

# CONFIGURATION SPACES AND OPERADS

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Najib Idrissi (in part j/w Campos, Ducoulombier, Lambrechts, Willwacher)  
January 2019 @ Higher Structures, CIRM

université  
**PARIS**  
DIDEROT  
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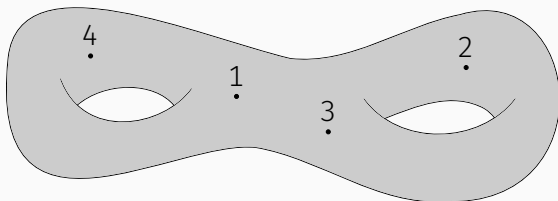


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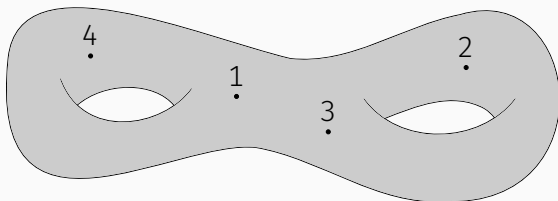
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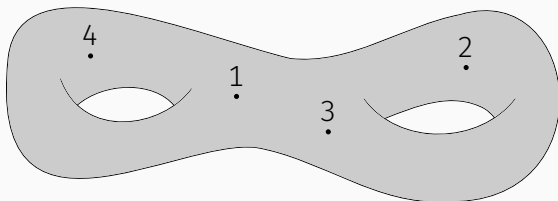
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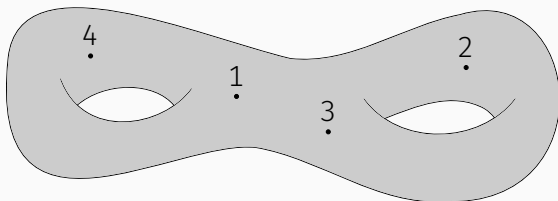
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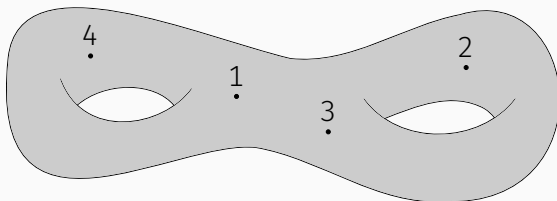


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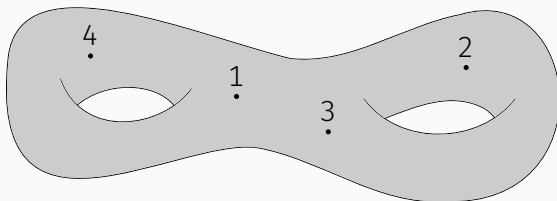


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- Motion planning [robotics]



## OPEN QUESTION

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## Simply connected closed manifolds

Homotopy invariance is still open.

We can also localize:  $M \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} N \implies \mathrm{Conf}_r(M) \simeq_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathrm{Conf}_r(N)$ ?

## CONFIGURATIONS IN A EUCLIDEAN SPACES

Presentation of  $H^*(\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n))$  [Arnold, Cohen]

- Generators:  $\omega_{ij}$  of degree  $n - 1$  (for  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq r$ )

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**Formality:**  $H^*(\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{C})) \sim_{\mathbb{C}} \Omega_{\text{dR}}^*(\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{C})), \omega_{ij} \mapsto d \log(z_i - z_j).$

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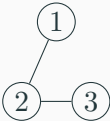
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**Corollary**

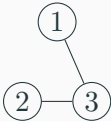
The cohomology of  $\operatorname{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  determines its rational homotopy type.

