

POLYLOGARITHMS, REGULATORS, AND ARAKELOV MOTIVIC COMPLEXES

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1. INTRODUCTION

Summary. We construct an explicit regulator map from the weight n Bloch higher Chow group complex to the weight n Deligne complex of a regular projective complex algebraic variety X . We define the weight n Arakelov motivic complex as the cone of this map shifted by one. Its last cohomology group is (a version of) the Arakelov Chow group defined by H. Gillet and C. Soulé.

We relate the Grassmannian n -logarithms to the geometry of the symmetric space $SL_n(\mathcal{C})/SU(n)$. For $n = 2$ we recover Lobachevsky's formula expressing the volume of an ideal geodesic simplex in the hyperbolic space via the dilogarithm. Using the relationship with symmetric spaces we construct the Borel regulator on $K_{2n-1}(\mathcal{C})$ via the Grassmannian n -logarithms.

We study the Chow dilogarithm and prove a reciprocity law which strengthens Suslin's reciprocity law for Milnor's group K_3^M on curves.

Our note, "Chow polylogarithms and regulators" [G5], can serve as an introduction to this paper.

1. Beilinson's conjectures on special values of L -functions. Let X be a regular scheme. A. A. Beilinson [B1] defined the rational motivic cohomology of X

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via Quillen's algebraic K -theory of X by the following formula:

$$(1) \quad H_{\mathcal{M}}^i(X, \mathbb{Q}(n)) = K_{2n-i}^{(n)}(X)_{\mathbb{Q}}$$

where the term on the right is the weight n eigenspace for the Adams operations acting on $K_{2n-i}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. For a regular complex algebraic variety X , Beilinson defined the regulator map to the weight n Deligne cohomology of $X(\mathbb{C})$:

$$r_B : H_{\mathcal{M}}^i(X, \mathbb{Q}(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\mathcal{D}}^i(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(n)).$$

Let X be a regular projective scheme over \mathbb{Q} . Then there is a \mathbb{Q} -vector subspace

$$(2) \quad H_{\mathcal{M}/\mathbb{Z}}^i(X, \mathbb{Q}(n)) \subset H_{\mathcal{M}}^i(X, \mathbb{Q}(n)),$$

called the *integral part in the motivic cohomology*; see [Sch]. Let $L(h^i(X), s)$ be the L -function related to its i -dimensional cohomology. Beilinson conjectured that for any integer $n > 1 + i/2$ its special value at $s = n$ is described, up to a nonzero rational factor, by the regulator map to the weight n real Deligne cohomology of X :

$$r_B : H_{\mathcal{M}/\mathbb{Z}}^{i+1}(X, \mathbb{Q}(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\mathcal{D}}^{i+1}(X \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}(n));$$

see [B1], [RSS] or [N] for details.

This conjecture is fully established only when $X = \text{Spec}(F)$ where F is a number field. In this case the regulator map r_B coincides, up to a nonzero rational factor, with the Borel regulator ([B1]), and the relation with special values of the Dedekind zeta-function of F was given by the Borel theorem [Bo2].

Although Beilinson's conjectures are far from being proved, it is interesting to see what kind of information concerning the special values of L -functions they suggest. So we come to the problem of *explicit* calculation of Beilinson's regulator. This problem is already very interesting for the Borel regulator.

2. Regulator maps on motivic complexes and Arakelov motivic cohomology. Beilinson [B2] and S. Lichtenbaum [Li] conjectured that the weight n integral motivic cohomology of X should appear as the cohomology of certain natural complexes of abelian groups $\Gamma(X; n)$, called the weight n motivic complexes:

$$H_{\mathcal{M}}^i(X, \mathbb{Z}(n)) := H^i(\Gamma(X; n)).$$

These complexes should calculate the hypercohomology of certain complexes of Zariski sheaves. The complexes $\Gamma(X; n)$ are well-defined as objects of the derived category.

The first motivic complexes satisfying Beilinson's formula (1) were Bloch's higher Chow group complexes $\mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n)$ [B11]. Later on A.A. Suslin and V.A. Voevodsky defined several important versions of these complexes. For another candidate for motivic complexes, called the polylogarithmic motivic complexes, see [G1], [G2]. They are very explicit and the smallest among possible candidates; however, Beilinson's formula (1) is far from being established for them.

The real Deligne cohomology arises also as the cohomology of certain complexes. It was suggested in [G5] and [G7] that the regulator map should be *explicitly* defined on the level of complexes.

Let X be a regular projective variety over \mathbb{C} . In Section 2 we construct a homomorphism of complexes:

$$(3) \quad \text{Bloch's weight } n \text{ higher Chow group complex } \mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \text{ of } X \longrightarrow \\ \text{the weight } n \text{ real Deligne complex } \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n) \text{ of } X.$$

This construction is a version of the one given in [G5]. The complex $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)$ is the truncation $\tau_{\leq 2n}$ of the complex proposed by Deligne [Del]. The weight n Arakelov motivic complex $\Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(X; n)$ is defined as the cone of the map (3), shifted by -1 :

$$(4) \quad \Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(X; n) := \text{Cone}\left(\mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \xrightarrow{(3)} \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)\right)[-1].$$

For a regular projective variety X over \mathbb{R} , the image of map (3) lies in the subcomplex

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X_{/\mathbb{R}}; n) := \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)^{\overline{F}_{\infty}}$$

where \overline{F}_{∞} is the de Rham involution provided by the action of complex conjugation. The weight n real Arakelov motivic complex is defined as

$$(5) \quad \Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(X_{/\mathbb{R}}; n) := \text{Cone}\left(\mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \xrightarrow{(3)} \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X_{/\mathbb{R}}; n)\right)[-1].$$

Let X be a regular projective variety X over a number field F . We view X over \mathbb{Q} : $X \rightarrow \text{Spec}(F) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Q})$ and set

$$(6) \quad \Gamma_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(X_{/F}; n) := \text{Cone}\left(\mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}_{/\mathbb{R}}; n)\right)[-1].$$

The weight n Arakelov motivic cohomology is the cohomology of this complex. Our construction works equally well for the Suslin-Voevodsky versions of the motivic complexes.

Taking the cohomology we get a construction of the regulator map on motivic cohomology. For a different construction, see [B13].

The regulator map on the polylogarithmic motivic complexes was defined in [G7] explicitly via the classical polylogarithms. The Arakelov motivic complexes constructed using regulator maps on different motivic complexes are supposed to lead to the same object of the derived category. However, a precise relationship between the construction given in [G7] and the one in Section 2 is not clear.

Higher Arakelov Chow groups. The last group of the complex $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)$ consists of closed distributions of a certain type on $X(\mathbb{C})$. Replacing it by the quotient modulo smooth closed forms of the same type we get the quotient complex $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)$. Changing \mathcal{C} to $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$ in (4) we define the weight n higher Arakelov Chow group complex. Its last cohomology group is isomorphic to the Arakelov Chow group $\widehat{CH}^n(X(\mathbb{C}))$ as defined by Gillet and Soulé [GS], [S].

Problems. (a) Show that taking cohomology of the map (3) and using the isomorphism between the rational Bloch’s higher Chow groups of X and the corresponding part of the rational K -theory of X ([B12], [Lev]) we get a nonzero rational multiple of Beilinson’s regulator map.

(b) Generalize the arithmetic Riemann–Roch theorem proved by Gillet and Soulé to the case of higher Arakelov Chow groups.

Remark. The weight n Arakelov motivic complex should be considered as an ingredient of a definition of the weight n arithmetic motivic complex. The latter is related to the regulator maps on $H_{\mathcal{M}/\mathbb{Z}}^{\bullet}(X, \mathbb{Q}(n))$, while the former is related to the ones on $H_{\mathcal{M}}^{\bullet}(X, \mathbb{Q}(n))$. Ideally one should have for every place p of \mathbb{Q} a map from the left-hand side of (3) to a certain complex, which for the Archimedean place should be given by our map. Then one should take the shifted by -1 cone of the sum of these maps.

3. The Chow n -logarithm function. Let us describe the regulator map (3) in the simplest case when $X = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C})$ is a point.

Let us choose in \mathbb{P}^m homogeneous coordinates $(z_0 : \dots : z_m)$. The union of the coordinate hyperplanes is a simplex L . Let \mathbb{A}^m be the complement to the hyperplane $z_1 + \dots + z_m = z_0$ in \mathbb{P}^m . The abelian group $\mathcal{Z}_m(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n)$ is freely generated by the codimension n irreducible algebraic cycles in \mathbb{A}^m intersecting properly the faces of the simplex L . The intersection with codimension one faces L_j of L provides homomorphisms

$$\partial_j : \mathcal{Z}_m(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{m-1}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n); \quad \partial := \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j \partial_j.$$

The weight n higher Chow group complex over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C})$, where $n > 0$, written as a homological complex, looks as follows:

$$\dots \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_2(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n) \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_1(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n) \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_0(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n).$$

The Deligne complex of a point is the complex $(2\pi i)^n \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where \mathbb{C} is in the degree $+1$. So it is quasi-isomorphic to the group $\mathbb{R}(n-1) := (2\pi i)^{n-1} \mathbb{R}$ placed in degree $+1$. The regulator map (3) boils down to a construction of a homomorphism

$$\mathcal{Z}_{2n-1}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}_n} \mathbb{R}(n-1), \quad \text{such that } \mathcal{P}_n \circ \partial = 0.$$

It is provided by a function \mathcal{P}_n on the space of codimension n cycles in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{2n-1}$ intersecting properly the faces of a simplex L . This function, called the *Chow n -logarithm function*, was constructed in [G5]. To recall its construction, observe that a codimension n cycle given by an irreducible subvariety X in $\mathbb{P}^{2n-1} - L$ provides the $(n-1)$ -dimensional variety X with $2n-1$ rational functions f_1, \dots, f_{2n-1} . These functions are obtained by restriction of the coordinate functions z_i/z_0 to the cycle X . We define a natural $(2n-2)$ -form $r_{2n-2}(f_1, \dots, f_{2n-1})$ on $X(\mathbb{C})$ and set

$$(7) \quad \mathcal{P}_n(X; f_1, \dots, f_{2n-1}) := (2\pi i)^{1-n} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_{2n-2}(f_1, \dots, f_{2n-1}).$$

4. An example: the Chow dilogarithm. Let f_1, f_2, f_3 be three arbitrary rational functions on a complex curve X . Set

$$r_2(f_1, f_2, f_3) := \text{Alt}_3 \left(\frac{1}{6} \log |f_1| d \log |f_2| \wedge d \log |f_3| - \frac{1}{2} \log |f_1| d \arg f_2 \wedge d \arg f_3 \right)$$

where Alt_3 is the alternation of f_1, f_2, f_3 . Consider the space of quadruples $(X; f_1, f_2, f_3)$. It is a union of finite-dimensional algebraic varieties. The Chow dilogarithm is a real function on its complex points defined by the formula

$$\mathcal{P}_2(X; f_1, f_2, f_3) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2(f_1, f_2, f_3).$$

The integral converges. The Chow dilogarithm provides a homomorphism

$$(8) \quad \Lambda^3 \mathbb{C}(X)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3 \longmapsto \mathcal{P}_2(X; f_1, f_2, f_3).$$

Why does the dilogarithm appear in the name of the function \mathcal{P}_2 ? Recall the classical dilogarithm

$$Li_2(z) := - \int_0^z \log(1-z) d \log z.$$

It has a single-valued cousin, the Bloch-Wigner function:

$$\mathcal{L}_2(z) := \text{Im} Li_2(z) + \arg(1-z) \log |z|.$$

The Chow dilogarithm is defined by a two-dimensional integral over $X(\mathbb{C})$, while $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$ is given by an integral over a path in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. In Section 6 we show that nevertheless the Chow dilogarithm can be expressed by the function $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$. Here is how it works when $X = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. For $f \in \mathbb{C}(X)$ let $v_x(f)$ be the order of zero of f at $x \in X(\mathbb{C})$. Choose a point ∞ on \mathbb{P}^1 . Then

$$(9) \quad \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1; f_1, f_2, f_3) = \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\mathcal{L}_2(r(x_1, x_2, x_3, \infty))$$

where $r(\dots)$ denotes the cross-ratio of four points on \mathbb{P}^1 . A formula for the Chow dilogarithm on elliptic curves is given in Section 6.

The function \mathcal{L}_2 satisfies Abel's five term functional equation:

$$(10) \quad \sum_{i=1}^5 (-1)^i \mathcal{L}_2(r(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_5)) = 0.$$

The Chow dilogarithm also satisfies functional equations. They appear as a reformulation of the fact that the composition

$$\mathcal{Z}_4(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); 2) \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{Z}_3(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); 2) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}_2} \mathbb{R}(1)$$

is zero. Namely, let Y be an algebraic surface with four rational functions g_1, \dots, g_4 on it corresponding to an element of $\mathcal{Z}_4(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}); 2)$. To evaluate the composition on this element we do the following. Take the divisor $\text{div}(g_i)$ and restrict the other functions g_j to it. Then applying the Chow dilogarithm to the obtained data and taking the alternating sum over $1 \leq i \leq 4$ we get zero. In the special case when $Y = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ and $\text{div}g_i = (l_i) - (l_5)$, where l_1, \dots, l_5 are five lines in the plane, this functional equation plus (9) is equivalent to Abel's equation (10).

5. The Grassmannian n -logarithm and symmetric space $SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n)$.

Restricting the Chow n -logarithm function to the subvariety of $(n - 1)$ -planes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{2n-1}$ in general position with respect to the simplex L we get the Grassmannian n -logarithm function \mathcal{L}_n^G .

Let G be a group and X a G -set. *Configurations* of n points in X are by definition the points of the quotient X^n/G . There is a natural bijection

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(n - 1)\text{-planes in } \mathbb{P}^{2n-1} \text{ in generic position} \\ & \quad \text{with respect to a simplex } L\}/(\mathbb{G}_m^*)^{2n-1} \\ & \langle \dashrightarrow \rangle \quad \{\text{Configurations of } 2n \text{ generic hyperplanes in } \mathbb{P}^{n-1}\} \end{aligned}$$

given by intersecting an $(n - 1)$ -plane h with the codimension one faces of L . (See Figure 1).

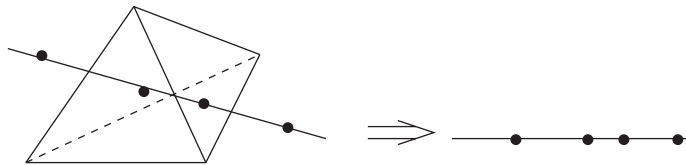


FIGURE 1. Toric quotients of Grassmannians and configurations of hyperplanes

Using this bijection we can view \mathcal{L}_n^G as a function on the configurations of $2n$ hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Applying the projective duality we can consider it as a function on configurations of $2n$ points in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

In fact, one can define the Grassmannian n -logarithm $\mathcal{L}_n^G(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})$ as a function on configurations of *arbitrary* $2n$ points in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$; see Section 4. It is a measurable function which is real analytic on generic configurations. It satisfies the two functional equations

$$(11) \quad \sum_{i=0}^{2n} (-1)^i \mathcal{L}_n^G(x_0, \dots, \widehat{x}_i, \dots, x_{2n}) = 0, \quad \sum_{j=0}^{2n} (-1)^j \mathcal{L}_n^G(y_j | y_0, \dots, \widehat{y}_j, \dots, y_{2n}) = 0.$$

In the second formula (y_0, \dots, y_{2n}) is a configuration of $2n + 1$ points in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$ and $(y_j | y_0, \dots, \widehat{y}_j, \dots, y_{2n})$ is a configuration of $2n$ points in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ obtained by projection from y_j . (See Figure 2.)

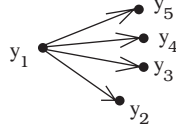


FIGURE 2. The configuration $(y_1 | y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5)$ on \mathbb{P}^1

It follows from (9) that the Grassmannian dilogarithm is given by the Bloch-Wigner function:

$$(12) \quad \mathcal{L}_2^G(z_1, \dots, z_4) = \mathcal{L}_2(r(z_1, \dots, z_4)).$$

Abel's five term equation coincides with (11). (The two functional equations (11) are equivalent when $n = 2$.)

Lobachevsky discovered that the dilogarithm appears in the computation of volumes of geodesic simplices in the three-dimensional hyperbolic space \mathcal{H}_3 . Let $I(z_1, \dots, z_4)$ be the ideal geodesic simplex with vertices at the points z_1, \dots, z_4 on the absolute of \mathcal{H}_3 . (See Figure 3.) The absolute is naturally identified with $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. Lobachevsky's formula relates its volume to the Bloch-Wigner function:

$$\text{vol}(I(z_1, \dots, z_4)) = \mathcal{L}_2(r(z_1, \dots, z_4)).$$

The volume function $\text{vol}I(z_1, \dots, z_4)$ is invariant under the group $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ of isometries of \mathcal{H}_3 . So it depends only on the cross-ratio of the points z_1, \dots, z_4 . It satisfies the five term equation (10). Indeed, $\sum (-1)^i I(z_1, \dots, \widehat{z}_i, \dots, z_5) = 0$. By Bloch's theorem [Bl2] any measurable function $f(z)$ on \mathbb{C} satisfying the five term equation is proportional to $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$. So we get the formula up to a constant.

We generalize this picture as follows. $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ is realized as the smallest boundary stratum of the symmetric space $\mathbb{H}_n := SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n)$. We define a function $\psi_n(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})$ on configurations of $2n$ points of the symmetric space. The function ψ_n is defined by an integral over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ similar to (7). We show that it can be naturally extended to a function $\overline{\psi}_n$ on configurations of $2n$ points in a compactification $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$ of the symmetric space. The Grassmannian n -logarithm function turns out to be the value of the function $\overline{\psi}_n$ on configurations of $2n$ points at the smallest boundary strata, which is identified with $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

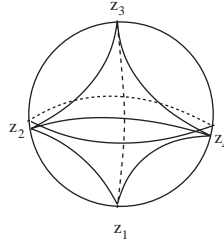


FIGURE 3. An ideal simplex in the hyperbolic 3-space

Now let $n = 2$. Then $SL_2(\mathbb{C})/SU(2)$ is identified with the hyperbolic 3-space. We prove in Section 7 that $\psi_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ is the volume of the geodesic simplex with vertices at the points x_1, \dots, x_4 . Restricting to the ideal geodesic simplices and using the relation to the Grassmannian dilogarithm plus (12) we get a new proof of Lobachevsky’s formula.

6. The Grassmannian n -logarithms and the Borel regulator. For any point $x \in \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ the function

$$(13) \quad c_{2n-1}^n(g_1, \dots, g_{2n}) := \mathcal{L}_n^G(g_1x, \dots, g_{2n}x)$$

is a measurable $(2n - 1)$ -cocycle of the Lie group $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Indeed, it is invariant under the diagonal action of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$, and the cocycle condition is just the first functional equation for the function \mathcal{L}_n^G . Different points x give canonically cohomologous cocycles. However, *a priori* it is not clear that the corresponding cohomology class is non-zero.

Let $H_m^{2n-1}(GL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R})$ be the space of measurable cohomology of the Lie group $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. It is known that

$$H_m^*(GL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}) = \Lambda_{\mathbb{R}}^*(b_1, b_3, \dots, b_{2n-1})$$

where $b_{2k-1} \in H_m^{2k-1}(GL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R})$ are certain canonical generators called the Borel classes ([Bo1]).

Theorem 1.1. *The cohomology class of the Grassmannian cocycle (13) is a nonzero rational multiple of the Borel class b_{2n-1} .*

For normalization of the Borel classes and the precise relationship between the Grassmannian polylogarithms and the Borel regulator, see Section 5, especially Subsections 4 and 5.

The essential role in the proof is played by the fact that the Grassmannian n -logarithm function \mathcal{L}_n^G is a boundary value of the function $\overline{\psi}_n$. The function $\overline{\psi}_n(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})$ is not continuous at certain boundary points, but always satisfies the cocycle condition. So taking any point $x \in \overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$ we get a cocycle

$$c_x(g_1, \dots, g_{2n-1}) := \overline{\psi}_n(g_1x, \dots, g_{2n}x)$$

of the group $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Its cohomology class does not depend on x . If $x \in \mathbb{H}_n$ the corresponding cocycle is smooth. We can differentiate it, getting a cohomology class of the Lie algebra gl_n , and relate it to the Borel class. On the other hand, taking x to be a point on the boundary stratum $\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ we recover the Grassmannian cocycle (13). So we get the theorem.

Combining it with the technique developed in [G1], [G2], we get a simple explicit construction of the Borel regulator

$$K_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

in terms of the Grassmannian n -logarithms. The second functional equation for \mathcal{L}_n^G plays an important role in the proof. Therefore, thanks to the Borel theorem [Bo2], this allows us to express the special values of Dedekind ζ -functions at $s = n$ via the Grassmannian n -logarithms.

The definition of the higher Chow groups of a variety X is much simpler than the definition of algebraic K -groups of X . The situation with the regulator maps is similar. However, relating the special values of the Dedekind ζ -functions to motivic cohomology of the corresponding number fields, we need to work with the algebraic K -theory (or homology of $GL_n(F)$) of number fields.

Section 2 is the main core of the paper. In Sections 3, 4 and 6 the main construction of Section 2 is investigated from different points of view. Sections 4 and 5 are rather independent from the other sections.

2. ARAKELOV MOTIVIC COMPLEXES

1. The higher Chow group complex. A (nondegenerate) simplex in \mathbb{P}^m is an ordered collection of hyperplanes L_0, \dots, L_m in generic position, i.e., with empty intersection. Let us choose in \mathbb{P}^m a simplex L and a generic hyperplane H . We might think about this data as of a simplex in the m -dimensional affine space $\mathbb{A}^m := \mathbb{P}^m - H$. For any two nondegenerate simplices in \mathbb{A}^m there is a unique affine transformation sending one simplex to the other.

Let $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ and $L_I := L_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap L_{i_k}$. Let X be a regular projective variety over a field F . Let $\mathcal{Z}_m(X; n)$ be the free abelian group generated by irreducible codimension n algebraic subvarieties in $X \times \mathbb{A}^m$ which intersect properly (i.e., with the right codimension) all faces $X \times L_I$.

Warning. We use the notation $\mathcal{Z}_m(X; n)$ for the group denoted $\mathcal{Z}^n(X; m)$ by Bloch. This allows us to use upper and lower indices to distinguish between the homological and cohomological notation; see below.

For a given codimension 1 face L_i of a simplex L in \mathbb{A}^m the other faces L_j cut a simplex $\widehat{L}_i := \{L_i \cap L_j\}$ in L_i . So the intersection with codimension 1 faces $X \times L_i$ provides group homomorphisms

$$\partial_i : \mathcal{Z}_m(X; n) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{m-1}(X; n); \quad \partial := \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i \partial_i.$$

Then $\partial^2 = 0$, so $(\mathcal{Z}_\bullet(X; n); \partial)$ is a homological complex. Its homology groups are Bloch's higher Chow groups. By the fundamental theorem of Bloch ([B11], [B12], [Lev])

$$H_i(\mathcal{Z}_\bullet(X; n) \otimes \mathbb{Q}) = K_i^{(n)}(X)_{\mathbb{Q}}.$$

Let us cook up a cohomological complex by setting

$$\mathcal{Z}^\bullet(X; n) := \mathcal{Z}_{2n-\bullet}(X; n).$$

Its cohomology provides a definition of the integral motivic cohomology of X :

$$H_{\mathcal{M}}^i(X, \mathbb{Z}(n)) := H^i(\mathcal{Z}^\bullet(X; n)).$$

Bloch’s theorem guarantees Beilinson’s formula (1) for the rational motivic cohomology.

2. The Beilinson–Deligne complex. Recall that an n -distribution, sometimes also called an n -form with generalized function coefficients or an n -current, on a smooth oriented manifold X is a continuous linear functional on the space of $(\dim_{\mathbb{R}} X - n)$ -forms with compact support. Denote by \mathcal{D}_X^n the space of all *real* n -distributions on X . Let $\underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^n$ be the corresponding complex of sheaves on $X(\mathbb{C})$. The space \mathcal{A}_X^n of all smooth n -forms on X is a subspace of \mathcal{D}_X^n . The de Rham complex of distributions $(\underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^\bullet, d)$ is a resolution of the constant sheaf \mathbb{R} .

