A guided tour of BPS sectors in 5d, 3d and 3d-5d systems from the viewpoint of exponential networks

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Resurgence, Wall-Crossing and Geometry SRS @ Les Diablerets, January 12-17, 2025 This talk is based on joint works touching on three subjects

- Generalized DT invariants (with S. Banerjee, M. Romo)
- Exact WKB analysis of q-difference equations (with F. Del Monte)
- Aspects of open Gromov-Witten theory (with K. Gupta)

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Motivation: A class of string theory backgrounds features BPS sectors described by each of the above, implying that *some* kind of relation must hold. The physical picture suggests a broader mathematical structure encompassing all three.

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Understanding these connections leads to

- Clarifying how different BPS sectors interact with each other
- New computational tools, and exact results, for enumerative invariants
- Predictions of new properties & structures from physical arguments

Outline

- 1. Overview of relevant BPS sectors
- 2. Exponential networks
- 3. DT invariants & 5d BPS states
- 4. Stokes data of q DEs & 3d-5d BPS states
- 5. Structures in open Gromov-Witten invariants & 3d BPS vortices

1. Overview of relevant BPS sectors

Geometric engineering

 $\text{M-theory}: \quad X\times S^1\times \mathbb{R}^4$

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5d BPS states: compact C_4, C_2

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{M5}: & C_4 \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R} \\ \mathsf{M2}: & C_2 \times \mathrm{pt} \times \mathbb{R} \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{monopole string}: \ S^1\times \mathbb{R} \\ \mbox{instanton particle}: \ \ \mathbb{R} \end{array}$

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D4, D2, D0 generalized DT

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monopole string : $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ instanton particle : \mathbb{R}

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Mirror / Seiberg-Witten description

IIB string theory: $Y_{\Sigma} \times \mathbb{R}^4$

D3: sLag $\times \mathbb{R}$

mirror curve Σ calibrated 1-cycles



3d-5d systems

If L is a noncompact special Lagrangian with $b_1(L) = 1$, and we introduce

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{M-theory}: & X \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^4 & & T_{5d}[X]: & S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^4 \\ & & \cup & & \\ \text{M5}: & L \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2 & & T_{3d}[L]: & S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2 \end{array}$$

new BPS sectors emerge, from $T_{3d}[L]$ and its interaction with $T_{5d}[X]$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\rm BPS} = \mathcal{H}_{5d} \oplus \mathcal{H}_{3d} \oplus \mathcal{H}_{3d-5d}$$

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Their counts are related to open GW/LMOV invariants: given $(C, \partial C) \subset (X, L)$

 $\mathsf{M2}: \quad C \times S^1 \times \mathrm{pt} \qquad \qquad \mathsf{vortex}: \quad S^1 \times \mathrm{pt}$

A new kind of BPS states appears by viewing $\mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ as time, and $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ as space.

$$\times \left(\begin{array}{cc} |i\rangle & n \\ \bullet \end{array} \right) |j\rangle$$

Heuristically, quantize solutions of BPS vortex equations on $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$, with (possibly) different vacua i, j at each end, and flux shifted by n.

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 \Rightarrow 3d-5d boundstates \supset 5d BPS states by closed concatenations.

BPS sectors recap

M-theory on $X \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^4$ with an M5 brane on $L \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ includes a novel 3d-5d BPS sector of 'kinky vortices'. These play a central role by encoding both

- ▶ 3d BPS vortices in the i = j sector, in the limit $R \to \infty$.
- ▶ 5d BPS states as boundstates of (ij, n) and (ji, -n) kinky vortices.

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- Is the 3d-5d CFIV index some kind of enumerative invariant?
- How, exactly, are DT and open-GW invariants related to CFIV indices?
- What new properties/structures does embedding 3d and 5d into 3d-5d predict?

2. Exponential networks

Exponential networks

 $T_{3d}[L]$ gives an algebraic curve in $\mathbb{C}^*\times\mathbb{C}^*$

$$\Sigma: \quad F(x,y) = 0$$

with a natural presentation as ramified covering over \mathbb{C}_x^* with sheets $y_i(x).$

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The study of 3d-5d BPS states motivates a definition of exponential networks.

Mainly two pieces of data:

- Geometric: a web of trajectories on \mathbb{C}_x^* shaped by Σ and ϑ .
- Combinatorial: topological information attached to each trajectory.

