

# **Boris Dubrovin**

*Isomonodromy deformation problems associated with quantum cohomology.*

Three days on Painlevé equations  
and their applications,  
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# Isomonodromy deformation problems associated with quantum cohomology

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Rational curves  
on a smooth  
projective  
variety  $X$

Isomonodromy  
deformations

Derived category  
of coherent  
sheaves  $Der^b(X)$

Monodromy  
data

System of ODEs  
with rational  
coefficients

## Plan

- Introduction: quantum cohomology of projective plane and Painlevé-VI equation
- Semisimple Frobenius manifolds and isomonodromy deformations
- Quantum cohomology and (conjectural) description of the monodromy data

## I. Quantum cohomology of $\mathbf{P}^2$ and P-VI equation

**Denote**  $N_k$  = number of rational curves of degree  $k$   
 $z \mapsto (P_0(z) : P_1(z) : P_2(z))$ ,  $\deg P_i(z) = k$   
passing through  $3k - 1$  points

**E.g.,**  $N_1 = 1$ ,  $N_2 = 1$ ,  $N_3 = 12$  etc.

**Denote** 
$$\phi = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{N_k}{(3k-1)!} e^{k t}$$

**Thm.** (Kontsevich, '92) The function satisfies diff. equation

$$\phi''' = \frac{\phi''^2 + 54\phi'' - 33\phi' + 6\phi}{27 + 2\phi' - 3\phi''}$$

**Corollary.** The coefficients  $N_k$  for  $k \geq 2$  are uniquely determined by  $N_1 = 1$

**Reduction to P-VI: change of variables**  $(t, \phi(t)) \mapsto (x, y(x))$

**Denote**  $u_1, u_2, u_3$  **the roots of cubic equation**

$$u^3 - \phi'' u^2 - 3(3\phi'' + 5\phi' - 2\phi)u + 9\phi''^2 - 6\phi\phi'' - 243\phi'' + 4\phi'^2 + 243\phi' + 3\phi'\phi'' - 54\phi = 0$$

**Then the function**

**of**

$$y = -\frac{9\phi''^2 - 6\phi\phi'' + 4\phi'^2 + 3\phi'\phi''}{3(9\phi'' - 9\phi' + 2\phi)} - u_1$$

$$x = \frac{u_3 - u_1}{u_2 - u_1}$$

**satisfies**

$$y'' = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y-1} + \frac{1}{y-x} \right] y'^2 - \left[ \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{1}{y-x} \right] y' + \frac{1}{2} \frac{y(y-1)(y-x)}{x^2(x-1)^2} \left[ 9 + \frac{x(x-1)}{(y-x)^2} \right]$$

**Question:** what is special about this particular solution to P-VI? Can it be expressed via known functions? What are the corresponding monodromy data?

## 2.Frobenius manifolds

1.1 Frobenius algebra: a pair  $(A, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$

$A$  commutative associative  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra with a unit  
 $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  symmetric bilinear nondegenerate *invariant* form

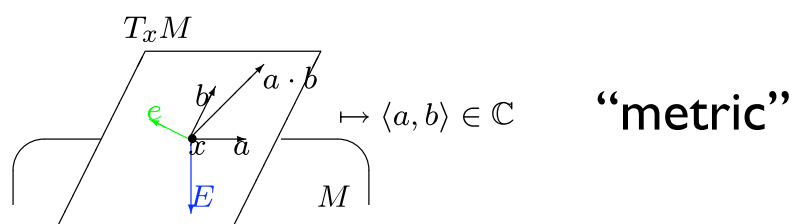
$$\langle a \cdot b, c \rangle = \langle a, b \cdot c \rangle$$

E.g., every semisimple Fr. algebra is isomorphic to

$$\begin{aligned} e_i \cdot e_j &= \delta_{ij} e_i \\ \langle e_i, e_j \rangle_{\mathbf{h}} &= \delta_{ij} h_i \end{aligned} \quad \mathbf{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_n), \quad h_i \neq 0 \quad \forall i$$



