



The Coulomb Branch of 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Theories

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Abstract: We propose a construction for the quantum-corrected Coulomb branch of a general 3d gauge theory with $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetry, in terms of local coordinates associated with an abelianized theory. In a fixed complex structure, the holomorphic functions on the Coulomb branch are given by expectation values of chiral monopole operators. We construct the chiral ring of such operators, using equivariant integration over BPS moduli spaces. We also quantize the chiral ring, which corresponds to placing the 3d theory in a 2d Omega background. Then, by unifying all complex structures in a twistor space, we encode the full hyperkähler metric on the Coulomb branch. We verify our proposals in a multitude of examples, including SQCD and linear quiver gauge theories, whose Coulomb branches have alternative descriptions as solutions to Bogomolnyi and/or Nahm equations.

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1. Introduction

Three-dimensional gauge theories with eight supercharges ($\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetry) generically have a moduli space of supersymmetric vacua parameterized by the expectation values of a triplet of vectormultiplet scalar fields. This branch of vacua is conventionally called the Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C . Classically, the expectation values of the scalars are diagonal, and generically break the gauge group G to a maximal abelian subgroup. The low-energy abelian gauge fields can then be dualized to periodic scalars (the “dual photons”), which parametrize additional directions in the moduli space, giving the Coulomb branch a classical description

$$\mathcal{M}_C \approx (\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1)^{\text{rank}(G)} / \text{Weyl}(G). \quad (1.1)$$

Extended supersymmetry requires that the moduli-space metric be hyperkähler.

The naive classical geometry of the Coulomb branch receives quantum corrections, both perturbative and non-perturbative [1, 2]. The quantum-corrected geometry can be derived through a direct calculation for abelian gauge theories [3, 4]. For nonabelian gauge theories that admit a brane construction, the infrared Coulomb branch geometry can be derived through S-duality. The basic example of A-type quivers of unitary groups was first analyzed in [5], and admits several extensions to a variety of quivers and gauge groups, see e.g. [6, 7]. The brane constructions can be extended further and systematized

by applying S-duality to compactifications of four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory [8].

Perhaps surprisingly, this large set of well-understood examples has not yet yielded a general description of the Coulomb branch, valid for a generic $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory. The purpose of this paper fill that gap.

Standard local operators such as gauge-invariant polynomials of the vectormultiplet scalars are insufficient to parameterize the Coulomb branch, because they fail to capture the expectation values of the dual photons. In order to fully parametrize the Coulomb branch, one needs to study the vacuum expectation values of BPS monopole operators, a three-dimensional analogue of ’t Hooft line operators in four dimensions [9, 10].

The chiral operators built out of monopole operators dressed by vectormultiplet scalar fields form a chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, and their expectation values are expected to give a complete set of holomorphic functions on the Coulomb branch, seen as a complex symplectic manifold. Monopole operators are labelled by the GNO charge A , which specifies a way to embed a $U(1)$ monopole singularity into the full gauge group G . The monopole charge breaks the gauge group to a subgroup G_A . A monopole of charge A can be dressed by a general G_A -invariant polynomial p in the vectormultiplet scalar fields restricted to G_A to produce a chiral operator $M_{A,p}$.

As observed by the authors of [11], one can gain information about the Coulomb branch as a complex manifold by studying its Hilbert series. This counts all dressed monopole operators in order to derive the quantum numbers of the generators and relations of the corresponding chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. In complicated examples, though, one stills has to guess the precise form of the ring relations and of the Poisson brackets between generators. One of our objectives is to determine the full Poisson algebra structure of the chiral operators/holomorphic functions $M_{A,p}$.

Our strategy is to define an “abelianization map,” which embeds the Poisson algebra of holomorphic functions $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ on the Coulomb branch into a larger algebra $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ of holomorphic functions on an “abelian patch” of the Coulomb branch, which is roughly described as the complement of the locus where nonabelian gauge symmetry would be classically restored.

The abelianization map has a transparent physical meaning: it maps the vev of a monopole operator of the full theory to a linear combination of abelian monopole operator vevs v_B in the low-energy abelian gauge theory, with coefficients that are meromorphic functions of the abelian vectormultiplet scalars φ_a :

$$M_{A,p} \rightarrow \sum_{B \prec A} c_{A,p}^B[\varphi_a] v_B. \tag{1.2}$$

The coefficients $c_{A,p}^B[\varphi_a]$ capture the microscopic physics that converts the nonabelian monopole singularity of charge A into the low-energy abelian charge B . Localization calculations such as [12, 13] suggest that the $c_{A,p}^B[\varphi_a]$ coefficients should only receive contributions from BPS “bubbling monopole” geometries, i.e., should be computed by a path integral localized on BPS solutions of the equations of motion in the presence of the monopole singularity, with given abelian magnetic charge at infinity.

Schematically, we expect the relation to take the form

$$c_{A,p}^B[\varphi_a] = \int_{\mathcal{M}_A^B}^{G\text{-equivariant}} c_p[E_A] e(\mathcal{D}_m), \tag{1.3}$$

i.e., an equivariant integral over the moduli space \mathcal{M}_A^B of bubbling solutions of the Bogomolnyi equations, with an integrand assembled from the Euler class of the bundle

\mathcal{D}_m of Dirac zero modes for the matter fields and an appropriate characteristic class of the universal G_A -bundle E_A associated to the singularity. The abelian vectormultiplet scalars φ_a should play the role of equivariant parameters for the action of the gauge group G .¹

In this paper, we will mainly focus on theories whose Poisson algebra is generated by monopole operators such that the moduli spaces \mathcal{M}_A^B are a point. This includes all quivers built from unitary gauge groups. In particular, for linear quivers of this type, brane constructions predict two alternative descriptions of the Coulomb branch: as a moduli space of solutions to the Bogomolnyi equations with singularities, and as a moduli space of solutions to the Nahm equations on an interval. Both constructions involve auxiliary gauge groups associated to the quiver. We will compare the predictions of the abelianization map with the results of these alternative descriptions, finding exact agreement in all cases. We leave the detailed analysis of more general gauge theories to future work.

It is also possible to extend the abelianization map to gain a description of the Coulomb branch of four-dimensional gauge theories compactified on a circle, or five-dimensional gauge theories compactified on a torus.

The abelianization map can be extended in a straightforward way to give a canonical quantization of the Poisson algebra of holomorphic functions, simply by working equivariantly under space-time rotations. Physically, the quantization is associated to a (twisted) Omega deformation of the three-dimensional gauge theory. The quantized monopole operators $\hat{M}_{A,p}$ can be directly compared with the expressions found in localization of supersymmetric correlation functions. We leave the comparison to a companion paper.

Having described Coulomb branches as complex symplectic manifolds, we will also conjecture how to extend the abelianization map to construct their twistor spaces. The twistor space unifies all complex structure, and captures the full hyperkähler geometry of a Coulomb branch.

In Sect. 2, we will review the properties of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theories. In Sect. 3, we will review the geometry of the Coulomb branch of abelian gauge theories in a language that is suitable for the construction of the abelianization map, and propose a natural quantization for the ring of holomorphic functions on the Coulomb branch. In Sect. 4, we describe the abelianization map. In Sects. 5 and 6, we discuss several examples. In “Appendix A”, we develop some tools for analyzing singular monopole moduli spaces as holomorphic symplectic manifolds; and in “Appendix B”, we describe some of the simplest equivariant integrals of the type (1.3).

Authors’ note: While this work was in preparation, an interesting paper [14] appeared, providing a proposed mathematical definition of the Coulomb branch, using methods similar in spirit to the equivariant techniques described above. The approach of [14] has since been developed further by Braverman, Finkelberg, and Nakajima [15, 16]. We also learned that the Coulomb branch of pure gauge theory with any group G has been known to mathematicians for some time; it was identified by Teleman [17] as a particular space constructed by Bezrukavnikov, Finkelberg, and Mirković [18].

¹ The moduli space \mathcal{M}_A^B has singularities labelled by lower magnetic charges A' . The equivariant path integral is expected to have regularization ambiguities proportional to full monopoles $\mathcal{M}_{A',p'}$ of lower charge.

2. Generalities

A renormalizable 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory is defined by a choice of gauge group, a compact Lie group G , and a choice of matter content, i.e. a quaternionic representation \mathcal{R} of G .² The fields of the theory consist of a vectormultiplet transforming in the adjoint representation of G , and hypermultiplets transforming in the representation \mathcal{R} . The vectormultiplet contains a triplet of real scalars $\vec{\phi} = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3) \in (\mathfrak{g})^3$. The hypermultiplets contain $4N$ real scalars (for some $N \geq 0$), which parametrize \mathbb{R}^{4N} with its standard hyperkähler structure. The representation \mathcal{R} can be understood as mapping G to a subgroup of the hyperkähler isometry group $USp(N) = U(2N) \cap Sp(2N, \mathbb{C})$ of \mathbb{R}^{4N} . The Lagrangian of the gauge theory is fully determined by the choice of (G, \mathcal{R}) , together with (dimensionful) gauge couplings for every factor in G and a set of canonical deformation parameters (masses and FI parameters) that we review below.

3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theories always have an R-symmetry group $SU(2)_C \times SU(2)_H$. The three scalar fields in each vectormultiplet transform as a triplet of $SU(2)_C$, while hypermultiplets transform as complex doublets of $SU(2)_H$.

In addition, there is a global symmetry group $G_C \times G_H$ that commutes with $SU(2)_C \times SU(2)_H$ (and the supersymmetry algebra). The hypermultiplets transform under a ‘‘Higgs-branch’’ global symmetry group G_H , which, formally, is the normalizer of the gauge group inside $USp(N)$, modulo the action of the gauge group itself

$$G_H = N_{USp(N)}(\mathcal{R}(G)) / \mathcal{R}(G), \tag{2.1}$$

with ‘ \mathcal{R} ’ denoting the map from G to $USp(N)$. Thus, loosely speaking, the hypermultiplet scalars transform in a quaternionic representation of $G \times G_H$. If the gauge group G contains abelian factors, the theory will also have ‘‘Coulomb-branch’’ global symmetries whose conserved currents are simply the abelian field strengths. Monopole operators with magnetic charges in the abelian factors, by construction, are charged under Coulomb-branch global symmetries. Altogether, in the ultraviolet gauge theory,

$$G_C = U(1)^{\# U(1) \text{ factors in } G}, \tag{2.2}$$

though in the infrared G_C may be enhanced to a nonabelian group whose maximal torus is (2.2).

In the absence of mass deformations, a typical $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory has a rich moduli space of vacua, a union of ‘‘branches’’ of the form $\mathcal{C}_a \times \mathcal{H}_a$, where \mathcal{C}_a is a hyperkähler manifold parameterized by the expectation values of gauge-invariant combinations of vectormultiplet scalars and monopole operators and \mathcal{H}_a is a hyperkähler manifold parameterized by the expectation values gauge-invariant combinations of hypermultiplets. We will generically refer to the ‘‘Coulomb branch’’ \mathcal{M}_C as a branch of vacua where the \mathcal{H}_a factor is trivial, and to the ‘‘Higgs branch’’ \mathcal{M}_H as a branch of vacua where \mathcal{C}_a is trivial. Other branches of the moduli space of vacua are usually referred to as mixed branches, and consist of a product of hyperkähler sub-manifolds of \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H .

The Higgs branch \mathcal{M}_H is not affected by quantum corrections, and is simply the hyperkähler quotient

$$\mathcal{M}_H = \mathbb{R}^{4N} // G, \quad \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_H = 2N - 2 \dim(\mathcal{R}(G)). \tag{2.3}$$

In contrast, the Coulomb branch does suffer quantum corrections. Classically,

$$\mathcal{M}_C \approx (\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1)^{\text{rank } G} / W_G, \quad \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_C = 2 \text{rank } G, \tag{2.4}$$

² For further background material on 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theories, see e.g. [2, 19].

where W_G is the Weyl group of G ; but quantum corrections modify the topology and geometry of \mathcal{M}_C .

The global symmetries $G_C \times G_H$ act tri-holomorphically on the corresponding branches of vacua and are associated to a triplet of protected moment map operators. On the other hand, the R-symmetries rotate among themselves the hyperkähler forms of \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H respectively. In particular, in the absence of mass deformations all choices of complex structure on \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H are equivalent.

The $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theories admit two classes of deformation parameters, masses and FI parameters, each associated to a Cartan generator of the global symmetry of the theory. Masses $\vec{m} \in (\mathfrak{t}_H)^3$ transform as a triplet of $SU(2)_C$, while FI parameters $\vec{t} \in (\mathfrak{t}_C)^3$ transform as a triplet of $SU(2)_H$. Masses deform/resolve the geometry of the Coulomb factors \mathcal{C}_a and restrict the Higgs factors \mathcal{H}_a to the fixed point of the corresponding isometries. FI parameters do the opposite.

The geometry of the Higgs and Coulomb branches of vacua is captured by the expectation values of two types of half-BPS local operators. Higgs-branch operators parameterize \mathcal{M}_H and transform in irreducible representations of $SU(2)_H$: a spin $n/2$ Higgs branch operator is the projection to spin $n/2$ of a gauge-invariant polynomial of n elementary hypermultiplets.

Coulomb-branch operators parameterize \mathcal{M}_C and transform in irreducible representations of $SU(2)_C$. A generic Coulomb-branch operator can be described as a “dressed monopole operator”: a BPS monopole operator combined with some polynomial in the vectormultiplet scalars which is invariant under the subgroup of the gauge group preserved by the monopole singularity.

It is useful to pick an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ subalgebra of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ superalgebra and look at the Higgs and Coulomb branch operators which are chiral under the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ subalgebra. These operators form a chiral ring and map to holomorphic functions on \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H . Indeed, the choice of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ subalgebra is equivalent to a choice of complex structures ζ and ζ' on the two branches of vacua; and the rings of holomorphic functions $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]_\zeta$, $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]_{\zeta'}$ in these complex structures are subrings of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ chiral ring. (We often drop the explicit dependence on ζ, ζ' .) The choice of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ subalgebra is preserved by a Cartan subalgebra of $SU(2)_C \times SU(2)_H$, and the corresponding abelian R-charge of BPS monopole operators in $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]_\zeta$ can be computed by a standard formula [8, 11].

We will denote the chiral combinations of the hypermultiplet scalars as pairs $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{C}^{2N}$ (or more precisely $(X_{\zeta'}, Y_{\zeta'})$), implicitly assuming that the matter representation \mathcal{R} is the sum of two conjugate complex representations. If \mathcal{R} is truly pseudo-real, X and Y should be unified into a single set of fields. We will denote the chiral combination of vectormultiplet scalars, containing two of the three real adjoint-valued fields, as $\varphi \in \mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}$ (or more precisely φ_ζ). Chiral BPS monopole operators require a singular vev for the remaining real scalar field $\sigma \in \mathfrak{g}$, matching the singularity in the gauge fields.

The imprint of the hyperkähler geometry on the ring of holomorphic functions on \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H is a holomorphic Poisson bracket, associated to the complex symplectic forms built out of the appropriate linear combination of hyperkähler forms (See Eqn. (3.44) for an explicit formula). For hypermultiplets, we simply have $\{X, Y\} = 1$.

The data of the chiral rings and Poisson brackets is captured by two topologically twisted theories: the Rozansky–Witten theory [20] combines space-time rotations and $SU(2)_C$ to select a supercharge whose cohomology captures the complex geometry of the Higgs branch; while a twisted Rozansky–Witten theory combines space-time rotations and $SU(2)_H$ to select a supercharge whose cohomology captures the complex geometry

of the Coulomb branch. It is likely that the results of this paper could be verified by studying monopole operators in the language of twisted Rozansky–Witten theory.

The description of \mathcal{M}_C and \mathcal{M}_H as complex symplectic manifolds does not capture the hyperkähler metric on the moduli spaces. The metric can be captured, though, by a twistor construction. We refer to Sects. 3.5, 5.5, 6.9 for details. Our results strongly suggest that it should be possible to extend the language of the (twisted) Rozansky–Witten theory to capture the full twistor geometry, perhaps in a manner similar to projective superspace constructions in physics, see e.g. [21].

2.1. The chiral ring is independent of gauge couplings. A key ingredient in many of our constructions is a simple variation of a non-renormalization theorem. Consider a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory, with Coulomb and Higgs branches $\mathcal{M}_C, \mathcal{M}_H$. Let us choose an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ subalgebra of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ superalgebra, as above, corresponding to a choice of complex structures on the Coulomb and Higgs branches. Then the chiral rings $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]_\zeta$ and $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]_{\zeta'}$ are subrings of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ chiral ring.

The gauge coupling constants g_i of our theory are real parameters with no natural complexification. They can be promoted to background $\mathcal{N} = 2$ superfields in several ways: either as the real scalar components of linear multiplets Σ_i , as the scalar components of real (vector) multiplets V_i , or as the scalar components of chiral multiplets Φ_i that only ever enter the theory in the combination $\Phi_i + \Phi_i^\dagger$. None of these multiplets can ever occur in an effective superpotential of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theory, or in the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ chiral ring. Indeed, this was the basis behind the non-renormalization theorems of [22].

In the present case, we conclude that for any fixed choice of complex structure, the chiral rings $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]_\zeta, \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]_{\zeta'}$ do not depend on gauge couplings g_i . In particular, this means that there must exist a set of chiral operators $\{\mathcal{O}_a\}$ that generate each chiral ring, in such a way that the ring relations (structure constants, etc.) are independent of the g_i . The \mathcal{O}_a do include monopole operators, whose ultraviolet definition $V_\pm \sim \exp(\pm \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma + i\gamma))$ does implicitly involve gauge couplings. However, once such operators are correctly identified, the relations among them never contain the g_i .

Note that the status of gauge couplings in 3d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ or $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theories is fundamentally different from that in 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories. In 4d, the real gauge couplings do have a natural complexification by the theta-angle, and they do enter the complex geometry of the Coulomb branch [23, 24].

In a nonabelian 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory at a generic point in the Coulomb branch, instanton corrections to the metric are controlled by the instanton action, which is proportional to $\frac{1}{g^2}$ but goes to zero as one approaches the locus where nonabelian gauge symmetry is classically restored. Thus the non-renormalization theorem protects the complex geometry on the Coulomb branch from the effect of instantons, allowing corrections only at the classical nonabelian locus. This is the motivation for our abelianization map.

3. Abelian Coulomb Branches

We review the structure of Coulomb (and Higgs) branches of abelian gauge theories, building up gradually from SQED to a general theory. Our main goal is to describe the chiral ring of the Coulomb branch $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] = \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]_\zeta$ (for any fixed ζ) intrinsically, in a way that will generalize to nonabelian theories. We also describe quantization of

the chiral ring in the presence of an Omega background, as well as the twistor construction that unifies all complex structures ζ and reproduces the hyperkähler metric on the Coulomb branch.

3.1. SQED. SQED with N hypermultiplets is a gauge theory with $G = U(1)$ and $\mathcal{R} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{4N} \simeq T^*\mathbb{C}^N$, in the notation of Sect. 2. Given a complex structure on the Higgs branch, the $2N$ complex hypermultiplet scalars $(X^i, Y^i)_{i=1}^N$ carry charges $(+1, -1)$ under the $U(1)$ gauge symmetry. This theory has a Higgs-branch symmetry $G_H = PSU(N)$ that rotates the N hypermultiplets, and a Coulomb-branch symmetry $G_C = U(1)_t$ that rotates the dual photon.

The Higgs branch is protected from quantum corrections and may be constructed as a hyperkähler quotient. The complex and real moment maps of the $U(1)$ gauge group action are

$$\mu = \vec{X} \cdot \vec{Y}, \quad \mu_{\mathbb{R}} = |\vec{X}|^2 - |\vec{Y}|^2, \tag{3.1}$$

and the Higgs branch is the hyperkähler quotient

$$\mathcal{M}_H = (\mu = t, \mu_{\mathbb{R}} = t_{\mathbb{R}}) / U(1). \tag{3.2}$$

When the complex FI parameter t is zero but the real FI parameter $t_{\mathbb{R}}$ is nonzero, \mathcal{M}_H is isomorphic to $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$ as a complex manifold. If both FI parameters vanish, \mathcal{M}_H becomes a singular hyperkähler cone. In terms of representation theory, this cone can be identified with the orbit of the minimal nilpotent element inside $\mathfrak{sl}(N, \mathbb{C})$, and its resolution at finite $t_{\mathbb{R}}$ is the Springer resolution of the orbit. When $t, t_{\mathbb{R}}$ are both nonzero, \mathcal{M}_H still has the topology of $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$, but is no longer isomorphic to $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$ as a complex manifold (in particular, the base $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$ is no longer a holomorphic submanifold).

The Higgs-branch chiral ring is obtained by starting with the free polynomial ring $\mathbb{C}[X, Y]$ generated by the X_i and Y_i , taking invariant functions, and imposing the complex moment map condition $\mu = t$. Abstractly,

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H] = \mathbb{C}[X, Y]^{U(1)} / (\mu - t). \tag{3.3}$$

This can also be thought of as a holomorphic symplectic reduction of $\mathbb{C}[X, Y]$. Concretely, $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]$ is generated by an $N \times N$ matrix of functions $z_{ij} = X^i Y^j$, subject to $\text{Tr} \|z_{ij}\| = t$ and the condition that the determinant of any 2×2 minor vanishes, i.e. $\text{rank} \|z_{ij}\| = 1$.

Classically, the Coulomb branch is parametrized by the vectormultiplet scalar fields $\vec{\phi} = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$, together with the dual photon γ , which obeys $d\gamma = *dA$. In our conventions, the dual photon is a periodic scalar with $\gamma \sim \gamma + 2\pi g^2$, where g^2 is the tree-level gauge coupling. Therefore, topologically, the classical Coulomb branch is simply $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{class}} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$. The symmetry $G_C = U(1)_t$ shifts the dual photon and so rotates the S^1 factor.

The Coulomb branch of an abelian theory does not receive non-perturbative quantum corrections as there are no dynamical monopoles. Furthermore, the classical Coulomb branch only receives a 1-loop quantum correction, which can be explicitly computed [1, 2, 19]. Topologically, this correction has the effect of changing the topology of $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{class}}$ at infinity from a product $S^2 \times S^1$ to a nontrivial fibration of Euler number N ; and

correspondingly shrinking the dual photon circle S^1 at any values of (φ, σ) where a hypermultiplet becomes massless.

To analyze this we introduce N hyperkähler triplets of masses $\vec{m}_i \in (\mathfrak{t}_H)^3$, $i = 1, \dots, N$, valued in a Cartan subalgebra of the $PSU(N)$ flavor symmetry of the Higgs branch. (These masses are constant vevs for a background $PSU(N)$ vectormultiplet, and are defined up to an overall shift which can be absorbed in $\vec{\phi}$.) The effective mass of the i -th hypermultiplet is $|\vec{\phi} + \vec{m}_i|$, so the S^1 circle of $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{clas}}$ shrinks at the N points

$$\vec{\phi} = -\vec{m}_i. \tag{3.4}$$

How can we describe the quantum-corrected Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C as a complex symplectic manifold? Fixing a complex structure, we form chiral combinations (say) $\varphi = \phi_2 + i\phi_3$ and $\sigma + i\gamma = \phi_1 + i\gamma$, and correspondingly $m_i := m_{i,2} + i m_{i,3}$, $m_i^{\mathbb{R}} := m_{i,1}$. Classically, the holomorphic functions on $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{class}}$ are given by the vevs of the complex scalar φ and the monopole operators $v^\pm = e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma + i\gamma)}$.³ The monopole operators simply satisfy $v^+ v^- = 1$ and the holomorphic symplectic form is

$$\Omega_C = d\varphi \wedge d \log v^+ = -d\varphi \wedge d \log v^-. \tag{3.5}$$

This identifies $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{class}} = \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^*$ as a complex symplectic manifold. A natural guess for the quantum-corrected Coulomb branch is that the vevs of monopole operators become \mathbb{C} (rather than \mathbb{C}^*) valued functions, and satisfy a modified relation (cf. [9])

$$\mathcal{M}_C : \quad v^+ v^- = \prod_{i=1}^N (\varphi + m_i), \tag{3.6}$$

with the same holomorphic symplectic form Ω_C . The modified relation beautifully accounts for the shrinking of the S^1 at points (3.4). It identifies the Coulomb branch with a deformation of the A_{N-1} singularity $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$.

The relation (3.6) is consistent with transformations of v^\pm and φ under the topological symmetry $U(1)_t$ and the R-symmetry $U(1)_C \subset SU(2)_C$. Indeed, the monopole operators have charge ± 1 under $U(1)_t$, while φ is neutral. On the other hand, φ has R-charge $+2$ while V_\pm both have R-charge N [2, 9, 22]. (Note that $U(1)_C$ is broken unless $m_i \equiv 0$, in which case the RHS becomes homogeneous, transforming with charge $2N$.)

The exact hyperkähler metric on the Coulomb branch of an abelian gauge theory can be determined from a 1-loop calculation, as discussed in [1, 2, 19]. For SQED with N flavors, this calculation reproduces the hyperkähler metric on the N -centered Taub-NUT space. In Gibbons-Hawking coordinates, the hyperkähler metric is

$$ds^2 = U(\phi) d\vec{\phi} \cdot d\vec{\phi} + U(\phi)^{-1} (g^{-2} d\gamma + \vec{\omega}(\phi) \cdot d\vec{\phi})^2. \tag{3.7}$$

This metric describes an S^1 -fibration over \mathbb{R}^3 with fiber and base coordinates given by γ and $\vec{\phi}$, respectively. The function $U(\phi)$ encodes the 1-loop correction to the tree-level gauge coupling,

$$U(\phi) = \frac{1}{g^2} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{|\vec{\phi} + \vec{m}_i|}, \quad \vec{\nabla} U = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\omega}. \tag{3.8}$$

³ See [8, 9, 22, 25] for some further discussions of monopole operators and their properties.

At the N points $\vec{\phi} = -\vec{m}_i$ a fundamental hypermultiplet becomes massless and the 1-loop corrections force $U(\phi) \rightarrow \infty$, shrinking the S^1 fiber at that point. In addition, the Dirac connection $\vec{\omega}$ modifies the topological structure of S^1 bundle on the sphere at infinity to a fibration of Euler number N .

In the infrared, as $g \rightarrow \infty$, this metric describes the deformation and/or resolution of the A_{N-1} singularity $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$, precisely agreeing with (3.6). The non-renormalization argument of Sect. 2.1, however, guarantees that the chiral-ring relation (3.6) holds for all values of g^2 —and thus also describes the chiral ring of the N -centered Taub-NUT space.

3.2. General charges. The analysis of the Coulomb branch for SQED can be upgraded to a general abelian gauge theory. The construction is local, in the sense that it can be performed separately for each $U(1)$ gauge group in a general theory, where the SQED results apply.

Consider, then, a theory with gauge group $G = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)_a$ and representation $\mathcal{R} = T^*\mathbb{C}^N$ for N hypermultiplets, such that the i -th hypermultiplet (X^i, Y^i) has charges $(Q^a_i, -Q^a_i)$ under $U(1)_a$. The flavor symmetry group $G_H \times G_C$ of the theory includes a subgroup $G_H = U(1)^{N-r} = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-r} U(1)_\alpha$ that rotates the hypermultiplets with some charges $(q^\alpha_i, -q^\alpha_i)$ and a subgroup $G_C = U(1)^r = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)^{(a)}$ of topological symmetries shifting the dual photons.⁴ The $N - r$ vectors $\vec{q}^\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}^N$ are only well defined modulo the $\vec{Q}^a \in \mathbb{Z}^N$, and together with the \vec{Q}^a form a basis for \mathbb{R}^N . It is therefore convenient to combine the vectors $\vec{Q}^a, \vec{q}^\alpha$ into a square $N \times N$ matrix

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{Q} \\ \vec{q} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.9}$$

i.e. such that $\mathbf{Q}^a_i = Q^a_i$ for $\alpha = 1, \dots, r$ and $\mathbf{Q}^{N-a+1}_i = q^a_i$ for $a = 1, \dots, N - r$. Without loss of generality, we can take $|\det \mathbf{Q}| = 1$ to insure that our basis of gauge and flavor generators is minimal.⁵

Classically, the Coulomb branch has the form $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{class}} = (\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1)^r$, parametrized by the scalars (σ_a, φ_a) and the dual photon γ_a for each $U(1)_a$ gauge group. As in the case of SQED, we expect this picture to be modified by 1-loop quantum corrections. The effective real and complex masses of the i -th hypermultiplet are

$$M_i = \sum_a Q^a_i \varphi_a + \sum_\alpha q^\alpha_i m_\alpha, \quad M_i^{\mathbb{R}} = \sum_a Q^a_i \sigma_a + \sum_\alpha q^\alpha_i m_\alpha^{\mathbb{R}}, \tag{3.10}$$

where $(m_\alpha^{\mathbb{R}}, m_\alpha)$ are a triplet of mass parameters for each $U(1)_\alpha$ factor in the flavor group G_H . When the i -th hypermultiplet becomes massless, $M_i^{\mathbb{R}} = M_i = 0$, 1-loop quantum corrections will cause the circle parametrized by the associated dual photon $\sum_a Q^a_i \gamma_a$ to shrink.

In order to describe the quantum-corrected Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C as a complex symplectic manifold, we use the expectation values of the complex fields φ_a along with monopole operators. For each $U(1)_a$ factor in G , there is a pair of monopole operators

⁴ In special cases, such as SQED, the flavor symmetry may have a nonabelian enhancement. For the current general discussion, we are just considering maximal tori of the flavor groups.

⁵ That condition is equivalent to the requirement that \mathbf{Q}^{-1} is integral, so that the matter fields can only be coupled to integrally quantized background flavor and gauge fluxes.

$v_a^\pm \sim e^{\pm \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_a + i\gamma_a)}$. The shrinking of S^1 's at the location of massless hypermultiplets is then captured by the relations

$$v_a^+ v_a^- = \prod_{i=1}^N (M_i)^{|Q^a_i|} =: P_a(\varphi, m). \tag{3.11}$$

This is simply a copy of the SQED formula (3.6) for every $U(1)_a$ factor, slightly modified to allow for more general gauge and flavor charges. The relations transform homogeneously under the topological symmetry group $G_C = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)^{(a)}$, whose factors act on v_a^\pm with charge ± 1 , and act trivially on φ . When $\vec{m}_\alpha = 0$, they also transform homogeneously under the R-symmetry $U(1)_C$, acting on φ with charge 2 and on the monopole operators v_a^\pm with charge $\sum_i |Q^a_i|$. The nontrivial R-charges of the monopoles are determined just as they were for SQED [2, 9, 22].

The operators $(v_a^+, v_a^-, \varphi_a)_{a=1}^r$, subject to relations (3.11), don't quite generate all the holomorphic functions on the Coulomb branch. A few additional generators are required. For every cocharacter $A \in \text{Hom}(U(1), G) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^r$, there exists a pair of monopole operators $v_A^+, v_A^- = v_{-A}^+$ constructed from the dual photon for the corresponding $U(1)$ subgroup of G . They have charges $\pm A_a$ (where $A = (A_1, \dots, A_r)$) under the topological symmetry $U(1)^{(a)}$. These more general monopole operators can always be expressed as rational functions of the $(v_a^+, v_a^-, \varphi_a)_{a=1}^r$, but not necessarily as polynomials.

For general monopole operators labelled by $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}^r$ we propose that

$$v_A^- = v_{-A}^+ \quad v_A^+ v_B^+ = v_{A+B}^+ P_{A,B}(\varphi, m), \tag{3.12}$$

where

$$P_{A,B}(\varphi, m) = \prod_{i=1}^N (M_i)^{(Q^T A)_+^i + (Q^T B)_+^i - (Q^T (A+B))_+^i}, \tag{3.13}$$

and $(x)_+ := \max(x, 0)$. The vectors $(Q^T A) \in \mathbb{Z}^N$ are defined using the charge matrix as a map $Q^T : \mathbb{Z}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^N$. When $B = -A$ it is straightforward to verify that equation (3.12) becomes

$$v_A^+ v_A^- = \prod_{i=1}^N (M_i)^{|(Q^T A)^i|}, \tag{3.14}$$

which is an immediate generalization of the formula (3.11) for simple monopole operators. Another consequence of equation (3.12) is that $v_{nA}^+ = (v_A^+)^n$ when $n \geq 0$. The formula (3.12) implies that a general monopole operator v_A^+ can be written as a rational function of $(v_a^+, v_a^-, \varphi_a)_{a=1}^r$.

We propose that the full Coulomb branch chiral ring is generated as

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] = \mathbb{C}[\{v_A^\pm\}_{A \in \mathbb{Z}^r}, \{\varphi_a\}_{a=1}^r] / (3.12). \tag{3.15}$$

We will prove this result in Sect. 3.3 using 3d abelian mirror symmetry, assuming that the charge matrix \mathbf{Q} is unimodular. Note that due to $v_{nA}^+ = (v_A^+)^n$ it is sufficient to take a finite set of primitive monopole operators as the generators of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. Further properties of the Coulomb branch chiral ring of abelian gauge theories, including a

concise combinatorial description of its basis, will appear in joint work with Hilburn [26].

