

Algebraic Dynamics and Dynamical Itaka Theory

Tianle Yang

joint work with Sheng Meng and Long Wang

ICCM 2025, January 7, 2026



SCHOOL OF
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Algebraic Dynamics





We work over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{k} of characteristic zero, usually $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{k} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$.





We work over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{k} of characteristic zero, usually $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{k} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$.

The fundamental objects in algebraic dynamics are (X, f) , where X is a variety and $f : X \dashrightarrow X$ is a dominant rational self-map.



We work over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{k} of characteristic zero, usually $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{k} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$.

The fundamental objects in algebraic dynamics are (X, f) , where X is a variety and $f : X \dashrightarrow X$ is a dominant rational self-map.

Here we focus on the case X is projective and f is a surjective endomorphism.

For simplicity, we assume that X is smooth.



Definition: (The first) dynamical degree

The **first dynamical degree** δ_f of f is defined to be the following limit

$$\delta_f := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ((f^n)^* H \cdot H^{\dim X - 1})^{1/n} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1},$$

where H is an ample Cartier divisor on X .



Definition: (The first) dynamical degree

The **first dynamical degree** δ_f of f is defined to be the following limit

$$\delta_f := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ((f^n)^* H \cdot H^{\dim X - 1})^{1/n} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1},$$

where H is an ample Cartier divisor on X .

Definition: Arithmetic degree

Let $h : X(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the height function associated to an ample divisor on X . Then for every $x \in X(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$, we define the **arithmetic degree of f at x** by

$$\alpha_f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max\{h(f^n(x)), 1\}^{1/n} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1}.$$



Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

Let $x \in X(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$, and suppose that the (forward) orbit $O_f(x) = \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X . Then the arithmetic degree at x is equal to the dynamical degree of f , i.e., $\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f$.



Conjecture: Kawaguchi-Silverman Conjecture = KSC

Let $x \in X(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$, and suppose that the (forward) orbit $O_f(x) = \{f^n(x) \mid n \geq 0\}$ is Zariski dense in X . Then the arithmetic degree at x is equal to the dynamical degree of f , i.e., $\alpha_f(x) = \delta_f$.

If we have an equivariant surjective $(X, f) \dashrightarrow (Y, g)$ such that $\delta_f = \delta_g$, then KSC for (Y, g) implies KSC for (X, f) .



A fibration $\pi : X \dashrightarrow Y$ is said to be **f -equivariant** if there is a dominant rational map $g : Y \dashrightarrow Y$ such that $\pi \circ f = g \circ \pi$.





A fibration $\pi : X \dashrightarrow Y$ is said to be **f -equivariant** if there is a dominant rational map $g : Y \dashrightarrow Y$ such that $\pi \circ f = g \circ \pi$.

Suppose that the fibration $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is given by a semiample line bundle L . If $f^*L \equiv qL$ for some $q > 0$, then π is f -equivariant by the rigidity lemma and simple intersection theory.



A fibration $\pi : X \dashrightarrow Y$ is said to be **f -equivariant** if there is a dominant rational map $g : Y \dashrightarrow Y$ such that $\pi \circ f = g \circ \pi$.

Suppose that the fibration $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ is given by a semiample line bundle L . If $f^*L \equiv qL$ for some $q > 0$, then π is f -equivariant by the rigidity lemma and simple intersection theory.

What about the case when L is only effective or when f^*L is not proportional to L ?

Dynamical Itaka Theory





Definition: Dynamical Iitaka dimension

Let D be a Cartier divisor on X . The **dynamical f -Iitaka dimension** of D is defined as

$$\kappa_f(X, D) := \max \left\{ \kappa(X, D') \mid D' = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i (f^*)^i D, a_i \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$



Theorem: ref. [MZ23, Theorem 4.6]

Suppose that $\kappa_f(X, D) \geq 0$. Then there is an f -equivariant dominant rational map

$$f \circ X \dashrightarrow Y \circ f|_Y$$

with Y normal projective of dimension $\kappa_f(X, D)$ and $f|_Y$ a surjective endomorphism.



The **ramification divisor** R_f is defined by

$$R_f := \sum_E (\text{mult}_E f^*(f(E)) - 1)E$$

where the sum runs over all prime divisors E of X .





