Introduction to Resurgence & & Complex saddle point analysis

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Purpose of This talk

To emphasize importance of complex saddle point analysis

- in which we mind
- Saddle points which are not on original (path) integral contour
- Global steepest descents (Lefschetz thimbles)

I will mainly explain applications to resurgence.

Contents (most=review)

- 1. Expectations on weak coupling perturbative series in QFT
- 2. What is resurgence?
- 3. Application to a 3d SUSY CS theory

[The simplest example in Fujimori-M.H.-Kamata-Misumi-Sakai '18]

4. Summary & Outlook

1. Expectations on weak coupling perturbative series in QFT

- Perturbative series in typical QFT
- Borel resummation
 - Borel summability in QFT?

Perturbative expansion in QFT

—— Typically non-convergent [Dyson '52]

— Naïve sum of all-orders → divergent



What does perturbative series actually know?

- Is there a way to obtain exact answer from perturbative expansion?
- •If yes, how?

More precise question

Perturbative series around saddle points:

$$\mathcal{O}(g) \simeq \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(0)} g^{\ell} + \sum_{I \in \text{saddles}} e^{-S_I(g)} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(I)} g^{\ell} ??$$

Can we get the exact result by using the coefficients?

= What is a correct way to resum the perturbative series?(~continuum definition of QFT?)

A standard resummation

Borel transformation:

Borel resummation (along θ):

$$S_{\theta}\mathcal{O}(g) = \int_{0}^{e^{i\theta}\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ \mathcal{BO}(t)$$

(usually,
$$\theta = \arg(g) = 0$$
)

Why Borel resummation may be nice

(Let us take
$$\theta$$
=arg(g))

$$S_{\theta}\mathcal{O}(g) = \int_{0}^{e^{i\theta}\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ \mathcal{BO}(t) \qquad \mathcal{BO}(t) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{\ell}}{\Gamma(a+\ell)} t^{a+\ell-1}$$

<u>(1) Reproduce original perturbative series:</u>

$$S_{\theta}\mathcal{O}(g) \simeq \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{\ell}}{\Gamma(a+\ell)} \int_{0}^{e^{i\theta}\infty} dt \ t^{a+\ell-1} e^{-\frac{t}{g}} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell} g^{a+\ell}$$

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<u>① Reproduce original perturbative series:</u>

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2 Finite for any g if

- 1. Borel trans. is convergent
- 2. Its analytic continuation does not have singularities along the contour
- 3. The integration is finite

"Borel summable $(along \theta)$ "

related to exact result?

Expectations in typical QFT

['t Hooft '79]

Expectations in typical QFT

['t Hooft '79]



Expectations in typical QFT ['t Hooft '79]



Expectations in typical QFT

['t Hooft '79]



Expectations in typical QFT

['t Hooft '79]



$$Z(g) = \int D\Phi e^{-\frac{1}{g}S[\Phi]} \simeq \sum_{\ell} c_{\ell} g^{\ell}$$
 [Lipatov '77]

$$c_{\ell} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{dg}{g^{\ell+1}} Z(g) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint dg \int D\phi e^{-\frac{1}{g}S[\phi] - (\ell+1) \ln g} \quad (\ell \to \infty)$$

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$$\simeq e^{-\frac{1}{g_*}S[\phi_*] - (\ell+1) \ln g_*} \quad \left(\left. \frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi} \right|_{\phi = \phi_*} = 0, \ -\frac{1}{g_*^2}S[\phi_*] + \frac{\ell+1}{g_*} = 0 \right)$$

$$Z(g) = \int D\Phi e^{-\frac{1}{g}S[\Phi]} \simeq \sum_{\ell} c_{\ell} g^{\ell}$$
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$$= e^{(\ell+1)\ln(\ell+1) - (\ell+1)} \left(S[\phi_*] \right)^{-(\ell+1)} \simeq \ell! \left(S[\phi_*] \right)^{-(\ell+1)}$$

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$$= e^{(\ell+1)\ln(\ell+1) - (\ell+1)} (S[\phi_*])^{-(\ell+1)} \simeq \ell! (S[\phi_*])^{-(\ell+1)}$$

$$BZ(t) \simeq \sum_{\ell} (S[\phi_*])^{-\ell} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{t}{S[\phi_*]}}$$
Nontrivial saddle point gives
Borel singularities
$$S[\phi_*]$$

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4. Summary & Outlook

Basic idea of Resurgence

Suppose perturbation around trivial saddle is non-Borel summable:



But this ambiguity is cancelled by ambiguities of perturbations around different saddles.



[Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal '14, Cherman-Koroteev-Unsal '14]

Od Sine-Gordon model:

$$Z(g) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} dx \ e^{-\frac{1}{2g}\sin^2 x} = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{g}} e^{-\frac{1}{4g}} I_0\left(\frac{1}{4g}\right)$$



[Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal '14, Cherman-Koroteev-Unsal '14]

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Saddle point:

$$0 = \frac{d}{dx} \sin^2 x \Big|_{x=x_*} = \sin(2x_*) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad x_* = 0, \ \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$$



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"Action": $(S(x_*)) = \sum_{x=x_*} x_* = 0$

$$\left(S(x) = \frac{1}{2g}\sin^2 x\right)$$

$$S(x = 0) = 0$$
 trivial
 $S\left(x = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2g}$ Non-perturbative

Expansion around the saddle pts:

$$Z(g) \sim \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(0)} g^{\ell} + e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(1)} g^{\ell} ??$$

$$x_{*} = 0 \qquad x_{*} = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$$

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$$x_{*} = 0 \qquad x_{*} = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Trivial saddle:

$$Z(g)|_{x_*=0} = \sqrt{2\pi} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\ell+1/2)^2 2^{\ell}}{\Gamma(\ell+1)\Gamma(1/2)^2} g^{\ell} \equiv \Phi_0(g)$$

$$\mathcal{B}\Phi_0(t) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_\ell^{(0)}}{\ell!} t^\ell = \sqrt{2\pi} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; 2t\right)$$

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$$\frac{t}{\text{non-Borel summable!}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{\theta} \Phi_0(g) = \frac{1}{g} \int_0^{e^{i\theta} \infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ \mathcal{B} \Phi_0(t) \\ \mathcal{B} \Phi_0(t) = \sqrt{2\pi} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; 2t\right) \\ g = |g|e^{i\theta} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{t = 1/2} t = 1/2$$

$$\begin{cases} S_{\theta} \Phi_{0}(g) = \frac{1}{g} \int_{0}^{e^{i\theta} \infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ \mathcal{B} \Phi_{0}(t) \\ \mathcal{B} \Phi_{0}(t) = \sqrt{2\pi} \ _{2}F_{1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; 2t\right) \\ g = |g|e^{i\theta} \end{cases}$$

$$I = 1/2$$

$$(S_{0^{+}} - S_{0^{-}}) \Phi_{0}(g) = e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \times \frac{2i\sqrt{2\pi}}{g} \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ _{2}F_{1}\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; -2t\right) \neq 0$$

Related to contribution from $x_* = \pm \pi/2$?

Expansion around nontrivial saddle

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{-S(x)} = e^{-\frac{1}{2|g|}e^{-i\theta}x^2 + \cdots} & x_* = 0 \\ e^{-S(x)} = e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \times e^{\frac{1}{2|g|}e^{-i\theta}(x - \pm \frac{\pi}{2})^2 + \cdots} & x_* = \pm \frac{\pi}{2} \end{bmatrix} (g = |g|e^{i\theta})$$

Expansion around nontrivial saddle $\begin{bmatrix} e^{-S(x)} = e^{-\frac{1}{2|g|}e^{-i\theta}x^2 + \cdots} & x_* = 0 \\ e^{-S(x)} = e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \times e^{\frac{1}{2|g|}e^{-i\theta}(x - \pm \frac{\pi}{2})^2 + \cdots} & x_* = \pm \frac{\pi}{2} \end{bmatrix}$

To pick up saddles, change the integral contour to steepest descent s.t.

1. passes the saddles w/ appropriate angle

- 2. Keep Im(S(x)) to avoid oscillation
 - _3. Keep final result



<u>Appropriate contour = Lefschetz thimble</u>

[Extension to path integral: Witten '10]

- 1. Extends real x to complex z
- 2. Critical pt. : $\frac{dS(z)}{dz}\Big|_{z=z_I} = 0$
- 3. Associated w/ critical pt., \exists unique Lefschetz thimble J_I :

$$\frac{dz(t)}{dt} = \frac{\overline{\partial S(z)}}{\partial z}$$
, with $z(t \to -\infty) = z_I$

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Properties:

