

# CURVE COUNTING ON $K3 \times E$ , THE IGUSA CUSP FORM $\chi_{10}$ , AND DESCENDENT INTEGRATION

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ABSTRACT. Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface. Motivated by the study of the Gromov-Witten theory of the Hilbert scheme of points of  $S$ , we conjecture a formula for the Gromov-Witten theory (in all curve classes) of the Calabi-Yau 3-fold  $S \times E$  where  $E$  is an elliptic curve. In the primitive case, our conjecture is expressed in terms of the Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$  and matches a prediction via heterotic duality by Katz, Klemm, and Vafa. In imprimitive cases, our conjecture suggests a new structure for the complete theory of descendent integration for  $K3$  surfaces. Via the Gromov-Witten/Pairs correspondence, a conjecture for the reduced stable pairs theory of  $S \times E$  is also presented. Speculations about the motivic stable pairs theory of  $S \times E$  are made.

The reduced Gromov-Witten theory of the Hilbert scheme of points of  $S$  is much richer than  $S \times E$ . The 2-point function of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$  determines a matrix with trace equal to the partition function of  $S \times E$ . A conjectural form for the full matrix is given.

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface, and let  $E$  be a nonsingular elliptic curve. The 3-fold

$$X = S \times E$$

has trivial canonical bundle, and hence is Calabi-Yau. Let

$$\pi_1 : X \rightarrow S, \quad \pi_2 : X \rightarrow E$$

denote the projections on the respective factors. Let

$$\iota_{S,e} : S \rightarrow X, \quad \iota_{E,s} : E \rightarrow X$$

be inclusions of the fibers of  $\pi_2$  and  $\pi_1$  over points  $e \in E$  and  $s \in S$  respectively. We will often drop the subscripts  $e$  and  $s$ .

Let  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S) \subset H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  be a class which is positive (with respect to any ample polarization), and let  $d \geq 0$  be an integer. The pair  $(\beta, d)$  determines a class in  $H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$  by

$$(\beta, d) = \iota_{S*}(\beta) + \iota_{E*}(d[E]).$$

The moduli space of stable maps  $\overline{M}_g(X, (\beta, d))$  from connected genus  $g$  curves to  $X$  representing the class  $(\beta, d)$  is of virtual dimension 0. However, because  $S$  is holomorphic symplectic, the virtual class vanishes<sup>1</sup>,

$$\left[ \overline{M}_g(X, (\beta, d)) \right]^{vir} = 0.$$

The Gromov-Witten theory of  $X$  is only interesting after *reduction*. The reduced class  $\left[ \overline{M}_g(X, (\beta, d)) \right]^{red}$  is of dimension 1. The elliptic curve  $E$  acts on  $\overline{M}_g(X, (\beta, d))$  with orbits of dimension 1. The moduli space  $\overline{M}_g(X, (\beta, d))$  may be viewed virtually as a finite union of  $E$ -orbits. The basic enumerative question here is to count the number of these  $E$ -orbits.

The counting of the  $E$ -orbits is defined mathematically by the following construction. Let  $\beta^\vee \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Q})$  be *any* class satisfying

$$(1) \quad \langle \beta, \beta^\vee \rangle = 1$$

with respect to the intersection pairing on  $S$ . For  $g \geq 0$ , we define

$$(2) \quad \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X = \int_{[\overline{M}_{g,1}(X, (\beta, d))]^{red}} \text{ev}_1^* \left( \pi_1^*(\beta^\vee) \cup \pi_2^*([0]) \right),$$

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<sup>1</sup>See [24] for discussion of the virtual class for stable maps to  $K3$  surfaces.

where  $0 \in E$  is the zero of the group law. The invariant  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  is the virtual count of  $E$ -orbits discussed above. Because of orbifold issues and the possible non-integrality of  $\beta^\vee$ ,

$$\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

We will prove  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  does not depend upon the choice of  $\beta^\vee$  satisfying (1). The count  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  is invariant under deformations of  $S$  for which  $\beta$  remains algebraic. By standard arguments [24, 35],  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  then depends upon  $S$  and  $\beta$  *only* via the norm square

$$2h - 2 = \langle \beta, \beta \rangle$$

and the divisibility  $m(\beta)$ . The count  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  is independent of the complex structure of  $E$ . The notation

$$(3) \quad \mathbf{N}_{g,m,h,d}^X = \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$$

will be used.

We conjecture here four basic properties of the reduced Gromov-Witten counts  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$ :

- (i) a closed formula for their generating series in term of the Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$  in case  $\beta$  is primitive,
- (ii) a reduction rule expressing the invariants for imprimitive  $\beta$  in terms of the primitive cases determined by (i),
- (iii) a Gromov-Witten/Pairs correspondence governing the reduced stable pairs invariants of  $X$ ,
- (iv) a precise formula relating  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  to the reduced genus 0 Gromov-Witten invariants of the Hilbert scheme  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$  of  $d$  points of the  $K3$  surface  $S$  in case  $\beta$  is primitive.

In the  $d = 0$  case, the counts  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,0}^X$  specialize to the basic integrals

$$(4) \quad \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,0}^X = \int_{[\overline{M}_g(S,\beta)]^{red}} (-1)^g \lambda_g$$

of the reduced Gromov-Witten theory of  $K3$  surfaces.<sup>2</sup> The integrals (4) are governed by the Katz-Klemm-Vafa conjecture proven in [34]. Formula (i) specializes to the Jacobi form of the KKV formula. Formulas for BPS counts of  $S \times E$  associated to primitive curve classes  $\beta \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  are predicted in [15, Section 6.2] via heterotic duality. After suitable interpretation of the Gromov-Witten theory (2), our formulas (i) match those of [15].

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<sup>2</sup>Here,  $\lambda_g$  is the top Chern class of the Hodge bundle.

The imprimitive structure (ii) is new and takes a surprisingly different form from the standard 3-fold Gromov-Witten multiple cover theory. In fact, conjecture (ii) suggests a new structure for the complete theory of descendent integration for  $K3$  surfaces:

(v) We conjecture a reduction rule expressing the descendent integrals

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{\alpha_i}(\gamma_i) \right\rangle_{g,\beta}^S = \int_{[\overline{M}_{g,n}(S,\beta)]^{red}} \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{\alpha_i} \cup \text{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i), \quad \gamma_i \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})$$

for imprimitive  $\beta$  in terms of the primitive cases.

By [25, Theorem 4], the descendent integrals in the primitive cases are known to be coefficients of quasi-modular forms.

The GW/P correspondence (iii) for  $X$  is straightforward to conjecture. Because reduced theories are considered, the correspondence here is not directly a special case of the standard GW/P correspondence for 3-folds [20, 33].

In [6, 29, 30], a triangle of parallel equivalences relating the Gromov-Witten and Donaldson-Thomas theory of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  to the quantum cohomology of  $\text{Hilb}^d(\mathbb{C}^2)$  was established. Equivalences relating the counting theories of  $S \times \mathbb{P}^1$  and the quantum cohomology of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$  were expected. However, the conjectured formula (iv) relating  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  to the reduced genus 0 Gromov-Witten invariants of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$  is subtle: an interesting correction term appears.

The 2-point function in the reduced genus 0 Gromov-Witten theory of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$  studied in [27] underlies (iv) and motivates the entire paper. An interesting speculation which emerges concerns the 3-fold geometry

$$(5) \quad S \times \mathbb{P}^1 / \{S_0 \cup S_\infty\}$$

relative to the  $K3$ -fibers over  $0, \infty \in \mathbb{P}^1$ :

(vi) For primitive  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$ , we conjecture a form for the matrix of relative invariants of the geometry (5).

The reduced Gromov-Witten invariants of  $S \times E$  arise as the trace of the matrix (vi).

The precise statements of the above conjectures are given in Sections 4 and 5. Conjecture A of Section 4.1 covers both (i) and (iv). Conjectures B, C, and D of Sections 4.2-4.4 correspond to (ii), (v), and (iii) respectively. Conjectures E, F, and G of Section 5 address (vi) via the

reduced Gromov-Witten theory of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$ . Conjectures E and F were first proposed in [27] in a different but equivalent form. Conjecture G is a direct Hilbert scheme / stable pairs correspondence (again with a correction term).

We conclude the paper with speculations about the motivic stable pairs invariants of  $S \times E$ . The theory should simultaneously refine the Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$  and generalize the formula of [14].

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## 1. RUBBER GEOMETRY

1.1. **Definition.** Let  $R$  be the 1-dimensional rubber target obtained from the relative geometry

$$\mathbb{P}^1 / \{0, \infty\}$$

after quotienting by the scaling action. Let  $Y$  be the straight rubber over the  $K3$  surface  $S$ ,

$$Y = S \times R .$$

The moduli space of stable maps to rubber,

$$\overline{M}_g^\bullet(Y, (\beta, d))_{\nu, \nu^\vee}^\sim ,$$

has reduced virtual dimension 0. Here:

- (i) the superscript  $\bullet$  indicates the domain curve may be disconnected (but no connected components are mapped to points),
- (ii)  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$  and  $d \geq 0$  is the degree over  $R$ ,
- (iii) the relative conditions over 0 and  $\infty$  of the rubber are specified by partitions of  $d$  weighted by the cohomology of  $S$ ,

(iv)  $\nu$  and  $\nu^\vee$  are dual cohomology weighted partitions.<sup>3</sup>

We define

$$(6) \quad \tilde{\mathbf{N}}_{g,\beta,d}^{Y\bullet}(\nu, \nu^\vee) = \int_{[\overline{M}_g^{Y\bullet}(Y, (\beta, d))_{\nu, \nu^\vee}]^{red}} 1 .$$

The definition of  $\tilde{\mathbf{N}}_{g,\beta,d}^{Y\bullet}(\nu, \nu^\vee)$  requires no insertion as in (2).

**1.2. Disconnected invariants of  $S \times E$ .** In order to relate the integrals (2) and (6), we must consider the disconnected Gromov-Witten theory of

$$X = S \times E .$$

Let  $\overline{M}_{g,1}^\bullet(X, (\beta, d))$  be the moduli space of stable maps from possibly disconnected genus  $g$  curves to  $X$  (with no connected components mapped to points) representing the class  $(\beta, d)$ . After reduction, the moduli space is of dimension 2. For  $\beta^\vee \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  satisfying (1), we define

$$(7) \quad \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^{X\bullet} = \int_{[\overline{M}_{g,1}^\bullet(X, (\beta, d))]^{red}} \text{ev}_1^* \left( \pi_1^*(\beta^\vee) \cup \pi_2^*([0]) \right) ,$$

where  $0 \in E$  is the zero of the group law as before.

