

Symp (starshaped domain)

based on work with

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The problem

Take $K \subset (\mathbb{R}^{2n}, \omega_0)$, compact, simply connected, ∂K smooth

$$\omega_0 = \sum_{j=1}^n dx_j \wedge dy_j$$

$\text{Symp}(K) := \{\varphi: K \rightarrow K \text{ diffeo, } \varphi \text{ extends to } U \supset K, \varphi^* \omega_0 = \omega_0\}$

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Problem 1 Is $\text{Symp}(K)$ connected?

Problem 2 Understand the topology of $\text{Symp} K$

(e.g. homotopy type)

Motivation for Problem 1:

With Brendel and Mikhalkin have constructed many non-isotopic symplectic embeddings $K \rightarrow (M, \omega)$ for certain K .

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Example

Assume that $K = C^{2n}(1) := \times_n \overline{D}(1)$

or a suitable $K \supset C^{2n}(1)$ with ∂K smooth.

Take $(M, \omega) = B^{2n}(n+1)$ or $\mathbb{C}P^n(n+1)$

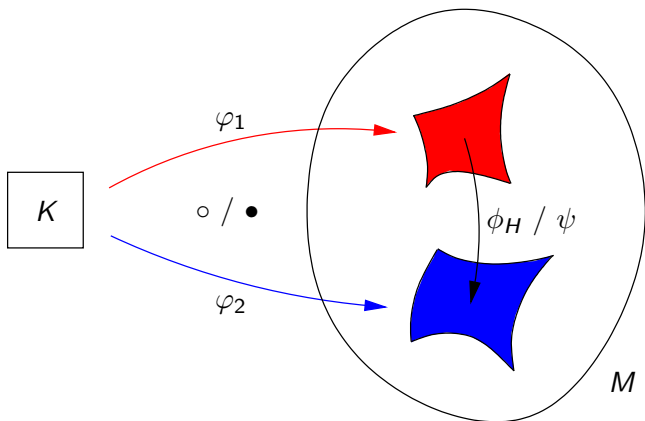
or $C^{2n}(2)$ or $\times_n S^2(2)$.

Then there exists a sequence $(\varphi_j)_{j \geq 1}: K \xrightarrow{s} (M, \omega)$ such that:

\exists symplectomorphism ψ of (M, ω) with

$$\varphi_j = \psi \circ \varphi_i \tag{*}$$

only if $i = j$.



cf. **Gutt–Usher**

If the answer to Problem 1 is **yes**, then (*) can be **upgraded** to

$$\text{im } \varphi_j = \text{im}(\psi \circ \varphi_i)$$

Strategy to analyse topology of $\text{Symp}(K)$:

Split problem into two:

$\varphi \in \text{Symp}(K)$ “splits as”

$\varphi|_{\partial K} \in \text{SCont}(\partial K)$ and $\varphi_c \in \text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$

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(1) $\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$ is in general hard to understand.

BUT (Gromov):

If K^4 is starshaped, then $\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$ is contractible.

In this case, $\text{Symp}(K) \simeq \text{SCont}(K) \dots$

(2) $\text{SCont}(\partial K)$ can sometimes be understood.

It is “generically small” (contractible)

Technically, one tries to set up a **fibration**:

First trial: [Look at restriction](#)

$$\begin{aligned} \rho: \text{Symp}(K) &\rightarrow \text{Diff}_{\omega_{\partial}}^+(\partial K) \\ \varphi &\mapsto \varphi|_{\partial K} \end{aligned}$$

Is a fibration, can be useful if ∂K is fibred by circles
([Lalonde–Pinsonnault](#))

In general, wish a smaller base, with more geometry.

Set $\lambda = \sum x_i dy_i - y_i dx_i$

Have: $\varphi^* d\lambda = d\lambda$

Since $H^1(\partial K; \mathbb{R}) = 0$: $\varphi^* \lambda = \lambda + dh$

With $\alpha := \lambda_{\partial}$: $\varphi_{\partial}^* \alpha = \alpha + dh_{\partial}$: $\varphi_{\partial} \notin \text{Cont}(\partial K)$

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(**Abbondandolo–Majer**):

Want to deform $\alpha + dh_\partial$ to α by the **Moser method**:

Search vector field X_t such that its flow μ_t solves

$$\mu_t^*(\alpha + t dh_\partial) = \alpha \quad \forall t \in [0, 1].$$

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Which Moser vector field X_t ?

Ansatz:

$$X_t = f_t R_{\alpha}$$

where R_{α} the Reeb field of α : $d\alpha(R_{\alpha}, \cdot) = 0$, $\alpha(R_{\alpha}) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\stackrel{!}{=} \frac{d}{dt}(\mu_t^*(\alpha + t dh_\partial)) \\
&= \mu_t^*(\mathcal{L}_{X_t}(\alpha + t dh_\partial) + dh_\partial) \\
&= \mu_t^*(\underbrace{i_{X_t} d(\alpha + t dh_\partial)}_{=0} + di_{X_t}(\alpha + t dh_\partial) + dh_\partial).
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\end{aligned}$$

Hence need $X_t = f_t R_\alpha$ such that

$$d\iota_{X_t}(\alpha + t dh_\partial) + dh_\partial = 0.$$

Enough:

$$\iota_{X_t}(\alpha + t dh_\partial) + h_\partial = 0.$$

Since $\iota_{X_t}(\alpha + t dh_\partial) = f_t(1 + t dh_\partial(R_\alpha))$, can take

$$f_t := -\frac{h_\partial}{1 + t dh_\partial(R_\alpha)}, \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Obtain, with $h(\varphi)$ the function with $\varphi^* \alpha = \alpha + dh_{\partial}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\text{Symp}(K)) &\rightarrow \text{SCont}(\partial K) \\ \varphi &\mapsto \varphi \circ \mu(h(\varphi)) \end{aligned}$$

is a **strong deformation retract**.

