

Algebraic Dynamics and Dynamical Itaka 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

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



Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

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

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X , then the dynamical degree equals the arithmetic degree, i.e.,

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

Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

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

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X , then the dynamical degree equals the arithmetic degree, i.e.,

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

Fix an ample line bundle H and $h \geq 1$ a height function associated to H .

Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture

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

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X , then the dynamical degree equals the arithmetic degree, i.e.,

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

Fix an ample line bundle H and $h \geq 1$ a height function associated to H .

- 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

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

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X , then the dynamical degree equals the arithmetic degree, i.e.,

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

Fix an ample line bundle H and $h \geq 1$ a height function associated to H .

- dynamical degree:

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

- 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

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

Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

If the orbit $O_f(x) := \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X , then the dynamical degree equals the arithmetic degree, i.e.,

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

Fix an ample line bundle H and $h \geq 1$ a height function associated to H .

- dynamical degree:

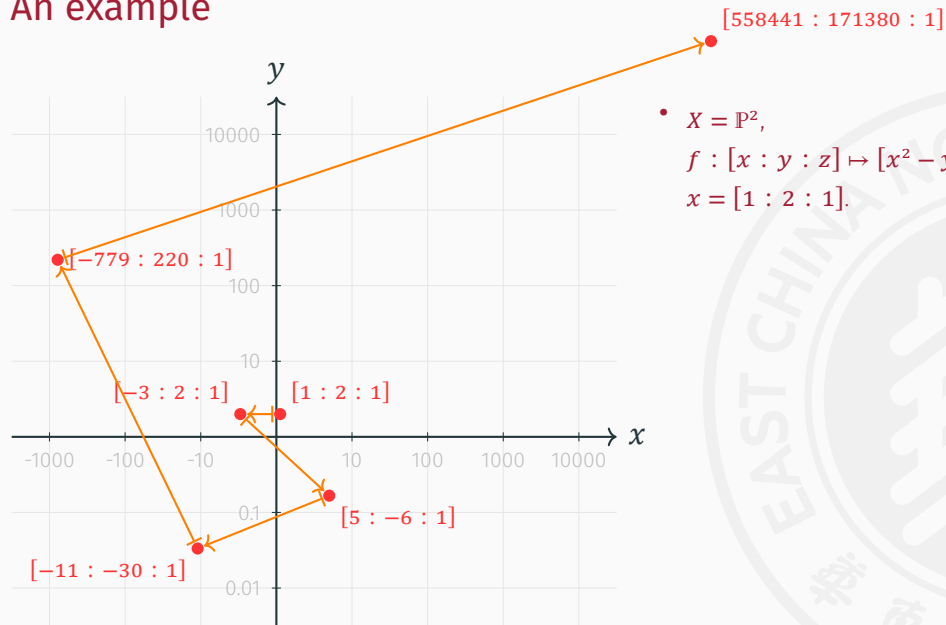
$$\delta_f := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ((f^n)^* H \cdot H^{\dim X - 1})^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad \text{geometric, global invariant of } f.$$

- arithmetic degree:

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

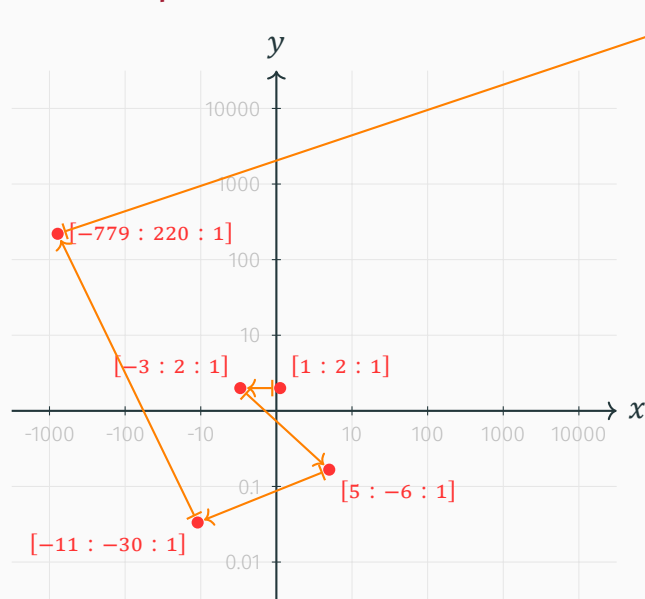
Slogan: **GEOMETRY** controls **ARITHMETIC**.

