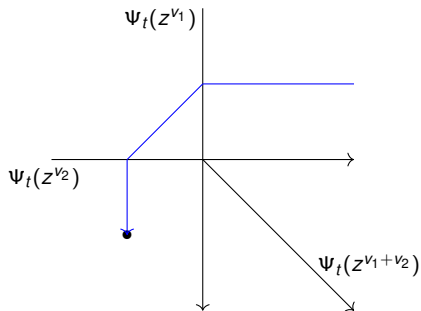


Quantum theta bases

Travis Mandel

(based joint work with Ben Davison and work in progress with Fan Qin)



Outline

- ▶ Gross-Hacking-Keel-Kontsevich (GHKK):
Ideas from mirror symmetry (the Gross-Siebert program) \rightsquigarrow canonical “**theta bases**” for classical cluster algebras.

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- ▶ Davison-M:
Quiver DT-theory + GHKK arguments \rightsquigarrow **quantum theta bases**.
- ▶ Qin-M (in progress):
Bracelet bases for (quantum) Skein algebras coincide with the (quantum) theta bases.

Seeds

A (skew-symmetric) **seed** is the data $S = (N, I, E, F, B)$, where

- ▶ N is a finite-rank lattice;
- ▶ I is an index-set;
- ▶ $E = \{e_i | i \in I\}$ is a basis for N ;
- ▶ $F \subset I$ (the frozen indices);
- ▶ $B(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -valued skew-symmetric form on N .

The dual lattice

Denote $M = \text{Hom}(N, \mathbb{Z})$.

- ▶ Let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : N \oplus M \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ denote the dual pairing.
- ▶ Let $v_i := B(e_i, \cdot) \in M$.
- ▶ Let M^\oplus denote the positive span of the v_i 's.
- ▶ To quantize, need a \mathbb{Z} -valued skew-symmetric form Λ on M such that

$$\Lambda(\cdot, v_i) = e_i \quad \text{for all } i \in I \setminus F.$$

Algebraic and quantum tori

Given a lattice L equipped with a \mathbb{Z} -valued skew-symmetric form ω , define the **quantum torus algebra**

$$\mathbb{C}_t^\omega[L] := \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}][z^u \mid u \in L] / \langle z^u z^v = t^{\omega(u,v)} z^{u+v} \rangle.$$

In particular, associated to a seed S , we have:

$$\mathcal{X}_t^S := \mathbb{C}_t^B[M],$$

and if we fix a compatible Λ ,

$$\mathcal{A}_t^S := \mathbb{C}_t^\Lambda[M].$$

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Let $\mathring{\mathcal{X}}_t^S$ and $\mathring{\mathcal{A}}_t^S$ denote the corresponding skew-fields of fractions.

Seed mutation

Given S and $j \in I \setminus F$, define a new seed $\mu_j(S)$ by replacing each e_i with

$$e'_i := \mu_j(e_i) := \begin{cases} e_i + \max(0, B(e_i, e_j))e_j & \text{if } i \neq j \\ -e_j & \text{if } i = j. \end{cases}$$

while keeping the rest of the seed data the same.

Quantum binomial coefficients

- ▶ For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, define

$$[k]_t := \frac{t^k - t^{-k}}{t - t^{-1}} = t^{-k+1} + t^{-k+3} + \dots + t^{k-3} + t^{k-1} \in \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}].$$

Note $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} [k]_t = k$.

- ▶ Define

$$[k]_t! := [k]_t [k-1]_t \cdots [2]_t [1]_t.$$

- ▶ For $r, k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, $r \geq k$, define

$$\binom{r}{k}_t := \frac{[r]_t!}{[k]_t! [r-k]_t!}$$

Quantum cluster \mathcal{X} mutation

Recall $\mathcal{X}_t^S := \mathbb{C}_t^B[N]$. Define [Fock-Goncharov]

$$\mu_j^{\mathcal{X}} : \mathcal{X}_t^S \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_t^{\mu_j(S)}$$

by saying that for $B(n, e_j) \geq 0$,

$$\mu_j^{\mathcal{X}} : z^n \mapsto \sum_{k=0}^{B(n, e_j)} \binom{B(n, e_j)}{k}_t z^{n+ke_j}.$$

Classical limit ($t = 1$): $z^n \mapsto z^n(1 + z^{e_j})^{|B(n, e_j)|}$.

