

TOWARDS SMALL QUANTUM CHERN CHARACTER

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ABSTRACT. We show a quantum version of Chern character homomorphism from the small quantum K -theory to the small quantum cohomology in the cases of projective spaces and incidence varieties, whose classical limit gives the classical Chern character homomorphism. We also provide a ring presentation of the small quantum K -theory of Milnor hypersurfaces.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let X be a smooth complex projective variety. Let $K(X) = K^0(X; \mathbb{Q})$ be the Grothendieck ring of topological complex vector bundles on X with rational coefficients. Consider the even part $H^{\text{ev}}(X)$ of the rational cohomology $H^*(X) = H^*(X; \mathbb{Q})$. It is well-known that there is the Chern character ring homomorphism [Gr58, AH61]

$$\text{ch} : K(X) \longrightarrow H^{\text{ev}}(X).$$

There are quantum deformations of both sides. It is natural to ask the following.

Question 1.1. *Is there a quantum Chern character homomorphism in the quantum world?*

More precisely, the deformation $QH_{\text{big}}(X) = (H^{\text{ev}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{s}], *_s)$ of $(H^{\text{ev}}(X), \cup)$, called the (even) big quantum cohomology ring, encodes genus-zero Gromov-Witten invariants of X [RT95, BeFa97, LT98]. Its K -analogue is the big quantum K -theory $QK_{\text{big}}(X) = (K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}], *_t)$, encoding genus-zero K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants [Gi00, Le04]. Their restrictions to the fiber at the origin give the small quantum cohomology/ K -theory

$$QH(X) = (H^{\text{ev}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{q}], *), \quad QK(X) = (K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}], *)$$

respectively, which are relatively more accessible than the big ones. Whenever the small quantum product is finite, we can consider the corresponding polynomial version

$$QH_{\text{poly}}(X) = (H^{\text{ev}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{q}], *), \quad QK_{\text{poly}}(X) = (K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}], *)$$

For instance, $QH_{\text{poly}}(X)$ always makes sense for any Fano manifold X , while $QK_{\text{poly}}(X)$ are known to make sense for very few examples. There is a so-called fake quantum K -theory, which may be seen as building block of the big quantum K -theory. There has been the (big) quantum Chern(-Dold) character [Co03, Gi04, CG06], defined for the fake quantum K -theory. On the one hand, it gives a comparison of the genus-0 fake K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants with the cohomological ones in terms of symplectic geometry of loop spaces; moreover, by [IMT15, Remark 5.13], the big quantum K -theory is isomorphic to the big quantum cohomology as F -manifolds through the Hirzebruch-Riemann-Roch theorem for fake quantum K -theory [GT14]. On the other hand, in general such isomorphism does not preserve the small loci, and it looks unclear how the (big) quantum Chern character is viewed as a quantum version of the classical Chern character above.

The main aim of this paper is to explore a (small) quantum Chern character ring homomorphism qch for the small quantum K -theory, such that its classical limit gives ch , i.e. the following diagram of ring homomorphisms is commutative, where vertical maps are natural projections.

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} QK(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{qch}} & QH^*(X) \\ \text{mod } \mathbf{Q} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{mod } \mathbf{q} \\ QK(X)/(\mathbf{Q}) = K(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{ch}} & H^*(X) = QH^*(X)/(\mathbf{q}) \end{array}$$

As we will see below, we succeed to find the small quantum Chern character morphism qch in the cases of projective spaces $\mathbb{P}^n$ and incidence varieties $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$.

Both $\mathbb{P}^n$ and $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ are examples of flag varieties G/P , which are Fano manifolds and are central objects of study in enumerative geometry. There have been extensive studies of $QH_{\text{poly}}(G/P)$ (see e.g. the survey [LL17] and the references therein). There have also been studies of $QK(G/P)$ in individual cases [BM11, BCMP18, BCP23, LNS24, KLNS24, Xu24, LLSY25] from the lens of Schubert calculus, giving the quantum multiplication of certain Schubert classes. Ring presentations have recently been provided for the small quantum K -theory of type A partial flag varieties [KPSZ21, GMSZ22, GM⁺23, GM⁺24, HK24b, MNS25a, MNS25b, AHK⁺25] and of type C complete flag varieties [KN24], as well as for general G/P in terms of K -theoretic version of Peterson's 'quantum = affine' statement [LLMS18, IIM20] proved in the groundbreaking works [Ka18, Ka19] (see also [ChLe20]). Moreover, the small quantum K product is in fact finite for general G/P [ACTI22] (see also [BCMP13, BCMP16] for certain Grassmannians), so that $QK_{\text{poly}}(G/P)$ is meaningful.

Let us start with the simplest case $\mathbb{P}^n$. The line bundle class $L := [\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)]$ generates $K(\mathbb{P}^n)$ with inverse $L^{-1} = [\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1)]$, and the hyperplane class $h := c_1(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1))$ (or simply $c_1(L)$) generates $H^*(\mathbb{P}^n) = H^{\text{ev}}(\mathbb{P}^n)$. We have

$$QK_{\text{poly}}(\mathbb{P}^n) = \mathbb{Q}[L^{-1}, Q]/((1 - L^{-1})^{n+1} - Q), \quad QH_{\text{poly}}(\mathbb{P}^n) = \mathbb{Q}[h, q]/(h^{n+1} - q),$$

both of which are isomorphic to $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ as $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebras. However, it is less obvious whether there is an (iso)morphism compatible with ch in the sense of making diagram (1.1) commutative. To achieve our aim, we need the completion $QH(\mathbb{P}^n) = QH_{\text{poly}}(\mathbb{P}^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}[q]} \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$ and introduce the *quantum Todd class* of the tangent bundle $T_{\mathbb{P}^n}$,

$$(1.2) \quad \text{Td}_q(T_{\mathbb{P}^n}) := \left(\frac{h}{1 - e^{-h}} \right)^{n+1} \in QH(\mathbb{P}^n),$$

in whose series expansion each term h^k is read off as the quantum product h^{*k} . In particular, we have $\text{Td}_q(T_{\mathbb{P}^n}) \equiv \text{Td}(T_{\mathbb{P}^n}) \pmod{\mathbf{q}}$. As the warm-up theorem, we have

Theorem 1.2 (Theorem 3.1). *The map $\text{qch} : QK(\mathbb{P}^n) \rightarrow QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$, given by*

$$L^{-1} \mapsto e^{-h} = \sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-h)^{*m}}{m!}, \quad Q \mapsto q (\text{Td}_q(T_{\mathbb{P}^n}))^{-1},$$

is a well-defined ring homomorphism, and its classical limit gives ch .

Remark 1.3. *As pointed out in [IMT15, Remark 5.13], Givental-Tonita's work [GT14] implies that the big quantum K -theory is isomorphic to the big quantum cohomology as F -manifolds. From the discussion with Hiroshi Iritani, such isomorphism does not restrict to the small locus in the following sense: when $n \geq 2$, there is no continuous ring homomorphism $\text{ch}^q : QK(\mathbb{P}^n) \rightarrow QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$ (with respect to the natural Q -adic/ q -adic topology) such that $\text{ch}^q(Q) \in \mathbb{Q}[[q]] \setminus \{0\}$ and (1.1) is a commutative diagram of ring homomorphisms. In Theorem 1.2, the image of Q does lie in $QH(\mathbb{P}^n) \setminus \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$.*

The second simplest case may be the incidence varieties $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} = \{V_1 \leq V_{n-1} \leq \mathbb{C}^n \mid \dim V_1 = 1, \dim V_{n-1} = n-1\}$. Let $\underline{\mathbb{C}}^n$ denote the trivial $\mathbb{C}^n$ -bundle over $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$, and $\mathcal{S}_1$ (resp. $\mathcal{S}_{n-1}$) denote the tautological vector subbundle whose fiber at a point $V_\bullet$ is just the vector space V_1 (resp. V_{n-1}). Let L_1 (resp. L_2) denote the class of the dual line bundle $\mathcal{S}_1^\vee$ (resp. quotient line bundle $\underline{\mathbb{C}}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1}$) in $K(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$. We have the inverse $L_1^{-1} = [\mathcal{S}_1]$ and $L_2^{-1} = [(\underline{\mathbb{C}}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1})^\vee]$ in $K(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, and denote $h_i := c_1(L_i) \in H^2(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ for $i = 1, 2$. We use the ring presentation for $QH_{\text{poly}}(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ with generators $\{h_1, h_2\}$ in [CP11, Proposition 7.2] (see Proposition 4.1 below). For $QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, the ring presentation could be obtained by simplifying the Whitney presentation in [GM⁺23, Theorem 1.3] (with $2n-1$ generators) or derived from the quantum Littlewood-Richardson rule in [Xu24]. Here we consider the ring presentation with generators $\{L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}\}$ read off from Theorem 1.5 as a special case of Milnor hypersurfaces. They are of the following form

$$QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) = \frac{\mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}][[Q_1, Q_2]]}{(F_1^Q, F_2^Q)}, \quad QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) = \frac{\mathbb{Q}[h_1, h_2][[q_1, q_2]]}{(f_1^q, f_2^q)}$$

with $F_i^Q = F_i^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2)$ and $f_i^q = f_i^q(h_1, h_2, q_1, q_2)$ being polynomials. Similar to $\mathbb{P}^n$, we introduce the quantum Todd class

$$(1.3) \quad (\text{Td}_q(L_i^{\oplus n}))^{-1} * \text{Td}_q(L_1 \otimes L_2) := \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_i}}{h_i} \right)^n / \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_1 - h_2}}{h_1 + h_2} \right).$$

