

# *On the Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture*

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based on arXiv:2401.15432

joint with Yang Li (MIT)

SCSHGAP meeting, 16 May, 2024

- Donaldson initiated a program to study  $G_2$ -manifolds with coassociative  $K3$  fibrations

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- Local Model, away from singularities,

$$M^7 \approx K3 \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

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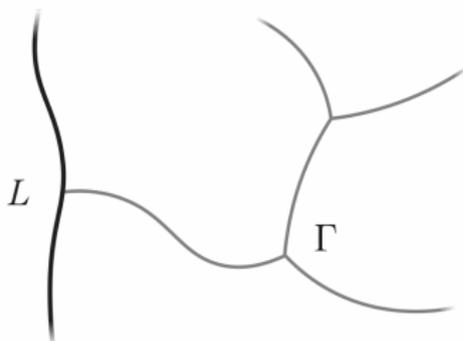


Figure 1: Local diagram of gradient cycle  $\Gamma$  which has one univalent vertex terminating at the link  $L$ .

- In search of the building block pair of pants!

## Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture

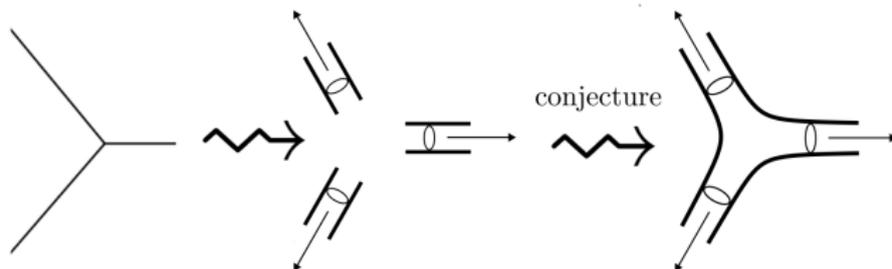
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**Conjecture 1** *Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$  be  $-2$  classes on the K3 manifold  $X$  with  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 = 0$ . Let  $\mathbf{R}^3 = H \subset H^2(X)$  be a maximal positive subspace corresponding to a hyperkähler structure and  $v_i$  be the projection of  $\alpha_i$  to  $H$ . Assume that the  $(\alpha_i, H)$  are irreducible. Then there is an associative submanifold  $\Pi \subset X \times \mathbf{R}^3$  with three ends asymptotic to  $\Sigma_i \times \mathbf{R}^+ v_i$  where  $\Sigma_i$  is the complex curve representing  $\alpha_i$ , for the complex structure defined by  $v_i$ , and  $\Pi$  is unique up to the translations of  $\mathbf{R}^3$ .*

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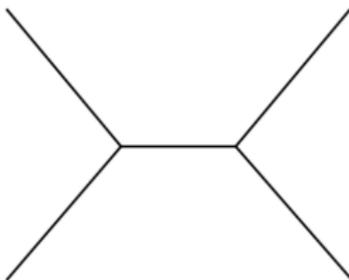
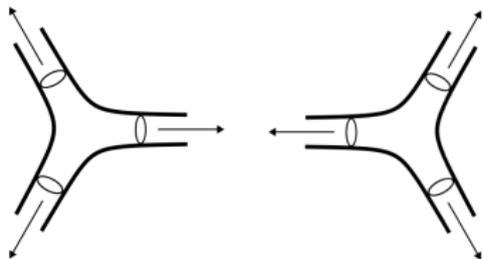
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Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture.

- A plumbing conjecture:



- Local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture:

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## Local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture

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- Idea: the non-compact manifold  $X_{A_2}$  can be embedded in a Kummer K3 surface + deformation theory  $\rightarrow$  global Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture for an open subset of moduli space of K3 surfaces.

- **Local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture.** There exists a  $U(1)$ -invariant associative submanifold  $L \subset X_{A_2} \times \mathbb{R}^3$  homeomorphic to a three-holed 3-sphere, with three ends asymptotic to the associative cylinders.

- Features of the conjecture:
  - (1) Compactness with respect to the deformation of the hyperkähler structure of  $X$ .
  - (2) Relevance to the Joyce conjecture.

- **Theorem (E- Yang Li)** Local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture holds.

