

# Invariants of knots and 3-manifolds: Survey on 3-manifolds

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# Tentative plan of the course

title	date	lecturer
Introduction to 3-manifolds I & II	April, 10 & 12	Lück
Cobordism theory and the $s$ -cobordism theorem	April, 17	Lück
Introduction to Surgery theory	April 19	Lück
$L^2$ -Betti numbers	April, 24 & 26	Lück
Introduction to Knots and Links	May 3	Teichner
Knot invariants I	May, 8	Teichner
Knot invariants II	May, 15	Teichner
Introduction to knot concordance I	May, 17	Teichner
Whitehead torsion and $L^2$ -torsion I	May 29th	Lück
$L^2$ -signatures I	June 5	Teichner
tba	June, 7	tba

title	date	lecturer
Whitehead torsion and $L^2$ -torsion II	June, 12	Lück
$L^2$ -invariants und 3-manifolds I	June, 14	Lück
$L^2$ -invariants und 3-manifolds II	June, 19	Lück
$L^2$ -signatures II	June, 21	Teichner
$L^2$ -signatures as knot concordance invariants I & II	June, 26 & 28	Teichner
tba	July, 3	tba
Further aspects of $L^2$ -invariants	July 10	Lück
tba	July 12	Teichner
Open problems in low-dimensional topology	July 17 & 19	Teichner

- No talks on May 1, May 10, May 22, May 24, May 31, July 5.
- On demand there can be a discussion session at the end of the Thursday lecture.

- We give an introduction and survey about 3-manifolds.
- We cover the following topics:
  - Review of surfaces
  - Prime decomposition and the Kneser Conjecture
  - Jaco-Shalen-Johannsen splitting
  - Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture
  - Fiberings 3-manifolds
  - Fundamental groups of 3-manifolds

# Some basic facts surfaces

- **Surface** will mean compact, connected, orientable 2-dimensional manifold possibly with boundary.
- Every surface has a preferred structure of a PL-manifold or smooth manifold which is unique up to PL-homeomorphism or diffeomorphism.
- Every surface is homeomorphic to the standard model  $F_g^d$ , which is obtained from  $S^2$  by deleting the interior of  $d$  embedded  $D^2$  and taking the connected sum with  $g$ -copies of  $S^1 \times S^1$ .
- The standard models  $F_g^d$  and  $F_{g'}^{d'}$  are homeomorphic if and only if  $g = g'$  and  $d = d'$  holds.
- Any homotopy equivalence of closed surfaces is homotopic to a homeomorphism.

- The following assertions for two closed surfaces  $M$  and  $N$  are equivalent:
  - $M$  and  $N$  are homeomorphic;
  - $\pi_1(M) \cong \pi_1(N)$ ;
  - $H_1(M) \cong H_1(N)$ ;
  - $\chi(M) = \chi(N)$ .
- A closed surface admits a complete Riemannian metric with constant sectional curvature 1, 0 or  $-1$  depending on whether its genus  $g$  is 0, 1 or  $\geq 2$ . For  $-1$  there are infinitely many such structures on a given surface of genus  $\geq 2$ .
- A closed surface is either simply connected or aspherical.
- A simply connected closed surface is homeomorphic to  $S^2$ .
- A closed surface carries a non-trivial  $S^1$ -action if and only if it is  $S^2$  or  $T^2$ .

- The fundamental group of a compact surface  $F_g^d$  is explicitly known.
- The fundamental group of a compact surface  $F_g^d$  has the following properties
  - It is either trivial,  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , a finitely generated one-relator group, or a finitely generated free group;
  - It is residually finite;
  - Its abelianization is a finitely generated free abelian group;
  - It has a solvable word problem, conjugacy problem and isomorphism problem.

## Question

*Which of these properties carry over to 3-manifolds?*

# Unique smooth or PL-structures on 3-manifolds

- **3-manifold** will mean compact, connected, orientable 3-dimensional manifold possibly with boundary.
- Every 3-manifold has a preferred structure of a PL-manifold or smooth manifold which is unique up to PL-homeomorphism or diffeomorphism.
- This is not true in general for closed manifolds of dimension  $\geq 4$ .



# Prime decomposition and the Kneser Conjecture

- Recall the **connected sum** of compact, connected, orientable  $n$ -dimensional manifolds  $M_0 \# M_1$  and the fact that  $M \# S^n$  is homeomorphic to  $M$ .

