

5, Weil-Hodge classes and Schoen's construction

We begin with the basic

Example 1 / $A = \text{abelian 4-fold}$, $(V = H^1(A), \varphi, \mathbb{Q})$,

$E(A) \xrightarrow[\mu]{\cong} F$ imaginary quadratic (so, type IV)

\Rightarrow get $V_F = V_+ \oplus V_-$ compatibly with the Hodge decomposition.

$\begin{matrix} \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright \\ m(t) & f \cdot Id & \bar{f} \cdot Id \end{matrix}$

Assume $\dim V_+^{1,0} = \dim V_+^{0,1} = \dots = 2$, so that the resulting Hermitian form h on V_+ has signature $(2, 2)$.

Then φ acts through $L(A) = Sp(V, \mathbb{Q}) \cap \text{Res}_{F/\mathbb{Q}}(GL(V_+))$

$\cong U(V_+, h)$. Considering a general HS in the 4-dim'l \mathbb{R}

Hermitian symmetric domain $D_{2,2} = L(A)(\mathbb{R})$, $\varphi \cong U(2,2) / U(2) \times U(2)$,

we are in the situation of Example 4.3. Applying Proposition

4.6, we have

$$(1) \quad SU(2,2) \leq M(A)(\mathbb{R}) \leq U(2,2).$$

* In general, since $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} U(p,q) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} GL(p+q) = (p+q)^2$,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \underbrace{(U(p,q) / (U(p) \times U(q)))}_{D_{p,q}} = \frac{1}{2} \dim_{\mathbb{R}} (D_{p,q}) = \frac{1}{2} \{(p+q)^2 - p^2 - q^2\} = pq.$$

$\rightarrow \Gamma^m(1)$, which is $M(A) - SU$ or U ?

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So which is it? If we let $\{\omega_i\}_{i=1}^4 \subset \Omega^1(A)$

be a basis such that $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in V_+^{1,0}$, then $B_+ =$

$\{\omega_1, \omega_2, \bar{\omega}_3, \bar{\omega}_4\} \subset V_+$ is a basis. Since

$$[\varphi(z)]_{B_+} = \text{diag} \{z, z, z^{-1}, z^{-1}\},$$

φ actually factors through $\underline{S}U(V_+, h) \cong SU(2, 2)$. (Notice

that for signature $(1, 3)$ this would NOT happen.) So a

general A "in" $D_{2,2}$ is degenerate, and has an exceptional Hodge class.

To "see" the Hodge class, notice that $\mu(f)$ acts

trivially on

$$(2) \quad \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 \wedge \bar{\omega}_3 \wedge \bar{\omega}_4, \quad \omega_3 \wedge \omega_4 \wedge \bar{\omega}_1 \wedge \bar{\omega}_2 \in H^{2,2}(A).$$

Moreover, these 2 classes span the space $\text{Res}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \underbrace{\Lambda^4 V_+}_{\det h / F}$,

which is defined $/\mathbb{Q}$. Appropriate linear combinations

of (2) therefore give classes in $Hg^2(A)$; as they are

not fixed by $L(A) \cong U(2, 2)$, these are the desired

exceptional classes. //

More generally, let (V, φ, Q) be a PHS of any weight, with F -multiplication $(F \xrightarrow{\mu} E_\varphi)$,

not necessarily imaginary quadratic). Set $h := \dim_F V$,
 and consider the h -dimensional F -vector-space $\Lambda_F^h V$,
 which is in fact a \mathbb{Q} -HS of rank $[F:\mathbb{Q}]$.

(This is by the compatibility of μ with ρ , and because
 we really mean $\text{Res}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \Lambda_F^h V$.) The canonical projection

$$(3) \quad p: \Lambda_{(\mathbb{Q})}^h V \longrightarrow \Lambda_F^h V$$

is a morphism of \mathbb{Q} -Hodge structures, and so $\ker(p) \subset \Lambda^h V$
 is a sub-HS.

Definition 1: The Weil classes associated to $(V, \rho, \mathbb{Q}, \mu)$

are the nonzero elements of the \mathbb{Q} - \perp -complement W_F
 to $\ker(p)$ inside $\Lambda^h V$. We have $p|_{W_F}: W_F \xrightarrow{\cong} \Lambda_F^h V$.

WARNING: These are not yet Hodge classes !!