Because of the holomorphic symplectic form of  $S$ , the stable maps with two connected components mapping nontrivially to  $S$  contribute 0 to (7). Hence, the only nontrivial contributions to (7) come from stable maps with a single marked connected component mapping nontrivially to  $S$  and possibly other connected components contracted over  $S$ . By standard vanishing considerations, all connected components contracted over  $S$  must be of genus 1. After evaluating the contracted contributions, we obtain the following relation:

**Proposition 1.** *For all  $g \geq 0$  and  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$ , the disconnected and connected counts for  $X$  satisfy*

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^{X\bullet} \tilde{q}^d = \frac{\sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X \tilde{q}^d}{\prod_{n > 0} (1 - \tilde{q}^n)^{24}} .$$

<sup>3</sup>Let  $\{\gamma_i\}$  be a basis of  $H^*(S, \mathbb{Z})$ , let and  $\{\gamma_i^\vee\}$  be the dual basis. If  $\nu = \{(\nu_j, \gamma_{i_j})\}$ , then  $\nu^\vee = \{(\nu_j, \gamma_{i_j}^\vee)\}$ .

1.3. **Relating  $X$  and  $Y$ .** Consider the degeneration of  $E$  to a nodal rational curve  $C$ . The degeneration,

$$X = S \times E \rightsquigarrow S \times C ,$$

leads to a formula for  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^{X\bullet}$  in terms of the relative geometry

$$S \times \mathbb{P}^1 / \{S_0 \cup S_\infty\} .$$

Then, using standard rigidification of the rubber and the divisor axiom, we obtain the relation:

$$(8) \quad \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^{X\bullet} = \left[ \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}(d)} \mathfrak{z}(\nu) \tilde{\mathbf{N}}_{\beta,d}^{Y\bullet}(\nu, \nu^\vee) u^{2\ell(\nu)} \right]_{u^{2g-2}} .$$

Here,  $\mathcal{P}(d)$  is the set of all cohomology weighted partitions of  $d$  with respect to a fixed basis  $\{\gamma_i\}$  of  $H^*(S, \mathbb{Z})$ . The rubber series on the right side of (8) is

$$\tilde{\mathbf{N}}_{\beta,d}^{Y\bullet}(\nu, \nu^\vee) = \sum_{g \in \mathbb{Z}} u^{2g-2} \tilde{\mathbf{N}}_{g,\beta,d}^{Y\bullet}(\nu, \nu^\vee) .$$

Finally,  $\mathfrak{z}(\nu) = |\text{Aut}(\nu)| \prod_i \nu_i$  is the usual combinatorial factor. Formula (8) and Proposition 1 together imply the following result.

**Proposition 2.** *Definition (2) for  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^X$  is independent of the choice of  $\beta^\vee$  satisfying (1).*

## 2. THE IGUSA CUSP FORM $\chi_{10}$

Let  $\mathbb{H}_2$  denote the Siegel upper half space. The standard coordinates are

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} \tau & z \\ z & \tilde{\tau} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{H}_2 ,$$

where  $\tau, \tilde{\tau} \in \mathbb{H}_1$  lie in the Siegel upper half plane,  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , and

$$\text{Im}(z)^2 < \text{Im}(\tau)\text{Im}(\tilde{\tau}) .$$

We denote the exponentials of the coordinates by

$$p = \exp(2\pi iz), \quad q = \exp(2\pi i\tau), \quad \tilde{q} = \exp(2\pi i\tilde{\tau}).$$

For us, the variable  $p$  is related to the genus parameter  $u$  of Gromov-Witten theory and the Euler characteristic parameter  $y$  of stable pairs theory:

$$p = \exp(iu), \quad y = -p .$$

More precisely, we have  $u = 2\pi z$  and  $y = \exp(2\pi i(z + 1/2))$ .

In the partition functions, the variable  $q$  indexes classes of  $S$ ,  
 $q^{h-1} \longleftrightarrow$  a primitive class  $\beta_h$  on  $S$  satisfying  $2h - 2 = \langle \beta_h, \beta_h \rangle$ ,  
and the variable  $\tilde{q}$  indexes classes of  $E$ ,  
 $\tilde{q}^{d-1} \longleftrightarrow$   $d$  times the class  $[E]$ .

We will require several special functions. Let

$$C_{2k}(\tau) = -\frac{B_{2k}}{2k(2k)!} E_{2k}(\tau)$$

be renormalized Eisenstein series:

$$C_2 = -\frac{1}{24} E_2, \quad C_4 = \frac{1}{2880} E_4, \quad \dots$$

Define the Jacobi theta function by

$$\begin{aligned} F(z, \tau) &= \frac{\vartheta_1(z, \tau)}{\eta^3(\tau)} \\ &= -i(p^{1/2} - p^{-1/2}) \prod_{m \geq 1} \frac{(1 - pq^m)(1 - p^{-1}q^m)}{(1 - q^m)^2} \\ &= u \exp\left(-\sum_{k \geq 1} (-1)^k C_{2k} u^{2k}\right), \end{aligned}$$

where we have chosen the normalization<sup>4</sup>

$$(9) \quad F = u + O(u^2), \quad u = 2\pi z.$$

Define the Weierstrass  $\wp$  function by

$$\begin{aligned} \wp(z, \tau) &= -\frac{1}{u^2} - \sum_{k \geq 2} (-1)^k (2k-1) 2k C_{2k} u^{2k-2} \\ &= \frac{1}{12} + \frac{p}{(1-p)^2} + \sum_{k, r \geq 1} k(p^k - 2 + p^{-k}) q^{kr}. \end{aligned}$$

$F(z, \tau)$  and  $\wp(z, \tau)$  are related by the following construction. Let

$$(10) \quad G = F \partial_z^2(F) - \partial_z(F)^2 = F^2 \partial_z^2 \log(F),$$

where  $\partial_z = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial u} = p \frac{d}{dp}$ . Then we have the basic relation

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} \wp(z, \tau) &= -\partial_z^2(\log(F(z, \tau))) - 2C_2(\tau) \\ &= -\frac{G}{F^2} + \frac{1}{12} E_2. \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>4</sup>From the point of Gromov-Witten theory, the leading term  $u^k$  for the special functions is more natural. However, the usual convention in the literature is to take leading term  $(2\pi iz)^k$ . We follow the usual convention for most of the classical functions. Our convention for  $F$  is an exception which allows for fewer signs in the statement of the Gromov-Witten and pairs results, but results in sign changes when comparing with classical function (see Conjecture A).

Define the coefficients  $c(m)$  by the expansion

$$Z(z, \tau) = -24\wp(z, \tau)F(z, \tau)^2 = \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c(4n - k^2) p^k q^n.$$

The Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}(\Omega)$  may be expressed by a result of Gritsenko and Nikulin [13] as

$$(12) \quad \chi_{10}(\Omega) = pq\tilde{q} \prod_{(k,h,d)} (1 - p^k q^h \tilde{q}^d)^{c(4hd - k^2)},$$

where the product is over all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $h, d \geq 0$  satisfying one of the following two conditions:

- $h > 0$  or  $d > 0$ ,
- $h = d = 0$  and  $k < 0$ .

It follows from (12), that the form  $\chi_{10}$  is symmetric in the variables  $q$  and  $\tilde{q}$ ,

$$(13) \quad \chi_{10}(q, \tilde{q}) = \chi_{10}(\tilde{q}, q).$$

Let  $\phi|_{k,m} V_l$  denote the action of the  $l^{\text{th}}$  Hecke operator on a Jacobi form  $\phi$  of index  $m$  and weight  $k$ , see [8, page 41]. The definition (12) is equivalent to

$$(14) \quad \chi_{10}(\Omega) = -\tilde{q} \cdot F(z, \tau)^2 \Delta(\tau) \cdot \exp\left(-\sum_{l \geq 1} \tilde{q}^l \cdot (Z|_{0,1} V_l)(z, \tau)\right),$$

where

$$\Delta(\tau) = q \prod_{n > 0} (1 - q^n)^{24}.$$

Alternatively, we may define  $\chi_{10}(\Omega)$  as the additive lift,

$$\chi_{10}(\Omega) = -\sum_{\ell \geq 1} \tilde{q}^\ell \cdot (F^2 \Delta|_{10,1} V_\ell)(z, \tau).$$

Our main interest is in the inverse of the Igusa cusp form,

$$\frac{1}{\chi_{10}(\Omega)}.$$

By (9) and (14),  $\frac{1}{\chi_{10}}$  has a pole of order 2 at  $z = 0$  and its translates. Hence, the Fourier expansion of  $\frac{1}{\chi_{10}}$  depends on the location in  $\Omega$ . We will always assume the parameters  $(z, \tau)$  to be in the region

$$0 < |q| < |p| < 1.$$

The above choice determines the Fourier expansion of  $\frac{1}{F^2 \Delta}$  and therefore also of  $\frac{1}{\chi_{10}}$ .

Consider the expansion in  $\tilde{q}$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\chi_{10}(\Omega)} = \sum_{n \geq -1} \tilde{q}^n \psi_n.$$

For the first few terms (see [16, page 27]), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{-1} &= -\frac{1}{F^2 \Delta} \\ \psi_0 &= 24 \frac{\wp}{\Delta} \\ \psi_1 &= -\left(324\wp^2 + \frac{3}{4}E_4\right) \frac{F^2}{\Delta} \\ \psi_2 &= \left(3200\wp^3 + \frac{64}{3}E_4\wp + \frac{10}{27}E_6\right) \frac{F^4}{\Delta}. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the leading coefficient (with  $p = -y$ ) is

$$\psi_{-1} = \frac{-1}{y+2+y^{-1}} \frac{1}{q} \prod_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{(1+y^{-1}q^m)^2 (1-q^m)^{20} (1+yq^m)^2}.$$

It is related to the Katz-Klemm-Vafa formula for  $K3$  surfaces proven in [25, 34],

$$\begin{aligned} -\psi_{-1} \Big|_{-y=\exp(-iu)} &= \sum_{\substack{h \geq 0 \\ g \geq 0}} u^{2g-2} q^{h-1} \int_{\overline{M}_g(S, \beta_h)} (-1)^g \lambda_g \\ &= \frac{1}{u^2 \Delta(\tau)} \exp\left(\sum_{k \geq 1} u^{2k} \frac{|B_{2k}|}{k \cdot (2k)!} E_{2k}(\tau)\right). \end{aligned}$$

The functions  $\psi_d$  are meromorphic Jacobi forms with poles of order 2 at  $z = 0$  and its translates. The principal part of  $\psi_d$  at  $z = 0$  equals

$$(15) \quad \frac{a(d)}{\Delta(\tau)} \frac{1}{(2\pi iz)^2}$$

where  $a(d)$  is the  $q^d$  coefficient of  $\frac{1}{\Delta}$ .

