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# Gromov–Witten theory of elliptic fibrations: Jacobi forms and holomorphic anomaly equations

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We conjecture that the relative Gromov–Witten potentials of elliptic fibrations are (cycle-valued) lattice quasi-Jacobi forms and satisfy a holomorphic anomaly equation. We prove the conjecture for the rational elliptic surface in all genera and curve classes numerically. The generating series are quasi-Jacobi forms for the lattice $E_8$. We also show the compatibility of the conjecture with the degeneration formula. As a corollary we deduce that the Gromov–Witten potentials of the Schoen Calabi–Yau threefold (relative to $\mathbb{P}^1$) are $E_8 \times E_8$ quasi-bi-Jacobi forms and satisfy a holomorphic anomaly equation. This yields a partial verification of the BCOV holomorphic anomaly equation for Calabi–Yau threefolds. For abelian surfaces the holomorphic anomaly equation is proven numerically in primitive classes. The theory of lattice quasi-Jacobi forms is reviewed.

In the appendix the conjectural holomorphic anomaly equation is expressed as a matrix action on the space of (generalized) cohomological field theories. The compatibility of the matrix action with the Jacobi Lie algebra is proven. Holomorphic anomaly equations for K3 fibrations are discussed in an example.

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# 0 Introduction

## 0.1 Holomorphic anomaly equations

Gromov–Witten invariants of a nonsingular compact Calabi–Yau threefold $X$ are defined by the integrals

$$\mathsf{N}_{g,\beta} = \int_{[\overline{M}_g(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} 1,$$

where $\overline{M}_g(X,\beta)$ is the moduli space of stable maps from connected genus $g$ curves to $X$ of degree $\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})$, and $[-]^{\mathrm{vir}}$ is its virtual fundamental class. Mirror symmetry — see for example Alim, Scheidegger, Yau and Zhou [1], Bershadsky, Cecotti, Ooguri and Vafa [3] and Hosono [14] — makes the following predictions about the genus $g$ potentials

$$\mathsf{F}_g(q) = \sum_{\beta} \mathsf{N}_{g,\beta} q^{\beta}:$$

(i) There exists a finitely generated subring of quasimodular objects

$$\mathcal{R} \subset \mathbb{Q}[\![q^{\beta}]\!]$$

(depending on $X$) which contains all $\mathsf{F}_g(q)$.

(ii) The series $\mathsf{F}_g(q)$ satisfy *holomorphic anomaly equations*, ie recursive formulas for the derivative of the modular completion of $\mathsf{F}_g$ with respect to the nonholomorphic variables.[1]

Here, the precise modular interpretation of $\mathsf{F}_g(q)$ is part of the problem and not well understood in general. Mathematically, the predictions (i) and (ii) are not known yet for any (compact) Calabi–Yau threefold.[2]

## 0.2 The Schoen Calabi–Yau threefold

A *rational elliptic surface* $R \to \mathbb{P}^1$ is the successive blowup of $\mathbb{P}^2$ along the base points of a pencil of cubics containing a smooth member. Its second cohomology group admits the splitting

$$H^2(R,\mathbb{Z}) = \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B,F) \overset{\perp}{\oplus} E_8(-1),$$

[1] In many cases $\mathcal{R}$ can be described explicitly by generators and relations, and (ii) is equivalent to formulas for the formal derivative of $\mathsf{F}_g$ with respect to distinguished generators of the ring.

[2] The (noncompact) local $\mathbb{P}^2$ case was recently established in Lho and Pandharipande [26].

where $B, F$ are the classes of a fixed section and a fiber respectively. Let also

$$W = B + \tfrac{1}{2}F.$$

Let $R_1, R_2$ be rational elliptic surfaces with disjoint sets of basepoints of singular fibers. The *Schoen Calabi–Yau threefold* [40] is the fiber product

$$X = R_1 \times_{\mathbb{P}^1} R_2 .$$

We have the commutative diagram of fibrations

$$\begin{tikzcd} & X \arrow[dl, "\pi_2"'] \arrow[dr, "\pi_1"] \arrow[dd, "\pi"] & \\ R_1 \arrow[dr, "p_1"'] & & R_2 \arrow[dl, "p_2"] \\ & \mathbb{P}^1 & \end{tikzcd} \tag{1}$$

where $\pi_i$ are the elliptic fibrations induced by $p_i \colon R_i \to \mathbb{P}^1$. Let

$$W_i, F_i \in H^2(R_i, \mathbb{Q}) \quad \text{and} \quad E_8^{(i)}(-1) \subset H^2(R_i, \mathbb{Z})$$

denote the classes $W, F$ and the $E_8$–lattice on $R_i$, respectively. We have

$$H^2(X,\mathbb{Q}) = \langle D \rangle \oplus \big(\langle \pi_1^* W_2 \rangle \oplus \pi_1^* E_8^{(2)}(-1)_{\mathbb{Q}}\big) \oplus \big(\langle \pi_2^* W_1 \rangle \oplus \pi_2^* E_8^{(1)}(-1)_{\mathbb{Q}}\big),$$

where we let $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denote the $\mathbb{Q}$–linear span, and $D$ is the class of a fiber of $\pi$.

For all $(g,k) \notin \{(0,0),(1,0)\}$ define[3] the *$\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten potential*

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k}(z_1,z_2,q_1,q_2) = \sum_{\pi_* \beta = k[\mathbb{P}^1]} \mathsf{N}_{g,\beta} q_1^{W_1 \cdot \beta} q_2^{W_2 \cdot \beta} e(z_1 \cdot \beta) e(z_2 \cdot \beta), \tag{2}$$

where the sum is over all curve classes $\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})$ of degree $k$ over $\mathbb{P}^1$, we have suppressed pullbacks by $\pi_i$, we write $e(x) = \exp(2\pi i x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{C}$, and

$$z_i \in E_8^{(i)}(-1) \otimes \mathbb{C}$$

is the (formal) coordinate on the $E_8$ lattice of $R_i$.

A (weak) $E_8$–Jacobi form is a holomorphic function of variables

$$q = e^{2\pi i \tau} \quad \text{for } \tau \in \mathbb{H} \qquad \text{and} \qquad z \in E_8 \otimes \mathbb{C}$$

[3] The cases $(g,k) \in \{(0,0),(1,0)\}$ are excluded since $\mathsf{N}_{g,0}$ is not defined for $g \in \{0,1\}$.

which is semi-invariant under the action of the Jacobi group, invariant under the Weyl group of $E_8$ and satisfies a growth condition at the cusp; we refer to Section 1 for an introduction to Jacobi forms. The ring of weak $E_8$–Jacobi forms $\mathrm{Jac}_{E_8}$ carries a bigrading by weight $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ and index $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$,

$$\mathrm{Jac}_{E_8} = \bigoplus_{\ell,m} \mathrm{Jac}_{E_8,\ell,m}.$$

Recall the second Eisenstein series

$$C_2(q) = -\frac{1}{24} + \sum_{n \geq 1} \sum_{d|n} d q^n.$$

By assigning $C_2$ index 0 and weight 2 we have the bigraded extension

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8} = \mathrm{Jac}_{E_8}[C_2] = \bigoplus_{\ell,m} \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8,\ell,m}. \tag{3}$$

The ring (3) in the variables $q = q_i$ and $z_i \in E_8^{(i)}$ is denoted by $\widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8}^{(q_i,z_i)}$.

Recall also the modular discriminant

$$\Delta(q) = q \prod_{m \geq 1} (1-q^m)^{24}.$$

We prove the following basic quasimodularity result.

**Theorem 1** *Every relative potential $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ is an $E_8 \times E_8$ bi-quasi-Jacobi form*

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k}(z_1,z_2,q_1,q_2) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{k/2}} \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8,\ell,k}^{(q_1,z_1)} \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q_2)^{k/2}} \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8,\ell,k}^{(q_2,z_2)},$$

*where $\ell = 2g-2+6k$.*

The appearance of $E_8 \times E_8$ bi-quasi-Jacobi forms is in perfect agreement with predictions made using mirror symmetry; see Hosono, Saito and Stienstra [15], Hosono, Saito and Takahashi [16] and Sakai [38].

The elements in $\mathrm{Jac}_{E_8}$ are Jacobi forms and therefore modular objects. The only source of nonmodularity in $\widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8}$ and hence in $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ arises from the strictly quasimodular series $C_2(q)$. We state a holomorphic anomaly equation which determines the dependence on $C_2$ explicitly.

Identify the lattice $E_8^{(i)}$ with the pair $(\mathbb{Z}^8, Q_{E_8})$, where $Q_{E_8}$ is the (positive definite) Cartan matrix of $E_8$; see Section 1.5.4. For $j \in \{1,2\}$ consider the differentiation operators with respect to $q_j$ and $\boldsymbol{z}_j = (z_{j,1}, \dots, z_{j,8})$,

$$D_{q_j} = \frac{1}{2\pi i}\frac{d}{d\tau_j} = q_j \frac{d}{dq_j}, \quad D_{z_{j,\ell}} = \frac{1}{2\pi i}\frac{d}{dz_{j,\ell}}.$$

**Theorem 2** *Every $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ satisfies the holomorphic anomaly equation*

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{d}{dC_2(q_2)}\mathsf{F}_{g,k} \\
&\quad= \Big(2kD_{q_1} - \sum_{i,j=1}^{8}(Q_{E_8}^{-1})_{ij} D_{\boldsymbol{z}_{1,i}} D_{\boldsymbol{z}_{1,j}} + 24kC_2(q_1)\Big)\mathsf{F}_{g-1,k} \\
&\qquad+ \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ k=k_1+k_2}} \Big(2k_1\mathsf{F}_{g_1,k_1}\cdot D_{q_1}\mathsf{F}_{g_2,k_2} - \sum_{i,j=1}^{8}(Q_{E_8}^{-1})_{ij} D_{\boldsymbol{z}_{1,i}}(\mathsf{F}_{g_1,k_1})\cdot D_{\boldsymbol{z}_{1,j}}(\mathsf{F}_{g_2,k_2})\Big).
\end{aligned}$$

Since $X$ is symmetric in $R_1, R_2$ up to a deformation, the potentials $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ are symmetric under interchanging $(\boldsymbol{z}_i, q_i)$:

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k}(\boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, q_1, q_2) = \mathsf{F}_{g,k}(\boldsymbol{z}_2, \boldsymbol{z}_1, q_2, q_1).$$

Hence Theorem 2 determines also the dependence of $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ on $C_2(q_1)$.

Theorems 1 and 2 show quasimodularity and the holomorphic anomaly equation for the Gromov–Witten potentials of $X$ *relative* to $\mathbb{P}^1$. This provides a partial verification of the absolute case of (i)–(ii). It also leads to modular properties when the Gromov–Witten potentials are summed over the genus as follows. Consider the topological string partition function (ie the generating series of disconnected Gromov–Witten invariants) of the Schoen geometry

$$\mathsf{Z}(t, u, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, q_1, q_2) = \exp\Big(\sum_{g\geq 0}\sum_{\beta>0} \mathsf{N}_{g,\beta} u^{2g-2} t^{D\cdot\beta} q_1^{W_1\cdot\beta} q_2^{W_2\cdot\beta} e(\boldsymbol{z}_1\cdot\beta)e(\boldsymbol{z}_2\cdot\beta)\Big).$$

Under a variable change, this $\mathsf{Z}$ is the generating series of the Donaldson–Thomas (or Pandharipande–Thomas) invariants of the threefold $X$; see Pandharipande and Pixton [36]. For any curve class $\alpha \in H_2(R_1, \mathbb{Z})$ of some degree $k$ over the base $\mathbb{P}^1$, consider the coefficient

$$\mathsf{Z}_\alpha(u, \boldsymbol{z}_2, q_2) = [\mathsf{Z}(t, u, \boldsymbol{z}_1, \boldsymbol{z}_2, q_1, q_2)]_{t^k q^{W_1\cdot\alpha} e(\boldsymbol{z}_1\cdot\alpha)}.$$

We write $(z, q)$ for $(z_2, q_2)$, and work under the variable change $u = 2\pi z$ and $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$. We then have the following.

**Corollary 3** *Under the variable change $u = 2\pi z$ and $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$, the series $\mathsf{Z}_\alpha(z, \mathbf{z}, \tau)$ satisfies the modular transformation law of Jacobi forms of weight $-6$ and index $\left(\frac{1}{2}\langle \alpha - c_1(R_1), \alpha\rangle\right) \oplus \frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}$; that is, for all $\gamma = \left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d\end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$,*

$$\mathsf{Z}_\alpha\Bigl(\frac{z}{c\tau+d}, \frac{\mathbf{z}}{c\tau+d}, \frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}\Bigr) \\ = \xi(\gamma)^{k+1}(c\tau+d)^{-6} e\Bigl(\frac{c}{2(c\tau+d)}\bigl[k\mathbf{z}^T Q_{E_8}\mathbf{z} + z^2\langle\alpha - c_1(R_1), \alpha\rangle\bigr]\Bigr)\mathsf{Z}_\alpha(z, \mathbf{z}, \tau),$$

*where $\xi(\gamma) \in \{\pm 1\}$ is determined by $\Delta^{\frac{1}{2}}(\gamma\tau) = \xi(\gamma)(c\tau+d)^6\Delta^{\frac{1}{2}}(\tau)$.*

By Theorem 1 the series $\mathsf{Z}_\alpha$ also satisfies the elliptic transformation law of Jacobi forms in the variable $\mathbf{z}$. The elliptic transformation law in the genus variable $u$ is conjectured by Huang, Katz and Klemm [17] and corresponds to the expected symmetry of Donaldson–Thomas invariants under the Fourier–Mukai transforms by the Poincaré sheaf of $\pi_2$; see Oberdieck and Shen [34]. Hence conjecturally we find that $\mathsf{Z}_\alpha$ is a meromorphic Jacobi form (of weight and index as in Corollary 3).

We end our discussion with two concrete examples. Expand the partition function $\mathsf{Z}$ by the degree over the base $\mathbb{P}^1$:

$$\mathsf{Z}(t, u, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, q_1, q_2) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathsf{Z}_k(u, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, q_1, q_2) t^k.$$

By a basic degeneration argument in degree 0 we have

$$\mathsf{Z}_0 = \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}\Delta(q_2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

In degree 1 the Igusa cusp form conjecture (see Oberdieck and Pixton [33, Theorem 1]) and an analysis of the sections of $\pi\colon X \to \mathbb{P}^1$ yields

$$\mathsf{Z}_1 = \frac{\Theta_{E_8}(\mathbf{z}_1, q_1)\Theta_{E_8}(\mathbf{z}_2, q_2)}{\chi_{10}(e^{iu}, q_1, q_2)},$$

where $\chi_{10}$ is the Igusa cusp form, a Siegel modular form, defined by

$$\chi_{10}(p, q_1, q_2) = pq_1q_2 \prod_{(k,d_1,d_2)>0} (1 - p^k q_1^{d_1} q_2^{d_2})^{c(4d_1d_2-k^2)},$$

with $c(n)$ being coefficients of a certain $\Gamma_0(4)$–modular form (see [33, Section 0.2]), and

$$\Theta_{E_8}(z,\tau) = \sum_{\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^8} q^{\frac{1}{2}\gamma^T Q_{E_8}\gamma} e(z^T Q_{E_8}\gamma)$$

is the Riemann theta function of the $E_8$–lattice. The general relationship of $\mathsf{Z}_k$ to Siegel modular forms for $k > 1$ is yet to be found.

## 0.3 Beyond Calabi–Yau threefolds and the proof

Recently it became clear that we should expect properties (i)–(ii) not only for Calabi–Yau threefolds but also for varieties $X$ (of arbitrary dimension) which are Calabi–Yau relative to a base $B$, ie those which admit a fibration

$$\pi\colon X \to B$$

whose generic fiber has trivial canonical class. The potential $\mathsf{F}_g(q)$ is replaced here by a $\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten potential which takes values in cycles on $\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$, the moduli space of stable maps to the base. In this paper we conjecture and develop such a theory for *elliptic fibrations with section*. Our main theoretical result is a conjectural link between the Gromov–Witten theory of elliptic fibrations and the theory of lattice quasi-Jacobi forms. This framework allows us to conjecture a holomorphic anomaly equation.[4]

The elliptic curve (or more generally, trivial elliptic fibrations) is the simplest case of our conjecture and was proven in [33]. In this paper we prove the following new cases (see Section 5.3):

(a) The $\mathbb{P}^1$–relative Gromov–Witten potentials of the rational elliptic surface are $E_8$–quasi-Jacobi forms numerically.[5]

(b) The holomorphic anomaly equation holds for the rational elliptic surface numerically.

In particular, (a) solves the complete descendent Gromov–Witten theory of the rational elliptic surface in terms of $E_8$–quasi-Jacobi forms. We also show:

(c) The quasi-Jacobi form property and the holomorphic anomaly equation are compatible with the degeneration formula (Section 4.6).

[4] See Section 2 for details on the conjectures.

[5] That is, after specialization to $\mathbb{Q}$–valued Gromov–Witten invariants.

These results directly lead to a proof of Theorems 1 and 2 as follows. The Schoen Calabi–Yau $X$ admits a degeneration

$$X \rightsquigarrow (R_1 \times E_2) \cup_{E_1 \times E_2} (E_1 \times R_2),$$

where $E_i \subset R_i$ are smooth elliptic fibers. By the degeneration formula (see Li [28]) we are reduced to studying the case $R_i \times E_j$. By the product formula (see Lee and Qu [25]) the claim then follows from the holomorphic anomaly equation for the rational elliptic surface and the elliptic curve [33].

For completeness we also prove the following case:

(d) The holomorphic anomaly equation holds for the reduced Gromov–Witten theory of the abelian surface in primitive classes numerically.

An overview of the state of the art on holomorphic anomaly equations and the results of the paper is given in Table 1.

## 0.4 Overview of the paper

In Section 1 we review the theory of lattice quasi-Jacobi forms. We introduce the derivations induced by the nonholomorphic completions, prove some structure results, and discuss examples. In Section 2 we present the main conjectures of the paper. We conjecture that the $\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten theory of an elliptic fibration is expressed by quasi-Jacobi forms and satisfies a holomorphic anomaly equation with respect to the modular parameter. In Section 3 we discuss implications of the conjectures of Section 2. In particular, we deduce the weight of the quasi-Jacobi form, present a holomorphic anomaly equation with respect to the elliptic parameter, and prove that under good conditions the Gromov–Witten potentials satisfy the elliptic transformation law of Jacobi forms. The relationship to higher-level quasimodular forms is discussed. In Section 4 we extend the conjectures of Section 2 to the Gromov–Witten theory of $X$ relative to a divisor $D$, when both admit compatible elliptic fibrations. We show that the conjectural holomorphic anomaly equation is compatible with the degeneration formula. In Section 5 we study the rational elliptic surface. We show that the conjecture holds in all degrees and genera after specializing to numerical Gromov–Witten invariants; in particular we show that the Gromov–Witten potentials are $E_8$ quasi-Jacobi forms (Section 5.3). The idea of the proof is to adapt a calculation scheme of Maulik, Pandharipande and Thomas [31] and show every step preserves the conjectured properties. In Section 6 we prove Theorems 1 and 2 and Corollary 3.

| dim | geometry | modularity | HAE | comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | elliptic curves | $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasimodular | yes | cycle-valued [33] |
| | elliptic orbifold $\mathbb{P}^1$s | $\Gamma(n)$–quasimodular | yes | cycle-valued [32] (except case $(2^4)$) |
| 2 | K3 surfaces | $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasimodular | yes | numerically, primitive only [31; 33] |
| | abelian surfaces | $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasimodular | **yes** | numerically, primitive only [6] |
| | rational elliptic surface | **$E_8$–quasi-Jacobi forms** | **yes** | numerically, relative $\mathbb{P}^1$ |
| 3 | local $\mathbb{P}^2$ | explicit generators | yes | cycle-valued [26] |
| | formal quintic | explicit generators | yes | cycle-valued [26] |
| | Schoen CY3 | **$E_8 \times E_8$–bi-quasi-Jacobi forms** | **yes** | numerically, relative $\mathbb{P}^1$ |

Table 1: List of geometries for which modularity and holomorphic anomaly equations (HAE) are known. The bold entries are proven in this paper. Cycle-valued = as Gromov–Witten classes on $\overline{M}_{g,n}$; numerically = as numerical Gromov–Witten invariants; primitive = for primitive curve classes only; relative $B$ = relative to the base $B$ of a Calabi–Yau fibration.

In Section 7 we numerically prove a holomorphic anomaly equation for the reduced Gromov–Witten theory of abelian surfaces in primitive classes.

In Appendix A we introduce weak $B$–valued field theories and define a matrix action on the space of these theories. This generalizes the Givental $R$–matrix action on cohomological field theories. We express the conjectural holomorphic anomaly equation as a matrix action and discuss the compatibility with the Jacobi Lie algebra. In Appendix B we discuss relative holomorphic anomaly equations for K3 fibrations in an example.

## 0.5 Conventions

We always work with integral cohomology modulo torsion; in particular, $H^*(X,\mathbb{Z})$ will stand for singular cohomology of $X$ modulo torsion. On smooth connected projective varieties we identify cohomology with homology classes via Poincaré duality. A curve class is the homology class of a (possibly empty) algebraic curve. Given $x \in \mathbb{C}$ we write $e(x) = e^{2\pi i x}$. Results conditional on conjectures are denoted by Lemma*, Proposition*, etc.

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# 1 Lattice Jacobi forms

## 1.1 Overview

In Section 1.2 we briefly recall quasimodular forms following Kaneko and Zagier [20] and Bloch and Okounkov [4]. Subsequently we give a modest introduction to lattice quasi-Jacobi forms. Lattice Jacobi forms were defined in [45] and an introduction can be found in [43]. A definition of quasi-Jacobi forms of rank 1 appeared in [29], and for higher rank can be found in [24].

## 1.2 Modular forms

**1.2.1 Definition** Let $\mathbb{H} = \{\tau \in \mathbb{C} \mid \mathrm{Im}(\tau) > 0\}$ be the upper half-plane, and set $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$. A *modular form* of weight $k$ is a holomorphic function $f(\tau)$ on $\mathbb{H}$ satisfying

$$f\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = (c\tau + d)^k f(\tau) \tag{4}$$

for all $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and admitting a Fourier expansion in $|q| < 1$ of the form

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n, \quad a_n \in \mathbb{C}. \tag{5}$$

An *almost holomorphic function* is a function

$$F(\tau) = \sum_{i=0}^{s} f_i(\tau) \frac{1}{y^i}, \quad y = \mathrm{Im}(\tau),$$

on $\mathbb{H}$ such that every $f_i$ has a Fourier expansion in $|q| < 1$ of the form (5).

