CONTRACTIONS ON A MANIFOLD POLARIZED BY AN AMPLE VECTOR BUNDLE

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Abstract. A complex manifold $X$ of dimension $n$ together with an ample vector bundle $E$ on it will be called a \textit{generalized polarized variety}. The adjoint bundle of the pair $(X, E)$ is the line bundle $K_X + \text{det}(E)$. We study the positivity (the nefness or ampleness) of the adjoint bundle in the case $r := \text{rank}(E) = n - 2$. If $r \geq (n - 1)$ this was previously done in a series of papers by Ye and Zhang, by Fujita, and by Andreatta, Ballico and Wisniewski.

If $K_X + \text{det}E$ is nef then, by the Kawamata-Shokurov base point free theorem, it supports a contraction; i.e. a map $\pi : X \longrightarrow W$ from $X$ onto a normal projective variety $W$ with connected fiber and such that $K_X + \text{det}(E) = \pi^*H$, for some ample line bundle $H$ on $W$. We describe those contractions for which $\dim F \leq (r - 1)$. We extend this result to the case in which $X$ has log terminal singularities. In particular this gives Mukai’s conjecture 1 for singular varieties. We consider also the case in which $\dim F = r$ for every fiber and $\pi$ is birational.

Introduction

An algebraic variety $X$ of dimension $n$ (over the complex field) together with an ample vector bundle $E$ on it will be called a \textit{generalized polarized variety}. The adjoint bundle of the pair $(X, E)$ is the line bundle $K_X + \text{det}(E)$. Problems concerning adjoint bundles have drawn a lot of attention from algebraic geometers: the classical case is when $E$ is a (direct sum of) line bundles (a polarized variety), while the generalized case was motivated by the solution of the Hartshorne-Frankel conjecture by Mori ([Mo]), and by consequent conjectures of Mukai ([Mu]).

A first point of view is to study the positivity (the nefness or ampleness) of the adjoint line bundle in the case when $r = \text{rank}(E)$ is about $n = \text{dim}X$. This was done in a sequel of papers for $r \geq n - 1$ and for a smooth manifold $X$ ([YZ], [Fu2], [ABW2]). In this paper we want to discuss the next case, namely when $\text{rank}(E) = n - 2$, with $X$ smooth; we obtain a complete answer which is described in the theorem (5.1). This is divided into three cases, namely when $K_X + \text{det}(E)$ is not nef, when it is nef and not big, and finally when it is nef and big but not ample. If $n = 3$ a complete picture is already contained in the famous paper of Mori ([Mo1]), while the particular case in which $E = \oplus^{n-2}(L)$ with $L$ a line bundle was also studied ([Fu1], [So]; in the singular case see [An]). Part 1 of the theorem was proved (in a slightly weaker form) by Zhang ([Zi]) and, in the case $E$ is spanned by global sections, by Wisniewski ([Wi2]).
Another point of view can be the following: let \((X, E)\) be a generalized polarized variety with \(X\) smooth and \(\text{rank} E = r\). If \(K_X + \det(E)\) is nef, then by the Kawamata-Shokurov base point free theorem it supports a contraction (see Theorem 1.2); i.e. there exists a map \(\pi : X \to W\) from \(X\) onto a normal projective variety \(W\) with connected fiber and such that \(K_X + \det(E) = \pi^*H\) for some ample line bundle \(H\) on \(W\). It is not difficult to see that, for every fiber \(F\) of \(\pi\), we have \(\dim F \geq (r-1)\); equality holds only if \(\dim X > \dim W\). In the paper we study the “border” cases: we assume that \(\dim X \geq \dim W\). We consider also the case in which \(\dim F = r\) for every fiber and we prove that \(X\) has a \(\mathbb{P}^r\)-bundle structure given by \(\pi\) (Theorem 3.2). We consider also the case \(\dim F = r\) for every fiber and \(\pi\) is birational, proving that \(W\) is smooth and that \(\pi\) is a blow-up of a smooth subvariety (Theorem 3.1). This point of view was discussed in the case \(E = \oplus L\) in the paper [AW].

Finally in section 4 we extend the Theorem 3.2 to the singular case, namely for a projective variety \(X\) with log-terminal singularities. In particular this gives Mukai’s conjecture 1 for singular varieties.

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1. Notations and generalities

(1.1) We use the standard notation from algebraic geometry. In particular it is compatible with that of [KMM], to which we refer constantly. We just explain some special definitions and propositions used frequently.

In particular, in this paper \(X\) will always stand for a smooth complex projective variety of dimension \(n\). Let \(\text{Div}(X)\) be the group of Cartier divisors on \(X\); denote by \(K_X\) the canonical divisor of \(X\), an element of \(\text{Div}(X)\) such that \(\mathcal{O}_X(K_X) = \Omega_X^n\). Let \(N_1(X) = \langle \{1\}-\text{cycles} \rangle \cong \mathbb{R}, N^1(X) = \{\text{divisors}\} \cong \mathbb{R}\) and \(\langle \text{NE}(X) \rangle = \{\text{effective 1-cycles}\}\); the last is a closed cone in \(N_1(X)\). Let \(\rho(X) = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} N^1(X)\).

Suppose that \(K_X\) is not nef; that is, there exists an effective curve \(C\) such that \(K_X \cdot C < 0\).

**Theorem 1.2.** [KMM] Let \(X\) be as above and \(H\) a nef Cartier divisor such that \(F := H^+ \cap \langle \text{NE}(X) \rangle \setminus \{0\}\) is entirely contained in the set \(\{Z \in N_1(X) : K_X \cdot Z < 0\}\), where \(H^+ = \{Z : H \cdot Z = 0\}\). Then there exists a projective morphism \(\varphi : X \to W\) from \(X\) onto a normal variety \(W\) with the following properties:

i) For an irreducible curve \(C\) in \(X\), \(\varphi(C)\) is a point if and only if \(H \cdot C = 0\), if and only if \(\text{cl}(C) \in F\).

ii) \(\varphi\) has only connected fibers.

iii) \(H = \varphi^*(A)\) for some ample divisor \(A\) on \(W\).

iv) The image \(\varphi^* : \text{Pic}(W) \to \text{Pic}(X)\) coincides with \(\{D \in \text{Pic}(X) : D \cdot C = 0\\} \text{ for all } C \in F\}\).

**Definition 1.3.** ([KMM], definition 3-2-3). Using the notation of the above theorem, the map \(\varphi\) is called a **contraction** (or an extremal contraction); the set \(F\) is an extremal face, while the Cartier divisor \(H\) is a supporting divisor for the map \(\varphi\) (or the face \(F\)). If \(\dim_{\mathbb{R}} F = 1\) the face \(F\) is called an extremal ray, while \(\varphi\) is called an elementary contraction.
Remark 1.4. We have also ([Mo1]) that if $X$ has an extremal ray $R$ then there exists a rational curve $C$ on $X$ such that $0 < -K_X \cdot C < n + 1$ and $R = R[C] := \{D \in \langle NE(X) \rangle : D \equiv \lambda C, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+\}$. Such a curve is called an extremal curve.

Remark 1.5. Let $\pi : X \to V$ denote a contraction of an extremal face $F$, supported by $H = \pi^* A$. Let $R$ be an extremal ray in $F$ and $\rho : X \to W$ the contraction of $R$. Then $\pi$ factors through $\rho$ (this is because $\pi^* A \cdot R = 0$).

