

COMPLEX GEOMETRY AND 3-DIMENSIONAL TOPOLOGY

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FUNDAMENTAL GROUPS OF MANIFOLDS

- Every finitely presented group π can be realized as $\pi = \pi_1(M)$, for some smooth, compact, connected manifold M^n of dim $n \geq 4$.
- M^n can be chosen to be orientable.
- If n even, $n \geq 4$, then M^n can be chosen to be symplectic (Gompf).
- If n even, $n \geq 6$, then M^n can be chosen to be complex (Taubes).
- Requiring that $n = 3$ puts severe restrictions on the (closed) 3-manifold group $\pi = \pi_1(M^3)$.

KÄHLER GROUPS & 3-MANIFOLD GROUPS

- A *Kähler manifold* is a compact, connected, complex manifold, with a Hermitian metric h such that $\omega = \text{im}(h)$ is a closed 2-form.
- Examples: smooth, complex projective varieties.
- If M is a Kähler manifold, $\pi = \pi_1(M)$ is called a *Kähler group*.
- This also puts strong restrictions on π , e.g.:
 - $b_1(\pi)$ is even (Hodge theory)
 - π is 1-formal: Malcev Lie algebra $\mathfrak{m}(\pi)$ is quadratic (DGMS 1975)
 - π cannot split non-trivially as a free product (Gromov 1989)
- π finite $\Rightarrow \pi$ projective group (Serre 1958).

QUESTION (DONALDSON–GOLDMAN 1989)

Which 3-manifold groups are Kähler groups?

Reznikov (2002) gave a partial solution.

THEOREM (DIMCA–S. 2009)

Let π be the fundamental group of a closed 3-manifold. Then π is a Kähler group $\iff \pi$ is a finite subgroup of $O(4)$, acting freely on S^3 .

Alternative proofs have since been given by Kotschick (2012) and by Biswas, Mj and Seshadri (2012).

THEOREM (FRIEDL–S. 2013)

Let N be a 3-manifold with non-empty, toroidal boundary. If $\pi_1(N)$ is a Kähler group, then $N \cong S^1 \times S^1 \times I$.

Since then, Kotschick has generalized this result, by dropping the toroidal boundary assumption:

THEOREM (KOTSCHICK 2013)

If $\pi_1(N)$ is an infinite Kähler group, then $\pi_1(N)$ is a surface group.

QUASI-PROJECTIVE GROUPS & 3-MANIFOLD GROUPS

- A group π is called a *quasi-projective group* if $\pi = \pi_1(M \setminus D)$, where M is a smooth, projective variety and D is a divisor.
- Qp groups are finitely presented. The class of qp groups is closed under direct products and passing to finite-index subgroups.
- For a qp group π ,
 - $b_1(\pi)$ can be arbitrary (e.g., the free groups F_n).
 - π may be non-1-formal (e.g., the Heisenberg group).
 - π can split as a non-trivial free product.
- Subclass: fundamental groups of complements of hypersurfaces in $\mathbb{C}P^n$, or, equivalently, fundamental groups of complements of plane algebraic curves.
- Such groups are 1-formal.

QUESTION (DIMCA–S. 2009)

Which 3-manifold groups are quasi-projective groups?

THEOREM (DIMCA–PAPADIMA–S. 2011)

Let π be the fundamental group of a closed, orientable 3-manifold. Assume π is 1-formal. Then the following are equivalent:

- ① $\mathfrak{m}(\pi) \cong \mathfrak{m}(\pi_1(X))$, for some quasi-projective manifold X .
- ② $\mathfrak{m}(\pi) \cong \mathfrak{m}(\pi_1(N))$, where N is either S^3 , $\#^n S^1 \times S^2$, or $S^1 \times \Sigma_g$.

Joint work with Stefan Friedl (2013)

THEOREM

Let N be a 3-mfd with empty or toroidal boundary. If $\pi_1(N)$ is a quasi-projective group, then all prime components of N are graph manifolds.

In particular, the fundamental group of a hyperbolic 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary is never a qp-group.

ALEXANDER POLYNOMIALS

- Let H be a finitely generated, free abelian group.
- Let M be a finitely generated module over $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[H]$. Pick a presentation $\Lambda^p \xrightarrow{\alpha} \Lambda^s \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$ with $p \geq s$.
- Let $E_k(M)$ be the ideal of minors of size $s - k$ of α , and set

$$\text{ord}^k(M) := \text{gcd}(E_k(M)) \in \Lambda$$

(well-defined up to units in Λ).

