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UNIRATIONAL QUASI-ELLIPTIC SURFACES IN CHARACTERISTIC 3

Dedicated to the memory of Taira Honda

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0. A non-singular projective surface X is called a *quasi-elliptic* surface if there exists a morphism $f : X \rightarrow C$, a curve, with almost all fibres irreducible singular rational curves E with $p_a(E)=1$ (cf. [4]). According to Tate [5], such surfaces can occur only in the case where the characteristic p of the ground field k is either 2 or 3, and almost all fibres E have single ordinary cusps. Let \mathbb{k} be the function field of C . Then the generic fibre of f with the unique singular point taken off is an elliptic \mathbb{k} -form of the affine line A^1 (cf. [2], [3]); if this form has a \mathbb{k} -rational point^(*) it is birational over \mathbb{k} to one of the following affine plane curves:

- (i) If $p=3$, $t^2=x^3+\gamma$ with $\gamma \in \mathbb{k} - \mathbb{k}^3$.
- (ii) If $p=2$, $t^2=x^3+\beta x+\gamma$ with $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{k}$
 and $\beta \notin \mathbb{k}^2$ or $\gamma \notin \mathbb{k}^2$.

On the other hand, if X is unirational C must be a rational curve. Conversely if C is a rational curve X is unirational. Indeed, $k(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \mathbb{k}^{1/3}$ is rational over k in the first case, and $k(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \mathbb{k}^{1/2}$ is rational over k in the second case. In this article we consider a unirational quasi-elliptic surface with a rational cross-section only in characteristic 3. Thus X is birational to a hypersurface $t^2=x^3+\phi(y)$ in the affine 3-space A^3 , where $\phi(y) \in \mathbb{k}=k(y)$. If $\phi(y)$ is not a polynomial, write $\phi(y)=a(y)/b(y)$ with $a(y), b(y) \in k[y]$. Substituting t, x by $b(y)^3 t, b(y)^2 x$ respectively and replacing $\phi(y)$ with $b(y)^5 a(y)$ we may assume that $\phi(y) \in k[y]$. Moreover, after making suitable birational transformations we may assume that $\phi(y)$ has no monomial terms whose degree are congruent to 0 modulo 3; especially that $d=\deg_y \phi$ is prime to 3. It is easy to see that under this assumption $f(x, y)=x^3+\phi(y)$ is irreducible.

A main result of this article is:

Theorem. *Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic 3. Then*

(*) This is equivalent to saying that f has a rational cross-section which is different from the section formed by the (movable) singular points of the fibres.

any unirational quasi-elliptic surface with a rational cross-section defined over k is birational to a hypersurface in $A^3 : t^2 = x^3 + \phi(y)$ with $\phi(y) \in k[y]$. Let $K = k(t, x, y)$ be an algebraic function field of dimension 2 generated by t, x, y over k such that $t^2 = x^3 + \phi(y)$ with $\phi(y) \in k[y]$ and $d = \deg_y \phi$ prime to 3. Let m be the quotient of d divided by 6, and let H_0 be the (non-singular) minimal model of K when K is not rational over $k^{(*)}$. Moreover if $d \geq 7$ assume that the following conditions hold^(**):

(1) For every root α of $\phi'(y) = 0$, $v_\alpha(\phi(y) - \phi(\alpha)) \leq 5$, where v_α is the $(y - \alpha)$ -adic valuation of $k[y]$ with $v_\alpha(y - \alpha) = 1$.

(2) If, moreover, $\phi(y) - \phi(\alpha) = a(y - \alpha)^3 + (\text{terms of higher degree in } y - \alpha)$ for some root α of $\phi'(y) = 0$ and $a \in k - (0)$ then $v_\alpha(\phi(y) - \phi(\alpha) - a(y - \alpha)^3) \leq 5$.

Then we have the following:

(i) If $m = 0$, i.e., $d \leq 5$, then K is rational over k . If $d \geq 7$, K is not rational over k , and the minimal model H_0 exists.

(ii) If $m = 1$, i.e., $7 \leq d \leq 11$, then H_0 is a K3-surface.

(iii) If $m > 1$, i.e., $d \geq 13$, then $p_a(H_0) = p_g(H_0) = m$, $q = \dim H^1(H_0, \mathcal{O}_{H_0}) = 0$, the r -genus $P_r(H_0) = r(m - 1) + 1$ for every positive integer r , and $\kappa(H_0) = 1$.

We use the following notations: Let X be a non-singular projective surface. Then K_X = the canonical divisor class on X , $p_g(X) = \dim H^0(X, K_X)$ = the geometric genus, $q = \dim H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ = the irregularity, $p_a(X) = p_g(X) - q$ = the arithmetic genus, $\kappa(X)$ = the Kodaira dimension of X , and $P_r(X) = \dim H^0(X, K_X^{\otimes r})$ = the r -genus for a positive integer r . For divisors D, D' etc. on X , $(D \cdot D')$ or (D^2) is the intersection number. We use sometimes the notation $D \cdot D'$ or D^2 to indicate the intersection number if there is no fear of confusion.

1. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p = 3$, let $\phi(y)$ be a polynomial in y with coefficients in k of degree $d > 0$ and let $f(x, y) = x^3 + \phi(y)$. Consider a hypersurface $t^2 = x^3 + \phi(y)$ in the projective 3-space \mathbf{P}^3 , which is birational to a double covering^(***) of $F_0 = \mathbf{P}^1 \times \mathbf{P}^1$. After a birational transformation of type $(x, y, t) \mapsto (x + \rho(y), y, t)$ with $\rho(y) \in k[y]$ we may assume that $(d, 3) = 1$ and moreover that $\phi(y)$ does not contain monomial terms whose degrees are congruent to zero modulo 3. Since K is apparently rational if $d = 1$ or 2 we may assume that $d > 3$.

The equation $x^3 + \phi(y) = 0$ defines a closed irreducible curve C in F_0 . First of all, we shall look into singular points of C and the normalization \bar{C} of C . Let $P : (x, y) = (\beta, \alpha)$ be a singular point of C lying on the affine part $A^2 = F_0 - (x =$

(*) Note that if K is ruled and unirational then K is rational. Hence if K is not rational K has the minimal model.

(**) If either one of these conditions is violated we can drop the degree d by 6 by a suitable birational transformation.

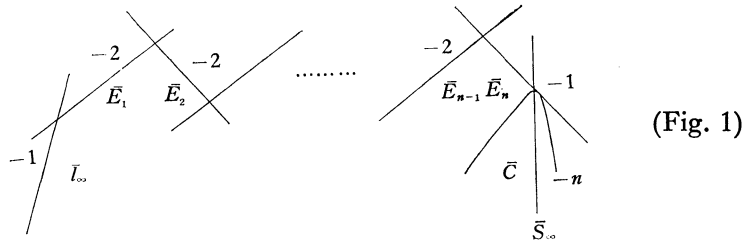
(***) A morphism $f : X' \rightarrow X$ of complete integral algebraic surfaces is called a double covering if f induces a separable quadratic extension of function fields $k(X')/k(X)$.

$\infty) \cup (y = \infty)$. Then $\phi'(\alpha) = 0$ and $\beta^3 + \phi(\alpha) = 0$. Conversely every root of $\phi'(y) = 0$ gives rise to a singular point of C lying on A^2 . Since $\phi'(y) = 0$ has at least one root, C has at least one singular point on $A^2 \subset F_0$. The point Q of C , which is situated outside of A^2 , is given by $(\xi, u) = (0, 0)$, where $x = 1/\xi$, $y = 1/u$ and $u^d + \xi^3 \psi(u) = 0$ with $\psi(u) = u^d \phi(1/u)$ and $\psi(0) \neq 0$. Hence Q is a cuspidal singular point with multiplicity $(\underbrace{3, 3, \dots, 3}_n, 1, \dots)^{(*)}$ if $d = 3n + 1$; and $(\underbrace{3, 3, \dots, 3}_n, 2, 1, \dots)$ if $d = 3n + 2$.

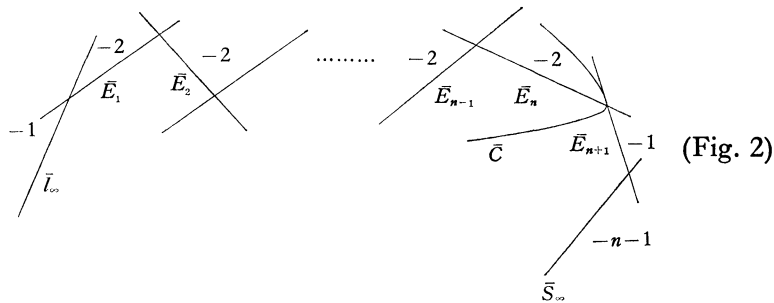
$2, 1, \dots)$ if $d = 3n + 2$.

Here we introduce the following notations: Consider a fibration $\mathcal{F} = \{l_\alpha: l_\alpha \text{ is defined by } y = \alpha\}$ on F_0 . We denote by l_∞ the fibre $y = \infty$, and by S_∞ the cross-section $x = \infty$. We denote by l a general fibre of \mathcal{F} .

Let $\sigma: F \rightarrow F_0$ be the smallest blowings-up of F_0 with centers at all singular points of C and their infinitely near singular points, by which the proper transform $\bar{C} = \sigma^*C$ of C on F becomes non-singular. Let $\bar{S}_\infty = \sigma^*S_\infty$, and let $\bar{l}_\infty = \sigma^*l_\infty$. The following figures will indicate the configuration of F in a neighbourhood of $\sigma^{-1}(l_\infty \cup C \cup S_\infty)$.



where $d = 3n + 1$ and $(\bar{C} \cdot \bar{E}_n) = 3$;



where $d = 3n + 2$ and $(\bar{C} \cdot \bar{E}_{n+1}) = 2$.

