

Algebra of the Infrared: Massive $d=2$ $N=(2,2)$ QFT

- or -

A short ride with a big machine

KITP, March, 2014

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collaboration with

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draft is ``nearly finished''...

Three Motivations

1. IR sector of massive 1+1 QFT with $N=(2,2)$ SUSY

2. Knot homology.

3. Categorification of 2d/4d wall-crossing formula.

(A unification of the Cecotti-Vafa and Kontsevich-Soibelman formulae.)

$d=2, N=(2,2)$ SUSY

$$\{Q_+, \overline{Q_+}\} = H + P$$

$$\{Q_-, \overline{Q_-}\} = H - P$$

$$\{Q_+, Q_-\} = \bar{Z}$$

$$[F, Q_+] = Q_+ \quad [F, \overline{Q_-}] = \overline{Q_-}$$

We will be interested in situations where two supersymmetries are unbroken:

$$U(\zeta) := Q_+ - \zeta^{-1} \overline{Q_-}$$

$$\{U(\zeta), \overline{U(\zeta)}\} = 2 (H - \text{Re}(\zeta^{-1} Z))$$

Outline

- Introduction & Motivations
- Some Review of LG Theory
- Goals, Results, Questions Old & New
- LG Theory as SQM
- Boosted Solitons & Soliton Fans
- Web-based Formalism
- Summary & Outlook

Example: LG Models - 1

$\phi, \psi_{\pm}, \bar{\psi}_{\pm}, \dots$ Chiral superfield

$W(\phi)$ Holomorphic superpotential

$$S = \int d\phi * d\phi - |\nabla W|^2 + \dots$$

Massive vacua are Morse critical points:

$$dW(\phi_i) = 0 \quad W''(\phi_i) \neq 0$$

Example: LG Models -2

More generally,...

(X, ω) : Kähler manifold. (Simplify: $\omega = d\lambda$)

$W: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ Superpotential (A holomorphic Morse function)

$$\phi : D \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$$

$$D = \mathbb{R}, [x_\ell, \infty), (-\infty, x_r], [x_\ell, x_r], S^1$$

Boundary conditions for ϕ

Boundaries at infinity:

$\phi \rightarrow \phi_i$	$\phi \rightarrow \phi_j$
$x \rightarrow -\infty$	$x \rightarrow +\infty$

Boundaries at finite distance: Preserve ζ -susy:

$$\phi|_{x_\ell, x_r} \in \mathcal{L} \subset X$$
$$\iota_{\mathcal{L}}^*(\lambda) = dk$$
$$\pm \text{Im}(\zeta^{-1}W) \geq \Lambda$$

Fields Preserving ζ -SUSY

$U(\zeta)[\text{Fermi}] = 0$ implies the ζ -instanton equation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \right) \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \bar{\phi}^{\bar{J}}}$$

Time-independent: ζ -soliton equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \bar{\phi}^{\bar{J}}}$$

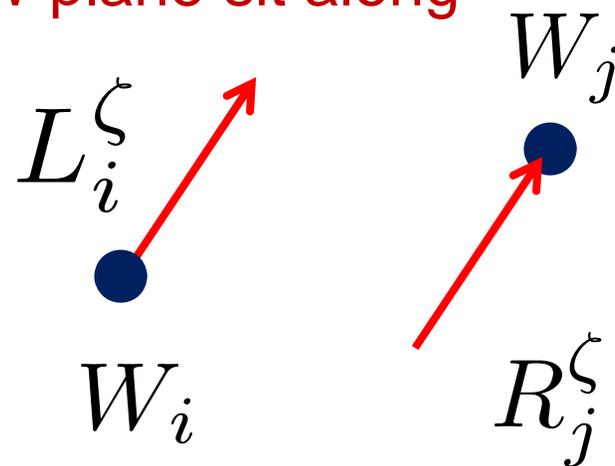
Lefschetz Thimbles

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi^{\bar{J}}}$$

The projection of solutions to the complex W plane sit along straight lines of slope ζ

If D contains $x \rightarrow -\infty$ $\phi \rightarrow \phi_i$

If D contains $x \rightarrow +\infty$ $\phi \rightarrow \phi_j$



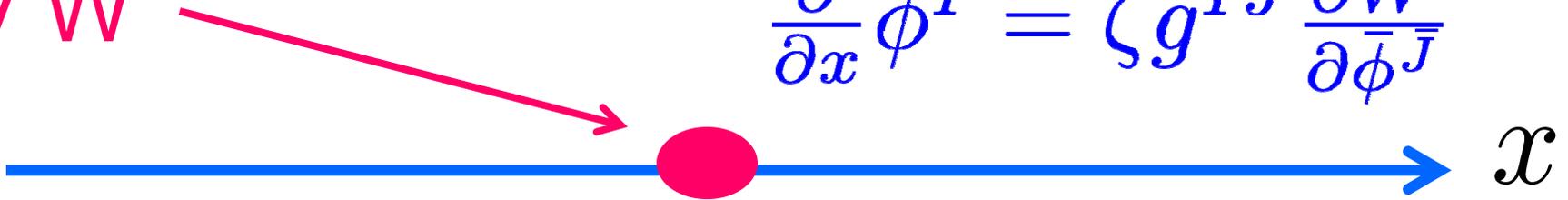
Inverse image in X of all solutions defines left and right Lefschetz thimbles

They are Lagrangian subvarieties of X

Scale set Solitons For $D=\mathbb{R}$

Scale set
by W

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi^{\bar{J}}}$$



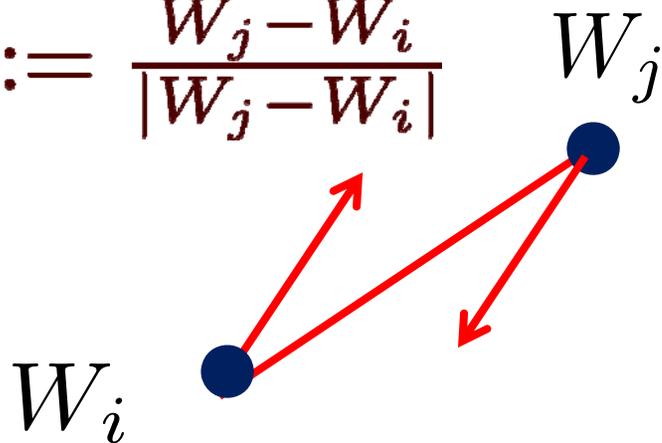
$$\phi \cong \phi_i$$

$$\phi \cong \phi_j$$

For general ζ there is no solution.

But for a suitable phase there is a solution

$$\zeta = \zeta_{ji} := \frac{W_j - W_i}{|W_j - W_i|}$$



This is the classical soliton.
There is one for each intersection (Cecotti & Vafa)

$$p \in L_i^\zeta \cap R_j^\zeta$$

(in the fiber of a regular value)

Witten Index

Some classical solitons are lifted by instanton effects, but the Witten index:

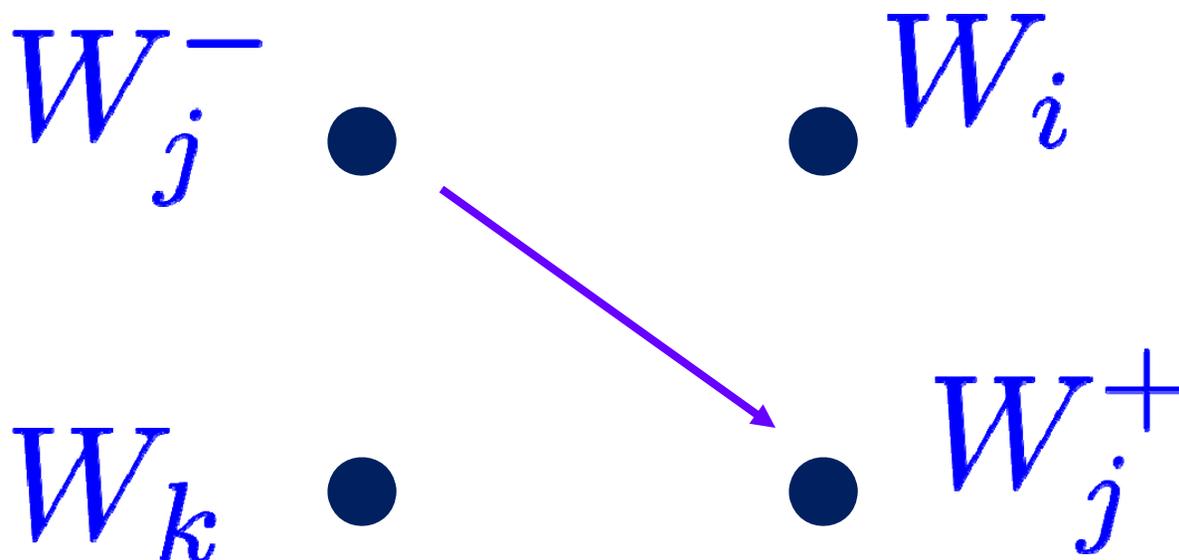
$$\mu_{ij} := \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{ij}^{BPS}} (-1)^F$$

can be computed with a signed sum over classical solitons:

$$\mu_{ij} = \sum_{p \in L_i^\zeta \cap R_j^\zeta} (-1)^{\iota(p)}$$

These BPS indices were studied by [Cecotti, Fendley, Intriligator, Vafa and by Cecotti & Vafa]. They found the wall-crossing phenomena:

Given a one-parameter family of W 's:



$$\mu_{ik}^- \rightarrow \mu_{ik}^+ = \mu_{ik}^- + \mu_{ij} \mu_{jk}$$

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Goals & Results - 1

Goal: Say everything we can about the theory in the far IR.

Since the theory is massive this would appear to be trivial.

Result: When we take into account the BPS states there is an extremely rich mathematical structure.

We develop a formalism – which we call the “web-based formalism” – (that’s the “big machine”) - which shows that:

Goals & Results - 2

BPS states have “interaction amplitudes” governed by an L_∞ algebra

(That is, using just IR data we can define an L_∞ - algebra and there are “interaction amplitudes” of BPS states that define a solution to the Maurer-Cartan equation of that algebra.)

There is an A_∞ category of branes/boundary conditions, with amplitudes for emission of BPS particles from the boundary governed by an A_∞ algebra.

(A_∞ and L_∞ are mathematical structures which play an important role in open and closed string field theory, respectively. Strangely, they show up here.)

Goals & Results - 3

If we have continuous families of theories (e.g. a continuous family of LG superpotentials) then we can construct half-supersymmetric interfaces between the theories.

These interfaces can be used to “implement” wall-crossing.

Half-susy interfaces form an A_∞ 2-category, and to a continuous family of theories we associate a flat parallel transport of brane categories.

The flatness of this connection implies, and is a categorification of, the 2d wall-crossing formula.





**EMERGENCY
EXIT ONLY**



Some Old Questions

What are the BPS states
on \mathbb{R} in sector ij ?

$\mathcal{H}_{ij}^{\text{BPS}}$

Fendley & Intriligator; Cecotti, Fendley, Intriligator, Vafa; Cecotti & Vafa c. 1991

Some refinements. Main new point: L_∞ structure

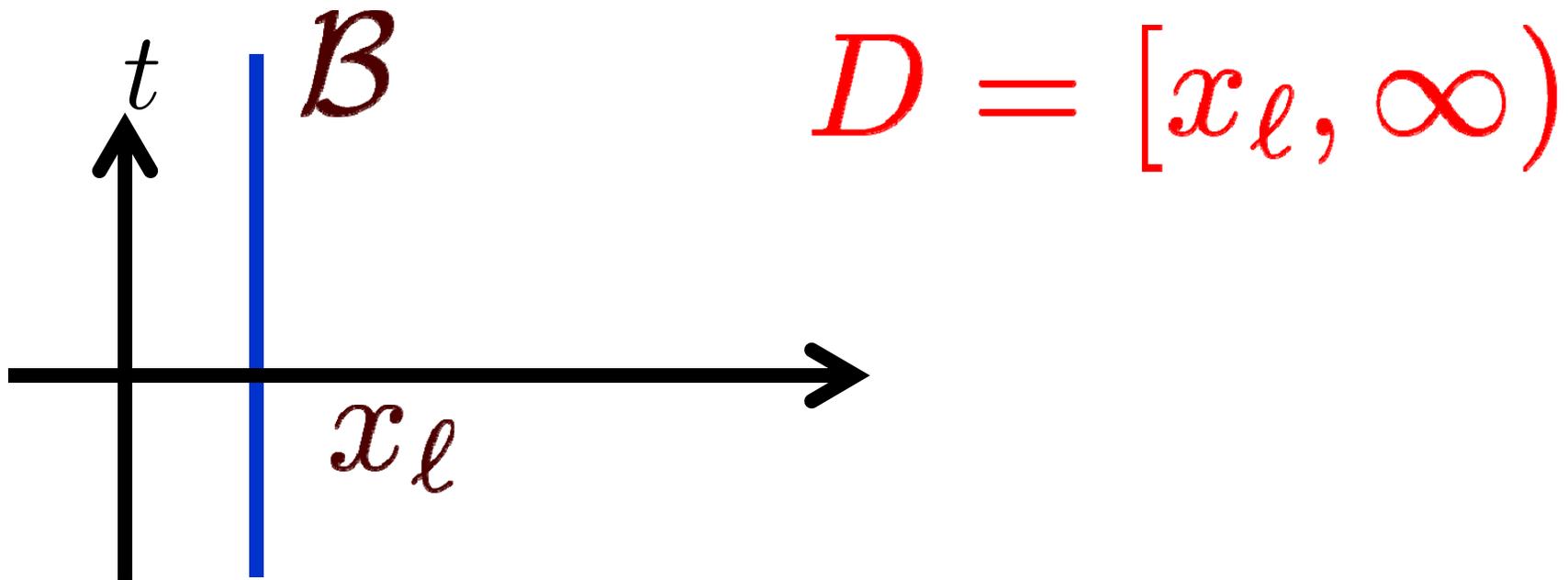
What are the branes/half-BPS
boundary conditions ?

\mathcal{B}

Hori, Iqbal, Vafa c. 2000 & Much mathematical work on A-branes and Fukaya-Seidel categories.

We clarify the relation to the Fukaya-Seidel category & construct category of branes from IR.

Some New Questions -1

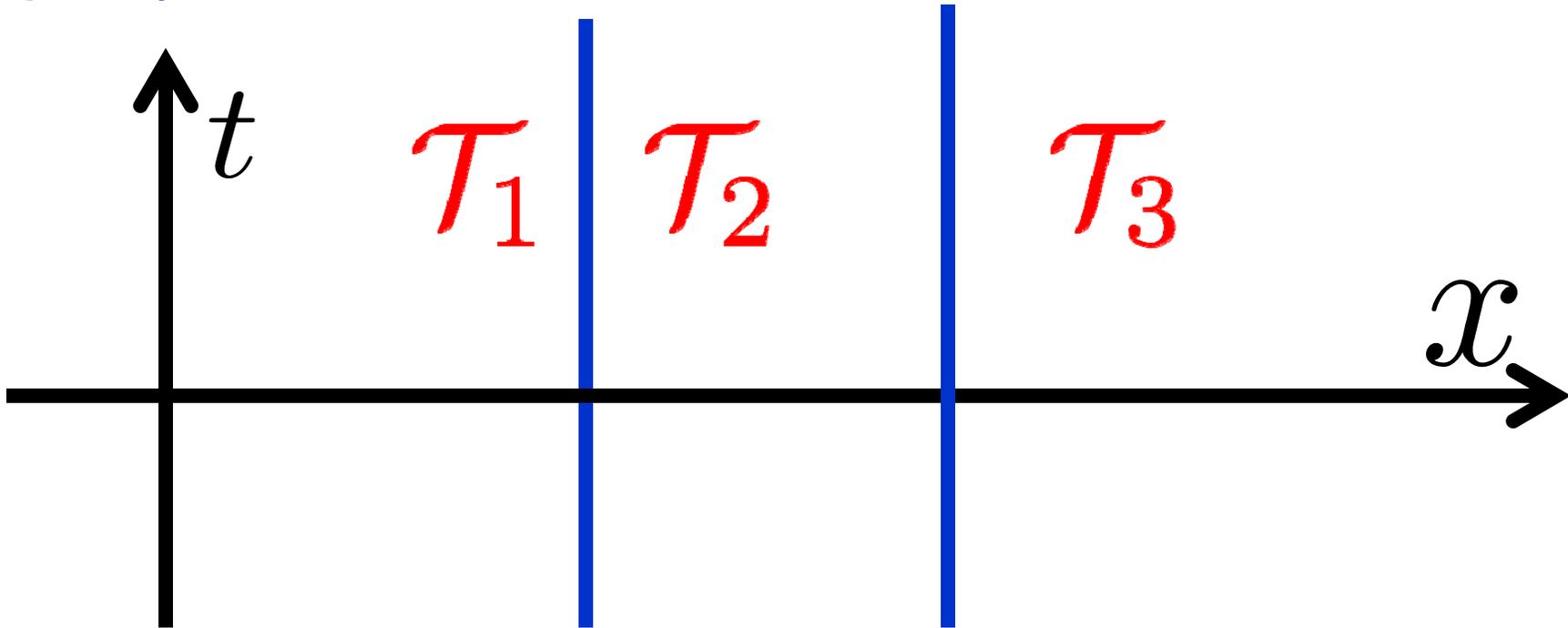


What are the BPS states on the half-line ?

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{B},j}^{\text{BPS}}$$

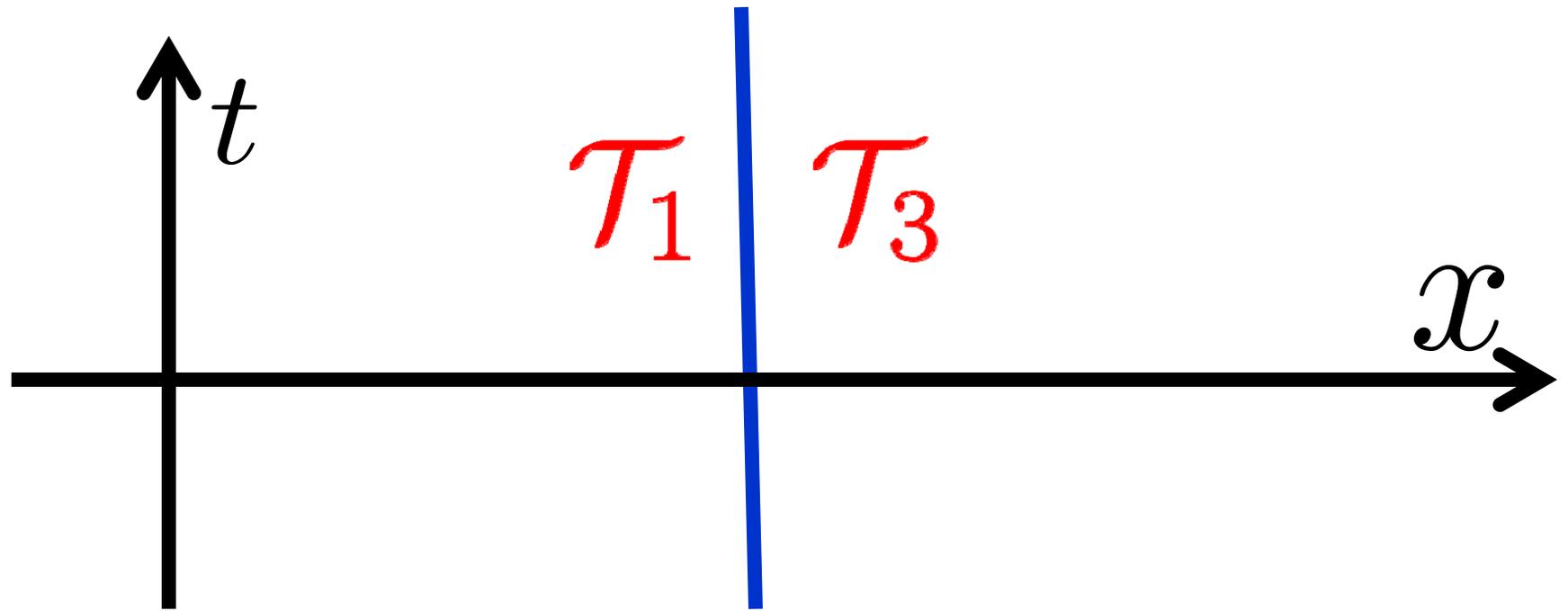
Some New Questions - 2

Given a pair of theories $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$ what are the supersymmetric interfaces?