- $M = \Lambda^r \oplus \text{Tors}(M)$ and set

$$\Delta_M^r := \text{ord}^0(\text{Tors } M).$$

- Define the *thickness* of M as

$$\text{th}(M) = \dim \text{Newt}(\Delta_M^r).$$

- Let X be a finite, conn. CW-complex. Write $H := H_1(X; \mathbb{Z}) / \text{Tors}$.
 - Alexander invariant: $A_X = H_1(X; \mathbb{Z}[H])$.
 - Alexander polynomials: $\Delta_X^k = \text{ord}^k(A_X)$; usual one: $\Delta = \Delta^0$.
 - Set $\text{th}(X) := \text{th}(A_X)$. Note: $\text{th}(X) = \text{th}(\pi_1(X))$.
- Let $\hat{H} = \text{Hom}(H, \mathbb{C}^*)$ be the character torus. Define hypersurfaces

$$V(\Delta_X^k) = \{\rho \in \hat{H} \mid \Delta_X^k(\rho) = 0\}.$$

- If $X = S^3 \setminus K$, then Δ_X is the classical Alexander polynomial of K , and $V(\Delta_X^k) \subset \mathbb{C}^*$ is the set of roots of Δ_X , of multiplicity at least k .
- Also define the (degree 1) *characteristic varieties* of X as

$$\mathcal{V}_k(X) = \{\rho \in \hat{H} \mid \dim H_1(X, \mathbb{C}_\rho) \geq k\},$$

where $\mathbb{C}_\rho = \mathbb{C}$, viewed as a module over $\mathbb{Z}H$, via $g \cdot x = \rho(g)x$.

- We then have: $\mathcal{V}_k(X) \setminus \{1\} = V(E_{k-1}(A_X)) \setminus \{1\}$.

Let $\check{\mathcal{V}}_k(X)$ be the union of all codim 1 irreducible components of $\mathcal{V}_k(X)$.

LEMMA (DPS08 FOR $k = 0$, FS13 FOR $k > 0$)

- ① $\Delta_X^{k-1} = 0$ if and only if $\mathcal{V}_k(X) = \hat{H}$, in which case $\check{\mathcal{V}}_k(X) = \emptyset$.
- ② Suppose $b_1(X) \geq 1$ and $\Delta_X^{k-1} \neq 0$. Then at least away from 1,

$$\check{\mathcal{V}}_k(X) = V(\Delta_X^{k-1}).$$

THEOREM (DPS, FS)

Suppose $b_1(X) \geq 2$. Then $\Delta_X^{k-1} \doteq \text{const}$ if and only if $\check{\mathcal{V}}_k(X) = \emptyset$. Otherwise, the following are equivalent:

- ① The Newton polytope of Δ_X^{k-1} is a line segment.
- ② All irreducible components of $\check{\mathcal{V}}_k(X)$ are parallel, codim 1 subtori of \hat{H} .

The next theorem is due to Arapura (1997), with improvements by DPS (2008, 2009) and Artal-Bartolo, Cogolludo, Matei (2010).

THEOREM

Let π be a quasi-projective group. Then, for each $k \geq 1$,

- The irreducible components of $\mathcal{V}_k(\pi)$ are (possibly torsion-translated) subtori of the character torus \hat{H} .
- Any two distinct components of $\mathcal{V}_k(\pi)$ meet in a finite set.

Using this theorem, we prove

THEOREM (DPS08 FOR $k = 0$, FS13 FOR $k > 0$)

Let π be a quasi-projective group, and assume $b_1(\pi) \neq 2$. Then, for each $k \geq 0$, the polynomial Δ_π^k is either zero, or the Newton polytope of Δ_π^k is a point or a line segment. In particular, $\text{th}(\pi) \leq 1$.

THURSTON NORM AND ALEXANDER NORM

- Let N be a 3-manifold with either empty or toroidal boundary.
- A class $\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Hom}(\pi_1(N), \mathbb{Z})$ is *fibred* if there exists a fibration $p: N \rightarrow S^1$ such that $p_*: \pi_1(N) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ coincides with ϕ .
- Given a surface Σ with connected components $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_s$, put $\chi_-(\Sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^s \max\{-\chi(\Sigma_i), 0\}$.
- *Thurston norm*: $\|\phi\|_T = \min\{\chi_-(\Sigma)\}$, where Σ runs through all the properly embedded surfaces dual to ϕ .
- $\|-\|_T$ defines a (semi)norm on $H^1(N; \mathbb{Z})$, which can be extended to a (semi)norm $\|-\|_T$ on $H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$.
- The unit norm ball, $B_T = \{\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Q}) \mid \|\phi\|_T \leq 1\}$, is a rational polyhedron with finitely many sides, symmetric in the origin.

