

Poincaré polynomials of stable map spaces to Grassmannians

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ABSTRACT - In this paper, we give generating functions for the Betti numbers of $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), d)$, the moduli stack of zero pointed genus zero degree d stable maps to the Grassmannian $G(k, n)$ for $d = 2$ and 3 .

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1. Introduction

Moduli spaces of stable maps have been used to give answers to many problems in enumerative geometry that were inaccessible by previous methods. Let X be a smooth projective variety over \mathbb{C} , and let β be a curve class on X . The set of isomorphism classes of pointed maps (C, p_1, \dots, p_r, f) where C is a projective nonsingular curve of genus g , the points p_1, \dots, p_r are distinct marked points on C , and f is a morphism from C to X with $f_*([C]) = \beta$, is denoted by $M_{g,r}(X, \beta)$. Points in its compactification, the moduli space $\overline{M}_{g,r}(X, \beta)$, parameterize maps (C, p_1, \dots, p_r, f) , where C is a projective, connected, *nodal* curve of genus g , the points p_1, \dots, p_r are distinct *nonsingular* points, and f is a morphism from C to X such that $f_*([C]) = \beta$. The stability condition is due to Kontsevich [KM94] and it

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amounts to requiring finiteness of the automorphisms of the map. The moduli space of stable maps has been a key tool to easily formulate and predict enumerative results in the geometry of curves. We refer the reader to [FP97] for further details about these moduli spaces and an introduction to Gromov-Witten theory.

The computation of Betti numbers has proven to be useful in the calculation of Chow or cohomology rings of different spaces. Getzler and Pandharipande [GP06] computed the Betti numbers of degree d genus zero stable maps to a projective space target using (equivariant) Serre characteristics, and their results were used later by Behrend and O'Halloran [BO03] in the computation of cohomology rings of the stable map spaces $\overline{M}_{0,0}(\mathbb{P}^n, d)$. In work still in progress, Behrend computes the Betti numbers of the space of genus zero degree three stable maps to the infinite-dimensional Grassmannian $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, \mathbb{C}^\infty), 3)$. In [Beh], he uses the methods developed in [GP06] and introduces the modified Serre characteristic of a smooth stack.

Our paper explores the case of a target variety other than projective space, using a method different from those mentioned above. We will consider the case of zero pointed genus zero degree d stable maps to the Grassmannian variety of k -dimensional planes in \mathbb{C}^n in degrees two and three. Our computations will lead to expressions for the Poincaré polynomials of these spaces, and hence their Betti numbers. For that, we will consider a torus action on $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), d)$ with isolated fixed points. In the case of torus actions on varieties, Białynicki-Birula [BB73, BB76] showed that there exists a decomposition of the variety into cells with certain properties. It follows from his results that the cohomology of these varieties can be determined from the fixed loci of the torus action. Our computations rely on previous work of Oprea [Opr06] for moduli spaces of stable maps. In his paper, among other results, he obtained a Białynicki-Birula decomposition of the stack of stable maps and related it to previous work of Gathmann [Opr06, 3.2.]. Combining some of the results in [Opr06] (see Corollary 4, Proposition 5, Lemma 6, Corollary 14, and Proposition 15), we find that the cohomology (with \mathbb{Q} coefficients) of the moduli space of stable maps considered by us is determined from the fixed loci in the manner of the usual Białynicki-Birula decomposition of smooth projective varieties. (The method developed here can be, in principle, applied to maps of arbitrary degree, as it relies on the combinatorial description of the fixed points of the torus action on the moduli stack. The case of pointed maps could also be treated with similar methods.)

