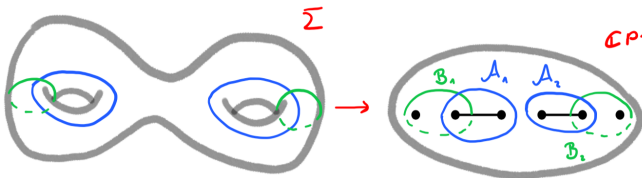


# Quantisation of spectral curves of arbitrary rank and genus via topological recursion

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(based on joint work with B. Eynard, O. Marchal and N. Orantin)



Workshop on QUANTUM GEOMETRY, IHES

April 27, 2022

# Outline

- 1 Topological recursion and quantum curves
  - Topological recursion and its ramifications
  - Example: Witten's conjecture, Kontsevich's theorem and Airy
  - Quantum curves, history, context and examples
- 2 Spectral curves
- 3 Topological recursion and loop equations
- 4 Perturbative wave function and KZ equations
- 5 Non-perturbative wave functions and Lax system
- 6 Questions and future work
- 7 Bonus: Link with isomonodromic systems

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# Topological recursion (TR, Chekhov–Eynard–Orantin '04-'07)

**Goal:** "Count surfaces  $S_{g,n}$  of genus  $g$  with  $n$  boundaries (topology  $(g, n)$ )."

## Spectral curve

$$\text{TR : } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma \text{ Riemann surface} \\ x: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1 \\ \omega_{0,1} = y dx \text{ 1-form (discs)} \\ \omega_{0,2} \text{ (1,1)-form (cylinders)} \end{array} \right. \xrightarrow[\text{recursion on } |\chi(S_{g,n})| = 2g - 2 + n]{\text{Differential forms}} \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n), z_i \in \Sigma, \forall g, n \geq 0.$$

- $x$  finitely many simple ramification points ( $\text{Cr}(x)$ ) and  $y$  holomorphic around  $a \in \text{Cr}(x)$  and  $dy(a) \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  Local involution  $\sigma$  around every ramification point:  $x(z) = x(\sigma(z))$ .
- $\omega_{0,2}$  symmetric bi-differential on  $\Sigma \times \Sigma$  with only double poles along the diagonal and vanishing residues, that is when  $z_1 \rightarrow z_2$

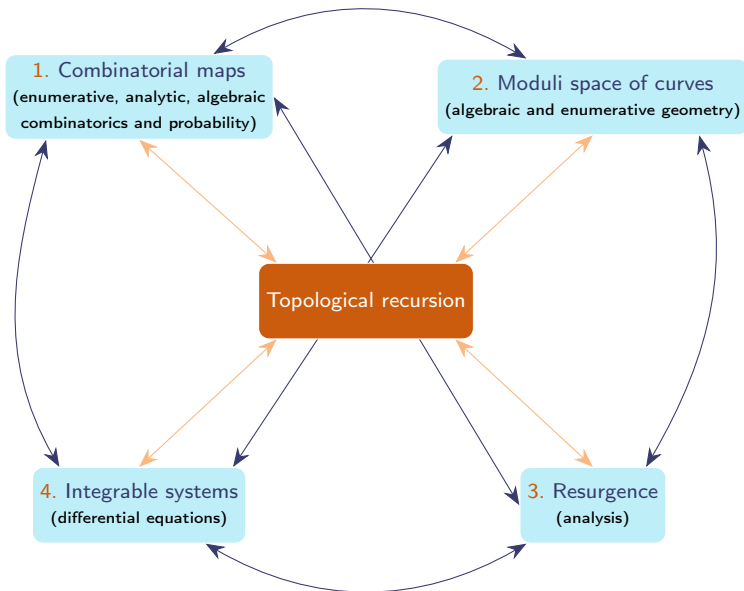
$$\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} + \overbrace{h(z_1, z_2)}^{\text{holomorphic}}.$$

$$\underbrace{\omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n)}_{\text{discs}} = \sum_{a \in \text{Cr}(x)} \text{Res}_{z=a} \left( \underbrace{\frac{z_1}{\sigma_a(z)}}_{K_a(z_1, z)} \underbrace{\omega_{g-1, n+1}(z, \sigma_a(z), z_2, \dots, z_n)}_{\text{discs}} + \sum' \frac{z_1}{\sigma_a(z)} \underbrace{\omega_{g-h, n}(z, \sigma_a(z), z_2, \dots, z_n)}_{\text{discs}} \right)$$

- Terms in correspondence with the ways of cutting a pair of pants  $(0, 3)$  from  $S_{g,n}$ .



# Connections



# Properties and examples

- Interesting/powerful properties:  $\omega_{g,n}$  are symmetric with poles at ramifications points, controlled deformations along families, dilaton equation, symplectic invariance, loop equations, modularity, integrability...
- 
- For the Lambert curve  $x = ye^{-y}$ , TR provides simple **Hurwitz numbers** (Eynard–Mulase–Safnuk, '09, [arXiv:0907.5224](#)).
  - For  $y = \frac{-\sin(2\pi\sqrt{x})}{2\pi}$ , TR gives **Mirzakhani's recursion** for Weil–Petersson volumes (of the moduli space of bordered hyperbolic surfaces), (Eynard–Orantin, '07, [arXiv:0705.3600](#)).
  - TR on mirror curve of a toric CY3 computes its open **Gromov–Witten theory** (Bouchard–Klemm–Mariño–Pasquetti, '07, [arXiv:0709.1453](#)), (Fang–Liu–Zong, '16, [arXiv:1604.07123](#)).
  - Chern–Simons theory** on  $S^3$  is governed by TR. Gopakumar–Ooguri–Vafa correspondence gives an  $A$ -model picture: GW of the resolved conifold, and  $B$ -model can be seen as TR on its Hori–Iqbal–Vafa mirror curve. (Brini, '17, [hal-01474196](#)).
  - Statistical physics models** on random maps: 1-hermitian matrix model, Ising model, Potts model,  $O(n)$ -loop model (Borot–Eynard, '09, [arXiv:0910.5896](#)), (Borot–Eynard–Orantin, '13, [arXiv:1303.5808](#))...
  - Semi-simple **cohomological field theories** and topological recursion (Dunin-Barkowski–Orantin–Shadrin–Spitz, '14, [arXiv:1211.4021](#)).
  - Reconstruction of formal WKB expansions, **integrability**, isomonodromic systems (Borot–Eynard, '11, [arXiv:1110.4936](#)), (Eynard, '17, [arXiv:1706.04938](#)), (Eynard–G-F–Marchal–Orantin, '21, [arXiv:2106.04339](#))...
  - Conjecturally, for the  $A$ -polynomial of a knot as a spectral curve, TR computes the colored **Jones polynomial** of the knot (Borot–Eynard, '12, [arXiv:1205.2261](#))).
  - Extension to the **non-perturbative world**, resurgence theory: **work in progress!**

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# Witten's conjecture $\rightsquigarrow$ Kontsevich's theorem

1. Kontsevich maps  
and matrix model

TR ('07)

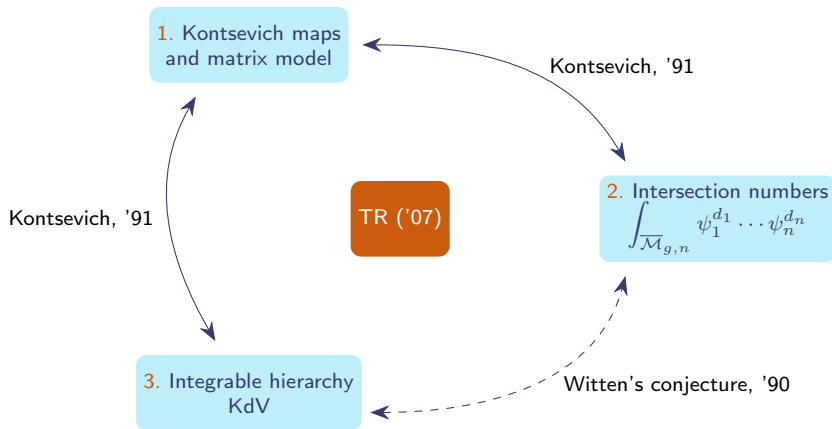
2. Intersection numbers

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \psi_1^{d_1} \cdots \psi_n^{d_n}$$

