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The symplectic topology of some rational homology balls

Yankı Lekili and Maksim Maydanskiy

Abstract. We study the symplectic topology of some finite algebraic quotients of the A_n Milnor fibre which are diffeomorphic to the rational homology balls that appear in Fintushel and Stern's rational blowdown construction. We prove that these affine surfaces have no closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds by using the already available and deep understanding of the Fukaya category of the A_n Milnor fibre coming from homological mirror symmetry. On the other hand, we find Floer theoretically essential monotone Lagrangian tori, finitely covered by the monotone tori which we study in the A_n Milnor fibre. We conclude that these affine surfaces have non-vanishing symplectic cohomology.

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1. Introduction

Let $p > q > 0$ be relatively prime integers. In [11], Casson and Harer introduced rational homology balls $B_{p,q}$ which are bounded by the lens space $L(p^2, pq-1)$. These homology balls were subsequently used in Fintushel–Stern's rational blowdown construction [15] (see also, [32]). In fact, $B_{p,q}$ are naturally equipped with Stein structures since they are affine varieties (cf. [23]) and here we are concerned with the symplectic topology of these Stein surfaces.

The key topological fact is that $B_{p,q}$ are p-fold covered (without ramification) by the Milnor fibre of the A_{p-1} singularity. The latter has a unique Stein structure and its symplectic topology is well-studied (see [24], [28], [41], [36]).

Following Seidel [35], we make the following definition:

Definition 1.1. A Stein manifold X is said to be empty if its symplectic cohomology vanishes. It is non-empty otherwise.

We recommend [38] for an excellent survey of symplectic cohomology. Non-empty Stein manifolds are often detected by the following important theorem of Viterbo (here stated in a weak form):

Theorem 1.2 (Viterbo, [44]). *Let X be a Stein manifold. If there exists a closed exact Lagrangian submanifold of X then X is non-empty.*

The question of existence of closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds goes back to Gromov, who proved that no such submanifold exists in $\mathbb{C}^n$ (see [19], Corollary 2.3.B_2). Of course $\mathbb{C}^n$ also has vanishing symplectic cohomology (as explained, for example, in [38], Section 3f), which together with the above theorem reproves Gromov's result.

We will exploit the relation of $B_{p,q}$ with the Milnor fibre of A_{p-1} singularity to prove the following theorem:

Theorem 1.3. *For $p \neq 2$, the affine surface $B_{p,q}$ has no closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds. On the other hand, $B_{p,q}$ contains a Floer theoretically essential Lagrangian torus, therefore $B_{p,q}$ is non-empty.*

Although one expects to find many non-empty Stein surfaces with no closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds, to our knowledge, the above examples represent the first explicit construction of non-empty Stein surfaces with no closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds. In higher dimensions ($\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \geq 12$), Abouzaid and Seidel exhibited infinitely many examples in [1] where symplectic cohomology is non-zero with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}$ but vanishes with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}_2$. Such examples obviously cannot contain closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds by Viterbo's theorem applied over $\mathbb{Z}_2$. Our examples are not only of lower dimension but also have non-vanishing symplectic cohomology with arbitrary coefficients. Therefore, there is no direct way of appealing to Viterbo's theorem in order to exclude existence of closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds. Their non-emptiness is detected by the existence of Floer theoretically essential tori ([38] Proposition 5.2). On the other hand, the non-existence of closed exact Lagrangians is proved using a detailed understanding of closed exact Lagrangians in the A_n Milnor fibres based on twisted symplectic cohomology applied by Ritter in [34] which suffices for p odd. For p even, we utilize a deeper understanding coming from homological mirror symmetry and calculations on the B-model provided by Ishii, Ueda, Uehara [22], [21]. It is remarkable that algebro-geometric calculations on the mirror side can be utilized profitably towards an application to symplectic topology.

En route, we study a class of tori in A_n Milnor fibres, which we call matching tori (cf. matching spheres [5]). We will classify them up to Hamiltonian isotopy and show that the Floer cohomology of these tori is non-zero. This fact is probably known to experts in the field; however as we did not find a written account of this result for $n \geq 2$, we take this opportunity to provide a proof as this fact will be used in proving our main result above.

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2. Lagrangian tori in A_n Milnor fibres and their Floer cohomology

2.1. A_n Milnor fibre. The four-dimensional A_n Milnor fibre is given by the affine hypersurface[1]:

$$S_n = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : z^{n+1} + 2xy = 1\}.$$

S_n has the induced complex structure as a subvariety of $\mathbb{C}^3$, which makes it into a Stein manifold, and can be equipped with the exact symplectic form inherited from the standard form on $\mathbb{C}^3$ given by

$$\omega = d\theta = \frac{i}{2}\left(dx \wedge d\bar{x} + dy \wedge d\bar{y} + dz \wedge d\bar{z}\right)$$

where $\theta = \frac{i}{4}\left(x d\bar{x} - \bar{x}dx + y d\bar{y} - \bar{y}dy + z d\bar{z} - \bar{z}dz\right)$.

Due to the existence of many exact Lagrangian spheres in S_n, this hypersurface has been instrumental in constructing many interesting examples in symplectic geometry (see [24], [28], [41], [36]). We will recall some generalities about S_n, and we refer the reader to loc. cit. for more.

The projection $\Pi_n \colon S_n \to \mathbb{C}$ to the z-coordinate yields an exact Lefschetz fibration with $n+1$ critical points at the roots of unity, which is adapted to the Stein structure. The fibre of this Lefschetz fibration is a one-sheeted hyperboloid. The vanishing cycle of any critical point and any vanishing path in the regular fibre is always the core of the hyperboloid, given by

$$V_x = \Pi^{-1}(z) \cap \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : |x| = |y|\}.$$

Let D_r be the disk of radius r centered at the origin in the base, and $C_r = \partial D_r$. For $r > 1$, the three-manifolds $Y_r = \partial(\Pi^{-1}(D_r))$ are all diffeomorphic to the lens space $L(n+1, n)$ and are equipped with the unique tight contact structure on $L(n+1, n)$ induced by the filling provided by $\Pi^{-1}(D_r)$. (The fact that there is a unique tight contact structure on $L(n+1, n)$ is used below and follows from the classification of tight contact structures on lens spaces, see [17], [20]). The restriction $\Pi|_{Y_r}$ provides an open book supporting this contact structure and its monodromy is given by $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$ power of the right-handed Dehn twist along the core of the fibre. Note that the fibre has genus zero and clearly there is a unique factorization of this monodoromy into a product of right-handed Dehn twists, therefore Wendl's theorem ([46]) implies that there is a unique Stein structure on S_n up to deformation, namely the one coming from the restriction of the standard structure on $\mathbb{C}^3$. In this way, we obtain an exact symplectic manifold $(S_n, d\theta)$ with $c_1(S_n) = 0$. Topologically, S_n is a linear plumbing of n disk bundles over S^2 with Euler number -2.

Next, we consider a family of Lagrangian tori in A_n Milnor fibre. We call the tori in this family matching tori, as they are obtained as unions of vanishing cycles.

[1]The factor 2 is for compatibility with the conventional description of A_n Milnor fibre given by $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : z^{n+1} + x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$.

2.2. Matching tori. Given a Lefschetz fibration $\Pi\colon E \mapsto \mathbb{D}^2$, a closed embedded circle $\gamma\colon [0,1] \mapsto \mathbb{D}^2$ with $\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = p$ and a Lagrangian V in the fibre $F_p = \Pi^{-1}(p)$, such that the symplectic monodromy ϕ along γ takes V to itself, we define a matching Lagrangian L to be the union of all parallel translates of V over γ. Explicitly $L = \bigcup_{x\in\gamma} V_x$ where V_x is the parallel transport of V over γ to $\Pi^{-1}(x)$.

Note that L is diffeomorphic to the mapping torus of $\phi|_V$ and is in fact a Lagrangian submanifold of E by Lemma 16.3 in [36]. In the case when dimension of E is 4, and V is a circle, we call L the *matching torus of* V *along* γ.

In the case of the Milnor fibre S_n, we take the closed path γ oriented in such a way that the enclosed area is positive. We call the resulting Lagrangian torus $\mathbb{T}_{n;\gamma}$ or $\mathbb{T}_n$ if the particular choice of γ is not important.

We will see below that the tori $\mathbb{T}_n$ bound holomorphic disks, in particular they cannot be exact Lagrangian submanifolds of S_n. In contrast, there is an abundance of exact Lagrangian spheres obtained by matching sphere construction, which we recall now. Take an embedded path $c\colon [0,1] \mapsto \mathbb{D}^2$ such that $c^{-1}(\mathrm{Critv}(\Pi)) = \{0,1\}$. To such a path c one can associate an exact Lagrangian sphere V_c defined explicitly as the union of vanishing cycles over c: $V_c = \bigcup_{x\in c} V_x$ where $V_x = \Pi^{-1}(z) \cap \{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{C}^3 : |x| = |y|\}$. The fact that V_c is an exact Lagrangian can be seen by observing that it can be split up as a union of Lefschetz thimbles for the Lefschetz fibration Π_n (see [36], 16g). We note that the core spheres in the plumbing picture of S_n can be taken to be matching spheres of linear paths connecting the critical values.