Mirror symmetry will also show that the holomorphic symplectic form on \mathcal{M}_C is given by

$$\Omega_C = \sum_{a=1}^r d\varphi_a \wedge d \log \frac{v_a^+}{P_a(\varphi, m)^{1/2}}. \tag{3.16}$$

The induced Poisson brackets include

$$\{\varphi_a, \varphi_b\} = 0, \quad \{\varphi_a, v_b^\pm\} = \pm \delta_{ab} v_b^\pm, \quad \{v_a^+, v_a^-\} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi_a} P_a(\varphi, m). \tag{3.17}$$

The non-vanishing brackets $\{v_A^+, v_B^+\}$ among monopole operators can most easily be derived by taking a classical limit of the quantum relations in Sect. 3.4.

Finally, the hyperkähler metric generalizing (3.8) takes the form (cf. [3])

$$ds^2 = U^{ab} d\vec{\phi}_a \cdot d\vec{\phi}_b + (U^{-1})_{ab} (g_a^{-2} d\gamma_a + \vec{\omega}^{ac} \cdot d\vec{\phi}_c) (g_a^{-2} d\gamma_b + \vec{\omega}^{bc'} \cdot d\vec{\phi}_{c'}), \tag{3.18}$$

$$U^{ab} = \frac{1}{g_a^2} \delta^{ab} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{Q^a_i Q^b_i}{|\vec{M}_i|}, \quad \vec{\nabla} U^{ab} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\omega}^{ab}, \tag{3.19}$$

where $\vec{M}_i = (M_i^{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Re } M_i, \text{Im } M_i)$ is the triplet of effective masses for the i -th hypermultiplet. This metric describes an $(S^1)^r$ fibration over $(\mathbb{R}^3)^r$. The metric receives corrections only at one loop, which appear in the functions U^{ab} and the Dirac connection $\vec{\omega}^{ab}$. This metric can be used directly to justify the chiral ring relations (3.12) and to derive the holomorphic symplectic form—most easily, by studying the limit $g_a^2 \rightarrow \infty$ and then using the non-renormalization argument to ensure that the result is independent of g_a . Instead, we will prove formulas (3.12) and (3.16) using 3d abelian mirror symmetry (together with non-renormalization).

3.3. Derivation via mirror symmetry. The mirror of an abelian theory T with N hypermultiplets and gauge group $G = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)_a$ is another abelian theory \tilde{T} with N hypermultiplets (X_i, Y_i) and gauge group $\tilde{G} = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-r} U(1)_\alpha$. The gauge charges \tilde{Q}_α^i and flavor charges \tilde{q}_α^i in the mirror theory may be combined into an $N \times N$ matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$, which is related to the matrix \mathbf{Q} defined in (3.9) by [3]

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{q} \\ \tilde{Q} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{Q}^{-1, T}. \tag{3.20}$$

As this matrix is unimodular, $|\det \mathbf{Q}| = 1$, the mirror charge matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_\alpha^i$ has integer entries. Mirror symmetry interchanges the Coulomb and Higgs branch symmetries of these theories so that $\tilde{G}_H = G_C = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)_a$ and $\tilde{G}_C = G_H = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-r} U(1)_\alpha$. In particular, the $N - r$ FI parameters of \tilde{T} are related to the masses of T : $\tilde{t}_\alpha = m_\alpha$. Subject to these relations, the Higgs branch chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_H]$ of \tilde{T} should be identical to the Coulomb branch chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ of T .

Since the Higgs branch of \tilde{T} receives no quantum corrections, we can describe its chiral ring explicitly as a holomorphic symplectic quotient of the ring of functions $\mathbb{C}[X_i, Y_i]$ built from hypermultiplets,

$$\mathbb{C}[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_H] = \mathbb{C}[X_i, Y_i]^{\tilde{G}} / (\tilde{\mu}_\alpha := \sum_i \tilde{Q}_\alpha^i X_i Y_i = \tilde{t}_\alpha). \tag{3.21}$$

In other words, just as in (3.3) for SQED, we take polynomials in X_i, Y_i that are invariant under the \tilde{G} gauge action and impose complex moment map constraints.

Clearly the N functions $Z_i := X_i Y_i$ are gauge invariant. They are not all independent, since $\sum_i \tilde{Q}_\alpha^i Z_i = \tilde{t}_\alpha$. As independent elements we can take the $N - r$ complex moment maps for the flavor symmetry group, $v_a := \sum_i \tilde{q}_a^i Z_i$. Then since $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} = \mathbf{Q}^{-1, T}$ we have

$$Z_i = \sum_a Q_a^i v_a + \sum_\alpha q_\alpha^i \tilde{t}_\alpha, \tag{3.22}$$

analogous to (3.10). The remaining gauge-invariant monomials are all of the form

$$W^w := X^{w_+} Y^{w_-} = \prod_i (X_i)^{w_+^i} (Y_i)^{w_-^i}, \quad w = w_+ - w_- \in \mathbb{Z}^N, \tag{3.23}$$

for vectors w that are in the kernel of $\tilde{Q} : \mathbb{Z}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{N-r}$, with positive and negative parts $w_\pm \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^N$. In particular, the monomials W^{Q_a} are gauge invariant, where $Q_a = (Q_a^1, \dots, Q_a^N)$ denotes a charge vector of T . Indeed, assuming that $|\det \mathbf{Q}| = 1$, the kernel of the map $\tilde{Q} : \mathbb{Z}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{N-r}$ simply equals the image of $Q^T : \mathbb{Z}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^N$.

It is now completely straightforward to calculate that

$$W^{Q_a} W^{-Q_a} = \prod_{i=1}^N (Z_i)^{|Q_a^i|} =: P_a(v, \tilde{t}), \tag{3.24}$$

and more generally

$$W^w W^v = W^{w+v} P^{w_++v_+-(w+v)_+}(v, \tilde{t}), \tag{3.25}$$

with $P^w(v, \tilde{t}) := \prod_i (Z_i)^{w^i}$ and $w, v \in \text{im } Q^T$. The Higgs-branch chiral ring is then generated as

$$\mathbb{C}[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_H] = \langle \{v_a\}_{a=1}^r, \{W^w\}_{w \in \text{Im } Q^T} \mid W^w W^v = W^{w+v} P^{w_++v_+-(w+v)_+}(v, \tilde{t}) \rangle. \tag{3.26}$$

If we replace

$$\begin{aligned} v_a &\rightarrow \varphi_a \\ W^{\pm Q^T \cdot A} &\rightarrow v_A^\pm \\ Z_i &\rightarrow M_i \\ \tilde{t}_\alpha &\rightarrow m_\alpha, \end{aligned} \tag{3.27}$$

then we recover the presentation (3.15) for $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ in the original theory.

Finally, we can check that the holomorphic symplectic form (3.16) is correct. On the Higgs branch of the mirror theory \tilde{T} , the holomorphic symplectic form $\tilde{\Omega}_H$ descends from the form $\sum_i dY_i \wedge dX_i$ on $T^*\mathbb{C}^N$ upon symplectic reduction. Observe that

$$\sum_a dv_a \wedge d \log \frac{W^{Q^a}}{P_a(v, \tilde{t})^{1/2}} = \sum_{a,i} d(\tilde{q}_a^i X_i Y_i) \wedge d \log(X^{\frac{1}{2}Q^a} Y^{-\frac{1}{2}Q^a}) \tag{3.28}$$

$$= \sum_{a,\alpha;i} d(\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{\alpha,a}^i X_i Y_i) \wedge d \log(X^{\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{Q}^{\alpha,a}} Y^{-\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{Q}^{\alpha,a}}) \tag{3.29}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} (\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}^T \mathbf{Q})^{ij} \left(\frac{Y_i}{X_j} dX_i \wedge dX_j - \frac{X_i}{Y_j} dY_i \wedge dY_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{X_i}{X_j} + \frac{Y_i}{Y_j} \right) dY_i \wedge dX_j \right) \\ &= \sum_i dY_i \wedge dX_i, \end{aligned}$$

where in (3.29) we used the constraints $\sum_i \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{\alpha}^i X_i Y_i = t_{\alpha}$ to promote the sum over $\alpha = 1, \dots, r$ to a sum over both α and a covering all indices of $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$. The calculation shows that the symplectic reduction of $\sum_i dY_i \wedge dX_i$ can be expressed as the LHS of (3.28), which translates on the Coulomb branch of T to (3.16).

3.3.1. *Example: SQED from mirror symmetry.* For SQED we have the following matrix of charges:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.30}$$

and thus the charges of the mirror theory can be presented as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} = \mathbf{Q}^{-1,T} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{3.31}$$

An equivalent presentation of the mirror theory, related by a redefinition of the gauge charges, is as a linear quiver of $N - 1$ $U(1)$ gauge groups with a single flavor at either end (whose Coulomb branch we return to in Sect. 6).

We have a single basic gauge-invariant bilinear $v = Z_1 = X_1 Y_1$ on the Higgs branch of the mirror theory, since $Z_i = v + \tilde{t}_{i-1}$ for $i > 1$. The mirrors of the basic monopole operators are $W^{1,\dots,1} = \prod_i X_i$ and $W^{-1,\dots,-1} = \prod_i Y_i$, which satisfy the expected relation

$$W^{1,\dots,1} W^{-1,\dots,-1} = v \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-1} (v + \tilde{t}_{\alpha}). \tag{3.32}$$

3.4. *Quantization.* Since the Higgs and Coulomb branches of a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory are complex symplectic manifolds, it is natural to ask whether they admit a quantization, and whether this quantization plays a physical role. The answer to both questions turns out to be positive.

3.4.1. *Quantization via Omega background.* Physically, quantization can be achieved by placing a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory in a two-dimensional Omega background. The details were recently presented in [27]. Conceptually, the idea is to reduce the 3d theory to a 1d quantum mechanics, so that operators become fixed to a line and their product (potentially) becomes non-commutative. This same basic idea was used in [28] and later [29] to quantize algebras of line operators in four-dimensional theories, by forcing the line operators to lie in a common plane (see also the recent review [30]).⁶ A direct reduction of the 4d constructions leads to the Omega background that quantizes 3d chiral rings.

Another example of quantization of an operator algebra appeared in [34,35]. Namely, it was found that in a two-dimensional A-model, a “canonical coisotropic brane” boundary condition [36] induces a deformation quantization of the algebra of operators on the boundary. This quantization is also related to the 3d quantization discussed here, since the reduction of a 3d theory along the isometries of an Omega background is precisely expected to produce a 2d A-model with canonical coisotropic boundary [37].

To describe the background that quantizes the chiral ring of a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory T , we first rewrite the 3d theory on $\mathbb{R}^3 = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}_t$ as a two dimensional $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ theory on \mathbb{R}^2 whose fields are valued in functions of the third direction \mathbb{R}_t . In general, there is some freedom in choosing an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ subalgebra of 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ to make manifest. The choice is parameterized by the coset $R_{[3d \mathcal{N} = 4]} / R_{[3d \mathcal{N} = (2, 2)]}$, where the numerator and denominator are the R-symmetries of the respective superalgebras. More concretely, the R-symmetry $U(1)_A \times U(1)_V$ of 2d $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ embeds as a maximal torus of $SU(2)_C \times SU(2)_H$, so there is a $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ of choices. This, however, is the same as the choice of complex structure on 3d Higgs and Coulomb branches. After fixing complex structures, we will select the unique 2d $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ subalgebra whose R-symmetry $U(1)_A \times U(1)_V$ leaves our distinguished complex structures invariant, i.e. $U(1)_A = U(1)_C$ and $U(1)_V = U(1)_H$.

Now, “turning on” an Omega background in a 2d $(2, 2)$ theory involves choosing a nilpotent supercharge Q and deforming both the supersymmetry algebra and the Lagrangian so that [38–41]

$$Q^2 = \epsilon \mathcal{L}_V, \tag{3.33}$$

where V is the vector field that generates rotations of \mathbb{R}^2 , and \mathcal{L}_V the corresponding Lie derivative. There are two standard candidates for a nilpotent Q : the A-type supercharge $Q_C = Q_- + \bar{Q}_+$ and the B-type supercharge $Q_H = \bar{Q}_- + \bar{Q}_+$. Note that Q_C is invariant under $U(1)_H$ and transforms with charge +1 under $U(1)_C$, whereas the opposite is true for Q_H .⁷ We will loosely denote both types of Omega-deformed spacetimes as $\mathbb{R}_\epsilon^2 \times \mathbb{R}_t$ or simply $\mathbb{R}_\epsilon^2 \times \mathbb{R}$.

It was argued in [27] that the Omega background using Q_H quantizes the Higgs-branch chiral ring.⁸ In the presence of the Omega background, Q_H -closed operators

⁶ If one additionally puts a 4d theory on a half-space, the (quantized) algebra of line operators in the bulk acts on the boundary condition. This leads to Ward identities for line operators that have appeared in numerous recent works, e.g. related to the 3d-3d correspondence [31] and to integrable systems [32,33].

⁷ From a 3-dimensional perspective, Q_C and Q_H coincide with the supercharges of Rozansky–Witten theory [20]. For example, if we turn on FI parameters (but not masses) and flow to the infrared, so that the gauge theory is well approximated by a sigma model to the Higgs branch, Q_H becomes the Rozansky–Witten supercharge for the sigma-model. Similarly, Q_C is the Rozansky–Witten supercharge for a sigma-model to the Coulomb branch.

⁸ Strictly speaking, [27] considered 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ sigma-models, but the results extend easily to gauge theories. A detailed description of the Omega background for gauge theories appears in [42].

(which include elements of the Higgs-branch chiral ring) are restricted to lie at the origin of \mathbb{R}_ϵ^2 . The position of these operators in the third direction \mathbb{R}_t then determines an ordering, and their operator product is no longer required to be commutative. Similarly, the Omega background with Q_C quantizes the Coulomb-branch chiral ring.

The quantizations \mathcal{A}_H and \mathcal{A}_C of the Higgs and Coulomb branch chiral rings that are produced by Omega backgrounds should be unique, or almost so: they depend only on the complex FI and mass parameters (respectively) that deform the chiral rings $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]$ and $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. Notice that the set of complex FI's t corresponds to a class in $H^2(\mathcal{M}_H, \mathbb{C})$, namely the class of the complex symplectic form Ω_H . Similarly, m corresponds to the class of Ω_C in $H^2(\mathcal{M}_C, \mathbb{C})$.

In the mathematical theory of deformation quantization, the quantization of the ring of functions on a complex symplectic manifold \mathcal{M} (with certain “nice” properties) is uniquely characterized by an element of $H^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{C}) \otimes \mathbb{C}[[\epsilon]]$, i.e. a formal power series in ϵ with coefficients in $H^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{C})$, called the *period* of the quantization. The types of spaces that arise as Higgs and Coulomb branches of a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory possess the required “nice” properties as long the branches can be fully resolved by turning on mass and FI parameters [43], cf. [44, Sec. 3]. (This is equivalent to requiring that mass and FI parameters can make the theory fully massive.) More so, if one requires that quantization be equivariant with respect to the $U(1)_H, U(1)_C$ actions on the rings of functions then the period must simply lie in $H^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{C})$ itself [45]. The quantizations produced physically by the Omega background are precisely such equivariant quantizations, uniquely characterized by the choice of $m \in H^2(\mathcal{M}_C, \mathbb{C})$ and $t \in H^2(\mathcal{M}_H, \mathbb{C})$.

3.4.2. Explicit presentation. The quantization \mathcal{A}_H of the Higgs branch chiral ring in any 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ gauge theory can easily be described by virtue of the fact that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]$ is a complex symplectic quotient. The result is very explicit for an abelian theory. Let us use the notation of Sect. 3.3, considering a theory \tilde{T} (mirror to T) with N hypermultiplets, gauge group $\tilde{G} = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-r} U(1)_\alpha$, and charge matrix (3.20).

The quantization $\bar{\mathcal{A}}_H$ of the “ungauged” ring $\mathbb{C}[T^*\mathbb{C}^N]$ is canonical, due to its affine structure. Namely, the generators X_i, Y_i are promoted to operators \hat{X}_i, \hat{Y}_i with commutation relations

$$[\hat{Y}_i, \hat{X}_j] = \delta_{ij}\epsilon. \tag{3.34}$$

Thus the quantization $\bar{\mathcal{A}}_H$ is just N copies of a Heisenberg algebra. The ring \mathcal{A}_H is obtained by a quantum symplectic reduction, cf. [46,47]:⁹ first taking a subring of gauge-invariant operators in $\bar{\mathcal{A}}_H$, and then imposing the moment-map constraints

$$\hat{\mu}^\alpha = \sum_i \tilde{Q}_\alpha^i \hat{Z}_i = \tilde{t}_\alpha, \tag{3.35}$$

where $\hat{Z}_i = : \hat{X}_i \hat{Y}_i := \hat{X}_i \hat{Y}_i + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \hat{Y}_i \hat{X}_i - \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ is the normal-ordered product.¹⁰ Note that the gauge-invariant operators in $\bar{\mathcal{A}}_H$ are precisely those that commute with the moment maps.

As in Sect. 3.3, we define quantum moment maps for the flavor symmetry, $\hat{v}_a = \sum_i \tilde{q}_a^i \hat{Z}_i$, as well as monomials $\hat{W}^w = \hat{X}^{w_+} \hat{Y}^{w_-}$ that suffer no ordering ambiguities

⁹ Such a quantum symplectic reduction also appeared in [48], in a rather different context.

¹⁰ Other operator orderings could also be used, but the resulting ambiguities can be absorbed into the complex FI parameters \tilde{t}_α .

since for every i either $(w_+)_i = 0$ or $(w_-)_i = 0$. After imposing (3.35) we still have $\hat{Z}_i = \sum_a Q^a_i \hat{v}_a + \sum_\alpha q^\alpha_i \hat{t}_\alpha$ just as in (3.22). After some straightforward calculations, we find that \mathcal{A}_H is generated by $\{\hat{W}^w\}_{w \in \text{im} Q}$ and $\{\hat{v}_a\}_{a=1}^r$, subject to the relations

$$[\hat{v}_a, \hat{v}_b] = 0, \quad [\hat{v}_a, \hat{W}^w] = (\tilde{q}_a \cdot w) \epsilon \hat{W}^w, \tag{3.36}$$

and the deformed product

$$\hat{W}^v \hat{W}^w = \left(\prod_{\substack{i \text{ s.t. } |v_i| \leq |w_i|, \\ v_i w_i < 0}} [\hat{Z}_i]^{-v_i} \right) \hat{W}^{v+w} \left(\prod_{\substack{i \text{ s.t. } |v_i| > |w_i|, \\ v_i w_i < 0}} [\hat{Z}_i]^{w_i} \right) \tag{3.37}$$

where

$$[a]^b := \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^b (a + (i - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon) & b > 0 \\ \prod_{i=1}^{|b|} (a - (i - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon) & b < 0 \\ 1 & b = 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.38}$$

By using abelian mirror symmetry as in Sect. 3.3, we can translate the quantization of \mathcal{A}_H for theory \tilde{T} to a quantization of the Coulomb branch \mathcal{A}_C for theory T . Namely, \mathcal{A}_C for theory T is generated by $\{\hat{v}_\pm^A\}_{A \in \mathbb{Z}^r}$ and $\{\hat{\varphi}_a\}_{a=1}^r$ subject to the commutation relations

$$[\hat{\varphi}_a, \hat{\varphi}_b] = 0, \quad [\hat{\varphi}_a, \hat{v}_A^\pm] = \pm \epsilon A_a \hat{v}_A^\pm, \tag{3.39}$$

together with $\hat{v}_A^+ = \hat{v}_{-A}^-$ and a product formula

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{v}_A^+ \hat{v}_B^+ &= \left(\prod_{\substack{i \text{ s.t. } |(Q^T A)_i| \leq |(Q^T B)_i|, \\ (Q^T A)_i (Q^T B)_i < 0}} [\hat{M}_i]^{-(Q^T A)_i} \right) \hat{v}_{A+B}^+ \\ &\times \left(\prod_{\substack{i \text{ s.t. } |(Q^T A)_i| > |(Q^T B)_i|, \\ (Q^T A)_i (Q^T B)_i < 0}} [\hat{M}_i]^{(Q^T B)_i} \right), \end{aligned} \tag{3.40}$$

which has as a special case

$$\hat{v}_a^+ \hat{v}_a^- = \prod_{i=1}^N [\hat{M}_i]^{-Q^a_i} =: \hat{P}_a(\hat{\varphi}, m). \tag{3.41}$$

Here $\hat{M}_i = \sum_a Q^a_i \hat{\varphi}_a + \sum_\alpha q^\alpha_i m_\alpha$, as in (3.10).

Note that in (say) a Coulomb-branch Omega background, the R-symmetry $U(1)_C = U(1)_A$ is broken explicitly by the RHS of (3.33). It could be restored by giving ϵ charge +2, which is precisely the charge of the holomorphic symplectic form Ω_C . Correspondingly, the quantum operator products (3.39), (3.41) break $U(1)_C$, even at zero complex mass, unless ϵ is given a charge +2.

3.4.3. *Example: SQED from mirror symmetry, quantized.* In the mirror of SQED, quantization of the basic bilinear is $\hat{v} = \hat{Z}_1 = \hat{X}_1 \hat{Y}_1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2}$, with $\hat{Z}_i = \hat{v} + \tilde{t}^{i-1}$. Moreover, $\hat{W}^{1,\dots,1} = \prod_i \hat{X}_i$ and $\hat{W}^{-1,\dots,-1} = \prod_i \hat{Y}_i$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{W}^{1,\dots,1} \hat{W}^{-1,\dots,-1} &= (\hat{v} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-1} (\hat{v} + \tilde{t}_\alpha - \frac{\epsilon}{2}), \\ \hat{W}^{-1,\dots,-1} \hat{W}^{1,\dots,1} &= (\hat{v} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N-1} (\hat{v} + \tilde{t}_\alpha + \frac{\epsilon}{2}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.42}$$

In SQED itself, these translate to

$$\hat{v}^+ \hat{v}^- = P(\hat{\phi} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}, m) = \prod_{i=1}^N (\hat{\phi} - \frac{\epsilon}{2} + m_i), \quad \hat{v}^- \hat{v}^+ = P(\hat{\phi} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}, m), \tag{3.43}$$

along with $[\hat{\phi}, \hat{v}^\pm] = \pm \epsilon \hat{v}^\pm$. For $N = 2$ these are the relations for a central quotient of the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{sl}_2 ; while for general N the operators $\hat{v}^\pm, \hat{\phi}$ generate a spherical Cherednik algebra (cf. [49,50]).

3.5. *Twistor space.* So far, we have focused on the Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C as a complex symplectic manifold. In abelian gauge theories, we could go further and write down the hyperkähler metric, as it receives only 1-loop quantum corrections. As a warm-up for theories with nonabelian gauge groups, where such an explicit construction of the metric is not possible, we will now describe the hyperkähler structure using the twistor construction. In general, a hyperkähler manifold M defines a twistor space $\mathcal{Z} \simeq M \times \mathbb{C}P^1$ with certain properties, and vice versa [51]. A review of the construction appears (e.g.) in [52, Sec. 3]. We recall a few relevant facts.

A hyperkähler manifold M has an S^2 worth of complex structures, parametrized as $aI + bJ + cK$, with $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 1$, where I, J, K are complex structures satisfying $I^2 = J^2 = K^2 = IJK = -1$. One identifies S^2 with $\mathbb{C}P^1$, with its standard complex structure \tilde{I} . Let ζ be an affine coordinate on $\mathbb{C}P^1$, and denote by I_ζ the corresponding complex structure on M , so that, for example, $I_0 = I$ and $I_\infty = -I$. The twistor space $\mathcal{Z} := M \times \mathbb{C}P^1$ is a complex manifold, whose complex structure at a point (m, ζ) is (I_ζ, \tilde{I}) . One then verifies that:

1. The projection $p : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$ is holomorphic, so that $p^{-1}(\zeta)$ is a copy of M with complex structure I_ζ .
2. The antipodal map $\tau_0 : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$ ($\tau_0 \zeta = -\bar{\zeta}^{-1}$) lifts to an antiholomorphic involution $\tau : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$, providing a real structure on \mathcal{Z} .
3. There is a section Ω_ζ of $\bigwedge^2 T^*_{\mathcal{Z}/\mathbb{C}P^1} \otimes \mathcal{O}(2)$ satisfying $\tau^* \Omega_\zeta = \Omega_\zeta$, which in the fiber $p^{-1}(\zeta)$ becomes the holomorphic symplectic form on M in complex structure ζ . Explicitly, let $\omega_I, \omega_J, \omega_K$ denote the Kähler forms on M in complex structures I, J, K . Then

$$\Omega_\zeta = \omega_J + i\omega_K + 2\zeta\omega_I - \zeta^2(\omega_J - i\omega_K) = \Omega + 2\zeta\omega + \zeta^2\bar{\Omega}, \tag{3.44}$$

where $\omega := \omega_I$ and $\Omega := \Omega_0 = \Omega_I$. (The involution τ^* acts as a composition of the antipodal map $\Omega_\zeta \mapsto \bar{\zeta}^{-2} \Omega_{-\bar{\zeta}^{-1}}$ and complex conjugation in the fibers $\Omega_\zeta \mapsto \bar{\Omega}_\zeta = \bar{\Omega} - 2\bar{\zeta}\bar{\omega} + \bar{\zeta}^2\bar{\Omega}$, which together preserve Ω_ζ .)

- For all points $m \in M$, the section $\{m\} \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ of $p : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow M$ is holomorphic and real with respect to τ . The normal bundle to any such section is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}^{\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{O}(1)$.

Conversely, given a $2d + 1$ dimensional complex manifold \mathcal{Z} with a projection $p : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$, satisfying the first three properties above, the moduli space of real sections as in (4) parametrizes a hyperkähler manifold.

The sections in (4), restricted to a fixed $\zeta \in \mathbb{CP}^1$, provide (locally) holomorphic functions on M in complex structure ζ . In our main case of interest, where M is the Higgs or Coulomb branch of a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory, these functions should arise as the expectation values of chiral operators—i.e. operators obeying a BPS condition with respect to a combination of supercharges that is *also* labelled by the twistor parameter ζ . The R-symmetry $SU(2)_H$ or $SU(2)_C$, as appropriate, rotates the \mathbb{CP}^1 twistor sphere.

Some of the holomorphic functions we have encountered arise naturally as values of a complex moment map. If a compact group G acts on M via hyperkähler isometries, then it preserves all three forms $\omega_I, \omega_J, \omega_K$, and gives rise to three \mathfrak{g}^* -valued moment maps μ_I, μ_J, μ_K . Letting $\mu^{\mathbb{R}} = \mu_I$ and $\mu = \mu_J + i\mu_K$ be the real and complex moment map in complex structure I , (3.44) implies that $\mu_{\zeta} = \mu + 2\zeta\mu^{\mathbb{R}} - \zeta^2\bar{\mu}$ is the complex moment map in complex structure I_{ζ} . In other words, moments maps are real sections of $\mathcal{O}(2)$.

3.5.1. Twistor space for \mathbb{R}^4 . A basic example of a hyperkähler manifold is $M = \mathbb{R}^4$. This occurs as the Higgs branch of a theory with a single hypermultiplet (with trivial gauge group G). Using property (4) and identifying M with its own cotangent bundle, we find that the twistor space \mathcal{Z} is the total space of the bundle $\mathcal{O}(1) \oplus \mathcal{O}(1) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$.

Suppose that in complex structure I the holomorphic coordinates on $M \simeq \mathbb{C}^2$ are (X, Y) . Then, using ζ as an affine parameter centered at the “north pole” $I \in \mathbb{CP}^1$, the sections in (4) are

$$X_{\zeta} = X - \zeta\bar{Y}, \quad Y_{\zeta} = Y + \zeta\bar{X}. \tag{3.45}$$

Physically, these can be obtained by applying an $SU(2)_H$ rotation to a hypermultiplet. Letting $\tilde{\zeta} = 1/\zeta$ be an affine parameter centered at the south pole of \mathbb{CP}^1 , and recalling that local coordinates (u, ζ) on $\mathcal{O}(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ transform as $(u, \zeta) \mapsto (u/\zeta^k, 1/\zeta) = (\tilde{\zeta}^k u, \tilde{\zeta})$, we also find the continuation of (3.45) to a neighborhood of the south pole,

$$\tilde{X}_{\tilde{\zeta}} = \tilde{\zeta}X - \bar{Y}, \quad \tilde{Y}_{\tilde{\zeta}} = \tilde{\zeta}Y + \bar{X}. \tag{3.46}$$

The holomorphic symplectic form is

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{\zeta} &= dX_{\zeta} \wedge dY_{\zeta} = dX \wedge dY + \zeta(dX \wedge d\bar{X} + dY \wedge d\bar{Y}) + \zeta^2 d\bar{X} \wedge d\bar{Y} \\ &= \Omega + 2\zeta\omega + \zeta^2\bar{\Omega} \end{aligned} \tag{3.47}$$

around the north pole, as desired; and around the south pole we have $\tilde{\Omega}_{\tilde{\zeta}} = \tilde{\zeta}^2\Omega_{1/\tilde{\zeta}}$, as appropriate for a section of $\mathcal{O}(2)$. Also observe that

$$\overline{X_{\zeta}} = \bar{X} - \bar{\zeta}Y = \tilde{Y}_{-\bar{\zeta}}, \quad \overline{Y_{\zeta}} = \bar{Y} + \bar{\zeta}X = -\tilde{X}_{-\bar{\zeta}}; \tag{3.48}$$

thus X_{ζ}, Y_{ζ} are real sections with respect to an involution τ that combines the antipodal map on \mathbb{CP}^1 with a twisted conjugation $(X_{\zeta}, Y_{\zeta}) \mapsto (\bar{Y}_{\zeta}, -\bar{X}_{\zeta})$ in the fibers.

The space M admits a $G_H = U(1)$ hyperkähler isometry, whose complex moment map is $\mu_{\zeta} = X_{\zeta}Y_{\zeta} = XY + \zeta(|X|^2 - |Y|^2) - \zeta^2\bar{X}\bar{Y}$. We recognize in the middle term the real moment map in complex structure I , $\mu^{\mathbb{R}} = \frac{1}{2}(|X|^2 - |Y|^2)$.

3.5.2. *SQED in the IR.* Now consider the Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C of SQED with N hypermultiplets. The complex field φ is the complex moment map for the topological $U(1)_t$ isometry, and so must define a real section of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ in twistor space,

$$\varphi_\zeta = \varphi + 2\zeta\sigma - \zeta^2\bar{\varphi}, \quad \tilde{\varphi}_\zeta = -\bar{\varphi} + 2\tilde{\zeta}\sigma + \tilde{\zeta}^2\varphi; \quad \bar{\varphi}_\zeta = -\tilde{\varphi}_{-\bar{\zeta}}, \tag{3.49}$$

where “ σ ” denotes the real moment map for $U(1)_t$.

In the infrared, i.e. at infinite gauge coupling $g^2 \rightarrow \infty$, the twistor description of monopole operators can be obtained by using mirror symmetry. (Alternatively, classic references such as [53] provide a twistor description of the resolved $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$ singularity.) In the mirror of SQED, the mirrors of monopole operators V_\pm are products $X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N$ and $Y_1 Y_2 \cdots Y_N$ of chiral fields. Since the X_i and Y_i are promoted to sections of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ in twistor space, the monopole operators v_ζ^\pm must be sections of $\mathcal{O}(N)$. Around the north pole, v_ζ^\pm are degree- N polynomials in ζ , and around the south pole $\tilde{v}_{\tilde{\zeta}}^\pm = (\tilde{\zeta})^N v_{1/\tilde{\zeta}}^\pm$. The real structure is inherited from (3.48):

$$\bar{v}_\zeta^+ = \tilde{v}_{-\bar{\zeta}}^-, \quad \bar{v}_\zeta^- = (-1)^N \tilde{v}_{-\bar{\zeta}}^+. \tag{3.50}$$

The full twistor space of the Coulomb branch can be obtained by starting with the vector bundle $\mathcal{O}(N) \oplus \mathcal{O}(N) \oplus \mathcal{O}(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ and imposing the equation

$$v_\zeta^+ v_\zeta^- = \varphi_\zeta^N \tag{3.51}$$

among respective sections. This may be deformed by choosing N fixed sections $m_{\zeta,i} = m_i + 2\zeta m_i^{\mathbb{R}} - \zeta^2 \bar{m}_i$ of $\mathcal{O}(2)$, encoding the real and complex masses of the theory:

$$v_\zeta^+ v_\zeta^- = \prod_{i=1}^N (\varphi_\zeta + m_{\zeta,i}). \tag{3.52}$$

The holomorphic symplectic form is as in (3.5), $\Omega_\zeta = d\varphi_\zeta \wedge d \log v_\zeta^+$.

3.5.3. *SQED at finite gauge coupling.* At finite gauge coupling, the Coulomb branch of SQED has the same form as a complex manifold, but is modified to a multi-centered Taub-NUT space as a hyperkähler manifold. Such a modification was described mathematically in [53].

