

Involution on quiver varieties and quantum symmetric pairs

Hiraku Nakajima, Kavli IPMU, University of Tokyo

Online Algebraic Geometric Seminar

2025-11-19

§1. Quiver varieties

$\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(2)$ finite subgroup \longleftrightarrow ADE classification

χ ρ_i : irreducible representation $\xleftrightarrow{\text{Mckay}}$ vertex of affine Dynkin diagram

$\longleftrightarrow \mathfrak{g} \equiv \mathfrak{g}_\Gamma$: complex simple Lie algebra

eg. $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}/n$ $\longleftrightarrow \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$

§1. Quiver varieties

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(2) \text{ finite subgroup} &\iff \text{ADE classification} \\
 \text{\textcircled{X}} \quad \rho_i : \text{irreducible representation} &\xleftrightarrow{\text{McKay}} \text{vertex of affine Dynkin diagram} \\
 &\iff \mathfrak{g} \equiv \mathfrak{g}_\Gamma : \text{complex simple Lie algebra} \\
 \text{eg. } \Gamma = \mathbb{Z}/n &\iff \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})
 \end{aligned}$$

quiver variety

$\mathcal{M} \equiv \mathcal{M}(v, w) : \text{framed moduli space of } \Gamma\text{-equivariant torsion free sheaves } E$
over $\mathbb{P}^2 = \mathbb{C}^2 \cup l_\infty$

$v, w : (\text{isomorphism classes of}) \text{ representations of } \Gamma$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} E|_{l_\infty} \cong \mathcal{O}_{l_\infty} \otimes \bigoplus \rho_i^{\oplus w_i} \\ \text{framing} \end{array} \right.$$

Assume $w_0 = 0 = v_0$

$$H^1(E(-l_\infty)) \cong \bigoplus \rho_i^{\oplus v_i}$$

So finite Dynkin diagram

Fact. smooth quasi-projective variety

§2. Quiver varieties and representation theory

[N '94] topology of $M \leadsto$ representations of Q

$\bigoplus_v H_{\text{middle}}(M(v, w))$ is an irreducible finite dimensional representation of Q with highest weight $= w$

§2. Quiver varieties and representation theory

[N '94] topology of $\mathcal{M} \leadsto$ representations of \mathfrak{g}

$\bigoplus_v H_{\text{middle}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ is an irreducible finite dimensional representation of \mathfrak{g} with highest weight $= w$

[N, Varagnolo '98] $\mathbb{C}^* \times Tw \curvearrowright \mathcal{M}$ action on base $(x, y) \mapsto (tx, ty)$ $(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2$
framing $Tw = \prod_i (\mathbb{C}^*)^{w_i}$

$\bigoplus_v K_{\text{eqv}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w)), \bigoplus_v H_{\text{eqv}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ are representations of

quantum loop algebra / Yangian associated with \mathfrak{g}

$U_q(L\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $L\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z, z^{-1}]$ $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $C\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z]$

§2. Quiver varieties and representation theory

[N '94] topology of $\mathcal{M} \leadsto$ representations of \mathfrak{g}

$\bigoplus_v H_{\text{middle}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ is an irreducible finite dimensional representation of \mathfrak{g} with highest weight $= w$

[N, Varagnolo '98] $\mathbb{C}^* \times T_w \curvearrowright \mathcal{M}$ action on base $(x, y) \mapsto (tx, ty)$ $(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2$
framing $T_w = \prod_i (\mathbb{C}^*)^{w_i}$

$\bigoplus_v K_{\text{eqv}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w)), \bigoplus_v H_{\text{eqv}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ are representations of

quantum loop algebra / Yangian associated with \mathfrak{g}

$U_q(L\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $L\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z, z^{-1}]$ $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $C\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z]$

Categories of representations of $U_q(L\mathfrak{g}) / Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$ are much more complicated than category of representations of \mathfrak{g} .
finite dimensional

not semisimple

not commutative (monoidal)

§2. Quiver varieties and representation theory

[N '94] topology of $\mathcal{M} \leadsto$ representations of \mathfrak{g}

$\bigoplus_v H_{\text{middle}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ is an irreducible finite dimensional representation of \mathfrak{g} with highest weight $= w$

[N, Varagnolo '98] $\mathbb{C}^* \times T_w \curvearrowright \mathcal{M}$ action on base $(x, y) \mapsto (tx, ty)$ $(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2$
framing $T_w = \prod_i (\mathbb{C}^*)^{w_i}$

