

On homological stability for configuration spaces on closed background manifolds

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Homological stability

We study the configuration space of k points in a smooth manifold M :

$$C_k(M) = \{\mathbf{q} \subset M \mid |\mathbf{q}| = k\}.$$

If the manifold is **open**, a proper embedding of a half disc determines a map

$$s: C_k(M) \longrightarrow C_{k+1}(M)$$

that moves the configuration away the half disc and inserts a point in the disc.

Theorem (McDuff'75-Segal'79, Church'12, Randal-Williams'13, Knudsen'14, Kupers-Miller'14)

The “stabilisation map” s is a homology iso with A -coeff. in the range $ \leq sr(k)$:*

$sr(k) \geq$	coefficients	conditions
$\frac{k}{2}$	$A = \mathbb{Z}$	if $\dim(M) \geq 2$,
k	$A = \mathbb{Q}$	either $\dim(M) \geq 3$ or M is non-orientable,
$k - 1$	$A = \mathbb{Q}$	if $\dim(M) = 2$ and M is orientable,
k	$A = \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2}]$	if $\dim(M) \geq 3$,
$\frac{2(p-1)}{p} - 1$	$A = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$	if $\dim(M) \geq 3$ and $H_1(M) = 0$.

Further improvements are possible under extra hypotheses.

Closed background manifolds

If the manifold is closed, the stabilisation map is not defined, so there is no direct way of comparing configuration spaces of different cardinality. In fact,

$$H_1(C_k(S^2); \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/(2k - 2)$$

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Theorem (Bendersky–Miller'13, C.–Palmer'14)

If M^n is even dimensional, $* \leq sr(k)$ and either χ is even or $p \neq 2$, then

- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$ depends only on the p -adic valuation of $2k - \chi$.
Bendersky–Miller'13 for $p \geq \frac{n+3}{2}$

If M^n is odd dimensional and $* \leq sr(k)$, then

- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2}])$ is independent of k .
Bendersky–Miller'13 for $\mathbb{Z} \left[\frac{1}{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)!} \right]$
- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{Z})$ depends only on the parity of k .

The isomorphisms are induced by a zig-zag of two maps.

The Bendersky–Miller approach

There is a map (the “scanning map”)

$$\mathcal{S} : C_k(M) \longrightarrow \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_k$$

to the space of degree k compactly supported sections of the fibrewise one-point compactification of the tangent bundle of M .

Theorem (McDuff'75)

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Hence, if we are able to provide fibrewise endomorphisms $\phi : \dot{T}M \rightarrow \dot{T}M$ of degree r invertible in $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$, then by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} C_k(M) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_k & \xrightarrow[\simeq_{(p)}]{\text{localisation}} & (\Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_k)_{(p)} & \xrightarrow[\simeq]{\text{Møller'87}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M_{(p)})_k \\ & & \downarrow \phi & & & & \simeq \downarrow \phi_{(p)} \\ C_j(M) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_j & \xrightarrow[\simeq_{(p)}]{\text{localisation}} & (\Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_j)_{(p)} & \xrightarrow[\simeq]{\text{Møller'87}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M_{(p)})_j \end{array}$$

we have that $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}) \cong H_*(C_j(M); \mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$.

Existence of maps

We have to construct a section of the fibre bundle,

$$\text{Map}^r(\dot{T}M, \dot{T}M) := \{(x, f_x) \mid x \in M, f_x \in \text{Map}^r(\dot{T}_x M, \dot{T}_x M)\}$$

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- $\dot{T}M$ is isomorphic to the unit sphere bundle of $TM \oplus \epsilon$
- and
- there is a bundle map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Map}^r(S^n, S^n) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ V_2(TM \oplus \epsilon) & \longrightarrow & \text{Map}^r(\dot{T}M, \dot{T}M) \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & M \end{array}$$

