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Geometry of Schreieder's varieties and some elliptic and K3 moduli curves

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Abstract. We study the geometry of a class of n -dimensional smooth projective varieties constructed by Schreieder for their noteworthy Hodge-theoretic properties. In particular, we realize Schreieder's surfaces as elliptic modular surfaces and Schreieder's threefolds as one-dimensional families of Picard rank 19 $K3$ surfaces.

1. Introduction

If X is a smooth complex projective variety of dimension n , then for any $k \leq 2n$, the singular cohomology of X comes equipped with a decomposition into complex subspaces given by $H^k(X, \mathbb{Q}) \otimes \mathbb{C} \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=k} H^{p,q}(X)$, where $H^{p,q}(X) \cong H^q(X, \Omega_X^p)$. In [23], Schreieder considered the question of whether any set of Hodge numbers $h^{p,q} := \dim H^{p,q}(X)$, subject to the necessary symmetries imposed by the Hard Lefschetz Theorem, can be realized by a smooth complex projective variety.

To this end, Schreieder [23, Section 8] constructed, among others, n -dimensional smooth projective varieties $X_{c,n}$, depending on a parameter $c \geq 1$, with particularly pathological Hodge numbers in that $X_{c,n}$ has positive $h^{n,0} = h^{0,n}$ and all other $h^{p,q} = 0$ for $p \neq q$. The $X_{c,n}$ are smooth models of a quotient C_g^n/G , for C_g a genus $g = \frac{3^c-1}{2}$ hyperelliptic curve and G a finite group.

Schreieder's construction generalized a construction of Cynk and Hulek in [5, Section 3] in the $c = 1$ case, who proved that the $X_{1,n}$ are Calabi–Yau. From Cynk and Hulek's inductive construction, it follows that the $X_{1,n}$ may be realized as families of Calabi–Yau varieties over \mathbb{P}^1 . Additionally, they proved that these Calabi–Yau varieties are modular, a result which was generalized to all of Schreieder's varieties in [8, Corollary 3.8].

In addition to having these noteworthy Hodge-theoretic and arithmetic properties, the varieties $X_{c,n}$ are also special from a cycle-theoretic point of view. Laterveer and Vial recently showed in [15] that the subring of the Chow ring of $X_{c,n}$ generated by divisors, Chern classes, and intersections of two positive-dimensional cycles injects into cohomology via the cycle class map. Moreover they show that

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in the surface case, the small diagonal of $Z_{c,2}$ admits a decomposition similar to that of K3 surfaces proved by Beauville–Voisin [3].

In this paper, we investigate in detail the geometry of the varieties $X_{c,n}$ for $c > 1$. We generalize Cynk and Hulek’s result for the $c = 1$ case by showing in Proposition 4.1 that for any $c \geq 2$, although $X_{c,n}$ has Kodaira dimension 1 instead of 0, the Iitaka fibration of $X_{c,n}$ equips the variety $Z_{c,n}$, birational to $X_{c,n}$, with a fibration over \mathbb{P}^1 by hypersurfaces of Kodaira dimension 0.

In particular, in the cases of dimension $n = 2$ and $n = 3$, we obtain a moduli-theoretic interpretation of Schreieder’s varieties via the following two main results.

Theorem. (5.7) *For $c \geq 2$, the minimal model $Z_{c,2}$ of $X_{c,2}$ is the elliptic modular surface attached to an explicit non-congruence subgroup $\Gamma_c \subset SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$.*

Theorem. (6.1) *For $c \geq 2$, the general smooth fibers of the Iitaka fibration $Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ associated to $X_{c,3}$ are K3 surfaces of Picard rank 19.*

The notion of an elliptic modular surface is due to Shioda [24], who attaches to any finite index subgroup Γ of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ not containing $-\text{Id}$ a corresponding extremal elliptic surface S_Γ . This S_Γ is fibered over the modular curve C_Γ , given by $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}$ together with finitely many cusps, such that S_Γ is a universal family for the moduli space of elliptic curves parametrized by the curve C_Γ . Therefore, Theorem 5.7 implies that the surface $Z_{c,2}$ is a universal family for the moduli curve C_{Γ_c} .

In terms of the threefold $Z_{c,3}$ fibered by K3 surfaces of Picard rank 19, for S a general smooth K3 fiber, consider the Neron–Severi group $NS(S) := H^2(S, \mathbb{Z}) \cap H^{1,1}(S)$ and the transcendental lattice $T_S = NS(S)^\perp$ in $H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$. Because $NS(S)$ has rank 19, it follows from results of Morrison [17] and Nikulin [19] that there is a unique moduli curve parametrizing the K3 surfaces with this fixed transcendental lattice T_S . Hence, in analogy with our result in the two-dimensional case, Theorem 6.1 implies that the threefold $Z_{c,3}$ may be viewed as a finite cover of the universal family of the moduli curve parametrizing K3 surfaces with this transcendental lattice (see Corollary 6.2).

More generally, it would be interesting to see if for any $n \geq 2$ the Iitaka fibration $Z_{c,n} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is a finite cover of the universal family of the moduli curve parametrizing Calabi–Yau varieties with some fixed Hodge-theoretic data. However, the singularities of the quotient C_g^n/G are non-canonical and thus understanding the geometry and Hodge theory of these fibers becomes difficult as n grows.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In Sect. 2 we outline Schreieder’s construction in [23] of the varieties $X_{c,n}$. Then in Sect. 3 we show that for $c \geq 2$ the varieties $X_{c,n}$ have Kodaira dimension 1. In Sect. 4 we analyze the geometry of the Iitaka fibration of $X_{c,n}$, proving that its image is the curve \mathbb{P}^1 . In Sect. 5, we focus just on the $n = 2$ case and analyze in detail the elliptic fibration resulting from the Iitaka fibration studied in Sect. 4 and show that it equips $Z_{c,2}$ with the structure of an elliptic modular surface. Lastly in Sect. 6 we focus on the $n = 3$ case, proving that the smooth fibers of the Iitaka fibration $Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ are K3 surfaces of Picard rank 19 and discussing the moduli interpretations of this result.

2. Construction of $X_{c,n}$

For a fixed $c \geq 2$ consider the complex hyperelliptic curve C_g of genus $g = \frac{3^c-1}{2}$ given by the smooth projective model of the affine curve

$$\{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}.$$

obtained by adding a point at ∞ . This point is covered by an affine piece $\{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$, such that $x = u^{-1}$ and $y = v \cdot u^{-g-1}$. One may verify that x is a local coordinate in the patch $\{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}$ and that v is a local coordinate in the patch $\{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$.

Fix ζ a primitive 3^c th root of unity. The curve C_g then comes equipped with an automorphism ψ_g of order $3^c = 2g + 1$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y) &\mapsto (\zeta x, y) \\ (u, v) &\mapsto (\zeta^{-1}u, \zeta^g v). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the action on the n -dimensional product C_g^n given by the group

$$G := \{\psi_g^{a_1} \times \cdots \times \psi_g^{a_n} \mid a_1 + \cdots + a_n \equiv 0 \pmod{3^c}\},$$

where the automorphism $\psi_g^{a_i}$ acts on the i th factor in the product. Note that $G \cong (\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z})^{n-1}$.

The smooth projective variety $X_{c,n}$ whose construction we detail below is then a smooth model of the quotient C_g^n/G . This n -dimensional variety $X_{c,n}$ is constructed inductively as a pair $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$, where $\phi_{c,n}$ is a distinguished automorphism of $X_{c,n}$.

The inductive construction of $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$ detailed in [23, Section 8] proceeds as follows. Suppose the pairs of varieties and distinguished automorphisms (X_{c,n_1}, ϕ_{n_1}) and (X_{c,n_2}, ϕ_{n_2}) have both been constructed. We then detail the construction of the pair $(X_{c,n_1+n_2}, \phi_{c,n_1+n_2})$.

Consider the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(X_{c,n_1} \times X_{c,n_2})$ given by

$$H := \langle \phi_{c,n_1}^{-1} \times \text{id}, \text{id} \times \phi_{c,n_2} \rangle.$$

For each $i = 1, \dots, c$, consider the element of order 3^i inside of H given by

$$\eta_i := (\phi_{c,n_1}^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n_2})^{3^{c-i}}.$$

Thus η_i generates a cyclic subgroup $H_i := \langle \eta_i \rangle \subset H$, which gives a filtration

$$0 = H_0 \subset H_1 \subset \cdots \subset H_c = \langle \phi_{c,n_1}^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n_2} \rangle$$

such that each quotient H_i/H_{i-1} is cyclic of order 3.

Now, let

$$\begin{aligned} Y_0 &= X_{c,n_1} \times X_{c,n_2}, \\ Y'_0 &= \text{Blow up of } Y_0 \text{ along } \text{Fix}_{Y_0}(\eta_1), \\ Y''_0 &= \text{Blow up of } Y'_0 \text{ along } \text{Fix}_{Y'_0}(\eta_1). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that since the action of the group H restricts to an action on $\text{Fix}_{Y_0}(\eta_1)$, the action of H on Y_0 lifts to an action on Y'_0 and then similarly to an action on Y''_0 . Here, by abuse of notation, we let $\langle \eta_1 \rangle$ denote both the subgroups of $\text{Aut}(Y'_0)$ and $\text{Aut}(Y''_0)$ generated by the action of $\eta_1 \in H$.

Define for $i \in \{1, \dots, c\}$:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i &= Y''_{i-1}/\langle \eta_i \rangle, \\ Y'_i &= \text{Blow up of } Y_i \text{ along } \text{Fix}_{Y_i}(\eta_{i+1}), \\ Y''_i &= \text{Blow up of } Y'_i \text{ along } \text{Fix}_{Y'_i}(\eta_{i+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Namely we have the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} & & Y''_0 & & Y''_1 & & \cdots & & Y''_{k-1} & & \\ & \swarrow & \searrow & & \swarrow & & & & \swarrow & & \searrow \\ Y_0 & & Y_1 & & Y_2 & & \cdots & & Y_{k-1} & & Y_k, \end{array}$$

where each arrow to the left in the above diagram corresponds to a sequence of two blow-up maps and each arrow to the right corresponds to a 3:1 cover.

Schreieder proves in [23, Proposition 19] that each Y_{i+1} is a smooth model of $Y_i/\langle \eta_i \rangle$ and thus, in particular, the variety $X_{c,n_1+n_2} := Y_c$ is a smooth model of $Y_0/\langle \phi_{c,n_1}^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n_2} \rangle$. The distinguished automorphism ϕ_{c,n_1+n_2} on X_{c,n_1+n_2} is then defined to be the one induced by the automorphism $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n_2}$ on Y_0 .

The inductive construction of the pairs $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$ is then as follows. When $n = 1$, the pair $(X_{c,1}, \phi_{c,1})$ is the curve $X_{c,1} := C_g$ equipped with the distinguished automorphism $\phi_{c,1} := \psi_g$. Hence, by the above construction, if one can construct the pair $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$, one can construct the pair $(X_{c,n+1}, \phi_{c,n+1})$. Namely one can construct $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$ for all $n \geq 1$.

3. The Kodaira dimension of $X_{c,n}$

For a smooth algebraic variety V and any $m > 0$, the m th plurigenus of V is given by $P_m = h^0(V, K_V^{\otimes m})$. The *Kodaira dimension* κ of V is $-\infty$ if $P_m = 0$ for all $m > 0$ and otherwise it is the minimum κ such that P_m/m^κ is bounded. If V has dimension n , then the Kodaira dimension of V is either $-\infty$ or an integer $0 \leq \kappa \leq n$.

In order to compute the Kodaira dimension of the variety $X_{c,n}$ for $c \geq 2$, we thus wish to consider the plurigenera $P_m = h^0(X_{c,n}, K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m})$ for $m > 0$. We show in Proposition 3.4, by inducting on the dimension n , that the plurigenera P_m grow linearly with m and hence that the varieties $X_{c,n}$ for $c \geq 2$ have Kodaira dimension 1.

As detailed in Sect. 2, the variety $X_{c,n}$ is constructed from C_g^n by a sequence of blow-ups and quotients. We thus have an injection of global sections of powers of the canonical bundle induced by the rational map $C_g^n \dashrightarrow X_{c,n}$. To compute the P_m , one then just needs to determine which of the G -invariant global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ descend to global sections of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$. To accomplish this, it is necessary first

in Sects. 3.1 and 3.2 to establish what happens to global sections of powers of the canonical bundle of C_g^n under blow-ups and quotients.

It is also necessary to understand the local action of the group G and in particular the relationship between the local action in the n -dimensional case in relation to the $n + 1$ -dimensional case. Thus in Sect. 3.3 we analyze the local action of the automorphism $\phi_{c,n}$ on $X_{c,n}$. We then use this in Sects. 3.4 and 3.5 to identify distinguished coordinate patches R_c and S_c on $X_{c,n}$ on which we may describe the vanishing of a form in $H^0(X_{c,n}, K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m})$ in relation to the vanishing of the corresponding form on $Y_0 := C_g \times X_{c,n-1}$.

The ingredients of Sects. 3.1–3.5 are then used in the proof of Proposition 3.4 to trace the vanishing of forms corresponding to global sections of powers of the canonical bundle of C_g^n through the construction detailed in Sect. 2. We determine that the only global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ that descend to global sections of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ are those of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$, where (x_i, y_i) are coordinates on the i th factor in the product C_g^n and $\omega_i = \frac{dx_i^{\otimes m}}{y_i^m}$, and hence the Kodaira dimension of $X_{c,n}$ is 1.

3.1. Forms under quotients

Recalling the notation from the construction of $X_{c,n}$ in Sect. 2, consider the 3:1 cover maps $f_i : Y_i'' \rightarrow Y_{i+1}$, where Y_i'' and Y_{i+1} have dimension n . The Riemann-Hurwitz formula yields

$$K_{Y_i''} = f_i^* \left(K_{Y_{i+1}} + \sum_{D \in \text{Div}(Y_{i+1})} \frac{a_D - 1}{a_D} D \right) \quad (1)$$

where for each $D \in \text{Div}(Y_{i+1})$, the number a_D is the order of the group of automorphisms of Y_i'' fixing the components of $f_i^* D$ pointwise.