It is relevant to mention that Strømme [Str87] worked out the cohomology of Quot schemes parametrizing maps from the projective line to a Grassmannian variety using torus actions and the Białynicki-Birula decomposition mentioned above. Later, Chen generalized the method to the case of hyperquot schemes and computed a generating function for the Poincaré polynomials of these, see [Che01]. In [Man00], Manin calculated the virtual Poincaré polynomials of the moduli space of stable genus 0 maps to a generalized flag variety.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In Section 2, we consider certain inclusion maps between Grassmannians, and obtain lists of additional weights for the action arising from these inclusions. In Section 3, we calculate the Betti numbers of small degree stable map spaces to the Grassmannian. Lastly, in the Appendix we recall the definition of q -binomial coefficients and state some of the identities used in the proofs of the results in Section 3.

An application of our results appears in recent work of Chung, Hong, and Kiem [CHK12].

2. Torus actions and Grassmannians

2.1 – Torus action and fixed loci

Let $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ denote the multiplicative group of complex numbers and \mathbb{T} an algebraic torus. We have $\mathbb{T} \simeq (\mathbb{C}^*)^N$ for some N . Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_N\}$ be the standard basis of \mathbb{C}^N and assume $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N \in \mathbb{N}$ are distinct. The $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N)$ -weighted action of a torus on \mathbb{C}^N described by

$$t \cdot (z_1, \dots, z_N) = (t_1^{\alpha_1} z_1, \dots, t_N^{\alpha_N} z_N)$$

induces an action on the Grassmannian $G(k, N)$ of k -vector spaces in \mathbb{C}^N . If we describe the elements in the Grassmannian by matrices, the fixed locus of the latter action is given by $(k \times N)$ -matrices in row echelon form satisfying two extra conditions: there are no zero rows and there is only one nonzero element per row (the pivots).

We will denote each of these fixed points by a k -tuple of natural numbers $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$, with $a_1 < \cdots < a_k$. Note that the elements $e_{a_1}, e_{a_2}, \dots, e_{a_k}$ span a k -plane which is a fixed point of the torus action on $G(k, N)$, so the number of fixed points in $G(k, N)$ is $\binom{N}{k}$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & & & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & & & 1 & 0 & 0 & & 0 \\ & \vdots & & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\ 0 & & & & 0 & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\begin{array}{c} \leftarrow a_1 \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow a_2 \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow a_k \rightarrow \end{array}$

2.2 – Additional weights

For $1 \leq m \leq n + 1$, let us denote by $V^{(m)}$ a vector subspace of \mathbb{C}^{n+1} spanned by n of the coordinate vectors, $V^{(m)} = \text{Span}(e_1, e_2, \dots, \widehat{e}_m, \dots, e_{n+1})$. Let us also define $V_{(m)}$ to be the quotient vector space given by $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}/\{e_m\}$, with projection $p_m : \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \rightarrow V_{(m)}$.

The inclusion $V^{(m)} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ induces the inclusion map

$$\iota_m : G(k, V^{(m)}) \hookrightarrow G(k, \mathbb{C}^{n+1}) = G(k, n + 1)$$

defined by sending $A \subset V^{(m)}$ to $A \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$, and the injective map

$$\kappa_m : G(k, V_{(m)}) \rightarrow G(k + 1, n + 1)$$

obtained by mapping a k -space $A \subset V_{(m)}$ to $p_m^{-1}(A) \subset \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Let C be a genus 0 curve with at worst nodes as singularities. Let $f : C \rightarrow G(k, V^{(m)})$ be a torus-invariant genus 0 stable map. Then the inclusion ι_m induces an injective map*

$$H^0(C, f^*T_{G(k, V^{(m)})}) \rightarrow H^0(C, f^*\iota_m^*T_{G(k, n+1)})$$

whose cokernel is given by the following list of weights

$$(1) \quad \left[\alpha_m - \alpha_{a_1}, \dots, \alpha_m - \alpha_{a_{k-1}}, \left\{ \alpha_m - \left(\frac{s}{d_i} \alpha_{b_u} + \frac{t}{d_i} \alpha_{b_v} \right) \right\}_{0 \leq s, t \leq d_i, s+t=d_i} \right]$$

for every irreducible component of C mapping with degree d_i to the line joining $(a_1 \cdots a_{k-1} b_u)$ and $(a_1 \cdots a_{k-1} b_v)$, with the following weights removed

$$(2) \quad [\alpha_m - \alpha_{a_1}, \dots, \alpha_m - \alpha_{a_k}]$$

for every node of C mapping to the point $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$.

