

Subvarieties in Abelian Variety

Xiaoxiang Zhou

Supervisor: Thomas Krämer

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

September 9 or 11, 2025

Setting

- A/\mathbb{C} : an abelian variety of dim n
- $Z \subsetneq A$: a (nondegenerate) subvariety of dim r
 Z is a curve C in our talk.

Setting

- A/\mathbb{C} : an abelian variety of $\dim n$
- $Z \subsetneq A$: a (nondegenerate) subvariety of $\dim r$
 Z is a curve C in our talk.

Goal

- *Construct a family indexed by \mathbb{Z}^d of subvarieties in A .*
- *Find their dimension and homology class.*

Setting

- A/\mathbb{C} : an abelian variety of dim n
- $Z \subsetneq A$: a (nondegenerate) subvariety of dim r
 Z is a curve C in our talk.

Example (Jacobian case)

When C is a smooth projective curve over \mathbb{C} of genus $g \geq 2$,

$$A := \text{Jac}(C)$$

the Jacobian of C

$$\text{AJ}_C : C \hookrightarrow A$$

Abel–Jacobi map

Setting

- A/\mathbb{C} : an abelian variety of dim n
- $Z \subsetneq A$: a (nondegenerate) subvariety of dim r
 Z is a curve C in our talk.

Example (Prym case)

When $h : C \longrightarrow C'$ is an unramified double cover of smooth projective curves, we can define

$A := \operatorname{Prym}(C/C')$ *the Prym variety of h*

$\operatorname{AP}_{C/C'} : C \longrightarrow A$ *Abel–Prym map*

We assume that C is non-hyperelliptic so that $\operatorname{AP}_{C/C'}$ is injective.

Construct new subvarieties

Since A is a group variety, one defines

$$C + C := \{p + q \mid p, q \in C\} \subseteq A$$

$$2C := \{2p \mid p \in C\} \subseteq A$$

and so on.

Construct new subvarieties

Since A is a group variety, one defines

$$\begin{aligned} C + C &:= \{p + q \mid p, q \in C\} && \subseteq A \\ 2C &:= \{2p \mid p \in C\} && \subseteq A \end{aligned}$$

and so on.

Remark

Since C is nondegenerate,

$$\underbrace{C + C + \cdots + C}_{\geq n \text{ many}} = A.$$

Construct new subvarieties

Question

Can we define a family of subvarieties arising from representation theory, which agrees with

$$\{m_1C + \cdots + m_dC \subseteq A \mid m_1, \dots, m_d \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

in some cases, but constructed in a way that reflects the additive structure of A more faithfully?

They should not be A .

Construct new subvarieties

Question

Can we define a family of subvarieties arising from representation theory, which agrees with

$$\{m_1C + \cdots + m_dC \subseteq A \mid m_1, \dots, m_d \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

in some cases, but constructed in a way that reflects the additive structure of A more faithfully?

They should not be A .

In fact, we can construct a family of subvarieties

$$\{Z_\chi \subseteq A \mid \chi \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$$

via the conormal variety.

Conic Lagrangian cycle

For a (smooth) subvariety $Z \subset A$, one can define the conormal variety $\Lambda_Z \subset T^*A \cong A \times T_0^*A$ by

$$\Lambda_Z := \{ (p, \xi) \in T^*A \mid p \in Z, \xi|_{T_p Z} = 0 \}.$$

Conic Lagrangian cycle

For a (smooth) subvariety $Z \subset A$, one can define the conormal variety $\Lambda_Z \subset T^*A \cong A \times T_0^*A$ by

$$\Lambda_Z := \{(p, \xi) \in T^*A \mid p \in Z, \xi|_{T_p Z} = 0\}.$$

Facts

- Λ_Z is a conic Lagrangian cycle in T^*A ;
- We have one-to-one correspondence

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\text{irr conic Lagrangian cycles in } T^*A\} & \cong & \{\text{irr subvarieties in } A\} \\ \Lambda_Z & \longleftrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

- The map $\gamma_Z : \Lambda_Z \subset A \times T_0^*A \longrightarrow T_0^*A$ is a generically finite map, when Z is nondegenerate.

