

# Algebraic Dynamics and Dynamical Iitaka Theory

---

Tianle Yang

based on the joint work with Sheng Meng and Long Wang

Undergraduate Forum, ICCM 2025, January 7, 2026



SCHOOL OF  
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES  
EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY

## Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.



# Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit  $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$  is Zariski dense in  $X$ , then

$$\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f.$$

## Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit  $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$  is Zariski dense in  $X$ , then

$$\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f.$$

Let  $H$  be an ample divisor and  $h \geq 1$  a height function associated to  $H$ .

# Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit  $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$  is Zariski dense in  $X$ , then

$$\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f.$$

Let  $H$  be an ample divisor and  $h \geq 1$  a height function associated to  $H$ .

- arithmetic degree:

$$\alpha_f(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(f^n(x))^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{arithmetic, local invariant at } x;$$

# Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit  $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$  is Zariski dense in  $X$ , then

$$\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f.$$

Let  $H$  be an ample divisor and  $h \geq 1$  a height function associated to  $H$ .

- arithmetic degree:

$$\alpha_f(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(f^n(x))^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{arithmetic, local invariant at } x;$$

- dynamical degree:

$$\delta_f := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ((f^n)^* H \cdot H^{\dim X - 1})^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{geometric, global invariant of } f.$$

# Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

/ $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ .  $X$  smooth projective variety;  $f : X \rightarrow X$  surjective endomorphism.

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit  $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$  is Zariski dense in  $X$ , then

$$\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f.$$

Let  $H$  be an ample divisor and  $h \geq 1$  a height function associated to  $H$ .

- arithmetic degree:

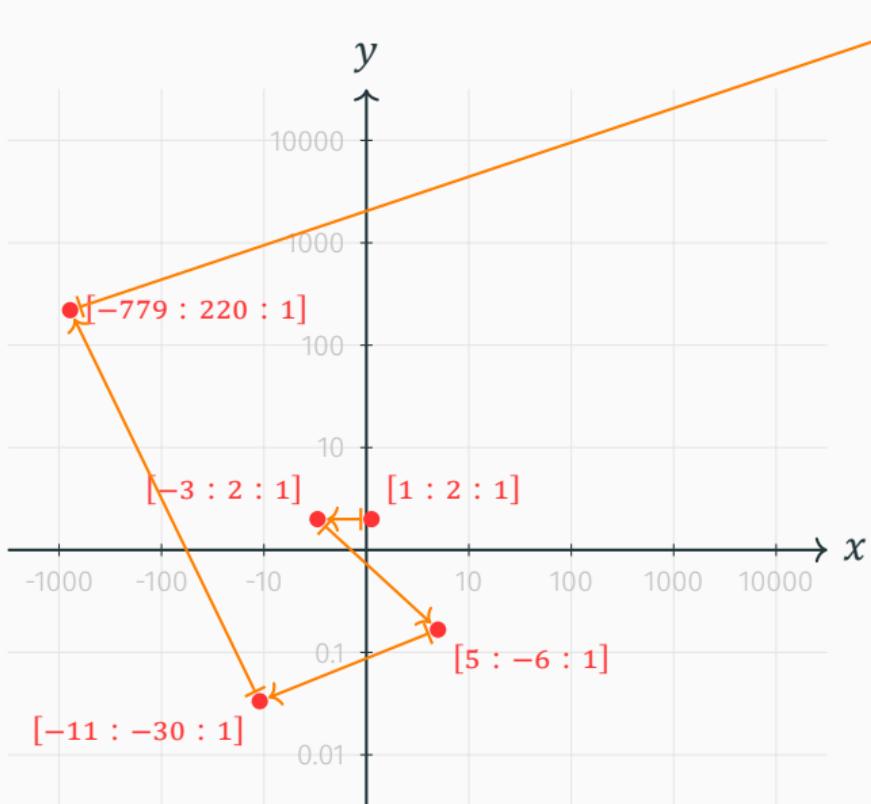
$$\alpha_f(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(f^n(x))^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{arithmetic, local invariant at } x;$$

- dynamical degree:

$$\delta_f := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ((f^n)^* H \cdot H^{\dim X - 1})^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{geometric, global invariant of } f.$$

