

Uniform Resurgence and Large N

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GD & G. Başar, [1501.05671](#)

GD, G. Başar & M. Ünsal, to appear

Summary of last week's lecture

- asymptotics is a versatile analytic tool for QFT
- **resurgent asymptotics** is more powerful than classical Poincaré asymptotics
- quantitatively useful for physics applications

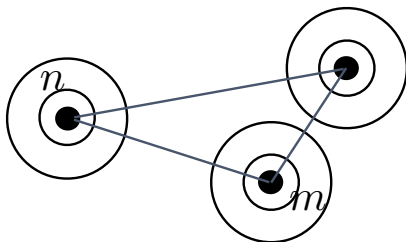
- trans-series expansion in QM and QFT applications:

$$f(g^2) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} \underbrace{c_{k,l,p} g^{2p}}_{\text{perturbative fluctuations}} \underbrace{\left(\exp \left[-\frac{c}{g^2} \right] \right)^k}_{\text{k-instantons}} \underbrace{\left(\ln \left[\pm \frac{1}{g^2} \right] \right)^l}_{\text{quasi-zero-modes}}$$

- new:** analytic continuation encoded in trans-series
- new:** trans-series coefficients $c_{k,l,p}$ highly correlated
- new:** exponential asymptotics

resurgent functions display at each of their singular points a behaviour closely related to their behaviour at the origin. Loosely speaking, these functions resurrect, or surge up - in a slightly different guise, as it were - at their singularities

J. Écalle, 1980



local analysis may encode more global information than one might naïvely think

Graded Resurgence Triangle

- resurgence is a basic property of all-orders steepest descents contour integrals
- physics: sectors with the same quantum numbers can mix, and "cure" ambiguities

$$1P_{[0,0],\pm}$$

$$\mathcal{I}P_{[1,1],\pm}$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{I}}P_{[1,-1],\pm}$$

$$[\mathcal{I}^2]P_{[2,2],\pm}$$

$$[\mathcal{I}\bar{\mathcal{I}}]_{\pm}P_{[2,0],\pm}$$

$$[\bar{\mathcal{I}}^2]P_{[2,-2],\pm}$$

$$[\mathcal{I}^3]P_{[3,3],\pm}$$

$$[\mathcal{I}^2\bar{\mathcal{I}}]_{\pm}P_{[3,1],\pm}$$

$$[\mathcal{I}\bar{\mathcal{I}}^2]_{\pm}P_{[3,-1],\pm}$$

$$[\bar{\mathcal{I}}^3]P_{[3,-3],\pm}$$

- periodic potential: $V(x) = \frac{1}{g^2} \sin^2(gx)$

- vacuum saddle point

$$c_n \sim n! \left(1 - \frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{n} - \frac{13}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{n(n-1)} - \dots \right)$$

- instanton/anti-instanton saddle point:

$$\text{Im } E \sim \pi e^{-2\frac{1}{2g^2}} \left(1 - \frac{5}{2} \cdot g^2 - \frac{13}{8} \cdot g^4 - \dots \right)$$

- double-well potential: $V(x) = x^2(1 - gx)^2$

- vacuum saddle point

$$c_n \sim 3^n n! \left(1 - \frac{53}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1277}{72} \cdot \frac{1}{3^2} \cdot \frac{1}{n(n-1)} - \dots \right)$$

- instanton/anti-instanton saddle point:

$$\text{Im } E \sim \pi e^{-2\frac{1}{6g^2}} \left(1 - \frac{53}{6} \cdot g^2 - \frac{1277}{72} \cdot g^4 - \dots \right)$$

Uniform WKB and Resurgent Trans-Series

- in fact, there is even more resurgent structure
- in certain non-trivial QM models, the perturbative series determines 1-instanton fluctuations, and beyond: this propagates through entire trans-series

$$E(N, g^2) = E_{\text{pert}}(N, g^2) \pm \frac{\left(\frac{2}{g^2}\right)^N}{\sqrt{2\pi g^2} N!} e^{-S/g^2} \mathcal{P}(N, g^2) + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{P}(N, g^2) = \frac{\partial E(N, g^2)}{\partial N} \exp \left[S \int_0^{g^2} \frac{dg^2}{g^4} \left(\frac{\partial E(N, g^2)}{\partial N} - 1 + \frac{(N + \frac{1}{2}) g^2}{S} \right) \right]$$

\Rightarrow perturbation theory $E(N, g^2)$ encodes everything !

