

# Quantum hyperbolic topology

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Calvin McPhail-Snyder

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Korea Institute for Advanced Study

# Acknowledgements

- Thanks to Seonhwa Kim and Jinsung Park for inviting me to give this talk.
- Many people have contributed to the mathematics I will discuss. I have tried to cite them all, but I may have gaps. My apologies!
- Later I will mention some highest-weight modules. I have tried to get the conventions to match [Bla+16] but I may not have: look at their paper for the right ones.

# Plan of the talk

1. Reminders on TQFT (Topological Quantum Field Theory)
2. Extension to geometric (quantum) field theory
3. An abelian example: the BCGP invariant
4. Towards nonabelian  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory
5. Connections to hyperbolic topology

# Topological field theories

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Topological field theories

Geometric field theories

Abelian  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

Towards nonabelian  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

- A  $d + 1$  dimensional TQFT  $\mathcal{F}$  is a way of assigning manifold invariants that can be cut into pieces:
  - $(d + 1)$ -manifolds are assigned complex numbers  $\mathcal{F}(M)$
  - $d$ -manifolds are assigned vector spaces  $\mathcal{F}(X)$
  - cobordisms  $\partial M = \bar{X} \amalg Y$  are linear maps  $\mathcal{F}(M) : \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(Y)$
- Formally: Let  $\text{Cob}_d$  be the category whose
  - objects** are oriented  $d$ -manifolds
  - morphisms** are oriented cobordisms between them
 and  $\text{Vect}$  be the category with
  - objects**  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector spaces
  - morphisms** linear maps
 Then a  $d + 1$  dimensional TQFT is a functor  $\mathcal{F} : \text{Cob}_d \rightarrow \text{Vect}$ .
- Both categories are monoidal with duals and  $\mathcal{F}$  should respect these structures.

# Cutting and pasting

- Say we cut  $M$  into two pieces  $N_1 \cup N_2$  along  $X$ .
- Since  $\mathcal{F}(\emptyset) = \mathbb{C}$  is monoidal unit, we get ingredients:
  - $\mathcal{F}(N_1) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X)$  (vector)
  - $\mathcal{F}(N_2) : \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  (covector)
- Composition

$$\mathcal{F}(N_2)(\mathcal{F}(N_1)) = \mathcal{F}(M) \in \mathbb{C}$$

is evaluating vector against dual vector

- More generally, can compute  $\mathcal{F}(M)$  by cutting  $M$  into simple pieces  $N_j$  then composing resulting tensors.

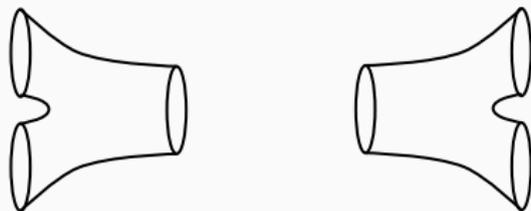
## Example: $d = 1$

Say we want to define a  $1 + 1$  dimensional TQFT.

- Only object in  $\text{Cob}_1$  is  $S^1$ , so need a vector space  $A = \mathcal{F}(S^1)$ .
- Cobordisms will be maps between tensor powers of  $A$  and  $A^*$
- For example, depending on orientation the disk  $D^2$  is a cobordism  $b : \emptyset \rightarrow S_1$  or  $d : S^1 \rightarrow \emptyset$
- Then  $\mathcal{F}(b) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow A$  is a chosen vector and  $\mathcal{F}(d) : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is chosen covector.

## Example: $d = 1$

More interesting cobordisms come from pairs of pants.



