

1 Overview

The aim of this note is to study the fiberwise bimeromorphic map in birational geometry. The topic is around the fiberwise bimeromorphic conjecture given in the following. The main references of this note are [Kol22] and [CRT25], [KT19].

Conjecture 1.1 ([Kol22, Conjecture 5]). Let $g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a flat, proper, Moishezon morphism. Assume that X_0 has canonical (resp. log terminal) singularities. Then g is fiberwise birational to a flat, projective morphism $g^p : X^p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ such that

- (1) X_0^p has canonical (resp. log terminal) singularities,
- (2) X_s^p has terminal singularities for $s \neq 0$, and
- (3) K_{X^p} is \mathbb{Q} -Cartier.

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2 A fiberwise birational criterion

Definition 2.1 (Meromorphic S -map). Let X, Y be reduced complex space. We call the S -map a meromorphic S -map (not necessary morphism) if

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \Gamma & \\
 p \swarrow & & \searrow q \\
 X & \overset{\alpha}{\dashrightarrow} & Y \\
 f \searrow & & \swarrow g \\
 & S &
 \end{array}$$

with $\Gamma \subset X \times_S Y$, and $p : \Gamma \rightarrow X$ is a proper bimeromorphic morphism. Moreover if q is also proper bimeromorphic morphism, then we all α proper bimeromorphic S -map.

Definition 2.2 (Fiberwise bimeromorphic map, [Kol22, Definition 26]). Let $g_i : X^i \rightarrow S$ be a proper morphisms. A bimeromorphic map $\phi : X^1 \dashrightarrow X^2$ is fiberwise bimeromorphic if ϕ induces a bimeromorphic map $\phi_s : X_s^1 \dashrightarrow X_s^2$ for every $s \in S$.

Remark 2.3. In general, the bimeromorphic S -map does not need to be fiberwise bimeromorphic. Since the graph $\Gamma \subset X \times Y$ needs not to contains in $X \times_S Y$.

Remark 2.4. Fiberwise bimeromorphic is different from having bimeromorphic equivalent fibers ([CRT25, Example 2.15]). Let $\mathbb{F}_n = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(n)) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be the Hirzebruch surface of index n . By construction easy to see that all the Hirzebruch surface are birational equivalent to $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$. Let Z be any compact complex manifold. In particular, we see that $\mathbb{F}_n \times Z \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has an explicit birational map between $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1) \times Z \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \text{Bl}_{p_1, \dots, p_n}(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1) \times Z & & \\
 & \swarrow p & & \searrow q & \\
 \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times Z & & \xrightarrow{q \circ p^{-1}} & & \mathbb{F}_n \times Z \\
 & \searrow & & \swarrow & \\
 & & \mathbb{P}^1 & &
 \end{array}$$

Note that fibers of these two families are birational equivalent (as both side have fiber $\mathbb{P}^1 \times Z$). However the restriction of the map $q \circ p^{-1}$ does not give the bimeromorphic map of the fiber (since the strict transform of the fibers of $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \times Z$ on the blow up being contracted by q).

Although the bimeromorphic map is not fiberwise bimeromorphic in general, it is indeed fiberwise bimeromorphic on a dense open subset.

Proposition 2.5 (Bimeromorphic S -map is generic fiberwise bimeromorphic). Let $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$ be a bimeromorphic S -map between complex varieties over the base S , prove that on the generic fiber the morphism induces a bimeromorphic map on the fiber.

Proof. Since f is bimeromorphic there exist some open dense subset such that $f|_V : V \xrightarrow{\sim} U$ then I claim the morphism induce bimeromorphic map on the fibers X_s such that $X_s \cap V \neq \emptyset$.

Indeed since $X_s \cap V \subset X_s$ is dense in X_s indeed we have

$$\overline{X_s \cap V} \subset X_s \cap \overline{V} = X_s \cap X = X_s$$

thus we have $X_s \cap V$ dense in X_s .

we have that $X_s \cap V$ is dense open subset of X_s , and therefore it induce an bimeromorphism on the fiber

$$X_s \dashrightarrow Y_s$$

Finally note that the set

$$\{s \in S \mid X_s \cap V \neq \emptyset\} = f(V) = \{s \in S \mid X_s \dashrightarrow Y_s \text{ is bimeromorphism}\}$$

such that $\sigma(s) \neq 0$.