## Definition (prime)

A 3-manifold  $M$  is called **prime** if for any decomposition as a connected sum  $M_0 \# M_1$  one of the summands  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  is homeomorphic to  $S^3$ .

## Theorem (Prime decomposition)

*Every 3-manifold  $M$ , which is not homeomorphic to  $S^3$ , possesses a prime decomposition*

$$M \cong M_1 \# M_2 \# \cdots \# M_r$$

*where each  $M_i$  is prime and not homeomorphic to  $S^3$ . This decomposition is unique up to permutation of the summands and*

## Definition (incompressible)

Given a 3-manifold  $M$ , a compact connected orientable surface  $F$  which is properly embedded in  $M$ , i.e.,  $\partial M \cap F = \partial F$ , or embedded in  $\partial M$ , is called **incompressible** if the following holds:

- The inclusion  $F \rightarrow M$  induces an injection on the fundamental groups;
- $F$  is not homeomorphic to  $S^2$ ;
- If  $F = D^2$ , we do not have  $F \subseteq \partial M$  and there is no embedded  $D^3 \subseteq M$  with  $\partial D^3 \subseteq D^2 \cup \partial M$ .

One says that  $\partial M$  is **incompressible in  $M$**  if and only if  $\partial M$  is empty or any component  $C$  of  $\partial M$  is incompressible in the sense above.

- $\partial M \subseteq M$  is incompressible if for every component  $C$  the inclusion induces an injection  $\pi_1(C) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)$  and  $C$  is not homeomorphic to  $S^2$ .

## Theorem (The Kneser Conjecture is true)

Let  $M$  be a compact 3-manifold with incompressible boundary. Suppose that there are groups  $G_0$  and  $G_1$  together with an isomorphism  $\alpha: G_0 * G_1 \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_1(M)$ .

Then there are 3-manifolds  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  coming with isomorphisms  $u_i: G_i \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_1(M_i)$  and a homeomorphism

$$h: M_0 \# M_1 \xrightarrow{\cong} M$$

such that the following diagram of group isomorphisms commutes up to inner automorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(M_0) * \pi_1(M_1) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \pi_1(M_0 \# M_1) \\ \uparrow u_0 * u_1 & & \downarrow \pi_1(h) \\ G_0 * G_1 & \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\cong} & \pi_1(M) \end{array}$$

### Definition (irreducible)

A 3-manifold is called **irreducible** if every embedded two-sphere  $S^2 \subseteq M$  bounds an embedded disk  $D^3 \subseteq M$ .

### Theorem

*A prime 3-manifold  $M$  is either homeomorphic to  $S^1 \times S^2$  or is irreducible.*

### Theorem (Knot complement)

*The complement of a non-trivial knot in  $S^3$  is an irreducible 3-manifold with incompressible toroidal boundary.*

# The Sphere and the Loop Theorem

## Theorem (Sphere Theorem)

Let  $M$  be a 3-manifold. Let  $N \subseteq \pi_2(M)$  be a  $\pi_1(M)$ -invariant subgroup of  $\pi_2(M)$  with  $\pi_2(M) \setminus N \neq \emptyset$ .

Then there exists an embedding  $g: S^2 \rightarrow M$  such that  $[g] \in \pi_2(M) \setminus N$ .

- Notice that  $[g] \neq 0$ .
- However, the Sphere Theorem does **not** say that one can realize a given element  $u \in \pi_2(M) \setminus N$  to be  $u = [g]$ .

## Corollary

An irreducible 3-manifold is aspherical if and only if it is homeomorphic to  $D^3$  or its fundamental group is infinite.

## Theorem (Loop Theorem)

Let  $M$  be a 3-manifold and let  $F \subseteq \partial M$  be an embedded connected surface. Let  $N \subseteq \pi_1(F)$  be a normal subgroup such that  $\ker(\pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)) \setminus N \neq \emptyset$ .

Then there exists a proper embedding  $(D^2, S^1) \rightarrow (M, F)$  such that  $[g|_{S^1}]$  is contained in  $\ker(\pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)) \setminus N$

- Notice that  $[g] \neq 0$ .
- However, the Loop Theorem does **not** say that one can realize a given element  $u \in \ker(\pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)) \setminus N$  to be  $u = [g]$ .

## Definition (Haken manifold)

An irreducible 3-manifold is **Haken** if it contains an incompressible embedded surface.