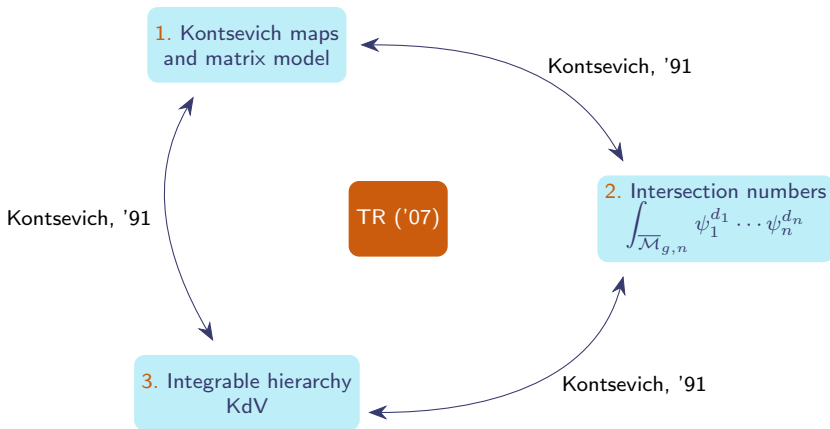
3. Integrable hierarchy  
KdV

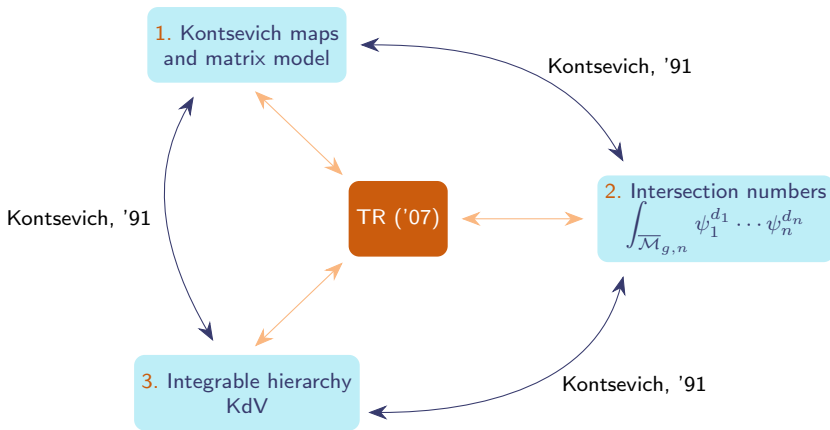
Witten's conjecture, '90

# Witten's conjecture $\rightsquigarrow$ Kontsevich's theorem



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Witten's conjecture  $\rightsquigarrow$  Kontsevich's theorem

TR applied to the **Airy curve**  $(x, y) = (\frac{z^2}{2}, z)$  produces

$$\omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = 2^{2-2g-n} \sum_{\sum_i d_i = 3g-3+n} \left( \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \psi_1^{d_1} \dots \psi_n^{d_n} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(2d_i + 1)!! dz_i}{z_i^{2d_i+2}}.$$

# Airy differential equation

- **Airy function**  $\text{Ai}(\lambda) \rightsquigarrow \left( \frac{d^2}{d\lambda^2} - \lambda \right) \text{Ai}(\lambda) = 0$ . Asymptotic expansion (g.s. of intersection numbers), as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , of the form

$$\log \text{Ai}(\lambda) - S_0(\lambda) - S_1(\lambda) = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} S_m(\lambda),$$

where  $S_0(\lambda) := -\frac{2}{3}\lambda^{\frac{3}{2}}$ ,  $S_1(\lambda) := -\frac{1}{4}\log \lambda - \log(2\sqrt{\pi})$  and  $\forall m \geq 2$

$$S_m(\lambda) := \frac{\lambda^{-\frac{3}{2}(m-1)}}{2^{m-1}} \sum_{\substack{h \geq 0, n > 0 \\ 2h-2+n=m-1}} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \sum_{\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{N}^n} \langle \tau_{d_1} \cdots \tau_{d_n} \rangle_{h,n} \prod_{i=1}^n (2d_i - 1)!!.$$

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- Keep track of the Euler characteristics of the surfaces enumerated by introducing a formal **parameter**  $\hbar$  through a rescaling of  $\lambda \rightsquigarrow \psi^{\text{Kont}}(\lambda, \hbar) := \text{Ai}(\hbar^{-\frac{2}{3}}\lambda)$  satisfies

$$\left( \hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{d\lambda^2} - \lambda \right) \psi^{\text{Kont}}(\lambda, \hbar) = 0$$

and admits an asymptotic expansion of the form

$$\log \psi^{\text{Kont}}(\lambda, \hbar) - \hbar^{-1} S_0(\lambda) - S_1(\lambda) = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} \hbar^{m-1} S_m(\lambda).$$

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- TR on the Airy spectral curve  $y^2 - x = 0$  computes  $Z^{\text{Kont}}(\hbar, \mathbf{t})$  and  $\psi^{\text{Kont}}(\lambda, \hbar)$ . The **quantum curve**  $(\hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{d\lambda^2} - \lambda) \psi^{\text{Kont}}(\lambda, \hbar) = 0$  can be constructed out of TR. Is this a general phenomenon?

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# Presentation of the quantum curve conjecture

$P \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$  and  $\Sigma = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid P(x, y) = 0\}$  plane curve of genus  $\hat{g}$ .

A **quantization** of  $\Sigma$  is a differential operator  $\hat{P}$  of the form

$$\hat{P}(\hat{x}, \hat{y}; \hbar) = P_0(\hat{x}, \hat{y}) + O(\hbar),$$

where  $\hat{x} = x \cdot$ ,  $\hat{y} = \hbar \frac{d}{dx}$ , such that  $P_0(x, y) = P(x, y)Q(x, y)$ , for some  $Q \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$  (**often 1**).

- The operators  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{y}$  satisfy  $[\hat{y}, \hat{x}] = \hbar$ .
- $\hat{P}(\hat{x}, \hat{y})\psi(x, \hbar) = 0$ . **Schrödinger equation**:  $\left(\hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \hat{R}(\hat{x}, \hbar)\right)\psi(x, \hbar) = 0$ .

**WKB asymptotic expansion**  $\rightsquigarrow \log \psi(x, \hbar) = \sum_{k \geq -1} \hbar^k S_k(x) \in \hbar^{-1} \mathbb{C}[[\hbar]]$ .

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**Subtlety:** We want  $\hat{P}$  to have a controlled pole structure, more precisely, to have the same pole structure as  $P$ .

# First subtleties and comments

$$\widehat{P}(\widehat{x}, \widehat{y})\psi(z, \hbar) = \left( \hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \widehat{R}(\widehat{x}, \hbar) \right) \psi(z, \hbar) = 0, \quad x: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$$

$$\log \psi(z, \hbar) = \sum_{k \geq -1} \hbar^k S_k(z) \in \hbar^{-1} \mathbb{C}[[\hbar]], \quad z \in \Sigma, \quad x = x(z) \in \mathbb{CP}^1.$$

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$\Rightarrow$  differential equation only satisfied on the curve  $P(x, y) = y^2 - R(x, 0) = 0$ .

- Higher order corrections in  $\hbar$  are needed since  $(\hbar \frac{d}{dx})^2 \mapsto y^2 + O(\hbar)$  when acting on  $\psi_0(z, \hbar) = \exp(\hbar^{-1} S_0(z)) = \exp(\hbar^{-1} \int^z y dx)$ .



# History and literature

- Proved for many particular cases  $\rightsquigarrow$  genus  $\hat{g} = 0$  spectral curves.
- Bouchard–Eynard '17  $\rightsquigarrow$  spectral curves whose Newton polygon has  $N_I := \#\{\text{interior points}\} = 0$  (**Fact:**  $\hat{g} \leq N_I$ ).

