

# Weighted Hurwitz numbers and topological recursion

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**Tau functions of integrable systems**  
**and their applications**

\*Based in part on joint work with: M. Guay-Paquet, A. Yu. Orlov,  
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## Uses of $\tau$ -functions

1. **Integrable dynamical systems (autonomous). Generating functions** for (*isospectral*) commutative flows in integrable systems (KP, Toda, etc.). (Similar to *Hamilton's principle function* on level sets of invariants.)
2. **Integrable dynamical systems (nonautonomous). Generating functions** for *isomonodromic deformations*.
3. **Random processes, random matrices, conformal field theory. Partitions functions** for random processes, etc. subject to integrable deformations.
4. **Quantum integrable systems and solvable lattice models.** Solutions to **Bethe ansatz equations** .(Addition theorems.)
5. **Enumerative geometry, topology. Combinatorial generating functions** for enumerative invariants. (Intersection numbers, Gromov-Witten invariants, weighted Hurwitz numbers, etc.)

## 1 General classical Hurwitz numbers

- Enumerative group theoretical meaning (Frobenius)
- Geometric meaning (Hurwitz)
- Graphical encoding of branched covers “*Constellations*”
- Simple double Hurwitz numbers (Okounkov/Pandharipande)

## 2 KP and 2D Toda $\tau$ -functions as generating functions

- Simple (single and double) Hurwitz numbers
- $\tau$ -functions as generating functions for Hurwitz numbers
- Weighted Hurwitz numbers: weighted branched coverings
- Geometric weighted Hurwitz numbers: weighted coverings
- Examples

## 3 Fermionic representations and topological recursion

- Fermionic representation of  $\tau$ -function and Baker function
- Fermionic representation of adapted basis
- Spectral curve: quantum and classical
- Pair correlator (spectral kernel)
- Current correlators as generating functions

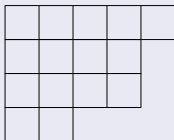
## Factorization of elements in $S_N$

**Question:** What is the number  $N!F(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}, \mu)$  of distinct ways the identity element  $\mathbf{1} \in S_N$  in the symmetric group  $S_N$  can be written as a product

$$\mathbf{1} = h_1 h_2 \cdots h_k$$

of  $k$  elements  $h_i \in S_N$  in the conjugacy classes of cycle type  $h_i \in \text{cyc}(\mu^{(i)})$  for a given sequence of partitions  $\{\mu^{(i)}\}_{i=1, \dots, k}$  of  $N$ ?

## Young diagram of a partition. Example $\mu = (5, 4, 4, 2)$



## Representation theoretic answer (Frobenius-Schur)

The **Frobenius-Schur** formula expresses this in terms of characters:

$$F(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) = \sum_{\lambda, |\lambda|=N} h_{\lambda}^{k-2} \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\chi_{\lambda}(\mu^{(i)})}{z_{\mu^{(i)}}}, \quad |\mu^{(i)}| = N$$

where  $h_{\lambda} = \left( \det \frac{1}{(\lambda_i - i + j)!} \right)^{-1}$  is the **product of the hook lengths** of the partition  $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)} > 0$ , where  $\chi_{\lambda}(\mu^{(i)})$  is the **irreducible character** of representation  $\lambda$  evaluated in the conjugacy class  $\mu^{(i)}$ , and

$$z_{\mu} := \prod_i i^{m_i(\mu)} (m_i(\mu))! = |\text{aut}(\mu)|$$

is the **order of the stabilizer** of an element of  $\text{cyc}(\mu)$  ( $m_i(\mu) = \#$  parts  $\mu_j$  of  $\mu$  equal to  $i$ ).

## Geometric meaning (Hurwitz)

**Hurwitz numbers:** Let  $H(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)})$  be the number of inequivalent branched  $N$ -sheeted covers of the Riemann sphere, with  $k$  branch points, and ramification profiles  $(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)})$  at these points.

The **Euler characteristic** of the covering curve is given by the **Riemann-Hurwitz formula**:

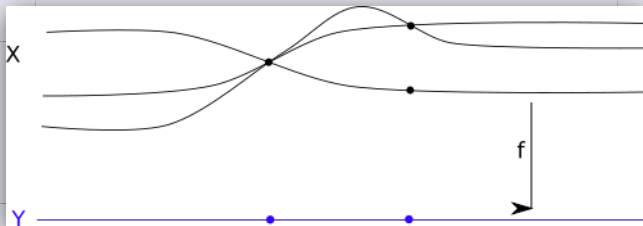
$$2 - 2g = 2N - d, \quad d := \sum_{i=1}^l \ell^*(\mu^{(i)}),$$