Therefore consider the restriction map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^0(X^i, L) & \xrightarrow{\text{res}} & H^0(X_s^i, L|_{X_s^i}) \\ \simeq \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^0(B, f_* L) & \xrightarrow{\text{res}_s} & f_* L(s) \end{array}$$

such that there exist a section $s \in H^0(X^i, L)$ which maps down to σ such that $\sigma(s) \neq 0$. So that $s|_{X_s^i} \neq 0$. And therefore the base locus can not contains the fiber.

Since the X^i are smooth,

$$K_Y \sim p_i^* K_{X^i} + E_i, \quad \text{where } E_i \geq 0 \text{ and } \text{Supp } E_i = \text{Ex}(p_i)$$

So that every section of $\mathcal{O}_Y(mK_Y)$ pulls back from X^i , Thus

$$\text{Bs}|mK_Y| = p_i^{-1}(\text{Bs}|mK_{X^i}|) + \text{Supp } E_i$$

Comparing these for $i = 1, 2$, we conclude that

$$p_1^{-1}(\text{Bs}|mK_{X^1}|) + \text{Supp } E_1 = p_2^{-1}(\text{Bs}|mK_{X^2}|) + \text{Supp } E_2$$

Therefore,

$$\boxed{p_1(\text{Supp } E_2) \subset p_1(\text{Supp } E_1) + \text{Bs}|mK_{X^1}|}$$

Since E_1 is p_1 -exceptional, $p_1(\text{supp } E_1)$ has codimension ≥ 2 in X^1 , hence it does not contain any of the fibers of f_1 . We saw that $\text{Bs}|mK_{X^1}|$ does not contain any of the fibers either. Thus $p_1(\text{Ex}(p_1) \cup \text{Ex}(p_2))$ does not contain any of the fibers, and similarly for $p_2(\text{Ex}(p_1) \cup \text{Ex}(p_2))$. \square

As a remark in [Kol23], the result holds true even when the pluricanonical systems are empty. That is what we will prove in the next section.

3 Kontsevich-Tschinkel's fiberwise birational theorem

Theorem 3.1 ([KT19, Theorem 1]). Let

$$\pi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow B \text{ and } \pi' : \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow B$$

be smooth proper morphisms to a smooth connected curve B , over a field of characteristic zero. Assume that the generic fibers of π and π' are birational over the function field of B . Then, for every closed point $b \in B$, the fibers of π and π' over b are birational over the residue field at b .

The proof of Kontsevich-Tschinkel's theorem involve some new notions, let us first introduce it.

Definition 3.2 (semi-ring). A semiring $(S, +, \times)$ consists of a set S equipped with two binary operations $+, \times$. Such that $+$ makes S an commutative monoid (which needs not to be Abelian group compared with Ring).

Definition 3.3 (Burnside ring over a field k). The Burnside semi-ring $\text{Burn}_+(k)$ of a field k is the set of \sim_k - equivalence classes of smooth schemes of finite type over k endowed with a semi-ring structure where multiplication and addition are given by disjoint union and product over k . (where wo such schemes X, X' we have $[X/k] = [X'/k]$ (i.e. \sim_k) if and only if X and X' are k -birational).

We denote by $\text{Burn}(k)$ the Grothendieck ring generated by $\text{Burn}_+(k)$.

Remark 3.4. The reason to introduce the Grothendieck ring is that it allow to do formal subtraction. And it allows some cut and paste operation on the geometric level.

Remark 3.5. Note that we can decompose the

$$\text{Burn}(k) = \sqcup_{n \geq 0} \text{Bir}_n(k),$$

where $\text{Bir}_n(k)$ denotes k -birational equivalent class of smooth variety of dimension n . Each class can be denoted by $[L/k]$ with $L = k(X)$.

Definition 3.6 (Specialization map). We define

$$\rho_n : \text{Bir}_n(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} [\text{Bir}_n(k)],$$

as follows: given a smooth projective variety X/K , choose one of family

$$\pi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow D,$$

where π is proper, such that generic fibers are X and special fiber

$$X_0 = \bigcup_{i \in I} d_i D_i,$$

is a SNC divisor, with the strata $D_J := \bigcap_{j \in J} D_j$. We then define the specialization map to be

$$\rho_n([L/K]) := \sum_{\emptyset \neq J \subseteq I} (-1)^{\#J-1} [D_J \times \mathbb{A}^{\#J-1}/k].$$

One of the main difficulties of the proof is to check the specialization map is well defined (i.e. it does not depend on the choose the family $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow D$) and representative X in $\text{Bir}_n(X)$. We omit the proof of this part, for more detail of the proof see [KT19, Theorem 4]).