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- Eynard '17  $\rightsquigarrow$  General idea to construct integrable systems and their  $\tau$ -functions from the geometry of the spectral curve.
- Chidambaram–Bouchard–Dauphinee '18  $\rightsquigarrow$   $\hat{g} = 1$ , but bad properties (infinitely many  $\hbar$  corrections with poles at ramification points, not even functions of  $x$ )!
- Iwaki–Marchal–Saenz '18, Marchal–Orantin '19 (reversed approach)  $\rightsquigarrow$  Lax pairs associated with  $\hbar$ -dependent Painlevé equations and any  $\hbar \partial_x \Psi(x, \hbar) = \mathcal{L}(x, \hbar) \Psi(x, \hbar)$ , with  $\mathcal{L}(x, \hbar) \in \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$ , satisfy the **topological type property** from Bergère–Borot–Eynard '15 ( $\hat{g} = 0$ ).
- Iwaki–Saenz '16, Iwaki '19  $\rightsquigarrow$  Painlevé I and elliptic curves ( $\hat{g} = 1$ ).

# History and literature

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- Bouchard–Eynard '17  $\rightsquigarrow$  spectral curves whose Newton polygon has  $N_I := \#\{\text{interior points}\} = 0$  (**Fact:**  $\hat{g} \leq N_I$ ).
- Mariño–Eynard '08  $\rightsquigarrow$  Holomorphic, modular and background independent, **non-perturbative** partition functions.
- Borot–Eynard '12  $\rightsquigarrow$  Only non-perturbative wave functions can obey “good” quantum curves (for  $\hat{g} > 0$ ).
- Eynard '17  $\rightsquigarrow$  General idea to construct integrable systems and their  $\tau$ -functions from the geometry of the spectral curve.
- Chidambaram–Bouchard–Dauphinee '18  $\rightsquigarrow$   $\hat{g} = 1$ , but bad properties (infinitely many  $\hbar$  corrections with poles at ramification points, not even functions of  $x$ )!
- Iwaki–Marchal–Saenz '18, Marchal–Orantin '19 (reversed approach)  $\rightsquigarrow$  Lax pairs associated with  $\hbar$ -dependent Painlevé equations and any  $\hbar \partial_x \Psi(x, \hbar) = \mathcal{L}(x, \hbar) \Psi(x, \hbar)$ , with  $\mathcal{L}(x, \hbar) \in \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$ , satisfy the **topological type property** from Bergère–Borot–Eynard '15 ( $\hat{g} = 0$ ).
- Iwaki–Saenz '16, Iwaki '19  $\rightsquigarrow$  Painlevé I and elliptic curves ( $\hat{g} = 1$ ).
- Marchal–Orantin '19, Eynard–GF '19  $\rightsquigarrow$  **Hyperelliptic** (any  $\hat{g}$ ).

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- Eynard–GF–Marchal–Orantin '21  $\rightsquigarrow$  any **algebraic** curve with **simple ramifications**.

# Beyond Airy: some meaningful generalisations

- $y^2 = x \rightsquigarrow$  **Witten** (conj) '90, **Kontsevich** '91, Airy, **KW KdV** tau function

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \psi_1^{d_1} \cdots \psi_n^{d_n} \\ \left( \hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - x \right) \psi(z, \hbar) = 0$$

- $y^2 x = 1 \rightsquigarrow$  **Norbury** (conj) '17, [**Chidambaram, Giacchetto, G-F**, '22], Bessel, **BGW KdV** tau function

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \Theta_{g,n} \psi_1^{d_1} \cdots \psi_n^{d_n} \\ \left( \hbar^2 \frac{d}{dx} x \frac{d}{dx} - 1 \right) \psi(z, \hbar) = 0$$

- $y^r = x \rightsquigarrow$  **Witten** '93, **Faber–Shadrin–Zvonkine**, '10, **rAiry**, **rKdV**

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} W_{g,n}^r(a_1, \dots, a_n) \psi_1^{d_1} \cdots \psi_n^{d_n} \\ \left( \hbar^r \frac{d^r}{dx^r} - x \right) \psi(z, \hbar) = 0$$

- $y^2 = x^3 + tx + V \rightsquigarrow$  **Painlevé I**, **elliptic curve** ( $\hat{g} = 1$ )

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+m}} \psi_{n+1}^2 \cdots \psi_{n+m}^2 \psi_1^{d_1} \cdots \psi_n^{d_n} \\ \left( \hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \left( x^3 + tx + V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \right) \psi = 0$$

# Outline

- 1 Topological recursion and quantum curves
  - Topological recursion and its ramifications
  - Example: Witten's conjecture, Kontsevich's theorem and Airy
  - Quantum curves, history, context and examples
- 2 **Spectral curves**
- 3 Topological recursion and loop equations
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# Spectral curves

$N$  distinct points  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_N \in \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{\infty\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}_d(\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_N, \infty)$  be the Hurwitz space of **degree  $d$**  ramified coverings  $x: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ , where  $\Sigma$  is the Riemann surface:

$$\Sigma := \overline{\{(\lambda, y) \mid P(\lambda, y) = 0\}}$$

of **genus  $\hat{g}$** , where  $x(\lambda, y) := \lambda$  and

$$P(\lambda, y) = \sum_{l=0}^d (-1)^l y^{d-l} P_l(\lambda), \quad P_0(\lambda) = 1,$$

$P_l$  being a rational function with possible **poles at  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P} := \{\Lambda_i\}_{i=1}^N \cup \{\infty\}$** .

**Classical spectral curve:**  $\rightsquigarrow (\Sigma, x)$ .



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**Classical spectral curve:**  $\rightsquigarrow (\Sigma, x)$ .

- Local coordinates (in the base):  $\{\xi_q(\lambda)\}_{q \in \mathcal{P}}$  around  $q \in \mathcal{P}$  are defined by

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 1, N \rrbracket : \xi_{\Lambda_i}(\lambda) := (\lambda - \Lambda_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \xi_{\infty}(\lambda) := \lambda^{-1}.$$

- Local coordinates (in the cover): near any  $p \in x^{-1}(q)$ , let  $d_p := \text{ord}_p(\xi_q)$

$$\zeta_p(z) = \xi_q(x(z))^{\frac{1}{d_p}}.$$

$\{d_p\}_{p \in x^{-1}(q)}$  is called the ramification profile of  $q$ . We have  $\sum_{p \in x^{-1}(q)} d_p = d$ .

# Admissible spectral curves

Expansion of the 1-form  $\omega_{0,1} = ydx$  around any pole  $p \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ :

$$ydx = \sum_{k=0}^{r_p-1} t_{p,k} \zeta_p^{-k-1} d\zeta_p + \text{analytic at } p.$$

The  $t_{p,k}$ 's are called the **spectral times** (or *KP times*).

**Ramification points:**  $\mathcal{R}_0 := \{p \in \Sigma \mid 1 + \text{order}_p dx \neq \pm 1\},$

$$\mathcal{R} := \{p \in \Sigma \mid dx(p) = 0, x(p) \notin \mathcal{P}\} = \mathcal{R}_0 \setminus x^{-1}(\mathcal{P}).$$

**Critical values:**  $x(\mathcal{R}).$

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**Critical values:**  $x(\mathcal{R})$ .

## Definition (Admissible classical spectral curves)

A classical spectral curve  $(\Sigma, x)$  is *admissible* if:

- $P(\lambda, y) = 0$  is an irreducible algebraic curve;
- $a \in \mathcal{R}$  are simple, i.e.  $dx$  has only a simple zero at  $a \in \mathcal{R}$ ;
- $\forall (a_i, a_j) \in \mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{R}$  with  $a_i \neq a_j$ ,  $x(a_i) \neq x(a_j)$ ;
- $\forall a \in \mathcal{R}$ ,  $dy(a) \neq 0$ ;
- $\forall p \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$  ramified, the 1-form  $ydx$  has a pole of degree  $r_p \geq 3$  at  $p$  and  $t_{p,r_p-2} \neq 0$ .

