

Universal Formulas for Counting Nodal Curves on Surfaces

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Perspectives on Algebraic Varieties
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Outline of Topics

- 1 Introduction: Counting Nodal Curves and Previous Results

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- 2 Universal Formulas: Göttsche's Conjecture and Main Theorems

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Introduction

S : a smooth projective surface over \mathbb{C}

L : a line bundle on S

Main Question:

How many reduced curves in $|L|$ which

- 1 have r simple nodes
- 2 contain no higher singularity
- 3 pass through $\dim |L| - r$ points in general position?

Notation: this kind of curves are called r -nodal.

Previous Results on \mathbb{P}^2

To counting nodal curves, we begin with *well-known* surfaces:

On \mathbb{P}^2 , $\mathcal{O}(d)$: (Ran, Manin, Kontsevich, Harris, Caporaso, Choi, Pandharipande, Fomin, Mikhalkin et. al.)

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\implies We can find the number of r -nodal curves in $|\mathcal{O}(d)|$, for all d and r !

Previous Results on \mathbb{P}^2 and Hirzebruch surfaces

On \mathbb{P}^2 , $\mathcal{O}(d)$:

- Polynomiality: [Fomin-Mikhalkin, 2009] the number of r -nodal curves in $\mathcal{O}(d)$ is a polynomial in d , $\forall d \geq 2r$.

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On Hirzebruch surfaces and any line bundle:

- [Vakil, 2000]: Results similar to [Caporaso-Harris] hold.

Previous Results on K3

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The Yau-Zaslow formula

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} N_r q^{r-1} = \frac{1}{\Delta}.$$

where $\Delta = q \prod_{k>0} (1 - q^k)^{24} = \eta^{24}$ is a modular form.

Previous Results on K3

On K3 surfaces and primitive line bundle L (i.e. $\text{Pic } S \cong \mathbb{Z}L$)

- Arbitrary genus:

Theorem (Bryan-Leung)

$$\sum_{r \geq 0} (\# \text{ of } r\text{-nodal curves in } |L|) (DG_2)^r = \frac{(DG_2/q)^{\chi(L)}}{\Delta D^2 G_2 / q^2}.$$

G_2 : the second Eisenstein series; $D = q \frac{d}{dq}$;

G_2 , DG_2 and $D^2 G_2$ are quasi-modular forms.

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Instead of working on special surfaces, we can work on **all surfaces** and start with **r small**.

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They wrote the number of nodal curves explicitly.

Polynomials T_r

Suppose S is a smooth projective surface and L is a sufficiently ample line bundle on S .

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$$T_1 = 3L^2 + 2LK_S + c_2(S)$$

$$T_2 = \frac{T_1(-7+T_1) - 6c_1(S)^2 - 25LK - 21L^2}{2}$$

$$T_3 = (2T_2(-14+3L^2+2LK+c_2(S)) + T_1(-6c_1(S)^2 - 25LK - 21L^2 + 40) + (-18c_1(S)^2 - 117LK + 672)L^2 \\ + (-6c_1(S)^2 - 25LK - 21L^2)c_2(S) - 63(L^2)^2 - 50(LK)^2 + (-12c_1(S)^2 + 950)LK + 292c_1(S)^2)/6;$$

$$T_4 = \text{longer}$$

$$T_5 = \text{longer and longer}$$

$$T_6 = \text{you really don't want to know...}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_1 &= 3L^2 + 2LK_S + c_2(S) \\
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$T_4 =$...		4	$L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)$
$T_5 =$...		5	$L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)$
$T_6 =$...		6	$L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)$

Same pattern for T_7 and T_8 !

Theorem (Göttsche's conjecture)

For every integer $r \geq 0$, there exists a universal polynomial $T_r(x, y, z, t)$ of degree r such that

$$T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) = \# \text{ of } r\text{-nodal curves in } |L|$$

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L is called k -very ample if for all zero-dimensional closed scheme $\xi \subset S$ of length $k + 1$, $H^0(S, L) \rightarrow H^0(L|_\xi)$ is surjective.

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Question Structure of T_r ?

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Question Structure of T_r ? Yes!