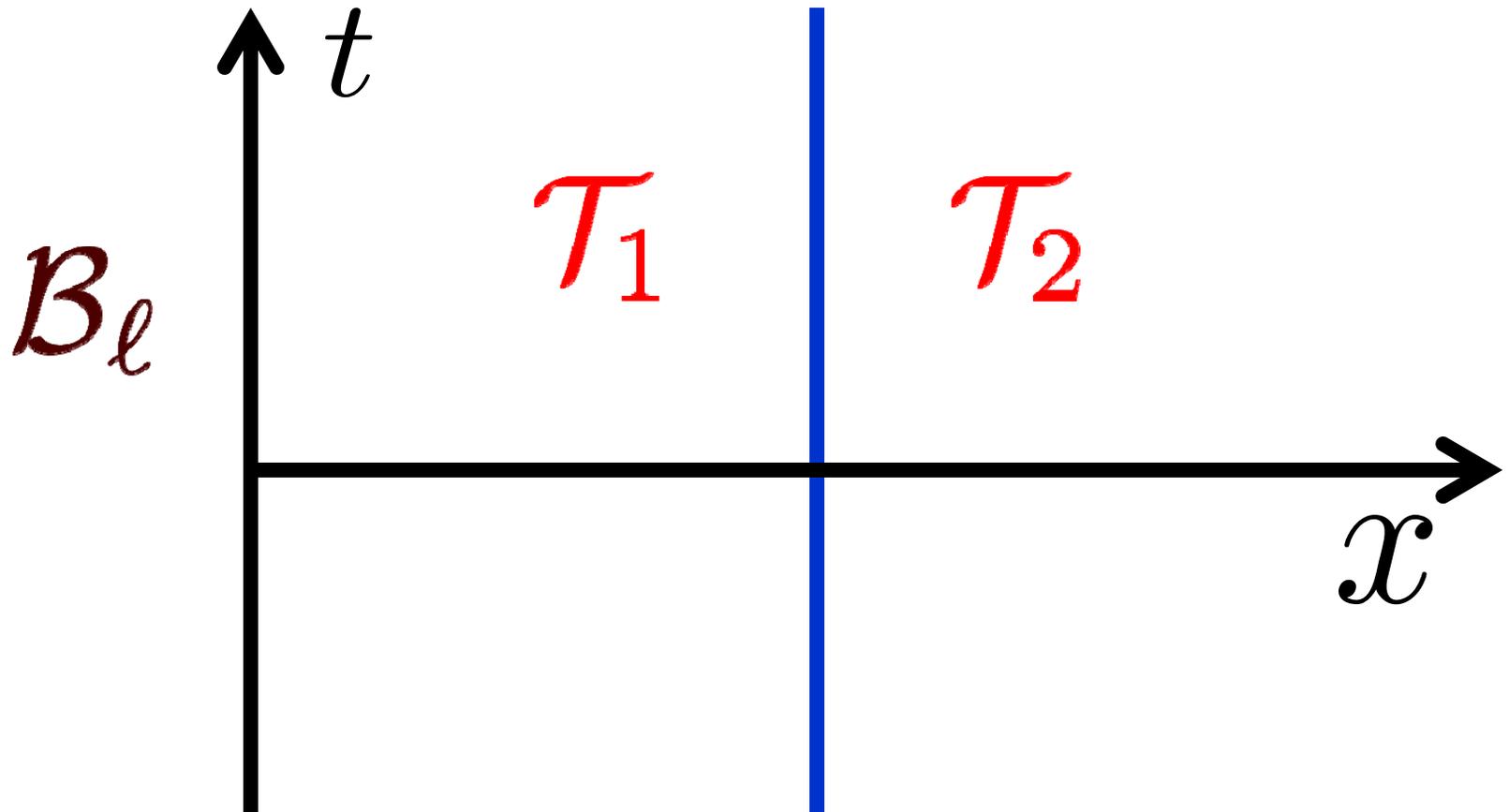
Is there an (associative) way of “multiplying” interfaces to produce new ones? And how do you compute it?

Some New Questions - 3



We give a method to compute the product. It can be considered associative, once one introduces a suitable notion of “homotopy equivalence” of interfaces.

Some New Questions - 4



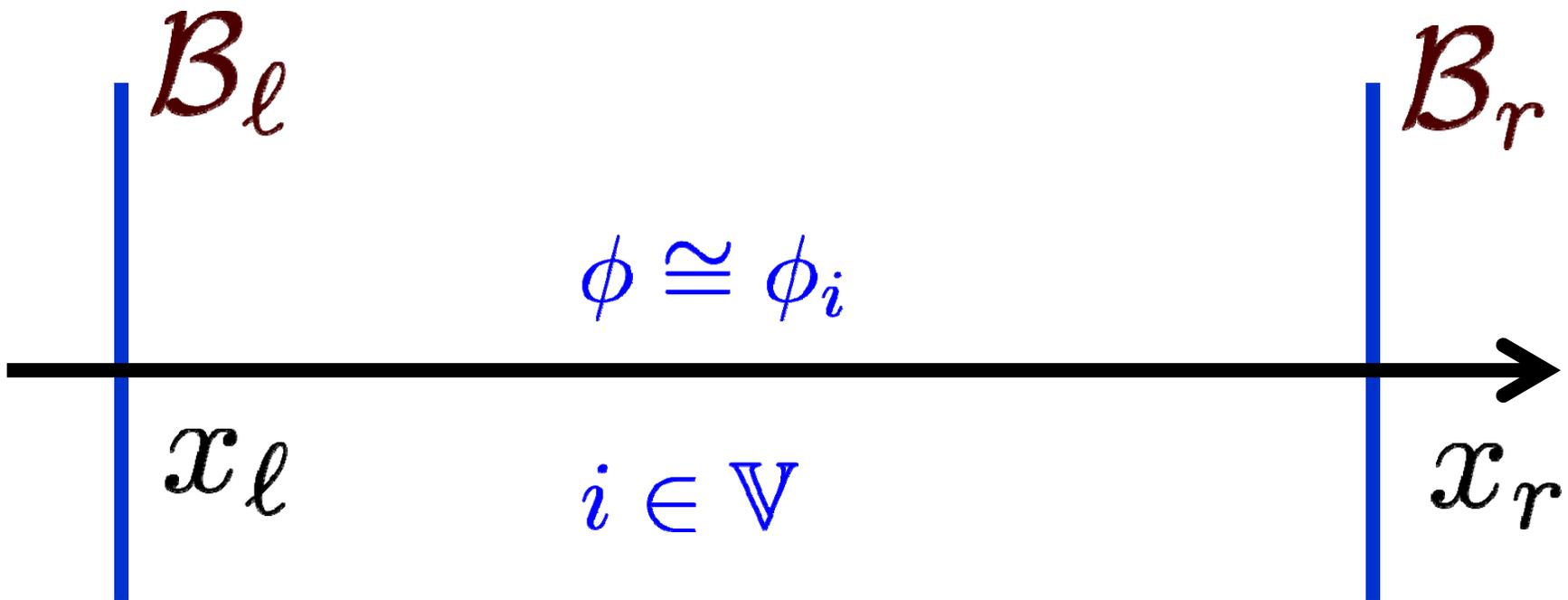
There is a way of using interfaces to “map” branes in theory \mathcal{T}_1 , to branes in theory \mathcal{T}_2 ?

Example of a surprise:

What is the space of BPS states on an interval ?

The theory is massive:

For a susy state, the field in the middle of a large interval is close to a vacuum:



Does the Problem Factorize?

For the Witten index: Yes

$$\mu_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, i} = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, i}^{\text{BPS}}} (-1)^F e^{-\beta H}$$

$$\mu_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, \mathcal{B}_r} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{V}} \mu_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, i} \cdot \mu_{i, \mathcal{B}_r}$$

For the BPS states?

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, \mathcal{B}_r}^{\text{BPS}} \neq \sum_{i \in \mathbb{V}} \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{B}_\ell, i}^{\text{BPS}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{i, \mathcal{B}_r}^{\text{BPS}} \quad \text{No!}$$

Enough with vague generalities!

Now I will start to be more systematic.

The key ideas behind everything we do come from Morse theory.

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SQM & Morse Theory (Witten: 1982)

M : Riemannian; $h: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, Morse function

SQM: $q: \mathbb{R}_{\text{time}} \rightarrow M \quad \chi \in \Gamma(q^*(TM \otimes \mathbb{C}))$

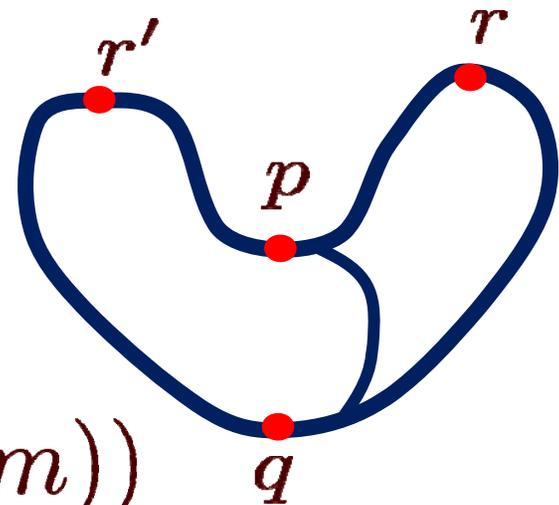
$$L = g_{IJ} \dot{q}^I \dot{q}^J - g^{IJ} \partial_I h \partial_J h$$

$$+ g_{IJ} \bar{\chi}^I D_t \chi^J - g^{IJ} D_I D_J h \bar{\chi}^I \chi^J - R_{IJKL} \bar{\chi}^I \chi^J \bar{\chi}^K \chi^L$$

Perturbative
vacua:

$$dh(m) = 0$$

$$\longrightarrow \Psi(m)$$



$$F(\Psi(m)) = \frac{1}{2} (d_{\uparrow}(m) - d_{\downarrow}(m))$$

Instantons & MSW Complex

Instanton equation:
$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau} = -g^{IJ} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \phi^J}$$

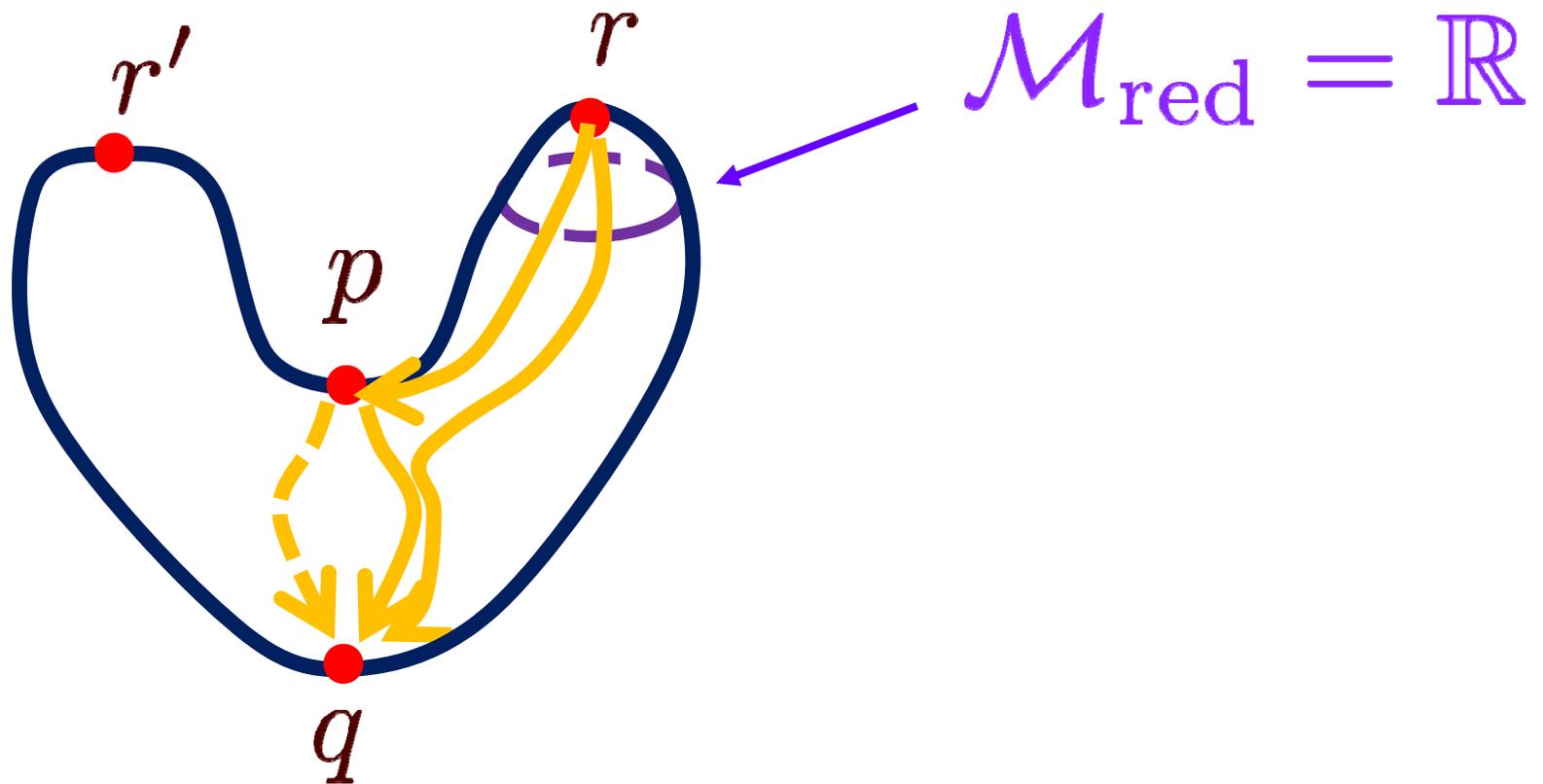
“Rigid instantons” - with zero reduced moduli – will lift some perturbative vacua. To compute exact vacua:

MSW complex:
$$\mathbb{M}^\bullet := \bigoplus_{p: dh(p)=0} \mathbb{Z} \cdot \Psi(p)$$

$$d(\Psi(p)) = \sum_{p': F(p') - F(p) = 1} n(p, p') \Psi(p')$$

Space of groundstates (BPS states) is the cohomology.

Why $d^2 = 0$



Ends of the moduli space correspond to broken flows which cancel each other in computing $d^2 = 0$. A similar argument shows independence of the cohomology from h and g_{IJ} .

1+1 LG Model as SQM

Target space for SQM:

$$M = \text{Map}(D, X) = \{\phi : D \rightarrow X\}$$

$$D = \mathbb{R}, [x_\ell, \infty), (-\infty, x_r], [x_\ell, x_r], S^1$$

$$h = \int_D (\phi^* \lambda + \text{Re}(\zeta^{-1} W) dx)$$

$$d\lambda = \omega \quad \lambda = pdq$$

Recover the standard 1+1 LG model with superpotential: Two –dimensional ζ -susy algebra is manifest.

Families of Theories

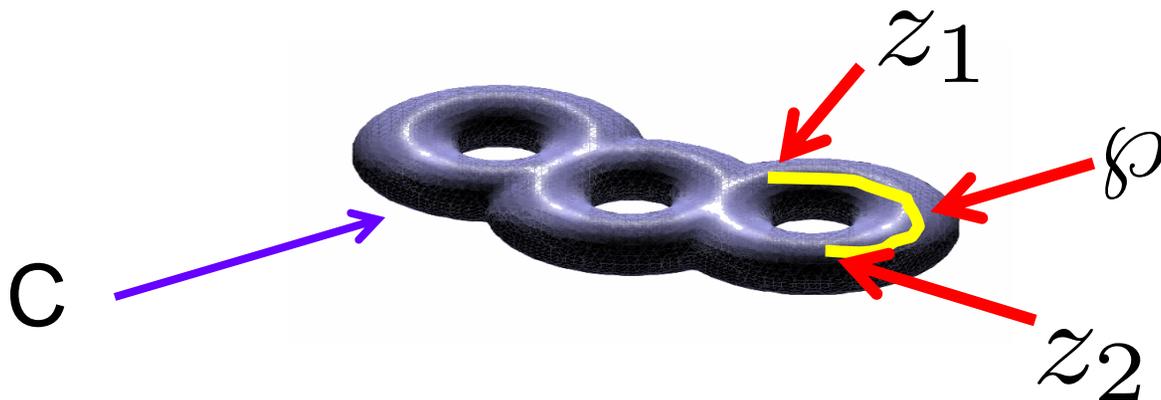
This presentation makes construction of half-susy interfaces easy:

Consider a family of Morse functions

$$W(\phi; z) \quad z \in C$$

Let ϕ be a path in C connecting z_1 to z_2 .

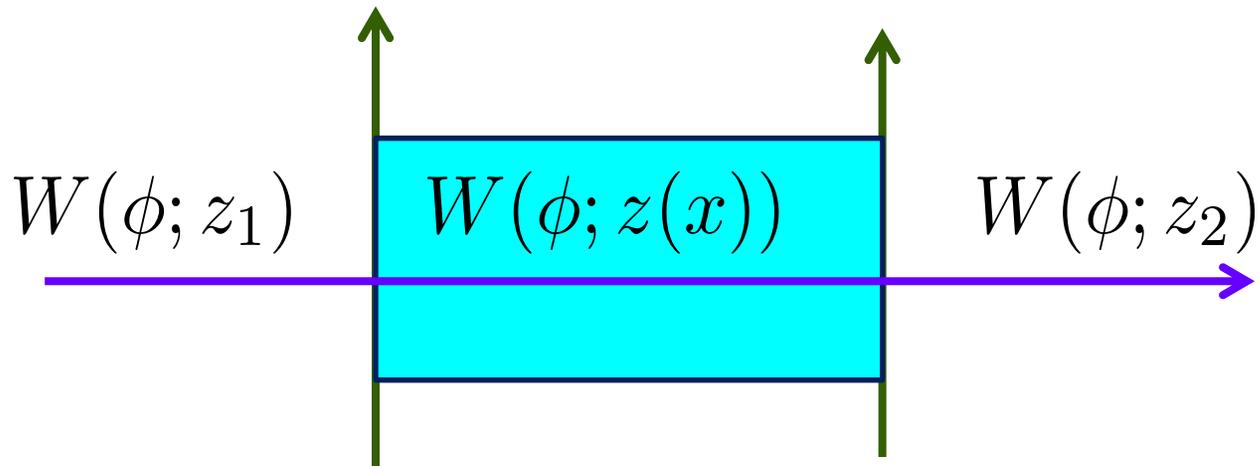
View it as a map $z: [x_l, x_r] \rightarrow C$ with $z(x_l) = z_1$ and $z(x_r) = z_2$



Domain Wall/Interface

Using $z(x)$ we can still formulate our SQM!

$$h = \int_D (\phi^* (pdq) + \text{Re}(\zeta^{-1} W(\phi; z(x))) dx)$$



From this construction it manifestly preserves two supersymmetries.