An example



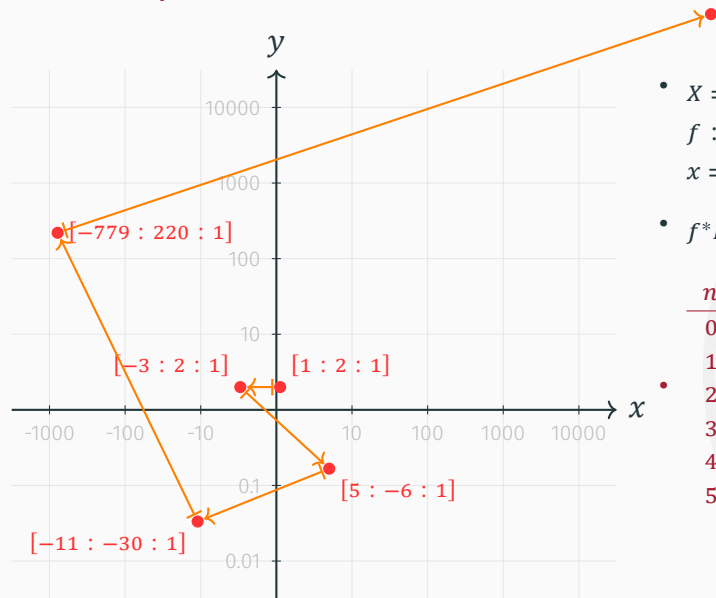
- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$,
 $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$,
 $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$.

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

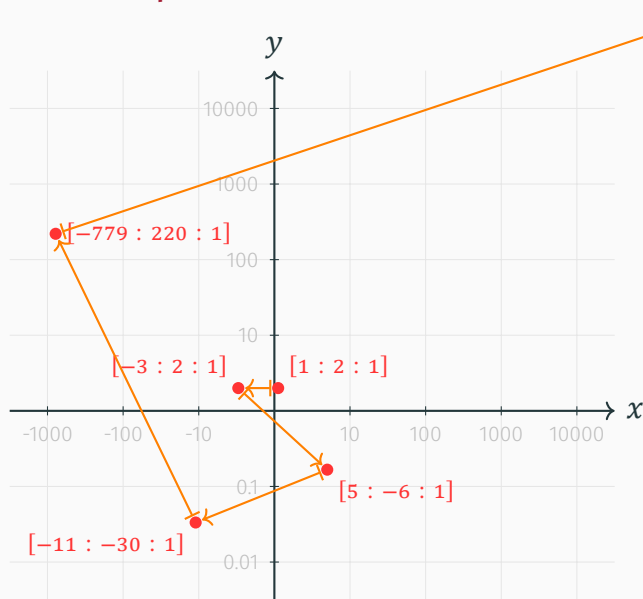


- $X = \mathbb{P}^2$,
 $f : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 - y^2 : xy : z^2]$,
 $x = [1 : 2 : 1]$.

- $f^*H \sim 2H \Rightarrow \delta_f = 2$.

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

- It is expected that $\alpha_f(x) = 2$.