Example 1 (cont'd)

Let $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^4 \subset V$ be an F -basis.

Writing $F = \mathbb{Q}(f)$, we may extend this to a \mathbb{Q} -basis

by taking $\alpha_{i+4} := \mu(f)\alpha_i$. Λ_F means that we may move

$\mu(f)$'s (and $\mu(f)^{-1}$'s, etc.) across the \wedge . There are $16 (= 2^4)$

independent classes $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \text{or} \\ \alpha_5 \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \wedge \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \alpha_2 \\ \text{or} \\ \alpha_6 \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \wedge \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \alpha_3 \\ \text{or} \\ \alpha_7 \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \wedge \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \alpha_4 \\ \text{or} \\ \alpha_8 \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \in \Lambda^4 V$ mapping

to some combination of $d_1 \wedge d_2 \wedge d_3 \wedge d_4$ and $p(f) d_1 \wedge d_2 \wedge d_3 \wedge d_4$ in $\Lambda_F^4 V$. The linear combinations of these 16 will

generate $W_F \subset \Lambda^4 V$. //

(As you can see, the previous approach to this example was a bit simpler. Indeed, it's really only necessary that W_F map \cong to $\Lambda_F^4 V$, not that it be \perp to $\ker(p)$.)

If $V = H^1(A)$ has F -multiplication for an abelian d -fold A , then

$h = 2d/[F:\mathbb{Q}]$, and $W_F \subset \Lambda^h V = H^h(A)$. Also write

$V_F = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \text{Hom}(F, \mathbb{C})} V_\rho$ for the decomposition.

Proposition 1 (Mumford-Zwinnig): TFAE:

- (i) $W_F \cap H_{g, h/2}(A) \neq \{0\}$
- (ii) $W_F \subset H_{g, h/2}(A)$
- (iii) $\dim V_\rho^{1,0} = \dim V_\rho^{0,1} \quad (\forall \rho)$
- (iv) $M(A) \subset \text{Res}_{F/\mathbb{Q}}(SL(V_\rho))$.

(We won't prove this but it should seem plausible from the above examples.)

Definition 2: In this case, W_F is called a space of Weil-Hodge classes for A .

Note that Weil-Hodge classes need not be exceptional:

If A is simple of type I and $E(A) = F$ is real quadratic, then $L(A)$ satisfies (iv).

The proposition is most effective for producing exceptional Hodge classes on abelian varieties of type III and IV.

Unfortunately we really have no idea how to approach the resulting cases of the Hodge conjecture, even in Example 1.

There just isn't enough "accessible geometry" in such abelian 4-folds.

The only exception to this statement (so far) is for the few families of type (2,2) 4-folds that come from a generalized Prym construction, which must necessarily* have $F = \mathbb{Q}(S_3)$ or $\mathbb{Q}(i)$.

We now describe Schoen's proof of the Hodge Conjecture in this case.

* The point is that because the Prym construction involves a $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ étale curve cover, you have to have "multiplication by" $\mathbb{Q}(S_m)$ ($S_m = e^{2\pi i/m}$) in whatever results. But for (2,2) Well-Hodge classes on an abelian 4-fold, $d = 4 = h \Rightarrow [F:\mathbb{Q}] = 2$. The only quadratic cyclotomic fields are $\mathbb{Q}(S_3)$ and $\mathbb{Q}(i)$, though we naturally wonder if anything can be made of the fact that every $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D}) \subset$ some $\mathbb{Q}(S_m)$.

Let

$$C \xrightarrow[\pi]{m:1} X$$

be a cyclic étale cover, with $\text{Aut}(C/X) = \langle \alpha \rangle (\cong \mathbb{Z}/m)$;

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma : \mathbb{Z}/m &\rightarrow \text{Aut}(H^1(C)) \\ a &\longmapsto \sigma(a) := (\alpha^a)^* \end{aligned}$$

the induced action on cohomology. We have the characters

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_r : \mathbb{Z}/m &\rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)^* & [\zeta_m = e^{2\pi i/m}] \\ a &\longmapsto \zeta_m^{ar} \end{aligned}$$

and the subspaces $H^1(C)^{\chi} \subset H^1(C, \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m))$ on which σ acts through χ .