Quantum cluster \mathcal{A} mutation

Recall $\mathcal{A}_t^S := \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[M]$. Define [Berenstein-Zelevinsky]

$$\mu_j^{\mathcal{A}} : \mathring{\mathcal{A}}_t^S \rightarrow \mathring{\mathcal{A}}_t^{\mu_j(S)}$$

by saying that for $\langle e_j, m \rangle \geq 0$, we have

$$\mu_j^{\mathcal{A}} : z^m \mapsto \sum_{k=0}^{\langle e_j, m \rangle} \binom{\langle e_j, m \rangle}{k}_t z^{m+kv_j}.$$

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Quantum cluster varieties

- ▶ Given $\vec{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_k) \in (I \setminus F)^k$, let

$$\mu_{\vec{j}} = \mu_{j_k} \circ \dots \circ \mu_{j_1}.$$

Denote $S_{\vec{j}} := \mu_{\vec{j}}(\mathcal{S})$.

- ▶ Similarly define $\mu_{\vec{j}}^{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\mu_{\vec{j}}^{\mathcal{A}}$.

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- ▶ Similarly define $\mu_{\vec{j}}^{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\mu_{\vec{j}}^{\mathcal{A}}$.
- ▶ Define

$$\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}} := \left\{ f \in \mathcal{X}_t^{\mathcal{S}} \mid \mu_{\vec{j}}^{\mathcal{X}}(f) \in \mathcal{X}_t^{\mathcal{S}_{\vec{j}}} \text{ for all tuples } \vec{j} \text{ of indices in } I \setminus F \right\}.$$

- ▶ Define

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Positivity

Let $f \in \mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}} \setminus \{0\}$).

- ▶ f is **universally positive** if each $\mu_j^A(f)$ (respectively, $\mu_j^X(f)$) has positive integer coefficients.
- ▶ f is **atomic** if it is universally positive, but is not a sum of two other universally positive elements.

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- ▶ f is **atomic** if it is universally positive, but is not a sum of two other universally positive elements.

Let $\{\vartheta_p\}_{p \in M}$ be a $\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]$ -module basis for $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}}$ (or $\{\vartheta_p\}_{p \in N}$ for $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}}$).

- ▶ The **structure constants** $a_{p_1, p_2; p} \in \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]$ are defined by

$$\vartheta_{p_1} \vartheta_{p_2} = \sum_p a_{p_1, p_2; p} \vartheta_p$$

- ▶ $\{\vartheta_p\}$ is **strongly positive** if the structure constants $a_{p_1, p_2; p}$ have non-negative integer coefficients.

The Fock-Goncharov conjecture

Conjecture (Fock-Goncharov)

The atomic elements are indexed by M and form a basis for $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}}$ (respectively, they are indexed by N and form a basis for $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}}$). For $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}}$ this basis includes all the quantum cluster monomials.

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This is not quite right:

- ▶ Lee-Li-Zelevinsky: The atomic elements are often linearly dependent.
- ▶ Gross-Hacking-Keel: \mathcal{X}^{up} is often just \mathbb{C} and so cannot have a basis indexed by N .

Modified Fock-Goncharov conjectures

Corrections to the Fock-Goncharov conjecture:

- ▶ Need more charts, not just the clusters.
- ▶ Sometimes need to work with a formal completion:

$$\hat{\mathcal{A}}_t := \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[M] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[M^\oplus]} \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[M^\oplus], \quad \hat{\mathcal{X}}_t := \mathbb{C}_t^B[N] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}_t^B[N^\oplus]} \mathbb{C}_t^B[N^\oplus].$$

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Theorem (Davison-M)

Subject to the above modifications, the Fock-Goncharov conjectures are true.