As S_n is simply connected and $\pi_2(\mathbb{T}_n) = 0$, from the homotopy exact sequence we have

$$0 \to \pi_2(S_n) \to \pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n) \to \pi_1(\mathbb{T}_n) \to 0$$

which splits as $\pi_1(\mathbb{T}_n) = \mathbb{Z}^2$ is free. $\pi_2(S_n)$ is generated by the cores of the disk bundles in the plumbing description of S_n and are represented by Lagrangian matching spheres, hence they have zero Maslov index and symplectic area. Furthermore, one of the $\mathbb{Z}$ factors in $\pi_1(\mathbb{T}_n)$ is generated by the vanishing cycle V, which is the boundary of a Lefschetz thimble. Since the thimble is a Lagrangian $\mathbb{D}^2$, again its Maslov index and the symplectic area vanishes. It remains to determine the index and the area on a class $\beta \in \pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$ such that Π restricted to $\partial\beta$ is a degree 1 map onto γ. For this purpose, we will need a more explicit computation.

Let us consider the parametrized curve

$$c(t) = (n(t)e^{2\pi i(\alpha(t)+\beta(t))}, n(t)e^{2\pi i(\alpha(t)-\beta(t))}, \gamma(t))$$

for $t \in [0,1]$, $n(t) > 0$, $\alpha(t)$, $\beta(t)$ real valued functions and $\gamma(t)$ is a degree 1 parametrization of γ such that $2n(t)^2 e^{4\pi i\alpha(t)} = 1 - \gamma(t)^{n+1}$. Then $c(t)$ is a curve on $\mathbb{T}_n$ mapping onto γ with a degree 1 map. The area of any disk with boundary on such a curve is a sum of the areas of its three coordinate projections. This area is

given by the integral of θ over the curve by Stokes' theorem. We compute

$$\int_c \theta = \int_\gamma \frac{i}{4}(z d\bar{z} - \bar{z} dz) + 2\pi \int_0^1 \alpha'(t) n(t)^2 dt.$$

Here the first term is the area enclosed by the projection of $c(t)$ on the z coordinate plane, and the second term is the sum of the two other area contributions. Note that the integral is independent of $\beta(t)$. This is a reflection of the fact the integral of θ over V is zero, hence we could have taken a curve $c(t)$ with $\beta(t) = 0$.

Lemma 2.1. $I = 2\pi \int_0^1 \alpha'(t) n(t)^2 dt > 0$.

Proof. Consider the map $f : \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n) \mapsto \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$, $f(z) = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{\sqrt{2|1-z^{n+1}|}}$. This is a composition of the holomorphic map $p(z) = 1 - z^{n+1}$ and a smooth orientation preserving map $s(re^{i\theta}) = \sqrt{\frac{r}{2}} e^{i\theta}$ and has a continuous extension to $F : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$. The map f sends $\gamma(t)$ to $n(t)e^{4\pi i \alpha(t)}$, so the integral we are interested in is $I = \int_{f(\gamma)} \frac{1}{2} r^2 d\theta$. If we denote the interior of γ (in $\mathbb{C}$) by G, then $F(G)$ has boundary $f(\gamma)$ and by Stokes theorem, $I = \int_{F(G)} r dr \wedge d\theta = \int_{f(G \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n))} r dr \wedge d\theta$, which is positive since f is orientation preserving. □

We note in addition, that $I = \int_{f(G \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n))} r dr \wedge d\theta = \int_{(G \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n))} f^*(r dr \wedge d\theta)$. We put

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + f^*(r dr \wedge d\theta)$$

where $\sigma_0 = \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z}$ is the standard area form on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)$ induced from $\mathbb{C}$, and note that since f is orientation preserving, σ is an area form on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)$. Observe that σ blows up near $\mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)$ but is integrable across them, so for a region G in $\mathbb{C}$ one always has a finite integral $\int_G \sigma = \int_{G \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)} \sigma$.

We summarize this discussion in the following lemma:

Lemma 2.2. *Let $\beta \in \pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$, and let ω and σ be symplectic forms on S_n and $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi)$, respectively, as above. Then we have*

$$\int_\beta \omega = \int_{\Pi(\beta)} \sigma.$$

Proof. Note that for the classes in $\pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$ that are represented by matching spheres or a Lagrangian thimble both integrals vanish. The equality for any other class follows from the computations above. □

Note that varying the path γ outside of the critical value set of Π leads to a Lagrangian isotopy of $\mathbb{T}_n$. We remark that this isotopy is Hamiltonian if and only if it is exact (see [33], Section 6.1), which in the situation at hand is equivalent to the

symplectic area of the disk discussed above staying constant during the isotopy (as the other generator still bounds the thimble during such an isotopy). Therefore, we define

$$\tau_\gamma := \int_\gamma \frac{i}{4}(z d\bar{z} - \bar{z} dz) + 2\pi \int_0^1 \alpha'(t) n(t)^2 dt$$

which will be called the *monotonicity constant*. Note that τ_γ is the area of region enclosed by γ with respect to σ.

Lemma 2.3. *Let $(\Sigma, \sigma = d\lambda)$ be an exact symplectic 2-manifold. Then any two isotopic closed curves γ_0, γ_1 with $\int_{\gamma_0} \lambda = \int_{\gamma_1} \lambda$ are Hamiltonian isotopic via a compactly supported Hamiltonian isotopy.*

Proof. This is an adaptation of Proposition A.1 in [2] and follows a similar route – we first extend the isotopy connecting γ_0 to γ_1 to a global smooth isotopy such that it ends at a symplectomorphism, then use parametrised Moser's trick to get a symplectic isotopy connecting γ_0 to γ_1 (this works only in dimension 2). Finally, this gives an exact Lagrangian, and hence Hamiltonian, isotopy between γ_0 and γ_1. The proof below follows this outline.

Let f_t be an isotopy connecting γ_0 to γ_1, that is, a map $f : S^1 \times [0,1] \to \Sigma$ such that $f_t = f_{S^1 \times \{t\}}$ is an embedding. Without loss of generality, it suffices to restrict to a compact submanifold of Σ which contains the image of f and in which γ_0 (and hence γ_1) is separating (in fact, f_t can be taken to be supported near embedded annuli with core γ_0 and bigons between γ_0 and γ_1; it is easy to see that support of such an isotopy is contained in a sub-annulus of Σ with core γ_0).

We first prove that f_t extends to symplectic isotopy F_t of a neighbourhood of γ_0 (cf. Ex. 3.40 in [29]). Write $\gamma_t = f_t(\gamma_0)$ and choose an increasing sequence $t_k \in [0,1]$ starting with $t_0 = 0$ and ending with $t_N = 1$, such that $\gamma_{t_{k+1}}$ is in a Weinstein tubular neighbourhood of γ_{t_k} and for $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$, γ_t are graphs of closed 1-forms μ_t on γ_{t_k}. Then $(q, p) \mapsto (q, p + \mu_t(q))$ is a symplectic isotopy extending f_t on a neighbourhood of γ_{t_k}. Taking the neighbourhood of γ_0 small enough that it lands in the domain of definition of these extensions for all times $t \in [0,1]$ gives the desired extension F_t.

The isotopy F_t constructed above extends to a smooth compactly supported isotopy of Σ which coincides with F_t on a smaller neighbourhood of $\nu(\gamma_0)$ of γ_0. We denote this isotopy of Σ by G_t. We next show that by a further compactly supported smooth isotopy we can replace G_t with an isotopy H_t such that G_t and H_t agree near γ_0 and H_1 is a symplectomorphism.

Consider the compactly supported closed 2-form $G_1^*\sigma - \sigma$. Since G_1 is a symplectomorphism near γ_0, $G_1^*\sigma - \sigma$ vanishes identically near γ_0. Hence, it represents a class in $H_c^2(\Sigma, \nu(\gamma_0))$. In addition, as γ_0 is separating, this last group is rank 2 corresponding to two connected pieces of $\Sigma \backslash \nu(\gamma_0)$, say Σ_1 and Σ_2.

Now, by Stokes' theorem and since G_t is compactly supported, we obtain $\int_{\Sigma_1}(G_1^*(\sigma)-\sigma) = \int_{\gamma_0}(G_1^*(\lambda)-\lambda) = \int_{\gamma_1}\lambda - \int_{\gamma_0}\lambda = 0$, and similarly the integral of $G_1^*\sigma - \sigma$ vanishes over Σ_2. Therefore, we have $G_1^*\sigma - \sigma = d\alpha$ for some compactly supported 1-form α which vanishes near γ_0.

Hence we have a family of symplectic forms $\sigma_s = (1-s)\sigma + sG_1^*(\sigma) = \sigma + sd\alpha$ and Moser's trick yields the desired isotopy. In summary, we have produces a compactly supported isotopy H_t such that H_1 sends γ_0 to γ_1 and is a symplectomorphism on Σ.

We have the following lemma:

Lemma 2.4. *A compactly supported symplectomorphism H_1 smoothly isotopic to identity via a compactly supported isotopy is isotopic to identity via a compactly supported family of symplectomorphisms.*

Proof. This is a compactly supported version of Lemma A2 in [2], and is an application of a parametrised Moser's trick. □

Completion of the proof of Lemma 2.3. Lemma 2.4 applied to H_t yields a symplectic isotopy K_t connecting γ_0 to γ_1. Finally, as the embedded surfaces bounded by γ_t (namely $K_t(\Sigma_1)$) all have the same area, $K_t(\gamma_0)$ is an exact Lagrangian isotopy, and so γ_0 and γ_1 are Hamiltonian isotopic. □

Applying Lemma 2.3 to $(\Sigma = \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n), \sigma)$ where σ is as in Lemma 2.2, we get the following:

Corollary 2.5. *Suppose embedded circles γ_0 and γ_1 are isotopic in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)$ and $\tau_{\gamma_0} = \tau_{\gamma_1}$. Then $\mathbb{T}_{n,\gamma_0}$ and $\mathbb{T}_{n,\gamma_1}$ are Hamiltonian isotopic in S_n.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.3, γ_0 and γ_1 are Hamiltonian isotopic, let γ_t be the image of γ_0 in such an isotopy then by Lemma 2.2 the Lagrangian isotopy of the corresponding matching tori $\mathbb{T}_{n,\gamma_t}$ is exact. □

We also have the following obvious observation.