## II. The model Calabi-Yau 3-fold

- The conjectured associative can be interpreted as a special Lagrangian

$$L \subset X \times \mathbb{R}^2 \subset X \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

- Smooth real 4-dimensional manifold  $(X, g_X, I, J, K)$ ,

# Hyperkähler 4-manifolds

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- Kodaira: Any compact hyperkähler 4-manifold is either a K3 surface or a torus  $\mathbb{T}^4$ .

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- There is a 2-sphere family of complex structures on  $X$ .

- Gibbons-Hawking spaces: non-compact hyperkähler 4-manifolds.

# Gibbons-Hawking

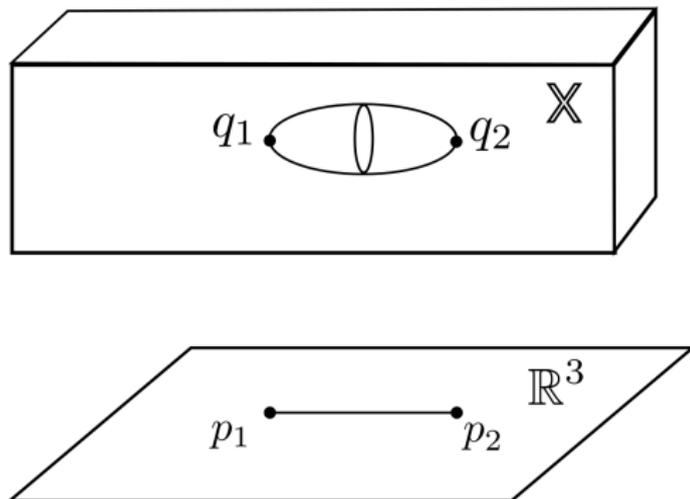
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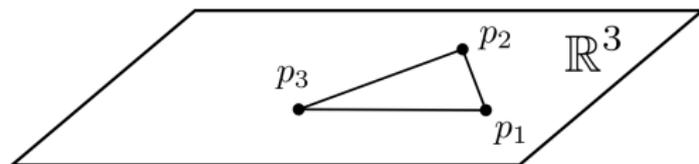
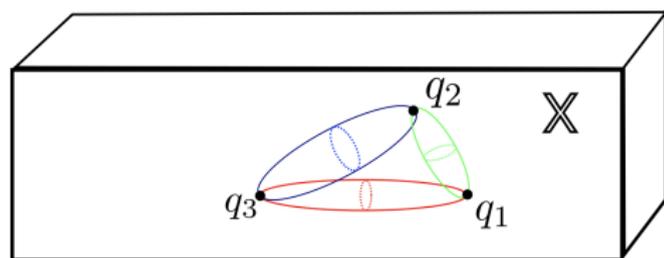
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$$V(u_1, u_2, u_3) = A + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2|u-p_i|}, \quad u = (u_1, u_2, u_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad A = \text{constant} \geq 0.$$

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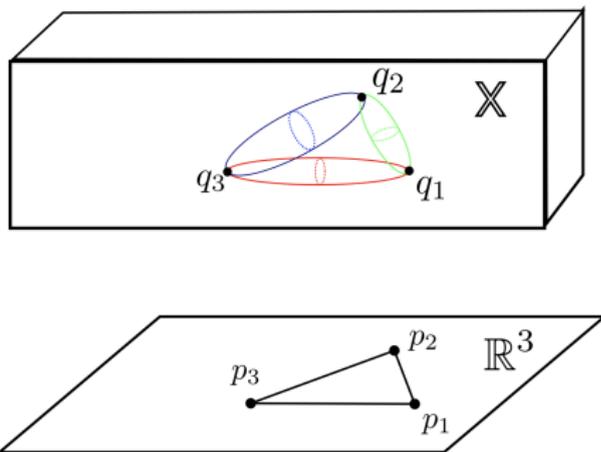
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- The metric is given by  $g_X = V^{-1}\theta^2 + V\sum_{i=1}^3 du_i^2$ .

- $A_2$  type ALE hyperkähler manifold  $X_{A_2}$ : let  $n = 3$  and  $V = \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{1}{2|u-p_i|}$ .
- Three 2-sphere  $\Sigma_i := \pi^{-1}[p_i, p_{i+1}] \subset X$  is holomorphic.



