

RESURGENCE, STOKES CONSTANTS, AND ARITHMETIC FUNCTIONS IN TOPOLOGICAL STRING THEORY

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MOTIVATIONS

Enumerative invariants from resurgence

Resurgent asymptotic series arise naturally as perturbative expansions in quantum theories.

The machinery of resurgence uniquely associates them with a non-trivial collection of complex numbers, known as **Stokes constants**, capturing information about the **non-perturbative sectors** of the theory.

In some remarkable cases, the Stokes constants can be (conjecturally) interpreted in terms of **enumerative invariants** based on the counting of BPS states.

- 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supersymmetric gauge theory in the Nekrasov-Shatashvili limit of the Omega-background
[Grassi, Gu, Mariño, 2019]
- Complex Chern-Simons theory on the complement of a hyperbolic knot
[Garoufalidis, Gu, Mariño, 2020]
- Standard topological string theory on a Calabi-Yau threefold for $g_s \rightarrow 0$
[Gu, Mariño, 2021]
- Refined topological string theory in the Nekrasov-Shatashvili limit on a Calabi-Yau threefold for $\hbar \rightarrow 0$
[Rella, 2022]

FROM TOPOLOGICAL STRINGS TO QUANTUM
OPERATORS AND BACK

From topological strings to quantum operators

Let X be a toric Calabi-Yau (CY) threefold.

Local mirror symmetry pairs X with an algebraic curve $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}^*$ of genus g_Σ , whose quantization leads to **quantum-mechanical operators**

$$\rho_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, g_\Sigma,$$

acting on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$. They are conjectured to be positive-definite and of trace class, under some assumptions on the mass parameters $\vec{\xi}$.

[Grassi, Hatsuda, Mariño, 2014 - Codesido, Grassi, Mariño, 2015]

Their **generalized Fredholm determinant** $\Xi(\vec{\kappa}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)$ is an entire function of the true complex deformation parameters κ_j .

Its local expansion at $\vec{\kappa} = 0$ is

$$\Xi(\vec{\kappa}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar) = \sum_{N_1 \geq 0} \cdots \sum_{N_{g_\Sigma} \geq 0} \underbrace{Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)}_{\text{analytic function of } \hbar \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}} \kappa_1^{N_1} \cdots \kappa_{g_\Sigma}^{N_{g_\Sigma}},$$

where the coefficient functions $Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)$ are the **fermionic spectral traces**.

From quantum operators to topological strings

The conjectural **Topological Strings/Spectral Theory** (TS/ST) correspondence gives

$$Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar) = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^{g_\Sigma}} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} d\mu_1 \cdots \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} d\mu_{g_\Sigma} e^{J(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar) - \vec{N} \cdot \vec{\mu}},$$

where the chemical potentials μ_j are defined by $\kappa_j = e^{\mu_j}$.

[Hatsuda, Moriyama, Okuyama, 2012 - Grassi, Hatsuda, Mariño, 2014 - Codesido, Grassi, Mariño, 2015]

The **total grand potential** $J(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)$ can be written as

$$J(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar) = \underbrace{J^{\text{WS}}(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)}_{\text{worldsheet grand potential}} + \underbrace{J^{\text{WKB}}(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)}_{\text{WKB grand potential}},$$

where J^{WS} and J^{WKB} encode the contributions from the standard and Nekrasov-Shatashvili (NS) topological strings, respectively.

[Hatsuda, Mariño, Moriyama, Okuyama, 2013]