Theorem

There exist power series A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 in $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times$ such that

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S))x^r = A_1^{L^2} A_2^{LK_S} A_3^{c_1(S)^2} A_4^{c_2(S)}.$$

→ the generating function is multiplicative.

Theorem (Göttsche-Yau-Zaslow formula)

There exist two power series B_1 and B_2 in q such that

$$\sum_{r \geq 0} T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S))(DG_2)^r = \frac{(DG_2/q)^{\chi(L)} B_1^{K_S^2} B_2^{LK_S}}{(\Delta D^2 G_2/q^2)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)/2}}.$$

Approach: Consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times & \\
 \phi \nearrow & & \nwarrow \\
 \omega_{2,1} & \xlongequal{\quad (L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) \quad} & \mathbb{Q}^4
 \end{array}$$

We will prove

- ① The bottom is an isomorphism by algebraic cobordism.
- ② ϕ is a homomorphism by degeneration formula
- ③ The theorems will follow from the induced homomorphism \mathbb{Q}^4 to $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times$.

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- Two theories are isomorphic.
- We use algebraic cobordism of pairs of surfaces and line bundles to count nodal curves.
- Lee and Pandharipande generalize it to pairs of schemes and vector bundles of arbitrary dimension and rank.

Double point relation

Definition: Let X_i be smooth projective schemes. We call

$$[X_0] = [X_1] + [X_2] - [X_3]$$

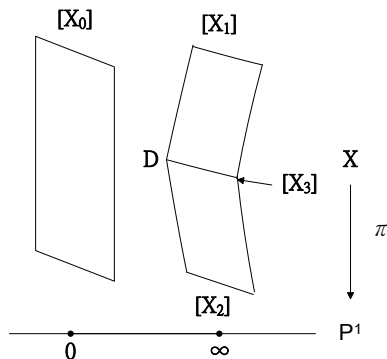
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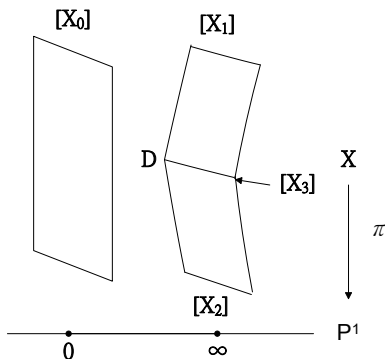


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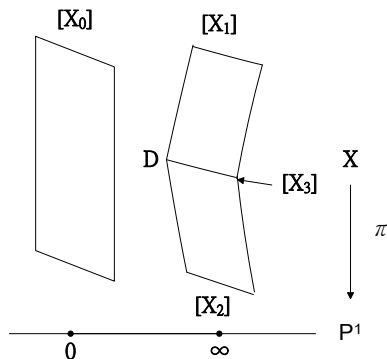
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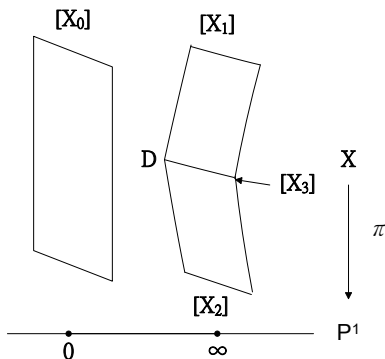
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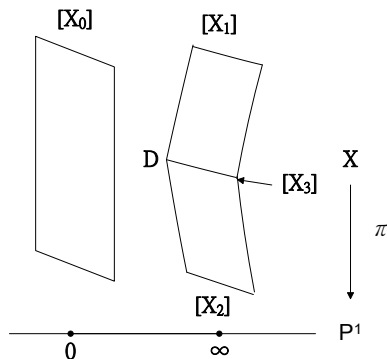
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- X_1 and X_2 intersect transversally along a smooth divisor D
- $X_3 \cong \mathbb{P}_D(N_{X_1/D} \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)$

Definition: Define $\omega_* = \bigoplus_{X \text{ smooth projective}} \mathbb{Q}[X]/ \text{dp relations}$

Theorem (Levine and Pandharipande, 2009)

Every smooth projective scheme can be degenerated to the sum of products of projective spaces with \mathbb{Q} -coefficients by dp relations, i.e.