# Torelli marking and filling fractions

For any symplectic basis  $(\mathcal{A}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)_{i=1}^{\hat{g}}$  of  $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$ , let

$$B^{(\mathcal{A}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)_{i=1}^{\hat{g}}} \in H^0(\Sigma^2, K_{\Sigma}^{\boxtimes 2}(2\Delta))^{\mathfrak{S}_2} \subset \mathcal{M}_2(\Sigma^2)$$

be the unique symmetric bidifferential on  $\Sigma^2$  with a unique double pole on the diagonal  $\Delta$ , without residue, bi-residue equal to 1 and normalized on the  $\mathcal{A}$ -cycles by

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket, \oint_{z_1 \in \mathcal{A}_i} B^{(\mathcal{A}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)_{i=1}^{\hat{g}}}(z_1, z_2) = 0.$$

## Remark

*Choice of Torelli marking can be thought of as a choice of polarisation from a geometric quantisation point of view.*

Let  $((\Sigma, x), (\mathcal{A}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)_{i=1}^{\hat{g}})$  be some admissible initial data. We define the tuple  $(\epsilon_i)_{i=1}^{\hat{g}}$  of *filling fractions* by

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket, \quad \epsilon_i := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathcal{A}_i} y dx.$$

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# Properties of TR

- $\omega_{g,n}$  are invariant under permutations of their  $n$  arguments.
- $\omega_{0,1}(z_1)$  may only have poles at  $x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ .  $\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2)$  may only have poles at  $z_1 = z_2$ . For  $(h, n) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}^* \setminus \{(0, 1), (0, 2)\}$ ,  $\omega_{h,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  may only have poles at  $z_i \in \mathcal{R}$ , for  $i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$ .
- For all  $i \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_i} \omega_{h,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \oint_{z \in \mathcal{B}_i} \omega_{h,n+1}(z, z_1, \dots, z_n).$$

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## Ramification points at poles:

- In the definition of TR, residues at  $a \in \mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_0 \setminus x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ .
- But the points of  $\mathcal{P}$  could also be ramified (many interesting examples, like the Airy curve  $y^2 = x$ ).
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## Lemma (Ramified poles don't contribute for admissible curves)

Let  $\omega'_{h,n}$  be the topological recursion differential forms defined by taking residues at all  $a \in \mathcal{R}_0$  (including  $a \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ ). If  $\forall p \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ , we have  $r_p \geq 3$  and  $t_{p,r_p-2} \neq 0$ , then  $\omega'_{h,n} = \omega_{h,n}$ , and  $\omega_{h,n}$  with  $(h, n) \neq (0, 1), (0, 2)$  have poles only at  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_0 \setminus x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ .



# Loop equations

For  $(h, n, l) \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{P}^1$  and  $\mathbf{z} := (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \Sigma^n$ ,

$$Q_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z}) := \sum_{\substack{\beta \subseteq x^{-1}(\lambda) \\ \bar{l}}} \sum_{\mu \in \mathcal{S}(\beta)} \sum_{\substack{l(\mu) \\ \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} J_i = \mathbf{z}}} \sum_{\substack{l(\mu) \\ \sum_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} g_i = h + l(\mu) - l}} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} \omega_{g_i, |\mu_i| + |J_i|}(\mu_i, J_i) \right],$$

differential with possible poles at  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P} \cup x(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $z_i \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $z_i \in x^{-1}(\lambda)$ .

$$Q_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z}) = 0, \text{ for } l \geq d + 1.$$

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**Particular cases:**

- $Q_{0,1}^{(l)}(\lambda) = \sum_{\beta \subseteq \overline{l} x^{-1}(\lambda)} \prod_{z \in \beta} \omega_{0,1}(z) = P_l(\lambda) (d\lambda)^l.$
- $Q_{0,2}^{(l)}(\lambda; z_1) = \sum_{\beta \subseteq \overline{l} x^{-1}(\lambda)} \sum_{z \in \beta} \omega_{0,2}(z, z_1) \prod_{\substack{\tilde{z} \in \beta \\ \tilde{z} \neq z}} \omega_{0,1}(\tilde{z}).$

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## Theorem (Loop equations)

The function  $\lambda \mapsto \frac{Q_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z})}{(d\lambda)^l}$  has no poles at  $\lambda \in x(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $\forall \mathbf{z} \in (\Sigma \setminus \mathcal{R})^n$ .

- $Q_{h,n+1}^{(1)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z}) = \sum_{z \in x^{-1}(\lambda)} \omega_{h,n+1}(z, \mathbf{z}) = \delta_{n,0} \delta_{h,0} P_1(\lambda) d\lambda + \delta_{n,1} \delta_{h,0} \frac{d\lambda dx(z_1)}{(\lambda - x(z_1))^2}.$

# Loop equations

$$\hat{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(z; \mathbf{z}) := \sum_{\beta \subseteq \overline{l} \atop \beta \subseteq (x^{-1}(x(z)) \setminus \{z\})} \sum_{\mu \in \mathcal{S}(\beta)} \sum_{\substack{l(\mu) \\ \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} J_i = \mathbf{z}}} \sum_{\sum_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} g_i = h + l(\mu) - l} \prod_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} \omega_{g_i, |\mu_i| + |J_i|}(\mu_i, J_i)$$

Possible poles  $\rightsquigarrow z$  with  $x(z) \in x(\mathcal{R})$ ,  $z \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ , and  $z_i \in \mathcal{R} \cup (x^{-1}(x(z)) \setminus \{z\})$ .

## Lemma

For  $\mathbf{z} := (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \Sigma^n$  such that  $x(z_i) \neq x(z_j)$  for any  $i \neq j$ , the functions

$$\tilde{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z}) := \frac{Q_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z})}{(d\lambda)^l} - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{z_j} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda - x(z_j)} \frac{\hat{Q}_{h,n}^{(l-1)}(z_j; \mathbf{z} \setminus \{z_j\})}{(dx(z_j))^{l-1}} \right)$$

are rational functions of  $\lambda$  with no poles at  $\lambda \in x(\mathcal{R})$  and at  $\lambda \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{x(z_i)\}$ .

For  $z \in \Sigma \setminus (\mathcal{R} \cup x^{-1}(\mathcal{P}))$  and  $\mathbf{z} \in [\Sigma \setminus (\mathcal{R} \cup x^{-1}(x(z)))]^n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(x(z); \mathbf{z}) &= \hat{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(z; \mathbf{z}) + \hat{Q}_{h-1,n+2}^{(l-1)}(z; z, \mathbf{z}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{A \sqcup B = \mathbf{z}} \sum_{h_1 + h_2 = h} \hat{Q}_{h_1, |A|+1}^{(l-1)}(z; A) \omega_{h_2, |B|+1}(z, B). \end{aligned}$$

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# Perturbative wave function over a divisor

$D = \sum_{i=1}^s \alpha_i [p_i]$  a generic divisor (of **degree** =  $\sum_i \alpha_i = 0$ ) on  $\widetilde{\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}}}$ ,  $\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}} := \Sigma \setminus x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$ .

**Perturbative wave function**  $\psi(D, \hbar) = \psi_{0,i}(D, \hbar)$  associated to  $D$ :

$$\exp \left( \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{2h-2+n}}{n!} \int_D \cdots \int_D \left( \omega_{h,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) - \delta_{h,0} \delta_{n,2} \frac{dx(z_1)dx(z_2)}{(x(z_1) - x(z_2))^2} \right) \right).$$

$$e^{-\hbar^{-2} \omega_{0,0}} e^{-\hbar^{-1} \int_D \omega_{0,1}} \psi(D, \hbar) \in \mathbb{C}[[\hbar]].$$

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$$e^{-\hbar^{-2} \omega_{0,0}} e^{-\hbar^{-1} \int_D \omega_{0,1}} \psi(D, \hbar) \in \mathbb{C}[[\hbar]].$$

$$\forall i \in [1, s], l \geq 1 : \psi_{l,i}(D, \hbar) := \left[ \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{2h+n}}{n!} \overbrace{\int_D \cdots \int_D}^n \frac{\hat{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(p_i; \cdot)}{(dx(p_i))^l} \right] \psi(D, \hbar).$$

**Perturbative partition function**  $Z(\hbar) = \psi(D = \emptyset, \hbar)$ :

$$Z(\hbar) := \exp \left( \sum_{h \geq 0} \hbar^{2h-2} \omega_{h,0} \right), \text{ with } e^{-\hbar^{-2} \omega_{0,0}} Z(\hbar) \in \mathbb{C}[[\hbar]].$$

## Remark

Wave functions are meant to be solutions to a differential equation; the partition function is expected to play the role of an associated **tau function** from the point of view of isomonodromic or integrable systems.

