Modular functors, cohomological field theories, and topological recursion

Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen, Gaëtan Borot, and Nicolas Orantin

ABSTRACT. Given a topological modular functor $\mathcal{V}$ in the sense of Walker, we construct vector bundles $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, whose Chern characters define semi-simple cohomological field theories. This construction depends on a determination of the logarithm of the eigenvalues of the Dehn twist and central element actions. We show that the intersection indices of the Chern character with the ψ-classes in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ is computed by the topological recursion of Eynard and Orantin, for a local spectral curve that we describe. In particular, we show how the Verlinde formula for the ranks $[D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} = \mathrm{rank}\,[\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ is recovered from the topological recursion. We analyze the consequences of our result on two examples: modular functors associated to a finite group G (for which $[D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ enumerates certain G-principle bundles over a genus g surface with n boundary conditions specified by $\vec{\lambda}$), and the modular functor obtained from Wess-Zumino-Witten conformal field theory associated to a simple, simply-connected Lie group G (for which $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ is the Verlinde bundle).

1. Introduction

Background. The pioneering works of Atiyah, Segal and Witten [**9**, **84**, **96**] turned $2d$ conformal field theories (CFT) [**15**] into an effective machinery to design interesting 3-manifold invariants, known under the name of "quantum invariants". More thoroughly, it allowed the construction of $3d$ topological quantum field theories (TQFT), where the $2d$ CFT is thought of as living on the boundary of 3-manifolds. The axioms of a $3d$ TQFT were worked out in details by Reshetikhin and Turaev, and they further constructed the first and most important example from the quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ at $q = $ a root of unity [**80**, **81**, **89**].

There exist several variants of axiomatizations that embody the concept of a CFT. This article deals with one of these axiomatizations for the topological part of a CFT, called a "modular functor". It was proposed by Segal in the context of rational conformal field theory [**84**] covering the holomorphic part of CFT, and developed in Walker's notes [**94**] in the purely topological context. Namely, we consider functors from the category of marked surfaces – with projective tangent vectors and labels in a finite set Λ at punctures, and a Lagrangian subspace of the

first homology –, to the category of finite dimensional complex vector spaces. In particular, such a functor determines representations of a central extension of the mapping class groups. The main property required to be a modular functor is that the vector spaces attached to a surface enjoy a factorization property when the surface is pinched. The full definitions are given in Section 2. From the data of a modular functor in this sense, [**52**, **63**] show how to obtain a $(2 + 1)$-dimensional TQFT.

The main source of modular functors are modular tensor categories (MTC) [**8**, **12**, **89**]. At present, it seems that all known examples of modular functors come from a modular tensor category, but it is not known whether all modular functors are of this kind. Among examples of MTC, we find some categories of representations of quantum groups [**89**], and categories of representations of vertex operator algebras (VOA) [**43**, **56**].

The Wess-Zumino-Witten models form a well-studied class of examples of this type. The MTC here arises from representations of a VOA constructed from affine Kač-Moody algebras $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$ [**62**]. It gives rise to Hilbert spaces of a TQFT, which come as vector bundles (the so-called Verlinde bundles) over a family of complex curves with coordinates, equipped with a projectively flat connection [**88**], which coincides with Hitchin's connection from the point of view of geometric quantization [**66**]. The choice of coordinates can actually be bypassed [**67**, **87**, **88**] and the Verlinde bundles exist as bundles $\mathcal{V}_{g,n}^{\mathrm{WZW}}$ over the moduli space of curves, which extend nicely to the Deligne-Mumford compactification. The explicit construction of a modular functor from this perspective – also called the CFT approach – was described in [**3**, **4**]. There is another approach, based on a category of representations of a quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})$ at certain roots of unity. It leads to the Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev TQFT, constructed in [**18**, **80**, **81**] for $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$, and in [**90**] for any simple Lie algebra of type ABCD. This theory for $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ was also constructed using skein theory by Blanchet, Habegger, Masbaum and Vogel in [**17**, **18**] and by Blanchet in [**16**] for $\mathfrak{sl}_N$. As anticipated by Witten, the CFT approach and the quantum group approach should give equivalent TQFTs. For instance, the equivalence of the modular functors was established by the first author of this paper and Ueno in [**5**, **7**] for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{su}_N$.

The rank of the Verlinde bundle is already a non-trivial invariant, which is computed by the famous Verlinde formula [**14**, **40**, **74**, **93**]. Marian et al. [**70**] lately showed that the Chern character of $\mathcal{V}_{g,n}^{\mathrm{WZW}}$ defines a semi-simple cohomological field theory (CohFT). It can be characterized in terms of its R-matrix thanks to the classification results of Givental and Teleman [**48**, **86**]: from the R-matrix, one can build the exponential of a second-order differential operator, which acts on a product of several copies of the Witten-Kontsevich generating series of ψ-classes (the matrix Airy function/KdV tau function of [**64**]), and returns the generating series of the intersection of the Chern character at hand with an arbitrary product of ψ-classes. We call these invariants the "CohFT correlation functions". When we introduce a variable t in the Chern character keeping track of the cohomological degree, and send $t \to 0$, these correlation functions return the rank of the bundle, which can be thought of as the "2d TQFT correlation functions".

Contribution of the article. In the present article, we generalize the results of [**70**] to any modular functor – hence not relying on the peculiarities of the Wess-Zumino-Witten models. For a given modular functor, we construct a trivial bundle

$[\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_{\tilde{\lambda}}^{0}]_{g,n}$ over Teichmüller space, which, after twisting by suitable line bundles, descends to a bundle $[\mathcal{Z}_{\tilde{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ over $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ (Theorem 2.5). We can use Chern-Weil theory to compute the Chern character of $[\mathcal{Z}_{\tilde{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ (Proposition 2.6) in terms of ψ-classes and the first Chern class of the Hodge bundle – their coefficients are related respectively to the central charge c and the log of Dehn twist eigenvalues r_{λ} (aka conformal weights). Besides, we show that our bundle extends to the boundary of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ (Theorem 2.9). All together, this constitutes our first main result. Since $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ is an orbifold, the Chern character of our bundle must have rational coefficients, hence a new (geometric) proof of Vafa's theorem [92] stating that c and r_{λ} must be rational. Our proof actually shows this for any modular functor, including non-unitary cases.

Since our bundle enjoys factorization implied by the axioms of a modular functor, we can conclude that $\mathrm{Ch}_{t}([\mathcal{Z}_{\tilde{\lambda}}]_{g,n})$ defines a semi-simple cohomological field theory on a Frobenius algebra $\mathcal{A}$ whose underlying vector space is the space that the modular functor assigns to a torus (Theorem 3.2). Because the twists can depend on log-determinations for the central charge and the conformal weights, and because we have the variable $t \in \mathbb{C}$ (introduced to keep track of each cohomological degree separately), we actually produce a 1-parameter family of CohFTs. The existence of an S-matrix that diagonalizes the product in $\mathcal{A}$ ensures the semi-simplicity of these theories, and we compute the R-matrix of these CohFT in terms of the S-matrix (Proposition 3.4).

Then, from the general result of [33], we know that the correlation functions of these CohFTs is computed by the topological recursion of [38] for a local spectral curve. We describe explicitly this local spectral curve and the relevant initial data $(\omega_{0,1}, \omega_{0,2})$. It depends solely on the $\mathrm{SL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$ representation provided by the genus 1 part of the modular functor (Proposition 4.5). If the variable t is set to 0, we recover Verlinde's formula for the rank of our bundle as a special case of the topological recursion (Proposition 4.4); in general, we obtain that the $\omega'_{g,n}$s of the topological recursion for this spectral curve are expressed in terms of integrals of the Chern character and ψ-classes (Equation 4.25). This formula is our second main result.

We illustrate our findings on two classes of Wess-Zumino-Witten models. In Section 5, we address the modular functors associated to a finite group G [28, 30, 42]. They are also called "orbifold holomorphic models". In the "untwisted case", their Frobenius algebra contains simultaneously the fusion rules of the representation ring of G and (albeit undirectly) the decomposition of the product of conjugacy classes. The dimensions of the TQFT vector spaces count certain G-principle bundles over the surface in question. We therefore find – in a rather trivial way – a topological recursion for these numbers, where the induction concerns the Euler characteristics of the base. In the "untwisted case" we obtain a degree 0 CohFT, which only remembers the dimension of the vector spaces, but in the twisted case, the CohFT is in general non-trivial (see Lemma 5.1). In Section 6, we examine the Wess-Zumino-Witten models based on a compact Lie group G at level ℓ, for which $[\mathcal{Z}_{\tilde{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ is the Verlinde bundle studied in [70]. Remarkably, for $SU(N)_{\ell}$, we find that $\omega_{0,2}$ for the local spectral curve is expressible in terms of a suitable truncation of the generating series of double Hurwitz numbers (number of branched coverings over the Riemann sphere). This poses the question of the combinatorial interpretation of the correlation function of these CohFTs in the context of enumeration of coverings over a surface of arbitrary topology.

To summarize, from a physical point of view, we have associated to a modular functor a CohFT that should encode Gromov-Witten theory of a target space X. Having a modular functor means that the worldsheet (a surface of genus g with n boundaries) roughly speaking carries a CFT. As we comment in Section 7, the local spectral curve used in Section 3 for the topological recursion, should describe the vicinity of an isolated singularities in a Landau-Ginzburg model $\tilde{X}$. As of now, the description of the global geometry of X and $\tilde{X}$ is unclear to us.
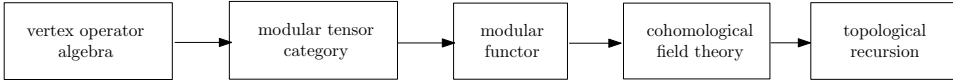
| vertex operator algebra | → | modular tensor category | → | modular functor | → | cohomological field theory | → | topological recursion |

FIGURE 1. $A \to B$ means that B (or a set of quantities fulfilling the axioms of B) can be obtained from the data of A ; these are not equivalences, i.e. in general A cannot be fully recovered from B, and neither all B come from an A. A wealth of definitions sometimes fall under the same names. To avoid ambiguities: VOA are as in [**57**] ; the notion of modular functor we adopt is described in Section 2.3, following the approach of Walker [**94**] ; the notion of CohFT is described in Section 3.1, simplifying the axiomatization given by Kontsevich and Manin [**65**] ; the topological recursion is described in Section 4.1, following Eynard and the third author [**39**].

2. Construction of vector bundles from a modular functor

We introduce the category of marked surfaces, their automorphism groups, and review the axioms of a modular functor. The target category is that of finite dimensional vector spaces over the field of complex numbers. The motivation to introduce marked surfaces is explained e.g. in [**94**]: in quantum field theory, if one works with a naive category of surfaces, the states have a phase ambiguity, so that the target category would rather be that of projective vector spaces. The marking allows us to resolve phase ambiguities and work with vector spaces.

We then explain, in Section 2.6, how to obtain from any given modular functor, a family of vector bundles over the moduli space of curves. We compute its Chern character in terms of the basic data of the modular functor (Theorem 2.6). A delicate but essential point for Section 3 is to prove that the bundles extend to the Deligne-Mumford compactification of the moduli space. This is achieved in Section 2.7, with a detour via a bordification of the Teichmüller space.

2.1. The category of marked surfaces. Let us start by fixing notations. By a closed surface we mean a smooth real 2-dimensional, compact manifold. For an oriented closed surface Σ of genus g we have the non-degenerate skew-symmetric intersection pairing

$$(\cdot, \cdot) : H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z}) \times H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z}) \to \mathbb{Z}.$$

Suppose Σ is connected. In this case a Lagrangian $L \subseteq H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$ is by definition a sublattice which is maximally isotropic with respect to the intersection pairing. A $\mathbb{Z}$-basis $(\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_g, \beta_1, \ldots \beta_g)$ for $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$ is called a symplectic basis if

$$(\alpha_i, \beta_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad (\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = (\beta_i, \beta_j) = 0,$$

for all $i, j \in [\![1, g]\!]$. If Σ is not connected, then $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z}) = \bigoplus_i H_1(\Sigma_i, \mathbb{Z})$, where Σ_i are the connected components of Σ. In this context, by definition in this paper, a Lagrangian is a sublattice of the form $L = \bigoplus_i L_i$, where $L_i \subset H_1(\Sigma_i, \mathbb{Z})$ is Lagrangian. Likewise a symplectic basis for $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$ is a $\mathbb{Z}$-basis of the form $((\vec{\alpha}^i, \vec{\beta}^i))$, where $(\vec{\alpha}^i, \vec{\beta}^i)$ is a symplectic basis for $H_1(\Sigma_i, \mathbb{Z})$.

For any real vector space V, we define $\mathcal{P}V = (V - \{0\})/\mathbb{R}_+$.

DEFINITION 2.1. A *pointed surface* (Σ, P) is an oriented closed surface Σ with a finite set of points $P \subset \Sigma$.

DEFINITION 2.2. A *morphism of pointed surfaces* $f : (\Sigma_1, P_1) \to (\Sigma_2, P_2)$ is an isotopy class of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms which map P_1 to P_2. The group of automorphisms of a pointed surface (Σ, P) is the mapping class group, and it will be denoted $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$. It consists of the isotopy classes of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms of Σ which are the identity on P. The *framed mapping class group* of a pointed surface is denoted $\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P}$ and it consists of isotopy classes of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms which are the identity on P as well as on the tangent spaces at each $p \in P$.

We stress that for the (framed) mapping class group, the isotopies allowed in the equivalence relation must also be the identity on P (and on the tangent spaces at P). We clearly have the following Lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. *There is a short exact sequence*

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^P \longrightarrow \tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P} \longrightarrow \Gamma_{\Sigma,P} \to 1,$$

where the generator of the factor of $\mathbb{Z}$ corresponding to $p \in P$ is given by the Dehn twist δ_p in the boundary of an embedded disk in $\Sigma - (P - \{p\})$ and centred in p.

DEFINITION 2.3. A *marked surface* $\mathbf{\Sigma} = (\Sigma, P, V, L)$ is the data of an oriented closed surface Σ with a finite subset $P \subset \Sigma$ of points, projective tangent vectors $V \in \prod_{p \in P} \mathcal{P}T_p\Sigma$ and a Lagrangian subspace $L \subseteq H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{Z})$.

DEFINITION 2.4. A *morphism* $\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{\Sigma}_1 \to \mathbf{\Sigma}_2$ of marked surfaces $\mathbf{\Sigma}_i = (\Sigma_i, P_i, V_i, L_i)$ is an isotopy class of orientation preserving diffeomorphisms $f : \Sigma_1 \to \Sigma_2$ that map (P_1, V_1) to (P_2, V_2) together with an integer s. Hence we write $\mathbf{f} = (f, s)$.

Let σ be Wall's signature cocycle for triples of Lagrangian subspaces of $H_1(\Sigma, \mathbb{R})$ [95].

DEFINITION 2.5. Let $\mathbf{f}_1 = (f_1, s_1) : \mathbf{\Sigma}_1 \to \mathbf{\Sigma}_2$ and $\mathbf{f}_2 = (f_2, s_2) : \mathbf{\Sigma}_2 \to \mathbf{\Sigma}_3$ be morphisms of marked surfaces $\mathbf{\Sigma}_i = (\Sigma_i, P_i, V_i, L_i)$. Then, the *composition* of $\mathbf{f}_1$ and $\mathbf{f}_2$ is

$$\mathbf{f}_2\mathbf{f}_1 = (f_2 f_1, s_2 + s_1 - \sigma((f_2 f_1)_* L_1^{\mathbb{R}}, f_{2*} L_2^{\mathbb{R}}, L_3^{\mathbb{R}})).$$

where $L_i^{\mathbb{R}} = L_i \otimes \mathbb{R}$.

With the objects being marked surfaces and the morphisms and their composition being defined as above, we have constructed the category of marked surfaces.

The mapping class group $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ of a marked surface $\mathbf{\Sigma} = (\Sigma, P, V, L)$ is the group of automorphisms of $\mathbf{\Sigma}$. The group $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ is a central extension of the framed mapping class group $\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P}$ of the pointed surface (Σ, P)

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}} \longrightarrow \tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P} \longrightarrow 1$$

defined by the 2-cocycle $\gamma : \Gamma_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \to \mathbb{Z}$, $\gamma(f_2, f_1) = \sigma((f_2 f_1)_* L^{\mathbb{R}}, f_{2*} L^{\mathbb{R}}, L^{\mathbb{R}})$. It is known that this cocycle is equivalent to the cocycle obtained by considering 2-framings on mapping cylinders, see [**10**] and [**2**]. Briefly, the relation is as follows: a 2-framing is determined by the first Pontryagin number p_1; Hirzebruch's formula says that p_1 is three times the signature of the 4-manifold and, by construction [**95**], σ expresses the non-additivity of the signature.

Notice also that for any morphism $(f, s) : \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \to \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2$, we can factor

$$
\begin{aligned}
(f, s) &= ((\mathrm{Id}, s') : \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2 \to \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2) \circ (f, s - s') \\
&= (f, s - s') \circ ((\mathrm{Id}, s') : \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \to \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1).
\end{aligned}
$$

In particular $(\mathrm{Id}, s) : \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \to \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is $(\mathrm{Id}, 1)^s$.

2.2. Operations on marked surfaces.

DEFINITION 2.6. The operation of *disjoint union of marked surfaces* is

$$
(\Sigma_1, P_1, V_1, L_1) \sqcup (\Sigma_2, P_2, V_2, L_2) = (\Sigma_1 \sqcup \Sigma_2, P_1 \sqcup P_2, V_1 \sqcup V_2, L_1 \oplus L_2).
$$

Morphisms on disjoint unions are accordingly $(f_1, s_1) \sqcup (f_2, s_2) = (f_1 \sqcup f_2, s_1 + s_2)$.

We see that the disjoint union is an operation on the category of marked surfaces.

DEFINITION 2.7. Let $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ be a marked surface. We denote by $-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ the marked surface obtained from $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ by the *operation of reversal of the orientation*. For a morphism $\mathbf{f} = (f, s) : \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \to \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2$ we let the orientation reversed morphism be given by $-\mathbf{f} = (f, -s) : -\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \to -\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2$.

We also see that orientation reversal is an operation on the category of marked surfaces.

Let us now consider glueing of marked surfaces. Let $(\Sigma, \{p_-, p_+\} \sqcup P, \{v_-, v_+\} \sqcup V, L)$ be a marked surface, where we have selected an ordered pair (p_-, p_+) of marked points with projective tangent vectors v_- at p_- and v_+ at p_+, at which we will perform the glueing. Let $C : \mathcal{P}(T_{p_-}\Sigma) \to \mathcal{P}(T_{p_+}\Sigma)$ be an orientation reversing projective isomorphism such that $C(v_-) = v_+$. Such a C is called a *glueing map* for Σ. Let $\tilde{\Sigma}$ be the oriented surface with boundary obtained from Σ by blowing up p_- and p_+, i.e.

$$
\tilde{\Sigma} = (\Sigma - \{p_-, p_+\}) \sqcup \mathcal{P}(T_{p_-}\Sigma) \sqcup \mathcal{P}(T_{p_+}\Sigma),
$$

with the natural smooth structure induced from Σ. Let now Σ_C be the oriented closed surface obtained from $\tilde{\Sigma}$ by using C to glue the two boundary components of $\tilde{\Sigma}$ corresponding to $p_{\pm}$. We call Σ_C the glueing of Σ at the ordered pair $((p_-, v_-), (p_+, v_+))$ with respect to C.

Let now Σ' be the topological space obtained from Σ by identifying p_- and p_+. We then have natural continuous maps $q : \Sigma_C \to \Sigma'$ and $n : \Sigma \to \Sigma'$. On the first homology group n induces an injection and q a surjection, so we can define a Lagrangian $L_C \subseteq H_1(\Sigma_C, \mathbb{Z})$ by $L_C = q_*^{-1}(n_*(L))$. We note that the image of $\mathcal{P}(T_{p_-}\Sigma)$ (with the orientation induced from $\tilde{\Sigma}$) induces naturally a line in $H_1(\Sigma_C, \mathbb{R})$ and as such it is contained in $L_C^{\mathbb{R}}$.

REMARK 2.8. If we have two glueing maps $C_i : \mathcal{P}(T_{p_-}\Sigma) \to \mathcal{P}(T_{p_+}\Sigma)$, $i = 1, 2$, we note that there is a diffeomorphism $f : \Sigma \to \Sigma$ inducing the identity on $(p_-, v_-) \sqcup (p_+, v_+) \sqcup (P, V)$ which is isotopic to the identity among such maps, and such that $(\mathrm{d}f_{p_+})^{-1} \circ C_2 \circ \mathrm{d}f_{p_-} = C_1$. In particular f induces a diffeomorphism

$f : \Sigma_{C_1} \to \Sigma_{C_2}$ compatible with $f : \Sigma \to \Sigma$, which maps L_{C_1} to L_{C_2}. Any two such diffeomorphisms of Σ induce isotopic diffeomorphisms from Σ_1 to Σ_2.

DEFINITION 2.9. Let $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = (\Sigma, \{p_-, p_+\} \sqcup P, \{v_-, v_+\} \sqcup V, L)$ be a marked surface. Let

$$C : \mathcal{P}(T_{p_-}\Sigma) \to \mathcal{P}(T_{p_+}\Sigma)$$

be a glueing map and Σ_C the glueing of Σ at the ordered pair $((p_-, v_-), (p_+, v_+))$ with respect to C. Let $L_C \subseteq H_1(\Sigma_C, \mathbb{Z})$ be the Lagrangian subspace constructed above from L. Then the marked surface $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_C = (\Sigma_C, P, V, L_C)$ is defined to be the *glueing* of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ at the ordered pair $((p_-, v_-), (p_+, v_+))$ with respect to C.

We observe that glueing also extends to morphisms of marked surfaces which preserve the ordered pair $((p_-, v_-), (p_+, v_+))$, by using glueing maps which are compatible with the morphism in question.

2.3. The axioms for a modular functor. We now give the axioms for a modular functor. This notion is due to G. Segal and appeared first in [84]. We present them here in a topological form, which is closer to Walker [94]. We note that similar, but different, axioms for a modular functor are given in [89], relying on modular tensor categories. At present, it is not known whether the definition in [89] is equivalent to ours.

DEFINITION 2.10. A *label set* Λ is a finite set equipped with an involution $\lambda \mapsto \lambda^\dagger$ and a distinguished element 1 such that $1^\dagger = 1$.

DEFINITION 2.11. Let Λ be a label set. The category of Λ-*labeled marked surfaces* consists of marked surfaces with an element of Λ assigned to each of the marked point. An assignment of elements of Λ to the marked points of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is called a labeling of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ and we denote the labeled marked surface by $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})$, where $\vec{\lambda}$ is the labeling. Morphisms of labeled marked surfaces are required to preserve the labelings.

We define a labeled pointed surface similarly.

REMARK 2.12. The operation of disjoint union clearly extends to labeled marked surfaces. When we extend the operation of orientation reversal to labeled marked surfaces, we also apply the involution † to all the labels.

DEFINITION 2.13. A *modular functor* based on the label set Λ is a functor $\mathcal{V}$ from the category of labeled marked surfaces to the category of finite dimensional complex vector spaces satisfying the axioms MF1 to MF5 below.

MF1. Disjoint union axiom. The operation of disjoint union of labeled marked surfaces is taken to the operation of tensor product, i.e. for any pair of labeled marked surfaces there is an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{V}((\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, \vec{\lambda}_1) \sqcup (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2, \vec{\lambda}_2)) \cong \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, \vec{\lambda}_1) \otimes \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_2, \vec{\lambda}_2).$$

The identification is associative.

MF2. Glueing axiom. Let $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_C$ be marked surfaces such that $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_C$ is obtained from $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ by glueing at an ordered pair of points and projective tangent vectors with respect to a glueing map C. Then there is an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_C, \vec{\lambda}) \cong \bigoplus_{\mu \in \Lambda} \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \mu, \mu^\dagger, \vec{\lambda}),$$

which is associative, compatible with glueing of morphisms, disjoint unions and it is independent of the choice of the glueing map in the obvious way (see Remark 2.8).

MF3. Empty surface axiom. Let $\varnothing$ denote the empty labeled marked surface. Then

$$\dim \mathcal{V}(\varnothing) = 1.$$

MF4. Once punctured sphere axiom. Let $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = (S^2, \{p\}, \{v\}, 0)$ be a marked sphere with one marked point. Then

$$\dim \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \lambda) = \begin{cases} 1, & \lambda = 1 \\ 0, & \lambda \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

MF5. Twice punctured sphere axiom. Let $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = (S^2, \{p_1, p_2\}, \{v_1, v_2\}, \{0\})$ be a marked sphere with two marked points. Then

$$\dim \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \lambda, \mu) = \begin{cases} 1, & \lambda = \mu^{\dagger} \\ 0, & \lambda \neq \mu^{\dagger}. \end{cases}$$

In addition to the above axioms one may require extra properties, namely:

MF-D. Orientation reversal axiom. The operation of orientation reversal of labeled marked surfaces is compatible with the operation of taking the dual vector space, i.e for any labeled marked surface $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})$ there is a pairing

$$(2.1) \qquad \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}) \otimes \mathcal{V}(-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}^{\dagger}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

compatible with disjoint unions, glueings and orientation reversals (in the sense that the induced isomorphisms $\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}) \cong \mathcal{V}(-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}^{\dagger})^*$ and $\mathcal{V}(-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}^{\dagger}) \cong \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})^*$ are adjoints).

MF-U. Unitarity axiom. Every vector space $\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})$ is furnished with a hermitian inner product

$$(\cdot, \cdot) : \overline{\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})} \otimes \mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

so that morphisms induce unitary transformations. The hermitian structure must be compatible with disjoint union and glueing. If we have the orientation reversal property, then compatibility with the unitary structure means that we have commutative diagrams

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{V}(-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}^{\dagger})^* \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle \cong} & & {\scriptstyle \cong}\downarrow \\
\overline{\mathcal{V}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})^*} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \overline{\mathcal{V}(-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda}^{\dagger})},
\end{array}
$$

where the vertical identifications come from the hermitian structure and the horizontal identifications from the pairing (2.1).

