Attractor flow trees and scattering diagrams

Boris Pioline



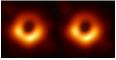
"Machine Learning, Number Theory and Quantum Black Holes" Newton Institute, Cambridge, 4/10/2023

Based on 'BPS Dendroscopy on Local \mathbb{P}^2 ' [2210.10712] with Pierrick Bousseau, Pierre Descombes and Bruno Le Floch

- In type IIA string theory compactified on a Calabi-Yau threefold X, the BPS spectrum consists of bound states of D6-D4-D2-D0 branes, with charge γ ∈ H_{even}(X, Q).
- BPS states saturate the bound M(γ) ≥ |Z(γ)|, where the central charge Z ∈ Hom(Γ, C) depends on the complexified Kähler moduli.
- The index Ω_z(γ) counting BPS states is robust under complex structure deformations, but in general depends on z ∈ M_K.
- Mathematically, the Donaldson-Thomas invariant $\Omega_z(\gamma)$ counts stable objects with ch $E = \gamma$ in the derived category of coherent sheaves $C = D^b \operatorname{Coh}(X)$.

Introduction

- Ω_Z(γ) is locally constant on M_K, but can jump across real codimension one walls of marginal stability W(γ_L, γ_R) ⊂ M_K, where the phases of the central charges Z(γ_L) and Z(γ_R) with γ = m_Lγ_L + m_Rγ_R become aligned [Kontsevich Soibelman'08, Joyce Song'08]
- Physically, multi-centered black hole solutions with constituent charges $\gamma_i = m_{L,i}\gamma_L + m_{R,i}\gamma_R$ (dis)appear across the wall.



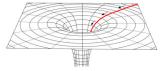
 $\frac{\langle \gamma_L, \gamma_R \rangle}{r} = \frac{2 \operatorname{Im}[\bar{Z}(\gamma_L) Z(\gamma_R)]}{|Z(\gamma_L + \gamma_R)|}, \quad \Delta \Omega(\gamma) = \pm |\langle \gamma_L, \gamma_R \rangle| \, \Omega(\gamma_L) \Omega(\gamma_R)$

Denef'02, Denef Moore '07, ..., Manschot BP Sen '11

Introduction

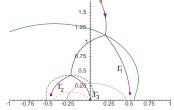
• These multi-centered bound states are expected to decay away as one follows the attractor flow equations [Ferrara Kallosh Strominger'95]

$$\mathsf{AF}_{\gamma}: \quad r^2 \frac{\mathrm{d}z^a}{\mathrm{d}r} = -g^{a\bar{b}} \partial_{\bar{b}} |Z_z(\gamma)|^2$$



- $|Z_z(\gamma)|$ decreases along the flow until it reaches a local minimum at the attractor point $z_*(\gamma)$, independent of moduli at infinity. We define the attractor invariant as $\Omega_*(\gamma) = \Omega_{z_*(\gamma)}(\gamma)$.
- *z*_{*}(γ) may be a regular attractor point, corresponding to a spherically symmetric black hole, or a conifold point where *Z*_{*z**}(γ)(γ) = 0. For non-compact CY3, only the second option is allowed.

 Starting from z ∈ M_K, following AF_γ and recursively applying the WCF formula at whenever the flow crosses a wall of marginal stability, one can in principle express Ω_z(γ) in terms of attractor invariants.



Denef Moore'07

The Split Attractor Flow Conjecture (SFAC)

In terms of the rational DT invariants

$$ar{\Omega}_{Z}(\gamma) := \sum_{k|\gamma} rac{1}{k^2} \Omega_{Z}(\gamma/k)$$

the result takes the form

$$\bar{\Omega}_{z}(\gamma) = \sum_{\gamma = \sum \gamma_{i}} \frac{g_{z}(\{\gamma_{i}\})}{\operatorname{Aut}(\{\gamma_{i}\})} \prod_{i} \bar{\Omega}_{\star}(\gamma_{i})$$

where $g_z(\{\gamma_i\})$ is a sum over attractor flow trees.

