

## 42. Product Formula for Twisted MacPherson Classes

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**Introduction.** The topological Euler characteristic  $\chi$  is multiplicative, i.e.,  $\chi(X \times Y) = \chi(X)\chi(Y)$ . For a manifold  $X$ , a generalization of  $\chi(X)$  to higher dimensional cohomology classes is the Chern cohomology class  $c^*(X)$ , which satisfies the cross-product formula  $c^*(X \times Y) = c^*(X) \times c^*(Y)$ . For a (possibly singular) compact complex algebraic variety  $X$ , a generalization of  $\chi(X)$  to higher dimensional homology classes is the Schwartz-MacPherson homology class  $c_*(X)$ , which in the smooth case is just the Poincaré dual of the usual Chern cohomology class  $c^*(X)$  and the 0-th component of which is equal to  $\chi(X)$  [1, 4, 5]. Very recently, in connection with lifting Schwartz-MacPherson classes to intersection homology [2], the first author [3] proved the product formula for Schwartz-MacPherson classes, i.e.,  $c_*(X \times Y) = c_*(X) \times c_*(Y)$ . The second author [6, 7] defined the "twisted" MacPherson class  $c_{t*}(X)$ , which includes Schwartz-MacPherson class  $c_*(X)$  as a special case, i.e.,  $c_{1*}(X) = c_*(X)$ . The 0-th component of  $c_{t*}(X)$  is the "stratified weighted" Euler characteristic  $\chi^t(X)$ , which is a degree- $\dim X$  polynomial of  $t$ , involves Euler characteristic of singularities also and equals to  $\chi(X)$  when  $t = 1$ . In [7] the second author showed the multiplicativity of  $\chi^t$ , i.e.,  $\chi^t(X \times Y) = \chi^t(X)\chi^t(Y)$ . In this note, by strengthening and modifying the proof of [3] we show the product formula  $c_{t*}(X \times Y) = c_{t*}(X) \times c_{t*}(Y)$ , thus the product formulae  $c_*(X \times Y) = c_*(X) \times c_*(Y)$  and  $\chi^t(X \times Y) = \chi^t(X)\chi^t(Y)$  follow as special cases. More generally we show a product formula for the transformation  $c_{t*}$  acting on constructible functions with polynomial coefficients (Theorem 4).

**1. Preliminaries.** The varieties we consider are all (possibly singular) compact complex algebraic varieties. Let  $\mathbf{F}$  be the constructible function covariant functor, where  $\mathbf{F}(X)$  is the abelian group freely generated by characteristic functions  $\mathbf{1}_W$  for subvarieties  $W$  of  $X$ . For a morphism  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  the pushforward  $f_*: \mathbf{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}(Y)$  is defined by  $(f_*\mathbf{1}_W)(y) := \chi(f^{-1}(y) \cap W)$ . Let  $H_*(; \mathbf{Z})$  be the usual  $\mathbf{Z}$ -homology covariant functor. Deligne and Grothendieck conjectured and MacPherson [3] proved that *there exists a unique natural transformation  $c_*: \mathbf{F} \rightarrow H_*(; \mathbf{Z})$  satisfying the extra condition that  $c_*(\mathbf{1}_X) = c^*(X) \cap [X]$  for any smooth  $X$* . To construct the transformation  $c_*$ , MacPherson first observes that  $\mathbf{F}(X)$  is also freely

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generated by local Euler obstruction functions  $Eu_W$  for all subvarieties  $W$  of  $X$ , and then for a variety  $X$  he defines the homomorphism  $c_*: \mathbf{F}(X) \rightarrow H_*(X; \mathbf{Z})$  by  $c_*(\sum_w n_w Eu_w) := \sum_w n_w \hat{c}(W)$ , where  $\hat{c}(W)$  is the Chern-Mather homology class of  $W$ . For a variety  $X$   $c_*(X) := c_*(\mathbf{1}_X)$  is called the *Schwartz-MacPherson class* (or *Chern-Schwartz-MacPherson class*) of  $X$  (cf. [1, 5]). By considering the map from  $X$  to a point, we can see that the 0-th component of  $c_*(X)$  is nothing but the Euler characteristic  $\chi(X)$ . In [6, 7] the second author extended the above transformation  $c_*$  as follows. Let  $\mathbf{F}^t$  be the “twisted” constructible function functor, where  $\mathbf{F}^t(X) = \mathbf{F}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Z}[t]$  and the pushforward  $f_*^t: \mathbf{F}^t(X) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}^t(Y)$  is defined by  $f_*^t(Eu_w) := \sum_s n_s t^{\dim W - \dim S} Eu_s$ , provided that  $f_*(Eu_w) = \sum_s n_s Eu_s$ . Then *there exists a unique natural transformation  $c_{t*}: \mathbf{F}^t \rightarrow H_*(; \mathbf{Z}[t])$  satisfying the extra condition that  $c_{t*}(\mathbf{1}_X) = c_t^*(X) \cap [X]$  for any smooth  $X$ , where  $c_t^*(X) := \sum_{i \geq 0} t^i c^i(X)$  is the Chern polynomial of  $X$ . Here  $c^i(X)$  denotes the  $i$ -th component of the Chern cohomology class  $c^*(X)$ . For a variety  $X$   $c_{t*}(X) := c_{t*}(\mathbf{1}_X)$  is called the *twisted MacPherson class* of  $X$ . By considering the map from  $X$  to a point, we can see that the 0-th component of  $c_{t*}(X)$  is just the stratified weighted Euler characterisitic  $\chi^t(X)$  [7].*

