

Virtual Intersection Theories

Hyeonjun Park

Seoul National University

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- 1 Virtual Fundamental Classes (in Chow Theory)
- 2 Intersection Theories
- 3 Virtual Fundamental Classes in All Intersection Theories

Virtual Fundamental Classes (Motivation)

Kontsevich's Hidden Smoothness Philosophy

"Many singular moduli spaces are truncations of smooth *derived* moduli spaces (in some sense)."

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Construction of Virtual Fundamental Classes

Rigorous mathematical definitions of virtual fundamental classes were introduced through the concept of *perfect obstruction theories*.

- [Behrend-Fantechi, Invent. Math. 1997]
- [Li-Tian, J. Amer. Math. Soc. 1998]

Virtual Fundamental Classes (Toy Model)

Consider a smooth scheme X and a Cartesian diagram

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with smooth closed subschemes $Y, Z \subseteq X$.

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The virtual class $[W]^{\text{vir}} \in CH_*(W)$ is not an *intrinsic* object. It depends on the additional information $C_{W/Z} \subseteq N_{Y/X}|_W$.

Virtual Fundamental Classes (Construction)

Intrinsic Normal Cone Let X be a quasi-projective scheme. Consider an embedding $X \hookrightarrow Y$ into a smooth scheme Y . The *intrinsic normal cone* of X is defined to be the quotient stack

$$\mathfrak{C}_X := [C_{X/Y}/\mathbb{T}_Y|_X],$$

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Perfect Obstruction Theory A *perfect obstruction theory* for X is a closed immersion

$$\iota : \mathfrak{C}_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$$

of the intrinsic normal cone into a vector bundle stack \mathfrak{E} . A vector bundle stack is a quotient stack $[E_1/E_0]$ for some morphism $E_0 \rightarrow E_1$ of vector bundles on X .

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The notion of intrinsic normal cones and perfect obstruction theories can be generalized to DM stacks.

Virtual Fundamental Classes (Construction)

Definition (Virtual Fundamental Class)

Let \mathcal{X} be a Deligne-Mumford stack equipped with a perfect obstruction theory $\iota : \mathfrak{C}_{\mathcal{X}} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$. The *virtual fundamental class* of \mathcal{X} is defined to be

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Virtual Enumerative Invariants If \mathcal{X} is proper, then we can define virtual invariants by

$$\int_{[\mathcal{X}]^{\text{vir}}} c_{i_1}(E_1) \cdots c_{i_r}(E_r) \in \mathbb{Q}$$

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Example Gromov-Witten invariants, Donaldson-Thomas invariants and Pandharipande-Thomas invariants are defined in this way.

Virtual Fundamental Classes (Three Key Techniques)

Virtual Pullback (Manolache, J. Algebraic Geom. 2012)

Let $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be a DM-type morphism of algebraic stacks with a relative perfect obstruction theory $\iota : \mathfrak{C}_{\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$. Then there is a *virtual pullback*

$$f^! : CH_*(\mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow CH_{*+d}(\mathcal{X}).$$

If \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} are equipped with perfect obstruction theories which are compatible with the obstruction theory of f , then we have

$$[\mathcal{X}]^{\text{vir}} = f^![\mathcal{Y}]^{\text{vir}} \in CH_*(\mathcal{X}).$$

Torus Localization (Graber-Pandharipande, Invent. Math. 1999)

If \mathcal{X} is a DM stack equipped with a $T = \mathbb{G}_m$ -action and a T -equivariant perfect obstruction theory $\iota : \mathfrak{C}_{\mathcal{X}} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$, then the fixed point locus \mathcal{X}^T also has a natural perfect obstruction theory and

$$[\mathcal{X}]^{\text{vir}} = j_* \left(\frac{[\mathcal{X}^T]^{\text{vir}}}{e(N_{\mathcal{X}^T/\mathcal{X}}^{\text{vir}})} \right) \in CH_*^T(\mathcal{X}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[t]} \mathbb{Q}[t, t^{-1}].$$

where $j : \mathcal{X}^T \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is the inclusion.

