

Positroid links & Braid varieties

(A) 2001.01334 w/ H. Gao

(B) 2007.04943 w/ E. Zaslow

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2009.06737 (3)

2101.02318 (4) w/ L. Ng

(5) 2012.06931 w/ E. Goussy, M. Goussy, J. Simental + upcoming!

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

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

Defⁿ: A knot $K \subseteq (\mathbb{R}^3, \xi_{st})$ is **LEGENDRIAN** if $TK \subseteq \xi_{st}$. ■

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

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

Salient Facts:

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

THE MODULI OF LAGRANGIAN FILLINGS — the mirror of the "La Model" (\mathbb{C}^2, Λ)

Let $\Lambda \subset (S^3, \xi_t)$ be Legendrian. A **Legendrian isotopy invariant** (of some) *body condition at ∞*

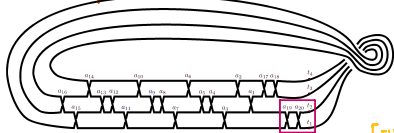
Y. Chekanov '00, Ekhols-Einzig-Sullivan, Ng, and more

LEGENDRIAN CONTACT DGA A_Λ

FLOOR TUN
can be enhanced to a category

Two facts: $\partial C_{ij} = \prod_{k \text{ entry}} P_k + Id$ if \square

(1) Differential Graded Algebra A_Λ
J-hol. strips Maslov Reeb chords



[EHR, C-Ng]

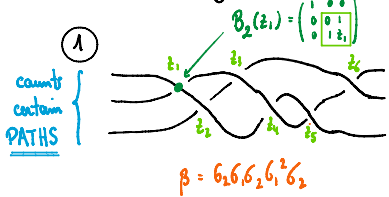
(2) $\Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_2$ induces explicit map $A_{\Lambda_1} \rightarrow A_{\Lambda_2}$
center / proper

Let $L \subset (D^4, \lambda_t)$ be a Lagrangian filling, induces $E_L: A_\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[H_1(L)]$ "augmentation"

Augmentation variety Aug_{off} cluster variety (if $\Lambda = \Lambda(\beta)$)

affine variety holomorphic symplectic [C-Gomig-Arn]

What is $X(\beta)$ doing? — the most correct answer is "MODULI SPACE OF AUGMENTATIONS for $\Lambda(\beta\Delta)$ "



(3) If β is an algebraic link, the coordinate ring of $X(\beta\Delta)$ is a cluster algebra (e.g. z_i are A-coord.)
geometrizes the FPST cluster alg.

(4) The cohomology $H^*(X(\beta))$ and its weight filtr. are interesting, recover triply graded HOMFLY.
see recent H^* computations by Gataeva-Lamm, (q,t)-Catalan
brick mfd compactification (L. Escobar)

§ 2. **Braid varieties I** ← a class of affine algebraic varieties which are useful to apply topology to AG_1 !

Consider $B_i(z) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & 1 & z \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \\ & & & & & \ddots \\ & & & & & & 0 \\ & & & & & & & \ddots \\ & & & & & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in GL_n(\mathbb{C}[z])$

Def: Let $\beta \in B_n$ be a positive braid word $\beta = \beta_{i_1} \dots \beta_{i_k}$. affine by def?
the braid variety associated to β is:
 $X(\beta) := \{ (z_1, \dots, z_k) \in \mathbb{C}^k : B_{i_1}(z_1) \dots B_{i_k}(z_k) \cdot w_0 \text{ is upper triangular} \} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{\ell(\beta)}$

Example: $X(6_1^4) = \{ (z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) \in \mathbb{C}^4 : 1 + z_1 z_2 + z_1(z_1 + z_2 + z_3 z_4) = 0 \} = \mathbb{C}^3 \setminus \{ z_1 + z_2 + z_3 z_4 = 0 \}$
is this a friend? Yes! Foliated by $\{ z_1 + z_2 + z_3 z_4 = \alpha \}$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^*$, which is A_2 -cluster var \mathcal{P}_5 .

Thm: $X(\beta)$ is independent of the choice of braid word β in Br_n^+ .
In fact $X(\beta\Delta)$ is smooth and \mathbb{Z} free T-action s.t.
 $X(\beta\Delta)/\mathbb{Z}$ is smooth, holomorphic symplectic and its coordinate ring admits a cluster A-structure.
under R_{III} & Δ -conjugations
 $X \neq \emptyset$ iff $\delta(\beta) = w_0$, compl. inter. of dim $\ell(\beta) - \binom{n}{2}$
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 $\beta_i \beta_i \rightarrow \beta_i$ (nil Hecke move).
RELATIVE
new stratifications, diagrams for cluster strata AND deep strata.

§ 3. Positroids in $Gr(k, n)$ — *oe, "dude, where is my braid?"*

There exists a stratification $Gr(k, n) = \bigcup_{\substack{u, w \in S_n \\ u \leq w}} \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{u, w}$, *proj. of Richardson*
 $R_w^u := X_w \cap X^u \subseteq \mathcal{F}l_n$
 with a unique open stratum

$$\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{u, w} := \{ V \in Gr(k, n) : \text{consecutive cyclic Plücker non-zero} \}$$

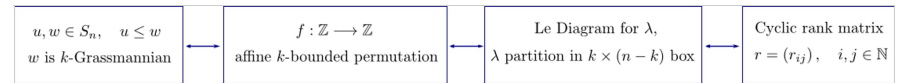
in anticanonical class

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

with $w =$  and $u = id$.

