

Monopoles and instantons on quantum spaces

Giovanni Landi - Trieste

CALISTA - 2025

Corfu, Greece, 14th-18th September 2025

Mostly with Francesco D'Andrea , Chiara Pagani

The simplest case z_k, z_k^* , $k = 0, 1$ are the generators of the algebra $\mathcal{A}(S_q^3)$:

$$\begin{aligned} z_0 z_1 &= q^{-1} z_1 z_0, & z_0^* z_1 &= q z_1 z_0^*, & z_1^* z_0 &= q z_0 z_1^* \\ z_0^* z_0 &= z_0 z_0^* + (1 - q^2) z_1 z_1^*, & z_1^* z_1 &= z_1 z_1^*, & z_1^* z_0^* &= q^{-1} z_0^* z_1^*, \end{aligned}$$

and sphere relations :

$$z_0 z_0^* + z_1 z_1^* = 1 \quad z_0^* z_0 + q^2 z_1^* z_1 = 1$$

An co-action of $U(1)$; the coinvariant elements make up the projective line $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^1)$ (the standard Podleś sphere)

$$B_0 := z_1^* z_1, \quad B_0 := z_1^* z_0, \quad B_- := z_0^* z_1$$

with $B_0^* = B_0$ and $B_0^* = B_-$.

They satisfy commutation relations

$$B_0 B_0 = q^2 B_0 B_0, \quad B_0 B_- = q^{-2} B_- B_0, \quad B_- B_0 = q^4 B_0 B_- + q^2 (1 - q^2) B_0$$

and sphere relations: $B_0 B_- = B_0 (1 - B_0), \quad B_- B_0 = q^2 B_0 (1 - q^2 B_0)$

The **tautological** line bundle (the monopole bundle)

via its sections; or the module of equivariant maps; or a projection :

$$p_{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} z_0^* \\ z_1^* \end{pmatrix} (z_0, z_1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - q^2 B_0 & B_- \\ B_+ & B_0 \end{pmatrix} \longleftrightarrow \phi = z_0 f + z_1 g$$

for $f, g \in \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^1)$

$$\text{Tr}(p_{(1)}) = 1 + (1 - q^2)B_0$$

The **rank** of the bundle: $[\varepsilon]([\text{Tr}(p_{(1)})]) = 1 + 0$

The **degree** of the bundle: $[\varepsilon]([\text{Tr}(p_{(1)})]) = 0 - 1$

The K-theory group $K(\mathbb{C}P_q^1)$ classifies equivalence classes of projection
(i.e. line bundles)

Ring structure on the K-theory group of quantum projective spaces $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n)$

Projections $P_N \in \text{Mat}_{d_N}(\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n))$, $N = 0, 1, \dots, n$

such that $[P_N]$ generate the group $K_0(\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n))$ (algebraic generators).

Indeed we have $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n)$ - bimodules

$$\mathcal{L}_N := P_N(\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n))^{d_N}$$

(written as right modules) obeying :

$$\mathcal{L}_N \otimes_{\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{C}P_q^n)} \mathcal{L}_M \cong \mathcal{L}_{M+N}$$

Chern numbers coming from pairing with K-homology:

$$\text{ch}_0(\mathcal{L}_N) = 1, \quad \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{L}_N) = -N$$

\mathcal{L}_N space of sections of a line bundle over $\mathbb{C}P_q^n$ with winding number $-N$.

Proposition (Arici-Brain-L, 2015)

$$K_0(\mathbb{C}P_q^n) = \mathbb{Z}[u]/u^{n+1} \simeq \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$$

with Euler class

$$u = \chi(\mathcal{L}_{-1}) := 1 - [\mathcal{L}_{-1}]$$

Generalise the above to vector bundles with rank higher than 1

So we seek the quantization of spaces whose K-theory in the classical limit is the ring of dual numbers $\mathbb{Z}[t]/(t^2)$.

