

Irregular Connections

& Hitchin systems

and

Kac Moody Root systems

P. Boalch

ENS, Paris

Basic Aim

Initial steps in classification of

- meromorphic Hitchin systems
- moduli spaces of meromorphic connections on curves
- Painlevé type differential equations
- certain hyperkähler manifolds

i.e. "wild nonabelian Hodge structures"

§1

Mckay correspondence & quiver varieties

graphs
+ other data



hyperkähler
manifolds

$\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(z)$ finite group

Define the Mckay graph of Γ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \{\text{nodes}\} = \{\text{irreducible representations of } \Gamma\} \\ &= \{V_0 = \mathbb{C}, V_1, \dots, V_r\} \text{ say} \end{aligned}$$

Now compute the decomposition

$$\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes V_i = \bigoplus_{j \in I} a_{ij} V_j$$

↑ defining representation of Γ

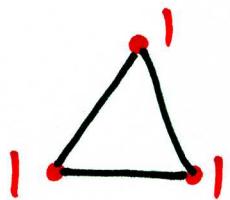
↖ integer multiplicities

Define edges Q s.t. there are a_{ij} edges between i & j

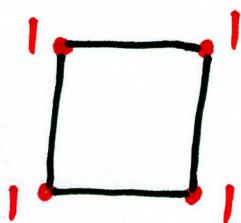
Mckay observed the graphs which arise are the simply laced affine Dynkin diagrams

A_n, D_n, E_6, E_7, E_8

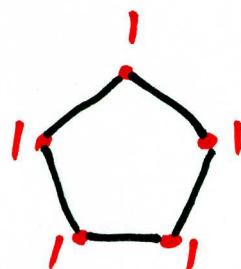
E-g:



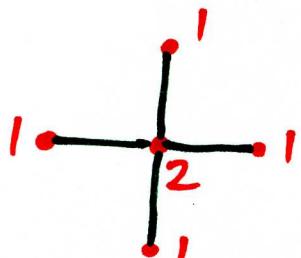
$$\begin{matrix} \mathbb{Z}/3 \\ \hat{A}_2 \end{matrix}$$



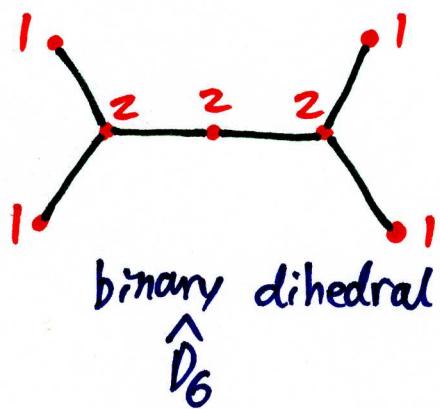
$$\begin{matrix} \mathbb{Z}/4 \\ \hat{A}_3 \end{matrix}$$



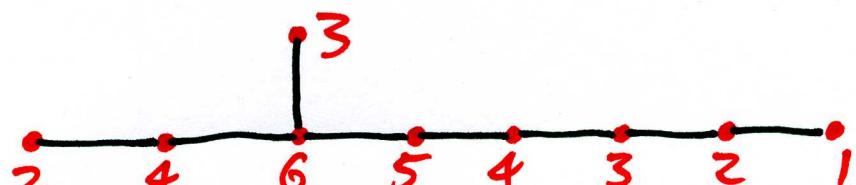
$$\begin{matrix} \mathbb{Z}/5 \\ \hat{A}_4 \end{matrix}$$



$$\begin{matrix} Q_8 = \{\pm 1, \pm i, \pm j, \pm k\} \\ \hat{D}_4 \end{matrix}$$



$$\begin{matrix} \text{binary dihedral} \\ \hat{D}_6 \end{matrix}$$



$$\text{binary icosahedral}$$

$$\hat{E}_8$$

Now consider \mathbb{C}^2/Γ (Kleinian singularity/
rational double point)

and its minimal resolution $N = \widetilde{\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma}$

Theorem (Kronheimer)

- N admits a family of complete hyperkähler metrics
- They may be constructed in terms of the McKay graph of Γ
- All such metrics asymptotic to \mathbb{C}^2/Γ arise this way

Some cases found earlier by physicists ("gravitational instantons")

\hat{A}_1 $T^* \mathbb{P}^1$ Eguchi - Hanson

\hat{A}_n Gibbons - Hawking

Basic idea of construction

Graph Q , nodes I

Let $\underline{d} = (d_i)$ be vector of dimensions

Put vector space \mathbb{C}^{d_i} at node i for all nodes i

Consider • Vector space \mathcal{V} of linear maps
in both directions along each edge

[If \mathbb{C}^{d_i} given standard Hermitian form & Q oriented, then]
 \mathcal{V} becomes a (flat) hyperkähler vector space]

• group $U(\underline{d}) = \prod U(d_i)$ product of unitary groups

Now use standard process to get new hyperkähler manifolds:

Perform the hyperkähler quotient
of \mathcal{V} by $U(\underline{d})$ at a generic
central value of the hyperkähler moment map

In fact this process works for any
graph and dimension vector \underline{d}

family of hyperkähler manifolds \mathcal{N}
(if \underline{d} irreducible & generic value used)

If nonempty

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{N} = z - (\underline{d}, \underline{d})$$

$$(\underline{d}, \underline{d}) = \sum_{ij} d_i c_{ij} d_j$$

$$c = z - A$$

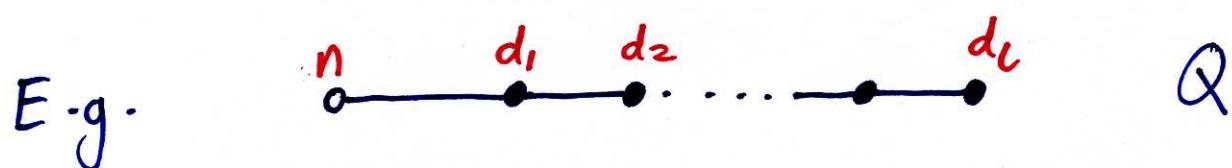
$A = (a_{ij})$ adjacency matrix of graph

"Nakajima quiver varieties"

- big impact in geometric representation theory

Minor modification:

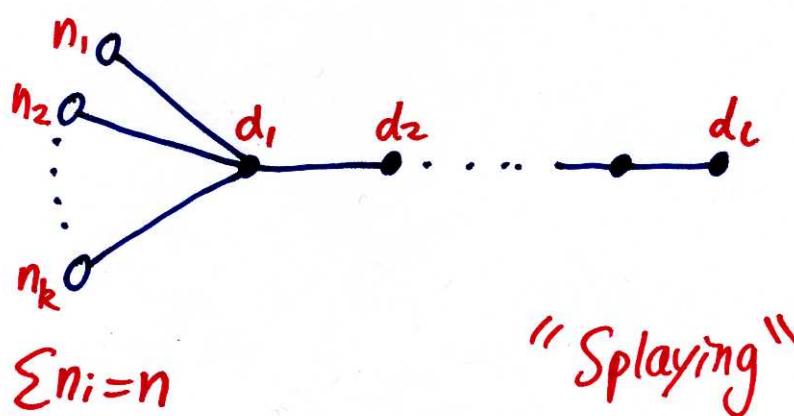
Label each node as 'open' or 'closed'
and only quotient by subgroup of $\mathrm{U}(d)$
at closed nodes



$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N} \cong \overline{\theta} \subset \mathrm{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ or (partial) resolution

[Kraft - Procesi, Nakajima, Crawley-Boevey ...]