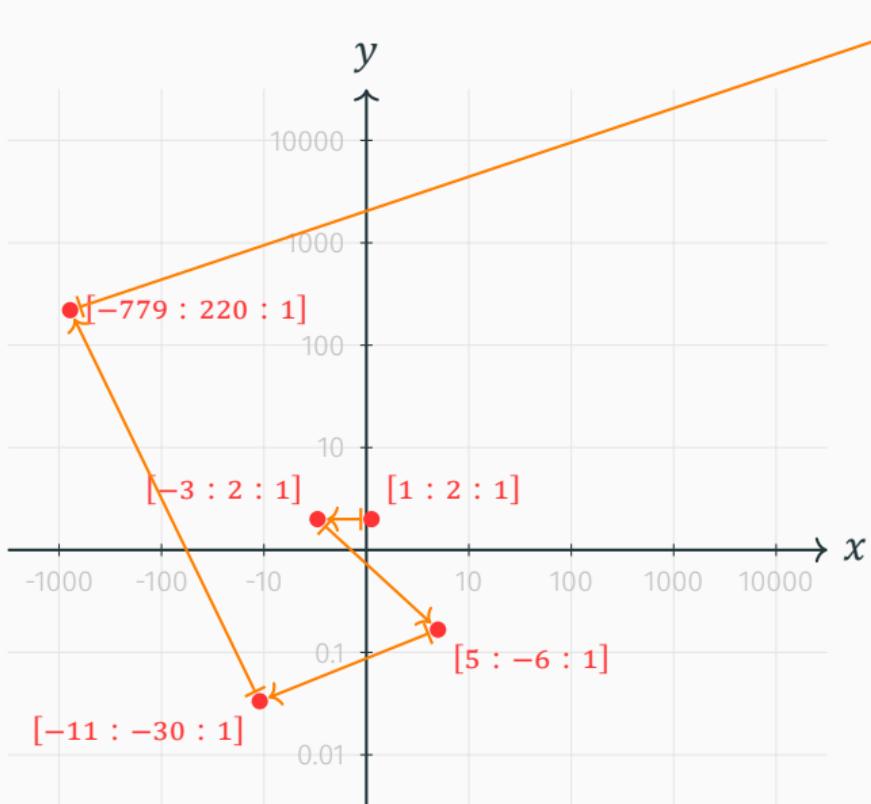
Slogan: GEOMETRY controls ARITHMETIC.

# An example



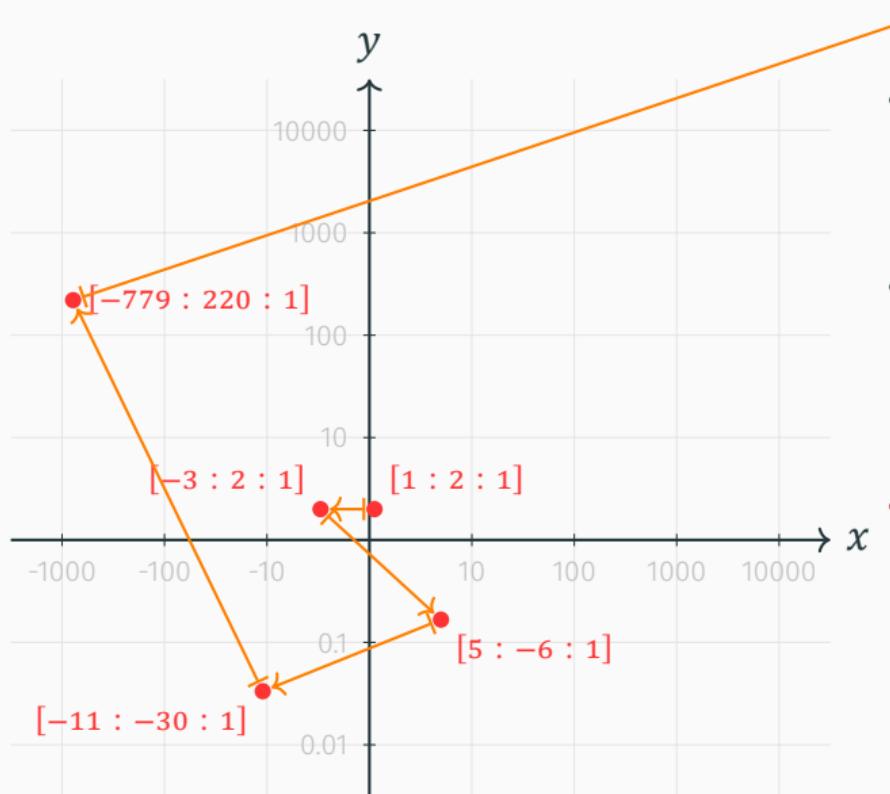
- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$ ,
- $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$ ,
- $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$ .

