

# Positroid links & Braid varieties

R. Casals (UC Davis) @ Nottingham University Online AG Seminar

(1) 2001.01334 w/ H. Geer  
 (2) 2007.04943 w/ E. Zaslow  
 (3) 2009.06737 (3)  
 (4) 2010.02318 w/ L. Ng  
 (5) 2012.06931 w/ E. Gorsky, M. Gorsky, J. Simental + upcoming!

## § 1. INTRODUCTION : LEGENDRIAN KNOTS in $\mathbb{R}^3$

Def: The standard contact structure on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is the 2-plane field  $\xi_{\text{std}} := \text{Ker } i dz - y dx$ . It compactifies to  $(S^3, \xi_{\text{std}})$ .

$\xi_{\text{std}} := \text{Ker } i dz - y dx$ . It compactifies to  $(S^3, \xi_{\text{std}})$ .

Def: A knot  $K \in (\mathbb{R}^3, \xi_{\text{std}})$  is LEGENDRIAN if  $TK \subseteq \xi_{\text{std}}$ .

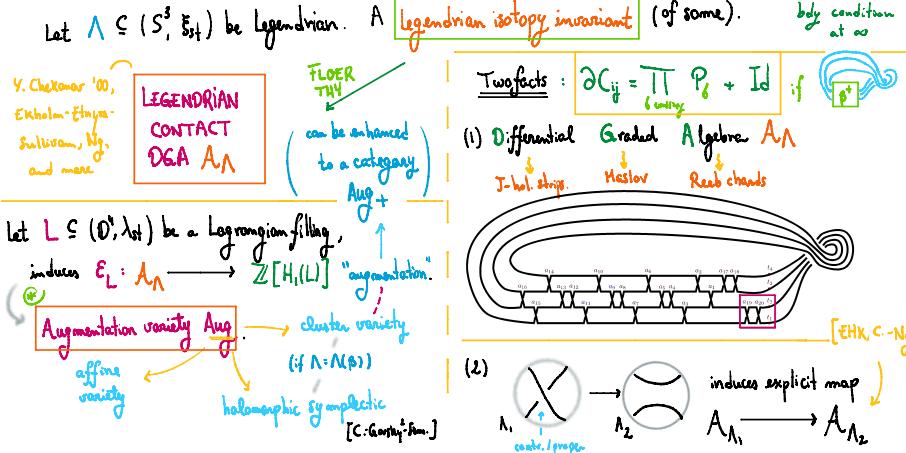
## LAGRANGIAN FILLINGS : let $\Lambda \subseteq (S^3, \xi_{\text{std}})$ be a Leg. link.

Def: A Lagrangian filling  $L \subseteq (\mathbb{D}^4, \omega_{\text{std}})$  is an embedded exact Lagrangian surface in  $\mathbb{D}^4$  with boundary  $\partial L = \Lambda$  in  $\partial \mathbb{D}^4 = S^3$ .

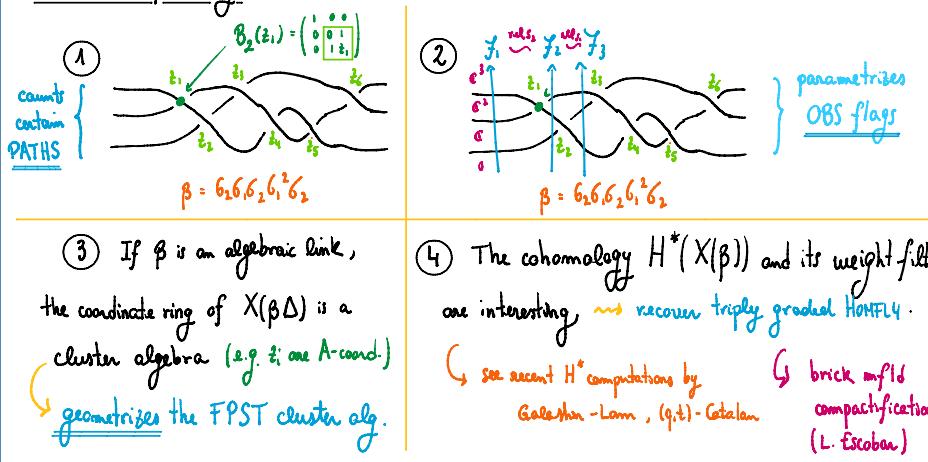
Salient Facts:

- (1) A  $\Lambda$  might or might not have a Lagr. filling.
- (2) If  $\exists$ ! filling  $\Lambda$  then  $g(L) = g(\Lambda)$ .
- (3) (Eliashberg-Polterovich 1996) let  $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$  be the max-ho standard unknot. Then  $\exists$ ! L filling (the flat disk) up to Hamiltonian isotopy.
- (4) Lagr. fillings are the objects of  $W(\mathbb{C}^2, \Lambda)$ , the wrapped Fukaya category stopped at  $\Lambda$ . (See also  $S_{\Lambda}$ .)