In particular, $(\text{Td}_q(L_1^{\oplus n})) * \text{Td}_q(L_1 \otimes L_2)^{-1} \bmod \mathbf{q}$ is the classical Todd class of the difference between the pullback of $T_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{1;n}}$ and the line bundle $L_1 \otimes L_2$ (see Section 4 for more details). We have the following quantum Chern character homomorphism for $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$.

Theorem 1.4 (Theorem 4.4). *The map $\text{qch} : QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \longrightarrow QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, given by*

$$L_i^{-1} \mapsto e^{-c_1(L_i)} := \sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-h_i)^{*m}}{m!},$$

$$Q_i \mapsto q_i(\text{Td}_q(L_i^{\oplus n}))^{-1} * \text{Td}_q(L_1 \otimes L_2), \quad i = 1, 2.$$

is a well-defined ring homomorphism, and its classical limit gives ch .

We notice that the inverse of (classical) Todd class appeared in the Grothendieck-Riemann-Roch formula (see e.g. [EH16, Theorem 14.5]). The inverse of Todd function also appeared in the study of BCOV theory [CoLi20, Formula (38)].

The degree-(1,1) hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}$, known as Milnor hypersurfaces, are an important class of algebraic varieties in topology and algebraic geometry. Amongst them the smooth one is usually denoted as $H_{n-1,m-1}$. In particular, we have $H_{n-1,n-1} =$

$\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$. We can view $H_{n-1,m-1}$ as a smooth Schubert variety of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ via a natural embedding ι where $n \geq m \geq 2$ (see Section 5.1 for more details). Then we have the line bundle classes $[\iota^*(\mathcal{S}_1^\vee)]$ and $[\iota^*(\mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1})]$ in $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$, denoted again as L_1 and L_2 respectively by abuse of notation. By Proposition 5.4, we have $K(H_{n-1,m-1}) = \mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}]/(F_1(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}), F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}))$, where

$$F_1(x, y) := (1-y)^m, \quad F_2(x, y) := (-1)^{n-1}(1-x)^{n-1} + \sum_{t=1}^{m-1} (-1)^{n-1-t} x^{t-1} (1-x)^{n-t-1} (1-y)^t.$$

As we will show in **Theorem 5.7**, we have the following ring presentation.

Theorem 1.5. *Let $n \geq m \geq 3$. The small quantum K -theory of $H_{n-1,m-1}$ is presented by*

$$QK(H_{n-1,m-1}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}][[Q_1, Q_2]]/(F_1^Q, F_2^Q),$$

where $F_1^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = F_1(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) - Q_2 + Q_2 L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1}$ and

$$F_2^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) - (-1)^{n-m} Q_2 (L_1^{-1})^{m-1} (1 - L_1^{-1})^{n-m} - (-1)^{n-1} Q_1 L_2^{-1}.$$

On the one hand, there is an approach, known to experts, to derive a ring presentation of the quantum K -theory of a Fano manifold X . Namely, firstly one may compute the K -theoretic J -function J_X of X ; secondly, one may find the symbols of finite difference operators annihilating J_X , which would give relations in $QK(X)$ by [IMT15, Proposition 2.10] and [HK24a, Theorem 4.12]; thirdly, one may show those relations are sufficient by a Nakayama-type result in [GM⁺23, Appendix A]. We notice that when $K(X)$ is generated by line bundle classes, there has also been a heuristic argument on obtaining the ring presentation of $QK(X)$ by using finite difference equations in [Lee99]. On the other hand, there are very few examples that could really be carried out in this way, including the type A complete flag variety [AHK⁺25, Appendix A]. Our Theorem 1.5 provides one new class of examples with this approach. We directly write down the J -function of $H_{n-1,m-1}$ by the quantum Lefschetz principle [Gi15, Gi20]. We notice that the K -theoretic J -function has been calculated for type A flag varieties [GL03, Ta13] (see [BrFi11] for the quasi-map version for complete flag varieties).

Remark 1.6. *Theorem 1.4 can be generalized to Milnor hypersurfaces $H_{n-1,m-1}$ as follows. We first derive the following ring presentation*

$$QH(H_{n-1,m-1}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[h_1, h_2][[q_1, q_2]]/(h_2^m - q_2(h_1 + h_2), \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (-1)^k h_1^{n-1-k} h_2^k - q_1 - (-1)^{m-1} q_2 h_1^{n-m})$$

by investigating the quantum differential equations for Givental's (cohomological) J -function of $H_{n-1,m-1}$. Then we can define the map $\text{qch} : QK(H_{n-1,m-1}) \rightarrow QH(H_{n-1,m-1})$ by sending L_i^{-1} to e^{-h_i} and sending Q_1 (resp. Q_2) to $q_1(\text{Td}_q(L_1^{\oplus n}))^{-1} * \text{Td}_q(L_1 \otimes L_2)$ (resp. $q_2(\text{Td}_q(L_2^{\oplus m}))^{-1} * \text{Td}_q(L_1 \otimes L_2)$). The strategy to show that such qch gives a ring homomorphism qch is similar to the case for $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} = H_{n-1,n-1}$. The full details will be slightly more involved, and we plan to address the cohomological part in the study of D -module mirror symmetry for $H_{n-1,m-1}$ elsewhere.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review the background of quantum cohomology and quantum K -theory. In Sections 3 and 4, we show the small quantum Chern character homomorphism for the cases $\mathbb{P}^n$ and $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ respectively. In Section 5, we derive a ring presentation of the small quantum K -theory of Milnor hypersurface $H_{n-1,m-1}$. Finally, we prove Lemma 4.5 by studying mirror symmetry for $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

In the section, we review some basic facts on quantum cohomology and quantum K -theory, mainly following [FP97, Gi00, Le04, IMT15]. For simplicity, we assume the topological K -theory of X coincides with the algebraic K -theory of X , which is sufficient in the rest of this paper. We refer to [Le04] for more details on the set-up of the quantum K -theory in general cases.

2.1. Cohomological/ K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants. Let $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta)$ denote the moduli (Degline-Mumford) stack of genus 0, k -pointed stable maps to X of degree $\beta \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$. Let $\text{ev}_i : \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta) \rightarrow X$ be the i -th evaluation map, and $\mathcal{L}_i$ denote the universal cotangent line bundle on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta)$, where $1 \leq i \leq k$. Given nonnegative integers d_i and classes $\xi_i \in H^{\text{ev}}(X)/\gamma_i \in K(X)$, the cohomological/ K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants are respectively defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tau_{d_1} \xi_1, \tau_{d_2} \xi_2, \dots, \tau_{d_k} \xi_k \rangle_{0,k,\beta}^H &= \int_{[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta)]^{\text{vir}}} \prod_{i=1}^k (c_1(\mathcal{L}_i)^{d_i} \cup \text{ev}_i^*(\xi_i)), \\ \langle \tau_{d_1} \gamma_1, \tau_{d_2} \gamma_2, \dots, \tau_{d_k} \gamma_k \rangle_{0,k,\beta} &= \chi \left(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta), \mathcal{O}^{\text{vir}} \otimes (\otimes_{i=1}^k \mathcal{L}_i^{\otimes d_i} \text{ev}_i^*(\gamma_i)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Here $[\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,k}(X, \beta)]^{\text{vir}}$ denotes the virtual fundamental class [RT95, BeFa97, LT98, FO99], which is of expected dimension $\dim X + k - 3 + \int_{\beta} c_1(X)$; $\mathcal{O}^{\text{vir}}$ denotes the virtual structure sheaf [Le04, BeFa97], and χ is the pushforward to a point $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C})$.