2.4. The Teichmüller space of marked surfaces. Let us first review some basic Teichmüller theory. Let Σ be an oriented closed smooth surface and let P be a finite set of points on Σ. The usual Teichmüller space for a pointed surface (Σ, P) consists of equivalence classes of diffeomorphisms $\varphi : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q)$, where C is a Riemann surface and $Q \subset C$ is finite set of points, namely

$$(2.2) \qquad \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P} = \{\varphi : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q)\} / \sim$$

where we declare that two diffeomorphisms $\varphi_i : (\Sigma, P) \to (C_i, Q_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$ are equivalent if there exists a biholomorphic map $\Phi : (C_1, Q_1) \to (C_2, Q_2)$ such that

$\Phi \circ \varphi_1$ is isotopic to φ_2 by diffeomorphisms preserving P. If $P = \varnothing$, this space is simply denoted $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$. We will also consider the "decorated Teichmüller space" consisting of equivalence classes of diffeomorphisms $\varphi : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q)$, where C is a Riemann surface, $Q \subset C$ is finite set of points, and $W \in T_Q C$ non-zero tangent vectors

$$\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P} = \{\varphi : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q, W)\} / \approx$$

where $\approx$ is now the equivalence relation where we ask that the isotopies preserve $(P, (\mathrm{d}_P \varphi)^{-1}(W))$. We have natural projection maps $\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P} : \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P} \to \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, $\pi_P : \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P} \to T_P \Sigma$ and $\pi_\Sigma : \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P} \to \mathcal{T}_\Sigma$.

THEOREM 2.2 (Bers). *There is a natural structure of a finite dimensional complex analytic manifold on the Teichmüller spaces $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$. The mapping class group $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$ acts biholomorphically on $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, as does $\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P}$ on $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$.*

PROPOSITION 2.3. *$\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$ is a principal $\mathbb{C}^P$-bundle over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ on which $\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P}$ acts, covering the action of $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$ on $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$. Moreover $\mathcal{T}'_{\Sigma,P} = \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}/\langle \delta_p \mid p \in P \rangle$ is a principal $(\mathbb{C}^*)^P$-bundle over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, such that the induced projection $\tilde{\pi}'_{\Sigma,P} : \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P} \to \mathcal{T}'_{\Sigma,P}$ is the fiberwise universal cover with respect to the projection $\pi'_{\Sigma,P} : \mathcal{T}'_{\Sigma,P} \to \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, compatible with the exponential map $e^{2\pi i \cdot} : \mathbb{C}^P \to (\mathbb{C}^*)^P$ on the structure groups.*

PROOF. For every $\varphi : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q, W)$ representing a point in $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, we have the map

$$\pi_P|_{\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi])} : \tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi]) \to T_P \Sigma,$$

induced by assigning $(\mathrm{d}_P \varphi')^{-1}(W)$ to a diffeomorphism $\varphi' : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q, W)$ which represents a point $\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi])$. By the very definition of $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$ this map is independent of the representative φ' of a point in $\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi])$. Now pick a $\varphi' : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q, W)$ representing a point in $\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi])$ and let $V \in T_P \Sigma$ be given by

$$V = (\mathrm{d}_P \varphi')^{-1}(W).$$

Then consider the set $(\pi_P|_{\tilde{\pi}^{-1}([\varphi])})^{-1}(V)$. We claim that the group $\langle \delta_p \mid p \in P \rangle$ acts transitively on this set. To see this, let $\varphi'' : (\Sigma, P) \to (C, Q, W)$ represent another point in $(\pi_P|_{\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^{-1}([\varphi])})^{-1}(V)$. Since the two diffeomorphisms φ' and φ'' must represent the same element in $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, there exists Φ such that

$$(\varphi'')^{-1} \circ \Phi \circ \varphi' : (\Sigma, P) \to (\Sigma, P)$$

is isotopic to the identity. But then there exists a diffeomorphism $\psi : (\Sigma, P) \to (\Sigma, P)$ which represents an element in $\langle \delta_p \mid p \in P \rangle$ such that

$$(\varphi'')^{-1} \circ \Phi \circ (\varphi' \circ \psi) : (\Sigma, P) \to (\Sigma, P)$$

is isotopic to the identity within diffeomorphisms of (Σ, P, V). This means that $\varphi' \circ \psi$ represents the same point in $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$ as φ'' does.

It now follows that $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}$ is a principal $\mathbb{C}^P$-bundle over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ and that $\mathcal{T}'_{\Sigma,P} = \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}/\langle \delta_p \mid p \in P \rangle$ is a principal $(\mathbb{C}^*)^P$-bundle over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$. $\square$

2.5. Construction of line bundles over Teichmüller spaces.

2.5.1. *Fiber products.* For each $p \in P$, we consider the representation $\varrho_p : (\mathbb{C}^*)^P \to \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{C})$, which is obtained by projection on the factor corresponding to p. We denote $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$ the line bundle over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ associated to $\mathcal{T}'_{\Sigma,P}$ and the representation ϱ_p.

Take $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$. We now show how to construct the α'th power of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$ over $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$. To this end consider the map $\tilde{\varrho}_p : \mathbb{C}^P \to \mathbb{C}$, which is simply the projection onto the factor corresponding to $p \in P$. Now we define

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p^\alpha = \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P} \times_{\alpha \tilde{\varrho}_p} \mathbb{C},$$

where the action of $\mathbb{C}^P$ on $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P} \times \mathbb{C}$ is given by

$$w(\varphi, z) = (\varphi w, \mathbf{e}(\alpha \tilde{\varrho}_p(w))z), \qquad \mathbf{e}(t) = \exp(2\mathrm{i}\pi t).$$

We observe that $\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Sigma,P}$ acts on $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p^\alpha$ covering the action of $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$ on $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$, and that δ_p acts by multiplication by $e^{2\pi i \alpha}$ while $\delta_{p'}$ acts trivially for $p' \in P - \{p\}$.

2.5.2. *Determinant of the Hodge bundle.* The Hodge bundle is the vector bundle over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$, whose fiber at the class of $\varphi : \Sigma \to C$ is $H^0(C, K_C)$. There is a natural action of Γ_Σ on the Hodge bundle. We denote the determinant line bundle associated to this bundle by $\mathcal{L}_D$. It is isomorphic to the line bundle $\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma)$, which the first author and Ueno constructs over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ using a certain abelian CFT, namely the CFT associated to the bc-ghost system [**3**]. We observe that for a marked surface $\mathbf{\Sigma} = (\Sigma, P, V, L)$, the Lagrangian L induces a section s_L of $\mathcal{L}_D^2$ over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$, given by

$$s_L = (u_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge u_g)^{\otimes 2}$$

where $(u_1, \ldots, u_g)$ is normalized on an integral basis of L. The isomorphism between $\mathcal{L}_D$ and $\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma)$ takes this section of $\mathcal{L}_D^2$ to the preferred section of $(\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma))^2$ over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ as described in [**3**]. By [**4**, Theorem 11.3], this section allows us to construct a line bundle $\mathcal{L}_D^{-c/2}$ over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ for any $c \in \mathbb{C}$, on which $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ acts, such that $(\mathrm{Id}, 1)$ acts by $e^{-\mathrm{i}\pi c/2}$. We denote by $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^{-c/2}$ the pullback to $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ of $\mathcal{L}_D^{-c/2}$.

REMARK 2.14. We recall that the Hodge bundle over $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ has a natural hermitian structure, which is Γ_Σ invariant. Hence it induces a hermitian structure on the holomorphic bundle $\mathcal{L}_D$ which is also Γ_Σ invariant. Hence we get a unique unitary Chern connection in $\mathcal{L}_D$ compatible with the holomorphic structure on this line bundle, which by uniqueness is also Γ_Σ invariant. By the proof of [**4**, Theorem 11.3] we see that for any $c \in \mathbb{R}$, we get an induced $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$-invariant unitary connection in $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^{-c/2}$, whose curvature is $-c/2$ times the curvature of the Chern connection in $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D$.

The moduli space of (Σ, P) is by definition

$$(2.3) \qquad\qquad \mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P} = \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}/\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$$

When $\chi(\Sigma, P) < 0$, the stabilizers are finite, so there is a natural structure of an orbifold on $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$. We see that there is a natural action of $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$ on $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$, also acting with finite stabilizers and we define the orbifold line bundle over $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$

$$\mathcal{L}_p = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p/\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$$

REMARK 2.15. By picking an orbifold Hermitian structure on the holomorphic bundle $\mathcal{L}_p$ and pulling it back to $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$, we see that the corresponding Chern connection

in $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$ is Γ_Σ invariant. Hence, for any non-zero $r_p \in \mathbb{R}$, we get an induced unitary connection in $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p^{r_p}$, which is Γ_Σ invariant, and whose curvature is r_p times that of the Chern connection of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p$

The moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$ also carries the Hodge bundle, simply by pulling the Hodge bundle over $\mathcal{M}_\Sigma$ back to $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$. We also denote the determinant bundle of this pull back of the Hodge bundle over $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$ by $\mathcal{L}_D$ and it remains of course an orbifold line bundle over $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$. We denote $\psi_D = c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)$ and $\psi_p = c_1(\mathcal{L}_p)$ and think of them as rational cohomology classes over $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$.

2.6. Modular functor and vector bundles over Teichmüller space. We now fix a modular functor, without assuming the unitarity and orientation reversal axioms.

2.6.1. *Scalars.*

- The modular functor gives a linear isomorphism

$$\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathrm{id}, 1) : \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\Sigma) \to \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\Sigma)$$

and the axioms imply that it acts as multiplication by a scalar $\tilde{c} \in \mathbb{C}^*$ independent of $\vec{\lambda}$ and the topology of Σ. This is proved by factoring the $(\mathrm{Id}_\Sigma, 1)$ along the boundary of an embedded disk Σ_0 in $\Sigma - P$ and writing it as $(\mathrm{Id}_\Sigma, 1) = (\mathrm{Id}_{\Sigma_0}, 1) \cup (\mathrm{Id}_{\Sigma'}, 0)$, where $\Sigma' = \Sigma - \Sigma_0$.

- For the sphere with 2 points, we have

$$\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{S}^2, \{p_1, p_2\}, \{v_1, v_2\}, L) = \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{S}^2, \{p_1, p_2\}, \{v_1, v_2\}) \times \mathbb{Z}$$
$$\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{S}^2, \{p_1, p_2\}, \{v_1, v_2\}) = \langle \delta \rangle.$$

Here δ is the Dehn twist along the equator. The modular functor gives a linear isomorphism

$$\mathcal{V}_\lambda(\delta) : \mathcal{V}_{\lambda, \lambda^\dagger}(\mathbb{S}^2, P, V, 0) \to \mathcal{V}_{\lambda, \lambda^\dagger}(\mathbb{S}^2, P, V, 0).$$

Since $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda, \lambda^\dagger}(\mathbb{S}^2, P, V, 0)$ is one dimensional, this linear map equals multiplication by a scalar $\tilde{r}_\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$.

LEMMA 2.4. *The Dehn twists around the punctures have the following properties.*

(i) $\tilde{r}_1 = 1$.

(ii) *For any marked surface $(\Sigma, \vec{\lambda})$, the Dehn twist around a marked point p with label λ_p acts on $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\Sigma)$ by multiplication with $\tilde{r}_{\lambda_p}$.*

(iii) *For any $\lambda \in \Lambda$, $\tilde{r}_\lambda = \tilde{r}_{\lambda^\dagger}$.*

PROOF. For (i) and (ii), we use the factorization axiom. (i) – The Dehn twist is trivial on $\mathbb{S}^2$ and we can factor $\mathbb{S}^2$ along two curves, which are respectively the equator pushed a small amount into the northern (resp. southern) hemisphere. It then follows by considering this factorisation that $\tilde{r}_1 = 1$. (ii) – We factor in the boundary of an embedded disk in $\Sigma - (P - \{p\})$, centred in p and then we do the Dehn twist around p inside the disk. The result only depends on the label λ_p at p, and not on the topology of the remaining surface neither on the labels at other punctures. (iii) – We can choose the points (p_1, p_2) and vectors (v_1, v_2) such that the (orientation preserving) map $z \to -1/z$ takes $(\mathbb{S}^2, \{p_1, p_2\}, \{v_1, v_2\})$ to itself, and takes the equator to the itself. Hence, it commutes with the Dehn twist, and that implies $\tilde{r}_\lambda = \tilde{r}_{\lambda^\dagger}$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$. $\square$

2.6.2. *Trivial vector bundles over* $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$. To a given Λ-marked surface $(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})$, we associate the trivial vector bundle

$$\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}^0_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})} := \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P} \times \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathbf{\Sigma}).$$

If the modular functor is unitary, this bundle carries a $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$-invariant unitary structure. In any case, we can equip it with the trivial flat connection, which is of course $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$-equivariant. Subsequently, the $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$-equivariant Chern character is trivial. According to the above discussion the Dehn twist δ_p around a point p acts by multiplication by $\tilde{r}_\lambda$. Moreover $(\mathrm{Id}, 1)$ in $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ acts by multiplication by $\tilde{c}$.

2.6.3. *Vector bundle over the moduli space.* Pick up $c, r_\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that[1] $\tilde{c} = \mathbf{e}(c/4)$ and $\tilde{r}_\lambda = \mathbf{e}(r_\lambda)$. We observe that δ_p, $p \in P$ as well as $(\mathrm{Id}_\Sigma, 1)$ act trivially on the vector bundle

$$\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})} = \tilde{\mathcal{Z}}^0_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})} \otimes \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^{-c/2} \bigotimes_{p \in P} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p^{r_{\lambda_p}}.$$

Therefore we get that

THEOREM 2.5. *The action of* $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$ *factors to an action of* $\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$ *and hence we can define*

$$\mathcal{Z}_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})} = \tilde{\mathcal{Z}}_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})}/\Gamma_{\Sigma,P}$$

as an orbifold bundle over the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$.

For a variable t, the weighted Chern character is obtained from the Chern character by weighting the term in cohomological degree $2j$ by the weight t^j.

PROPOSITION 2.6. *For any modular functor* $\mathcal{V}$ *the weighted Chern character of this vector bundle is*

$$(2.4) \qquad \mathrm{Ch}_t(\mathcal{Z}_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})}) = \dim \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathbf{\Sigma}) \exp\left\{t\left(-\frac{c}{2}\Lambda_1 + \sum_{p \in P} r_{\lambda_p} \psi_p\right)\right\}$$

where Λ_1 *is the first Chern class of the Hodge bundle.*

PROOF. We consider the tensor product connection of the trivial connection in $\tilde{\mathcal{Z}}^0_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})}$ and then the $\Gamma_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}$-invariant unitary connections constructed in the bundles $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^{-c/2}$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_p^{r_{\lambda_p}}$ in Remarks 2.14-2.15. By Chern-Weil theory we therefore have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{Ch}_t(\mathcal{Z}_{(\mathbf{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})}) &= \dim \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathbf{\Sigma}) \exp\left\{t\left(-\frac{c}{2} c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) + \sum_{p \in P} r_{\lambda_p} c_1(\mathcal{L}_p)\right)\right\} \\
&= \dim \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathbf{\Sigma}) \exp\left\{t\left(-\frac{c}{2}\Lambda_1 + \sum_{p \in P} r_{\lambda_p} \psi_p\right)\right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Since Chern classes of vector bundles over the orbifold $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P}$ are rational, c and r_λ must all be rationals. We thus get an alternative proof and generalisation of Vafa's theorem [**92**], as follows.

COROLLARY 2.7. *For any modular functor,* $\tilde{c}$ *and* $\tilde{r}_\lambda$ *for any* $\lambda \in \Lambda$ *are roots of unity.*

We recall that Vafa's original proof was written for unitary modular functors, based on an arithmetic argument following from relations in the mapping class group. Corollary 2.7 can be improved to show the following corollary.

---

[1] With these convention, c is the Virasoro central charge, and r_λ the conformal dimension.

COROLLARY 2.8. *For any $\gamma \in \operatorname{Aut}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ which is the product of Dehn twists in non-intersecting curves, the element $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\gamma) \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}))$ has finite order.*

This follows immediately by factoring along two simple closed curves on either side of the simple closed curve of the Dehn twist. We recall that in general, not all elements in the representations of the mapping class group provided by $\mathcal{V}$ have finite order.

2.7. Extension to the boundary. We prove in this section the following theorem.

THEOREM 2.9. *$\mathcal{Z}_{(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \vec{\lambda})}$ extends to an orbifold bundle over the Deligne-Mumford compactification $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{\Sigma, P}$.*

In order to extend the above constructions to the Deligne-Mumford compactification of the moduli space, we introduce the augmented Teichmüller space and extend all our constructions in a mapping class group equivariant way to the augmented Teichmüller space.

Let (Σ, P) be a pointed surface. We introduce the set of contraction cycles $\mathcal{C}_{(\Sigma, P)}$ on (Σ, P). It consists of isotopy classes of 1-dimensional submanifolds C of $\Sigma - P$, such that connected components of C are non-contractible, nor are any two connected components of C isotopic in $\Sigma - P$, nor are any of the components contractible into any of the points in P. We remark that $C = \varnothing$ is allowed.

The augmented Teichmüller space $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P}^a$ for a pointed surface (Σ, P) consists of equivalence classes of continuous maps $\varphi : (\Sigma, C, P) \to (X, N, Q)$, where $C \in \mathcal{C}_{(\Sigma, P)}$, X is a nodal Riemann surface with nodes N, and $Q \subset X$ is finite set of points of $X - N$, such that $\varphi(C) = N$ and the restricted map $\varphi : (\Sigma - C, P) \to (X - N, Q)$ is a diffeomorphism.

$$\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P}^a = \{\varphi : (\Sigma, C, P) \to (X, N, Q)\} / \sim^a$$

where we declare that two continuous maps $\varphi_i : (\Sigma, C, P) \to (X_i, N_i, Q_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$ are $\sim^a$-equivalent if there exists a biholomorphic map $\Phi : (X_1, N_1, Q_1) \to (X_2, N_2, Q_2)$ such that $\Phi \circ \varphi_1$ is isotopic to φ_2 via continuous maps from (Σ, C, P) to (X_2, N_2, Q_2) which are diffeomorphisms from $(\Sigma - C, P)$ to $(X_2 - N_2, Q_2)$. If $P = \varnothing$, this space is simply denoted $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma^a$.

The augmented Teichmüller space $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P}^a$ has the topology uniquely determined by following property. Suppose $\pi : Z \to D$ is a holomorphic map from a complex 2-dimensional manifold Z to the unit disk D in the complex plane, such that $\pi^{-1}(x)$ is a nodal Riemann surface for all $x \in D$. Suppose further that we are given a continuous map $\Phi : \Sigma \times D \to Z$, satisfying the two conditions:

- $\Phi(\Sigma \times \{x\}) = \pi^{-1}(\{x\})$
- if N_x are the nodes of $\pi^{-1}(x)$ then $C_x = \Phi^{-1}(N_x)$ is a submanifold of $\Sigma - P$ such that $[C_x] \in \mathcal{C}_{(\Sigma, P)}$, and the restricted map $\Phi : \Sigma - C_x \to \pi^{-1}(x) - N_x$ is a diffeomorphism for all $x \in D$.

Then, the map from D to $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P}^a$, which sends x to the restricted map $\Phi : (\Sigma, C_x, P) \to (\pi^{-1}(x), N_x, \Phi(P \times \{x\}))$ is continuous.

We observe that the mapping class group $\Gamma_{\Sigma, P}$ acts on $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma, P}^a$, and the quotient is the Deligne-Mumford compactification $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n} / \mathfrak{S}_n$ of the moduli space of genus g curves with $n = |P|$ marked unordered points (see section 2.8).

We will also consider the "decorated augmented Teichmüller space" consisting of equivalence classes of continuous maps $\varphi : (\Sigma, C, P) \to (X, N, Q)$, where X is a Riemann surface, $Q \subset X$ is a finite set of points, and $W \in T_Q X$ non-zero tangent vectors.

$$\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}^a = \{\varphi : (\Sigma, C, P) \to (X, N, Q, W)\} / \approx^a$$

where $\approx^a$ is now the equivalence relation where we ask that the isotopies preserve $(P, (\mathrm{d}_P\varphi)^{-1}(W))$. We have the following natural projection maps among the augmented Teichmüller spaces.

$$\tilde{\pi}_{\Sigma,P}^a : \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma,P}^a \to \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}^a, \qquad \pi_P^a : \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}^a \to T_P\Sigma, \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_\Sigma^a : \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}^a \to \mathcal{T}_\Sigma^a.$$

The proof of Proposition 2.3 applies word for word to extend the Proposition to the augmented setting. But then we get that all the constructions of Section 2.6 extend to constructions over augmented Teichmüller spaces and hence also to the Deligne-Mumford compactification $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{\Sigma,P}$ of the moduli spaces of genus g curves with n marked unordered points.

Concerning the extension of the bundle $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D$ and the section s_L of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^2$ to augmented Teichmüller space, we appeal to the constructions of the first author and Ueno presented in [3]. By the constructions of [3, Section 5] we see that the bundle $\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma)$ extends to a holomorphic bundle over augmented Teichmüller space. Moreover the preferred section of $\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma)$ extends to a nowhere vanishing section of the extension of $\mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{ab}}^\dagger(\Sigma)$ to augmented Teichmüller space as is proved in [3, Section 6]. From this we conclude that the bundle $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_D^{-c/2}$ extends to augmented Teichmüller space and that the action of $\Gamma_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ also extends.

2.8. Remark on ordering of punctures. In the usual definition of the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$, it is assumed that the marked points are ordered from 1 to n.

If (Σ, P) is a pointed surface such that Σ has genus g and $|P| = n$, in our definition of the Teichmüller space $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma,P}$ in (2.2), the permutations of the n points are divided out. We therefore have

$$\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma,P} \simeq \mathcal{M}_{g,n}/\mathfrak{S}_n$$

and likewise for the Deligne-Mumford compactifications. Later in the text, we work only with the pull-back to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ of the bundle $\mathcal{V}_{\tilde{\lambda}}$ that was so far obtained over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{\Sigma,P}$. The formula for the Chern character in Theorem 2.9 is the same for the bundle over $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$.

3. Cohomological field theories

3.1. Generalities.

3.1.1. *Frobenius algebras.* A Frobenius algebra is a finite dimensional complex vector space $\mathcal{A}$, equipped with a symmetric, non-degenerate bilinear form $b : \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} \to \mathbb{C}$, and an associative, commutative $\mathbb{C}$-linear morphism $\times : \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\forall a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathcal{A}, \qquad b(a_1, a_2 \times a_3) = b(a_1 \times a_2, a_3).$$

We require the existence of a unit for the product, denoted $\mathbb{1}$.

The algebra $\mathcal{A}$ is semi-simple if there exists a $\mathbb{C}$-linear basis $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_1, \ldots, \tilde{\varepsilon}_n)$ such that

$$(3.1) \qquad \forall (i,j) \in [\![1, n]\!], \qquad \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \times \tilde{\varepsilon}_j = \delta_{ij} \tilde{\varepsilon}_i.$$

The unit is then $\mathbb{1} = \sum_i \tilde{\varepsilon}_i$, and (3.1) implies that the bilinear form is diagonal in this basis and reads

$$b(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i, \tilde{\varepsilon}_j) = \frac{\delta_{ij}}{\Delta_i}.$$

We say that $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i)_i$ is a canonical basis. It is sometimes more convenient to work with the orthonormal basis $\underline{\varepsilon}_i = \Delta_i^{1/2} \tilde{\varepsilon}_i$ which satisfies that

$$\underline{\varepsilon}_i \times \underline{\varepsilon}_j = \delta_{ij} \Delta_i^{1/2} \underline{\varepsilon}_i, \qquad b(\underline{\varepsilon}_i, \underline{\varepsilon}_j) = \delta_{ij}.$$

Then b induces a bivector $b^\dagger \in \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$, that will play an important role. In a canonical or an orthonormal basis it reads

$$b^\dagger = \sum_i \underline{\varepsilon}_i \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_i.$$

3.1.2. *CohFTs.* A cohomological field theory (CohFT) is the data of a finite dimensional complex vector space $\mathcal{A}$ with a symmetric bilinear non-degenerate $b : \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} \to \mathbb{C}$ and a sequence $\Omega_{g,n} \in H^\bullet(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) \otimes \mathcal{A}^{\otimes n}$ indexed by integers $g \geq 0$ and $n \geq 0$ such that $2g - 2 + n > 0$, satisfying the axioms given below. Since b gives a canonical identification of $\mathcal{A}$ with its dual $\mathcal{A}^*$, we can equivalently consider $\Omega_{g,n}^* \in H^\bullet(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) \otimes (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes n}$. The axioms are.

- The unit $\mathbb{1} \in \mathcal{A}$ is such that the pairing is given by

$$\forall a_1, a_2 \in \mathcal{A}, \qquad b(a_1, a_2) = \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,3}} \Omega_{0,3}^*(a_1 \otimes a_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}).$$

- $\Omega_{g,n}^*$ is symmetric by simultaneous permutations of the n factors in $(\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes n}$ and the n punctures in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$.
- Pulling back by the glueing map $\pi : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,2+n} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1+g,n}$, we should have that

$$\pi^* \Omega_{1+g,n}^*(\cdot) = \Omega_{g,2+n}^*(b^\dagger \otimes \cdot).$$

- Pulling back by the glueing map $\pi : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g_1,1+n_1} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g_2,1+n_2} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g_1+g_2,n_1+n_2}$, we should have that

$$\pi^* \Omega_{g_1+g_2,n_1+n_2}^*(\cdot) = \sum_{i,j} (\Omega_{g_1,1+n_1}^* \otimes \Omega^{g_2,1+n_2})(p_{n_1}(b^\dagger \otimes \cdot))$$

where $p_{n_1} : (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes 2} \otimes (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes n_1} \otimes (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes n_2} \to (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes(1+n_1)} \otimes (\mathcal{A}^*)^{\otimes(1+n_2)}$ puts the second factor of $\mathcal{A}^*$ into the $(n_1 + 2)$-th position in the target.

- Pulling back by the forgetful map $\pi : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1+n} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, we should have that

$$\pi^* \Omega_{g,n}^*(\cdot) = \Omega_{g,1+n}^*(\mathbb{1} \otimes \cdot).$$

The axioms imply that $\mathcal{A}$ is a Frobenius algebra with the product

$$b(a_1 \times a_2, a_3) = \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,3}} \Omega_{0,3}^*(a_1 \otimes a_2 \otimes a_3).$$

Givental [47] describes two basic actions on the set of CohFTs over the same Frobenius algebra. We follow the presentation of [70].

3.1.3. *Translations.* Let $T(u) \in u^2 \mathcal{A}[[u]]$, and consider the forgetful maps $\pi_m :$ $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,m+n} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$. One can define a new CohFT by the formula

$$(\hat{T}\Omega^*)_{g,n}(a_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes a_n)$$
$$= \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{k_1, \ldots, k_m \geq 2} (\pi_m)_* \Big\{ \Omega^*_{g,n+m}(T_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes T_{k_m} \otimes a_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_n) \psi_1^{k_1} \ldots \psi_m^{k_m} \Big\}$$

where $T(u) = \sum_{k \geq 2} T_k u^k$ for $T_m \in \mathcal{A}$. Here $(\pi_m)_*$ is the pushforward in cohomology classes, induced on smooth forms on the smooth compact orbifolds $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$.