### 3. HILBERT SCHEMES OF POINTS

**3.1. Curves classes.** Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface. Let

$$S^{[d]} = \text{Hilb}^d(S)$$

denote the the Hilbert scheme of  $d$  points of  $S$ . The Hilbert scheme  $S^{[d]}$  is a nonsingular projective variety of dimension  $2d$ . Moreover,  $S^{[d]}$  carries a holomorphic symplectic form, see [1, 26].

We follow standard notation for the Nakajima operators [26]. For  $\alpha \in H^*(S; \mathbb{Q})$  and  $i > 0$ , let

$$\mathbf{p}_{-i}(\alpha) : H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H^*(S^{[d+i]}, \mathbb{Q}), \quad \gamma \mapsto \mathbf{p}_{-i}(\alpha)\gamma$$

be the Nakajima creation operator defined by adding length  $i$  punctual subschemes incident to a cycle Poincare dual to  $\alpha$ . The cohomology of  $S^{[d]}$  can be completely described by the cohomology of  $S$  via the action of the operators  $\mathbf{p}_{-i}(\alpha)$  on the vacuum vector

$$1_S \in H^*(S^{[0]}, \mathbb{Q}) = \mathbb{Q}.$$

Let  $\mathbf{p}$  be the class of a point on  $S$ . For  $\beta \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$ , define the class

$$C(\beta) = \mathbf{p}_{-1}(\beta)\mathbf{p}_{-1}(\mathbf{p})^{d-1}1_S \in H_2(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Z}).$$

If  $\beta = [C]$  for a curve  $C \subset S$ , then  $C(\beta)$  is the class of the curve given by fixing  $d - 1$  distinct points away from  $C$  and letting a single point move on  $C$ . For  $d \geq 2$ , let

$$A = \mathbf{p}_{-2}(\mathbf{p})\mathbf{p}_{-1}(\mathbf{p})^{d-2}1_S$$

be the class of an exceptional curve – the locus of spinning double points centered at a point  $s \in S$  plus  $d - 2$  fixed points away from  $s$ . For  $d \geq 2$ ,

$$H_2(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Z}) = \{ C(\beta) + kA \mid \beta \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z}), k \in \mathbb{Z} \}.$$

The moduli space of stable maps<sup>5</sup>  $\overline{M}_{0,2}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta) + kA)$  carries a reduced virtual class of dimension  $2d$ .

**3.2. Elliptic fibration.** Let  $S$  be an elliptic  $K3$  surface

$$\pi : S \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$$

with a section, and let  $F \in H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  be the class of a fiber. The generic fiber of the induced fibration

$$\pi^{[d]} : \text{Hilb}^d(S) \longrightarrow \text{Hilb}^d(\mathbb{P}^1) = \mathbb{P}^d,$$

is a nonsingular Lagrangian torus. Let

$$L_z \subset \text{Hilb}^d(S)$$

denote the the fiber of  $\pi^{[d]}$  over  $z \in \mathbb{P}^d$ .

Let  $\beta_h$  be a primitive curve class on  $S$  with  $\langle \beta_h, F \rangle = 1$  and square

$$\langle \beta_h, \beta_h \rangle = 2h - 2.$$

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<sup>5</sup>Here, the maps are required to have *connected* domains. No superscript  $\bullet$  appears in the notation.

For  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{P}^d$ , define the invariant

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N}_{k,h,d}^{\text{Hilb}} &= \langle L_{z_1}, L_{z_2} \rangle_{\beta_h, k}^{\text{Hilb}^d(S)} \\ &= \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,2}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h) + kA)]^{\text{red}}} \text{ev}_1^*(L_{z_1}) \cup \text{ev}_2^*(L_{z_2}) \end{aligned}$$

which (virtually) counts the number of rational curves incident to the Lagrangians  $L_{z_1}$  and  $L_{z_2}$ .

A central result of [27] is the following complete evaluation of  $\mathbf{N}_{k,h,d}^{\text{Hilb}}$ .

**Theorem 3.** *For  $d > 0$ , we have*

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{h \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{k,h,d}^{\text{Hilb}} y^k q^{h-1} = \frac{F(z, \tau)^{2d-2}}{\Delta(\tau)}$$

where  $y = -e^{2\pi iz}$  and  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ .

In the  $d = 1$  case, the class  $A$  vanishes on  $S^{[1]} = S$ . By convention, only the  $k = 0$  term in the sum on the left is taken. Then, Theorem 3 specializes in  $d = 1$  to the Yau-Zaslow formula [36] for rational curve counts in primitive classes of  $K3$  surfaces.

If we specialize the formula of Theorem 3 to  $d = 0$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{h \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{k,h,0}^{\text{Hilb}} y^k q^{h-1} = \frac{F(z, \tau)^{-2}}{\Delta(\tau)} = \frac{1}{F(z, \tau)^2 \Delta}.$$

The result is exactly the Katz-Klemm-Vafa formula as discussed in Section 2. While the  $d = 0$  specialization is not geometrically well-defined from the point of view of the Hilbert scheme, the result strongly suggests a correspondence between the Gromov-Witten theory of  $K3$  fibrations and the reduced theory of  $\text{Hilb}^d(S)$ . Precise conjectures will be formulated in the next Section.

## 4. CONJECTURES

**4.1. Primitive case.** Let  $\beta_h \in \text{Pic}(S) \subset H_2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  be a *primitive* class which is positive (with respect to any ample polarization) and satisfies

$$\langle \beta_h, \beta_h \rangle = 2h - 2.$$

Let  $(E, 0)$  be a nonsingular elliptic curve with origin  $0 \in E$ . For  $d > 0$ , consider the reduced Gromov-Witten invariant

$$(16) \quad \mathbf{H}_d(y, q) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{h \geq 0} y^k q^{h-1} \int_{[\overline{M}_{(E,0)}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h) + kA)]^{\text{red}}} \text{ev}_0^*(\beta_{h,k}^\vee).$$

The moduli space (16) is of stable maps with 1-pointed domains with complex structure *fixed* after stabilization to be  $(E, 0)$ . The reduced virtual dimension of  $\overline{M}_{(E,0)}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h) + kA)$  is 1. The divisor class  $\beta_{h,k}^\vee \in H^2(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$  is chosen to satisfy

$$(17) \quad \int_{C(\beta_h)+kA} \beta_{h,k}^\vee = 1.$$

The integral (16) is well-defined.

Following the perspective of [6, 29, 30], a connection between the disconnected Gromov-Witten invariants  $\mathbf{N}_{g,\beta_h,d}^\bullet$  of  $K3 \times E$  and the series (16) obtained from the geometry of  $S^{[d]}$  is natural to expect.

We may rewrite  $\mathbf{H}_d(y, q)$  by degenerating  $(E, 0)$  to the nodal elliptic curve (and using the divisor equation) as

$$(18) \quad \mathbf{H}_d(y, q) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{h \geq 0} y^k q^{h-1} \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,2}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h)+kA)]^{\text{red}}} (\text{ev}_1 \times \text{ev}_2)^* [\Delta^{[d]}],$$

where  $[\Delta^{[d]}] \in H^{2d}(S^{[d]} \times S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$  is the diagonal class. Equation (18) shows the integral (16) is independent of the choice of  $\beta_{h,k}^\vee$  satisfying (17). By convention,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}_1(q) &= \sum_{h \geq 0} q^{h-1} \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,2}(S^{[1]}, C(\beta_h))]^{\text{red}}} (\text{ev}_1 \times \text{ev}_2)^* [\Delta^{[1]}] \\ &= 2q \frac{d}{dq} \Delta^{-1} \\ &= -2 \frac{E_2}{\Delta}. \end{aligned}$$

For the second equality, we have used the Yau-Zaslow formula.

We define a generating series over all  $d > 0$  of the Hilbert scheme geometry:

$$\mathbf{H}(y, q, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{d > 0} \mathbf{H}_d(y, q) \tilde{q}^{d-1}.$$

The analogous generating series over all  $d$  for the 3-fold geometry

$$X = S \times E$$

is defined by

$$(19) \quad \mathbf{N}^{X^\bullet}(u, q, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{g \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta_h,d}^{X^\bullet} u^{2g-2} q^{h-1} \tilde{q}^{d-1}.$$

The main conjecture in the primitive case is the following.

**Conjecture A.** *Under  $y = -\exp(iu)$ ,*

$$\mathbf{N}^{X^\bullet}(u, q, \tilde{q}) = \mathbf{H}(y, q, \tilde{q}) + \frac{1}{F^2\Delta} \cdot \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{(1 - (\tilde{q} \cdot G)^n)^{24}} = -\frac{1}{\chi_{10}(\Omega)}.$$

The Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}(\Omega)$  and the functions  $F(z, \tau)$ ,  $\Delta(\tau)$ , and  $G(z, \tau)$  are as defined in Section 2.

The second factor in the correction term added to  $\mathbf{H}(y, q, \tilde{q})$  can be expanded as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{(1 - (\tilde{q} \cdot G)^n)^{24}} &= G \cdot \frac{1}{\Delta(\tilde{\tau})} \Big|_{\tilde{q}=G \cdot \tilde{q}} \\ &= \tilde{q}^{-1} + 24G + 324G^2\tilde{q} + 3200G^3\tilde{q}^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

From definition (10) of  $G$  and property (9),

$$G = 1 + O(q).$$

Hence the full correction term has  $\tilde{q}^{-1}$  coefficient  $\frac{1}{F^2\Delta}$  which is the Katz-Klemm-Vafa formula (required since  $\mathbf{H}(y, q, \tilde{q})$  has no  $\tilde{q}^{-1}$  term). The  $\tilde{q}^0$  term yields the identity

$$-2\frac{E_2}{\Delta} + 24\frac{G}{F^2\Delta} = -24\frac{\wp}{\Delta}$$

which is equivalent to (11).

