

A dilogarithmic formula for the Cheeger–Chern–Simons class

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We present a simplification of Neumann’s formula for the universal Cheeger–Chern–Simons class of the second Chern polynomial. Our approach is completely algebraic, and the final formula can be applied directly on a homology class in the bar complex.

57M27; 57T30

Introduction

In the famous papers [1] and [2], J Cheeger, S Chern and J Simons define characteristic classes for flat G –bundles. Each such characteristic class is given by a corresponding universal cohomology class in $H^*(BG^\delta, \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z})$, where δ denotes discrete topology. The cohomology of the classifying space of a discrete group is isomorphic to the Eilenberg–Maclane group cohomology, and it has been a long standing problem to find explicit formulas for the universal classes directly in terms of the bar complex. In [3], the first author proved that the universal Cheeger–Chern–Simons (C–C–S) class for the group $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ associated to the second Chern polynomial is given up to a \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} indeterminacy by a dilogarithmic formula defined on the Bloch group $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$.

An element of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$ is a formal sum of cross-ratios (see below), but the cross-ratio alone does not seem to carry enough information to get rid of the \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} indeterminacy on the real part. Neumann [7] constructs an extended Bloch group $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$, where elements, in addition to the cross-ratio, also contain information of two choices of logarithms. It follows from Neumann’s article that this additional information is exactly what is needed to remove the \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} indeterminacy. He shows that there is an isomorphism

$$\lambda: H_3(\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \cong \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}),$$

and furthermore that there is a natural extension of the dilogarithmic formula from [3] to $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ such that the composition of λ with the dilogarithm is exactly the universal C–C–S class. The formula also gives a combinatorial formula for the volume and the Chern–Simons invariant of a complete hyperbolic manifold M with finite volume,

since the C–C–S class evaluated on the canonical flat $\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ –bundle over M equals $i(\mathrm{Vol} + i\mathrm{CS})$. This is shown by Neumann and Yang [8].

The isomorphism λ is defined by representing an element of $H_3(\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$ by a “quasisimplicial complex,” and the appropriate choices of logarithms required to obtain an element in $\widehat{B}(\mathbb{C})$ are found by studying combinatorial properties of this complex. We construct a map similar to Neumann’s using $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ instead of $\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ and the more extended Bloch group from [7, Section 8] instead of the extended Bloch group. We thus answer affirmatively a question raised about the relation of this group to $H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$ [7, page 443]. The definition of our map uses only simple homological algebra, and we obtain a formula which enables us to calculate the universal C–C–S class directly from a representative of a homology class in the bar complex. All geometry is replaced by algebra which vastly simplifies the proofs.

We give a brief overview of the contents: In Section 1 we review the basic theory of the C–C–S classes, group homology and the Bloch group. Many details are included in order to make the paper self-contained. In Section 2 we recall Neumann’s definition of the (more) extended Bloch group. This overlaps with Neumann’s paper but for the sake of completeness, we include most of the details. In Section 3, we construct a map $\widehat{\lambda}: H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \rightarrow \widehat{B}(\mathbb{C})$ by describing a way of detecting the appropriate two choices of logarithms directly from a tuple of group elements. The idea is that the extra information can be found in $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ rather than S^2 using the Hopf map. In Section 4 we show that our map actually calculates the C–C–S class and show that $\widehat{\lambda}$ is surjective with kernel of order 2. Finally, we show in the appendix that our definition of the extended Bloch group agrees with that of Neumann.

Remark The reader should keep in mind that whenever we mention the extended Bloch group, we always mean the *more* extended Bloch group from [7, Section 8]. Neumann uses the notation $\mathcal{EB}(\mathbb{C})$ for this group but we will use the notation $\widehat{B}(\mathbb{C})$ even though this conflicts with the notation in [7].

Acknowledgements This work was partially supported by The Danish Natural Science Research Council (Statens Naturvidenskabelige Forskningsråd), Denmark.

1 Preliminaries

In this section we review some basic theory and introduce our terminology. Throughout, \mathbb{F} always denotes either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} .

1.1 The Cheeger–Chern–Simons classes

We here recall some facts about the C–C–S classes that we shall need. For their construction and basic properties, we refer to [1] or [2].

Let G be a Lie group with finitely many components and let $I^k(G, \mathbb{F})$ denote the group of invariant polynomials. Recall from classical Chern–Weil theory that there is a natural homomorphism

$$W: I^k(G, \mathbb{F}) \rightarrow H^{2k}(BG, \mathbb{F}).$$

Let r denote the map $H^*(BG, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^*(BG, \mathbb{F})$ induced by the inclusion. The C–C–S classes are defined from the following data:

- (1) An invariant polynomial $P \in I^k(G, \mathbb{F})$.
- (2) A class $u \in H^{2k}(BG, \mathbb{Z})$ satisfying $W(P) = ru$.

$$\text{Let } K^k(G, \mathbb{F}) = \{(P, u) \in I^k(G, \mathbb{F}) \times H^{2k}(BG, \mathbb{Z}) \mid W(P) = ru\}.$$

Let G^δ denote the underlying discrete group of G . In [1] and [2], the authors describe a way of associating a cohomology class $\hat{P}(u)$ in $H^{2k-1}(BG^\delta, \mathbb{F}/\mathbb{Z})$ to an element (P, u) in $K^k(G, \mathbb{F})$. This association is natural in the following sense:

Theorem 1.1 *Let $\phi: G \rightarrow H$ be a Lie group homomorphism between Lie groups with finitely many components. The diagram below is commutative.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K^k(H, \mathbb{F}) & \xrightarrow{\phi^*} & K^k(G, \mathbb{F}) \\ \downarrow \text{C-C-S} & & \downarrow \text{C-C-S} \\ H^{2k-1}(BH^\delta, \mathbb{F}/\mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\phi^*} & H^{2k-1}(BG^\delta, \mathbb{F}/\mathbb{Z}) \end{array}$$

Remark 1.2 In the following we shall only be interested in the C–C–S classes corresponding to the second Chern polynomial and the first Pontrjagin polynomial. In both cases u is just the corresponding Chern class or Pontrjagin class, and we simply denote the associated C–C–S classes \hat{C}_2 and \hat{P}_1 .

1.2 The homology of a group

Let G be a group. For a right G –module A , we let A_G denote the group $A \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[G]} \mathbb{Z}$, where \mathbb{Z} is regarded as a trivial G –module. The homology of G is by definition the homology of the complex $(P_*)_G$, where P_* is a projective resolution of \mathbb{Z} by right G –modules. The following general construction of a projective resolution is of

particular interest to us: For X a set, let $C_*(X)$ be the acyclic complex of free abelian groups, which in dimension n is generated by $(n+1)$ -tuples of elements in X . The differential is given by

$$\partial(x_0, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (x_0, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_n).$$

In particular for $X = G$, the diagonal left G -action on tuples makes $C_*(G)$ into a complex of G -modules (considered as right modules in the standard way) and $C_*(G)$ augmented by the map $C_0(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ given by $(g_0) \mapsto 1$ is a free resolution of \mathbb{Z} . The complex $C_*(G)_G$ thus calculates the homology of G .