• The Split Attractor Flow Conjecture [Denef 00, Denef Moore 07] is the statement that only a finite number of decompositions $\gamma = \sum \gamma_i$ contribute to the index $\overline{\Omega}_z(\gamma)$.

• Unfortunately it is not known a priori which constituents γ_i can contribute, except for the obvious constraints

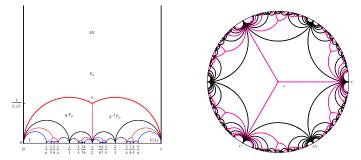
$$\sum_{i} \gamma_i = \gamma \;, \quad \sum_{i} |Z_{\mathsf{Z}_{\star}(\gamma_i)}(\gamma_i)| < |Z_{\mathsf{Z}}(\gamma)|$$

- In particular, there can be cancellations between D-branes and anti-D-branes, and contributions from conifold states which are massless at their attractor point are difficult to bound.
- Even if SAFC holds, one still has to compute the attractor indices $\Omega_{\star}(\gamma)$, a tall order for regular attractor points.
- Our aim is to investigate the SAFC for one of the simplest examples of CY threefolds, X = K_{P²} = C³/ℤ₃, revisiting the analysis of [Douglas Fiol Romelsberger'00].

- We show that the only possible constituents are the D4-brane O_{P²}, the anti-D4-brane O_{P²}[1], and their images thereof under Γ₁(3), each carrying attractor index Ω_{*}(γ) = 1.
- In the vicinity of the orbifold point, the only populated states are bound states of the fractional branes *O*[-1], Ω(1), *O*(-1)[1].
- Instead, the full BPS spectrum at large volume arises as bound states of fluxed D4 and anti-D4-branes $\mathcal{O}(m)$, $\mathcal{O}(m)$ [1], with effective bounds on the number and flux of the constituents.
- A key role is played by scattering diagrams, which provide the correct mathematical framework for the SAFC, at least for local CY threefolds.

Kähler moduli space

The Kähler moduli space of X = K_{P²} is the modular curve X₁(3) = ℍ/Γ₁(3). It admits two cusps LV, C and one orbifold point o of order 3.



A BPS state on X is a stable object E in the bounded derived category C of compactly supported sheaves on X, with charge γ(E) = [r, d, ch₂] ~ [D4, D2, D0]

Central charge as Eichler integral

• The central charge $Z_{\tau}(\gamma)$ is a linear combination

 $Z_{\tau}(\gamma) = -rT_D(\tau) + dT(\tau) - \mathbf{1} \cdot ch_2$

where T_D , T are multi-valued holomorphic functions on \mathcal{M}_K , single valued on the universal cover \mathbb{H} , satisfying a third order Picard-Fuchs equation.

• While *T*, *T*_D can be expressed in terms of Meijer G-functions, it is more efficient to represent them as Eichler-type integrals,

$$\begin{pmatrix} T \\ T_D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix} + \int_{\tau_o}^{\tau} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \rho \end{pmatrix} C(\rho) \, \mathrm{d}\rho$$

where $C(\tau) = \frac{\eta(\tau)^9}{\eta(3\tau)^3} = 1 - 9q + 27q^2 + \dots$ is a weight 3 Eisenstein series for $\Gamma_1(3)$.

 This provides an computationally efficient analytic continuation of Z_τ throughout III, and gives access to monodromies:

$$au \mapsto rac{a au+b}{c au+d} = egin{pmatrix} 1 \ T \ T_D \end{pmatrix} \mapsto egin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \ m & d & c \ m_D & b & a \end{pmatrix} \cdot egin{pmatrix} 1 \ T \ T_D \end{pmatrix}$$

where (m, m_D) are period integrals of *C* from τ_o to $\frac{d\tau_o - b}{a - c\tau_o}$. • At large volume $\tau \to i\infty$, using C = 1 + O(q) one finds

$$T = au + \mathcal{O}(q), \quad T_D = rac{1}{2} au^2 + rac{1}{8} + \mathcal{O}(q)$$

in agreement with $Z_{\tau}(\gamma) \sim -\int_{\mathcal{S}} e^{-\tau H} \sqrt{\mathrm{Td}(\mathcal{S})} \operatorname{ch}(\mathcal{E}).$

