# Homological invariants of Legendrian submanifolds Lecture 1

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#### **Contact structures**

Y = smooth manifold of dimension 2n - 1.

Definition

Contact structure  $\xi$  on Y = hyperplane distribution maximally non integrable:

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,  $\xi_0$  is  

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#### Theorem (Darboux)

This is the unique local model for contact structures.

Definition  $\Lambda \subset (Y, \xi)$  is Legendrian if  $T_p \Lambda \subset \xi_p$  for all  $p \in \Lambda$ , and if dim  $\Lambda = \frac{1}{2} \dim \xi$ .

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In  $(\mathbb{R}^{2n-1}, \xi_0)$ , the front projection is defined by  $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^{2n-1} \to \mathbb{R}^n : (x, y, z) \mapsto (x, z)$ . We can recover  $\Lambda$  from  $\sigma(\Lambda)$  via  $y_i = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x_i}$ .

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It is natural to study  $\Lambda$  modulo Legendrian isotopy  $\rightsquigarrow$  generalization of knot theory

In dim 3, every knot type can be realized by a Legendrian knot, and splits into infinitely many Legendrian isotopy classes.

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Leg. unknots (Eliashberg-Fraser) -3 -2 -1 -1 th -3

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Chekanov  $\overline{5_2}$  knots: classical invariants do not always suffice.

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#### Definition

Symplectic structure  $\omega$  on X = closed, nondegenerate 2-form:

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Gromov (1985): use almost complex structure *J* on  $(X, \omega)$  $\rightarrow$  Gromov-Witten invariants = count of *J*-holomorphic curves.

For  $(Y, \xi = \ker \lambda)$ :  $(\xi, d\lambda)$  is a symplectic vector bundle.

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$$d\lambda(J\cdot, J\cdot) = d\lambda(\cdot, \cdot),$$

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Symplectization  $(\mathbb{R} \times Y, \omega = d(e^t \lambda))$ , with  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . For  $(Y, \xi) = (\mathbb{R}^{2n-1}, \xi_0)$ , extend *J* to  $\mathbb{R} \times Y \ni (t, p)$  by  $J\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ . The cylinder  $L = \mathbb{R} \times \Lambda$  is Lagrangian.

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 $F : \mathbb{D}^2 \subset \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{R} \times Y$  is J-holomorphic if  $df \circ i = J \circ df$ . Boundary condition:  $F(\partial \mathbb{D}^2) \subset L \rightsquigarrow$  well-posed elliptic problem.

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BUT all such *F* are constant:  $\int_{\mathbb{D}^2} F^* \omega = \int_{\partial \mathbb{D}^2} F^*(e^t \lambda) = 0.$ 

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Need to allow punctures  $z_1^+, \ldots, z_k^+, z_1^-, \ldots, z_\ell^-$  on  $\partial \mathbb{D}^2$ :  $F = (a, f) : \mathbb{D}^2 \setminus \{z^+, z^-\} \to \mathbb{R} \times Y$  also satisfies

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$$\begin{split} \lim_{z \to z_i^{\pm}} a(z) &= \pm \infty, \\ \lim_{z \to z_i^{\pm}} f(z) &= \\ c_i^{\pm} (\mp \frac{T_i^{\pm}}{\pi} \arg(z - z_i^{\pm})), \end{split}$$



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Allow all positions of punctures, modulo biholomorphisms  $\rightsquigarrow$  moduli space  $\mathcal{M}(c_1^+, \ldots, c_k^+; c_1^-, \ldots, c_\ell^-)$  with  $\mathbb{R}$ -action.

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$$\int_{\mathbb{D}^2} F^* d\omega = +\infty$$
 and  $0 \leq \int_{\mathbb{D}^2} F^* d\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^k T_i^+ - \sum_{i=1}^\ell T_i^-$ .

Can count elements in  $\mathcal{M}(c_1^+, \ldots, c_k^+; c_1^-, \ldots, c_\ell^-)/\mathbb{R}$  of dim 0, i.e. rigid holomorphic disks.

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Vertical segment with parallel tangents = Reeb chord.

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Instead, count of disks  $\rightsquigarrow$  coefficients in a differential:  $\rightsquigarrow$  chain complex generated by Reeb chords,  $\rightsquigarrow$  homological invariants of Legendrian submanifolds.

Morse function  $\eta: M \to \mathbb{R}$  + auxiliary metric *g*. Critical points and gradient trajectories  $\rightsquigarrow$  Morse homology.

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 $M \rightsquigarrow$  space of paths  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow Y$  with  $\gamma(0), \gamma(1) \in \Lambda$ .  $\eta \rightsquigarrow$  action functional  $\mathcal{A}(\gamma) = \int_0^1 \gamma^* \lambda$ , critical points = Reeb chords.

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Limits of analogy: compactification of moduli spaces.



More negative punctures can appear.

Very general framework (Eliashberg, Givental, Hofer) for holomorphic curves in symplectic cobordisms (with or without  $\Lambda$ ).

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Hol. curves with *k* positive and  $\ell$  negative punctures. Remember that  $\sum_{i=1}^{k} T_i^+ - \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} T_i^- \ge 0$  so  $k \ge 1$ .

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	k = 1 and genus 0		$k \geq 1$ and $\ell \geq 0$	
	"ℓ = <b>1</b> "	$\ell \geq 0$	genus = 0	genus $\geq$ 0
no Λ	cylindrical or	contact	rational	SFT
	linearized CH	homol. (CH)	SFT	
٨	linearized	Leg. CH	version due	not defined
	LCH	(LCH)	to Ekholm	not denned

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#### Next lectures:

focus on linearized LCH, its variants and properties.