

Exotic Cyclic Group Actions on Smooth 4-Manifolds

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Joint work with **Ron Stern** and **Nathan Sunukjian**

How exotic is 'exotic'?

Exotic smooth structures

Important consequences of Seiberg-Witten (and Donaldson) theory

- Existence of nondiffeomorphic but homeomorphic smooth 4-manifolds
- Existence of surfaces in a fixed smooth 4-manifold which are topologically but not smoothly equivalent

Exotic smooth group actions

- Existence of smooth actions of a group on a smooth 4-manifold which are equivariantly homeomorphic but not equivariantly diffeomorphic.

Example: Exotic involutions on S^4 , Quotient = Fake RP^4

(F- Stern/ Cappell - Shaneson, Gompf)

- Want orientation-preserving examples

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Ue's examples

Ue's Theorem, 1998

For any nontrivial finite group G there exists a smooth 4-manifold that has infinitely many free G -actions so that their orbit spaces are homeomorphic but mutually nondiffeomorphic.

The examples

Y : \mathbb{Q} -homology S^4 with $\pi_1(Y) \rightarrow G$, onto, s. t. corr. cover is $\tilde{Y} = S^2 \times S^2 \# Z$, some Z . Get Y by spinning known 3D example.

$X_0 = E(2)_p$, $X_1 = E(2)_q$, $p \neq q$ odd (log transformed K3's)

$X_0 \# Y$, $X_1 \# Y$ homeo not diffeo using Seiberg-Witten

The G -covers Q_i come from $\pi_1(X_i \# Y) \rightarrow \pi_1(Y) \rightarrow G$

$Q_i \cong \tilde{Y} \# |G| X_i \cong S^2 \times S^2 \# Z \# |G| X_i$

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since the $E(2)_p$'s stabilize after one $\# S^2 \times S^2$.

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Exotic cyclic group actions

Theorem (F., Stern, Sunukjian)

Let Y be a simply connected 4-manifold with $b^+ \geq 1$ containing an embedded surface Σ of genus $g \geq 1$ of nonnegative self-intersection. Suppose that $\pi_1(Y \setminus \Sigma) = \mathbb{Z}_d$ and that the pair (Y, Σ) has a nontrivial relative Seiberg-Witten invariant. Suppose also that Σ contains a nonseparating loop which bounds an embedded 2-disk in $Y \setminus \Sigma$. Let d' divide d , and let X be the (simply connected) d' -fold cover of Y branched over Σ . Then X admits an infinite family of smoothly distinct but topologically equivalent actions of $\mathbb{Z}_{d'}$.

Some simple examples

Curves in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$

$Y = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, $\Sigma =$ embedded degree d curve.

$X =$ degree d hypersurface in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^3$

If $d = 3$, $X = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \# 6\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2} \implies$ we have infinitely many smoothly inequivalent topologically equivalent \mathbb{Z}_3 -actions on $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \# 6\overline{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2}$.

If $d = 4$, $X = K3$, \implies smoothly inequivalent topologically equivalent \mathbb{Z}_4 -actions on the K3-surface.

Also theorem \implies families of \mathbb{Z}_2 and \mathbb{Z}_3 -actions on K3.

\mathbb{Z}_5 -actions on quintics, etc.

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Knot and rim surgery (F. - Stern)

Knot surgery

K : Knot in S^3 , T : square 0 essential torus in X

$$X_K = X \setminus N_T \cup S^1 \times (S^3 \setminus N_K)$$

$S^1 \times (S^3 \setminus N_K)$ has the homology of $T^2 \times D^2$.

Facts

- ▶ If X and $X \setminus T$ both simply connected, so is X_K . (So X_K homeo to X)
- ▶ $\mathcal{SW}_{X_K} = \mathcal{SW}_X \cdot \Delta_K(t^2)$

Rim surgery

$\Sigma \subset X$: embedded orientable surface in simply connected 4-manifold.

C : homologically essential loop in Σ

Rim torus: preimage of C in bdry of normal bundle of Σ .

Rim surgery = knot surgery on rim torus.

Can change embedding type of Σ . Get $\Sigma_K \subset X$.

