

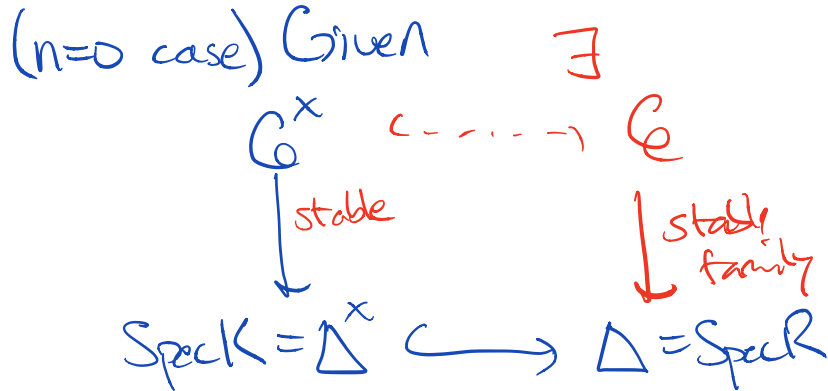
LECTURE 16: Gluing and forgetful morphisms

TODAY'S OUTLINE

- Recap
- Explicit stable reduction (compute stable limit of $y^2 = x^5 + t$)
- Uniqueness of the stable limit (i.e. $\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ separated)
- Gluing morphisms
 - $\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g_1, n_1} \times \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g_2, n_2} \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g_1+g_2, n_1+n_2-2}$ (Will allow us to define boundary divisors)
 - $\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g+1, n-2}$
- Forgetful morphism
 - $\bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g, n+1} \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ (Will show this is a univ. family)

§ 0. Recap of stable reduction

Theorem (Stable Reduction). If $(\mathcal{C}^* \rightarrow \Delta^*, s_1^*, \dots, s_n^*)$ is a family of n -pointed stable curves of genus g , then there exists a finite cover $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta$ of spectrums of DVRs and a family $(\mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \Delta', s_1', \dots, s_n')$ of stable curves extending $\mathcal{C}^* \times_{\Delta^*} \Delta'^* \rightarrow \Delta'^*$.



After possibly an extension $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta$
 $t \mapsto t^m$

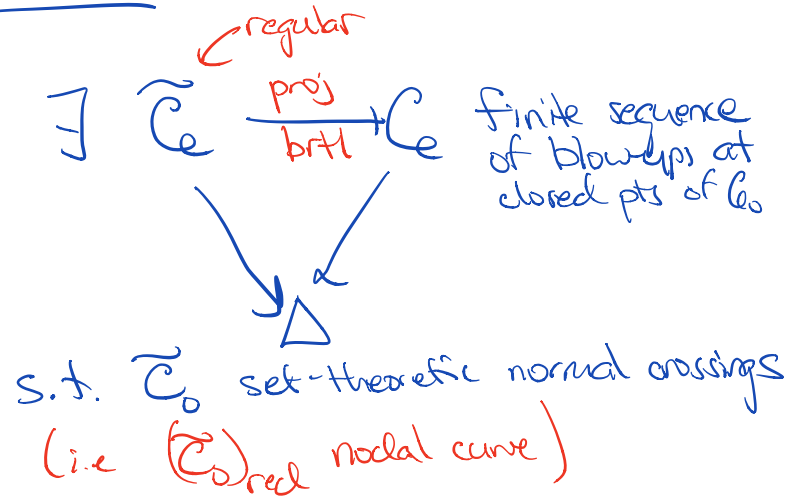
Stable reduction

\implies existence part of the valuative criterion of properness

STEP 1 Reduce to case where generic fiber $\mathcal{C}^x \rightarrow \Delta^x$ is smooth

STEP 2 Find some extension $\mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\text{flat}} \Delta$.

STEP 3 Use Embedded Resolutions



STEP 4 Take ramified base extension $\Delta' = \text{Spec } R \rightarrow \Delta = \text{Spec } R, t \mapsto t^m$
 s.t. central fiber of the normalization $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}} \times_{\Delta} \Delta$ is reduced & nodal.

STEP 5 Take minimal resolution & contract rational tail & bridges (i.e. take stable model)

§1. Explicit stable reduction

• The biggest challenge in computing the stable limit is in step 4: computing the normalization $\tilde{\mathcal{C}} \times_{\Delta'} \Delta'$ after base changing $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta, t \mapsto t^m$.

• In practice, it is useful to factor $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta$ as a composition of prime order base changes $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta, t \mapsto t^p$

Proposition.

- Let $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \Delta$ be a generically smooth family of curves such that $(\mathcal{C}_0)_{\text{red}}$ is nodal.
- Define the divisor $\mathcal{C}_0 = \sum a_i D_i$ on \mathcal{C} where a_i is the multiplicity of the irreducible component D_i .
- Let $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta$ be defined by $t \mapsto t^p$ where p is prime, and set $\mathcal{C}' := \mathcal{C} \times_{\Delta} \Delta'$ with normalization $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}'$.