3.1.4. *R-matrix actions.* Let $R(u) \in \text{End}(\mathcal{A})[[u]]$ such that $R(0) = \text{id}$ and satisfying the symplectic condition

$$R(u)R^\dagger(-u) = \text{id}$$

where $R^\dagger(u) \in \text{End}(\mathcal{A})[[u]]$ is the adjoint for the pairing b. One then defines[2]

$$B(u_1, u_2) := \frac{b^\dagger - R(u_1) \otimes R(u_2) \cdot b^\dagger}{u_1 + u_2} \in (\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})[[u_1, u_2]].$$

The symplectic condition guarantees that B is a formal power series in u_1 and u_2. One can define a new CohFT by the formula
(3.2)

$$(\hat{R}\Omega)_{g,n} := \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n}} \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}\,\Gamma|} (\pi_\Gamma)_* \left(\prod_{l=\text{leaf}} R(\psi_l) \prod_{\substack{e=\text{edge} \\ \{v'_e, v''_e\}}} B(\psi_{v'_e}, \psi_{v''_e}) \prod_{v=\text{vertex}} \Omega_{g(v), n(v)} \right)$$

The sum is over the set $\mathcal{G}_{g,n}$ of stable graphs of topology (g, n), namely Γ meeting the following requirements.

- vertices v are trivalent, carry an integer label $g(v) \geq 0$ (the genus), and their valency $n(v)$ satisfy $2g(v) - 2 + n(v) > 0$.
- there are n leaves (1-valent vertices), labeled from 1 to n.
- $\text{rank}(H_1(\Gamma, \mathbb{Z})) + \sum_{v=\text{vertex}} g(v) = g$.

In (3.2), the endomorphisms are naturally composed along the graph, and we use the pushforward by the following glueing map along the graph

$$\pi_\Gamma : \prod_v \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v), n(v)} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}.$$

3.1.5. *Classification of semi-simple CohFT.* Given a CohFT defined by correlators $\Omega_{g,n}$, its restriction to the degree 0 part $\omega_{g,n} \in H^0(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}) \otimes \mathcal{A}^{\otimes n}$ is sometimes called (abusively) a topological quantum field theory (2d TQFT). Teleman [86], building upon the work of Givental [47, 48], has classified semi-simple CohFT whose underlying Frobenius algebra has dimension k.

THEOREM 3.1. [86] *Any semi-simple CohFT can be obtained from a degree 0 CohFT by the composition of the action of an R-matrix, and a translation such that*

(3.3)
$$T(u) = u\big(\mathbb{1} - R(u) \cdot \mathbb{1}\big).$$

More precisely, if Ω denote the correlators of the CohFT, and $\Omega^{\deg 0}$ the correlators of its underlying 2d TQFT, we have $\Omega = \hat{R}\hat{T}\Omega^{\deg 0}$.

---

[2]Let us remark that this notation differs from the one used in the topological recursion literature. In the topological recursion setup, B refers usually to the so-called Bergman kernel while our B corresponds to its Laplace transform often denoted by $\check{B}$.

This reconstruction is a powerful tool since the correlators $\Omega_{g,n}^{\deg 0}$ of a degree 0 CohFT with canonical basis $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i)_i$ such that $b(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i, \tilde{\varepsilon}_j) = \delta_{ij}/\Delta_i$ and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_i \times \tilde{\varepsilon}_j = \delta_{ij}\, \tilde{\varepsilon}_i$ are

$$(3.4) \qquad \Omega_{g,n}^{\deg 0} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \Delta_i^{g-1} \left[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}\right] \otimes \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \otimes \cdots \otimes \tilde{\varepsilon}_i,$$

where the Poincaré duality is implicitly used in this formula. The knowledge of the R-matrix is enough for reconstructing the correlators of a semi-simple CohFT.

3.2. Reference vector spaces attached to a modular functor. We shall now describe the CohFT defined by a modular functor, starting by the definition of the reference vector spaces underlying it. We start with a general modular functor $\mathcal{V}$. We shall work with marked surfaces of reference, and choose basis in their corresponding vector spaces.

3.2.1. *Once-punctured sphere.* $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1}$ is the 2-sphere with $P = \{0\}$ and $V = \{v_0\}$ with v_0 pointing to the positive real axis. $\mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1})$ is a line, and we pick up a generator $\tilde{\zeta}[1]$. This induces an isomorphism $\mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1}) \cong \mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1})^\star$, and allows us to project the isomorphism from propagation of vacua

$$\mathcal{V}_\lambda(\Sigma, P, V, L) \cong \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,1}(\Sigma, P \sqcup \{p'\}, V \sqcup \{v'\}, L) \otimes \mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1})$$

to an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{V}_\lambda(\Sigma, P, V, L) \cong \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,1}(\Sigma, P \sqcup \{p'\}, V \sqcup \{v'\}, L).$$

Later on, this will be used systematically.

3.2.2. *Twice-punctured sphere.* $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}$ is the 2-sphere with $P = \{0, \infty\}$ and $V = \{v_0, v_\infty\}$ with v_∞ pointing to the negative real axis. $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2})$ is a line. The property of propagation of vacua provides an isomorphism

$$(3.5) \qquad \mathcal{V}_{1,1}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}) \cong \mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1}) \otimes \mathcal{V}_{1,1}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2})$$

and the property of factorization provides isomorphisms

$$(3.6) \qquad \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}) \cong \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}) \otimes \mathcal{V}_{\lambda^\dagger,\lambda}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}) = \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2})^{\otimes 2}.$$

They determine for each $\lambda \in \Lambda$ a unique generator $\zeta[\lambda]$ of $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2})$ such that $\zeta[1] = \zeta[1] \otimes \tilde{\zeta}[1]$ using (3.5), and $\zeta[\lambda] = \zeta[\lambda] \otimes \zeta[\lambda]$ using (3.6).

3.2.3. *Thrice-punctured sphere.* $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}$ is the 2-sphere with $P = \{0, 1, \infty\}$ and $V = \{v_0, v_1, v_\infty\}$ with v_1 pointing in real direction to ∞. We denote the dimension of $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3})$ by

$$N_{\lambda\mu\nu} = \dim \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}).$$

Since the homomorphism from the mapping class group of $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}$ to the permutation group of the marked points is surjective, this symbol is invariant under permutation of (λ, μ, ν). Propagation of vacua gives an isomorphism

$$(3.7) \qquad \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}) \cong \mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\lambda^\dagger,1}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}) \otimes \mathcal{V}_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,1}).$$

We fix a basis $\zeta_i[\lambda\mu\nu]$ of the space $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3})$, indexed by $i = 1, \ldots, N_{\lambda\mu\nu}$. Without loss of generality, we can require that, under (3.7), we have

$$\zeta[\lambda] = \zeta_1[\lambda\lambda^\dagger 1] \otimes \tilde{\zeta}[1].$$

3.2.4. *Torus.* $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1$ is the torus $\mathbb{C}/(\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathrm{i}\mathbb{Z})$. We denote α – resp. β – the oriented simple closed curve based at o and following the positive real axis – resp. the positive imaginary axis.

3.3. The Frobenius algebra of a modular functor.

3.3.1. *As a vector space.* If γ is a oriented simple closed curve on $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1$, we obtain a marked surface $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{(\gamma)}$ by considering the Lagrangian spanned by the homology class of γ. In this paragraph, we shall define a structure of Frobenius algebra on the vector space of a torus. Let

$$(3.8) \qquad \mathcal{A} := \mathcal{V}_1(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)}).$$

By applying a diffeomorphism that takes (α, β) to $(\beta, -\alpha)$, we also have a natural isomorphism

$$(3.9) \qquad \mathcal{A} \cong \mathcal{V}_1(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)}).$$

By propagation of vacua, then factorization along α and application of a suitable diffeomorphism, we obtain from (3.8) an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{A} \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \mathcal{V}_{\lambda, \lambda^\dagger}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{0,2}).$$

Our previous choices of generators in the right-hand side carries to a basis e_λ of $\mathcal{A}$. Similarly, the factorization along β from (3.9) gives another basis ε_λ of $\mathcal{A}$. The change of basis is called the "S-matrix". It is the linear map $S : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}$ defined by

$$S(e_\lambda) := \varepsilon_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} S_{\lambda\mu} e_\mu.$$

3.3.2. *Pairing.* We define a pairing on $\mathcal{A}$ by the following formula.

$$(3.10) \qquad b(e_\lambda, e_\mu) := \delta_{\lambda\mu^\dagger}$$

3.3.3. *Involutions.* We define the charge conjugation, which is the involutive linear map $C : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}$ such that $C(e_\lambda) = e_{\lambda^\dagger}$. If $O : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}$ is a linear map, we denote $O^\top$ its adjoint with respect to the scalar product in which e_λ is an orthonormal basis, and $O^\dagger$ its adjoint for the bilinear product b. We have

$$C = C^\top = C^\dagger = C^{-1}.$$

We may sometimes confuse the operator O with its matrix $(O_{\lambda,\mu})_{\lambda,\mu \in \Lambda}$ in the basis $(e_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$. In terms of matrices, $O^\top$ is the transpose, while $M^\dagger = C O^\top C$.

3.3.4. *Curve operators and S-matrix.* For any marked surface (Σ, P) and a oriented simple closed curve γ on $\Sigma \smallsetminus P$ and label $\lambda \in \Lambda$, following [**5**], we introduce curve operators, that we denote $\mathcal{C}[\gamma; \lambda]$. We consider in particular the curve operators $(\mathcal{C}[\beta; \lambda])_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ acting on $\mathcal{A}$, as multiplication by e_λ. In the basis related to α they have the following expression

$$\mathcal{C}[\beta; \lambda](e_\mu) = \sum_{\nu \in \Lambda} N_{\lambda\mu\nu^\dagger} e_\nu.$$

In the basis related to β, they are simultaneously diagonalized

$$(3.11) \qquad \mathcal{C}[\beta; \lambda](\varepsilon_\mu) = \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda] \, \varepsilon_\mu.$$

From these two facts, the eigenvalue can easily be computed. Indeed, we compute from the definitions that we have

$$\mathcal{C}[\beta; \lambda][e_1] = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} N_{\lambda 1 \nu^\dagger} e_\nu = e_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} (S^{-1})_{\lambda\mu} \varepsilon_\mu,$$

while, if we first go to the ε-basis, we get

$$\mathcal{C}[\beta; \lambda][e_1] = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} (S^{-1})_{1\mu} \, \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda] \, \varepsilon_\mu.$$

The comparison gives that $(S^{-1})_{1\mu}$ is non-zero and the eigenvalue reads

$$(3.12) \qquad \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda] = \frac{(S^{-1})_{\lambda\mu}}{(S^{-1})_{1\mu}}.$$

One then deduces the following standard formula.

$$(3.13) \qquad N_{\lambda\mu^\dagger\nu} = \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{(S^{-1})_{\lambda\tau} S_{\tau\mu} (S^{-1})_{\nu\tau}}{(S^{-1})_{1\tau}}.$$

This formula does not depend on the normalization of the basis diagonalizing the curve operator action, i.e. it is invariant under rescalings $S_{\tau\mu} \to a_\tau S_{\tau\mu}$ with $(a_\tau)_{\tau\in\Lambda} \in [\mathbb{C}^*]^\Lambda$.

3.3.5. *Relation between S and C.* Setting $\mu = 1$ in (3.13) yields $N_{\lambda 1\nu} = \delta_{\lambda\nu^\dagger}$, which gives the following relation.

$$(3.14) \qquad C_{\lambda\mu} := \delta_{\lambda\mu^\dagger} = \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{S_{\tau 1}}{(S^{-1})_{1\tau}} (S^{-1})_{\lambda\tau} (S^{-1})_{\mu\tau}.$$

In terms of the rescaled[3] S-matrix, it can be rewritten

$$(3.15) \qquad \underline{S}_{\lambda\mu} := \sqrt{\frac{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda}}{S_{\lambda 1}}} S_{\lambda\mu}, \qquad C = \underline{S}^{-1}(\underline{S}^{-1})^\top,$$

or equivalently

$$(3.16) \qquad \underline{S}^\top \underline{S} = C.$$

Whenever possible, we prefer to avoid the occurrence of $\dagger$ indices, so we will use (3.16) to convert it in entries of the inverse $\underline{S}$-matrix.

3.3.6. *Symmetric formula.* This relation between S and C allows us to write down the action of the curve operator in a more symmetric form avoiding the $\dagger$ indices.

$$N_{\lambda\mu\nu} = \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{(S^{-1})_{\lambda\tau} (S^{-1})_{\mu\tau} (S^{-1})_{\nu\tau}}{[(S^{-1})_{1\tau}]^2} S_{\tau 1}.$$

Once again, one can express this symmetric formula in the orthonormal basis to get a more natural form

$$(3.17) \qquad N_{\lambda\mu\nu} = \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\lambda\tau} (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu\tau} (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\nu\tau}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau}}.$$

The rescaling from S to $\underline{S}$ also does not affect the formula for the eigenvalues of the curve operators

$$(3.18) \qquad \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda] = \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\lambda\mu}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\mu}}.$$

---

[3]It follows from the definition that b is non-degenerate, so $S_{\lambda 1}/(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} = b(\varepsilon_\lambda, \varepsilon_\lambda)$ computed in (3.20) below cannot be 0, i.e. $S_{\lambda 1} \neq 0$. Then, $\underline{S}_{\lambda\mu}$ depends on the arbitrary choice of a sign for the squareroot, which does not affect any of the Verlinde formula, since an even number of $\underline{S}^{-1}$ factors appear.

3.3.7. *Extra relations.* If **MF-D** is satisfied or if the modular functor comes from a modular tensor category [**89**, page 97-98], then $S_{\lambda\mu} = S^{-1}_{\mu\lambda\dagger}$. In particular, we have $(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} = S_{\lambda 1}$, therefore $\underline{S} = S$ and the basis ε_λ is already orthonormal. If **MF-U** is satisfied, the matrix S is unitary. In particular, $S^{-1}_{1\lambda} = S^*_{\lambda 1}$. These properties are justified in Appendix A. In this text, we study modular functors where neither **MF-D MF-U** is assumed and in the following computations, we do not use duality nor unitarity properties of the S-matrix.

3.3.8. *As a Frobenius algebra.* We define a product on $\mathcal{A}$ by the following formula

$$(3.19) \qquad\qquad e_\lambda \times e_\mu := \mathcal{C}[\beta;\lambda](e_\mu).$$

A direct check from the previous formulas shows that $\mathcal{A}$ is now a Frobenius algebra, with unit $e_1 = \mathbb{1}$. We also find respectively from (3.13) and (3.14) that one has

$$\varepsilon_\lambda \times \varepsilon_\mu = \delta_{\lambda\mu} \frac{\varepsilon_\lambda}{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda}} \qquad \text{and} \qquad b(\varepsilon_\lambda, \varepsilon_\mu) = \frac{S_{\lambda 1}}{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda}} \delta_{\lambda\mu}.$$

The canonical basis $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda)_\lambda$ is obtained by a rescaling of the ε_λ as follows

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda = (S^{-1})_{1\lambda} \varepsilon_\lambda.$$

This basis satisfies

$$(3.20) \qquad \tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda \times \tilde{\varepsilon}_\mu = \delta_{\lambda\mu} \tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda \qquad \text{and} \qquad b(\tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda, \tilde{\varepsilon}_\mu) = (S^{-1})_{1\lambda} S_{\lambda 1} \delta_{\lambda,\mu}.$$

A third interesting normalization gives the orthonormal basis defined by

$$(3.21) \qquad \underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda = \frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda}{\sqrt{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} S_{\lambda 1}}} = \sqrt{\frac{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda}}{S_{\lambda 1}}} \varepsilon_\lambda := \sum_{\mu\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda\mu} e_\mu$$

which satisfies

$$\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda \times \underline{\varepsilon}_\mu = \delta_{\lambda\mu} \frac{\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda}{\sqrt{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} S_{\lambda 1}}} \qquad \text{and} \qquad b(\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda, \underline{\varepsilon}_\mu) = \delta_{\lambda\mu}.$$

The unit expressed in the various basis is

$$\mathbb{1} = e_1 = \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} \tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} \sqrt{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} S_{\lambda 1}} \, \underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} (S^{-1})_{1\lambda} \varepsilon_\lambda.$$

The norm of the canonical basis will appear in subsequent computations and is read from (3.20) as

$$\Delta_\lambda := \frac{1}{b(\tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda, \tilde{\varepsilon}_\lambda)} = \frac{1}{(S^{-1})_{1\lambda} S_{\lambda 1}} = \frac{1}{\left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}\right]^2}.$$

3.4. CohFTs associated to a modular functor. We shall build, for each log-determination of the central charge and Dehn twist eigenvalues,

$$(3.22) \qquad \tilde{r}_\lambda = \exp(2\mathrm{i}\pi r_\lambda), \qquad \tilde{c} = \exp(\mathrm{i}\pi c/2), \qquad r_\lambda, c \in \mathbb{Q} \quad \text{such that } r_\lambda = r_{\lambda\dagger},$$

a 1-parameter family of CohFTs based on the Frobenius algebra $\mathcal{A}$ described in the previous paragraph. The parameter here is denoted $t \in \mathbb{C}$. We rely on the result of Theorem 2.7: We have defined for each n-tuple $\vec{\lambda}$ of labels, a complex vector bundle $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$. Then, we simply take its Chern character.

$$\Omega_{g,n} = \sum_{\vec{\lambda}\in\Lambda^n} \mathrm{Ch}_t([\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}) \, e_{\lambda_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{\lambda_n}.$$

THEOREM 3.2. *For any* $t \in \mathbb{C}$ *and choice of log-determinations* (3.22)*,* $\Omega_{g,n}$ *is a semi-simple CohFT.*

PROOF. Our bundle has been defined over the boundary of the moduli space, and the axioms of a CohFT for the Chern character immediately follow from the factorization properties of the underlying bundles. □

To describe explicitly this CohFT, we need to find the operator which transports it to a degree 0 CohFT. The strategy is the same as in [**70**] which was written in the example where $\mathcal{V}_{g,n}$ is the Verlinde bundle. The task of identifying the R-matrix is facilitated by the following result, whose proof relies on Teleman's classification of semi-simple CohFTs [**86**].

LEMMA 3.3. [**70**] *In a semi-simple CohFT, the restriction of $\Omega_{g,n}$ to the smooth locus $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ completely determines the R-matrix.*

For any modular functor we already have computed in Proposition 2.6 the Chern character of $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ on the smooth locus $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$.

$$\Omega_{g,n}^*(e_{\lambda_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{\lambda_n}) = [D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} \exp\left\{t\left(-\frac{c}{2}\Lambda_1 + \sum_{i=1}^n r_{\lambda_i}\psi_i\right)\right\}, \qquad [D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} := \dim \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n}).$$

Here, Λ_1 is the first Chern class of the Hodge bundle, not to be confused with the label set Λ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n}$ is any marked surface of genus g with n points. By the Verlinde formula, $[D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$ only depends on g, n and $\vec{\lambda}$.

PROPOSITION 3.4. *Assume $r_1 = 0$. We have the following diagonal R-matrix in the e-basis, which can also be written non-diagonally in the ε-basis*

$$(3.23) \qquad R(u) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} e^{ut(r_\lambda + c/24)} \operatorname{id}_{e_\lambda}.$$

The corresponding translation is $T(u) = u\big(1 - \exp(utc/24)\big)e_1$.

Since u here is not a quantized parameter, the log-determination of r_λ and c do matter in (3.23).

REMARK 3.1. We observe that, up to the scalar $e^{utc/24}$, the R-matrix can be identified with the action of the flow at time $ut/4i\pi$ generated by an infinitesimal Dehn twist around a puncture, on the space $\mathcal{V}_{\text{tot}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n}) = \bigoplus_{\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n} \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n})$. This awaits an interpretation in hyperbolic geometry.

PROOF. We first remark that

$$(3.24) \qquad \Omega_{g,n}^*(e_{\lambda_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{\lambda_n})|_{t=0} := [D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}]$$

are the correlators of the degree 0 part of the CohFT of the modular functor. Denote $\iota : \mathcal{M}_{g,n} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ the natural inclusion. With the formula $\iota^*(\Lambda_1) = \iota^*(\kappa_1/12)$ [**75**], we obtain that

$$(3.25) \qquad \iota^*\Omega_{g,n}^*(e_{\lambda_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{\lambda_n}) = \iota^*\operatorname{Ch}_t([\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n})$$
$$= \exp(-t\,c\,\kappa_1/24)\exp\Big(\sum_{i=1}^n t\,r_{\lambda_i}\psi_i\Big).$$

Comparing with Teleman's classification theorem, one gets

$$\Omega_{g,n} = \hat{R}\,\hat{T}\,\Omega_{g,n}|_{t=0}.$$

We see by definition of the κ-classes that the first factor in (3.25) can only arise by the action of the translation operator, and the second factor arises from the action

of the R-matrix given in (3.23). The expression of the translation follows from the fact that we have a CohFT and the general result (3.3). Since $r_1 = 0$ and e_1 is the unit, we find $T(u) = u\big(1 - \exp(utc/24)\big)e_1$. □

3.5. Remark on log-determinations. When the modular functor comes from a category of representations of a vertex operator algebra $\mathfrak{A}$, $\mathcal{A}$ is the character ring of $\mathfrak{A}$. Characters are functions on the upper-half plane $\{\tau \in \mathbb{C},\ \mathrm{Im}\,\tau > 0\}$, and after multiplication by a suitable rational power of $q = e^{2i\pi\tau}$, the characters fit in a vector-valued modular form. The S-matrix is implemented by the transformation $\tau \mapsto -1/\tau$, and the Dehn twist is implemented by $\tau \mapsto \tau + 1$. The modularity of characters then provides canonical log-determinations r_λ and c, since multiplying by another power of q will destroy modularity.

4. Topological recursion

The main result of [**33**] is that the intersection of the classes $\Omega_{g,n}$ of a semisimple CohFT against ψ-classes in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ are computed by the topological recursion of [**38**]. We quickly review this theory, in the context of local spectral curves. We will comment on the setting of global spectral curves in Section 7.

4.1. Local spectral curve and residue formula. A local spectral curve consists in the following set of data.

- $U = \bigsqcup_i U_i$ which is a disjoint union of formal neighbourhoods of complex dimension 1 of points $o_i \in U_i$;
- a branched covering $x : U \to V$ whose ramification divisor is $O = \bigsqcup_i \{o_i\}$. Here V itself is also a disjoint union of formal neighbourhoods of points in $\mathbb{P}^1$.

We assume that x has only simple ramifications. Then, we can choose a coordinate on U_i, denoted ζ_i such that $x(\zeta_i) = \zeta_i^2/2 + x(o_i)$. We make this choice once for all in each U_i. Note that U_i carries a holomorphic involution σ_i, which sends the point in U_i with coordinate ζ_i, to the point in U_i with coordinate $-\zeta_i$. In the cases, where we consider $U_{i_{\ell_1}} \times \ldots \times U_{i_{\ell_m}}$, we denote points in this cartesian product $(z_{\ell_1}, \ldots z_{\ell_m})$ and we shall denote by $\zeta_{i_{\ell_i}}(z_{\ell_i})$ their respective coordinates.

Let $\Delta = \{(z, z) \in U^2 \mid z \in U\}$ be the diagonal divisor and K_U be the canonical bundle of U. The initial data of the topological recursion is

$$\omega_{0,1} \in H^0(U, K_U), \qquad \omega_{0,2} \in H^0\big(U^2, K_U^{\boxtimes 2}(2\Delta)\big)^{\mathfrak{S}_2}$$

with the extra condition that $\omega_{0,1}(z) - \omega_{0,1}(\sigma_i(z))$ has at most double zeros at o_i. In coordinates this means that we have

$$(4.1) \qquad \forall z \in U_i, \qquad \omega_{0,1}(z) = \sum_{d \geq 0} \omega_{0,1}\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i \\ d \end{smallmatrix}\big]\, \zeta_i^d(z)\, \mathrm{d}\zeta_i(z)$$

$$\forall (z_1, z_2) \qquad \in U_{i_1} \times U_{i_2}, \omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\delta_{i_1 i_2}\, t_{i_1}\, \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1)\, \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2)}{(\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{i_2}(z_2))^2}$$

$$+ \sum_{d_1, d_2 \geq 0} \omega_{0,2}\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i_1 & i_2 \\ d_1 & d_2 \end{smallmatrix}\big]\, \zeta_{i_1}^{d_1}(z_1)\zeta_{i_2}^{d_2}(z_2)\, \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2)$$

with $\omega_{0,1}\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix}\big] \neq 0$ or $\omega_{0,1}\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}\big] \neq 0$. We usually assume that the coefficients of the double poles are $t_i = 1$ for all i.

The topological recursion provides a sequence of symmetric forms in n variables,

$$(4.2) \qquad \omega_{g,n} \in H^0(U^n, (K_U(*O))^{\boxtimes n})^{\mathfrak{S}_n}, \qquad \text{for } 2g - 2 + n > 0,$$

which describe the unique normalized solution of the "abstract loop equations" with initial data $(\omega_{0,1}, \omega_{0,2})$ [**20**, **21**]. In (4.2), we take forms that are invariant under the symmetric group $\mathfrak{S}_n$ acting by permutation of the n factors of U. The definition of $\omega_{g,n}$ proceeds by induction on $2g - 2 + n > 0$. We introduce the recursion kernel
(4.3)

$$\mathcal{K}_i \in H^0\big(U \times U_i, [K_U \boxtimes K_{U_i}^{-1}(O)](\Delta \sqcup \Delta_\sigma)\big), \qquad \mathcal{K}_i(z_0, z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\int_{\sigma_i(z)}^z \omega_{0,2}(\cdot, z_0)}{\omega_{0,1}(z) - \omega_{0,1}(\sigma_i(z))}.$$

where $\Delta_\sigma = \bigsqcup_i \{(z, \sigma_i(z)) \mid z \in U_i\}$. Denote by $I = \{z_2, \ldots, z_n\}$ a set of $(n-1)$ variables. The topological recursion formula defining the symmetric forms is

$$(4.4) \qquad \omega_{g,n}(z_1, I) = \sum_{o_i \in O} \operatorname*{Res}_{z \to o_i} \mathcal{K}_i(z_0, z) \bigg\{ \omega_{g-1,n+1}(z, \sigma_i(z), I)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{h+h'=g \\ J \sqcup J'=I \\ (h,J) \neq (0,\varnothing),(g,I)}} \omega_{h,1+|J|}(z, J) \otimes \omega_{h',1+|J'|}(\sigma_i(z), J') \bigg\}.$$

The induction reduces $\omega_{g,n}$ to an expression involving $2g - 2 + n$ residues of products of $\mathcal{K}_i$s and $g + n - 1$ factors of $\omega_{0,2}$. If the induction is completely unfolded, $\omega_{g,n}$ is a sum over certain trivalent graphs containing a spanning tree, having $2g - 2 + n$ vertices and $g + n - 1$ extra edges in the complement of the tree [**38**]. The topological recursion also define a sequence of numbers $(F_g)_{g \geq 2}$ by

$$F_g = \frac{1}{2 - 2g} \sum_{o_i \in O} \operatorname*{Res}_{z \to o_i} \bigg(\oint_{o_i}^z \omega_{0,1} \bigg) \omega_{g,1}(z)$$

REMARK 4.1. Sometimes, the data of the differential form $\omega_{0,1}$ is replaced by the data of a germ of functions y holomorphic at all the o_i such that $\omega_{0,1}(z) = y(z) dx(z)$ for any $z \in U$.