Definition 1.6. To an extremal ray $R$ we can associate:

i) its length $l(R) := \min\{-K_X \cdot C; \text{ for } C \text{ a rational curve and } C \in R\}$

ii) the locus $E(R) := \{\text{the locus of the curves whose numerical classes are in } R\} \subset X$.

A rational curve $C$ in $R$ such that $-K_X \cdot C = l(R)$ will be called a minimal curve.

It is usual to divide the elementary contractions associated to an extremal ray $R$ into three types, according to the dimension of $E(R)$ as follows.

Definition 1.7. We say that $\varphi$ is of fiber type, respectively divisorial type, resp. flipping type, if $\dim E(R) = n$, resp. $n - 1$, resp. $< n - 1$. Moreover an extremal ray is said to be not nef if there exists an effective $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ such that $D \cdot C < 0$.

The following very useful inequality was proved in [Io] and [Wi3].

Proposition 1.8. Let $\varphi$ be the contraction of an extremal ray $R$, $E'(R)$ any irreducible component of the exceptional locus and $d$ the dimension of a fiber of the contraction restricted to $E'(R)$. Then

$$\dim E'(R) + d \geq n + l(R) - 1.$$  

(1.9) Actually it is very useful to understand when a contraction is elementary, or in other words when the loci of two distinct extremal rays are disjoint. For this we will use in this paper the following results.

Proposition 1.10. [BS, Corollary 0.6.1] Let $R_1$ and $R_2$ two distinct not nef extremal rays such that $l(R_1) + l(R_2) > n$. Then $E(R_1)$ and $E(R_2)$ are disjoint.

Something can be said also if $l(R_1) + l(R_2) = n$:

Proposition 1.11. [Fu3, Theorem 2.4] Let $\pi : X \to V$ be a birational contraction of a face $F$; suppose $n \geq 4$ and $l(R_i) \geq n - 2$, for $R_i$ extremal rays in $F$. Then the exceptional loci corresponding to different extremal rays are disjoint.

Proposition 1.12. [ABW1] Let $\pi : X \to W$ be a contraction of a face such that $\dim X > \dim W$. Suppose that for every rational curve $C$ in a general fiber of $\pi$ we have $-K_X \cdot C \geq (n + 1)/2$. Then $\pi$ is an elementary contraction except if

a) $-K_X \cdot C = (n + 2)/2$ for some rational curve $C$ on $X$, $W$ is a point, $X$ is a Fano manifold of pseudoindex $(n + 2)/2$ and $\rho(X) = 2$; and if

b) $-K_X \cdot C = (n + 1)/2$ for some rational curve $C$, and $\dim W \leq 1$.

Finally, the following definitions are used in the main theorem in section 5:

Definition 1.13. Let $L$ be an ample line bundle on $X$. The pair $(X,L)$ is called a scroll (respectively a quadric fibration, respectively a del Pezzo fibration) over a normal variety $Y$ of dimension $m$ if there exists a surjective morphism with connected fibers $\phi : X \to Y$ such that

$$K_X + (n - m + 1)L \approx p^* L$$
(respectively \(K_X + (n-m)L \approx p^*L\), respectively \(K_X + (n-m-1)L \approx p^*L\)) for some ample line bundle \(L\) on \(Y\). \(X\) is called a classical scroll (respectively quadric bundle) over a projective variety \(Y\) of dimension \(r\) if there exists a surjective morphism \(\phi : X \rightarrow Y\) such that every fiber is isomorphic to \(\mathbb{P}^{n-r}\) (respectively to a quadric in \(\mathbb{P}^{n-r+1}\)) and if there exists a vector bundle \(E\) of rank \(n-r+1\) (respectively of rank \(n-r+2\)) on \(Y\) such that \(X \cong \mathbb{P}(E)\) (respectively exists an embedding of \(X\) as a subvariety of \(\mathbb{P}(E)\)).

2. A TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION

Let \(E\) be a vector bundle of rank \(r\) on \(X\) and assume that \(E\) is ample (in Hartshorne’s sense).

**Remark 2.1.** Let \(f : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow X\) be a non-constant map, and \(C = f(\mathbb{P}^1)\). Then \(\det E \cdot C \geq r\).

In particular, if there exists a curve \(C\) such that \((K_X + \det E) \cdot C \leq 0\) (for instance if \((K_X + \det E)\) is not nef), then there exists an extremal ray \(R\) such that \(l(R) \geq r\).

(2.2) Let \(Y = \mathbb{P}(E)\) be the associated projective space bundle, \(p : Y \rightarrow X\) the natural map onto \(X\) and \(\xi_E\) the tautological bundle of \(Y\). Then we have the formula for the canonical bundle \(K_Y = p^*(K_X + \det E) - r\xi_E\). Note that \(p\) is an elementary contraction.

Assume that \(K_X + \det E\) is nef but not ample, and that it is the supporting divisor of an elementary contraction \(\pi : X \rightarrow W\); let \(R\) be the associated extremal ray. Then \(\rho(Y/W) = 2\) and \(-K_Y\) is \(\pi\) or \(p\)-ample. By the relative Mori theory over \(W\) we have that there exists a ray on \(NE(Y/W)\), say \(R_1\), of length \(\geq r\), not contracted by \(p\), and a relative elementary contraction \(\varphi : Y \rightarrow V\). We have thus the following commutative diagram:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{P}(E) = Y & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & V \\
\downarrow p & & \downarrow \psi \\
X & \xrightarrow{\pi} & W
\end{array}
\]

where \(\varphi\) and \(\psi\) are elementary contractions. Let \(w \in W\) and let \(F(\pi)_w\) be an irreducible component of \(\pi^{-1}(w)\); choose also \(v\) in \(\psi^{-1}(w)\) and let \(F(\varphi)_v\) be an irreducible component of \(\varphi^{-1}(v)\) such that \(p(F(\varphi)_v) \cap F(\pi)_w \neq \emptyset\); then, by the commutativity of the diagram, \(p(F(\varphi)_v) \subset F(\pi)_w\). Since \(p\) and \(\varphi\) are elementary contractions of different extremal rays, we have that \(\dim(F(\varphi) \cap F(p)) = 0\); that is, a curve which is contracted by \(\varphi\) cannot be contracted by \(p\).

In particular this implies that \(\dim(p(F(\varphi)_v)) = \dim F(\varphi)_v\); therefore

\[
\dim F(\varphi)_v \leq \dim F(\pi)_w.
\]

**Remark 2.3.** If \(\dim F(\varphi)_v = \dim F(\pi)_w\). Then \(\dim F(\psi)_w := \dim(\psi^{-1}(w)) = r-1\); if this holds for every \(w \in W\) then \(\psi\) is equidimensional.

**Proof.** Let \(Y_w\) be an irreducible component of \(p^{-1}(w)\) such that \(\varphi(Y_w) = F(\psi)_w\). Then \(\dim F(\psi)_w = \dim Y_w - \dim F(\varphi)_v = \dim Y_w - \dim F(\pi)_w = \dim F(p) = r - 1\).