By construction, the group H_{i+1}/H_i acting on Y_i'' is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$. Namely for every irreducible divisor $D \in \text{Div}(Y_{i+1})$, either $a_D = 1$ or $a_D = 3$. Moreover, the irreducible D for which $a = 3$ are exactly the images of the irreducible components of the exceptional divisors E_i'' obtained from the blow-up map $Y_i'' \rightarrow Y_i'$, where it should be noted that it may happen that $E_i'' \cong E_i'$. Let $E_{i,1}'' \dots, E_{i,k_i}''$ be the irreducible components of E_i'' . Observe that since η_{i+1} fixes each of the $E_{i,j}''$, each component $E_{i,j}''$ descends to an irreducible divisor on Y_{i+1} . Equation (1) then yields:

$$K_{Y_i''} = f_i^* (K_{Y_{i+1}}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k_i} 2E_{i,j}''.$$

This gives:

$$K_{Y_i''}^{\otimes m} - \sum_{j=1}^{k_i} 2mE_{i,j}'' = f_i^* (K_{Y_{i+1}}^{\otimes m}). \quad (2)$$

For an algebraic variety V with a coordinate patch (z_1, \dots, z_n) having the standard action of \mathbb{G}_m^n on \mathbb{C}^n , we say that a pluriform ω is *toric* on the patch (z_1, \dots, z_n) if the divisor of zeros of ω is invariant under the action of \mathbb{G}_m^n .

Definition 3.1. A toric form ω on a coordinate patch (z_1, \dots, z_n) of an algebraic variety V has *vanishing sequence* $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ on the point $(z_1, \dots, z_n) = (0, \dots, 0)$ if ω vanishes to order β_i along the hypersurface $z_i = 0$.

Now consider an H_{i+1} -invariant pluriform σ on Y''_i . Suppose Y''_i has local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) around some $E''_{i,j}$ fixed by the action of H_{i+1} such that without loss of generality $E''_{i,j}$ is given by $z_1 = 0$. Consider the point $R = (0, \dots, 0)$ on $E''_{i,j}$ and suppose the vanishing sequence of σ on R is $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$. Then, using Eq. (2), the vanishing sequence of the descent of σ to Y_{i+1} has vanishing sequence on the image of R in Y_{i+1} given by

$$\left(\frac{1}{3}(\alpha_1 - 2m), \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \right). \quad (3)$$

3.2. Forms under blow-ups

Let V be an n -dimensional variety with local coordinates (z_1, \dots, z_n) . Suppose Z is a subvariety of V of codimension $k \geq 2$ given locally by $z_1 = \dots = z_k = 0$. Suppose σ is a global section of $K_V^{\otimes m}$ for $m \geq 1$ with vanishing sequence $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, 0, \dots, 0)$ on Z . Namely, the pluriform σ is given locally by

$$f(z_1, \dots, z_n)(dz_1 \cdots dz_n)^{\otimes m},$$

where the polynomial f has vanishing sequence $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, 0, \dots, 0)$ on $z_1 = \dots = z_k = 0$.

Blowing up V at Z introduces new coordinates (z'_1, \dots, z'_k) , with $z_i z'_j = z_j z'_i$ for all i, j . Hence, on the coordinate patch of the blown-up variety V' given by $z'_i \neq 0$, we have coordinates

$$(\tilde{z}_1, \dots, \tilde{z}_{i-1}, z_i, \tilde{z}_{i+1}, \dots, \tilde{z}_k, z_{k+1}, \dots, z_n),$$

where $\tilde{z}_j = \frac{z'_j}{z'_i}$ and thus $z_j = z_i \tilde{z}_j$. Thus, locally around the exceptional divisor E , the pluriform σ pulls back to the pluriform:

$$z_i^{m(k-1)} f(z_i \tilde{z}_1, \dots, z_i \tilde{z}_{i-1}, z_i, z_i \tilde{z}_{i+1}, \dots, z_i \tilde{z}_k, z_{k+1}, \dots, z_n) \\ (d\tilde{z}_1 \cdots d\tilde{z}_{i-1} dz_i d\tilde{z}_{i+1} \cdots d\tilde{z}_k dz_{k+1} \cdots dz_n)^{\otimes m}.$$

In the new coordinates $(\tilde{z}_1, \dots, \tilde{z}_{i-1}, z_i, \tilde{z}_{i+1}, \dots, \tilde{z}_k, z_{k+1}, \dots, z_n)$, consider the point $R = (0, \dots, 0)$. Then the vanishing sequence on R of the pullback of σ to V' is given by:

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1}, \sum_{l=1}^k \alpha_l + m(k-1), \alpha_{i+1}, \dots, \alpha_n). \quad (4)$$

3.3. Local action of $\phi_{c,n}$

Consider the curve C_g together with its action by the automorphism ψ_g . Observe that the fixed set of the action of ψ_g on C_g consists of 3 points. Indeed, in the coordinate patch given by $\{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}$ we have two fixed points

$$P_1: (x, y) = (0, 1) \text{ and } P_2: (x, y) = (0, -1)$$

and in the coordinate patch given by $\{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$, we have a third fixed point

$$Q: (u, v) = (0, 0).$$

Now recall the construction of the variety $X_{c,n}$ and its distinguished automorphism $\phi_{c,n}$ from the curve C_g and its automorphism ψ_g detailed in Sect. 2. In the following lemma, we detail the local action of $\phi_{c,n}$ and the corresponding vanishing of forms on two particular coordinate patches on $X_{c,n}$.

Lemma 3.2. *For any $c \geq 2$ and $n \geq 1$, there exist coordinate patches U_n and V_n on $\text{Fix}_{X_{c,n}}(\phi_{c,n})$, with local coordinates (u_1, \dots, u_n) and (v_1, \dots, v_n) respectively, satisfying:*

- (1) *The automorphism $\phi_{c,n}$ acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(0, \dots, 0, 1)$ on U_n and $(0, \dots, 0, g)$ on V_n*
- (2) *For any $\tau \in H^0(C_g^{n-1}, K_{C_g^{n-1}}^{\otimes m})$ and $\sigma \in H^0(C_g, K_{C_g}^{\otimes m})$ such that σ vanishes to order α on the point P_1 and to order β on Q , the global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ induced by the form $\tau \times \sigma$ vanishes to order α on the hypersurface $u_n = 0$ and to order β on the hypersurface $v_n = 0$*

Proof. We proceed by induction on the dimension n . By the implicit function theorem, one may verify that the coordinate x is a local coordinate in the patch U_1 on the curve C_g given by $\{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}$ and the coordinate v is a local coordinate in the coordinate patch V_1 given by $\{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$. Hence the automorphism $\phi_{c,1} := \psi_g$ acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weight 1 on U_1 and weight g on V_1 . Since $\text{Fix}_{X_{c,1}}(\phi_{c,1}) = \{P_1, P_2, Q\}$, this verifies the statement of the lemma in the $n = 1$ case.

Assume the result holds in the $n - 1$ case and let U_{n-1} and V_{n-1} be the corresponding coordinate patches on $\text{Fix}_{X_{c,n-1}}(\phi_{c,n-1})$. Now recall the inductive construction of the pair $(X_{c,n}, \phi_{c,n})$ from the pair $(X_{c,n-1}, \phi_{c,n-1})$ detailed in Sect. 2. Let $Y_0 = C_g \times X_{c,n-1}$ and consider the patches on $\text{Fix}_{Y_0}(\psi_g \times \phi_{c,n-1})$ given by

$$R_0 := U_1 \times V_{n-1} \text{ and } S_0 := V_1 \times U_{n-1}.$$

By assumption the automorphism $\eta_c := \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ acts on these patches respectively with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights

$$(-1, 0, \dots, 0, g) \text{ and } (-g, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$$

and the automorphism $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ acts respectively with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights

$$(0, \dots, 0, g) \text{ and } (0, \dots, 0, 1).$$

Now consider the images of R_0 and S_0 along the sequence of blow-ups and quotients detailed in Sect. 2. Observe that because η_1 acts with weight 0 in all but two of the local coordinates around R_0 and S_0 , for each $i \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ the fixed locus of η_i on the images of R_0 and S_0 will have codimension at most 2.

When the codimension is less than 2, then the blow-up map is an isomorphism and so the local weights are unaffected. When the codimension is exactly 2, the blow-up map locally introduces new coordinates which we denote $(\tilde{r}_1, \tilde{r}_n)$ and $(\tilde{s}_1, \tilde{s}_n)$ respectively.

Inductively, taking the $\tilde{r}_1 \neq 0$ and $\tilde{s}_1 \neq 0$ patches in the new blown-up coordinates ensures that $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ still acts with weights $(0, \dots, 0, g)$ and $(0, \dots, 0, 1)$ on these new patches. Moreover, the $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights of $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ on the image of these coordinate patches under the 3:1 quotient maps will be unaffected since neither g nor 1 is divisible by 3.

Hence let V_n and U_n be the coordinate patches on $Y_c := X_{c,n}$ obtained by locally choosing the $\tilde{r}_1 \neq 0$ and $\tilde{s}_1 \neq 0$ patches respectively at each stage in the sequence of blowups. It then follows that the image of $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(0, \dots, 0, g)$ on V_n and $(0, \dots, 0, 1)$ on U_n . Since $\phi_{c,n}$ is exactly the image of $\text{id} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ in $X_{c,n}$, this finishes the first part of the proof. The second part follows from the formulas in Eqs. (3) and (4). \square

3.4. The patches R_c and S_c on $X_{c,n}$

Consider the product $Y_0 := C_g \times X_{c,n-1}$ together with its actions by the automorphisms $\eta_i := (\psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n-1})^{3^{c-i}}$. In particular, let us consider the action of $\eta_c = \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$. We now use Lemma 3.2 to identify two distinguished patches on $X_{c,n}$, which we will denote by R_c and S_c .

Let U_{n-1} and V_{n-1} be the coordinate patches on $\text{Fix}_{X_{c,n-1}}(\phi_{c,n-1})$ and U_1 and V_1 be the coordinate patches on C_g determined in Lemma 3.2. It follows that the automorphism η_c acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-1, 0, \dots, 0, g)$ on $R_0 := U_1 \times V_{n-1}$ and with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-g, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$ on $S_0 := V_1 \times U_{n-1}$.

The blow-up map $Y'_0 \rightarrow Y_0$ introduces new local coordinates $(\tilde{r}_1, \tilde{r}_n)$ and $(\tilde{s}_1, \tilde{s}_n)$ respectively on R_0 and S_0 and η_c acts with weights

$$(-(g+1), 0, \dots, 0, g)$$

on the $\tilde{r}_n \neq 0$ patch R'_0 of the strict transform of R_0 and with weights

$$(-g, 0, \dots, 0, g+1)$$

on the $\tilde{s}_1 \neq 0$ patch S'_0 of the strict transform of S_0 . Similarly, the blow-up map $Y''_0 \rightarrow Y'_0$ introduces new local coordinates $(\tilde{\tilde{r}}_1, \tilde{\tilde{r}}_n)$ and $(\tilde{\tilde{s}}_1, \tilde{\tilde{s}}_n)$ such that η_c acts with weights

$$(-(2g+1), 0, \dots, 0, g) = (0, 0, \dots, 0, g)$$

on the $\tilde{\tilde{r}}_n \neq 0$ patch R''_0 of the strict transform of R'_0 and with weights

$$(-g, 0, \dots, 0, 2g+1) = (-g, 0, \dots, 0, 0)$$

on the $\tilde{s}_1 \neq 0$ patch S_0'' of the strict transform of S_0' .

Let R_1 and S_1 be the images of R_0'' and S_0'' under the 3:1 quotient map $Y_0'' \rightarrow Y_1$. Then η_c acts on R_1 with $\mathbb{Z}/3^{c-1}\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(0, 0, \dots, 0, g)$ and on S_1 with $\mathbb{Z}/3^{c-1}\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-g, 0, \dots, 0, 0)$.

In particular, the fixed locus under this η_c -action has codimension 1 in both these patches. Namely the blow-up maps $Y_1'' \rightarrow Y_1' \rightarrow Y_1$ are isomorphisms on R_1 and S_1 . Inductively defining R_i and S_i to be the images under the 3:1 quotient map $Y_{i-1}'' \rightarrow Y_i$ of R_{i-1} and S_{i-1} respectively, we then have that in fact the blow-up maps $Y_i'' \rightarrow Y_i' \rightarrow Y_i$ are all isomorphisms on the coordinate patches R_i and S_i .

Namely, the coordinate patch R_c is obtained from R_1 simply by performing a sequence of $c-1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ and the coordinate patch S_c is similarly obtained from S_1 by performing a sequence of $c-1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$.

3.5. Vanishing of forms on R_c and S_c

In the notation of Sect. 3.4, consider a form σ with vanishing sequence $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ on the point $(0, \dots, 0)$ of the coordinate patch R_0 and vanishing sequence $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ on the point $(0, \dots, 0)$ of the coordinate patch S_0 .

By Eq. (4), the form σ has vanishing sequences at the origins of R_0' and S_0' respectively given by

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \alpha_1 + \alpha_n + m) \text{ and } (\beta_1 + \beta_n + m, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n)$$

and vanishing sequences at the origins of R_0'' and S_0'' respectively given by

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, 2\alpha_1 + \alpha_n + 2m) \text{ and } (\beta_1 + 2\beta_n + 2m, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n).$$

By Eq. (3), the form σ then has vanishing sequences at the origins of R_1 and S_1 respectively given by

$$(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \frac{1}{3}(2\alpha_1 + \alpha_n)) \text{ and } (\frac{1}{3}(\beta_1 + 2\beta_n), \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n).$$

But as established in Sect. 3.4, the coordinate patch R_c is obtained from R_1 simply by performing a sequence of $c-1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ and the coordinate patch S_c is similarly obtained from S_1 by performing a sequence of $c-1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$. Hence it follows that σ has vanishing sequence at the origin in R_c given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \frac{1}{3} \left(\dots \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{3} (2\alpha_1 + \alpha_n) - 2m \right) \dots \right) - 2m \right) \right) \\ &= \left(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \frac{1}{3^c} (2\alpha_1 + \alpha_n - m(3^c - 3)) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

and has vanishing sequence at the origin in S_c given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(\dots \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{3} (\beta_1 + 2\beta_n) - 2m \right) \dots \right) - 2m \right), \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{3^c} (\beta_1 + 2\beta_n - m(3^c - 3)), \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n \right). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

3.6. Kodaira dimension computation for $X_{c,n}$

We now make use of what we have established in Sects. 3.1–3.5 to prove in Proposition 3.4 that the varieties $X_{c,n}$ have Kodaira dimension 1. To do this we use the following theorem of Köck and Tait.