Let $V \subset H^1(C)$ be the \mathbb{Q} -subspace with

$$(4) \quad V = \sum_{\substack{\chi \\ \text{primitive}}} H^1(C)^{\chi} \subset H^1(C)_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)}$$

more formally, we would write $V = \text{Res}_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)/\mathbb{Q}} H^1(C)^{\chi}$ (for one primitive χ).

Compare

$$h := \dim_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)} V = \dim H^1(C)^{\chi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(Character thm.)} \rightarrow &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}/m} \chi(-a) \text{tr}(\sigma(a)) \\ &= - \sum_{i=0}^2 (-1)^i \frac{1}{m} \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}/m} \chi(-a) \text{tr}(\sigma_i(a)) \\ &= -\frac{1}{m} \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}/m} \chi(-a) \underbrace{\sum_i (-1)^i \text{tr}(\sigma_i(a))}_{= 0 \text{ for } a \neq 0, \text{ since } \alpha^a \text{ acts w/o fixed pts. (apply Lefschetz fixed pt. theorem)}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{m} \chi(0) \sum_i (-1)^i \underbrace{\text{tr}(\sigma_i(0))}_{\text{id}} \\ \text{(Euler characteristic of } C) \rightarrow &= -\frac{1}{m} e(C) \underbrace{\quad}_{h^1(C)} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{m} (2g_c - 2)$$

(Riemann-Hurwitz)

$$\rightarrow = 2g_x - 2$$

Replacing $\{\sigma_i\}_{i=0}^2$ by $\{\tilde{\sigma}_i: \mathbb{Z}/m \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H^1(C, \mathbb{Q}_c))\}_{i=0}^1$, essentially the same computation yields $\dim H^1(C)^{\otimes m} = g_x - 1 = \frac{1}{2} \dim H^1(C)^{\otimes m}$.

Setting

$$(5) \quad A := J(V) := \frac{V_C}{F^1 V_C + V_Z} \quad (V_Z = V \cap H^1(C, \mathbb{Z}))$$

$$(\Rightarrow H^1(A) \cong V)$$

we have

$$d := \dim_{\mathbb{C}} A = \frac{1}{2} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} V = \frac{[\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m) : \mathbb{Q}] \cdot h}{2} = \frac{\phi(m)h}{2} = \phi(m)(g_x - 1)$$

where $\phi(m)$ = Euler phi-function. Here are the "lowest-genus" examples of interest, keeping in mind that we want $d \geq 4$ even:

(6)	m	g_x	g_c	h	d	
{	3	3	7	4	4	(in genl, $h \neq d$)
	4	3	9	4	4	
	3	4	10	6	6	
	4	4	13	6	6	

Now consider the action of the symmetric group S_h on C^h ,

by permuting factors. We have

$$H^1(C)^{\otimes h} \subset H^h(C^h)$$

and \otimes

$$\Lambda^h H^1(C) \cong (H^1(C)^{\otimes h})^{S_h} \subset H^h(C^h)^{S_h}$$

\otimes This is confusing. Simple example: Consider $dz = \omega$ on \mathbb{C} , and the projections $\pi_1, \pi_2: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. We have $\pi_1^* \omega \wedge \pi_2^* \omega$ (conjugate to form in $H^1(C) \otimes H^1(C) \subset H^2(C^2)$), which is dx dy; this becomes $dy dx = -dx dy$ under exchange of factors.

Writing $\varepsilon: (\mathbb{Z}/m)^h \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m$ for the augmentation $(a_1, \dots, a_h) \mapsto \sum a_i$,

let $\mathcal{N} := \ker(\varepsilon) \subset (\mathbb{Z}/m)^h =: \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$.

We have

$$\bigotimes_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}^h V \cong (V^{\otimes h})^{\mathcal{N}} \subset H^h(C^h)^{\mathcal{N}}$$

Since acting by (say) $(a_1, -a_1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathcal{N}$ sends $v_1 \otimes \sigma(a) v_2 \otimes \dots$ to $\sigma(a) v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \dots$ (i.e. allows us to move $\mathbb{Q}(S_m)$ across the \otimes); hence

$$(7) \quad \bigwedge_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}^h V \cong (V^{\otimes h})^{\mathcal{N} \Delta_h} =: U \subset H^h(C^h)^{\mathcal{N} \Delta_h}.$$

Since $h = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)} V$, U has dimension 1 over $\mathbb{Q}(S_m)$ (dimension $\phi(m)$ over \mathbb{Q}); it also clearly identifies with

$$\sum_x \bigwedge^h V^x = \sum_{x \text{ (primitive)}} \bigwedge^h H^1(C)^x \cong \sum_{x \text{ (primitive)}} \bigwedge^h H^1(A)^x =: U' \subset H^h(A),$$

a space of Weil classes. That these are Weil-Hodge classes follows from $h^{1,0}(C)^x = \frac{1}{2} h^1(C)^x$ ($= \dim(V^{1,0})^x = \frac{1}{2} \dim(V^x)$), as observed above, which also implies that $h/2$ is an integer.

