

# Stability conditions via Verdier localisation: Nodal cubic 4-folds and K3 surfaces of genus 4

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# Stability conditions

Let  $X$  be a projective variety (always over  $\mathbb{C}$  in this talk).

Let  $D^b(X) = D^b(\text{Coh } X)$  be its bounded derived category of coherent sheaves.

**Theorem.** (Chunyi Li '26,  
Li–Z.Y. Liu–Z.Q. Liu–Macrì–Perry–Stellari–Zhao, *in prep.*)

$D^b(X)$  admits a Bridgeland stability condition.

- Stability manifold?
- Moduli spaces?
- Kuznetsov component  $Ku(X) \subseteq D^b(X)$ ?

# Stability conditions on singular varieties

Recall that the Kuznetsov component  $\mathcal{K}u(Y)$  of a hypersurface  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$  of degree  $d$  is the piece in a semi-orthogonal decomposition:

$$D^b(Y) = \langle \mathcal{K}u(Y), \mathcal{O}_Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1), \dots, \mathcal{O}_Y(n-d+1) \rangle, \quad (1)$$

Let  $Y$  be a singular variety. Inducing stability conditions from categorical resolution  $D^b(\tilde{Y}) \rightarrow D^b(Y)$  or  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}u(Y)$ :

- (T.-Y. Chou '24) Stability condition on  $D^b(S)$  for  $S$  surface with ADE singularities;
- (T.-Y. Chou '25) Stability condition on  $D^b(Y)$  for  $Y$  a nodal quadric 3-fold;
- (Vilches '26) Stability condition on  $\mathcal{K}u(Y)$  for  $Y$  a nodal cubic 3-fold.

# Categorical resolution of nodal singularities

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a triangulated category. A *categorical resolution* of  $\mathcal{T}$  is a triplet  $(\tilde{\mathcal{T}}, \pi_*, \pi^*)$ , where

(a)  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}$  is an admissible subcategory of  $D^b(Y)$  for some smooth projective variety  $Y$ ;

(b)  $\pi_* : \tilde{\mathcal{T}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  and  $\pi^* : \mathcal{T}^{\text{perf}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{T}}$  are a pair of adjoint functors:

$$\text{Hom}_{\tilde{\mathcal{T}}}(\pi^* E, F) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{T}}(E, \pi_* F), \quad E \in \mathcal{T}^{\text{perf}}, F \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}};$$

(c) The natural transformation  $\text{id}_{\mathcal{T}^{\text{perf}}} \rightarrow \pi_* \pi^*$  is an isomorphism.

**Theorem.** (Kuznetsov–Shinder '24,  
Cattani–Giovenzana–S. Liu–Magni–Martinelli–Pertusi–Song '23.)

*Let  $Y$  be a 1-nodal variety of  $\dim \geq 2$ . Then  $D^b(X)$  admits a crepant categorical resolution  $\pi_* : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow D^b(X)$  such that*

(a)  $\pi_*$  is a Verdier localisation;

(b)  $\ker \pi_*$  is generated by a 2-spherical (resp. 3-spherical) object if  $\dim X$  is even (resp. odd).

# Verdier quotients as boundary of stability manifold

Slogan. (Broomhead–Pauksztello–Ploog–Woolf '22, Bolognese '23)

- On the ‘boundary’ of  $\text{Stab}(\mathcal{T})$ , the limiting stability condition  $\sigma$  acquires a set of ‘massless objects’  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \ker Z_\sigma$ ;
- $\sigma$  descends to a genuine stability condition  $\bar{\sigma}$  on the Verdier quotient  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{N}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  by the subcategory of massless objects.

Applications:

- Describe stability conditions on  $D^b(Y)$  or  $\mathcal{K}u(Y)$  by those on the resolution;
- Relate Bridgeland moduli spaces  $M_{\bar{\sigma}}(Y, v)$  to  $M_\sigma(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{v})$ ...  
Naïve guess:  $M_\sigma(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{v}) \rightarrow M_{\bar{\sigma}}(Y, v)$  is birational (sometimes better, resolution of singularities!)
- Study stable objects in a family  $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$  degenerating to a nodal variety (Another approach: Z.Y. Liu–Mao, *Tilt stability in families for Fano 3-folds*, just posted yesterday.)

