Enumerative Geometry: from Classical to Modern

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Summary

- Classical enumerative geometry: examples
- Modern tools: Gromov-Witten invariants counts of holomorphic maps
- Insights from string theory:
 - quantum cohomology: refinement of usual cohomology
 - mirror symmetry formulas duality between symplectic/holomorphic structures
 - integrality predictions for GW-invariants geometric explanation yet to be discovered

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What is Classical EG about?

How many geometric objects satisfy given geometric conditions?

objects = curves, surfaces, ...

conditions = passing through given points, curves,... tangent to given curves, surfaces,... having given shape: genus, singularities, degree

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Example 0

Q: How many lines pass through 2 distinct points? (1)



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lines thr. the point and 1st line form a plane 2nd line intersects the plane in 1 point

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Q: How many lines pass thr 4 general lines in 3-space?

bring two of the lines together so that they intersect in a point and form a plane

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General Line Counting Problems

All/most line counting problems in vector space *V* reduce to computing intersections of cycles on

$$G(2, V) \equiv \{2 \text{ dim linear subspaces of } V\} \\
 \cong \{(affine) \text{ lines in } V\}$$

This is a special case of Schubert Calculus (very treatable)

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Example 0 (a semi-modern view)

Q: How many lines pass through 2 distinct points?

A line in the plane is described by $(A, B, C) \neq 0$:

Ax + By + C = 0.

(A, B, C) and (A', B', C') describe the same line iff

 $(A', B', C') = \lambda(A, B, C)$ $\therefore \{ \text{lines in } (x, y) \text{-plane} \} = \{ \text{1dim lin subs of } (A, B, C) \text{-space} \}$ $\equiv \mathbb{P}^2.$

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Example 0 (a semi-modern view)

Q: How many lines pass through 2 distinct points? (1)

 $\therefore = \# \text{ of lines } [A, B, C] \in \mathbb{P}^2 \text{ solving}$

$$\begin{cases} Ax_1 + By_1 + C = 0\\ Ax_2 + By_2 + C = 0 \end{cases}$$

 $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)$ =fixed points

The system has 1 1 dim lin space of solutions in (A, B, C)

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Example 0' (higher-degree plane curves)

degree *d* curve in (x, y)-plane \equiv 0-set of nonzero degree d polynomial in (x, y)polynomials *Q* and *Q'* determine same curve iff $Q' = \lambda Q$

coefficients of Q is $\binom{d+2}{2} \implies$

 $\{ \text{deg d curves in } (x, y) \text{-plane} \} = \{ 1 \text{dim lin subs of } \binom{d+2}{2} \text{-dim v.s.} \}$ $\equiv \mathbb{P}^{N(d)} \qquad N(d) \equiv \binom{d+2}{2} - 1$

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Example 0' (higher-degree plane curves)

 $\{ \text{deg d curves in } (x, y) \text{-plane} \} = \mathbb{P}^{N(d)}$

"Passing thr a point" = 1 linear eqn on coefficients of Q \implies get hyperplane in $\binom{d+2}{2}$ -dim v.s. of coefficients

 $\{ \text{deg d curves in } (x, y) \text{-plane thr. } (x_i, y_i) \} \approx \mathbb{P}^{N(d)-1} \subset \mathbb{P}^{N(d)}$

intersection of $\binom{d+2}{2} - 1$ HPs in $\binom{d+2}{2}$ -dim v.s. is 1 1dim lin subs intersection of N(d) HPs in $\mathbb{P}^{N(d)}$ is 1 point

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Example 0' (higher-degree plane curves)

 $\exists!$ degree d plane curve thr $N(d) \equiv \binom{d+2}{2} - 1$ general pts

d = 1 : \exists ! line thr 2 distinct pts in the plane d = 2 : \exists ! conic thr 5 general pts in the plane d = 3 : \exists ! cubic thr 9 general pts in the plane

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Typical Enumerative Problems