Let X be a regular projective variety over \mathbb{C} . The standard weight n Beilinson–Deligne complex $\mathbb{R}^\bullet(X; n)_{\mathcal{D}}$ is the total complex associated with the following bi-complex of sheaves in the classical topology on $X(\mathbb{C})$:

$$(14) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^0 & \xrightarrow{d} & \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^1 & \xrightarrow{d} & \dots & \xrightarrow{d} & \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^n & \xrightarrow{d} & \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^{n+1} & \xrightarrow{d} & \dots \\ & & & & & & \uparrow \pi_n & & \uparrow \pi_n & & \\ & & & & & & \Omega_X^n & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \Omega_X^{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \end{array} \otimes \mathbb{R}(n-1)$$

Here $\mathbb{R}(n) := (2\pi i)^n \mathbb{R}$ and

$$\pi_n : \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^p \otimes \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^p \otimes \mathbb{R}(n-1)$$

is the projection induced by the one $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}(n-1) \oplus \mathbb{R}(n) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1)$. Further, $\underline{\mathcal{D}}_X^0$ placed in degree 1 and $(\Omega_X^\bullet, \partial)$ is the de Rham complex of holomorphic forms.

The Beilinson–Deligne complex $\mathbb{R}^\bullet(X; n)_{\mathcal{D}}$ is quasi-isomorphic to the complex of sheaves

$$\underline{\mathbb{R}}(n) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow \Omega_X^1 \longrightarrow \Omega_X^2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow \Omega_X^{n-1}.$$

3. The truncated Deligne complex. Let $\mathcal{D}_X^{p,q} = \mathcal{D}^{p,q}$ be the abelian group of complex-valued distributions of type (p, q) on $X(\mathbb{C})$. Consider the following cohomological “bicomplex”, where $\mathcal{D}_{cl}^{n,n}$ is the subspace of the space $\mathcal{D}^{n,n}$ of closed currents, and $\mathcal{D}^{0,0}$ is in degree 1:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & & & \mathcal{D}_{cl}^{n,n} \\ & & & & & & \nearrow \\ & & & & & & 2\bar{\partial}\partial \\ & & & & & & \\ \mathcal{D}^{0,n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{1,n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{n-1,n-1} \\ \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow \\ \mathcal{D}^{0,1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{1,1} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{n-1,1} \\ \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow & & & & \bar{\partial} \uparrow \\ \mathcal{D}^{0,0} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{1,0} & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \dots & \xrightarrow{\partial} & \mathcal{D}^{n-1,0} \end{array}$$

Properly speaking, it is not a bicomplex due to the presence of the operator $2\bar{\partial}\partial$, but we can handle it the same way we handle the bicomplexes. Namely, we define its total complex Tot^\bullet . It is concentrated in degrees $[1, 2n]$. The complex $C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(X(\mathbb{C}); n) = C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(n)$ is a subcomplex of the complex Tot^\bullet defined as follows. Take the intersection of the part of the complex Tot^\bullet coming from the $n \times n$ square in the diagram (and concentrated in degrees $[1, 2n - 1]$) with the complex of distributions with values in $\mathbb{R}(n - 1)$. Consider the subgroup $\mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}, cl}^{n, n}(n) \subset \mathcal{D}_{cl}^{n, n}$ of the $\mathbb{R}(n)$ -valued distributions of type (n, n) . They form a subcomplex in Tot^\bullet because $\bar{\partial}\partial$ sends $\mathbb{R}(n - 1)$ -valued distributions to $\mathbb{R}(n)$ -valued distributions. This is the complex $C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(n)$. It is a truncation of the complex considered by Deligne ([Del]). Its cohomology is isomorphic to the absolute Hodge cohomology defined by Beilinson [B3].

Let us replace the complex $\Omega_X^{n+\bullet}$ in (14) by its Dolbeault resolution. We get a bicomplex of sheaves. Denote by $\mathcal{R}^\bullet(X; n)_{\mathcal{D}}$ the complex of global sections of the total complex of this bicomplex.

Proposition 2.1. *Let X be a regular complex projective variety. Then the complex $C_{\mathcal{D}}^\bullet(X; n)$ is quasi-isomorphic to the truncated complex $\tau_{\leq 2n}\mathcal{R}^\bullet(X; n)_{\mathcal{D}}$.*

Proof. We need the following general construction. Let $f^\bullet : X^\bullet \rightarrow Y^\bullet$ be a morphism of complexes such that the map f^i is injective for $i \leq p$ and surjective for $i \geq p$ (and hence is an isomorphism for $i = p$). Consider a complex

$$Z^\bullet := \text{Coker } f^{<p}[-1] \xrightarrow{D} \text{Ker } f^{>p}$$

where the differential $D : \text{Coker } f^{p-1} \rightarrow \text{Ker } f^{p+1}[1]$ is defined via the following diagram (the vertical sequences are exact):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & & & \text{Ker } f^{p+1} & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker } f^{p+2} \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & & 0 & & X^{p+1} & \longrightarrow & X^{p+2} \\
 \downarrow & \longrightarrow & \downarrow & \longrightarrow & \downarrow & \longrightarrow & \downarrow \\
 X^{p-2} & \longrightarrow & X^{p-1} & \longrightarrow & X^p & \longrightarrow & X^{p+1} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & f^p \downarrow = & & \downarrow \\
 Y^{p-2} & \longrightarrow & Y^{p-1} & \longrightarrow & Y^p & \longrightarrow & Y^{p+1} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Coker } f^{p-2} & \longrightarrow & \text{Coker } f^{p-1} & & 0 & & 0 \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\
 0 & & 0 & & & &
 \end{array}$$

□

Lemma 2.2. *The complex Z^\bullet is canonically quasi-isomorphic to $\text{Cone}(X^\bullet \xrightarrow{f^\bullet} Y^\bullet)$.*

Proof. Let

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{\tau}_{<p} X^\bullet &:= \dots \xrightarrow{d_X} X^{p-2} \xrightarrow{d_X} X^{p-1} \xrightarrow{d_X} \text{Im } d_X, \\
 \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p} Y^\bullet &:= Y^p / \text{Im } d_Y \xrightarrow{d_Y} Y^{p+1} \xrightarrow{d_Y} Y^{p+2} \xrightarrow{d_Y} \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Then there is an exact sequence of complexes $0 \rightarrow \tilde{\tau}_{<p}X^\bullet \rightarrow X^\bullet \rightarrow \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}X^\bullet \rightarrow 0$. The conditions on the maps f^\bullet imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\tau}_{<p}f^\bullet : \tilde{\tau}_{<p}X^\bullet &\rightarrow \tilde{\tau}_{<p}Y^\bullet \text{ is injective,} \\ \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}f^\bullet : \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}X^\bullet &\rightarrow \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}Y^\bullet \text{ is surjective.} \end{aligned}$$

We get maps of complexes

$$\text{Cone}(\tilde{\tau}_{<p}X^\bullet \rightarrow f^\bullet(\tilde{\tau}_{<p}X^\bullet)) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Cone}(X^\bullet \rightarrow Y^\bullet) \xrightarrow{\beta} \text{Cone}(\tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}Y^\bullet \rightarrow \tilde{\tau}_{\geq p}X^\bullet)$$

where α is injective and β is surjective. The complex $\text{Ker}(\beta)/\text{Im}(\alpha)$ looks as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & 0 & \longrightarrow & (f^p)^{-1}\text{Im}(d_Y)/\text{Im}(d_X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker } f^{p+1} \longrightarrow \text{Ker } f^{p+2} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \text{Coker } f^{p-2} & \longrightarrow & \text{Coker } f^{p-1} & \longrightarrow & \text{Im}(d_Y)/f^p\text{Im}(d_X) & \longrightarrow & 0 \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Since the map $f^p : \text{Im}(d_Y)/\text{Im}(d_X) \rightarrow \text{Im}(d_Y)/f^p\text{Im}(d_X)$ is an isomorphism it is quasi-isomorphic to Z^\bullet . The lemma is proved. \square

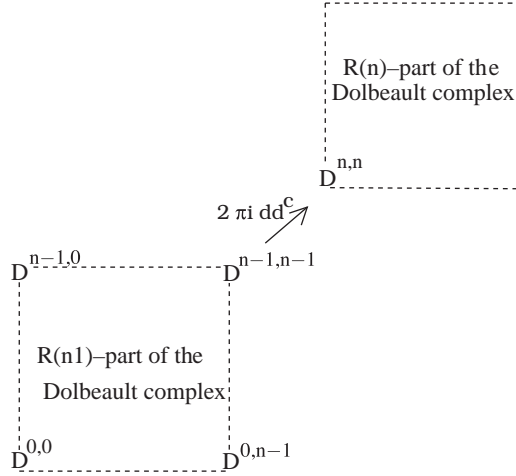


FIGURE 4. The weight n real Deligne complex

Let us apply Lemma 2.2 to the morphism of complexes

$$\text{Tot}(\mathcal{D}^{\geq n, \bullet}) \xrightarrow{\pi_n} \mathcal{D}^\bullet \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}(n-1).$$

We claim that it implies that the complex $\mathbb{R}(n)_{\mathcal{D}}$ is canonically quasi-isomorphic to the complex shown in Figure 4. To prove this it remains to compute the differential

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n-1, n-1}(n-1) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n, n}(n).$$

We proceed as follows. Take $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n-1, n-1}(n-1)$, so $\alpha = (-1)^{n-1}\bar{\alpha}$. Then

$$d\alpha = \partial\alpha + \bar{\partial}\alpha = \partial\alpha + (-1)^{n-1}\bar{\partial}\bar{\alpha} = 2\pi_n(\partial\alpha).$$

Applying $d = \partial + \bar{\partial}$ again and taking the (n, n) -component we get $2\bar{\partial}\partial(\alpha)$. Truncating this complex we obtain the proof of the proposition. (Note that $d^C := (4\pi i)^{-1}(\partial - \bar{\partial})$, so $dd^C = (2\pi i)^{-1}\bar{\partial}\partial$.)

Now if X is a variety over \mathbb{R} , then we set

$$C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X/\mathbb{R}; n) := C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X; n)^{\overline{F}_{\infty}}; \quad H_{\mathcal{D}}^i(X/\mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R}(n)) := H^i\left(C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X/\mathbb{R}; n)\right)$$

where \overline{F}_{∞} is the de Rham involution, i.e., the composition of the involution F_{∞} on $X(\mathbb{C})$ induced by complex conjugation with the complex conjugation of coefficients.

Theorem–Construction 2.3. *Let X be a regular complex projective variety. Then there exists a canonical homomorphism of complexes*

$$\mathcal{P}^{\bullet}(n) : \mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \longrightarrow C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X; n).$$

If X is defined over \mathbb{R} , then the image of the map $\mathcal{P}^{\bullet}(n)$ lies in the subcomplex $C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X/\mathbb{R}; n)$.

To construct this homomorphism we need to define a certain homomorphism r_{m-1} ([G5]). In the next subsection we recall its definition and establish its basic properties. Using it we define an $(m-1)$ -form $r_{m-1}(L; H)$ canonically attached to the pair $(\mathbb{A}^m; L) = (\mathbb{P}^m - H, L)$ and then define the homomorphism $\mathcal{P}^{\bullet}(n)$.

4. The homomorphism r_{m-1} . Let X be a variety over \mathbb{C} . Let f_1, \dots, f_m be m rational functions on X . We attach to them the $(m-1)$ -form

$$(15) \quad r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m) := \text{Alt}_m \sum_{j \geq 0, 2j+1 \leq 2m+1} c_{j,m} \log |f_1| d \log |f_2| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2j+1}| \wedge di \arg f_{2j+2} \wedge \dots \wedge di \arg f_m.$$

Here $c_{j,m} := \frac{1}{(2j+1)!(m-2j-1)!}$ and Alt_m is the operation of alternation:

$$\text{Alt}_m F(x_1, \dots, x_m) := \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} (-1)^{|\sigma|} F(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(m)}).$$

So $r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)$ is an $\mathbb{R}(m-1)$ -valued $(m-1)$ -form, and it is easy to check that

$$(16) \quad dr_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m) = \pi_m \left(d \log f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log f_m \right).$$

The form (15) is a part of a cocycle representing the product in real Deligne cohomology of 1-cocycles $(\log |f_i|, d \log f_i)$.

Here is yet another, a bit more general way to look at the homomorphism r_{m-1} . Let $\mathcal{A}^i(M)$ be the space of smooth i -forms on a real smooth manifold M . Consider the following map:

$$(17) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega_{m-1} : \Lambda^m \mathcal{A}^0(M) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{m-1}(M) \\ \omega_{m-1}(\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_m) &:= \\ \frac{1}{m!} \text{Alt}_m \left(\sum_{k=1}^m (-1)^{k-1} \varphi_1 \partial \varphi_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \partial \varphi_k \wedge \bar{\partial} \varphi_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \partial \varphi_m \right). \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$\omega_0(\varphi_1) = \varphi_1; \quad \omega_1(\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\varphi_1 \partial \varphi_2 - \varphi_2 \partial \varphi_1 - \varphi_1 \bar{\partial} \varphi_2 + \varphi_2 \bar{\partial} \varphi_1 \right).$$

Then one easily checks that

$$(18) \quad d\omega_{m-1}(\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_m) = \partial\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \partial\varphi_m + (-1)^m \bar{\partial}\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{\partial}\varphi_m + \sum_{i=1}^m (-1)^i \bar{\partial}\partial\varphi_i \wedge \omega_{m-2}(\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{\varphi}_i \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_m).$$

Now let f_i be rational functions on a complex algebraic variety X . Set $M := X^0(\mathbb{C})$, where X^0 is the open part of X where the functions f_i are regular. Then $\varphi_i := \log |f_i|$ are smooth functions on M , and we have an identity

$$\omega_{m-1}(\log |f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge \log |f_m|) = r_{m-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_m).$$

Observe that $\bar{\partial}\partial \log |f| = 0$ on $X^0(\mathbb{C})$. Therefore the second term in the formula (18) is zero, and so this formula is consistent with the one in (16). Notice however that if we understood $\bar{\partial}\partial \log |f|$ as a distribution on $X(\mathbb{C})$, then by the Poincaré-Lelong formula one has

$$(19) \quad 2\bar{\partial}\partial \log |f| = 2\pi i \delta(f).$$

Our next goal is to interpret the form $r_{m-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_m)$ as a distribution on $X(\mathbb{C})$ and calculate the differential of this distribution, taking into account formula (19).

5. The distribution $r_{m-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_m)$. Recall (see for instance [S]) that for a subvariety Y of a smooth complex variety X we define the δ -distribution δ_Y by setting

$$\langle \delta_Y, \omega \rangle := \int_{Y^0(\mathbb{C})} \omega$$

where Y^0 is the nonsingular part of Y .

Theorem 2.4. *Let Y be an arbitrary irreducible subvariety of a smooth complex variety X and $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathbb{C}^*(Y)$. Then for any smooth differential form ω with compact support on $X(\mathbb{C})$ the following integral is convergent:*

$$\int_{Y^0(\mathbb{C})} r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m) \wedge i_Y^0 \omega.$$

Here Y^0 is the nonsingular part of Y and $i_Y^0 \omega$ is the restriction of the form ω to $Y^0(\mathbb{C})$. Thus the form $r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)$ defines a distribution $r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)\delta_Y$ on $X(\mathbb{C})$ given by

$$\langle r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)\delta_Y, \omega \rangle := \int_{Y^0(\mathbb{C})} r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m) \wedge i_Y^0 \omega.$$

It provides a group homomorphism

$$(20) \quad r_{m-1} : \Lambda^m \mathbb{C}(Y)^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}_{X(\mathbb{C})}^{m-1}(m-1).$$

Proof. We need the following lemma. □

Lemma 2.5. *Let Y be a smooth complex projective variety. Then for any nonzero rational functions f_1, \dots, f_m on Y and for any smooth form ω with compact support on $Y(\mathbb{C})$ the integral*

$$\int_{Y(\mathbb{C})} r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m) \wedge \omega$$

is convergent. So the form $r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)$ defines a distribution on $Y(\mathbb{C})$.

Basic example. The integral $\int_{\mathbb{C}} \log |z| d \log(z-a) \wedge d \log(\overline{z-b})$ is divergent at infinity, where all the functions $z, z-a, z-b$ have a simple pole, since $\int_{\mathbb{C}} \log |z| \frac{dz \wedge d\bar{z}}{|z|^2}$ is divergent (both near zero and infinity). However,

$$\begin{aligned} & 4 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}} \log |z| d \log |z-a| \wedge d \log |z-b| \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{C}} \log |z| \left(d \log(z-a) \wedge d \log(\overline{z-b}) + d \log(\overline{z-a}) \wedge d \log(z-b) \right). \end{aligned}$$

is convergent: the divergent parts cancel each other. In $r_{m-1}(f_1, \dots, f_m)$ such divergences cancel because of the multiplicativity and skew-symmetry of r_{m-1} .

Proof of Lemma 2.5. Resolving singularities we reduce the statement of the lemma to the case when the divisors $\text{div} f_i$ have normal crossing. Using the fact that r_{m-1} is a homomorphism to differential forms we may suppose that these divisors are different. Our statement is local, so we can assume that in local coordinates z_1, \dots, z_m one has $f_1 = z_1, \dots, f_k = z_k$ and $\text{div} f_j$ for $j > k$ does not intersect the origin. After this the statement of the lemma is obvious: each term in (15) defines a distribution near the origin. For instance, the worst possible singularities have the term $\log |z_1| d \log |z_2| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |z_k| \wedge \omega$ where ω is smooth near the origin. It is clearly integrable with a smooth test form. The lemma is proved. \square

Remark. In particular, if $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$, the integral

$$(21) \quad \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_{2n}(f_1, \dots, f_{2n+1})$$

is convergent.

Below we use the following form of the resolution of singularities theorem. Recall that the proper preimage \tilde{Y} is the closure in \tilde{X} of the preimage of the generic part of Y .

Theorem 2.6. *Let Y be an arbitrary subvariety of a regular variety X over a characteristic zero field, and Z a divisor of Y . Then there exists a sequence of blowups $\tilde{X} \rightarrow X_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X$ providing a projection $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ such that the proper preimage \tilde{Y} of Y is nonsingular, $\tilde{Z} := \pi^* Z$, where $p = \pi|_{\tilde{Y}} : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$ is a normal crossing divisor in \tilde{Y} and the restriction of π to the nonsingular part of $\tilde{Y} - \tilde{Z}$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof of Theorem 2.4. By Theorem 2.6 there exists a sequence of blowups providing a projection $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ such that the proper preimage \tilde{Y} of $Y \subset X$ is smooth. By the above lemma the integral

$$(22) \quad \int_{\tilde{Y}(\mathbb{C})} r_{m-1}(\pi^* f_1, \dots, \pi^* f_m) \wedge \pi^* \omega$$

is convergent. Therefore the similar integral over any Zariski dense subset of $\tilde{Y}(\mathbb{C})$ is also convergent and coincides with (22). Since π is an isomorphism on the nonsingular part of $\tilde{Y} - \tilde{Z}$, we are done. Theorem 2.4 is proved. \square

Below we employ the notation $r_{m-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_m)$ for the distribution given by (20).

6. Differential of the distribution $r_{n-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n)$. Let X be a normal variety. Then there is the residue homomorphism

$$\text{Res} : \Lambda^n \mathbb{C}(X)^* \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{Y \subset X^{(1)}} \Lambda^{n-1} \mathbb{C}(Y)^*,$$

where the sum is over all irreducible divisors of X .

Here is its definition. Let K be a field with a discrete valuation v and the residue field k_v . The group of units U has a natural homomorphism $U \rightarrow k_v^*$, $u \mapsto \bar{u}$. An element $\pi \in K^*$ is prime if $\text{ord}_v \pi = 1$. There is a homomorphism $\text{res}_v : \Lambda^n K^* \rightarrow \Lambda^{n-1} k_v^*$ uniquely defined by the properties ($u_i \in U$):

$$\text{res}_v(\pi \wedge u_1 \wedge \dots \wedge u_{n-1}) = \bar{u}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{u}_{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{res}_v(u_1 \wedge \dots \wedge u_n) = 0.$$

It does not depend on the choice of π .

Observe that if X is normal, then the local ring of any irreducible divisor of X is a discrete valuation ring, so we can apply the above construction. We set $\text{Res} := \sum \text{res}_v$ where the sum is over all valuations of the field $\mathbb{C}(X)$ corresponding to the codimension one points of X .

Remark. If for any i the restrictions of the functions f_j for $j \neq i$ to the generic points of all irreducible components of the divisor $\text{div} f_i$ are nonzero, then

$$(23) \quad \text{Res}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n) = \sum_{Y \in X^{(1)}} \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i-1} v_Y(f_i) \cdot f_{1|_Y} \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_{i|_Y}} \wedge \dots \wedge f_{n|_Y}$$

where $v_Y(f)$ is the order of zero of f at the generic point of Y .

Let $f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n \in \Lambda^n \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$ where Y is a subvariety of a regular complex variety X . We define a distribution

$$(24) \quad (r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n)$$

on $X(\mathbb{C})$ as follows.

(i) If Y is a normal subvariety, then we have defined the residue map Res on $\Lambda^n \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$. So we define (24) as

$$\sum_{Z \in Y^{(1)}} r_{n-2} \text{res}_Z(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n) \delta_Y,$$

i.e., for any smooth form ω on $X(\mathbb{C})$,

$$\langle (r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n), \omega \rangle := \sum_Z \int_{Z^0(\mathbb{C})} r_{n-2} \text{res}_Z(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n) \wedge \omega.$$

(ii) For an arbitrary Y we take the normalization $\pi : Y^\nu \rightarrow Y$ and define (24) as

$$(r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n) := \pi_*((r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(\pi^* f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^* f_n)).$$

Lemma 2.7. *Let Y be a subvariety of a regular complex variety X , $f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n \in \Lambda^n \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$, and $Z := \bigcup_i \text{div} f_i$. Let $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a blowup of X as in Theorem 2.6. Then*

$$(25) \quad \pi_* \left((r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(\pi^* f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^* f_n) \right) = (r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n).$$

Proof. Thanks to the definition (ii) of distribution (24) for nonnormal varieties we may assume without loss of generality that Y is normal.

Let $Z = \bigcup_{i \in I} Z_i$ be the decomposition of the divisor Z into irreducible components parametrised by a set I . By the very definition the right-hand side of (25)

is a sum over $i \in I$ of distributions $\psi_i = r_{n-2}(F_i)$ on Z_i corresponding to certain elements $F_i \in \Lambda^{n-2}\mathbb{C}(Z_i)^*$.

Let $\tilde{Z} = \bigcup_{j \in J} \tilde{Z}_j$ be the decomposition of \tilde{Z} into irreducible components parametrized by a set J . The left-hand side of (25) is a sum over $j \in J$ of distributions $\tilde{\psi}_j = r_{n-2}(\tilde{F}_j)$ corresponding to certain elements $\tilde{F}_j \in \Lambda^{n-2}\mathbb{C}(\tilde{Z}_j)^*$. One has $I \subset J$ since the proper preimage \tilde{Z}_i of Z_i is an irreducible component of \tilde{Z} .