Theorem 3.3. [13, Theorem 5.1] *Let C be a hyperelliptic curve of genus $g \geq 2$ of the form $y^2 = f(x)$ and let $\omega \in K_C^{\otimes m}$ be given by $\omega = \frac{dx^{\otimes m}}{y^m}$. Then an explicit basis for $H^0(C, K_C^{\otimes m})$ is given by the following:*

$$\begin{cases} \omega, x\omega, \dots, x^{g-1}\omega & \text{if } m = 1 \\ \omega, x\omega, x^2\omega & \text{if } m = 2 \text{ and } g = 2 \\ \omega, x\omega, \dots, x^{m(g-1)}\omega; y\omega, xy\omega, \dots, x^{(m-1)(g-1)-2}y\omega & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 3.4. *For any $c \geq 2$ and $n \geq 2$, the variety $X_{c,n}$ has Kodaira dimension 1.*

Proof. Fix some $m > 0$ and consider the form on the affine patch $U_1 := \{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}$ of the curve C_g given by

$$\omega := \frac{dx^{\otimes m}}{y^m}.$$

By Theorem 3.3, we are interested in global sections of $K_{C_g}^{\otimes m}$ of the form $x^a\omega$, where $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$ or of the form $x^a y\omega$, where $0 \leq a \leq (m-1)(g-1)-2$.

Note that since the variable x is a local coordinate near the ψ_g -fixed points P_1 and P_2 of C_g , the form ω has order of vanishing equal to 0 at P_1 and P_2 . Hence both $x^a\omega$ and $x^a y\omega$ have order of vanishing equal to a at the fixed points P_1 and P_2 .

On the affine patch $V_1 := \{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$, the variable v is a local coordinate near the ψ_g -fixed point Q and the form ω is given by

$$\frac{(-1)^d u^{m(g-1)} du^{\otimes m}}{v^m}$$

The equation $v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u$ yields $2v \cdot dv = ((2g+2)u^{2g+1} + 1) \cdot du$. Namely, du and v vanish to the same order. Moreover, u has order of vanishing 2 with respect to v , hence the order of vanishing of ω at the point Q is $2m(g-1) = m(3^c - 3)$. Thus a form $x^a\omega = u^{-a}\omega$ has order of vanishing at Q given by

$$m(3^c - 3) - 2a$$

and a form $x^a y\omega = u^{-(a+g+1)} v\omega$ has order of vanishing at Q given by

$$2m(g-1) - 2(a+g+1) + 1 = m(3^c - 3) - 2a - 3^c.$$

Since global sections of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ inject into global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ via the rational map $C_g^n \dashrightarrow X_{c,n}$, in order to prove that the varieties $X_{c,n}$ have Kodaira dimension 1, it is enough to show that global sections of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ correspond to global sections

of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Here we implicitly use the natural map $H^0(C_g, K_{C_g})^{\otimes n} \rightarrow H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m})$.

More precisely we will show that any global section of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ which descends to a global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ must be of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Since the number of such forms is linear in m , the Kodaira dimension of $X_{c,n}$ is at most 1. However, by construction, we have $h^0(X_{c,n}, K_{X_{c,n}}) = g$, where we know $g \geq 4$. In particular, this means $P_1 = h^0(X_{c,n}, K_{X_{c,n}})$ is greater than 1, so the Kodaira dimension of $X_{c,n}$ is at least equal to 1. Hence, the Kodaira dimension of $X_{c,n}$ is exactly equal to 1.

In order to prove that any global section of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ which descends to a global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$ must be of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$, we will induct on the dimension n of the variety $X_{c,n}$.

So let us begin with the $n = 2$ case and consider $Y_0 = C_g \times C_g$. Let σ be a global section of $K_{Y_0}^{\otimes m} = K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}$ with vanishing sequence (α_1, α_2) on the point $(0, 0) = (P_i, Q)$ of R_0 and with vanishing sequence (β_1, β_2) on the points $(0, 0) = (Q, P_i)$ of S_0 , where R_0 and S_0 are the coordinate patches of Y_0 defined in Sect. 3.4. Then by Eqs. (5) and (6), the form σ has vanishing sequences

$$\left(\alpha_1, \frac{1}{3^c} (2\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - m(3^c - 3)) \right) \text{ and } \left(\frac{1}{3^c} (\beta_1 + 2\beta_2 - m(3^c - 3)), \beta_2 \right)$$

at the origins of the patches R_c and S_c respectively in $X_{c,2}$. Therefore, if σ corresponds to a global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$, it must have non-negative vanishing at the origins of R_c and S_c and so

$$\alpha_1 \geq 0 \text{ and } 2\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - m(3^c - 3) \geq 0. \quad (7)$$

$$\beta_2 \geq 0 \text{ and } \beta_1 + 2\beta_2 - m(3^c - 3) \geq 0. \quad (8)$$

If σ is of the form $x_1^{a_1} \omega_1 \times x_2^{a_2} \omega_2$, then $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = (a_1, 3(3^c - 3) - 2a_2)$ and $(\beta_1, \beta_2) = (m(3^c - 3) - 2a_1, a_2)$. Hence after simplification, Equations (7) and (8) yield $a_1 = a_2$.

If σ is the form $x_1^{a_1} \omega_1 \times x_2^{a_2} y_2 \omega_2$, then $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = (a_1, 3m(3^{c-1} - 1) - 2a_2 - 3^c)$ and $(\beta_1, \beta_2) = (3m(3^{c-1} - 1) - 2a_1, a_2)$. After simplification, Eqs. (7) and (8) yield $2a_2 \geq 2a_1 + 3^c$, which is impossible. So no such σ can exist.

Finally, if σ is of the form $x_1^{a_1} y_1 \omega_1 \times x_2^{a_2} y_2 \omega_2$, then $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = (a_1, 3m(3^{c-1} - 1) - 2a_2 - 3^c)$ and $(\beta_1, \beta_2) = (3m(3^{c-1} - 1) - 2a_1 - 3^c, a_2)$. After simplification, Eqs. (7) and (8) yield $2a_2 \geq 2a_1 + 2 \cdot 3^c$, which is impossible. So no such σ can exist.

Therefore the only global sections of $K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}$ that can correspond to global sections of $K_{X_{c,2}}^{\otimes m}$ are those of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$, which finishes the proof of the base case.

So assume that global sections of $K_{X_{c,n-1}}^{\otimes m}$ correspond to global sections of $K_{C_g^{n-1}}^{\otimes m}$ of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times \cdots \times x_{n-1}^a \omega_{n-1}$ where $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Letting

$Y_0 = C_g \times X_{c,n-1}$, it follows that a global section ε of $K_{Y_0}^{\otimes m}$ corresponds to a global section of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ of the form

$$\delta \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n,$$

where δ is a global section of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$.

We have established that the form $x_{n-1}^a \omega_{n-1}$ has order of vanishing 0 at P_1 and order of vanishing $m(3^c - 3) - 2a$ at Q . By Lemma 3.2 there exist coordinate patches U_{n-1} and V_{n-1} on $\text{Fix}_{X_{c,n-1}}(\phi_{c,n-1})$, with local coordinates (u_2, \dots, u_n) and (v_2, \dots, v_n) respectively, on which $\phi_{c,n-1}$ acts with weights $(0, \dots, 0, g)$ and $(0, \dots, 0, 1)$ respectively. Moreover the global section of $K_{X_{c,n-1}}^{\otimes m}$ corresponding to the form $x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n$ has vanishing sequence at the point $(u_2, \dots, u_n) = (0, \dots, 0)$ of the form

$$(\gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_{n-2}, a)$$

for some non-negative $\gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$, and vanishing sequence at the point $(v_2, \dots, v_n) = (0, \dots, 0)$ of the form

$$(\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n-2}, m(3^c - 3) - 2a)$$

for some non-negative $\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$.

It follows that $\eta_c := \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,n-1}$ has $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights on $R_0 := U_1 \times V_{n-1}$ and $S_0 := V_1 \times U_{n-1}$ given by $(-1, 0, \dots, 0, g)$ and $(-g, 0, \dots, 1)$ respectively.

Let α_1 be the order of vanishing of the form δ at the point P_1 in U_1 and let β_1 be the order of vanishing of δ at the point Q in V_1 . Then, the form ε has vanishing sequence at the point $(0, \dots, 0)$ in R_0 given by

$$(\alpha_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n-2}, m(3^c - 3) - 2a)$$

and vanishing sequence at the point $(0, \dots, 0)$ in S_0 given by

$$(\beta_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_{n-2}, a)$$

Suppose the form ε corresponds to a global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$. Then the vanishing of ε on the patches R_c and S_c defined in Sect. 3.5 must be non-negative. So by Eqs. (5) and (6):

$$\frac{1}{3^c}(2\alpha_1 - 2a) \geq 0 \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{1}{3^c}(\beta_1 + 2a - m(3^c - 3)) \geq 0 \tag{10}$$

Now by Theorem 3.3, the form δ is either of the form $x^b \omega$, where $0 \leq b \leq m(g-1)$ or of the form $x^b y \omega$, where $0 \leq b \leq (m-1)(g-1) - 2$.

In the first case, namely when δ is of the form $x^b \omega$, we have $\alpha_1 = a$ and $\beta_1 = m(3^c - 3) - 2b$. Hence Eqs. (9) and (10) yield after simplification the condition $a = b$.

In the second case, namely when δ is of the form $x^b y \omega$, we have $\alpha_1 = a$ and $\beta_1 = m(3^c - 3) - 2b - 3^c$. Equations (9) and (10) then yield the conditions $b \geq a$ and $2a - 2b - 3^c \geq 0$, which is impossible.

Therefore, as desired, we have shown that if ε is a global section of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ which descends to a global section of $K_{X_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}$, then ε must be of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2 \times \cdots x_n^a \omega_n$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. \square

4. The Iitaka fibration of C_g^n/G

Consider the Iitaka fibration of the quotient variety C_g^n/G

$$f: C_g^n/G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G,$$

given by sending a point x to its evaluation on a basis of G -invariant global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$. See [14, Section 2.1.C] for general facts on the Iitaka fibration of a normal projective variety. By Proposition 3.4, the variety C_g^n/G and hence $X_{c,n}$ has Kodaira dimension 1, thus the image of f is a curve. Note that after passing to a resolution $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,n} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,n}, K_{Z_{c,n}}^{\otimes m}))$ for m sufficiently divisible, the smooth fibers of \tilde{f} have Kodaira dimension 0 (see [14, Theorem 2.1.33]).

Proposition 4.1. *For any $c \geq 2$, $n \geq 2$, the rational map $f: C_g^n/G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ has image \mathbb{P}^1 . Moreover f has reducible singular fibers above the points 0 and ∞ and has singular fibers with an isolated singular point above the 3^c roots of $t^{3^c} - (-1)^n$.*

Proof. We have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_g^n/G & \dashrightarrow & \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ C_g^n & \xrightarrow{f'} & \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m})), \end{array} \quad (11)$$

where the horizontal map f' is the Iitaka fibration for C_g^n .

Consider the composition obtained from the above diagram

$$\alpha: C_g^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G.$$

Recall from Theorem 3.3 that global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ are of the form $x^a \omega$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Observe that the only points of C_g on which the form $x^a \omega$ can vanish are the points $P_1: (x, y) = (0, 1)$ and $P_2: (x, y) = (0, -1)$ in the coordinate patch on C_g given by $\{y^2 = x^{2g+1} + 1\}$ and the point $Q: (u, v) = (0, 0)$ in the coordinate patch given by $\{v^2 = u^{2g+2} + u\}$. In fact, we have:

$$x^a \omega(P_1) = \begin{cases} dx^m & \text{if } a = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

$$x^a \omega(P_2) = \begin{cases} (-1)^m dx^m & \text{if } a = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

$$x^a \omega(Q) = \begin{cases} (-1)^m & \text{if } a = m(g-1) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

Recall from the proof of Proposition 3.4 that G -invariant global sections of $K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}$ are of the form

$$s_a = x_1^a \omega_1 \times \cdots \times x_n^a \omega_n,$$

for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Thus we may view the map $\alpha: C_g^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ as the rational map sending:

$$(z_1, \dots, z_n) \mapsto [s_0(z_1, \dots, z_n) : \cdots : s_{m(g-1)}(z_1, \dots, z_n)].$$

Say that $\mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ has coordinates $[w_0 : \cdots : w_{m(g-1)}]$. Then on the affine patch of $\mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ given by $w_0 \neq 0$, the image of α is of the form $(t, t^2, \dots, t^{m(g-1)})$, where $t = x_1(z_1) \cdots x_n(z_n)$. The images on the other affine patches of $\mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ take similar forms. Hence the image of $\alpha: C_g^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ is the rational curve \mathbb{P}^1 from which it follows that the image of $f: C_g^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$ is \mathbb{P}^1 as well.

Consider the codimension 1 subvarieties of C_g^n of the form $C_g^{n-1} \times P_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ up to permutation of factors. Observe from (12) to (14) that α sends the open subset $(C_g - Q)^{n-1} \times P_i$ of such a subvariety to the point $[1 : 0 : \cdots : 0]$ in $\mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^n, K_{C_g^n}^{\otimes m}))^G$, which corresponds to the point $[1 : 0]$ in \mathbb{P}^1 . Moreover for the different permutations of the position of the P_i , the action of the group G on C_g^n does not identify these various open subvarieties. Namely, the fiber of f above the point $[1 : 0]$ contains all $2n$ of these open subvarieties. In particular, the fiber of $[1 : 0]$ is singular and reducible.