$\bigoplus_v K_{\text{eqv}}(\mathcal{M}(v, w)), \bigoplus_v H_{\text{eqv}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v, w))$ are representations of

quantum loop algebra / Yangian associated with \mathfrak{g}

$U_q(L\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $L\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z, z^{-1}]$

$Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$: deformation of $C\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[z]$

Categories of representations of $U_q(L\mathfrak{g}) / Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$ are much more complicated than category of representations of \mathfrak{g} . hereafter
finite dimensional

not semisimple

not commutative (monoidal)

M, N : representations of $\mathfrak{g} \Rightarrow M \otimes N \cong N \otimes M$ as representations of \mathfrak{g}
 $m \otimes n \mapsto n \otimes m$

It is no longer true for $\forall \mathfrak{h}(\mathfrak{g})$.

What is true?

$\exists \{M(u)\}_{u \in \mathbb{C}}$: 1-parameter family of representations
 (spectral parameter) (corresponding to $\mathfrak{g}[z] \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}[z]$)
 $z \mapsto z + u$

$M(u) \otimes N \cong N \otimes M(u)$ for generic u

M, N : representations of $\mathfrak{g} \Rightarrow M \otimes N \cong N \otimes M$ as representations of \mathfrak{g}
 $m \otimes n \mapsto n \otimes m$

It is no longer true for $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$.

What is true?

$\exists \{M(u)\}_{u \in \mathbb{C}}$: 1-parameter family of representations
 (spectral parameter) (corresponding to $\mathfrak{g}[z] \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}[z]$)
 $z \mapsto z + u$

$M(u) \otimes N \xrightarrow{R(u)} N \otimes M(u)$ for generic u

$R(u)$

given by R -matrix, which is a rational function in u .

§3. Maulik-Okounkov stable envelope

Fix a decomposition $w = w^1 + w^2$ ($w_i = w_i^1 + w_i^2$)

$$\mathbb{C}^* \ni (1, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}(v, w)^{\mathbb{C}^*} \cong \bigsqcup_{v = v^1 + v^2} \mathcal{M}(v^1, w^1) \times \mathcal{M}(v^2, w^2)$$

$$\therefore H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v, w)) \xrightarrow{\text{restriction}} \bigoplus_{v^1 + v^2 = v} H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v^1, w^1)) \otimes H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v^2, w^2))$$

§3. Maulik-Okounkov stable envelope

Fix a decomposition $W = W^1 + W^2$ ($W_i = W_i^1 + W_i^2$)

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \ni (1, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}(v, w)^{\mathbb{Q}^*} \cong \bigsqcup_{v=v^1+v^2} \mathcal{M}(v^1, w^1) \times \mathcal{M}(v^2, w^2)$$

$$\therefore H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v, w)) \xrightarrow{\text{restriction}} \bigoplus_{v^1+v^2=v} H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v^1, w^1)) \otimes H_{\text{eff}}^*(\mathcal{M}(v^2, w^2))$$

↖ Stab

characterized uniquely by certain upper triangular properties.

- depending on order (w^1, w^2)
- choice of sign \pm of $\sqrt{\quad}$ of a certain bundle (polarization)
- isomorphism $\otimes \text{Frac } H_{\text{eff}}^*(\text{pt})$

$$(Stab^-)^{-1} \circ Stab^+ \quad \left(+ : w^1, w^2, - : w^2, w^1 \right)$$

gives the R-matrix of $Y_h(g)$

§3. Maulik-Okounkov stable envelope

Fix a decomposition $W = W^1 + W^2$ ($W_i = W_i^1 + W_i^2$)

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \ni (1, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow M(v, w)^{\mathbb{Q}^*} \cong \bigsqcup_{v=v^1+v^2} M(v^1, w^1) \times M(v^2, w^2)$$

$$\therefore H_{\text{eqv}}^*(M(v, w)) \xrightarrow{\text{restriction}} \bigoplus_{v^1+v^2=v} H_{\text{eqv}}^*(M(v^1, w^1)) \otimes H_{\text{eqv}}^*(M(v^2, w^2))$$

↖ Stab

characterized uniquely by certain upper triangular properties.

- depending on order (w^1, w^2)
- choice of sign \pm of $\sqrt{\quad}$ of a certain bundle (polarization)
- isomorphism $\otimes \text{Frac } H_{\text{eqv}}^*(\text{pt})$

$$(Stab^-)^{-1} \circ Stab^+ \quad \left(+ : w^1, w^2, - : w^2, w^1 \right)$$

gives the R-matrix of $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$

In fact, one can reconstruct $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$ from R-matrix. Thus stable envelope gives a different proof of [Umagnolo '98].

