# Dehn twists and Lagrangian spherical manifolds

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#### Abstract

We study Dehn twists along Lagrangian submanifolds that are finite free quotients of spheres. We describe the induced auto-equivalences to the derived Fukaya category and explain their relations to mirror symmetry.

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# 1 Introduction

In his early groundbreaking papers [Sei03], [Sei08], Seidel studied the Dehn twist along a Lagrangian sphere and its induced auto-equivalence on the derived Fukaya category. There are often no automorphism of the mirror which induces such an auto-equivalence [ST01]. It turns out that this auto-equivalence of the mirror, called a spherical twist, can be described purely categorically and there are a lot of generalizations of spherical twists and spherical objects, including  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist, family twist [Hor05], etc.

Many of these generalizations are also motivated by the corresponding symplectomorphisms associated to Lagrangian objects. For example, Lagrangian Dehn twists along spheres can be easily generalized to submanifolds whose geodesics are all closed with the same period. When the Lagrangian submanifold is a complex projective space, Huybrechts and Thomas conjectured that the resulting symplectomorphism induces a P-twist in the Fukaya category [HT06]. However, in most cases, this is still conjectural. Recently, the authors made progress on Huybrechtz-Thomas conjecture by showing that Dehn twists along Lagrangian projective spaces yields a mapping cone operation predicted in the form of P-twists on the Fukaya category. In general, it is still very difficult to compute the auto-equivalence of a given symplectomorphism.

In this paper, we investigate a new type of Dehn twist and its associated auto-equivalences.

# **Question 1.1.** On a Fukaya category, what is the induced auto-equivalence of the Dehn twist along a spherical Lagrangian, i.e. a Lagrangian submanifold P whose universal cover is $S^n$ ?

A particularly interesting feature of these twist auto-equivalences, which distinguishes this question from all previous twist auto-equivalences, is its sensitivity to the characteristic of the ground field.

Consider the basic example of  $P = \mathbb{RP}^n$ . In characteristic zero, P is a spherical object in the Fukaya category. In Corollary 1.3 we show that the induced auto-equivalence is a composition of two spherical twists. However, when char = 2, P becomes a  $\mathbb{P}^n$ -object and the auto-equivalence is a  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist as defined in [HT06]. Indeed, given a spherical Lagrangian that is a more complicated quotient of a sphere, its twist auto-equivalence decomposes into a composition of spherical twists in characteristic zero, but when one considers ground field of non-zero characteristics, such twists yield an entire family of previously unknown auto-equivalences. We hope this result contributes to the increasing interests in studying derived categories and Fukaya categories of finite characteristics.

To explain our result, let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a field of any characteristic and  $\Gamma \subset SO(n+1)$  be a finite subgroup for which there exists  $\tilde{\Gamma} \subset Spin(n+1)$  such that the covering homomorphism  $Spin(n+1) \rightarrow SO(n+1)$  restricts to an isomorphism  $\tilde{\Gamma} \simeq \Gamma$ . Let P be a Lagrangian submanifold that is diffeomorphic to  $S^n/\Gamma$  in a Liouville manifold  $(M,\omega)$  with  $2c_1(M,\omega) = 0$ . Pick a Weinstein neighborhood U of P and take the universal cover  $\mathbf{U}$  of U. The preimage of P is a Lagrangian sphere  $\mathbf{P}$  in  $\mathbf{U}$ . We can pick a parametrization to identify  $\mathbf{P}$  with the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , and the deck transformation with  $\Gamma \subset SO(n+1)$ . Then we can define the Dehn twist  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}$  along  $\mathbf{P}$  in  $\mathbf{U}$ . Since  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}$  is defined by geodesic flow with respect to the round metric on  $\mathbf{P}$  and the antipodal map lies in the center of SO(n+1),  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}$  is  $\Gamma$ -equivariant and descends to a symplectomorphism  $\tau_P$  in U. We call  $\tau_P$  the Dehn twist along P.

We equip P with the induced spin structure from  $S^n$  and with the universal local system E corresponding to the canonical representation of  $\Gamma := \pi_1(P)$  to  $\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]$ . The pair (P, E) defines an object  $\mathcal{P}$  in the compact Fukaya category  $\mathcal{F}$ . For any Lagrangian brane (i.e. an exact Lagrangian submanifold with a choice of grading, spin structure and local system)  $\mathcal{E}$  in  $(M, \omega)$ , we have a left  $\Gamma$ -module structure on  $hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$  and a right  $\Gamma$ -module structure on  $hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E})$ . Our main result is

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $(M^{2n}, \omega)$  be a Liouville manifold with  $2c_1(M) = 0$  and  $n \ge 3$ . For any exact Lagrangian brane  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ , there is a quasi-isomorphism of the obejets

$$\tau_P(\mathcal{E}) \simeq Cone(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{ev_{\Gamma}} \mathcal{E})$$
(1.1)

in  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$ , where  $ev_{\Gamma}$  is the equivariant evaluation map, Cone is the  $A_{\infty}$  mapping cone and  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$  is the category of perfect  $A_{\infty}$  right  $\mathcal{F}$  modules.

On cohomological level, Theorem 1.2 implies that for any Lagrangian branes  $\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{E}_1 \in \mathcal{F}$ , there is a long exact sequence between the Floer cohomology groups

 $HF^{*-1}(\mathcal{E}_0,\tau_P(\mathcal{E}_1)) \to H^*(CF(\mathcal{P},\mathcal{E}_1) \otimes_{\Gamma} CF(\mathcal{E}_0,\mathcal{P})) \to HF^*(\mathcal{E}_0,\mathcal{E}_1) \to HF^*(\mathcal{E}_0,\tau_P(\mathcal{E}_1))$ 

It is natural to speculate that (1.1) holds on the functor level, i.e.  $\tau_P \cong Cone(\mathcal{P} \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{ev_{\Gamma}} Id)$ . Theorem 1.2 only shows this is true on the object level but doesn't contain information on the morphisms or their compositions.

For the precise definition of  $\mathcal{P}$  and the equivariant evaluation map  $ev_{\Gamma}$ , readers are referred to Section 2.5. Roughly,  $\mathcal{P}$  should be thought of as a homological-algebraic incarnation of the immersed Lagrangian represented by the universal cover  $S^n \to P$ . The equivariant evaluation is an adaption of the usual evaluation in this context. Our main theorem has the following consequence when  $P = \mathbb{RP}^n$ .

**Corollary 1.3.** If P is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{RP}^n$  for n = 4k - 1 and  $\operatorname{char}(\mathbb{K}) \neq 2$ , then there are two orthogonal spherical objects  $P_1, P_2 \in \mathcal{F}$  coming from equipping P with different rank one local systems, and  $\tau_P(\mathcal{E}) \cong \tau_{P_1}\tau_{P_2}(\mathcal{E})$ .

If  $P = \mathbb{RP}^n$  for n odd and char $(\mathbb{K}) = 2$ , then P is a  $\mathbb{P}$ -object and  $\tau_P(\mathcal{E})$  is quasi-isomorphic to applying  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist to  $\mathcal{E}$  along P.

**Remark 1.4.** We would like to remark that Theorem 1.2 has the following reformulation. Under the assumption of Theorem 1.2, there is a spherical functor (see [AL17] for more about spherical functors)

$$\mathcal{S}:\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]^{\mathrm{perf}}\to\mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{perf}}$$

given by  $V \mapsto V \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P}$  (see Section 2.5). Moreover, for any  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ , we have

$$\tau_P(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \mathcal{T}_S(\mathcal{E})$$

in  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$ , where  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{S}}$  is the twist auto-equivalence of  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$  associated to  $\mathcal{S}$ .

### Examples and outlooks

The current paper is focused on the foundations of the theory of twist auto-equivalences associated to  $\tau_P$  and is the starting point of a series of works investigating examples involving Lagrangian spherical space forms. Although we will not discuss these examples in depth, we give an overview of several forthcoming projects to give the readers an idea on the potential applications of the twist formula and its relations to existing works.

• In an upcoming paper [MR], the first author and Ruddat construct Lagrangian embeddings of graph manifolds (e.g. spherical space forms) systematically in some Calabi-Yau 3-folds using toric degenerations and tropical curves. Previous constructions in smooth toric varieties and open Calabi-Yau manifolds using tropical curves can be found in [Mik] and [Mat], respectively.

Lagrangian spherical space forms have been studied in some physics literature (see e.g. [HK09]) and Dehn twists along them can be realized as the monodromy around a special point in the complex moduli. Our study in this paper can be viewed as the mirror-dual of the intensive study of monodromy actions on the derived category of coherent sheaves in the stringy Kähler moduli space ([AHK05], [Hor05], [DS14], [DW16], [HLS16], etc).

• Hong, Lau and the first author study the local mirror symmetry in all characteristics in a subsequent paper [HLM] when two lens spaces P, P' are plumbed together. In this case, the lens spaces can be identified with fat spherical objects in the sense of Toda [Tod07] in certain characteristics. This shows that Dehn twists along lens spaces are mirror to fat spherical twists in this case.

Independently, in the upcoming work [ESW], Evans, Smith and Wemyss relate Fukaya categories of plumbings of 3-spheres along a circle with derived categories of sheaves on local Calabi-Yau 3-folds containing two floppable curves. Both Lens space twists and fat spherical twists naturally arise in specific characteristics in that setting.

• In principle, Theorem 1.2 can be deduced from the Lagrangian cobordism formalism [BC13], [BC14], [BC17]. There are several additional ingredients that need to be taken into account, though. In the most naive attempt, similar to [MWa], one needs to use an immersed Lagrangian cobordism that does not have clean self-intersections, which would not even have Gromov compactness on holomorphic disks. A fix could be to generalize the *bottleneck immersed cobordism* [MWa] to the categorical level, which should yield the desired mapping cone relation.

Note that this bottleneck immersed formalism is different from the ongoing work of Biran and Cornea on the immersed Lagrangian cobordism, but their framework should also enter the picture. We have not adopted this approach since the relevant tools are still under construction, but such an alternative approach should be of independent interest and yields a functor level statement mentioned below Theorem 1.2.

• Another possible approach to Theorem 1.2, explained to us by Ivan Smith, is to realize the Dehn twists as the monodromy in certain symplectic fibrations and apply the Ma'u-Wehrheim-Woodward quilt formalism [MWW18]. This point of view is particularly welladapted to the case of  $P = \mathbb{RP}^n$ . In this case,  $\tau_P$  can be realized as the monodromy of a Morse-Bott Lefschetz fibration, and one could try using the techniques developed by Wehrheim and Woodward in [WW16]. When P is a general spherical space form, the symplectic fibration is no longer Morse-Bott and more technicalities will be involved. Carrying out this approach would be of independent interest, and it provides another possible approach to the functor version of Theorem 1.2.

The examples mentioned above mostly involve lens spaces where the group  $\Gamma$  is a cyclic group. The algebro geometric counterparts of Dehn twists along more general spherical space forms such as Chiang Lagrangians will be investigated in future works.

#### Sketch of the proof

The proof of Theorem 1.2 occupies the rest of this paper. Here we give a roadmap of the proof, along with a summary of each section in the paper.

In Section 2, we review Lagrangian objects with local systems in the Fukaya categories. When the underlying Lagrangian has finite fundamental group, we introduced its universal local system and regard it as the immersed object coming from the universal cover the the Lagrangian. This gives the object  $\mathcal{P}$  in Theorem 1.2 when the underlying Lagrangian is a finite quotient of  $S^n$ . We also define the equivariant evaluation map in (1.1).

Section 3 contains most technical tools we will need from symplectic field theory and gradings, where the main new ingredient is an adaption of [EES05, EES07, Dra04, CRGG15], which shows the regularity of various holomorphic curves that we will encounter later.

In Section 4, we apply symplectic field theory to understand the holomorphic curves contributing to the Floer differentials, and prove a cohomological version of Theorem 1.2, that is, Proposition 4.1. To achieve this, we first give an identification of generators on both sides by geometrically identifying the intersections, then apply neck-stretching around  $\mathcal{P}$  to holomorphic curves (triangles and strips) involved in both sides of (5.2). We prove, by studying the resulting configuration, that the limiting curves in the complement of U are identical for the corresponding differentials under our earlier identification of the generators. In other words, we show that the two cochain complexes are indeed *isomorphic* when the neck is stretched long enough.

In Section 5, we prove the categorical version by constructing an appropriate degree zero cocycle between the objects on the two sides of (1.1), which induces the quasi-isomorphism in (1.1) (and hence finish the proof of Theorem 1.2). This cocycle  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  lives in  $\mathcal{D}$ , which is defined in (5.3). Geometrically, we perturb the object  $L_1$  to a nearby copy  $L'_1$  and consider its intersection with the union of  $L_1$  and P, which consist the generators of  $\mathcal{D}$ . There is an intersection between  $L_1$  and  $L'_1$  that represents that fundamental cycle  $e_L$ , which is intact after the Dehn twist because it is away from the support. We pursue the naive idea that, this intersection (denoted as  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  when considered as a cochain in  $\mathcal{D}$ ) should be the cocyle we are looking for in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Unfortunately,  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  is not closed. However, we show that its differential has the form of an upper triangular matrix in Proposition 5.8. To supplement this fact, we computed the differentials from degree zero cochains that that supported at intersections between  $L'_1 \cap P$ . We then correct  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  by considering the multiplications of terms from the term  $CF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}^1) \otimes_{\Gamma} CF(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), \mathcal{P})$  and prove that one can find a cocycle  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  in the form of Proposition 5.16. A further study in the multiplications involving  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  shows it indeed induces a quasi-isomorphism (1.1), hence proving Theorem 1.2. Again, the study of relevant  $\mu^k$ -multiplications are based on SFT and neck-stretching. The orientation is discussed in the appendix.

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#### Some notations.

- $\Gamma$  is a finite group.
- P is a Lagrangian submanifold diffeomorphic to  $S^n/\Gamma$  for some  $\Gamma \subset SO(n+1)$  and P is spin (see Remark 2.9)
- **L** is the universal cover of L and  $\pi : \mathbf{L} \to L$  (or  $\pi : T^*\mathbf{L} \to T^*L$ ) is the covering map. In particular, **P** is the universal cover of P.
- $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbf{L}$  is a lift of  $p \in L$ .
- $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  is the geometric intersection  $\pi(T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P} \cap \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P})) \in T^*P$  (see (4.5)).
- $\mathcal{P}$  denotes P equipped with the universal local system, and  $\mathcal{E}$  is a Lagrangian equipped with some local system.

**Standing Assumption:**  $(M, \omega)$  is a Liouville manifold with  $2c_1(M, \omega) = 0$ , and a fixed choice of a trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  is chosen. All Lagrangians are equipped with a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading and a spin structure.

# 2 Floer theory with local systems

In this section, we discuss the Floer theory for Lagrangians with local systems in the spirit of [Abo12a]. In Section 2.1, we review the definition of the Fukaya category. Universal local systems are introduced in Section 2.2 and 2.3, accompanied with some algebraic results surrounding this notion. These results might be known to some very experts but were not found in the literature to the best of the authors' knowledge. We have intentionally spelled them out in the most explicit way in our capability, with in mind its comparison with immersed Floer theory, from

which some readers could find independent interest. These preliminary results enable us to explain the object  $\mathcal{P}$  in Section 2.4 and the evaluation map in Section 2.5. Discussions about gradings can be found in [Sei00], [Sei08, Section 11,12].

#### 2.1 Fukaya categories with local systems

Let L be a closed exact Lagrangian submanifold in  $(M, \omega)$  with a base point  $o_L \in L$ . Let E be a finite rank local system on L with a flat connection  $\nabla$ . For a path  $c : [0, 1] \to L$ , we denote the parallel transport from  $E_{c(0)}$  to  $E_{c(1)}$  along c with respect to the connection  $\nabla$ .

$$I_c: E_{c(0)} \to E_{c(1)}.$$

We use the monodromy action from  $\Gamma := \pi_1(L)$  to  $E_{o_L}$  to endow  $(E, \nabla)$  a right  $\Gamma$ -module structure. More explicitly, for  $y \in E_{o_L}$  and  $g \in \Gamma$ , the right action is given by

$$\rho: \Gamma \to End(E_{o_L}) \tag{2.1}$$

$$g \mapsto (y \mapsto I_g y). \tag{2.2}$$

In particular,  $(yg)h = I_h(I_gy) = I_{g*h}y = y(g*h)$ , where \* stands for concatenation of paths (i.e. g goes first). We use  $\mathcal{E}$  to denote the triple  $(L, E, \nabla)$ . For a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism  $\phi \in Ham(M, \omega)$ , we define  $\phi(\mathcal{E}) := (\phi(L), \phi_*E, \phi_*\nabla)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{E}^i := (L_i, E^i, \nabla^i)$  for i = 0, 1. A family of *compactly supported* Hamiltonian functions  $H = (H_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$  is called  $(L_0, L_1)$ -admissible if

$$\phi^H(L_0) \pitchfork L_1 \tag{2.3}$$

where  $\phi^H$  is the time one flow of the Hamiltonian vector field  $X_H = (X_{H_t})_{t \in [0,1]}$ . Let  $\mathcal{X}(L_0, L_1)$ be the set of *H*-Hamiltonian chord from  $L_0$  to  $L_1$  (i.e.  $x : [0,1] \to M$  such that  $\dot{x}(t) = X_H(x(t))$ ,  $x(0) \in L_0$  and  $x(1) \in L_1$ ). The Floer cochain complex between  $\mathcal{E}^0$  and  $\mathcal{E}^1$  is defined by

$$CF(\mathcal{E}^{0}, \mathcal{E}^{1}) := \bigoplus_{x \in \mathcal{X}(L_{0}, L_{1})} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^{0}_{x(0)}, E^{1}_{x(1)})$$
(2.4)

Now, we want to introduce some notations to define the differential for  $CF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1)$  as well as the  $A_{\infty}$ -structure for a collection of Lagrangians with local systems.

Let  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$  be the space of holomorphic disks with d + 1 boundary punctures. For each  $S \in \mathcal{R}^{d+1}$ , one of the boundary punctures is distinguished and it is denoted by  $\xi_0$ . The other boundary punctures are ordered counterclockwisely along the boundary and are denoted by  $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_d$ , respectively. We denote the boundary component of S from  $\xi_j$  to  $\xi_{j+1}$  by  $\partial_j S$  for  $j = 0, \ldots, d-1$ . The boundary component from  $\xi_d$  to  $\xi_0$  is denoted by  $\partial_d S$ . For  $j = 1, \ldots, d$ , we pick an outgoing/positive strip-like end for  $\xi_j$ , which is a holomorphic embedding  $\epsilon_j : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times [0, 1] \to S$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_j(s,0) \in \partial_{j-1}S\\ \epsilon_j(s,1) \in \partial_jS\\ \lim_{s \to \infty} \epsilon_j(s,t) = \xi_j \end{cases}$$
(2.5)

We also pick an incoming/negative strip-like end for  $\xi_0$ , which is a holomorphic embedding  $\epsilon_0 : \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} \times [0, 1] \to S$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_0(s,0) \in \partial_0 S\\ \epsilon_0(s,1) \in \partial_d S\\ \lim_{s \to -\infty} \epsilon_0(s,t) = \xi_0 \end{cases}$$
(2.6)

The strip-like ends are assumed to have pairwise disjoint image and they vary smoothly with respect to S in  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$ .

Let  $\{\mathcal{E}^j\}_{j=0}^d$  be a finite collection of Lagrangians with local systems. For  $j = 1, \ldots, d$ , let  $H_j$  be a  $(L_{j-1}, L_j)$ -admissible Hamiltonian (see (2.3)). We also pick a  $(L_0, L_d)$ -admissible Hamiltonian  $H_0$ . For each  $S \in \mathcal{R}^{d+1}$  and each collection  $\{H_j\}_{j=0}^d$ , we pick a  $C_{cpt}^{\infty}(M)$ -valued oneform  $K \in \Omega^1(S, C_{cpt}^{\infty}(M))$ . Let  $X_K \in \Omega^1(S, C^{\infty}(M, TM))$  be the corresponding Hamiltonianvector-field-valued one-form. We require that

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_j^* X_K = X_{H_j} dt \\ X_K|_{\partial_j S} = 0 \end{cases}$$
(2.7)

When d = 1, we assume that  $K(s,t) = H_{0,t} = H_{1,t}$  for all  $(s,t) \in \mathbb{R} \times [0,1]$ . We also assume that K varies smoothly with respect to S and is consistent with respect to gluing near boundary strata of the Deligne-Mumford-Stasheff compactification of  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$ .

Let  $J^M$  be an  $\omega$ -compatible almost complex structure that is cylindrical over the infinite end of M (see Definition 3.1). Let  $\mathcal{J}(M, \omega)$  be the space of  $\omega$ -compatible almost complex structures J such that  $J = J^M$  outside a compact set. For  $j = 0, \ldots, d$ , let  $J_j = (J_{j,t})_{t \in [0,1]}$  be a family such that  $J_{j,t} \in \mathcal{J}(M, \omega)$  for all t. For each  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  and each collection  $\{J_j\}_{j=0}^d$ , we pick a domain-dependent  $\omega$ -compatible almost complex structure  $J = (J_z)_{z \in S}$  such that

$$\begin{cases} J_z \in \mathcal{J}(M,\omega) \text{ for all } z\\ J \circ \epsilon_j(s,t) = J_{j,t} \text{ for all } j, s, t \end{cases}$$
(2.8)

When d = 1, we require that  $J = (J_{s,t})_{(s,t)\in\mathbb{R}\times[0,1]} = (J_t)_{t\in[0,1]}$  is independent of the s-direction. We assume that J varies smoothly with respect to S in  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$  and is consistent with respect to gluing near boundary strata of the Deligne-Mumford-Stasheff compactification of  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$ .

Let  $x_j \in \mathcal{X}(L_{j-1}, L_j)$  for  $j = 1, \ldots, d$  and  $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}(L_0, L_d)$ . For d > 1, we define  $\mathcal{M}^{K,J}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  to be the space of smooth maps  $u : S \to M$  such that

$$\begin{cases}
S \in \mathcal{R}^{d+1} \\
(du - X_K)^{0,1} = 0 \text{ with respect to } (J_z)_{u(z)} \\
u(\partial_j S) \subset L_j \text{ for all } j \\
\lim_{s \to \pm \infty} u(\epsilon_j(s, t)) = x_j(t) \text{ for all } j
\end{cases}$$
(2.9)

When d = 1, we define  $\mathcal{M}^{K,J}(x_0; x_1)$  to be the corresponding space of maps after modulo the  $\mathbb{R}$  action by translation in the s-coordinate. For simplicity, we may use  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  to denote  $\mathcal{M}^{K,J}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  for an appropriate choice of (K, J).

**Remark 2.1.** In Section 3, we will encounter situations where  $K \equiv 0$  and J is a domain independent almost complex structure. In these cases, J has to be chosen carefully to achieve regularity, so we will emphasize J and denote the moduli by  $\mathcal{M}^J(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  therein.

When every element in  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  is transversally cut out,  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  is a smooth manifold of dimension  $|x_0| - \sum_{j=1}^d |x_j| + (d-2)$ , where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the Maslov grading (see Section 3.2).

For each transversally cut out rigid element  $u \in \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ , we define

$$\mu^{u} : Hom(E_{x_{d}(0)}^{d-1}, E_{x_{d}(1)}^{d}) \times \dots \times Hom(E_{x_{1}(0)}^{0}, E_{x_{1}(1)}^{1}) \to Hom(E_{x_{0}(0)}^{0}, E_{x_{0}(1)}^{d})$$
$$\mu^{u}(\psi^{d}, \dots, \psi^{1})(a) = \operatorname{sign}(u)I_{\partial_{d}u} \circ \psi^{d} \circ \dots \circ \psi^{1} \circ I_{\partial_{0}u}(a)$$
(2.10)

where  $\partial_d u = u|_{\partial_d S}$  for  $\partial_d S$  being equipped with the counterclockwise orientation, and sign $(u) \in \{\pm 1\}$  is the sign determined by u (see Appendix A). Finally, we define the  $A_{\infty}$ -operation by

$$\mu^{d}: CF(\mathcal{E}^{d-1}, \mathcal{E}^{d}) \times \dots \times CF(\mathcal{E}^{0}, \mathcal{E}^{1}) \to CF(\mathcal{E}^{0}, \mathcal{E}^{d})$$
$$\mu^{d}(\psi^{d}, \dots, \psi^{1}) = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{M}(x_{0}; x_{d}, \dots, x_{1}), u \text{ rigid}} \mu^{u}(\psi^{d}, \dots, \psi^{1})$$
(2.11)

The fact that the auxiliary structures can be chosen generically and consistently in the sense of [Sei08], and that  $\{\mu^d\}_{d\geq 1}$  gives rise to an  $A_{\infty}$  structure follows the argument in [Sei08] line-by-line. This defines the Fukaya category  $\mathcal{F}uk(X)$  that we will use throughout.

#### 2.2 Unwinding local systems

The goal of this subsection is to give a computable presentation of  $CF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1)$ , where  $\mathcal{E}^i$  are local systems of the same underlying Lagrangian. In particular, the identification (2.16) and (2.27) will be used frequently later.

Let L be a closed exact Lagrangian and  $\mathbf{L}$  be its universal cover with covering map  $\pi : \mathbf{L} \to L$ . Let  $o_L \in L$  be a base point of L and we pick a lift  $o_{\mathbf{L}} \in \mathbf{L}$  such that  $\pi(o_{\mathbf{L}}) = o_L$ . We assume throughout that  $\Gamma := \pi_1(L, o_L)$  is a finite group so that  $\mathbf{L}$  is compact. For each  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbf{L}$ , there is a unique path  $c_{\mathbf{q}}$  (up to homotopy) from  $o_{\mathbf{L}}$  to  $\mathbf{q}$  and we identify  $\mathbf{q}$  with the homotopy class  $[\pi \circ c_{\mathbf{q}}]$ . We have a *left*  $\Gamma$ -action on  $\mathbf{L}$  given by

$$g\mathbf{q} := g * [(\pi \circ c_{\mathbf{q}})] \tag{2.12}$$

for  $g \in \pi_1(L, o_L)$ , where  $g * [(\pi \circ c_{\mathbf{q}})]$  is a homotopy class of path from  $o_L$  to  $\pi(\mathbf{q})$  and we identify it as a point in **L**. It is clear that  $h(g\mathbf{q}) = (h*g)\mathbf{q}$ . If we pick a Morse function and a Riemannian metric on L to define a Morse cochain complex  $C^*(L)$ , we can lift the function and metric to **L** to define a Morse cochain complex  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$ . The  $\Gamma$ -action on **L** induces a left  $\Gamma$ -action on  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$ . The  $\Gamma$ -invariant part of  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$  can be identified with  $C^*(L)$ , in other words,

$$C^*(L) = Rhom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]-mod}(\mathbb{K}, C^*(\mathbf{L})) = (C^*(\mathbf{L}))^{\Gamma}$$
(2.13)

We want to discuss the analog when L is equipped with local systems.

Given a local system E on L, we use  $\mathbf{E} = \pi^* E$  to denote the pull-back local system. For a path  $c : [0, 1] \to \mathbf{L}$ , we use  $I_c$  to denote the parallel transport with respect to the pull-back flat connection on  $\mathbf{E}$ .

Let  $E^i$  be local systems on L for i = 0, 1. We have right actions (see (2.1))

$$\rho^i: \Gamma \to End(E^i_{o_L}) \tag{2.14}$$

for i = 0, 1. It induces a left  $\Gamma$ -module structure on  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{o_L}^0, E_{o_L}^1)$  by

$$\psi \mapsto g \cdot \psi := \rho^1(g^{-1}) \circ \psi \circ \rho^0(g) \tag{2.15}$$

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $E^i$  be local systems on L for i = 0, 1. Then there is a DG left  $\Gamma$ -module isomorphism

$$\Phi: CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1)) \simeq C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_{o_L}, E^1_{o_L})$$
(2.16)

where the differential on  $C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_{o_L}, E^1_{o_L})$  is only the differential on the first factor, and the  $\Gamma$ -action on it is given by  $g \cdot (x \otimes \psi) := gx \otimes g \cdot \psi$  (see (2.12) and (2.15)). *Proof.* We use the Morse model to compute the Floer cochain complex. Let  $C^*(L)$  be a Morse cochain complex and  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$  be its lift. We use  $\partial_L$  and  $\partial_{\mathbf{L}}$  to denote the differential of  $C^*(L)$  and  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$ , respectively.

For each  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbf{L}$  and both i = 0, 1, there is a canonical identification

$$I_{c_{\mathbf{q}}^{-1}}: \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{q}}^{i} \to \mathbf{E}_{o_{\mathbf{L}}}^{i}$$

$$(2.17)$$

where  $c_{\mathbf{q}}$  is the unique (up to homotopy) path from  $o_{\mathbf{L}}$  to  $\mathbf{q}$ . Therefore, it induces a trivialization of  $\mathbf{E}^{i}$ . We can also trivialize  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}^{0}, \mathbf{E}^{1})$  using the canonical isomorphism

$$Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}^{0}_{\mathbf{q}}, \mathbf{E}^{1}_{\mathbf{q}}) \to Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}^{0}_{o_{\mathbf{L}}}, \mathbf{E}^{1}_{o_{\mathbf{L}}}) = Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^{0}_{o_{L}}, E^{1}_{o_{L}})$$
(2.18)

$$\psi \mapsto I^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}}^{-1}} \circ \psi \circ I^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}}} \tag{2.19}$$

Using the trivialization (2.18), (2.19), we have a graded vector space isomorphism (2.16). To compare the differential on both sides of (2.16), let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a Morse trajectory from  $\mathbf{q}_0$  to  $\mathbf{q}_1$  contributing to  $\partial_{\mathbf{L}}$  and hence the differential of  $CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1))$ . For  $\mathbf{q}_1 \otimes \psi \in C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_{o_L}, E^1_{o_L})$ ,

$$\Phi(\mu^{\mathbf{u}}(\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{q}_1 \otimes \psi))) \tag{2.20}$$

$$= \operatorname{sign}(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{q}_0 \otimes I_{c_{\mathbf{q}_0}^{-1}} I_{\partial_1 \mathbf{u}} I_{c_{\mathbf{q}_1}} \psi I_{c_{\mathbf{q}_1}^{-1}} I_{\partial_0 \mathbf{u}} I_{c_{\mathbf{q}_0}}$$
(2.21)

$$=\operatorname{sign}(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{q}_0\otimes\psi\tag{2.22}$$

where the second equality uses the fact that  $\pi_1(\mathbf{L}) = 1$ . Therefore,  $\Phi$  is an isomorphism of differential graded vector spaces if we define the differential on  $C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_{o_L}, E^1_{o_L})$  to be  $\partial_{\mathbf{L}}$  acting on the first factor.

Finally, we want to compare the left  $\Gamma$ -module structures. In  $CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1))$ , the action on  $\psi \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}^0_{\mathbf{q}}, \mathbf{E}^1_{\mathbf{q}}) = Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_q, E^1_q)$  is given by

$$\psi \mapsto g\psi = \psi \tag{2.23}$$

where the last  $\psi$  lies in  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}}^{0}, \mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}}^{1}) = Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{q}^{0}, E_{q}^{1})$ . For  $\mathbf{q} \otimes \psi \in C^{*}(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{o_{L}}^{0}, E_{o_{L}}^{1})$ ,

$$\Phi(g(\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{q}\otimes\psi))) \tag{2.24}$$

$$=g\mathbf{q}\otimes I_{c_{g\mathbf{q}}}^{-1}I_{c_{\mathbf{q}}}\psi I_{c_{\mathbf{q}}}^{-1}I_{c_{g\mathbf{q}}}$$
(2.25)

$$=g\mathbf{q}\otimes I_{g^{-1}}\psi I_g \tag{2.26}$$

which is exactly the one given in (2.12) and (2.15). It finishes the proof.

We have the following consequence of Lemma 2.2:

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $E^i$  be local systems on L for i = 0, 1. Then

$$CF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1) = Rhom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]-mod}(\mathbb{K}, C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E^0_{o_L}, E^1_{o_L}))$$
(2.27)

*Proof.* We use the notation in the proof of Lemma 2.2. Let u be a Morse trajectory from  $q_0$  to  $q_1$  contributing to  $\partial_L(q_1)$ . Let  $\mathbf{q}_0 \in \mathbf{L}$  be a lift of  $q_0$  and let  $\mathbf{q}_1 \in \mathbf{L}$  be the corresponding lift of  $q_1$  such that u lifts to a Morse trajectory  $\mathbf{u}$  from  $\mathbf{q}_0$  to  $\mathbf{q}_1$ . Let  $\psi \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{q_1}^0, E_{q_1}^1)$ . By (2.10), we have

$$\mu^{u}(\psi) = \operatorname{sign}(u)I_{\partial_{1}u}\psi I_{\partial_{0}u}$$
(2.28)

In the above notation, we regard u as a degenerated holomorphic strip and have suppressed the direction of parallel transport for brevity, since it should be clear from the context.

By definition,  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_{j}}^{0}, \mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_{j}}^{1}) \cong Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{q_{j}}^{0}, E_{q_{j}}^{1})$  for j = 0, 1 and for all  $g \in \Gamma$ . Therefore, for  $\psi \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_{1}}^{0}, \mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_{1}}^{1}) \subset CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^{0}), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^{1})),$ 

$$\mu^{g\mathbf{u}}(\psi) = \operatorname{sign}(g\mathbf{u})I_{\partial_1 g\mathbf{u}}\psi I_{\partial_0 g\mathbf{u}}$$
(2.29)

$$= \operatorname{sign}(u) I_{\partial_1 u} \psi I_{\partial_0 u} \tag{2.30}$$

where  $\mu^{g\mathbf{u}}$  is the term in the differential of  $CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1))$  contributed by  $g\mathbf{u}$ , and the second equality uses  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_1}^0, \mathbf{E}_{g\mathbf{q}_1}^1) \cong Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{q_1}^0, E_{q_1}^1)$ . The  $\Gamma$  action on the generators  $(\mathbf{q} \otimes \psi \mapsto g\mathbf{q} \otimes \psi)$  and differentials  $(\mu^u \mapsto \mu^{g\mathbf{u}})$  of  $CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1))$  are free and the invariant part can be identified with  $CF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1)$  so

$$CF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1) = Rhom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]-mod}(\mathbb{K}, CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1))) = (CF((\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^0), (\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{E}^1)))^{\Gamma}$$
(2.31)

and the result follows from Lemma 2.2.

#### 2.3 The universal local system

In this subsection, we introduce the universal local system and hence, in particular, the object  $\mathcal{P}$  in Theorem 1.2. Some elementary properties of the universal local system will also be given. Let us start from a general discussion of universal local systems.

**Definition 2.4** (Universal local system). The universal local system E on L is a local system that is uniquely determined by the following conditions: As a vector space,  $E_q = \mathbb{K}\langle \pi^{-1}(q) \rangle$  for  $q \in L$ . For any  $y \in \pi^{-1}(q)$  and  $c : [0,1] \to L$  such that c(0) = q, the parallel transport of Esatisfies  $I_c(y) = \mathbf{c}(1)$ , where  $\mathbf{c} : [0,1] \to \mathbf{L}$  is the unique path such that  $\pi \circ \mathbf{c} = c$  and  $\mathbf{c}(0) = y$ .

