Self-Dual Metrics,

Null Geodesics, \mathfrak{E}

Holomorphic Disks

(Lecture V)

Claude LeBrun Stony Brook University

Autumn School on Holomorphic Disks Schloss Rauischholzhausen, November 17, 2018 Joint work with

Lionel Mason Oxford University Joint work with

Lionel Mason Oxford University

Nonlinear Gravitons, Null Geodesics, and Holomorphic Disks, Duke Math. J. 136 (2007) 205–273. Twistor correspondences

Twistor correspondences (Penrose):

Twistor correspondences (Penrose): geometries from moduli space

Twistor correspondences (Penrose): geometries from moduli space of holomorphic curves $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern:

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold,

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold, $P \subset Z$ totally real submanifold.

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold, $P \subset Z$ totally real submanifold.

We have seen:

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold, $P \subset Z$ totally real submanifold.

We have seen: Holomorphic disks in $\mathbb{CP}_2 \iff$ Zoll surfaces.

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold, $P \subset Z$ totally real submanifold.

We have seen: Holomorphic disks in $\mathbb{CP}_2 \iff$ Zoll surfaces.

This lecture:

 $\mathbb{CP}_1 \hookrightarrow Z$

where Z complex manifold.

Analogous pattern: moduli of holomorphic disks

 $(D^2, S^1) \hookrightarrow (Z, P),$

where Z complex manifold, $P \subset Z$ totally real submanifold.

We have seen: Holomorphic disks in $\mathbb{CP}_2 \iff$ Zoll surfaces.

This lecture: Disks in \mathbb{CP}_3 , with boundaries on deformed \mathbb{RP}^3 .

Penrose

Local description of holomorphic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Global smooth Riemannian reformulation.

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Global smooth Riemannian reformulation.

This lecture:

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Global smooth Riemannian reformulation.

This lecture: split-signature metrics

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Global smooth Riemannian reformulation.

This lecture: split-signature metrics: pseudo-Riemannian metrics

Local description of real-analytic self-dual 4-manifolds.

Atiyah-Hitchin-Singer:

Global smooth Riemannian reformulation.

This lecture: split-signature metrics:

pseudo-Riemannian metrics with components



4-dimensional geometry is idiosyncratic.

4-dimensional geometry is idiosyncratic.In split signature setting, this happens because...

 $\mathfrak{so}(2,2) \cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2).$

 $\mathfrak{so}(2,2)\cong\mathfrak{so}(1,2)\oplus\mathfrak{so}(1,2).$ On oriented split-signature $(M^4,g),$

$$\begin{split} \mathfrak{so}(2,2) &\cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2). \\ \text{On oriented split-signature } (M^4,g), \Longrightarrow \\ \Lambda^2 &= \Lambda^+ \oplus \Lambda^- \end{split}$$

 $\mathfrak{so}(2,2) \cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2).$ On oriented split-signature $(M^4,g), \Longrightarrow$ $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda^+ \oplus \Lambda^-$ where Λ^{\pm} are (± 1) -eigenspaces of $\star : \Lambda^2 \to \Lambda^2,$ $\star^2 = 1.$

 $\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{so}(2,2) &\cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2). \end{aligned}$ On oriented split-signature $(M^4,g), \Longrightarrow \Lambda^2 &= \Lambda^+ \oplus \Lambda^- \end{aligned}$ where Λ^{\pm} are (± 1) -eigenspaces of $\star : \Lambda^2 \to \Lambda^2, \star^2 = 1. \end{aligned}$

 Λ^+ self-dual 2-forms. Λ^- anti-self-dual 2-forms.

 $\mathfrak{so}(2,2) \cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2).$ On oriented split-signature $(M^4,g), \Longrightarrow$ $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda^+ \oplus \Lambda^-$ where Λ^{\pm} are (± 1) -eigenspaces of $\star : \Lambda^2 \to \Lambda^2,$ $\star^2 = 1.$

 Λ^+ self-dual 2-forms. Λ^- anti-self-dual 2-forms.

Why important?
The Lie group SO(2,2) is not simple:

 $\mathfrak{so}(2,2) \cong \mathfrak{so}(1,2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(1,2).$ On oriented split-signature $(M^4,g), \Longrightarrow$ $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda^+ \oplus \Lambda^-$ where Λ^{\pm} are (± 1) -eigenspaces of $\star : \Lambda^2 \to \Lambda^2,$ $\star^2 = 1.$

 Λ^+ self-dual 2-forms. Λ^- anti-self-dual 2-forms.

Why important?

Curvature tensors are bundle-valued 2-forms!

