

# Hodge elliptic genera in geometry and in CFT

GEOMETRIC AND CATEGORICAL ASPECTS OF CFTs,  
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Katrin Wendland

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

## Plan:

- 1 Refining the Euler characteristic
- 2 More algebra and mathematical physics
- 3 Interpretation in CFT

[W17] *Hodge-elliptic genera and how they govern K3 theories*; arXiv:1705.09904 [hep-th]

[Taormina/W15] *A twist in the  $M_{24}$  moonshine story*, *Confluentes Mathematici* 7, 1 (2015), 83–113; arXiv:1303.3221 [hep-th]

[Taormina/W13] *Symmetry-surfing the moduli space of Kummer K3s*, *Proceedings of Symposia in Pure Mathematics* 90 (2015), 129–153; arXiv:1303.2931 [hep-th]

[Taormina/W11] *The overarching finite symmetry group of Kummer surfaces in the Mathieu group  $M_{24}$* , *JHEP* **1308**:152 (2013); arXiv:1107.3834 [hep-th]

# 1. Refining the Euler characteristic: Complex elliptic genus

## Euler characteristic:

$$\chi(M) := \sum_{j,k} (-1)^{j+k} h^{k,j}(M) = \sum_k (-1)^k \chi(\Lambda^k T^*) = \chi\left(\bigoplus_k (-1)^k \Lambda^k T^*\right)$$

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$$\text{for any bundle } E \rightarrow M, \Lambda_x E := \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \Lambda^k E, S_x E := \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k S^k E$$

## Hirzebruch $\chi_y$ -genus:

$$\chi_y(M) := \chi(\Lambda_y T^*) \stackrel{[\text{HRR}]}{=} \int_M \text{Td}(M) \text{ch}(\Lambda_y T^*)$$

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**Definition [Hirzebruch88, Witten88]**

With  $q := e^{2\pi i \tau}$ ,  $y := e^{2\pi i z}$  for  $\tau, z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\text{Im}(\tau) > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{q,-y} := y^{-\frac{D}{2}} \Lambda_{-y} T^* \otimes \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} [\Lambda_{-y q^n} T^* \otimes \Lambda_{-y^{-1} q^n} T \otimes S_{q^n} T^* \otimes S_{q^n} T],$$

$$\mathcal{E}(M; \tau, z) := \chi(\mathbb{E}_{q,-y}) = \int_M \text{Td}(M) \text{ch}(\mathbb{E}_{q,-y})$$

is the **COMPLEX ELLIPTIC GENUS** of  $M$ .

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- using the splitting principle,  $c(T) = \prod_{j=1}^D (1 + x_j)$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}(M; \tau, z) = y^{-D/2} \int_M \prod_{j=1}^D \left[ \underbrace{\frac{x_j}{1 - e^{-x_j}}}_{\text{Td}} \underbrace{(1 - ye^{-x_j})}_{\text{ch}(\Lambda_{-y} T^*)} \right] \cdot \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - ye^{-x_j} q^n)(1 - y^{-1} e^{x_j} q^n)}{(1 - e^{-x_j} q^n)(1 - e^{x_j} q^n)} \Bigg]$$

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- a **weak Jacobi form** (**weight 0**, **index  $\frac{D}{2}$** ) with respect to  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$
- it's a **genus** with values in the **ring of weak Jacobi forms** of **weight 0**

# 1. Refining $\chi(M)$ : The (geometric) Hodge elliptic genus

## Definition

$$\mathbb{E}_{q,-y} \text{ as before, } \mathbb{E}_{q,-y} = y^{-\frac{D}{2}} \bigoplus_{\ell,m} q^\ell (-y)^m \mathcal{T}_{\ell,m},$$

COMPLEX ELLIPTIC GENUS of  $M$ :

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HODGE ELLIPTIC GENUS of  $M$ :

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG}}(M; \tau, z, \nu) := (uy)^{-\frac{D}{2}} \sum_{\ell,m} q^\ell (-y)^m \sum_j (-u)^j \dim H^j(M, \mathcal{T}_{\ell,m}).$$

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## Theorem [Kachru/Tripathy16]

If  $M$  is a complex torus or a K3 surface, then  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG}}(M; \tau, z, \nu)$  is an invariant (that is, independent of the complex structure).