Corollary 2.6. *Suppose an embedded circle α is entirely contained inside an embedded circle β. Then $\tau_\alpha < \tau_\beta$.*

Remark 2.7. A direct computation shows that if we take γ_r to be a circle of radius $r > 1$ centred at the origin, τ_{γ_r} approaches $m = \pi + n + 1$ as r approaches 1. As τ_r grows to infinity when r grows, any τ above m can be obtained by taking a circle of some unique radius.

We next complete the computation of Maslov index on $\pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$.

Lemma 2.8. *For $\beta \in \pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$, the Maslov index $\mu(\beta)$ is $2(\beta \cdot \Pi_n^{-1}(0))$.*

Proof. Since the Maslov index is invariant under Lagrangian isotopy, it suffices to prove this formula for the matching tori above round circles γ_r (of any radius bigger than 1). To this end, we construct a complex meromorphic volume form Ω which is nowhere vanishing and has a pole of order 1 along the divisor $D = \Pi_n^{-1}(0)$ in S_n, and with respect to which $\mathbb{T}_n$ is a special Lagrangian submanifold, i.e. $\mathrm{Im}(\Omega)|_{\mathbb{T}_n} = 0$. Then Lemma 3.1 of [4] states that the Maslov index $\mu(\beta)$ is twice the algebraic intersection number of β with the divisor of Ω^{-1}, that is, with $\Pi_n^{-1}(0)$.

Such an Ω can be obtained by the restriction to S_n of $\widehat{\Omega} = \frac{dx \wedge dy}{2xy-1}$ on $\mathbb{C}^3$. Note that S_n is cut out by the equation $2xy - 1 = z^{n+1}$, hence on S_n we have $2xdy + 2ydx = (n+1)z^n dz$, so that $\frac{dx \wedge dy}{2xy-1} = \frac{(n+1)}{2yz} dz \wedge dy = -\frac{(n+1)}{2xz} dz \wedge dx$. We see that on $S_n \setminus D$ the form Ω is non-vanishing, and since D is given by $z = 0$ (and hence both x and y are non-zero on D), Ω blows up to order 1 at D, as wanted.

It remains to show that the round $\mathbb{T}_n$ are special Lagrangian for Ω. This is the same as in Proposition 5.2 of [4]. Namely, we take the Hamiltonian function on S_n given by $H(x, y, z) = |2xy - 1|^2$ and consider its Hamiltonian vector field X_H. It is symplectically orthogonal to vertical tangent vectors because H is constant on the fibres of Π_n and is tangent to the level sets of H, that is, to the fibres. So X_H is the horizontal lift of the tangent vector of γ_r, and so is tangent to $\mathbb{T}_n$. The tangent space to $\mathbb{T}_n$ is spanned by X_H and a vector field tangent to the vanishing cycle, say $\xi = (ix, -iy)$. Since $\iota_\xi \Omega = \frac{ixdy+iydx}{2xy-1} = id \log(2xy - 1)$, we get $\mathrm{Im}(\xi, X_H) = d \log |2xy - 1|(X_H)$ which is zero because X_H is tangent to the level set of H. Hence $\mathbb{T}_n$ is special Lagrangian. □

Recall that the minimal Maslov number of a Lagrangian L in a symplectic manifold M is defined to be the integer $N_L := \min\{\mu(A) > 0 \mid A \in \pi_2(M, L)\}$ where $\mu(A)$ is the Maslov index.

We summarize the above discussion as:

Proposition 2.9. *$\mathbb{T}_n$ is a monotone Lagrangian torus in $(S_n, d\theta)$, that is,*

$$2\,\omega(A) = \tau \mu(A)$$

for any $A \in \pi_2(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$ where $\tau > 0$ is the monotonicity constant, a fixed real number depending only on the path γ. The minimal Maslov index $N_{\mathbb{T}_n}$ equals 2.

For $n = 0$, we get a monotone Lagrangian torus $\mathbb{T}_0 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$, which is indeed the Clifford torus ([4]) and for $n = 1$, we have a monotone Lagrangian torus $\mathbb{T}_1 \subset T^*S^2$. The following proposition shows that one of the $\mathbb{T}_1$ is Hamiltonian isotopic to Polterovich's construction of a monotone Lagrangian torus in T^*S^2 (see [3]).

Proposition 2.10. *Under a symplectomorphism identifying S_1 and T^*S^2, Polterovich's torus becomes one of the $\mathbb{T}_1$.*

Proof. S_1 is given by $\{z^2 + 2xy = 1\}$ in $\mathbb{C}^3$. Under the exact symplectomorphism $z = z_0, x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(z_1 + iz_2), y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(z_1 - iz_2)$ it is taken to $C = \{(z_0, z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \mid z_0^2 + z_1^2 + z_2^2 = 1\}$. We take s_j and t_j to be real and imaginary parts of z_j respectively, so that $z_j = s_j + it_j$, and let $s = (s_0, s_1, s_2)$ and $t = (t_0, t_1, t_2)$. Note that the equations for S_1 are $|s|^2 - |t|^2 = 1$ and $\langle s, t\rangle = 0$.

Further, we take $T^*S^2 = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^3,\ u \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \langle v, u\rangle = 0,\ |v| = 1\}$. It is exact symplectomorphic to C via the map $(v = s|s|^{-1}, u = t|s|)$.

For a complex number written in polar form $re^{i\theta}$ we say that θ is its phase and we note that a vanishing cycle over the point $z = z_0$ given by $|x| = |y|$ can be alternatively described by the condition that phase of z_1 is equal to phase of z_2 modulo π.

The Polterovich torus T is the geodesic flow of unit covectors over $(1, 0, 0)$ ([3]). Namely, let $v = (v_0, v_1, v_2)$ be a point in S^2. If v is neither the north nor the south pole, there are exactly two points in T projecting to v. To find them, denote $\vec{r} = (v_1, v_2), r = |\vec{r}|$, so that $v = (v_0, \vec{r})$. Then the cotangent vectors in the torus T projecting to v are $u = (-r, \frac{v_0}{r}\vec{r})$ and $-u = (r, -\frac{v_0}{r}\vec{r})$.

Let's find the coordinates (s, t) of the point in S_1 corresponding to (v, u). Since $|u| = |s||t| = 1$, we have $|s|^2 - |s|^{-2} = 1$, so $|s| = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}$, so that $s = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}v$ and $t = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}u$. Note that this means z_1 and z_2 have the phases that are either equal (if v_1 and v_2 have the same sign), or differing by π. The point $(\hat{z}_1, \hat{z}_2)$ corresponding to $(v, -u)$ has real part $\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}v$ and imaginary part $-\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}u$, and $\hat{z}_1$ and $\hat{z}_2$ also have phases equal or differing by π. As (v_1, v_2) varies over a circle, the points (v, u) and $(v, -u)$ trace out the vanishing cycles over $z_0 = (\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}v_0, \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}r)$ and $\hat{z}_0 = (\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}v_0, -\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}r)$. We note that the circles that are intersections of the Polterovich torus with cotangent fibres over the north and south poles are vanishing cycles over the points $(\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}, 0)$ and $(-\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}, 0)$.

Hence the Polterovich torus is in fact the union of vanishing cycles over the ellipse $z = (\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}}v_0, \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}r)$. Note that $v_0^2 + r^2 = 1$ means that the curve over which we have the matching torus is the ellipse focal at ± 1 and with eccentricity $\sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}}$. This curve can be lifted to the torus T as before with $x(t) = y(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - \gamma(t)^2)$, which can be computed to be the same ellipse scaled down by $\sqrt{2}$, hence both x and y projections enclose area $\frac{\pi}{2}$, giving the monotonicity constant $\pi + \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} = 2\pi$, as expected. □

Remark 2.11. As $2\pi > \pi + 2$, Remark 2.7 and Lemma 2.5 imply that T is Hamiltonian isotopic to one of the round matching tori.

2.3. Floer cohomology of matching tori. Since $\mathbb{T}_n$ is monotone of minimal Maslov index 2, its self-Floer cohomology is well-defined and can be computed using the pearl complex. This complex was first described by Oh in [31] (see also Fukaya [16]) and was studied extensively in the work of Biran and Cornea (see [7], [8] for detailed accounts).

Before proceeding to the computation proper, we shall give a brief review of the pearl complex. We generally follow [7] and [9] to which the reader is referred for details, however we will adapt the conventions of Floer *cohomology*, rather than Floer homology (see also [43]).

Given a monotone Lagrangian L inside a geometrically bounded symplectic manifold M (Stein manifolds in particular are geometrically bounded, see [13], Section 2, for a definition and discussion), the pearl complex of L is a deformation of its Morse complex by quantum contributions coming from holomorphic disks with boundary on L. In order to define this complex, we take the coefficient ring to be the Laurent polynomials $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_2[t, t^{-1}]$, fix a Morse function f on L with set of critical points $\mathrm{Crit}(f)$, a Riemannian metric ρ on L, and an almost-complex structure J on M compatible with our symplectic form ω. The pearl complex has the underlying vector space $\mathcal{C}^*(L; f, \rho, J) = (\mathbb{Z}_2\langle \mathrm{Crit}(f)\rangle \otimes \Lambda)$, which inherits a relative $\mathbb{Z}$-grading coming from the Morse index grading on $\mathbb{Z}_2\langle \mathrm{Crit}(f)\rangle$ and the grading given on Λ by $\deg t = N_L$.