There is another description of this complex. Consider the complex $B_*(G)$ of free abelian groups, which in dimension n is generated by symbols $[g_1 | \cdots | g_n]$ and with differential given by

$$\begin{aligned} \partial[g_1 | \cdots | g_n] &= [g_2 | \cdots | g_n] + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i [g_1 | \cdots | g_i g_{i+1} | \cdots | g_n] \\ &\quad + (-1)^n [g_1 | \cdots | g_{n-1}]. \end{aligned}$$

This complex is isomorphic to $C_*(G)_G$ via the map

$$(1-1) \quad [g_1 | \cdots | g_n] \mapsto (1, g_1, g_1 g_2, \dots, g_1 g_2 \cdots g_n)$$

with inverse

$$(1-2) \quad (g_0, \dots, g_n) \mapsto [g_0^{-1} g_1 | \cdots | g_{n-1}^{-1} g_n].$$

Hence, we can represent a homology class in $H_n(G)$ either by a chain in $C_n(G)$ or by a cycle in $B_n(G)$. These two ways of representing homology classes are called the *homogenous* and the *inhomogenous* representation, respectively.

Let M be a left G -module. The cohomology $H^*(G, M)$ is defined as the homology of the complex $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}[G]}(P_*, M)$, where P_* , this time, is a projective resolution of \mathbb{Z} by *left* G -modules. Regarding a divisible abelian group A as a trivial G -module, we have by the universal coefficient theorem a natural isomorphism

$$H^n(G, A) = \text{Hom}(H_n(G), A).$$

It is well known that the homology of a group is isomorphic to the singular homology of its classifying space, and since the abelian group \mathbb{F}/\mathbb{Z} is obviously divisible, we can regard the C–C–S classes as homomorphisms from $H_3(G)$ to \mathbb{F}/\mathbb{Z} . It is an interesting problem to try to find explicit formulas for the C–C–S classes directly in terms of the

resolution $C_*(G)$ (or some subcomplex). We shall investigate this in the following sections.

We conclude the section with a little lemma that will be useful later. For each $g \in G$ there is a map $s_g: C_*(G) \rightarrow C_*(G)$ given by $s_g(g_0, \dots, g_n) = (g, g_0, \dots, g_n)$.

Lemma 1.3 *Let $D_*(G)$ be a G -subcomplex of $C_*(G)$. Suppose that for each cycle σ in $D_*(G)$, there exists a point $g(\sigma)$ in G such that $s_{g(\sigma)}\sigma$ is in $D_{n+1}(G)$. Then $D_*(G)$ is acyclic and $D_*(G)_G$ calculates the homology of G .*

Proof Note that $\partial s_g(g_0, \dots, g_n) = (g_0, \dots, g_n) - s_g(\partial(g_0, \dots, g_n))$. Let σ be a cycle in $D_*(G)$. Since $\partial\sigma = 0$ we have $\sigma = \partial s_{g(\sigma)}\sigma$, that is, σ is a boundary. \square

1.3 The Bloch group

In all the following, we let G denote the group $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$.

Definition 1.4 The *pre-Bloch group* $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$ is an abelian group generated by symbols $[z]$, $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ subject to the relation

$$(1-3) \quad [x] - [y] + \left[\frac{y}{x}\right] - \left[\frac{1-x^{-1}}{1-y^{-1}}\right] + \left[\frac{1-x}{1-y}\right] = 0.$$

This relation is called the *five term relation*.

In [3] and [6] the five term relation is different, but this is because of the different definition of the cross-ratio (1-4).

Definition 1.5 The *Bloch group* $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$ is the kernel of the homomorphism

$$v: \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \wedge \mathbb{C}^*$$

to the second exterior power of the abelian group \mathbb{C}^* defined by mapping a generator $[z]$ to $z \wedge (1-z)$.

There is an important interpretation of the pre-Bloch group in terms of a homology group. Recall the notation from Section 1.2. Let $C_*^\neq(S^2)$ denote the subcomplex of $C_*(S^2)$ consisting of tuples of distinct elements. Recall that $G = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ acts on $S^2 = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ by Möbius transformations, that is,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} z = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}.$$

Via this action, the complex $C_*^{\neq}(S^2)$ becomes a complex of G -modules. The action is 3-transitive and four distinct points z_0, \dots, z_3 are determined up to the action by the *cross-ratio*

$$(1-4) \quad z = [z_0 : z_1 : z_2 : z_3] := \frac{(z_0 - z_3)(z_1 - z_2)}{(z_0 - z_2)(z_1 - z_3)}.$$

Note that in [3] and [6] the cross-ratio is defined to be the reciprocal of (1-4). It follows that $C_3^{\neq}(S^2)_G$ is just the free abelian group on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$. One easily checks that the five term relation is equivalent to the relation

$$\sum_{i=0}^4 (-1)^i [z_0 : \dots : \hat{z}_i : \dots : z_4] = 0.$$

This means that the kernel of the cross-ratio map $\sigma: C_3^{\neq}(S^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$ is exactly the boundaries. Since $C_2^{\neq}(S^2)_G = \mathbb{Z}$ by 3-transitivity, $C_3^{\neq}(S^2)_G$ consists entirely of cycles, and σ induces an isomorphism

$$\sigma: H_3(C_*^{\neq}(S^2)_G) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}).$$

We have the following relations in the pre-Bloch group [6, Lemma 5.11]:

$$[x] = \left[\frac{1}{1-x} \right] = \left[1 - \frac{1}{x} \right] = -\left[\frac{1}{x} \right] = -\left[\frac{x}{x-1} \right] = -[1-x]$$

If we extend the cross-ratio by setting $[z_0 : z_1 : z_2 : z_3] = 0$ if there are equals among z_0, \dots, z_3 , it follows from the above relations that σ can be extended to $H_3(C_*(S^2)_G)$. We omit the details. We can now define a map

$$\lambda: H_3(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$$

as the composition

$$H_3(G) \longrightarrow H_3(C_*(S^2)_G) \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$$

where the left map is induced by

$$C_3(G) \rightarrow C_3(S^2), \quad (g_0, \dots, g_3) \mapsto (g_0\infty, g_1\infty, g_2\infty, g_3\infty).$$

In [6] it is shown that λ has image in the Bloch group and that the following sequence, which is essentially due to Bloch and Wigner, is exact.

$$(1-5) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow H_3(G) \xrightarrow{\lambda} \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow 0$$

Using the isomorphism $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} = \varinjlim \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \varinjlim H_3(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$, the left map is the limit map induced by the maps $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$ given by sending 1 to the matrix of a rotation by $2\pi/n$.

1.4 Rogers’ dilogarithm

We here review a result in [3] relating the C–C–S class \widehat{P}_1 to a dilogarithm function via the Bloch group.