The lemma follows from the following two claims:

$$\pi_*(\tilde{\psi}_i) = \psi_i, \quad i \in I; \quad \pi_*(\tilde{\psi}_j) = 0, \quad j \in J - I.$$

The first one is obvious since both distributions $\tilde{\psi}_i$ and ψ_i are defined by their restriction to any nonsingular Zariski dense open part of the corresponding divisor, and π , being restricted to such a sufficiently small part of \tilde{Z}_i , is an isomorphism. Let us prove the second claim. Observe that for $j \in J - I$ the subvariety $\pi(\tilde{Z}_j)$ is of codimension 2 in Y , and the restriction of π to a Zariski open part of \tilde{Z}_j is a fibration with fibers of positive dimension. We need to show that for any smooth form ω on $X(\mathbb{C})$,

$$\int_{\tilde{Z}_j(\mathbb{C})} \tilde{\psi}_j \wedge \pi^* \omega := \int_{\tilde{Z}'_j(\mathbb{C})} \tilde{\psi}_j \wedge \pi^* \omega = 0$$

where Z'_j is a (sufficiently small) nonsingular Zariski dense open part of Z_j . Observe that $\tilde{\psi}_j \wedge \pi^* \omega$ is a smooth form on $\tilde{Z}'_j(\mathbb{C})$. For any vector field v on \tilde{Z}'_j tangent to the fibers of π we have $i_v \pi^* \omega = 0$. So it suffices to show that $i_v \tilde{\psi}_j = 0$. Since the statement is local, we can choose a local equation of an open part of \tilde{Z}'_j in the form $\pi^* z = 0$. Using it as a local parameter at the definition of $\text{res}_{\pi^* z=0}$, we see that $\text{res}_{\pi^* z=0}(\pi^* f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^* f_n)$ is lifted from Y , and hence so is

$$\tilde{\psi}_j = r_{n-2} \text{res}_{\pi^* z=0}(\pi^* f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^* f_n).$$

Thus $i_v \tilde{\psi}_j = 0$. The lemma is proved. \square

Proposition 2.8. *Let Y be an arbitrary subvariety of a regular complex variety X and $f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n \in \Lambda^n \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$. Then*

$$(26) \quad \begin{aligned} & dr_{n-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n) \\ &= \pi_n \left(d \log f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log f_n \right) + 2\pi i \cdot (r_{n-2} \circ \text{Res})(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let us resolve singularities as in Lemma 2.7. Since π is a birational isomorphism, and the distribution $r_{n-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n)$ is determined by its restriction to the generic point, one has

$$\pi_* r_{n-1}(\pi^* f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^* f_n) = r_{n-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_n).$$

So this and Lemma 2.7 imply that we may assume that $\bigcup_i \text{div } f_i$ is a normal crossing divisor. The proposition follows immediately from the Poincaré-Lelong formula (19)

$$d(di \arg f) = 2\pi i \delta(f) := 2\pi i \delta_{\text{div}(f)}.$$

The Proposition 2.8 is proved. \square

Remark. To prove the Poincaré-Lelong formula one may resolve the singularities and argue just as in the proof of Lemma 2.7 that it is sufficient to prove this formula

on a blowup. When the divisor of f is a normal crossing divisor the formula follows from

$$d(di \arg z) = 2\pi i \delta(z) := 2\pi i(\delta_0 - \delta_\infty).$$

7. The distribution $r_{m-1}(L; H)$. Let Ω_L be the canonical m -form in $\mathbb{P}^m - L$ with logarithmic singularities at L . It represents a generator of $H_{\text{DR}}^m(\mathbb{P}^m - L)$ defined over \mathbb{Z} . Let us give its coordinate description. Choose homogeneous coordinates $(z_0 : \dots : z_m)$ in \mathbb{P}^m such that L is given by the equation $\{z_i = 0\}$. Then

$$\Omega_L = d \log z_1/z_0 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log z_m/z_0.$$

The form Ω_L has periods in $\mathbb{Z}(m)$. So $\pi_m(\Omega_L)$ is exact. However there is no canonical choice of a primitive $(m - 1)$ -form for it: the group $(\mathbb{C}^*)^m$ acting on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m - L$ leaves the form invariant and acts nontrivially on the primitives. But if we consider a simplex L in the affine complex space \mathbb{A}^m (or, what is the same, choose an additional hyperplane H in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m$, which should be thought of as the infinite hyperplane), then there is a *canonical* primitive.

Choose a coordinate system $(z_0 : \dots : z_m)$ in \mathbb{P}^m as above such that H is given by $\{\sum_{i=1}^m z_i = z_0\}$. Set

$$(27) \quad r_{m-1}(L; H) := r_{m-1}(z_1/z_0 \wedge \dots \wedge z_m/z_0).$$

Here is a more invariant definition (see Figure 5). Choose one of the faces of the simplex L , say L_0 . Consider the simplex (H, L_1, \dots, L_m) . Let f_i be the rational function on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m$ such that $(f_i) = L_i - L_0$ is normalized by $f_i(l_i) = 1$, where l_i is the vertex of the simplex (H, L_1, \dots, L_m) opposite to the face L_i . Then $f_i = \frac{z_i}{z_0}$ and

$$r_{m-1}(L; H) := r_{m-1}(f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge f_m).$$

This form is skewsymmetric with respect to the permutation of the hyperplane faces of the simplex L . One has

$$dr_{m-1}(L; H) = \pi_m(\Omega_L) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m - L.$$

So a choice of an “infinite” hyperplane $H \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m$ provides the form $r_{m-1}(L; H)$.

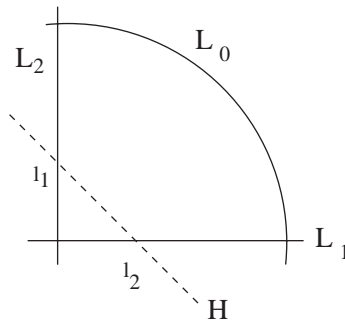


FIGURE 5. A simplex L and an infinite hyperplane H

Example. If $m = 1$, then

$$\mathbb{A}^1 = \mathbb{P}^1 - \{1\}, \quad L = \{0\} \cup \{\infty\}, \quad \Omega_L = d \log z, \quad \pi_1(d \log z) = d \log |z|,$$

$$r_0(\{0\} \cup \{\infty\}; \{1\}) = \log |z|.$$

The $(n-1)$ -form $r_{n-1}(L; H)$ provides an $(n-1)$ -distribution on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$. Recall the simplex \widehat{L}_i which is cut out by L in the hyperplane L_i , and put $H_i := L_i \cap H$. Consider the $(n-2)$ -form $r_{n-2}(\widehat{L}_i; H_i)$ on the hyperplane L_i as an n -distribution in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$. We denote it as $r_{n-2}(\widehat{L}_i; H_i) \cdot \delta_{L_i}$.

Corollary 2.9. *One has*

$$(28) \quad dr_{n-1}(L; H) = \pi_n(\Omega_L) + 2\pi i \cdot \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i r_{n-2}(\widehat{L}_i; H_i) \delta_{L_i}.$$

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 2.8. \square

8. A coordinate-free description of the form $r_{m-1}(L; H)$. Let V_m be an m -dimensional vector space over a field F . Choose a volume form $\text{vol}_m \in \det V_m^*$. Set $\Delta(v_1, \dots, v_m) := \langle \text{vol}_m, v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_m \rangle \in F^*$.

Lemma 2.10. *For a configuration (l_0, \dots, l_m) of $m+1$ vectors in generic position,*

$$(29) \quad f_m(l_0, \dots, l_m) := \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i \Lambda_{j \neq i} \Delta(l_0, \dots, \widehat{l}_j, \dots, l_i, \dots, l_m) \in \Lambda^m F^*$$

does not depend on the choice of the volume form vol_m .

Proof. See the proof of Lemma 3.1 in [G3]. \square

For a point $z \in \mathbb{A}^m - L$, let $l_i(z)$ be the vector from z to the vertex l_i ; see Figure 6.

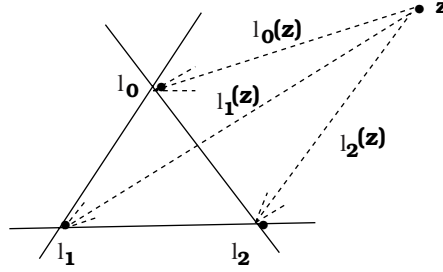


FIGURE 6. The vectors $l_i(z)$

We get a canonical element

$$f_m(l_0(z), \dots, l_m(z)) \in \Lambda^m \mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{A}^m - L)^*.$$

If $F = \mathbb{C}$, applying the homomorphism r_m to this element we get a canonical $(m-1)$ -form in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^m - L$. It coincides with $r_{m-1}(L; H)$.

Example. If $m = 1$ and $(L_0, L_1, H) = (0, \infty, 1)$, then $t = \frac{z}{z-1}$ is an affine coordinate on $\mathbb{P}^1 - \{1\}$ and

$$l_0(t) = \frac{z}{z-1}, l_1(t) = \frac{1}{z-1}, \quad \text{so} \quad f_1(l_0(t), l_1(t)) = \frac{l_0(t)}{l_1(t)} = z.$$

Remark. The map $z \in \mathbb{A}^m - L \mapsto f_m(l_0(z), \dots, l_m(z))$ provides an isomorphism $F_m : CH^m(\text{Spec}(F), 0) \rightarrow K_m^M(F)$; see [NS] where the isomorphism F_m was presented in a bit different way.

9. The main construction. We have to construct a morphism of complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \dots & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Z}^1(X; n) & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Z}^{2n-1}(X; n) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Z}^{2n}(X; n) \\ & & \downarrow \mathcal{P}^1(n) & & \dots & & \downarrow \mathcal{P}^{2n-1}(n) & & \downarrow \mathcal{P}^{2n}(n) \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{0,0}(n-1) & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n-1,n-1}(n-1) & \xrightarrow{2\bar{\partial}} & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n,n}(n) \end{array}$$

Let $Y \in \mathcal{Z}^{2n}(X; n)$ be a codimension n cycle in X . By definition,

$$\mathcal{P}^{2n}(n)(Y) := (2\pi i)^n \delta_Y \quad \text{where} \quad \langle \delta_Y, \omega \rangle := \int_{Y(\mathbb{C})} \omega.$$

Let us construct homomorphisms

$$\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n) : \mathcal{Z}^{2n-i}(X; n) \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}_{X(\mathbb{C})}^{2n-i-1}(n-1), \quad i > 0.$$

Denote by $\pi_{\mathbb{A}^i}$ (resp. π_X) the projection of $X \times \mathbb{A}^i$ to \mathbb{A}^i (resp. X), and by $\bar{\pi}_{\mathbb{A}^i}$ (resp. $\bar{\pi}_X$) the projection of $X \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^i$ to $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^i$ (resp. X).

Recall the element

$$(30) \quad \frac{z_1}{z_0} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{z_i}{z_0} \in \Lambda^i \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{A}^i)^*$$

defining the form $r_{i-1}(L; H)$; see (27). Let

$$(31) \quad g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i \in \Lambda^i \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$$

be the restriction to Y of the inverse image of element (30) by the projection $\pi_{\mathbb{A}^i}^*$. The element (31) provides, by Theorem 2.4, a distribution on $X(\mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^i$. Pushing this distribution down by $(2\pi i)^{n-i} \cdot \pi_{\bar{X}}$ we get the distribution $\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y)$.

Definition 2.11.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y) &:= (2\pi i)^{n-i} \cdot \pi_{\bar{X}*} r_{i-1}(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i) \\ &:= (2\pi i)^{n-i} \cdot \pi_{\bar{X}*} r_{i-1} \left(i_Y^* \pi_{\mathbb{A}^i}^* \left(\frac{z_1}{z_0} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{z_i}{z_0} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Here $i_Y : Y \hookrightarrow X \times \mathbb{P}^i$.

Remark. This definition works if and only if the cycle Y has proper intersection with all codimension one faces of $X \times L$. Indeed, if Y does not have proper intersection with one of the faces, then the equation of this face restricts to zero to Y , and so (31) does not make sense. As soon as all equations of the codimension one faces restrict to nonzero functions on Y , (31) makes sense, and we can apply Theorem 2.4.

Remark. We just proved that the product of distributions $\delta_Y \wedge \pi_{\mathbb{A}^i}^* r_{i-1}(L; H)$ makes sense and

$$\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y) = (2\pi i)^{n-i} \pi_{X*} (\delta_Y \wedge \pi_{\mathbb{A}^i}^* r_{i-1}(L; H)).$$

It is handy to rewrite Definition 2.11 more explicitly as an integral over $Y(\mathbb{C})$. Namely, let ω be a smooth form on $X(\mathbb{C})$ and $Y \in \mathcal{Z}^{2n-i}(X; n)$. Then

$$(32) \quad \langle \mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y), \omega \rangle = (2\pi i)^{n-i} \int_{Y(\mathbb{C})} \pi_{\mathbb{A}}^* r_{i-1}(L; H) \wedge \pi_X^* \omega$$

$$(33) \quad = (2\pi i)^{n-i} \int_{Y^0(\mathbb{C})} r_{i-1}(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i) \wedge i_{Y(\mathbb{C})}^* \pi_X^* \omega$$

where Y^0 is the nonsingular part of Y

Since the form $r_{i-1}(L; H)$ is $\mathbb{R}(i-1)$ -valued, for $i > 0$ the distribution $\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y)$ takes values in $\mathbb{R}(n-1)$. Furthermore, $\mathcal{P}^{2n}(n)(Y)$ is obviously an $\mathbb{R}(n)$ -valued distribution.

Let us show that for $i > 0$ the distribution $\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y)$ lies precisely in the left bottom $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ square of the Dolbeault bicomplex. The integral (32) is nonzero only if $\pi_X^* \omega \wedge \pi_{\mathbb{A}}^* r_{i-1}(L; H)$ is of type

$$(\dim Y, \dim Y) = (\dim X + i - n, \dim X + i - n).$$

Since $r_{i-1}(L; H)$ is an $(i-1)$ -form we see that the integral vanishes if ω is a form of type (p, q) where p or q is smaller than $\dim X + 1 - n$. This just means that the distribution lies in the left bottom $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ square of the Dolbeault bicomplex. The proposition is proved.

Therefore we have constructed the maps $\mathcal{P}^i(n)$.

Theorem 2.12. $\mathcal{P}^\bullet(n)$ is a homomorphism of complexes.

Proof. One has

$$(34) \quad \langle d\mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y), \omega \rangle = \int_{\overline{Y}(\mathbb{C})} dr_{i-1}(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i) \wedge i_{\overline{Y}(\mathbb{C})}^* \pi_X^* \omega$$

where $g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i$ is as in (31). We use Proposition 2.8 to calculate $dr_{i-1}(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i)$.

To handle the first term in (26) observe that by the very definition of the complex $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}(X; n)$ we need to investigate integral (34) only for smooth forms ω of type (p, q) where $|p - q| \leq i - 1$. Since $\pi_i(\Omega_L) = \Omega_L \pm \overline{\Omega}_L$ is a sum of forms of type $(i, 0)$ and $(0, i)$ the form $\pi_{\mathbb{A}}^* \pi_i(\Omega_L) \wedge \pi_X^* \omega$ cannot be of type (k, k) . Therefore only the second term in (26) contributes.

Since $r_0(f) = \log |f|$, the commutativity of the last square follows from the Poincaré-Lelong formula $2\overline{\partial}\partial \log |f| = 2\pi i \cdot \delta_{\text{div}(f)}$. \square

Commutativity of the i -th square of the diagram, $i > 1$, counting from the right. If \overline{Y} is normal, this follows from Proposition 2.8. Indeed, since Y meets the codimension two faces properly, all equations of the codimension one faces of $X \times L$ but z_j have nonzero restriction to the generic point of $\text{div } z_j$. Therefore we may use formula (23) to calculate Res , and then the claim is obvious.

In the case when \overline{Y} is not normal we face the following subtle problem.

Calculating $dr_{i-1}(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge g_i)$ and hence $d \circ \mathcal{P}^{2n-i}(n)(Y)$ when Y is not normal we need to take $\text{Res}_{\tilde{Z}}(\tilde{g}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \tilde{g}_i)$ for all irreducible divisors \tilde{Z} in the normalization $\pi : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$, where $\tilde{g} := \pi^* g$, and then take

$$(35) \quad \sum_{\tilde{Z}} \pi_* r_{i-2} \circ \text{Res}_{\tilde{Z}}(\tilde{g}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \tilde{g}_i).$$

Computation of $\mathcal{P}^{2n-i+1}(n)(Z) \circ d$ does not involve the normalization of Y : we intersect Y with all codimension one faces of $X \times L$. So we need to compute (35) using the intersection data of Y and $X \times L$.

To handle this we use the condition that Y meets the codimension two faces of the simplex $X \times L$ properly. This implies that

$$(36) \quad \text{Res}_{\tilde{Z}}(\tilde{g}_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \tilde{g}_i) = \pi^* G_{i-1}; \quad G_{i-1} \in \Lambda^{i-1} \mathbb{C}(\pi(\tilde{Z}))^*.$$

Indeed, since all equations of the codimension one faces of $X \times L$ but z_j have nonzero restriction to the generic point of $\text{div} z_j$, the wedge product of these restrictions can be taken as G_{i-1} .

Given (36) the statement is obvious since

$$\pi_* r_{i-2} \pi^* G_{i-1} = [\mathbb{C}(\tilde{Z}) : \mathbb{C}(\pi(\tilde{Z}))] \cdot r_{i-2}(G_{i-1}).$$

Indeed, recall (see [F], page 9) that if $\tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$ is the normalization of Y and $g \in \mathbb{C}(Y)^* = \mathbb{C}(\tilde{Y})^*$, then

$$\text{ord}_Z(g) = \sum_{\tilde{Z}} \text{ord}_{\tilde{Z}}(g) [\mathbb{C}(\tilde{Z}) : \mathbb{C}(Z)]$$

where the sum is over all irreducible divisors projecting onto Z .

Theorem 2.12 is proved. Therefore we have finished the proof of Theorem-Construction 2.3.

10. The higher Arakelov Chow groups. Let X be a regular complex variety. Denote by $\tilde{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(n)$ the quotient of the complex $C_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(n)$ along the subgroup $\mathcal{A}_{cl}^{n,n}(n) \subset \mathcal{D}_{cl}^{n,n}(n)$ of a closed smooth form of type (n, n) with values in $\mathbb{R}(n)$.

Consider the cone of the homomorphism $\mathcal{P}^{\bullet}(n)$ shifted by -1 :

$$\hat{\mathcal{Z}}^{\bullet}(X; n) := \text{Cone}\left(\mathcal{Z}^{\bullet}(X; n) \longrightarrow \tilde{C}_{\mathcal{D}}^{\bullet}(X(\mathbb{C}); n)\right)[-1].$$

Definition 2.13. The higher Arakelov Chow groups are

$$(37) \quad \widehat{CH}^n(X; i) := H^{2n-i}(\hat{\mathcal{Z}}^{\bullet}(X; n)).$$

Recall the arithmetic Chow groups defined by Gillet-Soulé [GS] as follows:

$$(38) \quad \widehat{CH}^n(X) := \frac{\{(Z, g); \frac{\bar{\partial}}{\pi i} g + \delta_Z \in \mathcal{A}^{n,n}\}}{\{(0, \partial u + \bar{\partial} v); (\text{div} f, -\log |f|), f \in \mathbb{C}(Y), \text{codim}(Y) = n-1\}}.$$

Here Z is a divisor in X and f is a rational function on a divisor Y in X ,

$$g \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n-1, n-1}(n-1), \quad (u, v) \in (\mathcal{D}^{n-2, n-1} \oplus \mathcal{D}^{n-1, n-2})_{\mathbb{R}}(n-1).$$

Proposition 2.14. $\widehat{CH}^n(X; 0) = \widehat{CH}^n(X)$.

Proof. Let us look at the very right part of the complex $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}^{\bullet}(X; n)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \dots & & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Z}^{2n-1}(X; n) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Z}^{2n}(X; n) \\ & & & \downarrow \mathcal{P}^{2n-1}(n) & & \downarrow \mathcal{P}^{2n}(n) \end{array}$$

$$(\mathcal{D}^{n-2, n-1} \oplus \mathcal{D}^{n-1, n-2})_{\mathbb{R}}(n-1) \xrightarrow{(\partial, \bar{\partial})} \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n-1, n-1}(n-1) \xrightarrow{2\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n, n}(n) / \mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{R}}^{n, n}(n)$$

Consider the very end of the Gersten complex on X :

$$\prod_{Y \in X_{n-2}} \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}(Y)^* \xrightarrow{\partial} \prod_{Y \in X_{n-1}} \mathbb{C}(Y)^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_0(X; n)$$

where ∂ is the tame symbol. It maps to the complex $\widehat{\mathcal{Z}}^\bullet(X; n)$, i.e., to the top row of the bicomplex above, as follows. Recall that $\mathcal{Z}_0(X; n) = \mathcal{Z}^{2n}(X; n)$, so the very right component of our map is provided by this identification. Furthermore, a pair $(Y; f)$ where Y is an irreducible codimension $n - 1$ subvariety of X maps to the cycle $\{(y, f(y)) | y \in Y\} \subset X \times \mathbb{A}^1$. Similarly any element in $\Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$ can be represented as a linear combination of elements $\sum_i (Y; f_i \wedge g_i)$ where Y is an irreducible codimension $n - 2$ subvariety of X and f_i, g_i are rational functions on Y such that $\text{div} f_i$ and $\text{div} g_i$ share no irreducible divisors. Then we send $(Y; f_i \wedge g_i)$ to the cycle $(y, f_i(y), g_i(y)) \subset X \times \mathbb{A}^2$. It is well known that in this way we get an isomorphism on the last two cohomology groups. Computing the composition of this map with the homomorphism $\mathcal{P}^\bullet(n)$ we end up precisely with the denominator in (38). The proposition is proved. \square

3. THE CHOW POLYLOGARITHMS

Suppose $X = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C})$. Then $\mathcal{P}_n(Y) := \mathcal{P}^1(n)(Y)$ is a function on the space of all codimension n cycles in \mathbb{P}^{2n-1} intersecting properly faces of the simplex L . It is called the *Chow polylogarithm function*. For $i > 1$ all the distributions $\mathcal{P}^i(n)(Y)$ are zero. However, modifying the construction of the previous section we get a very interesting object, the Chow polylogarithm, even when X is a point. The Chow polylogarithm function is the first component of the Chow polylogarithm. One can define the Chow polylogarithm for an arbitrary variety X , but we spell out the details in the most interesting case when X is a point.

1. Chow polylogarithms [G5]. Let $L = (L_0, \dots, L_{p+q})$ be a simplex in \mathbb{P}^{p+q} , H a hyperplane in generic position to L , and $H_i := H \cap L_i$.

Let $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$ be the variety of all codimension q effective algebraic cycles in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q}$ which intersect properly, i.e., each irreducible component in the right codimension and all faces of the simplex L . It is a union of an infinite number of finite-dimensional complex algebraic varieties.

Example. $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n - L = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ is an irreducible component of $\mathcal{Z}_0^n(L)$ parametrizing the irreducible subvarieties, i.e., points.

Let \widehat{L}_i be the simplex in the projective space L_i cut by the hyperplanes L_j , $j \neq i$. The intersection of a cycle with a codimension 1 face L_i of the simplex L provides a map

$$a_i : \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_{p-1}^q(\widehat{L}_i), \quad 0 \leq i \leq p + q.$$

Let l_j be the vertex opposite to the face L_j . Consider an open part $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)^0$ of $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$ parametrizing the cycles C such that projection with the center l_j sends C to a codimension $q - 1$ cycle. Then projection with the center at the vertex l_j of L defines a map

$$b_j : \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)^0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}_p^{q-1}(\widehat{L}_j), \quad 0 \leq i \leq p + q.$$

Theorem–Construction 3.1. *For given $q \geq 0$ there is an explicitly constructed chain of $(q - p - 1)$ -distributions $\omega_p^q = \omega_p^q(L; H)$ on $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$ such that*

$$(39) \quad (i) \quad d\omega_0^q(L, H) = \pi_q(\Omega_L),$$

$$(40) \quad (ii) \quad d\omega_p^q(L; H) = \sum_{i=0}^{p+q} (-1)^i a_i^* \omega_{p-1}^q(L; H_i),$$

$$(41) \quad (iii) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{p+q+1} (-1)^j b_j^* \omega_p^q(L; H) = 0.$$

The restriction of ω_p^q to the subvariety $\widehat{\mathcal{Z}}_p^q(L)$ of smooth cycles in generic position with respect to the simplex L is a real-analytic differential $(q - p - 1)$ -form.