**Notation.** i) For any pair of constructible functions  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}(X)$  and  $\beta \in \mathbf{F}(Y)$ ,  $\alpha \times \beta \in \mathbf{F}(X \times Y)$  is defined by

$$(\alpha \times \beta)(x, y) := \alpha(x)\beta(y).$$

ii) For morphisms  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Y'$ ,  $f \times g: X \times Y \rightarrow X' \times Y'$  is classically defined by

$$(f \times g)(x, y) = (f(x), g(y)).$$

**2. Proof of product formula  $c_{t*}(X \times Y) = c_{t*}(X) \times c_{t*}(Y)$ .** First we observe the following key lemma

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Y'$  be morphisms. Then for  $\alpha \in \mathbf{F}(X)$  and  $\beta \in \mathbf{F}(Y)$*

$$(f \times g)_*(\alpha \times \beta) = (f_*\alpha) \times (g_*\beta).$$

*I.e., the following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{F}(X) \otimes \mathbf{F}(Y) & \xrightarrow{X} & \mathbf{F}(X \times Y) \\ f_* \otimes g_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (f \times g)_* \\ \mathbf{F}(X') \otimes \mathbf{F}(Y') & \xrightarrow{X} & \mathbf{F}(X' \times Y'). \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Let  $S, T$  be subvarieties of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then by the multiplicativity of the topological Euler-Poincaré characteristic  $\chi(A \times B) = \chi(A)\chi(B)$ , it follows that

$$(f \times g)_*(\mathbf{1}_S \times \mathbf{1}_T) = (f \times g)_*(\mathbf{1}_{S \times T}) = f_*(\mathbf{1}_S) \times g_*(\mathbf{1}_T).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Indeed } ((f \times g)_*(\mathbf{1}_{S \times T}))(x', y') &= \chi((f \times g)^{-1}(x', y') \cap (S \times T)) \\ &= \chi((f^{-1}(x') \times g^{-1}(y')) \cap (S \times T)) \\ &= \chi((f^{-1}(x') \cap S) \times (g^{-1}(y') \cap T)) \\ &= \chi((f^{-1}(x') \cap S))\chi(g^{-1}(y') \cap T) \\ &= (f_*(\mathbf{1}_S) \times g_*(\mathbf{1}_T))(x', y'). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\alpha = \sum_s n_s \mathbf{1}_S$  and  $\beta = \sum_T n_T \mathbf{1}_T$ . Then

$$(f \times g)_*(\alpha \times \beta) = (f \times g)_*((\sum_s n_s \mathbf{1}_S) \times (\sum_T n_T \mathbf{1}_T))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (f \times g)_*(\sum_{S,T} n_S n_T \mathbf{1}_{S \times T}) \\
 &= \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T (f \times g)_*(\mathbf{1}_{S \times T}) \\
 &= \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T (f_*(\mathbf{1}_S) \times g_*(\mathbf{1}_T)) \\
 &= \sum_S n_S f_*(\mathbf{1}_S) \times \sum_T n_T g_*(\mathbf{1}_T) \\
 &= (f_*\alpha) \times (g_*\beta). \qquad \text{Q.E.D.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since local Euler obstruction functions are constructible, we have the following

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Y'$  be morphisms, and let  $V$  and  $W$  be subvarieties of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then*

$$(f \times g)_*(Eu_V \times Eu_W) = (f_*Eu_V) \times (g_*Eu_W).$$

Then, using the multiplicativity of local Euler obstruction[4], which is essential for the product formula, we can show the “twisted” version of the above corollary:

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Y'$  be morphisms, and let  $V$  and  $W$  be subvarieties of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively. Then*

$$(f \times g)_*^t(Eu_V \times Eu_W) = (f_*^tEu_V) \times (g_*^tEu_W).$$

*Proof.* Let  $f_*Eu_V = \sum_S n_S Eu_S$  and  $g_*Eu_W = \sum_T n_T Eu_T$ . Then by Corollary 2 and by the multiplicativity of local Euler obstruction  $Eu_{A \times B} = Eu_A \times Eu_B$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f \times g)_*(Eu_{V \times W}) &= (f \times g)_*(Eu_V \times Eu_W) \\
 &= (\sum_S n_S Eu_S) \times (\sum_T n_T Eu_T) \\
 &= \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T (Eu_S \times Eu_T) \\
 &= \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T Eu_{S \times T}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by the definition of the twisted pushforward of a constructible function, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f \times g)_*^t(Eu_V \times Eu_W) &= (f \times g)_*^t(Eu_{V \times W}) \\
 &= \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T t^{\dim(V \times W) - \dim(S \times T)} Eu_{S \times T} \\
 &= (\sum_S n_S t^{\dim V - \dim S} Eu_S) \times (\sum_T n_T t^{\dim W - \dim T} Eu_T) \\
 &= (f_*^tEu_V) \times (g_*^tEu_W). \qquad \text{Q.E.D.}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be varieties. Then for any  $\alpha \in F^t(X)$  and  $\beta \in F^t(Y)$*

