

The Chow Ring of
the Moduli Space of
 $g=0$ Prestable Curves .
(joint work in progress with
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§ 1. Introduction

k = base field

Let $M_{g,n}$: moduli space of prestable curves of genus g , n markings. Objects over S is

$$M_{g,n}(S) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} C \\ \pi \sqcup S \end{array} \right\}_{P_1, \dots, P_n} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{π : flat, proper, representable} \\ \text{fibers are connected, reduced} \\ \text{curve w/ nodal singularity} \end{array} \right.$$

$M_{g,n}$: algebraic stack, quasi-separated, smooth,
locally of finite type / k .
(no stability condition)

• When $2g - 2 + n > 0$,

$$\overline{M}_{g,n} \hookrightarrow M_{g,n} \text{ open substack.}$$

↑ We don't have $\int_{M_{g,n}} (\dots)$.

- This space has a well-defined cycle theory

$$CH^*(M_{g,n})$$

by Kresch.

- We are interested in the tautological subring

$$R^*(M_{g,n}) \subset CH^*(M_{g,n})_{\mathbb{Q}}.$$

- In this talk, we are mainly interested in $g=0$ case.

Thm A. When $g=0$, $R^*(M_{0,n}) = CH^*(M_{0,n})$
 ↪ presented in this seminar last year.

Thm B When $g=0$, taut. relations are additively generated by the WDVV-relation & Ψ, K -relations.
 ↪ We will make this in a precise form.

§2. Cycle theory of algebraic stacks

(2.1) A. Kresch's cycle theory

- $X = \text{finite type scheme, DM-stack}.$ Then a class in $\text{CH}_*(X)_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is represented by integral closed substack. [Vistoli]
- $X = [Y \mid G].$ Then take a finite approximation of $Y \times_G EG.$ and

$$\text{CH}_*(X) := \text{CH}_*(\text{finite app. of } Y \times_G EG).$$

[Edidin - Graham, 98]

Non-example Let $M_{0,0}^{\leq 2} \subset M_{0,0}$ be the locus where curves have at most two nodes.

Thm [Kresch, 13] $M_{0,0}^{\leq 2}$ is not a quotient stack.

Idea of Kresch :

$\text{CH}_*^\circ(-)$: cycles generated by integral closed substack.

$\widehat{\text{CH}}_*(-) := \varprojlim_E \text{CH}_{*+\text{rk } E}^\circ(E)$ where E : vector bundle on a space

Def (Kresch)

$$\text{CH}_*(X) := \varprojlim_{\substack{Y \rightarrow X \\ \text{projective}}} \widehat{\text{CH}}_*(Y) / \widehat{B}(Y)$$

(f. α) $f: Y \rightarrow X$, $E \hookrightarrow Y$. $\alpha \in \text{CH}^\circ(E)$

If X is a finite type /k, stratified by locally closed substacks which are quotient stack. Then $\widehat{\text{CH}}_*(-)$ has projective pushforward, flat pullback, Chern classes & refined Gysin pullback along lci morphisms

(**) local condition : stabilizer group of each geom.pt is affine

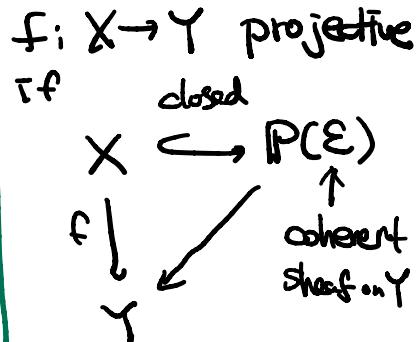
* We exclude $(g,n) = (1,0)$

If X : locally finite type/ k , take a directed system of open covers $\{U_i\}$. U_i : finite type/ k .

$$CH_*(X) := \varprojlim CH_*(U_i)$$

(2.2) Proper pushforward (after Skowron).

It took a while to define pushforward cycles along proper (but not nec. proj) morphisms.



Example (Fulghesu) The projection

$$\pi: C \rightarrow M_{0,0}^{\leq 2}$$

from the universal curve is not projective.

Thm (Skowron, '19) Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ proper, representable.
 Then there exists.

$$f_*: CH_*(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow CH_*(Y, \mathbb{Z})$$

If f is proper, relatively DM-type,

$$f_*: CH_*(X, \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow CH_*(Y, \mathbb{Q}).$$

Moreover f_* is compatible with flat pullback, Gysin pullback etc.