As usual, we have the monodromy right  $\Gamma$ -action  $\rho$  on  $E_{o_L}$  (2.1). On top of that, we can use the left  $\Gamma$  action on **L** (2.12) to induce (by extending it linearly) a left  $\Gamma$  action on  $E_q$  for all  $q \in L$ . These two actions on  $E_{o_L}$  commute and in general, we have

**Lemma 2.5.** Let E be the universal local system on L. For  $q \in L$ ,  $y \in E_q$ ,  $g \in \Gamma$  and  $c : [0,1] \rightarrow L$  such that c(0) = q, we have

$$g(I_c y) = I_c(gy) \tag{2.32}$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, let  $y \in \pi^{-1}(q)$ . We can identify y with the homotopy class  $[\pi \circ c_y]$  from  $o_L$  to q. Then we have (see (2.12))

$$g(I_c y) = g * [\pi \circ c_y] * [c] = I_c(gy)$$
(2.33)

where [c] is the homotopy class of path from c(0) to c(1) that c represents.

Let  $\mathcal{E} = (L, E, \nabla)$ . Since we have a left action on  $E_q$  for all  $q \in L$ , it induces a left  $\Gamma$  action on  $CF(\mathcal{E}', \mathcal{E})$ 

$$\psi \mapsto g\psi \tag{2.34}$$

for any  $\mathcal{E}' \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ . Similarly, for any  $\mathcal{E}' \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we have the induced right  $\Gamma$  action on  $CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}')$ 

$$\psi(\cdot) \mapsto \psi(g \cdot) \tag{2.35}$$

As an immediate consequence of Lemma 2.5 and the definition of  $\mu^u$  (see (2.10)), we have

**Corollary 2.6.** Let E be the universal local system on L. Let  $\mathcal{L}_1 \ldots, \mathcal{L}_r, \mathcal{K}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{K}_s \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ . Let  $y_j \in CF(\mathcal{K}_j, \mathcal{K}_{j+1})$  for  $j = 1, \ldots, s - 1$ ,  $x_j \in CF(\mathcal{L}_j, \mathcal{L}_{j+1})$  for  $j = 1, \ldots, r - 1$ ,  $\psi_2 \in CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K}_1)$  and  $\psi_1 \in CF(\mathcal{L}_r, \mathcal{E})$ , we have

$$\mu^{u}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\psi_2g,\psi_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1) = \mu^{u}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\psi_2,g\psi_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1)$$
(2.36)

for all  $g \in \Gamma$ , where u is an element in the appropriate moduli contributing to the  $A_{\infty}$ -structural maps of  $\mathcal{F}$ . When s = 0 (resp. r = 0), we have

$$g\mu^{u}(\psi_{1}, x_{r-1}, \dots, x_{1}) = \mu^{u}(g\psi_{1}, x_{r-1}, \dots, x_{1}), \text{ respectively}$$
(2.37)

$$\mu^{u}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\psi_2g) = \mu^{u}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\psi_2)g$$
(2.38)

**Remark 2.7.** We offer an alternative way to understand (2.36) using  $\mathbf{L}$  instead of  $\mathcal{E}$ . For each  $q \in L$  and a lift  $\mathbf{q}$  of q, we can view  $\mathbf{q}$  as a point in  $\mathbf{L}$  or as an element in  $E_q$ . Therefore, we can identify the generators of  $CF(T_q^*L, \mathcal{E})$  and the generators of  $CF(\cup_{g \in \Gamma} T_{q\mathbf{q}}^*\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{L})$  by

$$E_q \ni \mathbf{q} \mapsto \mathbf{q} \in T^*_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{L} \cap \mathbf{L}$$

$$(2.39)$$

Dually,  $CF(\mathcal{E}, T_q^*L)$  can be identified with  $CF(\mathbf{L}, \cup_{g \in \Gamma} T_{q\mathbf{q}}^*\mathbf{L})$  by

$$Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_q,\mathbb{K}) \ni \mathbf{q}^{\vee} \mapsto \mathbf{q} \in \mathbf{L} \cap T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{L}$$

$$(2.40)$$

The right action (2.35) on  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_q, \mathbb{K})$  is given by  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee}g = (g^{-1}\mathbf{q})^{\vee}$ , which corresponds to the right action on  $\mathbf{L}$  by  $\mathbf{q}g = g^{-1}\mathbf{q}$ .

Now, we want to make connection with Corollary 2.6. For simplicity, we assume that  $K_1$ and  $L_1$  are Lagrangians without local systems and  $\psi_1 = \mathbf{q}_1 \in E_{q_1}, \ \psi_2 = \mathbf{q}_2^{\vee} \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(E_{q_2}, \mathbb{K}).$ Let  $\gamma$  be  $\partial_{r+1}S$ , which is the component of  $\partial S$  with label L.

Since the parallel transport of E can be identified with moving the points in  $\mathbf{L}$ , for  $\mu^u$  to be non-zero and contribute to the RHS of (2.36), there is exactly one  $g \in \Gamma$  and one lift of  $u|_{\gamma}$ , which is denoted by  $\mathbf{u} : \gamma \to \mathbf{L}$ , such that  $\mathbf{u}$  goes from  $g\mathbf{q}_1$  to  $\mathbf{q}_2$ . For each  $h \in \Gamma$ , the maps  $h\mathbf{u} : \gamma \to \mathbf{L}$  are the other lifts of  $u|_{\gamma}$  and  $h\mathbf{u}$  goes from  $hg\mathbf{q}_1$  to  $h\mathbf{q}_2$ .

Roughly speaking, one can define a Floer theory by counting  $(u, \mathbf{u})$ , where u is as in Corollary 2.6 and  $\mathbf{u}$  is a lift of  $u|_{\gamma}$ . This definition is explained in details in [Dam12] and the outcome is the same as Lagrangian Floer theory with local systems. In this setting, the pair  $(u, h\mathbf{u})$  contributes to

$$\mu^{(u,h\mathbf{u})}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,h\mathbf{q}_2,hg\mathbf{q}_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1)$$
(2.41)

and it equals to  $\mu^{(u,\mathbf{u})}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\mathbf{q}_2,g\mathbf{q}_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1)$ . Under the identification (2.39), (2.40), it means that (when  $h = g^{-1}$ )

$$\mu^{(u,\mathbf{u})}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,\mathbf{q}_2^{\vee},g\mathbf{q}_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1) = \mu^{(u,g^{-1}\mathbf{u})}(y_{s-1},\ldots,y_1,(g^{-1}\mathbf{q}_2)^{\vee},\mathbf{q}_1,x_{r-1},\ldots,x_1)$$

which is exactly the same as (2.36)

The rest of this subsection is devoted to the self-Floer chain complex  $CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E})$  when E is the universal local system of L. Let  $R := \mathbb{K}[\Gamma]$  and  $1_{\Gamma}$  be the unit of  $\Gamma$ . For  $h \in \Gamma$ , we define  $\tau_h \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(R, R)$  by

$$\tau_h(g) = \begin{cases} 1_{\Gamma} & \text{if } g = h^{-1} \\ 0 & \text{if } g \in \Gamma \setminus \{h^{-1}\} \end{cases}$$
(2.42)

Note that  $R \cong E_{o_L}$  so, by Lemma 2.3, we have

$$CF(\mathcal{E},\mathcal{E}) = (C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(R,R))^{\Gamma}$$
(2.43)

as a  $\Gamma$ -module.

In particular, we have  $\mu^1, \mu^2$  on  $(C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(R, R))^{\Gamma}$  inherited from  $CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E})$ . In Lemma 2.2, we proved that  $\mu^1$  coincides with the Morse differential  $\partial_{\mathbf{L}}$  on the first factor. The same line of argument can prove that  $\mu^2$  coincides with the Floer multiplicitation on  $C^*(\mathbf{L})$  tensored with the composition in  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(R, R)$  (i.e.  $\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(-, -) \otimes - \circ -)$ . Let  $\Phi_2 : C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes R \to (C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(R, R))^{\Gamma}$  be the graded vector space isomorphism

given by

$$\Phi_2: x \otimes h \mapsto \sum_{g \in \Gamma} gx \otimes g \cdot \tau_h = \sum_{g \in \Gamma} gx \otimes I_{g^{-1}} \tau_h I_g$$
(2.44)

**Lemma 2.8.** We have the following equalities

$$\Phi_2^{-1} \circ \mu^1 \circ \Phi_2(x \otimes h) = \partial_{\mathbf{L}}(x) \otimes h \tag{2.45}$$

$$\Phi_2^{-1} \circ \mu^2 \circ (\Phi_2(x_2 \otimes h_2), \Phi_2(x_1 \otimes h_1)) = \mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(x_2, h_2 x_1) \otimes h_2 h_1$$
(2.46)

As a consequence of (2.45), we have  $H^*(CF(\mathcal{E},\mathcal{E})) = H^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes R$  as a vector space.

*Proof.* For  $x \otimes h \in C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes R$ ,

$$\Phi_2^{-1} \circ \mu^1 \circ \Phi_2(x \otimes h) \tag{2.47}$$

$$=\Phi_2^{-1}(\sum_{q\in\Gamma}\partial_{\mathbf{L}}(gx)\otimes I_{g^{-1}}\tau_h I_g)$$
(2.48)

$$=\Phi_2^{-1}(\sum_{g\in\Gamma} g\partial_{\mathbf{L}}(x)\otimes I_{g^{-1}}\tau_h I_g)$$
(2.49)

$$=\partial_{\mathbf{L}}(x)\otimes h \tag{2.50}$$

where the second equality uses Corollary 2.6.

For  $x_i \otimes h_i \in C^*(\mathbf{L}) \otimes R$ , i = 1, 2, we have

$$\Phi_2^{-1} \circ \mu^2 \circ (\Phi_2(x_2 \otimes h_2), \Phi_2(x_1 \otimes h_1))$$
(2.51)

$$=\Phi_2^{-1}\left(\sum_{g_1,g_2\in\Gamma}\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(g_2x_2,g_1x_1)\otimes I_{g_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_2}I_{g_2}I_{g_1^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}I_{g_1}\right)$$
(2.52)

For  $\tau_{h_2}I_{g_2}I_{g_1^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}$  and hence  $I_{g_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_2}I_{g_2}I_{g_1^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}I_{g_1}$  to be non-zero, we must have

$$1_{\Gamma} * g_1^{-1} * g_2 = h_2^{-1} \tag{2.53}$$

and for any  $g_2$ , there is a unique  $g_1 (= g_2 h_2)$  such that  $g_1^{-1} g_2 = h_2^{-1}$ . Therefore, the sum becomes

$$\Phi_2^{-1}\left(\sum_{g_2\in\Gamma}\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(g_2x_2,g_2h_2x_1)\otimes I_{g_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_2}I_{h_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}I_{g_1}I_{g_2^{-1}}I_{g_2}\right)$$
(2.54)

$$=\Phi_2^{-1}\left(\sum_{q_2\in\Gamma}g_2\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(x_2,h_2x_1)\otimes I_{g_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_2}I_{h_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}I_{h_2}I_{g_2}\right)$$
(2.55)

$$=\Phi_2^{-1} (\sum_{q_2 \in \Gamma} g_2 \mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2(x_2, h_2 x_1) \otimes I_{g_2^{-1}} \tau_{h_2 h_1} I_{g_2})$$
(2.56)

$$=\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^{2}(x_{2},h_{2}x_{1})\otimes h_{2}h_{1}$$

$$(2.57)$$

where the second equality uses that  $\mu_{\mathbf{L}}^2$  is  $\Gamma$ -equivariant, and the third equality uses  $\tau_{h_2}I_{h_2^{-1}}\tau_{h_1}I_{h_2} = \tau_{h_1}I_{h_2} = \tau_{h_2h_1}$ .

### 2.4 Spherical Lagrangians

In this subsection, we apply the results from the previous subsections to the case that L = P such that

P is diffeomorphic to  $S^n/\Gamma$  for some  $\Gamma \subset SO(n+1)$ , so that the Γ-action is free, and P is spin (2.58)

**Remark 2.9.** A finite free quotient of a sphere  $S^n/\Gamma$  is spin if and only if there exists  $\widetilde{\Gamma} \subset Spin(n+1)$  such that the covering homomorphism  $Spin(n+1) \to SO(n+1)$  restricts to an isomorphism  $\widetilde{\Gamma} \simeq \Gamma$ .

First, we apply the discussion from Section 2.2:

**Lemma 2.10.** Let  $E^i$  be local systems on P for i = 0, 1. If char( $\mathbb{K}$ ) does not divide  $|\Gamma|$ , then  $HF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1) = H^*(S^n) \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L})$  as a  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space.

*Proof.* We apply the Leray spectral sequence to Lemma 2.3. The  $E_2$ -page is given by

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^p(\Gamma, H^q(S^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L}))$$

where the  $\Gamma$ -action is given by  $x \otimes \psi \mapsto x \otimes g \cdot \psi$  and  $g \cdot \psi = \rho^1(g^{-1}) \circ \psi \circ \rho^0(g)$ . As a result, we have

$$E_2^{p,q} = H^q(S^n) \otimes Ext^p_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L}))$$

When char( $\mathbb{K}$ ) does not divide  $|\Gamma|$ ,  $\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]$  is semi-simple by Maschke's theorem. Therefore,  $Ext^p_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L})) \neq 0$  only if p = 0. It implies that the spectral sequence degenerate at  $E_2$ -page and the result follows from the fact that  $Ext^0_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L}))$  consists of  $\psi \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L})$  such that  $g \cdot \psi = \psi$ , which is clearly  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{o_L})$ .

**Corollary 2.11.** Let  $\mathcal{E}^0$  be any local system on P corresponding to an irreducible representation of  $\Gamma$ . If char( $\mathbb{K}$ ) does not divide  $|\Gamma|$ , then  $HF(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^0) = H^*(S^n)$ .

*Proof.* It follow from Lemma 2.10 and Schur's lemma  $Hom_{\mathbb{K}[\Gamma]}(\mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}, \mathcal{E}^0_{o_L}) = \mathbb{K}$ . Notice that, the ring structure is also determined uniquely by dimension and degree reason.

Now, we want to compute the cohomological endomorphism algebra structure of the universal local system on P using Lemma 2.8. Since the universal local system on P plays a distinguished role in the paper, we denote it by  $\mathcal{P}$ . We define  $\mu^1, \mu^2$  on  $C^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R$  by (2.45) and (2.46), respectively. By (2.45), we know that  $H^*(C^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R)$  is given by  $H^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R$ . We are going to determine the algebra structure in the next lemma. Before that, we recall a convention

**Convention 2.12.** If C is a differential graded algebra (eg. a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra with no differential), then C is viewed as an  $A_{\infty}$  algebra by

$$\mu^{1}(a) = (-1)^{|a|} \partial(a) \tag{2.59}$$

$$\mu^2(a_1, a_0) = (-1)^{|a_0|} a_1 a_0 \tag{2.60}$$

and  $\mu^k = 0$  for  $k \ge 3$ , where  $a, a_0, a_1 \in C$  and  $\partial$  is the differential of C.

**Lemma 2.13.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the universal local system on P and  $R := \mathbb{K}[\Gamma]$ . Then the Floer cohomology  $HF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}) = H^*(S^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} R$  as a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra, where the ring structure on the right is the product of the standard ring structure.

Proof. Pick a Morse model such that  $C^*(P)$  has only one degree 0 generator e and one degree n generator f. The corresponding Morse complex  $C^*(\mathbf{P})$  has  $|\Gamma|$  degree 0 generator  $\{g\mathbf{e}\}_{g\in\Gamma}$  and  $|\Gamma|$  degree n generator  $\{g\mathbf{f}\}_{g\in\Gamma}$ . It is clear that  $\sum_g g\mathbf{e}$  represents the unit of  $H^0(\mathbf{P})$ . Therefore,  $\{[\sum_g g\mathbf{e}] \otimes h\}_{h\in\Gamma}$  are the degree 0 generators of  $H(C^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R)$  (see the correspondence of (2.44) (2.45)).

Similarly, if x represents a generator of  $H^n(\mathbf{P})$ , then  $\{[x] \otimes h\}_{h \in \Gamma}$  are the degree n generators of  $H(C^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R)$ . It follows from (2.46) that

$$\mu^2(\left[\sum_g g\mathbf{e}\right] \otimes h_2, \left[\sum_g g\mathbf{e}\right] \otimes h_1) = \left[\sum_g g\mathbf{e}\right] \otimes h_2 h_1 \tag{2.61}$$

$$\mu^2([x] \otimes h_2, [\sum_g g\mathbf{e}] \otimes h_1]) = [x] \otimes h_2 h_1$$
(2.62)

$$\mu^{2}(\left[\sum_{g} g\mathbf{e}\right] \otimes h_{2}, [x] \otimes h_{1}) = (-1)^{|x|} [h_{2}x] \otimes h_{2}h_{1} = (-1)^{|x|} [x] \otimes h_{2}h_{1}$$
(2.63)

Therefore,  $H(C^*(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R) = H^*(S^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{K}} R$  as a K-algebra (see Convention 2.12). The result now follows from Lemma 2.3, 2.8 (see (2.31), (2.44)).

Let  $\theta_g = 1_{H^0(S^n)} \otimes g \in H^0(S^n) \otimes R$ . By Lemma 2.13, we have a left  $\Gamma$ -action on  $HF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$  given by

$$x \mapsto \left[\mu^2(\theta_g, x)\right] \tag{2.64}$$

for any  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ . On the other hand, we have another left  $\Gamma$ -action on  $CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$  given by (2.34), which descends to a left  $\Gamma$ -action on the cohomology  $HF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$ .

**Lemma 2.14.** When  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{P}$ , the two left  $\Gamma$ -actions (2.64) and (2.34) on  $\theta_{1_{\Gamma}} \in HF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P})$  coincide.

*Proof.* We use the notations in the proof of Lemma 2.13. The element  $\theta_h \in H^0(S^n) \otimes R$  is represented by  $\sum_a g \mathbf{e} \otimes h \in C^0(\mathbf{P}) \otimes R$ . We have (see (2.44))

$$\Phi_2(\sum_g g \mathbf{e} \otimes h) = \sum_{g_2, g_1} g_2 g_1 \mathbf{e} \otimes I_{g_2^{-1}} \tau_h I_{g_2}$$
(2.65)

$$= \sum_{g} g \mathbf{e} \otimes I_{g^{-1}} (\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}}) I_g$$
(2.66)

Undoing the trivialization (2.16), we have

$$\Phi^{-1}(\Phi_2(\sum_g g \mathbf{e} \otimes h)) = \sum_g g \mathbf{e} \otimes I_{c_{\mathbf{e}}}(\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}}) I_{c_{\mathbf{e}}^{-1}}$$
(2.67)

where  $c_{\mathbf{e}} : [0, 1] \to \mathbf{P}$  is a path from  $o_{\mathbf{P}}$  to  $\mathbf{e}$ . With respect to the identification  $(CF((\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{E}), (\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{E})))^{\Gamma} = CF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P})$  (see (2.31)),

$$\Phi^{-1}(\Phi_2(\sum_g g\mathbf{e}\otimes h)) = I_{\pi\circ c_\mathbf{e}}(\sum_{g'} I_{g'}\tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}})I_{(\pi\circ c_\mathbf{e})^{-1}} \in Hom(E_e, E_e) \subset CF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P})$$
(2.68)

Without loss of generality, we can assume  $e = o_L$  so

$$\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}} \in Hom(E_{o_L}, E_{o_L}) \subset CF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P})$$
(2.69)

represents  $\theta_h$  under the isomorphism  $HF^0(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}) = H^0(S^n) \otimes R$ .

For each  $y \in \Gamma \subset E_{o_L}$ , there is a unique g'(=h \* y) such that  $\tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}}(y) \neq 0$ . Therefore,  $\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}}(y) = hy$  for all  $y \in E_{o_L}$ . In particular, it means that

$$\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_h I_{(g')^{-1}} = h(\sum_{g'} I_{g'} \tau_{1_\Gamma} I_{(g')^{-1}})$$
(2.70)

so  $\theta_h = h\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}$  and hence  $\mu^2(\theta_h, \theta_{1_{\Gamma}}) = (-1)^{|\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}|}\theta_h = h\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}$  as desired.

**Remark 2.15.** From the proof of Lemma 2.14, we see that the identity morphism at  $E_{o_L}$  represents the cohomological unit. It is in general true that if one picks a Morse cochain complex for a Lagrangian submanifold L such that there is a unique degree 0 generator  $e_L$  representing the cohomological unit of  $C^*(L)$ , then the identity morphism of  $E_{o_L}$  is a cohomological unit of  $CF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E})$ , where  $\mathcal{E}$  is a local system on L.

**Corollary 2.16.** The two left  $\Gamma$ -actions (2.64) and (2.34) on  $HF^k(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$  coincide, up to  $(-1)^k$ , for all  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x \in HF(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$ . We have

$$[\mu^2(\theta_g, x)] = [\mu^2(\mu^2(\theta_g, \theta_{1_{\Gamma}}), x)]$$
(2.71)

$$= \left[\mu^2(g\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}, x)\right] \tag{2.72}$$

$$= [g\mu^{2}(\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}, x)]$$
 (2.73)

$$= (-1)^{|x|} gx$$
 (2.74)

where the first equality uses Lemma 2.13, the second equality uses Lemma 2.14, the third equality uses Corollary 2.6 and the last equality uses that  $\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}$  is a cohomological unit.

Similarly, for any  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ , we have a right  $\Gamma$ -action on  $HF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E})$  given by

=

$$x \mapsto \left[\mu^2(x, \theta_g)\right] \tag{2.75}$$

and another right action on  $HF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E})$  given by (2.35). The analog of Corollary 2.16 holds, (i.e.  $\mu^2(\theta_{1_{\Gamma}}, \theta_h) = \theta_h = \theta_{1_{\Gamma}}h$ ) and we leave the details to readers.

**Corollary 2.17.** The two right  $\Gamma$ -actions (2.75) and (2.35) on  $HF(\mathfrak{P}, \mathcal{E})$  coincide (without additional factor of -1) for all  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

#### 2.5 Equivariant evaluation

In this subsection, we want to give the definition of

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}) := Cone(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{ev} \mathcal{E})$$

$$(2.76)$$

that arises in (1.1) in the context of Fukaya category. We will keep the exposition minimal and self-contained here.

Let  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$  be the DG category of perfect  $A_{\infty}$  right modules over  $\mathcal{F}$ . We have a cohomologically full and faithful Yoneda embedding [Sei08, Section (2g)]

$$\mathcal{Y}: \mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}} \tag{2.77}$$

By abuse of notation, we use  $\mathcal{E}$  to denote  $\mathcal{Y}(\mathcal{E})$  for  $\mathcal{E} \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ .

Let P be a Lagrangian brane such that  $\pi_1(P) = \Gamma$ , and  $\mathcal{P}$  be the object with underlying Lagrangian P equipped with the universal local system E. Let  $\mathcal{E} \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ . By Corollary 2.6, we know that (see (2.35))

$$\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(\psi)g = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(\psi g) \tag{2.78}$$

for  $\psi \in hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E})$  so  $hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E})$  is a DG right  $\Gamma$ -module.

Given a DG right  $\Gamma$ -module V, we define an object  $V \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \in Ob(\mathcal{F}^{perf})$  as follows: For every  $X \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we have a cochain complex

$$(V \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P})(X) := V \otimes_{\Gamma} hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{P})$$
(2.79)

where the left  $\Gamma$ -actions on  $hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{P})$  is given by (2.34). By Corollary 2.6, we have

$$\begin{cases} \mu_V^1(vg) \otimes \psi = \mu_V^1(v)g \otimes \psi \\ v \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^1(g\psi) = v \otimes g\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\psi) \end{cases}$$
(2.80)

for  $v \otimes \psi \in V \otimes_{\Gamma} hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{P})$  so

$$\mu^{1|0}: v \otimes \psi \mapsto (-1)^{|\psi|-1} \mu_V^1(v) \otimes \psi + v \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\psi)$$
(2.81)

is a well-defined differential on  $V \otimes_{\Gamma} hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{P})$ .

The  $A_{\infty}$  right  $\mathcal{F}$  module structure on  $V \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P}$  is given by

$$\mu^{1|d-1}: (v \otimes \psi, x_{d-1}, \dots, x_1) \mapsto v \otimes \mu^d_{\mathcal{F}}(\psi, x_{d-1}, \dots, x_1)$$

$$(2.82)$$

for  $v \otimes \psi \in V \otimes_{\Gamma} hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X_d, \mathcal{P})$  and  $x_j \in hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_{j+1})$ . The morphism  $\mu^{1|d-1}$  is well-defined by Corollary 2.6 and we leave it to readers to check that  $\{\mu^{1|j}\}_{j=0}^{\infty}$  satisfies  $A_{\infty}$  module relations [Sei08, Equation (1.19)]. In particular, we have an  $A_{\infty}$  right  $\mathcal{F}$  module  $hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P}$ .

Now we want to define an  $A_{\infty}$  morphism

$$ev_{\Gamma}: hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{E}$$
 (2.83)

as follows. For  $\psi^2 \otimes \psi^1 \in \hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X_d, \mathcal{P})$  and  $x_j \in \hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_{j+1})$ , we define

$$ev_{\Gamma}^{d}: (\psi^{2} \otimes \psi^{1}, x_{d-1}, \dots, x_{1}) \mapsto \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{d+1}(\psi^{2}, \psi^{1}, x_{d-1}, \dots, x_{1})$$
 (2.84)

The well-definedness follows from Corollary 2.6 again. The fact that  $ev_{\Gamma} = \{ev_{\Gamma}^d\}_{d=1}$  defines an  $A_{\infty}$  morphism follows from the  $A_{\infty}$  relations of  $\mathcal{F}$ . As a consequence, we can define

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}) := Cone(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} \mathcal{P} \xrightarrow{ev_{\Gamma}} \mathcal{E})$$

$$(2.85)$$

as the  $A_{\infty}$  mapping cone for the  $A_{\infty}$  morphism  $ev_{\Gamma}$  (see [Sei08, Section (3e)]). In particular, for  $X \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we have a cochain complex

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E})(X) = (hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}) \otimes_{\Gamma} hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{P}))[1] \oplus hom_{\mathcal{F}}(X, \mathcal{E})$$
(2.86)

with differential and multiplication given by

$$\mu_{T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E})}^{1}(\psi^{2}\otimes\psi^{1},x) = ((-1)^{|\psi^{1}|-1}\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(\psi^{2})\otimes\psi^{1} + \psi^{2}\otimes\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(\psi^{1}), \\ \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(x) + \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(\psi^{2},\psi^{1})) \quad (2.87)$$

$$\mu_{T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E})}^{2}((\psi^{2} \otimes \psi^{1}, x), a) = (\psi^{2} \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(\psi^{1}, a), \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(x, a) + \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{3}(\psi^{2}, \psi^{1}, a))$$
(2.88)

Finally, we want to state a functorial property of  $T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E})$ .

**Corollary 2.18.** Let  $\mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{F}_1$  be the Fukaya categories with respect to two different sets of choices of auxiliary data. The Lagrangian branes  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}$  above will be denoted by  $\mathcal{P}_j, \mathcal{E}_j$ , respectively, when we regard them as objects in  $\mathcal{F}_j$ , for j = 0, 1. Let  $\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{F}_0 \to \mathcal{F}_1$  be a quasi-equivalence sending  $\mathcal{P}_0$  to  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_0$  to  $\mathcal{E}_1$ . Then

$$\mathcal{G}(T_{\mathcal{P}_0}(\mathcal{E}_0)) \simeq T_{\mathcal{P}_1}(\mathcal{E}_1)$$

The proof is straightforward along the same line as [Sei08, Lemma 5.6] and is left to interested readers.

**Remark 2.19.** A thorough discussion of the categorical notions can be found in [MWb], which is the extended version of the current paper. The readers can also find an intrinsic proof of Corollary 2.18, and an explanation of Remark 1.4, in [MWb].

## 3 Symplectic field theory package

The main goal of this section is to derived the regularity results (Proposition 3.27, 3.29 and 3.30) we need for the later sections. The main ingredient is a trick given in [EES07], combined with many special features of our setup. For clarity, we reall and specialize some generalities from symplectic field theory to our context, introducing notations that will be used specifically in our proof. This consists the main contents from Section 3.1 to Section 3.5.

The regularity results in this section allow us to establish Proposition 3.32 in Section 3.7, which gives us enough control on the bubbling of the moduli of maps we need in Section 4 and 5.

For more general backgrounds in symplectic field theory, readers are referred to [BEH<sup>+</sup>03], [EES05], [EES07], [CEL10], [CRGG15] etc.

#### 3.1 The set up

Let  $(Y, \alpha)$  be a contact manifold with a contact form  $\alpha$ .

**Definition 3.1.** A cylindrical almost complex structure on the symplectization  $SY := (\mathbb{R} \times Y, d(e^r \alpha))$  is an almost complex structure such that

- J is invariant under  $\mathbb{R}$  action
- $J(\partial_r) = R_{\alpha}$ , where  $R_{\alpha}$  is the Reeb vector field of  $\alpha$

- $J(\ker(\alpha)) = \ker(\alpha)$
- $d\alpha(\cdot, J \cdot)|_{\ker(\alpha)}$  is a metric on  $\ker(\alpha)$

The set of cylindrical almost complex structures is denoted by  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(Y,\alpha)$ . If  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  is an interval, we call J a cylindrical almost complex structure on  $(I \times Y, d(e^r \alpha))$  if  $J = J'|_{I \times Y}$  for some  $J' \in \mathcal{J}^{cyl}(Y,\alpha)$ . Let  $(M, \omega, \theta)$  be a Liouville domain with a separating contact hypersurface  $(Y, \alpha = \theta|_Y)$  such that  $Y \cap \partial M = \emptyset$ . By the neighborhood theorem, there is a neighborhood  $N(Y) \subset M$  of Y such that we have a symplectomorphism

$$\Phi_{N(Y)}: (N(Y), \omega|_{N(Y)}) \simeq ((-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times Y, d(e^t \alpha))$$
(3.1)

for some  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Let  $J^0$  be a compatible almost complex structure on M such that  $(\Phi_{N(Y)})_*(J^0|_{N(Y)})$  is cylindrical. We say that a smooth family of compatible almost complex structure  $(J^{\tau})_{\tau \in [0,\infty)}$  on M is adjusted to N(Y) if

$$\begin{cases} J^{\tau}|_{M\setminus N(Y)} = J^{0}|_{M\setminus N(Y)} \text{ for all } \tau\\ \text{ for each } \tau, \text{ we have } \Phi^{\tau}_{N(Y)} : (N(Y), J^{\tau}|_{N(Y)}) \simeq \left( (-(\tau + \epsilon), \tau + \epsilon) \times Y, (J^{\tau})' \right) \end{cases}$$
(3.2)

where  $\Phi_{N(Y)}^{\tau}$  is an isomorphism of almost complex manifolds, the diffeomorphism  $\Phi_{N(Y)}^{\tau} \circ (\Phi_{N(Y)})^{-1}$  is the identity on the Y factor, and  $(J^{\tau})'$  is the unique cylindrical almost complex structure such that  $(J^{\tau})'|_{(-\epsilon,\epsilon)\times Y} = (\Phi_{N(Y)})_* (J^0|_{N(Y)}).$ 

Let  $M^-$  be the Liouville domain in M bounded by Y and  $M^+ = M \setminus (M^- \setminus \partial M^-)$ . Let  $SM^$ and  $SM^+$  be the positive and negative symplectic completion of  $M^-$  and  $M^+$ , respectively. Given  $(J^{\tau})_{\tau \in [0,\infty)}$ , there is a unique almost complex structure  $J^-$ ,  $J^Y$  and  $J^+$  on  $SM^-$ , SYand  $SM^+$ , respectively, such that  $(M^-, J^{\tau}|_{M^-})$ ,  $(N(Y), J^{\tau}|_{N(Y)})$  and  $(M^+, J^{\tau}|_{M^+})$  converges to  $(SM^-, J^-)$ ,  $(SY, J^Y)$  and  $(SM^+, J^+)$ , respectively, as  $\tau$  goes to infinity. More details about this splitting procedure can be found in [BEH<sup>+</sup>03, Section 3].

**Remark 3.2.** There is a variant for being adjusted to N(Y). For a fixed number  $R \ge 0$ , we call a smooth family of compatible almost complex structure  $(J^{\tau})_{\tau \in [3R,\infty)}$  on M is R-adjusted to N(Y) if (3.2) is satisfied but the property of  $(J^{\tau})'$  is replaced by the following conditions.

$$\begin{array}{l} (J^{\tau})'|_{[-(\tau+\epsilon-2R),\tau+\epsilon-2R]\times Y} \text{ is cylindrical for all } \tau \\ (J^{\tau})'|_{(-\epsilon,\epsilon)\times Y} = (\Phi_{N(Y)})_*(J^0|_{N(Y)}) \text{ for all } \tau \\ (J^{\tau_1})'|_{(-(\tau_1+\epsilon),-(\tau_1+\epsilon-2R)]\times Y} = (\phi^-_{\tau_1,\tau_2})_*(J^{\tau_2})'|_{(-(\tau_2+\epsilon),-(\tau_2+\epsilon-2R)]\times Y} \text{ for all } \tau_1,\tau_2 \\ (J^{\tau_1})'|_{[\tau_1+\epsilon-2R,\tau_1+\epsilon)\times Y} = (\phi^+_{\tau_1,\tau_2})_*(J^{\tau_2})'|_{[\tau_2+\epsilon-2R,\tau_2+\epsilon)\times Y} \text{ for all } \tau_1,\tau_2 \end{array}$$

where  $\phi_{\tau_1,\tau_2}^-: (-(\tau_2+\epsilon), -(\tau_2+\epsilon-2R)] \times Y \to (-(\tau_1+\epsilon), -(\tau_1+\epsilon-2R)] \times Y$  and  $\phi_{\tau_1,\tau_2}^+: [\tau_2+\epsilon-2R, \tau_2+\epsilon) \times Y \to [\tau_1+\epsilon-2R, \tau_1+\epsilon) \times Y$  are the r-translation.

When R = 0, being R-adjusted to N(Y) is the same as being adjusted to N(Y). For R > 0, we can also define  $J^{\pm}, J^{Y}$  accordingly. In this case,  $J^{+}$  (resp.  $J^{-}$ ) are cylindrical over the end  $(-\infty, -2R] \times \partial M^{+} \subset SM^{+}$  (resp.  $[2R, \infty) \times \partial M^{-} \subset SM^{-}$ ).

Let L be a Lagrangian submanifold in M such that  $L \cap N(Y) = (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times \Lambda$  for some (possibly empty) Legendrian submanifold  $\Lambda$ . Let  $L^{\pm} := L \cap M^{\pm}$ . We define  $SL^{-} = L^{-} \cup (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Lambda) \subset SM^{-}$ and  $SL^{+} = L^{+} \cup (\mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} \times \Lambda) \subset SM^{+}$  which are the cylindrical extensions of  $L^{-}$  and  $L^{+}$  with respect to the symplectic completion. We denote  $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda \subset SY$  by  $S\Lambda$ .

