

joint w/ Y. Bae, D. Holmes, R. Pandharipande, R. Schwarz

§1 Two compactifications of loci of K-differentials  
 Let  $g, n \geq 0$  with  $2g-2+n > 0$ .

$$M_{g,n} = \left\{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \mid \begin{array}{l} C \text{ smooth genus } g \text{ curve} \\ p_1, \dots, p_n \in C \text{ distinct points} \end{array} \right\}$$

→ moduli space of smooth curves

→ smooth orbifold of dim  $3g-3+n$

Let  $K \geq 0$ ,  $A = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  w/  $\sum a_i = K \cdot (2g-2)$ .

$$\mathcal{H}_g^K(A) = \left\{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \mid \omega_C^{\otimes K} \cong \mathcal{O}_C(\sum a_i p_i) \right\} \subseteq M_{g,n}$$

closed alg. subset

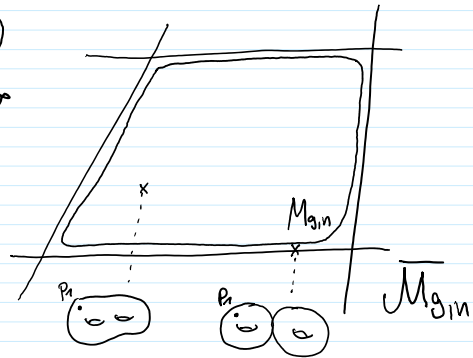
↔ ∃ merom. K-diff.  $\eta$  on C  
with  $\text{div}(\eta) = \sum a_i p_i$

Exa  $\mathcal{H}_1^K(a, -a) = \left\{ (E, p, q) \mid \mathcal{O}_E \cong \mathcal{O}_E(ap - aq) \right\} \subseteq M_{1,2}$   
 $= \left\{ (E, p, q) \mid q \text{ non-triv. } a\text{-torsion pt. in } (E, p) \right\}$

Q • Geometry of  $\mathcal{H}_g^K(A)$ , e.g. dimension, smoothness, ...

• How to compactify inside the moduli space of stable curves?

$$\overline{M}_{g,n} = \left\{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \mid \begin{array}{l} C \text{ curve of arithm. genus } g, \\ \text{at worst nodal} \\ p_1, \dots, p_n \in C \text{ distinct smooth pts} \\ \text{Aut}(C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \text{ finite} \end{array} \right\}$$



• Natural cycle class in  $CH^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$ ?

A1 Closure  $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_g^K(A) \subseteq \overline{M}_{g,n} \rightsquigarrow$  strata of K-differentials

→ minimal compactification

→ [Bainbridge-Chen-Gendron-Grushevsky-Möller '16, '16]

Characterization of  $(C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \overline{\mathcal{H}}_g^K(A)$

→ ∃ meromorph. K-diff. on comp. of C, poles & zeros at nodes, K-residue conditions

→ [BCGM '19, Constantini-Möller-Zachhuber '19]

Construct smooth, modular compactification

$$\mathbb{P}E^{\otimes K} \overline{M}_{g,n}(A) \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{H}}_g^K(A) \subseteq \overline{M}_{g,n}$$

→ [CMZ '20]

• Express the (orbifold) Euler characteristic of strata  $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_g^K(A)$  of differentials in terms of intersection numbers on  $\mathbb{P}E^{\otimes K} \overline{M}_{g,n}(A)$ .

• Calculate them in many examples using computers

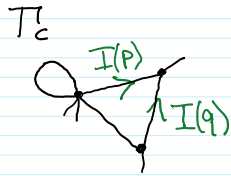
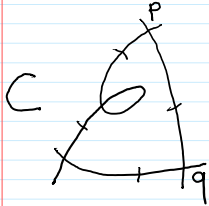
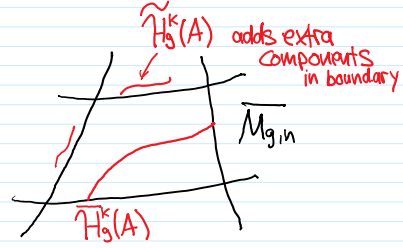
Exa  $\chi(\overline{\mathcal{H}}_2^1(2)) = -140$ .

