

# Notes on Seiberg–Witten Theory

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## 1 Introduction

It's a note for Vafa-Witten theory I studied in Amherst .

## 2 Cohomological Topology Field Theory

The basic construction and first example can refer[1]

### 2.1 Basic structure

**Definition 2.1** (CTQFT). *Cohomological Topology Field Theory is TQFT(Atiyah definite), with the generator of algebra  $\{P_\mu, Q, Q_\mu\}$ , satisfy*

$$Q^2 = [Q_\mu, Q_\nu] = [Q_\mu, P_\nu] = [Q, P_\nu] = 0, \quad [Q, Q_\mu] = iP_\mu. \quad (2.1)$$

*and observable are  $Q$ -cohomology.*

Here,  $Q$  usually comes from twist of Supersymmetry charge.

**Definition 2.2.**  $Op_{\delta,x} :=$  all operators supported in  $Ball_\delta(x)$

**Prop 2.2.1.** *Since the theory is topological,  $Op_{\delta,x}$  is independent on  $\delta$  and we denoted its cohomology class as  $\mathcal{A}_x$ .*

What's more for any operator supported on  $B_\delta$ , we can use

$Operator \Rightarrow State$  and  $Operator \Leftrightarrow State$  (details in [3]) to regard it as a local operator on  $x$ .

## 2.2 Topological Algebra(First product)

**Definition 2.3.** *The first product is a family of embedding defined on  $C^2(M)$  given by:*

$$\begin{aligned} *_{x1,x2} : A \otimes A &\rightarrow Op_1 \\ O_1, O_2 &\mapsto O_1(x_1)O_2(x_2). \end{aligned}$$

The first order product in fact have the factorization structure:

**Prop 2.3.1.**  *$*_{x1,x2}$  is equal in the same connected component of  $C_2(M)$ , in  $R^d$  case,since  $C_2(R^d)$  is trivial when  $d \geq 2$ ,we can define  $*$  :=  $*_{x1,x2}$*

$$\begin{aligned} Pf : O_1 *_{x1,x2+a} O_2 - O_1 *_{x1,x2} O_2 &= O_1(x^1)O_2(x^2 + a) - O_1(x^1)O_2(x^2) \\ &= a \cdot O_1(x^1)\partial_\mu O_2(x^2) = a \cdot O_1(x^1)Q Q_\mu O_2(x^2) \\ &= a \cdot (-1)^{F_1} Q(a \cdot O_1(x^1)Q_\mu O_2(x^2)) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Prop 2.3.2.**  *$*$  is associative*

**Prop 2.3.3.** *Obvious,  $*$  is graded-commutative.*

## 2.3 Secondary Product

**Definition 2.4** (Descendant).  $\mathcal{O}^{(k)}(x) = \frac{1}{k!} (Q_{\mu_1} \cdots Q_{\mu_k} \mathcal{O})(x) dx^{\mu_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^{\mu_k}$   
 $\mathcal{O}^* = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{O}^{(k)}$

**Prop 2.4.1** (Descendant Equation).  $Q(\mathcal{O}^{(k)}(x)) = d\mathcal{O}^{(k-1)}(x), \quad Q\mathcal{O}^* = d\mathcal{O}^*$

$$Pf : Q\mathcal{O}^{(k)}(x) = Q(\frac{1}{k!} Q_{\mu_1} \dots) = \frac{1}{k!} \cdot iP_{\mu_1}(\dots) dx^{\mu_1} = d\mathcal{O}^{(k-1)}$$

**Definition 2.5** (Homology Operator). Denote  $\mathcal{O}(\gamma) := \int_\gamma \mathcal{O}^*$ , here  $[\gamma]$  is homology class.