## THE MODULI OF LAGRANGIAN FILLINGS



What is  $X(\beta)$  doing?



## § 2. Braid varieties I

← a class of affine algebraic varieties which are useful to apply topology to AG!

Consider  $B_i(\beta) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}[\beta]).$

Def: Let  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}_n$  be a positive braid word  $\beta = \beta_1 \cdots \beta_n$ . affine by def?

the braid variety associated to  $\beta$  is :

$$X(\beta) := \{ (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n : B_{i_1}(z_1) \cdots B_{i_n}(z_n) \cdot w_0 \text{ is upper triangular} \} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{l(\beta)}$$

Example:  $X(6^4) = \{ (z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) \in \mathbb{C}^4 : 1 + z_3 + z_4(z_1 + z_2 + z_1 z_2 z_3) = 0 \} = \mathbb{C}^3 \setminus \{ z_1 + z_2 + z_1 z_2 z_3 = 0 \}$ ,

is this a friend? Yes! Foliated by  $\{ z_1 + z_2 + z_1 z_2 z_3 = \alpha \}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ , which is  $A_2$ -cluster var.

Thm:  $X(\beta)$  is independent of the choice of braid word  $\beta$  in  $\mathcal{B}_n^+$ .

In fact  $X(\beta\Delta)$  is smooth and  $\exists$  free  $T$ -action s.t.

$X(\beta\Delta)/T$  is smooth, holomorphic symplectic

and its coordinate ring admits a cluster A-structure.

\* under RIII &  $\Delta$ -conjugations

$X \neq \emptyset$  iff  $\delta(\beta) = w_0$ , comp-ints. of dim  $l(\beta) - l(\beta)$

ABSOLUTE

Example\*:  $B_i(z_1) B_{i+1}(z_2) B_i(z_3) = B_{i+1}(z_3) B_i(z_2 - z_1 z_3) B_{i+1}(z_1)$ .

Thm:  $\exists$  diagrammatic calculus to study the category of CORRESPONDENCES of BRAID VARIETIES.

The main protagonist is  $6_i 6_i \longrightarrow 6_i$  (nil Hecke move)

RELATIVE

new stratifications,  
diagrams for  
cluster strata  
AND deep strata.

### Ex 3. Positroids in $\text{Gr}(k, n)$ — or, “dude, where is my braid?”

There exists a stratification  $\text{Gr}(k, n) = \bigcup_{\substack{u, w \in S_n \\ u \leq w}} \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{u, w}$ , proj. of Richardson

$$\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n} := \left\{ V \in \text{Gr}(k, n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{consecutive cyclic Plücker non-zero} \\ \text{in anticanonical class} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Example:  $(k, n) = (2, 5)$ ,  $\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{2, 5} = \text{Gr}(2, 5) \setminus \{ \Delta_{12} \cdot \Delta_{23} \cdot \Delta_{34} \cdot \Delta_{45} \cdot \Delta_{51} = 0 \}$ .

with  $w = \begin{array}{c} \text{braids} \\ \text{--- --- --- --- ---} \end{array}$  and  $w = \text{id}$ .

a trefoil knot

The underlying braid is  $\beta = wu^{-1} = 6_1 6_2 6_3 6_2 6_4 6_3 \rightsquigarrow X(\beta \Delta) \cong \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{2, 5}$

### Ex 4. Braid varieties II

negative crossings (RTI) + Markov stabilizations  
 $1 \leftrightarrow 6_i 6_i^{-1}$        $\beta_1 \cdot 6_n \beta_2 \sim \beta_1 \beta_2$  if  $\beta_i \in \mathcal{B}_n$ .

The two TAKE HOME NUGGETS are :

① let  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}_n$  be equiv. to a positive word  $\beta$ . Then  $\exists$  affine variety  $X(\eta)$  and a set of locally nil. derivations  $V(\eta)$  s.t.  $X(\eta)/V(\eta) \cong X(\beta)$ .

positive crossings give varieties  $B_i(\beta)$   
 negative crossings give  $\mathbb{C}$ -action (and  $B_i(0)$  to  $\eta^\#$ )

② let  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}_n$  be equiv. to a positive word  $\beta$ .