The string coupling constant g_s is related to the quantum deformation parameter \hbar by

$$g_s = \frac{4\pi^2}{\hbar} \quad (\text{strong-weak coupling duality}).$$

THE RESURGENCE TOOLBOX

Resurgence in quantum theories — I

Let $\phi(z)$ be a **(simple) resurgent Gevrey-1** asymptotic series of the form

$$\phi(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \in \mathbb{C}[[z]], \quad a_n \sim A^{-n} n! \quad n \gg 1, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Its **Borel-Laplace resummation** is the two-step process

$$\phi(z) \longrightarrow \underbrace{\hat{\phi}(\zeta) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{k!} \zeta^k}_{\substack{\text{locally analytic} \\ \text{at the origin } \zeta = 0 \\ \text{with singularities at} \\ \zeta = \zeta_\omega, \omega \in \Omega}} \longrightarrow \underbrace{s_\theta(\phi)(z) = \int_{\rho_\theta} e^{-\zeta} \hat{\phi}(\zeta z) d\zeta,}_{\substack{\text{locally analytic} \\ \text{in the complex } z\text{-plane} \\ \text{with discontinuities at} \\ \arg(z) = \arg(\zeta_\omega), \omega \in \Omega}}$$

where $\rho_\theta = e^{i\theta} \mathbb{R}_+$, $\theta = \arg(\zeta)$. If ζ_ω is a logarithmic branch point, we have

$$\hat{\phi}(\zeta) = -\frac{S_\omega}{2\pi i} \log(\zeta - \zeta_\omega) \underbrace{\hat{\phi}_\omega(\zeta - \zeta_\omega)}_{\substack{\text{locally analytic} \\ \text{at } \zeta - \zeta_\omega = 0}} + \dots, \quad S_\omega \in \mathbb{C} \quad (\text{Stokes constant}).$$

Resurgence in quantum theories — III

We can repeat the procedure with each of the series obtained in this way. Schematically,

$$\phi \longrightarrow \{\phi_\omega, S_\omega\} \longrightarrow \{\phi_{\omega'}, S_{\omega\omega'}\}.$$

Each series in this process can be promoted to **basic trans-series** as

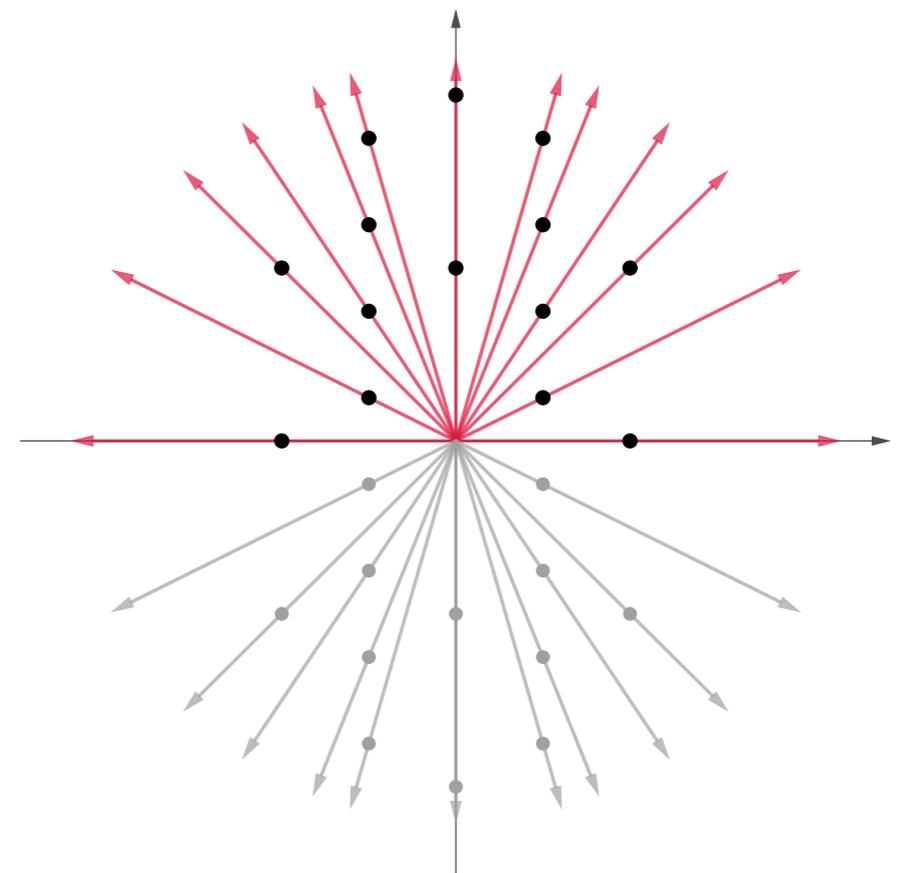
$$\Phi_\omega(z) = e^{-\zeta_\omega/z} \phi_\omega(z).$$

