# Shadow complexity of four-manifolds 

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

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- There are finitely many irreducible, $\partial$-irreducible, anannular 3-manifolds $M$ with fixed $c$
- For such manifolds, if $M \neq S^{3}, \mathbb{R}^{3}, L(3,1)$ then $c(M)$ is the minimum number of tetrahedra in a (ideal) triangulation of $M$

| $c$ | 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 $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{1 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 1}$ | $\mathbf{7 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 7 5}$ | $\mathbf{4 3 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 5 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 7 8}$ | $\mathbf{8 4 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 3 4 3 4}$ |  |

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

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For the non-orientable ones with $c \leq 11$, see Regina [Burton]

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Seifert manifolds over $S^{2}$ with three singular fibres

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

Three families of Seifert manifolds have more efficient spines:


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\begin{gathered}
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m, n \geq 1
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Triangulation

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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

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

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\Sigma \cdot \Sigma=\sum_{f \subset \Sigma} \operatorname{gleam}(f)
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$\mathbb{C P}^{2}$


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$$
c\left(S^{4}\right)=c\left(\mathbb{C P}^{2}\right)=c\left(S^{2} \times S^{2}\right)=0
$$

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

## Theorem (M. 2011)

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

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M=W \#_{h} \mathbb{C P}^{2}
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Corollary
The simply connected ones are:

$$
S^{4}, \quad \#_{h} \mathbb{C P}^{2} \#_{k} \overline{\mathbb{C P}}^{2}, \quad \#_{h}\left(S^{2} \times S^{2}\right)
$$

## 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 $c\left(\mathbb{R P}^{3} \times S^{1}\right)=1$.

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We have $c\left(\mathbb{R} \mathbb{P}^{3} \times S^{1}\right)=1$.
None of these four-manifolds is aspherical.

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- Aspherical manifolds.
- Manifolds of signature $h \neq 0$ that are not $M \not{ }_{h} \mathbb{C P}^{2}$.
- Manifolds with intersection form $n E_{8} \oplus m H$.

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[Costantino, D. Thurston 2008]

Goal: understand when $\partial M \cong \#_{h}\left(S^{2} \times S^{1}\right)$.

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Use SnapPy [Weeks, Culler, Dunfield]