MSW Complex

Now return to a single W . Another good thing about this presentation is that we can discuss ij solitons in the framework of Morse theory:



$$\frac{\delta h}{\delta \phi} = 0 \quad \text{Equivalent to the } \zeta\text{-soliton equation}$$

$$\mathbb{M}_{ij} = \bigoplus_{\text{solitons}} \mathbb{Z} \cdot \Psi_{ij}$$

(Taking some shortcuts here....)

$$D = \sigma^3 i \frac{d}{dx} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\zeta^{-1}}{2} W'' + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \frac{\zeta}{2} \bar{W}''$$

$$F = -\frac{1}{2} \eta (D - \epsilon)$$

Instantons

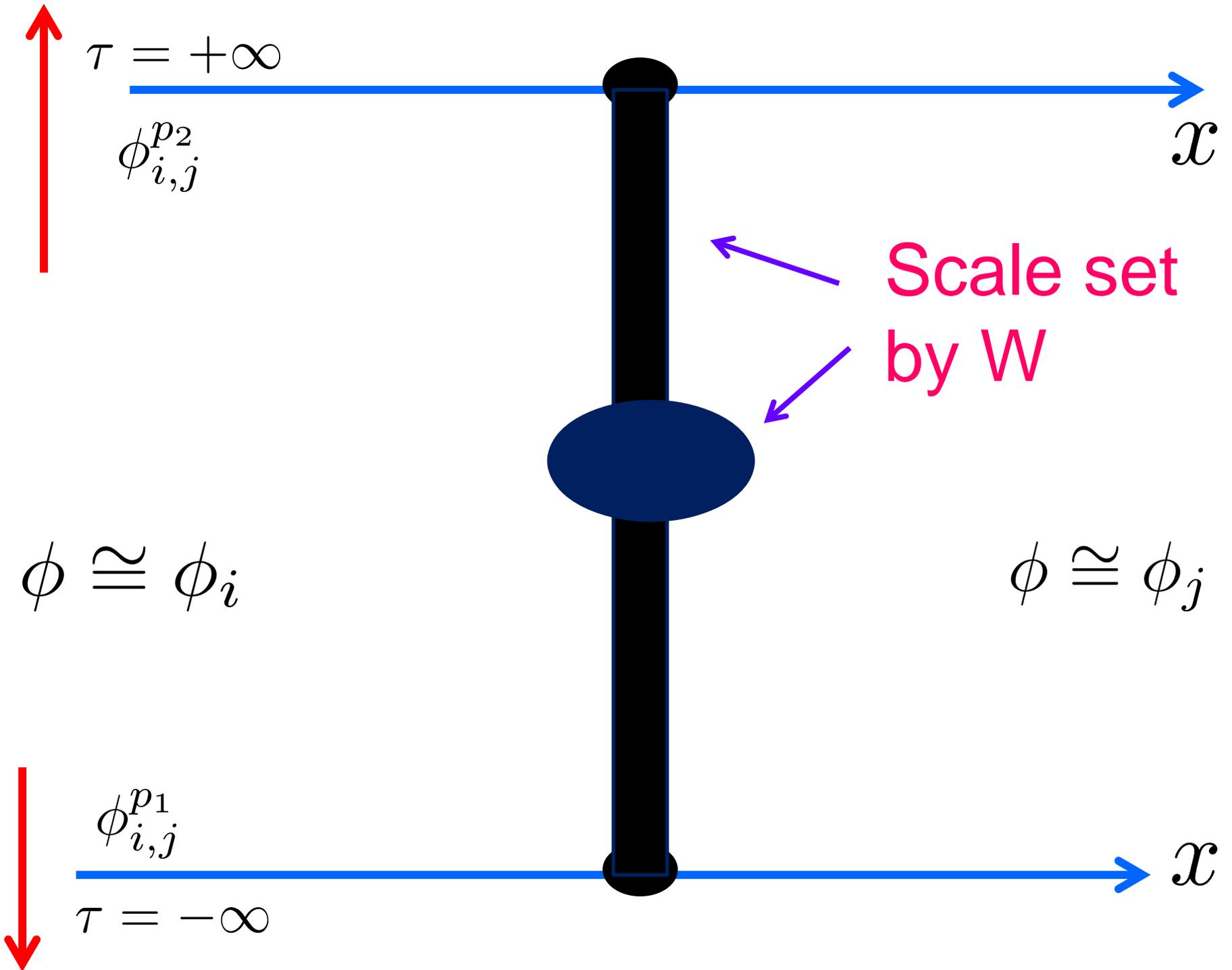
Instanton equation $\frac{d\phi}{d\tau} = -\frac{\delta h}{\delta \phi}$

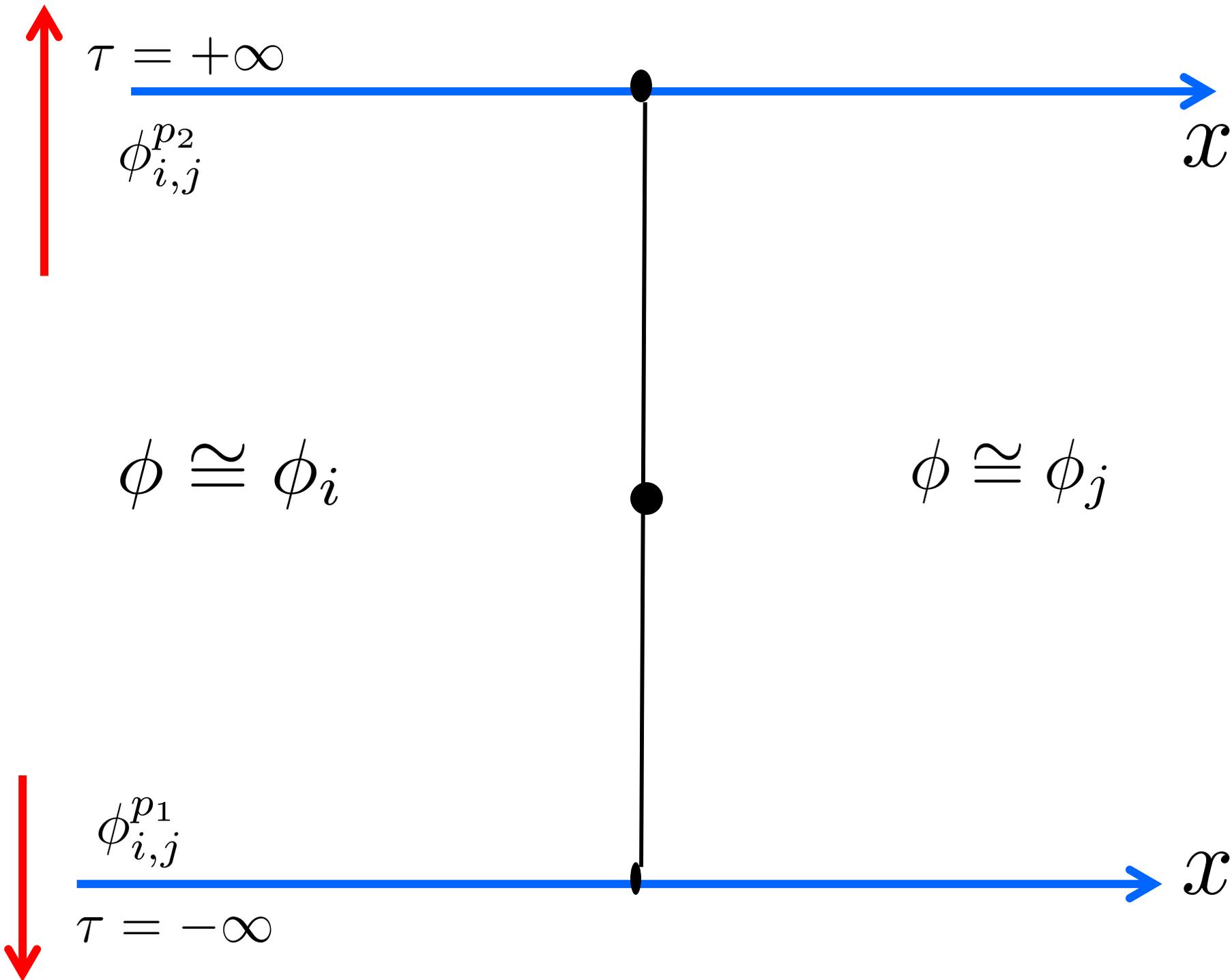
$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau}\right) \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi^{\bar{J}}}$$

$$\bar{\partial} \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi^{\bar{J}}}$$

At short distance scales W is irrelevant and we have the usual holomorphic map equation.

At long distances the theory is almost trivial since it has a mass scale, and it is dominated by the vacua of W .





BPS Solitons on half-line D:

Semiclassically:

Q_ζ -preserving BPS states must be solutions of differential equation

$$\frac{\partial \phi^I}{\partial x} = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \bar{\phi}^{\bar{J}}}$$

$$\phi|_{x_\ell} \in \mathcal{L}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &\rightarrow \phi_j \\ x &\rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

Classical solitons on the positive half-line are labeled by:

$$p \in \mathcal{L} \cap R_j^\zeta$$

Quantum Half-Line Solitons

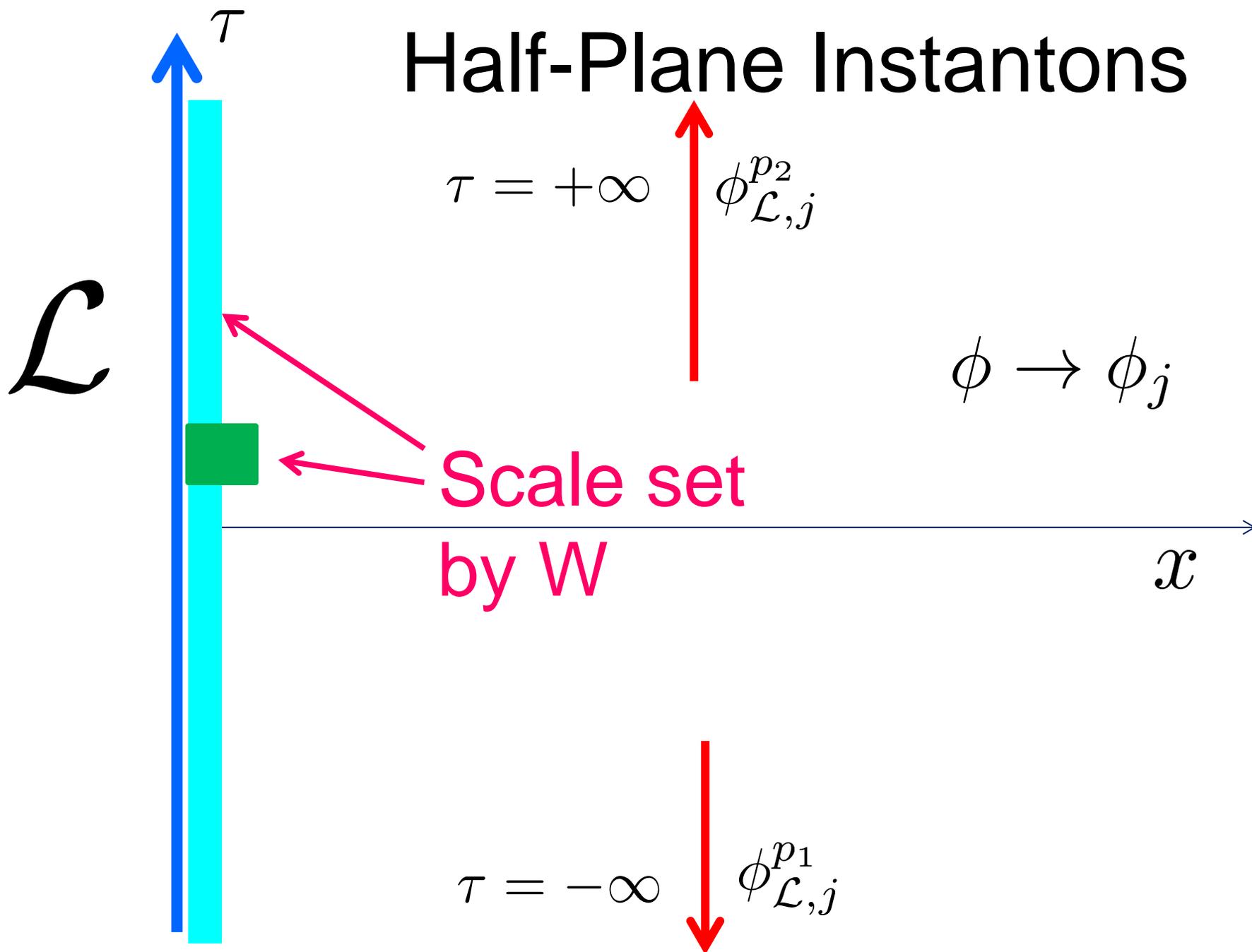
MSW complex: $M_{\mathcal{L},j} = \bigoplus_p \mathbb{Z} \cdot \Psi_{\mathcal{L},j}(p)$

Grading the complex: Assume X is CY and that we can find a logarithm:

$$w = \operatorname{Im} \log \frac{\iota^*(\Omega^{d,0})}{\operatorname{vol}(\mathcal{L})}$$

Then the grading is by $f = \eta(D) - w$

Half-Plane Instantons



Solitons On The Interval

Now return to the puzzle about the finite interval $[x_l, x_r]$ with boundary conditions $\mathcal{L}_l, \mathcal{L}_r$

When the interval is much longer than the scale set by W the MSW complex is

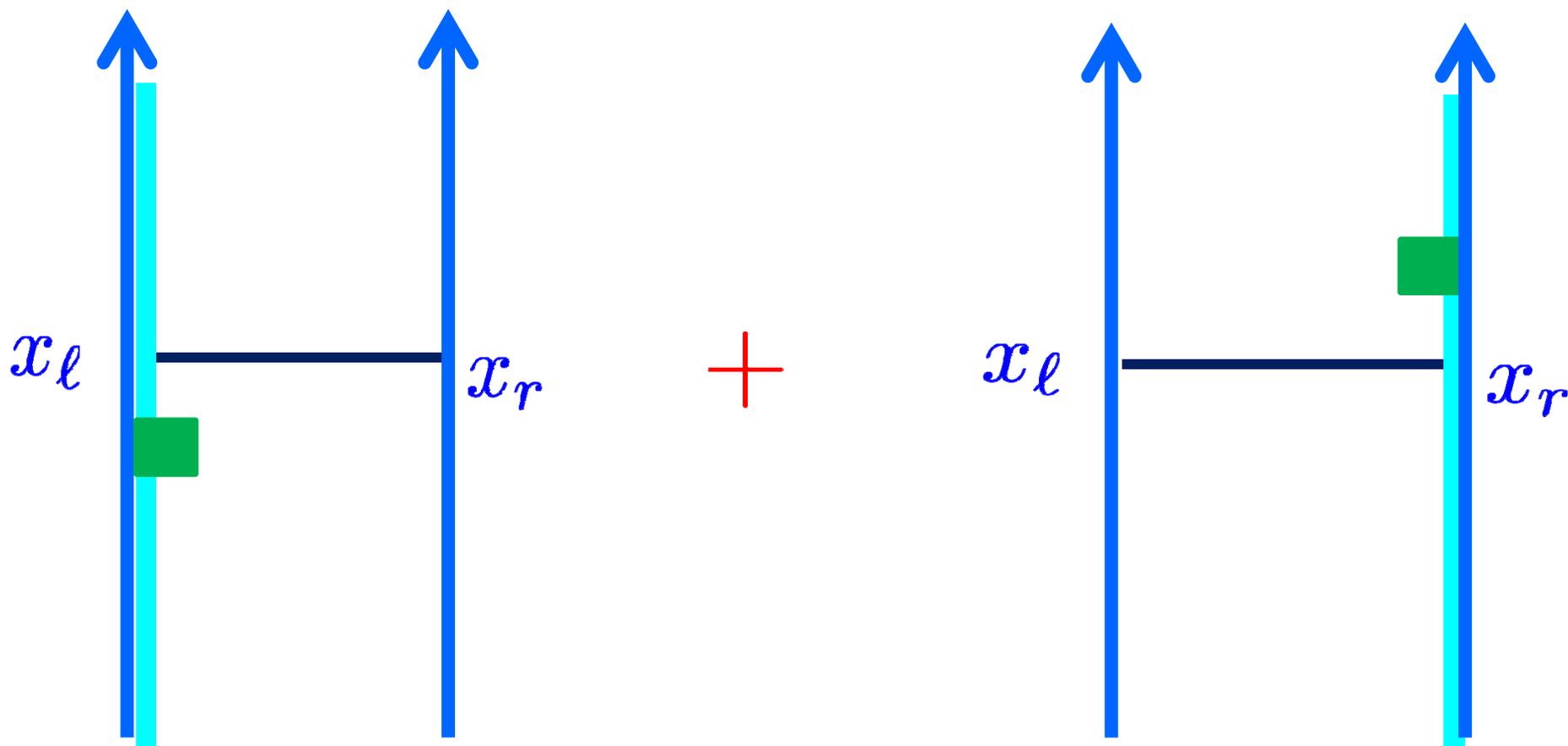
$$\mathbb{M}_{\mathcal{L}_l, \mathcal{L}_r} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{V}} \mathbb{M}_{\mathcal{L}_l, i} \otimes \mathbb{M}_{i, \mathcal{L}_r}$$

The Witten index factorizes nicely: $\mu_{\mathcal{L}_l, \mathcal{L}_r} = \sum_i \mu_{\mathcal{L}_l, i} \mu_{i, \mathcal{L}_r}$

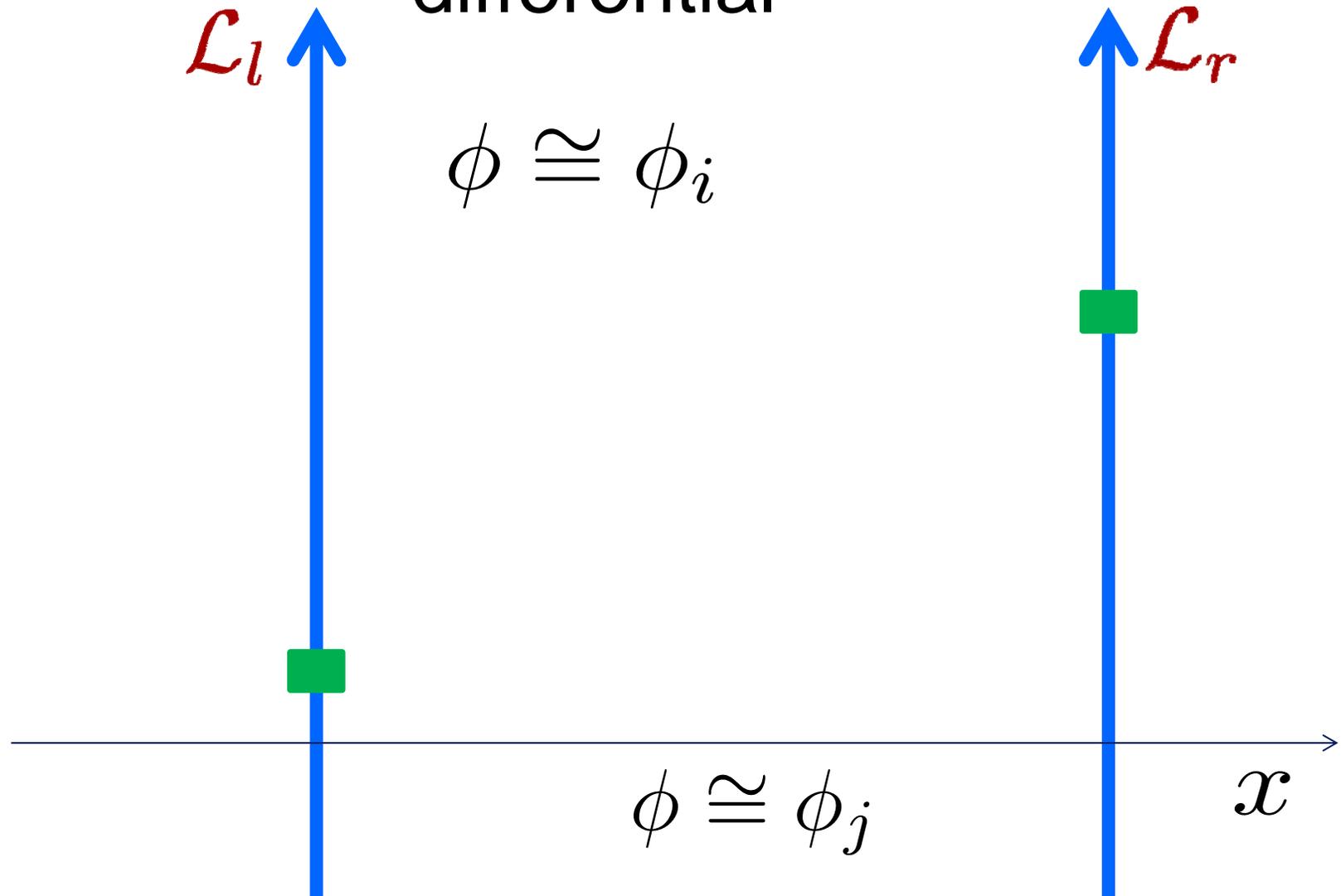
But the differential $d_{\mathcal{L}_l, i} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes d_{i, \mathcal{L}_r}$

is too naïve !