An *almost holomorphic modular form* of weight $k$ is an almost holomorphic function which satisfies the transformation law (4).

A *quasimodular form* of weight $k$ is a function $f(\tau)$ for which there exists an almost holomorphic modular form $\sum_i f_i y^{-i}$ of weight $k$ with $f_0 = f$.

We let $\mathrm{AHM}_*$ (resp. $\mathrm{QMod}_*$) be the ring of almost holomorphic modular forms (resp. quasimodular forms) graded by weight. The "constant term" map

$$\mathrm{AHM} \to \mathrm{QMod}, \quad \sum_i f_i y^{-i} \mapsto f_0, \tag{6}$$

is well-defined and an isomorphism [20; 4].

**1.2.2 Differential operators** The nonholomorphic variable

$$\nu = \frac{1}{8\pi y}$$

transforms under the action of $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on $\mathbb{H}$ as

$$\nu\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = (c\tau + d)^2 \nu(\tau) + \frac{c(c\tau + d)}{4\pi i}. \tag{7}$$

We consider $\tau$ and $\nu$ here as independent variables and define operators

$$D_q = \frac{1}{2\pi i}\frac{d}{d\tau} = q\frac{d}{dq}, \quad D_\nu = \frac{d}{d\nu}.$$

Since $\tau$ and $\nu$ are independent we have

$$D_q \nu = 0, \quad D_\nu \tau = 0.$$

A direct calculation using (7) shows the ring $\mathrm{AHM}_*$ admits the derivations

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{D}_q = (D_q - 2k\nu + 2\nu^2 D_\nu)\colon \mathrm{AHM}_k &\to \mathrm{AHM}_{k+2}, \\ D_\nu = \frac{d}{d\nu}\colon \mathrm{AHM}_k &\to \mathrm{AHM}_{k-2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\widehat{D}_q$ acts as $D_q$ on the constant term in $y$ we conclude that $D_q$ preserves quasimodular forms:

$$D_q\colon \mathrm{QMod}_k \to \mathrm{QMod}_{k+2}.$$

Similarly, define the anomaly operator

$$\mathsf{T}_q\colon \mathrm{QMod}_k \to \mathrm{QMod}_{k-2}$$

to be the map which acts by $D_\nu$ under the constant term isomorphism (6). The following diagrams therefore commute:

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{QMod}_k \arrow[r, "\cong"] \arrow[d, "D_q"] & \mathrm{AHM}_k \arrow[d, "\widehat{D}_q"] \\ \mathrm{QMod}_{k+2} \arrow[r, "\cong"] & \mathrm{AHM}_{k+2} \end{tikzcd} \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{QMod}_k \arrow[r, "\cong"] \arrow[d, "\mathsf{T}_q"] & \mathrm{AHM}_k \arrow[d, "D_\nu"] \\ \mathrm{QMod}_{k-2} \arrow[r, "\cong"] & \mathrm{AHM}_{k-2} \end{tikzcd}$$

The commutator relation $[D_\nu, \widehat{D}_q]\big|_{\mathrm{AHM}_k} = -2k \cdot \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{AHM}_k}$ yields

$$[\mathsf{T}_q, D_q]\big|_{\mathrm{QMod}_k} = -2k \cdot \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{QMod}_k} .$$

The operator $\mathsf{T}_q$ allows us to describe the modular transformation of quasimodular forms.

**Lemma 4** *For any $f(\tau) \in \mathrm{QMod}_k$ we have*

$$f\left(\frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}\right) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{m} \frac{1}{\ell!}\left(-\frac{c}{4\pi i}\right)^{\ell} (c\tau+d)^{k-\ell}\mathsf{T}_q^{\ell} f(\tau).$$

**Proof** Let $F(\tau) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} f_i(\tau)\nu^i$ be the almost holomorphic modular form with associated quasimodular form $f(\tau) = f_0(\tau)$. Let $A = \left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right)$, $j = c\tau + d$ and $\alpha = \frac{c}{4\pi i}$. We claim

$$f_r(A\tau) = \sum_{\ell=r}^{m} (-\alpha)^{\ell-r}\binom{l}{r} j^{k-r-\ell} f_\ell(\tau)$$

for all $r$. The left-hand side is uniquely determined from $F(A\tau) = j^k F(\tau)$ by solving recursively from the highest $\nu$ coefficients on. One checks the given equation is compatible with this constraint. □

**1.2.3 Eisenstein series** Let $B_k$ be the Bernoulli numbers. The Eisenstein series

$$C_k(\tau) = -\frac{B_k}{k \cdot k!} + \frac{2}{k!}\sum_{n\geq 1}\sum_{d|n} d^{k-1}q^n$$

are modular forms of weight $k$ for every even $k > 2$. In the case $k = 2$ we have

$$C_2\left(\frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}\right) = (c\tau+d)^2 C_2(\tau) - \frac{c(c\tau+d)}{4\pi i}$$

for all $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Hence

$$\widehat{C}_2(\tau) = \widehat{C}_2(\tau, \nu) = C_2(\tau) + \nu \tag{8}$$

is almost holomorphic and $C_2$ is quasimodular (of weight 2).

It is well-known that

$$\mathrm{QMod} = \mathbb{Q}[C_2, C_4, C_6], \quad \mathrm{AHM} = \mathbb{Q}[\widehat{C}_2, C_4, C_6] \tag{9}$$

and the inverse to the constant term map (6) is

$$\mathrm{QMod} \to \mathrm{AHM}, \quad f(C_2, C_4, C_6) \mapsto \widehat{f} = f(\widehat{C}_2, C_4, C_6).$$

In particular,

$$\mathsf{T}_q = \frac{d}{dC_2}.$$

**Remark 1** Once the structure result (9) is known we can immediately work with $d/dC_2$ and we do not need to talk about transformation laws. However, below in the context of quasi-Jacobi forms we do not have such strong results at hand and we will use an abstract definition of $\mathsf{T}_q$ instead (though see Section 1.3.4 for a version of $d/dC_2$).

## 1.3 Jacobi forms

**1.3.1 Definition** Consider variables $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, and let $L$ be a rational $n \times n$ matrix such that $2L$ is integral and has even diagonals.[6]

A *weak Jacobi form* of weight $k$ and index $L$ is a holomorphic function $\phi(z, \tau)$ on $\mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{H}$ satisfying

$$\begin{gathered} \phi\left(\frac{z}{c\tau + d}, \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = (c\tau + d)^k e\left(\frac{cz^t Lz}{c\tau + d}\right)\phi(z, \tau), \\ \phi(z + \lambda\tau + \mu, \tau) = e(-\lambda^t L\lambda\tau - 2\lambda^t Lz)\phi(z, \tau) \end{gathered} \tag{10}$$

for all $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, and admitting a Fourier expansion of the form

$$\phi(z, \tau) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}^n} c(n, r) q^n \zeta^r \tag{11}$$

[6]This is the weakest condition on $L$ for which the second equation in (10) can be nontrivially satisfied. Indeed, if the condition is violated then $\lambda^T L\lambda$ is not integral in general and hence the $q$–expansion of $\phi$ is fractional which contradicts (11).

in $|q| < 1$; here we used the notation

$$\zeta^r = e(z \cdot r) = e\Big(\sum_i z_i r_i\Big) = \prod_i \zeta_i^{r_i}$$

with $\zeta_i = e(z_i)$.

We will call the first equation in (10) the modular, and the second equation in (10) the elliptic transformation law of Jacobi forms.

By definition, weak Jacobi forms are allowed to have poles at cusps. If the index $L$ is positive definite then a *(holomorphic) Jacobi form* is a weak Jacobi form which is holomorphic at cusps, or equivalently, satisfies $c(n,r) = 0$ unless $r^t L^{-1} r \leq 4n$. We will not use this stronger notion and all the Jacobi forms are considered here to be weak.

### 1.3.2 Quasi-Jacobi forms

For every $i$ consider the real-analytic function

$$\alpha_i(z,\tau) = \frac{z_i - \overline{z}_i}{\tau - \overline{\tau}} = \frac{\operatorname{Im}(z_i)}{\operatorname{Im}(\tau)}$$

and define

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n).$$

We have the transformations

$$\alpha\left(\frac{z}{c\tau+d}, \frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}\right) = (c\tau+d)\alpha(z,\tau) - cz,$$
$$\alpha(z + \lambda\tau + \mu, \tau) = \alpha(z,\tau) + \lambda$$

for all $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{smallmatrix}\right) \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$.

An *almost holomorphic function* on $\mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{H}$ is a function

$$\Phi(z,\tau) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \sum_{\substack{j=(j_1,\dots,j_n) \\ \in (\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0})^n}} \phi_{i,j}(z,\tau)\nu^i \alpha^j, \quad \text{where } \alpha^j = \alpha_1^{j_1} \cdots \alpha_n^{j_n},$$

such that each of the finitely many nonzero $\phi_{i,j}(z,\tau)$ is holomorphic and admits a Fourier expansion of the form (11) in the region $|q| < 1$.

An *almost holomorphic weak Jacobi form* of weight $k$ and index $L$ is an almost holomorphic function $\Phi(z,\tau)$ which satisfies the transformation law (10) of weak Jacobi forms of weight $k$ and index $L$.

A *quasi-Jacobi form* of weight $k$ and index $L$ is a function $\phi(z,\tau)$ on $\mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{H}$ such that there exists an almost holomorphic weak Jacobi form $\sum_{i,j} \phi_{i,j} \nu^i \alpha^j$ of weight $k$ and index $L$ with $\phi_{0,0} = \phi$.

We let $\mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L}$ (resp. $\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}$) be the vector space of almost holomorphic weak (resp. quasi-) Jacobi forms of weight $k$ and index $L$. The vector space of index $L$ quasi-Jacobi forms is denoted by

$$\mathrm{QJac}_L = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}.$$

Multiplication of functions endows the direct sum

$$\mathrm{QJac} = \bigoplus_{L} \mathrm{QJac}_L,$$

where $L$ runs over all rational $n \times n$ matrices such that $2L$ is integral and has even diagonals, with a commutative ring structure. We call QJac the *algebra of quasi-Jacobi forms* on $n$ variables.

**Lemma 5** *The constant term map*

$$\mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}, \quad \sum_{i,j} \phi_{i,j} \nu^i \alpha^j \mapsto \phi_{0,0},$$

*is well-defined and an isomorphism.*

**Proof** Parallel to the rank 1 case in [29]. □

**1.3.3 Differential operators** Consider $\tau$, $\nu$, $z_i$ and $\alpha_i$ as independent variables and recall the Fourier variables $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ and $\zeta_i = e^{2\pi i z_i}$. Define the differential operators

$$D_q = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{d\tau} = q \frac{d}{dq}, \quad D_\nu = \frac{d}{d\nu}, \quad D_{\zeta_i} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{dz_i} = \zeta_i \frac{d}{d\zeta_i}, \quad D_{\alpha_i} = \frac{d}{d\alpha_i}.$$

A direct check using the transformation laws (10) shows

$$D_\nu \colon \mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{AHJ}_{k-2,L} \quad \text{and} \quad D_{\alpha_i} \colon \mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{AHJ}_{k-1,L}.$$

Define anomaly operators $\mathsf{T}_q$ and $\mathsf{T}_{\alpha_i}$ by the commutative diagrams

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \arrow[d, "\mathsf{T}_q"] & \mathrm{AHJ}_k \arrow[l, "\cong"'] \arrow[d, "D_\nu"] \\ \mathrm{QJac}_{k-2,L} & \mathrm{AHJ}_{k-2,L} \arrow[l, "\cong"'] \end{tikzcd} \qquad \begin{tikzcd} \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \arrow[d, "\mathsf{T}_{\alpha_i}"] & \mathrm{AHJ}_k \arrow[l, "\cong"'] \arrow[d, "D_{\alpha_i}"] \\ \mathrm{QJac}_{k-1,L} & \mathrm{AHJ}_{k-1,L} \arrow[l, "\cong"'] \end{tikzcd}$$

where the horizontal maps are the “constant term” maps.

Similarly, we have operators[7]

$$\widehat{D}_q = \left(D_q - 2k\nu + 2\nu^2 D_\nu + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i D_{\zeta_i} + \alpha^T L\alpha\right)\colon \mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{AHJ}_{k+2,L},$$
$$\widehat{D}_{\zeta_i} = (D_{\zeta_i} + 2\alpha^T L e_i - 2\nu D_{\alpha_i})\colon \mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{AHJ}_{k+1,L},$$

where $e_i = (\delta_{ij})_j$ is the $i^{\text{th}}$ standard basis vector in $\mathbb{C}^n$. Since $\widehat{D}_q$ and $\widehat{D}_{\zeta_i}$ act as $D_q$ and $D_{\zeta_i}$ on the constant term, we find that $D_q$ and $D_{\zeta_i}$ act on quasi-Jacobi forms:

$$D_q\colon \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QJac}_{k+2,L}, \quad D_{\zeta_i}\colon \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QJac}_{k+1,L}.$$

For $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ we will write

$$D_\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i D_{\zeta_i}, \qquad \mathsf{T}_\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i \mathsf{T}_{\alpha_i}.$$

The commutation relations of the above operators read[8]

$$\begin{aligned} &[\mathsf{T}_q, D_q]\big|_{\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}} = -2k \cdot \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}}, && [\mathsf{T}_\lambda, D_q] = D_\lambda, \\ &[\mathsf{T}_\lambda, D_\mu]\big|_{\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}} = 2(\lambda^T L\mu) \cdot \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}}, && [\mathsf{T}_q, D_\lambda] = -2\mathsf{T}_\lambda, \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

and

$$[D_q, D_\lambda] = [D_\lambda, D_\mu] = [\mathsf{T}_q, \mathsf{T}_\lambda] = [\mathsf{T}_\lambda, T_\mu] = 0$$

for all $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$.

**Lemma 6** *Let $\phi \in \mathrm{QJac}_L$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(z + \lambda\tau + \mu, \tau) &= e(-\lambda^t L\lambda\tau - 2\lambda^t Lz) \sum_{\ell \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^i}{i!} \mathsf{T}_\lambda^i \phi(z, \tau) \\ &= e(-\lambda^t L\lambda\tau - 2\lambda^t Lz) \exp(-\mathsf{T}_\lambda)\phi(z, \tau). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof** Since the claimed formula is compatible with addition on $\mathbb{Z}^n$, we may assume $\lambda = e_i$. Let $\Phi$ be the nonholomorphic completion of $\phi$. We expand

$$\Phi = \sum_{j \geq 0} \phi_j \alpha_i^j,$$

[7] See [7, Section 2] for a Lie algebra presentation of these operators.

[8] The operators $\mathsf{T}_q$, $\mathsf{T}_\lambda$, $D_q$ and $D_\lambda$ as well as the weight and index grading operators define an action of the Lie algebra of the semi-direct product of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ with a Heisenberg group on the space $\mathrm{QJac}_{\boldsymbol{L}}$; see [45, Section 1], [7, Section 2] and also [8, Theorem 1.4].

where $\phi_j$ depends on all variables except $\alpha_i$ (these variables are invariant under $z \mapsto z + e_i \tau$). Then a direct check shows that the claimed formula is determined by, and compatible with, the relation

$$\Phi(z + e_i \tau) = e(-e_i^t L e_i \tau - 2 e_i L z)\Phi(z). \qquad \square$$

**Lemma 7** *Let $\phi \in \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}$ be such that $\mathsf{T}_\lambda \phi = 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Then*

$$\phi\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = e\left(\frac{c z^T L z}{c\tau + d}\right) \sum_{\ell \geq 0} \frac{1}{\ell!}\left(-\frac{c}{4\pi i}\right)^{\ell} (c\tau + d)^{k-\ell} \mathsf{T}_q^{\ell} \phi(\tau).$$

**Proof** Since $\mathsf{T}_\lambda \phi = 0$ for all $\lambda$, the nonholomorphic completion of $\phi$ is of the form $\Phi(z,\tau) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \phi_i(z,\tau)\nu^i$, where $\phi_i$ are *holomorphic* and in $\bigcap_\lambda \mathrm{Ker}(T_\lambda)$. The same proof as Lemma 4 applies now. $\square$

**1.3.4 Rewriting $\mathsf{T}_q$ as $d/dC_2$** Define the vector space of quasi-Jacobi forms which are annihilated by $\mathsf{T}_q$ by

$$\mathrm{QJac}'_L = \mathrm{Ker}(\mathsf{T}_q \colon \mathrm{QJac}_L \to \mathrm{QJac}_L).$$

We have the following structure result, whose proof is essentially identical to [4, Proposition 3.5] and which we therefore omit.

**Lemma 8** $$\mathrm{QJac}_L = \mathrm{QJac}'_L \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}[C_2].$$

By the lemma every quasi-Jacobi form can be uniquely written as a polynomial in $C_2$. In particular, the formal derivative $d/dC_2$ is well-defined. Comparing with (8) we conclude that

$$\mathsf{T}_q = \frac{d}{dC_2} \colon \mathrm{QJac}_L \to \mathrm{QJac}_L.$$

**1.3.5 Specialization to quasimodular forms** By setting $z = 0$, the quasi-Jacobi forms of weight $k$ and index $L$ specialize to weight $k$ quasimodular forms:

$$\mathrm{AHJ}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{AHM}_k, \quad F(z,\tau) \mapsto F(0,\tau),$$
$$\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QMod}_k, \quad f(z,\tau) \mapsto f(0,\tau).$$

The specialization maps commute with the operators $\mathsf{T}_q$.

## 1.4 Theta decomposition and periods

We discuss theta decompositions of quasi-Jacobi forms if the index $L$ is positive definite. For this we will need to work with several more general notions of modular forms than what we have defined above (eg for congruence subgroups, of half-integral weight, or vector-valued). Since we do not need the results of this section for the main arguments of the paper we will not introduce these notions here and instead refer to [43] and [39].[9]

Assume $L$ is positive definite, and for every $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n/2L\mathbb{Z}^n$ define the index $L$ theta function

$$\vartheta_{L,x}(z,\tau) = \sum_{\substack{r \in \mathbb{Z}^n \\ r \equiv x \bmod 2L\mathbb{Z}^n}} e\big(\tau \tfrac{1}{4} r^T L^{-1} r + r^T z\big).$$

Let $\mathrm{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be the metaplectic double cover of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and consider the ring

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{k,L} = \bigcap_{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathrm{Ker}(\mathsf{T}_\lambda\colon \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QJac}_{k+1,L}).$$

**Proposition 9** *Assume $L$ is positive definite and let $f \in \mathrm{QJac}_{k,m}$.*

(i) *There exist (finitely many) unique quasi-Jacobi forms $f_d \in \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{k-\sum_i d_i,L}$, where $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n_{\geq 0}$, such that*

$$f(z,\tau) = \sum_d D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1} \cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n} f_d(z,\tau).$$

(ii) *Every $f_d(z,\tau)$ above can be expanded as*

$$f_d(z,\tau) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n/2L\mathbb{Z}^n} h_{k,x}(\tau) \vartheta_{L,x}(z,\tau),$$

*where $(h_{k,x})_x$ is a vector-valued weakly holomorphic quasimodular form for the dual of the Weil representation of $\mathrm{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on $\mathbb{Z}^n/2L\mathbb{Z}^n$.*

The quasimodular forms $(h_{k,x})_x$ of (ii) are weakly holomorphic (ie have poles at cusps) since we define our quasi-Jacobi forms as almost holomorphic versions of weak-Jacobi forms. The quasi-Jacobi forms for which $(h_{k,x})_x$ are holomorphic correspond to *holomorphic* Jacobi forms (which require a stronger vanishing condition on their Fourier coefficients).

[9] The results of Section 1.4 are essential only for Section 3.5, which is not used later on. Proposition 10 also appears in Section 7.3, but in this case the lattice $2L$ is unimodular and hence we can use Proposition 12 to reprove Proposition 10 without additional theory.

**Proof of Proposition 9** (i) Let $F$ be the completion of $f$ and consider the expansion

$$F = \sum_{j=(j_1,\dots,j_n)} f_j(z,\tau,\nu)\alpha^j.$$

Let $j$ be a maximal index, ie $f_{j+e_i} = 0$ for every $i$, where $e_i$ is the standard basis. Then $\mathsf{T}_\lambda f_j = 0$ for every $\lambda$ and hence $f_j \in \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{k-|j|,L}$. Replacing $f$ by

$$f - (D_{\frac{1}{2}L^{-1}e_1})^{j_1} \cdots (D_{\frac{1}{2}L^{-1}e_n})^{j_n} f_j,$$

the claim follows by induction.

(ii) The existence of $h_{k,x}(\tau)$ follows from the elliptic transformation law. For the modularity see [43, Section 4]. □

The *level of* $L$ is the smallest positive integer $\ell$ such that $\frac{1}{2}\ell L^{-1}$ has integral entries and even diagonal entries. Let

$$\Gamma(\ell)^* \subset \mathrm{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

be the lift of the congruence subgroup $\Gamma(\ell)$ to $\mathrm{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ defined in [43, Section 2].

Given a function $f = \sum_{r\in\mathbb{Z}^n} c_r(\tau)\zeta^r$ with $\zeta^r = e(z^t r)$, let

$$[f]_{\zeta^\lambda} = c_\lambda(\tau)$$

denote the coefficient of $\zeta^\lambda$.

**Proposition 10** *Assume $L$ is positive definite of level $\ell$, and let $f \in \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}$.*

(i) *For every $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, the coefficient*

$$[f]_\lambda := q^{-\frac{1}{4}\lambda^T L^{-1}\lambda}[f]_{\zeta^\lambda}$$

*is a weakly holomorphic quasimodular form for $\Gamma(\ell)^*$, of weight $\leq k - \frac{n}{2}$. If $\lambda = 0$ then $[f]_\lambda$ is homogeneous of weight $k - \frac{n}{2}$.*

(ii) *We have*

$$\mathsf{T}_q[f]_\lambda = [\mathsf{T}_q f]_\lambda + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{a,b=1}^{n}(L^{-1})_{ab}[\mathsf{T}_{\zeta_a}\mathsf{T}_{\zeta_b} f]_\lambda.$$

In Proposition 10(ii) we used an extension of the operator $\mathsf{T}_q$ to quasimodular forms for congruence subgroups. The existence of this operator follows, parallel to Section 1.2, from the arguments of [20].