Then $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a branched cover ramified over $\sum (a_i \bmod p) D_i$.

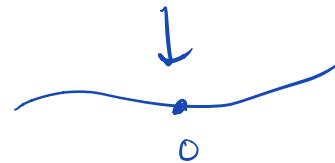
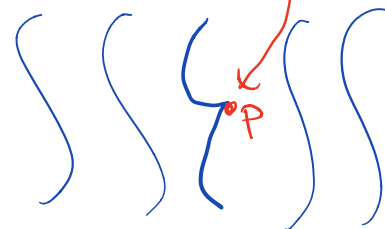
Example Suppose

Local eqn: $y^2 = x^5 + t$

\mathcal{C}

gen smooth family of curves

$\Delta = \text{Spec } \mathbb{R}$



Here $t \in \mathbb{R}$ uniformizer

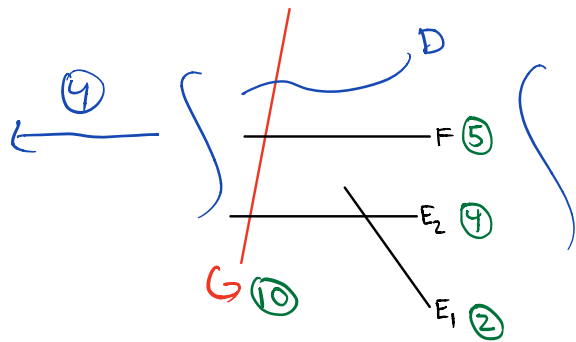
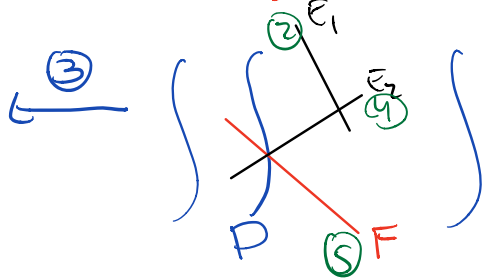
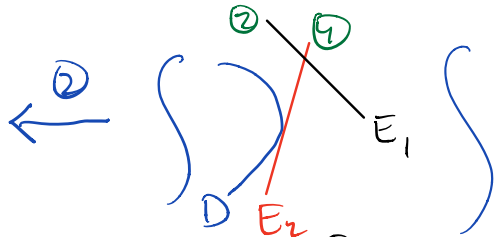
when $t=0$, central fiber \mathcal{C}_0 is not stable & $p \in \mathcal{C}_0$ is ramphoid cusp $y^2 = x^5$

Ques: What is the stable limit?

Example: Since we already have some limit, can begin with Step 3: blow-up points in central fiber until $(C_0)_{red}$ is nodal

Local eqn: $y^2 = x^5 + t$

② ← multiplicity



Computations

$$E \subset \tilde{C} = \text{Bl}_P C$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$P \in C$$

Chart 1

$$E|_{U_1} = v(x) \quad cU_1 \quad c\tilde{C}$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$C \quad (x, y) \quad (x, xy)$$

Chart 2

$$E|_{U_2} = v(y) \quad cU_2 \quad c\tilde{C}$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$C \quad (x, y) \quad (xy, y)$$

• Blowup 1

$$1^{st} \text{ chart: } y^2 - x^5 = (\tilde{x}\tilde{y})^2 - x^5 = \tilde{x}^2(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}^3)$$

$\underbrace{\tilde{x}^2}_{E_1} \underbrace{(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}^3)}_{\text{nodal}}$

• Blowup 2

$$1^{st} \text{ chart: } x^2(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}^3) = \tilde{x}^2(\tilde{x}\tilde{y})^2 - \tilde{x}^3 = \tilde{x}^4(\tilde{y} - \tilde{x})$$

$\underbrace{\tilde{x}^4}_{E_2} \underbrace{(\tilde{y} - \tilde{x})}_D$

$$2^{nd} \text{ chart: } x^2(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}^3) = \tilde{x}^2\tilde{y}^4(1 - \tilde{x}^3\tilde{y})$$

$\underbrace{\tilde{x}^2}_{E_1} \underbrace{\tilde{y}^4}_{E_2} \underbrace{(1 - \tilde{x}^3\tilde{y})}_D$

• Blowup 3

$$2^{nd} \text{ chart: } x^4(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}) = \tilde{x}^4\tilde{y}^4(\tilde{y}^2 - \tilde{x}\tilde{y})$$

$$= \tilde{x}^4\tilde{y}^5(\tilde{y} - \tilde{x})$$

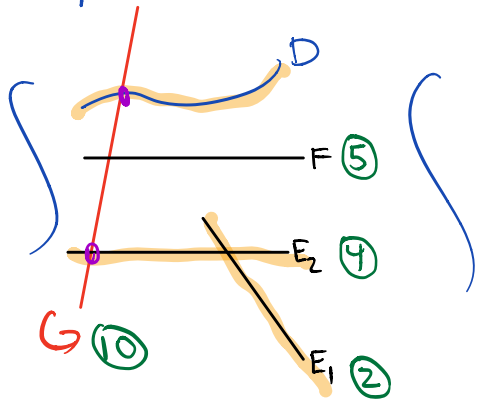
$\underbrace{\tilde{x}^4}_{E_2} \underbrace{\tilde{y}^5}_F \underbrace{(\tilde{y} - \tilde{x})}_D$ ~~part~~ nodal part of original central fiber