Theorem 1 (Schön): (a) The Hodge Conjecture is true for these

Weil-Hodge classes; that is,

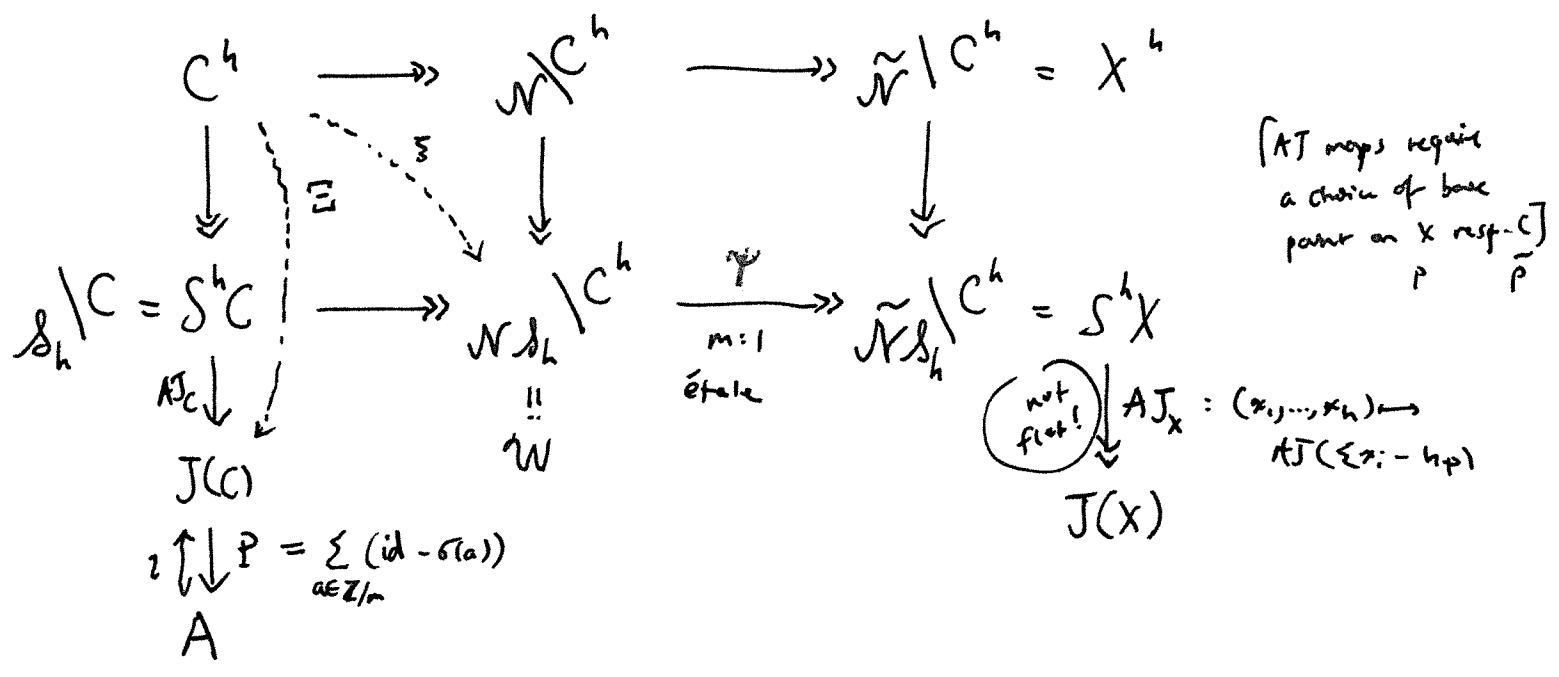
$$(8) \quad U' \subset \text{cl}(CH^{h/2}(A)_{\mathbb{Q}}) \subset H_g^{h/2}(A).$$

