

# M2-branes, quantum curves and q-Painlevé equations

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based on [Bonelli, Globblek, Kubo, TN, Tanzini, 2202.10654], [Moriyama, TN, 2305.03978]

## M2-branes → quantum algebraic curves

**T-duality and M-uplift**

$N = \min(N_1, \dots, N_L)$  M2-branes on  $(\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_k \times \mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_k)/\mathbb{Z}_k$

**Chern-Simons level =  $k' - k$**

**$S^3$  partition function:**

$$Z(N) = \frac{1}{\prod_{a=1}^L N_a!} \int \prod_{a=1}^L \frac{d^N \lambda_a}{(2\pi)^{N_a}} e^{\frac{i}{2\pi} \sum_{a=1}^L (\lambda_a^2) \prod_{i < j} 2 \sinh \frac{\lambda_i - \lambda_j}{2} \prod_{i < j} 2 \sinh \frac{\lambda_i + \lambda_j}{2}}$$

**Fermi gas formalism**

$$Z(N) = \frac{1}{N!} \int \frac{d^N x}{(2\pi)^N} \det(x_i | \hat{\rho} | x_j)$$

$N_1 = \dots = N_L = N \Rightarrow \hat{\rho} = \prod_{n=1}^L \frac{1}{2 \cosh \frac{\hat{x} \text{ or } \hat{p}}{2}} \quad [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = 2\pi i k$

**General ranks  $\Rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{O}} = \hat{\rho}^{-1} = \sum_{(m,n) \in I} c_{mn}(\Delta N_i) e^{m\hat{x} + n\hat{p}}$   $I$ : independent of  $\Delta N_i$**

examples:  $I$  for  $\text{torus}$ :  $\begin{matrix} n \\ \uparrow \\ \text{torus} \\ \downarrow \\ m \end{matrix}$

## M2-branes ← quantum algebraic curves?

Fermi gas formalism manifestates  $-\log Z(N) \sim -\log \text{Ai}(\mathcal{O}(N - \square)) \sim N^{3/2}$

argued to be universal for  $\text{AdS}_4 \times Y_7$  [Drukker, Dabholkar, Gomes, '14] [Caputa, Hirano, '18] [Hristov, '22]

$Z(N)$  with any Newton polygon  $I$  might be regarded as a M2-brane setup

## q-Painlevé equations classified by algebraic curves

Painlevé eq: 2nd order non-linear ODE which is non-trivial and does not have movable branch points

example (PIII<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\lambda} - \frac{\lambda^2}{\lambda} + \frac{\lambda}{t} - \frac{2\lambda^2}{t^2} + \frac{2}{t} = 0$  (PIII<sub>3</sub> is equivalent to 2-particle periodic Toda)

$$\frac{d^2 q_i}{d(\log t)^2} = t^{\frac{1}{2}} (e^{q_{i+1} - q_i} - e^{q_i - q_{i-1}})$$

$$q_1 - q_2 = -\log(-t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \lambda)$$

bilinear form:  $\frac{d^2 \tau_i}{d(\log t)^2} - \left(\frac{d\tau_i}{d(\log t)}\right)^2 - 4t^{\frac{1}{2}} \tau_{i+1} \tau_{i-1} = 0$

$t \rightarrow (q-1)^4 t, q \rightarrow 1$

q-uplift:  $\tau_i(qt)\tau_i(q^{-1}t) - \tau_i(t)^2 - 4t^{\frac{1}{2}} \tau_{i+1} \tau_{i-1} = 0$  : qPIII<sub>3</sub> equation

More general q-Painlevé eqs are classified by **genus 1 algebraic curves**  $\mathcal{O}(u, v) = 0$  with  $E_6$  symmetry

Math (Sakai's classification): [Sakai, '00]

$\tau_i(t; \{\theta_a\}) \rightarrow \tau_M$ : defined on lattice sites

q-discrete bilinear relation  $\Leftrightarrow \tau_M$  is a birational representation of affine Weyl group  $\tilde{W}(E_6)$