$$d_{\mathcal{L}_\ell, i} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes d_{i, \mathcal{L}_r}$$



Instanton corrections to the naïve differential



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- **Boosted Solitons & Soliton Fans**
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The Boosted Soliton - 1

We are interested in the ζ -instanton equation for a fixed generic ζ

We can still use the soliton to produce a solution for phase ζ

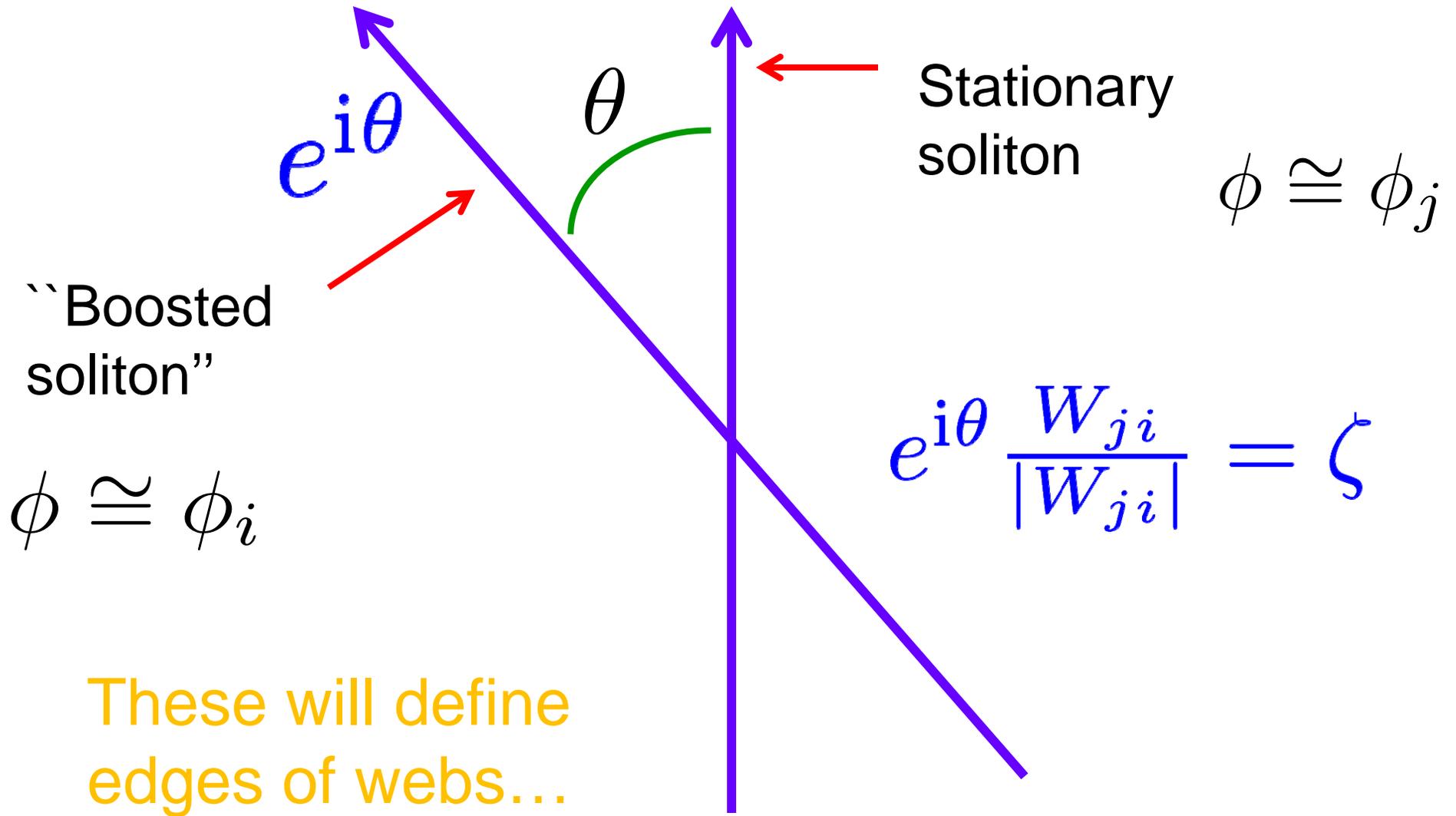
$$\phi_{ij}^{\text{inst}}(x, \tau) := \phi_{ij}^{\text{sol}}(\cos \theta x + \sin \theta \tau)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \right) \phi_{ij}^{\text{inst}} = e^{i\theta} \zeta_{ji} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi}$$

Therefore we produce a solution of the instanton equation with phase ζ if

$$\zeta = e^{i\theta} \zeta_{ji} \quad \zeta_{ji} := \frac{W_j - W_i}{|W_j - W_i|}$$

The Boosted Soliton -2



The Boosted Soliton - 3

Put differently, the stationary soliton in Minkowski space preserves the supersymmetry:

$$Q_+ - \zeta_{ij}^{-1} \overline{Q_-}$$

So a boosted soliton preserves supersymmetry :

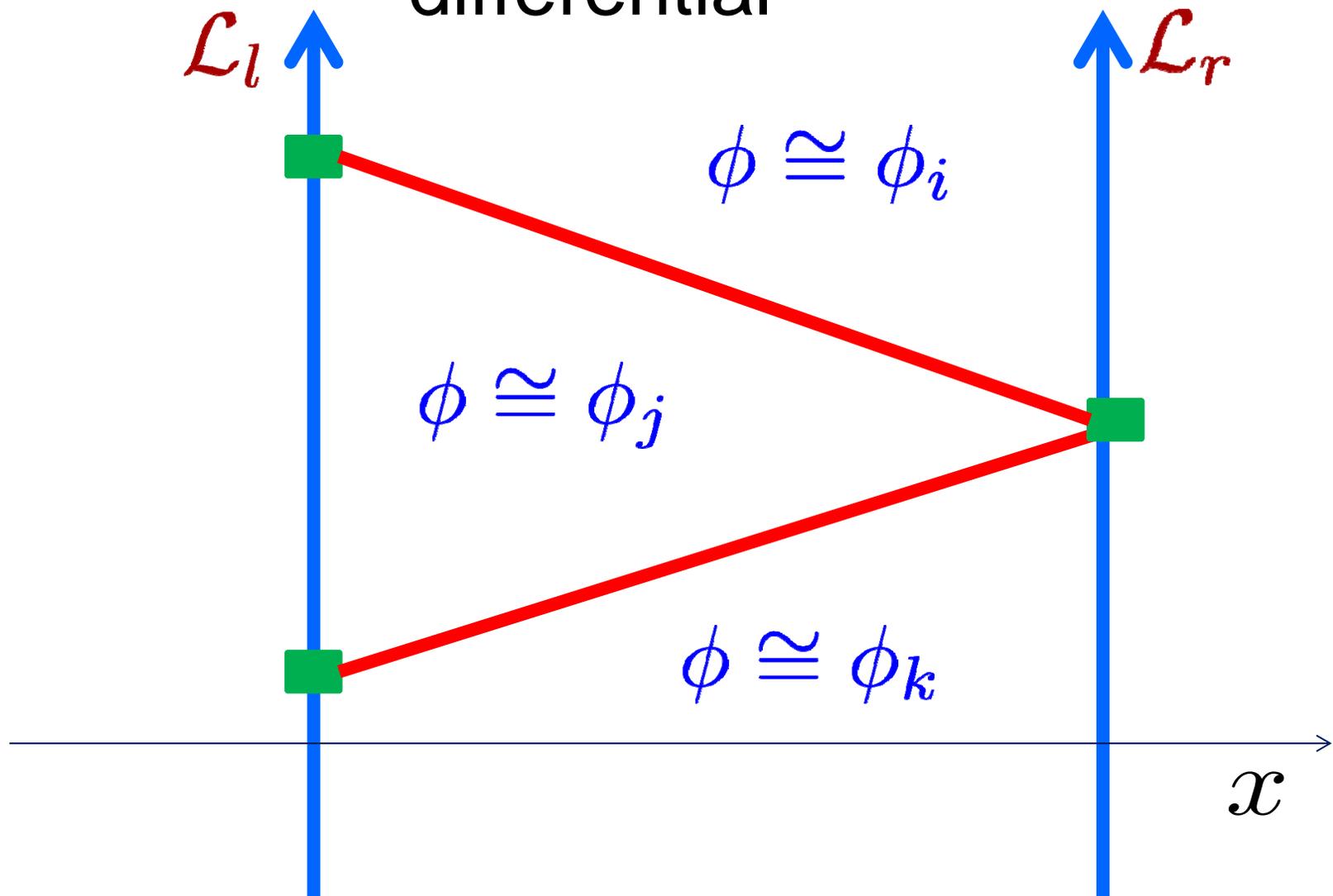
$$e^{\beta/2} Q_+ - \zeta_{ij}^{-1} e^{-\beta/2} \overline{Q_-}$$

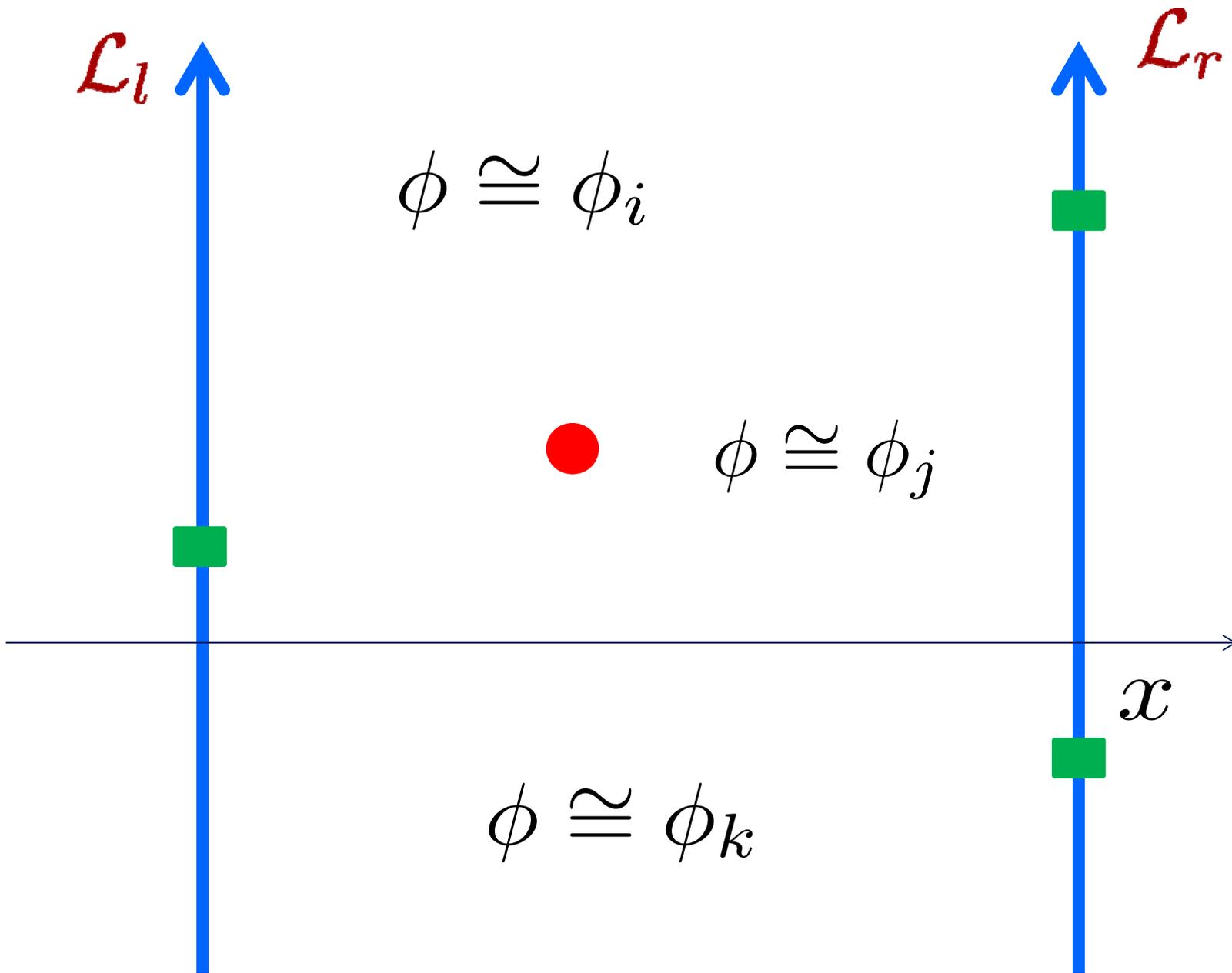
β is a real boost. In Euclidean space this becomes a rotation:

$$e^{i\theta/2} Q_+ - \zeta_{ij}^{-1} e^{-i\theta/2} \overline{Q_-}$$

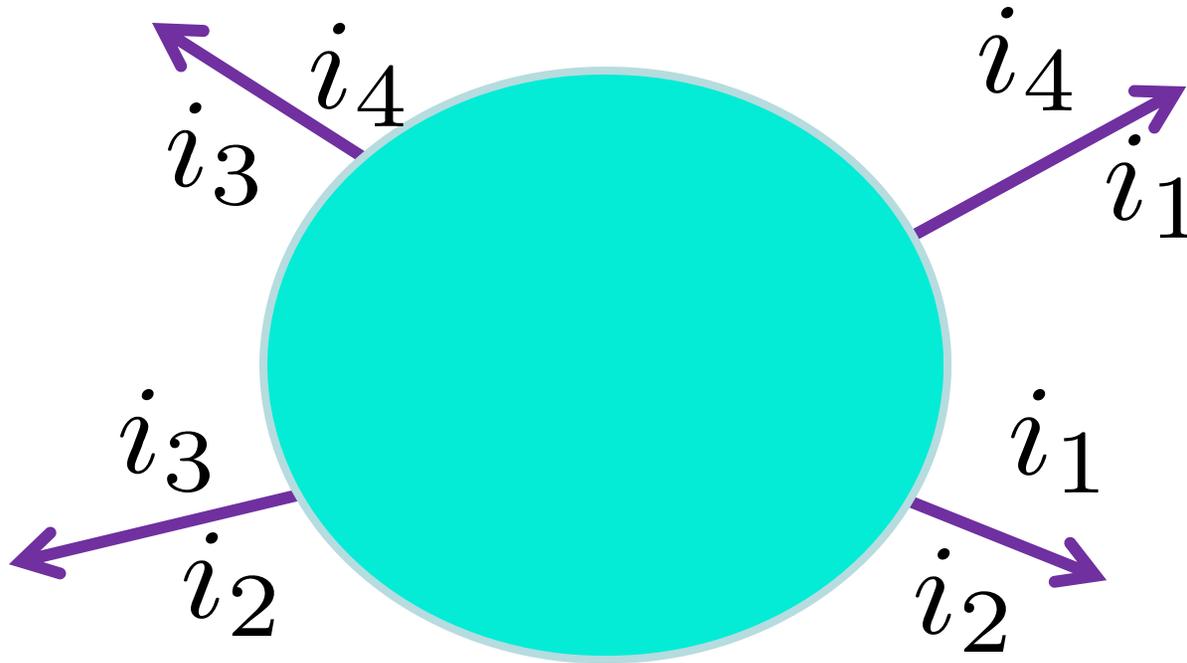
And for suitable θ this will preserve ζ -susy

More corrections to the naïve differential





Path integral on a large disk



Choose boundary conditions preserving ζ -supersymmetry:

Consider a cyclic “fan of vacua” $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$.

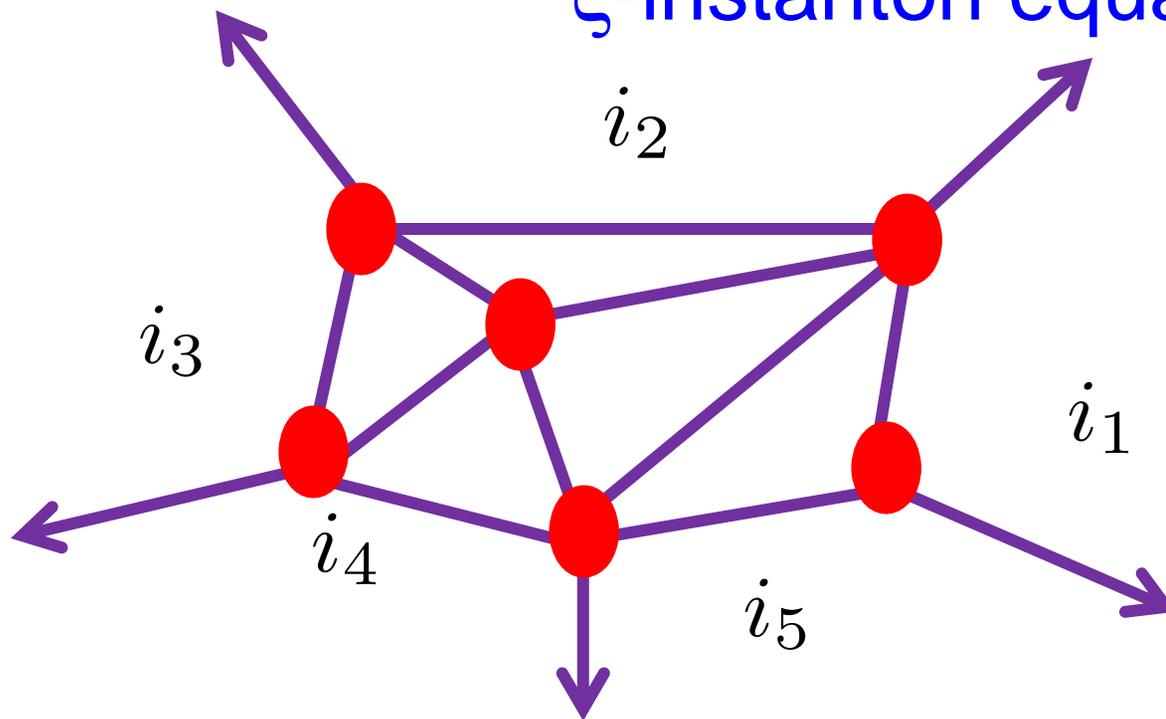
$$\mathcal{F} = \phi_{i_1 i_2}^{\text{inst}} \otimes \dots \otimes \phi_{i_n i_1}^{\text{inst}}$$

Ends of moduli space

Path integral localizes on moduli space of ζ -instantons with these boundary conditions:

$\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{F})$

This moduli space has several “ends” where solutions of the ζ -instanton equation look like



We call this picture a web: w

Path Integral With Fan Boundary Conditions

Just as in the Morse theory proof of $d^2=0$ using ends of moduli space corresponding to broken flows, here the broken flows correspond to webs w

Label the ends of $\mathcal{M}(F)$ by webs w . Each end produces a wavefunction $\Psi(w)$ associated to a web w .