Rogers’ dilogarithm is the following function defined on the open interval $(0, 1)$:

$$(1-6) \quad L(z) = -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Log}(z) \operatorname{Log}\left(\frac{1}{1-z}\right) + \operatorname{Li}_2(z) - \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

Here $\operatorname{Li}_2(z) = -\int_0^z \frac{\operatorname{Log}(1-t)}{t} dt$ is the classical dilogarithm function. As in [9] we have subtracted $\pi^2/6$ from the original Rogers’ dilogarithm in order to make it satisfy (1–8). L is real analytic and satisfies the functional equations

$$(1-7) \quad L(x) + L(1-x) = -\frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

$$(1-8) \quad L(x) - L(y) + L\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - L\left(\frac{1-x^{-1}}{1-y^{-1}}\right) + L\left(\frac{1-x}{1-y}\right) = 0, \quad y < x.$$

We can extend L (discontinuously) to \mathbb{R} by setting

$$L(1) = 0, \quad L(0) = -\frac{\pi^2}{6} \quad \text{and} \quad L(x) = \begin{cases} -L(1/x) & \text{for } x > 1 \\ -L(x/(x-1)) & \text{for } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

and define a map $L: C_3(\operatorname{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$(1-9) \quad (g_0, \dots, g_3) \rightarrow L([g_0\infty : \dots : g_3\infty]).$$

This is clearly well-defined (recall that cross-ratios are defined to be zero when there are equals) since all cross-ratios are real. Also, a few calculations using the functional equations show that the map takes boundaries to multiples of $\pi^2/6$, that is, it is a 3–cocycle modulo $\pi^2/6$. The theorem below can be found in [3]. The minus sign there is due to the differing definition of the cross-ratio.

Theorem 1.6 $\frac{1}{4\pi^2}L$ equals the Cheeger–Chern–Simons class \widehat{P}_1 modulo $1/24$.

Since the restriction of the second Chern polynomial to the Lie algebra of $\operatorname{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ is minus the Pontrjagin polynomial, it follows from Theorem 1.1 that we have a

commutative diagram:

$$(1-10) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})) & \xrightarrow{-\hat{P}_1} & \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) & \xrightarrow{\hat{C}_2} & \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

By Theorem 1.6, \hat{P}_1 is (modulo $1/24$) just a dilogarithm via the Bloch group. We wish to find a similar expression for \hat{C}_2 by extending L to $H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$. This is partially solved in [3] by studying a homomorphism $c: \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Q}$, known as the Bloch regulator, and showing that the composition below is $2\hat{C}_2$.

$$H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \xrightarrow{\lambda} \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Q}$$

We shall improve this by showing that there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) & \xrightarrow{\hat{\lambda}} & \hat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{-\frac{1}{2\pi^2}\hat{L}} & \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}))/(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{c} & \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Q} \end{array}$$

so that the top composition is $2\hat{C}_2$. Here $\hat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ is Neumann’s extended Bloch group (see [7] or Section 2). In other words, \hat{C}_2 is a dilogarithm via the extended Bloch group exactly as \hat{P}_1 is a dilogarithm via the Bloch group.

2 The extended Bloch group

In this section we review Neumann’s definition of the extended Bloch group. As mentioned in the introduction the reader should keep in mind that our extended Bloch group is what Neumann calls the more extended Bloch group.

We shall use the conventions that the argument $\mathrm{Arg} z$ of a complex number always denotes the main argument ($-\pi < \mathrm{Arg} z \leq \pi$) and the logarithm $\mathrm{Log} z$ always denotes the logarithm having $\mathrm{Arg} z$ as imaginary part.

The idea is to construct a Riemann surface $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ covering $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ and then construct the extended pre-Bloch group $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ as in Definition 1.4, with an appropriate lift of the five term relation.

Let $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ denote the universal abelian cover of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$. There is a nice way of representing points in $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$. Let $\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{cut}}$ denote $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ cut open along each of the intervals

$(-\infty, 0)$ and $(1, \infty)$ so that each real number r outside of $[0, 1]$ occurs twice in \mathbb{C}_{cut} . We shall denote these two occurrences of r by $r + 0i$ and $r - 0i$ respectively. It is now easy to see that $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ is isomorphic to the surface obtained from $\mathbb{C}_{\text{cut}} \times 2\mathbb{Z} \times 2\mathbb{Z}$ by the following identifications:

$$\begin{aligned} (x + 0i, 2p, 2q) &\sim (x - 0i, 2p + 2, 2q) \text{ for } x \in (-\infty, 0) \\ (x + 0i, 2p, 2q) &\sim (x - 0i, 2p, 2q + 2) \text{ for } x \in (1, \infty). \end{aligned}$$

This means that points in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ are of the form (z, p, q) with $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ and p, q even integers. Note that $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ can be regarded as the Riemann surface for the function

$$\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2, \quad z \mapsto \left(\text{Log } z, \text{Log} \left(\frac{1}{1-z} \right) \right).$$

We shall show below that L can be extended holomorphically to be defined on $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$, and then we shall simply define the extended five term relation to be the smallest possible extension of the relation (1–8).

Consider the set

$$\text{FT} := \left\{ \left(x, y, \frac{y}{x}, \frac{1-x^{-1}}{1-y^{-1}}, \frac{1-x}{1-y} \right) \right\} \subset (\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\})^5$$

of five-tuples involved in the five term relation. Also let

$$\text{FT}_0 = \{ (x_0, \dots, x_4) \in \text{FT} \mid 0 < x_1 < x_0 < 1 \}$$

be the set of five-tuples involved in the functional equation (1–8). Define the set $\widehat{\text{FT}} \subset \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \times \dots \times \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ to be the component of the preimage of FT that contains all points $((x_0; 0, 0), \dots, (x_4; 0, 0))$ with $(x_0, \dots, x_4) \in \text{FT}_0$.

Remark 2.1 This notation conflicts with the notation in [7]. Our $\widehat{\text{FT}}$ is what Neumann calls $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}$ in [7, Section 8]. This is shown in the appendix.

Definition 2.2 The *extended pre-Bloch group* $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ is the abelian group generated by symbols $[z; p, q]$, with $(z; p, q) \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$, subject to the relation

$$\sum_{i=0}^4 (-1)^i [x_i; p_i, q_i] = 0 \text{ for } ((x_0; p_0, q_0), \dots, (x_4; p_4, q_4)) \in \widehat{\text{FT}}.$$

This relation is called the *extended five term relation*.

Definition 2.3 The *extended Bloch group* $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ is the kernel of the homomorphism (which is well-defined by [7, Lemma 2.3])

$$\widehat{v}: \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \wedge \mathbb{C}$$

defined on generators by $[z; p, q] \mapsto (\text{Log } z + p\pi i) \wedge (-\text{Log}(1-z) + q\pi i)$.

We now extend L to $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$. First note that the expression in (1–6) is well-defined for all $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, and that L extended this way is holomorphic except at real points outside the interval between 0 and 1.

Define
$$\widehat{L}(z; p, q) = L(z) + \frac{\pi i}{2} \left(q \text{Log}(z) - p \text{Log} \left(\frac{1}{1-z} \right) \right).$$

Remark 2.4 Neumann calls this map R (probably for Rogers), but in fact Rogers originally called his dilogarithm L . Also, the name \widehat{L} is more consistent with our convention that all extended groups and maps be labelled with a hat.

