

## 2. Milnor K-theory and relative 0-cycles

Recall that an admissible normal function has a well-defined value in  $J^p(\ker(N)) \subset JP(X_0) \cong (F^{-p+1} H_{2p-1}(X_0, \mathbb{C}))^\vee / H^{2p-1}(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(p))$  over singularities of the VHS, assuming (say)  $X_0$  is a semistable singular fiber. In particular, for curves this says that we have a value in  $\Gamma(\omega_{X_0})^\vee / H^1(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(1)) = J(X_0)$ , where (assuming normal crossing singularity) sections of the dualizing sheaf  $\omega_{X_0}$  are holomorphic forms with log poles whose residues cancel at a node. The cycle group on  $X_0$  consistent with this limiting value is not  $(H_0(X_0))$ , which loses too much information. <sup>⊗</sup> Instead, we need to consider the group of 0-cycles given by the free abelian group on points of  $X_0 \setminus X_0^{\text{sing}}$ , modulo divisors of rational functions that are well-defined (and never 0 or  $\infty$ ) at  $X_0^{\text{sing}}$ . This group, which maps to  $(H_0(X_0))$ , is the motivic cohomology  $H_{\mathcal{M}}^2(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(1))$ .

Postponing a more systematic discussion, let us just see the difference in the case where  $X_0 := \mathbb{P}^1 / (0 \sim \infty)$  is a nodal rational curve. The Chow group is simply  $(H_0(\mathbb{P}^1)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$  modulo the additional relation  $[0] = [\infty]$ , which is still  $\mathbb{Z}$ . On the other hand, given a

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⊗ There is also some cognitive distance between the motivic (Borel-Moore) homology theory  $CH^*$  and the cohomology  $J$ -cubism  $J(X_0) = \text{Ext}_{\text{MHS}}^1(\mathbb{Z}(0), H^1(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(1)))$ .

Function  $f \in C(\mathbb{P}^1)^*$  satisfying  $f(0) = f(\infty)$  (this is the well-definedness above), we can normalize so that common value is 1. Then

$$(1) \quad f(z) = \prod_i \left(1 - \frac{z}{\alpha_i}\right)^{k_i} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} \sum k_i = 0 \\ \prod \alpha_i^{k_i} = 1 \end{cases} (*)$$

Indeed, the cycles rationally equivalent to 0 (in the restricted sense) are precisely the ones of the form  $\sum k_i [\alpha_i]$  satisfying (\*). In other words, we have

$$(2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H_{loc}^2(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(1)) & \xrightarrow{\text{deg/ccl}} & \mathbb{Z} \\ \cup & & \\ \text{ker}(ccl) & \xrightarrow{AJ} & \mathbb{C}^* \\ \cup & & \\ \sum k_i ([\alpha_i] - [1]) & \longmapsto & \prod \alpha_i^{k_i} \end{array}$$

To see the "AJ map", notice that  $\sum k_i ([\alpha_i] - [1]) = \partial \sum k_i \int_{\alpha_i}^1 =: \partial \Gamma$ , and using the (unique) section  $dz/z$  of  $\omega_{X_0}$  we have  $\textcircled{2}$

$$(3) \quad \int_{\Gamma} \frac{dz}{z} = \sum k_i \log \alpha_i = \log \left( \prod \alpha_i^{k_i} \right) \longmapsto \prod \alpha_i^{k_i}$$
$$\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}(1) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\text{exp}} \mathbb{C}^*$$

This entire discussion applies just as well to the relative situation  $X_0 = (\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\})$ . Here we will just make the temporary ad hoc definition of the relative Chow group  $CH_0(X, W)$  to be given by  $\partial$ -cycles on  $X \setminus W$  modulo the subgroups generated by  $L_K(f)$ , where

$\textcircled{2}$  Technically, we should use  $\frac{dz}{2\pi i z}$  and  $2\pi i \Gamma$ , since functionals on  $\Gamma(\omega_{X_0})$  are considered modulo  $H^1(X_0, \mathbb{Z}(1)) = \mathbb{Z} \langle 2\pi i \cdot S^1 \rangle$  ( $S^1 = \text{unit circle}$ ).

