Shadow complexity of four-manifolds

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Neghbourhoods of points in a simple polyhedron P

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Examples: $S^2 \subset S^3$ and $\mathbb{RP}^2 \subset \mathbb{RP}^3$.

From triangulations to spines:

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- ► There are finitely many irreducible, ∂-irreducible, anannular 3-manifolds M with fixed c
- For such manifolds, if M ≠ S³, ℝP³, L(3, 1) then c(M) is the minimum number of tetrahedra in a (ideal) triangulation of M

С	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
lens	3	2	3	6	10	20	36	72	136	272	528	1056	2080
other S^3			1	1	4	11	25	45	78	142	270	526	1038
\mathbb{R}^3							6						
Nil							7	10	14	15	15	15	15
$\mathrm{SL}_2\mathbb{R}$								39	162	513	1416	3696	9324
Sol								5	9	23	39	83	149
$\mathbb{H}^2 \! \times \! \mathbb{R}$									2		8	4	24
\mathbb{H}^3										4	25	120	459
non-geo								4	35	185	777	2921	10345
total	3	2	4	7	14	31	74	175	436	1154	3078	8421	23434

The closed irreducible orientable 3-manifolds of complexity ≤ 12 . From the atlas of 3-manifolds http://matlas.math.csu.ru

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The closed irreducible orientable 3-manifolds of complexity ≤ 12 . From the atlas of 3-manifolds http://matlas.math.csu.ru For the non-orientable ones with $c \leq 11$, see *Regina* [Burton]

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Lens spaces





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Proved for some infinite families [Jaco, Rubinstein, Tillmann 2009]

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Three families of Seifert manifolds have more efficient spines:

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The third family yields $(S^2, (2, -1), (3, 1), (p, q))$ with p/q > 5. [Martelli, Petronio 2000].

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Triangulation





Kirby diagram

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Triangulation



No need to draw 3- and 4-handles (Laudenbach, Poenaru 1972)

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- ► *M* is obtained from a regular neighbourhood of *P* by adding 3- and 4-handles.

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- *M* is obtained from a regular neighbourhood of *P* by adding 3- and 4-handles.



Every region f is equipped with a gleam in $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}$, and conversely the gleams determine M (Turaev 1994).

Every $\alpha \in H_2(M,\mathbb{Z})$ may be represented as

$$\alpha = \sum_{f} \alpha_{f} f, \qquad \alpha_{f} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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In particular, if $\Sigma \subset P$ is a surface, then

$$\Sigma \cdot \Sigma = \sum_{f \subset \Sigma} \operatorname{gleam}(f).$$

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 S^4

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 S^4

 \mathbb{CP}^2

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 S^4

 \mathbb{CP}^2

 $S^2 \times S^2$

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The shadow complexity c(M) of a compact 4-manifold M is the minimum number of vertices in a simple spine of M.

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The shadow complexity c(M) of a compact 4-manifold M is the minimum number of vertices in a simple spine of M. Hence

$$c(S^4) = c(\mathbb{CP}^2) = c(S^2 \times S^2) = 0.$$

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 $c(DM) \leq c(M).$

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The closed orientable smooth four-manifolds M with c(M) = 0 are precisely those of the type

$$M = W \#_h \mathbb{CP}^2$$

where W is the double of a thickening of a P with c(P) = 0.

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Corollary

The simply connected ones are:

$$S^4$$
, $\#_h \mathbb{CP}^2 \#_k \overline{\mathbb{CP}}^2$, $\#_h (S^2 \times S^2)$.

Conjecture

The closed orientable smooth four-manifolds M with $c(M) \leq 1$ are precisely those of the type

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We have $c(\mathbb{RP}^3 \times S^1) = 1$.

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None of these four-manifolds is aspherical.

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More elaborate simply connected manifolds. We have c(K3) ≤ 14 [Costantino 2006].

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Aspherical manifolds.

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- Manifolds of signature $h \neq 0$ that are not $M \#_h \mathbb{CP}^2$.

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• Manifolds with intersection form $nE_8 \oplus mH$.

Let P thicken to M. Let SP be the singular part of P.

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• A circle bundle at every region of *P*.

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- A circle bundle at every region of *P*.
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We get a *Minsky block* over every vertex of *P*:



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[Costantino, D. Thurston 2008]

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Use SnapPy [Weeks, Culler, Dunfield]