# Global complex obstructions to a real Morse modification (Klein's enigma) 

Oleg Viro<br>a joint work with Slava Kharlamov

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(German: "sind entwicklungsfähig nicht" - is not viable)

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The talk is about this theorem and its high-dimensional generalizations.

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The distribution of isotopy classes of non-singular plane projective curves between the types in low degrees.

| degree | type I | type II |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 14 | 50 |

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A Morse modification of index 2 removes a real component.

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Involution. The action of $\operatorname{conj}_{*}$ in $H_{1}\left(A_{\mathbb{C}} ; \mathbb{Z} / 2\right)$ splits to direct sum of
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Thus the $b_{*}\left(A_{\mathbb{R}}\right)$ does not increase.

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Why not $\chi(X)$, or $H_{k}(X)$, or $\pi_{1}(X)$ ?
Betti numbers are most relevant, due to their sensitivity to surgeries!

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$A$ is of type $\mathrm{I} \Longleftrightarrow$ the conjugation form is even and $A_{\mathbb{R}} \neq \varnothing$.

## Stiefel orientations

Stiefel orientations generalize both orientations and Spin-structures.

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A Stiefel $k$-orientation of an $O_{n}$-bundle $\xi$ is $o \in H^{k}\left(V_{n, n-k}(\xi) ; \mathbb{Z} / 2\right)$ such that its restriction to $\widetilde{H^{k}}\left(V_{n, n-k} ; \mathbb{Z} / 2\right)$ is non-trivial for any fiber.

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Stiefel 1-orientation + orientation = Spin-structure.

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In the case of a surface of type I with $b_{1}\left(A_{\mathbb{C}}\right)=0$ the result is Stiefel $k$-orientations with $k=0,1$, i.e., a semi-orientation and Spin-structure.

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This forbids the Morse modifications, due to complex orientation.


## Surfaces

Theorem. If $A$ is a real algebraic surface of type I with $b_{1}\left(A_{\mathbb{C}}\right)=0$, then $b_{0}\left(A_{\mathbb{R}}\right)$ cannot increase under a single Morse-Lefschetz modification.

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The simplest example:
two-fold covering of the projective plane ramified in quartic.
Torus turns into Klein bottle with a handle.

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However, $b_{1}\left(A_{\mathbb{R}}\right)$ (and $b_{*}\left(A_{\mathbb{R}}\right)$ ) of such surface can increase.
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Theorem. If $A$ is a real algebraic surface of type I with $b_{1}\left(A_{\mathbb{C}}\right)=0$, and $A \subset B$, where $B$ is a non-singular real algebraic 3 -variety with orientable $B_{\mathbb{R}}$, then $b_{*}\left(A_{\mathbb{R}}\right)$ cannot increase under a single embedded Morse-Lefschetz modification of $A$ in $B$.

## Quadrics

Let $p+q=n+2$ and $Q_{p, q} \subset \mathbb{R} P^{n+1}$ be a non-singular $n$-dimensional quadric of signature $(p, q), p<q$.

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## Correction for the enigma

For a a real algebraic subvariety $A$ of a projective space $P^{m}$, denote by $l(A)$ the maximal $i$ such that the inclusion homomorphism

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This is a work in progress.

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