Cosection Localization (Kiem-Li, J. Amer. Math. Soc. 2013)

If \mathcal{X} is a DM stack equipped with a perfect obstruction theory $\iota : \mathfrak{C}_{\mathcal{X}} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$ and a cosection $\sigma : \mathfrak{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_{\mathcal{X}}^1$, then there is a cosection localized virtual fundamental class $[\mathcal{X}]_{\text{loc}}^{\text{vir}} \in CH_*(\mathcal{X}(\sigma))$ in the zero locus $\mathcal{X}(\sigma)$ such that

$$[\mathcal{X}]^{\text{vir}} = j_*[\mathcal{X}]_{\text{loc}}^{\text{vir}} \in CH(\mathcal{X})$$

where $j : \mathcal{X}(\sigma) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ is the inclusion.

Recall that the *Chow groups*

$$CH_*(X) = \frac{\text{algebraic cycles on } X}{\text{rational equivalences}}$$

has following additional structures :

- 1 Projective Pushforward) $f_* : CH_*(X) \rightarrow CH_*(Y) : [\xi] \mapsto \deg(f|_{\xi})[f(\xi)];$
- 2 Smooth Pullback) $f^* : CH_*(Y) \rightarrow CH_{*+e}(X) : [\eta] \mapsto [f^{-1}\eta];$
- 3 Exterior Product) $CH_*(X) \otimes CH_*(Y) \rightarrow CH(X \times Y) : [\xi] \otimes [\eta] \mapsto [\xi] \times [\eta];$
- 4 Gysin Pullback) $i^! : CH_*(Y) \rightarrow CH_{*-c}(X) : \eta \mapsto [Y] \cap [\eta].$

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Also, Chow groups satisfy following properties :

- 1 Excision) $CH_*(Z) \rightarrow CH_*(X) \rightarrow CH_*(U) \rightarrow 0$ is exact for a closed immersion $Z \hookrightarrow X$;
- 2 Homotopy) $CH_*(X) \xrightarrow{\cong} CH_{*+r}(E)$ is an isomorphism for a vector bundle torsor $E \rightarrow X$.

Definition (Intersection Theory)

An *intersection theory* H_* for schemes is a collection of graded abelian groups

$$H_*(X)$$

for each quasi-projective scheme X equipped with projective pushforwards, smooth pullbacks, Gysin pullbacks, and exterior products satisfying natural functorial properties and homotopy property, excision property, and projective bundle formula.

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There are infinitely many intersection theories because we can always construct a new theory by twisting a given theory with Todd classes.

Example (Algebraic Cobordism)

The *algebraic cobordism groups*

$$\Omega_*(X) = \frac{\text{cobordism cycles on } X}{\text{double point relations}}$$

for schemes X form an intersection theory.

- A *cobordism cycle* is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of projective morphisms

$$[f : Z \rightarrow X]$$

from smooth quasi-projective schemes Z .

- Let $W \rightarrow X \times \mathbb{P}^1$ be a projective morphism from a smooth scheme W such that the fiber of $W \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ over $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbf{k})$ is smooth and the fiber over $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbf{k})$ is the union $W_0 = A \cup B$ of two smooth divisors intersecting transversely. The associated *double point relation* is

$$[W_\infty \rightarrow X] = [A \rightarrow X] + [B \rightarrow X] - [P \rightarrow X]$$

where $D = A \cap B$, $P = \mathbb{P}_D(N_{D/A} \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)$.

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By the universality, we have natural maps

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Under the above natural maps, algebraic cobordism recovers both the algebraic K-theory and the Chow theory:

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_*(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{L}} \mathbb{Z}[\beta, \beta^{-1}] &\cong K_0(X)[\beta, \beta^{-1}], \\ \Omega_*(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{L}} \mathbb{Z} &\cong CH_*(X). \end{aligned}$$

Virtual fundamental classes have also been studied in other intersection theories.