The $\zeta^\lambda$–coefficients of Jacobi forms are sometimes referred to as periods. A quasi-modularity result for the periods of certain multivariable elliptic functions (certain meromorphic Jacobi forms of index $L=0$) has been obtained in [33, Appendix A]. The formula in [33, Theorem 7] is similar to the above but requires a much more delicate argument.

**Proof of Proposition 10** (i) The Weil representation restricts to the trivial representation on $\Gamma(\ell)$; see [39, Proposition 4.3]. Hence the $h_{k,x}$ are $\Gamma(\ell)^*$–quasimodular by Proposition 9(ii).

(ii) For the second part we consider the expansion

$$f(z,\tau) = \sum_{x\in\mathbb{Z}^n/2L\mathbb{Z}^n} \sum_{d} h_{k,x}(\tau) D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x}(z,\tau), \tag{13}$$

which follows from combining both parts of Proposition 9. Let

$$\mathsf{T}_\Delta = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{a,b=1}^{n}(L^{-1})_{ab}\mathsf{T}_{e_a}\mathsf{T}_{e_b}.$$

By (12) we have $[\mathsf{T}_q, D_\lambda] = -[\mathsf{T}_\Delta, D_\lambda]$ for every $\lambda$. Since $\vartheta_{L,x}$ is a Jacobi form (for a congruence subgroup[10]) we also have $\mathsf{T}_q\vartheta_{L,x} = \mathsf{T}_\Delta\vartheta_{L,x} = 0$. This implies

$$\mathsf{T}_q D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x}(z,\tau) = -\mathsf{T}_\Delta D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x}(z,\tau).$$

Hence applying $\mathsf{T}_q$ to (13) yields

$$\begin{aligned}\mathsf{T}_q f &= \sum_{x,d}\big(\mathsf{T}_q(h_{k,x})D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x} - h_{k,x}\mathsf{T}_\Delta D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x}\big)\\ &= \Big(\sum_{x,d}\mathsf{T}_q(h_{k,x})D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1}\cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n}\vartheta_{L,x}\Big) - \mathsf{T}_\Delta f.\end{aligned}$$

The claim follows by taking the coefficient of $\zeta^\lambda$. □

**Corollary 11** $\mathrm{QJac}_{k,L}$ *is finite-dimensional for every weight $k$ and positive definite index $L$.*

**Proof** By Proposition 9 the space $\widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{k,L}$ is isomorphic to a space of meromorphic vector-valued quasimodular forms of some fixed weight $k$ for which the order of

[10] We extend the operators $\mathsf{T}_q$ and $\mathsf{T}_\lambda$ here to quasi-Jacobi forms for congruence subgroups. The commutation relations are identical.

poles at the cusps is bounded by a constant depending only on $L$. In particular, it is finite-dimensional and vanishes for $k \ll 0$. The claim now follows from the first part of Proposition 9. ◻

## 1.5 Examples

**1.5.1 Rank 0** If the lattice $\Lambda$ has rank $0$, a quasi-Jacobi form of weight $k$ is a quasimodular form of the same weight.

**1.5.2 Rank 1 lattice** The ring of quasi-Jacobi forms in the rank $1$ case has been determined and studied by Libgober in [29].

**1.5.3 Half-unimodular index** Let $Q$ be positive definite and unimodular of rank $n$. We describe the ring of quasi-Jacobi forms of index $L = \frac{1}{2}Q$. The main example is the Riemann theta function

$$\Theta_Q(z,\tau) = \sum_{\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n} q^{\frac{1}{2}\gamma^T Q \gamma} e(z^T Q \gamma), \tag{14}$$

which is a Jacobi form[11] of weight $\frac{n}{2}$ and index $\frac{1}{2}Q$,

$$\Theta_Q(z,\tau) \in \mathrm{Jac}_{\frac{n}{2},\frac{1}{2}Q}.$$

The following structure result shows that this is essentially the only Jacobi form that we need to consider in this index.

**Proposition 12** *Let $Q$ be positive definite and unimodular. Then every $f \in \mathrm{QJac}_{k,\frac{1}{2}Q}$ can be uniquely written as a finite sum*

$$f = \sum_{d=(d_1,\dots,d_n)} f_d(\tau) D_{\zeta_1}^{d_1} \cdots D_{\zeta_n}^{d_n} \Theta_Q(z,\tau),$$

*where $f_d \in \mathrm{QMod}_{k-\sum_i d_i}$ for every $d$. In particular, for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ we have*

$$q^{-\frac{1}{4}\lambda^T Q^{-1}\lambda}[f]_{\zeta^\lambda} \in \mathrm{QMod}_{\leq k}.$$

**Proof** Parallel to the proof of Proposition 9. ◻

[11] Since $Q$ is unimodular the theta function satisfies the transformation laws for the full modular group and not just a subgroup [45, Section 3].

**1.5.4 The $E_8$ lattice and $E_8$–Jacobi forms** Consider the Cartan matrix of the $E_8$ lattice,

$$Q_{E_8} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We define a natural subspace of the space of Jacobi forms of index $\frac{m}{2} Q_{E_8}$.

A *weak $E_8$–Jacobi form* of weight $k$ and index $m$ is a weak Jacobi form $\phi$ of weight $k$ and index $L = \frac{m}{2} Q_{E_8}$ which satisfies

$$\phi(w(z), \tau) = \phi(z, \tau)$$

for all $w \in W(E_8)$, where $W(E_8)$ is the Weyl group of $E_8$. We let

$$\mathrm{Jac}_{E_8,k,m} \subset \mathrm{Jac}_{k,\frac{m}{2} Q_{E_8}}$$

be the ring of weak $E_8$–Jacobi forms.

Practically the subspace of $E_8$–Jacobi forms is much smaller than the large space of Jacobi forms of index $\frac{m}{2} Q_{E_8}$. The first example of an $E_8$–Jacobi form is the theta function $\Theta_{E_8}$ defined in (14). Further examples and a conjectural structure result for the ring of weak $E_8$–Jacobi forms can be found in [37].

# 2 Elliptic fibrations and conjectures

## 2.1 Elliptic fibrations

**2.1.1 Definition** Let $X$ and $B$ be nonsingular projective varieties and let

$$\pi \colon X \to B$$

be an elliptic fibration, ie a flat morphism with fibers connected curves of arithmetic genus $1$. We always assume $\pi$ satisfies the following properties:[12]

(i) All fibers of $\pi$ are integral.

(ii) There exists a section $\iota \colon B \to X$.

(iii) $H^{2,0}(X, \mathbb{C}) = H^0(X, \Omega_X^2) = 0$.

[12] After Conjecture B we discuss how these assumptions can be removed.

**2.1.2 Cohomology** Let $B_0 \in H^2(X)$ be the class of the section $\iota$, and let $N_\iota$ be the normal bundle of $\iota$. We define the divisor class

$$W = B_0 - \tfrac{1}{2}\pi^* c_1(N_\iota).$$

Consider the endomorphisms of $H^*(X)$ defined by

$$T_+(\alpha) = (\pi^*\pi_*\alpha) \cup W \quad \text{and} \quad T_-(\alpha) = \pi^*\pi_*(\alpha \cup W)$$

for all $\alpha \in H^*(X)$. The maps $T_\pm$ satisfy the relations

$$T_+^2 = T_+, \quad T_-^2 = T_-, \quad T_+T_- = T_-T_+ = 0.$$

The cohomology of $X$ therefore splits as[13]

$$H^*(X) = H_+^* \oplus H_-^* \oplus H_\perp^*, \tag{15}$$

where $H_\pm^* = \mathrm{Im}(T_\pm)$ and $H_\perp^* = \mathrm{Ker}(T_+) \cap \mathrm{Ker}(T_-)$.

We have the relation

$$\langle T_+(\alpha), \alpha' \rangle = \langle \alpha, T_-(\alpha') \rangle \quad \text{for } \alpha, \alpha' \in H^*(X),$$

where $\langle\ ,\ \rangle$ is the intersection pairing on $H^*(X)$. Therefore

$$\langle H_+^*, H_+^* \rangle = \langle H_-^*, H_-^* \rangle = \langle H_\pm^*, H_\perp^* \rangle = 0.$$

Consider the isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} H^*(B) &\to H_-^*, \quad \alpha \mapsto \pi^*(\alpha), \\ H^*(B) &\to H_+^*, \quad \alpha \mapsto \pi^*(\alpha) \cup W. \end{aligned}$$

The pairing between $H_+^*$ and $H_-^*$ is determined by the compatibility

$$\int_B \alpha \cdot \alpha' = \int_X \pi^*(\alpha) \cdot (\pi^*(\alpha') \cdot W) \quad \text{for all } \alpha, \alpha' \in H^*(B).$$

**2.1.3 The lattice $\Lambda$** Let $F \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ be the class of a fiber of $\pi$ and consider the $\mathbb{Z}$–lattice

$$\mathbb{Z}F \oplus \iota_* H_2(B, \mathbb{Z}) \subset H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Its orthogonal complement in the dual space $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is the $\mathbb{Z}$–lattice

$$\Lambda = (\mathbb{Q}F \oplus \iota_* H_2(B, \mathbb{Z}))^\perp \subset H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}). \tag{16}$$

[13] The subspaces $H_+$, $H_-$ and $H_\perp$ are the $(+1)$–, $(-1)$– and $0$–eigenspaces, respectively, of the endomorphism of $H^*(X)$ defined by $\alpha \mapsto [W \cup\ , \pi^*\pi_*]\alpha = W \cup \pi^*\pi_*(\alpha) - \pi^*\pi_*(W \cup \alpha)$.

Since $\mathbb{Q}F \oplus \iota_* H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ generates $H_{2,+} \oplus H_{2,-}$ over $\mathbb{Q}$, we have

$$\Lambda \subset H^2_{\perp}, \quad \Lambda \otimes \mathbb{Q} = H^2_{\perp}.$$

Let $\mathsf{k}_1, \dots, \mathsf{k}_r$ be an integral basis[14] of $H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ and let $\mathsf{k}_i^* \in H^2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ be a dual basis. The projection

$$p_{\perp}\colon H^2(X,\mathbb{Q}) \to H^2_{\perp}$$

with respect to the splitting (15) acts on $\alpha \in H^2(X)$ by

$$p_{\perp}(\alpha) = \alpha - (\alpha \cdot F)B_0 - \sum_{i=1}^{r} \big((\alpha - (\alpha \cdot F)B_0) \cdot \iota_* \mathsf{k}_i\big) \pi^* \mathsf{k}_i^*,$$

and is therefore defined over $\mathbb{Z}$. Hence the inclusion (16) splits.

**2.1.4 Variables** Consider a fixed integral basis of the free abelian group $\Lambda$,

$$b_1, \dots, b_n \in \Lambda.$$

We will identify an element $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$ with the element $\sum_{i=1}^n z_i b_i$. Hence we obtain the identification

$$\mathbb{C}^n \cong \Lambda \otimes \mathbb{C} = H^2_{\perp}(X,\mathbb{C}).$$

Given a class $\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})$, we write

$$\zeta^{\beta} = \exp(z \cdot \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \zeta_i^{b_i \cdot \beta}, \tag{17}$$

where $\zeta_i = e(z_i)$ and $\cdot$ is the intersection pairing.

**2.1.5 Pairings and intersection matrices** Every element $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ defines a symmetric (possibly degenerate) bilinear form on $H^2_{\perp}$ by

$$(\alpha, \alpha')_{\mathsf{k}} = \int_B \pi_*(\alpha \cup \alpha') \cdot \mathsf{k}.$$

The restriction of $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ to $\Lambda$ takes integral values.

**Lemma 13** *For every curve class $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$, the quadratic form $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ is even on $\Lambda$; that is, $(\alpha,\alpha)_{\mathsf{k}} \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ for every $\alpha \in \Lambda$.*

[14] Recall we always work modulo torsion as per Section 0.5.

**Proof** Since the pairing is linear in $\mathsf{k}$ it suffices to prove $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}+\ell}$ and $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\ell}$ are even for a suitable class $\ell \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$. Let $C \subset B$ be a curve in class $\mathsf{k}$. We can assume $C$ is reduced and irreducible (otherwise prove the claim for each reduced irreducible component). By embedding $B$ into a projective space and choosing suitable hyperplane sections we can find[15] a curve $D \subset B$ not containing $C$ and a deformation of $C \cup D$ to a curve $D'$, such that $D, D'$ are smooth and $X_D$ and $X_{D'}$ are smooth elliptic surfaces over $D$ and $D'$ respectively; here we let $X_\Sigma = \pi^{-1}(\Sigma)$ for $\Sigma \subset B$. Hence it suffices to show $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ is even if $\mathsf{k}$ is represented by a smooth curve $C$ such that $X_C$ is smooth. Let $\alpha \in \Lambda$. Since $\alpha|_{X_C}$ is of type $(1,1)$ and orthogonal to the section and fiber class, the claim now follows from the adjunction formula; see eg [42, Theorem 7.4]. □

The matrix of $-(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ with respect to the basis $\{b_i\}$ is denoted by

$$Q_{\mathsf{k}} \in M_{n\times n}(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Hence for all $v = (v_1,\dots,v_n)$ and $v' = (v'_1,\dots,v'_n)$ in $\mathbb{Q}^n$ we have

$$\Big(\sum_i v_i b_i\,,\sum_i v'_i b_i\Big)_{\mathsf{k}} = -v^T Q_{\mathsf{k}} v'.$$

If $\mathsf{k}$ is a curve class, the matrix $Q_{\mathsf{k}}$ has even diagonal entries.

## 2.2 Gromov–Witten classes and conjectures

**2.2.1 Definition** Let $\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})$ be a curve class, let $\mathsf{k} = \pi_*\beta \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ and let

$$\overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta)$$

be the moduli space of genus-$g$ stable maps to $X$ in class $\beta$ with $n$ markings.

[15] Assume $C \subset B \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, and let $K_d$ be the kernel of $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d)) \to H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(d)|_C)$ for $d \gg 0$. For generic sections $f_1,\dots,f_m \in K_d$ for $m = \dim B - 1$, the intersection $\Sigma = B \cap \bigcap_i V(f_i)$ is a curve which contains $C$. The key step is to show $\Sigma = C + D$ for a smooth curve $D$ which does not contain $C$; all other conditions follow from a usual Bertini argument. To show that $\Sigma$ is of multiplicity $1$ at $C$, let $p \in C$ be a point at which $C$ is smooth and consider the projectivized normal bundle $P$ of $C$ inside $B$ at $p$. The set of $f_1,\dots,f_m$ which vanish at some $v \in P$ simultaneously is a closed codimension-$m$ subset. Since $\dim(P) = m-1$, by choosing $f_i$ generic we can guarantee the tangent spaces to $\Sigma(f)$ and $C$ are the same at $p$; hence the multiplicity of $C$ in $\Sigma$ is $1$.

For all $g$, $n$ and $\mathsf{k}$ such that[16]

$$\mathsf{k} > 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 2g-2+n > 0,$$

the elliptic fibration $\pi$ induces a morphism

$$\pi\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta) \to \overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}).$$

Consider cohomology classes

$$\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n \in H^*(X).$$

We define the *$\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten class*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\beta}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \pi_*\left([\overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)\right) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})).$$

**2.2.2 Quasi-Jacobi forms** Let $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ be a fixed class. Consider the generating series

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\beta}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) q^{W\cdot\beta}\zeta^{\beta},$$

where the sum is over all curve classes $\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})$ with $\pi_*\beta = \mathsf{k}$. By definition,

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\![q^{\frac{1}{2}},\zeta^{\pm 1}]\!].$$

Recall the space $\mathrm{QJac}_L$ of quasi-Jacobi forms of index $L$, and let

$$\Delta(q) = q \prod_{m\geq 1} (1-q^m)^{24}$$

be the modular discriminant. The following is a refinement of [33, Conjecture A].

**Conjecture A** *The series $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)$ is a cycle-valued quasi-Jacobi form of index $\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}$:*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})) \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^m}\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

*where $m = -\frac{1}{2}c_1(N_\iota)\cdot\mathsf{k}$.*

[16] If $\mathsf{k}=0$ and $2g-2+n \leq 0$, the moduli space $\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$ is empty, but $\overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta)$ for some $\beta > 0$ with $\pi_*\beta = \mathsf{k}$ may be nonempty. In this case no induced morphism exists.

**2.2.3 Holomorphic anomaly equation** Recall the differential operator on $\mathrm{QJac}_L$ induced by the nonholomorphic variable $\nu$,

$$\mathsf{T}_q = \frac{d}{dC_2} \colon \mathrm{QJac}_L \to \mathrm{QJac}_L.$$

Since $\Delta(q)$ is a modular form, we have

$$\mathsf{T}_q \Delta(q) = 0.$$

We conjecture a holomorphic anomaly equation for the classes $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}$. The equation is exactly the same as in [33, Conjecture B].

Consider the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} \overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}) & M_\Delta \arrow[l, "\iota"'] \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & \overline{M}_{g-1,n+2}(B,\mathsf{k}) \arrow[d, "\mathrm{ev}_{n+1}\times\mathrm{ev}_{n+2}"] \\ & B \arrow[r, "\Delta"] & B\times B \end{tikzcd}$$

where $\Delta$ is the diagonal, $M_\Delta$ is the fiber product and $\iota$ is the gluing map along the last two points. Similarly, for every splitting $g = g_1 + g_2$, $\{1,\ldots,n\} = S_1 \sqcup S_2$ and $\mathsf{k} = \mathsf{k}_1 + \mathsf{k}_2$, consider

$$\begin{tikzcd} \overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}) & M_{\Delta,\mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2} \arrow[l, "j"'] \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & \overline{M}_{g_1,S_1\sqcup\{\bullet\}}(B,\mathsf{k}_1)\times \overline{M}_{g_2,S_2\sqcup\{\bullet\}}(B,\mathsf{k}_2) \arrow[d, "\mathrm{ev}_\bullet\times\mathrm{ev}_\bullet"] \\ & B \arrow[r, "\Delta"] & B\times B \end{tikzcd}$$

where $M_{\Delta,\mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2}$ is the fiber product and $j$ is the gluing map along the marked points labeled by $\bullet$.

**Conjecture B** *On $\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{T}_q \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\ldots,\gamma_n) &= \iota_* \Delta^! \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\ldots,\gamma_n,1,1) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2 \\ \{1,\ldots,n\}=S_1\sqcup S_2 \\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} j_*\Delta^!\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1},1)\boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2},1)\big) \\ &\quad - 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\ldots,\gamma_{i-1},\pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\ldots,\gamma_n)\cdot\psi_i, \end{aligned}$$

*where $\psi_i \in H^2(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}))$ is the cotangent line class at the $i^{\text{th}}$ marking.*

Since the moduli space of stable maps in negative genus is empty, the corresponding terms in Conjecture B vanish. Further, the sum in the second term on the right runs over all splittings for which the moduli spaces $\overline{M}_{g_i,|S_i|+1}(B,\mathsf{k}_i)$ are stable, or equivalently, for which the classes $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g_i,\mathsf{k}_i}(\gamma_{S_i},1)$ are defined. In particular, if $g_i=0$ and $\mathsf{k}_i=0$ we require $|S_i|\geq 2$.

By Section 1.3.5 quasi-Jacobi forms specialize to quasimodular forms under $\zeta=1$, and the specialization map commutes with $\mathsf{T}_q$. Hence Conjectures A and B generalize and are compatible with [33, Conjectures A and B].

We have always assumed here that the elliptic fibration has integral fibers, a section, and $h^{2,0}(X)=0$; see (i)–(iii) in Section 2.1.1. We expect Conjectures A and B hold without these assumptions if some modifications are made: It is plausible (i) can be removed without any modifications. If we remove (ii) we need to work with a multi-section of the fibration, which leads to quasi-Jacobi forms which are modular with respect to $\Gamma(N)$ where $N$ is the degree of a multisection over the base. If (iii) is violated then the Gromov–Witten theory of $X$ mostly vanishes by a Noether–Lefschetz argument. Using instead a nontrivial reduced Gromov–Witten theory (such as [23] for algebraic surfaces satisfying $h^{2,0}>0$) forces then some basic modifications to the holomorphic anomaly equation; see eg Section 7 for the case of the abelian surface.

# 3 Consequences of the conjectures

## 3.1 A weight refinement

Define a modified degree function $\underline{\deg}(\gamma)$ on $H^*(X)$ by the assignment

$$\underline{\deg}(\gamma)=\begin{cases}2 & \text{if } \gamma\in \operatorname{Im}(T_+),\\ 1 & \text{if } \gamma\in \operatorname{Ker}(T_+)\cap\operatorname{Ker}(T_-),\\ 0 & \text{if } \gamma\in\operatorname{Im}(T_-).\end{cases}$$

The following is parallel to [33, Appendix B].

**Lemma* 14** *Assume Conjectures A and B hold. Then for any $\underline{\deg}$–homogeneous classes $\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n\in H^*(X)$ and $\mathsf{k}\in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$, we have*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)\in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}))\otimes\frac{1}{\Delta(q)^m}\mathrm{QJac}_{\ell,Q_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

*where $m=-\frac{1}{2}c_1(N_\iota)\cdot\mathsf{k}$ and $\ell=2g-2+12m+\sum_i\underline{\deg}(\gamma_i)$.*

## 3.2 Disconnected Gromov–Witten classes

We reformulate the holomorphic anomaly equation of Conjecture B for disconnected Gromov–Witten classes. Let

$$\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B, \mathsf{k})$$

be the moduli space of stable maps $f\colon C \to B$ from possibly *disconnected* curves of genus $g$ in class $\mathsf{k}$, with the requirement that for every connected component $C' \subset C$ at least one of the following holds:

(i) $f|_{C'}$ is nonconstant, or

(ii) $C'$ has genus $g'$ and carries $n'$ markings with $2g'-2+n'>0$.

Let $\overline{M}'_{g,n}(X,\beta)$ be the moduli space of stable maps $f\colon C \to X$ from possibly disconnected curves of genus $g$ in class $\beta$, with the requirement that for every connected component $C' \subset C$ at least one of the following holds:

(i) $\pi \circ f|_{C'}$ is nonconstant, or

(ii) $C'$ has genus $g'$ and carries $n'$ markings, with $2g'-2+n'>0$.

For all[17] $g \in \mathbb{Z}$ and curve classes $\mathsf{k}$ the fibration $\pi$ induces a map

$$\pi\colon \overline{M}'_{g,n}(X,\beta) \to \overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}).$$

Define the disconnected Gromov–Witten classes by

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} \zeta^{\beta} q^{W\cdot\beta} \pi_*\Big([\overline{M}'_{g,n}(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \prod_i \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)\Big).$$

The right-hand side is a series with coefficients in the homology of $\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$.