Physics (Painlevé/gauge correspondence): [Bonelli, Lisovsky, Maruyoshi, Sciarappa, Tanzini, '16]

q-Painlevé eq  $\Leftrightarrow$  bilinear relations (thought to be) satisfied by  $Z_{NO}^{\mathcal{O}} = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} s^n Z_{Nek}^{\mathcal{O}}(\sigma + 2\pi i n)$  of 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SU(2) YM whose SW curve is  $\mathcal{O}(u, v)$

due to blowup equations [Nakajima, Yoshioka, '05]

## Why such relation holds?

linearize,  $t \rightarrow (t, z)$

isomonodromy deformation problem on  $S^2$

BPZ eq. for degenerate correlator [Gamayun, Iorgov, Lisovsky, '12] [Iorgov, Lisovsky, Teschner, '14]

CFT<sub>2</sub> (Liouville,  $c=1$ ) [Alday, Gaiotto, Tachikawa, '09]

MS on (2+4)

4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  SU(2) YM ( $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_3$ )

q-Painlevé  $\Leftrightarrow$  q-Virasoro [Awata, Yamada, '10]

5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$

geometric engineering

TS/ST correspondence [Aganagic, Cheng, Dijkgraaf, Krefl, Vafa, '11] [Hatsuda, Marino, Moriyama, Okuyama, '13] [Grassi, Hatsuda, Marino, '14]

topological string

## Example 1: ABJ(M) theory $\Leftrightarrow$ qPIII<sub>3</sub> [Bonelli, Grassi, Tanzini, '17]

Quantum curve  $U(N)_k \Leftrightarrow U(N+M)_k$

Apply Cauchy-Vandermonde identity to SUSY localization formula

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \frac{2 \sinh \frac{x_i - z_i}{2k}}{2k \cosh \frac{x_i - z_i}{2k}} \prod_{i=1}^{N+M} \frac{2 \sinh \frac{y_i - z_i}{2k}}{2k \cosh \frac{y_i - z_i}{2k}} = k^{N+M} \det \left( \frac{e^{-\frac{M(x_i - z_j)}{2k}}}{2k \cosh \frac{x_i - z_j}{2k}} \right)_{(i,j) \in \{1, \dots, N+M\}}$$

$$= k^{N+M} \det \left( \frac{x_i | \frac{1}{2 \cosh \frac{x_i - z_j}{2k}} | y_j \right)_{(i,j) \in \{1, \dots, N+M\}}$$

$$= k^{N+M} \det \left( \frac{x_i | \frac{1}{2 \cosh \frac{x_i - z_j}{2k}} | y_j \right)_{(i,j) \in \{1, \dots, N+M\}}$$

$[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = 2\pi i k$

$Z = \frac{1}{N!(N+M)!} \int \frac{d^N \lambda^{(1)}}{(2\pi)^N} \frac{d^{N+M} \lambda^{(2)}}{(2\pi)^{N+M}} \det \left( \frac{\lambda_i^{(1)} | \frac{1}{2 \cosh \frac{\lambda_i^{(1)} - \lambda_j^{(2)}}{2k}} | \lambda_j^{(2)} \right)_{(i,j) \in \{1, \dots, N+M\}}$

$\hat{x} = \hat{p} = \frac{2\pi i k}{2}$

Reorganize as  $\frac{\prod_{i=1}^N 2 \sinh \frac{\lambda_i^{(1)} - \lambda_i^{(2)}}{2k}}{\prod_{i=1}^N 2 \cosh \frac{\lambda_i^{(1)} - \lambda_i^{(2)}}{2k}} \prod_{i=1}^{N+M} \frac{2 \sinh \frac{\lambda_i^{(2)} - \lambda_i^{(1)}}{2k}}{2k \cosh \frac{\lambda_i^{(2)} - \lambda_i^{(1)}}{2k}} \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{2 \sinh \frac{\lambda_i^{(2)} - \lambda_i^{(1)}}{2k}}{2k \cosh \frac{\lambda_i^{(2)} - \lambda_i^{(1)}}{2k}}$

$Z = \frac{Z(0)}{N!} \int \frac{d^N \lambda^{(1)}}{(2\pi)^N} \det(x_i | \hat{\rho} | x_j)$

