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A NOTE ON LAGRANGIAN COBORDISMS BETWEEN LEGENDRIAN SUBMANIFOLDS OF \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}

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A NOTE ON LAGRANGIAN COBORDISMS BETWEEN LEGENDRIAN SUBMANIFOLDS OF \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}

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We study the relation of an embedded Lagrangian cobordism between two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . More precisely, we investigate the behavior of the Thurston–Bennequin number and (linearized) Legendrian contact homology under this relation. The result about the Thurston–Bennequin number can be considered as a generalization of the result of Chantraine which holds when n = 1. In addition, we provide a few constructions of Lagrangian cobordisms and prove that there are infinitely many pairs of exact Lagrangian cobordant and not pairwise Legendrian isotopic Legendrian n-tori in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} .

1. Introduction

Basic definitions. A contact manifold (M, ξ) is a (2n + 1)-dimensional manifold M equipped with a smooth maximally nonintegrable hyperplane field $\xi \subset TM$, that is, locally $\xi = \ker \alpha$, where α is a 1-form which satisfies $\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n \neq 0$. ξ is a contact structure and α is a contact 1-form which locally defines ξ . The Reeb vector field R_{α} of a contact form α is uniquely defined by the conditions $\alpha(R_{\alpha}) = 1$ and $d\alpha(R_{\alpha}, \cdot) = 0$. The most basic contact manifold is (\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, ξ) , where \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} has coordinates $(x_1, y_1, \ldots, x_n, y_n, z)$, and ξ is given by $\alpha = dz - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i dx_i$. Note that $R_{\alpha} = \partial_z$. From now on, for ease of notation, we write \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} instead of (\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, ξ) .

A Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} is an *n*-dimensional submanifold Λ which is everywhere tangent to ξ , that is, $T_x \Lambda \subset \xi_x$ for every $x \in \Lambda$. The Lagrangian projection is a map $\Pi : \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ defined by

$$\Pi(x_1, y_1, \ldots, x_n, y_n, z) = (x_1, y_1, \ldots, x_n, y_n).$$

Moreover, for Λ in an open dense subset of all Legendrian submanifolds with C^{∞} topology, the self-intersection of $\Pi(\Lambda)$ consists of a finite number of transverse double points. Legendrian submanifolds which satisfy this property are called

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chord generic. A *Reeb chord* of Λ is a path along the flow of the Reeb vector field which begins and ends on Λ . Since $R_{\alpha} = \partial_z$, there is a one-to-one correspondence between Reeb chords of Λ and double points of $\Pi(\Lambda)$. From now on we assume that all Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} are connected and chord-generic.

The *symplectization* of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} is the symplectic manifold $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^t \alpha))$, where *t* is a coordinate on \mathbb{R} .

Definition 1.1. Let Λ_- and Λ_+ be two Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . We say that Λ_- is cobordant to Λ_+ if there exists a smooth cobordism $(L; \Lambda_-, \Lambda_+)$, and an embedding from L to $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^t \alpha))$ such that

$$L|_{(-\infty, -T_L] \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} = (-\infty, -T_L] \times \Lambda_-,$$

$$L|_{[T_L, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}} = [T_L, \infty) \times \Lambda_+$$

for some $T_L \gg 0$ and $L^c := L|_{[-T_L-1,T_L+1] \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}}$ is compact. In the case of a Lagrangian (exact Lagrangian) embedding, we say that Λ_- is Lagrangian (exact Lagrangian) cobordant to Λ_+ . We will in general not distinguish between *L* and L^c and call both *L*.

From now on we assume that all embedded cobordisms in the symplectization of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} are orientable.

We next define some notations. If L is an embedded, embedded Lagrangian, or embedded exact Lagrangian cobordism from Λ_{-} to Λ_{+} , we write

$$\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L} \Lambda_{+}, \quad \Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{\text{lag}} \Lambda_{+}, \quad \text{or } \Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{\text{ex}} \Lambda_{+},$$

respectively. If L_{Λ} is a filling, Lagrangian filling, or exact Lagrangian filling of Λ in the symplectization of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} , that is, L_{Λ} is an embedded, embedded Lagrangian, or embedded exact Lagrangian cobordism with empty $-\infty$ -boundary and $+\infty$ -boundary Λ , then we write $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}} \Lambda$, $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{\log} \Lambda$ or $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{ex} \Lambda$, respectively.

For the discussion about Lagrangian cobordisms between Legendrian knots, we refer to [Chantraine 2010; Ekholm et al. \geq 2013], and for the obstructions to the existence of Lagrangian cobordisms defined using the theory of generating families, we refer to [Sabloff and Traynor 2010; Sabloff and Traynor 2011].

Legendrian contact homology. Legendrian contact homology was independently introduced by Eliashberg, Givental, and Hofer [Eliashberg et al. 2000] and, for Legendrian knots in \mathbb{R}^3 , by Chekanov [2002]. We now briefly remind the reader of the definition of the linearized Legendrian contact homology complex of a closed, orientable, chord-generic Legendrian submanifold $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$; for more details see [Ekholm et al. 2005a].