PROOF. The exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T_{G(k,V^{(m)})} \longrightarrow i_m^* T_{G(k,n+1)} \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $N = i_m^* T_{G(k,n+1)} / T_{G(k,V^{(m)})}$, gives rise to an exact sequence in cohomology. Using the vanishing $H^1(C, f^* T_{G(k,V^{(m)})}) = 0$, [FP97, Lemma 10], it reduces to the following short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* T_{G(k,V^{(m)})}) \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* i_m^* T_{G(k,n+1)}) \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* N) \longrightarrow 0.$$

The normal bundle N equals $S^* \otimes i_m^* \tilde{Q}/Q$, where S is the universal subbundle on $G(k, V^{(m)})$, and Q and \tilde{Q} are the quotient subbundles of $G(k, V^{(m)})$ and $G(k, n + 1)$ respectively.

Let $\phi : \hat{C} \rightarrow C$ be the normalization. So, the following sequence is exact

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* N) \longrightarrow H^0(\hat{C}, \phi^* f^* N) \longrightarrow \bigoplus N_{p_i} \longrightarrow H^1(C, f^* N)$$

where p_i denote the images in $G(k, V^{(m)})$ of the nodes of C .

Since S^* is globally generated, we have $H^1(C, f^* S^*) = 0$. The vanishing of $H^1(C, f^* N)$ follows from that of $H^1(C, f^* S^*)$, since $i_m^* \tilde{Q}/Q$ is a trivial line bundle.

The list of weights (1) corresponds to $H^0(\hat{C}, \phi^* f^* N)$, whereas the term $\bigoplus N_{p_i}$ gives the list (2) of weights to be removed. □

COROLLARY 2.2. *The map*

$$T_{\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k,V^{(m)}),d),(C,f)} \longrightarrow T_{\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k,n+1),d),(C,i_m \circ f)}$$

induced by the inclusion i_m above, is injective and the cokernel is given by exactly the weights listed above at the point (C, f) in $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, V^{(m)}), d)$.

If we now consider the inclusion map $\kappa_m : G(k, V_{(m)}) \rightarrow G(k + 1, n + 1)$ defined above, we obtain the following

PROPOSITION 2.3. *Let us consider $f : C \rightarrow G(k, V_{(m)})$ a torus-invariant genus 0 stable map. Then the inclusion $\kappa_m : G(k, V_{(m)}) \rightarrow G(k + 1, n + 1)$ induces an injective map*

$$H^0(C, f^* T_{G(k,V^{(m)})}) \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* \kappa_m^* T_{G(k+1,n+1)})$$

whose cokernel is given by the following list of weights

$$(3) \left[\alpha_{a'_1} - \alpha_m, \dots, \alpha_{a'_{n-k-1}} - \alpha_m, \left\{ \left(\frac{s}{d_i} \alpha_{b_u} + \frac{t}{d_i} \alpha_{b_v} \right) - \alpha_m \right\}_{0 \leq s, t \leq d_i, s+t=d_i} \right]$$

for every irreducible component of C mapping with degree d_i to the line joining $(a_1 \cdots a_{k-1} b_u)$ and $(a_1 \cdots a_{k-1} b_v)$, with the following weights removed

$$(4) \quad [\alpha_{a'_1} - \alpha_m, \dots, \alpha_{a'_{n-k}} - \alpha_m]$$

for every node of C mapping to the point $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$, and where $(a'_1 \cdots a'_{n-k})$ denotes the complement of $(a_1 \cdots a_k)$.

