

# Cabling knots in overtwisted contact manifolds

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(Joint work with John Etnyre, Hyunki Min and Anubhab Mukherjee )

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What about knots in them?

## Contact structures

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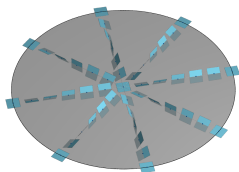


Figure: An overtwisted disk.

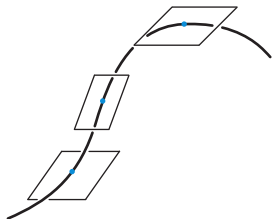


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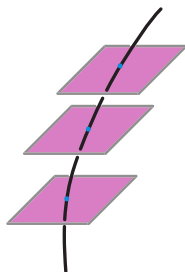


- A knot  $L$  is **Legendrian** if, for each point  $p$  in  $L$ ,

$$T_p L \subset \xi_p.$$

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- A knot  $B$  is **transverse** if, for each point  $p$  in  $B$ ,

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Transverse knots have only one classical invariant

- **self-linking number.**

# Legendrian $\leftrightarrow$ Transverse

How are Legendrian and transverse knots related?

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Two Legendrian approximations related by “negative stabilization”.

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The only known classification results for non-loose knots are the unknots by Eliashberg-Fraser and a partial classification result for torus knots by Geiges-Onaran which was later extended by Matkovič (for negative torus knots).

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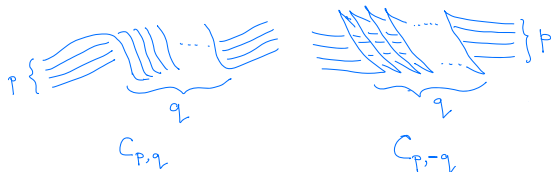
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All the results are in tight contact manifolds.

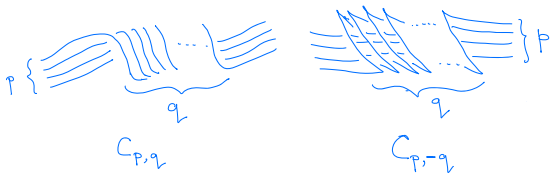
# Cabling of Legendrian knots in tight contact manifolds

A  $(p, q)$  cable  $\mathcal{K}_{p,q}$  of a knot type  $\mathcal{K}$ , is the isotopy class of a knot of slope  $\frac{q}{p}$  on the boundary of a solid torus representing  $\mathcal{K}$ .



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Etnyre-Honda studied knots in  $(S^3, \xi_{std})$  and showed that the structure theorems for cabled knots are not so simple and rely on the “Uniform thickness property” of the knot.

# Cabling of Legendrian knots in tight contact manifolds

## Theorem (Etnyre-Honda)

*Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a knot type which is Legendrian simple and satisfies the UTP. Then  $\mathcal{K}_{p,q}$  is Legendrian simple and admits a classification in terms of the classification of  $\mathcal{K}$ .*

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**Question:** What about cabling knots in overtwisted manifolds?

# Cabling of knots in overtwisted manifolds

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Cables of non-loose knots  $\rightarrow$  Difficult problem.

Tools and techniques that work for tight manifolds do not necessarily work for overtwisted manifolds.

## Positive cables of non-loose knots

### Theorem (C-Etnyre-Min-Mukherjee)

*Suppose  $L$  be a non-loose representative of a knot type  $\mathcal{K}$  in  $(M, \xi)$ . If  $\frac{q}{p} > \text{tb}(L)$  for  $q, p > 0$ ,  $L_{p,q}$  is non-loose.*

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## Idea of Proof.

- Realize the cable as a ruling curve on the standard neighborhood of  $L$ . Then use convex surface theory. In particular, use state transition technique and bypass attachments.



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How to solve this problem?

Use extra conditions.

Theorem (Work in progress, C-Etnyre-Min-Mukherjee)

*Suppose  $L$  be a non-loose representative of a knot type  $\mathcal{K}$  in  $(M, \xi)$  such that  $L$  has non-loose transverse push off. Then if  $\frac{q}{p} > tb(L)$ , then  $L_{p,q}$  is non-loose in  $(M, \xi)$  for  $p > 0, q < 0$ .*

## Future work directions

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**Question:** What about Whitehead double of a non-loose knot? Is it always non-loose?

Thank you for your attention !!!