§3. Proof of Theorem A.

(3.1) Tautological classes

- We showed that a parallel construction of tautological rings for $M_{g,n}$ works.
 - ↳ Moduli presentation of $C_{g,n} \rightarrow M_{g,n}$.
- Additive basis of $R^*(M_{g,n})$:

$[\Gamma, \alpha]$ Γ : prestable graph of genus g ,
n legs
 α : Ψ & \mathcal{W} - classes.

Ex $[\Gamma, \alpha] =$

(3.2) Proof of Thm A

$$\underline{\text{Thm A}} \quad R^d(M_{0,n}) = CH^d(M_{0,n}) @ \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \\ n \geq 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \\ d \end{matrix}$$

↳ for simplicity, $n \geq 1$.

• We use the recursive boundary structure of $M_{0,n}$ and induction on d .

• We start from $M_{0,1}^{sm} \leftarrow$ locus where C is smooth.

(a) $M_{0,1}^{sm} = B \cup$, $\cup = \mathbb{G}_a \times \mathbb{G}_m$: group of affine transformations of A'

$$\rightsquigarrow CH^*(M_{0,1}^{sm}) = \mathbb{Q}[\psi_1]$$

(b) $M_{0,2}^{sm} = B \mathbb{G}_m$.

$$\rightsquigarrow CH^*(M_{0,2}^{sm}) = \mathbb{Q}[\psi_1]$$

(c) $M_{0,n}^{sm} = M_{0,n}$, $n \geq 3$. $\rightsquigarrow CH^*(M_{0,n}) = \mathbb{Q}\langle M_{0,n} \rangle$

Pf) (b) \Rightarrow (a). Use the homotopy invariance for affine bundles. □

In the proof we use two ingredients :

(i) $M_{0,n}^{\text{sm}}$ satisfies the Chow Künneth property

(ii) If $f: X \rightarrow Y$ proper, surjective, relative DM.
then

$$f_*: CH_*(X)_\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow CH_*(Y)_\mathbb{Q} \quad \text{surjective}$$

Sketch of the proof of Thm A)

Consider the excision sequence

$$\underline{CH^{d-1}(\partial M_{0,n})} \rightarrow CH^d(M_{0,n}) \xrightarrow{\text{tautological.}} \underline{CH^d(M_{0,n}^{\text{sm}})} \rightarrow 0$$

We have the gluing map.

$$\bigsqcup_{I \subset [n]} M_{0, I \cup \{i\}} \times M_{0, I^c \cup \{i'\}} \longrightarrow \partial M_{0,n}$$

which is proper, representable, surjective.
 \Rightarrow pushforward is surjective.

- Easier to consider the Chow - Künneth generating property (CKgP). Namely, X satisfies CKgP if for any Y

$$CH_*(X) \otimes CH_*(Y) \longrightarrow CH_*(X \times Y)$$

is surjective.

- In particular (i), (ii) + excision seq

$\Rightarrow M_{0,n}$ has CKgP.

- $CH_*(M_{0,n_1}) \otimes CH_*(M_{0,n_2}) \xrightarrow{\quad} CH_*(M_{0,n_1} \times M_{0,n_2})$
- tautological by induction hypothesis

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§4. Revisit the WDVV -relation.

Recall (WDVV) $M_{0,4} \cong \mathbb{P}^1$. So

$$\begin{array}{c} ' \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 2 \quad 4 \\ \end{array} \sim \begin{array}{c} ' \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 3 \quad 4 \\ \end{array} \sim \begin{array}{c} ' \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 4 \quad 3 \\ \end{array}$$

in $\text{CH}'(\overline{M}_{0,4})$.

We will follow a nontraditional way to understand WDVV.

(4.1) Localization sequence.

Consider the localization sequence

$$\text{CH}_*(-, 1) \xrightarrow{\partial} \text{CH}_*(\partial \overline{M}_{0,4}) \rightarrow \text{CH}_*(\overline{M}_{0,4}) \rightarrow \text{CH}_*(M_{0,4}) \rightarrow \dots$$

where $\text{CH}_*(-, 1)$ is the 1st higher Chow group,

- Understand WDVV as the $\text{Im } \partial$.

For 1st higher Chow groups, we can forget about the transversality issue. Let $U : \text{scheme}/k$.