Let \mathscr{C} be the set of Reeb chords of Λ . Since Λ is generic, \mathscr{C} is a finite set. Let A_{Λ} be the vector space over \mathbb{Z}_2 generated by the elements of \mathscr{C} and \mathscr{A}_{Λ} the unital

tensor algebra over A_{Λ} , that is,

$$\mathcal{A}_{\Lambda} = \bigotimes_{k=0}^{\infty} A_{\Lambda}^{\otimes k}.$$

 \mathcal{A}_{Λ} is a differential graded algebra whose grading is denoted by $|\cdot|$ and whose differential is denoted by ∂_{Λ} . \mathcal{A}_{Λ} is called a Legendrian contact homology differential graded algebra of Λ . For the definitions of $|\cdot|$ and ∂_{Λ} we refer to Section 2 of [Ekholm et al. 2005b].

Note that it is difficult to use Legendrian contact homology in practical applications, as it is the homology of an infinite dimensional noncommutative algebra with a nonlinear differential. One of the ways to extract useful information from the Legendrian contact homology differential graded algebra is to follow Chekanov's [2002] linearization method, which uses an augmentation $\varepsilon : \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda} \to \mathbb{Z}_2$ to produce a finite-dimensional chain complex $LC^{\varepsilon}(\Lambda)$ whose homology is denoted by $LCH^{\varepsilon}(\Lambda)$. More precisely, ε is a graded algebra map $\varepsilon : \mathcal{A}_{\Lambda} \to \mathbb{Z}_2$ that satisfy the following two conditions:

(1)
$$\varepsilon(1) = 1;$$

(2)
$$\varepsilon \circ \partial_{\Lambda} = 0.$$

Consider the graded isomorphism $\varphi^{\varepsilon} : \mathscr{A}_{\Lambda} \to \mathscr{A}_{\Lambda}$ defined by $\varphi^{\varepsilon}(c) = c + \varepsilon(c)$. This map defines a new differential $\partial^{\varepsilon}(c) := \varphi^{\varepsilon} \circ \partial_{\Lambda} \circ (\varphi^{\varepsilon})^{-1}(c)$ and $LC^{\varepsilon}(\Lambda) := (A_{\Lambda}, \partial_{1}^{\varepsilon})$, where $\partial_{1}^{\varepsilon} : A_{\Lambda} \to A_{\Lambda}$ is a 1-component of ∂^{ε} . We let $LCH_{\varepsilon}(\Lambda)$ be the homology of the dual complex $LC_{\varepsilon}(\Lambda) := Hom(LC^{\varepsilon}(\Lambda), \mathbb{Z}_{2})$.

Following Ekholm [2008], we observe that exact Lagrangian cobordism between two Legendrian submanifolds can be used to define a map between the Legendrian contact homology algebras.

In this paper, we establish the following two long exact sequences.

Theorem 1.2. Let Λ_- and Λ_+ be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} such that $\varnothing \prec_{L_{\Lambda_-}}^{ex} \Lambda_-$. Then from the condition $\Lambda_- \prec_L^{ex} \Lambda_+$ it follows that there is an exact sequence

$$(1-1) \to H_i(\Lambda_-) \to H_i(L) \oplus \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_-}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_-) \to \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_+}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_+) \to H_{i-1}(\Lambda_-) \to .$$

In addition, $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{ex} \Lambda_{+}$ implies that there is an exact sequence

(1-2)
$$\rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{-}}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{+}}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_{+})$$

 $\rightarrow H_{i}(L, \Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{-}}^{n-i+3}(\Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow .$

Here $\operatorname{LCH}_{\varepsilon_{\pm}}^{i}(\Lambda_{\pm})$ is the linearized Legendrian contact cohomology of Λ_{\pm} over \mathbb{Z}_{2} , linearized with respect to the augmentation ε_{\pm} . ε_{-} is the augmentation induced by $L_{\Lambda_{-}}$, and ε_{+} is the augmentation induced by L and ε_{-} .

We thank Joshua Sabloff and Lisa Traynor for pointing out how to get the second long exact sequence in Theorem 1.2.

The Thurston–Bennequin invariant. The Thurston–Bennequin invariant (number) of a closed, orientable, connected Legendrian submanifold Λ of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} was independently defined for n = 1 by Bennequin [1983] and by Thurston, and was generalized to the case when $n \ge 1$ by Tabachnikov [1988].

Pick an orientation on $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$. Push Λ slightly off of itself along $R_{\alpha} = \partial_z$ to get another oriented submanifold Λ' disjoint from Λ . The Thurston–Bennequin invariant of Λ is the linking number

$$tb(\Lambda) = lk(\Lambda, \Lambda').$$

Note that $tb(\Lambda)$ is independent of the choice of orientation on Λ , since changing it also changes the orientation of Λ' .