- (4)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet C \subset X \text{ is an arbitrary (poss. non-smooth or badly n'ing } W) \text{ curve} \\ \bullet \iota: Y \longrightarrow X \text{ is a normalization of } C \\ \quad (\downarrow \quad \swarrow) \\ \bullet f \in \mathbb{C}(Y)^\times \cup \equiv 1 \text{ on } \iota^{-1}(W). \end{array} \right.$

(These relations are called relative rational equivalence.) Just as

$(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\})$  models a degenerate elliptic curve,  $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, \#)$  ( $\# = \{z_1 = 0\} \cup \{z_2 = \infty\} \cup \{z_2 = 0\} \cup \{z_1 = \infty\}$ ) models a degenerate surface with  $g_g = 1$  — that is, of a type to which Mumford's theorem applies! We will carry out the interesting computation of its  $CH_0$  below.

### Degeneration and Lefschetz duality

Let  $\bar{X}$  be smooth projective and  $X = \bar{X} \setminus R$  ( $R = \text{NCD}$ ). Let  $G$  be a NCD s.t.  $R \cup G$  is one too. ("R" and "G" stand for "red" and "green.")

Homology  $H_* (X, G) = H_* (\bar{X} \setminus R, G)$  is computed by topological chains which must avoid  $R$  and whose behavior on  $G$  (e.g. boundary) is ignored. Writing  $d = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \bar{X}$ , we have perfect pairings

$$(5) \quad H_* (\bar{X} \setminus R, G) \times H_{2d-*} (\bar{X} \setminus G, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

here I am ignoring topology

and isomorphisms  $H^* (\bar{X} \setminus R, G) \cong H_{2d-*} (\bar{X} \setminus G, R)$  etc. (In terms of de Rham cohomology,  $H^* (\bar{X} \setminus R, G)$  is computed by  $\infty$  forms with log poles on  $R$  and pulling back to zero on  $G$ .)

This is particularly relevant to the computation of Jacobians of Hodge structures (on the cohomology) of relative varieties. A group of codim  $p$

(homologically trivial) relative cycles on  $(\bar{X}|R, G)$  should map to the

Jacobian

$$J^1(\bar{X}|R, G) := \text{Ext}_{\text{mod}}^1(\mathbb{Z}(-p), H^{2p-1}(\bar{X}|R, G))$$

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} &\cong \frac{H^{2p-1}(\bar{X}|R, G; \mathbb{C})}{F^p H^{2p-1}(\bar{X}|R, G; \mathbb{C}) + H^{2p-1}(\bar{X}|R, G; \mathbb{Z}(p))} \\ &\cong \left\{ F^{2p+1} H^{2d-2p+1}(\bar{X}|G, R; \mathbb{C}) \right\}^\vee / H_{2d-2p+1}(\bar{X}|G, R; \mathbb{Z}(p)). \end{aligned}$$

That is, the test forms "live on"  $(\bar{X}|G, R) = (\bar{X}|R, G)^\vee$ , the Letschetz dual of  $(\bar{X}|R, G)$ .

To apply this to  $(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\})$ , use

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{P}^1) \rightarrow H^0(\{0, \infty\}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{P}^1)^\vee \rightarrow 0$$

$\quad \quad \quad \mathbb{Z}(0) \quad \quad \quad \mathbb{Z}(0) \oplus \mathbb{Z} \quad \quad \quad \mathbb{Z}(1)$

to compute

$$(7) \quad H^*(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}(-1) & * = 2 \\ \mathbb{Z}(0) & * = 1 \\ 0 & * = 0 \end{cases}$$

The Letschetz dual is  $G_m$ , so we have

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} J^1(\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\}) &= \text{Ext}_{\text{mod}}^1(\mathbb{Z}(-1), \mathbb{Z}(0)) (= \text{Ext}_{\text{mod}}^1(\mathbb{Z}(0), \mathbb{Z}(1))) \\ &\cong \mathbb{C} / \mathbb{Z}(1) \\ &\cong \langle dz/z \rangle^\vee / \langle 2\pi i \mathbb{Z} \rangle (= F^1 H^1(G_m, \mathbb{C})^\vee / H_1(G_m, \mathbb{Z}(1))) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: Repeat the computations (7) & (8) for  $H^* \otimes J^1$  of  $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, \#)$ .