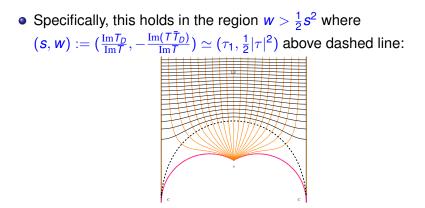
Space of Bridgeland stability conditions

- Donaldson-Thomas invariants are defined in the larger space of Bridgeland stability conditions Stab C = {σ = (Z, A)}, where Z : Γ → C is a linear map and A ⊂ C an Abelian sub category locally determined by Z. In particular, dim_C Stab C = dim Γ = 3.
 G = GL(2, R)⁺ acts on Stab C by (^{ReZ}_{ImZ}) → (^α β / (^{ReZ}_{ImZ}), leaving
 - $G = GL(2, \mathbb{R})^+$ acts on Stab *C* by $\binom{ImZ}{ImZ} \mapsto \binom{\gamma}{\gamma} \binom{\delta}{ImZ}$, leaving $\Omega_{\sigma}(\gamma)$ invariant. Using $\mathbb{C}^{\times} \subset G$, one can always set Z([D0]) = -1.
- The physical moduli space is a particular one-dimensional slice (Z_{τ}, A_{τ}) inside Stab C, known as Π -stability. Another natural slice is the large volume slice with central charge

$$Z^{LV}_
ho(\gamma)=-rrac{
ho^2}{2}+d
ho-{
m ch_2}\ ,\quad
ho=s+{
m i}t$$

• For $Im\tau$ large enough, the physical and large volume slices are related by the action of *G*.

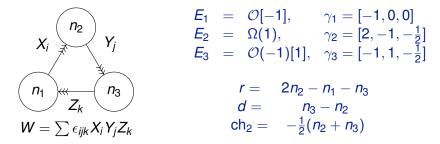
Space of Bridgeland stability conditions



• The large volume slice does not cover the region around the orbifold point, and covers only part of the conifold point.

BPS Spectrum around the orbifold point

 The category D^b Coh_c(K_{P²}) is isomorphic to the category of representations of a quiver with potential (Q, W), whose nodes correspond to fractional branes on C³/Z₃ [Douglas Fiol Romelsberger'00]



The quiver description is valid in a region where the central charges Z(E_i) lie in a common half-plane. This includes the vicinity of the orbifold point, where Z_{τo}(γ_i) = 1/3 for i = 1,2,3.

- In that region, Ω_τ(γ) coincides with the quiver index Ω_θ(γ) counting θ-semi-stable representations of dimension vector γ, for suitable FI parameters θ(τ) ∈ ℝ^{Q₀}.
- Recall that a representation of dimension vector γ is θ -semi-stable iff $(\theta, \gamma') \leq (\theta, \gamma)$ for any subrepresentation. Specifically,

 $\theta_i = -\operatorname{Re}(\boldsymbol{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\psi}Z(\gamma_i)) \quad \text{with} \quad \operatorname{Im}(\boldsymbol{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\psi}Z(\gamma_i)) > 0 \ \forall i$

• In the quiver context, the attractor point (aka self-stability condition) is $\theta_{\star}(\gamma)$ such that [Manschot BP Sen'13; Bridgeland'16]

$$\forall \gamma', \quad (\theta_{\star}(\gamma), \gamma') = \langle \gamma', \gamma \rangle := \sum_{a: i \to j} (n'_i n_j - n'_j n_i)$$

and the (quiver) attractor invariant is defined as $\Omega_{\star}(\gamma) := \Omega_{\theta_{\star}(\gamma)}(\gamma)$