Our goal is to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 1.3. Let Λ_- and Λ_+ be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} .

(1) If *n* is even and $\Lambda_- \prec_L \Lambda_+$,

$$\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_+) + \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_-) = (-1)^{n/2+1} \chi(L).$$

(2) If *n* is odd, $\varnothing \prec_{L_{\Lambda_{-}}}^{ex} \Lambda_{-}$, and $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{ex} \Lambda_{+}$, $\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{+}) - \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{-}) = (-1)^{((n-2)(n-1))/2+1} \chi(L).$

Constructions and examples. Chantraine [2010] described the way to construct Lagrangian cobordisms from Legendrian isotopies of Legendrian knots. We show that the construction of Chantraine works in high dimensions. More precisely, we prove the following:

Proposition 1.4. Let Λ_- , Λ_+ be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} that are Legendrian isotopic. Then there exists an exact Lagrangian cobordism L such that

$$\Lambda_- \prec^{\mathrm{ex}}_L \Lambda_+.$$

Front spinning is a procedure invented by Ekholm, Etnyre, and Sullivan [Ekholm et al. 2005b] to construct a closed, orientable Legendrian submanifold $\Sigma \Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}$ from a closed, orientable Legendrian submanifold $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$. We will provide a detailed description of this procedure in Section 4, and prove the following property of it.

Proposition 1.5. Let Λ_- , Λ_+ be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . If $\Lambda_- \prec_L^{\text{lag}} \Lambda_+$, there exists a Lagrangian cobordism ΣL such that

$$\Sigma \Lambda_{-} \prec^{\mathrm{lag}}_{\Sigma L} \Sigma \Lambda_{+}.$$

In addition, if $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{ex} \Lambda_{+}$, there exists an exact Lagrangian cobordism ΣL such that $\Sigma \Lambda_{-} \prec_{\Sigma L}^{ex} \Sigma \Lambda_{+}$.

Finally, we apply Proposition 1.5 to the exact Lagrangian cobordisms from [Ekholm et al. ≥ 2013] and construct exact Lagrangian cobordisms between the nonisotopic Legendrian tori described in [Ekholm et al. 2005b].

Proposition 1.6. There are infinitely many pairs of exact Lagrangian cobordant and not pairwise Legendrian isotopic Legendrian n-tori in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} .

2. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Proof. In this section, we prove the existence of the long exact sequences described in Theorem 1.2. We first construct an exact Lagrangian filling of Λ_+ .

Since Λ_- is connected, and L, L_{Λ_-} are exact Lagrangian cobordisms in the symplectization of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} such that the $(-\infty)$ -boundary of L, which is Λ_- , agrees with the $(+\infty)$ -boundary of L_{Λ_-} , L and L_{Λ_-} can be joined to the exact Lagrangian cobordism L_{Λ_+} in the symplectization of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} , where L_{Λ_+} is obtained by gluing the positive end of L_{Λ_-} to the negative end of L. Since the $-\infty$ -boundary of L_{Λ_-} is empty, the $-\infty$ -boundary of L_{Λ_+} is also empty.

We now use the Mayer–Vietoris long exact sequence for $L_{\Lambda_{-}}$, $L \subset L_{\Lambda_{+}}$. We extend $L_{\Lambda_{-}}$ and L in such a way that $L_{\Lambda_{-}} \cap L$ is diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-}$. Hence the Mayer–Vietoris long exact sequence can be written as

$$\to H_i(\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_-) \to H_i(L) \oplus H_i(L_{\Lambda_-}) \to H_i(L_{\Lambda_+}) \to H_{i-1}(\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_-) \to .$$

Now we note that $H_i(\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_-) \simeq H_i(\Lambda_-)$ for all *i*. Hence we can rewrite the Mayer–Vietoris long exact sequence as

$$(2-1) \longrightarrow H_i(\Lambda_-) \to H_i(L) \oplus H_i(L_{\Lambda_-}) \to H_i(L_{\Lambda_+}) \to H_{i-1}(\Lambda_-) \to .$$

We now remind the reader of the following fact, which comes from certain observations of Seidel in wrapped Floer homology [Abouzaid and Seidel 2010; Fukaya et al. 2009].

Fact 2.1 [Ekholm 2012]. Let Λ be a closed, orientable, connected, chord-generic Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} and $\varnothing \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{ex} \Lambda$. Then

(2-2)
$$H_{n-i+2}(L_{\Lambda}) \simeq \operatorname{LCH}^{i}_{\varepsilon}(\Lambda).$$

Here ε is the augmentation induced by L_{Λ} .

For the definition of the augmentation induced by a filling, we refer to Section 3 of [Ekholm 2008]. Also, [Ekholm 2012] provides a fairly complete sketch of a proof of Fact 2.1.