Known cases for KSC

Projective surfaces [Matsuzawa-Sano-Shibata18,Meng-Zhang22];
Quasi-projective surfaces (assume DML) [Wang23];
Birational map on surfaces [Xie24];
Smooth projective 3folds with $\deg f > 1$ [Meng-Zhang23];



Known cases for KSC

Projective surfaces	[Matsuzawa-Sano-Shibata18,Meng-Zhang22];
Quasi-projective surfaces (assume DML)	[Wang23];
Birational map on surfaces	[Xie24];
Smooth projective 3folds with $\deg f > 1$	[Meng-Zhang23];
Abelian varieties	[Kawaguchi-Silverman16];
Hyperkähler manifolds	[Lesieutre-Santriano21];
Mori dream spaces	[Matsuzawa20];

Known cases for KSC

Projective surfaces	[Matsuzawa-Sano-Shibata18,Meng-Zhang22];
Quasi-projective surfaces (assume DML)	[Wang23];
Birational map on surfaces	[Xie24];
Smooth projective 3folds with $\deg f > 1$	[Meng-Zhang23];
Abelian varieties	[Kawaguchi-Silverman16];
Hyperkähler manifolds	[Lesieutre-Santriano21];
Mori dream spaces	[Matsuzawa20];
Polarized endomorphisms	[Kawaguchi-Silverman14];
Int-amplified endomorphisms	[Meng-Zhong24];
...	

Known cases for KSC

Projective surfaces [Matsuzawa-Sano-Shibata18,Meng-Zhang22];

Quasi-projective surfaces (assume DML) [Wang23];

Birational map on surfaces [Xie24];

Smooth projective 3folds with $\deg f > 1$ [Meng-Zhang23];

Abelian varieties

Hyperkähler manifolds

Mori dream spaces

[Kawaguchi-Silverman16];

[Lesieutre-Santriano21];

[Matsuzawa20];

Polarized endomorphisms

[Kawaguchi-Silverman14];

Int-amplified endomorphisms

[Meng-Zhong24];

...

Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.



Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for X in the special Fano fibration case (*).

Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for X in the special Fano fibration case (*).

Generalize the following early results:

- [Li-Matsuzawa 21], projective bundles over smooth Fano varieties of Picard number one;
- [Nasserden-Zotine 21], projective bundles over elliptic curves.

Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for X in the special Fano fibration case (*).

Sketch of idea:

After iteration, the the dynamics $f \circ X$ descends to $g \circ Y$. 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

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Theorem: [Meng-Wang-Y]

KSC holds for X in the special Fano fibration case (*).

Sketch of idea:

In the case (*2), if $\delta_g > 1$, then f is int-amplified and KSC holds by [Meng-Zhong24].

Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Dynamical conditions (†):

The fibration $(X, f) \xrightarrow{\pi} (Y, g)$ does not preserve the dynamical degree: $\delta_f > \delta_g$;

If in the case (*2), then we require $\delta_g = 1$.

Main results

Special Fano fibration case (*) (as the final output of MMP):

$X \xrightarrow{\pi} Y$ smooth Fano fibration of relative picard number (eg. \mathbb{P}^n -bundles) over

(*1) an abelian variety; or

(*2) a smooth projective variety of picard number one.

Dynamical conditions (†):

The fibration $(X, f) \xrightarrow{\pi} (Y, g)$ does not preserve the dynamical degree: $\delta_f > \delta_g$;

If in the case (*2), then we require $\delta_g = 1$.

Theorem: New Fibration, [Meng-Wang-Y]

In the special Fano fibration case (*) with dynamical conditions (†), there exists an equivariant fibrations

$$f \circ X \xrightarrow{\varphi_f, R_f} Z \circ h$$

with $\dim Z > 0$ and h is δ_f -polarized (in particular, $\delta_h = \delta_f$).

Main results

Theorem: New Fibration, [Meng-Wang-Y]

In the special Fano fibration case (*) with dynamical conditions (†), there exists an equivariant fibrations

$$f \circlearrowleft X \overset{\varphi_{f,R_f}}{\dashrightarrow} Z \circlearrowleft h$$

with $\dim Z > 0$ and h is δ_f -polarized (in particular, $\delta_h = \delta_f$).

