

Classical Liouville Action and Uniformization of Orbifold Riemann Surfaces: A Geometric Approach to Classical Correlation Functions of Branch Point Vertex Operators

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Based on [arXiv:2310.17536](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.17536) with A. Naseh and K. Allameh.

1. Background & Motivation
2. Classical Correlation Functions of Branch Point Vertex Operators
3. Main Results

Background & Motivation

Liouville Theory

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This theory admits two dimensional surfaces of constant negative curvature (possibly with sources) as its classical solutions: Let X be a compact closed Riemann surface of genus $g > 1$. In the absence of sources, complete conformal metrics $ds^2 = e^{\phi(u,\bar{v})}|du|^2$ on X are classical fields of this theory, and the Liouville equation $-2e^{-\phi}\partial_{\bar{v}}\partial_u\phi = -1$ is the corresponding Euler-Lagrange equation.

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According to the **uniformization theorem**, the **hyperbolic metric** on X is the unique classical solution of the theory and one can consider this classical solution as the critical point of a certain functional defined on the space of all smooth conformal metrics on X . This functional is called the **Liouville action functional** and its critical value — the **classical Liouville action**.

The definition of the classical Liouville action is a non-trivial problem: Since $\phi(u, \bar{u})$ is not a globally defined function on X , but rather a logarithm of the conformal factor of the metric, the “kinetic term” $|\partial_u \phi|^2 du \wedge d\bar{u}$ does not yield a (1,1)-form on X and, therefore, **can not be integrated over X** .

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Takhtajan and Zograf solved this problem by using **global coordinates**, provided by different **uniformizations** of X : Instead of defining the Liouville action in terms of classical fields on X , one chooses to define this action in terms of Liouville field on a **planar covering** of X .

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Such a planar covering can be found uniquely given a “**marking**” of X and are in one-to-one correspondence with **complex projective structures** on X . More precisely, such a geometric structure on X can be viewed as a $(\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C}), \mathbb{CP}^1)$ -structure defined via an open cover $\{U_a\}_{a \in A}$ of X with holomorphic charts $f_a : U_a \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ such that the transition functions are given by the restrictions of Möbius transformations.

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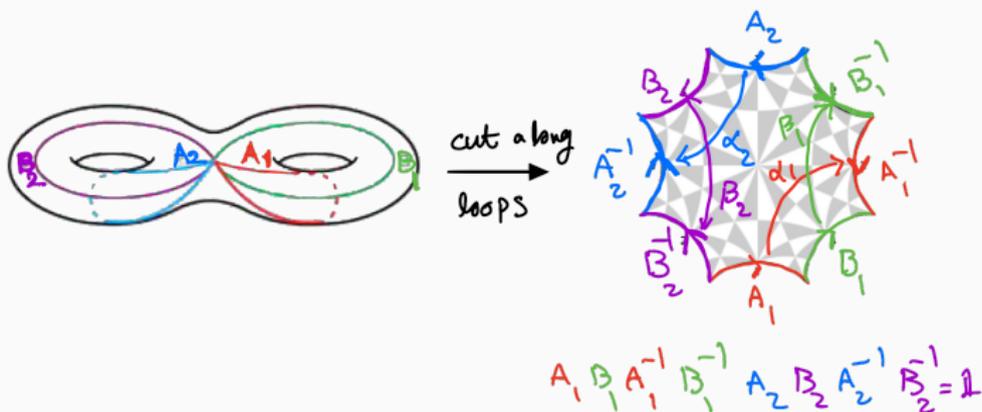
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The fact that classical Liouville action depends on complex projective structures is a manifestation of so-called **conformal anomaly**.