We change the indices in (2-2) and write it as

(2-3)
$$H_i(L_{\Lambda_{\pm}}) \simeq \operatorname{LCH}_{\varepsilon_+}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_{\pm}).$$

Using (2-3), we rewrite the Mayer–Vietoris long exact sequence (2-1) as

$$(2-4) \to H_i(\Lambda_-) \to H_i(L) \oplus \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_-}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_-) \to \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_+}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_+) \to H_{i-1}(\Lambda_-) \to .$$

We now write the long exact sequence for the pair $(L_{\Lambda_{-}}, L_{\Lambda_{+}})$

$$(2-5) \qquad \rightarrow H_i(L_{\Lambda_-}) \rightarrow H_i(L_{\Lambda_+}) \rightarrow H_i(L_{\Lambda_+}, L_{\Lambda_-}) \rightarrow H_{i-1}(L_{\Lambda_-}) \rightarrow .$$

Using (2-3) and the excision theorem for L_{Λ_+} , $L \subset L_{\Lambda_+}$, we write the long exact sequence (2-5) as

$$(2-6) \rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{-}}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{+}}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_{+})$$

$$\rightarrow H_{i}(L, \Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_{-}}^{n-i+3}(\Lambda_{-}) \rightarrow . \qquad \Box$$

Remark 2.2. Under the conditions of Theorem 1.2, if $H_i(\Lambda_-) = H_{i-1}(\Lambda_-) = 0$ for some *i*, say when $\Lambda_- = S^n$ and *i*, $i - 1 \neq 0$, *n*, then long exact sequence (2-4) implies that

$$\operatorname{LCH}_{\varepsilon_+}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_+) \simeq H_i(L) \oplus \operatorname{LCH}_{\varepsilon_-}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_-).$$

Hence, for such i, we get

$$H_i(L) \simeq \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_+}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_+) / \operatorname{LCH}_{\mathcal{E}_-}^{n-i+2}(\Lambda_-).$$

Remark 2.3. We can rewrite the long exact sequences (2-4) and (2-6) using the relative symplectic field theory of $((\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^t \alpha)), L_{\Lambda_{\pm}})$, since

(2-7)
$$E_1^i((\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^t \alpha)), L_{\Lambda_{\pm}}) \simeq \mathrm{LCH}_{\varepsilon_{\pm}}^i(\Lambda_{\pm})$$

over \mathbb{Z}_2 . For the definition of the relative symplectic field theory, we refer to [Ekholm 2008], and for the details about the isomorphism described in (2-7), we refer to [Ekholm 2012]. (We observe that since $L_{\Lambda_{\pm}}$ are connected, the associated spectral sequences have only one level.)

3. Proof of Theorem 1.3

Let *n* be even. We recall the following result:

Proposition 3.1 [Eliashberg 1990]. Let Λ be a closed, orientable, connected, chord-generic Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} , where n is even. Then

$$\mathsf{tb}(\Lambda) = (-1)^{n/2+1} \frac{1}{2} \chi(\Lambda).$$

We now note that

(3-1)
$$\chi(\partial L) = 2\chi(L),$$

since the Euler characteristic of an even-dimensional boundary is twice the Euler characteristic of its bounded manifold; see Chapter 21 of [May 1999]. We now observe that $\partial L = \Lambda_+ \sqcup \Lambda_-$ and hence, from (3-1), we get that

(3-2)
$$2\chi(L) = \chi(\partial L) = \chi(\Lambda_+) + \chi(\Lambda_-).$$

Then we use Proposition 3.1 and rewrite (3-2) as

(3-3)
$$2\chi(L) = \chi(\Lambda_+) + \chi(\Lambda_-) = 2(-1)^{-n/2-1} (\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_+) + \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_-)).$$

From (3-3) it follows that

(3-4)
$$\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{+}) + \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{-}) = (-1)^{n/2+1} \chi(L).$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.3 in the case when *n* is even.

We now prove case (2) of the theorem. First we provide an alternate definition of the Thurston–Bennequin number, found in [Ekholm et al. 2005a].

Let Λ be a closed, orientable, connected, chord-generic Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} and let *c* be a Reeb chord of Λ with end points *a* and *b* such that z(a) > z(b). We define $V_a := d\Pi(T_a\Lambda)$ and $V_b := d\Pi(T_b\Lambda)$. Given an orientation on Λ , V_a and V_b are oriented *n*-dimensional transverse subspaces of \mathbb{R}^{2n} . If the orientation of $V_a \oplus V_b$ agrees with that of \mathbb{R}^{2n} , we say that the sign of *c*, denoted by sign(*c*), is +1, otherwise we say that it is -1. Then

(3-5)
$$\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda) = \sum_{c} \operatorname{sign}(c),$$

where the sum is taken over all Reeb chords c of Λ .

The following proposition was proven using (3-5):

Proposition 3.2 [Ekholm et al. 2005b]. If $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ is a closed, orientable, connected, chord generic Legendrian submanifold,

tb(Λ) = (-1)^{((n-2)(n-1))/2}
$$\sum_{c \in \mathscr{C}} (-1)^{|c|}$$
.