For a given positive integer q the collection $\{\omega_p^q\}$ is called the q -th Chow polylogarithm.

The varieties $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$ for $p \geq 0$ form a truncated simplicial variety $\mathcal{Z}_\bullet^q(L)$. The conditions (i) and (ii) just mean that the sequence of forms ω_p^q is a $2q$ -cocycle in the complex computing the Deligne cohomology $H^{2q}(\mathcal{Z}_\bullet^q(L), \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{D}}(q))$.

Proof. We define ω_p^q as the Radon transform of the distribution $r_{p+q-1}(L; H)$ in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q}$ over the family of cycles Y_ξ parametrized by $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$. This means the following. Consider the incidence variety:

$$\Gamma_p := \{(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q} \times \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)(\mathbb{C}) \text{ such that } x \in Y_\xi\}$$

where Y_ξ is the cycle in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q}$ corresponding to $\xi \in \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)$. We get a double bundle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \\ & \pi_1 \swarrow & \searrow \pi_2 \\ \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q} & & \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

Then

$$\omega_p^q := \pi_{2*} \text{Res}_{\Gamma_p} \pi_1^* (2\pi i)^{-q} r_{p+q}(L; H).$$

Observe that $r_{p+q}(L; H)$ is a distribution on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q}$, and hence $\pi_1^* r_{p+q}(L; H)$ is a distribution on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{p+q} \times \mathcal{Z}_p^q(L)(\mathbb{C})$. The fact that this distribution can be restricted to Γ_p is a version of Theorem 2.4 and is proved in the same way. The push-forward π_{2*} of this distribution is well-defined since π_2 is a proper map. \square

The property (i) is true by the very definition.

Lemma 3.2. $\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} (-1)^j b_j^* \omega_0^n = 0$.

Proof. Let $s(z_0, \dots, z_n) := z_1/z_0 \wedge \dots \wedge z_n/z_0$. The lemma follows from the identity

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n+1} (-1)^j s(z_0, \dots, \widehat{z}_j, \dots, z_{n+1}) = 0.$$

So we have (iii). To check (ii) observe that the push-forward π_{2*} of distributions commutes with the de Rham differential. The theorem is proved. \square

2. Properties of the Chow polylogarithm function. The function $\mathcal{P}_q := \omega_{q-1}^q$ on $\mathcal{Z}_{q-1}^q(L)$ is called the *Chow q -logarithm function*. It satisfies two functional equations:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{2q} (-1)^i a_i^* \mathcal{P}_q = 0, \quad \sum_{j=0}^{2q} (-1)^j b_j^* \mathcal{P}_q = 0.$$

Theorem 3.3. *The Chow polylogarithm function is invariant under the natural action of the torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{p+q}$ on $\mathcal{Z}_p^q(\mathbb{C})$. In particular, it does not depend on the choice of the hyperplane H .*

Remark. The statements of Theorem 3.3 are no longer true for the forms ω_p^q for $p < q - 1$.

Here is a reformulation of Theorem 3.3.

Theorem 3.4. *Suppose that $\dim X = n$ and f_1, \dots, f_{2n+1} are rational functions on X . Then the integral*

$$(2\pi i)^{1-n} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_{2n}(f_1, \dots, f_{2n+1})$$

does not change if we multiply one of the functions f_i by a nonzero constant.

Proof. Multiplying, say, f_1 by λ we see that the difference between the two integrals is

$$(42) \quad \log |\lambda| \sum_k a_k \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} \text{Alt}_{2n} d \log |f_2| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2k-1}| \wedge d \arg f_{2k} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n+1}$$

where the a_k are some rational constants (easily computable from (15)). We will prove that for each k the corresponding integral in this sum is already zero. Using the identity

$$(d \log |f_2| + id \arg f_2) \wedge \dots \wedge (d \log |f_{2n+1}| + id \arg f_{2n+1}) = 0$$

we can rewrite the integral

$$\int_{X(\mathbb{C})} d \arg f_2 \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n+1}$$

as a sum of similar integrals containing $d \log |f_i|$. Our statement follows from Proposition 3.5. \square

Proposition 3.5. *Suppose that $\dim X = n$. Then*

$$(43) \quad \begin{aligned} & d \text{Alt}_{2n} \left(\log |f_2| d \log |f_3| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2k-1}| \wedge d \arg f_{2k} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n+1} \right) \\ &= \text{Alt}_{2n} \left(d \log |f_2| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2k-1}| \wedge d \arg f_{2k} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n+1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

in the sense of distributions.

Proof. Since $ddi \arg f = 2\pi i \delta(f)$, the left-hand side is equal to the right-hand side plus the following terms concentrated on the divisors $f_{2k+j} = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} & 4\pi \cdot 2(n-k+1) \text{Alt}_{2n} \left(\delta(f_{2n+1}) \log |f_2| d \log |f_3| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2k-1}| \right. \\ & \quad \left. \wedge d \arg f_{2k} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n} \right). \end{aligned}$$

However, all these additional terms vanish thanks to the following proposition. \square

Proposition 3.6. *Suppose that $\dim X = n$. Then for each $0 \leq j \leq n - 1$ one has*

$$(44) \quad \text{Alt}_{2n} \left(d \log |f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2j+1}| \wedge d \arg f_{2j+2} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n} \right) = 0,$$

$$(45) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{Alt}_{2n} \left(d \log |f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2j}| \wedge d \arg f_{2j+1} \wedge \dots \wedge d \arg f_{2n} \right) \\ &= \frac{(2n)! \binom{n}{j}}{\binom{2n}{2j}} \cdot d \log |f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{2n}|. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The idea is this. One has n equations:

$$(46) \quad \begin{aligned} & d \log f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log f_{2n} = 0, \\ & d \log |f_1| \wedge d \log f_2 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log f_{2n} = 0, \\ & \dots \dots \dots \\ & d \log |f_1| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |f_{n-1}| \wedge d \log f_n \wedge \dots \wedge d \log f_{2n} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Taking the imaginary part of each of them and alternating f_1, \dots, f_{2n} we get n linear equations. Solving them we get the proposition. See the details in the Appendix in [GZ]. \square

4. THE GRASSMANNIAN POLYLOGARITHMS

1. Configurations of vectors and Grassmannians: a dictionary. Let G be a group. Let X be a G -set. We define *configurations of m points of X* as G -orbits in X^m .

Example 1. If $X := V$ is a vector space and $G := GL(V)$ we get configurations of vectors in V . A configuration of vectors (l_1, \dots, l_m) is in generic position if each $k \leq \dim V$ of the vectors are linearly independent.

Example 2. If $X := \mathbb{P}(V)$ is a projective space and $G := PGL(V)$ we get configurations (x_1, \dots, x_m) of m points in $\mathbb{P}(V)$. A configuration of points is in generic position if each $k \leq \dim V$ of them generate a plane of dimension $k - 1$.

Let T_{p+q} be the quotient of the torus \mathbb{G}_m^{p+q+1} by the diagonal subgroup $\mathbb{G}_m = (t, \dots, t)$. In what follows V_n denotes a vector space of dimension n .

Lemma–Construction 4.1. (i) *There are canonical isomorphisms between the following sets of geometric objects:*

- (a) *configurations of $p + q + 1$ vectors in generic position in V_q ;*
 - (b) *isomorphism classes of triples $\{$ a projective space \mathbb{P}^{p+q} together with a simplex L , an “infinite” hyperplane H in generic position to L , and a p -dimensional plane in generic position to L (but not necessarily to H) $\}$;*
 - (c) *isomorphism classes of triples $\{$ a vector space V_{p+q+1} , a basis (e_0, \dots, e_{p+q}) of V_{p+q+1} , and a $(p + 1)$ -dimensional subspace of V_{p+q+1} in generic position with respect to the coordinate hyperplanes $\}$.*
- (ii) *The torus T_{p+q} acts naturally, and without fixed points, on each of the objects (a), (b), (c), and the isomorphisms above are compatible with this action.*

Proof. (i) (a) \rightarrow (c). For the $(p + 1)$ -dimensional subspace, take the kernel of the linear map from V_{p+q+1} to V_q sending e_i to l_i .

(c) \rightarrow (a). Take the quotient of V_{p+q+1}/h along the given subspace h and consider the images of the vectors (e_0, \dots, e_{p+q}) there.

(c) \rightarrow (b). Let $\mathbb{P}^{p+q} := \mathbb{P}(V_{p+q+1})$. Let \mathbb{A}^{p+q} be the affine hyperplane in V_{p+q+1} passing through the ends of the basis vectors e_i . Then $\mathbb{A}^{p+q} \subset \mathbb{P}^{p+q}$. The coordinate

hyperplanes in V_{p+q+1} provide a simplex $L_{p+q} \subset \mathbb{P}^{p+q}$. The projectivization of a generic $(p+1)$ -dimensional subspace h in V_{p+q+1} gives a p -plane \bar{h} in generic position with respect to this simplex. (Notice that we do not impose any condition on the mutual location of H and \bar{h} . For instance \bar{h} may be inside of H .)

(b) \rightarrow (c). The triple (\mathbb{P}^{p+q}, H, L) provides a unique up to an isomorphism data $(V_{p+q+1}, (e_0, \dots, e_{p+q}))$. Namely, the partial data (\mathbb{P}^{p+q}, H) provides us with (V_{p+q+1}, \tilde{H}) where \tilde{H} is the subspace of V_{p+q+1} projecting to H . Now the vertices l_i of the simplex L provide coordinate lines \tilde{l}_i in V_{p+q+1} . Intersecting these coordinate lines with a parallel shift of the subspace \tilde{H} we get a point on each of the coordinate lines. By definition the endpoints of the basis vectors e_i are these points. Taking the subspace \tilde{h} in V_{p+q+1} projecting to a given p -plane h in \mathbb{P}^{p+q} we get the desired correspondence.

(ii) The torus T_{p+q} acts on the configurations of vectors in (a) as

$$(t_1, \dots, t_{p+q+1}) : (l_1, \dots, l_{p+q+1}) \mapsto (t_1 l_1, \dots, t_{p+q+1} l_{p+q+1}).$$

The torus T_{p+q} is identified with $\mathbb{P}^{p+q} - L$ in (b), and so acts naturally on the data in (b). The action on the data in (c) is similar. The lemma is proved.

If we use the description (c) for the Grassmannians, then b_j is obtained by factorization along the coordinate axis $\langle e_j \rangle$. \square

2. The Grassmannian and bi-Grassmannian polylogarithms. Let us fix a positive integer q . The operations a_i and b_j from Subsection 1 in Section 3 transform planes to planes. So we get the following diagram of varieties called the bi-Grassmannian $\widehat{G}(q)$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & \downarrow \dots \downarrow & & \downarrow \dots \downarrow \\ & & & & \rightrightarrows & \widehat{G}_1^{q+1} & \rightrightarrows & \widehat{G}_0^{q+1} \\ \widehat{G}(q) := & & & & \downarrow \dots \downarrow & & \downarrow \dots \downarrow & & \downarrow \dots \downarrow \\ & & & & \dots & \rightrightarrows & \widehat{G}_2^q & \rightrightarrows & \widehat{G}_1^q & \rightrightarrows & \widehat{G}_0^q \end{array}$$

Here the horizontal arrows are the maps a_i and the vertical ones are b_j .

Remark. The bi-Grassmannian $\widehat{G}(n)$ is not a (semi)bisimplicial scheme. (It is a truncated semihypersimplicial scheme. See Section 2.6 in [G4].)

Configurations of hyperplanes and torus quotients of Grassmannians. Let \widehat{G}_p^q be the Grassmannian of p -planes in \mathbb{P}^{p+q} in generic position with respect to a given simplex L .

Taking the T_{p+q} -orbits of the objects (a) and (b) in the lemma we arrive at

Corollary 4.2. *There is a bijective correspondence*

$$\widehat{G}_p^q / T_{p+q} < \dashrightarrow \{ \text{Configurations of } p+q+1 \text{ generic hyperplanes in } \mathbb{P}^p \}$$

sending a p -plane h to the configuration $(h \cap L_0, \dots, h \cap L_{p+q})$ in h .

Let $\psi_p^q(q)$ be the restriction of the differential form ω_p^q to \widehat{G}_p^q . The properties (i), (ii) from Theorem 3.1 are exactly the defining conditions for the single-valued

Grassmannian polylogarithm whose existence was conjectured in [HM], [BMS]; see also [GGL].

Let us extend these forms by zero to the other rows of the bi-Grassmannian $\widehat{G}(q)$, i.e., set $\psi_p^{q+i}(q) = 0$ if $i > 0$. Then the property (iii) from Theorem 3.1 guarantees that the forms $\psi_p^{q+i}(q)$ form a $2q$ -cocycle in the bicomplex computing the Deligne cohomology $H^{2q}(\widehat{G}(q)_\bullet, \mathbb{R}(q)_{\mathcal{D}})$. This is called *the bi-Grassmannian q -logarithm* ([G5]).

A sequence of *multivalued analytic* forms on Grassmannians satisfying conditions similar to (i), (ii) was defined in [HM1], [HM2]. Another construction of the multivalued analytic Grassmannian polylogarithms was suggested in [G5] in the more general setting of the multivalued Chow polylogarithm.

3. The Grassmannian n -logarithm function. By Theorem 3.4 the Chow polylogarithm function is invariant under the action of the torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{2n-1}$. So restricting it to the open Grassmannian $\widehat{G}_{n-1}^n \subset \widehat{Z}_{n-1}^n$ and using the bijection

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(n-1)\text{-planes in } \mathbb{P}^{2n-1} \text{ in generic position} \\ & \text{with respect to a simplex } L\}/(\mathbb{G}_m^*)^{2n-1} \\ \langle \text{---} \rangle & \quad \{\text{Configurations of } 2n \text{ generic hyperplanes in } \mathbb{P}^{n-1}\} \end{aligned}$$

we get a function on the configurations of $2n$ hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, called the Grassmannian polylogarithm function \mathcal{L}_n^G .

The Grassmannian polylogarithm function has the following simple description on the language of configurations of hyperplanes. It is interesting that in this description we can work with *any* configuration of $2n$ hyperplanes, assuming nothing about their mutual location.

Let h_1, \dots, h_{2n} be $2n$ arbitrary hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Choose an additional hyperplane h_0 . Let f_i be a rational function on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ with divisor $(h_i) - (h_0)$. It is defined up to a scalar factor. Set

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G(h_1, \dots, h_{2n}) := (2\pi i)^{1-n} \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} r_{2n-2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{2n} (-1)^j f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_j} \wedge \dots \wedge f_{2n} \right).$$

It is skewsymmetric by definition. Notice that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{2n} (-1)^j f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_j} \wedge \dots \wedge f_{2n} = \frac{f_1}{f_{2n}} \wedge \frac{f_2}{f_{2n}} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{f_{2n-1}}{f_{2n}}.$$

So we can define $\mathcal{L}_n^G(h_1, \dots, h_{2n})$ as follows: choose rational functions g_1, \dots, g_{2n-1} such that $\text{div} g_i = (h_i) - (h_{2n})$ and put

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G(h_1, \dots, h_{2n}) = (2\pi i)^{1-n} \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} r_{2n-2}(g_1, \dots, g_{2n-1}).$$

Remark. The function \mathcal{L}_n^G is defined on the set of all configurations of $2n$ hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. However, it is not even continuous on this set. It is real analytic on the submanifold of generic configurations. Since we put no restrictions on the hyperplanes h_i the following theorem is stronger than Theorem 3.1 in the case of linear subvarieties.

Theorem 4.3. *The function \mathcal{L}_n^G has the following properties:*

- (a) *It does not depend on the choice of hyperplane h_0 .*

(b) For any $2n + 1$ hyperplanes (h_1, \dots, h_{2n+1}) in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$ one has

$$(47) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^j \mathcal{L}_n^G(h_j \cap h_1, \dots, \widehat{h_j \cap h_j}, \dots, h_j \cap h_{2n+1}) = 0.$$

(c) For any $2n + 1$ hyperplanes (h_1, \dots, h_{2n+1}) in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ one has

$$(48) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^j \mathcal{L}_n^G(h_1, \dots, \widehat{h_j}, \dots, h_{2n+1}) = 0.$$

Proof. (a) Choose another hyperplane h'_0 . Take a rational function f_0 with divisor $(h'_0) - (h_0)$. Set $f'_i = \frac{f_i}{f_0}$. Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^j f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_j} \wedge \dots \wedge f_{2n+1} - \sum_{j=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^j f'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f'_j} \wedge \dots \wedge f'_{2n+1} = 0.$$

Indeed, substituting $f'_i = \frac{f_i}{f_0}$ in this formula we find that the only possible nontrivial term $f_0 \wedge f_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_i} \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{f_j} \wedge \dots \wedge f_{2n}$ vanishes because it is symmetric in i, j .

(b) Let g_1, \dots, g_{2n+1} be rational functions on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$ with $\text{div} g_i = (h_i) - (h_0)$. Then

$$(49) \quad \begin{aligned} & dr_{2n-1} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^j g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{g_j} \wedge \dots \wedge g_{2n+1} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j \neq i} (-1)^{j+i-1} 2\pi i \delta(f_i) \wedge r_{2n-2} \left(g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{g_i} \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{g_j} \wedge \dots \wedge g_{2n+1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

(Notice that $d \log g_1 \wedge \dots \wedge d \log g_j \wedge \dots \wedge d \log g_{2n+1} = 0$ on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$.) Integrating (49) over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^n$ we see that the left-hand side equals zero, while the right-hand side equals the sum of the expressions staying on the left of (47). So we get (b).

(c) is obvious: we apply r_{2n-2} to the zero element. The theorem is proved. \square

4. $\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, \infty\}$ as a special stratum in the configuration space of $2n$ points in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} . A *special configuration* is a configuration of $2n$ points

$$(50) \quad (l_0, \dots, l_{n-1}, m_0, \dots, m_{n-1})$$

in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} such that l_0, \dots, l_{n-1} are vertices of a simplex in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} and m_i is a point on the edge $l_i l_{i+1}$ of the simplex different from l_i and l_{i+1} , as in Figure 7.

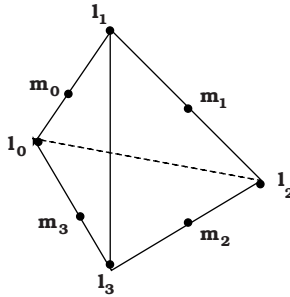


FIGURE 7. A special configuration of 8 points in \mathbb{P}^3

Proposition 4.4. *The set of special configurations of $2n$ points in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} is canonically identified with $\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, \infty\}$. (See Figure 8.)*

$$\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, \infty\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram of a tetrahedron with 6 points on its edges} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\} / \text{PGL}_n$$

FIGURE 8. $\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, \infty\}$ is a stratum in the configuration space of $2n$ points in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} .

Proof. We define the *generalized cross-ratio*

$$r(l_0, \dots, l_{n-1}, m_0, \dots, m_{n-1}) \in F^*,$$

where F is the common field of definition of the points l_i, m_j , as follows (see Figure 9). Consider the one-dimensional subspaces L_i, M_j in the n -dimensional vector space V projecting to the points l_i, m_j in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} respectively. The subspaces L_i, M_i, L_{i+1} generate a two-dimensional subspace. Its quotient along M_i can be identified with L_i as well as with L_{i+1} . So we get a canonical linear map $\overline{M}_i : L_i \rightarrow L_{i+1}$. The composition of these maps (the “linear monodromy”)

$$\overline{M}_0 \circ \dots \circ \overline{M}_{n-1} : L_0 \rightarrow L_0$$

is multiplication by an element of F^* called the generalized cross-ratio of the special configuration (50).

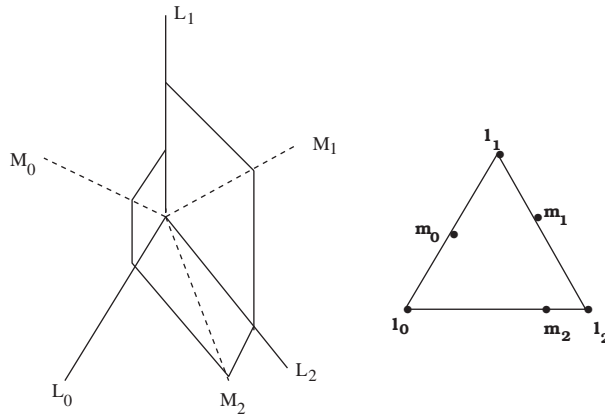


FIGURE 9. The generalized cross-ratio of a special configuration

It is clearly invariant under the cyclic permutation

$$l_0 \rightarrow l_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow l_{n-1} \rightarrow l_0; \quad m_0 \rightarrow m_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow m_{n-1} \rightarrow m_0.$$

Notice that $r(l_0, \dots, l_{n-1}, m_0, \dots, m_{n-1}) = 1$ if and only if the points m_0, \dots, m_{n-1} belong to a hyperplane. □

Let \widehat{m}_i be the point of intersection of the line $l_i l_{i+1}$ with the hyperplane passing through all the points m_j except m_i . Let $r(x_1, \dots, x_4)$ be the cross-ratio of the four points x_i on \mathbb{P}^1 . Then

$$r(l_0, \dots, l_{n-1}, m_0, \dots, m_{n-1}) = r(l_i, l_{i+1}, m_i, \widehat{m}_{i+1}).$$

The proof of the proposition follows from these constructions.

The special configurations and classical polylogarithms. Consider the configuration of $2n$ hyperplanes in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} given by the following equations in homogeneous coordinates $z_0 : \dots : z_{n-1}$:

$$(51) \quad \begin{aligned} z_0 = 0, \quad \dots, \quad z_{n-1} = 0, \quad z_0 = z_1, \quad z_1 + z_2 = z_0, \\ z_2 - z_3 = 0, \quad \dots, \quad z_{n-2} - z_{n-1} = 0, \quad z_{n-1} = az_0. \end{aligned}$$

It admits the following interpretation. Recall that the classical polylogarithm function $Li_{n-1}(z)$ can be defined by an iterated integral:

$$Li_{n-1}(a) = \int_0^a \frac{dt}{1-t} \circ \frac{dt}{t} \circ \dots \circ \frac{dt}{t} = \int_{\Delta_a} \frac{dz_1}{z_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{dz_{n-1}}{z_{n-1}}.$$

If $a \in (0, 1]$, then the simplex Δ_a is defined by the equations

$$\Delta_a := \{(z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \mid 0 \leq 1 - z_1 \leq z_2 \leq z_3 \leq \dots \leq z_{n-1} \leq a\}.$$

The faces of the simplex Δ_a can be defined for arbitrary a . Then the codimension one faces $\{z_i = 0\}$ of the coordinate simplex and the codimension one faces of the simplex Δ_a form the configuration (51).

We can reorder hyperplanes of this configuration as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} z_0 = 0, \quad z_1 = 0, \quad z_1 = z_0, \quad z_1 + z_2 = z_0, \quad z_2 = 0, \\ z_2 = z_3, \quad z_3 = 0, \quad \dots, \quad z_{n-2} = 0, \quad z_{n-2} = z_{n-1}, \quad z_{n-1} = az_0. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the projective duality to this configuration of hyperplanes we get the special configuration of $2n$ points in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} with the generalized cross-ratio a .

The correspondence between the configuration (51) and the special configuration of points is illustrated in the case $n = 3$ in Figure 10.

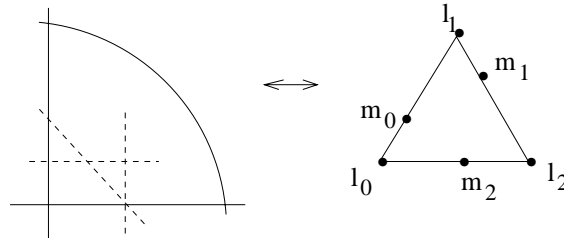


FIGURE 10. Classical polylogarithm configurations and special configurations

Remark. It is amusing that the special configuration of $2n$ points in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} , which is related to the classical n -logarithm by Theorem 4.5 below, is constructed using the geometry of the mixed motive corresponding to $Li_{n-1}(a)$.