Note: \mathcal{N} unchanged if Q replaced by



§2

Hitchin moduli spaces and generalisations

Riemann surface
+ other data \longrightarrow hyperkähler manifold

Simplest case:

Σ compact Riemann surface

$G = \mathbb{C}^*$

Take $M = H^1(\Sigma, G)$

Three descriptions:

DeRham $\bullet \left\{ \text{line bundles with holomorphic connections on } \Sigma \right\} / \sim$

Betti $\bullet \text{Hom}(\pi_1(\Sigma), \mathbb{C}^*) \cong (\mathbb{C}^*)^{2g}$

Dolbeault $\bullet T^* \text{Jac}(\Sigma) \cong H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{C}) / H^1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$
by Hodge theory

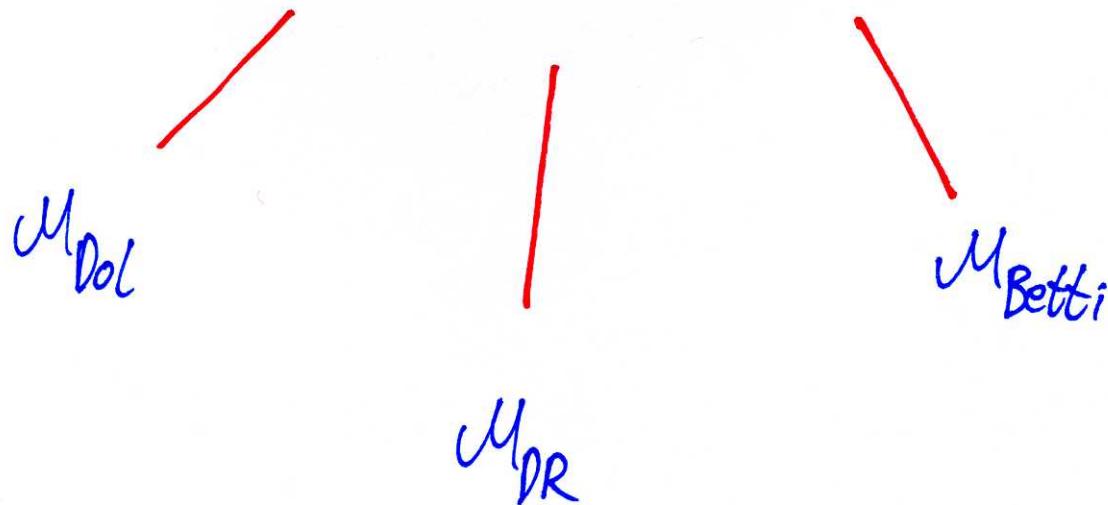
Three algebraic structures, two inequivalent complex structures
- flat hyperkähler manifold

Hitchin spaces (usual picture with punctures)

- Choose
- complex reductive group $G = K\mathbb{C}$
 - smooth projective curve Σ
 - distinct points $a_1, \dots, a_m \in \Sigma$
 - conjugacy classes $e_1, \dots, e_m \subset G$
(+ parabolic str.)

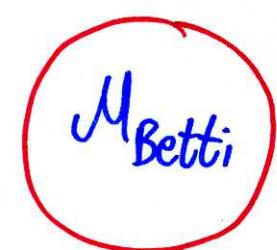


Hyperkähler manifold M

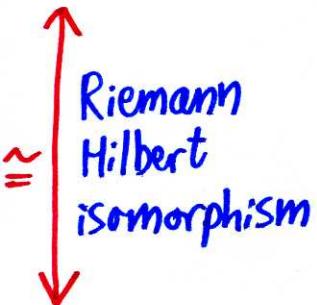


Hitchin, Donaldson, Corlette, Simpson, Nakajima, . . .

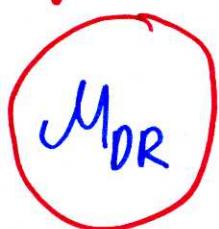
For $G = GL_n(\mathbb{C})$, ignoring stability conditions



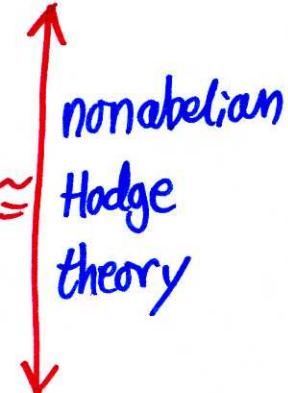
is a space of representations of
 $\pi_i (\Sigma \setminus \{a_i\})$ in G



[loop around $a_i \mapsto$ conjugacy class e_i]



is a space of rank n vector bundles
with meromorphic connections
having simple poles at $\{a_i\}$