## KZ equations

Loop equations  $\Rightarrow$  Knizhnik–Zamolodchikov (KZ) equations:

Theorem (General KZ equations)

For  $i \in \llbracket 1, s \rrbracket$  and  $l \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\hbar}{\alpha_i} \frac{d\psi_{l,i}(D, \hbar)}{dx(p_i)} &= -\psi_{l+1,i}(D, \hbar) - \hbar \sum_{j \in \llbracket 1, s \rrbracket \setminus \{i\}} \alpha_j \frac{\psi_{l,i}(D, \hbar) - \psi_{l,j}(D, \hbar)}{x(p_i) - x(p_j)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{2h+n}}{n!} \int_{z_1 \in D} \cdots \int_{z_n \in D} \tilde{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l+1)}(x(p_i); \mathbf{z}) \psi(D, \hbar) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{1}{\alpha_i} - \alpha_i \right) \left[ \sum_{(h,n) \in \mathbb{N}^2} \frac{\hbar^{2h+n+1}}{n!} \overbrace{\int_D \cdots \int_D}^n \frac{d}{dx(p_i)} \left( \frac{\hat{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l)}(p_i; \cdot)}{(dx(p_i))^l} \right) \right] \psi(D, \hbar). \end{aligned}$$

If  $\alpha_i = \pm 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\hbar}{\alpha_i} \frac{d\psi_{l,i}(D, \hbar)}{dx(p_i)} &= -\psi_{l+1,i}(D, \hbar) - \hbar \sum_{j \in \llbracket 1, s \rrbracket \setminus \{i\}} \alpha_j \frac{\psi_{l,i}(D, \hbar) - \psi_{l,j}(D, \hbar)}{x(p_i) - x(p_j)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{2h+n}}{n!} \int_{z_1 \in D} \cdots \int_{z_n \in D} \tilde{Q}_{h,n+1}^{(l+1)}(x(p_i); \mathbf{z}) \psi(D, \hbar). \end{aligned}$$



# Regularised KZ equations

Let  $z \in \widetilde{\Sigma_{\mathcal{P}}}$  be a generic point and  $x^{-1}(\infty) = \{\infty^{(\alpha)}\}_{\alpha \in \llbracket 1, \ell_{\infty} \rrbracket}$ .

When  $D = [z] - [p_2]$ ,  $\psi(D, \hbar)$  has an **essential singularity** as  $p_2 \rightarrow \infty^{(\alpha)}$ .

Need to **regularise** the wave functions:  $\psi_l^{\text{reg}}(D = [z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar)$ .

## Theorem (KZ equations for regularized wave functions)

For  $\alpha \in \llbracket 1, \ell_{\infty} \rrbracket$ ,  $l \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$ , the regularised wave functions satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} & \hbar \frac{d}{dx(z)} \psi_l^{\text{reg}}(D = [z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) + \psi_{l+1}^{\text{reg}}(D = [z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) \\ &= \left[ \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{2h+n}}{n!} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{k \in S_P^{(l+1)}} \xi_P(x(z))^{-k} \underset{\lambda \rightarrow P}{\text{Res}} \xi_P(\lambda)^{k-1} d\xi_P(\lambda) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \int_{z_1 = \infty^{(\alpha)}}^{z_1 = z} \cdots \int_{z_n = \infty^{(\alpha)}}^{z_n = z} \frac{Q_{h,n+1}^{(l+1)}(\lambda; \mathbf{z})}{(d\lambda)^{l+1}} \right] \psi^{\text{reg}}(D = [z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar). \end{aligned}$$

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- RHS of KZ equations uses **residues**, i.e. integrals.
- Can be re-written using generalised integrals, i.e. **linear operators**  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_p, k}$ .
- $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_p, k}$  is expected to correspond to  $\partial_{t_{p,k}}$ . Valid for  $d = 2$ .
- Action of these operators defined only on a sub-algebra generated by  $\int_{\mathcal{C}_1} \cdots \int_{\mathcal{C}_n} \omega_{h,n}$ : **algebra of symbols**.
- Need to check that these operators never act on something else.
- Avoid the technicality of defining the action on all differentials on  $\Sigma$ .

# Generalised cycles and algebra of symbols

**Generalized cycles:**  $\mathcal{E} := \{C_{p,k}\}_{p \in \Sigma, k \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{C_o^p\}_{p \in \Sigma} \cup \{A_i, B_i\}_{i=1}^g$ , where the integration of a meromorphic form  $\omega$  along such cycles is defined as:

- $\forall p \in \Sigma$ , and  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\int_{C_{p,k}} : \quad \omega \mapsto \operatorname{Res}_p \zeta_p^{-k} \omega.$$

- Let  $\gamma$  be a Jordan arc from a point  $o \in \Sigma$  to a point  $p \in \Sigma$ .

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Commutative algebra freely generated by a set of **symbols** consisting of a pair  $(h, n)$  and a symbol  $\int_{C_1} \cdots \int_{C_n}$ , labeled by generalised cycles  $C_i \in \mathcal{E}$ :

$$\check{\mathcal{W}} = \mathbb{C} \left[ \left\{ \int_{C_1} \cdots \int_{C_n} \omega_{h,n} \right\}_{h,n \geq 0} \right] \quad / \text{ (cycle linearity relations).}$$

*Evaluation map:*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ev} : \quad \int_{C_1} \cdots \int_{C_n} \omega_{h,n} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ &\mapsto \int_{z_1 \in C_1} \cdots \int_{z_n \in C_n} \omega_{h,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n). \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{W} \rightsquigarrow$  extension to formal Laurent power series in  $\hbar$ , exponentials and inverses.

# KZ equations with linear operators

Operators  $(\mathcal{I}_C)_{C \in \mathcal{E}}$  acting on  $\mathcal{W}$ :

$$\forall (h, n) \in \mathbb{N}^2 : \mathcal{I}_C \left[ \int_{C_1} \cdots \int_{C_n} \omega_{h,n} \right] := \int_{C_1} \cdots \int_{C_n} \int_C \omega_{h,n+1}.$$

Re-writing the RHS of the KZ equations with a multi-linear operator  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_l(x(z))$  that uses  $\mathcal{I}_{C_{p,k}} \rightsquigarrow$  new system of KZ equations, for  $\alpha \in \llbracket 1, \ell_\infty \rrbracket$ ,  $l \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \hbar \frac{d}{dx(z)} \psi_l^{\text{reg}}([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}]) + \psi_{l+1}^{\text{reg}}([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}]) \\ &= \text{ev. } \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_l(x(z)) \left[ \psi^{\text{reg symbol}}([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}]) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

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Degree 2 case (hyperelliptic):

$$P(x, y) = R(x) - y^2 = 0, \text{ with } R(x) \in \mathbb{C}(x)$$

$x : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$  is a double cover and we have a global involution

$$(x, y) \mapsto (x, -y).$$

## Remark

*In degree 2, the operators  $\mathcal{I}_{C_{p,k}}$  can be interpreted as derivatives with respect to the moduli of the classical spectral curve  $\partial_{t_{p,k}}$ .*

KZ equations for  $d = 2 \rightsquigarrow$  system of PDEs

## Theorem (Eynard–GF, '19)

For  $k = 1, 2$ ,

$$\hbar^2 \left( \frac{d^2}{dx_k^2} + \sum_{i \neq k} \frac{\frac{d}{dx_k} - \frac{d}{dx_i}}{x_k - x_i} \right) \psi = (R(x_k) + \mathcal{L}(x_k)) \psi.$$

$\zeta_\infty \in x^{-1}(\infty)$  and  $\zeta_l \in x^{-1}(\Lambda_l)$  poles of  $\omega_{0,1}$  of orders  $m_\infty$  and  $m_l$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, N$ , respectively. Let  $d_\infty := \text{ord}_{\zeta_\infty}(x)$ . Operator  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \mathcal{L}_\infty(x) + \mathcal{L}_\Lambda(x)$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_\infty(x) = \sum_{j=1-2d_\infty}^{m_\infty} t_{\zeta_\infty, j} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{1-j}{d_\infty}-2} x^k \left( -\frac{j}{d_\infty} - k - 2 \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial t_{\zeta_\infty, j+d_\infty(k+2)}},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_\Lambda(x) = \sum_{l=1}^N \left( \frac{1}{x - \lambda_l} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_l} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_l-1} t_{\zeta_l, j} \sum_{k=1}^j (x - \lambda_l)^{-(k+1)} (j+1-k) \frac{\partial}{\partial t_{\zeta_l, j+1-k}} \right).$$

## Example

In the Airy case,  $y^2 = x$ , we have only one pole, at  $\zeta_i = \infty$ , of degree  $m_i = 3$ , with  $d_i = -2$ . The sum is empty and  $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ .

# Airy and elliptic cases for two-point divisors

Divisor  $D = [z_1] - [z_2]$ :

- **PDEs for Airy curve:**  $y^2 = x$ . We had  $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ .

$$\begin{cases} \hbar^2 \left( \frac{d^2}{dx_1^2} + \frac{\frac{d}{dx_1} - \frac{d}{dx_2}}{x_1 - x_2} \right) \psi &= x_1 \psi, \\ \hbar^2 \left( \frac{d^2}{dx_2^2} + \frac{\frac{d}{dx_1} - \frac{d}{dx_2}}{x_1 - x_2} \right) \psi &= x_2 \psi. \end{cases}$$



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More generally, admissible curves considered in Bouchard–Eynard, '17 (empty Newton polygon) are those for which  $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ .

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More generally, admissible curves considered in Bouchard–Eynard, '17 (empty Newton polygon) are those for which  $\mathcal{L}(x) = 0$ .

- **PDEs for elliptic curve:**  $R(x(z)) = y(z)^2 = x^3 + tx + V$ , with

$$-V = \int_{\mathcal{B}_{\infty,1}} \omega_{0,1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_{\infty,1}} \omega_{0,0} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \omega_{0,0}$$

$$\Rightarrow R(x(z)) = x^3 + tx + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \omega_{0,0}.$$

We have  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ .

$$\left( \hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx_k^2} + \hbar^2 \frac{\frac{d}{dx_1} - \frac{d}{dx_2}}{x_1 - x_2} \right) \psi = (x_k^3 + tx_k + V + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}) \psi,$$

for  $k = 1, 2$ .

# Monodromies of the perturbative wave function $\rightsquigarrow$ bad monodromies

**Problem for genus  $\hat{g} > 0$ :**  $\int_0^z \cdots \int_0^z \omega_{g,n}$  are not invariant after  $z$  goes around a cycle.  
Very bad monodromies when  $z$  goes around a  $\mathcal{B}_i$  (first type cycle).

## Lemma

$$\forall p \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P}) : \psi_l([z + \mathcal{C}_p] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) = (-1)^{\delta_{p, \infty^{(\alpha)}}} e^{\frac{2\pi i t_{p,0}}{\hbar}} \psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar),$$

$$\forall j \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket : \psi_l([z + \mathcal{A}_j] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) = e^{\frac{2\pi i \epsilon_j}{\hbar}} \psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar),$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_p$  ( $= \mathcal{C}_{p,0}$ ) is a small circle around  $p$ , and

$$\psi(D + \mathcal{B}_j, \hbar) = \exp \left( \sum_{(h,n,m) \in \mathbb{N}^3} \frac{\hbar^{2h-2+n+m}}{n!m!} \overbrace{\int_D \cdots \int_D}^n \overbrace{\int_{\mathcal{B}_j} \cdots \int_{\mathcal{B}_j}}^m \omega_{h,n+m} \right).$$

Since the  $\mathcal{B}_j$  period of  $\omega_{h,n+1}$  is equal to the variation of  $\omega_{h,n}$  wrt  $\epsilon_j := \oint_{\mathcal{A}_j} \omega_{0,1}$ ,

$$\psi(D + \mathcal{B}_j, \hbar) = \exp \left( \sum_{(h,n) \in \mathbb{N}^2} \frac{\hbar^{2h-2+n}}{n!} \overbrace{\int_D \cdots \int_D}^n \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{1}{m!} \left( \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_j} \right)^m \omega_{h,n} \right) \Rightarrow$$

$$\psi_l([z + \mathcal{B}_j] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) = e^{\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_j}} \psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar) = \psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar, \epsilon_j \rightarrow \epsilon_j + \hbar).$$

# Outline

- 1 Topological recursion and quantum curves
  - Topological recursion and its ramifications
  - Example: Witten's conjecture, Kontsevich's theorem and Airy
  - Quantum curves, history, context and examples
- 2 Spectral curves
- 3 Topological recursion and loop equations
- 4 Perturbative wave function and KZ equations
- 5 **Non-perturbative wave functions and Lax system**
- 6 Questions and future work
- 7 Bonus: Link with isomonodromic systems

# Summing over the lattice

## Remark

Our KZ equations do not depend on  $z \in \tilde{\Sigma}$  but only on its image  $x(z) \Rightarrow$   
 For any finite family of  $c_\gamma$ , the following sum satisfies the same KZ equations

$$\psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar, \{c_\gamma\}) := \sum_{\gamma \in \pi_1(\Sigma \setminus x^{-1}(\mathcal{P}))} c_\gamma \psi_l([z] + \gamma - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar).$$

**Goal:** Build solutions to the same KZ equations but with better monodromies along the  $\mathcal{B}_i$ -cycles.

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**Strategy:** Sum over  $\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^g n_i \mathcal{B}_i$ , i.e.  $\epsilon_i \rightarrow \epsilon_i + \hbar$ . Formally  $\rightsquigarrow$  discrete Fourier transform of the perturbative wave function:

$$\psi_l^{\infty^{(\alpha)}}(z, \hbar; \epsilon, \rho) := \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^g} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^g \rho_j n_j} \psi_l([z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}], \hbar, \epsilon + \hbar \mathbf{n}).$$

# Trans-series with special ordering

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## Remark (Limitations)

- *Filling fraction  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_g) \rightsquigarrow$  not a global coordinate on the space of classical spectral curves with fixed spectral times (only a local coordinate).*
- *Not a finite sum  $\rightsquigarrow$  not necessarily defined in  $\mathcal{W}$ .*

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We need a special ordering of the trans-monomials:

$$\sum_{r \geq 0} \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\hat{g}}} F_{\mathbf{n}, r} \hbar^r e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{\hat{g}} n_j v_j}.$$

The partial sums  $\sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\hat{g}}} F_{\mathbf{n}, r} e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{\hat{g}} n_j v_j}$  will give rise to **theta functions** (through convergent series in the spirit of the trans-asymptotics of Costin–Costin, '10).

**Equalities:** coefficient by coefficient in the trans-monomials.



# Non-perturbative wave functions

**Riemann matrix of periods of  $\Sigma$ :**  $\tau_{i,j} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{B}_i} \int_{\mathcal{B}_j} \omega_{0,2}, \forall (i,j) \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket^2$ .