→ [Sauvaget 20]  
 Volumes of moduli spaces of flat surfaces ↔ Intersect. numbr. of  $[\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_g^k(A)]$  w/ natural classes on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

⇒ Want formula for  $[\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_g^k(A)]$ .

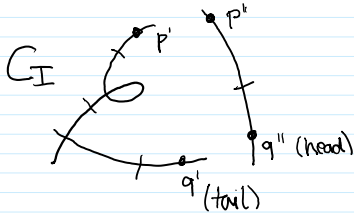
A2 Moduli  $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_g^k(A) \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$  of twisted K-differentials  
 [Farkas-Pandharipande '15]

$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_g^k(A) = \{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \mid (*) \} \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ ,  
 $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_g^k(A) \cap \mathcal{M}_{g,n} = \mathcal{H}_g^k(A)$



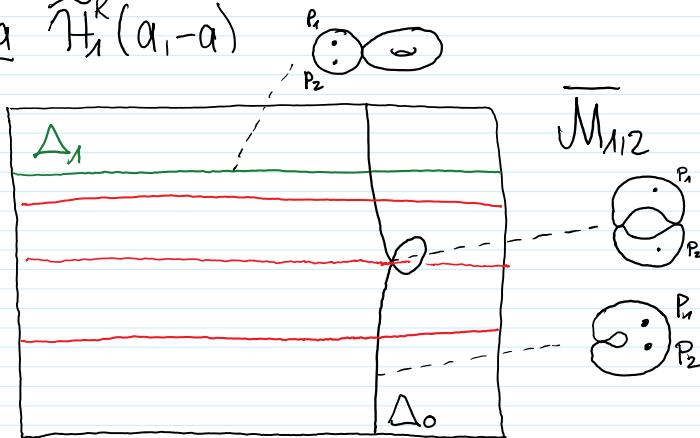
twist I  
 $I(p), I(q) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$   
 ↳ no strict cycles

↑  $\mathcal{N}_I$  normalizing twisted nodes  $N_I$

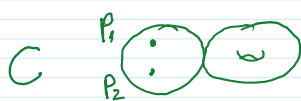


(\*) : ∃ twist I on  $T_c$  such that  
 $\mathcal{N}_I^* \omega_c^{\otimes K} \cong \mathcal{N}_I^* \mathcal{O}_c(\sum a_i p_i) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{C_I}(\sum_{q \in N_I} I(q)(q'' - q'))$   
 $\Leftrightarrow \omega_{C_I}^{\otimes K} \cong \mathcal{O}_{C_I}(\sum a_i p_i + \sum_{q \in N_I} (-I(q)-K)q' + (I(q)-K)q'')$

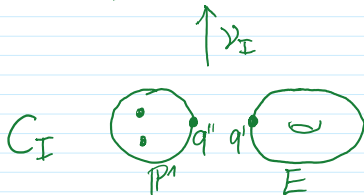
Exa  $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1^k(a_1, -a)$



$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1^k(a_1, -a) = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1^k(a_1, -a) \cup \Delta_1$



$\xrightarrow{K} (T, I)$

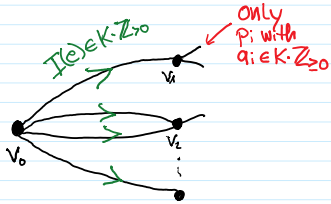


→  $\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}^{\otimes K} \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(a p_1 - a p_2 - (K+K)q'')$