We do not at present have a geometric explanation for the full correction term

$$(20) \quad \frac{1}{F^2\Delta} \cdot \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} \prod_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{(1 - (\tilde{q} \cdot G)^n)^{24}}.$$

Denote the  $\tilde{q}^d$  coefficient of (20) by

$$\phi_d = \frac{a(d)}{\Delta(\tau)} \cdot \frac{G^{d+1}}{F^2}.$$

Here,  $a(d)$  is the  $q^d$  coefficient of  $\frac{1}{\Delta}$ . Then  $\phi_d$  is a meromorphic Jacobi form with poles of order 2 at  $z = 0$  and its translates. The principal part of  $\phi_d$  at  $z = 0$  equals

$$\frac{a(d)}{\Delta(\tau)} \frac{1}{(2\pi z)^2}.$$

Comparing with (15), we see  $\phi_d$  accounts for all the poles in  $-\psi_d$ . The second equality in Conjecture A therefore determines a *natural* splitting

$$(21) \quad -\psi_d = \mathbf{H}_d + \phi_d$$

of  $-\psi_d$  into a finite (holomorphic) quasi-Jacobi form  $H_d$  and a polar part  $\phi_d$ . In particular, the Fourier expansion of  $H_d$  is independent of the moduli  $\tau$ . Hence, all wall-crossings are related to  $\phi_d$ . The splitting of  $\psi_d$  into a finite and polar part has been studied by Dabholkar, Murthy, and Zagier [7] and has a direct interpretation in a physical model of quantum black holes. In fact, up to the  $E_2$  summand in (11) our splitting matches their simplest choice, see [7, Equations 1.5 and 9.1].

The two equalities of Conjecture A are independent claims. The first is a correspondence result (up to correction). We have made verifications by partially evaluating both sides. The second equality, which evaluates the series, has already been seen to hold for the coefficients of  $\tilde{q}^{-1}$  and  $\tilde{q}^0$ . The second equality has been proven for the coefficient of  $\tilde{q}^1$  in [27]. The conjecture

$$(22) \quad \mathbf{N}^{X^\bullet}(u, q, \tilde{q}) = -\frac{1}{\chi_{10}(\Omega)}$$

is directly related to the predictions of Section 6.2 of [15]. J. Bryan [4] has verified<sup>6</sup> conjecture (22) for the coefficients  $q^{-1}$  and  $q^0$ .

The conjectural equality (22) may be viewed as a mathematically precise formulation of [15, Section 6.2]. The Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$  appears in [15] via the elliptic genera of the symmetric products of a  $K3$  surface (the  $\chi_{10}$  terminology is not used in [15]). The development of the reduced virtual class occurred in the years following [15]. Since the  $K3 \times E$  geometry carries a free  $E$ -action, a further step (beyond reduction) must be taken to avoid a trivial theory. Definition (2) with an insertion is a straightforward solution. Finally, the Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$  is related to the *disconnected* reduced Gromov-Witten theory of  $K3 \times E$ . With these foundations, the prediction of [15] may be interpreted to exactly match (22).

By the symmetry (13) of the Igusa cusp form  $\chi_{10}$ , Conjecture A predicts a surprising symmetry for disconnected Gromov-Witten theory of  $X$ ,

$$\mathbf{N}_{g, \beta_h, d}^{X^\bullet} = \mathbf{N}_{g, \beta_d, h}^{X^\bullet},$$

for all primitive classes  $\beta_h$  and  $\beta_d$ . In the notation (3), the symmetry can be written as

$$\mathbf{N}_{g, 1, h, d}^{X^\bullet} = \mathbf{N}_{g, 1, d, h}^{X^\bullet}$$

for all  $h, d \geq 0$  (where the subscript 1 denotes primitivity).

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<sup>6</sup>Bryan's calculation is on the sheaf theory side, see Conjecture D below.

Conjectures for the motivic generalization of the  $d = 0$  case are presented in [14]. An interesting connection to the Mathieu  $M_{24}$  moonshine phenomena appears there in the data. Since the Gromov-Witten theory of  $X$  is related via  $-\frac{1}{\chi_{10}}$  by Conjecture A to the elliptic genera of the symmetric products of  $K3$  surfaces, the Mathieu  $M_{24}$  moonshine must also arise here.

**4.2. Imprimitve classes.** The generating series  $\mathbf{N}^{X^\bullet}(u, q, \tilde{q})$  defined by (19) concerns only the primitive classes  $\beta_h \in \text{Pic}(S)$ . To study the imprimitive case, we define

$$(23) \quad \mathbf{N}_\beta^X(u, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{g \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g, \beta, d}^X u^{2g-2} \tilde{q}^{d-1}$$

for any  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$ . The coefficients of  $\mathbf{N}_\beta^X(u, \tilde{q})$  are *connected* invariants.<sup>7</sup> We may write (23) in the notation (3) as

$$\mathbf{N}_{m\beta_h}^X(u, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{g \geq 0} \sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g, m, m^2(h-1)+1, d}^X u^{2g-2} \tilde{q}^{d-1}$$

for primitive  $\beta_h \in \text{Pic}(S)$  satisfying

$$\langle \beta_h, \beta_h \rangle = 2h - 2.$$

In the primitive ( $m=1$ ) case, instead of writing  $\mathbf{N}_{\beta_h}^X$ , we write

$$\mathbf{N}_h^X(u, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{g \geq 0} \sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{N}_{g, 1, h, d}^X u^{2g-2} \tilde{q}^{d-1}$$

**Conjecture B.** For all  $m > 0$ ,

$$(24) \quad \mathbf{N}_{m\beta_h}^X(u, \tilde{q}) = \sum_{k|m} \frac{1}{k} \mathbf{N}_{\left(\frac{m}{k}\right)^2(h-1)+1}^X(ku, \tilde{q}),$$

for the primitive class  $\beta_h$ .

Conjecture B expresses the series  $\mathbf{N}_{m\beta_h}^X$  in terms of series for *primitive classes* corresponding to the divisors  $k$  of  $m$ . To such a divisor  $k$ , we associate the class  $\frac{m}{k}\beta_h$  with square

$$\left\langle \frac{m}{k}\beta_h, \frac{m}{k}\beta_h \right\rangle = \left(\frac{m}{k}\right)^2 (2h - 2) = 2 \left( \left(\frac{m}{k}\right)^2 (h - 1) + 1 \right) - 2.$$

The term in the sum on the right side of (24) corresponding to  $k$  may be viewed as the contribution of the primitive class of square

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<sup>7</sup>By Proposition 1, there is no difficulty in moving back and forth between connected and disconnected invariants.

equal to  $\langle \frac{m}{k}\beta_h, \frac{m}{k}\beta_h \rangle$ . The primitive contribution of the divisor  $k$  to  $\mathbf{N}_{g,m,m^2(h-1)+1,d}^X$  is

$$(25) \quad k^{2g-3} \cdot \mathbf{N}_{g,1,(\frac{m}{k})^2(h-1)+1,d}^X .$$

The scaling factor  $k^{2g-3}$  is *independent* of  $d$ . In fact, the variable  $\tilde{q}$  plays no role in formula (24). To emphasize the point, the contribution of the divisor  $k$  geometrically is a contribution of the class

$$\left(\frac{m}{k}\beta_h, d\right) = \iota_{S^*} \left(\frac{m}{k}\beta\right) + \iota_{E^*}(d[E])$$

to  $(m\beta_h, d)$  in the 3-fold  $S \times E$ . Unless  $d = 0$ , such a contribution can not be viewed as a multiple cover contribution in the usual Gopakumar-Vafa perspective of Calabi-Yau 3-fold invariants.

In the  $d = 0$  case, Conjecture B specializes to the multiple cover structure of the KKV conjecture proven in [34] which is usually formulated in terms of BPS counts. We could rewrite Conjecture B in terms of nonstandard 3-fold BPS counts which do not interact with the curve class  $[E]$  associated to  $\tilde{q}$ . Instead, we have written Conjecture B in the most straightforward Gromov-Witten form. In fact, the simple form of Conjecture B suggests a much more general underlying structure for  $K3$  surfaces (which we will discuss in Section 4.3).

Further evidence for Conjecture B can be found in case  $h = 0$ . Localization arguments<sup>8</sup> (with respect to the  $\mathbb{C}^*$  acting on the  $-2$  curve) yield

$$\mathbf{N}_{m\beta_0}^X(u, \tilde{q}) = \frac{1}{m} \mathbf{N}_0^X(mu, \tilde{q}) .$$

Hence, Conjecture B predicts the primitive contributions corresponding to  $k \neq m$  all *vanish* in the  $h = 0$  case. Such vanishing is correct: the reduced Gromov-Witten invariants of  $X$  vanish for classes  $(\beta, d)$  where  $\beta$  is primitive and

$$\langle \beta, \beta \rangle < -2 .$$

Finally, an elementary analysis leads to the proof of Conjecture B in all cases for  $g = 1$ . Both sides of (24) are easily calculated.

**4.3. Descendent theory for  $K3$  surfaces.** Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface, and let  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$  be a positive class. We define

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<sup>8</sup>The localization required here is parallel to the proof of the scaling in [9, Theorem 3].

the (reduced) descendent Gromov-Witten invariants by

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{\alpha_i}(\gamma_i) \right\rangle_{g,\beta}^S = \int_{[\overline{M}_{g,n}(S,\beta)]^{red}} \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{\alpha_i} \cup \text{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i), \quad \gamma_i \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q}).$$

A potential function for the descendent theory of  $K3$  surfaces in primitive classes is defined by

$$(26) \quad \mathbf{F}_g(\tau_{k_1}(\gamma_{l_1}) \cdots \tau_{k_r}(\gamma_{l_r})) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} \left\langle \tau_{k_1}(\gamma_{l_1}) \cdots \tau_{k_r}(\gamma_{l_r}) \right\rangle_{g,\beta_h}^S q^{h-1}$$

for  $g \geq 0$ .

The descendent potential (26) is a quasimodular form [25]. The ring

$$\text{QMod} = \mathbb{Q}[E_2(q), E_4(q), E_6(q)]$$

of holomorphic quasimodular forms (of level 1) is the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebra generated by Eisenstein series  $E_{2k}$ , see [3]. The ring  $\text{QMod}$  is naturally graded by weight (where  $E_{2k}$  has weight  $2k$ ) and inherits an increasing filtration

$$\text{QMod}_{\leq 2k} \subset \text{QMod}$$

given by forms of weight  $\leq 2k$ . The precise result proven in [25] is the following.

**Theorem 4.** *The descendent potential is the Fourier expansion in  $q$  of a quasimodular form*

$$\mathbf{F}_g(\tau_{k_1}(\gamma_1) \cdots \tau_{k_r}(\gamma_r)) \in \frac{1}{\Delta(q)} \text{QMod}_{\leq 2g+2r}$$

with pole at  $q = 0$  of order at most 1.

Conjectures C1 and C2 below will reduce all descendent invariants to the primitive case.

Conjecture C1 is an invariance property. Let  $S$  and  $\tilde{S}$  be two  $K3$  surfaces, and let

$$\varphi : \left( H^2(S, \mathbb{R}), \langle, \rangle \right) \rightarrow \left( H^2(\tilde{S}, \mathbb{R}), \langle, \rangle \right)$$

be a *real isometry* sending an effective curve<sup>9</sup> class  $\beta \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  to an effective curve class  $\tilde{\beta} \in H^2(\tilde{S}, \mathbb{Z})$ ,

$$\varphi(\beta) = \tilde{\beta}.$$

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<sup>9</sup>Since there is a canonical isomorphism  $H_2(S, \mathbb{Z}) \cong H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$ , we may consider  $\beta$  also as a cohomology class.