• In [Alexandrov BP'18], we conjectured a precise version of SAFC which expresses $\bar{\Omega}_{\theta}(\gamma)$ in terms of the attractor invariants:

$$\bar{\Omega}_{\theta}(\gamma) = \sum_{\gamma = \sum \gamma_i} \frac{g_{\theta}(\{\gamma_i\})}{\operatorname{Aut}(\{\gamma_i\})} \prod_i \bar{\Omega}_{\star}(\gamma_i)$$

The coefficients $g_{\theta}(\{\gamma_i\})$ involve a sum over rooted binary trees, whose edges are embedded in FI-space along straight lines $\theta_0 + \lambda \theta_{\star}(\gamma_e)$, which are the analogue of attractor flows.

- The sum is manifestly finite, since γ_i lie in the positive cone \mathbb{N}^{Q_0} .
- The formula was proven mathematically in [Argüz Bousseau'21] using the formalism of scattering diagrams. See also Mozgovoy's proof using operads.

Scattering diagrams in a nutshell

 For any quiver with potential (Q, W), the scattering diagram D_Q is the set of real codimension-one rays {R(γ), γ ∈ Z^{Q₀}} defined by

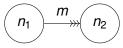
$$\mathcal{R}(\gamma) = \{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{Q}_0} : (\theta, \gamma) = \mathbf{0}, \ \bar{\Omega}_{\theta}(\gamma) \neq \mathbf{0} \}$$

Each point along R(γ) is endowed with an automorphism of the quantum torus algebra generated by X_γX_{γ'} = (−y)^{⟨γ,γ'⟩}X_{γ+γ'},

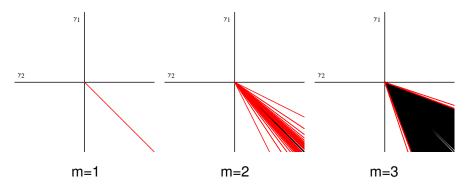
$$\mathcal{U}_{\theta}(\gamma) = \exp\left(\frac{\bar{\Omega}_{\theta}(\gamma)}{y^{-1} - y} \mathcal{X}_{\gamma}\right) = \mathsf{Exp}\left(\frac{\Omega_{\theta}(\gamma)}{y^{-1} - y} \mathcal{X}_{\gamma}\right)$$

The WCF ensures that the diagram is consistent: for any generic closed path *P* : t ∈ [0, 1] ∈ ℝ^{Q₀}, ∏_i U_{θ(ti})(γi)^{ϵi} = 1 [Bridgeland'16]

Scattering diagram for Kronecker quiver



 $\theta_1 > 0, \theta_2 < 0: \quad \dim \mathcal{M}_{\theta}(\gamma) = mn_1n_2 - n_1^2 - n_2^2 + 1$



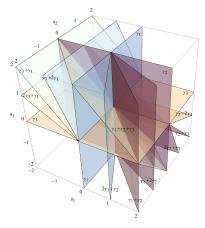
• At each intersection, outgoing rays (and corresponding DT invariants) are determined from incoming rays by the consistency condition. E.g. for $K_1 = A_2$, this is the famous five-term relation



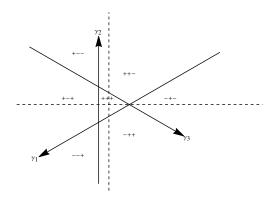
- A consistent scattering diagram is uniquely determined from the initial rays R_{*}(γ), defined as those which contain θ_{*}(γ).
- The Flow Tree Formula of [Alexandrov BP'18] determines the indices of outgoing rays produced by scattering initial rays [Argüz Bousseau '20] (see also the operadic approach of [Mozgovoy'19])

Attractor invariants for $K_{\mathbb{P}^2}$

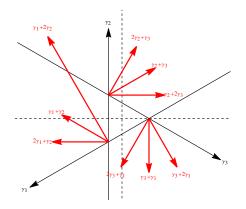
In [Beaujard BP Manschot'20], we conjectured that the attractor indices Ω_{*}(γ) vanish except for γ = γ_i or γ = k(γ₁ + γ₂ + γ₃) = k[D0]. This is now a theorem [Bousseau Descombes Le Floch BP'22].