- a) $\operatorname{Im}S(z)|_{J_{I}} = \operatorname{Im}S(z_{I})$ $\left(\frac{d}{dt}\operatorname{Im}S \propto \frac{d}{dt}(S-\overline{S}) = \frac{dz}{dt}\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \frac{d\overline{z}}{dt}\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} = 0\right)$
- b) $\operatorname{Re}S(z)|_{J_{I}} \ge \operatorname{Re}S(z_{I})$ $\left(\frac{d}{dt}\operatorname{Re}S \propto \frac{dz}{dt}\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} + \frac{d\overline{z}}{dt}\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} = 2\frac{\partial S}{\partial z}\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \ge 0\right)$
- *c*) Decomposition of cycle:

$$C = \sum_{I \in \mathsf{saddle}} n_I J_I \qquad (n_I \in \mathbf{Z})$$

may jump as changing parameters

<u>Dual thimble = steepest ascent</u>

[Extension to path integral: Witten '10]

- 1. Extends real x to complex z
- 2. Critical pt. : $\frac{dS(z)}{dz}\Big|_{z=z_I} = 0$
- 3. Associated w/ critical pt., \exists unique dual thimble K_I : $\frac{dz(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\overline{\partial S(z)}}{\partial z}, \text{ with } z(t \to -\infty) = z_I$

Properties:

- a) $\operatorname{Im}S(z)|_{K_{I}} = \operatorname{Im}S(z_{I})$
- b) $\operatorname{Re}S(z)|_{K_I} \leq \operatorname{Re}S(z_I)$
- *c*) Decomposition of cycle:

$$C = \sum_{I \in \text{saddle}} n_I J_I, \quad n_I = \text{intersection \ddagger of (C, J_I)}$$

Back to the toy model

[Fig.1 in Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal '14]



Back to the toy model

[Fig.1 in Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal '14]


Contribution from nontrivial saddle

- Either x=+ $\pi/2$ or - $\pi/2$ contributes
- Contours smoothly change
 in the ranges 0<θ<π and -π<θ<0
- Contours through nontrivial saddles are opposite between θ<0 & θ>0



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[Fig.1 in Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal '14]

$$Z(g)|_{x_*=\pm\frac{\pi}{2}} = - \begin{cases} +e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(1)} g^{\ell} & (\theta < 0) \\ -e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} c_{\ell}^{(1)} g^{\ell} & (\theta > 0) \end{cases}$$

^{\exists} Jump at θ =0!! ("Stokes phenomenon")

Expansion around nontrivial saddle is also ambiguous at θ =0

Expansion around nontrivial saddle

$$\pm e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \sqrt{2\pi} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-2)^{\ell} \Gamma(\ell+1/2)^2}{\Gamma(\ell+1) \Gamma(1/2)^2} g^{\ell} \equiv \pm e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \Phi_1(g)$$
$$\implies \mathcal{B}\Phi_1(t) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{\ell}^{(1)}}{\ell!} t^{\ell} = \sqrt{2\pi} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; -2t\right)$$

Expansion around nontrivial saddle



Borel trans. itself is OK but [∃]ambiguity at θ=0 because of Stokes phenomena



By the branch cut, ambiguity:

$$\begin{pmatrix} S_{0+} - S_{0-} \end{pmatrix} \Phi_0(g) = e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} \frac{2i\sqrt{2\pi}}{g} \int_0^\infty dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1; -2t\right)$$

Nontrivial saddle



By the branch cut, ambiguity:

$$\left(S_{0^+} - S_{0^-}\right) \Phi_0(g)$$

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Nontrivial saddle $\begin{bmatrix} t \\ t \\ t = -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

By the Stokes phenomena,

$$Z(g)|_{x_*=\pm\frac{\pi}{2}} = \begin{cases} +ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_{\theta}\Phi_1(g) & (\theta < 0) \\ -ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_{\theta}\Phi_1(g) & (\theta > 0) \end{cases}$$



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$$Z(g)|_{x_*=\pm\frac{\pi}{2}} = \begin{cases} +ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_{\theta}\Phi_1(g) & (\theta < 0)\\ -ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_{\theta}\Phi_1(g) & (\theta > 0) \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\text{Ambiguity:}}{-2ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_0\Phi_1(g)} = -\frac{2i\sqrt{2\pi}}{g}e^{-\frac{1}{2g}}\int_0^\infty dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},1;-2t\right)$$
$$= -\left(S_{0+} - S_{0-}\right)\Phi_0(g)$$



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$$-2ie^{-\frac{1}{2g}}S_0\Phi_1(g) = -\frac{2i\sqrt{2\pi}}{g}e^{-\frac{1}{2g}}\int_0^\infty dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \ _2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},1;-2t\right)$$

$$= -\left(S_{0^+} - S_{0^-}\right)\Phi_0(g)$$



(Ambiguity from trivial saddle point)

-(Ambiguity from nontrivial saddle point)

Resummation from a saddle point may be ambiguous but the ambiguity is cancelled by other saddles