Classically, $t = r - [E]$ is the Euler characteristic (in K-theory) of the vector bundle E with rank r . One can rephrase the relation $t^2 = (r - [E])^2 = 0$ as

$$r^2 - 2r[E] + [E \otimes E] = 0.$$

This result can be dualized and then generalized, in a suitable way, to non-commutative spaces.

For a compact quantum space, sufficient conditions for a morphism of abelian groups $K_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t]/(t^2)$ compatible with the tensor product of bimodules.

Applications include the standard Podleś sphere S_q^2 and a quantum 4-sphere S_q^4 coming from quantum symplectic groups. The K-theory is generated by the **Euler class** of the **monopole** or **instanton** bundle respectively.

Explicit formulas for the projections of vector bundles on the sphere S_q^4 associated to the principal $SU_q(2)$ -bundle $S_q^7 \rightarrow S_q^4$ via irreducible corepresentations of $SU_q(2)$, and compute their characteristic classes.

Characteristic classes of noncommutative vector bundles

A unital $*$ -algebra \mathcal{B} , and its C^* -enveloping algebra B

B is a ‘compact quantum space’, and \mathcal{B} describes some additional structure on this quantum space. In addition, an inclusion of unital $*$ -algebras

$$\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A},$$

where \mathcal{A} describes some auxiliary noncommutative space

Interested in classes in $K_0(B)$ that are represented by finitely generated projective right \mathcal{B} -modules (“noncommutative vector bundles”).

Specialize to right modules that “trivialize” over \mathcal{A} (that is, their “pullback” to the total space is trivial), and denote by $\text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$ their class.

We construct an isomorphism

$$\text{ch} : K_0(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t]/(t^2)$$

of abelian groups that is “multiplicative”, in the sense that it is compatible with the tensor product in $\text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$.

A first result:

Proposition:

With mild assumptions, if $K_0(B) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ and there is $\mathcal{E} \in \text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$ with $\text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}) = \pm 1$, then $(1, [\mathcal{E}])$ is a basis of $K_0(B)$ and

$$r^2 - 2r[\mathcal{E}] + [\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{E}] = 0, \quad r := \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E}).$$

This identity is the analogue of the classical statement $t^2 = 0$ for $t := r - [E]$.

The construction of \mathbb{Z} -linear maps $K_0(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ induced by an even Fredholm module. We focus on 1-summable Fredholm modules.

1-summable even Fredholm modules

Let B be a unital C^* -algebra, $\pi_1, \pi_2 : B \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be two bounded $*$ -representations on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and $F, \gamma \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2)$ the operators

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where 1 is the identity on \mathcal{H} .

Let π be the representation of B on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ direct sum of π_1 and π_2 . Note:

$$\gamma F[F, \pi(b)] = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1(b) - \pi_2(b) & 0 \\ 0 & \pi_1(b) - \pi_2(b) \end{pmatrix}.$$

If the difference $\pi_1(b) - \pi_2(b)$ is of trace class on \mathcal{H} for all b in a dense unital $*$ -subalgebra \mathcal{B} of B , then $(B, \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2, F, \gamma)$ is a 1-summable even Fredholm module. It defines a \mathbb{Z} -module map

$$\varphi : K_0(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}.$$

For $[p]$ the K-theory class of a projection $p \in M_N(\mathcal{B})$, this is given by

$$\varphi([p]) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2}(\gamma F[F, \pi(\operatorname{Tr} p)]) = \operatorname{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}}(\pi_1(\operatorname{Tr} p) - \pi_2(\operatorname{Tr} p)) ,$$

where $\operatorname{Tr} p = \sum_{i=1}^N p_i^i \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}}$ (resp. $\operatorname{Tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2}$) is the trace of operators on the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} (resp. $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$).

Note:

- (i) $\varphi([p])$ only depends on the K-theory class of p ;
- (ii) it is an integer being the index of a Fredholm operator

Thus: $\varphi \in K_0(B)^\vee$.