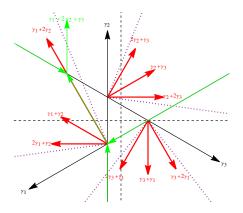
Let \mathcal{D}_o be the restriction of \mathcal{D}_Q to the hyperplane $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = 1$:



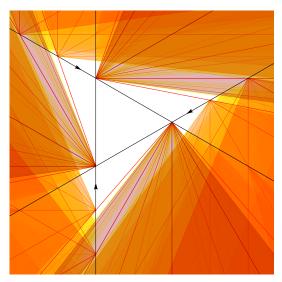
Let \mathcal{D}_o be the restriction of \mathcal{D}_Q to the hyperplane $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = 1$:



Let \mathcal{D}_o be the restriction of \mathcal{D}_Q to the hyperplane $\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = 1$:



The full scattering diagram \mathcal{D}_Q includes regions with dense set of rays:



B. Pioline (LPTHE, Paris)

Scattering diagrams on triangulated categories

 For a general triangulated category C, define the scattering diagram D_ψ(C) as the set of codimension-one loci in Stab C,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\psi}(\gamma) = \{ \sigma : \arg Z(\gamma) = \psi + \frac{\pi}{2}, \ \overline{\Omega}_{Z}(\gamma) \neq \mathbf{0} \}$$

equipped with (a suitable regularization of) the automorphism

$$\mathcal{U}_{\sigma}(\gamma) = \exp\left(rac{ar{\Omega}_{\sigma}(\gamma)}{y^{-1}-y}\mathcal{X}_{\gamma}
ight) = \mathsf{Exp}\left(rac{\Omega_{\sigma}(\gamma)}{y^{-1}-y}\mathcal{X}_{\gamma}
ight)$$

 The WCF ensures that the diagram D_ψ is still locally consistent at each codimension-two intersection.

Flow trees from scattering diagrams

• To see the relation to SAFC, note that for any local CY threefold, the central charge $Z_z(\gamma)$ is holomorphic in z^a , hence its phase is constant along the flow $\frac{dz^a}{du} = -g^{a\bar{b}}\partial_{\bar{b}}|Z_z(\gamma)|^2$:

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu}\log\frac{Z(\gamma)}{\bar{Z}(\gamma)} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_a Z(\gamma)g^{a\bar{b}}\partial_{\bar{b}}\bar{Z}(\gamma) + \frac{1}{2}\partial_a Z(\gamma)g^{a\bar{b}}\partial_{\bar{b}}\bar{Z}(\gamma) = 0$$

thus the attractor flow takes place along the ray $\mathcal{R}_{\psi}(\gamma)$, and can only split when $\mathcal{R}(\gamma_L)$ and $\mathcal{R}(\gamma_R)$ intersect.

- Moreover, by holomorphy |Z_z(γ)|² has no local minima so the only attractor points are conifold points with Z_z(γ_i) = 0.
- In complex dimension one, attractor flow lines \simeq scattering rays ! Attractor flow trees are subsets of \mathcal{D}_{ψ} which produce an outgoing ray $\mathcal{R}_{\psi}(\gamma)$ passing through the desired point *z*.

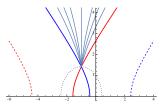
Large volume scattering diagram

• The scattering diagram $\mathcal{D}^{\mathrm{LV}}_{\psi}$ along the large volume slice

$$Z^{LV}_
ho(\gamma)=-rac{1}{2}r
ho^2+d
ho-{
m ch}_2\ , \quad
ho=s+{
m i}t$$

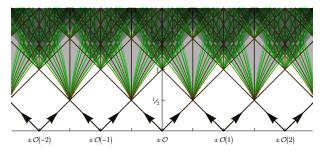
was determined for $\psi = 0$ in [Bousseau'19]. Other values of ψ are reached by mapping $(s, t) \mapsto (s - t \tan \psi, t / \cos \psi)$.