§4. Involution on quiver varieties and quantum symmetric pairs (after Y. Li)

Fact. quiver variety

$\mathcal{M} \equiv \mathcal{M}(v, w)$: framed moduli space of Γ -equivariant torsion free sheaves E over $\mathbb{P}^2 = \mathbb{C}^2 \cup \mathbb{L}_\infty$
with $w_0 = 0 = v_0$ is a framed moduli space of **vector bundles** over $\widehat{\mathbb{P}^2/\Gamma} = \widehat{\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma} \cup \mathbb{L}_\infty/\Gamma$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}(v, w) \xrightarrow{*} \mathcal{M}(v^*, w^*)$ given by $E \mapsto E^*$ dual vector bundle

§4. Involution on quiver varieties and quantum symmetric pairs (after Y. Li)

Fact. quiver variety

$\mathcal{M} \equiv \mathcal{M}(v, w)$: framed moduli space of Γ -equivariant torsion free sheaves E over $\mathbb{P}^2 = \mathbb{C}^2 \cup \mathbb{L}_\infty$
with $w_0 = 0 = v_0$ is a framed moduli space of **vector bundles** over $\widetilde{\mathbb{P}^2/\Gamma} = \widetilde{\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma} \cup \mathbb{L}_\infty/\Gamma$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}(v, w) \xrightarrow{*} \mathcal{M}(v^*, w^*)$ given by $E \mapsto E^*$ dual vector bundle

Choose $\circ V = V^*$ (\Leftrightarrow 1st Chern class $c_1(E) = 0$)

$\circ W = W^*$

a bit more precisely : choose $\bigoplus p_i^{\otimes w_i} \cong \left(\bigoplus p_i^{\otimes w_i} \right)^*$
symplectic or orthogonal form

We get an involution $\sigma \curvearrowright \mathcal{M}(v, w)$

such that the fixed point locus $\mathcal{M}(v, w)^\sigma$ is
a framed moduli space of Symplectic or Orthogonal bundles over $\widetilde{\mathbb{P}^2/\Gamma}$.

Remark. Li considers more general involutions $\sigma = (\text{diagram}) \circ \text{dual}$
auto

e.g. $\mathcal{M}(v, w)^\sigma = \text{cotangent bundle of flags } \mathbb{C}^N > V_1 > V_2 > \dots > V_2^\perp > V_1^\perp > \dots$

stable envelope

$\mathbb{Q}^* \rightarrow M(V, W)^\sigma$ must be compatible with symplectic/orthogonal form.

$\leadsto W = W^0 + W^1 + W^{-1}$ instead of $W = W^1 + W^2$ before

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \ni (1, t, t^{-1})$$

self dual \mathbb{Q} \curvearrowright dual

stable envelope

$\mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow M(v, w)^\sigma$ must be compatible with symplectic/orthogonal form.

$\leadsto W = W^0 + W^1 + W^{-1}$ instead of $W = W^1 + W^2$ before

$$\mathbb{C}^* \ni (1, t, t^{-1})$$

self dual \curvearrowright \curvearrowright dual

Observation $(M(v, w)^\sigma)^{\mathbb{C}^*} \cong \coprod M(v^0, w^0)^\sigma \times \underbrace{M(v^1, w^1)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{usual quiver variety}}}$

$$H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(v, w)^\sigma) \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Stab}^\pm} \bigoplus H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(v^0, w^0)^\sigma) \otimes H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(v^1, w^1))$$

$\bigcup (\text{Stab}^-)^{-1} \circ \text{Stab}^+$
K-matrix

stable envelope

$\mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow M(V, W)^\sigma$ must be compatible with symplectic/orthogonal form.