- Let  $X$  = hyperkähler 4-manifold.

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- Special interests:

$$Z = K3 \times \mathbb{R}^2, \quad Z = X_{A_2} \times \mathbb{R}^2.$$

### III. Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture

- Let  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2, \Sigma_3$  be three holomorphic curves with respect to  $v_1, v_2, v_3 \in U(1) \subset S^2$ .

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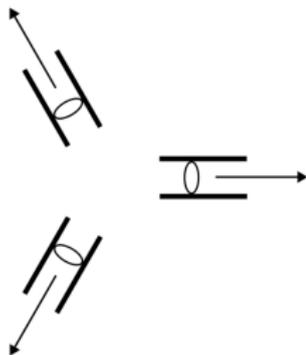
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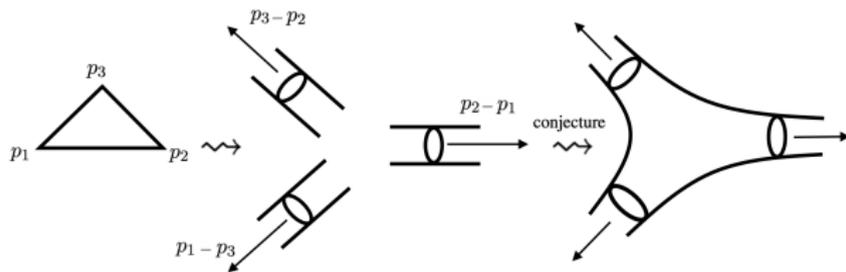
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# Donaldson-Scaduto conjectures

Theorem (E - Yang Li, Local Donaldson-Scaduto)

There exists special Lagrangian  $P \subset X_{A_2} \times \mathbb{R}^2$  homeomorphic to a three-holed 3-sphere, with three ends asymptotic to the half-cylinders  $L_1, L_2, L_3$ .



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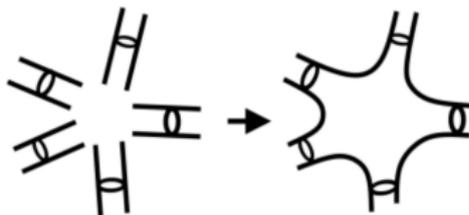
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*Theorem (Generalized local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture, E-Li)*

There exists an  $(n - 3)$ -dimensional family of special Lagrangians  $L \subset X \times \mathbb{R}^2$  homeomorphic to a  $n$ -holed 3-sphere, with  $n$  ends asymptotic to the translations of half-cylinders  $L_1, \dots, L_n$ .



## IV. Proof

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- Step 4. Show the special Lagrangians satisfy the conjecture.

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- The dimensionally reduced Lagrangian is