$$\omega_* \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r)} \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{P}^{\lambda_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{P}^{\lambda_r}]$$

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Corollary: For every smooth projective surface S ,

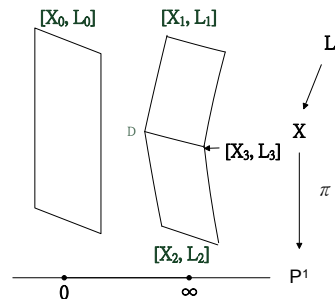
$$[S] = *[\mathbb{P}^2] + *[\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1].$$

Extended double point relation

Definition: Let X_i be smooth projective surfaces and L_i be line bundles on X_i . We call

$$[X_0, L_0] = [X_1, L_1] + [X_2, L_2] - [X_3, L_3]$$

an **extended double point relation** if there exist a family X and line bundle L on X such that



- 1 $[X_0] = [X_1] + [X_2] - [X_3]$ is a dp relation
- 2 $L|_{X_i} = L_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2$
- 3 $L_3 =$ the pullback of $L|_D$ to X_3

$[X_i, L_i]$ is called a **pair** (of a surface and a line bundle).

Definition

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is an isomorphism.

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Theorem

$$\omega_{2,1} \xrightarrow{(L^2, LK, \frac{c_1(S)^2}{2}, c_2(S))} \mathbb{Q}^4$$

is an isomorphism.

It is also easy to find bases of $\omega_{2,1}$, for example

$$\{[\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}], [\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}(1)], [\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}], [\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}(1, 0)]\} \text{ and}$$

$$\{[\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}], [\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}(1)], [\mathbb{K}3, L_1], [\mathbb{K}3, L_2]\}, L_1^2 \neq L_2^2$$

are two bases.

conclusion We have the isomorphism on the bottom of the diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times & \\
 \nearrow \phi & & \dashrightarrow \\
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Goal: Use degeneration of pairs to study the number of nodal curves.

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Solution: Study the enumerative number $d_r(S, L)$ (suggested by Göttsche).

Definition of $d_r(S, L)$

Definition: Suppose L is a line bundle on S . Let

- $S^{[n]}$ be the Hilbert scheme of n points on S .
- $Z_n \subset S \times S^{[n]}$ be the universal closed subscheme.
- Then we define $L^{[n]} := (q_n)_*(p_n)^*L$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & & L^{[n]} \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 & & S^{[n]} \\
 Z_n & \xrightarrow{q_n} & \\
 \downarrow p_n & & \\
 L & \dashrightarrow & S
 \end{array}$$

Fact: $L^{[n]}$ is a vector bundle of rank n on $S^{[n]}$.

Definition: Let W^{3r} be the closure of

$$\left\{ \prod_{i=1}^r \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{S,x_i}/m_{S,x_i}^2) \mid x_i \text{ are distinct points in } S \right\} \subset S^{[3r]}.$$

Define

$$d_r(S, L) = \int_{W^{3r}} c_{2r}(L_{3r}).$$

Proposition (Göttsche)

$d_r(S, L)$ equals the number of r -nodal curves in $[S, L]$ if L is $(5r - 1)$ -very ample.

Why is $d_r(S, L) = \int_{W^{3r}} c_{2r}(L_{3r})$ related to the number of r -nodal curves?

- A section $s \in |L| \implies$ a section $s^{[n]} \in |L^{[n]}|$.

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\longrightarrow the condition of r nodes

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So we hope to derive a formula about d_r in an extended double relation

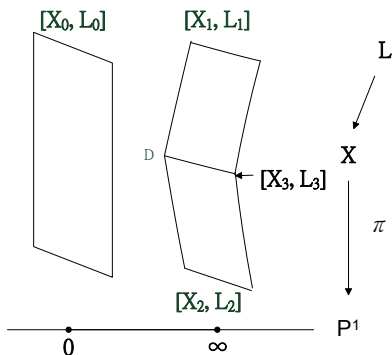
$$[X_0, L_0] = [X_1, L_1] + [X_2, L_2] - [X_3, L_3].$$

