

BOSTON UNIVERSITY GEOMETRY AND PHYSICS SEMINAR

THE FLEXIBILITY OF CAUSTICS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

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October 30, 2019, 4:00 – 5:00pm
Math/Computer Science, Room B39
111 Cummington Street, Boston

Tea: 3:45pm in Room B24

Abstract: Starting with the work of Hirsch and Smale on immersion theory, there is a wealth of mathematics supporting the general principle that the singularities of smooth mappings can be simplified whenever there is no homotopy theoretic obstruction to doing so. In this talk we will discuss an analogous principle for the simplification of caustics, i.e. the singularities of Lagrangian and Legendrian wavefronts. We will also discuss some applications, including work in progress joint with Y. Eliashberg and D. Nadler on the arborealization program for the Lagrangian skeleta of Weinstein manifolds.

See <http://math.bu.edu/research/geom/seminar.html> or contact Yu-Shen Lin (yslin@bu.edu) or Siu-Cheong Lau (lau@math.bu.edu) for more information.