# An example



- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$ ,  
 $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$ ,  
 $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$ .
- $f^*H \sim 2H \Rightarrow \delta_f = 2$ .

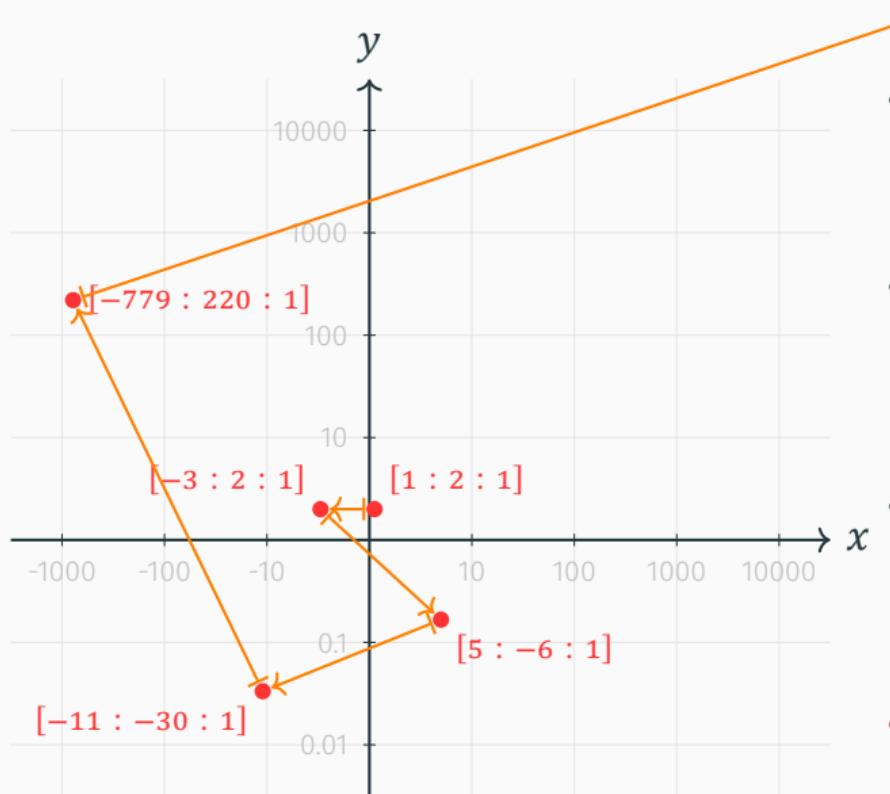
# An example



- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$ ,
- $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$ ,
- $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$ .
- $f^*H \sim 2H \Rightarrow \delta_f = 2$ .

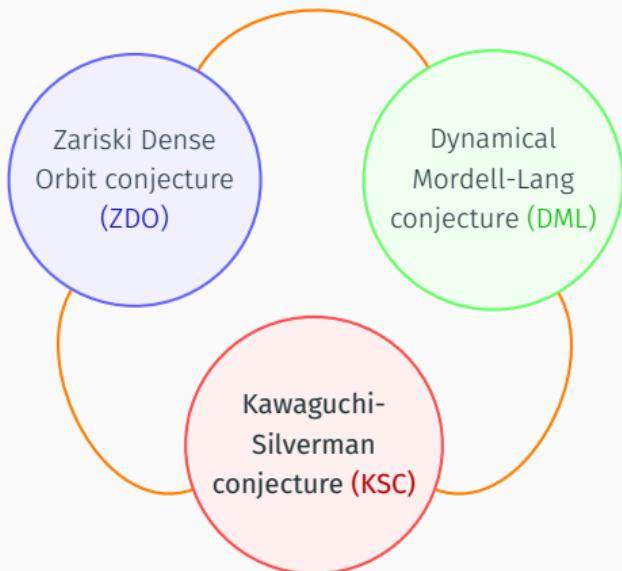
$n$	$h(f^n(x))$	
0	$\log 2$	$\approx 0.7$
1	$\log 3$	$\approx 1.1$
2	$\log 6$	$\approx 1.8$
3	$\log 30$	$\approx 3.4$
4	$\log 779$	$\approx 6.7$
5	$\log 558441$	$\approx 13.2$