Physically, we may understand the modification by considering the semi-classical expressions for the chiral monopole operators in complex structure I , $v^\pm \sim e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma+i\gamma)}$. If we rotate such expression naively with $SO(3)_C$ we obtain a monopole operator which is chiral in complex structure ζ , involving a rotated real combination σ_ζ of the three vectormultiplet scalar fields. The scalar field σ_ζ , though, is not holomorphic in ζ and it is thus unsuitable for the purpose of describing the twistor space. We can ameliorate that problem by multiplying the rotated monopole operator by an appropriate function of the complex scalar φ_ζ , to obtain a dressed monopole operator that is holomorphic in ζ : $v_\zeta^\pm \sim e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma+i\gamma-\zeta\bar{\varphi})}$.¹¹

¹¹ In detail, $\sigma_\zeta = \frac{1-|\zeta|^2}{1+|\zeta|^2}\sigma - \frac{\bar{\zeta}}{1+|\zeta|^2}\varphi - \frac{\zeta}{1+|\zeta|^2}\bar{\varphi}$ and thus $\sigma_\zeta = \sigma - \zeta\bar{\varphi} - \frac{\bar{\zeta}}{1+|\zeta|^2}\varphi_\zeta$.

Similarly, in complex structure $-I$, the monopole operators are $v^\pm \sim e^{\mp \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma - i\gamma)}$, which become $\tilde{v}_\zeta^\pm \sim e^{\mp \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma - i\gamma + \tilde{\zeta}\varphi)}$ in a neighborhood of the south pole. The transformation from the north to the south poles is multiplication by

$$\exp\left(\mp \frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_\zeta}{\zeta}\right), \tag{3.53}$$

where, notably, φ_ζ is the complex moment map for $U(1)_r$.

Combining this observation with the ‘‘topological’’ quantum correction of Sect. 3.5.2, which made the monopole operators sections of $\mathcal{O}(N)$, we might guess the following description for the twistor space of the Coulomb branch. We introduce a complex line bundle L over the total space of $\mathcal{O}(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$, with transition function $\exp\left(\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_\zeta}{\zeta}\right)$ on the intersection of affine charts, and its dual L^* with transition function $\exp\left(-\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_\zeta}{\zeta}\right)$. Then we view the vector bundle $\mathcal{O}(N) \oplus \mathcal{O}(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ as a line bundle $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(N) \rightarrow (\mathcal{O}(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1)$, and twist it by $L \oplus L^*$ to obtain

$$E = \hat{\mathcal{O}}(N)(L \oplus L^*). \tag{3.54}$$

The twistor space \mathcal{Z} is the subvariety of E defined by choosing N sections $m_{\zeta,i}$ of $\mathcal{O}(2)$ as in (3.52), and then imposing

$$v_\zeta^+ v_\zeta^- = \prod_{i=1}^N (\varphi_\zeta + m_{\zeta,i}) \tag{3.55}$$

among (local) sections v_ζ^+, v_ζ^- , and φ_ζ of $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(N)L, \hat{\mathcal{O}}(N)L^*$, and $\mathcal{O}(2)$, respectively. This description coincides with that of [53] for $N = 2$.

The real structure and the holomorphic symplectic form are unchanged from Sect. 3.5.2. The only difference is that now the monopole operators, i.e. the real sections of $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(N)L$ or $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(N)L^*$, take the form of a degree- N polynomial in ζ multiplied by the exponential factors $e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma + i\gamma - \zeta\bar{\varphi})}$. For example, when $N = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} v_\zeta^+ &= (a - \zeta\bar{b})e^{\frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma + i\gamma - \zeta\bar{\varphi})}, & \tilde{v}_{\zeta,+} &= (\tilde{\zeta}a - \bar{b})e^{-\frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma - i\gamma + \tilde{\zeta}\varphi)}, \\ v_\zeta^- &= (b + \zeta\bar{a})e^{-\frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma + i\gamma - \zeta\bar{\varphi})}, & \tilde{v}_{\zeta,-} &= (\tilde{\zeta}b + \bar{a})e^{\frac{1}{g^2}(\sigma - i\gamma + \tilde{\zeta}\varphi)}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.56}$$

with $v_\zeta^+ v_\zeta^- = \varphi_\zeta$, or equivalently $ab = \varphi$ and $|a|^2 - |b|^2 = 2\sigma$.

3.5.4. The general case. The twistor space of the Coulomb branch of a general abelian theory is a straightforward generalization of SQED. Suppose the gauge group is $G = \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)_a$ and that there are N hypermultiplets with gauge charges Q^a_i and flavor charges q^a_i as in Sect. 3.2. The holomorphic scalars φ^a in complex structure I are promoted to sections φ^a_ζ of $\mathcal{O}(2)$, together defining a section of $\mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus r} \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$. Each monopole operator v_A^\pm is promoted to a section $v_{A,\zeta}^\pm$ of the bundle $\mathcal{O}(\sum_i |(Q^T A)_i|) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus r}$, twisted by a line bundle $L^{\pm A}$ with transition function $\exp\left(\pm \sum_a \frac{1}{g_a^2} A_a \frac{\varphi_{a,\zeta}}{\zeta}\right)$. Let $\{v_A\}_{A \in \Lambda}$ be any finite set of monopole operators that together with the φ_a generate

the Coulomb-branch chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. Then the twistor space of the Coulomb branch is the subvariety of

$$E = \bigoplus_{A \in \mathbf{A}} \left(\mathcal{O} \left(\sum_i |(Q^T A)_i| \right) \otimes L^A \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus r} \tag{3.57}$$

cut out by the straightforward ζ -dependent generalization of (3.12). The complex symplectic form is the straightforward ζ -dependent generalization of (3.16) and the real structure is $\overline{\varphi_\zeta^a} = -\widetilde{\varphi}_{-\zeta}^a$ and $\overline{v_{A,\zeta}^+} = \epsilon_{A,\pm} \widetilde{v}_{-A,-\zeta}^+$, with a choice of signs $\epsilon_A \in \{\pm 1\}$ consistent with the chiral ring relations.

4. Nonabelian Gauge Theories

In the remainder of the paper, we aim to describe the Coulomb branch of nonabelian gauge theories. Here we present a set of properties that should be valid in any gauge theory. Part of the key to our analysis is the non-renormalization result from the Sect. 2. Another is the expected structure of the metric on the Coulomb branch. We will argue that the only corrections to the classical metric that can effect the complex structure of the Coulomb branch are one-loop corrections; and moreover that these one-loop corrections are determined by an abelianized version of the theory. This allows us to upgrade many results from Sect. 3 to arbitrary gauge theories.

4.1. The metric on the Coulomb branch. Consider a 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory with gauge group G of rank r . In general, G can be a product of abelian and simple factors, or a central quotient thereof. As discussed in Sect. 2, the vectormultiplet has a triplet of scalar fields $\vec{\phi} \in (\mathfrak{g})^3$ valued in the real Lie algebra of G . On the Coulomb branch, the scalars $\vec{\phi}$ take expectation values in a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{t} \subset \mathfrak{g}$. In particular, the scalar potential contains terms of the form $||\phi_i, \phi_j||^2$, which guarantee that all three components of $\vec{\phi}$ belong to the *same* Cartan subalgebra. One also typically requires that the expectation values of $\vec{\phi}$ are sufficiently generic to break the gauge group to a maximal torus $\mathbb{T} \subset G$. The massless abelian gauge fields for the r $U(1)$ factors in \mathbb{T} can be dualized to r periodic dual photons $\gamma \in \mathfrak{t}/\Lambda_G$, where $\Lambda_G = \text{Hom}(U(1), \mathbb{T}) \subset \mathfrak{t}$ is the cocharacter lattice. The classical Coulomb branch $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{clas}}$ then takes the form

$$\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{clas}} \simeq [(\mathbb{R}^{3r} - \Delta) \times (S^1)^r] / W_G, \tag{4.1}$$

where W_G is the Weyl group of G (the residual gauge transformations acting on the Cartan-valued $\vec{\phi}$ and γ); and Δ is the discriminant locus: the set of $\vec{\phi} \in (\mathfrak{t})^3 \simeq \mathbb{R}^{3r}$ that do not fully break G to the maximal torus \mathbb{T} . For example, if $G = U(r)$, Δ is the set where eigenvalues $\vec{\phi}_a$ of the three components of $\vec{\phi}$ simultaneously coincide, $\Delta = \{ \prod_{a < b} |\vec{\phi}_a - \vec{\phi}_b| = 0 \}$.

The classical metric on the Coulomb branch takes the same form as the classical metric for an abelian theory with gauge group \mathbb{T} . For concreteness, we choose a factorization $\mathbb{T} \simeq \prod_{a=1}^r U(1)_a$ and a corresponding basis $\{\chi^a\}_{a=1}^r$ for the cocharacter lattice Λ_G , such that $\chi_a : U(1) \xrightarrow{\sim} U(1)_a$. We expand $\vec{\phi} = \sum_a \vec{\phi}_a \chi^a$ and $\gamma = \sum_a \vec{\gamma}_a \chi^a$, and let κ^{ab} denote the Cartan–Killing form in this basis. The classical metric on the Coulomb branch takes the form

$$ds_{\text{clas}}^2 = \frac{1}{g^2} \kappa^{ab} (d\vec{\phi}_a \cdot d\vec{\phi}_b + d\gamma_a d\gamma_b), \tag{4.2}$$

where the g_a are couplings for the abelianized gauge group.¹²

The classical Coulomb branch has both perturbative corrections at one loop, and nonperturbative corrections due to BPS monopoles. Perturbative corrections come from hypermultiplets and from W-bosons, and are almost identical to the corrections in a purely abelian theory. Suppose that our theory has N hypermultiplets (X^i, Y^i) , transforming in a quaternionic representation of G with weights $\mu_i \in \mathfrak{t}^*$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$. (The component $\mu_i^a = \langle \mu_i, \chi^a \rangle$ can be understood as the charge of X_i under the factor $U(1)_a$ in the abelianized gauge group.) Similarly, let α_j be the roots of G , i.e. the (nonzero) weights of the adjoint representation, with components $\alpha_j^a = \langle \alpha_j, \chi^a \rangle$. Then the perturbative metric at (essentially) one loop is [54–58]

$$ds_{\text{pert}}^2 = U^{ab} d\vec{\phi}_a \cdot d\vec{\phi}_b + (U^{-1})_{ab} (g_a^{-2} d\gamma_a + \vec{\omega}^{ac} \cdot d\vec{\phi}_c) (g_a^{-2} d\gamma_b + \vec{\omega}^{bc'} \cdot d\vec{\phi}_{c'}), \tag{4.3}$$

with

$$U^{ab} = \frac{\kappa^{ab}}{g_a^2} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\mu_i^a \mu_i^b}{|\vec{M}_i|} - \sum_{j=1}^{\dim(G)-r} \frac{\alpha_j^a \alpha_j^b}{|\vec{M}_j^W|}, \quad \vec{\nabla} U^{ab} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\omega}^{ab}. \tag{4.4}$$

Here $\vec{M}_i = \langle \mu_i, \vec{\phi} \rangle + \dots = \sum_a \mu_i^a \vec{\phi}_a + \dots$ is the effective masses of each hypermultiplet (where additional mass terms from flavor symmetries can enter in the ‘ \dots ’ terms, just like in the abelian case); and $\vec{M}_j^W = \langle \alpha_j, \vec{\phi} \rangle = \sum_a \alpha_j^a \vec{\phi}_a$ is the effective masses of each W-boson. Comparing (4.4) to (3.19), we see that the only difference between this metric and that of an abelian theory are the W-boson corrections, entering with opposite sign to the hypermultiplets.

The nonperturbative corrections to the metric on the Coulomb branch come from monopoles, and are notoriously difficult to compute. Direct computations for gauge group $G = SU(n)$ were carried out explicitly in [55, 56, 59]. In the case of pure $G = SU(2)$ theory, symmetry and smoothness of the moduli space uniquely identifies the Coulomb branch as the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold [2], whose exact hyperkähler metric was described in [60]; but for most gauge groups and matter content, the full set of nonperturbative corrections are unknown.¹³

The only fact we need to know about non-perturbative corrections is that they are proportional to the instanton action

$$\exp\left(-C \frac{|\vec{M}_j^W|}{g_a^2}\right). \tag{4.5}$$

They are exponentially suppressed by the inverse gauge couplings and by the W-boson masses, which measure the distance from the discriminant locus $\Delta = \{\prod_j |\vec{M}_j^W| = 0\}$.

4.2. Chiral ring via abelianization. Due to the non-renormalization argument of Sect. 2.1, we can analyze the chiral ring of the Coulomb branch in the limit $g_a \rightarrow 0$ (or more precisely $\min_j |\vec{M}_j^W| \gg \max_a g_a$), and obtain a result that should hold for all g_a . As

¹² Recall that our normalization for the dual photons is such that $\gamma_a \sim \gamma_a + 2\pi g_a^2$.

¹³ In principle, they may be obtained by using the methods of [52] for 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theory on a circle of finite radius, then taking the radius to zero size.

long as all the W-boson masses are nonzero, the nonperturbative corrections to the metric disappear in this limit. Thus, in the complement of the discriminant locus, it suffices to look at the perturbative metric (4.3). Let us call the hyperkähler manifold with this metric $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$, since it is essentially the Coulomb branch of an abelianized theory.

Fixing a complex structure, we may split the abelian vevs $\vec{\phi}$ into real and complex parts, say $\sigma = \phi_1$ and $\varphi = \phi_2 + i\phi_3$, with components σ_a and φ_a with respect to the basis of the cocharacter lattice. For each $U(1)_a$ factor in the maximal torus of the gauge group, we construct monopole operators $v_a^\pm \sim e^{\pm \frac{1}{g_a}(\sigma_a + i\gamma_a)}$. More generally, for every cocharacter A of G there are abelian monopole operators v_A^\pm . The analysis of Sect. 3.2, adapted to the geometry (4.3), suggests that the ring of functions on $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$ should be generated by the (vevs of) v_A^\pm and the complex scalars φ_a , subject to constraints of the form

$$v_a^+ v_a^- = \frac{P_a^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi, m)}{P_a^{\text{W}}(\varphi)} \tag{4.6}$$

with $P_a^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi, m) = \prod_{i=1}^N (M_i)^{|\mu_i^a|}$ the product of effective complex masses of the hypermultiplets and $P_a^{\text{W}}(\varphi) = \prod_j (M_j^{\text{W}})^{|\alpha_j^a|}$ the product of effective complex masses of the W-bosons. Explicitly, $M_j^{\text{W}} = \langle \alpha_j, \varphi \rangle = \sum_a \alpha_j^a \varphi_a$ just as above; while $M_i = \langle \mu_i, \varphi \rangle + \langle \mu_i^F, m \rangle$, where $\mu_i \in \mathfrak{t}^*$ is the weight of the i -th hypermultiplet under the gauge group, and $\mu_i^F \in \mathfrak{t}_H^*$ is the weight of the i -th hypermultiplet under the Higgs-branch flavor symmetry group G_H . (Recall that G_H is the normalizer of G in $USp(N)$, and we can turn on complex masses $m \in \mathfrak{t}_H^{\mathbb{C}}$ valued in a Cartan of G_H .)

The appearance of W-boson masses in the denominator of (4.6) is a direct consequence of the sign of the W-boson contribution to (4.4). It is consistent with the formula for the R-charge of monopole operators proposed in [8, 9]. Namely, φ has charge +2 under the $U(1)_C$ symmetry that preserves our choice of complex structure, while v_a^\pm should have charge $\sum_i |\mu_i^a| - \sum_j |\alpha_j^a|$.

Following (3.12), the relations (4.6) can be generalized to

$$v_A^+ = v_{-A}^-, \quad v_A^+ v_B^+ = v_{A+B}^+ \frac{P_{A,B}^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi, m)}{P_{A,B}^{\text{W}}(\varphi)}, \tag{4.7}$$

for general cocharacters $A, B \in \mathfrak{t}$, with

$$P_{A,B}^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi, m) = \prod_{\text{hypers } i} (\langle \mu_i, \varphi \rangle + \langle \mu_i^F, m \rangle)^{(\mu_i, A)_+ + (\mu_i, B)_+ - (\mu_i, A+B)_+}, \tag{4.8a}$$

$$P_{A,B}^{\text{W}}(\varphi, m) = \prod_{\alpha_j \in \text{roots}} \langle \alpha_j, \varphi \rangle^{(\alpha_j, A)_+ + (\alpha_j, B)_+ - (\alpha_j, A+B)_+}, \tag{4.8b}$$

where $(x)_+ = \max\{x, 0\}$. Altogether, the ring of functions on $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$ takes the form

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}] = \left(\mathbb{C}[\{v_A^\pm\}_{A \in \text{cocharacters}}, \{\varphi_a\}, \{(M_j^{\text{W}})^{-1}\}_{j \in \text{roots}}] / (4.7) \right)^{W_G}. \tag{4.9}$$

In addition to the standard generators v_A^\pm and φ_a , we have added the inverses of W-boson masses $M_j^{\text{W}} = \langle \alpha_j, \varphi \rangle$. This is because our current description of $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is valid

only in the complement of the discriminant locus. (The necessity of inverting the M_j^W can be seen immediately from expressions like (4.7).) Moreover, due to residual gauge symmetry, we must only consider the part of the abelianized chiral ring that is invariant under the Weyl group W_G , denoted by $(\)^{W_G}$.

The holomorphic symplectic form on $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$, as well as the Poisson structure on the ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ and its quantization, all follow immediately from Sect. 3. For example, the holomorphic symplectic form is

$$\Omega_C^{\text{abel}} = \sum_{a=1}^r d\varphi_a \wedge d \log \left(v_a^+ \frac{P_a^W(\varphi)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{P_a^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi, m)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right). \tag{4.10}$$

The ring (4.9) must be equivalent to the ring of functions on the true Coulomb branch, in the complement of the discriminant locus:

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}] = \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C \setminus \Delta]. \tag{4.11}$$

Thus, the true chiral ring is a subring

$$\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]. \tag{4.12}$$

It must satisfy several properties:

1. The ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ has a Poisson structure, compatible with the Poisson structure on $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$. Thus $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ is closed under the Poisson bracket.
2. The relation (4.11) implies that if we invert all functions in $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ that vanish on the discriminant locus, adjoin their inverses to $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, we will recover $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$.
3. In many theories, the true Coulomb branch is expected to be smooth. This happens, in particular, when there is no Higgs branch, either because there are no hypermultiplets or because, in the presence of a generic mass deformation, all hypermultiplets are massive.¹⁴ Then $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is the ring of functions on a smooth variety. It cannot contain any of the functions $(M_j^W)^{-k}$ (suitably Weyl-symmetrized) for $k \geq 1$.
4. The ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ must contain dressed non-abelian monopole operators $M_{A,p}$, described in the next section, for all cocharacters $A \in \Lambda_G$ and dressing polynomials p ; and the embedding $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ must preserve $U(1)_C$ R-symmetry and G_C flavor symmetries.

The predictions of our ‘abelianization map’ will be consistent with these expectations.

4.3. Non-abelian monopole operators: an educated guess. Some of the operators in the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ are gauge-invariant functions of the complex scalar $\varphi \in \mathfrak{g}$. Under the abelianization map (4.12), such functions map Weyl-invariant polynomials in the φ_a , i.e. to functions in the symmetric algebra $S[\mathfrak{t}]^W \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$. This algebra is generated (say) by Weyl-averages of monomials

$$p_n(\varphi) = \sum_{w \in W} w \cdot \varphi^n := \sum_{w \in W} w \cdot (\varphi_1^{n_1} \varphi_2^{n_2} \cdots \varphi_r^{n_r}), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}^r. \tag{4.13}$$

¹⁴ The existence of a suitable mass deformation is equivalent to the existence of a $U(1) \subset G_H$ in the Higgs-branch flavor group whose action on the Higgs branch has isolated fixed points.

For example, for $G = U(r)$, the nonabelian operators $\text{Tr}(\varphi^k)$ map to $p_{(k,0,\dots,0)}(\varphi) = \sum_{a=1}^r (\varphi_a)^k$. Formally, the Harish-Chandra isomorphism guarantees that gauge-invariant functions of φ are in 1-1 correspondence with Weyl-invariant polynomials in the φ_a ; we will frequently invert the isomorphism to label gauge-invariant functions of φ by “ p_n ” or simply “ n ”.

Of course, we expect many more functions in $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ than the $p_n(\varphi)$. In particular, the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ must include non-abelian monopole operators M_A . These are disorder operators, defined by specifying the singularity in the classical fields near an insertion point. Specifically, they are obtained by embedding an abelian Dirac singularity in the gauge group G , and thus are labelled by an element of the cocharacter lattice $\Lambda_G = \text{Hom}(U(1), G)$ modulo Weyl transformations, or equivalently a dominant cocharacter A of G . (See [34, Sec. 10] and references therein for an extended discussion of monopole singularities.) A monopole operator can also be *dressed* by a function of the field $\varphi' \in \mathfrak{g}_A$, where \mathfrak{g}_A is the Lie algebra of the Levi subgroup $G_A \subset G$ left unbroken by the embedding $A : U(1) \hookrightarrow G$. The dressing factor is required to be invariant only under G_A , rather than all of G . We can denote the resulting dressed operator as $M_{A,p}$, where p is the G_A -invariant polynomial and the pair (A, p) is defined up to the action of the Weyl group.

For example, when $G = U(r)$, the embeddings $U(1) \hookrightarrow G$ are specified by an r -tuple of integers $A \in \mathbb{Z}^r$ modulo the standard action of the permutation group S_r . If A has r_i entries equal to $i \in \mathbb{Z}$, with $\sum_i r_i = r$, then the Levi subgroup is $G_A = \prod_i U(r_i)$. The dressed monopoles take the form $M_A \prod_i \text{Tr}(\varphi_{(i)}^{k_i})$, where each $\varphi_{(i)} \in \mathfrak{u}(r_i)$ and $k_i \geq 0$.

It is believed that the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is completely generated by G -invariant functions of φ and dressed monopole operators. (In fact, the G -invariant functions of φ may themselves be considered dressings for the trivial monopole operator $M_{0,p}$.) This idea was recently tested in computations of Hilbert series for the Coulomb branch chiral ring [11]. The dressed monopole operators, however, constitute a vastly overcomplete set of generators, and in general satisfy nontrivial relations.

The relations would be automatic if we knew the abelian images of dressed monopole operators under the inclusion (4.12). This comes from computing the expectation value of a generic dressed monopole operator $M_{A,p}$ in a vacuum with a generic expectation value for φ . We expect the path integral to localize on BPS configurations which preserve the same supersymmetry as the BPS monopole itself. The BPS equations set the matter fields to zero, require φ to be constant and σ and the gauge connection to both satisfy the Bogomolnyi equations and commute with φ .

Naively, as φ is generic, that restricts the path integral to abelian solutions of the Bogomolnyi equations with Dirac singularity $w \cdot A$ for some element w of the Weyl group. Thus the naive expectation value of a monopole operator $M_{A,p}$, dressed by a polynomial

$$p_{A,n}(\varphi) := \sum_{w' \in W_A} w' \cdot (\varphi_1^{n_1} \cdots \varphi_r^{n_r}) \tag{4.14}$$

where W_A is the Weyl group of G_A , would be given by Weyl averages of the type

$$V_{A,n} = \sum_{w \in W} v_{w \cdot A}^+ p_{w \cdot A, w \cdot n}(\varphi) = |W_A| \sum_{w \in W} v_{w \cdot A}^+ w \cdot (\varphi_1^{n_1} \cdots \varphi_r^{n_r}), \tag{4.15}$$

labelled by a dominant cocharacter A and a vector $n \in \mathbb{N}^r$. These are Weyl averages of *abelian* monopole operators labelled by the cocharacter A , whose dressing factors are G_A -invariant polynomials of the abelian fields φ_a .

This naive expectation is countered by the existence of *monopole bubbling*: the moduli space of solutions of nonabelian Bogomolnyi equations with a Dirac singularity has a singular locus corresponding to the collapse of several smooth monopoles onto the Dirac singularity. In the neighbourhood of the singular locus, one finds “bubbling” solutions that are essentially abelian outside an arbitrarily small neighbourhood of the Dirac singularity, which is thus partially screened. Such bubbling solutions only exist if the abelian monopole charge measured at infinity is a dominant cocharacter B that is smaller than the charge A at the Dirac singularity, such that $A - B$ is a positive coroot.

Monopole bubbling solutions have the potential to contribute to the expectation value of a general monopole operator $M_{A,p}$. Based on other examples of localization computations, it is clear that the contribution to the path integral of a sector of abelian charge B will involve an equivariant integral over the moduli space \mathcal{M}_A^B of solutions of Bogomolnyi equations with a Dirac singularity A and abelian charge B at infinity, with the expectation values at infinity of φ_i playing the role of equivariant parameters for the gauge group action.

The integrand should account for the one-loop determinants of the matter fields around the monopole configuration and for the insertion of $p(\varphi)$ at the origin. As the gauge group is broken to G_A at the origin, the moduli space \mathcal{M}_A^B supports a universal G_A -bundle E_A .¹⁵ We can interpret the insertion of $p(\varphi)$ as a characteristic class $c_p[E_A] = p(x)$, where x are the Chern classes of the lines in E_A . Thus we arrive to the expression proposed in the introduction, repeated here for convenience:

$$M_{A,p} \rightarrow \sum_{B \prec A} v_B^+ \int_{\mathcal{M}_A^B}^{\varphi_a\text{-equivariant}} c_p[E_A] e(\mathcal{D}_m), \tag{4.16}$$

with an implicit average over the Weyl group.

When A is a minuscule cocharacter, there is no monopole bubbling, and we can simply take $M_{A,p_n} = V_{A,n}$. Recall that a (dominant) minuscule cocharacter is the highest weight of a representation of the Langlands dual group G^\vee that contains no other dominant weights. We will see that in some theories—particularly those where G is a product of $U(r)$ or $PSU(r)$ factors—the minuscule monopole operators generate the entire chiral ring.

The ring relations between the monopole operator vevs should be compatible with a direct localization computation in the presence of multiple monopole singularities. In particular, we would expect to find a direct calculation to give an integral over the moduli space of Bogomolnyi solutions with two Dirac singularities:

$$M_{A,p} M_{A',p'} \rightarrow \sum_{B \prec A+A'} v_B^+ \int_{\mathcal{M}_{A,A'}^B}^{\varphi_a\text{-equivariant}} c_p[E_A] c_{p'}[E_{A'}] e(\mathcal{D}_m). \tag{4.17}$$

Such an expression is compatible with the expressions for the individual $M_{A,p}$ and $M_{A',p'}$ because the fixed points of the φ_a action correspond to the collapse of smooth

¹⁵ To construct E_A , recall (as in “Appendix A”) that \mathcal{M}_A^B is realized as an infinite-dimensional hyperkähler quotient of the affine space of gauge connections (and scalar fields) on \mathbb{R}^3 , $\mathcal{M}_A^B = \mathcal{A} // \mathcal{G} = \tilde{\mu}^{-1}(0) / \mathcal{G}$, where \mathcal{G} is group of gauge transformations that preserve the boundary conditions at the origin and at infinity. Letting $\mathcal{G}' \subset \mathcal{G}$ denote the subgroup of gauge transformations acting trivially at the origin, we have $\mathcal{G} / \mathcal{G}' \simeq G_A$ and $E_A = \tilde{\mu}^{-1}(0) / \mathcal{G}'$.

monopoles on either Dirac singularity and thus the integral over $\mathcal{M}_{A,A'}^B$ can be recast as a sum over B' of integrals over $\mathcal{M}_A^{B-B'}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{A'}^{B'}$. The expressions will be fully consistent if the ratio $\frac{v_{B'}^+ v_{B-B'}^+}{v_B^+}$ accounts precisely for the contribution to one-loop determinants of the normal directions to $\mathcal{M}_A^{B-B'} \times \mathcal{M}_{A'}^{B'}$ in $\mathcal{M}_{A,A'}^B$. It is straightforward to recognize the appropriate contributions in

$$\frac{v_{B'}^+ v_{B-B'}^+}{v_B^+} = \frac{P_{\text{hypers}}^{B', B-B'}(\varphi, m)}{P_{\text{W}}^{B', B-B'}(\varphi)}. \tag{4.18}$$

4.4. Higher-dimensional generalizations. We comment here briefly on the extension of our abelianization formula to gauge theories in higher dimension, compactified on tori.

The simplest example is the computation of the expectation value of 't Hooft-Wilson loop operators in four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 2$ gauge theories compactified on a circle of finite size β . We expect the localization formula to hold, up to the obvious replacement of rational characteristic classes with trigonometric ones, say

$$M_{A,R} \rightarrow \sum_{B < A} v_B \int_{\mathcal{M}_A^B}^{\varphi_a\text{-equivariant}} ch_R[E_A] ch(\mathcal{D}_m) \tag{4.19}$$

where we labelled the electric charge of the line defect by a representation R of G_A . If we introduce a rotation twist q in the circle compactification, we can make the answer equivariant with respect to rotations. This localization formula coincides with the results of [12, 13].

In five-dimensional gauge theories, one can consider 't Hooft surfaces dressed by two-dimensional degrees of freedom coupled to G_A . This should result in localization formulae involving elliptic characteristic classes.

4.5. Quantization. The chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ of a nonabelian theory can be quantized to a non-commutative algebra \mathcal{A}_C , whose physical meaning was discussed in Sect. 3.4. We expect the algebra \mathcal{A}_C to be a subalgebra of a canonical quantization $\mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ of the abelianized ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$, with coefficients of the abelianization map given by equivariant integrals. Namely, if we consider our gauge theory on $\mathbb{R}_\epsilon^2 \times \mathbb{R}$, we should find the same integrals over moduli spaces of Bogomolnyi solutions, but made equivariant under rotations in space.

The quantization $\mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is straightforward to describe by generalizing Sect. 3.4. It is generated by operators

$$\{\hat{v}_A^\pm\}_{A \in \text{cocharacters}}, \quad \{\hat{\varphi}_a\}_{a=1}^r, \tag{4.20}$$

and the inverses of the W-boson masses $\hat{M}_j^W = \langle \alpha_j, \hat{\varphi} \rangle$ for roots α_j . Motivated by preliminary localization results, we propose that the contribution of W-bosons to products of monopole operators should be the inverse of an adjoint hypermultiplet of complex mass $-\epsilon/2$. (Such a shift of the mass is also familiar in 4d localization, cf. [61].) Altogether, the relations among generators (4.20) take the form

$$\hat{v}_A^+ = \hat{v}_{-A}^-, \quad [\hat{\varphi}_a, \hat{v}_A^\pm] = \pm \epsilon \langle a, A \rangle v_A^\pm, \quad [\hat{\varphi}_a, \hat{\varphi}_b] = 0,$$

$$\hat{v}_A^+ \hat{v}_B^+ = \frac{P_{A,B;-}^{\text{hypers}}(\hat{\varphi}, m)}{P_{A,B;-}^{\text{W}}(\hat{\varphi})} v_{A+B}^+ \frac{P_{A,B;+}^{\text{hypers}}(\hat{\varphi}, m)}{P_{A,B;+}^{\text{W}}(\hat{\varphi})}, \tag{4.21}$$

where

$$P_{A,B;-}^{\text{hypers}}(\hat{\varphi}, m) = \prod_{\substack{\text{hypers } i \text{ s.t.} \\ |\langle \mu_i, A \rangle| \leq |\langle \mu_i, B \rangle| \\ \langle \mu_i, A \rangle \langle \mu_i, B \rangle < 0}} [\hat{M}_i]^{-\langle \mu_i, A \rangle}, \quad P_{A,B;+}^{\text{hypers}}(\hat{\varphi}, m) = \prod_{\substack{\text{hypers } i \text{ s.t.} \\ |\langle \mu_i, A \rangle| > |\langle \mu_i, B \rangle| \\ \langle \mu_i, A \rangle \langle \mu_i, B \rangle < 0}} [\hat{M}_i]^{\langle \mu_i, B \rangle}, \tag{4.22a}$$

$$P_{A,B;-}^{\text{W}}(\hat{\varphi}) = \prod_{\substack{\text{roots } \alpha_j \text{ s.t.} \\ |\langle \alpha_j, A \rangle| \leq |\langle \alpha_j, B \rangle| \\ \langle \alpha_j, A \rangle \langle \alpha_j, B \rangle < 0}} [\hat{M}_j^{\text{W}} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}]^{-\langle \alpha_j, A \rangle}, \quad P_{A,B;+}^{\text{W}}(\hat{\varphi}) = \prod_{\substack{\text{roots } \alpha_j \text{ s.t.} \\ |\langle \alpha_j, A \rangle| > |\langle \alpha_j, B \rangle| \\ \langle \alpha_j, A \rangle \langle \alpha_j, B \rangle < 0}} [\hat{M}_j^{\text{W}} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}]^{\langle \alpha_j, B \rangle}, \tag{4.22b}$$

and $\hat{M}_i = \langle \mu_i, \hat{\varphi} \rangle + \langle \mu_i^F, m \rangle$ are the effective complex masses of the hypermultiplets. The notation here is the same as in (3.40).

The quantization of the abelianization map that embeds $\mathcal{A}_C \subset \mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is sometimes possible to describe without a direct localization calculation. In the examples of Sects. 5 and 6, we will find that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ is generated by monopole operators in minuscule representations. Moreover, in these examples, it will suffice to consider dressing factors that commute with the monopole operator itself. Such dressed operators will have an unambiguous quantization.

4.6. Twistor space. In order to define the twistor space for the Coulomb branch of nonabelian gauge theories, we cannot invoke the simple non-renormalization theorem which lead us to the abelianization map. More precisely, we can invoke it for every fixed value of ζ , but we need to do some extra work in order to find how to glue the whole twistor space together.