$$c_{t*}(\alpha \times \beta) = c_{t*}(\alpha) \times c_{t*}(\beta).$$

*I.e., the following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^t(X) \otimes F^t(Y) & \xrightarrow{\times} & F^t(X \times Y) \\
 c_{t*} \otimes c_{t*} \downarrow & & \downarrow c_{t*}
 \end{array}$$

$$H_*(X ; \mathbf{Z}[t]) \otimes H_*(Y ; \mathbf{Z}[t]) \xrightarrow{\times} H_*(X \times Y ; \mathbf{Z}[t]).$$

*In particular, letting  $\alpha = \mathbf{1}_X$  and  $\beta = \mathbf{1}_Y$ , we get the product formula for the twisted MacPherson classes:*

$$c_{t*}(X \times Y) = c_{t*}(X) \times c_{t*}(Y).$$

*Proof.* By the linearity of  $c_{t*}$  and by the bilinearity of  $\times$ , it suffices to show that for any two subvarieties  $V$  and  $W$  of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively,

$$(4.1) \quad c_{t*}(Eu_V \times Eu_W) = c_{t*}(Eu_V) \times c_{t*}(Eu_W).$$

*Observation (4.2).* (i) If  $V$  and  $W$  are non-singular, then by the definition of cross-product the equality (4.1) holds. (ii) If  $\dim V = \dim W = 0$ ,

then (4.1) holds.

We shall therefore proceed to prove (4.1) by induction on  $k = \dim V + \dim W$ . Suppose that (4.1) holds for  $\dim V + \dim W < k$ , and we show that (4.1) holds for  $\dim V + \dim W = k$ . Let  $p: \tilde{V} \rightarrow V$  and  $q: \tilde{W} \rightarrow W$  be resolutions of singularities of  $V$  and  $W$ . Then we get

$$p_* \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} = \mathbf{E}u_V + \sum_s n_S \mathbf{E}n_S \quad \text{and} \quad q_* \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}} = \mathbf{E}u_W + \sum_T n_T \mathbf{E}u_T,$$

where  $S$ 's and  $T$ 's are in the singular locus of  $V$  and  $W$ , respectively. Hence, by the definition of the twisted pushforward we have

$$(4.3) \quad p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} = \mathbf{E}u_V + \sum_s n_S t^{\dim V - \dim S} \mathbf{E}u_S$$

$$\text{and} \quad q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}} = \mathbf{E}u_W + \sum_T n_T t^{\dim W - \dim T} \mathbf{E}u_T.$$

Thus we have

$$(4.4) \quad p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} \times q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}} = \mathbf{E}u_V \times \mathbf{E}u_W + \sum_s n_S t^{\dim V - \dim S} \mathbf{E}u_S \times \mathbf{E}u_W \\ + \sum_T n_T t^{\dim W - \dim T} \mathbf{E}u_V \times \mathbf{E}u_T + \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T t^{\dim V + \dim W - \dim S - \dim T} \mathbf{E}u_S \times \mathbf{E}u_T.$$

*Observation (4.5).*

$$\begin{aligned} c_{t*}(p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} \times q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}) &= c_{t*}(p \times q)_*^t (\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} \times \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}) \\ &\quad \text{(by Corollary 3)} \\ &= (p \times q)_* c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} \times \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}) \\ &\quad \text{(by the naturality of } c_{t*}\text{)} \\ &= (p \times q)_*(c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}}) \times c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}})) \\ &\quad \text{(by Observation (4.2))} \\ &= p_* c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}}) \times q_* c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}) \\ &= c_{t*}(p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}}) \times c_{t*}(q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}). \\ &\quad \text{(by the naturality of } c_{t*}\text{)} \end{aligned}$$

By (4.4)

$$\begin{aligned} c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_V \times \mathbf{E}u_W) &= c_{t*}(p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} \times q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}}) - \sum_s n_S t^{\dim V - \dim S} c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_S \times \mathbf{E}u_W) \\ &\quad - \sum_T n_T t^{\dim W - \dim T} c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_V \times \mathbf{E}u_T) \\ &\quad - \sum_{S,T} n_S n_T t^{\dim V + \dim W - \dim S - \dim T} c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_S \times \mathbf{E}u_T). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by substituting the expression from Observation (4.5) for the first summand and applying the induction hypothesis to the other three, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_V \times \mathbf{E}u_W) &= c_{t*}(p_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{V}} - \sum_s n_S t^{\dim V - \dim S} \mathbf{E}u_S) \times \\ &\quad c_{t*}(q_*^t \mathbf{E}u_{\tilde{W}} - \sum_T n_T t^{\dim W - \dim T} \mathbf{E}u_T) \\ &= c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_V) \times c_{t*}(\mathbf{E}u_W) \quad \text{(by (4.3)). Q.E.D.} \end{aligned}$$

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