

# 3D Young diagrams and Gromov-Witten theory of $\mathbb{C}P^1$

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# 1. Motivation and goal

## Gromov-Witten theory of all genera

- integrable Hamiltonian systems (Dubrovin & Zhang)
- quantization of symplectic geometry (Givental)
- computable cases (point,  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ , etc.)

## Gromov-Witten theory of $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ (Okounkov & Pandharipande)

- relation to Hurwitz numbers
- fermionic (semi-infinite wedge product) formalism
- relation to Toda lattice
- several versions (absolute; relative; equivariant)

## My interest

- search for combinatorial and integrable structures in computable cases

**This talk** presents an approach to Gromov-Witten theory of  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$  from a statistical model of 3D Young diagrams. This **melting crystal model** is a kind of  $q$ -deformation of the Gromov-Witten invariants of  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ , and also the simplest case of instanton partition functions of 5D supersymmetric gauge theories on  $\mathbb{R}^4 \times S^1$ .

I will show

- prescription of  $q \rightarrow 1$  (5D  $\rightarrow$  4D) limit
- quantum spectral curve in this limit
- integrable structure in this limit

**Reference:** K.T., Quantum curve and 4D limit of melting crystal model, arXiv:1704.02750 [math-ph] (**to be revised**)

## 2. $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ Gromov-Witten theory in a nutshell

### GW invariants

The (connected) correlators of the **descendants**  $\tau_k(\omega)$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots$ , of the Kähler class  $\omega$  are defined by intersection numbers on the moduli space  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, d)$  of stable maps to  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ :

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{k_i}(\omega) \right\rangle_{g,d}^{\circ} = \int_{[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, d)]^{\text{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{k_i} \text{ev}_i^*(\omega)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ev}_i : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, d) &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, (f, C, p_1, \dots, p_n) \mapsto f(p_i), \\ \psi_i &= c_1(L_i), (L_i)_{(f, C, p_1, \dots, p_n)} = T_{p_i}^* C \end{aligned}$$

**GW/Hurwitz correspondence (Okounkov-Pandharipande)**

The (disconnected) correlators of  $\tau_k(\omega)$ 's can be expressed in terms of the **Hurwitz numbers** of  $\mathbb{C}P^1$ :

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{k_i}(\omega) \right\rangle_{g,d}^\bullet = \sum_{\lambda \vdash d} \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} \right)^2 \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p_{k_i+1}(\lambda)}{(k_i + 1)!}$$

where

$$\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots) \quad (\text{partition}),$$

$$\lambda \vdash d \iff |\lambda| = \sum_{i \geq 1} \lambda_i = d,$$

## 2. $\mathbb{C}P^1$ Gromov-Witten theory in a nutshell

$$p_k(\lambda) = \sum_{i \geq 1} \left( (\lambda_i - i + 1/2)^k - (-i + 1/2)^k \right) + (1 - 2^{-k}) \zeta(-k),$$

$$\frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} = \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} \frac{1}{h(i,j)},$$

$$h(i,j) = \lambda_i + {}^t \lambda_j - i - j + 1 \quad (\text{hook length})$$

**Remark:**

$$\dim \lambda = \dim(\text{irred. rep. of } \mathcal{S}_d \text{ of type } \lambda)$$