- ▶ In the classical limit, we recover [Gross-Hacking-Keel-Kontsevich].
- ▶ Get bases for $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}}$ and $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}}$ in nice situations. Always get bases for some other algebras $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{mid}}$ and $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{mid}}$ contained in $\mathcal{A}_t^{\text{up}}$ and $\mathcal{X}_t^{\text{up}}$.

Plethystic exponentials

Define

$$\text{Exp} \left(\sum_{\substack{0 \neq m \in M^\oplus \\ r \in \mathbb{Z}}} a_{mr} z^m (-t)^r \right) = \prod_{\substack{0 \neq m \in M^\oplus \\ r \in \mathbb{Z}}} (1 - z^m (-t)^r)^{-a_{mr}}.$$

Motivation: If V is an $(M^\oplus \oplus \mathbb{Z})$ -graded vector space, define

$$\chi(V) := \sum_{m,r} \dim(V_{m,r}) t^r z^m \in \mathbb{Z}[t^{\pm 1}][M^\oplus].$$

Then

$$\chi(\text{Sym}^*(V)) = \text{Exp}(\chi(V)).$$

Plethystic exponentials

Now define

$$\mathbb{E}(f) := \text{Exp} (f(t + t^3 + t^5 + t^7 + \dots)) .$$

i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}(\chi(V)) = \chi(\text{Sym}^*(V \otimes H(\text{pt}/\mathbb{C}^*, \mathbb{Q})[-1])).$$

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In particular:

$$\mathbb{E}(-z^V) = \Psi_t(z^V)$$

where Ψ_t is the “quantum exponential.” Quantum mutation can be defined as conjugation by a quantum exponential.

Simplifying assumption

For convenience, I'm going to restrict to constructing theta bases for $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_t$, but the construction for $\widehat{\mathcal{X}}_t$ is similar.

Scattering diagrams

- ▶ A **scattering diagram** \mathfrak{D} is a collection of codimension one walls \mathfrak{d} in $M_{\mathbb{R}}$ with attached elements $g \in \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[[M^\oplus]]$.

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- ▶ Path $\gamma \subset M_{\mathbb{R}} \rightsquigarrow$ **path-ordered product** $\theta_{\gamma, \mathfrak{D}} : \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[[M^\oplus]] \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C}_t^\wedge[[M^\oplus]]$:
 - ▶ Whenever γ crosses a wall, conjugate by the function g attached to the wall (or its inverse).
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- ▶ Let

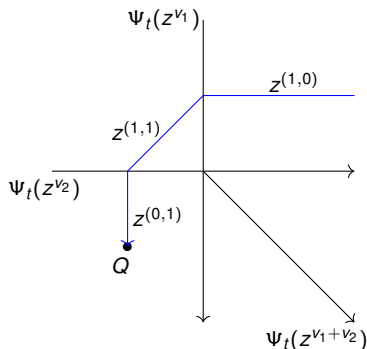
$$\mathfrak{D}_{\text{in}}^{\mathcal{A}} := \{(e_i^\perp, \Psi_t(z^{v_i})) \mid i \in I \setminus F\}.$$

- ▶ This canonically determines a consistent scattering diagram $\mathfrak{D}^{\mathcal{A}} = \text{Scat}(\mathfrak{D}_{\text{in}}^{\mathcal{A}})$.

Broken lines

Broken line with ends (p, Q) , $p \in M$, Q generic in $M_{\mathbb{R}}$ — a piecewise-straight path $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M_{\mathbb{R}}$, bending only at walls, with a monomial $a_i z^{p_i} \in \mathbb{C}_t[M]$ attached to each straight segment, such that:

- ▶ The first attached monomial is z^p ,
- ▶ $\gamma(0) = Q$,
- ▶ $p_i = -\gamma'_i$
- ▶ $a_{i+1} z^{p_{i+1}}$ is a term in $\theta_{\partial_i}(a_i z^{p_i})$.