**Prop 2.5.1.**  $\mathcal{O}(\gamma)$  is operator supported on  $\gamma$ , and as Prop 2.2.1  $\mathcal{O}(\gamma) \in A$

**Definition 2.6** (Secondary Product). *The first product is a family of map defined on  $C^1(M) = M$  given by:*

$$\begin{aligned} \{, \}_x : A \otimes A &\rightarrow A_x \\ O_1, O_2 &\mapsto \mathcal{O}_1(S_x^{d-1}) \mathcal{O}_2(x) \end{aligned}$$

**Prop 2.6.1.** *The same as the proof of  $\star_{x_1, x_2}$  is invariant under deformation,  $\{, \}_x$  is invariant under deformation, so we can define  $\{, \}_x := \{, \}$  in  $R^d$  so it's a product in  $A$ .*

Now we define a new product  $\star$  defined on  $C^n(M)$ , and it captures the structure of Poisson structure of secondary product.

**Definition 2.7** (Descendant on configuration space).  $(\mathcal{O}_1 \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_2 \dots \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_n)^* = \mathcal{O}_1^* \wedge \sigma^{F_1} \mathcal{O}_2^* \dots \wedge \sigma^{F_1 \dots + F_{n-1}} \mathcal{O}_n^*$ , where  $\sigma$  acts as  $(-1)^k$  on the degree  $k$  part.

**Prop 2.7.1** (Descendant Equation).  $\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{O}_1 \dots \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_n)^* = d(\mathcal{O}_1 \dots \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_n)^*$ .

In particular,  $(\mathcal{O}_1 \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_2)^{(k)}(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{n=0}^k (-1)^{(k-n)F_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{(n)}(x_1) \wedge \mathcal{O}_2^{(k-n)}(x_2)$

For  $P \in H_\bullet(C^n(M), \mathbb{Z})$ , we define

$$\star_P : A^{\otimes n} \rightarrow A$$

$$(\mathcal{O}_1, \dots, \mathcal{O}_n) \mapsto (\mathcal{O}_1 \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_2 \dots \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_n)(P) := \int_P (\mathcal{O}_1 \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_2 \dots \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_n)^*$$

Then we prove some property of secondary product: .6.2

**Prop 2.8.1** (Commutative property).  $\{, \}_x$  is graded-commutative

$$Pf : \{O_1, O_2\}_x = O_1(S_x^{d-1})O_2(x) = (O_1 \boxtimes O_2)(S_x^{d-1}, \{x\}) = O_1 \star_{[S_x^{d-1} \times \{x\}]} O_2$$

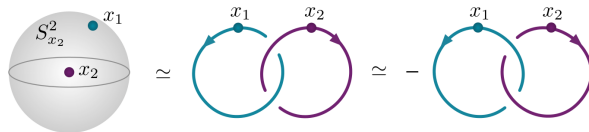
in  $R^d$  case,  $C^2(M) \cong S^{d-1}$ ,

$[S_x^{d-1} \times \{x\}]$  and  $\{\{x\} \times S_x^{d-1}\}$  related by antipodal map

$$\therefore O_1 \star_{[S_x^{d-1} \times \{x\}]} O_2 = (-1)^d O_1 \star_{[\{x\} \times S_x^{d-1}]} O_2 = (-1)^d O_1(x) O_2(S^{d-1})$$

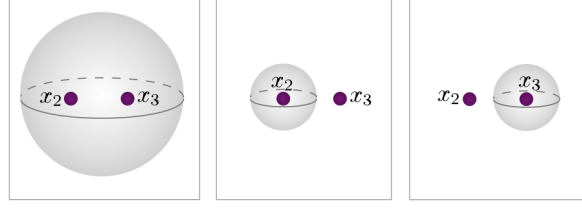
$$= (-1)^{F_1 F_2 + d} \{O_2, O_1\}$$

In particular, in  $d=3$  case  $\{, \}_x$  can be used to compute linking number. That is for  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$  two circles in  $R^3$ , we have  $[O_1 \boxtimes O_2](\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2) = l \cdot (O_1 \boxtimes O_2)(S_x^{d-1}, \{x\}) = l \cdot \{O_1, O_2\}$