4.2. Relation to cohomological field theories. For any local spectral curve, the $\omega_{g,n}$ can be represented in terms of intersection numbers on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ [**36**]. There is a partial converse presented in [**33**], where it is established that the correlators of a semi-simple CohFT are computed by the topological recursion for a local spectral curve prescribed by the corresponding R-matrix (we stress that not all local spectral curves can arise from a CohFT). We now review this correspondence.

4.2.1. *CohFT data.* Let $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i)_i$ be a canonical basis, and $\underline{\varepsilon}_i = \tilde{\varepsilon}_i / \Delta_i^{1/2}$ the orthonormal basis. We write the formal series expansions

$$(4.5) \qquad T(u) = u(\mathbb{1} - R(u) \cdot \mathbb{1}) = \sum_i \sum_{d \geq 2} T\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i \\ d \end{smallmatrix}\big] u^d \underline{\varepsilon}_i$$

$$(4.6) \qquad B(u_1, u_2) = \frac{b^\dagger - R(u_1) \otimes R(u_2) \cdot b^\dagger}{u_1 + u_2}$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2 \\ d_1, d_2 \geq 0}} B\big[\begin{smallmatrix} i_1 & i_2 \\ d_1 & d_2 \end{smallmatrix}\big] u_1^{d_1} u_2^{d_2} \underline{\varepsilon}_{i_1} \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_{i_2}$$

of the R-matrix and translation matrix defining uniquely a CohFT with canonical basis $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i)_i$. We denote by $\Omega_{g,n}$ its correlators and $\Omega_{g,n}^{\deg 0}$ the restriction to their degree 0 part (which only depends on the norms Δ_i).

4.2.2. *Local spectral curve data.* We now define a local spectral curve, in terms of the above CohFT data. Its ramification points are indexed by a canonical basis $(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i)_i$ of the underlying Frobenius manifold, and we set for $z \in U_i$

$$x(z) = x(o_i) + \zeta_i^2(z)/2$$

$$\omega_{0,1}^{\mathrm{odd}}(z) = -\Delta_i^{-1/2} \zeta_i^2(z) \mathrm{d}\zeta_i(z) + \sum_{d \geq 2} \frac{T\left[{i \atop d}\right]}{(2d-1)!!} \zeta_i^{2d}(z) \mathrm{d}\zeta_i(z)$$

and for $(z_1, z_2) \in U_{i_1} \times U_{i_2}$

$$\omega_{0,2}^{\mathrm{odd}}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\delta_{i_1 i_2} \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2)}{(\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{i_2}(z_2))^2}$$

$$+ \sum_{d_1, d_2 \geq 0} \frac{B\left[{i_1 \; i_2 \atop d_1 \; d_2}\right]}{(2d_1-1)!!(2d_2-1)!!} \zeta_{i_1}^{2d_1}(z_1) \zeta_{i_2}^{2d_2}(z_2) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2).$$

(4.7)

By convention, $(2d-1)!! = 1$ for $d = 0$. Then, let $\omega_{0,1}^{\overline{\mathrm{odd}}}(z)$ be an arbitrary holomorphic 1-form which is invariant under the local involution $\zeta_i(z) \to -\zeta_i(z)$ in the patch $z \in U_i$, and an arbitrary bidifferential of the form, for $(z_1, z_2) \in U_{i_1} \times U_{i_2}$,

$$\omega_{0,2}^{\overline{\mathrm{odd}}}(z_1, z_2) = \sum_{\substack{d_1, d_2 \geq 0 \\ d_1 \text{ or } d_2 \text{ even}}} \omega_{0,2}\left[{i_1 \; i_2 \atop d_1 \; d_2}\right] \zeta_{i_1}^{d_1}(z_1) \zeta_{i_2}^{d_2}(z_2) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2).$$

We then consider the following quantities as initial data for the topological recursion

(4.8)
$$\omega_{0,1} = \omega_{0,1}^{\mathrm{odd}} + \omega_{0,1}^{\overline{\mathrm{odd}}}, \qquad \omega_{0,2} = \omega_{0,2}^{\mathrm{odd}} + \omega_{0,2}^{\overline{\mathrm{odd}}}.$$

To sum up, in the decomposition

$$\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\delta_{i_1 i_2} \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2)}{(\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{i_2}(z_2))^2}$$

$$+ \sum_{d_1, d_2 \geq 0} \omega_{0,2}\left[{i_1 \; i_2 \atop d_1 \; d_2}\right] \zeta_{i_1}^{d_1}(z_1) \zeta_{i_2}^{d_2}(z_2) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_1}(z_1) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_2}(z_2),$$

the R-matrix of the CohFT only fixes the following coefficients.

$$\omega_{0,2}\left[{i_1 \quad i_2 \atop 2d_1 \; 2d_2}\right] = \frac{B\left[{i_1 \; i_2 \atop d_1 \; d_2}\right]}{(2d_1-1)!!(2d_2-1)!!}$$

All the other coefficients can be arbitrarily chosen. With this $\omega_{0,2}$ at hand, we build a family of meromorphic 1-forms $\Xi_{d,i}(z_0)$ indexed by ramification points and an integer $d \geq 0$

(4.9)
$$\Xi_{i,d}(z_0) := \operatorname*{Res}_{z \to o_i} \frac{(2d+1)!! \, \mathrm{d}\zeta_i(z)}{\zeta_i(z)^{2d+2}} \int_{o_i}^{z} \omega_{0,2}(\cdot, z_0).$$

The only singularity of this 1-form is a pole at $z_0 \to o_i$, and we actually have, for $z_0 \in U_{i_0}$,

(4.10) $\Xi_{i,d}(z_0)$

$$= \delta_{ii_0} \frac{(2d+1)!! \, \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_0}(z_0)}{\zeta_{i_0}^{2d+2}(z_0)} + (2d-1)!! \sum_{d_0 \geq 0} \omega_{0,2}\left[{i \quad i_0 \atop 2d \; d_0}\right] \zeta_{i_0}^{d_0}(z_0) \mathrm{d}\zeta_{i_0}(z_0).$$

We stress that the domain of definition of $\Xi_{i,d}$ is the whole U – as for $\omega_{0,2}$ – and not only U_i.

THEOREM 4.1. [**33**] *Consider the n-forms* $\omega_{g,n}(z_1, \ldots, z_n)$ *defined by*

$$(4.11) \quad \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \ldots, z_n) = \sum_{\substack{i_1,\ldots,i_n \\ d_1,\ldots,d_n \geq 0}} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \Omega^*_{g,n}(\underline{\varepsilon}_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_{i_n}) \prod_{\ell=1}^n \psi_\ell^{d_\ell} \prod_{\ell=1}^n \Xi_{i_\ell, d_\ell}(z_\ell).$$

Then, $\omega_{g,n}$ *is computed by the topological recursion* (4.4) *with initial data* (4.8).

Note that, in the right-hand side, the only dependence in the choice of $\omega_{0,2}^{\mathrm{odd}}$ lies in the meromorphic forms $\Xi_{d,i}$ defined in (4.9) and on which the correlators are decomposed. Further, the $\omega_{g,n}$ do not depend on the constant $x(o_i)$ and the 1-form $\omega_{0,1}^{\mathrm{even}}$. Allowing them to be non-zero can simplify expressions, and does matter if one is interested in building a Landau-Ginzburg model for which (4.7)-(4.7) is the local expansion near the ramification divisors. This matter will be discussed in Section 7.

We observe that

$$(4.12) \qquad \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{e^{-\zeta^2/2u}}{2(2\pi u)^{1/2}} \zeta^{2d} \, \mathrm{d}\zeta = (2d-1)!! \, u^d.$$

Therefore, the relation between the initial data (4.5) and the R-matrix of the CohFT is given by a Laplace transform, as it is well-known

$$\mathbb{1}u + T(u) = \sum_i \left(\int_{\gamma_i} \frac{\exp\left[-\frac{x(z)-x(o_i)}{u} \right]}{2(2\pi u)^{1/2}} \omega_{0,1}(z) \right) \underline{\varepsilon}_i$$

$$B(u_1, u_2) = \sum_{i,j} \left(\int_{\gamma_i \times \gamma_j} \frac{\exp\left[-\frac{x(z_1)-x(o_i)}{u_1} - \frac{x(z_2)-x(o_j)}{u_2} \right]}{4(2\pi u_1)^{1/2}(2\pi u_2)^{1/2}} \right.$$
$$\left. \cdot \left\{ \omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) - \frac{\delta_{ij} \, \mathrm{d}\zeta_i(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_j(z_2)}{(\zeta_i(z_1) - \zeta_j(z_2))^2} \right\} \right) \underline{\varepsilon}_i \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_j.$$

Here, γ_i is a steepest descent contour in the spectral curve passing through the ramification point o_i and going to ∞ in the direction $\mathrm{Re}\,[x(z)/u] \to +\infty$. For the case of local spectral curves we consider here, the meaning of the right-hand side must be precised. We expand the non-exponential part of the integrand as power series when $z \to o_i$, then integrate term by term against $e^{-x(z)/u}$ using (4.12). Each term yields a monomial in u, and thus the right-hand side is a well-defined formal power series in u.

4.2.3. *0-point correlation functions.* The following lemma did not appear in [**33**], but is an easy consequence of the content of that paper.

THEOREM 4.2. *For* $g \geq 2$, *we have*

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}} \Omega_{g,0} = F_g := \frac{1}{2-2g} \sum_i \mathrm{Res}_{z \to o_i} \left(\int_{o_i}^z \omega_{0,1} \right) \omega_{g,1}(z).$$

In order to prove it, we shall use the dilaton equation for the classes produced by the action of the Givental group.

LEMMA 4.3. *Given a semi-simple 2d TQFT* $(\Omega_{g,n}^{\deg 0})_{g,n}$, *a translation* $T(u) \in u^2 \mathcal{A}[[u]]$ *and an element* $R(u) \in \mathrm{End}(\mathcal{A})[[u]]$, *the cohomology classes* $\Omega = \hat{T}\hat{R}\Omega^{\deg 0}$ *satisfy*

$$(4.13) \quad (2g - 2 + n) \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \Omega_{g,n}^*(\cdot)$$
$$= \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \Omega_{g,n+1}^*(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1} - \sum_k \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \Omega_{g,n+1}^*(\cdot \otimes T_k)\psi_{n+1}^k$$

for $2g - 2 + n > 0$.

In particular, this result holds for CohFTs, where R and T are related by $T(u) = u(\mathrm{Id} - R(u))\mathbb{1}$. Theorem 4.2 is then a simple consequence of (4.13) using a residue representation.

PROOF. We prove this formula in three steps. First, let us remark that this statement is true for a vanishing $T(u)$ and $R(u) = \mathrm{Id}$ by the dilaton equation on the moduli space of curves

$$(4.14) \qquad \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \Big[\prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{d_i}\Big]\psi_{n+1} = (2g - 2 + n) \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{d_i}.$$

Next, we check the validity of (4.13) for arbitrary $R(u)$ with $T(u) \equiv 0$. By definition, we have that

$$\check{\Omega}_{g,n} := (\hat{R}\Omega)_{g,n}$$
$$= \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n}} \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|} \, (\pi_\Gamma)_* \Bigg(\prod_{l=\mathrm{leaf}} R(\psi_l) \prod_{\substack{e=\mathrm{edge}\\\{v_e', v_e''\}}} B(\psi_{v_e'}, \psi_{v_e''}) \prod_{v=\mathrm{vertex}} \Omega_{g(v),n(v)}^{\deg 0} \Bigg),$$

where $G_{g,n}$ denotes the stable graphs of genus g with n legs. We can now compute

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \check{\Omega}_{g,n+1}^*(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1}$$
$$= \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n+1}} \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|} \, \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \psi_{n+1} \, (\pi_\Gamma)_*$$
$$\cdot \Bigg(\prod_{l=\mathrm{leaf}\backslash\{n+1\}} R(\psi_l) \prod_{\substack{e=\mathrm{edge}\\\{v_e', v_e''\}}} B(\psi_{v_e'}, \psi_{v_e''}) \prod_{v=\mathrm{vertex}} \Omega_{g(v),n(v)}^{\deg 0 *} \Bigg).$$

Denoting by v^* the unique vertex of Γ adjacent to the leaf corresponding to the $(n+1)$-th marked point, we can write it as a product of integrals over the moduli spaces associated to each vertex

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \check{\Omega}^*_{g,n+1}(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n+1}} \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|} \sum_{\substack{d(h) \geq 0\\ i(v) \in [\![1,k]\!]}} \sum_{\substack{h=\text{half-edge}\\ v=\text{vertex}}} \prod_{\substack{e=\text{edge}\\ \{v'_e, v''_e\}}} B\left[\begin{matrix} i(v'_e) & i(v''_e)\\ d(h_1(e)) & d(h_2(e)) \end{matrix}\right]$$

$$\times \prod_{v \neq v^*} \left(\Delta^{g(v)-1}_{i(v)} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v),n(v)}} \prod_{j=1}^{n(v)} \psi_j^{d_j(v)}\right)$$

$$\times \Delta^{g(v^*)-1}_{i(v^*)} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v^*),n(v^*)}} \left[\prod_{j=1}^{n(v^*)-1} \psi_j^{d_j(v^*)}\right]\psi_{n(v^*)}$$

with the following notations. Each vertex v is assigned a label $i(v) \in [\![1,k]\!]$ where k is the dimension of $\mathcal{A}$. Each half-edge h is assigned a nonnegative integer $d(h)$. Each edge e is decomposed into a pair of half edges $(h_1(e), h_2(e))$ such that $h_1(e)$ (resp. $h_2(e)$) is adjacent to v'_e (resp. v''_e). The incident half-edges to a vertex v are labeled (in some arbitrary way) from 1 to $n(v)$ and we denote by $d_j(v)$ the label $d(h)$ where h is the j-th half edge incident to v. By convention, the $d(v^*)$-th half edge is the one from v^* to the $(n+1)$-th leaf.

We can now apply the dilaton equation to the vertex v^* in order to remove the $(n+1)$-th marked point leading to

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \check{\Omega}^*_{g,n+1}(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n+1}} \frac{1}{|\mathrm{Aut}\,\Gamma|} \sum_{\substack{d_1(e),d_2(e)\\ e=\text{edge}}} \sum_{\substack{i(v)\\ v=\text{vertex}}} \prod_{\substack{e=\text{edge}\\ \{v'_e, v''_e\}}} B\left[\begin{matrix} i(v'_e) & i(v''_e)\\ d(h_1(e)) & d(h_2(e)) \end{matrix}\right]$$

$$\times \prod_{v \neq v^*} \left[\Delta^{g(v)-1}_{i(v)} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v),n(v)}} \prod_{j=1}^{n(v)} \psi_j^{d_j(v)}\right]$$

$$\times (2g(v^*) - 2 + n(v^*) - 1)\, \Delta^{g(v^*)-1}_{i(v^*)} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v^*),n(v^*)-1}} \left[\prod_{j=1}^{n(v)-1} \psi_j^{d_j(v)}\right].$$

Finally, recall that a graph of genus g with $n+1$ leaves is nothing but a graph a genus g with n leaves and a distinguished vertex – one recovers the first by adding an $(n+1)$-th leaf at the distinguished vertex. So, we can convert the sum into a sum over $\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n}$, and since $\sum_v (2g(v) - 2 + n(v)) = 2g - 2 + n$, we obtain

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \check{\Omega}^*_{g,n+1}(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1} = (2g-2+n)\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \check{\Omega}^*_{g,n}(\cdot).$$

In the last step of the argument, we study the action of the translation on the dilaton equation. Let $(\Omega^*_{g,n})_{g,n}$ be a set of cohomology classes satisfying $\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n+1}} \Omega^*_{g,n+1}(\cdot \otimes \mathbb{1})\psi_{n+1} = (2g-2+n)\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \Omega^*_{g,n}(\cdot)$, and let $T(u) = \sum_{k \geq 2} T_k u^k \in u^2\mathcal{A}[[u]]$ be a formal series. For $g \geq 2$, we have by definition that

$$(T\Omega^*)_{g,1}(\mathbb{1})\psi_1 = \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{k_1,\ldots k_m \geq 2} (\pi_m)_* \left\{\Omega^*_{g,1+m}(\mathbb{1} \otimes T_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes T_{k_m})\psi_1^{k_1}\ldots\psi_m^{k_m}\right\}\psi_1$$

where we denote by $\pi_m : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1+m} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1}$ the map forgetting the last m marked points. This implies that

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1}} (T\Omega^*)_{g,1}(\mathbb{1})\psi_1$$
$$= \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{k_1,\dots k_m \geq 2} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1+m}} \Omega^*_{g,1+m}(\mathbb{1} \otimes T_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes T_{k_m})\psi_1^{k_1} \dots \psi_m^{k_m}\psi_1.$$

Using the dilaton equation for the classes $(\Omega_{g,n})_{g,n}$, one can push it down to

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1}} (T\Omega^*)_{g,1}(\mathbb{1})\psi_1$$
$$= \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{(2g-2+m)}{m!} \sum_{k_1,\dots k_m \geq 2} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,m}} \Omega^*_{g,m}(T_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes T_{k_m})\psi_1^{k_1} \dots \psi_m^{k_m}.$$

This can be decomposed into a sum of two terms which reads

$$\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1}} (T\Omega^*)_{g,1}(\mathbb{1})\psi_0$$
$$= (2g-2) \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}} (T\Omega^*)_{g,0}(\mathbb{1})$$
$$+ \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \sum_{k_1,\dots k_m \geq 2} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,1+m-1}} \Omega^*_{g,1+m}(T_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes T_{k_m})\psi_1^{k_1} \dots \psi_m^{k_m}.$$

One can see the second term as a contribution to $(\hat{T}\Omega)_{g,1}$ by marking the first point for example and making the change of variable $m \to m-1$. This proves the lemma for $n = 0$. The generalization to $n > 0$ follows by similar arguments. $\qquad \square$

In the next paragraphs, we apply Theorems 4.1-4.2 to the CohFT obtained from a modular functor.

4.3. Topological recursion and Verlinde formula. We shall not reproduce the general proof of Theorem 4.1, but it is easy and nevertheless instructive to derive it directly for the degree 0 part of the theory, i.e. for the $2d$ TQFT associated to a modular functor. In this way, we exhibit the Verlinde formula computing the dimension $[D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} = \dim \mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\Sigma_{g,n})$ of the spaces provided by the modular functor as a special case of topological recursion.

4.3.1. *Verlinde formula.* Let us start with a brief review of the Verlinde formula. In terms of matrix elements in the $(e_\lambda)_\lambda$ basis, it takes the following form

$$[D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} = \left[\mathcal{C}[\beta;\lambda_1] \cdots \mathcal{C}[\beta;\lambda_n] \mathcal{W}^g \right]_{11} = b(e_1, e_{\lambda_1} \times \cdots \times e_{\lambda_n} \times \mathcal{W}^g(e_1)).$$

In this expression, we used the curve operators introduced in § 3.3.4, and

$$\mathcal{W} = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} \text{Tr}\big(\mathcal{C}[\beta;\mu^\dagger]\big)\,\mathcal{C}[\beta;\mu].$$

Equation (4.15) – and its equivalent form below (4.16) – have been first conjectured by Verlinde [**93**]. It was then proved by Moore and Seiberg [**73**] for modular functors coming from modular tensor categories (though the notion had not been coined yet), but the proof actually holds for any modular functor (see also [**89**]). The strategy consists (a) in degenerating $\Sigma_{g,n}$ in an arbitrary way to a nodal surface whose smooth components all are thrice-punctured spheres, and then use the factorization, thus expressing $[D_\bullet]_{g,n}$ in terms of $[D_\bullet]_{0,3}$; (b) to show that the

S-matrix diagonalizes the multiplication in the Frobenius algebra, which implies (4.16) for $(g, n) = (0, 3)$. For modular functors without further assumptions, this is for instance proved in [**84**] and also in [**5**].

We can derive another expression by working in the $\tilde{\varepsilon}$-basis, taking advantage of the fact that it diagonalizes simultaneously the curve operators and exploiting $e_1 = \sum_{\tau \in \Lambda} \tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau$. The eigenvalues of the curve operators are (3.11)

$$\mathcal{C}[\beta; \mu](\tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau) = \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu\tau}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau}} \tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau,$$

so that the trace yields

$$(4.15) \qquad \operatorname{Tr} \mathcal{C}[\beta; \mu^\dagger] = \sum_{\nu \in \Lambda} \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu^\dagger \nu}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\nu}} = \sum_{\nu \in \Lambda} \frac{\underline{S}_{\nu\mu}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\nu}}.$$

Then the eigenvalues of $\mathcal{W}$ read, using (3.15),

$$\mathcal{W}(\tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau) = \left(\sum_{\mu, \nu \in \Lambda} \frac{\underline{S}_{\nu\mu}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\nu}} \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu\tau}}{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau}} \right) \tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau = \frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau}{\left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau} \right]^2}.$$

Using that $b(\tilde{\varepsilon}_\tau, \tilde{\varepsilon}_{\tau'}) = \left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau} \right]^2 \delta_{\tau, \tau'}$, we obtain the equivalent – and maybe better known form – of (4.15)

$$(4.16) \qquad [D_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n} = \sum_{\tau \in \Lambda} \frac{(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\lambda_1 \tau} \cdots (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\lambda_n \tau}}{\left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau} \right]^{2g-2+n}}.$$

4.3.2. *Topological recursion for the 2d TQFT.* We denote $\omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}$ the correlation functions returned by the topological recursion for the Airy curve defined by

$$(4.17) \qquad U = \mathbb{C}, \qquad x(\zeta) = \zeta^2/2, \qquad y(z) = -z, \qquad \omega_{0,2}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2) = \frac{\mathrm{d}\zeta_1 \mathrm{d}\zeta_2}{(\zeta_1 - \zeta_2)^2}.$$

Although it is not needed in the proof of Proposition 4.4 below, we recall the following well-known formula[4].

$$(4.18) \qquad \omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n) = \sum_{d_1, \ldots, d_n \geq 0} \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{d_i} \frac{(2d_i + 1)!! \, \mathrm{d}\zeta_i}{\zeta_i^{2d_i+2}}.$$

PROPOSITION 4.4. *Consider the local spectral curve defined by the data of $U = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda} U_\lambda$ and, for $z \in U_\lambda$ and $(z_1, z_2) \in U_{\lambda_1} \times U_{\lambda_2}$ in the expression of the following data local coordinates.*

$$(4.19) \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{rcl} x(z) & = & x(o_\lambda) + (\zeta_\lambda(z))^2/2 \\ y(z) & = & -(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda} \zeta_\lambda(z) \\ \omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) & = & \delta_{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} \frac{\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) \, \mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2)}{(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))^2} \end{array} \right. .$$

Then, the correlation functions returned by the topological recursion for $2g-2+n > 0$ are, for $z_i \in U_{\lambda_i}$,

$$(4.20) \qquad \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \ldots, z_n) = \left(\sum_{\vec{\mu} \in \Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^n \underline{S}_{\lambda_i \mu_i} [D_{\vec{\mu}}]_{g,n} \right) \omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}(\zeta_\lambda(z_1), \ldots, \zeta_\lambda(z_n)).$$

---

[4]See [**35**] for a proof based on matrix model techniques. It can also be obtained directly from the Virasoro constraints [**29**, **97**] satisfied by the intersection numbers.

Remark that, since $\omega_{0,2}$ is purely diagonal in (4.19), the left-hand side in (4.20) vanishes unless all z_i belongs to the same open set U_{λ_1}. This is consistent with (4.16) which shows that the bracket in the right-hand side of (4.20) vanishes unless $\lambda_i = \lambda$ for all i, and explains the notation used in the KdV factor. If we want to compare with Theorem 4.1, we use (4.18) and the following basis of 1-forms.

$$z \in U_\mu, \qquad \Xi_{d,\lambda}(z) = \delta_{\lambda\mu} \frac{(2d+1)!!}{[\zeta_\lambda(z)]^{2d+2}}.$$

PROOF. In (4.19), we recognize several copies of the Airy curve, except for a rescaling of $y(z) \to (\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}\, y(z)$ in the patch $z \in U_\lambda$. By the previous remark, we can assume that for $i \in [\![1,n]\!]$, we have all $z_i \in U_\tau$ for some $\tau \in \Lambda$. Since $\omega_{g,n}$ is obtained from the initial data by a sequence of $2g-2+n$ residues at the ramification point $o_\tau \in U_\tau$ involving the kernel (4.3), we have that

$$\omega_{g,n}(z_1,\ldots,z_n) = \frac{\omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}(z_1,\ldots,z_n)}{\left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau}\right]^{2g-2+n}}.$$

To conclude, we recognize with (4.16) that

$$\frac{1}{\left[(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\tau}\right]^{2g-2+n}} = \sum_{\tau \in \Lambda} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \underline{S}_{\tau\mu_i} [D_{\vec{\mu}}]_{g,n}.$$

$\square$

The expression of the topological recursion in terms of intersection numbers is naturally written in terms of local coordinates around the ramification points, which are associated to the canonical basis $(\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda)_\lambda$. To recover the expression in the $(e_\lambda)_\lambda$-basis, one has to make a linear combination which cancels the $\underline{S}$ in (4.20). So, the property that $(\omega_{g,n})_{g,n}$ appearing in (4.11) satisfy the topological recursion is equivalent to the Verlinde formula (4.16) for $[D_\bullet]_{g,n}$.

We can reformulate the proof by saying that, in the sum over trivalent graphs that computes the $\omega_{g,n}$ of the topological recursion, the dependence in the indices $\lambda_i \in \Lambda$ of the weight of a graph is the same for all graphs[5].