Count complex curves = (singular) Riemann surfaces Σ of fixed genus g, fixed degree din \mathbb{C}^n , $\mathbb{C}P^n = \mathbb{C}^n \sqcup \mathbb{C}^{n-1} \sqcup \ldots \sqcup \mathbb{C}^0$ in a hypersurface $Y \subset \mathbb{C}^n$, $\mathbb{C}P^n$ (0-set of a polynomial)

 $g(\Sigma) \equiv$ genus of Σ - singular points $d(\Sigma) \equiv$ # intersections of Σ with a generic hyperplane

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Adjunction Formula

If $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}P^2$ is smooth and of degree d,

$$g(\Sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} d-1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

every line, conic is of genus 0 every smooth plane cubic is of genus 1 every smooth plane quartic is of genus 3

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Classical Problem

 $n_d \equiv \#$ genus 0 degree d plane curves thr. (3d-1) general pts

- $n_1 = 1: \text{ # lines thr 2 pts}$ $n_2 = 1: \text{ # conics thr 5 pts}$ $n_3 = 12: \text{ # nodal cubics thr 8 pts} \implies \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}} \psi_1 = \frac{1}{24}$
- $n_3 = \#$ zeros of transverse bundle section over $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^2$ = euler class of rank 3 vector bundle over $\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^2$ $\mathbb{C}P^1 = \text{cubics thr. 8 general pts; } \mathbb{C}P^2 = \text{possibilities for node}$

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Genus 0 Plane Quartics thr 11 pts

 $n_4 = \#$ plane quartics thr 11 pts with 3 non-separating nodes Zeuthen'1870s: $n_4 = 620 = 675 - 55$

 $3! \cdot 675 =$ euler class of rank 9 vector bundle over $\mathbb{C}P^3 \times (\mathbb{C}P^2)^3$ minus excess contributions of a certain section $\mathbb{C}P^3 =$ quartics thr 11 pts; $\mathbb{C}P^2 =$ possibilities for *i*-th node

Details in *Counting Rational Plane Curves: Old and New Approaches*

Kontsevich's Formula (Ruan-Tian'1993)

 $n_d \equiv \#$ genus 0 degree d plane curves thr. (3d-1) general pts $n_1 = 1$

$$n_{d} = \frac{1}{6(d-1)} \sum_{d_{1}+d_{2}=d} \left(d_{1}d_{2} - 2\frac{(d_{1}-d_{2})^{2}}{3d-2} \right) \binom{3d-2}{3d_{1}-1} d_{1}d_{2}n_{d_{1}}n_{d_{2}}$$
$$n_{2} = 1, n_{3} = 12, n_{4} = 620, n_{5} = 87,304, n_{6} = 26,312,976, \dots$$

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Gromov's 1985 paper

Consider equivalence classes of maps $f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ (Σ, j) =connected Riemann surface, possibly with nodes

$$f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$$
 and $f': (\Sigma', j') \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ are equivalent if $f = f' \circ \tau$ for some $\tau: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow (\Sigma', j')$

 $f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is stable if

$$\operatorname{Aut}(f) \equiv \left\{ \tau : (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow (\Sigma, j) | f \circ \tau = f \right\}$$
 is finite

non-constant holomorphic $f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is stable iff the restr. of f to any $S^2 \subset \Sigma$ w. fewer than 3 nodes is not const

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Gromov's Compactness Theorem

genus of $f : (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is # of holes in $\Sigma (\geq g(\Sigma))$

degree *d* of $f \equiv |f^{-1}(H)|$ for a generic hyperplane:

$$f_*[\Sigma] = d[\mathbb{C}P^1] \in H_2(\mathbb{C}P^n;\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{C}P^1]$$

Theorem: With respect to a natural topology,

 $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(\mathbb{C}P^{n},d) \equiv \left\{ [f:(\Sigma,j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^{n}]: g(f) = g, d(f) = d, f \text{ holomor} \right\}$ is compact

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Maps vs. Curves

Image of holomorphic $f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^n$ is a curve genus of $f(\Sigma) \le g(f)$; degree of $f(\Sigma) \le d(f)$

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Physics Insight I: Quantum (Co)homology

Use counts of genus 0 maps to $\mathbb{C}P^n$ to deform \cup -product on H^* ,

$$H^*(\mathbb{C}P^n)=\mathbb{Z}[x]/x^{n+1},\qquad x^a\cup x^b=x^{a+b},$$

to *-product on $H^*(\mathbb{C}P^n)[q_0, \dots, q_n]$ $x^a * x^b = x^{a+b} + q$ -corrections counting genus 0 maps thr. $\mathbb{C}P^{n-a}, \mathbb{C}P^{n-b}$

Theorem (McDuff-Salamon'93, Ruan-Tian'93, ...)