Since $(f)_\infty|_{F_0} = 3S_\infty + dl_\infty$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f)|_F &= \bar{C} + (3\bar{E}_1 + 6\bar{E}_2 + \dots + 3n\bar{E}_n) + D - 3(\bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \dots \\
 &\quad + n\bar{E}_n) - d(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \dots + \bar{E}_n) = \bar{C} - 3\bar{S}_\infty + D - d(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \dots + \bar{E}_n)
 \end{aligned}$$

(*) By this notation we mean that Q is a point with multiplicity 3, the infinitely near point of C in the first neighborhood (which is a single point in this case) has multiplicity 3, etc.

if $d=3n+1$, where D is a positive divisor with support in the union \mathcal{E} of exceptional curves which arise from the blowings-up with centers at the singular points and their infinitely near singular points of C in the affine part $A^2 \subset F_0$; and also

$$\begin{aligned} (f)|_F &= \bar{C} + (3\bar{E}_1 + 6\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + 3n\bar{E}_n + (3n+2)\bar{E}_{n+1}) \\ &\quad + D - 3(\bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + (n+1)\bar{E}_{n+1}) - d(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots \\ &\quad + \bar{E}_{n+1}) = \bar{C} - 3\bar{S}_\infty - \bar{E}_{n+1} - d(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{n+1}) + D \end{aligned}$$

if $d=3n+2$.

On the other hand since $K_{F_0} \sim -2S_\infty - 2l_\infty$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} K_F &\sim -2(\bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n) - 2(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) \\ &\quad + \bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + D_3 \quad \text{if } d=3n+1; \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} K_F &\sim -2(\bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + (n+1)\bar{E}_{n+1}) - 2(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{n+1}) \\ &\quad + \bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + (n+1)\bar{E}_{n+1} + D_3 \quad \text{if } d=3n+2, \end{aligned}$$

where D_3 is a positive divisor with support in \mathcal{E} .

We are now going to consider four cases separately.

(I) If $d=6m+1$ then $d=3n+1$ with $n=2m$. Let $B = \bar{C} + \bar{S}_\infty + (\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) + D_1$ and let $Z = 2\bar{S}_\infty + (3m+1)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) - D_2$, where D_1 and D_2 are the divisors uniquely determined by the conditions that $D_1 \geq 0$, every irreducible component of D_1 has multiplicity 1, $D_2 \geq 0$, $D_1 + 2D_2 = D$, and $\text{Supp}(D_1) \cup \text{Supp}(D_2) \subset \mathcal{E}$. Then $(f) = B - 2Z$, and $K_F + Z \sim (3m-1)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) - (\bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n) + (D_3 - D_2) \sim (3m-1)\sigma^{-1}(l) - (\bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n) + (D_3 - D_2)$. Hence $Z \cdot (K_F + Z) = 2(3m-1) - 2n + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) = 2m - 2 + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3)$, and $p_a(Z) = Z \cdot (K_F + Z) / 2 + 1 = m + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) / 2$.

(II) If $d=6m+2$ then $d=3n+2$ with $n=2m$. Let $B = \bar{C} + \bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_{n+1} + D_1$, and let $Z = 2\bar{S}_\infty + \bar{E}_{n+1} + (3m+1)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{n+1}) - D_2$, where D_1 and D_2 are divisors chosen as in the case (I). Then $(f) = B - 2Z$, and $K_F + Z \sim (3m-1)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{n+1}) - (\bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + n\bar{E}_{n+1}) + (D_3 - D_2) \sim (3m-1)\sigma^{-1}(l) - (\bar{E}_1 + 2\bar{E}_2 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + n\bar{E}_{n+1}) + (D_3 - D_2)$. Hence $Z \cdot (K_F + Z) = 2(3m-1) - 2n - n + n + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) = 2m - 2 + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3)$, and $p_a(Z) = m + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) / 2$.

(III) If $d=6m+4$ then $d=3n+1$ with $n=2m+1$. Let $B = \bar{C} + \bar{S}_\infty + D_1$ and let $Z = 2\bar{S}_\infty + (3m+2)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) - D_2$, where D_1 and D_2 are divisors chosen as above. Then $(f) = B - 2Z$, and $K_F + Z \sim 3m\sigma^{-1}(l) - (\bar{E}_1 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n) + (D_3 - D_2)$. Hence $Z \cdot (K_F + Z) = 6m - 2n + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) = 2m - 2 + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3)$, and $p_a(Z) = m + D_2 \cdot (D_2 - D_3) / 2$.