# KONTSEVICH'S GRAPH COMPLEXES

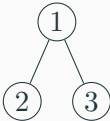
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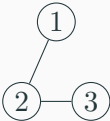
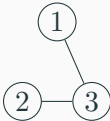
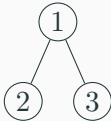
  
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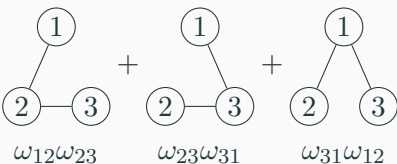
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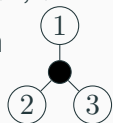
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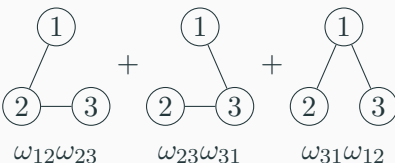
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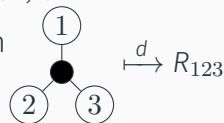
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**Theorem (Kontsevich 1999, Lambrechts–Volić 2014 – Part 1)**

We get a quasi-free CDGA  $\mathbf{Graphs}_n(r)$  and a quasi-isomorphism  $\mathbf{Graphs}_n(r) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^*(\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n))$ .

## KONTSEVICH'S INTEGRALS

The relations  $R_{ijk}$  are only satisfied up to homotopy in  $\Omega^*(\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n))$ .  
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Let  $\varphi \in \Omega^{n-1}(\text{Conf}_2(\mathbb{R}^n))$  be the volume form.

For  $\Gamma \in \mathbf{Graphs}_n(r)$  with  $i$  internal vertices:

$$\omega(\Gamma) := \int_{\text{Conf}_{r+i}(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n)} \bigwedge_{(ij) \in E_\Gamma} \varphi_{ij}.$$

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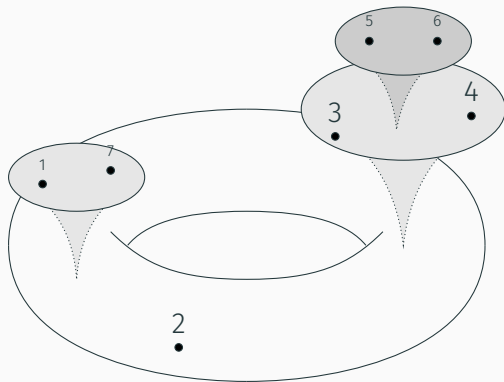
△ I'm cheating! We have to compactify  $\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  to make sure  $\int$  converges and to apply the Stokes formula correctly.