Recall that the full Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C contains $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$ (which is covered by abelian coordinates φ_a, v_A^\pm) as an open subset. Correspondingly, we propose that the twistor space Z for \mathcal{M}_C contains a twistor space Z^{abel} for $\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}$ as an open subset, where the inclusion map $Z^{\text{abel}} \hookrightarrow Z$ is holomorphic and preserves the real structure τ . The abelianized twistor space Z^{abel} is easy to construct by generalizing the results of Sect. 3.5. Then the transition functions and the real structure on Z will then be fully determined by those on Z^{abel} .

Concretely, we construct the abelianized twistor space Z^{abel} as in (3.57). We take $\{v_A := v_A^+\}_{A \in \mathbf{A}}$ be any finite set of abelian monopole operators that together with $\{\varphi_a\}_{a=1}^r$ generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$, and construct a bundle

$$E = \bigoplus_{A \in \mathbf{A}} \left(\mathcal{O}(\Delta(A)) \otimes L^A \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus r} \tag{4.23}$$

over the twistor sphere $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. The scalars $\varphi_a \rightarrow \varphi_{a,\zeta}$ are promoted to a section of $\mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus r}$, while each monopole operator $v_A \rightarrow v_{A,\zeta}$ is promoted to a section of $\mathcal{O}(\Delta(A)) \otimes L^A$, where

$$\Delta(A) := \sum_{\text{hypers } i} \langle \mu_i, A \rangle - \sum_{\text{W-bosons } j} \langle \alpha_j, A \rangle \tag{4.24}$$

is the $U(1)_C$ charge of the monopole operator and the transition function for L^A is $\exp \frac{1}{g^2 \zeta} (A, \varphi_\zeta)$, with $(-, -)$ the Cartan–Killing form, scaled by the appropriate gauge coupling(s) g^2 . Altogether, the E is covered by two coordinate charts, with

$$\tilde{\varphi}_{a,\zeta} = \zeta^{-2} \varphi_{a,\zeta}, \quad \tilde{v}_{A,\zeta} = \zeta^{-\Delta(A)} e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{(A, \varphi_\zeta)}{\zeta}} v_{A,\zeta}. \tag{4.25}$$

The real structure is as in (3.49)–(3.50). The twistor space Z^{abel} itself is the sub-bundle of E cut out by the chiral-ring equations $v_{A,\zeta} v_{B,\zeta} = v_{A+B,\zeta} P_{A,B}^{\text{hypers}}(\varphi_\zeta, m_\zeta) / P_{A,B}^{\text{W}}(\varphi_\zeta)$.

Similarly, the full twistor space Z is covered by two coordinate charts. The real sections of Z are monopole operators $M_{A,p}^\zeta$ in complex structure ζ . On $Z^{\text{abel}} \subset Z$, the monopole operators $M_{A,p}^\zeta$ are related to $\varphi_{a,\zeta}, v_{A,\zeta}$ by the (trivial) ζ -dependent generalization of the abelianization map. This fully determines their transition functions and their real structure.

It is useful to note that the transition function for $v_{A,\zeta}$ involves the exponential of a canonical vector field, namely the vector field generated by the Hamiltonian $\frac{1}{2g^2}(\varphi_\zeta, \varphi_\zeta)$. Correspondingly, in the nonabelian setting, we must have

$$\tilde{M}_{A,p}^\zeta = \zeta^{-\Delta(A,p)} e^{\left\{ \frac{1}{2g^2}(\varphi_\zeta, \varphi_\zeta), - \right\}} M_{A,p}^\zeta, \tag{4.26}$$

where $\Delta(A, p_n) = \Delta(A) + |n|$ is the $U(1)_C$ charge of $M_{A,p}^\zeta$. In practice, the transformation (4.26) will relate $\tilde{M}_{A,p}^\zeta$ to an infinite sum of monopole operators $M_{A,p'}^\zeta$ with other dressing factors.

It is natural to expect that the Coulomb branch of a gauge theory defined by a more general prepotential $\mathcal{F}(\varphi)$ will be associated to a twistor space glued together by the exponential of the vector field $\{\mathcal{F}(\varphi), -\}$.¹⁶

5. SQCD

In this section, we analyze the Coulomb branch of the simplest nonabelian theories, in terms of the abelianization map of Sect. 4. We focus on SQCD with gauge group $G = U(N_c)$ and N_f ‘flavors’ of hypermultiplets in the fundamental representation, i.e. $\mathcal{R} \simeq (T^* \mathbb{C}^{N_c})^{\oplus N_f} \simeq T^* \mathbb{C}^{N_c N_f}$. In this case, we argue that the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated by dressed monopole operators of fundamental weight (cocharacter). We also consider some examples of $PSU(N_c)$ theories, and theories with an adjoint hypermultiplet.

The Coulomb branches of all these theories are smooth manifolds when generic mass parameters are turned on. Various descriptions of them are already known. For $PSU(2) \simeq SO(3)$ theory with $N_f = 0$, the Coulomb branch was identified in [2] as the Atiyah–Hitchin hyperkähler manifold. More generally, brane constructions [5] predict

¹⁶ This construction is highly reminiscent of the methods involved in the c-map construction of hyperkähler manifolds, as in [62–67]. In particular, the c-map produces manifolds with an asymptotic abelian structure, which are then corrected or completed in various ways. A precise relation to our construction would be interesting to work out.

the Coulomb branch of $U(N_c)$ SQCD with N_f hypermultiplets to be equivalent to a moduli space of N_c smooth $PSU(2)$ monopoles in the background of N_f Dirac singularities. (The Coulomb branch of $PSU(N_c)$ theories is also such a monopole moduli space, with center-of-mass degrees of freedom factored out.) We apply classic scattering methods [68,69] to explicitly describe these monopole moduli spaces as complex manifolds, and to directly verify our abelianization construction for Coulomb branches.¹⁷

5.1. $SU(2)$ theory: the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold. As a warmup, let’s consider pure $PSU(2) \simeq SO(3)$ gauge theory. Both flavor groups G_C, G_H are trivial. The abelianized ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ is generated by the eigenvalue φ of the adjoint complex scalar in the vectormultiplet, its inverse φ^{-1} (since we remove the discriminant locus), and by abelian monopole operators v^\pm , all subject to the relation

$$v^+v^- = \frac{1}{-\varphi^2}, \tag{5.1}$$

where $\pm\varphi$ are the complex masses of the two W-bosons. The \mathbb{Z}_2 Weyl symmetry acts as $(\varphi, v^+, v^-) \mapsto (-\varphi, v^-, v^+)$. The Poisson brackets are

$$\{\varphi, v^\pm\} = \pm v^\pm, \quad \{v^+, v^-\} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial\varphi} \left(\frac{1}{-\varphi^2} \right) = -\frac{2}{\varphi^3}. \tag{5.2}$$

The simplest Weyl-invariant functions of φ, v^\pm are

$$\Phi := \varphi^2, \quad Y := v^+ + v^-, \quad Z := \varphi(v^+ - v^-). \tag{5.3}$$

Y and Z are easily identified as the expectation value of the non-abelian monopole operator labelled by the fundamental cocharacter of $SO(3)$ (i.e. the fundamental weight of the dual group $SU(2)$), and its dressed version. In the notation of Sect. 4.3, we would write Φ, Y, Z as $M_{A,n} = V_{A,n}$ with $(A, n) = (0, 2), (1, 0)$ and $(1, 1)$, respectively.

The operators Φ, Y, Z satisfy the relation

$$Z^2 - \Phi Y^2 = 4. \tag{5.4}$$

We claim that the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is precisely the subring of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ generated by Φ, Y, Z , i.e. the ring of functions on the *smooth* hypersurface described by (5.4). Indeed, (5.4) is precisely the complex equation for the double cover of the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold [60], known to be the Coulomb branch of pure $SO(3)$ theory [2]. The embedding $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ automatically identifies the Poisson structure on $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ to be

$$\{\Phi, Y\} = 2Z, \quad \{\Phi, Z\} = 2\Phi Y, \quad \{Y, Z\} = -Y^2, \tag{5.5}$$

showing that, the Poisson bracket is closed. Thus, we see that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ satisfies the first three conditions from page 695. To satisfy the fourth condition, observe that all monopole operators $M_{A,n} = V_{A,n} + \dots$ of higher charge can be constructed as

$$M_{A,n} = \begin{cases} \Phi^{\frac{n}{2}} Y^A & n \text{ even} \\ \Phi^{\frac{n-1}{2}} Y^{A-1} Z & n \text{ odd.} \end{cases} \tag{5.6}$$

¹⁷ Our description of Coulomb branches via scattering matrices was partially inspired by the recent works [70,71], which considered Coulomb branches of 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories on a circle of finite radius.

We can generalize this construction to include matter. Since the gauge group is $PSU(2)$, the simplest possibility is a hypermultiplet in the adjoint representation, $\mathcal{R} \simeq T^*\mathbb{C}^3$. Now $G_H = U(1)$. Giving the hypermultiplet a complex mass m , the abelian relations above are modified as

$$v^+v^- = m \frac{(\varphi + m)(-\varphi + m)}{-\varphi^2} = -\frac{m^2}{\varphi^2} + m, \quad \{v^+, v^-\} = -\frac{2m^2}{\varphi^3}. \quad (5.7)$$

The nonabelian operators that generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ are still defined by (5.3), but satisfy

$$Z^2 - \Phi Y^2 = 4m^3 - m\Phi, \quad (5.8)$$

together with the Poisson brackets

$$\{\Phi, Y\} = 2Z, \quad \{\Phi, Z\} = 2\Phi Y, \quad \{Y, Z\} = -Y^2 + 4m. \quad (5.9)$$

5.2. Pure $U(N_c)$ gauge theory. We next consider the general case of pure $U(N_c)$ SQCD, i.e. $N_f = 0$ and $\mathcal{R} = \emptyset$. Obviously G_H is trivial, but the topological symmetry is $G_C = U(1)_t$, corresponding to the abelian factor in $G = U(N_c)$. We can proceed as above, but it is much more informative to perform the analysis vis-à-vis the scattering method for moduli spaces of monopoles.

We recall from [5, 54] that the Coulomb branch of pure $U(N_c)$ SQCD is expected to be a moduli space of N_c smooth monopoles on \mathbb{R}^3 , for the auxiliary gauge group $G' = PSU(2)$ (This is best understood via a brane construction in type IIB string theory, which we review in Sect. 6.4). In turn, scattering methods [68, 69] can be used to describe such monopole moduli spaces as complex manifolds.

Monopoles for a compact group G' are solutions to the Bogomolnyi equations $F_A = *d_A\phi$, where A is a G' -connection on \mathbb{R}^3 and ϕ an adjoint valued scalar.¹⁸

The basic setup of the scattering approach is to choose a complex structure by splitting \mathbb{R}^3 as $\mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{C}$, and for each line parallel to the t -axis (at some fixed point $z \in \mathbb{C}$) to study solutions to the ordinary differential equation $\partial_t + A_t + i\phi = 0$. When $G' = PSU(2)$, the two-dimensional space of solutions has two distinguished lines ℓ_0^+, ℓ_0^- that decay exponentially in the two asymptotic regimes $t \rightarrow \infty$ and $-\infty$. These lines can be completed to bases (ℓ_0^\pm, ℓ_1^\pm) , and the transformation between the bases is the scattering matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ell_0^+ \\ \ell_1^+ \end{pmatrix} = S(z) \begin{pmatrix} \ell_0^- \\ \ell_1^- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5.10)$$

For each z , scattering matrix can be normalized to lie in $G'_\mathbb{C} = PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$, and is well defined modulo multiplication by upper-triangular $G'_\mathbb{C}$ matrices on the right and lower-triangular $G'_\mathbb{C}$ matrices on the left (corresponding to changing the choice of bases). Moreover, given a solution to the Bogomolnyi equations and passing to a complexified holomorphic gauge $A_{\bar{z}} = 0$, the scattering matrix depends *holomorphically* on z .

For a configuration of N_c smooth monopoles and no Dirac singularities ($N_f = 0$), the boundary condition at infinity requires that $Q(z) := S_1^1(z) \sim z^{N_c}$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$. Then, by

¹⁸ These fields, and the \mathbb{R}^3 in question, have no direct relation to the fields and spacetime of $U(N_c)$ SQCD.

multiplying on the left and right by triangular G'_C matrices depending holomorphically on z , we can fix

$$S(z) = \begin{pmatrix} Q(z) & U^+(z) \\ U^-(z) & \tilde{Q}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.11}$$

such that

$$\det S(z) = Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U^+(z)U^-(z) = 1, \tag{5.12}$$

with $Q(z)$ a monic polynomial of degree N_c and $U^\pm(z)$ polynomials of finite degree $\leq N_c - 1$. It follows that $\tilde{Q}(z)$ is also a polynomial of degree $\leq N_c - 2$. A theorem of Donaldson [68] states that the N_c -monopole moduli space is diffeomorphic to the moduli space of matrices (5.11).

The scattering analysis therefore implies that the chiral ring of the Coulomb branch of pure $U(N_c)$ SQCD is generated by the coefficients of the polynomials $Q(z)$, $U^\pm(z)$ and $\tilde{Q}(z)$, subject to the relations (5.12). In fact, the coefficients of $\tilde{Q}(z)$ are not needed: due to the relation (5.12), they are automatically elements of the ring generated by the $3N_c$ coefficients of $Q(z)$ and $U^\pm(z)$. After solving for these coefficients, (5.12) still imposes N_c independent ring relations, in agreement with the expected dimension of the Coulomb branch $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_C = 2N_c$.

It is a bit trickier to compute the Poisson bracket of these generators. As the monopole moduli space is defined by an infinite-dimensional hyperkähler quotient, one can compute the Poisson bracket of two functions by lifting the functions to functionals on the infinite-dimensional linear space of gauge connections and scalar fields and applying the Poisson bracket on that linear space. The calculation is somewhat involved, and we only briefly sketch it in ‘‘Appendix A’’. The result is that the scattering matrix $S(z)$ satisfies the Poisson bracket

$$\{S_j^i(z), S_{j'}^{i'}(w)\} = \frac{S_{j'}^i(z)S_j^{i'}(w) - S_j^{i'}(z)S_{j'}^i(w)}{z - w}, \tag{5.13}$$

but only up to the ambiguity by multiplication by triangular matrices which we gauge-fixed in (5.11). In other words, one should be careful to only use (5.13) on functionals of $S(z)$ which are strictly invariant under the triangular transformations. The Poisson bracket (5.13) is closely related to the Yangian algebra of $SL(2)$, a point upon which we elaborate in Sect. 6.8.2.

In the neighbourhood of a point where the zeroes of $Q(z)$ are distinct, the zeroes x_a themselves and the values y_a^\pm of $U^\pm(z)$ at $z = x_a$ are strictly gauge invariant and give a good local coordinate system, with $y_a^+ y_a^- = -1$. The Poisson brackets of these coordinates following from (5.13) are then found to be

$$\{x_a, x_b\} = 0 \quad \{x_a, y_b^\pm\} = \pm \delta_{ab} y_a^\pm \quad \{y_a^+, y_b^+\} = 0. \tag{5.14}$$

One can re-write $Q(z)$, $U^\pm(z)$ in terms of the x_a , y_a^\pm , compute the Poisson brackets and extend them trivially away from the discriminant locus of Q .

Now let’s try to identify the coefficients in the scattering matrix with expectation values of gauge-invariant operators in $U(N_c)$ SQCD. We propose, in close analogy to

[70, 71], that $Q(z)$ is the characteristic polynomial of the $U(N_c)$ adjoint scalar φ , i.e. the generating function of invariant polynomials

$$Q(z) = \langle \det(\varphi - z) \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{N_c} (-1)^n M_{0, \underbrace{(1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)}_n} z^{N_c - n}. \tag{5.15}$$

Similarly, we propose that $U^\pm(z)$ are the generating functions for dressed monopole operators labelled by the fundamental cocharacters $A = (\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, which break the gauge group to $U(1) \times U(N_c - 1)$:

$$U^\pm(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-1} (-1)^n M_{(\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0), \underbrace{(0, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)}_n} z^{N_c - 1 - n}$$

or
$$\frac{U^\pm(z)}{Q(z)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M_{(\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0), (n, 0, \dots, 0)} z^{-n-1}.$$
 (5.16)

On the other hand, the abelianization map of Sect. 4.3 predicts that $M_{A,n} = V_{A,n}$ for fundamental A , since this is a minuscule charge. Therefore, the generating functions $Q(z)$, $U(z)$ should be expressed in terms of abelianized coordinates $\{\varphi_a, v_a^\pm\}_{a=1}^{N_c}$ as

$$Q(z) = \prod_{a=1}^{N_c} (z - \varphi_a); \quad U^\pm(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c} u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b), \quad \frac{U^\pm(z)}{Q(z)} = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c} \frac{u_a^\pm}{z - \varphi_a}. \tag{5.17}$$

(Here and in the remainder of the section we redefine abelian monopole operators by a sign

$$u_a^+ := v_a^+, \quad u_a^- := (-1)^{N_c} v_a^- \tag{5.18}$$

in order to simplify many expressions.) We find exact agreement with the monopole scattering construction, provided we identify $\varphi_a = x_a$ and $u_a^\pm = y_a^\pm / Q'(x_a)$. Evaluating the determinant relation (5.12) at $z = \varphi_a$ (simply $y_a^+ y_a^- = -1$) beautifully reproduces the abelian chiral-ring relations

$$u_a^+ u_a^- = \frac{-1}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2}. \tag{5.19}$$

Conversely, the abelian chiral-ring relations guarantee that, given polynomials $Q(z)$, $U^\pm(z)$ parameterized as in (5.17), there exists a $\tilde{Q}(z)$ such that the determinant relation (5.12) holds.

Furthermore, with the identification $\varphi_a = x_a$ and $u_a^\pm = y_a^\pm / Q'(x_a)$, the Poisson brackets of the monopole scattering matrix (5.13) give

$$\{\varphi_a, \varphi_b\} = 0 \quad \{\varphi_a, u_b^\pm\} = \pm \delta_{ab} u_a^\pm \quad \{u_a^\pm, u_b^\pm\} = \pm \frac{2u_a^\pm u_b^\pm}{\varphi_a - \varphi_b} \tag{5.20}$$

which nicely agrees with Poisson structure derived from the abelianized theory. Note that the operator $\text{Tr } \varphi = \sum_a \varphi_a$, which appears as the subleading coefficient of $Q(z)$,

is the complex moment map for the $G_C = U(1)_t$ topological symmetry. The Poisson bracket $\{\text{Tr } \varphi, -\}$ measures $U(1)_t$ charge.

We have found that our abelianization map is fully compatible with the scattering analysis. More interestingly, the scattering analysis has unambiguously identified the ring generators of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, a subring of the abelianized $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$: they are dressed monopole operators labelled by the trivial and fundamental cocharacters.

5.2.1. Other operators. Since the coefficients of $Q(z)$ and $U^\pm(z)$ generate the entire chiral ring, we must be able to use them to build monopole operators of non-fundamental charge.

For example, we can propose an interpretation of the coefficients of the auxiliary polynomial $\tilde{Q}(z)$ as generating functions of monopoles with “adjoint” charge $(1, 0, \dots, 0, -1)$ dressed by characteristic polynomial of φ restricted to the $U(N_c - 2)$ block of unbroken gauge symmetry:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}(z) &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-2} (-1)^n M_{(1,0,\dots,0,-1),(\underbrace{0,1,\dots,1,0,\dots,0}_n)} z^{N_c-2-n} \\ &= \sum_{a,b|a \neq b} u_a^+ u_b^- \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c) + \dots \end{aligned} \tag{5.21}$$

The ellipsis indicates terms with abelian charge 0, which should in principle be computed from the bubbling monopole moduli space $\mathcal{M}(1, 0, \dots, 0, -1)^0$. This moduli space has a singularity corresponding the collapse of a smooth monopole onto the Dirac singularity. There are interesting issues concerning how to properly resolve the singularity without losing the $U(N_c - 2)$ bundle used in dressing the monopole. We refer to “Appendix B.2” for a more in-depth analysis.

It is useful to define the polynomials

$$U_{(k)}^\pm(z) := \left(z^k U_\pm(z) \text{ mod } Q(z) \right) = \sum_a u_\pm^a \varphi_a^k \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b). \tag{5.22}$$

which are generating functions for monopole operators of the form $M_{(\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0), (\underbrace{k, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0}_n)}$. These can be used, for example, to generate monopole operators in other (non-fundamental) minuscule representations of $U(N_c)$, such as the first antisymmetric tensor power

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{U_+^{(2)}(z)U_+(z) - U_+^{(1)}(z)U_+^{(1)}(z)}{Q(z)} &= \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-2} (-1)^n M_{(1,1,0,\dots,0),(\underbrace{0,0,1,\dots,1,0,\dots,0}_n)} z^{N_c-2-n} \\ &= \sum_{a,b|a \neq b} u_+^{a,b} \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c), \end{aligned} \tag{5.23}$$

where $u_+^{a,b} = (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2 u_+^a u_+^b$ is the abelian monopole operator of charge +1 for a -th and b -th $U(1)$ ’s in the maximal torus.

5.2.2. *U(2) and PSU(2) theories.* To illustrate the scattering approach more concretely, consider SQCD with gauge group $G = U(2)$. The polynomials in the scattering matrix are

$$\begin{aligned} Q(z) &= z^2 - (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)z + \varphi_1\varphi_2 &=: z^2 - \Phi_1 z + \Phi_2, \\ U^\pm(z) &= (u_1^\pm + u_2^\pm)z - u_1^\pm\varphi_2 - u_2^\pm\varphi_1 &=: V^\pm z - W^\pm, \end{aligned} \tag{5.24}$$

and the auxiliary $\tilde{Q}(z)$ is just a constant, containing the monopole operator with adjoint cocharacter,

$$\tilde{Q}(z) = V^+V^- = (u_1^+ + u_2^+)(u_1^- + u_2^-) = u_1^+u_2^- + u_2^+u_1^- - 2(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)^{-2}. \tag{5.25}$$

The abelian relations $u_a^+u_a^- = -1/(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)^2$ ensure that $Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U^+(z)U^-(z) = 1$. In terms of non-abelian operators, these constraints take the form

$$\Phi_2 V^+V^- - W^+W^- - 1 = 0, \quad \Phi_1 V^+V^- - V^+W^- - V^-W^+ = 0. \tag{5.26}$$

Thus, $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ is generated by $V^\pm, W^\pm, \Phi_1, \Phi_2$ subject to (5.26).

The abelian Poisson brackets

$$\{\varphi_a, u_b^\pm\} = \pm\delta_{ab}u_b^\pm, \quad \{u_1^+, u_1^-\} = -\{u_2^+, u_2^-\} = \frac{-2}{(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)^3}, \quad \{u_1^\pm, u_2^\pm\} = \frac{\pm 2u_1^+u_2^+}{\varphi_1 - \varphi_2}$$

imply

$$\begin{aligned} \{\Phi_1, V^\pm\} &= \pm V^\pm, & \{\Phi_1, W^\pm\} &= \pm W^\pm, \\ \{\Phi_2, V^\pm\} &= \pm W^\pm, & \{\Phi_2, W^\pm\} &= \pm(\Phi_1 W^\pm - \Phi_2 V^\pm) \\ \{V^+, V^-\} &= 0, & \{V^\pm, W^\pm\} &= 0, & \{V^\mp, W^\pm\} &= \pm V^+V^-, & \{W^+, W^-\} &= -\Phi_1 V^+V^-. \end{aligned} \tag{5.27}$$

The operator $\Phi_1 = \text{Tr } \varphi$ is the moment map for the $G_C = U(1)_t$ action on \mathcal{M}_C (which is complexified to a \mathbb{C}^* action on the chiral ring); and the Poisson bracket $\{\Phi_1, -\}$ measure $U(1)_t$ charge.

We can recover the Coulomb branch of $PSU(2)$ theory from Sect. 5.1 in two different ways. On one hand, since $U(2) \approx PSU(2) \times U(1)$, we expect the $U(2)$ Coulomb branch to be roughly a product of the $PSU(2)$ Coulomb branch (the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold) and a pure $U(1)$ Coulomb branch (equivalent to $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1 \simeq \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^*$). Indeed, the $U(1)$ Coulomb branch $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$ simply parametrizes the center-of-mass degrees of freedom of the moduli space of two $SU(2)$ monopoles that we just analyzed with a scattering matrix; the full two-monopole moduli space is (a finite quotient of) the metric product of the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold and $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$.

On the other hand, since $PSU(2) = U(2)/U(1)$, we also expect to see the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold as the hyperkähler quotient (albeit a rather trivial one) of a double cover of the Coulomb branch of $U(2)$ theory. In terms of the chiral ring, it is a holomorphic symplectic quotient. The operator $\Phi_1 = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2$, which is set to zero in $PSU(2)$ theory, plays the role of a moment map for the quotient by the topological $U(1)_t$ symmetry. Passing to a cover is necessary because there exist extra monopole operators labelled by embeddings $U(1) \hookrightarrow (PSU(2) \times U(1))$ that do not lift to $U(2)$. We take a moment to explain how this works.

In the abelianized ring, we set $\varphi = \varphi_1 - \varphi_2$ and introduce new variables

$$v^+ = \sqrt{u_1^+ u_2^-}, \quad v^- = \sqrt{u_1^- u_2^+}. \tag{5.28}$$

(These operators are well defined on the double cover of the original abelianized moduli space.) The triple (φ, v^\pm) all Poisson-commute with Φ_1 , and satisfy the same ring and Poisson-algebra relations as in Sect. 5.1. They generate the abelianized chiral ring of the $PSU(2)$ theory. Conversely, the operators

$$u^+ = (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)\sqrt{u_1^+ u_2^+}, \quad u^- = (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)\sqrt{u_1^- u_2^-} \tag{5.29}$$

and Φ_1 all commute with (φ, v^\pm) . They obey $u^+ u^- = 1$ and generate the chiral ring of pure $U(1)$ theory. Altogether, we find that the ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ for $U(2)$ theory, slightly enlarged by taking square roots, *factors* as the product of the $PSU(2)$ ring generated by (φ, v^\pm) and the $U(1)$ ring generated by (Φ_1, u^\pm) . Taking a symplectic quotient with moment map Φ_1 kills the $U(1)$ part.

On the full non-abelian Coulomb branch of $U(2)$ theory, we may define operators

$$Y = v^+ + v^- = \sqrt{V^+ V^-}, \quad Z = \varphi(v^+ - v^-) = 2i\sqrt{W^+ W^-}. \tag{5.30}$$

These operators, together with $\Phi := -4\Phi_2$, Poisson-commute with the moment map Φ_1 and so descend to the symplectic quotient. As desired, the triple (Φ, Y, Z) generates the true chiral ring of the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold. In particular, (5.26) implies that $Z^2 - \Phi Y^2 = 4$.

5.3. Adding matter. Adding fundamental matter to SQCD leads to Coulomb branches that are moduli spaces of singular monopoles, while adding adjoint matter leads to moduli spaces of periodic instantons.

5.3.1. $U(N_c)$ SQCD. $U(N_c)$ SQCD with N_f fundamental hypermultiplets has a topological symmetry $G_C = U(1)_t$ as well as a Higgs-branch flavor symmetry $G_H = SU(N_f)$. The Coulomb branch can be identified with the moduli space of N_c smooth $PSU(2)$ monopoles \mathbb{R}^3 in the presence of N_f Dirac singularities [72]. The locations of the singularities in \mathbb{R}^3 coincide with the mass parameters of the hypermultiplets. Such moduli spaces of “singular monopoles” have been studied (e.g.) in [72–75] and more recently in [76, 77].

As a complex manifold, the monopole moduli space is again described by a $G'_C = PSU(2, \mathbb{C})$ valued scattering matrix $S(z)$, defined modulo holomorphic upper triangular gauge transformations acting on the right, and holomorphic lower triangular on the left. The entries of $S(z)$, however, may now be meromorphic, with poles as z approaches the positions of Dirac singularities. Concretely, let

$$P(z) = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N_f} (z - m_\alpha) \tag{5.31}$$

be the characteristic polynomial for the flavor group $G_H = SU(N_f)$, containing the masses of the hypermultiplets. Then the top-left component of the scattering matrix,

which is strictly invariant under the triangular gauge transformations, should have the form

$$S_1^1(z) = \frac{Q(z)}{P(z)^{1/2}} \tag{5.32}$$

where $Q(z)$ is a monic polynomial of degree N_c .¹⁹ The boundary condition at infinity requires that $S_1^1(z) \sim z^{N_c - \frac{N_f}{2}}$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$ where as the boundary condition at each monopole singularity requires $S_1^1(z) \sim (z - m_\alpha)^{-1/2}$ as $z \rightarrow m_\alpha$.

The boundary conditions for the scattering matrix can be specified in a somewhat more formal way as follows. First, the boundary conditions at the Dirac singularities specify that the scattering matrix should have the form

$$S(z) = g(z) \begin{pmatrix} P(z)^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & P(z)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix} g'(z) \tag{5.33}$$

for some (non-unique) polynomial matrices $g, g' \in G'_C[z]$. Here g, g' can be interpreted as scattering matrices for smooth monopoles surrounding the Dirac singularities. Second, provided we have a good or balanced theory ($N_f \geq 2N_c$), the boundary condition at infinity requires that the scattering matrix can be brought into the form

$$S(z) \sim M(z) \begin{pmatrix} z^{N_c - \frac{N_f}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & z^{-N_c + \frac{N_f}{2}} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.34}$$

up to the usual triangular gauge transformations, where $M(z)$ is a meromorphic matrix satisfying $M(z) \rightarrow 1$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$. In Sect. 6.5, we will explain how this presentation of the boundary conditions identifies an intersection of slices in the affine Grassmannian of the monopole gauge group.

Viewing the monopole gauge group $G'_C \simeq PGL(2, \mathbb{C})$ as $GL(2, \mathbb{C})/GL(1, \mathbb{C})$, it is convenient to introduce a rescaled scattering matrix

$$\tilde{S}(z) = P(z)^{\frac{1}{2}} S(z) \tag{5.35}$$

that has *polynomial* entries and determinant $\det \tilde{S}(z) = P(z)$. As in the case of completely smooth monopoles, the gauge invariant component of the scattering matrix $\tilde{S}_1^1(z) := Q(z)$ is a monic polynomial of degree N_c . Then, by upper and lower triangular gauge transformations, $\tilde{S}(z)$ can be brought to the familiar form

$$\tilde{S}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} Q(z) & U^+(z) \\ U^-(z) & \tilde{Q}(z) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.36}$$

where $U^\pm(z)$ are polynomials of degree at most $N_c - 1$, and $\tilde{Q}(z)$ has degree at most $N_c - 2$ if $N_f \leq 2N_c - 2$, and degree $N_f - N_c$ otherwise. The Coulomb branch chiral ring is then generated by the coefficients of $Q(z)$ and $U^\pm(z)$, subject to the determinant relation $Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U_+(z)U_-(z) = P(z)$.

¹⁹ The square roots are allowed since the complexified gauge group is $PSL(2, \mathbb{C}) = SL(2, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_2$ rather than $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$. To remove them, one can use the faithful adjoint representation of $PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$, or view $PSL(2, \mathbb{C}) = PGL(2, \mathbb{C})$ as $GL(2, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^*$, and factor out an overall root.

As before, we can define coordinates φ_a as the roots of $Q(z)$ and $u_a^\pm = U^\pm(\varphi_a)/Q'(\varphi_a)$, which are identified with the abelian coordinates of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]^{\text{abel}}$. We still have

$$Q(z) = \prod_{a=1}^{N_c} (z - \varphi_a), \quad U^\pm(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c} u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b), \tag{5.37}$$

which are generating functions for gauge-invariant polynomials in the φ_a and for monopole operators of fundamental cocharacter. Now $Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U_+(z)U_-(z) = P(z)$ becomes equivalent to the expected abelian relation

$$u_a^+ u_a^- = -\frac{P(\varphi_a)}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2}. \tag{5.38}$$

The auxiliary polynomial $\tilde{Q}(z)$ still has the form

$$\tilde{Q}(z) = \sum_{a,b \text{ s.t. } a \neq b} u_a^+ u_b^- \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c) + \dots, \tag{5.39}$$

and is a generating function for monopole operators adjoint cocharacter. If $N_f \geq 2N_c - 1$ the ellipsis has degree higher than $N_c - 2$, but the coefficients of degree higher than $N_c - 2$ are simply polynomials in the masses and φ_a .

Various explicit examples of the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ for SQCD with matter appear in Sect. 6.6, where the Coulomb branch is also interpreted as the intersection of certain nilpotent orbits and transverse slices in $\mathfrak{sl}(N_f, \mathbb{C})$.

5.3.2. $U(N_c)$ SQCD with an adjoint. We can add to SQCD an adjoint hypermultiplet, to get a theory associated to an ADHM quiver. This theory is mirror to a necklace quiver of $N_f U(N_c)$ gauge groups with a single flavor at one node. The Coulomb branch should admit a description as a moduli space of non-commutative instantons on $R^3 \times S^1$, with the adjoint mass m playing the role of the non-commutativity parameter. We will not attempt to match these descriptions to the output of our abelianization map. It would be interesting to do so.