We now construct an exact Lagrangian filling of Λ_+ . We do it the same way as in the proof of Theorem 1.2, namely L_{Λ_+} is obtained by gluing the positive end of L_{Λ_-} to the negative end of L in the symplectization of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . By using Proposition 3.2 and taking Euler characteristics of the long exact sequence (1-2), we get

(3-6)
$$\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{+}) - \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_{-}) = (-1)^{((n-2)(n-1))/2+1} \chi(L).$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.3 when *n* is odd.

Remark 3.3. When n = 1 we can write (3-6) as

$$tb(\Lambda_{+}) - tb(\Lambda_{-}) = -\chi(L),$$

 \square

which coincides with the formula from Theorem 1.2 of [Chantraine 2010].

Remark 3.4. Observe that the condition of Theorem 1.3 in the case when *n* is odd is much stronger than the condition of Theorem 1.3 in the case when *n* is even. If *n* is even, $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda_{-}}}^{ex} \Lambda_{-}$ and $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{ex} \Lambda_{+}$, then, taking Euler characteristics of the long exact sequence (1-2) and using Proposition 3.2, we get that

$$\operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_+) + \operatorname{tb}(\Lambda_-) = (-1)^{n/2+1} \chi(L).$$

The proof of Theorem 1.3 can be easily modified to become a proof of the following remark.

Remark 3.5. Let Λ be a closed, orientable Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} .

(1) If *n* is even and $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}} \Lambda$,

$$\mathsf{tb}(\Lambda) = (-1)^{n/2+1} \chi(L_{\Lambda}).$$

(2) If *n* is odd and $\varnothing \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{ex} \Lambda$,

tb(Λ) =
$$(-1)^{((n-2)(n-1))/2+1} \chi(L_{\Lambda}).$$

4. Examples

In this section, we describe a few examples of Lagrangian cobordisms. These examples are based on [Chantraine 2010; Ekholm et al. 2005b] and the work of Ekholm, Honda, and Kálmán [Ekholm et al. \geq 2013]. For the constructions of Lagrangian cobordisms based on the generating families technique, we refer to [Bourgeois et al. \geq 2013].

Example 4.1. *Proof of Proposition 1.4.* Let Λ_{-} and $\Lambda_{+} \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds which are Legendrian isotopic. Then there is a smooth isotopy of a closed manifold Λ to \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} given by $\varphi : \Lambda \times [0, 1] \to \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ such that $\Lambda_{\nu} := \varphi(\Lambda, \nu)$ is Legendrian for all $\nu \in [0, 1]$, $\Lambda_{-} = \Lambda_{0}$ and $\Lambda_{+} = \Lambda_{1}$. We now construct *L* such that $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{\text{ex}} \Lambda_{+}$. Observe that in the construction below one can omit the assumption that $\Lambda_{-}, \Lambda_{+}, L$ are connected. In the case of Legendrian knots in \mathbb{R}^{3} , the construction of *L* was described in [Chantraine 2010,

Theorem 1.1]. In our case, the construction of Chantraine can be described in the following way.

- (1) Note that $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-}$ is an exact Lagrangian submanifold of $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^{t}\alpha))$.
- (2) Theorem 2.6.2 of [Geiges 2008] implies that there is a compactly supported one-parameter family of contactomorphisms f_ν which realizes the isotopy (Λ_ν)_{ν∈[0,1]}.
- (3) Proposition 2.2 from [Chantraine 2010] implies that a contactomorphism of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} lifts to a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism of the symplectization

$$(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, d(e^t \alpha)).$$

(4) Let *H* be a Hamiltonian on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$ whose flow realizes the lifts of f_{ν} s. The existence of *H* follows from (3). Following Chantraine, we construct

$$H': \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \times [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$$

such that

$$H'(t, x, \nu) = \begin{cases} H(t, x, \nu) & \text{for } t > T; \\ 0 & \text{for } t < -T. \end{cases}$$

Here $T \gg 0$.

- (5) Let ϕ^{ν} be the Hamiltonian flow of H'. We now observe that $\phi^{1}(\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-})$ coincides with $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-}$ near $-\infty$ and with $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{+}$ near ∞ .
- (6) Since $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-}$ is exact and ϕ^{1} a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism, $L := \phi^{1}(\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda_{-})$ is exact.

Remark 4.2. Eliashberg and Gromov [1998] provided another proof of the fact that Legendrian isotopy implies Lagrangian cobordism.

Example 4.3. *Proof of Proposition 1.5.* The following construction is based on the front spinning method invented in [Ekholm et al. 2005b].