$$= \#\{\text{standard Young tableaux of shape } \lambda\}$$

## Generating function of GW invariants

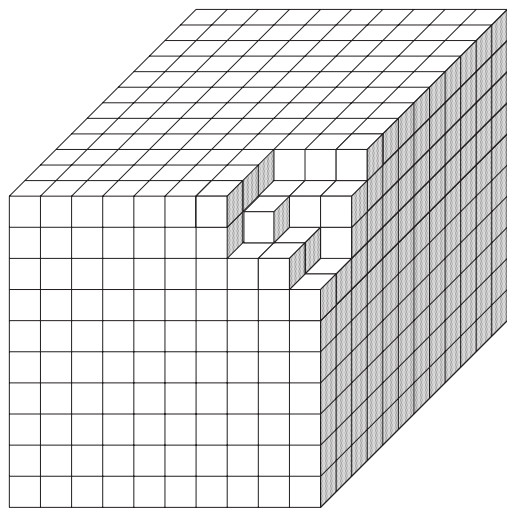
$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \exp \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tau_k(\omega) t_k \right) \right\rangle^{\bullet} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_n=0}^{\infty} \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{k_i}(\omega) \right\rangle^{\bullet} \prod_{i=1}^n t_{k_i} \\ &= \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} \right)^2 \exp \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{p_{k+1}(\lambda)}{(k+1)!} t_k \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the set of all partitions (of arbitrary length).

**Remark:** This sum resembles the instanton partition functions of 4D  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  supersymmetric gauge theories (Losev, Marshakov & Nekrasov).

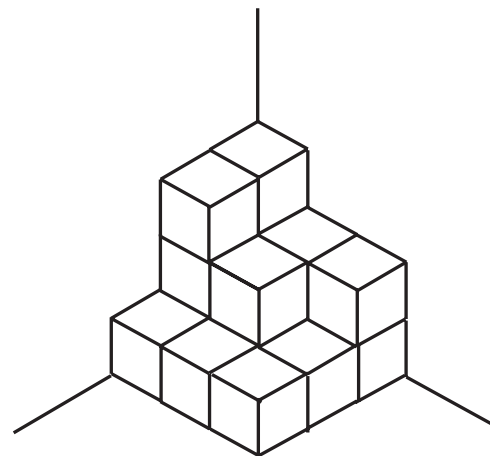
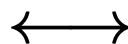
### 3. Melting crystal model

Statistical model (Okounkov, Reshetikhin & Vafa)



crystal corner

complement



3D Young  
diagram

The melting crystal model is a statistical model of random **3D Young diagrams**. The 3D Young diagrams are represented by the **plane partitions**  $\pi = (\pi_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{\infty}$  ( $\pi_{ij}$  = height of  $(i, j)$ -th column).



## Undeformed partition function

$$Z = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{PP}} q^{|\pi|} \quad (\text{sum over plane partitions})$$

where  $q$  is a parameter in the range  $0 < q < 1$ ,  $\mathcal{PP}$  denotes the set of all plane partitions, and

$$|\pi| = \sum_{i,j=1}^{\infty} \pi_{ij} \quad (\text{volume of 3D YD}).$$

## Undeformed partition function (cont'd)

By the method of **diagonal slicing** (Okounkov, Reshetikin, Vafa), this sum over plane partitions can be converted to a sum over ordinary partitions:

$$Z = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{PP}} q^{|\pi|} = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} s_{\lambda}(q^{-\rho})^2,$$

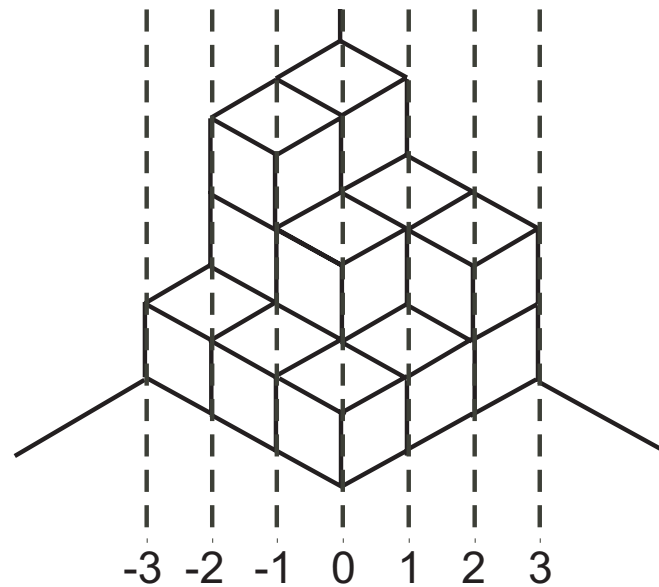
where  $s_{\lambda}(q^{-\rho})$  is the special value of the infinite-variate **Schur function**  $s_{\lambda}(x)$ ,  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots)$ , at