Remark 3.7 (Relation with the dual complex).

Proof of the main theorem. Let $\pi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow B$ be a smooth proper morphism to a smooth connected curve B over k with fiber X over the generic point of B . Let $K = k(B)$ be the function field of B . Let κ_b be the residue field at b , a finite extension of k . Let K_b be the completion of K at b . It is a local field with residue field κ_b , isomorphic to $\kappa_b((t))$, where t is a formal local coordinate. Let

$$\phi_b : K \rightarrow K_b$$

be the canonical inclusion. By functoriality (see Remark 3), it defines a homomorphism

$$\phi_{b,*} : \text{Burn}(K) \rightarrow \text{Burn}(K_b).$$

We have the specialization homomorphism

$$\rho : \text{Burn}(K_b) \rightarrow \text{Burn}(\kappa_b)$$

and the following identity

$$[X_b/\kappa_b] = \rho(\phi_{b,*}([X/K])),$$

which follows immediately from the definition of ρ , since the special fiber is smooth and irreducible. This shows that the birational type of the special fiber is determined by the birational type of the generic fiber. \square

4 Fiberwise bimeromorphic criterion and plurigenera (Chen-Rao-Tsai)

In this section, we will give a criterion for fiberwise bimeromorphic map using plurigenera developed by Jian Chen Sheng Rao and I-Hsun Tsai. For more detailed discussion, see [CRT25].

Proposition 4.1 ([CRT25, Theorem 1.4]). Let X, Y and S be complex analytic spaces. Assume that X is reduced (not necessarily normal) and irreducible, Y is normal, and S is a smooth curve. Assume further that both $\pi_1 : X \rightarrow S$ and $\pi_2 : Y \rightarrow S$ are proper surjective holomorphic maps. Suppose that there is a bimeromorphic morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ over S . For some $t \in S$, if D_t is an irreducible component of Y_t that is of codimension 1 in Y , then there exists an irreducible component C_t (equipped with the reduced structure) of X_t that is bimeromorphic to D_t , induced by f .

In particular, if the fibers of $X \rightarrow S$ and $Y \rightarrow S$ are irreducibles then f is fiberwise bimeromorphic map.

Proof. Since both X, Y are irreducible and reduced and S is smooth curve, both π_1, π_2 are flat with fiber of codimension 1. Since X is reduced and irreducible, by [GPR94, Theorem 1.19], we have the set of points that $\dim X_y = 0$ is a big open subset in Y (with the complement an analytic subset V such that $\text{codim}_Y(V) \geq 2$). Since Y is normal, and $f : X - f^{-1}(V) \rightarrow Y - V$ is bijective. Thus $f : X - f^{-1}(V) \rightarrow Y - V$ is biholomorphic. Additionally, f is surjective by the definition of a bimeromorphic morphism. Consequently, there exists an irreducible component C_t of X_t such that $f(C_t) = D_t$ by the irreducibility of D_t .

In view of the codimensions of V and D_t , it follows that $D_t \not\subseteq V$, and consequently, $C_t \not\subseteq f^{-1}(V)$. Clearly, $D_t \cap V$ is a thin analytic subset of D_t , and $C_t \cap f^{-1}(V)$ is a thin analytic subset of C_t . Hence, one can easily check by definition that $f : C_t \rightarrow D_t$ is bimeromorphic. \square

Theorem 5.3 (Inversion of adjunction, [Kol22, Proposition 30]). Let X be a normal, complex analytic space, $X_0 \subset X$ a Cartier divisor and Δ an effective \mathbb{R} -divisor such that $K_X + \Delta$ is \mathbb{R} -Cartier. Then $(X, X_0 + \Delta)$ is PLT in a neighborhood of X_0 iff $(X_0, \Delta|_{X_0})$ is KLT.