$\leadsto W = W^0 + W^1 + W^{-1}$ instead of $W = W^1 + W^2$ before

$$\mathbb{C}^* \ni (1, t, t^{-1})$$

self dual \curvearrowright dual \curvearrowright

Observation $(M(V, W)^\sigma)^{\mathbb{C}^*} \cong \coprod M(V^0, W^0)^\sigma \times \underbrace{M(V^1, W^1)}_{\uparrow}$

usual quiver variety

$$H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(V, W)^\sigma) \xrightleftharpoons{\text{Stab}^\pm} \bigoplus H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(V^0, W^0)^\sigma) \otimes H_{\text{eqn}}^*(M(V^1, W^1))$$

$\bigcup (\text{Stab}^-)^{-1} \circ \text{Stab}^+$
K-matrix

Rep. of twisted Yangian \longleftarrow Rep. of twisted Yangian \otimes Rep. of $Y_h(\mathfrak{g})$

\uparrow module category of the monoidal category \uparrow

§5. Quantum symmetric pairs (very brief)

\mathfrak{g} : semisimple Lie algebra / \mathbb{C}

σ : involution

$(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^\sigma)$: symmetric pair

$(\mathfrak{sl}_n, \mathfrak{so}_n)$	$(\mathfrak{sl}_{2n}, \mathfrak{sp}_{2n})$
$(\mathfrak{sl}_n, \Delta(\mathfrak{gl}_p \oplus \mathfrak{gl}_q))$	$n = p + q$

$\mathfrak{g}[z] \ni \sigma \otimes (-1) ; X(z) \mapsto \sigma(X(-z))$ involution

§5. Quantum symmetric pairs (very brief)

\mathfrak{g} : semisimple Lie algebra / \mathbb{C}

σ : involution

$(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^\sigma)$: symmetric pair $(\mathfrak{sl}_n, \mathfrak{so}_n), (\mathfrak{sl}_{2n}, \mathfrak{mp}_{2n})$
 $(\mathfrak{sl}_n, \Delta(\mathfrak{gl}_p \oplus \mathfrak{gl}_q)) \quad n = p + q$

$\mathfrak{g}[z] \hookrightarrow \sigma \otimes (-1) ; X(z) \mapsto \sigma(X(-z))$ involution

twisted Yangian $Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma) =$ quantization of $\mathfrak{g}[z]^{\sigma \otimes (-1)}$

different from Yangian of \mathfrak{g}^σ .

$$Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma) \subset Y_{\hbar}(\mathfrak{g}) \quad \Delta Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma) \subset Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma) \otimes Y_{\hbar}(\mathfrak{g})$$

coideal subalgebra

$$\underline{\text{Rep } Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma)} \otimes \text{Rep } Y_{\hbar}(\mathfrak{g}) \longrightarrow \text{Rep } Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^\sigma)$$

\ module category

$\bigoplus_v \mathbb{P}_h(Li'1q) \oplus H_{\text{eff}}^*(M(v,w)^{\mathbb{G}})$ is a representation of $Y_h^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\mathbb{G}})$
constructed by K-matrix.

$\bigoplus_v \mathbb{P}_h(Li'19) \oplus H_{\text{eff}}^*(M(v, w)^{\sigma})$ is a representation of $Y_h^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\sigma})$
constructed by K-matrix.

Remark [N.'26]: compute K-matrix explicitly in examples
 $\Rightarrow Y_h^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\sigma}) = \text{twisted Yangian in the literature}$
Olshauski, Molev, Ragoucy

[N.'26] also pointed out an obstruction on polarization \pm .
(well-definedness of K-matrix)

$\bigoplus_v \mathbb{P}^1(L_i'19) \oplus H_{\text{eff}}^*(M(v,w)^{\mathfrak{g}})$ is a representation of $Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\mathfrak{g}})$
constructed by K-matrix.

Remark [N.'26]: compute K-matrix explicitly in examples
 $\Rightarrow Y_{\hbar}^{\text{tw}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\mathfrak{g}})$ = twisted Yangian in the literature
 Olshauski, Molev, Ragoucy

[N.'26] also pointed out an obstruction on polarization \pm .
 (well-definedness of K-matrix)

more important remark:

This construction works only $\mathfrak{g} = (\text{diagram auto}) \circ (\text{Chevalley inv})$
quasi-split type

e.g. $(\mathfrak{sl}_{2n}, \mathfrak{sp}_{2n})$ is excluded.

\longrightarrow Need to consider *singular* varieties

Singular moduli already treated

in Braverman-Finkelberg-N

"Instanton moduli spaces and W-algebras"

Possible Application ?

Known : Classification of finite dimensional irreducible representations

Conj. (1) character formula in terms of intersection cohomology
(2) computation of intersection cohomology
by "canonical base".

Possible Application ?

Known : Classification of finite dimensional irreducible representations

Conj. (1) character formula in terms of intersection cohomology
(2) computation of intersection cohomology
by "canonical base".

Thank you very much !