The product * is associative

* generalizes to all cmpt algebraic/symplectic manifolds

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Physics Insight I: Quantum (Co)homology

Associativity of quantum multiplication is equivalent to

- Kontsevich's formula for $\mathbb{C}P^2$, extension to $\mathbb{C}P^n$
- gluing formula for counts of genus 0 maps

Remark: Classical proof of Kontsevich's formula for $\mathbb{C}P^2$ only: Z. Ran'95, elaborating on '89

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Other Enumerative Applications of Stable Maps

- Genus 0 with singularities: Pandharipande, Vakil, Z.-
- Genus 1: R. Pandharipande, Ionel, Z.-
- Genus 2,3: Z.-

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Gromov-Witten Invariants

 $Y = \mathbb{C}P^n$, = hypersurface in $\mathbb{C}P^n$ (0-set of a polynomial),... $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_k \subset Y$ cycles

$$\mathsf{GW}_{g,d}^{Y}(\mu) \equiv " \#" \left\{ [f \colon (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow Y] \in \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(Y, d) \colon f(\Sigma) \cap \mu_{i} \neq \emptyset \right\}$$

 $g = 0, Y = \mathbb{C}P^n$: $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y, d)$ is smooth, of expected dim, "#"=#

Typically, $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(Y, d)$ is highly singular, of wrong dim

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Example: Quintic Threefold

 $Y_5 \subset \mathbb{C}P^4$ 0-set of a degree 5 polynomial QSchubert Calculus: Y_5 contains 2,875 (isolated) lines S. Katz'86 (via Schubert): Y_5 contains 609,250 conics

For each line $L \subset Y_5$ and conic $C \subset Y_5$,

$$\{ [f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow Y_5] \in \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, 2) : f(\Sigma) \subset L \} \approx \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(\mathbb{C}P^1, 2) \\ \{ [f: (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow Y_5] \in \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, 2) : f(\Sigma) \subset C \} \approx \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(\mathbb{C}P^1, 1)$$

are connected components of $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, 2)$ of dimensions 2 and 0

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Expected dimension of $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, d)$

$$Y_5 = Q^{-1}(0) \subset \mathbb{C}P^4$$
 for a degree 5 polynomial Q

$$\implies \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{0}(Y_{5}, d) = \left\{ [f : (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^{4}] \in \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{4}, d) : Q \circ f = 0 \right\}$$

holomorphic degree $d f: \mathbb{C}P^1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}P^4$ has the form

$$f([u,v]) = [R_1(u,v),\ldots,R_5(u,v)]$$

 R_1, \ldots, R_5 = homogeneous polynomials of degree d

$$\implies \qquad \dim \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(\mathbb{C}P^4, d) = 5 \cdot (d+1) - 1 - 3$$

 $Q \circ f$ is homogen of degree 5*d* $\implies Q \circ f = 0$ is 5*d*+1 conditions on R_1, \ldots, R_5

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Expected dimension of $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, d)$

$$\implies \quad \dim^{\textit{vir}} \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(Y_5, d) = \dim \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_0(\mathbb{C}P^4, d) - (5d+1) = 0$$

A more elaborate computation gives

$$\dim^{vir}\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y_5,d)=0 \qquad \forall \ g$$

\implies want to define

$$N_{g,d} \equiv \mathsf{GW}_{g,d}^{Y_5}() \equiv \left| \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y_5,d) \right|^{\mathit{vir}}$$