**Riemann theta function** (analytic function of  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{C}^{\hat{g}}$ ) and its **derivatives**:

$$\Theta^{(i_1, \dots, i_k)}(\mathbf{v}, \tau) = \sum_{(n_1, \dots, n_{\hat{g}}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{\hat{g}}} e^{2\pi i \sum_{i=1}^{\hat{g}} n_i v_i} e^{\pi i \sum_{(i,j) \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket^2} n_i \tau_{i,j} n_j} \prod_{j=1}^k n_{i_j}.$$

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For  $D = [z] - [\infty^{(\alpha)}]$ , we define the **non-perturbative wave function**

$$\psi_{\text{NP}}(D; \hbar, \rho) := e^{\hbar^{-2} \omega_{0,0} + \omega_{1,0}} e^{\hbar^{-1} \int_D \omega_{0,1}} \frac{1}{E(D)} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \hbar^r G^{(r)}(D; \rho),$$

where  $E$  is the prime form on  $\Sigma$ ,

$$G^{(r)}(D; \rho) := \sum_{k=0}^{3r} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket^k} \Theta^{(i_1, \dots, i_k)}(\mathbf{v}, \tau) G_{(i_1, \dots, i_k)}^{(r)}(D)$$

and where  $v_j := \frac{\rho_j + \varphi_j}{\hbar} + \mu_j^{(\alpha)}(z)$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_{\hat{g}})$ , with

$$\varphi_j := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathcal{B}_j} \omega_{0,1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_j^{(\alpha)}(z) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_D \oint_{\mathcal{B}_j} \omega_{0,2}.$$

# Same KZ equations and good monodromies

- Non-perturbative wave functions satisfy the **same KZ equations** as their perturbative partners.

$$\hbar \frac{d\psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho)}{dx(z)} + \psi_{l+1,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{k \in S_P^{(l+1)}} \xi_P^{-k}(x(z)) \text{ev.} \left[ \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{P,k,l} \psi_{0,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha), \text{symbol}}(z, \hbar, \rho) \right].$$

- Non-perturbative wave functions  $\rightsquigarrow$  **simple monodromy properties**.

For  $j \in \llbracket 1, \hat{g} \rrbracket$ , we have

$$\psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z + \mathcal{A}_j, \hbar, \rho) = e^{\frac{2\pi i \epsilon_j}{\hbar}} \psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho),$$

$$\psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z + \mathcal{B}_j, \hbar, \rho) = e^{-\frac{2\pi i \rho_j}{\hbar}} \psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho)$$

and  $\forall p \in x^{-1}(\mathcal{P})$

$$\psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z + \mathcal{C}_p, \hbar, \rho) = (-1)^{\delta_{p,\infty(\alpha)}} e^{\frac{2\pi i t_{p,0}}{\hbar}} \psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho).$$

# Lax systems

For  $l \geq 0$ , we define

$$\psi_{l,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z, \hbar, \rho) := \text{ev.} \sum_{\beta \subseteq \frac{1}{l}(x^{-1}(x(z)) \setminus \{z\})} \frac{1}{l!} \left( \prod_{j=1}^l \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_{\beta_j, 1}} \right) \psi_{\text{NP}}^{\text{symbol}}(D; \hbar, \rho).$$

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We use them to define a  $d \times d$  matrix

$$\widehat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar, \rho) := \left[ \psi_{l-1,\text{NP}}^{\infty(\alpha)}(z^{(\beta)}(\lambda), \hbar, \rho) \right]_{1 \leq l, \beta \leq d},$$

where  $z^{(\beta)}(\lambda)$  denotes the  $\beta^{\text{th}}$  preimage by  $x$  of  $\lambda$ .

## Lax systems

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_l(x(z)) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{k \in S_P^{(l+1)}} \xi_P(x(z))^{-k} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{P,k,l}, \quad \mathcal{L}_{P,k,l} := \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{P,k,l} - P_{P,k}^{(l+1)}.$$

## Theorem (ODE and Lax system)

Let  $\hat{L}(\lambda, \hbar) := -\hat{P}(\lambda) + \hbar \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \xi_P^{-k}(\lambda) \hat{\Delta}_{P,k}(\lambda, \hbar)$ . Then,

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where

$$\hat{P}(\lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} -P_1(\lambda) & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -P_2(\lambda) & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -P_{d-1}(\lambda) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ -P_d(\lambda) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

For any  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$ , one has the auxiliary systems

$$\hbar^{-1} \text{ev.} \mathcal{L}_{P,k,l} \hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}^{\text{symbol}}(\lambda, \hbar) = \hat{A}_{P,k,l}(\lambda, \hbar) \hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar),$$

where  $\hat{L}(\lambda, \hbar)$  and  $\hat{A}_{P,k,l}(\lambda, \hbar)$  are  $\hbar$ -trans-series functions that are rational functions of  $\lambda$ , with no poles at critical values  $\lambda \in x(\mathcal{R})$ .

## Lax systems

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$$\hbar \frac{d\hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar)}{d\lambda} = \hat{L}(\lambda, \hbar) \hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar), \quad (1)$$

where

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- (1)  $\rightsquigarrow$  **linear differential system of size  $d \times d$**  whose **formal fundamental solution can be computed by TR**, with poles at the poles of the leading WKB term...
- $\hat{L}(\lambda, \hbar)$  has **poles only at  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}$**  and at **zeros of the Wronskian**  $\det \hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar)$ , **apparent singularities** of the system (can be computed thanks to the KZ eqns).

## Lax systems

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$$\hbar \frac{d\hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar)}{d\lambda} = \hat{L}(\lambda, \hbar) \hat{\Psi}_{\text{NP}}(\lambda, \hbar), \quad (2)$$

where

$$\hat{P}(\lambda) := \begin{bmatrix} -P_1(\lambda) & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -P_2(\lambda) & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -P_{d-1}(\lambda) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ -P_d(\lambda) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Most technical proof  $\rightsquigarrow$  by induction on the order of the transseries.
- Proof uses admissibility conditions (distinct critical values, smooth simple ramification points)  $\rightsquigarrow$  should adapt without them but involving more technical computations.



## 4 different interesting gauges

None of the gauge transformations modify the first line of the wave functions matrix (used to define the quantum curve).

- Gauge  $\widehat{\Psi}$ : Natural gauge coming from KZ equations and provides compatible auxiliary systems  $(\mathcal{L}_{P,k,l})_{P \in \mathcal{P}, l \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket, k \in S_P^{(l+1)}}$ .
- Gauge  $\widetilde{\Psi}$  ( $\hbar^0$  gauge transformation from  $\widehat{\Psi}$ ): Leading order in  $\hbar$  of  $\widetilde{L}$  is companion-like  $\rightsquigarrow$  the classical spectral curve is directly recovered from its last line.
- Gauge  $\Psi$ : Corresponding Lax matrix  $L$  is companion-like at all orders in  $\hbar \rightsquigarrow$  both the quantum and classical curves are directly read from the last line of  $L$  and its  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  limit. Natural framework for Darboux coordinates and isomonodromic deformations.
- Gauge  $\check{\Psi}$ : Lax matrix  $\check{L}$  has no apparent singularities. This allows to interpret  $\check{L}(\lambda, \hbar) d\lambda$  as an  $\hbar$ -family of Higgs fields giving rise to a flow in the corresponding Hitchin system.

# Practical computations to quantise a classical spectral curve

- 1 Write down the **KZ equations** satisfied by the non-perturbative wave function.
- 2 Expand these KZ equations around each pole  $\lambda \rightarrow P \in \mathcal{P} \rightsquigarrow$  expression of the coefficients of the asymptotic expansion of  $\psi_{0,\text{NP}}^{(\infty^{(\alpha)})}$  in terms of the action of the operators  $\mathcal{I}_C$ .
- 3 Use the latter expressions to compute the Wronskian of the system thanks to its expansion around its poles. This allows to compute the **position of the apparent singularities**  $(q_i(\hbar))_{i=1}^d$ .
- 4 Write down the **linear system** and the associated **quantum curve**, and use the **compatibility of the system** to recover its properties.

