

# Deformation classes of invertible field theories and the Freed–Hopkins conjecture

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- By Wick-rotating to Euclidean field theories, we can use Segal’s axioms to model the low energy effective theory.
- Unitarity manifests itself as reflection positivity after Wick rotation.



## Theorem (Freed–Hopkins)

Let  $H = \operatorname{colim}_{d \rightarrow \infty} H_d$  be a stable symmetry type. There is a bijective correspondence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{deformation classes of reflection} \\ \text{positive invertible } d\text{-dimensional} \\ \text{extended topological field theories} \\ \text{with symmetry type } (H_d, \rho_d) \end{array} \right\} \cong [MTH, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}]_{\text{tor}}$$

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## Conjecture (Freed–Hopkins)

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- If  $L_\gamma$  only depends on the homotopy class of  $\gamma$ , the theory is topological (homotopy invariant). The corresponding vector bundle is flat.

- In the case of invertible field theories, the FT take values in  $\text{Line} \subset \text{Vect}$ .

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- The inclusion of isomorphism classes of topological field theories into all field theories is

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [X, \mathbf{B}(\mathbb{C}^\times)^\delta] = H^1(X; \mathbb{C}^\times) & \longrightarrow & [X, \mathbf{B}_{\nabla} \mathbb{C}^\times] \\
 & \searrow \beta & \downarrow \text{def. classes} \\
 & & H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})
 \end{array}$$

- The image of  $\beta$  is the torsion subgroup.

## Reflection positivity

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- If  $d > 3$  and  $\rho_d(H_d) = SO_d$ , then

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- An  $(H_d, \rho_d)$ -structure on a bordism an  $H_d$ -subbundle  $P \rightarrow B$  of the bundle of orthonormal frames. Equivalently, it is a lift:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & BH_d \\ & \nearrow P & \downarrow \rho_d \\ B & \xrightarrow{\text{Fr}} & BO_d \end{array}$$



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$$Z : \text{Bord}_d^{H_d} \rightarrow \text{Vect}$$

is a natural iso

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- Given a field theory with reflection structure  $Z$ , we have a hermitian form

$$h : Z(B) \otimes \overline{Z(B)} \cong Z(B) \otimes Z(\beta B) \cong Z(B) \otimes Z(B^\vee) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

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- If  $h$  is positive definite, we say that the field theory is *positive*.

# Full-extended reflection positive invertible theories



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- Restricting to invertible field theories, we replace  $\mathbf{Vect}$  by  $\mathbf{Line}$ . Going to fully-extended invertible field theories, Freed–Hopkins replace  $\mathbf{Line}$  by  $\Sigma^{d+1}I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$ .

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## Theorem (GMTW, Schommer-Pries)

*The homotopy type of the fully-extended bordism category  $\mathbf{Bord}_d^{H_d}$  is  $\Sigma^d MTH_d$ .*

- A field theory  $Z : \mathbf{Bord}_d^{H_d} \rightarrow \Sigma^{d+1}I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$  canonically factors as

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Bord}_d^{H_d} & \longrightarrow & \Sigma^{d+1}I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ \Sigma^d MTH_d & & \end{array}$$

- The involution  $\beta$  induces an involution on  $\Sigma^d MTH_d$ .



- By definition, the Anderson dual  $I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$  sits in a long homotopy fiber/cofiber sequence

$$\dots \rightarrow \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)} \rightarrow \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^\times} \rightarrow \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)} \rightarrow \dots$$

- Complex conjugation on  $\mathbb{C}$  induces a  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -action on  $I_{\mathbb{C}} \cong HC$ .

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- The space of  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -actions on  $I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$  that is compatible with the conjugation action is not contractible. Freed and Hopkins make a preferred choice of action  $\gamma$ .
- The deformation classes of (nontopological) reflection theories are conjectured correspond to maps of equivariant spectra

$$Z : (\Sigma^d MTH_d)^\beta \rightarrow (\Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)})^\gamma.$$

- I will not discuss positivity in the extended setting.