Proposition 2.5 (Neumann [7, Proposition 2.5]) $\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L}$ gives a well-defined and holomorphic map $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$. Also the extended five term relation is a functional equation so that $\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L}$ gives a homomorphism $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$.

2.1 Geometry of the extended pre-Bloch group

We first recall some geometric properties of the cross-ratio. Let z_0, z_1, z_2, z_3 be four distinct ordered points in $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$. Regarding $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ as the boundary of the standard compactification of hyperbolic 3-space \mathbb{H}^3 , the four points define a unique ideal hyperbolic simplex $[z_0, \dots, z_3]$ which is determined up to orientation preserving congruence by the cross-ratio

$$(2-1) \quad z = [z_0 : z_1 : z_2 : z_3] := \frac{(z_0 - z_3)(z_1 - z_2)}{(z_0 - z_2)(z_1 - z_3)}.$$

Clearly $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ and since $[0 : \infty : 1 : z] = z$, every $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ can be realized as the cross-ratio of an ideal hyperbolic simplex. It is well known that z is real if and only if the four points lie on a circle (that is circle or straight line) and in this case the simplex is called *flat*.

We orient \mathbb{H}^3 such that the cross-ratio of a nonflat simplex has positive imaginary part if and only if the orientation induced by the vertex ordering agrees with the orientation inherited from \mathbb{H}^3 . There is a nice geometric interpretation of the argument of z . If the imaginary part of z is greater than or equal to zero then $\text{Arg } z$ is the dihedral angle

of the simplex corresponding to the edge $[z_0z_1]$. Otherwise, that is if the orientation disagrees with the orientation of \mathbb{H}^3 , it is minus the dihedral angle.

It easily follows from (2–1) that an even permutation of the z_i 's replaces z by one of three so-called *cross-ratio parameters*:

$$z, \quad z' = \frac{1}{1-z} \quad \text{and} \quad z'' = 1 - \frac{1}{z}$$

In particular the dihedral angle corresponding to the edges $[z_1z_2]$ and $[z_1z_3]$ are $\text{Arg}(z')$ and $\text{Arg}(z'')$ respectively, (or their negatives if the vertex ordering does not agree with the orientation of \mathbb{H}^3). Since a product of two disjoint transpositions clearly keeps the cross-ratio fixed, we see that the dihedral angles of opposite edges are the same. Note that since $zz'z'' = -1$ the sum of the dihedral angles is always π . This is not surprising since a horosphere at an ideal vertex of a hyperbolic simplex intersects the simplex in a Euclidean triangle.

Definition 2.6 A *combinatorial flattening* of an ideal simplex with cross-ratio z is a triple (w_0, w_1, w_2) of complex numbers with $w_0 + w_1 + w_2 = 0$, where w_0 and w_1 are choices of logarithms of z and z' . We call w_0, w_1 and w_2 *log-parameters*.

Note that $w_2 \pm \pi i$ is a choice of logarithm of z'' . The set of combinatorial flattenings of ideal simplices is in bijective correspondence with $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ by the map l given by

$$(2-2) \quad l(w_0, w_1, w_2) = \left(z; \frac{w_0 - \text{Log } z}{\pi i}, \frac{w_1 - \text{Log}(\frac{1}{1-z})}{\pi i} \right)$$

where $z = e^{w_0}$. This means that the extended pre-Bloch group can be regarded as being generated by combinatorial flattenings of ideal simplices, whereas the pre-Bloch group can be regarded as being generated by congruence classes of ideal simplices. Let us discuss the five term relation in this geometric setup.

Suppose (w_0, w_1, w_2) is a combinatorial flattening of an ideal simplex $[z_0, \dots, z_3]$. Then we can assign log-parameters to each edge in such a way that w_0 is assigned to the edge $[z_0z_1]$, w_1 to the edge $[z_1z_2]$ and w_2 to the edge $[z_1z_3]$. The three remaining edges are assigned the same log-parameter as their opposite edge. See Figure 1. Let z_0, \dots, z_4 be five distinct points in $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ and let Δ_i denote the simplices $[z_0, \dots, \widehat{z}_i, \dots, z_4]$. Using (2–1), it is easy to see that the cross-ratios x_i of Δ_i can be expressed in terms of $x := z_0$ and $y := z_1$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &= [z_1 : z_2 : z_3 : z_4] := x \\ x_1 &= [z_0 : z_2 : z_3 : z_4] := y \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_2 &= [z_0 : z_1 : z_3 : z_4] = \frac{y}{x} \\
 x_3 &= [z_0 : z_1 : z_2 : z_4] = \frac{1 - x^{-1}}{1 - y^{-1}} \\
 x_4 &= [z_0 : z_1 : z_2 : z_3] = \frac{1 - x}{1 - y}
 \end{aligned}$$

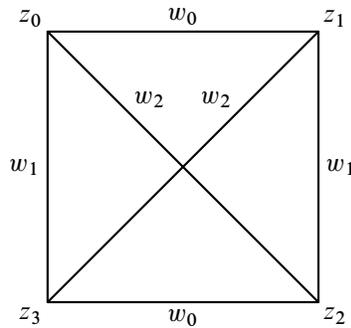


Figure 1: Assignment of log-parameters to edges of an ideal simplex

Suppose (w_0^i, w_1^i, w_2^i) are combinatorial flattenings of the simplices Δ_i . Then every edge $[z_i z_j]$ belongs to exactly three of the Δ_i 's and is therefore assigned three log-parameters.

Definition 2.7 Let (w_0^i, w_1^i, w_2^i) be combinatorial flattenings of the five simplices $\Delta_i = [z_0, \dots, \hat{z}_i, \dots, z_4]$. The flattenings are said to satisfy the *flattening condition* if for each edge the signed sum of the three assigned log-parameters is zero (the sign is positive if and only if i is even).

It follows directly from the definition that the flattening condition is equivalent to the following ten equations.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 [z_0 z_1]: & w_0^2 - w_0^3 + w_0^4 = 0 & [z_0 z_2]: & -w_0^1 - w_2^3 + w_2^4 = 0 \\
 [z_1 z_2]: & w_0^0 - w_1^3 + w_1^4 = 0 & [z_1 z_3]: & w_2^0 + w_1^2 + w_2^4 = 0 \\
 [z_2 z_3]: & w_1^0 - w_1^1 + w_0^4 = 0 & [z_2 z_4]: & w_2^0 - w_2^1 - w_0^3 = 0 \\
 [z_3 z_4]: & w_0^0 - w_0^1 + w_0^2 = 0 & [z_3 z_0]: & -w_2^1 + w_2^2 + w_1^4 = 0 \\
 [z_4 z_0]: & -w_1^1 + w_1^2 - w_1^3 = 0 & [z_4 z_1]: & w_1^0 - w_2^2 - w_2^3 = 0
 \end{array}$$

Recall that combinatorial flattenings are in one to one correspondence with points in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ via the map l in (2–2).

Theorem 2.8 (Neumann [7, Lemma 3.4]) *Flattenings (w_0^i, w_1^i, w_2^i) satisfy the flattening condition if and only if $\sum_{i=0}^4 (-1)^i [l(w_0^i, w_1^i, w_2^i)] = 0$ in $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$.*

This means that the flattening condition is equivalent to the extended five term relation.