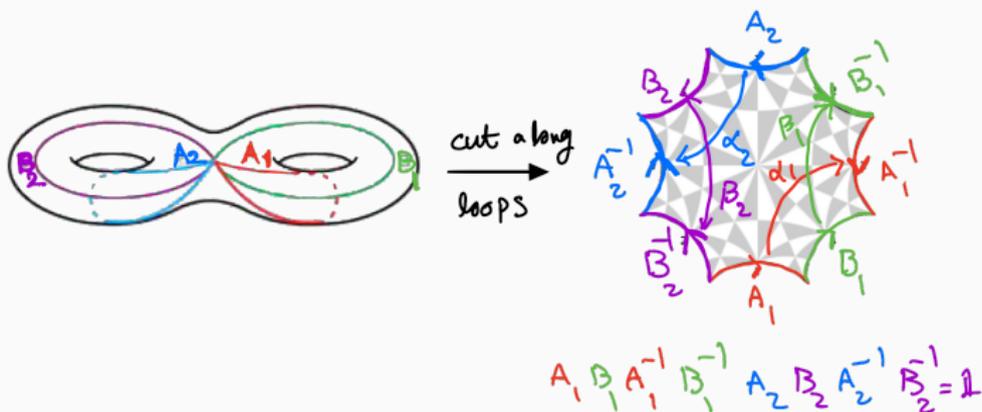
Fuchsian Uniformization

Compact Riemann surfaces admit several different descriptions: By classical uniformization theorem, every **hyperbolic** Riemann surface X (i.e. $\chi(X) < 0$) can be realized as a quotient of $\mathbb{H} \cong \mathbb{D}$ by a **Fuchsian group** $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathrm{PSU}(1, 1)$:



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Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_g$ be the generators of $\Gamma \cong \pi_1(X)$; A Fuchsian group with a distinguished system of generators will be called **marked**. These generators correspond to a canonical homotopy basis of X and **marked Fuchsian groups** \longleftrightarrow **Riemann surfaces with homotopy marking**.

Schottky Uniformization

When X is a compact Riemann surface with $g > 1$ handles and no boundaries, the most convenient way to realize X is as a quotient space $\Omega(\Sigma)/\Sigma$. Here, the **Schottky group** Σ (of rank $g > 1$) is a subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ that is freely generated by g loxodromic elements and the **region of discontinuity** $\Omega(\Sigma)$ is a subregion of $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ on which Σ acts discontinuously. A Schottky group Σ with a distinguished system of generators L_1, \dots, L_g will be called **marked**.

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Consider a Marked Fuchsian group Γ and let \mathcal{N} be the smallest normal subgroup in Γ that contains $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$. Then, there exists a Schottky group $\Sigma \cong \Gamma/\mathcal{N}$ such that $\mathbb{H}/\Gamma \cong X \cong \Omega/\Sigma$. This Schottky group is marked by generators L_1, \dots, L_g corresponding to the cosets $\beta_1\mathcal{N}, \dots, \beta_g\mathcal{N}$.

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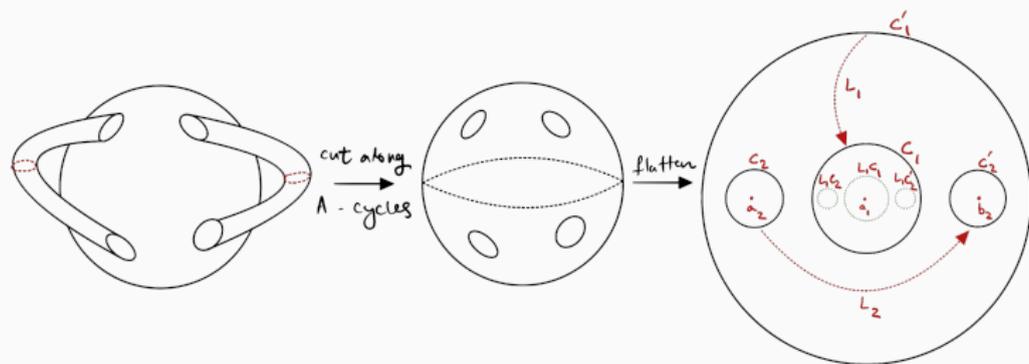
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A marked Schottky group is most conveniently described by its **fundamental region**: It is a subset $\mathcal{D} \subsetneq \Omega$, such that no two distinct interior points of \mathcal{D} are Σ -equivalent, and every point of Ω is Σ -equivalent to some point of \mathcal{D} . More specifically, \mathcal{D} can be viewed as the exterior of $2g$ non-intersecting circles $C_1, \dots, C_g, C'_1, \dots, C'_g$ in $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$, such that $C'_i = -L_i(C_i)$ and the region exterior to C_i is mapped to the interior of C'_i .