PROOF. Similarly to the proof of the previous proposition, an exact sequence in cohomology arises from the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow T_{G(k, V_{(m)})} \longrightarrow \kappa_m^* T_{G(k+1, n+1)} \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $N = \kappa_m^* T_{G(k+1, n+1)} / T_{G(k, V_{(m)})}$. The vanishing of $H^1(C, f^* T_{G(k, V_{(m)})})$, as before, reduces it to the following short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* T_{G(k, V_{(m)})}) \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* \kappa_m^* T_{G(k+1, n+1)}) \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* N) \longrightarrow 0$$

The normal bundle N equals $(\ker(\tilde{S} \rightarrow S))^* \otimes Q$, where Q is the quotient subbundle, and S and \tilde{S} are the universal subbundles of $G(k, V_{(m)})$ and $G(k+1, n+1)$ respectively.

Let $\phi: \widehat{C} \rightarrow C$ be the normalization. Then,

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(C, f^* N) \longrightarrow H^0(\widehat{C}, \phi^* f^* N) \longrightarrow \bigoplus N_{p_i} \longrightarrow H^1(C, f^* N)$$

is an exact sequence, where p_i denote the images in $G(k, V_{(m)})$ of the nodes of C . Since Q is globally generated, we have $H^1(C, f^* Q) = 0$. The vanishing of $H^1(C, f^* N)$ follows from that of $H^1(C, f^* Q)$, since $\ker(\tilde{S} \rightarrow S)$ is a trivial line bundle.

The list of weights (3) corresponds to $H^0(\widehat{C}, \phi^* f^* N)$, whereas the term $\bigoplus N_{p_i}$ gives the list (4) of weights to be removed. □

COROLLARY 2.4. *The map*

$$T_{\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, V_{(m)}), d), (C, f)} \longrightarrow T_{\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k+1, n+1), d), (C, \kappa_m \circ f)}$$

induced by the inclusion κ_m , is injective and the cokernel is given by exactly the weights listed above, at the point (C, f) in $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, V_{(m)}), d)$.

3. Poincaré polynomials of small degree stable maps

As a consequence of the work by Oprea in [Opr06], the Betti numbers of the moduli stack of zero pointed genus zero degree d stable maps to the Grassmannian can be computed from the fixed loci in the manner of the usual Białynicki-Birula decomposition [BB73, BB76]. To describe the fixed loci of the action on $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), d)$ induced by that on the Grassmannian, we use trees of irreducible rational curves whose labels on the vertices are tuples of natural numbers (as in Section 2.1), and whose labels on the irreducible components indicate the degree of the map into the target variety. After this, our problem amounts to organizing the combinatorial data involved.

TABLE 1. Fixed loci for degree 2 stable maps.

Configuration	Labelling	Strata in	Number
—————	$(j) \xrightarrow{2} (i)$	$G(1, 2)$	$\frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{k} k(n - k)$
	$(j) \xrightarrow{1} (i)$ $\downarrow 1$ (i)	$G(1, 2)$	$\binom{n}{k} \binom{k(n-k)+1}{2}$
	$(i) \xrightarrow{1} (j)$ $\downarrow 1$ (j')	$G(1, 3)$	
	$(ij) \xrightarrow{1} (j')$ $\downarrow 1$ (ij')	$G(2, 3)$	
	$(ij) \xrightarrow{1} (ij')$ $\downarrow 1$ $(i'j)$	$G(2, 4)$	

REMARK 3.1. In [Kon95, § 3.2], Kontsevich gives a description of the fixed locus of the moduli space of degree d stable maps to the projective space \mathbb{P}^n under the action of $(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n+1}$. To keep track of the combinatorial data arising from this description, the fixed points are written as labelled connected graphs. He also gives complete formulas for the weights of the fixed loci, which are displayed in terms of combinatorial data.

3.1 – The degree 2 stable maps case

In this subsection we give the expression for the Poincaré polynomial of the moduli space $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$.