4.3.3. *Change of basis.* Denote $z_\lambda(\zeta) \in U_\lambda$ the point such that $\zeta_\lambda(z_\lambda(\zeta)) = \zeta$, and define the following forms

$$\omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1,\ldots,\zeta_n) := \omega_{g,n}(z_{\lambda_1}(\zeta_1),\ldots,z_{\lambda_n}(\zeta_n)).$$

Proposition 4.4 can be alternatively written as

$$(4.21) \qquad \sum_{\vec{\lambda}\in\Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^{n}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu_i\lambda_i}\,\omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1,\ldots,\zeta_n) = [D_{\vec{\mu}}]_{g,n}\,\omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}(\zeta_1,\ldots,\zeta_n).$$

In anticipation of Section 7, we remark that if there exists a global spectral curve, it corresponds to expressing the correlation functions in a different basis of coordinates. In the Landau-Ginzburg picture, this amounts to taking a different linear combination of vanishing cycles, while in the GW theory picture, it means taking a different basis of the cohomology of the target space pulled back to the moduli space by the evaluation map.

---

[5]While finishing this project, we heard that Dumitrescu and Mulase arrived independently in [**32**] to Proposition 4.4.

4.4. Local spectral curves for modular functors. For the CohFTs built from a modular functor, we computed the R-matrix in (3.23). Working in the orthonormal basis $(\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda)_\lambda$ introduced in (3.21), we deduce an expression for the local spectral curve, but we exploit the freedom to add non-odd parts to the initial data to simplify the result. Define the function $\mathcal{B}(\zeta)$ by

$$(4.22) \qquad \mathcal{B}(\zeta) = \frac{\cosh(\zeta)}{\zeta^2} - \frac{\sinh(\zeta)}{\zeta},$$

and the renormalized Dehn twist by

$$(4.23) \qquad h_\lambda = 2t(r_\lambda + c/24).$$

From Lemma 2.4, we deduce that $h_1 = ct/12$ and $h_\lambda = h_{\lambda^\dagger}$.

THEOREM 4.5. *The topological recursion applied to the initial data $(\omega_{0,1} = y\mathrm{d}x\,, \omega_{0,2})$ with*

$$(4.24) \qquad x(z) = x(o_\lambda) + [\zeta_\lambda(z)]^2/2$$

$$y(z) = -(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}\,\frac{\exp[(ct/12)^{1/2}\zeta_\lambda(z)]}{(ct/12)^{1/2}}$$

$$\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) = \sum_{\tau \in \Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2 \tau}\,(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau \lambda_1}\, h_\tau\, \mathcal{B}\big[h_\tau^{1/2}(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))\big]\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2)$$

where $z \in U_\lambda$ and $(z_1, z_2) \in U_{\lambda_1} \times U_{\lambda_2}$, computes the intersection indices of Chern classes of the bundles $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}]_{g,n}$, in the sense of Theorem 4.1-4.2 when decomposed on the following basis of 1-forms.

$$\forall z \in U_\mu, \qquad \Xi_{d,\lambda}(z) = \sum_{\tau \in \Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda \tau}\,(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau \mu}\,\frac{\Gamma[2d + 2\,;\, h_\tau^{1/2}\zeta_\mu(z)]}{2^d\,d!\,[\zeta_\mu(z)]^{2d+2}}\,\mathrm{d}\zeta_\mu(z)$$

where $\Gamma[a\,;\,x] := \int_x^\infty \mathrm{d}v\,v^{a-1}e^{-v}$ is the incomplete Gamma function[6].

With the notational remark of Section 4.3.3, we therefore obtain a generalization of (4.21), which is our second main result

$$(4.25) \qquad \boxed{\sum_{\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^n (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\mu_i \lambda_i}\, \omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n) = \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \mathrm{Ch}_t(\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\mu}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n})) \prod_{i=1}^n \Xi(\psi_i, h_{\mu_i}^{1/2}\zeta_i)}$$

where $\Xi(u, \zeta)$ is the following formal series in u with coefficients meromorphic forms in a neighbourhood of $\zeta = 0$

$$\Xi(u, \zeta) = \sum_{d \geq 0} \frac{\Gamma[2d + 2; \zeta]}{2^d d!\,\zeta^{2d+2}}\,u^d$$

And, for $g \geq 2$, we have as well that

$$\boxed{F_g = \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}} \mathrm{Ch}_t(\mathcal{Z}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,0})).}$$

---

[6] Since $\Gamma[a\,;\,x] = \Gamma(a) + O(x^{a-1})$ when $x \to 0$, we see that $\Xi_{d,\lambda}(z) = \delta_{\lambda \mu}\,(2d + 1)!!\,[\zeta_\mu(z)]^{-(2d+2)}\,\mathrm{d}\zeta_\mu(z) + O(1)$ as it should be.

PROOF. This is pure algebra. The inverse norm of $\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda$ is introduced in (3.21), and gives $\Delta_\lambda^{-1/2} = (\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}$. Inserting $r_1 = 0$ in (3.23), we obtain $T(u) = u(1 - e^{utc/24})\mathbb{1}$. Then, for $z \in U_\lambda$, we compute with (4.7)-(4.7) that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\omega_{0,1}^{\mathrm{odd}}(z) &= (\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}\left(-[\zeta_\lambda(z)]^2 - \sum_{d\geq 1} \frac{(ct/24)^d [\zeta_\lambda(z)]^{2d+2}}{d!\,(2d+1)!!} \right)\mathrm{d}\zeta_\lambda(z) \\
&= -(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda}\left(\zeta_\lambda(z) + \sum_{d\geq 1} \frac{(ct/12)^d [\zeta_\lambda(z)]^{2d+1}}{(2d+1)!} \right)\zeta_\lambda(z)\mathrm{d}\zeta_\lambda(z) \\
&= -(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda} \frac{\sinh[(ct/12)^{1/2}\zeta_\lambda(z)]}{(ct/12)^{1/2}} \,\mathrm{d}x(z).
\end{aligned}
$$

(4.26)

By adding a suitable even part, we can choose

$$
\omega_{0,1}(z) = -(\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\lambda} \frac{\exp[(ct/12)^{1/2}\zeta_\lambda(z)]}{(ct/12)^{1/2}} \,\mathrm{d}\zeta_\lambda(z).
$$

We now proceed to the 2-point function. We have $b^\dagger = \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} e_\lambda \otimes e_{\lambda^\dagger}$. Thus, we obtain from the definition (4.6) that

$$
B(u_1, u_2) = \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda}\left(\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{1 - \exp[(u_1 h_\tau + u_2 h_{\tau^\dagger})/2]}{u_1 + u_2} (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1} (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau^\dagger\lambda_2} \right)\underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_1} \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_2}.
$$

There is some simplification because $h_\tau = h_{\tau^\dagger}$, and $(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau^\dagger\lambda_2} = \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}$ according to (3.16), so we get that

$$
(4.27)\qquad B(u_1, u_2) = \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda}\left(\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \frac{1 - \exp[(u_1 + u_2)h_\tau/2]}{u_1 + u_2} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}\, \underline{S}_{\tau\lambda_1}^{-1} \right)\underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_1} \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_2}.
$$

Let $z_1 \in U_{\lambda_1}$ and $z_2 \in U_{\lambda_2}$. We decompose in power series of (u_1, u_2) and compute with (4.7)-(4.7) for the odd part

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\omega_{0,2}^{\mathrm{odd}}(z_1, z_2) - \frac{\delta_{\lambda_1\lambda_2}\,\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2)}{\left(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2)\right)^2} \\
&= -\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1} \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{(h_\tau/2)^{k+1}}{(k+1)!}\left(\sum_{\substack{d_1,d_2\geq 0 \\ d_1+d_2=k}} \frac{k!}{d_1!d_2!} \frac{[\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)]^{2d_1} [\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2)]^{2d_2}}{(2d_1-1)!!(2d_2-1)!!} \right) \\
&\qquad \cdot \mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2) \\
&= -\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1} \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{h_\tau^{k+1}}{4(k+1)\cdot(2k)!}\left\{ (\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) + \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))^{2k} + (\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))^{2k} \right\} \\
&\qquad \cdot \mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2) \\
&= -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1} h_\tau\left\{ \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[h_\tau^{1/2}(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) + \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))] + \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[h_\tau^{1/2}(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))] \right\} \\
&\qquad \cdot \mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2).
\end{aligned}
$$

It is expressed in terms of the renormalized Dehn twist introduced in (4.22) and the following series

$$
\tilde{\mathcal{B}}(\zeta) = \sum_{k\geq 0} \frac{\zeta^{2k}}{2(k+1)\cdot(2k)!} = \frac{1 - \cosh(\zeta)}{\zeta^2} + \frac{\sinh(\zeta)}{\zeta} = \frac{1}{\zeta^2} - \mathcal{B}(\zeta).
$$

Writing $\delta_{\lambda_1\lambda_2} = \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1}$, the double pole can also be incorporated in the sum in the right-hand side. By adding a suitable non-odd part, we can choose a bidifferential with a rather simple expression

(4.28)
$$\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) := \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\lambda_2\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda_1}\, h_\tau\, \mathcal{B}\big[h_\tau^{1/2}(\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1) - \zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2))\big] \mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_1}(z_1)\mathrm{d}\zeta_{\lambda_2}(z_2).$$

This is the result announced in (4.24). Eventually, we compute from (4.9) the basis of 1-form induced by this choice of $\omega_{0,2}$. Taking advantage of the fact that

$$\mathcal{B}(\zeta) = \frac{\cosh(\zeta)}{\zeta^2} - \frac{\sinh(\zeta)}{\zeta} = -\frac{f'(\zeta) + f'(-\zeta)}{2}, \qquad f(\zeta) = \frac{\exp(\zeta)}{\zeta},$$

we find that, for $z_0 \in U_\mu$,

$$\frac{\Xi_{d,\lambda}(z_0)}{\mathrm{d}\zeta_\mu(z_0)}$$

$$= \operatorname*{Res}_{z\to o_\lambda} \frac{(2d+1)!!}{\zeta_\lambda^{2d+2}(z)} \int_{o_\lambda}^z \frac{\omega_{0,2}(\cdot, z_0)}{\mathrm{d}\zeta_\mu(z_0)}$$

$$= -\sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\mu\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda} \operatorname*{Res}_{\zeta\to 0} \frac{\exp[h_\tau^{1/2}(\zeta - \zeta_\mu(z_0))]}{\zeta - \zeta_\mu(z_0)} \frac{(2d+1)!!\,\mathrm{d}\zeta}{\zeta^{2d+2}}$$

$$= \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\mu\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda} \left(\frac{(2d+1)!!}{[\zeta_\mu(z_0)]^{2d+2}} - \sum_{m\geq 0} \frac{(2d+1)!!}{(2d+1)!} \frac{(-1)^m h_\tau^{d+1+m/2}[\zeta_\mu(z_0)]^m}{(2d+2+m)\cdot m!} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\mu\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda} \left(\frac{(2d+1)!!}{[\zeta_\mu(z_0)]^{2d+2}} - \frac{h_\tau^{d+1}}{2^d\, d!} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}v\, v^{2d+1}\, \exp[-h_\tau^{1/2}\zeta_\mu(z_0)v] \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\tau\in\Lambda} \underline{S}_{\mu\tau}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{\tau\lambda} \frac{\Gamma[2d+2\,;\, h_\tau^{1/2}\zeta_\mu(z_0)]}{2^d\, d!\, [\zeta_\mu(z_0)]^{2d+2}}.$$

$\square$

REMARK 4.2. For $t \neq 0$, the dependence in t can easily be absorbed by defining $\tilde{\zeta}_\lambda(z) = t^{1/2}\zeta_\lambda(z)$. More precisely

$$\omega_{g,n}|_t(z_1, \ldots, z_n) = t^{3g-3+3n/2}\Big[\omega_{g,n}(z_1, \ldots, z_n)\Big|_{t=1}\Big]_{\zeta_\lambda(z)\to t^{1/2}\zeta_\lambda(z)}$$

and subsequently

$$F_g|_t = t^{3g-3}\, F_g|_{t=1}$$

The latter is also true for $t = 0$, as it is known that $F_g^{\mathrm{KdV}} = 0$ for all $g \geq 2$.

In the remaining of the text, we comment on the local spectral curves obtained for two important families of modular functors, which are both related to quantum Chern-Simons theory in 2+1-dimensions, with a gauge group G which is either finite (Section 5) or simply-connected compact (Section 6). Without entering into the details of the construction, we present the main facts necessary to apply effectively the results of the previous sections. We also discuss in Section 7 the problem of constructing global spectral curves in which the local expansion at the ramification gives (4.24).

5. Example: Modular functors associated to finite groups

The simplest examples of modular functors are provided by quantum Chern-Simons theory with finite gauge groups G in $(2+1)$-dimensions. These TQFT was studied by Dijkgraaf and Witten as a particular case of quantization of Chern-Simons theory with arbitrary compact (maybe non simply connected) gauge group, and its construction depends on a cocycle $[\alpha] \in H^3(BG, \mathrm{U}(1))$ [30], where BG is the classifying space for G. When G is a finite group, the path integral producing the TQFT correlation functions over a manifold X is reduced to a finite sum over isomorphism classes of certain G-principal bundles on X. The theory is therefore an attractive playground to have a grasp on TQFTs. The construction of the modular functor was presented in [42] shortly after. The central extension of the mapping class group plays no role here, i.e. $\tilde{c} = 1$ and the central charge is always 0. This model is also known as the "holomorphic orbifold model", and fits in the framework of VOA.

We summarize below the untwisted theory $[\alpha] = 0$. The modular functor in this case can also be obtained from the modular tensor category of representations of $D(G)$, the quantum double of the finite group G [12]. We have that $\mathcal{A} = \mathrm{Rep}(D(G))$, which is also equipped with the structure of a Frobenius manifold. Then, the Dehn twist eigenvalues are also trivial: $\tilde{d}_\lambda = 1$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Therefore, the CohFT we produce is rather trivial, like in Section 4.3, and does not remember more than the dimensions of the TQFT vector spaces.

The twisted theory deals with projective representations of G, with cocycle determined by the class $[\alpha]$. We refer to [28, 30, 42] for a full presentation. But, we will point out in Section 5.2 that it gives Dehn twist eigenvalues depending in a non-trivial way on the class $[\alpha]$, and therefore leads to CohFTs which do not sit only in degree 0.

5.1. The untwisted theory.

5.1.1. *Frobenius algebra.* If $g \in G$, C_g denotes the conjugacy class of g, and Z_g the centralizer of g in G, i.e. the set of all elements commuting with g. We obviously have that

$$\#C_g = \frac{\#G}{\#Z_g}.$$

The label set Λ consists of ordered pairs (i, ϱ) where C_i is a conjugacy class of G, and $\varrho = \varrho_{i,g_i}$ an (isomorphism class of) irreducible representation of Z_{g_i} for some $g_i \in C_i$. Remark that, for any two representatives $g_i, g_i' \in C_i$, Z_{g_i} and $Z_{g_i'}$ (hence their representations) are canonically isomorphic, by the following formula.

$$(5.1) \qquad\qquad \varrho_{i,kgk^{-1}}(h) = \varrho_{i,g}(k^{-1}hk).$$

We denote $i^\dagger$ the index of the conjugacy class containing g_i^{-1}, and $\varrho^\dagger$ the dual representation. Then, $(i, \varrho) \mapsto (i^\dagger, \varrho^\dagger)$ endows Λ with an involution. The vector space $\mathcal{A} = \bigoplus_{(i,\varrho)} \mathbb{C}.e_{(i,\varrho)}$ is equipped with a product reflecting the operation of tensor product of representations. If ϱ_i and ϱ_j are representations of Z_{g_i} and Z_{g_j}, one has to consider $\varrho_i \otimes \varrho_j$ as defining a representation of Z_{g_k} for each g_k that can appear as the product of two elements in C_i and C_j.

The algebra $\mathcal{A}$ contains two remarkable subalgebras $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{conj}}$ and $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{rep}}$ which encode respectively the product induced by the group algebra of G on its center, and the representation theory of G.

The space $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{rep}}$ is a subalgebra spanned by the vectors $e_{(1,\varrho)}$, where $i = 1$ is reserved for the conjugacy class of the identity in G, and ϱ is an irreducible representation of $G = Z_1$. The subalgebra $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{conj}}$ is spanned by the vectors $e_{(i,1)}$, which indexes conjugacy classes C_i of G, and the centralizer is equipped with the trivial representation, so that $\varrho_{i,1}(g)$ is constant equal to 1. It is isomorphic as an algebra to the center of the group algebra of G, and as such it has a natural structure of commutative associative algebra. The structure constants in the product

$$(5.2) \qquad e_{(i,1)} \underset{\mathrm{conj}}{\times} e_{(j,1)} = \sum_k N_{ijk}\, e_{(k,1)}$$

compute the number of factorizations of the identity in G by elements in fixed conjugacy classes. It can be expressed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} N_{i_1 i_2 i_3} &= \frac{\#\{(g_1,g_2,g_3) \in C_{i_1} \times C_{i_2} \times C_{i_3} \mid g_1 g_2 g_3 = 1\}}{\#C_{i_3}} \\ &= \frac{\#\{p \in \mathrm{Hom}(\pi_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}), G) \mid p(\mathfrak{l}_j) \in C_{i_j}\ j = 1,2,3\}}{\#C_{i_3}}. \end{aligned}$$

Here, $\mathfrak{l}_j$ is a loop around the j-th puncture of $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,3}$. The numerator is also the number of G-bundles on a sphere with 3 punctures, in which the monodromy around the j-th point belongs to the conjugacy class C_{i_j}.

5.1.2. *Scalars and S-matrix.* These modular functors have $\tilde{c} = 1$ and $\tilde{r}_{(i,\varrho)} = 1$, but their VOA origin provides canonical log-determinations (see Section 3.5):

$$c = 0, \qquad r_\lambda = 0.$$

For each i labeling a conjugacy class, $g_i \in C_i$, and a representation $\varrho := \varrho_{i,g_i}$ of Z_{g_i}, we denote by $\chi_{i,g_i}(h) = \mathrm{Tr}\, \varrho_{i,g_i}(h)$ its character. We take as convention $\chi_{i,g_i}(h) = 0$ whenever $h \notin Z_{g_i}$. Let Z_i be the centralizer of some (arbitrary) representative of C_i, and $V_{i,\varrho}$ be the vector space on which Z_i acts via the representation ϱ. The dimension of this module is $\dim V_{i,\varrho} = \varrho_{i,g_i}(1)$. We reserve the label $i = 1$ for the conjugacy class of the identity in G, and then in $(1,\varrho)$, ϱ must be a representation of G. Its character will be denoted χ_ϱ, and $V_{1,\varrho} := V_\varrho$ the vector space of the representation.

The S-matrix is computed in [**28**, **42**]. Keeping the notations of Section 3.3, it reads

$$(5.3) \qquad \underline{S}_{(i_1,\varrho_1)(i_2,\varrho_2)} = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{\substack{g_j \in C_{i_j} \\ [g_1,g_2]=1}} \chi_{i_1,g_1}(g_2^{-1})\, \chi_{i_2,g_2}(g_1^{-1}).$$

We list for bookkeeping some special entries of the S-matrix.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\underline{S}_{(1,1)(1,1)} &= \frac{1}{\#G} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(i,1)(1,1)} &= \frac{\#C_i}{\#G} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(1,\varrho)(1,1)} &= \frac{\dim V_\varrho}{\#G} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(i,1)(1,\varrho)} &= \frac{\#C_i\, \chi_\varrho(C_i)}{\#G} \\[4pt]
(5.4) \qquad \underline{S}_{(i,\varrho)(1,1)} &= \frac{\#C_i}{\#G}\, \dim V_{i,\varrho} = \frac{\dim V_{i,\varrho}}{\#Z_i} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(i,1)(j,1)} &= \frac{\#\mathrm{Commutant}(C_i, C_j)}{\#G} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(1,\varrho)(1,\tau)} &= \frac{\dim V_\tau\, \dim V_\varrho}{\#G} \\[4pt]
\underline{S}_{(i,\varrho)(1,\tau)} &= \frac{\dim V_{i,\varrho}}{\#G}\, \#C_i \cdot \chi_\tau(C_{i^\dagger}).
\end{aligned}
$$

The matrix $\underline{S}$ can be thought as an extension of the character table of G which appears in (5.4), so that both indices i and ϱ are treated on the same footing. This matrix is clearly symmetric, and it can be checked by direct computation that $\underline{S}^2 = C$ is the operator sending e_λ to $e_{\lambda^\dagger}$.

5.1.3. *Local spectral curve.* Since $c = 0$ and $r_{(i,\varrho)} = 0$, the CohFT just consists of several (suitably rescaled) copies of the trivial CohFT, and the local spectral curve consists of several copies of the Airy curve (4.17). The only information left from the modular functor is the dimension of the representations, appearing as the rescaling

$$
x(z) = [\zeta_{i,\varrho}(z)]^2/2, \qquad y(z) = -\frac{\dim V_{i,\varrho}}{\#G}\, \zeta_{i,\varrho}(z), \qquad z \in U_{i,\varrho}
$$

and as we have seen in Section 4.3, this is just enough to compute the dimensions of the TQFT vector spaces.

5.2. The twisted theory. Let us choose a 3-cocycle α representing the class $[\alpha]$, and introduce for any $h \in G$, the following 2-cocycle for Z_h

$$
(5.5) \qquad c_h(g_1, g_2) = \frac{\alpha(h, g_1, g_2)\alpha(g_1, g_2, h)}{\alpha(g_1, h, g_2)}.
$$

Choosing another representative α', we would obtain a 2-cocycle c_h' differing from c_h only by a coboundary. A projective representation of Z_h with cocycle c_h is a map $\varrho_h : Z_h \to \mathrm{GL}(V)$ for a finite dimensional vector space, such that $\varrho_h(1) = 1$ and one has that

$$
\forall (g_1, g_2) \in G^2, \qquad \varrho_h(g_1)\varrho_h(g_2) = c_h(g_1, g_2)\, \varrho_h(g_1 g_2).
$$

In the construction of the modular functor for the twisted theory, $\varrho_{i,g}$ are now the projective representations of Z_{g_i} with cocycle c_{g_i} [42]. The S-matrix takes the form

$$\underline{S}_{(i_1,\varrho_1)(i_2,\varrho_2)} = \frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{\substack{g_j \in C_{i_j} \\ [g_1,g_2]=1}} \chi_{i_1,g_1}(g_2^{-1}) \chi_{i_2,g_2}(g_1^{-1}) \sigma(g_1|g_2)$$

and the Dehn twist eigenvalues are

$$\tilde{r}_{(i,\varrho)} = \sigma(g_i|g_i)^{-1/2}$$

for some arbitrary $g_i \in C_i$. The function $\sigma(g_1|g_2)$ depends in a non-trivial way on $[\alpha]$, but must satisfy $\sigma(g_1|g_2) = \sigma(g_2|g_1)$ and another condition of cohomological nature [28]. The relation between σ and α is explained in full generality in [41]. In the simpler case where all 2-cocycles c_h defined in (5.5) are coboundaries, let us take a 1-cocycle β_h such that

$$c_h(g_1, g_2) = \frac{\beta_h(g_1)\beta_h(g_2)}{\beta_h(g_1 g_2)}.$$

The consistency conditions impose $\beta_{h^{-1}}(g) = \beta_{g^{-1}}(h) = [\beta_g(h)]^{-1}$, and the expression for σ is then [28]

$$\sigma(g_1|g_2) = \beta_{g_1}(g_2)\beta_{g_2}(g_1).$$

As we see, the Dehn twist eigenvalue $\tilde{r}_{(i,\varrho)}$ now depends on i, but still not on the representation ϱ of Z_i. In the computation of $\omega_{0,2}$ from (4.24), one encounters the following terms, for a fixed i,

$$(5.6) \qquad \sum_\varrho \underline{S}_{(i_2,\varrho_2)(i,\varrho)}(\underline{S}^{-1})_{(i,\varrho)(i_1,\varrho_1)}$$

$$= \sum_\varrho \underline{S}_{(i_1^\dagger,\varrho_1^\dagger)(i,\varrho)}\underline{S}_{(i_2,\varrho_2)(i,\varrho)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\#G)^2} \sum_{\substack{g_1 \in C_{i_1},\, g_2 \in C_{i_2} \\ h_1,h_2 \in C_i \\ [g_j,h_j]=0}} \sigma(g_1^{-1}|h_1)\sigma(g_2|h_2) \chi_{i_1,g_1}(g) \chi_{i_2,g_2}(h_2^{-1})$$

$$\cdot \left(\sum_\chi \chi_{i,h_2}(g_2^{-1}) \chi_{i,h_1}(g_1)\right).$$

We focus on the quantity in the brackets, which is a sum over all projective representations of Z_i. Since there exists $k \in G$ such that $h_1 = kh_2k^{-1}$, we have $\chi_{i,h_2}(g_2^{-1}) = \chi_{i,h_1}(kg_2^{-1}k^{-1})$. The characters of projective representations of Z_i form an orthonormal basis of c_{h_1}-class functions – the proof, as for representations, only relies on Schur's lemma. Therefore, the sum over χ in (5.6) vanishes when g_1 and $kg_2^{-1}k^{-1}$ do not belong to the same conjugacy class in Z_i. A fortiori, to have a non-zero result in (5.6), we need g_1 and g_2 to be in the same conjugacy class in G, i.e. $i_1 = i_2$. Therefore, $\omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2)$ for $z_j \in U_{(i_j,\varrho_j)}$ is proportional to $\delta_{i_1 i_2}$, and it follows from the residue formula (4.4) that

LEMMA 5.1. *For $z_j \in U_{(i_j,\varrho_j)}$, $\omega_{g,n}(z_1,\ldots,z_n)$ vanishes unless all i_j are equal for $j \in [\![1,n]\!]$.*

We find that the CohFT does not couple the representation theory of different centralizers, or in the words of [30], it does not couple different interaction channels.

However, $\omega_{0,2}$ in a given channel will mix various ϱ's, and thus the CohFT is nontrivial, unlike the untwisted case.

6. Example: WZW model for compact Lie groups

6.1. Short presentation. We briefly review the definition of the Verlinde bundle that arises from the Wess-Zumino-Witten model, and the corresponding modular functor. It is based on the representation theory of a VOA, namely an algebra that incorporates the Virasoro algebra – describing infinitesimal coordinate reparametrizations in a disk neighbourhood of a puncture on a Riemann surface – together with a central extension and extra symmetries coming from a simple complex Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$. Since the seminal work of Tsuchiya, Ueno and Yamada [**88**], there is a vast literature on the Verlinde bundles, that readers with different backgrounds will appreciate differently; we can suggest the nice article of Beauville [**14**] giving a proof of the Verlinde formula for the non-exceptional $\mathfrak{g}$, the book of Ueno [**91**], and the review of Looijenga [**67**]. A complete proof that these theories gives modular functors was given by Andersen and Ueno in [**3, 4**].