$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{2 \cosh \frac{\hat{x}}{2}} \prod_{r=1}^M \frac{\tanh \frac{\hat{x} + 2\pi i(\frac{M+1-r}{2k})}{2k}}{2 \cosh \frac{\hat{x} + \pi i M}{2}}$

$\hat{\mathcal{O}} = \hat{\rho}^{-1} = e^{\pi i M - \frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} e^{\hat{x}} + e^{\frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} e^{\hat{x}} + e^{\frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} e^{-\hat{x}} + e^{\pi i M - \frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} e^{-\hat{x}}$  [Awata, Hirano, Shigemori, '12] [Kashaev, Marino, Zakany, '15]

q-difference relation

(q)PIII <sub>3</sub>	2d	4d/5d	ABJ(M)
$t$	cross ratio	gauge coupling = moduli of SW curve	$M$

precise dictionary:  $t = e^{-2\pi i(1 - \frac{M}{2k})}$ ,  $q = e^{\frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} \Rightarrow q^{\pm 1} t \leftrightarrow M \pm 1$ , qPIII<sub>3</sub>: difference relation in relative rank

$$\Xi_M(\kappa)^2 - e^{-2\pi i M} \Xi_M(-\kappa)^2 + i e^{\frac{\hat{x} k}{2}} \Xi_{M+1}(-i\kappa) \Xi_{M-1}(i\kappa) = 0$$
 [Grassi, Hatsuda, Marino, '14] [Bonelli, Grassi, Tanzini, '17]

- checked against exact values of  $Z_{k=1,2,\dots, M=0,1,\dots, \lambda(N=0,1,\dots)}$ , but not proved yet

- qPIII<sub>3</sub> is satisfied also by  $Z(N=0)$  although it is not directly related to quantum curve!

## Example 2: (2,2) model $\Leftrightarrow$ qPVI [BGKNT, '20] [MN, '22]

Quantum curve  $U(N+M_0+M_1+k)_{0,-iZ_3} \Leftrightarrow U(N+2M_0+2k)_{-k,-iZ_3} \Leftrightarrow U(N)_{k,iZ_3} \Leftrightarrow U(N+M_0+M_3+k)_{0,iZ_3}$

$\hat{\rho}^{-1} = \sum_{m,n \in I} c_{mn}(M_0, M_1, M_3, Z_1, Z_3) e^{m\hat{x} + n\hat{p}}$

$c_{mn} = e^{\text{1st order pol. of } M_0, M_1, M_3, Z_1, Z_3}$

Hanany-Witten trsf. = IR duality  $\Rightarrow$  symmetry of curve

moduli parameters of curve can be determined by extrapolation from  $\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline N & N+M_0+M_1+k & N+2M_0+2k & N+M_0+M_3+k \end{matrix}$

$iZ_3 \leftarrow$  FI parameter

$\begin{matrix} 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \\ \hline N & N+M_0+M_1+k & N+2M_0+2k & N+M_0+M_3+k \end{matrix} \Rightarrow (M_0, M_1, M_3) = (0, 0, 0)$

$\begin{matrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline N & N+M_0+M_1+k & N+2M_0+2k & N+M_0+M_3+k \end{matrix} \Rightarrow (M_0, M_1, M_3) = (0, -k, 0)$

$\begin{matrix} 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline N & N+M_0+M_1+k & N+2M_0+2k & N+M_0+M_3+k \end{matrix} \Rightarrow (M_0, M_1, M_3) = (-\frac{k}{2}, -\frac{k}{2}, -\frac{k}{2})$

$\begin{matrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline N & N+M_0+M_1+k & N+2M_0+2k & N+M_0+M_3+k \end{matrix} \Rightarrow (M_0, M_1, M_3) = (0, 0, -k)$

$m_0 = e^{2\pi i M_0}, m_1 = e^{2\pi i M_1}, m_3 = e^{2\pi i M_3}, z_1 = e^{2\pi i Z_1}, z_3 = e^{2\pi i Z_3}$