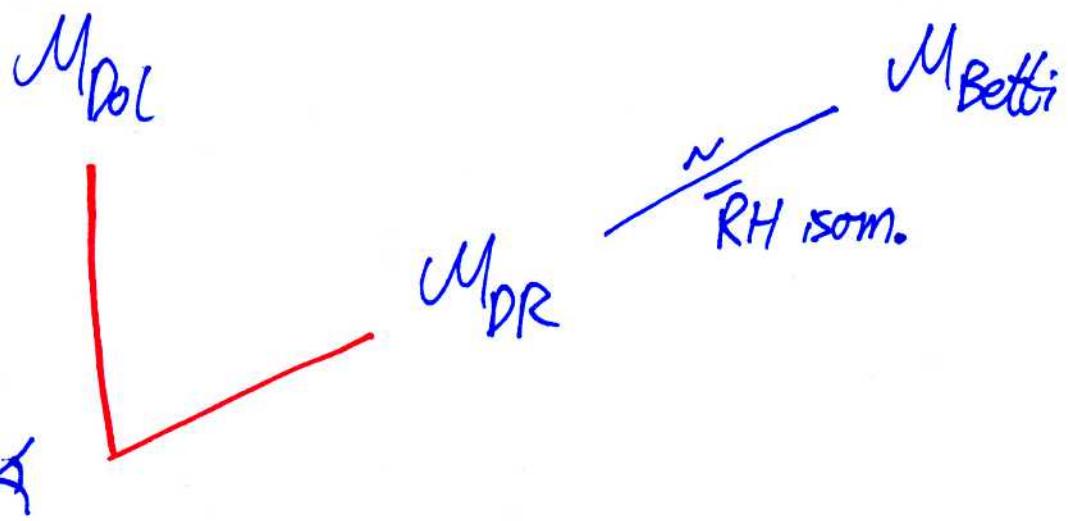


\sim Linear systems of differential equations on Σ
with regular singularities



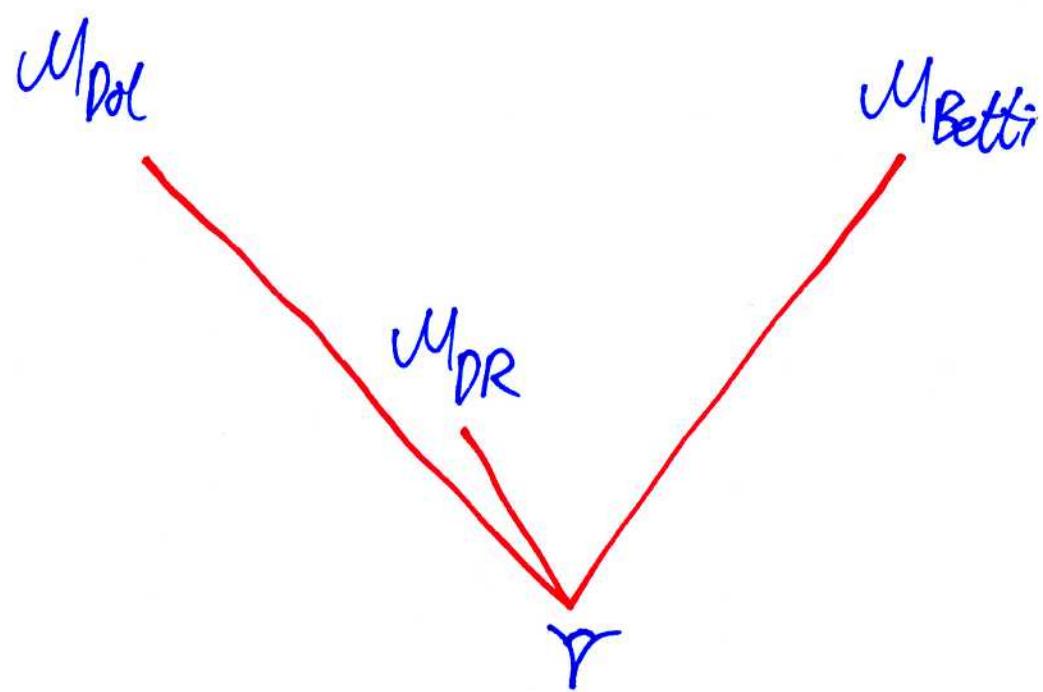
is a space of meromorphic Higgs pairs
 (V, Φ) $\Phi \in H^0(\mathcal{J}^1(\text{End } V)(\Sigma \setminus \{a_i\}))$

- fibred by Lagrangian abelian varieties
(Hitchin's integrable system)



complex analytic
geometer

two spaces!



complex algebraic geometer

three spaces, two of which are
very close (deformation)

Eg ("E₈ ALG space") \mathbb{P}^1 , m=3, special orbits

Blow up 9 points on the smooth locus
of a cuspidal cubic in \mathbb{P}^2 & remove
strict transform of cubic

- ① Get M_{Dol} if 9 points sum to zero
(elliptically fibred - Hitchin fibration)
- ② Else get M_{DR} -(deformation) (cf. PB arxiv 0706)
- ③ M_{Betti} got by blowing up \mathbb{P}^2 in 8 points
& removing a nodal \mathbb{P}^1 (Etingof-Oblomkov-Rains 07)

Qn: Can this story be extended to spaces of
meromorphic connections with higher order
poles, i.e. irregular singularities?

Some motivation:

- Appearance in classification of certain 2d quantum field theories (Cecotti-Vafa, Dubrovin)
- Lots of important irregular singular differential equations studied classically
- More examples of integrable systems, unifying lots of classical examples
- Natural arena for Painlevé equations / isomonodromic deformations

Wild Hitchin spaces

Basically fixing conjugacy class of monodromy around puncture \Leftrightarrow connection with simple pole & residue in fixed adjoint orbit

$$\frac{A}{z} dz \quad A \in \theta \subset \mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$$

$$\exp(2\pi i \theta) = c \subset G$$

\Leftrightarrow fixing $G[[z]]$ isomorphism class of connection

Generalisation — allow higher order poles in fixed formal isomorphism class

$$\left(\frac{A_k}{z^k} + \frac{A_{k-1}}{z^{k-1}} + \dots + \frac{A_2}{z^2} + \frac{A_1}{z} \right) dz + \dots$$

Here: assume $A_1, \dots, A_k \in \mathfrak{h}$ (Cartan subalg. \mathfrak{g})
 - generic condition (follows e.g. if $A_k \in \mathfrak{h}_{\text{reg}}$)

Meromorphic Higgs bundles (More) much
studied

[Fix $G[[z]]$ orbit of principal part of Higgs field Φ
at each pole, similarly]

Theorem (Bottacin, Markman) ~ 1993 ↗
Beauville, Adams-Hornad-Hurtubise, Reiman-Semenov
Tian Shansky, Adler-van Moerbeke
if genus = 0

More is an algebraically completely integrable system
(~ fibred by Lagrangian abelian varieties)

Theorem (Biquard - PB)
2004

- wild nonabelian Hodge correspondence

$$M_{\text{Dol}} \cong M_{\text{DR}}$$

[map ← earlier by Sabbah]

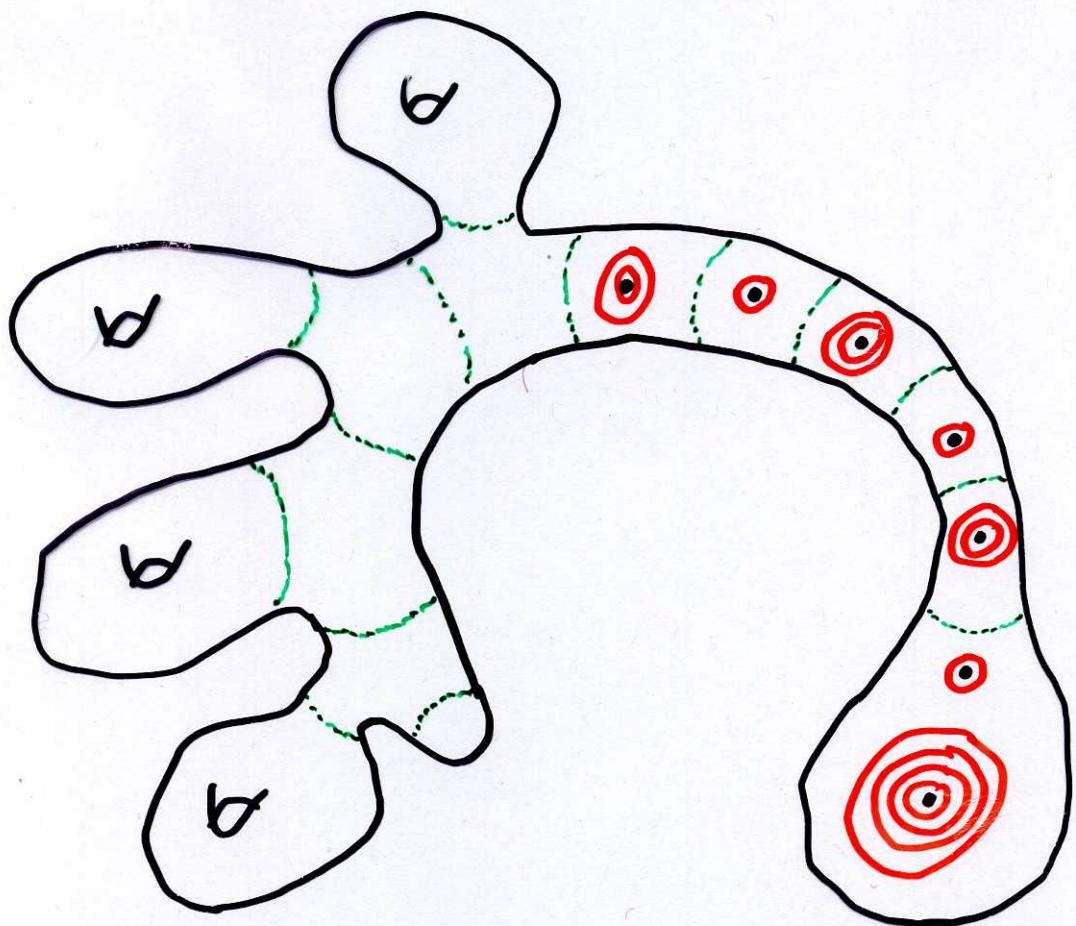
- Hyperkähler metrics (complete if spaces are smooth)