The **ramification divisor** R_f is defined by

$$R_f := \sum_E (\text{mult}_E f^*(f(E)) - 1)E$$

where the sum runs over all prime divisors E of X .

It is effective and satisfies the ramification formula

$$R_f = K_X - f^*K_X.$$



We consider three situations of $\kappa_f(X, R_f)$ and briefly introduce how the dynamical Itaka theory works.





We consider three situations of $\kappa_f(X, R_f)$ and briefly introduce how the dynamical Itaka theory works.

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) = 0$. Then $f^{-1}(\text{Supp } R_f) = \text{Supp } R_f$ and the restriction

$$f|_{X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f} : X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f \rightarrow X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f$$

is (quasi-)étale.



We consider three situations of $\kappa_f(X, R_f)$ and briefly introduce how the dynamical Itaka theory works.

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) = 0$. Then $f^{-1}(\text{Supp } R_f) = \text{Supp } R_f$ and the restriction

$$f|_{X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f} : X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f \rightarrow X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f$$

is (quasi-)étale.

- $0 < \kappa_f(X, R_f) < \dim X$. We then have an f -equivariant dominant rational map

$$\varphi_{f, R_f} : X \dashrightarrow Y$$

with $0 < \dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f) < \dim X$.



We consider three situations of $\kappa_f(X, R_f)$ and briefly introduce how the dynamical Itaka theory works.

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) = 0$. Then $f^{-1}(\text{Supp } R_f) = \text{Supp } R_f$ and the restriction

$$f|_{X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f} : X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f \rightarrow X \setminus \text{Supp } R_f$$

is (quasi-)étale.

- $0 < \kappa_f(X, R_f) < \dim X$. We then have an f -equivariant dominant rational map

$$\varphi_{f, R_f} : X \dashrightarrow Y$$

with $0 < \dim Y = \kappa_f(X, R_f) < \dim X$.

- $\kappa_f(X, R_f) = \dim X$. In this case, R_{f^s} is big when $s \gg 1$.

About our paper





We consider the case the (X, f) has admitted an f -equivariant extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y}$.





We consider the case the (X, f) has admitted an f -equivariant extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y}$.

Since π is of relative Picard number 1, the general fiber X_y is Fano and $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y} \geq 1$, the ramification divisor R_f is non-trivial and π -ample.



We consider the case the (X, f) has admitted an f -equivariant extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y}$.

Since π is of relative Picard number 1, the general fiber X_y is Fano and $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y} \geq 1$, the ramification divisor R_f is non-trivial and π -ample.

Hence we want to use the dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to R_f to get another f -equivariant fibration.



We consider the case the (X, f) has admitted an f -equivariant extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ such that $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y}$.

Since π is of relative Picard number 1, the general fiber X_y is Fano and $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y} \geq 1$, the ramification divisor R_f is non-trivial and π -ample.

Hence we want to use the dynamical Iitaka fibration associated to R_f to get another f -equivariant fibration.

Further assume that the base Y is either an abelian variety or a smooth projective variety of Picard number one, we get our main results.



Theorem

Let f be a surjective endomorphism of a smooth projective variety X admitting an extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ to an abelian variety Y of positive dimension. Suppose f admits a Zariski dense orbit and $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y}$. Then the following hold.

1. The ramification divisor satisfies $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$.
2. There exists an f -equivariant dominant rational map $\varphi : X \dashrightarrow Z$, which is the f -Iitaka fibration of R_f , such that $0 < \dim Z < \dim X$ and $f|_Z$ is δ_f -polarized.



Theorem

Let f be a surjective endomorphism of a smooth projective variety X admitting an f -equivariant **smooth** extremal Fano contraction $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ with $\rho(Y) = 1$. Suppose $\delta_f > \delta_{f|_Y} = 1$. Then the following hold.

1. The ramification divisor satisfies $f^*R_f \equiv \delta_f R_f$.
2. There exists an f -equivariant dominant rational map $\varphi : X \dashrightarrow Z$, which is the f -Iitaka fibration of R_f , such that $0 < \dim Z < \dim X$ and $f|_Z$ is δ_f -polarized.



Corollary

KSC holds for any smooth projective variety X admitting an extremal Fano contraction to an abelian variety.

Corollary

KSC holds for any \mathbb{P}^n -bundle over either a Q -abelian variety or a smooth projective variety of Picard number one.

Thank You!