First we recall the notion of the front projection. The *front projection* is a map Π_F from \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} to \mathbb{R}^{n+1} defined by

$$\Pi_F(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n, z) = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, z).$$

Let Λ be a closed, orientable Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} parametrized by $f_{\Lambda} : \Lambda \to \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$. We write

$$f_{\Lambda}(p) = (x_1(p), y_1(p), \dots, x_n(p), y_n(p), z(p))$$

for $p \in \Lambda$. The front projection of Λ is parametrized by $\Pi_F \circ f_{\Lambda}$, and we have

$$\Pi_F \circ f_{\Lambda}(p) = (x_1(p), x_2(p), \dots, x_n(p), z(p)).$$

Without loss of generality we can assume that $x_1(p) > 0$ for all $p \in \Lambda$. We now embed \mathbb{R}^{n+1} to \mathbb{R}^{n+2} via

$$(x_1,\ldots,x_n,z)\to(x_0=0,x_1,\ldots,x_n,z)$$

and construct the suspension of Λ , denoted by $\Sigma\Lambda$, such that $\Pi_F(\Sigma\Lambda)$ is obtained from $\Pi_F(\Lambda)$ by rotating it around the subspace $x_0 = x_1 = 0$. $\Pi_F(\Sigma\Lambda)$ can be parametrized by $(x_1(p) \sin \theta, x_1(p) \cos \theta, x_2(p), \dots, x_n(p), z(p))$ with $\theta \in S^1$ and is the front projection of a Legendrian embedding $\Lambda \times S^1 \to \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}$. For the properties of $\Sigma\Lambda$ we refer to Lemma 4.16 of [Ekholm et al. 2005b].

Let Λ_{-} and Λ_{+} be two closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} such that

(4-1)
$$\Lambda_{\pm} \subset \{(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n, z) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} \mid x_1 > 0\}$$

and $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{\log} \Lambda_{+}$. Let L be parametrized by $f_{L}: L \to \mathbb{R}^{2n+2}$

$$f_L(p) = (t(p), x_1(p), y_1(p), \dots, x_n(p), y_n(p), z(p)).$$

Without loss of generality we assume that $x_1(p) > 0$ for all p. (Formula (4-1) implies that

$$\{f_L(p) \mid x_1(p) \le 0\}$$

is compact and we can translate *L* so that $x_1(p) > 0$ for all *p*.) Then we construct a Lagrangian cobordism from $\Sigma \Lambda_-$ to $\Sigma \Lambda_+$ that we call ΣL . We define ΣL to be parametrized by

$$f_{\Sigma L}: L \times S^1 \to \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}$$

with

$$f_{\Sigma L}(p,\theta) = (t(p), x_1(p) \sin \theta, y_1(p) \sin \theta, x_1(p) \cos \theta, y_1(p) \cos \theta, x_2(p), \dots, z(p)).$$

Here $p \in L$ and $\theta \in S^1$.

We now show that ΣL is really a Lagrangian cobordism from $\Sigma \Lambda_{-}$ to $\Sigma \Lambda_{+}$. Let

$$\Lambda_{+}^{T_{L}} := \{ (x_{0}, \dots, y_{n}, z) \mid (T_{L}, x_{0}, \dots, y_{n}, z) \in f_{\Sigma L}(\Sigma L) \cap (\{T_{L}\} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}) \}, \\ \Lambda_{-}^{T_{L}} := \{ (x_{0}, \dots, y_{n}, z) \mid (-T_{L}, x_{0}, \dots, y_{n}, z) \in f_{\Sigma L}(\Sigma L) \cap (\{-T_{L}\} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}) \}.$$

From the definition of T_L , it follows that

$$f_{\Sigma L}(\Sigma L) \cap ([T_L, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}) = [T_L, \infty) \times \Lambda_+^{T_L},$$

$$f_{\Sigma L}(\Sigma L) \cap ((-\infty, -T_L] \times \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}) = (-\infty, -T_L] \times \Lambda_-^{T_L}.$$

In addition, we observe that $\Lambda^{T_L}_{\pm} \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}$ can be parametrized by

$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}}: \Lambda_{\pm} \times S^1 \to \mathbb{R}^{2n+3}$$

such that

$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}}(p,\theta) = (x_1(p)\sin\theta, y_1(p)\sin\theta, x_1(p)\cos\theta, y_1(p)\cos\theta, x_2(p), \dots, z(p)).$$

Here $p \in \Lambda_{\pm} \subset \partial L$ and $\theta \in S^1$. We now prove that $\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}$ coincides with $\Sigma \Lambda_{\pm}$. It is clear that $\Pi_F(\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}) = \Pi_F(\Sigma \Lambda_{\pm})$. It remains to prove that $\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}$ is a Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+3} .

