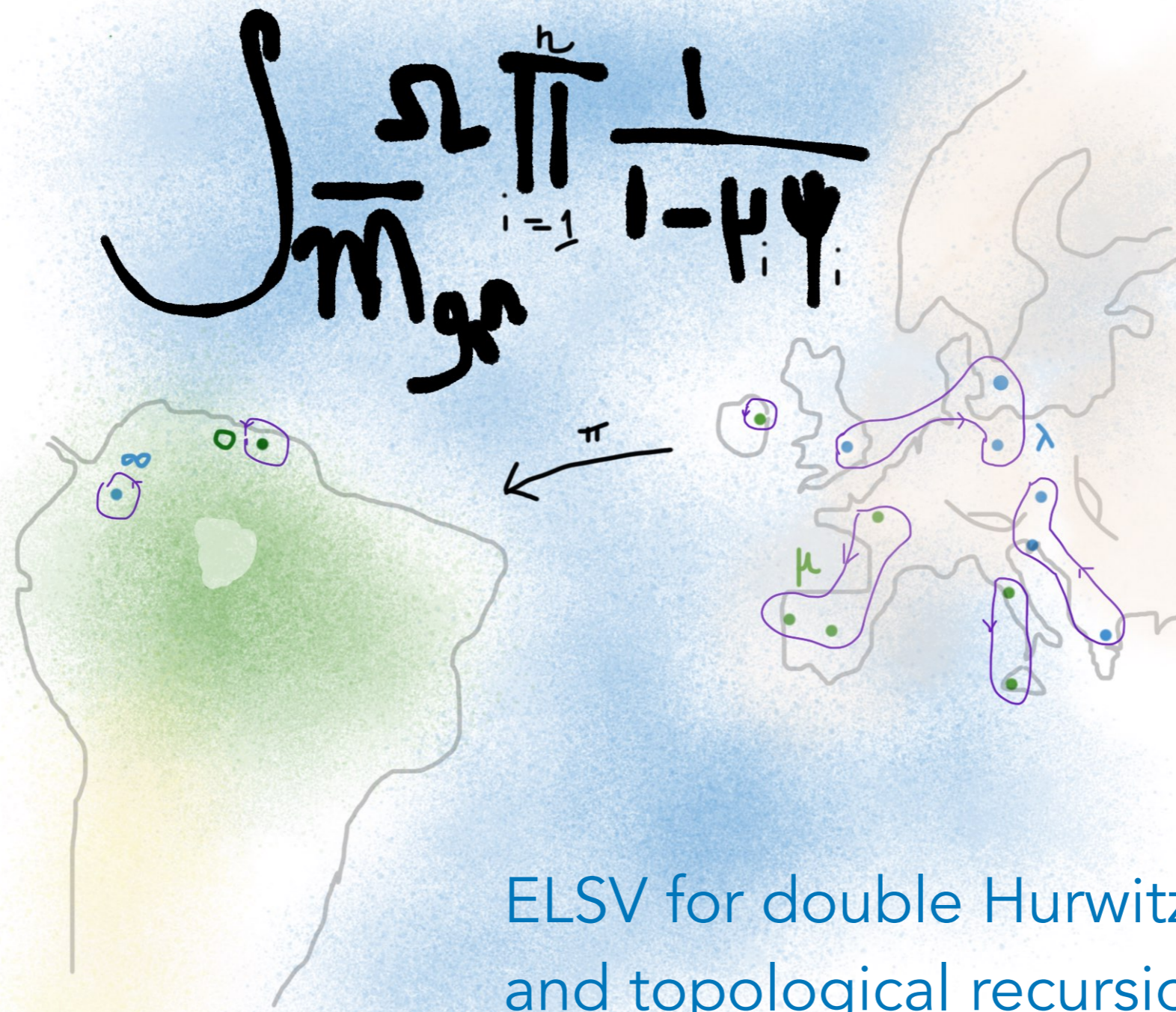


Algebraic geometry seminar  
Bogota



ELSV for double Hurwitz numbers  
and topological recursion

Gaëtan Borot  
HU Berlin  
Oct. 14, 2020



## I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers

- representation theory of the symmetric group
- combinatorial approach

## II. Intersection theory and topological recursion

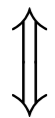
- simple Hurwitz numbers
- orbifold Hurwitz numbers
- double Hurwitz numbers

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## Introduction to Hurwitz numbers

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Definition

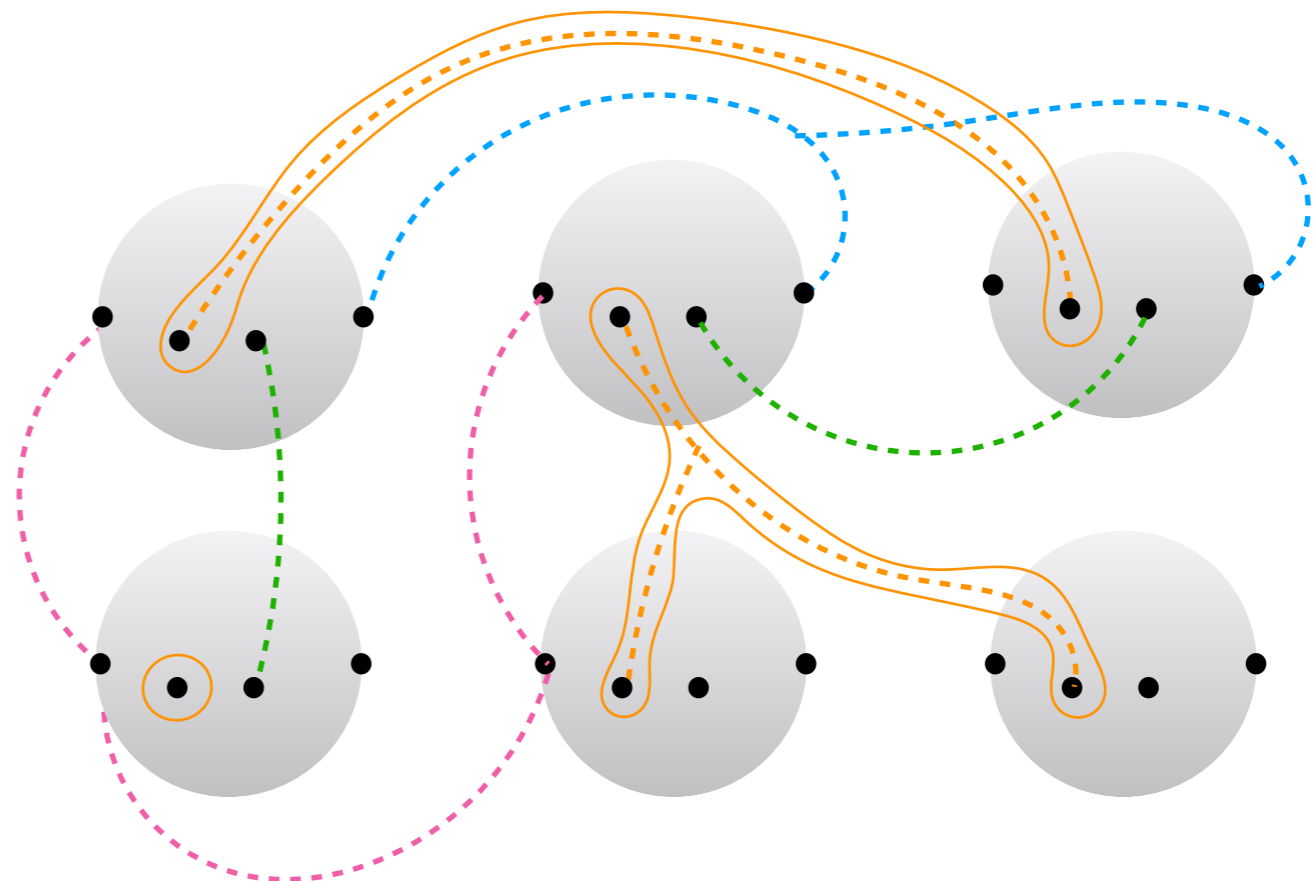
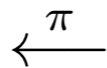
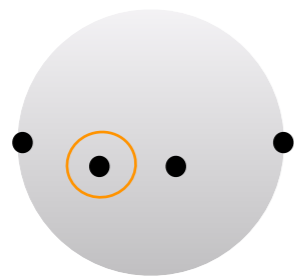
Topological branched covers  $\Sigma \xrightarrow{L:1} \mathbb{S}^2$  with branchpoints  $y_1, \dots, y_{k+2} \in \mathbb{S}^2$   
 modulo automorphisms



