

# Topology and Special Holonomy

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These slides available at

<http://people.bath.ac.uk/jl1pn20/TopologyAndHolonomy.pdf>

# Questions and overview

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Focus on  $G_2$  case.

- Which closed 7-manifolds admit metrics with holonomy  $G_2$ ?
  - Finitely many??
  - Obstructions
  - Where do examples sit in classification of 7-manifolds?
- For a fixed closed  $M^7$ , the moduli space  $\mathcal{M} = \{\text{holonomy } G_2 \text{ metrics on } M\}/\text{Diff}(M)$  is an orbifold of dimension  $b_3(M)$ .
  - Global topology of  $\mathcal{M}$ ? Connected?
  - Can the same connected component of  $\mathcal{M}$  have boundary points exhibiting different degenerations?

Outline

1. Obstructions
2. Invariants, classification results and applications
3. Constructions

# 1. Obstructions

## $G_2$ -structures and 3-forms

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First of two ways we will link  $G_2$ -structures to topology.

$G_2 \subset SO(7)$  can be defined as the stabiliser of a definite 3-form

$$\varphi_0 = dx^{123} + dx^{145} + dx^{167} + dx^{246} - dx^{257} - dx^{347} - dx^{356} \in \Lambda^3(\mathbb{R}^7)^*.$$

Therefore  $G_2$ -structure on  $M^7 \leftrightarrow \varphi \in \Omega^3(M)$  pointwise equivalent to  $\varphi_0$ .

$G_2$ -structure induces a metric. A metric has  $\text{Hol} \subseteq G_2$  if and only if it is induced by a  $G_2$ -structure that is torsion-free, ie satisfies

$$d\varphi = d^*\varphi = 0.$$

In particular,  $\varphi$  represents a de Rham cohomology class

$$[\varphi] \in H^3(M).$$

## $G_2$ -structures and spinors

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Second link of  $G_2$ -structures to topology.

$Spin(7) \rightarrow SO(7)$  is a double cover, and  $G_2 \hookrightarrow SO(7)$  has a lift  $G_2 \hookrightarrow Spin(7)$ .

The spin representation  $\Delta$  of  $Spin(7)$  is real of rank 8.

The image of  $G_2$  in  $Spin(7)$  is precisely the stabiliser of a non-zero  $s_0 \in \Delta$  (unique up to scale).

Therefore a  $G_2$ -structure on  $M^7$  is equivalent to

(orientation +) spin structure + metric + nowhere vanishing spinor field (up to scale)

Note: because spinor bundle of a spin  $M^7$  has rank 8, nowhere-vanishing sections always exist.

$M^7$  admits  $G_2$ -structure  $\leftrightarrow M$  is spin

# Topological invariants of closed spin 7-manifolds

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Can we express obstructions to existence of holonomy  $G_2$  metrics on a closed spin 7-manifold  $M$  in terms of established invariants?

Basic invariants:

- Fundamental group  $\pi_1(M)$  (and higher homotopy groups)
- Cohomology algebra  $H^*(M)$
- First Pontrjagin class  $p_1(M) \in H^4(M)$   
(Stiefel–Whitney classes of a closed spin 7-manifold  $M$  all vanish)

Later consider more subtle invariants:

- Eells-Kuiper
- Massey triple products

## Known obstructions

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Let  $M$  closed 7-manifold

- $M$  admits a  $G_2$ -structure  $\Leftrightarrow M$  is orientable and spin
- If a metric has  $Hol \subset G_2$ , then

$$Hol = G_2 \Leftrightarrow \pi_1(M) \text{ finite}$$

If  $\varphi$  is a torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure then

- $\varphi$  is harmonic, so  $b_3(M) \geq 1$ .
- $\int_M p_1(M) \smile [\varphi] < 0$ ; in particular  $p_1(M) \neq 0$ .
- $\int_M x^2 \smile [\varphi] < 0$  for any non-zero  $x \in H^2(M)$ .

(So there is an open halfspace in  $H^4(M)$  that contains both  $p_1(M)$  and the image of  $H^2(M) \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow H^4(M)$ ,  $x \rightarrow x^2$ .)