In the toy model, resurgence gives the exact result: $Z(g \in \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}) = \lim_{\theta \to 0_{\pm}} \left[S_{\theta} \Phi_0(g) \mp i e^{-\frac{1}{2g}} S_{\theta} \Phi_1(g) \right] = \operatorname{Re} S_0 \Phi_0(g)$

Samples of successful examples

Quantum mechanics

- Quartic/Periodic potential [Zinn Justin-Jentschura '04]
- CPN [Fujimori-Kamata-Misumi-Nitta-Sakai'17]
- Slightly broken SUSY [Dunne-Unsal, Kozcaz-Sulejmanpasic-Tanizaki-Unsal'16]

<u>2d QFT</u>

- CP^N/O(N) sigma model [Dunne-Unsal'12, Misumi-Nitta-Sakai, etc..] [Dunne-Unsal'15]
- Principal chiral model [Cherman-Dorigoni-Unsal'15]
- Pure Yang-Mills [Ahmed-Dunne'17, Okuyama-Sakai'18]

<u>3d QFT</u>

- Pure Chern-Simons [Gukov-Marino-Putrov '16]
- N=2 SUSY Chern-Simons matter theories

[M.H. '16, Gukov-Pei-Putrov-Vafa '17, Fujimori-M.H.-Kamata-Misumi-Sakai '18]

<u>Remark: more than weak coupling expansion in QFT</u>

We could apply resurgence to other types of expansions.

For example,

- 1/N expansion
- strong coupling expansion
- Weak coupling expansion in gravity (string)
- high/low temperature expansion
- ε-expansion
- Derivative expansion in effective theory

etc...

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[The simplest example in Fujimori-M.H.-Kamata-Misumi-Sakai '18]

4. Summary & Outlook

Let us consider

 $\mathcal{N} = 3 \ U(1)_k$ CS theory w/ charge-1 hyper & real mass m

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 $\mathcal{N} = 3 \ U(1)_k$ CS theory w/ charge-1 hyper & real mass m

Sphere partition function:

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\sigma \, \frac{e^{\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2}}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma-m}{2}}, \qquad g = \frac{4\pi}{k}$$

σ: Coulomb branch parameter =const. configuration of the adjoint scalar " A_4 "

Now we are interested in small-g (large level) expansion of this object.

(k > 0)

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\sigma \; \frac{e^{\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2}}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma-m}{2}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\sigma \; \sum_{\pm} \frac{e^{\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2}}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma\pm m}{2}}$$

(k > 0)

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Changing the variable as $\sigma = \sqrt{it}$,

(k > 0)

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Changing the variable as $\sigma = \sqrt{it}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z(g) = \int_0^{-i\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \mathcal{B}Z(t) \\ \mathcal{B}Z(t) = \frac{i}{4\sqrt{it}} \sum_{\pm} \frac{1}{\cosh\frac{\sqrt{it}\pm m}{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\sigma \; \frac{e^{\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2}}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma-m}{2}} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\sigma \; \sum_{\pm} \frac{e^{\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2}}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma\pm m}{2}}$$

Changing the variable as $\sigma = \sqrt{it}$,

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z(g) = \int_0^{-i\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \mathcal{B}Z(t) \\ \mathcal{B}Z(t) = \frac{i}{4\sqrt{it}} \sum_{\pm} \frac{1}{\cosh\frac{\sqrt{it}\pm m}{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

This is equivalent to the Borel resummation formula w/ different integral contour! $S_{\theta}I(g) = \int_{0}^{e^{i\theta}\infty} dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \mathcal{B}I(t)$

[M.H. '16]

(k > 0)

 $t_{\text{pole}} = -i \left[m + (2n+1)\pi i \right]^2$

















This is repeated infinitely many times...

Trans-series expression



Trans-series expression



Decompose this into "perturbative part" & "non-pert. part":

$$Z = Z_{\rm pt} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Z_{\rm np}^{(n)},$$

Perturbative part: $Z_{\text{pt}} = \int_0^\infty dt \ e^{-\frac{t}{g}} \mathcal{B}Z(t), \qquad \left(\frac{\sqrt{ig}}{2} \sum_{q=0}^\infty \sum_{a=0}^\infty \frac{E_{2(q+a)}\Gamma(q+1/2)}{2^{2(q+a)}\Gamma(2q+1)\Gamma(2a+1)} m^{2a} (ig)^q \right)$