[generic residues $\{A_i\} \Rightarrow$ smoothness]

M_{Betti}

- can be described as space of certain representations of the "wild fundamental group" of Martinet-Ramis (Tannakian viewpoint)
- or more directly via Stokes multipliers

[cf. PB Adv. Math '01, Duke '07]



Qn

What set of hyperkähler manifolds M arise in this way?

Are they well parameterised by the input data? (Torelli type question)

i.e. is the map G , curve, points, formal types, ...

$$\begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ M \end{matrix}$$

from input data to hyperkähler manifolds injective?

Yes

$g > 1$, no poles, SL_n (Biswas-Gomez '01)

No

In general:

Can do Fourier-Laplace / Nahm transform of meromorphic connections on \mathbb{P}^1

(Hyperkähler isometry by S. Szabo '05)

Lets fix $\Sigma = \mathbb{P}^1$ & try to construct invariants

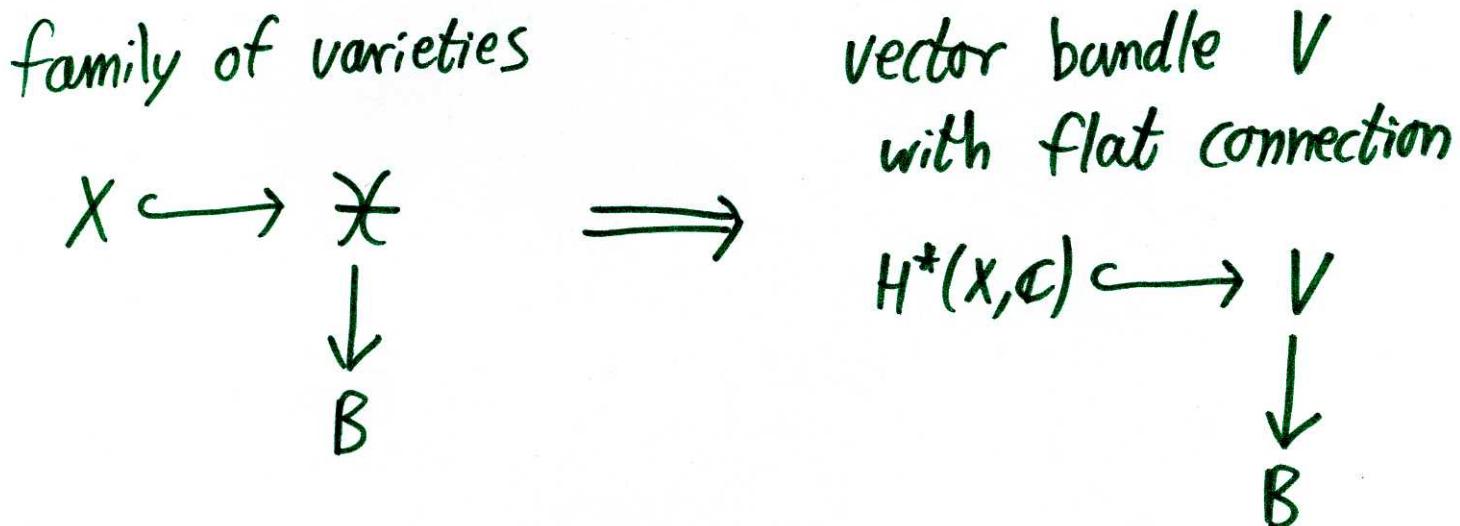
§3

Isomonodromic deformations

[Nonabelian Gauss-Manin connections]

Usual cohomology:

variety $X \implies$ vector space $H^*(X, \mathbb{C})$



Explicitly get "Picard-Fuchs equations"

- linear differential equations coming from geometry

* Same story works replacing \mathbb{C} by G *

[at least for H' , & also in "wild" version]

Simplest nontrivial case

$$G = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}), \quad X_t = \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, t, 1, \infty\}$$

[regular singularities, fixed monodromy classes]

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_t & \hookrightarrow & \mathcal{X} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \{t\} & \subset & \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\} \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{ccc} M_t & \hookrightarrow & \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\} \end{array}$$

nonlinear fibre bundle
with flat connection

$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M_t = 2$ here, so in explicit coordinates
flat connection is a 2nd order nonlinear
differential equation (Painlevé VI equation)

"nonlinear differential equations coming from geometry"

- nowadays arise throughout mathematics and
physics (Einstein manifolds, Frobenius manifolds,
geometry of the string equation, ...)

The Painlevé Equations

$$\text{PI: } y'' = 6y^2 + t$$

$$\text{II: } y'' = 2y^3 + ty + \alpha$$

$$\text{III: } y'' = \frac{(y')^2}{y} - \frac{y'}{t} + \frac{\alpha y^2 + \beta}{t} + \gamma y^3 + \frac{\delta}{y}$$

$$\text{IV: } y'' = \frac{(y')^2}{2y} + \frac{3y^3}{2} + 4ty^2 + 2(t^2 - \alpha)y + \frac{\beta}{y}$$

$$\text{V: } y'' = \left(\frac{1}{2y} + \frac{1}{y-1} \right) (y')^2 - \frac{y'}{t} + \frac{(y-1)^2}{t^2} \left(\alpha y + \frac{\beta}{y} \right) + \frac{\gamma y}{t} + \frac{\delta y(y+1)}{y-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VI: } y'' = & \left(\frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y-1} + \frac{1}{y-t} \right) \frac{(y')^2}{2} - \left(\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{t-1} + \frac{1}{y-t} \right) y' \\ & + \frac{y(y-1)(y-t)}{t^2(t-1)^2} \left(\alpha + \frac{\beta t}{y^2} + \frac{\gamma(t-1)}{(y-1)^2} + \frac{\delta t(t-1)}{(y-t)^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}$ are parameters.

Qn What set of systems of nonlinear
(overdetermined partial) differential equations
arise in this way?

E.g. (Harnad '94)

Painlevé VI also arises as isomonodromy
equation for case $G = \text{GL}_3$ on \mathbb{P}^1

with

- one order two pole &
- one order one pole

$$[D = Z(0) + (\infty)]$$

- isomorphic moduli spaces
- view as different "representations" or "realizations"
of same nonlinear differential equation

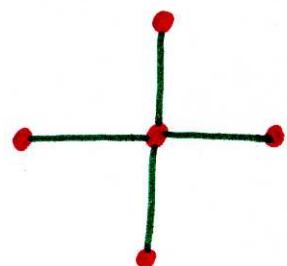
Lets fix $\Sigma = \mathbb{P}^1$ and try to construct invariants...