(2.4) Slicing techniques. Let \(H = \varphi^*(A)\) be a supporting divisor for \(\varphi\) such that the linear system \([H]\) is base point free. We assume as in (2.2) that \((K_X + \det E)\)
is nef, and we refer to the theorem (2.4). The divisor $K_Y + rE = p^*(K_X + detE)$ is nef on $Y$, and therefore $m(K_Y + rE + aH)$, for $m \geq 1$, $a \in \mathbb{N}$, is also a good supporting divisor for $\varphi$. Let $Z$ be a smooth $n$-fold obtained by intersecting $r - 1$ general divisors from the linear system $|H|$, i.e. $Z = H_1 \cap \cdots \cap H_{r-1}$ (this is what we call a slicing); let $H_i = \varphi^{-1}A_i$.

Note that the map $\varphi' = \varphi|_Z$ is supported by $|m(K_Y + rE + a\varphi^*A)|_Z|$; hence, by adjunction, it is supported by $K_Z + rL$, where $L = \xi_{E|Z}$. Let $p' = p|Z$; by construction $p'$ is finite.

If $T$ is (the normalization of) $\varphi(Z)$ and $\psi : T \to W$ is the map obtained by restricting $\psi$, then we have from (2.1) the following diagram:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
Z & \xrightarrow{\varphi'} & T \\
\downarrow p' & & \downarrow \psi' \\
X & \xrightarrow{\pi} & W
\end{array}
\]

(2.2)

In general the map $\varphi'$ is well understood (for instance, in the case $r = n - 2$ see the results in [Fu1] or in [An]). The goal is to "transfer" the information that we have on $\varphi'$ to the map $\pi$. The following Proposition is an example.

We refer to the diagrams and notations of the above sections; in particular $\pi : X \to W$ is the elementary contraction of the ray $R$ supported by $K_X + detE$. Therefore $l(R) \geq n + 1$, and by Proposition 1.8 we have

\[\dim E'(R) + d \geq n + r - 1,\]

where $E'(R)$ is an irreducible component of the exceptional locus and $d = \dim F(\pi)$.

**Proposition 2.5.** Assume that for every non-trivial fiber we have $\dim F(\varphi) = \dim F(\pi) = k$. Assume also that $l(R) = r$ and that for all fibers of $\varphi$

\[(F(\varphi), \xi_{E|F(\varphi)}) \approx (\mathbb{P}^k, O(1)).\]

Then $W$ has the same singularities as $T$.

**Remark 2.6.** The above proposition was proved in the case in which $\varphi$ is birational and $k = r$ in [ABW2].

**Proof.** Let $w \in W$; by hypothesis and by Remark 2.3 any irreducible component $F_i$ of a fiber $F(\psi)_w$ is of dimension $r - 1$. This implies also that $F_i = \varphi(F(p))$ for some fiber of $p$.

**Lemma 2.7.** There exists a fiber $F(p)_x$ such that $\varphi|_{F(p)_x} : F(p)_x \to F_i$ is of degree $1$; that is, $\varphi|_{F(p)_x}$ is set-theoretically birational.

**Proof.** For every $v \in V$ we have that $\varphi^{-1}_|F(p)_x(v) = F(p)_x \cap F(\varphi)_v$; therefore the lemma follows if we can prove that, for a general $v \in V$, with $\psi(v) = w$, $p|_{F(\varphi)_v} : F(\varphi)_v \to F(\pi)_w$ is set-theoretically birational.

We will need the following claim.

**Claim 2.8.** Let $l$ be a line in $F(\varphi) \approx \mathbb{P}^k$; then $-p^*K_X \cdot l = r$.

**Proof of the claim.** Let $C$ a minimal curve in the ray $R$ (see Definition 1.6); let $\nu : \mathbb{P}^1 \to C$ be its normalization. Thus $\nu^*E|C = \oplus O(1)$, and therefore $Y_C = \mathbb{P}(\nu^*E_C) = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^{r-1}$. Let $\tilde{\nu} : Y_C \to Y$ be the map induced by $\nu$ and let $\tilde{l}$ be a section of $\sigma : Y_C \to \mathbb{P}^1$; note that $\nu \sigma : \tilde{l} \to C$ is birational. Note also that $\tilde{\nu}^*\xi_C$ is
the tautological bundle for \( Y_C \); thus \( 1 = \tilde{v}^* \xi_E \cdot \tilde{l} = \xi_E \cdot \tilde{v}_s \tilde{l} \), hence \( \tilde{v}_s \tilde{l} = l \). Therefore \( p.s.l = C \) and \(-p'^* K_X \cdot l = -K_X \cdot p.s.l = -K_X \cdot C = r \). \( \square \)

Let \( R \) be the ramification divisor of \( p' : Z \to X \) defined by the formula

\[
K_Z = p'^* K_X + R.
\]

Let \( l \) be a line in \( F(\varphi) = P^k \subset Z \); on one side we have that \(-K_Z \cdot l = r \); on the other, by the above claim, \( p'^* K_X \cdot l = r \). Therefore \( R \cdot l = 0 \). Thus either \( F(\varphi) \subset R \) or \( F(\varphi) \cap R = \emptyset \). We want to prove that the latter is the case.

**Lemma 2.9.** For a general choice of \( Z \) the ramification divisor \( R \) does not contain \( F(\varphi) \subset Z \); therefore \( F(\varphi) \cap R = \emptyset \).

**Proof.** It is enough to prove that there exists an \( x \in F(\pi)_w \) such that \( p^{-1}(x) \cap Z \) consists of \( d \) distinct points, where \( d = \text{deg}(p' : Z \to X) \). Observe that this is true for every \( x \in X \) outside the branch locus and \( d = \varphi^* A'^{-1} \cdot F(p)_x = \varphi^* A'^{-1} \cdot F(p)x \), where \( Z = \varphi^* A_1 \cap \ldots \cap \varphi^* A_{r-1} \) and \( A_i \in |A| \). Moreover \( p^{-1}(x) \cap Z = \bigcup_i p^{-1}(x) \cap F(\varphi)_v_i \), where the union is taken over all \( v_i \in T \setminus F_i \). Since \( \varphi |_{F(p)_x} : F(p)_x \to F_i \) is generically unramified, choosing generic sections \( A_i \in |A| \) yields that \( p^{-1}(x) \cap F(\varphi)_v_i \) is a reduced cycle of length \( d_i \) for any \( i \) and \( \sum_i d_i = d \). Hence \( F(\varphi) \cap R = \emptyset \). \( \square \)

The exact sequence

\[
\mathcal{I} / \mathcal{I} \to \Omega_{Z/X} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{F(\varphi)} \to \Omega_{F(\varphi)/X} \to 0
\]

yields that also \( p|_{F(\varphi)} : P^k \to F(\pi) \) is unramified. Let \( f : \tilde{F} \to F(\pi) \) be the normalization and \( g : P^k \to \tilde{F} \) the map induced by \( p \); then \( g \) is unramified and \( \tilde{F} \) is smooth by Zariski’s Main Theorem. Therefore \( \tilde{F} \simeq P^k \) by Lazarsfeld’s result and \( g \) is an isomorphism; thus \( p|_{F(\varphi)} \) is of degree \( 1 \).