(IV) If $d=6m+5$ then $d=3n+2$ with $n=2m+1$. Let $B = \bar{C} + \bar{S}_\infty + (\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_n) + D_1$ and let $Z = 2\bar{S}_\infty + (3m+3)(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{n+1}) - D_2$, where D_1 and D_2 are divisors chosen as above. Then $(f) = B - 2Z$, and $K_F + Z \sim (3m+1)\sigma^{-1}(l) - (\bar{E}_1 + \cdots + n\bar{E}_n + (n+1)\bar{E}_{n+1}) + (D_3 - D_2)$. Hence $Z \cdot (K_F + Z) = 2(3m+1)$

$-2(n+1)+D_2\cdot(D_2-D_3)=2m-2+D_2\cdot(D_2-D_3)$, and $p_a(Z)=m+D_2\cdot(D_2-D_3)/2$.

In each case, $p_a(Z)=m+D_2\cdot(D_2-D_3)/2$. Let $\bar{F}\rightarrow F$ be the smallest blowings-up which make the branch locus of the double covering on \bar{F} non-singular, let H be the normalization of \bar{F} in the function field $K=k(t, x, y)$ and let $\pi: H\rightarrow F$ be the canonical morphism. Then H is a non-singular projective surface called the *canonical model* of K , which is a double covering of F with branch locus $B^{(*)}$ in each of the above four cases (cf. Artin [1]). Let K_H be the canonical divisor of H . By Artin [1], we know that $K_H\sim\pi^{-1}(K_F+Z)$ and $p_a(H)=2p_a(F)+p_a(Z)$, since the singular points on the branch locus B on F are all negligible singularities^(**) and since $p_a(F)=0$.

Thus we proved:

Lemma 1. *Let m be the quotient of d divided by 6. Then $p_a(H)=m+D_2\cdot(D_2-D_3)/2$.*

Now we show:

Lemma 2. *With the notations and assumptions as above, H is a rational surface if $d\leq 5$.*

Proof. First of all, we may assume that $d\leq 4$. In effect, if $d=5$ we may assume that $\phi(y)$ has no constant and degree 1 terms after a suitable change of variables x and y . Then by a change of variables: $t'=t/y^3$, $x'=x/y^2$, $y'=1/y$, we have

$$t'^2 = x'^3 + \bar{\phi}(y') \quad \text{with } \deg_{y'} \bar{\phi}(y') \leq 4.$$

Now assuming that $d\leq 4$ and $\phi(y)$ has no monomial terms whose degrees are congruent to zero modulo 3, we are going to compute D_2-D_3 and K_H explicitly. Let ν be the number of distinct roots of $\phi'(y)=0$. If $\nu=1$, we may assume that $\phi(y)=y^d$ after a suitable change of variables. Let $P: (x, y)=(0, 0)$. P is a singular point of C with multiplicity $(2, 1, \dots)$ if $d=2$; $(3, 1, \dots)$ if $d=4$. Then $D=2E$ with $E=\sigma^{-1}(P)$ if $d=2$; $D=3E$ if $d=4$. Then $D_1=0$, $D_2=D_3=E$ if $d=2$; $D_1=D_2=D_3=E$ if $d=4$. In each case $D_2-D_3=0$. If $\nu=2$, let α_1 and α_2 be distinct roots. We have two possible cases: (i) Both α_1 and α_2 are simple roots; (ii) One of α_1 and α_2 is a double root and the other one is a simple root. However neither case can occur. Indeed, $d=3$ in the first case, and the second case is impossible. If $\nu=3$, let α_1 , α_2 and α_3 be distinct roots. Then $d=4$, and

(*) A point P of F is a branch point, i.e., $P\in B$ if the normalization of $\mathcal{O}_{P,F}$ in K is a local ring.

(**) A point P of B has negligible singularity if and only if it is of one of the following types: (i) a simple point of B , (ii) a double point of B , (iii) a triple point of B with at most a double point (not necessarily ordinary) infinitely near (cf. Artin [1]). For the arithmetic genus formula, see also [B. Iversen: Numerical invariants and multiple planes, Amer. J. Math., 92 (1970), 968-996].

α_1, α_2 and α_3 are all simple roots. Let $P_i (i=1, 2, 3)$ be the singular point of C with y -coordinate α_i . The multiplicity of P_i is $(2, 1, \dots)$. Hence $D=2(\sigma^{-1}(P_1) + \sigma^{-1}(P_2) + \sigma^{-1}(P_3))$, $D_1=0$ and $D_2=D_3=\sigma^{-1}(P_1) + \sigma^{-1}(P_2) + \sigma^{-1}(P_3)$. Thus $D_2-D_3=0$. Therefore $p_a(H)=0$.