Let Δ^1 : algebraic 1-simplex. $R = \Delta^1 - \{0, 1\}$.
 $(\simeq A_k^1)$

$$Z^*(U \times \Delta^2)^\text{prop} \xrightarrow{\partial} Z^*(U \times R) \xrightarrow{\partial} Z^*(U) \rightarrow 0$$

\uparrow
 $[W]$

$$\partial[W] := \overline{W} \cap (U \times [0] - U \times [1])$$

\nwarrow
 \uparrow closure in $U \times \Delta^1$.

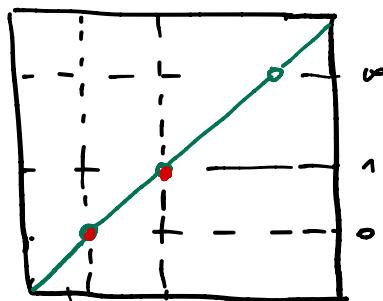
$Z^*(-)^\text{prop} \subset Z^*(U \times \Delta^2)$ where the cycles intersect faces of $U \times \Delta^2$ in the right dimension.

$$CH^*(U, 1) = \frac{\ker(\partial : Z^*(U \times R) \rightarrow Z^*(U))}{\text{Im}(\partial : Z^*(U \times \Delta^1)^\text{prop} \rightarrow Z^*(U \times R))}$$

Proof of WDVV when $n=4$)

Let $[L_0] \in CH^1(M_{0,4,1})$ corresponds to

$$L_0 = \overline{(0,0), (1,1)}$$



$$\mathbb{P}^1 - \{0, 1, \infty\} \cong M_{0,4}$$



Now one can compute

$$\partial [L_0] = [0] - [1]$$

in $CH_0(\partial \bar{M}_{0,4})$

□

(4.2) General case.

For $n \geq 4$, we have the corresponding motive

$$M_{gm}(M_{0,n}) \in DM_{gm}^{\text{eff}}(k)$$

and its motivic cohomology. (equivalently, its higher Chow groups)

- If U : sm scheme / k , then

$$CH^l(U, 1) \cong H^l(U, \mathbb{Z}(1)) \cong H^0(U, \mathcal{O}_U^*) .$$

Thm [Chatzistamatiou, '07] .

Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{A}_k^N$ be a hyperplane complement.

Then the motivic cohomology of U is generated by $H^l(U, \mathbb{Z}(1))$ over $H^*(k, \mathbb{Z}(\bullet))$. In particular

$$CH^l(U, 1) = \begin{cases} H^0(U, \mathcal{O}_U^*) & \text{if } l=1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} . \end{cases}$$

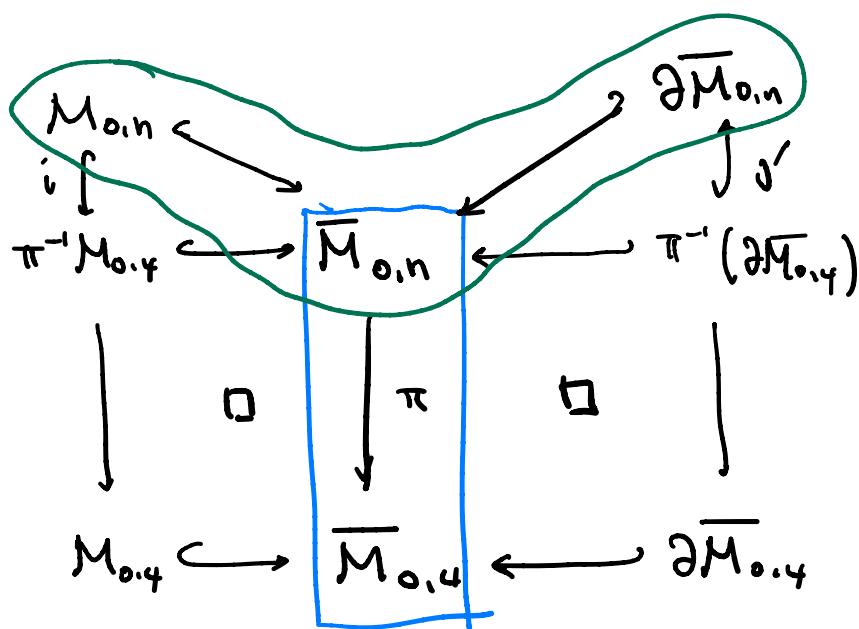
Prop For $n \geq 4$, the image of the coboundary

$$CH^{l+1}(M_{0,n}, 1) \xrightarrow{\cong} CH^l(\partial M_{0,n}) \rightarrow CH^{l+1}(M_{0,n})$$

is the set of WDVV relations if $l=0$ and trivial if $l > 0$.