# Kuznetsov component of nodal cubic 4-fold

If  $Y$  is a 1-nodal cubic 4-fold, then  $\mathcal{K}u(Y)$  is the Verdier quotient:

$$\mathcal{K}u(Y) \cong \mathrm{D}^b(X_{2,3}) / \langle \Sigma \rangle,$$

where

- $X_{2,3} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^4$  is a K3 surface of genus 4; and
- $\Sigma$  is the spherical bundle on  $X_{2,3}$  with Mukai vector  $v = (2, -h, 2)$ .

**Theorem.** Main results.

(1) *The weak stability condition*

$$\sigma = \sigma_{-\frac{1}{2},0} := \left( \mathrm{Coh}_h^{-\frac{1}{2}}(X_{2,3}), \quad Z_{-\frac{1}{2},0} := -\mathrm{ch}_2 + i(h \mathrm{ch}_1 + 3 \mathrm{rk}) \right)$$

*on  $\mathrm{D}^b(X_{2,3})$  induces a stability condition  $\bar{\sigma}$  on  $\mathcal{K}u(Y)$ .*

(2) *For any primitive numerical character  $v \in K_{\mathrm{num}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y))$ , there exists a lift  $\tilde{v} \in K_{\mathrm{num}}(X_{2,3})$  and a birational map*

$$\varphi : M_h(\tilde{v}) \dashrightarrow M_{\bar{\sigma}}(v)$$

*where*

- $M_h(\tilde{v})$  is the Gieseker moduli space with Mukai vector  $v$ ; and
- $\varphi$  is given by a sequence of flops followed by a divisorial contraction.

## Formal stuff on stability conditions

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# Categorical set-up

- $\mathcal{D}$  a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear triangulated category, and  $K_0(\mathcal{D})$  its Grothendieck group.
- Finite-rank lattice  $\Lambda$  and a surjective group hom  $\lambda : K_0(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \Lambda$ .
- $\mathcal{A}$  a heart of bounded t-structure on  $\mathcal{D}$  (an Abelian subcategory of  $\mathcal{D}$ ).

**Definition.** (Stability function / central charge.) A weak stability function is a group homomorphism  $Z : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that, for any  $E \in \mathcal{A} \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$Z(\lambda(E)) \in \{z = m \cdot e^{i\pi\phi} \mid m \geq 0, \phi \in (0, 1]\} = \mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0}.$$

$\phi = \phi(E)$  is called the phase of  $E$ . If we require further that  $Z(\lambda(E)) \neq 0$  for  $E \neq 0$ , then  $Z$  is called a **stability function**.

$E \in \mathcal{A}$  is (semi)stable if for  $0 \neq F \subsetneq E$ , we have  $\phi(F) < (\leq) \phi(E/F)$ .

The slope of  $E$  with respect to  $Z$ :

$$\mu_Z(E) = -\cot(\pi\phi(E)) = \begin{cases} -\frac{\operatorname{Re} Z(\lambda(E))}{\operatorname{Im} Z(\lambda(E))}, & \operatorname{Im} Z(\lambda(E)) > 0; \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## (Weak) stability conditions

**Definition.** A (weak) pre-stability condition on  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to  $\Lambda$  is a pair  $\sigma = (\mathcal{A}, Z)$ , where

- $\mathcal{A}$  is the heart of a bounded t-structure on  $\mathcal{D}$ , and
- $Z : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a (weak) stability function, satisfying the
- **Harder–Narasimhan property:** for any  $E \in \mathcal{A}$ , there exists a filtration

$$0 = E_0 \subsetneq E_1 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq E_\ell =: E$$

by objects  $E_i$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , such that the graded factors  $E_i/E_{i-1}$  are semi-stable of phase  $\phi_i$ , and

$$\phi^+(E) := \phi_1 > \cdots > \phi_\ell =: \phi^-(E).$$

A (weak) pre-stability condition is called a (weak) stability condition if it satisfies the **support property**, namely, for any fixed norm  $\| - \|$  on  $(\Lambda/\Lambda_0) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $C > 0$  such that for any  $\sigma$ -semistable  $E \in \mathcal{A}$ , we have:

$$\|\bar{\lambda}(E)\| \leq C|Z(E)|.$$

Here  $\Lambda_0 \subseteq \Lambda$  is the saturation of the sublattice generated by  $\ker Z$ , and  $\bar{\lambda} : K_0(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \Lambda/\Lambda_0$  is the induced homomorphism.

