

The Number of Periodic Points of Surface Symplectomorphisms

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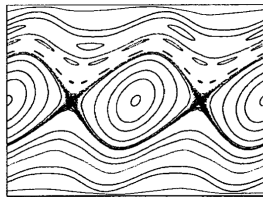
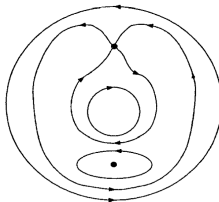
September 2025

Symplectic Dynamics

Theorem (Poincaré's last geometric theorem - Poincaré-Birkhoff, 1920)

An area preserving twist map of the annulus must have at least two different fixed points.

- typical twist map on the annulus



- this result can be viewed as the first theorem in global symplectic geometry

Symplectic Manifolds and Symplectic Diffeomorphisms

- symplectic manifold: (M^{2n}, ω) , ω is a 2-form
 - nondegenerate: $\omega^n = \underbrace{\omega \wedge \dots \wedge \omega}_{n \text{ times}} \neq 0$ (or, equiv., $\omega(u, v) = 0$ for all $v \in T_p M \Rightarrow u = 0$)
 - closed: $d\omega = 0$
- examples:
 - standard: $\mathbb{R}^{2n} = \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^n}_{x=(x_1, \dots, x_n)} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^n}_{y=(y_1, \dots, y_n)}, \quad \omega_0 = dy \wedge dx (= \sum_{i=1}^n dy_i \wedge dx_i)$
 - 2-sphere: $(S^2, \text{area form})$
 - complex projective space: $(\mathbb{C}P^n, \omega_{FS})$
 - $2n$ -torus: $\mathbb{T}^{2n} = \underbrace{S^1 \times \dots \times S^1}_{2n \text{ times}} = \underbrace{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}}_{2n \text{ times}} = \mathbb{R}^{2n}/\mathbb{Z}^{2n}$
 - surface with genus $g \geq 2$: $(\Sigma_{g \geq 2}, \text{area form})$

$\dim M = 2$

ϕ is a symplectomorphism ($\phi^*\omega = \omega$) \Leftrightarrow ϕ is an area preserving diffeomorphism

$\dim M > 2$

ϕ is a symplectomorphism ($\phi^*\omega = \omega$) \Rightarrow ϕ is a volume preserving diffeomorphism
 \nLeftarrow (Gromov's non-squeezing theorem '85)

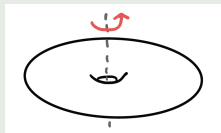
Example

- $H_t: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, t \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z};$ $\omega(X_{H_t}, \cdot) = -dH_t$
 $\frac{d}{dt}\varphi_H^t = X_H \circ \varphi_H^t$ Hamiltonian flow
- $\varphi_H := \varphi_H^1$ Hamiltonian diffeomorphism (time-1 map of φ_H^t)
 $\varphi_H^*\omega = \omega$ φ_H preserves the symplectic structure

Example (not all symplectomorphisms are Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms)

\mathbb{T}^2 horizontal translation by θ

- area preserving
- not a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism



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 $\text{Per}(\varphi_H) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Fix}(\varphi_H^k) \leftrightarrow \{\text{periodic orbits of } X_H\} \text{ (with integer period)}$

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Example

$$M = \mathbb{C}P^n, \# \text{Fix}(\varphi_H) \geq n + 1$$

- recall the horizontal translation on the 2-torus: there are no fixed points
- contributions: Eliashberg ('79), Conley-Zehnder ('83), ..., Floer ('89), ...

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Conley Conjecture ('84)

For a “large class” of symplectic manifolds (e.g. surfaces w/ $g \neq 0$), $\# \operatorname{Per}(\varphi_H) = \infty$.

- contributions: Franks-Handle ('03), Le Calvez ('05, '06), Hingston ('09), Ginzburg ('10), Ginzburg-Gürel ('12, '19)

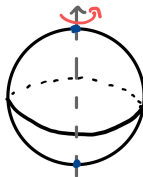
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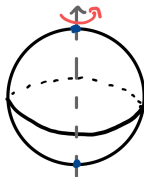
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 - Hamiltonian diffeomorphism
 - with exactly two fixed points
 - (and no other periodic points)



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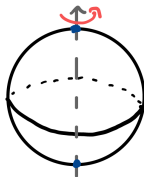
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An area preserving diffeomorphism on S^2 with more (strictly) than two fixed points has infinitely many periodic points.