Let \( \varphi |_{F(p)} : F(p) \to F_i \) be as in the lemma, that is, \( \varphi |_{F(p)} \) is set-theoretically birational. Let us follow an argument as in [Fu1, Lemma 2.12]. We can assume that the divisor \( A \) is very ample. Using Bertini’s theorem we choose \( r - 1 \) divisors \( A_i \in |A| \) as above such that, if \( T = \bigcap_i A_i \), then \( T \cap \psi^{-1}(w)_{red} = N \) is a reduced 0-cycle and \( Z = H_1 \cap \cdots \cap H_{r-1} \) is a smooth n-fold, where \( H_i = \varphi^{-1} A_i \). Moreover the number of points in \( N \) is given by \( A'^{-1} \cdot \psi^{-1}(w)_{red} = \sum_i A'^{-1} \cdot F_i = \sum_i d_i \). Note that, by the projection formula, we have \( A'^{-1} \cdot F_i = \varphi^* A'^{-1} \cdot F(p) \); here we use the fact that the map \( \varphi |_{F(p)} \) is set-theoretically birational. Moreover, since \( p \) is a projective bundle, the last number is constant, i.e. \( \varphi^* A'^{-1} \cdot F(p) = d \) for all fibers \( F(p) \); that is, the \( d_i \)’s are constant.

Using that \( \psi' := \psi |_T : T \to W \) is proper and finite over \( w \), we now take a small enough neighborhood \( U \) of \( w \), in the metric topology, such that any connected component \( U_\lambda \) of \( \psi^{-1}(U) \cap T \) meets \( \psi^{-1}(w) \) in a single point. Let \( \psi_\lambda \) be the restriction of \( \psi \) to \( U_\lambda \) and \( m_\lambda \) its degree. Then \( \text{deg} \psi' = \sum \lambda m_\lambda \geq \sum_i d_i = \sum_i d_i \), and equality holds if and only if \( \psi \) is not ramified at \( w \) (remember that \( \sum_i d_i \) is the number of \( U_\lambda \)).

The generic \( F(\psi)_w \) is irreducible and generically reduced. Note that we can choose \( \tilde{w} \in W \) such that \( \psi^{-1}(\tilde{w}) = \varphi(F(p)) \) and \( \text{deg} \psi' = A'^{-1} \cdot \psi^{-1}(\tilde{w}) \); the latter is possible by the choice of generic sections of \( |A| \). Hence, by the projection formula, \( \text{deg} \psi' = A'^{-1} \cdot \psi^{-1}(\tilde{w}) = \varphi^* A'^{-1} \cdot F(p) = d \); that is, \( m_\lambda = 1 \), and the fibers are irreducible. Since \( W \) is normal we can conclude, by Zariski’s Main Theorem, that \( W \) has the same singularities as \( T \). \( \square \)
Corollary 2.10. In the hypothesis of the above proposition assume also that either 
\( \varphi \) is birational and \( k = r \), or that \( \varphi \) is of fiber type and \( k = (r - 1) \). Then \( W \) is smooth.

Proof. [AW, Theorem 4.1] applies to the map \( \varphi \) and gives that \( T \) is smooth and \( \varphi \)
satisfies the hypothesis of Proposition 2.5 (for the fiber type case it is actually a theorem in [Fu1]). Thus by Proposition 2.5 also \( W \) is smooth. \( \square \)

3. Some general applications

As an application of the above construction we will prove the following proposition; the case \( r = n - 1 \) was proved in [ABW2].

Theorem 3.1. Let \( X \) be a smooth projective complex variety and \( E \) be an ample vector bundle of rank \( r \) on \( X \). Assume that \( K_X + \det E \) is nef and big but not ample, and let \( \pi : X \to W \) be the contraction supported by \( K_X + \det E \). Assume also that \( \pi \) is a divisorial elementary contraction, with exceptional divisor \( D \), and that \( \dim F \leq r \) for all fibers \( F \). Then \( W \) is smooth, \( \pi \) is the blow-up of a smooth subvariety \( B := \pi(D) \), and \( E = \pi^* E' \otimes [D] \), for some ample \( E' \) on \( W \).

Proof. In the previous section (2.10) we have proved that \( W \) is smooth. Therefore \( \pi \) is a birational morphism between smooth varieties with exceptional locus a prime divisor and with equidimensional non-trivial fibers; by [AW, Corollary 4.11] this implies that \( \pi \) is a blow-up of a smooth subvariety in \( W \).

We want to show that \( E = \pi^* E' \otimes [D] \). Let \( D_1 \) be the exceptional divisor of \( \varphi \); first we claim that \( \xi_E + D_1 \) is a good supporting divisor for \( \varphi \). Let \( C_1 \) be a minimal curve in the ray \( R_1 \) (see Definition 1.6), contracted by \( \varphi \); we have that \( \xi_E \cdot C_1 = 1 \). Observe that \( (\xi_E + D_1) \cdot C_1 = 0 \), while \( (\xi_E + D_1) \cdot C > 0 \) for any curve \( C \) with \( \varphi(C) \neq pt \) (in fact, \( \xi_E \) is ample and \( D_1 \cdot C \geq 0 \) for such a curve). Thus \( \xi_E + D_1 = \varphi^* A \) for some ample \( A \in \text{Pic}(V) \); moreover, using the projection formula, \( A \cdot l = 1 \), for any line \( l \) in the fiber of \( \psi \). Hence, by Grauert’s theorem, \( V = \mathbb{P}(E') \) for some ample vector bundle \( E' \) on \( W \). This yields, by the commutativity of diagram (1), \( E \otimes D = p_*(\xi_E + D_1) = p_* \varphi^* A = \pi^* \psi_* A = \pi^* E' \). \( \square \)

Similarly, for the fiber type case, we have the following.

Theorem 3.2. Let \( X \) be a smooth projective complex variety and \( E \) be an ample vector bundle of rank \( r \) on \( X \). Assume that \( K_X + \det E \) is nef and let \( \pi : X \to W \) be the contraction supported by \( K_X + \det E \). Assume that \( r \geq (n + 1)/2 \) and \( \dim F \leq r - 1 \) for any fiber \( F \) of \( \pi \). Then \( \pi \) is a fiber type contraction, \( W \) is smooth, and for any fiber \( F \simeq \mathbb{P}^{r-1} \) and \( E|_F = \mathbb{O}(1) \).

Proof. Note that, by Proposition 1.8, \( \pi \) is a contraction of fiber type and all the fibers have dimension \( r - 1 \). Moreover the contraction is elementary, by Proposition 1.12.

By Corollary 2.10 \( W \) is smooth. We want to use an inductive argument to prove the theorem. If \( \dim W = 0 \) then this is Mukai’s conjecture 1, which was proved by Peternell, Kollár, and Ye and Zhang (see for instance [YZ]). Let the theorem be true for dimension \( m - 1 \). Note that the locus over which the fiber is not \( \mathbb{P}^{r-1} \) is discrete. In fact take a general hyperplane section \( A \) of \( W \), and \( X' = \pi^{-1}(A) \); then \( \pi|_{X'} : X' \to A \) is again a contraction supported by \( K_{X'} + \det E_{X'} \), such that \( r \geq ((n - 1) + 1)/2 \). Thus by induction \( A \) is smooth and all fibers over \( A \) are \( \mathbb{P}^{r-1} \).
Let $U$ be an open disk in the complex topology such that $U \cap \text{Sing} W = \{0\}$. Then by Lemma 3.3, below, we obtain locally, in the complex topology, a $\pi$-ample line bundle $L$ that restricted to the general fiber is $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Thus, as in [Fu1, Prop. 2.12], we can prove that all the fibers are $\mathbb{P}^{r-1}$.