(In general, in this way one constructs a \mathbb{Z} -module map $K^0(B) \rightarrow K_0(B)^\vee$ which needs not to be injective or surjective)

Proposition

Assume that there is a character $\varepsilon : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and a bounded unital $*$ -representation $\pi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ such that

$$\pi(b) - \varepsilon(b) \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathcal{H}), \quad \forall b \in \mathcal{B}.$$

Then:

(i) There is a homomorphism of unital semirings

$$\text{ch} : (\text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B}), \oplus, \otimes) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t]/(t^2), \quad \text{ch}(\mathcal{E}) = \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E}) + \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E})t,$$

given, for any $\mathcal{E} \cong p \mathcal{B}^N$, by the formulas

$$\text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E}) := \varepsilon(\text{Tr } p), \quad \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}}(\pi(\text{Tr } p) - \varepsilon(\text{Tr } p)).$$

(ii) The underlying morphism of abelian semigroups is the composition of (??) with a homomorphism $[\text{ch}] : K_0(B) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t]/(t^2)$.

(iii) If (u, v) is a trivializing pair for \mathcal{E} , then the number of column of u is $r = \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})$ and thus depends only on the K-theory class of \mathcal{E} .

Note

The maps $[\text{ch}_0]$ and $[\text{ch}_1]$ are the index maps of the Fredholm modules associated with the pair or representations $(\varepsilon, 0)$ on \mathbb{C} and (π, ε) on \mathcal{H} .

Here $\varepsilon(b)$ acts on \mathcal{H} as a scalar multiple of the identity.

The representations ε and π extend from \mathcal{B} to the C^* -enveloping algebra B , due to the universal property of the latter.

The map ch is compatible with the tensor product of elements of $\text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$, which in components means that

$$\begin{aligned}\text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}) &= \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})\text{ch}_0(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}) , \\ \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}) &= \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})\text{ch}_1(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}) + \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E})\text{ch}_0(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}) ,\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

for all $\mathcal{E}, \tilde{\mathcal{E}} \in \text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$.

Corollary

Under the assumptions as before, for every $\mathcal{E} \in \text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$ and every positive integer k , for the module

$$\mathcal{E}^{\otimes_{\mathcal{B}} k} := \underbrace{\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \dots \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{E}}_{k \text{ times}}$$

one has

$$\text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E}^{\otimes_{\mathcal{B}} k}) = \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})^k, \quad \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}^{\otimes_{\mathcal{B}} k}) = k \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})^{k-1} \text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}).$$

Proposition

Under the assumptions as before, if $K_0(B) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ and there exists $\mathcal{E} \in \text{Vect}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{B})$ with $\text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}) = \pm 1$, then $(1, [\mathcal{E}])$ is a basis of $K_0(B)$ and

$$r^2 - 2r[\mathcal{E}] + [\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{E}] = 0,$$

where $r := \text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E})$.

This identity is the analogue of the classical statement $t^2 = 0$ for $t := r - [E]$.

Modules associated to corepresentations

In the examples we are interested in, the inclusion $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ is a Hopf-Galois

H is a Hopf algebra with bijective antipode,

\mathcal{A} a right H -comodule algebra with coaction δ_R

$\mathcal{B} := \mathcal{A}^{\text{co}H}$ the subalgebra of \mathcal{A} of coinvariant elements, and assume that $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{A}$ is a faithfully flat Hopf-Galois extension.

Associated bundles, via left H comodule (co-representations) trivialize when pulled back to the total space of a noncommutative principal bundle

Vector bundles on a quantum 4-sphere

Let $0 < q < 1$. The *quantum symplectic 7-sphere* is the noncommutative space dual the unital $*$ -algebra $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ generated by elements $\{x_i, x_i^*\}_{i=1,\dots,4}$ with commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned}x_1x_2 &= qx_2x_1 & \dots \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

and sphere relations:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1x_1^* + x_2x_2^* + x_3x_3^* + x_4x_4^* &= 1, \\ q^8x_1^*x_1 + q^6x_2^*x_2 + q^2x_3^*x_3 + x_4^*x_4 &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

This algebra was studied in [LPR 2006](#) as a quantum homogeneous space of the quantum symplectic group $\mathcal{O}(Sp_q(2))$.