- fluctuations about \mathcal{I} (or $\bar{\mathcal{I}}$) saddle are determined by those about the vacuum saddle, **to all fluctuation orders**

- "QFT computation": fluctuation about \mathcal{I} for double-well (and periodic Mathieu potential):

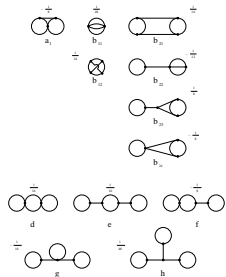
3-loop (Escobar-Ruiz/Shuryak/Turbiner, arXiv:1501.03993)

$$e^{-\frac{S_0}{g}} \left[1 - \frac{71}{72} g - 0.607535 g^2 - \dots \right]$$

resurgence $\Rightarrow e^{-\frac{S_0}{g}} \left[1 + \frac{1}{72} g (-102N^2 - 174N - 71) \right.$

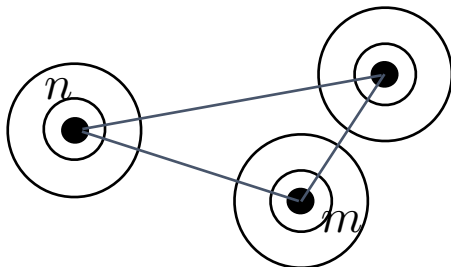
$$\left. + \frac{1}{10368} g^2 (10404N^4 + 17496N^3 - 2112N^2 - 14172N - 6299) + \dots \right]$$

- known for all N and to essentially any loop order, directly from perturbation theory !



Connecting Perturbative and Non-Perturbative Sector

in certain non-trivial QM models, all orders of multi-instanton trans-series are encoded in perturbation theory of fluctuations about perturbative vacuum



Resurgence and Localization

(Drukker et al, [1007.3837](#); Mariño, [1104.0783](#); Aniceto, Russo, Schiappa, [1410.5834](#))

- certain protected quantities in especially symmetric QFTs can be reduced to matrix models \Rightarrow **resurgent asymptotics**

- **3d Chern-Simons** on $S^3 \rightarrow$ matrix model

$$Z_{CS}(N, g) = \frac{1}{\text{vol}(U(N))} \int dM \exp \left[-\frac{1}{g} \text{tr} \left(\frac{1}{2} (\ln M)^2 \right) \right]$$

- **ABJM: $\mathcal{N} = 6$ SUSY CS**, $G = U(N)_k \times U(N)_{-k}$

$$Z_{ABJM}(N, k) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_N} \frac{(-1)^{\epsilon(\sigma)}}{N!} \int \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{dx_i}{2\pi k} \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^N 2 \text{ch} \left(\frac{x_i}{2} \right) \text{ch} \left(\frac{x_i - x_{\sigma(i)}}{2k} \right)}$$

- **$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SUSY Yang-Mills** on S^4

$$Z_{SYM}(N, g^2) = \frac{1}{\text{vol}(U(N))} \int dM \exp \left[-\frac{1}{g^2} \text{tr} M^2 \right]$$

Uniform Resurgence

- uniform resurgence with two parameters: N and g^2



- large N expansion:

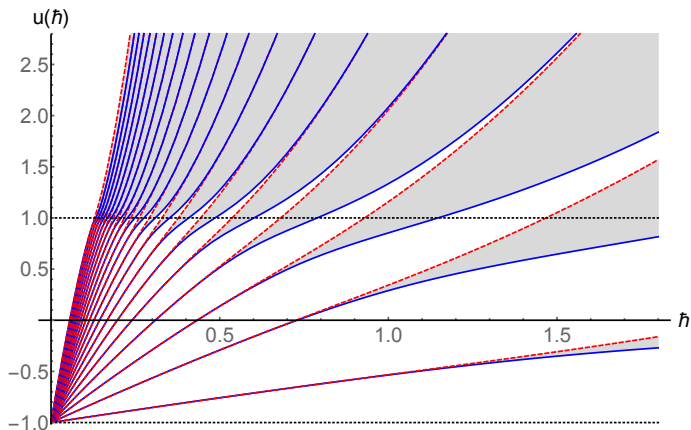
$$\begin{aligned} F(N, g^2) &= \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N^{2h-2}} f_h(N g^2) \\ &= \sum_n g^{2n} p_n^{(0)}(N) + e^{-\frac{1}{g^2}} \sum_n g^{2n} p_n^{(1)}(N) + \dots \\ &= \sum_k \frac{1}{g^{2k}} c_k(N) \end{aligned}$$

- how does a divergent trans-series at weak coupling turn into a convergent series at strong-coupling?
- what happens to the resurgent structure?
- separated by a phase transition: “instantons condense”

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: (\hbar plays role of g^2)

- 3 different spectral regions: $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$

$$u = u(N, \hbar)$$



- exact quantization condition, valid everywhere!

$$Z(N, g^2) = \int dU \exp \left[\frac{1}{g^2} \operatorname{tr} (U + U^\dagger) \right] = \det \left(I_{k-l} \left(\frac{2N}{\lambda} \right) \right)_{k,l=1,\dots,N}$$

$$F(N, g^2) = \frac{1}{N^2} \ln Z(N, g^2) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N^{2h-2}} f_h(N g^2)$$

- 't Hooft parameter $\lambda = N g^2$
- soluble for finite N
- large N phase transition at $\lambda_c = 2$
- related to Mathieu spectrum (Wadia, Neuberger, ...)
- (convergent) strong coupling expansion coefficients have poles (de Wit, 't Hooft; Goldschmidt, Samuel, ...)

$$F(N, g^2) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N^{2h-2}} f_h(N g^2)$$

- ▶ hermitean matrix models
- ▶ 2d Yang-Mills on sphere (Gross-Matytsin; Witten, ...)

$$Z(N, A) = \sum_R (\dim R)^2 \exp \left[-\frac{A}{2N} C_2(R) \right] \quad A_c = \pi^2$$

- ▶ Chern-Simons on S^3 : $Z(N, k) \rightarrow$ matrix integral
- ▶ ABJM models on S^3 : $Z(N, k) \rightarrow$ matrix integral
- ▶ localizable 4d QFT: \rightarrow matrix integral
- ▶ ODE/Integrable Model correspondence
- ▶ ...

