

Lecture 26: Donaldson Theory (or how to use gauge theory in topology)

Yang-Mills: P ppd G -bundle, $P \rightarrow B$ smooth base. A a connection: $L_{YM}(A) = \int_{M^4} F_A \wedge F_A \in \mathbb{R}$
 { EL }
 YM Eq: $*d_A * F_A = 0$ ($d_A F_A = 0$) $\rightarrow M_{YM} := \{ \text{all YM connections} \} / \text{gauge}$ ← a space!

Example: $G = U(1)$ then a form A defines a Yang-Mills connection if $*(d+A) \wedge (d+A) = 0$.
 In general $(d+A)^2 = dA + A \wedge A$, for $G = U(1)$ we get $A \wedge A = 0 \rightarrow$ harmonicity $M \cong (S^2)^{b_2(M)}$
 Laplacian $\Delta \in \Omega^k$ is defined $\Delta := d \circ d^* + d^* \circ d$, k -form is harmonic if $\Delta \omega = 0$.
Thm (Hodge): For any $\alpha \in H^k(M; \mathbb{R})$ $\exists \omega \in \Omega^k$ harmonic and $[\omega] = \alpha$. $\rightarrow H^k(M; \mathbb{R}) \cong H^k(M; \mathbb{Z})$ (harmonic 1-forms)

§ 2. 4-manifolds: $S^4, S^2 \times S^2, \mathbb{C}P^2, S^1 \times S^3, \mathbb{T}^4$.

M^4 4-manifold: $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \subset M^4$ surfaces then $\Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2$ fte. (generic intersection).

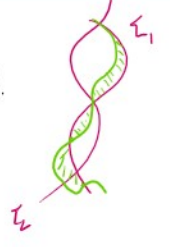
$Q_M: H_2(M; \mathbb{Z}) \times H_2(M; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

classical topology of (classical) \rightarrow Yang-Mills

bilinear form

Thm (Freedman): Given any bilinear form Q , $\exists M^4$ -manifold such that $Q_M = Q$. \rightarrow many examples of topol. 4-folds! (only topological in his proof)

Thm (Donaldson's Diag Thm): Let M^4 be a SMOOTH 4-manifold simply-connected s.t. Q_M is positive definite. Then Q_M is diagonalizable; $(1, \dots, 1)$



§ 3. Scheme of Donaldson's proof: (M^4, g) and consider $P \rightarrow M^4$, if $G = SU(2)$.

Ex: $P \xrightarrow{SU(2)} S^4$? \rightarrow clutching $\rightarrow S^4 \cong \mathbb{R}P^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^3 \rightarrow SU(2)$
 $\mathbb{R}P^3 \cong S^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

Consider the moduli of Yang-Mills connections which are ASD, $-F_A = *F_A$. the verification is understood $\rightarrow c_2(P) \in H^4(M; \mathbb{Z})$ determines P . CHOOSE $c_2(P) = 1$!

(i) Dimension of $M_{ASD}(M^4; SU(2); g)$ is given by Atiyah-Singer computes $\text{ind}(D)$ of D Fredholm via topology $\text{ind}(D) = \int_M \text{top. analog}$
 for this $\dim M_{ASD} = 8 \cdot c_2(P) - 3 = 5$.

(ii) The moduli $M_{ASD}(SU(2))$ looks like reducible $U(1)$ -connections singularly modeled on $\mathbb{C}^3/S^1 = \text{cone on } \mathbb{C}P^2$. non-compact end of the form $M^4 \times \mathbb{R}$. $\rightarrow M_{ASD}$ cobordism between $\mathbb{C}P^2$ and M^4 !