Theta functions

For $p \in M$, $Q \in M_{\mathbb{R}}$, define

$$\vartheta_{p,Q} := \sum_{\text{Ends}(\gamma)=(p,Q)} a_{\gamma} z^{m_{\gamma}},$$

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Universally positive with respect to the scattering atlas — $\vartheta_{p,Q}$ has positive coefficients for each Q .

Positivity of the scattering diagram

Theorem (Davison-M)

Up to equivalence, every scattering function of \mathfrak{D}^A has the form $\mathbb{E}(-p(t)z^v)$ for some $p(t) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[t^{\pm 1}]$.

Theorem \implies Positivity of broken lines

\implies Universal and strong positivity, and atomicity.

Stability scattering diagrams

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- ▶ Consistent $\mathfrak{D}^{\text{Stab}}$ with scattering function g at generic $\zeta \in M_{\mathbb{R}}$ given by:

$$g^{-1} = \chi \left(H_c(\mathfrak{M}^{\zeta\text{-sst}}(Q), \mathbb{Q})_{\text{vir}}^* \right). \quad [\text{Bridgeland}]$$

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- ▶ $\mathfrak{D}^{\text{Stab}} = \mathfrak{D}^{\mathcal{A}}$ iff $Q \setminus \{\text{loops}\}$ is acyclic.
- ▶ Otherwise need Q with “genteel” potential (we avoid this).
- ▶ Davison-Meinhardt:
 $H_c(\mathfrak{M}_n^{\zeta\text{-sst}}(Q), \mathbb{Q})_{\text{vir}}^* = \text{Sym}(\text{BPS}_n^{\zeta}(Q) \otimes H(\text{pt}/\mathbb{C}^*, \mathbb{Q}))_{\text{vir}}.$
- ▶ So $g = \sum_m \mathbb{E}(-p_m(t)z^m)$ for some positive p_m 's.

Proof of positivity of $\mathfrak{D}^{\mathcal{A}}$

- Use tricks for manipulating scattering diagrams and induction to reduce to the case where \mathfrak{D}_{in} has only two walls [GHKK]:

$$\mathfrak{D}_{\text{in}} = \{(e_1^\perp, \mathbb{E}(-t^{m_1} z^{v_1})), (e_1^\perp, \mathbb{E}(-t^{m_2} z^{v_2}))\}.$$

Here, $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, but after a substitution we can assume they're in $\{0, -1\}$. Also assume $\Lambda(v_1, v_2) \geq 0$.

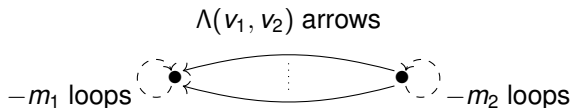
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Here, $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, but after a substitution we can assume they're in $\{0, -1\}$. Also assume $\Lambda(v_1, v_2) \geq 0$.

- ▶ Show $\text{Scat}(\mathfrak{D}_{\text{in}}) = \mathfrak{D}^{\text{Stab}}$ for Q as below:



Skein algebras

- ▶ Let $\Sigma = (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{M})$ be a closed surface with boundary \mathbf{S} , and let \mathbf{M} be a finite collection of marked points. Marked points in $\mathbf{S} \setminus \partial\mathbf{S}$ are called punctures.
- ▶ Consider the “skein algebra” consisting of isotopy classes of links in \mathbf{S} with boundary in \mathbf{M} , subject to relations:
 - ▶ Contractible arcs are equivalent to 0;
 - ▶ Contractible loops are equivalent to -2 .
 - ▶ A loop around a puncture is equivalent to 2;
 - ▶ The skein relation:



- ▶ Theorem [Fock-Goncharov, Fomin-Shapiro-Thurston]: This skein algebra $\text{Sk}(\Sigma)$ has a cluster structure such that:
 - ▶ (tagged) triangulations corresponding to clusters;
 - ▶ arcs correspond to cluster variables.

