# Gluing mASD connections on cylindrical end 4-manifolds

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James Madison University

Gauge Theory Virtual — April 7, 2021

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#### Set-up

• X = a connected, oriented 4-manifold with cylindrical ends:

$$X = X_0 \cup_N (N \times [0,\infty))$$

• 
$$E = a G$$
-bundle over X

- A connection A is **ASD** if  $F_A^+ = 0$ .
- General goal: study

 $M := \left\{ \text{ASD connections on } E \right\} / \left\{ \text{gauge} \right\}.$ 

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Let's take G = SU(2).

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This can be understood by the presence of asymptotic limits (flat connections) that are degenerate.

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Alternative fix by J. Morgan, T. Mrowka, D. Ruberman ('94): Thicken.

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Gluing mASD connections

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- The map j factors through a finite-dimensional manifold; it parametrizes the relevant connections by their asymptotic behavior.
- If A is ASD (and sufficiently close to a reference connection), then  $\beta F_{j(A)}^+ = 0.$



Upshot: The operator  $A \mapsto F_A^+ - \beta F_{j(A)}^+$  is Fredholm\* and maps ASD connections\*\* to zero.

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Then we consider the space:

 $\hat{M} := \{\text{mASD connections}\} \cap \{\text{Coulomb slice}\} \,.$ 

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- a bunch of other things (e.g., cut-off functions) collectively called "thickening data" and denoted  $\mathcal{T}$ .

When these choices are relevant, write

$$\hat{M}(\Gamma, A', \mathcal{T}), \qquad \hat{M}(\Gamma, A'), \qquad \text{etc.}$$

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- $\hat{M}$  is a local object;
- the operator  $A \mapsto F_A^+ \beta F_{j(A)}^+$  is not gauge equivariant.

What is the same? Gluing! (mostly)

#### Theorem (D-Hambleton '20)

Assume  $b_2^+(X) = 0$ . Then there is an mASD connection on E that is irreducible and regular. This can be chosen to have relative second Chern class arbitrarily close to 1.

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Example: Suppose  $X_0$  is diffeomorphic to the total space of a disk bundle over a surface, with positive euler class. Then this implies the existence of finite-energy ASD connections on X (for any metric that decays on the end to a cylindrical metric).

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#### Proof.

The connection j(A) is ASD for all relevant A. (Observation by Morgan–Mrowka–Ruberman.)

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Gluing comes down to an implicit function theorem argument: Linearize the defining equations at the trivial connection; we need the linearization to be Fredholm and surjective.

Why can't this be done purely in the ASD setting?

The linearization of the ASD operator is the map  $d^+: \Omega^1(X, \mathfrak{g}) \to \Omega^+(X, \mathfrak{g})$ , and we should extend this to appropriate Sobolev completions, e.g.:

$$d^+: L^2_1(\Omega^1) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega^+).$$

The linearization of the ASD operator is the map  $d^+: L^2_1(\Omega^1) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega^+)$ .

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Image: A matrix and a matrix

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Morgan-Mrowka-Ruberman provide a long exact sequence

$$\ldots \rightarrow H^1(N) \rightarrow \operatorname{coker}(d^+)_{\delta} \rightarrow H^2(E_{\delta}) \rightarrow 0.$$

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Summary: When  $H^1(N) \neq 0$ , then the hypothesis that  $b^+ = 0$  is generally not enough to use ASD connections alone.

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Summary: When  $H^1(N) \neq 0$ , then the hypothesis that  $b^+ = 0$  is generally not enough to use ASD connections alone. However, the space of mASD connections is big enough.

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... and the space of mASD connections is NOT gauge-invariant! Resolution: Use the implicit function theorem again.

# **Gluing Families**

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Image: A matrix

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 $X=X_1\#X_2.$  Fix precompact open sets  $G_1\subseteq \hat{M}_{reg}(A_1'), \qquad G_2\subseteq \hat{M}_{reg}(A_2').$ 

The  $A'_1$  and  $A'_2$  preglue to make  $A' = A'(A'_1, A'_2)$  on X.

Image: A math

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$$J(A_1, A_2) \in \hat{M}_{reg}(A')$$

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Ideally, we would want to view J as a function from  $G_1 \times G_2$  into a fixed mASD space. However, the Coulomb slice for  $J(A_1, A_2)$  depends on  $(A_1, A_2)$ 

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 $X=X_1\#X_2.$  Fix precompact open sets  $G_1\subseteq \hat{M}_{reg}(A_1'), \qquad G_2\subseteq \hat{M}_{reg}(A_2').$ 

The  $A_1'$  and  $A_2'$  preglue to make  $A' = A'(A_1', A_2')$  on X. For  $(A_1, A_2) \in G_1 \times G_2$ , let

$$J(A_1, A_2) \in \hat{M}_{reg}(A')$$

be the glued connection on X.

Ideally, we would want to view J as a function from  $G_1 \times G_2$  into a fixed mASD space. However, the Coulomb slice for  $J(A_1, A_2)$  depends on  $(A_1, A_2)$  ... Instead, turn J into a section of a bundle.

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#### Theorem (D–Hambleton '20)

(a) There is a neighborhood  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$  of the image of  $\Psi$  so that the restriction  $\Pi|_{\mathcal{U}} : \mathcal{U} \to G_1 \times G_2$  is a locally trivial fiber bundle (with fiber an open subset of  $\hat{M}_{reg}(A_{ref})$  for some  $A_{ref}$ ).

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David L. Duncan (JMU)

# Thank you!

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