- Left is a map  $A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ , right is a map  $A \rightarrow A \otimes A$ .
- By using topological relations, there are compatibility conditions on these.
- Turn out to make  $A$  into a **Frobenius algebra**

$$d = 2$$

- In higher dimensions, much more complicated, because manifolds are much more complicated.
- We mostly focus on  $d = 2$ , so we assign vector spaces to surfaces and complex numbers to closed 3-manifolds.
- Famous example: the **Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev** theory is a 2 + 1 dimensional TQFT

# Witten's version of WRT

## Definition ([Wit89])

For a flat  $\mathfrak{su}_2$  connection  $A$  on  $M$ , consider Chern-Simons invariant as a Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(A) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_M \text{tr} \left( A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3} A \wedge A \wedge A \right)$$

Then the path integral

$$Z(M) = \int \exp(ik\mathcal{L}(A)) \mathcal{D}A$$

over all connections  $A$  gives value of a TQFT via  $\mathcal{F}_k(M) = Z(M)/Z(S^3)$ . Integer  $k$  is **level**.

- Can extend to case where  $M$  has an embedded link  $L$
- This is not mathematically rigorous
- However, can use physical arguments to determine how  $Z(M)$  changes under surgery on  $L$ , allowing computation

# Reshetikhin-Turaev's version of WRT

Pick framed link  $L$  in  $S^3$  representing  $M$  via Dehn surgery.

- For any labeling of components  $L_j$  of  $L$  by modules  $V_j$  of **quantum group**  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ , use  $R$ -matrix to construct invariant  $\mathcal{F}(L; \{V_j\})$ . Jones polynomial is a special case of these.
- When  $q = \zeta$  is root of unity (order is related to level  $k$ ) can get **modular** category of  $\mathcal{U}_\zeta(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -modules with special properties
- By taking weighted sum of *all* labellings of  $L$  by modules, get invariant  $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$  of  $M$ .
- Physical arguments identify  $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$  with Witten's  $Z(M)/Z(S^3)$ .
- $\mathcal{F}_k$  can be extended to a full  $2 + 1$  TQFT.

Details in [RT91]. A good exposition is [BK00].

# Manifolds with links

- In both cases, natural to extend to 3-manifolds  $M$  with an embedded link  $L$  (embedded copies of  $S^1$ )
- Related to the fact that these are **extended** TQFTs: can be extended to cobordism 2-category
- When  $L = \emptyset$ , recover usual invariant:  $\mathcal{F}(M, \emptyset) = \mathcal{F}(M)$
- If  $M$  has nonempty boundary, we allow **tangles** that start or end on the boundary components
- Objects of our category are then surfaces with marked points where tangles can start or end

# Geometric field theories

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Abelian  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

Towards nonabelian  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

# Geometric structures on manifolds

## Definition

Let  $G$  be a group (usually a Lie group) and  $M$  be a manifold. A  $G$ -structure is a representation  $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow G$  considered up to conjugation.

## Example

$G = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  is the isometry group of hyperbolic 3-space, so hyperbolic structures on  $M$  are  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structures.

We focus on  $G = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  and 3-manifolds. We think of a  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structure as a generalized hyperbolic structure.

## Why hyperbolic structures?

- Hyperbolic 3-manifolds are large, interesting class; these have  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structures that are discrete and faithful
- More generally, studying moduli space of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structures (**character variety**) on  $M$  gives important topological information about  $M$
- For us, turns out to be convenient to use double cover  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  instead.

# Geometric field theory

## Definition

$\text{Cob}_d^G$  is the category with

**objects**  $d$ -manifolds  $X$  with  $G$ -structures  $\rho : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow G$

**morphisms** cobordisms  $M$  with  $G$ -structures  $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow G$

To compose two morphisms we require that the  $G$ -structures match after our identification.

## Definition

A  **$G$ -field theory** is a functor  $\mathcal{F} : \text{Cob}_d^G \rightarrow \text{Vect}$  depending only on the conjugacy classes of the  $G$ -structures.

Turaev [Tur10] calls these **homotopy quantum field theories** with target  $K(G, 1)$ .