On the other hand, since $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z)$, we see from the above observations on $K_F + Z$ that $K_F + Z < 0$ if $d \leq 4$. Hence $K_H < 0$ and $P_2(H)=0$. Therefore H is rational by virtue of Castelnuovo's criterion of rationality. Q.E.D.

2. Let us consider the following conditions on $\phi(y)$:

(1) For every root α of $\phi'(y)=0$, $v_a(\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)) \leq 5$, where v_a is the $(y-\alpha)$ -adic valuation of $k[y]$ with $v_a(y-\alpha)=1$.

(2) If, moreover, $\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)=a(y-\alpha)^3 + (\text{terms of higher degree in } y-\alpha)$ for some root α of $\phi'(y)=0$ and $a \in k - (0)$ then $v_a(\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)-a(y-\alpha)^3) \leq 5$.

Assume that $v_a(\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)) \geq 6$ for some root α of $\phi'(y)=0$. Since $d > 0$, this assumption implies $d \geq 6$. Then by a birational transformation $(t, x, y) \mapsto (t_1=t/(y-\alpha)^3, x_1=(x+\phi(\alpha)^{1/3})/(y-\alpha)^2, y_1=y-\alpha)$, we have

$$t_1^2 = x_1^3 + \phi_1(y_1) \quad \text{with} \quad \deg_{y_1} \phi_1 = \deg_y \phi - 6.$$

Assume next that $\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)=a(y-\alpha)^3 + (\text{terms of higher degree in } y-\alpha)$ for some root α of $\phi'(y)=0$ and that $v_a(\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha)-a(y-\alpha)^3) \geq 6$. Then by a birational transformation $(t, x, y) \mapsto (t_1=t, x_1=x+a^{1/3}(y-\alpha), y_1=y)$ we have

$$t_1^2 = x_1^3 + \phi_1(y_1) \quad \text{with} \quad \deg_{y_1} \phi_1 = d \quad \text{and} \quad v_a(\phi_1(y_1)-\phi_1(\alpha)) \geq 6.$$

Therefore the argument in the former case applies, and we can drop the degree of ϕ_1 by 6. Therefore we may assume that $d \geq 7$ and that the conditions (1) and (2) hold. Hereafter we assume these conditions for $\phi(y)$. Then we have:

Lemma 3. *With the notations as above, $D_2=D_3$.*

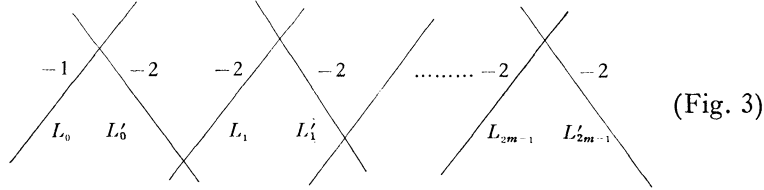
Proof. Let α be a root of $\phi'(y)=0$, and let $P: (x, y) = (-\phi(\alpha)^{1/3}, \alpha)$ be the corresponding singular point of C . Let $e=v_a(\phi(y)-\phi(\alpha))$. Since the conditions (1) and (2) hold, we may assume that $e=2, 4$ or 5 . In fact, the case where $e=3$ can be reduced to the case where $e=4$ or 5 by a birational transformation $(t, x, y) \mapsto (t, x+a^{1/3}(y-\alpha), y)$, which is biregular at P . P is then a cuspidal singular point with multiplicity $(2, 1, \dots)$ if $e=2$; $(3, 1, \dots)$ if $e=4$; $(3, 2, 1, \dots)$ if $e=5$. Hence $\sigma^{-1}(P)=E_1$ (irreducible) if $e=2$ or 4 ; $\sigma^{-1}(P)=E_1+E_2$ (E_1 and E_2 are irreducible) if $e=5$. Then $D_2=D_3=E_1$ if $e=2$ or 4 ; $D_2=D_3=E_1+2E_2$ if $e=5$. In both cases, $D_2=D_3$. Q.E.D.

Corollary. *Let m be the quotient of d divided by 6. If one assumes the conditions (1) and (2) on $\phi(y)$, $p_a(H)=m$.*

The canonical model H of K might contain the exceptional curves of the first kind. When $p_a(H)=m>0$ (i.e., $d\geq 7$), let H_0 be the minimal non-singular model of K , which is, needless to say, obtained from H by contracting all exceptional curves of the first kind. We shall describe the canonical divisor K_{H_0} of H_0 .

Lemma 4. *Assume that $d=6m+1$ with $m>0$. Then we have:*

- (i) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty \cap \bar{E}_1)=L'_0$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_1 \cap \bar{E}_2)=L'_1$, \dots , $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_{n-1} \cap \bar{E}_n)=L'_{n-1}$ where L'_i ($0\leq i\leq n-1$) is an irreducible non-singular rational curve with $(L'_i)^2=-2$ and $n=2m$.
- (ii) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty)=2L_0+L'_0$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_i)=L'_{i-1}+2L_i+L'_i$ ($1\leq i\leq n-1$), where L_i ($0\leq i\leq n-1$) is an irreducible non-singular rational curve such that $(L_0^2)=-1$, $(L_i^2)=-2$ ($1\leq i\leq n-1$).



