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Shadow-complexity of 3-manifolds

Abstract. We recall the notion of Turaev's shadows of 3 and 4-manifolds giving as many examples as possible. We define a notion of "shadow-complexity" for 3-manifolds similar in spirit to Matveev's complexity and we show how this notion is strictly related to the geometrical properties of 3-manifolds. (Joint work with Dylan Thurston, Columbia University)