Ionization in Time-Dependent Electric Fields

- Keldysh (1964): atomic ionization in $E(t) = \mathcal{E} \cos(\omega t)$

- adiabaticity parameter: $\gamma \equiv \frac{\omega \sqrt{2mE_b}}{e\mathcal{E}}$

- WKB $\Rightarrow P_{\text{ionization}} \sim \exp \left[-\frac{4}{3} \frac{\sqrt{2mE_b}^{3/2}}{e\hbar\mathcal{E}} g(\gamma) \right]$

$$P_{\text{ionization}} \sim \begin{cases} \exp \left[-\frac{4}{3} \frac{\sqrt{2mE_b}^{3/2}}{e\hbar\mathcal{E}} \right] & , \quad \gamma \ll 1 \quad (\text{non-perturbative}) \\ \left(\frac{e\mathcal{E}}{2\omega\sqrt{2mE_b}} \right)^{2E_b/\hbar\omega} & , \quad \gamma \gg 1 \quad (\text{perturbative}) \end{cases}$$

- semi-classical instanton interpolates between non-perturbative “tunneling ionization” and perturbative “multi-photon ionization”

- Schwinger effect in $E(t) = \mathcal{E} \cos(\omega t)$
- adiabaticity parameter: $\gamma \equiv \frac{m c \omega}{e \mathcal{E}}$
- WKB $\Rightarrow P_{\text{QED}} \sim \exp \left[-\pi \frac{m^2 c^3}{e \hbar \mathcal{E}} g(\gamma) \right]$

$$P_{\text{QED}} \sim \begin{cases} \exp \left[-\pi \frac{m^2 c^3}{e \hbar \mathcal{E}} \right] & , \quad \gamma \ll 1 \quad (\text{non-perturbative}) \\ \left(\frac{e \mathcal{E}}{\omega m c} \right)^{4m c^2 / \hbar \omega} & , \quad \gamma \gg 1 \quad (\text{perturbative}) \end{cases}$$

- semi-classical instanton interpolates between non-perturbative “tunneling pair-production” and perturbative “multi-photon pair production”

- moduli parameter: $u = \langle \text{tr } \Phi^2 \rangle$
- electric: $u \gg 1$; magnetic: $u \sim 1$; dyonic: $u \sim -1$
- $a = \langle \text{scalar} \rangle$, $a_D = \langle \text{dual scalar} \rangle$, $a_D = \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}}{\partial a}$
- Nekrasov twisted superpotential:

$$\mathcal{W}^{inst} \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{16a^4} + \frac{21\Lambda^8}{256a^8} + \dots \right) + \frac{\hbar^4}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{64a^6} + \frac{219\Lambda^8}{2048a^{10}} + \dots \right) + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{W}^{class} + \mathcal{W}^{pert} \sim -\frac{a^2}{2\pi i} \log \frac{a^2}{\Lambda^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{48\pi i} \log \frac{a^2}{2\Lambda^2} + \hbar^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_{2n} \left(\frac{\hbar}{a} \right)^{2n}$$

- Matone relation:

$$u(a, \hbar) = \frac{i\pi}{2} \Lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}(a, \hbar, \Lambda)}{\partial \Lambda} - \frac{\hbar^2}{48}$$

- Mathieu equation:

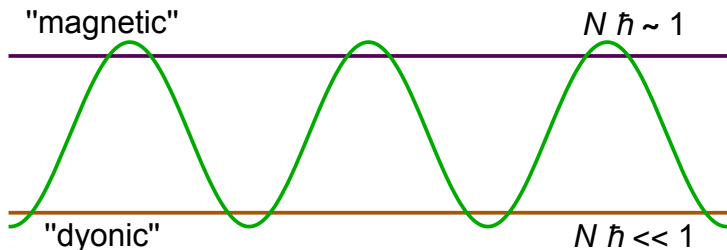
$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + \Lambda^2 \cos(x) \psi = u \psi, \quad a \equiv \frac{N\hbar}{2}$$

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: (\hbar plays role of g)

- 3 different spectral regions: $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$

"electric"

$N \hbar \gg 1$



- Zinn-Justin/Jentschura: $B(u, \hbar), A(u, \hbar) \rightarrow$ trans-series
- GD, Ünsal: $u(B, \hbar)$ encodes $A(B, \hbar)$:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial B} = -\frac{\hbar}{16} \left(2B + \hbar \frac{\partial A}{\partial \hbar} \right)$$

- simple proof from Nekrasov \mathcal{W} and Matone relation

$$u \sim \Lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}}{\partial \Lambda} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial a} \sim \Lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial \Lambda} \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}}{\partial a} = \Lambda \frac{\partial a_D}{\partial \Lambda}$$

- identifications:

$$a \leftrightarrow \frac{\hbar}{2} B \quad , \quad a_D \leftrightarrow \frac{\hbar}{4\pi} A + \text{shift} \quad , \quad \Lambda \sim \frac{1}{\hbar}$$

- quantum geometry: $a(u, \hbar)$ and $a_D(u, \hbar)$ related

Connecting weak and strong coupling

important physics question:

does weak coupling analysis contain enough information to extrapolate to strong coupling ?