## Example

- Reconstruction via TR of a **2-parameter** family of formal transseries solutions to **Painlevé 2** and quantisation. Classical spectral curve:  $y^2 - P_1(\lambda)y + P_2(\lambda) = 0$ , where  $P_1(\lambda) = P_{\infty,2}^{(1)}\lambda^2 + P_{\infty,1}^{(1)}\lambda + P_{\infty,0}^{(1)}$  and  $P_2(\lambda) = P_{\infty,4}^{(2)}\lambda^4 + P_{\infty,3}^{(2)}\lambda^3 + P_{\infty,2}^{(2)}\lambda^2 + P_{\infty,1}^{(2)}\lambda + P_{\infty,0}^{(2)}$ .
- Quantisation of a **degree 3, genus 1** classical spectral curve with a **single singularity at infinity**:  $y^3 - (P_{\infty,1}^{(1)}\lambda + P_{\infty,0}^{(1)})y^2 + (P_{\infty,2}^{(2)}\lambda^2 + P_{\infty,1}^{(2)}\lambda + P_{\infty,0}^{(2)})y - P_{\infty,3}^{(3)}\lambda^3 - P_{\infty,2}^{(3)}\lambda^2 - P_{\infty,1}^{(3)}\lambda - P_{\infty,0}^{(3)} = 0$ .

# Outline

- 1 Topological recursion and quantum curves
  - Topological recursion and its ramifications
  - Example: Witten's conjecture, Kontsevich's theorem and Airy
  - Quantum curves, history, context and examples
- 2 Spectral curves
- 3 Topological recursion and loop equations
- 4 Perturbative wave function and KZ equations
- 5 Non-perturbative wave functions and Lax system
- 6 Questions and future work
- 7 Bonus: Link with isomonodromic systems

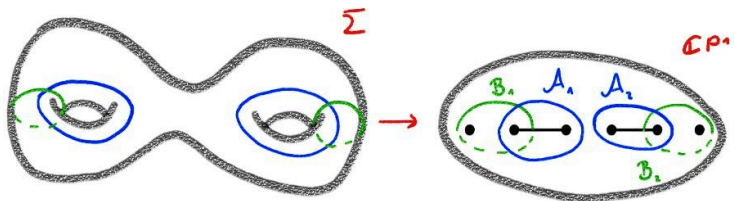
# Future work

- Ongoing: More conceptual proof of the QC conjecture?
- Explore the connection with **summability**, exact WKB, Stokes phenomenon and **resurgence**. **Conjecture**: There exist values of  $\varepsilon$  and  $\hbar$  making the transseries involved summable.
- **Conjecture**: The non-perturbative partition function is a **tau function**.
- How does the connection built as  $d - \mathcal{L}(x, \hbar)dx/\hbar$  depend on the **choice of cycles**  $(\mathcal{A}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)$ ?
- Interesting **enumerative geometry** in higher genus TR problems?
- Get rid of admissibility conditions?
- Relation to the topological type property approach (can that be proved for higher genus spectral curves?).
- Extend the result to ramified coverings of surfaces other than  $\mathbb{CP}^1$ .
- Generalization to difference equations? (Subtleties including  $K_2$  condition of Gukov–Sulkowski '12?). **Non-algebraic curves**, such as  $P(e^x, e^y)$  (important for volume conjecture).
- General relation between Virasoro constraints (or even Kontsevich–Soibelman '17, ABCD of Andersen–Borot–Chekhov–Orantin '17) and quantum curves.

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Merci beaucoup pour votre attention !

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Articles:

- *From topological recursion to wave functions and PDEs quantizing hyperelliptic curves*, with B. Eynard, [arXiv:1911.07795](#) (2019)
- *Quantizing generic algebraic spectral curves via topological recursion*, with B. Eynard, O. Marchal, N. Orantin, [arXiv:2106.04339](#) (2021)

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# Spectral curves from integrable systems

## Definition

Let  $\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \Psi(x, \hbar) = \mathcal{L}(x, \hbar) \Psi(x, \hbar)$  be a  $(2 \times 2)$  differential system (with  $\det \Psi = 1$ ). We define the **classical spectral curve** associated to it by

$$P(x, y) := \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \det(y \text{Id} - \mathcal{L}(x, \hbar)) = 0,$$

which gives a polynomial equation. For a non-zero genus curve, this must be completed with a choice of **symplectic basis of cycles and a bidifferential  $B$** .

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## Different approach:

- $\hbar$ -differential system.
- Define the classical spectral curve associated to it.
- Show that interesting quantities from the point of view of the differential system may be reconstructed from topological recursion applied to this classical spectral curve.
- Proof by showing that the differential system satisfies the **topological type property** (Bergère–Borot–Eynard '15).



# Isomonodromic deformations

We consider isomonodromic deformations of the linear differential equation  $\partial_x - \mathcal{L}(x)$ , which depend on a number of continuous parameters  $t_k$  (times):

$$\begin{cases} \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \Psi(x, t_k; \hbar) = \mathcal{L}(x, t_k; \hbar) \Psi(x, t_k; \hbar), \\ \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t_k} \Psi(x, t_k; \hbar) = \mathcal{R}_k(x, t_k; \hbar) \Psi(x, t_k; \hbar) \end{cases}$$

We call such a (compatible integrable) system an **isomonodromic system**.

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t_k \partial x} \Psi = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial t_k} \Psi \Leftrightarrow \hbar \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t_k} - \hbar \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}_k}{\partial x} + [\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R}_k] = 0 \text{ (zero-curvature equation).}$$

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Consider the **deformed spectral curve**

$$P(x, y; \hbar) = \det(y \text{Id} - \mathcal{L}(x, t_k; \hbar)) = P_0(x, y) + \sum_{m \geq 1} \hbar^m P_m(x, y).$$

**Classical spectral curve**  $\rightsquigarrow P_0(x, y)$  (family of curves parametrized by  $t_k$ 's).

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## Remark

*Painlevé equations  $\rightsquigarrow$  Isomonodromic deformations. Painlevé property  $\rightsquigarrow$  Solutions have no movable singularities other than poles. Classification of all second order differential equations with the Painlevé property  $\rightsquigarrow$  50 solutions and only 6 which could not be integrated from already known functions.*

# Painlevé I

In the family of elliptic curves  $y^2 = x^3 + tx + V$ , taking  $t = -3u_0^2$  and  $V = 2u_0^3$ , amounts to **pinching the  $\mathcal{B}$ -cycle** (first kind). So in this case, we have **genus  $\hat{g} = 0$**  and the **spectral curve** admits a rational parametrization:

$$\begin{cases} \Sigma = \mathbb{C}P^1, & x(z) = z^2 - 2u_0, \quad y(z) = z^3 - 3u_0z, \\ ydx = (z^3 - 3u_0z)2zdz, & B(z_1, z_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2}. \end{cases}$$

**TR:** Witten–Kontsevich intersection numbers  $\rightsquigarrow \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) =$

$$\sum_{d_1, \dots, d_n} \frac{6^{2-2g-n} u_0^{5-5g-2n}}{(3g-3+n-\sum_i d_i)!} \langle \tau_2^{3g-3+n-\sum_i d_i} \tau_{d_1} \cdots \tau_{d_n} \rangle_g \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{u_0^{d_i} (2d_i+1)!! dz_i}{z_i^{2d_i+1}}.$$

$$n=0 \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{F}_g = \omega_{g,0} = u_0^{5-5g} \frac{6^{2-2g}}{(3g-3)!} \langle \tau_2^{3g-3} \rangle_g = (-t/3)^{\frac{5-5g}{2}} \frac{6^{2-2g}}{(3g-3)!} \langle \tau_2^{3g-3} \rangle_g.$$

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Then  $U(t) = u_0 + \frac{\hbar^2}{48t^2} + \sum_{g \geq 2} \hbar^{2g} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{F}_g}{\partial t^2}$  satisfies the **Painlevé I** equation  $\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} U + 3U^2 = -t$ , which is the compatibility equation of the Lax pair

$$\mathcal{L}(x, t; \hbar) := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\hbar}{2} \dot{U} & x - U \\ (x - U)(x + 2U) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \ddot{U} & -\frac{\hbar}{2} \dot{U} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}(x, t; \hbar) := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ x + 2U & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

From the PDE found we can get that  $\psi_{\pm}(x) = e^{\sum_{g,n} \frac{(\pm 1)^n \hbar^{2g-2+n}}{n!} \int \dots \int \omega_{g,n}}$ :

$$\left( \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \mathcal{L}(x, t; \hbar) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_+ \\ \psi_- \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \left( \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \mathcal{R}(x, t; \hbar) \right) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_+ \\ \psi_- \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$