The total wavefunction is
Q-invariant

$$Q \sum_w \Psi(w) = 0$$

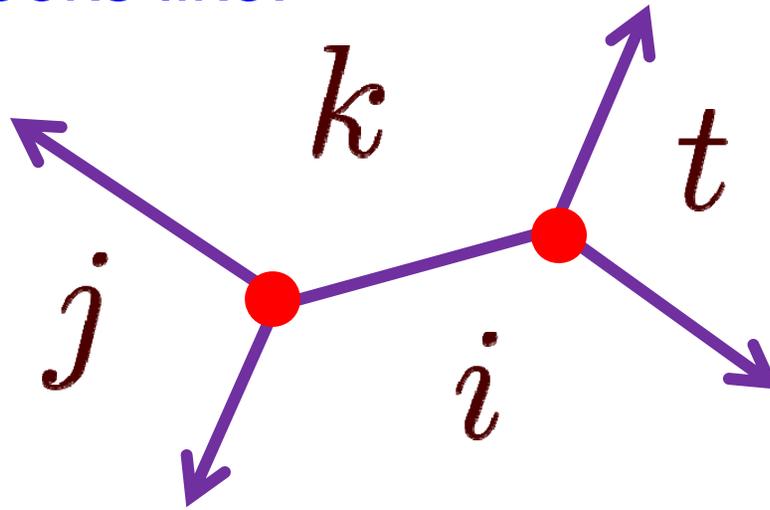
The wavefunctions $\Psi(w)$ are themselves constructed by gluing together wavefunctions $\Psi(r)$ associated with rigid webs r



L_∞ identities on the interior amplitude

Example:

Consider a fan of vacua $\{i,j,k,t\}$. One end of the moduli space looks like:



The red vertices are path integrals with rigid webs. They have amplitudes β_{ikt} and β_{ijk} .

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}_{transl}^2 \times \mathbb{R}_{scale}^+ \quad ?$$

Ends of Moduli Spaces in QFT

In LG theory (say, for $X = \mathbb{C}^n$) the moduli space cannot end like that.

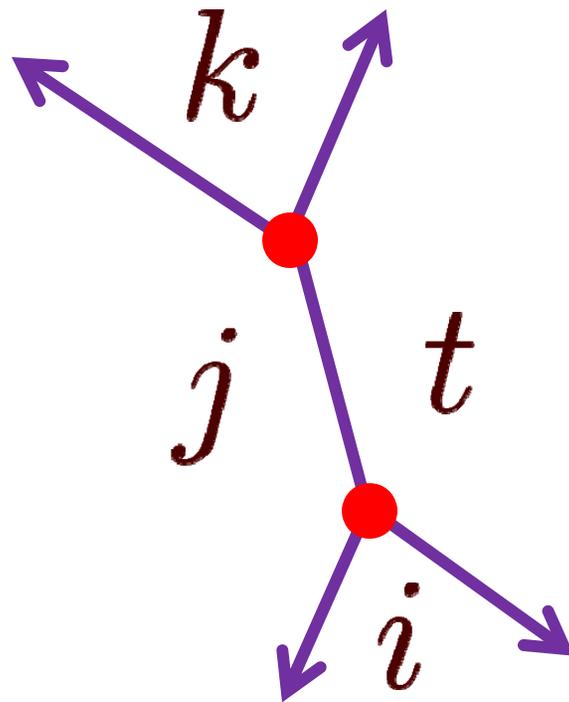
In QFT there can be three kinds of ends to moduli spaces of PDE's:

UV effect: Example: Instanton shrinks to zero size; bubbling in Gromov-Witten theory

Large field effect: Some field goes to ∞

Large distance effect: Something happens at large distances.

None of these three things can happen here.
So, there must be another end:



Amplitude: $\beta_{jkt} \beta_{ijt}$

The boundaries where the internal distance shrinks to zero must cancel leading to identities on the amplitudes like:

$$\beta_{ijk}\beta_{ikt} - \beta_{jkt}\beta_{ijt} = 0$$

This set of identities turns out to be the Maurer-Cartan equation for an L_∞ - algebra.

This is really a version of the argument for $d^2 = 0$ in SQM.

At this point it is useful to introduce a formalism that facilitates writing the identities satisfied by the various amplitudes - the “web-based formalism”

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Definition of a Plane Web

We now give a purely mathematical construction.

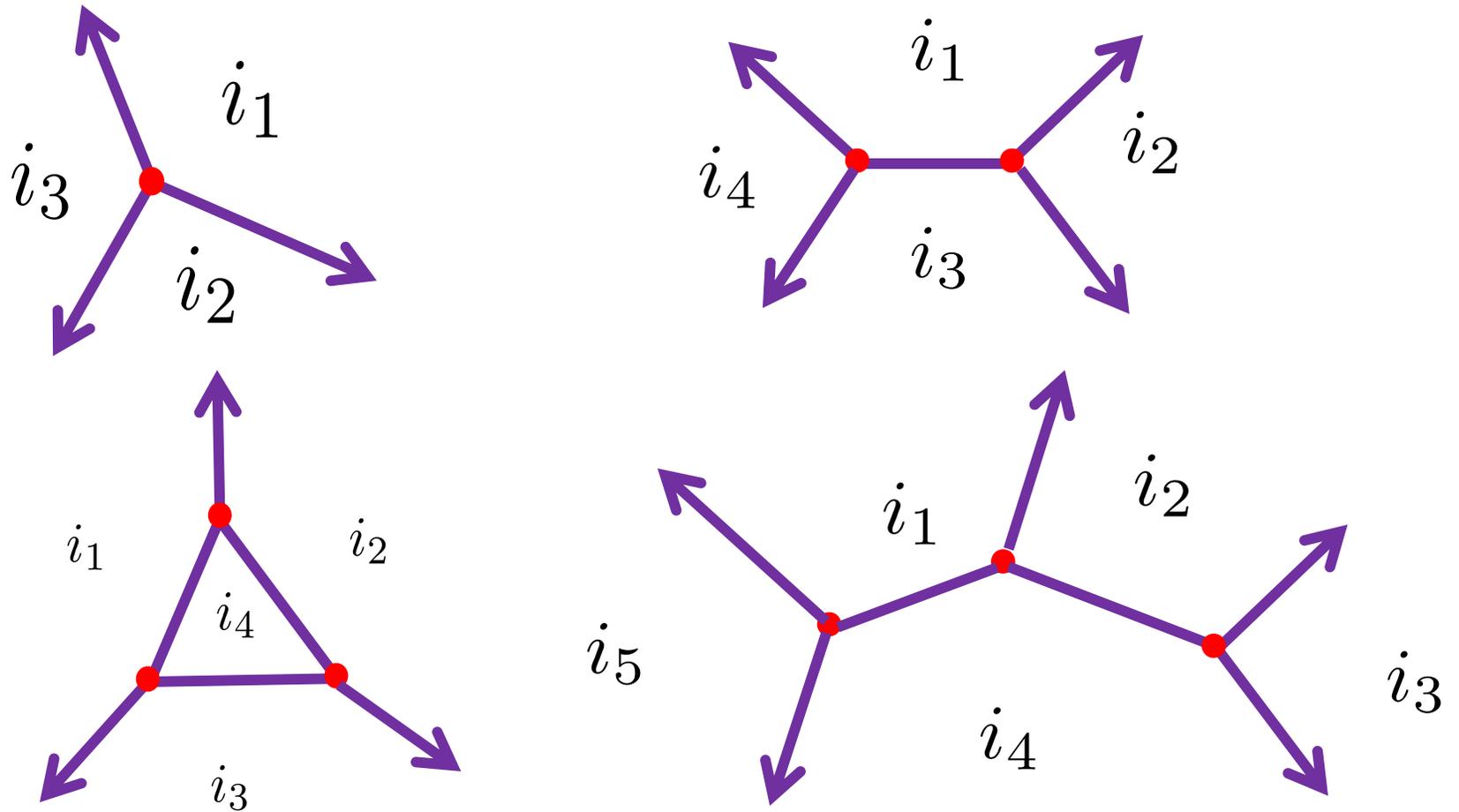
It is motivated from LG field theory.

Vacuum data:

1. A finite set of "vacua": $i, j, k, \dots \in \mathbb{V}$

2. A set of weights $z : \mathbb{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

Definition: A *plane web* is a graph in \mathbb{R}^2 , together with a labeling of faces by vacua so that across edges labels differ and if an edge is oriented so that i is on the left and j on the right then the edge is parallel to $z_{ij} = z_i - z_j$. (Option: Require all vertices at least 3-valent.)

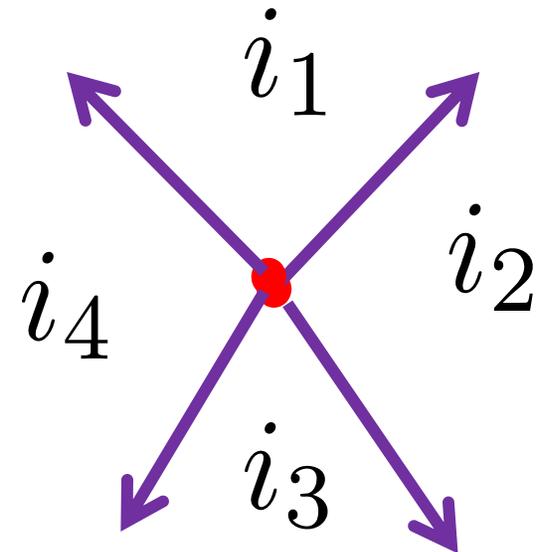
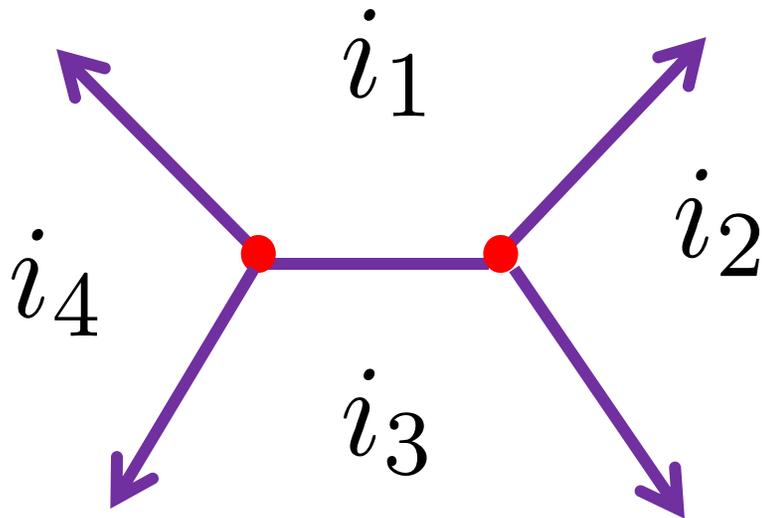


Useful intuition: We are joining together straight strings under a tension z_{ij} . At each vertex there is a no-force condition:

$$z_{i_1, i_2} + z_{i_2, i_3} + \cdots + z_{i_n, i_1} = 0$$

Deformation Type

Equivalence under translation and stretching (but not rotating) of strings subject to no-force constraint defines **deformation type**.



Moduli of webs with fixed deformation type

$$\dim \mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{w}) = 2V(\mathfrak{w}) - E(\mathfrak{w})$$

$V(\mathfrak{w}), E(\mathfrak{w})$ Number of vertices, internal edges.

(z_i in generic position)

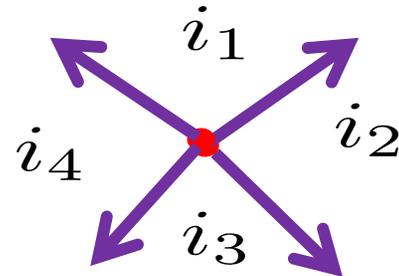
$$\mathcal{D}^{\text{red}}(\mathfrak{w}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{w}) / \mathbb{R}_{\text{transl}}^2$$

$$\dim \mathcal{D}^{\text{red}}(\mathfrak{w}) = d(\mathfrak{w})$$

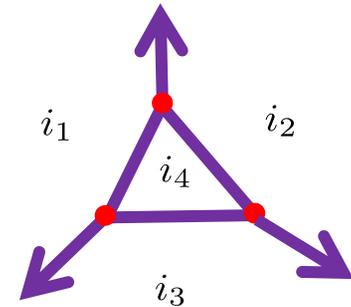
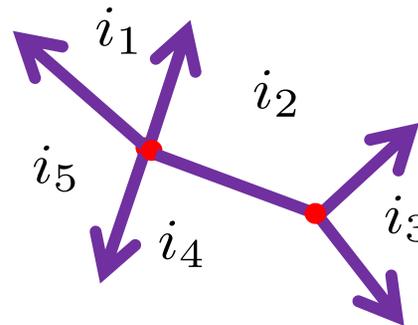
$$d(\mathfrak{w}) := 2V(\mathfrak{w}) - E(\mathfrak{w}) - 2$$

Rigid, Taut, and Sliding

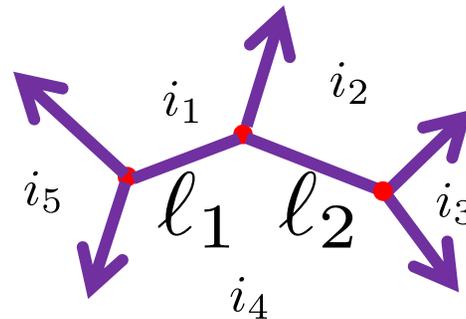
A rigid web has $d(w) = 0$.
It has one vertex:



A taut web has
 $d(w) = 1$:



A sliding web has
 $d(w) = 2$



Cyclic Fans of Vacua

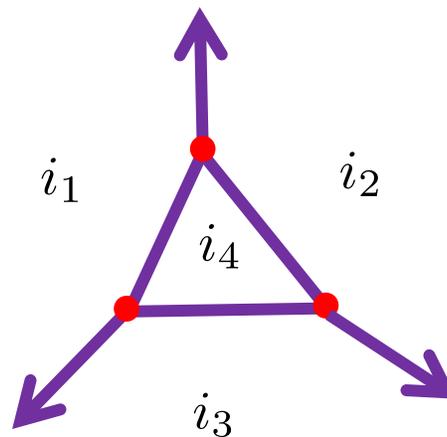
Definition: A cyclic fan of vacua is a cyclically-ordered set

$$I = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$$

so that the rays $\mathcal{Z}_{i_k, i_{k+1}} \mathbb{R}_+$ are ordered clockwise

Local fan of vacua
at a vertex v :

$$I_v(\mathfrak{w})$$



and at ∞

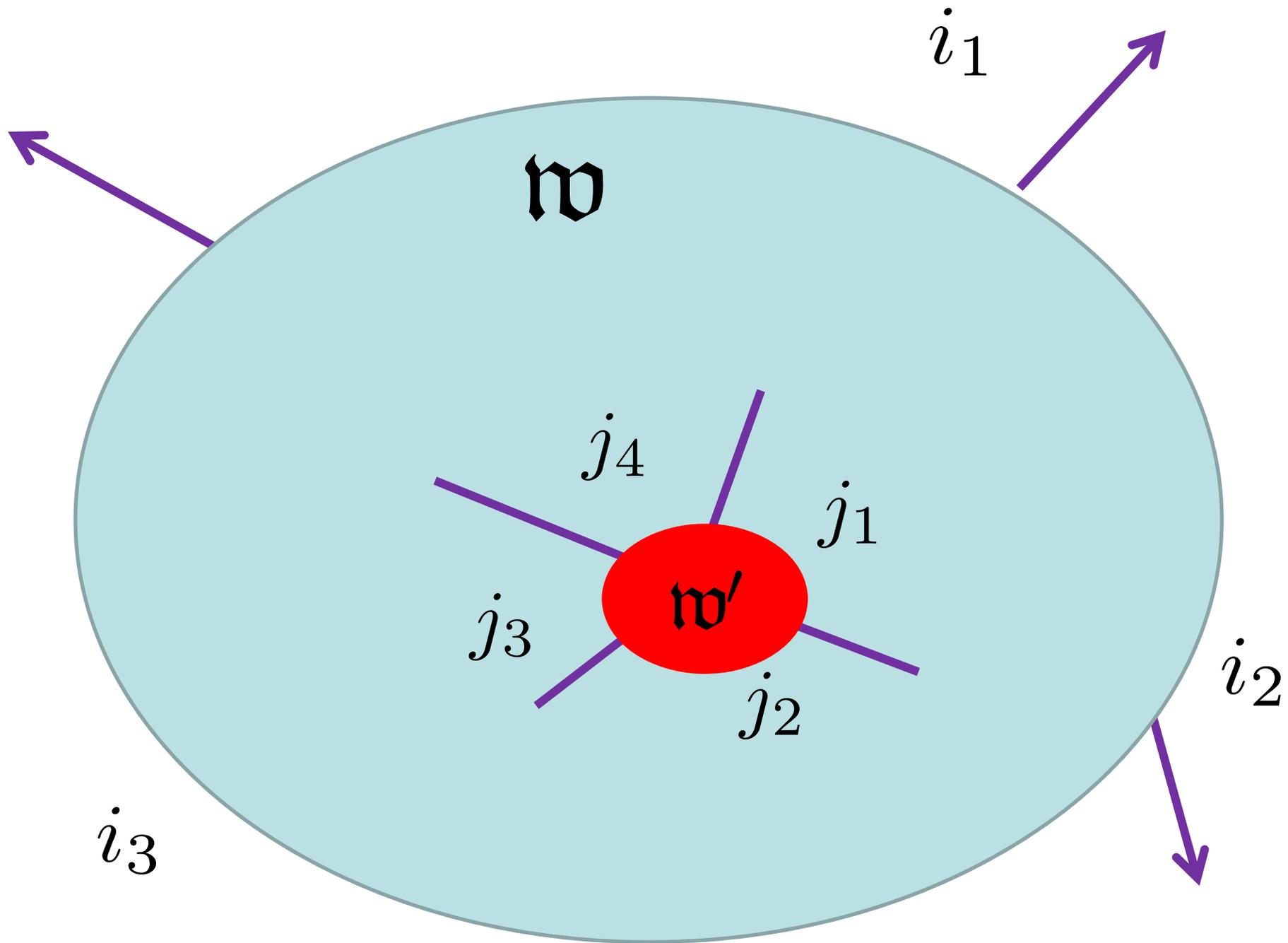
$$I_\infty(\mathfrak{w})$$

Convolution of Webs

Definition: Suppose w and w' are two plane webs and $v \in \mathcal{V}(w)$ such that

$$I_v(w) = I_\infty(w')$$

The convolution of w and w' , denoted $w *_v w'$ is the deformation type where we glue in a copy of w' into a small disk cut out around v .



The Web Ring

\mathcal{W} Free abelian group generated by oriented deformation types of plane webs.