## I.2 Frobenius manifold $M$ : a structure of Frobenius algebra on the tangent spaces



such that

FM1. The metric  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  has zero curvature and  $\nabla e = 0$

FM2. Define  $C(X, Y, Z) := \langle X \cdot Y, Z \rangle$ . Then  $\nabla_W C(X, Y, Z)$  is symmetric in  $X, Y, Z, W$

FM3. There exists a linear vector field  $E$ , i.e.  $\nabla \nabla E = 0$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} Lie_E(\cdot) &= \cdot \\ Lie_E \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle &= (2 - d) \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Locally there exist *flat coordinates*  $v^1, \dots, v^n$

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\alpha}, \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\beta} \right\rangle = \eta_{\alpha\beta} \quad (= \text{const})$$

$$e = \frac{\partial}{\partial v^1}$$

$$\exists F = F(v) \quad \text{such that} \quad \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\alpha} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\beta}, \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\gamma} \right\rangle = \frac{\partial^3 F(v)}{\partial v^\alpha \partial v^\beta \partial v^\gamma}$$

It satisfies **WDVV** associativity equations and  
quasihomogeneity

$$E = \sum (a_\beta^\alpha v^\beta + b^\alpha) \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\alpha}, \quad E F = (3 - d)F + \text{at most quadratic terms}$$

In the example of quantum cohomology of  $\mathbf{P}^2$

$$F = \frac{1}{2} [(v^1)^2 v^3 + v^1 (v^2)^2] + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{N_k}{(3k-1)!} (v^3)^{3k-1} e^k v^2$$

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\alpha}, \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\beta} \right\rangle = \delta_{\alpha+\beta, 4}$$

$$E = v^1 \frac{\partial}{\partial v^1} + 3 \frac{\partial}{\partial v^2} - v^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial v^3}$$

WDVV associativity equation  $\Leftrightarrow$  Kontsevich equation

Main ingredient of the theory of Frobenius manifolds  
flat connection on  $M \times \mathbb{C}^*$

$$\tilde{\nabla}_a b = \nabla_a b + z a \cdot b$$

$$\tilde{\nabla}_{\frac{d}{dz}} b = \partial_z b + E \cdot b - \frac{1}{z} \mu(b), \quad \mu = \frac{2-d}{2} \text{id} - \nabla E$$

**Observe:**  $\langle \mu(a), b \rangle = -\langle a, \mu(b) \rangle$

Flatness  $\Rightarrow$  (local) existence of  $n$  independent  
horizontal sections

$$\tilde{\nabla} df = 0$$

$(n = \dim M)$

On a **semisimple** Frobenius manifold existence of *canonical coordinates*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u^i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial u^j} = \delta_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i}$$

They also satisfy orthogonality  $\left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial u^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial u^j} \right\rangle = 0$  for  $i \neq j$

If FM3 holds true then  $u^1, \dots, u^n$  are eigenvalues of the operator of multiplication by the Euler vector field

## Orthonormalized idempotents

$$f_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial u_i} \right\rangle}} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Introduce matrices  $U, \quad V$

$$U_{ij} = \langle f_i, E \cdot f_j \rangle = u_i \delta_{ij}$$

$$V_{ij} = \langle f_i, \mu(f_j) \rangle = -V_{ji}$$

(depend on the point of the Frobenius manifold)

The  $z$ -part of equations for horizontal sections of  $\tilde{\nabla}$  reduces to

$$\frac{dY}{dz} = \left( U + \frac{V}{z} \right) Y$$

**Thm.** Flatness of  $\tilde{\nabla} \Rightarrow$  isomonodromicity

Invariant pairing

$$Y^T(-z)Y(z) = \text{const}$$

Remark. An alternative isomonodromy description for

$$(U - \lambda \cdot \text{id}) \frac{d\Phi}{d\lambda} = \left( \frac{1}{2} - \nu + V \right) \Phi$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{d\Phi}{d\lambda} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{A_i}{\lambda - u_i} \Phi$$