# Geometric 3-manifold invariants

Return to  $G = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  and  $d = 2$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory in dimension  $2 + 1$ , then for each  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structure  $\rho$  on a 3-manifold we get

$$\mathcal{F}(M, \rho) \in \mathbb{C}$$

If  $\rho'$  is conjugate to  $\rho$  then  $\mathcal{F}(M, \rho) = \mathcal{F}(M, \rho')$ .

# Examples

## Torsion

Reidemeister torsion  $\tau(M, \rho)$  twisted by  $\rho$  can be thought of as value of a GFT.

Later we will discuss how to extend this to a GFT (instead of just for closed  $M$ .)

## Complex volume

Natural to consider hyperbolic volume and Chern-Simons invariant as parts of a **complex volume**

$$\text{cVol}(M, \rho) = \text{Vol}(M, \rho) + i \text{CS}(M, \rho) \in \mathbb{C}/\pi^2 i \mathbb{Z}$$

At least for  $M$  with torus boundary, can cut and glue cVol [KK93].

### Definition

We write  $\mathfrak{X}_M$  for the **character variety** of  $M$ . Up to technicalities  $\mathfrak{X}_M$  is the moduli space of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -structures on  $M$ .

- Now  $\mathcal{F}$  assigns each 3-manifold  $M$  a function  $\mathcal{F}(M)$  on its character  $\mathfrak{X}_M$ .
- Much more powerful than a TQFT: instead of one number we get a function on an interesting algebraic variety!

# Extracting simpler invariants

However,  $\mathfrak{X}_M$  can be complicated. We might want something simpler.  
Ways to do this:

- Pick trivial structure  $\rho_{\text{triv}} \in \mathfrak{X}_M$  with  $\rho_{\text{triv}}(x) = 1$  for all  $x$
- If  $M$  is hyperbolic, there is a *canonical* structure  $\rho_{\text{hol}}$  by Mostow rigidity.  $\mathcal{F}(M, \rho_{\text{hol}})$  is a topological invariant of  $M$  for any GFT  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Restrict to simpler part  $\mathfrak{A}_M \subset \mathfrak{X}_M$ , say  $\rho$  with abelian image.

# Abelian $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

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## A simpler example

- Constructing a full  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory is hard!
- As a first step, let's instead restrict to  $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  with abelian image. After diagonalizing, this means

$$\rho(x) = \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & t^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, t \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$$

for every  $x \in \pi_1(M)$ .

- Can think of this as restricting to  $\mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})$  subgroup of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$

# Abelian representations

## Definition

For  $M$  a 3-manifold with an embedded link  $L$ , write

$$\mathfrak{A}_{M,L} = H^1(M \setminus L; \mathbb{C}/2\mathbb{Z}).$$

We think of  $\mathfrak{A}_{M,L}$  as part of the character variety: if  $\omega \in \mathfrak{A}_{M,L}$  and  $x \in \pi_1(M \setminus L)$ , then

$$\rho(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \exp(\pi i \omega(x)) & 0 \\ 0 & \exp(-\pi i \omega(x)) \end{pmatrix}$$

(Actually slightly more:  $\omega(x)$  *logarithm* of eigenvalues of  $x$ )

# The BCGP field theory

**Theorem (Blanchet, Costantino, Geer, and Patureau-Mirand [Bla+16])**

*Pick an even integer  $2r$ ,  $r \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . For each  $(M, L, \omega)$  there is an invariant*

$$\mathbb{V}_r(M, L, \omega) \in \mathbb{C}$$

*Furthermore, this invariant extends to a geometric quantum field theory on a category with*

**objects** *surfaces with embedded marked points and compatible classes  $\omega$*

**morphisms** *cobordisms between surfaces with embedded tangles between the points, again with compatible classes  $\omega$*

## Special cases

Say  $M = S^3$  and  $K$  is a knot. Then  $\mathfrak{A}_{S^3, K} \cong \mathbb{C}/2\mathbb{Z}$ , so  $\omega$  is a single number  $\lambda$ . We see that

$$\mathbb{V}_r(S^3, K, \omega) = \mathbb{V}_r(K, \lambda)$$

is a function of  $\lambda$ .