The main ingredient we needed from  $[BEH^+03]$  is the following compactness result in symplectic field theory.

**Theorem 3.3** ([BEH<sup>+</sup>03] Theorem 10.3 and Section 11.3; see also [CEL10]). Let  $L_j$ , j = 0, ..., dbe a collection of embedded exact Lagrangian submanifolds in M such that  $L_i \pitchfork L_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Let  $(Y, \alpha) \subset M$  be a contact type hypersurface and  $(N(Y), \omega|_{N(Y)}) \cong ((-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times Y, d(e^r \alpha))$  be a neighborhood of Y such that  $L_i \cap N(Y) = (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times \Lambda_i$  for some (possibly empty) Legendrian submanifold  $\Lambda_i$  of Y.

Let  $J^{\tau}$  be a smooth family of almost complex structures R-adjusted to N(Y). Let  $x_0 \in CF(L_0, L_d)$  and  $x_j \in CF(L_{j-1}, L_j)$  for  $j = 1, \ldots, d$ . If there exists a sequence  $\{\tau_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\lim_{k\to\infty} \tau_k = \infty$ , and a sequence  $u_k \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau_k}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ , then  $u_k$  converges to a holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  in the sense of  $[BEH^+ 03]$ .

We remark that each  $J^{\tau}$  above is a domain independent almost complex structure (see Remark 2.1) and we do not need to assume  $u_k$  to be transversally cut out to apply Theorem 3.3.

The rest of this subsection is devoted to the description/definition of  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  in Theorem 3.3. The definition is quite well-known so we only give a quick review and introduce necessary notations along the way.

First,  $\mathfrak{T}$  is a tree with d + 1 semi-infinite edges and one of them is distinguished which is called the root. The other semi-infinite edges are ordered from 1 to d and called the leaves. Let  $V(\mathfrak{T})$  be the set of vertices of T. For each  $v \in V(\mathfrak{T})$ , we have a punctured Riemannian surface  $\Sigma_v$ . If  $\partial \Sigma_v \neq \emptyset$ , there is a distinguished boundary puncture which is denoted by  $\xi_0^v$ . After filling the punctures of  $\Sigma_v$ , it is a topological disk so we can label the other boundary punctures of  $\Sigma_v$  by  $\xi_1^v, \ldots, \xi_{d_v}^v$  counterclockwise along the boundary, where  $d_v + 1$  is the number of boundary punctures of  $\Sigma_v$ . Let  $\partial_j \Sigma_v$  be the component of  $\partial \Sigma_v$  that goes from  $\xi_v^v$  to  $\xi_0^v$ . If  $\partial \Sigma_v = \emptyset$ , then  $\Sigma_v$  is a sphere after filling the punctures.

There is a bijection  $f_v$  from the punctures of  $\Sigma_v$  to the edges in  $\mathcal{T}$  adjacent to v. Moreover,  $f_v(\xi_0^v)$  is the edge closest to the root of  $\mathcal{T}$  among edges adjacent to v. If v, v' are two distinct vertices adjacent to e, then  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  and  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$  are either both boundary punctures or both interior punctures. We call e a boundary edge (resp. an interior edge) if  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  is a boundary (resp. an interior) puncture. We can glue  $\{\Sigma_v\}_{v\in V(\mathcal{T})}$  along the punctures according to the edges and  $\{f_v\}_{v\in V(\mathcal{T})}$  (i.e.  $\Sigma_v$  is glued with  $\Sigma_{v'}$  by identifying  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  with  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$  if v, v' are two distinct vertices adjacent to e). After gluing, we will get back S, the domain of  $u_k$ , topologically. Therefore, there is a unique way to assign Lagrangian labels to  $\partial \Sigma_v$  such that it is compatible with gluing and coincides with that on  $\partial S$  after gluing all  $\Sigma_v$  together. We denote the resulting Lagrangian label on  $\partial_j \Sigma_v$  by  $L_{v,j}$ .

There is a level function  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}: V(\mathfrak{T}) \to \{0, \ldots, n_{\mathfrak{T}}\}$  for some positive integer  $n_{\mathfrak{T}}$ . If  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 0$ , then  $u_v: \Sigma_v \to SM^-$  is a  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve such that  $u_v(\partial_j \Sigma_v) \subset SL^-_{v,j}$ . If  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) =$  $1, \ldots, n_{\mathfrak{T}} - 1$ , then  $u_v: \Sigma_v \to SY$  is a  $J^Y$ -holomorphic curve such that  $u_v(\partial_j \Sigma_v) \subset S\Lambda_{v,j}$ . If  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = n_{\mathfrak{T}}$ , then  $u_v: \Sigma_v \to SM^+$  is a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve such that  $u_v(\partial_j \Sigma_v) \subset SL^+_{v,j}$ .

If  $v \neq v'$  are adjacent to the same edge e in  $\mathcal{T}$ , then  $|l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) - l_{\mathcal{T}}(v')| \leq 1$ . If  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) + 1 = l_{\mathcal{T}}(v')$ and e is a boundary (resp. interior) edge, then there is a Reeb chord (resp. orbit) which is the positive asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$ , and the negative asymptote of  $u_{v'}$  at  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$  (see Convention 3.6). If  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = l_{\mathcal{T}}(v')$ , then e is necessarily a boundary edge,  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = l_{\mathcal{T}}(v') \in \{0, n_{\mathcal{T}}\}$  and  $u_v, u_{v'}$ converges to the same Lagrangian intersection point at  $f_v^{-1}(e), f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ , respectively. If e is the  $j^{th}$  semi-infinite edge adjacent to v, then  $u_v$  is asymptotic to  $x_j$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$ .

Finally, for each  $j = 1, ..., n_{\mathcal{T}} - 1$ , there is at least one  $v \in V(\mathcal{T})$  such that  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = j$  and  $u_v$ 

is not a trivial cylinder (i.e.  $u_v$  is not a map  $\mathbb{R} \times [0,1] \to SY$  or  $\mathbb{R} \times S^1 \to SY$ ) such that

$$u_v(s,t) = (f_r(s), f_Y(t)) \in \mathbb{R} \times Y$$
(3.3)

for some  $f_r, f_Y$ ). We use  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\infty}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  to denote the set of such holomorphic buildings.

**Remark 3.4.** From this point on, Theorem 3.3 will play a major role in analyzing holomorphic curves.

It is important to note that, the domain of a holomorphic building under our consideration can always be glued up into a smooth disk with boundary, which is the domain for  $J^{\tau}$  when  $\tau < \infty$ .

For our application, we assume **every** holomorphic disks  $u : \Sigma \to M$  which undergoes an SFT-stretching process must have pairwisely distinct Lagrangian boundary conditions on different components of  $\partial \Sigma$  when  $\tau < \infty$  throughout the rest of the paper. The reason we impose this condition is because we use a perturbation scheme in defining the Fukaya category, therefore, Lagrangian boundary conditions on two different connected components of  $\partial \Sigma$  are never the same Lagrangian. This will play a key role in our configuration analysis of the buildings.

Let

- $V^{core}$  be the set of vertices  $v \in V(\mathcal{T})$  such that more than one Lagrangian appears in the Lagrangian labels of  $\partial \Sigma_v$ .
- $V^{\partial}$  be the set of vertices  $v \in V(\mathcal{T})$  such that there is only one Lagrangian appears in the Lagrangian labels of  $\partial \Sigma_v$ .
- $V^{int}$  be the set of vertices  $v \in V(\mathfrak{T})$  such that  $\partial \Sigma_v = \emptyset$ .

In particular, we have  $V(\mathfrak{T}) = V^{core} \sqcup V^{\partial} \sqcup V^{int}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{T}^{core}$ ,  $\mathfrak{T}^{\partial}$  and  $\mathfrak{T}^{int}$  be the subgraphs of  $\mathfrak{T}$ , which consists of vertices  $V^{core}$ ,  $V^{\partial}$  and  $V^{int}$ , and edges adjacent to their respective vertices (see Figure 1 for an example). Note that these three subtrees *could* have overlaps.

**Lemma 3.5.** The graphs  $\mathfrak{T}^{(1)} := \mathfrak{T}^{core} \setminus \mathfrak{T}^{int}$  and  $\mathfrak{T}^{(2)} := (\mathfrak{T}^{core} \cup \mathfrak{T}^{\partial}) \setminus \mathfrak{T}^{int}$  are planar trees. In particular, they are connected.

*Proof.* Let G be a minimal subtree of  $\mathcal{T}$  containing  $\mathcal{T}^{(1)}$ . If there is a vertex v in G such that  $v \in V^{int}$ , then it would imply that S, the domain of  $u_k$ , is not a disk. If there is a vertice v in G such that  $v \in V^{\partial}$ , then it would imply that there is a Lagrangian that appears more than once in the Lagrangian label of  $\partial S$ . Both of these situations are not possible.

Similarly, let G' be the smallest subtree of  $\mathcal{T}$  containing  $\mathcal{T}^{(2)}$ . If there is a vertice v in G' such that  $v \in V^{int}$ , then it would imply that S is not a disk and we get a contradiction.

As a result,  $G = \mathcal{T}^{(1)}$  and  $G' = \mathcal{T}^{(2)}$  so both  $\mathcal{T}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathcal{T}^{(2)}$  are trees.

The fact that  $\mathfrak{T}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathfrak{T}^{(2)}$  are planar follows from the fact that we can order the boundary punctures of  $\Sigma_v$ , for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$ , in a way that is compatible with the boundary orientation.

**Convention 3.6.** We need to explain the convention of strip-like ends and cylindrical ends we use for punctures of  $\Sigma_v$ . Let e be an edge in  $\mathfrak{T}$  and  $v \neq v'$  are the vertices adjacent to e.

First assume that  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v)+1 = l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v')$ . If e is a boundary (resp. interior) edge, we use an outgoing/positive strip-like end (2.5) (resp. cylindrical end) for  $f_v^{-1}(e)$ , where an **outgoing/positive** 



Figure 1: A tree  $\mathcal{T}$  with 2 leaves. Black dots: elements in  $V^{core}$ ; Green dots: elements in  $V^{\partial}$ ; Red dots: elements in  $V^{int}$ ; Black tree:  $\mathcal{T}^{core} \setminus (\mathcal{T}^{\partial} \cup \mathcal{T}^{int})$ ; Green sugbraph:  $\mathcal{T}^{\partial} \setminus \mathcal{T}^{int}$ ; Red subgraph:  $\mathcal{T}^{int}$ 

cylindrical end for  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  is a holomorphic embedding of  $\epsilon_{v,e} : \{z = s \exp(\sqrt{-1}t) \in \mathbb{C} | s \ge 1\} \rightarrow \Sigma_v$  such that  $\lim_{|z|\to\infty} \epsilon_{v,e}(z) = f_v^{-1}(e)$ . With respect to coordinates given by the strip-like (resp. cylindrical) end  $\epsilon_{v,e}$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{s \to \infty} \pi_Y(u_v(\epsilon_{v,e}(s,t))) = x(Tt) \ (resp. \ \gamma(Tt)) \\ \lim_{s \to \infty} \pi_{\mathbb{R}}(u_v(\epsilon_{v,e}(s,t))) = \infty \end{cases}$$
(3.4)

for some Reeb chord x (resp. orbit  $\gamma$ ) and some T > 0, where  $\pi_Y, \pi_{\mathbb{R}}$  are the projection from SY to the two factors. In this case, we call x (resp.  $\gamma$ ) the positive asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$ .

On the other hand, we use an incoming/negative strip-like end (2.6) (resp. cylindrical end) for  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ , where an **incoming/negative cylindrical end** for  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$  is a holomorphic embedding of  $\epsilon_{v',e}$ :  $\{z = s \exp(\sqrt{-1}t) \in \mathbb{C} | 0 < s \leq 1\} \rightarrow \Sigma_{v'}$  such that  $\lim_{|z|\to 0} \epsilon_{v',e}(z) = f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ . With respect to coordinates given by the strip-like (resp. cylindrical) end  $\epsilon_{v',e}$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{s \to 0} \pi_Y(u_v(\epsilon_{v',e}(s,t))) = x(Tt) \ (resp. \ \gamma(Tt)) \\ \lim_{s \to 0} \pi_{\mathbb{R}}(u_v(\epsilon_{v',e}(s,t))) = -\infty \end{cases}$$
(3.5)

or some Reeb chord x (resp. orbit  $\gamma$ ) and some T > 0. In this case, we call x (resp.  $\gamma$ ) the negative asymptote of  $u_{v'}$  at  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ .

If  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v')$  and, say v is closer to the root of  $\mathfrak{T}$  than v', then we use an outgoing/positive strip-like end for  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  and an incoming/negative strip-like end for  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ . Similarly, the intersection point that they are asymptotic to is the positive asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  and the negative asymptote of  $u_{v'}$  at  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ .

#### 3.2 Gradings

Let  $P \subset (M, \omega, \theta)$  be a Lagrangian submanifold which satisfies (2.58). In particular,  $H^1(P, \mathbb{R}) = 0$  and P is an exact Lagrangian. The round metric on  $S^n$  descends to a Riemannian metric on P. Let U be a Weinstein neighborhood of P and we identify  $\partial U$  with the set of covectors of P having a common small fixed norm. Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $\theta|_U = \theta_{T^*P}$ ,

where  $\theta_{T^*P}$  is the standard Liouville one-form on  $T^*P$ . Let  $\alpha_0 := \theta|_{\partial U}$  be the standard contact form on  $\partial U$ . Eventually, we will apply Theorem 3.3 along a perturbation  $(\partial U)'$  of  $\partial U$ . Since  $((\partial U)', \theta|_{(\partial U)'}) \simeq (\partial U, \alpha')$  for a perturbation  $\alpha'$  of  $\alpha_0$ , we will need to understand the Reeb dynamics of  $\alpha'$ . Therefore, it is helpful to explain the Reeb dynamics of  $(\partial U, \alpha_0)$  first. We assume  $\Lambda_i := L_i \cap \partial U$  are (possibly empty) unions of cospheres at points of P. There are four types of asymptotes that can appear for  $u_v$  near the punctures.

- 1. Lagrangian intersection points between  $SL_i^{\pm}$  and  $SL_i^{\pm}$  in  $SM^{\pm}$ ,
- 2. Reeb chords from  $\Lambda_i$  to  $\Lambda_j$  in Y for  $i \neq j$ ,
- 3. Reeb chords from  $\Lambda_i$  to itself in Y, and
- 4. Reeb orbits in Y

We want to discuss the grading for each of these types.

#### 3.2.1 Type one

Let  $\Omega$  be the nowhere-vanishing section of  $(\Lambda^{top}_{\mathbb{C}}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  which equals to 1 with respect to the chosen trivialization (see Standing Assumption). For a Lagrangian subspace  $V \subset T_pM$  and a choice of basis  $\{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$  of V, we define

$$Det_{\Omega}(V) := \frac{\Omega(X_1, \dots, X_n)}{\|\Omega(X_1, \dots, X_n)\|} \in S^1$$
(3.6)

which is independent of the choice of basis. A  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading of  $L_i$  is a continuous function  $\theta_{L_i}: L_i \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}\theta_{L_i}(p)} = Det_{\Omega}(T_pL_i)$  for all  $p \in L_i$ .

At each transversal intersection point  $x \in L_i \cap L_j$ , we have two graded Lagrangian planes  $T_x L_i, T_x L_j$  inside  $T_x M$ . The grading of x as a generator of  $CF(L_i, L_j)$  is given by the Maslov grading from  $T_x L_i$  to  $T_x L_j$  which is

$$|x| = \iota(T_x L_i, T_x L_j) := n + \theta_{L_j}(x) - \theta_{L_i}(x) - 2Angle(T_x L_i, T_x L_j)$$
(3.7)

where  $Angle(T_xL_i, T_xL_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j$  and  $\beta_j \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$  are such that there is a unitary basis  $u_1, \ldots, u_n$  of  $T_xL_i$  satisfying  $T_xL_j = Span_{\mathbb{R}}\{e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}\beta_j}u_j\}_{j=1}^n$ . If we regard x as an element in  $CF(L_j, L_i)$ , then we have  $\iota(T_xL_j, T_xL_i) = n - \iota(T_xL_i, T_xL_j)$ .

**Convention 3.7.** For a generator  $x \in CF(L_i, L_j)$ , we use  $x^{\vee}$  to denote the generator of  $CF(L_j, L_i)$  which represents the same intersection point as x. Therefore, we have  $|x| = n - |x^{\vee}|$ .

Since  $SM^- = T^*P$  and  $w_2(P) = 0$  and  $c_1(T^*P) = 0$ , there is a preferred choice of trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*SM^-)^{\otimes 2}$  such that the grading functions on cotangent fibers and the zero section are constant functions (see [Sei00]). Without loss of generality, we can assume that the restriction to  $M^-$  of the choice of trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  we picked coincides with that of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*SM^-)^{\otimes 2}$ . We call that the cotangent fibers and the zero section are in *canonical relative grading* if the following holds:

$$CF(P, T_a^*P)$$
 is concentrated at degree 0 (3.8)

for all  $q \in P$ .

We refer readers to [Sei00], [Sei08, Section 11, 12] for more about Maslov gradings.

#### 3.2.2 Type two

In general, if we have a Reeb chord  $x = (x(t))_{t \in [0,1]}$  from  $\Lambda_0$  to  $\Lambda_1$  in a contact manifold  $(Y, \alpha)$  such that  $S\Lambda_i$  are graded Lagrangians in SY for both i, we will assign a grading to x by regarding x as a Hamiltonian chord between graded Lagrangians  $S\Lambda_0$  and  $S\Lambda_1$  in the symplectic manifold SY as follows: There is an appropriate Hamiltonian H in SY that depends only on the radial coordinate r such that the Reeb vector field  $R_{\alpha}$  in Y coincides with the restriction of the Hamiltonian vector field  $X_H$  to  $\{0\} \times Y$ . Let  $\phi^H$  be the time-one flow of H. We identify  $x(t) \in Y$  with  $(0, x(t)) \in SY$  so x is a H-Hamiltonian chord. We have graded Lagrangian subspaces  $(\phi^H)_*T_{x(0)}S\Lambda_0$  and  $T_{x(1)}S\Lambda_1$  in  $T_{x(1)}SY$ . Let

$$K_x := (\phi^H)_* (T_{x(0)} S \Lambda_0) \cap T_{x(1)} S \Lambda_1$$

$$(3.9)$$

The grading |x| of x is defined to be

$$|x| = \iota((\phi^H)_*(T_{x(0)}S\Lambda_0)/K_x, T_{x(1)}S\Lambda_1/K_x)$$
(3.10)

where the Maslov grading (see (3.7)) is computed in the symplectic vector space  $T_{x(1)}M/(K_x + J(K_x))$ . More details about Maslov gradings assigned to non-transversally intersecting graded Lagrangian subspaces can be found in [MWa, Section 4.1], for example.

Now, we go back to our situation and assume x is a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_i$  to  $\Lambda_j$  in  $(\partial U, \alpha_0)$ . Since  $L_i$  is graded,  $S\Lambda_i$  has a grading function in  $S(\partial U)$  inherited from  $L_i$ . The computation of |x| is done in the literature (e.g. [AS10a] [Abo12b], where they indeed proved  $HW(T_{\mathbf{q}_i}) \cong k[u]$  for |u| = -(n-1)) and we recall it here.

Without loss of generality, we assume  $\Lambda_i$  and  $\Lambda_j$  are connected. Let  $q_i, q_j \in P$  be such that  $T_{q_i}^*P \cap \partial U = \Lambda_i$  and  $T_{q_j}^*P \cap \partial U = \Lambda_j$ . We equip the cotangent fibers and P with the canonical relative grading (see (3.8)). The grading functions of  $L_i$  and  $L_j$  differs from the grading functions of  $T_{q_i}^*P$  and  $T_{q_j}^*P$  near  $\Lambda_i$  and  $\Lambda_j$ , respectively, by an integer. In the following, we will assume the grading functions coincide and the actual |x| can be recovered by adding back the integral differences of the grading functions.

Let  $\mathbf{q}_i \in \mathbf{P}$  be a lift of  $q_i$ . Each Reeb chord x from  $\Lambda_i$  to  $\Lambda_j$  corresponds to a geodesic from  $q_i$  to  $q_j$ , which can be lifted to a geodesic  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $\mathbf{q}_i$  to a point  $\mathbf{q}_j \in \mathbf{P}$  such that  $\pi(\mathbf{q}_j) = q_j$ . If

$$\mathbf{q}_i$$
 is not the antipodal point of  $\mathbf{q}_i$  and  $\mathbf{q}_j \neq \mathbf{q}_i$  (3.11)

then there is a unique closed geodesic (assumed to have length  $2\pi$ ) passing through  $\mathbf{q}_i$  and  $\mathbf{q}_j$ . Therefore, for each interval  $I_k = (k\pi, (k+1\pi)), k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a unique geodesic from  $\mathbf{q}_i$  to  $\mathbf{q}_j$  with length lying inside  $I_k$ . If the length of  $\mathbf{x}$  lies in  $I_k$ , then

$$|x| = -k(n-1) \tag{3.12}$$

For generic  $q_i, q_j$ , every lifts  $\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}_j$  of  $q_i, q_j$  satisfies (3.11).

#### 3.2.3 Type three

There are four kinds of Reeb chords from  $\Lambda_i$  to itself. First, if x is a Reeb chord from one connected component of  $\Lambda_i$  to a different one, then the computation of |x| reduces to the Type two (Section 3.2.2). For the remaining three kinds, we assume  $\Lambda_i = T_{q_i}^* P \cap \partial U$ , i.e. it has exactly one connected component. Let  $\mathbf{q}_i$  be a lift of  $q_i$  and  $\mathbf{x} : [0,1] \to \mathbf{P}$  be the lift of the geodesic such that  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}'_i := \mathbf{x}(1)$  and  $\pi(\mathbf{q}'_i) = q_i$ . The three possibilities are

- 1.  $\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}'_i$  satisfy (3.11) (with  $\mathbf{q}'_i$  replacing  $\mathbf{q}_j$ ), or
- 2.  $\mathbf{q}'_i$  is the antipodal point of  $\mathbf{q}_i$ , or
- 3.  $q_i = q'_i$

For the first case, the computation of |x| reduces to the previous one again (Section 3.2.2). For the second and the third cases, we have (see (3.9) for the meaning of  $K_x$ )

$$K_x = T_{x(1)}L_i (3.13)$$

$$|x| = \iota((\phi^H)_* T_{x(0)} L_i / K_x, T_{x(1)} L_j / K_x) = -k(n-1)$$
(3.14)

where  $k\pi$  is the length of **x**, and the term -k(n-1) is exactly the (integral) difference of the values of the grading functions at  $(\phi^H)_*T_{x(0)}L_i$  and  $T_{x(1)}L_i$  as graded Lagrangian planes.

We want to point out that in the second and third cases x lies in a Morse-Bott family  $S_x$  of Reeb chords from  $\Lambda_i$  to itself and dim $(S_x) = n - 1$ .

#### 3.2.4 Type four

Reeb orbits of  $\partial U$  are graded by the Robbin-Salamon index [RS93] (see also [Bou02, Section 5]), which is a generalization of the Conley-Zehnder index to the degenerated case. To define the Robbin-Salamon index of a Reeb orbit  $\gamma$ , we need to pick a symplectic trivialization  $\Phi_{\gamma}$  of  $\xi$  along  $\gamma$  subject to the following compatibility condition: Together with the obvious trivialization of  $\mathbb{R}\langle \partial_r, R_{\alpha_0} \rangle$ ,  $\Phi_{\gamma}$  gives a symplectic trivialization of TM along  $\gamma$ , and hence a trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  along  $\gamma$ . The compatibility condition is that the induced trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  along  $\gamma$  coincides with the trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{top}T^*M)^{\otimes 2}$  we picked in the beginning of Section 2. One may show that there is  $\Phi_{\gamma}$  satisfying the compatibility condition.

We can now define a path of symplectic matrices  $(\Phi_t)_{t\in[0,1]}$  given by  $\Phi_t := (\phi_t^R)_* : \xi_{\gamma(0)} \rightarrow \xi_{\gamma(t)} \simeq \xi_{\gamma(0)}$ , where  $\phi_t^R$  is the time-t flow generated by  $R_{\alpha_0}$  and the last isomorphism is given by  $\Phi_{\gamma}$ . We can assign the Robbin-Salamon index for  $\Phi_t$  as follows: First, we isotope (relative to end points)  $\Phi_t$  to a path of symplectic matrices  $\Phi'_t$  such that  $\ker(\Phi'_t - Id) \neq 0$  happens at finitely many times  $t = t_1, \ldots, t_k$  and for each  $t_j$ , the crossing form  $J\frac{d}{dt}|_{t=t_j}(\Phi'_t)$  is non-degnerate on  $\ker(\Phi'_{t_j} - Id)$ . The signature of  $J\frac{d}{dt}|_{t=t_j}(\Phi'_t)$  is denoted by  $\sigma(t_j)$  and the Robbin-Salamon index is defined by

$$\mu_{RS}(\Phi_t) := \frac{1}{2}\sigma(0) + \sum_{j=1}^k \sigma(t_j) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma(1)$$
(3.15)

where  $\sigma(1)$  is defined to be zero if  $\Phi_1$  is invertible. The index is independent of the choice of  $\Phi'_{t_i}$ . The Robbin-Salamon index of  $\gamma$  with respect to the trivialization  $\Phi_{\gamma}$  is

$$\mu_{RS}(\gamma) := \mu_{RS}(\Phi_t) \tag{3.16}$$

Any two choices of  $\Phi_{\gamma}$  satisfying the compatibility condition would give the same index.

There are two kinds of Reeb orbits  $\gamma$  in  $\partial U$ , namely, contractible in U or not. We are only interested in the case that  $\gamma$  is contractible in U, which means that it can be lifted to a Reeb orbit in  $\partial \mathbf{U}$  that is contractible in  $\mathbf{U}$ . The lifted Reeb orbit corresponds to a geodesic loop  $l_{\gamma}$  in

**P.** The Robbin-Salamon index  $\mu_{RS}(\gamma)$  is computed in [Hin04, Lemma 7] (the proof there can be directly generalized to all n)

$$\mu_{RS}(\gamma) = 2k(n-1) \tag{3.17}$$

where k is the covering multiplicity of  $l_{\gamma}$  with respect to the simple geodesic loop, or equivalently,  $2k\pi$  is the length of  $l_{\gamma}$ .

We want to point out that  $\gamma$  lies in a Morse-Bott family  $S_{\gamma}$  of (unparametrized) Reeb orbits and  $\dim(S_{\gamma}) = 2n - 2$ .

#### 3.3**Dimension** formulae

In this section, we first review the virtual dimension formula from [Bou02], where the domain of the pseudo-holomorphic map only has interior punctures. Then we consider the case that the domain only has boundary punctures, and finally obtain the general formula by gluing.

Let  $(Y^{\pm}, \alpha^{\pm})$  be contact manifolds with contact forms  $\alpha^{\pm}$ . We assume that every Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  of  $Y^{\pm}$  lies in a Morse-Bott family  $S_{\gamma}$  of (unparametrized) Reeb orbits. Let  $(X, \omega_X)$  be a symplectic manifold such that there exists a compact set  $K_X \subset X$  and  $T_X \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  so that  $(X \setminus K_X, \omega_X|_{X \setminus K_X})$  is the disjoint union of the ends  $([T_X, \infty) \times Y^+, d(e^r \alpha^+))$  and  $((-\infty, -T_X] \times C_X)$  $Y^{-}, d(e^{r}\alpha^{-}))$ . In this case, we have

**Lemma 3.8** ([Bou02], Corollary 5.4). Let  $\Sigma$  be a punctured Riemannian surface of genus g and  $\partial \Sigma = \emptyset$ . Let J be a compatible almost complex structure on X that is cylindrical over the ends. Let  $u: \Sigma \to X$  be a J-holomorphic map with positive asymptotes  $\{\gamma_i^+\}_{i=1}^{s_+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{\gamma_i^-\}_{i=1}^{s_-}$  (see Convention 3.6). Then the virtual dimension of u is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u) = (n-3)(2-2g-s^{+}-s^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{+}) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{-}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{+}}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{-}}) + 2c_{1}^{rel}(TX)([u])$$

$$(3.18)$$

where  $2c_1^{rel}(TX)([u])$  is the relative first Chern class computed with respect to the fixed symplectic trivializations along the Reeb orbits that we chose to compute  $\mu_{RS}$  (see Section 3.2.4).

Sketch of proof. As explained in Section 3.2.4, the trivialization  $\Phi_{\gamma_j^{\pm}}$  of  $\xi$  along  $\gamma_j^{\pm}$  determines a path of symplectic matrices  $\Phi_t^{\pm,j}$ . We can trivialize TX along  $\gamma_j^{\pm}$  using  $\Phi_{\gamma_j^{\pm}}$  by adding the invariant directions  $\partial_r, R^{\pm}_{\alpha}$ . The corresponding path of symplectic matrices become  $\overline{\Phi}_t^{\pm,j}$  =  $\Phi_t^{\pm,j} \oplus I_{2\times 2}$ , where  $I_{2\times 2}$  is the 2 by 2 identity matrix. By additivity property of  $\mu_{RS}$ , we have  $\mu_{RS}(\overline{\Phi}_t^{\pm,j}) = \mu_{RS}(\Phi_t^{\pm,j}) + \mu_{RS}(I_{2\times 2}) = \mu_{RS}(\Phi_t^{\pm,j}).$ If ker $(\overline{\Phi}_1^{\pm,j} - Id) = 0$  (which is never the case) for all  $\gamma_j^{\pm}$ , then the index of u is given by

$$\operatorname{ind}(u) = n(2 - 2g - s^{+} - s^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{+}) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{-}) + 2c_{1}^{rel}(TX)([u])$$
(3.19)

If  $\ker(\overline{\Phi}_1^{\pm,j} - Id) \neq 0$ , then it contributes  $\dim(\ker(\overline{\Phi}_1^{\pm,j} - Id)) = \dim(S_{\gamma_j^{\pm}}) + 2$  (resp. 0) to  $\operatorname{ind}(u)$ when  $\gamma_j^{\pm}$  is a positive (resp. negative) asymptote. However, the definition of  $\mu_{RS}$  already takes into account  $\frac{1}{2} \dim(\ker(\overline{\Phi}_1^{\pm,j} - Id))$  so we have

$$\operatorname{ind}(u) = n(2 - 2g - s^{+} - s^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} (\mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{+}) + \frac{1}{2}(\dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{+}}) + 2))$$
(3.20)

$$-\sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} (\mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{-}) - \frac{1}{2} (\dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{-}}) + 2)) + 2c_{1}^{rel}(TX)([u])$$
(3.21)

$$=n(2-2g-s^{+}-s^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{+}) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{-}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{+}}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{-}}) + (s^{+}+s^{-}) + 2c_{1}^{rel}(TX)([u])$$

$$(3.22)$$

Finally, to obtain the virtual dimension, we need to add the dimension of the Teichmüller space that  $\Sigma$  lies, which is  $6g - 6 + 2(s^+ + s^-)$ . It gives the formula (3.18).

We note that Lemma 3.8 still holds when  $Y^{\pm} = \emptyset$ , where the corresponding  $s^{\pm} = 0$ .

**Example 3.9.** The virtual dimension of  $u : \mathbb{C} \to T^*S^n$  with the puncture asymptotic to a simple Reeb orbit is given by

wirdim
$$(u) = (n-3)(2-2(0)-1-0) + 2(n-1) + \frac{1}{2}(2n-2) = 4n-6$$
 (3.23)

because  $c_1^{rel}(TT^*S^n) = 0$ . When n = 2, we have  $\operatorname{virdim}(u) = 2$  which is obtained in [Hin04, Lemma 7].

Now, we consider the relative setting. A Lagrangian cobordism L in X is a Lagrangian such that there exists  $T > T_X$  so that  $L \cap (-\infty, -T] \times Y^- = (-\infty, -T] \times \Lambda^-$  and  $L \cap [T, \infty) \times Y^+ = [T, \infty) \times \Lambda^+$  for some Legendrian submanifolds  $\Lambda^{\pm}$  in  $Y^{\pm}$ . Let  $L_0, L_1$  be exact Lagrangian cobordisms such that  $L_0 \pitchfork L_1$ . We assume that every Reeb chord x from  $\Lambda_0^{\pm}$  to  $\Lambda_1^{\pm}$  lies in a Morse-Bott family  $S_x$  of Reeb chords. In this case, we define (see (3.9))

$$mb(x) = dim(S_x) + 1 = dim(K_x)$$
 (3.24)

If  $x \in L_0 \cap L_1$ , we define mb(x) = 0. The reader should note that the discrepancy between mb(x) and  $dim(S_x)$  comes from the  $\mathbb{R}$ -direction of symplectizations. As always, we assume that  $L_0, L_1$  are  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded so all elements in  $L_0 \cap L_1$ , and all Reeb chords from  $\Lambda_0^{\pm}$  to  $\Lambda_1^{\pm}$  are graded (see Section 3.2).

**Lemma 3.10.** Let  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  be equipped with Lagrangian labels  $L_j$  on  $\partial_j S$ , where each  $L_j$  is a Lagrangian cobordism. Let J be a compatible almost complex structure on X that is cylindrical on the ends. Let  $u : S \to X$  be a J-holomorphic map with positive asymptotes  $\{x_j^+\}_{j=1}^{r^+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{x_j^-\}_{j=1}^{r^-}$  such that  $u(\partial_j S) \subset L_j$ . Assume all asymptotes are Morse-Bott, then the virtual dimension of u is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u) = n(1 - r^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{r^{-}} (\iota(x_{j}^{-}) + \operatorname{mb}(x_{j}^{-})) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^{+}} \iota(x_{j}^{+}) + (r^{-} + r^{+} - 3)$$
(3.25)

Sketch of proof. When all  $x_j^{\pm}$  are Lagrangian intersection points, then the index of u is given by (see [Sei08, Proposition 11.13])

$$\operatorname{ind}(u) = n(1 - r^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{r^{-}} \iota(x_{j}^{-}) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^{+}} \iota(x_{j}^{+})$$
(3.26)

If  $x_j^{\pm}$  is a Reeb chord, then the intersection of the graded Lagrangian subspaces  $K_{x_j^{\pm}}$  is nonzero. Similar to the proof of Lemma 3.8, there are extra contributions to virdim(u) from the asymptotes. This time,  $x_j^{\pm}$  contributes  $\dim(K_{x_j^{\pm}}) = \min(x_j^{\pm})$  (resp. 0) to  $\operatorname{ind}(u)$  when  $x_j^{\pm}$ is a negative (resp. positive) asymptote. The reversing of the roles of positive and negative asymptotes between here and the proof of Lemma 3.8 can be understood from the fact that in (3.19), positive asymptotes contribute positively while in (3.26), positive asymptotes contribute negatively, which in turn boils down to the reversing convention of the definition of indices between orbits and chords.