Let us first recall the generating function for the Betti numbers of the classical Grassmannian $G(k, n)$:

$$P_{G(k,n)}(q) = P_G(q) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - q^i)}{\prod_{i=1}^{n-k} (1 - q^i) \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - q^i)}.$$

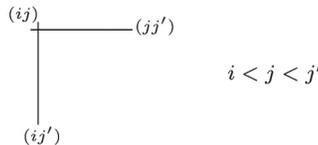
THEOREM 3.1. *Let X denote the moduli stack of stable maps $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$. Then its Poincaré polynomial is given by*

$$P_X(q) = \frac{(1 - q^k)(1 - q^{n-k})((1 + q^n)(1 + q^3) - q(1 + q)(q^k + q^{n-k}))}{(1 - q)^2(1 - q^2)^2} P_G(q).$$

PROOF. For degree 2 stable maps, all strata in the fixed point decomposition can be obtained from strata in copies of $G(1, 2)$, $G(1, 3)$, $G(2, 3)$, and $G(2, 4)$ and their embeddings into bigger Grassmannians. In Table 1 above, we list all possible configurations for the fixed loci of the action. (For simplicity, we omit the list of all possible inequality conditions on the indices i, j, j' , and i' . Each of the cases in the table splits up into different subcases.)

The contributions of the different fixed points of the \mathbb{C}^* -action on $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$ to the Poincaré polynomial are all computed in a similar way. As an illustration of the method, we will compute the contribution of two of the (many) possible tree configurations.

Firstly, let us consider the contribution to the fixed points of $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$ given by



Taking $i = 1, j = 2$, and $j' = 3$ on $G(2, 3)$ we get a list of 5 weights. Of these, 4 are positive, under the convention on weights $\alpha_1 \ll \alpha_2 \ll \alpha_3$.

We consider now the process of extending to $G(k, n)$: let

$$S_0 \cup T_0 = \{1, \dots, i - 1\}, \quad S_1 \cup T_1 = \{i + 1, \dots, j - 1\}$$

$$S_2 \cup T_2 = \{j + 1, \dots, j' - 1\}, \quad S_3 \cup T_3 = \{j' + 1, \dots, n\}$$

with $i_v = \#S_v$ and $j_v = \#T_v$ ($0 \leq v \leq 3$) related by

$$i_0 + i_1 + i_2 + i_3 = k - 2, \quad i_0 + j_0 = i - 1, \quad i_2 + j_2 = j' - j - 1$$

$$j_0 + j_1 + j_2 + j_3 = n - k - 1, \quad i_1 + j_1 = j - i - 1, \quad i_3 + j_3 = n - j'.$$

If we identify

$$G(2, 3) = G(2, \mathbb{C}\langle e_i, e_j, e_{j'} \rangle),$$

$$G(2, n - k + 2) = G(2, \mathbb{C}\langle e_\tau, \tau \in \{i, j, j'\} \cup T_0 \cup T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3 \rangle),$$

the embedding $G(2, 3) \hookrightarrow G(2, n - k + 2)$ gives rise, by Corollary 2.2, to the following added weights:

$$[\alpha_t - \alpha_i, \alpha_t - \alpha_j, \alpha_t - \alpha_{j'}, \alpha_t - \alpha_s : t \in T_0 \cup T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3].$$

By Corollary 2.4, the further embedding in $G(k, n)$ gives rise to the additional weights:

$$[\alpha_i - \alpha_s, \alpha_{j'} - \alpha_s, \alpha_j - \alpha_s, \alpha_t - \alpha_s : s \in S_0 \cup S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3, t \in T_0 \cup T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3].$$

If we let $n_v = \#\{(s, t) \in S_v \times T_v \mid t > s\}$ then the number of added weights under $G(2, 3) \hookrightarrow G(k, n)$ that are positive is

$$n_0 + n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + 3i_0 + 2i_1 + i_2 + j_1 + 2j_2 + 4j_3 + i_0j_1 + i_0j_2 +$$

$$i_0j_3 + i_1j_2 + i_1j_3 + i_2j_3.$$

REMARK 3.2. Sums over partitions of a finite set into the disjoint union of two sets of given cardinality give rise to q -binomial coefficients:

$$\sum_{\substack{S \cup T = \{1, \dots, n\} \\ \#S = k, \#T = n - k}} q^{\#\{(s, t) \in S \times T \mid t > s\}} = \binom{n}{k}_q.$$

