

Moduli of Vacua and Integrability

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Outline

Defects and Moduli of Vacua

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang-Mills

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ Hamiltonian Geometry

Integrating Hamiltonians

Defects

Study n -dimensional TFT \mathcal{Z} through its **defects** and their OPE:

- Local operators $\mathcal{Z}(S^{n-1})$: commutative algebra¹
with Poisson bracket ($n = 3, 5, \dots$)
or odd Poisson bracket ($n = 2, 4, \dots$)²
- Line operators $\mathcal{Z}(S^{n-2})$: tensor category³
- Surface operators $\mathcal{Z}(S^{n-3})$: tensor 2-category⁴
- ...

¹We will suppress gradings

² E_n algebra – cf. Beem, BZ, Bullimore, Dimofte, Neitzke

³ E_{n-1} category

⁴ E_{n-2} 2-category

Nekrasov Ω -background

Canonical deformation of algebra of defect operators:

study TFT $\mathcal{Z}(X)$ equivariantly for $U(1)$ acting by rotations⁵ of spacetime X

\rightsquigarrow deformation⁶ of $\mathcal{Z}(X)$ over $H^*(BU(1)) = \mathbb{C}[\epsilon]$.

OPE of defects loses directions \rightsquigarrow loses commutativity:

Shifted Poisson algebra of defects is deformation quantized

⁵Today: only 1-parameter version

⁶Note: ϵ graded parameter: all values $\epsilon \neq 0$ equivalent.

Moduli of vacua

BZ-Neitzke: Geometric model for TFT \mathcal{Z} as maps into a [shifted] Poisson space⁷, built from algebra of defects:

moduli stack of vacua $\mathfrak{M}_{\mathcal{Z}}$.

Measure with increasing resolution:

1. Local operators give $\Gamma(\mathfrak{M}, \mathcal{O})$

\rightsquigarrow realize affinization $\mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}^{loc} = \text{Aff}(\mathfrak{M})$ as $\text{Spec} \mathcal{Z}(S^{n-1})$

2. Line operators give quasicoherent sheaves on \mathfrak{M}

\rightsquigarrow realize 1-affinization $\mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}^{lin} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}^{loc}$ from $(\mathcal{Z}(S^{n-2}), \otimes)$ by Tannakian reconstruction

⁷ E_n stack: Francis

Defects

- Surface defects give sheaves of categories over \mathfrak{M} .
 \rightsquigarrow detect abelian varieties or topological tori as automorphism groups (e.g. Seiberg-Witten for $4d \mathcal{N} = 2$)
- ...
- **Cobordism Hypothesis**⁸: Entire TFT detected by $n - 1$ -category of boundary conditions $\mathcal{Z}(pt)$

⁸Lurie

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Integrating Hamiltonians

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Focus on 4d “geometric Langlands” theory:

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ super-Yang-Mills, following Kapustin-Witten.

G_c compact Lie group $\leftrightarrow G = G_{\mathbb{C}}$ complex reductive

$\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in GL twist with gauge group G_c , $\Psi = \infty$

$\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^{\vee}}$: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in GL twist with gauge group G_c^{\vee} , $\Psi = 0$

S-duality: Equivalence $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^{\vee}} \simeq \widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$

Local operators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

In $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee} \simeq \widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$: local operators \longleftrightarrow

$$H^*(BG^\vee) \simeq \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^W \simeq \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G$$

(vanishing Poisson bracket)

\rightsquigarrow space of characteristic polynomials

$$\mathfrak{M}^{loc} \simeq \mathfrak{h}^* // W \simeq \mathfrak{g}^* // G$$

coadjoint quotient of \mathfrak{g}^* .

Coulomb branch of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Local operators in Ω -background

The Ω -background doesn't affect ring of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ local operators:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G & \xleftarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} & U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}^G = Z(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}) \\
 \searrow \sim & & \swarrow \sim \\
 & \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^W &
 \end{array}$$

Harish-Chandra isomorphism: deformation quantization preserves Casimirs / center of enveloping algebra

Line operators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

Line operators in $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}$: **derived Satake category**,
 LG_+^\vee -equivariant sheaves on affine Grassmannian $Gr^\vee = LG^\vee / LG_+^\vee$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}(S^2) = \text{Shv}_{LG_+^\vee}(Gr^\vee)$$

Ω -background: add equivariance for loop rotation \mathbb{C}^\times

$$\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}(S_\epsilon^2) = \text{Shv}_{LG_+^\vee \rtimes \mathbb{C}^\times}(Gr^\vee)$$