## Constraints on $p_1(M)$ and $x^2$ for $x \in H^2(M)$

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$\Lambda^2(\mathbb{R})^* = \Lambda_7^2(\mathbb{R})^* \oplus \Lambda_{14}^2(\mathbb{R})^*$ , where

$$\Lambda_7^2(\mathbb{R})^* = \{v \lrcorner \varphi_0 : v \in \mathbb{R}^7\},$$

$$\Lambda_{14}^2(\mathbb{R})^* = \{\alpha \in \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R})^* : *\varphi \wedge \alpha = 0\}$$

If  $\alpha \in \Lambda_{14}^2(\mathbb{R})^*$  then

$$\alpha^2 \wedge \varphi = -\|\alpha\|^2 \text{vol}.$$

Hodge theory: If  $M$  is closed, any  $x \in H^2(M)$  is represented by a harmonic  $\alpha \in \Omega^2(M)$ .

If  $M$  has holonomy  $G_2$ , then  $\alpha \in \Omega_{14}^2(M)$ . Hence

$$\int_M x^2[\varphi] = \int_M \alpha^2 \wedge \varphi = - \int_M \|\alpha\|^2 \text{vol} < 0.$$

Chern-Weil theory:  $p_1(M) = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} [\text{Tr}(R \wedge R)]$ , where  $R$  is curvature of  $M$ .

If  $M$  has holonomy  $G_2$ , then 2-form part of  $R$  takes values in  $\Lambda_{14}^2 T^*M$  so

$$\int_M \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \text{Tr} R \wedge R \wedge \varphi = -\frac{1}{8\pi^2} \text{Tr} \int_M \|R\|^2 \text{vol} < 0$$

## Formality and Massey products

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Slogan-definition:  $X$  is formal if it is the simplest rational homotopy type with a fixed rational cohomology algebra  $H^*(X; \mathbb{Q})$ .

Formality forces vanishing of Massey triple products.

If  $a, b, c \in H^2(M)$  such that  $ab = bc = 0 \in H^4(M)$  are represented by closed forms  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Omega^2(M)$ , and  $\eta, \tau \in \Omega^3(M)$  with

$$d\eta = \alpha \wedge \beta, \quad d\tau = \beta \wedge \gamma$$

then

$$d(\alpha \wedge \tau + \eta \wedge \gamma) = 0.$$

The Massey triple product  $\langle a, b, c \rangle \subset H^5(M)$  is the set of classes obtained for some  $\eta$  and  $\tau$ . If  $M$  is formal then  $0 \in \langle a, b, c \rangle$ .



## Formality of $G_2$ -manifolds?

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Simply-connected closed manifolds of dimension  $\leq 6$  are always formal, but simply-connected 7-manifolds can be non-formal (provided  $b_2 \geq 2$ ).

### Theorem (Deligne-Griffiths-Morgan-Sullivan 1975)

*Any closed Kähler manifold  $X$  is formal.*

Proof relies on Hodge decomposition, but attempts to use Hodge decomposition on  $G_2$ -manifolds to prove formality have been unsuccessful.

Formality is largely independent of the known obstructions to  $G_2$  metrics.

### Proposition (Cavalcanti 2006, Crowley-N 2019)

*If  $M^7$  is closed simply-connected,  $b_2(M) \leq 3$  and  $\exists[\varphi] \in H^3(M)$  such that  $[\varphi]x^2 < 0$  for all non-zero  $x \in H^2(M)$  then  $M$  is formal.*

*There exist non-formal simply-connected  $M$  satisfying all known necessary conditions for existence of holonomy  $G_2$  metrics with any  $b_2(M) \geq 4$ .*

## Non-fibration by 4-folds

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### Theorem (Baraglia 2010)

If  $M$  is closed and satisfies the known necessary condition for admitting a holonomy  $G_2$  metric, then there is no smooth fibration  $\pi : M \rightarrow B$  with smooth 4-dimensional fibres.

### Proof.

Without loss of generality,  $M$  and  $B$  are simply-connected and the fibres  $F$  are connected.

By Leray-Serre,  $\pi^* : H^3(B) \rightarrow H^3(M)$  is surjective, so an isomorphism since  $b_3(M) \geq 1$ .