3 Mappings via configurations in $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}$

In this section we explore the idea that the extra information needed to remove the \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} indeterminacy in Dupont’s formula for the C–C–S class \widehat{C}_2 can be detected by configurations in $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ instead of S^2 . Let h denote the Hopf map $h: \mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow S^2 = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ given by

$$(z, w) \mapsto z/w.$$

We will show that for certain tuples (v_0, \dots, v_3) of points in $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}$, there is a natural choice of combinatorial flattening of the ideal simplex $[hv_0, \dots, hv_3]$. This means that such a tuple gives an element in $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$. We also describe a way of associating such a tuple to a tuple of group elements in such a way that we obtain a map

$$\widehat{\lambda}: H_3(G) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}).$$

Recall from Section 1.3 that there is a map $\sigma: C_3^\neq(S^2)_G \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$. We saw that boundaries were mapped to zero and that the induced map

$$\sigma: H_3(C_*^\neq(S^2)_G) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C})$$

is an isomorphism. We shall elaborate on this and construct a G –complex $C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ and a map $\widehat{\sigma}: C_3^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ giving rise to a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\sigma}} & \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow \\ H_3(C_*^\neq(S^2)_G) & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

We define the complex $C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ as the subcomplex of $C_*(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\})$ consisting of tuples mapping to different elements in S^2 by the Hopf map h . The G –module structure is given by the natural G –action on $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{0\}$, and since this action is h –equivariant, h induces a G –map $C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2) \rightarrow C_*^\neq(S^2)$ and hence a map

$$h: H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) \rightarrow H_3(C_*^\neq(S^2)_G).$$

3.1 Mapping to the extended pre-Bloch group

We now assign to each 4-tuple $(v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3) \in C_3^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ a combinatorial flattening of the ideal simplex $[hv_0, hv_1, hv_2, hv_3]$ in such a way that the combinatorial flattenings assigned to tuples $(v_0, \dots, \widehat{v}_i, \dots, v_4)$ satisfy the flattening condition. This will give us a map

$$\widehat{\sigma}: H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}).$$

The key step is to observe that the cross-ratio parameters z and $\frac{1}{1-z}$ of a simplex $[hv_0, hv_1, hv_2, hv_3]$ can be expressed in terms of determinants

$$z := [hv_0 : hv_1 : hv_2 : hv_3] = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} v_0^1 & v_3^1 \\ v_0^2 & v_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1^1 & v_2^1 \\ v_1^2 & v_2^2 \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} v_0^1 & v_2^1 \\ v_0^2 & v_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1^1 & v_3^1 \\ v_1^2 & v_3^2 \end{pmatrix}} = \frac{\det(v_0, v_3) \det(v_1, v_2)}{\det(v_0, v_2) \det(v_1, v_3)}$$

where the upper indices refer to first or second coordinate in \mathbb{C}^2 . Similarly,

$$\frac{1}{1-z} = [hv_0 : hv_2 : hv_0 : hv_3] = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} v_1^1 & v_3^1 \\ v_1^2 & v_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_2^1 & v_0^1 \\ v_2^2 & v_0^2 \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} v_1^1 & v_0^1 \\ v_1^2 & v_0^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_2^1 & v_3^1 \\ v_2^2 & v_3^2 \end{pmatrix}} = \frac{\det(v_1, v_3) \det(v_2, v_0)}{\det(v_0, v_1) \det(v_2, v_3)}.$$

Since obviously $hv_i \neq hv_j$ if and only if $\det(v_i, v_j) \neq 0$, all these determinants are nonzero. This suggests that we can assign a flattening to (v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3) by setting

$$\begin{aligned} w_0 &= \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_3) + \text{Log } \det(v_1, v_2) - \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_2) - \text{Log } \det(v_1, v_3) \\ w_1 &= \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_2) + \text{Log } \det(v_1, v_3) - \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_1) - \text{Log } \det(v_2, v_3) \\ w_2 &= \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_1) + \text{Log } \det(v_2, v_3) - \text{Log } \det(v_0, v_3) - \text{Log } \det(v_1, v_2). \end{aligned}$$

This defines a map $\widehat{\sigma}: C_3^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ by

$$(3-1) \quad (v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3) \mapsto [l(w_0, w_1, w_2)].$$

Now suppose $(w_0^0, w_1^0, w_2^0), \dots, (w_0^4, w_1^4, w_2^4)$ are flattenings defined as above of simplices $[hv_0, \dots, \widehat{hv}_i, \dots, hv_4]$. We must check that these flattenings satisfy the flattening condition. This is equivalent to checking that all the ten equations listed below Definition 2.7 are satisfied. We check the first of these and leave the others to the reader. Using the notation $(v, w) := \text{Log } \det(v, w)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} w_0^2 &= (v_0, v_4) + (v_1, v_3) - (v_0, v_3) - (v_1, v_4) \\ w_0^3 &= (v_0, v_4) + (v_1, v_2) - (v_0, v_2) - (v_1, v_4) \\ w_0^4 &= (v_0, v_3) + (v_1, v_2) - (v_0, v_2) - (v_1, v_3) \end{aligned}$$

from which it follows that the equation $w_0^2 - w_0^3 + w_0^4 = 0$ is satisfied.

Having verified all the ten equations, it now follows from Theorem 2.8 that $\widehat{\sigma}$ sends boundaries to zero. Since $\widehat{\sigma}$ obviously factors through $C_3^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G$, we obtain a map $\widehat{\sigma}: H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$.

It is clear that the diagram below is commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\sigma}} & \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow \\ H_3(C_*^{\neq}(S^2)_G) & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

Proposition 3.1 *The image of $\widehat{\sigma}: H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ is in $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$.*

Proof Define a map $\mu: C_2^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \wedge \mathbb{C}$ by

$$(v_0, v_1, v_2) \mapsto (v_0, v_1) \wedge (v_0, v_2) - (v_0, v_1) \wedge (v_1, v_2) + (v_0, v_2) \wedge (v_1, v_2)$$

where we still use the notation $(v, w) := \text{Log det}(v, w)$. A straightforward calculation shows that the diagram below is commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_3^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\sigma}} & \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \\ \downarrow \partial & & \downarrow \widehat{\nu} \\ C_2^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G & \xrightarrow{\mu} & \mathbb{C} \wedge \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

This means that cycles are mapped to $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ as desired. □

3.2 The map from $H_3(G)$

In this section we shall construct a map $\widehat{\lambda}$ from $H_3(G)$ to $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C})$ via the group $H_3(C_*^{h\neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G)$. To define this map explicitly on the chain level we need to restrict to a subcomplex of $C_*(G)$.

Definition 3.2 A chain in $C_*(G)$ is called *good* if all its tuples satisfy $g_i \neq \pm g_j$ and *v-good* ($v \in \mathbb{C}^2$) if all its tuples satisfy $\det(g_i v, g_j v) \neq 0$. The G -complexes of good and *v-good* chains are denoted $C_*^{\text{good}}(G)$ and $C_*^v(G)$ respectively.

