

# Boundary strata and adjoint varieties<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>report on recent work with C. Robles, based in part on earlier work with G. Pearlstein as well as P. Griffiths and M. Green.

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**flag/Schubert varieties**  $\xrightarrow{\text{Robles}}$  **maximal VHS**  $\rightarrow$  **geom. realization?**







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We think of M-T domains as parametrizing (a connected component of) all HS on  $V$  polarized by  $Q$ , with the same Hodge numbers as  $\varphi$ , whose HTs include the fixed tensors of  $G$ . We shall loosely speak of  $(V, Q, \varphi)$  as a “Hodge representation” of  $G$ .

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- ▶ Since  $-B$  is  $> 0$  on  $\mathfrak{k}$  and  $< 0$  on  $\mathfrak{k}^{\perp}$ ,  $(\mathfrak{g}, \text{Ad} \circ \varphi, -B)$  is a PHS (of weight 0).

The Hodge decomposition takes the form  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}} = \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathfrak{g}^j$ , where

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Since  $\varphi$  is “sufficiently general”, we may take  $g_0 = 1$  in (c).

By (a),  $M \trianglelefteq G$ ; so  $G$  simple  $\implies M = G$ .

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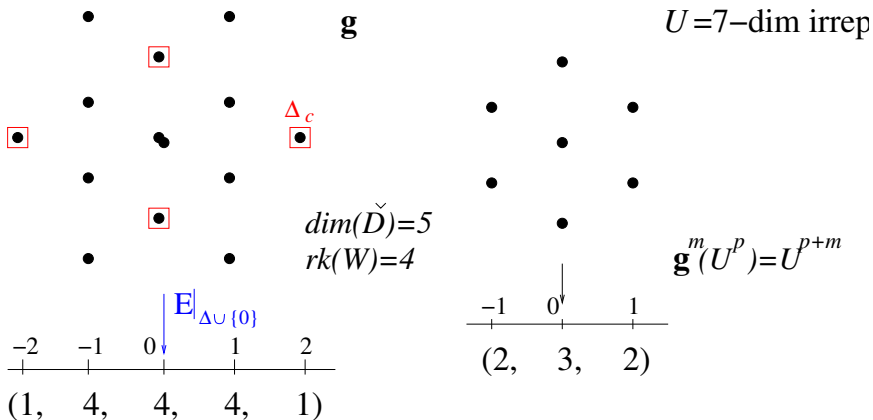
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Example: ( $G = G_2$ )



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Recall: upon fixing  $\Delta^+ \subset \Delta$ , we have

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- ▶  $U = U^{-m} \oplus \dots \oplus U^m$  is the grading induced by  $E$
- ▶  $U^m = U_\mu =$  highest weight line
- ▶ the  $G(\mathbb{C})$ -orbit of  $[U_\mu] \in \mathbb{P}U$  gives a homogeneous embedding of  $G(\mathbb{C})/P$ , minimal if  $\mu^i \in \{0, 1\}$  ( $\forall i$ ).

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- ▶ unless  $G$  is of type  $A$  or  $C$ , the adjoint representation is fundamental ( $\mathfrak{g} = V^{\omega_k}$ ), and the corresponding  $\{\check{D}\}$  are the **fundamental adjoint varieties**.

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Why study the adjoint varieties as Hodge-theoretic classifying spaces?

The adjoint case is  $U = \mathfrak{g}$ . Root/weight computations show:

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One reason: they are the “simplest”  $G/P$  with nontrivial IPR, in the sense of being precisely the cases where  $\mathcal{W}$  is a contact distribution.

## §2. Schubert VHS and classical subdomains

Let  $D \subset \check{D}$  be a M-T domain with base point  $F^\bullet = F_\varphi^\bullet \in D$ ,  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus \mathfrak{g}^j$  the corresponding Hodge decomposition, and  $T, \Delta$  as before. Write  $P \geq B \geq T_{\mathbb{C}}$  for the parabolic fixing  $F^\bullet$ , so that we have:

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 $(\implies \mathfrak{n}_w \text{ abelian})$

## Theorem (Robles)

$$\begin{aligned} \max \dim(\text{IVHS}) &= \max \dim(\text{SVHS}) = \\ \max \{ |\Delta_w| \mid w \in W^P, \Delta_w \subset \Delta(\mathfrak{g}^{-1}) \} \end{aligned}$$