Since the disconnected classes $\mathcal{C}^{\bullet}_{g,k}$ can be expressed in terms of connected classes $\mathcal{C}^{\bullet}_{g,k}$ and vice versa, Conjecture A is equivalent to the quasi-Jacobi property of the disconnected theory:

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in H_*(\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})) \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^m}\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

where $m = -\frac{1}{2}c_1(N_\iota)\cdot\mathsf{k}$. Similarly, Conjecture B is equivalent to the following disconnected version of the holomorphic anomaly equation:

[17] Here $\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$ is empty if and only if $\overline{M}'_{g,n}(X,\beta)$ is empty, so we do not need to exclude any values of $(g,\mathsf{k})$.

**Lemma* 15** *Conjecture B is equivalent to*

$$\mathsf{T}_q \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \iota_* \Delta^! \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,1,1) - 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} \psi_i \cdot \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_{i-1},\pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\dots,\gamma_n).$$

## 3.3 Elliptic holomorphic anomaly equation

Recall the anomaly operator with respect to the elliptic parameter:

$$\mathsf{T}_\lambda\colon \mathrm{QJac}_{k,L} \to \mathrm{QJac}_{k-1,L} \quad \text{for } \lambda \in \Lambda$$

(recall we identify $\Lambda$ with $\mathbb{Z}^n$ here). The anomaly equation of $\mathcal{C}_g(\cdots)$ with respect to the operator $\mathsf{T}_\lambda$ reads as follows.

**Lemma* 16** *Assume Conjectures A and B hold. Then for any $\lambda \in \Lambda$,*

$$\mathsf{T}_\lambda \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_{i-1},A(\lambda)\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\dots,\gamma_n),$$

*where $A(\lambda)\colon H^*(X) \to H^*(X)$ is defined by*

$$A(\lambda)\gamma = \lambda \cup \pi^*\pi_*(\gamma) - \pi^*\pi_*(\lambda \cup \gamma) \quad \textit{for } \gamma \in H^*(X).$$

**Proof** Let $\lambda \in \Lambda$ and recall from Section 1.3.3 the commutation relation

$$[\mathsf{T}_q, D_\lambda] = -2\mathsf{T}_\lambda.$$

Let $p\colon \overline{M}_{g,n+1}(B,\mathsf{k}) \to \overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$ be the map that forgets the last marked point. We have

$$D_\lambda \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = p_* \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,\lambda).$$

Hence we obtain

$$-2\mathsf{T}_\lambda \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = p_*\mathsf{T}_q \mathcal{C}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,\lambda) - D_\lambda \mathsf{T}_q \mathcal{C}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

Only two terms contribute in this difference. The first arises from the second term in the holomorphic anomaly equation on $\overline{M}_{g,n+1}(B,\mathsf{k})$. The summand with $g_i = 0$ and $n+1 \in S_i$ with $|S_i| = 2$ contributes

$$2\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\pi^*\pi_*(\gamma_i \cup \lambda),\dots,\gamma_n).$$

The second contribution arises from the third term of the holomorphic anomaly equation when comparing the classes $\psi_i$ under pullback by $p$. It is

$$-2\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\lambda\cup\pi^*\pi_*(\gamma_i),\dots,\gamma_n).$$

Adding up yields the claim. □

Consider the exponential $\exp(A(\lambda))$, which acts on $\gamma\in H^*(X)$ by

$$(\exp A(\lambda))\gamma = \gamma + \lambda\cup\pi^*\pi_*(\gamma) - \pi^*\pi_*(\lambda\cup\gamma) - \tfrac{1}{2}\pi^*(\pi_*(\lambda^2)\cdot\pi_*(\gamma)).$$

Lemma* 16 then yields

$$\exp(\mathsf{T}_\lambda)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \mathcal{C}_{g,k}\bigl(\exp(A(\lambda))\gamma_1,\dots,\exp(A(\lambda))\gamma_n\bigr).$$

We will see in Section 3.4 how, in good situations, this is related to the automorphism defined by adding the section corresponding to the class $\lambda$.

### 3.4 The elliptic transformation law

Recall the projection $p_\perp$ to the lattice $\Lambda$ from Section 2.1.3. Throughout Section 3.4 we assume that the fibration $\pi\colon X\to B$ satisfies the following condition, which holds for example for the rational elliptic surface:

($\star$) For every $\lambda\in\Lambda$ there is a unique section $B_\lambda\subset X$ such that $p_\perp([B_\lambda])=\lambda$.

Let $\lambda\in\Lambda$ and consider the morphism

$$t_\lambda\colon X\to X,\quad x\mapsto (x+B_\lambda(\pi(x)))$$

of fiberwise addition with $B_\lambda$. Since $\pi\circ t_\lambda=\pi$ this implies

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,t_{\lambda*}\beta}(t_{\lambda*}\gamma_1,\dots,t_{\lambda*}\gamma_n) = \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\beta}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

Write $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\cdots)(z)$ to denote the dependence of $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\cdots)$ on the variable $z\in\Lambda\otimes\mathbb{C}$. From the last equation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)(z) &= \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\beta}(t_{\lambda*}\gamma_1,\dots,t_{\lambda*}\gamma_n)q^{(t_{\lambda*}W)\cdot\beta}e((t_{\lambda*}z)\cdot\beta)\\
&= e\bigl(-\tfrac{1}{2}\tau\pi_*(\lambda^2)\cdot\mathsf{k}-\pi_*(z\cdot\lambda)\cdot\mathsf{k}\bigr)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(t_{\lambda*}\gamma_1,\dots,t_{\lambda*}\gamma_n)(z+\lambda\tau)\\
&= e\bigl(\tfrac{1}{2}\tau\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}\lambda+\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}z\bigr)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(t_{\lambda*}\gamma_1,\dots,t_{\lambda*}\gamma_n)(z+\lambda\tau).
\end{aligned}$$

Rearranging the terms slightly yields

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)(z+\lambda\tau) = e\big(-\tfrac{1}{2}\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}\lambda - \lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}} z\big)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(t_{-\lambda *}\gamma_1,\dots,t_{-\lambda *}\gamma_n)(z). \tag{18}$$

We obtain the following.

**Lemma 17** *Assume $\pi\colon X \to B$ satisfies assumption ($\star$). If every $\gamma_i$ is translation invariant, ie $t_{\lambda *}\gamma_i = \gamma_i$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$, then $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)$ satisfies the elliptic transformation law of Jacobi forms:*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)(z+\lambda\tau) = e\big(-\tfrac{1}{2}\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}\lambda - \lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}} z\big)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)(z)$$

*for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$.*

Even if the $\gamma_i$ are not translation invariant we have the following relationship to the transformation law of quasi-Jacobi forms. Recall the endomorphism $A(\lambda)$ from Section 3.3. For the rational elliptic surface we have[18]

$$t_{\lambda *} = \exp A(\lambda) \tag{19}$$

for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Assuming Conjectures A and B we can rewrite (18) as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}&(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)(z+\lambda\tau)\\ &= e\big(-\tfrac{1}{2}\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}\lambda - \lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}} z\big)\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\exp(A(-\lambda))\gamma_1,\dots,\exp(A(-\lambda))\gamma_n)\\ &= e\big(-\tfrac{1}{2}\lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}}\lambda - \lambda^T Q_{\mathsf{k}} z\big)\exp(-\mathsf{T}_{\lambda})\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n),\end{aligned}$$

which is the elliptic transformation law of quasi-Jacobi forms stated in Lemma 6.

## 3.5 Quasimodular forms

The elliptic periods (ie $\zeta^{\alpha}$–coefficients) of a quasi-Jacobi form are quasimodular forms; see Proposition 10. Together with Conjecture A this leads to a basic quasimodularity statement for elliptic fibrations as follows. Let $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ be a curve class, and consider the pairing on $H^2(X,\mathbb{Z})$ defined by

$$(\alpha,\alpha')_{\mathsf{k}} = \int_{\mathsf{k}} \pi_*(\alpha\cdot\alpha') \quad \text{for all } \alpha,\alpha' \in H^2(X,\mathbb{Z}). \tag{20}$$

[18] It would be interesting to know for which elliptic fibrations (19) holds.

Throughout Section 3.5 we make the following assumption, which is equivalent to the positive definiteness of $Q_{\mathsf{k}}$ and holds in many cases of interest:[19]

(†) The restriction of $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ to $\Lambda$ is negative definite.

Consider the cohomology classes on $B$ orthogonal to $\mathsf{k}$,

$$\mathsf{k}^{\perp} = \{\gamma \in H^2(B,\mathbb{Z}) \mid \langle \gamma, \mathsf{k}\rangle = 0\},$$

where $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ is the pairing between cohomology and homology on $B$. Consider also the null space of $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$,

$$N_{\mathsf{k}} = \{v \in H^2(X,\mathbb{Z}) \mid (v, H^2(X,\mathbb{Z}))_{\mathsf{k}} = 0\}.$$

We have $\pi^*\mathsf{k}^{\perp} \subset N_{\mathsf{k}}$. By assumption (†) this inclusion is an equality,

$$N_{\mathsf{k}} = \pi^*\mathsf{k}^{\perp},$$

and the induced pairing on $H^2(X,\mathbb{Z})/N_{\mathsf{k}}$ is of signature $(1, n+1)$.[20]

The dual of $H^2(X,\mathbb{Z})/N_{\mathsf{k}}$ is naturally identified with the lattice

$$L_{\mathsf{k}} = \{\beta \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z}) \mid \pi_*\beta = c\cdot\mathsf{k} \text{ for some } c \in \mathbb{Q}\}.$$

The nondegenerate pairing on $H^2(X,\mathbb{Z})/N_{\mathsf{k}}$ induces a nondegenerate pairing on $L_{\mathsf{k}}$, which we denote by $(\cdot,\cdot)_{\mathsf{k}}$ as well.

For any $\alpha \in H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Q}F$ with $\pi_*\alpha = \mathsf{k}$, consider the theta series

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\alpha}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{[\beta]=\alpha} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\beta}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) q^{-\frac{1}{2}\langle\beta,\beta\rangle_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

where the sum is over all curve classes $\beta$ with residue class $\alpha$ in $H_2(X,\mathbb{Z})/\mathbb{Q}F$.

**Lemma* 18** *Assume Conjectures A and B, and assumption (†). Let $\ell$ be the smallest positive integer such that $\ell Q_{\mathsf{k}}^{-1}$ has integral entries and even diagonal. Then every $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\alpha}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)$ is a cycle-valued weakly holomorphic quasimodular form of level $\ell$.*

The lemma shows that although the elliptic fibration $\pi\colon X \to B$ has a section, we should expect the generating series of Gromov–Witten invariants in the fiber direction to be quasimodular of higher level (with pole at cusps). It is remarkable that these higher-index quasimodular forms when arranged together appropriately should form $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasi-Jacobi forms.

[19]On an elliptic surface satisfying $h^{2,0} = 0$ the assumption holds by the Hodge index theorem whenever $k \neq 0$.

[20]The combination of both statements is equivalent to assumption (†).

If $Q_{\mathsf{k}}$ is unimodular then we obtain level 1, hence $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasimodular forms in Lemma* 18. For the rational elliptic surface the level of the quasimodular form is exactly the degree over the base curve. This compares well with the conjectural quasimodularity of the Gromov–Witten invariants of K3 surfaces in imprimitive classes; see [31, Section 7.5].

Using Proposition 10(ii) the holomorphic anomaly equation for the quasi-Jacobi classes $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\cdots)$ yields a holomorphic anomaly equation for the theta series $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\alpha}(\cdots)$. However, in the nonunimodular case the result is rather complicated and difficult to handle.[21] The holomorphic anomaly equation takes its simplest form for quasi-Jacobi forms.

**Proof of Lemma* 18** Let $\lambda$ be the image of $\alpha$ in $H_{2,\perp}$. A computation yields

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\alpha}(\gamma_1,\ldots,\gamma_n) = q^{-\frac{1}{4}\lambda^T L^{-1}\lambda}[\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\ldots,\gamma_n)]_{\zeta^\lambda},$$

which implies the lemma by Proposition 10. □

### 3.6 Calabi–Yau threefolds

Let $\pi\colon X \to B$ be an elliptically fibered Calabi–Yau threefold with section $\iota\colon B \to X$ and $h^{2,0}(X) = 0$. The moduli space of stable maps is of virtual dimension 0. For all $(g,\mathsf{k}) \notin \{(0,0),(1,0)\}$, define the Gromov–Witten potential

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(q,\zeta) = \int_{\overline{M}_g(B,\mathsf{k})} \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}() = \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} q^{W\cdot\beta}\zeta^\beta \int_{[\overline{M}_g(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} 1.$$

By the Calabi–Yau condition we have $N_\iota \cong \omega_B$. Hence Conjecture A implies

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(q) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{-\frac{1}{2}K_B\cdot\mathsf{k}}}\mathrm{QJac}.$$

We have the following holomorphic anomaly equation; see also [33, Section 0.5].

**Proposition* 19** *Assume Conjectures A and B. Then we have*

$$\mathsf{T}_q\mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}} = \langle \mathsf{k}+K_B,\mathsf{k}\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}} + \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} \langle \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}\mathsf{F}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2} + \tfrac{1}{4}\delta_{g2}\delta_{k0}\langle K_B,K_B\rangle,$$

*where we let $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ denote the intersection pairing on $B$, the first term on the right is defined to vanish if $(g,\mathsf{k}) = (2,0)$, and the sum is over all values $(g_i,\mathsf{k}_i)$ for which $\mathsf{F}_{g_i,\mathsf{k}_i}$ is defined.*

[21] The unimodular case is further discussed in Section 7.

**Proof** If $\mathsf{k} > 0$ or $g > 2$, Conjecture B implies

$$\begin{aligned}\mathsf{T}_q \mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}} &= \int \mathcal{C}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\pi^*\Delta_B) + \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} \sum_j \int \mathcal{C}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}) \cdot \int \mathcal{C}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}^\vee) \\ &= \langle \mathsf{k},\mathsf{k}\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}} + \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2\\ \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2>0}} \langle \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}\mathsf{F}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2} \\ &\qquad\qquad + 2\sum_j \int \mathcal{C}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}) \cdot \int_{[\overline{M}_{1,1}(X,0)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \mathrm{ev}_1^*(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}^\vee),\end{aligned}$$

where we have written

$$\Delta_B = \sum_j \Delta_{B,j} \boxtimes \Delta_{B,j}^\vee \ \in H^*(B^2)$$

for the Künneth decomposition of the diagonal of $B$. By [12] we have

$$[\overline{M}_{1,1}(X,0)]^{\mathrm{vir}} = (c_3(X) - c_2(X)\lambda_1) \cap [\overline{M}_{1,1} \times X]$$

and by [2, Section 4] we have

$$c_2(X) = \pi^*(c_2(B) + c_1(B)^2) + 12\iota_* c_1(B).$$

Hence we find

$$\int_{[\overline{M}_{1,1}(X,0)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \mathrm{ev}_1^*(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}^\vee) = -\tfrac{1}{2}\langle \Delta_{B,j}, c_1(B)\rangle,$$

from which we obtain

$$\mathsf{T}_q \mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}} \ = \ \langle \mathsf{k} + K_B, \mathsf{k}\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}} \ + \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} \langle \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}\mathsf{F}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}.$$

If $(g,\mathsf{k}) = (2,0)$, Conjecture B yields

$$\begin{aligned}\mathsf{T}_q \mathsf{F}_{2,0}(q) &= \sum_j \int_{[\overline{M}_{1,1}(X,0)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \mathrm{ev}_1^*(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}) \cdot \int_{[\overline{M}_{1,1}(X,0)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \mathrm{ev}_1^*(\pi^*\Delta_{B,j}^\vee) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\int_B c_1(B)^2.\end{aligned}$$

□

It will be useful later on to consider the disconnected case as well. For any $g \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$, let

$$\mathsf{F}^{\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}} = \int_{\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g}(B,\mathsf{k})} \mathcal{C}^{\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}() = \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} q^{W\cdot\beta}\zeta^{\beta} \int_{[\overline{M}'_g(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} 1.$$

The connected and disconnected potentials are related by

$$\sum_{g,\mathsf{k}} \mathsf{F}^{\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}} u^{2g-2} t^{\mathsf{k}} = \exp\Bigg( \sum_{(g,\mathsf{k})\notin\{(0,0),(1,0)\}} \mathsf{F}_{g,\mathsf{k}} u^{2g-2} t^{\mathsf{k}} \Bigg). \tag{21}$$

A direct calculation using (21) and Proposition* 19 implies the following disconnected holomorphic anomaly equation:

$$\mathsf{T}_q \mathsf{F}^{\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}} = \big\langle \mathsf{k} + \tfrac{1}{2}K_B, \mathsf{k} + \tfrac{1}{2}K_B \big\rangle \mathsf{F}^{\bullet}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}. \tag{22}$$

# 4 Relative geometries

## 4.1 Relative divisor

Let $\pi\colon X \to B$ be an elliptic fibration with section and integral fibers such that $H^{2,0}(X) = 0$. Let

$$D \subset X$$

be a nonsingular divisor. We assume $\pi$ restricts to an elliptic fibration

$$\pi_D\colon D \to A$$

for a nonsingular divisor $A \subset B$. The section of $\pi$ restricts to a section of $\pi_D$. Since $\pi$ has integral fibers, so does $\pi_D$. We have the fibered diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} D \arrow[r, hook] \arrow[d, "\pi_D"] & X \arrow[d, "\pi"] \\ A \arrow[r, hook] & B \end{tikzcd}$$

## 4.2 Relative classes

Let $\eta = (\eta_i)_{i=1,\dots,l(\eta)}$ be an ordered partition. Let

$$\overline{M}_{g,n}(X/D,\beta;\eta)$$

be the moduli space parametrizing stable maps from connected genus-$g$ curves to $X$ relative to $D$ with ordered ramification profile $\eta$ over the relative divisor $D$; see [27; 28] for definitions and [13, Section 2] for an introduction to relative stable maps. We have evaluation maps at the $n$ interior and the $l(\eta)$ relative marked points. The latter are denoted by

$$\mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}}\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(X/D,\beta;\eta) \to D \quad \text{for } i=1,\dots,l(\eta).$$

Since $D$ is nonsingular, we have the induced morphism

$$\pi\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(X/D,\beta;\eta) \to \overline{M}_{g,n}(B/A,\mathsf{k};\eta),$$

where $\mathsf{k}=\pi_*\beta$.

Let $\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n \in H^*(X)$, let $\mathsf{k}\in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ be a curve class and let

$$\underline{\eta} = \big((\eta_1,\delta_1),\dots,(\eta_{l(\eta)},\delta_{l(\eta)})\big) \quad \text{with } \delta_i \in H^*(D)$$

be an ordered cohomology weighted partition. Define the relative potential

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\underline{\eta}) = \sum_{\pi_*\beta=\mathsf{k}} \zeta^\beta q^{W\cdot\beta}\pi_*\bigg([\overline{M}_{g,n}(X/D,\beta;\eta)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \prod_{i=1}^{n}\mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)\prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)}\mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*}(\delta_i)\bigg),$$

where as before $W=[\iota(B)]-\frac{1}{2}\pi^*c_1(N_\iota)$ and $\zeta^\beta=e(z\cdot\beta)$ with $z\in\Lambda\otimes\mathbb{C}$.

In line with the rest of the paper we conjecture the following:

**Conjecture C** *The series $\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\underline{\eta})$ is a cycle-valued quasi-Jacobi form of index $\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}$:*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\underline{\eta}) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B/A,\mathsf{k};\eta))\otimes\frac{1}{\Delta(q)^m}\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

*where $m=-\frac{1}{2}c_1(N_\iota)\cdot\mathsf{k}$.*

## 4.3 Rubber classes

Stating the holomorphic anomaly equation for relative classes requires rubber classes. Let $N$ be the normal bundle of $D$ in $X$, and consider the projective bundle

$$\mathbb{P}(N\oplus\mathcal{O}_D)\to D.$$

We let

$$D_0, D_\infty \subset \mathbb{P}(N\oplus\mathcal{O}_D)$$

be the sections corresponding to the summands $\mathcal{O}_D$ and $N$ respectively.

The group $\mathbb{C}^*$ acts naturally on $\mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)$ by scaling in the fiber direction, and induces an action on the moduli space of stable maps relative to both divisors, denoted by

$$\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)/\{D_0, D_\infty\}, \beta; \lambda, \mu),$$

where the ordered partitions $\lambda$ and $\mu$ are the ramification profiles at $D_0$ and $D_\infty$ respectively. We let

$$\overline{M}^{\sim}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)/\{D_0, D_\infty\}, \beta; \lambda, \mu)$$

denote the corresponding space of stable maps to the rubber target [30].

Let $N'$ be the normal bundle to $A$ in $B$ and consider the relative geometry

$$\mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A)/\{A_0, A_\infty\}.$$

Since $D$ is nonsingular the fibration $\pi$ induces a well-defined map

$$\rho\colon \mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D) \to \mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A),$$

which is an elliptic fibration with section and integral fibers. Let

$$\rho\colon \overline{M}^{\sim}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)/\{D_0, D_\infty\}, \beta; \lambda, \mu) \to \overline{M}^{\sim}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A)/\{A_0, A_\infty\}, \mathsf{k}; \lambda, \mu)$$

be the induced map. We also let $\mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}\,0}$ and $\mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}\,\infty}$ denote the evaluation maps at the relative marked points mapping to $D_0$ and $D_\infty$ respectively. Because of the rubber target, the evaluation maps of the moduli space at the interior marked points take values in $D$.

For any $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(D)$ and any ordered weighted partitions

$$\underline{\lambda} = \big((\lambda_i, \delta_i)\big)_{i=1,\dots,l(\lambda)}, \quad \underline{\mu} = \big((\mu_i, \epsilon_i)\big)_{i=1,\dots,l(\mu)} \quad \text{for } \delta_i, \epsilon_i \in H^*(D),$$

we define

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathcal{C}^{\rho,\mathrm{rubber}}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n; \underline{\lambda}, \underline{\mu}) \\ &\qquad = \sum_{\rho_*\beta = \mathsf{k}} \zeta^\beta q^{W\cdot\beta} \rho_*\Big( [\overline{M}^{\sim}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}(N \oplus \mathcal{O}_D)/\{D_0, D_\infty\}, \beta; \lambda, \mu)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \\ &\qquad\qquad \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i) \prod_{i=1}^{l(\lambda)} \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}\,0*}(\delta_i) \prod_{i=1}^{l(\mu)} \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}\,\infty*}(\epsilon_i) \Big). \end{aligned}$$

## 4.4 Disconnected classes

To simplify the notation we will work with disconnected classes. The disconnected versions of moduli spaces and the classes $\mathcal{C}$ will be denoted respectively by a $\bullet$ and a dash, following the conventions of Section 3.2. Since connected and disconnected invariants may be expressed in terms of each other, Conjecture C is equivalent to the quasi-Jacobi form property for the disconnected theory:

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\underline{\eta}) \in H_*(\overline{M}^\bullet_{g,n}(B/A,\mathsf{k};\eta)) \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^m}\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{1}{2}Q_{\mathsf{k}}},$$

where $m=-\frac{1}{2}c_1(N_\iota)\cdot\mathsf{k}$. The holomorphic anomaly equation conjectured below for disconnected relative classes (Conjecture D) is equivalent to a corresponding version for connected classes.