The **minimal resurgent structure** of $\phi(z)$ is

$$\mathfrak{B}_\phi = \underbrace{\{\Phi_\omega(z)\}_{\omega \in \bar{\Omega}}}_{\text{smallest subset closed under } \mathfrak{S}}, \quad \bar{\Omega} \subseteq \Omega.$$

The matrix of Stokes constants is

$$\mathcal{S}_\phi = \{S_{\omega\omega'}\}_{\omega, \omega' \in \bar{\Omega}}.$$



Peacock patterns are expected in theories controlled by quantum curves.

[Grassi, Gu, Mariño, 2019 - Garoufalidis, Gu, Mariño, 2020 - 2022 - Gu, Mariño, 2021 - Rella, 2022]

TOPOLOGICAL STRINGS BEYOND PERTURBATION THEORY

Resurgence in topological string theory — I

We assume that $Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar)$ can be analytically continued to $\hbar \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0}$.

Consider the **semiclassical perturbative expansion**

$$\phi_{\vec{N}}(\hbar) = \log Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar \rightarrow 0), \quad \vec{N} \in \mathbb{N}^{g_\Sigma},$$

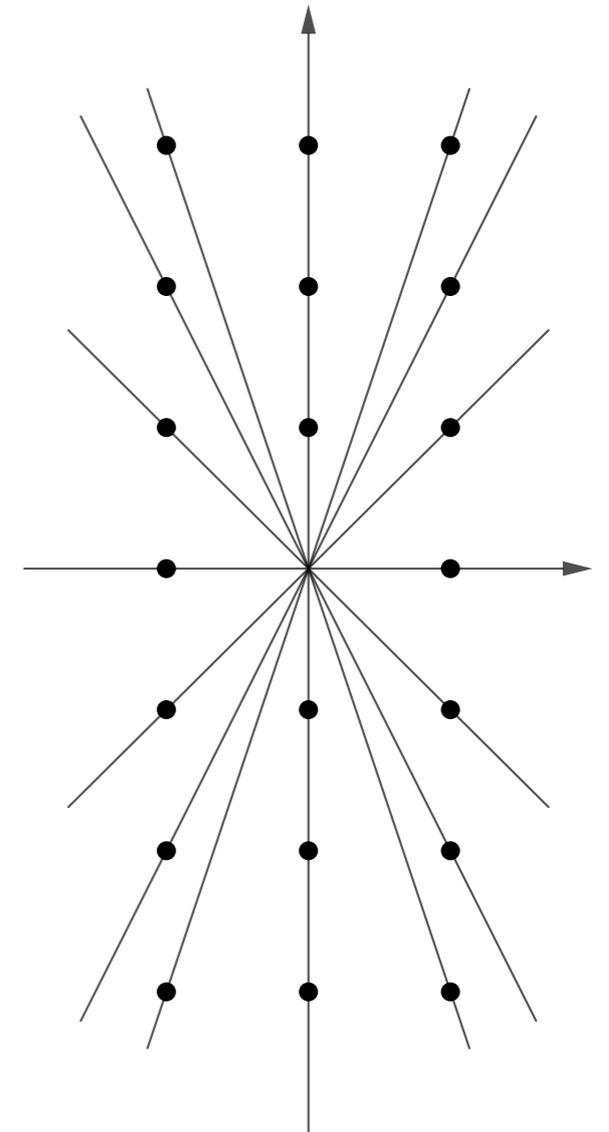
which is a (simple) resurgent Gevrey-1 asymptotic series.