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Virtual Structure Sheaves (in Algebraic K-Theory)

- 1 construction of virtual fundamental classes [Lee, Duke Math. J. 2004]
- 2 virtual pullback [Qu, Ann. Inst. Fourier 2018]
- 3 virtual torus localization [Qu, Ann. Inst. Fourier 2018]
- 4 cosection localization [Kiem-Li, Int. Math. Res. Not. 2018]
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Virtual Cobordism Classes (in Algebraic Cobordism)

- 1 construction of virtual fundamental classes (for quasi-projective schemes) [Shen, J. Lond. Math. Soc. 2016].

Question : Can we develop a theory of virtual fundamental classes in all intersection theories?

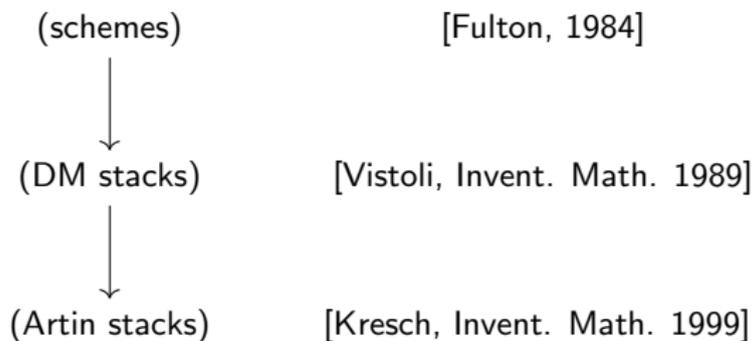
Question : Can we develop a theory of virtual fundamental classes in all intersection theories?

Mostly, it is sufficient to consider algebraic cobordism because it is universal.

One of the main problem is that it is hard to extend an intersection theory for schemes to stacks.

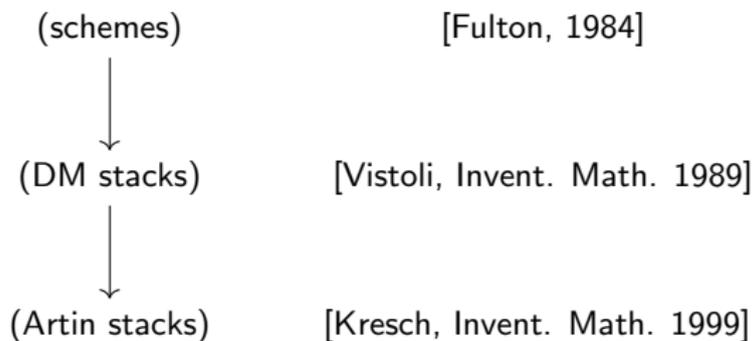
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Since Kresch's theory uses the structure of the Chow theory, it seems difficult to apply it directly to other intersection theories (even to algebraic cobordism).

Definition (Kiem-P.)

Let H_* be an intersection theory for schemes. For any algebraic stack \mathcal{X} , the limit intersection theory is defined to be the inverse limit

$$\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}) := \varprojlim_{t: T \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} H_{d+d(t)}(T)$$

where the limit is taken over all smooth morphisms $t: T \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ from quasi-projective schemes T , and the transition maps are given by the lci pullbacks $s^*: H_{*+d(t_2)}(T_2) \rightarrow H_{*+d(t_1)}(T_1)$ for commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_1 & \xrightarrow{s} & T_2 \\ & \searrow t_1 & \swarrow t_2 \\ & \mathcal{X} & \end{array}$$

with t_1 and t_2 being smooth morphisms from quasi-projective schemes.

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A *weak* intersection theory is a theory which has all the structures and properties of intersection theories except that the excision property is replaced by a weaker version of it.

Examples of good approximations

- 1 All quotient stacks have good approximations, using Totaro's algebraic approximations of classifying spaces.
- 2 All vector bundle stacks and cone stacks over quotient stacks have good approximations.

The (2-)category of algebraic stacks which have good approximations is closed under basic operations.

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Let $\mathcal{X} = [X/G]$ be a global quotient stack (precisely X is a quasi-projective scheme and G is a linear algebraic group acting on X linearly).