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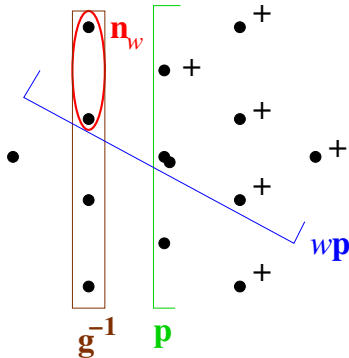
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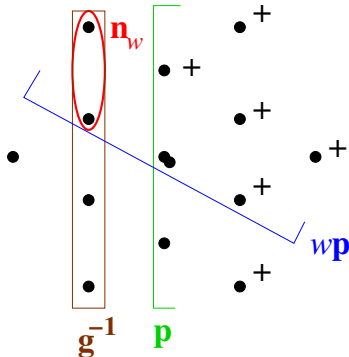


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**Is this  $X_w$  a M-T subdomain?** If so, it would be a (smooth, Hermitian) homogeneous  $G'(\mathbb{R})$ -orbit, with  $\mathfrak{g} \supsetneq \mathfrak{g}' = \text{Lie algebra closure of } \mathfrak{n}_w \oplus \overline{\mathfrak{n}_w}$ . But this closure is all of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . **NO!**

More generally, **what is the relationship between SVHS and horizontal ( $\implies$  Hermitian) M-T domains?**

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It is instructive to compare this with another recent result:

## Theorem (Friedman-Laza)

- ▶  $X \subset \check{D}$  a smooth "VHS" (horizontal subvariety)
  - ▶  $Y$  a (nonempty) connected component of  $X \cap D$  with strongly quasi-projective image in  $\Gamma \backslash D$
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The converse of the Corollary is **false**: there are plenty of non-Schubert, horizontal Hermitian M-T subdomains, and we will construct maximal integral ones later.

### §3. Lines on $\check{D}$ and a differential invariant of VHS

The Corollary suggests that there might be lots of singular SVHS, in view of the  $G_2$  example. A systematic construction of Schubert varieties is given by incidence correspondences:

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- ▶  $X_0 \cong \text{Cone}(\mathcal{C}_0)$  is a singular Schubert VHS



Some data for the fundamental adjoint varieties  $\check{D}$  and their associated “subadjoint” varieties  $\mathcal{C}_0$  of lines through a point:

$\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$	$\check{D}$	$\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^{0,ss}$	$\mathcal{C}_0$
$\mathfrak{so}(n)$	$OG(2, \mathbb{C}^n)$	$\mathfrak{so}(n-4) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2)$	$\mathbb{P}^1 \times Q^{n-6}$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$E_6/P_2$	$\mathfrak{sl}(6)$	$Gr(3, \mathbb{C}^6)$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$E_7/P_1$	$\mathfrak{so}(12)$	$S_6$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$E_8/P_8$	$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$E_7/P_7$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$F_4/P_1$	$\mathfrak{sp}(6)$	$LG(3, \mathbb{C}^6)$
$\mathfrak{g}_2$	$G_2/P_2$	$\mathfrak{sl}(2)$	$\nu_3(\mathbb{P}^1)$

We now relate these varieties of lines to the [Griffiths-Yukawa kernel](#). Let  $\mathcal{V} = \bigoplus_{j=0}^n \mathcal{V}^{n-j,j}$  be a VHS over  $\mathcal{S}$ , with associated period map  $\Phi : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \Gamma \backslash D$  ( $D = \text{M-T domain}$ ). Denote by  $\mathcal{D}$  a holomorphic differential operator on  $U \subset \mathcal{S}$  of order  $n$ .

