

Symplectically knotted cubes

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While by a result of McDuff the space of symplectic embeddings of a closed 4-ball into an open 4-ball is connected,

the situation for embeddings of cubes $\mathbb{R}^4 = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ is very different. For instance, for the open ball \mathbb{R}^4 of capacity 1, there exists an explicit decreasing sequence $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots \rightarrow 1/3$ such that for $\epsilon < \epsilon_k$ there are at least k symplectic embeddings of the closed cube $\mathbb{R}^4(\epsilon)$ of capacity ϵ into \mathbb{R}^4 that are not isotopic. Furthermore, there are infinitely many non-isotopic symplectic embeddings of $\mathbb{R}^4(1/3)$ into \mathbb{R}^4 .

A similar result holds for several other targets, like the open 4-cube, the complex projective plane, the product of two equal 2-spheres,

or a monotone product of such manifolds and any closed monotone toric symplectic manifold.

The proof uses exotic Lagrangian tori.

This is joint work with Joé Brendel and Grisha Mikhalkin.

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