- (iii) $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z) \sim (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + 4mL_0 + (4m-1)L'_0 + (4m-2)L_1 + (4m-3)L'_1 + \dots + 3L'_{2m-2} + 2L_{2m-1} + L'_{2m-1}$.
- (iv) $W := L_0 + L'_0 + L_1 + \dots + L'_{2m-1}$ is contractible. Let $\tau: H \rightarrow H_0$ be the contraction of W . Then H_0 is a minimal model of K . Hence $K_{H_0} \sim (m-1)\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$.
- (v) For every positive integer r the r -genus $P_r(H_0)$ of H_0 is $r(m-1)+1$. In particular, $p_g(H_0)=p_a(H_0)=m$ and $q=0$.
- (vi) If $m=1$, i.e., $d=7$, H_0 is a K3-surface. If $m>1$, $\kappa(H_0)=1$.

Proof. First of all note that $B = \bar{C} + \bar{S}_\infty + (\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \dots + \bar{E}_n) + D_1$ and $K_F + Z \sim (m-1)\sigma^{-1}(l) + (2m\bar{l}_\infty + (2m-1)\bar{E}_1 + \dots + \bar{E}_{2m-1})$. Let $\sigma_1: F_1 \rightarrow F$ be the blowings-up with centers at $\bar{l}_\infty \cap \bar{E}_1$, $\bar{E}_1 \cap \bar{E}_2$, \dots , $\bar{E}_{n-1} \cap \bar{E}_n$ (cf. Fig. 1). Then

$\pi: H \rightarrow F$ factors as $\pi: H \xrightarrow{\pi_1} F_1 \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} F$, i.e., $\pi = \sigma_1\pi_1$. Since the branch locus B_1 on F_1 is of the form $B_1 = \sigma'_1(\bar{l}_\infty) + \sigma'_1(\bar{E}_1) + \dots + \sigma'_1(\bar{E}_{n-1}) + B'_1$ with B'_1 having no intersections with $\sigma'_1(\bar{l}_\infty + \bar{E}_1 + \dots + \bar{E}_{n-1})$, π_1 coincides with $\bar{\pi}: H \rightarrow \bar{F}$, which is the canonical normalization morphism, on a small open neighbourhood of $\sigma_1^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty \cup \bar{E}_1 \cup \dots \cup \bar{E}_{n-1})$. Now writing locally the equations of $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty \cap \bar{E}_1) = \pi_1^{-1}(\sigma_1^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty \cap \bar{E}_1))$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_1 \cap \bar{E}_2)$, \dots , $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_{n-1} \cap \bar{E}_n)$, it is not hard to show that L'_0, \dots, L'_{n-1} are irreducible non-singular rational curves. For $0\leq i\leq n-1$, $(L'_i)^2 = 2(\sigma_1^{-1}(\bar{E}_i \cap \bar{E}_{i+1}))^2 = -2$. This proves the assertion (i).

To show the assertion (ii), note that $\bar{l}_\infty, \bar{E}_1, \dots, \bar{E}_{n-1}$ are components of the branch locus B . Therefore $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty) = 2L_0 + L'_0$ and $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_i) = L'_{i-1} + 2L_i + L'_i$ ($1\leq i\leq n-1$) with non-singular irreducible rational curves L_i ($0\leq i\leq n-1$). Since $(\sigma'_1(\bar{l}_\infty))^2 = -2$ and $\pi_1^{-1}(\sigma'_1(\bar{l}_\infty)) = 2L_0$, we have $4(L_0^2) = -4$. Hence $(L_0^2) = -1$.

Similarly, $(\sigma'_i(\bar{E}_i))^2 = -4$ and $\pi_1^{-1}(\sigma'_i(\bar{E}_i)) = 2L_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$. Hence $(L_i^2) = -2$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$.

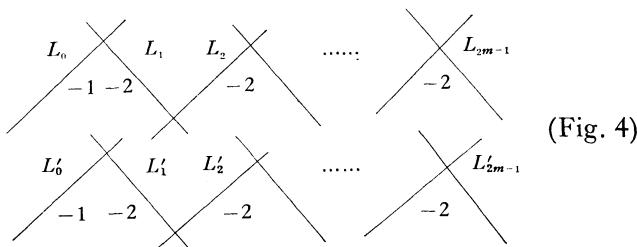
By virtue of the assertions (i) and (ii), $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z) \sim (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + \pi^{-1}(2m\bar{l}_\infty + (2m-1)\bar{E}_1 + \cdots + \bar{E}_{2m-1}) = (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + 4mL_0 + (4m-1)L'_0 + (4m-2)L_1 + \cdots + 3L'_{2m-2} + 2L_{2m-1} + L'_{2m-1}$. Since L_i 's and L'_i 's ($0 \leq i \leq 2m-1$) have the configuration as indicated in the Fig. 3, it is easy to show that W is contractible, and $(m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$ is the moving part of $|K_H|$. Let $\tau: H \rightarrow H_0$ be the contraction of W . Then $K_{H_0} = \tau((m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l))$. Hence $\dim |K_{H_0}| \geq 0$ and $|K_{H_0}|$ has no fixed components if $m \geq 1$. This implies that H_0 is a minimal model of K . Thus the assertions (iii) and (iv) are proven.