# An example



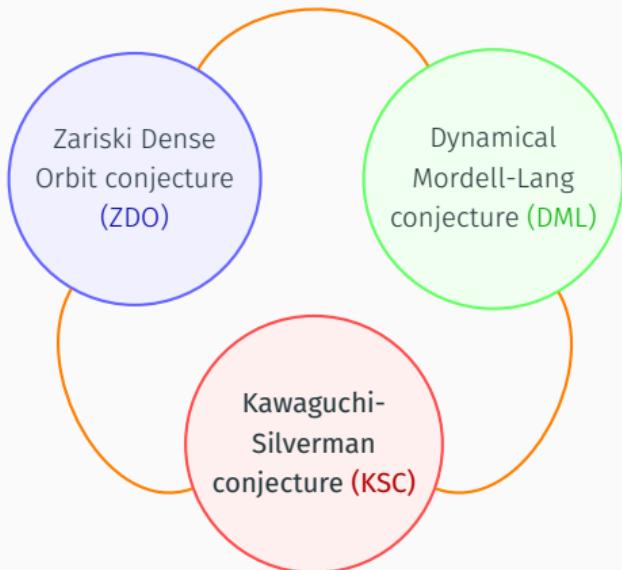
- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$ ,  
 $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$ ,  
 $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$ .
- $f^*H \sim 2H \Rightarrow \delta_f = 2$ .
- | $n$ | $h(f^n(x))$   |                |
|-----|---------------|----------------|
| 0   | $\log 2$      | $\approx 0.7$  |
| 1   | $\log 3$      | $\approx 1.1$  |
| 2   | $\log 6$      | $\approx 1.8$  |
| 3   | $\log 30$     | $\approx 3.4$  |
| 4   | $\log 779$    | $\approx 6.7$  |
| 5   | $\log 558441$ | $\approx 13.2$ |
- It is expected that  $\alpha_f(x) = 2$ .

# Three orbit conjectures



The KSC relates the growth rate of heights along orbits to dynamical degrees.

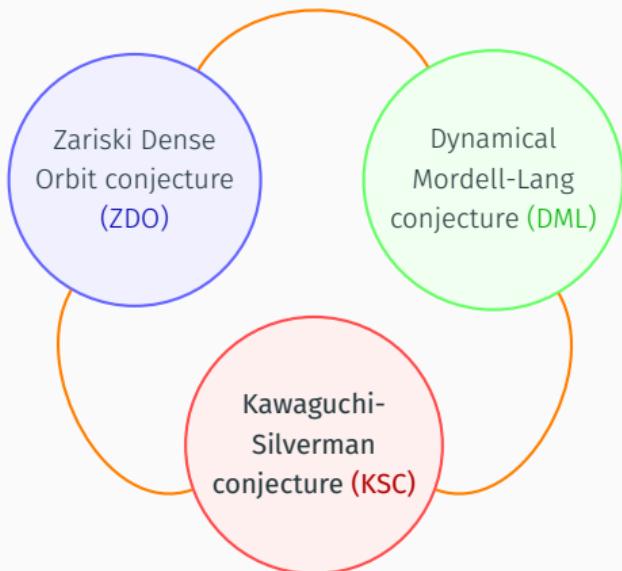
# Three orbit conjectures



The KSC relates the growth rate of heights along orbits to dynamical degrees.

The DML describes the intersection between orbits and subvarieties.

# Three orbit conjectures



The KSC relates the growth rate of heights along orbits to dynamical degrees.

