

Jet Schemes and LG/CFT 1

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The LG/CFT correspondence suggests a relationship between matrix factorisations of ADE singularities and modules over vertex algebras. The most promising geometric intermediary between these two worlds are jet schemes of Slodowy slices [AM, AKM]. In this series of talks we pose some questions to guide further work:

1. An introduction to jet schemes (Part 1)
2. From matrix factorisations to jet schemes (Qs)

1. An introduction to jet schemes (Part 1)

The following historical comments are from [Y].

The study of jet (or arc) schemes was initiated by Nash in the 60's [N]. Nash was interested in whether the singularities of a variety X could be reflected in the arc space of X . We know from the Jacobian criterion how the existence of singularities is detected by tangents, and arcs are higher order (in the sense of higher order terms in a Taylor series) analogues of tangent vectors, so this seems reasonable.

This turned out to be true:

appearing modulo birational equiv.
/ on every desingularisation

- There is an injective map from the set of "essential" exceptional divisors of a resolution of singularities of X to the set of irreducible components of $\pi^{-1}(X_{\text{sing}}) \subseteq J_{\infty}(X)$ where $J_{\infty}(X)$ is the jet scheme and $\pi: J_{\infty}(X) \rightarrow X$ the canonical projection. Nash conjectured that this is bijective. While false in general it is true for A -type surface singularities [N, R].

- Mustatǎ showed a local complete intersection has rational singularities if and only if all its jet schemes are irreducible [M].

So what is a jet? To explain we first recall how $k[t]/t^2$ represents tangent vectors in algebraic geometry. Let k be an algebraically closed field and V a finite-dimensional k -vector space, $\text{Sym}(V^*)$ the symmetric algebra. Then there are bijections

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \{ \mathfrak{m} \subseteq \text{Sym}(V^*) \mid \mathfrak{m} \text{ is maximal} \} & \mathfrak{m} & \mathcal{Y}^{-1}(\{0\}) \\
 \parallel & \downarrow & \uparrow \\
 \text{Hom}_{k\text{-Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k) & \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow \frac{\text{Sym}(V^*)}{\mathfrak{m}} \cong k & \mathcal{Y} \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow \\
 \text{Hom}_k(V^*, k) & & \mathcal{Y}|_{V^*} \\
 \parallel & & \uparrow \\
 V & & \text{ev}_w \\
 & & \uparrow \\
 & & w
 \end{array} \tag{2.1}$$

which is how we identify the maximal spectrum $\text{Specm}(\text{Sym}(V^*))$ with V . Note that if e_1, \dots, e_n is a k -basis of V then a point $P = \sum_{i=1}^n P_i e_i$ of V corresponds to the k -algebra map $\mathcal{Y}_P : \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow k$ with $\mathcal{Y}_P(f) = f(P_1, \dots, P_n)$ where $f = f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, $x_i = e_i^*$.

Replacing k with other zero-dimensional (Krull dimension) k -algebras T we see more of the geometry of the affine space $A^n = \text{Spec}(\text{Sym}(V^*))$, where $n = \dim V$. For example let us classify k -algebra morphisms

$$\mathcal{Y} : \text{Sym}(V^*) \longrightarrow k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2 \quad (\cong k \oplus k\varepsilon) \tag{2.2}$$

There is a canonical quotient map $\pi : k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2 \rightarrow k$ sending $\pi(\varepsilon) = 0$ and so $\pi \circ \mathcal{Y}$ "is" a point of V , that is $\pi \circ \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}_P$ for some $P = (P_1, \dots, P_n) \in k^n$. Note

$$P_i = \mathcal{Y}_P(x_i) = \pi(\mathcal{Y}(e_i^*)) = \text{const. term of } \mathcal{Y}(e_i^*) \tag{2.3}$$

The k -algebra morphism Ψ is determined by its restriction $\Psi|_{V^*}$ and thus by the sequence $\Psi(e_1^*), \dots, \Psi(e_n^*) \in k \oplus k\varepsilon$ (and moreover such sequences are in bijection with k -algebra maps (2.2)). If we write

$$\Psi(e_i^*) = P_i + Q_i \varepsilon \tag{3.1}$$

then we know $P = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$ is to be thought of as a point of V (because it "transforms" as a point, more on this in a moment). But what about $Q = (Q_1, \dots, Q_n)$? Notice that if we write down the Taylor series of $f \in \text{Sym}(V^*) \cong k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ at P

$$f = \sum_{i_1 \geq 0 \dots i_n \geq 0} \frac{1}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \frac{\partial^{i_1 + \dots + i_n}}{\partial x_1^{i_1} \dots \partial x_n^{i_n}} (f) \Big|_P (x_1 - P_1)^{i_1} \dots (x_n - P_n)^{i_n} \tag{3.2}$$