It is easy to see that

(4-2)
$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}}^* \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \, dx_i \right) = dz(p) - \sum_{i=2}^n y_i(p) \, dx_i(p) - y_1(p)(\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta) \, dx_1(p) + (y_1(p)x_1(p)\sin\theta\cos\theta) \\- y_1(p)x_1(p)\sin\theta\cos\theta) \, d\theta.$$

Since Λ_{\pm} is a Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} and so $f_{\Lambda_{\pm}}^{*}(dz - \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i dx_i) = 0$, we have

(4-3)
$$y_1(p) dx_1(p) = dz(p) - \sum_{i=2}^n y_i(p) dx_i(p).$$

Hence (4-2) and (4-3) imply that

(4-4)
$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}}^* \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \, dx_i \right) = 0.$$

Since

$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}}(p) := (x_1(p), \dots, y_n(p), z(p)),$$

where $p \in \Lambda_{\pm} \subset \partial L$ is a parametrization of an embedded submanifold of dimension n, and $x_1(p) > 0$ for $p \in \Lambda_{\pm} \subset \partial L$, one easily sees that

$$f_{\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}}(p) = (x_1(p)\sin\theta, y_1(p)\sin\theta, x_1(p)\cos\theta, y_1(p)\cos\theta, x_2(p), \dots, z(p)),$$

where $p \in \Lambda_{\pm}$, $\theta \in S^1$, is a parametrization of an embedded submanifold of dimension n + 1. Thus, using (4-4), we see that $\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L}$ is an embedded Legendrian submanifold of \mathbb{R}^{2n+3} whose front projection coincides with $\Pi_F(\Sigma \Lambda_{\pm})$. Thus we get that $\Lambda_{\pm}^{T_L} = \Sigma \Lambda_{\pm}$.

We now note that

$$(4-5) \quad f_{\Sigma L}^{*} \left(d\left(e^{t} \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^{n} y_{i} dx_{i} \right) \right) \right) = e^{t} (dt(p) \wedge dz(p) - \sum_{i=2}^{n} dy_{i}(p) \wedge dx_{i}(p) \\ - \sum_{i=2}^{n} y_{i}(p) dt(p) \wedge dx_{i}(p) - (y_{1}(p)(\sin^{2}\theta + \cos^{2}\theta) dt(p) \wedge dx_{1}(p) \\ + (\sin^{2}\theta + \cos^{2}\theta) dy_{1}(p) \wedge dx_{1}(p) + (\sin^{2}\theta + \cos^{2}\theta) x_{1}(p) y_{1}(p) d\theta \wedge d\theta \\ + (y_{1}(p)x_{1}(p) \sin\theta \cos\theta - y_{1}(p)x_{1}(p) \sin\theta \cos\theta) dt(p) \wedge d\theta \\ + (y_{1}(p)\sin\theta \cos\theta - y_{1}(p)\sin\theta \cos\theta) d\theta \wedge dx_{1}(p) \\ + (x_{1}(p)\sin\theta \cos\theta - x_{1}(p)\sin\theta \cos\theta) dy_{1}(p) \wedge d\theta)).$$

In addition, observe that

(4-6)
$$e^{t}(dt(p) \wedge dz(p) - \sum_{i=2}^{n} dy_{i}(p) \wedge dx_{i}(p) - \sum_{i=2}^{n} y_{i}(p)dt(p) \wedge dx_{i}(p))$$

= $e^{t}(y_{1}(p)dt(p) \wedge dx_{1}(p) + dy_{1}(p) \wedge dx_{1}(p)).$

Hence (4-5) and (4-6) imply that

(4-7)
$$f_{\Sigma L}^* \left(d\left(e^t \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i dx_i \right) \right) \right) = 0.$$

Since

$$f_L(p) = (t(p), x_1(p), y_1(p), \dots, x_n(p), y_n(p), z(p)),$$

where $p \in L$, is a parametrization of an embedded cobordism of dimension n + 1and $x_1(p) > 0$ for $p \in L$, one easily sees that

$$f_{\Sigma L}(p,\theta) = (t(p), x_1(p) \sin \theta, y_1(p) \sin \theta, x_1(p) \cos \theta, y_1(p) \cos \theta, x_2(p), \dots, z(p)),$$

where $p \in L$ and $\theta \in S^1$, is a parametrization of an embedded cobordism of dimension n+2. Hence we use (4-7) and see that ΣL is really an embedded Lagrangian cobordism from $\Sigma \Lambda_-$ to $\Sigma \Lambda_+$.

We now assume that $\Lambda_{-} \prec_{L}^{ex} \Lambda_{+}$. Then there is a function $h_{L} \in C^{\infty}(f_{L}(L), \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$dh_L = e^t \left(dz - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i dx_i \right).$$

From a calculation similar to (4-2) it follows that

(4-8)
$$f_{\Sigma L}^* \left(e^t \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \, dx_i \right) \right) = e^{t(p)} \left(dz(p) - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i(p) \, dx_i(p) \right).$$

Since $f_{\Sigma L}$ is an embedding, we can define $h_{\Sigma L} \in C^{\infty}(f_{\Sigma L}(\Sigma L), \mathbb{R})$ by setting

$$(f_{\Sigma L}^* h_{\Sigma L})(p, \theta) := (f_L^* h_L)(p).$$

Hence we use (4-8) and get (4-9)

$$d(f_{\Sigma L}^* h_{\Sigma L}) = e^{t(p)} \left(dz(p) - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i(p) \, dx_i(p) \right) = f_{\Sigma L}^* \left(e^t \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \, dx_i \right) \right).$$

Therefore, since $f_{\Sigma L}$ is an embedding, (4-9) implies that

$$d(h_{\Sigma L}) = e^t \left(dz - \sum_{i=0}^n y_i \, dx_i \right).$$

Hence, ΣL is an exact Lagrangian cobordism.