Key tool

J. Li and B. Wu's construction of "the moduli stack of Hilbert schemes":

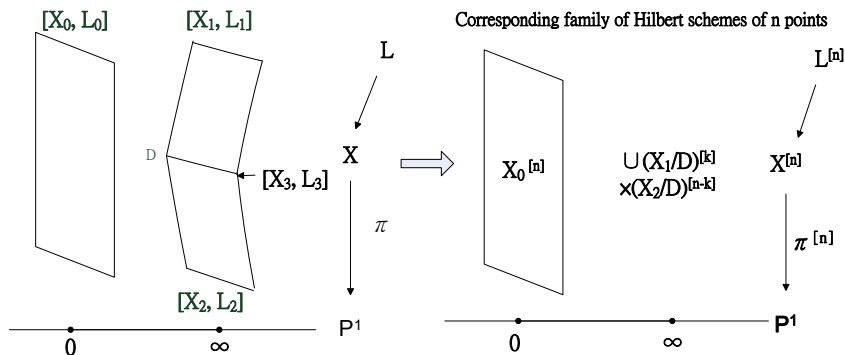
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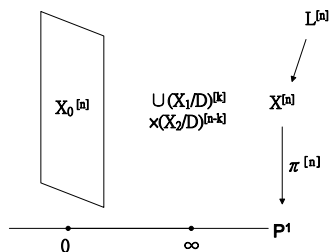
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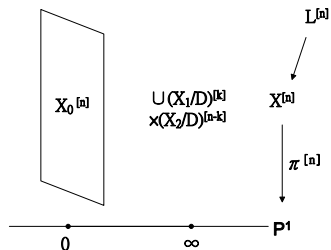
- $d_r(X_t, L_t)$ is a intersection number on $X_t^{[3r]}$
- The limit is
$$\sum_{k=0}^n d_k(X_1/D, L_1) d_{n-k}(X_2/D, L_2)$$

Corresponding family of Hilbert schemes of n points



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Corresponding family of Hilbert schemes of n points



Proposition

Define $\phi(S, L)(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} d_r(S, L)x^r$, then

$$\phi(X_0, L_0) = \phi(X_1/D, L_1)\phi(X_2/D, L_2)$$

Theorem

If $[X_0, L_0] = [X_1, L_1] + [X_2, L_2] - [X_3, L_3]$ is an extended double point relation, then

$$\phi(X_0, L_0) = \frac{\phi(X_1, L_1)\phi(X_2, L_2)}{\phi(X_3, L_3)}$$

i.e. ϕ induced a homomorphism from $\omega_{2,1}$ to $(\mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times, \cdot)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times & \\
 \phi \nearrow & & \nwarrow \\
 \omega_{2,1} & \xrightarrow{\quad \quad \quad} & \mathbb{Q}^4 \\
 & \xrightarrow{\quad (L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) \quad} &
 \end{array}$$

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→ $d_r(S, L)$ is ALWAYS a degree r polynomial in $L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2$ and $c_2(S)$.

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This proves

Theorem (Göttsche's conjecture)

For every integer $r \geq 0$, there exists a universal polynomial $T_r(x, y, z, t)$ of degree r such that

$$T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) = \# \text{ of } r\text{-nodal curves in } |L|$$

if L is $(5r - 1)$ -very ample.

Now we have $T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) = d_r(S, L)$ and recall

$$\phi(S, L) = A_1^{L^2} A_2^{LK_S} A_3^{c_1(S)^2} A_4^{c_2(S)}.$$

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Theorem

There exist power series A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 in $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]^\times$ such that

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S)) x^r = A_1^{L^2} A_2^{LK_S} A_3^{c_1(S)^2} A_4^{c_2(S)}.$$

(Because both sides are equal to $\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} d_r(S, L) x^r = \phi(S, L)$)

Theorem (Göttsche-Yau-Zaslow formula)

There exist two power series B_1 and B_2 in q such that

$$\sum_{r \geq 0} T_r(L^2, LK, c_1(S)^2, c_2(S))(DG_2)^r = \frac{(DG_2/q)^{\chi(L)} B_1^{K_S^2} B_2^{LK_S}}{(\Delta D^2 G_2/q^2)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)/2}}.$$

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- 4 Bryan-Leung found the LHS function on K3 and primitive line bundles.

Thank you!!