$g = \text{genus of covering curve,}$

where  $\ell^*(\mu) := |\mu| - \ell(\mu) = N - \ell(\mu)$  is the **colength** of the partition. The **Monodromy Representation** shows these two enumerative invariants are identical.

$$H(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) = F(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}).$$

## Example: 3-sheeted branched cover with ramification profiles (3) and (2, 1)



## Graphical encoding of branched covers: *Constellations*

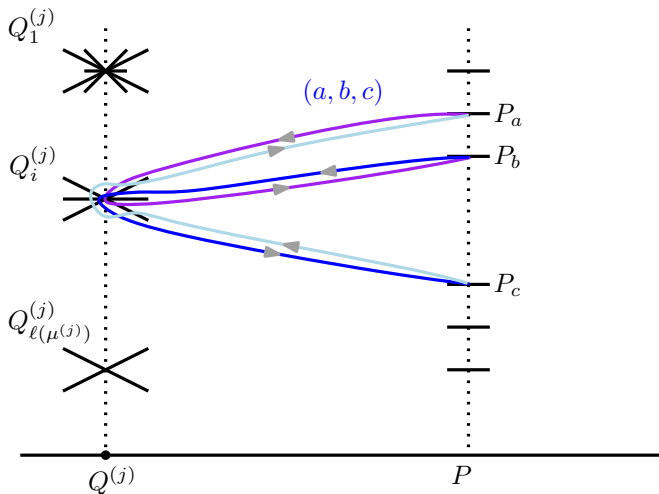
### Constellations:

- 1 Let  $P$  be a generic (non-branched) base point of the covering  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{CP}^1$  and  $(P_1, \dots, P_N)$  an ordering of the points of  $\mathcal{C}$  over  $P$ .
- 2 Let  $(Q^{(1)}, \dots, Q^{(k)})$  be an ordering of the branch points of the cover  $\Gamma \rightarrow \mathbf{CP}^1$ , with  $(Q_j^{(i)})$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, \mu_j^{(i)}$  the ramification points over these, having ramification indices  $\text{ram}(Q_j^{(i)}) = \mu_j^{(i)}$  equal to the parts of the partitions  $(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)})$
- 3 For each simple, closed curve  $\mathcal{C}_i$  in  $P \in \mathbf{CP}^1$  based at  $P \in \mathbf{CP}^1$  and going once around  $Q^{(i)}$  in the positive sense, there is a unique lift to  $\Gamma$  whose monodromy is an element  $h_i \in \text{cyc}(\mu^{(i)}) \subset S_N$



## Constellations (cont'd)

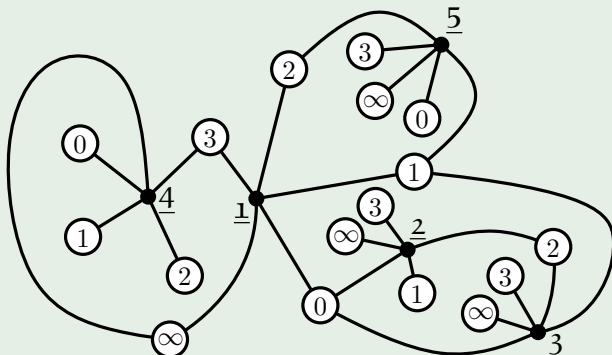
- 4 Draw a bipartite graph on  $\Gamma$ , with vertices of two types: "coloured" and "stars". The "coloured" vertices are the points  $\{Q_j^{(i)}\}$  and the star vertices are the points  $\{P_1, \dots, P_N\}$ . The edges consist of the pairs of segments of the contours around each ramification point  $Q_j^{(i)}$  starting or ending at one of the unramified ones  $P_1, \dots, P_N$ .



To these, we add two more "fixed" branch points, say  $Q^{(0)} = 0$ ,  $Q^{(k+1)} = \infty$ , with ramification profiles  $\mu^{(0)} := \mu$  and  $\mu^{(k+1)} := \nu$

## Example ( $N = 5, k = 3$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_1 &= (135), & h_2 &= (15)(23), & h_3 &= (14), \\
 h_0 &= (321), & h_4 &= h_\infty &= (14) \\
 \mu^{(1)} &= (3, 1, 1), & \mu^{(2)} &= (2, 2, 1), & \mu^{(3)} &= (2, 1, 1, 1), \\
 \mu &:= \mu^{(0)} = (3, 1, 1), & \nu &:= \mu^{(4)} = (2, 1, 1, 1)
 \end{aligned}$$