Proposition The following are **Hurewicz fibrations**.

$$\mathrm{Symp}(K) \xrightarrow{\rho} \rho(\mathrm{Symp}(K)) \xrightarrow{\circ\mu} \mathrm{SCont}(\partial K)$$

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Proof. Need to prove

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E \\ \downarrow \wr & \searrow \Phi & \downarrow p \\ S \times [0, 1] & \xrightarrow{\psi} & B. \end{array}$$

Easy, since the **fibers are groups**: Take any section, and correct. \square

The fiber is:

$$\text{Symp}_{\partial}(K) := \{\varphi \in \text{Symp}(K) \mid \rho(\varphi) = \text{id}_{\partial K}\}$$

$$\downarrow r_1$$

$$\text{Symp}_{T\partial}(K) := \{\varphi \in \text{Symp}_{\partial}(K) \mid T_p\varphi = \text{id} \ \forall p \in \partial K\}$$

$$\downarrow r_2$$

$$\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$$

r_1 : strong deformation retraction

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So get, up to homotopy equivalence, the Hurewicz fibration

$$\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ) \hookrightarrow \text{Symp}(K) \xrightarrow{(\circ\mu)\circ\rho =: M} \text{SCont}(\partial K)$$

For Problem 1 wish to know:

When are $\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$ and $\text{SCont}(\partial K)$ connected?

$\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$: Good and bad news:

- If K is starshaped and 4-dimensional:

$\text{Symp}_c(K^\circ)$ is contractible (“Gromov”)

Then $\text{Symp}(K) \xrightarrow[M]{\cong} \text{SCont}(\partial K)$

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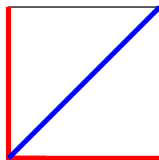
- If K is starshaped and 4-dimensional:

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Then $\text{Symp}(K) \xrightarrow[M]{\simeq} \text{SCont}(\partial K)$

Remark This comes from the proof of

$$\text{Symp}_0(S^2 \times S^2) \simeq \text{SO}(3) \times \text{SO}(3)$$



$$\begin{aligned} S^2 \times S^2 &\supset D^\circ \times D^\circ & \text{Symp}_c(D^\circ \times D^\circ) &\simeq \text{pt} \\ &\supset T_1^* S^2 & \text{Symp}_c(T_1^* S^2) &= \mathbb{Z} = \langle \tau_{DS} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- But for $K^{2n \geq 6}$ **nothing is known.**

Not even whether $\text{Symp}_c(\text{Int } B^6)$ is connected.

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Note: $\pi_0(\text{Diff}_c(\text{Int } B^n)) = \Theta^{n+1}$
(group of exotic spheres Σ^{n+1})

It is unknown whether exotic components have symplectic representatives.

But some have for another ω ! (**Casals–Keating–Smith**)

$S\text{Cont}(\partial K)$: Sometimes, this can be understood.

Example 1 (Eliashberg, Casals–Spacil)

$$S\text{Cont}(S^3, \alpha_0) \simeq \text{SU}(2) \quad (*)$$

Hence $\text{Symp}(B^4) \simeq \text{SU}(2)$

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Example 1 (**Eliashberg, Casals–Spacil**)

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Hence $\text{Symp}(B^4) \simeq \text{SU}(2)$

This is shown by **Lalonde–Pinsonnault** using “only” Gromov’s $\text{Symp}_c(\text{Int } B^4) \simeq \text{pt}$

Hence get new proof of (*)

Example 2 ???

Assume that K^4 is a starshaped toric domain such that Γ contains no segment of rational slope:

- (i) If $a_1 \neq a_2$, then $S\text{Cont}(\partial K)$ is connected.
- (ii) If K is invariant under $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (z_2, z_1)$, then $S\text{Cont}(\partial K)$ has two components.

Proof. Fix $\varphi \in \text{SCont}(\partial K)$.

Step 1. φ maps μ -fibers to μ -fibers.

Proof. ϕ_α^t preserves the fibers $T_p = \mu^{-1}(p)$
and there is a Kronecker (linear flow):

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Proof. ϕ_α^t preserves the fibers $T_p = \mu^{-1}(p)$
and there is a Kronecker (linear flow):

Since φ preserves α , it preserves R_α ,
hence takes flow lines to flow lines.

Take an irrational T_p and a flow line.

It is mapped to a flow line, and φ is continuous.

So $\varphi(T_p) = T_{p'}$.

The irrational T_p are dense by assumption. □

Step 2. *If $\varphi(C_1) = C_1$, then $\varphi(T_p) = T_p$.*

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Step 3. *End of proof of (i):*

Take $G = \{\varphi \in \text{SCont}(\partial K) \mid \varphi(C_1) = C_1\}$

Fix $\varphi \in G$. Look again at irrational torus T_p :

$\varphi(T_p) = T_p$ and $\varphi \circ \phi_\alpha^t = \varphi_\alpha^t \circ \varphi$ for all t .

On the flow line through 0, φ is the translation by $\varphi(0)$.

This line is dense, so φ is translation by $\varphi(0)$.

Irrational tori are dense, so

$$\varphi(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\theta} + F(\boldsymbol{\mu}))$$

$$\varphi^* \alpha = \alpha \text{ becomes } \sum_{i=1}^2 \mu_i dF_i(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = 0$$

...

Example 3

Generically, $S\text{Cont}_0(S^3, \alpha)$ is contractible. ...
cf. ([Casals–Spacil](#))