We define a differential on $\mathcal{C}^*(L; f, \rho, J)$ by counting pearls – sequences of gradient flowlines of f interspersed with holomorphic disks. Namely, denote by Φ_t, $-\infty \leq t \leq \infty$ the gradient flow of (f, ρ). Given a pair of points $x, y \in L$ and a class $0 \neq A \in H_2(M, L)$ consider for all $l \geq 0$ the sequences $(u_1, \ldots, u_l)$ of non-constant J-holomorphic maps $u_i : (\mathbb{D}, \partial\mathbb{D}) \to (M, L)$ with

(i) gradient trajectory of possibly infinite length t' from x to u_1, i.e.,

$$\Phi_{t'}(x) = u_1(-1);$$

(ii) gradient trajectories of length t_i between u_i and u_{i+1}, i.e.,

$$\Phi_{t_i}(u_i(1)) = u_{i+1}(-1);$$

(iii) gradient trajectory of possibly infinite length t'' from u_l to y, i.e.,

$$\Phi_{t''}(u_l(1)) = y;$$

(iv) $[u_1] + \cdots [u_l] = A$.

Two such sequences $(u_1, \ldots, u_l)$ and $(u'_1, \ldots, u'_{l'})$ are equivalent if $l = l'$ and each u'_i is obtained from u_i by precomposing with holomorphic automorphism of $\mathbb{D}$ that fixes 1 and -1. We define the moduli space $\mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ to be the space of such sequences modulo equivalence. In addition, for $A = 0$ we define

$\mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ to be the space of unparametrized trajectories of the gradient flow Φ_t from x to y. If x and y are critical points of f, then the expected dimension $\delta_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A)$ of $\mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ is $|y| - |x| + \mu(A) - 1$.

Theorem 2.12 (cf. [7], Theorem 2.1.1). *For a generic choice of the triple (f, ρ, J) we have:*

- *For all $x, y \in \text{Crit}(f)$ and $A \in H_2(M, L)$ such that $\delta_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A) = 0$, the moduli space $\mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ is a finite number of points and we can define $d(x) = \sum_{y,A} \big(\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)\big) t^{\frac{\mu(A)}{N_L}} y$.*
- *Extending d to $\mathcal{C}^*(L; f, \rho, J)$ linearly over Λ we get a chain complex (i.e. $d^2 = 0$), and the homology of this chain complex is independent of the choices of J, f, ρ.*
- *There is a canonical (graded) isomorphism $H^*(\mathcal{C}^*(L; f, \rho, J)) \to HF^*(L; \Lambda)$.*

Remark 2.13. Let us make a remark on the requirement in the above theorem that the triples (f, ρ, J) be generic. What we require is to have the pair (f, ρ) be Morse–Smale, making all stable and unstable manifolds of f transverse and hence making the moduli spaces of gradient trajectories smooth, and to have J that makes moduli of holomorphic disks with boundary on L and two boundary marked points regular; in addition we require all the evaluation maps from the moduli spaces above into our symplectic manifold M to be transverse in tuples, so that the corresponding moduli spaces $\mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ are transversally cut out. Note that only the moduli spaces that appear in building $\mathcal{P}_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A; f, \rho, J)$ with expected dimension $\delta_{\text{prl}}(x, y; A) \leq 1$ need to be regular. What we will use in our computation is a complex structure that is regular for disks of Maslov index 2 and a generic Morse–Smale function; this is sufficient for a monotone two-dimensional Lagrangian torus.

Remark 2.14. $HF^*(L; \Lambda)$ is a unital (associative) ring with a relative $\mathbb{Z}$-grading, where the ring structure is given by counting pseudoholomorphic triangles of Maslov index zero. We can indeed fix an absolute $\mathbb{Z}$-grading by requiring that the unit lies in $HF^0(L; \Lambda)$. Similarly, the relative $\mathbb{Z}$-grading at the chain level $\mathcal{C}^*(L; f, \rho, J)$ can be upgraded to an absolute $\mathbb{Z}$-grading by requiring that the generators of Morse index 0 lie in degree 0. Finally, note that equivalently we could have worked with $HF^*(L; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ by setting $t = 1$ in the definition of the chain complex. We then only get $\mathbb{Z}/N_L$-grading. On the other hand, $HF^*(L; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $HF^*(L; \Lambda)$ carry the same information since $HF^*(L; \Lambda)$ is N_L periodic in the sense that $HF^{*+N_L}(L; \Lambda) = t \cdot HF^*(L; \Lambda)$.

Remark 2.15. The Lagrangians $\mathbb{T}_n$ are tori, hence they are orientable and can be equipped with spin structures. This would allow us to take $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$ as our coefficient ring. Doing so would require picking orientations and spin structures on $\mathbb{T}_n$, and paying attention to the induced orientations of moduli spaces of discs in

Floer cohomology computations. We avoid this refinement as it is not needed for our application.

Let L be a monotone Lagrangian in (M,ω) with minimal Maslov number $N_L \geq 2$. In this case, following Biran and Cornea (Section 6.1.1 [7]), we define a homology class $c(L) \in H_1(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$ as follows: Let J be an ω-compatible almost complex structure such that all the holomorphic disks of Maslov index 2 are regular (call such J regular). Monotonicity ensures that there are only finitely many homology classes in $H_2(M,L)$ represented by a holomorphic disk and an application of a lemma of Lazzarini ([25]) shows that all such disks are simple. Thus, the set of regular J is of second category in the space of compatible almost complex structures. Pick a (generic) point $p \in L$ such that the number of Maslov index-2 holomorphic disks $u\colon (\mathbb{D},\partial\mathbb{D}) \to (M,L)$ with $p \in u(\partial\mathbb{D})$ is finite, call this number l. Then the boundaries of these holomorphic disks represent homology classes (counted with multiplicity) $c_1,\dots,c_l \in H_1(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$ and the homology class $c(L)$ is simply the sum $c(L) = \sum_{i=1}^{l} c_l$. Standard cobordism arguments show that $c(L)$ is independent of J and p.

The pearl complex model for self-Lagrangian Floer cohomology admits a degree filtration as follows: $\mathcal{F}^k(\mathcal{C}^*(L;f,\rho,J)) = (\mathbb{Z}_2\langle \mathrm{Crit}(f)\rangle \otimes \mathcal{F}^k(\mathbb{Z}_2[t,t^{-1}]))$, where $\mathcal{F}^k\mathbb{Z}_2[t,t^{-1}] = \{P \in \mathbb{Z}_2[t,t^{-1}] \mid P(t) = a_k t^k + a_{k+1}t^{k+1} + \cdots\}$. The differential clearly respects this filtration and the degree preserving part corresponds to pearly trajectories with $A = 0$, which are indeed Morse trajectories. Therefore, one obtains a spectral sequence from $H^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$ to $HF^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$ (this is known as Oh's spectral sequence [30]). Biran and Cornea's careful analysis of the algebraic structure of this spectral sequence shows that in our situation the class $c(\mathbb{T})$ completely determines the Floer cohomology $HF^*(\mathbb{T};\mathbb{Z}_2)$ additively, which we record as follows:

Proposition 2.16 ([7], Proposition 6.1.4). *Let $\mathbb{T}$ be a monotone Lagrangian 2-torus in a symplectic 4-manifold (S,ω) with minimal Maslov number $N_{\mathbb{T}} \geq 2$.*

If $c(\mathbb{T}) = 0$, then $HF^*(\mathbb{T};\mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq H^*(\mathbb{T};\mathbb{Z}_2)$ (as $\mathbb{Z}_2$-graded vector spaces).

Conversely, if $c(\mathbb{T}) \neq 0$, then $HF^*(\mathbb{T};\mathbb{Z}_2) = 0$.

Remark 2.17. If we only wanted to show $HF^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2) \neq 0$ when $c(L) = 0$, we could argue as follows: We pick a Morse function f on L with a unique maximum, call it m. Since it represents a generator for $H^2(L)$, for degree reasons, it will survive in $HF^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$ if $\partial(m) = 0$. On the other hand, the knowledge of Maslov index-2 disks through m allows us to compute $\partial(m) = PD(c(L)) \cdot t$ where $PD(c(L))$ is a chain consisting of linear combinations of index-1 critical points of f representing the Poincaré dual of $c(L) \in H_1(L)$. Hence, if $c(L) = 0$, then m represents a non-trivial class in $HF^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$. Proposition 2.16 shows that when L is a torus, this is actually equivalent to $HF^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq H^*(L;\mathbb{Z}_2)$

In view of Proposition 2.16, we determine the Floer cohomology of the tori $\mathbb{T}_n$ via a calculation of $c(\mathbb{T}_n)$.

Lemma 2.18. *$c(\mathbb{T}_0) \neq 0$ and $c(\mathbb{T}_n) = 0$ for $n > 0$.*

Proof. Recall that if $\mathbb{T}_n = \mathbb{T}_\gamma$ is a matching torus over a curve γ and γ bounds the disc $D_\gamma \subset \mathbb{C}$, then for a J making π_n holomorphic, by maximum principle, the sections have to project to D_γ. So, we will not distinguish $\Pi_n : S_n \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ and its restriction $\Pi_n|\Pi_n^{-1}(D_\gamma) \mapsto D_\gamma$ when counting holomorphic sections of Π_n with boundary on $\mathbb{T}_\gamma$.