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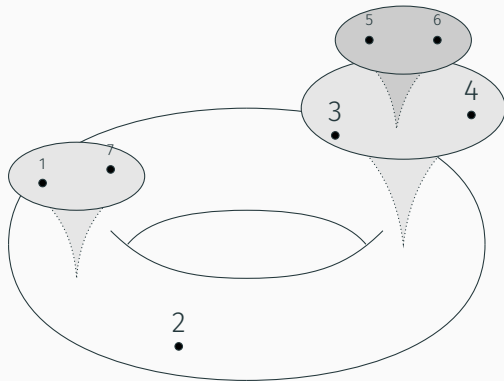
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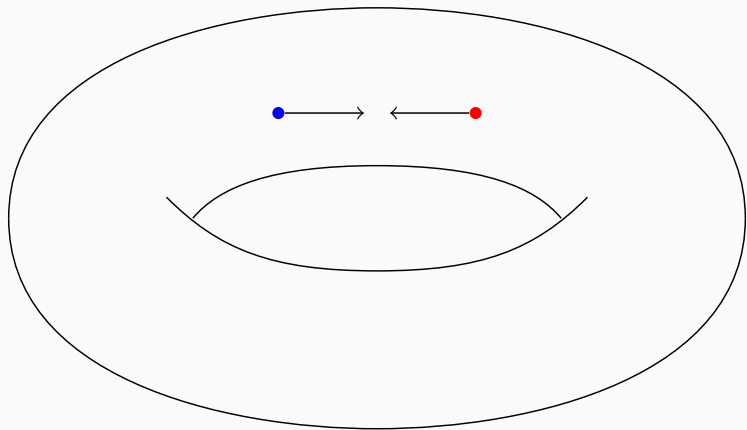
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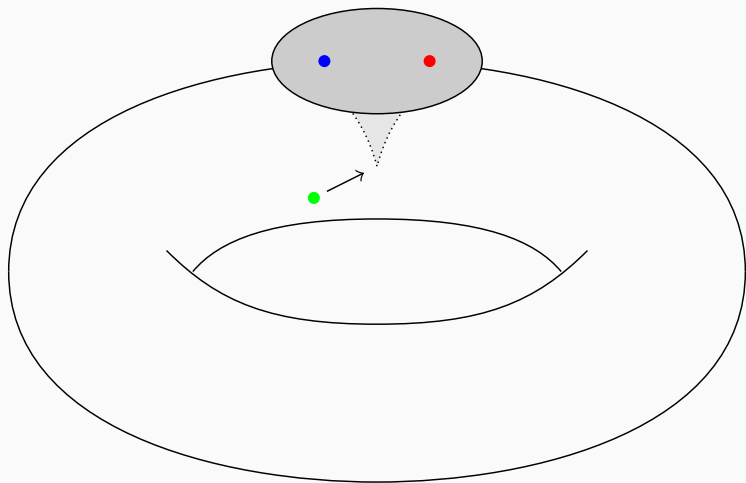
$M$  closed manifold  $\implies$  semi-algebraic stratified manifold  $\dim = nr$

## ANIMATION #1





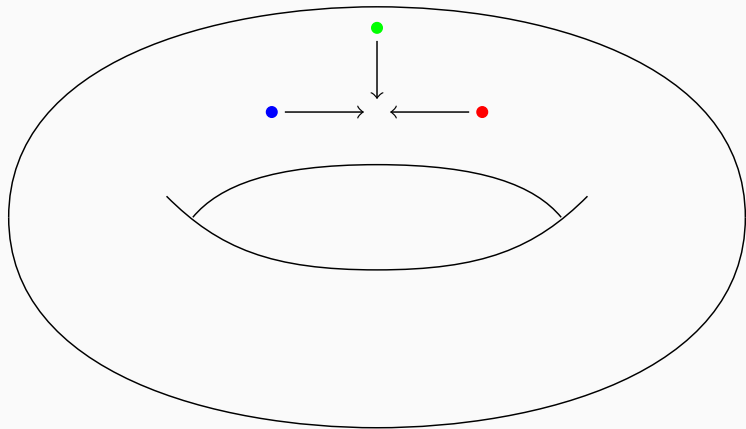
## ANIMATION #2







## ANIMATION #3

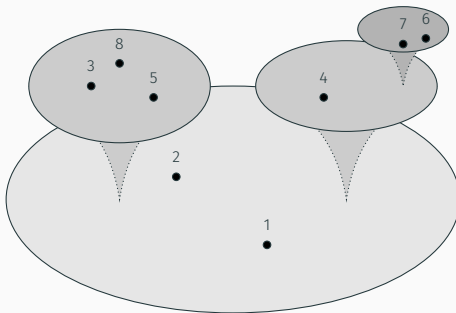




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We have to “normalize”  $\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n)$  to mitigate the non-compactness of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

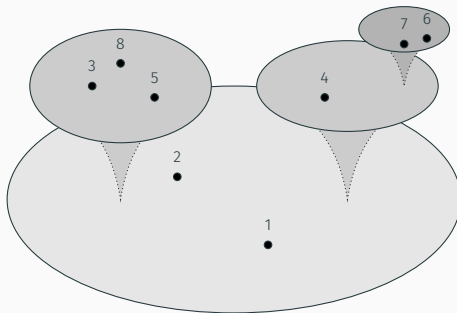
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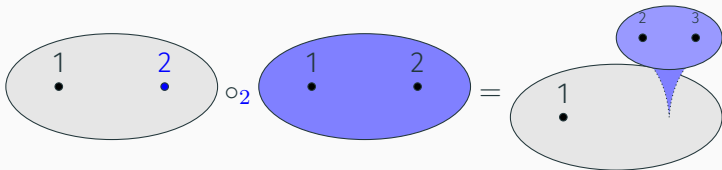
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$\implies$  semi-algebraic stratified manifold  $\dim = nr - n - 1$