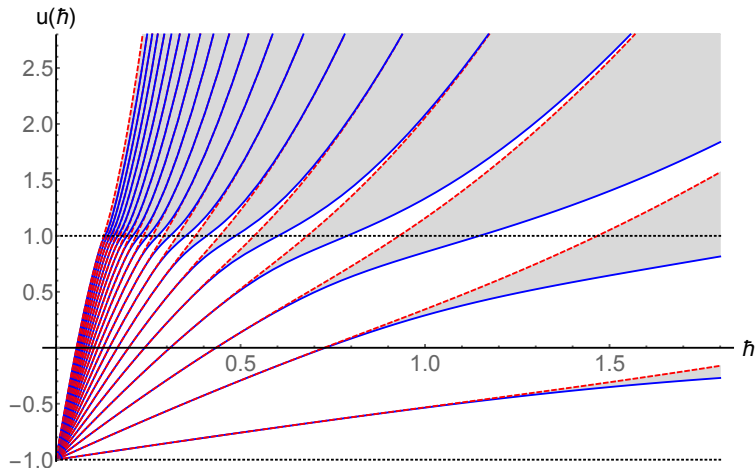
... even if the degrees of freedom re-organize themselves in a very non-trivial way?

what about a QFT in which the vacuum re-arranges itself in a non-trivial manner?

classical (Poincaré) asymptotics is clearly not enough:
is resurgent asymptotics enough?

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: (\hbar plays role of g^2)

- 3 different spectral regions: $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$



Mathieu Equation Spectrum: deep inside the wells

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$$

- divergent, non-Borel-summable perturbation theory:

$$\begin{aligned} u(N, \hbar) &\sim -1 + \hbar \left[N + \frac{1}{2} \right] - \frac{\hbar^2}{16} \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\hbar^3}{16^2} \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right)^3 + \frac{3}{4} \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] - \dots \\ &\equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n(N) \hbar^n \end{aligned}$$

- non-Borel-summable: \rightarrow resurgent trans-series
- but, energy is really a function of two variables:

$$u = u(N, \hbar)$$

- formal pert. series \rightarrow resurgent trans-series for $N \hbar \ll \frac{8}{\pi}$

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: deep inside the wells

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$$

- exponentially narrow energy bands

$$\Delta u^{\text{band}}(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{32}{\sqrt{\pi} N!} \left(\frac{32}{\hbar}\right)^{N-1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{8}{\hbar}\right] \times \\ \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial N}\right) \exp\left[-8 \int_0^{\hbar} \frac{d\hbar}{\hbar^2} \left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} - 1 + \frac{1}{8} \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hbar\right)\right]$$

- blue fluctuation factor is new
- all orders in \hbar , $\forall N$, fluctuations determined by $u(N, \hbar)$
- generates entire trans-series, from perturbation theory
- extreme example of resurgence:

perturbative saddle encodes everything!

- all-orders WKB action: (Dunham, 1932)

$$\begin{aligned}
 a(u) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} \left(\oint_C \sqrt{u-V} dx - \frac{\hbar^2}{2^6} \oint_C \frac{(V')^2}{(u-V)^{5/2}} dx \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{\hbar^4}{2^{13}} \oint_C \left(\frac{49(V')^4}{(u-V)^{11/2}} - \frac{16V'V'''}{(u-V)^{7/2}} \right) dx - \dots \right) \\
 &\Rightarrow a(u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^{2n} a_n(u)
 \end{aligned}$$

- Bohr-Sommerfeld near well minima: $u \sim -1$

$$a_0(u) \sim \frac{u+1}{2} + \frac{(u+1)^2}{32} + \frac{3(u+1)^3}{512} + \frac{25(u+1)^4}{16384} + \dots$$

$$a_1(u) \sim \frac{1}{128} + \frac{5(u+1)}{2048} + \frac{35(u+1)^2}{32768} + \frac{525(u+1)^3}{1048576} + \dots$$

- invert $a(u) = \frac{\hbar}{2} \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \implies u = u(N, \hbar) = u(a, \hbar)$

- non-Borel-summable expression for band centers

All-orders WKB for the Mathieu equation

- band widths: tunneling action $a^D(u)$ over dual cycle \tilde{C}
- all-orders WKB actions:

$$a(u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^{2n} a_n(u) \quad , \quad a^D(u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^{2n} a_n^D(u)$$

- $a(u)$ determines location of center of band
- $a^D(u)$ determines width of band
- Bohr-Sommerfeld near well minima: $u \sim -1$

$$a_0^D(u) \sim \frac{4i}{\pi} - \frac{i(u+1)}{2\pi} \left(\log \left(\frac{u+1}{32} \right) - 1 \right) - \dots$$

Keller-Weinstein (1987):