We describe a conjectural proposal for the **minimal resurgent structure** of $\phi_{\vec{N}}(\hbar)$ at fixed \vec{N} :

$$\underbrace{\Phi_{\sigma, n; \vec{N}}(\hbar)}_{\text{infinite family of basic trans-series}} = \underbrace{e^{-n \frac{A}{\hbar}}}_{\text{non-analytic } \hbar\text{-corrections}} \underbrace{\phi_{\sigma; \vec{N}}(\hbar)}_{\text{Gevrey-1 asymptotic series}},$$

where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\sigma \in \{0, \dots, l\}$, $l \in \mathbb{N}_+$, and $A \in \mathbb{C}$.

The series $\phi_{\sigma; \vec{N}}(\hbar)$ resurge from $\phi_{\vec{N}}(\hbar) = \phi_{0; \vec{N}}(\hbar)$ at the singular points in the Borel plane.



Resurgence in topological string theory — II

The basic trans-series $\Phi_{\sigma,n;\vec{N}}(\hbar)$ capture **additional, non-perturbative sectors** of the theory.

The corresponding infinitely-many **Stokes constants** are conjectured to be

$$S_{\sigma,\sigma',n;\vec{N}} \in \mathbb{Q}, \quad \sigma, \sigma' \in \{0, \dots, l\}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

They have natural generating functions

$$S_{\sigma,\sigma';\vec{N}}(q) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} S_{\sigma,\sigma',n;\vec{N}} q^n,$$

which can be expressed in closed form as **q -series**.

We expect that the Stokes constants $S_{\sigma,\sigma',n;\vec{N}}$ are closely related to non-trivial **enumerative invariants** of the geometry.

In summary,

$$\phi(\hbar) = \log Z(\hbar \rightarrow 0) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{B}_\phi = \{ \Phi_{\sigma,n}(\hbar) = e^{-n\frac{A}{\hbar}} \phi_\sigma(\hbar) \} \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_\phi = \{ S_{\sigma,\sigma',n} \in \mathbb{Q} \}.$$

Resurgence in topological string theory — III

Consider the **dual weakly-coupled regime** $g_s \propto \hbar^{-1} \rightarrow 0$.

At fixed \vec{N} , the (simple) resurgent Gevrey-1 asymptotic series

$$\psi_{\vec{N}}(g_s) = \log Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar \rightarrow \infty), \quad \vec{N} \in \mathbb{N}^{g_\Sigma},$$

is conjectured to have the same resurgent structure described before:



Some remarks:

1. The asymptotic expansion $Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar \rightarrow \infty)$ has an exponential pre-factor of the form e^{-1/g_s} (**conifold volume conjecture for toric CYs**). Its Stokes constants are **integers**.
[Gu, Mariño, 2021]
2. The asymptotic expansion $Z(\vec{N}, \vec{\xi}, \hbar \rightarrow 0)$ has no exponential pre-factor of the form $e^{-1/\hbar}$ (**new analytic prediction of the TS/ST correspondence**). Its Stokes constants are generally **complex numbers**.
[Rella, 2022]

LOCAL \mathbb{P}^2 — A CASE STUDY

Introduction to the local \mathbb{P}^2 geometry

Local \mathbb{P}^2 is the total space of the canonical bundle over the projective surface \mathbb{P}^2 , that is,

$$X = \mathcal{O}(-3) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2.$$

It is a **toric del Pezzo CY threefold** with one complex modulus κ and no mass parameters.