**Lemma 3.3.** Let $X$ be a complex manifold and $(W,0)$ an analytic germ such that $W \setminus \{0\} \simeq \Delta^n \setminus \{0\}$. Assume we have a holomorphic map $\pi : X \rightarrow W$ with $-K_X$ $\pi$-ample; assume also that $F \simeq \mathbb{P}^r$ for all fibers of $\pi$, $F \neq F_0 = \pi^{-1}(0)$, and that $\text{codim} F_0 \geq 2$. Then there exists a line bundle $L$ on $X$ such that $L$ is $\pi$-ample and $L|_F = \mathcal{O}(1)$.

**Proof.** (see also [ABW2, pp. 338-339]) Let $W^* = W \setminus \{0\}$ and $X^* = X \setminus F_0$. By abuse of notation set $\pi = \pi|_X : X^* \rightarrow W^*$; it follows immediately that $R^1\pi_*\mathcal{O}_{X^*} = 0$ and $R^2\pi_*\mathcal{O}_{X^*} = \mathbb{Z}$.

Using the Leray spectral sequence, we have that $E_{2}^{0,2} = \mathbb{Z}$ and $E_{2}^{p,1} = 0$ for any $p$.

Therefore $d_2 : E_2^{0,2} \rightarrow E_2^{2,1}$ is the zero map, and moreover we have the following exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow E_\infty^{0,2} \rightarrow E_2^{0,2} \xrightarrow{d_3} E_2^{3,0},$$

since the only non-zero map from $E_2^{0,2}$ is $d_3$ and hence $E_\infty^{0,2} = \ker d_3$. On the other hand we have also, in a natural way, a surjective map $H^2(X^*,\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow E_\infty^{0,2} \rightarrow 0$. Thus we get the following exact sequence:

$$H^2(X^*,\mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\alpha} E_2^{0,2} \rightarrow E_2^{3,0} = H^3(W^*,\mathbb{Z}).$$

We want to show that $\alpha$ is surjective. If $\dim W := w \geq 3$ then $H^3(W^*,\mathbb{Z}) = 0$ and we are done. Suppose $w = 2$; then $H^3(W^*,\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$; note that the restriction of $-K_X$ gives a non-zero class (in fact it is $r + 1$ times the generator) in $E_2^{0,2}$ and is mapped to zero in $E_2^{0,3}$; thus the mapping $E_2^{0,2} \rightarrow E_2^{3,0}$ is the zero map and $\alpha$ is surjective. Since $F_0$ is of codimension at least 2 in $X$, the restriction map $H^2(X,\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(X^*,\mathbb{Z})$ is a bijection. By the vanishing of $R_t\pi_*\mathcal{O}_X$ we get $H^2(X,\mathcal{O}_X) = H^2(W,\mathcal{O}_W) = 0$; hence also $\text{Pic}(X) \rightarrow H^2(X,\mathbb{Z})$ is surjective. Let $L \in \text{Pic}(X)$ be a preimage of a generator of $E_2^{0,2}$. By construction $L_t$ is $\mathcal{O}(1)$, for $t \in W^*$. Moreover $(r + 1)L = -K_X$ on $X^*$; thus, again by the codimension of $X^*$, this is true on $X$ and $L$ is $\pi$-ample. \hfill $\square$

4. An approach to the singular case

The following theorem arose during a discussion between us and J.A. Wiśniewski; we would like to thank him. The idea to investigate this argument originated with Zhang [Zhi2]. For the definition of log-terminal singularity we refer to [KMM].

**Theorem 4.1.** Let $X$ be an $n$-dimensional log-terminal projective variety and $E$ be an ample vector bundle of rank $r$. Assume that $K_X + \text{det} E$ is nef and let $\pi : X \rightarrow W$ be the contraction supported by $K_X + \text{det} E$. Assume also that for any fiber $F$ of $\pi$ $\dim F \leq r - 1$, and that $r \geq (n + 1)/2$ and $\text{codim} \text{Sing}(X) > \dim W$. Then $X$ and $W$ are smooth and, for any fiber, $F \simeq \mathbb{P}^{r-1}$.
Proof. We will prove that $X$ is smooth. Then we can apply Theorem 3.2. We consider in this case the associated projective space bundle $Y$ and the commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
P(E) = Y & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & V \\
\downarrow^p & & \downarrow^\psi \\
X & \xrightarrow{\pi} & W
\end{array}
$$

(4.1)

as in 2.1; it is immediate that $Y$ is Gorenstein and log-termianl; in particular it has Cohen-Macaulay singularities. Moreover, as in (3.1) $dimF(\varphi) \leq dimF(\pi)$ and the map $\varphi$ is supported by $K_Y + rH$, where $H = \xi_E + A$, with $\xi_E$ the tautological line bundle and $A$ a pull-back of an ample line bundle from $V$. It is known that a contraction supported by $K_Y + rH$ on a log terminal variety has to have fibers of dimension $\geq (r - 1)$ and of dimension $\geq r$ in the birational case ([AW, remark 3.1.2]). Thus $\varphi$ is not birational and all fibers have dimension $r - 1$; moreover, by the Kobayashi-Ochiai criterion the general fiber is $F \simeq \mathbb{P}^{r-1}$. Imitating the proof of [BS, Prop 1.4], we have only to show that there are no fibers of $\varphi$ entirely contained in $Sing(Y)$. Note that, by construction, $Sing(Y) \subset p^{-1}(SingX)$. Hence no fibers $F$ of $\varphi$ can be contained in $Sing(Y)$, and therefore the same proof of [BS, Prop. 1.4] applies. It follows that $V$ is nonsingular, and $\varphi : Y \to V$ is a classical scroll. In particular $Y$ is nonsingular, and therefore also $X$ is nonsingular. \hfill $\Box$

As a corollary we obtain Mukai’s conjecture 1 in the log terminal case (see also [Zh2]).

**Corollary 4.2.** Let $X$ be an $n$-dimensional log-terminal projective variety and $E$ an ample vector bundle of rank $n + 1$, such that $c_1(E) = c_1(X)$. Then $(X, E) = (\mathbb{P}^n, \oplus^{n+1}\mathcal{O}_n(1))$.

5. Main theorem

This section is devoted to the proof of the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.1.** Let $X$ be a smooth projective variety over the complex field of dimension $n \geq 3$ and $E$ an ample vector bundle on $X$ of rank $r = n - 2$. Then we have:

1) $K_X + det(E)$ is nef unless $(X, E)$ is one of the following:

   i) there exist a smooth $n$-fold, $W$, and a morphism $\phi : X \to W$ expressing $X$ as a blow up of a finite set $B$ of points and an ample vector bundle $E'$ on $W$ such that $E = \phi^*E' \otimes [-\phi^{-1}(B)]$.