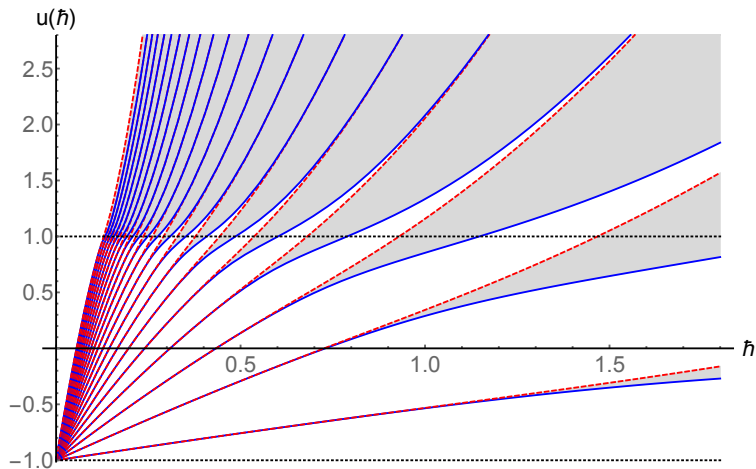
$$\Delta u \sim \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} e^{-\frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \text{Im} a_0^D} \sim \frac{\hbar}{\pi} \frac{\partial u}{\partial a_0} e^{-\frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \text{Im} a_0^D}$$

Dunne-Ünsal (2012): extends to all orders in \hbar

- everything determined by perturbative saddle $u(N, \hbar)$

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$$



now consider the high energy spectrum: $u(N, \hbar) \gg 1$

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi \quad , \quad u \gg 1 \quad , \quad N\hbar \gg 1$$

- gap edges $u_N^{(\pm)}(\hbar)$

$$u_0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(0 - \frac{1}{\hbar^2} + \frac{7}{4\hbar^6} - \frac{58}{9\hbar^{10}} + \frac{68687}{2304\hbar^{14}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_1^{(-)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(1 - \frac{4}{\hbar^2} - \frac{2}{\hbar^4} + \frac{1}{\hbar^6} - \frac{1}{6\hbar^8} - \frac{11}{36\hbar^{10}} + \frac{49}{144\hbar^{12}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_1^{(+)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(1 + \frac{4}{\hbar^2} - \frac{2}{\hbar^4} - \frac{1}{\hbar^6} - \frac{1}{6\hbar^8} + \frac{11}{36\hbar^{10}} + \frac{49}{144\hbar^{12}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_2^{(-)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(4 - \frac{4}{3\hbar^4} + \frac{5}{54\hbar^8} - \frac{289}{19440\hbar^{12}} + \frac{21391}{6998400\hbar^{16}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_2^{(+)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(4 + \frac{20}{3\hbar^4} - \frac{763}{54\hbar^8} + \frac{1002401}{19440\hbar^{12}} - \frac{1669068401}{6998400\hbar^{16}} + \dots \right)$$

- convergent (“strong-coupling”) expansions!

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi \quad , \quad u \gg 1 \quad , \quad N\hbar \gg 1$$

- convergent (“strong-coupling”) expansions for all N

$$u(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{2(N^2 - 1)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^4 + \frac{5N^2 + 7}{32(N^2 - 1)^3(N^2 - 4)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^8 + \frac{9N^4 + 58N^2 + 29}{64(N^2 - 1)^5(N^2 - 4)(N^2 - 9)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^{12} + \dots \right)$$

- where are the gaps ?
- poles in coefficients, just like de Wit/'t Hooft in strong-coupling expansions in unitary matrix integrals

Beyond Large N : Multi-instantons at strong coupling

$$u(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{2(N^2 - 1)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^4 + \frac{5N^2 + 7}{32(N^2 - 1)^3(N^2 - 4)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^8 + \dots \right)$$

- this expansion, with poles, comes from a convergent continued fraction representation
- there is a multi-instanton trans-series structure hidden in these convergent expressions, when viewed as functions of two variables

All-orders WKB for Mathieu spectrum: far above barrier

- all-orders WKB actions:

$$a(u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^{2n} a_n(u) \quad , \quad a^D(u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hbar^{2n} a_n^D(u)$$

- Bohr-Sommerfeld high in the spectrum: $u \gg 1$

$$a_0(u) \sim \sqrt{2u} \left(1 - \frac{1}{16u^2} - \frac{15}{1024u^4} - \frac{105}{16384u^6} - \dots \right)$$

$$a_1(u) \sim -\frac{1}{16(2u)^{5/2}} \left(1 + \frac{35}{32u^2} + \frac{1155}{1024u^4} + \frac{75075}{65536u^6} + \dots \right)$$

- \Rightarrow energy $u \propto N^2 + \dots$
- here, Bohr-Sommerfeld \Rightarrow convergent expansions
- what about the gaps?