• Blowup 4

$$1^{st} \text{ chart: } x^4\tilde{y}^7(\tilde{y} - \tilde{x}) = \tilde{x}^{10}\tilde{y}^5(\tilde{y} - 1)$$

$\underbrace{\tilde{x}^{10}}_G \underbrace{\tilde{y}^5}_F \underbrace{(\tilde{y} - 1)}_D$

Have a family $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \Delta$ with $(\mathcal{C}_0)_{\text{red}}$ nodal



$$\bar{\mathcal{C}}_0 = D + 10G + 5F + 4E_2 + 2E_1$$

① Base change by $t \mapsto t^5$ & normalize

$\tilde{\mathcal{C}} \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathcal{C}$ ramified over $D + E_2 + E_1$

Preimage

$\mathcal{C}^l := \pi^{-1}(G) \xrightarrow{5:1} G = \mathbb{P}^1$ branched over 2 pts each w/ ram index 4

Riemann-Hurwitz \Rightarrow

$$2g(\mathcal{C}^l) - 2 = 5(-2) + 8 = -10 + 8$$

$$\Rightarrow g(\mathcal{C}^l) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}^l = \mathbb{P}^1$$

Preimage

$F^l := \pi^{-1}(F) \xrightarrow{5:1} F = \mathbb{P}^1$ unramified

$$\Rightarrow F^l = F_1 \cup \dots \cup F_5 \quad F_i = \mathbb{P}^1$$

Proposition.

- Let $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \Delta$ be a generically smooth family of curves such that $(\mathcal{C}_0)_{\text{red}}$ is nodal.
- Define the divisor $\mathcal{C}_0 = \sum a_i D_i$ on \mathcal{C} where a_i is the multiplicity of the irreducible component D_i .
- Let $\Delta' \rightarrow \Delta$ be defined by $t \mapsto t^p$ where p is prime, and set $\mathcal{C}' := \mathcal{C} \times_{\Delta} \Delta'$ with normalization $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}'$.

Then $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a branched cover ramified over $\sum (a_i \bmod p) D_i$.

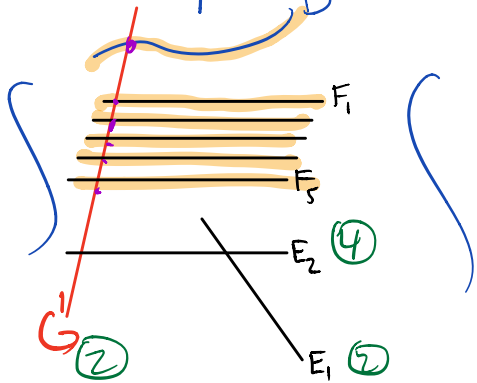
Over Δ , new central fiber

$$\mathcal{C}'_0 = 5D + 10\mathcal{C}' + 5(F_1 + \dots + F_5) + 2E_2 + 10E_1$$

Over Δ' ,

$$\mathcal{C}'_0 = D + 2\mathcal{C}' + (F_1 + \dots + F_5) + 4E_2 + 2E_1$$

We now have a family $C_0 \rightarrow \Delta$ with $(C_0)_{\text{red}}$



$$C_0' = D + 2G' + F_1 + \dots + F_5 + 4E_2 + 2E_1$$

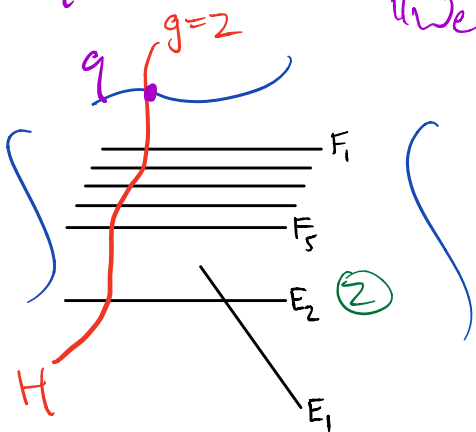
② Base change by $t \mapsto t^2$ & normalize