 Each ray R₀(γ) is a branch of hyperbola asymptoting to
 t = ±(s - d/r) for r ≠ 0, or a vertical line when r = 0. Walls of
 marginal stability W(γ, γ') are half-circles centered on real axis.



Large volume scattering diagram

• Initial rays correspond to $\mathcal{O}(m)$ and $\mathcal{O}(m)[1]$, with charge $\gamma_m = \pm [1, m, \frac{1}{2}m^2]$, emanating from (s, t) = (m, 0) on the boundary where $Z_{\rho}^{LV}(\gamma_m) = 0$ [Bousseau'19]



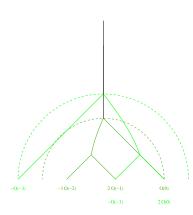
 Physically, the BPS spectrum along the large volume slice originates from bound states of fluxed D4-branes and anti-D4 branes.

- Rays stay inside the 'forward light-cone', and $\varphi_s(\gamma) = 2(d sr) = 2\text{Im}Z_{\gamma}/t$ increases along the ray.
- The first scatterings occur after a time $t \ge \frac{1}{2}$, after each constituent $k_i \mathcal{O}(m_i)$ has moved by $|\Delta s| \ge \frac{1}{2}$, by which time $\varphi_s(\gamma_i) \ge |k_i|$.
- Since φ_s(γ) is additive at each vertex, this gives a bound on the number and charges of constituents contributing to Ω_(s,t)(γ):

$$\sum_{i} k_{i}[1, m_{i}, \frac{1}{2}m_{i}^{2}] = \gamma , \quad s - t \leq m_{i} \leq s + t, \quad \sum |k_{i}| \leq \varphi_{s}(\gamma)$$

• Thus, SAFC holds along the large volume slice !

Example: Flow trees for $\gamma = [0, 4, 1)$

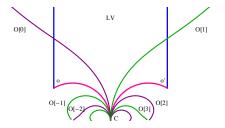


- {{-3O(-2), 2O(-1)}, O}: 3 $O(-2) \rightarrow 2O(-1) \oplus O \rightarrow E$ $\Omega_1 = K_3(2,3)K_{12}(1,1) \rightarrow$ -156
- { $-\mathcal{O}(-3)$, { $-\mathcal{O}(-1)$, 2 \mathcal{O} }}: $\mathcal{O}(-3) \oplus \mathcal{O}(-1) \rightarrow 2\mathcal{O} \rightarrow E$ $\Omega_2 = K_3(1,2)K_{12}(1,1) \rightarrow -36$

Total:
$$\Omega_{\infty}(\gamma) = -192 = GV_4^{(0)}$$

Exact scattering diagram

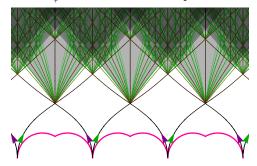
- The scattering diagram D^Π_ψ along the physical slice should interpolate between D^{LV}_ψ and D_o, and be invariant under Γ₁(3).
- Under $\tau \mapsto \frac{\tau}{3n\tau+1}$ with $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\mathcal{O} \mapsto \mathcal{O}[n]$. Hence there is a doubly infinite family of initial rays emitted at $\tau = 0$, associated to $\mathcal{O}[n]$:



• Similarly, there must be an infinite family of rays emitted from $\tau = \frac{p}{q}$ with $q \neq 0 \mod 3$, corresponding to $\Gamma_1(3)$ -images of \mathcal{O} .