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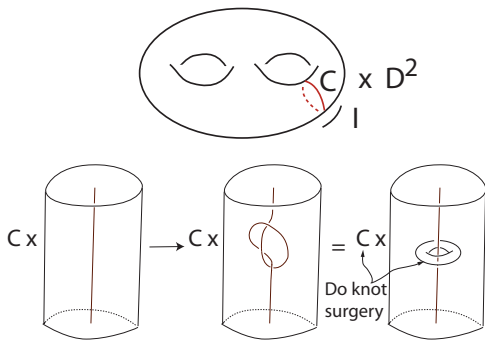
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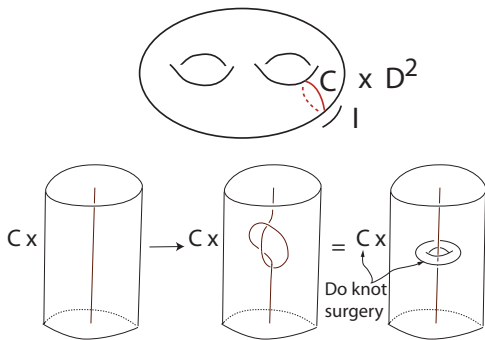
More on rim surgery



Spinning a knot K in S^3 gives 2-knot in S^4 :
 S^1 -action on S^4 . Orbit space B^3 .

Spun knot = preimage of knotted arc. Preimage of $\partial B^3 =$ twin
 Knot surgery replaces $C \times S^1 \times D^2$ with $S^4 \setminus (\text{spun knot} \cup \text{twin})$
 $C \times B^3 =$ complement of trivial twin in S^4 .

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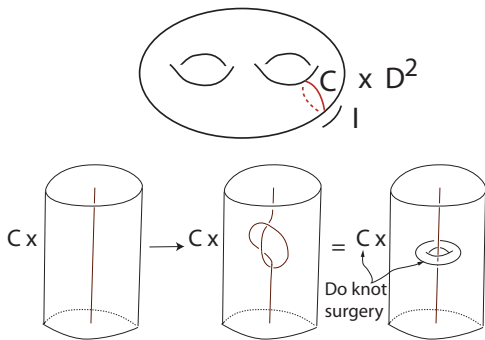
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(Can't get enough of that) Rim surgery

Theorem (F - Stern). Let $g(\Sigma) > 0$. If $\pi_1(X) = 0 = \pi_1(X \setminus \Sigma)$ then there is a self-homeo of X throwing Σ_K on Σ . If $\Sigma^2 > 0$, then the relative SW-invariant of (X, Σ_K) is the relative SW-invariant of (X, Σ) times the Alexander polynomial of K .

Get smoothly inequivalent embeddings if original SW inv't is $\neq 0$.
(E.g. symplectic submanifold.)

Relative SW-invariant lives in monopole Floer homology group.

Want to take cyclic branched covers — need $\pi_1(X \setminus \Sigma) = \mathbb{Z}_d$.
Problem: Rim surgery will not preserve this condition.

Solution (Kim - Ruberman) k -Twist-spun rim surgery does preserve $\pi_1 = \mathbb{Z}_d$ as long as k is prime to d .

In fact, they show that the new surface obtained is topologically equivalent to the old one in this case.

Relative SW-invariant is the same as for ordinary rim surgery.

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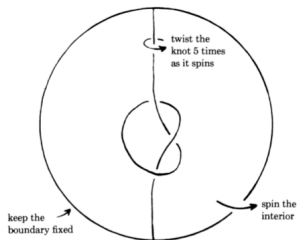
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Twist-spinning

Twist-spinning a knot

K : knot in S^3 . Twist-spinning operation due to Zeeman.

Get knotted S^2 in S^4 and circle action.



Twist-spun rim surgery, $\Sigma_{K,k}$

Twist-rim $C \times S^1 \times D^2$ with S^4 (twist-spun knot \cup twin)

$C \times I \times D^2$ replaced by complement of trivial twin in S^4 .

Annulus on surface replaced by twist-spun knot minus polar caps.

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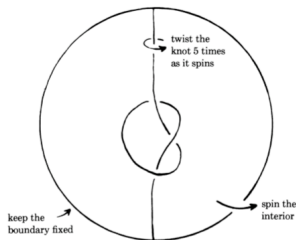
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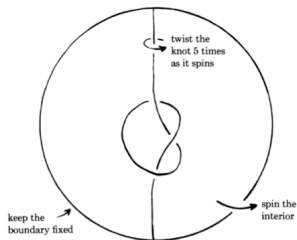


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Circle actions on S^4 and Twist-spinning

Determined up to equivariant diffeomorphism by orbit data.

