartier;
(ii) for some resolution \( f: Y \to X \), \( K_Y = f^*(K_X) + \sum a_i E_i \) for \( 0 < a_i \in \mathbb{Q} \) for all \( i \), where the \( E_i \) vary all the exceptional divisors on \( Y \).

1. Preparation

Throughout our argument, the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem will be always employed as a much more effective tool. We shall use it in the following form.

**Vanishing Theorem (\[3\] or \[10\]).** Let \( X \) be a nonsingular complete variety, \( D \in \text{Div}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \). Assume the following two conditions:

1. \( D \) is nef and big;
2. the fractional part of \( D \) has supports with only normal crossings.

Then \( H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X(\lceil rD \rceil + K_X)) = 0 \) for \( i > 0 \), where \( \lceil rD \rceil \) is the round-up of \( rD \), i.e. the minimum integral divisor with \( \lceil rD \rceil - D \geq 0 \).

Another important principle that is tacitly used throughout the text is due to Tankeev (\[19\]). Explicitly, on a smooth projective variety \( X \), if we have a base point free system \(|M|\) and an effective divisor \( D \), we want to study the birationality of the map \( \Phi_{|D+M|} \). Now let \( S \) be a general irreducible element of \(|M|\). Then \( S \) is a smooth divisor on \( X \) by Bertini’s theorem. Suppose we have known that \( \Phi_{|D+M|} \) can distinguish general irreducible elements and that \( \Phi_{|D+M|} \big|_S \) is birational. Then Tankeev’s principle implies the birationality of \( \Phi_{|D+M|} \).

**Lemma 1.1** (\[3\] Corollary 2). Let \( S \) be a nonsingular algebraic surface, \( L \) be a nef divisor on \( S \), \( L^2 \geq 10 \) and let \( \phi \) be a map defined by \(|L + K_S|\). If \( \phi \) is not birational, then \( S \) contains a base point free pencil \( E' \) with \( L \cdot E' = 1 \) or \( L \cdot E' = 2 \).
Lemma 1.2. Let $S$ be a nonsingular projective surface of general type and suppose $L$ is a divisor with $h^0(S, L) \geq 2$. Then $h^0(S, K_S + L) \geq 2$. In particular, if $\chi(O_S) \geq 3$, then $h^0(S, K_S + L) \geq 4$.

Proof. Taking a general irreducible element $C$ in the moving part of $|L|$, then $C$ is a nef divisor, $C \leq L$ and $C$ is a curve of genus $\geq 2$. By R-R on the surface $S$, we have

$$h^0(S, K_S + L) \geq h^0(S, K_S + C) \geq \frac{1}{2}(K_S \cdot C + C^2) + \chi(O_S).$$

It is easy to get the result. \hfill \square

Lemma 1.3. Let $S$ be a nonsingular projective surface of general type, $L$ be a nef divisor, $L^2 \geq 3$ and $\dim \Phi_{|L|}(S) = 2$. Then $|K_S + 2L|$ gives a birational map.

Proof. We have $(2L)^2 \geq 12$. If $\Phi_{|K_S + 2L|}$ is not birational, then according to Lemma 1.1, there is a base point free pencil $E'$ such that $2L \cdot E' \leq 2$, i.e. $L \cdot E' = 1$. Since $\dim \Phi_{|L|}(S) = 2$ and $E'$ is a curve of genus $\geq 2$, we see that $L \cdot E' \geq 2$, a contradiction. \hfill \square

Lemma 1.4. Let $S$ be a nonsingular projective surface of general type, $L_i$ be a divisor on $S$ such that $\dim \Phi_{|L_i|}(S) \geq 1$ for $i = 1, 2$. Then $|K_S + 2L_2 + L_1|$ gives a birational map.

Proof. Modulo blowing-ups, we can suppose that the $|L_i|$ is base point free for $i = 1, 2$. This means that $L_2$ is nef and big and that $L_1$ is nef.

If the system $|L_2|$ gives a birational map, then so does $|K_S + 2L_2 + L_1|$, because $K_S + L_1$ is effective by Lemma 1.2.