Similarly, consider the n subvarieties of C_g^n of the form $C_g^{n-1} \times Q$. Then α sends the open subsets $(C_g - \{P_1, P_2\})^{n-1} \times Q$ of these subvarieties to the point $[0 : 1]$ in \mathbb{P}^1 and since the action of the group G does not identify these open subsets, they all lie in the fiber of $[0 : 1]$ under f . In particular, the fiber of $[0 : 1]$ is singular and reducible.

Now let us consider the fibers of α away from the points $[1 : 0]$ and $[0 : 1]$ in \mathbb{P}^1 . Note that away from these two points, the image of α is given by points $(t, t^2, \dots, t^{m(g-1)})$, where $t = x_1(z_1) \cdots x_n(z_n)$ is not equal to zero. Hence the fibers of α away from $[1 : 0]$ and $[0 : 1]$ are then the G -invariant hypersurfaces F_t in C_g^n given by $x_1 \cdots x_n = t$. In other words, these fibers are defined by the affine equations in $(\mathbb{A}^2)^n$:

$$(y_1^2 = x_1^{2g+1} + 1, y_2^2 = x_2^{2g+1} + 1, \dots, y_n^2 = x_n^{2g+1} + 1, x_1 \cdots x_n = t), \quad (15)$$

where we are assuming $t \neq 0$.

On the affine patch we have described, such fibers F_t have Jacobian:

$$\begin{pmatrix} (2g+1)x_1^{2g} & 2y_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (2g+1)x_2^{2g} & 2y_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & (2g+1)x_n^{2g} & 2y_n \\ x_2 \cdots x_n & 0 & x_1 x_3 \cdots x_n & 0 & \cdots & x_1 \cdots x_{n-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence the fiber F_t is singular if $y_1 = \cdots = y_n = 0$. When this is the case, then for each $i = 1, \dots, n$ we have that x_i satisfies the equation $x_i^{2g+1} + 1 = 0$, namely x_i is of the form $\xi^{2\gamma_i+1}$, where ξ is a primitive $2 \cdot 3^c$ th root of unity and $0 \leq \gamma_i \leq 3^c - 1$. Namely we have

$$t = \xi^{(2(\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i) + m)}$$

and so

$$t^{3^c} = \xi^{n \cdot 3^c} = (-1)^n.$$

In other words, if $t \in \mathbb{C}^*$ is such that $t^{3^c} = (-1)^n$, then the fiber F_t is singular and has singularities at the points of the form

$$((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)) = ((\xi^{2\gamma_1+1}, 0), \dots, (\xi^{2\gamma_n+1}, 0)).$$

Note that since ζ is an even power of ξ , the action of the group G permutes these singular points on F_t . Namely, in the image of F_t in C_g^n/G these points are all identified to a single singular point.

Note that if we consider some other affine patch of the fiber F_t , we substitute in (15) equations of the form $v_i^2 = u_i^{2g+2} + u_i$ and then the equation $x_1 \cdots x_n = t$ becomes $\frac{x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k}}{u_{j_1} \cdots u_{j_\ell}} = t$. Considering the Jacobian as above yields that the fiber F_t is singular if $y_{i_1} = \cdots = y_{i_k} = v_{j_1} = \cdots = v_{j_\ell} = 0$. Since $\frac{x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k}}{u_{j_1} \cdots u_{j_\ell}} = t$, we know that none of the u_{j_r} can be equal to zero. Hence the points described by $y_{i_1} = \cdots = y_{i_k} = v_{j_1} = \cdots = v_{j_\ell} = 0$ are in fact the same points as those described by just $y_1 = \cdots = y_n = 0$. Since we have already shown that these points are identified to a single singular point in the image of F_t in C_g^n/G , it follows that the image of F_t in C_g^n/G has a single singular point. \square

5. The elliptic surface case

We now focus our attention on the case when $n = 2$. In this case, for m sufficiently divisible, the rational map $f: C_g^2/G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}))^G$ studied in Proposition 4.1, can be resolved to yield an elliptic fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. To better understand this minimal elliptic surface $Z_{c,2}$, we will make use of the fact that minimal resolutions of cyclic quotient singularities are well-understood in dimension 2.

The action of $\eta_c = \psi_g^{-1} \times \psi_g$ on the product $C_g \times C_g$ has 9 fixed points: five of the form (P_i, P_j) or (Q, Q) , which we refer to as *Type I fixed points*, and four

of the form (P_i, Q) or (Q, P_i) , which we refer to as *Type II fixed points*. We will also refer to these points as the *Type I* and *Type II singular points*, respectively, of the quotient $C_g^2/G = (C_g \times C_g)/\langle \eta_c \rangle$.

Observe that η_c acts around Type I fixed points with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-1, 1)$ in the (P_i, P_j) case and $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-g, g)$ in the (Q, Q) case. Similarly η_c acts around Type II fixed points with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-1, g)$ in the (P_i, Q) case and $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-g, 1)$ in the (Q, P_i) case. In particular then, note that the Type II singular points are non-canonical singularities.

5.1. Resolving the singular points of C_g^2/G

To understand the resolutions of the singular points of C_g^2/G , we make use of established facts about surface cyclic quotient singularities and Hirzebruch–Jung resolutions. A brief survey of these can be found in [12, Section 2.4] and more detailed explanations can be found in [1, 21].

Suppose the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}/r\mathbb{Z}$ acts on \mathbb{C}^2 via $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (\epsilon z_1, \epsilon^a z_2)$, for some a coprime to r , where ϵ is a primitive r th root of unity. Then the minimal resolution of the singularity at $(0, 0)$ in the quotient $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}/r\mathbb{Z}$ is encoded by the continued fraction expansion:

$$\frac{r}{a} = b_0 - \frac{1}{b_1 - \frac{1}{b_2 - \frac{1}{b_3 - \dots}}}.$$

More precisely, the minimal resolution of this singularity is a chain of $s + 1$ exceptional curves E_0, E_1, \dots, E_s with nonzero intersection numbers $E_i \cdot E_i = -b_i$ and $E_i \cdot E_{i+1} = 1$ [12, Proposition 2.32]. The sequence $[b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_s]$ is called the *Hirzebruch–Jung expansion* of the singularity.

Therefore since η_c acts around Type I fixed points with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-1, 1)$ and $(-g, g)$, the Type I fixed points have Hirzebruch–Jung expansion

$$\underbrace{[2, \dots, 2]}_{(3^c-1)\text{-times}}.$$

Thus the Type I singular points of C_g^2/G are DuVal singularities of type A_{3^c-1} whose minimal resolutions consist of a chain of $3^c - 1$ rational curves, each with self-intersection -2 .

Similarly, since the Type II fixed points are acted on by η_c with weights $(-1, g)$ and $(-g, 1)$, the Type II singular points of C_g^2/G have Hirzebruch–Jung expansion $[2, g+1]$. Hence the minimal resolution of each Type II singular point consists of a chain of two rational curves, one denoted T with self-intersection -2 and one denoted S with self-intersection $-(g+1)$.

5.2. Weights and vanishing on the curves T and S

Since the Type II singular points of C_g^2/G are not canonical singularities, they will be of special interest to us in understanding both the geometry of the surface $Z_{c,2}$ and of the threefold $Z_{c,3}$. In this section, we thus pay special attention for use later to the local action of the automorphisms η_c and $\phi_{c,2}$ on the images of Type II singular points in $X_{c,2}$ and $Z_{c,2}$.

Without loss of generality, let us consider a Type II point on $C_g \times C_g$ of the form $P_i \times Q$ for some $i \in \{1, 2\}$. As discussed in Sect. 3.3, this point is covered by a coordinate patch R_0 with local coordinates $(z_{0,1}, z_{0,2})$ on which the automorphism $\eta_c = \psi_g^{-1} \times \psi_g$ acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-1, g)$ and the automorphism $\text{id} \times \psi_g$ acts with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(0, g)$.

After performing a sequence of two blow-ups along the fixed locus of η_c , we have that η_c acts on the resulting coordinate patches with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights

$$(-1, g+2) \quad (-g+2, g+1) \quad (-g+1, 0) \quad (0, g)$$

and hence that $\text{id} \times \psi_g$ acts with corresponding $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights

$$(0, g) \quad (-g, g) \quad (-g, 2g) \quad (-2g, g).$$

Note that coordinate patch on which η_c acts with weights $(0, g)$ is exactly the coordinate patch R_0'' introduced in Sect. 3.4. We showed in that section that the image R_c of R_0'' in Y_c is obtained by taking a sequence of $c-1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ since all subsequent blow-up maps will be isomorphisms on this patch. Hence the automorphism η_c acts on R_c with weights $(0, g)$ and the automorphism $\text{id} \times \psi_g$ acts on R_c with weights $(-2g, g) = (1, g)$. Moreover, since a global section $s_a = x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2$ of $K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}$ has vanishing sequence on $P_i \times Q$ given by $(a, m(3^c - 3) - 2a)$, the form s_a has vanishing sequence at the origin of R_c given by $(a, 0)$.

Now consider the coordinate patch T_0'' of Y_0'' on which η_c acts with weights $(-1, g+2) = (-1, \frac{3^c+3}{2})$. Let T_1 denote the image of this patch after taking the $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ -quotient needed to pass from Y_0'' to Y_1 . Then η_c acts on T_1 with weights $(-1, \frac{3^{c-1}+1}{2})$. Suppose that the sequence of two blow-ups needed to obtain Y_0'' from Y_0 introduced new local coordinates $[z'_{0,1} : z'_{0,2}]$ followed by $[z''_{0,1} : z''_{0,2}]$ such that the T_0'' patch is given by $z'_{0,1} \neq 0$ followed by $z''_{0,1} \neq 0$.

Inductively, if the sequence of blowups $Y_i'' \rightarrow Y_i' \rightarrow Y_i$ introduces new local coordinates $[z'_{i,1} : z'_{i,2}]$ and $[z''_{i,1} : z''_{i,2}]$, define T_i to be the image in Y_i of the $z'_{i-1,1} \neq 0$ patch followed by the $z''_{i-1,1} \neq 0$ patch. Suppose η_c acts with weights $(-1, \frac{3^{c-i}+1}{2})$ on T_i . Then after one blow-up η_c acts with weights $(-1, \frac{3^{c-i}+3}{2})$ on the $z'_{i,1} \neq 0$ patch. Since $\frac{3^{c-i}+3}{2}$ is divisible by 3, the blow-up $Y_i'' \rightarrow Y_i'$ is an isomorphism on the $z'_{i,1} \neq 0$ patch, and thus η_c indeed acts with weights $(-1, \frac{3^{c-(i+1)}+1}{2})$ on T_{i+1} .

Hence by induction, we have that indeed η_c acts with weights $(-1, \frac{3^{c-i}+1}{2})$ on T_i for each $1 \leq i \leq c$ and that to pass from T_i to T_{i+1} we perform one non-trivial

blow-up followed by one $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ quotient. In particular, the automorphism η_c acts with weights $(-1, 1)$ on the patch T_c in $Y_c = X_{c,2}$ and the automorphism $\text{id} \times \psi_g$ acts with weights $(0, g)$ on T_c .

Using the inductive construction of the coordinate patch T_c together with Eqs. (3) and (4), we deduce that a global section of $K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}$ with vanishing sequence (α_1, α_2) on $P_i \times Q$ has vanishing sequence on the origin of T_c given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(\cdots \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{3} (\alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2) + \alpha_2 - m \right) \cdots + \alpha_2 - m \right), \alpha_2 \right) \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{3^c} \left(\alpha_1 + \frac{3^c + 1}{2} \alpha_2 - m \frac{3^c - 3}{2} \right), \alpha_2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the form s_a has vanishing sequence on the origin of T_c given by

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} (m(3^c - 3) - 2a), m(3^c - 3) - 2a \right).$$

Now by construction of $Y_c = X_{c,2}$, the image of the point $P_i \times Q$ in $X_{c,2}$ consists of a chain of rational curves, one extreme end of which is covered by the patch R_c and the other extreme end of which is covered by the patch T_c . Passing from $X_{c,2}$ to the minimal surface $Z_{c,2}$ involves contracting all but the two extremal curves in the chain, which become the curves T and S in $Z_{c,2}$.

This chain of 2 curves, the curve T followed by the curve S , is then covered by three coordinate patches: the patch T_c , a new patch W_c , and then the patch R_c . Hence our calculations yield that the automorphism η_c acts respectively on these patches with local $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ weights $(-1, 1)$, $(-1, 0)$, and $(0, g)$ and that the automorphism $\phi_{c,2} = \text{id} \times \psi_g$ acts respectively with weights

$$(0, g), (-g, -1), \text{ and } (1, g). \quad (16)$$

Moreover, our calculations together with Eq. (4) yield that the form s_a has vanishing sequence at the origins of the three coordinate patches T_c , W_c , and R_c given respectively by

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} (m(3^c - 3) - 2a), m(3^c - 3) - 2a \right), \left(0, \frac{1}{2} (m(3^c - 3) - 2a) \right), \text{ and } (a, 0). \quad (17)$$

5.3. The canonical bundle $K_{Z_{c,2}}$

From the above calculations we observe the following about the canonical bundle $K_{Z_{c,2}}$ of the minimal surface $Z_{c,2}$.

Proposition 5.1. *For $c \geq 2$, the canonical bundle $K_{Z_{c,2}}$ is basepoint free.*

Proof. Consider the rational map $h: Z_{c,2} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,2}, K_{Z_{c,2}}))$ induced by the canonical bundle $K_{Z_{c,2}}$. Observe that h fits into a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z_{c,2} & \xrightarrow{h} & \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,2}, K_{Z_{c,2}})) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ C_g^2 & \dashrightarrow & \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2})), \end{array} \quad (18)$$

where the horizontal maps are given by evaluation on forms $s_a := x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2$ for $0 \leq a \leq g-1$ and the rational vertical map on the left is the sequence of blow-ups, blow-downs, and quotients needed to obtain $Z_{c,2}$ from C_g^2 followed by the birational map $Z_{c,2} \rightarrow X_{c,2}$.