The mirror curve is

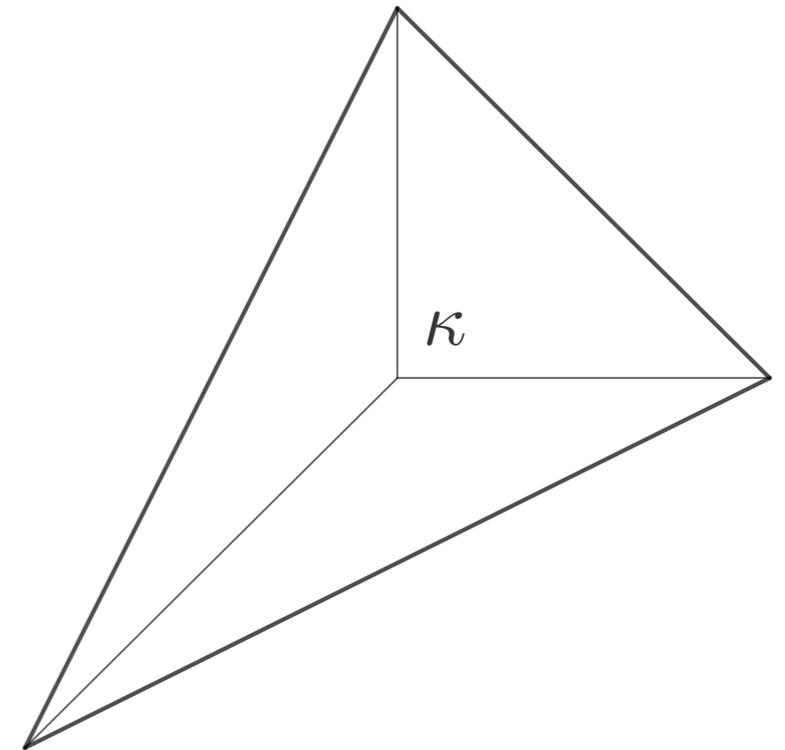
$$\Sigma : e^x + e^y + e^{-x-y} + \kappa = 0, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{C},$$

and its Weyl quantization gives a **quantum-mechanical operator** acting on $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, that is,
[Grassi, Hatsuda, Mariño, 2014]

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(x, y) = e^x + e^y + e^{-x-y}, \quad [x, y] = i\hbar \quad (x, y \text{ self-adjoint Heisenberg operators}).$$

The inverse operator $\rho_{\mathbb{P}^2} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}^{-1}$ is positive-definite and of **trace class**.
[Kashaev, Mariño, 2015]

The fermionic spectral traces $Z_{\mathbb{P}^2}(N, \hbar)$, $N \in \mathbb{N}$, can be expressed as **matrix model integrals**.
[Mariño, Zakany, 2015 - Kashaev, Mariño, Zakany, 2015]



Exact solution to the resurgent structure at weak coupling — I

The first spectral trace is known in **closed form**, showing an explicit factorization into holomorphic/anti-holomorphic blocks.

[Kashaev, Mariño, 2015 - Gu, Mariño, 2021]

We obtain the **all-orders perturbative expansion**

$$Z_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1, \hbar \rightarrow 0) = \frac{\Gamma(1/3)^3}{6\pi\hbar} \exp \left(\underbrace{3 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{B_{2n} B_{2n+1}(2/3)}{2n(2n+1)!} (3\hbar)^{2n}}_{\phi(\hbar) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{2n} \hbar^{2n} \in \mathbb{Q}[[\hbar]]} \right).$$

We present a **fully analytic solution** to the resurgent structure of $\phi(\hbar)$.

[Rella, 2022]

The coefficients of $\phi(\hbar)$ grow factorially for $n \gg 1$ as

$$a_{2n} \sim (-1)^n (2n)! (4\pi^2/3)^{-2n} \quad (\text{Gevrey-1 asymptotic series}).$$

Proposition: The Borel transform $\hat{\phi}(\zeta)$ can be explicitly resummed into a **well-defined, exact function** of $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$.

Exact solution to the resurgent structure at weak coupling — II

Corollary 1: The Borel transform $\hat{\phi}(\zeta)$ is simple resurgent, and its singularities are **logarithmic branch points** at

$$\zeta_n = \frac{4\pi^2 i}{3} n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0}.$$