A character $\varepsilon : \mathcal{O}(S_q^7) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is given on generators by

$$\varepsilon(x_i) = 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq 4, \quad \varepsilon(x_4) = 1 .$$

It is the restriction to $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ of the counit of the quantum group $\mathcal{O}(Sp_q(2))$.

The quotient of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ by the ideal generated by x_1 is the unital $*$ -algebra $\mathcal{O}(S_q^5)$ of a quantum 5-sphere [DL2021](#).

The irreducible bounded $*$ -representation of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^5)$ there when pulled back to $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ gives a representation π on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}^2)$, with canonical orthonormal basis $(|k_1, k_2\rangle)_{k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{N}}$, that on generators reads:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(x_1) &= 0 \\ \pi(x_2) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= q^{k_1+2k_2} |k_1, k_2\rangle \\ \pi(x_3) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= q^{k_1} \sqrt{1 - q^{4(k_2+1)}} |k_1, k_2 + 1\rangle \\ \pi(x_4) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= \sqrt{1 - q^{2(k_1+1)}} |k_1 + 1, k_2\rangle . \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

The instanton bundle

The algebra $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ carries a coaction of $\mathcal{O}(SU_q(2))$, which makes it a faithfully flat Hopf–Galois extension of its subalgebra of coinvariant elements.

$$T_{(1)} := \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -q\gamma^* \\ \gamma & \alpha^* \end{pmatrix}$$

The generators of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ arranged in the matrix

$$u := \begin{pmatrix} qx_1 & qx_2 \\ -q^2x_2^* & q^3x_1^* \\ -x_3 & x_4 \\ x_4^* & qx_3^* \end{pmatrix}.$$

The subalgebra of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ made of coinvariant for the coaction is $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$.

Geometrically this is a quantum principal bundle on the quantum 4-sphere S_q^4 with structure quantum group $SU_q(2)$ and total space S_q^7 .

The $*$ -algebra $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$ is generated by the entries of the matrix

$$p := uu^* = \begin{pmatrix} q^{-2}y_0 & 0 & y_1 & y_2 \\ 0 & y_0 & q^{-2}y_2^* & -q^2y_1^t{}^* \\ y_1^* & q^{-2}y_2 & 1 - q^{-4}y_0 & 0 \\ y_2^* & -q^2y_1 & 0 & 1 - q^2y_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$y_0 := q^4(x_1x_1^* + x_2x_2^*) \quad y_1 := -qx_1x_3^* + qx_2x_4^* \quad y_2 := qx_1x_4 + q^2x_2x_3.$$

The relations among generators are encoded in the equality $p^2 = p$.

The projection p in (3) determines a class $[\mathcal{E}]$ in the K -theory of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$:

Geometrically the projection p describes the quantum vector bundle on the 4-sphere S_q^4 associated with the Hopf–Galois extension $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4) \subset \mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ via the fundamental corepresentation $T_{(1)}$ of $\mathcal{O}(SU_q(2))$.

The K-theory ring

The C^* -enveloping algebra of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^7)$ is isomorphic to the one of the Vaksman-Soibelman quantum 7-sphere $C(S_q^7)$. Its K-theory is $K_0(C(S_q^7)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$

$K_0(C(S_q^7)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ is generated by the class of the unit.

(always the case for these odd dimensional quantum spheres HL).

We let $C(S_q^4)$ be the C^* -enveloping algebra of $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$, not the closure in $C(S_q^7)$.

The group $K_0(C(S_q^4))$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^2 .