“oriented”: Choose an orientation $o(\mathfrak{w})$ of $\mathcal{D}^{\text{red}}(\mathfrak{w})$

$$* : \mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$$

$$I_v(\mathfrak{w}_1) \neq I_\infty(\mathfrak{w}_2) \Rightarrow \mathfrak{w}_1 *_v \mathfrak{w}_2 = 0$$

$$\mathfrak{w}_1 * \mathfrak{w}_2 := \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{w}_1)} \mathfrak{w}_1 *_v \mathfrak{w}_2$$

$$o(\mathfrak{w} *_v \mathfrak{w}') = o(\mathfrak{w}) \wedge o(\mathfrak{w}')$$

The taut element

Definition: The taut element \mathfrak{t} is the sum of all taut webs with standard orientation

$$\mathfrak{t} := \sum_{d(\mathfrak{w})=1} \mathfrak{w}$$

Theorem:

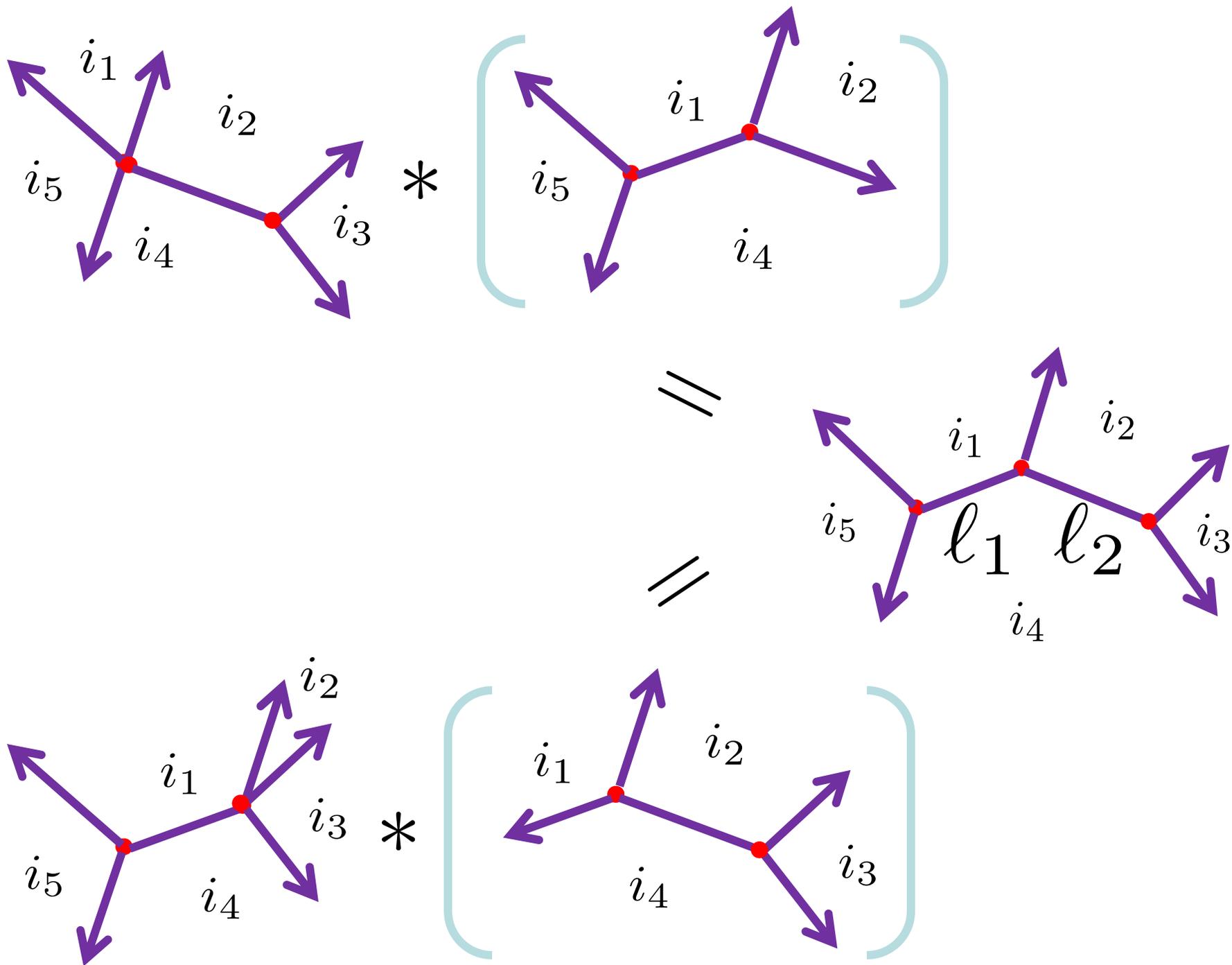
$$\mathfrak{t} * \mathfrak{t} = 0$$

Proof: The terms can be arranged so that there is a cancellation of pairs:

$$\mathfrak{w}_1 * \mathfrak{w}_2$$

$$\mathfrak{w}_3 * \mathfrak{w}_4$$

They represent the two ends of a one-dimensional (doubly reduced) sliding moduli space.



**SKIP TO WEB
REPRESENTATIONS &
INTERIOR AMPLITUDES:
SLIDES 87- 93**

Extension to the tensor algebra

Define an operation by taking an unordered set $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ and an ordered set $\{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$ and saying

$$w * \{v_1, \dots, v_m\} \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$$

- vanishes unless there is some ordering of the v_i so that the fans match up.
- when the fans match up we take the appropriate convolution.

$$T\mathcal{W} := \mathcal{W} \oplus \mathcal{W}^{\otimes 2} \oplus \mathcal{W}^{\otimes 3} \oplus \dots$$

$$T(w) : T\mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$$

$$T(w)[w_1 \otimes \dots \otimes w_n] := w *_{\mathcal{V}(w)} \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$$

Convolution Identity on Tensor Algebra

$\mathfrak{t} * \mathfrak{t} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad T(\mathfrak{t}) \text{ satisfies } L_\infty \text{ relations}$

$$\sum_{\text{Sh}_2(S)} \epsilon T(\mathfrak{t})[T(\mathfrak{t})[S_1], S_2] = 0.$$

$$S = \{\mathfrak{w}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{w}_n\}$$

Two-shuffles: $\text{Sh}_2(S) \quad S = S_1 \amalg S_2$

This makes \mathcal{W} into an L_∞ algebra

Half-Plane Webs

Same as plane webs, but they sit in a half-plane \mathcal{H} .

Some vertices (but no edges) are allowed on the boundary.

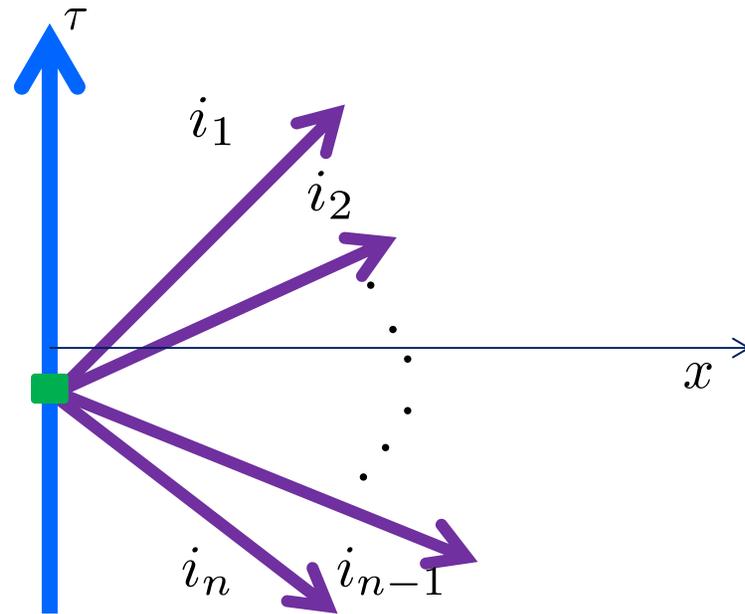
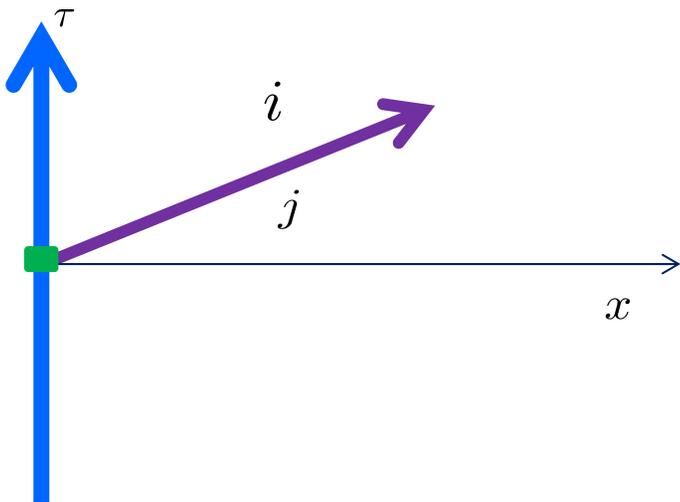
$\mathcal{V}_i(\mathbf{u})$ Interior vertices

$\mathcal{V}_\partial(\mathbf{u}) = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ time-ordered
boundary vertices.

deformation type, reduced moduli space, etc.

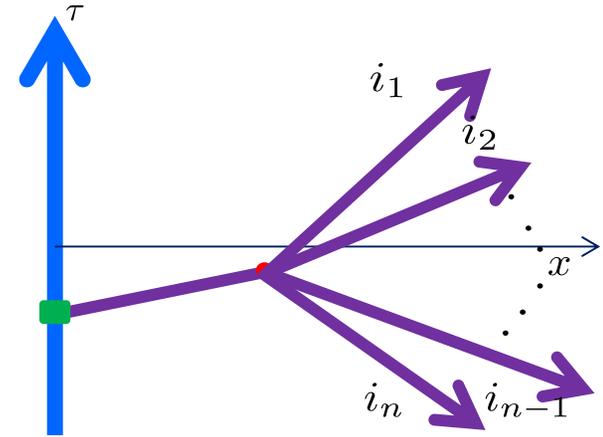
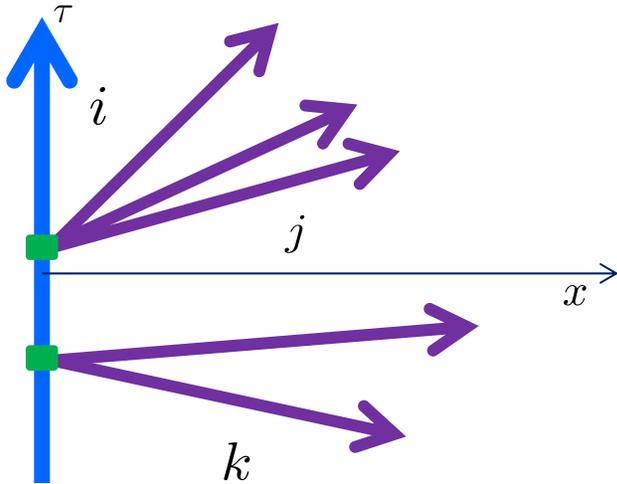
$$d(\mathbf{u}) := 2V_i(\mathbf{u}) + V_\partial(\mathbf{u}) - E(\mathbf{u}) - 1$$

Rigid Half-Plane Webs

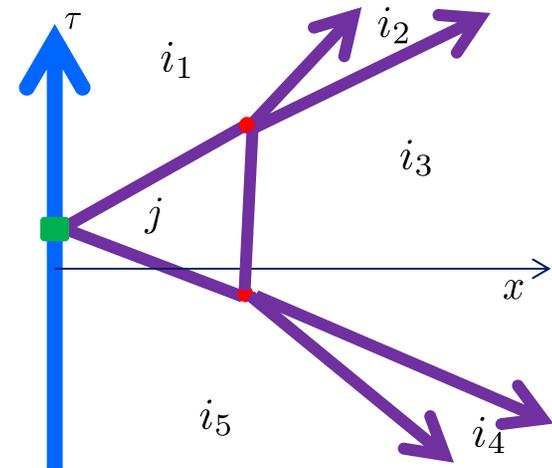
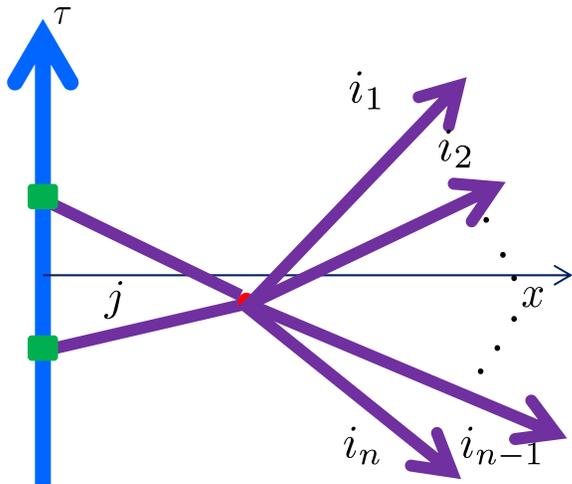


$$d(\mathbf{u}) = 0$$

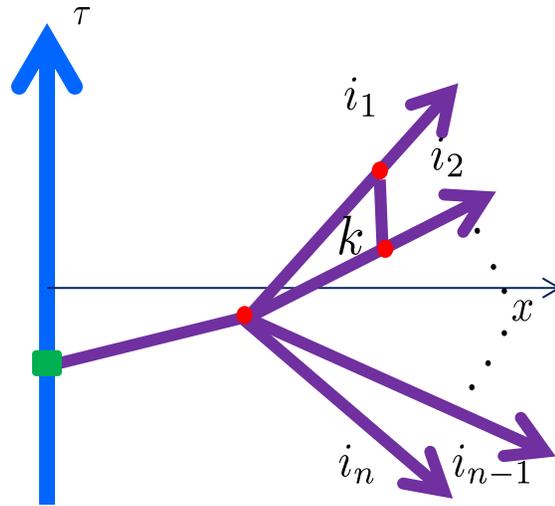
Taut Half-Plane Webs



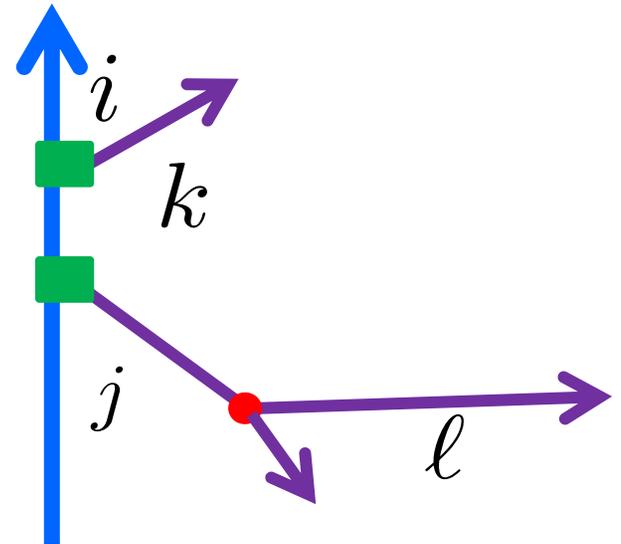
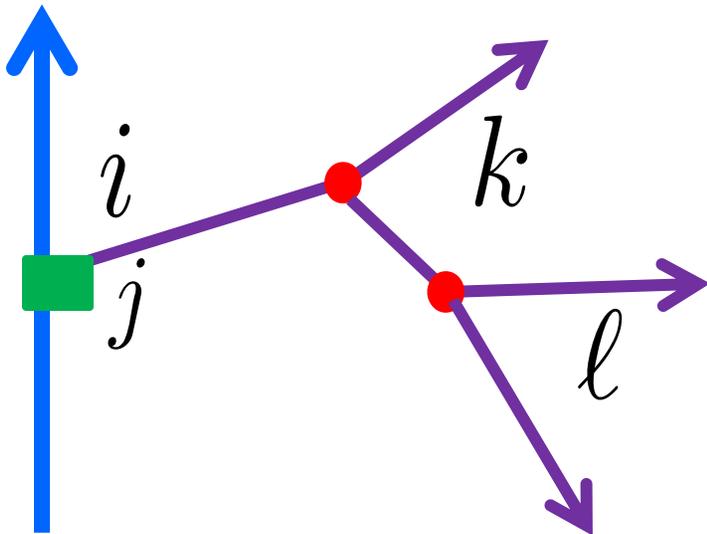
$$d(u) = 1$$



Sliding Half-Plane webs



$$d(u) = 2$$



Half-Plane fans

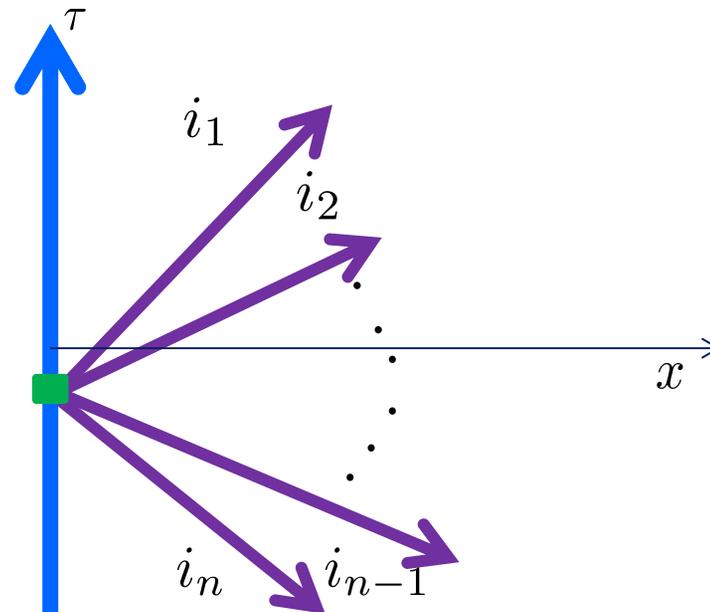
A half-plane fan is an ordered set of vacua,

$$J = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$$

such that successive vacuum weights:

$$Z_{i_s, i_{s+1}}$$

are ordered clockwise:



Convolutions for Half-Plane Webs

We can now introduce a convolution at boundary vertices:

Local half-plane fan at a boundary vertex v : $J_v(\mathbf{u})$

Half-plane fan at infinity: $J_\infty(\mathbf{u})$

$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$

Free abelian group generated by oriented def. types of half-plane webs

There are now two convolutions:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}} \times \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}} \times \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$$