A point in $V_2(T_xM \oplus \mathbb{R})$ gives a splitting $T_xM \oplus \mathbb{R} \cong V \oplus \mathbb{R}^2$, and hence a splitting $S(T_xM \oplus \mathbb{R}) = S(V) * S^1$, from which we can define a map

$$\dot{T}_xM = S(T_xM \oplus \mathbb{R}) = S(V) * S^1 \xrightarrow{\text{Id} * e^{2\pi i r}} S(V) * S^1 = S(T_xM \oplus \mathbb{R}) = \dot{T}_xM$$

The replication map

Theorem (C.–Palmer'14)

If the manifold M admits a non-vanishing vector field $v: M \rightarrow S(TM)$, then the previous maps between spaces of sections can be upgraded to actual maps between configuration spaces making the following diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_k(M) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_k \\ \downarrow \rho_r & & \downarrow \text{fibrewise map of degree } r \\ C_{rk} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{S}} & \Gamma_c(\dot{T}M)_j \end{array}$$

$$\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_k\} \xrightarrow{\rho_r} \left\{ q_i + \frac{j\epsilon}{r} v \mid \begin{array}{l} i = 1, \dots, k \\ j = 0, \dots, r-1 \end{array} \right\}$$

Therefore, the replication map ρ_r induces homology isomorphisms with $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{r}]$ -coefficients in the stable range.

Theorem (Löffler–Milgram'86, B–C–T'89, R–W'13, C.–Palmer'14)

If M is even dimensional and $* \leq sr(k)$, then

- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_2)$ is independent of k (Bödigheimer–Cohen–Taylor'89, R–W'13).
- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_p)$ depends only on $\min\{\nu_p(2k - \chi), \nu_p(\chi/2) + 1\}$.
- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_p)$ is independent of k if $\chi = 1$.

If M is odd-dimensional and $* \leq sr(k)$, then

- $H_*(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_p)$ is independent of k (Bödigheimer–Cohen–Taylor'89, R–W'13).

These are abstract isomorphisms.

The Randal-Williams approach

If D is a small disc in M , there is a homotopy cofibre sequence

$$C_k(M \setminus D) \longrightarrow C_k(M) \longrightarrow \frac{\dot{D} \times C_{k-1}(M \setminus D)}{\{*\} \times C_{k-1}(M \setminus D)} \simeq \Sigma^n C_{k+1}(M \setminus D)_+$$

where

- the first map is the inclusion,
- the second map divides the configuration into $k - 1$ points outside D and a point in the disc (only well defined on a certain subspace, to which we can restrict by excision).

If D is a small disc in M , there is a partial map of exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \longrightarrow & H_i(C_k(M \setminus D); \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & H_i(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & H_i(\Sigma^n C_{k-1}(M \setminus D)_+; \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow \\
 & \downarrow \rho_r & & & & \downarrow & \\
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and if 1) both vertical maps are isomorphisms and 2) the square

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 \Rightarrow \ker_{i+1}^k & \longrightarrow & H_{i+1}(\Sigma^n C_k(M \setminus D)_+; \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & H_i(C_k(M \setminus D); \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & \text{coker}_i^k \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
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$$H_i(C_k(M); \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \ker_i^k \oplus \text{coker}_i^k \cong \ker_i^{rk} \oplus \text{coker}_i^{rk} \cong H_i(C_{rk}(M); \mathbb{F}_p)$$

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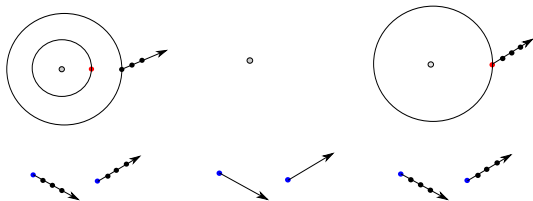
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We will prove 1) if $p \nmid r$ and 2) if $p \mid (r-1)(\chi-1)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^{n-1} \times C_{k-1}(M \setminus D) & \xrightarrow{\text{add a point in the direction given by } S^{n-1}} & C_k(M \setminus D) \\
 \downarrow r\text{-replicate the } k-1 \text{ points} & & \downarrow \\
 S^{n-1} \times C_{r(k-1)}(M \setminus D) & & C_r(M \setminus D) \\
 \downarrow \text{Add a point in the direction given by } S^{n-1} \text{ and } (r-1)\text{-replicate it} & \xrightarrow{r\text{-replicate the } k \text{ points}} & \\
 S^{n-1} \times C_{rk-1}(M \setminus D) & \xrightarrow{\text{add a point in the direction given by } S^{n-1}} & C_{rk}(M \setminus D)
 \end{array}$$