First we note that, if we have an isotopy of γ_t in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathrm{Critv}(\Pi_n)$ such that $\tau_{\gamma_t} = \text{const}$, so that the isotopy lifts to a Hamiltonian isotopy F_t of $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ bounding discs D_t, as in Corollary 2.5, then F_t gives identifications of all $H_1(\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and the moduli spaces of sections $\Pi_n|\Pi_n^{-1}(D_t) \mapsto D_t$ with boundary on $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ representing a given class $a \in H_1(\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}, \mathbb{Z}_2)$ of (minimal) Maslov index 2 are cobordant. This can be seen as follows: For fixed $t_0 < t_1$ let J_{t_0} and J_{t_1} be regular almost complex structures making the moduli spaces of Maslov index-2 sections $\mathcal{M}_{t_i} = \mathcal{M}(\Pi_n, \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_{t_i}}, J_{t_i})$ regular one-dimensional manifolds. Consider the space $\mathcal{J}$ of almost complex structures in the total space which are simultaneously regular for counting sections in $\mathcal{M}(\pi_r, \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t})$ for all $t \in [t_0, t_1]$ and makes Π_n holomorphic, this is a subset of second category in the space of almost complex structures on S_n (since $[t_0, t_1]$ is compact and it is of second category for a fixed t). A generic path J_t of almost complex structures in this space connecting J_{t_0} and J_{t_1} gives a smooth cobordism $\mathcal{M}_t = \mathcal{M}(\Pi_n, \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}, J_t)$ of moduli spaces $\mathcal{M}_{t_0}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{t_1}$ since at no point during the isotopy $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ bounds Maslov index ≤ 0 disks. Furthermore, since the matching tori $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ are parallel transported to each other, we get a bordism of the images of the evaluation maps $\mathrm{ev}_t : \mathcal{M}_t \to \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ by considering the parametrized evaluation map $\mathrm{ev} : [t_0, t_1] \times \mathcal{M}_t \to \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_{t_0}}$ where we use the parallel transport to identify $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_t}$ with $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_{t_0}}$. Therefore, for the purpose of algebraically counting of pseudoholomorphic sections of Π_n with boundary on $\mathbb{T}_\gamma$ we are free to move γ with such an isotopy.

Now, consider the deformation γ_t as in Figure 1 where $\gamma_0 = \gamma$ and $\gamma_1 = \alpha \# \beta$ such that α is an embedded circle that encloses only one critical value and β encloses the remaining n critical values.

To be precise, α and β are closed embedded circles in the base $\mathbb{C}$ that intersect at a unique point p and γ_t is an isotopy through embedded curves with $\tau_{\gamma_t} = \text{const.}$ and γ_1 is very close to $\alpha \vee \beta$ (we can find such an isotopy by Lemma 2.2). Let D_α, D_β be the disks that α and β bound. Then we can consider the Lefschetz fibrations $\pi_\alpha = \Pi_n|\Pi_n^{-1}(D_\alpha) \mapsto D_\alpha$ and $\pi_\beta = \Pi_n|\Pi_n^{-1}(D_\beta) \mapsto D_\beta$. We also set $\pi_{\gamma_1} = \Pi_n|\Pi_n^{-1}(D_{\gamma_1}) \mapsto D_{\gamma_1}$. Now, we can deform γ_1 to a sufficiently close neighborhood of $\alpha \vee \beta$ so that the Lefschetz fibration π_{γ_1} is a boundary sum of the Lefschetz fibrations π_α and π_β and the matching torus $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_1}$ is obtained as a connected sum $\mathbb{T}_\alpha \# \mathbb{T}_\beta$. To be careful, one first deforms the symplectic structure in a

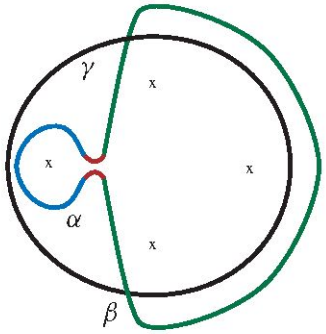

Figure 1. Deformation of γ.

neighborhood of the fibre above p, so that it is a trivial symplectic bundle $F \times [-1,1]^2$ where F is the fibre, and the piece of the Lagrangian torus over γ_1 becomes two trivial circle bundles over the intervals $\{\pm\epsilon\} \times [-1,1]$. One then surgers the Lagrangian boundary condition within this trivialization so that the outcome is $\mathbb{T}_\alpha$ and $\mathbb{T}_\beta$. (For more details, we refer to Proposition 2.7 and the preceding discussion in [39] for the details of boundary sum of Lefschetz fibrations which carry Lagrangian boundary conditions).

Now, let $\mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\alpha, J_\alpha)$ be the moduli space of J_α holomorphic sections of π_α with boundary condition $\mathbb{T}_\alpha$ and similarly let $\mathcal{M}(\pi_\beta, \mathbb{T}_\beta, J_\beta)$ be the corresponding moduli space for β. Let $V = \mathbb{T}_\alpha \cap \mathbb{T}_\beta$ is the vanishing cycle on the fibre $\Pi_n^{-1}(p)$ and, $\mathrm{ev}_\alpha \colon \mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\alpha, J_\alpha) \to V$ and $\mathrm{ev}_\beta \colon \mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\beta, J_\beta) \to V$ are evaluation maps. The basic gluing theorem ([39], Proposition 2.7) proves that if J_α and J_β are regular and ev_α and ev_β are mutually transverse, then there exists a complex structure J so that $\mathcal{M}(\pi_{\gamma_1}, \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_1}, J)$ is regular and is given as a fibre product of

$$\mathcal{M}(\pi_{\gamma_1}, \mathbb{T}_{\gamma_1}, J)^k = \bigsqcup_{p+q-1=k} \mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\alpha, J_\alpha)^p \times_V \mathcal{M}(\pi_\beta, \mathbb{T}_\beta, J_\beta)^q$$

where the fibre product is taken with respect to the evaluation maps ev_α and ev_β and the superscripts are dimensions. Recall that we are interested in counting Maslov index-2 disks with boundary on $\mathbb{T}_\gamma$, which live in the moduli space of index $\mu + \dim(\mathbb{T}_\gamma) - 3 = 1$. Hence, according the gluing result above, it suffices to understand the Maslov index-2 disks for $\mathbb{T}_\alpha$ and $\mathbb{T}_\beta$.

In fact, by induction it suffices to understand only the base case $\mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\alpha, J_\alpha)$, i.e. when only one critical point is enclosed, since if β encloses more than one critical point, we can apply the above deformation to β separately to break it up into smaller pieces until each piece encloses only one critical point, see Figure 2 for an illustration.

To tackle the base case, one applies a degeneration argument due to Seidel [39], Section 2.3. Namely, for convenience, we can assume by an isotopy through curves with fixed $\tau = \tau_\alpha$, α is a round circle by the argument in the beginning of the proof. Let D_r be disks of radius $r \in (0, a]$ where $D_a = D_\alpha$. One considers the restrictions

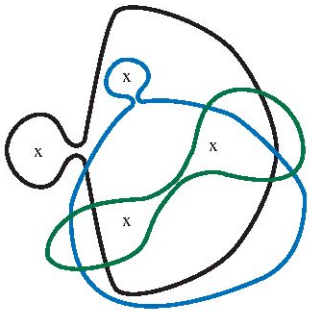

Figure 2. Inductive deformations.

$\pi_r : \pi_\alpha | \pi_\alpha^{-1}(D_r) \to D_r$ with Lagrangian boundary conditions given by matching tori $\mathbb{T}_r$ above ∂D_r. Exactly the same cobordism argument that we have given in the beginning of the proof shows that the algebraic count of pseudoholomorphic sections of π_α with boundary $\mathbb{T}_r$ does not depend on r when we vary r in a compact interval (Note that, again, none of the tori $\mathbb{T}_r$ bound a Maslov index ≤ 0 holomorphic disk). Now, Seidel proves a compactness result when as one lets $r \to 0$ ([39], Lemma 2.15) to conclude that when r is sufficiently small, the moduli space of sections can be computed using a model Lefschetz fibration. $\pi : \mathbb{C}^2 \to \mathbb{C}$ given by $\pi : (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mapsto (x_1^2 + x_2^2) \in \mathbb{C}$ as in ([39], eq. (2.18)). Lemma 2.16 of [39] explicitly computes all sections of π with boundary on $\mathbb{T}_{\gamma_r} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$, where γ_r is the round circle of radius r centered at 0. These are the maps from closed disk of radius s to $\mathbb{C}^2$ given by

$$u_{a,\pm}(w) = (r^{-1/2} a w + r^{1/2} \bar{a}, \pm i (r^{-1/2} a w - r^{1/2} \bar{a}))$$

for $a \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|a| = \frac{1}{2}$ so this space is diffeomorphic to $S^1 \sqcup S^1$. Moreover by the same lemma this moduli space of sections is regular (for the standard complex structure on $\mathbb{C}^2$).

Following [4], we note that $\mathbb{T}_{0,\gamma_r} \in \mathbb{C}^2$ is in fact the Clifford torus $|x| = |y| = r^{\frac{1}{2}}$. From the above explicit description, the images of the boundaries of the two families of holomorphic disks on $\mathbb{T}_0$ are given by $x = \text{const.}$ and $y = \text{const.}$ (The same two families were obtained as the outcome of the computation in [12], Theorem 10.1. This again shows that these disks are regular by [12], Theorem 10.2.) Note that there are exactly two holomorphic sections with boundary through any given point $p \in \mathbb{T}_0$ and their boundaries intersect transversely at a single point. Therefore, the homology classes in $H_1(\mathbb{T}_0)$ represented by the boundaries of these two families are of the form L and $L + V$, where both L and $L + V$ project to the generator of $H_1(S^1)$ under Π and V is the class of the vanishing cycle.