By Lemma 1.3, $C_*^{\text{good}}(G)$ and $C_*^v(G)$ are both acyclic so $C_*^{\text{good}}(G)_G$ and $C_*^v(G)_G$ both calculate the homology of G . From now on we will identify $H_3(G)$ with $H_3(C_*^{\text{good}}(G)_G)$. Consider the G -maps

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_v: C_n(G) &\rightarrow C_n(\mathbb{C}^2), & (g_0, \dots, g_n) &\mapsto (g_0 v, \dots, g_n v) \\ \text{conj}_g: C_n(G) &\rightarrow C_n(G), & (g_0, \dots, g_n) &\mapsto (g g_0 g^{-1}, \dots, g g_n g^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Note that if σ is in $C_*^v(G)_G$ then $\text{conj}_g(\sigma)$ is in $C_*^{g v}(G)_G$ and we have

$$(3-2) \quad \Psi_{g v}(\text{conj}_g(\sigma)) = \Psi_v(\sigma).$$

It is clear that Ψ_v takes *v-good* chains to $C_n^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)$.

The following is simple.

Lemma 3.3 Let $g_1 \neq \pm g_2 \in G$. The subset

$$\{v \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \det(g_1 v, g_2 v) \neq 0\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$$

is open and dense.

For a good chain σ belonging to either $C_*^{\text{good}}(G)$ or $C_*^{\text{good}}(G)_G$ consider the set

$$S_\sigma = \{v \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \sigma \text{ is } v\text{-good}\}.$$

Since finite intersections of dense open subsets is dense open, it follows from Lemma 3.3 that S_σ is dense open. In other words, any good chain is also a *v-good* chain for almost all $v \in \mathbb{C}^2$. The following is a simple consequence of (3-2) and the well-known fact that conjugation induces the identity map on homology.

Proposition 3.4 Let $\sigma \in C_*^{\text{good}}(G)_G$ be a cycle. The homology class of $\Psi_v(\sigma)$ is independent of $v \in S_\sigma$.

We can now define a map $\Psi: H_3(G) \rightarrow H_3(C_*^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G)$ by

$$[\sigma] \mapsto [\Psi_v(\sigma)], \quad v \in S_\sigma.$$

Proposition 3.5 *The diagram below is commutative.*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 H_3(G) & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & H_3(C_*^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) & & \\
 \downarrow & & \searrow h & & \\
 H_3(G)/\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}) & \xleftarrow{\sigma} & H_3(C_*^{\neq}(S^2)_G)
 \end{array}$$

Proof The map Ψ obviously coincides with the map

$$H_3(G) \cong H_3(C_*^v(G)_G) \xrightarrow{\Psi_v} H_3(C_*^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G).$$

The proposition follows from this with $v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, since $h\left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) = \infty$. □

We can now define $\widehat{\lambda}$ as the composition

$$H_3(G) \xrightarrow{\Psi} H_3(C_*^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G) \xrightarrow{\widehat{\sigma}} \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}).$$

Remark 3.6 The second author has shown that $H_3(C_*^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)_G)$ is canonically isomorphic to $H_3(G, P)$, where P is the parabolic subgroup of upper triangular matrices with 1 on the diagonal. Under this isomorphism Ψ corresponds to the natural map $H_3(G) \rightarrow H_3(G, P)$. This result makes Theorem 4.1 more directly applicable to hyperbolic manifolds, since a hyperbolic manifold with cusps has a natural fundamental class in $H_3(G, P)$. More on this will appear elsewhere.

4 Relation with the Cheeger–Chern–Simons class

In this section we relate the maps constructed above to the Cheeger–Chern–Simons class \widehat{C}_2 . Our goal is to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 4.1 $-\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda} = 2\widehat{C}_2.$

Remark 4.2 The reader who wishes to compare this result with Neumann’s may notice that the factors of 2 seem to be missing in [7, Theorem 12.1]. This is because Neumann uses a different normalisation of the C–C–S class. It is well known that the natural map $H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \rightarrow H_3(\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$ is surjective with kernel $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$, so from

Theorem 1.1 we get a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) & \longrightarrow & H_3(\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow \hat{C}_2 & & \downarrow \hat{C}_2 & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}/\frac{1}{4}\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

In Neumann's normalisation $\mathbb{C}/\frac{1}{4}\mathbb{Z}$ is identified with $\mathbb{C}/\pi^2\mathbb{Z}$ via the map sending x to $(2\pi i)^2 x$ and it follows that our result agrees with that of Neumann. The reason for using Neumann's normalisation is that \hat{C}_2 evaluated on the fundamental class of a complete hyperbolic manifold with finite volume is $i(\mathrm{Vol} + i\mathrm{CS})$ as mentioned in the introduction. The invariant $\mathrm{Vol} + i\mathrm{CS}$ is often regarded as a natural complexification of volume, so from this point of view this normalisation seems more natural. We have, however, chosen to keep the original normalisation to make references to earlier papers easier.

Let $H_3(G)_\pm$ denote the subgroups $\{x \in H_3(G) \mid \tau x = \pm x\}$ where τ is the involution induced by complex conjugation. We shall refer to these subgroups as the real and the imaginary parts of $H_3(G)$.

The following is simple.

Proposition 4.3 $\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \hat{L} \circ \hat{\lambda}$ is equivariant under complex conjugation.

From Theorem 1.1, \hat{C}_2 is also equivariant under conjugation, and since $H_3(G)$ is divisible by a result in [6], it is enough to study the real and imaginary parts separately.

4.1 The imaginary part

It is well known that the oriented volume of an ideal simplex with cross-ratio z is given by

$$\mathrm{Vol}(z) = \mathrm{Arg}(1-z) \mathrm{Log}|z| - \mathrm{Im} \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{Log}(1-tz)}{t} dt.$$

For a proof of this see [6, page 172].

Remark 4.4 As mentioned earlier Dupont and Sah [6] use a different cross-ratio convention, but the formula for the oriented volume remains unchanged, since they orient \mathbb{H}^3 according to their cross-ratio (the orientation of a simplex with cross-ratio z is positive if and only if $\mathrm{Im}(z) > 0$).

The five term relation (1–3) is easily seen to be a functional equation for Vol. This means that Vol is well-defined on the pre-Bloch group and therefore also on the extended pre-Bloch group.