Pf) For simplicity, we prove this for $M_{0,n} \subset \overline{M}_{0,n}$.

Idea We want to pullback the previous computation along the forgetful morphism π



$\pi^{-1}(M_{0,4})$ contains $M_{0,n}$ as an open set.

Let $j' : \pi^{-1}(\partial \bar{M}_{0,4}) \hookrightarrow \partial \bar{M}_{0,n}$: closed embedding.

We check :

WVV

$$CH^1(M_{0,n}, 1) \xrightarrow{\partial} CH^0(\partial \bar{M}_{0,n}, 1)$$

$$\uparrow \cdot^*$$

$$\curvearrowright$$

$$\uparrow j'^*$$

$$CH^1(\pi^{-1}M_{0,4}, 1) \xrightarrow{\partial} CH^0(\pi^{-1}\partial \bar{M}_{0,4}, 1)$$

$$\uparrow \pi^*$$

$$\uparrow \pi^*$$

$$CH^1(M_{0,4}, 1) \xrightarrow{\partial} CH^0(\partial \bar{M}_{0,4})$$

$$\text{WDVV}$$

Using $S_n \subset \bar{M}_{0,n}$, any generator of $CH^1(M_{0,n}, 1)$ is a pullback of a class in $CH^1(M_{0,4}, 1)$

§5. Proof of Thm B.

Thm B Tautological relations are additively generated by the WDVV relation & Ψ, κ -relations

↪ Restricting to $M_{0,n}$, the result specializes to the work of Keel.

(5.1) Ψ, κ -relations.

We can simplify Ψ, κ -monomials from the following relations

(a) $\Psi_1 + \Psi_2 = \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \quad \searrow \\ \bullet \end{array} \quad \text{in } CH^1(M_{0,2})$

(use the excision seq)

(b) $\Psi_i = \sum_{\substack{I_1 \cup I_2 = [n] \\ i \in I_1, j, k \in I_2}} \begin{array}{c} i \\ \nearrow \quad \searrow \\ I_1 \quad I_2 \end{array} \quad \text{in } CH^1(M_{0,n}), \quad n \geq 3$

(c) $\kappa_a = \sum \Psi \text{ & boundary strata. } n \geq 1$.

(5.2) Strata space

Let $S_{0,n}$ be the $g=0$ strata space.

(i.e. formal linear sum of $[\Gamma, \alpha]$) \leftarrow No multiplication yet.

$$\rightarrow S_{0,n} = \bigoplus_{p \geq 0} S_{0,n}^p \quad p = \# \text{ of edges} .$$

Def Let $R_0 \in S_{0,n}$. The set of relations in $S_{0,n}$ generated by R_0 is a \mathbb{Q} -subvector space of $S_{0,n}$ obtained by

- Γ : prestable graph $\in S_{0,n}$
- $v \in V(\Gamma)$, identification of n_0 halfedges attached to v .

Ex $R_0 = \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ h \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 4 & 5 \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} 4 \\ h \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 5 \end{array}$, $\Gamma = \begin{array}{c} \psi_1 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 2 & h & v & 3 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ \psi_2 \end{array}$

$\xrightarrow{\text{glue}}$ $\begin{array}{c} \psi_1 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 1 & h & 3 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 2 & h & 4 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ \psi_2 \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \psi_1 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 1 & h & 4 \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ 2 & h & 5 \end{array}$

Let $R_{K,\psi}$ be the set of relations of $K\otimes\psi$ monomials obtained by (a) - (c).