Let $\overline{\text{NE}}(X)$ denote the Mori cone of effective curve classes. It follows from the definition that cohomological/ K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants of degree β are vanishing unless $\beta \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)$. We may take nef line bundles L_i 's, such that $\{h_i := c_1(L_i)\}_{i=1}^r$ form a nef integral basis of $H^2(X; \mathbb{Z})/\text{torison}$. We then introduce the Novikov variables $\{q_i\}_{i=1}^r$ (resp. $\{Q_i\}_{i=1}^r$) for quantum cohomology (resp. K -theory). For $\beta \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)$, we have $d_i := d_i(\beta) = \int_{\beta} h_i \geq 0$, and denote

$$q^{\beta} := \prod_{i=1}^r q_i^{d_i}, \quad Q^{\beta} := \prod_{i=1}^r Q_i^{d_i}.$$

2.2. Quantum cohomology. Let $\{\xi_i\}_{i=1}^N$ be a basis of $H^{\text{ev}}(X)$, and $\{\xi^j\}_j$ be the dual basis of $H^{\text{ev}}(X)$, where $\int_{[X]} \xi_b \cup \xi^a = \delta_{a,b}$. Write $\mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^N s_i \xi_i \in H^{\text{ev}}(X)$. The (even) big quantum cohomology $QH_{\text{big}}(X) = (H^{\text{ev}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{s}], *_s)$ is a $\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{q}]$ -algebra with the big quantum product defined by

$$(2.1) \quad \xi_i *_s \xi_j := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\beta \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)} \sum_{a=1}^N \frac{q^\beta}{k!} \langle \xi_i, \xi_j, \xi^a, \mathbf{s}, \dots, \mathbf{s} \rangle_{0,k+3,\beta}^H \xi_a.$$

The restriction of $QH_{\text{big}}(X)$ to $\mathbf{s} = 0$, i.e. $\xi_i *_s \xi_j = \sum_{\beta,a} \langle \xi_i, \xi_j, \xi^a \rangle_{0,3,\beta}^H \xi_a q^\beta$, gives the small quantum cohomology $QH(X) = (H^{\text{ev}}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{q}], *)$.

For $\alpha \in H^{\text{ev}}(X)$ and $f(x) = x^m$ where $m \geq 0$, we take the notation conventions

$$f_{\text{cl}}(\alpha) = \alpha^{\cup m} := \underbrace{\alpha \cup \dots \cup \alpha}_{m \text{ copies}}, \quad f(\alpha) = \alpha^{*m} := \underbrace{\alpha * \dots * \alpha}_{m \text{ copies}}.$$

We can take similar conventions for formal power series in multi-variables by observing the following. For any $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{Q}[[x_1, \dots, x_k]]$ and any homogeneous $\alpha_i \in H^{\text{ev}}(X) \setminus H^0(X)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, we have

- (1) $f_{\text{cl}}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in H^{\text{ev}}(X)$, by the nilpotency of α_i 's in $H^{\text{ev}}(X)$;
- (2) $f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in QH(X)$ for the reason: for each q^β , by the dimension axiom, there are only finitely many k -tuples $(m_1, \dots, m_k)$ such that q^β appears in $\alpha_1^{*m_1} * \dots * \alpha_k^{*m_k}$.

Moreover, under the natural surjective ring homomorphism $QH(X) \xrightarrow{\text{mod } q} H^{\text{ev}}(X)$, we have $f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \mapsto f_{\text{cl}}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$.

More generally, for $\alpha \in H^2(X)$ and function $f(x)$ holomorphic at $x = 0$, we can define $f_{\text{cl}}(\alpha) \in H^{\text{ev}}(X)$ and $f(\alpha) \in QH(X)$ by the Taylor expansion of $f(x)$ at $x = 0$. In this article, we consider the cases $f(x) = e^x$, $\frac{1-e^{-x}}{x}$ or $\frac{x}{1-e^{-x}}$, giving $f(\alpha) \in QH(X)$.

2.3. Quantum K -theory. The definition of quantum K -theory is more involved. Let $\mathbf{t} = \sum_{i=1}^N t_i \gamma_i \in K(X)$. We first introduce the quantum K -potential, which is a generating series of genus-zero K -theoretic Gromov-Witten invariants given by

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{Q}) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} t_i t_j g_{ij} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\beta \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)} \frac{Q^\beta}{k!} \langle \mathbf{t}, \dots, \mathbf{t} \rangle_{0,k,\beta}$$

with $g_{ij} = g(\gamma_i, \gamma_j) := \chi(X, \gamma_i \otimes \gamma_j)$ being the classical metric on $K(X)$ given by the Euler characteristic map.

Denote $\partial_i := \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$. The quantum K -metric is defined by

$$G_{ij} = G(\gamma_i, \gamma_j) := \partial_i \partial_j \mathcal{G}.$$

We have $G_{ij} \equiv g_{ij} \pmod{\mathbf{Q}}$, and $(G_{ij}) \in GL_N(\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}])$.

Definition 2.1. The big quantum K -theory $QK_{\text{big}}(X) := (K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}], \star_{\mathbf{t}})$ is a $\mathbb{Q}[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}]$ -algebra with the big quantum K -product $\gamma_i \star_{\mathbf{t}} \gamma_j$ defined by using the quantum K -metric,

$$G(\gamma_i \star_{\mathbf{t}} \gamma_j, \gamma_k) := \partial_i \partial_j \partial_k \mathcal{G}.$$

The big quantum K -theory $QK_{\text{big}}(X)$ is a commutative and associative algebra with identity $\mathbf{1}$ (lying in $K(X)$). Its restriction to $\mathbf{t} = 0$ gives the small quantum K -theory $QK(X) = (K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[\mathbf{Q}]], \star)$.

2.4. Quantum connection and K -theoretic J -function. Let $\hbar$ be a formal variable. The quantum connection is given by the operators

$$\nabla_i^{\hbar} := (1 - \hbar) \frac{\partial}{\partial t_i} - \gamma_i \star \mathbf{t}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N,$$

acting on $K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[\hbar, \hbar^{-1}]][[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}]]$. It could also be seen as a connection on the tangent bundle $T_{K(X)}$ by identifying γ_i with $\frac{\partial}{\partial t_i}$. This quantum connection is flat, with the fundamental solution $\{S_{ab}\}_{1 \leq a, b \leq N}$ to the K -theoretic quantum differential equation $\nabla_i^{\hbar}(\sum_{b=1}^N S_{ab} \gamma_b) = 0$ given by

$$S_{ab}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{Q}) = g_{ab} + \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{d \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)} \frac{Q^d}{l!} \langle \gamma_a, \mathbf{t}, \dots, \mathbf{t}, \frac{\gamma_b}{1 - \hbar \mathcal{L}} \rangle_{0, l+2, d}.$$

Here $\frac{\gamma_b}{1 - \hbar \mathcal{L}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_b \hbar^n \mathcal{L}^{\otimes n}$, where $\mathcal{L}$ is the universal cotangent line bundle at the $(l+2)$ th-marked point on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0, l+2}(X, d)$. Following [IMT15], we introduce an endomorphism-valued function $T \in \text{End}(K(X)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}(\hbar)[[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}]]$ by the formula $g(T\gamma_a, \gamma_b) = S_{ab}$.

Definition 2.2. The big K -theoretic J -function¹ of X is defined by

$$J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}) := T(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{1} + \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{d \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X)} \sum_{i, j} \frac{Q^d}{l!} \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{t}, \dots, \mathbf{t}, \frac{\gamma_i}{1 - \hbar \mathcal{L}} \rangle_{0, l+2, d} g^{ij} \gamma_j.$$

The restriction $J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}) = J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t})|_{\mathbf{t}=0}$ is called the small K -theoretic J -function.