6.1.1. *Affine Kač-Moody algebras.* We refer to [**62**] for the detailed theory. Let $\mathfrak{h}$ be the Cartan subalgebra, Δ_+ the set of positive roots, θ the highest root – which is the highest weight for the adjoint representation – and $\varrho = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha>0}\alpha$ the Weyl vector. We normalize the Killing form $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$ such that $\langle\theta,\theta\rangle = 2$. It induces an isomorphism between $\mathfrak{h}$ and $\mathfrak{h}^*$, which we use systematically to identify $\mathfrak{h}$ and $\mathfrak{h}^*$. In particular, we use the notation ϱ for the Weyl vector in $\mathfrak{h}$ or the corresponding element in $\mathfrak{h}^*$. Let $(e_i)_{i=1}^{\dim\mathfrak{h}}$ be an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{h}$ for the Killing form. The quadratic Casimir is the element of the universal enveloping algebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ defined by $\mathcal{Q} = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{\dim\mathfrak{h}} e_i\otimes e_i$. It acts as a scalar on the highest weight $\mathfrak{g}$-module V_λ, more precisely, one has that

$$\mathcal{Q}|_{V_\lambda} = \frac{1}{2}\langle\lambda,\lambda+2\varrho\rangle\,\mathrm{id}_{V_\lambda}.$$

This scalar on the adjoint is denoted $h^\vee(\mathfrak{g})$, and called the dual Coxeter number of $\mathfrak{g}$, namely $h^\vee(\mathfrak{g}) = 1 + \langle\theta,\varrho\rangle$. Let $\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{R}$ be the compact real form of $\mathfrak{g}$, and $\mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{R}$ its Cartan subalgebra. The weight lattice in $\mathfrak{h}^*$ is denoted L_W, it consists of all $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*_\mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\forall\alpha\in\Delta_+,\qquad 2\frac{\lambda(\alpha)}{\langle\alpha,\alpha\rangle}\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

For a fixed $\ell \geq 1$, we introduce the set of highest weights at level ℓ defined by

(6.1) $$\mathcal{P}_\ell = \{\lambda\in L_W \mid 0\leq\lambda(\theta)\leq\ell\}.$$

Consider the untwisted affine Lie algebra

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathbb{C}.\mathrm{c}\oplus\mathfrak{g}\otimes\mathbb{C}((\xi)).$$

It is a central extension of $\mathfrak{g}\otimes\mathbb{C}((\xi))$, with the Lie bracket defined by

$$\forall X_1, X_2\in\mathfrak{g},\quad\forall f_1, f_2\in\mathbb{C}((\xi)),$$
$$[X_1\otimes f_1, X_2\otimes f_2] = \langle X, Y\rangle\Big(\operatorname*{Res}_{\xi\to 0} f_1\mathrm{d}f_2\Big)\cdot\mathrm{c} + [X_1, X_2]\otimes f_1 f_2.$$

We can use the following decomposition

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathfrak{p}_+\oplus\mathfrak{p}_-,\qquad\mathfrak{p}_+ = \mathfrak{g}_+\oplus\mathfrak{g}\oplus\mathbb{C}.\mathrm{c},\qquad\mathfrak{g}_+ = \xi\cdot\mathfrak{g}[[\xi]].$$

If $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_\ell$, we promote the $\mathfrak{g}$-module V_λ to a $\mathfrak{p}_+$ module, by declaring that $\mathfrak{g}_+$ annihilates V_λ, and the central element c acts as $\ell \cdot \mathrm{id}_{V_\lambda}$. Then, one introduces the Verma module as

$$M_\lambda = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{\mathfrak{p}_+} V_\lambda.$$

It is a left $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$-module, which is not irreducible. However, it contains a maximal proper submodule defined by

$$J_\lambda = U(\widehat{\mathfrak{p}}_-) \cdot (\theta \otimes \xi^{-1})^{\ell - \langle \theta, \lambda \rangle + 1}.$$

Then, $H_\lambda = M_\lambda / J_\lambda$ becomes irreducible, and it is actually an integrable highest weight module for $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$. If P is a finite set, define the multi-variable analogue of $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$ by

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}_P = \mathbb{C}.c \oplus \bigoplus_{p \in P} \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}((\xi_p)).$$

Now, if $\mathfrak{X} = (\Sigma, P; \xi)$ is a Riemann surface Σ equipped with a finite marked set of points P and $\xi = (\xi_p)_{p \in P}$ a set of local coordinates at the points of P, then the Lie algebra

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{X}) = \mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} H^0(\Sigma, \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(*P))$$

is naturally embedded as a subalgebra of $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}_P$.

6.1.2. *From the space of vacua to the modular functor.* For any $\mathfrak{X}$ as above, and $\vec{\lambda} : P \to \mathcal{P}_\ell$ a set of labels, we define the space of vacua by

$$\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathfrak{X}) = H_{\vec{\lambda}} / \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{X}) H_{\vec{\lambda}}.$$

Then, one can show [**67**, **87**, **88**] that, if $\mathfrak{X}$ and $\mathfrak{X}'$ differ by a change of coordinates $\xi \to \xi'$, there is a canonical isomorphism between $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathfrak{X})$ and $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathfrak{X}')$. This allows us to define $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\mathfrak{X})$ as a bundle over the Teichmüller space $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}}_{\Sigma, P}$.

By the work of Tsuchiya, Ueno and Yamada [**88**], this bundle carries a projectively flat connection, and enjoys nice factorization properties over families where the surface is pinched. Exploiting this connection, Andersen and Ueno proved [**3**, **4**], that one can make a definition independent of the complex structure: They assign unambiguously a vector space $\mathcal{V}_{\vec{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ to any marked surface $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, and prove that this assignment defines a modular functor in the sense of Section 2. Moreover, in [**5**, **7**] Andersen and Ueno established that, for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_N$, this modular functor is isomorphic to the modular functor obtained from the modular tensor category of representations of the quantum group $U_{-q^{1/2}}(\mathfrak{g})$ with

$$(6.2) \qquad\qquad q = \exp[2\mathrm{i}\pi/(\ell + h^\vee(\mathfrak{g}))].$$

6.1.3. *More notations.* Let $\mathfrak{W}$ be the Weyl group of $\mathfrak{g}$. We denote $w_0 \in \mathfrak{W}$ its longest element. Its length is $|\Delta_+|$, and it is the unique element that sends positive roots to negative roots. By definition of the Weyl vector, $w_0(\varrho) = -\varrho$.

We consider as label set $\Lambda := \mathcal{P}_\ell$, the set of representations of $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{R}}$ at level ℓ. It is equipped with the involution $\lambda^\dagger = -w_0(\lambda)$. Note that $\lambda^\dagger$ is actually the highest weight of V_λ^*.

If $\beta \in \mathfrak{h}$, q^β stands for the function $\mathfrak{h} \to \mathbb{C}$ defined by $x \mapsto q^{\langle \beta, x \rangle}$ on $\mathfrak{h}$. The character of V_λ is denoted $\mathrm{ch}_\lambda : \mathfrak{h} \to \mathbb{C}$, and is given by the Weyl character formula

$$\mathrm{ch}_\lambda(q^\beta) = \frac{\sum_{w \in \mathfrak{W}} \mathrm{sgn}(w) \, q^{\langle \lambda + \varrho, w(\beta) \rangle}}{\sum_{w \in \mathfrak{W}} \mathrm{sgn}(w) \, q^{\langle \varrho, w(\beta) \rangle}}.$$

The q-dimension is defined as $\dim_q V_\lambda = \mathrm{ch}_\lambda(1)$, and using the Weyl denominator formula, it reads

$$\dim_q \lambda := \prod_{\alpha>0} \frac{[\langle \alpha, \lambda + \varrho \rangle]_q}{[\langle \alpha, \varrho \rangle]_q}, \qquad [x]_q = q^{x/2} - q^{-x/2}.$$

The weight lattice L_W has a sublattice L_θ spanned by the elements $\langle w(\theta), \cdot \rangle$ with $w \in \mathfrak{W}$. The integer

$$D_\ell := \#\left(L_W/(\ell + h^\vee)L_\theta\right)$$

appears as a normalization constant in

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \left|\mathrm{ch}_\lambda(q^\beta)\right|^2 = D_\ell^{-1} \cdot \left| \prod_{\alpha>0} [\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle]_q \right|^2.$$

Consider the matrix

(6.3)
$$\mathcal{S}_{\lambda\mu} = D_\ell^{-1/2} \sum_{w \in \mathfrak{W}} \mathrm{sgn}(w)\, q^{\langle \lambda + \varrho, w(\mu+\varrho) \rangle}$$

$$= D_\ell^{-1/2} \cdot \prod_{\alpha>0} [\langle \alpha, \varrho \rangle]_q \cdot \dim_q V_\lambda \cdot \mathrm{ch}_\mu(q^{\lambda+\varrho})$$

with the value $q = \exp[2i\pi/(\ell + h^\vee)]$. From the first equality we see that $\mathcal{S}$ is symmetric, and since the scalar product is $\mathfrak{W}$-invariant and $\mathrm{sgn}(w_0) = (-1)^{|\Delta_+|}$, we have that

$$C\,\mathcal{S} = (-1)^{|\Delta_+|}\,\mathcal{S}^*,$$

where we recall that C is the matrix of the involution †. It is less obvious but also true using orthogonality of characters that $\mathcal{S}$ is unitary which means that

$$\mathcal{S}\mathcal{S}^* = 1.$$

6.1.4. *Scalars and S-matrix.* The modularity of characters of the underlying VOA gives canonical log-determinations for the eigenvalues of the central element and the Dehn twist. These are the conformal weights and the central charge [**59**,**88**]

(6.4)
$$r_\lambda = \frac{\langle \lambda, \lambda + 2\varrho \rangle}{2(\ell + h^\vee)}, \qquad c = \frac{\ell \dim \mathfrak{g}}{\ell + h^\vee(\mathfrak{g})}.$$

The formulas manifestly satisfy $r_1 = 0$ and $r_\lambda = r_{\lambda\dagger}$. With Freudenthal strange formula, we can also write that

$$\frac{c}{24} = \frac{\ell}{h^\vee} \frac{\langle \varrho, \varrho \rangle}{2(\ell + h^\vee(\mathfrak{g}))}.$$

The S-matrix appearing in Section 3.3 is given by the Kač-Peterson formula [**59**, Proposition 4.6(d)]

(6.5) $$\underline{S}_{\lambda\mu} = i^{|\Delta_+|}\,\mathcal{S}_{\lambda\mu}^* \qquad \text{or equivalently} \qquad \underline{S}_{\lambda\mu}^{-1} = (-i)^{|\Delta_+|}\,\mathcal{S}_{\lambda\mu}.$$

Since the diversity of notations in the literature can be confusing, let us make two checks ensuring that (6.5) in our notations is correct. Firstly, with the properties of $\mathcal{S}$ just pointed out, we can write

$$\underline{S}^\top \underline{S} = (-1)^{|\Delta_+|}\,\mathcal{S}^*\mathcal{S}^* = C\,\mathcal{S}\mathcal{S}^* = C$$

as it should be according to (3.16). Secondly, the Verlinde formula (3.17)-(4.16) in our notations does agree, once we insert (6.5) in the Verlinde formula [**14**, Corollary 9.8].

6.1.5. *The case* $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_N$. Let $\mathbb{C}^N$ be equipped with its canonical orthonormal basis $(e_i)_{i=1}^N$, and e_i^* be the dual basis. The Cartan algebra of $\mathfrak{sl}_N$ can be identified with the hyperplane in $\mathbb{C}^N$ orthogonal to $\sum_{i=1}^N e_i$, and the Killing form is induced from the scalar product on $\mathbb{C}^N$. The positive roots are $e_i - e_j$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq N$, the highest root is $\theta = e_1 - e_N$, and the Weyl vector is

$$\varrho = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (N + 1 - 2i)\, e_i.$$

Here $\mathfrak{h}^*$ (resp. the weight lattice L_W) is the $\mathbb{C}$-span (resp. $\mathbb{Z}$-span) of $(e_i^*)_{i=1}^N$ modulo the relation $\sum_{i=1}^N e_i^* = 0$. If $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$, let us denote $|\lambda| = \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i$. The Killing form induced on $\mathfrak{h}^*$ is [**45**]

$$\Big\langle \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i\, e_i^*\, , \sum_{j=1}^N \mu_j\, e_j^* \Big\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \mu_i - \frac{|\lambda||\mu|}{N}.$$

The element representing the Weyl vector in $\mathfrak{h}^*$ is

$$\varrho = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (N + 1 - 2i)\, e_i^* = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (N - i) e_i^* \ \mathrm{mod}\ \Big(\sum_{i=1}^N e_i^* \Big).$$

The fundamental weights are

$$1 \leq i \leq N - 1, \qquad w_i = \sum_{j=1}^i e_j^*$$

and the corresponding highest weight $\mathfrak{sl}_N$-modules are $\bigwedge^i \mathbb{C}^N$. Irreducible highest weight representations of $\mathfrak{sl}_N$ are encoded in an $(N-1)$-tuple $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_{N-1})$ such that $\lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_{N-1} \geq 0$, which corresponds to the highest weight vector

$$\lambda = \sum_{j=1}^N \lambda_j\, e_j^* = \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} (\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+1})\, w_j$$

with the convention $\lambda_N = 0$. The representations at level ℓ are those with $\lambda_1 \leq \ell$. The Weyl group permutes the $(e_i)_{i=1}^N$, and its longest element is the permutation $e_i \mapsto e_{N+1-i}$ for all $i \in [\![1, N]\!]$. Since $e_N^* = -\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} e_i^*$ on the hyperplane $\mathfrak{h}$, we see that the involution takes λ to its "complement" as in Figure 2, i.e. $\lambda_i^\dagger = \lambda_1 - \lambda_{N-i+1}$. The characters ch_λ are the Schur polynomials, and the central charge and Dehn twist eigenvalues are

$$h^\vee(\mathfrak{sl}_N) = N, \qquad c = \frac{\ell(N^2 - 1)}{\ell + N}, \qquad r_\lambda = \frac{1}{2(\ell + N)} \Big(\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \lambda_i(\lambda_i - 2i + 1) + N|\lambda| - \frac{|\lambda|^2}{N} \Big).$$

Since the Weyl group acts transitively on the set of roots, L_θ is just the root lattice

$$L_\theta = \Big\{ \sum_{i=1}^N a_i e_i^*, \quad \sum_{j=1}^N a_j = 0 \Big\} \Big/ \Big\{ \sum_{i=1}^N e_i^* = 0 \Big\}$$

and it has index N in the weight lattice. Therefore, the normalization integer reads
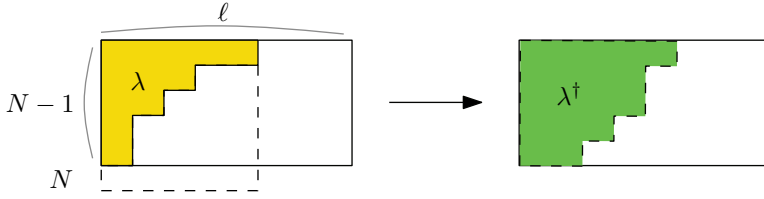
$$D_\ell = N\,(\ell + N)^{N-1}.$$

FIGURE 2. The involution $\lambda^\dagger = -w_0(\lambda)$ in terms of Young tableaux.

In the case $N = 2$ for level $\ell \geq 0$, Λ is the set of integers from 0 to ℓ, the involution is the identity, and $D_\ell = 2(\ell + 2)$. The scalars and S-matrix read

$$\forall \lambda, \mu \in [\![0, \ell]\!] \qquad c = \frac{3\ell}{\ell + 2}, \qquad r_\lambda = \frac{\lambda(\lambda + 2)}{4(\ell + 2)},$$

$$\underline{S}_{\lambda\mu}^{-1} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\ell + 2}} \sin\left[\frac{\pi(\lambda + 1)(\mu + 1)}{\ell + 2}\right].$$

6.2. CohFT and double Hurwitz numbers. The Chern character of the Verlinde bundle has already been studied in [**69**,**87**], and [**70**] showed that it defines a CohFT – this was in fact the example motivating our work. In this particular case, our work only completes [**70**] by remarking that the CohFT correlation functions are computed by the topological recursion with the local spectral curve of Theorem 4.5. It would be interesting to know the meaning of this CohFT from an enumerative geometry perspective. For $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_N$, we show that $\omega_{0,2}$ given in (4.24) is related in some way to double Hurwitz numbers.

6.2.1. *Hurwitz numbers.* Let us first review the definition of Hurwitz numbers. For any finite group G, we consider the number of G-principal bundles over a surface of genus g and n punctures, whose monodromy around the j-th punctures belongs to the conjugacy class C_{i_j} of G. It is computed by the Frobenius formula [**99**]

$$(6.6) \qquad \frac{\#\{R \in \mathrm{Hom}(\pi_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{g,n}), G) \mid R(\mathfrak{l}_j) \in C_j\}}{\#G} = \sum_\nu \left[\frac{\chi_\nu(1)}{\#G}\right]^{2-2g} \prod_{j=1}^n f_\nu(C_j)$$

where the sum ranges over irreducible representations of G, and

$$f_\nu(C) := \frac{\#C\,\chi_\nu(C)}{\chi_\nu(1)}.$$

When $G = \mathfrak{S}_d$, this is the number of (possibly disconnected) branched coverings of degree d over a surface of genus g. Conjugacy classes of $\mathfrak{S}_d$ are labeled by partitions μ of d: The parts of μ are the lengths of the cycles of a representative of C_μ. For a collection of partitions $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_n \vdash d$, the numbers

$$H_g^d(\vec{\mu}) = \frac{\#\{R \in \mathrm{Hom}(\pi_1(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{g,n}), \mathfrak{S}_d) \mid R(\mathfrak{l}_j) \in C_{\mu_j}\}}{d!}$$

are called "Hurwitz numbers" of genus g. Though it is a good starting point, the formula (6.6) involving the character table of $\mathfrak{S}_d$ is not the end of the story.

Let $C_{(2)}$ be the conjugacy class of a transposition. One often would like to count branched coverings with arbitrary number b of simple ramification points.

The corresponding Hurwitz numbers are

$$H_g(\vec{\mu}\,|\,T) := \sum_{b \geq 0} \frac{T^b}{b!}\, H_g^d(\vec{\mu}, \underbrace{C_{(2)}, \ldots, C_{(2)}}_{b \text{ times}}).$$

If we keep n points with arbitrary ramifications $\vec{\mu}$, this is the generating series of n-tuples Hurwitz numbers in genus[7] g. For instance, the generating series of double Hurwitz numbers in genus 0 and degree d is, according to (6.6),

$$(6.7) \qquad H_0^d(\mu_1, \mu_2\,|\,T) = \frac{1}{d!^2} \sum_{\nu \vdash d} \#C_{\mu_1} \#C_{\mu_2}\, \chi_\nu(C_{\mu_1}) \chi_\nu(C_{\mu_2})\, e^{T\,f_\nu(C_{(2)})}.$$

The generating series of genus 0 simple [**19, 23, 37, 49, 50**] and double [**25, 53, 54, 58, 78**] Hurwitz numbers have been intensively studied from the point of view of combinatorics, mirror symmetry, and integrable systems. The generating series of Hurwitz numbers in genus 1 is somewhat simpler because the coupling in (6.6) disappears, and there is a nice theory relating them to quasimodular forms [**27, 60**]. The realm of genus $g \geq 2$ seems uncharted.

6.2.2. *Rewriting of the 2-point function.* We recall two elementary facts on symmetric functions [**68**]. By Schur-Weyl duality, for a partition with $|\lambda| = d$ boxes, the Schur polynomials decompose on the power sums as

$$\mathrm{ch}_\lambda(x) = \frac{1}{d!} \sum_{\mu \vdash d} \#C_\mu\, \chi_\lambda(C_\mu)\, p_\mu(x).$$

Further, $f_\lambda(C_{(2)}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i(\lambda_i - 2i + 1)$ is related to the quadratic Casimir, hence to the Dehn twist eigenvalues by the formula

$$r_\lambda = \frac{1}{\ell + N}\Big[f_\lambda(C_{(2)}) + \frac{N|\lambda|}{2} - \frac{|\lambda|^2}{2N}\Big].$$

Putting together the expression (6.3)-(6.5) of the S-matrix and these two observations, we can compute with (4.27) the 2-point function

$$B(u_1, u_2) = \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda} \frac{\delta_{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} - B_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2}(u_1 + u_2)}{u_1 + u_2}\, \underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_1} \otimes \underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_2}.$$

We recall that $B_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2}(u_1 + u_2)$ is essentially the Laplace transform of $\omega_{0,2}$ in $U_{\lambda_1} \times U_{\lambda_2}$.

LEMMA 6.1. *With $T = ut/(\ell + N)$, we have that*

$$B_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2}(u) = D_\ell^{-1}\Big|\prod_{\alpha > 0}[\langle \alpha, \varrho \rangle]_q\Big|^2 \dim_q V_{\lambda_1}\,(\dim_q V_{\lambda_2})^*$$

$$\cdot \Big\{ \sum_{d \geq 0} e^{(Nd/2 - d^2/2N + c/24)T} \sum_{\mu_1, \mu_2 \vdash d} p_{\mu_1}(q^{\lambda_1 + \varrho}) p_{\mu_2}(q^{-(\lambda_2 + \varrho)})\, H_0^{d,[\ell, N]}(\mu_1, \mu_2\,|\,T) \Big\}$$

---

[7]For connected coverings, g should not be confused with the genus $\tilde{g}$ of the total space, which is given by the Riemann-Hurwitz formula.

$$d(2 - 2g) = 2 - 2\tilde{g} - b - \sum_{i=1}^n \big\{|\mu_i| - \ell(\mu_i)\big\}.$$

with

$$H_0^{d,[\ell,N]}(\mu_1, \mu_2 \,|\, T) = \frac{1}{d!^2} \sum_{\substack{\nu \vdash d \\ \ell(\nu) \leq N-1 \\ \nu_1 \leq \ell}} \#C_{\mu_1} \#C_{\mu_2} \, \chi_\nu(C_{\mu_1}) \chi_\nu(C_{\mu_2}) \, e^{T \, f_\nu(C_{(2)})}.$$

The generating series $H_0^{d,[\ell,N]}(\mu_1, \mu_2 \,|\, T)$ only differs from the generating series of double Hurwitz numbers in genus 0 (6.7) by the fact that, instead of using Frobenius formula (6.6), we only sum over partitions $\nu \vdash d$ which belong to Λ, i.e. included in the rectangle of size $\ell \times (N-1)$. For $d \leq \min(\ell, N-1)$, this is not a restriction, namely $H_0^{d,[\ell,N]} = H_0^d$ exactly encodes double Hurwitz numbers.

It would be interesting to devise a combinatorial meaning for $H_0^{d,[\ell,N]}$, maybe by counting coverings with extra geometric constraints, or counting paths between C_{μ_1} and C_{μ_2} in $\mathfrak{S}_d$ with certain properties [49, 53], or to relate it to tau functions [53]. It is natural to ask if such a combinatorial interpretation could be extended to higher genus g of the base. Since we already know that we have a CohFT – or equivalently since we have the topological recursion formula – all correlation functions $\omega_{g,n}$ are determined by these $[\ell, N]$-restricted double Hurwitz numbers. As there is already a good knowledge of the Chern character of the Verlinde bundle – including its expression on the boundary for $n = 0$ [69] – this would provide an ELSV-like formula [34] for a combinatorial problem yet to be found.

6.2.3. *Remark.* In [61], Karev considered a generating series for the numbers (6.6), and by combinatorial means, he expressed it in terms of an Airy-like integral over the center of the group algebra of G, which can be reexpressed as a product of $1d$ Airy integrals after a suitable change of basis. We shall explain how his results square from the CohFT perspective.

The product on $\mathbb{C}[G]$ and the trace $\sum_{k \in G} c_k k \mapsto c_1$ induces the structure of a semi-simple Frobenius algebra on the center $Z(\mathbb{C}[G])$ – which is the $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{conj}}$ of Section 5.1.1. The conjugacy classes define a basis

$$e_\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\#C_\lambda}} \sum_{k \in C_\lambda} k$$

while the characters define another basis

$$\underline{\varepsilon}_\lambda = \sum_{k \in G} \frac{\chi_\lambda(k)}{\sqrt{\#G}} k$$

and by these notations we mean that the properties of Section 3.1.1 are satisfied, with $\Delta_\lambda^{-1} = (\dim \lambda)^2$. The change of basis matrix is

$$e_\lambda = \sum_\mu \underline{S}_{\lambda\mu}^{-1} \underline{\varepsilon}_\mu, \qquad \underline{S}_{\lambda\mu}^{-1} = \sqrt{\frac{\#C_\lambda}{\#G}} \, \chi_\mu(C_\lambda)$$

and up to rescaling, this is a (unitary) submatrix of the S-matrix of the modular functor described in Section 3.1.1. Then, we consider the trivial CohFT on $Z(\mathbb{C}[G])$, and apply a rescaling to define

$$\Omega_{g,n}^*(\underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_1}, \ldots, \underline{\varepsilon}_{\lambda_n}) = \left(\frac{\#G}{\dim \lambda} \right)^{2g-2+n} [\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}].$$

If we change basis, we obtain, according to Frobenius formula (6.6),

$$
\Omega_{g,n}^* \Big(\sum_{k_1 \in C_{\lambda_1}} \frac{k_1}{\#G} \otimes \cdots \otimes \sum_{k_n \in C_{\lambda_n}} \frac{k_n}{\#G} \Big)
$$

$$
= \frac{\#\big\{ R \in \mathrm{Hom}(\pi_1(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{g,n}), G) \mid R(\mathfrak{l}_i) \in C_{\lambda_i} \big\}}{\#G} \cdot [\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}].
$$

These numbers are encoded in the CohFT partition function
(6.8)

$$
Z^{\mathrm{CohFT}} := \exp \Big(\sum_{n \geq 1} \sum_{g \geq 0} \frac{\hbar^{g-1}}{n!} \sum_{\substack{d_1,\dots,d_n \geq 0 \\ \lambda_1,\dots,\lambda_n \geq 0}} \Big\{ \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \Omega_{g,n}^* \big(\bigotimes_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_{\lambda_j} \big) \prod_{j=1}^n \psi_j^{d_j} \Big\} \prod_{j=1}^n t_{d_j, \lambda_j} \Big).
$$

Since we have several copies of the rescaled trivial CohFT, Z^{CohFT} is a product of suitably rescaled matrix Airy function [64]. Karev's partition function is (6.8) after specialization of the times to $t_{d,\lambda} = \xi^d p_\lambda$ for a set of formal variables p_λ.