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$$

- narrow gaps high in the spectrum: **complex instantons**
- Dykhne: same formula for band/gap splittings

$$\Delta u \sim \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} e^{-\frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \text{Im} a_0^D}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta u_N^{\text{gap}} &\sim \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \frac{1}{(2^{N-1}(N-1)!)^2} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar}\right)^{2N} \left[1 + O\left(\left(\frac{2}{\hbar}\right)^4\right)\right] \\ &\sim \frac{N \hbar^2}{2\pi} \left(\frac{e}{N \hbar}\right)^{2N}, \quad N \gg 1 \end{aligned}$$

- same formula, but $a_0(u)$ & $a_0^D(u)$ expanded near $u \sim \infty$

$$a_0^D(u) \sim i \frac{\sqrt{2u}}{\pi} \left(-2 + \log(8u) + \frac{1 - \log(8u)}{16u^2} + \frac{47 - 30 \log(8u)}{2048u^4} + \dots \right)$$

- **everything (still) encoded in perturbative saddle $u(N, \hbar)$**

Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

high in the spectrum, the expansions are convergent!

but there are narrow gaps

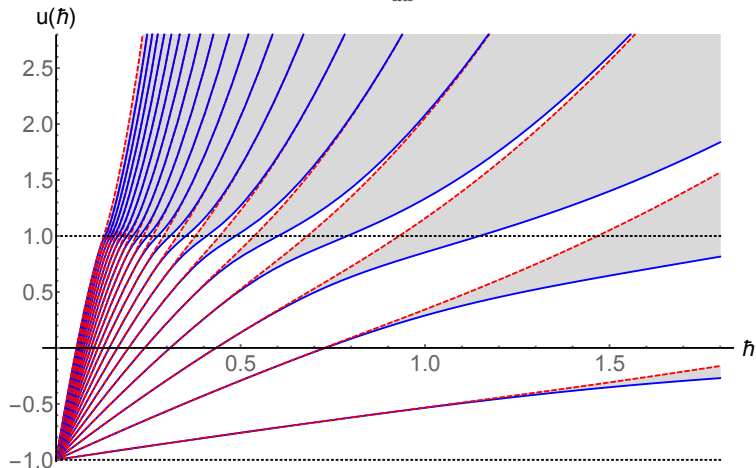
non-perturbative gap widths given by [complex instantons](#)

what happened to the trans-series for the energy deep inside the wells ?

how to instantons condense?

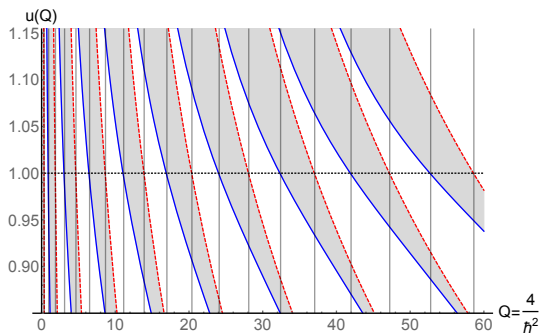
Mathieu Equation Spectrum

3 different spectral regions: $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$



Mathieu spectrum: near the potential barrier

- in this region instantons are large
- bands and gaps are of equal width



- degrees of freedom re-organize from tight-binding 'atomic' states to 'nearly-free' scattering states
- smooth transition between divergent trans-series and convergent expansions

Mathieu spectrum: near the potential barrier

- near $u \sim 1$

$$a_0 \sim \frac{4}{\pi} + \frac{u-1}{2\pi} \left[\ln \left(\frac{32}{u-1} \right) + 1 \right] + \dots \sim \frac{\hbar}{2} N$$

$$a_0^D \sim \frac{i}{2} (u-1) + \dots$$

- leading asymptotic estimate: $N \sim \frac{8}{\pi \hbar}$

- leading term in weak-coupling expansion:

$$u \sim -1 + \frac{8}{\pi} \left[1 - \frac{1}{16} \frac{8}{\pi} - \frac{1}{2^8} \left(\frac{8}{\pi} \right)^2 - \frac{5}{2^{14}} \left(\frac{8}{\pi} \right)^3 - \frac{33}{2^{18}} \left(\frac{8}{\pi} \right)^4 - \dots \right] + O(\hbar)$$

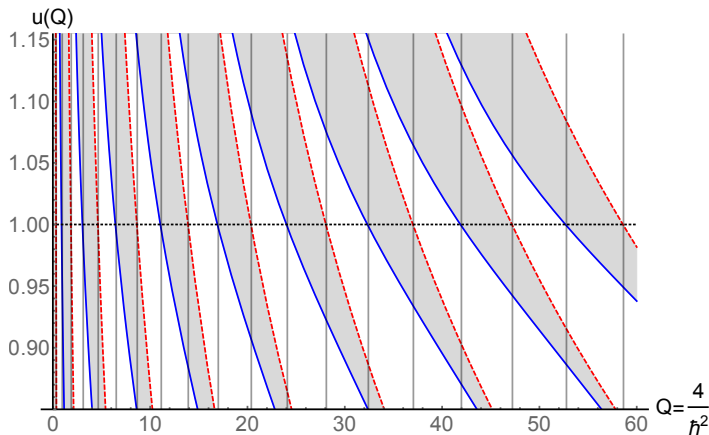
- leading term in strong-coupling expansion:

$$u \sim \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{4}{\pi} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)^2 + \frac{5}{32} \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)^6 + \frac{9}{64} \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)^{10} + \dots \right] + O(\hbar) \dots$$