Thus, we have determined $\mathcal{M}(\pi_\alpha, \mathbb{T}_\alpha, J_\alpha)$ where α encloses only one critical point and J_α is the standard complex structure (which is regular) and the computation also gives the evaluation map ev_α. It remains to perform the inductive step of the computation to compute the Maslov index-2 sections of $\mathbb{T}_\gamma$

As discussed above the gluing theory shows that the count of sections for $(S_n, \mathbb{T}_\gamma)$ can be understood as the count of sections for the n-fold boundary connected sum of $(S_0, \mathbb{T}_0)$, which will be denoted by (Σ_n, τ_n). To describe the holomorphic disks in it we need a basis for $H_1(\tau_n)$. One element of the basis can be taken to be the vanishing cycle V_n. The choice of a second basis element is obtained a posteriori by the following lemma.

Lemma 2.19. *Through any point on τ_n there are 2^{n+1} disks of Maslov index 2 in (Σ_n, τ_n), and there exist elements $L_n \in H_1(\tau_n)$ which together with V_n form a basis of $H_1(\tau_n)$ and such that there are $\binom{n+1}{k}$ disks with boundary class $kV_n + L_n$.*

Proof. We prove this by induction. As discussed above, the base case is the Clifford torus, where there are indeed 2 holomorphic disks through every point, in classes whose difference is V_1. These moduli spaces are regular for standard complex structure on $\mathbb{C}^n$. Call one of them L_1 and another $L_1 + V_1$. The inductive step is given by using the Seidel's gluing formula [39], Proposition 2.7 together with the base case. Each of the 2^n disks given by induction hypothesis in $(\Sigma_{n-1}, \tau_{n-1})$ glues to either of the 2 disks in $(S_0, \mathbb{T}_0)$. By the same proposition, the glued up moduli spaces are regular. Denoting by L_n the class in $H_1(\tau_n)$ obtained by gluing L_{n-1} and L_1, we have that the number of disks with boundary in class $kV_n + L_n$ is $\binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k-1} = \binom{n+1}{k}$, as claimed. □

Completion of the proof of Lemma 2.18 . We conclude that the total boundary class of Maslov index-2 disks is given by $\sum_k \binom{n+1}{k}(kV_n + L_n) = 2^{n+1}L_n + (n+1)2^n V_n$, which is $0 \in H_1(\tau_n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ for all $n > 0$ and $[V_0] \neq 0 \in H_1(\tau_0; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ for $n = 0$. Since the moduli spaces of discs in (Σ_n, τ_n) and $(S_n, \mathbb{T}_n)$ are identified, it follows that $c(\mathbb{T}_0) \neq 0$ and $c(\mathbb{T}_n) = 0$ for $n > 0$. □

Proposition 2.20. $HF^*(\mathbb{T}_n; \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq H^*(\mathbb{T}_n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ *for* $n > 0$.

Proof. The proof follows immediately from Proposition 2.16 together with Lemma 2.18. □

Remark. In view of Proposition 2.10, Proposition 2.20 generalizes a theorem of Albers and Frauenfelder from [3] where the authors computed $HF^*(\mathbb{T}_1; \mathbb{Z}_2)$.

3. The rational homology balls $B_{p,q}$

3.1. A finite group action on the A_n Milnor fibre. As before, let $p > q > 0$ be two relatively prime integers. Let $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C} : \xi^p = 1\}$ be the cyclic group. Let us consider a one-parameter smoothing of the isolated surface singularity of type A_{p-1}, i.e. we consider the hypersurface singularity given by $z^p + 2xy = 0 \subset \mathbb{C}^3$ and the

smoothing of this singularity given by $F : \mathbb{C}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$, where $F(x, y, z) = z^p + 2xy$. We let $\Gamma_{p,q}$ to denote the following action of $\mathbb{Z}_p$ on $\mathbb{C}^3$ given by

$$\xi : (x, y, z) \to (\xi x, \xi^{-1} y, \xi^q z)$$

Clearly, the action is free outside of the origin and the function F is invariant under the action. Indeed, we get a $\mathbb{Q}$HD-smoothing of the singularity $F^{-1}(0)/\Gamma_{p,q}$. The latter is known to be the cyclic quotient singularity of type $(p^2, pq - 1)$ ([45] Example 5.9.1). We denote the Milnor fibre $F^{-1}(1)/\Gamma_{p,q}$ by $S_{p-1}/\Gamma_{p,q} = B_{p,q}$.

The action $\Gamma_{p,q}$ can be visualized easily in terms of the Lefschetz fibration $\Pi : S_{p-1} \to \mathbb{C}$. Namely, $\mathbb{Z}_p$ acts freely by lifting the rotation of the base of the Lefschetz fibration around the origin by an angle of $\frac{2\pi q}{p}$, as well as rotating the fibres by an angle of $\frac{2\pi}{p}$.

Note that this makes it clear that $B_{p,q}$ is a rational homology ball. On the other hand, since S_{p-1} is simply-connected, we have $\pi_1(B_{p,q}) = \mathbb{Z}_p$. Note also that the Stein structure on S_{p-1} induces a Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$. Recall that $B_{p,q}$ is a smoothing of the cyclic quotient singularity of type $(p^2, pq - 1)$, that is, $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$ where $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2} = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C} : \xi^{p^2} = 1\}$ acts by $\xi : (w_1, w_2) \to (\xi w_1, \xi^{pq-1} w_2)$. Therefore the boundary of $B_{p,q}$ is the lens space $L(p^2, pq - 1)$. The Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$ induces a contact structure $\xi_{p,q}$ on $L(p^2, pq - 1)$, which is also filled by the singular fibre of the deformation. This can in turn be resolved to obtain a Milnor filling by the resolution of the cyclic quotient singularity, which we denote by $C_{p,q}$. $C_{p,q}$ is given by the linear plumbing graph below:

Figure 3. $C_{p,q}$.

Thus, $C_{p,q}$ is the linear plumbing of disk bundles of over the 2-sphere with Euler number $-b_i$. Here b_i are obtained by the unique continued fraction expansion $\frac{p^2}{pq-1} = [b_k, b_{k-1}, \ldots, b_1]$ with all $b_i \geq 2$.

In fact, we claim that the Stein surfaces $B_{p,q}$ are exactly those that are used by Fintushel–Stern (and J. Park) in rational blow-down operation. Namely, let $K(m, n)$ denote the 2-bridge knot, whose double branched cover is the lens space $L(m, n)$. It is known that $K(p^2, pq - 1)$ is slice (in fact ribbon) for $p > q > 0$ relatively prime (see for ex. [27]). Fintushel–Stern's rational homology balls ([15]) are given by the double branched cover of the four-ball branched over the slice disk for $K(p^2, pq-1)$.

Proposition 3.1. *$B_{p,q}$ is diffeomorphic to double branched cover of D^4 branched along the slice disk bounding $K(p^2, pq - 1)$.*

Proof. As we observed above, $C_{p,q}$ yields a Milnor filling of the contact structure $(L(p^2, pq-1), \xi_{p,q})$. Therefore, by [26], the contact structure $\xi_{p,q}$ must be universally tight. (This also follows from the fact that $\xi_{p,q}$ is the induced contact structure on the boundary of the cyclic quotient singularity of type $(p^2, pq-1)$). Up to contact isomorphism, it is known that there is a unique universally tight contact structure on $L(p^2, pq-1)$. Furthermore, Lisca has given a classification result for the diffeomorphism types of the fillings of the tight contact structures on lens spaces ([27]). It follows from this classification that in the case of $(L(p^2, pq-1), \xi_{p,q})$, there are two possibilities for the diffeomorphism types of symplectic fillings, and these classes are realized by the manifolds $C_{p,q}$ and the double branched cover of D^4 branched along the slice disk bounding $K(p^2, pq-1)$. The latter must then be diffeomorphic to $B_{p,q}$ since $B_{p,q}$ is a Stein filling which is not diffeomorphic to $C_{p,q}$. □

We have equipped the manifold $B_{p,q}$ with the Stein structure induced from S_{p-1} given as the finite free quotient of the Stein structure on S_{p-1}. This is the same as the Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$ thinking of it as an affine algebraic variety because $B_{p,q}$ is an algebraic quotient of S_{p-1}. Note that there exists a unique Stein structure up to deformation on S_{p-1}. This follows, for example, from [46]. Therefore, it seems likely that $B_{p,q}$ in fact has a unique Stein structure, however we do not know how to prove or disprove this. On the other hand, any putative exotic Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$ would lift to the standard Stein structure on S_{p-1}. Therefore, for our arguments, we do not need to make precise which Stein structure is being considered on $B_{p,q}$. Note also that the same reasoning shows that any Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$ would have to fill the unique (up to contact isomorphism) universally tight contact structure.

3.2. Legendrian surgery diagram of $B_{p,q}$. In this section, we construct a Stein structure on $B_{p,q}$ via Legendrian surgery on a Legendrian knot on $S^1 \times S^2$. We see from our description that the p-fold cover of the surgery diagram that we depict gives a surgery diagram of the Stein structure on S_{p-1}.

Recall that the Stein structure on S_{p-1} can be drawn as in top figure of Figure 4 starting from the Lefschetz fibration Π. It is understood that all the framings are given by $tb-1$ framing, where tb denotes the Thurston–Bennequin framing. From the Lefschetz fibration view, the 1-handle can be understood as the thickening of the fibre over the origin and the 2-handles correspond to thimbles over the linear paths connecting the origin to the critical values (p^{th} roots of unity).