At the level of the abelian variables, we have a relation of the form

$$u_+^a u_-^a = -P(\varphi_a) \prod_{b \neq a} \left[1 - \frac{m^2}{(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2} \right] \tag{5.40}$$

If we define generating functions $Q(z)$ and $U_\pm(z)$ as before, we can write a polynomial equation such as

$$Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U_+(z)U_-(z) = P(z) \frac{Q(z+m)Q(z-m)}{m^2} \tag{5.41}$$

Again, inspection of a few examples shows that $\tilde{Q}(z)$ is a generating function of monopoles $M^{(1, -1, 0, \dots, 0), (0, 0, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)}$, up to some polynomial expression in the φ_a .

An important difference with SQCD with fundamental matter is that because

$$(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2 u_+^a u_+^b = \left[(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)^2 - m^2 \right] u_+^{a,b} \tag{5.42}$$

we cannot generally obtain all dressed monopoles of charge $(1, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ in a simple way from the $U_\pm^{(k)}(z)$. Thus we expect the ring of functions to have extra generators besides the coefficients of $Q(z)$ and $U_\pm(z)$.

5.4. *Quantization.* Applying the general prescription of Sect. 4.5 to SQCD with N_f fundamental flavors produces an abelianized algebra $\mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ with generators $\hat{u}_a^\pm, \hat{\varphi}_a$, and the inverses of W-boson masses $(\hat{\varphi}_a - \hat{\varphi}_b)^{-1}$. To simplify notation, we remove the ‘hats’ from these operators. They obey quantized relations

$$[\varphi_a, \varphi_b] = 0, \quad [\varphi_a, u_b^\pm] = \pm \epsilon \delta_{a,b} u_b^\pm, \quad u_a^\pm u_a^\mp = \frac{-P(\varphi_a \mp \frac{\epsilon}{2})}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b \mp \epsilon)}, \quad (5.43)$$

where $P(z) = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N_f} (z - m_\alpha)$ as usual. In addition, for $a \neq b$, the products $u_a^\pm u_b^\pm = u_{ab}^\pm / [(\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b \mp \epsilon)]$ and $u_a^\pm u_b^\mp = u_{ab}^{\pm\mp}$ determine the commutators

$$[u_a^\pm, u_b^\mp] = 0, \quad (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)[u_a^\pm, u_b^\pm] = \pm \epsilon [u_a^\pm, u_b^\pm]_+, \quad (5.44)$$

where $[x, y]_+ := xy + yx$. If we choose only the u_a^\pm as our generators (ignoring u_{ab}^\pm , etc.), there are also Serre-like relations of the form $[u_a^\pm, [u_b^\pm, u_c^\pm]] = 0$.

We expect the nonabelian quantized algebra $\mathcal{A}_C \subset \mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ to be generated by quantized versions of the classical generators i.e. quantized versions of the coefficients of $Q(z)$ and $U^\pm(z)$ from (5.37), namely

$$Q(z) = \prod_{a=1}^{N_c} (z - \varphi_a), \quad U^\pm(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c} u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b), \quad (5.45)$$

Noting that the dressing factors $\prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b)$ commute with the abelian operators u_a , so there are no ordering ambiguities. By virtue of (5.43) and (5.44), these polynomials obey

$$\begin{aligned} Q(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \tilde{Q}(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) - U^+(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) U^-(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) &= P(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}), \\ Q(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \tilde{Q}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) - U^-(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) U^+(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) &= P(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}), \end{aligned} \quad (5.46a)$$

for a suitable auxiliary polynomial $\tilde{Q}(z)$. Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) - U^+(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) U^-(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) &= P(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}), \\ \tilde{Q}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) - U^-(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) U^+(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) &= P(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}). \end{aligned} \quad (5.46b)$$

The auxiliary polynomial contains dressed monopoles in the adjoint representation, with all necessary quantum corrections included

$$\tilde{Q}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) = \sum_{a \neq b} u_+^a u_-^b \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c) + \dots \quad (5.47)$$

Other polynomial relations are deformed in a similar nice manner. For example, when $N_f = 0$, if we define

$$U_+^{(k)}(z) = \sum_a \varphi_a^k v_a^+ \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) \quad (5.48)$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_+^{(2)}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2})U_+(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) - U_+^{(1)}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2})U_+^{(1)}(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) + \epsilon U_+^{(1)}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2})U_+(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \\
 = Q(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \sum_{a \neq b} \varphi_a (\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon) u_{a,b}^+ u_b^+ \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \\
 = Q(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \sum_{a \neq b} \frac{\varphi_a}{\varphi_a - \varphi_b} u_{a,b}^+ \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \\
 = Q(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \sum_{a \neq b} u_{a,b}^+ \prod_{c \neq a, c \neq b} (z - \varphi_c - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \tag{5.49}
 \end{aligned}$$

gives us the quantized generating function of monopoles in the second minuscuple representation.

5.4.1. Quantizing Atiyah–Hitchin and $U(2)$ theory. As a quick example, we quantize the Coulomb branch of the pure $PSU(2)$ and $U(2)$ theories. For $PSU(2)$, the ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}] \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ was described in Sect. 5.1. The quantization $\mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is generated by operators v^\pm and $\varphi^{\pm 1}$, subject to

$$[\varphi, v^\pm] = \pm \epsilon v^\pm, \quad v^+ v^- = \frac{-1}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)}, \tag{5.50}$$

The nonabelian subalgebra $\mathcal{A}_C \subset \mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is generated by $\Phi = \varphi^2$, $Y = v^+ + v^-$, and $Z = \varphi(v^+ - v^-)$, which obey

$$[\Phi, Y] = 2\epsilon Z - \epsilon^2 Y, \quad [\Phi, Z] = 2\epsilon \Phi Y - \epsilon^2 Z, \quad [Y, Z] = -\epsilon Y^2, \tag{5.51}$$

together with the constraint

$$Z^2 + \epsilon ZY - \Phi Y^2 = 4, \tag{5.52}$$

which quantizes the Atiyah–Hitchin manifold.

For pure $U(2)$ theory, the abelian algebra $\mathcal{A}_C^{\text{abel}}$ is generated by $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, u_1^\pm, u_2^\pm$, subject to the general relations (5.43). In particular,

$$u_1^+ u_1^- = u_2^- u_2^+ = \frac{-1}{(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2 - \epsilon)}, \quad u_1^- u_1^+ = u_2^+ u_2^- = \frac{-1}{(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2 + \epsilon)},$$

and $(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)[v_1^+, v_1^-] = \epsilon[v_1^+, v_1^-]_+$, $(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)[v_1^\pm, v_2^\pm] = \pm \epsilon[v_1^\pm, v_2^\pm]_+$. The nonabelian subalgebra \mathcal{A}_C is generated by coefficients of the scattering matrix

$$S(z) = \begin{pmatrix} Q(z) & U^+(z) \\ U^-(z) & \tilde{Q}(z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (z - \varphi_1)(z - \varphi_2) & u_1^+(z - \varphi_2) + u_2^+(z - \varphi_1) \\ u_1^-(z - \varphi_2) + u_2^-(z - \varphi_1) & (u_1^+ + u_2^+)(u_1^- + u_2^-) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.53}$$

which obey relations (5.46) with $P = 1$. In particular, we can take as generators $\Phi_1 = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2$, $\Phi_2 = \varphi_1 \varphi_2$, $V^\pm = u_1^\pm + u_2^\pm$, and $W^\pm = \varphi_2 u_1^\pm + \varphi_1 u_2^\pm$, subject to

$$W^+(W^- + \epsilon V^-) = \Phi_2 V^+ V^- - 1, \quad V^+ W^- + W^+ V^- = (\Phi_1 - \epsilon) V^+ V^-. \tag{5.54}$$

The commutation relations are the straightforward generalization of (5.27), with the RHS rescaled by ϵ .

5.5. *Twistor space.* We can specialize our general prescription for the twistor space to, say, $U(N_c)$ SQCD with N_f fundamental hypermultiplets. First, the coefficients of z^k in the polynomial $Q_\zeta(z)$ will have to live in $O(2N_c - 2k)$ bundles over the twistor sphere. If we replace z with a variable z_ζ living in an $O(2)$ bundle, we can simply state that by requiring $Q_\zeta(z_\zeta)$ to live in $O(2N_c)$.

As for $U_\pm^\zeta(z_\zeta)$, we can use the following gluing condition:

$$\tilde{z}_\zeta = \zeta^{-2} z_\zeta, \quad \tilde{U}_\zeta^\pm(\tilde{z}_\zeta) = \zeta^{-N_f} e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2} \frac{z_\zeta}{\zeta}} U_\zeta^\pm(z_\zeta) \pmod{Q_\zeta(z_\zeta)}. \tag{5.55}$$

The notation means that we should expand $e^{\pm \frac{1}{g^2} \frac{z_\zeta}{\zeta}} U_\zeta^\pm(z_\zeta)$ as a Taylor series in z , and reduce it to back to a polynomial in z modulo $Q(z)$. The coefficients of this polynomial will be infinite series in the coefficients of the original U_ζ^\pm and Q_ζ .

This prescription follows from the general abelianization proposal of Sect. 4.6. To see the relation, write $U^\pm(z) = \sum_a u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b)$, and observe that working modulo $Q(z) = \prod_a (z - \varphi_a)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{z}{\zeta}} U(z) \pmod{Q} &= \sum_a e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_a}{\zeta}} u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) \\ &= \sum_a e^{\frac{1}{2g^2\zeta} \{(\varphi, \varphi), -\}} u_a^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) \\ &= e^{\frac{1}{2g^2\zeta} \{(\varphi, \varphi), -\}} U(z). \end{aligned} \tag{5.56}$$

In the form (5.55), the gluing condition also agrees with the standard construction of the twistor space of N_c smooth $PSU(2)$ monopoles (when $N_f = 0$) [60].

The transformation of the remaining component \tilde{Q} of the scattering matrix follows from the transformation of Q and U_\pm . In particular, \tilde{Q} is multiplied by $\zeta^{2N_c - 2N_f}$ and shifted by an intricate polynomial function of U_\pm and Q .

5.5.1. *Example: $U(2)$ theory.* Consider pure $U(2)$ theory, whose chiral ring was described in Sect. 5.2.2. The transition functions for the operators $\Phi_{1,\zeta}, \Phi_{2,\zeta}, V_\zeta^\pm, W_\zeta^\pm$ are

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{z}_\zeta &= \zeta^{-2} z_\zeta, \quad \tilde{\Phi}_{1,\zeta} = \zeta^{-2} \Phi_{1,\zeta}, \quad \tilde{\Phi}_{2,\zeta} = \zeta^{-4} \Phi_{2,\zeta}, \\ \tilde{V}_\zeta^\pm \tilde{z}_\zeta - \tilde{W}_\zeta^\pm &= e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{z_\zeta}{\zeta}} (V_\zeta^\pm z_\zeta - W_\zeta^\pm) \pmod{z_\zeta^2 - \Phi_{1,\zeta} z + \Phi_{2,\zeta}}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.57}$$

Explicitly (omitting \pm superscripts),

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{V}_\zeta^\pm &= e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_{1,\zeta}}{\zeta}} u_{1,\zeta} + e^{\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{\varphi_{2,\zeta}}{\zeta}} u_{2,\zeta} = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{1}{g^{2n} \zeta^n n!} (\varphi_{1,\zeta}^n u_{1,\zeta} + \varphi_{2,\zeta}^n u_{2,\zeta}) \\ &= V_\zeta + \frac{1}{g^2 \zeta} (\Phi_{1,\zeta} V_\zeta - W_\zeta) + \frac{1}{2g^4 \zeta^2} (\Phi_{1,\zeta}^2 V_\zeta - \Phi_{2,\zeta} V_\zeta - \Phi_{1,\zeta} W_\zeta) + \dots, \end{aligned} \tag{5.58}$$

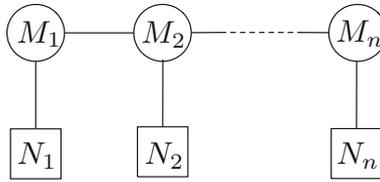


Fig. 1. The quiver gauge theory T_μ^v

and similarly

$$\tilde{W}_\zeta^\pm = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{1}{g^{2n} \zeta^n n!} (\varphi_{1,\zeta}^n \varphi_{2,\zeta} u_{1,\zeta} + \varphi_{2,\zeta}^n \varphi_{1,\zeta} u_{2,\zeta}) = W_\zeta + \frac{1}{g^2 \zeta} \Phi_{2,\zeta} V_\zeta + \dots \quad (5.59)$$

The operators appearing in the expansions in equations (5.58) and (5.59) are monopole operators in complex structure ζ of dressed by polynomials of the scalar φ_ζ labelled by $(n, 0)$ and $(n, 1)$ respectively.

6. Linear Quivers of Unitary Groups

We now study 3d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ linear quivers with unitary gauge groups. The general A_n -type quiver, shown in Fig. 1, defines a theory whose gauge group is $G = \prod_{i=1}^n U(M_i)$, with hypermultiplets transforming in a representation \mathcal{R} that is a sum of N_i copies of the fundamental representation of each $U(M_i)$ plus a sum of bifundamental representations for all adjacent nodes,

$$\mathcal{R} = R \oplus R^*, \quad R := \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{M_i}, \mathbb{C}^{N_i}) \oplus \bigoplus_{i=1}^{n-1} \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{M_i}, \mathbb{C}^{M_{i+1}}). \quad (6.1)$$

It is often convenient to regroup the data (N_i, M_i) into a pair of weights (ν, μ) of $\mathfrak{sl}(n+1)$. Let $\{\omega_i\}_{i=1}^n$ denote the fundamental weights of \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} , such that ω_i is the highest weight of the i -th antisymmetric power of the fundamental representation; and let $\{\alpha_i\}_{i=1}^n$ denote the simple roots. Then $\nu = \sum_i N_i \omega_i$ is a dominant weight and $\mu = \nu - \sum_i M_i \alpha_i$ labels a weight space in the irreducible representation of highest weight ν . Inverting these relations, we can recover the original data from the formulae $N_i = (\nu, \alpha_i)$ and $M_i = (\nu - \mu, \omega_i)$, where (\cdot, \cdot) is the Cartan–Killing form.²⁰ We henceforth denote the quiver gauge theory as T_μ^ν .

We can of course also read the quiver from right to left rather than left to right. This has the effect of replacing the weights by their conjugates: $(\mu, \nu) \rightarrow (-w_0 \mu, -w_0 \nu)$, where w_0 is the longest element of the Weyl group. The theories T_μ^ν and $T_{-w_0 \mu}^{-w_0 \nu}$ and their moduli spaces are equivalent.

The infrared physics of T_μ^ν depends on the R-charges Δ_i (under a subgroup $U(1)_C \subset SU(2)_C$) of undressed monopole operators labelled by the fundamental cocharacter of each $U(M_i)$ factor of the gauge group. These are [8]

$$\Delta_i = N_i - 2M_i + M_{i-1} + M_{i+1} = (\mu, \alpha_i). \quad (6.2)$$

²⁰ The Cartan–Killing form is normalized so that $(\omega_i, \alpha_j) = \delta_{ij}$ and $(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = \kappa_{ij}$ where κ_{ij} is the Cartan matrix.

The theory is called good if $\Delta_i \geq 0$ for all nodes i , or equivalently if μ is also a dominant integral weight. In this case, T_μ^ν is expected to flow to a CFT in the infrared, whose operators all have non-negative dimension. Mirror symmetry applies naturally to good A-type quivers, mapping them to dual A-type quivers of length $\tilde{n} + 1 = \sum_i N_i$.²¹

The i -th node of a quiver is called balanced if $\Delta_i = 0$ and the quiver is called fully balanced if all nodes are balanced, which is equivalent to $\mu = 0$. Balanced nodes signal a low-energy nonabelian enhancement of Coulomb-branch isometry group G_C .

The Higgs branch \mathcal{M}_H of T_μ^ν is the hyperkähler quotient $\mathcal{R}///G$, which is known as a Nakajima quiver variety [80]. The Higgs branch chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_H]$ can be computed by enumerating all gauge invariant combinations of the hypermultiplet scalars and imposing the complex moment map relations.

The Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C of T_μ^ν has several descriptions. Some descriptions are valid for general quivers, while others apply only to good quivers, in the IR limit. It follows from a type IIB brane construction and S-duality that \mathcal{M}_C is the moduli space of BPS monopoles for the gauge group $PSU(n+1)$ in the presence of Dirac monopole singularities [5, 54]. (As we show in Sect. 6.5, in the case of good quivers, this monopole moduli space also appears as a slice in the affine Grassmannian for $PSL(n+1, \mathbb{C})$.)

Via a Nahm transform, the same construction also offers a description of \mathcal{M}_C as a moduli space of solutions to Nahm equations on a chain of segments, with appropriate boundary conditions. If the quiver is good, the description can be simplified considerably in the IR, to the moduli space of solutions of $SL(p)$ Nahm equations on a single segment, where $p = \sum_{i=1}^n i N_i$ [8, 81]. This moduli space is the intersection of a nilpotent orbit and a transverse slice inside the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(p, \mathbb{C})$. The equivalence of these descriptions is quite nontrivial, and only expected to hold for A-type (i.e. linear) quivers.²²

Our goal in this section is to give a direct construction of the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, using the methods of Sect. 4. We will propose in Sect. 6.3 that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated as a Poisson algebra by dressed monopole operators labelled by the fundamental cocharacter at each node; and that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated as a ring by dressed monopole operators labelled by a sum of fundamental cocharacters at subsets of multiple nodes. We then proceed to check this proposal in a variety of examples, using the known descriptions of \mathcal{M}_C mentioned above. Finally, we will discuss the Poisson structure on $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ and its quantization, which for a general good quiver produces a central quotient of a shifted Yangian, and in special cases a finite W-algebra. This lets us connect to the mathematical and mathematical-physics works [82–84].

6.1. Flavor symmetries. The Higgs-branch flavor group of T_μ^ν is $G_H = PS[\prod_{i=1}^n U(N_i)] = (\prod_{i=1}^n U(N_i))/U(1)$ with $U(N_i)$ acting on the N_i fundamental hypermultiplets at the i -th node. The overall quotient by $U(1)$ is due to mixing with the dynamical gauge symmetry. Correspondingly, the theory admits triples of mass parameters valued in the Cartan \mathfrak{t}_H , split into real and complex parts. We label the complex masses at the i -th flavor node as $m_{i,\alpha}$ for $1 \leq \alpha \leq N_i$. These are defined up to an overall shift.

²¹ In mathematical works [78, 79] it was argued that the Higgs branches of certain linear quivers are isomorphic to transverse slices and to monopole moduli spaces (in the guise of affine Grassmannians). Together with mirror symmetry, this should imply the equivalence of the Coulomb-branch descriptions mentioned below.

²² More generally, moduli spaces of ADE monopoles occur as Coulomb branches of unitary quivers in the shape of ADE Dynkin diagrams [57]. In contrast, the intersections of transverse slices and nilpotent orbits in simple Lie algebras of non-A type do not all have a construction as moduli spaces of (Lagrangian) 3d gauge theories. In type D, they are realized using quivers with SO/USp gauge groups [8].

The Coulomb-branch flavor group G_C of the theory T_μ^ν has rank n , and its maximal torus $\mathbb{T}_C \simeq U(1)^n$ contains the topological symmetries for each gauge node. The twisted masses for these topological symmetries are n triples of FI parameters. In the infrared of a good theory T_μ^ν , the symmetry group is enhanced to the Levi subgroup of $SU(n+1)$ that stabilizes $\mu \in \mathfrak{su}(n+1)^*$. Explicitly, if the *unbalanced* nodes separate the n nodes of the quiver into partitions of size $k_j \geq 0$, the symmetry group is $S[\prod_j U(k_j + 1)]$. For example, a quiver with $\vec{\Delta} = (*, 0, 0, *, 0, *)$, where $*$ denotes unbalanced nodes, has $\vec{k} = (0, 2, 1, 0)$, and the enhanced symmetry is $S[U(1) \times U(3) \times U(2) \times U(1)] \subset SU(7)$. Since the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is independent of gauge couplings, it has an action of the enhanced, infrared symmetry group—in fact, of a complexification thereof. Below, we will simply use ‘ G_C ’ to denote the enhanced group.

6.2. Abelian coordinates. Following Sect. 4, we want to embed the full Coulomb branch chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ into a larger chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ of an abelianized theory. The abelian chiral ring is generated by eigenvalues $\varphi_{i,a}$ of the adjoint scalars at each i -th gauge node, with $1 \leq a \leq M_i$; by the inverses of W-boson masses $(\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{i,b})^{-1}$, $a \neq b$; and by monopole operators u_A^\pm labelled by cocharacters A of $G = \prod_{i=1}^n U(M_i)$. The generators satisfy relations of the form (4.7).

In order to generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$ as a *Poisson* algebra, it is sufficient to take a much smaller set of generators, consisting of the $\varphi_{i,a}$ together with abelian monopole operators $u_{i,a}^\pm$ labelled by the fundamental cocharacters $1 \leq a \leq M_i$ of each $U(M_i)$ gauge group. These abelian monopole operators satisfy²³

$$u_{i,a}^+ u_{i,a}^- = \frac{P_{\text{hypers}}^{i,a}(\varphi, m)}{P_W^i(\varphi)} = -\frac{P_i(\varphi_{i,a}; m) Q_{i-1}(\varphi_{i,a}; \varphi) Q_{i+1}(\varphi_{i,a}; \varphi)}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{i,b})^2}, \tag{6.3}$$

where $P_i(z; m) := \prod_{\alpha=1}^{M_i} (z - m_{i,\alpha})$ and $Q_i(z; \varphi) := \prod_{a=1}^{M_i} (z - \varphi_{i,a})$ are the matter and gauge polynomials at the i -th node. (We commonly denote these $P_i(z)$ and $Q_i(z)$.)

Among these generators, the only nonzero Poisson brackets are

$$\begin{aligned} \{\varphi_{i,a}, u_{i,a}^\pm\} &= \pm u_{i,a}^\pm \\ \{u_{i,a}^+, u_{i,a}^-\} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi_{i,a}} \left[\frac{P_{\text{hypers}}^{i,a}(\varphi, m)}{P_W^i(\varphi)} \right] \\ \{u_{i,a}^\pm, u_{j,b}^\pm\} &= \pm \kappa_{ij} \frac{u_{i,a}^\pm u_{j,b}^\pm}{\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{j,b}}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.4}$$

Strictly speaking, the RHS of the $\{u_{i,a}^\pm, u_{j,b}^\pm\}$ brackets contain operators u_A^\pm labelled by cocharacters that are sums of the fundamental cocharacters (i, a) and (j, b) ; this is precisely how the Poisson brackets are able to produce missing ring generators. In the abelian chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C^{\text{abel}}]$, these operators satisfy relations of the form $(\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{j,b}) u_A^\pm \sim u_{i,a}^\pm u_{j,b}^\pm$. Throughout this section, we represent such additional generators by rational functions $u_A^\pm \rightarrow \frac{u_{i,a}^\pm u_{j,b}^\pm}{\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{j,b}}$, in order to simplify notation and to make the relations among them manifest.

²³ In the convention of Sect. 4.2, the RHS of (6.3) would include an extra sign $(-1)^{M_{i-1} + M_i}$. We absorb this sign into the $u_{i,a}^-$ operators (cf. (5.18)), obtaining the more uniform expression above.

6.3. *Generating the chiral ring.* As in Sect. 5, we can further introduce the polynomials

$$U_i^\pm(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} u_{i,a}^\pm \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_{i,b}), \tag{6.5}$$

which are generating functions for non-abelian monopole operators at the i -th node of fundamental charge $A = (\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, and dressing factors $n = (0, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$. The relations (6.3) can then be reformulated as the statement that the polynomials $P_i(z)Q_{i-1}(z)Q_{i+1}(z) + U_i^+(z)U_i^-(z)$ are divisible by $Q_i(z)$ for all i ; or equivalently that there exist auxiliary polynomials $\tilde{Q}_i(z)$ of degree at most $\max(M_i - 2, M_i + \Delta_i)$ such that

$$Q_i(z)\tilde{Q}_i(z) + U_i^+(z)U_i^-(z) = P_i(z)Q_{i-1}(z)Q_{i+1}(z). \tag{6.6}$$

The auxiliary polynomial $\tilde{Q}_i(z)$ is a generating function for monopole operators of adjoint cocharacter $A = (1, 0, \dots, 0, -1)$ for $U(M_i)$, dressed by electric factors labelled by $n = (0, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0, 0)$, up to some gauge-invariant polynomials in φ .

For a single node, we argued in Sect. 5 that the Coulomb branch chiral ring is generated by the coefficients of polynomials $Q(z)$ and $U^\pm(z)$. Here we propose that the coefficients of $Q_i(z)$ and $U_i^\pm(z)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ are sufficient to generate the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ of a theory T_μ^v as a *Poisson algebra*. In other words, the ring generators of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ all arise by taking successive Poisson brackets of the dressed fundamental monopole operators and invariant polynomials in φ_i at single nodes.

Of course, we do not generally expect that the ring generators of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ can all be expressed as products of the operators charged at single nodes. Indeed, the Poisson brackets of operators charged at single nodes produce operators charged at multiple nodes, which cannot be constructed as simple products. In our examples below, we will test the proposal that $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ can be generated as a ring by monopole operators with sums of fundamental charges at subsets of the nodes.

6.4. *Predictions from string theory: monopole scattering.* The type IIB brane constructions of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ linear quiver gauge theories suggest that their Coulomb branches are moduli spaces of BPS monopoles. We briefly review the brane constructions following Hanany and Witten [5] (see also [32] for an applicable recent review), describe the monopole scattering matrix, and show how the coefficients of the scattering matrix generate the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$.

The linear quiver T_μ^v can be engineered by a brane construction in type IIB string theory, as shown in an example on the left of Fig. 2. In the general case, there are $(n + 1)$ NS5 branes spanning the directions $x^0, x^1, x^2, x^4, x^5, x^6$ and separated in the x^3 direction. The $U(M_i)$ gauge symmetry at the i -th node of the quiver is realized on the worldvolume of M_i D3 branes suspended between the i -th and $(i + 1)$ -th NS5 branes and spanning the x^0, x^1, x^2 directions. In addition there are N_i D5 branes located on the segment of the x^3 direction between the i -th and $(i + 1)$ -th NS5 brane and spanning the $x^0, x^1, x^2, x^7, x^8, x^9$ directions.

Performing an S-duality transformation turns the NS5 branes into a stack of $n + 1$ D5 branes, which supports a maximally supersymmetric 6d super-Yang-Mills theory at low

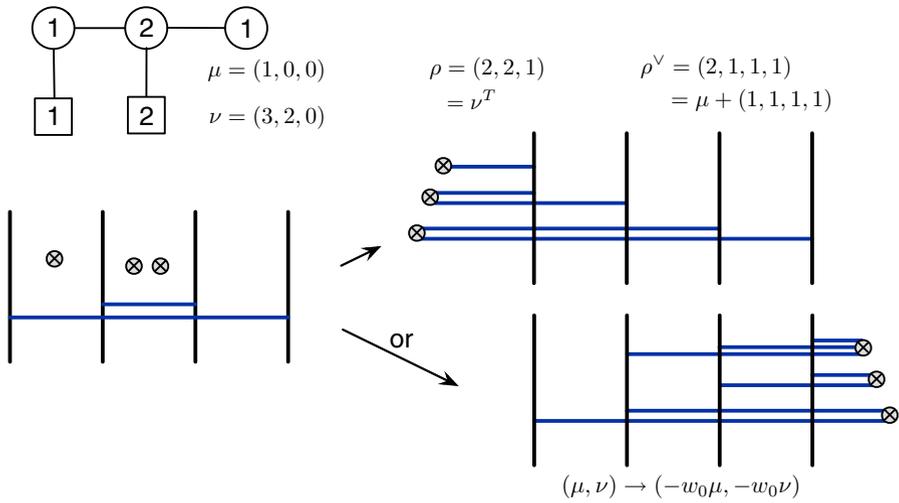


Fig. 2. A type IIB brane construction for a 3d quiver gauge theory, and the transition that leads to monopoles and to Nahm equations (Sect. 6.6). The $x^3 - x^6$ plane is shown, with D3 branes as horizontal line segments, NS5 branes as vertical lines, and D5 branes as crosses. Here μ and ν are written as partitions (Young diagrams)

energies with gauge group $G' = PSU(n + 1)$.²⁴ The D3 branes intersecting the stack of D5 branes in codimension 3 then behave like BPS monopoles in the 6d SYM theory with magnetic charge $q_\infty = -\mu$. We refer the reader to “Appendix A” for further details and a summary of our notation. This suggests that the Higgs branch of the worldvolume theory on the D3 branes, which is equivalent to the Coulomb branch of our original theory, should be the corresponding moduli space of BPS monopoles.

If there are additional D5 branes providing fundamental hypermultiplets, they can be moved to infinity $x^3 \rightarrow -\infty$ as on the right of Fig. 2. Alternatively, we could pull the D5 branes to $x^3 \rightarrow +\infty$, which conjugates the weights $(\mu, \nu) \rightarrow (-w_0\mu, -w_0\nu)$. Performing an S-duality transformation, this leads to semi-infinite D3 branes intersecting the stack of D5 branes, which behave as singular BPS monopole solutions in the 6d SYM theory [72]. For a general quiver, there are $N_i = (\nu, \alpha_i)$ singular monopole solutions labelled by each fundamental cocharacter ω_{n+1-i} of $PSU(n + 1)$. In the language of “Appendix A”, we have $\sum_a q_a = \sum_i N_i \omega_{n+1-i}$ and $\sum_a q_a^- = -\sum_i N_i \omega_i = -\nu$. The positions of the singular monopoles in the x^4, x^5, x^6 directions are the triplets of hypermultiplet mass parameters.

A precise definition of the moduli space of singular monopoles for any compact simple G can be found in [76, 77], where it is shown that the complex dimension of this moduli space is $\langle \rho, q_\infty - \sum_a q_a^- \rangle = \langle \rho, \nu - \mu \rangle = \sum_i M_i$. This agrees with the complex dimension of the Coulomb branch of T_μ^ν .

6.4.1. The scattering matrix. As a complex manifold, the moduli space of singular monopoles is parametrized by a meromorphic scattering matrix $S(z) \in G'_\mathbb{C} = PSL(n +$

²⁴ A priori, the group is $U(n)$, but the center $U(1)$ plays no role, since no fields are charged under it. (Alternatively, there are no dynamical monopoles for $U(1)$.) We will be interested in configurations where a single semi-infinite D3 brane can intersect the stack of D5 branes. Such configurations will necessarily correspond to singular BPS monopole solutions for $PSU(n + 1)$ (rather than, say, $SU(n + 1)$) once the center is factored out.

1, \mathbb{C}). In terms of the brane setup, $z = x^4 + ix^5$ (say) parametrizes a chosen complex plane within the x^4, x^5, x^6 directions. Generalizing the structure in Sect. 5.2, the scattering matrix is defined modulo holomorphic upper-triangular matrices acting on the right and holomorphic lower-triangular matrices acting on the left. It must satisfy two boundary conditions, described in detail in ‘‘Appendix A’’.

First, near a singular monopole of charge ω_j at z_0 , the scattering matrix should behave as

$$S(z) \sim g(z)(z - z_0)^{-w_0\omega_j} g'(z), \tag{6.7}$$

where $g, g' \in G'_\mathbb{C}$ are meromorphic and regular at $z = z_0$. Here we follow a standard notation: for any cocharacter $\lambda \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^*, \mathbb{T}_{G'_\mathbb{C}}) \subset \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^*, G'_\mathbb{C})$, we write $x^\lambda := \lambda(x)$ for the image²⁵ of $x \in \mathbb{C}^*$; also, $w_0 \omega_j = -\omega_{n+1-j}$ is reflection by the longest element of the Weyl group. Altogether, the Dirac singularities require the scattering matrix to be of the form

$$S(z) = g(z) \left[\prod_{i=1}^n P_i(z)^{-w_0\omega_i} \right] g'(z), \tag{6.8}$$

where $g, g' \in G'_\mathbb{C}$ are holomorphic and $P_i(z) = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{M_i} (z - m_{i\alpha})$ is the characteristic polynomial at the i -th flavor node. When all masses are set to zero, we simply have $\prod_i P_i(z)^{-w_0\omega_i} = z^{-w_0\nu}$. As in Sect. 5.3, the nonsingular matrices $g(z)$ and $g'(z)$ encode smooth monopoles surrounding the Dirac singularities.

Second, near infinity, the scattering matrix must behave as

$$S(z) \sim h(z) z^{-\mu} h'(z), \tag{6.9}$$

where h and h' are now respectively lower and upper diagonal gauge transformations that are regular in the vicinity of $z \rightarrow \infty$.

To describe the boundary condition explicitly, we first use the scaling freedom in $PSL(n+1, \mathbb{C}) \simeq PGL(n+1, \mathbb{C}) = GL(n+1, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^*$ to normalize $S(z) \in GL(n+1, \mathbb{C})$ so that it has determinant

$$\det S(z) = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i(z)^{n+1-i}. \tag{6.10}$$

Then all entries of $S(z)$ become polynomials (instead of rational functions). The leading principal minors of $S(z)$, which are invariant under unipotent triangular gauge transformations, must have the form

$$S_{1,\dots,i}^{1,\dots,i}(z) = Q_i(z) \prod_{j=1}^i P_j(z)^{i-j}, \tag{6.11}$$

where the $Q_i(z)$ are polynomials of degree M_i . We can use (constant) diagonal gauge transformations to fix the $Q_i(z)$ to be monic. As the notation suggests, we propose that $Q_i(z)$ be identified with the characteristic polynomial $Q_i(z) = \prod_{a=1}^{M_i} (z - \varphi_{i,a})$ at the i -th node of the quiver. The $\varphi_{i,a}$ are now interpreted as the positions of the D3 branes suspended between the i -th and $(i + 1)$ -th NS5 brane in the complex z -plane.