Exact scattering diagram for small ψ

• For $|\psi|$ small enough, the only rays which reach the large volume region are those associated to $\mathcal{O}(m)$ and $\mathcal{O}(m)[1]$. Thus, the scattering diagram \mathcal{D}_{ψ}^{Π} is isomorphic to \mathcal{D}_{0}^{LV} inside $\cup_{n} \mathcal{F}(n)$:



Scattering diagram in affine coordinates

• To see this, one can map both of them to the (*x*, *y*)-plane

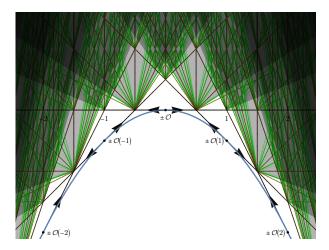
$$x = \frac{\operatorname{Re}\left(e^{-\mathrm{i}\psi}T\right)}{\cos\psi}, \quad y = -\frac{\operatorname{Re}\left(e^{-\mathrm{i}\psi}T_{D}\right)}{\cos\psi}$$

such that $\mathcal{R}_{\psi}(\gamma)$ becomes a line segment $\mathbf{rx} + \mathbf{dy} - \mathbf{ch}_2 = \mathbf{0}$.

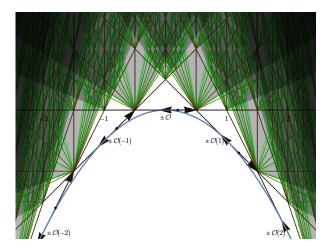
• The initial rays $\mathcal{R}_{\psi}(\mathcal{O}(m))$ are tangent to the parabola $y = -\frac{1}{2}x^2$ at x = m, but the origin of each ray is shifted to $x = m + \mathcal{V} \tan \psi$ where \mathcal{V} is the quantum volume

$$\mathcal{V} = \operatorname{Im} T(0) = \frac{27}{4\pi^2} \operatorname{Im} \left[\operatorname{Li}_2(e^{2\pi i/3}) \right] \simeq 0.463$$

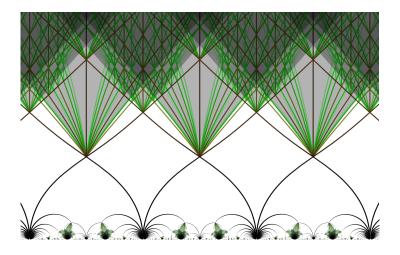
Affine scattering diagram, $\psi = 0$

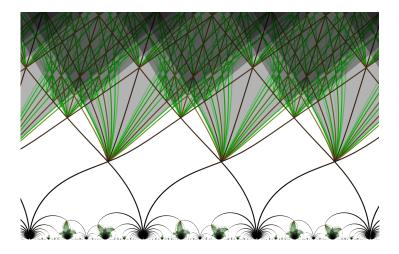


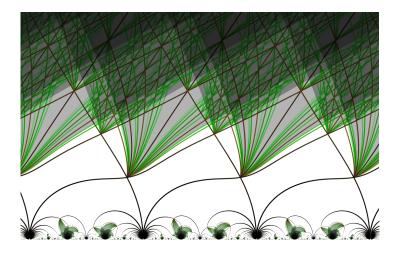
Affine scattering diagram, $|\mathcal{V} \tan \psi| < 1/2$