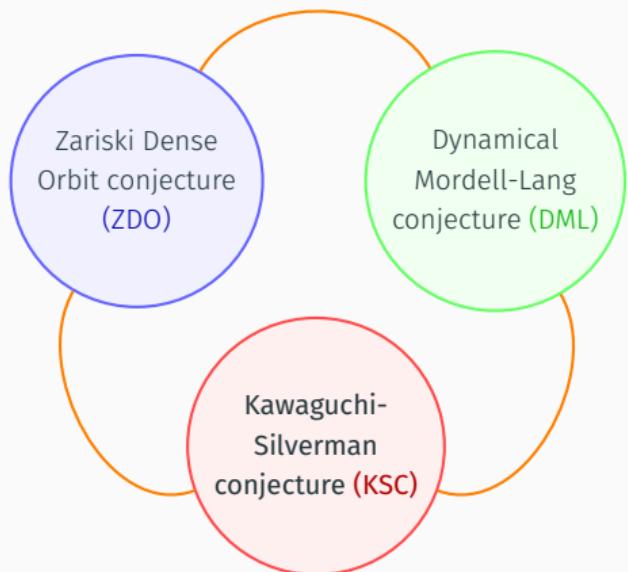
The DML describes the intersection between orbits and subvarieties.

The ZDO states that either

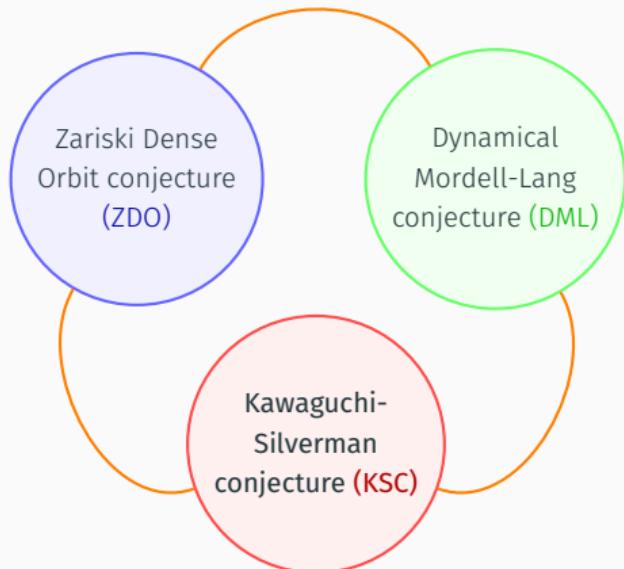
$\exists x$  with  $O_f(x) = X$ ,  
or  $f$  descends to identity after iteration.

# Three orbit conjectures

Main known cases:



# Three orbit conjectures



Main known cases:

Smooth projective surfaces [Matsuzawa-Sano-Shibata];

Quasi-projective surfaces (assume DML) [Wang];

Smooth projective 3folds with  $\deg f > 1$  [Meng-Zhang];

Abelian varieties

[Kawaguchi-Silverman];

Hyperkähler manifolds

[Lesieutre-Santriano];

Mori dream spaces

[Matsuzawa];

Polarized endomorphisms

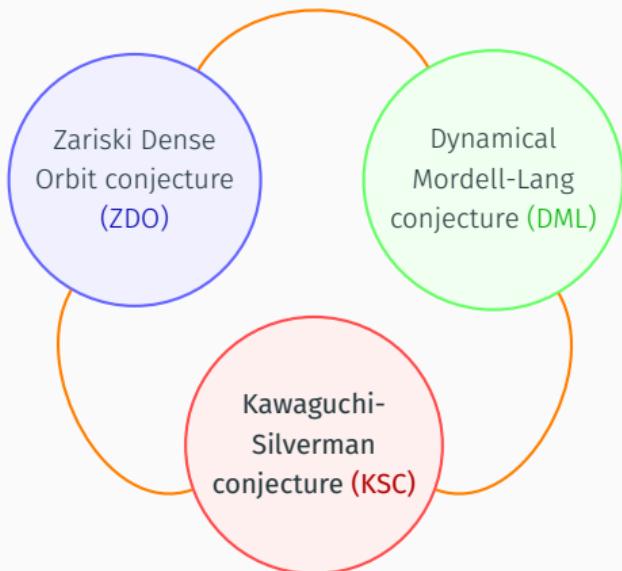
[Kawaguchi-Silverman];

Int-amplified endomorphisms

[Meng-Zhong];

...

