1. Record Nr. UNINA9910780059403321

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Titolo	Floer homology groups in Yang-Mills theory / / S.K. Donaldson with the assistance of M. Furuta and D. Kotschick [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-12463-8 1-280-43046-X 9786610430468 0-511-17547-7 0-511-15583-2 0-511-30404-8 0-511-54309-3 0-511-04453-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 236 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge tracts in mathematics ; ; 147
Disciplina	530.14/35
Soggetti	Yang-Mills theory Floer homology Geometry, Differential
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 231-233) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Yang-Mills theory over compact manifolds -- The case of a compact 4-manifold -- Technical results -- Manifolds with tubular ends -- Yang-Mills theory and 3-manifolds -- Initial discussion -- The Chern-Simons functional -- The instanton equation -- Linear operators -- Appendix A: local models -- Appendix B: pseudo-holomorphic maps -- Appendix C: relations with mechanics -- Linear analysis -- Separation of variables -- Sobolev spaces on tubes -- Remarks on other operators -- The addition property -- Weighted spaces -- Floer's grading function; relation with the Atiyah, Patodi, Singer theory -- Refinement of weighted theory -- L[superscript p] theory -- Gauge theory and tubular ends -- Exponential decay -- Moduli theory -- Moduli theory and weighted spaces -- Gluing instantons -- Gluing in the reducible case -- Appendix A: further analytical results -- Convergence in the

general case -- Gluing in the Morse--Bott case -- The Floer homology groups -- Compactness properties -- Floer's instanton homology groups -- Independence of metric -- Orientations -- Deforming the equations -- Transversality arguments -- U(2) and SO(3) connections -- Floer homology and 4-manifold invariants -- The conceptual picture -- The straightforward case -- Review of invariants for closed 4-manifolds -- Invariants for manifolds with boundary and b[superscript +]] 1 -- Reducible connections and cup products -- The maps D [subscript 1], D[subscript 2] -- Manifolds with b[superscript +] = 0, 1 -- The case b[superscript +] = 1.

Sommario/riassunto

The concept of Floer homology was one of the most striking developments in differential geometry. It yields rigorously defined invariants which can be viewed as homology groups of infinite-dimensional cycles. The ideas led to great advances in the areas of low-dimensional topology and symplectic geometry and are intimately related to developments in Quantum Field Theory. The first half of this book gives a thorough account of Floer's construction in the context of gauge theory over 3 and 4-dimensional manifolds. The second half works out some further technical developments of the theory, and the final chapter outlines some research developments for the future - including a discussion of the appearance of modular forms in the theory. The scope of the material in this book means that it will appeal to graduate students as well as those on the frontiers of the subject.