$\tilde{C}' \xrightarrow{2:1, \pi} C'$ ramified over $D + F_1 + \dots + F_5$

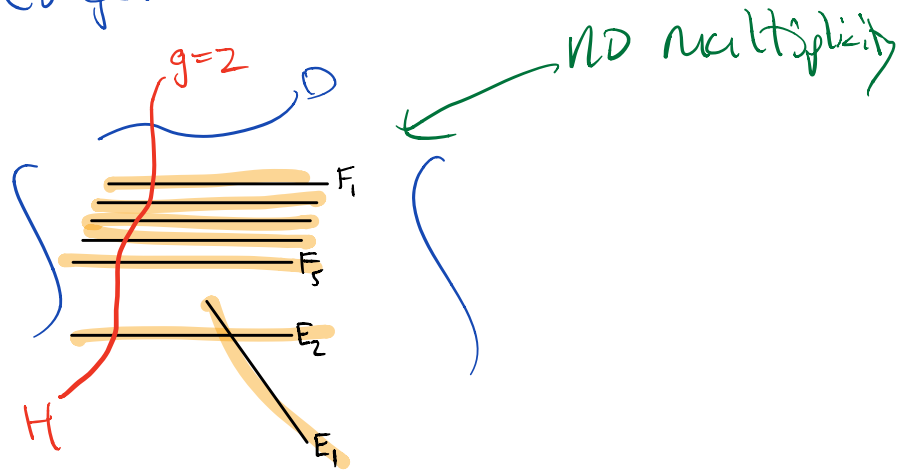
$H := \pi^{-1}(C')$ $\xrightarrow{2:1} C' = \mathbb{P}^1$ ramified over 6 points

$RH \Rightarrow H$ genus 2

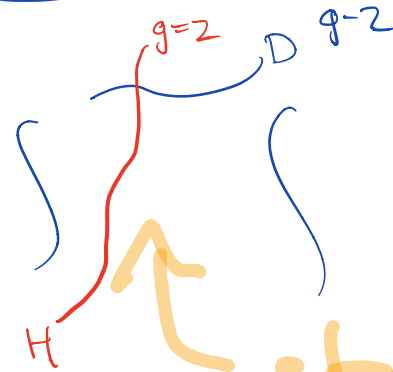
$g = \text{HND ram. pt of } H \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$
"Weierstrass pt"



③ Repeat $t \mapsto t^2$ one more time to get reduced central fiber



STEP 5 Contract rational tails



Algorithm:

Tjurings
Dokchitser

stable limit

Ques:

(1) Which genus 2 curve is it?

(2) More generally, what happens for

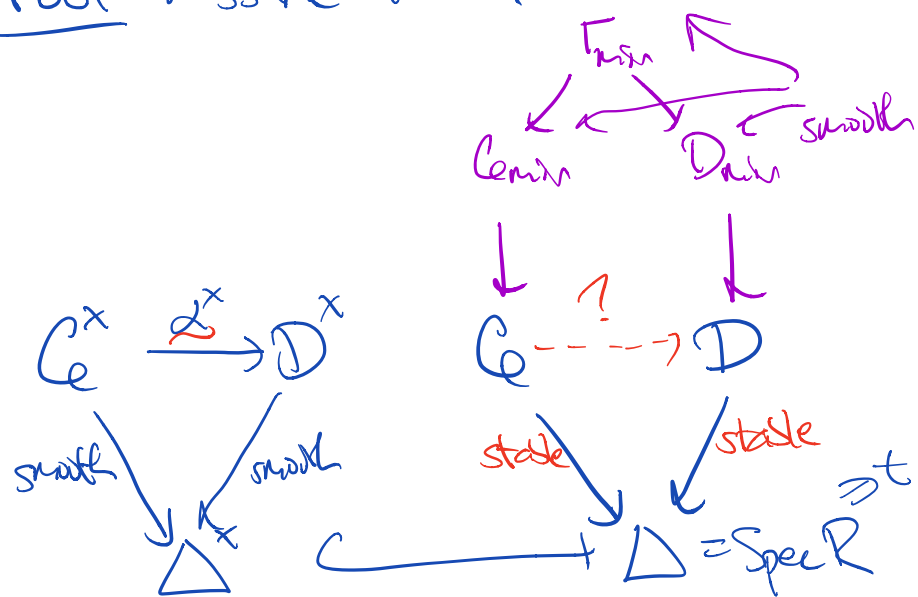
$$y^2 = x^5 + c_2(t)x^3 + \dots + c_5(t)$$

see Harris-Morrison

§2. Uniqueness of stable limit

Proposition (Separatedness). If $(\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \Delta, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$ and $(\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \Delta, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$ are families of n -pointed stable curves, then any isomorphism $\alpha^*: \mathcal{C}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^*$ over Δ^* with $\tau_i^* = \alpha^* \circ \sigma_i^*$ of the generic fibers extends to a unique isomorphism $\alpha: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ over Δ with $\tau_i = \alpha \circ \sigma_i$.

Proof Assume $n=0$ & $\mathcal{C}^* \cong \mathcal{D}^*$ smooth



Local structure of $z \in \mathcal{C}$ if $z \in \mathcal{C}_0$ node

$$xy = t^{n+1} \leftarrow A_n\text{-singularity}$$

STEP 1 Take minimal resolutions of \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{D}

$$\pi_{\mathcal{C}}^{-1}(z) = E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n \quad E_i^2 = -2$$

\uparrow node in \mathcal{C}_0

STEP 2 Take minimal resolution $\Gamma_{\min} \rightarrow \Gamma$ of $\Gamma = \text{im}(\mathcal{C}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\min}^* \times_{\Delta} \mathcal{D}_{\min}^*)$.