Monodromy data of  $\frac{dY}{dz} = \left( U + \frac{V}{z} \right) Y$

• at  $z = 0$   $Y_0 = (\Psi + \mathcal{O}(z)) z^\mu z^\rho$

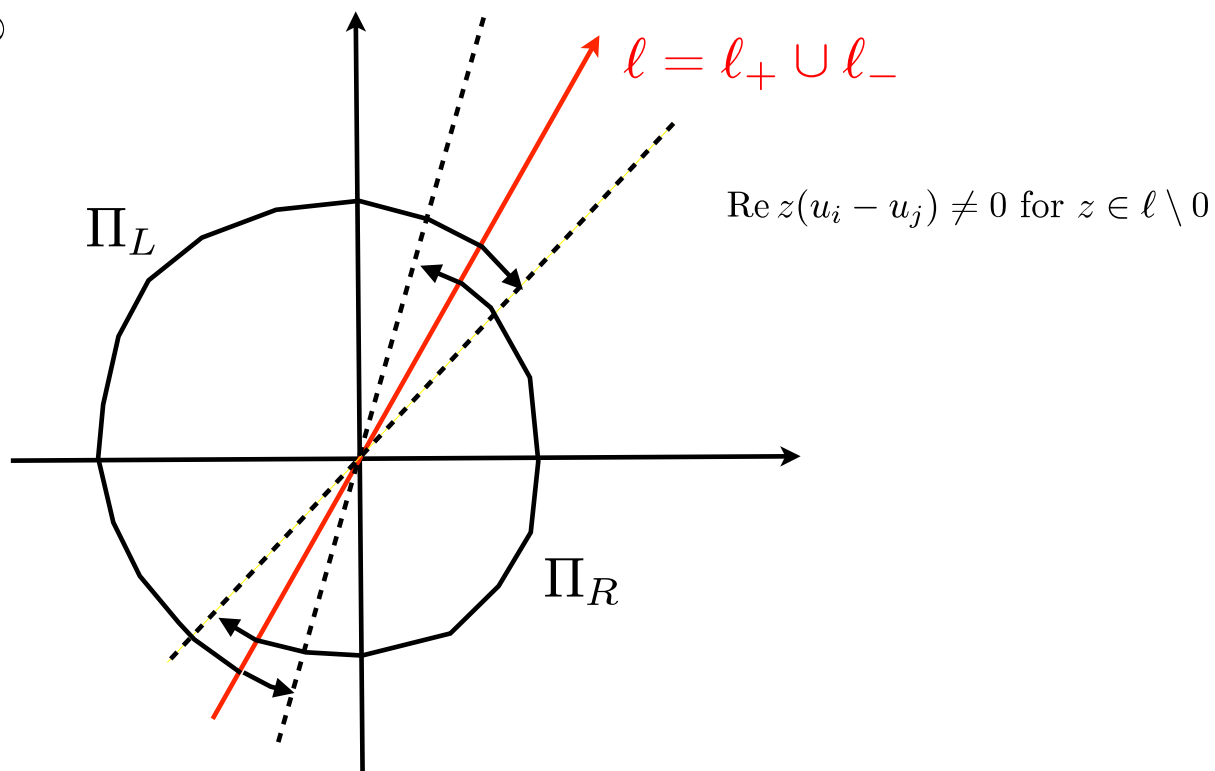
$\mu$  diagonal matrix,  $\mu = \text{diag}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)$ ,  $\Psi^{-1} V \Psi = \mu$

$\rho$  nilpotent matrix (in presence of resonances)

$\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1 + \dots$ ,  $(\rho_k)_{ij} \neq 0$  only if  $\mu_i - \mu_j = k$

$$\langle \rho_k(a), b \rangle = (-1)^{k+1} \langle a, \rho_k(b) \rangle$$

- at  $z = \infty$



$$Y_{R/L} \sim \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)\right) e^{zU}, \quad |z| \rightarrow \infty, \quad z \in \Pi_{R/L}$$