After all, we have

$$\operatorname{ind}(u) = n(1 - r^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{r^{-}} (\iota(x_{j}^{-}) + \operatorname{mb}(x_{j}^{-})) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^{+}} \iota(x_{j}^{+})$$
(3.27)

The last term of (3.25) comes from the dimension of  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$ .

Again, Lemma 3.10 applies also in the case when  $Y^- = \emptyset$  or  $Y^+ = \emptyset$ .

**Example 3.11.** Let  $q_0, q_1 \in S^n$  and  $\Lambda_i$  be the unit cospheres at  $q_i$ , and assume  $T_{q_i}^*$  and the zero section are equipped with the canonical relative grading. Let x be the shortest Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_0$  to  $\Lambda_1$  in the unit cotangent bundle of  $S^n$ . The virtual dimension of  $u: S \to T^*S^n$  such that  $S \in \mathcal{R}^3, u(\partial_0 S) \subset S^n, u(\partial_1 S) \subset T_{q_0}^*S^n, u(\partial_2 S) \subset T_{q_1}^*S^n$  with positive asymptotes  $q_0$  and x at  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$ , respectively, and a negative asymptote  $q_1$  at  $\xi_0$  is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u) = n(1-1) + 0 - 0 - 0 = 0 \tag{3.28}$$

Finally, note that the shifting on the gradings of  $T_{q_i}^* S^n$  or  $S^n$  do not change this virtual dimension (see Section 3.2).

Now, we combine Lemma 3.8 and 3.10.

**Lemma 3.12.** Let S be a disk with  $r^+ + r^-$  boundary punctures and  $s^+ + s^-$  interior punctures. Let  $u: S \to X$  be a J-holomorphic map with positive asymptotes  $\{x_j^+\}_{j=1}^{r^+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{x_j^-\}_{j=1}^{r^-}$  at boundary punctures, and positive asymptotes  $\{\gamma_j^+\}_{j=1}^{s_+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{\gamma_j^-\}_{j=1}^{s_+}$  at interior punctures such that  $u(\partial S)$  lies in the corresponding Lagrangians determined by the boundary asymptotes. Then the virtual dimension of u is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u) = (n-3)(1-s^{+}-s^{-}) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{+}) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \mu_{RS}(\gamma_{j}^{-}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{+}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{+}}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s^{-}} \dim(S_{\gamma_{j}^{-}}) + 2c_{1}^{rel}(TX)([u]) + \sum_{j=1}^{r^{-}} (\iota(x_{j}^{-}) + \operatorname{mb}(x_{j}^{-})) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^{+}} \iota(x_{j}^{+}) - (n-1)r^{-} + r^{+}$$
(3.29)

*Proof.* We follow the proof in [Sei08, Proposition 11.13]. The domain S is the connected sum of a disk  $S_1$  with  $r^+ + r^-$  boundary punctures and a sphere  $S_2$  with  $s^+ + s^-$  interior punctures. Let  $u_1 : S_1 \to X$  be a J-holomorphic map with positive asymptotes  $\{x_j^+\}_{j=1}^{r^+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{x_j^-\}_{j=1}^{r^-}$  such that  $u_1(\partial S_1)$  lies in the corresponding Lagrangians determined by the boundary asymptotes. Let  $u_2 : S_2 \to X$  be a J-holomorphic map with positive asymptotes  $\{\gamma_j^+\}_{j=1}^{s^-}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{\gamma_j^-\}_{j=1}^{s_-}$ . Then, we have

$$\operatorname{ind}(u) = \operatorname{ind}(u_1) + \operatorname{ind}(u_2) - 2n$$
 (3.30)

which can be computed by (3.22) and (3.27). Finally, to get the virtual dimension, we need to add the dimension of the Teichmüller space that S lies, which is  $(r^- + r^+ - 3) + 2(s^+ + s^-)$ . It gives the formula (3.29).

We want to use Lemma 3.8 and 3.12 to derive some corollaries for the holomorphic buildings  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  obtained in Theorem 3.3. Let  $v \neq v'$  be adjacent to the edge e. If  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) + 1 = l_{\mathcal{T}}(v')$ , then there is a Reeb chord x (or orbit  $\gamma$ ) which is the positive asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  and the negative asymptote of  $u_{v'}$  at  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ . Let  $u_v \#_x u_{v'}$  (resp  $u_v \#_\gamma u_{v'}$ ) be a pseudo-holomorpic map with boundary and asymptotic conditions determined by gluing  $u_v$  and  $u_{v'}$  along x (resp.  $\gamma$ ). By a direct application of Lemma 3.8 and 3.12, we get

$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{virdim}(u_v \#_x u_{v'}) = \operatorname{virdim}(u_v) + \operatorname{virdim}(u_{v'}) - \dim(S_x) \\ \operatorname{virdim}(u_v \#_\gamma u_{v'}) = \operatorname{virdim}(u_v) + \operatorname{virdim}(u_{v'}) - \dim(S_\gamma) \end{cases}$$
(3.31)

On the other hand, if  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v')$  so that there is a Lagrangian intersection point x which is the positive asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $f_v^{-1}(e)$  and the negative asymptote of  $u_{v'}$  at  $f_{v'}^{-1}(e)$ , then we have

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_v \#_x u_{v'}) = \operatorname{virdim}(u_v) + \operatorname{virdim}(u_{v'}) + 1 \tag{3.32}$$

where  $u_v \#_x u_{v'}$  is defined analogously.

#### 3.4 Action

This subsection discuss the action of the generators. A similar discussion can be found in  $[BEH^+03]$  and [CRGG15, Section 3].

Let  $L_0, L_1$  be exact Lagrangians in  $(M, \omega, \theta)$ . It means that, for j = 0, 1, there exists a primitive function  $f_j \in C^{\infty}(L_j, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $df_j = \theta|_{L_j}$ . For a Lagrangian intersection point  $p \in CF(L_0, L_1)$ , the action is

$$A(p) = f_0(p) - f_1(p) \tag{3.33}$$

so  $A(p^{\vee}) = -A(p)$  (see Convention 3.7). For a contact hypersurface  $(Y, \alpha = \theta|_Y) \subset (M, \omega, \theta)$ and a Reeb chord  $x : [0, l_x] \to Y$  from  $\Lambda_0 = L_0 \cap Y$  to  $\Lambda_1 = L_1 \cap Y$ . The length of x is

$$L(x) = \int x^* \alpha = l_x \tag{3.34}$$

and the action is

$$A(x) = L(x) + (f_0(x(0)) - f_1(x(l_x)))$$
(3.35)

Reeb orbits are special kinds of Reeb chords so the length and action of a Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  is

$$L(\gamma) = A(\gamma) = \int \gamma^* \alpha \tag{3.36}$$

We have the following action control

**Lemma 3.13** (see [CRGG15](Lemma 3.3, Proposition 3.5)). Let  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a holomorphic building obtained in Theorem 3.3. If  $u_v$  has positive asymptotes  $\{x_j^+\}_{j=1}^{r^+}, \{\gamma_j^+\}_{j=1}^{s^+}$  and negative asymptotes  $\{x_j^-\}_{j=1}^{r^-}, \{\gamma_j^-\}_{j=1}^{s^-}$ , then

$$E_{\omega}(u_v) := \sum_{j=1}^{r^+} A(x_j^+) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^+} A(\gamma_j^+) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^-} A(x_j^-) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^-} A(\gamma_j^-) \ge 0$$
(3.37)

The equality holds if and only if  $u_v$  is a trivial cylinder (see (3.3)).

Since  $A(\gamma) > 0$  for any Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  and A(x) > 0 if x is a non-constant Reeb chord such that  $x(0) = x(l_x)$ , a direct consequence of Lemma 3.13 is

**Corollary 3.14.** If  $u_v : \Sigma_v \to SM^+$  has only negative asymptotes, then at least one of the asymptotes is not a Reeb orbit nor a Reeb chord x such that  $x(0) = x(l_x)$ .

**Lemma 3.15.** Let  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a holomorphic building obtained in Theorem 3.3. Let  $x_j$  be the boundary punctures corresponding to the leaves and root edges of  $\mathfrak{T}$  If  $\sum_{j=0}^d |A(x_j)| < T$ , then for every  $v \in V(\mathfrak{I})$ , the action of every asymptote of  $u_v$  lies in [-T, T].

*Proof.* Let us assume the contrary. Then there is an asymptote of  $u_v$  with action lying outside [-T, T]. We assume that this is a boundary asymptote and denote it by x. The case for interior asymptote is identical. If A(x) > T (resp. A(x) < -T), we pick  $v' \in V(\mathcal{T})$  (which might be v itself) such that x is a negative (resp. positive) asymptote of  $u_{v'}$ . Let e be the edge in  $\mathcal{T}$  corresponds to this asymptote. Let G be the subtree of  $\mathcal{T} \setminus \{e\}$  containing v'.

Denote  $x_{v,i}$  by the asymptotes corresponding to the vertex v. Let sgn(x) = 0 (resp. sgn(x) = 1) if x is a positive (resp. negative) asymptote. Then

$$0 \leq \sum_{v \in G} E_{\omega}(u_v)$$
  
= 
$$\sum_{v \in G} \sum_{i} (-1)^{sgn(x_{i,v})} A(x_{i,v})$$
  
$$\leq (-1)^{sgn(x)} A(x) + \sum_{j} |A(x_j)| < 0$$
(3.38)

Here  $x_{i,v}$  runs over all asymptotes of  $u_v$ , and j over all semi-infinite edges. The second inequality holds because all finite edges are cancelled between the components they connect. This concludes the lemma.

**Lemma 3.16.** Let  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a holomorphic building obtained in Theorem 3.3. If  $v \in V^{\partial} \cup V^{int}$ , then only the action of the asymptote of  $u_v$  that corresponds to the edge  $e_v$  closest to the root of  $\mathfrak{T}$  contributes positively to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G_v$  be the subtree of  $\mathcal{T} \setminus \{e_v\}$  containing v. We apply induction on the number of vertices in  $G_v$ .

If  $G_v$  has only one vertex, then  $0 < E_{\omega}(u_v)$  is only contributed by the asymptote corresponds to  $e_v$  so the base case is done.

Now we consider the general case. Let e be an edge in  $G_v$  (so  $e \neq e_v$ ). Let  $v' \neq v$  be the other vertex adjacent to e so  $v' \in V^{\partial} \cup V^{int}$  by Lemma 3.5. By induction on  $G_{v'}$ , we know that the asymptote corresponding to e contributes positively to  $E_{\omega}(u_{v'})$  and hence negatively to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$ . Finally, for  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$  to be non-negative, we need to have at least one term which contributes positively to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$ . This can only be contributed by the asymptote corresponding to  $e_v$ .

**Lemma 3.17** (Distinguished asymptote). Let  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  be a holomorphic building obtained in Theorem 3.3. If  $\partial \Sigma_v \neq \emptyset$  and  $u_v$  is not a trivial cylinder (see (3.3)), then there is a boundary asymptote x of  $u_v$  that appears only once among all the asymptotes  $\{x_i^{\pm}\}$  of  $u_v$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.16, when  $v \in V^{\partial}$ , the asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $\xi_0^v$  is the only asymptote that contributes positively to energy and hence appears only once among the asymptotes of  $u_v$ .

Now, we consider  $v \in V^{core}$ . If there are more than two Lagrangians appearing in the Lagrangian labels of  $\partial \Sigma_v$ , say,  $\partial_j S$  and  $\partial_{j+1} S$  are labelled by  $L_{k_1}$  and  $L_{k_2}$ , respectively, for  $k_1 \neq k_2$ , then the asymptote of  $u_v$  at  $\xi_{j+1}^v$  can only appear once among the asymptotes of  $u_v$ , by Lagrangian boundary condition reason.

If there are exactly two Lagrangians appearing in the Lagrangian labels of  $\partial \Sigma_v$ , then there are exactly two j such that the Lagrangian labels on  $\partial_j S$  and  $\partial_{j+1}S$  are different. Let the two j be  $j_1$ and  $j_2$ . It is clear that  $f_v(\xi_{j_1+1}^v)$  and  $f_v(\xi_{j_2+1}^v)$  are the only two edges in  $\mathcal{T}^{core} \setminus (\mathcal{T}^{\partial} \cup \mathcal{T}^{int})$  that are adjacent to v. Therefore, by our first observation, the action of the asymptotes corresponding the other edges of v contributes negatively to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$ .

If  $u_v$  converges to the same Reeb chord at  $\xi_{j_1+1}^v$  and  $\xi_{j_2+1}^v$ , then one of it must be a positive asymptote and the other is a negative asymptote by Lagrangian boundary condition. Therefore, the contribution to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$  by this same asymptote cancels. Similarly, if  $u_v$  converges to the same Lagrangian intersection point at  $\xi_{j_1+1}^v$  and  $\xi_{j_2+1}^v$ , then the contribution to  $E_{\omega}(u_v)$  by this same asymptote cancels because of the order of the Lagrangian boundary condition. As a result, we have  $E_{\omega}(u_v) \leq 0$  which happens only when  $u_v$  is a trivial cylinder (see (3.3)), by Lemma 3.13.

**Remark 3.18.** Notice that, when  $u_v$  maps to SY, the sum (3.37) becomes

$$\sum_{j=1}^{r^+} L(x_j^+) + \sum_{j=1}^{s^+} L(\gamma_j^+) - \sum_{j=1}^{r^-} L(x_j^-) - \sum_{j=1}^{s^-} L(\gamma_j^-)$$
(3.39)

because the terms involving the primitive functions on the Lagrangians add up to zero.

#### 3.5 Morsification

We come back to our focus on  $U = T^*P$ , where P satisfies (2.58). We will need to use a perturbation of the standard contact form  $\alpha_0$  on  $\partial U$  to achieve transversality later. In this section, we explain how the action and index of the Reeb chord/orbit are changed under such a perturbation.

As explained in Section 3.2,  $(\partial U, \alpha_0)$  is foliated by Reeb orbits. The quotient of  $\partial U$  by the Reeb orbits is an orbifold, which is denoted by  $Q_{\partial U}$ . We can choose a Morse function  $f_Q : Q_{\partial U} \to \mathbb{R}$  compatible with the strata of  $Q_{\partial U}$  and lifts  $f_Q$  to a  $R_{\alpha_0}$ -invariant function  $f_{\partial} : \partial U \to \mathbb{R}$  (see [Bou02, Section 2.2]). Let  $\operatorname{critp}(f_Q)$  be the set of critical points of  $f_Q$ . Let  $\alpha = (1 + \delta f_{\partial})\alpha_0$ , which is a contact form for  $|\delta| \ll 1$ . Let  $L(\partial U)$  be the length of a generic simple Reeb orbit of  $(\partial U, \alpha_0)$ .

**Lemma 3.19** ([Bou02] Lemma 2.3). For all  $T > L(\partial U)$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  with  $L(\gamma) < T$  is non-degenerate and is a simple  $\alpha_0$ -Reeb orbit. Moreover, the set of simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbits  $\gamma$  with  $L(\gamma) < T$  is in bijection to critp $(f_Q)$ .

Furthermore, if  $\gamma$  is the m-fold cover of a simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbit  $\gamma^s$  such that  $L(\gamma) < T$ , then

$$\mu^{\alpha_0}(\gamma) + \frac{1}{2} dim(S_{\gamma}) \ge \mu^{\alpha}_{RS}(\gamma) \ge \mu^{\alpha_0}_{RS}(\gamma) - \frac{1}{2} \dim(S_{\gamma})$$
(3.40)

where  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha}(\gamma)$ ,  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha_0}(\gamma)$  are the Robbin-Salamon index of  $\gamma$  with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha_0$ , respectively, and  $S_{\gamma}$  is the Morse-Bott family with respect to  $\alpha_0$  that  $\gamma$  lies.

*Proof.* The first statement follows from [Bou02, Lemma 2.3].

For the second statement, we need to compare the path of symplectic matrices  $\Phi_t^{\alpha}$ ,  $\Phi_t^{\alpha_0}$  corresponding to  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha_0$ , respectively. We can isotope the Poincare return map  $\Phi_t^{\alpha_0}$  relative to end points, by changing the trivialization, to  $\tilde{\Phi}_t^{\alpha_0}$  such that  $\ker(\tilde{\Phi}_t^{\alpha_0} - Id) \neq 0$  only happens at finitely many  $t \in [0, 1]$ , where all such t contribute transversely. For a fixed T, we can choose  $\delta$  sufficiently small such that  $\Phi_t^{\alpha}$  and  $\tilde{\Phi}_t^{\alpha_0}$  are arbitrarily close but with  $\ker(\tilde{\Phi}_t^{\alpha}(1) - Id) \neq 0$ . As a result, only the last contribution to  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha_0}(\gamma)$  at t = 1 may not persist (see (3.15)) and we obtain the result.

**Corollary 3.20.** For all  $T > L(\partial U)$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  with  $L(\gamma) < T$  and being contractible in U has  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha}(\gamma) \ge n-1$ . As a result, the virtual dimension of  $u : \mathbb{C} \to SM^-$  with positive asymptote  $\gamma$  satisfies virdim $(u) \ge 2n-4$ .

*Proof.* The underlying simple Reeb orbit  $\gamma^s$  of  $\gamma$  must have  $L(\gamma^s) < T$  so it is also a  $\alpha_0$ -Reeb orbit, by Lemma 3.19. Since  $\gamma$  is contractible in U, by the explanation in Section 3.2.4, we have  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha_0}(\gamma) = 2k(n-1)$  for some k > 0 and  $\dim(S_{\gamma}) = 2n-2$ . Therefore,  $\mu_{RS}^{\alpha}(\gamma) \ge n-1$  by Lemma 3.19 and  $\operatorname{virdim}(u) = (n-3) + \mu_{RS}^{\alpha}(\gamma) \ge 2n-4$ .

We have a similar index calculation for Reeb chords:

$$\iota(x_0) - \dim(S_{x_0}) \le \iota(x) \le \iota(x_0) + \dim(S_{x_0}).$$
(3.41)

The proof is identical to Lemma 3.19 hence omitted. Let  $\Lambda_q \subset \partial U$  be the cosphere at q.

**Lemma 3.21.** There exists  $f_Q$  such that for all  $T > L(\partial U)$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $\alpha$ -Reeb chord x from  $\Lambda_{q_1}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_2}$  with L(x) < T has  $|x| \leq 0$  in the canonical relative grading. Here, we allow  $q_1 = q_2$ .

Moreover, if  $q_i$  are in relatively generic position on P, for each lift  $\mathbf{q}_i$  of  $q_i$ , there is exactly one such chord  $x_{\mathbf{q}_1,\mathbf{q}_2}$  with  $|x_{\mathbf{q}_1,\mathbf{q}_2}| = 0$  in canonical relative grading such that  $x_{\mathbf{q}_1,\mathbf{q}_2}$  can be lifted to a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_1}$  to  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_2}$ . *Proof.* For the first statement, when  $\delta > 0$  is sufficiently small, x is  $C^1$ -close to a  $\alpha_0$ -Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_q$  to itself. Recall from Section 3.2.3 that, a non-degenerate  $\alpha_0$ -Reeb chord  $x_0$  from  $\Lambda_q$  to itself has  $\iota(x_0) \leq 0$ . Therefore, if x is  $C^1$ -close to  $x_0$ , then  $\iota(x) \leq 0$ .

On the other hand, a degenerated  $\alpha_0$ -Reeb chord  $x_0$  from  $\Lambda_q$  to itself has  $\iota(x_0) = -k(n-1) \leqslant -(n-1)$  for some k > 0. We have dim $(S_{x_0}) = n-1$ , so if x is  $C^1$ -close to  $x_0$ , then  $\iota(x) \leqslant \iota(x_0) + \dim(S_{x_0}) \leqslant -(n-1) + (n-1) = 0$ . The first inequality comes from (3.41).

For the second statement, we only need to notice that  $|x_{\mathbf{q_1},\mathbf{q_2}}| = 0$  if an only if the chord is the lift of (a perturbation of) the unique geodesic between  $\mathbf{q_1}$  and  $\mathbf{q_2}$  with length less than  $\pi$  from (3.12).

Note that, we do not need to assume x is non-degenerate in Lemma 3.21.

After choosing  $\alpha$  in Lemma 3.19, there are only finitely many simple Reeb orbits of length less than T. They correspond to finitely many geodesic loops in P. Therefore, for generic (on the complement of the geodesic loops)  $q \in P$ ,  $\Lambda_q$  does not intersect with simple Reeb orbits of length less than T. Moreover, for generic perturbation of  $f_Q$ , we can achieve the following:

**Lemma 3.22.** We assume  $n \ge 2$ . For generic  $C^2$ -small perturbation of  $f_Q$  away from  $\operatorname{critp}(f_Q)$  (such that the set  $\operatorname{critp}(f_Q)$  is unchanged), every  $\alpha$ -Reeb chord x from  $\Lambda_q$  to itself with L(x) < T satisfies  $x(t) \notin \Lambda_q$  for  $t \in (0, L(x))$ . Moreover, we can assume every such x is non-degenerate.

*Proof.* Mike Usher has pointed out the following proof to the authors. Assume a chord x has interior insection  $x(t_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$  with  $\Lambda_q$ , then we may now choose a contactomorphism  $\tau$  with small  $C^2$ -norm supported near  $x(t_i)$ , which pushes  $x(t_i)$  off  $\Lambda_q$  for all i, and consider the contact form  $\tau_*\alpha$ . Since we did not change the contact structure,  $\Lambda_q$  remains Legendrian and the perturbation on the contact form is by a function f supported near  $x(t_i)$ .  $\tau(x(t))$  is then a Reeb chord with no interior intersection with  $\Lambda_q$ , and from the transversality assumption and argument above, there is no new chords created. The induction on the number of chords concludes the lemma.

**Corollary 3.23.** We assume  $n \ge 2$ . For all  $T > L(\partial U)$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$ ,  $f_{\partial} : \partial U \to \mathbb{R}$  and pairwise distinct  $q_1, \ldots, q_k \in P$  such that  $\alpha = (1 + \delta f_{\partial})\alpha_0$  satisfies

- (1) every simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  that is contractible in U and  $L(\gamma) < T$  is non-degenerate and  $\mu_{RS}(\gamma) \ge n-1$ , and
- (2) every  $\alpha$ -Reeb chord x from  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{q_i}$  to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{q_i}$  with L(x) < T is non-degenerate, satisfies  $x(t) \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{q_i}$  for  $t \in (0, L(x))$  and  $|x| \leq 0$  with respect to canonical relative grading.

As a consequence, the image of the  $\alpha$ -Reeb chords x from  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{q_i}$  to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{k} \Lambda_{q_i}$  with L(x) < T are pairwise disjoint, and they are disjoint from the image of simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbits.

*Proof.* After choosing  $\delta$ ,  $f_Q$  such that (1) is satisfied by Lemma 3.19 and Corollary 3.20, and we can apply Lemma 3.22 to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k \Lambda_{q_i}$ . Since the perturbation is arbitrarily  $C^2$ -small, we have  $|x| \leq 0$  by Lemma 3.21 and (3.12).

In the rest of the paper, we always choose a contact form  $\alpha$  on  $\partial U$  such that Corollary 3.23 holds, we denote the set of simple  $\alpha$ -Reeb orbit  $\gamma$  with  $L(\gamma) < T$  by  $\mathcal{X}_T^o$ . Similarly, we denote the set of  $\alpha$ -Reeb chord x from  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k \Lambda_{q_i}$  to  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k \Lambda_{q_i}$  with L(x) < T by  $\mathcal{X}_T^c$ .

#### 3.6 Regularity

In this section, we address the regularity of curves  $u_v$  in the holomorphic buildings obtained in Theorem 3.3 for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$ . We adapt the techniques developed in [EES05], [EES07], [Dra04] and [CRGG15]. We borrow the observation made in [EES05]: if there is an asymptote that only appears once among the boundary asymptotes of a pseudo-holomorphic curve as proved in Lemma 3.17, then one can achieve regularity by perturbing J near the asymptote.

The main difference of our situation is that, we do not work in a contact manifold that is a contactization of an exact symplectic manifold, hence we don't have a projection of holomorphic curve as in [EES05][EES07]. We remedy the situation by localizing to a neighborhood of the Reeb chord.

We first explain the space of almost complex structure we use. In what follows, we always assume that a contact form  $\alpha$  on  $\partial U$  is chosen such that Corollary 3.23 is satisfied.

**Lemma 3.24** (Neighborhood Theorem). For any Reeb chord  $x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c$ , there exists a neighborhood  $N_x$  of Im(x), an open ball  $B_x \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n-2}$  containing the origin, an open interval  $I_x \subset \mathbb{R}$  and a diffeomorphism  $\phi_{N_x} : N_x \to B_x \times I_x$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \alpha = \phi_{N_x}^* (dz + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i dy_i) \\ \pi_{B_x}(\phi_{N_x}(x(t))) = 0 \end{cases}$$
(3.42)

where  $(x_i, y_i) \in B_x$ ,  $z \in I_x$  and  $\pi_{B_x} : B_x \times I_x \to B_x$  is the projection to the first factor.

*Proof.* It follows from a Moser's argument. We give a sketch following [Gei08, Theorem 2.5.1]. Since  $d\alpha$  is non-degnerate on  $T_pY/T_pIm(x)$  for all  $p \in Im(x)$ , we can use exponential map with respect to an appropriate metric to find coordinates  $(x_1, y_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, z)$  near Im(x) such that  $Im(x) = \{x_i = y_i = 0\}$  and on  $TY|_{Im(x)}$ ,

$$\begin{cases} \alpha(\partial_z) = 1, \iota_{\partial_z} d\alpha = 0\\ \partial_{x_i}, \partial_{y_i} \in \ker(\alpha), d\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} dx_i \wedge dy_i \end{cases}$$
(3.43)

Let  $\alpha_{\mathbb{R}^{2n-1},std} = dz + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i dy_i$  and  $\alpha_t = (1-t)\alpha_{\mathbb{R}^{2n-1},std} + t\alpha$ . It follows that on  $TY|_{Im(x)}$ ,

$$\alpha_t = \alpha, \, d\alpha_t = d\alpha \text{ for all } t \tag{3.44}$$

In particular,  $\alpha_t$  is a family of contact forms in a sufficiently small neighborhood of Im(x). By Moser trick, there exists a vector field  $X_t$  near Im(x) such that the flow  $\psi_t$  satisfies  $\psi_t^* \alpha_t = \alpha_{\mathbb{R}^{2n-1},std}$  for all  $t \in [0,1]$  and  $X_t(p) = 0$  for all  $p \in Im(x)$ . We set  $\phi_{N_x} = (\psi_1)^{-1}$ .

**Remark 3.25.** If we replace  $dz + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i dy_i$  by  $dz + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i dy_i + dy_1$  in Lemma 3.24, the lemma still holds.

**Corollary 3.26.** Let  $B_x$  be one chosen in Lemma 3.24 or Remark 3.25. If J' is a compatible almost complex structure on  $B_x$ , then there is a cylindrical almost complex structure J on the symplectization  $\mathbb{R} \times N_x$  such that  $(\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_* \circ J(v) = J' \circ (\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_*(v)$  for all  $v \in \xi$ .

Proof. We can use the symplectic decomposition  $T_{(r,z)}(\mathbb{R} \times N_x) = \mathbb{R}\langle \partial_r, R_\alpha \rangle \oplus \xi_z$  and the isomorphism  $(\pi_{B_x})_* : \xi_z \simeq T_{\pi_{B_z}(z)}B_x$  to define J such that  $J(\partial_r) = R_\alpha$  and  $J(v) = ((\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_*)^{-1} \circ J' \circ (\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_*(v)$  for  $v \in \xi_z$ . One can check that J is a cylindrical almost complex structure.  $\Box$ 

Now we may address the regularity of neck-stretching limits along  $\partial U$ . We summarize various auxiliary data chosen so far.

- 1) Let  $Y \subset (M, \omega, \theta)$  be a perturbation of  $\partial U$  such that  $(Y, \theta|_Y) \cong (\partial U, \alpha)$ . By abuse of notation, we denote  $\theta|_Y$  by  $\alpha$ .
- 2) For the T chosen in Corollary 3.23, there are finitely many Reeb orbits or Reeb chord from  $\cup_j \Lambda_{q_j}$  to  $\cup_j \Lambda_{q_j}$  with length less than T. Moreover, the simple Reeb orbits  $\mathcal{X}_T^o$  and the Reeb chords  $\mathcal{X}_T^c$  have pairwise disjoint images.
- 3) For each  $x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c$ , we pick a neighborhood  $N_x$  of Im(x) using Remark 3.25. We assume that all these neighborhoods are pairwise disjoint and disjoint from the Reeb orbits of  $\alpha$ .
- 4) Let  $x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c$ ,  $x(0) \in \Lambda_{q_0}$  and  $x(L(x)) \in \Lambda_{q_1}$ . By Corollary 3.23, for sufficiently small  $N_x$ , we can assume that

$$D_{i,x} := \Lambda_{q_i} \cap N_x \tag{3.45}$$

is a disk for i = 0, 1. Moreover, by the fact that x is non-degenerate, we know that  $\pi_{B_x}(D_{0,x})$ and  $\pi_{B_x}(D_{1,x})$  are transversally intersecting Lagrangians. There exists a compatible  $J_{B_x}$  on  $B_x$  such that  $J_{B_x}$  is integrable near the origin. By possibly perturbing  $\Lambda_{q,i}$ , or equivalently perturbing  $\alpha$ , we can assume that  $\pi_{B_x}(D_{i,x})$  are real analytic submanifolds near origin for all x. We fix a choice of  $J_{B_x}$  for each  $x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c$ .

- 5) Let  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c})$  be the space of  $J \in \mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U)$  such that J is  $R_{\alpha}$ -invariant in  $N_x$  and there is a compatible almost complex structures J' on  $B_x$  so that  $J' = J_{B_x}$  near the origin and  $(\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_* \circ J(v) = J' \circ (\pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y)_*(v)$  for all  $v \in \xi$ . By Corollary 3.26, we know that  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c}) \neq \emptyset$ .
- 6) We define N(Y) as in (3.1). We can pick  $J^0$  such that  $(\Phi_{N(Y)})_* J^0|_{N(Y)} \in \mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c})$ . Let  $\{J^{\tau}\}_{\tau \in [3R,\infty)}$  be a smooth family *R*-adjusted to  $(Y, \alpha)$  as explained in Section 3 (see Remark 3.2).
- 7) Let  $\{L_j\}_{j=0}^d$  be a collection of Lagrangians satisfying the assumptions of Theorem 3.3. Moreover, we assume that  $\Lambda_j = \bigcup_{i=1}^{c_j} \Lambda_{q_{k_{j,i}}}$  for some  $q_{k_{j,i}}$  in Corollary 3.23. If T was chosen sufficiently large, there exists  $0 < T^{adj} < T$  (depending only on the primitives of  $\{L_j\}$ , see Section 3.4) such that

for all Reeb chords x from 
$$\Lambda_i$$
 to  $\Lambda_j$ ,  $|A(x)| < T^{adj}$  implies  $|L(x)| < T$  (3.46)

Without loss of generality, we can assume  $T^{adj}$  exists and  $\sum_{j=0}^{d} |A(x_j)| < T^{adj}$ . Applying Theorem 3.3 and Lemma 3.15, we get a holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  such that all the asymptotes of  $u_v$  are either Lagrangian intersection points, Reeb chords in  $\mathcal{X}_T^c$  or multiple cover of Reeb orbits in  $\mathcal{X}_T^o$ .

For  $u_{\infty}$ , we have the following regularity result.

**Proposition 3.27** (Regularity for intermediate level components). There is a residual set  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl,reg} \subset \mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c})$  such that if (the cylindrical extension of)  $(\Phi_{N(Y)})_* J^0|_{N(Y)}$  lies in  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl,reg}$ , then for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^\partial$  and  $l_{\mathfrak{I}}(v) \in \{1, \ldots, n_{\mathfrak{I}} - 1\}$ , the  $J^Y$ -holomorphic curve  $u_v$  is transversally cut out.

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.17,  $u_v$  has a boundary asymptote x that appears only once among its asymptotes. We want to show that transversality can be achieved by considering variation of almost complex structures in  $SN_x := \mathbb{R} \times N_x$ .

Let  $\Lambda^{tot} = \bigcup_i \Lambda_{q_i}$  and  $S\Lambda = \bigcup_i S\Lambda_{q_i}$  where  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  are obtained in Corollary 3.23. There is a Banach manifold  $\mathcal{B}$  consisting of maps

$$u: (\Sigma_v, \partial \Sigma_v) \to (SY, S\Lambda^{tot}) \tag{3.47}$$

in an appropriate Sobolev class with positive weight (see [Abb04], [Dra04]). Let  $U_{\Delta}$  be an appropriate Banach manifold that is dense inside  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}^c_T})$ . The map

$$(u,J) \mapsto \overline{\partial}_J u \tag{3.48}$$

defines a section  $\mathcal{F}$  of a bundle  $\mathcal{E}^{0,1} \to \mathcal{B} \times U_{\Delta}$  with differential

$$D\mathfrak{F}(u,J): T_u\mathcal{B} \times T_J U_\Delta \to \mathcal{E}_u^{0,1}$$
 (3.49)

$$(\eta, \mathbf{Y}) \mapsto D_u(\eta) + \mathbf{Y}(u) \circ du \circ j_{\Sigma_v}$$
(3.50)

where  $j_{\Sigma_v}$  is the complex structure on  $\Sigma_v$ . By a choice of metric, we identify

$$T_u \mathcal{B} \simeq \Gamma(u^* T SY, u|_{\partial \Sigma_u}^* S \Lambda^{tot})$$
(3.51)

where the right hand side is the completion of the space of smooth sections in  $u^*TSY$ , which takes value in  $u|_{\partial \Sigma_v}^* S\Lambda^{tot}$  along the boundary, with respect to an appropriate Sobolev norm. On the other hand, we have  $\mathcal{E}_u^{0,1} = \Omega^{0,1}(u^*TSY)$ , where the right hand side is the completion of the space of smooth  $u^*TSY$ -valued (0, 1)-form with respect to an appropriate Sobolev norm. We want to argue  $D\mathcal{F}(u, J)$  is surjective at (u, J) using that fact that there exists a boundary asymptote  $x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c$  of u that appears only once among its asymptotes and  $\overline{\partial}_J u = 0$ .

Suppose not, then there exists  $0 \neq l \in \mathcal{E}_u^{0,1}$  such that

$$\langle l, D\mathcal{F}(u, J)(\eta, \mathbf{Y}) \rangle_{L^2, \Sigma_v} = 0$$
 (3.52)

for all  $\eta \in T_u \mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathbf{Y} \in T_J U_{\Delta}$ . By unique continuation principle, it suffices to show that l = 0 on some non-discrete set of  $\Sigma_v$  to get a contradiction.