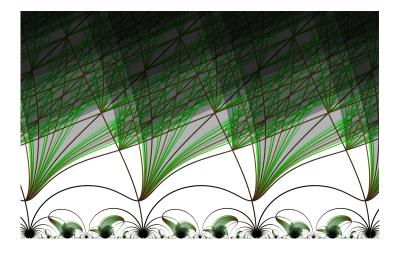


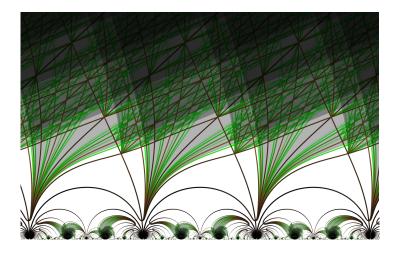
Exact scattering diagram, $\psi = 0$

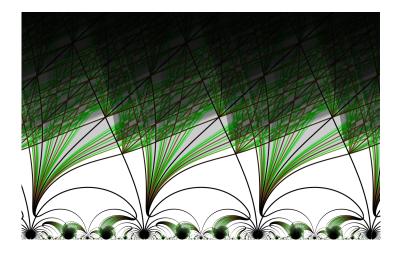


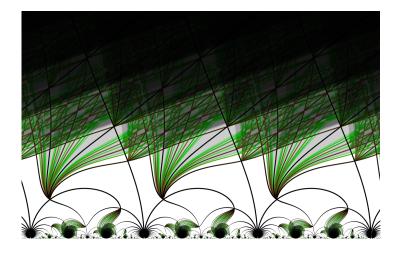


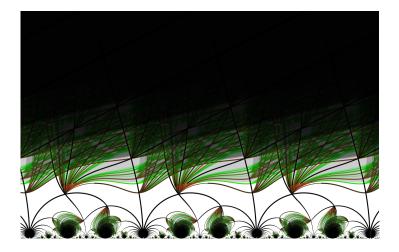


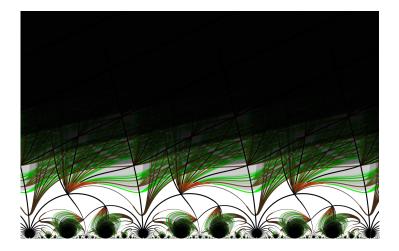


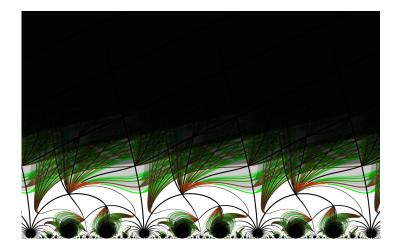


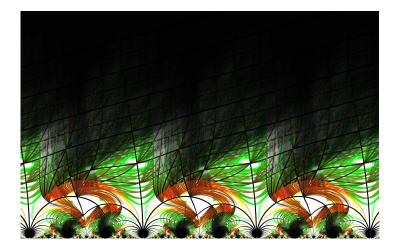


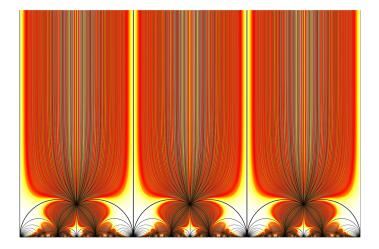






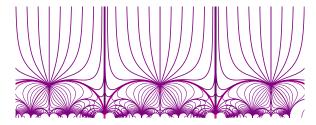






Exact scattering diagram for $\psi = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$

For ψ = ±^π/₂, the geometric rays {ImZ_τ(γ) = 0} coincide with lines of constant s = ImT_D/ImT = d/r, independent of ch₂:

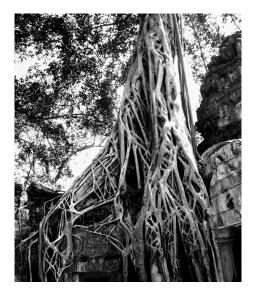


• Hence, there is no wall-crossing between τ_o and $\tau = i\infty$ when $-1 \leq \frac{d}{r} \leq 0$, explaining why the Gieseker index $\Omega_{\infty}(\gamma)$ agrees with the quiver index $\Omega_c(\gamma)$ in the anti-attractor chamber.

Douglas Fiol Romelsberger'00, Beaujard BP Manschot'20

- Scattering diagrams are the appropriate mathematical framework for attractor flow trees in the case of local CY3. This is because Z(γ) is holomorphic on M_K, so the gradient flow preserves the phase of Z(γ).
- This provides an effective way of computing BPS invariants in any chamber, and a natural decomposition into elementary constituents. Does it help e.g. in understanding modularity ?
- It will be interesting to extend this description to other toric CY3, such as local del Pezzo surfaces. [Le Floch BP Schimannek, in progress]
- For compact CY3, $Z(\gamma) = e^{K/2}Z_{hol}(\gamma)$ is not longer holomorphic, so arg $Z(\gamma)$ is not constant along the flow. Can one still use scattering diagrams to construct the BPS spectrum ?

Thanks for your attention !



B. Pioline (LPTHE, Paris)