

Introducing Donaldson-Thomas theory with an eye
towards character varieties.

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Question: What about moduli spaces?

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$$\arg(\xi \cdot \dim M') \leq \arg(\xi \cdot \dim M) = \arg\left(\sum_{v \in Q_0} \xi_v \gamma_v\right)$$

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Fact: Every semistable representation has a “Jordan–Hölder” filtration with stable subquotients of the same phase.

Theorem (Davison–M. '17)

For all ξ and all γ , the subset $\text{Mat}_{\gamma}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \subset \text{Mat}_{\gamma}(Q)$ is the open subvariety of semistable points for a suitable linearization of the G_{γ} -action on $\text{Mat}_{\gamma}^{\xi-ss}(Q)$.

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Here, $M \sim_S M'$ if M and M' have the same stable subquotients (up to isomorphism) counted with multiplicities.

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Hence, $(M_\alpha)_{\alpha \in Q_1}$ satisfying these relations provides a representation of the “preprojective algebra”

$$\mathbb{C}\langle a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g \rangle / \sum_{i=1}^g [a_i, b_i].$$

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$$\mathfrak{Rep}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) := \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) / G_\gamma \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) := \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) // G_\gamma$$

Example

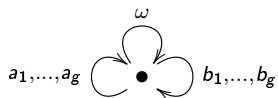
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Thus, $(M_\alpha)_{\alpha \in Q_1}$ satisfying these relations provides a representation $(M_\alpha)_{\alpha \neq \omega}$ of the preprojective algebra

$\mathbb{C}\langle a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g \rangle / \sum_{i=1}^g [a_i, b_i]$ together with an endomorphism M_ω of that representation.

For $g = 1$ we get $\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) = \text{Sym}^\gamma(\mathbb{C}^3) // S_\gamma$ as $(M_\alpha)_{\alpha \in Q}$ can be considered as a zero-dimensional sheaf on \mathbb{C}^3 with coordinates (a_1, b_1, ω) .

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- 1 $\text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) = \text{Crit}(\text{Tr}_\gamma(W))$ for some G_γ -invariant function $\text{Tr}_\gamma(W) : \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$,

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Notice: $\text{Tr}_\gamma(W) = f_\gamma \circ p$ for some function $f_\gamma : \mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where $p : \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q)$ is the quotient map.

Hall algebras - Part I

Fix a “phase” $\vartheta \in (0, \pi)$ and introduce the shorthand

$$\Gamma_{\vartheta} := \{0 \neq \gamma \in \mathbb{N}^{Q_0} \mid \arg(\sum_{v \in Q_0} \xi_v \gamma_v) = \vartheta\} \cup \{0\}$$

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We define the **relative Hall algebra**

$$\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) := \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\vartheta} \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} R^i p_{G_\gamma} \phi_{\text{Tr}_\gamma(W)} \otimes [\text{twist}],$$

where $R^i p_G$ is the i -th direct G_γ -equivariant image with respect to the perverse t-structure on $\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W)$ (see below),

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$$\mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) := \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\vartheta} \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i_{G_\gamma} \left(\text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \phi_{\text{Tr}_\gamma(W)} \right) \otimes [\text{twist}].$$

by taking the G_γ -equivariant cohomology.

Equivariant direct images

To compute $H_{G_\gamma}^i$ and $R^i p_{G_\gamma}$, we replace $\text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W)$ and $p : \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W)$ with

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In practice, we have $EG_\gamma \times_{G_\gamma} \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) = \varinjlim_n U_\gamma^{(n)}(Q, W, \xi)$ for finite dimensional closed “subvarieties” $U_\gamma^{(n)}(Q, W, \xi)$ such that

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Approximation (of p) by proper maps

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By general arguments there is a “perverse” filtration on $\mathcal{H}_\gamma^*(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ and a spectral sequence with E_2 -term

$$H^i(\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \overline{\mathcal{H}}_\gamma^j(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta))$$

converging to $\mathrm{gr}^i \mathcal{H}_\gamma^{i+j}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$.