It is convenient to extend  $\varphi$  to all of  $H^*(S, \mathbb{R})$  by

$$\varphi(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1}, \quad \varphi(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{p}$$

where  $\mathbf{1}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  are the identity and point classes respectively.

**Conjecture C1.** If  $\beta \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $\tilde{\beta} \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Z})$  have the same divisibility,

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^r \tau_{\alpha_i}(\gamma_i) \right\rangle_{g, \beta}^S = \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{\alpha_i}(\varphi(\gamma_i)) \right\rangle_{g, \tilde{\beta}}^{\tilde{S}}.$$

Let  $\delta_i$  be the (complex) codimension of  $\gamma_i$ ,

$$\gamma_i \in H^{2\delta_i}(S, \mathbb{Q}).$$

Conjecture C1 implies the invariant  $\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^r \tau_{\alpha_i}(\gamma_i) \right\rangle_{g, \beta}^S$  depends only upon  $g$ , the divisibility of  $\beta$ , and all the pairings

$$\langle \gamma_i, \gamma_j \rangle, \quad \langle \gamma_i, \beta \rangle, \quad \langle \beta, \beta \rangle$$

for  $\delta_i = \delta_j = 1$ . For the Gromov-Witten theory of curves, a similar invariance statement has been proven in [28].

Conjecture C2 expresses descendent invariants in imprimitive classes in term of primitive classes. Let  $\beta_h$  be a primitive curve class on  $S$ . Since all invariants vanish if  $h < 0$ , we assume  $h \geq 0$ . Let  $m$  be a positive integer. For every divisor  $k$  of  $m$ , let  $S_k$  be a  $K3$  surface with a real isometry

$$\varphi_k : \left( H^2(S, \mathbb{R}), \langle, \rangle \right) \rightarrow \left( H^2(S^k, \mathbb{R}), \langle, \rangle \right)$$

for which  $\varphi_k(\frac{m}{k}\beta_h)$  is a primitive and effective curve class on  $S_k$ .

- If  $h > 0$ , such  $S_k$  are easily found.
- If  $h = 0$ , such  $S_k$  exist only in the  $k = m$  case.

**Conjecture C2.** For primitive classes  $\beta_h$  and  $m > 0$ ,

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^r \tau_{\alpha_i}(\gamma_i) \right\rangle_{g, m\beta_h}^S = \sum_{k|m} k^{2g-3+\sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i} \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \tau_{\alpha_i}(\varphi_k(\gamma_i)) \right\rangle_{g, \varphi_k(\frac{m}{k}\beta_h)}^{S_k}.$$

In the  $h = 0$  case, the  $k \neq m$  terms on the right side of the equality in Conjecture C2 are defined to vanish. By Conjecture C1, the right side is independent of the choices of  $S_k$  and  $\varphi_k$ .

The first evidence: the KKV formula interpreted as the Hodge integral (4) exactly satisfies Conjecture C2 with the integrand viewed as having *no* descendent insertions. In fact,  $(-1)^g \lambda_g$  can be expanded in terms of descendent integrands on strata — applying Conjecture C2 to such an expansion exactly yields the multiple cover scaling of the KKV formula. In particular, Conjecture C2 together with the KKV formula in the primitive case *implies* the full KKV formula.

Conjecture B, when fully expanded, has a scaling factor of  $k^{2g-3}$  which corresponds to Conjecture C2 with no insertions. In fact, Conjecture B *follows* from Conjecture C2 via the product formula [2] for virtual classes in Gromov-Witten theory. Conjecture C2 was motivated for us by Conjecture B.

The second evidence: Maulik in [21, Theorem 1.1] calculated descendents for the  $A_1$  singularity. We may interpret the calculation of [21] as verifying Conjecture C2 in case  $h = 0$ . The scaling of Conjecture C2 appears in [21, Theorem 1.1] as the final result because the primitive contributions corresponding to  $k \neq m$  all *vanish* in the  $h = 0$  case. Of course, the  $A_1$  singularity only captures codimensions 0 and 1 for  $\delta$ .

A simple example not covered by the two above cases is the integral

$$(27) \quad \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{1,m\beta_1}^S$$

where  $\mathbf{p} \in H^4(S, \mathbb{Q})$  is the point class. The primitive class  $\beta_1$  may be taken to be the fiber  $F$  of an elliptically fibered  $K3$  surface

$$\pi : S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 .$$

The primitive invariant is immediate:

$$\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{1,\beta_1}^{K3} = 1$$

Hence, Conjecture C2 yields the prediction

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{1,m\beta_1}^S &= \sum_{k|m} k^{2-3+2} \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{1,\beta_1}^{K3} \\ &= \sum_{k|m} k . \end{aligned}$$

We can evaluate (27) directly from the geometry of stable maps in the class  $mF$  of  $S$ . The integral equals the number of connected degree  $m$  covers of an elliptic curve by an elliptic curve (times  $m$  for the insertion),

$$m \sum_{k|m} \frac{1}{k} = \sum_{k|m} k ,$$

which agrees with the prediction.

A much more interesting example is the genus 2 invariant

$$\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,2\beta_2}^S$$

in twice the primitive class  $\beta_2$ . Via standard geometry,  $\beta_2$  may be taken to be the hyperplane section of a  $K3$  surface  $S$  with a degree 2 cover

$$\epsilon : S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$$

branched along a nonsingular sextic

$$C_6 \subset \mathbb{P}^2 .$$

Conjecture C2 predicts the following equation:

$$\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,2\beta_2}^S = \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,\beta_5}^{K3} + 2^{2 \cdot 2 - 3 + 4} \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,\beta_2}^{K3} .$$

The primitive counts can be found in [5, Theorem 1.1],

$$\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,\beta_2}^{K3} = 1, \quad \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,\beta_5}^{K3} = 8728 .$$

So we obtain the prediction

$$(28) \quad \langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,2\beta_2}^S = 8728 + 2^5 \cdot 1 = 8760 .$$

The verification of (28) is more subtle than the primitive calculation. We study the geometry of curves in class  $2\beta_2$  on the branched  $K3$  surface  $S$ . The two point insertions on  $S$  determine two points  $p, q \in \mathbb{P}^2$ . There are 3 contributions to the invariant (28):

- (i) genus 2 curves in the series  $2\beta_2$  arising as  $\epsilon^{-1}(Q)$  where  $Q \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  is a conic passing through  $p$  and  $q$  and tangent to the branch divisor  $C_6$  at 3 distinct points,
- (ii) genus 2 curves which are the union of two genus 1 curves arising as  $\epsilon$  inverse images of a tangent line of  $C_6$  through  $p$  and a tangent line of  $C_6$  through  $q$ ,
- (iii) genus 2 curves which are the union of genus 2 and genus 0 curves arising as the  $\epsilon$  inverse images of the unique line passing through  $p$  and  $q$  and a bitangent line of  $C_6$ .

The most difficult count of the three is the first. An analysis shows there are no excess issues, hence (i) is equal to the corresponding genus 0 relative invariant of  $\mathbb{P}^2/C_6$ ,

$$(29) \quad \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,2}(\mathbb{P}^2/C_6,2)_{(1)6(2)3}]^{vir}} \text{ev}_1^{-1}(p) \cup \text{ev}_2^{-1}(q) = 6312 ,$$

where  $(1)^6(2)^3$  indicates the (unordered) relative boundary condition of 3-fold tangency.<sup>10</sup>

For (ii), there are 30 tangent lines of  $C_6$  through  $p$  and another 30 through  $q$ . Since we have a choice of node over the intersection of the two lines, the contribution (ii) is

$$2 \cdot 30^2 = 1800 .$$

Since the number of bitangent to  $C_6$  is 324, the contribution (iii) is

$$2 \cdot 324 = 648$$

remembering again the factor 2 for the choice of node. Hence, we calculate

$$\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,2\beta_2}^S = 6312 + 1800 + 648 = 8760$$

in perfect (and nontrivial) agreement with the prediction (28).

**4.4. Gromov-Witten/Pairs correspondence.** Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface, and let

$$X = S \times E .$$

A *stable pair*  $(F, s)$  is a coherent sheaf  $F$  with dimension 1 support in  $X$  and a section  $s \in H^0(X, F)$  satisfying the following stability condition:

- $F$  is *pure*, and
- the section  $s$  has zero dimensional cokernel.

To a stable pair, we associate the Euler characteristic and the class of the support  $C$  of  $F$ ,

$$\chi(F) = n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad [C] = (\beta, d) \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}) .$$

For fixed  $n$  and  $(\beta, d)$ , there is a projective moduli space of stable pairs  $P_n(X, (\beta, d))$ , see [33, Lemma 1.3].

The moduli space  $P_n(X, (\beta, d))$  has a perfect obstruction theory of virtual dimension 0 which yields a vanishing virtual fundamental class. If  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$  is a positive class, then the obstruction theory can be

---

<sup>10</sup>To calculate the relative invariant (29), we have used the program GROWI written by A. Gathmann and available on his webpage [10] at TU Kaiserslautern. The submission line to GROWI is

$$\text{growi } N = 1, G = 0, D = 2, E = 6, H^2 : 2, [1, 2] : 3 ,$$

and the output is  $37872 = 3! \cdot 6312$ . Since GROWI orders the 3 relative tangency points (which we do not do in (29)), a division by  $3!$  completes the calculation.

In addition to providing the software, Gathmann inspired our entire approach to  $\langle \tau_0(\mathbf{p}), \tau_0(\mathbf{p}) \rangle_{2,2\beta_2}^S$  by his imprimitive genus 0 Yau-Zaslow calculation in [11].

reduced to obtain virtual dimension 1. Let  $\beta^\vee \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Q})$  be *any* class satisfying

$$(30) \quad \langle \beta, \beta^\vee \rangle = 1$$

with respect to the intersection pairing on  $S$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we define

$$(31) \quad \mathbf{P}_{n,\beta,d}^X = \int_{[P_n(X,(\beta,d))]^{red}} \tau_0 \left( \pi_1^*(\beta^\vee) \cup \pi_2^*([0]) \right).$$

We follow here the notation of Section 0 for the projections  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ . The insertions in stable pairs theory are defined in [33]. Definition (31) is parallel to (2). As in the Gromov-Witten case, definition (31) is independent of  $\beta^\vee$  satisfying (30) by degeneration and the study of the stable pairs theory of the rubber geometry  $Y$ .