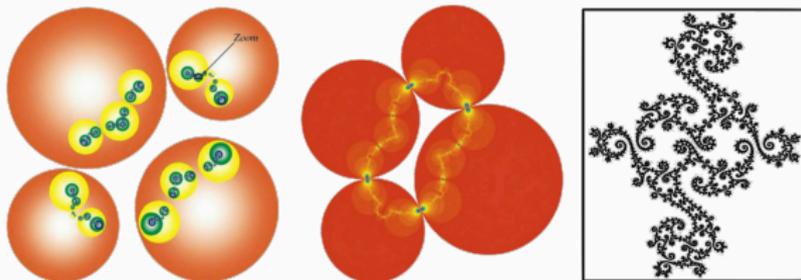
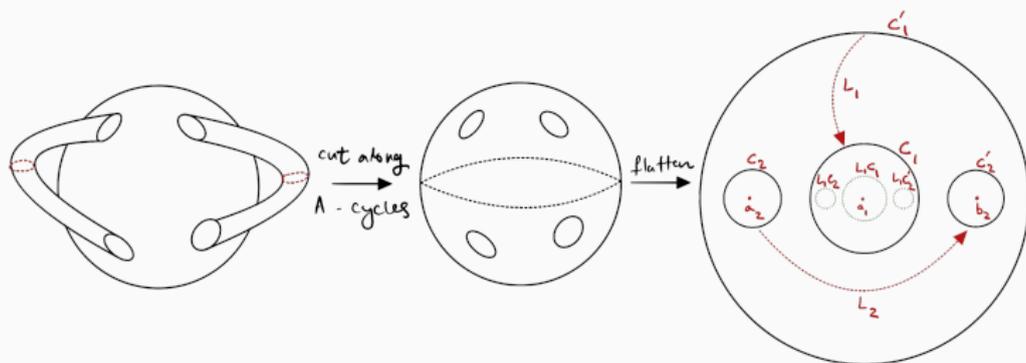
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Intuitively, we can obtain a Schottky representation of X by cutting it along g disjoint closed loops such that it stays in one piece and becomes a sphere with $2g$ holes, flatten it onto the complex plane, and build the Schottky group from the Möbius maps that glue the surface back together along its g seams.



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Each generator L_i has a standard form

$$\frac{L_i(w) - a_i}{L_i(w) - b_i} = \lambda_i \frac{w - a_i}{w - b_i},$$

and is completely characterized by its **attractive** and **repulsive** fixed points, a_i and b_i , as well as the value of its **multiplier** λ_i .

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By conjugation in $\mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{C})$, one can always put $a_1 = 0$, $b_1 = \infty$, and $a_2 = 1$. A Schottky group for which these conditions hold is called **normalized** and space of all marked normalized Schottky groups will be called the **Schottky space** \mathfrak{S}_g of genus g . The Schottky space \mathfrak{S}_g can be viewed as an intermediate moduli space — i.e. $\mathcal{T}_g \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_g \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_g$.