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Theorem (Collier, Kerman, Reiniger, Turmunkh, Zimmer, '12)

If $\varphi \in \text{Ham}(S^2)$, then $\# \text{Per}(\varphi) = 2$ or ∞ . If $\text{Per}(\varphi) = \{x, y\}$ then x, y are non-degenerate and

$$\Delta(x) + \Delta(y) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

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$\#\text{Fix}(\varphi_H) > \text{"A.C."} \Rightarrow \#\text{Per}(\varphi_H) = \infty$

- e.g. $M = \mathbb{C}P^n$, A.C. = $n + 1$;
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If φ_H has an extraneous fixed point, from the point of Floer theory, then it has infinitely many periodic points.

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Theorem (Ginzburg-Gürel, '14)

*For a class of symplectic manifolds (which includes $\mathbb{C}P^n$),
 φ_H has a (contractible) hyperbolic fixed point $\Rightarrow \#\text{Per}(\varphi_H) = \infty$*

Symplectic Diffeomorphisms

- $\phi: M \rightarrow M$ symplectomorphism; ϕ^t isotopy s.t. $\phi^0 = \text{id}$, $\phi^1 = \phi$; $\frac{d}{dt}\phi^t = X_t \circ \phi^t$

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Theorem (variant of the Arnold Conjecture; Lê-Ono '95)

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Theorem (variants of Ginzburg-Gürel results; B.'13, B.'15)

*For a class of symplectic manifolds (+ conditions on $\text{Flux}(\phi)$),
 $\phi \in \text{Symp}(M, \omega)$ with a hyperbolic fixed point $\Rightarrow \# \text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$*

Question:

On $\Sigma_{g \geq 2}$, \exists hyperbolic fixed point $\Rightarrow \# \text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$?

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Answer:

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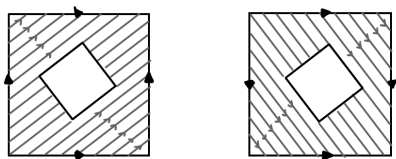
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Answer:

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Example (B.'18)

Construction of a symplectic flow on a surface $\Sigma_{g \geq 2}$ with exactly $2g - 2$ hyperbolic fixed points and no other periodic orbits.



$$\phi_i^t(x, y) = (x + u_i t, y + v_i t), \text{ where } u_i/v_i \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$$

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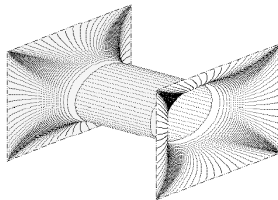
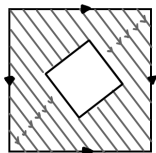
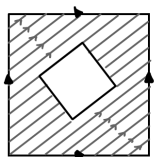
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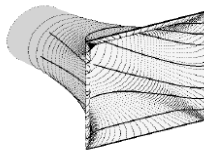
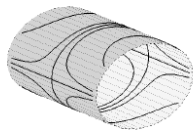
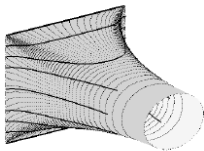
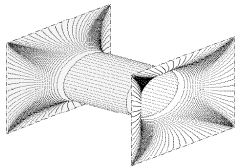
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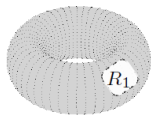
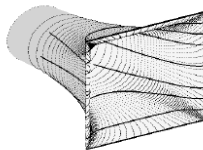
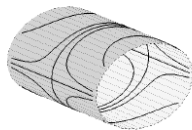
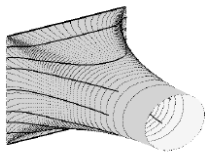
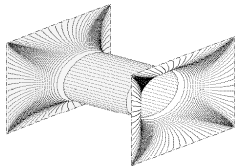
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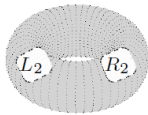