Define the generating series of stable pairs invariants for  $X$  is class  $(\beta, d)$  by

$$\mathbf{P}_{\beta,d}^X(y) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbf{P}_{n,\beta,d}^X y^n.$$

Elementary arguments show the moduli spaces  $P_n(X, (\beta, d))$  are empty for sufficiently negative  $n$ , so  $\mathbf{P}_{\beta,d}^X$  is a Laurent series in  $y$ . Let

$$\mathbf{N}_{\beta,d}^{X\bullet}(u) = \sum_{g \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbf{N}_{g,\beta,d}^{X\bullet} u^{2g-2}$$

be the corresponding Gromov-Witten series for *disconnected* invariants.

**Conjecture D.** *For a positive class  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$  and all  $d$ , the series  $\mathbf{P}_{\beta,d}^X(y)$  is the Laurent expansion of a rational function in  $y$  and*

$$\mathbf{N}_{\beta,d}^{X\bullet}(u) = \mathbf{P}_{\beta,d}^X(y)$$

*after the variable change  $y = -\exp(iu)$ .*

The  $d = 0$  case of Conjecture D is exactly the Gromov-Witten/Pairs correspondence established in [34] for all  $\beta$  as a step in the proof of the KKV conjecture. The following result is further evidence for Conjecture D.

**Proposition 5.** *For primitive  $\beta_h \in \text{Pic}(S)$  and all  $d$ , the series  $\mathbf{P}_{\beta_h,d}^X(y)$  is the Laurent expansion of a rational function in  $y$  and*

$$\mathbf{N}_{\beta_h,d}^{X\bullet}(u) = \mathbf{P}_{\beta_h,d}^X(y)$$

*after the variable change  $y = -\exp(iu)$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume  $S$  is elliptically fibered as in Section 3.2. The reduced virtual class of the moduli spaces of stable maps and stable pairs under the degeneration

$$(32) \quad S \times \mathbb{C} \rightsquigarrow R \times \mathbb{C} \cup R \times \mathbb{C}$$

was studied in [25]. Here,  $R$  is a rational elliptic surface. The two components of the degeneration (32) meet along  $F \times \mathbb{C}$  where  $F \subset R$  is a nonsingular fiber of

$$\pi : R \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 .$$

The crucial observation is that the *reduced* virtual class of the moduli spaces associated to  $S \times \mathbb{C}$  may be expressed in terms of the standard virtual classes of the relative geometries (32) of the degeneration. The above argument is valid also for the degeneration

$$(33) \quad X = S \times E \rightsquigarrow R \times E \cup R \times E .$$

Since the GW/Pairs correspondence for the relative geometry

$$R \times E / F \times E$$

follows from the results of [31, 32], we obtain the reduced correspondence for  $S \times E$ .  $\square$

## 5. THE FULL MATRIX

5.1. **The Fock space.** The Fock space of the K3 surface  $S$ ,

$$(34) \quad \mathcal{F}(S) = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} \mathcal{F}_d(S) = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q}),$$

is naturally bigraded with the  $(d, k)$ -th summand given by

$$\mathcal{F}_d^k(S) = H^{2(k+d)}(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$$

For a bihomogeneous element  $\mu \in \mathcal{F}_d^k(S)$ , we let

$$|\mu| = d, \quad k(\mu) = k.$$

The Fock space  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  carries a natural scalar product  $\langle \cdot | \cdot \rangle$  defined by declaring the direct sum (34) orthogonal and setting

$$\langle \mu | \nu \rangle = \int_{S^{[d]}} \mu \cup \nu$$

for every  $\mu, \nu \in H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$ . For  $\alpha, \alpha' \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})$ , we also write

$$\langle \alpha, \alpha' \rangle = \int_S \alpha \cup \alpha'.$$

If  $\mu, \nu$  are bihomogeneous, then  $\langle \mu | \nu \rangle$  is nonvanishing only in the case  $|\mu| = |\nu|$  and  $k(\mu) + k(\nu) = 0$ .

For all  $\alpha \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})$  and  $m \neq 0$ , the Nakajima operators  $\mathbf{p}_m(\alpha)$  act on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  bihomogeneously of bidegree  $(-m, k(\alpha))$ ,

$$\mathbf{p}_m(\alpha) : \mathcal{F}_d^k \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_{d-m}^{k+k(\alpha)}.$$

The commutation relations

$$(35) \quad [\mathbf{p}_m(\alpha), \mathbf{p}_{m'}(\alpha')] = -m\delta_{m+m',0} \langle \alpha, \alpha' \rangle \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}(S)},$$

are satisfied for all  $\alpha, \alpha' \in H^*(S)$  and all  $m, m' \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus 0$ .

The inclusion of the diagonal  $X \subset X^m$  induces a map

$$\tau_{*m} : H^*(X, \mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H^*(X^m, \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*(X, \mathbb{Q})^{\otimes m}.$$

For  $\tau_* = \tau_{*2}$ , we have

$$\tau_*(\alpha) = \sum_{i,j} g^{ij} (\alpha \cup \gamma_i) \otimes \gamma_j,$$

where  $\{\gamma_i\}$  is a basis of  $H^*(X)$  and  $g^{ij}$  is the inverse of the intersection matrix  $g_{ij} = \langle \gamma_i, \gamma_j \rangle$ .

For  $\gamma \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})$ , define the degree zero Virasoro operator

$$L_0(\gamma) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus 0} : \mathbf{p}_k \mathbf{p}_{-k} : \tau_*(\gamma) = -\sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{i,j} g^{ij} \mathbf{p}_{-k}(\gamma_i \cup \gamma) \mathbf{p}_k(\gamma_j),$$

where  $: -- :$  is the normal ordered product, see [18]. For  $\alpha \in H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})$ , we have then

$$[\mathbf{p}_k(\alpha), L_0(\gamma)] = k \mathbf{p}_k(\alpha \cup \gamma).$$

Let  $\mathbf{1} \in H^*(S)$  denote the unit. The restriction of  $L_0(\gamma)$  to  $\mathcal{F}_d(S)$ ,

$$L_0(\gamma)|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)} : H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$$

is the cup product by the class

$$D_d(\gamma) = \frac{1}{(d-1)!} \mathbf{p}_{-1}(\gamma) \mathbf{p}_{-1}(\mathbf{1})^{d-1} \in H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$$

of subschemes incident to  $\gamma$ , see [19]. In the special case,  $\gamma = \mathbf{1}$ ,  $L_0 = L_0(\mathbf{1})$  is the energy operator,

$$L_0(\mathbf{1})|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)} = d \cdot \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)}.$$

Finally, define Lehn's diagonal operator [19]:

$$\partial = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \geq 1} (\mathbf{p}_{-i} \mathbf{p}_{-j} \mathbf{p}_{i+j} + \mathbf{p}_i \mathbf{p}_j \mathbf{p}_{-(i+j)}) \tau_{3*}([X]).$$

For  $d \geq 2$ ,  $\partial$  acts on  $\mathcal{F}_d(S)$  by the cup product with  $-\frac{1}{2}\Delta_{S^{[d]}}$ , where

$$\Delta_{S^{[d]}} = \frac{1}{(n-2)!} \mathbf{p}_{-2}(1) \mathbf{p}_{-1}(1)^{n-2}$$

denotes the class of the diagonal in  $S^{[d]}$ .

**5.2. Quantum multiplication.** Let  $S$  be an elliptic  $K3$  surface with section class  $B$  and fiber class  $F$ . For  $h \geq 0$ , let

$$\beta_h = B + hF.$$

We will define quantum multiplication on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  with respect to the classes  $\beta_h$ .

For  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$ , define the quantum bracket

$$(36) \quad \langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \rangle_q^{S^{[d]}} = \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} y^k q^{h-1} \int_{[\overline{M}_{0,m}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h) + kA)]^{\text{red}}} \text{ev}_1^*(\alpha_1) \cdots \text{ev}_m^*(\alpha_m)$$

as an element of  $\mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$ .<sup>11</sup> Because  $d$  is determined by the  $\alpha_i$ , we often omit  $S^{[d]}$ . The multilinear pairing  $\langle \cdots \rangle$  extends naturally to the Fock space by declaring the pairing orthogonal with respect to (34).

Let  $\epsilon$  be a formal parameter with  $\epsilon^2 = 0$ . For

$$a, b, c \in H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q}),$$

define the (primitive) quantum product  $*$  by

$$\langle a \mid b * c \rangle = \langle a \mid b \cup c \rangle + \epsilon \cdot \langle a, b, c \rangle_q.$$

As  $\langle \cdots \rangle_q$  takes values in  $\mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$ , the product  $*$  is defined over the ring

$$H^*(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\epsilon]/\epsilon^2.$$

By the WDVV equation in the reduced case (see [27, Appendix 1]),  $*$  is associative. We extend  $*$  to an associative product on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  by  $b * c = 0$  whenever  $b$  and  $c$  are in different summands of (34).

The parameter  $\epsilon$  has to be introduced since we use *reduced* Gromov-Witten theory to define the bracket (36). It can be thought of as an infinitesimal virtual weight on the canonical class  $K_{S^{[n]}}$  and corresponds in the toric case (see [23, 29]) to the equivariant parameter  $(t_1 + t_2) \bmod (t_1 + t_2)^2$ .

<sup>11</sup>By standard arguments [27], the moduli space  $\overline{M}_{0,m}(S^{[d]}, C(\beta_h) + kA)$  is empty for  $k$  sufficiently negative.

We are mainly interested in the 2-point quantum operator

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} : \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q)) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$$

defined by the bracket

$$\langle a \mid \mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} b \rangle = \langle a, b \rangle_q$$

and extended  $q$  and  $y$  linearly. Because  $\overline{M}_{0,2}(S^{[d]}, \alpha)$  has reduced virtual dimension  $2d$ ,  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$  is a self-adjoint operator of bidegree  $(0, 0)$ .

Let  $D_1, D_2 \in H^2(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Q})$  be divisor classes. By associativity and commutativity,

$$(37) \quad D_1 * (D_2 * a) = D_2 * (D_1 * a)$$

for all  $a$ . By the divisor axiom, we have

$$\begin{aligned} D_d(\gamma) * \cdot \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)} &= \left( L_0(\gamma) + \epsilon \mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) \mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} \right) \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)} \\ \frac{-1}{2} \Delta_{S^{[d]}} * \cdot \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)} &= \left( \partial + \epsilon y \frac{d}{dy} \mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} \right) \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_d(S)}. \end{aligned}$$

for every  $\gamma \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Q})$ . Here,  $\frac{d}{dy}$  is formal differentiation with respect to the variable  $y$ , and  $\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma)$  for  $\gamma \in H^*(S)$  is the degree 0 Nakajima operator defined by the following condition<sup>12</sup>:

$$[\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma), \mathfrak{p}_m(\gamma')] = 0$$

for all  $\gamma' \in H^*(S), m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and

$$\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) q^{h-1} y^k 1_S = \langle \gamma, \beta_h \rangle q^{h-1} y^k 1_S.$$

After specializing  $D_i$ , we obtain the main commutator relations for  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$  on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$ ,

$$(38) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) [\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}, L_0(\gamma')] &= \mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma') [\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}, L_0(\gamma)] \\ \mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) [\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}, \partial] &= y \frac{d}{dy} [\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}, L_0(\gamma)], \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\gamma, \gamma' \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Q})$ . The equalities (38) are true only after restricting to  $\mathcal{F}(S)$ , and not on all of  $\mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$  by definition of  $\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma)$  and  $y \frac{d}{dy}$ .