Therefore the contribution to the Poincaré polynomial of $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$ is

$$(5) \quad \sum q^{4+3i_0+2i_1+i_2+j_1+2j_2+4j_3+i_0j_1+i_0j_2+i_0j_3+i_1j_2+i_1j_3+i_2j_3} \cdot \binom{i_0 + j_0}{i_0}_q \binom{i_1 + j_1}{i_1}_q \binom{i_2 + j_2}{i_2}_q \binom{i_3 + j_3}{i_3}_q,$$

where the sum is over $i_0 + i_1 + i_2 + i_3 = k - 2$, $i_0 + j_0 = i - 1$, $i_1 + j_1 = j - i - 1$, $i_2 + j_2 = j' - j - 1$, $i_3 + j_3 = n - j'$.

To compute sums of this kind we make use of the identities on q -binomial coefficients given in the Appendix. For example, applying the corresponding identity to $\sum q^{(i_2+2)j_3} \binom{i_2+j_2}{i_2}_q \binom{i_3+j_3}{i_3}_q$, the sum (5) equals

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum q^{4+3i_0+2i_1+i_2+j_1+2j'_2+i_0j_1+i_0j'_2+i_1j'_2} \cdot \binom{n-j+1}{i_2+i_3+2}_q \binom{i_0+j_0}{i_0}_q \binom{i_1+j_1}{i_1}_q \\ & - \sum q^{7+4i_0+3i_1+2i_2+j_1+2j'_2+i_0j_1+i_0j'_2+i_1j'_2} \cdot \binom{n-j}{i_2+i_3+2}_q \binom{i_0+j_0}{i_0}_q \binom{i_1+j_1}{i_1}_q, \end{aligned}$$

where $j'_2 = j_2 + j_3$, and the sums are over $i_0 + i_1 + i_2 + i_3 = k - 2$, $i_0 + j_0 = i - 1$, $i_1 + j_1 = j - i - 1$, and $i_2 + i_3 + j'_2 = n - j - 1$ and $i_2 + i_3 + j'_2 = n - j - 2$ respectively.

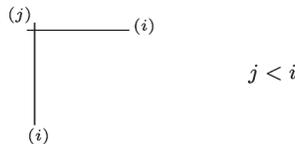
We recognize that the sums above are equal to

$$q^4 \sum_{i_0+i_1+i_2+i_3=k-2} q^{3i_0+2i_1+i_2} \binom{n+1}{k+2}_q - q^7 \sum_{i_0+i_1+i_2+i_3=k-2} q^{4i_0+3i_1+2i_2} \binom{n}{k+2}_q.$$

Continuing applying identities on q -binomial coefficients leads to the expression

$$(6) \quad q^4 \binom{k+1}{3}_q \binom{n+1}{k+2}_q - q^7 \binom{k+2}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q + q^8 \binom{k+1}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q.$$

The same process can be applied to any of the configurations on Table 1. For example, another degree two map, fixed by the torus action, is that given by the following tree of \mathbb{P}^1 's:



Consider again the process of extending to $G(k, n)$: Corollaries 2.2 and 2.4 give rise to lists of additional weights. If we use again Remark 3.2 and the identities in the Appendix, we obtain that the contribution of this configuration to the Poincaré polynomial of $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 2)$ is

$$(7) \quad q^2 \left(\binom{k+2}{3}_q \binom{n+1}{k+2}_q - q^2 \binom{k+1}{3}_q \binom{n+1}{k+2}_q - q^2 \binom{k+3}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q \right) + q^3 \binom{k+2}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q + q^5 \binom{k+2}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q - q^6 \binom{k+1}{4}_q \binom{n}{k+2}_q.$$

For each of the possible fixed point configurations described in Table 1, we get different sums involving q -binomial coefficients, e.g. expressions like (6) and (7). Adding them up, we obtain the rational function in the statement of the Theorem. □

3.2 – Poincaré polynomials of degree 3 stable maps

In this subsection we present the generating function for the Poincaré polynomial in the case of no pointed genus zero degree three stable maps to the Grassmannian. The method used to organize the combinatorial data involved and prove Theorem 3.2 is the same as the one described for the case of degree 2 stable maps. We will soon see that the number of different configurations for the labelled connected graphs representing the fixed locus increases rapidly.