# Bridgeland deformation theorem

Denote by  $\text{Stab}_\Lambda(\mathcal{D})$  the set of stability conditions on  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to  $\Lambda$ .

A celebrated result of Bridgeland:

**Theorem.** (Bridgeland '07)

*If  $\text{Stab}_\Lambda(\mathcal{D})$  is non-empty, then it can be equipped with a structure of complex manifold of dimension equal to  $\text{rk } \Lambda$ , such that the forgetful map*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Forg} : \text{Stab}_\Lambda(\mathcal{D}) &\longrightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\Lambda, \mathbb{C}) \\ \sigma = (\mathcal{A}, Z) &\longmapsto Z \end{aligned}$$

*is a local homeomorphism.*

Metric on  $\text{Stab}_\Lambda(\mathcal{D})$ :

$$d(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = \sup_{E \in \mathcal{D}} \max \{ |\phi_1^+(E) - \phi_2^+(E)|, |\phi_1^-(E) - \phi_2^-(E)|, \|Z_1 - Z_2\| \}.$$

# Inducing stability conditions by Verdier quotient

Let  $\pi: \tilde{\mathcal{T}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  be a Verdier localisation. Assume that  $\sigma = (\tilde{\mathcal{A}}, \tilde{Z})$  be a weak (pre-)stability condition on  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}$  satisfying

$$\ker(\pi|_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}) = \ker(\tilde{Z}|_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}).$$

- $\mathcal{A} := \pi(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})$  is a heart of bounded t-structure of  $\mathcal{T}$ ;
- $\pi|_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}: \tilde{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is exact;
- There is a unique  $Z \in \text{Hom}(K_0(\mathcal{T}), \mathbb{C})$  such that  $Z = \tilde{Z} \circ \pi_*$ .

## Proposition.

The data  $\pi_b \sigma := (\mathcal{A}, Z)$  defines a (pre-)stability condition on  $\mathcal{T}$ . Moreover,

- (1) If  $E \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  is  $\sigma$ -(semi)stable and  $\pi(E) \neq 0$ , then  $\pi(E) \in \mathcal{A}$  is  $\pi_b \sigma$ -(semi)stable.
- (2) If  $F \in \mathcal{A}$  is  $\pi_b \sigma$ -semistable, then there exists some  $\sigma$ -semistable  $E \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}$  such that  $F = \pi(E)$ .

## Nodal cubic and K3

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Q & \xrightarrow{j} \tilde{Y} \\ & \swarrow & \searrow \sigma \\ \{p\} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & Y \end{array}$$

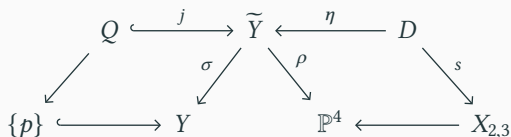
(Kuznetsov '10)

- Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^5$  be a cubic 4-fold with a node  $p \in Y$  and smooth otherwise. Choose coordinates such that  $Y$  is given by

$$Y : x_0 f(x_1, \dots, x_5) + g(x_1, \dots, x_5) = 0.$$

- $\sigma : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$  is the blow-up at  $\{p\}$ ; exceptional divisor  $Q \subseteq \tilde{Y}$  is a smooth quadric.