Otherwise, we have $L_2^2 \geq 2$. Now we have $(2L_2 + L_1)^2 \geq 12$. If $|K_S + 2L_2 + L_1|$ does not give a birational map, then, by Lemma 1.1, there is a free pencil $E'$ on $S$ such that

$$(2L_2 + L_1) \cdot E' \leq 2.$$ 

This means $L_2 \cdot E' = 1$. Note that $E'$ is a curve of genus $\geq 2$ and $|L_2|$ gives a generically finite map. The Riemann-Roch theorem on the curve $E'$ tells that $\deg(L_2 |E'|) \geq 2$. We have derived a contradiction. \hfill \square

Lemma 1.5. Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective 3-fold of general type. Suppose that $L_i$ is a divisor on $X$ such that $\dim \Phi_{|L_i|}(X) \geq 1$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Then

$$|K_X + 2L_3 + L_2 + L_1|$$

gives a birational map.

Proof. Take a birational modification $\pi : X' \to X$ according to Hironaka such that the $|\pi^*(L_i)|$ are all base point free for $i > 0$. On $X'$, we can study the system $|K_{X'} + 2\pi^*(L_3) + \pi^*(L_2) + \pi^*(L_1)|$. Let $M_i$ be the moving part of $|\pi^*(L_i)|$. We have

$$|K_{X'} + 2M_3 + M_2 + M_1| \subset |K_{X'} + 2\pi^*(L_3) + \pi^*(L_2) + \pi^*(L_1)|.$$ 

Therefore, for simplicity, we can suppose from the beginning that the $|L_i|$ are base point free on $X$. So $L_3$ is nef and big under this assumption.
Step 1. Verifying that $K_X + 2L_3 + L_2$ is effective.

We have $\dim \Phi_{|L_2|}(X) \geq 2$. So a general member $S \in |L_2|$ is a nonsingular projective surface of general type. Using the vanishing theorem to the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(K_X + 2L_3) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(K_X + 2L_3 + S) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_S(K_S + 2L_3|_S) \longrightarrow 0,$$

we get the surjective map

$$H^0(X, K_X + 2L_3 + S) \longrightarrow H^0(S, K_S + 2L_3|_S) \longrightarrow 0.$$

From Lemma 1.2, we know $K_S + 2L_3|_S$ is effective, so is $K_X + 2L_3 + L_2$.

Step 2. Reduction to surface case.

Taking a 1-dimensional sub-system of $|L_1|$, then this system defines a rational map onto $\mathbb{P}^1$. Taking further blowing-up if necessary, we can also suppose that this system defines a morphism $f : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. Taking the Stein factorization of $f$, one obtains a derived fibration $g : X \longrightarrow C$. A general fibre of $f$ can be written as a disjoint union $\sum F_i$. Let $F$ be a general fibre of $g$; then it is a nonsingular projective surface of general type and we have $F \leq L_1$. Now considering the system $|K_X + 2L_3 + L_2 + \sum F_i|$, it can distinguish general fibres of $g$ because $K_X + 2L_3 + L_2$ is effective and $2L_3 + L_2$ is nef and big. Using the vanishing theorem again, we have

$$|K_X + 2L_3 + L_2 + \sum F_i|_{|F|} = |K_F + 2L_3' + L_2'|,$$

where $L_3' := L_3|_F$ and $L_2' := L_2|_F$. Lemma 1.4 tells that the right system gives a birational map, so does $|K_X + 2L_3 + L_2 + L_1|$. The proof is completed.

**Lemma 1.6.** Let $X$ be a nonsingular variety of dimension $n$, $D \in \text{Div}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ be a $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor on $X$. Then we have the following:

(i) if $S$ is a smooth irreducible divisor on $X$ and $S$ is not a fractional component of $D$, then $\gamma\tilde{D}|_S \geq \gamma(D)|_S$;

(ii) if $\pi : X' \longrightarrow X$ is a birational morphism, then $\pi^*(\gamma\tilde{D}) \geq \gamma\pi^*(D)$.

*Proof.* These are trivial.