Proof. The proof is omit here. □

Theorem 5.4 (Canonical modification theorem, see [Kol22], colloary 30). Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a flat, proper, Moishezon morphism. Assume that X_0 is log terminal. Then X has a canonical modification $\pi : X^c \rightarrow X$, such that

- (a) X_0^c is log terminal and,
- (b) π is fiberwise birational.

Proof. □

Lemma 5.5 (A limiting expression for restricted base locus, see [Kol22], (31.1)). Let $X \rightarrow S$ be a proper, Moishezon morphism, D an \mathbb{R} -divisor on X , and A a big \mathbb{R} -divisor on X such that $\mathbf{B}^{\text{div}}(A) = \emptyset$. Then, for every prime divisor $F \subset X$,

$$\text{coeff}_F \mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{coeff}_F \mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D + \epsilon A)$$

Proof. □

Lemma 5.6 (An estimate for restricted base locus, see [Kol22], (31.2)). Let $X_i \rightarrow S$ be proper, Moishezon morphisms, $h : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ a proper, bimeromorphic morphism, D_2 a pseudo-effective, \mathbb{R} -Cartier divisor on X_2 , and E an effective, h -exceptional divisor. Then

$$\mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(E + h^* D_2) \geq E$$

Proof. □

Finally, let me make a remark on why restricted base locus is useful here, indeed the restricted base locus contains precisely the divisors that will be contracted by the minimal model program:

Theorem 5.7 (Restricted base locus contains the divisors that will be contracted by the MMP).

Now we can goes into the proof of the theorem

Theorem 5.8 (A flat Moishezon morphism with KLT and non-uniruled central fiber will be fiber-wise bimeromorphic to a projective morphism, [Kol22], Theorem 28). Let $g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a flat, proper, Moishezon morphism. Assume that

1. X_0 has log terminal singularities and
2. X_0 is not uniruled

Then

- (a) g is fiberwise birational to a flat, projective morphism $g^p : X^p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ (possibly over a smaller disc),

- (b) X_0^p has log terminal singularities,
- (c) X_s^p is not uniruled and has terminal singularities for $s \neq 0$,
- (d) K_{X^p} is \mathbb{Q} -Cartier

Proof. We take a resolution of singularities $Y \rightarrow X$ such that $Y \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is projective, and then take a relative minimal model of $Y \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$. We hope that it gives what we want. There are, however, several obstacles. Next we discuss these, and their solutions, but for all technical details we refer to later sections.

Step 1. Reduce the variety to the one that has \mathbb{Q} -Cartier canonical divisor.

We need to control the singularities of X . First for a flat proper Moishezon morphism with KLT central fiber, there exist a canonical modification which is fiberwise birational and the central fiber is KLT reduces us to the case when K_X is \mathbb{Q} -Cartier.

Indeed by the canonical modification we can find some canonical modification $X^c \rightarrow X$ such that X^c is canonical singularity and the morphism $X^c \rightarrow X$ is the fiberwise birational map, thus if we can prove the result for $X^c \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ then it will also be true for the $X \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ (since composition of fiberwise birational map is again fiberwise birational)

We assume this from now on. Then the inversion of adjunction for PLT pair implies that the pair (X, X_0) is PLT. by setting $\Delta = 0$ in the inversion of adjunction. (To apply the inversion of adjunction here we require K_X to be \mathbb{Q} -Cartier)

Step 2. Take base change morphism require the projective model to a semistable one.

After a base change $z \mapsto z^r$ we get $g^r : X^r \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$. For suitable r , there is a semi-stable, projective resolution $h : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$; we may also choose it to be equivariant for the action of the cyclic group $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_r$. All subsequent steps will be G -equivariant. We denote by X_0^Y the birational transform of X_0 and by E_i the other irreducible components of Y_0 .

Step 3. The generic fibers are not uniruled.

We will prove it by contradiction, note that for a dominant morphism if the source is uniruled then so is the target (see [Rationalcurve] IV. 1.2 Lemma). On the other hand, since the deformation limit of uniruled variety is uniruled on each irreducible and reduced components (see [Rationalcurve] IV 1.7) We have X_0^Y being uniruled but then X_0 will also be uniruled which contradicts to the assumption.

And finally by [BDPP] Corollar 0.3. easy to see K_{Y_s} is pseudo-effective.