   Assume from now on that $(X, E)$ is not as in i) above (that is eventually consider the new pair $(W, E')$ coming from i).

   ii) $X = \mathbb{P}^n$ and $E = \oplus^{n-2}\mathcal{O}(1)$ or $\oplus^2\mathcal{O}(2) \oplus^{n-4}\mathcal{O}(1)$ or $\mathcal{O}(2) \oplus^{n-3}\mathcal{O}(1)$ or $\mathcal{O}(3) \oplus^{n-3}\mathcal{O}(1)$.

   iii) $X = \mathbb{Q}^n$ and $E = \oplus^{n-2}\mathcal{O}(1)$ or $\mathcal{O}(2) \oplus^{n-3}\mathcal{O}(1)$ or $\mathcal{E}(2)$ with $\mathcal{E}$ a spinor bundle on $\mathbb{Q}^n$.

   iv) $X = \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$ and $E = \oplus^2\mathcal{O}(1, 1)$.

   v) $X$ is a del Pezzo manifold with $b_2 = 1$, i.e. $Pic(X)$ is generated by an ample line bundle $\mathcal{O}(1)$ such that $\mathcal{O}(n - 1) = \mathcal{O}(\sim K_X)$ and $E = \oplus^{n-1}\mathcal{O}(1)$.

   vi) $X$ is a classical scroll or a quadric bundle over a smooth curve $Y$. 

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vii) $X$ is a classical scroll over a smooth surface $Y$.

2) If $K_X + \det(E)$ is nef then it is big unless there exists a morphism $\phi : X \to W$ onto a normal variety $W$ supported by (a large multiple of) $K_X + \det(E)$ and $\dim(W) \leq 3$; let $F$ be a general fiber of $\phi$ and $E' = E|_F$. We have the following according to $s = \dim W$:

i) If $s = 0$ then $X$ is a Fano manifold and $K_X + \det(E) = 0$. If $n \geq 6$ then $b_2(X) = 1$ except if $X = \mathbb{P}^3 \times \mathbb{P}^3$ and $E = \oplus^4 \mathcal{O}(1,1)$.

ii) If $s = 1$ then $W$ is a smooth curve and $\phi$ is a flat (equidimensional) map. Then $(F,E')$ is one of the pair described in [PSW]; in particular, $F$ is either $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ or a quadric or a del Pezzo variety. If $n \geq 6$ then $\pi$ is an elementary contraction. If the general fiber is $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ then $X$ is a classical scroll, while if the general fiber is $\mathbb{Q}^{n-1}$ then $X$ is a quadric bundle.

iii) If $s = 2$ and $n \geq 5$, then $W$ is a smooth surface, $\phi$ is a flat map and $(F,E')$ is one of the pair described in the Main Theorem of [Fu2]. If the general fiber is $\mathbb{P}^{n-2}$, all the fibers are $\mathbb{P}^{n-2}$.

iv) If $s = 3$ and $n \geq 5$, then $W$ is a 3-fold with at most isolated singularities and $X$ has at most isolated fibers of dimension $n-2$; all fibers over smooth point are isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^{n-3}$.

3) Assume finally that $K_X + \det(E)$ is nef and big but not ample. Then a high multiple of $K_X + \det(E)$ defines a birational map, $\varphi : X \to X'$, which contracts an “extremal face” (see section 2). Let $R_i$, for $i$ in a finite set of indices, be the extremal rays spanning this face; call $\rho_i : X \to Y$ the contraction associated to one of the $R_i$. Then each $\rho_i$ is birational and divisorial; if $D$ is one of the exceptional divisors (we drop the index) and $B = \rho(D)$ we have that $\dim(B) \leq 1$ and the following possibilities occur:

i) $\dim B = 0$, $D = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ and $D|_D = \mathcal{O}(-2)$; moreover $E|_D \simeq \oplus^{n-2} \mathcal{O}(1)$.

ii) $\dim B = 0$, $D$ is a (possibly singular) quadric, $\mathbb{Q}^{n-1}$, and $D|_D = \mathcal{O}(-1)$; moreover $E|_D = \oplus^{n-2} \mathcal{O}(1)$.

iii) $\dim B = 1$, $W$ and $Z$ are smooth projective varieties, and $\rho$ is the blow-up of $W$ along $Z$. Moreover $E|_F = \oplus^{n-2} \mathcal{O}(1)$.

If $n > 3$ then $\varphi$ is a composition of “disjoint” extremal contractions as in i), ii) or iii).

Proof of part 1) of Theorem 5.1. Let $(X, E)$ be a generalized polarized variety and assume that $K_X + \det(E)$ is not nef. Then there exist on $X$ a finite number of extremal rays, $R_1, \ldots, R_s$, such that $(K_X + \det(E)/R_i < 0$, and therefore, by Remark 2.1, $l(R_i) \geq n - 1$.

Consider one of this extremal rays, $R = R_i$, and let $\rho : X \to Y$ be its associated elementary contraction. Then $L := -(K_X + \det(E))$ is $\rho$-ample and so is the vector bundle $E_1 := E \oplus L$; moreover $K_X + \det(E_1) = \mathcal{O}_X$ relative to $\rho$. To proceed we need a relative version of the theorem in [ABW2] which studies the positivity of the adjoint bundle in the case of $\text{rank } E_1 = n - 1$. More precisely, we assume not that $E_1$ is ample but that it is $\rho$-ample (or equivalently a local statement in a neighborhood of the exceptional locus of the extremal ray $R$). For this we notice that the theorem in [ABW2] is true also in the relative case and can be proved verbatim using the relative minimal model theory instead of the absolute (see [KMM]; see also section 2 of [AW] for a discussion of the local setup).

Assume first that $\rho$ is birational; then $K_X + \det(E_1)$ is $\rho$-nef and $\rho$-big; note also that, since $l(R_i) \geq n - 1$, $\rho$ is divisorial. Therefore we are in the (relative)
case C of the theorem in [ABW2] (see also Theorem 3.1 with \( r = n - 1 \)); this implies that \( Y \) is smooth and \( \rho \) is the blow-up of a point in \( Y \). Since \( l(R_i) \geq n - 1 \), the exceptional loci of the birational rays are pairwise disjoint by Proposition 1.10. This gives Theorem 5.1 (i): the birational extremal rays have disjoint exceptional loci which are divisors isomorphic to \( \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \) and which contract simultaneously to smooth distinct points on a \( n \)-fold \( W \). The description of \( E \) follows trivially (see also [ABW2]).

If \( \rho \) is not birational then we are in case B of the theorem in [ABW2]; from this we obtain similarly as above the other cases of Theorem 5.1, with some trivial computations needed to recover \( E \) from \( E_1 \). Note that in the case of fibration over a surface, since all fibers are \( \mathbb{P}^{n-2} \), then \( n - 1 = l(R) > detE \cdot R_i \geq n - 2 \); thus \( l(R) = n - 1 \) and \( detE : R_i = n - 2 \). Then \( -(detE + K_X) \) is a tautological bundle for the fibration, and the fibration is a scroll. This part was also independently proved in [Ma].

Proof of part 2) of Theorem 5.1. Let \( K_X + detE \) be nef but not big; then it is the supporting divisor of a face \( F = (K_X + detE)^\perp \). Using ([KMM]) we can say that there exists a map \( \pi : X \to W \) which is given by a high multiple of \( K_X + detE \) and which contracts the curves in the face. Since \( K_X + detE \) is not big, we have that \( dimW < dimX \). Moreover for every rational curve \( C \) in a general fiber of \( \pi \) we have \( -K_X \cdot C \geq n - 2 \) by Remark 2.1. We apply Proposition 1.12, which, together with the above inequality on \(-K_X \cdot C\), gives that \( \pi \) is an elementary contraction if \( n \geq 5 \) unless either \( n = 6 \), \( W \) is a point and \( X \) is a Fano manifold of pseudoeinindex 4 and \( \rho(X) = 2 \), or \( n = 5 \) and \( dimW \leq 1 \).