## Geometric set-up



(Kuznetsov '10)

- Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^5$  be a cubic 4-fold with a node  $p \in Y$  and smooth otherwise. Choose coordinates such that  $Y$  is given by

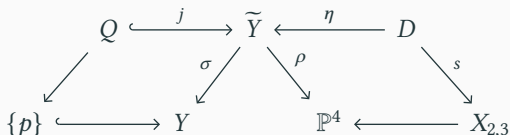
$$Y : x_0 f(x_1, \dots, x_5) + g(x_1, \dots, x_5) = 0.$$

- $\sigma : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$  is the blow-up at  $\{p\}$ ; exceptional divisor  $Q \subseteq \tilde{Y}$  is a smooth quadric.
- The rational map  $Y \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^4$  lifts to a morphism  $\rho : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^4$ , and we have  $\tilde{Y} \cong \text{Bl}_{X_{2,3}} \mathbb{P}^4$ , where  $X_{2,3}$  is the smooth K3 surface of genus 4 defined by the equations

$$X_{2,3} : f(x_1, \dots, x_5) = g(x_1, \dots, x_5) = 0.$$

- Geometrically,  $X_{2,3}$  parametrises lines in  $Y$  passing through the node  $p$ , and  $D \rightarrow X_{2,3}$  is the 'universal family'.

# Categorical resolution of the Kuznetsov component



**Proposition.** (Kuznetsov '10, CGLMMPs '23.)

$\mathcal{K}u(Y)$  admits a crepant categorical resolution  $\pi_* : D^b(X_{2,3}) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}u(Y)$  given by

$$\pi_* = \sigma_* \circ \Phi = \sigma_* \circ \mathbf{R}\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{Y}}(-h) \circ \mathbf{R}\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{Y}}(-2h) \circ (- \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{Y}}(-H + h)) \circ \eta_* \circ s^*.$$

Moreover, the kernel  $\ker \pi_*$  is generated by a 2-spherical object  $\Sigma \in D^b(X_{2,3})$ .

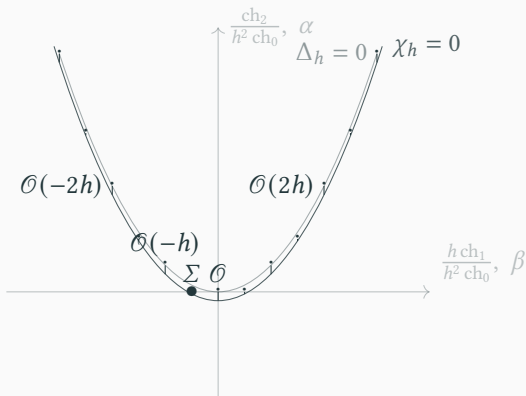
- $H := \sigma^* \mathcal{O}_Y(1)$  and  $h := \rho^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^5}(1)$ ;
- $\Sigma := \Sigma_Q|_{X_{2,3}}$ , where  $\Sigma_Q$  is the rank-2 spinor bundle on the 3-dimensional smooth quadric  $\rho \circ j(Q)$ . Mukai vector  $v(\Sigma) = (2, -H, 2)$ .
- Verdier quotient:  $\mathcal{K}u(Y) \cong D^b(X_{2,3}) / \langle \Sigma \rangle$ .

## Tilt stability on K3 surface

$(X_{2,3}, h)$  is a K3 surface with  $h^2 = 6$ . Tilt stability conditions cut out a 2-dimensional slice of  $\text{Stab}_h^*(X_{2,3})$ :

$$\sigma_{\beta,\alpha} := \left( \text{Coh}_h^\beta(X_{2,3}), \quad Z_{\beta,\alpha} := -(ch_2 - \alpha h^2 ch_0) + i(h ch_1 - \beta h^2 ch_0) \right)$$

Think of each point  $(\beta, \alpha)$  both as a tilt stability  $\sigma_{\beta,\alpha}$  and a projectivised Chern character (via  $\ker Z_{\beta,\alpha}$ ):



# Induced morphisms between moduli spaces

Given  $\nu \in K_{\text{num}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y))$ , there is a lift  $\tilde{\nu} \in K_{\text{num}}(X_{2,3})$  such that  $\pi_*(\tilde{\nu}) = \nu$ .  
What is the ‘best lifting’ that gives a good notion of morphism  
 $M_\sigma(X_{2,3}, \tilde{\nu}) \rightarrow M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), \nu)$ ?

- Numerical level: want  $\chi(\Sigma, \tilde{\nu}) = 0$  to get a largest  $M_\sigma(X_{2,3}, \tilde{\nu})$ .
- Object level: we say that  $F \in D^b(X_{2,3})$  is  $\Sigma$ -normal if  $\text{RHom}(\Sigma, F)$  is concentrated in degree 0.