Using the dynamical Iitaka theory [Meng-Zhang23], to prove the theorem **New Fibration**, we only need to show that after iterating f :

- ① $f^* R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$;
- ② $\kappa(X, R_f) \geq 1$.

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),



Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),



f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),



f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

$$f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

$$f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Case (*1):

In the special Fano fibration case (*1)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

$$f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Case (*1):

In the special Fano fibration case (*1)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}D$
with D nef and $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

$$f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Case (*1):

In the special Fano fibration case (*1)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}D$
with D nef and $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$

Positivity of abelian varieties:
have no rational curves.

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Case (*2):

In the special Fano fibration case (*2)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

f^* has exactly two eigenvalues
 δ_f and $\delta_g = 1$ on $N^1(X)$.

By the ramification formula, we have
 $R_f = K_X - f^*K_X \in \text{Im}(\text{id} - f^*)$.

$$f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Case (*1):

In the special Fano fibration case (*1)
with dynamical conditions (\dagger),

$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}D$
with D nef and $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$

Positivity of abelian varieties:
have no rational curves.

$$D // R_f \text{ and hence } f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f.$$

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Theorem: Decompositions of cones, [Meng-Wang-Y]

In the special Fano fibration case (*) with dynamical conditions (†), there exist decompositions of cones:

$$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

$$\text{Nef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Nef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

where D is nef with $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$.

Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Theorem: Decompositions of cones, [Meng-Wang-Y]

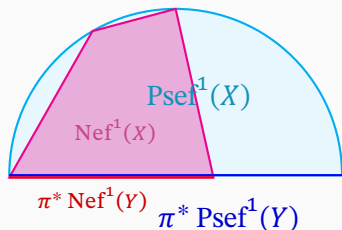
In the special Fano fibration case (*) with dynamical conditions (†), there exist decompositions of cones:

$$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

$$\text{Nef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Nef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

where D is nef with $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$.

Without dynamical restrictions:
complicated cones



Proof of ①: $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$

Theorem: Decompositions of cones, [Meng-Wang-Y]

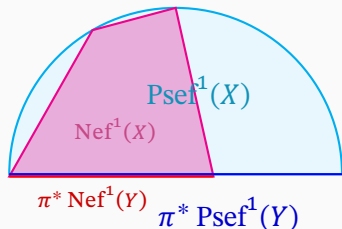
In the special Fano fibration case (*) with dynamical conditions (†), there exist decompositions of cones:

$$\text{Psef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Psef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

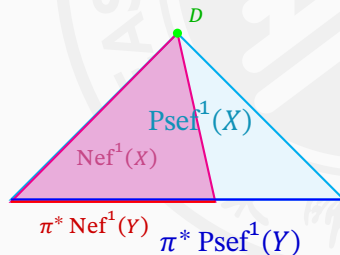
$$\text{Nef}^1(X) = \pi^* \text{Nef}^1(Y) \oplus \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} D,$$

where D is nef with $f^*D \equiv \delta_f D$.

Without dynamical restrictions:
complicated cones



With dynamical restrictions:
simple cones



Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$

Set $D := \text{Supp}(R_f)$

Special Fano fibration case (*)
with dynamical conditions (†)