- The set of fibered classes form a cone on certain open, top-dimensional faces of B_T , called the *fibered faces* of B_T .
- Two faces F and G are *equivalent* if $F = \pm G$. Clearly, F is fibered if and only if $-F$ is fibered.

We say $\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$ is *quasi-fibered* if it lies on the boundary of a fibered face of B_T . Results of Stallings (1962) and Gabai (1983) imply

COROLLARY (FS13)

Let $p: N' \rightarrow N$ be a finite cover. Then:

- ① $\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$ quasi-fibered $\Rightarrow p^*(\phi) \in H^1(N'; \mathbb{Q})$ quasi-fibered.
- ② Pull-backs of inequivalent faces of the Thurston norm ball of N lie on inequivalent faces of the Thurston norm ball of N' .

- Let $\Delta_N = \sum_{h \in H} a_h h \in \mathbb{Z}[H]$ be the Alexander polynomial of N .
- Define a (semi)norm $\| - \|_A$ on $H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$ by

$$\|\phi\|_A := \max \{ \phi(a_h) - \phi(a_g) \mid g, h \in H \text{ with } a_g \neq 0 \text{ and } a_h \neq 0 \}.$$

THEOREM (MCMULLEN 2002)

Let N be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary and such that $b_1(N) \geq 2$. Then $\|\phi\|_A \leq \|\phi\|_T$, for any $\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$. Furthermore, equality holds for any quasi-fibered class.

COROLLARY (FS13)

Let N be a 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary.

- *If there is a fibration $F \rightarrow N \rightarrow S^1$ with $\chi(F) < 0$, then $\text{th}(N) \geq 1$.*
- *If N has at least two non-equivalent fibered faces, then $\text{th}(N) \geq 2$.*

THE RFRS PROPERTY

DEFINITION (AGOL 2008)

A group π is called *residually finite rationally solvable (RFRS)* if there is a filtration $\pi = \pi_0 \geq \pi_1 \geq \pi_2 \geq \dots$ such that $\bigcap_i \pi_i = \{1\}$, and

- Each group π_i is a normal, finite-index subgroup of π .
- Each map $\pi_i \rightarrow \pi_i/\pi_{i+1}$ factors through $\pi_i \rightarrow H_1(\pi_i; \mathbb{Z})/\text{Tors}$.

E.g., free groups and surface groups are RFRS.

THEOREM (AGOL 2008)

Let N be an irreducible 3-manifold such that $\pi_1(N)$ is virtually RFRS. Let $\phi \in H^1(N; \mathbb{Q})$ be a non-fibered class. There exists then a finite cover $p: N' \rightarrow N$ such that $p^*(\phi) \in H^1(N'; \mathbb{Q})$ is quasi-fibered.

Assume N is an irreducible 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary.

THEOREM (AGOL, WISE, PRZYTYCKI– WISE, ...)

If N is not a closed graph manifold, then $\pi_1(N)$ is virtually RFRS.

COROLLARY

If N is not a closed graph manifold, then N is virtually fibered.

THEOREM (AGOL, WISE, ...)

Suppose N is neither $S^1 \times D^2$, nor $T^2 \times I$, nor finitely covered by a torus bundle. Then, $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$, there is a finite cover $N' \rightarrow N$ s.t. $b_1(N') \geq k$.

THEOREM

Suppose N is not a graph manifold. Given any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a finite cover $N' \rightarrow N$ such that the Thurston norm ball of N' has at least k non-equivalent fibered faces.

QUASI-PROJECTIVE 3-MANIFOLD GROUPS

THEOREM (FS13)

Suppose N is not a graph manifold. There exists then a finite cover $N' \rightarrow N$ with $\text{th}(N') \geq 2$ and $b_1(N') \geq 3$.

PROOF.

- Since N is not a graph manifold, it admits finite covers with arbitrarily large first Betti numbers.
- We can thus assume that $b_1(N) \geq 3$.
- There exists a finite cover $N' \rightarrow N$ such that the Thurston norm ball of N' has at least 2 non-equivalent fibered faces.
- A transfer argument shows that $b_1(N') \geq b_1(N) \geq 3$.
- Hence, $\text{th}(N') \geq 2$.



We can now prove our theorem in the case when N is irreducible.

THEOREM (FS13)

Let N be an irreducible 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary. If N is not a graph manifold, then $\pi_1(N)$ is not a quasi-projective group.

PROOF.