An (ij,n) trajectory is labeled by a pair of sheets (i,j) and by an integer $n\in\mathbb{Z},$ and has a shape x(t) governed by

$$(\log y_j - \log y_i + 2\pi i n) \frac{d \log x}{dt} = e^{i\vartheta}.$$

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Punctures of Σ , where $y_i(x) \sim (x - x_*)^k$ source (ii, km) trajectories, with $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

New trajectories can be generated at intersections of (ij, n) and (kl, m)



Combinatorial data

Each trajectory carries:

- paths a on Σ from $y_i(x)$ to $y_j(x)$ winding n times around \mathbb{C}_{y}^{*}
- \blacktriangleright a weight $\mu \in \mathbb{Q}$ associated to each path



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This data is determined by the topology of the underlying network, according to a set of rules motivated by physics.

Physical content of exponential networks

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If x_{th} belongs to a trajectory (ij,n) for a given ϑ , there are kinky vortices with

- topological charge encoded by combinatorial data between $|i\rangle, |j\rangle$
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The construction is inspired by a 3d uplift of tt^* geometry. It recovers counts of 2d (2,2) soliton kinks in the limit $R \to 0$. Consistency checks will follow.

3. DT invariants & 5d BPS states

Critical phases

Boundstates of BPS states from conjugate sectors (ij, n) and (ji, -n) carry only flavour charges of $T_{3d}[L]$, corresponding to quantum numbers of $T_{5d}[X]$.

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The BPS index $\Omega(\gamma)$ for each saddle is determined by combinatorics of concatenations



 $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-1)\oplus\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-1)$

[Eager Selmani Walcher] [Banerjee L Romo]

$$X: \qquad \Sigma: \quad 1+y+xy+Qxy^2=0$$

Several critical phases:



$$Z_{\text{D0}} = \frac{2\pi}{R}$$
, $\Omega(k\text{D0}) = -2 = -\chi(X)$



$$Z_{\mathsf{D2}} = \frac{i}{R} \log Q, \qquad \Omega(\mathsf{D2}) = 1$$



$$Z_{\text{D2-D0}} = \frac{2\pi}{R} + \frac{i}{R} \log Q$$
, $\Omega(\text{D2-D0}) = 1$

As well as a whole tower (peacock pattern) of saddles with $\Omega(\mathsf{D2}\text{-}k\mathsf{D0}) = 1$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1}(-2, -2)$$

X:
$$\Sigma: \quad Q_f(y+y^{-1}) + Q_b(x+x^{-1}) - 1 = 0$$

Much richer example, involving wall-crossing, and 'wild' spectrum [Banerjee L Romo]

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However, there is a 'degenerate' chamber of moduli space where the BPS spectrum can be computed exactly [L] [Del Monte L] [Closset Del Zotto]

$$\Omega(\pm\gamma_1 + k(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)) = 1 \qquad \Omega(\pm(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) + k\gamma_{D0}) = -2$$

$$\Omega(\pm\gamma_3 + k(\gamma_3 + \gamma_4)) = 1 \qquad \Omega(k\gamma_{D0}) = -4$$

with $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\langle \gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1} \rangle = -2$

 $\gamma_1: \ \mathsf{D4} \qquad \gamma_2: \ \mathsf{D2}_f \overline{\mathsf{D4}} \qquad \gamma_3: \ \mathsf{D0} \, \mathsf{D2}_b \overline{\mathsf{D2}}_f \overline{\mathsf{D4}} \qquad \gamma_4: \ \overline{\mathsf{D2}}_b \mathsf{D4}$

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D3 branes come in moduli spaces \mathcal{M}_{D3} with a Lagrangian torus fibration over the moduli of the underlying sLag

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Closely related to an earlier proposal of enumerative invariants of sLags [Joyce].

4. Stokes data of qDEs & 3d-5d BPS states

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For first-order qDEs this is known to work. For example, a WKB analysis of

$$\hat{F} = 1 - \hat{y} - \hat{x}, \qquad \psi(x, q) = \exp\left(\sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{B_n}{n!} \hbar^{n-1} \mathrm{Li}_{2-n}(x)\right)$$

shows that Borel sums of ψ feature Stokes jumps at trajectories of the network. [Garoufalidis Kashaev] [Grassi Hao Neitzke] [Alim Hollands Tulli]

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Natural expectation: exponential networks are Stokes graphs of qDEs.

