

Positivity of Legendrian Thom polynomials

Piotr Pragacz

pragacz@impan.pl

IM PAN Warszawa

Classical Thom polynomials for $f : M \rightarrow N$.

Theorem. (*PP+A.Weber, 2006*) *Let Σ be a singularity class. Then for any partition I the coefficient α_I in the Schur function expansion of the Thom polynomial*

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Joint work with M. Mikosz and A. Weber

Legendrian geometry

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$$V \oplus \xi = W \oplus (W^* \otimes \xi) \oplus \xi,$$

equipped with the standard contact form

$$\alpha := dx - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i dq_i,$$

where x is a coordinate of ξ , q_i are the coordinates of W and p_i are dual coordinates of $W^* \otimes \xi$.

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Example: The plane $x = \text{const}, z = \text{const}$ in the standard contact space with coordinates x, y, z and with form $\alpha = dz - ydz$ is Legendrian.

The space V is equipped with the symplectic form

$$\omega := \sum_{i=1}^n dp_i \wedge dq_i,$$

which again depends on the coordinate of ξ . It is well defined as an element of $\bigwedge^2 V^* \otimes \xi$. A submanifold of V is *Lagrangian* if ω restricted to its tangent spaces vanishes.

By Legendrian (resp. Lagrangian) submanifolds we shall mean the *germs* of such submanifolds through the origin in $V \oplus \xi$ and V , respectively.

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Lemma. *The projection of a Legendrian submanifold from $V \oplus \xi$ to V is a Lagrangian submanifold. All the Lagrangian submanifolds of V are obtainable in this way. Moreover, a Legendrian submanifold of $V \oplus \xi$ is uniquely determined by its Lagrangian image.*

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We describe a space which parametrizes pairs of Legendrian submanifolds L_1, L_2 . We say that two pairs of Legendrian submanifolds in $V \oplus \xi$ are *contact equivalent* if they differ by a holomorphic contactomorphism of $V \oplus \xi$.

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Lemma. *Any pair of Lagrangian submanifolds is symplectic equivalent to a pair (L_1, L_2) such that L_1 is a linear Lagrangian submanifold and the tangent space T_0L_2 is equal to W .*

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Let

$$\tau : Leg(W, \xi) \rightarrow X$$

denote the Legendre Grassmann bundle parametrizing Legendrian submanifolds in $V_x \oplus \xi_x$, $x \in X$ whose projections to V_x are *linear* spaces.

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We shall often identify $Leg(W, \xi)$ with the Lagrange Grassmann bundle

$$\tau : LG(V, \omega) \rightarrow X$$

since any Legendre submanifold in $V_x \oplus \xi_x$ is determined by its projection to V_x .

Tautological bundle over $Leg(W, \xi)$ is denoted by R .
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Let $\mathcal{C}^k(W, \xi)$ be the set of pairs of k -jets of Legendrian submanifolds $(L_1, L_2) \subset V_x \oplus \xi_x$ s.t. the projection of L_1 to V_x is a linear space and $T_0L_2 = W_x$. Let

$$\pi : \mathcal{C}^k(W, \xi) \rightarrow Leg(W, \xi)$$

denote the projection such that $\pi(L_1, L_2) = L_1$.

Local study

Every k -jet of a Legendrian submanifold L in $V_x \oplus \xi_x$ is the graph of a 1-form

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If, in addition, the tangency condition

$$T_0L = W_x$$

holds, then the second jet of f vanish at 0.

Global picture

Thus we can identify $\pi^{-1}(W_x)$ with

$$\bigoplus_{i=3}^{k+1} \text{Sym}^i(W_x^*) \otimes \xi_x .$$

In fact, we obtain the following Cartesian square:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \pi \\ & & \rightarrow \\ \mathcal{C}^k(W, \xi) & & \text{Leg}(W, \xi) \\ & \downarrow & \downarrow \tau \\ \bigoplus_{i=3}^{k+1} \text{Sym}^i(W^*) \otimes \xi & \rightarrow & X . \end{array}$$

By a *Legendre singularity class* we mean a closed algebraic subset $\Sigma \subset \mathcal{C}^k(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C})$, invariant with respect to holomorphic contactomorphisms of \mathbb{C}^{2n+1} . (It is a union of contact equivalence classes.) Additionally, we assume that the singularity class Σ is *stable* with respect to enlarging the dimension of W . Since any changes of coordinates of W and ξ induce holomorphic contactomorphisms of $V \oplus \xi$, any Legendre singularity class Σ defines a cycle

$$\Sigma(W, \xi) \subset \mathcal{C}^k(W, \xi).$$

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The element $PD[\Sigma(W, \xi)]$ of $H^*(\mathcal{C}^k(W, \xi), \mathbb{Z})$, which is the Poincaré dual of $[\Sigma(W, \xi)]$ is called the *Legendrian Thom polynomial* of Σ .

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To understand the structure of these polynomials, we need a bit of Schubert Calculus.

Legendrian Grassmann bundles

Let $\xi, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$ be vector spaces of dimension one and let

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We have a symplectic form ω defined on V with values in ξ . $LG(V, \omega)$ is a homogeneous space for the symplectic group $Sp(V, \omega) \subset \text{End}(V)$.

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Fix two “opposite” standard isotropic flags in V :

$$F_h^+ := \bigoplus_{i=1}^h \alpha_i, \quad F_h^- := \bigoplus_{i=1}^h \alpha_{n-i+1}^* \otimes \xi, \quad (h = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

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Consider two Borel groups $B^\pm \subset Sp(V, \omega)$, preserving the flags F_\bullet^\pm . The orbits of B^\pm in $LG(V, \omega)$ form two “opposite” cell decompositions $\{\Omega_I(F_\bullet^\pm, \xi)\}$ of $LG(V, \omega)$.

