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Monopole Floer homology & theta characteristics

→ topology ← geometry

Floer homology : topological invariants of 3-manifolds obtained by counting solutions to certain special non-linear PDEs (Yang-Mills, Seiberg-Witten, pseudo holomorphic curves)

→ very powerful!

Kronheimer

Kronheimer - Mrowka 08

→ combinatorial

Khovanov homology detects the unknot

Macpherson 13

The triangulation conjecture is false in dim ≥ 5

(~~3~~ top. manifold $\not\sim_{\text{homeo}}$ simplicial complex)

Drawback : very hard to compute / understand !

General theme of Thurston

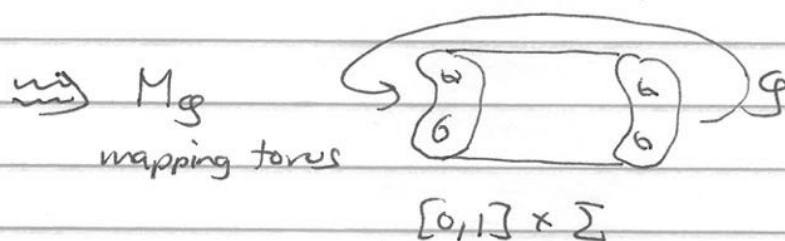
one can study 3-manifolds using tools from ^{Riemannian} geometry

Q: Is there any relation between the geometry of Y and its Floer homology ?

RK: "most" 3-manifolds are hyperbolic $Y = \mathbb{H}^3/p$
(hyperbolic infs are top invariants)

let $g \in \text{MCG}(\overset{=}{\Sigma}_g)$, $g \geq 2$

\hookrightarrow mapping class group = $\text{Diff}^+ / \text{isotropy}$



Thm (Thurston) g is either:

- today \rightarrow 1) finite order $\Rightarrow M_g$ is modeled on $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$
- 2) reducible \Rightarrow toroidal ~~toroidal~~
- generic case \rightarrow 3) Pseudo-Anosov $\Rightarrow M_g$ is hyperbolic ~~generic case~~

Rk: if g has finite order, $\overset{=}{\Sigma}_g$
then \exists Riemann surface order on Σ s.t. $g \in \Sigma$ (acts)
as automorphism

Q : is there a relation between Floer homology
and the complex geometry of (Σ, g) ?

Thm (L): yes when $\Sigma/g = \mathbb{P}^1$

$$\hookrightarrow b_1(M_g) = 1$$

(Σ is Riemann surface of
 $w^d = p(z)$)

$$(z, w) \mapsto (z, gw)$$

g dth root of unity

Objects of interest in Geometry side:
theta characteristics

$K \rightarrow \Sigma$ canonical line bundle

theta characteristic L is holomorphic line bundle s.t. $L^{\otimes 2} \simeq K$

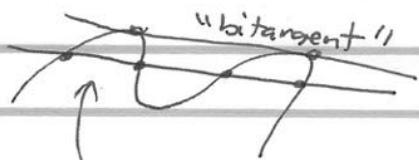
\Rightarrow there exactly 2^{2g} of them

$\hookrightarrow H^0(L)$ space of holomorphic sections of L (finite dim'l)

Interesting for classical problems in the geometry of algebraic curves.

Thm (Jacobi ~1850s)

$\Sigma \subset \mathbb{CP}^2$ smooth of degree 4, then \exists exactly 28 bitangents



line $\cap \Sigma = 4$ points by Bezout

$$g(\Sigma) = 3 = \frac{(4-1)(4-2)}{2} \Rightarrow 2^6 = 64 \text{ theta char}$$

28 of these have $\dim H^0(L) = 1$

36 have $\dim H^0(L) = 0$ \Rightarrow the 28 bitangents

In gen'l, $\dim H^0(L)$ depends on the Riemann surface structure!
in a subtle way

(Mumford) $\dim H^0(L) \bmod 2$ does not!

\hookrightarrow odd/even

ie, when deform along family

$\mathcal{G} \curvearrowright \Sigma$ automorphism $\Rightarrow \mathcal{G} \curvearrowright \{\text{theta char.}\}$

\Rightarrow (Serre) \exists fixed points, say \mathcal{G} fixes L

\exists lift $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}: L \hookrightarrow \Rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{G}}^*: H^0(L) \hookrightarrow$ finite order

$\Rightarrow \text{Spec}(\tilde{\mathcal{G}}^*) \subset S^1$ (with multiplicities)

spectrum (eigenvalues)

On Floer homology:

L \mathfrak{g} invariant \rightsquigarrow spin^c structure S_L on M_L

\rightsquigarrow $HM(M_{\mathfrak{g}}, S_L) \rightarrow \text{f.g. } \mathbb{R}[u]\text{-module}$

\uparrow monopole Floer homology

\rightsquigarrow topological invariant!

Thm: $\mathfrak{g} \ni \Sigma$, $\Sigma/\mathfrak{g} = |\mathbb{P}|$, L invariant theta char.

Then $\underbrace{\text{Spec}(\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^*)}_{\text{geometric}}$ completely determines $\underbrace{HM(M_{\mathfrak{g}}, S_L)}_{\text{topological}}$

For example

$$1) \dim_{\mathbb{R}} HM(M_{\mathfrak{g}}, S_L) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^0(L)$$

2) if $HM(M_{\mathfrak{g}}, S_L)$ is cyclic $\Rightarrow \pm \text{Spec}(\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^*) \subseteq \text{upper half plane}$
(can use, eg, surgery to compute)

Atiyah's proof (70s)

of Mumford's Thm

$$\{\text{theta char}\} \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \{\text{spin structure } s \text{ on } \Sigma\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \dim H^0(L) & \xrightarrow{\text{mod } 2} & \text{Aff}(\Sigma, s) \in \mathbb{Z}_2 \\ \uparrow \text{N} & & \end{array}$$

\rightsquigarrow using $\bar{\partial}$ = Dirac op in dim 2

\hookrightarrow key protagonist
Seiberg-Witten eqns.