TABLE 2. – Fixed loci for degree 3 stable maps I.

Configuration	Labelling	Strata in	Number
—	$(j) \text{---} 3 \text{---} (i)$	$G(1, 2)$	$\frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{k} k(n-k)$
	$(j) \text{---} 2 \text{---} (i)$ $\begin{array}{c} \\ 1 \\ \\ (i) \end{array}$	$G(1, 2)$	$\binom{n}{k} k^2(n-k)^2$
	$(i) \text{---} 2 \text{---} (j)$ $\begin{array}{c} \\ 1 \\ \\ (j') \end{array}$	$G(1, 3)$	
	$(ij) \text{---} 2 \text{---} (j'j')$ $\begin{array}{c} \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij') \end{array}$	$G(2, 3)$	
	$(ij) \text{---} 2 \text{---} (i'j')$ $\begin{array}{c} \\ 1 \\ \\ (i'j) \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	

THEOREM 3.2. *Let X be the moduli stack of stable maps $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 3)$, then its Poincaré polynomial $P_X(q)$ is given by the following expression:*

$$(1 - q^k)(1 - q^{n-k}) \left(F_1(q)(1 + q^{2n}) + F_2(q)q^2(q^{2k} + q^{2n-2k}) \right. \\ \left. + (1 + q)^2(F_3(q)q^n(1 + q^2) - F_4(q)q(1 + q^n)(q^k + q^{n-k})) \right) \\ \cdot \frac{P_G(q)}{(1 - q)^2(1 - q^2)^3(1 - q^3)^2},$$

where

$$F_1(q) = 1 + 2q^2 + 3q^3 + 3q^4 - q^5 + q^6 - 3q^7 - 3q^8 - 2q^9 - q^{11},$$

$$F_2(q) = 1 + 6q + 3q^2 + 2q^3 - 2q^4 - 3q^5 - 6q^6 - q^7,$$

$$F_3(q) = 1 + 5q^2 + 2q^3 - 2q^4 - 5q^5 - q^7,$$

$$F_4(q) = 2 + 3q^2 + q^3 - q^4 - 3q^5 - 2q^7.$$

TABLE 3. – Fixed loci for degree 3 stable maps II.

Configuration	Labelling	Strata in	Labelling	Strata in	Number
		$G(1, 2)$		$G(1, 3)$	$\binom{n}{k} \binom{k(n-k)+2}{3}$
		$G(1, 4)$		$G(2, 3)$	
		$G(2, 4)$		$G(2, 4)$	
		$G(2, 5)$		$G(3, 4)$	
		$G(3, 5)$		$G(3, 6)$	

segue

TABLE 3. – (Seguito).