Let us show that $P_r(H_0) = (m-1)r + 1$ for every positive integer r . There exists a non-singular irreducible rational curve \tilde{S}_∞ on H such that $\pi(\tilde{S}_\infty) = \bar{S}_\infty$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{S}_\infty) > 2\tilde{S}_\infty$ and $\tilde{S}_\infty \cap \text{Supp}(W) = \emptyset$. Let $\hat{S}_\infty = \tau(\tilde{S}_\infty)$. Then \hat{S}_∞ is a non-singular irreducible rational curve. Since $\dim |rK_{H_0}| = \dim Tr_{\hat{S}_\infty} |rK_{H_0}| + \dim |rK_{H_0} - \hat{S}_\infty| + 1$, we compute $\dim Tr_{\hat{S}_\infty} |rK_{H_0}|$ and $\dim |rK_{H_0} - \hat{S}_\infty|$. Suppose that $|rK_{H_0} - \hat{S}_\infty| \neq \emptyset$, and let $M \in |rK_{H_0}|$ be such that $M > \hat{S}_\infty$. Then $\tau^{-1}M > \tau^{-1}\hat{S}_\infty = \tilde{S}_\infty$, and $\tau^{-1}M \sim r(m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$. Then $\sigma\pi(\tau^{-1}M) > \sigma\pi\tilde{S}_\infty = S_\infty$, and $\sigma\pi(\tau^{-1}M) \sim 2r(m-1)l$. This is a contradiction since no members of $|2r(m-1)l|$ on $F_0 = \mathbf{P}^1 \times \mathbf{P}^1$ contain S_∞ . Thus $\dim |rK_{H_0} - \hat{S}_\infty| = -1$. On the other hand, since $\hat{S}_\infty \cong \mathbf{P}^1$ and $\deg Tr_{\hat{S}_\infty} |rK_{H_0}| = r(m-1)^{(*)}$ and $Tr_{\hat{S}_\infty} |rK_{H_0}|$ is apparently complete we have $\dim Tr_{\hat{S}_\infty} |rK_{H_0}| = r(m-1)$. Therefore $P_r(H_0) = r(m-1) + 1$. In particular, $p_g(H_0) = P_1(H_0) = m = p_a(H_0)$. Hence $q = \dim H^1(H_0, \mathcal{O}_{H_0}) = p_g(H_0) - p_a(H_0) = 0$. Thus H_0 is a regular surface. If $m=1$, H_0 is a $K3$ -surface. If $m > 1$, $\kappa(H_0) = 1$ since $P_r(H_0)$ is a linear polynomial in r . This completes the proof of the assertions (v) and (vi). Q.E.D.

In a similar fashion we can show:

Lemma 5. Assume that $d = 6m + 2$ with $m > 0$. Then we have:

(i) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty) = L_0 + L'_0$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_i) = L_i + L'_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2m-1$) where L_i 's and L'_i 's are irreducible non-singular rational curves such that $(L_0^2) = (L'_0)^2 = -1$ and $(L_i^2) = (L'_i)^2 = -2$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2m-1$). They have the following configuration:

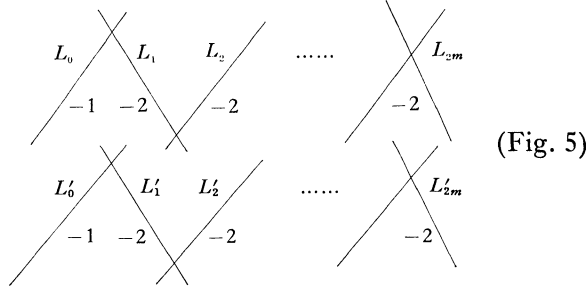


(*) Cf. $2(\hat{S}_\infty \cdot \tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)) = 2(\tilde{S}_\infty \cdot \pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)) = (2\tilde{S}_\infty \cdot \pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)) = 2(\bar{S}_\infty \cdot \sigma^{-1}(l)) = 2$.