and apply to it Ψ

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(f) &= \sum_{i_1 \geq 0 \dots i_n \geq 0} \frac{1}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \frac{\partial^{i_1 + \dots + i_n}}{\partial x_1^{i_1} \dots \partial x_n^{i_n}} (f) \Big|_P (\Psi(x_1) - P_1)^{i_1} \dots (\Psi(x_n) - P_n)^{i_n} \\ &= \sum_{i_1 \geq 0 \dots i_n \geq 0} \frac{1}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \frac{\partial^{i_1 + \dots + i_n}}{\partial x_1^{i_1} \dots \partial x_n^{i_n}} (f) \Big|_P Q_1^{i_1} \dots Q_n^{i_n} \underbrace{\varepsilon^{i_1 + \dots + i_n}}_{\text{zero if } |i| > 1} \\ &= f(P) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (f) \Big|_P Q_j \varepsilon \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

1-jet

So we recognise Q as specifying the k -linear derivation

$$f \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n Q_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \Big|_P$$

We know that such derivations are (by defⁿ) tangent vectors so the information in a k -algebra homomorphism $\Psi: \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2$ is a pair consisting of a point and a tangent vector at that point. Inspecting (3.3) leads us to believe that k -algebra homomorphisms $\text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^{s+1}$ extract s -jets of functions.

Defⁿ The s-jet of a function f at a point P is the polynomial

$$J_P^s f := \sum_{j=0}^s \sum_{|i| \leq s} \frac{1}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} (f) \Big|_P z^s$$

Note that this is a polynomial in a single variable z , so there are not what differential geometers call jets if $s > 1$. This is why sometimes $J_P^s f$ is called an arc rather than a jet, but Arakawa calls these jet schemes and it seems too late to complain about the name.

1.1 Coordinate transforms

Before we consider "larger" Artinian k -algebras such as $k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^3$ (larger in k -dimension) let us take a moment to observe the coordinate dependence in our derivation of Q from Ψ in (3.1). Suppose there is a linear map $A: V \rightarrow V$ hence

$$Ae_i = \sum_j a_{ji} e_j$$

$$A^*: V^* \xrightarrow{\cong} V^*$$

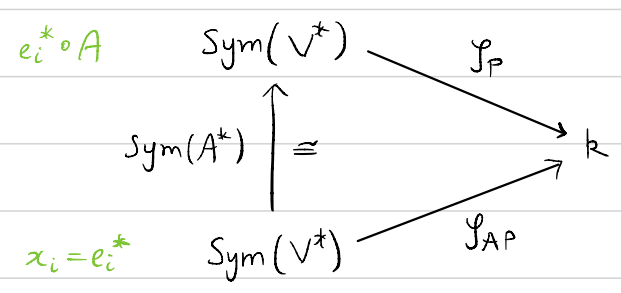
$$\text{Sym}(A^*) : \text{Sym}(V^*) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sym}(V^*)$$

$$e_i^* \mapsto e_i^* \circ A$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} e_j^*$$

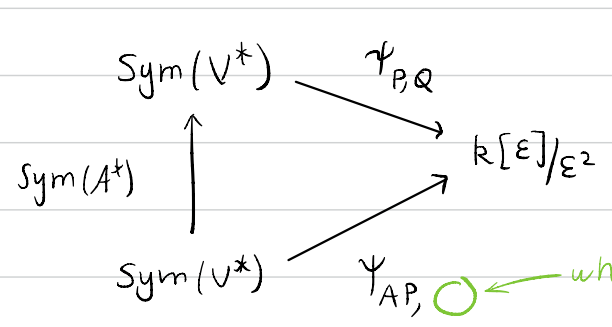
$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$$

Then the following diagrams commute



$$P_P(e_i^* \circ A) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} P_j = (AP)_i$$

"points transform as points" (4.2)



$$\Psi_{P,Q}(f) = f(P) + \sum_j Q_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \Big|_P \epsilon$$

what goes here? Surely AQ ?

⑤

$$\Upsilon_{P,Q}(\text{Sym}(A^*)(f)) = f(AP) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\text{Sym}(A^*)(f)) \Big|_P Q_j \varepsilon$$

\uparrow
 $f(\sum_{j=1}^n a_{1j} x_j, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^n a_{nj} x_j)$

$$\stackrel{\text{chain rule}}{=} f(AP) + \sum_{j=1}^n \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} a_{ij} \right] \Big|_{AP} Q_j \varepsilon \tag{5.1}$$

$$= f(AP) + \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} Q_j}_{(AQ)_i} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \Big|_{AP} \varepsilon$$

So indeed $\Upsilon_{AP, AQ}$ makes (4.2) commute. But suppose now we replace $A: V \rightarrow V$ by an arbitrary polynomial map A , that is, we assume polynomials A_1, \dots, A_n such that

$$A(P_1, \dots, P_n) = (A_1(P_1, \dots, P_n), \dots, A_n(P_1, \dots, P_n)) \tag{5.2}$$