### Theorem

$\mathbb{V}_r(K, \lambda)$  is a rational function in  $t = \exp(\pi i \lambda)$  and agrees with the invariant of Akutsu, Deguchi, and Ohtsuki [ADO92].

In particular, for  $r = 1$  it is the Conway polynomial (normalized Alexander polynomial).

We interpret  $\mathbb{V}_r$  as an extension of ADO to a field theory.

## Theorem

If  $\omega = 0$ , then  $\mathbb{V}_r(S^3, L, 0)$  is the *Kashaev invariant*, the  $r$ th colored Jones polynomial of  $L$  evaluated at  $q = \exp(\pi i/r)$ .

This is the invariant appearing in the volume conjecture.

We interpret  $\mathbb{V}_r$  as extending the Kashaev invariant to a field theory, because it also makes sense for manifolds other than  $S^3$ .

# Why bother?

Some advantages over usual RT:

- Any TQFT gives mapping class group representations; for RT Dehn twists are finite-order and obviously not faithful
- Mapping class group representations of BCGP are infinite-order, so potentially faithful
- BCGP can distinguish some lens spaces that RT cannot

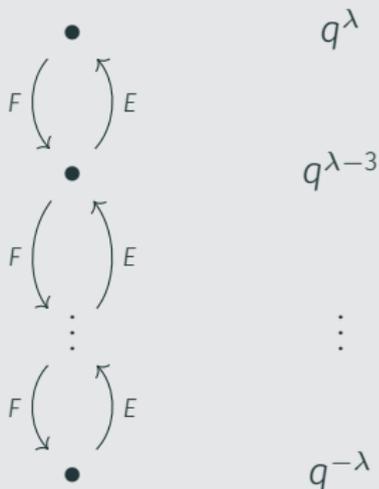
# How to construct it

- As with RT, first step is invariants of framed links in  $S^3$ .
- Usual RT construction assigns representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  to components
- Now we use  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  at  $\xi = \exp(\pi i/r)$
- Class  $\omega$  assigns complex number  $\lambda_j$  to link component  $L_j$  (evaluate on meridian)
- We assign  $L_j$  a  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -module  $V_{\lambda_j}$  parametrized by  $\lambda_j$
- Where do these come from?

# Highest-weight modules

## Fact

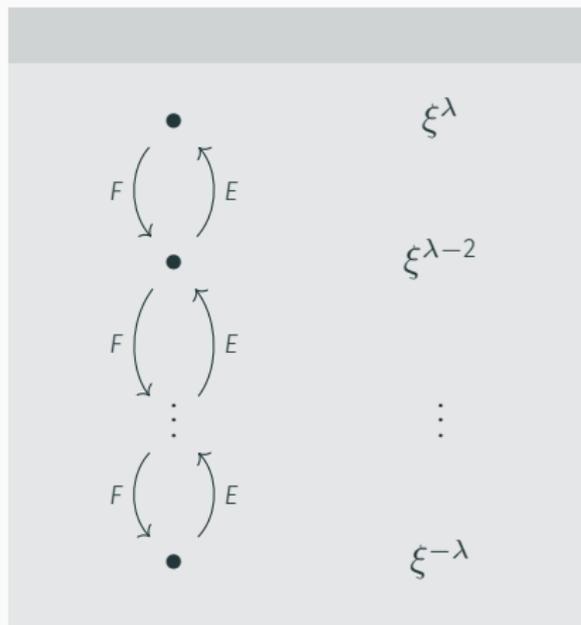
For  $q$  generic (not a root of unity) up to some signs any  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -module of dimension  $\lambda + 1$  looks like  $V_\lambda$  given by



- Weights are eigenvalues of  $K = q^H$  just like for usual  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$
- Here we need highest weight  $\lambda$  to be an *integer*