STEP 3 As $\Gamma_{\min} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\min}$ & $\Gamma_{\min} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\min}$ are birational maps of smooth proj. surfaces,

$$\Gamma(\omega_{\mathcal{C}_{\min}/\Delta}^{\otimes k}) = \Gamma(\omega_{\Gamma_{\min}/\Delta}^{\otimes k}) = \Gamma(\omega_{\mathcal{D}_{\min}/\Delta}^{\otimes k})$$

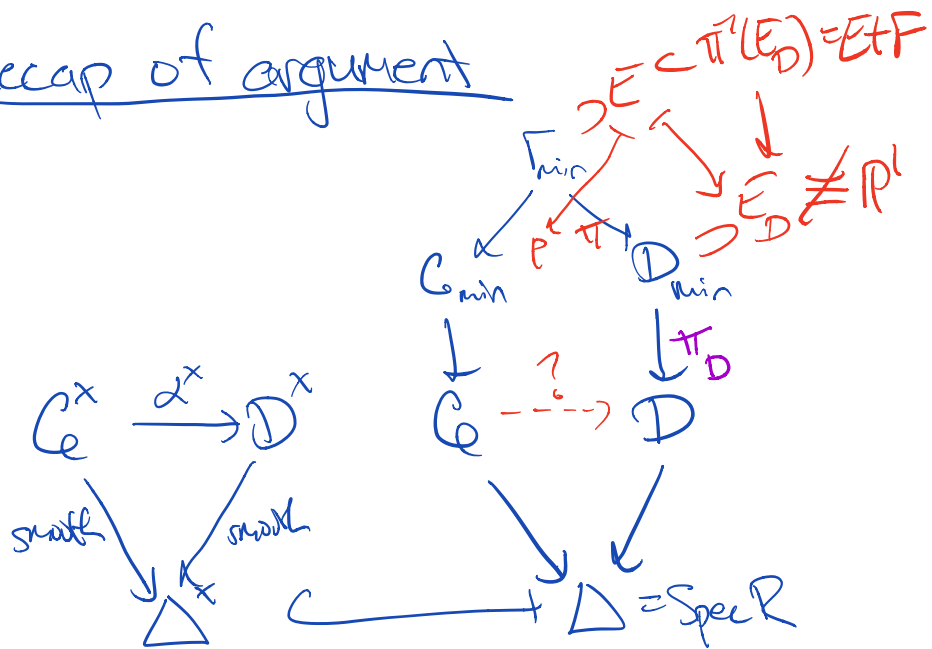
STEP 4 \mathcal{C} & \mathcal{D} are rel. stable model of $\mathcal{C}_{\min} \cong \mathcal{D}_{\min}$. By uniqueness of stable models, $\mathcal{C} \cong \mathcal{D}$.

Know

$$\mathcal{C} = \text{Proj} \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Gamma(\omega_{\mathcal{C}_{\min}/\Delta}^{\otimes k})$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \text{Proj} \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \Gamma(\omega_{\mathcal{D}_{\min}/\Delta}^{\otimes k})$$

Recap of argument



More explicit argument that $\Gamma_{min} \rightarrow C_{min} \neq \Gamma_{min} \rightarrow D_{min}$

- If not, $\exists E = P^1 \subset \Gamma_{min}$ that is contracted under $\Gamma_{min} \rightarrow C_{min}$ but not $\Gamma_{min} \rightarrow D_{min}$
- Let $E_D = \pi_D(E) \neq \pi(E_D) = E \cup F \sim \pi_D$ -exceptional
- Blowing up decreases self-intersection: By proj formula $\Rightarrow E_D^2 = E \cdot (E \cup F) \geq E^2 = -1$
- Hodge Index for exceptional curves $\Rightarrow E_D^2 < 0$
- Since $E_D^2 = -1$, $E_D \subset D_{min}$ is singular. As $\Gamma_{min} \rightarrow \Gamma$ resolves this singularity, $E \cdot F \geq 1 \Rightarrow E_D^2 \geq 0$, contradiction!

Upshot: \overline{M}_g proper

While $\overline{M}_g \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$ is proper, we only have proved this in char=0

By Keel-Mori thm, \exists coarse mod space

$$\exists \overline{M}_g \xrightarrow{cms} \overline{M}_g$$

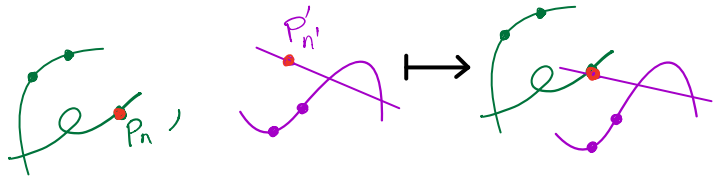
proper alg. space

§3. Gluing morphisms

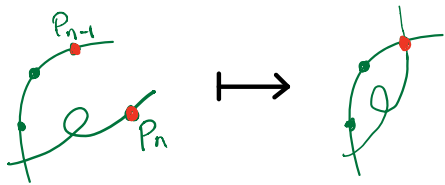
Reference: Knudsen, *Projectivity II* (1983)