\mathbb{T}_1



U_1



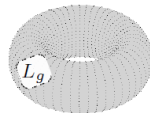
\mathbb{T}_2



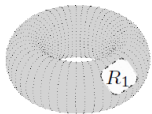
U_2

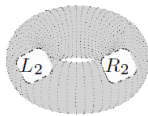


U_{g-1}

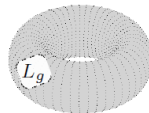


\mathbb{T}_g


 \mathbb{T}_1

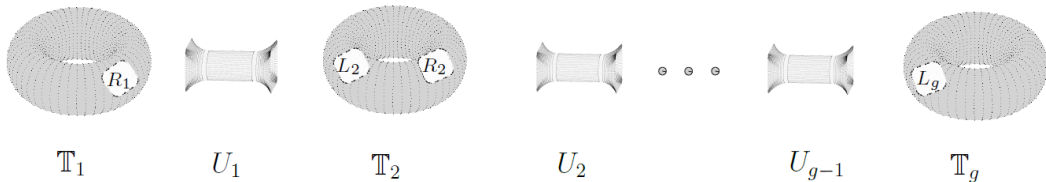
 U_1

 \mathbb{T}_2

 U_2
 \cdots

 U_{g-1}

 \mathbb{T}_g

Example (B.'18)

When $g = 2$, $\text{Flux}(\psi) = (u_1, v_1, u_2, v_2) \in H^1(\Sigma_2; \mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathbb{R}^4$ where $u_i/v_i \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}, i = 1, 2$

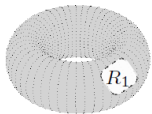


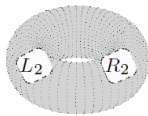
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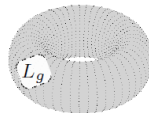
Theorem (B.'18)

$\# \text{Fix}(\phi) > 2g - 2 \Rightarrow \# \text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$ (with “irrationality” assumption on the Flux)


 \mathbb{T}_1

 U_1

 \mathbb{T}_2

 U_2
 \dots

 U_{g-1}

 \mathbb{T}_g

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Theorem (Prasad '25, Guiheneuf - Le Calvez - Passeggi '23)

$\# \text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$ if $\text{Flux}(\phi) \in H^1(\Sigma; \mathbb{Q})$

Surfaces

2-sphere

- exactly two fixed points (e.g. irrational rotation) or $\# \text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$ (Franks Theorem)

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2-torus

- no periodic points (e.g. horizontal irrational rotation) or $\#\text{Per}(\phi) = \infty$ (Ginzburg-Gürel, '09)

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g -surface, $g \geq 2$

- Lefschetz fixed point Theorem: $\#\text{Fix}(\phi) \geq 1$
- ϕ non-degenerate: $\#\text{Fix}(\phi) \geq 2g - 2$

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g -surface, $g \geq 2$

- Lefschetz fixed point Theorem: $\#\text{Fix}(\phi) \geq 1$
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$\exists \phi \in \text{Symp}_0(\Sigma, \omega)$ with $\#\text{Per}(\phi) < 2g - 2$?

Surfaces

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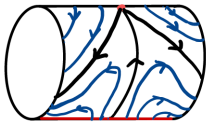
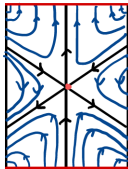
Construction of a symplectic flow on a surface $\Sigma_{g \geq 2}$ with exactly one fixed point and no other periodic orbits.

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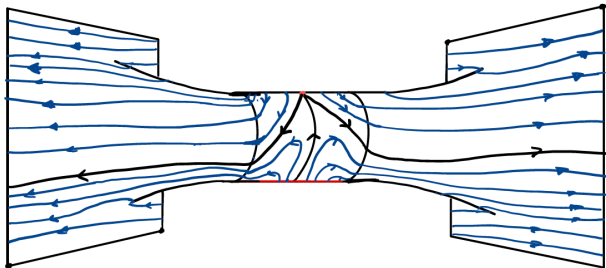
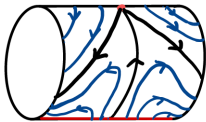
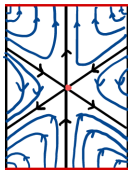
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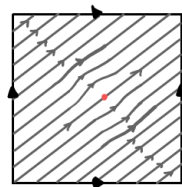
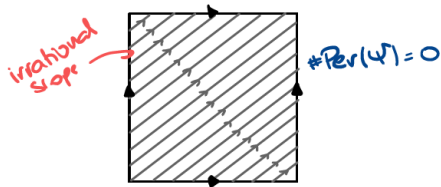
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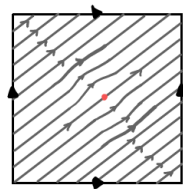
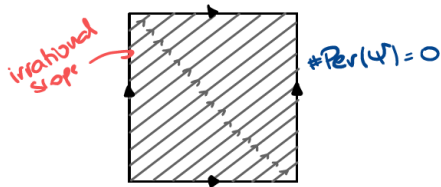