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GW-Invariants of $Y_5 \subset \mathbb{C}P^4$

$$\begin{split} \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(Y_{5}, d) &= \left\{ \left[f : (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow Y_{5} \right] \mid g(f) = g, d(f) = d, \ \overline{\partial}_{j} f = \mathbf{0} \right\} \\ \overline{\partial}_{j} f &\equiv df + J_{Y_{5}} \circ df \circ j \\ N_{g,d} &\equiv \left| \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(Y_{5}, d) \right|^{vir} \\ &\equiv \# \left\{ \left[f : (\Sigma, j) \longrightarrow Y_{5} \right] \mid g(f) = g, d(f) = d, \ \overline{\partial}_{j} f = \nu(f) \right\} \end{split}$$

 ν = small generic deformation of $\bar{\partial}$ -equation

$$u$$
 multi-valued \Longrightarrow $N_{g,d} \in \mathbb{Q}$

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What is special about Y_5 ?

*Y*₅ is Calabi-Yau 3-fold:

- $c_1(TY_5) = 0$
- Y₅ is "flat on average": Ric_{Y5}=0

CY 3-folds are central to string theory

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Physics Insight II: Mirror Symmetry



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B-Side Computations for $Y = Y_5$

- Candelas-de la Ossa-Green-Parkes'91 construct mirror family, compute F^B₀
- Bershadsky-Cecotti-Ooguri-Vafa'93 (BCOV) compute F₁^B using physics arguments
- Fang-Z. Lu-Yoshikawa'03 compute F^B₁ mathematically
- Huang-Klemm-Quackenbush'06 compute F_g^B , $g \le 51$ using physics

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Mirror Symmetry Predictions and Verifications

Predictions

$$F_g^A(q) \equiv \sum_{d=1}^{\infty} N_{g,d} q^d \stackrel{?}{=} F_g^B(q).$$

Theorem (Givental'96, Lian-Liu-Yau'97,.....~'00)

g = 0 predict. of Candelas-de la Ossa-Green-Parkes'91 holds

Theorem (Z.'07)

g = 1 predict. of Bershadsky-Cecotti-Ooguri-Vafa'93 holds

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General Approach to Verifying $F_g^A = F_g^B$ (works for g = 0, 1)

Need to compute each $N_{g,d}$ and all of them (for fixed g):

Step 1: relate $N_{g,d}$ to GWs of $\mathbb{C}P^4 \supset Y_5$

Step 2: use $(\mathbb{C}^*)^5$ -action on $\mathbb{C}P^4$ to compute each $N_{g,d}$ by localization

Step 3: find some recursive feature(s) to compute $N_{g,d} \forall d \iff F_g^A$

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Modern Approach

From $Y_5 \subset \mathbb{C}P^4$ to $\mathbb{C}P^4$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{L} \equiv \mathcal{O}(5) & \mathcal{V}_{g,d} \equiv \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathcal{L},d) \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ \mathcal{Y}_5 \equiv Q^{-1}(0) \subset \mathbb{C}P^4 & & & \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y_5,d) \equiv \tilde{Q}^{-1}(0) \subset \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathbb{C}P^4,d) \end{array}$$

$$\tilde{\pi} \big([\xi \colon \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}] \big) = [\pi \circ \xi \colon \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} P^4] \\ \tilde{Q} \big([f \colon \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} P^4] \big) = [Q \circ f \colon \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}]$$

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From $Y_5 \subset \mathbb{C}P^4$ to $\mathbb{C}P^4$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{L} \equiv \mathcal{O}(5) & \mathcal{V}_{g,d} \equiv \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathcal{L},d) \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ \mathcal{Y}_5 \equiv Q^{-1}(0) \subset \mathbb{C}P^4 & & & & \\ & & & & \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y_5,d) \equiv \tilde{Q}^{-1}(0) \subset \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathbb{C}P^4,d) \end{array}$$

This suggests: Hyperplane Property

$$egin{aligned} & \mathcal{N}_{g,d} \equiv \left| \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(Y_5,d)
ight|^{\textit{vir}} \equiv \left| ilde{Q}^{-1}(0)
ight|^{\textit{vir}} \ & \stackrel{?}{=} \left\langle e(\mathcal{V}_{g,d}), [\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathbb{C}P^4,d)]^{\textit{vir}}
ight
angle \end{aligned}$$