**Stokes matrix**  $Y_L(z) = Y_R(z)S, \quad z \in \ell_+$

$$S_{ii} = 1, \quad S_{ij} = 0 \quad \text{for } i > j \quad (\text{after ordering } u_i)$$

- central connection matrix  $C$

$$Y_R(z) = Y_0(z)C$$

Constraint

$$S^T = C^T \eta e^{\pi i \rho} e^{\pi i \mu} C$$

$\Rightarrow$  cyclic relation

$$S^T S^{-1} = C^T \eta e^{2\pi i \rho} e^{2\pi i \mu} \eta^{-1} (C^T)^{-1}$$

(monodromy around infinity = monodromy around 0)

**Isomonodromicity Thm.** The data  $(\mu, \rho, S, C)$  are locally independent from the point of Frobenius manifold

*Reconstruction* by solving a Riemann - Hilbert problem

$$(\mu, \rho, S, C) \rightarrow (Y_0(u, z), Y_{R/L}(u, z)) \rightarrow (\Psi(u), V(u)) \rightarrow Fr(\mu, \rho, S, C; \mu_1)$$

(depends on the choice of an eigenvalue  $\mu_1$  )

# Global structure

$$M = \bigcup_{\sigma \in \text{Br}_n / \text{stabilizer of } (S,C)} Fr\left(\mu, \rho, S^\sigma, C^\sigma, \mu_1\right)$$

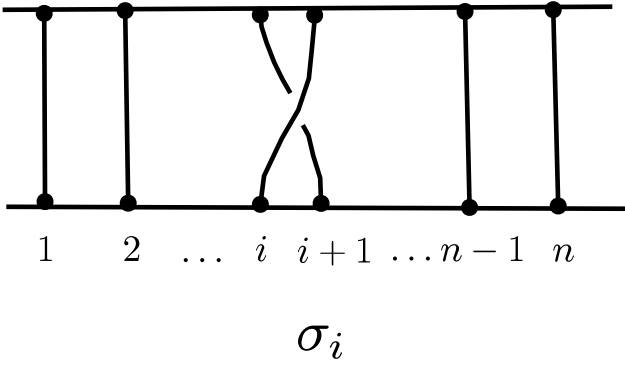
$$\text{Action of the braid group } \text{Br}_n \qquad S \mapsto S^\sigma, \quad C \mapsto C^\sigma$$

$$S^{\sigma_i} = K_i S K_i, \quad C^{\sigma_i} = C K_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n-1$$

$$(K_i)_{kk} = 1, \quad k \neq i, \, i+1$$

$$(K_i)_{ii} = -s_{i,i+1}, \quad (K_i)_{i,i+1} = (K_i)_{i+1,i} = 1$$

all other entries equal 0



**Thm.** Any semisimple Frobenius manifold can be obtained by this construction

Thus, semisimple Frobenius manifolds parameterized by the monodromy data  $(\mu, \rho, S, C)$  satisfying above properties

Charts of the semisimple Frobenius manifold are labeled by points in the orbit of the monodromy data with respect to the action of the braid group

# Quantum cohomology

$X$  smooth projective variety,  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = d$ ,  $H^{\text{odd}}(X) = 0$

$\overline{M}_{0,m,\beta}(X)$  moduli space of stable rational maps

$$f : (\mathbf{P}^1, x_1, \dots, x_m) \rightarrow X$$

of degree  $\beta = f_*[\mathbf{P}^1] \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$

$x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbf{P}^1$  marked points,  $x_i \neq x_j$

Evaluation maps

$$\text{ev}_i : \overline{M}_{0,m,\beta}(X) \rightarrow X, \quad f \mapsto f(x_i)$$

**$n$ -dimensional Frobenius manifold,  $n = \dim H^*(X)$**

**Choose a basis  $\gamma_1 = 1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(X)$ ,  $\deg \gamma_i = 2q_i$**

**Potential of the Frobenius manifold  $M = QH^*(X)$**

$$F(v) = \sum_m \sum_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m} \frac{v^{\alpha_1} \dots v^{\alpha_m}}{m!} \sum_{\beta \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})} \int_{\overline{M}_{0,m,\beta}(X)} \text{ev}_1^*(\gamma_{\alpha_1}) \dots \text{ev}_m^*(\gamma_{\alpha_m})$$

