

Holomorphic QFT and Chiral Deformations

Si Li

Tsinghua University

2025.11.29

International Workshop on QFT and Beyond @ Southeast University

Holomorphic QFT is the complex analogue of topological QFT

$$Q_{\text{BRST}} = \bar{\partial} + \dots$$

Typically, fields are built from Dolbeault complex $\Omega^{0,\bullet}(X)$.

Examples:

- ▶ Holomorphic $\beta - \gamma$ system: $\int \beta \bar{\partial} \gamma$
- ▶ Holomorphic Chern-Simons theory: $\int \mathcal{A} \bar{\partial} \mathcal{A} + \dots$
- ▶ Kodaira-Spencer gravity
- ▶ Holomorphically twisted theory
- ▶ ...

The two-point function (propagator) is related to

$$\bar{\partial}^{-1} = \text{Bochner-Martinelli kernel}$$

On \mathbb{C} ,

$$\bar{\partial}^{-1} = \frac{1}{z - w}$$

On \mathbb{C}^n ($n > 1$), the Bochner-Martinelli kernel is

$$\bar{\partial}^{-1} = \frac{(n-1)!}{(2\pi i)^n} \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{j-1} \frac{\bar{z}_j - \bar{w}_j}{|z - w|^{2n}} d\bar{z}_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \widehat{d\bar{z}_j} \wedge \cdots \wedge d\bar{z}_n \wedge dz_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dz_n$$

Topological QFT's (e.g Chern-Simons) are **UV finite**. The UV finite property was established by **Kontsevich** and **Axelrod-Singer** using the compactified configuration space.

$$\int_{\text{Conf}_n(X)} \Phi_\Gamma = \int_{\overline{\text{Conf}_n(X)}} \overline{\Phi}_\Gamma$$

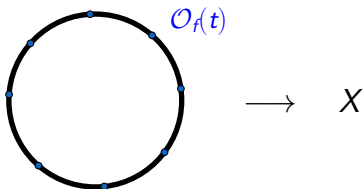
Here

$$\text{Conf}_n(X) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^n \mid x_i \neq x_j, \forall i, j\}$$

Remarkably, **holomorphic QFT's are also free of UV divergence!** In holomorphic QFT, the Feynman graph integral can not be extended to the compactified configuration space. The UV finite property is by completely different analytic reason.

- ▶ In $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 1$. This is essentially Cauchy principal value. A regularized integral theory was developed by **L-Zhou**.
- ▶ In $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} > 1$
 - ▶ **Costello-L** and **Williams**: one-loop is UV finite
 - ▶ **Budzik-Gaiotto-Kulp-Wu-Yu**: Laman graphs are UV finite
 - ▶ **Minghao Wang**: all graphs in hol QFT are UV finite.
 - ▶ **Wang-Yan**: hol QFT on Kahler manifolds are UV finite.

Motivation: Top QM \implies Algebraic index



$$\int_{\text{Conf}_{n+1}^0(S^1)} \langle \mathcal{O}_{f_0}(t_0) \cdots \mathcal{O}_{f_n}(t_n) \rangle \quad [\textbf{Grady-L-Li, Gui-L-Xu}]$$

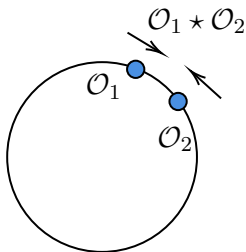
\implies Trace map on deformation quantized algebra on X

\implies Algebraic Index Theorem : $\text{Tr}(1) = \int_X e^{\frac{1}{\hbar}\omega} \hat{A}(X)$

Goal: chiral elliptic index from $E \rightarrow X$.