$$x = q^{-\rho} = (q^{1/2}, q^{3/2}, \dots, q^{i-1/2}, \dots).$$

**Remark:**  $Z$  coincides with the instanton partition functions for 5D supersymmetric  $U(1)$  gauge theories.

## Diagonal slicing

$$m\text{-th diagonal slice } \pi(m) = \begin{cases} (\pi_{i,i+m})_{i=1}^{\infty} & \text{if } m \geq 0, \\ (\pi_{j-m,j})_{j=1}^{\infty} & \text{if } m < 0 \end{cases}$$



## Hook-length formulae

$$s_\lambda(q^{-\rho}) = \frac{\dim_q \lambda}{|\lambda|!} = \frac{q^{-\kappa(\lambda)/4}}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} (q^{-h(i,j)/2} - q^{h(i,j)/2})},$$

$$\kappa(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda_i (\lambda_i - 2i + 1).$$

This is a  **$q$ -deformation** of the quantity

$$\frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} = \frac{1}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} h(i,j)}$$

that emerges in the GW/Hurwitz correspondence.

## Deformed partition function

$$Z(t) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} s_{\lambda} (q^{-\rho})^2 Q^{|\lambda|} e^{\phi(t, \lambda)},$$

$$\phi(t, \lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k \phi_k(\lambda),$$

$$\phi_k(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( q^{k(\lambda_i - i + 1)} - q^{k(-i + 1)} \right).$$

$Q$  is a new parameter, and  $t = (t_1, t_2, \dots)$  are coupling constants of the **external potentials**  $\phi_k(\lambda)$ .

## Deformed partition function

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$Z(t)$  is a **tau function** of the **KP hierarchy** (Nakatsu & T.).

**Proof:** Use **fermions** (infinite wedge products) and a **quantum torus algebra**.

## Tau functions of KP hierarchy

$$\tau(t) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} S_{\lambda}(t) W_{\lambda},$$

where  $S_{\lambda}(t)$ 's,  $t = (t_1, t_2, \dots)$ , are the **Schur functions** of the power sum variables ( $t_k = p_k/k$ ),

$$S_{\lambda}(t) = \det(S_{\lambda_i - i + j}(t))_{i,j=1}^n, \quad \exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k z^k\right) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} S_m(t) z^m,$$

and  $W_{\lambda}$ 's are the **Plücker coordinates** of a point  $W$  of the Sato Grassmannian. The tau functions satisfy an infinite number of **bilinear (Hirota) differential equations** (a formulation of the KP hierarchy) that amount to the **Plücker relations**.

## 4D partition function

$$Z_{4D}(t) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Lambda}{\hbar} \right)^{2|\lambda|} e^{\phi_{4D}(t, \lambda)},$$

$$\phi_{4D}(t, \lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} t_k \phi_k^{4D}(\lambda),$$

$$\phi_k^{4D}(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( (\lambda_i - i + 1)^k - (-i + 1)^k \right).$$

This is essentially the same as the generating function of the GW invariants of  $\mathbb{C}P^1$  (though slightly modified for comparison with  $Z(t)$ ).



## 4. Formulation of 4D limit

What is 4D limit?

Nekrasov's instanton partition functions of 5D gauge theories are derived for theories on  $\mathbb{R}^4 \times S^1$ . The partition functions are expected to turn into those of 4D gauge theories on  $\mathbb{R}^4$  as the **radius**  $R$  of  $S^1$  tends to 0.

**Key relation:**  $q = e^{-R\hbar}$

**$R$ -dependent parametrization of  $q, Q$** 

The 4D limit  $Z(0) \rightarrow Z_{4D}(0)$  of the **undeformed** partition function can be achieved in the following well-known manner:

—  $q$  and  $Q$  are parametrized as

$$q = e^{-R\hbar}, \quad Q = (R\Lambda)^2.$$

— As  $R \rightarrow 0$ , the Boltzmann weights behave nicely:

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow 0} s_\lambda (q^{-\rho})^2 Q^{|\lambda|} = \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Lambda}{\hbar} \right)^{2|\lambda|}.$$

### $R$ -dependent parametrization of $q, Q$

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We want to extend this prescription to the **deformed** partition function  $Z(t)$ .