## 4.5 Holomorphic anomaly equation for relative classes

Consider the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd} \overline{M}^\bullet_{g,n}(B/A,\mathsf{k},\eta) & M_\Delta \arrow[l, "\xi"'] \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & \overline{M}^\bullet_{g-1,n+2}(B/A,\mathsf{k},\eta) \arrow[d, "\mathrm{ev}_{n+1}\times\mathrm{ev}_{n+2}"] \\ & \mathcal{B} \arrow[r, "\Delta_{\mathcal{B}}"] & \mathcal{B}\times\mathcal{B} \end{tikzcd}$$

where $\mathcal{B}$ is the stack of target degenerations of $B$ relative to $A$, the map $\Delta_{\mathcal{B}}$ is the diagonal, $M_\Delta$ is the fiber product and $\xi$ is the gluing map along the final two marked points. For simplicity, we will write

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,\Delta_{B/A};\underline{\eta}) = \Delta^!_{\mathcal{B}}\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,1,1;\underline{\eta}).$$

We state the relative holomorphic anomaly equation.

**Conjecture D** *On $\overline{M}^\bullet_{g,n}(B/A,\mathsf{k};\eta)$ we have*

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathsf{T}_q\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\underline{\eta}) = \\
&\iota_*\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,\Delta_{B/A};\underline{\eta}) \\
&+2\sum_{\substack{S_1,S_2\\ m\geq 0;\, g_1,g_2\\ \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2}}\ \sum_{\substack{b;b_1,\dots,b_m\\ \ell;\ell_1,\dots,\ell_m}} \frac{\prod_{i=1}^m b_i}{m!}\xi_*\Big[\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}\big(\gamma_{S_1};((b,\Delta_{A,\ell}),(b_i,\Delta_{D,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m)\big) \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \boxtimes\mathcal{C}^{\rho,\bullet,\mathrm{rubber}}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}\big(\gamma_{S_2};((b,\Delta^\vee_{A,\ell}),(b_i,\Delta^\vee_{D,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m),\underline{\eta}\big)\Big] \\
&\quad -2\sum_{i=1}^n\psi_i\cdot\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_{i-1},\pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\dots\gamma_n;\underline{\eta}) \\
&\qquad -2\sum_{i=1}^{l(\eta)}\psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}}\cdot\mathcal{C}^{\pi/D,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}\big(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;\big((\eta_1,\delta_1),\dots,\underbrace{(\eta_i,\pi_D^*\pi_{D*}\delta_i)}_{i^{th}},\dots,(\eta_n,\delta_n)\big)\big),
\end{aligned}$$

*with the following notation. Let $\psi_i, \psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}} \in H^2(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B/A, \mathsf{k}; \eta))$ denote the cotangent line classes at the $i^{th}$ interior and relative marked points respectively. The first sum is over all $S_1, S_2$ satisfying $S_1 \sqcup S_2 = \{1, \dots, n\}$, all $g_1, g_2$ satisfying $g = g_1 + g_2 + m$, and all $\mathsf{k}_1 \in H_2(B, \mathbb{Z})$ and $\mathsf{k}_2 \in H_2(\mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A), \mathbb{Z})$ satisfying*

$$\mathsf{k}_1 \cdot A = \mathsf{k}_2 \cdot A \quad \text{and} \quad \mathsf{k}_1 + r_* \mathsf{k}_2 = \mathsf{k},$$

*where $r\colon \mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A) \to B$ is the composition of the projection to $A$ followed by the natural inclusion into $B$. The $b, b_1, \dots, b_m$ run over all positive integers such that $b + \sum_i b_i = \mathsf{k}_1 \cdot A = \mathsf{k}_2 \cdot A$, and the $\ell, \ell_i$ run over the splitting of the diagonals of $A$ and $D$ respectively:*

$$\Delta_A = \sum_{\ell} \Delta_{A,\ell} \otimes \Delta_{A,\ell}^{\vee}, \qquad \Delta_D = \sum_{\ell_i} \Delta_{D,\ell_i} \otimes \Delta_{D,\ell_i}^{\vee} \quad \text{for all } i.$$

*The map $\xi$ is the gluing map to $\overline{M}^{\bullet}_{g,n}(B/A, \mathsf{k}; \eta)$ along the common relative marking with ramification profile $(b, b_1, \dots, b_m)$. Since we cup with the diagonal classes of $A$ and $D$, the gluing map $\xi$ is well-defined.*

The relative product formula of [25] together with [33, Theorems 2 and 3] yields:

**Proposition 20** *Conjectures C and D hold if $X = B \times E$ and $D = A \times E$, and $\pi\colon X \to B$ is the projection onto the first factor.*

## 4.6 Compatibility with the degeneration formula

A degeneration of $X$ compatible with the elliptic fibration $\pi\colon X \to B$ is a flat family

$$\epsilon\colon \mathcal{X} \to \Delta$$

over a disk $\Delta \subset \mathbb{C}$ satisfying the following conditions:

(i) $\epsilon$ is a flat projective morphism, smooth away from $0$.

(ii) $\epsilon^{-1}(1) = X$.

(iii) $\epsilon^{-1}(0) = X_1 \cup_D X_2$ is a normal crossing divisor.

(iv) There exists a flat morphism $\widetilde{\epsilon}\colon \mathcal{B} \to \Delta$ satisfying (i)–(iii) with $\widetilde{\epsilon}^{-1}(1) = B$ and $\widetilde{\epsilon}^{-1}(0) = B_1 \cup_A B_2$.

(v) There is an elliptic fibration $\mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{B}$ with section and integral fiber that restricts to elliptic fibrations with integral fibers:

$$\pi\colon X \to B, \qquad \pi_i\colon X_i \to B_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \qquad \rho\colon D \to A.$$

We further assume that the canonical map

$$H^*(X_1 \cup_D X_2) \to H^*(X) \tag{23}$$

determined by $\epsilon$ yields an inclusion $\Lambda_1 \oplus \Lambda_2 \subset \Lambda$, where $\Lambda_i = H^2_\perp(X_i, \mathbb{Z})$. Let

$$z_i \in \Lambda_i \otimes \mathbb{C}$$

denote the coordinate on the $i^{\text{th}}$ summand.

Consider cohomology classes

$$\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(X)$$

which lift to the total space of the degeneration, or equivalently[22] which lie in the image of (23). Below, let $p$ always denote the forgetful morphism from various moduli spaces of stable maps to the moduli space of stable curves; for example,

$$p\colon \overline{M}^\bullet_{g,n}(B/A, \mathsf{k}, \eta) \to \overline{M}^\bullet_{g,n}.$$

The application of the degeneration formula [27; 28] to $\epsilon$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} p_* \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)\big|_{z=(z_1,z_2)} \\ = \sum_{\substack{S_1 \sqcup S_2 = \{1,\dots,n\} \\ \mathsf{k}_1, \mathsf{k}_2;\ m \geq 0 \\ g = g_1 + g_2 + m - 1}} \sum_{\substack{\eta_1,\dots,\eta_m \\ \ell_1,\dots,\ell_m}} \frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} p_* \xi_* \big[ \mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1}; \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\eta}^\vee) \big], \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

where $\mathsf{k}_1$ and $\mathsf{k}_2$ run over all possible splittings of the curve class $\mathsf{k}$, the $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m$ run over all positive integers such that

$$\sum_i \eta_i = \mathsf{k}_1 \cdot A = \mathsf{k}_2 \cdot A,$$

the $\ell_i$ run over the splitting of the diagonals of $D$, and we have written

$$\underline{\eta} = (\eta_i, \Delta_{D,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{\eta}^\vee = (\eta_i, \Delta^\vee_{D,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m.$$

Moreover, the map $\xi$ is the gluing map along the relative point (well-defined since we inserted the diagonal).

[22] We assume the disk is sufficiently small.

Assume Conjectures A and C hold, so that (24) is an equality of quasi-Jacobi forms. Then Conjectures B and D each give a way to compute the class[23]

$$\frac{d}{dC_2} p_* \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n),$$

as follows:

(a) Apply $\mathsf{T}_q$ to the left-hand side of (24), use Conjecture B, and apply the degeneration formula to each term of the result.

(b) Apply $\mathsf{T}_q$ to the right-hand side of (24) and use Conjecture D.

We say Conjectures B and D are *compatible with the degeneration formula* if methods (a) and (b) yield the same result.

**Proposition 21** *Assume Conjectures A and C. Conjectures B and D are compatible with the degeneration formula.*

**Proof** After pushforward to the moduli space of stable curves, we apply the degeneration formula to the right-hand side of Lemma* 15. The result is

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathsf{T}_q\, p_* \mathcal{C}^{\pi,\bullet}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \\
&\sum_{\substack{S_1,S_2\\ \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2\\ m\geq 0;\ g_1,g_2}} \sum_{\substack{\eta_1,\dots,\eta_m\\ \ell_1,\dots,\ell_m}} \frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} \Big[ p_*\xi_*\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1}, \Delta_{B_1/A}; \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\eta}^\vee)\big) \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad + p_*\xi_*\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1}; \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2}, \Delta_{B_2/A}; \underline{\eta}^\vee)\big)\Big] \\
&-2 \sum_{\substack{S_1,S_2\\ \mathsf{k}_1,\mathsf{k}_2\\ m\geq 0;\ g_1,g_2\\ \eta_1,\dots,\eta_m\\ \ell_1,\dots,\ell_m}} \frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} \cdot \Bigg[ \sum_{i\in S_1} p_*\xi_*\big(\psi_i \mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1\setminus\{i\}}, \pi^*\pi_*(\gamma_i); \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\eta}^\vee)\big) \\
&\qquad\qquad + \sum_{i\in S_2} p_*\xi_*\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1}; \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \psi_i \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2\setminus\{i\}}, \pi^*\pi_*(\gamma_i); \underline{\eta}^\vee)\big)\Bigg],
\end{aligned}$$

where the sums are over the same data as in (24) but with $g_1$ and $g_2$ satisfying $g-1 = g_1+g_2+m-1$.

We need to compare this expression with the relative holomorphic anomaly equation applied to the right-hand side of (24). In Conjecture D we have four terms on the right-hand side. The first and third term of Conjecture D applied to (24) yield exactly the four terms above. Hence we are left to show that the second and fourth terms of Conjecture D applied to (24) vanish.

[23] We will omit the restriction of $z$ to the pair $(z_1,z_2)$ in the notation from now on.

We consider first the second term applied to the first factor in (24) plus the fourth term applied to the second factor in (24). The result is

$$(25)\quad 2\sum \frac{\prod_i c_i}{r!}\frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} p_*\xi_*\big[\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1',\mathsf{k}_1'}(\gamma_{S_1'};\underline{\lambda}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\rho,\bullet,\mathrm{rub}}_{g_1'',\mathsf{k}_1''}(\gamma_{S_1''};\underline{\lambda}^\vee,\underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2};\underline{\eta}^\vee)\big]$$
$$-2\sum\sum_{i=1}^{m}\frac{\prod_j \eta_j}{m!} p_*\xi_*\big[\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1};\underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}}\mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2};\underline{\eta}^\vee|_{\delta_i\mapsto \pi^*\pi_*\delta_i})\big],$$

where the sum in the second line is over the same data as in (24), and the sums in the first line run additionally also over the following data: splittings of $\mathsf{k}_1$ into $\mathsf{k}_1'$ and $\mathsf{k}_1''$; decompositions $S_1 = S_1' \sqcup S_1''$; positive integers $c$ and $c_1,\dots,c_r$ with $r\geq 0$ summing up to $\mathsf{k}_1'\cdot A$; splittings $g_1 = g_1' + g_1'' + r$; and diagonal splittings $\widetilde{\ell}$ and $\widetilde{\ell}_1,\dots,\widetilde{\ell}_r$ in the weighted partitions

$$\underline{\lambda} = ((c,\Delta_{A,\widetilde{\ell}}),(c_i,\Delta_{D,\widetilde{\ell}_i})_{i=1}^r),\quad \underline{\lambda}^\vee = ((c,\Delta^\vee_{A,\widetilde{\ell}}),(c_i,\Delta^\vee_{D,\widetilde{\ell}_i})_{i=1}^r).$$

Also, we write $\underline{\eta}|_{\delta_i\mapsto\alpha}$ if the $i^{\text{th}}$ cohomology class in $\underline{\eta}$ is replaced by some $\alpha$.

We use Lemma 22 below to remove the relative $\psi$–class in the second line of (25). When doing that, the second term on the right in Lemma 22 (the bubble term) precisely cancels with the expression in the first line (switch $\eta\mapsto\lambda$ and $\mu\mapsto\eta$ and trade the sum $\sum_{i=1}^m$ for a factor of $m$). Hence we find that (25) is equal to

$$(26)\quad 2\sum\sum_{i=1}^{l(\eta)}\frac{\prod_{j\neq i}\eta_j}{m!} p_*\xi_*\big[\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1};\underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2};\underline{\eta}^\vee|_{\delta_i\mapsto\pi^*\pi_*(\delta_i)c_1(N_{A/B_2})})\big],$$

where the first sum is over the same data as in (24).

By a parallel discussion, the second term of Conjecture D applied to the second factor in (24) plus the fourth term applied to the first factor is

$$(27)\quad 2\sum\sum_{i=1}^{l(\eta)}\frac{\prod_{j\neq i}\eta_j}{m!} p_*\xi_*\big[\mathcal{C}^{\pi_1/D,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1};\underline{\eta}|_{\delta_i\mapsto\pi^*\pi_*(\delta_i)c_1(N_{A/B_1})}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2/D,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2};\underline{\eta}^\vee)\big].$$

The term (27) agrees exactly with (26) except for the $i^{\text{th}}$ relative insertion. We consider the $i^{\text{th}}$ relative insertion more closely. Using

$$(\mathrm{id}\boxtimes\pi^*\pi_*)\Delta_D = \Delta_A$$

and the balancing condition

$$N_{A/B_1} \otimes N_{A/B_2} = \mathcal{O}_A,$$

the $i^{\text{th}}$ relative insertion in (26) is

$$\begin{aligned}(1 \boxtimes c_1(N_{A/B_2})) \cdot (\mathrm{id} \boxtimes \pi^* \pi_*) \Delta_D &= (1 \boxtimes c_1(N_{A/B_2})) \cdot \Delta_A \\ &= (c_1(N_{A/B_2}) \boxtimes 1) \cdot \Delta_A \\ &= -(c_1(N_{A/B_1}) \boxtimes 1) \cdot \Delta_A.\end{aligned}$$

Since this is precisely the negative of the $i^{\text{th}}$ relative insertion in (27), the sum of (26) and (27) vanishes. □

**Lemma 22** *Let $\underline{\eta} = \{(\eta_i, \delta_i)\}$ be a cohomology weighted partition, and let $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)$ with $\gamma_i \in H^*(X)$ be a list of cohomology classes. We have*

$$\begin{aligned}&\eta_i \cdot p_*(\psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}} \mathcal{C}_{g,\mathsf{k}}^{\pi/D,\bullet}(\gamma; \underline{\eta})) \\ &\quad = -p_*(\mathcal{C}_{g,\mathsf{k}}^{\pi/D,\bullet}(\gamma; \underline{\eta}|_{\delta_i \mapsto \delta_i c_1(N_{A/B})})) \\ &\qquad + \sum_{\substack{\{1,\dots,n\} = S_1 \sqcup S_2 \\ \mathsf{k}_1, \mathsf{k}_2; s \geq 0 \\ g = g_1 + g_2 + s - 1}} \sum_{\substack{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_s \\ \ell_1, \dots, \ell_s}} \frac{\prod_i \mu_i}{s!} p_* \xi_* \big[ \mathcal{C}_{g_1, \mathsf{k}_1}^{\rho/D, \bullet, \mathrm{rub}}(\gamma_{S_1}; \underline{\eta}, \underline{\mu}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}_{g_2, \mathsf{k}_2}^{\pi_2/D, \bullet}(\gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\mu}^\vee) \big],\end{aligned}$$

*where the sum is over the splittings of $\mathsf{k}$ into $\mathsf{k}_1 \in H_2(\mathbb{P}(N' \oplus \mathcal{O}_A), \mathbb{Z})$ and $\mathsf{k}_2 \in H_2(B, \mathbb{Z})$, all positive integers $\mu_1, \dots \mu_s$ summing up to $\mathsf{k}_1 \cdot A$, and over indices of diagonal splittings $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_s$ for the cohomology weighted partitions*

$$\underline{\mu} = \{(\mu_i, \Delta_{D,\ell_i})_{i=1}^s\}, \quad \underline{\mu}^\vee = \{(\mu_i, \Delta_{D,\ell_i}^\vee)_{i=1}^s\}.$$

*As before we write $\underline{\eta}|_{\delta_i \mapsto \alpha}$ if the class $\delta_i$ is replaced by some class $\alpha$.*

**Proof** We will remove the class $\psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}}$ by an argument parallel to [6, Section 4.5, end of case (ii-a)]. Let $\mathcal{X}$ be the stack of target degenerations of the pair $(X, D)$ and let

$$f \colon C \to \mathcal{X}$$

be a stable map parametrized by the moduli space $M = M_{g,n}^\bullet(X/D, \beta; \underline{\eta})$.

Let $c \colon \mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{c} X$ be the canonical map contracting the bubbles. Let $p_i^{\mathrm{rel}} \in C$ be the $i^{\text{th}}$ relative point and let

$$q_i = c(f(p_i^{\mathrm{rel}})) \in D$$

be its image in $X$. If the irreducible component of $C$ containing $p_i^{\mathrm{rel}}$ maps into a bubble of $\mathcal{X}$, then the composition $c \circ f$ vanishes to infinite order at $p$ in the direction normal to $D$. If the component containing $p_i^{\mathrm{rel}}$ maps into $X$, then by the tangency condition the composition $c \circ f$ vanishes to order exactly $\eta_i$ in the normal direction. In either case, the differential in the normal direction induces a map

$$N_{D/X,q_i}^{\vee} \to \mathfrak{m}^{\eta_i}/\mathfrak{m}^{\eta_i+1},$$

where $\mathfrak{m}$ is the maximal ideal of the point $p_i^{\mathrm{rel}} \in C$. See also [35, proof of Proposition 1.1] for a similar argument. Considering this map in family yields a map of line bundles on $M$,

$$\mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*} N_{D/X}^{\vee} \to (L_i^{\mathrm{rel}})^{\otimes \eta_i},$$

where $L_i^{\mathrm{rel}}$ is the cotangent line bundle on $M$. Dualizing we obtain a section

$$\mathcal{O}_M \to (L_i^{\mathrm{rel}})^{\eta_i} \otimes \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*} N_{D/X}.$$

The vanishing locus of this section is the boundary divisor of the moduli space $M$ corresponding to the first bubble of $D$ (compare [6]). Expressing the class

$$c_1((L_i^{\mathrm{rel}})^{\eta_i} \otimes \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*} N_{D/X}) = \eta_i \psi_i^{\mathrm{rel}} + \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*} c_1(N_{D/X})$$

through the vanishing locus of the section and using the splitting formula, as well as the relation

$$N_{D/X} = \pi_D^* N_{A/B},$$

then yields the claimed formula. □

# 5 The rational elliptic surface

## 5.1 Definition and cohomology

Let $R$ be a rational elliptic surface defined by a pencil of cubics. We assume the pencil is generic, so the induced elliptic fibration

$$R \to \mathbb{P}^1$$

has 12 rational nodal fibers. Let $H, E_1, \dots, E_9$ be the class of a line in $\mathbb{P}^2$ and the exceptional classes of the blowup $R \to \mathbb{P}^2$ respectively. We let $B = E_9$ be the zero section of the elliptic fibration, and let $F$ be the class of a fiber:

$$B = E_9, \quad F = 3H - \sum_{i=1}^{9} E_i.$$

We measure the degree in the fiber direction against the class

$$W = B + \tfrac{1}{2}F.$$

The orthogonal complement of $B, F$ in $H^2(R,\mathbb{Z})$ is a negative-definite unimodular lattice of rank $8$ and hence is isomorphic to $E_8(-1)$,

$$H^2(R,\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}B \oplus \mathbb{Z}F \oplus E_8(-1).$$

As in Section 2, we identify the lattice $E_8(-1)$ with $\mathbb{Z}^8$ by picking a basis $b_1,\dots,b_n$. We may assume the basis is chosen such that

$$Q_{E_8} = \left(-\int_R b_i \cup b_j\right)_{i,j=1,\dots,8}$$

is the (positive definite) Cartan matrix of $E_8$. In the notation of Section 2.1.5 the matrix $Q_k$ for $k \in H_2(\mathbb{P}^1,\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ is then

$$Q_k = kQ_{E_8}.$$

## 5.2 The tautological ring and a convention

If $2g-2+n > 0$, let $p\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}^1,k) \to \overline{M}_{g,n}$ be the forgetful map to the moduli space of stable curves, and let

$$R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n}) \subset H^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$$

be the tautological subring spanned by push-forwards of products of $\psi$ and $\kappa$ classes on boundary strata [10].

We extend both definitions to the unstable case as follows. If $g, n \geq 0$ but $2g-2+n \leq 0$, we define $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ to be a point, $p$ to be the canonical projection, and $R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n}) = H^*(\overline{M}_{g,n}) = \mathbb{Q}$.

## 5.3 Statement of results

The next result shows that Conjecture A holds for rational elliptic surfaces *numerically*, ie after integration against any tautological class pulled back from $\overline{M}_{g,n}$ (with the convention of Section 5.2 in the unstable cases).

**Theorem 23** *Let $\pi\colon R \to \mathbb{P}^1$ be a rational elliptic surface. For all $g, k \geq 0$ and $\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n \in H^*(R)$ and for every tautological class $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$,*

$$\int_{\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}^1,k)} p^*(\alpha) \cap \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{k/2}}\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}}.$$

By trading descendent insertions for tautological classes, Theorem 23 implies that the generating series of descendent invariants of a rational elliptic surface (for base degree $k$ and genus $g$) are quasi-Jacobi forms of index $\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}$.