→  $\omega_E^{\otimes K} \cong \mathcal{O}_E((K-K)q')$

Thm (FP'15, S'16)  $k \geq 1$   
 $Z = \tilde{H}_g^k(A)$  component

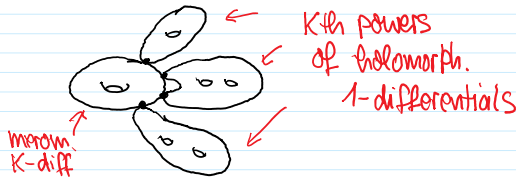
Generic  $T, I$



central vertex      outlying vertices  $v_{out}(T)$

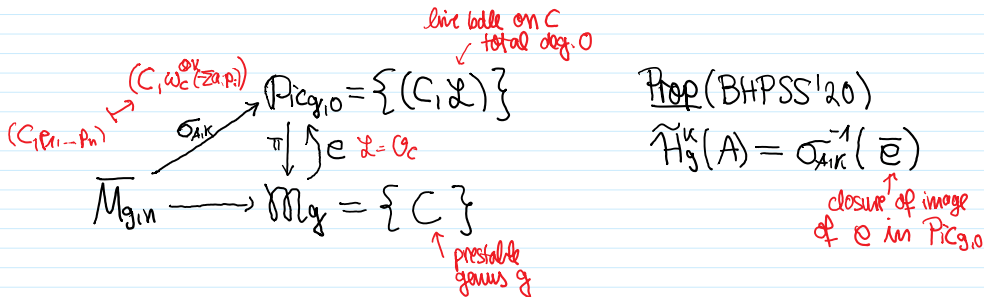
simple star graph

Generic  $(C, p_1, \dots, p_n)$



$\Rightarrow$  Components of  $\tilde{H}_g^k(A)$  supported in boundary of  $\bar{M}_{g,n}$  are parameterized by products of spaces  $\tilde{H}_{g(v_i)}^k(A_i)$

$\leadsto$  Motivation for definition?



$\leadsto \bar{e} \in \text{Pic}_{g,0}$  has pure codim  $g$ ; what about  $\tilde{H}_g^k(A)$ ?

§2 Dimension theory & weighted fundamental class

Thm (F-P'15 ( $k=1$ ), S'16 ( $k>1$ ))

For  $k \geq 1$ ,  $\tilde{H}_g^k(A)$  has pure codim  $g$  in  $\bar{M}_{g,n}$ , except if  $A = K \cdot A'$  for  $A' \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^n$ , in which case

$$\tilde{H}_g^k(A') \subseteq \tilde{H}_g^k(A)$$

is a union of comp. of codim  $g-1$ .

Idea of Pf over  $M_{g,n}$ :  $\sigma_{A,k}$  and  $e$  meet transversally  $\Rightarrow \tilde{H}_g^k(A) \subseteq M_{g,n}$  smooth (Deformation theory)

in  $\partial \bar{M}_{g,n}$ : recursive argument  $\square$

$\leadsto$  What about cycle theory?

Conjecture A (Janda-Pandharipande-Pixton-Zvonkine '15 (k=1) / '16 (k>1))

Let  $k \geq 1$  and  $A \neq kA'$  for  $A' \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n \rightsquigarrow \tilde{H}_g^k(A)$  pure coding  
Then

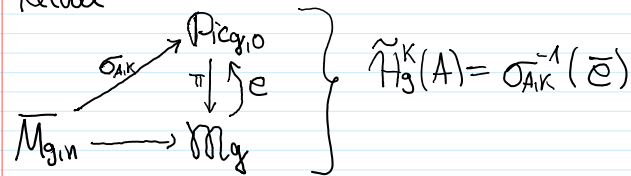
$$\sum_{Z \text{ component of } \tilde{H}_g^k(A)} m_Z \cdot [Z] = 2^g P_g^{g|k}(\tilde{A}) \in CH^g(\overline{M}_{g,n}) \quad (*)$$

$\uparrow$  explicit pos. integer       $\uparrow$  Pixton's formula for double ramification (DR) cycle in the tautological ring       $\tilde{A} = (a_1+k, \dots, a_n+k)$

$R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n}) \cong CH^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$   
explicit generators, formul. for products, ...