Assume

$$\kappa(X, R_f) = \kappa(X, R_{fs}) = 0$$



Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$

Set $D := \text{Supp}(R_f)$

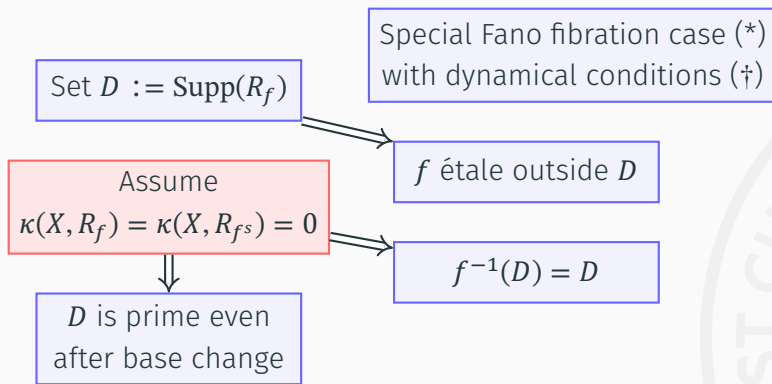
Special Fano fibration case (*)
with dynamical conditions (†)

Assume
 $\kappa(X, R_f) = \kappa(X, R_{f^s}) = 0$

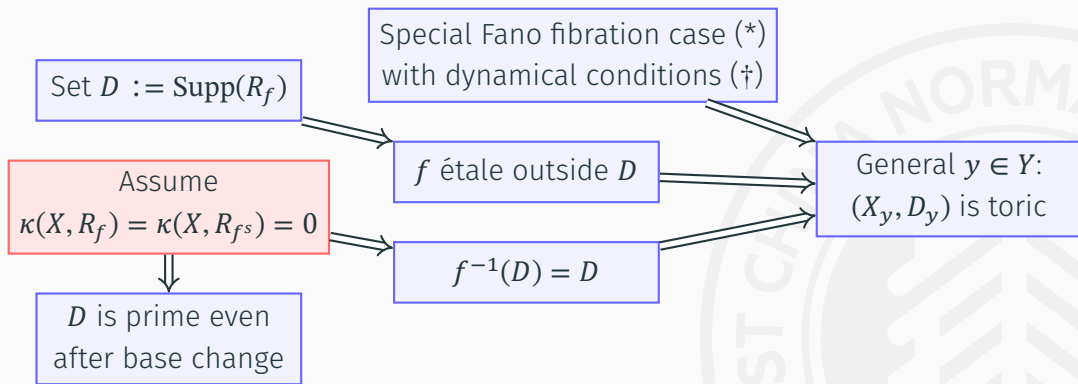
f étale outside D



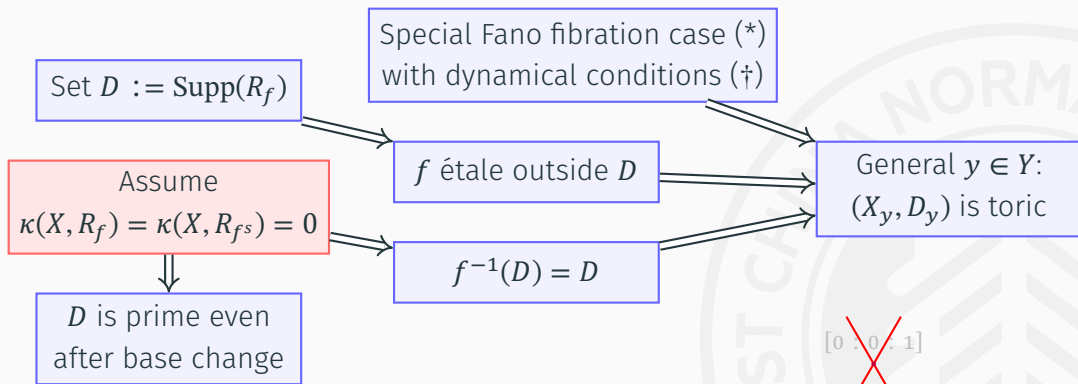
Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$



Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$

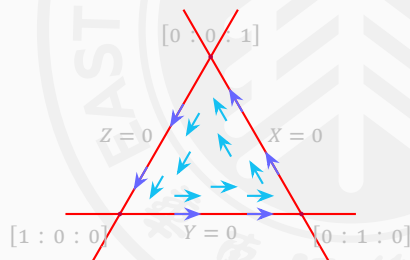


Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$

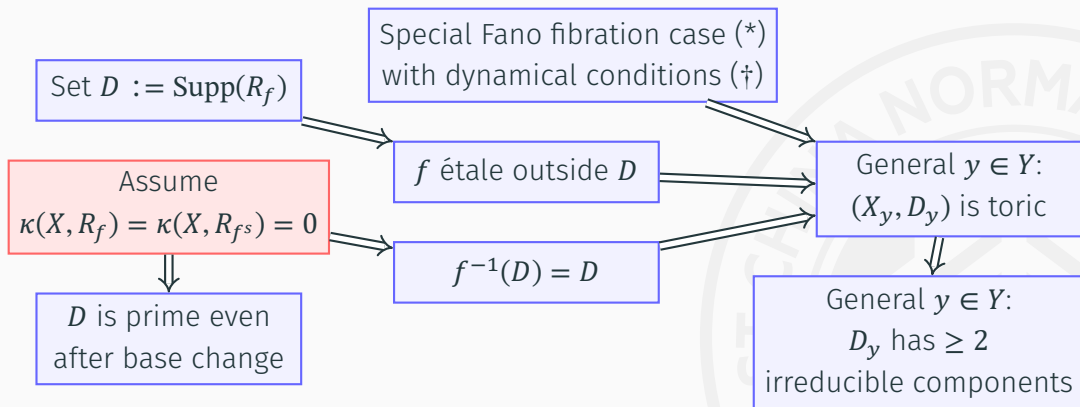


Consider

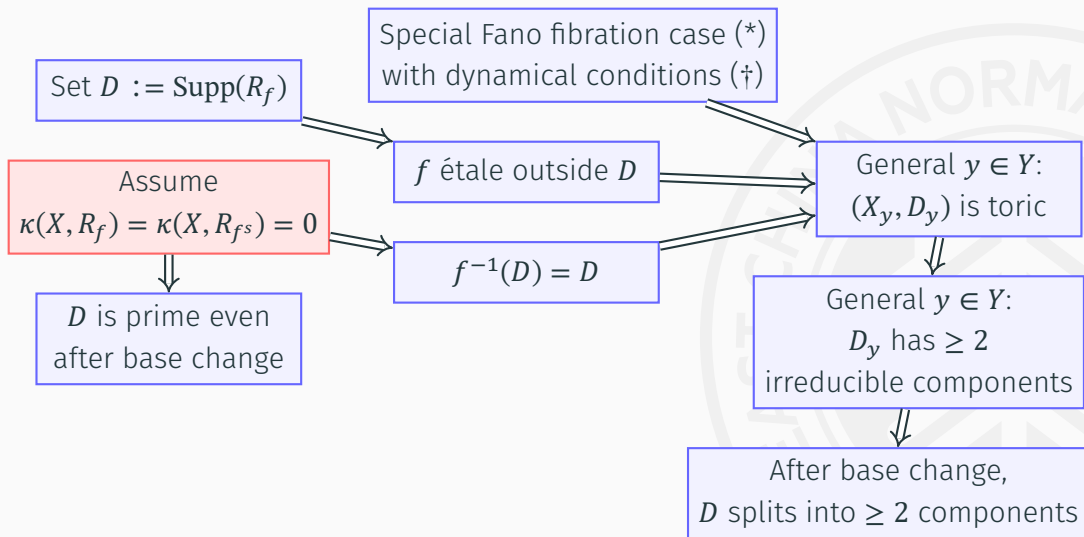
$f : \mathbb{P}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2, [X : Y : Z] \mapsto [X^q : Y^q : Z^q];$
and $D = \{XYZ = 0\}.$