- (ii) $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z) \sim (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + 2mL_0 + (2m-1)L_1 + \cdots + L_{2m-1} + 2mL'_0 + (2m-1)L'_1 + \cdots + L'_{2m-1}$.
- (iii) Let $W := L_0 + L_1 + \cdots + L_{2m-1} + L'_0 + L'_1 + \cdots + L'_{2m-1}$. Then W is contractible, and if $\tau: H \rightarrow H_0$ is the contraction of W , H_0 is a minimal model of K . Hence $K_{H_0} \sim (m-1)\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$.
- (iv) For every positive integer r , $P_r(H_0) = r(m-1) + 1$. In particular, $p_g(H_0) = p_a(H_0) = m$ and $q = 0$.
- (v) If $m = 1$, i.e., $d = 8$, H_0 is a K3-surface. If $m > 1$, $\kappa(H_0) = 1$.

Lemma 6. Assume that $d = 6m + 4$ with $m > 0$. Then we have:

- (i) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty) = L_0 + L'_0$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_i) = L_i + L'_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2m$), where L_i 's and L'_i 's are irreducible non-singular rational curves such that $(L_0^2) = (L'_0)^2 = -1$, $(L_i^2) = (L'_i)^2 = -2$ ($1 \leq i \leq 2m$). They have the following configuration:



- (ii) $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z) \sim (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + (2m+1)L_0 + 2mL_1 + \cdots + L_{2m} + (2m+1)L'_0 + 2mL'_1 + \cdots + L'_{2m}$.
- (iii) Let $W := L_0 + L_1 + \cdots + L_{2m} + L'_0 + L'_1 + \cdots + L'_{2m}$. Then W is contractible, and if $\tau: H \rightarrow H_0$ is the contraction of W , H_0 is a minimal model of K . Hence $K_{H_0} \sim (m-1)\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$.
- (iv) For every positive integer r , $P_r(H_0) = r(m-1) + 1$. In particular, $p_g(H_0) = p_a(H_0) = m$ and $q = 0$.
- (v) If $m = 1$, i.e., $d = 10$, H_0 is a K3-surface. If $m > 1$, $\kappa(H_0) = 1$.

Lemma 7. Assume that $d = 6m + 5$ with $m > 0$. Then we have:

- (i) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty \cap \bar{E}_1) = L'_0$, $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_1 \cap \bar{E}_2) = L'_1$, ..., $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_n \cap \bar{E}_{n+1}) = L'_n$, where $n = 2m + 1$ and L'_i ($0 \leq i \leq n$) is an irreducible non-singular rational curve with $(L'_i)^2 = -2$.
- (ii) $\pi^{-1}(\bar{l}_\infty) = 2L_0 + L'_0$ and $\pi^{-1}(\bar{E}_i) = L'_{i-1} + 2L_i + L'_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$), where L_i ($0 \leq i \leq n$) is an irreducible non-singular rational curve such that $(L_0^2) = -1$ and $(L_i^2) = -2$ ($0 < i \leq n$). L_i 's and L'_i 's have the following configuration:



- (iii) $K_H \sim \pi^{-1}(K_F + Z) \sim (m-1)\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + (4m+4)L_0 + (4m+3)L'_0 + \cdots + 2L_{2m+1} + L'_{2m+1}$.
- (iv) Let $W := L_0 + L'_0 + \cdots + L_{2m+1} + L'_{2m+1}$. Then W is contractible. If $\tau: H \rightarrow H_0$ is the contraction of W , H_0 is the minimal model of K . Hence $K_{H_0} \sim (m-1)\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$.
- (v) For every positive integer r , $P_r(H_0) = r(m-1) + 1$. In particular, $p_g(H_0) = p_a(H_0) = m$ and $q = 0$.
- (vi) If $m=1$, i.e., $d=11$, H_0 is a K3-surface. If $m>1$, $\kappa(H_0)=1$.

Combining the above results, we have our main theorem.

REMARK. If $m>1$, H_0 is not birational to an elliptic surface. Assume the contrary, and let $\rho: H' \rightarrow H_0$ be a birational morphism with a non-singular projective surface H' endowed with an elliptic pencil $\mathcal{L} = \{C_\alpha; \alpha \in \mathbf{P}^1\}$. Then $K_{H'} \sim (m-1)\rho^{-1}\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) + E$, where $E \geq 0$ with $\text{Supp}(E)$ the union of exceptional curves arising from ρ . For a general member C of \mathcal{L} we have $(C^2) = 0$, and $C \cdot K_{H'} \geq 0$ because C is a non-singular irreducible curve distinct from components of E . Since $1 = p_a(C) = (C^2 + C \cdot K_{H'})/2 + 1$ we have $C \cdot K_{H'} = 0$. Hence C coincides with a component of a member of $|(m-1)\rho^{-1}\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)|$, i.e., $C = \rho^{-1}\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l) \cong \tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$ for some l . This is absurd because $\tau\pi^{-1}\sigma^{-1}(l)$ is rational.

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