## Example: Simple single/double Hurwitz numbers (Pandharipande/Okounkov)

In particular, choosing only simple ramifications  $\mu^{(i)} = (2, (1)^{n-2})$  at  $d = k$  points and one further arbitrary one  $\mu$  at a single point, say, 0, we have the **single simple Hurwitz number**:

$$H^d(\mu) := H((2, (1)^{n-1}), \dots, (2, (1)^{n-1}), \mu).$$

By the **Frobenius-Schur formula** this is

$$H^d(\mu) = \sum_{\lambda, |\lambda|=|\mu|} \frac{\chi_\lambda(\mu)}{z_\mu h_\lambda} (\text{cont}_\lambda)^d,$$

where the **content sum** of the Young diagram associated to  $\lambda$  is defined as

$$\text{cont}(\lambda) := \sum_{(ij) \in \lambda} (j - i) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} \lambda_i (\lambda_i - 2i + 1) = \frac{\chi_\lambda((2, (1)^{n-2}) h_\lambda)}{z_{(2, (1)^{n-2})}}$$

## Simple single/ double Hurwitz numbers (Pandharipande/Okounkov)

The **simple (double) Hurwitz number** (Okounkov (2000)), defined as

$$\text{Cov}_d(\mu, \nu) = H_{\text{exp}}^d(\mu, \nu) := H((2, (1)^{n-1}), \dots, (2, (1)^{n-1}), \mu, \nu)$$

have the ramification types  $(\mu, \nu)$  at two points, say  $(0, \infty)$ , and simple ramification  $\mu^{(i)} = (2, (1)^{n-2})$  at  $d = k$  other branch points.

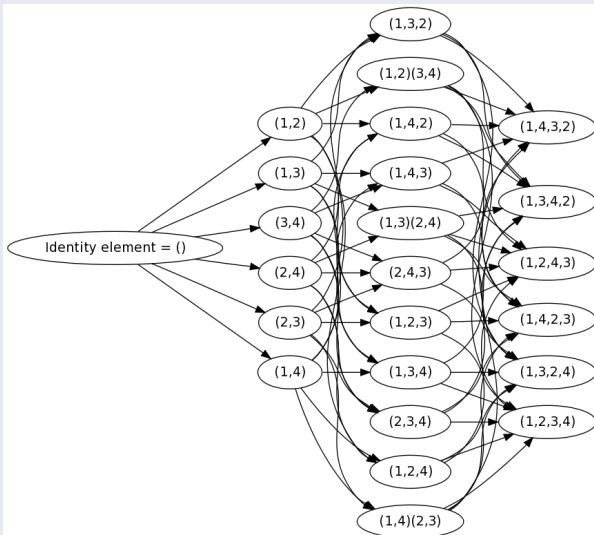
## Combinatorial meaning: paths in the Cayley graph

**Combinatorially**, this equals the number of  $d$ -step paths in the **Cayley graph** of  $S_n$  generated by **transpositions**, starting at an element  $h \in \text{cyc}(\mu)$  and ending in the conjugacy class  $\text{cyc}(\nu)$ .

# Example: Cayley graph for $S_4$ generated by all transpositions

Transpositioncayleyons4.png 867x779 pixels

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## Hypergeometric $\tau$ -function as generating function for simple single and double Hurwitz numbers: (Okounkov, Pandharipande)

Define

$$\tau^{mKP(\gamma, \beta)}(N, \mathbf{t}) := \sum_{\lambda} \gamma^{|\lambda|} r_{\lambda}^{\exp}(N, \beta) h_{\lambda}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_{\lambda}(\mathbf{t})$$

$$\tau^{2DToda(\gamma, \beta)}(N, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) := \sum_{\lambda} \gamma^{|\lambda|} r_{\lambda}^{\exp}(N, \beta) \mathbf{s}_{\lambda}(\mathbf{t}) \mathbf{s}_{\lambda}(\mathbf{s})$$

where  $r_{\lambda}^{\exp}(N, \beta) := \prod_{(ij) \in \lambda} r_{N+j-i}^{\exp}(\beta)$ ,  $r_j^{\exp}(\beta) := e^{j\beta}$

and

$$\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots), \quad \mathbf{s} = (s_1, s_2, \dots)$$

are the KP and 2D Toda flow variables.