$W(D_5)$  symmetry of curve (= exchange of asymptotic loci) acts as  $M_0 \leftrightarrow M_1, (M_0, M_1) \rightarrow (-M_0, -M_1)$ , etc. [Furukawa, Matsumura, Moriyama, Nakanishi, '21] [BGKNT, '20]

q-difference relation

natural guess from  $W(D_5)$  actions

or translate bilinear eq of  $Z_{NO}^{\text{SU}(2)_{N_f=4}}$  [Jimbo, Nagoya, Sakai, '17]

$$\bigcirc_1 \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_0 \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_1^{\pm 1} \kappa) + \bigcirc_2 \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_0 \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_2^{\pm 1} \kappa) + \bigcirc_3 \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_0 \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}, Z_1 \pm \frac{1}{2}, Z_3 \pm \frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_3^{\pm 1} \kappa) = 0$$

$\bigcirc_1, \bigcirc_2, \bigcirc_3$  can be guessed by using exact values of  $Z(N=0)$

$\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$  can be guessed by using exact values of  $Z(N=1)$

$e^{-\frac{\hat{x} k}{2} (\sigma_c M_c + \sigma_d M_d + \sigma_e M_e)} S_M^{(1)} \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_c \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_d \pm \frac{1}{2}}(\kappa) + e^{\frac{\hat{x} k}{2} (\sigma_c M_c + \sigma_d M_d + \sigma_e M_e)} S_M^{(2)} \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_c \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_d \pm \frac{1}{2}}(-\kappa) + S_M^{(3)} \prod_{\pm} \Xi_{M_c \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_d \pm \frac{1}{2}, M_e \pm \frac{1}{2}}(\mp i \kappa) = 0$

: 40 bilinear relations for the choices of  $(\sigma, b)$ : two directions of  $(M_0, M_1, M_3, Z_1, Z_3)$  and  $(\sigma_c, \sigma_d, \sigma_e) = (+++), (+--), (-+-), (-++)$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, Z_1): S_M^{(1)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c - Z_1)}{k}, S_M^{(2)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + Z_1)}{k}, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_1)}{k}$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, Z_3): S_M^{(1)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + Z_3)}{k}, S_M^{(2)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c - Z_3)}{k}, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_3)}{k}$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, M_1): S_M^{(1)} = S_M^{(2)} = 1, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_1)}{k}$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, M_3): S_M^{(1)} = S_M^{(2)} = 1, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_3)}{k}$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, Z_1): S_M^{(1)} = S_M^{(2)} = 1, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_1)}{k}$

$(\sigma, b) = (M_c, Z_3): S_M^{(1)} = S_M^{(2)} = 1, S_M^{(3)} = 2 \sin \frac{\pi(M_c + \sigma_{3d} Z_3)}{k}$

- 40 relations are  $W(D_5)$ -covariant (non-covariance of  $\bigcirc_1, \bigcirc_2, \bigcirc_3$  is canceled by non-covariance of  $Z(N=0)$ )

## Future directions

- Proof of bilinear relations from matrix model/physics of M2-branes?
  - Other  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  circular quivers?
  - additional matter fields?
  - mass deformation?
  - $\mathcal{N} = 3$  circular quiver? [TN, '20]
  - non-unitary gauge groups?
  - non-circular quiver?
  - Other manifolds / other observables?
  - Other 3d theories (not M2-type)?
- q-difference equations for other theories of M2-branes?
  - Other q-painlevé?
  - 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  Yang-Mills with...
    - more matter fields?
    - SU( $\nu > 2$ ) gauge group?
    - quiver type?
  - 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 2^{(*)}$  Yang-Mills  $\Rightarrow$  Calogero-Moser
  - non unitary gauge group (ABCDEF)?  $\Rightarrow$  q-Toda on affine Dynkin diagram
  - non self-dual  $\Omega$ -background?  $\Rightarrow$  quantum Painlevé/Toda
- Matrix models for other q-difference equations (or 5d super Yang-Mills)?
  - Other q-painlevé?
  - 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  Yang-Mills with...
    - more matter fields?
    - SU( $\nu > 2$ ) gauge group?
    - quiver type?
  - 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 2^{(*)}$  Yang-Mills  $\Rightarrow$  Calogero-Moser
  - non unitary gauge group (ABCDEF)?  $\Rightarrow$  q-Toda on affine Dynkin diagram
  - non self-dual  $\Omega$ -background?  $\Rightarrow$  quantum Painlevé/Toda