**Lemma 1.7.** Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective threefold of general type. Let $D$ be a divisor on $X$ with $h^0(X, D) \geq 2$ and suppose $|D|$ has no fixed components. Denote by $F$ a general irreducible element of $|D|$. If $L$ is another divisor such that $\dim \Phi_{|L|}(F) \geq 1$, then $mK_X + L + D$ is effective and $\dim \Phi_{|mK_X + L + D|}(F) \geq 1$ for all $m \geq 2$.

*Proof.* According to the 3-dimensional MMP (\cite{[1]} and \cite{[3]}), $X$ has a minimal model $X_0$ which is normal projective with only $\mathbb{Q}$-factorial terminal singularities. Let $\alpha : X \longrightarrow X_0$ be the contraction which is a rational map. Take a common resolution $X'$ with $\pi' : X' \longrightarrow X$ and $\pi : X' \longrightarrow X_0$ such that $\pi = \alpha \circ \pi'$ and that

(1) both $|\pi^*(L)|$ and $|\pi^*(D)|$ have no base points (they may have fixed components);

(2) $\pi^*(K_{X_0})$ has supports with only normal crossings.

This is possible because of Hironaka’s big theorem. Since $\pi^*(mK_X + L + D) \leq mK_{X'} + \pi^*(L) + \pi^*(D)$ and

$$\pi^*\mathcal{O}_{X'}(mK_{X'} + \pi^*(L) + \pi^*(D)) = \mathcal{O}_X(mK_X + L + D)$$

$$= \pi^*\pi^*\mathcal{O}_X(mK_X + L + D),$$
then \( h^0(X', \pi'^*(mK_X + L + D)) = h^0(X', mK_{X'} + \pi'^*(L) + \pi'^*(D)) \), so
\[
\Phi_{|\pi'^*(mK_X + L + D)|} \text{ and } \Phi_{|mK_{X'} + \pi'^*(L) + \pi'^*(D)|}
\]
have the same behavior. Let \( S \) be a general irreducible element of the moving part of \( |\pi'^*(D)| \); then \( \dim \Phi_{|\pi'^*(L)|}(S) \geq 1 \) by assumption. Therefore it is sufficient to show
\[
\dim \Phi_{|mK_{X'} + \pi'^*(L) + \pi'^*(D)|}(S) \geq 1
\]
for \( m \geq 2 \). Let \( H \) be the moving part of \( |\pi'^*(L)| \); then \( H \) is nef since \( |H| \) is base point free. We have
\[
|K_{X'} + \gamma(m - 1)\pi^*K_{X_0} \cap + H + S| \subset |mK_{X'} + \pi'^*(L) + \pi'^*(D)|.
\]
The Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem gives
\[
|K_{X'} + \gamma(m - 1)\pi^*K_{X_0} \cap + H + S|_S = |K_S + \gamma(m - 1)\pi^*K_{X_0} \cap|_S + M| \supset |K_S + \gamma B \cap + M|,
\]
where \( B := (m - 1)\pi^*K_{X_0}|_S \) is nef and big on \( S \) and \( M := H|_S \). From the assumption, we have \( h^0(S, M) \geq 2 \). Choosing a 1-dimensional sub-system \( |C| \in |M| \), modulo blowing-ups, we can suppose \( |C| \) to be base point free. Also from the vanishing theorem, we have
\[
|K_S + \gamma B \cap + C|_C = |K_C + D|,
\]
where \( D := \gamma B \cap|_C \) is a divisor on the curve \( C \) with positive degree since \( D \geq \gamma B|_C \cap \) by Lemma 1.6(i). Because \( g(C) \geq 2 \), we have \( h^0(K_C + D) \geq 2 \). This means \( |K_C + D| \) gives a generically finite map and
\[
\dim \Phi_{|K_S + \gamma B \cap + C|}(C) = 1;
\]
thus \( K_{X'} + \gamma(m - 1)\pi^*K_{X_0 \cap} + \pi'^*(L) + \pi'^*(D) \) is effective and the image of \( S \) through the map defined by this divisor is at least 1. The proof is completed. \( \square \)