Quantum skein algebra

In unpunctured cases, Muller describes a quantum analog with these modifications to the relations from before:

- ▶ Contractible loops are equivalent to $-t - t^{-1}$;
- ▶ The Kaufmann skein relation:

The diagram illustrates the Kaufmann skein relation. It shows three circular diagrams enclosed in dashed lines. The first diagram on the left has two diagonal lines crossing each other. This is followed by an equals sign and the variable t . The second diagram has two vertical lines that curve inward towards each other. This is followed by a plus sign and the variable t^{-1} . The third diagram has two vertical lines that curve outward away from each other.

$$\text{Crossing} = t \text{ (Cup)} + t^{-1} \text{ (Cap)}$$

The resulting algebra $Sk_t(\Sigma)$ is a quantum cluster algebra.

Bracelet Bases

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- ▶ D. Thurston constructs quantum bracelet bases in unpunctured cases. Conjectures their strong positivity.
- ▶ Yurikusa: The g -vector cone is dense (in most cases). So the cluster atlas and the scattering atlas agree, and the theta bases satisfy the original Fock-Goncharov atomic bases conjectures (without needing the modifications I discussed).

Bracelets = Thetas

Theorem (Qin-M)

The bracelet bases agree with the theta bases. In unpunctured cases, the quantum bracelet bases agree with the quantum theta bases.

Very rough outline (using arguments involving broken lines, positivity, atomicity, modularity, pointedness, bar-invariance, etc.):

- ▶ Annulus case (the Kronecker quiver) — explicit check;
- ▶ Unpunctured surface with one boundary marking case;
- ▶ Gluing lemma — uses positivity and atomicity;
- ▶ Disjoint unions \leftrightarrow products.

Bracelets = Thetas

Theorem (Qin-M)

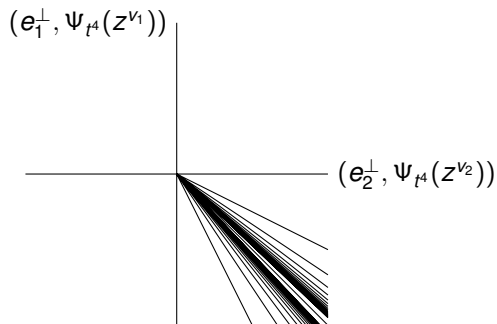
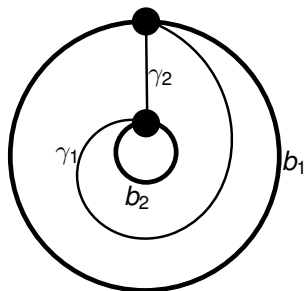
The bracelet bases agree with the theta bases. In unpunctured cases, the quantum bracelet bases agree with the quantum theta bases.

Very rough outline (using arguments involving broken lines, positivity, atomicity, modularity, pointedness, bar-invariance, etc.):

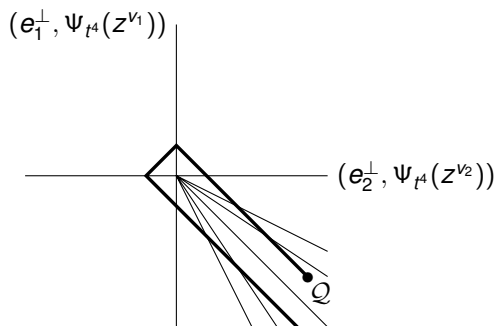
- ▶ Annulus case (the Kronecker quiver) — explicit check;
- ▶ Unpunctured surface with one boundary marking case;
- ▶ Gluing lemma — uses positivity and atomicity;
- ▶ Disjoint unions \leftrightarrow products.

Hope to get analogous results for the Fock-Goncharov \mathcal{X} -spaces (moduli of framed PGL_2 -local systems) and their quantum versions (Allegretti-Kim).

Annulus case



Annulus case



For $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}(1, -1)$, $v_{p,Q} = z^p + \dots + z^{-p} \rightsquigarrow$ Chebyshev relation.