**Thm. (Kontsevich, Manin) Triple derivatives  $c_{\alpha\beta}^\gamma(v) = \eta^{\gamma\delta} \frac{\partial^3 F(v)}{\partial v^\delta \partial v^\alpha \partial v^\beta}$**

**are structure constants of a family of associative algebras**

$$\eta_{\alpha\beta} = \int_X \gamma_\alpha \wedge \gamma_\beta \quad \text{invariant inner product}$$

$$\text{Euler vector field} \quad E = \sum_1^n [(1 - q_\alpha)v^\alpha + \langle c_1(X), \gamma^\alpha \rangle] \frac{\partial}{\partial v^\alpha}$$



Basis in  $H^*(X) \Rightarrow$  basis of horizontal sections of  $\tilde{\nabla}$   
 near  $z = 0$  (hence the fundamental matrix  $Y_0(z)$  )

Define

$$\theta_i(z)=\sum_m\sum_{\alpha_1,\dots,\alpha_m}\frac{v^{\alpha_1}\dots v^{\alpha_m}}{m!}\sum_{\beta\in H_2(X;\mathbb{Z})}\int_{\overline{M}_{0,m+1,\beta}(X)}\mathrm{ev}_1^*(\gamma_{\alpha_1})\dots\mathrm{ev}_m^*(\gamma_{\alpha_m})\frac{\mathrm{ev}_{m+1}^*(\gamma_i)}{1-z\psi_{m+1}}$$

$$\psi_{m+1}=c_1\left(\mathcal{L}_{m+1}\right),\quad \text{tautological line bundle}\qquad\qquad\qquad\begin{array}{c}\mathcal{L}_{m+1}\\\downarrow T_{x_{m+1}}^*\mathbf{P}^1\\\overline{M}_{0,m+1,\beta}(X)\end{array}$$

The basis  $(\theta_1(z),\dots,\theta_n(z))\,z^\mu z^\rho$

$$\mu=\frac{1}{2}\deg-\frac{d}{2}\mathrm{id},\quad \rho=c_1(X).$$

$$\mu,\,\,\rho:H^*(X)\rightarrow H^*(X)$$

Basis of horizontal sections of  $\tilde{\nabla}$  near  $z = \infty$   
from a “basis”  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  in  $K(X)$

When quantum cohomology is semisimple?

**Conjecture** (B.D. '98; A.Bayer & Yu.I.Manin '01)

Semisimplicity of  $QH^*(X) \Leftrightarrow$  existence of a full  
exceptional collection  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  in  $Der^b(X)$   
in the derived category of coherent sheafs on  $X$

$Der^b(X)$  complexes of coherent sheaves on  $X$

$$\cdots \rightarrow C_i \rightarrow C_{i-1} \rightarrow \cdots$$

up to quasiisomorphisms (introduced by J.-L. Verdier)

Ordered collection of objects  $E_1, \dots, E_n \in Der^b(X)$

is *exceptional* if  $Ext^k(E_i, E_j) = 0, \quad k > 0, \quad \forall i, j$   
 $Hom(E_i, E_i) = \mathbb{C}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$   
 $Hom(E_i, E_j) = 0 \quad \text{for } i > j$

It is *full* if  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  generate  $Der^b(X)$

Example (A. Beilinson '78)  $X = \mathbf{P}^d$

Full exceptional collection  $\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(1), \mathcal{O}(2), \dots, \mathcal{O}(d)$

General results: for toric varieties

Existence of full exceptional collections (Y.Kawamata, '05)

Semisimplicity of quantum cohomology (H.Iritani, '05)

Question 2: description of the monodromy data of  $QH^*(X)$  in the semisimple case