Now, we can apply q full negative twists around the 1-handle, which would change the smooth framing of individual handles from -1 to $-1-q$, and this can be drawn as in the middle figure of Figure 4, where there are p twisted handles which have $tb-1 = -1-q$, as wanted. In other words, the middle figure also gives a Stein structure on S_{p-1} and since there is a unique Stein structure on S_{p-1} up to Stein deformation, we can in fact work with the middle figure. The advantage of doing this is that it allows us to see the $\Gamma_{p,q}$ action on the diagram. Namely, it sends the

1-handle to the quotient 1-handle and translates the attaching circles of the 2-handles (in the horizontal direction as drawn). The bottom figure in Figure 4 depicts the quotient diagram for the action $\Gamma_{p,q}$ on S_{p-1} yielding $B_{p,q}$. (See Section 6.3 [18] for a discussion of finite covers of handlebody diagrams). Here, there is a unique 2-handle that passes through the 1-handle p times and it has framing $tb - 1 = -pq - 1$.

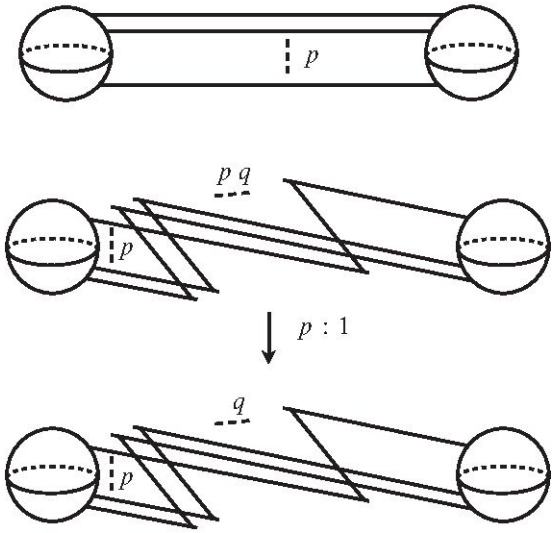

Figure 4. Legendrian surgery diagrams: S_{p-1} (top and middle), $B_{p,q}$ (bottom).

Remark 3.2. The smooth handlebody description of $B_{p,q}$ consisting of just one 1-handle and one 2-handle seems to be not widely known for $q > 1$ (see Figure 8.41 in [18] for $q = 1$ which matches with the above picture). Here, we provide not only a smooth handlebody description but also a Legendrian realization of the attaching circle of the 2-handle as a Legendrian knot in $S^1 \times S^2$ such that the smooth framing is given by $tb - 1$, hence this description equips $B_{p,q}$ with a Stein structure (see [18] Chapter 11). From our description, it also follows that the Stein structure that we obtain this way is the same as the Stein structure induced from S_{p-1} via the action $\Gamma_{p,q}$.

3.3. Lagrangian submanifolds of $B_{p,q}$. The exact Lagrangian submanifolds of S_{p-1} has been studied extensively. We will use the understanding provided by Ritter ([34]) and Ishii, Ueda and Uehara ([22], [21]) to prove the following theorem:

Theorem 3.3. *For $p \neq 2$, there does not exist any closed exact Lagrangian submanifold in $B_{p,q}$.*

Before we give a proof of this theorem, we will make it clear what knowledge of exact Lagrangian submanifolds in S_{p-1} will be needed. In [34], it is proven

using symplectic cohomology with twisted coefficients that every closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds in S_{p-1} is diffeomorphic to S^2. Since the intersection form on $H_2(S_{p-1})$ is negative definite, and the homology class of an orientable closed Lagrangian submanifold L in a Stein surface satisfies $[L]\cdot[L] = -\chi(L)$, it follows easily that orientable closed exact Lagrangians can only be sphere or tori. Ritter's result tells us that in fact any closed exact Lagrangian in S_{p-1} has to be orientable, moreover it cannot be a torus.

Note that there is an abundance of inequivalent exact Lagrangian spheres in S_{p-1} provided by the matching sphere construction. Ishii, Ueda and Uehara's results from Lemma 38 of [21] (which in turn depends on [22]) imply that in the exact Fukaya category of S_{p-1} any spherical object is isomorphic to a matching sphere, S_c where $c\colon [0,1]\to\mathbb{C}$ denotes the corresponding embedded path connecting critical values of the Lefschetz fibration $\Pi\colon S_{p-1}\to\mathbb{C}$. More precisely, if $L, L'\subset S_{p-1}$ is an exact Lagrangian submanifold, we know from [34] that they are spheres (which are indeed spherical objects), hence by [22], [21] they are isomorphic to matching spheres V_c, $V_{c'}$ where $c, c'\colon [0,1]\to\mathbb{C}$ denote the corresponding paths. This is useful as it implies that $HF^*(L,L')\simeq HF(V_c, V_{c'})$. Informally, for the purpose of Floer theory, one can pretend that every exact Lagrangian submanifold of S_{p-1} is a matching sphere. Ishii, Ueda and Uehara's result uses homological mirror symmetry to get a quasi-isomorphic model for the exact Fukaya category of S_{p-1} (this makes use of a formality result proved in [42]) and uses sheaf theoretical arguments on the mirror category to characterize spherical objects (see also the discussion in [40], Section 3b).[2]

Proof of Theorem 3.3. Let L be a closed exact Lagrangian submanifold in $B_{p,q}$. Then the preimage L' of L in S_{p-1} by the quotient map is a closed exact Lagrangian submanifold of S_{p-1} (possibly disconnected). By Theorem 52 of [34], L' is a union of spheres, and since L is covered by each connected component of L', L is either a sphere or an $\mathbb{R}P^2$. A Lagrangian sphere has self-intersection -2, and hence represents a non-torsion class in $H_2(B_{p,q})$. This is impossible as $H_2(B_{p,q}) = 0$. On the other hand, a Lagrangian $\mathbb{R}P^2$ would have to be double covered by some number of Lagrangian spheres in S_{p-1}. This is an immediate contradiction if p is odd.

Suppose $p = 2r$ is even. Let R be a generator of the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}_p$ acting on S_{p-1}. Then L' is a disjoint union of r Lagrangian spheres $V, R(V), \dots, R^{r-1}(V)$ and R^r maps each of these spheres onto themselves so that the quotient L is an $\mathbb{R}P^2$.

We now use Ishii, Ueda and Uehara's results from [22], [21] discussed above to replace V with an isomorphic object V_c in the exact Fukaya category of S_{p-1} where V_c is a matching sphere for a possibly quite complicated path c. Now, R^r is the antipodal map, $R^r(x,y,z) = (-x,-y,-z)$. Hence, $R^r V$ is represented by the matching sphere over the path $-c$. Since $R^r V = -V$ this means V_{-c} and $-V$

[2]Added in proof: Recently, Wu [47] proved that any exact Lagrangian in S_{p-1} is Hamiltonian isotopic to a matching sphere.

are isomorphic in the exact Fukaya category, which by [24] implies that c and $-c$ are isotopic (as unoriented paths) by a compactly supported isotopy in $\mathbb{C}$ that fixes $D = \{e^{2\pi ik/p}, k = 0, 1, \ldots, p-1\}$ pointwise. In particular, this implies that if $c(0) = e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}$ then $c(1) = -e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}$.

Since we assumed $p > 2$, V and $R(V)$ are disjoint exact Lagrangian spheres, and we have $0 = HF^*(V, R(V)) = HF^*(V_c, R(V_c))$. Note that $R(V_c)$ is simply $V_{c'}$ where $c'(t) = e^{2\pi iq/p}c(t)$ and by [24], Lemma 6.14, we have that rank of $HF^*(V_c, V_{c'})$ is $2\iota(c, c')$ where $\iota(c, c')$ is the geometric intersection number, i.e. minimal possible number of intersections among representatives of the isotopy class of c and c' with respect to a compactly supported isotopy in $\mathbb{C}$ that fixes D pointwise. The following lemma about plane geometry of curves proves that $\iota(c, c')$ cannot be zero for $p > 2$, which gives $HF^*(V_c, V_{c'}) \neq 0$ contradicting the fact V and $R(V)$ are disjoint and completes the proof of non-existence of exact Lagrangian submanifolds. □

Lemma 3.4. *Let $p > q > 0$ be relatively prime integers, and $p = 2r > 2$ be an even number. Let $D = \{e^{2\pi ik/p} : k = 0, 1, \ldots, p-1\}$. Let $c\colon [0, 1] \to (\mathbb{C}, D)$ be an oriented embedded curve such that $c(0) = e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}$ and $c(1) = -e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}$ for some $\kappa \in \{0, 1, \ldots, p-1\}$, and assume that the curve $-c(t)$ is isotopic to $c(-t)$ by a compactly supported isotopy in $\mathbb{C}$ fixing D.*

Further, let $c'\colon [0, 1] \to (\mathbb{C}, D)$ be the curve given by $c'(t) = R(c(t)) = e^{2\pi iq/p}c(t)$. Then the geometric intersection number of c and c' (the minimal number of intersections among representatives of the isotopy classes with respect to a compactly supported isotopy in $\mathbb{C}$ fixing D) is non-zero.