## Lemma.

*Every object  $F \in D^b(X_{2,3})$  has a unique  $\Sigma$ -normalisation.*

Think of  $\Sigma$ -normalisation as a section of the Verdier quotient  
 $D^b(X_{2,3}) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}u(Y)$ .

- Which  $\sigma$  to choose?

# MMP for moduli spaces on K3 surface

Let  $\tilde{v} \in [\Sigma]^\perp$  be a primitive class. Let  $L$  be the wall joining  $\tilde{v}$  and  $[\Sigma]$ , and  $\sigma_L$  be a stability condition in a neighbourhood of  $\sigma_{-\frac{1}{2},0}$  in  $L$ .

**Proposition.** (Bayer–Macrì '14.)

There are birational maps:

$$M_h(\tilde{v}) \xrightarrow{f} M_{\sigma_{-\frac{1}{2},+}}(\tilde{v}) \xrightarrow{g} M_{\sigma_L}(\tilde{v}) \quad (2)$$

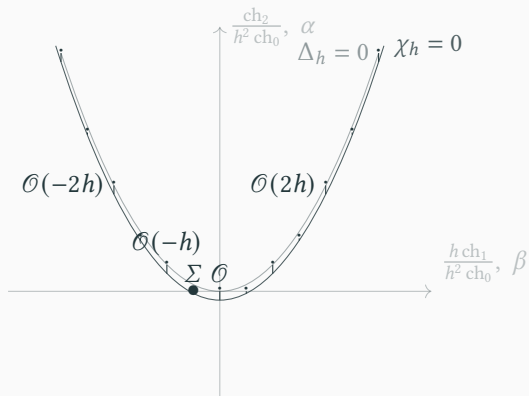
Here  $f$  is a sequence of flops, and  $g$  is a divisorial contraction with exceptional locus given by the  $\sigma_L$ -stable objects  $F$  satisfying  $\text{Hom}(\Sigma, F) \neq 0$ .

**Proposition.**

There is an isomorphism

$$M_{\sigma_L}(\tilde{v}) \cong M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), v).$$

# MMP for moduli spaces on K3 surface

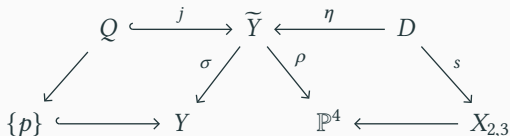


## **An example: Fano variety of lines**

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# Hilbert scheme of 2 points on K3 surface

For rest of the talk,  $Y$  is a 1-nodal cubic 4-fold that does not contain a plane.



Recall that  $X_{2,3}$  parametrises lines in  $Y$  passing through  $p$ .

What does  $\text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3})$  parametrise?

- $Z \in \text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3})$  defines either two lines  $\ell_1, \ell_2$  in  $Y$  passing through  $p$ , or a double line  $\ell$  in  $Y$  passing through  $p$ .
- Either way, they span a plane  $\Pi$  in  $\mathbb{P}^5$ , and for degree reason,  $\Pi \cap Y = \ell_1 \cup \ell_2 \cup \ell_Z$  or  $\Pi \cap Y = \ell \cup \ell_Z$ .
- The assignment defines a map to the Fano variety of lines  $\mathcal{F}_1(Y)$ :

$$\varphi : \text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(Y),$$

$$Z \longmapsto \ell_Z.$$

# Hilbert scheme of 2 points on K3 surface

**Proposition.** (Hassett '00.)

The map  $\varphi : \text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(Y)$  is a blow-up:

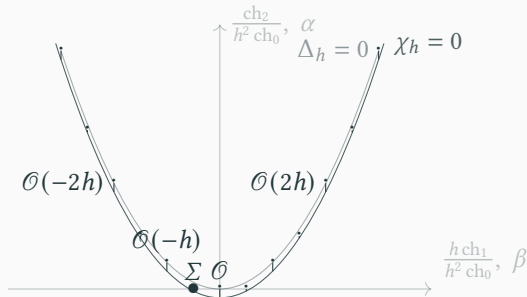
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Psi & \longrightarrow & \text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ X_{2,3} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F}_1(Y) \end{array}$$