²⁵ As in Sect. 5.3, if we view the gauge group as $G'_\mathbb{C} = SL(n+1, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_{n+1}$, the elements x^λ may appear to involve $(n + 1)$ -th roots. Such roots do not appear in the faithful adjoint representation of the group, and they can also be removed by viewing $G'_\mathbb{C} \simeq GL(n + 1, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^*$ and rescaling.

After fixing the leading principal minors as above, we still have the freedom to multiply $S(z)$ by unipotent holomorphic matrices. This redundancy can be used to systematically reduce the elements of the scattering matrix $S(z)$ to polynomials in z .

To begin, the $i \times i$ minors $S_{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}^{1, \dots, i}(z)$ and $S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}(z)$ transform respectively under left and right multiplication by addition of a holomorphic function multiplied by $S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i}(z)$. We may therefore transform these minors to be of the form

$$S_{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}^{1, \dots, i}(z) = U_i^+(z) \prod_{j=1}^i P_j(z)^{i-j}, \quad S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}(z) = U_i^-(z) \prod_{j=1}^i P_j(z)^{i-j}, \tag{6.12}$$

where $U_j^\pm(z)$ are polynomials of degree $M_i - 1$. Assuming that the coordinates $\varphi_{i,a}$ are distinct, these polynomials are uniquely determined by their values at the $\varphi_{i,a}$. We can therefore introduce coordinates $u_{i,a}^\pm$ such that $U_i^\pm(\varphi_{i,a}) = u_{i,a} \prod_{j \neq i} (\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{i,b})$. The coordinates $u_{i,a}^\pm$ are identified with the abelian monopole coordinates at the i -th node of the quiver.

The coordinates $\varphi_{i,a}, u_{i,a}^\pm$ are not independent: from the identity

$$S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i}(z) S_{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}^{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}(z) - S_{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}^{1, \dots, i}(z) S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}(z) = S_{1, \dots, i-1}^{1, \dots, i-1}(z) S_{1, \dots, i+1}^{1, \dots, i+1}(z) \tag{6.13}$$

we find

$$Q_i(z) \tilde{Q}_i(z) - U^+(z) U^-(z) = Q_{i-1}(z) Q_{i+1}(z) P_i(z) \tag{6.14}$$

where

$$S_{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}^{1, \dots, i-1, i+1}(z) = \tilde{Q}_i(z) \prod_{j=1}^i P_j(z)^{i-j} \tag{6.15}$$

and $\tilde{Q}_i(z)$ is a monic polynomial of degree of degree $\Delta_i + M_i$ if $\Delta_i \geq -1$ and $M_i - 2$ otherwise. Evaluating the polynomial equation (6.14) at the positions $z = \varphi_{i,a}$ we recover the relation (6.3) obeyed by the coordinates $\varphi_{i,a}, u_{i,a}^+$ and $u_{i,a}^-$.

For a quiver of rank $n = 1$, as discussed in Sect. 5, this completely fixes the redundancy in $S(z)$ and the Coulomb branch chiral ring is generated by the polynomials $Q(z), U^+(z), U^-(z)$ and $\tilde{Q}(z)$ at the single node subject to the relation (6.14). However, for quivers of higher rank, there are additional generators that cannot be obtained from these polynomials. There is also further gauge redundancy. The redundancy can be systematically fixed by specifying the degrees of a set of remaining independent minors of $S(z)$. We illustrate the procedure in the case of rank 2 quivers.

6.4.2. Rank-2 quivers. For $n = 2$, we normalize the scattering matrix $S(z) \in GL(3, \mathbb{C}) / C^*$ so that $\det S(z) = P_1(z)^2 P_2(z)$. We can fully fix the gauge redundancy by parametrizing the scattering matrix as

$$S(z) = \begin{bmatrix} Q_1(z) & U_1^+(z) & U_{12}^+(z) \\ U_1^-(z) & \tilde{Q}_1(z) & \tilde{U}_2^+(z) \\ U_{12}^-(z) & \tilde{U}_2^-(z) & \tilde{Q}_{12}(z) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{6.16}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_1(z)\tilde{Q}_1(z) - U_1^+(z)U_1^-(z) &= P_1(z)Q_2(z) \\
 Q_1(z)\tilde{U}_2^+(z) - U_{12}^+(z)U_1^-(z) &= P_1(z)U_2^+(z) \\
 Q_1(z)\tilde{U}_2^-(z) - U_{12}^-(z)U_1^+(z) &= P_1(z)U_2^-(z) \\
 Q_1(z)\tilde{Q}_{12}(z) - U_{12}^+(z)U_{12}^-(z) &= P_1(z)\tilde{Q}_2(z),
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.17}$$

where, in addition to above conditions on the degrees of Q_i , U_i^\pm and \tilde{Q}_i , the polynomials $U_{12}^\pm(z)$ are required to have degree at most $M_1 - 1$.

The position of a polynomial in the scattering matrix is related to the charge of the corresponding chiral operators under the Coulomb branch isometries. The relations above suggest that $U_{12}^\pm(z)$ should be a generating function for dressed monopole operators of minimal charges $(\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at both nodes, which cannot be obtained from products of monopole operators at individual nodes.

Explicitly, plugging the roots $\varphi_{1,a}$ of $Q_1(z)$ in the second line, we find

$$U_{12}^+(\varphi_{1,a})u_{1,a}^- \prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_{1,a} - \varphi_{1,b}) = -P_1(\varphi_{1,a})U_2^+(\varphi_{1,a}) \tag{6.18}$$

i.e.

$$\frac{U_{12}^+(\varphi_{1,a})}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_{1,a} - \varphi_{1,b})} = \frac{U_2^+(\varphi_{1,a})}{Q_2(\varphi_{1,a})} u_{1,a}^+ \tag{6.19}$$

which allows us to write

$$U_{12}^+(z) = \sum_{a,a'} \frac{u_{1,a}^+ u_{2,a'}^+}{\varphi_{1,a} - \varphi_{2,a'}} \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_{1,b}). \tag{6.20}$$

This is the desired generating function. The presence of $(\varphi_{1,a} - \varphi_{2,b})^{-1}$ is a remainder of the fact that the coefficients of $U_{12}^+(z)$ must be included as new generators of the chiral ring.

Armed with an expression for $U_{12}^+(z)$ we can derive $\tilde{U}_2^+(z)$ and identify it with the generating function of monopoles of charges $(1, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the first node and $(1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the second node, dressed by the characteristic polynomial of the $U(N_1 - 2)$ scalars at the first node. The identification will hold up to possible terms with monopole charge $(1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the second node only.

We can do a similar analysis for $U_{12}^-(z)$ and $\tilde{U}_2^-(z)$. Finally, $\tilde{Q}_{12}(z)$ captures monopole operators of charges $(1, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the both nodes, dressed by the characteristic polynomial of the $U(N_1 - 2)$ scalars at the first node. The identification holds up to possible terms with monopole charge $(1, -1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the first or second node only, and operators of charge 0.

This analysis completely fixes the redundancy in the scattering matrix and provides an explicit description of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ in terms of generators and relations.

We will briefly specialize further to two simple examples that are useful for comparing the Coulomb branch to Nahm equations in Sect. 6.6.

6.4.3. *Abelian quiver.* Consider the balanced abelian quiver of rank $n = 2$, with gauge group $U(1) \times U(1)$ and one fundamental hypermultiplet at each node. In other words, $\vec{N} = \vec{M} = (1, 1)$ and $\nu = \omega_1 + \omega_2$ while $\mu = 0$. We normalize the scattering matrix so that $\det S(z) = P_1(z)^2 P_2(z) = (z - m_1)^2 (z - m_2)$, where m_i are the complex mass parameters. We shift the masses to obey $m_1 + m_2 = 0$. Gauge-fixing the scattering matrix as above, we find

$$S(z) = \gamma_1(z) \begin{bmatrix} z - \varphi_1 & u_1^+ & \frac{u_1^+ u_2^+}{\varphi_1 - \varphi_2} \\ u_1^- & z - m_1 + \varphi_1 - \varphi_2 & u_2^+ \\ \frac{u_1^- u_2^-}{\varphi_1 - \varphi_2} & u_2^- & z + \varphi_2 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{6.21}$$

The Coulomb branch is generated by the components of the scattering matrix, subject to the familiar relations

$$u_1^+ u_1^- = -(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)(\varphi_1 - m_1) \quad u_2^+ u_2^- = -(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)(\varphi_2 - m_2). \tag{6.22}$$

6.4.4. $T[U(3)]$. Now consider the balanced quiver with $\vec{N} = (1, 2)$ and $\vec{M} = (0, 3)$, i.e. $\nu = 3\omega_2$ and $\mu = 0$. The theory T_μ^ν is commonly called $T[SU(3)]$ or $T[U(3)]$. In this case we have $\det S(z) = P_1(z)^2 P_2(z) = (z - m_1)(z - m_2)(z - m_3)$, and we shift the complex masses to obey $\sum_\alpha m_\alpha = 0$. We now find

$$S(z) = \gamma_1(z) \begin{bmatrix} z - \varphi_1 & u_1^+ & \sum_{a=1}^2 \frac{u_1^+ u_{2,a}^+}{\varphi_1 - \varphi_{2,a}} \\ u_1^- & z + \varphi_1 - \varphi_{2,1} - \varphi_{2,1} & \sum_{a=1}^2 u_{2,a}^+ \\ \sum_{a=1}^2 \frac{u_1^- u_{2,a}^-}{\varphi_1 - \varphi_{2,a}} & \sum_{a=1}^2 u_{2,a}^- & z + \varphi_{2,1} + \varphi_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{6.23}$$

The Coulomb branch is generated by the coefficients of this scattering matrix subject to the relations (6.3) for the abelian coordinates.

6.5. *Slices in the affine Grassmannian.* When a quiver is good (i.e. μ is a dominant weight), the moduli space of scattering matrices obeying the boundary conditions of Sect. 6.4.1 coincides with a slice in the affine Grassmannian for $G'_\mathbb{C} = PSL(n + 1, \mathbb{C})$. Roughly speaking, the affine Grassmannian is a certain quotient of the loop group $LG'_\mathbb{C}$. It is related to monopole moduli space because a given monopole configuration in \mathbb{R}^3 defines a $G'_\mathbb{C}$ bundle on the $S^2 \simeq \mathbb{CP}^1$ surrounding the monopoles, and the transition function for this bundle on the equator of \mathbb{CP}^1 is a map $S^1 \rightarrow G'_\mathbb{C}$, i.e. an element of $LG'_\mathbb{C}$. This element of $LG'_\mathbb{C}$ is essentially our scattering matrix $S(z)$.

To see the correspondence in detail, let us formalize (and algebrize) the notion of a scattering matrix. For any algebraic group K , let $K[z]$, $K[[z]]$, and $K((z))$ denote (respectively) the groups defined over the polynomial ring $\mathbb{C}[z]$, the ring of formal Taylor series $\mathbb{C}[[z]]$, and ring of formal Laurent series $\mathbb{C}((z))$. Let $K_{(1)}[[z^{-1}]]$ denote the first congruence subgroup of $K[[z^{-1}]]$, i.e. the subgroup of elements that become the identity when $z^{-1} \rightarrow 0$. Also, for our particular group $G'_\mathbb{C}$ with fixed maximal torus \mathbb{T}' , let B^\pm and N^\pm be the upper/lower Borel and unipotent subgroups.

The scattering matrix $S(z)$, defined modulo triangular gauge transformations, is an element of the double quotient

$$\mathbb{S} := B^-[z] \backslash G'_C((z)) / B^+[z]. \tag{6.24}$$

With all masses set to zero, the boundary condition at singularities requires $S(z)$ to lie in (the closure of) the subset

$$\mathbb{S}^{-w_0\nu} := G'_C[z] z^{-w_0\nu} G'_C[z], \tag{6.25}$$

while, as long as μ is dominant, the boundary condition at infinity requires $S(z)$ to lie in the subset

$$\mathbb{S}_{-\mu} := (G'_C)_{(1)}[[z^{-1}]] z^{-\mu}. \tag{6.26}$$

Here we implicitly consider both $\mathbb{S}^{-w_0\nu}$ and $\mathbb{S}_{-\nu}$ modulo triangular gauge transformations (6.24), so that they are subsets of \mathbb{S} . Then the moduli space of scattering matrices is the intersection

$$\mathcal{M}_C \simeq \overline{\mathbb{S}^{-w_0\nu}} \cap \mathbb{S}_{-\mu} \subset \mathbb{S}. \tag{6.27}$$

As a consistency check, notice that if $\mu = \nu$ (so all gauge nodes in the quiver have rank $M_i = 0$), the intersection is trivial.

It is also useful to note that a scattering matrix written explicitly in the form $S(z) = g_1(z)z^{-\mu}$ with $g_1(z) \in (G'_C)_{(1)}[[z^{-1}]]$ is already partially gauge fixed. Acting on the left, only the identity element of $B^-[z]$ preserves this form. Acting on the right, as long as μ is dominant, the unipotent elements $N^+[z] \subset B^+[z]$ preserve this form.

We want to compare the above with the so-called “thick” affine Grassmannian

$$\text{Gr} = G'_C((z)) / G'_C[z]. \tag{6.28}$$

Following [84], we consider the intersection $\text{Gr}_{-\mu}^{-w_0\nu} = \overline{\text{Gr}^{-w_0\nu}} \cap \text{Gr}_{-\mu}$, where

$$\text{Gr}^{-w_0\nu} := G'_C[z] z^{-w_0\nu}, \quad \text{Gr}_{-\mu} = (G'_C)_{(1)}[[z^{-1}]] z^{-\mu} \tag{6.29}$$

are subsets of Gr (with an implicit quotient by $G'_C[z]$ on the right). Such slices played an important role in the geometric Satake correspondence [85–87] (which, physically, describes S-duality of loop operators in 4d super-Yang-Mills theory [34]), and were quantized in [84]. We claim that

$$\mathcal{M}_C \simeq \overline{\mathbb{S}^{-w_0\nu}} \cap \mathbb{S}_{-\mu} \simeq \text{Gr}_{-\mu}^{-w_0\nu}. \tag{6.30}$$

To see the equivalence, simply observe that an element $g(z)$ of $\text{Gr}_{-\mu}$ that is written explicitly in the form $g(z) = g_1(z)z^{-\mu}$ for $g_1(z) \in (G'_C)_{(1)}[[z^{-1}]]$ is partially gauge fixed: since μ is dominant, the subgroup of $G'_C[z]$ that preserves this form when acting on the right is $N^+[z]$. This is exactly the gauge-fixed form of the scattering matrix $S(z)$ that we found above.

6.6. *Predictions from string theory: Nahm equations.* The scattering analysis of Sect. 6.4 showed us that dressed monopole operators charged at a single node of a quiver are not sufficient to generate the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. It did suggest, as proposed in Sect. 6.3, that these operators could generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ as a Poisson algebra, and that the ring generators are in fact dressed monopole operators with fundamental charge at sequences of nodes.

We now consider a rather different description of the Coulomb branch of T_μ^ν as a moduli space of solutions to $SL(p)$ Nahm equations on an interval, where $p = \sum_{i=1}^n i N_i$ [8]. The description (using a single interval) is valid as long as the quiver is good, i.e. μ is a dominant weight. It identifies the Coulomb branch as an intersection of a nilpotent orbit and a transverse slice in the complexified Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$, and provides further evidence in support of our proposal for generators of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$.

To see how this description comes about from the brane construction, we must reformulate the data (ν, μ) of a good or balanced quiver as a pair of partitions (ρ, ρ^\vee) . It is convenient to assign a linking number r_i to each $D5$ brane and a linking number r_j^\vee to each $NS5$ brane, as described (e.g.) in [32]:

$$\begin{aligned} r_i &= \#(\text{D3 attached to the right}) - \#(\text{D3 attached to the left}) + \#(\text{NS5 on the left}) \\ r_j^\vee &= \#(\text{D3 attached to the left}) - \#(\text{D3 attached to the right}) + \#(\text{D5 on the right}). \end{aligned}$$

The dominant weight ν is recovered as follows: $(\nu, \alpha_i) = N_i$ is the number of times i appears in the list of $D5$ brane linking numbers $(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{|\nu|})$ where $|\nu| = \sum_i N_i$ is the total number of $D5$ branes. The second weight μ is recovered from the $NS5$ brane linking numbers by the formula $(\mu, \alpha_j) = r_j^\vee - r_{j+1}^\vee$. Both linking numbers obey $\sum_i r_i = \sum_j r_j^\vee = \sum_i i N_i$.

The infrared physics is independent of the positions of the 5-branes in the x^3 direction, provided additional $D3$ branes are inserted whenever a $D5$ and $NS5$ brane cross, in such a way that the linking numbers (r_i, r_j^\vee) are preserved. In particular, the $D5$ branes can be moved all the way to the left in the x^3 direction, as shown in Fig. 2 on page 717. In this configuration, we find $p = \sum_i i N_i$ $D3$ branes attached to $D5$ branes on the left and $NS5$ branes on the right. The pattern in which the $D3$ branes end on the two sides can be encoded in two partitions of p , commonly called $\rho = (r_1, \dots, r_{|\nu|})$ (for the $D5$ branes) and $\rho^\vee = (r_1^\vee, \dots, r_{n+1}^\vee)$ (for the $NS5$ branes).

The partitions ρ and ρ^\vee can also be related directly to the weights μ and ν as follows: the Young diagram for ρ^T labels the irreducible representation of $SU(n)$ with highest weight ν ; while the Young diagram for ρ^\vee is obtained by setting the Young diagram for μ atop a block of width $n + 1$ and height M_n (the rank of the last gauge node),

$$\rho^T = \nu, \quad \rho^\vee = \mu + [(n + 1) \times M_n \text{ block}]. \tag{6.31}$$

In the stretched configuration, the $D3$ branes support a 4d $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super-Yang-Mills theory with gauge group $U(p)$. The 4d theory lives on an interval, with a boundary condition on the left corresponding to a Nahm pole of type ρ^T and a boundary condition on the right corresponding to a modified Neumann boundary condition of type ρ^\vee [8, 81]. The moduli space of our 3d theory T_μ^ν can be identified as the space of supersymmetric field configurations of the 4d SYM theory that are compatible with the two boundary conditions. The result of that calculation predicts that, in the infrared, the Coulomb branch \mathcal{M}_C is the intersection of the closure of a nilpotent orbit $\overline{\mathcal{N}_{\rho^T}}$ and a transverse (e.g. Slodowy) slice S^{ρ^\vee} inside the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$,

$$\mathcal{M}_C \simeq S^{\rho^\vee} \cap \overline{\mathcal{N}_{\rho^T}}. \tag{6.32}$$

In detail, recall that any partition ρ of p labels an embedding of $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{\mathbb{C}}$ into $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$. (If $\rho = (\rho_1, \dots, \rho_d)$, then \mathfrak{sl}_2 is embedded using the direct sum of its representations of dimension ρ_i for each i .) Let e, f, h denote the standard generators of $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{\mathbb{C}}$, and $\rho(e), \rho(f), \rho(h)$ their images in $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$. The nilpotent orbit \mathcal{N}_ρ is the orbit of the element $\rho(e) \subset \mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$ under the adjoint action of $SL(p, \mathbb{C})$. A slice S^ρ transverse to this orbit can be obtained in many different ways, all symplectomorphic. One may, for example, take S^ρ to be the affine subspace $\rho(e) + \ker \text{ad}(\rho(f))$ inside $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$; this is the standard Slodowy slice, with a manifest Poisson structure [82]. In the moduli space (6.32), we are taking the intersection of the nilpotent orbit labelled by ρ^T with the slice transverse to a (necessarily smaller) nilpotent orbit labelled by ρ^\vee . For example, the setup of Fig. 2 leads to

$$S^{\rho^\vee} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ * & * & * & * & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & 0 \\ * & * & * & * & \alpha \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{N}_{\rho^T} = \mathcal{N}_v = g \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} g^{-1} \tag{6.33}$$

$(g \in SL(5, \mathbb{C}))$.

Strictly speaking, the description (6.32) of \mathcal{M}_C holds only when mass parameters of T_μ^\vee are turned off. Indeed, the nilpotent orbits \mathcal{N}_{ρ^\vee} are singular. In the presence of complex masses, the nilpotent orbits are deformed to orbits of semisimple elements, with eigenvalues specified by the masses. In the presence of real masses, the orbits are resolved via the Springer resolution.

The 3d mirrors of type-A quiver gauge theories can quickly be read off from a brane construction [3, 88]. Mirror symmetry descends from S-duality of type IIB string theory, which exchanges D5 and NS5 branes while preserving D3 branes. Therefore, mirror symmetry simply exchanges the partitions $\rho \leftrightarrow \rho^\vee$.

We now study in detail several families of theories for which the partition $\rho^\vee = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ is trivial, along with several more general examples.

6.6.1. General structure for trivial ρ^\vee : theories T^ρ . The balanced quivers with $M_n = 1$ (meaning that $\mu = 0$ and $p = \sum_i i N_i = n + 1$, or equivalently that $v = \sum_i M_i \alpha_i$ has a single copy of α_n) form an especially nice class of examples. In this case, in the notation of Sect. 6.6, the partition ρ^\vee just equals $(1, 1, \dots, 1)$, and the transverse slice S^{ρ^\vee} is all of $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$. The Coulomb becomes the entire nilpotent orbit

$$\mathcal{M}_C \simeq \overline{\mathcal{N}_v}, \tag{6.34}$$

or its resolution in the presence of mass parameters. Theories of this type were called $T^\rho[U(n+1)]$ in [8]. Here we will argue that for these theories the proposal of Sect. 6.3 is correct: namely, the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated as a Poisson algebra by monopoles operators with fundamental charge at single nodes, and is generated as a ring by monopole operators with fundamental charge at sequences of neighboring nodes.

Since the $\mu = 0$, the symmetry acting on the Coulomb branch of T^ρ via hyperkähler isometries is the fully enhanced group $G_C = SU(n+1)$. The action has a complex moment map $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in (\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}})^* \simeq \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$, where we use the Cartan–Killing form to identify the Lie algebra with its dual. The moment map is a traceless $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ matrix, whose entries are elements of the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. Moreover, in the absence of masses, the

moment map is nilpotent, and parameterizes the entire orbit (6.34) [8] (With masses turned on, the moment map instead parametrizes the semisimple deformation of (6.34)). Thus, the entries of the moment map actually *generate* the entire ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$. We just need to understand what these entries are.

Let $E_{ij} \in \mathfrak{gl}_{n+1}$ be the matrix with entry +1 in the i -th row and j -th column, and zero elsewhere. Let $H_i := E_{i,i} - E_{i+1,i+1}$, $E_i = E_{i,i+1}$, and $F_i := E_{i+1,i}$ be the standard Chevalley-Serre generators of \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} . By definition, the functions

$$h_i = \text{Tr}(\boldsymbol{\mu} H_i), \quad e_i = \text{Tr}(\boldsymbol{\mu} E_i), \quad f_i = \text{Tr}(\boldsymbol{\mu} F_i) \quad (1 \leq i \leq N) \quad (6.35)$$

must generate the (complexified) infinitesimal action of the symmetry group $SU(n+1)$ on the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, acting via the Poisson bracket. In particular, they themselves must obey

$$\begin{aligned} \{h_i, e_j\} &= \kappa_{ij} e_j \\ \{h_i, f_j\} &= -\kappa_{ij} f_j \\ \{e_i, f_j\} &= \delta_{ij} h_i \\ \text{ad}(e_i)^{1-\kappa_{ij}} e_j &= 0 \quad i \neq j \\ \text{ad}(f_i)^{1-\kappa_{ij}} f_j &= 0 \quad i \neq j \end{aligned} \quad (6.36)$$

where κ is the Cartan matrix and $\text{ad}(x)y := \{x, y\}$.

We propose, in the notation of Sect. 6.2, that

$$h_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \kappa_{ij} \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} \varphi_{j,a} - \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_i} m_{i,\alpha}, \quad e_i = \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} u_{i,a}^+, \quad f_i = \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} u_{i,a}^-. \quad (6.37)$$

In other words, the e_i and f_i are nonabelian monopole operators labelled by the fundamental cocharacters $A = (\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at the i -th node of the quiver. It follows from (6.4) that the relations (6.36) hold.

The h_i determine the diagonal components of the moment map $\boldsymbol{\mu}$, while the e_i, f_i determine the components directly above and below the diagonal. However, since $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ itself transforms in the adjoint representation of the symmetry algebra $\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$, the remaining entries of $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ can all be expressed as successive Poisson brackets of the e_i and f_i . This demonstrates that monopole operators with fundamental charge at single nodes are sufficient to generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ as a Poisson algebra. Moreover, the successive Poisson brackets are precisely the monopole operators with a sum of charges at sequences of neighboring nodes, which altogether generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ as a ring. These are all the Coulomb branch operators of R-charge 2.

To describe $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ more explicitly, let us define

$$\varphi_i := \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} \varphi_{i,a}, \quad m_i := \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_i} m_{i,\alpha}, \quad (\kappa^{-1} m)_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (\kappa^{-1})_{ij} m_j, \quad (6.38)$$

and denote the (undecorated) nonabelian monopole operators with a sum of charges $(\pm 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ at a set of consecutive nodes $\{i, i+1, \dots, i+k\}$ as

$$V_{[i:i+k]}^\pm := \sum_{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k} \frac{u_{i, a_0}^\pm u_{i+1, a_1}^\pm \cdots u_{i+k, a_k}^\pm}{(\varphi_{i, a_0} - \varphi_{i+1, a_1})(\varphi_{i+1, a_1} - \varphi_{i+2, a_2}) \cdots (\varphi_{i+k-1, a_{k-1}} - \varphi_{i+k, a_k})} \tag{6.39}$$

Thus, for example, $V_{[i:i]}^+ = \sum_a u_{i,a}^+ = e_i$ and $V_{[i:i]}^- = f_i$. Observe that

$$\{V_{[i,i+k]}^\pm, V_{[i+k',i+k]}^\pm\} = \mp V_{[i:i+k]}^\pm, \tag{6.40}$$

and in particular that all the $V_{[i:i+k]}^\pm$ are generated by taking successive Poisson brackets of the e_i or f_i . Then the components of the moment map are

$$\mu^i_j = \begin{cases} \varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1} + (\kappa^{-1}m)_i - (\kappa^{-1}m)_{i-1} & i = j \\ (-1)^{i-j-1} V_{[i:j-1]}^- & i < j \\ (-1)^{i-j-1} V_{[j:i-1]}^+ & i > j. \end{cases} \tag{6.41}$$

For example, when $n = 3$, the $\mathfrak{sl}_3^{\mathbb{C}}$ -valued moment map is

$$\mu = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + \frac{1}{3}(2m_1 + m_2) & V_{[1:1]}^- & -V_{[1:2]}^- \\ V_{[1:1]}^+ & \varphi_2 - \varphi_1 + \frac{1}{3}(m_2 - m_1) & V_{[2:2]}^- \\ -V_{[1:2]}^+ & V_{[2:2]}^+ & -\varphi_2 - \frac{1}{3}(m_1 + 2m_2) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.42}$$

6.6.2. Trivial ρ^\vee : abelian quiver. An extreme case of a quiver with trivial ρ^\vee is the abelian quiver of rank n , with gauge group $G = U(1)^n$ and, necessarily, a single hypermultiplet at the initial and final node (Fig. 3). Although this quiver falls under the analysis of Sect. 3, we revisit it here with a focus on the IR symmetry enhancement. The quiver is balanced and the Coulomb branch symmetry is enhanced to $G_C = SU(n + 1)$. This is a theory of type $T^\rho[U(n + 1)]$ with partition $\rho^T = \nu = (2, 1, \dots, 1)$ (of length n).

The abelian coordinates are φ_i and u_i^\pm for $i = 1, \dots, n$, with Poisson brackets

$$\begin{aligned} \{\varphi_i, u_i^\pm\} &= \pm u_i^\pm \\ \{u_i^+, u_i^-\} &= 2\varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1} - \varphi_{i+1} \\ \{u_i^\pm, u_j^\pm\} &= \mp \frac{u_i^\pm u_j^\pm}{\varphi_i - \varphi_j} \quad |i - j| = 1, \end{aligned} \tag{6.43}$$

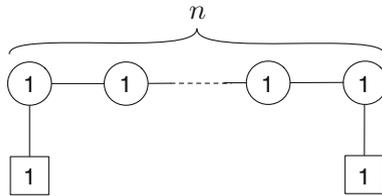


Fig. 3. The balanced abelian quiver, with $\nu = (2, 1, \dots, 1)$ and $\mu = 0$

and relations

$$u_i^+ u_i^- = -(\varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1})(\varphi_i - \varphi_{i+1}), \tag{6.44}$$

where we have included the masses of the hypermultiplets at the first and last node as $\varphi_0 := m_1$ and $\varphi_{i+1} = m_n$. The generators of the $\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$ symmetry algebra are $h_i = 2\varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1} - \varphi_{i+1}$, $e_i = u_i^+$, and $f_j := u_j^-$, and more generally the $\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$ -values moment map has entries

$$\mu^i_j = \begin{cases} \varphi_1 - \frac{1}{n+1}(nm_1 + m_n) & i = j = 1 \\ \varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1} + \frac{1}{n+1}(m_1 - m_n) & 1 < i = j < n + 1 \\ -\varphi_i + \frac{1}{n+1}(m_1 + nm_n) & i = j = n + 1 \\ (-1)^{i-j+1} \frac{u_i^- u_{i+1}^- \cdots u_{j-1}^-}{(\varphi_i - \varphi_{i+1}) \cdots (\varphi_{j-2} - \varphi_{j-1})} & i < j \\ (-1)^{i-j+1} \frac{u_j^+ u_{j+1}^+ \cdots u_{i-1}^+}{(\varphi_j - \varphi_{j+1}) \cdots (\varphi_{i-2} - \varphi_{i-1})} & j < i. \end{cases} \tag{6.45}$$

Subject to (6.44), this moment map parametrizes a nilpotent orbit (or its semisimple deformation) of type $\nu = (2, 1, \dots, 1)$. It is the minimal nontrivial nilpotent orbit. Direct calculation shows that the minimal and characteristic polynomials of μ are

$$(\mu - \frac{1}{n+1}(m_1 - m_n))(\mu + \frac{n}{n+1}(m_1 - m_n)) = 0, \tag{6.46}$$

$$\det(\mu - x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} (x - \frac{1}{n+1}(m_1 - m_n))^n (x + \frac{n}{n+1}(m_1 - m_n)). \tag{6.47}$$

as expected.

The mirror of this theory is SQED: $U(1)$ gauge theory with $n + 1$ hypermultiplets. The Higgs branch moment map of the mirror theory has components $X_i Y_j - \frac{1}{N} \delta_{ij} \sum_n X_n Y_n$. Equating this with the Coulomb branch moment map (6.45) and identifying the mirror FI parameter with $m_1 - m_n$, we have constructed the mirror map explicitly for this mirror pair.

6.6.3. *Trivial ρ^\vee : $T[U(n + 1)]$.* At the other extreme is the theory $T[U(n + 1)]$, which is $T^\rho[U(n + 1)]$ with $\rho^T = \nu = (n + 1)$, coming from the triangular quiver of Fig. 4. Its Coulomb branch is a deformation of the maximal nilpotent orbit in $\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}^{\mathbb{C}}$. There are $n + 1$ mass parameters $m_\alpha := m_{1,\alpha}$ for the hypermultiplets at the first node of the quiver, defined up to an overall shift, which parameterize the eigenvalues of the deformed orbit.

The moment map μ takes the general form (6.41). Its diagonal components are

$$\mu^i_i = \varphi_i - \varphi_{i-1} + \frac{1}{n+1}(1 - (n + 1)\delta_{i,1}) \sum_\alpha m_\alpha, \tag{6.48}$$

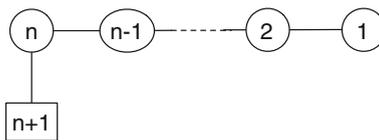


Fig. 4. The $T[U(n + 1)]$ quiver, with $\nu = (n + 1)$ and $\mu = 0$

and its off-diagonal components are nonabelian monopole operators charged at consecutive nodes, as in (6.40). The characteristic and minimal polynomials are identical. Letting $M = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n+1} m_{\alpha}$, we have

$$\prod_{\alpha=1}^{n+1} \left(\boldsymbol{\mu} + m_{\alpha} - \frac{1}{n+1} M \right) = 0. \tag{6.49}$$

(We have verified numerically that the abelianized chiral ring relations imply (6.49) for $n \leq 8$.)