## 2. Attaching vertex operator algebras to $M$

**The basic building block:**  $bc - \beta\gamma$  system  $E$

$\mathfrak{a}$ : (complex) Heisenberg algebra with basis  $(\beta_n, \gamma_m, \mathbf{1})_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}}$ ,  
 $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{Z}: [\beta_n, \gamma_m] = \delta_{n+m,0} \cdot \mathbf{1}$ , and all other  $[x_n, y_m] = 0$

$\mathfrak{a}_-$ : sub Lie algebra with basis  $(\beta_n, \gamma_m, \mathbf{1})_{n \leq 0, m < 0}$

$\underline{\mathbb{C}} := \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}(\Omega)$ ,  $\forall n \leq 0: \beta_n \cdot \Omega = 0$ ,  $\forall m < 0: \gamma_m \cdot \Omega = 0$ ,  $\mathbf{1} \cdot \Omega = \Omega$   
 $F := \text{ind}_{\mathfrak{a}_-}^{\mathfrak{a}}(\underline{\mathbb{C}}) \cong \mathbb{C}[\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots]$

$F$  carries the structure of a vertex operator algebra (VOA),  
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 introducing free fermions along the same lines, get a Fock space  $E \supset F$ ,  
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For  $U \subset M$ : holomorphic coordinate chart with  $\mathbb{E}_{q,-y|U} \cong U \times \mathbb{E}$ ,

$\mathbb{E}$  a super-module of the super-VOA  $E^{\otimes D}$ .

[Dong/Liu/Ma02], using the  $SU(D)$ -holonomy of  $M$ , obtain

an  $SU(D)$ -principal bundle of  $E^{\otimes D}$ -modules associated to  $\mathbb{E}_{q,-y}$ .



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**BUT:** In TQFT, we need to include the zero modes  $\gamma_0^{(j)}$ .

## 2. The chiral de Rham complex

### **Definition** [Malikov/Schechtman/Vaintrob99]

CHIRAL DE RHAM COMPLEX  $\Omega_M^{\text{ch}}$ : sheaf of super-VOAs over  $M$ ,  
for any holomorphic coordinate chart  $U \subset M$ :  $\Omega_M^{\text{ch}}(U) := E^{\otimes D}$ .

### **Theorem** [Malikov/Schechtman/Vaintrob99; Borisov/Libgober00]

$H^*(M, \Omega_M^{\text{ch}})$  (sheaf cohomology) is a topological  $N = 2$  superconformal VOA.  
 $\Omega_M^{\text{ch}}$  is filtered with associated graded  $\mathbb{E}_{q,-y}$  ( $q \leftrightarrow L_0^{\text{top}}$ ,  $y \leftrightarrow J_0$ ).

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**Consequence:** 
$$\mathcal{E}(M; \tau, z) = y^{-\frac{D}{2}} \sum_j (-1)^j \underbrace{\text{tr}_{H^j(M, \Omega_M^{\text{ch}})} \left( (-y)^{J_0} q^{L_0^{\text{top}}} \right)}_{\neq \text{gr-dim}(H^j(M, \mathbb{E}_{q,-y}))},$$
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**Results** [W17] on  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG, ch}}(M; \tau, z, \nu)$  (using [Creutzig/Höhn14, Song16]):  
If  $M$  is a complex torus, then  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG, ch}}(M; \tau, z, \nu)$  agrees with  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG}}(M; \tau, z, \nu)$ ;  
if  $M$  is a K3 surface, then it is an invariant, different from  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{HEG}}(M; \tau, z, \nu)$ .