$$L_{\text{red}} := L/U(1) \subset Z_{\text{red}} := u_3^{-1}(0)/U(1).$$

## *A 'good' PDE*

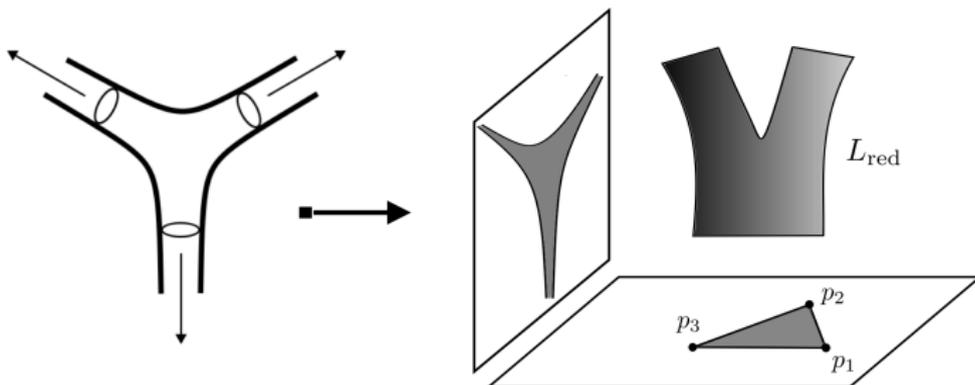
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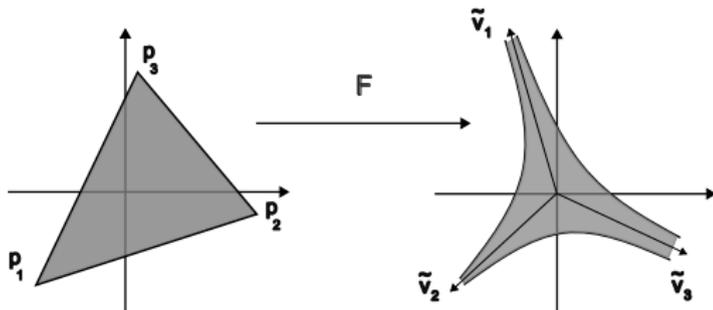
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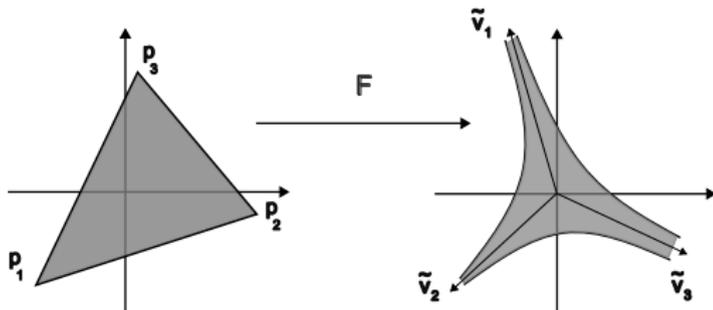
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- Graphical case: the conjectured curve = graph of a map  $F : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2_{(u_1, u_2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2_{(y_1, y_2)}$ .



## A 'good' PDE

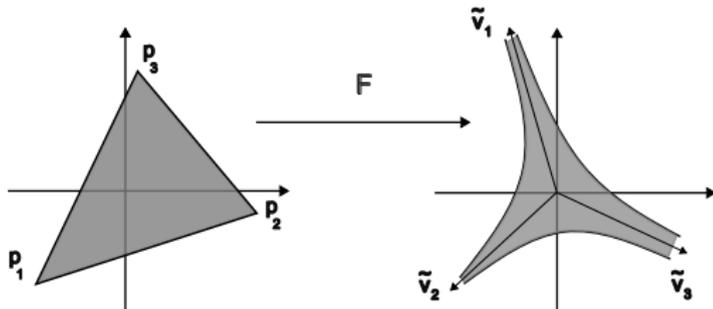
- Graphical case: the conjectured curve = graph of a map  $F : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2_{(u_1, u_2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2_{(y_1, y_2)}$ .



- The 'special' condition  $du_1 \wedge dy_1 + du_2 \wedge dy_2 = 0$  implies  $F = (F_1, F_2)$  satisfies  $\partial_{u_1} F_2 = \partial_{u_2} F_1$ , and therefore,  $F = \nabla \varphi$ , for some  $\varphi : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2_{(u_1, u_2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

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- The second condition (Lag) implies a degenerate Monge–Ampère equation:

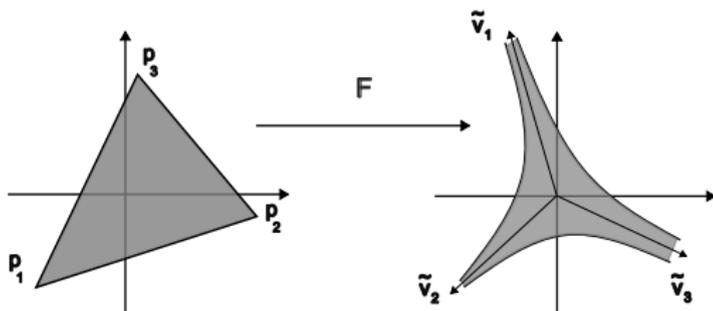
$$\det D^2 \varphi = V = A + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2|u - p_i|}.$$

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- Find  $\varphi : U \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\det D^2\varphi = V = A + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2|u - p_i|},$$

with a suitable Dirichlet boundary condition.



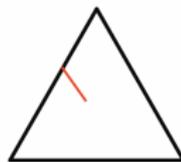
- Solving the Dirichlet problem: an approximation method and a compactness argument.