## Lemma

*If the first Betti number  $b_1(M)$  is non-zero, which is implied if  $\partial M$  contains a surface other than  $S^2$ , and  $M$  is irreducible, then  $M$  is Haken.*

- A lot of conjectures for 3-manifolds could be proved for Haken manifolds first using an inductive procedure which is based on cutting a Haken manifold into pieces of smaller complexity using the incompressible surface.

## Conjecture (Waldhausen's Virtually Haken Conjecture)

*Every irreducible 3-manifold with infinite fundamental group has a finite covering which is a Haken manifold.*

## Theorem (Agol, [1])

*The Virtually Haken Conjecture is true.*

- Agol shows that there is a finite covering with non-trivial first Betti number.



# Seifert and hyperbolic 3-manifolds

- We use the definition of **Seifert manifold** given in the survey article by **Scott** [8], which we recommend as a reference on Seifert manifolds besides the book of **Hempel** [4].

## Lemma

*If a 3-manifold  $M$  has infinite fundamental group and empty or incompressible boundary, then it is Seifert if and only if it admits a finite covering  $\bar{M}$  which is the total space of a  $S^1$ -principal bundle over a compact orientable surface.*

## Theorem (**Gabai** [3])

*An irreducible 3-manifold  $M$  with infinite fundamental group  $\pi$  is Seifert if and only if  $\pi$  contains a normal infinite cyclic subgroup.*

## Definition (Hyperbolic)

A compact manifold (possibly with boundary) is called **hyperbolic** if its interior admits a complete Riemannian metric whose sectional curvature is constant  $-1$ .

## Lemma

*Let  $M$  be a hyperbolic 3-manifold. Then its interior has finite volume if and only if  $\partial M$  is empty or a disjoint union of incompressible tori.*

## Definition (Geometry)

A **geometry** on a 3-manifold  $M$  is a complete locally homogeneous Riemannian metric on its interior.

- Locally homogeneous means that for any two points there exist open neighbourhoods which are isometrically diffeomorphic.
- The universal cover of the interior has a complete homogeneous Riemannian metric, meaning that the isometry group acts transitively. This action is automatically proper.
- **Thurston** has shown that there are precisely eight maximal simply connected 3-dimensional geometries having compact quotients, which often come from left invariant Riemannian metrics on connected Lie groups.

- $S^3$ ,  $\text{Isom}(S^3) = O(4)$ ;
- $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow O(3) \rightarrow 1$ ;
- $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{Isom}(S^2 \times \mathbb{R}) = \text{Isom}(S^2) \times \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R})$ ;
- $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}) = \text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}^2) \times \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R})$ ;
- $\widetilde{SL_2(\mathbb{R})}$ ,  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\widetilde{SL_2(\mathbb{R})}) \rightarrow \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow 1$ ;
- $\text{Nil} := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ,  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\text{Nil}) \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow 1$ ;
- $\text{Sol} := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ;  $1 \rightarrow \text{Sol} \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\text{Sol}) \rightarrow D_{2,4} \rightarrow 1$ ;
- $\mathbb{H}^3$ ,  $\text{Isom}(\mathbb{H}^3) = \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ .

- A geometry on a 3-manifold  $M$  modelled on  $S^3$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^3$  or  $\mathbb{H}^3$  is the same as a complete Riemannian metric on the interior of constant section curvature with value 1, 0 or  $-1$ .
- If a closed 3-manifold admits a geometric structure modelled on one of these eight geometries, then the geometry involved is unique.
- The geometric structure on a fixed 3-manifold is in general not unique. For instance, one can scale the standard flat Riemannian metric on the torus  $T^3$  by a real number and just gets a new geometry with different volume which of course still is a  $\mathbb{R}^3$ -geometry.

## Theorem (Mostow Rigidity)

Let  $M$  and  $N$  be two hyperbolic  $n$ -manifolds with finite volume for  $n \geq 3$ . Then for any isomorphism  $\alpha: \pi_1(M) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_1(N)$  there exists an isometric diffeomorphism  $f: M \rightarrow N$  such that up to inner automorphism  $\pi_1(f) = \alpha$  holds.

- This is not true in dimension 2, see **Teichmüller space**.