Equation (38) shows the commutator of  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$  with a divisor intersection operator to be essentially independent of the divisor.

<sup>12</sup>This definition precisely matches the action of the extended Heisenberg algebra  $\langle \mathfrak{p}_k(\gamma) \rangle, k \in \mathbb{Z}$  on the full Fock space  $\mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[H^*(S, \mathbb{Q})]$  under the embedding  $q^{h-1} \mapsto q^{B+hF}$ , see [17, section 6.1].

5.3. **The operators  $\mathcal{E}^{(r)}$ .** Let

$$(39) \quad \varphi_{m,\ell}(y, q) \in \mathbb{C}((y^{1/2}))[[q]]$$

be fixed power series that satisfy the symmetries

$$(40) \quad \begin{aligned} \varphi_{m,\ell} &= -\varphi_{-m,-\ell} \\ \ell\varphi_{m,\ell} &= m\varphi_{\ell,m}. \end{aligned}$$

for all  $(m, \ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus 0$ . Depending on the functions (39), define for all  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  operators

$$\mathcal{E}^{(r)} : \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{C}((y^{1/2}))((q)) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{C}((y^{1/2}))((q))$$

by the following recursion relations:

**Step 1.** For all  $r \geq 0$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}^{(r)} \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_0(S) \otimes \mathbb{C}((y^{1/2}))((q))} = \frac{\delta_{0r}}{F(y, q)^2 \Delta(q)} \cdot \text{id}_{\mathcal{F}_0(S) \otimes \mathbb{C}((y^{1/2}))((q))},$$

where  $F(y, q)$  and  $\Delta(q)$  are the functions defined in section 2 considered as formal expansions in the variables  $y$  and  $q$ .

**Step 2.** For all  $m \neq 0, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$[\mathfrak{p}_m(\gamma), \mathcal{E}^{(r)}] = \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\ell^{k(\gamma)}}{m^{k(\gamma)}} : \mathfrak{p}_\ell(\gamma) \mathcal{E}^{(r+m-\ell)} : \varphi_{m,\ell}(y, q)$$

Here  $k(\gamma)$  denotes the shifted complex cohomological degree of  $\gamma$ ,

$$\gamma \in H^{2(k(\gamma)+1)}(S; \mathbb{Q}),$$

and  $: -- :$  is a variant of the normal ordered product defined by

$$: \mathfrak{p}_\ell(\gamma) \mathcal{E}^{(k)} : := \begin{cases} \mathfrak{p}_\ell(\gamma) \mathcal{E}^{(k)} & \text{if } \ell \leq 0 \\ \mathcal{E}^{(k)} \mathfrak{p}_\ell(\gamma) & \text{if } \ell > 0. \end{cases}$$

The two steps uniquely determine the operators  $\mathcal{E}^{(r)}$ . It follows from the symmetries (40), that  $\mathcal{E}^{(r)}$  respects the Nakajima commutator relations (35). Hence  $\mathcal{E}^{(r)}$  acts on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  and is therefore well defined. By definition, it is an operator of bidegree  $(-r, 0)$ , which is  $y$ -linear, but *not*  $q$  linear.

**Conjecture E.** *There exist unique functions  $\varphi_{m,\ell}$  for  $(m, \ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus 0$  that satisfy:*

(i) *Initial conditions:*

$$\varphi_{1,1} = G(y, q) - 1, \quad \varphi_{1,0} = -iF(y, q), \quad \varphi_{1,-1} = -\frac{1}{2}q \frac{d}{dq}(F(y, q)^2).$$

(ii)  $\mathcal{E}^{(0)}$  satisfies the WDVV equations:

$$\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) [\mathcal{E}^{(0)}, L_0(\gamma')] = \mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma') [\mathcal{E}^{(0)}, L_0(\gamma)]$$

$$\mathfrak{p}_0(\gamma) [\mathcal{E}^{(0)}, \partial] = y \frac{d}{dy} [\mathcal{E}^{(0)}, L_0(\gamma)]$$

on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  for all  $\gamma, \gamma' \in H^2(S, \mathbb{Q})$ .

Conjecture E has been checked numerically on  $\mathcal{F}_d(S)$  for  $d \leq 5$ . The functions  $\varphi_{m,\ell} + \text{sgn}(m)\delta_{m\ell}$  are expected to be quasi Jacobi forms with weights and index for all non-vanishing cases given by the following table:

|                         | index                  | weight |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| $m \neq 0, \ell \neq 0$ | $\frac{ m + \ell }{2}$ | 0      |
| $m \neq 0, \ell = 0$    | $\frac{ m }{2}$        | -1     |

The first values of  $\varphi_{m,\ell}$  are:

$$\varphi_{2,2} + 1 = 2K^4 \cdot \left( J_1^2 \wp(z) - \frac{1}{12} J_1^2 E_2 + \frac{3}{2} \wp(z)^2 + J_1 \partial_z(\wp(z)) - \frac{1}{96} E_4 \right)$$

$$\varphi_{2,1} = 2K^3 \cdot \left( J_1 \wp(z) - \frac{1}{12} J_1 E_2 + \frac{1}{2} \partial_z(\wp(z)) \right)$$

$$\varphi_{2,0} = -2 \cdot J_1 \cdot K^2$$

$$\varphi_{2,-1} = -\frac{4}{3} \cdot K^3 \cdot \left( J_1^3 - \frac{3}{2} J_1 \wp(z) - \frac{1}{8} J_1 E_2 - \frac{1}{4} \partial_z(\wp(z)) \right)$$

$$\varphi_{2,-2} = 2J_1 \cdot K^4 \cdot \left( J_1^3 - 2J_1 \wp(z) - \frac{1}{12} J_1 E_2 - \frac{1}{2} \partial_z(\wp(z)) \right),$$

where  $K = iF$  and  $J_1 = \partial_z(\log(F))$ .

Conjectures E and F (below) were first proposed in different but equivalent forms in [27].

**5.4. Further conjectures.** Let  $L_0$  be the energy operator on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$ . We define the operator

$$G^{L_0} : \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q)) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$$

by

$$G^{L_0}(\mu) = G(y, q)^{|\mu|} \cdot \mu$$

for any homogeneous  $\mu \in \mathcal{F}(S)$ .

**Conjecture F.** For  $S$  an elliptic K3 surface we have on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} = \mathcal{E}^{(0)} - \frac{1}{F^2\Delta} G^{L_0}.$$

We stated the Conjecture for the elliptic K3 surface  $S$  with respect to the classes

$$\beta_h = B + hF.$$

By extracting the  $q^{h-1}$ -coefficient and deforming the K3 surface, we obtain the 2-point invariants for any pair  $(S', \beta')$  of a K3 surface  $S'$  and a primitive curve class  $\beta'$  of square  $2h - 2$ .

The trace of the operator  $\frac{1}{F^2\Delta} G^{L_0}$  on the Fock space  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  is

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{F}(S)} \frac{1}{F^2\Delta} \tilde{q}^{L_0-1} G^{L_0} = \frac{1}{F^2\Delta} \sum_{d \geq 0} G^d \chi(S^{[d]}) \tilde{q}^{d-1}.$$

By Göttsche's formula [12], we obtain precisely the correction term (20). Hence Conjectures A and F together imply

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{F}(S)} \tilde{q}^{L_0-1} \mathcal{E}^{(0)} = -\frac{1}{\chi_{10}(\Omega)}.$$

The above equation is a purely algebraic statement about the operator  $\mathcal{E}^{(0)}$ .

Let  $P_n(Y, (\beta_h, d))$  be the moduli space of stable pairs on the straight rubber geometry

$$Y = S \times R$$

defined in Section 1. The reduced virtual dimension of the moduli space  $P_n(Y, (\beta_h, d))$  is  $2d$ . Let

$$\text{ev}_i : P_n(Y, (\beta_h, d)) \rightarrow S^{[d]}, \quad i = 0, \infty$$

be the boundary maps<sup>13</sup>.

Define the bidegree  $(0, 0)$  operator

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}} : \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q)) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Q}((y))((q))$$

on  $\mathcal{F}_d(S)$  by

$$\langle \mu \mid \mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}} \nu \rangle = \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} y^n q^{h-1} \int_{[P_n(Y, (\beta_h, d))]^{\text{red}}} \text{ev}_0^*(\mu) \cup \text{ev}_\infty^*(\nu).$$

<sup>13</sup>For  $d = 0$ , we take  $S^{[0]}$  to be a point.

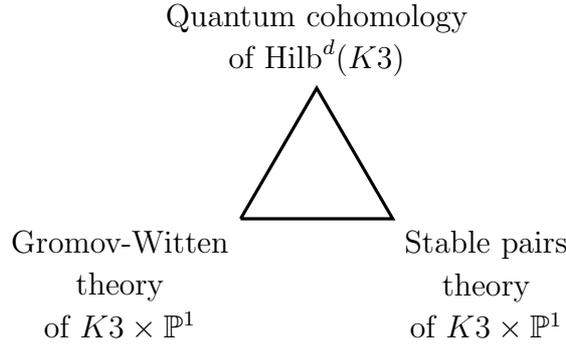
**Conjecture G.** On the elliptic  $K3$  surface  $S$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}} + \frac{1}{F^2 \Delta} G^{L_0} = y^{-L_0} \mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}}.$$

We have stated Conjecture G as relating  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$  and  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}}$ . Combining Conjectures F and G leads to the direct prediction on  $\mathcal{F}(S)$ :

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}} = y^{L_0} \mathcal{E}^{(0)}.$$

A conjecture relating the stable pairs theory of  $S \times R$  to the Gromov-Witten side is formulated exactly as in Conjecture D. We can express the conjectural relationship between the different theories by the triangle:



**5.5. Three examples.** (i) Let  $F$  be the fiber of the elliptic fibration. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{p}_{-1}(F)^d 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \mathbf{p}_{-1}(F)^d 1_S \rangle &= (-1)^d \langle 1_S \mid \mathbf{p}_1(F)^d \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \mathbf{p}_{-1}(F)^d 1_S \rangle \\ &= (-1)^d \langle 1_S \mid \mathbf{p}_0(F)^d \mathcal{E}^{(d)} \varphi_{1,0}^d \mathbf{p}_{-1}(F)^d 1_S \rangle \\ &= (-1)^d \langle 1_S \mid \mathbf{p}_0(F)^{2d} \mathcal{E}^{(0)} (-1)^d \varphi_{1,0}^d \varphi_{-1,0}^d 1_S \rangle \\ &= \frac{\varphi_{1,0}^d \varphi_{-1,0}^d}{F(y, q)^2 \Delta(q)} \\ &= \frac{F(y, q)^{2d-2}}{\Delta(q)} \end{aligned}$$

in agreement with Theorem 3. We have used  $\mathbf{p}_0(F) = 1$  above.