§4

Graphs and Hitchin spaces

Rough summary

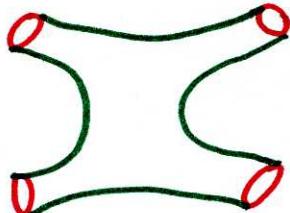
Graph Q



Quiver variety $\mathcal{N}(Q)$

$$\mathcal{N}(\hat{\mathbb{D}}_4)$$

Riemann surface



wild Hitchin space

$$\mathcal{M}$$

and some of these Hitchin spaces (with $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M} = 2$)
are "spaces of initial conditions" of Painlevé equations

Basic examples

Approximations M^*

M

①

$$\theta // H$$

$$\theta \subset g^*$$

$$\mathcal{L} // H$$

$\mathcal{L} \subset G^*$ dual Poisson Lie gp

②

$$H \backslash\!\! \backslash T^* G // H$$

$$H_{\lambda_2} \backslash\!\! \backslash \mathcal{D} // H_{\lambda_1}$$

$\mathcal{D} \subset (G \times G^*)^2$ Lu-Weinstein
Sympl. double groupoid

③

special ALE spaces

e.g. A_{1-3}, D_4, E_{6-8}

$$\sim \widetilde{\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma}$$

Okamoto Painlevé spaces

"2d Hitchin systems"

Now if $\Sigma = \mathbb{P}^1$ $M = M_{DR} = \{(V, D)\}/\sim$

is well approximated by moduli space M^*

where vector bundle V is holomorphically trivial

Typically $M^* \subset M$ open subset

Easy observation ①

In the case of Painlevé VII (SL_2 , 4 simple poles)

$$M^* \cong N(\widehat{D}_4)$$

Similarly (if $G=GL_n, SL_n$) for any number of simple poles

$$M^* \cong N(Q)$$

for some star-shaped graph Q

legs = # simple poles

- used by Crawley-Boevey in work on Deligne-Simpson problem

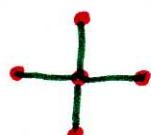
Other cases where M^* is a quiver variety?

In the 1980's K. Okamoto constructed and studied "spaces of initial conditions" of the Painlevé equations and he computed their symmetry groups

E.g. Painlevé equation

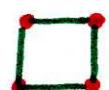
VI

$W_{\text{aff}}(D_4)$



II

$W_{\text{aff}}(A_3)$



IV

$W_{\text{aff}}(A_2)$



(Easy) observations ② & ③ (PB 0706.2634)

For Painlevé VI ($GL_2, D = (0) + (1) + 2(\infty)$) $M^* \cong N(\hat{A}_3)$

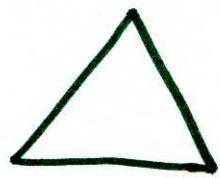
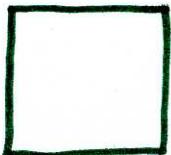
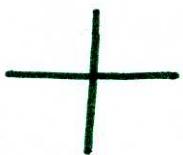
For Painlevé IV ($GL_2, D = (0) + 3(\infty)$) $M^* \cong N(\hat{A}_2)$

- start to suspect spaces M (not just N) intrinsically attached to certain special graphs
 - will call them "Hitchin graphs"
- need to see how to "read" connection data from such graphs

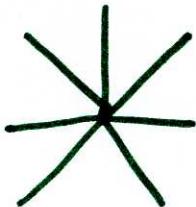
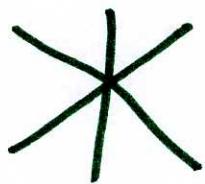
only
Simple
poles

irregular
singularities

$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M = 2$



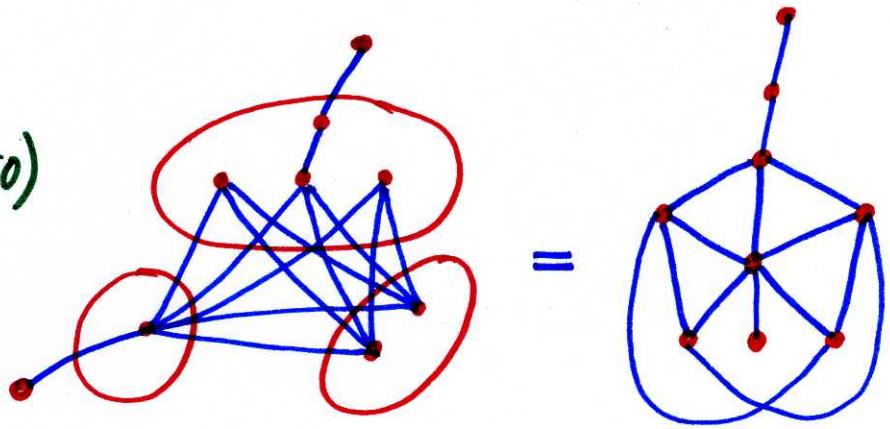
$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M > 2$



⋮



Theorem (PB 08061050)



- ① Any complete k -partite graph is a Hitchin graph
- ② So is any graph obtained by gluing a 'leg' on to each node of a complete k -partite graph
- ③ Each such graph may be 'read' (in terms of meromorphic connections) in $k+1$ ways