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Genus 0 vs. Positive Genus

g = 0 everything is as expected:

- $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(\mathbb{C}P^{4}, d)$ is smooth
- $[\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(\mathbb{C}P^{4},d)]^{vir} = [\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}(\mathbb{C}P^{4},d)]$
- $\mathcal{V}_{g,d} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_g(\mathbb{C}P^4, d)$ is vector bundle
- hyperplane prop. makes sense and holds

 $g \ge 1$ none of these holds

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Genus 1 Analogue

Thm. A (J. Li–Z.'04): HP holds for reduced genus 1 GWs

$$\left|\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{1}^{0}(Y_{5},d)\right|^{\operatorname{vir}}=e(\mathcal{V}_{1,d})\cap\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{1}^{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{4},d).$$

This generalizes to complete intersections $Y \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$.

- $\mathcal{V}_{1,d} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4, d)$ not vector bundle, but $e(\mathcal{V}_{1,d})$ well-defined (0-set of generic section)

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Standard vs. Reduced GWs

Thm. A
$$\implies N_{1,d}^0 \equiv \left|\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(Y_5,d)\right|^{vir} = \int_{\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4,d)} e(\mathcal{V}_{1,d})$$

 $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(Y_5,d) \equiv \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4,d) \cap \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1(Y_5,d)$

Thm. B (Z.'04,'07): $N_{1,d} - N_{1,d}^0 = \frac{1}{12}N_{0,d}$

This generalizes to all symplectic manifolds:

[standard] – [reduced genus 1 GW] = F(genus 0 GW)

 \therefore to check BCOV, enough to compute $\int_{\widehat{\mathfrak{M}}_{1}^{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{4},d)} e(\mathcal{V}_{1,d})$

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- $(\mathbb{C}^*)^5$ acts on $\mathbb{C}P^4$ (with 5 fixed pts)
- \implies on $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_q(\mathbb{C}P^4, d)$ (with simple fixed loci) and on $\mathcal{V}_{a,d} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{a}(\mathbb{C}P^{4}, d)$

•
$$\int_{\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{g}^{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{4},d)} e(\mathcal{V}_{g,d})$$
 localizes to fixed loci

g = 0: Atiyah-Bott Localization Thm reduces $\int to \sum_{graphs}$

g = 1: $\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{q}^{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{4}, d), \mathcal{V}_{q,d}$ singular \Longrightarrow AB does not apply

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Modern Approach

Genus 1 Bypass

Thm. C (Vakil–Z.'05): $\mathcal{V}_{1,d} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4, d)$ admit natural desingularizations:

$$\implies \qquad \int_{\overline{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4,d)} \boldsymbol{e}(\mathcal{V}_{1,d}) = \int_{\widetilde{\mathfrak{M}}_1^0(\mathbb{C}P^4,d)} \boldsymbol{e}(\widetilde{\mathcal{V}}_{1,d})$$

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Computation of Genus 1 GWs of CIs

Thm. C generalizes to all $\mathcal{V}_{1,d} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{M}}_{1,k}^{0}(\mathbb{C}P^{n},d)$:



:. Thms A,B,C provide an algorithm for computing genus 1 GWs of complete intersections $X \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$

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Computation of $N_{1,d}$ for all d

- split genus 1 graphs into many genus 0 graphs at special vertex
- make use of good properties of genus 0 numbers to eliminate infinite sums
- extract non-equivariant part of elements in $H^*_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbb{P}^4)$

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Key Geometric Foundation

A Sharp Gromov's Compactness Thm in Genus 1 (Z.'04)

- describes limits of sequences of pseudo-holomorphic maps
- describes limiting behavior for sequences of solutions of a $\bar\partial\text{-}\text{equation}$ with limited perturbation
- allows use of topological techniques to study genus 1 GWs

Main Tool

Analysis of Local Obstructions

- study obstructions to smoothing pseudo-holomorphic maps from singular domains
- not just potential existence of obstructions

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