- both equal to 1

Mathieu spectrum: near the potential barrier

- near $u \sim 1$, leading asymptotic estimate: $N \sim \frac{8}{\pi \hbar}$
- more refined estimate: $a_0 \sim \frac{\hbar}{2} (N \pm \frac{1}{4}) \rightarrow N \pm \frac{1}{4} \sim \frac{8}{\pi \hbar}$



- bands and gaps are equal width here

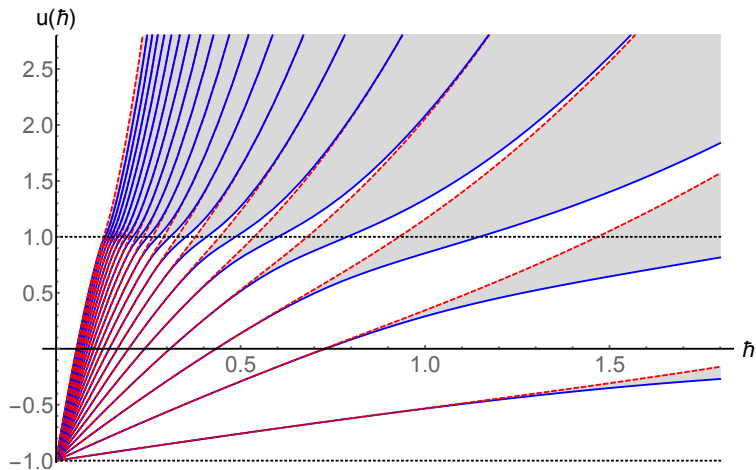
Mathieu Equation Spectrum: far above the barrier

new: resurgent structure high in the spectrum, in the convergent region

Basar, GD, Ünsal, 2015

Mathieu Equation Spectrum

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \cos(x) \psi = u \psi$$



Beyond Large N : Multi-instantons at strong coupling

- convergent expansion, but coefficients have poles:

$$u(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{2(N^2 - 1)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^4 + \frac{5N^2 + 7}{32(N^2 - 1)^3(N^2 - 4)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^8 + \dots \right)$$

$$u_2^{(+)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(4 + \frac{20}{3\hbar^4} - \frac{763}{54\hbar^8} + \frac{1002401}{19440\hbar^{12}} - \frac{1669068401}{6998400\hbar^{16}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_2^{(-)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(4 - \frac{4}{3\hbar^4} + \frac{5}{54\hbar^8} - \frac{289}{19440\hbar^{12}} + \frac{21391}{6998400\hbar^{16}} + \dots \right)$$

- average: $\frac{20-4}{2 \cdot 3} = \frac{8}{3} = \frac{2^4}{2 \cdot (4-1)}$

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- average: $\frac{20-4}{2 \cdot 3} = \frac{8}{3} = \frac{2^4}{2 \cdot (4-1)}$

$$\frac{8}{\hbar^2} u_2^{(\pm)} = \left(4 + \frac{8}{3\hbar^4} \right) \pm \frac{4}{\hbar^4} \left(1 - \frac{16}{9\hbar^4} \right) - \frac{379}{54\hbar^8} \left(1 - \frac{62632}{17055\hbar^4} \right) \pm \frac{11141}{432\hbar^{12}} (1 - \dots)$$

- this is an instanton expansion
- pole develops at 2-instanton order in all fluctuations

Beyond Large N : Multi-instantons at strong coupling

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$$u(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{2(N^2 - 1)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^4 + \frac{5N^2 + 7}{32(N^2 - 1)^3(N^2 - 4)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^8 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{9N^4 + 58N^2 + 29}{64(N^2 - 1)^5(N^2 - 4)(N^2 - 9)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^{12} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_4^{(+)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(16 + \frac{8}{15\hbar^4} + \frac{433}{3375\hbar^8} - \frac{45608}{5315625\hbar^{12}} + \dots \right)$$

$$u_4^{(-)} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(16 + \frac{8}{15\hbar^4} - \frac{317}{3375\hbar^8} + \frac{80392}{5315625\hbar^{12}} + \dots \right)$$

- average: $\frac{433-317}{2 \cdot 3375} = \frac{58}{3375} = \frac{2^8(5 \cdot 16 + 7)}{32 \cdot 15^3 \cdot 12}$

$$\frac{8}{\hbar^2} u_4^{(\pm)} = \left(16 + \frac{8}{15\hbar^4} + \frac{58}{3375\hbar^8} + \frac{17932}{5315625\hbar^{12}} \right) \pm \frac{1}{9\hbar^8} \left(1 + \frac{8}{75\hbar^4} + \dots \right)$$

- pole develops at 2-instanton order: instanton expansion

Beyond Large N : Multi-instantons at strong coupling

$$u(N, \hbar) \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{2(N^2 - 1)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^4 + \frac{5N^2 + 7}{32(N^2 - 1)^3(N^2 - 4)} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^8 + \dots \right)$$

- re-organize as a multi-instanton expansion

$$u_N^{(\pm)}(\hbar) = \frac{\hbar^2 N^2}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{\alpha_n(N)}{\hbar^{4n}} \pm \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \frac{1}{(2^{N-1}(N-1)!)^2} \left(\frac{2}{\hbar} \right)^{2N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{\beta_n(N)}{\hbar^{4n}} + \dots$$