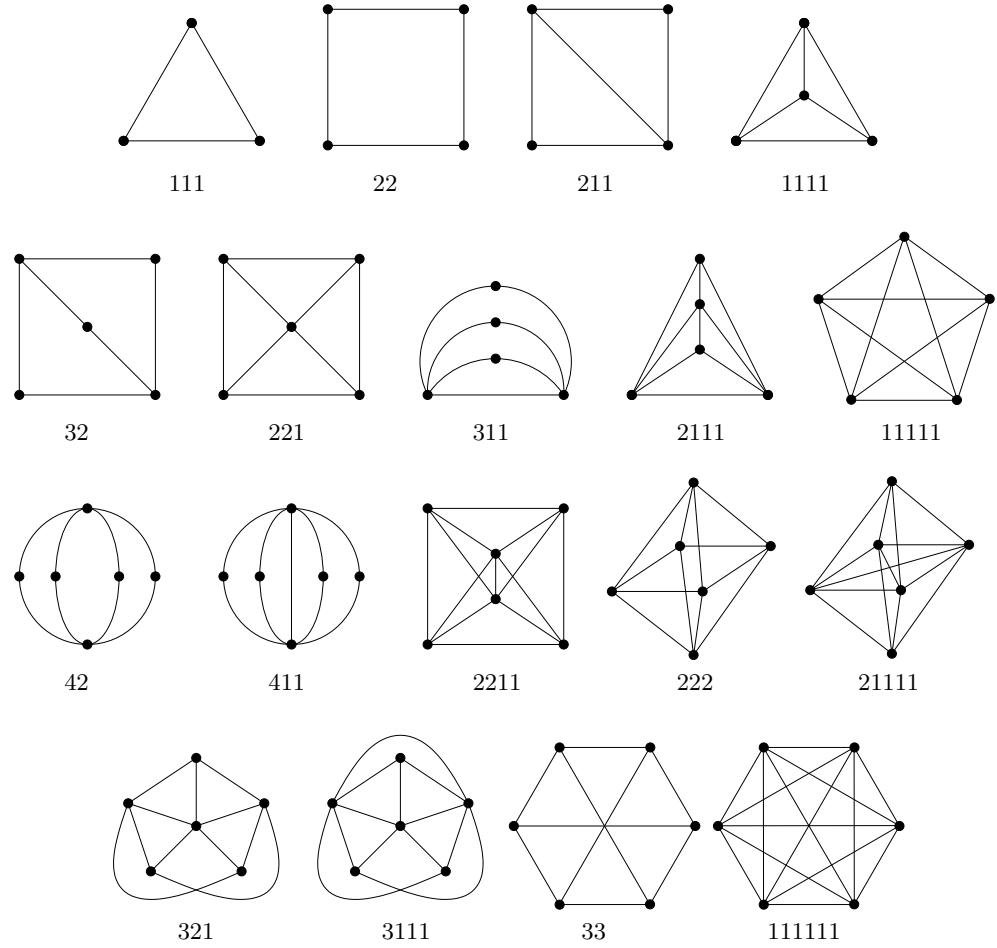


FIGURE 1. Graphs from partitions of $N \leq 6$
(omitting the stars $\Gamma(n, 1)$ and the totally disconnected graphs $\Gamma(n)$)

General Pattern

Quiver Q , nodes I

$N \subset I$ nodes of central (k -partite) 'nucleus'

$$N = P_1 \amalg P_2 \amalg \cdots \amalg P_k$$

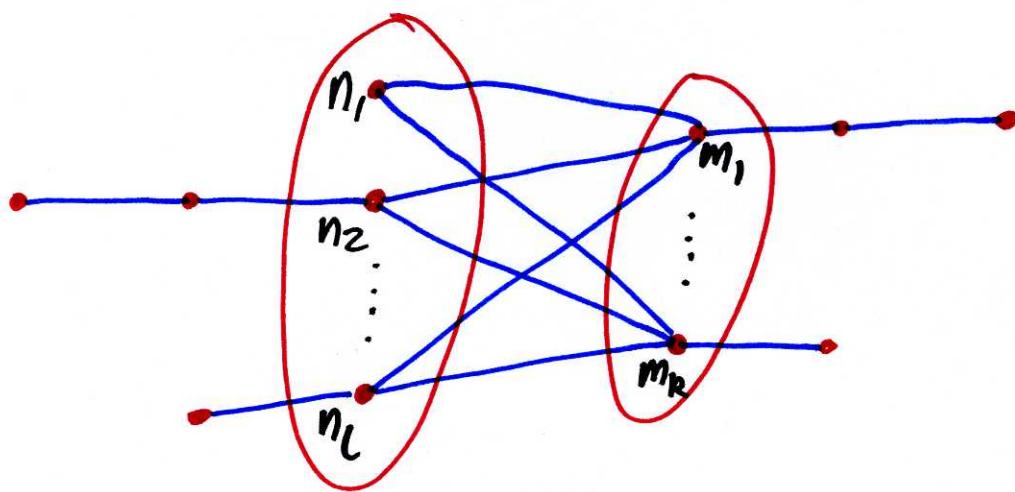
Let $P \subset N$ be a part, or empty

- then can 'read' Q as moduli space of
meromorphic connections with a pole of order 3
and $(\#P)$ -simple poles, on vector bundles
of rank $\left(\sum_{i \in N \setminus P} d_i \right)$ = sum of dimensions of
nodes in other parts

Degenerate cases:

If bipartite ($k=2$)/star shaped can sometimes
reduce order 3 pole to 2nd or 1st order

E.g. $k=2$ (bipartite case)



Reading 1 rank = $\sum_1^l n_i$, k simple poles
1 double pole

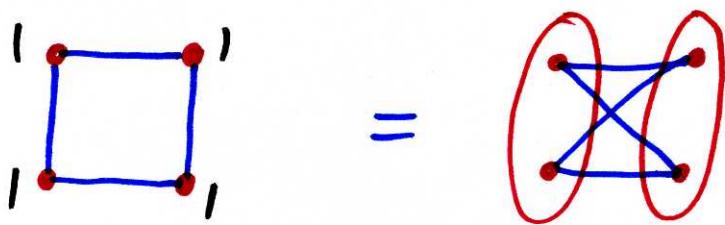
Reading 2 rank = $\sum_1^k m_i$, l simple poles
1 double pole

Reading 3 rank = $\sum m_i + \sum n_j$, 1 triple pole

(Compare: Harnad, Jimbo-Miwa-Mari-Sato)
with

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{---} & \\ N & & M \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \sum n_i & & \sum m_j \end{array}$$