- Suppose $\pi_1(N)$ is a qp group.
- We know there is a finite cover $N' \rightarrow N$ with $\text{th}(N') \geq 2$ and $b_1(N') \geq 3$.
- On the other hand, $\pi_1(N')$ is also a qp group.
- Hence, either $b_1(N') = 2$, or $\text{th}(N') \leq 1$.
- This is a contradiction. □

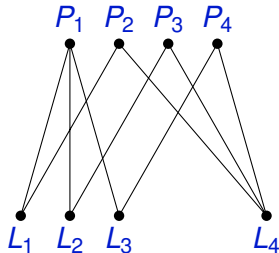
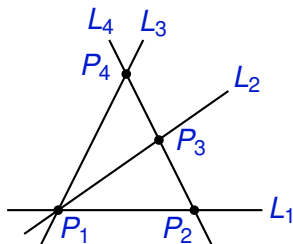
The case when N has several prime factors is more complicated, but can be handled with similar techniques.

PLANE ALGEBRAIC CURVES

- Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ be a plane algebraic curve, defined by a homogeneous polynomial $f \in \mathbb{C}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$.
- Zariski commissioned Van Kampen to find a presentation for the fundamental group of the complement, $U(\mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}$.
- Zariski noticed that $\pi = \pi_1(U)$ is *not* fully determined by the combinatorics of \mathcal{C} , but depends on the position of its singularities.
- He asked whether π is *residually finite*, i.e., whether the map to its profinite completion, $\pi \rightarrow \hat{\pi} =: \pi^{\text{alg}}$, is injective.

LINE ARRANGEMENTS

- Let \mathcal{A} be an *arrangement of lines* in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, defined by a polynomial $f = \prod_{L \in \mathcal{A}} f_L$, with f_L linear forms so that $L = \mathbb{P}(\ker(f_L))$.
- The combinatorics of \mathcal{A} is encoded in the *intersection poset*, $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$, with $\mathcal{L}_1(\mathcal{A}) = \{\text{lines}\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{A}) = \{\text{intersection points}\}$.



- The group $\pi = \pi_1(U(\mathcal{A}))$ has a finite presentation with
 - Meridional generators x_1, \dots, x_n , where $n = |\mathcal{A}|$, and $\prod x_i = 1$.
 - Commutator relators $x_i \alpha_j (x_i)^{-1}$, where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s \in P_n \subset \text{Aut}(F_n)$, and $s = |\mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{A})|$.

- Let $\pi/\gamma_k(\pi)$ be the $(k-1)^{\text{th}}$ nilpotent quotient of π . Then:
 - $\pi/\gamma_2 = \pi/\gamma_2$ equals \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} .
 - π/γ_3 is determined by $L(\mathcal{A})$.
 - π/γ_4 (and thus, π) is *not* determined by $L(\mathcal{A})$. (Rybnikov).

THEOREM (S. 2011)

Let \mathcal{A} be an arrangement of lines in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, with group $\pi = \pi_1(U(\mathcal{A}))$.
The following are equivalent:

- ① π is a Kähler group.
- ② π is a free abelian group of even rank.
- ③ \mathcal{A} consists of an odd number of lines in general position.

THEOREM (DPS 2009)

Let Γ be a finite simple graph, and A_Γ the corresponding RAAG. Then:

- ① A_Γ is a quasi-projective group if and only if Γ is a complete multipartite graph $K_{n_1, \dots, n_r} = \overline{K}_{n_1} * \dots * \overline{K}_{n_r}$, in which case $A_\Gamma = F_{n_1} \times \dots \times F_{n_r}$.
- ② A_Γ is a Kähler group if and only if Γ is a complete graph K_{2m} , in which case $G_\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}^{2m}$.

THEOREM (S. 2011)

Let $\pi = \pi_1(U(\mathcal{A}))$. The following are equivalent:

- ① π is a RAAG.
- ② π is a finite direct product of finitely generated free groups.
- ③ $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ is a forest.

Here $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ is the ‘multiplicity’ graph, with

- vertices: points $P \in \mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{A})$ with multiplicity at least 3;
- edges: $\{P, Q\}$ if $P, Q \in L$, for some $L \in \mathcal{A}$.

THE RFR p PROPERTY

Joint work with Thomas Koberda (in progress)

Let G be a finitely generated group and let p be a prime.

We say that G is *residually finite rationally p* if there exists a sequence of subgroups $G = G_0 > \cdots > G_j > G_{j+1} > \cdots$ such that

- ① $G_{j+1} \triangleleft G_j$.
- ② $\bigcap_{i \geq 0} G_i = \{1\}$.
- ③ G_j / G_{j+1} is an elementary abelian p -group.
- ④ $\ker(G_j \rightarrow H_1(G_j, \mathbb{Q})) < G_{j+1}$.