For  $N = 0$ , we have

$$r_{\lambda}^{\exp}(0, \beta) = e^{\beta \text{cont}(\lambda)}$$

## mKP Hirota bilinear relations for $\tau_g^{mKP}(N, \mathbf{t})$ , $\mathbf{t} := (t_1, t_2, \dots)$ , $N \in \mathbf{Z}$

$$\oint_{z=\infty} z^{N-N'} e^{-\xi(\delta\mathbf{t}, z)} \tau_g^{mKP}(N, \mathbf{t} - [z^{-1}]) \tau_g^{mKP}(N', \mathbf{t} + \delta\mathbf{t} + [z^{-1}]) = 0$$

$$\xi(\delta\mathbf{t}, z) := \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \delta t_i z^i, \quad [z^{-1}]_i := \frac{1}{i} z^{-i}, \quad \text{identically in } \delta\mathbf{t} = (\delta t_1, \delta t_2, \dots)$$

## 2D Toda Hirota bilinear relations for $\tau_g^{2Toda}(N, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s})$ , $\mathbf{s} := (s_1, s_2, \dots)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \oint_{z=\infty} z^{N-N'} e^{-\xi(\delta\mathbf{t}, z)} \tau_g^{2Toda}(N, \mathbf{t} - [z^{-1}], \mathbf{s}) \tau_g^{2Toda}(N', \mathbf{t} + \delta\mathbf{t} + [z^{-1}], \mathbf{s}) = \\ & \oint_{z=0} z^{N-N'} e^{-\xi(\delta\mathbf{s}, z)} \tau_g^{2Toda}(N+1, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s} - [z]) \tau_g^{2Toda}(N'-1, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s} + \delta\mathbf{s} + [z]) \\ & [z]_i := \frac{1}{i} z^i, \quad \text{identically in } \delta\mathbf{t} = (\delta t_1, \delta t_2, \dots), \quad \delta\mathbf{s} := (\delta s_1, \delta s_2, \dots) \end{aligned}$$



## Change of basis: Frobenius character formula

Using the **Frobenius character formula**:

$$s_\lambda(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mu, |\mu|=|\lambda|} \frac{\chi_\lambda(\mu)}{z_\mu} p_\mu(\mathbf{t})$$

where we restrict to

$$it_j := p_j, \quad is_j := p'_j$$

and the  $p_\mu$ 's are the **power sum symmetric functions**

$$p_\mu = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\mu)} p_{\mu_i}, \quad p_i := \sum_{a=1}^{\infty} x_a^i, \quad p'_i := \sum_{a=1}^{\infty} y_a^i,$$

## Generating functions for single and double simple Hurwitz numbers (Okounkov, Pandharipande)

$$\tau^{(\gamma, \beta)}(\mathbf{t}) := \tau^{KP(\gamma, \beta)}(0, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\lambda} \gamma^{|\lambda|} h_{\lambda}^{-1} e^{\beta \text{cont}(\lambda)} s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{t})$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma^n \sum_{d=0}^{\infty} \frac{\beta^d}{d!} \sum_{\mu, |\mu|=n} H_{\text{exp}}^d(\mu) p_{\mu}(\mathbf{t})$$

$$\tau^{2D(\gamma, \beta)}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) := \tau^{2DToda(\gamma, \beta)}(0, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) = \sum_{\lambda} \gamma^{|\lambda|} e^{\beta \text{cont}(\lambda)} s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{t}) s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{s})$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma^n \sum_{d=0}^{\infty} \frac{\beta^d}{d!} \sum_{\mu, \nu, |\mu|+|\nu|=n} H_{\text{exp}}^d(\mu, \nu) p_{\mu}(\mathbf{t}) p_{\nu}(\mathbf{s})$$

These are therefore **generating functions** for the **simple single and double Hurwitz numbers**.

## Weighted Hurwitz numbers: weighted branched coverings

Choose a **weight generating function**

$$G(z) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i z^i$$

For Okounkov-Pandharipande's **simple single and double Hurwitz numbers**:  $G(z) = e^z$ .

If  $G(z)$  is expressible as an **infinite (or finite) product expansion**

$$G(z) := \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 + z c_i), \quad \text{or} \quad G(z) := \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 - z c_i)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots),$$

the  $g_i$ 's are the **elementary** or **complete symmetric functions**

$$g_i = e_i(\mathbf{c}), \quad \text{or} \quad g_i = h_i(\mathbf{c}).$$

of the weight determining parameters  $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots)$ .

Suppose the **generating function**  $G(z)$  and its **dual**  $\tilde{G}(z) := \frac{1}{G(-z)}$  can be represented as infinite (or finite) products

$$G(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 + zc_i), \quad \tilde{G}(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - zc_i}.$$

Define the **weight for a branched covering having a pair of branch points with ramification profiles of type  $(\mu, \nu)$ , and  $k$  additional branch points with ramification profiles  $(\mu^1), \dots, \mu^{(k)}$**  to be:

$$W_G(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) := \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k} c_{i_{\sigma(1)}}^{\ell^*(\mu^{(1)})} \dots c_{i_{\sigma(k)}}^{\ell^*(\mu^{(k)})}$$

$$W_{\tilde{G}}(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) := \frac{(-1)^{\ell^*(\lambda)}}{k!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_k} c_{i_{\sigma(1)}}^{\ell^*(\mu^{(1)})}, \dots, c_{i_{\sigma(k)}}^{\ell^*(\mu^{(k)})},$$

where the partition  $\lambda$  of length  $k$  has **parts**  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  **equal to the colengths**  $(\ell^*(\mu^{(1)}), \dots, \ell^*(\mu^{(k)}))$ , arranged in weakly decreasing order.