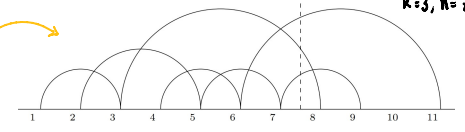
The underlying braid is $\beta = wu^{-1} = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_2 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \rightsquigarrow X(\beta \Delta) \cong \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{2,5}$
a trefoil knot

Combinatorics to braids (to leg links, to DGAs, to ∞ , and beyond)



$\beta(w)\beta(u)^{-1} \cdot \Delta$
 • not necessarily positive word
 • n stranded
 = Richardson braid = $R_n(u, w)$

juggling diagram
 • positive word
 • k stranded
 = Juggling braid = $J_k(f)$



Example: $J_3(f)$ is good, $X(J_3(f)) \subseteq Gr(3, 7)$.
 But, $R_7(u, w) = (\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_3 \sigma_2 \sigma_5 \sigma_4 \sigma_6 \sigma_5) (\sigma_2 \sigma_3)^{-1}$.
negative crossings!

§ 4. Braid varieties II — *negative crossings (RII) & Markov stabilizations* $1 \leftrightarrow \sigma_i \sigma_i^{-1}$ $\beta_1 \cdot \sigma_n \cdot \beta_2 \sim \beta_1 \beta_2$ if $\beta_i \in Br_n$

The two TAKE HOME MESSAGES are:

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

② let $\eta \in Br_n$ be equiv. to a positive word β . Then $X(\eta \sigma_n)/V(\eta \sigma_n) \cong X(\eta)/V(\eta) \times \mathbb{C}^*$.

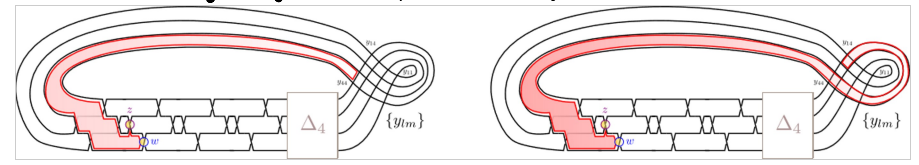
Corollary: $\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{u, w} \cong X(R_n(u, w) \Delta_n) / V \cong X(J_k(f)) \times (\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-k}$

positive crossings give variables $\beta_i(t_j)$
 negative crossings give \mathbb{C}^* -action (and $\beta_i(0) \rightarrow \infty$)
 highly non-triv., need to show $\Delta(u, w)$ all leg. int. $\Delta(f)$

How is the pair $(X(\eta), V(\eta))$ built? — *construct a DA-algebra \mathcal{A} & find a good model for $H^*(\mathcal{A})$.*

Let $\eta \in Br_n$ be equiv. to a positive word β . The DA-algebra $\mathcal{A}(\eta)$ is built as follows:
 • freely graded commutative generated by $\{y_{ij}, z_j, w_k\}$ (also $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered)

y_{ij} degree 1, z_j degree 0, w_k degree -1
 $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ $j = 1, \dots, \ell(\eta) + 1$ $k = 1, \dots, \ell(\eta)$ "negative crossings" of $\eta \Delta$
 "positive crossings" of $\eta \Delta$
 • differential given by $\beta_i(t_j, w_k)$ products counting: $0 \xrightarrow{\beta} \langle y_{2m} \rangle \xrightarrow{\beta} \langle z_j \rangle \xrightarrow{\beta} \langle w_k \rangle \xrightarrow{\beta} 0$



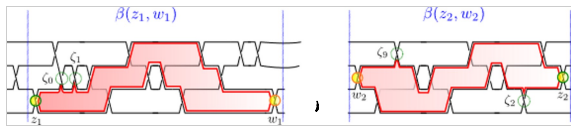
Thm: Let $\eta \in \mathcal{B}_n$ be equiv. to a positive word β .

Then $\partial: A(\eta) \longrightarrow A(\eta)$ satisfies $\partial^2 = 0$.

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


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

Example of a vector field contribution



\Rightarrow

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

Example: (Trefoil) We discussed $X(\beta_1^4)$ already, with braid 

this gave the open positroid $\Pi_{2,5} \subseteq \text{Gr}(2,5)$, and A_2 -clusters.

\rightarrow What if we want $X(\beta_1 \beta_1^{-1} \beta_1^4)$ instead?

Then $\partial: \mathbb{Z}^6 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}^6$ is given by



and $X(\eta) = \{(z_1, \dots, z_6) \in \mathbb{C}^6: \mathcal{B}_1(z_1) \mathcal{B}_1(0) \mathcal{B}_1(z_2) \dots \mathcal{B}_1(z_6) + \text{Id} = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^6$

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

In fact, $\mathcal{B}_1(z_1) \mathcal{B}_1(0) \mathcal{B}_1(z_2) \dots \mathcal{B}_1(z_6)$ is a function on $z_1 + z_2$, so quotient is direct. \square

THE END

Thank you!