Step 4. Run the MMP using BCHM

We require the condition that the general fibers are of log general type. To achieve this, let H be an ample,

G -equivariant divisor such that $Y_0 + H$ is snc. For $\epsilon > 0$ we get a pair $(Y, \epsilon H)$ whose general fibers $(Y_s, \epsilon H_s)$ are of log general type since K_{Y_s} is pseudoeffective. For such algebraic families, relative minimal models are known to exist by BCHM.

We also know that $(Y, Y_0 + \epsilon H)$ is dlt for $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$.

Thus we get the MMP

$$\phi : (Y, \epsilon H) \dashrightarrow (Y^m, \epsilon H^m),$$

Step 5. Singularity of the output minimal model

We claim $(Y^m, Y_0^m + \epsilon H^m)$ is DLT, and H^m is \mathbb{Q} -Cartier for general choice of ϵ and also thus (Y^m, Y_0^m) is also dlt.

Indeed Step of MMP will preserve DLT condition (see [BCHM] Lemma 3.10.10.) easy to see $(Y^m, Y_0^m + \epsilon H^m)$ is DLT. On the other hand by Lemma 1.5.1. of [Alex], easy to see if ϵ is sufficient general the \mathbb{Q} -linear independent condition satisfies and therefore H^m is indeed a \mathbb{Q} -Cartier divisor. And finally by [KM98] Corollary 2.39. the (Y^m, Y_0^m) is also DLT (note that we really need \mathbb{Q} -Cartier condition).

Step 6. The minimal model will contract precisely the divisors E_i . Recall that we have

$$\mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(K_Y + Y_0) \geq (a_i + 1)E_i$$

On the other hand

$$\text{coeff}_F \mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{coeff}_F \mathbf{B}_-^{\text{div}}(D + \epsilon A)$$

for any prime divisor F . Thus for sufficient small ϵ E_i also contains in the restricted base locus of $K_Y + Y_0 + \epsilon H$ then by Theorem ?? the MMP will contract those E_i .

Step 7. The morphism $X \dashrightarrow Y^m$ is fiberwise birational morphism.

Since Cone theorem, those divisor being contracted will be covered by rational curves. But we assume that X_0 is not uniruled. By Theorem 2.5 the generic fiber of $X \dashrightarrow Y^m$ are bimeromorphic, that is we know for $s \neq 0$ there is bimeromorphic mapping between the fibers.

On needs to prove that the central fiber X_0 is bimeromorphic to the central fiber Y_0^m . Indeed by the definition of strict transform, we pick the defining domain of the birational map $Y \rightarrow X$ so that $V \xrightarrow{\sim} U$ and we pick $X_0 \cap U \xrightarrow{\sim} X_0^Y \cap V$, observe that $X_0 \cap U \subset X_0$ dense (since $\overline{X_0} \cap \overline{U} \subset \overline{X_0} \cap \overline{U} = X_0 \cap X = X_0$) and $X_0^Y \cap V \subset X_0^Y$ dense. We get that X_0 and X_0^Y are birational.

Step 8. The pair $(Y_s, \epsilon H_s)$ is terminal, and also the pair $(Y_s^m, \epsilon H_s^m)$ and also Y_s^m .

Note that $h : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is smooth away from Y_0 (by the semi-stable family) thus $(Y_s, \epsilon H_s)$ is terminal for $s \neq 0$ and $0 \leq \epsilon \ll 1$ (see [KM98] Corollary 2.35. (2))

Since H_s is ample, by negativity lemma we do not contract it. $(Y_s^m, \epsilon H_s^m)$ is still terminal (since minimal model program preserve the terminal singularity indeed we have flip diagram and divisorial contraction preserve KLT (DLT, LC, terminal) singularity (see [KM98] Corollary 3.43) note that the divisorial contraction preserve the terminal singularity require the exceptional set does not contains in the support of H_s . Hence so is Y_s^m (see [KM98] Corollary 2.35.)

Step 9. The central fiber has KLT singularity.

(Y^m, Y_0^m) is dlt (since DLT), hence it's also plt thanks to the irreducible of Y_0^m (see [KM98] Proposition 5.51.). And therefore Y_0^m is KLT by the easy direction of inversion of adjunction (see Theorem 5.3). \square

Remark 5.9. Finally, let us say a few words about the subtle differences between the different statements above.

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