An inspection of the proof actually yields a slightly sharper result: the ring of quasi-Jacobi forms $\bigoplus_k \mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}}$ in Theorem 23 may be replaced by the QMod–algebra generated by the theta function $\Theta_{E_8}$ and all its derivatives.

We show that the holomorphic anomaly equation holds for the rational elliptic surface numerically. Consider the right-hand side of Conjecture B:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathsf{H}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)\\
&\quad = \iota_*\Delta^!\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g-1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,1,1)\\
&\qquad\quad + \sum_{\substack{\{1,\dots,n\}=S_1\sqcup S_2\\ g=g_1+g_2;\,\mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} j_*\Delta^!\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}_1}(\gamma_{S_1},1)\boxtimes\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}_2}(\gamma_{S_2},1)\big)\\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad - 2\sum_{i=1}^{n}\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_{i-1},\pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\dots,\gamma_n)\cdot\psi_i.
\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 24** *For every tautological class $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$,*

$$\frac{d}{dC_2}\int p^*(\alpha)\cap\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \int p^*(\alpha)\cap\mathsf{H}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

In the remainder of Section 5 we present the proof of Theorems 23 and 24. In Section 5.4 we recall a few basic results on the group of sections of a rational elliptic surface. This leads to the genus 0 case of Theorem 23 in Section 5.5. In Section 5.6 we discuss the invariants of $R$ relative to a nonsingular elliptic fiber of $\pi$. In the last two sections we present the proofs of the general cases of Theorems 23 and 24.

## 5.4 Sections

Recall from [42] the one-to-one correspondence between sections of $R\to\mathbb{P}^1$ and elements in the lattice $E_8(-1)$. A section $s$ yields an element in $E_8(-1)$ by projecting its class $[s]$ onto the $E_8(-1)$ lattice. Conversely, an element $\lambda\in E_8(-1)\subset H^2(R,\mathbb{Z})$ has a unique lift $\hat{\lambda}\in H^2(R,\mathbb{Z})$ such that $\hat{\lambda}^2=-1$, $\hat{\lambda}\cdot F=1$ and $\hat{\lambda}$ pairs positively with any ample class. By Grothendieck–Riemann–Roch $\hat{\lambda}$ is the cohomology class of a unique section $B_\lambda$. Explicitly,

$$[B_\lambda] = W - \tfrac{1}{2}(\langle\lambda,\lambda\rangle+1)F+\lambda,$$

where $\langle a,b\rangle=\int_R a\smile b$ for all $a,b\in H^*(R)$ is the intersection pairing.

By fiberwise addition and multiplication by $-1$, the set of sections of $R \to \mathbb{P}^1$ form a group, the Mordell–Weil group. The correspondence between sections and classes in $E_8(-1)$ is a group homomorphism,

$$B_{\lambda+\mu} = B_\lambda \oplus B_\mu, \quad B_{-\lambda} = \ominus B_\lambda$$

where we have written $\oplus$ (resp. $\ominus$) for the addition (resp. subtraction) on the elliptic fibers. The translation by a section $\lambda \in E_8(-1)$,

$$t_\lambda\colon R \to R, \quad x \mapsto x + B_\lambda(\pi(x)),$$

acts on a cohomology class $\gamma \in H^*(X)$ by

$$t_{\lambda *}\gamma = \gamma + \lambda \cup \pi^*\pi_*(\gamma) - \pi^*\pi_*(\lambda \cup \gamma) - \tfrac{1}{2}\pi^*(\pi_*(\lambda^2)\cdot \pi_*(\gamma)).$$

## 5.5 Genus zero

**5.5.1 Overview** Consider the genus-0 stationary invariants

$$M_k(\zeta, q) = \int \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{0,k}(\mathsf{p}^{\times k-1}) = \sum_{\pi_*\beta = k} q^{W\cdot\beta}\zeta^\beta \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,k-1}(R,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\mathsf{p})$$

for all $k \geq 1$, where $\mathsf{p} \in H^4(R,\mathbb{Z})$ is the class Poincaré dual to a point.

**Proposition 25** *For all $k \geq 1$,*

$$M_k \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{k/2}} \mathrm{QJac}_{8k-4, \frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}}.$$

In the remainder of Section 5.5 we prove Proposition 25.

**5.5.2 The $E_8$ theta function** All curve classes on $R$ of degree 1 over $\mathbb{P}^1$ are of the form $B_\lambda + dF$ for some section $\lambda \in E_8(-1)$ and $d \geq 0$. Using Section 5.4 and [5, Section 6] we find

$$\begin{aligned} M_1(q) &= \sum_{\lambda \in E_8(-1)} \sum_{d \geq 0} q^{W\cdot(B_\lambda + dF)}\zeta^\lambda \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,0}(R, B_\lambda + dF)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} 1 \\ &= \sum_{\lambda \in E_8(-1)} \sum_{d \geq 0} q^{d - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\langle\lambda,\lambda\rangle}\zeta^\lambda \left[\frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{\frac{1}{2}}}\right]_{q^{d-\frac{1}{2}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \sum_{\lambda \in E_8(-1)} q^{-\frac{1}{2}\langle\lambda,\lambda\rangle}\zeta^\lambda = \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{\frac{1}{2}}}\Theta_{E_8}(z,\tau). \end{aligned}$$

By Section 1.5.4, $\Theta_{E_8}$ is a Jacobi form of index $\frac{1}{2}Q_{E_8}$ and weight 4.

**5.5.3 WDVV equation** For any $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(R)$ define the quantum bracket

$$\langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle_{0,k} = \sum_{\pi_* \beta = k} q^{W \cdot \beta} \zeta^\beta \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,n}(R,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} \prod_i \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i).$$

Recall the WDVV equation from [11]: for all $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(R)$ with

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \deg(\gamma_i) = n + k - 2,$$

we have

$$\sum_{\substack{k=k_1+k_2 \\ \{1,\dots,n-4\}=S_1 \sqcup S_2}} \sum_\ell \langle \gamma_{S_1}, \gamma_a, \gamma_b, \Delta_\ell \rangle_{0,k_1} \langle \gamma_{S_2}, \gamma_c, \gamma_d, \Delta_\ell^\vee \rangle_{0,k_2}$$
$$= \sum_{\substack{k=k_1+k_2 \\ \{1,\dots,n-4\}=S_1 \sqcup S_2}} \sum_\ell \langle \gamma_{S_1}, \gamma_a, \gamma_c, \Delta_\ell \rangle_{0,k_1} \langle \gamma_{S_2}, \gamma_b, \gamma_d, \Delta_\ell^\vee \rangle_{0,k_2},$$

where $\sum_\ell \Delta_\ell \otimes \Delta_\ell^\vee$ is the Künneth decomposition of the diagonal class $\Delta \in H^*(R \times R)$. Let also

$$D = D_q, \quad D_i = D_{b_i} = D_{\zeta_i} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{dz_i}.$$

We solve for the remaining series $M_k$ by applying the WDVV equation.

**5.5.4 Proof of Proposition 25** The case $k = 1$ holds by Section 5.5.2. For $k = 2$, recall the basis $\{b_i\}$ of $\Lambda$ and apply the WDVV equation for $(\gamma_i)_{\ell=1}^4 = (F, F, b_i, b_j)$. The result is

$$4 \langle b_i, b_j \rangle M_2 = D_i \langle \Delta_1 \rangle_{0,1} \cdot D_j \langle \Delta_2 \rangle_{0,1} - \langle \Delta_1 \rangle_{0,1} \cdot D_i D_j \langle \Delta_2 \rangle_{0,1},$$

where $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$ indicates that we sum over the diagonal splitting. Choosing $i, j$ such that $\langle b_i, b_j \rangle \neq 0$ and applying the divisor equation on the right-hand side we find $M_2$ expressed as a sum of products of derivatives of $M_1$. Checking the weight and index yields the claim for $M_2$.

Similarly, the WDVV equation for $(\gamma_i)_{i=1}^4 = (\mathsf{p}, F, F, W)$ yields

$$3M_3 = M_1 \cdot D^2 M_2 - 4D^2 M_1 \cdot M_2 + \sum_{i=1}^8 (D_i D M_1 \cdot 2 D_i M_2 - D_i M_1 \cdot D_i D M_2),$$

which completes the case $k = 3$.

If $k \geq 4$, we apply the WDVV equation for $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k) = (\mathsf{p}^{k-2}, \ell_1, \ell_2)$ for some $\ell_1, \ell_2 \in H^2(R)$. The result is

$$(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2)\langle \mathsf{p}^{k-1} \rangle_{0,k} = \sum_{a+b=k-4} \binom{k-4}{a} \Big( \langle \mathsf{p}^{a+1}, \ell_1, \Delta_1 \rangle_{0,a+2} \langle \mathsf{p}^{b+1}, \ell_2, \Delta_2 \rangle_{0,b+2} - \langle \mathsf{p}^{a+2,\Delta_1} \rangle_{0,a+3} \langle \mathsf{p}^{b}, \ell_1, \ell_2, \Delta_2 \rangle_{0,b+1} \Big).$$

Taking $\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2 = 1$ and using an induction argument, the proof is complete. □

## 5.6 Relative in terms of absolute

Let $\leq$ be the lexicographic order on the set of pairs $(k, g)$, ie

(28) $$(k, g) \leq (k', g') \iff k < k' \text{ or } (k = k' \text{ and } g \leq g').$$

Let $E \subset R$ be a nonsingular fiber of $\pi\colon R \to \mathbb{P}^1$ over the point $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1$, and recall from Section 4 the $E$–relative Gromov–Witten classes

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/E}_{g,k}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n; \underline{\eta}) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}^1/0, k; \eta)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\![q^{\pm\frac{1}{2}}, \zeta^{\pm 1}]\!],$$

where $\underline{\eta}$ is the ordered cohomology weighted partition

(29) $$\underline{\eta} = \big((\eta_1, \delta_1), \dots, (\eta_{l(\eta)}, \delta_{l(\eta)})\big) \quad \text{with } \delta_i \in H^*(E).$$

We show that the (numerical) quasi-Jacobi form property and holomorphic anomaly equation in the absolute case imply the corresponding relative case. For the statement and the proof we use the convention of Section 5.2.

**Proposition 26** *Let $K, G \geq 0$ be fixed. Assume*

$$\int_{\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}^1,k)} p^*(\alpha) \cap \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{k/2}} \mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}}$$

*for all $(k, g) \leq (K, G)$, $n \geq 0$, $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$ and $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(R)$. Then*

$$\int_{\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathbb{P}^1/0,k;\underline{\eta})} p^*(\alpha) \cap \mathcal{C}^{\pi/E}_{g,k}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n; \underline{\eta}) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)^{k/2}} \mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}}$$

*for all $(k, g) \leq (K, G)$, $n \geq 0$, $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$, $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(R)$ and cohomology weighted partitions $\underline{\eta}$.*

*Similarly, if the holomorphic anomaly equation holds numerically for all classes $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,k}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)$ with $(k, g) \leq (K, G)$, then the relative holomorphic anomaly equation of Conjecture D holds numerically for all $\mathcal{C}^{\pi/E}_{g,k}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n; \underline{\eta})$ with $(k, g) \leq (K, G)$.*

**Proof** The degeneration formula applied to the normal cone degeneration

$$R \rightsquigarrow R \cup_E (\mathbb{P}^1 \times E) \tag{30}$$

expresses the absolute invariants of $R$ in terms of the relative invariants of $R/E$ and $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times E)/E_0$. The quasimodularity of the invariants of $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times E)/E_0$ relative to $\mathbb{P}^1$ follows from the product formula [25] and [33, Theorem 2]. We may hence view the degeneration formula as a matrix between the absolute and relative (numerical) invariants of $R$ with coefficients that are quasimodular forms. By [30, Theorem 2] it is known that the matrix is nonsingular: the absolute invariants determine the relative invariants of $R$. We only need to check that the absolute terms with $(k, g) \le (K, G)$ determine the relative ones of the same constraint, and that the quasi-Jacobi form property is preserved by this operation. Since $\mathrm{QJac}_{\frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}}$ is a module over QMod, the second statement is immediate from the induction argument used to prove the first. The first follows from scrutinizing the algorithm in [30, Section 2] and we only sketch the argument here.

Given $(k, g) \le (K, G)$, a cohomological weighted partition $\underline{\eta}$ as in (29), insertions $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(R)$, and a tautological class $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$, consider the absolute invariant

$$\begin{aligned} &\Big\langle \alpha\, ; \prod_{i=1}^{n} \tau_0(\gamma_i) \prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)} \tau_{\eta_i - 1}(j_* \delta_i) \Big\rangle^{R}_{g,k} \\ &\qquad = \sum_{\pi_* \beta = \mathsf{k}} \zeta^{\beta} q^{W \cdot \beta} \int_{[\overline{M}_{g,n+l(\eta)}(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} p^*(\alpha) \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i) \prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)} \psi_i^{\eta_i - 1} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(j_* \delta_i), \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

where we used the Gromov–Witten bracket notation of [30], $j \colon E \to R$ is the inclusion, and $\psi_i$ are the cotangent line classes on the moduli space of stable maps to $R$. By trading the $\psi_i$ classes for tautological classes (modulo lower-order terms) and using the assumption on absolute invariants, we see that the series (31) is a quasi-Jacobi form of index $\frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}$. We apply the degeneration formula with respect to (30) to the invariant (31). The cohomology classes are lifted to the total space of the degeneration as in [30, Section 2]; ie the $\gamma_i$ are lifted by pullback and the $j_* \delta_i$ are lifted by inclusion of the proper transform of $E \times \mathbb{C}$. Using a bracket notation[24] for relative invariants

[24]The bracket notation is explained in more detail in [30] with the difference that the ramification profiles $\underline{\nu}$ are *ordered* here. This yields slightly different factors in the degeneration formula than in [30] but is otherwise not important.

parallel to the above, the degeneration formula yields

$$
(32)\quad \Big\langle \alpha; \prod_i \tau_0(\gamma_i) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)} \tau_{\eta_i - 1}(j_* \delta_i) \Big\rangle_{g,k}^{R}
= \sum_{\substack{m \geq 0;\, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \\ \nu_1, \ldots, \nu_m;\, \ell_1, \ldots, \ell_m \\ g = g_1 + g_2 + m - 1 \\ \{1, \ldots, n\} = S_1 \sqcup S_2}} \frac{\prod_i \nu_i}{m!} \langle \alpha_1; \tau_0(\gamma_{S_1}) \mid \underline{\nu} \rangle_{g_1,k}^{R/E,\bullet}
\cdot \Big\langle \alpha_2; \tau_0(\gamma_{S_2}) \prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)} \tau_{\eta_i - 1}(j_* \delta_i) \Big| \underline{\nu}^{\vee} \Big\rangle_{g_2,k}^{(\mathbb{P}^1 \times E)/E,\bullet},
$$

where $\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_m$ run over all positive integers with sum $k$, the $\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_m$ run over all diagonal splittings in the cohomology weighted partitions

$$
\underline{\nu} = (\nu_i, \Delta_{E,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m, \quad \underline{\nu}^{\vee} = (\nu_i, \Delta_{E,\ell_i}^{\vee})_{i=1}^m,
$$

and $\alpha_1$, $\alpha_2$ run over all splittings of the tautological class $\alpha$. The sum is taken only over the configurations of disconnected curves which yield a connected domain after gluing.

We argue now by an induction over the relative invariants of $R/E$ with respect to the lexicographic ordering on $(k, g, n)$. If the invariants of $R/E$ in (32) (the first factor on the right) are disconnected, each connected component is of lower degree over $\mathbb{P}^1$, and therefore these contributions are determined by lower-order terms. Hence we may assume that the invariants of $R/E$ are connected. By induction over the genus we may further assume $g_1 = g$ in (32), or equivalently $g_2 = 1 - m$. Consider a stable relative map in the corresponding moduli space and let

$$
f: C_2 \to (\mathbb{P}^1 \times E)[a]
$$

be the component which maps to an expanded pair of $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times E, E_0)$. Since $g_2 = 1 - m$, the curve $C_2$ has at least $m$ connected components of genus $0$. Since each of these meets the relative divisor and $l(\nu) = m$, the curve $C_2$ is a disjoint union of genus-$0$ curves. The rational curves in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times E$ are fibers of the projection to $E$. Hence we find the right-hand side in (32) is a fiber class integral (in the language of [30]). Finally, by induction over $n$ we may assume $S_2 = \varnothing$. As in [30, Section 2.3] we make a further induction over $\deg(\underline{\eta}) = \sum_i \deg(\delta_i)$ and a lexicographic ordering of the partition parts $\underline{\eta}$. Arguing as in [30, Section 1, Relation 1][25] we finally arrive at

$$
\Big\langle \alpha; \prod_i \tau_0(\gamma_i) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{l(\eta)} \tau_{\eta_i - 1}(j_* \delta_i) \Big\rangle_{g,k}^{R} = c \cdot \Big\langle \alpha; \prod_i \tau_0(\gamma_i) \Big| \underline{\nu} \Big\rangle_{g,k}^{R/E} + \cdots,
$$

[25] Using the dimension constraint the class $\alpha_2$ only increases the parts $\nu_k$, and hence by induction we may assume $\alpha_2 = 1$.

where $c \in \mathbb{Q}$ is nonzero and "$\cdots$" is a sum of a product of quasimodular forms and relative invariants of $R/E$ of lower order. By induction the lower-order terms are quasi-Jacobi forms of index $\frac{1}{2}kQ_{E_8}$, which completes the proof of the quasi-Jacobi property of the invariants of $R/E$.

The relative holomorphic anomaly equation follows immediately from this algorithm and the compatibility with the degeneration formula (Proposition 21). □

## 5.7 Proof of Theorem 23

Assume that the classes $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(S)$ and $\alpha \in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$ are homogeneous. We consider the dimension constraint

$$k + g - 1 + n = \deg(\alpha) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \deg(\gamma_i), \tag{33}$$

where $\deg(\ )$ denotes half the real cohomological degree. The left-hand side in (33) is the virtual dimension of $\overline{M}_{g,n}(S,\beta)$, where $\pi_*\beta = k$. If the dimension constraint is violated, the left-hand side in Theorem 23 vanishes and the claim holds. Hence we may assume (33).

We argue by induction on $(k, g, n)$ with respect to the lexicographic ordering

$$(k_1, g_1, n_1) < (k_2, g_2, n_2) \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} k_1 < k_2 \\ \text{or } \ (k_1 = k_2 \text{ and } g_1 < g_2) \\ \text{or } \ (k_1 = k_2 \text{ and } g_1 = g_2 \text{ and } n_1 < n_2). \end{cases}$$

**Case (i)** $(g = 0)$

(a) If $k = 0$ all invariants vanish, so we may assume $k > 0$.

(b) If $\deg(\alpha) > 0$, then $\alpha$ is the pushforward of a cohomology class from the boundary $\iota\colon \partial\overline{M}_{0,n} \to \overline{M}_{0,n}$:

$$\alpha = \iota_*\alpha'.$$

Using $\alpha'$ and the compatibility of the virtual class with boundary restrictions we can replace the left-hand side of Theorem 23 by terms of lower order; see [33, Section 3] for a parallel argument.

(c) If $\deg(\alpha) = 0$ but $\deg(\gamma_i) \leq 1$ for some $i$, then either the series is zero (if $\deg(\gamma_i) = 0$) and the claim holds, or we can apply the divisor equation to reduce to lower-order terms. Since derivatives of quasi-Jacobi forms are quasi-Jacobi forms of the same index, the claim follows from the induction hypothesis.

(d) If $\deg(\alpha) = 0$ and $\gamma_i = \mathsf{p}$ for all $i$, the claim follows by Proposition 25.

**Case (ii)** ($g > 0$ and $\deg(\alpha) \geq g$) By [9, Proposition 2] we have

$$\alpha = \iota_* \alpha'$$

for some $\alpha'$ where $\iota\colon \partial \overline{M}_{g,n} \to \overline{M}_{g,n}$ is the inclusion of the boundary. By restriction to the boundary we are reduced to lower-order terms.

**Case (iii)** ($g > 0$ and $\deg(\alpha) < g$) By the dimension constraint we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \deg(\gamma_i) - n \geq k.$$

Hence after reordering we may assume $\gamma_1 = \cdots = \gamma_k = \mathsf{p}$. Consider the degeneration of $R$ to the normal cone of a nonsingular fiber $E$,

$$R \rightsquigarrow R \cup_E (\mathbb{P}^1 \times E).$$

We let $\rho\colon \mathbb{P}^1 \times E \to \mathbb{P}^1$ be the projection to the first factor and let $E_0$ denote the fiber of $\rho$ over $0 \in \mathbb{P}^1$. We apply the degeneration formula [27; 28], where we specialize the insertions $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k$ to the component $\mathbb{P}^1 \times E$ and lift the other insertions by pullback. In the notation of Section 4 the result is

$$(34) \quad p_* \mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) = \sum_{\substack{m \geq 0 \\ \eta_1, \dots, \eta_m; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m \\ \{k+1, \dots, n\} = S_1 \sqcup S_2 \\ g = g_1 + g_2 + m - 1}} \frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} p_* \xi_*^{\mathrm{conn}} \big( \mathcal{C}^{\pi/E, \bullet}_{g_1, \mathsf{k}}(\gamma_{S_1}; \underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\rho/E_0, \bullet}_{g_2, \mathsf{k}}(\mathsf{p}^k, \gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\eta}^{\vee}) \big),$$

where $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m$ run over all positive integers summing up to $k$, $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_m$ run over all diagonal splittings in the partitions

$$\underline{\eta} = (\eta_i, \Delta_{E,\ell_i})_{i=1}^{m}, \quad \underline{\eta}^{\vee} = (\eta_i, \Delta_{E,\ell_i}^{\vee})_{i=1}^{m},$$

the map $\xi$ is the gluing map along the relative markings, and $\xi_*^{\mathrm{conn}}$ is pushforward by $\xi$ followed by taking the summands with connected domain curve.

We will show that the right-hand side of (34), when integrated against any tautological class, is a quasi-Jacobi form of index $\frac{k}{2} Q_{E_8}$.