Proposition. There are morphisms of algebraic stacks

(a) $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g',n'} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g+g',n+n'-2}$

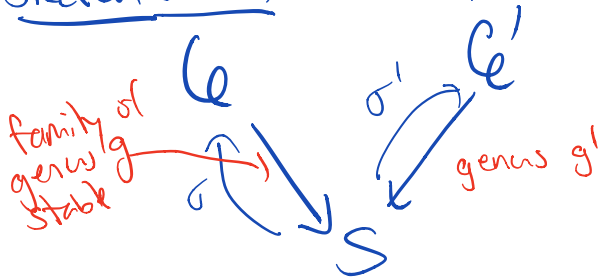


(b) $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g+n-2}$

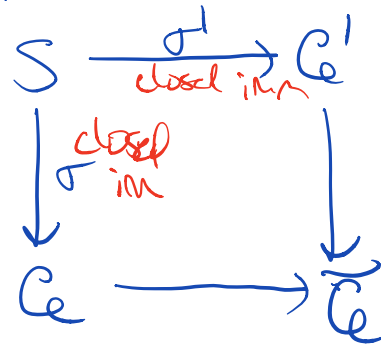


While it is hopefully conceptually clear what these maps do on points (i.e. curves over a field) we need the construction in families.

Sketch of (a) Assume $n=n'=1$.



Approach 1: Use pushout



Exists by Ferrand
Well behaved when one map is a closed immersion & the other is finite.

Need to show $\tilde{C} \rightarrow S$ desired family of stable curves. We will use

- (1) Pushout is étale local on S, C, C'
- (2) Local structure of smooth maps
(C & C' are smooth along σ & σ')

Reduce pushout computation

$$\text{Spec } A \xrightarrow{\sigma=0} \text{Spec } A[x,y]$$

$$\downarrow \sigma=0 \qquad \downarrow$$

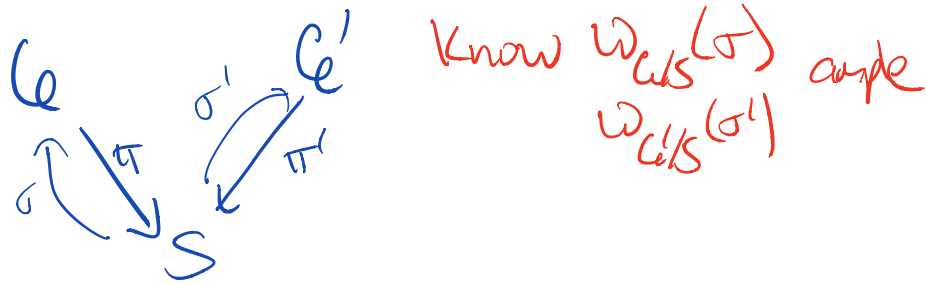
$$\text{Spec } A[x,y] \rightarrow \text{Spec } A[x,y] \times_A A[y]$$

$$A[x,y] \times_A A[y] = \{ (f(x), g(y)) \mid f(0) = g(0) \}$$

$$= A[x,y] / xy$$

$\Rightarrow \tilde{C} \rightarrow S$ nodal family
stability can be checked on fibers

Approach 2 Proj construction



Know $\omega_{C/S}(\sigma)$ ample
 $\omega_{C'/S}(\sigma')$

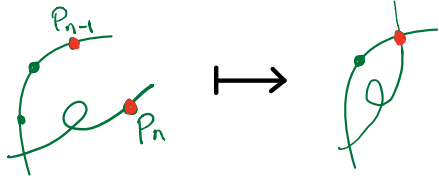
$$0 \rightarrow \omega_C \rightarrow \omega_{C/S} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_S \rightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \omega_C(\sigma)^{\otimes k} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{O}_S \quad \forall k \\ \downarrow A_k & \searrow & \downarrow \pi'_k(\omega_{C'/S}(\sigma')^{\otimes k}) \\ \pi'_k(\omega_{C/S}(\sigma)^{\otimes k}) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{O}_S \end{array}$$

Check $\mathcal{C} := \text{Proj } \bigoplus A_k \rightarrow S$
 desired state family

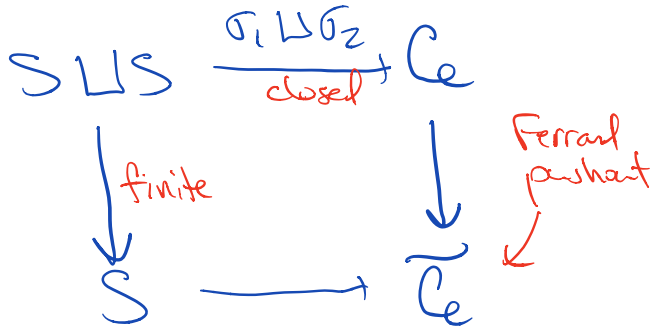
Sketch of (b)

$$\overline{M}_{g,n} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{g+1, n-2}$$