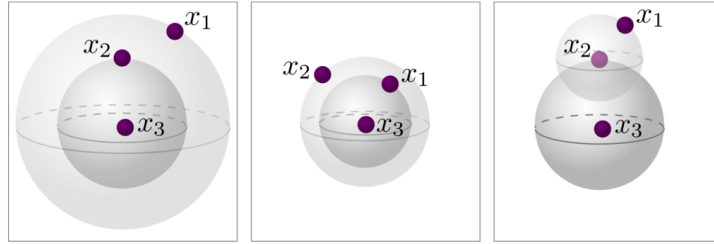
**Prop 2.8.2** (Derivation property).  $\{[O_1], [O_2] * [O_3]\} = \{[O_1], [O_2]\} * \{[O_1], [O_3]\} + (-1)^{(F_1 + d - 1)F_2} [O_2] * \{[O_1], [O_3]\}$

The proof is directly,  $(-1)^{F_1+d-1}$  from the order (d-1) form. And notice that two parts of the equation correspond to these graphs, and  $[\Gamma_1] = [\Gamma_2] + [\Gamma_3]$



**Prop 2.8.3** (Jacobi identity).

$$\begin{aligned} \{[\mathcal{O}_1], \{[\mathcal{O}_2], [\mathcal{O}_3]\}\} - (-1)^{(F_1+d-1)(F_2+d-1)} \{[\mathcal{O}_2], \{[\mathcal{O}_1], [\mathcal{O}_3]\}\} \\ = (-1)^{(d-1)(F_1+d-1)} \{\{[\mathcal{O}_1], [\mathcal{O}_2]\}, [\mathcal{O}_3]\} \end{aligned}$$



## 2.4 Example:RW-twist of 3d N=4

Now, I give an example to illustrate what the component of  $A$  looks like and what the  $\{, \}$  exactly is.

### 2.4.1 3d N=4 Super Algebra

Before this section, I highly commend reader skip to 3.1 part to study representation of Super-Poincare algebra.

**Definition 2.9.** 3d N=4 Super Algebra is given by  $\{P_\mu, Q_\alpha^{a,b}\}$ , satisfy:

$$[Q_\alpha^{ab}, Q_\beta^{cd}] = \epsilon^{ac} \epsilon^{bd} \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu P_\mu$$

the index  $\alpha$  means  $Q$  is Majorana spinor, index  $a$  is the spinor representation of  $SU(2)_H$  (Higgs rotation), index  $b$  is spinor representation of  $SU(2)_C$  (Coulomb rotation)

Without proof, we claim 3d N=4 have a hyper-multiplet representation, consist of  $4\phi + 2\psi$ , we denote them  $\phi^{a1}, \phi^{a2}, \psi_\alpha^{b1}, \psi_\alpha^{b2}$ , the index "a" in  $\phi^{a1}$  is the same as in  $Q$ , means it's  $SU(2)_H$  representation, the indexes in  $\psi^b$  is similar.

### 2.4.2 Twist

Now, we will play twist on this super theory to make it be a CTQFT. We define:

$$Q := \delta_b^\alpha Q_\alpha^{1b} = Q_1^{11} + Q_2^{12} \quad Q_\mu := -\frac{i}{2}(\sigma^\mu)_b^\alpha \cdot Q_\alpha^{2b}$$

The new operator satisfy definition 2.1, so this is a twist CTQFT.

And now, we consider the pure hypermultiplets Lagrangian, as I have mentioned it's consist of  $\phi^{aA}, \psi_\alpha^{bA}$   $A \in [1, 2N_f]$ ,  $(N_f)$  is the number of hypermultiplets.

But now, what we did in twist is mix  $SU(2)_C \times SU(2)_E$  diagonally to new Euclidean rotation group  $SU(2)'_E$ . So in twist theory, we don't have to consider  $\psi$  but the twisted one, so we define:

$$\eta_A := -\delta_b^\alpha \psi_\alpha^{bA} \quad \chi_\mu^A := \frac{i}{2}(\sigma^\mu)_b^\alpha \psi_\alpha^{bA}$$

is the  $1 \otimes 3$  representation of  $SU(2)'$ .