	$\begin{array}{c} (i) \quad 1 \quad (j) \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j) \quad 1 \quad (i) \end{array}$	$G(1, 2)$	$\begin{array}{c} (i) \quad 1 \quad (j) \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j') \quad 1 \quad (j) \end{array}$	$G(1, 3)$	$\frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{k} k^3 (n - k)^3$
	$\begin{array}{c} (i) \quad 1 \quad (j) \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j') \quad 1 \quad (i') \end{array}$	$G(1, 4)$	$\begin{array}{c} (i) \quad 1 \quad (j) \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j) \quad 1 \quad (j') \end{array}$	$G(1, 3)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij') \quad 1 \quad (j'j') \end{array}$	$G(2, 3)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij') \quad 1 \quad (j'i') \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j'j') \quad 1 \quad (ij') \end{array}$	$G(2, 3)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij) \quad 1 \quad (j'i') \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ii') \quad 1 \quad (i'l) \end{array}$	$G(2, 5)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j'i') \quad 1 \quad (j'i') \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (j'i') \quad 1 \quad (ii') \end{array}$	$G(2, 4)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij) \quad 1 \quad (ij') \end{array}$	$G(2, 5)$			
	$\begin{array}{c} (ijl) \quad 1 \quad (ijl') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (iil') \quad 1 \quad (j'u') \end{array}$	$G(3, 4)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ijl) \quad 1 \quad (ijl') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (iil') \quad 1 \quad (j'u') \end{array}$	$G(3, 5)$	
	$\begin{array}{c} (ijl) \quad 1 \quad (ijl') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ijl) \quad 1 \quad (ijl') \end{array}$	$G(3, 5)$	$\begin{array}{c} (ijl) \quad 1 \quad (ijl') \\ \\ 1 \\ \\ (ij'l) \quad 1 \quad (i'j'l) \end{array}$	$G(3, 6)$	

PROOF. We observe that for degree 3 stable maps all strata in the fixed point decomposition can be obtained from strata in copies of $G(1, 2)$, $G(1, 3)$, $G(1, 4)$, $G(2, 3)$, $G(2, 4)$, $G(2, 5)$, $G(3, 4)$, $G(3, 5)$, and $G(3, 6)$, and their embeddings into bigger Grassmannians. In Tables 2 and 3, we list all possible configurations and labellings for fixed points of the torus

action. To obtain the expression in the statement of the Theorem, we use the method in the proof of Theorem 3.1, which relies on the results in Section 2. □

The following is a table of Betti numbers for some values of k and n . The sequences of Betti numbers in the first two rows agree with the results in [GP06]. Moreover, in degree 2, for $k = 1$ and arbitrary n , one can check that our expression agrees with that due to Getzler and Pandharipande and presented explicitly in [BO03, (39)].

k	n	Betti numbers of $\overline{M}_{0,0}(G(k, n), 3)$
1	3	(1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 7, 5, 2, 1)
1	4	(1, 2, 6, 10, 17, 20, 24, 20, 17, 10, 6, 2, 1)
2	4	(1, 3, 10, 22, 41, 60, 73, 73, 60, 41, 22, 10, 3, 1)

Appendix: q -Binomial coefficients

The q -binomial coefficients are classical combinatorial expressions with diverse interpretations. They arise in number theory, combinatorics, linear algebra, and finite geometry.

We define for $0 \leq k \leq n$ the q -binomial coefficient $\binom{n}{k}_q$, first introduced by Gauss, as

$$\binom{n}{k}_q = \frac{(1 - q^n)(1 - q^{n-1}) \dots (1 - q^{n-k+1})}{(1 - q^k) \dots (1 - q)}$$

The following basic identities are proven in [Gau73]:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n}{k}_q &= \binom{n}{n-k}_q, \\ \binom{n}{k}_q &= \binom{n-1}{k}_q + q^{n-k} \binom{n-1}{k-1}_q, \\ \binom{n}{k}_q &= q^k \binom{n-1}{k}_q + \binom{n-1}{k-1}_q, \\ \sum_{j=0}^a q^j \binom{d+j}{j}_q &= \binom{d+a+1}{a}_q. \end{aligned}$$

One further identity, established using the basic identities in q -binomial coefficients above, is

$$\sum_{i+j=a} q^{(c+1)j} \binom{c+i}{i}_q \binom{d+j}{j}_q = \binom{c+d+a+1}{a}_q.$$

More general identities can be obtained for $\sum_{i+j=a} q^{(c+n)j} \binom{c+i}{i}_q \binom{d+j}{j}_q$, whenever $n > 0$, using the previous identities. Sums of this kind are used in the proof of Theorems 3.1 and 3.2, but they will not be stated explicitly.

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