

Line defects, UV-IR map, and exact WKB

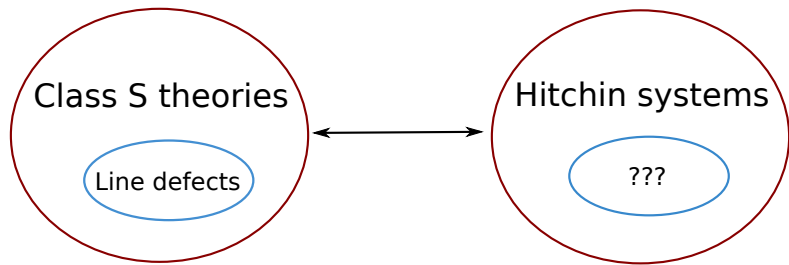
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Donaldson-Thomas invariants and Resurgence,
Simons Collaboration meeting, Jan 11 - Jan 15, 2021

Jan 13th, 2021

Outlook



Based on review of work by [Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke](#), as well as some recent developments.

4d $N=2$ theories of class S

Class S theories $\mathcal{T}[\mathfrak{g}, C]$ are 4d $N=2$ supersymmetric theories originating from twisted compactification of a 6d $(2, 0)$ theory of type \mathfrak{g} ($\mathfrak{g} \in \{A, D, E\}$) on a Riemann surface C with appropriate decorations (punctures or twisted lines), in the zero area limit of C .

[Gaiotto],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke]

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[Gaiotto],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke]

$\mathcal{T}[\mathfrak{g}, C]$ has a subspace of vacua \mathcal{B} called the **Coulomb branch**, where the low energy effective theory is $U(1)^r$ gauge theory.

$$\mathcal{B} \subset \bigoplus_{k=1}^r H^0 \left(C, K_C^{\otimes d_k} \left(\sum_i p_{d_k}^{(i)} z_i \right) \right)$$

[Gaiotto],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Chacaltana-Distler-Tachikawa],[Chacaltana-Distler-Trimmi-Zhu] ...

A point in \mathcal{B} corresponds to a branched covering $\tilde{C} \rightarrow C$, where $\tilde{C} \subset T^*C$ is the Seiberg-Witten curve.

Relation to Hitchin systems

Further compactifying $\mathcal{T}[\mathfrak{g}, C]$ on S^1_R , the low energy effective theory is a 3d $N = 4$ sigma model with target space $M_H(G, C)$.

Relation to Hitchin systems

Further compactifying $\mathcal{T}[\mathfrak{g}, C]$ on S_R^1 , the low energy effective theory is a 3d $N = 4$ sigma model with target space $M_H(G, C)$.

Starting from 6d and changing the order of compactification on $C \times S_R^1$ [Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke], $M_H(G, C)$ is identified with the moduli space of solutions to Hitchin's equations:

$$\begin{aligned}F_A + R^2 [\Phi, \bar{\Phi}] &= 0, \\ \bar{\partial}_A \Phi &= 0, \quad \partial_A \bar{\Phi} = 0.\end{aligned}$$

$\partial + A$ is a G -connection in a top. trivial G -bundle $V \rightarrow C$,
 $\Phi \in \Omega^{1,0}(\text{End}V)$ is the Higgs field.

(A, Φ) have specified boundary conditions at punctures of C .
(**regular**: simple pole, **irregular**: higher order pole)

Today we take $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(N)$ or $\mathfrak{sl}(N)$, $G = U(N)$ or $SU(N)$.

Relation to Hitchin systems

$M_H(G, C)$ is hyperkähler, has a $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ -worth of complex structures J_ζ . Different J_ζ expose different features of $M_H(G, C)$:

[Hitchin], [Simpson], [Biquard-Boalch], [Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke]...

- ▶ $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^\times$: Hitchin's equations indicate $\partial + \mathcal{A}$ is flat, with

$$\mathcal{A} := \frac{R}{\zeta} \Phi + A + R\zeta \bar{\Phi}$$

(M_H, J_ζ) diff. to a moduli space of flat $G_{\mathbb{C}}$ -connections on C .

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- ▶ $\zeta = 0$: (M_H, J_0) diff. to moduli space of Higgs bundles M_{Higgs} , which is a complex integrable system: $M_{\text{Higgs}} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ with generic fiber being compact tori.