## 3 Physics describe

### 3.1 Representation of Super-Pincare algebra

Poincare algebra is generated by  $\{P_\mu, Q_a^A, \bar{Q}_{\dot{a}A}\}$ , satisfied:

$$\{Q_\alpha^A, \bar{Q}_{\beta B}\} = 2\delta_B^A \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu \mathbf{P}_\mu, \quad \{Q_\alpha^A, Q_\beta^B\} = \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} Z^{AB}$$

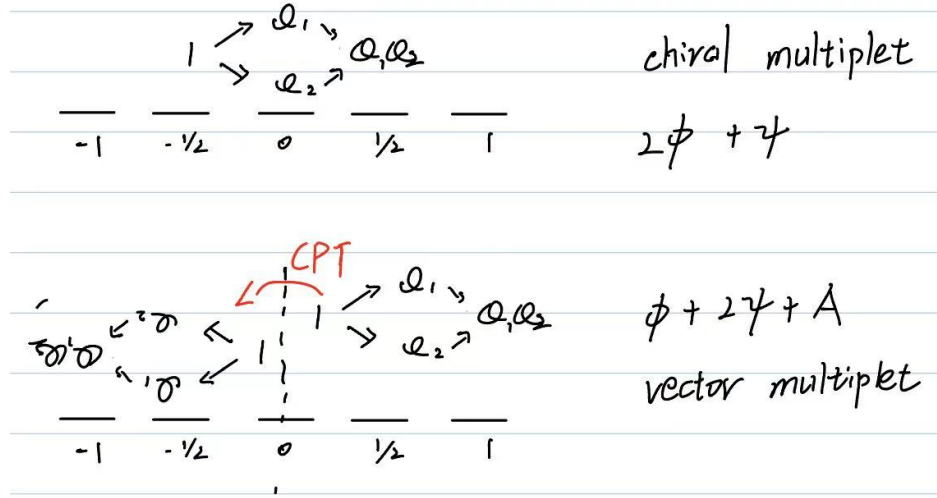
We claim it's the unique non-trivial extension of Pincare algebra.

#### 3.1.1 N=1 massive

In the rest frame of a particle,  $p_\mu = (m, 0, 0, 0)$  so

$$\{Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_\beta\} = 2m\delta_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \{Q, Q\} = \{\bar{Q}, \bar{Q}\} = 0$$

so we regard  $Q_a$  as creation operator and  $\bar{Q}_{\dot{a}}$  as annihilation operator, begin with a state  $|j\rangle$ , we have  $Q_1|j\rangle, Q_2|j\rangle, Q_1Q_2|j\rangle$ , without gravity the superhelicity  $J \leq 1$ , at a result, we only have two representations called chiral multiplet and vector multiplet.



And these multiplets correspond to chiral and vector field.

$$\Phi(x, \theta, \bar{\theta}) = A(x) + \theta^\alpha \psi_\alpha(x) + \theta^2 F(x) + i\theta\sigma^a\bar{\theta}\partial_a A(x) + \frac{i}{2}\theta^2\bar{\theta}\tilde{\sigma}^a\partial_a\psi(x) + \frac{1}{4}\theta^2\bar{\theta}^2\Box A(x) \quad (1)$$