Theorem 4.5 (Dupont [3, Proposition 3.1]) $\text{Im } \widehat{C}_2 = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \text{Vol} \circ \lambda.$

Proposition 4.6 *The restriction of $\text{Im } \widehat{L}: \widehat{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ to $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ equals Vol.*

Proof Let $\tau = \sum (-1)^{\varepsilon_i} [z_i; p_i, q_i] \in \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im } \widehat{L}([z; p, q]) &= \frac{1}{2} (\text{Arg}(z) \text{Log} |1-z| + \text{Log} |z| \text{Arg}(1-z)) \\ &\quad - \text{Im} \int_0^1 \frac{\text{Log}(1-tz)}{t} dt + \frac{\pi}{2} p \text{Log} |1-z| + \frac{\pi}{2} q \text{Log} |z| \end{aligned}$$

we have
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vol}(z) - \text{Im } \widehat{L}([z; p, q]) &= \frac{1}{2} (\text{Log} |z| \text{Arg}(1-z) - \text{Arg}(z) \text{Log} |1-z|) \\ &\quad - \frac{\pi}{2} p \text{Log} |1-z| - \frac{\pi}{2} q \text{Log} |z|. \end{aligned}$$

Let ϕ denote the composition

$$\mathbb{C} \wedge \mathbb{C} = (\mathbb{R} \wedge \mathbb{R}) \oplus (i\mathbb{R} \wedge i\mathbb{R}) \oplus (\mathbb{R} \otimes i\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \otimes i\mathbb{R} \rightarrow i\mathbb{R}$$

where the left map is projection and the right map is multiplication. A simple calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\widehat{\nu}([z; p, q])) &= -i \text{Log} |z| \text{Arg}(1-z) + i \text{Arg}(z) \text{Log} |1-z| \\ &\quad + p\pi i \text{Log} |1-z| + q\pi i \text{Log} |z| = -2i (\text{Vol}(z) - \text{Im } \widehat{L}([z; p, q])). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\widehat{\nu}(\tau) = 0$, we have $\text{Vol}(\tau) = \text{Im } \widehat{L}(\tau)$ as desired. □

4.2 The real part

Let $G_{\mathbb{R}} = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. The key step is the following theorem of Dupont, Parry and Sah [5; 10].

Theorem 4.7 *The inclusion $G_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow G$ induces an isomorphism*

$$H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}}) \cong H_3(G)_+.$$

This means that it is enough to study real cycles. The idea is that every homology class in $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ has a representative such that the image of $\widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda}$ is the same as the image of the cocycle L from (1–9).

In the following the reader should bear in mind the relationship between the homogenous and the inhomogenous representations of cycles given by the equations (1–1) and (1–2).

Definition 4.8 An element $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in G_{\mathbb{R}}$ is called *positive* if c is positive and *nonzero* if c is nonzero. A chain in $B_n(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is called *positive* if all its group elements are positive.

If (g_1, g_2, g_3) is a triple of positive elements that are so small (close to the identity) that also g_1g_2 , g_2g_3 and $g_1g_2g_3$ are positive, we have

- $(v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3) := \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, g_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, g_1g_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, g_1g_2g_3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$ is in $C_3^{h \neq}(\mathbb{C}^2)$.
- $\det(v_i, v_j) > 0$ for $i < j$.
- $\infty > g_1\infty > g_1g_2\infty > g_1g_2g_3\infty$.

The third property ensures that the cross-ratio z of the associated flat ideal simplex is strictly between 0 and 1, and the second property ensures that the log-parameters w_0, w_1, w_2 satisfy that $l(w_0, w_1, w_2) = (z; 0, 0)$. This means that if α is an inhomogenous representation of a class in $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ with all group elements sufficiently small and positive then

$$(4-1) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} L(\alpha).$$

As we shall see below, every homology class in $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ has such a representative.

The following is essentially just an application of barycentric subdivision, and we refer to [3, Proposition 2.8] for a proof.

Lemma 4.9 *Let H be a contractible Lie group and U a neighborhood of the identity. Every cycle in $B_*(H)$ is homologous to a cycle consisting of elements in U .*

Let $\widetilde{G}_{\mathbb{R}}$ be the universal covering group of $G_{\mathbb{R}}$. Parry and Sah [9] analyse the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence for the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \widetilde{G}_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow G_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow 0$$

and obtain:

Proposition 4.10 $H_3(\widetilde{G}_{\mathbb{R}}) \rightarrow H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is surjective.

Since $G_{\mathbb{R}}$ is homotopy equivalent to a circle, $\widetilde{G_{\mathbb{R}}}$ is contractible, and by Lemma 4.9 and Proposition 4.10, every homology class in $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ has an inhomogenous representative with all group elements arbitrarily small.

Let U be an open neighborhood of the identity in $G_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfying that any product of up to three positive elements is positive.

We now show that every sufficiently small cycle in $B_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is homologous to a positive cycle with all elements in U . This implies that every homology class has a representative satisfying (4–1).

Define an ordering of elements in $G_{\mathbb{R}}$ by

$$g_1 < g_2 \iff g_1^{-1}g_2 \text{ is positive.}$$

This ordering is neither total nor transitive, but as we shall see, this can be fixed. The following is simple.

Lemma 4.11 *For every natural number n there exists an open subset U_n of U satisfying that $g \in U_n$ if and only if $g^{-1} \in U_n$ and that any product of up to n positive elements in U_n is a positive element in U .*

Fix neighborhoods U_n as above. We may assume that $U_n \subset U_{n-1}$ and that the product of any two elements in U_n is in U_{n-1} .

Definition 4.12 Let $k \leq n$. A k –chain in $B_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is called a U_n – k –chain if it is nonzero and all its group elements lie in U_n . A k –chain in $C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is called a U_n – k –chain if it maps to a U_n – k –chain in $B_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$. The set of U_n – k –chains in $C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ is denoted $C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_n}$.

Proposition 4.13 *Let $g_0, \dots, g_n \in G_{\mathbb{R}}$ satisfy that all elements $g_{i-1}^{-1}g_i$ are in U_n and nonzero. There exists a unique permutation $\sigma \in S_{n+1}$ such that $g_{\sigma(0)} < \dots < g_{\sigma(n)}$.*

Proof The assumption on the g_i ’s implies that the restriction of the ordering to $\{g_0, \dots, g_n\}$ is transitive, and since $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$, we have either $g_i < g_j$ or $g_i > g_j$. This means that we can use the bubble sort algorithm to produce the desired permutation. \square

We thereby obtain $G_{\mathbb{R}}$ –maps

$$\Psi_k: C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_n} \rightarrow C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}}).$$

Note that the image of Ψ_k consists of chains whose images in $B_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ consist entirely of positive elements in U . Note also that the boundary map takes $C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_n}$ to $C_{k-1}(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_{n-1}}$.

Proposition 4.14 *Let $\tau \in C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_n}$, $k \leq n$, represent a cycle in $B_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$. Then $\Psi_k(\tau)$ and τ represent homologous cycles in $B_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})$.*

Proof By the uniqueness in Proposition 4.13, the maps Ψ_k give rise to a chain map in dimensions up to n . By a standard argument, there exist $G_{\mathbb{R}}$ -maps $S_k: C_k(G_{\mathbb{R}})_{U_n} \rightarrow C_{k+1}(G_{\mathbb{R}})$, $k = 0, \dots, n$, such that

$$\partial S_k + S_{k-1} \partial = \Psi_k - \text{id}.$$

This proves the assertion. □

Proof of Theorem 4.1 By Proposition 4.14 and Lemma 4.9 we have that every homology class in $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ has an inhomogenous representative satisfying (4-1). Recall from diagram (1-10) that the restriction of \widehat{C}_2 to $H_3(G_{\mathbb{R}})$ equals $-\widehat{P}_1$. By equation (4-1), Proposition 4.6, Theorem 4.5 and Theorem 1.6, we have that $-\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda} - 2\widehat{C}_2$ has image in $\frac{1}{12} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$. As mentioned earlier $H_3(G)$ is divisible, which means that it has no nontrivial finite quotient. Thus $2\widehat{C}_2 = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda}$ as required. □

The rest of this section is devoted to a proof of Theorem 4.15 below, but in order to prove this theorem, we need to recall some properties of \widehat{C}_2 and the relationship between $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ and $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$.