Then also  $H^2(M) \cong H^2(F)$ . The condition that

$$H^2(M) \times H^2(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, (x, y) \mapsto \int_M xy[\varphi]$$

is definite forces that the intersection form of  $F$  is definite.

By Donaldson's diagonalisation theorem, the intersection form is therefore odd.

But it is also even because  $F$  is spin, so actually  $H^2(F)$  is trivial.

In particular the signature of  $F$  is trivial, and hence  $p_1(F) = 0$  by the signature theorem.

As  $H^4(M) \cong H^4(F)$ , that contradicts  $p_1(M) \neq 0$ . □

## Other fibrations

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Have not ruled out the existence of fibrations of a  $G_2$ -manifold  $M$  by 4-manifolds if some of the fibres are allowed to be singular.

Indeed, expect many examples of closed  $G_2$ -manifolds with such fibrations by coassociative submanifolds.

Have also not ruled out smooth fibrations by 3-folds.

Indeed, consider the unit sphere bundle  $M_k$  in the total space of rank 4 vector bundle  $V \rightarrow S^4$  with Euler class  $e(V) = 0$  and Pontrjagin class  $p_1(V) = 4k$  times a generator of  $H^4(S^4)$ .

These  $M_k$  are arguably the simplest 7-manifolds satisfying all the known necessary conditions for admitting a holonomy  $G_2$  metric.

Since  $b_3(M_k) = 1$ , a holonomy  $G_2$  metric on  $M_k$  would be rigid up to scale.

Therefore the existing arguments for constructing  $G_2$  metrics cannot possibly apply.

However, eg  $M_4 \# (S^3 \times S^4) \#^{2n}$  does admit holonomy  $G_2$  metrics for all  $30 \leq n \leq 73$  (Corti-Haskins-N-Pacini 2014).

## 2. Invariants and classification

### Homeomorphism classification

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Let  $M$  closed 7-manifold. Focus on:

- $M$  2-connected, ie  $\pi_1(M) = \pi_2(M) = 0$ , because that is so far only context where we have complete classification results so far
- $H^4(M)$  torsion-free, to simplify statements

Then  $p_1(M) = dx$  for some primitive  $x \in H^4(M)$  and  $d(M)$  divisible by 4.  
(Set  $d(M) := 0$  if  $p_1(M) = 0$ .)

#### Theorem (Wilkins 1972)

*Closed 2-connected  $M$  are classified up to homeomorphism by the pair  $(b_3(M), d(M))$ .  
A pair  $(b_3, d)$  is realised if and only if  $d$  is divisible by 4 (and  $d = 0$  if  $b_3 = 0$ )*

Indeed by  $M_d \# (S^3 \times S^4)^{\#b_3-1}$  where  $M_d$  in the total space of the rank 4 vector bundle  $V \rightarrow S^4$  with Euler class  $e(V) = 0$  and Pontrjagin class  $p_1(V) = 4d$  times generator of  $H^4(S^4)$ .

## Applications to $G_2$ -manifolds

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Classification theorems for diffeomorphism or  $G_2$ -structures require further invariants. With those, we can exhibit the following phenomena.

### Example 1 (Crowley-N 2018)

There are closed  $G_2$ -manifolds with  $b_3 = 89$  and  $d = 16$  that are homeomorphic but not diffeomorphic.

### Example 2 (Crowley-Goette-N 2018, Wallis 2019)

There is a closed 7-manifold with  $b_3 = 71$  and  $d = 12$  that admits at least 3 different holonomy  $G_2$  metrics, such that no two of the associated  $G_2$ -structures are related by diffeomorphism and homotopy of  $G_2$ -structures (ie deformation through a path of  $G_2$ -structures). In particular, the moduli space of holonomy  $G_2$  metrics on this manifold has at least 3 connected components.

### Example 3 (Crowley-Goette-N 2018)

There is a closed 7-manifold with  $b_3 = 109$  and  $d = 4$  that admits two  $G_2$ -metrics whose associated  $G_2$ -structures are homotopic, but the metrics are in different components of the moduli space.