The statement that the full chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated by the entries of the moment map is a rather nontrivial statement for nonabelian quivers. Indeed, even for a single node, it is not obvious how all the coefficients of the polynomials $Q_i(z)$, $U_i^{\pm}(z)$ are obtained from $\boldsymbol{\mu}$. We can illustrate how this works in the simple example of $T[U(3)]$ theory. With masses turned off, the moment map takes the form

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_{1,1} + \varphi_{1,2} & u_{1,1}^- + u_{1,2}^- & -\frac{u_{1,1}^- u_{1,2}^-}{\varphi_{1,1} - \varphi_2} - \frac{u_{1,2}^- u_2^-}{\varphi_{1,2} - \varphi_2} \\ u_{1,1}^+ + u_{1,2}^+ & -\varphi_{1,1} - \varphi_{1,2} + \varphi_2 & u_2^- \\ -\frac{u_{1,1}^+ u_2^+}{\varphi_{1,1} - \varphi_2} - \frac{u_{1,2}^+ u_2^+}{\varphi_{1,2} - \varphi_2} & u_2^+ & -\varphi_2 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{6.50}$$

and contains the leading coefficients of $Q_1(z)$ and $U_1^{\pm}(z)$. The subleading coefficient of $Q_1(z)$ is

$$-\boldsymbol{\mu}_3^2 \boldsymbol{\mu}_2^3 - (\boldsymbol{\mu}_3^3)^2 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_3^3 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 = \varphi_{1,1} \varphi_{1,2}. \tag{6.51}$$

The subleading coefficient of $U_1^+(z)$, a dressed monopole operator, is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_3^2 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^3 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_3^3 \boldsymbol{\mu}_2^2 = u_{1,1}^+ \varphi_{1,2} + u_{1,2}^+ \varphi_{1,1}. \tag{6.52}$$

6.6.4. Intermediate orbits. The first examples of orbits that are neither minimal nor maximal occur for quivers of rank $n = 3$, i.e. orbits in $\mathfrak{sl}_4^{\mathbb{C}}$. The two relevant quivers are shown in Fig. 5.

On the left we expect an orbit of type $\nu = (2, 2)$. Letting $m_{2,1}$ and $m_{2,2}$ denote the mass parameters at the middle node, and using the shift symmetry to set $m_{2,1} + m_{2,2} = 0$, we indeed find that the moment map $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ constructed as in (6.41) satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\boldsymbol{\mu} - x) &= (x + m_{2,1})^2 (x + m_{2,2})^2, \\ (\boldsymbol{\mu} + m_{2,1})(\boldsymbol{\mu} + m_{2,2}) &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{6.53}$$



Fig. 5. Quivers whose Coulomb branches are intermediate nilpotent orbits

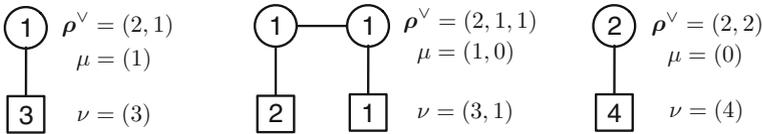


Fig. 6. Three quivers for which \mathcal{M}_C involves a nontrivial slice \mathcal{S}^{ρ^\vee}

On the right, we expect a slightly larger orbit of type $\nu = (3, 1)$. Again, we use the shift symmetry to set the sum of masses $m_{1,1} + m_{1,2} + m_2 = 0$. We find that the moment map satisfies

$$\det(\mu - x) = (x + \frac{3}{4}m_2)^2(x + m_{1,1} - \frac{1}{4}m_2)(x + m_{1,2} - \frac{1}{4}m_2), \tag{6.54}$$

$$(\mu + \frac{3}{4}m_2)(\mu + m_{1,1} - \frac{1}{4}m_2)(\mu + m_{1,2} - \frac{1}{4}m_2) = 0.$$

6.6.5. *General slices and nilpotent orbits.* Finally, we consider the simplest examples of quivers (balanced and unbalanced) for which ρ^\vee is nontrivial, and whose Coulomb branches are described as the intersection of a nontrivial slice (i.e. not all of $\mathfrak{sl}_p^{\mathbb{C}}$) with some nilpotent orbit. One point that we wish to illustrate is that the entries of the moment map for the Coulomb-branch flavor symmetry G_C are *not* usually enough to generate the chiral ring. This is particularly obvious for unbalanced quivers with $G_C \simeq U(1)^n$, since the moment map in this case is much too small; but even for balanced quivers with $\rho^\vee \neq (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ additional operators are needed. We do verify in these examples that the additional operators are still of the form proposed in Sect. 6.3.

The simplest example is the quiver on the left of Fig. 6, i.e. SQED with three hypermultiplets. It is a good but unbalanced quiver, with $\rho^T = \nu = (3)$, $\mu = (1)$, and $\rho^\vee = (2, 1)$. Thus, \mathcal{M}_C should be the intersection of a nontrivial slice of type $(2, 1)$ and the maximal nilpotent orbit in $\mathfrak{sl}_3^{\mathbb{C}}$. We find that the slice is parametrized as

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi}{2} & 0 & 1 \\ u^+ & \varphi & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{4}\varphi^2 + m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 & -u^- & \frac{\varphi}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{6.55}$$

where u^\pm and φ are the known generators of the abelian chiral ring. Subject to the standard relations $u^+u^- = -(\varphi - m_1)(\varphi - m_2)(\varphi - m_3)$ and $m_1 + m_2 + m_3 = 0$, the matrix σ obeys

$$(\sigma + m_1)(\sigma + m_2)(\sigma + m_3) = 0. \tag{6.56}$$

When the masses are zero, it lies in the maximal nilpotent orbit.

The quiver in the center of Fig. 6 is another abelian theory, with gauge group $U(1) \times U(1)$. This time, we expect that \mathcal{M}_C is the intersection of a slice labelled by $\rho^\vee = (2, 1, 1)$ with the sub-maximal nilpotent orbit $\rho^T = \nu = (3, 1)$. The chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ is generated as a Poisson algebra by φ_1, φ_2 and u_1^\pm, u_2^\pm subject to $u_1^+u_1^- = -(\varphi - m_{1,1})(\varphi - m_{1,2})(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)$ and $u_2^+u_2^- = -(\varphi_2 - m_2)(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)$. To generate $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ as a ring, we need an additional pair of monopole operators $u_3^\pm := \pm\{u_1^\pm, u_2^\pm\} = (u_1^\pm u_2^\pm)/(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)$. All these operators fit together into the slice

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\varphi_1}{2} + \frac{m_2}{4} & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -u_3^+ & -\varphi_2 + \frac{m_2}{4} & u_2^+ & 0 \\ u_1^+ & u_2^- & -\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - \frac{3m_2}{4} & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{4}\varphi_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}(m_{1,1}^2 + m_{1,2}^2 + m_2^2) & u_3^- & -u_1^- & \frac{\varphi_1}{2} + \frac{m_2}{4} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.57}$$

Having shifted the masses so that $m_{1,1} + m_{1,2} + m_2 = 0$, this matrix obeys

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\sigma - x) &= \frac{1}{4}(x + \frac{3}{4}m_2)^2(x + m_{1,1} - \frac{1}{4}m_2)(x + m_{1,2} - \frac{1}{4}m_2), \\ (\sigma + \frac{3}{4}m_2)(\sigma + m_{1,1} - \frac{1}{4}m_2)(\sigma + m_{1,2} - \frac{1}{4}m_2) &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{6.58}$$

as appropriate for a deformation of the nilpotent orbit of type $(3, 1)$. Note that, since this quiver is partially balanced, the gauge symmetry is partially enhanced to $G_C = U(1) \times SU(2)$. The moment map for the $SU(2)$ part is sitting in the middle 2×2 block of σ .

Finally, the nonabelian quiver on the right of Fig. 6 is fully balanced, so $G_C = SU(2)$; however, since $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_C = 4$, the moment map is not sufficient to parametrize the Coulomb branch. Indeed, \mathcal{M}_C is the intersection of a nontrivial slice of type $\rho^\vee = (2, 2)$ with the maximal nilpotent orbit ($\nu = (4)$) inside $\mathfrak{sl}_4^{\mathbb{C}}$.²⁶

Since the theory in question is just $U(2)$ SQCD with two fundamental hypermultiplets, we already know from the scattering theory of Sect. 5 how to generate its Coulomb branch: the generators are the operators

$$V^\pm = u_1^+ + u_2^+, \quad W^\pm = u_1^+ \varphi_2 + u_2^+ \varphi_1, \quad \Phi_1 = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2, \quad \Phi_2 = \varphi_1 \varphi_2, \tag{6.59}$$

which appear as coefficients of the polynomials $Q(z) = z^2 - \Phi_1 z + \Phi_2$ and $U^\pm(z) = V^\pm z - W^\pm$, and satisfy $Q(z)\tilde{Q}(z) - U^+(z)U^-(z) = z^4$, or alternatively the abelianized relations $u_a^+ u_a^- = -\varphi_a^4 / (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)^2$. (Here we will set all masses to zero for simplicity.) The auxiliary polynomial $\tilde{Q}(z) = z^2 + \Phi_1 z + V_{(1,-1)}$, contains the monopole operator with adjoint cocharacter $V_{(1,-1)} = V^+ V^- + \Phi_1^2 - \Phi_2$. All these operators fit together in the slice (in slightly nonstandard form)

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1 & V^+ & 1 & 0 \\ U^- & -\Phi_1 & 0 & 1 \\ -V_{(1,-1)} & W^+ & 0 & 0 \\ W^- & -\Phi_2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{6.60}$$

which is nilpotent as desired: the minimal polynomial is $\sigma^4 = 0$. Note that the $G_C = SU(2)$ moment map sits in the upper 2×2 block.

6.7. General Nahm transform. In the previous section, we matched elements of transverse slices and Coulomb-branch operators by hand. There is actually a general strategy one can employ to do so, building on the identification of the Coulomb branch as a

²⁶ The Coulomb branch of this theory was studied in great detail using mirror symmetry in [89].

moduli space of monopoles: we can simply do a Nahm transform of the holomorphic data.²⁷

We first illustrate this for a single-node quiver ($M_1 = N_c, N_1 = N_f$), and then explain the general process.

As the determinant of the rescaled scattering matrix $S(z)$ equals $P(z)$, $S(m_a)$ must have a null vector. This idea can be promoted to a statement about polynomial matrices: there must be a $2 \times N_f$ matrix $M(z)$ of polynomials of degree up to $N_f - 1$, such that

$$S(z)M(z) = 0 \pmod{P(z)}. \tag{6.61}$$

If the masses m_a are distinct, we can determine $M(z)$ by, say, the constraint that

$$S(m_a)M(m_a) = 0. \tag{6.62}$$

Thus $M(m_a)$ decomposes as the outer product of the null vector of $S(m_a)$ and an arbitrary vector with N_f components. Given any choice of N_f linearly independent such vectors, we can reconstruct $M(z)$ from the N_f values $M(m_a)$.

For example, we could set

$$M(z) = \sum_a \begin{pmatrix} -U^+(m_a) \\ Q(m_a) \end{pmatrix} \otimes w_a \prod_{b \neq a} (z - m_b) \tag{6.63}$$

for a basis of vectors w_a in \mathbb{C}^{N_f} . Without loss of generality we can take $w_a = (1, m_a, m_a^2, \dots)$ so that

$$M(z) = \begin{pmatrix} -U^+(z) & -zU^+(z) & -z^2U^+(z) & \cdots \\ Q(z) & zQ(z) & z^2Q(z) & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \pmod{P(z)}. \tag{6.64}$$

This expression remains valid for general values of the masses and we can multiply it by some $GL(N_f)$ matrix to get a general solution.

We can write the relation between $S(z)$ and $M(z)$ more explicitly as

$$S(z)M(z) = P(z)\tilde{M}(z) \tag{6.65}$$

in order to define a second $2 \times N_f$ matrix $\tilde{M}(z)$.

As $\tilde{M}(z)$ has precisely N_f^2 coefficients, it seems reasonable to use our $GL(N_f)$ gauge freedom to fix it to a given form. For example,

$$\tilde{M}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z & \cdots & z^{N_c-1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & z & \cdots & z^{N_f-N_c-1} \end{pmatrix} \tag{6.66}$$

We can do so, say, by the choice

$$M(z) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{Q}(z) & z\tilde{Q}(z) & \cdots & z^{N_c-1}\tilde{Q}(z) & -U^+(z) & -zU^+(z) & \cdots & z^{N_f-N_c-1}U^+(z) \\ -U^-(z) & -zU^-(z) & \cdots & -z^{N_c-1}U^-(z) & Q(z) & zQ(z) & \cdots & z^{N_f-N_c-1}Q(z) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.67}$$

²⁷ This is a holomorphic version of the Nahm transform that the one of the authors learnt from a beautiful paper he can no longer find. We would be delighted if the authors of this reference could make themselves known to us.

The matrix $zM(z) \bmod P(z)$ also satisfies the same linear equations as $M(z)$. Thus it should be linearly related to $M(z)$:

$$zM(z) = M(z)\sigma \bmod P(z) \tag{6.68}$$

for some $N_f \times N_f$ constant matrix σ . If we write

$$zM(z) = M(z)\sigma + P(z)\tau \tag{6.69}$$

then we also find

$$z\tilde{M}(z) = \tilde{M}(z)\sigma + S(z)\tau. \tag{6.70}$$

With the gauge fixing above for $\tilde{M}(z)$ we find

$$\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.71}$$

Expanding in powers of z we have

$$\sigma_i^j = \begin{cases} \delta_{i+1,j} + Q^{(i)}\delta_{N,j} + U_+^{(i)}\delta_{N_f,j} & i < N \\ \delta_{i+1,j} + U_-^{(i-N)}\delta_{N,j} + \tilde{Q}^{(i-N)}\delta_{N_f,j} & i \geq N, \end{cases} \tag{6.72}$$

where the upper indices in parenthesis indicate the coefficients of the polynomials in the scattering matrix. This is a slice transverse to the nilpotent orbit with Jordan blocks of size N and $N_f - N$, though not presented quite in the standard form.

For distinct m_a , it is obvious that $m_a - \sigma$ has a left null vector w_a , and thus σ has eigenvalues m_a , as desired. If $P(z)$ has a root of degree k at some $z = m$, we can expand $M(z)$ in powers of $(z - m)$ to find the generators of a size k Jordan block for σ . Thus σ belongs to the correct orbit.

The extension to a general good linear quiver is rather straightforward. We can first rescale the scattering matrix $S(z) \in PGL(n + 1, \mathbb{C})$ by an appropriate power of the $P_i(z)$ to make it a polynomial matrix with²⁸

$$\det S(z) = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i(z)^{n+1-i} \tag{6.73}$$

and denote as d_i the degrees of the diagonal elements of $S(z)$.

Then we can write an equation

$$S(z)M(z) = \det S(z)\tilde{M}(z) \tag{6.74}$$

where the degree of $M(z)$ is $p - 1$ while the degree of the i -th row of $\tilde{M}(z)$ is $d_i - 1$.

We can gauge fix the $GL(p)$ ambiguity by fixing $\tilde{M}(z)$ completely, with the i -th row non-zero only between the $(1 + \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} d_j)$ -th and the $(\sum_{j=1}^i d_j)$ -th locations, with increasing powers of z from 1 to z^{d_i-1} . Then $M(z)$ can be found simply by multiplying $\tilde{M}(z)$ by the matrix of minors of $S(z)$, i.e. the rescaled scattering matrix $\gamma_1(z)S(z)$.

We can then define σ by

$$zM(z) = M(z)\sigma + \det S(z)\tau \tag{6.75}$$

²⁸ For the most direct comparison with Sect. 6.6, one should either take the inverse of the scattering matrix $S(z)^{-1}$, normalized such that $\det S(z)^{-1} = \prod_i P_i(z)^i$; or equivalently act everywhere with the Weyl reflection $-w_0$. Here we follow notation from Sect. 6.4.

and thus

$$z\widetilde{M}(z) = \widetilde{M}(z)\sigma + S(z)\tau \tag{6.76}$$

After gauge-fixing $\widetilde{M}(z)$ we find a simple τ , with a single element 1 at the $(\sum_{j=1}^i d_j)$ -th location of the i -th row. Thus σ takes again the form of a raising operator with Jordan blocks of size d_i , plus a transverse contribution controlled by τ and the coefficients of $S(z)$. In this manner, we can reproduce our previous examples.

6.8. Quantization and Yangians. We have seen that in many cases it is much easier to generate the chiral ring $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$ as a Poisson algebra rather than a ring. For example, for balanced quivers with trivial ρ^\vee (Sect. 6.6.1) the Poisson algebra is simply generated by h_i, e_i and f_i for $1 \leq i \leq n$. In this section we present generators of the Poisson algebra for a general good quiver, and show how its quantization produces a central quotient of a (shifted) Yangian for \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} . We follow the mathematical work [84], which studied the Poisson structure and quantization of slices in the affine Grassmannian. (We identified such slices with \mathcal{M}_C for a good quiver in Sect. 6.5).

6.8.1. Poisson algebra revisited. We revisit the Poisson algebra of a generic good quiver, describing its generators and relations in a completely uniform way—at the cost of working with infinitely many generators.

Let us first focus on balanced quivers. We can introduce the generating functions

$$H_i(z) = P_i(z) \prod_j Q_j(z)^{-\kappa_{ij}} \quad E(z) = \frac{U_i^+(z)}{Q_i(z)} \quad F(z) = \frac{U_i^-(z)}{Q_i(z)}, \tag{6.77}$$

which are to be thought of as formal power series in z^{-1} . At leading order they reproduce the generators h_i, e_i and f_i defined in (6.37). The subleading terms in $H_i(z)$ contain polynomials $p_n(\varphi_i)$ with $n = (1, 1, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$. The subleading terms in $E_i(z)$ and $F_i(z)$ contain monopoles operators of fundamental magnetic weight at the i -th node, dressed with $\text{Tr}(\varphi^k)$.

As formal power series in z^{-1} and w^{-1} , the Poisson brackets of these generating functions take the form

$$\begin{aligned} \{H_i(z), E_j(w)\} &= -\kappa_{ij} H_i(z) \frac{E_j(z) - E_j(w)}{z - w} \\ \{H_i(z), F_j(w)\} &= \kappa_{ij} H_i(z) \frac{F_j(z) - F_j(w)}{z - w} \\ \{E_i(z), F_j(w)\} &= -\delta_{ij} \frac{H_i(z) - H_i(w)}{z - w}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.78}$$

where κ_{ij} is the Cartan matrix, together with a multitude of Serre-like relations discussed in [84].

A similar presentation of the Poisson algebra for a generic good quiver can be made. We can introduce the generating functions

$$H_i(z) = z^{-\Delta_i} P_i(z) \prod_{j=1}^r Q_j(z)^{-\kappa_{ij}} \quad E(z) = \frac{U_i^-(z)}{Q_i(z)} \quad F(z) = \frac{U_i^+(z)}{Q_i(z)} \tag{6.79}$$

where the additional factor of $z^{-\Delta_i}$ compared to equation (6.77) ensures that the first generating function has an expansion of the form $H_i(z) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(z^{-1})$.

The Poisson brackets appearing in the first two lines of equations (6.78) are unchanged for a generic good quiver. However, in order to express the Poisson bracket $\{E_i(z), F_j(w)\}$ cleanly, one should introduce a shifted generator $J_i(z)$ defined as follows. If the expansion of $H_i(z)$ takes the form

$$H_i(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H_i^{(n)} z^{-n} \tag{6.80}$$

then we define

$$J_i(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H_i^{(n+\Delta_i)} z^{-n}. \tag{6.81}$$

The Poisson brackets can then be expressed

$$\begin{aligned} \{H_i(z), E_j(w)\} &= -\kappa_{ij} H_i(z) \frac{E_j(z) - E_j(w)}{z - w} \\ \{H_i(z), F_j(w)\} &= \kappa_{ij} H_i(z) \frac{F_j(z) - F_j(w)}{z - w} \\ \{E_i(z), F_j(w)\} &= -\delta_{ij} \frac{J_i(z) - J_i(w)}{z - w}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.82}$$

6.8.2. Quantization. In the presence of an Omega background, the generators of the abelianized chiral ring obey (we omit ‘hats’ for clarity)

$$\begin{aligned} [\varphi_{i,a}, \varphi_{i,b}] &= 0 \\ [\varphi_{i,b}, u_{i,a}^{\pm}] &= \pm \epsilon \delta_{ab} u_{i,a}^{\pm} \\ u_{i,a}^+ u_{i,a}^- &= -\frac{P_i(\varphi_{i,a} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i-1}(\varphi_{i,a} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i+1}(\varphi_{i,a} - \frac{\epsilon}{2})}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} \\ u_{i,a}^- u_{i,a}^+ &= -\frac{P_i(\varphi_{i,a} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i-1}(\varphi_{i,a} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i+1}(\varphi_{i,a} + \frac{\epsilon}{2})}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{i,b})(\varphi_{i,a} - \varphi_{i,b} + \epsilon)}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.83}$$

Consider again a balanced quiver of rank n . We again define generators h_i, e_i and f_i (with $i = 1, \dots, n$) as in equation (6.37). It is then straightforward to check as a consequence of the relations (6.83) that

$$\begin{aligned} [h_i, e_j] &= \epsilon \kappa_{ij} e_j \\ [h_i, f_j] &= -\epsilon \kappa_{ij} f_j \\ [e_i, f_j] &= \epsilon \delta_{ij} h_i \\ \text{ad}(e_i)^{1-\kappa_{ij}} e_j &= 0 \quad i \neq j \\ \text{ad}(f_i)^{1-\kappa_{ij}} f_j &= 0 \quad i \neq j \end{aligned} \tag{6.84}$$

where now $\text{ad}(x)y = [x, y]$. These are the defining equations of \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} in the Chevalley-Serre basis. The algebra of Coulomb branch operators in the Omega background provides a representation of the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1})$.

To include dressed monopole operators, we will introduce the generating functions

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_i(z) &= P_i(z) \frac{Q_{i-1}(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i-1}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2})}{Q_i(z) Q_i(z + \epsilon)} \\
 E(z) &= \frac{1}{Q_i(z)} U_i^-(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} \frac{1}{z - \varphi_{i,a}} u_{i,a}^- \\
 F(z) &= U_i^+(z) \frac{1}{Q_i(z)} = \sum_{a=1}^{M_i} \frac{1}{z - \varphi_{i,a} + \epsilon} u_{i,a}^+
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.85}$$

deforming those defined in (6.77). In particular, we must now pay careful attention to the ordering of the operators in the definitions of the generating functions $E(z)$ and $F(z)$. We have checked by expanding in z^{-1} and w^{-1} that the commutation relations of these generators are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 [H_i(z), E_j(w)] &= -\frac{\epsilon}{2} \kappa_{ij} \frac{[H_i(z), E_j(z) - E_j(w)]_+}{z - w} \\
 [H_i(z), F_j(w)] &= -\frac{\epsilon}{2} \kappa_{ij} \frac{[H_i(z), F_j(z) - F_j(w)]_+}{z - w} \\
 [E_i(z), F_j(w)] &= -\epsilon \delta_{ij} \frac{H_i(z) - H_i(w)}{z - w}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.86}$$

together with Serre-like relations, where $[x, y]_+ := xy + yx$ is defined as the anti-commutator.

The commutation relations in (6.86) are those of the Yangian $Y(\mathfrak{sl}_{n+1})$. The representation of these commutation relations found by quantizing a moduli space of monopoles was introduced in [83], where a proof of (6.86) can be found. As pointed out in [84], this is in fact a representation of a central quotient of the Yangian labelled by the weight ν of a balanced quiver.

For a generic good quivers, we define

$$H_i(z) = z^{-\Delta_i} P(z) \frac{Q_{i-1}(z - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) Q_{i-1}(z + \frac{\epsilon}{2})}{Q_i(z) Q_i(z + \epsilon)} \tag{6.87}$$

with $E_i(z)$ and $F_i(u)$ defined as in equation (6.85). To express the commutators cleanly, one must again define a shifted generator $J_i(z)$ as defined in equations (6.80) and (6.81). Expanding in z^{-1} and w^{-1} one checks order by order that

$$\begin{aligned}
 [H_i(z), E_j(w)] &= -\frac{\epsilon}{2} \kappa_{ij} \frac{[H_i(z), E_j(z) - E_j(w)]_+}{z - w} \\
 [H_i(z), F_j(w)] &= -\frac{\epsilon}{2} \kappa_{ij} \frac{[H_i(z), F_j(z) - F_j(w)]_+}{z - w} \\
 [E_i(z), F_j(w)] &= -\epsilon \delta_{ij} \frac{J_i(z) - J_i(w)}{z - w}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.88}$$

A proof of these commutation relations can be found in [84], where it is also explained that they coincide with a central quotient of a ‘shifted’ Yangian of \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} (where the shifting is labelled by the non-zero weight μ), extending the constructions of [83].²⁹

²⁹ Shifted Yangians were first introduced and studied in [90,91]. The shifted Yangians constructed there arise in our construction from the theories $T^\rho[U(n+1)]$ of Sect. 6.6.1, i.e. are balanced theories with trivial

6.9. *Twistor space.* The twistor space for the Coulomb branch of a generic rank n linear quiver is given by a straightforward extension of the construction in the case of SQCD. The transition functions for the polynomials $Q_j(z)$, $U^\pm(z)$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}_{j,\zeta}(\tilde{z}_\zeta) &= \zeta^{-2M_j} Q_{j,\zeta}(z_\zeta) \\ \tilde{U}_{j,\zeta}^\pm(\tilde{z}_\zeta) &= \zeta^{-2M_j - \Delta_j} e^{\pm \frac{z_\zeta}{g^2 \zeta}} U_{j,\zeta}^\pm(z_\zeta) \pmod{Q_{j,\zeta}(z_\zeta)}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.89}$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$, together with $\tilde{z}_\zeta = \zeta^{-2} z_\zeta$. These transition functions define a pair of rank M_j vector bundles $V^\pm(2M_j + \Delta_j) \rightarrow Y_j$ at the j -th node of the quiver, where $Y_j = \bigoplus_{l=1}^j \mathcal{O}(2l)$. The constraints are promoted to

$$U_\zeta^+(z_\zeta)U_\zeta^-(z_\zeta) = Q_{j-1,\zeta}(z_\zeta)Q_{j+1,\zeta}(z_\zeta)P_\zeta(z_\zeta) \pmod{Q_\zeta(z_\zeta)}. \tag{6.90}$$

To find a complete description of the twistor space, one can also easily write down the transition functions for all components and minors of the scattering matrix.

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A. Singular Monopoles

In this appendix we review some aspects of moduli spaces of singular monopoles, and explain how to describe them as complex symplectic manifolds. Namely, we construct the scattering matrix that encodes their complex structure, and derive the Poisson bracket in terms of the scattering matrix.

A.1. Data. We consider moduli spaces of solutions to the Bogomolnyi equations $F = *D\Phi$ on \mathbb{R}^3 for a connection D in a G -bundle and an adjoint valued scalar field Φ . Under favorable conditions, these moduli spaces are hyperkähler manifolds. We are mainly interested in solutions of these equations in the presence of singular monopoles. The relevant moduli spaces have been defined in reference [76] (see also [77]). Let us briefly review the data that define such a moduli space:

Footnote 29 continued

ρ^\vee , whose Coulomb branches are isomorphic to nilpotent orbits. It is known that such shifted Yangians are isomorphic to finite W-algebras $W(\rho)$ [92]. The more general shifted Yangians that arise in the case of generic good quivers were introduced in [84].

1. A number of singular monopoles each labelled by a position $\vec{x}_a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and an element q_a of the cocharacter lattice $\Lambda_G := \text{Hom}(U(1), \mathbb{T}_G) \subset \mathfrak{t}_G$, defined up to Weyl transformations. The charge q_a defines an embedding of an abelian Dirac monopole into the gauge group G , specifying the singular boundary conditions

$$\Phi = -\frac{q_a}{2r_a} + \mathcal{O}(r_a^{-1/2}) \quad \vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x}_a, \tag{A.1}$$

where $r_a = |\vec{x} - \vec{x}_a|$. The coordinates \vec{x}_a are a hyperkähler triplet of deformation parameters for the moduli space.

2. A magnetic charge q_∞ and asymptotic value Φ_∞ valued in the Cartan subalgebra and defined up to Weyl transformations. This data determines the asymptotic behavior of solutions to be

$$\Phi = \Phi_\infty - \frac{q_\infty}{2r} + \mathcal{O}(r^{-1-\delta}) \quad r \rightarrow \infty \tag{A.2}$$

for any $\delta > 0$ where $r = |\vec{x}|$. We will always assume that the centralizer of Φ_∞ is the maximal torus $T \subset G$. Global consistency requires that the combination $q_\infty - \sum_a q_a$ is an element of the coroot lattice.

The dimension of the moduli space has been computed in [76]. The asymptotic value Φ_∞ defines a system of positive roots such that $\alpha \in \Delta^+$ iff $\langle \alpha, \Phi_\infty \rangle > 0$. We can then define q_a^- to be the unique element of the Weyl orbit of q_a such that $\langle \alpha, q_a^- \rangle < 0$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta^+$. The complex dimension of the moduli space is $2\langle \rho, \tilde{q}_\infty \rangle$ where ρ is the Weyl vector and $\tilde{q}_\infty := q_\infty - \sum_a q_a^-$ is called the relative magnetic charge.

We will now focus on the gauge group $G = PSU(N)$. To simplify notation, we use the Cartan–Killing form $(-, -)$ to identify the Lie algebra and its dual. The fundamental weights are denoted $\{\omega_j\}_{j=1}^{N-1}$ and simple positive roots are $\{\alpha_j\}_{j=1}^{N-1}$. We then have the inner products $(\omega_i, \alpha_j) = \delta_{ij}$ and $(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = \kappa_{ij}$, where κ_{ij} is the Cartan matrix. When required, we will choose a representation by $N \times N$ anti-hermitian traceless matrices where $(a, b) = -\text{Tr}(ab)$. Without loss of generality, we can take the asymptotic scalar to have the form $\Phi_\infty = \text{diag}(i\phi_1, \dots, i\phi_N)$ where $\sum_i \phi_i = 0$ and $\phi_i > \phi_{i+1}$. The positive simple roots with respect to Φ_∞ are then the matrices $\alpha_j = i(E_{i,i} - E_{i+1,i+1})$. For $G = PSU(N)$, the cocharacter lattice is equal to the coweight lattice. We will consider solutions with N_j Dirac singularities labelled by each fundamental weight ω_{N-j} . We can then identify $\sum_a q_a = \sum_j N_j \omega_{N-j}$ and hence

$$\sum_a q_a^- = -\sum_j N_j \omega_j \tag{A.3}$$

where we used the formula $w_0 \omega_j = -\omega_{N-j}$ to reflect the magnetic weight of each singular monopole into the negative Weyl chamber, with w_0 being the longest element of the Weyl group. The overall relative magnetic weight is an element of the root lattice,

$$\tilde{q}_\infty = \sum_j M_j \alpha_j. \tag{A.4}$$

It is expected that the moduli space is non-empty provided that all $M_j \geq 0$. In relating the moduli space of singular monopoles with the Coulomb branch of a three-dimensional linear quiver gauge theory, M_j is the rank of the j -th node and N_j the number of hypermultiplets at this node. In the notation of Sect. 6, we have $\nu = -\sum_a q_a^-$ and $\mu = -q_\infty$ which agrees with the expected dimension $2(\lambda - \mu, \rho)$ of the Coulomb branch.

A.2. Hyperkähler quotient. The moduli space can be described as an infinite-dimensional hyperkähler quotient as follows. We first introduce a flat hyperkähler structure on the configuration space of fields (A, Φ) obeying the boundary conditions (A.1) and (A.2) with metric

$$g = -\text{Tr} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 - \{x_a\}} d^3x (\delta A_i \otimes \delta A_i + \delta \Phi \otimes \delta \Phi) \tag{A.5}$$

and Kähler forms

$$\omega_i = \text{Tr} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 - \{x_a\}} d^3x \left(\delta \Phi \wedge \delta A_i + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \delta A_j \wedge \delta A_k \right). \tag{A.6}$$

This is acted upon by the group \mathcal{G} of gauge transformations that are trivial as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and leave q_a invariant at each singular point x_a . More precisely, following [76] infinitesimal gauge transformations $\delta A_i = -D_i \lambda$, $\delta \Phi = [\lambda, \Phi]$ should obey $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(r^{-1})$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and $\lambda = \lambda_a + \mathcal{O}(r_a^{1/2})$ as $r_a \rightarrow 0$ with $[\lambda_a, q_a] = 0$. Although the moduli space depends only on the Weyl orbit of q_a it is convenient to fix a representative and consider gauge transformations that leave it invariant. Contracting the vector field generating this gauge transformation with the Kähler forms (A.6) and integrating by parts we find the moment maps

$$\mu_i[\lambda] = \text{Tr} \int d^3x \lambda \left(\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} F_{jk} - D_i \Phi \right), \tag{A.7}$$

thereby realizing the moduli space of singular monopoles as an infinite-dimensional hyperkähler quotient. We refer the reader to reference [76] for the construction of a boundary action whose variation cancels the boundary terms that arise in the derivation of (A.7).