Riemann curvature of g $\mathcal{R}:\Lambda^2\to\Lambda^2$

Riemann curvature of g $\mathcal{R}: \Lambda^2 \to \Lambda^2$

splits into 4 irreducible pieces

Riemann curvature of g

$$\mathcal{R}:\Lambda^2\to\Lambda^2$$

splits into 4 irreducible pieces:



Riemann curvature of g

$$\mathcal{R}:\Lambda^2\to\Lambda^2$$

splits into 4 irreducible pieces:



where

- s = scalar curvature
- \mathring{r} = trace-free Ricci curvature
- $W_+ =$ self-dual Weyl curvature
- W_{-} = anti-self-dual Weyl curvature

 W_{\pm} are conformally invariant

 $f: M \to \mathbb{R}^{\times}$ any non-zero function.

 $f: M \to \mathbb{R}^{\times}$ any non-zero function.

Definition. Oriented split-signature $(M^4, [g])$ called self-dual iff satisfies $W_{-} \equiv 0$.

 $f: M \to \mathbb{R}^{\times}$ any non-zero function.

Definition. Oriented split-signature $(M^4, [g])$ called self-dual iff satisfies $W_{-} \equiv 0$.

Here

$$[g] = \{ fg \mid f \neq 0 \}$$

denotes conformal class of split-signature metric.

Prototypical example:

$$g_0 = \pi_1^* h - \pi_2^* h$$

$$g_0 = \pi_1^* h - \pi_2^* h$$

on $S^2 \times S^2$, where h curvature 1 on S^2 .

$$g_0 = \pi_1^* h - \pi_2^* h$$

on $S^2 \times S^2$, where h curvature 1 on S^2 .

• conformally flat \implies self-dual.

 $g_0 = \pi_1^* h - \pi_2^* h$ on $S^2 \times S^2$, where h curvature 1 on S^2 .

- conformally flat \implies self-dual.
- null geodesics all embedded circles.

 $g_0 = \pi_1^* h - \pi_2^* h$ on $S^2 \times S^2$, where h curvature 1 on S^2 .

- conformally flat \implies self-dual.
- null geodesics all embedded circles.



Definition.

Definition (Guillemin).

Definition (Guillemin). $(M^n, [g])$

Definition (Guillemin). $(M^n, [g])$

(Indefinite pseudo-Riemannian manifold.)

Definition (Guillemin). $(M^n, [g])$

Definition (Guillemin). $(M^n, [g])$ called Zollfrei

Surprising stability result:

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A.

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g)

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then,

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology,

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g in the space of pseudo-Riemannian metrics on M

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g in the space of pseudo-Riemannian metrics on M such that

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M, g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g in the space of pseudo-Riemannian metrics on M such that every self-dual metric

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M,g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g in the space of pseudo-Riemannian metrics on M such that every self-dual metric contained in this neighborhood

Surprising stability result:

Theorem A. Let (M,g) be a self-dual Zollfrei 4-manifold. Then, with respect to the C^2 topology, there is an open neighborhood of g in the space of pseudo-Riemannian metrics on M such that every self-dual metric contained in this neighborhood is also Zollfrei.
To study moduli of self-dual conformal structures, therefore reasonable to first focus on understanding self-dual metrics that are also Zollfrei. To study moduli of self-dual conformal structures, therefore reasonable to first focus on understanding self-dual metrics that are also Zollfrei.

Which 4-manifolds *admit* self-dual Zollfrei metrics?

Real projective quadric

Real projective quadric

$$\mathbb{M}^{2,2} = \left\{ [x_1 : x_2 : x_3 : y_1 : y_2 : y_3] \in \mathbb{RP}^5 \ \Big| \ |\vec{x}|^2 - |\vec{y}|^2 = 0 \right\}$$

Real projective quadric

$$\mathbb{M}^{2,2} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 : x_2 : x_3 : y_1 : y_2 : y_3 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{RP}^5 \ \left| \ |\vec{x}|^2 - |\vec{y}|^2 = 0 \right\} \\ = (S^2 \times S^2) / \mathbb{Z}_2 \right\}$$

since \mathbb{Z}_2 -action

$$(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \mapsto (-\vec{x}, -\vec{y})$$

preserves g_0 .

Real projective quadric

$$\mathbb{M}^{2,2} = \left\{ [x_1 : x_2 : x_3 : y_1 : y_2 : y_3] \in \mathbb{RP}^5 \ \Big| \ |\vec{x}|^2 - |\vec{y}|^2 = 0 \right\}$$
$$= (S^2 \times S^2) / \mathbb{Z}_2$$

since \mathbb{Z}_2 -action

$$(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \mapsto (-\vec{x}, -\vec{y})$$

preserves g_0 .

Exercise:

The affine chart $x_3 - y_3 = 1$ gives local coordinates (x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) on $\mathbb{M}^{2,2}$ in which $g_0 \propto dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 - dy_1^2 - dy_2^2$ **Theorem B.** Let (M, [g]) be a connected oriented split-signature 4-manifold which is Zollfrei and self-dual. Then M is homeomorphic to either $S^2 \times S^2$ or $\mathbb{M}^{2,2}$. **Theorem B.** Let (M, [g]) be a connected oriented split-signature 4-manifold which is Zollfrei and self-dual. Then M is homeomorphic to either $S^2 \times S^2$ or $\mathbb{M}^{2,2}$.