The Seiberg-Witten curve \tilde{C} identified with **spectral curve**:

$$\tilde{C} = \{(z \in C, \lambda \in T_z^* C) : \text{Det}(\Phi(z) - \lambda) = 0\} \subset T^*C$$

Line defects in class S theories

$\mathcal{T}[\mathfrak{g}, C]$ admits families of line defects $\mathbb{L}(\zeta)$ extending along \mathbb{R}^t -direction, where $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ parametrizes preserved supercharges.

[Kapustin],[Kapustin-Saulina],[Drukker-Morrison-Okuda],[Drukker-Gaiotto-Gomis],[Drukker-Gomis-Okuda-Teschner]
[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Córdova-Neitzke],[Aharony-Seiberg-Tachikawa],[Moore-Royston-van den Bleeken]...

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$\mathbb{L}(\zeta, \mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{R})$ depends on path \mathfrak{p} on C , carrying representation \mathcal{R} of \mathfrak{g} .

- ▶ $\mathfrak{g} = A_1$, C only has regular punctures:
 \mathfrak{p} is a non-self-intersecting closed curve on C .
- ▶ C contains irregular punctures:
 \mathfrak{p} corresponds to **integral laminations** [Fock-Goncharov],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke], collection of paths either closed or open with ends on marked points corres. to Stokes directions at irregular punctures.
- ▶ In general \mathfrak{p} could contain **junctions**, where paths carrying different \mathcal{R}_i meet, associated with certain \mathfrak{g} -invariant tensor.

[Sikora],[Le],[Xie],[Saulina],[Coman-Gabella-Teschner],[Tachikawa-Watanabe],[Gabella]...

Line defects in class S theories

Upon circle compactification, the vacuum expectation values of $\mathbb{L}(\zeta)$ wrapping S^1_R are J_ζ -holomorphic functions on $M_{\text{flat}}(G_{\mathbb{C}}, C)$.

[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke]

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[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke]

- ▶ $\mathfrak{g} = A_1$, C has only regular punctures:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbb{L}(\zeta, \mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{R}) \rangle &= \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}} \text{Hol}_{\mathfrak{p}} \left(\frac{R\Phi}{\zeta} + A + R\zeta\bar{\Phi} \right) \\ &= \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}} \text{Hol}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathcal{A}(\zeta).\end{aligned}$$

The dependence on \mathfrak{p} is only through its homotopy class.

- ▶ In general, compute parallel transport of $\mathcal{A}(\zeta)$ along paths, contract together via \mathfrak{g} -invariant tensors.

The UV-IR map for line defects

A useful way to study $\mathbb{L}(\zeta)$ in class S theories, is deforming to a point u on the Coulomb branch \mathcal{B} and follow the defect into IR.

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A useful way to study $\mathbb{L}(\zeta)$ in class S theories, is deforming to a point u on the Coulomb branch \mathcal{B} and follow the defect into IR.

The IR limit of $\mathbb{L}(\zeta)$ is a superposition of supersymmetric line defects in the abelian theory, with integer coefficients in this superposition given by **framed BPS index** $\bar{\Omega}(\mathbb{L}(\zeta), \gamma, u)$.

[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Córdova-Neitzke],[Cirafici-Del Zotto],[Coman-Gabella-Teschner],

[Moore-Royston-van den Bleeken],[Ito-Okuda-Taki],[Galakhov-Longhi-Moore],. . .

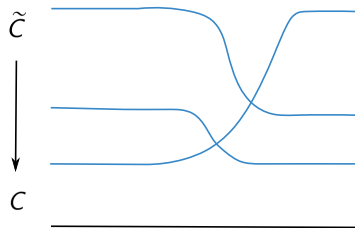
The **UV-IR** map for line defects:

$$\mathbb{L}(\zeta) \rightsquigarrow \sum_{\gamma} \bar{\Omega}(\mathbb{L}(\zeta), \gamma, u) X_{\gamma}(\zeta)$$

$X_{\gamma}(\zeta)$ represent IR Wilson-'t Hooft lines with charge γ .

The IR line defects

Recall that, a point u on the Coulomb branch \mathcal{B} corresponds to a branched covering $\tilde{C} \rightarrow C$ (spectral curve/Seiberg-Witten curve):



Geometrically the IR line defect $X_\gamma(\zeta)$ correspond to loops $\tilde{\mathfrak{p}} \subset \tilde{C}$ in class $\gamma \in H_1(\tilde{C}, \mathbb{Z})$.

The IR line defects

Upon circle compactification, the VEV $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$ of $X_\gamma(\zeta)$ wrapping S^1_R are local **Darboux coordinates** on $M_{\text{flat}}(\mathbb{G}_{\mathbb{C}}, C)$:

Fock-Goncharov, complexified Fenchel-Nielsen, or more general spectral coordinates.