## Coboundary defect invariants

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Consider invariants of a class of compact manifolds with boundary that are additive under gluing boundaries. E.g. for oriented 8-manifolds  $W$  whose boundary  $M$  has  $p_1(M) = 0$

- signature  $\sigma(W)$  of intersection form on  $H^4(W, M)$
- $p_1(W)^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$   
( $p_1(M) = 0 \Rightarrow p_1(W)$  has a preimage in  $H^4(W, M)$ , whose square is independent of choice)

Linear combinations that vanish for closed manifolds are then invariants of the boundary  $M$ .

Eg Hirzebruch signature theorem gives

$$45\sigma(X) + p_1(X)^2 = 7p_2(X)$$

for any closed oriented 8-manifold  $X$ , so that

$$3\sigma(X) + p_1(X)^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}.$$

Therefore

$$3\sigma(W) + p_1(W)^2 \in \mathbb{Z}/7$$

depends only on the smooth manifold  $M$ , and not on  $W$ . This invariant of  $M$  was used by Milnor (1956) to detect non-standard smooth structures on the 7-sphere.

## The Eells-Kuiper invariant

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For a closed spin 8-manifold  $X$ , the Atiyah singer index theorem for the index of the Dirac operator  $\not{D}_X$

$$\text{ind } \not{D}_X = \frac{7p_1^2 - 4p_2}{45 \cdot 2^7}$$

combined with the Hirzebruch signature theorem gives

$$\frac{p_1(X)^2 - 4\sigma(X)}{32} = 28 \text{ind } \not{D}_X.$$

For a closed spin 7-manifold  $M$  with  $p_1(M) = 0$  and spin coboundary  $W$

$$\mu(M) = \frac{p_1(W)^2 - 4\sigma(W)}{32} \in \mathbb{Z}/28$$

is thus a well-defined diffeomorphism invariant.

It distinguishes all 28 classes of smooth structures on  $S^7$ .

## Generalised Eells-Kuiper invariant

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If  $p_1(M) \neq 0$  then we cannot interpret  $p_1(W)^2$  as a well-defined element of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . But if  $H^4(M)$  is torsion-free and  $p_1(M)$  is divisible by  $d$ , then  $p_1(W)^2 \in \mathbb{Z}/8\tilde{d}$  is well-defined, where  $\tilde{d} := \text{lcm}(8, d)$ . Therefore

$$\mu(M) := \frac{p_1(W)^2 - 4\sigma(W)}{32} \in \mathbb{Z}/\text{gcd}\left(28, \frac{\tilde{d}}{8}\right)$$

is a well-defined diffeomorphism invariant of  $M$ .

### Theorem (Crowley-N 2019)

*Closed 2-connected  $M$  with  $H^4(M)$  torsion-free are classified up to diffeomorphism by  $(b_3(M), d(M), \mu(M))$ .*

To find “exotic”  $G_2$ -manifolds as in Example 1:

generate many examples of 2-connected  $G_2$ -manifolds with torsion-free  $H^4(M)$ , compute invariants, and look for pairs where values  $b_3$  and  $d$  agree while  $\mu$  do not.



## Invariants of $G_2$ -structures

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On a spin 8-manifold  $X$ , the spinor bundle  $S_X$  is real of rank 8.

If  $X$  is closed and  $s_+ \in \Gamma(S_X)$  has transverse zeros, then  $\#s_+^{-1}(0)$  (counted with signs) does not depend on  $s_+$ . It equals the Euler class  $e(S_X)$ , related to Euler characteristic  $\chi(X)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} -3\sigma(X) + \chi(X) - 2\#s_+^{-1}(0) &= -48 \operatorname{ind} D_X, \\ \frac{3p_1(X)^2 - 180\sigma(X)}{8} + 7\chi(X) - 14\#s_+^{-1}(0) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For  $W$  compact spin 8-manifold with boundary  $M$ ,  $\#s_+^{-1}(0)$  of  $s_+ \in \Gamma(S_W)$  depends only on  $W$  and  $s := s_+|_M \in \Gamma(S_M)$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(M, s) &:= 3\sigma(W) + \chi(W) - 2\#s_+^{-1}(0) \in \mathbb{Z}/48, \\ \xi(M, s) &:= \frac{3p_1(W)^2 - 180\sigma(W)}{8} + 7\chi(W) - 14\#s_+^{-1}(0) \in \mathbb{Z}/\frac{3}{2}\tilde{d} \end{aligned}$$

are well-defined diffeomorphism invariants of  $(M, s)$ , ie of  $M$  equipped with a  $G_2$ -structure. Also clear that  $\nu$  and  $\xi$  are invariant under continuous deformation of a  $G_2$ -structure.