Observe that the points of C_g^2 on which all the s_a vanish are exactly the Type II fixed points. Thus to prove that $K_{Z_{c,2}}$ is basepoint free, we just need to ensure that not all of the s_a vanish on the image in $Z_{c,2}$ of a Type II fixed point. But the image in $Z_{c,2}$ of a Type II fixed point is the pair of curves T and S covered by the three coordinate patches T_c , W_c , and R_c defined in Sect. 5.2. So the result follows from Eq. (17). \square

5.4. The elliptic fibration $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$

It follows from Proposition 5.1 that the Iitaka fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,2}, K_{Z_{c,2}}^{\otimes m}))$ obtained by resolving the rational map $f: C_g^2/G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}))^G$ studied in Proposition 4.1 may be obtained by letting $m = 1$.

In this case, we just obtain the map $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,2}, K_{Z_{c,2}}))$ from Proposition 5.1. In Proposition 5.2 below, we study in detail the geometry of this elliptic fibration, which we illustrate in Fig. 1.

We make use of Kodaira's classification, in [10, 11], of the possible singular fibers of an elliptic surface. For a survey of the possible fiber types, see [16, I.4] and [25, Section 4].

As we will see, the two kinds of singular fibers that appear in the fibration h are singular fibers of type I_b for $b > 0$ and singular fibers of type I_b^* for $b \geq 0$. Singular fibers of type I_b consist of b smooth rational curves meeting in a cycle, namely meeting with dual graph the affine Dynkin diagram \tilde{A}_b . Singular fibers of type I_b^* consist of $b+5$ smooth rational curves meeting with dual graph the affine Dynkin diagram \tilde{D}_{b+4} .

Recall that each Type II singularity in the quotient C_g^2/G yields two rational curves T and S in $Z_{c,2}$, where T has self-intersection -2 and S has self-intersection $-(g+1)$. Let $\delta_1 = Q \times P_1$, $\delta_2 = Q \times P_2$, $\delta_3 = P_1 \times Q$, and $\delta_4 = P_2 \times Q$ denote these four Type II singular points and let S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 denote each of their respective $-(g+1)$ -curves in $Z_{c,2}$ and T_1, T_2, T_3 , and T_4 their respective (-2) -curves in $Z_{c,2}$.

In the dimension 2 case, Proposition 4.1 then yields:

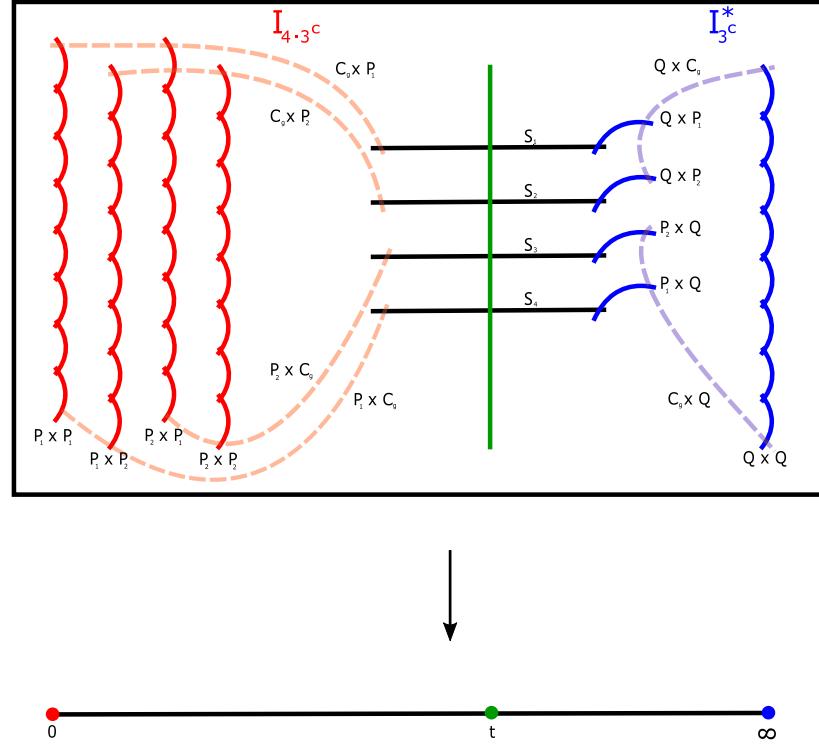


Fig. 1. The elliptic surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$

Proposition 5.2. For $c \geq 2$, the elliptic surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has $3^c + 2$ singular fibers: one of type $I_{4,3^c}$ located at 0, one of type $I_{3^c}^*$ located at ∞ , and the remaining 3^c of type I_1 and located at the points ζ^i , for ζ a primitive 3^c th root of unity. Additionally, each of the rational curves S_1, S_2, S_3 , and S_4 coming from the resolution of a Type II singular point corresponds to a section of \tilde{f} .

Proof. Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Z_{c,2} & \xrightarrow{h} & \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,2}, K_{Z_{c,2}})) \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 C_g^2/G & \dashrightarrow & \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2}))^G \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 C_g^2 & \dashrightarrow & \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2})),
 \end{array} \tag{19}$$

where f is the rational map studied in Proposition 4.1 and the rational map $C_g^2/G \dashrightarrow Z_{c,2}$ on the top left of the diagram is obtained by resolution of singularities.

By Proposition 4.1, the rational map f has singular fibers at $0, \infty$, and ζ^i in \mathbb{P}^1 . Thus we consider the fibers of h above these points. Let us begin by focusing on the fibers of h above the points 0 and ∞ .

Consider the rational map $\alpha: C_g^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^2, K_{C_g^2})^G)$ from the proof of Proposition 4.1. Recall that α may be viewed as the rational map given by $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto [s_0(z_1, z_2) : \dots : s_{g-1}(z_1, z_2)]$, where $s_a := x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2$ for $0 \leq a \leq g-1$. We know that the points of C_g^2 on which all the s_a vanish are exactly the Type II fixed points.

For any set of points A on the curve C_g , let $C_g - A$ denote the complement in C_g of this set of points. Then from what we have established, we know that the preimage under α of the point $[1 : 0 : \dots : 0]$ consists of the union of open curves

$$\begin{aligned} & (P_1 \times (C_g - \{Q\})) \cup (P_2 \times (C_g - \{Q\})) \\ & \cup ((C_g - \{Q\}) \times P_1) \cup ((C_g - \{Q\}) \times P_2). \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Similarly, the preimage under α of the point $[0 : \dots : 0 : 1]$ contains the union of open curves

$$(Q \times Q) \cup (Q \times (C_g - \{P_1, P_2\})) \cup ((C_g - \{P_1, P_2\}) \times Q). \quad (21)$$

In particular, the image under α of the fixed points in C_g^2 of the form (P_i, P_j) is the point 0 in \mathbb{P}^1 . Each such point has image in $Z_{c,2}$ consisting of a chain of $3^c - 1$ rational curves and so by the Diagram (19), the fibration $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ must send all of these $3^c - 1$ rational curves to the point 0 .

Moreover, using Diagram (19) in conjunction with Eq. (20), since h is a morphism we must have that the strict transforms in $Z_{c,2}$ of the curves $P_1 \times C_g$, $P_2 \times C_g$, $C_g \times P_1$, and $C_g \times P_2$ also get sent to 0 . Note that the strict transform of $C_g \times P_j$ will intersect the chain of rational curves resolving the singularity $P_i \times P_j$ at one end of the chain and the strict transform of $P_i \times C_g$ will intersect the chain at the other end of the chain.

Similarly, by Eq. (21) the image of the fixed point (Q, Q) in C_g^2 will be sent by α to the point ∞ in \mathbb{P}^1 . Since such a fixed point has image in $Z_{c,2}$ consisting of a chain of $3^c - 1$ rational curves, Diagram (19) yields that f must send all of these rational curves to the point ∞ .

Moreover, by Diagram (19) in conjunction with (21), since h is a morphism we must have that the strict transforms in $Z_{c,2}$ of the curves $Q \times C_g$ and $C_g \times Q$ get sent to ∞ as well. Again, the strict transform of $Q \times C_g$ will intersect the chain of rational curves resolving the singularity (Q, Q) at one end and the strict transform of $C_g \times Q$ will intersect the chain at the other end.

Therefore we have established that h sends to the point 0 in \mathbb{P}^1 the strict transforms in $Z_{c,2}$ of the curves

$$P_1 \times C_g, \quad P_2 \times C_g, \quad C_g \times P_1, \quad \text{and} \quad C_g \times P_2 \quad (22)$$

and sends to the point ∞ the strict transforms of the curves

$$Q \times C_g \text{ and } C_g \times Q. \quad (23)$$

Each of the four Type II fixed points $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3$, and δ_4 in C_g^2 has one of the curves in (22) and one of the curves in (23) passing through it. Note for instance that if δ_j is of the form $Q \times P_i$, then its resolution in $Z_{c,2}$ intersects the curve $Q \times C_g$ at the end of the curve T_j away from S_j and intersects the curve $C_g \times P_i$ at the end of S_j away from T_j .

Moreover, by the adjunction formula, the curves on $Z_{c,2}$ contracted by the map h are exactly those with self-intersection -2 , meaning that h contracts the curves T_j and maps the curve S_j to all of \mathbb{P}^1 for each $1 \leq j \leq 4$. Since each curve S_j intersects either the curve $Q \times C_g$ or the curve $C_g \times Q$, both of which get sent to the point ∞ by α , it follows that f sends all the S_j curves to ∞ as well.

In summary, the fiber of h above the point 0 in \mathbb{P}^1 is a cycle consisting of the four sets of $3^c - 1$ rational curves coming from the resolutions of the points $P_i \times P_j$ together with the four curves in (22). Hence the fiber consists of $4(3^c - 1) + 4 = 4 \cdot 3^c$ rational curves and thus is a fiber of type $I_{4 \cdot 3^c}$ in Kodaira's classification. Similarly, the fiber above the point ∞ consists of the $3^c - 1$ rational curves resolving the singularity $Q \times Q$ together with the curves in (23) and the four (-2) -curves T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4 . Hence, the fiber consists of a chain of $3^c + 1$ rational curves, where each curve on the ends of the chain has two additional curves coming off it. This is a fiber of type $I_{3^c}^*$. See Fig. 1 for a pictorial representation of this arrangement.

It remains to identify the fibers of h occurring above the points ζ^i . Note that by the proof of Proposition 4.1 the fibers of f above the ζ^i have a singularity at the single point on the fiber which is the image in C_g^2/G of the points in C_g^2 of the form $((x_1, 0), (x_2, 0))$, where the x_j are of the form $\xi^{2\gamma_j+1}$ for ξ a primitive $2 \cdot 3^c$ th root of unity and $0 \leq \gamma_j \leq 3^c - 1$. In particular, $x_j \neq \pm 1$ and so while the corresponding point in C_g^2/G is a singularity of the fiber of f , it is not a singular point of the surface C_g^2/G . In particular, it remains a singular point of the fiber of h above ζ^i . So h has fibers with an isolated singular point above the points ζ^i in \mathbb{P}^1 . To determine these fibers more precisely, note that from [4, Proposition 5.16], for a complex elliptic surface $\varphi : S \rightarrow C$ with fiber F_v at $v \in C$ having m_v components, we have

$$\chi_{\text{top}}(S) = \sum_{v \in C} e(F_v), \quad (24)$$

where $e(F_v)$ is 0 if F_v is smooth, is m_v if F_v is of type I_n , and is $m_v + 1$ otherwise. Since the surface $Z_{c,2}$ has $q = 0$ and geometric genus $p_g = g$, its geometric Euler number is $g + 1$, and so by Noether's formula $\chi_{\text{top}}(Z_{c,2}) = 12(g + 1) = 6 \cdot 3^c + 6$. Moreover, the identified fibers of h of type $I_{4 \cdot 3^c}$ and $I_{3^c}^*$ above 0 and ∞ respectively contribute $4 \cdot 3^c + ((3^c + 5) + 1) = 5 \cdot 3^c + 6$ to the right hand side of Eq. (24). Hence the 3^c singular fibers of h with an isolated singularity contribute exactly 3^c to the right hand side of Eq. (24). It follows that $m_v = 1$ for each of these singular fibers, meaning that each such fiber is of type I_1 in Kodaira's classification, as claimed. This completes the analysis of the singular fibers of h .

It thus only remains to verify that each of the curves S_j for $1 \leq j \leq 4$ corresponds to a section of h . Since we know that h maps S_j surjectively onto \mathbb{P}^1 , it just remains to verify that for each $t \in \mathbb{P}^1$ there is a unique $s \in S_j$ such that $h(s) = t$.

Without loss of generality suppose that the point δ_j is of the form $Q \times P_i$, as a symmetric argument will work for points of the form $P_i \times Q$. Let $t \in \mathbb{P}^1$ and consider the fiber $\mathcal{F}_t = h^{-1}(t)$. Since we have already determined the points of intersection of \mathcal{F}_0 and \mathcal{F}_∞ with S_j we may assume $t \neq 0, \infty$.

Now \mathcal{F}_t is the image in $Z_{c,2}$ of the curve F_t in C_g^2 given by the equation $x_1 x_2 = t$. Recall that $Q \times P_i$ is given in local coordinates by $(v_1, x_2) = (0, 0)$ and so near δ_j the curve F_t is given by $u_1^{-1} x_2 = t$. We may rewrite this as $\gamma(v_1)^{-1} x_2 = t$, for $\gamma(v_1)$ a continuous function of degree 2 in v_1 . Hence, close to δ_j , the curve F_t has coordinates given by $(v_1, t\gamma(v_1))$. Thus the slope of F_t at δ_j is $\lim_{v_1 \rightarrow 0} \frac{t\gamma(v_1)}{v_1} = 0$.