## Definition (Weighted geometrical Hurwitz numbers)

The **weighted geometrical Hurwitz numbers** for  $n$ -sheeted branched coverings of the Riemann sphere, having a pair of branch points with ramification profiles of type  $(\mu, \nu)$ , and  $k$  additional branch points with ramification profiles  $(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)})$  are defined to be

$$H_G^d(\mu, \nu) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum'_{\substack{\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)} \\ \sum_{i=1}^k \ell^*(\mu^{(i)}) = d}} W_G(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) H(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}, \mu, \nu)$$

$$H_{\tilde{G}}^d(\mu, \nu) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum'_{\substack{\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)} \\ \sum_{i=1}^k \ell^*(\mu^{(i)}) = d}} W_{\tilde{G}}(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}) H(\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(k)}, \mu, \nu),$$

where  $\sum'$  denotes the sum over all partitions other than the cycle type of the identity element.

## Content product formula and $\tau$ -function

Choose the following parameters of the hypergeometric  $\tau$ -function  
**content product formula**

$$r_\lambda^G(\beta) = \prod_{(ij) \in \lambda} G((j-i)\beta) = \prod_{(ij) \in \lambda} r_{j-i}^G(\beta)$$

$$r_j^G(\beta) := G(j\beta) = \frac{\rho_j}{\rho_{j-1}},$$

$$\rho_j = e^{T_j} = \prod_{i=1}^j G(i\beta), \quad \rho_0 = 1$$

$$\rho_{-j} = e^{T_{-j}} = \prod_{i=1}^j G^{-1}(-i\beta), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots$$

## Theorem (Hypergeometric $\tau$ -functions as generating function for weighted branched covers )

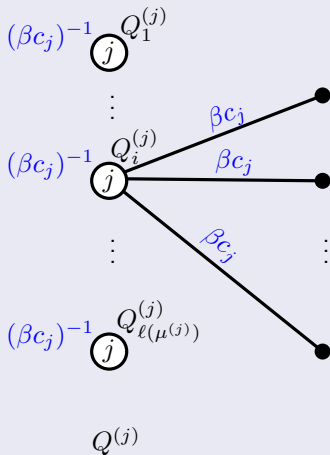
**Geometrically,**

$$\begin{aligned} \tau^{(G,\beta,\gamma)}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) &= \sum_{\lambda} \gamma^{|\lambda|} r_{\lambda}^G(\beta) s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{t}) s_{\lambda}(\mathbf{s}) \\ &= \sum_{d=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\mu, \nu, \\ |\mu|=|\nu|=d}} \gamma^{|\mu|} H_G^d(\mu, \nu) p_{\mu}(\mathbf{t}) p_{\nu}(\mathbf{s}) \beta^d \end{aligned}$$

is the generating function for the numbers  $H_G^d(\mu, \nu)$  of such weighted  $n$ -fold branched coverings of the sphere, with a pair of specified branch points having ramification profiles  $(\mu, \nu)$  and genus given by the **Riemann-Hurwitz formula**

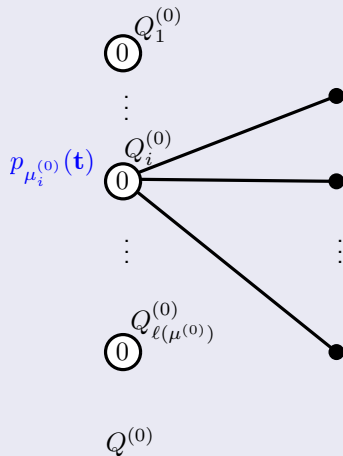
$$2 - 2g = \ell(\mu) + \ell(\nu) - d.$$

# Weighted constellations: Coloured $\{Q_{i=1,\dots,k}^{(j)}\}$ vertices and edges

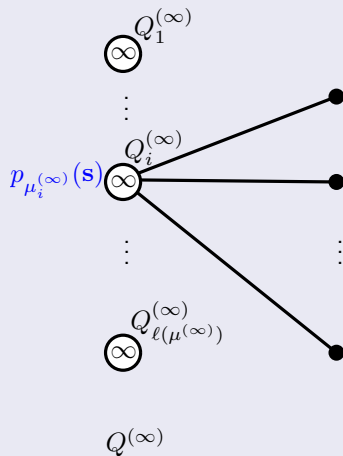




## Weighted constellations: White $\{Q_i^{(0)}\}$ vertices



## Weighted constellations: Black $\{Q^{(\infty)}_i\}$ vertices



## $\tau$ function as generating functions for weighted constellations

Taking the product of all weights over all vertices and edges and summing gives the  $\tau$ -function

$$\tau^{(G, \beta, \gamma)}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) = \sum_{d=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{\mu, \nu, \\ |\mu|=|\nu|}} \gamma^{|\mu|} H_G^d(\mu, \nu) p_{\mu}(\mathbf{t}) p_{\nu}(\mathbf{s}) \beta^d$$