We can further simplify (7) by instead writing

$$(9) \quad \square := \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{1\}, \quad \partial \square = \{0, \infty\}.$$

Then since  $\square$  is noncompact,  $H^2$  dies, and

$$(10) \quad H^*(\square, \partial \square) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}(0) & * = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Lactate} \\ \longleftrightarrow \\ \text{dnd} \end{matrix} \quad H^*(\mathbb{G}_m, \{1\}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}(-1) & * = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

More generally, if we take

$$(11) \quad \square^n = (\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{1\})^{\times n}, \quad \partial \square^n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (\{z_i = 0\} \cup \{z_i = \infty\})$$

( $\widetilde{\partial \square^n} = 2n$  copies of  $\square^{n-1}$ ) and

$$(12) \quad \mathbb{G}_m^n \supset \mathbb{I}^n := \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{z_i = 1\},$$

then  $(\square^n, \partial \square^n) = (\square, \partial \square)^{\times n}$  and  $(\mathbb{G}_m^n, \mathbb{I}^n) = (\mathbb{G}_m, \{1\})^{\times n}$  have  $\otimes$

$$(13) \quad H^*(\square^n, \partial \square^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}(0) & * = n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \longleftrightarrow H^*(\mathbb{G}_m^n, \mathbb{I}^n) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}(-n) & * = n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

One can think of  $H^n(\square^n, \partial \square^n)$  as being generated by  $(\mathbb{1}')^{\times n}$ , and of  $H^n(\mathbb{G}_m^n, \mathbb{I}^n)$  as being generated by  $\frac{dz_1}{z_1 z_i} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{dz_n}{z_n z_n}$  or  $\mathbb{R}_-^{\times n}$  (where  $\mathbb{R}_-$  is always oriented from  $-\infty$  to  $0$ ). These two relative varieties play a crucial role in subsequent sections.

Milnor K-theory

This was briefly introduced in §I.B.7: for a field  $\mathbb{F}$ ,

$$(14) \quad K_*^M(\mathbb{F}) := \frac{\bigwedge_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \mathbb{F}^{\times}}{\langle f \wedge (1-f) \rangle}$$

another addition, viz.  $\{x\beta\} = \{x\} + \{\beta\}$

We will be primarily interested in  $K_0^M(\mathbb{F}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $K_1^M(\mathbb{F}) = \mathbb{F}^{\times}$ , and  $K_2^M(\mathbb{F})$  in this section; the latter will be described as the quotient

$\otimes$  The version for cohomology (not ignoring twists) of (5) is  $H^*(\mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{G}_m, \mathbb{C}) \times H^{2d-*}(\mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{G}_m, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}(-d)$ , with which (13) clearly agrees.

of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{F}^x \times \mathbb{F}^x]$  by the subgroup of relations generated by

$$(15) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (i) \quad \{\alpha, \beta\} - \{\alpha, \beta\} - \{\beta, \alpha\} \\ (ii) \quad \{\alpha, \beta\} + \{\beta, \alpha\} \\ (iii) \quad \{\alpha, -\alpha\}, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0, 1\} \end{array} \right\} \quad \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{F}^x$$

(Steinberg relations).