Givental and Tonita [GT14] showed that the space $T(K(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[\hbar, \hbar^{-1}]][[\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{t}]])$ is preserved by the operator $L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$, where L_i^{-1} acts by tensor product, and $\hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}}$ is the $\hbar$ -shift operator acting on functions in $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_r$ by

$$f(Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_r) \mapsto f(Q_1, \dots, Q_{i-1}, \hbar Q_i, Q_{i+1}, \dots, Q_r).$$

Set $A_i := (T^{-1} \circ L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}} \circ T)|_{\mathbf{t}=0, \hbar=1}$, which is an element in $\text{End}(K(X)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[\mathbf{Q}]]$. Suppose that a $\hbar$ -difference operator $D \in \mathbb{Q}[[\hbar, \mathbf{Q}]] \langle L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}} \rangle$ satisfies

$$(2.2) \quad D(L_1^{-1} \hbar^{Q_1 \partial_{Q_1}}, \dots, L_r^{-1} \hbar^{Q_r \partial_{Q_r}}, \hbar, Q_1, \dots, Q_r) J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}) = 0.$$

Then $D(A_1, \dots, A_r, 1, Q_1, \dots, Q_r)(\mathbf{1}) = 0$ by the definition of A_i 's. To simplify A_i , we note that if the coefficient of Q^d in $L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}}(J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}))$ vanish when $\hbar = \infty$ for all $d > 0$, then $A_i = (L_i^{-1} \star)$ by [IMT15, Proposition 2.10] and [HK24a, Theorem 4.12]. In summary, we have

Proposition 2.3. Suppose that: (i) $D \in \mathbb{Q}[[\hbar, \mathbf{Q}]] \langle L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}} \rangle$ satisfies Equation (2.2); (ii) for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $\text{Coeff}_{Q^d}(L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}}(J_X(\hbar, \mathbf{Q})))|_{\hbar=\infty} = 0$ for all $d \in \overline{\text{NE}}(X) \setminus \{0\}$. Then

$$(2.3) \quad D(L_1^{-1}, \dots, L_r^{-1}, 1, Q_1, \dots, Q_r)(\mathbf{1}) = 0 \quad \text{in } QK(X).$$

¹The K -theoretic J -function in [IMT15, Definition 2.4] is equal to our $(1 - \hbar)J$ with $\hbar = q$.

3. QUANTUM CHERN CHARACTER FOR $\mathbb{P}^n$

In this section, as a warm-up, we construct a quantum version of Chern character for $\mathbb{P}^n$, i.e. a ring homomorphism $QK(\mathbb{P}^n) \xrightarrow{\text{qch}} QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$ that is a lift of $K(\mathbb{P}^n) \xrightarrow{\text{ch}} H^*(\mathbb{P}^n) = H^{ev}(\mathbb{P}^n)$.

Let us consider line bundle class $L := [\mathcal{O}(1)] \in K(\mathbb{P}^n)$ and hyperplane class $h := c_1(L) \in H^2(\mathbb{P}^n)$. We have the following ring presentations (see e.g. [BM11]):

$$QK(\mathbb{P}^n) \cong \mathbb{Q}[L^{-1}][[Q]] / ((1 - L^{-1})^{n+1} - Q), \quad QH(\mathbb{P}^n) \cong \mathbb{Q}[h][[q]] / (h^{n+1} - q),$$

where $L^{-1} = [\mathcal{O}(-1)]$ is the classical inverse of L in $K(\mathbb{P}^n)$.

We define a map $\text{qch} : QK(\mathbb{P}^n) \rightarrow QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$ as follows. We firstly set

$$\text{qch}(L^{-1}) = e^{-h} \text{ and } \text{qch}(Q) = q \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1},$$

which both lie in $QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$ by our convention in Section 2.2. Secondly, for any $\alpha \in QK(\mathbb{P}^n)$, the above ring presentation implies that there exists $\Phi_\alpha(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}[x][[y]]$ such that $\alpha = \Phi_\alpha(L^{-1}, Q)$. We then set

$$\text{qch}(\alpha) = \Phi_\alpha(\text{qch}(L^{-1}), \text{qch}(Q)).$$

Theorem 3.1. *The map qch is independent of the choice of Φ_α 's and is a ring homomorphism. Moreover, its classical limit gives ch .*

Proof. To prove the first statement, by the ring presentation for $QK(\mathbb{P}^n)$, it suffices to show that $(1 - \text{qch}(L^{-1}))^{n+1} = \text{qch}(Q)$, or equivalently, $(1 - e^{-h})^{n+1} = q \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1}$.

The equality $1 - e^{-x} = x \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-x}}{x}$ in $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]$ implies that $1 - e^{-h} = h \star \frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h}$. Thus we have

$$(1 - e^{-h})^{n+1} = h^{n+1} * \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1} = q \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1}.$$

In the last equality, we use the relation $h^{n+1} = q$ in $QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$. This proves the first statement.

The second statement follows directly from the definition of qch . This finishes the proof of the proposition. $\square$

Remark 3.2. *The image $\text{qch}(Q)$ is actually uniquely determined by $\text{qch}(L^{-1}) = e^{-h}$ and the requirement that qch is a ring homomorphism. Indeed, that qch is a ring homomorphism implies that $(1 - \text{qch}(L^{-1}))^{n+1} = \text{qch}(Q)$. Together with the relation $h^{n+1} = q$ in $QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$, we obtain*

$$\text{qch}(Q) * h^{n+1} = q \left(1 - e^{-h} \right)^{n+1}.$$

This equation for $\text{qch}(Q)$ has a solution $\text{qch}(Q) = q \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1}$. Moreover, noting $QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$ is a $\mathbb{Q}[[q]]$ -algebra, the relation $h^{n+1} = q$ implies that h is NOT a zero divisor in $QH(\mathbb{P}^n)$. As a consequence, the equation for $\text{qch}(Q)$ has a unique solution.

Remark 3.3. *The factor $\left(\frac{1 - e^{-h}}{h} \right)^{n+1}$ in $\text{qch}(Q)$ can be interpreted as a quantum version of the inverse of Todd class of $T_{\mathbb{P}^n}$. On the one hand, the factor is equal to $f(h)$ with*

$f(x) = \left(\frac{1-e^{-x}}{x}\right)^{n+1}$. On the other hand, the Euler exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \rightarrow L^{\oplus(n+1)} \rightarrow T\mathbb{P}^n \rightarrow 0$$

gives

$$\mathrm{Td}(T\mathbb{P}^n)^{-1} = (\mathrm{Td}(L)^{n+1})^{-1} = f_{\mathrm{cl}}(h).$$

So $\left(\frac{1-e^{-h}}{h}\right)^{n+1}$ is mapped to $\mathrm{Td}(T\mathbb{P}^n)^{-1}$ via $QH(\mathbb{P}^n) \xrightarrow{\text{mod } q} H^*(\mathbb{P}^n)$.

4. QUANTUM CHERN CHARACTER FOR $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$

In this section, we construct a quantum version of Chern character for the incidence variety $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} = \{V_1 \leq V_{n-1} \leq \mathbb{C}^n \mid \dim V_1 = 1, \dim V_{n-1} = n-1\}$, i.e. a ring homomorphism $QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \xrightarrow{\text{qch}} QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ that gives a lift of $K(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \xrightarrow{\text{ch}} H^*(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) = H^{\mathrm{ev}}(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$.

Let $L_1 := [(\mathcal{S}_1)^\vee]$, $L_2 := [\underline{\mathbb{C}}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1}] \in K(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, where $\mathcal{S}_1$ and $\mathcal{S}_{n-1}$ are the tautological vector subbundles of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$. Note that $\{h_a := c_1(L_a)\}_{1 \leq a \leq 2}$ form a nef basis of $H^2(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}, \mathbb{Z})$. Recall that q_a (resp. Q_a), $1 \leq a \leq 2$, denote the corresponding Novikov variables in the quantum cohomology (resp. K -theory) of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$. We have

Proposition 4.1 ([CP11, Proposition 7.2]). *The small quantum cohomology ring of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ is canonically given by $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[h_1, h_2][[q_1, q_2]]/(f_1^q, f_2^q)$, where*

$$\begin{aligned} f_1^q(h_1, h_2, q_1, q_2) &= h_2^n - q_2(h_1 + h_2), \\ f_2^q(h_1, h_2, q_1, q_2) &= \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-l} h_1^l h_2^{n-1-l} - q_1 - (-1)^{n-1} q_2. \end{aligned}$$

The isomorphism in the above proposition is canonical in the sense that the hyperplane class h_a in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ maps to the generator h_a on the right, for $a = 1, 2$. Moreover, there is a canonical selfduality of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$, which induces an automorphism of the small quantum cohomology by interchanging (h_1, q_1) and (h_2, q_2) . As an immediate consequence, we have

Corollary 4.2. *We have $h_a^n = q_a(h_1 + h_2)$ in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ for $a = 1, 2$.*

Ring presentations for $QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ could be obtained from [GM⁺23, Xu24]. For our purpose of constructing qch, we treat $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ as the special Milnor hypersurface $H_{n-1,n-1}$, and read off one from the general case $QK(H_{n-1,m-1})$ in Theorem 5.7 directly; namely

Proposition 4.3. *The small quantum K -theory of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ is canonically given by*

$$QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}][[Q_1, Q_2]]/(F_1^Q, F_2^Q),$$

$$\text{where } F_1^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = (1 - L_2^{-1})^n - Q_2 + Q_2(L_1^{-1}L_2^{-1}),$$

$$F_2^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) - Q_2(L_1^{-1})^{n-1} - (-1)^{n-1} Q_1 L_2^{-1},$$

with $F_2(x, y) = (-1)^{n-1}(1-x)^{n-1} + \sum_{t=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-t} x^{t-1} (1-x)^{n-t-1} (1-y)^t$.