[Fock-Goncharov],[Fenchel-Nielsen],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Nekrasov-Rosly-Shatashvili],

[Hollands-Neitzke],[Hollands-Kidwai],[Allegretti],[Nikolaev],[Jeong-Nekrasov],[Coman-Longhi-Teschner] ...

c.f. Bridgeland's talk and Coman's talk

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- ▶ The holomorphic Poisson brackets are given by

$$\{\mathcal{X}_\gamma, \mathcal{X}_{\gamma'}\} = \langle \gamma, \gamma' \rangle \mathcal{X}_\gamma \mathcal{X}_{\gamma'}$$

- ▶ \mathcal{X}_γ has nice asymptotic behavior as $\zeta \rightarrow 0$ and $\zeta \rightarrow \infty$;
has discontinuities across “BPS rays” controlled by
Kontsevich-Soibelman symplectomorphisms.
 \mathcal{X}_γ are solutions to a certain Riemann-Hilbert problem.

[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Gaiotto],[Bridgeland],[Barbieri],[Bridgeland-Barbieri-Stoppa]...

The UV-IR map as the trace map

- ▶ $\langle \mathbb{L}(\zeta) \rangle$ are J_ζ -holomorphic trace functions on $M_{\text{flat}}(G_{\mathbb{C}}, C)$.
- ▶ $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta) := \langle X_\gamma(\zeta) \rangle$ are Darboux-coordinates on $M_{\text{flat}}(G_{\mathbb{C}}, C)$.

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- ▶ The UV-IR map then implies the **trace map**:

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}\text{Hol}_p} \mathcal{A}(\zeta) = \sum_{\gamma} \overline{\Omega}(\mathbb{L}(\zeta), \gamma) \mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$$

$\mathcal{A}(\zeta)$: flat $G_{\mathbb{C}}$ -connection on C , p : path on C .

- ▶ Alternatively we can understand $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$ as:

$$\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta) = \text{Hol}_\gamma \nabla^{\text{ab}}(\zeta), \gamma \in H_1(\tilde{C}, \mathbb{Z}).$$

The UV-IR map is interpreted as a **nonabelianization map**.

[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Hollands-Neitzke]

Line defects OPE

The algebra structure on space of J_ζ -holomorphic functions corresponds to line defects operator products (OPE):

$$\langle \mathbb{L}_1(\zeta) \mathbb{L}_2(\zeta) \rangle = \langle \mathbb{L}_1(\zeta) \rangle \langle \mathbb{L}_2(\zeta) \rangle$$

This algebra structure admits a quantization via **skein algebras**.

[Reshetikhin-Turaev],[Turaev],[Witten],[Alday-Gaiotto-Gukov-Tachikawa-Verlinde],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],

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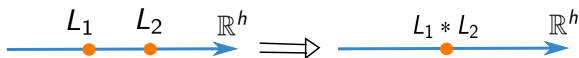
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Turning on Ω -deformation on a \mathbb{R}^2 -plane, susy line defects sit along a fixed axis in $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightsquigarrow$ **non-commutative** associative OPE *

[Nekrasov-Shatashvili],[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke],[Ito-Okuda-Taki],[Yagi],[Oh-Yagi],...



Line defects OPE

- ▶ In the UV, non-commutative line defects OPE is complicated.
- ▶ In the IR, the OPE is given by **quantum torus algebra**:

$$X_{\gamma_1}(\zeta) * X_{\gamma_2}(\zeta) = (-q)^{\langle \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle} X_{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2}(\zeta).$$

\langle, \rangle is the Dirac-Schwinger-Zwanziger pairing, identified with intersection pairing in $H_1(\tilde{C}, \mathbb{Z})$.

In particular,

$$X_{\gamma_1}(\zeta) * X_{\gamma_2}(\zeta) = (-q)^{2\langle \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle} X_{\gamma_2}(\zeta) * X_{\gamma_1}(\zeta)$$

quantizes the Poisson algebra of coordinate functions \mathcal{X}_γ .

- ▶ This hints existence of a **quantum trace map**, embedding the UV skein algebra into a quantum torus algebra.