## Example 1: Okounkov's simple double Hurwitz numbers

$$G(z) = \exp(z), \quad \exp_j = \frac{1}{j!}$$

$$r_j^{\exp}(\beta) = \exp(j\beta), \quad r_\lambda^{\exp}(\beta) = \prod_{(ij) \in \lambda} \exp(\beta(j-i)),$$

## Example 2: Belyi curves: strongly monotone paths

$$G(z) = E(z) := 1 + z, \quad E(z, \mathcal{J}) = \prod_{a=1}^n (1 + z\mathcal{J}_a)$$

$$e_1 = 1, \quad e_j = 0 \text{ for } j > 1, \quad r_\lambda^E(\beta) = \prod_{((ij) \in \lambda)} (1 + \beta(j-i)),$$

$$T_j^E = \sum_{k=1}^j \ln(1 + k\beta), \quad T_{-j}^E = - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} \ln(1 - k\beta), \quad j > 0.$$

### Example 3: Signed Hurwitz numbers: weakly monotone paths

$$G(z) = H(z) := \frac{1}{1-z}, \quad H_i = 1, \quad i \in \mathbf{N}^+$$

$$r_j^H(\beta) = (1-zj)^{-1}, \quad r_\lambda^H(\beta) = \prod_{(ij) \in \lambda} (1 - \beta(j-i))^{-1},$$

$$T_j^H = - \sum_{i=1}^j \ln(1 - i\beta), \quad T_{-j}^E = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \ln(1 + i\beta), \quad j > 0.$$

**Combinatorially**,  $H_H^d(\mu, \nu) = F_H^d(\mu, \nu)$  enumerates  $d$ -step paths in the Cayley graph of  $S_n$  from an element in the conjugacy class of cycle type  $\mu$  to the class cycle type  $\nu$ , that are **weakly monotonically increasing** in their second elements.

## Signed Hurwitz numbers: weakly monotone paths (cont'd)

Specializing to:

$$t_i := \frac{1}{i} \operatorname{tr} A^N, \quad s_i := \frac{1}{i} \operatorname{tr} B^N, \quad A, B \in \mathcal{H}^{N \times N}, \quad \beta = 1/N$$

Gives the **Itzykson-Zuber-Harish-Chandra integral**

$$\begin{aligned} \tau^{H, 1/N} = \mathcal{I}_N(A, B) &:= \int_{U \in U(N)} e^{-\operatorname{tr} UAU^\dagger B} d\mu(U) \\ &= \prod_{k=0}^{N-1} k! \frac{\det(e^{-a_i b_j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq N}}{\Delta(\mathbf{a}) \Delta(\mathbf{b})} \end{aligned}$$

## Signed Hurwitz numbers: weakly monotone paths (cont'd)

The coefficients  $H_H^d(\mu, \nu)$  are double Hurwitz numbers that enumerate  $n$ -sheeted branched coverings of the Riemann sphere with branch points at 0 and  $\infty$  having ramification profile types  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ , and an arbitrary number of further branch points, such that the sum of **the complements of their ramification profile lengths** (i.e., the “defect” in the Riemann Hurwitz formula) **is equal to  $d$** . The latter are counted with a sign, which is  $(-1)^{n+d}$  times the parity of the number of branch points .

## Fermionic representation of hypergeometric 2D Toda $\tau$ -functions

The fermionic creation and annihilation operators  $\{\psi_i, \psi_i^\dagger\}_{i \in \mathbf{Z}}$  satisfy the usual **anticommutation relations** and **vacuum state**  $|0\rangle$  vanishing conditions

$$[\psi_i, \psi_j^\dagger]_+ = \delta_{ij} \quad \psi_i |0\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for } i < 0, \quad \psi_i^\dagger |0\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for } i \geq 0.$$