Remarks:

- May assume each $G_j \triangleleft G$.
- Compare with Agol's RFRS property, where G_i / G_{i+1} only finite.

- $G \text{ RFR}_p \Rightarrow$ residually $p \Rightarrow$ residually finite and residually nilpotent.
- $G \text{ RFR}_p \Rightarrow G \text{ RFRS} \Rightarrow$ torsion-free.
- The class of RFR_p groups is closed under the following operations:
 - Taking subgroups.
 - Finite direct products.
 - Finite free products.
- The following groups are RFR_p , for all p :
 - Finitely generated free groups.
 - Closed, orientable surface groups.
 - Right-angled Artin groups.

BOUNDARY MANIFOLDS

- Let \mathcal{A} be an arrangement of lines in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, and let N be a regular neighborhood of $\bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{A}} L$.
- The *boundary manifold* of \mathcal{A} is $M = \partial N$, a compact, orientable, smooth manifold of dimension 3.

EXAMPLE

Let \mathcal{A} be a pencil of n lines in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, defined by $f = z_1^n - z_2^n$. If $n = 1$, then $M = S^3$. If $n > 1$, then $M = \#^{n-1} S^1 \times S^2$.

EXAMPLE

Let \mathcal{A} be a near-pencil of n lines in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$, defined by $f = z_1(z_2^{n-1} - z_3^{n-1})$. Then $M = S^1 \times \Sigma_{n-2}$, where $\Sigma_g = \#^g S^1 \times S^1$.

- $M = M_\Gamma$ is a graph-manifold.
- The graph Γ is the incidence graph of \mathcal{A} , with vertex set $V(\Gamma) = L_1(\mathcal{A}) \cup L_2(\mathcal{A})$ and edge set $E(\Gamma) = \{(L, P) \mid P \in L\}$.
- For each $v \in V(\Gamma)$, there is a vertex manifold $M_v = S^1 \times S_v$, with $S_v = S^2 \setminus \bigcup_{\{v,w\} \in E(\Gamma)} D_{v,w}^2$.
- For each $e \in E(\Gamma)$, there is an edge manifold $M_e = S^1 \times S^1$.
- Vertex manifolds are glued along edge manifolds via flips.

THEOREM (THOMAS KOBERDA–A.S. 2015)

The group $\pi_1(M_\Gamma)$ is RFR p , for all primes p .

CONJECTURE (K.–S.)

Arrangement groups are RFR p , for all primes p .

MILNOR FIBRATION

- Let $f \in \mathbb{C}[z_1, z_2, z_3]$ be a homogeneous polynomial of degree n .
- The map $f: \mathbb{C}^3 \setminus \{f = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ is a smooth fibration (Milnor), with fiber $F = f^{-1}(1)$, and monodromy $h: F \rightarrow F$, $z \mapsto e^{2\pi i/n} z$.
- The Milnor fiber F is a regular, \mathbb{Z}_n -cover of $U = \mathbb{C}P^2 \setminus \{f = 0\}$.
- Let $\Delta(t) = \det(tI - h_*)$ be the characteristic polynomial of the algebraic monodromy, $h_*: H_1(F, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H_1(F, \mathbb{C})$.

EXAMPLE

If $f = z_1^n - z_2^n$, then F is a surface of genus $\binom{n-1}{2}$ with n punctures, and $\Delta(t) = (t-1)(t^n-1)^{n-2}$.

PROBLEM

If f is the defining poly of an arrangement \mathcal{A} , is $\Delta = \Delta_{\mathcal{A}}$ determined by $L(\mathcal{A})$? In particular, is $b_1(F)$ combinatorially determined?

Joint work with Stefan Papadima (2014)

THEOREM

Suppose \mathcal{A} has only double and triple points. Then

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = (t-1)^{|\mathcal{A}|-1} \cdot (t^2 + t + 1)^{\beta_3(\mathcal{A})},$$

where $\beta_3(\mathcal{A})$ is an integer between 0 and 2 depending only on $L(\mathcal{A})$.









CONJECTURE

Let \mathcal{A} be an arrangement which is not a pencil. Then

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = (t-1)^{|\mathcal{A}|-1} ((t+1)(t^2+1))^{\beta_2(\mathcal{A})} (t^2+t+1)^{\beta_3(\mathcal{A})},$$

where $\beta_2(\mathcal{A})$ and $\beta_3(\mathcal{A})$ are integers between 0 and 2 depending only on $L(\mathcal{A})$.

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