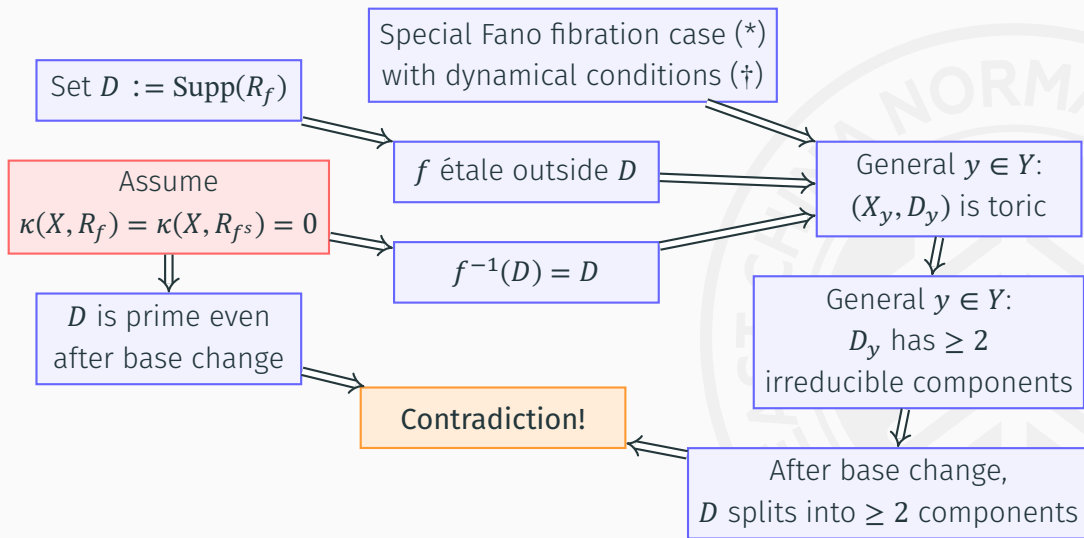
Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$



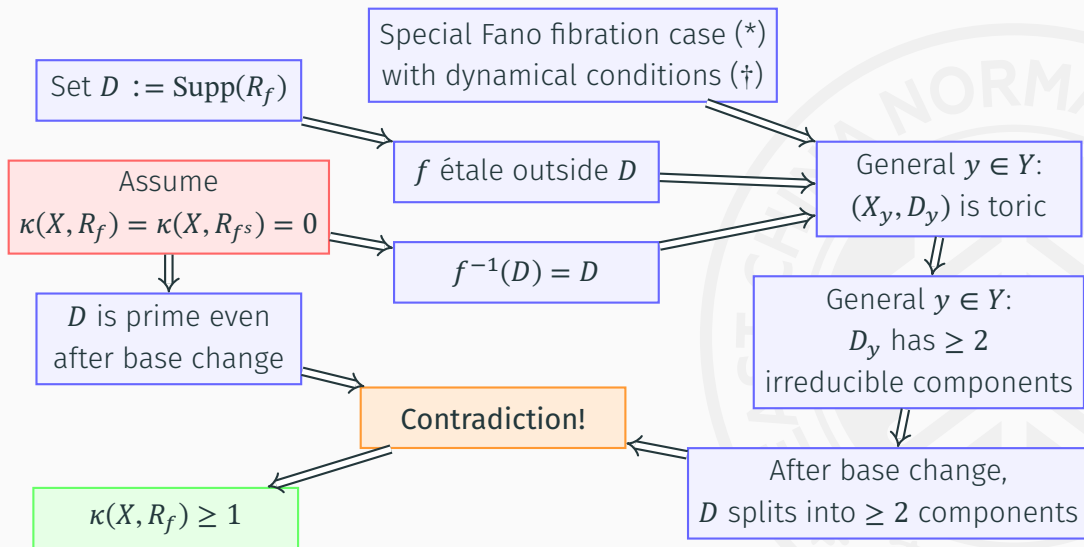
Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$



Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$



Proof of ②: positivity of $\kappa(X, R_f)$



Thank You!