E.g

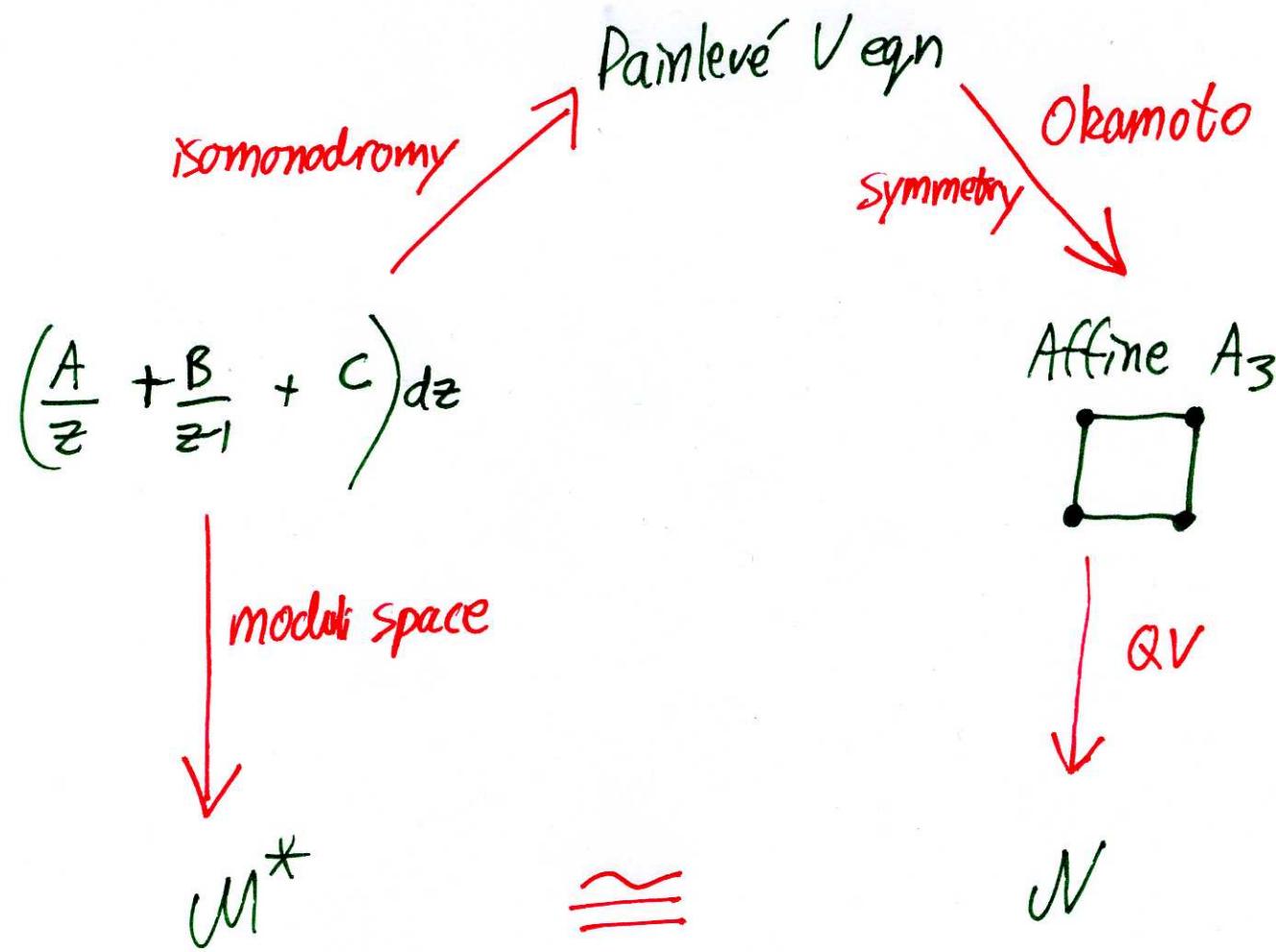


Rank 2, 2 simple poles + 1 double pole

or Rank 4, 1 triple pole

Basic example

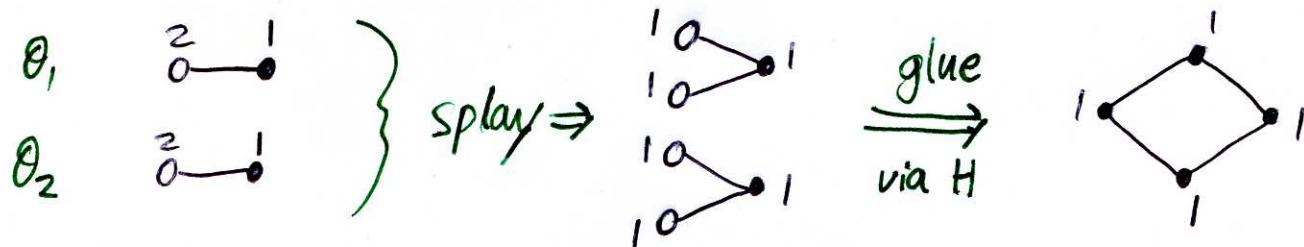
$A, B, C \in \mathfrak{gl}_2$ generic



Qn: How to "read" the connection from the square?

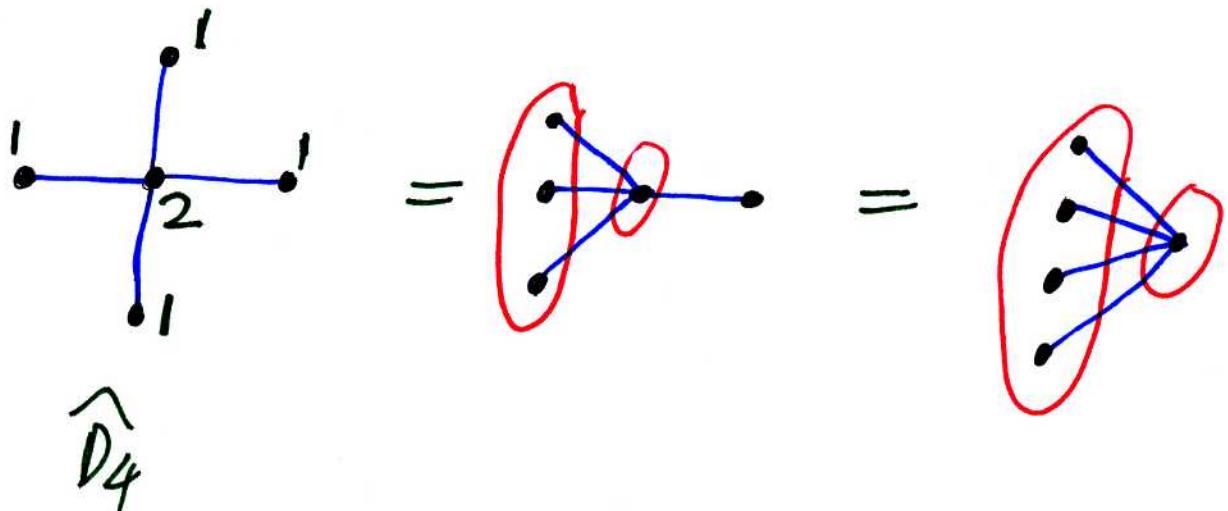
- tensor so A, B rank 1 & suppose C regular semisimple

$$M^* \cong (\theta_1 \times \theta_2) //_{\lambda} H \quad \begin{cases} \theta_i \subset \mathfrak{gl}_2 \text{ rk 1 orbits} \cong T^* \mathbb{C}^2 //_{\lambda} \mathbb{C}^* \\ H = \text{stab}(c) \cong \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}^* \end{cases}$$



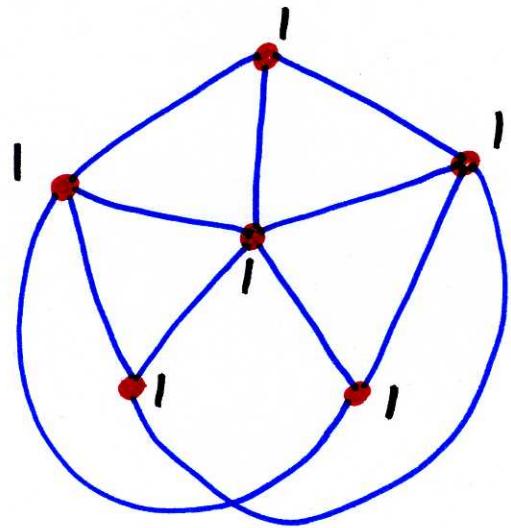
Stars: $\mathcal{N}(n, 1)$ (with legs)

e.g.