Topological rigidity!

Theorem B. Let (M, [g]) be a connected oriented split-signature 4-manifold which is Zollfrei and self-dual. Then M is homeomorphic to either $S^2 \times S^2$ or $\mathbb{M}^{2,2}$.

Topological rigidity!

Geometric rigidity?

Theorem C. There is a natural one-to-one correspondence between

• equivalence classes of smooth self-dual conformal structures [g] on $S^2 \times S^2$; and

Theorem C. There is a natural one-to-one correspondence between

- equivalence classes of smooth self-dual conformal structures [g] on $S^2 \times S^2$; and
- equivalence classes of smooth embeddings $\mathbb{RP}^3 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{CP}_3,$

Theorem C. There is a natural one-to-one correspondence between

- equivalence classes of smooth self-dual conformal structures [g] on $S^2 \times S^2$; and
- equivalence classes of smooth embeddings $\mathbb{RP}^3 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{CP}_3,$

at least in a neighborhood of the standard conformal metric $[g_0]$ and the standard embedding of \mathbb{RP}^3 . Actually, g_0 is indefinite scalar-flat Kähler metric

Observation of Gauduchon

Observation of Gauduchon

Any Riemannian scalar-flat Kähler metric g on a complex surfaces is automatically anti-self-dual.

Observation of Gauduchon

Observation of Gauduchon, stood on its head:

Observation of Gauduchon, stood on its head: Any indefinite scalar-flat Kähler metric g on a complex surfaces is automatically self-dual.

Observation of Gauduchon, stood on its head: Any indefinite scalar-flat Kähler metric g on a complex surfaces is automatically self-dual.

Complex orientation: indefinite Kähler form ω is anti-self-dual...

Every such metric arises from a family of analytic disks in \mathbb{CP}_3

Every such metric arises from a family of analytic disks in \mathbb{CP}_3 with boundary on a totally real \mathbb{RP}^3 .

Every such metric arises from a family of analytic disks in \mathbb{CP}_3 with boundary on a totally real \mathbb{RP}^3 .

Near the standard metric g_0 scalar-flat Kähler metrics of fixed total volume

Every such metric arises from a family of analytic disks in \mathbb{CP}_3 with boundary on a totally real \mathbb{RP}^3 .

Near the standard metric g_0 scalar-flat Kähler metrics of fixed total volume \longleftrightarrow with those totally real embeddings

$$\mathbb{RP}^3 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{CP}^3 - Q$$

on which the pull-back of the 3-form $\phi = \Im m \frac{z_1 dz_2 \wedge dz_3 \wedge dz_4 - \dots - z_4 dz_1 \wedge dz_2 \wedge dz_3}{(z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2 + z_4^2)^2}$

vanishes.

Every such metric arises from a family of analytic disks in \mathbb{CP}_3 with boundary on a totally real \mathbb{RP}^3 .

Near the standard metric g_0 scalar-flat Kähler metrics of fixed total volume \longleftrightarrow with those totally real embeddings

 $\mathbb{RP}^3 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{CP}^3 - Q$

on which the pull-back of the 3-form $\phi = \Im m \frac{z_1 dz_2 \wedge dz_3 \wedge dz_4 - \dots - z_4 dz_1 \wedge dz_2 \wedge dz_3}{(z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2 + z_4^2)^2}$ vanishes. Here Q denotes the quadric surface

 $z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2 + z_4^2 = 0.$

 \implies Near g_0 ,

 $\{\text{self-dual } [g] \text{ on } S^2 \times S^2\} / \{\text{based diffeomorphisms}\} \\ \longleftrightarrow \{\text{vector fields } v \text{ on } \mathbb{RP}^3\},$

 \implies Near g_0 ,

 $\{\text{self-dual } [g] \text{ on } S^2 \times S^2\} / \{\text{based diffeomorphisms}\} \\ \longleftrightarrow \{\text{vector fields } v \text{ on } \mathbb{RP}^3\},$

while

 $\{\text{scalar-flat K\"ahler } g\} / \{ \text{diffeomorphisms, rescaling} \} \\ \longleftrightarrow \ \{ \text{vector fields } v \mid \nabla \cdot v = 0 \}.$

 \implies Near g_0 ,

 $\{\text{self-dual } [g] \text{ on } S^2 \times S^2\} / \{\text{based diffeomorphisms}\} \\ \longleftrightarrow \{\text{vector fields } v \text{ on } \mathbb{RP}^3\}, \\ \text{while}$

 $\{ \text{scalar-flat K\"ahler } g \} / \{ \text{diffeomorphisms, rescaling} \} \\ \longleftrightarrow \ \{ \text{vector fields } v \mid \nabla \cdot v = 0 \}.$

 \implies Both moduli spaces are infinite-dimensional.

End, Part IV