2. Proof of the main theorem

2.1 Basic formula. Let \( X \) be a nonsingular projective threefold, \( f : X \rightarrow C \) be a fibration onto a nonsingular curve \( C \). From the spectral sequence:
\[
E_2^{p,q} := H^p(C, R^q f_* \omega_X) \Rightarrow E^n := H^n(X, \omega_X),
\]
we get by direct calculation that
\[
h^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = h^1(C, f_* \omega_X) + h^0(C, R^1 f_* \omega_X),
\]
\[
q(X) := h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = b + h^1(C, R^1 f_* \omega_X),
\]
where \( b \) denotes the genus of \( C \).
2.2 Review of Kollár’s technique. Let $X$ be a smooth projective 3-fold of general type and suppose $P_k(X) \geq 2$. Choose a 1-dimensional sub-system of $|K_X|$ and replace $X$ by a birational model $X'$ where this pencil defines a morphism $g : X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. (For simplicity, we can suppose $X' = X$.) Let $S$ be a general irreducible element of this pencil. Then a general fibre of $g$ is a disjoint union of some surfaces with the same type as $S$ and $S$ is a smooth projective surface of general type. Let $t = k(2p + 1) + p$. Then $H^0(\omega_X^t) = H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, g_*\omega_X^t)$ and we have an injection $\mathcal{O}(1) \hookrightarrow g_*\omega_X^k$, and hence an injection $\mathcal{O}(2p + 1) \hookrightarrow g_*\omega_X^{k(2p+1)}$. This gives an injection

$$\mathcal{O}(2p + 1) \otimes g_*\omega_X^p \hookrightarrow g_*\omega_X^k,$$

where $\mathcal{O}(2p + 1) \otimes g_*\omega_X^p = \mathcal{O}(1) \otimes g_*\omega_X^{k(2p+1)}$. Now it is well-known that $g_*\omega_X^{k(2p+1)}$ is a sum of line bundles of non-negative degree on $\mathbb{P}^1$. If $p \geq 5$, the local sections of $g_*\omega_X^p$ give a birational map for $S$ and all these extend to global sections of $\mathcal{O}(2p + 1) \otimes g_*\omega_X^p$. Moreover its sections separate the fibres from each other, and hence $\phi_t$ is a birational map for $X$.

From the above method, according to [1] and [11], we have

(1) $\phi_{7k+2}$ is generically finite for $X$ if $S$ is not a surface with $p_2(S) = q(S) = 0$ and $K^2_{S_0} = 1$, where $S_0$ is the minimal model of $S$. Otherwise, we have at least $\dim \phi_{7k+2} = 2$;

(2) $\phi_{7k+3}$ is birational for $X$ if $S$ is not a surface with

$$(K^2_{S_0}, p_2(S)) = (1, 2) \text{ or } (2, 3).$$

2.3 Proof of the main theorem. According to the 3-dimensional MMP, we can suppose $X$ to be a minimal model with at worst $\mathbb{Q}$-factorial terminal singularities. This means that $K_X$ is a nef and big $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor. We begin from a minimal model in order to make use of the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem.

Theorem 2.3.1. Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective 3-fold of general type and suppose $P_k(X) \geq 2$. Then either $\phi_{7k+3}$ or $\phi_{7k+5}$ is birational.

Proof. Suppose $X$ is a minimal model with at worst $\mathbb{Q}$-factorial terminal singularities. Choose a 1-dimensional sub-system $\Lambda$ of $|kK_X|$ and take a birational modification $\pi : X' \rightarrow X$ such that

(i) $X'$ is nonsingular;

(ii) $\pi^*\Lambda$ gives a morphism;

(iii) the fractional part of $\pi^*(K_X)$ has supports with only normal crossings.

This is possible because of Hironaka’s big theorem. Set $g_1 := \Phi_{\Lambda} \circ \pi$ and let $X' \xrightarrow{\Delta} W_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_1} \mathbb{P}^1$ be the Stein factorization of $g_1$. Denote $b := g(W_1)$, the geometric genus of the curve $W_1$.