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$$\Sigma \mapsto (a_3, \dots, a_g, b_2, \dots, b_g, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g) \in \mathbb{C}^{3g-3}$$

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The covering maps $\pi_\Gamma : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow X$ and $\pi_\Sigma : \Omega \rightarrow X$, define **projective connections** $\mathcal{P}(X) \ni R^{(F)} = \{\text{Sch}[\pi_\Gamma^{-1}, u_a]\}_{a \in A}$ and $\mathcal{P}(X) \ni R^{(S)} = \{\text{Sch}[\pi_\Sigma^{-1}, u_a]\}_{a \in A}$ — i.e. a collection $\{r_a\}_{a \in A}$ where r_a is a holomorphic function on U_a and

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The Fuchsian projective connection is canonically determined by the Riemann surface X and does **not** depend on the choice of $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \Gamma$; in contrast, the Schottky projective connection is defined only for **marked** Riemann surfaces and is uniquely determined by the normal subgroup $\mathcal{N} \subset \Gamma$ generated by the elements $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_g$.

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The affine spaces $\mathcal{P}(X)$ for varying Riemann surfaces X glue together to an affine bundle $\mathcal{P}_g \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_g$, modeled over holomorphic cotangent bundle $T^*\mathcal{T}_g$. $R^{(F)}$ gives a canonical section of the affine bundle $\mathcal{P}_g \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_g$, while $R^{(S)}$ gives a canonical section of the affine bundle $\mathcal{P}_g \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}_g$. Their difference $R := R^{(F)} - R^{(S)}$ can be viewed as a $(1,0)$ -form

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^{3g-3} (c_i^{(F)} - c_i^{(S)}) dt_i,$$

on the Schottky space \mathfrak{G}_g .

Classical Liouville Action for X

Let Σ be a marked normalized Schottky group of rank $g > 1$ which uniformizes the closed Riemann surface X and let $e^{\varphi(w, \bar{w})} |dw|^2$ be the pull-back of the hyperbolic metric on X by the covering map $\pi_{\Sigma} : \Omega \rightarrow X$.

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According to [Zograf, Takhtajan '88 b/ Takhtajan, Teo '03], the classical Liouville action for such a compact Riemann surface is defined as

$$S[\varphi] = \iint_{\mathcal{D}} (|\partial_w \varphi|^2 + e^{\varphi}) d^2 w + \frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2} \sum_{k=2}^g \oint_{C_k} \theta_{L_k^{-1}}(\varphi),$$

where the 1-form $\theta_{L_k^{-1}}(\varphi)$ is given by

$$\theta_{L_k^{-1}}(\varphi) = \left(\varphi - \frac{1}{2} \log |L'_k|^2 - \log |l_k|^2 \right) \left(\frac{L''_k}{L'_k} dw - \frac{\overline{L''_k}}{\overline{L'_k}} d\bar{w} \right).$$

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This classical Liouville action is **independent** of the choice of \mathcal{D} and determines a smooth function on \mathfrak{S}_g .

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1- Let $\{t_1, \dots, t_{3g-3}\}$ denote the coordinates on \mathfrak{S}_g and let dt_1, \dots, dt_{3g-3} be the corresponding cotangent vector fields. If ∂ denotes the (1,0) component of de Rham differential on \mathfrak{S}_g , the classical Liouville action satisfies $\partial S[\varphi] = 2R$ where

$$R = -\pi \sum_{i=1}^{3g-3} c_i dt_i,$$

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The reason the difference in accessory parameters appears is that the stress tensor $T_\varphi(w) := \partial_w^2 \varphi - \frac{1}{2}(\partial_w \varphi)^2$ of $S[\varphi]$ can be identified with $\text{Sch}[J^{-1}, w]$ and satisfies:

$$T_\varphi \circ \pi_\Sigma^{-1} = (\partial_{u_a} \pi_\Sigma^{-1})^{-2} \sum \left(\frac{c_i^{(F)} - c_i^{(S)}}{u_a - x_i} \right).$$

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Due to **conformal anomaly**, the partition function cannot be defined as a globally holomorphic function on \mathcal{M}_g , but rather only as a holomorphic section of a suitable line bundle on \mathcal{M}_g :