Def Given a graph Γ , an element

$$\alpha = \prod_{v \in V(\Gamma)} \alpha_v$$

is said to be a normal form if.

$$(i) n(v) = 1 \Rightarrow \alpha_v = \psi_h^b \quad \overbrace{v}^h$$

$$(ii) n(v) = 2 \Rightarrow \alpha_v = \psi_h^c + (-\psi_{h'})^c \quad \begin{array}{c} h \quad h' \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ v \end{array}$$

$$(iii) n(v) \geq 3 \Rightarrow \alpha_v = 1. \quad \text{"Reduced"}$$

- Let R_{WDV} : relations obtained by glueing WDV relations into normal form

- Let $S_{0,n}^{nf} \subset S_{0,n}$ be the subvector space

additively generated by normal forms. Then

$$S_{0,n}^{nf} \hookrightarrow S_{0,n} \rightarrow S_{0,n}/R_{K,\psi}$$

is surjective.

(5.3) Proof of Thm B.

- $S_{0,n} \longrightarrow CH^*(M_{0,n})$, $[\Gamma, \alpha] \mapsto \xi_{\Gamma*}(\alpha)$.

Thm B': $CH^*(M_{0,n}) \cong S_{0,n} / (R_{k,y} + R_{\text{wov}})$.

Simple diagram chasing reduces the question to show that the kernel of

$$S_{0,n}^{nf} \longrightarrow CH^*(M_{0,n})$$

is R_{wov} .

Step 1 We stratify $M_{0,n}$ as follows.

$$M_{0,n}^{\geq p} = \{C \mid C \text{ has at least } p \text{ nodes}\} \xhookrightarrow{\text{closed}} M_{0,n}$$

$$M_{0,n}^{\geq p} \setminus M_{0,n}^{\geq p+1} = M_{0,n}^{=p} \leftarrow \text{exactly } p \text{ nodes}$$

$$\cong \bigsqcup_{\Gamma \in G_p} \left(\prod_{v \in V(\Gamma)} M_{0,n(v)}^{sm} / \text{Aut } \Gamma \right)$$

where G_p : set of prestable graphs with p edges.

The localization seq reads :

$$\boxed{\text{CH}^d(M_{o,n}^{=p}, 1) \xrightarrow{\partial} \text{CH}^{d-1}(M_{o,n}^{\geq p+1})} \xrightarrow{\text{closed}} \text{CH}^d(M_{o,n}^{\geq p}) \rightarrow \text{CH}^d(M_{o,n}^{=p}) \rightarrow 0$$

$$M^{\geq p+1} \xleftarrow{\quad} M^{\geq p}$$

Step 2. $M_{o,n}^{\text{sm}}$ satisfies the Chow-Künneth property for $\text{CH}^*(-, 1)$: For Y : quotient stack,

$$\text{CH}_*(M_{o,n}^{\text{sm}}, \bullet) \otimes \text{CH}_*(Y, \bullet) \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_*(k, \bullet)} \text{CH}_*(M_{o,n}^{\text{sm}} \times Y, \bullet)$$

is an isomorphism in $\deg \bullet = 1$.

In our setting, $\text{CH}^*(M_{o,n}^{=p}, 1)$ is isomorphic to

$$\bigoplus_{\Gamma \in G_p} \left[\bigoplus_{\substack{v \in V(\Gamma) \\ n(v) \geq 3}} \left(\text{CH}^1(M_{o,n(v)}^{\text{sm}}, 1) \otimes \bigotimes_{v' \neq v} \text{CH}^*(M_{o,n(v')}^{\text{sm}}) \right) \right] \xrightarrow{\text{Art}^*} \text{CH}^1(M_{o,n(v)}, 1)$$

* If all $n(v) \leq 2$, $k^* \otimes \bigotimes_v \text{CH}^*(M_{o,n(v)}^{\text{sm}})$

Moreover,

$$\partial(\alpha_v \otimes \bigoplus_{v' \neq v} \alpha_{v'}) = \partial(\alpha_v) \otimes \bar{\alpha}_{v'}$$

where $\bar{\alpha}_{v'}$ is any extension of $\alpha_{v'}$. (this formula is independent of $\bar{\alpha}_{v'}$)

We proved :

Prop. The image of

$$\partial: CH^*(M_{\text{or},n}^{=p} \cdot 1) \longrightarrow CH^{*-1}(M_{\text{or},n}^{\geq p+1})$$

is the same as the image of

$$R_{WDVR}^{p+1} \longrightarrow S_{\text{or},n}^{nf,p+1} \longrightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{or},n}^{\geq p+1}).$$

Step 3.