## Prescription for external potentials

### 5D external potentials

$$\phi_k(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( q^{k(\lambda_i - i + 1)} - q^{k(-i + 1)} \right)$$

### 4D external potentials

$$\phi_k^{4D}(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( (\lambda_i - i + 1)^k - (-i + 1)^k \right)$$

**Question:** How  $\phi_k^{4D}(\lambda)$  can be derived from  $\phi_k(\lambda)$  in the limit as  $R \rightarrow 0$ ? (Recall that  $q = e^{-R\hbar}$ )

**Hint:** Take **linear combinations** of  $\phi_k(\lambda)$ 's.

**Key relation:**

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \binom{k}{j} (-1)^{k-j} \phi_j(\lambda) = \phi_k^{4D}(\lambda) (-R\hbar)^k + O(R^{k+1})$$

This relation implies the identity

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{T_k}{(-R\hbar)^k} \sum_{j=1}^k \binom{k}{j} (-1)^{k-j} \phi_j(\lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} T_k \phi_k^{4D}(\lambda).$$

Since

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{T_k}{(-R\hbar)^k} \sum_{j=1}^k \binom{k}{j} (-1)^{k-j} \phi_j(\lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \binom{k}{j} \frac{(-1)^{k-j} T_k}{(-R\hbar)^k} \phi_j(\lambda),$$

the 4D limit  $\phi(t, \lambda) \rightarrow \phi^{4D}(T, \lambda)$  is achieved if  $t_k$ 's are parametrized by  $T_k$ 's as  $t_j = \sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \binom{k}{j} \frac{(-1)^{k-j} T_k}{(-R\hbar)^k}$ .

Letting  $R \rightarrow 0$  under the  $R$ -dependent parametrization

$$q = e^{-R\hbar}, \quad Q = (R\Lambda)^2, \quad t_j = \sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \binom{k}{j} \frac{(-1)^{k-j} T_k}{(-R\hbar)^k},$$

we have the correct 4D limit  $Z(t) \rightarrow Z_{4D}(T)$ .

## 5. Quantum spectral curve

Single-variate specialization  $Z(x)$  of  $Z(t)$

Substituting

$$t_k = -\frac{q^{-k/2}x^k}{k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots,$$

in  $e^{\phi(t,\lambda)}$  gives

$$e^{\phi(t,\lambda)} = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i - i + 1/2}x}{1 - q^{-i + 1/2}x}.$$

$Z(t)$  thereby reduces to

$$Z(x) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} s_{\lambda} (q^{-\rho})^2 Q^{|\lambda|} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i - i + 1/2}x}{1 - q^{-i + 1/2}x}.$$

Generating operator  $G$  of admissible basis  $\{\Phi_i(x)\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$

The point  $W$  of the Sato Grassmannian relevant to  $Z(t)$  can be realized in a space of formal Laurent series:

$$W = \text{Span}(\Phi_i(x), i \geq 0) \subset V = \mathbb{C}((x)),$$

$$\Phi_i(x) = Gx^{-i}.$$

The generating operator  $G$  can be expressed as

$$G = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{i-1/2}x) \cdot q^{-(D-1/2)^2/2} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 + q^{i-1/2}x)(1 + Qq^{i-1/2}x)$$

where  $D = x \frac{d}{dx}$ .