Line operators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

Line operators in $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G(S^2) = D^b(\mathfrak{g}^*/G)$$

coherent sheaves on \mathfrak{g}^*/G

$\leftrightarrow G$ -equivariant *Sym* \mathfrak{g} -modules

Turn on Ω -background:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G(S_\epsilon^2) = \text{Mod}(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G)$$

quantize to G -equivariant $U\mathfrak{g}$ -modules

Harish-Chandra bimodules

S-duality for line operators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

Line operators in $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}$ and $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$ (with or without Ω -background) identified by **Derived Geometric Satake Theorem**⁹:

$$\mathrm{Shv}_{LG_+^\vee \times \mathbb{C}^\times}(Gr^\vee) \simeq \mathrm{Mod}(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G)$$

\rightsquigarrow moduli stack of $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee} \simeq \widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$ given by

$$\mathfrak{M}_\epsilon^{\mathrm{lin}} \simeq \mathfrak{g}_\epsilon^*/G$$

Stack structure \leftrightarrow residual gauge symmetry along Coulomb branch

⁹Bezrukavnikov-Finkelberg

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The $\mathcal{N} = 4$ mold

Shifted symplectic geometry perspective:

\mathfrak{g}^*/G is odd shifted cotangent bundle of pt/G ,

Affinization map

$$\mathfrak{M}^{lin} = \mathfrak{g}^*/G \xrightarrow{\chi} \mathfrak{M}^{loc} = \mathfrak{h}^*/W$$

is a shifted integrable system:

“Mold for integrable systems”¹⁰

¹⁰Ngô

Quantum mold

Quantum local operators $Z(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g})$
 \rightsquigarrow commuting operators on $\mathfrak{M}_\epsilon^{lin}$:
 map of mildly noncommutative spaces¹¹

$$\mathfrak{M}_\epsilon^{lin} \xrightarrow{\chi_\epsilon} \mathfrak{M}_\epsilon^{loc}$$

i.e., tensor functor from modules over local operators to line operators:

$$Mod(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G) \xleftarrow{\chi_\epsilon^*} Mod(Z(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}))$$

¹¹ E_2 stacks

Probing \mathfrak{M}^{lin}

Study \mathfrak{M}^{lin} by mapping in and intersecting Poisson varieties¹²
 \leftrightarrow studying module categories over line operators¹³

G -phase spaces

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X \times_{\mathfrak{g}^*/G} Y & \longrightarrow & Y & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 X & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{g}^*/G & \xrightarrow{\chi} & \mathfrak{h}^*/W
 \end{array}$$

All (classical and quantum) G -phase spaces carry commuting Hamiltonians from map to \mathfrak{M}^{loc}

- source of (classical and quantum) integrable systems.

¹²shifted coisotropic maps

¹³ E_2 -algebras over E_3 -category of line operators

Probing \mathfrak{M}^{lin}

Physically: use line operators to study 3d boundary conditions –
(e.g., 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theories with suitable global (G or G^V) symmetry)
and 3d reductions of 4d theory on interval¹⁴
 \rightsquigarrow Poisson moduli spaces and Ω -background quantization.

All resulting theories carry commuting operators from 4d local operators.

¹⁴BZ-Dimofte-Neitzke

Basic boundary conditions 1

Two basic examples:

- \mathbb{D}_G : Quotient map

$$\mathfrak{g}^* \longrightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*/G$$

\leftrightarrow Dirichlet boundary condition for $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$

Quantum version: $Mod(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}) \longleftarrow Mod(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G)$.

Ungauging G

Given map $X \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*/G$ (e.g. boundary condition),
pair with $\mathbb{D}_G = \mathfrak{g}^*$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \tilde{X} & \xrightarrow{\mu} & \mathfrak{g}^* & & \\
 \downarrow G & & \downarrow & & \\
 X & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{g}^*/G & \xrightarrow{\chi} & \mathfrak{h}^*//W
 \end{array}$$

$\Leftrightarrow \tilde{X}$ holomorphic Hamiltonian G -space

\rightsquigarrow commuting Hamiltonians on any Hamiltonian reduction of \tilde{X} ,
e.g. $T^*(\Gamma \backslash G/K)$

Ungauging G

Quantum version of pairing with \mathbb{D}_G :

A noncommutative space $X_\epsilon \longrightarrow \mathfrak{M}_\epsilon^{lin}$
 (module category for line operators $Mod(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G)$)

\leftrightarrow a quantum Hamiltonian G -space \tilde{X}_ϵ :
 a [de Rham] categorical representation¹⁵ of G :

e.g., Quantization of T^*M for holomorphic G -space M

Local operators $Z(U\mathfrak{g})$

\rightsquigarrow G -invariant commuting Hamiltonians

e.g., Harish-Chandra system of commuting operators on $\Gamma \backslash G/K$

¹⁵module category for \mathcal{D} -modules on G

Basic boundary conditions 2

- \mathbb{N}_{G^\vee} : Kostant section

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Kos} & \\ & \curvearrowright & \\ \mathfrak{g}^*/G & \xrightarrow{\chi} & \mathfrak{h}^*/W \end{array}$$