It is not so hard to prove that

$$S_{\text{om}}^{\text{nf}, p} \rightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{zp}) \rightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{=p})$$

is an isomorphism. So we have a splitting:

$$\begin{array}{c} S_{\text{om}}^{\text{nf}, p} \\ \downarrow S\cong \\ CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{=p}, 1) \xrightarrow{\cong} CH^{*-1}(M_{\text{om}}^{zp+1}) \rightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{zp}) \rightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{=p}) \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{zp}) &\cong S_{\text{om}}^{\text{nf}, p} \oplus CH^{*-1}(M_{\text{om}}^{zp+1}) / CH^*(M_{\text{om}}^{=p}, 1) \\ &\cong S_{\text{om}}^{\text{nf}, p} \oplus CH^{*-1}(M_{\text{om}}^{zp+1}) / R_{\text{WDDV}}^{p+1}. \end{aligned}$$

The localization sequence for $p=0, 1, \dots$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} CH^*(m_{o,n}) &\cong S_{o,n}^{nf,0} \oplus CH^{*+1}(m_{o,n}^{\geq 1}) / R_{WDVV}^1 \\ &\cong S_{o,n}^{nf,0} \oplus (S_{o,n}^{nf,1} / R_{WDVV}^1) \oplus CH^{*+2}(m_{o,n}^{\geq 2}) / \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\cong S_{o,n}^{nf} / R_{WDVV}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves

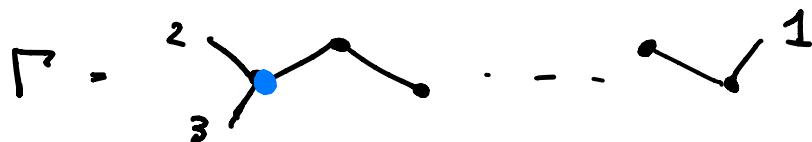
$$CH^*(m_{o,n}) \cong S_{o,n} / (R_{\text{fr,k}} + R_{WDVV})$$

■

§6. Remarks

(6.1) Previous results

- [Oesinghaus '18] $\mathcal{T} \subset M_{0,3}$ open substack



He constructed an atlas $[A^n/G_{m,n}^n] \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ and showed

$$\Rightarrow CH_*(\mathcal{T}) \cong \text{QSym}_{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$$

We can identify basis of $\text{QSym}_{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$ with tautological classes.

$$\text{Eg } j = \langle j_1, \dots, j_n \rangle$$

- [Fulghesu, '10] When $p \leq 3$, he computed $\text{CH}^*(M_{0,0}^{\leq p})$ using explicit generators & relations

graded

e.g. $\text{CH}^*(M_{0,0}^{\leq 3}) \approx \mathbb{Q}$ -algebra with 10 generators and 11 relations

- It is not so easy to write his classes as tautological classes.
- It is possible to compare

$$\dim \text{CH}^d(M_{0,0}^{\leq p})$$

from [Fulghesu] & ours.

$$\begin{aligned} p \leq 2 : & \text{ [Fulghesu] match with ours.} & [\text{Fulghesu}] \\ p = 3, d \geq 8 : & \dim \text{CH}^8(M_{0,0}^{\leq 3}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 55 \\ 54 \leftarrow \text{ours} \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$$

We think [Fulghesu] is missing at least one relation in $\text{CH}^8(M_{0,0}^{\leq 3})$.

C6.2) $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ vs $M_{g,n}$.

If $2g - 2 + n > 0$, $M_{g,n}$ has a retraction map to $\overline{M}_{g,n}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \overline{M}_{g,n} & \xhookrightarrow{i} & M_{g,n} \\ & & \xrightarrow{\text{st}} \overline{M}_{g,n} \\ & \curvearrowright^{\text{id.}} & \end{array}$$

st: stabilization map (flat).

$$\rightsquigarrow CH_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}) \hookrightarrow CH_*(M_{g,n}).$$

Can we understand $R^*(M_{g,n})$ from $R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$ and $CH^*(M_{0,n})$?

When $* = 1$.

Prop. $CH^1(M_{g,n}) = R^1(M_{g,n})$ and all tautological relations are pullbacked from $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ via st^* .

Another interesting map: $m \geq 0$

$$\pi_m: \overline{M}_{g,n+m} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{g,n}$$

forgetting the last m markings. (π_m is flat)

Q) For fixed d , is the pullback

$$\pi_m^*: R^d(\overline{M}_{g,n}) \rightarrow R^d(\overline{M}_{g,n+m})$$

injective for $m > 0$?