This corresponds to the k -algebra morphism $\alpha: \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow \text{Sym}(V^*)$, uniquely determined by $\alpha(x_i) = A_i$ in the sense that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k) & \xleftarrow{\cong} & V \\ \downarrow (-) \circ \alpha & & \downarrow A \\ \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k) & \xleftarrow{\cong} & V \end{array} \tag{5.3}$$

\mathcal{J}_P P
 $\mathcal{J}_P \circ \alpha$ $A(P)$

commutes. To check this note that

$$(\mathcal{J}_P \circ \alpha)(x_i) = \mathcal{J}_P(A_i) = A_i(P_1, \dots, P_n)$$

Lemma For a polynomial function $A: V \rightarrow V$ as above the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2) & \xleftarrow{=} & V \times V \\
 (-) \circ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow A \times \text{JA}(P) \\
 \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2) & \xleftarrow{=} & V \times V
 \end{array} \quad (6.1)$$

commutes, where the horizontal maps send (P, Q) to $\Psi_{P, Q}$ as in (3.3) and $\text{JA}(P)$ is the Jacobian $(\frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} \Big|_P)_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$ viewed as a linear transformation on V .

Proof Given (P, Q) we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\Psi_{P, Q} \circ \alpha)(f) &= f(AP) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\alpha(f)) \Big|_P Q_j \varepsilon \\
 &= f(AP) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f(A_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, A_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)) \Big|_P Q_j \varepsilon \\
 &= f(AP) + \sum_{j=1}^n \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \Big|_{AP} \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} \Big|_P \right] Q_j \varepsilon \quad (6.2) \\
 &= f(AP) + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial A_i}{\partial x_j} \Big|_P Q_j \right] \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \Big|_{AP} \varepsilon
 \end{aligned}$$

as claimed. \square

The upshot is that the functor $\text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(-, k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2)$ sends a vector space V (viewed as a k -algebra $\text{Sym}(V^*)$) to $V \times V$. We said earlier that $k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2$ "represents" tangent vectors but this is not quite true, as the notion of a tangent vector is of a tangent vector plus the point it is "attached". This information is represented not by the single algebra $k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2$ but by the diagram

$$k[\varepsilon]/\varepsilon^2 \xrightarrow{\pi} k \quad \pi(\varepsilon) = 0 \quad (6.3)$$

since the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^2) & \xrightarrow{\pi \circ (-)} & \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k) \\
 \cong \uparrow \psi_{P,Q} & & \uparrow \pi \circ \psi_{P,Q} \\
 \text{TV} = V \times V & \xrightarrow{\text{projection}} & V \\
 & & \uparrow \cong \\
 & & \text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(\text{Sym}(V^*), k)
 \end{array} \quad (7.1)$$

It is therefore natural to consider applying $\text{Hom}_{k\text{Alg}}(R, -)$ to the inverse system

$$\dots \longrightarrow k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^3 \longrightarrow k[\epsilon]/\epsilon^2 \longrightarrow k$$

and defining the inverse limit to be "arcs" on $X = \text{Spec}(R)$. We will keep going in this direction in the next talk. Roughly speaking $J_\infty X$ is this space of arcs.

2. From MFs to jet schemes

Let X be a singular scheme, e.g. $X = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/(x^2 + y^n - z^2))$.

Let X_{reg} denote the regular part (e.g. $X \setminus \{0\}$ in the example) and X_{sing} its complement, the singular locus. We expect $J_\infty(X)$ to look like some dense open set $J_\infty(X_{\text{reg}})$ which is boring, meeting some interesting geometry at the "boundary" $\pi^{-1}(X_{\text{sing}})$ where

$$\pi: J_\infty(X) \longrightarrow X$$

maps an arc to the point P it passes through. Indeed the theorem of Nash cited earlier says we have an injective map

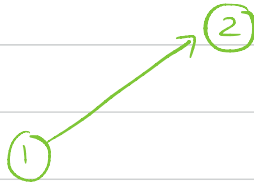
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{essential components of} \\ \text{the exceptional divisor} \\ \text{of a resolution } Y \rightarrow X \end{array} \right\} \hookrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{irreducible components} \\ \text{of } \pi^{-1}(X_{\text{sing}}) \end{array} \right\}$$

In the case of ADE surface singularities $X = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}[x, y, z]/f)$ we know

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{essential components of} \\ \text{the exceptional divisor} \\ \text{of a resolution } \gamma \rightarrow X \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{irreducible components} \\ \text{of } \pi^{-1}(X_{\text{sing}}) \end{array} \right\}$$

\parallel

$$\left\{ \text{indecomposable MFs of } f \right\}$$



which means we can associate to any MF \mathcal{E} an irreducible component $C_{\mathcal{E}}$ of $\pi^{-1}(X_{\text{sing}})$ in $\text{Tot}(X)$. The first question

Q1 Give a direct geometric construction of $C_{\mathcal{E}}$

Following [AM, AKM] it seems we can construct from $C_{\mathcal{E}}$ modules over W -algebras.

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