We define a map $QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \xrightarrow{\text{qch}} QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ as follows. Firstly, for $a = 1, 2$, we set

$$\text{qch}(L_a^{-1}) = e^{-h_a} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{qch}(Q_a) = q_a \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_a}}{h_a} \right)^n * \left(\frac{(h_1 + h_2)}{1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}} \right).$$

Secondly, for any $\alpha \in QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, the above ring presentation implies that there exists $\Phi_\alpha(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2][[y_1, y_2]]$ such that $\alpha = \Phi_\alpha(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2)$, and we set

$$\text{qch}(\alpha) = \Phi_\alpha(\text{qch}(L_1^{-1}), \text{qch}(L_2^{-1}), \text{qch}(Q_1), \text{qch}(Q_2)).$$

Theorem 4.4. *The map qch is independent of the choice of Φ_α 's and is a ring homomorphism. Moreover, its classical limit gives ch.*

To prove the theorem, we prepare several lemmas first. Recall that in a commutative ring R , an element $x \in R$ is not a zero-divisor if and only if for any $y \in R$, we have $y = 0$ whenever $xy = 0$. We first assume the next lemma, and leave its proof at the end of the appendix, which will involve mirror symmetry for $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$.

Lemma 4.5. *The element $h_1 + h_2$ is not a zero-divisor in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$.*

Lemma 4.6. *The element $1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}$ is not a zero-divisor in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$.*

Proof. The equality $(1 - e^{-x}) \cdot \frac{x}{1 - e^{-x}} = x$ in $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]$ implies that $(1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \frac{(h_1+h_2)}{1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}} = h_1 + h_2$. So it follows from Lemma 4.5 that $1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}$ is not a zero-divisor. $\square$

Lemma 4.7. *For $a \in \{1, 2\}$, we have $(1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \text{qch}(Q_a) = (1 - e^{-h_a})^n$ in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$.*

Proof. By the equalities $x \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-x}}{x} = 1 - e^{-x}$ and $(1 - e^{-x}) \cdot \frac{x}{1 - e^{-x}} = x$ in $\mathbb{Q}[[x]]$, we have

$$h_a * \frac{1 - e^{-h_a}}{h_a} = 1 - e^{-h_a} \quad \text{and} \quad (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \frac{h_1 + h_2}{1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}} = h_1 + h_2.$$

So we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \text{qch}(Q_a) &= q_a \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_a}}{h_a} \right)^n * \left((1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \frac{h_1 + h_2}{1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}} \right) \\ &= q_a \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_a}}{h_a} \right)^n * (h_1 + h_2) \\ &= h_a^n * \left(\frac{1 - e^{-h_a}}{h_a} \right)^n \quad (\text{from Corollary 4.2}) \\ &= (1 - e^{-h_a})^n. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Proof of Theorem 4.4. To prove the first statement, by the ring presentation in Proposition 4.1, it suffices to show that the two elements

$$F_a^Q(\text{qch}(L_1^{-1}), \text{qch}(L_2^{-1}), \text{qch}(Q_1), \text{qch}(Q_2)) \in QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}), \quad a = 1, 2,$$

are vanishing.

For F_1^Q , by Lemma 4.6, we only need to prove that

$$(1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \left((1 - e^{-h_2})^n - \text{qch}(Q_2) + \text{qch}(Q_2) * e^{-h_1} * e^{-h_2} \right) = 0.$$

It follows from Lemma 4.7 that

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \left((1 - e^{-h_2})^n - \text{qch}(Q_2) + \text{qch}(Q_2) * e^{-h_1} * e^{-h_2} \right) \\ &= (1 - e^{-h_2})^n * \left((1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) - 1 + e^{-h_1} * e^{-h_2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

So the required vanishing result follows from $e^{-(h_1+h_2)} = e^{-h_1} * e^{-h_2}$.

For F_2^Q , by Lemma 4.6, we only need to prove that LHS = RHS, where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &:= (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * F_2(e^{-h_1}, e^{-h_2}), \\ \text{RHS} &:= (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) * \left(\text{qch}(Q_2) * (e^{-h_1})^{*(n-1)} + (-1)^{n-1} \text{qch}(Q_1) * e^{-h_2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We use Lemma 4.7 to find that

$$\text{RHS} = (1 - e^{-h_2})^n * (e^{-h_1})^{n-1} + (-1)^{n-1} (1 - e^{-h_1})^n * e^{-h_2}.$$

For LHS, observe that $F_2(e^{-h_1}, e^{-h_2})$ is equal to

$$(-1)^{n-1} (1 - e^{-h_1})^{n-1} + (1 - e^{-h_2}) * \sum_{l=0}^{n-2} (e^{-h_1} - 1)^{n-2-l} * \left(e^{-h_1} * (1 - e^{-h_2}) \right)^l.$$

Note that $(e^{-h_1} - 1) - (e^{-h_1} * (1 - e^{-h_2})) = -(1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)})$, and we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &= (-1)^{n-1} (1 - e^{-h_1})^{n-1} * (1 - e^{-(h_1+h_2)}) \\ &\quad - (1 - e^{-h_2}) * \left((e^{-h_1} - 1)^{*(n-1)} - (e^{-h_1} * (1 - e^{-h_2}))^{n-1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Now one can check that LHS = RHS, and this proves the first statement.

The second statement directly follows from the definition of qch. This finishes the proof. $\square$

Remark 4.8. If we assume a priori that qch is a ring homomorphism, then the images $\text{qch}(Q_a)$'s are uniquely determined by $\text{qch}(L_a^{-1}) = e^{-h_a}$, similar to Remark 3.2.

Remark 4.9. Let π_1, π_2 be the natural projection from $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ to $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n}, \mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}$, respectively. We have the exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}} \rightarrow L_1^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \pi_1^* T_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n}} \rightarrow 0, \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}} \rightarrow L_2^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \pi_2^* T_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}} \rightarrow 0.$$

Similar to Remark 3.3, the factor $\left(\frac{1-e^{-h_a}}{h_a} \right)^n$ in $\text{qch}(Q_a)$, $1 \leq a \leq 2$, may be interpreted as a quantum version of the inverse of the Todd classes of $\pi_1^* T_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n}}$ and $\pi_2^* T_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}}$ respectively. The factor $\frac{(h_1+h_2)}{1-e^{-(h_1+h_2)}}$ may be interpreted as a quantum version of the Todd class of $L_1 \otimes L_2$.

5. QUANTUM K -THEORY OF MILNOR HYPERSURFACES

In the section, we provide a ring presentation of the small quantum K -theory of smooth Milnor hypersurfaces.

5.1. Milnor hypersurfaces. Let $n \geq m \geq 3$ ². The (smooth) Milnor hypersurface $H_{n-1,m-1}$ is a degree- $(1, 1)$ hypersurface in $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}$, defined by the equation

$$x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_m y_m = 0,$$

where $[x_1 : \cdots : x_n]$ and $[y_1 : \cdots : y_m]$ are homogeneous coordinates of $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}, \mathbb{P}^{m-1}$, respectively. Note that the incidence variety $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ is a degree $(1, 1)$ -hypersurface of $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ defined by $\sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^j x_j y_j = 0$ via the Plücker embedding. We can identify $H_{n-1,n-1}$ with $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ by a simple coordinate change ($y_j \mapsto (-1)^j y_j$).

Remark 5.1. *Any smooth Schubert variety in $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ is either a Milnor hypersurface or a product of projective spaces.*

Consider the following commutative diagram:

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H_{n-1,m-1} & \xhookrightarrow{\iota} & H_{n-1,n-1} \cong \mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} \\ \downarrow \pi_2^m & & \downarrow \pi_2 \\ \mathbb{P}^{m-1} & \xhookrightarrow{\iota_m} & \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \cong \mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n} \end{array}$$

Here ι is the natural embedding, π_2 (resp. π_2^m) is the natural projection to the second factor of the product of projective spaces, and ι_m denotes the natural inclusion. Let $\mathcal{U}_{n-1}$ be the tautological bundle of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}$. Then $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{U}_{n-1})$ is a $\mathbb{P}^{n-2}$ -bundle over $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, and $H_{n-1,m-1} = \mathbb{P}^{m-1} \times_{\mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}} \mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n} = \mathbb{P}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})$ is a $\mathbb{P}^{n-2}$ -bundle over $\mathbb{P}^{m-1}$.