The difference between both ways in the diagram is

$$(r-1)(\chi-1)\tau \in H_{n-1}(C_{rk}(M \setminus D)),$$

where τ is the class that swaps two points

The two ways around the square



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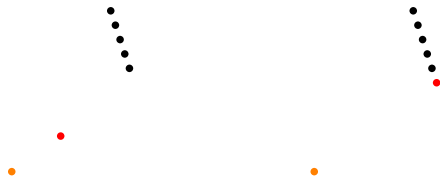
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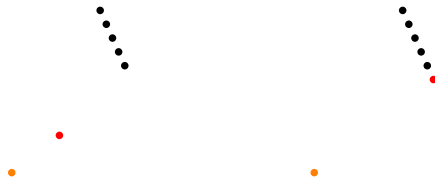
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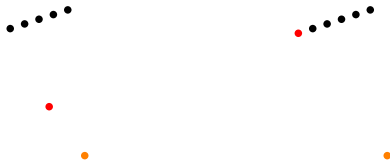
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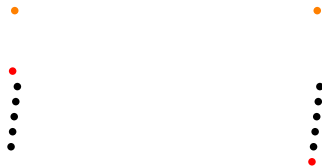
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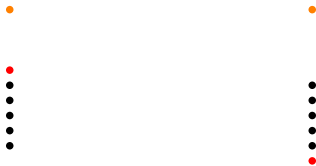
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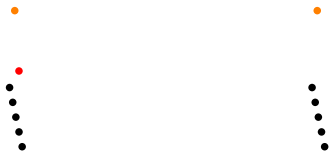
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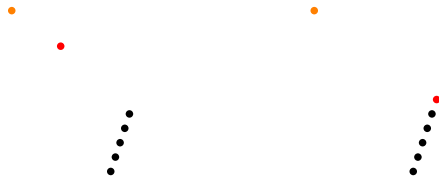
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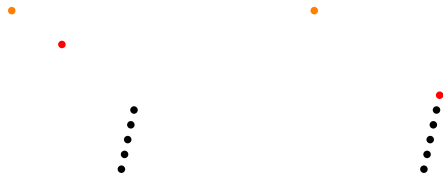
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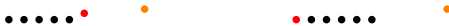


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Second animation



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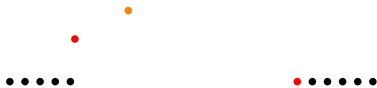
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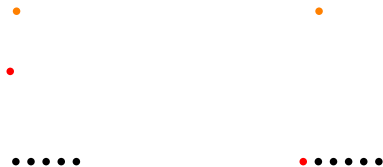
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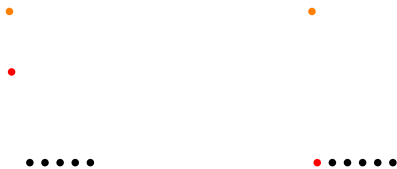
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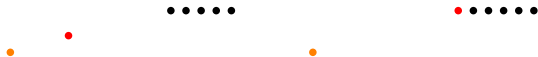
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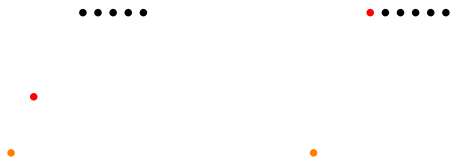
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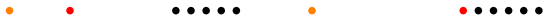
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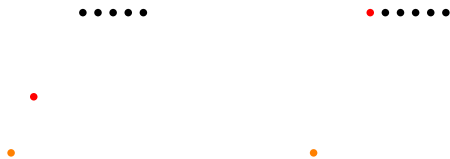
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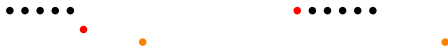
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