The UV skein algebra

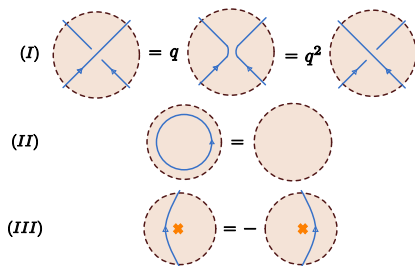
For example, taking $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(2)$, the space of line defects equipped with OPE is described by the $\mathfrak{gl}(2)$ HOMFLY skein algebra of $M = \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}^h$, defined as the space of formal $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}]$ -linear combinations of framed oriented links (up to isotopy) in M , modulo the following relations: ($N=2$ in the figure)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I)} \quad & \text{Diagram 1} - \text{Diagram 2} = (q - q^{-1}) \text{Diagram 3} \\ \text{(II)} \quad & \text{Diagram 4} = q^N \text{Diagram 5} \\ \text{(III)} \quad & \text{Diagram 6} = \frac{q^N - q^{-N}}{q - q^{-1}} \text{Diagram 7} \end{aligned}$$

The algebra structure is defined by “stacking” links along the \mathbb{R}^h -direction.

The IR skein algebra

The IR line defects correspond to framed oriented links in $\tilde{M} = \tilde{C} \times \mathbb{R}$. The OPE algebra is (twisted) $\mathfrak{gl}(1)$ skein algebra of \tilde{M} , defined as the space of formal $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}]$ -linear combinations of framed oriented links (up to isotopy) in \tilde{M} , modulo the following relations:



This skein algebra is isomorphic to the quantum torus.

The quantum trace map

The **quantum trace map** F is a homomorphism from the UV skein algebra to the IR quantum torus algebra, physically it represents a **q -deformed UV-IR map**:

$$\mathbb{L}(\zeta) \rightsquigarrow \sum_{\gamma} \bar{\Omega}(\mathbb{L}(\zeta), \gamma, u, q) X_{\gamma}(\zeta)$$

$$\bar{\Omega}(\mathbb{L}(\zeta), \gamma, u, q) := \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{L}, \gamma, u}} (-q)^{2J_3} q^{2I_3} e^{-\beta\{Q, Q^+\}} \in \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$$

[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke], [Fock-Goncharov], [Bonahon-Wong], [Córdova-Neitzke], [Cirafici-Del Zotto],
[Coman-Gabella-Teschner], [Allegretti], [Gabella], [Ito-Okuda-Taki], [Galakhov-Longhi-Moore], [Neitzke-Y],
[Cho-Kim-Kim-Oh], [Le], [Kim-Son], [Korinman-Quesney], [Goncharov-Shen], [Douglas-Sun]...

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- ▶ When $M = \mathbb{R}^3$, F computes a familiar link invariant:

$$F(L) = q^{Nw(L)} P_{\text{HOMFLY}}(L, a = q^N, z = q - q^{-1}),$$

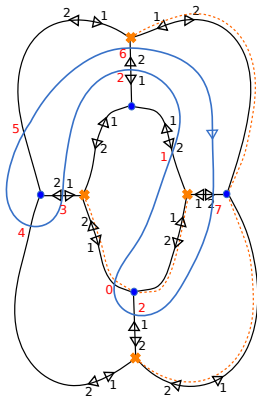
where $w(L)$ is the self-linking number of $L \subset M$.

It also works if $M = C \times \mathbb{R}$ and L is contained in a 3-ball inside M . [Bonahon-Wong],[Neitzke-Y],[Douglas-Sun]

The quantum trace map: an example

Example: $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2)$, C is a four-punctured sphere.

$$\tilde{C} = \{\lambda : \lambda^2 + \phi_2 = 0\} \subset T^*C, \quad \phi_2 = -\frac{z^4 + 2z^2 - 1}{2(z^4 - 1)^2} dz^2.$$



$$\begin{aligned} & X_{\gamma_1 + \mu_1 - \mu_3} + X_{\gamma_2 + \mu_1 - \mu_3} + X_{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \mu_1 - \mu_3} + X_{-\gamma_2 - \mu_1 + \mu_3} + X_{\gamma_1 + \mu_1 + \mu_3} \\ & + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_3} + X_{2\gamma_1 - 3\gamma_2 - \mu_2 + 2\mu_3 - 3\mu_4} - (q + q^{-1})X_{2\gamma_1 - 2\gamma_2 - \mu_2 + 2\mu_3 - 3\mu_4} \\ & + X_{2\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 - \mu_2 + 2\mu_3 - 3\mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - 2\gamma_2 - \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 - \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} \\ & + X_{\gamma_1 + \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} - (q + q^{-1})X_{2\gamma_1 + \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} - (q + q^{-1})X_{2\gamma_1 - 2\gamma_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} \\ & + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} + (2 + q^2 + q^{-2})X_{2\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_3 - 2\mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - \mu_2 - \mu_4} \\ & + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 - \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 + 2\mu_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} \\ & - (q + q^{-1})X_{2\gamma_1 + 2\mu_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{2\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 + 2\mu_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + 2\mu_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} \\ & + X_{2\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + 2\mu_1 + \mu_2 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - 2\gamma_2 - \mu_2 + 2\mu_3 - \mu_4} + X_{\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 - \mu_2 + 2\mu_3 - \mu_4}. \end{aligned}$$