Theorem (Zograf '90)

*The function $S[\varphi]$ on the Schottky space \mathfrak{S}_g determines a holomorphic line bundle λ_S , on the moduli space \mathcal{M}_g with Hermitian metric $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_S$, where $\langle 1, 1 \rangle_S = \exp(S/12\pi)$. The Hermitian holomorphic line bundle $(\lambda_S, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_S)$ is **isometrically isomorphic** to the **Hodge line bundle** with **Quillen's metric** $(\lambda_H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_Q)$.*

Classical Correlation Functions of Branch Point Vertex Operators

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Once the classical Liouville action is defined, the quantity $\exp(-S[\varphi])$ will play the role of **partition function** of classical Liouville theory on X . [Takhtajan '93/ Takhtajan '94

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Classical Correlation Functions of Branch Point Vertex Operators

Once the classical Liouville action is defined, the quantity $\exp(-S[\varphi])$ will play the role of **partition function** of classical Liouville theory on X . [Takhtajan '93/ Takhtajan '94

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However, objects of fundamental importance in classical LFT are given by the correlation functions of **vertex operators** $V_\alpha(x) = e^{\alpha\varphi(x)}$. These are primary operators of conformal dimension $\Delta = \alpha(2 - \alpha)$.

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From this point of view, the classical correlation functions $\langle V_{\alpha_1}(x_1) \cdots V_{\alpha_n}(x_n) \rangle$ are given by $\exp(-\mathcal{S}_\alpha[\varphi])$ where $\mathcal{S}_\alpha[\varphi]$ denotes the classical Liouville action on a Riemann surface with conical singularities x_i of angles $2\pi(1 - \alpha_i)$. When $\alpha_i = 1 - \frac{1}{m_i}$ ($2 \leq m_i \leq \infty$) the problem of calculating $\langle V_{\alpha_1}(x_1) \cdots V_{\alpha_n}(x_n) \rangle$ reduces to the study of classical Liouville action $\mathcal{S}_m[\varphi]$ on a (possibly punctured) Riemann orbisurface O (see also [Park, Takhtajan, Teo '15]).

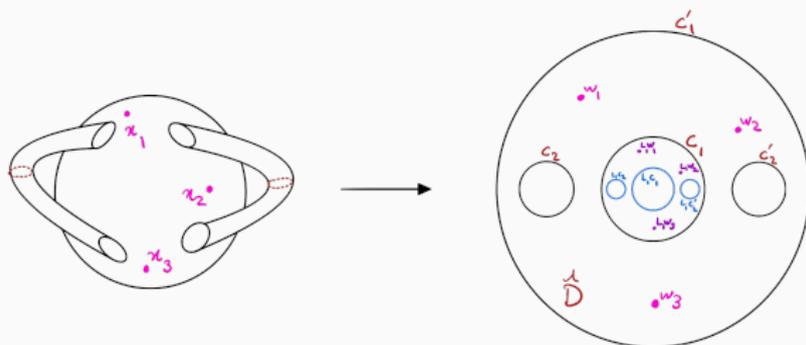
Schottky Uniformization of O

For our purposes, it is sufficient to view the orbifold Riemann surface O as a **underlying Riemann surface** X together with n weighted “marked points” x_1, \dots, x_n ; the weights m_1, \dots, m_n will be called the **orders of isotropy** and the Riemann orbisurface O is said to have the signature $(g, n; m_1, \dots, m_n)$.

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Now, consider the covering map $\pi_\Sigma : \Omega \rightarrow X$. By inserting singular points of the same order at the locations corresponding to all pre-images $w_j \in \pi_\Sigma^{-1}(x_i)$ of each marked point x_i ($i = 1, \dots, n$), we get a planar orbifold Riemann surface $\hat{\Omega}$ which covers O — i.e. $O \cong \hat{\Omega}/\Sigma$. We will also denote the restriction of $\hat{\Omega}$ to the fundamental domain with \hat{D} .