By the product formula [25] and [33, Theorem 2], each term

$$\mathcal{C}^{\rho/E_0, \bullet}_{g_2, \mathsf{k}}(\mathsf{p}^k, \gamma_{S_2}; \underline{\eta}^{\vee})$$

is a cycle-valued quasimodular form. We consider the first factor

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/E,\bullet}_{g_1,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_{S_1};\underline{\eta}) \tag{35}$$

after integration against any tautological class. We make two reduction steps:

**Step 1** We may assume (35) are connected Gromov–Witten invariants.

(Proof: The difference between connected and disconnected invariance is a sum of products of connected invariants of $R/E$ of degree lower than $k$ over the base. Hence by Proposition 26 and the induction hypothesis they are quasi-Jacobi forms after integration against tautological classes.)

**Step 2** We may assume $g_1 = g$.

(Proof: If $g_1 < g$, then the series (35) is a quasi-Jacobi form after integration, by Proposition 26 and induction.)

By the above steps it remains to consider the terms of (35) which are connected and of genus $g$. We will show that the term

$$p_*\xi_*\big(\mathcal{C}^{\pi/E}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_{S_1};\underline{\eta}) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^{\rho/E_0,\bullet}_{g_2,\mathsf{k}}(\mathsf{p}^k,\gamma_{S_2};\underline{\eta}^\vee)\big)$$

is zero after integration against any tautological class. Consider a stable relative map in the corresponding moduli space and let

$$f\colon C_2 \to (\mathbb{P}^1\times E)[a]$$

be the component which maps to an expanded pair of $(\mathbb{P}^1\times E, E_0)$. Since $g = g_1+g_2+m-1$, we have $g_2 = 1-m$, hence $C_2$ has at least $m$ connected components of genus $0$. Since each such component meets the relative divisor $E$ and moreover $l(\eta) = m$, the domain curve of the stable map to $\mathbb{P}^1\times E$ is a disjoint union of $m$ rational curves. Since rational curves are of degree $0$ over the $E$–factor and the stable map to $\mathbb{P}^1\times E$ is incident to $k$ given point insertions, the Gromov–Witten invariant is zero unless $m = k$ and $\underline{\eta} = (1,\omega)^k$ where $\omega \in H^2(E)$ is the point class. Case (iii) then follows from Lemma 27 below. □

**Lemma 27** *For all $k \geq 0$ and $\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n \in H^*(R)$, we have*

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi/E}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n;(1,\omega)^k) = 0,$$

*where $\omega \in H^2(E)$ is the class of a point.*

**Proof** First we consider the case $k > 0$. Let $\beta \in H_2(R, \mathbb{Z})$ be a curve class with $\pi_* \beta = k$. Let $L \in \mathrm{Pic}(R)$ be the line bundle with $c_1(L) = \beta$. Consider a relative stable map to an extended relative pair of $(R, E)$ in class $\beta$,

$$f\colon C \to R[a].$$

Since $R$ is rational, the universal family of curves on $R$ in a given class is a linear system. Hence the intersection of $f(C)$ with the distinguished relative divisor $E \subset R[n]$ satisfies

$$\mathcal{O}_E(f(C) \cap E) = L|_E.$$

Let $x_1, \dots, x_k \in E$ be fixed points with $\mathcal{O}_E(x_1 + \dots + x_k) \neq L|_E$. It follows that no stable relative map in class $\beta$ is incident to $(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ at the relative divisor. We conclude

$$[\overline{M}_{g,n}(R/E, \beta; (1)^k)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \times \prod_{i=1} \mathrm{ev}_i^{\mathrm{rel}*}([x_i]) = 0,$$

which implies the claim.

It remains to consider the case $k = 0$. We have the equality of moduli spaces

$$\overline{M}_{g,n}(R/E, dF; ()) = \overline{M}_{g,n}(R, dF).$$

Under this identification the obstruction sheaf of stable maps to $R$ relative to $E$ for a fixed source curve $C$ is

$$\mathrm{Ob}_{C,f} = H^1(C, f^* T_{R/E}),$$

where $T_{R/E} = \Omega_R(\log E)^\vee$ is the log tangent bundle relative to $E$. Since $K_R + E = 0$, there exists a meromorphic 2–form

$$\sigma \in H^0(R, \Omega_R^2(E))$$

with a simple pole along $E$ and nowhere-vanishing outside $E$. By the construction [41, Section 4.1.1], the form $\sigma$ yields a surjection

$$\mathrm{Ob}_{C,f} \to \mathbb{C},$$

which in turn induces a nowhere-vanishing cosection of the perfect obstruction theory on the moduli space. By [21] we conclude

$$[\overline{M}_{g,n}(R/E, dF; (\,))]^{\mathrm{vir}} = 0,$$

which implies the claim. □

### 5.8 Proof of Theorem 24

The holomorphic anomaly equation is implied by the following compatibilities, which cover all steps in the algorithm used in the proof of Theorem 23:

- The compatibility with boundary restrictions (parallel to [33, Section 2.5]).
- The compatibility with the degeneration formula (Proposition 26).
- The compatibility with the WDVV equation (special case of (i)).
- The compatibility with the divisor equation (follows by proving a refined weight statement parallel to [33, Section 3]).
- The holomorphic anomaly equation holds for $\int \mathcal{C}_{0,1}(\,) = \Theta_{E_8}\Delta^{-1/2}$. $\square$

# 6 The Schoen Calabi–Yau threefold

### 6.1 Preliminaries

Let $X = R_1 \times_{\mathbb{P}^1} R_2$ be a Schoen Calabi–Yau and recall the notation from Section 0.2. In particular we have the commutative diagram of fibrations

(36)
$$\begin{tikzcd} & X \arrow[dl, "\pi_2"'] \arrow[dr, "\pi_1"] \arrow[dd, "\pi"] & \\ R_1 \arrow[dr, "p_1"'] & & R_2 \arrow[dl, "p_2"] \\ & \mathbb{P}^1 & \end{tikzcd}$$

Let $\alpha \in H_2(R_1,\mathbb{Z})$ be a curve class. For all $(g,\alpha) \notin \{(0,0),(1,0)\}$, define

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha}(z_2,q_2) = \int \mathcal{C}^{\pi_2}_{g,\alpha}(\,) = \sum_{\pi_{2*}\beta=\alpha} q_2^{W_2\cdot\beta}\zeta_2^{\beta}\int_{[\overline{M}_g(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}}} 1.$$

For all $(g,k) \notin \{(0,0),(1,0)\}$, we have

(37)
$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k}(z_1,z_2,q_1,q_2) = \sum_{\substack{\alpha\in H_2(R_1,\mathbb{Z})\\ p_{1*}\alpha=k}} \mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha}(z_2,q_2)\,q_1^{W_1\cdot\alpha}\,e(z_1\cdot\alpha).$$

We first prove a weaker version of Theorem 1.

**Proposition 28** *We have*

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k} \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{k/2}} \mathrm{QJac}^{(q_1,z_1)}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}} \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q_2)^{k/2}} \mathrm{QJac}^{(q_2,z_2)}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}}.$$

**Proof** The Schoen Calabi–Yau can be written as a complete intersection

$$X \subset \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$$

cut out by sections of tridegree $(1,3,0)$ and $(1,0,3)$. Hence there exist smooth elliptic fibers $E_i \subset R_i$ of $\pi_i$ for $i=1,2$ and a degeneration

$$X \rightsquigarrow (R_1 \times E_2) \cup_{E_1 \times E_2} (E_1 \times R_2) \tag{38}$$

which is compatible with the fibration structure of diagram (36).

The degeneration formula applied with respect to this degeneration yields

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k} = \sum_{\substack{m \geq 0 \\ \eta_1,\dots,\eta_m,\ell_1,\dots,\ell_m \\ g=g_1+g_2+l(\underline{\eta})-1}} \frac{\prod_i \eta_i}{m!} \langle \varnothing | \underline{\eta} \rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2),\bullet}_{g_1,k} \langle \varnothing | \underline{\eta}^\vee \rangle^{(E_1\times R_2)/(E_1\times E_2),\bullet}_{g_2,k}, \tag{39}$$

where $\eta_1,\dots,\eta_m$ run over all positive integers summing up to $k$, the $\ell_1,\dots,\ell_m$ run over all diagonal splittings in the weighted partition

$$\underline{\eta} = (\eta_i, \Delta_{E_1\times E_2,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m, \quad \underline{\eta}^\vee = (\eta_i, \Delta^\vee_{E_1\times E_2,\ell_i})_{i=1}^m,$$

and the sum is over those disconnected stable maps on each side which yield a connected domain after gluing (the bullet $\bullet$ reminds us of the disconnected invariants); moreover we have used

$$\langle \varnothing | \underline{\eta} \rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2),\bullet}_{g_1,k} = \sum_{\pi_*\beta = k} \langle \varnothing | \underline{\eta} \rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2),\bullet}_{g_1,\beta} q_1^{W_1^{(R_1)}\cdot\beta} q_2^{W_2^{(E_2)}\cdot\beta} \exp(z_1\cdot\beta),$$

where we use the Gromov–Witten bracket notation on the right side and

$$W_1^{(R_1)}, W_2^{(E_2)} \in H^2(R_1 \times E_2)$$

are the pullbacks of $W_1 \in H^2(R_1)$ and the point class $[0] \in H^2(E)$, respectively. The definition of the second factor in (39) is parallel.

We will show

$$\langle\varnothing|\underline{\eta}\rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2),\bullet}_{g_1,k} \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{k/2}}\mathrm{QJac}^{(q_1,z_1)}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}} \otimes \mathrm{QMod}^{(q_2)}. \tag{40}$$

By an induction argument it is enough to prove the statement for connected Gromov–Witten invariants. Let us write

$$\underline{\eta} = (\eta_i, c_i \otimes d_i)_{i=1}^m \quad \text{for } c_i \in H^*(E_1),\ d_i \in H^*(E_2).$$

Then the relative product formula [25] yields

$$\langle\varnothing|\underline{\eta}\rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2)}_{g_1,k} = \int_{\overline{M}_{g,m}} p_*\mathcal{C}^{R_1/E_1}_{g_1,k}(\varnothing;(\eta_i,c_i)_i)\cdot\mathcal{C}^{E_2}_{g_1}(d_1,\dots,d_m),$$

where $p$ is the forgetful map to $\overline{M}_{g,m}$. By [18; 33], the class $\mathcal{C}^{E_2}_{g_1}(d_1,\dots,d_m)$ is a linear combination of tautological classes with coefficients that are quasimodular forms. Using Theorem 23 and Proposition 26 we obtain (40).

By an identical argument for $E_1\times R_2$ we conclude that

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k} \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{k/2}}\mathrm{QJac}^{(q_1,z_1)}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}} \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q_2)^{k/2}}\mathrm{QJac}^{(q_2,z_2)}_{\frac{k}{2}Q_{E_8}}. \qquad \square$$

## 6.2 Proof of Theorem 1

We first show that the classes $\mathcal{C}^{\pi_2}_{g,\alpha}(\ )$ satisfy the holomorphic anomaly equation numerically, ie after taking degrees. Using the degeneration (38) and the compatibility of the holomorphic anomaly equation with the degeneration formula (Proposition 21), the holomorphic anomaly equation for $\int\mathcal{C}^{\pi_2}_{g,\alpha}$ follows from the holomorphic anomaly equations for the elliptic fibrations

$$\mathrm{pr}_1\colon R_1\times E_2\to R_1 \quad\text{and}\quad \mathrm{id}_{E_1}\times p_2\colon E_1\times R_2\to E_1\times\mathbb{P}^1$$

relative to $E_1\times E_2$. To show the holomorphic anomaly equation for $R_1\times E_2$ (relative to $E_1\times E_2$) we again apply the product formula [25] and use the holomorphic anomaly equation for the elliptic curve [33]. For $E_1\times R_2$ we apply the product formula and Theorem 24. Hence $\mathcal{C}^{\pi_2}_{g,\alpha}(\,)$ satisfies the holomorphic anomaly equation numerically.

From Lemma* 16, after numerical specialization it follows that

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha} \in \bigcap_{\lambda\in E_8^{(2)}} \mathrm{Ker}(\mathsf{T}_\lambda),$$

or equivalently, that $\mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha}$ satisfies the elliptic transformation law.[26] By (37), and since $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ is symmetric under exchanging $(z_1, q_1)$ and $(z_2, q_2)$, we obtain

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k} \in \bigcap_{\lambda_1 \in E_8^{(1)},\, \lambda_2 \in E_8^{(2)}} \mathrm{Ker}(\mathsf{T}_{\lambda_1} \otimes \mathsf{T}_{\lambda_2}).$$

Similarly, the series $\mathsf{F}_{g,k}$ is invariant under reflection along the elliptic fibers of $\pi_1$ and $\pi_2$. Since every reflection along a root can be written as a composition of translation and reflection at the origin, we conclude that

$$\mathsf{F}_{g,k} \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q_1)^{k/2}} \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8,k}^{(q_1,z_1)} \otimes \frac{1}{\Delta(q_2)^{k/2}} \widetilde{\mathrm{Jac}}_{E_8,k}^{(q_2,z_2)}.$$

Finally, the weight of the bi-quasi-Jacobi form follows from the holomorphic anomaly equation; see Section 3.1 and [33, Section 2.6]. □

## 6.3 Proof of Theorem 2

Assume first $g > 2$ or $k > 0$. Using (37) and Proposition* 19,[27] we find

$$(41) \quad \frac{d}{dC_2(q_2)} \mathsf{F}_{g,\mathrm{k}} = \sum_{p_{1*}\alpha = k} q_1^{W_1 \cdot \alpha} \zeta_1^{\alpha} \Big[ \langle K_{R_1} + \alpha, \alpha \rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\alpha} + \sum_{\substack{g = g_1 + g_2 \\ \alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2}} \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \rangle \mathsf{F}_{g_1,\alpha_1} \mathsf{F}_{g_2,\alpha_2} \Big].$$

We analyze the terms on the right side. If we write $\alpha = kW + dF + \alpha_0$ for some $d \geq 0$ and $\alpha_0 \in E_8^{(1)}$, then we have

$$\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = 2kd + \langle \alpha_0, \alpha_0 \rangle, \quad \langle K_{R_1}, \alpha \rangle = -k.$$

Hence the first term in the bracket on the right of (41) can be written as

$$\sum_{p_{1*}\alpha = k} q_1^{W_1 \cdot \alpha} \zeta_1^{\alpha} \langle K_{R_1} + \alpha, \alpha \rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\alpha} = \Big( -k + 2k D_{q_1} - \sum_{i,j=1}^{8} (Q_{E_8}^{-1})_{ij} D_{z_{1,i}} D_{z_{1,j}} \Big) \mathsf{F}_{g-1,k}.$$

[26] Since $\mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha}$ is invariant under translation by sections of $\pi_2$, this also follows from Section 3.4.
[27] In the proof of Theorem 1 we have shown that Conjectures A and B hold for the Schoen Calabi–Yau numerically. Hence we may apply Proposition* 19 unconditionally.

With a similar argument the sum

$$\sum_{p_{1*}\alpha=k} q_1^{W_1\cdot\alpha}\zeta_1^{\alpha} \sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \alpha=\alpha_1+\alpha_2\\ g_1\geq 2 \text{ or } p_{1*}\alpha_1>0\\ g_2\geq 2 \text{ or } p_{1*}\alpha_2>0}} \langle \alpha_1,\alpha_2\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g_1,\alpha_1}\mathsf{F}_{g_2,\alpha_2}$$

yields exactly the second term on the right in Theorem 2. Using Lemma 29 below, the remaining terms are

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sum_{p_{1*}\alpha=k} q_1^{W_1\cdot\alpha}\zeta_1^{\alpha} &\sum_{g'\in\{0,1\};\,\ell\geq 1} \langle \alpha-\ell F_1,\ell F_1\rangle \mathsf{F}_{g-g',\alpha-\ell F_1}\mathsf{F}_{g',\ell F_1} \\ &= 2\sum_{p_{1*}\alpha=k} q_1^{W_1\cdot\alpha}\zeta_1^{\alpha}\sum_{\ell\geq 1} k\ell\cdot \mathsf{F}_{g-1,\alpha-\ell F_1}\cdot 12\frac{\sigma(\ell)}{\ell} \\ &= \Bigl(24k\sum_{\ell\geq 1}\sigma(\ell)q_1^{\ell}\Bigr)\mathsf{F}_{g-1,k}. \end{aligned}$$

Putting all three expressions together yields the desired expression.

Finally, if $g=2$ and $k=0$ a similar analysis shows

$$\frac{d}{dC_2(q_2)}\mathsf{F}_{2,0}=0.$$

**Lemma 29** *For all* $(\ell_1,\ell_2)\neq 0$ *we have*

$$\mathsf{N}^X_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}=\begin{cases} 12\delta_{\ell_1 0}\sigma(\ell_2)/\ell_2+12\delta_{\ell_2 0}\sigma(\ell_1)/\ell_1 & \text{if } g=1,\\ 0 & \text{if } g\neq 1.\end{cases}$$

**Proof** Using the degeneration (38) we have

$$\mathsf{N}^X_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}=\langle\varnothing|\varnothing\rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2)}_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}+\langle\varnothing|\varnothing\rangle^{(E_1\times R_2)/(E_1\times E_2)}_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}.$$

Because the surface $E_1\times E_2$ carries a holomorphic symplectic form, all Gromov–Witten invariants of $\mathbb{P}^1\times E_1\times E_2$ with nontrivial curve degree over $E_1\times E_2$ vanish. Hence by a degeneration argument we have

$$\langle\varnothing|\varnothing\rangle^{(R_1\times E_2)/(E_1\times E_2)}_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}=\langle\varnothing\rangle^{R_1\times E_2}_{g,\ell_1F_1+\ell_2F_2}.$$

The expression for the second term is parallel. Now the result follows by adding in markings, using the divisor equation and applying the product formula. □

### 6.4 Proof of Corollary 3

Since the series $\mathsf{F}_{g,\alpha}$ satisfies the holomorphic anomaly equation, the disconnected series $F^{\bullet}_{g,\alpha}$ satisfies (22). The claim now follows from Lemma 7.

## 7 Abelian surfaces

### 7.1 Overview

We present (Section 7.2) and prove numerically (Section 7.4) the holomorphic anomaly equation for the reduced Gromov–Witten theory of abelian surfaces in primitive classes. The quasimodularity of the theory was proven previously in [6]. The result and strategy of proof is almost identical to the case of K3 surfaces which appeared in detail in [33, Section 0.6], and we will be brief. Since we work with reduced Gromov–Witten theory, an additional term appears in the holomorphic anomaly equation for both abelian and K3 surfaces. This term appeared somewhat mysteriously in [33] in the form of a certain operator $\sigma$. In Section 7.3 we explain how it arises naturally from the theory of quasi-Jacobi forms.

### 7.2 Results

Let $E_1, E_2$ be nonsingular elliptic curves and consider the abelian surface

$$\mathsf{A} = E_1 \times E_2$$

elliptically fibered over $E_1$ via the projection $\pi$ to the first factor,

$$\pi\colon \mathsf{A} \to E_1.$$

Let $0_{E_2} \in E_2$ be the zero and fix the section

$$\iota\colon E_1 = E_1 \times 0_{E_2} \hookrightarrow \mathsf{A}.$$

A pair of integers $(d_1, d_2)$ determines a class in $H_2(\mathsf{A}, \mathbb{Z})$ by

$$(d_1, d_2) = d_1 \iota_*[E_1] + d_2 j_*[E_2],$$

where $j\colon 0_{E_1} \times E_2 \to \mathsf{A}$ is the inclusion.

Since $\mathsf{A}$ carries a holomorphic symplectic form, the virtual fundamental class of $\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathsf{A}, \beta)$ vanishes if $\beta \neq 0$. A nontrivial Gromov–Witten theory of $\mathsf{A}$ is defined by the *reduced* virtual class $[\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathsf{A},\beta)]^{\mathrm{red}}$; see [6] for details. For any $\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n$ in $H^*(\mathsf{A})$ define the reduced primitive potential

$$\mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{d=0}^{\infty} q^d \pi_*\biggl([\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathsf{A},(1,d))]^{\mathrm{red}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)\biggr) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(E_1,1))[\![q]\!].$$

By deformation invariance the classes $\mathcal{A}_g$ determine the Gromov–Witten classes of any abelian surface in primitive classes.

**Conjecture E** $\quad \mathcal{A}_{g,n}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in \mathrm{QMod} \otimes H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(E_1,1))$.

We state the reduced holomorphic anomaly equation. For any $\lambda \in H^*(\mathsf{A})$, define the endomorphism $A(\lambda)\colon H^*(\mathsf{A}) \to H^*(\mathsf{A})$ by

$$A(\lambda)\gamma = \lambda \cup \pi^*\pi_*(\gamma) - \pi^*\pi_*(\lambda \cup \gamma) \quad \text{for all } \gamma \in H^*(\mathsf{A}).$$

Define the operator $T_\lambda$ by[28]

$$T_\lambda \mathcal{A}_{g,n}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{A}_{g,n}(\gamma_1,\dots,A(\lambda)\gamma_i,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

Let $V \subset H^2(\mathsf{A},\mathbb{Q})$ be the orthogonal complement to $\{[E_1],[E_2]\}$ and define

$$T_\Delta = -\sum_{i,j=1}^{4} (G^{-1})_{ij} T_{b_i} T_{b_j}, \tag{42}$$

where $\{b_i\}$ is a basis of $V$ and $G = (\langle b_i, b_j\rangle)_{i,j}$.

Recall also the virtual class on the moduli space of degree $0$,

$$[\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathsf{A},0)]^{\mathrm{vir}} = \begin{cases} [\overline{M}_{0,n} \times \mathsf{A}] & \text{if } g = 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } g \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

where we used the identification $\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathsf{A},0) = \overline{M}_{g,n} \times \mathsf{A}$. We define

$$\mathcal{A}_g^{\mathrm{vir}}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \pi_*\biggl([\overline{M}_{g,n}(\mathcal{A},0)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \prod_i \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)\biggr).$$

[28] The notation $T_\lambda$ (serif) matches the expected value of the action of the anomaly operator $\mathsf{T}_\lambda$ (sans-serif) given in Lemma* 16. The operator $T_\lambda$ is defined independently of the modular properties of $\mathcal{A}$.