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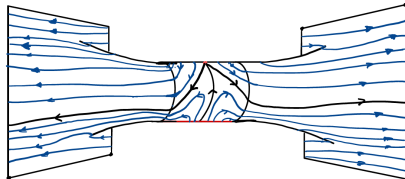
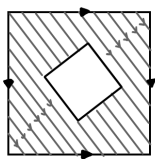
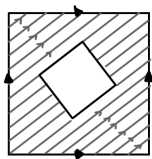
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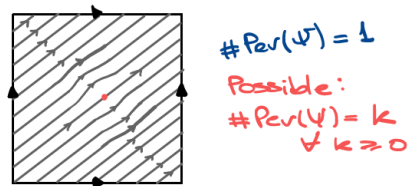
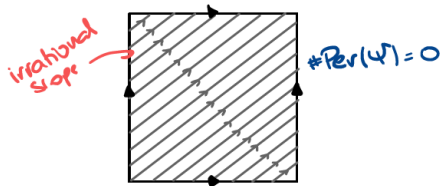
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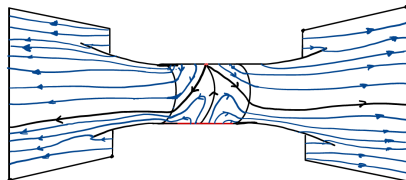
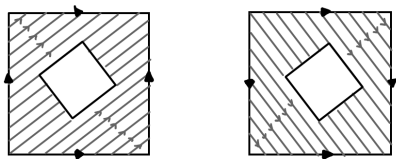
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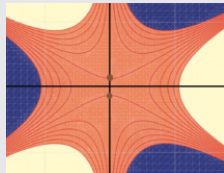
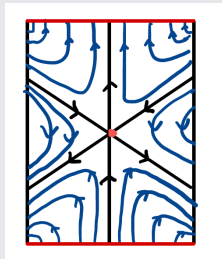
Remark

- by changing H by $H + \varepsilon x$, we obtain a symplectic flow with exactly $2g - 2$ fixed points (each with index -1).

- for every partition

$$\sum_{i=1}^k a_i = 2g - 2, \quad 1 \leq a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_k$$

there is a symplectic flow with k fixed points x_1, \dots, x_k with $L(\phi, x_k) = -a_i$. (Done for $g = 2, 3$)



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General Statement (Conjecture)

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Assume $\#\text{Fix}(\phi) < \infty$. If there is $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ such that $\Delta(x) \neq 0$ and $HF^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$ then there is a simple p -periodic point for suff. large prime p .