# $q$ a root of unity

Now set  $q = \xi = \exp(\pi i/r)$



- If highest weight  $\lambda \in \{0, 1, \dots, r-1\}$ , get module  $V_\lambda$  of dimension  $\lambda + 1$  specializing previous case
- If  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $|\lambda| \geq r$ ,  $V_\lambda$  is no longer irreducible
- **New modules:** because  $\xi^{2r} = 1$ , can have modules  $V_\lambda$  of dimension  $r$  for any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$

# Representations of $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

$$\lambda \in \{0, 1, \dots, r-2\}$$

- Modules  $V_\lambda$  are specializations of generic  $q$  case
- Non-vanishing quantum dimensions
- This part gives the modular category used in RT construction

$$\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z} \text{ or } \lambda = r-1$$

- New, exotic behavior: non-integral highest-weights
- Vanishing quantum dimension
- These modules are sent to 0 in semi-simplification as part of RT construction

- Important case is  $V_{r-1}$ , used to construct Kashaev invariant.
- If  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\lambda \notin \{0, 1, \dots, r-1\}$ , much more complicated. We mostly avoid these modules.

# Applying to BCGP construction

- To compute  $\mathbb{V}_r(S^3, L, \omega)$  we assign component  $L_j$  with  $\omega$ -value  $\lambda_j$  the module  $V_{\lambda_j}$
- To get surgery invariant, there is a similar sum over all admissible labelings like in usual RT. (Roughly speaking, we sum over  $r$ th roots of  $\exp(\pi i \lambda_j)$ )
- One significant technical difficulty: because quantum dimension of  $V_{\lambda}$  vanishes, obvious construction vanishes. Need to use **modified traces** to fix this.
- For this reason BCGP is sometimes called a **non-semisimple TQFT**

# Towards nonabelian $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory

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# Nonabelian holonomy

- The BCGP invariant is defined for  $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  with *abelian image*
- Problem: geometrically interesting representations never have abelian image!
- For example, canonical holonomy rep  $\rho_{\mathrm{hol}}$  of hyperbolic  $M$  is faithful, so never abelian

# Our goal

Extend BCGP theory  $\mathbb{V}_r(M, L, \omega)$  to  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory. Corresponding **quantum holonomy invariants** are

$$\mathbb{F}_r(M, L, \rho, \omega) \in \mathbb{C}$$

Can think of this as a deformation or twisting of Kashaev/ADO invariants by  $\rho$ .

- In abelian case cohomology class  $\omega$  determined  $\rho$ , plus logarithm of meridian eigenvalues
- Now  $\omega$  is a similar choice of logarithm, needs to be compatible with  $\rho$

$\mathbb{F}_r$  has not yet been defined in general. I want to explain what is known and discuss remaining obstacles.

- Recall that WRT theory  $\mathcal{F}_k$  was quantum Chern-Simons theory with gauge group  $SU(2)$
- $\mathbb{F}_r$  should be closely related to quantum Chern-Simons with *noncompact* gauge group  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$  [Guk05]
- Interesting in context of volume conjecture

# The volume conjecture

Recall that  $\mathbb{F}_r(S^3, L, \rho_{\text{triv}}, 0) = \mathbb{V}_r(S^3, L, 0)$  is the Kashaev invariant, equivalently the  $r$ th colored Jones polynomial at  $q = \exp(\pi i/r)$ .

## Conjecture ([Kas97], [MM01])

For any hyperbolic knot  $K$  in  $S^3$ ,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |\mathbb{F}_r(S^3, K, \rho_{\text{triv}}, 0)|}{r} = \frac{\text{Vol}(K, \rho_{\text{hol}})}{2\pi}$$

where  $\text{Vol}(K, \rho_{\text{hol}})$  is the hyperbolic volume of the canonical holonomy representation  $\rho_{\text{hol}}$ .

## Question

How does value at trivial representation know about the canonical hyperbolic structure?