- A 3-manifold is a Seifert manifold if and only if it carries one of the geometries  $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $H^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $S^3$ , Nil, or  $\widetilde{SL_2(\mathbb{R})}$ . In terms of the Euler class  $e$  of the Seifert bundle and the Euler characteristic  $\chi$  of the base orbifold, the geometric structure of a closed Seifert manifold  $M$  is determined as follows

	$\chi > 0$	$\chi = 0$	$\chi < 0$
$e = 0$	$S^2 \times \mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{R}^3$	$H^2 \times \mathbb{R}$
$e \neq 0$	$S^3$	Nil	$\widetilde{SL_2(\mathbb{R})}$

- Let  $M$  be a prime 3-manifold with empty boundary or incompressible boundary. Then it is a Seifert manifold if and only if it is finitely covered by the total space  $\overline{M}$  of an principal  $S^1$ -bundle  $S^1 \rightarrow \overline{M} \rightarrow F$  over a surface  $F$ .
- Moreover,  $e(M) = 0$  if and only if this  $S^1$ -principal bundle is trivial, and the Euler characteristic  $\chi$  of the base orbifold of  $M$  is negative, zero or positive according to the same condition for  $\chi(F)$ .
- The boundary of a Seifert manifold is incompressible unless  $M$  is homeomorphic to  $S^1 \times D^2$ .
- A Seifert manifold is prime unless it is  $\mathbb{R}P^3 \# \mathbb{R}P^3$ .
- Let  $M$  be a Seifert manifold with finite fundamental group. Then  $M$  is closed and carries a  $S^3$ -geometry.



- A 3-manifold admits an  $S^1$ -foliation if and only if it is a Seifert manifold.
- Every  $S^1$ -action on a hyperbolic closed 3-manifold is trivial.
- A 3-manifold carries a Sol-structure if and only if it is finitely covered by the total space  $E$  of a locally trivial fiber bundle  $T^2 \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^1$  with hyperbolic glueing map  $T^2 \rightarrow T^2$ , where hyperbolic is equivalent to the condition that the absolute value of the trace of the automorphism of  $H_1(T^2)$  is greater or equal to 3.

## Theorem (Jaco-Shalen [5], Johannson [6])

Let  $M$  be an irreducible 3-manifold  $M$  with incompressible boundary.

- 1 There is a finite family of disjoint, pairwise-nonisotopic incompressible tori in  $M$  which are not isotopic to boundary components and which split  $M$  into pieces that are Seifert manifolds or are *geometrically atoroidal*, i.e., they admit no embedded incompressible torus (except possibly parallel to the boundary).
- 2 A minimal family of such tori is unique up to isotopy.

## Definition (Toral splitting or JSJ-decomposition)

We will say that the minimal family of such tori gives a **toral splitting** or a **JSJ-decomposition**.

We call the toral splitting a **geometric toral splitting** if the geometrically atoroidal pieces which do not admit a Seifert structure are hyperbolic.

# Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture

## Conjecture (Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture)

- *An irreducible 3-manifold with infinite fundamental group has a geometric toral splitting;*
- *For a closed 3-manifold with finite fundamental group, its universal covering is homeomorphic to  $S^3$ , the fundamental group of  $M$  is a subgroup of  $SO(4)$  and the action of it on the universal covering is conjugated by a homeomorphism to the restriction of the obvious  $SO(4)$ -action on  $S^3$ .*

## Theorem (Perelman, see Morgan-Tian [7])

*Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture is true.*

- Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture implies the 3-dimensional **Poincaré Conjecture**.
- Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture implies:
  - The fundamental group of a 3-manifold  $M$  is residually finite, Hopfian and has a solvable word, conjugacy and membership problem.
  - If  $M$  is closed,  $\pi_1(M)$  has a solvable isomorphism problem.
  - Every closed 3-manifold has a solvable homeomorphism problem.
- Thanks to the proof of the Geometrization Conjecture, there is a complete list of those finite groups which occur as fundamental groups of closed 3-manifolds. They all are subgroups of  $SO(4)$ .
- Recall that, for every  $n \geq 4$  and any finitely presented group  $G$ , there exists a closed  $n$ -dimensional smooth manifold  $M$  with  $\pi_1(M) \cong G$ .

- Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture implies the **Borel Conjecture** in dimension 3 stating that every homotopy equivalence of aspherical closed 3-manifolds is homotopic to a homeomorphism.
- There are irreducible 3-manifolds with finite fundamental group which are homotopy equivalent but not homeomorphic, namely the lens spaces  $L(7; 1, 1)$  and  $L(7; 1, 2)$ .
- Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture is needed in the proof of the **Full Farrell-Jones Conjecture** for the fundamental group of a (not necessarily compact) 3-manifold (possibly with boundary).