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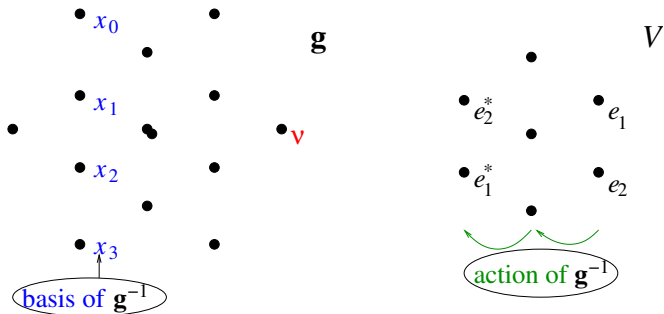
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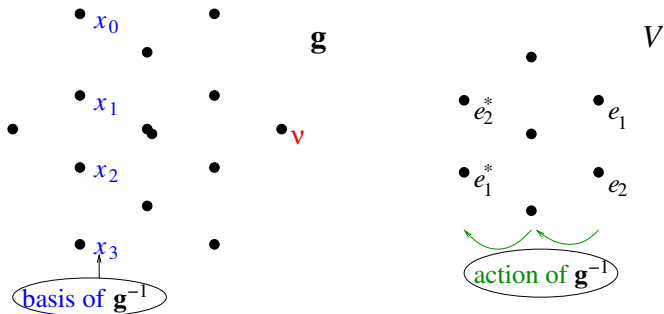
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sym}^n T_{\mathcal{S}} \mathcal{S} & \rightarrow & \text{Hom}(V_s^{n,0}, V_s^{0,n}) = (V_s^{0,n})^{\otimes 2} \\ d\Phi \downarrow & \nearrow & \uparrow (*) \\ \text{Sym}^n \mathfrak{g}^{-1} & \xleftarrow{(\cdot)^n} & \mathfrak{g}^{-1} \end{array}$$

Write  $\mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{P}\mathfrak{g}^{-1}$  for the kernel of  $(*)$  (at  $F^\bullet \in D$ ).

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Given  $\xi := \sum \xi_i x_i \in \mathfrak{g}^{-1}$ , one computes

$$e^*[\xi^2]_e = \begin{pmatrix} -2\xi_1\xi_2 + 2\xi_2^2 & \xi_1\xi_2 - \xi_0\xi_3 \\ \xi_1\xi_2 - \xi_0\xi_3 & -2\xi_0\xi_2 + 2\xi_1^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

whose vanishing defines the twisted cubic  $\nu_3(\mathbb{P}^1) \subset \mathbb{P}\mathfrak{g}^{-1}$ .

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When the conclusion of the Theorem holds,

- ▶  $\mathcal{Y} = \ker(G-Y)$  gives Hodge-theoretic meaning to  $\mathcal{C}_0$
- ▶  $\mathcal{C}_0 \cong G^0(\mathbb{C})/\dots$  gives a homogeneous description of  $\mathcal{Y}$
- ▶  $\text{ad}_\xi^2 v = 0$  produces explicit projective homogeneous equations for both.

## §4. $G(\mathbb{R})$ -orbits in $\check{D}$ and asymptotics of VHS

Given the input:

- ▶  $D \subset \check{D}$  M-T domain (parametrizing wt. 0 HS on  $V$ )
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One may “partially compactify”  $\Gamma \backslash D$  by  $\bar{B}(\sigma)$ s (log manifold).

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Write

- ▶  $M_\sigma = \exp \{ \text{im}(\sum N_i) \cap (\cap \ker(N_i)) \}$
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- ▶ naive limit map

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\infty^\sigma : B(\sigma) &\rightarrow \partial D \subset \check{D} \\ F^\bullet &\mapsto \lim_{\text{Im}(\tau) \rightarrow \infty} e^{\tau N} F^\bullet \quad (\text{any } N \in \sigma^\circ). \end{aligned}$$



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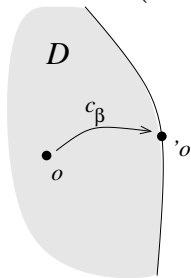
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Remark : We can use this to construct non-Schubert M-T subdomains. Define the “enhanced  $SL_2$ -orbit”

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Remark : We can use this to construct non-Schubert M-T subdomains. Define the “enhanced  $SL_2$ -orbit”

$$X(N) := \overline{e^{\mathbb{C}N} G_N^{ss} \cdot 'o}^{\text{Zar}} = G_N^{ss} \times SL_2^\beta \cdot 'o \subset \check{D};$$

then (with an arithmetic assumption on  $o$ )

- ▶  $Y(N) := X(N) \cap D$  is a M-T domain
- ▶  $X(N) = \check{D}(N) \times \mathbb{P}^1 \supset D(N) \times \mathfrak{h} = Y(N)$
- ▶ If  $E(\alpha) \in \{-1, 0, 1\} \forall \alpha \perp \beta$ , then  $Y(N)$  is a HSD.
- ▶ If  $\check{D} = G(\mathbb{C})/P$  ( $P$  maximal) and  $\dim X(N) \geq 2$ , then  $X(N)$  is not Schubert.