# Classification of $G_2$ -structures

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## Theorem (Crowley-N 2015)

Let  $M_i$  be closed 2-connected 7-manifolds with torsion-free  $H^4(M_i)$ , and  $G_2$ -structures  $\varphi_i$ . Then there is a diffeomorphism  $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  such that  $f^*\varphi_2$  is homotopic to  $\varphi_1$  if and only if  $b_3$ ,  $d$ ,  $\nu$  and  $\xi$  agree.

To detect components of  $G_2$  moduli space by homotopy of  $G_2$ -structures as in Example 2:

Generate many 2-connected  $G_2$ -manifolds with  $H^4$  torsion-free, and compute invariants.

Look for examples where  $b_3$  and  $d$  (and  $\mu$  if not vacuous) agree, so that the  $G_2$  metrics are on the same smooth manifold, but where different values of  $\nu$  or  $\xi$  distinguish the  $G_2$ -structures.

To detect components of  $G_2$  moduli space within the same homotopy class of  $G_2$ -structures as in Example 3:

Look for  $G_2$ -manifolds where  $b_3$ ,  $d$ ,  $\nu$  and  $\xi$  all agree, so that by Theorem 3 we get two homotopic torsion-free  $G_2$ -structures on the same smooth manifold.

Use an analytic refinement  $\hat{\nu} \in \mathbb{Z}$  of  $\nu$  to show that they cannot be connected by a path of torsion-free  $G_2$ -structures.

## Formality of 7-manifolds as a coboundary defect

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If  $X$  is a closed oriented 8-manifold and  $a, b, c, d \in H^2(X)$  then

$$(ac)(bd) - (ad)(bc) = 0.$$

If we interpret cup product as a map  $\text{Sym}^2 \text{Sym}^2 H^2(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , that vanishes when restricted to

$$\mathcal{B} := \ker(\text{Sym}^2 \text{Sym}^2 H^2(X) \rightarrow \text{Sym}^4 H^2(X)).$$

For a compact  $W^8$  with  $\partial W = M^7$ , let  $\tilde{E} \subset \text{Sym}^2 H^2(W)$  be the pre-image of

$$E := \ker(\text{Sym}^2 H^2(M) \rightarrow H^4(M)).$$

Cup product and intersection form of  $W$  defines  $\text{Sym}^2 \tilde{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ . Restriction to  $\mathcal{B} \cap \text{Sym}^2 \tilde{E}$  factors through a

$$\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{B} \cap \text{Sym}^2 \tilde{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$$

which is a rational homotopy invariant of  $M$ .

### Theorem (Crowley-N)

*A simply-connected closed 7-manifold  $M$  is formal if and only if  $\mathcal{F} = 0$ .*

## Defect invariants and the $h$ -cobordism theorem

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Strategy for finding diffeomorphism between two closed simply-connected manifolds  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  of dimension  $\geq 5$  (**Browder, Novikov, Sullivan, Wall, ..., Kreck**):

First check whether there is a cobordism, *ie* a compact  $W$  such that  $\partial W = M_1 \sqcup -M_2$ .

Try to use surgery to improve  $W$  to an  $h$ -cobordism, *ie*  $M_i \hookrightarrow W$  homotopy equivalences.

**Smale (2012)**: Then  $W$  is a product cylinder, so  $M_1 \cong M_2$ .

$W$  has characteristic numbers such as  $\sigma(W)$ ,  $p_1(W)^2, \dots$ , unchanged by surgery.

If  $W$  has appropriate structure, the characteristic numbers are the only obstruction to improving to  $h$ -cobordism by surgery.

All defect invariants of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  agree

$\Leftrightarrow$  characteristic numbers of  $W$  equal those of a closed manifold  $X$

$\Leftrightarrow W \# -X$  is a cobordism with vanishing characteristic numbers.