For a smooth curve  $Y/\mathbb{C}$ , the Tame symbol

$$(16) \quad \text{Tame} : K_2^M(\mathbb{C}(Y)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \text{Tame}_p} \bigoplus_{p \in Y(\mathbb{C})} K_1^M(\mathbb{C}(p)) = \bigoplus_p \mathbb{C}^x$$

is def'd by  $\{f, g\} \xrightarrow{(\text{Tame}_p)} \lim_{x \rightarrow p} \frac{(-1)^{v_p(f)v_p(g)} \frac{g(x)^{v_p(f)}}{f(x)^{v_p(g)}}}{}$

Theorem 1 (Weil reciprocity):  $\prod_{p \in Y(\mathbb{C})} \text{Tame}_p \{f, g\} = 1 \in \mathbb{C}^x$ .

Sketch: As we shall see in § II.A.4, it is always possible to "move"  $\{f, g\}$  by a relation to  $\sum m_i \{f_i, g_i\}$  with  $|f_i| \cap |g_i| = \emptyset$  (v.i).

So w.m.o.  $|f| \cap |g| = \emptyset$ . Write  $\log(f)$  for the branch with cut along  $T_f := f^{-1}(\mathbb{R}_-)$ , where  $\mathbb{R}_-$  is oriented from  $-\infty$  to  $0$  ( $\Rightarrow \partial T_f = (f)$ ), and  $d \log f := \frac{df}{f}$ , so that we have (as currents)

$$(17) \quad \begin{cases} d[\log f] = d \log f - 2\pi i \delta_{T_f} \\ d[d \log f] = 2\pi i \delta_{(f)}. \end{cases}$$

(We may also assume that  $T_f \cap T_g$  is a "proper intersection of real analytic curves", cf. § II.A.5.) Set

$$(18) \quad \boxed{R_{\{f, g\}} = \log(f) d \log(g) - 2\pi i \log(g) \delta_{T_f}}$$

Since  $\partial Y = 0$ ,

$$0 = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_Y R_{\{f,g\}} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_Y d[R_{\{f,g\}}] = \int_Y \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2\pi i} d \log f \wedge d \log g + \frac{d \log(g)}{d \log(f)} \frac{d \log(f)}{d \log(g)} \\ - \frac{d \log(g)}{d \log(f)} \frac{d \log(f)}{d \log(g)} - (2\pi i) \frac{d \log(f)}{d \log(g)} + \\ (\log f) \frac{d \log(g)}{d \log(f)} - \log g \frac{d \log(f)}{d \log(g)} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\equiv \sum_{p \in Y(\mathbb{C})} (\nu_p(g) \log f(p) - \nu_p(f) \log g(p)). \quad \text{Now apply exp.} \quad \square$$

Similarly one has a map

$$\text{Tame} : K_3^M(\mathbb{C}(Y)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \text{Tame}_p} \bigoplus_{p \in Y(\mathbb{C})} K_2^M(\mathbb{C})$$

defined on good generators (i.e.  $|(f)|, |(g)|, |(h)|$  disjoint) by

$$\{f, g, h\} \mapsto \nu_p(h) \{f(p), g(p)\} + \nu_p(f) \{g(p), h(p)\} + \nu_p(g) \{h(p), f(p)\}.$$

Theorem 2 (Suslin reciprocity):  $\sum_{p \in Y(\mathbb{C})} \text{Tame}_p \{f, g, h\} = 0$  (for any  $f, g, h$ ).

(A proof is given in my Canadian Math. Bulletin article. Also, Theorem 2 generalises to "all  $n$ ": the composite  $K_n^M(\mathbb{C}(Y)) \xrightarrow{\oplus \text{Tame}_p} \bigoplus_{n-1} K_n^M(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\Sigma} K_{n-1}^M(\mathbb{C})$  is zero.)