Generalized Schottky Space

Let us define a **generalized Schottky space** $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ as a holomorphic fibration $j: \mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_g$ with fibers that are configuration spaces of n labeled points (with orders m_1, \dots, m_n). In the neighborhood of the origin, coordinates t_1, \dots, t_{3g-3+n} of $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ are given by $(a_3, \dots, a_g, b_2, \dots, b_g, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_g, w_1, \dots, w_n) \in \mathbb{C}^{3g-3+n}$.

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If $\chi(O) = \chi(X) - \sum(1 - \frac{1}{m_i}) < 0$, \mathbb{H} is the universal cover of O and $\hat{\Omega}$ itself will admit \mathbb{H} as its universal cover; we denote this covering by $J: \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}$. The covering map J effectively describes the Fuchsian uniformization of $\hat{\Omega}$ and its behavior near marked points will play an essential role in our study.

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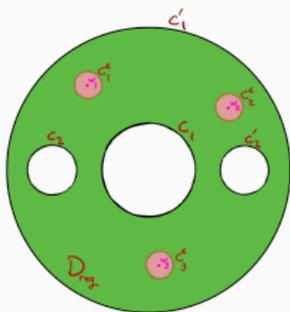
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In order to define the appropriate classical Liouville action for O , we have to integrate on $\hat{\mathcal{D}}$ instead of on \mathcal{D} . Therefore, one needs to regularize the area integral which diverges due to the asymptotic behavior of φ near marked points $w_i \in \hat{\mathcal{D}}$.

Regularized Liouville Action

We do this in the same way as in genus 0 case: [Zograf, Takhtajan '01]



$$S_m[\varphi] = S_m(\mathcal{D}; w_1, \dots, w_n) = S_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{reg}}}[\varphi] + \frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2} \sum_{k=2}^g \oint_{C_k} \theta_{L_k^{-1}}(\varphi),$$

where

$$S_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{reg}}}[\varphi] = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\iint_{\mathcal{D}_\epsilon} (|\partial_w \varphi|^2 + e^{2\varphi}) d^2 w + \frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m_j}\right) \oint_{C_j^\epsilon} \varphi \left(\frac{d\bar{w}}{\bar{w} - \bar{w}_j} - \frac{dw}{w - w_j} \right) - 2\pi \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} \left(1 - \frac{1}{m_j}\right)^2 \log \epsilon + 2\pi n_p (\log \epsilon + 2 \log |\log \epsilon|) \right).$$

Geometric Meaning of $S_m[\varphi]$

The geometric meaning of the above statement is that regularized Liouville action $S_m[\varphi]$ determines a Hermitian metric $e^{S_m[\varphi]/\pi}$ in the holomorphic \mathbb{Q} -line bundle $\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{L}_1^{\Delta_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n^{\Delta_n}$ over $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ where \mathcal{L}_i denotes the i -th **relative cotangent line bundle**. [B.T., Naseh, Allameh '23]

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Then, the following two statements are true: [B.T., Naseh, Allameh '23]

1. In a local holomorphic frame, canonical connection on the Hermitian \mathbb{Q} -line bundle $(\mathcal{L}, e^{S_m[\varphi]/\pi})$ is given by

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \partial S_m = -2 \sum_{i=1}^{3g-3+n} c_i dt_i.$$

2. The first Chern form of the Hermitian \mathbb{Q} -line bundle $(\mathcal{L}, e^{S_m[\varphi]/\pi})$ is given by

$$c_1(\mathcal{L}, e^{S_m[\varphi]/\pi}) = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \omega_{WP}.$$

Kähler Potentials for TZ Metrics

Let \mathcal{L}_i be the i -th tautological line bundle on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ and consider the covering map $J: \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}$. Since $J \circ \beta_k = L_k \circ J$, the marked points $w_1, \dots, L_k w_i, \dots, w_n$ correspond to the fixed points $z_1, \dots, \beta_k z_i, \dots, z_n$, and the first coefficient in the expansion of $J(z)$ at the equivalent fixed point $\beta_k z_i$ is $L'_k(w_i) J_1^{(i)}$. Correspondingly, $h_i = |J_1^{(i)}|^2$ gets replaced by $h_i |L'_k(w_i)|^2$. Geometrically, this means that the quantities h_i determine Hermitian metrics in the holomorphic line bundles \mathcal{L}_i for all $i = 1, \dots, n$.