(b) Ditto for the corresponding classes on C^h :

$$(9) \quad U \subset \text{cl}(CH^{h/2}(C^h)) \subset H_g^{h/2}(C^h).$$

Proof: We shall first prove (b), then show that (a) follows from it. * 9

Look at the big diagram (in which $S^k := \text{Sym}^k$)



and consider the preimage of $([K_x] - h p)$ under AJ_x : this is the linear system $|K_x| \cong \mathbb{P}^{g_x-1}$. (This fiber of AJ_x is of dimension greater than the relative dim. $= h - g_x = g_x - 2$.) Since \mathbb{P}^{g_x-1} has no nontrivial connected étale cover, $\psi^{-1}([K_x]) \cong \coprod \mathbb{P}^{g_x-1}$; denote these components $\{Z_i\}_{i=1}^m$.

The choice of the point $p \in X$ gives an embedding $S^h X \hookrightarrow S^{h+1} X$, and $S^{h+1} X = S^{2g_x-1} \xrightarrow{AJ_x} J(X)$ is a smooth projective bundle with $|K_x + p| \in |K_x|$ as fiber. So the normal bundle $N_{|K_x|/S^{h+1} X}$ is trivial, and

(just call this $|K_x|$)

$$0 \rightarrow N_{|K_x|/S^h X} \rightarrow N_{|K_x|/S^{h+1} X} \rightarrow N_{S^h X/S^{h+1} X}|_{|K_x|} \rightarrow 0$$

* Schoen actually proves more, considering non-étale curve coverings. But the étale case are the only one that pertains to any general abelian varieties of Weil type.

gives $c(N_{Kx|S^h X}) = c(N_{S^h X/S^h X|Kx})^{-1} = c(O_{Kx}(1))^{-1} = (1+H)^{-1}$
 $= 1-H+H^2-\dots+H^{\binom{g-1}{h/2}} \Rightarrow c_{h/2}(N_{Kx|S^h X}) \neq 0 \Rightarrow c_{h/2}(N_{Z_1/W}) \neq 0$
 $\Rightarrow (Z_1 - Z_2)_W \neq 0$. Define algebraic cycles for each primitive x

(10)
$$Z_x := \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}/m} \chi(a) z_a \in CH^{h/2}(W)_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}$$

$$\downarrow \text{cl}$$

$$Z_x \in CH^{h/2}(C^h)_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}^{w, S_h}$$

$$\downarrow \text{cl}$$

$$H^h(C^h)_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}^{w, S_h}$$

and note that

(11) $(Z_1 \cdot Z_x)_W \neq 0 \Rightarrow cl(Z_x) \neq 0 \Rightarrow cl(Z_x) \neq 0$

(12) $\hat{\alpha}^x Z_x = \chi(a) Z_x$, where $\langle \hat{\alpha} \rangle = \text{Aut}(W/S^h X) \cong \mathbb{Z}/m$.

Under the action of this \mathbb{Z}/m , we have the decomposition into 1-dim'l eigenspaces

(13)
$$U = \bigoplus_x H^h(W)^x \subset H^h(W) = H^h(C^h)^{w, S_h}$$

which together with (10) & (12) now shows $cl(Z_x) \in U_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}$. Since the various Z_x have "all the eigenvalues x " in (13) (by (12)), these classes span $U_{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)}$. Taking appropriate $\mathbb{Q}(S_m)$ -linear combinations of the Z_x now gives cycles with rational coefficients whose classes span U .

For (a), we remark that $\Xi^* P^*$ gives an isomorphism $U' \xrightarrow{\cong} U$.

We merely need an inverse operation that also works on the level of cycles.

Noting that, up to a mult. constant, $\Xi_* \Xi^*(y) = [\odot]^{g_c-h} y$

for $y \in H^h(J(C))$, and $[\odot]^{g_c-h}$ has an algebraic inverse Λ , we have

$$\underbrace{c^* \Lambda \Xi_*}_{\text{inverse}} (\Xi^* P^* v) = c^* P^* v = v \quad (\text{up to mult. const.})$$

for $v \in H^h(A)$. Hence $c^* \Lambda \Xi_* : U \xrightarrow{\cong} U'$ allows us to "transfer"

the cycles from C^h to A .