# Three orbit conjectures



Main known cases:

Étale case

Endomorphisms of  $\mathbb{A}^2$

Projective surfaces in  $\text{char } p > 0$

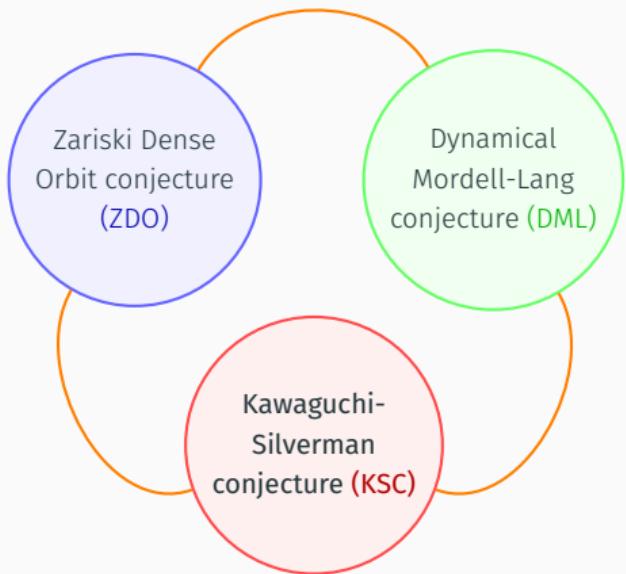
...

[Bell-Ghioca-Tucker];

[Xie];

[Xie-Yang];

# Three orbit conjectures



Main known cases:

Étale case

[Bell-Ghioca-Tucker];

Endomorphisms of  $\mathbb{A}^2$

[Xie];

Projective surfaces in  $\text{char } p > 0$

[Xie-Yang];

...

Over  $\mathbb{C}$  (uncountable field)

[Amerik-Campana];

Existence of infinity orbits

[Amerik];

Projective surfaces

[Xie,Jia-Xie-Zhang];

Automorphisms of threefolds with positive entropy

[Matsuzawa-Xie];

...

## Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;

## Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for  $(X, f)$  under the above settings.

## Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for  $(X, f)$  under the above settings.

Essentially generalize the following known results:

- [Li-Matsuzawa 2021, Theorem 4.1], projective bundles on smooth Fano varieties of Picard number one;
- [Nasserden-Zotine 2021, Theorem 1.4], projective bundles on elliptic curves.

# Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for  $(X, f)$  under the above settings.

Sketch of idea: If  $\delta_f = \delta_g$ , then

KSC for abelian varieties  
or polarized endomorphisms  $\implies$  KSC for  $(Y, g)$   $\implies$  KSC for  $(X, f)$ .

# Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for  $(X, f)$  under the above settings.

Sketch of idea: If  $\delta_f = \delta_g$ , then

KSC for abelian varieties  
or polarized endomorphisms  $\implies$  KSC for  $(Y, g)$   $\implies$  KSC for  $(X, f)$ .

If  $\delta_f > \delta_g$ , under some allowable extra conditions, we have another  
fibration by dynamical Iitaka theory.

# Main results

Settings:

- $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  smooth Fano fibration with  $X, Y$  smooth projective and  $\rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1$ , for example,  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -bundles over  $Y$ ;
- $Y$  is an abelian variety or of picard number one;
- $f$  has a Zariski dense orbit;
- $\delta_f > \delta_g$ ;
- if  $Y$  is of picard number one, then  $\delta_g = 1$ .

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

There is equivariant fibrations

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ g$$

with  $\dim Y > 0$  and  $g$  is  $\delta_f$ -polarized and hence  $\delta_g = \delta_f$ .

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Theorem: [Meng-Zhang]

Suppose that  $f^*R_f \equiv qR_f$  for some  $q > 1$ . Then there exists an  $f$ -equivariant fibration (dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to  $R_f$ )

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ g^{\varphi_{f,R_f}}$$

with  $\dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f)$  and  $g$  is  $q$ -polarized.