$U_0$

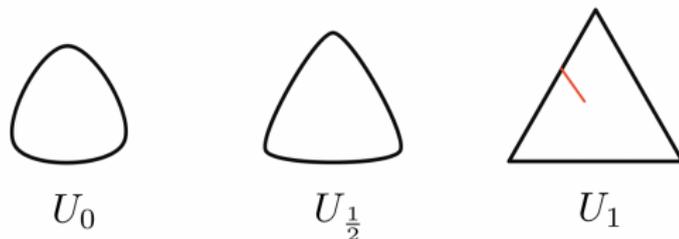


$U_{\frac{1}{2}}$



$U_1$

- Solving the Dirichlet problem: an approximation method and a compactness argument.



- Uniform bound:

$$\bar{\phi}_t(u) - C\text{dist}(u, \partial U)^{1/2} \leq \varphi_t(u) \leq \bar{\phi}_t(u) + C\text{dist}(u, \partial U).$$

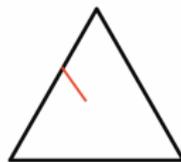
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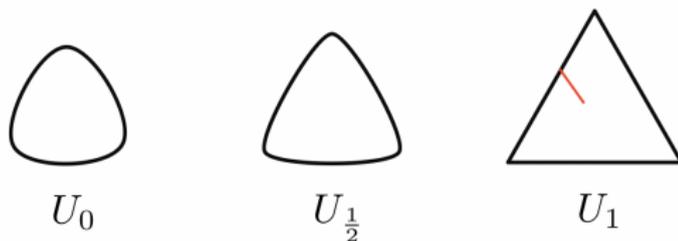


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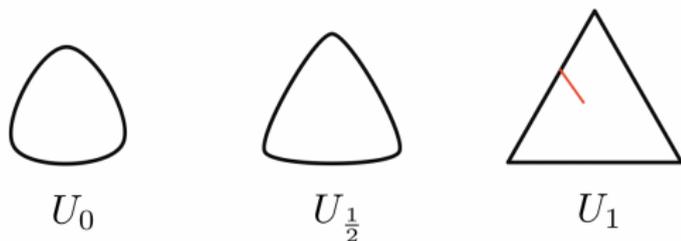
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- The interior smoothness of the solution is based on two facts:
  - 1 Caffarelli: The singular set must propagate along some line segment to the boundary.
  - 2 Mooney's partial regularity: The singular set has codimension one Hausdorff measure zero.

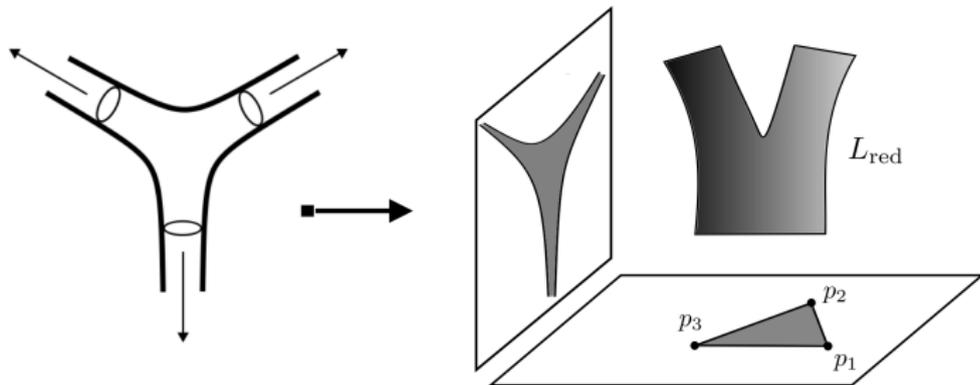
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  - ① Caffarelli: The singular set must propagate along some line segment to the boundary.
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- This proves the existence of  $\varphi \Rightarrow$  the dimensionally reduced conjectured SLAG.