It follows that the strict transform F'_t of F_t in the blow-up of C_g^2 at δ_j intersects the exceptional curve E'_0 with coordinates $[z'_{0,1} : z'_{0,2}]$ at the point $[z'_{0,1} : z'_{0,2}] = [1 : 0]$. Taking the coordinate patch $z'_{0,1} \neq 0$ yields local coordinates $(v_1, z'_{0,2})$ and F'_t intersects E'_0 at the point $(v_1, z'_{0,2}) = (0, 0)$. Moreover, near this point, the curve F'_t has coordinates $(v_1, z'_{0,2}) = \left(v_1, \frac{t\gamma(v_1)}{v_1}\right)$, since $v_1 z'_{0,2} = z'_{0,1} x_2$. Hence the slope of F'_t at the point $(v_1, z'_{0,2}) = (0, 0)$ is $\lim_{v_1 \rightarrow 0} \frac{t\gamma(v_1)}{v_1^2} = t$.

Since the point $(v_1, z'_{0,2}) = (0, 0)$ gets blown up in the transformation $Y''_0 \rightarrow Y_0$, the strict transform F''_t of the curve F'_t after this blowup intersects the exceptional curve at the point with coordinate t . Moreover, observe that this point with coordinate t is covered by the coordinate patch R''_0 introduced in Sect. 3.4 and discussed in more detail in the surface case in Sect. 5.2. Since the coordinate patch R_c in $Y_c = X_{c,2}$ is obtained from R''_0 by a sequence of $c - 1$ quotients by $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$, this point corresponds to the point with coordinate $t^{3^{c-1}}$ on the image of this exceptional curve in $X_{c,2}$. But since this exceptional curve does not get contracted in passing from $X_{c,2}$ to $Z_{c,2}$ (see Sect. 5.2), this intersection point is also the point with coordinate $t^{3^{c-1}}$ on the image of this exceptional curve in $Z_{c,2}$, which is just the curve S_j . It follows that the curve \mathcal{F}_t intersects S_j at the point of S_j with coordinate $t^{3^{c-1}}$. Hence $s = t^{3^{c-1}}$ is the unique point in S_j such that $h(s) = t$ and therefore S_j indeed corresponds to a section of h . \square

The Mordell-Weil group of an elliptic fibration $\varphi : S \rightarrow C$ is the group of K -rational points on the generic fiber of φ , where $K = \mathbb{C}(C)$. Such an elliptic surface S is called *extremal* if it has maximal Picard rank $\rho(S)$, meaning $\rho(S) = h^{1,1}(S)$, and its Mordell-Weil group has rank $r = 0$.

Schreieder proves in [23, Section 8.2] that for any $n, c \geq 2$ the group $H^{p,p}(X_c, n)$ is generated by algebraic classes, thus in particular the surface $Z_{c,2}$ satisfies $\rho(Z_{c,2}) = h^{1,1}(Z_{c,2})$. As a consequence of Proposition 5.2 we in fact obtain:

Corollary 5.3. *For $c \geq 2$, the surface $h : Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is an extremal elliptic surface.*

Proof. For the fibration $h : Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ and for any $v \in \mathbb{P}^1$, let \mathcal{F}_v denote the fiber $h^{-1}(v)$ and let m_v denote the number of components of \mathcal{F}_v . Define

$$R = \{v \in \mathbb{P}^1 \mid \mathcal{F}_v \text{ is reducible}\}.$$

The Shioda-Tate formula [25, Corollary 6.13] expresses the Picard number $\rho(Z_{c,2})$ in terms of the reducible singular fibers and the rank r of the Mordell-Weil group of $f: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$:

$$\rho(Z_{c,2}) = 2 + \sum_{v \in R} (m_v - 1) + r. \quad (25)$$

We know from Proposition 5.2 that h has two reducible singular fibers: one of type $I_{4,3^c}$ at 0 and one of type $I_{3^c}^*$ at ∞ . Therefore

$$\sum_{v \in R} (m_v - 1) = (4 \cdot 3^c - 1) + (3^c + 4) = 5 \cdot 3^c + 3.$$

So then Eq. (25) becomes $\rho(Z_{c,2}) = 5 \cdot 3^c + 5 + r$.

We showed in the proof of Proposition 5.2 that $\chi_{\text{top}}(Z_{c,2}) = 12(g + 1) = 6 \cdot 3^c + 6$. Since $h^{1,0}(Z_{c,2}) = h^{0,1}(Z_{c,2}) = 0$ and $h^{2,0}(Z_{c,2}) = h^{0,2}(Z_{c,2}) = g$, it follows that $h^{1,1}(Z_{c,2}) = 10(g+1) = 5 \cdot 3^c + 5$. Therefore $r = 0$ and $\rho(Z_{c,2}) = h^{1,1}(Z_{c,2})$. \square

5.5. The j -invariant of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$

In order to eventually prove that the extremal elliptic surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is in fact an elliptic modular surface, it will be necessary to first describe the j -invariant of the fibration h .

For an elliptic fibration $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$ without multiple fibers, consider the rational map $j: C \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ given by sending each point $P \in C$ such that $\varphi^{-1}(P)$ is nonsingular to the j -invariant of the elliptic curve $\varphi^{-1}(P)$. This rational map j can in fact be extended to all of C (see for instance [11]). The morphism $j: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is called the j -invariant of the elliptic surface $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$.

If $P \in C$ is such that $\varphi^{-1}(P)$ is singular, then we have the following (reproduced from [9]):

| Fiber type over P | $j(P)$ |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| I_0^* | $\neq \infty$ |
| I_b, I_b^* ($b > 0$) | ∞ |
| II, IV, IV^*, II^* | 0 |
| III, III^* | 1728 |

Lemma 5.4. *For $c \geq 2$, the j -invariant $j: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is non-constant.*

Proof. From Proposition 5.2, all of the singular fibers of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ are of type I_b or I_b^* with $b > 0$. Hence the j -invariant of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ satisfies $j(P) = \infty$ for all $P \in \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $h^{-1}(P)$ is singular. However, since generically for $P \in \mathbb{P}^1$ the j -invariant $j(P)$ is the j -invariant of the elliptic curve $h^{-1}(P)$, generically j cannot be ∞ . Thus j is non-constant. \square

Proposition 5.5. *For $c \geq 2$, the j -invariant $j : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of $h : Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has degree $6 \cdot 3^c$ and is ramified at the points $0, 1728$, and ∞ . There are $2 \cdot 3^c$ branch points above 0 , all of ramification index 3 . There are $3 \cdot 3^c$ branch points above 1728 , all of ramification index 2 . Finally, there are 2 branch points above ∞ , one with ramification index $4 \cdot 3^c$ corresponding to the point $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1$ and one with ramification index 3^c corresponding to the point $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1$.*

Proof. This follows directly from results of Mangala Nori in [20]. In particular, Nori proves in [20, Theorem 3.1] that an elliptic fibration $S \rightarrow B$ with non-constant j -invariant is extremal if and only if the fibration has no singular fibers of type I_0^* , II , III , or IV and its j -invariant is ramified only over $0, 1728$, and ∞ with ramification index e_v for $v \in B$ satisfying $e_v = 1, 2$, or 3 if $j(v) = 0$ and $e_v = 1$ or 2 if $j(v) = 1$.

We know from Corollary 5.3 that $h : Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is extremal and from Lemma 5.4 that it has non-constant j -invariant. Hence, it follows from [20, Theorem 3.1] that $j : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is ramified only over the points $0, 1728$, and ∞ . Moreover

$$\deg(j) = \sum_{I_b} b + \sum_{I_b^*} b,$$

where the two sums occur over all the singular fibers of f of type I_b and of type I_b^* respectively.

From Proposition 5.2, the fibration $h : Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has one fiber of type $I_{4 \cdot 3^c}$, one fiber of type $I_{3^c}^*$, and 3^c fibers of type I_1 . Thus $\deg(j) = 6 \cdot 3^c$.

Now let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_0 &= \{v \in \mathbb{P}^1 \mid j(v) = 0\} \\ \mathcal{R}_{1728} &= \{v \in \mathbb{P}^1 \mid j(v) = 1728\}. \end{aligned}$$

If e_v denotes the ramification index of a point $v \in \mathbb{P}^1$, let

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= \sum_{v \in \mathcal{R}_0} (e_v - 1) \\ R_{1728} &= \sum_{v \in \mathcal{R}_{1728}} (e_v - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Then since Proposition 5.2 implies that h has no singular fibers of type II , II^* , III , III^* , IV , or IV^* , Nori's calculations in the proof of [20, Lemma 3.2] yield the following three equations:

$$R_0 + R_{1728} = \frac{7 \cdot \deg(j)}{6} \tag{26}$$

$$R_0 - \frac{2 \cdot \deg(j)}{3} \geq 0 \tag{27}$$

$$R_{1728} - \frac{\deg(j)}{2} \geq 0 \tag{28}$$

Observe that $\frac{2 \cdot \deg(j)}{3} + \frac{\deg(j)}{2} = \frac{7 \cdot \deg(j)}{6}$. Therefore we must have equality in Eqs. (27) and (28). It follows that

$$R_0 = \frac{2 \cdot \deg(j)}{3} = 4 \cdot 3^c \quad (29)$$

$$R_{1728} = \frac{\deg(j)}{2} = 3 \cdot 3^c. \quad (30)$$

Moreover, because equality holds in (27), Nori's proof in [20, Lemma 3.2] implies that $\deg(j) = 3|\mathcal{R}_0|$. Hence we have

$$|\mathcal{R}_0| = 2 \cdot 3^c. \quad (31)$$

Now from [20, Theorem 3.1], for any $v \in \mathcal{R}_0$, we must have $e_v \leq 3$. Hence using (31), it follows that $R_0 \leq 4 \cdot 3^c$. But we have already shown in Eq. (29) that equality holds, therefore we must have $e_v = 3$ for all $v \in \mathcal{R}_0$.

Since $Z_{c,2}$ is extremal and $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ has no singular fibers of type III^* , Nori's results [20, Theorem 3.1] also imply that $e_v = 2$ for all $v \in \mathcal{R}_{1728}$.

Finally, we know j has a pole of order b_i at points $v_i \in \mathbb{P}^1$ where the fiber over v_i is of type I_{b_i} or of type $I_{b_i}^*$. Hence the result follows from Proposition 5.2. \square

5.6. Preliminaries on elliptic modular surfaces

We begin by giving a brief introduction to elliptic modular surfaces as defined by Shioda [24]. Following Nori [20], for an elliptic surface $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$ with j -invariant $j: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, let us define

$$C' = C \setminus j^{-1}\{0, 1728, \infty\}.$$

In particular, for every $v \in C'$, the fiber $F_v = \varphi^{-1}(v)$ is smooth. The sheaf $G = R^1\varphi_*\mathbb{Z}$ on C is the *homological invariant* of the elliptic surface S . The restriction of G to C' is then a locally constant sheaf of rank two \mathbb{Z} -modules. Consider the monodromy homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ associated to $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$. Observe that ρ both determines and is determined by the sheaf G .

Conversely, let $j: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be a holomorphic map from an algebraic curve C to \mathbb{P}^1 and let $C' = C \setminus j^{-1}\{0, 1728, \infty\}$. Let $\mathcal{H} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$ be the upper half-plane in \mathbb{C} and consider the elliptic modular function $J: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1728, \infty\}$. Finally let U' be the universal cover of C' . Then there exists a holomorphic map $w: U' \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U' & \xrightarrow{w} & \mathcal{H} \\ \downarrow \pi & & \downarrow J \\ C' & \xrightarrow{j} & \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1728, \infty\}. \end{array} \quad (32)$$

This map w thus induces a homomorphism $\bar{\rho}: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$.

Now suppose $\rho: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ is a homomorphism making the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(C') & \xrightarrow{\rho} & SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \\ & \searrow \bar{\rho} & \swarrow \\ & PSL(2, \mathbb{Z}) & \end{array} .$$

Then it is possible to construct a unique elliptic surface $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$ having j -invariant given by the holomorphic map $j: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ and having homological invariant given by the sheaf G associated to the homomorphism ρ [11, Section 8].

So now consider any finite-index subgroup Γ of the modular group $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ not containing $-\text{Id}$. Then Γ acts on the upper half plane \mathcal{H} and the quotient $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}$, together with a finite number of cusps, forms an algebraic curve C_Γ . For any other such subgroup Γ' , if $\Gamma \subset \Gamma'$, then the canonical map $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \Gamma' \backslash \mathcal{H}$ extends to a holomorphic map $C_\Gamma \rightarrow C_{\Gamma'}$. In particular, taking $\Gamma' = SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ and identifying $C_{\Gamma'}$ with \mathbb{P}^1 via the elliptic modular function J , we get a holomorphic map

$$j_\Gamma: C_\Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1.$$

Hence, as discussed, there exists a $w: U' \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ fitting into a diagram (32) which induces a representation $\bar{\rho}: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma} \subset PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$, where $\bar{\Gamma}$ is the image of Γ in $PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$. Because Γ contains no element of order 2, this homomorphism $\bar{\rho}$ lifts to a homomorphism $\rho: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$, which then gives rise to a sheaf G_Γ on C_Γ .

Definition 5.6. [24] For any finite index subgroup Γ of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ not containing $-\text{Id}$, the associated elliptic surface $\varphi: S_\Gamma \rightarrow C_\Gamma$ having j -invariant j_Γ and homological invariant G_Γ is called the *elliptic modular surface* attached to Γ .

5.7. The surface $Z_{c,2}$ is elliptic modular

We now return to considering the elliptic surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. Let us define the following elements $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{3^c}, A_\infty$ of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ as elements of the following conjugacy classes:

$$A_0 \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \cdot 3^c \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \quad A_1, \dots, A_{3^c} \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \quad A_\infty \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -3^c \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

Then consider the subgroup Γ_c of index $6 \cdot 3^c$ in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ with the following presentation:

$$\Gamma_c := \langle A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{3^c}, A_\infty \mid A_0 A_1 \cdots A_{3^c} A_\infty = \text{Id} \rangle.$$

We remark that Γ_c is not a congruence subgroup as it does not appear on the list in [7] of the genus 0 congruence subgroups of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ (see [6] for more details on such subgroups).

Theorem 5.7. *For $c \geq 2$, the surface $Z_{c,2}$ is the elliptic modular surface attached to Γ_c .*

Proof. In [20, Theorem 3.5], Mangala Nori proves that an extremal elliptic surface $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$ with a section and with non-constant j -invariant is an elliptic modular surface as long as $\varphi: S \rightarrow C$ has no singular fibers of type III^* or III in Kodaira's classification. Therefore, since the surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is extremal (by Corollary 5.3), has a section (by Proposition 5.2), has non-constant j -invariant (by Lemma 5.4), and only has fibers of type I_b and I_b^* (by Proposition 5.2), we know $Z_{c,2}$ is indeed an elliptic modular surface.