\leftrightarrow Neumann boundary condition for $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}$,
regular Nahm pole boundary condition for $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$

lands in **regular locus** $\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg}$

Quantum version: Whittaker reduction

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Whit} & \\ & \curvearrowright & \\ \text{Mod}(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g}/G) & \xleftarrow{\chi_\epsilon^*} & \text{Mod}(Z(U_\epsilon \mathfrak{g})) \end{array}$$

Gauging G^\vee

Given map $X \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*/G$, can instead pair with \mathbb{N}_{G^\vee}
 \leftrightarrow gauge 3d G^\vee -symmetry¹⁶

intersect with Kostant section
 (quantum: take Whittaker reduction)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \overline{X} & \xrightarrow{\mu} & \mathfrak{h}^* // W & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Kos} & & \\
 X & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{g}^*/G & \xrightarrow{\chi} & \mathfrak{h}^* // W
 \end{array}$$

\rightsquigarrow integrable system on Coulomb branch of 3d gauge theories

Note: only probes *regular* part of \mathfrak{g}^*/G :
 carries Hamiltonian action of *regular centralizers* in G

¹⁶cf. Dimofte talk

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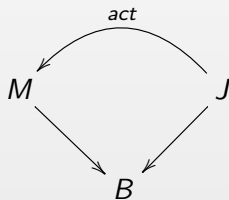
Integrating Hamiltonians

“Integrating” integrable systems

Typical integrable system $M \rightarrow B$:

- Restrict to generic part $B^{\text{reg}} \subset B$
 \rightsquigarrow family of abelian groups (tori)
- “Nice” singular fibers contain dense abelian groups

\rightsquigarrow can **integrate** system:



family of abelian groups with $\text{Lie}(J) \simeq T^*B$
realizing Hamiltonian flows

Regular Locus

Regular element $x \in \mathfrak{g}^*$:

Centralizer $Z_G(x)$ of dimension $rk(\mathfrak{g})$ (\Rightarrow abelian)

- $\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg} \subset \mathfrak{g}^*$ open, codim 3 complement

$$\mathfrak{sl}_2^{*,reg} = \mathfrak{sl}_2^* \setminus \{0\}$$

- Kostant section lands in $\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg}$

Regular Centralizers

- Consider centralizers of elements of Kostant section:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \{Z_G(\text{Kos}(\lambda))\} & \longrightarrow & \{\lambda\} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 J & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{h}^* // W
 \end{array}$$

family of abelian groups over $\mathfrak{h}^* // W$
 group scheme of regular centralizers

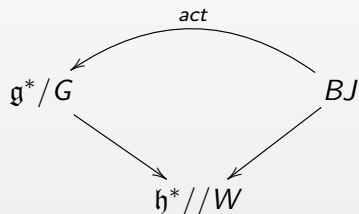
- $\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg}$ is G -orbit of Kostant section \rightsquigarrow

$$\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg} / G \simeq BJ \longrightarrow \mathfrak{h}^* // W$$

family of shifted abelian groups, with Kostant section as unit

A Fundamental Lemma

Ngô Lemma: The action of BJ on itself extends to an action on all of \mathfrak{g}^*/G .

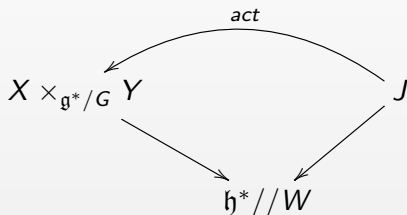


i.e., can integrate our shifted integrable system!

Proof: Hartogs...

Integrating G -integrable systems

Corollary:¹⁷ Canonical integration of Hamiltonian flows on any G -phase space to action of J



Examples:

- Any Hamiltonian reduction $\Gamma_{O_1} \backslash \backslash T^*G //_{O_2} K$
- Moduli space of any reduction of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ on an interval (for example 3d G^V -gauge theories)

¹⁷BZ-Gunningham

Integrating Hitchin system

Ngô's application: to topology of spaces of Higgs bundles

$$\text{Higgs}_G(\Sigma) \sim \text{Map}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{g}^*/G)$$

Crucial: regular centralizers disconnected!

“smart integration”

↔

Produce abelian groups acting on cohomology of Hitchin fibers

↔

(...)