Let  $\mathcal{R} = u^{-1}(N_x) \subset \Sigma_v$  and we will show that for  $\eta$  supported in  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  supported in  $SN_x$ , it is sufficient to get  $l|_{\mathcal{R}} = 0$ . By Lemma 3.24, we can identify  $SN_x$  with  $\mathbb{R}_r \times (B_x)_{x_i,y_i} \times (I_x)_z$ . Let  $\overline{u} = \pi_{B_x} \circ \pi_Y \circ u_v|_{\mathcal{R}}$ . In the coordinates  $((r, z), (\{x_i\}, \{y_i\}))$ , we can write  $l|_{\mathcal{R}} = (l_1, l_2)$ . For  $\eta = 0$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  supported in  $SN_x^{-1}$ , (3.52) implies

$$\langle l_2, \mathbf{Y}(\overline{u}) \circ d\overline{u} \circ j_{\Sigma_v} \rangle_{L^2, \mathcal{R}} = 0$$
(3.53)

where **Y** is r, z-invariant in  $SN_x$  by the definition of  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c})$  so  $\mathbf{Y}(\overline{u})$  is well-defined. Lemma 3.28. It follows from (3.53) that  $l_2 = 0$ .

Assuming Lemma 3.28, it suffices to show that  $l_1 = 0$ . Similarly,  $l_1$  admits the unique continuation property (see [Dra04, page 754]) so we only need to show that  $l_1 = 0$  on some non-discrete set of  $\mathcal{R}$ . For  $\mathbf{Y} = 0$  and  $\eta$  supported in  $\mathcal{R}$ , (3.52) becomes

$$\langle l_1, D(\pi_{r,z}) \circ D_u \eta \rangle_{L^2,\mathcal{R}} = 0 \tag{3.54}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>**Y** vanishes along  $\partial_r, \partial_z$  and takes values in  $\partial_{x_i}, \partial_{y_i}$


Figure 2: Green region:  $U_1$ ; Blue region:  $U_2$ ; Red region:  $B(x_1, \epsilon)$ ; Purple region:  $B(x_2, \epsilon)$ . Only  $u_0(E_0)$  hits  $U_1$  but not  $U_2$  among  $u_j(E_j)$  because unlike  $p_j$  (for  $1 \le j \le s$ ),  $\xi_{j_x}$  is a boundary puncture.

where  $\pi_{r,z} : SN_x \to \mathbb{R}_r \times (I_x)_z$  is the projection. Notice that  $J|_{T(\mathbb{R}_r \times (I_x)_z)}$  is the standard complex structure, and  $\eta$  depends on the domain  $\mathcal{R}$  rather than the target  $SN_x$ . Therefore, we can find an interior point p of  $\mathcal{R}$  and construct  $\eta$  appropriately supported near p to show that  $l_1 = 0$ . The details of the construction of  $\eta$  can be found in [Dra04, page 754].

As a result,  $l|_{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  and hence  $l \equiv 0$ . The existence of  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl,reg}$  follows from applying Sard's-Smale theorem to the projection  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(0) \to U_{\Delta}$ .

*Proof of Lemma 3.28.* The proof is the same as [EES07, Lemma 4.5(1)]. For readers' convenience, we will recall the proof using our notation.

By the definition of  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl}(\partial U; \{N_x\}_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T^c})$ ,  $\overline{u}$  is a J'-holomorphic curve for some compatible almost complex structure J' on  $B_x$  such that  $J' = J_{B_x}$  near origin. Moreover, exactly one boundary puncture, denoted by  $\xi_{j_x}$ , of  $\mathcal{R}$  is mapped to the origin by our choice of x.

By the asymptotic behavior of holomorphic disks, we can assume that for sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$ , there exists a neighborhood  $(E_0, \partial E_0) \subset (\mathcal{R}, \partial \mathcal{R})$  of  $\xi_{j_x}$  such that

(i)  $(\overline{u}(E_0), \overline{u}(\partial E_0)) \subset (B(0, 2\delta), \pi_{B_x}(D_{0,x} \cup D_{1,x}) \cup \partial B(0, 2\delta)),$ 

(ii)  $\pi_{B_x}(D_{0,x} \cup D_{1,x}) \cap \partial B(0, 2\delta)$  are two real analytic disjoint branches,

(iii)  $\overline{u}(\partial E_0)$  contains two regular oriented curves  $\gamma_0 \subset D_{0,x}$ ,  $\gamma_1 \subset D_{1,x}$  in  $B(0, 2\delta)$ , respectively.

Here  $B(0, 2\delta)$  is a 2 $\delta$ -ball centered at the origin and  $D_{i,x}$  are defined in (3.45).

To prove  $l_2$  is zero we consider the variation of J' near a point on  $\gamma_0$ . To this end, we need to keep track of other parts of  $\mathcal{R}$  that map onto  $\gamma_0$ .

Let  $p_1 \ldots, p_r \in \partial \mathcal{R}$  be the preimages under  $\overline{u}$  of 0 with the property that one of the components of the punctured neighborhood of  $p_j$  in  $\partial \mathcal{R}$  maps to  $\gamma_0$ . This set is finite and is identified with the set of boundary intersections between u and  $\mathbb{R} \times x$ .

Let  $p_{r+1}, \ldots, p_s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \partial \mathbb{R}$  be the preimages under  $\overline{u}$  of 0 with the property that the preimage of  $\gamma_0$  under  $\overline{u}$  intersects some neighborhood of  $p_j$  in a 1-dimensional subset. By monotonicity lemma and maximum principle, this set is also finite, and is identified with the interior intersections between u and  $\mathbb{R} \times x$ .

For  $1 \leq j \leq s$ , let  $E_j \subset \mathcal{R}$  denote the connected coordinate neighborhood of  $\overline{u}^{-1}(B(0, 2\delta))$ near  $p_j$ . Let  $U_1 = \overline{u}(E_0)$  and  $U_2$  be the Schwartz reflection of  $U_1$  through  $\gamma_1$  (see Figure 2). By monotonicity lemma and maximum principle, for i = 1, 2 we can find a point  $x_i \in U_i \setminus (B(0, \delta) \cup \pi_{B_x}(D_{0,x} \cup D_{1,x}))$  and small neighborhoods  $B(x_i, \epsilon)$ ,  $\epsilon \ll r$ , such that

$$\overline{u}^{-1}(B(x_i,\epsilon)) \subset \bigcup_{j=0}^{s} E_j \tag{3.55}$$

When a certain branch of  $\bar{u}(E_j) \Rightarrow \bar{u}(E_0)$ , then  $x_i \bar{u}(E_j)$  for i = 1, 2 We exclude from our list any such  $j \ge 1$ . Note that for  $j \ge 1$ ,  $x_1 \in \bar{u}(E_j)$  if and only if  $x_2 \in \bar{u}(E_j)$ . To simplify notation, we continue to index this possibly shortened list by  $1 \le j \le s$ .

For  $1 \leq j \leq r$ , we double the domain  $E_j$  through its real analytic boundary  $\partial E_j$ . We also double the local map  $\overline{u}|_{E_j}$ . We continue to denote the open disk by  $E_j$ . For  $0 \leq j \leq s$ , let  $u_j = \overline{u}|_{E_j}$ . We can also double (for  $1 \leq j \leq r$ ) the cokernel element  $l_2$  (which is anti-holomorphic) locally and define (for  $0 \leq j \leq s$ )  $(l_2)_j = l_2|_{E_j}$ .

There exists a disk  $E \subset \mathbb{C}$  and a map  $f_E$  defined on E such that for  $1 \leq j \leq s$ , there exists positive integers  $k_j$  and bi-holomorphic identifications  $\phi_j$  of E with  $E_j$  such that  $(l_2)_j(\phi_j(z)) = f_E(z^{k_j})$  for  $z \in E$ .

Via our choice of perturbation of the complex structure, we can choose **Y** to be supported in  $B(x_2, \epsilon)$ . We get

$$\langle \sum_{j=1}^{s} (l_2)_j(\phi_j(z)), \mathbf{Y}(u_j \circ \phi_j) \circ d(u_j \circ \phi_j) \circ j_E \rangle_{L^2, E} = 0$$
(3.56)

where  $j_E$  is the complex structure on E. Varying **Y**, this implies

$$\sum_{j=1}^{s} (l_2)_j(\phi_j(z)) = 0 \tag{3.57}$$

We can also choose **Y** to be supported in  $B(x_1, \epsilon)$ . We get

$$\langle \sum_{j=1}^{s} (l_2)_j(\phi_j(z)), \mathbf{Y}(u_j \circ \phi_j) \circ d(u_j \circ \phi_j) \circ j_E \rangle_{L^2, E} + \langle (l_2)_0(z), \mathbf{Y}(u_0) \circ du_0 \circ j_{E_0} \rangle_{L^2, E_0} = 0$$

Since the first term is 0 by (3.57), by varying **Y**, it implies  $l_2|_{E_0} = (l_2)_0 = 0$  and hence  $l_2 \equiv 0$ .  $\Box$ 

Next, we need to address the regularity when  $u_v$  lies in the top/bottom level of  $u_{\infty}$ . We will explain the case that  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = n_{\mathcal{T}}$  (i.e. top level) in details and the other case is similar.

Let  $J_{M^+}$  be a compatible almost complex structure of  $SM^+$  such that it is integrable near  $SL_i^+ \oplus SL_j^+$ ,  $i \neq j$ . We assume that  $SL_i^+, SL_j^+$  are real analytic near  $SL_i^+ \oplus SL_j^+$ .

For  $J^{Y} \in \mathcal{J}^{cyl}(Y, \alpha)$ , we let  $\mathcal{J}^{+}(SM^{+})$  to be the set of compatible almost complex structure J such that  $J = J_{M^{+}}$  near  $\bigcup_{i \neq j} SL_{i}^{+} \cap SL_{j}^{+}$  and there exists R > 0 so that  $J^{+}|_{(-\infty, -R] \times \partial M^{+}} = J^{Y}|_{(-\infty, -R] \times Y}$ .

**Proposition 3.29** (Regularity for  $M^+$ -components). There is a residual set  $\mathcal{J}^{+,reg} \subset \mathcal{J}^+(SM^+)$ such that if  $J^+ \in \mathcal{J}^{+,reg}$ , then for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$  and  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = n_{\mathfrak{T}}$ , the  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve  $u_v$ is transversally cut out.

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.17,  $u_v$  has a boundary asymptote x that appears only once among its asymptotes. If the distinguished asymptote of  $u_v$  is a Lagrangian intersection point, then we can apply the argument in [EES07, Lemma 4.5(1)] or Lemma 3.28 again to achieve the regularity

of  $u_v$ . If the distinguished asymptote of  $u_v$  is a Reeb chord, we denote the corresponding puncture by  $\xi_{jx}^v$ . By the asymptotic behavior of  $u_v$ , for a sufficiently large R, the preimage of a small neighborhood of  $(-\infty, -R] \times Im(x)$  under  $u_v$  is a neighborhood of  $\xi_{jx}^v$ . Therefore, we can find a somewhere injectivity point near  $\xi_{jx}^v$ . Similar to the situation in SY, we can perturb J in  $SM^+$ as long as J is cylindrical outside a compact set. Therefore, we can use the somewhere injectivity point to achieve regularity (see [CRGG15, Proposition 4.19] for exactly the same argument).  $\Box$ 

Similarly, one define  $\mathcal{J}^{-}(SM^{-})$  analogously and we have

**Proposition 3.30.** There is a residue set  $\mathcal{J}^{-,reg} \subset \mathcal{J}^{-}(SM^{-})$  such that if  $J^{-} \in \mathcal{J}^{-,reg}$ , then for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$  and  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 0$ , the  $J^{-}$ -holomorphic curve  $u_v$  is transversally cut out.

**Remark 3.31.** There is a possible alternative approach to the above regularity results if one could generalize the work of Lazzarini [Laz00] [Laz11] and Perrier [Per] to the SFT settings. This seems promising at least for  $SM^{\pm}$ , but the general regularity of SY might be more difficult.

## 3.7 No side bubbling

We can now summarize the previous discussion on  $u_{\infty}$  and draw geometric conclusions in this section.

Let  $L_j$ ,  $j = 0, \ldots, d$  be a collection of embedded exact Lagrangian submanifolds in  $(M, \omega, \theta)$ such that  $L_i \pitchfork L_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Let P be a Lagrangian such that (2.58) is satisfied (P can be one of the  $L_j$ ). Let U be a Weinstein neighborhood of P and we assume that  $\theta|_U$  coincides with the canonical Liouville one form on  $T^*P$ . For  $T \gg 1$ , we pick  $\alpha$  satisfying Corollary 3.23 and  $T^{adj}$ satisfying (3.46).

Let Y be a perturbation of  $\partial U$  such that  $(Y, \theta|_Y) \cong (\partial U, \alpha)$ . We denote  $\theta|_Y$  by  $\alpha$ . We have a neighborhood  $\Phi_{N(Y)} : (N(Y), \omega|_{N(Y)}) \cong ((-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times Y, d(e^r \alpha))$  of Y. We assume that  $L_j \cap N(Y) = (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times \Lambda_j$  where  $\Lambda_j = \bigsqcup \Lambda_{q_{j_m}} = T_{q_{j_m}}^* P \cap Y$  for some  $q_{j_m} \in P$  in Corollary 3.23. Let  $J^{\tau}$  be a smooth family of almost complex structures *R*-adjusted to N(Y), such that  $J^Y \in \mathcal{J}^{cyl, reg}$ , where  $\mathcal{J}^{cyl, reg}$  is obtained in Proposition 3.27. We also assume that  $J^{\pm} \in \mathcal{J}^{\pm, reg}$ , where  $\mathcal{J}^{\pm, reg}$  is obtained in Proposition 3.29, 3.30.

Let  $x_0 \in CF(L_0, L_d)$  and  $x_j \in CF(L_{j-1}, L_j)$  for  $j = 1, \ldots, d$ . When T is large enough, we may assume that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{d} |A(x_j)| < T^{adj}$$
(3.58)

Suppose that there exists a sequence  $\{\tau_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\lim_{k\to\infty} \tau_k = \infty$ , and a sequence  $u_k \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau_k}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ . We assume that  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_k) = 0$ . Let  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  be the holomorphic building obtained in Theorem 3.3. Then we have

**Proposition 3.32** (No side bubbling). If  $n \ge 3$ , then  $V^{int} = \emptyset$  and  $n_{\mathcal{T}} = 1$ . Moreover, if  $v \in V^{\partial}$ , then  $u_v$  is a rigid  $J^+$ -holomorphic map with exactly one boundary asymptote which is negative and goes to a Reeb chord.

*Proof.* For a subtree  $G \subset \mathfrak{T}$ , we use  $\operatorname{virdim}(G)$  to denote the virtual dimension of the map  $\#_{v \in G} u_v$ , where  $\#_{v \in G} u_v$  refers to the map obtained by gluing all  $u_v$  such that  $v \in G$  along the

asymptotes determined by the edges. By (3.31), (3.32) and the fact that all Reeb chords/orbits arising as asymptotes of  $u_v$  are non-degnerate, we have

$$\operatorname{virdim}(G) = \sum_{v \in G} \operatorname{virdim}(u_v) + k_G \tag{3.59}$$

where  $k_G$  is the number of edges that correspond to Lagrangian intersections points and connect two distinct vertices in G. By assumption,  $\operatorname{virdim}(\mathfrak{T}) = 0$ . Since  $u_v$  are transversally cut out for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$  (Proposition 3.27, 3.29, 3.30), we have  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) \ge 0$ . For  $v \in V^{int}$ , we cannot address the regularity but we have the following.

**Lemma 3.33.** For each connected component G of  $\mathfrak{T}^{int}$ , we have  $\operatorname{virdim}(G) > 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $v \in G$  be the vertex closest to the root. By 3.16, we have a distinguished interior puncture  $\eta^0 \in \Sigma_v$  which contributes positively to  $E_{\alpha}(u_v)$ . Let  $\gamma^0$  be the Reeb orbit that  $u_v$  is asymptotic to at  $\eta^0$ . Since  $A(\gamma^0) = L(\gamma^0) > 0$ ,  $\gamma^0$  must be a positive asymptote of  $u_v$ .

Notice that, by Corollary 3.14, there is no  $v \in G$  such that  $u_v$  maps to  $SM^+$ . Therefore,  $\#_{v\in G}u_v$  is a topological disk in  $SM^-$  so  $\gamma^0$  is contractible in U. Moreover, virdim(G) is determined by  $\gamma^0$  and it is given by 2n - 4 > 0 (see Corollary 3.20).

By combining (3.59),  $\operatorname{virdim}(\mathfrak{T}) = 0$ ,  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) \ge 0$  for  $v \in V^{core} \cup V^{\partial}$  and Lemma 3.33, we conclude that  $V^{int} = \emptyset$ ,  $k_G = 0$  and  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = 0$  for all v.

Notice that if  $u_v$  is not a trivial cylinder but  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) \notin \{0, n_{\mathfrak{T}}\}$ , then  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) \geq 1$  because one can translate  $u_v$  along the *r*-direction. Therefore, all intermediate level curves are trivial cylinders so  $n_{\mathfrak{T}} = 1$ . The last thing to show is that if  $v \in V^{\partial}$ , then  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 1$  and  $u_v$  has only one boundary asymptote.

We argue by contradiction. Suppose  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = 0$ . Due to the boundary condition, all asymptotes of  $u_v$  are Reeb chords  $y_0, \ldots, y_{d_v}$ . Inside  $SM^-$ , we can compute the index of Reeb chords using the canonical relative grading. By Corollary 3.23, we have  $\iota(y_j) \leq 0$  for all j. It means that  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = n - \sum_{j=0}^{d_v} \iota(y_j) - (2 - d_v) \geq n - 2 > 0$ . This is a contradiction so  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = 1$  for all  $v \in V^{\partial}$ .

Finally, if there exists  $v \in V^{\partial}$  such that  $u_v$  has more than one boundary asymptote, then by the fact that  $\mathcal{T}$  is a tree, we must have  $v \in V^{\partial}$  such that  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = 0$ . This is a contradiction so we finish the proof of Proposition 3.32.

#### 3.8 Gluings in SFT

To conclude our discussion on generalities of neck-stretching, we recall the following gluing theorem for SFT, which will play an important role in our proof.

**Theorem 3.34.** Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})} \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\infty}}(x_0; x_d, \dots, x_1)$  be a holomorphic building such that  $u_v$  is transversally cut out for all v and  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_{\infty}) = 0$ . Assume also that all asymptotic Reeb chords are non-degenerate.

Then for any small neighborhood  $N_{u_{\infty}}$  of  $u_{\infty}$  in an appropriate topology, there exists  $\Upsilon > 0$ sufficiently large such that for each  $\tau > \Upsilon$ , there is a unique  $u^{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  lying inside  $N_{u_{\infty}}$ . Moreover,  $u^{\tau}$  is regular and  $\{u^{\tau}\}_{\tau \in [\Upsilon, \infty)}$  converges in SFT sense to  $u_{\infty}$  as  $\tau$  goes to infinity. A nice account for the SFT gluing results can be found in Appendix A of [Lip06]. In the presence of conical Lagrangian boundary conditions as in above, see also [EES07, Proposition 4.6] and [EES05, Section 8]. Theorem 3.34 is essentially the same as Proposition 4.6 in [EES07], except our contact manifold is not  $P \times \mathbb{R}$ . But this is not a concern for the gluing argument because the argument involves local analysis on a neighborhood of the holomorphic building, which is not affected by the global topology.

The typical application of Proposition 3.32 and Theorem 3.34 goes as follows. Given a collection of Lagrangians such that the assumption of Theorem 3.3 is satisfied, we want to determine the signed count of rigid elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  for some large  $\tau$ . When d = 1 (resp. d = 2), the signed count is responsible to the Floer differential (resp. Floer multiplication). If we pick  $u_k \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau_k}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  such that  $\lim_{k\to\infty} \tau_k = \infty$ , we get a holomorphic building  $u_{\infty}$  by Theorem 3.3. By Proposition 3.32,  $u_{\infty}$  satisfies the assumption of Theorem 3.34. Therefore, for sufficiently large  $\tau$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  is in bijection to  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\infty}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ . Moreover, all elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  are transversally cut out. It means that the Floer differential (resp. Floer multiplication) can be computed by determining  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\infty}}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ , which is exactly what we will do in the following section.

# 4 Cohomological identification

Let P be a Lagrangian such that (2.58) is satisfied and  $\mathcal{P}$  be the universal local system on P. We pick a parametrization of P so that  $\tau_P$  can be defined. In this section, we want to prove that

**Proposition 4.1.** For  $\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1 \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we have cohomological level isomorphism

$$H(hom_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\mathcal{E}^0, T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))) \simeq H(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{E}^0, \tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1)))$$

$$(4.1)$$

We will only consider the case that  $\mathcal{E}^i = L_i$  are Lagrangians without local system. The proof of the general case is identical except that the notations become more involved. In slightly more geometric terms, we would like to directly construct a chain map  $\iota$  from

$$C_0 := Cone(CF(\mathcal{P}, L_1) \otimes_{\Gamma} CF(L_0, \mathcal{P}) \xrightarrow{ev_{\Gamma}} CF(L_0, L_1))$$

$$(4.2)$$

 $\operatorname{to}$ 

$$C_1 := CF(L_0, \tau_P L_1) \tag{4.3}$$

which induces isomorphism on cohomology.

By applying a Hamiltonian perturbation, we assume  $L_0 \wedge L_1$ , and that each connected component of  $L_i \cap U$  is a cotangent fiber in U. The cotangent fiber  $T_q^* P \cap U$  has  $|\Gamma|$  different lifts  $\{T_{g\mathbf{q}}^*\mathbf{P}\}_{g\in\Gamma} \cap \mathbf{U}$  in  $\mathbf{U}$ , where  $\mathbf{U} \subset T^*\mathbf{P}$  is the universal cover of U. We assume the Dehn twist  $\tau_P$  is supported inside U and we have a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbf{U} & \stackrel{\tau_{\mathbf{P}}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbf{U} \\
\downarrow^{\pi} & \downarrow^{\pi} \\
U & \stackrel{\tau_{P}}{\longrightarrow} U
\end{array}$$

where  $\pi : \mathbf{U} \to U$  is the covering map. As always, we assume that  $L_0, L_1$  are equipped with  $\mathbb{Z}$ -gradings and spin structures.

Our strategy is to study directly the Floer cochain complexes from both sides of (4.1). Section 4.1 gives a geometric correspondence between the generators from the two sides, and Section 4.3 will study the SFT limits of involved holomorphic strips and triangles. Section 4.4 use a local model to compute several key contribution of moduli spaces in the SFT limits, which eventually leads to the matching of differentials of (4.1) in Section 4.5. Due to the heaviness of notation and length of our proof, we also included a more technical guide in Section 4.2, in hope of keeping the readers on board.

#### 4.1 Correspondence of intersections

We denote the set of generators in  $C_0$  by  $\mathcal{X}(C_0)$ , which is divided into two types  $\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)$  and  $\mathcal{X}_b(C_0)$ :

- $\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)$ : generators in  $hom(\mathcal{P}, L_1) \otimes_{\Gamma} hom(L_0, \mathcal{P})[1]$
- $\mathcal{X}_b(C_0)$ : generators in  $hom(L_0, L_1)$

More precisely,  $\mathcal{X}_b(C_0) = L_0 \cap L_1$  and  $\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)$  is the set of elements of the form  $[\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes g\mathbf{p}] \sim [\mathbf{q}^{\vee}g \otimes \mathbf{p}] \sim [(g^{-1}\mathbf{q})^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}]$ , where we are using the correspondence (2.39) and (2.40). On the other hand, we denote  $L_0 \cap \tau_P L_1$  by  $\mathcal{X}(C_1)$  which is a set of generators for  $C_1$ .

Let  $p \in L_0 \cap P$ ,  $q \in L_1 \cap P$  and  $\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathbf{P}$  be a lift of p and q, respectively. We also introduce the following notation

$$\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}: \text{ the unique intersection } T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P} \cap \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}:=\pi(\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}), \text{ which is an intersection of } L_0 \cap \tau_P L_1$$

$$(4.4)$$

**Lemma 4.2.** There is a grading-preserving bijection  $\iota : \mathcal{X}(C_0) \to \mathcal{X}(C_1)$ .

*Proof.* First, there is an obvious graded identification between  $\mathcal{X}_b(C_0)$  and the intersections of  $L_0 \cap \tau_P L_1$  outside U, so we only need to explain how to define  $\iota|_{\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)}$ .

We define  $\iota|_{\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)}$  by

$$\iota|_{\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)}: \mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p} \mapsto c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} \tag{4.5}$$

This map is well-defined because

$$\iota(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}g^{-1}\otimes g\mathbf{p}) = \iota((g\mathbf{q})^{\vee}\otimes g\mathbf{p}) = \pi(\mathbf{c}_{g\mathbf{p},g\mathbf{q}}) = c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$$
(4.6)

The last equality comes from the equivariance of  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}$ . It is clear that  $\iota|_{\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)}$  is a bijection from  $\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)$  to the intersections of  $L_0 \cap \tau_P L_1$  inside U.

To see that  $\iota|_{\mathcal{X}_a(C_0)}$  preserves the grading, we only need to observe that  $\pi$  intervines the canonical trivialization of  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{\otimes top}(T^*\mathbf{U}))^{\otimes 2}$  and  $(\Lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^{\otimes top}(T^*U))^{\otimes 2}$  so the computation reduces to the case that  $P = S^n$ , which is well-known (see e.g. [Sei03]).

Using Lemma 4.2, we define  $\mathcal{X}_a(C_1) = \iota(\mathcal{X}_a(C_0))$  and  $\mathcal{X}_b(C_1) = \iota(\mathcal{X}_b(C_0))$ . We summarize our notation in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Generator correspondence between  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ 

# 4.2 Overall strategy

The differentials in  $C_0$  can be divided into four types.

- Type (A1): differentials in  $hom(L_0, \mathcal{P})$ , i.e. pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{p}'; \mathbf{p})$
- Type (A2): differentials in  $hom(\mathcal{P}, L_1)$ , i.e. pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}((\mathbf{q}')^{\vee}; \mathbf{q}^{\vee})$
- Type (B): differentials in  $hom(L_0, L_1)$ , i.e. pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$
- Type (C): differentials from the evaluation map, i.e. pseudo-holomorphic triangles in M(x; q<sup>∨</sup>, p)

For  $C_1$ , we divide the differentials similarly, using correspondence of generators  $\iota$ . Concretely, we have:

- Type (A1'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}});$
- Type (A2'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}'};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}});$
- Type (A3'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}'};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  that are not in Type(A1') and (A2');
- Type (B'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$ ;
- Type (C'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(x; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})$ ;
- Type (D'): pseudo-holomorphic strips in  $\mathcal{M}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}};x)$ ;

where  $x, x_0, x_1 \in \mathcal{X}_b(C_1)$ .

By the discussion in Section 3.8, we know that for an appropriate choice of  $\{J^{\tau}\}$  and  $\tau \gg 1$ , all the rigid  $J^{\tau}$ -holomorphic polygons in the moduli above are transversally cut out and they are



Figure 4: Types of holomorphic curves in  $C_0$ 

bijective to the corresponding holomorphic buildings. By studying the holomorphic buildings, we will show that there are bijective correspondences

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \text{ for all } \mathbf{q};$$
(4.7)

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}((\mathbf{q}')^{\vee};\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}'};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \text{ for all } \mathbf{p};$$

$$(4.8)$$

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_1) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_1);$$
(4.9)

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}); \tag{4.10}$$

Type (A3') and (D') are empty with respect to 
$$J^{\tau}$$
. (4.11)

where the two sides of (4.9) are with respect to boundary conditions  $(L_0, L_1)$  and  $(L_0, \tau_P(L_1))$ , respectively. In other words, for  $\tau \gg 1$ ,  $\iota : C_0 \to C_1$  is an isomorphism which clearly implies Proposition 4.1.

In the following subsections, we ignore the sign and only consider the case that  $char(\mathbb{K}) = 2$ . The complete proof of Proposition 4.1, where orientation of moduli is taken into account, will be given in Appendix A.

## 4.3 Neck-stretching limits of holomorphic strips and triangles

In this section, we will list all possible holomorphic buildings  $u_{\infty} = \{u_v\}_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  that arises as the limit (when  $\tau \to \infty$ ) of curves in the moduli discussed in Section 4.2. By Proposition 3.32, we



Figure 5: Types of holomorphic curves in  $C_1$ 

know that  $u_{\infty}$  satisfies the following conditions

(i) The total level  $n_{\mathfrak{T}} = 1$ , (ii) virdim $(u_v) = 0$  for all v. (iii) All compact edges in  $\mathfrak{T}$  correspond to Reeb chords. (iv) If  $v \in V^{\partial}$ , then  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 1$  and  $u_v$  has exactly one boundary asymptote. (4.12)

Therefore, we assume (4.12) hold throughout this section. Recall also that Corollary 3.23 holds for our choice of  $(\partial U, \alpha)$ , hence the asymptotes under consideration are non-degenerate and mb(x) = 1 (cylindrical direction).

**Lemma 4.3.** In the case (iv) of (4.12), let  $v \in V^{\partial}$  and x be the negative asymptote of  $u_v$ . Then |x| = 1.

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.10 and  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = 0$ , we have

$$0 = \operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = |x| + \operatorname{mb}(x) - 2 = |x| - 1 \tag{4.13}$$

Therefore, |x| = 1.

**Lemma 4.4.** If  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 0$ , then  $u_v$  has at least one asymptote that is not a Reeb chord.

*Proof.* Suppose not. Let  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$  be the asymptotes of  $u_v$  which are all positive Reeb chord. Notice that the shift of gradings for any individual boundary condition does not affect the virtual

dimension of  $u_v$ . Therefore we can use the canonical relative grading to compute the virtual dimension of  $u_v$ . By Lemma 3.10 and Corollary 3.23, we have

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = n - \sum_{j=1}^k |y_j| - (3-k) \ge n - 3 + k \ge n - 2 > 0 \tag{4.14}$$

which contradicts the assumption (4.12) that  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = 0$ .

**Lemma 4.5.** Every generator  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} \in CF(T_p^*P, \tau_P(T_q^*P))$  satisfies  $|c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}| = n - 1$  with respect to the canonical relative grading. Moreover, if  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  is the only asymptote of a non-constant  $J^-$ -holomorphic map  $u_v : \Sigma_v \to SM^- = T^*P$  that is not a Reeb chord, then  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  must be positive as an asymptote of  $u_v$ .

*Proof.* To see that  $|c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}| = n - 1$ , it suffices to show that  $|\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}| = n - 1$ . One can compute it directly by noting that  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{P}[1] \# T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P}$ , where  $\mathbf{P}[1]$  is the grading shift of  $\mathbf{P}$  by 1 and # denotes the graded Lagrangian surgery at the point  $\mathbf{q}$  (see [Sei00] or [MWa]). Alternatively, one can see it using the Dehn twist exact sequence [Sei03]

$$0 \to HF^{k}(T^{*}_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^{*}_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P})) \to \bigoplus_{a+b-1=k} HF^{a}(\mathbf{P}, T^{*}_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P}) \otimes HF^{b}(T^{*}_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}) \to 0$$
(4.15)

and the fact that the second non-trivial term is non-zero only when a = 0 and b = n.

On the other hand, if  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  is a negative asymptote and the remaining asymptotes are denoted by  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$ , we would have (computed in canonical relative grading)

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = |c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}| - \sum_{i=1}^k |y_i| - (2-k) \ge n-2 > 0 \tag{4.16}$$

which contradicts to the assumption (4.12) that  $\operatorname{virdim}(u_v) = 0$ .

Now, we can describe the SFT limits of various moduli.

**Lemma 4.6** (Type (A1)). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a non-empty SFT limit of curves in  $\mathfrak{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p})$ . Then  $\mathfrak{T}$  consists of exactly two vertices  $v_1, v_2$  and

- $u_{v_1}$  is a  $J^-$ -holomorphic triangle with negative asymptote  $p' := \pi(\mathbf{p}')$  and positive asymptotes x, p where x is a Reeb chord with |x| = 0 in the canonical relative grading;
- $v_2 \in V^{\partial}$  so, by Lemma 4.3,  $u_{v_2}$  is a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve with one negative asymptote x such that |x| = 1 in the actual grading.

*Proof.* Notice that, by the boundary condition P, p and p' must be asymptotes of the same  $u_v$ . We call it  $u_{v_1}$ . We label the other vertices of  $\mathfrak{T}$  by  $v_2, \ldots, v_k$  for some  $k \ge 0$ . By boundary condition again, we know that  $v_j \in V^{\partial}$  for j > 1. By (4.12), we have  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v_j) = 1$  for j > 1. Moreover, all  $v_j$  are adjacent to  $v_1$  because  $u_{v_j}$  has a negative asymptote (see Figure 6). By Lemma 3.10 and Corollary 3.23 again,

$$0 = \operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = |p'| - |p| - \sum_{j=1}^{k} |y_j| - (1-k) \ge k - 1$$
(4.17)

so k = 0, 1. However,  $k \neq 0$  by boundary condition. As a result, k = 1 and we denote  $y_1$  by x.

Finally, to compute |x| in the canonical relative grading, we just need to make a grading shift so that |p'| - |p| = 1 on  $T_{p'}^*P$ . It gives |x| = 0 in the canonical relative grading.



Figure 6: Multiple side bubbles

Similarly, we have

**Lemma 4.7** (Type (A1')). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  be a non-empty SFT limit of curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}$  consists of exactly two vertices  $v_1, v_2$  and

- $u_{v_1}$  is a  $J^-$ -holomorphic triangle with negative asymptote  $c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}$  and positive asymptotes  $x, c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  where x is a Reeb chord with |x| = 0 in the canonical relative grading;
- $v_2 \in V^{\partial}$  so  $u_{v_2}$  is a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve with one negative asymptote x such that |x| = 1 in the actual grading.

We omit the corresponding statements for type (A2) and (A2') because of the similarity. Next we consider

**Lemma 4.8** (Type (B), (B')). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a non-empty SFT limit of curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x_0; x_1)$ . Then  $\mathfrak{T}$  consists of exactly one vertex v and  $l_{\mathfrak{T}}(v) = 1$ .

*Proof.* If  $\mathcal{T}$  has a vertex v such that  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = 0$ , then all the asymptotes of v are Reeb chords which contradicts to Lemma 4.4. Therefore,  $l_{\mathcal{T}}(v) = 1$  for all  $v \in V(\mathcal{T})$  and it holds only when  $\mathcal{T}$  consists of exactly one vertex.

**Lemma 4.9** (Type (C)). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a non-empty SFT limit of curves in  $\mathfrak{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p})$ . Then  $\mathfrak{T}$  consists of exactly two vertices  $v_1, v_2$  and

- u<sub>v1</sub> is a J<sup>-</sup>-holomorphic triangle with positive asymptotes y, q<sup>∨</sup>, p, where y is a Reeb chord with |y| = 0 in the canonical relative grading;
- $u_{v_2}$  is a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve with two negative asymptotes x and y.