5. Restriction of the Grassmannian n -logarithm to the special stratum.

The function $Li_n(z)$ has a remarkable single-valued version ([Z1], [BD]):

$$\mathcal{L}_n(z) := \begin{matrix} \text{Re} & (n : \text{odd}) \\ \text{Im} & (n : \text{even}) \end{matrix} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \beta_k \log^k |z| \cdot Li_{n-k}(z) \right), \quad n \geq 2.$$

It is continuous on \mathbb{CP}^1 . Here $\frac{2x}{e^{2x}-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_k x^k$, so $\beta_k = \frac{2^k B_k}{k!}$ where the B_k are the Bernoulli numbers. For example, $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$ is the Bloch-Wigner function.

Let us consider the following modification of the function $\mathcal{L}_n(z)$ proposed by A. M. Levin in [Le]:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_n(x) &:= \\ \frac{(2n-3)}{(2n-2)} & \sum_{\substack{k \text{ even}; \\ 0 \leq k \leq n-2}} \frac{2^k (n-2)! (2n-k-3)!}{(2n-3)! (k+1)! (n-k-2)!} \mathcal{L}_{n-k}(x) \log^k |x|. \end{aligned}$$

For example, $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_n(x) = \mathcal{L}_n(x)$ for $n \leq 3$, but already $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_4(x)$ is different from $\mathcal{L}_4(x)$. A direct integration carried out in Proposition 4.4.1 of [Le] shows that

$$\begin{aligned} & -(2\pi i)^{n-1} (-1)^{(n-1)(n-2)/2} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_n(x) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{CP}^{n-1}} \log |1-z_1| \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} d \log |z_i| \wedge \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} d \log |z_i - z_{i+1}| \wedge d \log |z_{n-1} - a|. \end{aligned}$$

This combined with Proposition 5.3 below implies

Theorem 4.5. *The value of the function \mathcal{L}_n^G on the special configuration (50) is equal to*

$$-(-1)^{n(n-1)/2} 4^{n-1} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}^{-1} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_n(a)$$

where $a = r(l_0, \dots, l_{n-1}, m_0, \dots, m_{n-1})$.

Another proof in the case $n = 2$ is given in Proposition 6.8.

Conjecture 4.6. *The Chow n -logarithm function can be expressed by the Grassmannian n -logarithm function.*

Remark. Suppose that an element $\sum_k \{f_1^{(k)}, \dots, f_{2n+1}^{(k)}\} \in K_{2n+1}^M(\mathbb{C}(X))$ has zero residues at all the divisors on an n -dimensional variety X over \mathbb{C} . Then it defines an element

$$\alpha \in gr_{2n+1}^\gamma K_{2n+1}(X) = Ext_{\mathcal{M}}^{2n+1}(\mathbb{Q}(0)_X, \mathbb{Q}(2n+1)_X).$$

Its direct image to the point is an element

$$\pi_*(\alpha) \in gr_n^\gamma K_{2n+1}(Spec \mathbb{C}) = Ext_{\mathcal{M}}^1(\mathbb{Q}(0), \mathbb{Q}(n)).$$

Applying the regulators we see that the integral $\sum_k \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_{2n}(f_1^{(k)}, \dots, f_{2n+1}^{(k)})$ coincides, up to a factor, with the value of the Borel regulator map on $\pi_*(\alpha)$ and so by results of the next section is expressible by the Grassmannian n -logarithms. Conjecture 4.6 tells us that this should be true for *any* element in $K_{2n+1}^M(\mathbb{C}(X))$.

5. GRASSMANNIAN POLYLOGARITHMS, SYMMETRIC SPACES
AND BOREL REGULATORS

1. The function ψ_n . Let V_n be a complex vector space of dimension n . Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H}_n &:= \{ \text{positive definite Hermitian forms in } V_n \} / \mathbb{R}_+^* = SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n) \\ &= \{ \text{positive definite Hermitian forms in } V_n \text{ with determinant} = 1 \}. \end{aligned}$$

It is a symmetric space of rank $n - 1$. For example, $\mathbb{H}_2 = \mathcal{H}_3$ is the hyperbolic 3-space. Replacing positive definite by nonnegative definite Hermitian forms we get a compactification $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$ of the symmetric space \mathbb{H}_n .

Let G_x be the subgroup of $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$ stabilizing the point $x \in \mathbb{H}_n$. A point x defines a one-dimensional vector space M_x :

$$x \in \mathbb{H}_n \longmapsto M_x := \{ \text{measures on } \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \text{ invariant under } G_x \}.$$

Namely, a point x corresponds to a Hermitian metric in V_n . This metric provides the Fubini-Studi metric on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} = P(V_n)$. Moreover there is the Fubini-Studi Kähler form on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} = P(V_n)$; its imaginary part is a symplectic form. Raising it to the $(n - 1)$ -th power we get the Fubini-Studi volume form. The elements of M_x are the multiples of the Fubini-Studi volume form.

So \mathbb{H}_n embeds into the projectivization of the space of all measures in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Taking its closure we get a compactification of \mathbb{H}_n .

Let us choose for any point $x \in \mathbb{H}_n$ an invariant measure $\mu_x \in M_x$. Then, for any $y \in \mathbb{H}_n$, the ratio μ_x/μ_y is a real function on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

Let x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1} be points of the symmetric space $SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n)$. Consider the following function:

$$(52) \quad \psi_n(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1}) := \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \log \left| \frac{\mu_{x_1}}{\mu_{x_0}} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{x_2}}{\mu_{x_0}} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{x_{2n-1}}}{\mu_{x_0}} \right|.$$

2. General properties of the function ψ_n . Let us study the properties of integral (52) in a more general situation. Let X be an m -dimensional manifold. For any $m + 2$ measures μ_0, \dots, μ_{m+1} on X such that $\frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j}$ are smooth functions we can construct a differential m -form on X :

$$\overline{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \mu_{m+1}) := \log \left| \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_0} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_0} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+1}}{\mu_0} \right|.$$

Proposition 5.1. *The integral*

$$(53) \quad \int_X \overline{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \mu_{m+1})$$

satisfies the following properties:

- (1) *Skew symmetry with respect to the permutations of μ_i .*
- (2) *Homogeneity:*

$$\int_X \overline{r}_m(\lambda_0 \mu_0 : \dots : \lambda_{m+1} \mu_{m+1}) = \int_X \overline{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \mu_{m+1}).$$

- (3) *Additivity: for any $m + 3$ measures μ_i on X one has*

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m+2} (-1)^i \int_X \overline{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \widehat{\mu}_i : \dots : \mu_{m+2}) = 0.$$

(4) Let g be a diffeomorphism of X . Then

$$\int_X \bar{r}_m(g^* \mu_0 : \dots : g^* \mu_{m+1}) = \int_X \bar{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \mu_{m+1}).$$

Proof. (1). Follows from $\log f \cdot d \log g + \log g \cdot d \log f = d(\log f \cdot \log g)$.

(2). Using (1) we may assume $\lambda_i = 1$ for $i > 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_X (\bar{r}_m(\lambda_0 \mu_0 : \mu_1 : \dots : \mu_{m+1}) - \bar{r}_m(\mu_0 : \mu_1 : \dots : \mu_{m+1})) \\ &= -\log |\lambda| \cdot \int_X d(\log |\frac{\mu_2}{\mu_0}| d \log |\frac{\mu_3}{\mu_0}| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log |\frac{\mu_{m+1}}{\mu_0}|) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Taking into account the skewsymmetry of the integral we have to prove that

$$(54) \quad \text{Alt}_{(0, \dots, m+2)} \left\{ \log \left| \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_1} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_1} \right| \right\} = 0.$$

Let us write $\frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} = \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_0} / \frac{\mu_j}{\mu_0}$ and substitute it into (54). Then the terms in (54) where

$$\log \left| \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_0} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_0} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_0} \right|$$

will appear to look as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \log \left| \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_1} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_1} \right| - \log \left| \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_2} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_2} \right| \\ & - \log \left| \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_0} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_0} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_0} \right| + \log \left| \frac{\mu_0}{\mu_2} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_2} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{m+2}}{\mu_2} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

(The first two terms come from $\text{Alt}_{(1, \dots, m+2)} \bar{r}_m(\mu_1 : \dots : \mu_{m+2})$ and the second two from $\text{Alt}_{(0, 2, \dots, m+2)} \bar{r}_m(\mu_0 : \mu_2 : \dots : \mu_{m+2})$. The expression $\text{Alt}_{m+2} \bar{r}_m(\mu_0 : \dots : \hat{\mu}_i : \dots : \mu_{m+2})$ provides no such terms if $i > 1$.)

(4) Clear. The proposition is proved. \square

Recall the following general construction. Let G be a group. Let X be a G -set and f a function on X^n satisfying

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^i f(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{n+1}) = 0.$$

Choose a point $x \in X$. Then there is an $(n - 1)$ -cocycle of the group G :

$$f_x(g_1, \dots, g_n) := f(g_1 x, \dots, g_n x).$$

Lemma 5.2. *The cohomology class of the cocycle f_x does not depend on x .*

Proof. The difference $f_y - f_x$ is the coboundary of the $(n - 2)$ -chain

$$(55) \quad h_{x,y}(g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{k-1} f(g_1 x, g_2 x, \dots, g_k x, g_k y, g_{k+1} y, \dots, g_{n-1} y).$$

Here is the geometric picture leading to this formula. Consider the prism $\Delta_{g_1, \dots, g_n}^{(n-1)} \times \Delta_{x,y}^{(1)}$ given by the product of the $(n - 1)$ -simplex with vertices g_1, \dots, g_n by the 1-simplex with vertices (x, y) . Decomposing its side face $\Delta_{g_1, \dots, g_{n-1}}^{(n-2)} \times \Delta_{x,y}^{(1)}$ into simplices we come to the right-hand side of (55). Then the terms of the formula $f_y - f_x - \delta h_{x,y}$ correspond to the boundary faces of the prism. Cutting the prism into simplices we see that the sum of the terms corresponding to the prism boundary is zero thanks to the cocycle relation. The lemma is proved. \square

So, for any $x \in \mathbb{H}_n$,

$$(\psi_n)_x(g_0, \dots, g_{2n-1}) := \psi_n(g_0x, \dots, g_{2n-1}x)$$

is a smooth $(2n-1)$ -cocycle of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$.

Remark. This cocycle is the restriction to $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ of the Bott cocycle for the group of diffeomorphisms of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

Let h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1} be any hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Recall that the Grassmannian n -logarithm is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G(h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1}) = (2\pi i)^{1-n} \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} r_{2n-1}(f_1, \dots, f_{2n-1})$$

where f_i is a rational function on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ with the divisor $(h_i) - (h_0)$.

Proposition 5.3. *One has*

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G(h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1}) = -\frac{(-4)^{n-1}(n-1)!^2}{(2\pi i)^{n-1}(2n-2)!} \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \log |f_1| \bigwedge_{j=2}^{2n-1} d \log |f_j|.$$

Proof. See Proposition 6.2 in [GZ]. □

3. The Grassmannian polylogarithm \mathcal{L}_n^G as the boundary value of the function ψ_n . We start from an explicit formula for the Fubini-Studi form. Let $\widehat{\mathbb{P}}^{n-1}$ be the variety of all hyperplanes in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} . Consider the incidence divisor

$$D \subset \widehat{\mathbb{P}}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1}, \quad D := \{(h, x) | x \in h\}$$

where h is a hyperplane and x is a point in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} .

Let $(x_0 : \dots : x_{n-1})$ be the homogeneous coordinates of a point x in \mathbb{P}^{n-1} . Let

$$\sigma_n(x, dx) := \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i x_i dx_0 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{dx}_i \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{n-1} = i_E \text{vol}_x$$

be the Leray form. Here $\text{vol}_x = dx_0 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{n-1}$ and $E = \sum x_i \partial_{x_i}$.

There is a canonical differential $(n-1, n-1)$ -form ω_D on $\widehat{\mathbb{P}}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1} - D$ with a polar singularity at the divisor D . Namely, let $x \in V_n$ and $\xi \in V_n^*$. Then

$$\omega_D := \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^{n-1}} \frac{\sigma_n(\xi, d\xi) \wedge \sigma_n(x, dx)}{\langle \xi, x \rangle^n}.$$

It is PGL_n -invariant. A Hermitian metric H in V_n provides an isomorphism $H : V_n \rightarrow \overline{V}_n^*$, and hence an isomorphism $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}}^{n-1}$. The graph Γ_H of this map does not intersect the incidence divisor D . Thus restricting the form ω_D to Γ_H we get a volume form on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$:

$$(56) \quad \omega_{FS}(H) := \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^{n-1}} \frac{\sigma_n(z, dz) \wedge \sigma_n(\bar{z}, d\bar{z})}{H(z, \bar{z})^n}.$$

It is clearly invariant under the group preserving the Hermitian form H . Moreover, it is the Fubini-Studi volume form: a proof can be obtained by using the explicit formula for the Fubini-Studi Kähler form given in [A], complement 3.

One can realize $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ as the smallest stratum of the boundary of \mathbb{H}_n . Namely, for a hyperplane h in an n -dimensional complex vector space V_n let

$$F_h := \{\text{nonnegative definite Hermitian forms in } V_n \text{ with kernel } h\} / \mathbb{R}_+^*.$$

The set of Hermitian forms in V_n with the kernel h is isomorphic to \mathbb{R}_+^* , so F_h defines a point on the boundary of $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$.

For any nonzero nonnegative definite Hermitian form H one can define the corresponding Fubini-Studi form by formula (56). It is a differential form with singularities along the projectivization of the kernel of H . In particular, if h is a hyperplane, then the degenerate Hermitian form F_h provides the Lebesgue measure on the affine space $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} - h$. Indeed, if $h_0 = \{z_0 = 0\}$, then (56) specializes to

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi i)^{n-1}} d\frac{z_1}{z_0} \wedge \dots \wedge d\frac{z_{n-1}}{z_0} \wedge d\frac{\bar{z}_1}{\bar{z}_0} \wedge \dots \wedge d\frac{\bar{z}_{n-1}}{\bar{z}_0}.$$

Denote by M_h the one-dimensional real vector space generated by this form. For any hyperplane h in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ let us choose a measure $\mu_h \in M_h$.

Proposition 5.4. *For any $2n$ hyperplanes h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1} in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ the integral*

$$(57) \quad \psi_n(h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1}) := \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \log \left| \frac{\mu_{h_1}}{\mu_{h_0}} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{h_2}}{\mu_{h_0}} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{h_{2n-1}}}{\mu_{h_0}} \right|$$

is convergent and equal to

$$(-4)^{-n} \cdot (2\pi i)^{n-1} (2n)^{2n-1} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} \cdot \mathcal{L}_n^G(h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1}).$$

Proof. Let h_1, h_2 be hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ and f be a rational function such that $(f) = (h_1) - (h_2)$. From the explicit description of M_h given above we immediately see that

$$(58) \quad \mu_{h_1} / \mu_{h_2} = \lambda \cdot |f|^{2n}.$$

Using this and Theorem 2.4 we see that integral (57) is convergent. The second statement follows from Proposition 5.3 and (58). The proposition is proved. \square

More generally, take any $2n$ Hermitian forms H_0, \dots, H_{2n-1} , possibly degenerate. For each of the forms H_i consider the corresponding measure μ_{H_i} (a multiple of the Fubini-Studi form related to H_i). Using the convergence of the integral (57) we can deduce that the integral

$$(59) \quad \begin{aligned} \psi_n(H_0, \dots, H_{2n-1}) &:= \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \log \left| \frac{\mu_{H_1}}{\mu_{H_0}} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{H_2}}{\mu_{H_0}} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{H_{2n-1}}}{\mu_{H_0}} \right| \\ &= -n^{2n-1} \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \log \left| \frac{H_1(z, \bar{z})}{H_0(z, \bar{z})} \right| d \log \left| \frac{H_2(z, \bar{z})}{H_0(z, \bar{z})} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{H_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z})}{H_0(z, \bar{z})} \right| \end{aligned}$$

is also convergent. This enables us to extend ψ_n to the function $\bar{\psi}_n(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1})$ on the configuration space of $2n$ points in $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_{n-1}$. The function $\bar{\psi}_n$ is discontinuous. For instance it is discontinuous at the point $x_1 = \dots = x_{2n-1} = F_h$ for a given hyperplane h in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. It is however a smooth function on an open part of any given strata. We will keep the notation

$$\psi_n(h_0, \dots, h_{2n-1}) = \bar{\psi}_n(F_{h_0}, \dots, F_{h_{2n-1}}).$$

Applying Lemma 5.2 to the case when X is $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$ and using only the fact that the function $\bar{\psi}_n(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1})$ is well-defined for any $2n$ points in $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$ and satisfies the cocycle condition for any $2n + 1$ of them we get

Corollary 5.5. *Let $x \in \mathbb{H}_n$ and let h be a hyperplane in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Then the cohomology classes of the following cocycles coincide:*

$$\psi_n(g_0x, \dots, g_{2n-1}x) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_n(g_0h, \dots, g_{2n-1}h).$$

4. A normalization of the Borel class b_n . Choose a Hermitian metric in V_n . Let e be the corresponding point of the symmetric space \mathbb{H}_n ; its stabilizer is the subgroup $SU(n)$. One has

$$\left(\Lambda^\bullet T_e^* \mathbb{H}_n\right)^{SU(n)} = \mathcal{A}^\bullet(SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n))^{SL_n(\mathbb{C})}.$$

There are well-known canonical ring isomorphisms (see [B2] and the references there):

$$(60) \quad \begin{aligned} &\left(\Lambda^\bullet T_e^* \mathbb{H}_n\right)^{SU(n)} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = \Lambda^\bullet(\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C}))^{sl_n(\mathbb{C})} \\ &= H^\bullet(\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}) \stackrel{\alpha}{=} H_{\text{top}}^\bullet(SU(n), \mathbb{C}) \stackrel{\beta}{=} H_m^\bullet(SL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}) \end{aligned}$$

where H^\bullet is the Lie algebra cohomology, H_{top}^\bullet is the topological cohomology, and $H_m(G)$ denotes the measurable cohomology of a Lie group G . The first isomorphism is obvious: $T_e \mathbb{H}_n \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = \mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$. The map

$$\alpha_{\text{DR}} : \Lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}^\bullet(\mathfrak{sl}_n)^{sl_n} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\text{DR}}^\bullet(SL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q})$$

sends an sl_n -invariant exterior form on sl_n to the right-invariant one, and hence to the bi-invariant differential form on $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Let us describe the map

$$\beta_{\text{DR}} : H_{\text{DR}}^\bullet(SL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H_m^\bullet(SL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}).$$

Let C be a bi-invariant, and hence closed, differential $(2n-1)$ -form on $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Let us restrict it first to the Lie algebra, and then to the orthogonal complement $su(n)^\perp$ to the Lie subalgebra $su(n) \subset \mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$. We identify the \mathbb{R} -vector spaces $T_e \mathbb{H}_n$ and $su(n)^\perp$. The obtained exterior form on $T_e \mathbb{H}_n$ is the restriction of an invariant differential form, denoted ω_C , on the symmetric space \mathbb{H}_n . It is a closed differential form.

For any ordered $2n$ points x_1, \dots, x_{2n} in \mathbb{H}_n there is a geodesic simplex $I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})$ in \mathbb{H}_n . It is constructed inductively as follows. Let $I(x_1, x_2)$ be the geodesic from x_1 to x_2 . The geodesics from x_3 to the points of $I(x_1, x_2)$ form a geodesic triangle $I(x_1, x_2, x_3)$. All the geodesics from x_4 to the points of the geodesic triangle $I(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ form a geodesic simplex $I(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$, and so on. When the rank of the symmetric space is greater than 1 (i.e., $n > 2$) the geodesic simplex $I(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ depends on the ordering of the vertices x_1, \dots, x_k .

The differential $(2n-1)$ -form ω_C on $SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n)$ provides a volume of the geodesic simplex:

$$\text{vol}_C I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n}) := \int_{I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})} \omega_C.$$

For every $2n+1$ points x_1, \dots, x_{2n+1} the boundary of the simplex $I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n+1})$ is the alternating sum of the simplices $I(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{2n+1})$. Since the form ω_C is closed, the Stokes theorem yields

$$(61) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{2n+1} (-1)^i \int_{I(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{2n+1})} \omega_C = \int_{I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n+1})} d\omega_C = 0.$$

This just means that for a given point x the function $\text{vol}_{\mathbb{C}}I(g_1x, \dots, g_{2n}x)$ is a smooth $(2n - 1)$ -cocycle of the Lie group $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. It was considered by J. Dupont [D]. By Lemma 5.2 cocycles corresponding to different points x are canonically cohomologous. The obtained cohomology class is the class $\beta_{\text{DR}}([C])$.

Remark. $\text{vol}_{\mathbb{C}}I(x_1, \dots, x_{2n})$ is independent up to a sign of the ordering of its vertices. Indeed, consider $2n + 1$ points $(x_1, x_2, x_1, x_3, \dots, x_{2n})$ and apply relation (61).

The Betti cohomology of $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Recall that $SU(n)$ is a retract of $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. It is well-known that

$$H_{\text{top}}^{\bullet}(SU(n), \mathbb{Z}) = H_{\text{top}}^{\bullet}(S^3 \times S^5 \times \dots \times S^{2n-1}, \mathbb{Z}) = \Lambda^*(B_3, B_5, \dots, B_{2n-1}).$$

The restriction from $SU(n)$ to $SU(m)$ kills the classes B_{2k-1} for $k > m$. If $k \leq m$, it identifies the class B_{2k-1} for $SU(n)$ with the one for $SU(m)$. The class B_{2n-1} for $SU(n)$ is provided by the fundamental class of the sphere $S^{2n-1} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$. Namely, it is the pull-back of the fundamental class under the map $SU(n) \rightarrow S^{2n-1}$ provided by a choice of a point on S^{2n-1} . This sphere has the orientation induced by that of \mathbb{C}^n . Thus

$$(62) \quad \mathbb{Z} \cdot B_n = \text{Ker}\left(H_{\text{top}}^{2n-1}(SU(n), \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_{\text{top}}^{2n-1}(SU(n-1), \mathbb{Z})\right).$$

The transgression in the Leray spectral sequence for the universal $SU(n)$ -bundle $EU(n) \rightarrow BU(n)$ provides an isomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z} \cdot B_n \rightarrow \frac{H^{2n}(BSU(n), \mathbb{Z})}{\oplus_{0 < i < 2n} H^i \cdot H^{2n-i}}$$

and identifies B_n with the Chern class $c_n \in H^{2n}(BSU(n), \mathbb{Z})$ of the associated vector bundle.

The de Rham cohomology of $SL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Consider the differential form

$$(63) \quad \omega_{D_n} := \text{tr}(g^{-1}dg)^{2n-1} \in \Omega^{2n-1}(SL_N).$$

Its restriction to the subgroup SL_m is zero for $m < n$. It follows that the cohomology class

$$[\omega_{D_n}] \in H_{\text{DR}}^{2n-1}(SL_n, \mathbb{C})$$

is a multiple of B_n . The Hodge considerations show that $[\omega_{D_n}] \in (2\pi i)^n \mathbb{Q} \cdot B_n$.

Lemma 5.6. *The differential form ω_{D_n} is an $\mathbb{R}(n - 1)$ -valued form. In particular, it provides a cohomology class*

$$b_n := \beta_{\text{DR}}(\omega_{D_n}) \in H_m^{2n-1}(SL_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(n - 1)).$$

Proof. An easy calculation shows that the value of the exterior form $\omega_{D_n}|_{T_e\mathbb{H}_n}$ on

$$(e_{1,n} + e_{n,1}) \wedge i(e_{1,n} - e_{n,1}) \wedge \dots \wedge (e_{n-1,n} + e_{n,n-1}) \wedge i(e_{n-1,n} - e_{n,n-1}) \wedge e_{n,n}$$

is nonzero and obviously lies in $\mathbb{Q}(n - 1)$.