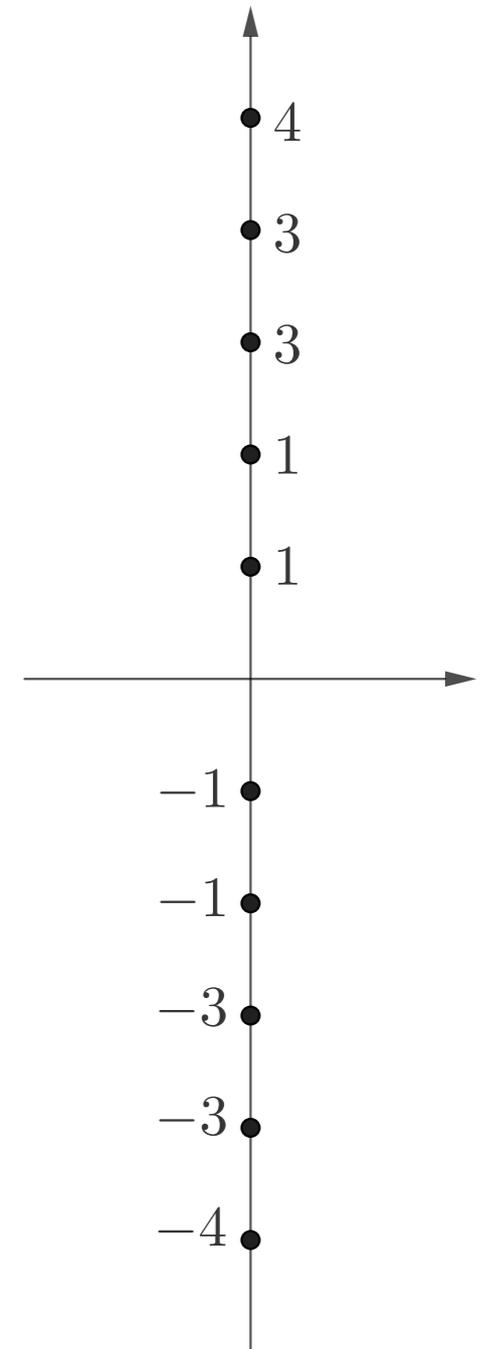
Corollary 2: The **local expansion** of $\hat{\phi}(\zeta)$ at $\zeta = \zeta_n$ is given by

$$\hat{\phi}(\zeta) = -\frac{S_n}{2\pi i} \log(\zeta - \zeta_n) + \dots, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0},$$

where $\hat{\phi}_n(\zeta) = 1$. The Stokes constants S_n are **accessible analytically**.

Proposition: After being normalized, the Stokes constants S_n are rational numbers and simply related to a **non-trivial sequence of integers** α_n .

$$S_1 = 3\sqrt{3}i, \quad \frac{S_n}{S_1} = \frac{\alpha_n}{n} \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0,1},$$
$$\alpha_n = -\alpha_{-n}, \quad \alpha_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}.$$



Exact solution to the resurgent structure at strong coupling

Analogously, we obtain an **all-orders perturbative expansion** for $Z_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1, \hbar \rightarrow \infty)$, which gives a Gevrey-1 asymptotic series

$$\psi(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_{2n} \tau^{2n-1} \in \mathbb{Q}[\pi, \sqrt{3}][[\tau]], \quad \tau = -\frac{2\pi}{3\hbar}.$$