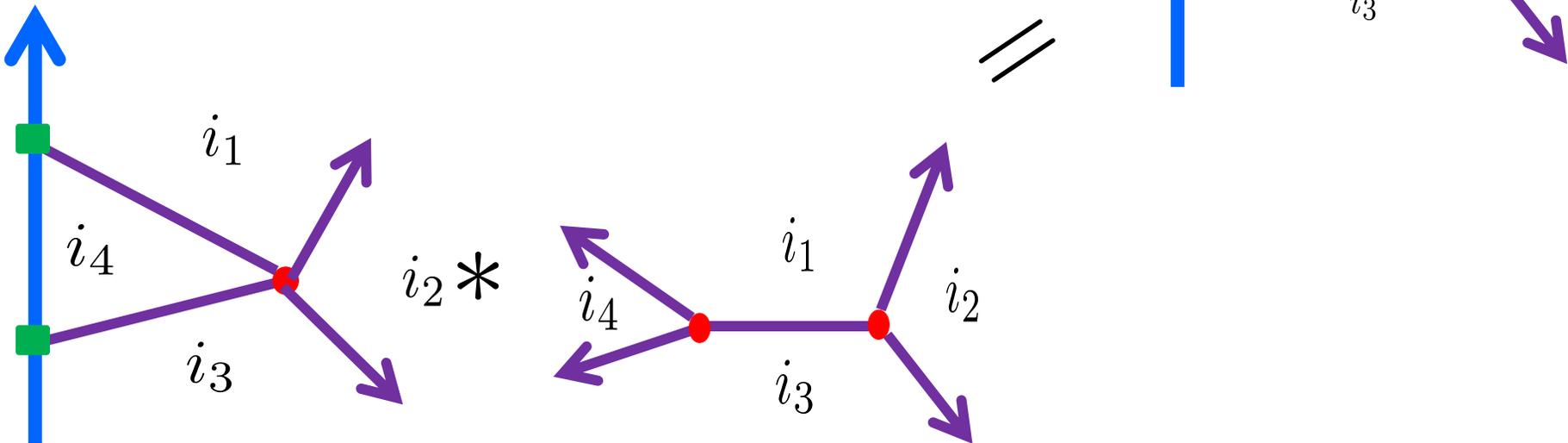
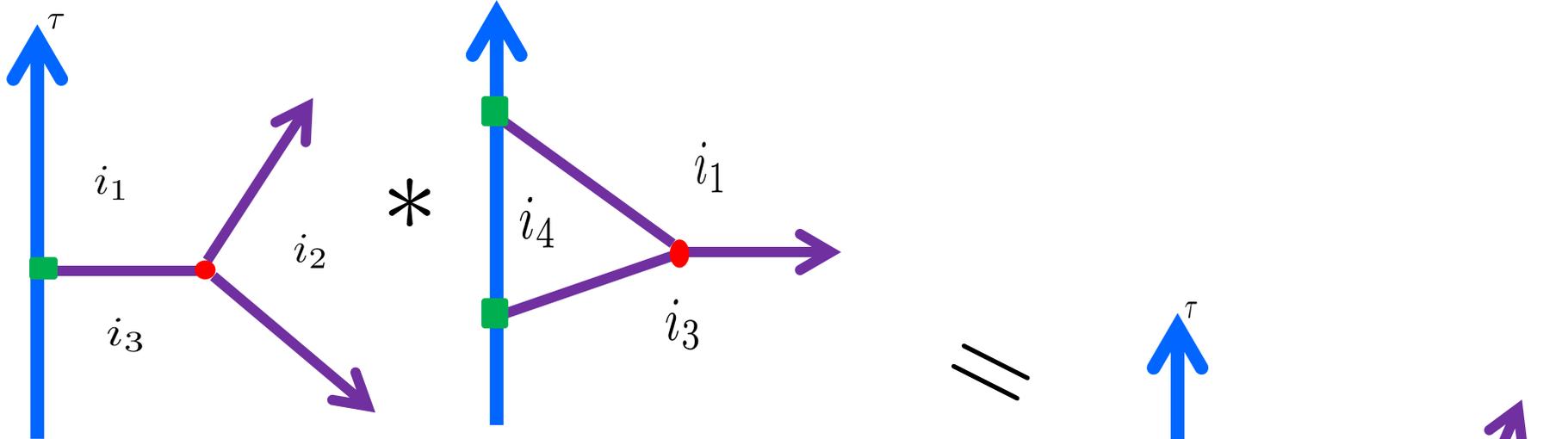
Convolution Theorem

Define the half-plane
taut element:

$$t_{\mathcal{H}} := \sum_{d(u)=1} u$$

Theorem: $t_{\mathcal{H}} * t_{\mathcal{H}} + t_{\mathcal{H}} * t_p = 0$

Proof: A sliding half-plane web can degenerate (in real codimension one) in two ways: Interior edges can collapse onto an interior vertex, or boundary edges can collapse onto a boundary vertex.



Tensor Algebra Relations

Extend $t_{\mathcal{H}}^*$ to tensor algebra operator

$$T(t_{\mathcal{H}}) : T\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}} \otimes T\mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$$

$$\sum \epsilon T(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P_1, T(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P_2; S_1], P_3; S_2] \\ + \sum \epsilon T(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P; T(t_p)[S_1], S_2] = 0.$$

$$S = \{\mathfrak{w}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{w}_n\} \quad P = \{\mathfrak{u}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{u}_m\}$$

Sum over ordered
partitions:

$$P = P_1 \amalg P_2 \amalg P_3$$

Conceptual Meaning

$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$ is an L_{∞} module for the L_{∞} algebra \mathcal{W}

$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$ is an A_{∞} algebra

There is an L_{∞} morphism from the L_{∞} algebra \mathcal{W} to the L_{∞} algebra of the Hochschild cochain complex of $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}$

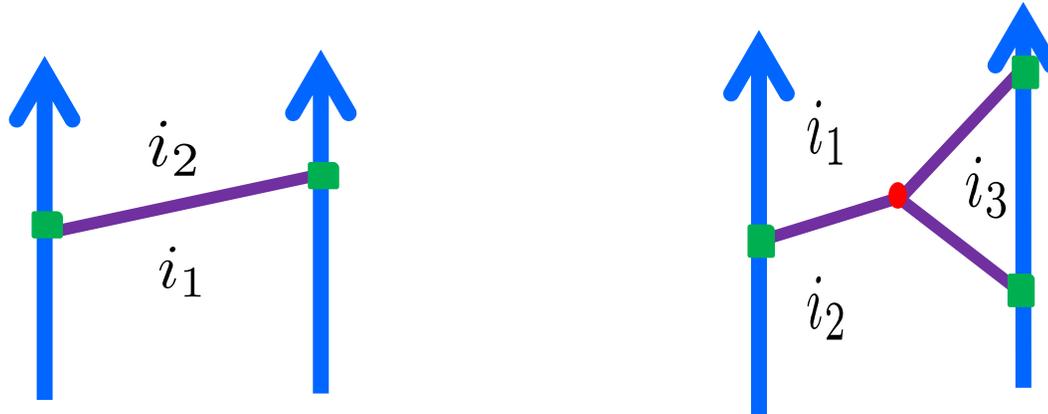
Strip-Webs

Now consider webs in the strip $\mathbb{R} \times [x_\ell, x_r]$

$$d(\mathbf{s}) := 2V_i(\mathbf{s}) + V_\partial(\mathbf{s}) - E(\mathbf{s}) - 1$$

Now **taut** and **rigid strip-webs** are the same, and have $d(\mathbf{s})=0$.

sliding strip-webs have $d(\mathbf{s})=1$.



Convolution Identity for Strip \mathfrak{t} 's

$$\mathfrak{t}_s := \sum_{d(s)=0} \mathfrak{s}$$

Convolution theorem:

$$\mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}_-} + \mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}_+} + \mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_p + \mathfrak{t}_s \circ \mathfrak{t}_s = 0$$

where for strip webs we denote time-concatenation by

$$\mathfrak{s}_1 \circ \mathfrak{s}_2$$

$$t_s = \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \text{Diagram 4}$$

$$t_s * t_{\mathcal{H}_-} = \text{Diagram 5} \quad t_s \circ t_s = \text{Diagram 6}$$

$$t_s * t_{\mathcal{H}_+} = \text{Diagram 7} + \text{Diagram 8}$$

Conceptual Meaning

$$t_s * t_{\mathcal{H}_-} + t_s * t_{\mathcal{H}_+} + t_s * t_p + t_s \circ t_s = 0$$

\mathcal{W}_s : Free abelian group generated
by oriented def. types of strip webs.

There is a corresponding elaborate identity
on tensor algebras ...

\mathcal{W}_s is an A_∞ bimodule

+ ... much more

Web Representations

Definition: A representation of webs is

a.) A choice of \mathbb{Z} -graded \mathbb{Z} -module R_{ij} for every ordered pair ij of distinct vacua.

b.) A degree = -1 pairing $K : R_{ij} \otimes R_{ji} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

For every cyclic fan of vacua introduce a fan representation:

$$I = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\} \quad \longrightarrow$$

$$R_I := R_{i_1, i_2} \otimes \dots \otimes R_{i_n, i_1}$$

Web Rep & Contraction

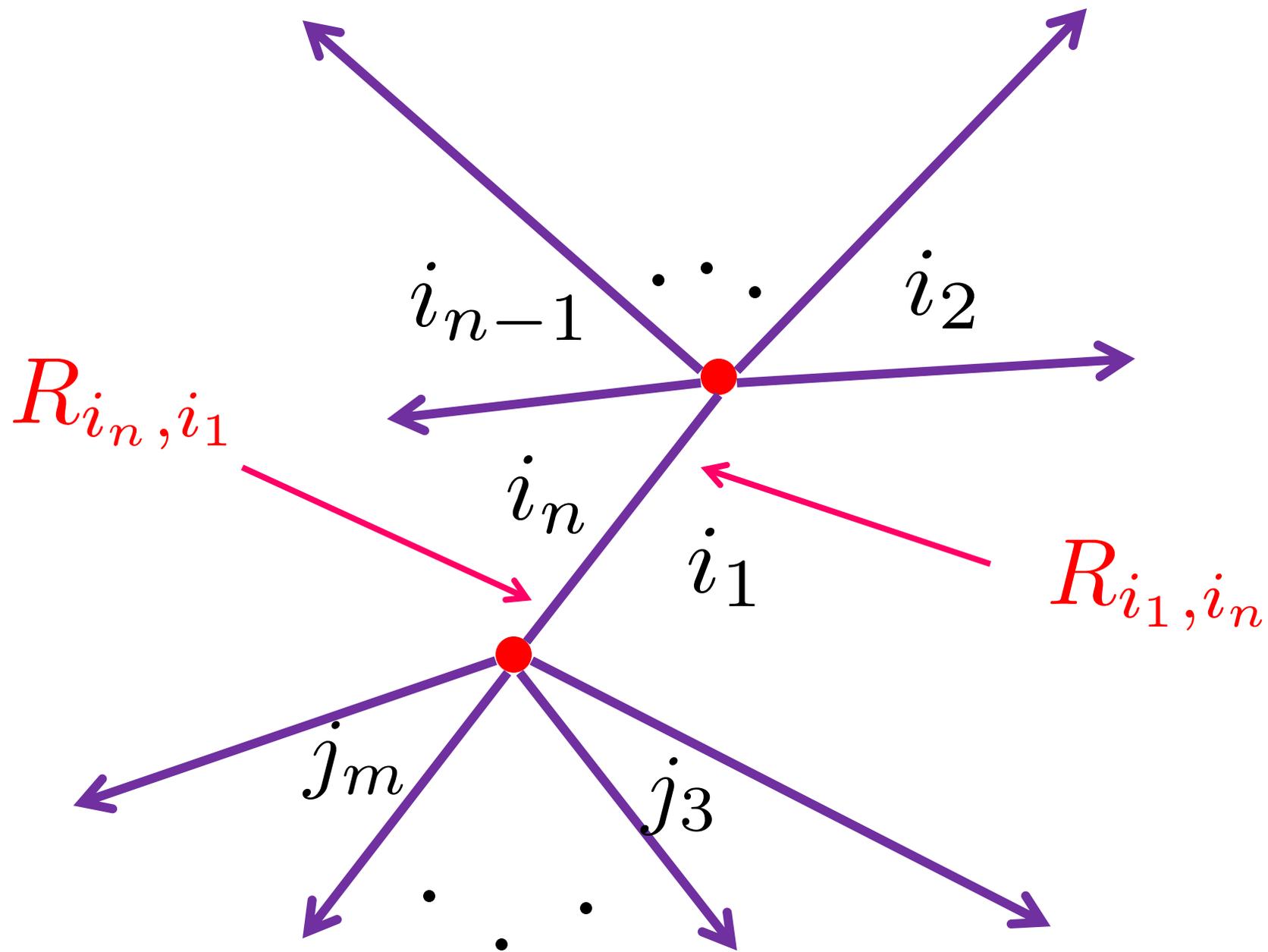
Given a rep of webs and a deformation type w
we define the representation of w :

$$R(\mathfrak{w}) := \bigotimes_{v \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{w})} R_{I_v}(\mathfrak{w})$$

There is a natural contraction operator:

$$\rho(\mathfrak{w}) : R(\mathfrak{w}) \rightarrow R_{I_\infty}(\mathfrak{w})$$

by applying the contraction K to the pairs R_{ij}
and R_{ji} on each internal edge:



L_∞ -algebras, again

$$R^{\text{int}} := \bigoplus_I R_I \quad \text{Rep of the rigid webs.}$$

$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}_p) : TR^{\text{int}} \rightarrow R^{\text{int}}$$

$$\mathfrak{t}_p * \mathfrak{t}_p = 0 \quad \longrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{\text{Sh}_2(S)} \epsilon \rho(\mathfrak{t}_p)[\rho(\mathfrak{t}_p)[S_1], S_2] = 0.$$

$$S = \{r_1, \dots, r_n\} \quad r_i \in R^{\text{int}}$$

$$S = S_1 \amalg S_2 \quad \epsilon \in \{\pm 1\}$$

L_∞ and A_∞ Algebras - 1

If A is a vector space (or \mathbb{Z} -module) then an ∞ -algebra structure is a series of multiplications:

$$m_n(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A$$

Which satisfy quadratic relations:

$$S = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$$

$$L_\infty : \sum_{\text{Sh}_2(S)} \epsilon m_{s_1+1}(m_{s_2}(S_2), S_1) = 0$$

$$A_\infty : \sum_{\text{Pa}_3(S)} \epsilon m_{s_1+1+s_3}(S_1, m_{s_2}(S_2), S_3) = 0$$

L_∞ and A_∞ Algebras - 2

$$V = V^i(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$$

$$V^i(x) = m_j^i x^j + m_{j_1, j_2}^i x^{j_1, j_2} + m_{j_1, j_2, j_3}^i x^{j_1} x^{j_2} x^{j_3} + \dots$$

A_∞ if x^i noncommutative, V degree 1

$$V^2 = 0$$

L_∞ if x^i graded-commutative, V degree 1

Consequence for LG Models

The main claim, in the context of LG models, is that counting solutions to the ζ -instanton equations with fan-boundary conditions and reduced dimension zero defines a solution to the L_∞ MC equation:

$$\rho(t_p)(e^\beta) = 0$$

Half-Plane Contractions

A rep of a half-plane fan: $J = \{j_1, \dots, j_n\}$

$$R_J := R_{j_1, j_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes R_{j_{n-1}, j_n}$$

$\rho(\mathbf{u})$ now contracts

$$\bigotimes_{v \in \mathcal{V}_\partial(\mathbf{u})} R_{J_v}(\mathbf{u}) \bigotimes_{v \in \mathcal{V}_i(\mathbf{u})} R_{I_v}(\mathbf{u})$$



time ordered!

$$\rightarrow R_{J_\infty}(\mathbf{u})$$

The Vacuum A_∞ Category

(For the positive half-plane \mathcal{H}_+)

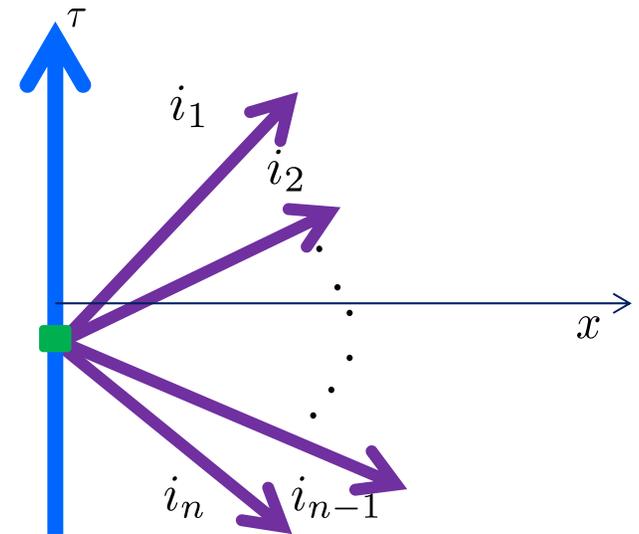
Objects: $i \in \mathbb{V}$.

$$\text{Morphisms: } \text{Hom}(j, i) = \begin{cases} \widehat{R}_{ij} & \text{Re}(z_{ij}) > 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} & i = j \\ 0 & \text{Re}(z_{ij}) < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\widehat{R}_{i_1, i_n} := \bigoplus_J R_J$$

$$J = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$$

$$\widehat{R}_{i_1, i_n} = R_{i_1, i_n} \oplus \dots$$



Hint of a Relation to Wall-Crossing

The morphism spaces can be defined by a Cecotti-Vafa/Kontsevich-Soibelman-like product as follows:

Suppose $\mathbb{V} = \{ 1, \dots, K \}$.

Introduce the elementary $K \times K$ matrices e_{ij}

$$1 + \bigoplus_{\text{Re}(z_{ij}) > 0} \widehat{R}_{ij} e_{ij} = \underbrace{\bigotimes_{\text{Re}(z_{ij}) > 0} (1 + R_{ij} e_{ij})}_{\text{phase ordered!}}$$

phase ordered!

Defining A_∞ Multiplications

Sum over cyclic fans: $R^{\text{int}} := \bigoplus_I R_I$

$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}_p) : TR^{\text{int}} \rightarrow R^{\text{int}}$$

Interior amplitude: $\beta \in R^{\text{int}}$ Satisfies the L_∞ “Maurer-Cartan equation”

$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}_p)(e^\beta) = 0$$

$$m_n^\beta[r_1, \dots, r_n] := \rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}})[r_1, \dots, r_n; e^\beta]$$

$$r_s \in \text{Hom}(i_{s-1}, i_s)$$

Proof of A_∞ Relations

$$t_{\mathcal{H}} * t_{\mathcal{H}} + t_{\mathcal{H}} * t_p = 0 \quad \longrightarrow$$

$$\sum \epsilon \rho(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P_1, \rho(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P_2; S_1], P_3; S_2] \\ + \sum \epsilon \rho(t_{\mathcal{H}})[P; \rho(t_p)[S_1], S_2] = 0.$$

$$S = \{r_1, \dots, r_m\} \quad S = S_1 \amalg S_2$$

$$P = \{r_1^\partial, \dots, r_n^\partial\} \quad P = P_1 \amalg P_2 \amalg P_3$$

$$r_a \in R^{\text{int}} \quad r_s^\partial \in \widehat{R}_{i_{s-1}, i_s}$$

$$\sum \epsilon \rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}})[P_1, \rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}})[P_2; S_1], P_3; S_2]$$

$$+ \sum \epsilon \rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}})[P; \rho(\mathfrak{t}_p)[S_1], S_2] = 0.$$

$$S = \{\beta, \dots, \beta\}$$

and the second line vanishes.