- Thurston's Geometrization Conjecture is needed in the complete calculation of the  $L^2$ -invariants of the universal covering of a 3-manifold.
- These calculations and calculations of other invariants follow the following pattern:
  - Use the prime decomposition to reduce it to irreducible manifolds.
  - Use the Thurston Geometrization Conjecture and glueing formulas to reduce it to Seifert manifolds or hyperbolic manifolds.
  - Treat Seifert manifolds with topological methods.
  - Treat hyperbolic manifolds with analytic methods.

## Theorem (Stallings [9])

The following assertions are equivalent for an irreducible 3-manifold  $M$  and an exact sequence  $1 \rightarrow K \rightarrow \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 1$ :

- $K$  is finitely generated;
- $K$  is the fundamental group of a surface  $F$ ;
- There is a locally trivial fiber bundle  $F \rightarrow M \rightarrow S^1$  with a surface  $F$  as fiber such that the induced sequence

$$1 \rightarrow \pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(S^1) \rightarrow 1$$

can be identified with the given sequence.



## Conjecture (Thurston's Virtual Fibering Conjecture)

*Let  $M$  be a closed hyperbolic 3-manifold. Then a finite covering of  $M$  fibers over  $S^1$ , i.e., is the total space of a surface bundle over  $S^1$ .*

- A locally compact surface bundle  $F \rightarrow E \rightarrow S^1$  is the same as a selfhomeomorphism of the surface  $F$  by the mapping torus construction.
- Two surface homeomorphisms are isotopic if and only if they induce the same automorphism on  $\pi_1(F)$  up to inner automorphisms.
- Therefore **mapping class groups** play an important role for 3-manifolds.

## Theorem (Agol, [1])

*The Virtually Fibring Conjecture is true.*

## Definition (Graph manifold)

An irreducible 3-manifold is called **graph manifold** if its JSJ-splitting contains no hyperbolic pieces.

- There are aspherical closed graph manifolds which do not virtually fiber over  $S^1$ .
- There are closed graph manifolds, which are aspherical, but do not admit a Riemannian metric of non-positive sectional curvature.
- **Agol** proved the Virtually Fibring Conjecture for any irreducible manifold with infinite fundamental group and empty or incompressible toral boundary which is not a closed graph manifold.

- Actually, [Agol](#), based on work of [Wise](#), showed much more, namely that the fundamental group of a hyperbolic 3-manifold is **virtually compact special**. This implies in particular that they occur as subgroups of **RAAG**-s (right Artin angled groups) and that they are **linear over  $\mathbb{Z}$**  and **LERF** (locally extended residually finite). For the definition of these notions and much more information we refer for instance to [Aschenbrenner-Friedl-Wilton](#) [2].

# On the fundamental groups of 3-manifolds

- The fundamental group plays a dominant role for 3-manifolds what we want to illustrate by many examples and theorems.
- A 3-manifold is prime if and only if  $\pi_1(M)$  is prime in the sense that  $\pi_1(M) \cong G_0 * G_1$  implies that  $G_0$  or  $G_1$  are trivial.
- A 3-manifold is irreducible if and only if  $\pi_1(M)$  is prime and  $\pi_1(M)$  is not infinite cyclic.
- A 3-manifold is aspherical if and only if its fundamental group is infinite, prime and not cyclic.
- A 3-manifold has infinite cyclic fundamental group if and only if it is homeomorphic to  $S^1 \times S^2$ .

- Let  $M$  and  $N$  be two prime closed 3-manifolds whose fundamental groups are infinite. Then:
  - $M$  and  $N$  are homeomorphic if and only if  $\pi_1(M)$  and  $\pi_1(N)$  are isomorphic.
  - Any isomorphism  $\pi_1(M) \xrightarrow{\cong} \pi_1(N)$  is induced by a homeomorphism.
- Let  $M$  be a closed irreducible 3-manifold with infinite fundamental group. Then  $M$  is hyperbolic if and only if  $\pi_1(M)$  does not contain  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  as subgroup.
- Let  $M$  be a closed irreducible 3-manifold with infinite fundamental group. Then  $M$  is a Seifert manifold if and only if  $\pi_1(M)$  contains a normal infinite subgroup.