Consider the class in $H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(E_1,1))$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned}(43)\quad &\mathsf{H}^{\mathcal{A}}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \\ &\iota_*\Delta^! \mathcal{A}_{g-1}(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n,1,1) + 2\sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \{1,\dots,n\}=S_1\sqcup S_2}} j_*\Delta^!\big(\mathcal{A}_{g_1}(\gamma_{S_1},1)\boxtimes \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{vir}}_{g_2}(\gamma_{S_2},1)\big) \\ &-2\sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_{i-1},\pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i,\gamma_{i+1},\dots,\gamma_n)\cup\psi_i + T_\Delta \mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).\end{aligned}$$

**Conjecture F** $$\frac{d}{dC_2}\mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \mathsf{H}^{\mathcal{A}}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

Let $p\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(E_1,1)\to \overline{M}_{g,n}$ be the forgetful map, and recall the tautological subring $R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})\subset H^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$. In the unstable cases we will use the convention of Section 5.2. By [6], Conjecture E holds numerically:

$$(44)\qquad \int_{\overline{M}_{g,n}(E_1,1)} p^*(\alpha)\cap \mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) \in \mathrm{QMod}$$

for all tautological classes $\alpha\in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$. We show the holomorphic anomaly equation holds numerically as well.

**Theorem 30** *For any tautological class* $\alpha\in R^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$,

$$\frac{d}{dC_2}\int p^*(\alpha)\cap\mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n) = \int p^*(\alpha)\cap \mathsf{H}^{\mathcal{A}}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n).$$

## 7.3 Discussion of the anomaly equation

The holomorphic anomaly equation for abelian and K3 surfaces (see [33]) require two modifications to Conjecture B. The first is the modified splitting term (the second term on the right-hand side of (43)). It arises naturally from the formula for the restriction of the reduced virtual class $[\cdot]^{\mathrm{red}}$ to boundary components; see eg [31, Section 7.3].

The second modification in (43) is the term $T_\Delta\mathcal{A}_g(\gamma_1,\dots,\gamma_n)$, which appears for K3 surfaces in [33, Section 0.6] in its explicit form. To explain its origin we consider the difference in definition of the Gromov–Witten potentials $\mathcal{C}^\pi_{g,\mathsf{k}}$ and $\mathcal{A}$. The class $\mathcal{C}^\pi_{g,\mathsf{k}}$ is defined by summing over all classes $\beta$ on $X$ which are of degree $\mathsf{k}$ over the base, while for $\mathcal{A}$ we fix the base class $[E_1]$ and sum over the fiber direction $[E_1]+d[E_2]$. The latter corresponds to taking the $\zeta^0$–coefficient of the quasi-Jacobi form $\mathcal{C}^\pi_{g,\mathsf{k}}$. By

Proposition 10 the $C_2$–derivative of this $\zeta^0$–coefficient then naturally acquires an extra term, which exactly matches $T_\Delta \mathcal{A}_g$.

To make the discussion more concrete consider a rational elliptic surface $\pi\colon R \to \mathbb{P}^1$ and consider the $\zeta^0$–coefficient of the class $\mathcal{C}_{g,k=1}$,

$$\mathcal{R}_g(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) = [\mathcal{C}^\pi_{g,1}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n)]_{\zeta^0}.$$

The class $\mathcal{R}_g$ should roughly correspond to the classes $\mathcal{A}_g$ for abelian and $\mathcal{K}_g$ for K3 surfaces.[29] Assuming Conjecture A and using Section 1.5.3 we find $\mathcal{R}_g$ is a cycle-valued $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$–quasimodular form. Assuming Conjecture B and using Proposition 10 then yields the holomorphic anomaly equation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dC_2}\mathcal{R}_g(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) =& \\ &\iota_*\Delta^!\mathcal{R}_{g-1}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n, 1, 1) + 2\sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \{1,\dots,n\}=S_1\sqcup S_2}} j_*\Delta^!\bigl(\mathcal{R}_{g_1}(\gamma_{S_1}, 1) \boxtimes \mathcal{C}^\pi_{g_2,0}(\gamma_{S_2}, 1)\bigr) \\ &\quad - 2\sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{R}_g(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{i-1}, \pi^*\pi_*\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1}, \dots, \gamma_n) \cup \psi_i + T_\Delta \mathcal{R}_g(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n),\end{aligned}$$

where the operator $T_\Delta$ is defined as in (42) but with $V$ replaced by $H^2_\perp$. Hence we recover the same term as for abelian and K3 surfaces.

## 7.4 Proof of Theorem 30

The quasimodularity (44) was proven in [6] by an effective calculation scheme using the following ingredients: (i) an abelian vanishing equation, (ii) tautological relations / restriction to boundary, (iii) divisor equation, (iv) degeneration to the normal cone of an elliptic fiber. One checks that each such step is compatible with the holomorphic anomaly equation. For the K3 surface this was done in detail in [33], and the abelian surface case is parallel. □

# Appendix A Cohomological field theories

## A.1 Introduction

A cohomological field theory (CohFT) $\Omega$ is a collection of classes

$$\Omega_{g,n}(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in H^*(\overline{M}_{g,n}, A)$$

[29] The classes $\mathcal{K}_g$ are the analogues of $\mathcal{A}_g$ for K3 surfaces; see [33, Section 1.6] for a definition.

satisfying certain splitting axioms with respect to the boundary divisors of $\overline{M}_{g,n}$; see [19] for an introduction. Here the CohFT has coefficients in some commutative $\mathbb{Q}$–algebra $A$. Pushing forward the Gromov–Witten virtual class (after capping with classes pulled back from the target space) is one of the main ways of constructing cohomological field theories.

There are two important group actions on CohFTs. The first is by the automorphism group $\mathrm{Aut}(A)$ of the coefficient ring $A$. The second is Givental's $R$–matrix action, which involves the boundary geometry of $\overline{M}_{g,n}$. Teleman [44] proved that for semisimple CohFTs, any two CohFTs with the same values on $\overline{M}_{0,3}$ are related by the action of a unique $R$–matrix. This has the following consequence relating the two actions. Suppose that $\Omega$ is a CohFT and $\phi \in \mathrm{Aut}(A)$ is an automorphism fixing $\Omega_{0,3}$. Then there must exist a corresponding $R$–matrix taking $\Omega$ to $\phi(\Omega)$ under Givental's action. For nonsemisimple theories, such a correspondence may still exist but is not guaranteed.

Now suppose that $D$ is a derivation of $A$ and we are interested in a formula for $D(\Omega)$. In this case, $\exp(tD)$ is an automorphism of $A[\![t]\!]$, so we may ask whether $\Omega$ and $\exp(tD)(\Omega)$ are related by some $R$–matrix. If they are, then taking the linear part of Givental's $R$–matrix action gives a formula for $D(\Omega)$. In other words, derivations of the coefficient ring correspond sometimes to a linearization of the $R$–matrix action.

In this appendix we will apply this perspective to the holomorphic anomaly equations conjectured in this paper. Things are more difficult than in the discussion above because the $\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten generating series $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}$ discussed in this paper is not quite a CohFT (as it takes values in $H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}))$, not in $H^*(\overline{M}_{g,n})$). In Section A.2 we address this issue by defining weak $B$–valued field theories, and then in Section A.3 we define an (infinitesimal) $R$–matrix action on these theories. In Section A.4 we describe how our conjectured holomorphic anomaly equations can be expressed via a function from the Jacobi Lie algebra to the space of $R$–matrices satisfying a cocycle condition.

## A.2 Weak $B$–valued field theories

Let $B$ be a nonsingular projective variety. For convenience, let $H = H^*(B,\mathbb{Q})$. Let $V$ be a finitely generated $H$–module with a perfect[30] pairing of $H$–modules

[30] By Poincaré duality of $B$ the pairing $\eta$ is perfect if and only if the $\mathbb{Q}$–valued pairing $\int_B \eta$ is perfect.

$\eta\colon V \times V \to H$ and a distinguished element $\mathbf{1} \in V$. Let $A$ be a commutative $\mathbb{Q}$–algebra. Then a *weak $B$–valued field theory*[31] $\Omega$ on $(V, \eta, \mathbf{1})$ with coefficients in $A$ is a collection of maps

$$\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}\colon V^{\otimes n} \to H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B, \mathsf{k})) \otimes A$$

(all tensor products taken over $\mathbb{Q}$ unless otherwise stated) defined for all $g, n \geq 0$ and $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B, \mathbb{Z})$ with $2g - 2 + n > 0$ or $\mathsf{k} > 0$, satisfying the following four conditions:

(i) Each map $\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}$ is $H^n$–equivariant, where the $i^{\text{th}}$ copy of $H$ acts on the $i^{\text{th}}$ factor of $V^{\otimes n}$ and by pulling back classes to $\overline{M}_{g,n}(B, \mathsf{k})$ using the evaluation map at the $i^{\text{th}}$ marked point.

(ii) Each map $\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}$ is $S_n$–equivariant, where $S_n$ acts by permuting the factors of $V^{\otimes n}$ and permuting the labels of marked points in $\overline{M}_{g,n}(B, \mathsf{k})$.

(iii) For any classes $v, w \in V$,

$$\Omega^{0}_{0,3}(\mathbf{1}, v, w) = \eta(v, w)$$

under the isomorphism $H_*(\overline{M}_{0,3}(B, 0)) \otimes A \cong H \otimes A$.

For the fourth condition, we will need two further definitions. First, define the quantum product $*$ on $V \otimes A$ by the property

$$\Omega^{0}_{0,3}(u, v, w) = \eta(u * v, w).$$

Second, suppose that $\iota\colon \overline{M}_{g,n+1} \to \overline{M}_{g,n+2}$ is defined by replacing the marked point $p_{n+1}$ by a rational bubble containing two marked points $p_{n+1}, p_{n+2}$. Let $F$ be the fiber product of this map and the forgetful map $\overline{M}_{g,n+2}(B, \mathsf{k}) \to \overline{M}_{g,n+2}$. One connected component of $F$ is naturally isomorphic to $\overline{M}_{g,n+1}(B, \mathsf{k})$. Given any class $\alpha \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n+2}(B, \mathsf{k})$, let $\iota^{\sharp}\alpha \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n+1}(B, \mathsf{k}))$ be the restriction of $\iota^{!}\alpha$ to this component. Then our fourth condition is:

(iv) For any $g, n, \mathsf{k}$, and $v_1, \dots, v_{n+2}$,

$$\iota^{\sharp}\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n+2}(v_1, \dots, v_{n+2}) = \Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n+1}(v_1, \dots, v_n, v_{n+1} * v_{n+2}).$$

[31] The word "weak" in this name refers to the fact that we only use a single boundary divisor in condition (iv) of the definition. The analogous condition in the definition of a cohomological field theory uses all boundary divisors of $\overline{M}_{g,n}$.

It is straightforward to check that the $\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten generating series $\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}$ discussed in this paper forms a weak $B$–valued field theory on $(H^*(X,\mathbb{Q}),\eta,1)$ with coefficients in $\mathbb{Q}[\![q^{\frac{1}{2}},\zeta]\!]$, where the pairing is given by $\eta(\alpha,\beta):=\pi_*(\alpha\beta)$. If we assume Conjecture A then we may take the coefficient ring $A$ to be the algebra $\mathrm{QJac}[\Delta^{-1/2}]$.

## A.3 Matrix actions

In this section, we define a matrix action on weak $B$–valued field theories that should be viewed as an infinitesimal analogue of Givental's $R$–matrix action on cohomological field theories. Fix the data $(V,\eta,\mathbf{1})$ and the coefficient ring $A$ as before. Let $\mathcal{R}(V,\eta)$ be the (associative) algebra of formal Laurent series

$$M=\cdots+M_{-1}z^{-1}+M_0+M_1z+\cdots,$$

where $M_i$ is an element of $V\otimes_H V$ for $i\geq 0$ and an element of $\mathrm{End}(V)=\mathrm{Hom}_H(V,V)$ for $i<0$ (and vanishes for all $i$ sufficiently negative). The multiplication on $\mathcal{R}(V,\eta)$ is defined by contraction by the pairing $\eta\colon V\otimes_H V\to H$ along with the homomorphism

$$V\otimes_H V\to \mathrm{End}(V)$$

defined by $(a\otimes b)(v)=\eta(b,v)a$.

Let $M$ be an element of $\mathcal{R}(V,\eta)\otimes A$ satisfying the following two conditions:

(a) Let $M_+\in V\otimes_H V[\![z]\!]\otimes A$ be the part of $M$ with nonnegative powers of $z$. Then we require that

$$M_+(z)+M_+^t(-z)=0,$$

where $M_+^t$ is defined by interchanging the two copies of $V$ in $V\otimes_H V$.

(b) The principal part of $M$ is of the form

$$M-M_+=m_v z^{-1},$$

where $v\in V\otimes A$ and $m_v\in\mathrm{End}(V)\otimes A$ is the operator of quantum multiplication by $v$.

Given a weak $B$–valued theory $\Omega$ on the above data, we define new maps

$$(r_M\Omega)^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}\colon V^{\otimes n}\to H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k}))\otimes A$$

by

$$
\begin{aligned}
(r_M\Omega)^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}(v_1,\dots,v_n) :=\\
&-\tfrac{1}{2}\iota_*\Delta^!\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g-1,n+2}(v_1,\dots,v_n,\mathcal{E})\\
&\quad -\tfrac{1}{2}\sum_{\substack{g=g_1+g_2\\ \{1,\dots,n\}=S_1\sqcup S_2\\ \mathsf{k}=\mathsf{k}_1+\mathsf{k}_2}} j_*\Delta^!\big(\Omega^{\mathsf{k}_1}_{g_1,|S_1|+1}(v_{S_1},\mathcal{E}^{(1)})\boxtimes\Omega^{\mathsf{k}_2}_{g_2,|S_2|+1}(v_{S_2},\mathcal{E}^{(2)})\big)\\
&\qquad +\sum_{i=1}^{n}\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}(v_1,\dots,v_{i-1},M_+v_i,v_{i+1},\dots,v_n)\\
&\qquad\quad - p_*\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n+1}(v_1,\dots,v_n,zM\mathbf{1}),
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\mathcal{E}$ is any lift of

$$\frac{M_+(z)+M_+^t(z')}{z+z'}\in (V\otimes_H V)[\![z,z']\!]\otimes A$$

to $(V\otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} V)[\![z,z']\!]\otimes A$, we are using notation as in Conjecture B, and all $z$ variables should be replaced by capping with the corresponding $\psi$ classes.

We make some comments on $r_M\Omega$:

(1) If $\Omega$ is a weak $B$–valued field theory with coefficients in $A$, then $\Omega+t\cdot r_M\Omega$ is a weak $B$–valued field theory with coefficients in $A[t]/t^2$.

(2) Our main holomorphic anomaly equation, Conjecture B, can be restated as saying

$$\mathsf{T}_q\mathcal{C}^\pi = r_{-2(1\otimes 1)z}\mathcal{C}^\pi,$$

where $\mathsf{T}_q$ is the derivation defined in Section 1.3.3 on the coefficient ring $A=\mathrm{QJac}[\Delta^{-1/2}]$.

(3) If $M=m_v z^{-1}$ for some $v\in V\otimes A$, then $M_+=0$ and the definition above simplifies to

$$(r_{m_v z^{-1}}\Omega)^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n}(v_1,\dots,v_n) = -p_*\Omega^{\mathsf{k}}_{g,n+1}(v_1,\dots,v_n,v).$$

Then the divisor equation says that

$$D_q\mathcal{C}^\pi = r_{-m_W z^{-1}}\mathcal{C}^\pi,\qquad D_\lambda\mathcal{C}^\pi = r_{-m_\lambda z^{-1}}\mathcal{C}^\pi.$$

## A.4 The derivation–matrix correspondence

The derivations $\mathsf{T}_q, D_q, D_\lambda$ on QJac generate the Jacobi Lie algebra. We have seen above that the action of each of these derivations on $\mathcal{C}^\pi$ is given by some matrix action $r_M$. The following general result extends this to the entire Jacobi Lie algebra.

**Proposition 31** *Let $\Omega$ be a weak $B$–valued theory on $(V,\eta,\mathbf{1})$ with coefficients in $A$. Suppose that $D_1, D_2$ are $\mathbb{Q}$–linear derivations of $A$ and $M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{R}(V,\eta)\otimes A$ satisfy the conditions (a) and (b) used to define $r_{M_1}\Omega, r_{M_2}\Omega$ above. If*

$$D_i\Omega = r_{M_i}\Omega$$

*for $i=1,2$, then*

$$[D_1, D_2]\Omega = r_{[M_1,M_2]+D_1(M_2)-D_2(M_1)}\Omega.$$

**Sketch of proof** We can compute $D_1D_2\Omega = D_1 r_{M_2}\Omega$ by applying the derivation $D_1$ to the definition of $r_{M_2}\Omega$, then replacing $D_1\Omega$ in the result with $r_{M_1}\Omega$, and finally expanding $r_{M_1}\Omega$ using its definition. Repeating this procedure for $D_2D_1\Omega$ and taking the difference, most terms cancel. The noncanceling terms come from several different sources (applying $D_i$ to the coefficients of $M_j$; $M_1$ and $M_2$ not necessarily commuting; $p^*\psi_i \neq \psi_i$; $\overline{M}_{0,2}(B,0)$ being unstable) and sum to the claimed matrix action. $\square$

Assuming Conjecture B and applying this result to $\mathcal{C}^\pi$, we have the following corollary:

**Corollary* 32** *Let $J$ be the Jacobi Lie algebra of derivations of* QJac *generated by $\mathsf{T}_q$, $D_q$ and $D_\lambda$. Then there exists a function*

$$f\colon J \to \mathcal{R}(V,\eta)\otimes \mathrm{QJac}[\Delta^{-1/2}]$$

*such that*

$$D\mathcal{C}^\pi = r_{f(D)}\mathcal{C}^\pi$$

*for all $D \in J$.*

It is straightforward to compute the function $f$ above from the initial values, the commutator formulas in (12), and the formula in Proposition 31:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathsf{T}_q) &= -2(1\otimes 1)z^1, & f(\mathsf{T}_\lambda) &= (\lambda\otimes 1 - 1\otimes\lambda),\\ f(D_q) &= -m_W z^{-1}, & f(D_\lambda) &= -m_\lambda z^{-1},\\ f\big(-\tfrac{1}{2}[\mathsf{T}_q, D_q]\big) &= (W\otimes 1 - 1\otimes W), & f([\mathsf{T}_\lambda, D_\mu]) &= m_{\pi^*\pi_*(\lambda\mu)}z^{-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

Lemmas* 14 and 16 can be recovered from the values of $f\big(-\frac{1}{2}[\mathsf{T}_q, D_q]\big)$ and $f(\mathsf{T}_\lambda)$. The fact that the function $f$ satisfies the Lie algebra cocycle condition

$$f([A,B]) = [f(A), f(B)] + A(f(B)) - B(f(A))$$

can be viewed as a check on Conjecture B.

# Appendix B K3 fibrations

## B.1 Definition

The second cohomology of a nonsingular projective K3 surface $S$ is a rank-22 lattice with intersection form

$$H^2(S,\mathbb{Z}) \cong U \oplus U \oplus U \oplus E_8(-1) \oplus E_8(-1),$$

where $U = \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{smallmatrix}\right)$ is the hyperbolic lattice. Consider a primitive embedding

$$\Lambda \subset H^2(S,\mathbb{Z})$$

of signature $(1, r-1)$ and let $v_1, \dots, v_r \in \Lambda$ be an integral basis.

Let $X$ be a nonsingular projective variety with line bundles

$$L_1, \dots, L_r \to X.$$

A $\Lambda$–polarized K3 fibration is a flat morphism

$$\pi\colon X \to B$$

with connected fibers satisfying the following properties:[32]

(i) The smooth fibers $X_\xi$ of $\pi$ for $\xi \in B$ are $\Lambda$–polarized K3 surfaces via

$$v_i \mapsto L_i|_{X_\xi}.$$

(ii) There exists a $\lambda \in \Lambda$ which restricts to a quasipolarization on all smooth fibers of $\pi$ simultaneously.

Given a curve class $\mathsf{k} \in H_2(B,\mathbb{Z})$ and classes $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(X)$ we define the $\pi$–relative Gromov–Witten potential

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) = \sum_{\pi_*\beta = \mathsf{k}} q_1^{L_1\cdot\beta} \cdots q_r^{L_r\cdot\beta}\, \pi_*\Big( [\overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta)]^{\mathrm{vir}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i) \Big),$$

where $\pi\colon \overline{M}_{g,n}(X,\beta) \to \overline{M}_{g,n}(B,\mathsf{k})$ is the morphism induced by $\pi$.

[32] We refer to [22] for the definition of a $\Lambda$–polarized K3 surface.

**Problem** Find a ring of quasimodular objects $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathbb{Q}[\![q_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, q_r^{\pm 1}]\!]$ (depending only on $\Lambda$) such that for all $g$, $\mathsf{k}$ and $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n$ we have

$$\mathcal{C}^{\pi}_{g,\mathsf{k}}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) \in H_*(\overline{M}_{g,n}(B, \mathsf{k})) \otimes \mathcal{R}.$$

By quasimodular objects we mean here functions of $q_1, \dots, q_r$ which have modular properties after adding a dependence on nonholomorphic parameters. We moreover ask the derivative along the nonholomorphic parameters to induce a derivation on $\mathcal{R}$. We expect the classes $\mathcal{C}_{g,\mathsf{k}}$ to be governed by a holomorphic anomaly equation taking a shape similar to Conjecture B. We discuss a basic example in the next section.

## B.2 An example

The STU model is a particular nonsingular projective Calabi–Yau threefold $X$ which admits a K3 fibration

$$\pi\colon X \to \mathbb{P}^1$$

polarized by the hyperbolic lattice $U$ via line bundles $L_1, L_2 \to X$. Every smooth fiber $X_\xi$ of $\pi$ ($\xi \in \mathbb{P}^1$) is an elliptic K3 surface with section. The line bundles $L_i$ restrict to

$$L_1|_{X_\xi} = F, \quad L_2|_{X_\xi} = S + F,$$

where $S, F \in H^2(X_\xi, \mathbb{Z})$ are the section and fiber classes, respectively.

By [22, Proposition 5] we have the following basic evaluation of the $\pi$–relative potential of $X$:

$$\int \mathcal{C}_{0,0}(L_2, L_2, L_2) = 2\frac{E_4(q_1)E_6(q_1)}{\Delta(q_1)} \cdot \frac{E_4(q_2)}{j(q_1) - j(q_2)}, \tag{46}$$

where $E_k = 1 + O(q)$ are the Eisenstein series and $j(q) = q^{-1} + O(1)$ is the $j$–function, and the expansion on the right-hand side is taken in the region $|q_1| < |q_2|$. It is hence plausible for $\mathcal{R}$ to be the ring (of Laurent expansions in the region $|q_1| < |q_2|$) of meromorphic functions of $q_1$ and $q_2$ which are quasimodular in each variable and have poles only at $q_1 = q_2$ and $q_i = 0$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$. The modularity in each variable on the right-hand side of (46) is in agreement with the expected holomorphic anomaly equation.

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