When restricted to the subalgebra $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$, the character $\varepsilon : \mathcal{O}(S_q^7) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ reduces to the trivial representation, while π in (2) reads

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(y_0) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= q^{4+2k_1+4k_2} |k_1, k_2\rangle \\ \pi(y_1) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= q^{k_1+2k_2} \sqrt{1 - q^{2k_1}} |k_1 - 1, k_2\rangle \\ \pi(y_2) |k_1, k_2\rangle &= q^{2(k_1+k_2+2)} \sqrt{1 - q^{4(k_2+1)}} |k_1, k_2 + 1\rangle .\end{aligned}$$

For all $b \in \mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$, the operator $(\pi - \varepsilon)(b)$ is of trace class.

Let $\mathcal{E} = p(\mathcal{O}(S_q^4))^4$ be the right $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$ -module of sections of the vector bundle $p = uu^*$.

Since u has 2 columns, $\text{ch}_0(\mathcal{E}) = \varepsilon(\text{Tr } p) = 2$.

Since $(\pi - \varepsilon)$ factors to the quotient $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)/\mathbb{C}$, one computes

$$\text{ch}_1(\mathcal{E}) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}}(\pi(\text{Tr } p) - \varepsilon(\text{Tr } p)) = \frac{q^2 + q^4 - 1 - q^6}{(1 - q^2)(1 - q^4)} = -1.$$

The general theory then applies and

$K_0(C(S_q^4))$ is a free \mathbb{Z} -module generated by $[1]$ and $[\mathcal{E}]$, and relation

$$4 - 4[\mathcal{E}] + [\mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)} \mathcal{E}] = 0. \quad (4)$$

From the general theory we compute the characteristic classes of modules associated to irreducible corepresentations of $H := \mathcal{O}(SU_q(2))$.

These irreducible corepresentations are labelled by $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let V_n be the vector space underlying the $n + 1$ dimensional irreducible corepresentation, and call

$$\mathcal{E}_n := \mathcal{O}(S_q^7) \square^H V_n.$$

the associated $\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)$ -bimodule. In particular, $\mathcal{E}_1 \cong \mathcal{E}$

For every $n \geq 1$,

$$\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_n]) = -\frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(n+2). \quad (5)$$

From the known decomposition $V_1 \otimes V_n \cong V_{n+1} \oplus V_{n-1}$, using (??) and (??),

one gets the bimodule isomorphism

$$\mathcal{E}_1 \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)} \mathcal{E}_n \cong \mathcal{E}_{n+1} \oplus \mathcal{E}_{n-1}. \quad (6)$$

From (1) we get

$$\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_{n+1}]) = \text{ch}_0([\mathcal{E}_1])\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_n]) + \text{ch}_0([\mathcal{E}_n])\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_1]) - \text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_{n-1}]).$$

Using $\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_1]) = -1$, and $\text{ch}_0([\mathcal{E}_n]) = \dim(V_n) = n + 1$, we find

$$\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_{n+1}]) = 2\text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_n]) - n - 1 - \text{ch}_1([\mathcal{E}_{n-1}]).$$

Formula (5) follows by induction on $n \geq 1$.

A special case of (6) is the isomorphism $\mathcal{E}_1 \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)} \mathcal{E}_1 \cong \mathcal{E}_2 \oplus \mathcal{E}_0$,

The free bimodule \mathcal{E}_0 is the analogue of the **determinant line bundle** of \mathcal{E}_1 .
With an abuse of notations we can denote it by $\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge_{\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)} \mathcal{E}_1$.

Then, the relation (4) can be interpreted as the vanishing of the “square” of the Euler class in K-theory of the instanton bundle on S_q^4 given by:

$$\chi(\mathcal{E}_1) = 1 - [\mathcal{E}_1] + [\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge_{\mathcal{O}(S_q^4)} \mathcal{E}_1] = 2 - [\mathcal{E}_1].$$

Again this parallel the classical result.

Projections from corepresentations of $SU_q(2)$

One constructs explicitly a trivializing pairs and then projections describing the vector bundles on the quantum 4-sphere S_q^4 associated to finite-dimensional irreducible corepresentations of the Hopf algebra $\mathcal{O}(SU_q(2))$.

thanks you