By Proposition 1.8 we have the inequality

\[
    n + d \geq n + n - 2 - 1,
\]

where \( d \) is the dimension of a fiber; in particular it follows that \( dimW \leq 3 \).

Case 5.2 (\( dimW = 0 \)). Then \( K_X + detE = 0 \), and therefore \( X \) is a Fano manifold. By what just said above we have that \( b_2(X) = 1 \) if \( n \geq 6 \), with an exception which is a particular case of the following lemma for \( n = 6 \).

Lemma 5.3. Let \( X \) be an \( n \)-dimensional projective manifold, \( E \) an ample vector bundle on \( X \) of rank \( r + 1 \) such that \( K_X + detE = 0 \), and \( n = 2r \). Assume moreover that \( b_2 \geq 2 \). Then \( X = \mathbb{P}^r \times \mathbb{P}^r \) and \( E = \oplus^r \mathcal{O}(1,1) \).

Proof. The lemma is a slight generalization of [Wl, Prop. B]; the proof is similar and for more details we refer to that paper. In particular, as in [Wl] we can see that \( X \) has two extremal rays whose contractions \( \pi_i, i = 1, 2 \), are of fiber type with equidimensional fibers onto \( r \)-folds \( W_i \) and with general fiber \( F_i \simeq \mathbb{P}^r \). We claim that the \( W_i \) are smooth and thus \( W_i \simeq \mathbb{P}^r \). The contractions \( \pi_i \) are supported by \( K_X + detE'_i \), with \( E'_i \) an ample vector bundle \( (E'_i = E \times \pi^* A_i \text{ with } A_i \text{ ample on } W_i) \). Therefore we are in the hypothesis of Proposition 3.2. Thus the \( W_i \) are smooth and all the fibers are \( \mathbb{P}^r \).

Let \( T = \bigcap_{i=1}^r H_i \), where \( H_i \) are general elements of \( \pi_i^*(\mathcal{O}(1)) \). We claim that \( T \simeq \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^r \). In fact \( T \) is smooth and \( \pi_{1|T} \) makes \( T \) a projective bundle over a line (since \( H^2(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}^*) = 0 \), that is, \( T = \mathbb{P}(F) \)). Moreover \( \pi_{2|T} \) is onto \( \mathbb{P}^r \); therefore the claim follows. Therefore we conclude that \( \pi_i^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(1)|_{F_i} \simeq \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(1) \) for \( i = 1, 2 \). This implies, by Grauert’s Theorem, that the two fibrations are classical scrolls, that is,
X = P(\mathcal{F}_i), for i = 1, 2; moreover, computing the canonical class of X, the \mathcal{F}_i are ample and the lemma easily follows.

\textbf{Case 5.4 (dimW = 1).} Then W is a smooth curve and \pi is a flat map. Let F be a general fiber; then F is a smooth Fano manifold and E_{IF} is an ample vector bundle on F of rank \(n - 2 = \dim F - 1\) such that \(-K_F = \det(E_{IF})\). These pairs \((F, E_{IF})\) are classified in the Main Theorem of [PSW]; in particular, if \(\dim F \geq 5\), F is either \(\mathbb{P}^{n-1}\) or \(\mathbb{Q}^{n-1}\) or a del Pezzo manifold with \(b_2(F) = 1\). Moreover, if \(n \geq 6\), then \pi is an elementary contraction by Proposition 1.12.

\textbf{Claim 5.5.} Let \(n \geq 6\) and assume that the general fiber is \(\mathbb{P}^{n-1}\). Then X is a classical scroll and \(E_{IF}\) is the same for all F.

\textbf{Proof.} (See also [Fu2].) Let \(S = W \setminus U\) be the locus of points over which the fiber is not \(\mathbb{P}^{n-1}\). Over U we have a projective fiber bundle. Since \(H^2(U, O^*) = 0\) we can associate this \(P\)-bundle to a vector bundle \(\mathcal{F}\) over U. Let \(Y = P(\mathcal{F})\) and \(H\) the tautological bundle; by abuse of language let \(H\) be the extension of \(H\) to X. Since \(\pi\) is elementary, \(H\) is an ample line bundle on X. Therefore by semicontinuity \(\Delta(F, H_F) \geq \Delta(G, H_G)\), for any fiber G, where \(\Delta(X, L)\) is Fujita’s delta-genus.

In our case this yields \(0 = \Delta(F, H_F) \geq \Delta(G, H_G) \geq 0\). Moreover by flatness \((H_G)^{n-1} = (H_F)^{n-1} = 1\); by the Fujita classification of the pairs of delta genus zero we conclude that all G are equal to \(\mathbb{P}^{n-1}\). Using again the Main Theorem of [PSW], we see that \(E_{IG}\) is decomposable, hence rigid; that is, the decomposition is the same along all fibers of \(\pi\). This concludes the proof of the claim.

\textbf{Claim 5.6.} Let \(n \geq 6\) and assume that the general fiber is \(\mathbb{Q}^{n-1}\). Then X is a quadric bundle.

\textbf{Proof.} As above, let \(S = W \setminus U\) be the locus of points over which the fiber is not a smooth quadric. Let \(X^* = \pi^{-1}(U)\); then we can embed \(X^*\) in a fiber bundle of projective spaces over U, since it is locally trivial. Associate this \(P\)-bundle over U to a projective bundle and argue as before.

\textbf{Case 5.7 (dimW = 2).} Assume that \(n \geq 5\); then \(\pi\) is an elementary contraction. This implies first, by [ABW2, Prop. 1.4.1], that W is smooth; secondly that \(\pi\) is equidimensional, hence flat and the general fiber is \(\mathbb{P}^{n-2}\) or \(\mathbb{Q}^{n-2}\), see [Fu2].

\textbf{Claim 5.8.} Let \(n \geq 5\) and let the general fiber be \(\mathbb{P}^{n-2}\); then for any fiber \(F \simeq \mathbb{P}^{n-2}\) and \(E_{IF}\) is the same for all F.

\textbf{Proof.} Let \(S \subset W\) be the locus of fibers that are not \(\mathbb{P}^{n-2}\); then \(\dim S \leq 0\) since W is smooth. In fact, over a generic hyperplane section on W all fibers are \(\mathbb{P}^{n-2}\) by [ABW2]. Let \(U \subset W\) be an open set, in the complex topology, with \(U \cap S = \{0\}\), and let \(V \subset X\) be such that \(V = \pi^{-1}(U)\). We are in the hypothesis of Lemma 3.3, thus we get a "tautological" line bundle H on V, and we conclude by [Fu1, Prop. 2.12].

There are two possible restrictions of E to the fiber, namely, \(E_{IF} \simeq O(2) \oplus (\oplus^{n-1} O(1))\) or \(E_{IF}\) is the tangent bundle. As observed by Fujita in [Fu2, 3.8 and 3.11], these two restrictions have a different behavior in the diagram 2.1): in the former \(\varphi\) is birational and \(\dim F(\varphi) = n - 2\), while in the latter it is of fiber type and \(\dim F(\varphi) = n - 3\). Hence the restriction has to be constant along all the fibers.
Case 5.9 ($\dim W = 3$). The general fiber is $\mathbf{P}^{n-3}$ (see for instance [Fu2]). Assume that $n \geq 5$; therefore $\pi$ is elementary.