So let Γ be the finite-index subgroup of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ attached to $Z_{c,2}$. By Proposition 5.5, the degree of the j -invariant of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is $6 \cdot 3^c$. Hence the group Γ has index $6 \cdot 3^c$ in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$.

Now consider the j -invariant $j: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of $Z_{c,2}$, which we have investigated in Proposition 5.5. Let $C' = \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1728, \infty\}$.

Because $Z_{c,2}$ is elliptic modular, its j -invariant induces a homomorphism

$$\rho: \pi_1(C') \rightarrow \Gamma \subset SL(2, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Let us write the set

$$j^{-1}\{0, 1728, \infty\} = \{v_1, \dots, v_s\}.$$

By Proposition 5.5, we know $s = 5 \cdot 3^c + 2$. For each point v_i let α_i be the loop element in $\pi_1(C')$ going around v_i . Then $\pi_1(C')$ is the free group on these generators $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$ subject to the relation (taken in cyclic order) $\alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_s = 1$ [2, Lemma 2.1].

In [20, Proposition 1.4], Nori describes, for an elliptic surface $S \rightarrow C$ with loop elements $\alpha_i \in \pi_1(C)$ around $v_i \in C$, the possible values of $\rho(\alpha_i)$ depending on the values of $j(v_i)$. By Proposition 5.5, for our surface $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ all of the points v_i such that $j(v_i) = 0$ have ramification index 3. Hence by [20, Proposition 1.4], for the corresponding α_i , we have $\rho(\alpha_i) = \pm \text{Id}$. However since $Z_{c,2}$ is elliptic modular, the subgroup Γ cannot contain $-\text{Id}$. Hence, for all i such that $j(v_i) = 0$, we must have $\rho(\alpha_i) = \text{Id}$.

Similarly, by Proposition 5.5 all of the points v_i such that $j(v_i) = 1728$ have ramification index 2. But then by [20, Proposition 1.4], for all such i , we have $\rho(\alpha_i) = \pm \text{Id}$ and thus, in fact, $\rho(\alpha_i) = \text{Id}$.

Therefore the only points $v_i \in j^{-1}\{0, 1728, \infty\}$ that contribute non-identity elements to Γ are the points sent to ∞ by j . These are exactly the points of \mathbb{P}^1 underneath the singular fibers of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$.

From [24, Proposition 4.2], if a point v_i has singular fiber of type I_b with $b > 0$, then

$$\rho(\alpha_i) \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right].$$

If a point v_i has singular fiber of type I_b^* with $b > 0$, then

$$\rho(\alpha_i) \in \left[\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -b \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right].$$

Therefore, using Proposition 5.2, in the case of $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, the point 0 contributes a generator A_0 of Γ in the conjugacy class of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \cdot 3^c \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$. Each point ζ^i , for ζ a 3^c th root of unity, contributes a generator A_{i+1} in the conjugacy class of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally, the point ∞ contributes a generator A_∞ in the conjugacy class of

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -3^c \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then Γ is the free group on these generators $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{3^c}, A_\infty$ subject to the relation

$$A_0 A_1 \cdots A_{3^c} A_\infty = \text{Id}.$$

Hence we indeed have that Γ is the group Γ_c defined above. \square

6. The threefold case

We now consider the case of the threefold $X_{c,3}$, which by construction is a smooth model of the quotient $\overline{X}_{c,3} := C_g \times Z_{c,2} / \langle \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2} \rangle$. For m sufficiently divisible the rational map

$$f: C_g^3 / G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^3, K_{C_g^3}^{\otimes m}))^G$$

studied in Proposition 4.1 can be resolved to obtain a morphism

$$\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,3}, K_{Z_{c,3}}^{\otimes m})).$$

In this threefold case, since the abundance conjecture is known, we may assume that $Z_{c,3}$ is a minimal model of $X_{c,3}$. In order to study the fibration \tilde{f} , we will need some information about the minimal model $Z_{c,2}$ and its elliptic fibration studied in Sect. 5.

6.1. The rational map $\beta: C_g \times Z_{c,2} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m}))$

We now consider the product $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$. As in (11), we have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{X}_{c,3} & \dashrightarrow & \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m})) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ C_g \times Z_{c,2} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g \times Z_{c,2}, K_{C_g \times Z_{c,2}}^{\otimes m})) \end{array} \quad (33)$$

Here the horizontal maps are the Iitaka fibrations and the vertical map on the left is the quotient by the group $\langle \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2} \rangle$.

We then consider the composition

$$\beta: C_g \times Z_{c,2} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m})).$$

Recall from Theorem 3.3 that global sections of $K_{C_g}^{\otimes m}$ are of the form $x^a \omega$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$. Moreover, from the proof of Proposition 3.4, global sections s_a of $K_{Z_{c,2}}^{\otimes m}$ for $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$ correspond to global sections of $K_{C_g^2}^{\otimes m}$ of the form $x_1^a \omega_1 \times x_2^a \omega_2$. Hence we may view $\beta: C_g \times Z_{c,2} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m}))$ as the rational map given by

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1, z_2, z_3) \mapsto & [\omega_1(z_1) \times s_0(z_2, z_3) : (x_1 \omega_1)(z_1) \times s_1(z_2, z_3) \\ & : \dots : (x_1^{m(g-1)} \omega_1)(z_1) \times s_{m(g-1)}(z_2, z_3)] \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

6.1.1. The images of $C_g \times T$ and $C_g \times S$ Our main interest here will be the images under β of the surfaces of the form $C_g \times T$ and $C_g \times S$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$, where recall from Sect. 5.1 that T and S are the rational curves with self-intersection -2 and $-(g+1)$ respectively in the resolution of the Type II singular points of $C_g \times C_g / \langle \psi_g^{-1} \times \psi_g \rangle$. We provide a pictorial representation of the main facts about these images in Fig. 2 below, where one color represents regions sent to 0, one color represents regions sent to ∞ , and one color represents regions where β is undefined.

Begin by considering the elliptic fibration $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ from Sect. 5. As discussed in the proof of Proposition 5.2, the map h sends each curve T to the point ∞ in \mathbb{P}^1 , while the curves S corresponds to sections of h . In particular, there exists a map $\sigma: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow S$ such that $h \circ \sigma = \text{Id}_{\mathbb{P}^1}$. In particular, for local coordinates (z_2, z_3) on S , we have $s_0(z_2, z_3) = 0$ if and only if $(z_2, z_3) = \sigma(\infty)$ and $s_{m(g-1)}(z_2, z_3) = 0$ if and only if $(z_2, z_3) = \sigma(0)$.

Moreover, as discussed in the proof of Proposition 4.1, the only points of C_g on which the form $x_1^a \omega_1$ can vanish are the points P_1, P_2 and Q . More precisely, as established in (12)–(14), we have $x_1^a \omega_1(P_i) = 0$ if and only if $1 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$ and $x_1^a \omega_1(Q) = 0$ if and only if $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1) - 1$.

Let us first consider the surfaces of the form $C_g \times T$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$. We know that the fibration $h: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ sends the curve T to the point ∞ , meaning that for local coordinates $(z_2, z_3) \in T$ we have $s_{m(g-1)}(z_2, z_3) \neq 0$ and $s_a(z_2, z_3) = 0$ for

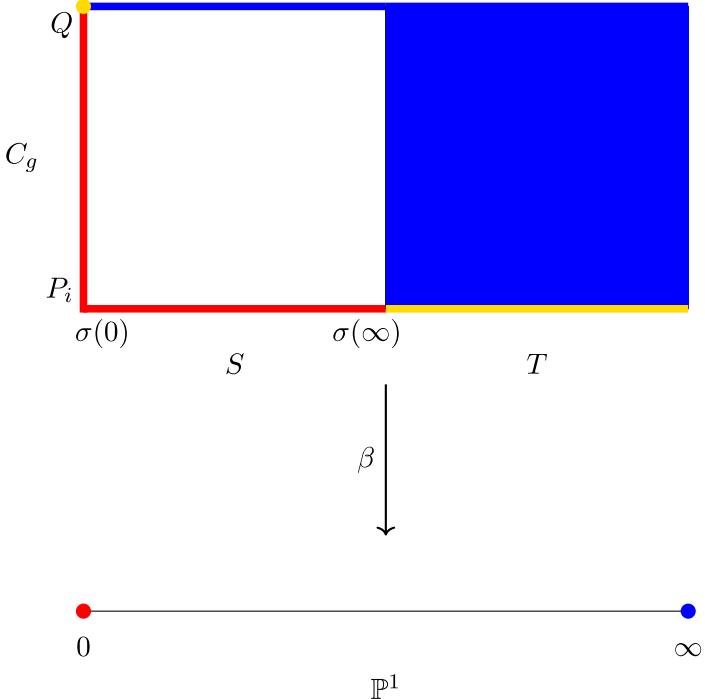


Fig. 2. Images of $C_g \times S$ and $C_g \times T$ under β

all other $1 \leq a \leq m(g-1) - 1$. In particular, using the description of β in (32), for any point $W \in C_g$ such that $W \neq P_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$, we have $\beta(W \times T) = [0 : \dots : 0 : 1]$, which corresponds to the point $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m}))$. In other words, we have $\beta((C_g - \{P_1, P_2\}) \times T) = \infty$ and β is not defined on the curves $P_1 \times T$ and $P_2 \times T$.

Now consider the surfaces of the form $C_g \times S$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$. Let $U = C_g - \{P_1, P_2, Q\}$. Then since $x_1^a \omega_1$ does not vanish on U for any $0 \leq a \leq m(g-1)$ and f_2 sends S surjectively onto \mathbb{P}^1 , we have that β sends $U \times S$ surjectively onto \mathbb{P}^1 . In particular, we have $\beta(U \times \sigma(0)) = 0$ and $\beta(U \times \sigma(\infty)) = \infty$.

It thus remains to determine what happens to the curves of the form $P_1 \times S$, $P_2 \times S$, and $Q \times S$. However we know that for local coordinates (z_2, z_3) on S , we have $s_0(z_2, z_3) = 0$ if and only if $(z_2, z_3) = \sigma(\infty)$ and $s_{m(g-1)}(z_2, z_3) = 0$ if and only if $(z_2, z_3) = \sigma(0)$. It follows that $\beta(P_i \times (S - \sigma(\infty))) = [1 : 0 : \dots : 0]$, which corresponds to the point $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(\bar{X}_{c,3}, K_{\bar{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m}))$, and $\beta(Q \times (S - \sigma(0))) = [0 : \dots : 0 : 1]$, which corresponds to the point $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1$. Hence the only points of $C_g \times S$ on which β is not defined are the points $Q \times \sigma(0)$ and $P_i \times \sigma(\infty)$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$.

Note however that since the curves S and T intersect at the point $\sigma(\infty) \in S$, the assertion that β is not defined at the points $P_i \times \sigma(\infty)$ is already covered by the previous assertion that β is not defined on the curves $P_i \times T$.

In summary, we have established the following about the rational map $\beta: C_g \times Z_{c,2} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$:

- (1) $\beta((C_g - \{P_1, P_2\}) \times T) = \infty$
- (2) β sends $(C_g - \{P_1, P_2, Q\}) \times S$ surjectively onto \mathbb{P}^1 and in particular
 - (a) $\beta(U \times \sigma(0)) = 0$
 - (b) $\beta(U \times \sigma(\infty)) = \infty$
- (3) $\beta(P_i \times (S - \sigma(\infty))) = 0$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$
- (4) $\beta(Q \times (S - \sigma(0))) = \infty$
- (5) β is undefined on the curves $P_1 \times T$ and $P_2 \times T$ and on the point $Q \times \sigma(0)$

6.2. The K3 fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$

We will now use this understanding of the rational map β in order to show that the fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is indeed a K3 fibration.

Theorem 6.1. *For $c \geq 2$ and m sufficiently divisible, the general smooth fibers of the fibration*

$$\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(Z_{c,3}, K_{Z_{c,3}}^{\otimes m}))$$

are K3 surfaces with Picard rank 19. Moreover, the fibers of \tilde{f} above the 3^c roots of $t^{3^c} + 1$ are (possibly singular) K3 surfaces with Picard rank 20.

Proof. For $t \in \mathbb{P}^1$, let \mathcal{F}_t be a general smooth fiber of the fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. In order to show that \mathcal{F}_t is a K3 surface of Picard rank 19 we will identify a configuration of 21 curves on \mathcal{F}_t whose intersection matrix has rank 19. Since the Picard rank ρ of a general smooth fiber of \tilde{f} can be at most 19, this yields that $\rho(\mathcal{F}_t) = 19$.

We will identify these 21 curves on \mathcal{F}_t by first identifying 21 hypersurfaces in $Z_{c,3}$ that surject onto \mathbb{P}^1 via \tilde{f} . Begin by considering the diagram (33) and, using the notation of Sect. 6.1.1, two hypersurfaces of the form $C_g \times T$ and $C_g \times S$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$. As in Sect. 6.1.1, let $\sigma: \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow S$ denote the section corresponding to the curve S of the elliptic fibration $f_2: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. Hence the surfaces of the form $C_g \times T$ and $C_g \times S$ intersect along the curve $C_g \times \sigma(\infty)$.

Recall the calculations of Sect. 6.1.1 about the images of the surfaces $C_g \times T$ and $C_g \times S$ under the rational map

$$\beta: C_g \times Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g \times Z_{c,2}, K_{C_g \times Z_{c,2}}^{\otimes m})) \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(\overline{X}_{c,3}, K_{\overline{X}_{c,3}}^{\otimes m})).$$

In particular, recall that we established that the open subset

$$(C_g \times S) - \{P_1 \times \sigma(0), P_2 \times \sigma(0), Q \times \sigma(\infty)\} \subset C_g \times S$$

is sent surjectively onto \mathbb{P}^1 by β . Consider the image of this open subset in $Z_{c,3}$ and let \mathcal{G} denote its closure. Then by the diagram (33) and since $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is a morphism, we have that $\mathcal{G} \subset Z_{c,3}$ surjects onto \mathbb{P}^1 via \tilde{f} .