The **shift flow** abelian subgroups  $\Gamma_+ = \{\gamma_+(\mathbf{t})\}$ ,  $\Gamma_- = \{\gamma_-(\mathbf{s})\}$  are defined in terms of the **current components**  $J\{i\}_{i \in \mathbf{Z}}$  as

$$\hat{\gamma}_+(\mathbf{t}) = e^{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} t_i J_i}, \quad \hat{\gamma}_-(\mathbf{s}) = e^{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} s_i J_{-i}}, \quad J_i = \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} \psi_k \psi_{k+i}^\dagger, \quad i \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

Choose the parameters of the hypergeometric  $\tau$ -function as:

$$\rho_j = e^{T_j} = \prod_{i=1}^j G(i\beta), \quad \rho_{-j} = e^{T_{-j}} = \prod_{i=0}^{j-1} (G(-i\beta))^{-1}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots$$



## Fermionic expressions for the $\tau$ -function and Baker function

The  $\tau$ -function is expressed fermionically as

$$\tau_\rho(N, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) := \langle N | \hat{\gamma}_+(\mathbf{t}) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\mathbf{s}) | N \rangle$$

where

$$\hat{C}_\rho := e^{\sum_{i \in \mathbf{Z}} (T_i + i \ln(\gamma)) : \psi_i \psi_i^\dagger :}$$

The **Baker function and dual Baker function** are

$$\Psi_\rho(z, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) = \frac{\langle 0 | \psi_0^\dagger \hat{\gamma}_+(\mathbf{t}) \psi(z) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle}{\tau_\rho(N, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s})},$$

$$\Psi_\rho^*(z, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) = \frac{\langle 0 | \psi_{-1} \hat{\gamma}_+(\mathbf{t}) \psi^\dagger(z) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle}{\tau_\rho(N, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s})}.$$

$$\psi(z) := \sum_{i \in \mathbf{Z}} \psi_i z^i, \quad \psi^\dagger(z) := \sum_{i \in \mathbf{Z}} \psi_i^\dagger z^{-i-1},$$

## Fermionic representation of adapted bases

### Adapted basis

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_k^+(x) &:= \begin{cases} \gamma \langle 0 | \psi^*(1/x) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) \psi_{k-1} | 0 \rangle & \text{if } k \geq 1, \\ \gamma \langle 0 | \psi_{k-1} \hat{\gamma}_-^{-1}(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) \hat{C}_\rho^{-1} \psi^*(1/x) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle & \text{if } k \leq 0, \end{cases} \\ &= \gamma \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \rho_{j+k-1} h_j(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) x^{j+k} \end{aligned}$$

### Dual adapted basis

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_k^-(x) &:= \begin{cases} \langle 0 | \psi(1/x) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) \psi_{-k}^* | 0 \rangle & \text{if } k \geq 1 \\ \langle 0 | \psi_{-k}^* \hat{\gamma}_-^{-1}(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) \hat{C}_\rho^{-1} \psi(1/x) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle & \text{if } k \leq 0. \end{cases} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \rho_{-j-k}^{-1} h_j(-\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) x^{j+k} \end{aligned}$$

## Recursion operator

Define the **recursion operators**

$$R_{\pm}(x) := \gamma x G(\pm\beta D),$$

where

$$D := x \frac{d}{dx}$$

is the **Euler operator**.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_{k\pm 1}^+(x) &:= R_{\pm}^{\pm 1} \Psi_k^+(x), \\ \Psi_{k\pm 1}^-(x) &:= R_{\pm}^{\pm 1} \Psi_k^-(x).\end{aligned}$$

## Theorem (Quantum spectral curve at $t = 0$ )

The function  $\Psi_0^+(x)$  satisfies

$$(\beta D - S(R_+)) \Psi_0^+(x) = 0,$$

and  $\Psi_0^-(x)$  satisfies the dual equation

$$(\beta D + S(R_-)) \Psi_0^-(x) = 0.$$

where

$$S(x) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k s_k x^k.$$

## Classical spectral curve at $t = 0$

$$xy = S(\gamma x G(xy)), \quad \begin{cases} x = \frac{z}{\gamma G(S(z))} \\ y = \frac{S(z)}{z} \gamma G(S(z)) \end{cases}$$

## Pair correlator

The **pair correlator** is

$$\begin{aligned} K(x, x') &:= \frac{1}{x - x'} \tau^{(G, \beta, \gamma)}([x] - [x'], \beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) \\ &= \frac{1}{xx'} \langle 0 | \psi(1/x') \psi^*(1/x) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

## Finite degree

In the following, we assume that only a finite number of variables  $s_k$  are nonzero, so  $S(x)$  is a polynomial

$$S(x) = \sum_{k=1}^L ks_k x^k$$

of degree  $L$ . We also assume that only the first  $M$  parameters  $\{c_i\}$  are nonzero, so the weight generating function  $G(z)$  is also a polynomial, of degree  $M$

