BOSTON UNIVERSITY GEOMETRY AND PHYSICS SEMINAR

THE QUANTUM JOHNSON HOMOMORPHISM, FORMALITY AND SYMPLECTIC ISOTOPY

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April 13 2016, 4:00 – 5:00pm
Math/Computer Science, Room B19
111 Cummington Street, Boston

Tea: 3:45pm in Room 144

Abstract: Mathematicians often try to study an object by considering its group of automorphisms. Therefore, it only seems natural that given a symplectic manifold (M, ω), we would like to understand $\pi_0 Symp(M, \omega)$. To make the problem nontrivial, we focus on those isotopy classes which act trivially on cohomology. When $M = \Sigma_g$ is a surface, the group of such symplectomorphism is well known to low-dimensional topologists: it is the Torelli group, an important but poorly understood subgroup with many interesting connections to other areas of mathematics. In the early 1980's, Dennis Johnson revolutionized the study of this group by introducing a sequence of homomorphisms τ_k detecting delicate intersection-theoretic information.

We show that the definition of the Johnson homomorphisms can be recast in terms of the Morse A_∞-algebra on the mapping tori M_ϕ, and then extended to higher dimensional symplectic manifolds using quantum Massey products. As a sample application, we construct an S^1-family of embedded surfaces $C \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ whose monodromy is a separating Dehn twist. Forming a parametrized blowup of the mapping tori, we obtain a six-dimensional symplectic manifold $X = Bl_C \mathbb{P}^3$, and a symplectomorphism $\phi : X \to X$. We then use the quantum Johnson homomorphism to show that ϕ is an 'exotic' symplectomorphism.

See `http://math.bu.edu/research/geom/seminar.html` or contact Siu Cheong Lau *lau@math.bu.edu* for more information.