**Conjecture**, Part 2 (B.D. '98). Basic vectors of horizontal sections of  $\tilde{\nabla}$  near  $z = \infty$  are in one-to-one correspondence with objects  $E_1, \dots, E_n \in Der^b(X)$  of a full exceptional collection. The Stokes matrix in this basis coincides with the Gram matrix of Mukai pairing

$$S_{ij} = \chi(E_i^* \otimes E_j) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^i \dim Ext^k(E_i, E_j)$$

Motivations: S.Cecotti, C.Vafa; E.Zaslow; M.Kontsevich

Particular cases: B.D., D.Guzzetti, K.Ueda, A.Takahashi; B.Kim, C.Sabbah

### Question 3: central connection matrix $C$

Define an operator

vector bundles on  $X \rightarrow$  cohomology of  $X$

$$E \mapsto \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \Gamma(X) \wedge \tilde{\text{ch}}(E)$$

Here  $\Gamma(X)$  is the gamma-genus of  $TX$

$\tilde{\text{ch}}(E)$  is the Chern character of  $E$

followed by the operator  $(2\pi i)^{\frac{\deg}{2}}$

## Gamma-genus

Recall construction of Hirzebruch characteristic classes

Given a formal series  $K(t) = 1 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots$

and a  $d$ -dimensional vector bundle  $E$  over  $X$  define

$$\begin{aligned} K(E) &= K(t_1) \dots K(t_d) = 1 + a_1(t_1 + \dots + t_d) + a_2(t_1^2 + \dots + t_d^2) + a_1^2(t_1 t_2 + \dots + t_{d-1} t_d) + \dots \\ &= 1 + a_1 c_1(E) + a_2 c_1^2(E) + (a_1^2 - 2a_2) c_2(E) + \dots \in H^*(X) \end{aligned}$$

For gamma-genus take  $K(t) = \Gamma(1 - t) = 1 + \gamma t + \mathcal{O}(t^2)$

Notice 
$$\log \Gamma(1 - t) = \gamma t + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(n)}{n} t^n$$

**Conjecture, Part 3.**

Bases of horizontal sections near a semisimple point in  ${}^QH^*(X)$

- at  $z = 0$  : from a basis  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in H^*(X)$
- at  $z = \infty$  : from a full exceptional collection  $E_1, \dots, E_n$   
in  $Der^b(X)$

Central connection matrix  $C = (C_{ij})$

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \Gamma(X) \wedge \tilde{\text{ch}}(E_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n C_{ij} \gamma_i$$



Motivations: H.Iritani '08,  
L.Katzarkov, M.Kontsevich, T.Pantev '08

Verified for  $X = \mathbf{P}^d$  (B.D., using results by D.Guzzetti  
monodromy of  $(z \partial_z)^{d+1} \Phi = [(d+1)z]^{d+1} \Phi$ )

More recently: for Grassmannians (S.Galkin, V.Golyshev,  
H.Iritani); G.Cotti for  $G_{2,4}$ )

$$(z \partial_z)^5 \Phi - 2^{10} z^5 \partial_z \Phi - 2^{11} z^4 \Phi = 0$$

Global structure of  $QH^*(X)$

Action of the braid group  $\text{Br}_n$  on the monodromy data

$$S, C \mapsto S^\sigma, C^\sigma$$

by analytic continuation of isomonodromy deformations  
corresponds to the action of  $\text{Br}_n$  on full exceptional  
collections by *mutations*

$$(E_1, \dots, E_n) \mapsto (E_1^\sigma, \dots, E_n^\sigma)$$

(J.-M.Drézet & J.Le Potier '85;  
A.Gorodentsev & A.Rudakov '87)

**Question:** are the charts in

$$QH^*(X) = \bigcup_{\sigma \in \text{Br}_n / \text{stabilizer of } (S, C)} Fr(\mu, \rho, S^\sigma, C^\sigma, \mu_1)$$

in one-to-one correspondence with full exceptional  
collections in  $Der^b(X)$  ?

**Thank you!**