## Christoffel-Darboux-type reduction

Define the operators

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_{\pm}(x) &:= S(x) \pm \beta D \\ V_{\pm}(x) &:= G(\Delta_{\pm}(x))\end{aligned}$$

and the **Christoffel Darboux**-type kernel generating function

$$A(r, t) := (r V_{-}(t) - t V_{+}(r)) \left( \frac{1}{r-t} \right) = \sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} \sum_{j=0}^{LM-1} \mathbf{A}_{ij} r^i t^j.$$

## Theorem

The following **Christoffel-Darboux** type relation expresses  $K(x, x')$  as a finite rank sum in terms of the adapted bases

$$K(x, x') = \frac{1}{x-x'} \sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} \sum_{j=0}^{LM-1} \mathbf{A}_{ij} r^i t^j \Psi_i^{+}(x) \Psi_j^{-}(x').$$

## Definition (Current correlator generating function)

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_n(\mathbf{s}; x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= \prod_{a=1}^n \tilde{\nabla}(x_a) \left( \tau^{(G, \beta, \gamma)}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s}) \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{t}=\mathbf{0}} \\
 &= \sum_{\mu, \nu, \ell(\mu)=n} \sum_d \gamma^{|\mu|} \beta^{d-\ell(\nu)} H_G^d(\mu, \nu) \tilde{z}_\mu m_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rho_\nu(\mathbf{s})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{F}_n(\mathbf{s}; x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= \prod_{a=1}^n \tilde{\nabla}(x_a) \left( \ln(\tau^{(G, \beta, \gamma)}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{s})) \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{t}=\mathbf{0}} \\
 &:= \sum_{\mu, \nu, \ell(\mu)=n} \sum_d \gamma^{|\mu|} \beta^{d-\ell(\nu)} \tilde{H}_G^d(\mu, \nu) \tilde{z}_\mu m_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rho_\nu(\mathbf{s})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{F}_{g,n}(\mathbf{s}; x_1, \dots, x_n) := \sum_{\mu, \nu, \ell(\mu)=n} \gamma^{|\mu|} \tilde{H}_G^d(\mu, \nu) \tilde{z}_\mu m_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rho_\nu(\mathbf{s}),$$

where  $\tilde{\nabla}(x) := \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^i}{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$ .

## Definition (Current correlators as generating functions for weighted Hurwitz numbers)

The **fermionic current correlator** is a **generating function** for (connected) weighted Hurwitz numbers  $\tilde{H}^d(\mu, \nu)$  at fixed  $\ell(\mu) = n$

$$\begin{aligned} W_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_1 \cdots \partial x_n} F_n(\mathbf{s}; x_1, \dots, x_n), \\ &:= \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} \langle 0 | \prod_{i=1}^n J_+(x_i) \hat{C}_\rho \hat{\gamma}_-(\beta^{-1} \mathbf{s}) | 0 \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where  $J_+(x) := \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} J_i x^i$  is the positive part of the current generator.

## Definition (Fixed genus generating function)

$$\tilde{W}_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \cdots \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \tilde{F}_{g,n}(\mathbf{s}; x_1, \dots, x_n)$$



## Definition

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\omega}_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) &:= \tilde{W}_{g,n}(X(z_1), \dots, X(z_n)) X'(z_1) \dots X'(z_n) dz_1 \dots dz_n \\ &+ \delta_{g,0} \delta_{n,2} \frac{X'(z_1) X'(z_2) dz_1 dz_2}{(X(z_1) - X(z_2))^2} \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem

*When  $2g - 2 + n > 0$ ,  $\tilde{\omega}_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  has poles only at branch points, and no poles at  $z_i = \infty$ .*

## Theorem (Topological recursion)










$\tilde{\omega}_{g,n}$  satisfy the **topological recursion** relations. If all branchpoints  $a$  are simple, with local Galois involution  $z \mapsto \sigma_a(z)$ , we have

$$\tilde{\omega}_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = - \sum_a \operatorname{res}_{z=a} \left[ \frac{dz_1}{z - z_1} - \frac{dz_1}{\sigma_a(z) - z_1} \right] \frac{\mathcal{W}_{g,n}(z, \sigma_a(z), z_2, \dots, z_n)}{2(Y(z) - Y(\sigma_a(z))) dX(z)}$$

where  $\mathcal{W}_{g,n}(z, z', z_2, \dots, z_n) = \tilde{\omega}_{g-1, n+1}(z, z', z_2, \dots, z_n)$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{g_1+g_2=g, l_1 \uplus l_2 = \{z_2, \dots, z_n\}}} \tilde{\omega}_{g_1, 1+|l_1|}(z, l_1) \tilde{\omega}_{g_2, 1+|l_2|}(z', l_2)$$

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