# The volume conjecture and GFT

In the context of  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -field theory, can at least split this into two conjectures:

## Conjecture

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |\mathbb{F}_r(S^3, K, \rho_{hol}, 0)|}{r} = \frac{\text{Vol}(K, \rho_{hol})}{2\pi}$$

## Conjecture

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |\mathbb{F}_r(S^3, K, \rho_{triv}, 0)|}{r} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |\mathbb{F}_r(S^3, K, \rho_{hol}, 0)|}{r}$$

First seems plausible. Second is harder but Witten [Wit11] suggests physical reasons it might be true.

# Links in $S^3$

First step: links  $L$  in  $M = S^3$ .

**Theorem (Blanchet, Geer, Patereau-Mirand, and Reshetikhin [Bla+20])**

*Up to phase indeterminacy there is such an invariant*

$$F_r(L, \rho, \omega) \in \mathbb{C}/\Gamma_{r^2}$$

*where  $\Gamma_n$  is the group of  $n$ th roots of unity. Here  $\rho$  is any boundary non-parabolic representation.*

## Problem

Cannot make sense of sum of things in  $\mathbb{C}/\Gamma_{r^2}$ ; need to fix this to use RT construction.

Boundary non-parabolic is also a problem (hyperbolic links are always boundary parabolic) but is easier to fix.

# Defining the invariant

- Before, we used modules  $V_\lambda$  with highest weight  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$
- These were unusual, but still had  $E^r$  and  $F^r$  acting by 0
- However, there are **cyclic modules**  $V_{\chi,\lambda}$  where this is no longer true!
- Now they are parametrized by matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \chi(K^r) & -\chi(E^r) \\ \chi(K^r F^r) & \dots \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$$

where  $\chi$  is a character on a central subalgebra  $\mathcal{Z}_0 \subset \mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  that appears at  $q = \xi$ .

- $\lambda$  is related to action of Casimir on  $V_{\chi,\lambda}$

# Cyclic modules

- Cyclic modules are parametrized by character  $\chi$  and “highest weight”  $\lambda$ , which is not really a highest weight anymore because  $\ker E = 0$ .
- Instead  $\lambda$  determines action of the Casimir element
- $\chi$  is related to value of holonomy  $\rho$  around the strand of a link
- $\lambda$  is logarithm of eigenvalues of the holonomy

$$\chi(K^r) = \kappa, \chi(E^r) = \epsilon$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 v_0 & & \kappa^{1/r} \\
 \downarrow E & \nearrow E & \\
 v_1 & & \kappa^{1/r} \xi^{-2} \\
 \downarrow E & \nearrow E & \\
 \vdots & & \vdots \\
 \downarrow E & \nearrow E & \\
 v_{r-1} & & \kappa^{1/r} \xi^{-2(r-1)}
 \end{array}$$

$$E \cdot v_k = v_{k-1}$$

$$E \cdot v_0 = \epsilon v_{r-1}$$

# The braiding

- Key step in RT link invariants is defining the **braiding**  
 $V \otimes W \rightarrow W \otimes V$
- Usually determined by action of **universal  $R$ -matrix** on  $V \otimes W$ :

$$\mathbf{R} = q^{H \otimes H/2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n E^n \otimes F^n \in \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{\otimes 2}$$

- For ordinary RT and BCGP,  $E$  and  $F$  act nilpotently so action of  $\mathbf{R}$  converges
- **Problem:** for cyclic modules action of  $\mathbf{R}$  diverges

## Fixing the braiding

- To fix this, Kashaev and Reshetikhin [KR04; KR05] suggest looking at conjugation action of  $\mathbf{R}$  on  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{\otimes 2}$ , which still makes sense at  $q = \xi$
- Can use this to uniquely characterize braiding on modules
- However, does not fix normalization or give explicit formula
- Consequences:
  1.  $\mathbb{F}_r$  has indeterminate phase
  2. Very difficult to compute values
  3. Hard to relate to geometry

## A special case

In simplest nontrivial case, something can be said:

**Theorem (Me, [McP22a; McP22b])**

*For any link  $L$  in  $S^3$ ,*

$$F_2(L, \rho, \omega) F_2(\bar{L}, \bar{\rho}, \omega) = \tau(S^3 \setminus L, \rho)$$

*where  $\bar{L}$  is the mirror image and  $\tau(S^3 \setminus L, \rho)$  is the Reidemeister torsion twisted by  $\rho$ .*

This is the natural generalization of the usual construction of the Alexander polynomial as a quantum invariant.