6.3. Bundle comparison and families index formulae. The Wess-Zumino-Witten $\mathrm{SU}(N)_\ell$ theory can also be approached from the perspective of geometric quantization of moduli spaces of flat $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ connections. This allows us to give an interpretation of the CohFT correlations functions via families index formulae – (6.15) below – modulo some identifications (Hypothesis **I** below) which have not been proved yet to the best of our knowledge. As the statement of current vs. unknown results is subtle, we thought it useful to explain it in detail.

For $g \geq 2$, let $\mathcal{U}_{g,0}^{(N)}$ be the moduli space of pairs (X, E) where X is a Riemann surface of genus g and E a semistable holomorphic vector bundle on X of rank N with trivial determinant. By the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem [76], $\mathcal{U}_{g,0}^{(N)}$ is homeomorphic to $\mathcal{M}_{g,0} \times M_{g,0}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}$, where the last factor is the moduli space of flat $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ connections on a smooth surface of genus g. The fibration $\pi : \mathcal{U}_{g,0}^{(N)} \to \mathcal{M}_{g,0}$ is proper, in particular for each choice of complex structure σ on the smooth surface of genus g, $\pi^{-1}(\sigma)$ is the moduli space of semi-stable bundles of rank N and trivial determinant, which compactifies the smooth part of the fiber consisting of the moduli space of stable rank N bundles with trivial determinant. Caporaso for $N = 1$ [24], and Pandharipande [79] for general N, constructed a compactification $\overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,0}^{(N)}$ of this moduli space, as a projective variety together with a proper fibration $\pi : \overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,0}^{(N)} \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}$.

This picture was later generalized to genus g surfaces with $n \geq 1$ punctures. Here, one fixes a sequence of conjugacy classes $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ with finite order in $\mathrm{SU}(N)$, and consider, on the one hand the moduli space $M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c})$ of flat $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ flat connections on a smooth surface such that the holonomies of the connection around the i-th puncture belongs to c_i and on the other hand, the moduli space $\mathcal{U}_{g,n}^{(N)}(\mathbf{c})$ of pairs (X, E) where X is a Riemann surface, E is a semistable parabolic holomorphic vector bundle of rank N with trivial determinant with a parabolic structure at the i-th puncture prescribed by c_i. By the Mehta-Seshadri theorem [72], $\mathcal{U}_{g,n}^{(N)}(\mathbf{c})$ is homeomorphic to $\mathcal{M}_{g,n} \times M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c})$. In a recent thesis, Schlüter [85] constructs a compactification $\overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,n}^{(N)}(\mathbf{c})$, giving a fibration of projective varieties $\pi : \overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,n}^{(N)}(\mathbf{c}) \to \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$.

For the remaining, we fix the level $\ell \geq 1$. For any $\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n$, we consider the sequence of conjugacy classes $\mathbf{c}_{\vec{\lambda}} := ([\exp(\lambda_i/\ell)])_{i=1}^n$, recalling that λ_i is a highest weight at level ℓ. We shall denote

$$M_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)} := M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c}_{\vec{\lambda}}), \qquad \mathcal{U}_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)} := \mathcal{U}_{g,n}^{(N)}(\mathbf{c}_{\vec{\lambda}})$$

6.3.1. *Geometric quantization using Quillen determinant line bundles.* The moduli space $\overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)}$ carries the Quillen determinant line bundle $\mathscr{L}_Q$, and one can consider the ℓ-th power

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathscr{L}_Q^{\otimes \ell} & \longrightarrow & \overline{\mathcal{U}}_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)} \\
 & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \pi} \\
 & & \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}
\end{array}
$$

Then, by push-forward we obtain the coherent sheaf

$$[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n} = \pi_!(\mathscr{L}_Q^{\otimes \ell}).$$

As the restriction of $\mathscr{L}_Q^{\otimes \ell}$ to fibers of π over $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ have no higher cohomology, the restriction of this sheaf to $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ defines a bundle. This bundle by its very definition extends to a sheaf over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ (it is expected to remain locally free, but we do not use this). By the version of Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch of [**13**], we have that

$$(6.9) \qquad \mathrm{Ch}\big([\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n}\big) = \pi_*\big(e^{\ell c_1(\mathscr{L}_Q)} \cap \mathrm{Td}(\mathrm{Ker}\, d\pi)\big).$$

If we restrict to the degree 0 part, we recover the index formula for the rank of the bundles

$$(6.10) \qquad \dim[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n} = e^{\ell\varpi} \cap \mathrm{Td}\big(M_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)}\big),$$

where ϖ is the first Chern class of the restriction of $\mathscr{L}_Q$ to a fiber of π. We return to ϖ in the next paragraph, but we can already state that it does not depend on the complex structure, compatible with that the dimension is independent of the complex structure, since the higher cohomology groups of the restriction of $\mathscr{L}_Q$ to the fibers of π vanishes.

6.3.2. *Geometric quantization using the Chern-Simons line bundles and comparison.* The moduli space of flat $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ connections over a surface Σ of genus g minus the n punctures, with prescribed holonomies $\mathbf{c}$ around the punctures, is equipped with the Goldman symplectic form ϖ, and for each $\sigma \in \mathcal{M}_{g,n}$, with a complex structure coming from the Riemann surface Σ_σ, making it a Kähler variety $(M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c}))_\sigma$ with Kähler form ϖ. It further supports the Chern-Simons line bundle $\mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{CS}}$, which supports the Chern-Simons connection whose curvature is $-i\varpi$. The geometric quantization procedure associates to it the bundle $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(\mathrm{CS})}]_{g,n} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ whose fiber above σ is $H^0\big((M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c}))_\sigma, \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{CS}}^k\big)$. For each $\sigma \in \mathcal{M}_{g,n}$, using the isomorphism of Narasimhan-Seshadri, one finds that the Chern-Simons line bundle $\mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{CS}}$ is isomorphic to $\mathscr{L}_Q$, as topological bundles on $M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c})$ and as smooth line bundles over the smooth part of the moduli space. Therefore, $c_1(\mathscr{L}_Q)$ restricted

to the smooth locus of $M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c})$ is represented by ϖ. Over $M_{g,n}^{\mathrm{SU}(N)}(\mathbf{c})$, one has the comparison isomorphism [44] for $n = 0$ of holomorphic vector bundles

$$(6.11) \qquad \iota^* \mathscr{L}_Q \otimes \pi^* \mathcal{L}_D^{\otimes N} \simeq \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{CS}}.$$

From this we conclude that over $\mathcal{M}_{g,0}$ we have the isomorphism

$$(6.12) \qquad [\mathcal{Z}^{(Q)}]_{g,0} \otimes \mathcal{L}_D^{\otimes N\ell} \simeq [\mathcal{Z}^{(\mathrm{CS})}]_{g,0}.$$

It is expected, though currently unproved, that these results also hold for $n > 0$, maybe upon twisting $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n}$ by $\otimes_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}_i^{\ell n_{\lambda_i}}$ for some integers $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

6.3.3. *Comparison with our bundle.* It is clear from the construction of the WZW modular functor in [4] that $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(\mathrm{CFT})}]_{g,n}$ is isomorphic to the bundle that we obtain in Theorem 2.9 by specializing to the WZW modular functor and for the specific choice (6.4) of log-determinations of twists and central charge. Besides, for $n = 0$ combining the isomorphism (6.12) with the isomorphism from [69, Section 5.3], we have the following isomorphism of holomorphic bundles over $\mathcal{M}_{g,0}$

$$(6.13) \qquad [\mathcal{Z}^{(\mathrm{CS})}]_{g,0} \simeq [\mathcal{Z}^{(Q)}]_{g,0} \otimes \mathcal{L}_D^{\otimes N\ell} \simeq [\mathcal{Z}^{(\mathrm{CFT})}]_{g,0}.$$

The fact that the first isomorphism hold projectively over $\mathcal{M}_{g,0}$ follows directly from the fact that the Picard group of the moduli space semi-stable bundles of rank n bundles with trivial determinant is a copy of the integers. That the second isomorphisms holds projectively over $\mathcal{M}_{g,0}$ is an older result of Laszlo [66], which actually also identifies projective the Hitchin connection [55] in the second bundle with the TUY-connection in the last bundle [88]. See also [6] for the projective identification of the Axelrod, Della-Pietra and Witten [11] connection in the first bundle and the Hitchin connection in the second bundle.

Restricting over $\mathcal{M}_{g,0}$, we see that the bundle $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,0}$ coincide with our bundle of Theorem 2.9 for a non-standard choice (compare to (6.4)) of log-determination c' of the central charge

$$(6.14) \qquad c' = \frac{\ell(N^2 - 1)}{\ell + N} + 2N\ell$$

It is expected, but to our knowledge currently unproved, that

- the sheaf $[\mathcal{Z}^{(Q)}]_{g,0}$ over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}$ remains locally free over the Deligne-Mumford compactification, i.e. exists as a bundle over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}$.
- the second isomorphism in (6.13) extends to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,0}$.
- these results extend for $n > 0$, so that there is an isomorphism of bundles over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

$$[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n} \otimes \mathcal{L}_D^{\otimes N\ell} \otimes \bigotimes_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}_i^{\ell n_{\lambda_i}} \simeq [\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(\mathrm{CFT})}]_{g,n}$$

for some integers $(n'_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$.

For convenience, we call this expectation Hypothesis **I**. If it were true, it would mean that $[\mathcal{Z}_{\vec{\lambda}}^{(Q)}]_{g,n}$ coincide with the bundle we construct in Theorems 2.5-2.9 for the choice (6.14) of log-determination of the central charge, and for the non-standard choice (compare to (6.4)) of log-determination of the Dehn twist eigenvalues

$$r'_\lambda = \frac{\langle \lambda, \lambda + 2\varrho \rangle}{2(\ell + N)} - n'_\lambda.$$

6.3.4. *Families Index interpretation of the CohFT correlation functions.* If Hypothesis **I** holds, we deduce that the $\omega_{g,n}$ of the CohFT we produce for the specific choice of log-determinations (6.4), have an index interpretation. By homogeneity, it is enough to state it for $t = 1$ and $t = 0$. For $t = 1$, following (6.9) we have for $n \geq 1$

$$(6.15) \quad \sum_{\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \underline{S}_{\mu_i \lambda_i}^{-1} \omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n) = \tilde{\pi}_* \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n} \Xi(\psi_i, h_{\mu_i}^{1/2} \zeta_i) \cup \pi_* \left(e^{\ell c_1(\mathscr{L}_Q)} \cap \mathrm{Td}(\mathrm{Ker}\, \mathrm{d}\pi) \right) \right)$$

where $\tilde{\pi}$ is the morphism from $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ to a point. On the left-hand side, we use the notations of § 4.3.3, and on the right-hand side, we recall that

$$h_\mu = r_\mu + \frac{c}{24}, \qquad \Xi(u, \zeta) = \sum_{d \geq 0} \frac{\Gamma[2d+2; \zeta]\, \mathrm{d}\zeta}{2^d d!\, \zeta^{2d+2}}\, u^d.$$

And, for $n = 0$ and $g \geq 2$

$$F_g = \tilde{\pi}_* \left(e^{\ell c_1(\mathscr{L}_Q)} \cap \mathrm{Td}(\mathrm{Ker}\, \mathrm{d}\pi) \right).$$

For $t = 0$, we do not need Hypothesis **I**. As explained in § 4.3.2 the left-hand side computed by topological recursion factors into the Verlinde dimensions and the intersection numbers over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

$$\sum_{\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \underline{S}_{\mu_i \lambda_i}^{-1} \omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n) = [D_{\vec{\mu}}]_{g,n}\, \omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n).$$

On the other hand, it is known, see e.g. [**2**], Theorem 8.1, that $[D_{\vec{\mu}}]_{g,n}$ are given by the index formula (6.10). Recalling that $\omega_{g,n}^{\mathrm{KdV}}$ is a generating series of intersection of ψ-classes over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, this can be rewritten as follows

$$(6.16) \quad \sum_{\vec{\lambda} \in \Lambda^n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \underline{S}_{\mu_i \lambda_i}^{-1} \omega_{g,n}^{[\vec{\lambda}]}(\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_n) = \left(e^{\ell \varpi} \cap \mathrm{Td}\left(M_{g,n,\vec{\lambda}}^{(N)} \right) \right) \left(\int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \Xi(\psi_i, \zeta_i) \right)$$

with

$$\Xi(u, \zeta) = \sum_{d \geq 0} \frac{(2d+1)!!\, \mathrm{d}\zeta}{\zeta^{2d+2}}\, u^d.$$

The factorization between the moduli space of curves, and the moduli space of flat connections over a smooth surface, is nicely displayed in (6.16), while for general t the $\omega_{g,n}$ is interpreted by (6.15) as a families index of the determinant line bundle over the universal moduli space of bundles, seen as a family over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$.

7. Discussion about global spectral curves

A global spectral curve is by definition a Riemann surface Σ equipped with a branched cover $x : \Sigma \to \mathbb{P}^1$. One recover a local spectral curve by considering the disconnected neighbourhoods of the ramification points of x. The only difference in the axiomatics is that, in the global case, we require that[8]

$$\omega_{0,2} \in H^0(\Sigma^2, K_\Sigma^{\boxtimes 2}(-2\Delta))^{\mathfrak{S}_2}$$

and therefore (4.9) defines meromorphic 1-forms on Σ, *i.e.* $\Xi_{d,i} \in H^0(\Sigma, K_\Sigma((2d + 2)\{o_i\}))$.

---

[8]Although not strictly necessary, one often adds the assumption that $\omega_{0,1} \in H^0(\Sigma', K_{\Sigma'})$ for a dense open subset $\Sigma' \subseteq \Sigma$.

Although the topological recursion is well-defined for local spectral curves as presented in Section 4.1, it was originally defined on global spectral curves and this allows further properties and manipulations [**22**, **38**]. It is thus desirable, whenever we have a local spectral curve, to realize it embed in a global spectral curve. This is not always possible, but given the geometric origin of modular functors and general ideas from mirror symmetry, we may still hope it admits a global description.

7.1. Landau-Ginzburg models and Frobenius manifolds. Among the different realizations of a Frobenius manifold, let us focus on a particular one which gives rise in a natural way to global spectral curves – or more generally, varieties.

In singularity theory, one is interested in the study of Landau-Ginzburg (LG) models. They are defined by a family of germs of functions

$$x_a : \mathbb{C}^d \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

called "potentials" and parameterized by a point a living in a k-dimensional manifold A obtained as a miniversal deformations of a function x_0 with an isolated singularity at $z = 0$ with Milnor number k. The tangent spaces $\mathcal{A}_a := T_a A$ are naturally identified with the Jacobi ring

$$\mathrm{Jac}(x_a) := \frac{\mathbb{C}[z_1, \ldots, z_d]}{\langle \partial_{z_1} x_a, \ldots, \partial_{z_d} x_a \rangle}.$$

The multiplication in this polynomial ring is denoted ×, and the unit is 1. For any holomorphic volume form Ω, one can define the residue pairing by
(7.1)

$$\forall (\varphi, \psi) \in \mathrm{Jac}(x_a), \qquad b(\varphi, \psi) := \frac{1}{(2\mathrm{i}\pi)^d} \oint_{|\partial x_a / \partial z_1| = \varepsilon_1} \cdots \oint_{|\partial x_a / \partial z_d| = \varepsilon_d} \frac{\varphi(z)\,\psi(z)\,\Omega(z)}{\prod_{i=1}^d \partial x_a / \partial z_i}$$

for small enough ε_i's. According to Saito [**83**], there exists a volume form – called a primitive – such that (7.1) is a flat metric. It thus provides $\mathrm{Jac}(x_a)$ with a Frobenius structure, promoting $(\mathcal{A}_a)_{a \in A}$ to a Frobenius manifold A. If for a generic $a \in A$, x_a has only isolated Morse singularities, the associated CohFT is semi-simple. We denote by $(t_i)_{i=1}^k$ flat coordinates on an open set $A' \subseteq A$, $(\varphi_i)_{i=1}^k$ the corresponding frame in the tangent bundle, ∇ the Levi-Civita connection, and

$$\varphi_i \times \varphi_j = \sum_{\ell=1}^k N_{ij}^\ell(t)\,\varphi_\ell$$

the multiplication in the Jacobi ring. We also denote $(a_i)_{i=1}^k$ canonical coordinates (that we can also assume to be defined on A'), i.e. such that $(\partial_{a_i})_{i=1}^k$ form a canonical basis of the tangent bundle. To connect with the notations of Section 3.1.1, $\partial_{a_i} = \tilde{\varepsilon}_i$ and $\Delta_i = 1/b(\partial_{a_i}, \partial_{a_i})$, and let $\Psi \in \mathrm{End}(T^* A')$ the change of basis from the flat to the canonical coordinates

$$\Psi(\mathrm{d}t_i) = \Delta_i^{-1/2}\,\mathrm{d}a_i.$$

In this example of a Frobenius manifold, the R-matrix can be written in terms of oscillating integrals. Indeed, given a Frobenius manifold A, the axioms of a CohFT ensure that $\nabla_i^{(u)} := \nabla_i + u^{-1} \varphi_i \times$ forms a flat pencil of connections on A parametrized by $u \in \mathbb{C}^*$. This ensures the compatibility of the following PDEs for a section $J(u) = \sum_{i=1}^k J_i(u)\mathrm{d}t_i$ of $T^* A'$

$$\forall i, j \in [\![1, k]\!], \qquad u\partial_{t_i} J_j(u; t) = \sum_{\ell=1}^k N_{ij}^\ell(t)\, J_\ell(u; t).$$

If A' is semi-simple and conformal[9], there is a unique basis of solutions [**31**, **48**] such that, in matrix form one has that

$$(7.2) \qquad J(u;t) = \Psi R(u;t) \exp(\mathbf{a}(t)/u)$$

where $\mathbf{a} \in \mathrm{End}(T^*A')$ is defined such that $\mathbf{a}(\mathrm{d}a_i) = a_i\,\mathrm{d}a_i$ and $R(u;t) \in \mathrm{End}(T^*A')[[u]]$ is an operator satisfying a unitarity and homogeneity condition. This R-matrix is the one appearing in Section 3.1.4.

For the Frobenius manifold attached to a Landau-Ginzburg model with potential x_t, one can find a simple integral representation of this solution of the form (in flat coordinates)

$$(7.3) \qquad J_{ij}(u;t) = \frac{1}{(2\mathrm{i}\pi u)^{d/2}} \int_{\Gamma_j} \exp[-x_t(z)/u]\,\varphi_i(z)\,\Omega(z),$$

where $(\Gamma_j)_{j=1}^k$ are cycles in $\mathbb{C}^d$ which can be constructed through Morse theory of the function $\mathrm{Re}[x_t/u]$. By the Fubini theorem, this integral can be rewritten as an integral along the path $\mathcal{X}_j = x_t(\Gamma_j) \subset \mathbb{C}$, whose integrand itself is an integral over some vanishing cycle $\gamma_j(X) \subseteq x_t^{-1}\{X\}$ over a point $X \in \mathcal{X}_j$

$$J_{ij}(u;t) = \frac{1}{(2\mathrm{i}\pi u)^{d/2}} \int_{\mathcal{X}_j} e^{-X/u} \int_{\gamma_j(X)} \varphi_i\,\Omega.$$

Comparing with (7.2), this provides us with an integral representation of the R-matrix of the form

$$R_{ij}(u;t) = \frac{\Delta_i^{1/2}}{(2\mathrm{i}\pi u)^{d/2}} \int_{\mathcal{X}_j} e^{-(X-a_j(t))/u} \int_{\gamma_j(X)} \varphi_i\,\Omega$$

and the condition that $R(u=0) = \mathrm{id}$ implies that the paths $\mathcal{X}_j$ start from $a_j(t)$, and extends to $-\infty$.

7.2. $1d$ Landau-Ginzburg models. The realization of a given Frobenius manifold via a LG model, when it exists, has no reason to be unique, and several realizations may have different dimensions. It is particularly interesting, for tractability, if a 1-dimensional LG model can be found. This means having a family of Riemann surfaces Σ together with a family of potentials $x_t : \Sigma \to \mathbb{C}$ such that the local algebra of x_t at the ramification points is isomorphic to the tangent space T_tA of our Frobenius manifold A. In this case, the vanishing cycle $\gamma_j(X)$ is just an ordered pair of points $\{z(X), \sigma_j(z(X))\} \subseteq \Sigma$ above $X \in \mathbb{C}$, related to each other by the (analytic continuation of the) local involution σ_j permuting the two sheets that meet at the ramification point above a_j. In flat coordinates, the R-matrix then reads

$$(7.4) \qquad R_{ij}(u;t) = \frac{\Delta_i^{1/2}}{(2\mathrm{i}\pi u)^{1/2}} \oint_{\mathcal{X}_j} e^{-(X-a_j(t))/u}\,[\varphi_i\,\omega]_{\sigma_j}^{\mathrm{odd}}$$

for some 1-form ω on Σ, and thimbles $(\mathcal{X}_j)_{j=1}^k$. Here we have used the notation $[f]_\sigma^{\mathrm{odd}} := f - \sigma^* f$.

---

[9]Conformal here means there exists a vector field E on A' such that the Lie derivative $\mathfrak{L}_E$ acts by multiplication by a scalar on the metric tensor, on the product tensor, and on the unit vector field.

7.3. Fusion potentials for modular functors. In this paragraph, we give an easy argument for how to obtain a $1d$ LG model for the Frobenius algebra $\mathcal{A}$ of any modular functor (see Section 3.3), i.e. a function x_0 – called the "fusion potential" – whose Jacobi ring is isomorphic to $\mathcal{A}$. Then the Frobenius manifold will be (at least locally) defined by considering miniversal deformations $(x_a)_a$ of the potential. For the Wess-Zumino-Witten models (Section 6), this has been posed as a conjecture by Gepner [**46**], which was later answered by Di Francesco and Zuber [**26**] and further studied by Aharony [**1**]. We borrow the idea of [**26**] to propose a family of fusion potentials for the Frobenius algebra of any modular functor, which hinges on the commutativity of the curve operators $(\mathcal{C}[\beta;\lambda])_{\lambda\in\Lambda}$.

For any vector $f \in \mathbb{C}[\Lambda]$, let us define

$$\mathcal{C}_f[\beta] := \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} f_\lambda\, \mathcal{C}[\beta;\lambda].$$

Its characteristic polynomial reads

$$P_f(\eta) := \det(\eta - \mathcal{C}_f[\beta]) = \prod_{\mu\in\Lambda}(\eta - \mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f}), \qquad \mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f} = \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} f_\lambda\, \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda]$$

with the eigenvalues $\mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda]$ of the curve operators given in (3.18). Let $Q_f(\eta)$ be any polynomial such that $Q'_f(\eta) = P_f(\eta)$.

LEMMA 7.1. *For generic* $f \in \mathbb{C}[\Lambda]$, *the Jacobi ring of* $x_0 : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ *defined by* $x_0 = Q_f(\eta)$ *is isomorphic to the Frobenius algebra* $\mathcal{A}$ *of the modular functor.*

PROOF. The Jacobi ring is $\mathrm{Jac}(x_0) = \mathbb{C}[\eta]/\langle P_f(\eta)\rangle$. For generic f, the roots $(\mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f})_{\mu\in\Lambda}$ are pairwise distinct. Therefore, we can construct by Lagrange interpolation a unique set of polynomials $(\varphi_{\lambda,f})_{\lambda\in\Lambda}$ such that

$$\forall \mu \in \Lambda, \qquad \varphi_{\lambda,f}(\mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f}) = \mathfrak{c}_\mu[\lambda].$$

This is actually a basis of the Jacobi ring. Indeed, if there is a relation $\sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} k_\lambda\, P_\lambda(\eta) = 0$, by evaluation at $\mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f}$ and using the expression (3.18) we would have that

$$\forall \mu \in \Lambda, \qquad \sum_{\lambda\in\Lambda} k_\lambda\, (\underline{S}^{-1})_{\lambda\mu} = 0$$

which implies $k_\lambda = 0$ for any $\lambda \in \Lambda$ since $(\underline{S}^{-1})^\top$ is invertible. Then, by definition and evaluation at the eigenvalues, their multiplication modulo the annihilating polynomial P_f reads

$$\varphi_\lambda(\eta)\varphi_\mu(\eta) = \sum_{\nu\in\Lambda} N_{\lambda\mu\nu^\dagger}\, \varphi_\nu(\eta) \mod P_f(\eta).$$

Thus, we have build a basis of the Jacobi ring in which we identify the Frobenius algebra of Section 3.3.   □

Notice that, knowing $(\mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f})_\mu$, the position of the ramification points appearing in (7.4) is

$$a_\mu := x(o_\mu) = Q_f(\mathfrak{c}_{\mu,f}).$$

Alternatively, one can decide to impose the values $(a_\mu)_{\mu\in\Lambda}$, and ask for the determination of roots $(\eta_\mu)_{\mu\in\Lambda}$ and a polynomial Q of degree $|\Lambda|+1$ such that

$$(7.5) \qquad\qquad \forall \mu \in \Lambda, \qquad Q(\eta_\mu) = a_\mu \qquad \text{and} \qquad Q'(\eta_\mu) = 0.$$

Remark that $Q(\eta), (\eta_\mu)_\mu$ is a solution iff $Q(\eta) \leftarrow Q(\gamma\eta + \gamma')$ and $\eta_\mu \leftarrow \gamma^{-1}(\eta_\mu - \gamma')$ is a solution. Hence, (7.5) represents $2|\Lambda|$ constraints for the same number of

independent unknowns, and can be solved for generic a's, and we can find the corresponding f's by the formula

$$f_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \in \Lambda} \underline{S}_{\mu\lambda} \, \eta_\mu \, (\underline{S}^{-1})_{1\mu}.$$

7.4. Open question: Global spectral curve for modular functors. This defines, at least locally around an (arbitrary, generic) origin a^0, a $1d$ LG model $(x_a)_a$ that we can try to use to describe as a "global curve" Σ_a for the modular functor. However, the explicit construction of a primitive form and a good set of integration cycles is a serious issue in general which we have not been able address so far. To restate (a part of) the problem in an elementary way, it is not easy to find a 1-form $\omega_{0,1}$ on Σ_a whose expansion at the ramification point is equal to (4.24) modulo the even part – at least when $a := a(t)$ is coupled in some way to the single parameter t on which our local curve depend.

In a handful of examples, one can rely on an indirect derivation of a (higher-dimensional) Landau-Ginzburg model through mirror symmetry. For instance, for the $\mathfrak{sl}_N$, level ℓ WZW models recapped in Section 6, Witten [98] proved that the Frobenius algebra $\mathcal{A}$ is isomorphic to the quantum cohomology of a Grassmannian. On the other hand, the Landau-Ginzburg model mirror dual to Grassmannians has been built in [71], but, in most cases, the issue of finding a primitive form and a good basis of cycles has not been solved yet, except in some very simple examples such as $\mathbb{P}^2$ [51]. The complete construction of a global spectral curve thus remains an open problem, even in simple examples. It must be addressed if, for instance, one wishes to take advantage of the topological recursion to study the level $\ell \to \infty$ limit in WZW models.

