Topological and non-commutative techniques in the study of foliated spaces

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Our research consists of the dynamic and cohomological study of foliated spaces, and the analytic and K-theoretical study of the corresponding noncommutative spaces.

Nowadays, foliation theory is a multidisciplinary field, essentially non distinguishable from dynamical systems theory. It involves several and complex geometric, topologic, analytic and measurable techniques. In the last decades, the specialists in the subject have developed new fruitful research lines by removing some of the restrictions imposed to classical foliated manifolds. In particular, our group focuses its work in:

1) the study of some types of singular foliations (removing the regularity conditions);
2) the study of foliations induced by the orbits of the action of a Lie group on a manifold;
3) The study of algebraic invariants who describe the transverse structure of foliations;
4) the noncommutative study (à la Connes) of some foliated spaces (deletion of commutativity).

Foliation theory is playing and will play a fundamental role in the qualitative study of both the physical (cosmology and solid state physics) and the biological world (molecular biology, genomics and evolution), and appears increasingly in other science fields.

Our concrete objectives can be classified in two main blocks:

1) The study of metric and dynamical properties of foliated spaces and its relations. Tilings and repetitive graphs give us examples of minimal laminations, useful in the testing of properties and relations. Moreover, noncommutative geometry gives topological and measurable tools that allow us to complete this study (see [1], [2]).
2) Cohomological study of Riemannian foliations. We study the relation between the basic cohomology and the cohomology of the ambient manifold, through algebraic tools such as exact sequences and spectral sequences, for both regular and singular Riemannian foliations (see [3], [4] and [5]).

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