

# Problems on QFT and stable envelopes

## Mass in supersymmetric quantum mechanics (SQM)

Consider equivariant SQM with target space  $X = \mathbb{C}$  (free chiral multiplet), on which  $U(1)$  acts via a rotation  $V = \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}$ , the Morse function is  $f = \frac{1}{2}m|z|^2$ , where  $z$  is the standard coordinate on  $\mathbb{C}$ , and the metric is standard. That is, the supercharge is  $\mathcal{Q} = e^{-f}(d + \iota_{\epsilon_V})e^f = d + df + \iota_{\epsilon_V}$ , and the Hamiltonian is  $H = \frac{1}{2}\{\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{Q}^\dagger\}$ .

- Writing the  $L^2$ -ground state as  $\Psi^{(m)} = e^{-f}\Omega^{(m)}$ , where  $\Omega^{(m)}$  is some equivariant differential form on  $X$ , find this  $\Omega^{(m)}$ .
- Using the SQM with time-dependent Morse function as described in lecture (in which the Hamiltonian is  $H = \frac{1}{2}\{\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{Q}^\dagger\} - i\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}$ ), consider  $f = \frac{1}{2}m(t)|z|^2$ , where the mass is  $m_1$  for  $t < 0$  and  $m_2$  for  $t > 0$ , (i.e., it jumps by  $m_2 - m_1$  at  $t = 0$ ). This jump defines an operator acting on the space of states that we can refer to as the interface  $\widehat{I}$ . Compute the vacuum-vacuum transition amplitude  $\langle \text{vac}_{m_1} | \widehat{I} | \text{vac}_{m_2} \rangle = R[m_1 \rightarrow m_2]$  of this interface. Check that it obeys

$$R[m_2 \rightarrow m_3]R[m_1 \rightarrow m_2] = R[m_1 \rightarrow m_3]. \quad (0.1)$$

- What is the limit of  $\Omega^{(m)}$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$  and for  $m \rightarrow -\infty$ ?
- Do the same for a free hypermultiplet. That is,  $X = \mathbb{C}^2$ ,  $f = \frac{1}{2}m(|z_1|^2 - |z_2|^2)$ , and we work equivariantly with respect to  $U(1) \times U(1)$  acting on the two factors of  $\mathbb{C}$  (with equivariant parameters  $\epsilon_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$ ). What is the  $m \rightarrow \infty$  limit of  $R[m \rightarrow -m]$  in this case?

## Domain wall in SQED<sub>2</sub>

Consider SQED<sub>2</sub>, that is a gauge theory with eight supercharges with hypers valued in  $\mathcal{R} \oplus \overline{\mathcal{R}}$ , where  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ , both summands being the charge 1 representations of the gauge group  $G = U(1)$  (so in  $\overline{\mathcal{R}} = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$  both  $\mathbb{C}$ 's have the charge  $-1$ ). The real F.I. parameter is  $\zeta$ , the real mass is  $m$ . Assuming that  $e^2\zeta = 2m^2$  (here  $e$  is the gauge coupling), find the two fixed points (isolated massive vacua) on the Higgs branch  $X_H = T^*\mathbb{C}P^1$  and solve analytically for the supersymmetric gradient flow trajectories that connect them. Such trajectories represent domain walls between the two massive vacua. As we send  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , what is the energy of

such a domain wall (in quantum mechanics) or energy per unit volume (in higher-dimensional QFT)? (*Look up or ask for any undefined physical notions.*)

## Motivation for elliptic cohomology

Let  $\mathcal{X} = \text{Map}(\mathbb{T}^2, \mathbb{C})$  be the appropriate space of complex functions on the two-torus (determine yourself what space should be considered). It is acted on by  $S_1^1 \times S_2^1 \times S_3^1$ , where the first two circles rotated the A and B cycles of the torus, and the third  $S^1$  rotates  $\mathbb{C}$  around the origin  $0 \in \mathbb{C}$ . Let us try to take the equivariant cohomology of  $\mathcal{X}$ ,

$$H_{S_1^1 \times S_2^1 \times S_3^1}^\bullet(\mathcal{X}), \tag{0.2}$$

seriously. It is expected to appear as the description of supersymmetric ground states of a free 3d chiral multiplet on  $\mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ , viewed as an SQM with target  $\mathcal{X}$ . By applying the Atiah-Bott localization, we expect that every equivariant cohomology class localizes to the fixed point of  $S_1^1 \times S_2^1 \times S_3^1$ . What is this fixed point? Compute the Euler character of the normal bundle to the fixed point as a function of equivariant parameters (let us denote the equivariant parameters of  $S_1^1 \times S_2^1 \times S_3^1$  by  $\beta$ ,  $\tau$  and  $a$ , respectively). Observe that it is not a function, but rather a section: Of what bundle and on what base? *Hint: you might need to use the zeta-function or some other regularization.*

## Chern-Simons levels and factors of automorphy

Consider a 3d QFT that has a unique gapped vacuum  $|0\rangle$ . Let this vacuum preserve global symmetry  $U(1)^r$ . Coupling to the background gauge fields for this symmetry (the vacuum response to the external magnetic field) is described, in the leading order, by the effective Chren-Simons action

$$\Gamma[A] = \frac{k_{ij}}{4\pi} \int A^i dA^j, \tag{0.3}$$

where  $k_{ij}$  is some symmetric matrix of integers. Consider this theory on  $\mathbb{E}_\tau \times \mathbb{R}$ , where we turn on flat connections for the  $U(1)^r$  along the torus  $\mathbb{E}_\tau$ . Such flat connections are parameterized by  $\mathcal{E} \cong (\mathbb{E}_\tau^\vee)^r$ , and the vacuum  $\mathbb{C}|0\rangle$  fibers non-trivially over  $\mathcal{E}$ . Determine the natural holomorphy structure induced by the Berry connection, as well as the factor of automorphy of this line bundle.