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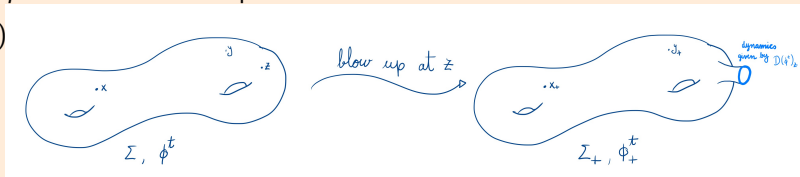
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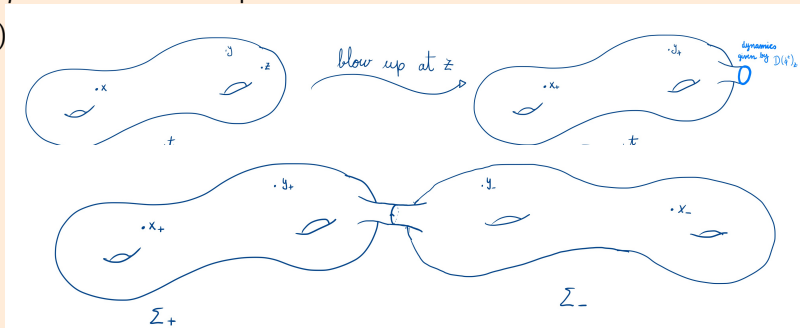
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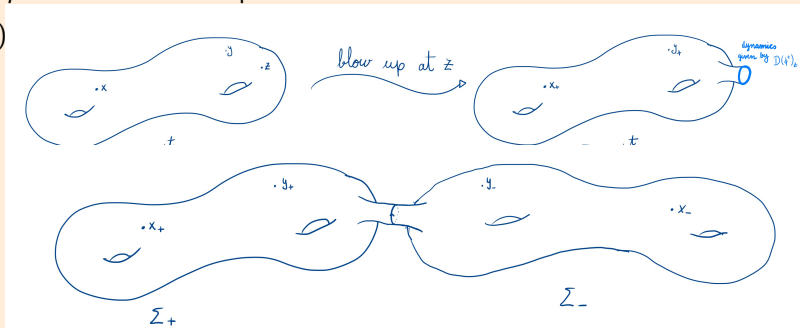
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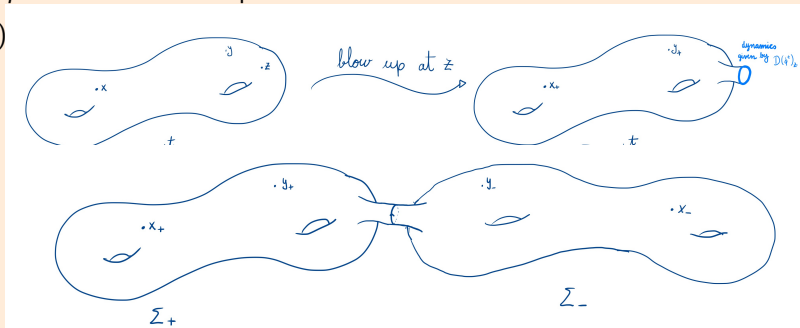
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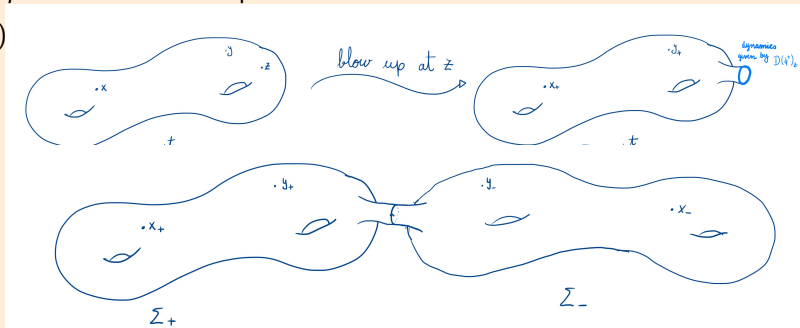
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- cycles representing a non-trivial class of $HF^{\text{loc}}(x_{\pm})$ remain non-trivial in HFN . \square

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If $(\star) \sum_{x \in \text{Fix}(\phi^t)} \dim HF^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) > 2g - 2$ then

- either there is $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ such that $\Delta(x) \neq 0$ and $HF^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$
- or there is a symplectic degenerate extremum (i.e. $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ with $HF_1^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$ or $HF_{-1}^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$)
- Suppose that $\Delta(x) = 0$, for all $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ with $HF^{\text{loc}}(x) \neq 0$
- Hence $\text{supp } HF^{\text{loc}}(x) = \{-1, 0, 1\}$ for all $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$

Theorem B

If $(\star) \sum_{x \in \text{Fix}(\phi^t)} \dim HF^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) > 2g - 2$ then

- either there is $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ such that $\Delta(x) \neq 0$ and $HF^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$
- or there is a symplectic degenerate extremum (i.e. $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ with $HF_1^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$ or $HF_{-1}^{\text{loc}}(\phi, x) \neq 0$)
- Suppose that $\Delta(x) = 0$, for all $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$ with $HF^{\text{loc}}(x) \neq 0$
- Hence $\text{supp } HF^{\text{loc}}(x) = \{-1, 0, 1\}$ for all $x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)$
- $CFN = \bigoplus_{x \in \text{Fix}(\phi)} HF^{\text{loc}}(x) \xrightarrow{(\star)}$ non-trivial differential
 - \implies there is a k s.t. CFN_k and CFN_{k+1} are non-trivial
 - \implies there is an SDE \square

Thank you!