Iso. class of representations  $\rho : \pi_1(\mathbb{S}^2 \setminus Y) \cong \langle (\gamma_i)_{i=1}^{k+2} \mid \gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{k+2} = 1 \rangle \longrightarrow \mathfrak{S}_L$

Riemann-Hurwitz formula  $\chi(\Sigma) = 2L - \sum_{j=1}^{k+2} (L - \ell(\lambda_j))$  where  $C_{\lambda_j} = [\rho(\lambda_j)]$

$$\chi = 2$$



$$\lambda_1 = (4, 1, 1)$$

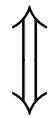
$$\lambda_2 = (3, 2, 1)$$

$$\lambda_3 = (2, 2, 1, 1)$$

$$\lambda_4 = (3, 1, 1, 1)$$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Definition

Topological branched covers  $\Sigma \xrightarrow{L:1} \mathbb{S}^2$  with branchpoints  $y_1, \dots, y_{k+2} \in \mathbb{S}^2$   
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Riemann-Hurwitz formula  $\chi(\Sigma) = 2L - \sum_{j=1}^{k+2} (L - \ell(\lambda_j))$  where  $C_{\lambda_j} = [\rho(\lambda_j)]$

- The partition  $\lambda_j \vdash L$  is the ramification profile above  $y_j$
- If  $\rho(\gamma_j)$  is a transposition, one says that  $y_j$  is a simple branchpoint
- One often considers the first (resp. last) branchpoint to be 0 (resp.  $\infty$ )

$Z(\mathbb{Q}[\mathfrak{S}_L])$  = center of the symmetric group algebra

$\mathcal{B} := \lim_{\infty \leftarrow N} \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_N]^{\mathfrak{S}_N}$  = ring of symmetric functions in countably many variables

$$\cong \bigoplus_{L \geq 0} Z(\mathbb{Q}[\mathfrak{S}_L])$$

Two bases, indexed by  $\lambda \vdash L$

## Conjugacy classes

$$\hat{C}_\lambda = \sum_{\gamma \in C_\lambda} \gamma$$

$$\hat{C}_{\lambda_1} \hat{C}_{\lambda_2} = \sum_{\lambda_3 \vdash L} |\{\gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3 = \text{id} \mid \gamma_i \in C_{\lambda_i}\}| \frac{C_{\lambda_3}}{|C_{\lambda_3}|}$$

power sums  $\frac{p_\lambda}{L!} \longleftrightarrow \frac{C_\lambda}{|C_\lambda|}$

## Idempotents

$$\hat{\Pi}_\lambda = \frac{\chi_\lambda(\text{id})}{L!} \sum_{\mu \vdash L} \chi_\lambda(C_\mu) \hat{C}_\mu$$

$$\hat{\Pi}_\lambda \hat{\Pi}_\mu = \delta_{\lambda, \mu} \hat{\Pi}_\lambda$$

Schur polynomials  $\frac{s_\lambda}{L!} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\hat{\Pi}_\lambda}{\chi_\lambda(\text{id})}$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Rep. th. of the symmetric group

- Jucys-Murphy elements  $\hat{J}_k = \sum_{i=2}^k (i \ k)$

Symmetric polynomials evaluated on  $(\hat{J}_k)_{k=2}^L$  span  $Z(\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{S}_L))$

- If  $r$  is a symmetric polynomial, one defines [Hurwitz numbers in two versions](#)

$$R_{\mu,\nu}^\bullet = \frac{1}{L!} [\text{id}] \hat{C}_\mu r(\hat{J}, 0, 0, \dots) \hat{C}_\nu \rightsquigarrow R_{\mu,\nu}^\circ \quad \text{by inclusion-exclusion}$$

$$r = e^{\beta p_1}$$

## Double Hurwitz numbers

$$R_{\mu,\nu}^\bullet = \frac{1}{L!} \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{\beta^k}{k!} \sum_{\substack{\tau_1, \dots, \tau_k \\ \text{transpositions}}} [\text{id}] \hat{C}_\mu \tau_1 \cdots \tau_k \hat{C}_\nu = \frac{1}{L!} \sum_{k \geq 0} \left| \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_0 \in C_\mu \\ \gamma_\infty \in C_\nu \end{array} \middle| \tau_i \text{ transposition} \mid \gamma_0 \tau_1 \cdots \tau_k \gamma_\infty = \text{id} \right\} \right| \cdot \frac{\beta^k}{k!}$$

is the weighted count of branched covers with  
ramification profile  $\mu$  above  $0$ ,  $\nu$  above  $\infty$ ,  $k$  simple branchpoints

$R_{\mu,\nu}^\circ$  counts only the connected covers

$k$  determines the genus by  $2 - 2g = \ell(\mu) + \ell(\nu) - k$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Rep. th. of the symmetric group

- Symmetric polynomials in Jucys Murphy act diagonally on the idempotent basis


$$r(\hat{J}, 0, 0, \dots) \hat{\Pi}_\nu = r(\text{cont } \nu, 0, 0, \dots) \hat{\Pi}_\nu$$

$$\text{cont } \nu = \{j - i \mid (i, j) = \text{box in } \nu\}$$

$$\nu = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\text{cont } \nu = (0, 1, 2, 3, -1, 0, -2)$$