**Proof.**

Instead of computing braiding directly, use quantum doubles to give a different characterization that it easier to work with.  $\square$

# Understanding the braiding

We want to understand the braiding better in general.

## Theorem (Me, Reshetikhin [MR22; McP21])

*By using a certain presentation of  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ , we can explicitly compute braiding matrices in terms of **quantum dilogarithms**.*

- The (cyclic) quantum dilogarithm of Faddeev and Kashaev [FK94] is a matrix-valued function analogous to the dilogarithm function appearing in the computation of complex volume
- This computation should similarly be understood in terms of hyperbolic geometry
- This is a work in progress; a preliminary version is in my thesis [McP21]

# Ideal triangulations and the braiding

- To describe hyperbolic structures on a link complement, use **ideal triangulation** [Thu80]
- To obtain these from link diagrams, use **octahedral decomposition** of Thurston [Thu99] and Kim, Kim, and Yoon [KKY18]
- Each crossing has four tetrahedra
- Our quantum braiding at a crossing factors into four quantum dilogarithms, one for each tetrahedron
- Suggests a close relationship (perhaps equivalence?) with invariants of Baseilhac and Benedetti [BB05]

## Fixing the phase ambiguity

- Central characters  $\chi$  of  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  parametrizing modules are closely related to **shapes** of hyperbolic ideal tetrahedron [McP22b]
- Phase ambiguity in  $F_r(L, \rho, \omega)$  is related to picking  $r$ th roots of the shapes
- Analogous problem in computation of Chern-Simons invariant is solved by **flattenings** of Neumann [Neu04]
- I am currently working on using these to resolve the phase ambiguity

# Classical applications

Going the other direction, we can apply ideas from geometric quantum field theory to hyperbolic geometry:

## Theorem (Me, to appear)

For  $M$  a compact, oriented, closed 3-manifold and  $\rho : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  there is a *refined complex volume*  $\mathcal{V}(M, \rho) \in \mathbb{C}$  lifting the usual one:

$$\mathcal{V}(M, \rho) \equiv \mathrm{Vol}(M, \rho) + i \mathrm{CS}(M, \rho) \pmod{\pi^2 i \mathbb{Z}}$$

Recall that  $\mathrm{CS}(M, \rho)$  is only defined  $\pmod{\pi^2 \mathbb{Z}}$ .

- $\mathcal{V}$  is also defined for manifolds with torus boundary given a choice of boundary conditions.
- It obeys gluing relations, so we can think of this as a geometric (classical) field theory

The proof comes from an analogy to the quantum invariant  $F_r$ .

- The description of the hyperbolic structure  $\rho$  in terms of  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  is also convenient for computing complex volume.
- Can use to understand  $\pi^2 i$  ambiguity (analogous to phase ambiguity in  $F_r$ ) and eliminate, then
- use techniques of Blanchet, Geer, Patereau-Mirand, and Reshetikhin [Bla+20] to prove this gives an invariant of  $(M, \rho)$ .

# Conclusion

- Motivated by volume conjecture and physics we want to upgrade TQFTs to include geometric data
- We call the values on links and manifold **quantum holonomy invariants**
- To define them, need to understand unusual representations of  $\mathcal{U}_\xi(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  at root of unity
- These are closely related to hyperbolic geometry and octahedral decompositions
- In the future, I hope these connections produce a better understanding of both quantum topology and of hyperbolic geometry/topology

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