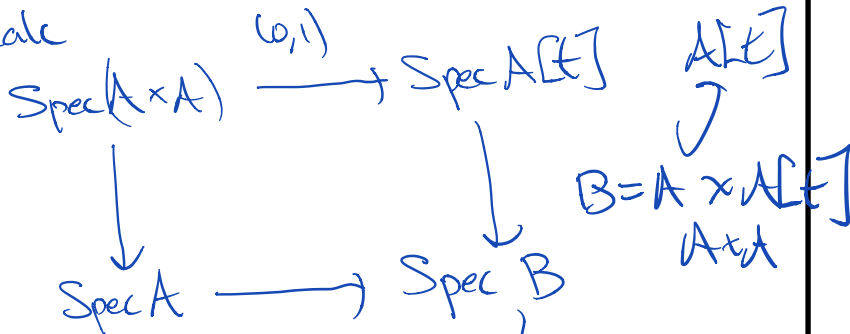


Assume $n=2$ $(\mathbb{C} \rightarrow S, \sigma_1, \sigma_2)$

Pushout



Local calc



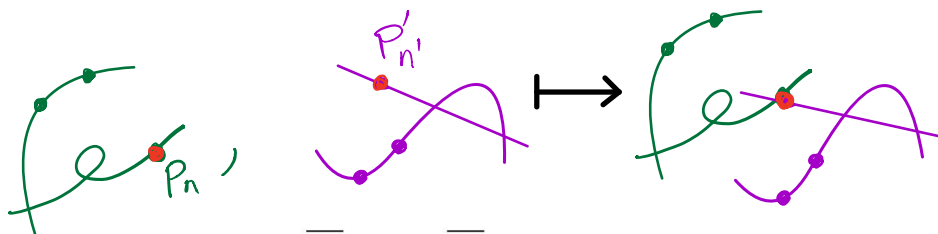
where $B = \{ f \in A[t] \mid f(0) = f(1) \}$
 $= A \langle \underbrace{t^2-1}_x, \underbrace{t^3-t}_y \rangle \subset A[t]$
 $= A[x, y] / (y^2 - x^2(x+1))$

Proj construction Similar

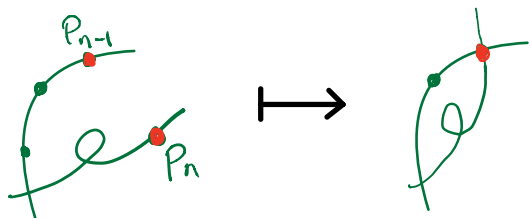
Summary

Proposition. There are morphisms of algebraic stacks

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g',n'} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g+g',n+n'-2}$$



$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n-2}^{\text{th}}$$



Application (boundary divisors)

- Let $\delta_i = \text{image}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{i,1} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g-i,1} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_g)$
 $i = 1, \dots, \lfloor g/2 \rfloor$

Ex: $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{curve} \\ i \end{array} \right] \in \delta_i$

$$\delta_0 = \text{image}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g+1,2} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_g)$$

$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{curve} \\ \infty \end{array} \right] \in \delta_0$

* $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{curve} \\ i \end{array} \right] \in \delta_i \cap \delta_0$

IMPORTANT FACT $\delta = \delta_0 + \delta_1 + \dots + \delta_{\lfloor g/2 \rfloor}$

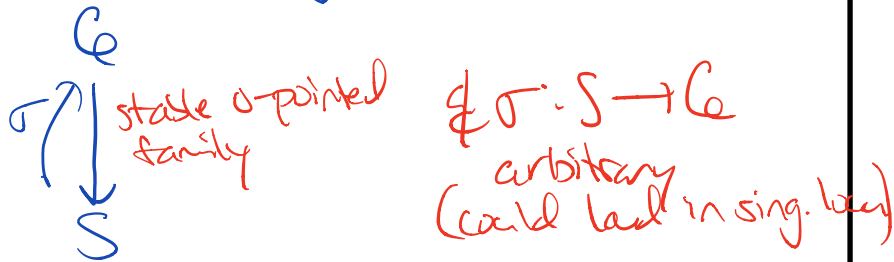
is a simple normal crossing (snc) divisor.