- Cauchy identity
 
$$\sum_{\nu} s_{\nu} \otimes s_{\nu} = \sum_{\nu} \frac{|C_{\nu}|}{|\nu|!} p_{\nu} \otimes p_{\nu}$$

$$\sum_{\nu} r(\text{cont } \nu) s_{\nu} \otimes s_{\nu} = \sum_{\substack{\mu, \nu \\ |\mu|=|\nu|}} R_{\mu, \nu}^{\bullet} p_{\mu} \otimes p_{\nu}$$


$$r(\hat{J}, 0, 0, \dots) \otimes \text{id}$$

e.g. 
$$p_1(\text{cont } \nu, 0, 0, \dots) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell(\nu)} \sum_{j=1}^{\nu_i} (j - i) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell(\nu)} \left[ (\nu_i - i + \frac{1}{2})^2 - (-i + \frac{1}{2})^2 \right] := c_2(\nu)$$

double Hurwitz numbers are encoded in the decomposition of

$$\Rightarrow Z := \sum_{\nu} e^{\beta c_2(\nu)} s_{\nu} \otimes s_{\nu} \quad \text{on the power sum basis}$$

for connected :  $\ln Z$



**Problem 1** : compute connected Hurwitz numbers for fixed topology

i.e. fixed genus  $g$  and  $n = \ell(\nu)$  points above  $\infty$

- Simple Hurwitz numbers : 0 unramified, i.e.  $\mu = (1, \dots, 1)$

$$H_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) := [\beta^{2g-2+n+\sum_i \nu_i}] R_{(1,\dots,1),\nu}^\circ$$

- $d$ -orbifold Hurwitz numbers :  $\mu = (d, \dots, d)$  above 0

$$H_{g,n}^{[d]}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) := [\beta^{2g-2+n+\sum_i \frac{\nu_i}{d}}] R_{(d,\dots,d),\nu}^\circ$$

- double Hurwitz numbers : arbitrary ramification above 0 and  $\infty$

$$\mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \sum_{\mu \vdash |\nu|} [\beta^{2g-2+n+\ell(\mu)}] R_{\mu,\nu}^\circ \vec{q}_\mu \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{q}_\mu = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\mu)} q_{\mu_i}$$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Combinatorial approach

For simple Hurwitz numbers (0 unramified), one can try elementary combinatorics

Covers are in (orbifold) bijection with their **branching graph**

This is a ribbon graph with labeled edges

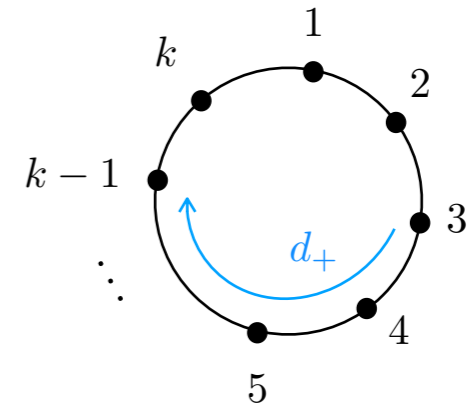
(Okounkov, Pandharipande, 01)

vertices  $\longleftrightarrow$  sheets

edges  $\longleftrightarrow$  simple branchpoints  
labeled by  $[[1, k]]$

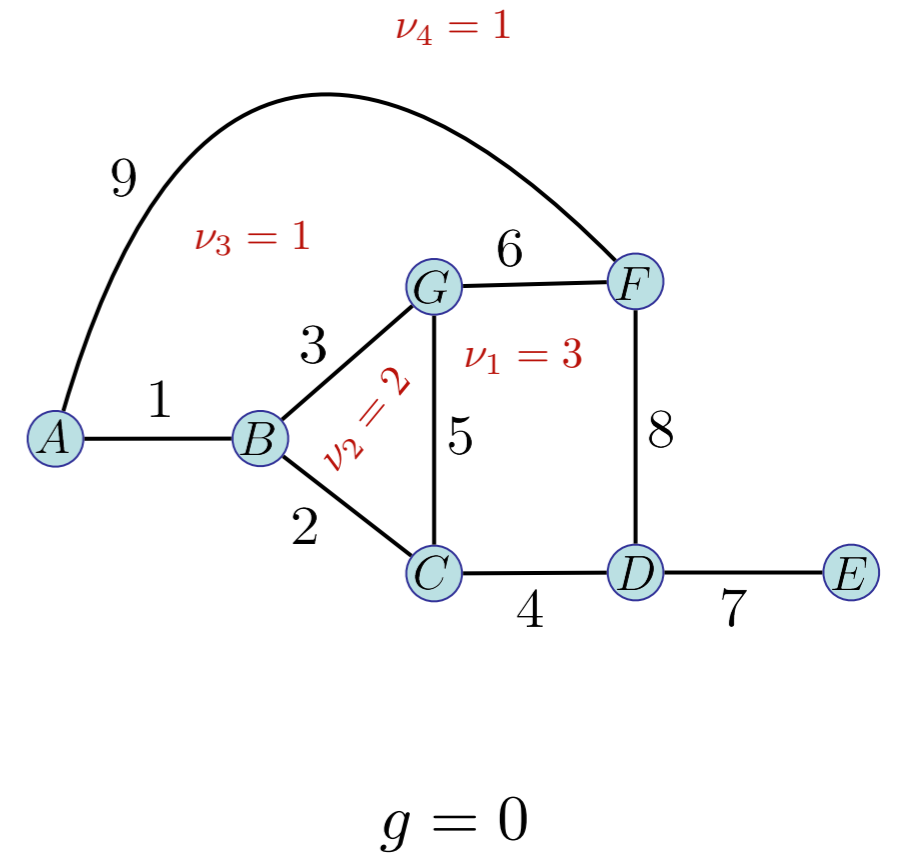
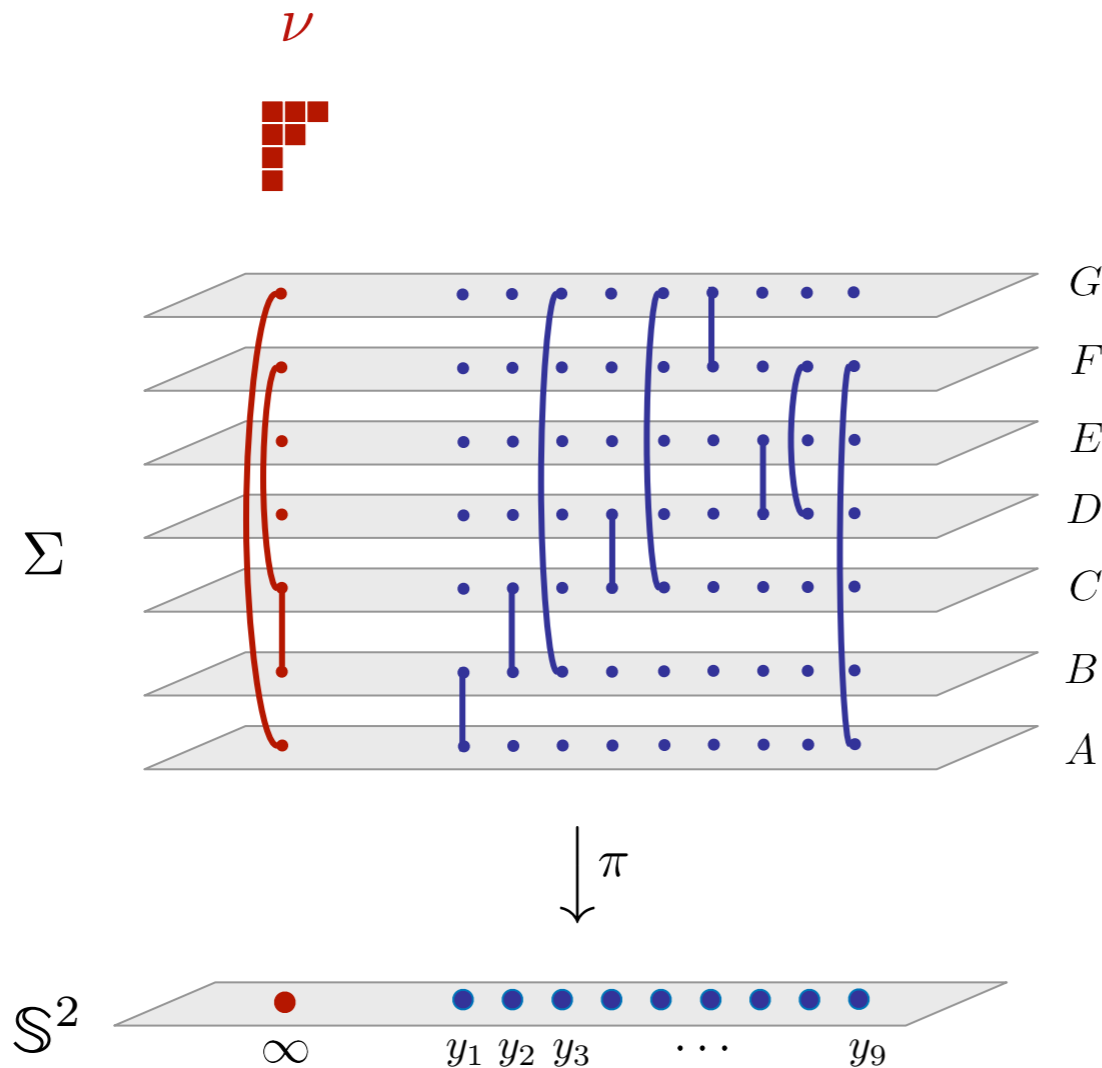
faces  $\longleftrightarrow$  points above  $\infty$

