Moduli Problems in Sasakian Geometry

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 - Determine those having distinct underlying CR structures within the same isotopy class of contact structures.
 - We give partial answers to these problems for particular cases. My talk is based on joint work with various colleagues: Leonardo Macarini, Justin Pati, Christina Tønnesen-Friedman, and Otto van Koert.

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• Unique vector field ξ , called the **Reeb vector field**, satisfying

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- The pair (\mathfrak{D}, J) is a strictly pseudo-convex almost CR structure (s ψ CR structure).
- If (\mathfrak{D},J) is an integrable CR structure, and $\mathcal{L}_{\xi}g=0$ then $\mathcal{S}=(\xi,\eta,\Phi,g)$ is a Sasakian structure. Then contact manifold (M,\mathfrak{D}) is of Sasaki type.

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Definition

A (strong) symplectic filling of (M, \mathcal{D}) is a compact symplectic manifold (W, ω) such that $\partial W = M$, there is a local outward pointing vector field Ψ on W such that $\mathcal{L}_{\Psi}\omega = \omega$ and $\mathcal{D} = \ker(\Psi \perp \omega)|_M$. If Ψ is globally defined (W, ω) is a **Liouville filling**. It is a **holomorphic filling** if W has a complex structure J such that (M, J) is strictly pseudo-convex and $\mathcal{D} = TM \cap JTM$. It is a **Stein (Kähler) filling** if (W, ω) is biholomorphic to a Stein (Kähler) manifold.

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- We need a Liouville filling which we extend to a full cone $\overline{W} = W \cup M \times \mathbb{R}^+$.

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- Morally, $SH^{+,S^{1}}(W)$ is generated by **periodic Reeb orbits** on the boundary M.
- Under the right assumptions $SH^{+,S^1}(W)$ is a **contact invariant**.

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Definition (van Koert)

For a convenient Liouville filling (W, ω) , the **mean Euler characteristic** is defined by

$$\chi_{m}(W) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\liminf_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=-N}^{N} (-1)^{i} s b_{i}(W) + \limsup_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=-N}^{N} (-1)^{i} s b_{i}(W) \right)$$

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- Under various technical assumptions, $\chi_m(W)$ exists and is a **contact invariant** independent of the Liouville filling.
- $\chi_m(W)$ and $SH^{+,S^1}(W)$ allows us to distinguish components of the Sasaki moduli space.

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Construction of Sasaki Manifolds

1 Total space M of an S^1 -orbibundle over a projective algebraic orbifold.

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- **1** Total space M of an S^1 -orbibundle over a projective algebraic orbifold.
- Sasakian manifold with many symmetries, e.g. toric contact structures of Reeb type.

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Brieskorn Manifolds - Rational Homology Spheres, B-, Macarini, van Koert

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- I present two fundamental theorems about $M \star_{l_1, l_2} S_{\mathbf{w}}^3$ and then present brief outlines of their proofs. Finally, I discuss the special case of S^3 -bundles over a Riemann surface Σ_g .

• Existence of extremal and CSC Sasaki metrics by deforming in the Sasaki cone

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Let $M_{l_1,l_2,\mathbf{w}} = M \star_{l_1,l_2} S_{\mathbf{w}}^3$ be the $S_{\mathbf{w}}^3$ -join with a regular Sasaki manifold M which is an S^1 -bundle over a compact Kähler manifold N with constant scalar curvature. Then for each vector $\mathbf{w} = (w_1,w_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}^+$ with relatively prime components satisfying $w_1 > w_2$ there exists a Reeb vector field $\xi_{\mathbf{v}}$ in a 2-dimensional sub cone, the \mathbf{w} -cone, of the Sasaki cone on $M_{l_1,l_2,\mathbf{w}}$ such that the corresponding ray of Sasakian structures $\mathcal{S}_a = (a^{-1}\xi_{\mathbf{v}}, a_{l/\mathbf{v}}, \Phi, g_a)$ has constant scalar curvature.

If the scalar curvature s_N of N is nonnegative, then the w-cone is exhausted by extremal Sasaki metrics.

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- **3** When N is positive KE get SE metric on $M_{l_1, l_2, \mathbf{w}}$ for appropriate choice of (l_1, l_2) .

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- **1** When N is positive **KE** get **SE** metric on $M_{l_1, l_2, \mathbf{w}}$ for appropriate choice of (l_1, l_2) .
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 - Most of the CSC Sasakian structures are irregular.
 - Relation to CR Yamabe Problem (Jerison and Lee): For a Sasaki structure the Webster pseudo-Hermitian metric coincides with the transverse Kähler metric. So a CSC Sasaki metric provides a solution to the CR Yamabe Problem. It is know that when the CR Yamabe invariant $\lambda(M)$ is nonpositive, the CSC metric is unique. However, when $\lambda(M) > 0$ there can be several CSC solutions. Our results provides many such examples.

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- The existence of multiple rays of CSC Sasaki metrics comes from a sign changing count.

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- Similar results hold for the non-trivial S³-bundle over S², but no SE metrics.

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- When $l_2 > 1$ some of the same type of results have been obtained on 5-manifolds whose fundamental group is a non-Abelian extension of $\pi_1(\Sigma_g)$ in Castañeda's thesis.

THANK YOU!

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