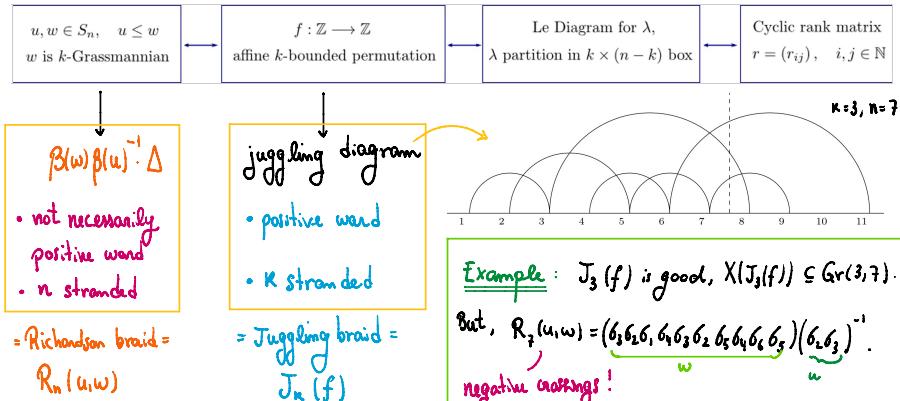
Then

$$X(\eta \delta_n)/V(\eta \delta_n) \cong X(\eta)/V(\eta) \times \mathbb{C}^*$$

Corollary:  $\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{u, w} \cong X(R_n(u, w) \Delta_n)/_V \cong X(J_k(f)) \times (\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-k}$

highly non-triv., need to show  $\Lambda(u, w) \cong \text{leg. int. } \Lambda(\beta)$

### Combinatorics to braids (to leg. links, to DGAs, to $\infty$ , and beyond)



### How is the pair $(X(\eta), V(\eta))$ built?

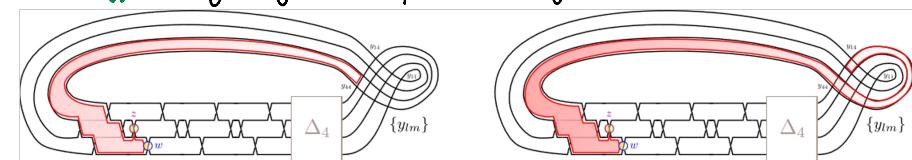
let  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}_n$  be equiv. to a positive word  $\beta$ . The DG-algebra  $A(\eta)$  is built as follows:

• freely graded commutative generated by (→ also  $R_{\geq 0}$ -filtered)

DGA  
 $A(\eta)$

$y_{ij}$  degree 1,  $z_j$  degree 0,  $w_n$  degree -1  
 $i, j = 1, \dots, n$        $j = 1, \dots, \ell(\eta) + \ell(\eta^\#)$        $n = 1, \dots, \ell(\eta)$   
 "positive crossings" of  $\eta^\Delta$  "negative crossings" of  $\eta^\Delta$

• differential given by  $B_i(z_j, w_n)$  products counting:  $0 \xrightarrow{2} \langle y_{lm} \rangle \xrightarrow{2} \langle z_j \rangle \xrightarrow{2} \langle w_n \rangle \xrightarrow{2} 0$

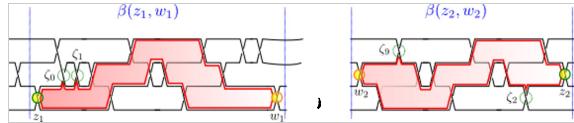


Thm: let  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}_n$  be equiv. to a positive word  $\beta$ .  
 Then  $\partial: A(\eta) \longrightarrow A(\eta)$  satisfies  $\partial^2 = 0$ .

and its cohomology  $H^0(A(\eta))$  is invariant under braid moves &  $\Delta$ -conjugations.

Moreover,  $H^0(A(\eta))$  is given by the affine variety  $X(\eta) = \{z_i : \partial y_{ij} = 0\}$  modulo  $V(\eta) = \langle w_n^\vee \rangle$ .

Example of a vector field contribution



the quotient  
 $X(\eta)/V(\eta)$   
 is the desired invariant

Example: (Trefoil) We discussed  $X(6^4)$  already, with braid

this gave the open pentroid  $\tilde{\Pi}_{2,5} \subseteq \text{Gr}(2,5)$ , and  $A_2$ -clusters.  
 → What if we want  $X(6, 6^{-1}, 6^4)$  instead?

Then  $\partial: A(\eta) \longrightarrow V(\eta)$  is given by



and  $X(\eta) = \{(z_1, \dots, z_6) \in \mathbb{C}^6 : B_1(z_1) B_1(0) B_1(z_2) \dots B_1(z_6) + \text{Id} = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^6$

with  $V(\eta)$  generated by  $t \cdot (z_1, \dots, z_6) \mapsto (z_1 + t, z_2 - t, z_3, \dots, z_6)$ .

In fact,  $B_1(z_1) B_1(0) B_1(z_2) \dots B_1(z_6)$  is a function on  $z_1 + z_2$ , so quotient is direct. ■

THE END

Thank you!