Properties of $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$

The VEVs of IR line defects $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$ have distinguished analytic properties: [c.f. Bridgeland's talks](#)

- ▶ **Asymptotics:** As $\zeta \rightarrow 0$ along a ray in \mathbb{C}^\times :

$$\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta) \sim \exp\left(\frac{R}{\zeta} Z_\gamma\right),$$

where $Z_\gamma = \oint_\gamma \lambda$ is central charge/classical period. [c.f. Smith's talk](#)

- ▶ **Jumps:** Given a ray $\ell \subset \mathbb{C}^\times$ with phase θ_0 , then:

$$\lim_{\arg(\zeta) \rightarrow \theta_0^+} \mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta) = \mathbb{S}(\ell) \lim_{\arg(\zeta) \rightarrow \theta_0^-} \mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$$

$\mathbb{S}(\ell)$ consists of Kontsevich-Soibelman symplectomorphisms, determined by the Donaldson-Thomas invariants $\Omega(\gamma)$.

- ▶ **Reality:**

$$\overline{\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)} = \mathcal{X}_{-\gamma}(-1/\bar{\zeta}).$$

The Riemann-Hilbert problem

$\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\zeta)$ are conjectured to solve a Riemann-Hilbert (RH) problem in ζ -plane, formulated by [Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke](#); the solutions are given by certain TBA-like integral equations. This RH problem is related to the RH problem considered by [Bridgeland](#) via the **conformal limit** [[Gaiotto](#)].

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[Barbieri-Bridgeland-Stoppa](#) formulated a quantized RH problem and constructed solutions in certain example.

Q: Could we understand/generalize the construction from physics?

The conformal limit

Recall the Hitchin system depends on R as the radius of the compactification circle. The conformal limit is given by [\[Gaiotto\]](#)

$$R \rightarrow 0, \quad \zeta \rightarrow 0, \quad \hbar = \zeta/R \text{ fixed}$$

The Hitchin section becomes the variety of opers \mathcal{L}_{\hbar} .

[\[Dumitrescu-Fredrickson-Kydonakis-Mazzeo-Mulase-Neitzke\]](#)

Example: Take $G_{\mathbb{C}} = SL(2, \mathbb{C})$, the family of opers is determined by a quadratic differential ϕ_2 on C , locally written as:

$$\hbar^2 \partial_z^2 + P_2(z),$$

where $\phi_2 = P_2(z) dz^2$.

The spectral coordinates $\mathcal{X}_{\gamma}(\hbar)$ are important tools in exact WKB analysis for opers, due to the geometric reformulation of exact WKB via **abelianization**.

[\[Gaiotto-Moore-Neitzke\]](#), [\[Hollands-Neitzke\]](#), [\[Hollands-Kidwai\]](#), [\[Allegretti\]](#), [\[Nikolaev\]](#)...

The Voros symbols $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\hbar)$ and quantum periods

WKB ansatz for the Schrödinger equation:

$$\psi(z) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{z_0}^z \lambda(z') dz'\right), \text{ where } \lambda^2 + P_2 + \hbar \partial_z \lambda = 0.$$

The quantum periods:

$$\Pi_\gamma(\hbar) := \oint_\gamma \lambda^{\text{formal}}(\hbar) dz, \quad \gamma \in H_1(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}, \mathbb{Z}), \quad \lambda_i^{\text{formal}}(\hbar) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_i^{(n)} \hbar^n$$

A natural way to resum quantum periods is Borel-resummation.

c.f. Pym's and Mariño's talk

Resurgent properties of quantum periods are controlled by 4d BPS spectrum. [Ito-Mariño-Shu],[Grassi-Gu-Mariño],[Ito-Shu]...

Relation of spectral coordinates $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\hbar)$ to quantum periods:

- ▶ $\mathcal{X}_\gamma(\hbar)$ produces Borel-resummed quantum periods.

[Koike-Schäferke],[Nikolaev],[Allegretti],...

For higher order opers, this remains to be a conjecture.

Thank You and Stay Safe!