Orbit space: B^3 or S^3

Fixed point set = S^0 or S^2 . Exceptional orbit image 0, 1 or 2 arcs.

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k -twist spin of $K = p^{-1}(\bar{A}) \subset S^4$.

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gets replaced with $S^4 \setminus \text{Nbd}(p^{-1}(E_k))$ where $E_k =$ closed arc labeled ' \mathbb{Z}_k '.

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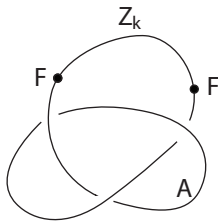
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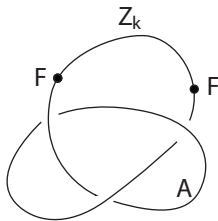
Orbit space: B^3 or S^3

Fixed point set = S^0 or S^2 . Exceptional orbit image 0, 1 or 2 arcs.

Twist-spinning a knot

K : knot in S^3 . S^1 -action on S^4 with orbit space S^3 , $p: S^4 \rightarrow S^3$ where the isotropy type corresponding to the arc A is trivial.

k -twist spin of $K = p^{-1}(\bar{A}) \subset S^4$.



Twist-spun rim surgery, $\Sigma_{K,k}$

gets replaced with $S^4 \setminus \text{Nbd}(p^{-1}(E_k))$ where $E_k =$ closed arc labeled ' Z_k '.

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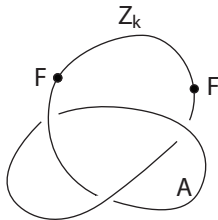
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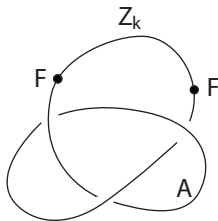
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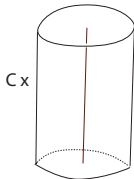
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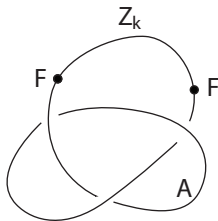
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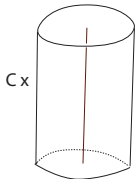
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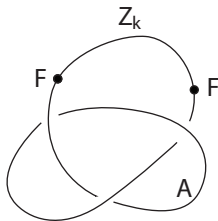
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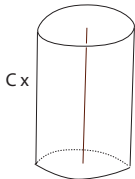
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Relative Seiberg-Witten invariants

By blowing up, assume $\Sigma \cdot \Sigma = 0$.

Seiberg-Witten invariant of $Y \setminus N(\Sigma)$ obtained from spin^c-structures \mathfrak{s} on Y satisfying $\langle c_1(\mathfrak{s}), \Sigma \rangle = 2g - 2$.

$SW_{(Y|\Sigma)} : H_2(Y \setminus N(\Sigma), \Sigma \times S^1; \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (Kronheimer/ Mrowka)

Role of basic classes played by $z \in \pi_0(\mathcal{B}(Y \setminus N(\Sigma); [a_0]))$, principal homogeneous space for $H^2(Y \setminus N(\Sigma), \partial)$

$z = [(A, \Phi)]$ solving SW eq'ns.

a_0 : unique spin^c-structure on $\Sigma \times S^1$ of degree $2g - 2$

Knot surgery theorem

Basic classes for $Y|\Sigma_{K,k}$: $z + j\rho$, $\rho = \text{PD}(\text{rim torus})$, t^j has $\neq 0$ coeff in $\Delta_K(t)$. \implies

Given (Y, Σ, C) there is an infinite family of knots K and surfaces $\Sigma_{K,k}$ all topologically equivalent but smoothly inequivalent obtained by (K, k) -twist-rim surgery.

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Cyclic group actions

Y : simply connected smooth 4-manifold.

Σ genus ≥ 1 surface embedded in Y such that $\pi_1(Y \setminus \Sigma) = \mathbb{Z}_d$.

C : nonseparating loop on Σ , bounds D^2 in complement.

$X = d$ -fold branched cyclic cover.

Choose k relatively prime to $d \exists$ family of knots K_i so that d -fold branched covers X_i of $(Y, \Sigma_{K_i, k})$ are all topologically equivalent but smoothly distinct covers.

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Topologically equivalent but smoothly distinct actions of \mathbb{Z}_d .