□

But we aren't done, of course. Theorem 1 establishes the Hodge Conjecture for very general "generalized Prym varieties". What about a very general Weil abelian variety?

Our family of abelian varieties A in the above construction lives over a finite cover of the moduli space of genus g_X curves:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A} & & \\ \downarrow & & \\ \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{g_X} & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & \Gamma \backslash \mathfrak{h}_{g_X} \end{array}$$

The period mapping for $\mathcal{H}'(\mathcal{A}/\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{g_X})$ factors thru a Shimura variety of PEL type,

$$\mathcal{X} \cong \Gamma_0 \backslash \left(SU\left(\frac{h}{2}, \frac{h}{2}\right) \right)^{\times \lambda} / K, \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \lambda = \# \text{ of Conj. pairs of complex} \\ \text{embedding of } \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ = \phi(m)/2 \end{array} \right)$$

since the MTG of $V = H^1(A)$ is clearly contained in " $SU(V^*, h_X)$ ".

The issue is whether Φ dominates \mathcal{X} .

A quick dimension count shows that this can't happen in general:

$$\dim \mathcal{X} = \frac{\phi(m)}{2} \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{\phi(m)}{2} (g_X - 1)^2 \quad \text{while} \quad \dim \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{g_X} = 3g_X - 3. \quad \text{The only pairs } (g_X, m)$$

for which the second dimension \geq the first are the ones displayed in table (6) [where we equate $m=3$ & $m=6$]. We will prove the dominance

in one case:

Theorem 2 (Schön) ¹⁹⁹⁸: There exist families* of Weil abelian 4-folds with $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ -multiplication, in which the Hodge Conjecture holds for a very general member.

* by "families" I mean the complete PEL family, and not a smaller dimensional one

(This was improved in his 1998 paper to all families of Weil abelian 4-folds with $\mathbb{Q}(S_3)$ -multiplication, and some families of 6-folds.)

Proof: We need to show the map on tangent spaces, $d\bar{\Phi}$, is surjective.

Of course $T_0 M_{g,x} \cong H^1(X, \mathcal{O}'_x)$, while the tangent space to \mathbb{X} is controlled by the movement of the Hodge flag in one piece V^k of $V = V^k \oplus V^{g-k}$:

$$\begin{aligned} T_0 \mathbb{X} &\cong \text{Hom}(H^{1,0}(C)^k, H^{0,1}(C)^k) \\ &\cong H^{0,1}(C)^k \otimes H^{0,1}(C)^{g-k} \cong H^1(C, \mathcal{O}_C)^k \otimes H^1(C, \mathcal{O}_C)^{g-k} \\ &\cong H^1(X, \mathcal{L}) \otimes H^1(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

where \mathcal{L} is a 3-torsion sheaf ($\mathcal{L}^{\otimes 3} = \mathcal{O}_X$) st. $\pi_* \mathcal{O}_C \cong \mathcal{O}_X \oplus \mathcal{L} \oplus \mathcal{L}^{-1}$.

So

$$d\bar{\Phi}: H^1(X, \mathcal{O}'_x) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{L}) \otimes H^1(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1})$$

has dual

$$d\bar{\Phi}^\vee: H^0(X, \mathcal{L} \otimes K_X) \otimes H^0(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes K_X) \rightarrow H^0(X, K_X^{\otimes 2}),$$

which turns out to be given by multiplication. (But what else could it be?!))

Schoen proves that not every X has a function with divisor of form

$3p-3q$, hence that there exist X for which $|\mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes K_X|$ is base point free.

(See p. 30 of his paper.) Writing $W := H^0(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes K_X)$, we therefore have

that $W \otimes \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes K_X$, with kernel $\cong \mathcal{L} \otimes K_X^{-1}$ since $W \cong H^1(C)^{g-k}$

has dimension 2. Tensoring by $\mathcal{L} \otimes K_X$ we arrive at the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^{-1} \rightarrow W \otimes \mathcal{L} \otimes K_X \rightarrow K_X^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow 0;$$

since $H^0(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1}) = \emptyset$, we get that

$$H^0(W \otimes \mathcal{L} \otimes K_X) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{L} \otimes K_X) \otimes H^0(X, \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes K_X)$$

injects into $H^0(X, K_X^{\otimes 2})$. Therefore $d\bar{\Phi}^\vee$ is injective and $d\bar{\Phi}$ is surjective, as desired. \square