*Proof.* Again, we use the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 4.6. There is  $v_1 \in \mathcal{T}$  such that  $u_{v_1}$  is a holomorphic polygon and  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee}$ ,  $\mathbf{p}$  are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$ . All other vertices are adjacent to  $v_1$ : otherwise, there will be components in  $T^*\mathbf{P}$  with only Reeb asymptotes, contradicting Lemma 4.4. Denote these vertices by  $v_2, \ldots, v_k$ . There is exactly one j > 1 (say j = 2) such that  $v_j \notin V^{\partial}$  and x is an asymptote of  $u_{v_j}$ . For  $\mathcal{T}$  to be a tree,  $u_{v_2}$  has exactly one negative Reeb chord asymptote, which is denoted by  $y_2$ . Let the negative asymptote for  $u_{v_i}$  (for j > 2) be  $y_j$ .

For  $u_{v_1}$  to be rigid, we have

$$0 = n - |\mathbf{p}| - |\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| - \sum_{j=2}^{k} |y_j| - (2-k) \ge n - n - 0 + k - 2$$

so  $k \leq 2$ . However, we have  $k \geq 2$  so we get k = 2. Moreover, the canonical relative grading of  $y_2$  is 0.

**Remark 4.10.** Later on, we will also make use of the moduli space  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}^{\vee}; x^{\vee}, \mathbf{q}^{\vee})$ . The shape of neck-stretching limit will remain the same as Type (C), because this is simply a modification of some of the strip-like ends (from outgoing to incoming, and vice versa) and does not change the behavior of the underlying curve.

**Lemma 4.11** (Type (C')). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a non-empty SFT limit of curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$ . Then  $\mathfrak{T}$  consists of exactly two vertices  $v_1, v_2$  and

- $u_{v_1}$  is a  $J^-$ -holomorphic bigon with positive asymptotes  $y, c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$ , where y is a Reeb chord with |y| = 0 in the canonical relative grading;
- $u_{v_2}$  is a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve with two negative asymptotes x and y.

*Proof.* The argument is entirely parallel to Lemma 4.9. Let  $u_{v_1}$  be the  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve such that  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  is an asymptote of it. Let the other asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  be  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$ . For  $u_{v_1}$  to be rigid, by Lemma 4.5,

$$0 = \operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = n - |c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}| - \sum_{j=1}^k |y_j| - (2-k) \ge n - (n-1) - 2 + k = k - 1$$
(4.18)

so k = 1 because  $u_{v_1}$  has at least one positive Reeb chord asymptote.

Our final task is to show that type (A3') and (D') are empty for  $\tau \gg 1$ .

**Lemma 4.12** (Type (A3')). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a SFT limit of curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}'}; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  that are not in Type(A1') and (A2'). Then  $u_{\infty}$  is empty.

*Proof.* There is  $v \in V(\mathcal{T})$  such that  $c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}'}$  is a negative asymptote of  $u_v$ . By boundary condition,  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  cannot be an asymptote of  $u_v$ . The existence of  $u_v$  violates Lemma 4.5.

By Lemma 4.5 again, we have

**Lemma 4.13** (Type (D')). Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a SFT limit of curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}};x)$ . Then  $u_{\infty}$  is empty.

#### 4.4 Local contribution

In this section, we will determine the algebraic count of some moduli of rigid  $J^-$ -holomorphic curves in  $SM^- = T^*P$ , using a *cohomological counting* argument.

Let  $q_1, q_2, q_3 \in P$  be three generic points such that  $\bigcup_i \Lambda_{q_i}$  satisfies Corollary 3.23. Let  $\mathbf{q}_i \in \mathbf{P}$ be a lift of  $q_i$  for i = 1, 2, 3. Let  $\mathbf{J}^-$  be the almost complex structure on  $T^*\mathbf{P}$  that is lifted from  $J^-$ . Since the contact form  $\theta|_{\partial \mathbf{U}}$  equals to the lift of  $\alpha = \theta|_{\partial U}$ , by Lemma 3.21, there is



Figure 7: Six moduli spaces in Theorem 4.14

a unique Reeb chord  $x_{i,j}$  from  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_j}$  such that  $|x_{i,j}| = 0$  in the canonical relative grading. Let  $\mathbf{q}_i \in CF(T^*_{\mathbf{q}_i}\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P})$  and  $\mathbf{c}_{i,j} \in CF(T^*_{\mathbf{q}_i}\mathbf{P}, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}_j}\mathbf{P}))$  be the chains represented by the unique geometric intersection in the respective chain complexes.

We are interested in the algebaic counts of the following moduli spaces

- (1)  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{q}_{1};\mathbf{q}_{2},x_{1,2}), \mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(q_{2}^{\vee};x_{1,2},\mathbf{q}_{1}^{\vee}) \text{ and } \mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\emptyset;\mathbf{q}_{2},x_{1,2},\mathbf{q}_{1}^{\vee}),$
- (2)  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{c}_{3,2}; x_{1,2}, \mathbf{c}_{3,1}),$
- (3)  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{c}_{1,3};\mathbf{c}_{2,3},x_{1,2}),$
- (4)  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\emptyset; \mathbf{c}_{2,1}, x_{1,2}).$

**Theorem 4.14.** The algebraic count of the above moduli spaces are all  $\pm 1$ .

Proof of Theorem 4.14. We will apply SFT stretching on the the following "big local model".

Consider an  $A_3$  Milnor fiber consisting of the plumbing of three copies of  $T^*S^n$ . We denote the Lagrangian spheres by  $S_1$ ,  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $S_3$ , respectively, where  $S_1 \cap S_3 = \emptyset$ . We can identify a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{P}$  with  $\mathbf{U}$ . By Hamiltonian isotopy if necessary, we assume that  $\mathbf{U} \cap S_j$  is a pair of disjoint cotangent fibers for j = 1, 3. We perturb  $S_1$  to  $S_2$  by a perfect Morse function, so that  $\mathbf{U} \cap S_2$  is another cotangent fiber.

It will be clear that we should, for j = 1, 2, 3, naturally abuse the notation to denote  $\mathbf{q}_j \in CF(S_j, \mathbf{P})$ , which is the only generator in the corresponding cochain complex. Let  $e, pt \in CF(S_1, S_2)$  be the minimum and maximum of the Morse function, respectively, where e represents the identity in cohomology. On the cohomological level, it is clear that  $[\mathbf{q}_2][e] = \pm [\mathbf{q}_1]$  and  $[e][\mathbf{q}_1^{\vee}] = \pm [\mathbf{q}_2^{\vee}]$ . This implies the algebraic count

$$#\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q}_1; \mathbf{q}_2, e) = \pm 1$$

$$#\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q}_2^{\vee}; e, \mathbf{q}_1^{\vee}) = \pm 1.$$
(4.19)



Figure 8: Big local model before stretch

We now apply the same argument to other cochain complexes. For  $i \neq j$ , let  $\mathbf{c}_{i,j} \in CF^*(S_i, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(S_j))$ . be the only generator in their corresponding complex. Again, the multiplication by [e] on  $[\mathbf{c}_{1,3}]$  and  $[\mathbf{c}_{3,1}]$  yields

$$\#\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{c}_{1,3};\mathbf{c}_{2,3},e) = \pm 1,\tag{4.20}$$

$$#\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{c}_{3,2}; e, \mathbf{c}_{3,1}) = \pm 1.$$
(4.21)

For the case of  $\mathbf{c}_{2,1} \in CF(S_2, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(S_1))$ , it is immediate from Seidel's exact sequence that rank  $HF(S_2, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(S_1)) = 1$ , concentrated on degree 0.  $CF(S_2, \tau_S S_1)$  has two additional generators  $|\mathbf{c}_{2,1}| = n - 1$  and |pt| = n, which cancel each other. Therefore, one has

$$\#\mathcal{M}(pt;\mathbf{c}_{2,1}) = \pm 1 \tag{4.22}$$

To deduce Theorem 4.14, we perform a neck-stretching along  $\partial \mathbf{U}$ . It means that we choose a family of almost complex structure  $\mathbf{J}^{\tau}$  adapted to  $\partial \mathbf{U}$  and see how the  $\mathbf{J}^{\tau}$ -holomorphic curves converge as  $\tau$  goes to infinity. We require that the limiting almost complex structure on  $S\mathbf{U}$ coincides with  $\mathbf{J}^-$  and we denote the limiting almost complex structure outside  $\mathbf{U}$  by  $\mathbf{J}^+$ .  $S_1$ and  $S_2$  give two fibers in  $\mathbf{U}$ , and every holomorphic curve in  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{\tau}}(\mathbf{q}_1; \mathbf{q}_2, e)$  will converge, in the  $\mathbf{U}$  part, to a curve in  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^-}(\mathbf{q}_1; \mathbf{q}_2, x_{1,2})$  (see Lemma 4.9, where the direction of the strip-like ends are switched). This implies

$$(\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{q}_{1};\mathbf{q}_{2},x_{1,2})) \cdot (\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{+}}(x_{1,2};e)) = \#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{\tau}}(\mathbf{q}_{1};\mathbf{q}_{2},e) = \pm 1.$$

Since all counts are integers, it follows that  $\#\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{q}_1;\mathbf{q}_2,x_{1,2}) = \pm 1$  which implies the same is true for  $\#\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{q}_2^{\vee};x_{1,2},\mathbf{q}_1^{\vee})$  and  $\#\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\emptyset;\mathbf{q}_2,x_{1,2},\mathbf{q}_1^{\vee})$ .

The same stretching argument, along with (4.20)(4.21)(4.22) yields

$$(\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{c}_{1,3};\mathbf{c}_{2,3},x_{1,2})) \cdot (\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{+}}(x_{1,2};e)) = \#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{\tau}}(\mathbf{c}_{1,3};\mathbf{c}_{2,3},e) = \pm 1,$$
(4.23)

$$(\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\mathbf{c}_{3,2};x_{1,2},\mathbf{c}_{31})) \cdot (\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{+}}(x_{1,2};e)) = \#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{\tau}}(\mathbf{c}_{3,2};e,\mathbf{c}_{3,1}) = \pm 1, \qquad (4.24)$$

$$(\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{-}}(\emptyset;\mathbf{c}_{2,1},x_{1,2})) \cdot (\#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{+}}(x_{1,2},pt;\emptyset)) = \#\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{J}^{\tau}}(pt;\mathbf{c}_{2,1}) = \pm 1.$$
(4.25)

which give the remaining algebraic counts.

Finally, notice that even though  $S_2$  is obtained by a perturbation of  $S_1$ , we can actually Hamiltonian isotope  $S_2$  so that  $S_2 \cap P$  is the preassigned  $q_2$  and there is no new intersection between  $S_2$  and  $S_1, S_3$  being created during the isotopy. With this choice of  $S_2$  and the stretching argument explained above, Theorem 4.14 follows.

One may define the analogous moduli spaces similarly on  $T^*P$  for cotangent fibers  $T_{q_i}^*P$ . By equivariance, every rigid  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve lifts to  $|\Gamma|$  many rigid  $\mathbf{J}^-$ -holomorphic curves and every rigid  $\mathbf{J}^-$ -holomorphic curve descends to a rigid  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve.

With this understood, we have

**Corollary 4.15.** The algebraic count of the following moduli spaces are  $\pm 1$ .

(1)  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(p'; p, x_{\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p}}), \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(q'^{\vee}; x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}'}, q^{\vee}) \text{ and } \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\emptyset; p, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}}, q^{\vee}),$ 

(2) 
$$\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}'};x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}'},c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$

(3)  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}},x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$ 

(4) 
$$\mathcal{M}^J$$
 ( $\emptyset; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}, x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}}$ )

where  $x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}}$  is the unque Reeb chord of canonical relative grading 0 from  $\Lambda_{p'}$  to  $\Lambda_p$  which can be lifted to a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{p}'}$  to  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{p}}$ . The definition of  $x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}'}$  and  $x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}}$  are similar.

#### 4.5 Matching differentials

We now are ready to prove Proposition 4.1. The first lemma relates algebraic counts of differentials of Type (A1) and (A1').

**Lemma 4.16.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the algebraic count of following moduli spaces are equal

- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$ , differentials in hom $(L_0,\tau_P(L_1))$  from  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  to  $c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}$ ,
- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p})$ , differentials in  $hom(L_0,\mathcal{P})$  from  $\mathbf{p}$  to  $\mathbf{p}'$

*Proof.* To prove the lemma, we look at the SFT limit of these moduli when  $\tau$  goes to infinity. Let  $u_{\infty}^1$  and  $u_{\infty}^2$  be a limiting holomorphic building from curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}; \mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  and  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p})$ , respectively. Lemma 4.6 and 4.7,  $u_{\infty}^i$  consist of a  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve  $u_{v_1}^i$  and a  $J^+$ -holomorphic curve  $u_{v_2}^i$ . Moreover,  $u_{v_2}^i$  lies in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{p}'};\emptyset)$  for both *i*. On the other hand,  $u_{v_1}^1$  lies in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}; \mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}, x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$  and  $u_{v_1}^2$  lies in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p}, x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$ .

Therefore, for  $\tau \gg 1$ ,

$$\# \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p})$$

$$= \# \mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{p}'}; \varnothing) \cdot \# \mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(p'; p, x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$$

$$= \# \mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{p}'}; \varnothing) \cdot \# \mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}, x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$$

$$= \# \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$

where the second equality uses Corollary 4.15(1) and (3).

Similarly, we compare the differentials of Type (A2) and (A2').

**Lemma 4.17.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the algebraic count of following moduli spaces are equal

- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}'};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}),$
- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{q}^{\prime \vee};\mathbf{q}^{\vee}).$

*Proof.* The proof is almost word-by-word taken from Lemma 4.16. Lemma 4.6, 4.7 and Corollary 4.15 (1) and (2) implies

$$#\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{q}^{\prime\vee};\mathbf{q}^{\vee})$$
  
=# $\mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}}) \cdot #\mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(q^{\prime\vee};x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}},q^{\vee})$   
=# $\mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}}) \cdot #\mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}};x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}},c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$   
=# $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$ 

The last lemma addresses differentials of Type (C) and (C').

**Lemma 4.18.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the algebraic count of following moduli spaces are equal

- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p})$ , for some  $x \in CF^*(L_0, L_1)$  represented by an intersection outside U,
- $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}).$

*Proof.* The strategy is still similar. Apply the same neck-stretching as in Lemma 4.16 and 4.17, one obtains a building consisting of a triangle and a bigon for  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p})$ , thanks to Lemma 4.9; and a building consisting of two bigons for  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  from Lemma 4.11. Therefore

$$\begin{split} & \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x;\mathbf{q}^{\vee},\mathbf{p}) \\ & = \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x,x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}};\varnothing) \cdot \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(\varnothing;p,x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}},q^{\vee}) \\ & = \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x,x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}};\varnothing) \cdot \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(\varnothing;c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}},x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p}}) \\ & = \#\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x;c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \end{split}$$

where the second equality uses Corollary 4.15(1) and (4).

As the end product of this section, we have

Proof of Proposition 4.1 when char( $\mathbb{K}$ ) = 2. For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the differential on  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  can be identified by Lemma 4.16, 4.17, 4.8, 4.18 and 4.5.

The proof of Proposition 4.1 when  $char(\mathbb{K}) \neq 2$  is given in Appendix A.

# 5 Categorical level identification

In this section, we want to prove Theorem 1.2 by showing the following:

**Theorem 5.1.** For any object  $\mathcal{E}^1 \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we can perform a Hamiltonian perturbation for  $\mathcal{E}^1$  to obtain another object  $(\mathcal{E}^1)'$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  such that there is a degree zero cochain  $c_{\mathcal{D}} \in hom^0_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))$  so that  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  is a cocycle, and

$$\mu^{2}(c_{\mathcal{D}}, \cdot) : hom^{0}_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\mathcal{E}^{0}, \tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})')) \to hom^{0}_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\mathcal{E}^{0}, T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^{1}))$$
(5.1)

is a quasi-isomorphism for all  $\mathcal{E}^0 \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ 

In particular,  $\tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1) \simeq \tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)') \simeq T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1)$  as perfect  $A_{\infty}$  right  $\mathcal{F}$ -modules.

The overall strategy goes as follows. By Proposition 4.1, Corollary 2.18 and the fact that Hamiltonian isotopic objects are quasi-isomorphic, we know that

$$H(hom_{\mathcal{F}perf}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))) = HF(\tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1), \tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1))$$
(5.2)

Our goal is to pick an appropriate non-exact degree zero cocycle  $c_{\mathcal{D}} \in hom^{0}_{\mathcal{F}perf}(\tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^{1}))$ , and check that  $\mu^{2}(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is a quasi-isomorphism for all  $\mathcal{E}^{0} \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$  (see (5.1)). By a Hamiltonian perturbation if necessary, it suffices to check the equality for those  $\mathcal{E}^{0}$  such that  $L_{0}$  intersects  $L_{1}, (L_{1})'$  and P transversally. This allows us to apply neck-stretching along  $\partial U$  to compute  $\mu^{2}(c_{\mathcal{D}}, \cdot)$  for  $\tau \gg 1$  (see Section 3.8).

The discussion in this section works for fields  $\mathbb{K}$  of arbitrary characteristics, even though we didn't pay exclusive attention to signs.

Again, let us give a sketch of this section in hope of rescuing discouraged readers from the daunting details and notations. As pointed out in the introduction, we will pursue the generator that comes from L and the Dehn twist of a perturbation of L, which represents the fundamental class of CF(L, L) before the Dehn twist. This is not a cocycle in  $\mathcal{D}$ , and we computed its differential in 5.1.1. To offset them, we use the tensor product component in  $\mathcal{D}$ , whose differential, as a product in the Fukaya category, is computed in 5.1.2, which eventually yields the desired cocycle  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$ . After studying more of the  $A_{\infty}$ -structure, we verify  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  gives the desired quasi-isomorphism (1.1).

The reader should note that we postpone all issues of orientations to the appendix, but as it turns out, the content in this section depends on analysis of signs minimally.

#### 5.1 Hunting for degree zero cocycles

To find a degree zero cocycle, we need to first analyze the differential of  $hom_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))$ by neck-stretching. The discussion in this section works for field  $\mathbb{K}$  of **arbitrary** characteristics.

Let  $L'_1$  be a  $C^2$ -small Hamiltonian push-off of  $L_1$  such that  $L'_1 \cap U$  is a union of cotangent fibers. Let  $q_1, \ldots, q_{d_{L_1}} \in CF(L_1, P)$  and  $q'_1, \ldots, q'_{d_{L_1}} \in CF(L'_1, P)$  be the cochain representatives of the geometric intersection points, where  $d_{L_1} = \#(P \cap L_1) = \#(P \cap L'_1)$ . We also number the intersection points so that  $d_P(q_i, q'_i) \ll \epsilon$  in the standard quotient round metric. Let  $\Lambda_{q_i}, \Lambda_{q'_j} \subset$  $\partial U$  be the cospheres at  $q_i$  and  $q'_j$ , respectively. We assume  $q_i, q'_j$  satisfy Corollary 3.23. Fix  $\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}'_j$ be a lift of  $q_i, q'_j$ , respectively, for all i, j. Our focus will be the cochain complex

$$\mathcal{D} := hom_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1)) = (CF(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}^1) \otimes_{\Gamma} CF(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), \mathcal{P}))[1] \oplus CF(\tau((\mathcal{E}^1)'), \mathcal{E}^1)$$
(5.3)

which is generated by elements supported at the intersection points

$$\begin{cases} q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q'_j), & \text{for } i, j = 1, \dots, d_{L_1} \\ c_{i,g,j}^{\vee} := c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}^{\vee}, & \text{for } g \in \Gamma, i, j = 1, \dots, d_{L_1} \\ w_k, & \text{for } k = 1, \dots, \#(L'_1 \cap L_1) \end{cases}$$
(5.4)

The first two kinds of intersection points are inside U while  $\{w_k\}$  are outside U. Elements supported at  $c_{i,q,j}^{\vee}$  and  $w_k$  are given by

$$Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}, \mathcal{E}^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}) \text{ and } Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{w_k}, \mathcal{E}^1_{w_k})$$
(5.5)

respectively. On the other hand, the elements supported at  $q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')$  are generated by

$$(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}) \otimes (g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1), \text{ for } \psi^2 \in \mathcal{E}^1_{q_i}, \psi^1 \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{\tau_P(q_j')}, \mathbb{K}), g \in \Gamma$$
(5.6)

Here we use the commutativity  $\pi(\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j)) = \tau_P(\pi(\mathbf{q}'_j)) = \tau_P(q'_j)$ .

Lemma 5.2. With respect to canonical relative grading, we have

$$\begin{cases} |q_i^{\vee}| = 0, & \text{for } q_i^{\vee} \in hom(P, T_{q_i}^*P) \\ |\tau_P(q_j')| = 1, & \text{for } \tau_P(q_j') \in hom(\tau_P(T_{q_j'}^*P), P) \\ |c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}| = 1, & \text{for } c_{i,g,j}^{\vee} = \pi(\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T_{\mathbf{gq}_j'}^*\mathbf{P}) \cap T_{\mathbf{q}_i}^*\mathbf{P}) \in hom(\tau_P(T_{q_j'}^*P), T_{q_i}^*P) \end{cases}$$
(5.7)

*Proof.* The fact that  $|q_i^{\vee}| = 0$  follows from the definition of canonical relative grading (3.8).  $|c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}| = 1$  follows from  $|c_{i,g,j}| = n - 1$  (see Lemma 4.5). Finally, from the long exact sequence

$$HF^{k}(P, T^{*}_{q'_{j}}P) \to HF^{k}(P, \tau_{P}(T^{*}_{q'_{j}}P)) \to HF^{k+1}(P, P) \to HF^{k+1}(P, T^{*}_{q'_{j}}P)$$
 (5.8)

and the fact that  $HF(P, \tau_P(T_{q'_j}^*P))$  has rank 1, we know that  $HF^0(P, P) \simeq HF^0(P, T_{q'_j}^*P)$ , and  $HF^k(P, \tau_P(T_{q'_j}^*P)) \rightarrow HF^{k+1}(P, P)$  is an isomorphism when k = n - 1. Therefore,  $|\tau_P(q'_j)^{\vee}| = n - 1$  and  $|\tau_P(q'_j)| = n - |\tau_P(q'_j)^{\vee}| = 1$ .

Without loss of generality, we assume that there is a unique  $w_k$  with degree 0 and we denote it by  $e_L$ . All other  $w_k$  has  $|w_k| > 0$ . With generators understood, we now recall that the differential for element  $\psi_x$  supported at  $x = c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  or  $x = w_k$  is given by  $\mu^1(\psi_x) = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\psi_x)$ , and for element supported at  $q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q'_j)$  is given by (see (2.87))

$$\mu_{\mathcal{D}}^{1}(\psi^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee} \otimes g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^{1}) = (-1)^{|g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime})|} \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(\psi^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}) \otimes (g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^{1}) + (\psi^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}) \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{1}(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^{1}) + \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(\psi^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^{1})$$
(5.9)

Our focus will be put on  $\mu^1_{\mathcal{F}}(\psi_{e_L})$  and  $\mu^2_{\mathcal{F}}(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1)$ .

## 5.1.1 Computing $\mu^1_{\mathcal{F}}(\psi_{e_L})$

Let  $h: L_1 \to \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function such that  $dh = \theta|_{L_1}$ . We define  $h_i := h|_{\Lambda_{q_i}}$  which are constants because  $L_1$  is cylindrical near  $\Lambda_{q_i}$ . Hamiltonian push-off induces  $h': L'_1 \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $dh' = \theta|_{L'_1}$  and  $h'_i := h'|_{\Lambda_{q'_i}}$  are constants. By possibly reordering the index set of i, we assume that  $h_1 \leq h_2 \leq \cdots \leq h_d$ . For each i, by relabelling if necessary, we also assume that  $q'_i$ is the closest to  $q_i$  among points in  $\{q'_j\}_{j=1}^{d_{L_1}}$ , and  $\mathbf{q}'_i$  is the closest to  $\mathbf{q}_i$  among points in  $\{g\mathbf{q}'_i\}_{g\in\Gamma}$ .

We recall from (3.35) that the action of a Reeb chord x from  $\Lambda_{q'_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  is given by

$$A(x) := L(x) + h'_j - h_i \tag{5.10}$$

**Lemma 5.3.** There is a constant  $\epsilon > 0$  depending only on  $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^{d_{L_1}}$  and  $L_1$  such that when  $L'_1$  is a sufficiently small Hamiltonian push-off of  $L_1$ ,

- $A(x) > \epsilon$  if x is a Reed chord from  $\Lambda_{q'_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  and j > i, and
- $A(x) > \epsilon$  if x is a Reed chord from  $\Lambda_{q'_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  but not the shortest one.

Proof. There is a constant  $\epsilon > 0$  depending only on  $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^{d_{L_1}}$  and  $L_1$  such that  $L(x) > 3\epsilon$  if x is either a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{q_j}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  and  $i \neq j$ , or it is a **non-constant** Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  to itself. We can choose a small Hamiltonian perturbation such that  $L(x) > 2\epsilon$  if either x is a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{q'_j}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$ , or a non-shortest Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{q'_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$ . If  $j \ge i$ , we have  $h_j \ge h_i$  so we can assume the Hamiltonian chosen is small enough such that  $h'_j - h_i > -\epsilon$  and therefore  $A(x) = L(x) + h'_j - h_i > \epsilon$  in both cases listed in the lemma.

For each *i*, we denote the shortest Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{q'_i}$  to  $\Lambda_{q_i}$  by  $x_{i',i}$ . In regards to the canonical relative grading, we have  $|x_{i',i}| = 0$ . Since  $\mathbf{q}'_i$  is the closest to  $\mathbf{q}_i$  among points in  $\{g\mathbf{q}'_i\}_{g\in\Gamma}$ , if we lift the Reeb chord  $x_{i',i}$  to a Reeb chord starting from  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}'_i}$ , then it ends on  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_i}$ .

The following lemmata (5.4, 5.5 and 5.6) concern some moduli of rigid bigon with input being  $e_L$ . We start with the case when the output lies outside U.

**Lemma 5.4.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , rigid elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(w_k; e_L)$  with respect to boundary conditions  $(\tau_P(L'_1), L_1)$  and  $(L'_1, L_1)$  (i.e. they contribute to the differential in  $CF(\tau_P(L'_1), L_1)$  and  $CF(L'_1, L_1)$ ), respectively, can be canonically identified.

*Proof.* By the same reasoning as in Lemma 4.8, as  $\tau$  goes to infinity, the holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  consists of exactly one vertex v and  $u_v$  maps to  $SM^+$ . The result follows.  $\Box$ 

In Lemma 5.3, the  $\epsilon$  is independent of perturbation. Therefore, we can choose a perturbation such that the action of  $e_L$  in  $hom(L'_1, L_1)$  (and hence in  $hom(\tau(L'_1), L_1)$ ) is less than  $\epsilon$ . In this case, we have

**Lemma 5.5.** Let  $\epsilon$  satisfy Lemma 5.3. If  $A(e_L) < \epsilon$ , then for all j > i and  $g \in \Gamma$  (or j = i and  $g \neq 1_{\Gamma}$ ), there is no rigid element in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,q,j}^{\vee}; e_L)$  for  $\tau \gg 1$ .

Proof. Suppose not, then we will have a holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  as  $\tau$  goes to infinity. Let  $u_{v_1}$  be the  $J^-$ -holomorphic curve such that  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  is an asymptote of  $u_{v_1}$ . One can argue as in Lemma 4.11 to show that  $u_{v_1}$  has exactly one positive Reeb chord asymptote x. Moreover, x can be lifted to a Reeb chord from  $\Lambda_{g\mathbf{q}'_j}$  to  $\Lambda_{\mathbf{q}_i}$  by boundary condition. When j > i and  $g \in \Gamma$  (or j = i and  $g \neq 1_{\Gamma}$ ), we have  $A(x) > \epsilon$  by Lemma 5.3. Since  $A(e_L) < \epsilon$  by assumption, we get a contradiction by Lemma 3.15. **Lemma 5.6.** For  $L'_1$  sufficiently close to  $L_1$  and  $\tau \gg 1$ , the algebraic count of rigid elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; e_L)$  is  $\pm 1$ .

Proof. Similar to previous discussions, every limiting holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$ from strips in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; e_L)$  consists of two vertices (see Lemma 4.11). By boundary condition, the bottom level curve  $u_{v_1}$  lies in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{-}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; x_{i',i})$ , which has algebraic count  $\pm 1$  by Corollary 4.15(4). Therefore, it suffices to determine the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{+}}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$ .

We consider the rigid elements in the moduli  $\mathcal{M}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  for a compatible almost complex structure J, which is responsible to the  $q_i^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  for the operation  $\mu^2(\cdot, \cdot) : hom(L'_1, L_1) \times hom(P, L'_1) \to hom(P, L_1)$ . Therefore, it has algebraic count  $\pm 1$  with respect to J when  $L'_1$  is  $C^2$ -close to  $L_1$ .

Next, we will use a cascade (homotopy) type argument which goes back to Floer and argue that the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  is  $\pm 1$  for all  $\tau < \infty$ . The difficulty lies in that neither  $q_i^{\vee}$  or  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  is a cocycle, so the cohomological arguments would not work here. A detailed account for a cascade (homotopy) type argument involving higher multiplications can be found in, for example, [AS10b] (see also [Sei08, Section 10e], [Aur10]).

Let us recall the overall strategy of the cascade argument tailored for our situation. Pick a path of compatible almost complex structures  $(J_t)_{t\in[0,\infty)}$  from J to  $J^{\tau}$  for some finite time  $\tau$ . For a generic path of almost complex structure  $(J_t)_{t\in[0,\infty)}$ , there are finitely many  $0 < t_1 < \cdots < t_k < 1$  such that there exists  $J_{t_l}$  stable maps with input  $e_L, (q'_i)^{\vee}$ , output  $q_i^{\vee}$  and consisting of two components. In our case, they consist of a  $J_{t_l}$ -holomorphic triangle and a bigon, respectively. Moreover, one of the components must be of virtual dimension 0, and the other one is of dimension -1. In this case, we say a bifurcation occurs at  $t_l$ , and denote the component of virtual dimension -1 as u.

If a bifurcation occurs at  $t_l$ , then  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  has the same diffeomorphism type when  $t \in (t - \epsilon, t_l)$  for some small  $\epsilon > 0$ . The *birth-death* bifurcation cancels a pair of  $J_{t_l-\epsilon}$ -triangles at time  $t_l$ ; and the *death-birth* bifurcation creates a pair of  $J_{t_l+\epsilon}$ -triangles at the time  $t_l$ . In either case, there is a pair of stable  $J_{t_l}$ -stable triangles. When t approaches  $t_l$  from the right, we get the cooresponding cobordisms. The change of algebraic count from  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t_{l-\epsilon}}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  to  $\mathcal{M}^{J_{t_l+\epsilon}}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  is called the *contribution to*  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  by the bifurcation at time  $t_l$ .

Therefore, to show that the algebraic count persists to be  $\pm 1$  crossing  $t_l$ , we will analyze each bifurcation moment  $t_l$  below and prove the contribution to  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  is zero. For simplicity we let l = 1. Since there are exactly two irreducible components at  $t = t_1$ , one of them has to has virtual dimension 0 and the other one has dimension -1. Let u denote the component of virtual dimension -1 (it can be either a strip or a triangle), and we divide the possible stable  $J_{t_1}$ -holomorphic triangles into three cases:

- (i) both  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  are asymptotes of u;
- (ii) exactly one of  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  is an asymptote of u;
- (iii) neither of  $q_i^{\vee}$  nor  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  is an asymptote of u.

Case (i): If both  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  are asymptotes of u, then the last asymptote x of u must be a generator of  $CF(L'_1, L_1)$  by boundary condition. Moreover, x is a degree 1 element of  $CF(L'_1, L_1)$  because virdim(u) = -1 and  $|e_L| = 0$ . This bifurcation contributes to a change in the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  by the algebraic count of rigid elements from  $\mathcal{M}^{J_{t_1}}(x; e_L)$  (when  $t > t_1$ , the moduli  $\mathcal{M}^{J_{t_1}}(x; e_L)$  and  $\mathcal{M}^{J_{t_1}}(q_i^{\vee}; x, (q_i')^{\vee})$  glue together to give a change). However,

the algebraic count of rigid elements from  $\mathcal{M}^{J_{t_1}}(x; e_L)$  is zero because  $e_L$  is a cocycle.

Case (ii): If exactly one of  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  is an asymptote of u, then P is a Lagrangian boundary condition of one of the component of  $\partial \Sigma_u$ , where  $\Sigma_u$  is the domain of u. By this boundary component, there is another point  $q_j$  or  $q_j'$  for some  $j \neq i$  which is an asymptote of u. Since there is a lower bound between the distance from  $q_i$  (or  $q_i'$ ) to  $q_j$  (or  $q_j'$ ) for  $j \neq i$ , we can apply monotonicity Lemma at an appropriate point in  $Im(u) \cap P$  to get a constant  $\delta > 0$  depending only on  $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^{d_{L_1}}$  but not  $L_1'$  such that the energy  $E_{\omega}(u) > \delta$ . If we chose  $L_1'$  to be sufficiently close to  $L_1$  such that  $A(e_L) + A((q_i')^{\vee}) - A(q_i^{\vee}) < \delta$ , then for u to contribute to a change of algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J_t}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$ , u has to be glued with a rigid  $J_{t_1}$ -holomorphic curve of negative energy, which does not exist.

Case (iii): If none of  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $(q_i')^{\vee}$  are asymptotes of u, then u is a bigon with one asymptote being  $e_L$  and the other asymptote, denoted by x, being a generator of  $CF(L'_1, L_1)$ . Moreover, |x| = 0 because virdim(u) = -1. It is a contradiction because  $e_L$  is the only generator of  $CF(L'_1, L_1)$  with degree 0 and constant maps have virtual dimension 0.

As a result, no bifurcation can possibly contribute to a change to the algebraic count and  $\#\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee}) = \pm 1$  for all  $\tau$ . By letting  $\tau$  go to infinity, the argument in Lemma 4.9 implies that the limiting holomorphic building  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  consist of two vertices. Moreover, we have  $u_{v_1} \in \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(q_i^{\vee}; x_{i',i}, (q_i')^{\vee})$  and  $u_{v_2} \in \mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$ . It implies that the algebraic count of rigid element in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$  is  $\pm 1$ . The proof finishes.

**Remark 5.7.** The fact that the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$  is  $\pm 1$  will be used in Proposition 5.8 again.

Let us take local systems on the Lagrangians into account. Let  $\mathcal{E}'$ ,  $(\mathcal{E}^1)'$  be local systems supported on  $L_1$ ,  $L'_1$ , respectively. Using the Hamiltonian push-off, we have the identifications

$$\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{w_k} \simeq (\mathcal{E}^1)'_{w_k} \simeq \mathcal{E}^1_{w_k}, \text{ and } \tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}} \simeq \mathcal{E}^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}$$
(5.11)

for all  $w_k$  and  $c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}_j}$ . In particular, we can define  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  to be the identity morphism supported at the intersection underlying  $e_L$ , but as a morphism, it is written as:

$$t_{\mathcal{D}} := id \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{e_L}, \mathcal{E}^1_{e_L}) \subset hom_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1)) = \mathcal{D}$$
(5.12)

We also denote  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  as

$$e_{\mathcal{E}} := id \in Hom\left((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}'\right). \tag{5.13}$$

Geometrically, both  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  and  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  are supported at the same intersection point and represents the same identity morphism between the stalks.  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  can be regarded as a chain-level preimage of the  $\mathcal{E}$  under the (Poincaré) dualized Seidel's exact sequence, hence has no guarantee to be closed.