- fluctuation series are very similar
- 1-instanton gap splitting: (Basar, GD, Unsal, 2015)

$$\Delta u_N \equiv \frac{1}{(2^{N-1}(N-1)!)^2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N} e^{A(N, \hbar)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial A}{\partial \hbar^2} = -\frac{4}{\hbar^4} \frac{\partial u}{\partial N}$$

- 1-inst. flucts. determined by pert. exp. (polynomial !)
- resurgent multi-instanton structure in convergent region

Uniform Expansions: Small \hbar and Large N

- often we study theories with both \hbar and N
- 't Hooft limit: $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ with $\lambda \equiv N \hbar$ fixed
- but $\lambda \ll 1$, $\lambda \sim 1$ and $\lambda \gg 1$ are all different
- mathematical analogy: Bessel functions

$$I_N \left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \right) = I_N \left(N \frac{1}{N\hbar} \right) \sim \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\pi}} e^{1/\hbar} & , \quad \hbar \rightarrow 0, N \text{ fixed} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi N}} \left(\frac{e}{2N\hbar} \right)^N & , \quad N \rightarrow \infty, \hbar \text{ fixed} \end{cases}$$

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- uniform asymptotics:

$$I_N \left(N \frac{1}{N\hbar} \right) \sim \frac{\exp \left[\sqrt{N^2 + \frac{1}{\hbar^2}} \right]}{\sqrt{2\pi} \left(N^2 + \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{N\hbar}}{1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{(N\hbar)^2}}} \right)^N$$

- can be made uniformly resurgent

Mathieu spectrum: all regions

- $N\hbar \ll 1$, deep inside wells: resurgent trans-series

$$u^{(\pm)}(N, \hbar) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(N) \hbar^n \pm \frac{32}{\sqrt{\pi} N!} \left(\frac{32}{\hbar}\right)^{N-1/2} e^{-\frac{8}{\hbar}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_n(N) \hbar^n + \dots$$

- Borel poles at two-instanton location
- $N\hbar \gg 1$, far above barrier: convergent series

$$u^{(\pm)}(N, \hbar) = \frac{\hbar^2 N^2}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{\alpha_n(N)}{\hbar^{4n}} \pm \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \frac{\left(\frac{2}{\hbar}\right)^{2N}}{(2^{N-1}(N-1)!)^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{\beta_n(N)}{\hbar^{4n}} + \dots$$

- coefficients have poles at two-instanton location
- $N\hbar \sim \frac{8}{\pi}$, near barrier top

$$u^{(\pm)}(N, \hbar) \sim 1 - \frac{c_N}{\left(N \pm \frac{1}{4}\right)^2} \left(\frac{4}{\hbar^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{16} \left(N \pm \frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \right), \quad c_N \sim O(1)$$

- moduli parameter: $u = \langle \text{tr } \Phi^2 \rangle$
- electric: $u \gg 1$; magnetic: $u \sim 1$; dyonic: $u \sim -1$
- $a = \langle \text{scalar} \rangle$, $a_D = \langle \text{dual scalar} \rangle$, $a_D = \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}}{\partial a}$
- Nekrasov twisted superpotential:

$$\mathcal{W}^{inst} \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{16a^4} + \frac{21\Lambda^8}{256a^8} + \dots \right) + \frac{\hbar^4}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{64a^6} + \frac{219\Lambda^8}{2048a^{10}} + \dots \right) + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{W}^{class} + \mathcal{W}^{pert} \sim -\frac{a^2}{2\pi i} \log \frac{a^2}{\Lambda^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{48\pi i} \log \frac{a^2}{2\Lambda^2} + \hbar^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d_{2n} \left(\frac{\hbar}{a} \right)^{2n}$$

- Mathieu equation:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + \Lambda^2 \cos(x) \psi = u \psi \quad , \quad a \equiv \frac{N\hbar}{2}$$

- Matone relation:

$$u(a, \hbar) = \frac{i\pi}{2} \Lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}(a, \hbar, \Lambda)}{\partial \Lambda} - \frac{\hbar^2}{48}$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ theories correspond to elliptic Lamé potential
- but Bohr-Sommerfeld is not the whole story ... it just gives the **locations** of bands and gaps, not their **widths**
- new non-perturbative contributions to twisted super-potential
(Başar, GD, 1501.05671)

$$u \rightarrow u_{\text{formal}} + O\left(e^{-\frac{\text{periods}}{\hbar}}\right) \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{\text{formal}} + O\left(e^{-\frac{\text{periods}}{\hbar}}\right)$$

- exact WKB in large N region and conjectured world sheet interpretation
(Kashani-Poor, Troost, 1504.08324)

- the Mathieu spectrum is extremely rich, both physically and mathematically
- still holds some surprises
- trans-series structure in weak-coupling and strong-coupling regions, and in the transition region
- uniform trans-series capture large N physics: real and complex instantons; phase transitions; instanton condensation; ...
- even more structure for $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ theories: Lamé potential
- implications for gauge theory and integrable models ?