$$b_{2n} \sim (-1)^n (2n)! (2\pi/3)^{-2n}, \quad n \gg 1.$$

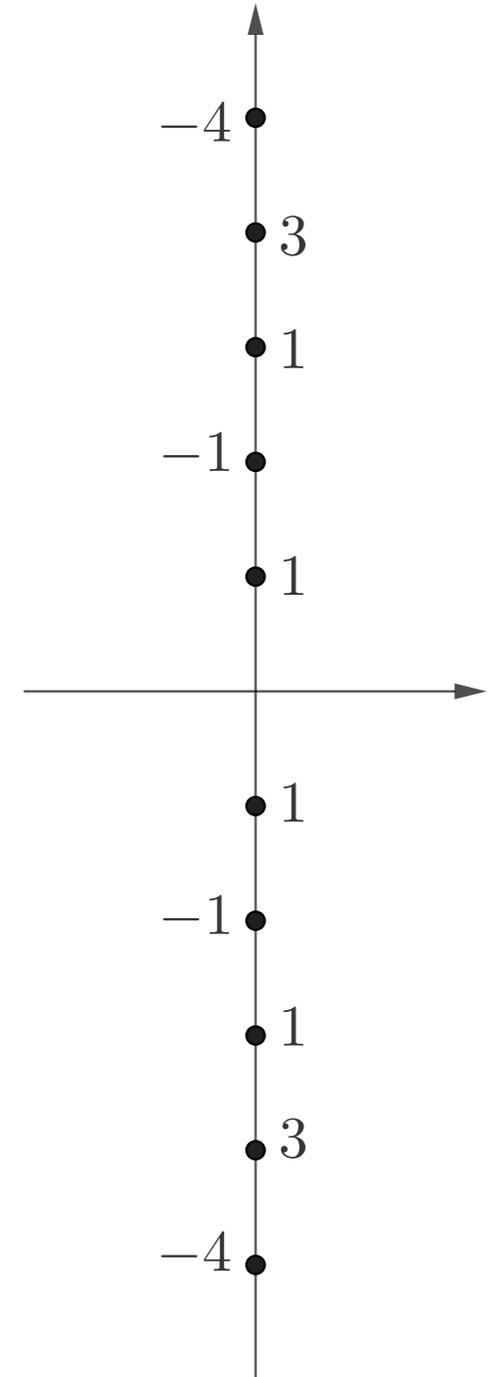
We present a **fully analytic solution** to the resurgent structure of $\psi(\tau)$:
[\[Rella, 2022\]](#)

1. Exact, explicit resummation of $\hat{\psi}(\zeta)$ as a simple resurgent function.
2. Logarithmic branch points at $\zeta_n = \frac{2\pi i}{3}n, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0}$.
3. Local expansion at $\zeta = \zeta_n$:

$$\hat{\psi}(\zeta) = -\frac{R_n}{2\pi i} \log(\zeta - \zeta_n) + \dots \longrightarrow \hat{\psi}_n(\zeta) = 1, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0}.$$

$$R_1 = 3, \quad R_n = R_1 \frac{\beta_n}{n} \in \mathbb{Q}_{\neq 0} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0,1},$$

$$\beta_n = \beta_{-n}, \quad \beta_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\neq 0} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}.$$



Closed formulae for the Stokes constants — I

We present **exact number-theoretic statements** on the Stokes constants $S_n, R_n, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.
[Rella, 2022]

Proposition: The normalized Stokes constants are **divisor sum functions**:

$$\frac{S_n}{S_1} = \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ d \equiv_3 1}} \frac{1}{d} - \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ d \equiv_3 2}} \frac{1}{d}, \quad \frac{R_n}{R_1} = \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ d \equiv_3 1}} \frac{d}{n} - \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ d \equiv_3 2}} \frac{d}{n}.$$

Corollary 1: The normalized Stokes constants are **multiplicative arithmetic functions**:

$$\frac{S_n}{S_1} = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{S_{p^e}}{S_1}, \quad \frac{R_n}{R_1} = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{R_{p^e}}{R_1}, \quad n = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} p^e, \quad e \in \mathbb{N},$$

where S_{p^e} and R_{p^e} are known in closed form.

Corollary 2: The Stokes constants have **generating functions given by q -series**:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} S_n x^n = -i\pi - 3 \log \frac{(e^{\frac{2\pi}{3}i}; x)_{\infty}}{(e^{-\frac{2\pi}{3}i}; x)_{\infty}}, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} R_n x^{n/3} = 3 \log \frac{(x^{2/3}; x)_{\infty}}{(x^{1/3}; x)_{\infty}}, \quad |x| < 1.$$