If $b > 0$, then the moving part of $\Lambda$ is base point free. Let $\sum S_i$ be the moving part of $\Lambda$; then $\sum S_i \leq kK_X$ and a general $S_i$ is a smooth projective surface of general type, since the singularities on $X$ are isolated. Using Kawamata’s vanishing theorem ([1]) to $\mathbb{Q}$-Cartier Weil divisors on minimal threefold $X$, we see that $|a + 1)K_X + S_i|$ can distinguish general $S_i$ for $a > 0$ and

$$H^0(X, (a + 1)K_X + S_i) \longrightarrow \bigoplus H^0(S_i, (a + 1)K_X)$$

is surjective. Therefore it is obvious that $\phi_m$ is effective whenever $m \geq k + 2$, generically finite whenever $m \geq 2k + 2$, birational whenever $m \geq 2k + 4$. 

So, from now on, we can suppose that $b = 0$. We have a fibration $f_1 : X' \to \mathbb{P}^1$. Let $F$ be a general fibre of $f_1$. By virtue of 2.2(2), we can suppose that $F$ is a surface with invariants $(K_{F_0}^2, p_g(F)) = (1, 2)$ or $(2, 3)$, where $F_0$ is the minimal model of $F$. $F$ is the moving part of $\pi^*\Lambda$ and $F \not\equiv \pi^*(kK_X)$. We automatically have $q(F) = 0$. First we study the system $|K_{X'} + \gamma k\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F|$. For a general fibre $F$, the vanishing theorem gives that

$$|K_{X'} + \gamma k\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F| \big|_F = |K_F + \gamma k\pi^*(K_X)\gamma|_F,$$

where $\gamma k\pi^*(K_X)\gamma|_F$ is effective. This means that $(2k + 1)K_X'$ is effective and $\dim \phi_{2k+1}(F) \geq 1$. By Lemma 1.7, we see that $mK_{X'}$ is effective and $\dim \phi_m(F) \geq 1$ for $m \geq 3k + 3$.

Actually, we have $\dim \phi_{3k+2}(F) = 2$. In fact, we have

$$|K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F| \big|_F \supset |K_F + M_{2k+1}|_F,$$

where $M_{2k+1}$ is the moving part of $[\gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*K_X]$. It is easy to check that $|K_F + M_{2k+1}|_F$ gives a generically finite map because $q(F) = 0$ and $p_g(F) > 0$. Thus

$$\dim \Phi_{K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F}|(F) \geq 2.$$

We have $|K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F| \subset |(7k + 5)K_X'|$. $K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma$ is effective by the above argument. So $|K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F|$ can distinguish general fibre $F$. On the other hand, the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem gives

$$|K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F| \big|_F = |K_F + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma|_F \big|_F \supset |K_F + 2L_{3k+2}|,$$

where $L_{3k+2} := M_{3k+2}|_F$. It is sufficient to show that $|K_F + 2L_{3k+2}|$ gives a birational map for $F$. We have already known that $|L_{3k+2}|$ gives a generically finite map for $F$. Excluding the fixed components of $|L_{3k+2}|$, we can suppose that $|L_{3k+2}|$ are moving on the surface $F$. So $L_{3k+2}$ is nef. If $|L_{3k+2}|$ gives a birational map, then so does $|K_F + 2L_{3k+2}|$. Otherwise,

$$L_{3k+2}^2 \geq 2(h^0(F, L_{3k+2}) - 2).$$

Consider the following three natural maps:

$$H^0(X', M_{3k+2}) \to \to H^0(F, L_{3k+2})$$

$$H^0(X', K_{X'} + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma + F) \xrightarrow{\beta} H^0(F, K_F + \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma|_F) \to 0,$$

$$\xrightarrow{\gamma} H^0(F, (3k + 2)K_F),$$

where $\beta$ is surjective by the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem. We see that

$$\dim \gamma(\im(\alpha)) = \dim \gamma(\im(\gamma)) \geq \dim \gamma(\im(\beta)) = h^0(F, K_F + D_{2k+1})$$

where $D_{2k+1} := \gamma(2k + 1)\pi^*(K_X)\gamma|_F$ and $h^0(F, D_{2k+1}) \geq 2$. So

$$h^0(F, K_F + D_{2k+1}) \geq 4,$$

according to Lemma 1.2, because we have $\chi(O_F) \geq 3$ in this case. Thus

$$L_{3k+2}^2 \geq 2(h^0(F, L_{3k+2}) - 2) \geq 2\left(\dim \gamma(\im(\alpha)) - 2\right) \geq 4.$$
and then \(|K_F+2L_{3k+2}|\) gives a birational map by Lemma 1.3. So \(\phi_{7k+5}\) is birational.