The exceptional divisor  $\Psi$  (the '*trident divisor*') has the following equivalent characterisations:

- (a)  $Z \in \Psi$ ;
- (b)  $\ell_Z$  passes through the node  $p$ ;
- (c) The line  $\lambda_Z \subseteq \mathbb{P}^4$  defined by  $Z$  is contained in the quadric  $\rho \circ j(Q)$ ;
- (d)  $\text{length}(\lambda_Z \cap X_{2,3}) = 3$ ;
- (e)  $\text{Hom}(\Sigma, \mathcal{I}_Z) \neq 0$ .

Modular interpretation?

# Wall-crossing for the Mukai vector $v = (1, 0, -1)$



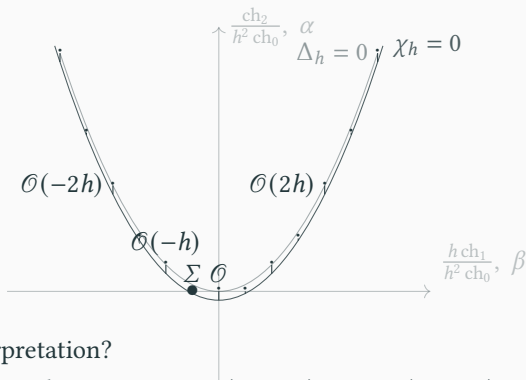
Modular interpretation?

- The Gieseker moduli space  $M_h(1, 0, -1)$  parametrises ideal sheaves  $\mathcal{I}_Z$  and is isomorphic to  $\text{Hilb}^2(X_{2,3})$ .
- On the wall  $L$  joining  $v$  and  $[\Sigma]$ , if  $Z \in \Psi$ , the destabilising sequence for  $\mathcal{I}_Z$  is given by

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{I}_q(-h) \longrightarrow \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathcal{I}_Z \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $q \in X_{2,3}$  is the point corresponding to the residual line  $\ell_Z$ .

# Wall-crossing for the Mukai vector $v = (1, 0, -1)$



Modular interpretation?

- The divisorial contraction  $M_h(1, 0, -1) \rightarrow M_{\sigma_L}(1, 0, -1)$  contracts  $[\mathcal{I}_Z]$  to  $[\mathcal{I}_q(-h) \oplus \Sigma]$ , i.e., contracts  $\Psi$  to  $X_{2,3}$ .
- This is exactly  $\varphi$ ! We get

$$\mathcal{F}_1(Y) \cong M_{\sigma_L}(1, 0, -1) \cong M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), \lambda_1).$$

## Moduli space $M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), \lambda_1)$

What are the objects in  $M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), \lambda_1)$ ? After a lengthy computation...

### Theorem.

The moduli space  $M_{\bar{\sigma}}(\mathcal{K}u(Y), \lambda_1)$  parametrises two types of objects:

- (1) (perfect)  $\mathcal{F}_\ell$ , for  $\ell$  not passing through the node;
- (2) (non-perfect) 3-term complexes  $\pi_*\mathcal{I}_Z$ , for  $\ell$  passing through the node, with cohomology

$$\mathcal{H}^i(\pi_*\mathcal{I}_Z) \cong \begin{cases} \mathcal{F}_\ell^\vee(-H), & i = -1; \\ \wedge^2 \mathcal{Q}_p(-H) \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\ell_Z}(-H), & i = 0; \\ \mathcal{O}_p, & i = 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}_p := \text{coker}(\mathcal{O}_Y(-H) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Y^{\oplus 5})$  is associated to the linear system  $|\mathcal{I}_p|_X(H)|$ .

Here  $\mathcal{F}_\ell := \text{pr}(\mathcal{O}_Y(H))$  is the rank 3 syzygy sheaf:

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_\ell \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Y^{\oplus 4} \longrightarrow \mathcal{I}_Y(H) \longrightarrow 0.$$

**Question.** Put this in a family  $M_\sigma(\mathcal{Y}, \lambda_1)$ , with smooth general fibres and nodal central fibre?