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Theorem: [Meng-Zhang]

Suppose that  $f^*R_f \equiv qR_f$  for some  $q > 1$ . Then there exists an  $f$ -equivariant fibration (dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to  $R_f$ )

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ g^{\varphi_{f,R_f}}$$

with  $\dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f)$  and  $g$  is  $q$ -polarized.

With help of this result, we only need to show that under our settings,

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) \geq 1$ ;
- $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$ .

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Theorem: [Meng-Zhang]

Suppose that  $f^*R_f \equiv qR_f$  for some  $q > 1$ . Then there exists an  $f$ -equivariant fibration (dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to  $R_f$ )

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ g^{\varphi_{f,R_f}}$$

with  $\dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f)$  and  $g$  is  $q$ -polarized.

With help of this result, we only need to show that under our settings,

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) \geq 1$ ;  $\iff$  criterion for toric bundles
- $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$ .

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Theorem: [Meng-Zhang]

Suppose that  $f^*R_f \equiv qR_f$  for some  $q > 1$ . Then there exists an  $f$ -equivariant fibration (dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to  $R_f$ )

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ g^{\varphi_{f,R_f}}$$

with  $\dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f)$  and  $g$  is  $q$ -polarized.

With help of this result, we only need to show that under our settings,

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) \geq 1$ ;  $\iff$  criterion for toric bundles
- $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$ .  $\iff$  decomposition of cones

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Coarse classification of varieties via Kodaira dimension  $\kappa(X, K_X)$ :

$\kappa(X, K_X)$	Typical geometry
$-\infty$	uniruled
0	Calabi-Yau
$0 < \kappa(X) < \dim X$	fibrations type
$\dim X$	general type

# Dynamical Iitaka Theory

Coarse classification of varieties via Kodaira dimension  $\kappa(X, K_X)$ :

$\kappa(X, K_X)$	Typical geometry
$-\infty$	uniruled
0	Calabi-Yau
$0 < \kappa(X) < \dim X$	fibrations type
$\dim X$	general type

Dynamical analogue: classify  $(X, f)$  via  $\kappa_f(X, R_f)$ .

$\kappa_f(X, R_f)$	Typical dynamics
0	$f$ is log-étale
$0 < \kappa_f(X, R_f) < \dim X$	fibrations type
$\dim X$	$R_{fs}$ is big for $s \gg 0$

## Technique: decomposition of cones

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

$$\begin{array}{l} \pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g) \text{ flat;} \\ X, Y \text{ smooth projective;} \\ \delta_f > \delta_g; \rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1. \end{array} \implies \begin{array}{l} \exists D \text{ nef with } f^*D \equiv \delta_f D \text{ s.t.} \\ \text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D, \\ \text{Nef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Nef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D. \end{array}$$

# Technique: decomposition of cones

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

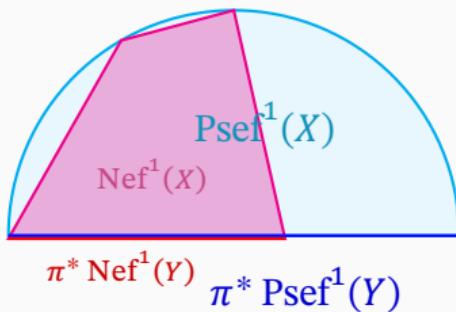
$\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  flat;  
 $X, Y$  smooth projective;  
 $\delta_f > \delta_g; \rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1.$

$\implies$

$\exists D$  nef with  $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$  s.t.  
 $Psef^1(X) = \pi^* Psef^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$   
 $Nef^1(X) = \pi^* Nef^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D.$

Cones of a general fibration

$\pi : X \rightarrow Y:$



# Technique: decomposition of cones

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

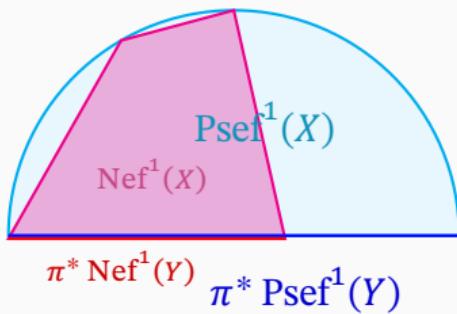
$\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  flat;  
 $X, Y$  smooth projective;  
 $\delta_f > \delta_g; \rho(X) = \rho(Y) + 1.$