5.2. Ring presentation of $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$. There is a standard procedure to obtain a ring presentation of the classical K -theory of the projective bundle $H_{n-1,m-1} = \mathbb{P}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})$. Here we provide a precise presentation of $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$ that is helpful for us to derive a ring presentation of $QK(H_{n-1,m-1})$.

Lemma 5.2. *For any nonnegative integers b, n, t with $0 \leq b \leq n - t - 1$, we have*

$$\sum_{c=0}^b \binom{n}{n-b+c} \binom{t+c}{c} (-1)^c = \binom{n-t-1}{b}.$$

Proof. It follows from differentiating $\sum_{c=0}^{\infty} z^c = \frac{1}{1-z}$, where $(|z| < 1)$, that

$$A(z) := \sum_{c=0}^{\infty} \binom{t+c}{c} z^c = \frac{1}{(1-z)^{t+1}}.$$

The coefficient of z^b -term in $(1+z)^n \cdot A(-z)$ is given by $\sum_{c=0}^b \binom{n}{n-b+c} \binom{t+c}{c} (-1)^c$. Hence, it is equal to $\binom{n-t-1}{b}$, by noting $(1+z)^{n-t-1} = (1+z)^n \cdot A(-z)$. $\square$

Recall the following polynomials defined in the introduction.

$$(5.2) \quad F_1(x, y) := (1 - y)^m,$$

$$(5.3) \quad F_2(x, y) := (-1)^{n-1} (1 - x)^{n-1} + \sum_{t=1}^{m-1} (-1)^{n-1-t} x^{t-1} (1 - x)^{n-t-1} (1 - y)^t.$$

²We exclude the case $m = 2$, for which there is a nontrivial mirror map in the K -theoretic J -function by quantum Lefschetz principle and Proposition 2.3 is not applicable directly.

Lemma 5.3. *There exists $a(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ such that*

$$F_2(x, y) - a(x, y)F_1(x, y) = (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-x)^l \sum_{s=1}^{l+1} \binom{n}{n-1-l+s} (-y)^s.$$

Proof. Let RHS denote the right-hand side and $a_1(x, y) := -x^{n-1}(1-y)^{n-m}$. By direct calculation, we have $\text{RHS} = a_1(x, y)F_1(x, y) + x^{n-1} + (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{n-2} (-x)^l \sum_{s=1}^{l+1} \binom{n}{n-1-l+s} (-y)^s$. Note $(-y)^s = \sum_{t=1}^s (1-y)^t \binom{s}{t} (-1)^{s-t} + (-1)^s$. By changing the order of summation over t and s, l , we have $\text{RHS} = a_1(x, y)F_1(x, y) + g_0(x) + \sum_{t=1}^{n-1} g_t(x)(1-y)^t$, where

$$g_0(x) = x^{n-1} + (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{n-2} (-x)^l \sum_{s=1}^{l+1} \binom{n}{n-1-l+s} (-1)^s,$$

$$g_t(x) = (-1)^n \sum_{l=t-1}^{n-2} (-x)^l \sum_{s=t}^{l+1} \binom{n}{n-1-l+s} \binom{s}{t} (-1)^{s-t}.$$

By Lemma 5.2 with $t = 0$, we have

$$g_0(x) = x^{n-1} + (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{n-2} (-x)^l (-1) \sum_{c=0}^l \binom{n}{n-l+c} (-1)^c = x^{n-1} + (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{n-2} (-x)^l (-1) \binom{n-1}{l}.$$

Hence, $g_0(x) = (-1)^{n-1}(1-x)^{n-1}$. For $1 \leq t \leq m-1$, by substituting l with $b = l+1-t$ and then applying Lemma 5.2 with $c = s-t$, we have

$$g_t(x) = (-1)^n \sum_{b=0}^{n-t-1} (-x)^{b+t-1} \sum_{s=t}^{b+t} \binom{n}{n-b-t+s} \binom{s}{t} (-1)^{s-t} = (-1)^n \sum_{b=0}^{n-t-1} \binom{n-t-1}{b} (-x)^{b+t-1}.$$

Hence, $g_t(x) = (-1)^{n-1-t} x^{t-1} (1-x)^{n-t-1}$.

Set $a(x, y) = a_1(x, y) + \sum_{t=m}^{n-1} g_t(x)(1-y)^{t-m}$. We are done. $\square$

Recall that $\mathcal{S}_1$ (resp. $\mathcal{S}_{n-1}$) denotes the tautological vector subbundle of $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}$ whose fiber at $V_\bullet$ is given by the vector space V_1 (resp. V_{n-1}). Let P_1 (resp. P_2) be the class of line bundle $\iota^* \mathcal{S}_1$ (resp. $\iota^*(\mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1})^\vee$) in $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$, namely $P_i = L_i^{-1}$ in Theorem 1.4.

Proposition 5.4. *The classical K -theory of $H_{n-1,m-1}$ is generated by P_1, P_2 with*

$$K(H_{n-1,m-1}) = \mathbb{Q}[P_1, P_2]/(F_1(P_1, P_2), F_2(P_1, P_2)).$$

Proof. Note $H_{n-1,m-1} \cong \mathbb{P}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})$. By the classical K -theory for projective bundles (see e.g. [Ka78, Theorem 2.16]), we have

$$K(H_{n-1,m-1}) = K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1})[P_1]/(P_1^{n-1} - [\lambda^1(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})]P_1^{n-2} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1}[\lambda^{n-1}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})]).$$

Here $\lambda^k(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})$ is the k -th exterior power of $\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1}$, and $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$ is a free $K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1})$ -module via the ring homomorphism $(\pi_2^m)^* : K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1}) \rightarrow K(H_{n-1,m-1})$.

Let $\mathbb{C}^n$ also denote the trivial bundle over $\mathbb{F}\ell_{n-1;n}$ by abuse of notation, and denote $\mathcal{Q} := \mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{U}_{n-1}$, which is a line bundle. So $(1 - (\iota_m^* \mathcal{Q})^\vee)^m = 0$ in $K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1})$. Notice $P_2 = [\iota^*(\mathbb{C}^n/\mathcal{S}_{n-1})^\vee] = [(\pi_2^m)^*(\iota_m^* \mathcal{Q})^\vee] \in K(H_{n-1,m-1})$. Hence, $(1 - P_2)^m = 0$.

Let $\mathbf{1} \in K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1})$ be the class of the trivial line bundle. For $1 \leq k \leq n$, it follows from the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_{n-1} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbb{C}}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow 0$, together with $\mathcal{Q}$ being a line bundle, that

$$(5.4) \quad \binom{n}{k} \mathbf{1} = \sum_{t+b=k} [\iota_m^*(\lambda^t(\mathcal{U}_{n-1}))] \cdot [\iota_m^*(\lambda^b \mathcal{Q})] = [\lambda^{k-1}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1}) \otimes \iota_m^* \mathcal{Q}] + [\lambda^k(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})].$$

In particular, we have $[\lambda^{n-1}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1}) \otimes \iota_m^* \mathcal{Q}] = \mathbf{1}$, implying $[\lambda^{n-1}(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})] = [\iota_m^* \mathcal{Q}]^\vee$. By (reverse) induction on k , we have $[\lambda^k(\iota_m^* \mathcal{U}_{n-1})] = \sum_{s=1}^{n-k} (-1)^{s-1} \binom{n}{k+s} [(\iota_m^* \mathcal{Q})^\vee]^s$ in $K(\mathbb{P}^{m-1})$ for $1 \leq k \leq n-1$. Hence, $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$ is the quotient of $\mathbb{Q}[P_1, P_2]$ by the ideal generated by $(1 - P_2)^m$ and

$$(5.5) \quad \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-l} (P_1)^l \left(\sum_{s=1}^{l+1} (-1)^{s-1} \binom{n}{n-1-l+s} P_2^s \right).$$

Then we are done by Lemma 5.3. $\square$

5.3. Ring presentation of $QK(H_{n-1,m-1})$. Recall $L_i = P_i^{-1} \in K(H_{n-1,m-1})$, and $\{h_i = c_1(L_i)\}_{1 \leq i \leq 2}$ form a nef basis of $H^2(H_{n-1,m-1}, \mathbb{Z})$. We have the Mori cone $\overline{\text{NE}}(H_{n-1,m-1}) = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \beta_1 + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \beta_2 \subset H_2(H_{n-1,m-1}, \mathbb{Z})$ with $\int_{\beta_i} h_j = \delta_{i,j}$. By [Ta13, Proposition 1] and [Lee99, Theorem 10], the small K -theoretic J -function of $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}$ is given by

$$(5.6) \quad J_{\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}}(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}) = \sum_{d_1 \geq 0, d_2 \geq 0}^{\infty} \frac{Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2}}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1 - \mathcal{L}_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1 - \mathcal{L}_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m}.$$