Closed formulae for the Stokes constants — II

As a consequence, we obtain **exact expressions for the discontinuities** of $\phi(\hbar)$, $\psi(\tau)$ across the Stokes line on the positive imaginary axis:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{disc}_{\pi/2}\phi(\hbar) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} S_n e^{-n\frac{4\pi^2}{3}\mathbf{i}\hbar} = -\mathbf{i}\pi - 3 \log(e^{\frac{2\pi}{3}\mathbf{i}}; \tilde{q})_{\infty} + 3 \log(e^{-\frac{2\pi}{3}\mathbf{i}}; \tilde{q})_{\infty}, \quad \tilde{q} = e^{-\frac{4\pi^2}{3\hbar}\mathbf{i}}, \\ \text{disc}_{\pi/2}\psi(\tau) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} R_n e^{-n\frac{2\pi}{3}\mathbf{i}\tau} = 3 \log(q^{2/3}; q)_{\infty} - 3 \log(q^{1/3}; q)_{\infty}, \quad q = e^{-\frac{2\pi}{\tau}\mathbf{i}} = e^{3\mathbf{i}\hbar}. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition: The perturbative coefficients a_{2n}, b_{2n} , $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, satisfy the **exact large-order relations**

$$a_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n \Gamma(2n)}{\pi \mathbf{i} A^{2n}} \underbrace{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{S_m}{m^{2n}}}_{\text{L-series}}, \quad b_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n \Gamma(2n-1)}{\pi A^{2n-1}} \underbrace{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{R_m}{m^{2n-1}}}_{\text{L-series}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{S_m/S_1}{m^{2n}} &= \frac{\zeta(2n)}{3^{2n+1}} \left(\zeta\left(2n+1, \frac{1}{3}\right) - \zeta\left(2n+1, \frac{2}{3}\right) \right), \\ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{R_m/R_1}{m^{2n-1}} &= \frac{\zeta(2n)}{3^{2n-1}} \left(\zeta\left(2n-1, \frac{1}{3}\right) - \zeta\left(2n-1, \frac{2}{3}\right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

A bridge to analytic number theory

Recall that the multiplication of Dirichlet series is compatible with the **Dirichlet convolution** of arithmetic functions, that is,

$$f(m) = (f_1 * f_2)(m), m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \longrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(m)}{m^s} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{f_1(m)}{m^s} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{f_2(m)}{m^s}, s \in \mathbb{C}, \Re(s) > 1.$$

Proposition 1: The perturbative coefficients are particular values of a known L-function, which admits a **remarkable factorization dictated by the Dirichlet decomposition** of the Stokes constants.

Proposition 2: The weak and strong coupling L-functions are related by a symmetric **unitary shift** in the arguments of the factors:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{S_m}{S_1} = (\chi_{3,2} F_{-1} * F_0)(m) &\longrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{S_m/S_1}{m^s} = \underbrace{L(s+1, \chi_{3,2}) \zeta(s)}_{\text{L-function}} \quad (\hbar \rightarrow 0), \\ \frac{R_m}{R_1} = (\chi_{3,2} F_0 * F_{-1})(m) &\longrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{R_m/R_1}{m^s} = \underbrace{L(s, \chi_{3,2}) \zeta(s+1)}_{\text{L-function}} \quad (\hbar \rightarrow \infty), \end{aligned}$$

where $F_\alpha(m) = m^\alpha$, $\chi_{3,2}(m) = [m]_3$ (non-principal Dirichlet character mod 3).

CONCLUSIONS

Final remarks and open questions

The resurgent analysis of the weak and strong coupling perturbative expansions arising naturally in topological string theory unveils a **universal mathematical structure** of hidden non-perturbative sectors (*peacock patterns*) and **infinitely-many rational Stokes constants** (*enumerative invariants*).

A geometric and physical understanding of the non-perturbative sectors and an explicit identification of the Stokes constants as topological invariants are still missing.

The full resurgent structure of the first spectral trace of local \mathbb{P}^2 in both limits is analytically solvable and displays a striking **number-theoretic structure**, which makes the duality between the two regimes manifest.

We would like to test this arithmetic framework for other CY geometries and higher-order spectral traces in support of a potential generalization.

Our asymptotic series can be defined a priori on the topological strings side of the **TS/ST correspondence** directly via the integral representation of the fermionic spectral traces.

A **WKB 't Hooft-like regime** associated to $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ is used to present a new analytic prediction on the semiclassical asymptotics of the fermionic spectral traces from the NS topological string in a suitable symplectic frame. Further work is required to obtain a full geometric picture.

[Rella, 2022]

THANK YOU!