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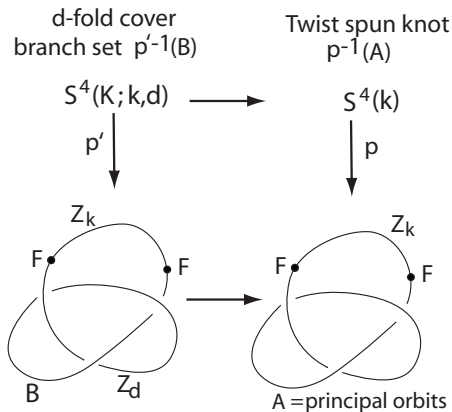
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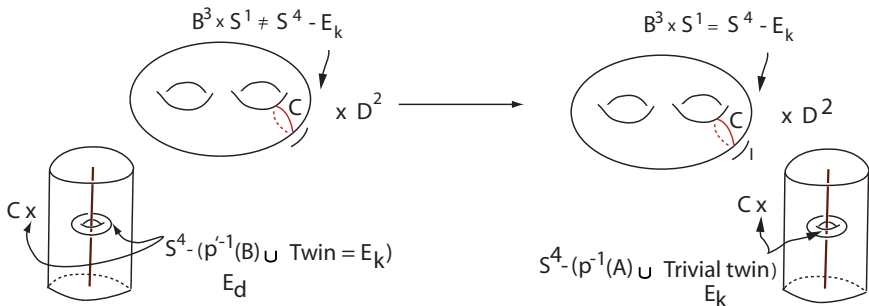
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Branched covers of twist-spun knots



Covering spaces



In cover, replacing $C \times I \times D^2$ with $S^4 \setminus E_k \neq S^1 \times B^3$

C bounds disk, $C \times I \times D^2 \cup \text{Nbd}(\text{disk}) = B^4$ in X

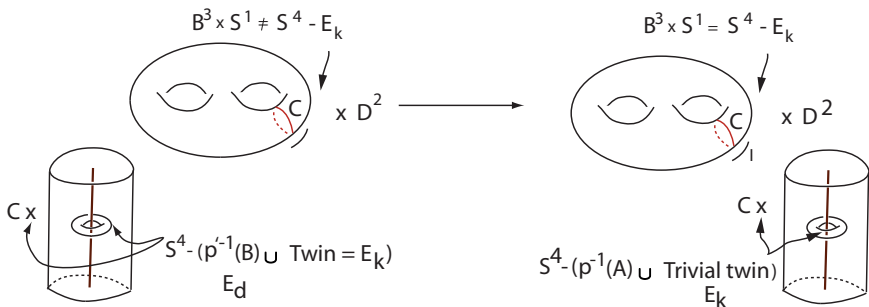
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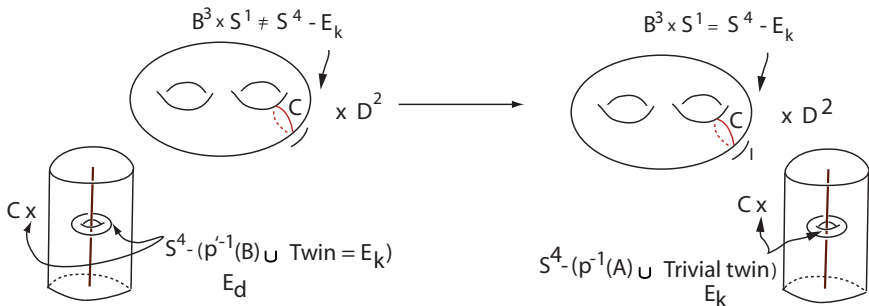
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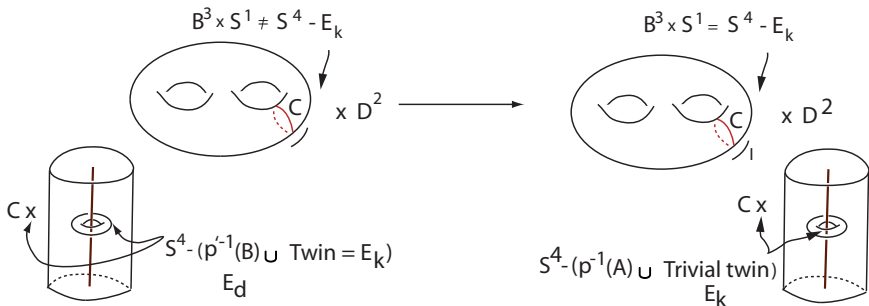
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