Recall from (1-5) that \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} can be regarded as a subgroup of $H_3(\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$. It is known that the restriction of \widehat{C}_2 to this subgroup is just the inclusion ι of \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} . In other words, we have a commutative diagram:

$$(4-2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} & \hookrightarrow & H_3(\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \\ & \searrow \iota & \downarrow \widehat{C}_2 \\ & & \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

For a proof of this see [4, Theorem 10.2, remarks on page 60].

Neumann shows in [7, Corollary 8.3] that $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ and $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$ are related by an exact sequence

$$(4-3) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\widehat{\chi}} \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow 0$$

where $\widehat{\chi}$ is the map given by

$$\widehat{\chi}(z) = [e^{2\pi iz}; 0, 2] - [e^{2\pi iz}; 0, 0].$$

Theorem 4.15 *The map $\widehat{\lambda}: H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ is surjective with kernel $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.*

Proof Suppose $\widehat{\lambda}(\alpha) = 0$. By composing with the map to $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$, we see from (1–5) that α is in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} . By (4–2) and Theorem 4.1, we have

$$0 = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\lambda}(\alpha) = 2\widehat{C}_2(\alpha) = 2\alpha.$$

Hence, α is either zero or the unique element in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} of order 2.

Let $\alpha \in \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$. A simple calculation shows that we have

$$-\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \widehat{L} \circ \widehat{\chi} = \iota,$$

and using (4–2) we get a commutative diagram:

$$(4-4) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} & \longrightarrow & H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})) \\ & \searrow 2\widehat{\chi} & \downarrow \widehat{\lambda} \\ & & \widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

Let π denote the natural map $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C})$, and let x be an element in $H_3(\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}))$ satisfying $\pi(\alpha) = \lambda(x)$. By (4–3), there exists z in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} such that

$$\widehat{\lambda}(x) - \alpha = \widehat{\chi}(z),$$

and by (4–4), we have $\widehat{\lambda}(x - \frac{1}{2}z) = \alpha$. □

Appendix

We conclude by proving that our definition of $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C})$ is equivalent to Neumann’s definition of the more extended Bloch group $\mathcal{EB}(\mathbb{C})$. This actually follows directly from the brief remark in parentheses on the bottom of page 417 in [7], but we give the details to save the reader some trouble. Recall the definition of FT from Section 2. Neumann defines

$$\mathrm{FT}^+ := \{(x_0, \dots, x_4) \in \mathrm{FT} \mid \mathrm{Im} x_i > 0\}$$

and defines $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}$ to be the component of the preimage of FT that contains all points

$$(4-5) \quad ((x_0; p_0, q_0), (x_1; p_1, q_1), (x_2; p_1 - p_0, q_2), \\ (x_3; p_1 - p_0 + q_1 - q_0, q_2 - q_1), (x_4; q_1 - q_0, q_2 - q_1 - p_0))$$

with $(x_0, \dots, x_4) \in \text{FT}^+$ and the p_i 's and q_i 's even integers. He then defines the more extended Bloch group $\mathcal{EB}(\mathbb{C})$, as in Definition 2.2, to be the abelian group generated by symbols $[z; p, q]$, subject to the relation

$$\sum_{i=0}^4 (-1)^i [x_i; p_i, q_i] = 0 \text{ for } ((x_0; p_0, q_0), \dots, (x_4; p_4, q_4)) \in \widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}.$$

Proposition 4.16 $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathcal{EB}(\mathbb{C})$.

This follows immediately from the following lemma.

Lemma 4.17 $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00} = \widehat{\text{FT}}$.

Proof Let (x_0, \dots, x_4) be a fixed point in FT^+ and let

$$P = ((x_0; 0, 0), \dots, (x_4; 0, 0)) \in \widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}.$$

Consider the curve in $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}$ starting in P obtained by keeping x_1 fixed and letting x_0 move along a closed curve in $\mathbb{C} - \{0, 1, x_1\}$. By a simple analysis of the five term relation, we can examine exactly how the values of the p_i 's and q_i 's change when x_0 moves around. This is indicated in Figure 2. We see that if x_0 traverses a closed curve going p_0 times counterclockwise around the origin, followed by q_0 times clockwise around 1, followed by r times clockwise around x_1 , then the curve in $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}$ ends in

$$((x_0; 2p_0, 2q_0), (x_1; 0, 0), (x_2; -2p_0, 2p_0 + 2r), \\ (x_3; -2p_0 - 2q_0, 2p_0 + 2r), (x_4; -2q_0, 2r)).$$

If we start in this point and then follow the curve in $\widehat{\text{FT}}_{00}$ obtained by keeping x_0 fixed and letting x_1 traverse a curve going p_1 times counterclockwise around the origin followed by q_1 times clockwise around 1, a similar study shows that we end up at the point

$$Q = ((x_0; 2p_0, 2q_0), (x_1; 2p_1, 2q_1), (x_2; -2p_0 + 2p_1, 2p_0 + 2r), \\ (x_3; -2p_0 - 2q_0 + 2p_1 + 2q_1, 2p_0 - 2q_1 + 2r), (x_4; -2q_0 + 2q_1, -2q_1 + 2r)).$$

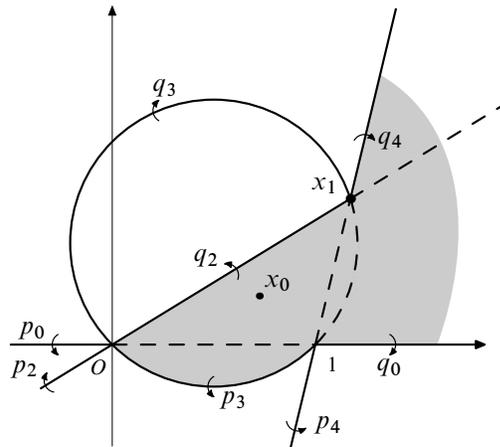


Figure 2: The lines in the figure are the cuts of the function sending z to $(\text{Log}(z), \text{Log}(\frac{1}{1-z}))$ in the x_i -plane, $i = 0, 2, 3, 4$, when $y = x_1$ is fixed. The relevant values of p_i and q_i increase by 2 whenever x_0 crosses the relevant line in the direction indicated by the arrows.

By letting $q_2 = 2r + 2p_0$ we see that Q is of the form (4–5). Since we can connect P to a point in \widehat{FT} by first sliding x_0 down to the interval $(0, 1)$ and then doing the same with x_1 , the lemma follows. \square

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Received: 2 August 2005
Revised: 2 August 2006