- A closed Seifert 3-manifold carries precisely one geometry and one can read off from  $\pi_1(M)$  which one it is:
  - $S^3$   
 $\pi_1(M)$  is finite.
  - $\mathbb{R}^3$   
 $\pi_1(M)$  contains  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  as subgroup of finite index.
  - $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ ;  
 $\pi_1(M)$  is virtually cyclic.
  - $\mathbb{H}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$   
 $\pi_1(M)$  contains a subgroup of finite index which is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z} \times \pi_1(F)$  for some closed surface  $F$  of genus 2.
  - $\widetilde{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ ;  
 $\pi_1(M)$  contains a subgroup of finite index  $G$  which can be written as a non-trivial central extension  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G \rightarrow \pi_1(F) \rightarrow 1$  for a surface  $F$  of genus  $\geq 2$ .
  - Nil  
 $\pi_1(M)$  contains a subgroup of finite index  $G$  which can be written as a non-trivial central extension  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow 1$ .

## Definition (deficiency)

The **deficiency of a finite presentation**  $\langle g_1, \dots, g_m \mid r_1 \dots, r_n \rangle$  of a group  $G$  is defined to be  $m - n$ .

The **deficiency of a finitely presented group** is defined to be the supremum of the deficiencies of all its finite presentations.

## Lemma

*Let  $M$  be an irreducible 3-manifold. If its boundary is empty, its deficiency is 0. If its boundary is non-empty, its deficiency is  $1 - \chi(M)$ .*

- We have already mentioned the following facts:
  - The fundamental group of a 3-manifold is residually finite, Hopfian and has a solvable word and conjugacy problem.
  - If  $M$  is closed,  $\pi_1(M)$  has a solvable isomorphism problem.
  - There is a complete list of those finite groups which occur as fundamental groups of closed 3-manifolds. They all are subgroups of  $SO(4)$ .
  - The fundamental group of a hyperbolic 3-manifold is **virtually compact special** and linear over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .



# Some open problems

## Definition (Poincaré duality group)

A **Poincaré duality group**  $G$  of dimension  $n$  is a finitely presented group satisfying:

- $G$  is of type FP;
- $H^i(G; \mathbb{Z}G) \cong \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq n; \\ \mathbb{Z} & i = n. \end{cases}$

## Conjecture (Wall)

*Every Poincaré duality group is the fundamental group of an aspherical closed manifold.*

## Conjecture (Cannon's Conjecture in the torsionfree case)

*A torsionfree hyperbolic group  $G$  has  $S^2$  as boundary if and only if it is the fundamental group of a closed hyperbolic 3-manifold.*

## Conjecture (Bergeron-Venkatesh)

*Suppose that  $M$  is a closed hyperbolic 3-manifold. Let*

$$\pi_1(M) = G_0 \supseteq G_1 \supseteq G_2 \supseteq$$

*be a nested sequence of normal subgroups  $G_i$  of finite index of  $\pi_1(M)$  with  $\bigcap_i G_i = \{1\}$ . Let  $M_i \rightarrow M$  be the finite covering associated to  $G_i \subseteq \pi_1(M)$ .*

*Then*

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln (|\text{tors}(H_1(G_i))|)}{[G : G_i]} = \frac{1}{6\pi} \cdot \text{vol}(M).$$

## Questions (Aschenbrenner-Friedl-Wilton [2])

Let  $M$  be an aspherical 3-manifold with empty or toroidal boundary with fundamental group  $G = \pi_1(M)$ , which does not admit a non-positively curved metric.

- 1 Is  $G$  linear over  $\mathbb{C}$ ?
- 2 Is  $G$  linear over  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?
- 3 If  $G$  is not solvable, does it have a subgroup of finite index which is for every prime  $p$  residually finite of  $p$ -power?
- 4 Is  $G$  virtually bi-orderable?
- 5 Does  $G$  satisfy the Atiyah Conjecture about the integrality of the  $L^2$ -Betti numbers of universal coverings of closed Riemann manifolds of any dimension and fundamental group  $G$ ?
- 6 Is the group ring  $\mathbb{Z}G$  a domain?

## Questions

- *Does the isomorphism problem has a solution for the fundamental groups of (not necessarily closed) 3-manifolds?*
- *Does the homeomorphism problem has a solution for (not necessarily closed) 3-manifolds?*



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