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Then, the following two statements are true: [Park, Takhtajan, Teo '15/ Takhtajan, Zograf '18/ B.T., Naseh, Allameh '23]

1. In a local holomorphic frame canonical connection on the Hermitian line bundle (\mathcal{L}_i, h_i) is given by

$$\partial \log h_i = \frac{-2}{\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{3g-3+n} d_{i,j} dt_j.$$

2. The first Chern form of the Hermitian line bundle (\mathcal{L}_i, h_i) is given by

$$c_1(\mathcal{L}_i, h_i) = \frac{m_i}{2\pi} \omega_{TZ,i}^{ell} \quad (m_i < \infty) \quad \text{and} \quad c_1(\mathcal{L}_i, h_i) = \frac{4}{3} \omega_{TZ,i}^{cusp} \quad (m_i = \infty).$$

Now, let us define $H := \prod_{i=1}^n h_i^{\Delta_i}$. Clearly, H defines a Hermitian metric in the holomorphic \mathbb{Q} -line bundle $\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{L}_1^{\Delta_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{L}_n^{\Delta_n}$ over $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(m)$.

Then, the previous statements about connections and Chern forms on line bundles \mathcal{L}_i can be written as: [Park, Takhtajan, Teo '15/ Takhtajan, Zograf '18/ B.T., Naseh, Allameh '23]

1. In a local holomorphic frame, the canonical connection on the Hermitian \mathbb{Q} -line bundle (\mathcal{L}, H) is given by

$$\partial \log H = \frac{-2}{\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{3g-3+n} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_i d_{i,j}}_{d_j} dt_j.$$

2. The first Chern form of the \mathbb{Q} -Hermitian line bundle (\mathcal{L}, H) is given by

$$c_1(\mathcal{L}, H) = \frac{4}{3} \omega_{TZ}^{cusp} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \Delta_i m_i \omega_{TZ,i}^{ell}.$$

Main Results

Classical Liouville Action on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$

Combining the previous discussions, we conclude that the combination $\mathcal{S}_m[\phi] := S_m[\phi] - \pi \log H$ determines a **smooth real-valued function on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$** ! This means that $\exp(-\mathcal{S}_m[\phi])$ gives the correct classical contribution to the correlation function of heavy Liouville vertex operators.

Theorem (B.T., Naseh, Allameh)

Let ∂ and $\bar{\partial}$ be the $(1,0)$ and $(0,1)$ components of the de Rham differential on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$. The following statements hold:

1. The function $\mathcal{S}_m[\phi]$ on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ satisfies $\partial \mathcal{S}_m[\phi] = 2\mathcal{R}$ where

$$\mathcal{R} = \sum_{i=1}^{3g-3+n} (-\pi c_i + d_i) dt_i,$$

is a $(1,0)$ -form on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$.

2. The function $-\mathcal{S}_m[\phi]$ on $\mathfrak{S}_{g,n}(\mathbf{m})$ is a potential for the special combination of Weil-Petersson and Takhtajan-Zograf metrics:

$$-\bar{\partial} \partial \mathcal{S}_m[\phi] = 2\sqrt{-1} \left(\omega_{WP} - \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \omega_{TZ}^{cusp} - \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_e} \Delta_i m_i \omega_{TZ,i}^{ell} \right).$$

Questions?

Thank you!

Development pair