- If $H_* = CH_*$ is Fulton's Chow theory, then we have an isomorphism

$$CH_*^{limit}(\mathcal{X}) \cong CH_*^G(X)$$

to Edidin-Graham's equivariant Chow theory.

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- If $H_* = \Omega_*$ is Levine-Morel's algebraic cobordism, then we have an isomorphism

$$\Omega_*^{limit}(\mathcal{X}) \cong \Omega_*^G(X)$$

to Heller-Malagon-Lopez and Krishna's equivariant algebraic cobordism.

Main Theorem

Theorem (Kiem-P.)

Let H_ be an intersection theory for schemes. For a quasi-projective DM stack X equipped with a perfect obstruction theory, there is a virtual fundamental class*

$$[X]^{\text{vir}} \in H_*(X)$$

satisfying

- 1 *virtual pullback formula,*
- 2 *torus localization formula, and*
- 3 *cosection localization principle.*

Corollary

If X is a quasi-projective scheme, then the virtual cobordism class maps to the virtual structure sheaf and the virtual fundamental class (in Chow) under the canonical maps:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
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 & [X]_{\Omega}^{\text{vir}} & \\
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\implies This unifies the theory of virtual structure sheaves and the theory of virtual fundamental classes (in Chow).

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We can still define the fundamental class of the intrinsic normal cone using Fulton-MacPherson's deformation to the normal cone. Embed X into a smooth quasi-projective DM stack Y . Let

$$[\mathcal{C}_X] := (k^*)^{-1} \circ \text{sp}_{X/Y}[Y] \in \mathcal{H}_0(\mathcal{C}_X).$$

$\text{sp}_{X/Y} : \mathcal{H}_*(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_*(C_{X/Y})$ is the specialization map given by $M_{X/Y}^\circ$;

$k^* : \mathcal{H}_*(\mathcal{C}_X) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{H}_{*+e}(C_{X/Y})$ is given by the homotopy property.

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Then as in the original construction, we can define the virtual fundamental class by $[X]^{\text{vir}} := 0_{\mathfrak{e}}^! \circ \iota_* [\mathfrak{c}_X] \in \mathcal{H}_*(X)$.

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Then as in the original construction, we can define the virtual fundamental class by $[X]^{\text{vir}} := 0_{\mathfrak{e}}^! \circ \iota_*[\mathfrak{c}_X] \in \mathcal{H}_*(X)$.

(In progress) This can be generalized to *any* DM stack, without assuming the existence of a global embedding into a smooth DM stack.

Virtual Pullback

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{*+e}(Z) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{sp}_{X/Z}} & H_{*+e}(\mathcal{C}_{X/Z}) \\ \uparrow h^* & & \uparrow \cong \\ H_*(Y) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{sp}_{X/Y}} & \mathcal{H}_*(\mathcal{C}_{X/Y}). \end{array}$$

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Define the virtual pullback by the composition

$$f^! : H_*(Y) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{sp}_{X/Y}} \mathcal{H}_*(\mathcal{C}_{X/Y}) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \mathcal{H}_*(\mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{0^!_{\mathcal{E}}} H_{*+d}(X).$$

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3) (In progress) This can be generalized to any DM-type morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ if Y has good approximations.

Cosection-Localized Gysin Map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{E} & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \mathbb{A}_{\mathcal{X}}^1 \\ \downarrow & & \\ \mathcal{X} & & \end{array}$$

\mathcal{X} : quasi-projective scheme

\mathfrak{E} : vector bundle stack of rank r

σ : cosection

$\mathcal{X}(\sigma)$: zero locus of σ in \mathcal{X}

$\mathfrak{E}(\sigma) := \mathfrak{E} \times_{\sigma, \mathbb{A}_{\mathcal{X}}^1, 0} \mathcal{X}$: *kernel cone stack*

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In this setting, we will define the *cosection-localized Gysin map*

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2) If $X(\sigma)$ is not a divisor, then blowup X along $X(\sigma)$. Then we can define the localized Gysin map by a similar manner.