Proof. For curves with ends on different points of D we would like to replace the geometric intersection number $\iota(\alpha, \beta)$ by an algebraic one. Formally, we can consider $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ and take out small discs around the points of D and, to get Σ – a compact manifold with p boundary circles $A_1, \ldots, A_p$ (which we orient counterclockwise) on which the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}_p$ still acts, with the generator R sending A_i to A_{i+q} (as usual $A_{p+k} = A_k$ for all k). We pair up the opposite boundary components $B_i = A_i \cup A_{i+rq}$ (Note that $A_{i+rq} = R^r(A_i)$ is the circle that is diagonally opposite of A_i). Then, our curve c represents a class in $H_1(\Sigma, B_\kappa)$ and c' represents a class in $H_1(\Sigma, B_{\kappa+1})$. Lefschetz duality followed by the cup product gives a pairing:

$$\langle\ ,\ \rangle\colon H_1(\Sigma, B_\mu) \times H_1(\Sigma, B_\nu) \to H^2(\Sigma, \partial\Sigma) = \mathbb{Z}.$$

Geometrically, for transverse curves α with $[\alpha] = a$ and β with $[\beta] = b$, $\langle a, b\rangle$ is the number of intersections of α and β counted with signs and in particular if it is non-zero then $\iota(\alpha, \beta)$ is also non-zero. We claim that $\langle [c], [c']\rangle \neq 0$, and the lemma follows from this.

To compute $\langle [c], [c']\rangle$, write $[c] = l + b$ where l is the class represented by the linear path $l(t) = e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}(1-t) - e^{2\pi i\kappa/p}t$ connecting the endpoints of c. Then

b lies in the image of $H_1(\Sigma)$ of the natural map $F\colon H_1(\Sigma) \mapsto H_1(\Sigma, B_\kappa)$ in the homology exact sequence of the pair (Σ, B_κ), which is to say can be represented by union of closed curves in Σ. In fact, since A_i for $i = 1, \ldots, p$ form a basis of $H_1(\Sigma)$, we can write $b = F(\sum a_i A_i)$ and as the map F above has kernel spanned by A_κ and $A_{\kappa+qr}$, there is a unique such representation with $a_\kappa = a_{\kappa+qr} = 0$.

Note that since $-c(t)$ is isotopic to $c(-t)$, in particular they are homologous, so $R^r[c] = [-c] = -[c]$ (here by abuse of notation R is used to denote the action of the on Σ sending $H_1(\Sigma, B_\mu)$ to $H_1(\Sigma, B_{\mu+1})$, and the last minus sign comes form orientation reversal).

Combined with $R^r l = -l$, we have $R^r b = -b$, that is, in the representation $b = F(\sum a_i A_i)$ we must have $a_j = -a_{j+rq}$. Now, $[c'] = R[c] = Rl + Rb$ and we compute

$$\begin{aligned}\langle [c], [c'] \rangle &= \langle l, Rl \rangle + \langle l, Rb \rangle + \langle b, Rl \rangle + \langle b, Rb \rangle \\ &= 1 + (a_{\kappa+q} - a_{\kappa+q+rq}) + (a_{\kappa-q+rq} - a_{\kappa-q}) = 1 + 2a_{\kappa+q} - 2a_{\kappa-q}\end{aligned}$$

which is an odd integer, hence is non-zero; as desired. □

Remark 3.5. For $p = 2$, note that S_{p-1} is exact symplectomorphic to T^*S^2 and $B_{p,q}$ is exact symplectomorphic to $T^*\mathbb{R}P^2$ which indeed has its zero section as an exact Lagrangian submanifold.

Having dealt with exact Lagrangian submanifolds, we next look for essential Lagrangian tori. We observe that the tori $\mathbb{T}_{p-1} \subset S_{p-1}$ considered in Section 2 are invariant under the action $\Gamma_{p,q}$. We will henceforth be concerned with the Floer cohomology of the quotient tori in $B_{p,q}$. We denote these tori by $\mathbb{T}_{p,q}$.

Proposition 3.6. *$HF^*(\mathbb{T}_{p,q}; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is non-zero (and hence, by Proposition 2.16, is isomorphic to $H^*(\mathbb{T}_{p,q}; \mathbb{Z}_2)$).*

Proof. Start with a pearl complex $\mathcal{C}^*(\mathbb{T}_{p,q}; f, \rho, J)$ of $\mathbb{T}_{p,q}$, given by some generic Morse function f and metric ρ on $\mathbb{T}_{p,q}$ and an almost-complex structure J on $B_{p,q}$. We can assume without loss of generality that f has a unique maximum, giving rise to unique top degree generator m. Consider the lifted structures f', ρ' on $\mathbb{T}_{p-1}$ and J' on S_{p-1}. Then since every pearly trajectory in S_{p-1} projects to one in $B_{p,q}$, and conversely, every pearly trajectory in $B_{p,q}$ lifts to S_{p-1} uniquely given a starting point, if the triple (f, ρ, J) is regular for $(B_{p,q}, \mathbb{T}_{p,q})$, the triple (f', ρ', J') is regular for $(S_{p-1}, \mathbb{T}_{p-1})$.

We see that $\mathcal{C}^*(\mathbb{T}_{p-1}; f', \rho', J')$ has p top degree generators $m_1, \ldots, m_p$, the lifts of m, with $Rm_i = m_{i+1}$ where R is a generator of the cyclic group $\mathbb{Z}_p$ acting on S_{p-1} (we take $m_{p+1} = m_1$). We note that by equivariance $Rd'm_i = d'(Rm_i)$, and since the rank of the top degree homology is 1, the element M with $d'M = 0$ must have $RM = M$ (since we are working over $\mathbb{Z}_2$ coefficients). The only such element

is $M = \sum m_i$. Then again, by the correspondence between the pearly trajectories, $d'M$ is the (total) lift of dm. Since this is 0, then so is dm, hence m survives in cohomology. □

Proposition 3.7. *If T is a monotone Lagrangian 2-torus in a symplectic 4-manifold X, and $HF^*(T;\mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq H^*(T;\mathbb{Z}_2)$, then $SH^*(X)$ is not zero.*

Proof. This is essentially Proposition 5.2 of [38]. We only comment on the necessary modifications. Firstly, note that by Bockstein long exact sequence it suffices to show that $SH^*(X;\mathbb{Z}_2) \neq 0$ (cf. [1], Remark 1.4).

By using no auxiliary connection in all our Floer-theoretic constructions we avoid the need to work over coefficient ring $\mathbb{K} \supset \mathbb{Q}$, and use $\mathbb{Z}_2$ instead; additionally the fact that $\mathbb{T}_{p,q}$ is monotone, allows us to forego the Novikov ring coefficients and lift the requirement in [38], Proposition 5.2, that T be Bohr–Sommerfeld. Finally, being homologically essential over $\mathbb{Z}_2$ coefficients is by Proposition 2.16 the same as $HF^*(\mathbb{T}_{p,q};\mathbb{Z}_2) \neq 0$. This allows one to repeat the arguments of Sections 5a and 5b of [38] to conclude that $SH^*(X;\mathbb{Z}_2) \neq 0$ just as in [38], Proposition 5.1. □

Corollary 3.8. *$SH^*(B_{p,q})$ is non-zero, in other words, $B_{p,q}$ is non-empty.* □

Remark 3.9. Another way to prove $SH^*(B_{p,q})$ is non-zero goes as follows: Since S_{p-1} has exact Lagrangian submanifolds (matching spheres), we conclude from Theorem 1.2 that $SH^*(S_{p-1})$ is non-zero. Now, there are obvious pull-back (total preimage) and push-forward (image) maps on symplectic cohomology for unbranched covers which commute with the maps from ordinary cohomology to symplectic cohomology, which shows that $SH^*(B_{p,q}) \neq 0$. Our method of proof above on the other hand yields a geometric reason for the non-vanishing of $SH^*(B_{p,q})$.

4. Concluding remarks

An exact Lefschetz fibration on $B_{p,q}$ can be found in [14]. This Lefschetz fibration equips $B_{p,q}$ with a Stein structure, and Corollary 3.8 implies that the symplectic cohomology is non-zero. It would be interesting to use Seidel's computational methods ([37]) to compute the symplectic cohomology of $B_{p,q}$ starting from this Lefschetz fibration. Alternatively, $B_{p,q}$ can be constructed by Weinstein handle attachments with one 1-handle and one 2-handle to D^4 as in Section 3.2. The methods developed in [6] might be useful in computing the symplectic cohomology from this description.

Let $D = \Pi_{p-1}^{-1}(0)$ be the fibre over the origin for $\Pi_{p-1}\colon S_{p-1} \to \mathbb{C}$. There is a special Lagrangian fibration on $S_{p-1}\setminus D$ with fibres $\mathbb{T}_{r,\lambda} = \{(x,y,z) \in S_{p-1} : |z| = r,\ |x| - |y| = \lambda\}$ (compare [4], Section 5) where one could take the holomorphic volume form as in Lemma 2.8. The matching tori that we considered in this paper

corresponds to monotone fibres $\mathbb{T}_{r,0}$ in this fibration. There is a unique singular fibre $\mathbb{T}_{1,0}$ with p nodal singularities. In addition, this special Lagrangian fibration is equivariant under the action $\Gamma_{p,q}$ on S_{p-1}, hence it descends to a special Lagrangian fibration in the quotient $(S_{p-1}\backslash D)/\Gamma_{p,q}$ which has only one singular fibre with a unique nodal singularity. This construction gives an interesting testing ground for Strominger–Yau–Zaslow mirror symmetry conjecture and the related wall-crossing problem (cf. [4]).

In this paper, we restricted our attention to dimension 4. However, there is a natural extension of our set-up to dimensions $4k$ for $k > 1$. The action $\Gamma_{p,q}$ exists and is free on the corresponding higher dimensional A_{p-1} Milnor fibre. We then obtain a non-displaceable Lagrangian $S^1 \times S^{2k-1}$ in the A_{p-1} Milnor fibre and correspondingly, we get a non-displaceable Lagrangian in the finite quotient.

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Yankı Lekili, King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS, United Kingdom
E-mail: yanki.lekili@kcl.ac.uk

Maksim Maydanskiy, Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, U.S.A.
E-mail: maksimm@math.stanford.edu