

RELATIVE STABLE MAPS IN GENUS ONE VIA CENTRAL ALIGNMENTS

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ABSTRACT. For a smooth projective variety X and a smooth very ample hypersurface $Y \subseteq X$, we define moduli spaces of relative stable maps to (X, Y) in genus one, as closed substacks of the moduli space of maps from centrally aligned curves, constructed in [?]. We construct virtual classes for these moduli spaces, which we use to define *reduced relative Gromov–Witten invariants* in genus one.

[GOALS: We prove a recursion formula which allows us to completely determine these invariants in terms of the reduced Gromov–Witten invariants, as defined in [REF]. We also prove a relative version of the Li–Zinger formula, relating our invariants to the usual relative Gromov–Witten invariants. Also say something about quasimaps.]

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1. INTRODUCTION

Statement of the problem. Contrary to the genus zero case, the moduli space of genus one maps to projective space - with or without markings - is far from smooth; indeed it has various boundary components of different dimensions, representing maps that contract a genus one curve and have all the degree supported on a number of rational tails. The many incarnations of relative moduli spaces also suffer of the same undesirable feature.

Since the work of Vakil–Zinger and Ranganathan–Santos–Parker–Wise, it has been clear that it is possible to identify a desingularisation of the main component by adding the extra data of a contraction of the source curve $\nu: C \rightarrow \bar{C}$ - where the latter is allowed to acquire a Smyth singularity - and requiring the stable map $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ to factor through ν .

Choice of relative space and desingularisation. We focus on the space of logarithmic stable maps to $(\mathbb{P}^N|H)$, following ACGS. We perform a log modification of this space as detailed below. For a log curve $C \rightarrow S = \text{Spec}(k = \bar{k})$, modify the dual graph of C by replacing the minimal genus one subcurve

(in case it is a circle of \mathbb{P}^1) by a single vertex of genus one, called the *core* and denoted by \circ , and define a piecewise linear function with values in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_S$ on such a graph by setting

$$\lambda(v) = \sum_{q \in [\circ, v]} \rho_q,$$

where the ρ_q are the smoothing parameters of the nodes q separating v from the core. Such a function is related to the log canonical bundle of $C \rightarrow S$. When the map contracts a subcurve of genus one, we endow it with the extra data of a radius $\delta \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_S$ subject to the following compatibility condition:

(*) *the circle of radius δ around \circ passes through ≥ 1 vertex of positive f -degree.*

Furthermore, we require all the values of λ to be comparable with δ , and among themselves whenever they are $\leq \delta$. This is called a *centrally aligned* log structure and carries enough information to define a contraction $\nu: C \rightarrow \bar{C}$, possibly after a semistabilisation of (C, f) - in fact even more. The space thus obtained, $\widehat{\mathcal{VZ}}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$, is a log modification of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$.

The main component $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is then identified by a double factorisation condition:

- (1) If f contracts a genus one subcurve, then f is required to factor through the Smyth singularity $\nu: C \rightarrow \bar{C}$ determined by the contraction radius δ as above.
- (2) If furthermore the core is contracted by the associated tropical map ϕ , let δ_2 be the minimal distance from \circ to a vertex supporting a flag that escapes $\phi^{-1}(\phi(\circ))$; we require f to factor through $\nu_2: C \rightarrow \bar{C}_2$.

The main result is that

Theorem 1.1. $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is (log) smooth.

Gathmann-type recursion. There is a forgetful morphism

$$\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d) \rightarrow \mathcal{VZ}_{1,n}(\mathbb{P}^N, d),$$

hitting Gathmann's relative space. We may therefore pullback Gathmann's line bundle and section, cutting out the locus where the k -th marking is tangent to H to order $\alpha_k + 1$. Because α was maximal ($\sum \alpha = d$) by assumption, this means that the curve has to break, and x_k has to lie on an internal component - one which is entirely mapped into H . We identify the zero locus of Gathmann's section explicitly. Here is an interesting remark: the combinatorics of such boundary loci is governed by tropical geometry, and it is otherwise very hard to distillate the interaction between the relative condition and the exceptional loci of the Vakil-Zinger blow-up.