0-cycles on  $X := (P' \times P', \#)$

For  $\mathcal{A} := CH_0(X)$ , the generators are

$$z = \sum_j m_j (\alpha_j, \beta_j) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}^*]$$

and relations are as in (4) ( $X = P' \times P', N = \#$ ). There are cycle-class and AJ maps

$$cl : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \cong Hg^2(X) (= \text{Hom}_{\text{MHS}}(\mathbb{Z}(-2), H^4(X)))$$

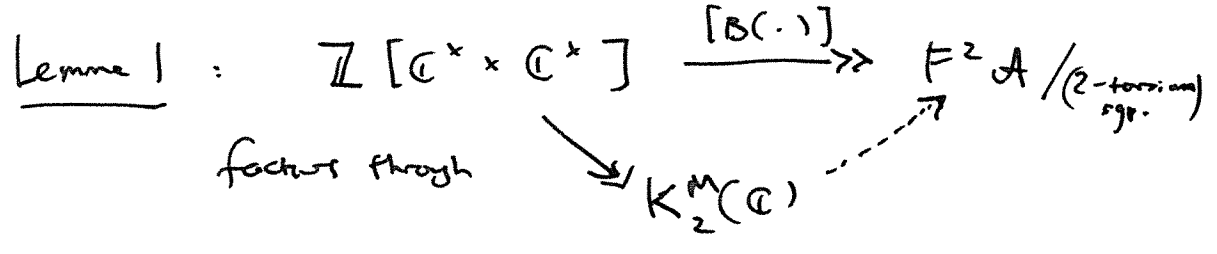
$$AJ : F^1 \mathcal{A} := \ker(cl) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \oplus \mathbb{C}^* \cong J^2(X) (= \text{Ext}_{\text{MHS}}^1(\mathbb{Z}(-2), H^3(X))).$$

(You may work AJ out as a continuation of the above exercise.)

What about  $\ker(AJ) =: F^2 \mathcal{A}$ ?

Exercise: Show  $F^2 A$  is generated by the box cycles

$$B(\alpha, \beta) := (\alpha, \beta) - (\alpha, 1) - (1, \beta) + (1, 1) \in \mathbb{Z}[C^x \times C^x].$$



Assuming the lemma, we have the

Theorem 3:  $F^2 A \cong K_2^M(\mathbb{C})$ , up to 2-torsion.

Proof: Write  $T = \sum m_j (\alpha_j, \beta_j) \in \mathbb{Z}[C^x \times C^x]$ , and assume

$B(T) \equiv 0$  (rat); that is,  $\exists \{ \gamma_k : \gamma_k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1, f_k \in \mathbb{C}(\gamma_k)^x \}$  s.t.

$f_k|_{\gamma_k^{-1}(\#)} \equiv 1$  and  $\sum \gamma_{k*}(f_k) = B(T)$ . Equivalently, writing

$\gamma_k = (f_k, g_k)$ , we have  $f_k|_{(g_k)^{-1}(p)} \equiv 1$  and

$$\sum_k \sum_p \nu_p(f_k) B(g_k(p), h_k(p)) = \sum_j m_j B(\alpha_j, \beta_j).$$

By Suslin, in  $K_2(\mathbb{C})$   $0 = \sum_k \sum_p \nu_p(f_k) \{g_k(p), h_k(p)\} = \sum_j m_j \{ \alpha_j, \beta_j \}$ . □

Proof (sketch) of Lemma 1: we want to show

- (i)  $B(\alpha\gamma, \beta) - B(\alpha, \beta) - B(\gamma, \beta) \equiv 0$  (rat)
  - (ii)  $B(\alpha, \beta) + B(\beta, \alpha) \equiv 0$  (rat)
  - (iii)  $B(\alpha, 1-\alpha) \equiv 0$  (rat)
- } Exercise [Hint: use functions of type  $\frac{(t-a)(t-b)}{(t-ab)(t-1)}$  (which are  $\equiv 1$  or  $0$  or  $\infty$ ).]