Here $\mathcal{L}_1$ (resp. $\mathcal{L}_2$) is the class of the line bundle obtained by the pullback of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)$ (resp. $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^m}(1)$), and we still denote by Q_1, Q_2 the corresponding Novikov variables for $QK(\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1})$ by abuse of notation. As a degree- $(1,1)$ hypersurface of $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{P}^{m-1}$, by the quantum Lefschetz principle [Gi15, the last Theorem] (see also [Gi20, Theorem 3] for general cases), we obtain the small K -theoretic J -function of $H_{n-1,m-1}$,³

$$(5.7) \quad J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}(\hbar, \mathbf{Q}) = \sum_{d_1 \geq 0, d_2 \geq 0}^{\infty} \frac{Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2} (1 - L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1 - L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1 - L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m}.$$

Theorem 5.5. Denote $\vartheta_k := 1 - L_k^{-1} \hbar^{Q_k} \partial_{Q_k}$, $k = 1, 2$. For the $\hbar$ -difference operators

$$D_1 := \vartheta_2^m, \quad D_2 := (-1)^{n-1} (\vartheta_1)^{n-1} + \sum_{t=1}^{m-1} (-1)^{n-1-t} (1 - \vartheta_1)^{t-1} \vartheta_1^{n-t-1} \vartheta_2^t,$$

we have

$$(5.8) \quad (D_1 - Q_2 + Q_2 \hbar (1 - \vartheta_1)(1 - \vartheta_2)) J_{H_{n-1,m-1}} = 0,$$

$$(5.9) \quad (D_2 - (-1)^{n-m} Q_2 (1 - \vartheta_1)^{m-1} \vartheta_1^{n-m} - (-1)^{n-1} Q_1 (1 - \vartheta_2)) J_{H_{n-1,m-1}} = 0.$$

Proof. We show the statement by direct computations as follows.

³The J -function of $H_{2,2} = F_{\ell_{1,2;3}}$ was computed in [GL03, Example 2.5] up to a scalar by $(1 - \hbar)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
D_1(J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}) &= \left(\sum_{d_2=0} \frac{(1-L_2^{-1})^m Q_1^{d_1} \prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{d_2 \geq 1} \frac{(1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^{d_2})^m Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \right) \\
&= 0 + \sum_{d_2 \geq 1} \frac{Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l) \cdot 1}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2-1} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \\
&\quad + Q_2 \hbar \sum_{d_2 \geq 1} \frac{Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2-1} \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l) (-L_1^{-1} \hbar^{d_1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^{d_2-1})}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2-1} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \\
&= Q_2 J_{H_{n-1,m-1}} - Q_2 \hbar (L_1^{-1} \hbar^{Q_1 \partial_{Q_1}}) (L_2^{-1} \hbar^{Q_2 \partial_{Q_2}}) (J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}).
\end{aligned}$$

Here the term 0 in the second equality follows from the relation $(1-L_2^{-1})^m = 0$ in $K(H_{n-1,m-1})$. The third equality holds because $d_2 \geq 1$ is replaced by $d_2 - 1 \geq 0$, so that the J -function $J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}$ appears again.

To simplify the expressions, we denote $S_i := (1 - L_i^{-1} \hbar^{d_i})$, $i = 1, 2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
&D_2(J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}) \\
&= \left(F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) + \sum_{0 \neq (d_1, d_2)} Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \frac{F_2(L_1^{-1} \hbar^{d_1}, L_2^{-1} \hbar^{d_2}) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \right) \\
&= 0 + \sum_{0 \neq (d_1, d_2)} Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \frac{F_2(1-S_1, 1-S_2) (-S_1 S_2 + S_1 + S_2) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \\
&= \left(\sum_{d_1=0, d_2 \geq 1} Q_2^{d_2} \frac{((-1)^{n-m} (1-S_1)^{m-1} S_1^{n-m} S_2^m) \prod_{l=1}^{d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \right. \\
&\quad + \sum_{d_1 \geq 1, d_2=0} Q_1^{d_1} \frac{((-1)^{n-1} S_1^n (1-S_2)) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n} \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{d_1 \geq 1, d_2 \geq 1} Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2} \frac{((-1)^{n-1} S_1^n (1-S_2) + (-1)^{n-m} (1-S_1)^{m-1} S_1^{n-m} S_2^m) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \right) \\
&= \left(Q_2 \sum_{d_2 \geq 1} Q_1^{d_1} Q_2^{d_2-1} \frac{((-1)^{n-m} (1-S_1)^{m-1} S_1^{n-m} S_2^m) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1+d_2-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{\prod_{l=1}^{d_1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2-1} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m S_2^m} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + Q_1 \sum_{d_1 \geq 1} Q_1^{d_1-1} Q_2^{d_2} \frac{((-1)^{n-1} S_1^n (1-S_2)) \prod_{l=1}^{d_1-1+d_2} (1-L_1^{-1} \cdot L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)}{S_1^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_1-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^l)^n \prod_{l=1}^{d_2} (1-L_2^{-1} \hbar^l)^m} \right) \\
&= (-1)^{n-m} Q_2 (L_1^{-1} \hbar^{Q_1 \partial_{Q_1}})^{m-1} (1-L_1^{-1} \hbar^{Q_1 \partial_{Q_1}})^{n-m} (J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}) + (-1)^{n-1} Q_1 (L_2^{-1} \hbar^{Q_2 \partial_{Q_2}}) (J_{H_{n-1,m-1}}).
\end{aligned}$$

Here $F_2(x, y)$ is the polynomial defined in Equation (5.3). The term 0 in the second equality follows from the relation $F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) = 0$ in $K(H_{n-1, m-1})$ by Proposition 5.4. The term $(-S_1 S_2 + S_1 + S_2)$ in the second equality comes from $1 - L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1} \hbar^{d_1 + d_2}$. The last equality holds because $d_2 \geq 1$ (resp. $d_1 \geq 1$) could be replaced by $d_2 - 1 \geq 0$ (resp. $d_1 - 1 \geq 0$) after canceling out the same term S_2^m (resp. S_1^n), so that the J -function appears again. $\square$

To achieve a ring presentation of $QK(H_{n-1, m-1})$, it remains to apply the following Nakayama-type result proved in [GMSZ22, Proposition A.3].

Proposition 5.6 (Gu-Mihalcea-Sharpe-Zou). *Let A be a Noetherian integral domain, and let $\mathfrak{a} \subset A$ be an ideal. Assume that A is complete in the $\mathfrak{a}$ -adic topology. Let M, N be finitely generated A -modules. Assume that the A -module N , and the $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -module $N/\mathfrak{a}N$, are both free modules of the same rank $r \leq \infty$, and that we are given an A -module homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ such that the induced $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -module map $\bar{f} : M/\mathfrak{a}M \rightarrow N/\mathfrak{a}N$ is an isomorphism of $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -modules. Then f is an isomorphism.*

Now we restate Theorem 1.5 as follows.

Theorem 5.7. *Let $n \geq m \geq 3$. The small quantum K -theory of $H_{n-1, m-1}$ is presented by*

$$QK(H_{n-1, m-1}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}][[Q_1, Q_2]] / (F_1^Q, F_2^Q),$$

where $F_1^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = F_1(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) - Q_2 + Q_2 L_1^{-1} L_2^{-1}$ and

$$F_2^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}) - (-1)^{n-m} Q_2 (L_1^{-1})^{m-1} (1 - L_1^{-1})^{n-m} - (-1)^{n-1} Q_1 L_2^{-1}.$$