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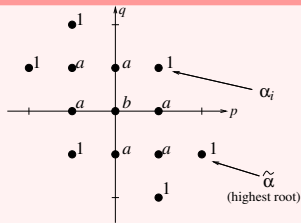
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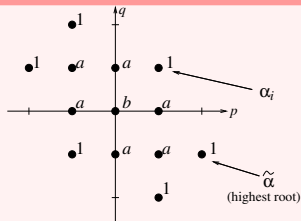


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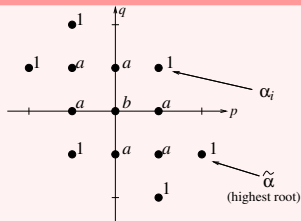
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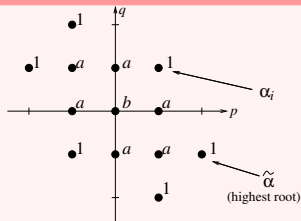


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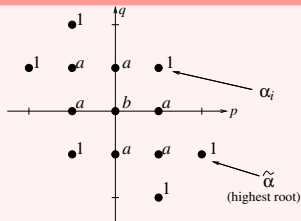
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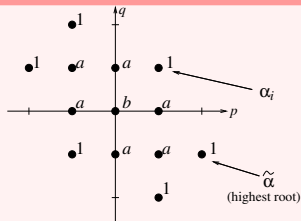
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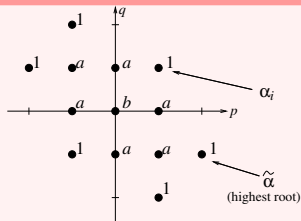
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Note that  $w$  identifies the (faithful) representations of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}_1$  and  $\mathfrak{g}^0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}^{-1}$ . Moreover,  $D(N) (\subset \mathbb{P}\mathfrak{g}_1)$  is the M-T domain for the Hodge representation of  $G_0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}_1$ , which leads to:

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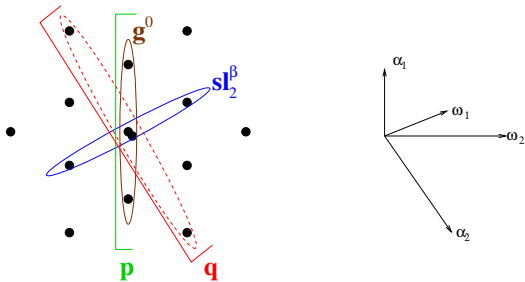
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Applications? Automorphic cohomology; geometric realizations; cohomology of  $\check{D}$ .

$H^*(\check{D}, \mathbb{Z})$  is generated by Schubert varieties, and the “horizontal” part (invariant characteristic cohomology) by Schubert VHS. Do the subadjoint cylinder classes  $[X(N)]$  yield smooth representatives of the subadjoint cone classes  $[X_w]$ ?

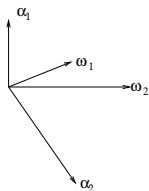
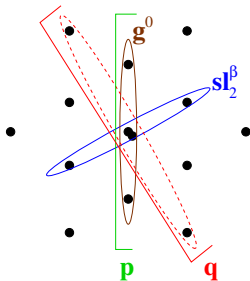
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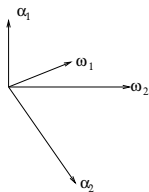
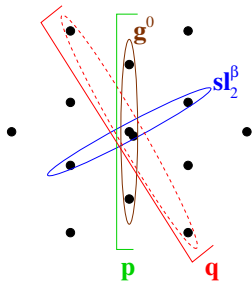
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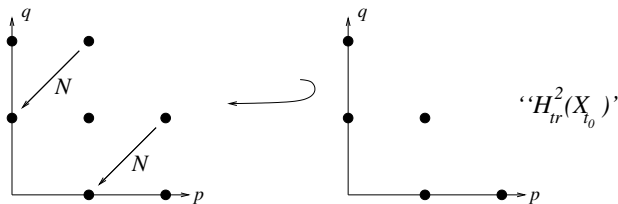
$$\begin{aligned} (\omega_1, \omega_1) = 2(\omega_1, \alpha_1) &\implies [\Sigma(N)] = 2[\Sigma] \\ &\implies [X(N)] = 2[X_w]. \end{aligned}$$