$\Rightarrow$

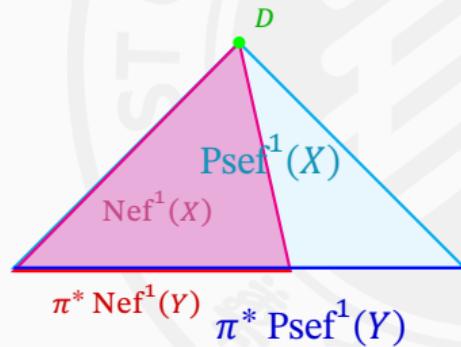
$\exists D$  nef with  $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$  s.t.  
 $Psef^1(X) = \pi^* Psef^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}D,$   
 $Nef^1(X) = \pi^* Nef^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}D.$

Cones of a general fibration

$\pi : X \rightarrow Y:$



Cones of fibration with dynamical restrictions:



## Technique: criterion for toric bundles

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

Let  $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  be a Fano fibration with  $X$  smooth. Suppose that  $\exists$  reduced divisor  $D$  on  $X$  with  $f^{-1}(D) = D, f^*D \sim qD$  for some  $q > 1$  and  $K_X + D \equiv_{\pi} 0$ . Then  $(X_y, D_y)$  is a **toric pair** for general  $y \in Y$ .

# Technique: criterion for toric bundles

## Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

Let  $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  be a Fano fibration with  $X$  smooth. Suppose that  $\exists$  reduced divisor  $D$  on  $X$  with  $f^{-1}(D) = D, f^*D \sim qD$  for some  $q > 1$  and  $K_X + D \equiv_{\pi} 0$ . Then  $(X_y, D_y)$  is a **toric pair** for general  $y \in Y$ .

This theorem generalizes the following absolute case ( $Y = \{\text{pt}\}$ ) criterion:

- [Hwang-Nakayama]  $\rho(X) = 1$  case;
- [Meng-Zhang] polarized case;
- [Meng-Zhong] int-amplified case.

# Technique: criterion for toric bundles

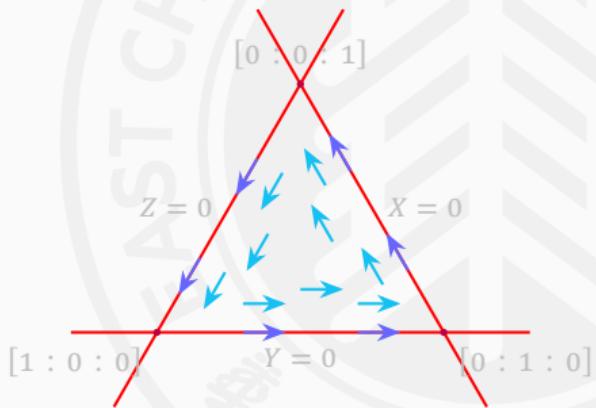
## Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

Let  $\pi : (X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$  be a Fano fibration with  $X$  smooth. Suppose that  $\exists$  reduced divisor  $D$  on  $X$  with  $f^{-1}(D) = D, f^*D \sim qD$  for some  $q > 1$  and  $K_X + D \equiv_{\pi} 0$ . Then  $(X_y, D_y)$  is a **toric pair** for general  $y \in Y$ .

This theorem generalizes the following absolute case ( $Y = \{\text{pt}\}$ ) criterion:

- [Hwang-Nakayama]  $\rho(X) = 1$  case;
- [Meng-Zhang] polarized case;
- [Meng-Zhong] int-amplified case.

The right side is an example in the absolute case.



$$f : \mathbb{P}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2,$$

$$[X : Y : Z] \mapsto [X^q : Y^q : Z^q];$$

$$D = \{XYZ = 0\}.$$

## Further questions

Here are two further questions we are interested in:

## Further questions

Here are two further questions we are interested in:

- weaken the conditions on  $Y$ : can we just assume  $Y$  is normal projective?

## Further questions

Here are two further questions we are interested in:

- weaken the conditions on  $Y$ : can we just assume  $Y$  is normal projective?
- deal the case  $R_f$  is big in the dynamical Iitaka theory.

# Thank You!