Consider instead

(iii')  $\sum m_j B(\alpha_j, 1-\alpha_j) \equiv 0$  (rat) for (†)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum m_j [\alpha_j] \in \mathbb{Z}[C^x \setminus \{1\}] \text{ s.t.} \\ \prod (1-\alpha_j)^{m_j} = \prod \alpha_j^{m_j} \end{array} \right.$



Denote by  $B_2^0$  the subgroup of the Bloch group  $\otimes$

$$(19) \quad B_2(\mathbb{C}) := \frac{\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1\}]}{\left\langle [x] - [y] + \left[\frac{y}{x}\right] - \left[\frac{1-x^{-1}}{1-y^{-1}}\right] + \left[\frac{1-x}{1-y}\right] \right\rangle}$$

generated by elements (†). If we take  $Y \cong \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$   
 $t \longmapsto (t, 1-t)$

then  $f(t) = \prod_j \left\{ \frac{(t-d_j)}{(t-(1-d_j))} \right\}^{m_j}$  is 1 at 0, 1, &  $\infty$  and so

$$Z_0 := \sum m_j \left[ (d_j, 1-d_j) - (1-d_j, d_j) \right] \equiv_{\text{rat}} 0. \quad \text{hence}$$

$$0 \equiv_{\text{rat}} B(Z_0) = \sum m_j \left( B(d_j, 1-d_j) - B(1-d_j, d_j) \right) \stackrel{(ii)}{\equiv_{\text{rat}}} 2 \sum m_j B(d_j, 1-d_j)$$

$\Rightarrow$  (iii') up to 2-torsion. Now  $B_2(\mathbb{C})$  sits in an exact sequence

$$(20) \quad 0 \rightarrow \ker(st) \hookrightarrow B_2(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{st} \Lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}^2 \mathbb{C}^x \twoheadrightarrow K_2^M(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow 0$$

$$\{x\}_2 \longmapsto x \wedge (1-x)$$

Fact (cf. GG <sup>bkv</sup>): Together with certain elements in  $\ker(st)$ ,  $B_2^0$  generates  $B_2(\mathbb{C})$ .

$\Rightarrow st(B_2^0)$  generates all Steinberg relations in  $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Z}}^2 \mathbb{C}^x$

$\Rightarrow$  (ii) follows from (iii'). □

We can restate Theorem 3 as

$$(21) \quad CH_0(\Sigma) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus (\mathbb{C}^x \oplus \mathbb{C}^x) \oplus K_2^M(\mathbb{C}) \quad (\text{up to 2-torsion}).$$

This both demonstrates Mumford's theorem (since  $K_2^M(\mathbb{C})$  is not representable  
 - there are always elements that can't be written as a sum of  $N$  symbols,

$\otimes$  More often in the literature  $B_2(\mathbb{C})$  denotes  $\ker(st)$  in (20),

rather than (19).

$\boxtimes$  Griffiths, theorem, "Tangent space to the space of algebraic cycles ..." Annals of Math Study.

for any given  $N$ ) and an instance where the Bloch-Beilinson  
Conjecture on injectivity of  $C_{2i}$  is known:<sup>(\*)</sup> The above proof applies

(modulo torsion) just as well to any subfield  $k \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ . Since  $K_2^M(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}) = \{0\}$ ,  
 we get that on  $FCH_0(\Sigma_{\bar{\mathbb{Q}}})$ ,  $AT$  is indeed injective.

The above generalizes to  $\Sigma^{(n)} = (\mathbb{P}^1, \{0, \infty\})^{\times n}$ :

Theorem 4:<sup>(\*\*)</sup>  $CH_0(\Sigma_k^{(n)}) \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{\mathbb{Q} \\ i=0}}^n K_i^M(k)^{\oplus \binom{n}{i}}$

and  $CH_0(\square_k^n, \partial \square_k^n) \cong_{\mathbb{Q}} K_n^M(k)$ .

These are basically the only known <sup>(straightforward)</sup> instances of BBC (as  $K_i^M(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}) = \{0\}$  for  $i \geq 2$ )  
 and also give concrete examples of a Bloch-Beilinson filtration.

(\*) in a generalized sense (relative varieties)

(\*\*) §5.2 of my thesis contains the (straightforward) proof