Corollary 1.2. $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is smooth over its Artin fan, in particular codimension one logarithmic strata can be read off from the latter.

The Artin fan is a tropical gadget. Its local structure is given by subdividing the ACGS minimal monoid according to the alignment. We are only interested in picking its rays. The upshot is that the combinatorics is slightly

why are we only
interested in log
strata?

more involved than in the genus zero case: the alignment may force some teeth of the comb to break.

Theorem 1.3 (Gathmann-type formula, maximal tangency, $(\mathbb{P}^N|H)$ case).

$$(\alpha_k \psi_k + \text{ev}_k^* H)[\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)] = [D_{1,\alpha;k}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)],$$

the latter being a sum of broken comb loci indexed by rays of the tropical fan.

Importantly, the broken comb loci admit a very explicit description in terms of tautological integrals on the underlying boundary of Gathmann's relative space.

Theorem 1.4. Up to a finite cover of the underlying boundary stratum - which is a combinatorially-determined fiber product of moduli spaces of genus zero and one, absolute and relative maps with lower numerical invariants - every component of $D_{\alpha,k}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ can be described as the transverse intersection of two loci in a projective bundle, where:

- the latter parametrises the possible line bundle isomorphisms imposed by the alignment of the log structure;
- the first locus is a subbundle representing the residual isomorphisms after fixing the ones virtually imposed by tropical continuity;
- the second locus is determined by the factorisation conditions.

The upshot is that we may then push the formula down to the Gathmann's space, so as to obtain multiplicities and tautological classes.

Corollary 1.5.

$$(\alpha_k \psi_k + \text{ev}_k^* H)[\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}^G(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)] = [D_{1,\alpha;k}^G(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)],$$

the latter being expressible as a weighted sum of tautological classes on Gathmann's comb loci.

Once we have this formula, the following extensions are classical:

- A similar formula for raising the tangency holds in the non-maximal tangency case. It can be proven by adding auxiliary markings of contact order 1; forgetting them is then a $(d - \sum \alpha)! : 1$ cover because the nice locus is dense inside Gathmann's relative spaces.
- The formula holds more generally for any smooth projective target X relative to a generic hyperplane section $Y = X \cap H \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N$. This follows via virtual pullback.

Finally the recursive structure of the boundary allows us to prove the following

Theorem 1.6 (In-principle quantum Lefschetz). The restricted reduced genus one invariants of Y can be inductively deduced from the full descendant genus zero and one (reduced) Gromov-Witten theory of X .

The proof is more delicate than its genus zero analogue because invariants with the same numerical data appear intertwined in the last steps of the recursion.

2. A DESINGULARISATION OF THE LOG SPACE

The ultimate goal of the paper is to apply Gathmann's techniques to the Vakil-Zinger desingularisation $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,n}(\mathbb{P}^N, d)$ and to obtain a quantum Lefschetz result for reduced invariants under some positivity assumption. The key step is to study the unobstructed case $(\mathbb{P}^N|H)$. We approach the problem by lifting it to the ACGS space of log stable maps. This allows us to exploit the tools developed in [?, ?]. We are in an intermediate situation between those two papers, and indeed we get an intermediate answer.

2.1. The ACGS minimal monoid and central alignments.

Proposition 2.1. The map $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}^{\text{cen}}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d) \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is a log modification. In particular $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}^{\text{cen}}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is a log algebraic stack.

possibly start pointing out that the log structure is already partially aligned by the map to $(\mathbb{P}^N|H)$

2.2. Factorisation conditions.

Proposition 2.2. Factoring through the Smyth curve is a closed condition. In particular $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d) \subseteq_{\text{cl}} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}^{\text{cen}}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is a log algebraic stack.