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Proposition (Davison–M. '16)

The spectral sequence collapses at E_2 , i.e.

$$\mathrm{gr}^* \mathcal{H}_\gamma^*(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) \cong H^*(\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \overline{\mathcal{H}}_\gamma^*(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)).$$

Hall algebras - Part II

Given dimension vectors $\gamma', \gamma'' \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}$, consider

$$\text{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) := \{(M_{\alpha}) \in \text{Mat}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \mid M_{\alpha} \text{ upper block triangular}\}$$

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$$\mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) := \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) / G_{\gamma', \gamma''}$$

is the stack of short exact sequences.

Hall algebras - Part II

Given dimension vectors $\gamma', \gamma'' \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}$, consider

$$\mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) := \{(M_{\alpha}) \in \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \mid M_{\alpha} \text{ upper block triangular}\}$$

with its action by the subgroup $G_{\gamma', \gamma''} \subset G_{\gamma'+\gamma''}$ of upper block triangular invertible matrices.

$$\mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) := \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q)/G_{\gamma', \gamma''}$$

is the stack of short exact sequences.

Get equivariant maps

$$\pi_2 : \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q)$$

and

$$\pi_1 \times \pi_3 : \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma'}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \times \mathrm{Mat}_{\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q)$$

inducing a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma', \gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) & \\
 \swarrow \pi_1 \times \pi_3 & & \searrow \pi_2 \\
 \mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma'}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \times \mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) & & \mathfrak{Rep}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \\
 \downarrow p \times p & & \downarrow p \\
 \mathcal{M}_{\gamma'}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \times \mathcal{M}_{\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) & \xrightarrow{\oplus} & \mathcal{M}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q)
 \end{array}$$

inducing a commutative diagram

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 p \times p \downarrow & & \downarrow p \\
 \mathcal{M}_{\gamma'}^{\xi-ss}(Q) \times \mathcal{M}_{\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q) & \xrightarrow{\oplus} & \mathcal{M}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}^{\xi-ss}(Q)
 \end{array}$$

Using adjunction morphisms for pull-back and push-forwards, the Thom–Sebastiani isomorphism and properties of the vanishing cycle functor, we get maps

$$\oplus_* \left(\overline{\mathcal{H}}_{\gamma'}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) \boxtimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}_{\gamma''}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) \right) \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{H}}_{\gamma'+\gamma''}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$$

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Summing over $\gamma', \gamma'' \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}$ we get algebras in appropriate symmetric monoidal tensor categories.

Theorem (Davison–M. '16)

- 1 The Hall algebras $\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ and $\mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ are associative with unit.

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Theorem (Davison–M. '16)

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- ③ *The absolute Hall algebra $\mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ has a compatible (localized) coproduct turning $\mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ into a (localized) bi-algebra and $\mathrm{gr} \mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ into a Hopf algebra.*

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Question: What can we say about the structures of the Hall algebras?

Genericity

Definition

We call a stability condition ξ generic if for all $\vartheta \in (0, \pi)$ and all $\gamma', \gamma'' \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}$ the bilinear pairing $\sum_{\alpha: v \rightarrow w} \gamma'_v \gamma''_w$ is symmetric.

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Interpretation: Given representations M' and M'' of dimension vectors $\gamma', \gamma'' \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}$, let $(S_{\kappa})_{\kappa \in K}$ be the family of (non-isomorphic) stable factors of M' and M'' . For $\kappa, \lambda \in K$ let $A_{\kappa\lambda} := \dim \text{Ext}^1(S_{\kappa}, S_{\lambda})$. Then, ξ is generic if for all choices of ϑ, M' and M'' , the matrix $A = (A_{\kappa\lambda})$ is symmetric. The quiver with vertex set K and $A_{\kappa\lambda}$ arrows from κ to λ is called the (Ext-)quiver of $(S_{\kappa})_{\kappa \in K}$. It is symmetric if ξ is generic.

Theorem (Davison–M. '16)

The absolute Hall algebra of the Ext-quiver of $(S_\kappa)_{\kappa \in K}$ with a suitable (formal) potential determines the Hall algebra product on the stalks of the relative Hall-algebra $\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ at M' and M''

$$\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)_{M'} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)_{M''} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)_{M' \oplus M''}.$$

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Question: How does this commutative algebra look like?