$\frac{1}{k} \sum_{e \text{ around face } f} d_+(l_e, l_{e'}) \longleftrightarrow$  multiplicity of point  $f$   
 $\rightsquigarrow \nu$



# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Combinatorial approach

## Example



**$g = 0, n = 1$  face**       $\nu = (\nu_1)$

Branched trees with  $\nu_1$  vertices  $\rightsquigarrow H_{0,1}(\nu_1) = \frac{\nu_1^{\nu_1-2}}{\nu_1!}$       (Cayley 1899)

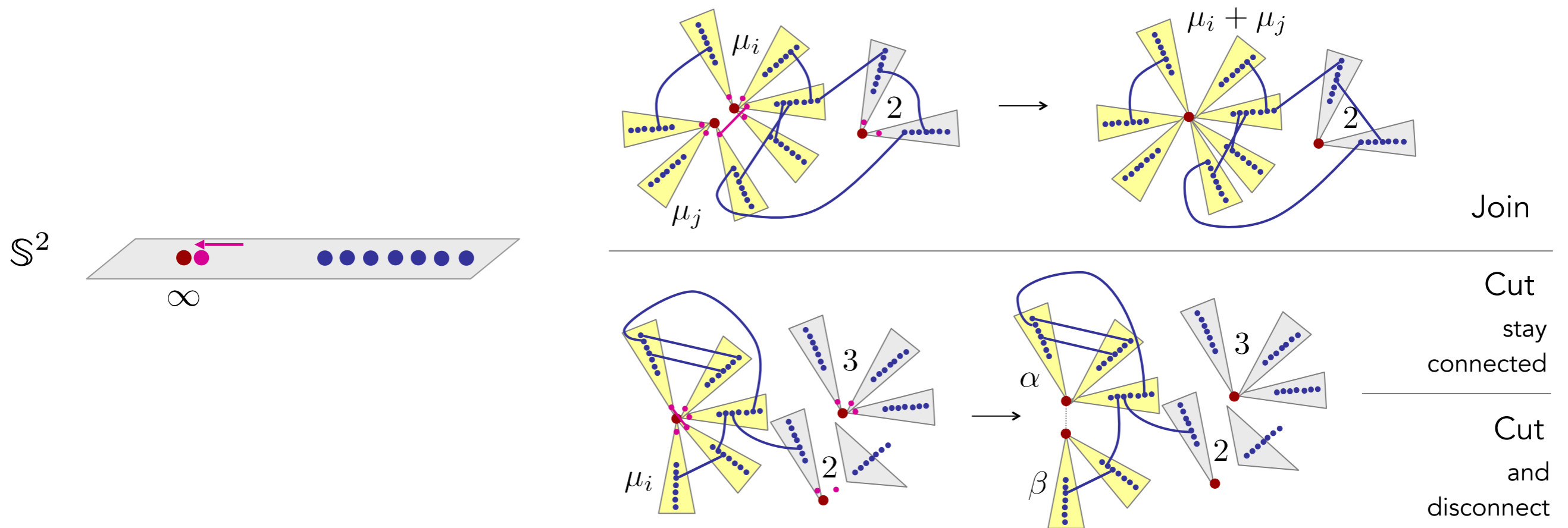
**$g = 0, n = 2$  faces**

Branched graph with 1 cycle + trees  $\rightsquigarrow H_{0,2}(\nu_1, \nu_2) = \frac{\nu_1^{\nu_1} \nu_2^{\nu_2}}{\nu_1! \nu_2! (\nu_1 + \nu_2)}$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Combinatorial approach

## Cut-and-join equation (Goulden, Jackson, Vakil, 99)

Recursion on the number of edges by merging a simple branchpoint to  $\infty$



$$(2g - 2 + \ell(\nu) + |\nu|) H_{g,n}(\nu)$$

$$= \sum_{i < j} (\nu_i + \nu_j) \frac{(\nu_i + \nu_j)!}{\nu_i! \nu_j!} H_{g,n-1}(\nu \setminus \{\nu_i, \nu_j\} \sqcup (\nu_i + \nu_j))$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell(\nu)} \sum_{m+m'=\nu_i} m m' \frac{m! m'}{\nu_i!} \left( H_{g-1,n+1}(\nu \setminus \{\nu_i\} \sqcup m, m') + \sum_{\substack{h+h'=g \\ \lambda \sqcup \lambda' = \nu \setminus \{\nu_i\}}} H_{h,\ell(\lambda)+1}(\lambda \sqcup m) H_{g_b,\ell(\lambda')+1}(\lambda' \sqcup m') \right)$$

# I. Introduction to Hurwitz numbers — Combinatorial approach

The cut-and-join equation determines all the  $H_{g,n}(\nu)$

**Problem 1'** : can one compute all of them for fixed  $(g,n)$  at the same time ?

$$W_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n \geq 1} H_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) \prod_{i=1}^n d(e^{\nu_i x_i})$$

We already have found

$$W_{0,1}(x_1) = \sum_{\nu_1 \geq 1} \frac{\nu_1^{\nu_1-2}}{\nu_1!} d(e^{\nu_1 x_1}) = y_1 dx_1 \quad \text{with} \quad e^{x_i} = y_i e^{-y_i}$$

$$W_{0,2}(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{\nu_1, \nu_2 \geq 1} \frac{\nu_1^{\nu_1} \nu_2^{\nu_2} d(e^{\nu_1 x_1}) d(e^{\nu_2 x_2})}{\nu_1! \nu_2! (\nu_1 + \nu_2)} = \frac{dy_1 dy_2}{(y_1 - y_2)^2} - \frac{d(e^{x_1}) d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2}$$