Finally, for all \(m \geq 10k+7\), set \(t := m - 7k - 5 \geq 3k+2\); then \(\dim \phi_t(F) \geq 1\). In particular, \(tK_X\) is effective. So \(\phi_m\) is birational for all \(m \geq 10k+7\) in this case.

**Corollary 2.3.1.** Let \(X\) be an irregular nonsingular 3-fold of general type and suppose \(P_k(X) \geq 2\). Then \(\phi_{7k+3}\) is birational. Therefore at least \(\phi_{143}\) is birational according to Kollár and Fletcher.

**Proof.** In the proof of the last theorem, if \(b > 0\), then \(\phi_m\) is birational for \(m \geq 2k+4\). If \(b = 0\), we can use the formula of \(q(X)\) to the fibration \(f_1 : X' \to \mathbb{P}^1\). When \(q(X) > 0\), then we must have \(\Phi(F) > 0\). Then \(\Phi_{13K_F}\) is birational for the fibre \(F\), and so is \(\Phi_{(7k+3)K_X}\) by 2.2(2). Moreover, we have \(P_{20}(X) \geq 2\) for any irregular 3-fold of general type according to Kollár ([5]) and Fletcher ([2]). Thus \(\phi_{143}\) is birational.

**Theorem 2.3.2.** Let \(X\) be a nonsingular projective threefold of general type and suppose \(P_k(X) \geq 2\). Then \(\phi_m\) is birational for \(m \geq 13k+6\).

**Proof.** Suppose \(X\) is a minimal model with at worst \(\mathbb{Q}\)-factorial terminal singularities. Make a birational modification \(\pi : X' \to X\) such that:

(i) \(X'\) is nonsingular;

(ii) \(|kK_{X'}|\) gives a morphism;

(iii) the fractional part of \(\pi^*(K_X)\) has supports with only normal crossings.

Set \(g := \Phi_{(kK_X)} \circ \pi\) and \(W' := \Phi_{(kK_X)}(X)\). Let \(X' \to W' \to W'\) be the Stein factorization of \(g\).

We would like to formulate our proof through two steps as follows.

**Case 1.** \(\dim \phi_k(X) \geq 2\).

Set \(kK_X \sim h \in M_k + Z_k\), where \(M_k\) is the moving part and \(Z_k\) is the fixed part. Then a general member \(S \in |M_k|\) is an irreducible nonsingular projective surface of general type. Write \(K_{X'} = \pi^*(K_X) + \sum a_i E_i\), where the \(E_i\) are exceptional divisors for \(\pi\), \(0 < a_i \in \mathbb{Q}\) for each \(i\). Obviously, \(\pi^*(K_X) \leq K_{X'}\). Because \(h^0(X', \pi^*(kK_X)) = h^0(X', kK_{X'})\), we can see that \(M_k\) is actually also the moving part of \(|\pi^*(kK_X)|\). Thus we have

\[\pi^*(kK_X) \geq M_k + \sum b_i E_i,\]

where \(0 \leq b_i \in \mathbb{Q}\) for each \(i\).