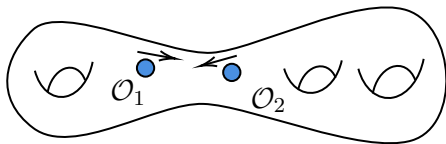
1d TQM	2d Chiral CFT
S^1	Σ
Associative algebra	Vertex operator algebra

Associative product



Operator product expansion

$$\mathcal{O}_1(z)\mathcal{O}_2(w) \sim \sum_n \frac{\mathcal{O}_{1(n)}\mathcal{O}_2(w)}{(z-w)^{n+1}}$$



We are interested in chiral correlations on Riemann surface Σ

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \mathcal{O}_2(z_2) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle_{\Sigma}$$

- ▶ holomorphic on $\text{Conf}_n(\Sigma) = \{(z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \Sigma^n | z_i \neq z_j, \forall i, j\}$
- ▶ singular with meromorphic poles when $z_i \rightarrow z_j$

$$\mathcal{O}_i(z_i) \mathcal{O}_j(z_j) \sim \frac{*}{(z_i - z_j)^{2025}} + \cdots$$

Motivated by TQM/Index, we are led to consider

$$\int_{\Sigma^n} \langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \mathcal{O}_2(z_2) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle_{\Sigma} dVol$$

Unlike the situation in topological field theory, $\langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle$ is very singular along diagonals and there is no way to extend it to certain compactification of $\text{Conf}_n(\Sigma)$.

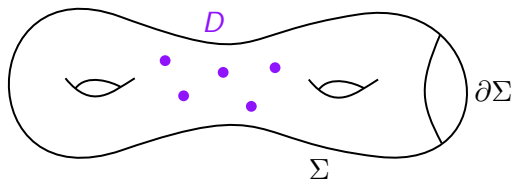
We need to give a precise meaning to the naively **divergent integral**

$$\int_{\Sigma^n} \Omega$$

where Ω is a differential form on the product Σ^n with arbitrary meromorphic poles along the diagonals.

Regularized integral (L-Zhou 2021)

Let us first consider the integral of a 2-form ω on Σ with meromorphic poles of arbitrary orders along a finite subset $D \subset \Sigma$.



Locally we can write $\omega = \frac{\eta}{z^n}$ where η is smooth 2-form and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

We can decompose ω into

$$\omega = \alpha + \partial\beta$$

- ▶ α is a 2-form with at most **logarithmic pole** along D
- ▶ β is a $(0,1)$ -form with **arbitrary order of poles** along D
- ▶ $\partial = dz \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ is the holomorphic de Rham

We define the **regularized integral**

$$\boxed{\oint_{\Sigma} \omega := \int_{\Sigma} \alpha + \int_{\partial\Sigma} \beta}$$

This does **not depend** on the choice of the decomposition and is equivalent to the Cauchy principal value.

The regularized integral can be viewed as a “homological integration” by the holomorphic de Rham ∂

$$\oint_{\Sigma} \partial(-) = \int_{\partial\Sigma} (-).$$

The $\bar{\partial}$ -operator intertwines the residue

$$\oint_{\Sigma} \bar{\partial}(-) = \text{Res}(-).$$

Here

$$\text{Res}_0 \frac{\rho(z, \bar{z})}{z^n} dz = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \oint_{|z|=\epsilon} \frac{\rho(z, \bar{z})}{z^n} dz$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{d^2 z}{(z-a)(z-b)(z-c)} \\ &= \frac{\bar{a}}{(a-b)(a-c)} + \frac{\bar{b}}{(b-a)(b-c)} + \frac{\bar{c}}{(c-a)(c-b)} \end{aligned}$$

In general, we can define

$$\int_{\Sigma^n} (-) := \int_{\Sigma} \int_{\Sigma} \cdots \int_{\Sigma} (-).$$

This does not depend on the choice of the ordering (**Fubini** type theorem holds). This gives an intrinsic definition of

$$\int_{\Sigma^n} \langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle dVol$$

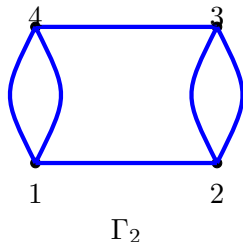
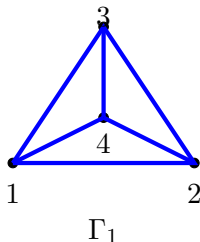
Example: Consider chiral boson on elliptic curve E_τ .

$$\langle \partial\phi(z_1)\partial\phi(z_2) \rangle_{E_\tau} = \hat{P}(z_1, z_2; \tau, \bar{\tau})$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{P}(z_1, z_2; \tau, \bar{\tau}) &= \wp(z_1 - z_2; \tau) + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \hat{E}_2(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \\ \hat{E}_2(\tau, \bar{\tau}) &= E_2(\tau) - \frac{3}{\pi} \frac{1}{\text{im } \tau}\end{aligned}$$