# OPERAD

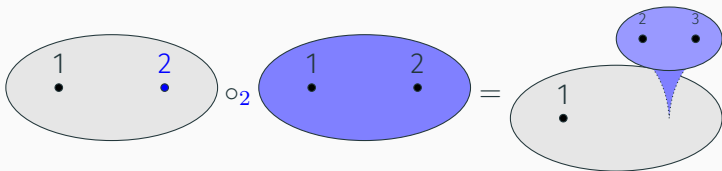
We see a new structure on  $\mathbf{FM}_n$ : an **operad**! We can “insert” an infinitesimal configuration in another one:



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## Remark

Weakly equivalent to the “little disks operad”.

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Formality has important applications, e.g. Deligne conjecture, deformation quantization of Poisson manifolds, etc.

(Note:  $H_*(\mathbf{FM}_n)$  governs Poisson  $n$ -algebras for  $n \geq 2$ .)

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$M$ : oriented closed manifold

$A \sim \Omega(M)$ : Poincaré duality model of  $M$

$\mathbf{G}_A(r)$ : (conjectural) model of  $\text{Conf}_r(M) = M^{\times r} \setminus \bigcup_{i \neq j} \Delta_{ij}$   
 $\Delta_{ij} \rightarrow \{x_i = x_j\}$

- “Generators”:  $A^{\otimes r}$  and the  $\omega_{ij}$  from  $\text{Conf}_r(\mathbb{R}^n)$
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Examples:

- $\mathbf{G}_A(0) = \mathbb{R}$  is a model of  $\text{Conf}_0(M) = \{\emptyset\}$  ✓
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- $r \geq 3$ : more complicated.

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## BRIEF HISTORY OF $G_A$

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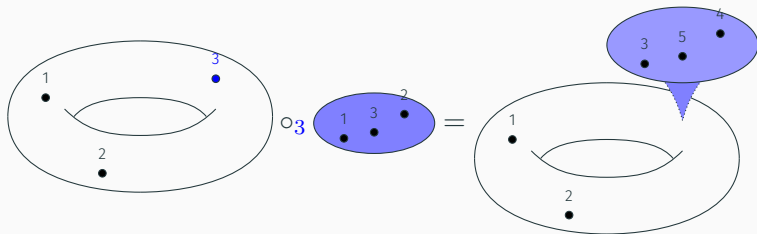
### Remark

$\dim M \leq 3$ : only spheres (Poincaré conjecture) and we know that  $\mathbf{G}_A$  is a model anyway, but adapting the proof is problematic!



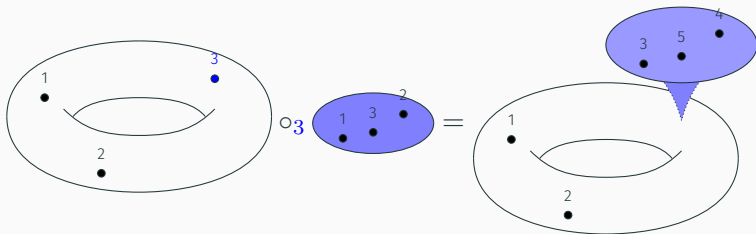
# MODULES OVER OPERADS

$M$  parallelized  $\implies \text{FM}_M = \{\text{FM}_M(r)\}_{r \geq 0}$  is a right  $\text{FM}_n$ -module :