Observe the role of the Lambert curve  $\mathcal{S} : e^x = ye^{-y}$

This combinatorial approach can be adapted to other Hurwitz problems but

- there are more powerful algebraic techniques doing the same
- cut-and-join does not easily give access to  $W_{g,n}$  for  $2g - 2 + n > 0$

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Intersection theory and topological recursion

## II. Intersection theory and topological recursion — Simple Hurwitz numbers

Simple Hurwitz numbers from the viewpoint of algebraic geometry

$\mathcal{H}_{g,\nu_1,\dots,\nu_n}$  = moduli space of genus  $g$  Riemann surfaces  $(C, p_1, \dots, p_n, z_1, \dots, z_k)$   
equipped with  $\pi : C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  having poles of order  $\nu_i$  at  $p_i$   
such that  $d\pi$  has simple zeroes at  $z_j$

where  $k = 2g - 2 + n + \sum_i \nu_i$

$$\mathcal{X} : \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}_g(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}^k / \mathbb{C} \\ [(C, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{z}, \pi)] & \longmapsto & [\pi(\mathbf{z})] \end{array} \quad (\text{modulo translation})$$

$$\implies H_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \frac{\deg \mathcal{X}}{k!}$$

After dealing with compactification, this can be computed as the total Segre class of a cone  $\overline{\mathcal{H}}_{g,\nu_1,\dots,\nu_n} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$  = Deligne-Mumford compactification of the moduli space of curves

## II. Intersection theory and topological recursion — Simple Hurwitz numbers

$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$  = Deligne-Mumford compactification of the moduli space of curves

Cotangent line bundle

$$(\mathbb{L}_i)_{(C,p_1,\dots,p_n)} = T_{p_i}^* C \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \psi_i = c_1(\mathbb{L}_i) \in H^2(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$$

Hodge bundle

$$E_{(C,p_1,\dots,p_n)} = H^0(C, \omega_C) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{total} \\ \text{Chern class} \\ \rightsquigarrow \end{array} \quad \Lambda^\vee = c(\mathbb{E}^\vee) = \sum_{h=0}^g (-1)^h \lambda_h \in H^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n})$$

**Theorem** (Ekedahl, Lando, Shapiro, Vainshtein, 01)

$$\text{For } 2g - 2 + n > 0 \quad H_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\nu_i^{\nu_i}}{\nu_i!} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \frac{\Lambda^\vee}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - \nu_i \psi_i)}$$

Gave some explicit evaluations of Hodge integrals ...

combinatorial  
prefactor

polynomial in  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n$

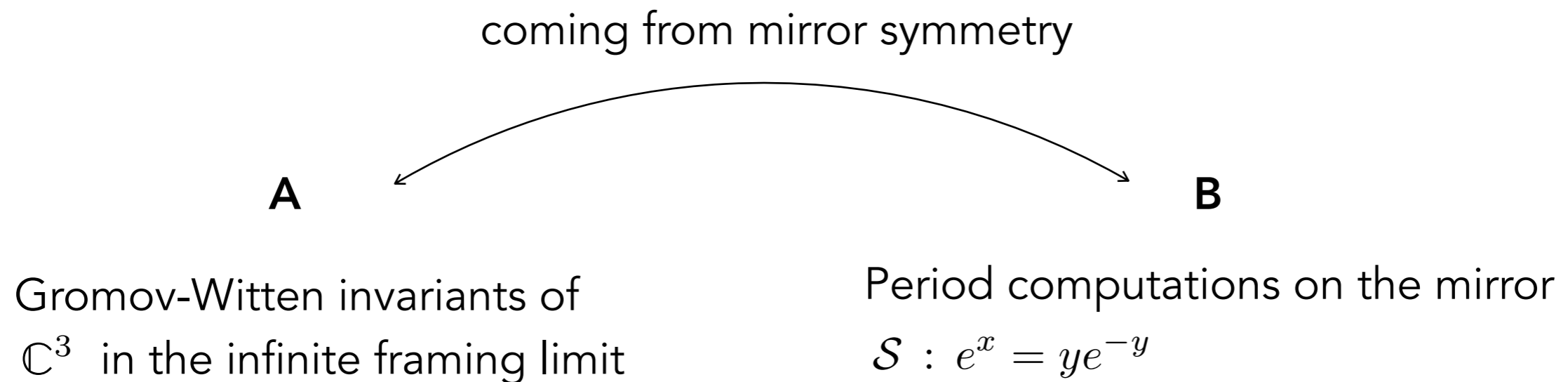


## II. Intersection theory and topological recursion — Simple Hurwitz numbers

Topological recursion allows computing the generating series  $W_{g,n}$  from periods on the Lambert curve  $\mathcal{S} : e^x = ye^{-y}$

Conjecture : Bouchard, Mariño conjecture 08

Theorem : Eynard, Mulase, Safnuk 11



Consequence of a more general correspondence for all toric CY3 folds

Conjecture : Bouchard, Klemm, Mariño, Pasquetti 07

Theorem : Eynard, Orantin 15 (also Fang, Liu, Zong, 16)

## Topological recursion (TR)

- Initial data consists of

assuming

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{S} & \text{smooth complex curve} \\ x, y & \text{meromorphic functions} \\ B \in H^0(\mathcal{S}^2, K_{\mathcal{S}}^{\boxtimes 2}(2\Delta))^{\mathfrak{S}_2} \end{cases}$$

$dx$  has simple zeros  $\mathfrak{a}$

$y$  has order 1 at  $\mathfrak{a}$

- $\sigma_a$  local involution near  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $x \circ \sigma_a = x$

- Recursion kernel 
$$K(z_1, z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\int_{\sigma_a(z)}^z \omega_{0,2}(\cdot, z_1)}{(y(z) - y(\sigma_a(z))) dx(z)}$$

- TR then constructs  $\omega_{0,1} = y dx$ ,  $\omega_{0,2} = B$  and  $\omega_{g,n} \in H^0(\mathcal{S}^n, K_{\mathcal{S}}^{\boxtimes n}(*\mathfrak{a}))^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$   
by induction on  $2g - 2 + n > 0$

$$\omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \sum_{a \in \mathfrak{a}} \operatorname{Res}_{z=a} K(z_1, z) \left( \omega_{g-1, n+1}(z, \sigma_a(z), z_2, \dots, z_n) + \sum_{\substack{\text{no } \omega_{0,1} \\ h+h'=g \\ J \sqcup J' = \{z_2, \dots, z_n\}}} \omega_{h, 1+|J|}(z, J) \omega_{h', 1+|J'|}(\sigma_a(z), J') \right)$$

## Topological recursion (TR)

construct  $\omega_{0,1} = y dx$ ,  $\omega_{0,2} = B$  and  $\omega_{g,n} \in H^0(\mathcal{S}^n, K_{\mathcal{S}^n}^{\boxtimes n}(*\mathbf{a}))^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$