$q$ -difference equations for  $\Phi_i(x)$ 's

$$A\Phi_i(x) = q^{-i}\Phi_i(x)$$

where

$$A = G \cdot q^D \cdot G^{-1}, \quad D = x \frac{d}{dx}.$$

$A$  is a  **$q$ -difference operator** of the form

$$A = (1 - q^{1/2}x)q^D + (1 + Q)q^{1/2}x + Qx^2(1 - q^{-1/2}x)^{-1}q^{-D}.$$

**Remark:**  $q^D = e^{D \log q}$  is a  $q$ -shift operator:  $q^D f(x) = f(qx)$ .

## Quantum spectral curve of melting crystal model

Since  $Z(x) = \text{const} \cdot \Phi_0(x)$ ,  $Z(x)$  satisfies the following equation of the **quantum spectral curve**:

$$A(x, q^D)Z(x) = Z(x).$$

### Remarks:

1. In the **classical limit** as  $q \rightarrow 1$ ,  $q^D \rightarrow y$ , this equation turns into the equation  $A_{\text{cl}}(x, y) = 1$  of an ordinary curve.
2. Quantum curves of this type are also known for topological string theory of the so called **strip geometry**.

4D limit of  $Z(x)$ 

As  $R \rightarrow 0$  under the  $R$ -dependent parametrization

$$q = e^{-R\hbar}, \quad Q = (R\Lambda)^2, \quad x = e^{R(X-\hbar/2)},$$

$Z(x)$  converges to

$$Z_{4D}(X) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Lambda}{\hbar} \right)^{2|\lambda|} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{X - (\lambda_i - i + 1)\hbar}{X - (-i + 1)\hbar}.$$

**Proof:**

$$\frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i - i + 1/2} x}{1 - q^{-i + 1/2} x} = \frac{X - (\lambda_i - i + 1)\hbar}{X - (-i + 1)\hbar} (1 + O(R)).$$

## 4D limit of quantum spectral curve

$Z_{4D}(X)$  satisfies the **difference** equation

$$\left( (X - \hbar)(e^{-\hbar d/dX} - 1) + \frac{\Lambda^2}{X} e^{\hbar d/dX} \right) Z_{4D}(X) = 0.$$

**Proof:**

$$A - 1 = \left( -(X - \hbar)(e^{-\hbar d/dX} - 1) - \frac{\Lambda^2}{X} e^{\hbar d/dX} \right) R + O(R^2).$$

## 4D limit of quantum spectral curve (cont'd)

Dunin-Barkowski et al. derived the foregoing difference equation by a different method, and pointed out that

$$\Psi(X) = \exp \left( B \left( -\hbar \frac{d}{dX} \right) \frac{X - X \log X}{\hbar} \right) \cdot Z_{4D}(X + \hbar)$$

( $B(z) = z/(e^z - 1)$ ) satisfies the equation

$$\left( e^{-\hbar d/dX} + \Lambda^2 e^{\hbar d/dX} - X \right) \Psi(X) = 0$$

of the quantum spectral curve of  $\mathbb{CP}^1$  GW theory.

## 6. Bilinear equations of Fay type

Bilinear equations for tau functions of KP hierarchy

The shifted tau functions

$$\tau(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) = \tau \left( t_1 + \sum_{j=1}^N x_j, \dots, t_k + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{x_j^k}{k}, \dots \right)$$

satisfy **the bilinear equation**

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 - x_2)(x_3 - x_4)\tau(t, x_1, x_2)\tau(t, x_3, x_4) \\ & - (x_1 - x_3)(x_2 - x_4)\tau(t, x_1, x_3)\tau(t, x_2, x_4) \\ & + (x_1 - x_4)(x_2 - x_3)\tau(t, x_1, x_4)\tau(t, x_2, x_3) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

**of the Fay type.**

## Bilinear equations for tau functions of KP hierarchy

The shifted tau functions

$$\tau(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) = \tau \left( t_1 + \sum_{j=1}^N x_j, \dots, t_k + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{x_j^k}{k}, \dots \right)$$

satisfy the bilinear equation

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 - x_2)(x_3 - x_4)\tau(t, x_1, x_2)\tau(t, x_3, x_4) \\ & - (x_1 - x_3)(x_2 - x_4)\tau(t, x_1, x_3)\tau(t, x_2, x_4) \\ & + (x_1 - x_4)(x_2 - x_3)\tau(t, x_1, x_4)\tau(t, x_2, x_3) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

of the Fay type. Conversely, this equation implies all equations of the KP hierarchy.