A.3. Scattering data. To describe the moduli space of singular monopoles as a complex symplectic manifold we can instead consider a holomorphic symplectic quotient. We choose a particular complex structure on the configuration space of fields (A, Φ) such that the holomorphic coordinates are $\mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}} = A_1 + iA_2$ and $\mathcal{A}_3 = A_3 - i\Phi$ (we denote the corresponding covariant derivatives by $\mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}$ and \mathcal{D}_3). Then

$$\Omega := \omega_1 + i\omega_2 = i \text{Tr} \int d^3x \delta \mathcal{A}_3 \wedge \delta \mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}} \tag{A.8}$$

is a holomorphic symplectic form in this complex structure. We now consider complexified local gauge transformations acting on these complex coordinates by $\delta \mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}} = -\mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}} \lambda$ and $\delta \mathcal{A}_t = -\mathcal{D}_3 \lambda$ with moment map

$$\mu = \mu_1 + i\mu_2 = i \text{Tr} \int d^3x [\mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}]. \tag{A.9}$$

We construct the moduli space of singular monopoles as a complex symplectic manifold by imposing the complex moment map condition $[\mathcal{D}_t, \mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}] = 0$ and taking the quotient by the group of local complexified gauge transformations.

We *assume* here that Donaldson’s theorem [68] generalizes to the case of singular monopoles: namely, that the points of the hyperkähler quotient are in 1-1 correspondence

with points of the holomorphic symplectic quotient (subject to an appropriate stability condition), and hence both describe the same moduli space. It would be interesting to prove this.

We want to provide an explicit description of the moduli space by reformulating it in terms of holomorphic ‘scattering data’. We first review the case of smooth monopoles without singularities. The complex moment map can be solved locally by finding group-valued functions $g(\vec{x})$ such that

$$\mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}} = g \partial_{\bar{z}} g^{-1}, \quad \mathcal{D}_t = g \partial_t g^{-1}. \tag{A.10}$$

The function $g(\vec{x})$ is determined locally up to right multiplication by a group-valued function holomorphic in z . We consider two sets of distinguished solutions $g_{\pm}(\vec{x})$ that tend towards ‘abelian’ solutions g_{\pm}^{∞} as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$, which are determined by the asymptotic behavior of (Φ, A) . The holomorphic scattering data $S(z)$ is then the transition function relating these distinguished solutions.

We explain this in more detail for $G = PSU(N)$. We can construct a group-valued function $g(\vec{x})$ solving the moment map condition locally from N independent solutions ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_N of the associated linear problem $\mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}} \ell = \mathcal{D}_t \ell = 0$, normalized such that $\langle \ell_1, \dots, \ell_N \rangle = 1$. Note that here we are identifying the complexified gauge group as $G_{\mathbb{C}} = SL(N, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_N$. We are free to consider holomorphic linear transformations of ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_N preserving the normalization condition, which corresponds to right multiplication of $g(\vec{x})$ by holomorphic group-valued functions. Therefore we may equivalently work with normalized sections of the associated linear problem.

We now want to consider distinguished sets of solutions $\ell_1^{\pm}, \dots, \ell_N^{\pm}$ with asymptotic behavior at $x^3 \rightarrow \pm\infty$ specified by the boundary condition (A.2). Let us focus on $x^3 \rightarrow \infty$. We can choose an asymptotic gauge where $\mathcal{A}_3 \rightarrow -i(\Phi_{\infty} - q_{\infty}/2x^3)$. Then we have asymptotic solutions

$$\ell_a^{+, \infty} = e^{-\phi_a t} t^{q_a/2} e_a \tag{A.11}$$

where e_a is the standard unit basis of \mathbb{C}^N and we write $\Phi_{\infty} = \text{diag}(i\phi_1, \dots, ia_N)$ and $q_{\infty} = (iq_1, \dots, iq_N)$. We can now find N solutions to the linear problem $\ell_1^+, \dots, \ell_N^+$ with this asymptotic behavior $\ell_a^+ \rightarrow \ell_a^{+, \infty}$ as $x^3 \rightarrow \infty$. Since $\phi_1 > \phi_2 > \dots > \phi_N$, ℓ_1^+ is unambiguously determined as the section with the fastest exponential decay at $x^3 \rightarrow \infty$. However, ℓ_2^+ is determined only up to adding ℓ_1^+ multiplied by an arbitrary function of z . More generally, the sections ℓ_a^+ are determined only up to $\ell_a^+ \rightarrow h_a^b \ell_b^+$ where h is a lower triangular matrix with unit diagonal and holomorphic dependence on z . Similarly we have sections ℓ_a^- defined up to $\ell_a^- \rightarrow h_a^b \ell_b^-$ with h is now an upper triangular matrix with unit diagonal.

The two sets of solutions are related by $\ell_a^+ = S_a^b(z) \ell_b^-$ where the matrix $S(z)$ has unit determinant due to the normalization $\langle \ell_1^{\pm}, \dots, \ell_N^{\pm} \rangle = 1$ and depends holomorphically on z . From the indeterminacy of the sections ℓ_a^{\pm} , $S(z)$ is defined only up to multiplication on the left by holomorphic lower-triangular matrices with unit diagonal, and on the right by holomorphic upper-triangular matrices with unit diagonal. The leading principal minors $S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i}(z)$ are invariant under these transformations and encode the magnetic charge q_{∞} as follows: $S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i}(z) = Q_i(z)$ is a monic polynomial degree M_i . In particular,

$$S_{1, \dots, i}^{1, \dots, i}(z) \rightarrow z^{(q_{\infty}, \omega_i)} \quad |z| \rightarrow \infty. \tag{A.12}$$

where since there are no singular monopoles $q_{\infty} = \sum_j M_j \alpha_j$.

As described in the main text (see Sects. 5.2 and 6.4), the redundancy by left and right multiplication can be fixed by specifying the degrees of further non-principal minors. The moduli space is then generated as a complex variety by the coefficients of the components of the matrix $S(z)$. The holomorphic Poisson bracket is described below in Sect. A.4.

In the presence of singular monopoles the above construction is modified slightly. As described above, we consider for the case $G = PSU(N)$ that we have N_j singularities of fundamental weight ω_{N-j} so that $\sum_a q_a^- = -\sum_j N_j \omega_j$ and $q_\infty = \sum_j M_j \alpha_j - \sum_j N_j \omega_j$. We denote the positions of the singularities by $m_{i,\alpha}$ with $a = 1, \dots, N - 1$ and $\alpha = 1, \dots, N_j$ and introduce monic polynomials $P_j(z) = \prod_{\alpha=1}^{N_j} (z - m_{j,\alpha})$. Then we conjecture that the leading principle minors have the form

$$S_{1,\dots,i}^{1,\dots,i}(z) = \frac{Q_i(z)}{\prod_j P_j(z)^{k_{ij}^-}}. \tag{A.13}$$

where $Q_i(z)$ is again a monic polynomial of degree M_i . In particular, note that

$$\begin{aligned} S_{1,\dots,i}^{1,\dots,i}(z) &\rightarrow z^{(q_\infty, \omega_i)} & z &\rightarrow \infty \\ S_{1,\dots,i}^{1,\dots,i}(z) &\rightarrow (z - z_a)^{(q_a^-, \omega_i)} & z &\rightarrow z_a. \end{aligned} \tag{A.14}$$

The redundancy of $S(z)$ by left and right multiplication can again be fixed by specifying the form of further non-principle minors, as described in Sects. 5.3 and 6.4.

Above, we implicitly viewed the complexified gauge group as $G_{\mathbb{C}} = SL(N, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{Z}_N$. In particular, the fractional powers appearing in the formula (A.13) are only well defined in the quotient by \mathbb{Z}_N . It is often more convenient to work with the equivalent $G_{\mathbb{C}} = PGL(N, \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^*$ in order to remove the algebraic functions in the denominator of (A.13). Indeed, using the \mathbb{C}^* freedom, we can multiply the scattering matrix $S(z)$ by the factor $\prod_j P_j(z)^{k_{1,j}^-}$. Then principal minors then have the form

$$S_{1,\dots,i}^{1,\dots,i}(z) = Q_i(z) \prod_{j=1}^i P_j(z)^{i-j} \tag{A.15}$$

and in particular $\det S(z) = \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} P_j(z)^{N-j}$. After fixing the redundancy by left and right multiplication, the components of the scattering matrix are then polynomial functions of z .

A.4. Poisson structure. The complex Poisson bracket on the monopole moduli space can be computed by lifting the holomorphic functions on the monopole moduli space to functionals of $\mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}$ (unconstrained by $[\mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}] = 0$) and computing the Poisson bracket with the flat complex symplectic form above.

Here we are concerned with explaining why the Poisson bracket for the scattering data $S(\sigma)$ takes the form

$$\{S_b^a(z), S_d^c(w)\} = \frac{S_b^c(z)S_d^a(w) - S_d^a(z)S_b^c(w)}{z - w} \tag{A.16}$$

which is reminiscent of the Yangian of $\mathfrak{sl}(N, \mathbb{C})$. This formula is true only if properly understood: $S(z)$ is not well-defined by itself, but only up to multiplication by lower

and upper triangular matrices with unit diagonal from the left and from the right. The Poisson bracket only works properly for gauge invariant functionals of $S(z)$.

At first sight, (A.16) seems paradoxical: the scattering data for \mathcal{D}_3 is computed from the parallel transport along the x^3 axis, i.e. using only the holomorphic coordinate \mathcal{A}_3 . Naively, this gives a lift of $S(z)$ to a functional of \mathcal{A}_3 only, but then the Poisson bracket with itself would be zero.

The crucial subtlety is that the “bare” scattering data for \mathcal{D}_3 only takes the form of a holomorphic function of z with a precise choice of holomorphic framing. In other words, the scattering data itself is ambiguous by multiplication by triangular matrices with a generic dependence on z and it becomes holomorphic only if such ambiguity is fixed appropriately. That introduces a dependence on $\mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}}$ which allows a non-trivial Poisson bracket.

One can consider quantities which are invariant under multiplication by triangular matrices, such as the leading principal minors: determinants $Q_i(z)$ of the $i \times i$ minors built from the first i rows and columns of $S(z)$, which can be normalized to be monic polynomials in z . The coefficients of the polynomials $Q_i(z)$ lift to functionals of \mathcal{A}_3 only and should therefore Poisson commute. This is indeed consistent with the Poisson bracket (A.16): labelling minors by multi-indices we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \{S_{b_1, \dots, b_i}^{a_1, \dots, a_i}(z), S_{d_1, \dots, d_j}^{c_1, \dots, c_j}(w)\} \\ &= \sum_{m, n} \frac{S_{b_1, \dots, b_i}^{a_1, \dots, c_n, \dots, a_i}(z) S_{d_1, \dots, d_j}^{c_1, \dots, a_m, \dots, c_j}(w) - S_{b_1, \dots, d_n, \dots, b_i}^{a_1, \dots, a_i}(z) S_{d_1, \dots, b_m, \dots, d_j}^{c_1, \dots, c_j}(w)}{z - w}, \end{aligned} \tag{A.17}$$

and in particular

$$\{Q_i(z), Q_j(w)\} = 0. \tag{A.18}$$

It can be shown further that the coefficients of the $D_i(\sigma)$ give a maximal set of Poisson-commuting functions on the moduli space.

The notion of holomorphic framing can be formalized with the help of holomorphic Wilson lines in the σ plane for $\mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}$. Let us first recall that the standard Wilson loop for \mathcal{D}_3 along the x^3 direction at fixed z, \bar{z} is

$$W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) = \text{P exp} \int_{x_i^3}^{x_f^3} \mathcal{A}_3(x^3, z, \bar{z}) dx^3 \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \prod_{m=1}^n \int_{x_{m-1}^3}^{x_m^3} dx_m^3 \prod_{m=1}^{\overleftarrow{n}} \mathcal{A}_3(x_m^3, z, \bar{z}) \tag{A.19}$$

where in the n -th term of the sum we have $x_0^3 = x_i^3$ and $x_{n+1}^3 = x_f^3$.

The Wilson loop is built in such a way to satisfy $\mathcal{D}_{x_i^3} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) = 0$ and $\mathcal{D}_{x_f^3} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) = 0$ where the covariant derivatives act on the right and on the left respectively. It is also gauge-covariant: gauge transformations of \mathcal{A}_3 act on $W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3)$ by gauge transformations at the endpoints. Furthermore, it obeys the concatenation property $W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x^3) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x^3, z, x_i^3) = W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3)$.

Another extremely useful property is that under small deformations $\delta \mathcal{A}_3$ we have

$$\delta W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) = \int_{x_i^3}^{x_f^3} dx W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x) \delta \mathcal{A}_3(x, z, \bar{z}) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x, z, x_i^3). \tag{A.20}$$

Using this property and integrating by parts once it is straightforward to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{\bar{z}} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) &:= \partial_{\bar{z}} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_i^3, z, x_f^3) + \mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}}(x_f^3, z, \bar{z}) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_i^3, z, x_f^3) \\
 &\quad - W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_i^3, z, x_f^3) \mathcal{A}(x_i^3, z, \bar{z}) \\
 &= \int_{x_i^3}^{x_f^3} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x) [D_{\bar{z}}, D_3] (x, z, \bar{z}) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x, z, x_i^3)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.21}$$

which vanishes due to the complex moment map condition. Thus the Wilson line $W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_i^3, z, x_f^3)$ is locally covariantly holomorphic in z .

The holomorphic Wilson line operator for $D_{\bar{z}}$ at fixed x^3 is

$$W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \prod_{m=1}^n dz_m d\bar{z}_m \frac{(z_f - z_i)}{\prod_{m=0}^n (z_{m+1} - z_m)} \prod_{m=1}^n \overleftarrow{\mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}}}(x^3, z_m, \bar{z}_m)
 \tag{A.22}$$

where in the n -th term of the sum we have $z_0 = z_i$ and $z_{n+1} = z_f$.

The holomorphic Wilson line operator is built to satisfy $D_{\bar{z}_i} W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) = 0$ and $D_{\bar{z}_f} W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) = 0$ where the covariant derivatives act on the right and on the left respectively. Furthermore, we have gauge covariance and the concatenation property $W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z, x^3, z_i) = W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i)$. The holomorphic Wilson loop is essentially a way to introduce a global holomorphic frame on the z plane.

Under small variations $\delta \mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) &= \int dz d\bar{z} \frac{(z_f - z_i)}{(z_f - z)(z - z_i)} W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z) \delta \mathcal{A}_{\bar{z}}(x^3, z, \bar{z}) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z, x^3, z_i).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.23}$$

Using this formula and integrating by parts we find

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_3 W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) &:= \partial_3 W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) + \mathcal{A}_3(x^3; z_f, \bar{z}_f) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) \\
 &\quad - W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) \mathcal{A}_3(x^3; z_i, \bar{z}_i) \\
 &= \int dz d\bar{z} \frac{(z_f - z_i)}{(z_f - z)(z - z_i)} W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z) [D_3, D_{\bar{z}}] (x, z, \bar{z}) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z, x^3, z_i)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.24}$$

which again vanishes on imposing the complex moment map. Thus the holomorphic Wilson line $W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i)$ is locally covariantly constant in the x^3 direction.

When defined on a $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$, the holomorphic Wilson loop covariant under gauge transformations which are well-defined on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$. When defined on the complex plane σ , the holomorphic Wilson loop will not be gauge covariant under gauge transformations which are non-trivial at infinity. Such gauge transformations are crucial for the definition of the monopole moduli space: the monopole solutions have boundary conditions at infinity given by a constant abelian vev for \mathcal{A}_3 plus an abelian monopole charge. As usual, to avoid Dirac strings the abelian monopole connection is defined on the two half-spaces, glued by a gauge transformation which is non-trivial at infinity.

Although the holomorphic Wilson loop is locally covariantly constant as a function of x^3 , the non-trivial gauge transformations required in a monopole background will introduce extra jumps as one parallel-transport it from $x^3 \ll 0$ to $x^3 \gg 0$.

Now we are ready to introduce the object which computes the parallel transport for the operator \mathcal{D}_3 in a globally holomorphic frame and thus can be used to compute the scattering data $S(\sigma)$:

$$W_{z_f, x_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(z) = W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x_f^3, z) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z, x_i^3, z_i) \tag{A.25}$$

If $[\mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_{\bar{z}}] = 0$, in the absence of monopole charge, one could just parallel transport the holomorphic Wilson loops to a common position, deforming the above expression to a z -independent quantity $W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z_f, x^3) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x^3, z_i, x_i^3)$.

In the presence of monopole charge (and/or Dirac singularities), the deformation is not possible, and $W_{z_f, x_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(z)$ is an holomorphic function of z . If we take $x_f^3 \gg 0$ and $x_i^3 \ll 0$, send $z_{i,f} \rightarrow \infty$ and regularize $W_{z_f, x_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(z)$ in a standard way in the limit, we obtain the scattering data $S(z)$.

The crucial observation to compute the Poisson brackets postulated above is that Poisson brackets between Wilson lines only get a contribution from intersection points of a real and a holomorphic Wilson lines. Indeed, using formulae (A.20) and (A.23) it is straightforward to check that

$$\{W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x_i^3), W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z_i)\} = \frac{(z_f - z_i)}{(z_f - z)(z - z_i)} W_{\mathbb{R}}(x_f^3, z, x^3) W_{\mathbb{C}}(z, x^3, z_i) \otimes W_{\mathbb{C}}(z_f, x^3, z) W_{\mathbb{R}}(x^3, z, x_i^3) \tag{A.26}$$

if and only if x^3 is included in the interval (x_i^3, x_f^3) and zero otherwise. Note that we have suppressed the gauge indices here to streamline notation. For simplicity, we write the Poisson bracket relevant for $GL(N, \mathbb{C})$ as the determinant factor will decouple from the final formula (A.28).

Thus we can compute the Poisson bracket, assuming, say, the order $x_i^3, \tilde{x}_i^3, x_f^3, \tilde{x}_f^3$ and $x_f^3 \gg 0$ and $x_i^3 \ll 0, \tilde{x}_f^3 \gg 0$ and $\tilde{x}_i^3 \ll 0$: i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} & \{W_{z_f, x_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(z), W_{\tilde{z}_f, \tilde{x}_f^3; \tilde{z}_i, \tilde{x}_i^3}(\tilde{z})\} = \\ & \frac{z_f - z}{(z_f - \tilde{z})(\tilde{z} - z)} W_{z_f, x_f^3; \tilde{z}_i, \tilde{x}_i^3}(\tilde{z}) \otimes W_{\tilde{z}_f, \tilde{x}_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(z) - \\ & \frac{\tilde{z} - \tilde{z}_i}{(\tilde{z} - z)(z - \tilde{z}_i)} W_{z_f, x_f^3; \tilde{z}_i, \tilde{x}_i^3}(z) \otimes W_{\tilde{z}_f, \tilde{x}_f^3; z_i, x_i^3}(\tilde{z}) \end{aligned} \tag{A.27}$$

and finally the desired

$$\begin{aligned} & \{W_{\infty, x_f^3; \infty, x_i^3}(z), W_{\infty, \tilde{x}_f^3; \infty, \tilde{x}_i^3}(\tilde{z})\} = \\ & \frac{1}{(\tilde{z} - z)} W_{\infty, x_f^3; \infty, \tilde{x}_i^3}(\tilde{z}) \otimes W_{\infty, \tilde{x}_f^3; \infty, x_i^3}(z) - \\ & \frac{1}{(\tilde{z} - z)} W_{\infty, x_f^3; \infty, \tilde{x}_i^3}(z) \otimes W_{\infty, \tilde{x}_f^3; \infty, x_i^3}(\tilde{z}) \end{aligned} \tag{A.28}$$

Before sending the $z_{i,f}$ and $\tilde{z}_{i,f}$ to infinity, there is some dependence on the order of the holomorphic Wilson loops along x^3 . Alternatively, we can attach some extra real Wilson

loops at $\sigma_{i,f}$ and $\tilde{\sigma}_{i,f}$ from some reference locations $\pm L$ to $x_{i,f}^3, \tilde{x}_{i,f}^3$ to improve our observable further. The extra stubs correct the rational functions in the Poisson bracket to remove the dependence on the order of the holomorphic Wilson loops along x^3

B. Equivariant Integrals and Monopole Operators of Higher Charges

In this appendix, we compare the quantized abelianization map from the main text to preliminary equivariant localization calculations.

B.1. Pure PSU(2) theory. The relations in the abelianized algebra are

$$\begin{aligned} u_+ u_- &= -\frac{1}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)} \\ u_- u_+ &= -\frac{1}{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)} \\ [\varphi, u_{\pm}] &= \pm \epsilon u_{\pm}. \end{aligned} \tag{B.1}$$

The basic non-abelian operators, which generate the quantization \mathcal{A}_H of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{M}_C]$, are

$$\Phi = \varphi^2 \quad M_{1,0} = Y = u_+ + u_- \quad M_{1,1} = Z = (u_+ - u_-)\varphi = \varphi(u_+ - u_-) - \epsilon M_{1,0}. \tag{B.2}$$

Observe

$$M_{1,0}^2 = u_+^2 - \frac{1}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)} - \frac{1}{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)} + u_-^2 = u_+^2 - \frac{2}{\varphi^2 - \epsilon^2} + u_-^2. \tag{B.3}$$

We can identify this with $M_{2,0}$. The charge 0 part should be computable from the moduli space of one smooth monopole in the presence of a charge 2 Dirac singularity, which is $\mathcal{M}_2^0 = \mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$. This space should be resolved, and the resolution $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ precisely corresponds to separating the charge 2 singularity into two charge 1 singularities. The two terms above $\frac{1}{(\pm\varphi)(\mp\varphi - \epsilon)}$ account for the tangent bundle at the two equivariant fixed points of $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$.

In general, if we expand out $M_{1,0}^A$ we find $\binom{A}{k}$ terms of abelian charge $A - 2k$. These terms can be associated to the $\binom{A}{k}$ equivariant fixed points in the resolution of the moduli space of k smooth monopoles in the presence of a charge A Dirac singularity. The resolution, of course, precisely corresponds to splitting the charge A Dirac singularity into A charge 1 Dirac singularities. Thus a specific term $u_+ u_+ u_- \cdots$ (etc.) corresponds a fixed point where the smooth monopoles screen the singularities contributing, say, u_+ to the product and not the singularities contributing, say, u_- to the product. We can compute some products of monopoles with higher charges.

$$M_{1,0} M_{1,1} = u_+^2 \varphi + \frac{\varphi}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)} - \frac{\varphi}{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)} - u_-^2 \varphi = u_+^2 \varphi - \frac{2\epsilon}{\varphi^2 - \epsilon^2} - u_-^2 \varphi \tag{B.4}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{1,1}M_{1,0} &= (\varphi - \epsilon)u_+^2 - \frac{\varphi - \epsilon}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)} + \frac{\varphi + \epsilon}{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)} - (\varphi + \epsilon)u_-^2 \\
 &= (\varphi - \epsilon)u_+^2 - (\varphi + \epsilon)u_-^2
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{B.5}$$

Thus $M_{1,0}M_{1,1} - M_{1,1}M_{1,0} = -\epsilon M_{2,0}$. Either of the two products could be a candidate for $M_{2,1}$, and they coincide in the classical ring. Also recall that

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{1,1}^2 &= u_+^2\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon) + \frac{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)}{\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon)} + \frac{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)}{\varphi(\varphi + \epsilon)} + u_-^2\varphi(\varphi - \epsilon) = M_{1,0}^2(\Phi - \epsilon^2) \\
 &\quad + \epsilon M_{1,1}M_{1,0} + 4
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{B.6}$$

In general, as we resolve the monopole moduli space \mathcal{M}_A^B by splitting the Dirac singularity of charge A into A Dirac singularities of charge 1, we encounter an ambiguity: the resolved space has A natural line bundles $E_{1,i}$, associated to individual Dirac singularities. Each line bundle can be thought as a resolution of the natural line bundle E_A on \mathcal{M}_A^B . Thus we have a certain degree of ambiguity in defining M_{A,φ^n} : the canonical line bundle $E_A^{\otimes n}$ can be regularized to a generic $\otimes_i E_{1,i}^{n_i}$, corresponding to defining $M_{A,\varphi^n} = \prod_i M_{1,n_i}$. The resulting operators differ, even for $\epsilon = 0$, by multiples of monopole operators of lower magnetic charge.

B.1.1. Pure PSU(2) in four dimensions. We can lift the above analysis a four-dimensional $PSU(2)$ theory on $(\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1)_\epsilon \times \mathbb{R}$. The abelian relations are

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_+u_- &= -\frac{1}{(1 - e^{-\varphi})(1 - e^{\varphi-\epsilon})} \\
 u_-u_+ &= -\frac{1}{(1 - e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})(1 - e^\varphi)} \\
 [\varphi, u_\pm] &= \pm\epsilon u_\pm
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{B.7}$$

The basic operators are

$$W = e^\varphi + 2 + e^{-\varphi} \quad M_{1,0} = u_+ + u_- \quad M_{1,n} = u_+e^{n\varphi} + u_-e^{-n\varphi}
 \tag{B.8}$$

The Wilson loop should really be the full trace in the adjoint representation, $e^\varphi + 1 + e^{-\varphi}$, but we have simplified it for convenience. We have $M_{1,n}W = M_{1,n-1} + M_{1,n+1}$. We can compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{1,0}^2 &= u_+^2 - \frac{1}{(1 - e^{-\varphi})(1 - e^{\varphi-\epsilon})} - \frac{1}{(1 - e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})(1 - e^\varphi)} + u_-^2 \\
 &= u_+^2 - \frac{1 + e^{-\epsilon}}{(1 - e^{\varphi-\epsilon})(1 - e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})} + u_-^2
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{B.9}$$

and identify this with $M_{2,0}$.

We can compute some products of monopoles with charges.

$$\begin{aligned} M_{1,0}M_{1,1} &= u_+^2 e^\varphi - \frac{e^{-\varphi}}{(1-e^{-\varphi})(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})} - \frac{e^\varphi}{(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^\varphi)} + u_-^2 e^{-\varphi} \\ &= u_+^2 e^\varphi - \frac{-1+e^{-\epsilon}(e^\varphi+1+e^{-\varphi})}{(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})} + u_-^2 e^{-\varphi} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.10})$$

which simplifies to

$$M_{2,1} := M_{1,0}M_{1,1} - 1 = u_+^2 e^\varphi - \frac{e^{-\epsilon}(1+e^{-\epsilon})}{(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})} + u_-^2 e^{-\varphi} \quad (\text{B.11})$$

We can also compute

$$\begin{aligned} M_{1,1}M_{1,0} &= u_+^2 e^{\varphi+\epsilon} - \frac{e^{\varphi-\epsilon}}{(1-e^{-\varphi})(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})} - \frac{e^{-\varphi-\epsilon}}{(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^\varphi)} + u_-^2 e^{-\varphi+\epsilon} \\ &= u_+^2 e^{\varphi+\epsilon} - \frac{-e^{-2\epsilon}+e^{-\epsilon}(e^\varphi+1+e^{-\varphi})}{(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})} + u_-^2 e^{-\varphi+\epsilon} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.12})$$

with $e^{-\epsilon}(M_{1,1}M_{1,0} - 1) = M_{2,1}$ as well.

It would be interesting to identify the geometric meaning of our tentative definition of $M_{2,1}$. Starting from $M_{2,0}$ and $M_{2,1}$ we can define general monopoles $M_{2,k}$ by the ‘‘theta angle shift’’, i.e. applying the symmetry $u_\pm \rightarrow u_\pm e^{\pm\varphi+\frac{\epsilon}{2}}$.

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} M_{1,1}^2 &= u_+^2 e^{2\varphi+\epsilon} - \frac{e^{-\epsilon}}{(1-e^{-\varphi})(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})} - \frac{e^{-\epsilon}}{(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^\varphi)} + u_-^2 e^{-2\varphi+\epsilon} \\ &= u_+^2 e^{2\varphi+\epsilon} - \frac{e^{-\epsilon}(1+e^{-\epsilon})}{(1-e^{\varphi-\epsilon})(1-e^{-\varphi-\epsilon})} + u_-^2 e^{-2\varphi+\epsilon} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.13})$$

and thus

$$e^{-\epsilon}M_{1,1}^2 + M_{2,0} + 1 + e^{-\epsilon} = M_{2,1}\Phi \quad (\text{B.14})$$

B.2. Pure $U(N)$ theory. Define h_i as the N -dimensional vectors with a single non-zero entry $(h_i)^i = 1$. The abelian relations are

$$\begin{aligned} [\varphi_a, \varphi_b] &= 0 \\ [\varphi_b, u_a^\pm] &= \pm\epsilon\delta_{ab}u_a^\pm \\ u_a^+u_a^- &= \frac{1}{\prod_{b \neq a}(\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} \\ u_a^-u_a^+ &= \frac{1}{\prod_{b \neq a}(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_b - \varphi_a - \epsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_a^+ u_b^+ &= -\frac{1}{(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} u_{h_a+h_b}^+ \\ u_a^+ u_b^- &= u_b^- u_a^+ = u_{h_a-h_b}^+ \end{aligned} \tag{B.15}$$

We can start with $M_{\pm h_1,0} = \sum_a u_a^\pm$ and $M_{\pm(h_1+h_2),0} = \sum_{a<b} u_{(h_a+h_b)}^\pm$. We get

$$\begin{aligned} M_{h_1,0} M_{h_1,0} &= \sum_a u_{2h_a}^+ - \sum_{a<b} \left[\frac{1}{(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} + \frac{1}{(\varphi_a - \varphi_b)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b + \epsilon)} \right] u_{h_a+h_b}^+ \\ &= \sum_a u_{2h_a}^+ - \sum_{a<b} \frac{2}{(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b + \epsilon)} u_{h_a+h_b}^+ \end{aligned} \tag{B.16}$$

This is a natural candidates for $M_{2h_1,0}$. The moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{2h_1}^{h_a+h_b}$ is again an A_1 singularity, resolved to $T^*\mathbb{CP}^1$ by splitting the charge $2h_1$ Dirac singularities into two charge h_1 Dirac singularities. The two terms in the coefficient of $u_{h_a+h_b}^+$ correspond to these two fixed points.

We can also compute

$$M_{h_1,0} M_{-h_1,0} = \sum_{a \neq b} u_{h_a-h_b}^+ + \sum_a \frac{1}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} \tag{B.17}$$

Although it is far from obvious, the above expression coincides with

$$M_{-h_1,0} M_{h_1,0} = \sum_{a \neq b} u_{h_a-h_b}^+ + \sum_a \frac{1}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b + \epsilon)} \tag{B.18}$$

They are the natural candidate for defining $M_{h_1-h_N,0}$. The moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{h_1-h_N}^0$ is the blowdown of $T^*\mathbb{CP}^{N-1}$. The latter is precisely the resolution corresponding to the factorization $M_{h_1,0} M_{-h_1,0}$ and the individual terms in the sum above are the equivariant fixed points of $T^*\mathbb{CP}^{N-1}$. The two factorizations are related by a flop.

We can start adding scalar dressings as well. We encountered in the main text the polynomials $U_\pm(z)$ which capture the dressed monopoles of the form $M_{\pm h_1, \det(z - \varphi_{U(N-1)})}$, as well as the ratios $U_\pm(z) Q(z)^{-1}$ which capture monopoles of the form $M_{\pm h_1, \varphi_{U(1)}^n}$. Notice that our choice of signs in the algebra of u_a^\pm is a bit different than in our example section in the main text.

We also encountered a polynomial \tilde{Q} , which should capture the monopoles of the form $M_{h_1-h_N, \det(z - \varphi_{U(N-2)})}$. This gives us our first example of a universal bundle on a monopole moduli space which cannot quite be mapped to a bundle over the resolution. We need to compute $U_+(z) U_-(z + \epsilon) Q^{-1}(z + \epsilon)$:

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_a u_a^+ \prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) \sum_c u_c^- \frac{1}{z - \varphi_c + \epsilon} \\ &= \sum_{a \neq c} u_{h_a-h_c}^+ \prod_{b \neq a \neq c} (z - \varphi_b) + \sum_a \frac{\prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b)}{(z - \varphi_a + \epsilon) \prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} \end{aligned} \tag{B.19}$$

We can subtract $Q^{-1}(z + \epsilon)$, which is a power series in gauge-invariant polynomials of φ , to get a rank $N - 2$ polynomial in z :

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Q}(z) = & \sum_{a \neq c} u_{h_a - h_c}^+ \prod_{b \neq a \neq c} (z - \varphi_b) \\ & + \sum_a \frac{\prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) - \prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)}{(z - \varphi_a + \epsilon)} \frac{1}{\prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_b - \varphi_a)(\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.20})$$

The $U(N-2)$ universal bundle $E_{h_1-h_N}$ on $\mathcal{M}_{h_1-h_N}^0$ associated to the Dirac singularity does *not* extend in a natural way to the resolution $T^*\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$, which has only $U(1)$ and $U(N-1)$ bundles associated to either individual Dirac singularity in the factorization. It is not hard to disentangle the geometric description of these bundles: if we describe the moduli space as a hyperkähler quotient, in terms of two vectors X and Y with $X \cdot Y = 0$, the rank $N-2$ bundle can be thought of intuitively as vectors orthogonal to X , modulo Y . After the blow-up, this bundle is ill-defined on the vanishing cycle. The answer above produces some equivariant characteristic class $\frac{\prod_{b \neq a} (z - \varphi_b) - \prod_{b \neq a} (\varphi_a - \varphi_b - \epsilon)}{(z - \varphi_a + \epsilon)}$ which somehow behaves as the characteristic class of the non-existent rank $N-2$ bundle. It would be interesting to work this out in detail, perhaps using equivariant intersection cohomology.

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