\wp is the Weierstrass \wp -function, E_2 is the 2nd Eisenstein series.



$$\Phi_{\Gamma_1}(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4; \tau) = \hat{P}(z_1 - z_2) \hat{P}(z_2 - z_3) \hat{P}(z_3 - z_1) \hat{P}(z_1 - z_4) \hat{P}(z_2 - z_4) \hat{P}(z_3 - z_4)$$

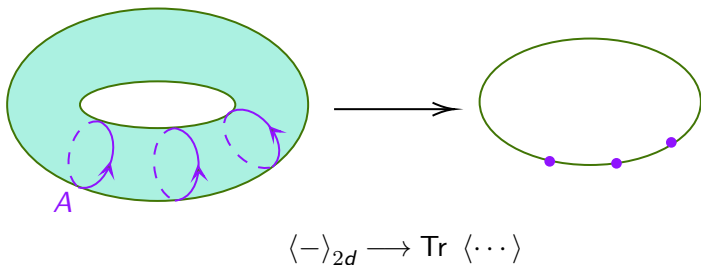
$$\int_{E_\tau^4} \left(\prod_{i=1}^4 \frac{d^2 z_i}{\text{im } \tau} \right) \Phi_{\Gamma_1} = \frac{(2\pi i)^{12}}{2^{11} \cdot 3^5} (-\hat{E}_2^6 + 3\hat{E}_2^4 E_4 - 3\hat{E}_2^2 E_4^2 + E_4^3)$$

$$\Gamma_2 = \frac{(2\pi i)^{12}}{2^{10} \cdot 3^7} (-3\hat{E}_2^6 + 6\hat{E}_2^4 E_4 + 4\hat{E}_2^3 E_6 - 3\hat{E}_2^2 E_4^2 - 12\hat{E}_2 E_4 E_6 + 4E_4^3 + 4E_6^2)$$

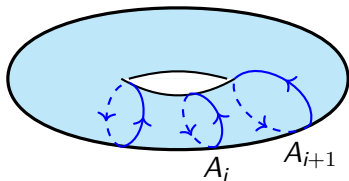
They are almost holomorphic modular forms.

2d \rightarrow 1d Reduction

In physics, the partition functions on elliptic curves are described by reducing to a quantum mechanical system on S^1 .



In 2d we have the *regularized integral* f_E . In 1d, operators are described by *A-cycle* \oint_A . These two integrals are not exactly the same, but related to each other by *holomorphic limit*.



Theorem (L-Zhou)

$$\oint_{E_\tau^n} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^2 z_i}{\text{im } \tau} \right) \langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle_E \text{ lies in } \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{H}}\left[\frac{1}{\text{im } \tau}\right]$$

Let $\lim_{\bar{\tau} \rightarrow \infty} : \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{H}}\left[\frac{1}{\text{im } \tau}\right] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{H}}$ which sends $\frac{1}{\text{im } \tau} \rightarrow 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\bar{\tau} \rightarrow \infty} \oint_{E_\tau^n} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^2 z_i}{\text{im } \tau} \right) \langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle_E \\ = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \int_{A_{\sigma(1)}} dz_1 \cdots \int_{A_{\sigma(n)}} dz_n \langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n) \rangle_E \end{aligned}$$

Here A_1, \dots, A_n be n disjoint A -cycles on E_τ .

This theorem gives a precise relation on reduction of torus to circle

$$\int_{E_\tau^n} \xrightarrow{\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty}} \text{Weyl ordered } \oint_A$$

The anti-holomorphic dependence of \int_{E^n} on the moduli τ is fully described by the following [holomorphic anomaly equation](#)

$$\partial_{\mathbb{Y}} \int_{E^n} (-) = \int_{E_\tau^n} \partial_{\mathbb{Y}} (-) - \sum_{a,b: a < b} \int_{E_\tau^{n-\{a\}}} \text{Res}_{z_a=z_b} ((z_a - z_b)(-)) .$$

Here $\mathbb{Y} = -\frac{\pi}{\text{im } \tau}$.