## Bilinear equations for $Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N)$

The shifted partition functions

$$Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) = Z\left(\dots, t_k - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q^{-k/2} x_j^k}{k}, \dots\right)$$

may be thought of as a shifted KP tau function.

$Z(t)$  satisfies the Fay-type bilinear equation

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_1 - x_2)(x_3 - x_4)Z(t, x_1, x_2)Z(t, x_3, x_4) \\ & - (x_1 - x_3)(x_2 - x_4)Z(t, x_1, x_3)Z(t, x_2, x_4) \\ & + (x_1 - x_4)(x_2 - x_3)Z(t, x_1, x_4)Z(t, x_2, x_3) = 0. \end{aligned}$$



4D limit of  $Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N)$ 

The shifted partition function can be expressed as

$$Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} s_\lambda(q^{-\rho})^2 Q^{|\lambda|} e^{\phi(t, \lambda)} \prod_{j=1}^N \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i - i + 1/2} x_j}{1 - q^{-i + 1/2} x_j}.$$

The 4D limit  $Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) \rightarrow Z_{4D}(T, X_1, \dots, X_N)$  can be achieved by letting  $R \rightarrow 0$  under the same  $R$ -dependent parametrization of  $q, Q, t$  as for  $Z(t)$  and the substitution

$$x_j = e^{R(X_j - \hbar/2)}.$$

of the  $x_j$ 's.

### 4D limit of $Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N)$ (cont'd)

The 4D limit  $Z_{4D}(T, X_1, \dots, X_N)$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
& Z_{4D}(T, X_1, \dots, X_N) \\
&= \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} \left( \frac{\dim \lambda}{|\lambda|!} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Lambda}{\hbar} \right)^{2|\lambda|} e^{\phi_{4D}(T, \lambda)} \prod_{j=1}^N \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{X_j - (\lambda_i - i + 1)\hbar}{X_j - (-i + 1)\hbar} \\
&= Z_{4D} \left( \dots, T_k - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{h^k}{k \mathbf{X}_j^k}, \dots \right).
\end{aligned}$$

**Remark:**  $X_j$ 's show up in the denominator of the shift terms, in contrast to the case of  $Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N)$ :

$$Z(t, x_1, \dots, x_N) = Z \left( \dots, t_k - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q^{-k/2} \mathbf{x}_j^k}{k}, \dots \right).$$

## 4D limit of three-term bilinear equation

$$\begin{aligned}
& (X_1 - X_2)(X_3 - X_4)Z_{4D}(T, X_1, X_2)Z_{4D}(T, X_3, X_4) \\
& - (X_1 - X_3)(X_2 - X_4)Z_{4D}(T, X_1, X_3)Z_{4D}(T, X_2, X_4) \\
& + (X_1 - X_4)(X_2 - X_3)Z_{4D}(T, X_1, X_4)Z_{4D}(T, X_2, X_3) = 0
\end{aligned}$$

**Proof:** As  $R \rightarrow 0$ ,  $Z(t, x_i, x_j)$  converges to  $Z_{4D}(T, X_i, X_j)$  and

$$x_i - x_j = R(X_i - X_j) + O(R).$$

**Corollary:**

$Z_{4D}(T)$  is a tau function of the KP hierarchy.

## Concluding remarks

Both  $Z(t)$  and  $Z_{4D}(t)$  can be extended to  $Z(s, t)$  and  $Z_{4D}(s, t)$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The following facts are known:

- $Z(s, t)$  is, up to simple factors, a tau function of **the Toda hierarchy** (Nakatsu and T., 2009). This is proven with the aid of fermions and the quantum torus algebra.
- A similar statement for  $Z_{4D}(s, t)$  was conjectured around 2000 (**the Toda conjecture**) and proved later on by several different methods (Getzler; Dubrovin & Zhang; Milanov).

It will be possible to reprove the Toda conjecture by the 4D limit.