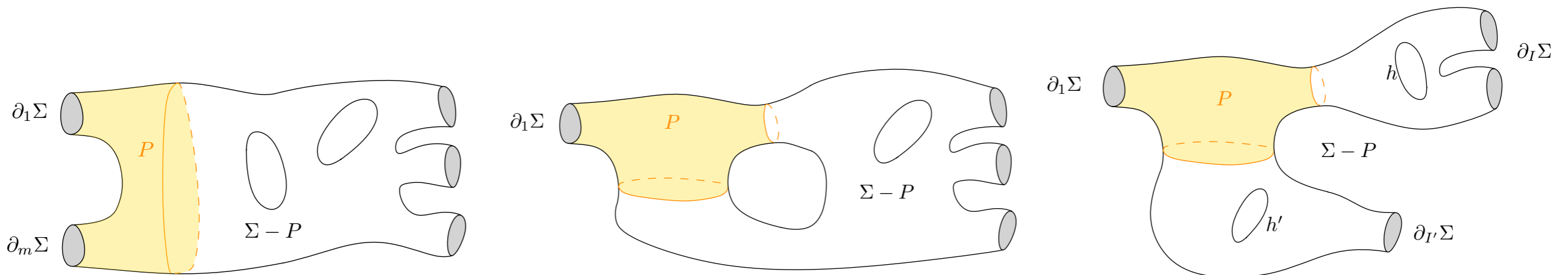
by induction on  $2g - 2 + n > 0$ , computing residues

The terms in TR are in bijection with

$$\overline{\mathcal{P}}_{\Sigma} = \left\{ P \hookrightarrow \Sigma \text{ such that } \partial_1 P = \partial_1 \Sigma \text{ and } \Sigma - P \text{ stable} \right\} / \text{Diff}_{\Sigma}^{\partial}$$

$\Sigma$  = smooth surface of genus  $g$  with  $n$  labeled boundaries

$P$  = pair of pants



**Theorem** (Eynard, Mulase, Safnuk, 11)

Let  $\omega_{g,n}$  be the outcome of TR for

$$\mathcal{S} = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^* \mid e^x = ye^{-y}\} \text{ with } B = \frac{dy_1 dy_2}{(y_1 - y_2)^2} \quad \mathfrak{a} = \{(-1, 1)\}$$

We have the identity of series expansion near  $e^{x_i} \rightarrow 0$

$$\omega_{g,n} - \delta_{g,0} \delta_{n,2} \frac{d(e^{x_1})d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2} \sim W_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

- Proof by analysis of cut-and-join relations + analytic continuation to  $\mathcal{S}$
- The outcome of TR can be always be represented via intersection theory on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$  **Eynard 11**
  - $\rightsquigarrow$  algebraic/combinatorial proof of the ELSV formula  
(Hodge class appears by Mumford formula)

$d$ -orbifold Hurwitz numbers :  $\mu = (d, \dots, d)$  above 0

$$H_{g,n}^{[d]}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) := [\beta^{2g-2+n+\sum_i \frac{\nu_i}{d}}] R_{(d,\dots,d),\nu}^\circ$$

$$W_{g,n}^{[d]}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n \geq 1} H_{g,n}^{[d]}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) \prod_{i=1}^n d(e^{\nu_i x_i})$$

There is a cut-and-join equation, from which one can compute

$$W_{0,1}^{[d]}(x_1) = y_1 dx_1$$

$$W_{0,2}^{[d]}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} - \frac{d(e^{x_1})d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^{[d]} : \begin{cases} x(z) & = \ln z - z^d \\ y(z) & = z^d \end{cases}$$

## II.2 Intersection theory and topological recursion — Orbifold Hurwitz numbers

From the algebraic geometry viewpoint, it can be approached via

intersection theory on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,a_1,\dots,a_n}(B\mathbb{Z}_d)$   $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}_d$  monodromy at  $p_i$

$\mathbb{E}^U \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,a_1,\dots,a_n}$  subbundle of the Hodge bundle on which the generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_d$  acts by  $e^{2i\pi/d}$

$$\Lambda^{U^\vee} = c(\mathbb{E}^{U^\vee}) = \sum_{h=0}^g (-1)^k \lambda_k^U \in H^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,a_1,\dots,a_n}(B\mathbb{Z}_d))$$

### Theorem (Johnson, Pandharipande, Tseng 11)

For  $2g - 2 + n > 0$

$$H_{g,n}^{[d]}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = d^{2g-2+n+\sum_i \frac{\nu_i}{d}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\binom{\nu_i}{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor}}{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor!} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,-\bar{\nu}_1,\dots,-\bar{\nu}_n}(B\mathbb{Z}_d)} \frac{\Lambda^{U^\vee}}{\prod_{i=1}^n \left(1 - \frac{\nu_i}{d} \psi_i\right)}$$

$-\bar{\nu}_i \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$  such that  $-\bar{\nu}_i = -\nu_i \pmod{d}$

combinatorial  
prefactor

quasi-polynomial in  
 $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n$

# II.1 Intersection theory and topological recursion — Orbifold Hurwitz numbers

There is an equivalent description via the moduli stacks of  $\frac{s}{r}$  th roots

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}^{(r,s)}(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \overline{\left\{ (C, p_1, \dots, p_n, L, \phi) \mid L^{\otimes r} \xrightarrow{\phi} \omega_C^{\otimes s} \left( \sum_i (s - a_i) p_i \right) \right\}} / \sim$$

$$\mathcal{L} \longrightarrow \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\pi} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}^{(r,s)}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$$

universal line bundle      universal curve

↳ Chiodo classes

$$\Omega_{g,n}^{(r,s)}(a_1, \dots, a_n) := \epsilon_* c(-R^* \pi_* \mathcal{L}) \in H^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$$

**Theorem** (Dunin-Barkowski, Lewanski, Popolitov, Shadrin 15)

$$H_{g,n}^{[d]}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = d^{2g-2+n+\sum_i \frac{\nu_i}{d}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\left(\frac{\nu_i}{d}\right)^{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor}}{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor!} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \frac{\Omega_{g,n}^{(d,d)}(-\bar{\nu}_1, \dots, -\bar{\nu}_n)}{\prod_{i=1}^n \left(1 - \frac{\nu_i}{d} \psi_i\right)}$$

$-\bar{\nu}_i \in \llbracket 0, d-1 \rrbracket$  such that  $-\bar{\nu}_i = -\nu_i \pmod{d}$

combinatorial prefactor

quasi-polynomial in  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n$

**Theorem** (Do, Leigh, Norbury, 12 | Bouchard, Hernandez-Serrano, Liu, Mulase 13)

Let  $\omega_{g,n}^{[d]}$  be the outcome of TR for

$$\mathcal{S}^{[d]} : \begin{cases} x(z) &= \ln z - z^d \\ y(z) &= z^d \end{cases} \quad \text{with } B = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} \quad \mathbf{a} = \{z = e^{2i\pi/d} d^{1/d} \mid j \in \mathbb{Z}_d\}$$

We have the identity of series expansion near  $e^{x_i} \rightarrow 0$

$$\omega_{g,n}^{[d]} - \delta_{g,0} \delta_{n,2} \frac{d(e^{x_1})d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2} \sim W_{g,n}^{[d]}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

- Proof by analysis of cut-and-join relations + analytic continuation to
- The outcome of TR can be always be represented via intersection theory on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$  [Eynard 11](#)
  - $\rightsquigarrow$  algebraic/combinatorial proof of the JPT formula
    - [Dunin-Barkowski, Lewanski, Popolitov, Shadrin 15](#)