On the other hand, the values of the form ω_{D_n} lie in a one-dimensional \mathbb{R} -vector space. Indeed, the space of $su(n)$ -invariant real exterior $(2n - 1)$ -forms on the space of all Hermitian $n \times n$ matrices, which have zero restriction to the subspace of Hermitian $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrices, is one-dimensional. The exterior form $\omega_{D_n}|_{T_e\mathbb{H}_n}$ belongs to the complexification of this space. The lemma follows from this.

We call the cohomology class provided by this lemma the Borel class and use it below to construct the Borel regulator. \square

5. Comparison of the Grassmannian and Borel cohomology classes of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. Let $[C_n^G]$ be the cohomology class of the $(2n-1)$ -cocycle of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ provided by the Grassmannian n -logarithm (see Corollary 5.5). We want to compare it with the Borel class.

Let us consider the following integral:

$$(64) \quad \begin{aligned} & \tilde{C}_n(H_1, \dots, H_{2n-1}) \\ & := -n^{2n-1} \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \frac{H_1(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} d \frac{H_2(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} \wedge \dots \wedge d \frac{H_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} \end{aligned}$$

where the H_i are arbitrary complex matrices and $H_i(z, \bar{z})$ are the bilinear forms in z, \bar{z} given by the matrix H_i . We claim that it is a $(2n-1)$ -cocycle of the Lie algebra $gl_n(\mathbb{C})$ and it is obtained by differentiating the group cocycle provided by the function (59). We put these facts in the following framework.

If we restrict to the case when the H_i are Hermitian matrices, integral (64) admits the following interpretation. Let us construct a map

$$\mathbb{M}_e : \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \longrightarrow T_e^* \mathbb{H}_n,$$

which is a version of the moment map. For a point $z \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ the value of the $\langle M_e(z), v \rangle$ of the functional $\mathbb{M}_e(z)$ on a vector $v \in T_e \mathbb{H}_n$ is defined as follows. Let $e(t)$ be a path in \mathbb{H}_n such that $e(0) = e$ and $\dot{e}(0) = v$. Recall the measure μ_x defined in Subsection 1 in Section 5. Then

$$\langle \mathbb{M}_e(z), v \rangle := \frac{d}{dt} \log \frac{\mu_{e(t)}(z)}{\mu_e(z)} \Big|_{t=0}.$$

Choose coordinates z_1, \dots, z_n in V_n such that $(z, \bar{z}) := |z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2$ corresponds to the point e . Then $T_e \mathbb{H}_n$ is identified with the space of Hermitian $(n \times n)$ matrices H . It follows from (56) that

$$(65) \quad \langle \mathbb{M}_e(z), H \rangle := n \frac{H(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})}.$$

The map \mathbb{M}_e is clearly $SU(n)$ -invariant. Its image is an $SU(n)$ -orbit in $T_e^* \mathbb{H}_n$ isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

We need the following general construction. Let V be a real vector space and M a compact subset of V^* which is the closure of a k -dimensional submanifold. Any element $\omega \in \Lambda^k V$ can be viewed as a k -form ω on V^* . Integrating it over M we get an exterior form $C_M \in \Lambda^k V^*$. If M is a cone over M' with the vertex at the origin, then $\int_M \omega = \int_{M'} i_E \omega$ where E is the Euler vector field on V .

Applying this construction to the cone over the orbit M_e based at the origin we get an $SU(n)$ -invariant element $\tilde{C}_n \in \Lambda^{2n-1} T_e^* \mathbb{H}_n$. It follows from (65) that it is given by formula (64) multiplied by $2n$.

Another invariant $(2n-1)$ -cocycle C_n of the Lie algebra gl_n , considered by Dynkin [Dyn], is given by

$$(66) \quad C_n(X_1, \dots, X_{2n-1}) = \frac{1}{n!} \text{Alt}_{2n-1} \text{Tr}(X_1 X_2 \dots X_{2n-1}).$$

Let $[C_n]$ be the cohomology class of $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ corresponding to the cocycle C_n .

Theorem 5.7. *One has*

$$\tilde{C}_n = -(-1)^{\frac{(n-1)n}{2}} \frac{(2\pi i)^{n-1} n^{2n-1} (n-1)!}{(2n-1)!} \cdot C_n,$$

and the class $[C_n^G]$ is a nonzero rational multiple of $[C_n]$:

$$[C_n^G] = -(-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} \frac{(n-1)!^3}{(2n-2)!(2n-1)!} [C_n].$$

Proof. The second claim follows from the first using Proposition 5.4. □

Let us prove the first claim. The restriction of the cocycle C_n to the Lie subalgebra $gl_{n-1}(\mathbb{C})$ equals zero. This follows, for instance, from the Amitsur-Levitsky theorem: for any $n \times n$ matrices A_1, \dots, A_{2n} one has $\text{Alt}_{2n}(A_1, \dots, A_{2n}) = 0$.

On the other hand, the restriction of the cocycle \tilde{C}_n to the Lie subalgebra of matrices (a_{ij}) where $a_{1j} = a_{j1} = 0$ is zero. Indeed, in this case the form we integrate in (64) is a differential $(2n-2)$ -form in $dz_2, \dots, dz_{n-1}, d\bar{z}_2, \dots, d\bar{z}_{n-1}$ and thus it is zero. So thanks to (60) and (62) we conclude that the cocycle C_n is proportional to \tilde{C}_n . To determine the proportionality coefficient we compute the values of both cocycles on a special element $E_n \in \Lambda^{2n-1} gl_n$. To write it down denote by $e_{i,j}$ the elementary $n \times n$ matrix whose only nonzero entry is 1 in the (i, j) place. Then

$$(67) \quad E_n := \bigwedge_{j=1}^{n-1} (e_{j,n} \wedge e_{n,j}) \wedge e_{n,n}.$$

A direct computation shows that

$$\langle C_n, E_n \rangle = 1.$$

Indeed, to get a nonzero trace we have to multiply $(n-1)$ blocks $e_{n,j}e_{j,n}$, as well as $e_{n,n}$, which can be inserted anywhere between these blocks. So there are $(n-1)!n = n!$ possibilities.

Let us compute the value of the cocycle \tilde{C}_n on E_n .

Lemma 5.8. *Integral (64) equals*

$$(68) \quad \frac{-n^{2n-1}}{(2n-1)!} \cdot \text{Alt}_{2n-1} \int_{\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}} \frac{H_1(z, \bar{z}) dH_2(z, \bar{z}) \wedge \dots \wedge dH_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})^{2n-1}}.$$

Proof. By Proposition 5.1 integral (64) equals

$$(69) \quad \frac{-n^{2n-1}}{(2n-1)!} \text{Alt}_{2n-1} \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}} \frac{H_1(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} d \frac{H_2(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} \wedge \dots \wedge d \frac{H_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})}.$$

One has, for $i = 2, \dots, 2n-1$, that

$$d \frac{H_i(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} = \frac{(z, \bar{z}) dH_i(z, \bar{z}) - H_i(z, \bar{z}) d(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})^2}.$$

Substituting

$$\frac{-H_i(z, \bar{z}) d(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})^2} \quad \text{instead of} \quad d \frac{H_i(z, \bar{z})}{(z, \bar{z})} \quad \text{in (69)}$$

we get zero since H_1 and H_i appear in a symmetric way and thus disappear after the alternation. The lemma follows. □

Let us calculate integral (69) in the special case

$$H_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z}) = |z_n|^2, \quad H_{2k-1}(z, \bar{z}) = z_k \bar{z}_n, \quad H_{2k}(z, \bar{z}) = z_n \bar{z}_k$$

so that $H_1 \wedge \dots \wedge H_{2n-1} = E_n$. We will restrict the integrand to the affine part $\{z_n = 1\}$ and then perform the integration. Since $dH_{2n-1}(z, \bar{z}) = 0$ on $\{z_n = 1\}$ and $dz_k \wedge d\bar{z}_k = -2i dx_k \wedge dy_k$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} & -(-1)^{\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2}} \frac{(-2i)^{n-1} n^{2n-1}}{2n-1} \int_{\mathbb{C}^{n-1}} \frac{d^{n-1} x d^{n-1} y}{(1 + |z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_{n-1}|^2)^{2n-1}} \\ &= -(-1)^{\frac{(n-1)n}{2}} \frac{(2i)^{n-1} n^{2n-1}}{2n-1} \text{vol}(S^{2n-3}) \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{2n-3} dr}{(1+r^2)^{2n-1}} \\ &= -(-1)^{\frac{(n-1)n}{2}} \frac{(2\pi i)^{n-1} n^{2n-1}}{(n-1)!(2n-1)} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

since the volume of the sphere S^{2n-3} is $\frac{2\pi^{n-1}}{(n-2)!}$ and

$$(70) \quad \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{2n-3} dr}{(1+r^2)^{2n-1}} = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{n-2} dr}{(1+r)^{2n-1}} = \frac{1}{2n-2} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}^{-1}.$$

To get the last equality we integrate by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{n-2} dr}{(1+r)^{2n-1}} &= -\frac{1}{2n-2} \int_0^\infty r^{n-2} \left(\frac{1}{(1+r)^{2n-2}} \right)' dr \\ &= \frac{n-2}{2n-2} \int_0^\infty r^{n-3} \frac{dr}{(1+r)^{2n-2}} \\ &= \dots = \frac{(n-2)!n!}{(2n-2)!} \int_0^\infty \frac{dr}{(1+r)^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{n-1} \binom{2n-2}{n-1}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 5.7 is proved.

6. Construction of the Borel regulator via Grassmannian polylogarithms. Let G be a group. The diagonal map $\Delta : G \rightarrow G \times G$ provides a homomorphism $\Delta_* : H_n(G) \rightarrow H_n(G \times G)$. Recall that

$$\text{Prim}H_n(G) := \{x \in H_n(G) \mid \Delta_*(x) = x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x\}.$$

Set $A_{\mathbb{Q}} := A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. One has

$$K_n(F)_{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{Prim}H_n(GL(F))_{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{Prim}H_n GL_n(F)_{\mathbb{Q}}$$

where the second isomorphism is provided by Suslin's stabilization theorem.

The Borel regulator is a map

$$r_n^{\text{Bo}} : K_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C})_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1)$$

provided by pairing the class $b_n \in H^{2n-1}(GL_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(n-1))$ with the subspace $K_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C})_{\mathbb{Q}} \subset H_{2n-1}(GL_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q})$.

Recall the Grassmannian complex $C_*(n)$

$$\dots \xrightarrow{d} C_{2n-1}(n) \xrightarrow{d} C_{2n-2}(n) \xrightarrow{d} \dots \xrightarrow{d} C_0(n)$$

where $C_k(n)$ is the free abelian group generated by configurations of $k+1$ vectors (l_0, \dots, l_k) in generic position in an n -dimensional vector space over a field F , and d is given by the standard formula (see Section 3.1 in [G2]). The group $C_k(n)$ is in degree k . Since it is a homological resolution of the trivial $GL_n(F)$ -module \mathbb{Z} (see Lemma 3.1 in [G2]), there is a canonical homomorphism

$$\varphi_{2n-1}^n : H_{2n-1}(GL_n(F)) \rightarrow H_{2n-1}(C_*(n)).$$

Thanks to Lemma 5.6 the Grassmannian n -logarithm function provides a homomorphism

$$(71) \quad \mathcal{L}_n^G : C_{2n-1}(n) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1); \quad (l_0, \dots, l_{2n-1}) \longmapsto \mathcal{L}_n^G(l_0, \dots, l_{2n-1}).$$

Thanks to the first $(2n+1)$ -term functional equation for \mathcal{L}_n^G , see (47), it is zero on the subgroup $dC_{2n}(n)$. So it induces a homomorphism

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G : H_{2n-1}(C_*(n)) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1).$$

Lemma 5.9. *The composition $\mathcal{L}_n^G \circ \varphi_{2n-1}^n$ coincides with the class $[C_n^G]$.*

Proof. Standard; see [G4]. □

To construct the Borel regulator we extend, as in Section 3.10 of [G2], the class $[C_n^G]$ to a class of $GL_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C})$. Let us recall the key steps.

Let $\mathbb{Z}[S]$ be the free abelian group generated by a set S . Let F be a field. Applying the covariant functor $\mathbb{Z} \mapsto \mathbb{Z}[X(F)]$ to the bi-Grassmannian $\widehat{G}(n)$ (see Subsection 2 in Section 4), and taking the alternating sum of the obtained homomorphisms, we get a bicomplex. Using Lemma 4.1 we see that it looks as follows ([G2], Section 3.7):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & & \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_{2n-1}(2n-1) \\
 & & & & & & & \downarrow \\
 & & & & \cdots & & \cdots & \cdots \\
 & & & & \downarrow & & & \downarrow \\
 & & \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_{2n-1}(n+1) & \xrightarrow{d} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_{n+1}(n) \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\
 \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_{2n-1}(n) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_{2n-2}(n) & \xrightarrow{d} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_n(n)
 \end{array}$$

In particular, the bottom row is the stupid truncation of the Grassmannian complex at the group $C_n(n)$. The total complex of this bicomplex is a homological complex, called the weight n bi-Grassmannian complex $BC_*(n)$. In particular, there is a homomorphism

$$(72) \quad H_{2n-1}(C_*(n)) \longrightarrow H_{2n-1}(BC_*(n)).$$

In [G1], [G2] we proved that there are homomorphisms

$$\varphi_{2n-1}^m : H_{2n-1}(GL_m(F)) \longrightarrow H_{2n-1}(BC_*(n)), \quad m \geq n$$

whose restriction to the subgroup $GL_n(F)$ coincides with the composition

$$H_{2n-1}(GL_n(F)) \xrightarrow{\varphi_{2n-1}^n} H_{2n-1}(C_*(n)) \xrightarrow{(72)} H_{2n-1}(BC_*(n)).$$

Let us extend homomorphism (71) to a homomorphism

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G : BC_{2n-1}(n) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1)$$

by setting it to zero on the groups $C_{2n-1}(n+i)$ for $i > 0$. The second $(2n-1)$ -term functional equation for the Grassmannian n -logarithm function, see (48), just means that the composition

$$C_{2n}(n+1) \longrightarrow C_{2n-1}(n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}_n^G} \mathbb{R}(n-1),$$

where the first map is a vertical arrow in $BC_*(n)$, is zero. Therefore we get a homomorphism

$$\mathcal{L}_n^G : H_{2n-1}(BC_*(n)) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}(n-1).$$

Corollary 5.10. *One has*

$$[C_n^G] = -(-1)^{n(n+1)/2} \frac{(n-1)!^2}{(2n-2)!(2n-1)!} \cdot \frac{b_n}{n}$$

Proof. Indeed,

$$\text{Alt}_{2n-1} \text{Tr}(X_1 \cdot \dots \cdot X_{2n-1}) = \langle \text{tr}(g^{-1}dg)|_{\mathfrak{sl}_n}^{2n-1}, X_1 \wedge \dots \wedge X_{2n-1} \rangle.$$

So the claim follows from Theorem 5.7 since, as is clear from comparison of formulas (66) and (63), $b_n = n![C_n]$. The corollary is proved. \square

Theorem 5.11. *The composition*

$$(73) \quad K_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Prim}H_{2n-1}(GL_{2n-1}(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}) \xrightarrow{\varphi_{2n-1}^{2n-1}} \\ H_{2n-1}(BC_*(n)_{\mathbb{Q}}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}_n^G} \mathbb{R}(n-1)$$

equals

$$(74) \quad -(-1)^{n(n+1)/2} \cdot \frac{(n-1)!^2}{n(2n-2)!(2n-1)!} r_n^{\text{Bo}}.$$

Proof. Recall that the restriction to GL_n of the map φ_{2n-1}^{2n-1} coincides with the map φ_{2n-1}^n . Therefore Lemma 5.9 guarantees that the restriction to $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ of the composition of the last two arrows coincides with the map given by the class $[C_{2n-1}^G]$. So Corollary 5.10 implies the theorem. \square

7. Comparing $[D_n]$ and B_n . The following result is not used below.

Theorem 5.12.

$$[D_n] = (2\pi i)^n (2n-1)B_n.$$

Proof. The transgression identifies the class B_n with the Chern class of the universal bundle over BG , where $G = GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. We will compute explicitly the transgression of the n -th component of the Chern character of the universal vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow BG$. Let \mathcal{A} be a connection on E . Then the n -th Chern class is represented by the $2n$ -form

$$c_n(\mathcal{A}) := \frac{\text{tr } F_{\mathcal{A}}^n}{(2\pi i)^n}$$

where $F_{\mathcal{A}} := d\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A}$ is the curvature form.

Let $q : EG \rightarrow BG$ be the principal fibration associated with E . Then the form $q^*c_n(\mathcal{A})$ is exact. If $d\omega = q^*c_n(\mathcal{A})$ and F is a fiber of q , then $\omega|_F$ is closed, its cohomology class is transgressive, and goes to $[c_n(\mathcal{A})]$. To do the computation we choose a connection \mathcal{A}_0 on BG which is flat in a neighbourhood U of a point $x \in BG$. It provides a trivialization of the bundle E over U as well as a trivialization $\varphi : EG|_U \rightarrow G \times U$.

The bundle q^*E has a canonical trivialization. It provides a connection \mathcal{A}_1 on q^*E . So there are two connections, $q^*\mathcal{A}_0$ and \mathcal{A}_1 on q^*E . One has $\mathcal{A}_1 = q^*\mathcal{A}_0 + g^{-1}dg$, where $(g, u) = \varphi(x)$. Let

$$\mathcal{A}(t) := t\mathcal{A}_1 + (1-t)q^*\mathcal{A}_0 = tg^{-1}dg + q^*\mathcal{A}_0.$$

It can be thought of as a connection on the lifting of the bundle q^*E to $EG \times [0, 1]$; here $t \in [0, 1]$. The curvature $F(t)$ of this connection is

$$F(t) = g^{-1}dgdt + t^2g^{-1}dg \wedge g^{-1}dg.$$

The push-forward of the form $\text{tr } F(t)^n$ down to EG is a primitive for the form $\text{tr } F_{\mathcal{A}(1)}^n - \text{tr } F_{\mathcal{A}(0)}^n$. It is given (in $q^{-1}U$) by

$$\int_0^1 \text{tr } F(t)^n = \frac{1}{2n-1} \text{tr}(g^{-1}dg)^{2n-1}.$$

Theorem 5.12 is proved. □

8. On the motivic nature of the Grassmannian n -logarithm functions.

According to the results of the previous section, understanding of the Borel regulator, and hence special values of the Dedekind ζ -functions, is reduced to the study of properties of the Grassmannian n -logarithm function \mathcal{L}_n^G .

Recall that a framed mixed Hodge-Tate structure has a natural \mathbb{R} -valued invariant ([BD]), called the Lie period. Thus a variation of the Hodge-Tate structures \mathbb{L} over a base X provides a period function $\mathbb{L}^{\mathcal{M}}$ on $X(\mathbb{C})$.

Conjecture 5.13. (a) *There exists a variation $\mathbb{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ of framed mixed Tate motives over \widehat{G}_{n-1}^n such that*

$$\sum_{i=0}^{2n} (-1)^i a_i^* \mathbb{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}} = 0; \quad \sum_{j=0}^{2n} (-1)^j b_j^* \mathbb{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}} = 0;$$

and the Lie period $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ of its Hodge realization satisfies

$$(75) \quad \mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}} - \mathcal{L}_n^G = \sum_{i=0}^{2n-1} (-1)^i a_i^* F_n$$

where F_n is a function on $\widehat{G}_{n-2}^n(\mathbb{C})$.

(b) *The functional equations satisfied by $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ essentially determine it: the space of all smooth/measurable functions satisfying these functional equations is finite dimensional.*

Remark. The function F_n is obviously not determined by (75)—add a function coming from $\widehat{G}_{n-3}^n(\mathbb{C})$. Nevertheless we expect that there exists a *canonical* explicit choice for F_n . Then formula (75) can be considered as an explicit formula for $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ in terms of \mathcal{L}^G 's.

Moreover we expect that there exists a canonical homotopy between the Grassmannian n -logarithm (understood as a cocycle in the Deligne cohomology of the bi-Grassmannian) and its “motivic” bi-Grassmannian counterpart. Observe that the motivic bi-Grassmannian n -logarithm should have nontrivial components outside of the bottom line of the bi-Grassmannian, while the defined above (or in [G5]) Grassmannian n -logarithm is concentrated entirely at the bottom line.

A variation of mixed Tate motives over \widehat{G}_{n-1}^n was constructed in [HM]. However, it is not clear how to relate it to the function \mathcal{L}_n^G .

Conjecture 5.13 is known for $n = 2$ and $n = 3$.

The $n = 2$ case follows from (12), the well-known motivic realization of the dilogarithm, and Bloch’s theorem characterizing the Bloch-Wigner function by Abel’s 5-term equation that it satisfies.

The $n = 3$ case of conjecture 5.13 follows from the results of [G1], [G2], [GZ] and the motivic realization of the trilogarithm. In particular, the part (b) is given by Theorem 1.10 in [G1].

Examples. (1) $n = 2$. Then $\mathcal{L}_2^{\mathcal{M}} = \mathcal{L}_2^G$.

(2) $n = 3$. The motivic Grassmannian trilogarithm function has been constructed in [G1], [G2] in terms of the classical trilogarithm function. Namely, one has

$$\mathcal{L}_3^{\mathcal{M}}(l_0, \dots, l_5) = \frac{1}{90} \text{Alt}_6 \mathcal{L}_3 \left(\frac{\Delta(l_0, l_1, l_3) \Delta(l_1, l_2, l_4) \Delta(l_2, l_0, l_5)}{\Delta(l_0, l_1, l_4) \Delta(l_1, l_2, l_5) \Delta(l_2, l_0, l_3)} \right).$$

According to Theorem 1.3 of [GZ] $\mathcal{L}_3^{\mathcal{M}}$ is different from \mathcal{L}_3^G , and

$$F_3(l_0, \dots, l_4) = \frac{1}{9} \text{Alt}_5 \left(\log |\Delta(l_0, l_1, l_2)| \log |\Delta(l_1, l_2, l_3)| \log |\Delta(l_2, l_3, l_4)| \right).$$

(3) If $n > 3$, then $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ is different from \mathcal{L}_n^G since it is already so for the restriction to the special configuration; see Theorem 4.5.

The space of the functional equations for the function \mathcal{L}_3^G is smaller than the one for $\mathcal{L}_3^{\mathcal{M}}$; see Chapter 1.5 of [G3]. A similar situation is expected for all $n > 3$.

The space of the functional equations for the motivic n -logarithm function $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ should provide an explicit construction of the weight n part of the motivic Lie coalgebra of an arbitrary field F , as explained in Section 4.1 in [G6], taking into account the following correction.

Correction. In Section 4.2 of [G6] the subgroup of the functional equations \mathcal{R}_n^G is supposed to be defined as the subgroup of all functional equations for the function $\mathcal{L}_n^{\mathcal{M}}$, not \mathcal{L}_n^G .

6. THE CHOW DILOGARITHM AND A RECIPROCITY LAW

The Chow dilogarithm provides a homomorphism $\Lambda^3 \mathbb{C}(X)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$(76) \quad f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3 \mapsto \mathcal{P}_2(X; f_1, f_2, f_3) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2(f_1, f_2, f_3).$$

In this section we show that the Chow dilogarithm can be expressed by the function $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$. The precise versions of this claim are discussed below.

1. The set up ([G1], [G2]). For any field F we defined in [G1] the groups

$$\mathcal{B}_n(F) := \frac{\mathbb{Z}[F^*]}{\mathcal{R}_n(F)}, \quad n \geq 2$$

and homomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_n : \mathcal{B}_n(F) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{n-1}(F) \otimes F^*; & \{x\}_n &\longmapsto \{x\}_{n-1} \otimes x, & n \geq 3, \\ \delta_2 : \mathcal{B}_2(F) &\longrightarrow \Lambda^2 F^*, & \{x\}_2 &\longmapsto (1-x) \wedge x. \end{aligned}$$

There is a complex $\Gamma(F; n)$,

$$\mathcal{B}_n(F) \xrightarrow{\delta_n} \mathcal{B}_{n-1}(F) \otimes F^* \xrightarrow{\delta_n} \dots \xrightarrow{\delta_n} \mathcal{B}_2(F) \otimes \Lambda^{n-2} F^* \xrightarrow{\delta_n} \Lambda^n F^*$$

where $\delta_n(\{x\}_k \otimes Y) := \{x\}_{k-1} \otimes x \wedge Y$ for $k > 2$, and $(1-x) \wedge x \wedge y$ for $k = 2$, called the weight n polylogarithmic complex.

