

# **JSJ decomposition of knot exteriors, Dehn surgeries, and the L-space conjecture**

Ying Hu, University of Nebraska Omaha

---

Joint with Steve Boyer, Cameron Gordon

Oct 01, 2023

2023 AWM RS: Progress in low dimensional topology. We thank NSF DMS 2113506 for the travel support.

# Background

---

## Three properties (LO, CTF, NLS)

$M$  is a closed, connected, orientable, irreducible 3-manifold.

**(LO)**  $\pi_1(M)$  is left-orderable:

- $\exists$  a strict total order  $<$  on  $\pi_1(M)$  satisfying, for any  $a, b, c \in \pi_1(M)$ ,

$$a < b \Leftrightarrow c \cdot a < c \cdot b.$$

- For example
  - $\mathbb{Z}$  is LO.
  - Finite groups are not LO.

## Three properties (LO, CTF, NLS)

**(CTF)**  $M$  admits a co-orientable taut foliation.

- A (co-)orientable foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  is a decomposition of  $M$  into a disjoint union of orientable surfaces.

**Example.** A surface bundle over  $S^1$  is foliated by the fibers.

- Every orientable closed 3-manifolds has a orientable foliation (Lickorish, 65).

**(NLS)**  $M$  is not an  $L$ -space.

An  $L$ -space is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -homology sphere who Heegaard Floer homology is “minimal”.

# The L-space conjecture

## Conjecture (Boyer-Gordon-Watson, Juhász, 10s )

$M$  is a connected, compact, orientable, irreducible 3-manifold.

$$LO \iff CTF \iff NLS$$

### Known:

- $CTF \implies NLS$   
(Ozsváth-Szabó 04; Bowden, Kazez-Roberts 15)
- Conjecture holds for **graph manifolds**.  
(Eisenbud-Jankins-Neumann 80s, Naimi 90s; Stipsicz-Lisca 05;  
Boyer-Clay, Hanselman-Rasmussen-Rasmussen-Watson 15)

$M$  is a toroidal  $\mathbf{Q}$ -homology sphere.

- $M$  is called **toroidal** if  $\exists$  an incompressible torus in  $M$ .

**The basic idea:**

- Cut  $M$  open along incompressible tori:

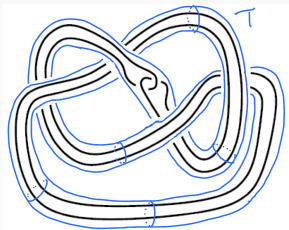
$$M = \sqcup M_j.$$

- $M$  has the property  $*$  if the **\*-detected slopes** are **matched** along the gluing map, where  $*$   $\in \{CTF, LO, NLS\}$ .  
(Hanselman-Rasmussen-Rasmussen-Watson 15, Boyer-Clay 21, Boyer-Gordon-H. 21)

## **Study LO and NLS surgeries on satellite knots**

---

## Cut along a single torus



- Let  $K = P(K')$  where  $K'$  is the companion knot and  $P$  is the pattern.
- We view  $K(r) = X(K') \cup_T P(r)$

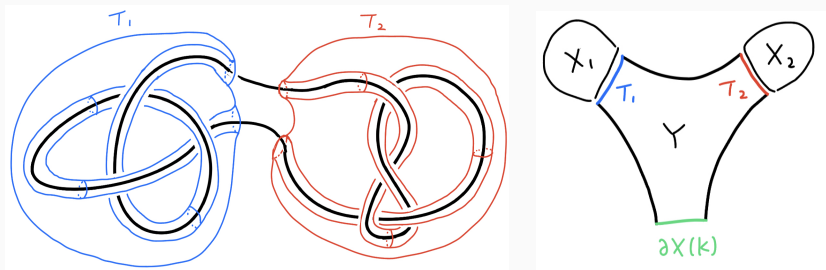
**Figure 1:** Whitehead double

### Theorem (Boyer-Gordon-H. 23)

If  $P$  has **winding number zero**, then  $\pi_1(K(r))$  is LO and NLS unless  $r$  is a cabling slope of  $K$ .



## Cut along multiple tori



**Figure 2:** Composite knot

- If  $K = K_1 \# K_2$ , then

$$K(r) = X_1 \cup_{T_1} Y(r) \cup_{T_2} X_2$$

where  $Y(r)$  is the  $r$ -filling along  $\partial X(K)$ .

## Cut along multiple tori: the main result

- The JSJ graph of a satellite knot  $K$  is the **rooted** tree dual to the JSJ tori. The **root** is the piece that contains  $\partial X(K)$ .

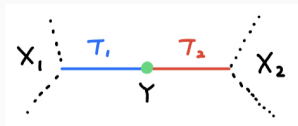


Figure 3: JSJ graph of  $K_1 \# K_2$



Figure 4: Rooted interval

### Theorem (Boyer-Gordon-H.)

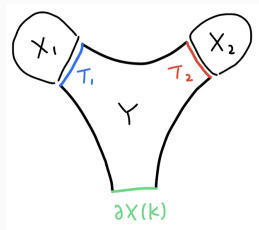
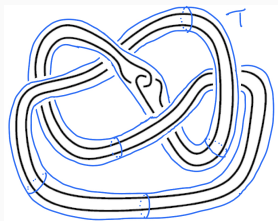
If the JSJ graph of the knot exterior  $X(K)$  is **not** an rooted interval, then  $K(r)$  is LO and NLS for any non-cabling slope  $r$ .

- All non-meridional surgeries on a composite knot is NLS.  
(Krcatovich, 15)

## CTF surgeries on satellite knots

---

## A key result used in our proof



### Theorem (Boyer-Gordon-H. ,21)

Let  $\mu$  be the knot meridian of a nontrivial knot  $K$  in  $S^3$ .

- $\mu$  is  $*$ -detected if  $* \in \{LO, NLS\}$ .
- $\mu$  is CTF-detected if  $K$  is **fibred**.

- We can prove the same results for CTF surgeries, with an additional **fibering** assumption.

## Conjecture (Boyer-Gordon-H. ,21)

The meridian  $\mu$  of a nontrivial knot  $K$  in  $S^3$  is **CTF-detected**.

- For composite knots,

## Theorem (Delman and Roberts, 20)

If  $K = K_1 \# K_2$  and  $K_i \in \{\text{fibered, alternating, Montesinos}\}$ , then  $K(r)$  is CTF for any  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

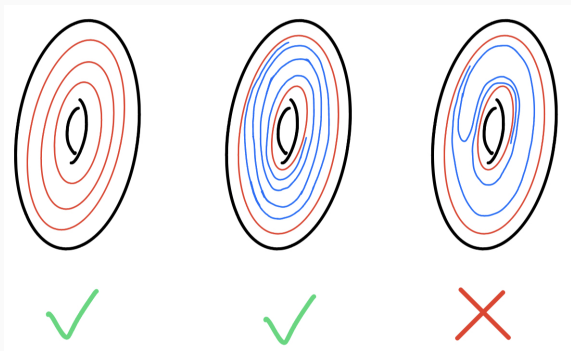


Figure 5:  $\mathcal{F} \cap \partial X(K)$

**Thank you!**