2.3. Log smoothness.

Theorem 2.3. $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is log smooth.

Proof. We reduce to the situation dealt with in [?] by adding generic extra hyperplanes H_1, \dots, H_N .

First, note that, for divisors $D_1 \subseteq D_2$ in X , there is a morphism of log schemes $(X, \mathcal{M}_{D_2}) \rightarrow (X, \mathcal{M}_{D_1})$, or equivalently a morphism of log structures $\mathcal{M}_{D_1} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{D_2}$ over id_X , because functions invertible off D_1 are in particular invertible off D_2 as well, and divisorial log structures are subsheaves of the structure sheaf $\mathcal{M}_D \subseteq \mathcal{O}_X$.

Now fix a point $[(C, f)] \in \mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$. Choose hyperplanes H_1, \dots, H_N in such a way that they intersect the image of f transversally, namely $f^{-1}(H_1 \cup \dots \cup H_N)$ is a reduced collection of points $\{q_j^i\}_{i=1, \dots, N, j=1, \dots, d}$ in the smooth locus of C . This condition will then hold in an open neighbourhood of $[(C, f)]$. Mark C at these points, endow it with the pullback along f of the divisorial log structure (\mathbb{P}^N, Δ) , where $\Delta = H + \sum_{i=1}^N H_i$. Then

$$f: (C, \{p_k\}_{k=1, \dots, n} \{q_j^i\}_{i=1, \dots, N, j=1, \dots, d}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{P}^N, \Delta)$$

is a lift of $[(C, f)]$ to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|\Delta, d)$ (under the forgetful morphism discussed in the previous paragraph).

Looking at the associated tropical map ϕ , observe that:

- new flags have been attached only to vertices of positive degree, and these already have a flag escaping $\phi^{-1}\phi(v)$, because the sum of the incoming slopes is not zero (by modified balancing);

- the image of the new tropical map $\tilde{\phi}$ is entirely contained in the ray of the tropicalisation of (\mathbb{P}^N, Δ) corresponding to H , with new flags going off to infinity in all the new ray directions from every vertex of positive degree.

In particular, for every quotient N' of the lattice N , the associated tropical map $\tilde{\phi}'$ will either

- (1) have image contained in the ray corresponding to H , isomorphically to the original ϕ , so the contraction radius can be seen to coincide with δ_2 , or
- (2) collapse the entire curve to the zero-cell of the fan, in which case we argue from the previous remarks that the contraction radius is δ .

Hence the lift of $[(C, f)]$ is centrally aligned and satisfies the factorisation property for every subtorus $H < T$, therefore it is well-spaced (see [?, Definition 3.4.2]) and it belongs to $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\tilde{\alpha}}(\mathbb{P}^N|\Delta, d)$. Note that the deformation spaces of (C, f) and its lift are isomorphic by construction, as can be checked by the infinitesimal criterion - an infinitesimal deformation of (C, f) brings along a unique deformation of the $\{q_j^i\}$ compatible with the map to (\mathbb{P}^N, Δ) . At the logarithmic level, observe that the ACGS minimal monoid is the same, because no component of C is entirely mapped into any of the newly added hyperplanes; since the global contraction radius δ is the same, the subdivisions corresponding to the alignment procedure do coincide as well. This shows that the forgetful morphism is (log) étale in a neighbourhood of the lift of $[(C, f)]$, hence we may conclude by appealing to [?, Theorem 3.5.1]. \square

Corollary 2.4. $\mathcal{VZ}_{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{P}^N|H, d)$ is smooth over its Artin fan.

describe the latter as explicitly as possible; comment on the cones that are (possibly?) not there because of the compatibility of the alignment with the log map (this is probably awkward, useless, and superceded by saying “we align subdivide the ACGS minimal dual monoid”) and because of smoothability/factorisation (this is probably related to tropical well-spacedness)

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