Rank	poles
6	3
4	$2+1$
3	$2+1$
2	$(+1+1+1)$

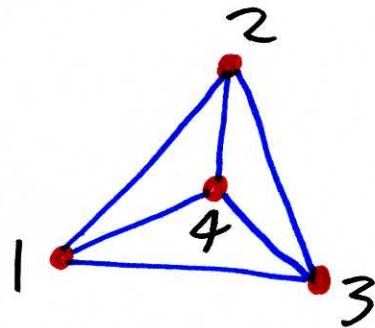
Additive/ U^* version of isom. $2 \cong 4$ for $\mathcal{N}(n, 1)$
is complexification of "Gelfand MacPherson duality"
 \sim dilogarithm



Tripartite \Rightarrow 4 readings

Rank	poles
6	3
5	$3+1$
4	$3+1+1$
3	$3+1+1+1$

E.g.: Tetrahedron



$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M = 12$, four partite graph
⇒ 5 readings

rank of vector bundles	pole orders
10	3
9	3+1
8	3+1
7	3+1
6	3+1

Ulterior motive for attaching a graph to M

→ get a **Kac-Moody root system**

- ① Get precise criteria for existence of stable connections in M^* (phrased in terms of roots)
 - extending work of Crawley-Boevey on (additive) Deligne-Simpson problem (simple pole case)
- ② Get "reflection functors" – action of KM Weyl group on auxiliary data

Claim These induce more isomorphisms between M 's
[Typical orbits infinite]

Given graph Γ , nodes I , $n = \#I$

- Cartan matrix $C = 2 - A$ ($n \times n$)

$$A_{ij} = \#\text{edges node } i \leftrightarrow \text{node } j$$

- Root lattice $\mathbb{Z}^I = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathbb{Z} \varepsilon_i$ has bil. form $(,)$

$$(\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_j) = C_{ij}$$

- Weyl group $W \subset \mathbb{Z}^I$ generated by $\{s_i\}_{i \in I}$

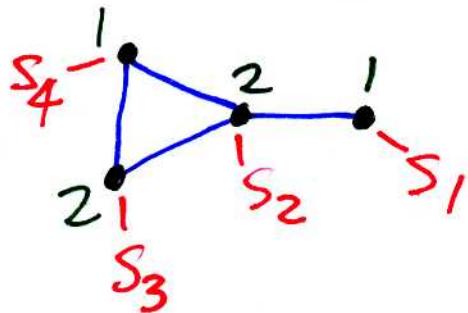
$$s_i(x) = x - (x, \varepsilon_i) \varepsilon_i$$

($\&$ dual reflections $r_i \in \mathbb{C}^I$ s.t. $r_i(1) \cdot s_i(x) = 1 \cdot x$)

- Root system $\subset \mathbb{Z}^I$ (real & imaginary roots)

View dimension vector $\underline{d} \in \mathbb{Z}^I$

Example of W action



Read e.g. as

Rk 3, poles 3+1

$$\underline{d} = (1, 2, 2, 1)$$

Here $W \supset_{\text{index 2}} W^+ \cong \text{PSL}_2(E)$ $E = \mathbb{Z}[\omega]$
 (cf. Feingold-Kleinschmidt-Nicolai '08) (Eisenstein integers)

① Let $W = S, S_4 S, S_2 S_4 S, S_3 S,$

Compute $W^n(1, 2, 2, 1) \rightsquigarrow$ Read as connections on
 bundles of rank $n^2 + (n-1) + (n-2)^2$

② $S, S_2 S_3 (1221) = (0111) \Rightarrow$

so $\mathcal{M}^* \cong A_2 \text{ ALE space } (\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 2)$

Extensions

- ① Higher order pole ✓ (need multiple edges)
- ② ≥ 2 irregular singularities
 M^* not a quiver variety
→ more general picture (~bows)
(e.g Rk 2, 2+2 $M^* \cong D_2$ ALF space)

Other directions

① Stokes algebras ~ quiver description of corresponding monodromy and Stokes data

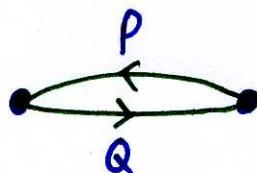
U
multiplicative preprojective algebras of Crawley-Boevey & Shaw

U
generalised DAHA of Etingof-Oblomkov-Rains

②

Isomonodromy

- generalise viewpoint of Jimbo-Miwa-Mori-Sato & Harnad on the JMMS equations ($\not\propto$ Schlesinger equations)



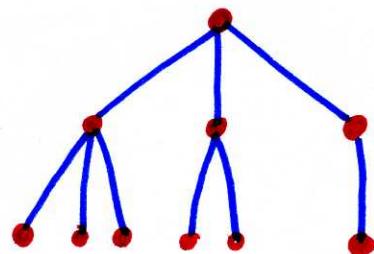
Double of complete graph with 2 nodes

{
Double of complete graph with k nodes (for any k)

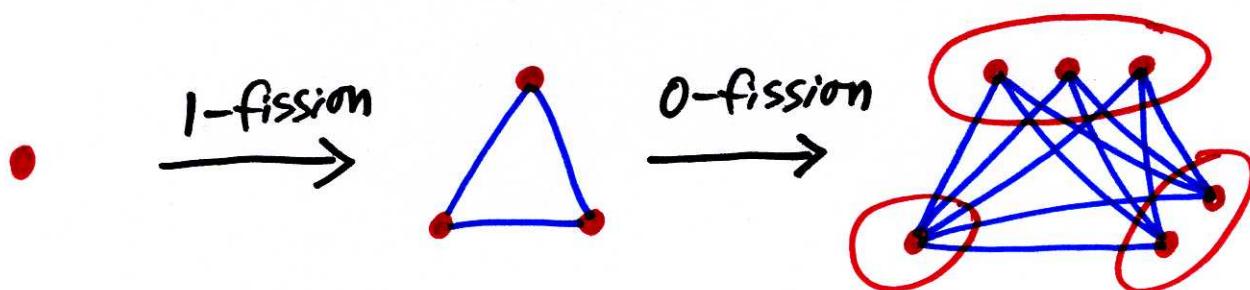
Fission picture

Partitions \longleftrightarrow Height 3 rooted trees

$3+2+1$



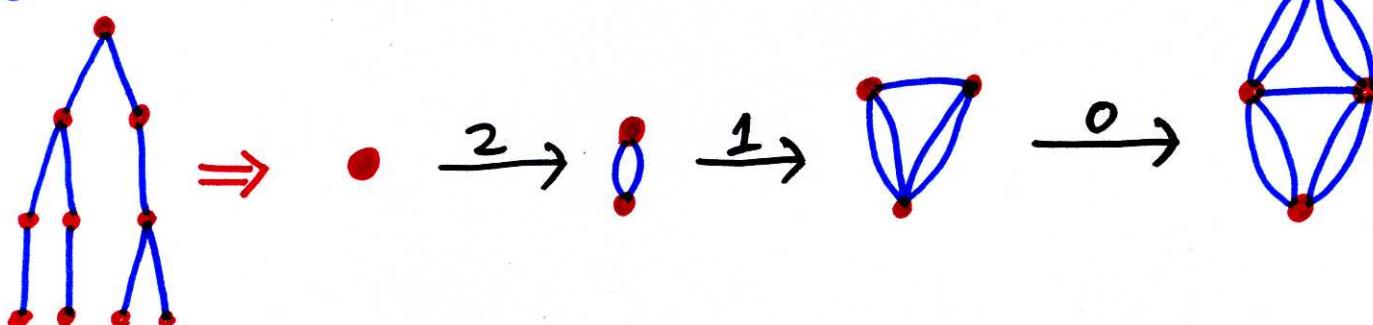
\longleftrightarrow complete k-partite graphs



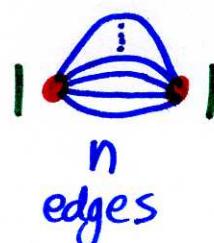
\sim pole of order 3

For pole of order r , do $(r-2)$ -fission, ..., 0-fission determined by height r rooted tree

E.g. ($r=4$)



E.g.



$$M^* \cong T^* \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$$

Calabi's examples