For first-order qDEs this is known to work. For example, a WKB analysis of

$$\hat{F} = 1 - \hat{y} - \hat{x}, \qquad \psi(x, q) = \exp\left(\sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{B_n}{n!} \hbar^{n-1} \mathrm{Li}_{2-n}(x)\right)$$

shows that Borel sums of ψ feature Stokes jumps at trajectories of the network. [Garoufalidis Kashaev] [Grassi Hao Neitzke] [Alim Hollands Tulli]

Open questions:

- generalization beyond first-order
- are Stokes constants related to BPS data?

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The standard WKB ansatz

$$\psi(x) = \exp\left(\int^x S(x,\hbar) \frac{dx}{x}\right)$$
 with $S(x,\hbar) = \sum_{k=-1}^{\infty} S_k(x) \hbar^k$

gives $y(x) = \exp S_{-1}(x)$.

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$$\psi_{s,N}(x) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \int^x (\log y_s + 2\pi i N) \frac{dx}{x}\right) (1 + O(\hbar))$$

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However the WKB ansatz is difficult to work with, because this is a \hbar -difference equation, not a differential one.

$q\operatorname{-Riccati}$ form

Introducing $R(x):=\psi(qx)/\psi(x)$, the involutive 2nd-order $q\mathsf{DE}$ takes the form

$$R(x)R(q^{-1}x) - 2T(x)R(q^{-1}x) + 1 = 0$$

a nonlinear, but 1st order qDE.

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a nonlinear, but 1st order qDE.

This admits two solutions $R_{\pm}(x,\hbar) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} R_{k,\pm}(x) \hbar^k$

$$R_{n,\pm}(x) = \pm \frac{1}{2\sqrt{T_0^2 - 1}} \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=0}^m \frac{1}{l!} R_{m-l,\pm} \partial_{\log x}^l \left(R_{n-m,\pm} - 2T_{n-m} \right)$$
$$\pm \frac{1}{2\sqrt{T_0^2 - 1}} \sum_{l=1}^n R_{n-l,\pm} \left(\partial_{\log x}^l \left(R_{0,\pm} - 2T_0 \right) - 2T_l \right).$$

The full formal series is known recursively in closed form.

 $\log R(x,\hbar) = \hbar S(x,\hbar) + \hbar \partial_{\log x} \chi(x,\hbar) \,.$

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$$\psi_{\pm,N}(x) = \psi_{\pm,M}(x) \left(\frac{x}{x_0}\right)^{\frac{2\pi i}{\hbar}(N-M)}$$

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Over the field of q-periodic functions the space of solutions is just 2-dimensional.

Monodromy data

Monodromies of qDEs encode the transport of globally analytic solutions, which in WKB analysis are built by patching together Borel sums with 'Stokes' & 'Voros' data.

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Working assumptions

- Borel summation of $\psi_{\pm,N}$ yields analytic functions $\varphi_{\pm,N}$.
- Borel plane singularities cross $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ (Laplace transform integral contour) iff ψ_{s_1,N_1} is maximally dominant over ψ_{s_2,N_2} .
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In a basis of suitably normalized vanishing solutions, Stokes matrices given by

$$S^{(\ell)} = \begin{pmatrix} -\xi^{\ell} & i\\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \xi := \left(\frac{x}{x_0}\right)^{\frac{2\pi}{\hbar}}$$

generalizes Voros' single-valuedness condition to include log-monodromy ($\ell \neq 0$)

$$S^{(-\ell)}S^{(\ell)}S^{(-\ell)} = \xi^{-\ell\sigma_3}$$

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$$S^{(-\ell)}S^{(\ell)}S^{(-\ell)} = \xi^{-\ell\sigma_3}$$

 \Rightarrow The Stokes coefficient ($\mu = 1$) $\times \xi^{\ell}$ coincides with the combinatorial data encoded by the exponential network (CFIV index of kinky vortices).

Voros data captures changes in normalization between branch points.

$$T_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & iY_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'} \\ iY_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'}^{-1} & 0 \end{array}\right) \qquad T_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} Y_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'} & 0 \\ 0 & Y_{\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}'}^{-1} \end{array}\right)$$

The two types of transport matrices correspond to relative signatures of BP's.

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Monodromies can be readily computed by composition of Stokes and Voros data.