### 3. Constructions

#### Sources of closed $G_2$ -manifolds

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- **Joyce (1995)**

Orbifold construction

Resolve singularities of  $T^7/\Gamma$  using QALE Calabi-Yau spaces

- **Joyce-Karigiannis (2018)**

Resolve singularities of  $(CY^3 \times S^1)/\mathbb{Z}_2$

- **Kovalev (2003), Corti-Haskins-N-Pacini (2014)**

Twisted connected sums

Glue asymptotically cylindrical Calabi-Yaus  $\times S^1$

- **Crowley-Goette-N (2018)**

Extra-twisted connected sums

- **Foscolo-Haskins-N (202X)**

Collapse to orientifolds

Bulk: Circle bundle over  $CY^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$

Degenerations of bundle modelled on fibrations by Taub-NUT or Atiyah-Hitchin spaces.

## Twisted connected sums

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Ingredients:

- Closed simply-connected Kähler 3-folds  $Z_+$ ,  $Z_-$
- $\Sigma_{\pm} \subset Z_{\pm}$  anticanonical K3 divisors ( $[\Sigma_{\pm}] = c_1(Z_{\pm})$ ) with trivial normal bundle
- $r : \Sigma_+ \rightarrow \Sigma_-$  diffeomorphism

Let  $V_{\pm} := Z_{\pm} \setminus$  tubular neighbourhood  $\Sigma_{\pm} \times \Delta$ ; so  $\partial V_{\pm} = \Sigma_{\pm} \times S^1$ .

Form simply-connected  $M^7$  by gluing boundaries of  $V_+ \times S^1$  to  $V_- \times S^1$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_+ \times S^1 \times S^1 &\rightarrow \Sigma_- \times S^1 \times S^1, \\ (x, u, v) &\mapsto (r(x), v, u) \end{aligned}$$

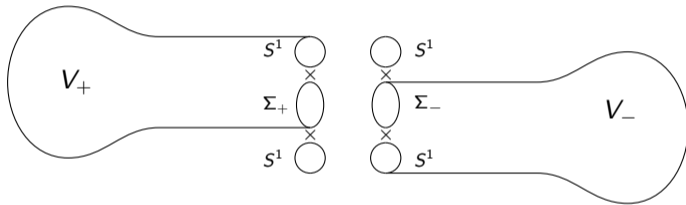
Tian-Yau, Haskins-Hein-N:  $V_{\pm}$  admits asymptotically cylindrical Calabi-Yau metrics.

$\rightsquigarrow$  metric on  $V_{\pm} \times S^1$  with holonomy  $SU(3) \subset G_2$ .

For carefully chosen  $r$ , these metrics glue to a holonomy  $G_2$  metric on  $M$ .

## Coboundary of twisted connected sum

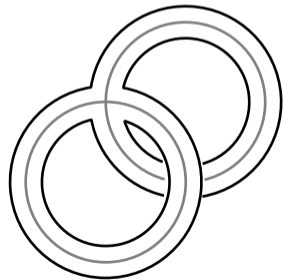
$V_{\pm} := Z_{\pm} \setminus \Sigma_{\pm} \times \Delta$ . Glue the  $\partial(V_+ \times S^1) = \Sigma_+ \times S^1 \times S^1$  by  $(x, u, v) \mapsto (r(x), v, u)$ .



Form an 8-manifold  $W$  by gluing  $Z_+ \times \Delta$  to  $Z_- \times \Delta$  along open subsets

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_+ \times \Delta \times \Delta &\rightarrow \Sigma_- \times \Delta \times \Delta, \\ (x, z, w) &\mapsto (r(x), w, z) \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\partial W$  is the twisted connected sum  $M$ .



## Invariants of twisted connected sums

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Twisted connected sum  $M$  is simply-connected.

$H^*(M)$  can be computed in terms of  $H^*(Z_{\pm})$ ,  $c_2(Z_{\pm})$  and  $r^* : H^2(\Sigma_-) \rightarrow H^2(\Sigma_+)$ .

While  $W$  is not spin but only  $\text{spin}^c$ , it can still be used to compute  $\mu$ , from the same data.