Non-pert. part:

$$Z_{\rm np}^{(n)} = \theta \left(m - (2n-1)\pi \right) 2\pi (-1)^{n-1} e^{\frac{i}{g} [m + (2n-1)\pi i]^2}$$



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For $m = (2n-1)\pi$, perturbative part is ambiguous:

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Ambiguity in non-pert. part:

$$Z_{np}^{(\ell)}(m = (2n-1)\pi + 0_{+}) - Z_{np}^{(\ell)}(m = (2n-1)\pi + 0_{-}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } \ell \neq n \\ +\text{Res}\left[e^{-\frac{t}{g}}\mathcal{B}Z(t)\right] & \text{for } \ell = n \end{cases}$$

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Canceled! \rightarrow Unambiguous answer

Lefschetz thimble analysis

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\sigma \ e^{-S[\sigma]}, \quad S[\sigma] = -\frac{i}{g}\sigma^2 - \log\frac{1}{2\cosh\frac{\sigma-m}{2}}$$

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<u>Critical point:</u>

$$\frac{\partial S[z]}{\partial z}\Big|_{z=z^c} = -\frac{2i}{g}z^c + \frac{1}{2}\tanh\frac{z^c - m}{2} = 0.$$

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Flow equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dz}{ds} \Big|_{\mathcal{J}_{I}} = \frac{\overline{\partial S[z]}}{\partial z} &= +\frac{2i}{g}\overline{z} + \frac{1}{2}\tanh\frac{\overline{z} - m}{2},\\ \lim_{s \to -\infty} z(s) = z_{I}^{c}, \end{bmatrix}$$

We solve these numerically but let us first understand weak coupling behavior analytically
Analytic argument for weak coupling



Analytic argument for weak coupling



<u>Numerical result for g=0.1 & m=2π</u>



Numerical result for g=0.1 & various m

m=3π









m=4π

Numerical result for g=0.1 & various m



Stokes phenomena!

<u>Numerical result for $g=4\pi$ & various m</u>



Thimble decomposition & Resurgent trans-series

Let us label the critical points by

 $\lim_{g \to 0} z_{\rm pt}^{\rm c}(g,m) = 0, \quad \lim_{g \to 0} z_{\ell}^{\rm c}(g,m) = m + (2\ell + 1)\pi i.$

Thimble decomposition & Resurgent trans-series

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$$Z(g,m) = \int_{\mathcal{J}_{pt}} dz e^{-S[z]} + \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \theta(m - \tilde{m}_{\ell}(g)) \int_{\mathcal{J}_{\ell}} dz e^{-S[z]}$$
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Small-g expansion
$$Z(g,m) = Z_{pt}(g,m) + \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \theta(m - (2\ell + 1)\pi) \operatorname{Res}_{z=z_{\ell}^{*}} \left[e^{-S[z]} \right]$$

Resurgent trans-series

Interpretation of Borel singularities

[M.H. '17]

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All the singularities can be explained by

Complexified SUSY Solutions

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which are not on original contour of path integral but formally satisfy SUSY conditions: Q(fields) = 0

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Proposal:

If there are n_B bosonic & n_F fermionic solutions with action S=S_c/g, then

(Borel trans.)
$$\supset \prod_{\text{solutions}} \frac{1}{(t-S_c)^{n_B-n_F}}$$

Summary & Outlook

Summary of Complex saddle point analysis

$$\int_C dx \ e^{rac{i}{g}S(x)}$$

 $|g| \ll 1$

Steps of saddle point method:

- 1. Find all the saddle points
- 2. Deform the contour to steepest descents without changing the final result:

$$C = \sum_{I \in \mathsf{saddle}} n_I J_I \quad (n_I \in \mathbf{Z})$$

Notes: (a) Saddle points may not be on the original contour (b) It may be impossible to pass all the saddles —We get contributions from the ones which we can pass

3. Compute perturbative series around contributing saddles

Various applications of Lefschetz thimbles

- Resurgence
- Sign problem in Monte Carlo simulation

[Cristoforetti-Di Renzo, Fujii-Honda-Kato-Kikukawa-Komatsu-Sano, etc...]

Real time path integral

[Tanizaki-Koike, Cherman-Unsal, Alexandru-Basar-Bedaque-Vartak-Warrington, etc...]

Complex saddle point analysis in general relativity

[Feldrugge-Lehners-Turok, Brown-Cole-Shiu-Cottrell]

Analytic continuation of Chern-Simons & Knot

[Witten]

- Thimble integral in d-dim. theory
 = (d+1)-dim. SUSY theory [Witten, Fukushima-Tanizaki, Nekrasov]
- SUSY breaking [M.H., work in progress]