Proof. Let M be the right hand side of the expected isomorphism, set $N := QK(H_{n-1, m-1})$, and take the ideal $\mathfrak{a} = (Q_1, Q_2)$ of $A := \mathbb{Q}[[Q_1, Q_2]]$. Clearly, we have $A/\mathfrak{a} = \mathbb{Q}$. Moreover, N (resp. $N/\mathfrak{a}N$) is a free A -module (resp. $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -module) of rank $\dim_{\mathbb{Q}} K(H_{n-1, m-1}) = m(n-1) < \infty$. Note $n \geq m \geq 3$. It follows directly from the expression of $J_{H_{n-1, m-1}}$ that each (d_1, d_2) -term of $L_i^{-1} \hbar^{Q_i \partial_{Q_i}} (J_{H_{n-1, m-1}})$ vanishes at $\hbar = \infty$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2$, whenever $d_1 > 0$ or $d_2 > 0$. By Proposition 2.3 and Theorem 5.5, the relations $F_1^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = 0$ and $F_2^Q(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}, Q_1, Q_2) = 0$ hold in $QK(H_{n-1, m-1})$ (with respect to the quantum K -product). Therefore we have a canonical ring homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ defined by $L_i^{-1} \mapsto L_i^{-1}$ and $Q_i \mapsto Q_i, i = 1, 2$. Since $f(\mathfrak{a}M) \subset \mathfrak{a}N$, it induces an $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -module homomorphism $\bar{f} : M/\mathfrak{a}M \rightarrow N/\mathfrak{a}N$. Note $M/\mathfrak{a}M \cong (A/\mathfrak{a}) \otimes_A M \cong \mathbb{Q}[L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}] / (F_1(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}), F_2(L_1^{-1}, L_2^{-1}))$ and $N/\mathfrak{a}N \cong K(H_{n-1, m-1})$. Thus $\bar{f}$ is an isomorphism of $A/\mathfrak{a}$ -modules by Proposition 5.4. Therefore f is an isomorphism of A -modules by Proposition 5.6. $\square$

Remark 5.8. *The presentation for the special case $QK(H_{n-1, n-1})$ can also be derived from the quantum Littlewood-Richardson rule for $QK(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1, n-1; n})$ [Xu24, Section 5]. Therein, the Schubert class $\mathcal{O}^{[1, n-1]}$ (resp. $\mathcal{O}^{[2, n]}$) is given by $1 - L_1^{-1}$, (resp. $1 - L_2^{-1}$).*

6. APPENDIX: PROOF OF LEMMA 4.5

By [BCFKS00], the toric superpotential mirror to $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1, n-1; n}$ is the Laurent polynomial

$$f_{\text{tor}} := \sum_{k=1}^{2n-3} \frac{x_k}{x_{k-1}} + \frac{q_2}{x_{n-2}} + \frac{x_n}{q_2} + \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}} \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_{2n-3}^{\pm 1}, q_1^{\pm 1}, q_2^{\pm 1}],$$

where $x_0 := 1$. The Jacobi ring of f_{tor} is defined by

$$(6.1) \quad \text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}}) := \mathbb{Q}[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_{2n-3}^{\pm 1}, q_1^{\pm 1}, q_2^{\pm 1}] / \left(x_1 \frac{\partial f_{\text{tor}}}{\partial x_1}, \dots, x_{2n-3} \frac{\partial f_{\text{tor}}}{\partial x_{2n-3}} \right).$$

Proposition 6.1. *There is an injective homomorphism of $\mathbb{Q}[q_1, q_2]$ -algebras*

$$\Phi : QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) \hookrightarrow \text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}[q_1, q_2]} \mathbb{Q}[q_1, q_2],$$

such that $\Phi(h_1) = [\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}]$, $\Phi(h_2) = [x_1]$.

Proof. Assume $n \geq 4$ first. Let R_a be the relation given by $x_a \frac{\partial f_{\text{tor}}}{\partial x_a}$. From $R_1, \dots, R_{n-3}$ and $R_{n+1}, \dots, R_{2n-3}$, we get

$$(6.2) \quad x_k = \begin{cases} x_1^k, & \text{if } 2 \leq k \leq n-2, \\ (\frac{x_{2n-3}}{q_1 q_2})^{2n-3-k} x_{2n-3}, & \text{if } n \leq k \leq 2n-4. \end{cases}$$

It follows immediately that

$$(6.3) \quad \text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[x_1^{\pm 1}, x_{2n-3}^{\pm 1}, x_{n-1}^{\pm 1}, q_1^{\pm 1}, q_2^{\pm 1}] / (R_{n-2}, R_{n-1}, R_n).$$

It follows from R_{n-2} that

$$(6.4) \quad x_{n-1} = x_1^{n-1} - q_2.$$

It follows from R_{n-1} and (6.2) that in $\text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}})$,

$$(6.5) \quad x_n = \frac{(x_1^{n-1} - q_2)^2}{x_1^{n-2}} = \left(\frac{x_{2n-3}}{q_1 q_2} \right)^{n-3} x_{2n-3}.$$

By R_n we have $\frac{x_n}{x_{n-1}} = \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} - \frac{x_n}{q_2}$. By (6.4) and (6.5), we have $\frac{x_n}{x_{n-1}} = \frac{x_1^{n-1} - q_2}{x_1^{n-2}}$. By (6.2), we have $\frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} = \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}$. By (6.5), we have $\frac{x_n}{q_2} = \frac{1}{q_2} \frac{(x_1^{n-1} - q_2)^2}{x_1^{n-2}}$. All these relations together give the relation in $\text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}})$

$$(6.6) \quad \frac{x_1^n}{q_2} - x_1 - \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}} = 0.$$

One can check that the ideal (R_{n-2}, R_{n-1}, R_n) in (6.3) is generated by the three relations (6.4), (6.5), (6.6). Recall $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n}) = \mathbb{Q}[h_1, h_2][q_1, q_2] / (f_1^q(h_1, h_2, q_1, q_2), f_2^q(h_1, h_2, q_1, q_2))$ by Proposition 4.1. It remains to show the relations (6.5) and (6.6) are equivalent to $f_1^q(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2)$ and $f_2^q(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2)$ in (6.3).

Since q_2 is a unit in (6.3), (6.6) is equivalent to $x_1^n - q_2(x_1 + \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}) = f_1^q(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2)$. By direct calculations using (6.5) and (6.6), we have

$$(6.7) \quad q_1 q_2 - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}} \right)^{n-2} \left(-\frac{x_1^{n-1} - q_2}{x_1^{n-2}} + \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}} \right) q_2 = 0$$

Therefore, in (6.3), we note q_2 is a unit again, and then by (6.7) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= q_1 - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-2} \left(-x_1 + \frac{q_2}{x_1^{n-2}} + \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right) \\
&= q_1 - \left(\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-1} - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-2} x_1 + \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}} \frac{q_2}{x_1^{n-2}} \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-3}\right) \\
&= q_1 - \left(\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-1} - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-2} x_1 + \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-3} x_1^2 - \frac{q_2}{x_1^{n-3}} \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-3}\right) \\
&= q_1 - \left(\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-1} - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-2} x_1 + \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-3} x_1^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-4} x_1^3 + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} x_1^{n-1} - (-1)^{n-1} q_2\right).
\end{aligned}$$

Here the third equality follows from (6.6), and the last equality follows from (6.6) together with the induction on the power of x_1 . Therefore we obtain the following relation

$$(6.8) \quad 0 = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}\right)^{n-1-k} x_1^k - (-1)^{n-1} q_2 - q_1 = f_2^q\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2\right).$$

It follows directly from the process of obtaining f_1^q, f_2^q that

$$(R_{n-2}, R_{n-1}, R_n) = (x_{n-1} - (x_1^{n-1} - q_2), f_1^q\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2\right), f_2^q\left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, x_1, q_1, q_2\right))$$

as ideals in $\mathbb{Q}[x_1^{\pm 1}, x_{2n-3}^{\pm 1}, x_{n-1}^{\pm 1}, q_1^{\pm 1}, q_2^{\pm 1}]$. Hence, $h_1 \mapsto \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}, h_2 \mapsto x_1, q_1 \mapsto q_1$ and $q_2 \mapsto q_2$ canonically defines an injective ring homomorphism Φ .

The case $n = 3$ can be verified by similar but easier calculations (in which case $\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,2;3}$ is a complete flag variety and the expected statement is known earlier to the experts). $\square$

Remark 6.2. *The injective homomorphism Φ can naturally be extended to an isomorphism from a suitable localization of $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ to $\text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}[q_1, q_2]} \mathbb{Q}[[q_1, q_2]]$.*

Proof of Lemma 4.5. By Proposition 6.1, $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$ is a subring of $\text{Jac}(f_{\text{tor}}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}[q_1, q_2]} \mathbb{Q}[[q_1, q_2]]$ via the embedding Φ . Note that both $\Phi(h_1) = \frac{q_1 q_2}{x_{2n-3}}$ and q_1 are invertible in the Jacobi ring. Since $h_1^n = q_1(h_1 + h_2)$ holds in $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$, $\Phi(h_1 + h_2) = q_1^{-1} \Phi(h_1)^n$ is invertible in the Jacobi ring. Hence, $h_1 + h_2$ is not a zero-divisor in (the subring) $QH(\mathbb{F}\ell_{1,n-1;n})$. $\square$

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