Let us take local systems on the Lagrangians into account. Since  $\pi_1(U \cap L_1) = 1$ , we can identify stalks of the local system  $\mathcal{E}_p^1$  over each  $p \in U \cap L_1$  using the flat connection (equivalently, assume the connection is trivial in  $U \cap L_1$ ). Similary, identify all  $(\mathcal{E}^1)'_{p'}$  for  $p' \in U \cap L'_1$ . This also induces an identification of stalks on  $\tau_P(T_q^*P)$ , since local systems therein are pushforwards of the ones over a fiber.

We can now summarize the previous lemmata.

**Proposition 5.8.** For  $L'_1$  sufficiently close to  $L_1$  and  $\tau \gg 1$ , we have

$$\mu^{1}(t_{\mathcal{D}}) = \sum_{i,j,g} \psi_{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}}$$
(5.14)

where  $\psi_{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}} \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}, \mathcal{E}^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}})$  and

$$\begin{cases} \psi_{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}} = 0 \ if \ j > i \ and \ g \in \Gamma \ (or \ j = i \ and \ g \neq 1_{\Gamma}) \\ \psi_{c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}} = \pm id \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},\mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}}}, \mathcal{E}^{1}_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},\mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}}}) \end{cases}$$
(5.15)

*Proof.* By Lemma 5.4 and the fact that  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  is a cocyle in  $CF((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}^1)$ , we know that  $\mu^1(t_{\mathcal{D}}) = \sum_{i,j,g} \psi_{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}}$ . The fact that  $\psi_{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}} = 0$  if j > i and  $g \in \Gamma$  (or j = i and  $g \neq 1_{\Gamma}$ ) follows from Lemma 5.5. Finally, to see that  $\psi_{c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}} = id$  we need to understand the moduli  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; e_L)$  and the parallel transport maps given by the rigid elements in it.

Consider the holomorphic building when  $\tau = \infty$ , we have two components  $u_1 \in \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(q_i^{\vee}; x_{i',i}, (q_i')^{\vee})$ and  $u_2 \in \mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$  by Lemma 4.9 and Remark 4.10. When  $L'_1$  is sufficiently  $C^2$ -close to  $L_1$ , the action of  $u_1, u_2$  can be as small as we want. It implies that, by monotonicity lemma,  $u_2$  lies in a Weinstein neigborhood of  $L_1$ .

It in turn implies that, for each strip  $u_2$  in the limit, the associated output is  $\psi_{i',i} = \pm id$ when the input at the point  $e_L$  is  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  (the sign of  $\psi_{i',i}$  supported on  $x_{i',i}$  depends on the sign of  $u_2$ ). This is because we have identified the stalks of  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $(\mathcal{E}^1)'$  at the point  $e_L$ , and the associated parallel transports  $I_{\partial_0 u}$  and  $I_{\partial_1 u}$  on their respective boundary conditions are inverse to each other (in fact, the strip itself provides an isotopy after projecting to  $L_1$  in the Weinstein neighborhood). Since we have proved that the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$  is  $\pm 1$  (see Remark 5.7), the associated output by all elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^+}(x_{i',i}; e_L)$  is  $\pm id$ , when the input at  $e_L$  is  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$ .

To get the proposition, we now replace  $u_1$  by  $u'_1 \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; x_{i',i})$ . As explained earlier, we have identified the fibers of the local systems of  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $\tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1)'$  at  $c_{\mathbf{q}_i,\mathbf{q}'_i}$ . Since the parallel transports of  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $\tau_P(\mathcal{E}^1)'$  inside U are trivial, if the input at  $x_{i',i}$  is  $\pm id$ , so is the output. By Lemma 5.6, the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\vee}; x_{i',i})$  is  $\pm 1$  and each strip contributes  $\pm id$  (and the sign of  $\pm id$  only depends on the sign of the strip), therefore, the total countribution is  $\pm id$ , as desired.

**Remark 5.9.** In summary, when  $L'_1$  is sufficiently close to  $L_1$ ,  $e_L$  being a cohomological unit is responsible for the algebraic count of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(q_i^{\vee}; e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  being  $\pm 1$  and hence the  $q_i^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(e_L, (q_i')^{\vee})$  being  $\pm 1$ . On the other hand,  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  being a cohomological unit is reponsible for the  $\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(e_{\mathcal{E}}, (\mathbf{q}_i')^{\vee})$  being 1. Lemma 5.6 and Proposition 5.8 are obtained by replacing the bottom level curves at the SFT limit.

# **5.1.2** Computing $\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1)$

Next, we want to study  $\mu_{\mathcal{D}}^1((\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}) \otimes (g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1))$  (see (5.6), (5.9)). In particular, we want to focus on the term  $\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1)$  so we need to discuss the moduli  $\mathcal{M}(c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'))$  and  $\mathcal{M}(w_k; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'))$ .

**Lemma 5.10.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , there is no rigid element in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(w_k; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_i'))$ .



Figure 9: Holomorphic triangles in U

*Proof.* We argue by contradiction as before. Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a limiting holomorphic building. By boundary condition, there is  $v_1 \in V(\mathfrak{I})$  such that  $q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q'_j)$  are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$ . The other asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  are positive Reeb chords  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$ . The virtual dimension of  $u_{v_1}$  can be computed using canonical relative grading (Lemma 5.2), and is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = n(1-0) - |q_i^{\vee}| - |\tau_P(q_j')| - \sum_{s=1}^k |y_s| - (1-k) \ge n - 0 - 1 - (1-k) > 0$$

because  $n \ge 3$ . It contradicts to virdim $(u_{v_1}) = 0$ .

**Lemma 5.11.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , there is no rigid element in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\bar{i},\bar{g},\bar{j}}^{\vee};q_i^{\vee},\tau_P(q_j'))$  unless  $c_{\bar{i},\bar{g},\bar{j}} = c_{i,g,j}$  for some  $g \in \Gamma$ .

Proof. Assume  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a limiting holomorphic building. If  $c_{\overline{i},\overline{g},\overline{j}} \neq c_{i,g,j}$  for all  $g \in \Gamma$ , then  $c_{\overline{i},\overline{g},\overline{j}} \notin T_{q_i}^* P \cap \tau_P(T_{q'_j}^* P)$ . By boundary condition, there is  $v_1 \in V(\mathfrak{T})$  such that  $q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q'_j)$ are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  but  $c_{\overline{i},\overline{g},\overline{j}}^{\vee}$  is **not** an asymptote of  $u_{v_1}$ . Therefore, all other asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  are positive Reeb chords and we get a contradiction as in Lemma 5.10.

The following lemma computes the  $\mu^2$  map with trivial local systems on  $L_1$  and  $L'_1$ .

**Lemma 5.12.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the  $c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_P(\mathbf{q}_j'))$  is  $\pm 1$  when h = g and is 0 when  $h \neq g$ . Here  $\mu^2 : hom(\mathfrak{P}, L_1) \times hom(\tau_P(L_1'), \mathfrak{P}) \to hom(\tau_P(L_1'), L_1)$  is the multiplication.

Proof. First, we want to argue that any  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'))$  contributing to  $\mu^2(\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_P(\mathbf{q}_j'))$  has image completely lying inside U when  $\tau \gg 1$ . We argue as before. Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathcal{T})}$  be a limiting holomorphic building. By boundary condition, there is  $v_1 \in V(\mathcal{T})$  such that  $q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j')$  are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$ . If  $c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}$  is not an asymptote of  $u_{v_1}$ , then we get a contradiction as in Lemma 5.11. Therefore,  $u_{v_1}$  has asymptotes  $c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}$ ,  $q_i^{\vee}$ ,  $\tau_P(q_j')$  and positive Reeb chords  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$ . The virtual dimension of  $u_{v_1}$  is given by

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = |c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}| - |q_i^{\vee}| - |\tau_P(q_j')| - \sum_{s=1}^k |y_s| + k \ge 1 - 0 - 1 + k = k$$

It means that k = 0 so  $u_{v_1}$  has no positive Reeb chord and the claim follows.

In particular, we can lift  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'))$  to the universal cover **U**. By considering the boundary condition, it is clear that we must have h = g for u to exist. Now, to compute the  $c_{i,q,j}^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_P(\mathbf{q}_j'))$ , we use the following model.

We consider an  $A_3$ -Milnor fiber as in the proof of Theorem 4.14 but rename the objects to keep the notation aligned with the current situation. For example, we denote the Lagrangian spheres by  $S_1$ , S and  $S_2$  such that  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset$ . Let  $\tau$  be the Dehn twist along S,  $q^{\vee} \in CF(S, S_1)$ ,  $q' \in CF(S_2, S)$ ,  $\tau(q') \in CF(\tau(S_2), S)$ ,  $c^{\vee} \in CF(\tau(S_2), S_1)$  and  $e, f \in CF(S, S)$ . We have  $|q^{\vee}| = 0, |q'| = n, |\tau(q')| = 1, |c^{\vee}| = 1, |e| = 0$  and |f| = n. Consider the following commutative diagram (up to sign)

$$\begin{aligned} HF(\tau(S_2),S) \times HF(S_1,\tau(S_2)) \times HF(S,S_1) & \xrightarrow{Id \times \mu^2} HF(\tau(S_2),S) \times HF(S,\tau(S_2)) \\ & \downarrow^{\mu^2(\tau(q'),\cdot) \times Id} & \downarrow^{\mu^2(\tau(p'),\cdot)} \\ HF(S_1,S) \times HF(S,S_1) & \xrightarrow{\mu^2} HF(S,S) \end{aligned}$$

All the Floer cohomology has rank 1 except that HF(S, S) has rank 2. The bottom arrow gives  $\mu^2(q, q^{\vee}) = f$ . By the long exact sequence

$$HF^{k}(S_{1}, S_{2}) \to HF^{k}(S_{1}, \tau(S_{2})) \to HF^{k+1}(S_{1}, S) \to HF^{k+1}(S_{1}, S_{2})$$
 (5.16)

and the fact that  $HF(S_1, S_2) = 0$ , we know that  $HF^{n-1}(S_1, \tau(S_2)) \to HF^n(S_1, S)$  is an isomorphism. Since  $\tau(q')$  represents the unique (up to multiplications by a unit) non-zero class in  $HF(\tau(S_2), S)$ , we know that  $\mu^2(\tau(q'), \cdot)$  induces the isomorphism  $HF^{n-1}(S_1, \tau(S_2)) \simeq$  $HF^n(S_1, S)$ . Therefore, we must have  $\mu^2(\tau(q'), c) = \pm q$ .

By the associativity of cohomological multiplication, we have  $\mu^2(\tau(q'), \mu^2(c, q^{\vee})) = \pm f$ . It implies that  $\mu^2(c, q^{\vee}) = \pm \tau(q')^{\vee}$ . Dually, we have  $\mu^2(q^{\vee}, \tau(q')) = \pm c^{\vee}$  (it amounts to changing the asymptote *c* from outgoing end to incoming end, and  $\tau(q')$  from incoming end to outgoing end).

Since each  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'))$  can be lifted to **U**, there is a sign preserving bijective correspondence  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,h,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j')) \simeq \mathcal{M}(c^{\vee}; q^{\vee}, \tau(q'))$  so we get the result.

**Remark 5.13.** There is an alternative geometric argument as follows. When the fibers corresponding  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  in the proof of Lemma 5.12 are fibers of antipodal points. The moduli computing  $c^{\vee}$ -coefficient of  $\mu^2(q^{\vee}, \tau(q'))$  is the constant map to the point  $S_1 \cap S$ . One can check that this constant map is regular so the algebraic count is  $\pm 1$ . In the more general case, where  $S \cap S_2$  is not the antipodal point of  $S_1 \cap S$ , one can apply a homotopy type argument to conclude Lemma 5.12.

Now we enrich the statement of Lemma 5.12 by adding the local system on  $L_1$  and  $L'_1$  into consideration. Take the universal cover **U** of the neighborhood of P, there is a unique path (up to homotopy) in  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{g\mathbf{q}'_j}\mathbf{P})$  from  $\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}$  to  $g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j)$ . It descends to the unique path (up to homotopy) in  $\tau_P(T^*_{q'_j}P)$  from  $c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}$  to  $\tau_P(q'_j)$ , which we denote by  $[c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j} \to \tau_P(q'_j)]$ . Similarly, there is a unique path (up to homotopy) in  $T^*_{q_i}P$  from  $q_i$  to  $c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}$ , which we denote by  $[q_i \to c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}]$ . Then we have

**Proposition 5.14.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , we have (see (5.6)), up to sign,

$$\mu^{2}(\psi^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^{1}) = I_{[q_{i} \rightarrow c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}}]}(\psi^{2}) \otimes (\psi^{1} \circ I_{[c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}} \rightarrow \tau_{P}(q_{j}^{\prime})]})$$
$$\in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})^{\prime})_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}}}, \mathcal{E}_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}_{j}^{\prime}}}^{1}) \quad (5.17)$$

for  $\psi^2 \in \mathcal{E}^1_{q_i}$  and  $\psi^1 \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{\tau_P(q'_j)}, \mathbb{K})$ . In particular, the right hand side is supported at the intersection point  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  only and the morphism  $\Phi_{i,g,j}^{\otimes} := \mu^2(-\otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes -)$ 

$$\Phi_{i,g,j}^{\otimes}: \mathcal{E}_{q_i}^1 \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{\tau_P(q'_j)}, \mathbb{K}) \to Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}, \mathcal{E}_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}}^1)$$
(5.18)

is an isomorphism.

Note that the parallel transport from  $\tau_P(q'_j)$  to  $q_i$  in the statement was omitted for a reason that will become clear from the proof.

*Proof.* By Lemma 5.10, 5.11 and 5.12, we already know that  $\mu^2(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1)$  is supported at the intersection point  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$ . Moreover, as explained in the proof of Lemma 5.12, the rigid elements contributing to  $\mu^2(\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j'))$  lie completely inside U.

To obtain the result, it suffices to understand the parallel transport maps. Let  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j^{\prime}))$ . The contribution to  $\mu^2(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j^{\prime}) \otimes \psi^1)$  by u is given by (up to sign)

$$(I_{\partial_2 u} \circ \psi^2) \otimes (\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee} \circ I_{\partial_1 u} \circ g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j')) \otimes (\psi^1 \circ I_{\partial_0 u})$$
(5.19)

Since the domain of u is contractible, u can be lifted to the universal cover and therefore the generator  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  uniquely determine the homotopy class of the path  $\partial_1 u$  on P (and also  $\partial_0 u$  on  $\tau_P(L'_1)$  and  $\partial_2 u$  on  $L_1$ , which is why the parallel transport of  $\partial_1 u$  is omitted in the statement), which is exactly the path such that  $\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee} \circ I_{\partial_1 u} \circ g \tau_P(\mathbf{q}'_j) = 1$ , where  $g \tau_P(\mathbf{q}'_j)$  is regarded as an element of the universal local system at  $q'_j$  and  $\mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}$  is regarded as an element of the dual of the universal local system at  $q_i$ . In other words, we have  $I_{\partial_1 u}(g \tau_P(\mathbf{q}'_j)) = \mathbf{q}_i$ . On ther other hand, we have  $I_{\partial_0 u} = I_{[c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j} \to \tau_P(q'_j)]}$  and  $I_{\partial_2 u} = I_{[q_i \to c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}]}$  so (5.19) reduces to  $I_{[q_i \to c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j}](\psi^2) \otimes (\psi^1 \circ I_{[c_{\mathbf{q}_i,g\mathbf{q}'_j} \to \tau_P(q'_j)]})$ . Now, (5.17) follows immediately from Lemma 5.12.

On the other hand, since  $I_{[q_i \to c_{\mathbf{q}_i, g\mathbf{q}'_j}]}^{\circ}$  and  $I_{[c_{\mathbf{q}_i, g\mathbf{q}'_j} \to \tau_P(q'_j)]}$  are isomorphisms from  $\mathcal{E}^1_{q_i}$  to  $\mathcal{E}^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i, g\mathbf{q}'_j}}$ and from  $\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i, g\mathbf{q}'_i}}$  to  $\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{\tau_P(q'_j)}$ , respectively, (5.17) clear induces the isomorphism

$$\mathcal{E}^{1}_{q_{i}} \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})')_{\tau_{P}(q'_{j})}, \mathbb{K}) \to \mathcal{E}^{1}_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}'_{j}}} \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_{P}((\mathcal{E}^{1})')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_{i},g\mathbf{q}'_{j}}}, \mathbb{K})$$
(5.20)

as desired

With these preparation, we go back to the study of the degree zero cocycles of  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Corollary 5.15.** For  $L'_1$  sufficiently close to  $L_1$  and  $\tau \gg 1$ , every degree 0 class in  $H^0(\mathfrak{D})$  admits a cochain representative  $\beta$  which is a sum of elements supported at  $e_L$  and  $\{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau(q'_j)\}_{i,j}$  only. Moreover, the term of  $\beta$  supported at  $e_L$  cannot be zero unless  $\beta = 0$ . Proof. Every degree 0 cocycle in  $\mathcal{D}$  is a sum of elements supported at  $e_L$ ,  $\{c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}\}_{i,j,g}$  and  $\{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau(q_j')\}_{i,j}$  because  $|w_k| \neq 0$  for  $w_k \neq e_L$ . Let  $\beta$  be a degree 0 cocycle which represents a class  $[\beta]$ . By Proposition 5.14, we can eliminate the terms of  $\beta$  supported at  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  by adding the  $\mu_{\mathcal{D}}^1$ -differentials of certain cochains supported at  $q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau(q_j')$ . Note that the term of  $\beta$  supported at  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  themselves might not be exact because  $\mu^1((\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}) \otimes (g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1))$  involves more than just  $\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(\psi^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}, g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi^1)$  (see (5.9)), but the remainder terms cannot have  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$ -components. Therefore, we have a cochain  $\beta'$  cohomologous to  $\beta$  such that  $\beta'$  is a sum of elements supported at  $e_L$  and  $\{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau(q_j')\}_{i,j}$  only.

Now, suppose the term of  $\beta'$  supported at  $e_L$  is 0. We write  $\beta' = \sum_{(i,j)} \psi^{i,j}$ , where, for all i, j,  $\psi^{i,j}$  is an element supported at  $q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q'_j)$ . If  $\psi^{i_0,j_0} \neq 0$  for some  $i_0, j_0$ , then by the isomorphism statement in Proposition 5.14, the terms of  $\mu^1(\beta')$  must contain a non-trivial element supported at  $c_{i_0,g,j_0}^{\vee}$  for some g. Because all other  $\mu^1(\psi^{i,j})$  do not have non-zero element supported at  $c_{i_0,g,j_0}^{\vee}$ , this draws a contradiction.

By Corollary 5.15, we can write every degree 0 cocyle  $\beta$  of  $\mathcal{D}$  as

$$\beta = \psi_{e_L} + \sum_{i,j} \psi_{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')} \tag{5.21}$$

where  $\psi_x$  is an element supported at x. Moreover, by (5.6), we can further decompose  $\psi_{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')}$  as

$$\psi_{q_i^{\vee}\otimes\tau_P(q_j')} = \sum_{g\in\Gamma} \sum_{k=1}^{n_{i,g,j}} \psi_{i,g,j,k}^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee} \otimes g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1$$
(5.22)

for some  $\psi_{i,g,j,k}^2 \in \mathcal{E}_{q_i}^1, \ \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1 \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{\tau_P(q'_j)}, \mathbb{K}) \text{ and } n_{i,g,j} \in \mathbb{N}.$ 

**Proposition 5.16** (Cocycle elements). For  $L'_1$  sufficiently close to  $L_1$  and  $\tau \gg 1$ , there is a non-exact degree 0 cocycle  $c_{\mathbb{D}}$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  of the form

$$c_{\mathcal{D}} = t_{\mathcal{D}} + \sum_{g,k,i,j} \psi_{i,g,j,k}^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee} \otimes g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1$$
(5.23)

where  $\psi_{i,g,j,k}^2 = \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1 = 0$  if either j > i or  $(j = i \text{ and } g \neq 1_{\Gamma})$ , and (see (5.18))

$$\Phi_{i,1_{\Gamma},i}^{\otimes}(\sum_{k} (\psi_{i,1_{\Gamma},i,k}^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee} \otimes \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{i}^{\prime}) \otimes \psi_{i,1_{\Gamma},i,k}^{1})) = \pm id$$
(5.24)

where  $\pm id \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)')_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,\mathbf{q}'_i}}, \mathcal{E}^1_{c_{\mathbf{q}_i,\mathbf{q}'_i}}).$ 

*Proof.* Let  $\beta$  be a non-exact degree 0 cocycle of  $\mathcal{D}$  (which exists from (5.2)). We write  $\beta$  in the form (5.21). Note that  $\psi_{e_L}$  can be geometrically identified as an element of  $hom((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}^1)$ . Lemma 5.4 implies that, for  $\mu^1_{\mathcal{D}}(\beta) = 0$ , we must have  $\mu^1_{hom((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}^1)}(\psi_{e_L}) = 0$ .

Also, Corollary 5.15 implies that the degree zero cocycle  $\beta$  is uniquely determined by its  $\psi_{e_L}$  component (or, as a cochain of  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mu_{\mathcal{D}}^1(\psi_{e_L})$  has no  $w_k$ -components). Therefore,

$$\operatorname{rank}(H^{0}(\mathcal{D})) \leq \operatorname{rank}(H^{0}(hom((\mathcal{E}^{1})', \mathcal{E}^{1})))$$
(5.25)

However, as explained in (5.2), we have

$$\operatorname{rank}(H^0(\mathcal{D})) = \operatorname{rank}(HF^0((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}^1))$$
(5.26)

It implies that for each degree 0 cocycle  $\psi_{e_L} \in hom((\mathcal{E}^1)', \mathcal{E}^1)$ , there exists  $\psi_{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')}$  such that  $\psi_{e_L} + \sum_{i,j} \psi_{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')}$  is a degree 0 cocycle in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

In particular, we can take  $\psi_{e_L} = t_{\mathcal{D}}$ . For  $\mu^1(t_{\mathcal{D}} + \sum_{i,j} \psi_{q_i^{\vee} \otimes \tau_P(q_j')})$  to be zero, the terms of it supported at  $c_{i,g,j}^{\vee}$  must be zero for all i, j, g. Therefore, we obtain the result by Proposition 5.8 and 5.14 (see (5.9)).

## 5.2 Quasi-isomorphisms

Let  $c_{\mathcal{D}}$  be the degree 0 cocycle obtained from Proposition 5.16. In this section, we are going to study the map (5.1) for  $\mathcal{E}^0 \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ .

We assume that  $L_0 \pitchfork L_1$ ,  $L_0 \pitchfork \tau_P(L'_1)$ , and that  $L_0 \cap U$  is a union of cotangent fibers  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{d_{L_0}} T_{p_i}^* P$ , where  $d_{L_0} = \#(L_0 \cap P)$ . Let  $\mathbf{p}_i$  be a choice of lift of  $p_i$  in  $\mathbf{P}$ . Let  $C_0 := hom(\mathcal{E}^0, \tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'))$  and  $C_1 := hom(\mathcal{E}^0, T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))$ . We know from Lemma 4.13 that, when  $\tau$  is large enough, there is a subcomplex  $C_0^s \subset C_0$  generated by generators of  $C_0$  outside U. Let  $C_0^q := C_0/C_0^s$  be the quotient complex, which is generated by generators of  $C_0$  inside U. Similarly,  $C_1^s := hom(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1) \subset C_1$  is a subcomplex and  $C_1^q := C_1/C_1^s$  is the quotient complex. By definition (see (2.88)), for  $\psi \in C_0$ ,

$$\mu^{2}(c_{\mathcal{D}},\psi) = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(t_{\mathcal{D}},\psi) + \sum_{i,j,g,k} (\psi_{i,g,j,k}^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee}) \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{2}(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}') \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^{1},\psi)$$
$$+ \sum_{i,j,g,k} \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^{3}(\psi_{i,g,j,k}^{2} \otimes \mathbf{q}_{i}^{\vee},g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_{j}') \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^{1},\psi)$$
(5.27)

We define  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -) := \mu^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)|_{C_0^s} : C_0^s \to C_1.$ 

**Lemma 5.17.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , the image of  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathbb{D}}, -)$  is contained in  $C_1^s$ . Therefore,  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathbb{D}}, -) : C_0^s \to C_1^s$  is a chain map.

Proof. Note that the first and last term on the right hand side of (5.27) lie inside  $C_1^s$  as a consequence of Lemma 4.5. Therefore, it suffices to show that  $\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j) \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1, \psi) = 0$  for  $\psi \in C_0^s$ . We consider the moduli  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_s; \tau_P(q'_j), y)$  where  $y \in (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L'_1)) \setminus U$  and  $p_s \in L_0 \cap P$ . Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{T})}$  be a holomorphic building converging from curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_s; \tau_P(q'_j), y)$ . From the boundary condition, there exists  $v_1 \in V(\mathfrak{T})$  such that  $p_s$  and  $\tau_P(q'_j)$  are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$ . The other asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  are positive Reeb chords  $y_1, \ldots, y_m$ . We have

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = |p_s| - |\tau_P(q'_j)| - \sum_{l=1}^m |y_l| - (1-m) \ge n - 1 - (1-m) \ge n - 2 > 0, \quad (5.28)$$

contradiction. Therefore,  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_s; \tau_P(q'_j), y) = \emptyset$  for  $\tau \gg 1$ .

**Lemma 5.18.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ ,  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -) = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(t_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$ .

Proof. By Lemma 5.17, the second term in (5.27) vanishes, so it suffices to prove that  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'), y) = \emptyset$  for  $\tau \gg 1$ , where  $y \in (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L_1')) \setminus U$  and  $x \in L_0 \cap L_1$ . Let  $u_{\infty} = (u_v)_{v \in V(\mathfrak{I})}$  be a holomorphic building converging from curves in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'), y)$ . From the boundary condition, there

exists  $v_1 \in V(\mathfrak{T})$  such that  $q_i^{\vee}$  and  $\tau_P(q_j')$  are asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$ . The other asymptotes of  $u_{v_1}$  are positive Reeb chords  $y_1, \ldots, y_m$ . We have

$$\operatorname{virdim}(u_{v_1}) = n - |q_i^{\vee}| - |\tau_P(q_j')| - \sum_{l=1}^m |y_l| - (1-m) \ge n - 1 - (1-m) \ge n - 2 > 0 \quad (5.29)$$

Therefore,  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; q_i^{\vee}, \tau_P(q_j'), y) = \emptyset$  for  $\tau \gg 1$ ,

**Proposition 5.19.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ ,  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

*Proof.* For  $y \in (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L'_1)) \setminus U$  and  $x \in L_0 \cap L_1$ , the proof of Lemma 4.8 implies that all rigid elements in  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; e_L, y)$  have their image completely outside U.

As a result, the computation of  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -) = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(t_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  picks up exactly the same holomorphic triangles that contributes to  $\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(e_{\mathcal{E}}, -) : C_0^s \cong hom(\mathcal{E}^0, (\mathcal{E}^1)') \to hom(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{E}^1) \cong C_1^s$  via the tautological identification between  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  and  $t_{\mathcal{D}}$  (see (5.12) and the paragraph after it). Since  $e_{\mathcal{E}}$  is the cohomological unit,  $\mu_s^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is also a quasi-isomorphism.

By Lemma 5.17, we know that  $\mu^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  induces a chain map on the quotient complexes  $\mu_q^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -) : C_0^q \to C_1^q$ . Since the first and last term on the right hand side of (5.27) are, by definition, lying inside  $C_1^s$ , the map  $\mu_q^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is given by

$$\mu_q^2(c_{\mathcal{D}},\psi) = \sum_{i,j,g,k} (\psi_{i,g,j,k}^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_i^{\vee}) \otimes \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}_j') \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1,\psi)$$
(5.30)

By Proposition 5.19 and the five lemma, to show that  $\mu^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is a quasi-isomorphism, it suffices to show that  $\mu_q^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

We recall from Lemma 4.2 that there is a bijective correspondence

$$\iota: hom(\mathfrak{P}, L'_1) \otimes_{\Gamma} hom(L_0, \mathfrak{P}) \to (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L'_1)) \cap U$$
(5.31)

so we can write a point  $y \in (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L'_1)) \cap U$  as  $c_{h\mathbf{p}_s,\mathbf{q}'_l} := \iota(\mathbf{q}'_l \otimes h\mathbf{p}_s)$  for some  $h \in \Gamma$  and some s, l. We want to understand the moduli  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_m; \tau_P(q'_j), c_{h\mathbf{p}_s,\mathbf{q}'_l})$  for various j, s, l, m, which is responsible for (part of) the operation

$$hom(\tau_P(L'_1), \mathfrak{P}) \times hom(L_0, \tau_P(L'_1)) \to hom(L_0, \mathfrak{P})$$
 (5.32)

Notice that, by switching the appropriate strip-like ends from incoming to outgoing (and vice versa) for the same holomorphic triangles, (5.32) can be dualized to

$$hom(\mathfrak{P}, L_0) \times hom(\tau_P(L'_1), \mathfrak{P}) \to hom(\tau_P(L'_1), L_0)$$
(5.33)

If we replace  $L_0$  by  $L_1$  (both of them are union of cotangent fibers in U), then we see that (5.33) has already been studied in Lemma 5.11 and 5.12. The outcome is the following:

**Lemma 5.20.** For  $\tau \gg 1$ , for  $\psi_{c_{h\mathbf{p}_s,\mathbf{q}'_l}} \in C_0$  supported at  $c_{h\mathbf{p}_s,\mathbf{q}'_l}$ 

$$\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j) \otimes \psi_{i,g,j,k}^1, \psi_{c_{h\mathbf{p}_s,\mathbf{q}'_l}})$$
(5.34)

is 0 if  $l \neq j$ . When l = j, (5.34) becomes

$$gh\mathbf{p}_{s} \otimes \left(I_{[\tau_{P}(q'_{j}) \to p_{s}]} \circ \psi^{1}_{i,g,j,k} \circ I_{[c_{h\mathbf{p}_{s},\mathbf{q}'_{j}} \to \tau_{P}(q'_{j})]} \circ \psi_{c_{h\mathbf{p}_{s},\mathbf{q}'_{j}}} \circ I_{[p_{s} \to c_{h\mathbf{p}_{s},\mathbf{q}'_{j}}]}\right)$$
(5.35)

where all the parallel transport maps are the unique one determined by the boundary condition inside U (cf. Proposition 5.14).

*Proof.* The argument largely resembles the proof of Lemma 5.11, 5.12 and Proposition 5.14. A neck-stretching argument as in Lemma 5.11 deduces that  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_m; \tau_P(q'_j), c_{h\mathbf{p}_s, \mathbf{q}'_l})$  is not empty only if j = l and m = s. The same dimension count implies that when j = l, m = s and  $\tau \gg 1$ , every rigid element of  $\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(p_m; \tau_P(q'_j), c_{h\mathbf{p}_s, \mathbf{q}'_l})$  has image inside U. The local count and the chasing of local systems from Lemma 5.12 and Proposition 5.14 applies directly to the current case because it is a computation in **U** about cotangent fibers and their Dehn twists. In particular, if we remove the local systems on  $L_0$  and  $\tau_P(L'_1)$ , we get

$$\mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j), c_{h\mathbf{p}_s, \mathbf{q}'_j}) = \mu_{\mathcal{F}}^2(g\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{q}'_j), c_{gh\mathbf{p}_s, g\mathbf{q}'_j}) = gh\mathbf{p}_s \in hom(L_0, \mathcal{P})$$
(5.36)

The parallel transport maps are uniquely determined by boundary conditions, and after chasing all of them, we get the result.  $\hfill \Box$ 

Let  $V = hom(\mathcal{P}, (\mathcal{E}^1)') \otimes_{\Gamma} hom(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{P})$  which is generated by elements of the form

$$(\Upsilon^2 \otimes (\mathbf{q}'_r)^{\vee}) \otimes (h\mathbf{p}_t \otimes \Upsilon^1) \tag{5.37}$$

for  $h \in \Gamma$ ,  $r = 1, \ldots, d_{L_1}$ ,  $t = 1, \ldots, d_{L_0}$ ,  $\Upsilon^2 \in (\mathcal{E}^1)'_{q'_r}$  and  $\Upsilon^1 \in Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^0_{p_t}, \mathbb{K})$  (cf. (5.6)).

- For  $s = 1, \ldots, d_{L_0}$ , let  $V_s$  be the subspace generated by elements in (5.37) such that t = s.
- For  $s = 1, \ldots, d_{L_0}$  and  $l = 1, \ldots, d_{L_1}$ , let  $V_{s,l}$  be the subspace of  $V_s$  generated by elements in (5.37) such that r = l.
- For  $s = 1, \ldots, d_{L_0}$ ,  $l = 1, \ldots, d_{L_1}$  and  $g \in \Gamma$ , let  $V_{s,l,g}$  be the subspace of  $V_{s,l}$  generated by elements in (5.37) such that h = g.

Therefore, we have direct sum decompositions

$$V = \bigoplus_s V_s, \ V_s = \bigoplus_l V_{s,l}, \ V_{s,l} = \bigoplus_g V_{s,l,g}$$
(5.38)

The bijective correspondence  $\iota$  (5.31) extends to an isomorphism, also denoted by  $\iota$ , from V to  $C_0^q$  by keeping track of the (uniquely determined) parallel transport maps along Lagrangians inside U. On the other hand, there is an obvious isomorphism  $F : hom(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}^1) \otimes_{\Gamma} hom(\mathcal{E}^0, \mathcal{P}) \to V$  given by

$$(\Upsilon^2 \otimes \mathbf{q}_l^{\vee}) \otimes (h\mathbf{p}_s \otimes \Upsilon^1) \mapsto (\Upsilon^2 \otimes (\mathbf{q}_l')^{\vee}) \otimes (h\mathbf{p}_s \otimes \Upsilon^1)$$
(5.39)

where we used the identification  $\mathcal{E}_{q_l}^1 \simeq (\mathcal{E}^1)'_{q_l}$  by the Hamiltonian push-off. As a result, we have a composition map

$$\Theta: V \xrightarrow{\iota} (L_0 \cap \tau_P(L_1')) \cap U \xrightarrow{\mu_q^2(c_{\mathcal{D}}, -)} C_1^q \xrightarrow{F} V$$
(5.40)

which respects a filtration on V in the following sense.