Family of subvarieties

Definition

Fix a general point $\xi_0 \in T_0^*A$, and $d := \deg \gamma_Z$,
$$\gamma_Z^{-1}(\xi_0) := \{p_1, \dots, p_d\} \subset Z.$$

Family of subvarieties

Definition

Fix a general point $\xi_0 \in T_0^*A$, and $d := \deg \gamma_Z$,

$$\gamma_Z^{-1}(\xi_0) := \{p_1, \dots, p_d\} \subset Z.$$

Let Λ_Z^{univ} be the irreducible component of

$$\underbrace{\Lambda_Z \times_{T_0^*A} \cdots \times_{T_0^*A} \Lambda_Z}_{d \text{ many}} \subset A \times \cdots \times A \times T_0^*A$$

containing the point (p_1, \dots, p_d, ξ_0) .

Family of subvarieties

Definition

Fix a general point $\xi_0 \in T_0^*A$, and $d := \deg \gamma_Z$,

$$\gamma_Z^{-1}(\xi_0) := \{p_1, \dots, p_d\} \subset Z.$$

Let Λ_Z^{univ} be the irreducible component of

$$\underbrace{\Lambda_Z \times_{T_0^*A} \cdots \times_{T_0^*A} \Lambda_Z}_{d \text{ many}} \subset A \times \cdots \times A \times T_0^*A$$

containing the point (p_1, \dots, p_d, ξ_0) .

For $\chi = (m_1, \dots, m_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, define $\Lambda_{Z_\chi} := f(\Lambda_Z^{\text{univ}})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} f : A \times \cdots \times A \times T_0^*A &\longrightarrow A \times T_0^*A \\ (q_1, \dots, q_d, \xi) &\longmapsto (\sum_i m_i q_i, \xi) \end{aligned}$$

Family of subvarieties

Definition

Fix a general point $\xi_0 \in T_0^*A$, and $d := \deg \gamma_Z$,

$$\gamma_Z^{-1}(\xi_0) := \{p_1, \dots, p_d\} \subset Z.$$

Let Λ_Z^{univ} be the irreducible component of

$$\underbrace{\Lambda_Z \times_{T_0^*A} \cdots \times_{T_0^*A} \Lambda_Z}_{d \text{ many}} \subset A \times \cdots \times A \times T_0^*A$$

containing the point (p_1, \dots, p_d, ξ_0) .

For $\chi = (m_1, \dots, m_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, define $\Lambda_{Z_\chi} := f(\Lambda_Z^{\text{univ}})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} f : A \times \cdots \times A \times T_0^*A &\longrightarrow A \times T_0^*A \\ (q_1, \dots, q_d, \xi) &\longmapsto (\sum_i m_i q_i, \xi) \end{aligned}$$

Z_χ is then the corresponding subvariety of Λ_{Z_χ} .

Our work

We determine $\dim Z_\chi$ and $[Z_\chi] \in H_*(A; \mathbb{Z})$ in special cases.

Example

In the Jacobian case, $d = \deg \gamma_C = 2g - 2$.

Assume that C is non-hyperelliptic. For $\chi = (m_1, \dots, m_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, when no g of m_i equal to each other, we get

$$\dim Z_\chi = g - 1$$
$$[Z_\chi] = \frac{1}{\deg f|_{\Lambda_Z^{\text{univ}}}} \left(\frac{1}{2^{g-1}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_{2g-2}} \prod_{l=1}^{g-1} \left(m_{\sigma(2l-1)} - m_{\sigma(2l)} \right)^2 \right) \cdot [\Theta]$$

Q & A

Thank you for your listening!

Any questions?

This slide is online available: <https://shorturl.at/qqWDe>

For more infos (and references) about this topic, please check my work in progress [note1](#) and [note2](#).

Financial support by the Berlin Mathematical School is gratefully acknowledged.