Proof ([HS'19, BHPSS'20])

Recall



$\rightarrow$  [HS'19] (Intersection multiplicity of  $\sigma_{A,k}$  and  $\bar{e}$  along  $Z \subset \tilde{H}_g^k(A)$ ) =  $m_Z \Rightarrow$  LHS of (\*) =  $\sigma_{A,k}^*([\bar{e}])$

$\rightarrow$  [BHPSS'20] Show Pixton style formula  $[\bar{e}] = P_g^g \in CH^g(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$       RHS of (\*) =  $\sigma_{A,k}^*(P_g^g)$   
 $\uparrow$  short computation       $\square$

$\Rightarrow [\bar{e}] \in CH^g(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$  is the universal twisted DR cycle

$\rightsquigarrow$  all classical DR cycles are pullbacks under  $\sigma_{A,k}: \overline{M}_{g,n} \rightarrow \text{Pic}_{g,0}$

$\rightsquigarrow$  What about cycles  $[\tilde{H}_g^k(A)]$ ?

Conj. A  $[\tilde{H}_g^k(A)] + (\text{boundary comp. of } \tilde{H}_g^k(A)) = (\text{explicit formula})$

$\uparrow$  parameterized by smaller-dim'l spaces  $\tilde{H}_{g(n)}^k(A_i)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  we can set up recursion.

$\Rightarrow$  recursive formula for  $[\tilde{H}_g^k(A)]$ .

I owe you

- $\rightarrow$  discussion of taut. classes & Pixton's formula
- $\rightarrow$  proof that  $[\bar{e}] = P_g^g \in CH^g(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$

### §3 Chow group of $\text{Pic}_{g,0}$

$\leadsto$  use operational / bivariant / Chow cohom. approach (Fulton chap. 17)

Let  $S$  be finite type scheme

$$S \xrightarrow{\varphi} \text{Pic}_{g,0} \xleftrightarrow{\text{def}} \begin{array}{c} C \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \\ \downarrow \text{pr} \\ S \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{family of curves} \\ + \\ \text{line bundle} \end{array}$$

An operat. class  $\alpha \in \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^c(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$  is data of

$$\left( \alpha(\varphi) : \text{CH}_*(S) \longrightarrow \text{CH}_{*-c}(S) \right)_{\varphi: S \rightarrow \text{Pic}_{g,0}}$$

$\beta \longmapsto (\varphi^* \mathcal{L}) \cap \beta$   $\uparrow$  all such morph.

Compatible with prop. pushforw, flat pullback, Gysin pullback

With some work:

$$\bar{e} \in \text{Pic}_{g,0} \xrightarrow{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{closed} \\ \text{pure codim } g}} [\bar{e}] \in \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^g(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$$

"Poincaré dual of fund class"

### §4 Tautological classes on $\text{Pic}_{g,0}$

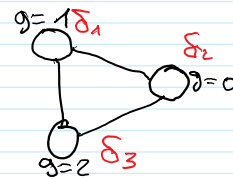
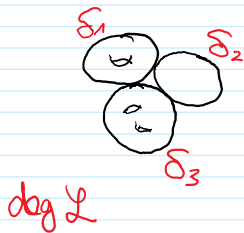
- Idea • Define  $R^*(\text{Pic}_{g,0}) \subseteq \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^*(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$   
 • Express  $[\bar{e}]$  as elem. in  $R^*(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$

•  $\mathcal{O} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \leftarrow \text{universal line bundle!}$   
 $\downarrow \text{pr}$   
 $\text{Pic}_{g,0}$

$\leadsto \eta := F_* (c_1(\mathcal{L})^2) \in \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^1(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$

- boundary strata of  $\text{Pic}_{g,0}$

$\longleftrightarrow$  prestable graphs  $\Gamma$  + degree fat.  $\delta: V(\Gamma) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  }  $\Gamma_{\delta}$   
 $\sum \delta_i = 0$



- Given  $T_S$  have gluing morphism

$$j_{T_S}: \text{Pic}_{T_S} \rightarrow \text{Pic}_{g,0}$$

$$\downarrow \pi_{T_S}$$

$$\prod_{V \in \mathcal{V}(T_S)} \text{Pic}_{g(n_i, m_i), S(r)}$$

$$\text{Pic}_{T_S} = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \end{array} \right) \right\}$$