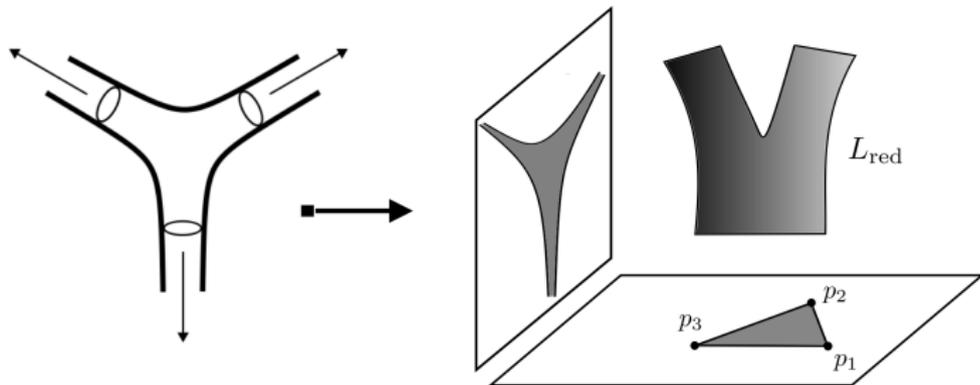
# Smoothness

- $L^\circ = \pi^{-1}(\text{Graph}(F)_U)$ .



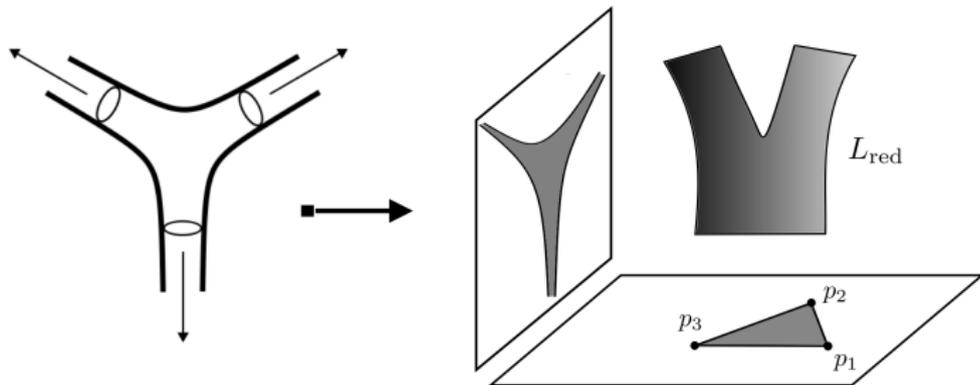
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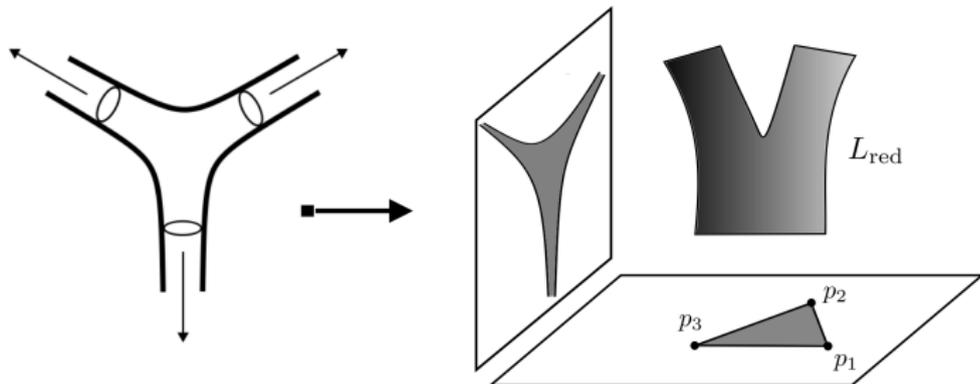
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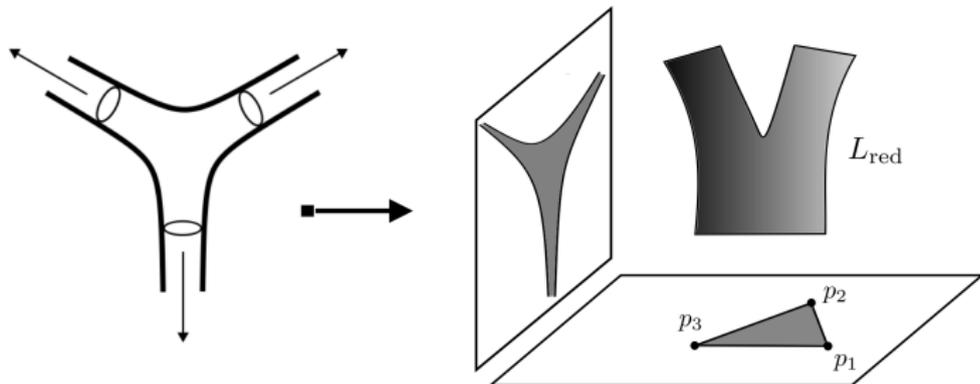
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- $\pi_{(u_1, u_2)}(x)$  cannot be an interior point of  $U$  or any point over an open edge.
- The only possibility  $\pi_{(u_1, u_2)}(x) \in \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ .



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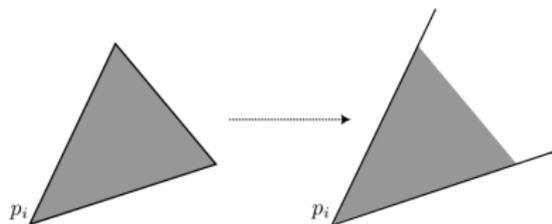
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- There is a classification of  $U(1)$ -invariant special Lagrangian cones in  $\mathbb{C}^3$  due to Joyce/Haskins.

- Proposition (Joyce/Haskins): Let  $N$  be a  $U(1)$ -invariant SLAG cone in  $\mathbb{C}^3$ . Then, exactly one of the following holds:
  - 1  $N$  is a  $\mathbb{T}^2$ -cone.
  - 2  $N$  is the singular union of two flat 3-planes.
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  - ④  $N$  is a flat 3-plane with multiplicity  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- Using properties of the Monge–Ampère equation, and the geometry of the problem, we rule out every case but a flat 3-plane with  $m = 1$ .

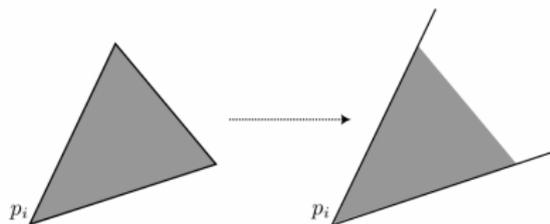
## Tangent cone analysis

- The projection of  $\mathbb{T}^2$ -cone is surjective.



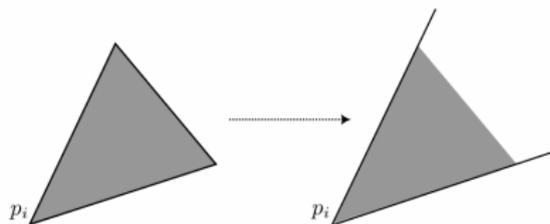
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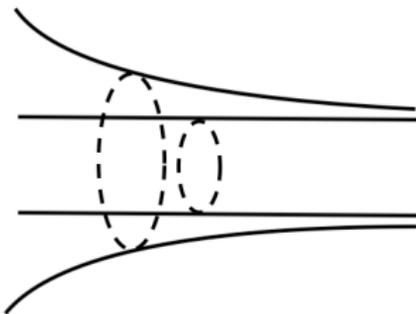
- The projection of  $\mathbb{T}^2$ -cone is surjective.
- The projection of the union of two planes includes a line.
- Ruling out the Jacobi elliptic case and flat 3-plane with  $|m| \geq 1$  follows from a variation of Joyce graphicality argument + some GMT ingredients.



# Asymptotic analysis

- Asymptotically cylindrical:
  - ① Using Legendre transform + quasi-Elliptic property:  $C^0$  convergence.
  - ② Allard's regularity:  $C^{1,\alpha}$ -decay, and then  $C^k$ -decay.
  - ③ Exponential decay: three-annulus lemma or iteration method

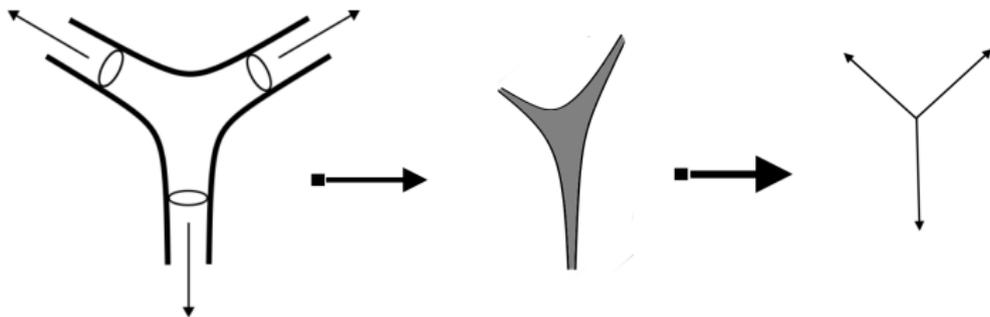
$$F(R) = \int_{\{y_2 \leq -R\} \cap L} |\nabla \varphi|^2 \implies -CF' \geq F.$$