Appendix A. Extra properties of the S-matrix

In this section we derive the symmetries of the S-matrix in the case the modular functor in question has duality or is unitary.

MF-U. Let us first assume that the modular functor $\mathcal{V}$ is unitary. We recall from Section 3.2 that Σ_1 is an oriented closed surface of genus 1 and α, β two oriented simple closed curves on Σ_1, such that they intersect in exactly one point with intersection number one. Then we have two marked surfaces $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)} = (\Sigma_1, \{\alpha\})$ and $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)} = (\Sigma_1, \{\beta\})$. Both $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)})$ and $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)})$ are equipped with hermitian inner products, which are compatible with the factorization isomorphisms (Section 3.3.1)

$$\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)}) \cong \bigoplus_{\mu \in \Lambda} \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}, \mu, \mu^\dagger)$$

and

$$\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)}) \cong \bigoplus_{\mu \in \Lambda} \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}, \mu, \mu^\dagger).$$

The basis $\zeta[\mu] \in \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,2}, \mu, \mu^\dagger)$ induces via these isomorphisms the basis e_μ of $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)})$ and ε_μ of $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)})$. The unique orientation preserving diffeomorphism S that sends (α, β) to $(\beta, -\alpha)$ sends the e-basis to the ε-basis

$$\varepsilon_\mu = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} S_{\mu\lambda} \, e_\lambda.$$

Now we simply compute

$$
\begin{aligned}
\delta_{\lambda\mu} &= \big(\zeta[\lambda], \zeta[\mu]\big) \\
&= \big(e_\lambda, e_\mu\big) \\
&= \big(\mathcal{V}(S)(e_\lambda), \mathcal{V}(S)(e_\mu)\big) \\
&= \sum_{\varrho, \tilde{\varrho} \in \Lambda} S_{\lambda\varrho}^* S_{\mu\tilde{\varrho}} \big(\varepsilon_\varrho, \varepsilon_{\tilde{\varrho}}\big) \\
&= \sum_{\varrho \in \Lambda} S_{\lambda\varrho}^* \overline{S}_{\mu\varrho}.
\end{aligned}
$$

where $*$ here denotes complex conjugation. Hence we get that the S-matrix is unitary

$$
(S^*)^\top S = 1
$$

when the modular functor is unitary.

MF-D. Let us now instead assume that the modular functor $\mathcal{V}$ satisfies the orientation reversal axiom. Let now C_α be the orientation reversing self-diffeomorphism of $\mathbf{\Sigma}_1$ which maps (α, β) to $(\alpha, -\beta)$. Let C_β the same as C_α, except that the roles of α and β are exchanged. Then, we have the following commutative diagram, where $\star$ denotes the dual operation

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{V}(S)} & \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)}) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathcal{V}(C_\alpha)} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \mathcal{V}(C_\beta)} \\
\mathcal{V}(-\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)}) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{V}(S)} & \mathcal{V}(-\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)}) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle \cong} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \cong} \\
\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\alpha)})^\star & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{V}(S^{-1})^\star} & \mathcal{V}(\mathbf{\Sigma}_1^{(\beta)})^\star.
\end{array}
$$

Let us denote the dual basis of $(e_\lambda)_\lambda$ by $(e_\lambda^\star)_\lambda$. We see, by compatibility between the glueing isomorphism and the orientation reversal isomorphism, that e_λ, under the composition of the two maps in the first column in the above diagram, is taken to $(e_{\lambda^\dagger}^\star)_\lambda$ and likewise for β in the last column. But since we have the following easy computation

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{V}(S^{-1})^\star (e_{\lambda^\dagger}^\star)(\varepsilon_\mu) &= e_{\lambda^\dagger}^\star (\mathcal{V}(S^{-1})(\varepsilon_\mu)) \\
&= e_{\lambda^\dagger}^\star \left(\sum_{\varrho \in \Lambda} S_{\mu\varrho}^{-1} e_\varrho \right) \\
&= S_{\mu\lambda^\dagger}^{-1},
\end{aligned}
$$

we see that the orientation reversal axiom implies that

$$
S_{\lambda\mu} = S_{\mu\lambda^\dagger}^{-1}.
$$

Acknowledgments

Zvonkine for discussions. GB would like to thank the QGM at Aarhus University, Berkeley, Caltech and EPFL Mathematics Departments, and the Caltech Theoretical Physics Group for hospitality, while this work was conducted. NO would like to thank the QGM at Aarhus University and the Max-Planck Institute for their hospitality at different stages of this work.

References

[1] Ofer Aharony, *Generalized fusion potentials*, Phys. Lett. B **306** (1993), no. 3-4, 276–282, DOI 10.1016/0370-2693(93)90079-W. MR1223057

[2] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen, *The Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev invariants of finite order mapping tori I*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **681** (2013), 1–38, DOI 10.1515/crelle-2012-0033. MR3181488

[3] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen and Kenji Ueno, *Abelian conformal field theory and determinant bundles*, Internat. J. Math. **18** (2007), no. 8, 919–993, DOI 10.1142/S0129167X07004369. MR2339577

[4] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen and Kenji Ueno, *Geometric construction of modular functors from conformal field theory*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **16** (2007), no. 2, 127–202, DOI 10.1142/S0218216507005233. MR2306213

[5] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen and Kenji Ueno, *Modular functors are determined by their genus zero data*, Quantum Topol. **3** (2012), no. 3-4, 255–291. MR2928086

[6] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen, *Hitchin's connection, Toeplitz operators, and symmetry invariant deformation quantization*, Quantum Topol. **3** (2012), no. 3-4, 293–325. MR2928087

[7] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen and Kenji Ueno, *Construction of the Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev TQFT from conformal field theory*, Invent. Math. **201** (2015), no. 2, 519–559, DOI 10.1007/s00222-014-0555-7. MR3370620

[8] Jørgen Ellegaard Andersen and William Elbæk Petersen, *Construction of modular functors from modular tensor categories*, Quantum geometry of moduli spaces with applications to TQFT and RNA folding, Trav. Math., vol. 25, Fac. Sci. Technol. Commun. Univ. Luxemb., Luxembourg, 2017, pp. 147–211. MR3700062

[9] Michael Atiyah, *Topological quantum field theories*, Inst. Hautes Études Sci. Publ. Math. **68** (1988), 175–186 (1989). MR1001453

[10] Michael Atiyah, *On framings of 3-manifolds*, Topology **29** (1990), no. 1, 1–7, DOI 10.1016/0040-9383(90)90021-B. MR1046621

[11] Scott Axelrod, Steve Della Pietra, and Edward Witten, *Geometric quantization of Chern-Simons gauge theory*, J. Differential Geom. **33** (1991), no. 3, 787–902. MR1100212

[12] Bojko Bakalov and Alexander Kirillov Jr., *Lectures on tensor categories and modular functors*, University Lecture Series, vol. 21, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2001. MR1797619

[13] Paul Baum, William Fulton, and Robert MacPherson, *Riemann-Roch and topological K theory for singular varieties*, Acta Math. **143** (1979), no. 3-4, 155–192, DOI 10.1007/BF02392091. MR549773

[14] Arnaud Beauville, *Conformal blocks, fusion rules and the Verlinde formula*, Proceedings of the Hirzebruch 65 Conference on Algebraic Geometry (Ramat Gan, 1993), Israel Math. Conf. Proc., vol. 9, Bar-Ilan Univ., Ramat Gan, 1996, pp. 75–96. MR1360497

[15] A. A. Belavin, A. M. Polyakov, and A. B. Zamolodchikov, *Infinite conformal symmetry in two-dimensional quantum field theory*, Nuclear Phys. B **241** (1984), no. 2, 333–380, DOI 10.1016/0550-3213(84)90052-X. MR757857

[16] Christian Blanchet, *Hecke algebras, modular categories and 3-manifolds quantum invariants*, Topology **39** (2000), no. 1, 193–223, DOI 10.1016/S0040-9383(98)00066-4. MR1710999

[17] C. Blanchet, N. Habegger, G. Masbaum, and P. Vogel, *Three-manifold invariants derived from the Kauffman bracket*, Topology **31** (1992), no. 4, 685–699, DOI 10.1016/0040-9383(92)90002-Y. MR1191373

[18] C. Blanchet, N. Habegger, G. Masbaum, and P. Vogel, *Topological quantum field theories derived from the Kauffman bracket*, Topology **34** (1995), no. 4, 883–927, DOI 10.1016/0040-9383(94)00051-4. MR1362791

[19] Gaëtan Borot, Bertrand Eynard, Motohico Mulase, and Brad Safnuk, *A matrix model for simple Hurwitz numbers, and topological recursion*, J. Geom. Phys. **61** (2011), no. 2, 522–540, DOI 10.1016/j.geomphys.2010.10.017. MR2746135

[20] Gaëtan Borot, Bertrand Eynard, and Nicolas Orantin, *Abstract loop equations, topological recursion and new applications*, Commun. Number Theory Phys. **9** (2015), no. 1, 51–187, DOI 10.4310/CNTP.2015.v9.n1.a2. MR3339853

[21] Gaëtan Borot and Sergey Shadrin, *Blobbed topological recursion: properties and applications*, Math. Proc. Cambridge Philos. Soc. **162** (2017), no. 1, 39–87, DOI 10.1017/S0305004116000323. MR3581899

[22] Vincent Bouchard and Bertrand Eynard, *Think globally, compute locally*, J. High Energy Phys. **2** (2013), 143, front matter + 34. MR3046532

[23] Vincent Bouchard and Marcos Mariño, *Hurwitz numbers, matrix models and enumerative geometry*, From Hodge theory to integrability and TQFT tt*-geometry, Proc. Sympos. Pure Math., vol. 78, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 2008, pp. 263–283, DOI 10.1090/pspum/078/2483754. MR2483754

[24] Lucia Caporaso, *A compactification of the universal Picard variety over the moduli space of stable curves*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. **7** (1994), no. 3, 589–660, DOI 10.2307/2152786. MR1254134

[25] Renzo Cavalieri, Paul Johnson, and Hannah Markwig, *Chamber structure for double Hurwitz numbers* (English, with English and French summaries), 22nd International Conference on Formal Power Series and Algebraic Combinatorics (FPSAC 2010), Discrete Math. Theor. Comput. Sci. Proc., AN, Assoc. Discrete Math. Theor. Comput. Sci., Nancy, 2010, pp. 227–238. MR2673838

[26] P. Di Francesco and J.-B. Zuber, *Fusion potentials. I*, J. Phys. A **26** (1993), no. 6, 1441–1454. MR1212013

[27] Robbert Dijkgraaf, *Mirror symmetry and elliptic curves*, The moduli space of curves (Texel Island, 1994), Progr. Math., vol. 129, Birkhäuser Boston, Boston, MA, 1995, pp. 149–163, DOI 10.1007/978-1-4612-4264-2_5. MR1363055

[28] Robbert Dijkgraaf, Cumrun Vafa, Erik Verlinde, and Herman Verlinde, *The operator algebra of orbifold models*, Comm. Math. Phys. **123** (1989), no. 3, 485–526. MR1003430

[29] Robbert Dijkgraaf, Herman Verlinde, and Erik Verlinde, *Loop equations and Virasoro constraints in nonperturbative two-dimensional quantum gravity*, Nuclear Phys. B **348** (1991), no. 3, 435–456, DOI 10.1016/0550-3213(91)90199-8. MR1083914

[30] Robbert Dijkgraaf and Edward Witten, *Topological gauge theories and group cohomology*, Comm. Math. Phys. **129** (1990), no. 2, 393–429. MR1048699

[31] Boris Dubrovin, *Geometry of 2D topological field theories*, Integrable systems and quantum groups (Montecatini Terme, 1993), Lecture Notes in Math., vol. 1620, Springer, Berlin, 1996, pp. 120–348, DOI 10.1007/BFb0094793. MR1397274

[32] Olivia Dumitrescu and Motohico Mulase, *Edge contraction on dual ribbon graphs and 2D TQFT*, J. Algebra **494** (2018), 1–27, DOI 10.1016/j.jalgebra.2017.09.027. MR3723168

[33] P. Dunin-Barkowski, N. Orantin, S. Shadrin, and L. Spitz, *Identification of the Givental formula with the spectral curve topological recursion procedure*, Comm. Math. Phys. **328** (2014), no. 2, 669–700, DOI 10.1007/s00220-014-1887-2. MR3199996

[34] Torsten Ekedahl, Sergei Lando, Michael Shapiro, and Alek Vainshtein, *Hurwitz numbers and intersections on moduli spaces of curves*, Invent. Math. **146** (2001), no. 2, 297–327, DOI 10.1007/s002220100164. MR1864018

[35] Bertrand Eynard, *Recursion between Mumford volumes of moduli spaces*, Ann. Henri Poincaré **12** (2011), no. 8, 1431–1447, DOI 10.1007/s00023-011-0113-4. MR2855174

[36] ———, *Invariants of spectral curves and intersection theory of moduli spaces of complex curves*, Commun. Number Theory and Physics **8** 3 (2014) ; math-ph/1110.2949.

[37] Bertrand Eynard, Motohico Mulase, and Bradley Safnuk, *The Laplace transform of the cut-and-join equation and the Bouchard-Mariño conjecture on Hurwitz numbers*, Publ. Res. Inst. Math. Sci. **47** (2011), no. 2, 629–670, DOI 10.2977/PRIMS/47. MR2849645

[38] B. Eynard and N. Orantin, *Invariants of algebraic curves and topological expansion*, Commun. Number Theory Phys. **1** (2007), no. 2, 347–452, DOI 10.4310/CNTP.2007.v1.n2.a4. MR2346575

[39] ———, *Topological recursion in random matrices and enumerative geometry*, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. **42** 29 (2009) ; math-ph/0811.3531.

[40] Gerd Faltings, *A proof for the Verlinde formula*, J. Algebraic Geom. **3** (1994), no. 2, 347–374. MR1257326

[41] Daniel S. Freed, *Higher algebraic structures and quantization*, Comm. Math. Phys. **159** (1994), no. 2, 343–398. MR1256993

[42] Daniel S. Freed and Frank Quinn, *Chern-Simons theory with finite gauge group*, Comm. Math. Phys. **156** (1993), no. 3, 435–472. MR1240583

[43] Igor B. Frenkel, Yi-Zhi Huang, and James Lepowsky, *On axiomatic approaches to vertex operator algebras and modules*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc. **104** (1993), no. 494, viii+64, DOI 10.1090/memo/0494. MR1142494

[44] Hajime Fujita, *On the functoriality of the Chern-Simons line bundle and the determinant line bundle*, Commun. Contemp. Math. **8** (2006), no. 6, 715–735, DOI 10.1142/S0219199706002271. MR2274939

[45] William Fulton and Joe Harris, *Representation theory*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, vol. 129, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1991. A first course; Readings in Mathematics. MR1153249

[46] Doron Gepner, *Fusion rings and geometry*, Comm. Math. Phys. **141** (1991), no. 2, 381–411. MR1133272

[47] Alexander B. Givental, *Gromov-Witten invariants and quantization of quadratic Hamiltonians* (English, with English and Russian summaries), Mosc. Math. J. **1** (2001), no. 4, 551–568, 645. Dedicated to the memory of I. G. Petrovskii on the occasion of his 100th anniversary. MR1901075

[48] Alexander B. Givental, *Semisimple Frobenius structures at higher genus*, Internat. Math. Res. Notices **23** (2001), 1265–1286, DOI 10.1155/S1073792801000605. MR1866444

[49] I. P. Goulden and D. M. Jackson, *Transitive factorisations into transpositions and holomorphic mappings on the sphere*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **125** (1997), no. 1, 51–60, DOI 10.1090/S0002-9939-97-03880-X. MR1396978

[50] I. P. Goulden, D. M. Jackson, and R. Vakil, *The Gromov-Witten potential of a point, Hurwitz numbers, and Hodge integrals*, Proc. London Math. Soc. (3) **83** (2001), no. 3, 563–581, DOI 10.1112/plms/83.3.563. MR1851082

[51] Mark Gross, *Tropical geometry and mirror symmetry*, CBMS Regional Conference Series in Mathematics, vol. 114, Published for the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, Washington, DC; by the American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2011. MR2722115

[52] Jakob Grove, *Constructing TQFTs from modular functors*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **10** (2001), no. 8, 1085–1131, DOI 10.1142/S0218216501001347. MR1871220

[53] Mathieu Guay-Paquet and J. Harnad, *Generating functions for weighted Hurwitz numbers*, J. Math. Phys. **58** (2017), no. 8, 083503, 28, DOI 10.1063/1.4996574. MR3683833

[54] J. Harnad and A. Yu. Orlov, *Hypergeometric τ-functions, Hurwitz numbers and enumeration of paths*, Comm. Math. Phys. **338** (2015), no. 1, 267–284, DOI 10.1007/s00220-015-2329-5. MR3345377

[55] N. J. Hitchin, *Flat connections and geometric quantization*, Comm. Math. Phys. **131** (1990), no. 2, 347–380. MR1065677

[56] Yi-Zhi Huang, *Rigidity and modularity of vertex tensor categories*, Commun. Contemp. Math. **10** (2008), no. suppl. 1, 871–911, DOI 10.1142/S0219199708003083. MR2468370

[57] Yi-Zhi Huang, *Vertex operator algebras, the Verlinde conjecture, and modular tensor categories*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **102** (2005), no. 15, 5352–5356, DOI 10.1073/pnas.0409901102. MR2140309

[58] Paul Johnson, *Double Hurwitz numbers via the infinite wedge*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **367** (2015), no. 9, 6415–6440, DOI 10.1090/S0002-9947-2015-06238-2. MR3356942

[59] V. G. Kac and D. H. Peterson, *Affine Lie algebras and Hecke modular forms*, Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. (N.S.) **3** (1980), no. 3, 1057–1061, DOI 10.1090/S0273-0979-1980-14854-5. MR585190

[60] Masanobu Kaneko and Don Zagier, *A generalized Jacobi theta function and quasimodular forms*, The moduli space of curves (Texel Island, 1994), Progr. Math., vol. 129, Birkhäuser Boston, Boston, MA, 1995, pp. 165–172, DOI 10.1007/978-1-4612-4264-2_6. MR1363056

[61] M. Karev, *Covers counting via Feynman calculus* (English, with English and Russian summaries), Zap. Nauchn. Sem. S.-Peterburg. Otdel. Mat. Inst. Steklov. (POMI) **403** (2012), no. Teoriya Predstavleniĭ, Dinamicheskie Sistemy, Kombinatornye Metody. XXI, 58–80, 198; English transl., J. Math. Sci. (N.Y.) **190** (2013), no. 3, 438–450. MR3029580

[62] Victor G. Kac, *Infinite-dimensional Lie algebras*, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1990. MR1104219

[63] M. Kontsevich, *Rational conformal field theory and invariants of 3-manifolds*, Preprint of Centre de Physique Théorique Marseille (1988), no. CPT-88/p2189.

[64] Maxim Kontsevich, *Intersection theory on the moduli space of curves and the matrix Airy function*, Comm. Math. Phys. **147** (1992), no. 1, 1–23. MR1171758

[65] M. Kontsevich and Yu. Manin, *Gromov-Witten classes, quantum cohomology, and enumerative geometry*, Comm. Math. Phys. **164** (1994), no. 3, 525–562. MR1291244

[66] Yves Laszlo, *Hitchin's and WZW connections are the same*, J. Differential Geom. **49** (1998), no. 3, 547–576. MR1669720

[67] Eduard Looijenga, *From WZW models to modular functors*, Handbook of moduli. Vol. II, Adv. Lect. Math. (ALM), vol. 25, Int. Press, Somerville, MA, 2013, pp. 427–466. MR3184182

[68] I. G. Macdonald, *Symmetric functions and Hall polynomials*, 2nd ed., Oxford Mathematical Monographs, The Clarendon Press, Oxford University Press, New York, 1995. With contributions by A. Zelevinsky; Oxford Science Publications. MR1354144

[69] A. Marian, D. Oprea, and R. Pandharipande, *The first Chern class of the Verlinde bundle* (2013); math.AG/1308.4425.

[70] Alina Marian, Dragos Oprea, Rahul Pandharipande, Aaron Pixton, and Dimitri Zvonkine, *The Chern character of the Verlinde bundle over $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **732** (2017), 147–163, DOI 10.1515/crelle-2015-0003. MR3717090

[71] R. Marsh and K. Rietsch, *The B-model connection and T-equivariant mirror symmetry for Grassmannians* (2013) ; math.AG/1307.1085.

[72] V. B. Mehta and C. S. Seshadri, *Moduli of vector bundles on curves with parabolic structures*, Math. Ann. **248** (1980), no. 3, 205–239, DOI 10.1007/BF01420526. MR575939

[73] Gregory Moore and Nathan Seiberg, *Classical and quantum conformal field theory*, Comm. Math. Phys. **123** (1989), no. 2, 177–254. MR1002038

[74] ———, *Polynomial equations for rational conformal field theories*, Phys. Lett. B **212** 4 (1989).

[75] David Mumford, *Towards an enumerative geometry of the moduli space of curves*, Arithmetic and geometry, Vol. II, Progr. Math., vol. 36, Birkhäuser Boston, Boston, MA, 1983, pp. 271–328. MR717614

[76] M. S. Narasimhan and C. S. Seshadri, *Stable and unitary vector bundles on a compact Riemann surface*, Ann. of Math. (2) **82** (1965), 540–567, DOI 10.2307/1970710. MR0184252

[77] Siu-Hung Ng and Peter Schauenburg, *Congruence subgroups and generalized Frobenius-Schur indicators*, Comm. Math. Phys. **300** (2010), no. 1, 1–46, DOI 10.1007/s00220-010-1096-6. MR2725181

[78] Andrei Okounkov, *Toda equations for Hurwitz numbers*, Math. Res. Lett. **7** (2000), no. 4, 447–453, DOI 10.4310/MRL.2000.v7.n4.a10. MR1783622

[79] Rahul Pandharipande, *A compactification over $\overline{M}_g$ of the universal moduli space of slope-semistable vector bundles*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. **9** (1996), no. 2, 425–471, DOI 10.1090/S0894-0347-96-00173-7. MR1308406

[80] N. Yu. Reshetikhin and V. G. Turaev, *Ribbon graphs and their invariants derived from quantum groups*, Comm. Math. Phys. **127** (1990), no. 1, 1–26. MR1036112

[81] N. Reshetikhin and V. G. Turaev, *Invariants of 3-manifolds via link polynomials and quantum groups*, Invent. Math. **103** (1991), no. 3, 547–597, DOI 10.1007/BF01239527. MR1091619

[82] Eric Rowell, Richard Stong, and Zhenghan Wang, *On classification of modular tensor categories*, Comm. Math. Phys. **292** (2009), no. 2, 343–389, DOI 10.1007/s00220-009-0908-z. MR2544735

[83] Kyoji Saito, *Period mapping associated to a primitive form*, Publ. Res. Inst. Math. Sci. **19** (1983), no. 3, 1231–1264, DOI 10.2977/prims/1195182028. MR723468

[84] Graeme Segal, *The definition of conformal field theory*, Topology, geometry and quantum field theory, London Math. Soc. Lecture Note Ser., vol. 308, Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 2004, pp. 421–577. MR2079383

[85] D. Schlüter, *Universal moduli of parabolic sheaves on stable marked curves*, Oxford PhD thesis, 2011.

[86] Constantin Teleman, *The structure of 2D semi-simple field theories*, Invent. Math. **188** (2012), no. 3, 525–588, DOI 10.1007/s00222-011-0352-5. MR2917177

[87] Yoshifumi Tsuchimoto, *On the coordinate-free description of the conformal blocks*, J. Math. Kyoto Univ. **33** (1993), no. 1, 29–49, DOI 10.1215/kjm/1250519338. MR1203889

[88] Akihiro Tsuchiya, Kenji Ueno, and Yasuhiko Yamada, *Conformal field theory on universal family of stable curves with gauge symmetries*, Integrable systems in quantum field theory and statistical mechanics, Adv. Stud. Pure Math., vol. 19, Academic Press, Boston, MA, 1989, pp. 459–566. MR1048605

[89] V. G. Turaev, *Quantum invariants of knots and 3-manifolds*, De Gruyter Studies in Mathematics, vol. 18, Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin, 1994. MR1292673

[90] V. Turaev and H. Wenzl, *Quantum invariants of 3-manifolds associated with classical simple Lie algebras*, Internat. J. Math. **4** (1993), no. 2, 323–358, DOI 10.1142/S0129167X93000170. MR1217386

[91] Kenji Ueno, *Conformal field theory with gauge symmetry*, Fields Institute Monographs, vol. 24, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI; Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, Toronto, ON, 2008. MR2433154

[92] Cumrun Vafa, *Toward classification of conformal theories*, Phys. Lett. B **206** (1988), no. 3, 421–426, DOI 10.1016/0370-2693(88)91603-6. MR944264

[93] Erik Verlinde, *Fusion rules and modular transformations in 2D conformal field theory*, Nuclear Phys. B **300** (1988), no. 3, 360–376, DOI 10.1016/0550-3213(88)90603-7. MR954762

[94] K. Walker, *On Witten's 3-manifold invariants*, (1991), Preliminary version # 2, preprint.

[95] C. T. C. Wall, *Non-additivity of the signature*, Invent. Math. **7** (1969), 269–274, DOI 10.1007/BF01404310. MR0246311

[96] Edward Witten, *Quantum field theory and the Jones polynomial*, Comm. Math. Phys. **121** (1989), no. 3, 351–399. MR990772

[97] Edward Witten, *Two-dimensional gravity and intersection theory on moduli space*, Surveys in differential geometry (Cambridge, MA, 1990), Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem, PA, 1991, pp. 243–310. MR1144529

[98] Edward Witten, *The Verlinde algebra and the cohomology of the Grassmannian*, Geometry, topology, & physics, Conf. Proc. Lecture Notes Geom. Topology, IV, Int. Press, Cambridge, MA, 1995, pp. 357–422. MR1358625

[99] Sergei K. Lando and Alexander K. Zvonkin, *Graphs on surfaces and their applications*, Encyclopaedia of Mathematical Sciences, vol. 141, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2004. With an appendix by Don B. Zagier; Low-Dimensional Topology, II. MR2036721

Centre for Quantum Geometry of Moduli Spaces, Department of Mathematics, Ny Munkegade 118, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
    Email address: andersen@qgm.au.dk

    Max Planck Institut für Mathematik, Vivatsgasse 7, 53111 Bonn, Germany
    Email address: gborot@mpim-bonn.mpg.de

    École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Département de Mathématiques, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
    Email address: nicolas.orantin@epfl.ch