§4. The universal family $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

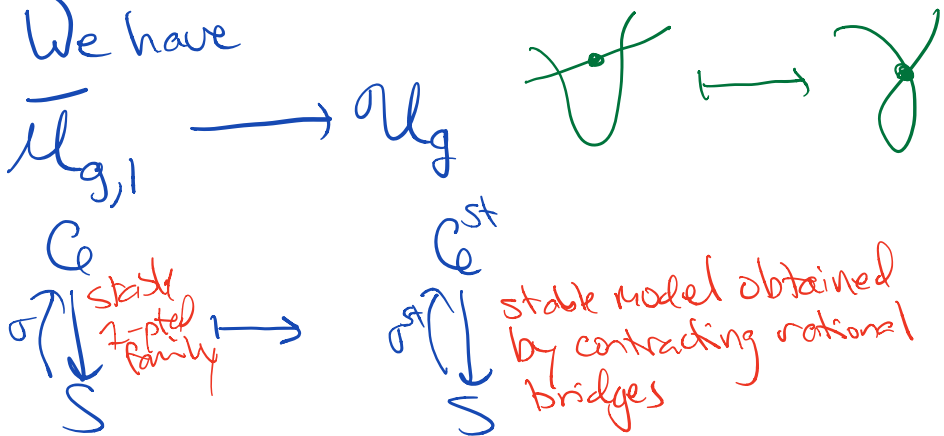
Forgetting a marked point can make the curve unstable!



Let $\mathcal{U}_g \xrightarrow[\text{flat}]{\text{proper}}$ $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_g$ be universal family.
As a state, \mathcal{U}_g parameterizes



We have



Prop $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{U}_g$ is isomorphism

Sketch

① Proj construction (following Knudsen)

Explicitly construct an inverse $\mathcal{U}_g \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1}$

Let $C \rightarrow S$ stable curve & $\sigma: S \rightarrow C$

Let $\mathcal{I}_\sigma = \mathcal{O}_C$ be ideal sheaf of σ

Define K as

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_\sigma^\vee \oplus \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow K \rightarrow 0$$

Define

$\tilde{C} = \text{Proj}_S K$ & cases s-section

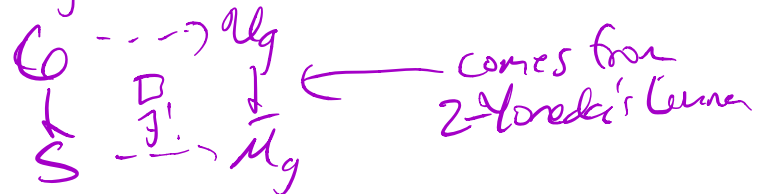
$$\sigma^* K \rightarrow \sigma^*(K/\mathcal{O}_C) = \sigma^*(\mathcal{I}_\sigma^\vee/\mathcal{O}_C)$$

line bundle

\rightarrow gives $\tilde{\sigma}: S \rightarrow \tilde{C}$

Check: $(\tilde{C} \rightarrow S, \tilde{\sigma})$ stable

$\mathcal{U}_g \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_g$ univ family \Leftrightarrow



Approach 2 (deformation theory)

$$\mathcal{V}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$$

We have

$$\overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,1} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \mathcal{U}_g$$

$$\mathcal{V}^{p'} \xrightarrow{f^0} \mathcal{P}$$

$$(C', p') \longmapsto (C, p)$$

↑
stable model of C

$$C' \rightarrow (C')^{st} = C$$

$$p' \mapsto p$$

- ✓ γ is proper & ~~representable~~ ^{stab pres.}
 - ✓ γ separates points
 - ? γ separates tangent vectors
- } $\Rightarrow \gamma$ iso

Assume only one rational bridge is contracted and consider

$$T_{\overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,1}, [C', p']} \longrightarrow T_{\mathcal{U}_g, [C, p]}$$

def theory

$$\text{Ext}^1(\Omega_{C'}, \mathcal{I}_{p'}) \longrightarrow \text{Ext}^1(\Omega_C, \mathcal{I}_p)$$

$\mathbb{K}[x, y]/xy$

line bundle

not line bundle

Properties of contraction map $C' \rightarrow C$

① $\pi_* \mathcal{O}_{C'} = \mathcal{O}_C$ & $R^1 \pi_* \mathcal{O}_{C'} = 0$

② $\pi_* \mathcal{I}_{p'} = \mathcal{I}_p$ & $R^1 \pi_* \mathcal{I}_{p'} = 0$

③ $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^0(p) \rightarrow \Omega_{C'} \rightarrow \pi_* \Omega_{C'} \rightarrow 0$

Map on Ext's is: $\pi^* \pi_* \Omega_{C'}$

$$[0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{p'} \rightarrow E' \xrightarrow{\pi^* \pi_* \Omega_{C'}} \Omega_{C'} \rightarrow 0] \in \text{Ext}^1(\Omega_{C'}, \mathcal{I}_{p'})$$

$$[0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_p \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{\Omega_C} \Omega_C \rightarrow 0] \in \text{Ext}^1(\Omega_C, \mathcal{I}_p)$$

$$0 \rightarrow \pi_* \mathcal{I}_{p'} \rightarrow \pi_* E' \rightarrow \pi_* \Omega_{C'} \rightarrow 0$$

Suppose E trivial extension

$\Rightarrow \exists$ section s

Check: s descends to \bar{s}

Adjunction

$$\text{Hom}(\pi_* \Omega_{C'}, \pi_* E') = \text{Hom}(\pi^* \pi_* \Omega_{C'}, E')$$

Check descends to $s' \Rightarrow E'$ trivial