↔

proof of Fundamental Lemma

Main Construction

BZ - Gunningham: Geometric construction and quantization of Ngô action:

- Identify commutative¹⁸ tensor category \mathcal{K}_ϵ , **the Kostant category**,

$\epsilon = 0$: sheaves on groupscheme J of regular centralizers,

$\epsilon \neq 0$: sheaves on $\mathfrak{h}^* // W_{\text{aff}} \sim H^\vee // W$

- Construct central action of \mathcal{K}_ϵ on $\mathfrak{g}_\epsilon^* / G$
(equivalently, on all categorical representations of G)
deforming action of J

¹⁸Symmetric monoidal / E_∞

Hidden Symmetry

Construction gives hidden symmetry of **line operators** in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

\rightsquigarrow

- universal integration of Hamiltonian system on all quantum G -phase spaces
- large commutative action on quantized moduli space of any reduction of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ on interval

Translations

Role of $\mathfrak{h}^* // W_{\text{aff}} \sim H^V // W$:

Quantum G -phase spaces live over $\mathfrak{h}^* // W_{\text{aff}}$ (not $\mathfrak{h}^* // W$).

Example: On $H = \mathbb{C}^\times$,

eigensystem $\{z \frac{d}{dz} f = \lambda f\} \leftrightarrow$ connection $d - \lambda \frac{dz}{z}$
 depends (up to gauge) only on monodromy

$$\exp(2\pi i \lambda) \in \mathbb{C}^\times = H^V,$$

i.e. on

$$[\lambda] \in \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} = \mathfrak{h}^* / \Lambda.$$

Translations

- $U\mathfrak{g}$ -modules at fixed central character $\lambda \in \text{Spec}(Z_{\mathfrak{g}}) = \mathfrak{h}^* // W$ depend on λ only up to translation: **translation functors**
- Eigensystems¹⁹ of higher Casimirs

$$Z(U\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\Gamma \backslash G/K)$$

depend on λ only up to translation: **shift operators**

Categorified Harish-Chandra System:

We build spectral decomposition of $\text{Mod}(U\mathfrak{g})$, $\text{Mod}(\mathcal{D}(\Gamma \backslash G/K))$ etc. over $\mathfrak{h}^* // W_{\text{aff}}$:

¹⁹Harish-Chandra

The Construction

Geometric source of hidden symmetry:

- Use S-dual description²⁰ of \mathfrak{M}^{lin} as derived Satake category:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee}(S^2) = (\text{Shv}_{LG_+^\vee}(Gr^\vee), *)$$

- can **tensor** sheaves on any space by locally constant sheaves!

- Description²¹ of $H_*^{G \times \mathbb{C}^\times}(Gr)$

\rightsquigarrow local systems are identified with sheaves on $\mathfrak{g}^{*,reg} = BJ$

$\rightsquigarrow BJ$ acts on \mathfrak{g}^*/G

Same works $U(1)$ -equivariantly, i.e., for $\epsilon \neq 0$.

²⁰Bezrukavnikov-Finkelberg

²¹Bezrukavnikov-Finkelberg-Mirkovic

The Kostant category, abstractly

- Modules for equivariant homology of affine Grassmannian²²

$$\mathcal{K}_\epsilon := \text{Mod}(H_*^{G \times \mathbb{C}^\times}(Gr))$$

– quantized phase space of Toda lattice for G

- Whittaker Hecke category for G^\vee ,
 $\mathcal{D}_\epsilon(N_\psi \backslash G^\vee / \psi N) = \text{End}(\mathbb{N}_{G^\vee})$

\leftrightarrow Ω -deformed line operators in G^\vee 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM²³

²²Bezrukavnikov-Finkelberg-Mirkovic

²³Teleman

The Kostant category, concretely

(Take $\epsilon \neq 0$.)

- Modules for affine nil-Hecke algebra²⁴:
explicit combinatorial description: divided-difference operators on \mathfrak{h}^*
- Sheaves on coarse quotient²⁵

$$\mathfrak{h}^{\vee,*} // W_{\text{aff}} \sim H^{\vee} // W$$

$W_{\text{aff}} \simeq \Lambda \rtimes W$ affine Weyl group

²⁴Kostant-Kumar

²⁵Lonergan, Ginzburg

Other aspects

Other structures captured by $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_{G^\vee} \simeq \widehat{\mathcal{B}}_G$ decompose over \mathcal{K} :

- Langlands parameters for categorical representations of G in

$$\mathfrak{h}^* // W_{\text{aff}} \sim H^\vee // W \sim G^\vee // G^\vee$$

conjugacy classes in dual group

[local geometric Langlands program]

- Decompose class \mathcal{D} -modules $\mathcal{D}(G/G)$ over $H^\vee // W$: spectral decomposition into Lusztig character sheaves with fixed central character
- Homology of character varieties of surfaces $Loc_G(\Sigma)$ decomposes into “Kostant eigenhomology” parametrized by $H^\vee // W$ – categorifies description of point counts²⁶

²⁶Hausel-Letellier-Villegas

The End

Thank You!