Hence we obtain the A_{∞} relations for :

$$m^{\beta}[P] := \rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}})[P; e^{\beta}]$$

Defining an A_{∞} category : $\mathfrak{Vac}(\mathbb{V}, z, R, K, \beta)$

Enhancing with CP-Factors

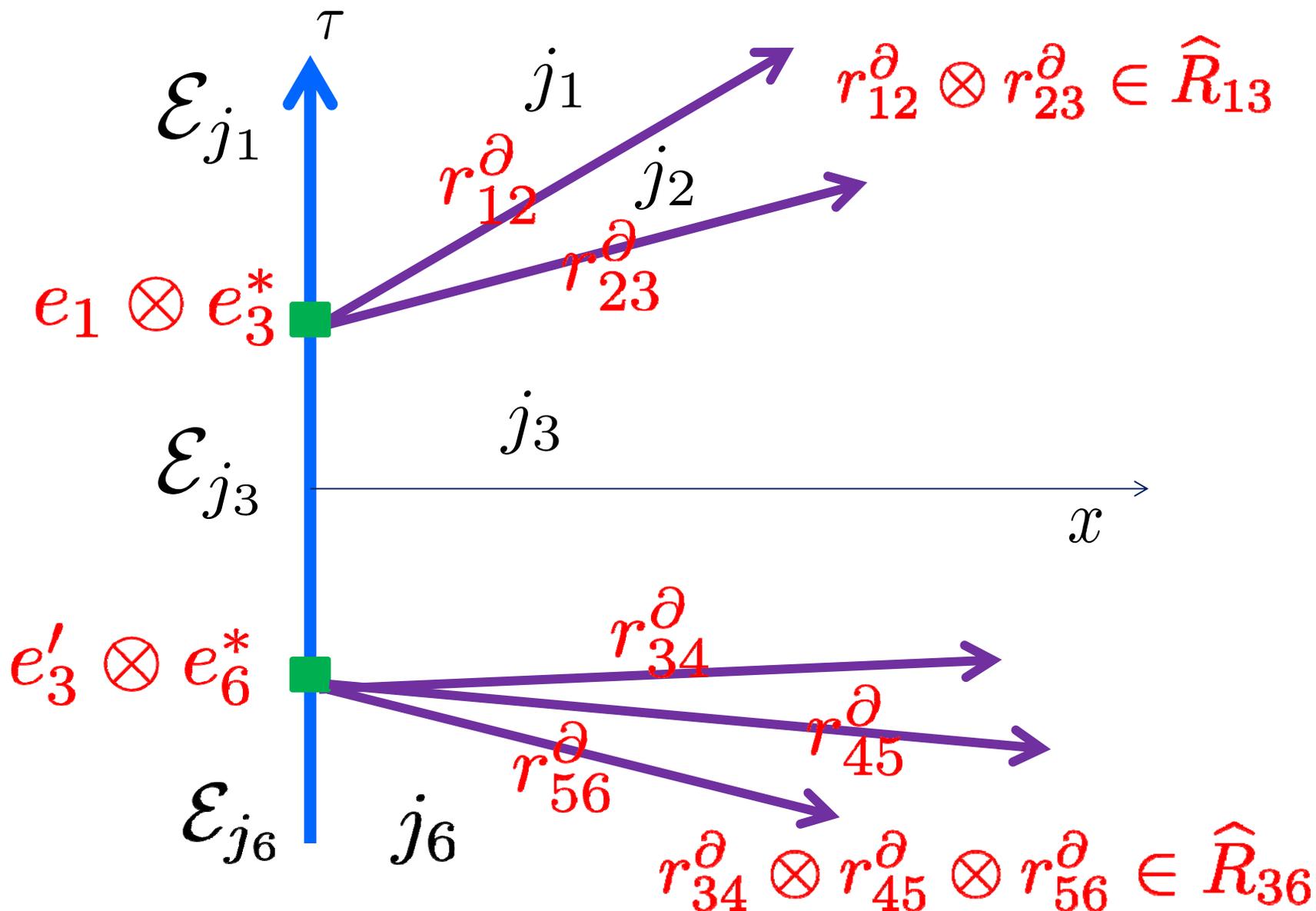
CP-Factors: $i \in \mathbb{V} \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_i$ \mathbb{Z} -graded module

$\text{Hop}(i, j) \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}_i \otimes \text{Hop}(i, j) \otimes \mathcal{E}_j^*$

$m_n^\beta \longrightarrow m_n^\beta \otimes m_2^{\text{CP}}$

Enhanced A_∞ category : $\mathfrak{Yac}(\mathbb{V}, z, R, K, \beta; \mathcal{E}_*)$

Example: Composition of two morphisms



Boundary Amplitudes

A Boundary Amplitude \mathcal{B} (defining a Brane) is a solution of the A_∞ MC:

$$\mathcal{B} \in \bigoplus_{i,j} \text{Hop}(i, j)$$

$$\mathcal{B} \in \bigoplus_{\text{Re}(z_{ij}) > 0} \mathcal{E}_i \otimes \hat{R}_{ij} \otimes \mathcal{E}_j^*$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n^\beta [\mathcal{B}^{\otimes n}] = 0$$

$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}}) \left[\frac{1}{1-\mathcal{B}}; e^\beta \right] = 0$$

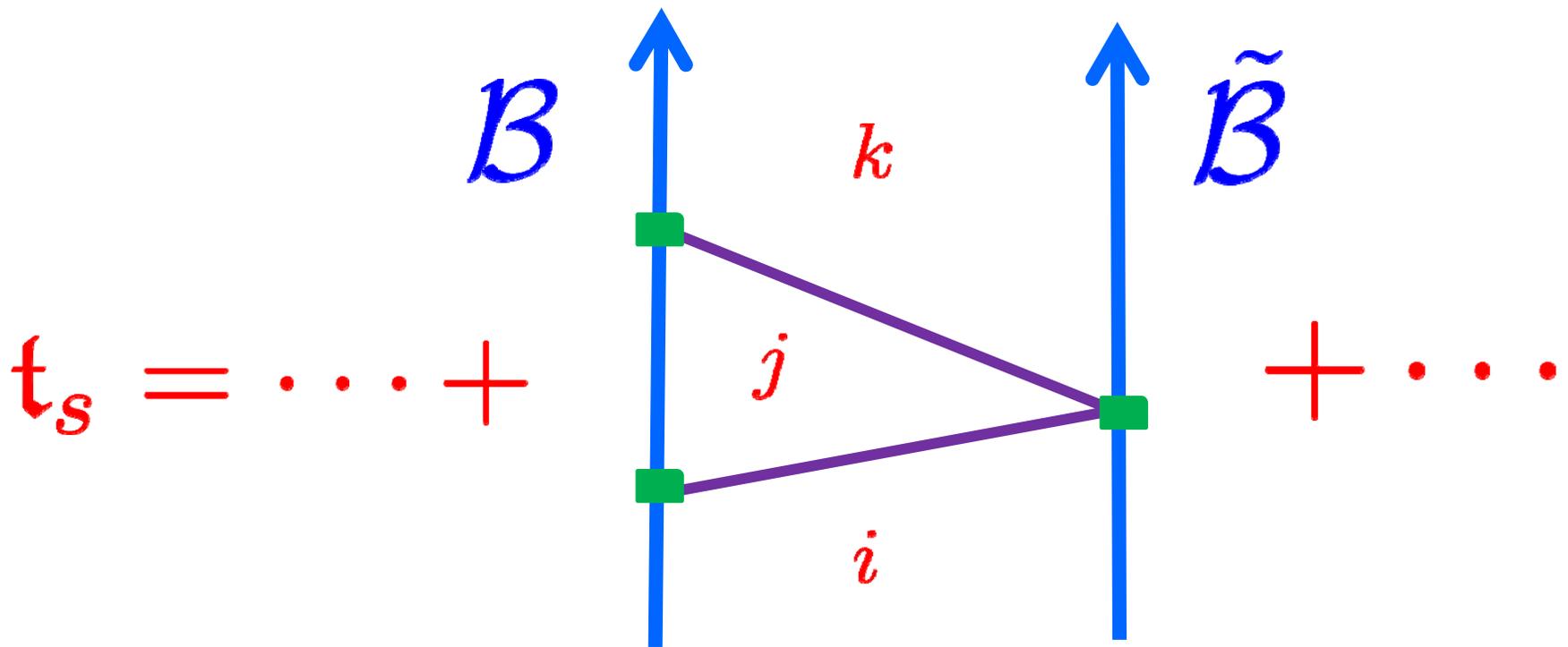
Constructions with Branes

Strip webs with Brane boundary conditions help answer the physics question at the beginning.

The Branes themselves are objects in an A_∞ category $\mathfrak{Br}(\mathbb{V}, z, R, K, \beta)$

(“Twisted complexes”: Analog of the derived category.)

Given a (suitable) continuous path of data $(\mathbb{V}, z, R, K, \beta)(x)$ we construct an invertible functor between Brane categories, only depending on the homotopy class of the path. (Parallel transport of Brane categories.)



$$d(v) := \rho(\mathfrak{t}_s) \left(\frac{1}{1-\mathcal{B}}; e^\beta; v; \frac{1}{1-\tilde{\mathcal{B}}} \right)$$

$$d : \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{V}} \mathcal{E}_i \otimes \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_i \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{V}} \mathcal{E}_i \otimes \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_i$$

$$\mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}_-} + \mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_{\mathcal{H}_+} + \mathfrak{t}_s * \mathfrak{t}_p + \mathfrak{t}_s \circ \mathfrak{t}_s = 0$$

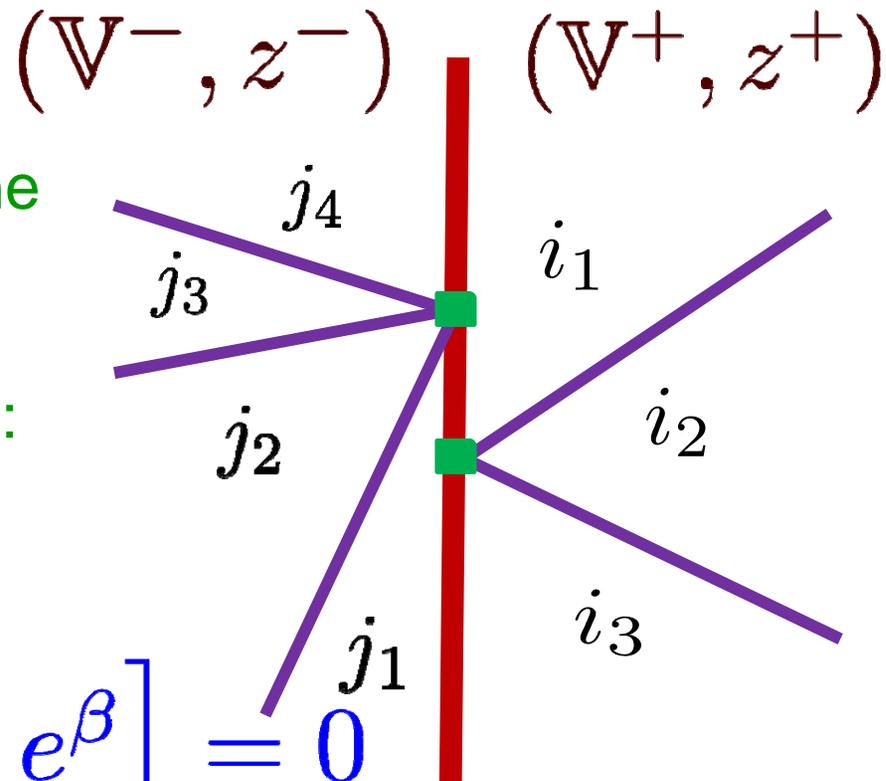
Convolution identity implies: $d^2 = 0$

Interfaces webs & Interfaces

Given data $(\mathbb{V}^\pm, z^\pm, R^\pm, K^\pm, \beta^\pm)$

Introduce a notion of "interface webs"

These behave like half-plane webs and we can define an Interface Amplitude to be a solution of the MC equation:

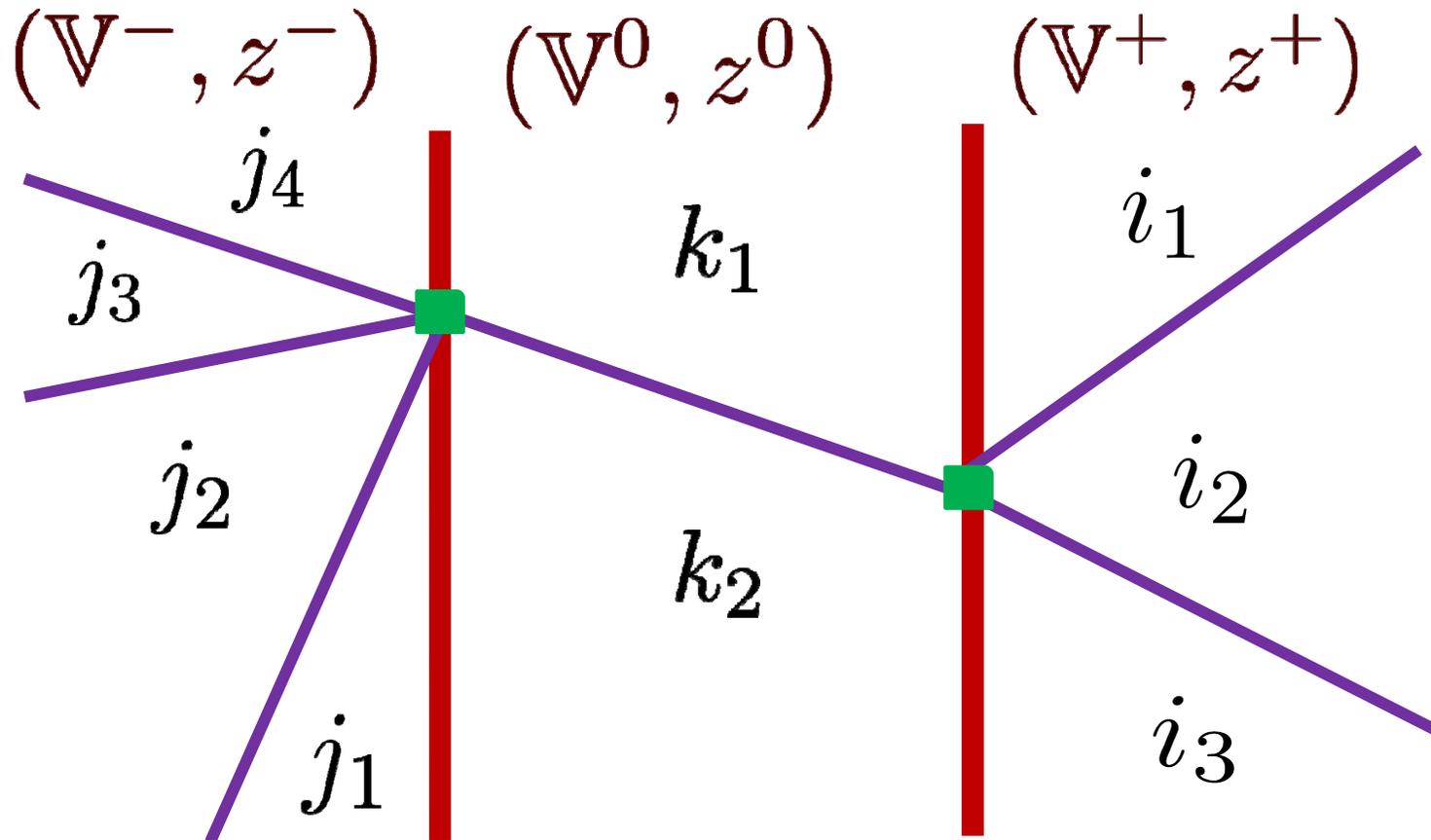


$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}^-, +) \left[\frac{1}{1 - \mathcal{B}^-, +}; e^\beta \right] = 0$$

Composite webs

Given data $(\mathbb{V}, z, R, K, \beta)^{-,0,+}$

Introduce a notion of "composite webs"



Composition of Interfaces

A convolution identity implies:

$$\rho(\mathfrak{t}^{-,0,+}) \left[\frac{1}{1-\mathcal{B}^{-,0}}, \frac{1}{1-\mathcal{B}^{0,+}}; e^\beta \right] \in \mathfrak{Br}^{-,+}$$

Defines a family of A_∞ bifunctors:

$$\mathfrak{Br}^{-,0} \times \mathfrak{Br}^{0,+} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Br}^{-,+}$$

$$\mathfrak{Br}^{-,0} \times \mathfrak{Br}^{0,1} \times \mathfrak{Br}^{1,+} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Br}^{-,+}$$

Product is associative up to homotopy

Composition of such bifunctors leads to categorified parallel transport

Physical ``Theorem''

Data

(X, ω) : Kähler manifold (exact)

$W: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ Holomorphic Morse function

Finitely many critical points with critical values in general position.

We construct an explicit realization of above:

- Vacuum data.
- Interior amplitudes.
- Chan-Paton spaces and boundary amplitudes.
- “Parallel transport” of Brane categories.

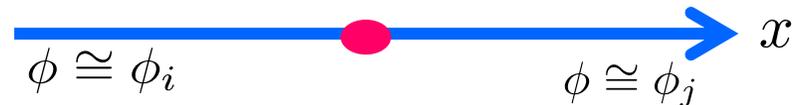
Vacuum data:

$$\forall \text{ Morse critical points } \phi_i \quad dW(\phi_i) = 0$$

$$z_i \sim W_i := W(\phi_i) \quad \left[\text{Actually, } z_i = i\zeta \overline{W}_i \right]$$

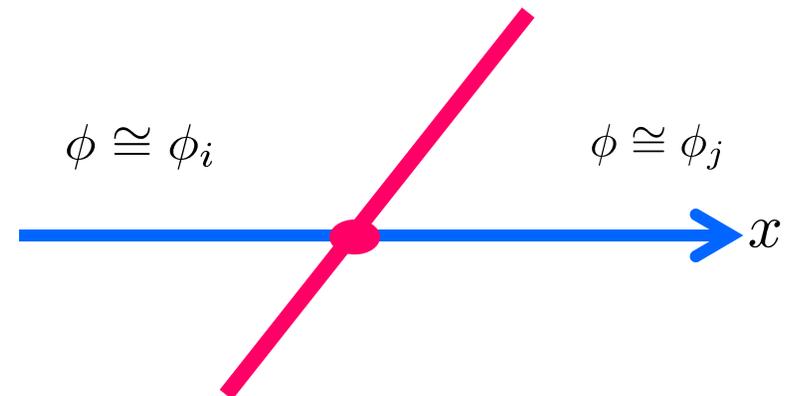
Connection to webs uses BPS states:

Semiclassically, they are solitonic particles.



Worldlines preserving “ ζ -supersymmetry” are solutions of the “ ζ -instanton equation”

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \right) \phi^I = \zeta g^{I\bar{J}} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \phi^{\bar{J}}}$$



A Natural Conjecture

Following constructions used in the Fukaya category, Paul Seidel constructed an A_∞ category $FS[X,W]$ associated to a holomorphic Morse function $W: X$ to \mathbb{C} .

$Tw[FS[X,W]]$ is meant to be the category of A-branes of the LG model.

But, we also think that $Br[Vac[X,W]]$ is the category of A-branes of the LG model!

So it is natural to conjecture an equivalence of A_∞ categories:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Tw[FS[X,W]] \cong Br[Vac[X,W]] & \\ \nearrow & & \nwarrow \\ \text{“ultraviolet”} & & \text{“infrared”} \end{array}$$

Parallel Transport of Categories

To \wp we associate an A_∞ functor

$$\mathbb{F}(\wp) : Br[Vac[W_1]] \rightarrow Br[Vac[W_2]]$$

(Relation to GMN: “Categorification of S-wall crossing”)

To a composition of paths we associate a composition of A_∞ functors:

$$\mathbb{F}(\wp_1 \circ \wp_2) = \mathbb{F}(\wp_1) \circ \mathbb{F}(\wp_2)$$

To a homotopy of \wp_1 to \wp_2 we associate an equivalence of A_∞ functors. (Categorifies CVWCF.)

Outline

- Introduction & Motivations
- Some Review of LG Theory
- Goals, Results, Questions Old & New
- LG Theory as SQM
- Boosted Solitons & Soliton Fans
- Web-based Formalism
- **Summary & Outlook**

Summary

1. Instantons effects can be thought of in terms of an “effective theory” of BPS particles.
2. This naturally leads to L_∞ and A_∞ structures.
3. As an application, the set of BPS states on an interval does not satisfy the naïve clustering of classical BPS solitons.
4. When there are families of LG superpotentials there is a notion of parallel transport of the A_∞ categories.

Outlook

1. Relation to S-matrix singularities?
2. Are these examples of universal identities for massive 1+1 $N=(2,2)$ QFT?
3. Generalization to 2d4d systems: Categorification of the 2d4d WCF.
4. Computability of Witten's approach to knot homology?
Relation to other approaches to knot homology?