Example: the qMathieu equation quantizes Σ of local $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ [Del Monte L]

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Tr} M &= X_{\frac{1}{2}(\gamma_3 + \gamma_4)} + X_{\frac{1}{2}(-\gamma_3 - \gamma_4)} + X_{\frac{1}{2}(-\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_{D0})} \\ &+ X_{\frac{1}{2}(\gamma_1 - \gamma_2 - \gamma_{D0}) + (\gamma_2 + \gamma_4)} \end{aligned}$$

5. Structures in open Gromov-Witten invariants & 3d BPS vortices

Field-theoretic properties of kinky vortices

3d-5d BPS kinky vortices plays a central role, but have not been studied as BPS states in QFT. Important to test our heuristic QFT picture of these.

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Compare with standard vortices in \mathbb{R}^2

$T_{3d}[L]$	$S^1\times \mathbb{R}^2$	vacua $y_i(x)\in\Sigma$
standard vortices	$S^1 \times \mathrm{pt}$	single Higgs vacuum at $S^1_\infty = \partial \mathbb{R}^2$
kinky vortices	$\mathrm{pt}\times\mathbb{R}$	two vacua at $S^1_{\pm\infty}=\partial(S^1 imes \mathbb{R})$

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kinky vortices	$\mathrm{pt}\times\mathbb{R}$	two vacua at $S^1_{\pm\infty}=\partial(S^1 imes\mathbb{R})$

A basic check: in the limit $R\to\infty$ with the same Higgs vacuum at both $S^1_{\pm\infty}$, kinky vortices should reduce to standard ones.

From geometric engineering of $T_{3d}[L]$, vortices arise from open strings/M2 in (X,L). Their free energy is encoded by (g=0) LMOV invariants

$$W_{\text{vortex}} = -\sum_{k \ge 1} \sum_{\beta} \mathfrak{n}_{k,\beta} \operatorname{Li}_2(Q^{\beta} x^k), \qquad (\mathfrak{n}_{k,\beta} \in \mathbb{Z})$$

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3d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ BPS vortices have finite size governed by the FI coupling

 $R_{\rm core}^2 \propto (e^2 \zeta)^{-1} \, . \label{eq:core}$

At large ζ vortices become pointlike $R_{\text{core}} \ll R$, and $S^1 \times \mathbb{R} \approx \mathbb{R}^2$.

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This limit takes $x \propto e^{-\zeta} \to 0$. This is crucial to compute μ , due to wall-crossing.



Let
$$\mu_{n,\beta}^* := \lim_{x \to 0} \mu_{n,\beta}$$
.

Conjecture [Gupta L] After an infinite sequence of wall-crossings, the generating function of kinky (ii, n) vortices in the Higgs vacuum $|i\rangle$ stabilizes to

$$\sum_{n\geq 1}\sum_{\beta}\mu_{n,\beta}^* x^n Q^{\beta} = -\sum_{k\geq 1}\sum_{\beta}\mathfrak{n}_{k,\beta}\,\log(1-x^n Q^{\beta})\,.$$

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Tests

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- For other framings the network is much more involved. A 'warping' trick allows for systematic computations. Results are fully consistent with the conjecture.

In some cases, the LMOV spectrum can organized by a stronger underlying structure known as 'knots-quivers' correspondence $[{\tt Kucharski Reineke Stosic Sulkowski}].$

M2 branes wrapping holomorphic $(C, \partial C) \subset (X, L)$ are generated by finitely many disks through linking interactions [Ekholm Kucharski L].



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Hints from a QFT interpretation of $\mathcal Q$

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Hints from a QFT interpretation of $\mathcal Q$

- ▶ Vertices are disks with [∂C] = 1, i.e. single-vortex states.
- ▶ Links are mixed Chern-Simons couplings of a (dual) QFT description of T[L].

Quivers from Σ [Gupta L]

The relation between standard and kinky vortices (LMOV-CFIV) implies

- Vertices of Q are 1:1 with (ii, 1) kinky vortices near x = 0
- Mixed CS-couplings govern orbital spin of 2-vortex boundstates, which is captured by intersections of paths on Σ [Seiberg Witten] [Galakhov L Moore]



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Tests: the proposal has been verified by direct computation for

- toric Lagrangians in \mathbb{C}^3 and resolved conifold, in various framings (1 & 2 vertices)
- knot conormal Lagrangian of the trefoil knot, in various framings (3 vertices)
- knot conormal Lagrangian of the figure-eight knot, in various framings (5 vertices)

6. Conclusions

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Thank You.