(ii) Let  $W = B + F$ . Then  $W^2 = 0$  and  $\langle W, \beta_h \rangle = h - 1$ . In particular  $\mathfrak{p}_0(W)$  acts as  $\partial_\tau = q \frac{d}{dq}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(W)^d 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(W)^d 1_S \rangle &= (-1)^d \langle 1_S \mid \mathfrak{p}_0(W)^d \mathcal{E}^{(d)} \varphi_{1,0}^d \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(W)^d 1_S \rangle \\ &= \langle 1_S \mid \mathfrak{p}_0(W)^{2d} \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \varphi_{1,0}^d \varphi_{-1,0}^d 1_S \rangle \\ &= \partial_\tau^{2d} \left( \frac{\varphi_{1,0}^d \varphi_{-1,0}^d}{F(y, q)^2 \Delta(q)} \right) \\ &= \partial_\tau^{2d} \left( \frac{F(y, q)^{2d-2}}{\Delta(q)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Let  $\mathfrak{p} \in H^4(S; \mathbb{Z})$  be the class of a point. For all  $d \geq 1$ , let

$$C(F) = \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(F) \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(\mathfrak{p})^{d-1} 1_S \in H_2(S^{[d]}, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Then, assuming Conjecture F,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle C(F) \rangle_q &= \langle C(F), D_d(F) \rangle_q \\ &= \frac{1}{(d-1)!} \langle \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(F) \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(\mathfrak{p})^{d-1} 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(F) \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(e)^{d-1} 1_S \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{(d-1)!} \langle \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(\mathfrak{p})^{d-1} 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \varphi_{1,0} \varphi_{-1,0} \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(e)^{d-1} 1_S \rangle \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{d-1}}{(d-1)!} \langle 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}^{(0)} \varphi_{1,0} \varphi_{-1,0} (\varphi_{1,1} + 1)^{d-1} \mathfrak{p}_1(\mathfrak{p})^{d-1} \mathfrak{p}_{-1}(e)^{d-1} 1_S \rangle \\ &= \frac{\varphi_{1,0} \varphi_{-1,0} (\varphi_{1,1} + 1)^{d-1}}{F(y, q)^2 \Delta(q)} \\ &= \frac{G(y, q)^{d-1}}{\Delta(q)} \end{aligned}$$

in full agreement with the first part of Theorem 2 in [27].

5.6. **The  $\mathcal{A}_1$  resolution.** Let

$$\mathcal{E}_B^{\text{Pairs}} = [q^{-1}] \mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{E}_B^{\text{Hilb}} = [q^{-1}] \mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$$

be the restriction of  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Hilb}}$  and  $\mathcal{E}^{\text{Pairs}}$  to the case of the class  $\beta_0 = B$ .<sup>14</sup> The corresponding local case was considered before in [22, 23]. Define operators  $\mathcal{E}_B^{(r)}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 1_S \mid \mathcal{E}_B^{(r)} 1_S \rangle &= \frac{y}{(1+y)^2} \delta_{0r} \\ [\mathfrak{p}_m(\gamma), \mathcal{E}_B^{(r)}] &= \langle \gamma, B \rangle \left( (-y)^{-m/2} - (-y)^{m/2} \right) \mathcal{E}_B^{(r+m)} \end{aligned}$$

<sup>14</sup>We denote with  $[q^{-1}]$  the operator that extracts the  $q^{-1}$  coefficient.

for all  $m \neq 0$  and  $\gamma \in H^*(S)$ , see [23, Section 5.1]. Translating the results of [22, 23] to the  $K3$  surface leads to the following evaluation.

**Theorem 6.** *We have*

$$\mathcal{E}_B^{\text{Hilb}} + \frac{y}{(1+y)^2} \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}(S)} = y^{-L_0} \mathcal{E}_B^{\text{Pairs}} = \mathcal{E}_B^{(0)}.$$

From numerical experiments [27], we expect the expansions

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{m,0} &= ((-y)^{-m/2} - (-y)^{m/2}) + O(q) && \text{for all } m \neq 0 \\ \varphi_{m,\ell} &= O(q) && \text{for all } \ell \neq 0, m \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

Because of

$$[q^{-1}] \frac{G^{L_0}}{F^2 \Delta} = \frac{y}{(1+y)^2} \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}(S)},$$

we find conjectures F and G to be in complete agreement with Theorem 6.

From Theorem 6, we obtain the interesting relation

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{F}(S)} q^{L_0-1} \mathcal{E}_B^{\text{Pairs}} = \frac{1}{y+2+y^{-1}} \frac{1}{q} \prod_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{(1+y^{-1}q^m)^2 (1-q^m)^{20} (1+yq^m)^2}.$$

By the symmetry of  $\chi_{10}$  in the variables  $q$  and  $\tilde{q}$ , we obtain agreement with Conjecture A.

## 6. MOTIVIC THEORY

Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective  $K3$  surface, and let  $\beta \in \text{Pic}(S)$  be a positive class (with respect to any ample polarization). We will assume  $\beta$  is *irreducible* (not expressible as a sum of effective classes).

To unify our study with [14], we end the paper with a discussion of the motivic stable pairs invariants of

$$X = S \times E$$

in class  $(\beta, d)$ . Following the conjectural perspective of [14], we assume the Betti realization of the motivic invariants of  $X$  is *both* well-defined *and* independent of deformations of  $S$  for which  $\beta$  remains algebraic and irreducible.

We define a generating function  $Z$  of the Betti realizations of the motivic stable pairs theory of  $X$  in classes  $(\beta_h, d)$  where  $\beta_h$  is irreducible and satisfies

$$\langle \beta_h, \beta_h \rangle = 2h - 2.$$

The series  $Z$  depends upon the variables  $y, q, \tilde{q}$  just as before and a new variable  $u$  for the virtual Poincaré polynomial:

$$Z(u, y, q, \tilde{q}) = \frac{1}{u^{-1} + 2 + u} \sum_{h \geq 0} \sum_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{H}(P_n(S \times E, (\beta_h, d))) y^n q^{h-1} \tilde{q}^{d-1} .$$

Here we follow the notation of [14, Section 6] for the normalized virtual Poincaré polynomial

$$\mathbf{H}(P_n(S \times E, (\beta_h, d))) \in \mathbb{Z}[u, u^{-1}] .$$

In the definition of  $Z$ , the prefactor  $\frac{1}{u^{-1} + 2 + u}$  (the reciprocal of the normalized Poincaré polynomial of  $E$ ) quotients by the translation action of  $E$  on  $P_n(S \times E, (\beta_h, d))$ .

Because of the  $u$  normalization, we have the following symmetry of  $Z$  in the variable  $u$ :

$$(i) \quad Z(u, y, q, \tilde{q}) = Z(u^{-1}, y, q, \tilde{q}) .$$

Two further properties which constrain  $Z$  are:

(ii) *the specialization  $u = -1$  must recover the stable pairs invariants (determined by Conjectures A and D),*

$$Z(-1, y, q, \tilde{q}) = -\frac{1}{\chi_{10}} ,$$

(iii) *the coefficient of  $\tilde{q}^{-1}$  must specialize to the motivic series of [14, Section 4],*

$$(uy - 1)(u^{-1} - y^{-1}) \cdot \text{Coeff}_{\tilde{q}^{-1}} \left( Z(u, y, q, \tilde{q}) \right) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - u^{-1}y^{-1}q^n)(1 - u^{-1}yq^n)(1 - q^n)^{20}(1 - uy^{-1}q^n)(1 - uyq^n)} ,$$

*obtained from the Kawai-Yoshioka calculation [17].*

To obtain further constraints, we study the virtual Poincaré polynomial

$$\mathbf{H}\left(P_{1-h-d}(S \times E, (h, d))/E\right) \in \mathbb{Z}[u, u^{-1}]$$

which arises as

$$(41) \quad \text{Coeff}_{y^{1-h-d}q^{h-1}\tilde{q}^{d-1}}(Z) .$$

For  $q^{h-1}\tilde{q}^{d-1}$ , the coefficient (41) corresponds to the the *lowest* order term in  $y$ . We have an isomorphism of the moduli spaces<sup>15</sup>,

$$P_{1-h-d}(S \times E, (h, d))/E \cong P_{1-h+d}(S, h) .$$

Hence, we obtain a fourth constraint for  $Z$ .

$$(iv) \text{ Coeff}_{y^{1-h-d}q^{h-1}\tilde{q}^{d-1}}(Z) \text{ equals the } y^{1-h+d}q^{h-1} \text{ coefficient of}$$

$$\frac{1}{(uy-1)(u^{-1}-y^{-1})} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-u^{-1}y^{-1}q^n)(1-u^{-1}yq^n)(1-q^n)^{20}(1-uy^{-1}q^n)(1-uyq^n)}$$

The function  $-\frac{1}{\chi_{10}}$  has a basic symmetry in the variables  $q$  and  $\tilde{q}$ . As stated, condition (iv) is not symmetric in  $q$  and  $\tilde{q}$ . However, the symmetry

$$\text{Coeff}_{y^{1-h-d}q^{h-1}\tilde{q}^{d-1}}(Z) = \text{Coeff}_{y^{1-h-d}q^{d-1}\tilde{q}^{h-1}}(Z)$$

can be easily verified from (iv). Unfortunately, further calculations show that the symmetry in the variables  $q$  and  $\tilde{q}$  appears *not* to lift to the motivic theory.

A basic question is to specify the modular properties of  $Z$ . We hope conditions (i)-(iv) together with the modular properties of  $Z$  will uniquely determine  $Z$ . There is every reason to expect the function  $Z$  will be beautiful.

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<sup>15</sup>We follow the notation of [14] for the moduli of stable pairs  $P_n(S, h)$  on  $K3$  surfaces.

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