Note that the proof of Proposition 1.5 can be easily modified to become a proof of the following remark.

Remark 4.4. Let Λ be a closed, orientable Legendrian submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . If $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{\log} \Lambda$, there exists a Lagrangian filling $L_{\Sigma\Lambda}$ such that $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Sigma\Lambda}}^{\log} \Sigma\Lambda$. In addition, if $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{\exp} \Lambda$, there exists an exact Lagrangian filling $L_{\Sigma\Lambda}$ such that $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Sigma\Lambda}}^{\exp} \Sigma\Lambda$.

Before we discuss the next example, we briefly recall a few facts about exact Lagrangian cobordisms between Legendrian knots in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Theorem 4.5 [Ekholm et al. \geq 2013; Ekholm et al. 2007]. *There exists an exact Lagrangian cobordism for the following*:

- (1) Legendrian isotopy,
- (2) 0-resolution at a contractible crossing in the Lagrangian projection,
- (3) capping off a tb = -1 unknot with a disk.

See Figure 1 for the 0-resolution on the Lagrangian projection.

Following Ekholm, Honda, and Kálmán, we say that a *contractible crossing* of Λ is a crossing so that $z_1 - z_0$ can be shrunk to zero without affecting the other crossings. (Here z_1 is the z-coordinate on the upper strand and z_0 is the z-coordinate on the lower strand.)



Figure 1. The 0-resolution on the Lagrangian projection.

 \square

Remark 4.6. Chantraine [2010] proved the first part of Theorem 4.5.

Remark 4.7. Note that the second part of Theorem 4.5 can be proven using the model from Section 3.3 of [Rizell 2012].

Conjecture 4.8 [Ekholm et al. ≥ 2013 ; Ekholm et al. 2007]. If $\emptyset \prec_{L_{\Lambda}}^{\text{ex}} \Lambda$, then L_{Λ} is obtained by stacking exact Lagrangians cobordisms described in Theorem 4.5.

Example 4.9. Proof of Proposition 1.6. We now use Example 4.3 to get infinitely many pairs of exact Lagrangian cobordant and not pairwise Legendrian isotopic Legendrian *n*-tori in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} . We first recall that Theorem 4.5 says that 0-resolution at a contractible crossing in the Lagrangian projection can be realized as an exact Lagrangian cobordism. Let T_{2k+1} be the Legendrian torus knot from Example 4.18 of [Ekholm et al. 2005b]; see Figure 2 for the Lagrangian projection of T_{2k+1} . One observes that all the crossings in the middle part of the Lagrangian projection are contractible (see [Ekholm et al. 2007] for the case of T_3) and hence one can get T_{2k-1} from T_{2k+1} by contracting c_{2k+1} and then c_{2k} . Let L_{2k}^{2k+1} be an exact Lagrangian cobordism which corresponds to the 0-resolution at c_{2k+1} and L_{2k-1}^{2k} an exact Lagrangian cobordism from T_{2k-1} to T_{2k} which corresponds to the resolution of c_{2k} . Then we stack L_{2k}^{2k+1} and L_{2k-1}^{2k} and get an exact Lagrangian cobordism that we call L_{2k-1}^{2k+1} such that

$$T_{2k-1} \prec_{L^{2k+1}_{2k-1}}^{\mathrm{ex}} T_{2k+1}.$$

If we stack L_{2i-1}^{2i+1} s we get an exact Lagrangian cobordism L_{2j+1}^{2k+1} such that

$$T_{2j+1} \prec_{L_{2j+1}^{2k+1}}^{\text{ex}} T_{2k+1}$$

for k > j. We use the construction described in Example 4.3 and get



Figure 2. The knot T_{2k+1} ; cf. Figure 13 of [Ekholm et al. 2005b].

for k > j. We now recall that Ekholm, Etnyre, and Sullivan [Ekholm et al. 2005b, Theorem 4.19] proved that $\Sigma^n T_{2j+1}$ is not Legendrian isotopic to $\Sigma^n T_{2k+1}$ for k > j + 1 and $j \in \mathbb{N}$.

Hence we get infinitely many pairs of exact Lagrangian cobordant and not pairwise Legendrian isotopic Legendrian *n*-tori in \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} .

Remark 4.10. Given $n \ge 1$, we observe that Theorem 4.19 of [Ekholm et al. 2005b] implies that all the Legendrian *n*-tori from Proposition 1.6 are not distinguished by the classical invariants.

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