If K is a field with a discrete valuation v and the residue field k_v , then there is a homomorphism of complexes $\text{res}_v : \Gamma(K, n) \rightarrow \Gamma(k_v, n-1)[-1]$ (see Subsection 14 of Section 1 in [G1]). For example, for $n = 3$ we have

$$(77) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{B}_3(K) & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \mathcal{B}_2(K) \otimes K^* & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \Lambda^3 K^* \\ & & \downarrow \text{res}_v & & \downarrow \text{res}_v \\ & & \mathcal{B}_2(k_v) & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & \Lambda^2 k_v^* \end{array}$$

Here $\text{res}_v(\{x\}_2 \otimes y)$ is zero unless $v(x) = 0$. In the latter case it is $\text{res}_v(\{x\}_2 \otimes y) = v(y)\{\bar{x}\}_2$, where \bar{x} denotes projection of x to the residue field of K .

Let X be a regular curve over an algebraically closed field k and $F := k(X)^*$. Set $\text{Res} := \sum_x \text{res}_x$ where res_x is the residue homomorphism for the valuation on F corresponding to a point x of X . For instance for $n = 3$ we get a morphism of complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{B}_3(F) & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \mathcal{B}_2(F) \otimes F^* & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \Lambda^3 F^* \\ & & \downarrow \text{Res} & & \downarrow \text{Res} \\ & & \mathcal{B}_2(k) & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & \Lambda^2 k^* \end{array}$$

We will also need a more explicit version $B_2(F)$ of the group $\mathcal{B}_2(F)$. Denote by $R_2(F)$ the subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{P}^1(F)]$ generated by the elements

$$\{0\}, \{\infty\} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^5 (-1)^i \{r(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_5)\}$$

when (x_1, \dots, x_5) runs through all 5-tuples of distinct points in $\mathbb{P}^1(F)$, and the cross-ratio $r(\dots)$ is normalized by $r(\infty, 0, 1, x) = x$. Define the Bloch group $B_2(F)$ as

$$B_2(F) := \frac{\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{P}^1(F)]}{R_2(F)}.$$

One can show that $R_2(F) \subset \mathcal{R}_2(F)$. So there is a map

$$(78) \quad i : B_2(k) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$$

induced by the identity map on the generators.

Proposition 6.1. *Let k be a number field. Then (78) is an isomorphism modulo torsion.*

Proof. The map i is clearly surjective. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B_2(k) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{B}_2(k) \\ \downarrow \delta_2 & & \downarrow \delta_2 \\ \Lambda^2 k^* & = & \Lambda^2 k^* \end{array}$$

is commutative. So we need only to show that if $0 \neq x \in B_2(k)_\mathbb{Q}$ and $\delta_2(x) = 0$, then $i(x) \neq 0$. This follows from the injectivity of the regulator map on $K_3^{ind}(k)_\mathbb{Q}$. Indeed, by Suslin’s theorem for a field F one has $K_3^{ind}(F)_\mathbb{Q} = \text{Ker} \delta_2 \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. Let us identify $K_3^{ind}(\mathbb{C})_\mathbb{Q}$ with this subgroup of $B_2(\mathbb{C})_\mathbb{Q}$. The restriction of the dilogarithm map

$$B_2(k) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}[\text{Hom}(k, \mathbb{C})] \otimes 2\pi i \mathbb{R})^+, \quad \{z\}_2 \longmapsto \{2\pi i \mathcal{L}_2(\sigma_i(z))\}$$

to the subgroup $\text{Ker} \delta_2 \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ gives the Borel regulator $K_3^{ind}(k)_\mathbb{Q} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r^2}$ ([G1]) and thus is injective by Borel’s theorem. \square

Remark. For any field k the rigidity conjecture for K_3^{ind} implies that the map i should be an isomorphism; see [G1].

2. The strong reciprocity law.

Conjecture 6.2. *Let X be a regular projective curve over an algebraically closed field k and $F := k(X)^*$. Then there exists a canonical homomorphism of groups $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$ satisfying the following two conditions:*

(a) $h(k^* \wedge \Lambda^2 F^*) = 0$ and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathcal{B}_3(F) & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \mathcal{B}_2(F) \otimes F^* & \xrightarrow{\delta_3} & \Lambda^3 F^* \\
 & & \text{Res} \downarrow & h \swarrow & \downarrow \text{Res} \\
 (79) & & & & \\
 & & \mathcal{B}_2(k) & \xrightarrow{\delta_2} & \Lambda^2 k^*
 \end{array}$$

is commutative.

(b) If X is a curve over \mathbb{C} , then

$$(80) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) = \mathcal{L}_2\left(h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)\right).$$

Remarks. (1) (b) follows easily if we have a functorial map h such that $\text{Res} = \delta_2 \circ h$; see Theorem 6.10 below.

(2) According to Suslin’s reciprocity law for the Milnor group $K_3^M(F)$ the projection of $\text{Res}(\Lambda^3 F^*) \subset \Lambda^2 k^*$ to $K_2(k)$ is zero. Since by Matsumoto’s theorem $K_2(k) = \text{Coker}(\delta_2)$, one has $\text{Res}(\Lambda^3 F^*) \subset \text{Im}(\delta_2)$. However $\text{Ker}(\delta_2)$ is nontrivial, so it is *a priori* unclear that we can lift naturally the map Res to a map h . One of the reasons why we can do this is provided by (80).

We prove this conjecture in the following cases:

(a) $X = \mathbb{P}^1$; we construct *explicitly* a reciprocity homomorphism $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$ in Theorem 6.5.

(b) X is an elliptic curve over an algebraically closed field; we construct *explicitly* a reciprocity homomorphism $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$ in Theorem 6.14.

(c) $k = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$, X is any curve; see Theorem 6.12.

In the cases (a) and (b) the homomorphism h satisfies the following additional property. Let $F = k(X)$ and k is not necessarily algebraically closed. Let k' be the field of definition of the divisors $(f_1), (f_2), (f_3)$. Then $h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) \in \mathcal{B}_2(k')$.

Conjecture 6.3. *Let X be a projective regular curve over an algebraically closed field k and $F := k(X)$. Then the homomorphism*

$$\text{Res} : \Gamma(F; n) \longrightarrow \Gamma(k; n - 1)[-1]$$

is homotopic to zero.

Lemma 6.4. *Assume that we have a map h such that $h(k^* \wedge \Lambda^2 F^*) = 0$ and $\text{Res} = \delta_2 \circ h$. Then $h \circ \delta_3 = \text{Res}$.*

Proof. The image of the group $\mathcal{B}_2(F) \otimes F^*$ under the map $h \circ \delta_3$ belongs to the subgroup $\text{Ker}\delta_2$. Since $h(k^* \wedge \Lambda^2 F^*) = 0$ one has $h \circ \delta_3 = \text{Res}$ on $\mathcal{B}_2(F) \otimes k^*$. Any element of $k(X)^*$ can be connected via a curve to a constant. This together with the rigidity of $\text{Ker}\delta_2$ (built into the definition of the group $\mathcal{B}_2(k)$) implies the result. □

3. The $X = \mathbb{P}^1$ case. Recall that $v_x(f)$ is the order of zero of $f \in k(X)$ at x . Choose a point ∞ on \mathbb{P}^1 .

Theorem 6.5. *Assume that $k = \bar{k}$. Then the map $h : \Lambda^3 k(\mathbb{P}^1)^* \rightarrow B_2(k)$ given by the formula*

$$h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) := \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\{r(x_1, x_2, x_3, \infty)\}_2$$

satisfies all the conditions of Conjecture 6.2 modulo 6-torsion.

Proof. Let us show that h is independent of the choice of ∞ , i.e.,

$$\sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\{r(x_1, x_2, x_3, a)\}_2 \in B_2(k)$$

does not depend on a . Indeed, the 5-term relation for the 5-tuple of points (x_1, x_2, x_3, a, b) gives

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\left(\{r(x_1, x_2, x_3, a)\}_2 - \{r(x_1, x_2, x_3, b)\}_2\right) \\ &= - \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\left(\{r(x_1, x_2, a, b)\}_2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \{r(x_1, x_3, a, b)\}_2 + \{r(x_2, x_3, a, b)\}_2\right). \end{aligned}$$

Each of these 3 terms vanishes because $\sum_{x \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_x(f) = 0$ for any $f \in k(\mathbb{P}^1)^*$. \square

Proposition 6.6. *Let $k = \bar{k}$. Then modulo 6-torsion,*

$$h((1 - f) \wedge f \wedge g) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_x(g)\{f(x)\}_2.$$

Proof. Using linearity with respect to g and projective invariance of the cross-ratio we see that it is sufficient to prove the identity for $g = t$. Then it boils down to showing

$$(81) \quad \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(1 - f)v_{x_2}(f)\{r(x_1, x_2, 0, \infty)\}_2 = \{f(0)\}_2 - \{f(\infty)\}_2.$$

Lemma 6.7. *Applying δ_2 to both parts of (81) we get the same result modulo 6-torsion.*

Proof. Choose a coordinate t on \mathbb{P}^1 such that $f(\infty) = 1$. Then

$$(82) \quad f(t) = \frac{\prod_i (a_i - t)^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_k (c_k - t)^{\gamma_k}}; \quad 1 - f(t) = \frac{B \prod_j (b_j - t)^{\beta_j}}{\prod_k (c_k - t)^{\gamma_k}}.$$

Observe that $\{f(\infty)\}_2 = 0$ modulo 6-torsion. The left-hand side equals

$$(83) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(1 - f)v_{x_2}(f)\{x_1/x_2\}_2 \\ &= \sum \beta_j \alpha_i \{b_j/a_i\}_2 - \sum \gamma_k \alpha_i \{c_k/a_i\}_2 - \sum \beta_j \gamma_k \{b_j/c_k\}_2. \end{aligned}$$

Applying δ_2 to it we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum \beta_j \alpha_i \cdot \frac{a_i - b_j}{a_i} \wedge \frac{b_j}{a_i} - \sum \gamma_k \alpha_i \cdot \frac{a_i - c_k}{a_i} \wedge \frac{c_k}{a_i} - \sum \gamma_k \beta_j \cdot \frac{c_k - b_j}{c_k} \wedge \frac{b_j}{c_k} \\ &= \sum \beta_j \alpha_i \cdot b_j \wedge a_i + \sum \alpha_i \gamma_k \cdot a_i \wedge c_k + \sum \gamma_k \beta_j \cdot c_k \wedge b_j \\ & - \sum_i \frac{\prod_j (a_i - b_j)^{\beta_j}}{\prod_k (a_i - c_k)^{\gamma_k}} \wedge a_i^{\alpha_i} + \sum_j \frac{\prod_i (a_i - b_j)^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_k (c_k - b_j)^{\gamma_k}} \wedge b_j^{\beta_j} - \sum_k \frac{\prod (a_i - c_k)^{\alpha_i}}{\prod (c_k - b_j)^{\beta_j}} \wedge c_k^{\gamma_k}. \end{aligned}$$

Using (82) we see that the second line equals modulo 2-torsion

$$- \sum_i (1 - f(a_i)) \wedge a_i^{\alpha_i} + \sum_j f(b_j) \wedge b_j^{\beta_j} - \sum_k \frac{\prod (a_i - c_k)^{\alpha_i}}{\prod (b_j - c_k)^{\beta_j}} \wedge c_k^{\gamma_k} + B \wedge \prod a_i^{\alpha_i}.$$

The first two terms are zero since $f(a_i) = 0$ and $f(b_j) = 1$. The third term equals $-(B \wedge \prod c_k^{\gamma_k})$ since, as follows from (82), $f(c_k) = \infty$ and thus

$$\frac{\prod (a_i - c_k)^{\alpha_i}}{\prod (b_j - c_k)^{\beta_j}} = -B.$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\delta_2(\{f(0)\}_2) = (1 - f(0)) \wedge f(0) = \frac{B \prod_j b_j^{\beta_j}}{\prod_k c_k^{\gamma_k}} \wedge \frac{\prod_i a_i^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_k c_k^{\gamma_k}},$$

which matches the expression we obtained for the left-hand side. The lemma is proved. \square

To prove the proposition it remains to use a rigidity argument. Namely, we need to show that the identity is valid for some particular f , which is easy, or use Proposition 6.8 plus injectivity of the regulator on $K_3(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})_{\mathbb{Q}}$. The proposition is proved. \square

Now let us prove the key fact that $\text{Res} = \delta_2 \circ h$. We need to show that for any 3 rational functions f_1, f_2, f_3 on \mathbb{P}^1 ,

$$(84) \quad \sum_{x \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} \text{res}_x(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) = \delta_2 \left(\sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(k)} v_{x_1}(f_1) v_{x_2}(f_2) v_{x_3}(f_3) \{r(x_1, x_2, x_3, \infty)\}_2 \right).$$

Both sides are obviously homomorphisms from $\Lambda^3 F^*$ to $\Lambda^2 k^*$ which are zero on $k^* \wedge \Lambda^2 F^*$. (The last property for the map $\sum \text{res}_x$ is provided by the Weil reciprocity law.) We normalize the cross-ratio of four points on the projective line by $r(\infty, 0, 1, z) = z$. So it suffices to check the formula on elements

$$\frac{z - a_2}{z - a_1} \wedge \frac{z - b_2}{z - b_1} \wedge \frac{z - c_2}{z - c_1}.$$

In this case it follows from

$$\delta_2 \{r(a_2, b_2, c_2, \infty)\}_2 = \delta_2 \left\{ \frac{a_2 - c_2}{b_2 - c_2} \right\}_2 = \frac{b_2 - a_2}{b_2 - c_2} \wedge \frac{a_2 - c_2}{b_2 - c_2}.$$

It remains to prove the following proposition.

Proposition 6.8.

$$\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{P}^1; f_1, f_2, f_3) = \sum_{x_i \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})} v_{x_1}(f_1)v_{x_2}(f_2)v_{x_3}(f_3)\mathcal{L}_2(r(x_1, x_2, x_3, \infty)).$$

Proof. We immediately reduce the statement to the situation when $f_1 = 1 - z, f_2 = z, f_3 = z - a$, which is a particular case of the following lemma. \square

Lemma 6.9. *Let X be an arbitrary curve over \mathbb{C} . Then*

$$\int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2((1 - f) \wedge f \wedge g) = - \sum_{x \in X(\mathbb{C})} v_x(g) \cdot \mathcal{L}_2(f(x)).$$

Proof. For functions $f(z)$ and $g(z)$ on $X(\mathbb{C})$ set

$$\alpha(f, g) := \log |f|d \log |g| - \log |g|d \log |f|.$$

Consider the following 1-form on $X(\mathbb{C})$:

$$(85) \quad \mathcal{L}_2(f)d \arg g - \frac{1}{3}\alpha(1 - f, f) \log |g|.$$

It defines a current on $X(\mathbb{C})$. We claim that its derivative is equal to

$$(86) \quad 2\pi \cdot \mathcal{L}_2(f)\delta(g) + r_2((1 - f) \wedge f \wedge g).$$

Using $d(d \arg g) = 2\pi \cdot \delta(g)$ and

$$(87) \quad d\mathcal{L}_2(z) = -\log |1 - z|d \arg z + \log |z|d \arg(1 - z),$$

we see that the differential of the current (85) equals

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\pi\mathcal{L}_2(f)\delta(g) + \left(-\log |1 - f|d \arg f + \log |f|d \arg(1 - f)\right) \wedge d \arg g \\ & + \frac{1}{3}\left(\log |1 - f|d \log |f| - \log |f|d \log |1 - f|\right) \wedge d \log |g| \\ & - \frac{2}{3}\log |g| \cdot d \log |1 - f| \wedge d \log |f|. \end{aligned}$$

Since $d \log(1 - f) \wedge d \log f = 0$ we have

$$d \log |1 - f| \wedge d \log |f| = d \arg(1 - f) \wedge d \arg f.$$

Using this and writing $r_2(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{3}(\log |f_1|d \log |f_2| \wedge d \log |f_3| + \text{cyclic permutations}) \\ & - (\log |f_1|d \arg(f_2) \wedge d \arg f_3 + \text{cyclic permutations}) \end{aligned}$$

we come to (86). Integrating we get the lemma. The proposition is proved. \square

4. Expressing the Chow dilogarithm via the classical one. Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow S$ be a family of curves over a base S over \mathbb{C} and $f_1, f_2, f_3 \in \mathbb{C}(Y)^*$. We get a function at the generic point of S . Its value at $s \in S$ is given by the Chow dilogarithm $\mathcal{P}_2(Y^s; f_1^s, f_2^s, f_3^s)$, where Y^s is the fiber of π at s . Denote it by $\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3)$.

Theorem 6.10. (a) *Let $\pi : Y \rightarrow S$ be a family of curves over a base S over \mathbb{C} . Then there are rational functions φ_i on S such that*

$$\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3) = \sum_i \mathcal{L}_2(\varphi_i(s)).$$

(b) Let $k = \mathbb{C}(S)$, X is the generic fiber of π , and $F = k(X)$. Suppose that there exists a map $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$ such that $\text{Res} = \delta_2 \circ h$. Then

$$(88) \quad d\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3) = d\mathcal{L}_2(h(f_1, f_2, f_3)).$$

Proof. (a) We use the existence of the transfer map on K_3^M to reduce the statement to the case $X = \mathbb{P}^1$.

Choose a projection $p : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. We may suppose without loss of generality that p is a (ramified) Galois covering with the Galois group G . Indeed, let $p_1 : Y \rightarrow X$ be such a covering that its composition with p is a Galois covering. Indeed,

$$\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; p_1^* f_1, p_1^* f_2, p_1^* f_3) = \frac{1}{\text{deg} p_1} \mathcal{P}_2(X \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3).$$

Then $\sum_{g \in G} g^* \{f_1, f_2, f_3\} \in p^* K_3^M(k(\mathbb{P}^1))$. It coincides with p^* of the transfer of the element $\{f_1, f_2, f_3\} \in K_3^M(F)$. This means that there exist $s_1^{(i)}, s_2^{(i)}, s_3^{(i)} \in k(\mathbb{P}^1)$ and $g_j, h_j \in k(X)$ such that

$$(89) \quad \sum_{g \in G} g^*(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) - p^* \sum_i s_1^{(i)} \wedge s_2^{(i)} \wedge s_3^{(i)} = \sum_j (1 - g_j) \wedge g_j \wedge h_j.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3) &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_i \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{P}^1 \times S \rightarrow S; s_1^{(i)}, s_2^{(i)}, s_3^{(i)}) \\ &\quad + \sum_j \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{P}^1 \times S \rightarrow S; (1 - g_j), g_j, h_j). \end{aligned}$$

It remains to use Lemma 6.9 and Proposition 6.8. Part (a) of the theorem is proved. \square

(b) We need the following lemma.

Lemma 6.11.

$$(90) \quad d\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3) = (2\pi)^{-1} \cdot \text{Alt}_3 \left(v_x(f_1) \log |f_2(x)| d_s \arg f_3(x) \right).$$

Proof. Using $dd \log f = 2\pi i \delta(f)$ we get an equality of 3-currents on Y :

$$(91) \quad dr_2(f_1, f_2, f_3) = \pi_3 \left(\frac{df_1}{f_1} \wedge \frac{df_2}{f_2} \wedge \frac{df_3}{f_3} \right) + 2\pi \text{Alt}_3 \left(\delta(f_1) \log |f_2(x)| d \arg f_3(x) \right).$$

The second term in (91) is a 1-form on the divisor $D := \bigcup_{i=1}^3 \text{div}(f_i)$ considered as a 3-current on Y . This 1-form is the composition of the residue map

$$\text{res} : \Lambda^3 \mathbb{C}(Y)^* \longrightarrow \prod_{X \in Y_1} \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}(X)^*$$

with the map

$$r_1 : \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}(X)^* \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}^1(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}(X))), \quad f \wedge g \longmapsto -2\pi(\log |f| d \arg g - \log |g| d \arg f).$$

The push-forward of the first term in (91) vanishes (since the fibers are complex curves the push-down of any (3,0)-form to S is zero). Integrating the second 3-current in (91) along the fibers of Y we get (90). The lemma is proved. \square

According to Lemma 6.11 and formula (87) for $d\mathcal{L}_2$, and using $\text{Res} = \delta_2 \circ h$ we get the proof of part (b) of the theorem. \square

Remark. The function $\mathcal{L}_2(z)$ is continuous on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. Therefore, part (a) of the theorem implies that the function $\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3)$ can be extended to a continuous function on S .

5. Conjecture 6.2 for $\bar{k} = \bar{\mathbb{Q}}$.

Theorem 6.12. *Let X be a regular projective curve over $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$ and $F := \bar{\mathbb{Q}}(X)$. Then there exists a homomorphism $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow B_2(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ as in conjecture 6.2 such that for any embedding $\sigma : \bar{\mathbb{Q}} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ one has*

$$(92) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2(\sigma(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)) = \mathcal{L}_2\left(\sigma(h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3))\right).$$

Proof. It is similar to the proof of Theorem 6.10. Choose a projection $p : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. We may suppose that p is a Galois covering with the Galois group G . Indeed, let $p_1 : Y \rightarrow X$ be such a covering that its composition with p is a Galois covering. Setting

$$h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) := h\left(\frac{1}{\deg p_1} \cdot p_1^*(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)\right)$$

we may suppose that p is Galois.

Then $\sum_{g \in G} g^* \{f_1, f_2, f_3\} \in p^* K_3^M(k(\mathbb{P}^1))$. So there exist $s_1^{(i)}, s_2^{(i)}, s_3^{(i)} \in k(\mathbb{P}^1)$ and $g_j, h_j \in k(X)$ such that (89) holds. Set

$$|G| \cdot h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) := \sum_i h(s_1^{(i)} \wedge s_2^{(i)} \wedge s_3^{(i)}) + \sum_j \sum_{x \in X(\bar{\mathbb{Q}})} \{g_j(x)\}_2 \cdot v_x(h_j).$$

Lemma 6.13. *Suppose $\sum_i (1 - f_i) \wedge f_i \wedge g_i = 0$ in $\Lambda^3 \bar{\mathbb{Q}}(X)^*$. Then*

$$\sum_i \sum_{x \in X(\bar{\mathbb{Q}})} v_x(g_i) \cdot \{f_i(x)\}_2 = 0 \quad \text{in the group } B_2(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}).$$

This lemma implies that h is well-defined. Indeed, suppose that we have a different presentation:

$$\sum_{g \in G} g^* \{f_1, f_2, f_3\} = p^* \sum_k \tilde{s}_1^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_2^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_3^{(k)} + \sum_j (1 - \tilde{g}_j) \wedge \tilde{g}_j \wedge \tilde{h}_j.$$

We need to show that

$$(93) \quad h\left(\sum_k \tilde{s}_1^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_2^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_3^{(k)} - \sum_i s_1^{(i)} \wedge s_2^{(i)} \wedge s_3^{(i)}\right) + \sum v_x(h_j) \{g_j(x)\}_2 - \sum v_x(\tilde{h}_j) \{\tilde{g}_j(x)\}_2 = 0.$$

There exist $a_j, b_j \in k(\mathbb{P}^1)$ such that modulo $k^* \wedge \Lambda^2 k(\mathbb{P}^1)^*$ one has

$$\sum_k \tilde{s}_1^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_2^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_3^{(k)} - \sum_i s_1^{(i)} \wedge s_2^{(i)} \wedge s_3^{(i)} - \sum_j (1 - a_j) \wedge a_j \wedge b_j = 0.$$

According to Theorem 6.5 the homomorphism h for \mathbb{P}^1 annihilates the left-hand side. On the other hand,

$$p^* \left(\sum_k \tilde{s}_1^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_2^{(k)} \wedge \tilde{s}_3^{(k)} - \sum_i s_1^{(i)} \wedge s_2^{(i)} \wedge s_3^{(i)} \right) - \sum_j (1 - \tilde{g}_j) \wedge \tilde{g}_j \wedge \tilde{h}_j + \sum_j (1 - g_j) \wedge g_j \wedge h_j = 0.$$

Using Lemma 6.13 we get (6). To get (92) we use Theorem 6.10 and notice that (94)

$$\mathcal{P}_2(Y \rightarrow S; f_1, f_2, f_3) = 1/m \cdot \mathcal{P}_2(Z \rightarrow S; p_1^* f_1, p_1^* f_2, p_1^* f_3). \quad \square$$

Proof of Lemma 6.13. For a regular curve X over an algebraically closed field k there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{CD} B_2(F) \otimes F^* @>\delta_3>> \Lambda^3 F^* \\ @V\text{Res}VV @VV\text{Res}V \\ B_2(k) \otimes \mathbb{Z}[X(k)] @>\delta_2>> \Lambda^2 k^* \otimes \mathbb{Z}[X(k)] \end{CD}$$

Thus for any point x of the curve X the element $\sum_i v_x(g_i) \cdot \{f_i(x)\}_2$ lies in $\text{Ker}\delta_2$. Therefore it defines an element $\gamma_x \in K_3(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})_{\mathbb{Q}}$.