Integrality

Theorem (Davison–M. '16)

For a generic stability condition ξ and any phase $\vartheta \in (0, \pi)$ the relative Hall algebra $\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ is a symmetric algebra, i.e.

$$\overline{\mathcal{H}}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta) = \text{Sym}(\mathcal{G})$$

for some (graded) perverse sheaf/monodromic mixed Hodge modules \mathcal{G} on $\mathcal{M}_{\vartheta}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) = \sqcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{\vartheta}} \mathcal{M}_{\gamma}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W)$.

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Corollary

For generic ξ and any ϑ the associated graded algebra $\text{gr} \mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ wrt. the perverse filtration is a symmetric algebra generated by $H^*(\mathcal{M}_{\vartheta}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \mathcal{G})$.

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Recall: $\text{Tr}_\gamma(W) : \text{Mat}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q) \xrightarrow{p} \mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q) \xrightarrow{f_\gamma} \mathbb{C}$ and
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Definition

- ① For $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}^{Q_0}$ we form the “Donaldson–Thomas sheaf”

$$\mathcal{DT}_\gamma(Q, W, \xi) = \begin{cases} \phi_{f_\gamma}(\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q)}(\mathbb{Q})) & \text{if } \mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-st}(Q) \neq \emptyset, \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Here, $\mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q)}(\mathbb{Q})$ is the intersection complex of $\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q)$.

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- ② $\mathcal{DT}_\vartheta(Q, W, \xi) := \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\vartheta} \mathcal{DT}_\gamma(Q, W, \xi)$ a perverse sheaf/monodromic mixed Hodge module on $\mathcal{M}_\vartheta^{\xi-ss}(Q, W)$.

Theorem (Davison–M. '16)

For a generic stability condition ξ and any phase $\vartheta \in (0, \pi)$ we get

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{DT}_{\vartheta}(Q, W, \xi) \otimes H(BC^*)_{vir} := \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{DT}_{\vartheta}(Q, W, \vartheta) \otimes [\text{twist}]^{2i+1}.$$

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Corollary

For generic ξ and any ϑ the associated graded algebra $\text{gr } \mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ wrt. the perverse filtration is a symmetric algebra generated by $\mathbb{H}^*(\mathcal{M}_{\vartheta}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \mathcal{DT}_{\vartheta}(Q, W, \xi)) \otimes \mathbb{H}(\mathbb{C}^*)_{vir}$.

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For generic ξ and any ϑ the associated graded algebra $\text{gr} \mathcal{H}(Q, W, \xi, \vartheta)$ wrt. the perverse filtration is a symmetric algebra generated by $H^*(\mathcal{M}_{\vartheta}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \mathcal{DT}_{\vartheta}(Q, W, \xi)) \otimes \mathbb{H}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{C}^*)_{vir}$.

Definition

The (alternating) dimension of $H_c^*(\mathcal{M}_{\gamma}^{\xi-ss}(Q, W), \mathcal{DT}_{\gamma}(Q, W, \xi))$ is called the Donaldson–Thomas invariant for Q, W, ξ, γ . Its Hodge polynomial is the refined DT invariant.

Examples

- 1 For $W = 0$, we get $\mathcal{DT}_\gamma(Q, W, \xi) = \mathcal{IC}_{\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-st}(Q)}(\mathbb{Q})$ if $\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-st}(Q)$ is non-empty and zero else. Thus, the DT invariants compute intersection Euler characteristics and intersection Betti numbers.

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and $W = \omega[a_1, b_1]$, we get

$\mathcal{M}_\gamma^{\xi-ss}(Q, W) = \text{Sym}^\gamma(\mathbb{C}^3) = (\mathbb{C}^3)^n // S_n$ and $\mathcal{DT}_\gamma(Q, W, \xi)$ is the constant (perverse) sheaf $\mathbb{Q}[3]$ on the small diagonal $\Delta : \mathbb{C}^3 \hookrightarrow \text{Sym}^\gamma(\mathbb{C}^3)$.

Thank you!