## II.3 Intersection theory and topological recursion — Double Hurwitz numbers

Double Hurwitz numbers : arbitrary ramification above 0 and  $\infty$

$$\mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \sum_{\mu \vdash |\nu|} [\beta^{2g-2+n+\ell(\mu)}] R_{\mu,\nu}^\circ \vec{q}_\mu \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{q}_\mu = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\mu)} q_{\mu_i}$$
$$\mathbb{W}_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n \geq 1} \mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) \prod_{i=1}^n d(e^{\nu_i x_i})$$

- Double Hurwitz numbers are more fundamental than the others  
Relate to intersection theory of the double ramification cycle  
which has applications to integrability, structural properties of  $H^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$
- There are vague conjectures about ELSV-like formulas involving  
unspecified moduli stacks of  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 4g - 3 + n$  with a proper fibration to  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$   
and unspecified analogs of the dual Hodge class

Goulden, Jackson 03 ; Bayer, Cavalieri, Johnson, Markwig 11

## II.1 Intersection theory and topological recursion — Double Hurwitz numbers

- There is an (elementary) cut-and-join equation, from which one can find

$$\mathbb{W}_{0,1}(x_1) = y_1 dx_1$$

$$\mathbb{W}_{0,2}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} - \frac{d(e^{x_1})d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{q}} : \begin{cases} x(z) &= \ln z - \sum_j q_j z^j \\ y(z) &= \sum_j q_j z^j \end{cases}$$

- When  $q_1, \dots, q_{d-1}, q_d$  generic  
 $q_d \neq 0$   
 $q_j = 0$  for  $j > d$

$dx$  has  $|\mathfrak{a}| = d$  simple zeros

which are the roots of  $1 - \sum_{j=1}^d j q_j z^j = 0$

can be seen as a deformation of the  $d$ -orbifold case  $q_j = \delta_{j,d}$

### Theorem 1 (B., Do, Karev, Lewanski, Moskowsky, 20)

For any fixed  $d \geq 1$  and  $q_d \neq 0$

let  $\omega_{g,n}^{\mathbf{q},[d]}$  be the outcome of TR for

$$\mathcal{S}^{\mathbf{q},[d]} : \begin{cases} x(z) &= \ln z - \sum_{j=1}^d q_j z^j \\ y(z) &= \sum_{j=1}^d q_j z^j \end{cases} \quad \text{with } B = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2}$$

We have the identity of series expansion near  $e^{x_i} \rightarrow 0$

$$\omega_{g,n}^{\mathbf{q},[d]} - \delta_{g,0} \delta_{n,2} \frac{d(e^{x_1})d(e^{x_2})}{(e^{x_1} - e^{x_2})^2} \sim W_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) |_{q_j=0 \ j>d}$$

## Strategy of the proof

- The difficult part of the proof is to justify quasipolynomiality wrt.  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n$

$$\mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq a_1, \dots, a_n \leq d \\ m_1, \dots, m_n \geq 0}} C_{g,n} \left( \begin{matrix} a_1 & \dots & a_n \\ m_1 & \dots & m_n \end{matrix} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n A_{\nu_i, a_i} \nu_i^{m_i}$$

where  $A_{k,a} = \sum_{\lambda \vdash k-a} \frac{a k^{\ell(\lambda)} \vec{q}_\lambda}{\prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} \lambda_i!} = [z^{k-a}] a e^{k \sum_{j=1}^d q_j z^j}$

for some  $C_{g,n} \left( \begin{matrix} a_1 & \dots & a_n \\ m_1 & \dots & m_n \end{matrix} \right) \in \mathbb{Q}(q_1, \dots, q_d)$  vanishing for  $\sum_i m_i < M_{g,n}$

Done via combinatorial analysis of the formulas in  $\mathcal{B} \cong \bigoplus_{L \geq 0} Z(\mathbb{Q}[\mathfrak{S}_L])$

- For the generating series, it implies the decomposition

$$\mathbb{W}_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq a_1, \dots, a_n \leq d \\ m_1, \dots, m_n \geq 0}} C_{g,n} \left( \begin{matrix} a_1 & \dots & a_n \\ m_1 & \dots & m_n \end{matrix} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n d\xi_{a_i, m_i} \quad \text{where} \quad \xi_{a,m} = \partial_{x(z)}^{m+1} (z^a)$$

hence it analytically continue to  $(\mathcal{S}^{\mathfrak{a}, [d]})^n$  with poles at  $z_i \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$

- For the generating series, it implies the decomposition

$$\mathbb{W}_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq a_1, \dots, a_n \leq d \\ m_1, \dots, m_n \geq 0}} C_{g,n} \left( \begin{matrix} a_1 & \cdots & a_n \\ m_1 & \cdots & m_n \end{matrix} \right) \prod_{i=1}^n d\xi_{a_i, m_i} \quad \text{where} \quad \xi_{a,m} = \partial_{x(z)}^{m+1} (z^a)$$

hence it analytically continue to  $(\mathcal{S}^{\mathfrak{a}, [d]})^n$  with poles at  $z_i \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$

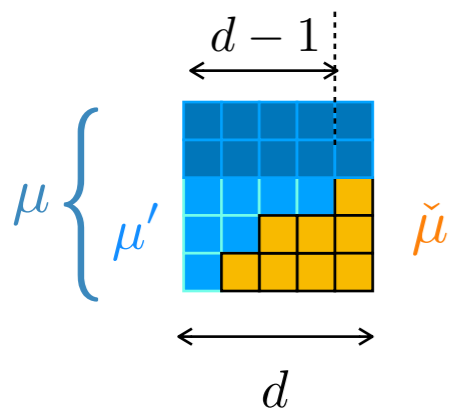
- Then, we can use analytic continuation in the cut-and-join equations and combinatorial analysis similar to the simple or orbifold proofs

$\rightsquigarrow$  get a recursion for the polar part of  $\mathbb{W}_{g,n}$  at  $z_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$   
 solution by the topological recursion

## Theorem 2 (B., Do, Karev, Lewanski, Moskowsky 20)

$$\mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) = \sum_{\mu \vdash |\nu|} d^{2g-2+n+\ell(\mu)} \vec{q}_\mu \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\left(\frac{\nu_i}{d}\right)^{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor}}{\lfloor \frac{\nu_i}{d} \rfloor!}$$

$$\times \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\ell(\mu')} \frac{(-1)^{\ell(\mu')-m}}{m!} \sum_{\substack{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{d-1}^m \\ \sqcup_j \rho^{(j)} = \check{\mu}'}} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{|C_{\rho^{(j)}}| \left[ \frac{d-|\rho^{(j)}|}{d} \right]_{\ell(\rho^{(j)})-1}}{|\rho^{(j)}|!} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+m}} \frac{\Omega_{g,n+m}^{(d,d)}(-\bar{\nu}_1, \dots, -\bar{\nu}_n, d-|\rho^{(1)}|, \dots, d-|\rho^{(m)}|)}{\prod_{i=1}^n \left(1 - \frac{\nu_i}{d} \psi_i\right)} \right)$$



$\mathcal{P}_{d-1}$  = partitions of size at most  $d-1$

$$[x]_b = x(x+1) \cdots (x+b-1)$$

**Strategy of the proof** : interpolation between the double and d-orbifold cases

$$\mathcal{S}_t : \begin{cases} x_t(z) &= \ln z - q_d z^d - t \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} q_j z^j \\ y_t(z) &= q_d z^d + t \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} q_j z^j \\ \omega_{0,2}^t &= \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{TR}} \omega_{g,n}^t$$