We claim that \(mK_{X'}\) is always effective for \(m \geq 2k+1\). In fact, for any \(t \in \mathbb{Z}^+\), we consider the system

\[|K_{X'} + \pi^*((t+k)K_X)^\sim + S|\]

It is a sub-system of \(|(2k+t)K_{X'}|\). By the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem, we have a surjective map

\[H^0(X', K_{X'} + \pi^*((t+k)K_X)^\sim + S) \to H^0(S, K_S + \pi^*((t+k)K_X)^\sim |S) \to 0.\]

Noting that \(\pi^*((t+k)K_X)^\sim \geq \pi^*(tK_X)^\sim + M_k\), also by Lemma 1.6(i), it is sufficient to show that \(K_S + \pi^*(tK_X)^\sim + |M_k|S\) is effective. When \(t = 0\), then \(h^0(S, K_S + M_k|S) \geq 2\) by Lemma 1.2, because \(h^0(S, M_k|S) \geq 2\). When \(t > 0\), choose a 1-dimensional sub-system \([C]\) in the moving part of \(|M_k|S\). Modulo blowing-ups, we can suppose \([C]\) to be free from base points and then \(C\) is nef and
$C \leq M_k|s|$. We have $g(C) \geq 2$. Because $\pi^*(tK_X)|s|$ is a nef and big $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor on $S$, by the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem, we also get a surjective map

$$H^0(S, K_S + \pi^*(tK_X)|s\rangle + C) \rightarrow H^0(C, K_C + D) \rightarrow 0,$$

where $D := \pi^*(tK_X)|s\rangle|_C$ is a divisor on $C$ with positive degree. Thus we have $h^0(C, K_C + D) \geq 2$. This leads to the effectiveness of $(2k + t + 1)K_X$. Moreover, actually we have proved that $\dim \phi_m(S) \geq 1$ for $m \geq 2k + 1$.

Now we prove that $\phi_{3k+1}$ is generically finite. Considering the system

$$|K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|,$$

as we have shown above that $(2k+1)K_X$ is effective, so $|K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|$ can distinguish general $S$. By the Kawamata-Viehweg vanishing theorem, we have

$$|K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + S|_s = |K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|$$

We have

$$\left| K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + S \right|_S \geq \left| K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k \right|_s.$$

Noting that $h^0(S, M_k) \geq 2$, $K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 \geq K_S + M_k$, which is also effective by Lemma 1.2, and $\pi^*(K_X)|_s$ is a nef and big $\mathbb{Q}$-divisor on $S$, it is easy to verify that $|K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|_s$ gives a generically finite map. In fact, choose a 1-dimensional sub-system $|C|$ in the moving part of $|M_k|_s$. For the same reason, we can suppose $|C|$ to be free from base points. $|K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|$ can distinguish general $C$, and we have

$$\left| K_S + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + C \right|_C = |K_C + D|,$$

where $D$ is a divisor on $C$ with positive degree. Because $g(C) \geq 2$, it follows that $h^0(C, K_C + D) \geq 2$ and $|K_C + D|$ gives a generically finite map.

Finally, we want to show that $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 9k+4$. Let $t := m - 7k - 3$; then $t \geq 2k + 1$. Denote by $M_{3k+1}$ the moving part of $|(3k+1)K_{X'}|$ and by $M_t$ the moving part of $|K_{X'}|$. We have

$$|K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k| \subset |mK_{X'}|.$$

Because $t + 6k + 3 > 2k + 1$, $K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|$ is effective; thus the left system in the above can distinguish general $S$. Furthermore, the vanishing theorem gives

$$|K_{X'} + \pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|_s = |K_S + L|,$$

where $L := \pi^*(t + 6k + 2)\pi^*(K_X)|^0 + M_k|_s$. By Lemma 1.4, $|K_S + L|$ gives a birational map, and so does $|mK_{X'}|$.

**Case 2.** $\dim \phi_k(X) = 1$.

In this case, $W$ is a nonsingular curve of genus $b$. Let $F$ be a general fibre of $f$; then $F$ is an irreducible smooth projective surface of general type. We have $M_k \sim_{\text{num}} \sum F_i$, where the $F_i$ are fibres of $f$ for each $i$.

By a parallel argument as in the proof of Theorem 2.3.1, we see that $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 2k + 4$ if $b = 0$. And if $b = 0$ while $F$ is a surface with the invariants $(K_F^2, p_g(F)) = (1, 2)$ or $(2, 3)$, then $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 10k + 7$.