The decompositions are indexed by strict partitions I contained in $\rho = (n, n - 1, \dots, 2, 1)$.

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All that is functorial w.r.t. the automorphisms of the lines ξ and α_i 's, (they form a torus $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n+1}$). Thus the construction of the cell decompositions can be repeated for bundles ξ and $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^n$ over any base X . We get a Lagrange Grassmann bundle

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$Leg(W, \xi)$ admits two (relative) stratifications

$$\{\Omega_I(F_\bullet^\pm, \xi) \rightarrow X\}_I$$

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Pulling back F to $Leg(W, \xi) \rightarrow X$, we get the following jet bundle:

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Theorem. *Fix $I \subset \rho$ and λ . Suppose that the vector bundle E is generated by its global sections. Then, in E , the intersection of $\Sigma(W, \xi)$ with the closure of any $\pi^{-1}(Z_{I\lambda}^-)$ is represented by a nonnegative cycle.*

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To overlap all these three cases we consider the product

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$$W := p_1^* \mathcal{O}(-1)^{\oplus n}, \quad \xi := p_1^* \mathcal{O}(-3) \otimes p_2^* \mathcal{O}(1),$$

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where strict $I \subset \rho$, $a \leq n$, $b \leq n$.

The classes of closures of the cells of this decomposition give a basis of the homology of $Leg(W, \xi)$.

The dual basis of cohomology is denoted by

$$e_{I,a,b} := [\overline{Z_{I(a,b)}^-}]^* .$$

Theorem. *Let Σ be a Legendre singularity class. Then $PD[\Sigma(W, \xi)]$ has nonnegative coefficients in the basis $\{e_{I,a,b}\}$.*

The vector bundle F on $X = \mathbf{P}^n \times \mathbf{P}^n$ is globally generated:

$$F = \bigoplus_{j=3}^{k+1} \text{Sym}^j(W^*) \otimes \xi = \bigoplus_{j=3}^{k+1} \text{Sym}^j(\mathbf{1}^n) \otimes p_1^* \mathcal{O}(j-3) \otimes p_2^* \mathcal{O}(1).$$

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The family $PD[\Omega_I(F_{\bullet}^+, \xi)] t^i$ is a one-parameter family of bases depending on the parameter p/q .

Case 1. $\xi_1 = \mathcal{O}(-2), \alpha_1 = \mathcal{O}(-1)$. This corresponds to fixing the parameter to be 1; $p = 1$ and $q = 1$; $v_1 = v_2 = t$. Geometrically, this means that we study the restriction of the bundles W and ξ to the diagonal of $\mathbf{P}^n \times \mathbf{P}^n$.

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Theorem. *The Thom polynomial of a Legendre singularity class Σ is a combination:*

$$\mathcal{T}^\Sigma = \sum_{j \geq 0} \sum_I \alpha_{I,j} \tilde{Q}_I(A \otimes \xi^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \cdot t^j.$$

Here I runs over strict partitions in ρ , and $\alpha_{I,j}$ are nonnegative integers.

Legendrian vs. classical

$$t = v_1 = v_2$$

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Kazarian: The classification of Legendre singularities is parallel to the classification of critical point singularities w.r.t. stable right equivalence. For a Legendre singularity class Σ consider the associated singularity class of maps $f : M \rightarrow C$ from n -dimensional manifolds to curves. We denote the related Thom polynomial by Tp^Σ .

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$$Tp^\Sigma = \mathcal{T}^\Sigma \cdot c_n(T^*M \otimes f^*TC).$$

We know that Tp^Σ is nonzero. One shows that Tp^Σ , specialized with $f^*TC = \mathbf{1}$ i.e. $t = 0$, is also nonzero. The assertion follows from the equation.

Final remarks

Chern class formula for

$$PD[\Omega_I(F_{\bullet}^+, \xi)]$$

depending on the Chern classes of ξ , R , W , F_i^+ $i = 1, \dots, n$
– still to be found: PP(1986), PP-Ratajski, Lascoux-PP,
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First method uses the equation relating Legendrian and classical Thom polynomials. Algebraically it is some instance of the “factorization formula” for super Schur functions.

Second method combines different specializations in the one parameter family of positive bases.

Examples

$$\mathbf{A}_2: \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1 \quad \mathbf{A}_3: 3\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_2 + v_2\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1$$

$$\mathbf{A}_4: 12\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_3 + 3\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{21} + (3v_1 + 7v_2)\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_2 + (v_1v_2 + v_2^2)\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1$$

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$$\mathbf{A}_5: 60\tilde{Q}_4 + 27\tilde{Q}_{31} + (6v_1 + 16v_2)\tilde{Q}_{21} + (39v_1 + 47v_2)\tilde{Q}_3 + (6v_1^2 + 22v_1v_2 + 12v_2^2)\tilde{Q}_2 + (2v_1^2v_2 + 3v_1v_2^2 + v_2^3)\tilde{Q}_1$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}_8 : & 18840\tilde{Q}_{61} + 20160\tilde{Q}_7 + 3123\tilde{Q}_{421} + 5556\tilde{Q}_{43} + 15564\tilde{Q}_{52} + \\ & t(71856\tilde{Q}_6 + 3999\tilde{Q}_{321} + 55672\tilde{Q}_{51} + 34780\tilde{Q}_{42}) + \\ & t^2(64524\tilde{Q}_{41} + 24616\tilde{Q}_{32} + 105496\tilde{Q}_5) + t^3(36048\tilde{Q}_{31} + 81544\tilde{Q}_4) + \\ & t^4(8876\tilde{Q}_{21} + 34936\tilde{Q}_3) + t^5 7848\tilde{Q}_2 + t^6 720\tilde{Q}_1 ; \end{aligned}$$

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