$t = 0$  ↓

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{g,n}^0(z_1, \dots, z_n) &= \omega_{g,n}^{[d]}(\tilde{z}_1, \dots, \tilde{z}_n) \\ \tilde{z} &= q_d^{1/d} z \quad x_0(z) = x_{[d]}(\tilde{z}) - \ln(q_d^{1/d}) \end{aligned}$$

$t = 1$  ↘

$$\omega_{g,n}^1 = \omega_{g,n}^{\mathbf{q}, [d]}$$

Write the (convergent) Taylor expansion

$$\omega_{g,n}^1(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \sum_{l \geq 0} \frac{1}{l!} \partial_t^l \omega_{g,n}^t \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) |_{t=0}$$

where all derivatives are taken at  $x_i = x_t(z_i)$  fixed

as we want to extract the series expansion in variable  $e^{x_i} \rightarrow 0$

TR has the following property under deformations of initial data

$$\partial_t \omega_{g,n}^t(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \int_{z' \in \gamma} \Upsilon_t(z') \omega_{g,n+1}^t(z', z_1, \dots, z_n) \quad \text{at fixed } x_i = x_t(z_i)$$

$$\text{whenever } \varpi_t(z) := \partial_t x_t(z) dy_t(z) - \partial_t y(z) dx_t(z) = \int_{z' \in \gamma} \Upsilon_t(z') \omega_{0,2}^t(z, z')$$

with  $\gamma$  away from  $\mathfrak{a}$

$$\text{For the deformation we are interested in : } \int_{z' \in \gamma} \Upsilon_t(z') \bullet = - \operatorname{Res}_{z'=\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \frac{q_j}{j} (z')^j \bullet$$



To compute higher order derivatives, need successive chain rules since  $x_t(z') = x'$  is considered fixed

$\rightsquigarrow$  relates  $\omega_{g,n}^{\mathfrak{a},[d]}$  to  $(\omega_{g,n+m}^{[d]})_{m \geq 0}$  and thus to Chiodo integrals

$\rightsquigarrow$  get the theorem by extracting the coefficients of  $\prod_{i=1}^n d(e^{\mu_i x_i})$



The resulting formula for  $\mathbb{H}_{g,n}(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n)$  is a polynomial in  $q_1, \dots, q_{d-1}$  but only a Laurent polynomial in  $q_d$

By its combinatorial meaning, it must be a polynomial in  $q_1, \dots, q_d$

$\implies$  the Chiodo integral in prefactor of  $q_d^{-m}$  for  $m > 0$  must vanish

### Corollary 3 (B., Do, Karev, Lewanski, Moskowsky 20)

Let  $g \geq 0, n, \ell \geq 1, d \geq 2$

For any partitions  $(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n), (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_\ell)$  such that  $\eta_1 \leq d - 1$  and  $|\nu| + |\eta| < d\ell$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^{\ell-k}}{k!} \sum_{\substack{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{d-1}^k \\ \sqcup_a \rho^{(a)} = \eta}} \prod_{a=1}^k \frac{\left[ \frac{d-|\rho^{(a)}|}{d} \right]_{\ell(\rho^{(a)})-1}}{\prod_j |\rho_j^{(a)}|!} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+k}} \frac{\Omega_{g,n}^{(d,d)}(-\bar{\nu}_1, \dots, -\bar{\nu}_n, d-|\rho^{(1)}|, \dots, d-|\rho^{(k)}|)}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - \frac{\nu_i}{d} \psi_i)} = 0$$

## Corollary 3 (B., Do, Karev, Lewanski, Moskowsky 20)

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- When  $\eta_i + \eta_j \geq d$  for any  $i \neq j$ , there is a single term, and then

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g, n+\ell}} \frac{\Omega_{g,n}^{(d,d)}(-\bar{\nu}_1, \dots, -\bar{\nu}_n, d-\eta_1, \dots, d-\eta_\ell)}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - \frac{\nu_i}{d} \psi_i)} = 0$$

This vanishing is proved by [Johnson-Pandharipande-Tseng 11](#) from geometry of  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g, a_1, \dots, a_n}(B\mathbb{Z}_d)$

- Other cases are new  
(would require a careful analysis of the boundary strata contributions in JPT)

# II.3 Intersection theory and topological recursion — Double Hurwitz numbers

Tested numerically with the SAGE package *Admcycles*

Delecroix, Schmitt, van Zelm  
2002.01709

## Double Hurwitz numbers

$H_{1,1}(2)$	$[q_1^2]$	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{27}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-2\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_2]$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$9 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,2}^{[3]}}{1-2\psi_1/3}$
$H_{1,1}(3)$	$[q_1^3]$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{27}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,4}} \frac{\Omega_{1;0,1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-\psi_1}$
	$[q_1 q_2]$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$27 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;0,1,2}^{[3]}}{1-\psi_1}$
	$[q_3]$	1	$3 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,1}} \frac{\Omega_{1;0}^{[3]}}{1-\psi_1}$
$H_{1,1}(4)$	$[q_1^4]$	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{27}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,5}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1,1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-4\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_1^2 q_2]$	$\frac{20}{3}$	$54 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,4}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1,1,2}^{[3]}}{1-4\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_2^2]$	$\frac{7}{3}$	$18 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,2,2}^{[3]}}{1-4\psi_1/3} - 6 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1}^{[3]}}{1-4\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_1 q_3]$	6	$36 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1}^{[3]}}{1-4\psi_1/3}$
$H_{1,1}(5)$	$[q_1^5]$	$\frac{625}{144}$	$\frac{81}{8} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,6}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1,1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_1^3 q_2]$	$\frac{625}{24}$	$\frac{135}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,5}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1,1,2}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_1 q_2^2]$	$\frac{125}{6}$	$\frac{135}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,4}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1,2,2}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3} - \frac{45}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_1^2 q_3]$	$\frac{625}{24}$	$\frac{135}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,1,1}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3}$
	$[q_2 q_3]$	$\frac{25}{2}$	$45 \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;1,2}^{[3]}}{1-5\psi_1/3}$

## Vanishing identities

- $\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;3,3}^{[6]}}{\left(1 - \frac{\psi_1}{2}\right)} = \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;3,4,5}^{[6]}}{\left(1 - \frac{\psi_1}{2}\right)} = \frac{1}{72}$
- $\int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,4}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1,2,3}^{[4]}}{\left(1 - \frac{\psi_1}{2}\right)} = \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;2,1,1}^{[4]}}{\left(1 - \frac{\psi_1}{2}\right)} = \frac{1}{1536}$
- $\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,4}} \frac{\Omega_{1;5,5,5,6}^{[7]}}{\left(1 - \frac{2}{7}\psi_1\right)} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{7} \cdot \frac{9}{7} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,2}} \frac{\Omega_{1;5,2}^{[7]}}{\left(1 - \frac{2}{7}\psi_1\right)}$   
 $= \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;5,6,3}^{[7]}}{\left(1 - \frac{2}{7}\psi_1\right)} + \frac{4}{7} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \frac{\Omega_{1;5,5,4}^{[7]}}{\left(1 - \frac{2}{7}\psi_1\right)}$

Thank you for your attention !

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