- The map  $\Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^\times} \rightarrow \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$  in the long fiber/cofiber sequence induces a map

$$[\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^\times}] \rightarrow [\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}]$$

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- To prove the theorem, one must do the following:
  - 1 Enhance the  $H_d$ -structure on bordisms to a *differential*  $H_d$ -structure (including connections on bundles).
  - 2 Construct a geometric refinement  $\Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{sm}^\times}$  whose “deformation spectrum” is  $\Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$ . The refinement should see the smooth structure of  $\mathbb{C}^\times$ .

# The main theorem

## Theorem (G.)

*The following spaces are isomorphic in the homotopy category of spaces*

- 1 *Smooth deformations of field theories with smooth  $(H_d, \rho_d)$ -structure:*  $I_d(\mathcal{H}_d) := \text{Fun}^{\otimes}(\text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d}, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\text{sm}}^{\times}})$
- 2 *Smooth deformations of field theories with differential  $(H_d, \rho_d)$ -structure:*  $I_d(\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}) := \text{Fun}^{\otimes}(\text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\text{sm}}^{\times}})$
- 3 *Smooth deformations of field theories with flat  $(H_d, \rho_d)$ -structure:*  $I_d(\mathcal{H}_d^{\text{fl}}) := \text{Fun}^{\otimes}(\text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\text{fl}}}, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\text{sm}}^{\times}})$
- 4 *The space of morphisms of spectra:*  
 $\text{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}).$

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- The presheaf  $\mathcal{H}_d^\nabla$  is given by the homotopy pullback

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- A vertex in  $\mathcal{H}_d^\nabla(M \rightarrow U)$  is a fiberwise principal  $H_d$ -bundle with connection, a Riemannian metric and a connection preserving isomorphism of bundles between the associated bundle with connection with the fiberwise tangent bundle, with the Levi-Civita connection.

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- There is a  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -action on  $I_{\mathbb{C}_{\text{sm}}^{\times}}$ , compatible with complex conjugation.

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- Since  $\mathbb{C}$  deformation retracts through group homomorphisms to 0, applying  $f$  gives an equivalence

$$f \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{sm}^{\times}} \xrightarrow{\cong} \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)}$$

- The homotopy type of the bordism category  $\text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d}$  is computed as the composition of two functors

$$C^\infty \text{Cat}_{\infty, d}^{\otimes} \xrightarrow{|\cdot|} \text{Sh}(\text{Cart}; \text{Sp}) \xrightarrow{f} \text{Sp}$$

### Theorem (G., Pavlov)

Fix  $d \geq 0$ . We have an equivalence

$$f |\text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\text{fl}}}| \simeq \Sigma^d \text{MTH}_d$$

- The canonical map  $\mathcal{H}_d^{\text{fl}} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}$  of flat bundles into all bundles induces an equivalence

$$f \text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\text{fl}}} \rightarrow f \text{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}$$

- Argument has an h-principle flavor.

- We have an equivalence

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}, \Sigma^d / \mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(|\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, \Sigma^d / \mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times})$$



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and a map (taking deformations)

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The right side was computed as

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(f|\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, f\Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}) \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)})$$

- We have an equivalence

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}) \xleftarrow{\simeq} \mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(|\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}})$$

and a map (taking deformations)

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(|\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}) \xrightarrow{f} \mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(f |\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, f \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}).$$

The right side was computed as

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(f |\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, f \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}) \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)})$$

- Since  $\Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^{\times}}$  is homotopy invariant, we have also have

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$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(f |\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^{\times}}) \simeq \mathrm{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^{\times}})$$

- The canonical inclusion  $I_{\mathbb{C}^{\times}} \rightarrow I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}$  therefore induces a map

$$\mathrm{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}^{\times}}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Map}(\Sigma^d MTH_d, \Sigma^{d+1} I_{\mathbb{Z}(1)})$$

- We have an equivalence

$$\mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathrm{Fun}^{\otimes}(|\mathrm{Bord}_d^{\mathcal{H}_d^{\nabla}}|, \Sigma^d I_{\mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{sm}}^{\times}})$$

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- Taking  $\pi_0$  the image is the torsion subgroup of deformation classes of topological theories.

Thank you!