Lemma 5.21. We have

$$\begin{cases} \Theta(V_s) \subset V_s & \text{for all } s\\ \Theta(V_{s,l}) \subset \bigoplus_{t \ge l} V_{s,t} & \text{for all } s, l\\ \Theta(V_{s,l,h}) \subset V_{s,l,h} + (\bigoplus_{t > l} V_{s,t}) & \text{for all } s, l, h \end{cases}$$

$$(5.41)$$

*Proof.* Explicitly,  $\Theta$  is given by (see (5.30) and Lemma 5.20)

$$(\Upsilon^2 \otimes (\mathbf{q}'_l)^{\vee}) \otimes (h\mathbf{p}_s \otimes \Upsilon^1) \tag{5.42}$$

$$\mapsto \sum_{i,g,k} (\psi_{i,g,l,k}^2 \otimes (\mathbf{q}_i')^{\vee}) \otimes (gh\mathbf{p}_s \otimes R(\psi_{i,g,l,k}^1, \Upsilon^2, \Upsilon^1))$$
(5.43)

where  $R(\psi_{i,g,l,k}^1, \Upsilon^2, \Upsilon^1)$  is a term depending on  $\psi_{i,g,l,k}^1, \Upsilon^2, \Upsilon^1$  given by composing parallel transport maps. It is therefore clear that  $\Theta(V_s) \subset V_s$ . By Proposition 5.16 and (5.27), we know that  $\psi_{i,g,l,k}^2 = 0$  unless  $j \leq i$  so  $\Theta(V_{s,l}) \subset \bigoplus_{t \geq l} V_{s,t}$ .

When i = l,  $\psi_{i,g,l,k}^2 \neq 0$  only if  $g = 1_{\Gamma}$  (by Proposition 5.16). Therefore,  $\Theta(V_{s,l,h}) \subset V_{s,l,h} + (\bigoplus_{t>l} V_{s,t})$ 

# **Proposition 5.22.** $\mu_q^2$ is a quasi-isomorphism.

*Proof.* Since  $\mu_q^2$  is a chain map, it suffices to show that  $\mu_q^2$  is bijective. We know that  $\iota$  and F are isomorphisms so it suffices to show that  $\Theta$  is surjective (see (5.40)). By (5.38) and Lemma 5.21, it suffices to show that

$$\Theta|_{V_{s,l,h}}: V_{s,l,h} \to (V_{s,l,h} + (\bigoplus_{t>l} V_{s,t}))/(\bigoplus_{t>l} V_{s,t})$$

$$(5.44)$$

is bijective for all s, l, h. For fixed s, l, h, the map (5.44) can be identified with the map

$$(\mathcal{E}^{1})'_{q'_{l}} \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^{0}_{p_{s}}, \mathbb{K}) \to (\mathcal{E}^{1})'_{q'_{l}} \otimes Hom_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{E}^{0}_{p_{s}}, \mathbb{K})$$
  

$$\Upsilon^{2} \otimes \Upsilon^{1} \mapsto \sum_{k} (\psi^{2}_{l,1_{\Gamma},l,k} \otimes R(\psi^{1}_{l,1_{\Gamma},l,k}, \Upsilon^{2}, \Upsilon^{1}))$$
(5.45)

By (5.24) and keeping track of the uniquely determined parallel transport maps, it is clear that (5.45) is an isomorphism.

Concluing the proof of Theorem 1.2, 5.1. For each  $\mathcal{E}^1 \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we apply Proposition 5.16 to find a degree 0 cocycle  $c_{\mathcal{D}} \in hom^0_{\mathcal{F}^{perf}}(\tau_P((\mathcal{E}^1)'), T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}^1))$ . Given any object  $(\mathcal{E}^0)' \in Ob(\mathcal{F})$ , we consider a quasi-isomorphic  $\mathcal{E}^0$ , which is a Hamiltonian isotopic copy and the underlying Lagrangian  $L_0$  intersects transversally with  $L_1, \tau_P(L'_1)$  and  $L_0 \cap U$ .

Proposition 5.19 and 5.22, together with the five lemma, then conclude that (5.1) is a quasiisomorphism.

Proof of Corollary 1.3. When P is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{RP}^n$  and n = 4k - 1, P is spin and can be equipped with the spin structure descended from  $S^n$ . When  $\operatorname{char}(\mathbb{K}) \neq 2$ , the universal local system  $\mathcal{P}$  is a direct sum of two rank 1 local systems  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $\mathcal{E}^2$ . This is because  $\mathbb{K}[\mathbb{Z}_2]$  splits when  $\operatorname{char}(\mathbb{K}) \neq 2$ . Moreover, by Lemma 2.10 and Corollary 2.11, we have

$$HF^*(\mathcal{E}^i, \mathcal{E}^j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \\ H^*(S^n) & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$
(5.46)

so  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $\mathcal{E}^2$  are orthogonal spherical objects. In this case,

$$T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq Cone(\bigoplus_{i=1,2}(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{E}^{i},\mathcal{E})\otimes\mathcal{E}^{i}) \xrightarrow{ev} \mathcal{E})$$
(5.47)

where ev is the evaluation map. The spherical twist to  $\mathcal{E}$  along  $\mathcal{E}^i$  is defined to be  $Cone(hom_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathcal{E}^i, \mathcal{E}) \otimes \mathcal{E}^i \xrightarrow{ev} \mathcal{E})$ . A direct verification shows that (5.47) is the same as applying the spherical twist to  $\mathcal{E}$  along  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and then  $\mathcal{E}^2$ . It is the same as first applying spherical twist along  $\mathcal{E}^2$  and then  $\mathcal{E}^1$  because  $\mathcal{E}^1$  and  $\mathcal{E}^2$  are orthogonal objects.

When P is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{RP}^n$  and char( $\mathbb{K}$ ) = 2, then  $H^*(P) = H^*(\mathbb{RP}^n, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ . In this case, one can define a  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist along P (see [HT06], [Har11]) which is an auto-equivalence on  $\mathcal{F}^{\text{perf}}$ . More precisely, the algebra  $H^*(\mathbb{RP}^n, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  is generated by a degree 1 element instead of a degree 2 element so the  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist along P is not exactly, but a simple variant of, the  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist defined in [HT06]. To compare (1.1) with the  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist, we note that  $\mathbb{K}[\mathbb{Z}_2]$  fits into a non-split exact sequence

$$0 \to \mathbb{K} \to \mathbb{K}[\mathbb{Z}_2] \to \mathbb{K} \to 0 \tag{5.48}$$

it implies that  $\mathcal{P} = Cone(P[-1] \to P)$  and the morphism in the cone is the unique non-trivial one. In this case, the fact that  $T_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{E})$  is the  $\mathbb{P}$ -twist of  $\mathcal{E}$  along P is explained in [Seg18, Remark 4.4].

# A Orientations

In this appendix, we will discuss the orientations of various moduli spaces appeared in this paper. Our goal is to prove Proposition 4.1 when  $char(\mathbb{K}) \neq 2$ . We follow the sign convention in [Sei08]. For basic definitions, readers are referred to [Sei08, Section 11,12], which we follow largely in the expositions.

## A.1 Orientation operator

A linear Lagrangian brane  $\Lambda^{\#} = (\Lambda, \alpha^{\#}, P^{\#})$  consists of

- a Lagrangian subspace  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}^n$
- a phase  $\alpha^{\#} \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}\alpha^{\#}} = Det_{\Omega}(\Lambda)$
- a  $Pin_n$ -space  $P^{\#}$  together with an isomorphism  $P^{\#} \times_{Pin_n} \mathbb{R}^n \cong \Lambda$ .

Here,  $Det_{\Omega}$  is the square of the standard complex volume form on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The k-fold shift  $\Lambda^{\#}[k]$  of  $\Lambda^{\#}$  is given by  $(\Lambda, \alpha^{\#} - k, P^{\#} \otimes \lambda^{top}(\Lambda)^{\otimes k})$ , where  $\lambda^{top}$  is the top exterior power. For every pair of linear Lagrangian branes  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ , one can define the index  $\iota(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$  and an orientation line (i.e. a rank one  $\mathbb{R}$ -vector space)  $o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ .

Now, we explain how the indices and orientation lines are related to Fredholm operators. Let  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ , and  $E = S \times \mathbb{C}^n$  be regarded as a trivial symplectic vector bundle over S. Let  $F \subset E$  be a Lagrangian subbundle over  $\partial S$ . For each strip-like end  $\epsilon^i$ , we assume  $F|_{\epsilon^i(s,j)}$  is independent of s for  $j = 0, 1, \ldots$  On top of that, we pick a continuous function  $\alpha^{\#} : \partial S \to \mathbb{R}$  and a *Pin*-structure  $P^{\#}$  on F such that  $e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}\alpha^{\#}(x)} = Det_{\Omega}(F_x)$  for all  $x \in \partial S$ . In this case, we get a pair of linear Lagrangian branes  $(\Lambda^{\#}_{\xi^i,0}, \Lambda^{\#}_{\xi^i,1})$  for each puncture  $\xi^i$ , where  $\Lambda^{\#}_{\xi^i,j} = (F|_{\epsilon^i(s,j)}, \alpha^{\#}(\epsilon^i(s,j)), P^{\#}_{\epsilon^i(s,j)})$  for j = 0, 1. We can associate a Fredholm operator  $D_{S,F}$  to these data and we have [Sei08,

Proposition 11.13]

$$\operatorname{ind}(D_{S,F}) = \iota(\Lambda_{\xi^0,0}^{\#}, \Lambda_{\xi^0,1}^{\#}) - \sum_{i=1}^{d} \iota(\Lambda_{\xi^i,0}^{\#}, \Lambda_{\xi^i,1}^{\#})$$
(A.1)

$$o(\Lambda_{\xi^{0},0}^{\#}, \Lambda_{\xi^{0},1}^{\#}) \cong \det(D_{S,F}) \otimes o(\Lambda_{\xi^{d},0}^{\#}, \Lambda_{\xi^{d},1}^{\#}) \otimes \dots \otimes o(\Lambda_{\xi^{1},0}^{\#}, \Lambda_{\xi^{1},1}^{\#})$$
(A.2)

where  $ind(D_{S,F})$  and  $det(D_{S,F})$  are the index and determinant line of the operator, respectively.

In the reverse direction, given  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ , one can pick S to be the upper half plane Hand  $(F, \alpha, P)$  such that the pair of linear Lagrangian branes at the puncture of S is  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ . In this special case, the operator  $D_{H,F}$  has the property that  $\operatorname{ind}(D_{H,F}) = \iota(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$  and  $\det(D_{H,F}) \cong o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ . We call  $D_{H,F}$  an orientation operator of  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$ .

Let  $\rho$  be a path of Lagrangian branes from  $\Lambda_1^{\#}$  to  $\Lambda_1^{\#}[1]$ . Let S be the closed unit disk D and  $(F, \alpha^{\#}, P^{\#})$  be given by  $\rho(\theta)$  at the point  $e^{2\pi\sqrt{-1}\theta} \in \partial S$ . We denote the corresponding operator by  $D_{D,\rho}$  and call it a **shift operator**. There are gluing theorems concerning how indices and determinant lines are related before and after gluing two operators at a puncture or a boundary point [Sei08, (11.9), (11.11)]. In particular, we can glue an orientation operator of  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$  with  $D_{D,\rho}$  at boundary points that both fibers are  $\Lambda_1^{\#}$  and obtain

$$o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}) \otimes \det(D_{D,\rho}) \cong o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}[1]) \otimes \lambda^{top}(\Lambda_1)$$
(A.3)

By [Sei08, Lemma 11.17], there is a canonical isomorphism  $det(D_{D,\rho}) \cong \lambda^{top}(\Lambda_1)$  so we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\sigma: o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}) \cong o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}[1])$$
(A.4)

Therefore, there is a canonical isomorphism between  $o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$  and  $o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}[k])$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Similarly, we can consider a path of Lagrangian branes  $\tau$  from  $\Lambda_0^{\#}[1]$  to  $\Lambda_0^{\#}$ . We can use S = D and  $\tau$  to define an operator  $D_{D,\tau}$  which we call a **front-shift operator**. In this case, we can glue an orientation operator of  $(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#})$  with  $D_{D,\tau}$  at boundary points that both fibers are  $\Lambda_0^{\#}$  and obtain

$$o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}) \otimes \det(D_{D,\tau}) \cong o(\Lambda_0^{\#}[1], \Lambda_1^{\#}) \otimes \lambda^{top}(\Lambda_0)$$
(A.5)

By [Sei08, Lemma 11.17], there is a canonical isomorphism  $det(D_{D,\tau}) \cong \lambda^{top}(\Lambda_0)$  so we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\eta : o(\Lambda_0^{\#}, \Lambda_1^{\#}) \cong o(\Lambda_0^{\#}[1], \Lambda_1^{\#})$$
(A.6)

## A.2 Floer differential and product

Let  $L_i$ , i = 0, 1, be closed Lagrangian submanifolds equipped with a grading function  $\theta_{L_i}$ :  $L_i \to \mathbb{R}$  (see Section 3.2) and a spin structure. We assume that  $L_0 \pitchfork L_1$ . At each point  $x \in L_i$ , we have a Lagrangian brane  $T_x L_i^{\#} = (T_x L_i, \theta_{L_i}(x), Pin_x)$  inside  $T_x M$  where  $Pin_x$  is the  $Pin_n$ space determined by the spin structure on  $L_i$ . The k-fold shift  $L_i[k]$  of  $L_i$  is given by applying k-fold shift to  $T_x L_i^{\#}$  for all  $x \in L_i$ . For each  $x \in L_0 \cap L_1$ , we have a pair of Lagrangian branes  $(T_x L_0^{\#}, T_x L_1^{\#})$  inside  $T_x M$ . Therefore, we have the grading  $|x| := \iota(T_x L_0^{\#}, T_x L_1^{\#})$  and the orientation line  $o(x) := o(T_x L_0^{\#}, T_x L_1^{\#})$ . We define  $|o(x)|_{\mathbb{K}}$  to be the one dimensional  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space generated by the two orientations of o(x) modulo the relation that their sum is zero. An isomorphism  $c : o(x) \to o(x')$  between two orientation lines can induces an isomorphism  $|c|_{\mathbb{K}} : |o(x)|_{\mathbb{K}} \to |o(x')|_{\mathbb{K}}$ .

Let  $x_0, x_1 \in L_0 \cap L_1$  and  $u: S = \mathbb{R} \times [0, 1] \to M$  be a rigid element in  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$ . Using the trivialization of  $\Lambda^{top}_{\mathbb{C}}(M, \omega)$  together with the grading functions and spin structures on  $L_i$ , we get a trivial bundle  $E = u^*TM = S \times \mathbb{C}$  and a Lagrangian subbundle F together with  $(\alpha^{\#}, P^{\#})$  over  $\partial S$ . By (A.2), we get a canonical isomorphism

$$\det(D_u) \cong o(x_0) \otimes o(x_1)^{\vee} \tag{A.7}$$

On the other hand, the s-translation  $\mathbb{R}$ -action on u induces a short exact sequence

$$\mathbb{R} \to T_u \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1) \to T_u \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1) \tag{A.8}$$

where  $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(x_0; x_1)$  is the moduli space of strips before modulo the  $\mathbb{R}$ -action. Therefore, we have an identification of the top exterior power of  $T_u \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(x_0; x_1)$  and  $T_u \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$ , respectively. As a result, an orientation of  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$  gives an isomorphism (see (A.2))

$$c_u: o(x_1) \to o(x_0) \tag{A.9}$$

Therefore, we can define the Floer cochain complex by

$$CF(L_0, L_1) = \bigoplus_{x \in L_0 \cap L_1} |o(x)|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.10)

and the differential  $\partial$  on  $|o(x)|_{\mathbb{K}}$  is given by summing

$$\partial^{x',x} = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{M}(x';x)} |c_u|_{\mathbb{K}} : |o(x)| \to |o(x')| \tag{A.11}$$

over all x' such that |x'| = |x| + 1. We have  $\partial^2 = 0$  [Sei08, Section (12f)]. Similarly, given a collection of pairwisely transversally intersecting Lagrangian branes  $\{L_j\}_{j=0}^d$ ,  $x_j \in L_{j-1} \cap L_j$ ,  $j = 1, \ldots, d$ , and  $x_0 \in L_0 \cap L_d$ , we get an isomorphism (after an orientation of  $\mathcal{R}^{d+1}$  is chosen)

$$c_u: o(x_d) \otimes \dots \otimes o(x_1) \to o(x_0)$$
 (A.12)

for each rigid element  $u \in \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_d, \ldots, x_1)$ , and hence a multilinear map between the relevant Floer cochain complexes. Assuming the convention of orientations in [Sei08]. The actual  $A_{\infty}$ structural map  $\mu^d(x_d, \ldots, x_1)$  is given by summing over all  $|c_u|_{\mathbb{K}}$  with a sign twist given by  $(-1)^{\dagger}$ (see [Sei08, Section (12g)]), where

$$\dagger = \sum_{k=1}^{d} k|x_k| \tag{A.13}$$

In particular,  $\mu^1(x) = (-1)^{|x|} \partial(x)$ .

We are interested in how Floer differentials and  $\mu^2$ -products (i.e. d = 1, 2) behave under shifts (A.4), (A.6). Let  $x \in L_0 \cap L_1$  be equipped with a pair of Lagrangian branes  $(T_x L_0^\#, T_x L_1^\#)$ . We use  $\tilde{x}$  (resp.  $\bar{x}$ ) to denote the same intersection x being equipped with the pair of Lagrangian branes  $(T_x L_0^\#, T_x L_1^\#[1])$  (resp.  $(T_x L_0^\#[1], T_x L_1^\#)$ ). We denote the canonical isomorphism (A.4) (resp. (A.6)) at x by  $\sigma_x : o(x) \to o(\tilde{x})$  (resp.  $\eta_x : o(x) \to o(\bar{x})$ ). For  $x_0, x_1 \in L_0 \cap L_1$  and a rigid element  $u \in \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_1)$ , we denote u by  $\tilde{u}$  (resp.  $\bar{u}$ ) when we regard it as an element in  $\mathcal{M}(\tilde{x}_0; \tilde{x}_1)$  (resp.  $\mathcal{M}(\bar{x}_0; \bar{x}_1)$ ). It is explained in [Sei08, Section 12*h*] that

$$\sigma_{x_0} \circ c_u = c_{\tilde{u}} \circ \sigma_{x_1} \tag{A.14}$$

It is instructive to recall the reasoning behind (A.14). Consider orientation operators  $D_{H,x_i}$ ,  $D_{H,\tilde{x}_i}$ , the shift operators  $D_{D,\rho,x_i}$  at  $x_i$  and the linearized operator  $D_u$  defining the Floer differential. The left hand side of (A.14)  $\sigma_{x_0} \circ c_u$  is obtained by first gluing  $D_u$  with  $D_{H,x_1}$ , then  $D_u \# D_{H,x_1}$  with  $D_{D,\rho,x_0}$ ; the right hand side  $c_{\tilde{u}} \circ \sigma_{x_1}$  is obtained from gluing  $D_{H,x_1}$  with  $D_{D,\rho,x_1}$  first, and then  $D_u$  with  $D_{H,x_1} \# D_{D,\rho,x_1}$ .

Since the operators  $(D_u \# D_{H,x_1}) \# D_{D,\rho,x_0}$  and  $D_u \# (D_{H,x_1} \# D_{D,\rho,x_1})$  are homotopic (meaning the underlying path of Lagrangian subspace on the boundary are homotopic), the associativity of determinant line under gluing implies (A.14).

Similarly, we have

$$\eta_{x_0} \circ c_u = c_{\bar{u}} \circ \eta_{x_1} \tag{A.15}$$

so (A.14) and (A.15) implies that

$$\sigma \circ \partial = \partial \circ \sigma, \qquad \eta \circ \partial = \partial \circ \eta \tag{A.16}$$

Now, we consider the Floer product. Let  $u \in \mathcal{M}(x_0; x_2, x_1)$  where  $x_0 \in L_0 \cap L_2$  and  $x_j \in L_{j-1} \cap L_j$ for j = 1, 2. We use u' to denote u when we regard it as an element in  $\mathcal{M}(x_0; \bar{x}_2, \tilde{x}_1)$ . We continue to use  $D_{H,*}$  to denote an orientation operator of a Lagrangian intersection point \* (equipped with pair of Lagrangian branes). The gluings of  $D_{D,\rho,x_1}$  and  $D_{D,\tau,x_2}$  induce the  $\sigma$ -operator at  $x_1$  and  $\eta$ -operator at  $x_2$ , respectively. The operator  $(D_u \# D_{H,x_2}) \# D_{H,x_1}$  is homotopic to  $(D_{u'} \# D_{H,\bar{x}_2}) \# D_{H,\bar{x}_1}$ , and  $D_{H,\bar{x}_2} \sim D_{H,x_2} \# D_{D,\tau,x_2}$ ,  $D_{H,\bar{x}_1} \sim D_{H,x_1} \# D_{D,\rho,x_1}$  are homotopies of operators. It implies that there is an equality

$$c_u = (-1)^{|x_1|} c_{u'} \circ (\eta_{x_2} \otimes \sigma_{x_1})$$
(A.17)

where the sign  $(-1)^{|x_1|}$  comes from (A.14) when moving  $D_{D,\tau,x_2}$  pass  $D_{H,x_1}$ .

We abuse the notation and denote the canonical isomorphism from  $CF(L_0, L_1)$  to  $CF(L_0, L_1[1])$ (resp.  $CF(L_0[1], L_1)$ ) by  $\sigma$  (resp.  $\eta$ ). Denote the operator

$$(-1)^{\deg} : a \mapsto (-1)^{|a|}(a)$$
 (A.18)

for elements of pure degree |a| (and extend linearly), then  $\mu^1 = \partial \circ (-1)^{deg}$ . Combining (A.13), (A.16), (A.17) we have

$$\mu^{1} \circ ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma) = ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma) \circ \mu^{1}$$
(A.19)

$$\mu^1 \circ \eta = -\eta \circ \mu^1 \tag{A.20}$$

$$\mu^2 = \mu^2 \circ (\eta \otimes ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma)) \tag{A.21}$$

Note that (A.19) is equivalent to  $\mu^1 \circ \sigma = -\sigma \circ \mu^1$  but  $(-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma$  will be used later so we prefer to write in this form.

#### A.3 Matching orientations

We use the notations in Section 4. In Section 4.5, we proved that there are bijective identifications between the moduli

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.22)

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})$$
(A.23)

$$\mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{q}^{\prime\vee};\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}^{\prime}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.24)

Let  $\mu^{1,1}$ ,  $\mu^{1,2}$  and  $\mu^{1,3}$  be the terms of the differential of  $CF(L_0, \tau_P(L_1))$  contributed by the moduli on the right hand side of (A.22), (A.23) and (A.24), respectively. In particular, we have

$$\mu^1 = \mu^{1,1} + \mu^{1,2} + \mu^{1,3} \tag{A.25}$$

and (after modulo signs)

$$\iota \circ (id \otimes \mu^1) = \mu^{1,1} \circ \iota \tag{A.26}$$

$$\iota \circ \mu^2 = \mu^{1,2} \circ \iota \tag{A.27}$$

$$\iota \circ (\mu^1 \otimes id) = \mu^{1,3} \circ \iota \tag{A.28}$$

To finish the proof of Proposition 4.1, it suffices to find a collection of isomorphisms

$$I_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}: o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \otimes o(\mathbf{p}) \to o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.29)

for all  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{X}_a(C_0)$  such that

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (id \otimes \mu^1) = \mu^{1,1} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.30)

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ \mu^2 = \mu^{1,2} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}} \tag{A.31}$$

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (\mu^1 \otimes (-1)^{\deg -1}) = \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.32)

where  $I = (\bigoplus_{\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{X}_a(C_0)} I_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \oplus (\bigoplus_{x \in \mathcal{X}_b(C_0)} id_{o(x)})$ , and  $id_{o(x)}$  is the identity morphism from o(x) to  $o(\iota(x)) = o(x)$  for  $x \in \mathcal{X}_b(C_0)$ . Notice that, the sign in (A.32) (and the absence of signs in (A.30), (A.31)) comes from the fact that (see Section 2.5)

$$\mu^{1}(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}\otimes\mathbf{p}) = (-1)^{|\mathbf{p}|-1}\mu^{1}(\mathbf{q}^{\vee})\otimes\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}^{\vee}\otimes\mu^{1}(\mathbf{p}) + \mu^{2}(\mathbf{q}^{\vee},\mathbf{p})$$
(A.33)

In this section, we give the definition of  $I_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  and check that (A.30), (A.31), (A.32) hold. Since the sign computation is local in nature and it is preserved under the covering map  $T^*\mathbf{U} \to T^*U$ , we assume that  $\mathcal{E} = \mathbf{P} = S^n$ .

First, we consider the case when  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$  for any  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p} \in CF(\mathbf{P}, L_1) \otimes CF(L_0, \mathbf{P})$ . In this case, we can perform a graded Lagrangian surgery (see [Sei00] or [MWa])  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}} T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$ , which means that  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}} T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$  can be equipped with a grading function so that its restriction to  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$ and  $T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$  are the same as the grading functions on  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$  and on  $T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$ , respectively. Moreover, all  $\mathbf{P}, T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}} T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$  are spin and the (unique) spin structure on  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}} T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$ restricts to the (unique) spin structure on  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$  and on  $T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P} \setminus \{\mathbf{q}\}$ , respectively.

In this case, we have a canonical identification of  $o(\mathbf{p})$ , viewed as a subspace of  $CF(T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P})$ and of  $CF(T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}}T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P})$ , respectively. Moreover,  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}}T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P}$  is Hamiltonian isotopic to  $\tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P})$ , which sends  $\mathbf{p}$  to  $c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$ , and the Hamiltonian intervines the brane structures (i.e. grading functions and spin structures on the Lagrangians). Therefore, we have an isomorphism

$$\Phi_{Ham}: o(\mathbf{p}) \cong o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \tag{A.34}$$

from  $o(\mathbf{p}) \subset CF(T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P})$  to  $o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) \subset CF(T^*_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{P}, \tau_{\mathbf{P}}(T^*_{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{P}))$ . Any choice of an isomorphism

$$\Phi_{sur}: o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \to \mathbb{R} \tag{A.35}$$

will give us an isomorphism

$$\Phi := \Phi_{sur} \otimes \Phi_{Ham} : o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \otimes o(\mathbf{p}) \to \mathbb{R} \otimes o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) = o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.36)

for every  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . We assume that a choice of  $\Phi_{sur}$  is made for the moment (the actual choice will be uniquely determined by Lemma A.1).

Now, for general  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$ , we consider the isomorphism (see Section A.2)

$$\phi := \eta \otimes ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma) : CF(\mathbf{P}, L_1) \otimes CF(L_0, \mathbf{P}) \to CF(\mathbf{P}[1], L_1) \otimes CF(L_0, \mathbf{P}[1])$$
(A.37)

and we define  $I_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}$  by

$$I_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} := \Phi \circ \phi^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|} : o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \otimes o(\mathbf{p}) \to o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.38)

Notice that  $|\sigma^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}(\mathbf{p})| = |\mathbf{p}| + |\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| - 1 = |c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}|$ , and one should view this isomorphism as identifying  $o(\mathbf{p})$  with  $o((\sigma)^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}(\mathbf{p}))$  by a **sign-twisted** shift followed by identifying  $o((\sigma)^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}(\mathbf{p}))$  and  $o(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  by a Hamiltonian isotopy. Readers should be convinced from (A.19) that it is sensible to use the sign-twisted shift  $(-1)^{\text{deg}} \circ \sigma$ .

**Lemma A.1.** There is a choice of  $\Phi_{sur}$  such that (A.31) holds.

Proof. To prove (A.31), we start with the case that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . The bijection (A.23) is obtained by the bijection  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\emptyset; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p}, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\emptyset; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}})$ . As before, we identify  $o(c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})$  with  $o(\mathbf{p})$  by the Hamiltonian isotopy defining  $\Phi_{Ham}$ . In this case, the linearized operator  $D_{c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}}}$ corresponding to the latter moduli is homotopic to  $D_{\mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p}, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}}} \# D_{H, \mathbf{q}^{\vee}}$ , where  $D_{\mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p}, x_{\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}}}$  is the linearized operator corresponding to the former moduli and  $D_{H, \mathbf{q}^{\vee}}$  is an orientation operator of  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee}$ . The fact that these two operators are homotopic is a reflection of the fact that we can perform a graded Lagrangian surgery  $\mathbf{P} \#_{\mathbf{q}} T_{\mathbf{q}}^* \mathbf{P}$  compatible with the spin structures when  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . As a result, there is a choice of  $\Phi_{sur}$  such that

$$c_u = c_{u'} \circ (\Phi_{sur} \otimes \Phi_{Ham}) : o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \otimes o(\mathbf{p}) \to o(x)$$
(A.39)

where  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; \mathbf{q}^{\vee}, \mathbf{p})$  and  $u' \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(x; c_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})$  is the element corresponding to u under the bijection (A.23) for  $\tau \gg 1$ , where the bijection of moduli spaces persists. We use such a choice of  $\Phi_{sur}$  from now on. In particular, it means that

$$\mu^2 = \mu^{1,2} \circ |\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}} \tag{A.40}$$

for  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . For general  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$ , we use (A.21) and (A.40) to deduce that

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ \mu^2 = |\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ \mu^2 \circ |\phi^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}|_{\mathbb{K}} = \mu^{1,2} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.41)

which is exactly the desired (A.31).
With the choice of  $\Phi_{sur}$  chosen in Lemma A.1, we can now proceed and prove (A.30), (A.32).

## Lemma A.2. The equation (A.30) holds.

*Proof.* To show (A.30), we again first consider  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . Let  $\mathbf{p}' \in L_0 \cap \mathbf{P}$  such that  $|\mathbf{p}'| = |\mathbf{p}| + 1$ . The bijection (A.22) is obtained from the bijection  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{p}';\mathbf{p},x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}};c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}},x_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{p}})$ . By the Hamiltonian isotopy defining  $\Phi_{Ham}$ , we see that the linearized operator corresponding to the former moduli is homotopic to the linearized operator corresponding to the latter moduli. It implies that

$$\Phi_{Ham} \circ c_u = c_{u'} \circ \Phi_{Ham} : o(\mathbf{p}) \to o(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}})$$
(A.42)

where  $u \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(\mathbf{p}'; \mathbf{p})$  and  $u' \in \mathcal{M}^{J^{\tau}}(c_{\mathbf{p}',\mathbf{q}}; c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$  is the element corresponding to u under the bijection (A.22). It implies that (note that  $|\mathbf{p}| = |c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}|$  and  $\mu^1(a) = (-1)^{|a|} \partial(a)$ , see (A.13))

$$|\Phi_{Ham}|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ \mu^1 = \mu^{1,1} \circ |\Phi_{Ham}|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.43)

for  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = 1$ . It also means that, whatever isomorphism we choose for  $\Phi_{sur}$ , we have

$$|\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (id \otimes \mu^1) = \mu^{1,1} \circ |\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.44)

For general  $\mathbf{q}^{\vee} \otimes \mathbf{p}$ , we use (A.19) and (A.44) to deduce that

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (id \otimes \mu^{1}) = |\Phi_{sur} \circ \eta^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}|_{\mathbb{K}} \otimes |\Phi_{Ham} \circ ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma)^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ \mu^{1}$$
(A.45)

$$= |\Phi_{sur} \circ \eta^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}|_{\mathbb{K}} \otimes (\mu^{1,1} \circ |\Phi_{Ham} \circ ((-1)^{\deg} \circ \sigma)^{1-|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|}|_{\mathbb{K}})$$
(A.46)

$$=\mu^{1,1}\otimes|I|_{\mathbb{K}}\tag{A.47}$$

which is exactly the desired (A.30).

## **Lemma A.3.** The equation (A.32) holds.

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*Proof.* To prove (A.32), we appeal to an algebraic argument instead of identifying the moduli directly. Let  $V_{m,n}$  be the subspace of  $CF(\mathbf{P}, L_1) \otimes CF(L_0, \mathbf{P})$  generated by  $o(\mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \otimes o(\mathbf{p})$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}| = m$  and  $|\mathbf{p}| = n$ . The bijection (A.24) comes from the bijection  $\mathcal{M}^{J^-}(\mathbf{q}'^{\vee}; x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}'}, \mathbf{q}^{\vee}) \simeq \mathcal{M}^{J^-}(c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}'}; x_{\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}'}, c_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}})$ . Therefore, for each  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there is  $f(a) \in \{0, 1\}$  such that

$$|\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (\mu^1 \otimes id)|_{V_{1,a}} = (-1)^{f(a)} \mu^{1,3} \circ |\Phi|_{\mathbb{K}}|_{V_{1,a}}$$
(A.48)

We remark that the existence of f follows from the fact that the sign only depends on  $|\mathbf{p}|$  and  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|$  (because once  $|\mathbf{p}|$  and  $|\mathbf{q}^{\vee}|$  are determined, the local model computing the sign is determined).

By (A.20), we have  $\phi \circ (\mu^1 \otimes id) = -(\mu^1 \otimes id) \circ \phi$  so we get

$$(-1)^{1-k} |\Phi \circ \phi^{1-k}|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (\mu^1 \otimes id)|_{V_{k,a+1-k}} = (-1)^{f(a)} \mu^{1,3} \circ |\Phi \circ \phi^{1-k}|_{\mathbb{K}}|_{V_{k,a+1-k}}$$
(A.49)

by precomposing (A.48) by  $|\phi^{1-k}|_{\mathbb{K}}$ . By relabelling the subscripts, we have

$$|I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (\mu^1 \otimes id)|_{V_{m,n}} = (-1)^{f(m+n-1)+1-m} \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.50)

The  $A_{\infty}$ -relations on  $CF(\mathbf{P}, L_1) \otimes CF(L_0, \mathbf{P})$  give

$$\mu^{1} \circ \mu^{2} + \mu^{2} \circ (id \otimes \mu^{1}) + \mu^{2} \circ (\mu^{1} \otimes (-1)^{\deg - 1}) = 0$$
(A.51)

On the other hand,  $CF(L_0, \tau_P(L_1))$  is a cochain complex so by considering the square of differential with input in  $\mathcal{X}_a(C_1)$  and output in  $\mathcal{X}_b(C_1)$  (Section 4.1), we get

$$\mu^{1} \circ \mu^{1,2} + \mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,1} + \mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,3} = 0$$
(A.52)

Since we have already proved (A.30) and (A.31), when we apply  $|I|_{\mathbb{K}}$  to the left of (A.51) and on the right of (A.52), we get (after cancellation)

$$\mu^{1,2} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}} \circ (\mu^1 \otimes (-1)^{\deg -1}) = \mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.53)

Applying it to  $V_{m,n}$  and plugging in (A.50), we have

$$(-1)^{(f(m+n-1)+1-m)+(n-1)}\mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}} = \mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}}$$
(A.54)

When  $\mu^{1,2} \circ \mu^{1,3} \circ |I|_{\mathbb{K}} \neq 0$ , it is possible only when (f(m+n-1)+1-m)+(n-1) is even. In particular, we have f(a) = a - 1 modulo 2. Put it back to (A.50), we get (A.32).

*Proof of Proposition 4.1.* It follows from Lemma A.2, A.1 and A.3.

## References

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