Since $\pi$ is elementary, any fiber $G$ has $\text{cod} G \geq 2$. Let $S \subset W$ be the locus of point over which the fiber is not $\mathbf{P}^{n-3}$; $\dim S \leq 0$ since a generic linear space section cannot intersect $S$, as above. Let $(W,0)$ be an analytic germ of a smooth point of $W$. Then we are in the hypothesis of Proposition 2.5 and can assume that the contraction is supported (locally) by $K_X + (n-2)L$. Therefore, since $n \geq 5$, by [AW, Th. 4.1] all the fibers have dimension $n-3$. We conclude that all fibers over $(W,0)$ are $\mathbf{P}^{n-3}$.

Proof of part 3) of the theorem. In the last part of the theorem we assume that $K_X + \text{det} E$ is nef and big but not ample. Then $K_X + \text{det} E$ is a supporting divisor of an extremal face, $F$: let $R_1$ be the extremal rays spanning this face. Fix one of these rays, say $R = R_1$, and let $\pi : X \to W$ be the elementary contraction associated to $R$.

We have $l(R) \geq n-2$; this implies first that the exceptional loci are disjoint if $n > 3$, by Proposition 1.11. Secondly, by the inequality 1.8), we have

$$\dim E(R) + \dim F(\pi) \geq 2n - 3.$$ 

Therefore $\dim E(R) = n - 1$ and either $\dim F(\pi) = n - 1$ or $\dim F(\pi) = n - 2$; thus $n - 1 \geq l(R) \geq n - 2$. If $B := \rho(E)$ and $D = E(R)$, this implies that $\dim B = 0$ or 1.

If $\dim B = 1$ then $\dim F(\pi) = n - 2$ for all fibers (note that since the contraction $\pi$ is elementary there cannot be a fiber of dimension $n - 1$); thus we can apply Theorem 3.1 with $r = n - 2$. This will give the case 3(iii) of the theorem.

Now let $\dim B = 0$ and consider again the construction in section 2; in particular we refer to the diagram 2.1). Let $S$ be the extremal ray contracted by $\varphi$; note that $l(S) \geq n - 2$ and that the inequality 1.8) gives

$$\dim E(S) + \dim F(\varphi) \geq 3n - 6;$$

in particular, since $\dim F(\varphi) \leq \dim F(\pi)$, we have two cases, namely $\dim E(S) = 2n - 5$ and $\dim F(\varphi) = n - 1$, or $\dim E(S) = 2n - 4$ and $\dim F(\varphi) = n - 1$ or $n - 2$.

The case in which $\dim E(S) = 2n - 5$ will not occur. In fact, after “slicing”, (see (2.4)), we would obtain a map $\varphi' = \varphi|_Z$ which would be a small contraction supported by a divisor of the type $K_Z + (n-2)L$, but this is impossible by the classification of [Fu1, Th. 4] (see also [An]).

Hence $\dim E(S) = 2n - 4$; that is, also $\varphi$ is divisorial and $E(S) : l_p = 0$, where $l_p$ is a line in $F(p)$. In particular, $E(S) = p^* D$.

Suppose that the general fiber of $\varphi$, $F(\varphi)$, has dimension $n - 2$. After slicing we obtain a map $\varphi' = \varphi|_Z : Z \to T$ supported by $K_Z + (n-2)L$, where $L = \xi_{E|Z}$.

This map contracts divisors $D$ in $Z$ to curves; by ([Fu1, Th. 4]) we know that every fiber $F$ of this map is $\mathbf{P}^{n-2}$ and that $D_F = O(-1)$ (actually this map is a blow-up of a smooth curve in a smooth variety). In particular there are curves in $Y$, call them $l$, such that $-E(S) : l = 1$. We will discuss this case in a while.

Assume now that the general fiber and therefore all have dimension $n - 1$.

Lemma 5.10. Under these hypotheses, $l(R) = n - 2$.

Let $C$ be a minimal curve in $R$ (see 1.6)), $\nu : \mathbf{P}^1 \to C$ its normalization, $\tilde{\nu} : Y_C = \mathbf{P}(\nu^* E_C) \to Y$ the induced morphism and $\xi_C$ the tautological bundle of $Y_C$; note that $\tilde{\nu}^* \xi_E = \xi_C$. 

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Let $g : Y_C \to F(\psi)_w$ be the morphism induced by $\varphi$ on $Y_C$ and

$$Y_C \xrightarrow{\alpha} V_1 \xrightarrow{\beta} F(\psi)_w$$

its Stein factorization. Assume by contradiction that $l(R) = n - 1$; then $\nu^*(E|_C) = \mathcal{O}(2) \oplus \mathcal{O}(1)^{\oplus n-3}$, and so $Y_C$ has two contractions, the scroll structure and a blowdown to $\mathbb{P}^{n-2}$.

Let $\tilde{l}$ be a line contracted by the blow-down; then $\tilde{l}$ is contracted by $g$. In fact, by the projection formula $\xi_E \cdot \nu_* \tilde{l} = \xi_C \cdot \tilde{l} = 1$. Thus by the commutativity of the diagram $\nu_* \tilde{l}$ is a minimal curve in $S$.

Since $\alpha$ cannot contract all $Y_C$, then $\alpha$ is the blow-down. Since $\dim F(\pi) = \dim F(\varphi)$ by hypothesis, then by Remark 2.3 all fibers $F(\psi)$ have dimension $n - 3$. So we get the contradiction that $\beta : \mathbb{P}^{n-2} \to F(\psi)_w$ is a finite map between two varieties of different dimension.

Slicing, we obtain a map $\varphi' = \varphi|_Z : Z \to T$ supported by $K_Z + (n-2)L$, where $L = \xi_{E|Z}$. This map contracts divisors $D$ in $Z$ to points; by $\{[Fu1]\}$ we know that these divisors are either $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ with normal bundle $\mathcal{O}(-2)$ or $\mathcal{O}^{n-1} \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ with normal bundle $\mathcal{O}(-1)$. In the latter case we have as above that there are curves $\mathcal{I}$ in $Y$ such that $-E(S) \cdot l = 1$.

In these cases observe that $E(S) = p^*(D)$ and $K_X + (n-2)(-D)$ is a supporting divisor for $\pi$. Then by $[Fu1]$ we conclude that $(D, D|_D)$ is one of the pair listed in the theorem, and the theory of uniform bundles makes it easy to recover $E|_D$ ([OSS]).

There remains the case in which $\varphi' = \varphi|_Z : Z \to T$ contracts divisors $D = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ with normal bundle $\mathcal{O}(-2)$ to points. We can apply Proposition 2.5 and show that the singularities of $W$ are the same as those of $T$. Then, as in $\{[Mo1]\}$, this means that we can factor $\pi$ with the blow-up of the singular point. Let $X' = Bl_w(W)$; then we have a birational map $g : X \to X'$. Note that $X'$ is smooth and that $g$ is finite. Actually it is an isomorphism outside $D$, and cannot contract any curve of $D$. Assume to the contrary that $g$ contracts a curve $C' \subset D$; let $N \in Pic(X')$ be an ample divisor. Then we have $g^*N \cdot C' = 0$ while $g^*N \cdot C \neq 0$, contradiction. Thus by Zariski’s main theorem $g$ is an isomorphism. This gives the case in 3i). □

References


CONTRACTIONS ON MANIFOLDS POLARIZED BY VECTOR BUNDLES


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