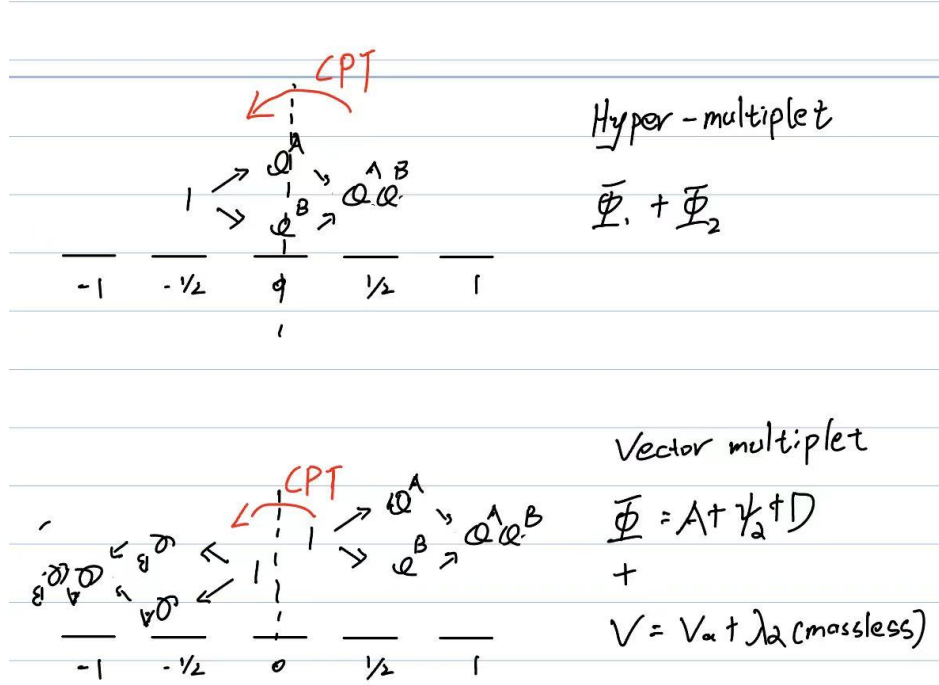
$$V = \theta\sigma^a\bar{\theta}V_a + \bar{\theta}^2\theta^\alpha\lambda_\alpha + \theta^2\bar{\theta}_{\dot{\alpha}}\bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} + \theta^2\bar{\theta}^2\mathcal{D} \quad (2)$$

### 3.1.2 N=1 massless

Also to the rest frame,  $p_\mu = (E, 0, 0, E)$ . Now we only have one creation operator, as the same calculation, the representation component is the same as massive.

### 3.1.3 N=2 massless

Have "Hypermultiplet" and "Vector multiplet"



### 3.2 Pure N=2 massless Vector-multiplet Theory

Since in this case, the Vector-multiplet can be written as  $V \oplus \Phi$ . We consider N=1 massless theory with both these parts, it is N=1 Super-Yang-Mills model: (this part following Witten's lecture <https://youtu.be/9qZSqkn8-Qo>, and for details about N=1 case, reference is [2][3.5.1])

$$S = \frac{1}{e^2} \int d^4x d\theta d\bar{\theta} \text{tr}(\bar{\Phi} e^{2V} \Phi) + \frac{1}{e^2} \int d^4x d\theta \text{tr}(W^\alpha W_\alpha) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Since } \int dx d\theta \Phi = -\frac{1}{4} \int dx D^2 \Phi|_{\theta=0, \bar{\theta}=0} \quad (4)$$

, what we need to do is using formulas (1)(2)(4) to extend (3) to euclidean case, and the result is :

$$S = \frac{1}{e^2} \int d^4x \text{kinetic term of } (A, \lambda, \bar{\lambda}, \phi) + \text{Tr} [\phi, \phi^\dagger]^2 + (\text{Yukawa potential})$$

The formula (3) have the same symmetry transformation as N=2 case after adding Yukawa potential, so it's the Lagrangian we are looking for.

Now, as you seen the potential is :

$V(\phi) = \text{Tr}[\phi, \bar{\phi}]$ , which means it's diagonal, so we set  $\phi = a\sigma^3$ . Since vacua under  $SU(2)$  are equivalent, we use the parameter  $u := \frac{1}{2}a^2 = \langle \phi^2 \rangle$  to parameterize modular space of vacua, as  $u$  is double covered by  $a$ .

### 3.3 Relation to QCD

When  $a \neq 0$ ,  $SU(2)$  symmetry is broken to  $U(1)$  and generate massive boson  $W^\pm$  from two color indexes of  $A_\mu^a$ . So as we consider low-energy effective theory, the two massive bosons won't make effort. The residue field is  $A_\mu, \psi$  with  $U(1)$  symmetry, which exactly is QCD.