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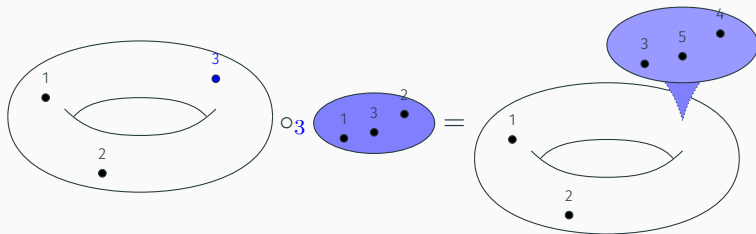


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A bit of abstract nonsense:

## Proposition

$\chi(M) = 0 \implies \mathbf{G}_A = \{\mathbf{G}_A(r)\}_{r \geq 0}$  is a Hopf right  $H^*(\mathbf{FM}_n)$ -comodule.

# COMPLETE VERSION OF THE THEOREM

## Theorem (I. 2018)

$M$ : closed simply connected smooth manifold,  $\dim M \geq 4$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{G}_A & \xleftarrow{\sim} & \mathbf{Graphs}_R & \dashrightarrow^{\sim} & \Omega_{PA}^*(\mathbf{FM}_M) \\ \circlearrowleft^\dagger & & \circlearrowleft^\dagger & & \circlearrowleft^\ddagger \\ H^*(\mathbf{FM}_n) & \xleftarrow{\sim} & \mathbf{Graphs}_n & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \Omega_{PA}^*(\mathbf{FM}_n) \end{array}$$

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## Conclusion

Not only do we have a model of each  $\mathbf{Conf}_r(M)$ , but also of their richer structure if we look at them all at once.

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Space of embeddings:  $\text{Emb}(M, N) = \{f : M \hookrightarrow N\}$ .

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### Remark

Requires to compare  $\text{Mor}_{\text{Conf}_{\bullet}(\mathbb{R}^n)}^h(\text{Conf}_{\bullet}(M), \text{Conf}_{\bullet}(N))^{\mathbb{R}}$  with  
 $\text{Mor}_{\text{Conf}_{\bullet}(\mathbb{R}^n)^{\mathbb{R}}}^h(\text{Conf}_{\bullet}(M)^{\mathbb{R}}, \text{Conf}_{\bullet}(N)^{\mathbb{R}})$

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## GENERALIZATION 1: MANIFOLDS WITH BOUNDARY

### Theorem (Campos–I.–Lambrechts–Willwacher 2018)

For manifolds with boundary: homotopy invariance of  $\mathrm{Conf}_r(-)$ , generalization of the Lambrechts–Stanley model (and more); under good conditions, including  $\dim M \geq \dots$

### Remark

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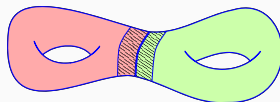
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Allows to compute  $\text{Conf}_r$  by “induction”:





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$M$ : oriented manifold  $\rightsquigarrow$  framed configuration space

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**Theorem (Campos–Ducoulombier–I.–Willwacher 2018)**

Real model of this module based on graph complexes.

First step towards embedding spaces of non-parallelized manifolds. (Not enough: need partially framed configurations for the larger manifold  $N$ .)

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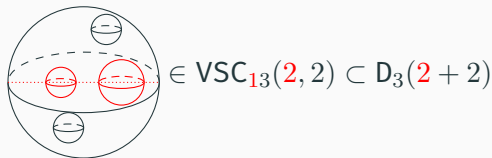
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Knot complement  $\rightsquigarrow$  colored Jones polynomial.

There exists an operad  $\mathbf{VSC}_{mn}$  which models the local situation  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathbb{R}^m$ :



Theorem (I. 2018)

The operad  $\mathbf{VSC}_{mn}$  is formal over  $\mathbb{R}$  for  $n - m \geq 2$ .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

THESE SLIDES: <https://idrissi.eu>