- Topology of  $L = n$ -holed 3-sphere =  $n$ -holed pair of pants:  
computing  $\pi_1(L)$  (Poincare conjecture) or constructing a Heegaard splitting.

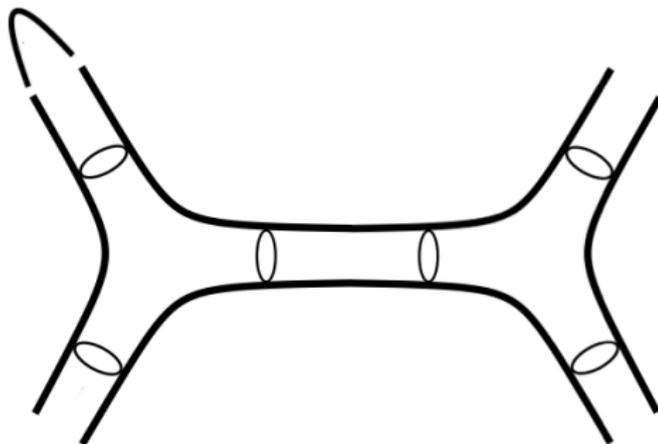
- Topology of  $L = n$ -holed 3-sphere =  $n$ -holed pair of pants:  
computing  $\pi_1(L)$  (Poincare conjecture) or constructing a Heegaard splitting.
- This completes the proof.

- Remark: The adiabatic limit of the pair of pants special Lagrangian is a trivalent graph.



## V. Epilogue

- Deformation + gluing + capping-off:



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  - ① Uniqueness in the Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture, following Imagi, Joyce, dos Santos.

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Joint with Yang Li (in preparation): a Compactness theorem for the monopole Fueter sections.

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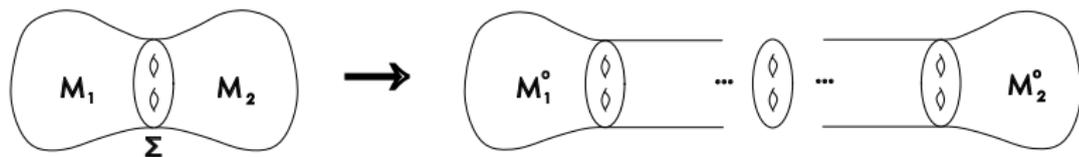
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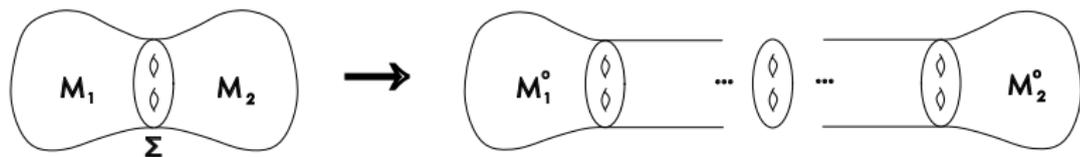
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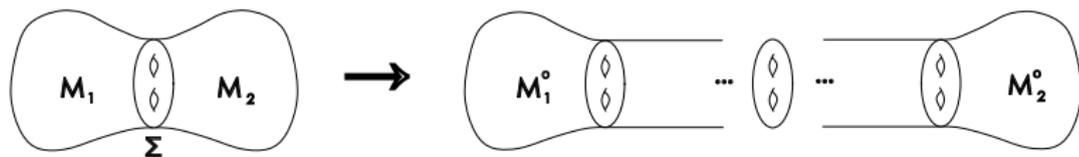


Atiyah-Floer type questions

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Atiyah-Floer type questions + categorified Donaldson-Segal conjecture!

Thank you for your attention!