Chiral Deformation (after Douglas-Dijkgraaf)

Consider a deformation of chiral boson- $\beta\gamma$ – bc -systems by

$$\int_{E_\tau} \mathcal{L} \quad \text{chiral: only hol derivatives of fields}$$

Define the partition function of the chiral deformed theory

$$\left\langle e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{E_\tau} \mathcal{L}} \right\rangle_{E_\tau} := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\hbar^n n!} \int_{E_\tau^n} \langle \mathcal{L}(z_1) \cdots \mathcal{L}(z_n) \rangle_{E_\tau}$$

Theorem [Hou-L-Zhu] The following elliptic trace formula holds

$$\lim_{\bar{\tau} \rightarrow \infty} \left\langle e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{E_\tau} \mathcal{L}} \right\rangle_{E_\tau} = \frac{\text{Tr } q^{L_0 - \frac{c}{24}} e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \oint \mathcal{L}}}{\text{Tr } q^{L_0 - \frac{c}{24}}}$$

The operation $\lim_{\bar{\tau} \rightarrow \infty}$ sends

$$\mathbb{C}[\hat{E}_2, E_4, E_6] \implies \mathbb{C}[E_2, E_4, E_6]$$

almost holomorphic modular forms \implies quasi-modular forms.

Application: The full quantum B-model (quantum BCOV theory as developed in **Costello-L**) on elliptic curves is a chiral deformation

$$S = \int \partial\phi \wedge \bar{\partial}\phi + \sum_{k \geq 0} \int \eta_k \frac{W^{(k+2)}(\partial_z \phi)}{k+2}$$

where

$$W^{(k)}(\partial_z \phi) = (\partial_z \phi)^k + O(\hbar)$$

are the bosonic realization of the $W_{1+\infty}$ -algebra. The holomorphic limit $\bar{\tau} \rightarrow \infty$ of the generating function of S on the elliptic curve coincides with the Gromov-Witten invariants on the mirror computed by **Dijkgraaf** and **Okounkov-Pandharipande**.

Example: Holomorphic Chern Simons theory

X Calabi-Yau 3-fold, \mathfrak{g} Lie algebra. Fields: $\mathcal{A} \in \Omega^{0,\bullet}(X, \mathfrak{g})[1]$

$$HCS[\mathcal{A}] = \int_X \text{Tr} \left(\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A} \wedge \bar{\partial} \mathcal{A} + \frac{1}{6} \mathcal{A} \wedge [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}] \right) \wedge \Omega_X$$

► BRST transformation

$$\delta_{HCS}(\mathcal{A}) = \bar{\partial} \mathcal{A} + \frac{1}{2} [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}].$$

► Classical solutions: holomorphic vector bundles.

Unlike ordinary (topological) CS theory, HCS has a huge freedom to deform preserving gauge symmetry. The 1st order deformation is

$$HCS \rightarrow HCS + J$$

where J is a local functional which is BRST closed

$$\delta_{HCS} J = 0.$$

They are parametrized by the **BRST cohomology**

$$\text{Def}(HCS) = H^\bullet(\mathcal{O}_{loc}, \delta_{HCS})$$

Example: Consider a tensor field (called a **polyvector field**)

$$\mu = \mu_{\bar{j}_1 \cdots \bar{j}_m}^{i_1 \cdots i_k} \in \text{PV}^{k,m}(X)$$

which is totally skew-symmetric in i 's and in j 's. Then

$$\int_X \mu^{i_1 \cdots i_k} \text{Tr}(\mathcal{A} \wedge \partial_{z^{i_1}} \mathcal{A} \wedge \cdots \wedge \partial_{z^{i_k}} \mathcal{A}) \wedge \Omega_X$$

gives a 1st-order deformation if μ is divergence free.

Costello-L: 1st order deformations of HCS at $N \rightarrow \infty$ are

$$(\mathrm{PV}(X)[[t]], Q = \bar{\partial} + t\partial)$$

which is the Kodaira-Spencer theory with gravitational descendant (we still call this BCOV theory). This follows from a classical theorem of **Loday-Quillen-Tsygan** which computes the Lie algebra (co)homology of at $N = \infty$.

We discover Kodaira-Spencer gravity by chiral deformations of HCS in the large N limit! In fact, full quantum dynamics are recovered.

Thanks!