Sketch of the proof of the main theorem

3) If \mathcal{E} is a vector bundle stack, then $\mathcal{E} = [E_1/E_0]$ for some vector bundles E_1, E_0 and σ extends to a cosection $\tau : E_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_X^1$. Also $X(\sigma) = X(\tau)$, $\mathcal{E}(\sigma) = [E_1(\tau)/E_0]$. Then we can define the localized Gysin map by the composition

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4) If X is an algebraic stack with a good system of approximations $\{x_i : X_i \rightarrow X\}_i$, then we can define the localized Gysin map by the inverse limit

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Let X be a quasi-projective DM stack equipped with a perfect obstruction theory $\iota : \mathfrak{C}_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{E}$ and a cosection $\sigma : \mathfrak{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_X^1$.

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Since $\mathcal{H}_*((\mathfrak{C}_X)_{\text{red}}) = \mathcal{H}_*(\mathfrak{C}_X)$, we can define the *cosection-localized virtual fundamental class* by

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Then $j_* [X]_{\text{loc}}^{\text{vir}} = [X]^{\text{vir}} \in \mathcal{H}_*(X)$ where $j : X(\sigma) \hookrightarrow X$ is the inclusion.

Torus Localization Theorem

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Let X be a quasi-projective scheme with a linear $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{G}_m^{\times r}$ -action. Then we have an isomorphism

$$j : H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(X^{\mathbb{T}}) \otimes_{H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{k})} H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{k})[Q^{-1}] \xrightarrow{\cong} H^{\mathbb{T}}(X) \otimes_{H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{k})} H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{k})[Q^{-1}]$$

where $Q \subseteq H_*^{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{k})$ is the multiplicative subset generated by the first Chern classes of one-dimensional \mathbb{T} -representations $\mathbf{k}(\lambda)$ of weight $\lambda \neq 0 \in \widehat{G}$.

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In [Chang-Kiem-Li, Adv. Math. 2017], it was discovered that the virtual torus localization formula follows from the virtual pullback formula and the torus localization theorem (in Chow).

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In [Chang-Kiem-Li, Adv. Math. 2017], it was discovered that the virtual torus localization formula follows from the virtual pullback formula and the torus localization theorem (in Chow).

This also works for general intersection theories.

Definition

Let X be a projective DM stack equipped with a perfect obstruction theory. Then we have a virtual cobordism class $[X]_{\Omega}^{\text{vir}} \in \Omega_*^{\text{lim}}(X)$ in the limit algebraic cobordism. The *cobordism-valued virtual invariant* of X can be defined by

$$q_*[X]^{\text{vir}} \in \Omega_*(\text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}))_{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathbb{Q}[\mathbb{P}^1, \mathbb{P}^2, \dots]$$

where $q : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \text{Spec}(\mathbf{k})$ is the structural map. Here the proper pushforward $q_* : \Omega_*^{\text{lim}}(X)_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \Omega_*(\text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}))_{\mathbb{Q}}$ can be defined using a finite surjective map $F \rightarrow X$ from a projective scheme F .

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Example We can define cobordism-valued GW-invariants, DT-invariants, and PT-invariants.

The End

Definition (Kiem-P.)

Let H_* be an intersection theory for schemes. A *good system of approximations for an algebraic stack \mathcal{X}* consists of morphisms

$$\{x_i : X_i \rightarrow \mathcal{X}\}_{i \geq 0}, \quad \{x_{i,i+1} : X_i \rightarrow X_{i+1}\}_{i \geq 0}$$

such that

- ① $x_{i+1} \circ x_{i,i+1}$ and x_i are 2-isomorphic,
- ② x_i is smooth morphism from a quasi-projective scheme X_i ,
- ③ for any quasi-projective morphism $S \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ from a quasi-projective scheme S , we have a natural isomorphism

$$H_d(S) \cong \varprojlim_i H_{d+d(x_i)}(S \times_{\mathcal{X}} X_i),$$

- ④ for any quasi-projective morphism $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ of algebraic stacks, $H_{*+d(x_{i+1})}(\mathcal{Y} \times_{\mathcal{X}} X_{i+1}) \rightarrow H_{*+d(x_i)}(\mathcal{Y} \times_{\mathcal{X}} X_i)$ are surjective.