### 3. Interpretation in (2d unitary, Euclidean) SCFT

**Fact:**

$\mathcal{C}$ : a **superconformal field theory** (SCFT) at central charge  $c = 3D$ ,  $D \in \mathbb{N}$   
(assuming  $N = (2, 2)$  worldsheet SUSY and spacetime SUSY)

$\implies$  commuting  $J_0$ ,  $\underbrace{L_0^{\text{top}}}_{L_0 - \frac{1}{2}J_0}$ ,  $\tilde{J}_0$ ,  $\underbrace{\tilde{L}_0^{\text{top}}}_{\tilde{L}_0 - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{J}_0}$  act on the space of states,

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Then  $\mathbb{H} := \ker(\tilde{L}_0^{\text{top}})$  is an sVOA, and

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{CFT}}(\mathcal{C}; \tau, z) := \text{tr}_{\mathbb{H}} \left( (-1)^{J_0 - \tilde{J}_0} y^{J_0 - c/6} q^{L_0^{\text{top}}} \right) \in y^{-D/2} \cdot \mathbb{Z}[[q, y^{\pm 1}]]$$

is a **weak Jacobi form** of **weight 0** and **index  $\frac{D}{2}$** , the **CFT ELLIPTIC GENUS**.

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#### Expectation:

Such an SCFT  $\mathcal{C}$  exists "for every  $M$ " as above,  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{CFT}}(\mathcal{C}; \tau, z) = \mathcal{E}(M; \tau, z)$ .

This **expectation holds true** if  $M$  is a **complex torus** or a **K3 surface**.



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$\mathcal{C}$ : a **superconformal field theory** (SCFT) at central charge  $c = 3D$ ,  $D \in \mathbb{N}$   
(assuming  $N = (2, 2)$  worldsheet SUSY and spacetime SUSY)

$\implies$  commuting  $J_0$ ,  $\underbrace{L_0^{\text{top}}}_{L_0 - \frac{1}{2}J_0}$ ,  $\tilde{J}_0$ ,  $\underbrace{\tilde{L}_0^{\text{top}}}_{\tilde{L}_0 - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{J}_0}$  act on the space of states,

as well as  $\mathcal{A}$ , an **extended  $N = 2$  SCA** with  $c = 3D$ ,  $J_0, L_0 \in \mathcal{A}$ .

Then  $\mathbb{H} := \ker(\tilde{L}_0^{\text{top}})$  is an sVOA, and

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{CFT}}(\mathcal{C}; \tau, z) := \text{tr}_{\mathbb{H}} \left( (-1)^{J_0 - \tilde{J}_0} y^{J_0 - c/6} q^{L_0^{\text{top}}} \right) \in y^{-D/2} \cdot \mathbb{Z}[[q, y^{\pm 1}]]$$

is a **weak Jacobi form** of **weight 0** and **index  $\frac{D}{2}$** , the **CFT ELLIPTIC GENUS**.

#### Expectation:

Such an SCFT  $\mathcal{C}$  exists "for every  $M$ " as above,  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{CFT}}(\mathcal{C}; \tau, z) = \mathcal{E}(M; \tau, z)$ .

This **expectation holds true** if  $M$  is a **complex torus** or a **K3 surface**.

#### Definition [Kachru/Tripathy16]

**CONFORMAL FIELD THEORETIC HODGE ELLIPTIC GENUS:**

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{CFT}}^{\text{HEG}}(\mathcal{C}; \tau, z, \nu) := \text{tr}_{\mathbb{H}} \left( (-1)^{J_0 - \tilde{J}_0} y^{J_0 - c/6} \nu^{\tilde{J}_0 - c/6} q^{L_0^{\text{top}}} \right).$$

### 3. Interpretation in CFT

#### Results

- [Kapustin05]: For theories  $\mathcal{C}$  associated to  $M$ ,  $\mathbb{H} \xrightarrow{\text{large volume}} H^*(M, \Omega_M^{\text{ch}})$ .

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Let  $\mathbb{H}_0 :=$  the **GENERIC SPACE OF STATES**, i.e. maximal such that at every point of the moduli space,  $\mathbb{H}_0 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{H}$  as a representation of  $\langle \mathcal{A}, \tilde{J}_0 \rangle$ ,

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[W17] (using [W00, Song16, Song17]):

Then  $\mathbb{H}_0 \cong H^*(M, \Omega_M^{\text{ch}}) \stackrel{[\text{Song17}]}{\cong}$  Mathieu Moonshine module predicted by [Eguchi/Ooguri/Tachikawa10] and proved to exist by [Gannon12].

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#### Open:

- Is any **VOA structure** of  $\mathbb{H}_0$  compatible with the  $M_{24}$ -action?
- Is  $M_{24}$  generated by **symmetry surfing**,  
as suggested in [Taormina/W11+... ]?

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!