Consider the curve on the fiber \mathcal{F}_t given by $\gamma = \mathcal{F}_t \cap \mathcal{G}$. Recall that the curve S in $Z_{c,2}$ is obtained from a point of the form $P_i \times Q$ in C_g^2 . In particular, the surface \mathcal{G} lies in the image in $Z_{c,3}$ of the curve $C_g \times P_i \times Q$ in C_g^3 . As discussed in the proof of Proposition 4.1, the fiber \mathcal{F}_t arises as the image in $Z_{c,3}$ of the hypersurface F_t in C_g^3 cut out by the equation $x_1x_2x_3 = t$. Note that the intersection of F_t and the curve $C_g \times P_i \times Q$ has dimension 0. Hence the curve γ is contracted to a point in the singular variety C_g^3/G .

Now note that from the construction of the fibration \tilde{f} as the Iitaka fibration of $Z_{c,3}$ we know that the fiber \mathcal{F}_t has Kodaira dimension 0. In particular, from the classification of algebraic surfaces, we know that $K_{\mathcal{F}_t}$ is torsion. It follows from the adjunction formula that because γ is a curve on \mathcal{F}_t that can be contracted to a point, the curve γ must be rational with self-intersection -2 .

Hence we have identified a rational (-2) -curve on the fiber \mathcal{F}_t arising from a curve of the form $C_g \times P_i \times Q$ in C_g^3 . Symmetrically, any permutation of these factors will also yield a (-2) -curve on \mathcal{F}_t . There are thus 6 such curves for each choice of $i \in \{1, 2\}$, meaning there are 12 such curves total on \mathcal{F}_t .

Now recall from Sect. 6.1.1 that the rational map β is not defined on curves of the form $P_1 \times T$ and $P_2 \times T$ and on the point $Q \times \sigma(0)$. In order to understand the images of these in $Z_{c,3}$, we would like to understand their action by the automorphism $\psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2}$. Recall the description of the local action of $\phi_{c,2}$ on the curves T and S established in (16) of Sect. 5.2. Note in particular that the curve T lies in the fixed locus of $\phi_{c,2}$. Hence, the curves $P_1 \times T$ and $P_2 \times T$ lie in the fixed locus of $\psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2}$. Blowing-up this part of the fixed locus, will then yield exceptional divisors of codimension 2 in $Z_{c,3}$. Namely, the images in $Z_{c,3}$ of the curves of the form $P_1 \times T$ and $P_2 \times T$ will intersect \mathcal{F}_t in at most points and so will not contribute to the Picard rank of \mathcal{F}_t .

It thus remains to consider the image in $Z_{c,3}$ of a point of the form $Q \times \sigma(0)$. From the description of the local action of $\phi_{c,2}$ on S given in (16) of Sect. 5.2, we have that $\psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2}$ acts locally around the point $Q \times \sigma(0)$ with $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -weights $(-g, 1, g)$. Note that this implies that $Q \times \sigma(0)$ is an isolated terminal singularity in the quotient $(C_g \times Z_{c,2})/\langle \psi_g^{-1} \times \phi_{c,2} \rangle$ [18, Remark 2.5(i)]. In particular, the resolution of this point in $Z_{c,3}$ has codimension 1. Moreover, we established in Sect. 6.1.1 that the rational map β sends the curve $(C_g - Q) \times \sigma(0)$ to the point $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1$ and sends the curve $Q \times (S - \sigma(0))$ to the point $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1$. Hence by continuity since the morphism $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is defined everywhere, the resolution of $Q \times \sigma(0)$ in $Z_{c,3}$ surjects onto \mathbb{P}^1 via \tilde{f} . In particular, this resolution contains some hypersurface \mathcal{H} surjecting onto \mathbb{P}^1 via \tilde{f} .

Consider the curve on the fiber \mathcal{F}_t given by $\delta = \mathcal{F}_t \cap \mathcal{H}$. Observe that since the hypersurface \mathcal{H} can be contracted to a point, so can the curve δ . Hence as in the case of the curve γ , because $K_{\mathcal{F}_t}$ is torsion, the adjunction formula yields that δ is a rational (-2) -curve on \mathcal{F}_t .

Hence we have identified a rational (-2) -curve on \mathcal{F}_t arising from a point of the form $Q \times P_i \times Q$ in C_g^3 . Symmetrically, any permutation of these factors will also yield a (-2) -curve on \mathcal{F}_t . There are thus 3 such curves for each choice of $i \in \{1, 2\}$, meaning there are 6 such curves total on \mathcal{F}_t .

Thus for the moment we have identified 18 rational (-2) -curves on \mathcal{F}_t , where for each choice of $i \in \{1, 2\}$, there are 9 such curves: six of the form γ and three of the form δ . We now determine the configuration of these 18 curves.

For a given choice of $i \in \{1, 2\}$, let $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_6$ denote the six (-2) -curves on \mathcal{F}_t associated respectively to the curves $C_g \times P_i \times Q$, $P_i \times C_g \times Q$, $P_i \times Q \times C_g$, $C_g \times Q \times P_i$, $Q \times C_g \times P_i$, and $Q \times P_i \times C_g$ in C_g^3 . Let δ_1, δ_2 , and δ_3 denote the three (-2) -curves on \mathcal{F}_t associated respectively to the points $P_i \times Q \times Q$, $Q \times Q \times P_i$, and $Q \times P_i \times Q$ in C_g^3 . Hence γ_1 meets γ_2 , which possibly meets δ_1 , which possibly meets γ_3 , which then meets γ_4 , which possibly meets δ_2 , which possibly meets γ_5 , which then meets γ_6 , which possibly meets δ_3 , which possibly meets γ_1 . Let M denote the configuration matrix of these 9 curves $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \delta_1, \gamma_3, \gamma_4, \delta_2, \gamma_5, \gamma_6$. If all of the δ_j meet their neighboring γ_k , then these 9 curves form a cycle which has intersection matrix the rank-8 circulant matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that if any of the δ_j fail to meet a neighboring γ_k , then the resulting intersection matrix M has rank 9. Namely, we have $\text{rank}(M) \geq 8$. Note that this already yields that the Picard rank ρ of the fiber \mathcal{F}_t is at least 16. Since we know the surface \mathcal{F}_t has Kodaira dimension 0, it follows from the classification of algebraic surfaces that \mathcal{F}_t is a K3 surface.

We now identify three additional curves on the smooth fiber \mathcal{F}_t . Consider the three classes in $\text{Pic}(C_g^3)$ given by $[\text{pt} \times C_g \times C_g]$, $[C_g \times \text{pt} \times C_g]$, and $[C_g \times C_g \times \text{pt}]$. Note that these classes are G -invariant and thus each descends to yield a hypersurface class in $Z_{c,3}$. Denote these three hypersurface classes by $[D_1]$, $[D_2]$, $[D_3]$. Moreover, a general hypersurface $H \in [D_i]$ intersects the smooth fiber \mathcal{F}_t in a curve ε_j . Note that the curve ε_j will not intersect any of the previously identified (-2) -curves of the form γ or δ . Moreover since the fiber \mathcal{F}_t arises as the image in $Z_{c,3}$ of the hypersurface F_t in C_g^3 cut out by the equation $x_1 x_2 x_3 = t$, it follows that $\varepsilon_j \cdot \varepsilon_k = 2$ where the two intersection points correspond to the two points of C_g with the same x -value. Thus we need only compute the self-intersections ε_j^2 for $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$.

To compute these self-intersections ε_j^2 , let us without loss of generality consider the curve $\varepsilon_1 = H \cap \mathcal{F}_t$ for H a general hypersurface in $[D_1]$, where $[D_1]$ arises from the class $[\text{pt} \times C_g \times C_g]$ in $\text{Pic}(C_g^3)$. Let $\tilde{H} \in [\text{pt} \times C_g \times C_g]$ be in the preimage of H in C_g^3 and let $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1 = F_t \cap \tilde{H}$ be in the preimage of ε_1 , where recall that \mathcal{F}_t arises as the image in $Z_{c,3}$ of the hypersurface F_t in C_g^3 . Let $\bar{\varepsilon}_1$ be the image of $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$. Namely, we have a sequence of $\mathbb{Z}/3^c\mathbb{Z}$ -quotients given by $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1 \rightarrow \bar{\varepsilon}_1 \rightarrow \varepsilon_1$.

Suppose that for $\tilde{H} \in [\text{pt} \times C_g \times C_g]$ the chosen point in the first factor is given by local coordinates $(x_1, y_1) = (\alpha_0, \beta_0)$. Then the curve $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1$ in C_g^3 is cut out by the equations $x_1 = \alpha_0$ and $x_2 x_3 = \frac{t}{\alpha_0}$ (note that we may assume $\alpha_0 \neq 0$). This yields an isomorphism between the image curve $\bar{\varepsilon}_1$ in $C_g \times Z_{c,2}$ and the fiber of the two-dimensional Iitaka fibration $f_2: Z_{c,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ above the point $\frac{t}{\alpha_0} \in \mathbb{P}^1$. In particular, the curve $\bar{\varepsilon}_1$ has genus 1. It follows that the curve ε_1 has genus at most 1.

However, since the curve ε_1 lies on the surface \mathcal{F}_t , which we have established is a K3 surface, the adjunction formula yields

$$K_{\varepsilon_1} = (K_{\mathcal{F}_t} + H)|_H = H|_H.$$

In particular, we have $2g(\varepsilon_1) - 2 \geq 0$, meaning that $g(\varepsilon_1) \geq 1$. Hence the curve ε_1 has genus equal to 1. Applying the adjunction formula on a K3 surface again then yields that ε_1 has self-intersection 0. An identical argument yields that the same is true of the curves ε_2 and ε_3 .

Therefore, the intersection matrix of the configuration of three curves ε_1 , ε_2 , and ε_3 is the rank 3 matrix

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Namely, we have identified a configuration of 21 curves on a general smooth fiber \mathcal{F}_t of the fibration $\tilde{f}: Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ having intersection matrix

$$I = \begin{pmatrix} M & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & N \end{pmatrix}.$$

In particular, the matrix I has rank at least $8 + 8 + 3 = 19$, so the Picard rank ρ of \mathcal{F}_t is at least 19. However, since the fiber \mathcal{F}_t varies with t , we know that $\rho(\mathcal{F}_t)$ is at most 19, meaning we have $\rho(\mathcal{F}_t) = 19$.

The statement about the fibers of \tilde{f} above the roots of $t^{3^c} + 1$ follows from Proposition 4.1 and its proof. Indeed, we know that a fiber of $f: C_g^3/G \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \subset \mathbb{P}(H^0(C_g^3, K_{C_g^3}^{\otimes m}))^G$ above a point $t \in \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $t^{3^c} + 1$ has an isolated singular point at the image in C_g^3/G of a point in C_g^3 of the form $((x_1, 0), (x_2, 0), (x_3, 0))$, where the x_j are of the form $\xi^{2\gamma_j+1}$ for ξ a primitive $2 \cdot 3^c$ th root of unity and $0 \leq \gamma_j \leq 3^c - 1$. In particular, $x_j \neq \pm 1$ and so while the corresponding point in C_g^3/G is a singularity of the fiber of f , it is not a singular point of C_g^3/G . Thus depending on the birational model $Z_{c,3}$, such a point either remains a singular point of the fiber of \tilde{f} above ξ^i or acquires a curve resolving the singularity. Since the fibers of \tilde{f} above ξ^i contain the configuration of 21 curves identified above, it follows that the (after possible resolving the singular point), these fibers have Picard number 20. \square

6.3. Moduli of K3 surfaces

Here we follow [22, Section 2.3]. Recall that if S is an algebraic K3 surface then the group $H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$ together with its intersection pairing has the structure of a unimodular lattice isometric to the K3 lattice

$$\Lambda := E_8(-1)^{\oplus 2} \oplus U^{\oplus 3},$$

where E_8 is the unique positive-definite, even, unimodular lattice of rank 8 and U is the hyperbolic plane given by $U := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Moreover, there is a surjective period map to the coarse moduli space given by the quadric in \mathbb{P}^{21}

$$\Omega := \{[\omega] \in \mathbb{P}(\Lambda \otimes \mathbb{C}) \mid (\omega, \omega) = 0, (\omega, \bar{\omega}) > 0\}.$$

Namely if $\omega_S \in H^{2,0}(S)$, then ω_S yields a class in Ω and conversely every point in Ω is the period point of some K3 surface. If $L \subset \Lambda$ is some sublattice of signature $(1, \rho - 1)$, then the subspace

$$\Omega_L := \{[\omega] \in \Omega \mid (\omega, \lambda) = 0 \text{ for all } \lambda \in L\}$$

has dimension $20 - \rho = 20 - \text{rank}(L)$.

If L is the Neron-Severi group $NS(S) := H^2(S, \mathbb{Z}) \cap H^{1,1}(S)$ and $\rho = 19$, then the embedding of the transcendental lattice $T_S := NS(S)^\perp$ in Λ is unique up to an isometry of Λ [17, Corollary 2.10] and the moduli curve Ω_L is determined by T_S .

Note moreover that in this case, the CM points of the curve Ω_L correspond to singular K3 surfaces, meaning K3 surfaces with Picard rank 20 whose Neron-Severi group contains the Neron-Severi group of a general member of the curve Ω_L .

We thus obtain the following corollary from Theorem 6.1.

Corollary 6.2. *The one-dimensional family $\tilde{f} : Z_{c,3} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ of K3 surfaces of Picard rank 19 is a finite cover of the universal family of the moduli curve $\Omega_{\mathcal{F}_t}$ isomorphic to \mathbb{P}^1 parametrizing K3 surfaces with transcendental lattice $T_{\mathcal{F}_t}$, where \mathcal{F}_t denotes a general fiber of \tilde{f} , and the fibers of \tilde{f} at the 3^c roots of the polynomial $t^{3^c} + 1$ correspond to CM points of $\Omega_{\mathcal{F}_t}$.*

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