Definition

We say that H_* has the *excision property* if the sequence

$$H_*(\mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow H_*(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_*(\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact for any closed immersion $\mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$.

Definition

We say that H_* has the *weak excision property* if

- ① $H_*(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_*(U)$ is surjective for any open immersion $U \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}$;
- ② for a regular immersion $\mathcal{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X}$ with a trivial normal bundle $N_{\mathcal{Z}/\mathcal{X}}$, there is a map

$$\lambda_{\mathcal{Z}/\mathcal{X}} : H_*(\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow H_{*-c}(\mathcal{Z})$$

which factors the Gysin pullback $H_*(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_{*-c}(\mathcal{Z})$.

The weak excision property is enough to define the *specialization map*

$$\mathrm{sp}_{\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}} : H_*(\mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow H_*(C_{\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}})$$

for a closed immersion $\mathcal{X} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Y}$. (Apply it to the deformation space $M_{\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}}^\circ$.)

- ① The first Chern class of a line bundle L over a scheme X is defined by $c_1(L) := 0^* \circ 0_* : H_*(X) \rightarrow H_{*-1}(X)$ where $0 : X \rightarrow L$ is the zero section.
- ② For any intersection theory H_* for schemes, there is a formal group law $F_H(u, v) \in H_*(\text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}))[[u, v]]$ such that

$$c_1(L \otimes N) = F_H(c_1(L), c_1(N)).$$

Hence we have a formal inverse $u \cdot g(u) \in H_*(\text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}))[[u]]$ such that $c_1(L^\vee) = c_1(L) \circ g(c_1(L))$.

- ③ Let D be an effective Cartier divisor of a scheme X . We define the refined intersection map by

$$-D \cdot := g(c_1(N_{D/X})) \circ \iota^* : H_*(X) \rightarrow H_{*-1}(D)$$

where $\iota : D \hookrightarrow X$ is the inclusion. Then we have $\iota_* \circ (-D \cdot) = c_1(\mathcal{O}_X(D))$.

It seems plausible to define the higher Chow groups of an algebraic stack \mathcal{X} by the inverse limit

$$CH_*(\mathcal{X}, \cdot) := \varprojlim_{t: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} CH_*(\mathcal{T}, \cdot)$$

as the zeroth Chow group.

- This makes sense for smooth stacks \mathcal{X} .
- For singular stacks there is a problem. We need lci pullbacks to define the limit but pullbacks for higher Chow groups are only defined for smooth schemes in Bloch's original paper.

There is a natural map

$$\alpha(\mathcal{X}) : CH_*^{\text{Kresch}}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow CH_*^{\text{limit}}(\mathcal{X})$$

from Kresch's Chow theory to the limit Chow theory for any algebraic stack \mathcal{X} .

- The map $\alpha(\mathcal{X})$ is an isomorphism for global quotient stacks (because Kresch's Chow and the limit Chow both coincide with Edidin-Graham's equivariant Chow groups).

Question Is $\alpha(\mathcal{X})$ an isomorphism for stacks which is not a global quotient stack?

There are other definitions of virtual cobordism classes.

- 1 Recently, Levine also constructed virtual cobordism classes using motivic stable homotopy theory in [Levine, Intrinsic stable normal cone, Arxiv, 2017].
- 2 Lowrey and Schrug also constructed virtual cobordism classes for quasi-smooth derived schemes in [Lowrey-Schrug, Derived algebraic cobordism, J. Inst. Jussieu, 2016].
- 3 Khan constructed another version using the motivic stable homotopy theories of derived stacks [Khan, Virtual fundamental classes of derived stacks I, Arxiv, 2019].

Question Is the above definitions equivalent to ours in a reasonable setting?