**Example 1 (Crowley-N 2018)** There are 2-connected twisted connected sums with  $H^4(M)$  torsion-free,  $b_3(M) = 89$  and  $d(M) = 16$ , and  $\mu = 0, 1 \in \mathbb{Z}/2$ .

We cannot use  $\nu$  or its analytic refinement to distinguish components of the  $G_2$  moduli space reached by twisted connected sums.

**Theorem (Crowley-N 2015, Crowley-Goette-N 2018)**

*Any twisted connected sum  $G_2$ -manifold has  $\nu = 24$ , and  $\bar{\nu} = 0$ .*

But  $W$  can also be used to compute  $\xi$ .

**Example 2a (Wallis 2019)** There are 2-connected twisted connected sums with  $H^4(M)$  torsion-free,  $b_3(M) = 71$  and  $d(M) = 12$ , and  $\xi = 0, 12 \in \mathbb{Z}/36$ .



## Extra-twisted connected sums

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Extra-twisted connected sums: gluing of finite quotients of  $V_+ \times S^1$  and  $V_- \times S^1$ .

We do not know coboundaries, but can compute by eta invariants instead.

### Example 2b (Crowley-Goette-N 2018)

There is a 2-connected extra-twisted connected sum with torsion-free  $H^4(M)$ ,  $b_3(M) = 71$  and  $d = 12$ , and  $\nu = 36$ .

Thus  $M$  is diffeomorphic to manifold from Example 2a, but the torsion-free  $G_2$ -structure is distinguished from both the previous  $G_2$ -structures, which have  $\nu = 0$ .

### Example 3 (Crowley-Goette-N 2018)

There is both a twisted connected sum and an extra-twisted connected sum with that are 2-connected with torsion-free  $H^4(M)$ ,  $b_3(M) = 109$  and  $d = 4$ , and the extra-twisted connected sum has  $\bar{\nu} = 48$ .

Because both torsion-free  $G_2$ -structures have  $\nu = 24$  (and  $\xi$  is vacuous when  $d = 4$ ) the manifolds are diffeomorphic, and moreover the diffeomorphism can be chosen so that the torsion-free  $G_2$ -structures are homotopic.

## Need for further classification results

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Twisted connected sums generate many 2-connected examples, but also many with  $b_2 \geq 1$ . Examples from Joyce's orbifold construction (nearly) always have  $b_2 \geq 1$ , as do the tentative collapsing examples.

Existing complete classification results for 7-manifolds that are not 2-connected impose  $b_3 = 0$ , so cannot apply to  $G_2$ -manifolds.

Good news: only finitely many invariants missing.

### Theorem (Crowley-N 2019)

*Closed simply-connected 7-manifolds  $M$  are classified up to finitely many diffeomorphism types by  $H^*(M)$ ,  $p_1(M)$  and the rational homotopy invariant  $\mathcal{F}$ .*

Bad Interesting news: While some of the remaining finite ambiguity is accounted for by friendly primary invariants like torsion linking form, there will also be subtle secondary invariants.

## Further invariants when $b_2 \geq 1$

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Beyond 2-connected 7-manifolds, existing classification results require  $\pi_2(M)$  torsion-free and  $H^4(M)$  finite (+ simplifying assumptions)

### Kreck-Stolz (1991)

For  $\pi_2 M \cong \mathbb{Z}$  and  $b_4(M) = 0$ , the secondary data needed is the Eells-Kuiper invariant  $\mu$  and an additional invariant taking values in a  $\mathbb{Z}_{12} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  coset.

Motivated by metrics of positive sectional curvature on Aloff-Wallach spaces  $SU(3)/U(1)$ .

### Hepworth (2005)

For  $\pi_2 M \cong \mathbb{Z}^r$  and  $b_4(M) = 0$ , the secondary data needed is  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $\mu$  and an invariant taking values in a  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}^r \times \mathbb{Z}_6^{\frac{r(r-1)}{2}} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{\frac{r^3-6r^2+11r}{6}}$ -coset.

Motivated by 3-Sasakian manifolds.

**Wallis (2019)**: Analysis of which Hepworth-Kreck-Stolz invariants survive when  $H^4(M)$  infinite.