Otherwise, we use Kollár’s method. From 2.2, we know that $\phi_{2k+3}$ is birational and $\dim \phi_{2k+2}(X) \geq 2$. Thus, by Lemma 1.7, $mK_{X'}$ is effective for $m \geq 6k + 4$. Since we have $|K_{X'} + \pi^*(5k + 2)\pi^*(K_X)|^0 + F|_F = |K_F + D|$ where $D := \pi^*(5k + 2)\pi^*(K_X)|^0$ is effective and $h^0(F, D) \geq 2$, we see that $K_F + D$ is effective.
and thus $(6k+3)K_X$ is effective. So $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 13k+6$, which means that $\phi_{13k+6}$ is stably birational.

**Theorem 2.3.3.** Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective threefold of general type and suppose $P_k(X) \geq 3$. Then $\phi_m$ is birational for all $m \geq 10k+8$.

**Proof.** When $\dim \phi_k(X) \geq 2$, we know from Case 1 of Theorem 2.3.2 that $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 9k+4$. When $|kK_X|$ is composed of a pencil, from the proof of Theorem 2.3.1, we see that $\phi_k$ will derive a fibration $f : X' \to W$ onto a nonsingular curve. If $b := g(W) > 0$, then $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 2k+4$.

The remaining case is the one when $b = 0$. We have an injection $O(2) \hookrightarrow f_*\omega_{X'}^k$. So, for each $p > 0$, we have

$$O(1) \otimes f_*\omega_{X'/p}^p = O(2p+1) \otimes f_*\omega_{X'}^p \hookrightarrow f_*\omega_{X'}^{k(p+1)+p}.$$

Thus Kollár’s method tells that $\phi_{bk+5}$ is birational, $\phi_{4k+3}$ is generically finite and that $\dim \phi_{3k+2}(X) \geq 2$. Now using our method, we can see that $mK_X$ is effective for $m \geq 4k+4$ by Lemma 1.7. Since $(4k+3)K_{X'}$ is also effective, $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 10k+8$.

**Corollary 2.3.2.** Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective threefold of general type and suppose $P_3(X) \geq 3$. Then $\phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq 11$.

**Proof.** Keep the same notation as in the proof of Theorem 2.3.2. When $\dim \phi_1(X) \geq 2$, we set $L_3 := 4K_{X'}$, $L_2 = L_1 := K_{X'}$. Then $|L_3|$ gives a generically finite map by virtue of Case 1, Theorem 2.3.2. Using Lemma 1.5, we see that $|K_{X'} + 2L_3 + L_2 + L_1|$ gives a birational map. Thus $\phi_{11}$ is birational.

When $\dim \phi_1(X) = 1$, we see from the proof of Theorem 2.3.3 that $\phi_{11}$ is also birational.

Theorem 2.3.1, Theorem 2.3.2, Theorem 2.3.3 and Corollary 2.3.2 imply the main theorem.

3. Open problems

3.1. Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective variety of general type of dimension $n$. We define

- $k_0(X) := \min\{k | P_k(X) \geq 2\}$;
- $k_s(X) := \min\{k | \phi_m$ is birational for $m \geq k\}$, which is called the canonical stability of $X$;
- $\mu_s(X) := \frac{k_s(X)}{\min(X)}$, which is called the relative canonical stability of $X$. Obviously, $\mu_s(X)$ is a birational invariant.
- $\mu_s(n) := \sup\{\mu_s(X) | X$ is a $n$-fold of general type\}, which is called the $n$-th relative canonical stability.

It is well-known that $\mu_s(1) = 3$ and $\mu_s(2) = 5$ ([1]). From the main theorem, we have $\mu_s(3) \leq 16$. What is the exact value of $\mu_s(3)$? It is also interesting to study $\mu_s(n)$ for $n \geq 4$, even if we don’t know whether we should have $\mu_s(n) < +\infty$.

3.2. We would like to ask a very natural question which never happens in the surface case.

**Question.** Do there exist a smooth projective threefold $X$ of general type and two positive integers $k_1 < k_2$ such that $\phi_{k_1}$ is birational while $\phi_{k_2}$ is not birational?
Of course, it may happen for some threefold that $P_{k_1} > P_{k_2}$ even if $k_1 < k_2$. But we have not found any counterexample yet to the above question.

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