## 4 AG describe

### 4.1 Module Space of sheaves

**Definition 4.1.** For  $X$  smooth, projective, dimension  $d$  variety, with ample sheaf  $H$ . Its modular space of sheaves with fix rank  $r$ , and Chern Class  $c_i$ , denoted as  $M_X^H(r, c_i)$

**Theorem 4.1.** The Zariski tangent space at  $[E] := T_M|_{[E]} \cong \text{Ext}_X^1(E, E) \cap T_{M_L}|_{[E]} \cong \text{Ext}_X^1(E, E)_0$ , here  $\text{Ext}_X^1(E, E)_0$  denote the kernel of trace map:  $\text{tr}^i : \text{Ext}^i(E, E) \cong H^i(\text{End}(E)) \rightarrow H^i(O_X)$

### 4.2 Hilbert scheme and generating series

**Definition 4.2** (Hilbert Scheme).  $X^{[n]} := \{Z \subseteq X : Z \text{ is } 0\text{-dimensional with } \dim H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_Z) = n\}$

it should be regarded as  $n$ -point construction space with degree.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{Z} & \\ q \swarrow & & \searrow p \\ X & & X^{[n]} \end{array}$$

Now, we define generating series:

$$Z_{S, E_1, \dots, E_\ell}(q) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \int_{S^{[n]}} P_n$$

$P_n$  is polynomial in Chern class of  $E_i^{[n]}$ ,  $T_{S^{[n]}}$ ,  $\mathcal{Z}$  is universal subscheme and  $E_i^{[n]} = p_* q^* E_i$ .

**Definition 4.3** (Hilbert scheme of divisor). For a effective divisor class  $\beta \in H_{2d-2}(M)$ , we define:  $\text{Hilb}_\beta(X) = \{D \subseteq X : D \text{ effective divisor such that } [D] = \beta\}$



We pass the proof of the set is a scheme, it's equivalent to prove the modular functor is representable.

**Prop 4.3.1.** *When  $h_1(X) = 0$  (especially K3 surface),  $\text{Hilb}_\beta(X)$  is linear system, and we denote it as  $|\beta|$*

*Pf :* Consider  $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*) \cong \text{Pic}(X) \xrightarrow{c_1} H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$

since  $h^1 = 0$ ,  $c_1$  is injective, the equivalent class of divisor is determined by its Chern class.

### 4.3 Seiberg–Witten invariants

**Definition 4.4** (Virtual Dimension). *For modular space  $M_S^H(r, L, c_2)$  ( $S$  is projective surface),*

$$vd(r, L, c_2) := \dim_C(\text{Ext}_S^1(E, E)_0) - \dim_C(\text{Ext}_S^2(E, E)_0) = 2rc_2 - (r-1)c_1(L)^2 - (r^2-1)\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)$$

as  $\text{Ext}_S^1(E, E)_0$  is the deformation as obstruction in  $\text{Ext}_S^2(E, E)_0$

**Definition 4.5** (Virtual fundamental Class). *For  $M$  a  $\mathbb{C}$ –Scheme of finite type, the virtual fundamental class  $[M]^{vir} \in H_{2vd}(M, \mathbb{Z})$  is well-defined, if there exists a perfect obstruction theory over  $M$*

**Prop 4.5.1.** *For projective surface  $S$ , fix  $\beta \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$ , the Hilbert space  $\text{Hilb}_\beta(S) := |\beta|$  have perfect obstruction theory. And  $[|\beta|]^{vir} \neq 0$  only when  $vd(|\beta|) = 0$*

**Definition 4.6** (Seiberg–Witten invariants).  $SW(\beta) := \int_{[|\beta|]^{vir}} 1$

## References

- [1] Christopher Beem, David Ben-Zvi, Mathew Bullimore, Tudor Dimofte, and Andrew Neitzke. Secondary products in supersymmetric field theory. *Annales Henri Poincaré*, 21(4):1235–1310, February 2020.
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- [3] David Simmons-Duffin. Tasi lectures on the conformal bootstrap, 2016.