- $\text{Pic}_{g, \text{ind}} = \{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n, \mathcal{L}) \}$

$$\mathcal{L}_i \rightarrow \text{Pic}_{g, \text{ind}} \text{ line bundle, } \mathcal{L}_i|_{(C, p_1, \dots, p_n)} = T_{p_i}^* C$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \psi_i = c_1(\mathcal{L}_i) \in \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^1(\text{Pic}_{g, \text{ind}}) \rightsquigarrow \text{via } \pi_{T_S}^*: \text{also in } \text{CH}^1(\text{Pic}_{T_S})$$

### Pixton's formula (shape)

$$P_g^g = \sum_{T_S, w, c} \eta^c (j_{T_S})_* \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{polynomial in } \psi\text{-classes} \\ \text{on } \text{Pic}_{T_S} \end{array} \right)$$

### Thm (BHPSS '20)

$$\text{We have } [\bar{e}] = P_g^g \in \text{CH}_{\text{op}}^g(\text{Pic}_{g,0}).$$

### §5 DR cycles with targets

[JPPZ]  $X$  nonsing. proj. variety,  $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow X$  line bundle

Given  $\beta \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ :

$$\bar{M}_{g,n,\beta}(X) = \left\{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \xrightarrow{f} X \right\}$$

↑  
prestable

stable maps  
of degree  $\beta$

every comp. of  $C$  not contract. by  $f$  is stable.

Given  $A = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  w/  $\sum a_i = \int_{\beta} c_1(\mathcal{L})$ , the paper

[JPPZ] defines a DR cycle  $DR_{g,A,\beta}(X, \mathcal{L})$  on  $\bar{M}_{g,n,\beta}(X)$

Compactifying the condition

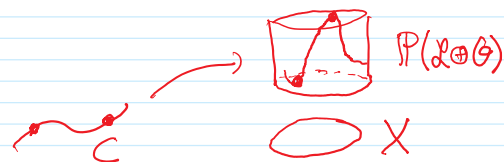
$$f^* \mathcal{L} \cong \mathcal{O}_C(\sum a_i p_i)$$

idea use moduli space of maps to  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{L} \oplus \mathcal{O}) \rightarrow X$

They show a Pixton-style formula  $P_{g,A,\beta}^g(X, \mathcal{L})$

for  $DR_{g,A,\beta}(X, \mathcal{L})$

use localization by  $\mathbb{C}^*$ -act. on  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{L} \oplus \mathcal{O})$



What we can show:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi: \overline{M}_{g,n,\beta}(X) &\longrightarrow \text{Pic}_{g,0} \\ ((C_{\mathbb{P}^1, -n}) \xrightarrow{f} X) &\longmapsto (C_1 f^* \mathcal{O}(-2g, \beta)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xRightarrow{\text{Thm}} \varphi^*([\tilde{e}]) \cap [\overline{M}_{g,n,\beta}(X)]^{\text{vir}} &= DR_{g, \beta}(X, \mathcal{L}) \\ \varphi^*(P_g^*) \cap \dots &= P_{g, \beta}^*(X, \mathcal{L}) \end{aligned} \quad \text{)) [PPZ]}$$

### Idea of Proof of main Theorem

For  $X = \mathbb{P}^n$ ,  $\beta = d \cdot [L]$  we can

use the maps  $\varphi$  above as "charts" of  $\text{Pic}_{g,0}$

↳ known equal. from [PPZ]  $\Rightarrow [\tilde{e}], P_g^*$  act in same way on  $[\tilde{e}]^{\text{vir}}$  via  $\varphi$

↳ for  $n, d \gg 0$ , there is large open subs. of  $\overline{M}_{g,n,\beta}(X)$  on which virt. fund. class = usual fund. class

↳ verify that knowing act. of  $[\tilde{e}], P_g^*$  on these is enough to show equality in  $\text{CH}_{\text{top}}^*(\text{Pic}_{g,0})$ . #