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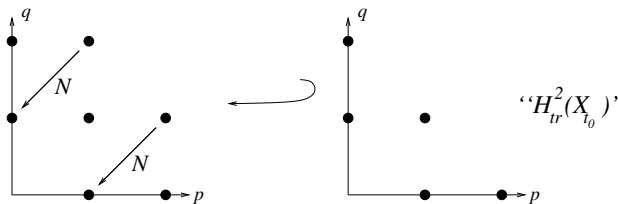


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where  $N$  is the monodromy logarithm and bullets denote 1-dimensional spaces. In fact, just such a family has been constructed by N. Katz using elliptic fibrations; the M-T group is determined by a moment computation using elliptic convolution over finite fields. We shall describe a special case.

Begin with the rational elliptic surface

$$\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_z^1 : y^2 = x(1-x)(x-z^2)$$

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For any  $t \neq 0, \frac{\pm 2}{3\sqrt{3}}, \infty$ , base change by

$$E_t \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_z^1 : w^2 = tz(z-1)(z+1) + t^2$$

to obtain an elliptic surface  $X_t \rightarrow E_t$  with 7 singular fibers,

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with singular fibers  $(2 I_4, 2 I_2)$  at  $z = -1, 0, 1, \infty$ .

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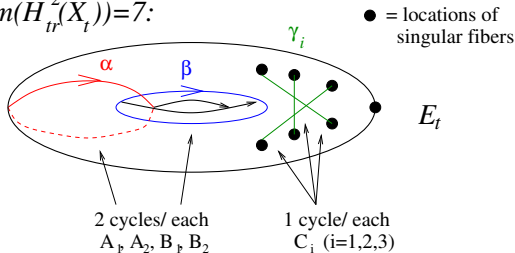
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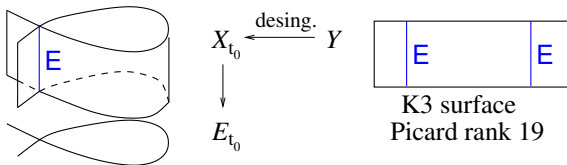
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Degenerating  $X_t$  as  $t \rightarrow t_0 = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}}$  yields

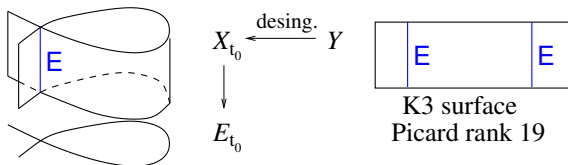
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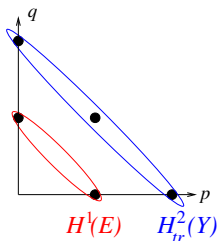
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The part of  $H^2(X_{t_0})$  not coming from the 19 algebraic classes on  $Y$  indeed takes the form





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$$\bar{B}(N) \rightarrow \Gamma \backslash \mathfrak{H}.$$

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- ▶ The point in the fiber

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}^2 / \mathbb{Z} \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2\tau/3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \tau^2/3 \\ 2\tau \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3\tau^2 \end{pmatrix} \rangle &\cong J(\text{Sym}^3 H^1(E)) \\ &\subset J(H_{tr}^2(Y)^\vee \otimes H^1(E)) \end{aligned}$$

is given by  $\int_{B_1} \omega, \int_{B_2} \omega$  ( $\omega \in \Omega^2(Y)$ ).

The image of the period map into  $\Gamma \backslash D$  is contained (at least locally) in 2-dimensional integral manifolds. Does  $X_t$  belong to a 2-parameter family?

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To determine which deformations of  $X_t$  “preserve  $G_2$ ”, it may be necessary to “see” the cubic Hodge tensor geometrically: we need  $\mathfrak{J} \in CH^3(X_t \times X_t \times X_t)$  inducing an “octonionic cross-product” on  $H_{tr}^2(X_t)$ .

– Thank You –