For any embedding $\sigma : \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ the value of the Borel regulator on $\sigma(\gamma_x)$ is equal to $\sum_{x \in X} v_x(g_i) \cdot \mathcal{L}_2(\sigma(f_i(x)))$. So by Lemma 6.9 the value of the Borel regulator on $\sum_x \sigma(\gamma_x)$ is equal to $2\pi \cdot \int_{\mathbb{CP}^1} r_2(\sum_i (1 - f_i) \wedge f_i \wedge g_i)$ and hence it is zero by our assumption. So Borel's theorem implies that the element is also zero. \square

A similar argument using Lemma 6.13 shows that the homomorphism h does not depend on the choice of the (finite) Galois extension of $\mathbb{Q}(\mathbb{P}^1)$ containing the field $\mathbb{Q}(X)$.

6. Explicit formulas for the reciprocity homomorphism h and the Chow dilogarithm in the case of an elliptic curve. Let E be an elliptic curve. We want to calculate the integral $\int_{E(\mathbb{C})} r_2(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)$. Let us suppose that E is realized as a plane curve. Then any rational function f on E can be written as a ratio of products of *linear* homogeneous functions:

$$f = \frac{l_1 \cdot \dots \cdot l_k}{l_{k+1} \cdot \dots \cdot l_{2k}}.$$

So it is enough to calculate the integral $\int_{E(\mathbb{C})} r_2(l_1/l_0 \wedge l_2/l_0 \wedge l_3/l_0)$ where the l_i are linear functions in homogeneous coordinates. We will do this in a more general setting.

Notation. Let X be a plane algebraic curve and l_i linear functions in homogeneous coordinates. Denote by L_i the line $l_i = 0$ in \mathbb{P}^2 . Let D_i be the divisor $L_i \cap X$. Set $l_{ij} := L_i \cap L_j$. For three points a, b, c and a divisor $D = \sum n_i(x_i)$ on a line we will use the following notation (see Figure 11):

$$\{r(a, b, c, D)\}_2 := \sum_i n_i \{r(a, b, c, x_i)\}_2.$$

Theorem 6.14. *Let E be an elliptic curve over an algebraically closed field k . Then there exists a homomorphism of groups $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$ such that for any linear homogeneous functions l_0, \dots, l_3 one has*

$$(95) \quad h(l_1/l_0 \wedge l_2/l_0 \wedge l_3/l_0) = - \sum_{i=0}^3 (-1)^i \{r(l_{i0}, \dots, \widehat{l_{ii}}, \dots, l_{i3}, D_i)\}_2$$

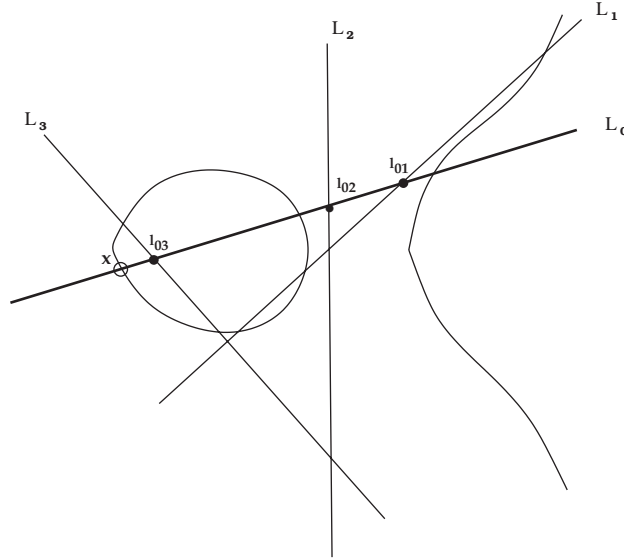


FIGURE 11. Defining $\{r(a, b, c, D)\}_2$ for a plane algebraic curve X

and which satisfies all the properties of Conjecture 6.2. In particular, if $k = \mathbb{C}$, then

$$(96) \quad \mathcal{P}_2(E; f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3) = \mathcal{L}_2\left(h(f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3)\right).$$

Proof. Suppose we have four generic lines L_0, L_1, L_2, L_3 in \mathbb{P}^2 . Any two of them, say L_0 and L_1 , provide a canonical rational function (l_0/l_1) on \mathbb{P}^2 with the divisor $L_0 - L_1$ normalized by the condition that its value at the point l_{23} is equal to 1. \square

Lemma 6.15. (a) On the line L_3 one has $(l_1/l_0) + (l_2/l_0) = 1$.

(b) $\frac{(l_1/l_0)}{(l_2/l_0)} = -(l_1/l_2)$.

Proof. Let m be a point on the line L_3 . Then

$$(97) \quad (l_1/l_0)(m) = r(l_{03}, l_{13}, l_{23}, m); \quad (l_2/l_0)(m) = r(l_{03}, l_{23}, l_{13}, m).$$

This gives (a). It follows from this that if the point m approaches the point l_{03} , then $\frac{(l_1/l_0)}{(l_2/l_0)}$ tends to -1 . This implies (b). \square

Lemma 6.16. For any plane curve X one has

$$\sum_{x \in X} \text{res}_x \left((l_1/l_0) \wedge (l_2/l_0) \wedge (l_3/l_0) \right) = -\delta_2 \left(\sum_{i=0}^3 (-1)^i \{r(l_{i0}, \dots, \widehat{l_{ii}}, \dots, l_{i3}, D_i)\}_2 \right).$$

Proof. Let us compute first the residues at the divisors D_1, D_2, D_3 using part (a) of Lemma 6.15. For example, the residue at $x \in D_1$ is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} v_x((l_1/l_0)) \cdot (l_2/l_0)(x) \wedge (l_3/l_0)(x) &= v_x((l_1/l_0)) \cdot (1 - (l_3/l_0)(x)) \wedge (l_3/l_0)(x) \\ &\stackrel{(97)}{=} v_x((l_1/l_0)) \cdot \{r(l_{13}, l_{10}, l_{12}, x)\}_2 = v_x((l_1/l_0)) \cdot \{r(l_{10}, l_{12}, l_{13}, x)\}_2. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to compute the residues on the line L_0 . According to part (b) of Lemma 6.15 one has

$$(l_1/l_0) \wedge (l_2/l_0) \wedge (l_3/l_0) = -(l_0/l_1) \wedge (l_2/l_1) \wedge (l_3/l_1).$$

Using this we reduce the calculation to the previous case. □

Proposition 6.17. *Let E be an elliptic curve over an algebraically closed field k . Then formula (95) provides a well-defined homomorphism of groups $h : \Lambda^3 F^* \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_2(k)$.*

Proof. Let $D := \sum_i n_i(x_i)$ be the divisor of a rational function f on E . To decompose it into a fraction of products of linear homogeneous functions l_i we proceed as follows. Let $l_{x,y}$ (resp. l_x) be a linear homogeneous equation of the line in \mathbb{P}^2 through the points x and y on E (resp. x and $-x$). The divisor of the function $l_{x,y}/l_x$ is $(x) + (y) - (x+y) - (0)$. If $D = (x) + (y) + D_1$, we write $f = l_{x,y}/l_{x+y} \cdot f'$, so $(f') = (0) + (x+y) + D_1$. After a finite number of such steps we get the desired decomposition. (See Figure 12.)

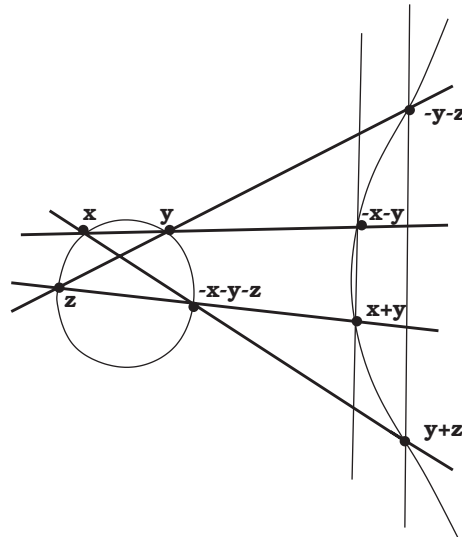


FIGURE 12.

There are the following relations:

$$\frac{l_{x,y}}{l_{x+y}} \cdot \frac{l_{x+y,z}}{l_{x+y+z}} / \frac{l_{y,z}}{l_{y+z}} \cdot \frac{l_{x,y+z}}{l_{x+y+z}} = \text{constant}.$$

One can prove that they generate all the relations between the functions $l_{x,y}/l_{x+y}$. So h is well-defined if it annihilates the following expression:

$$F(x, y, z; l_0, l_2, l_3) := \left(\frac{l_{x,y}}{l_{x+y}} \cdot \frac{l_{x+y,z}}{l_{x+y+z}} / \frac{l_{y,z}}{l_{y+z}} \cdot \frac{l_{x,y+z}}{l_{x+y+z}} \right) \wedge (l_2/l_0) \wedge (l_3/l_0).$$

It follows from Lemma 6.16 that $\delta_2(F(x, y, z; l_0, l_2, l_3)) = 0$. Thus according to the definition of the group $\mathcal{B}_2(k)$ it is enough to check that $h(F(x', y', z'; l_0, l_2, l_3)) = 0$ for a certain triple of points (x', y', z') . It is easy to see that $h(F(a, a, a; l_0, l_2, l_3)) = 0$ since then the first factor in F is a constant. The proposition is proved. □

Proposition 6.18. *Let X be an algebraic curve in \mathbb{P}^2 over \mathbb{C} and l_0, \dots, l_3 linear homogeneous functions on \mathbb{C}^3 . Then one has (using the notation defined above)*

$$(98) \quad \int_{X(\mathbb{C})} r_2(l_1/l_0 \wedge l_2/l_0 \wedge l_3/l_0) = 2\pi \cdot \sum_{i=0}^3 (-1)^i \mathcal{L}_2(r(l_{i0}, \dots, \widehat{l_{ii}}, \dots, l_{i3}, D_i)).$$

Proof. It follows from Lemma 6.16 and Theorem 6.10 that the differentials of both sides coincide. So their difference is a constant. To show that this constant is zero we deform X to a union of lines in \mathbb{P}^2 . Using Proposition 6.8 one sees that formula (98) is valid when X is a line in \mathbb{P}^2 . \square

7. APPENDIX: ON VOLUMES OF SIMPLICES IN SYMMETRIC SPACES

1. Volumes of hyperbolic geodesic simplices as boundary integrals.

A point y of the n -dimensional hyperbolic space \mathcal{H}_n defines a one-dimensional space M_y of volume forms on the absolute $\partial\mathcal{H}_n$. It consists of the volume forms invariant under the action of the isotropy group of y . We write them as follows. Let x_0, \dots, x_n be the coordinates in a vector space V_{n+1} of dimension $n + 1$, and $Q(x) := x_0^2 + \dots + x_{n-1}^2 - x_n^2$. Then \mathcal{H}_n can be realized as the projectivization of the cone $Q(x) < 0$, and its boundary is the projectivization of the cone $Q(x) = 0$. Choose a point $y \in \mathcal{H}_n$. Lifting y to a vector $y' \in V_{n+1}$ we have the following volume form on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{H}_n$:

$$\frac{\delta(Q(x))\sigma_{n+1}(x, dx)}{(x, y')^{n-1}}.$$

If y belongs to the boundary $\partial\mathcal{H}_n$, this formula provides a space M_y of singular volume forms on the absolute; they are invariant under the isotropy group of y .

Let us choose for any point y such a volume form μ_y . For two points x, y the ratio μ_x/μ_y is a nonzero function on the absolute.

Let $I(y_0, \dots, y_n)$ be the geodesic simplex with vertices at y_0, \dots, y_n where the points y_i could be on the absolute. Denote by $\text{vol}I(y_0, \dots, y_n)$ the volume of this simplex with respect to the invariant volume form in \mathcal{H}_n normalized by the following condition: if we realize the hyperbolic space as the interior of the unit ball $y_1^2 + \dots + y_n^2 \leq 1$, then the volume form restricted to the tangent space at the origin $(0, \dots, 0)$ is $dy_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dy_n$.

Theorem 7.1. *For any hyperbolic geodesic simplex $I(y_0, \dots, y_n)$ one has*

$$(99) \quad \frac{(n-1)^n \text{vol}(S^{n-1})}{n} \cdot \text{vol}I(y_0, \dots, y_n) = \int_{\partial\mathcal{H}_n} \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_1}}{\mu_{y_0}} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_2}}{\mu_{y_0}} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_n}}{\mu_{y_0}} \right|.$$

Let $\varphi(y_0, \dots, y_n)$ be the function defined by the right-hand side of (99). Thanks to property (2) of Proposition 5.1 it does not depend on the choice of invariant volume forms μ_y .

Proposition 7.2. *The function $\varphi(y_0, \dots, y_n)$ has the following properties: It is*

- (1) a smooth function on the vertices y_i ;
- (2) equal to zero if three of the vertices belong to the same geodesic;
- (3) additive with respect to cutting of a simplex, i.e., if y_0, \dots, y_n are points such that y_0, y_1, y_2 are on the same geodesic, y_1 between y_0 and y_2 , then

$$\varphi(y_0, y_2, \dots, y_{n+1}) = \varphi(y_0, y_1, y_3, \dots, y_{n+1}) + \varphi(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n+1});$$

- (4) invariant under the action of the symmetry group $SO(n, 1)$.

Proof. (1) This is clear.

(2) Let us realize the hyperbolic space as the interior part of the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n . Consider the geodesic l passing through the center of the ball in the vertical direction. The subgroup $SO(n-1) \subset SO(n, 1)$ preserves pointwise this geodesic. So for any point y on the geodesic the invariant volume form μ_y is invariant under the action of the group $SO(n-1)$. The quotient of $\partial\mathcal{H}_n$ under the action of $SO(n-1)$ is given by the projection $p: \partial\mathcal{H}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ onto the vertical axis. Take three points y_1, y_2, y_3 on the geodesic. Then $\frac{\mu_{y_2}}{\mu_{y_1}}$ and $\frac{\mu_{y_3}}{\mu_{y_1}}$ are lifted from the line \mathbb{R} . Therefore, $d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_2}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_3}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| = 0$. So for a degenerate simplex (y_0, \dots, y_n) one has

$$\log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_0}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_2}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_3}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{\mu_{y_n}}{\mu_{y_1}} \right| = 0.$$

It remains to mention the skewsymmetry of the integral (99). Property (2) is proved.

(3) Follows from (2) and the additivity property from Proposition 5.1.

(4) This is clear from (4) of Proposition 5.1. The proposition is proved. \square

The leading term of the Taylor expansion of the function $\varphi(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ when y_0 is fixed and y_1, \dots, y_n are near y_0 provides an exterior n -form in $T_{y_0}\mathcal{H}_n$ denoted $\varphi_{y_0}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$, $Y_i \in T_{y_0}\mathcal{H}_n$. Let us compare it with the volume form $\text{Vol}_{y_0}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$ in $T_{y_0}\mathcal{H}_n$ normalized as before Theorem 7.1.

Lemma 7.3. $\varphi_{y_0}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) = \frac{(n-1)^n}{n} \text{vol}(S^{n-1}) \cdot \text{Vol}_{y_0}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$.

Proof. Below we abuse notation by writing y for y' . One has $\mu_{y_1}/\mu_{y_2} = \frac{(y_2, x)^{n-1}}{(y_1, x)^{n-1}}$. So

$$\varphi(y_0, \dots, y_n) = (n-1)^n \int_{\partial\mathcal{H}_n} \log \left| \frac{(y_1, x)}{(y_0, x)} \right| d \log \left| \frac{(y_2, x)}{(y_0, x)} \right| \wedge \dots \wedge d \log \left| \frac{(y_n, x)}{(y_0, x)} \right|.$$

Thus

$$\varphi_{y_0}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) = (n-1)^n \int_{\partial\mathcal{H}_n} (Y_1, x) d(Y_2, x) \wedge \dots \wedge d(Y_n, x).$$

To do the computation of this integral we may suppose that $y_0 = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$, $Y_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i}$, so $(Y_i, x) = x_i$. Then the last integral equals

$$(n-1)^n \int_{S^{n-1}} x_1 dx_2 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_n = \frac{(n-1)^n}{n} \text{vol}(S^{n-1})$$

where S^{n-1} is the sphere $x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2 = 1$. The lemma follows. \square

Proof of Theorem 7.1. Let us suppose first that the points x_i are inside of the hyperbolic space. The function $\varphi(x_0, \dots, x_n)$ defines an n -density $\tilde{\varphi}$ on \mathcal{H}_n . Namely, to define the integral $\tilde{\varphi}$ over a simplex M one has to subdivide it into small simplices and take the sum of the functions φ corresponding to their vertices. When the simplices are getting smaller the limit exists and is by definition $\int_M \tilde{\varphi}$. Here we used properties (1) - (3). More precisely, (1) and (2) imply that φ defines an additive volume form on \mathcal{H}_n , and (3) (together with (1)) guarantees that this volume form is σ -additive.

The skewsymmetry property implies that $\tilde{\varphi}$ is actually a differential n -form. It is invariant under the action of the group $SO(n, 1)$. Therefore it is proportional to the standard volume form.

Now suppose that the vertices x_i can be on the absolute. Then it is easy to see that the corresponding integral (53) is still convergent. Moreover, if the vertices of the geodesic simplex are in general position, then it is a continuous function of the vertices. This implies that the volume of an ideal geodesic simplex is finite (which is, of course, an elementary fact) and coincides with the corresponding integral (99).

Completely similar results are valid for the complex n -dimensional hyperbolic space $\mathcal{H}_n^{\mathbb{C}} := \{|z_1| + \dots + |z_n|^2 < 1\}$, $z_i \in \mathbb{C}$, and the quaternionic hyperbolic space $\mathcal{H}_n^{\mathbb{H}} := \{|q_1| + \dots + |q_n|^2 < 1\}$ (q_i are quaternions). Indeed, a point x in each of these spaces defines an invariant volume form μ_x on the boundary. \square

2. Calculation of the volume of a three-dimensional ideal geodesic simplex. If $n = 3$ the absolute can be identified with $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$, and for the ideal simplex with vertices at the points $\infty, 0, 1, a$ on the absolute we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{vol}(I(\infty, 0, 1, a)) &= 3c_3 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1} (\log |z| d \log |1 - z| - \log |1 - z| d \log |z|) \wedge d \log |z - a| \\ &= 3c_3 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1} (\log |z| d \arg(1 - z) - \log |1 - z| d \arg(z)) \wedge d \arg(z - a) \end{aligned}$$

because $d \log(z - 1) \wedge d \log(z - a) = 0$. Here $\log f = \log |f| + i \arg(f)$. Using

$$d\mathcal{L}_2(z) = \log |z| d \arg(1 - z) - \log |1 - z| d \arg(z)$$

we rewrite the last integral as

$$(100) \quad 3c_3 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1} d\mathcal{L}_2(z) \wedge d \arg(z - a).$$

Computing the differential in the sense of distributions we get

$$d(\mathcal{L}_2(z) d \arg(z - a)) = 2\pi \cdot \mathcal{L}_2(z) \delta(z - a) dx dy + d\mathcal{L}_2(z) \wedge d \arg(z - a).$$

So the integral of the right-hand side over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ is zero, i.e., the integral (100) is equal to $-6\pi c_3 \cdot \mathcal{L}_2(a)$ ($c_3 = -1/(6\pi)$).

3. Volumes of geodesic simplices in $SL_n(\mathbb{C})/SU(n)$. Recall the invariant differential $(2n - 1)$ -form ω_{D_n} in \mathbb{H}_n .

Question. Is it true that

$$(101) \quad \text{vol}_{\omega_{D_n}}(I(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1})) = \text{constant} \times \psi_n(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1})?$$

One can show, following the lines of Subsection 1 in Section 7, that the positive answer to this question is equivalent to the following statement: if x_0, x_1, x_2 are on the same geodesic, then $\psi_n(x_0, \dots, x_{2n-1}) = 0$.

4. Another approach to Grassmannian polylogarithms. The following construction was suggested to the author during the Fall of 1989, independently, by M. Kontsevich and by J. Nekovář. A hyperplane h in an n -dimensional complex vector space V determines an arrow in the space of degenerate nonnegative definite Hermitian forms in V consisting of the forms with the kernel h . Let h_1, \dots, h_{2n} be hyperplanes in V . Let $C(h_1, \dots, h_{2n})$ be projectivization of the convex hull of the arrays corresponding to these hyperplanes. It is a simplex in $\overline{\mathbb{H}}_n$. The idea is to integrate the form ω_{D_n} over this simplex. If $n = 2$ this construction provides an ideal geodesic simplex in the Cayley realization of the hyperbolic space, given by the interior part of a ball in $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^3$. However, the convergence of this integral for $n > 2$ has not yet been established, although it does not seem to be a very difficult problem. If the integral is convergent, we get a function on configurations of $2n$

hyperplanes in $\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$. It would be very interesting to investigate this construction further and compare it with our construction of the Grassmannian polylogarithms.

5. A $(2n - 1)$ -cocycle of $GL(\mathbb{C})$. Consider an infinite-dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space with a given basis e_1, \dots, e_m, \dots . The group $GL(\mathbb{C})$ is the group of automorphisms of this space moving only a finite number of basis vectors.

Let us describe the restriction of the cocycle to the subgroup $GL_{n+m}(\mathbb{C})$ acting on the subspace generated by the first $n + m$ vectors. Take $2n$ elements g_1, \dots, g_{2n} of this group. Consider the corresponding $2n$ $(m + 1)$ -tuples of vectors:

$$g_1(e_n, \dots, e_{n+m}), \quad \dots, \quad g_{2n}(e_n, \dots, e_{n+m}).$$

The set of all $(m + 1)$ -tuples of vectors forms a vector space. Let Δ_{2n-1} be the standard simplex $\sum_{j=1}^{2n} \lambda_j = 1$. Consider the set $C_n^m \subset \Delta_{2n-1}$ consisting of $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{2n})$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{2n} \lambda_i \cdot g_i(e_n, \dots, e_{n+m})$$

is an $(m + 1)$ -tuple of vectors *not* in generic position. It is a cycle of codimension n . The Chow polylogarithm function evaluated on it provides the desired (measurable) cocycle.

The cocycle property follows from the functional equation for the Chow polylogarithm and the following general fact. The set of those $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{2n+1})$ such that $\sum_i \lambda_i \cdot g_i(e_n, \dots, e_{n+m})$ is an $(m + 1)$ -tuple of vectors *not* in generic position is also of codimension n .

The construction is consistent with the restriction to GL_n just by definition.

Problem. Show that the cohomology class of this cocycle is nontrivial and proportional to the Borel class.

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